



The 2017 Knox, Hamilton and Shipton Awards

The U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School has announced the winners of the 2017 Knox, Hamilton and Shipton awards for excellence within the air defense artillery branch. These awards are presented annually and recognize excellence by unit (active and National Guard) and individual. Congratulations to the 2017 award winners.



Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment received the 2017 Henry Knox Award. (Courtesy photo)

The Henry A. Knox Award recognizes the outstanding active-duty Army Air and Missile Defense Battery of the Year for superior mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence within the air defense community.

Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment received the Knox Award for achieving several notable accomplishments and demonstrating overall unit excellence. Headquarters Battery showed their competitive spirit in every undertaking. Battery leadership didn't back down from any task; especially during a time when all actions were under high visibility from leadership across all echelons of command. Headquarters Battery went above and beyond all expectations with resilience to ever-changing mission sets as part of the Global Response Force unit's deployment to the Republic of Korea.

Headquarters Battery's preparation, execution and integration of the first Global Response Force deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system on the Republic of Korea was a major enterprise and a first in air defense history. The battery's fire direction center was instrumental in establishing interoperability between the Information Coordination Central (ICC)/Tactical Control System and THAAD to build a new defense design in Korea capable of addressing the significant tactical ballistic missile threat posed by North Korea. The battery executed this new mission operation seamlessly with no interruption to the theater-wide air defense protection coverage system.

In addition to the Headquarters Battery's

aptitude to out-do the highest technical and tactical proficiency standards in achieving mission success, they led the way in accomplishing overall unit excellence at both battalion and brigade levels. The battery constantly surpassed readiness standards by never falling under 95 percent in equipment, personnel or medical readiness despite the extreme operation tempo and complexity of the unit mission sets. Headquarters Battery's driven spirit, concentrated motivation, and desire to win was displayed throughout the year. Members of Headquarters Battery were the winners of the esteemed Battalion's Best Warrior Competition in three out of four categories: officer, non-commissioned officer and Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army. Their dominant performance continued at the brigade's combatives tournament, winning two divisions and having one officer earning runner-up in the Eighth Army's Tournament. Furthermore, the unit's multiple accolades include: Brigade NCO of the Quarter, Brigade Culinary Soldier of the Quarter, Distinguished Honor Graduate (BLC), and Eighth Army Administrator of the Year.

Headquarters Battery radiates superiority in all that they do. They have proven they can be called on to support any mission and will always answer the nation's call. They have demonstrated they are technically and tactically proficient at various levels of air defense operations, they maintain their equipment and themselves, keep safety awareness at the forefront of every operation and exude excellence in all areas. The unit's competency is beyond reproach and exemplifies the spirit and intent of the Henry A. Knox Award.



AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY HENRY A. KNOX AWARD



AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY ALEXANDER HAMILTON AWARD



B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery, Ohio Army National Guard is the recipient of the 2017 Alexander Hamilton Award. (Courtesy photo)

The Hamilton Award recognizes the outstanding Army National Guard Air and Missile Defense Battery of the Year for superb mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence. The 2017 Hamilton award goes to B Battery (*Vulcan*), 2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Ohio Army National Guard. B Battery also won this award in 2012.

The applicants are judged in tactical proficiency, safety, operational readiness rating, and other indicators of excellence. Air defenders in A Battery also received overwhelming evaluations in all categories.

Vulcan Battery distinguished itself as a combat tested team that provided indirect fire protection capability (IFPC) and sense and warn capability at both Bagram Airfield and Camp Dahlke in the United States Forces – Afghanistan area of responsibility.

Vulcan Battery is organized under a modified table of organization and equipment (MTOE) designed Short Range Air Defense-Avenger battery resourced for a non-MTOE Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) mobilization in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel. During their deployment, *Vulcan Battery* provided sense and warn and intercept against more than 50 rocket attacks and protected the lives of over 18,000 military and civilian personnel. *Vulcan Battery* successfully intercepted a rocket fired at BAF from a point of origin less than 200 meters from the perimeter barriers, a first in C-RAM deployment history. In order to capitalize on an opportunity, battery leadership chose to relocate and enhance a battle lab that simulates engagement operations as well as concurrent training for engagement operations center crews. Their intent was to maintain training proficiency and mitigate complacency.

B Battery distinguished itself in all aspects of deployment preparation to include 100 percent pre- and post-mobilization training; a 93 percent average on C-RAM new equipment training; and they achieved 100 percent certification on IFPC Table XII during the capstone training event.

