4-5 ADA making transition back to air defense

Courtesy photo

A Soldier from B4-5 ADA conducts upload of the M3P machine gun during the unit's reset mission.

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4-5 ADA

The 4-5 Air Defense Artillery Battalion is now undertaking the daunting task of transitioning back into an Air Defense unit.

In November 2003, 4-5 ADA Bn. set aside its air defense mission, converted to a motorized infantry battalion task force and deployed with the 1st Cavalry Division as part of Task Force Baghdad.

As of Oct. 17, the 4-5 ADA had transitioned from a heavy division air defense unit composed of both Linebacker and Avenger weapon systems, to an Avenger-pure battalion in support of III Corps.

"This is our core competency as air defenders," Lt. Col. Reginald Davis, battalion commander said. "This is what the Army and the Corps expects us to do."

In July 2005, the unit was reassigned to the 31st ADA at Fort Bliss. The 3rd Signal Brigade serves as the battalion's administrative headquarters at Fort Hood. The 31st is part of III Corps, and will remain at Fort Hood.

It will convert to an air and missile defense battalion in 2006.

The unit's air defense evolution began as the battalion bid farewell to its Linebackers wen tit returned from Iraq.

That was part of the first transition to an Avenger-pure battalion.

As part of the Army's reset effort, unit sent its 36 Avengers through the reset program conducted at Letterkenny Army Depot in Chambersburg, Pa.

The depot-level repair facility took the Avengers from the port at Beaumont, to Pennsylvania.

Upon arriving at the, facility the systems were completely rebuilt after the year long wear and tear in Iraq.

When the rebuild was done, the facility trucked the equipment back to Ft. Hood.

It arrived in three shipments during the last three months.

Along with the return of the 4-5 ADA equipment have come highly motivated attitudes found within the unit.

The unit's Soldiers will go through a training process again next summer as they integrate Patriot equipment into the battalion, and transition into one of the Army's premier Air and Missile Defense Battalions, consisting of both PAC-3 Patriot and Avenger fire units.

This new configuration will provide III Corps with the nation's most advanced air defense capabilities and the ability to protect itself and key assets from all air and missile threats.