

## Air defenders hold Honorary Regimental Symposium

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Monitor Staff

More than 80 active-duty and retired ADA Soldiers met for the 2007 Honorary Regimental Symposium May 3 at the Air Defense Artillery Museum and Study Center. The daylong symposium, sponsored by Office, Chief, Air Defense Artillery staff covered information on topics ranging from ADA strategic communications, integrated air and missile defense and the Fires Center of Excellence at Fort Sill, Okla.

Within the ADA branch are 12 ADA Regiments, each with a retired officers, warrant officer and noncommissioned officer serving as the "honoraries" for the regiments.

The Army's regimental system traces back to the British system that was "reluctantly applied in the Colonial Army," according to Army historical documents. The system was used during the Civil War as a way of building unit cohesion, but by World War II, only infantry and two armor units were organized as regiments. In 1980, a study by a British and a Canadian officer became the basis for creating a new Army system in 1985, one that is now governed by Army Regulation 600-82, U.S. Army Regimental System.

Thirty of the ADA's 36 honoraries attended the symposium.

"In terms of overall representation, we're ecstatic," said Lt. Col. Brant Dayley, OCADA. "The intent is to 're-green' them and give them exposure to new things. We want to make sure everyone understands where we are and where we are going, and we're going to solicit their ideas and input." Six of the attendees were newly-selected representatives of their regiments.

Fort Bliss Commanding General Maj. Gen. Robert P. Lennox addressed the group at the beginning of the day before the formal briefings began.

"Some say we are a dying branch, but we are growing," Lennox said. "The Army just approved two more Patriot battalions. The Soldiers of both old and new battalions benefit from "you quality leaders who are still devoted to our Soldiers and our units."

Many of the honoraries live near their active-duty regiment, Dayley said, and try to stay involved. Information presented in the briefings, he said, gave the honoraries a current "snapshot" of where the branch is.

Larry Kimmich, director, Fort Bliss Strategic Communications office, presented some of the Army's and the branch's "Hot Topics." By bringing the honoraries up-to-date on information about the transition to air and missile defense units, he said, they then would be better able to communicate with individuals outside the ADA community. Some of the 14 strategic messages are ADA school or branch specific, while some, like transformation, apply to Fort Bliss in general, while others include Fort Bliss, the ADA School and the Fires Center of Excellence.

"Consider putting these themes out in whatever you do," Kimmich said.

In breakout sessions in the afternoon, groups of honoraries and active-duty Soldiers met to discuss issues affecting the regimental program. While the colonels discussed ideas and strategies for returning to traditions and reaching out to Soldiers, the sergeants major discussed the importance of maintaining communication and the interaction between the honorary regimental leadership and the regiment's members.

"Our intent is to get people talking," Dayley said. "We usually have this in the fall, but it's been eighteen months since the last one. We're just trying to re-energize the regimental program."

# Bliss honors fallen troopers

VIRGINIA REZA

Monitor Staff

Family, friends and comrades gathered at Soldier Hall Wednesday to pay their last respects to two fallen Soldiers, Sgt. William W. Bushnell and Pfc. John F. Landry of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, who died in Baghdad, Iraq of wounds sustained in combat.

"We gather to not only mourn the loss of the great patriots, but also to celebrate their lives," said Maj. Jerry Sheppard, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Rear Detachment commander. "We gather today to not only mark their passing, but to remember what they have passed on to us all. We gather to thank these heroes for the contributions as Soldiers and citizens and to remember them as the men they were."

Sheppard said while thinking of the two, he looked for an inspiration of what a hero is. He came across a quote written by artist and song writer Bob Dylan. It read, "I think of a hero as someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with his freedom."

"[These Soldiers] certainly understood the degree of responsibility that comes with freedom," Sheppard said. "They understood the cost of their responsibility to our nation. We counted on them and they did not let us down. They clearly new how precious this thing we call freedom really is. To the families of these warriors, thank you for sharing your hero with us. I know no words I say today will lessen the loss. We share in that loss with you. To my fallen brothers you have served us proudly."

Sgt. Erik Pisauero, 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt., 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div., who was Bushnell's leader, said Bushnell was not used to the 120 mm mortar and would always ask questions about the system.

"Sure enough, as we did some training and he became familiar with the system, he was the fastest gunner in the platoon," Pisauero said. "He then became a squad leader as a specialist and was proud to be a leader of Soldiers."