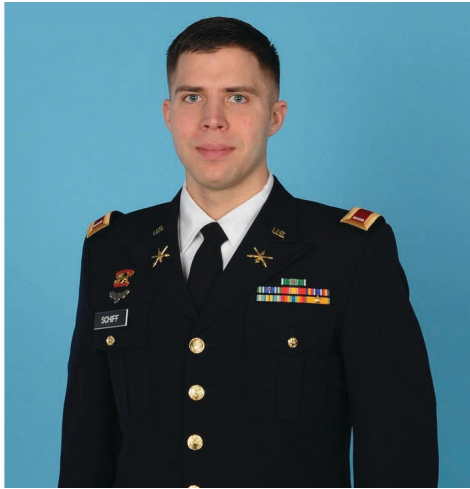
The battery received an operational readiness rate over 94 percent during certification

and validation by incorporating preventative maintenance checks and services into their battle rhythm and utilizing assigned maintenance subject matter experts. Battery leadership also awarded the Army Achievement Medal to 10 Soldiers assigned to the battery for their actions preparing for combat.

Vulcan Battery implemented controlled inventiveness by continuously improving processes and procedures, setting conditions for continued successful C-RAM operations. The battery generated a better collective understanding by incorporating frequent maintenance meetings into their battle rhythm. These meetings incorporated both battery personnel and the civilian field service representatives to improve operational readiness rates. In addition, the battery established a primary and secondary building location for sense and warn assets which increased readiness and resulted in zero no-warn indirect fire events.

Sound character and discipline of the Soldiers resulted in zero negligent discharges, zero military vehicle accidents, and no company grade disciplinary actions throughout 2017. This set the standard for other battery-level organizations in the battalion to follow. Battery Soldiers demonstrated sound health, strength and endurance with a 100 percent pass rate for the Army body fat composition metric and a 99 percent pass rate for the Army Physical Fitness Test. Personal and professional development remained a priority during deployed operations and over 20 *Vulcan Battery* Soldiers initiated or completed advanced education courses. Additionally, more than five Soldiers volunteered at the Craig Joint Theater Hospital at BAF, assisting with urgent surgical care and sharpening their skill craft.

B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment distinguished themselves and brought tremendous credit to the air defense community. They are proficient at countless levels of air defense operations, they maintain their equipment and themselves and keep safety at the forefront in all areas. The unit's competency is beyond reproach and exemplifies the spirit and intent of the Alexander Hamilton Award.



First Lt. Benjamin Schiff, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, winner of the 2017 James Shipton Award. (Courtesy photo)

The James A. Shipton Award recognizes an air defense artillery professional for outstanding performance and contributions that significantly enhanced the air defense mission.

The applicants for the Shipton Award are judged in leadership, technical and tactical knowledge, selflessness and community service, and commitment to excellence. The 2017 Shipton Award winner is 1st Lt. Benjamin Schiff, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment. Schiff currently serves as a tactical director and the fire direction center officer in charge for 5-7th ADA. He is a well-rounded leader whose presence and knowledge have greatly advanced the entire unit.

Schiff demonstrated his capacity for leadership when, as tactical director, he took initiative to personally train and prepare subordinate units for gunnery certifications. Schiff instructed 50 Soldiers from across the battalion on advanced Patriot and air defense tactics which enabled the unit's overwhelming accomplishments throughout the rest of the year. During Joint Project Optic Windmill 2017, he helped develop and codify updates to NATO air defense tactics, techniques and procedures in multiple supplementary plans with participants from 12 NATO allied and partner nations.

Schiff followed up with achievements during Tobruq Legacy 2017 when he implemented and further refined the improved TTPs by leading the set-up and operation of a multinational surface based air defense operation center (SBADOC). Prior to Tobruq Legacy, Schiff coordinated with the NATO Combined Air Operations Center to provide academic classes on NATO air defense operations to all U.S., Romanian and Slovenian air defense Soldiers and Airmen participating in

the exercise. Additionally, during the midst of this challenging joint exercise, he coordinated directly with the NATO Airborne Early Warning Squadron to conduct Link 16 validation and familiarization training with the NATO Airborne Warning and Control System.

Schiff's tactical and technical expertise is second to none in the battalion. During Tobruq Legacy 2017, the SBADOC, led by Schiff, used a layered air defense concept with six different weapon systems to defend the commander's critical asset list and execute a live fire. He coordinated directly with the defense contractor to conduct the final testing and validation of the Dismounted Patriot Information and Coordination Central, a prototype of a new force multiplier undergoing procurement. Schiff worked directly with the Swedish Control Reporting Center to coordinate Fires while operating in a complex and dynamic joint engagement zone.

Schiff consistently demonstrates a strong commitment to excellence through his leadership, tactical expertise and selfless service. He was recognized as the Top Gun Distinguished Honor Graduate; was also recognized by the Romanian Air Force and Romanian Army for his leadership; trained fellow Soldiers for the Nijmegen 100 mile ruck march; and earned the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal through his continuous and dedicated community service.

In summary, Schiff maximizes his impact on Soldiers by taking disciplined initiative and living the Army Values, epitomizing leadership qualities, commitment to excellence and innovative energy that has come to define the air defense artillery's founding father, Brig. Gen. James A. Shipton.



AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY JAMES A. SHIPTON AWARD