

‘Spartan Brigade’ Soldiers participate in joint exercise

Story and Photo by SPC Chad Seibold / 108th ADA PAO / March 2010 / Download article

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – As the sky’s tint darkened in the afternoon hours, Col. Christopher Spillman, the commanding officer of 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, was busy deciding what each section of the Tactical Operations Center (TOC) should brief during the Fleet Synthetic Training (FST) exercise’s after action review held Feb. 19.

This review process, which started three days earlier, included members of the Navy, Air Force and civilian sector from North Carolina, Virginia and Oregon.

“[Our brigade] met one of its major readiness priorities by participating in the Patriot Joint Kill Chain exercise [at] Fort Bragg’s Air Defense Simulation Center, which acted as a hub for all network connections for the simulation, and sent two teams to other exercise locations,” said Capt. Ian MacNab, the TOC’s assistant operations officer.

A four-person team was sent to the Navy Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va., to integrate with and support the 32d Army Air and Missile Defense Command’s Mission Support Operations Cell and the Combined Air Operations Center. This team functioned as a white cell, or enemy simulator, for the brigade during the exercise as well as a liaison to the joint community.

The “Spartan Brigade” also integrated its Air Defense Artillery Fire Control Officer (ADAFCO) team with the 116th Air Control Squadron in Fort Rilea, Ore., in order to train tactical engagement procedures with the Air Force.

“This was the first time 108th ADA Bde integrated its TOC into the ‘Bold Spectrum’ scenario to train the brigade in force operations,” said Capt. Joel Ater, the brigade’s ADAFCO.

FST also provides the opportunity to conduct training and deployment certifications to multiple participants using shipboard trainers, aircraft and submarine simulators along with high-tech simulation centers connected into an interoperable network.



Col. Christopher Spillman, left, the commanding officer of 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, listens to briefs by staff sections during the Fleet Synthetic Training Joint Exercise’s after action review held Feb. 19.

The coordination of ballistic missile defense between a Navy Aegis and Patriot batteries was essential for successful Tactical Ballistic Missile engagements during the scenario.

Even though this training exercise was pivotal and essential for 108th ADA Bde Soldiers, it also educated Navy and Air Force personnel on Patriot engagement and force operations while helping to improve communication between these branches.