Pisauero said after deploying to Iraq, Bushnell suffered from a hernia. The command told him he could either work in the training room or go to Kuwait and have surgery. Bushnell chose surgery so he could get back to his troops. He said, Bushnell had a way of making other people happy.

"Whenever we would pull long nights of quick reaction force and everyone would start to miss their



WILSON A. RIVERA

Displays honoring Sgt. William Bushnell and Pfc. John F. Landry lined the stage in Soldiers Hall at Wednesday's memorial ceremony. Bushnell and Landry, both assigned to 2nd Bn., 12 Cav., were killed in action in Iraq in April.

families, Billy would lift everyone's spirits by telling a joke, a funny story or even doing a goofy dance to take everybody's mind off the hardships we were going through," said Pisauero.

Staff Sgt. Alford Brandon, 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt., 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div., was Landry's squad leader and said he was honored for the opportunity to pay tribute to Landry.

"Those of you who did not know John Landry, I'm truly sorry," Brandon said. "I can best describe him as a Soldier who had the heart of a lion, the body of a teddy bear and the true spirit of a warrior. He was one of my most dedicated Soldiers. I could have told him to run twelve miles across the open desert and deliver a message and he would have simply replied 'roger Sergeant,' no questions asked."

Brandon said Landry was also the "class clown," who would go through extreme measures to ensure his buddies had smiles on their faces.

"March 17, 2007 is a day forever etched in my memory," said Brandon. "I can say without a doubt, it was the single most painful day I've experienced in my life thus far. On that day, I lost four friends, but I'd rather live that day one thousand times over, than to have never known John Landry. He is missed and remembered every day with laughter."

The ceremony ended with Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Rick Sones' remarks. He said the two Soldiers were honored not because they were special, but for the price they paid on behalf of the nation.

"It is fitting that we pay back to

them this honor and respect," Sones said. "It is not our way to leave behind a fallen comrade nor is it our way to forget our heroes."

"Just what is a hero?" he said. "A hero is part motivation, part devotion and part ability. To move from motivation to hero requires courage. A hero presses forward with a desire to do what is right, that fear and doubt are driven away. That is one thing that sets them apart and merits our admiration. To move from motivated to hero also requires ability, not just the strength and means to accomplish, but an attitude that does not make excuses. What sets the hero apart is the sacrifices they make for others."

"A hero is not someone who simply performs a heroic act. Sergeant Bushnell and Pfc. Landry have shown us by their many actions they are truly heroes. For love of country they answered the call. They went to Iraq in the place of those who would not go. They went to fight in the place of those who could not go. Their hearts and thoughts were not only for their comrades, but for their family and friends back home, and for them they made the sacrifice. We honor them for who they were."

Both Soldiers were deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Bushnell, 24, died in Baghdad, Iraq, April 21 of wounds suffered when his vehicle was struck by a rocket propelled grenade during combat operations. Landry, 20, died in Ghazaliya, Iraq March 17 of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device denoted near his vehicle.

## IG visits

Continued from Page 1

houses, an infantry platoon battle course and an urban assault course. These will be digital ranges, McChesney said, where sensors will detect target hits, minimizing human error.

"Information gets loaded into a data base," said McChesney. "Using computerized systems will provide the ability to detect mechanical errors with the ranges while in use."

Besides his stops at construction and training sites, Green also visited with Soldiers in the Medical Retention Processing Battalion. Soldiers assigned to this unit are from different active Guard and Reserve components, and sustained injuries in theater or enroute. Green said these Soldiers were injured while serving their country.

"The morale of these Soldiers is one of continued service and wanting to do the best they can for our Army,"

Green said. "It is incumbent upon us as an Army, that we take care of these Soldiers ... and that they receive optimum medical care."

While at the MRP Bn., Green met local community members who were giving newly arrived injured Soldiers, homemade pillows with personalized messages. He said this shows the repeated support the El Paso community gives its Soldiers.

"It's kind of a mutual service," said Green. "The Army serves the nation and in deed represents the community. The community now has returned that favor by taking care of its Soldiers."

Green commanded Fort Bliss during the start of the massive mobilizations and deployments that commenced after September 11. He said he has met all kinds of Soldiers in his current position.

"We have the best Soldiers in the world," said Green. "There's just no comparison. I am pleased to be able to serve with them."