



Master Sergeant Garry Christman visits residents of the Home of the Sacred Heart in Gwangju. (Photos by First Lieutenant David Marlow)

2-1 ADA Moving to Camp Carroll

Move Leaves Gwangju Residents Divided Between Those Sad to See Patriot Soldiers Leave and Those Happy to See Them Go

Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea (ROK)—The 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery (ADA), 35th ADA Brigade, is moving from Gwangju Air Base and Gunsan to Camp Carroll. The move is expected to be completed by December 2006.

The Patriot battalion deployed from Fort Bliss, Texas, in October 2004. Its two-year stay at Gwangju Air Base was not without controversy. Civic groups staged frequent demonstrations to protest the stationing of the Patriot battalion at the site of the notorious “Gwangju Massacre,” which occurred in 1980 when Republic of Korea troops opened fire to suppress a violent uprising.

2-1 ADA Soldiers countered the protestors with aggressive community outreach programs. The battalion’s Soldiers taught conversational English classes in area schools and did volunteer work in local orphanages and rest homes. According to an article published in the 27 August 2006 issue of the *Pacific Stars & Stripes*, news that the Patriot Soldiers would be leaving Gwangju left the community sharply divided between residents who were sad to see them go and protestors who were glad to see them leave. However, in a statement prepared for *Air Defense Artillery* magazine, Colonel John G. Rossi, the 35th ADA Brigade commander, said that the decision to relocate the Patriot battalion was part of a long-standing plan to realign U.S. forces on the Korean peninsula rather than a reaction to the Gwangju demonstrations.

“The leaders, soldiers, and families of the 35th ADA Brigade are absolutely committed to our enduring alliance and partnership with our ROK counterparts, both military and civilian,” said Colonel Rossi. “We are very excited about our upcoming 2-1 ADA move.

“The relocation from Gwangju and Gunsan to Camp Carroll near Daegu is part of the overall U.S. Forces Korea and Eighth Army realignment of forces on the Korean peninsula, and has been in the planning stages for quite some time,” he continued. “The consolidation postures the battalion for optimal warfighting readiness while offering leaders and Soldiers all the benefits and efficiencies of residing in one of the larger U.S. Army hubs in Korea. Examples of these benefits include collocation with theater logistics and sustainment support, expanded maintenance facilities, onsite dental care, large post exchange and commissary, premier fitness center, recently renovated barracks, Department of Defense dependent schools, and the opportunity to obtain more command sponsored billets.

“Ultimately, conditions are being set for the battalion to have more of a sense of normalcy in its day-to-day operations, much like Soldiers and families would find at U.S. installations,” Colonel Rossi added. “With this move, Soldiers will still be offered the unique opportunity to participate and contribute in a thriving and supportive local Korean community, much like we share today in Gwangju. We always respect the opinions and the rights of the handful of weekly demonstrators who peacefully coexisted with 2-1 ADA Soldiers, but their activities and positions were ultimately transparent as we developed this long-term stationing plan. The battalion and its Soldiers are truly grateful to our ROK Air Force and local Gwangju community hosts who have provided us outstanding support and friendship for the past two years.

“Special thanks and appreciation goes to Ambassador Park San-chul, who has been a great teammate all the way





A 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery, Soldier instructs a weekly conversational English class for South Korean students at a Gwangju high school. (Photo by First Lieutenant David Marlow)

back to his visit to Fort Bliss in 2004, when the 35th ADA Brigade was preparing to deploy to the Republic of Korea,” Colonel Rossi concluded. “The wonderful interaction and support between 2-1 ADA, 1st ROK Air Force Fighter Wing, and the Gwangju community has been exemplary. We look forward to our continued partnership in the future.”



Dr. George F. Drake accepts a copy of the Stars & Stripes that announced the signing of the Korean War armistice in 1953 from Gwangju Mayor Park Kwang-tae. (Photo by Private First Class Dustin Roberts)



Gwangju residents view a photo exhibition of U.S. Soldiers conducting humanitarian missions during the Korean War. (Photo by Private First Class Dustin Roberts)

SCANNING

Successful Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense Intercept Flight Achieved

Soldiers of the 6th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Fort Bliss, Texas, participated in a successful test of the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system on 12 July 2006 at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.

This was a fully integrated flight test of all THAAD components, including the launcher, radar, fire control and communications, and interceptor. The primary test objective was to demonstrate interceptor seeker characterization of a ballistic missile target in the high-endoatmosphere (just inside the earth's atmosphere). A unitary (non-separating) Hera target missile was launched for the test, and although it was not a primary objective, a successful intercept of the target occurred. Other objectives included verifying integrated system operations in a high-endoatmospheric engagement and demonstrating the interceptor kill vehicle's response to in-flight communication and its ability to acquire and track an incoming ballistic missile target. The THAAD radar acquired and tracked the interceptor and target and provided in-flight target updates.

Two THAAD soldiers from the 6th Air Defense Artillery Brigade conducted radar operations while another two Soldiers assisted contractors at the launcher, and one Soldier assisted contractors at the THAAD fire control and communications station. Their interaction with the complete THAAD system proved a valuable test experience for the Soldiers, and provided insight into overall system performance.

While the previous two THAAD flight tests, also conducted at White Sands Missile Range, were focused on interceptor fly-out and performance, the remaining flight-test program is expected to provide verification of the integrated THAAD element at increasingly difficult levels.