

## The 11<sup>TH</sup> ADA Brigade Commander hosted an awards ceremony for Task Force C-RAM's service in Iraq

Story by Command Sergeant Major Paris A. Williams / 3rd Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery / Courtesy Photo / January 2010

COB BASRAH, Iraq – Col Joseph P. DeAntona, Commander of the 11<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Artillery ‘Imperial Brigade’ hosted an awards ceremony to recognize Soldiers and Sailors of Task Force C-RAM for their combat service in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

Imperial 6 visited COB Basrah home of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division which is supported by the Soldiers and Sailors of Echo Battery, 4-5 ADA, Task Force C-RAM. The battery has been providing indirect fire protection for Coalition Forces over the past year. The “Executioner Battery” is home based at Fort Hood, TX and was task organized to support Task Force C-RAM which is headquartered at Fort Bliss, TX, 11<sup>th</sup> ADA Brigade.

The battery has accomplished many difficult missions in support of combat operations. The unit transformed from a sense and warn pure battery into a joint intercept battery and executed relocation of the battery command post to better support C-RAM operations in support of United States Division-South. The unit currently provides indirect fire protection for six forward operating bases throughout Iraq and has made a significant impact during their tour of duty.



Colonel Joseph DeAntona awards the Bronze Star Medal and Combat Action Badge to First Sergeant Gregory Veals of Echo Battery, 4-5 ADA for his actions in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

COL DeAntona began the ceremony by thanking the unit for their steadfast dedication and sacrifice that they and their Families have given in support of this critical mission. Upon completion of his opening remarks Imperial 6 along with the command team of 3-3 ADA, LTC Randy McIntire and Command Sergeant Major Paris Williams began the awards presentation and bid farewell to the many Sailors that will return to their home ports. During the ceremony COL DeAntona awarded several decorations to include the Bronze Star Medal and Combat Action Badge to the Soldiers and Sailors of Echo Battery, 4-5 ADA.

“The Soldiers and Sailors in this Joint Intercept battery have truly transformed the way we do business and have taken C-RAM operations to the next level. I’m very proud of this unit’s efforts and contributions, and they can leave theatre justifiably proud of their accomplishments” said LTC Randy McIntire.