

CITIZEN-SOLDIER



ISSUE 1 // VOL 1

ALWAYS READY
ALWAYS THERE

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD RESPONDS TO HURRICANES

HARVEY IRMA -AND- MARIA



ARNG 4.0

*A New Era for the
Army National Guard | Page 22*

Operation Northern Strike

*ONS 2017 Puts Joint
Forces to the Test | Page 13*

Saber Guardian 2017

*National Guard Soldiers
Become Guardians of the
Black Sea | Page 52*

CITIZEN-SOLDIER

MAGAZINE

About Soldiers and Their Families, For Soldiers and Their Families

Join us in achieving our mission of providing useful and engaging content in every issue!



If you have a story or photo that you would like to see in the magazine, send us an email at Editor@Citizen-SoldierMagazine.com

Be sure to check out our new website at www.Citizen-SoldierMagazine.com



9

LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

6 LTG Timothy J. Kadavy introduces *Citizen-Soldier* magazine

HURRICANES OF SUMMER '17

9 More than 40,000 Soldiers assisted in relief efforts for Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, the most powerful storms to hit the United States in over a decade

JOINT TRAINING STRIKES MICHIGAN

13 Thousands of military personnel report to Camp Grayling for Operation Northern Strike 2017

THE NEXT EVOLUTION OF THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

22 ARNG 4.0: What it is and what it means for Soldiers

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

29 Stories on the unique contributions of Native American Soldiers and a spotlight on CW5 Lisa Bryan - the first Native American female in the Army National Guard to achieve the rank of CW5

AN AUTHENTIC ALLIANCE

41 More than 800 Army National Guard Soldiers trained down under in Queensland, Australia, for Talisman Saber



FEATURES

VOL 1 | ISSUE 1

13



29



CITIZEN-SOLDIER
Citizen-SoldierMagazine.com

DEPARTMENTS



56



64

62



68



73



WHAT'S TRENDING

- 26 Increased Training Days
- 27 Increased Deployments

HOW DO I...?

- 28 Get Your Questions Answered by the Experts

LEGACY

- 38 Evolution of MREs

GEAR + TECH

- 49 Tank of the Future
- 50 We've Got Your Back

TRAINING

- 52 Saber Guardian 2017

CAREERS

- 56 Re-Enlistment Considerations
- 58 The Fast Lane to a Promotion or New MOS

FAMILY

- 60 10 Steps to Guard Against Financial Scams
- 62 Cyberbullying
- 64 A Footprint for My Son

BENEFITS SPOTLIGHT

- 67 New Blended Retirement System

CYBERSPACE

- 68 Cyber Games

ALWAYS READY

- 73 Teammates in the Guard - Competitors in the Sky

FITNESS

- 78 Hitting the Mark with Georgia's Marksmanship Program
- 82 Sleep Apnea: Affecting Your Readiness from Night to Day
- 83 Power Down Before Hitting the Rack

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

- 84 Iconic Images of Soldiers at The Ready

ON YOUR RADAR

- 95 Highlights and Events from Around the Nation

DOWN THE PIKE

- 107 Looking at Our Next Issue: Nevada National Guard's historic response to record-breaking flooding in northern Nevada



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LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP



IN YOUR HANDS is the premier issue of *Citizen-Soldier* magazine. This publication is the next iteration of our earlier publication, *GX: The Guard Experience*. While *Citizen-Soldier* magazine embraces the mission of celebrating and supporting the Soldiers and Families of the Army National Guard, it also highlights the challenges and opportunities ahead of our team as we enhance readiness and ensure that Americans can count on the Army National Guard in the face of new and emerging threats to our nation and way of life.

The pages of *Citizen-Soldier* magazine and the *Citizen-Soldier* website are packed with stories, highlights and announcements geared toward helping Soldiers and their loved ones make the most of their time in the Guard. Through the magazine, we will spotlight opportunities to maximize the benefits of military service and assist you in accomplishing your personal and professional goals. As we work together toward enhanced readiness – with increased training and the potential for more frequent deployments – it is essential for you, our Soldiers and Families, to stay informed about the initiatives and programs the Guard has in place to support your needs as you support the mission of safeguarding our country and its communities.

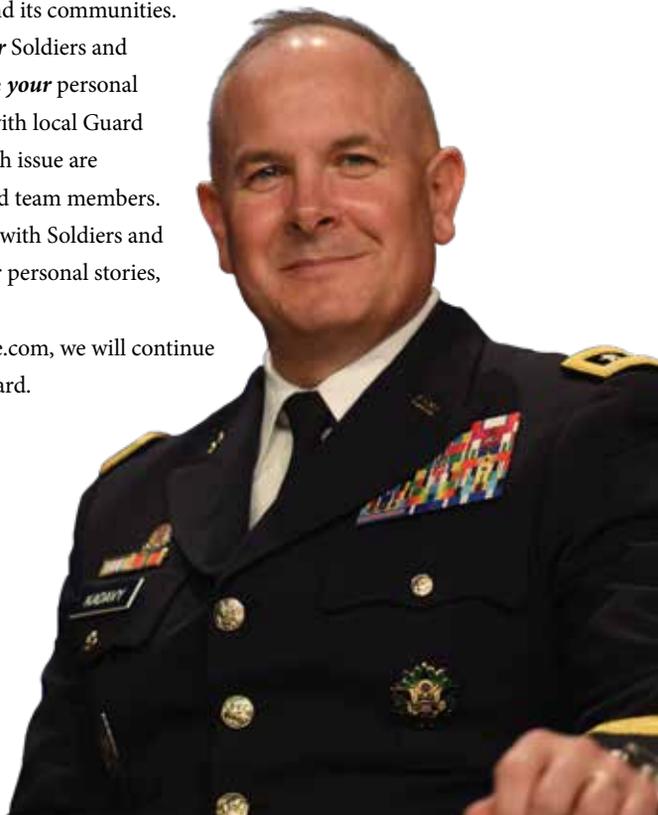
Citizen-Soldier magazine and *Citizen-SoldierMagazine.com* are not just **for** Soldiers and Families. They are **about** Soldiers and Families. *Citizen-Soldier* wants to share **your** personal stories, challenges and successes. Additionally, the publication is partnering with local Guard Public Affairs Offices around the nation to ensure the articles appearing in each issue are representative of the entire Army National Guard and our diverse missions and team members.

Ultimately, we want this to be a useful resource that engages and connects with Soldiers and Families on a meaningful level. I encourage you to participate by sharing your personal stories, photos and thoughts.

With resources like *Citizen-Soldier* magazine and *Citizen-SoldierMagazine.com*, we will continue to enhance our readiness, develop leaders and encourage excellence in the Guard.

Thank you for your continued service in the Army National Guard.

Timothy J. Kadavy
LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U.S. ARMY
DIRECTOR, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



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Citizen-Soldier encourages article and photo submissions from Soldiers, Family members, employers and supporting agencies. Content may be submitted on our website, Citizen-SoldierMagazine.com. When submitting, please be sure to include your full contact information. Submissions can also be sent via email to Editor@Citizen-SoldierMagazine.com

All submitted content (photos, articles, video) becomes the property of the Army National Guard. While we will make all reasonable attempts to include submitted content, *Citizen-Soldier* does not guarantee submissions will be published.

Mission: To celebrate and support the Soldiers and Families of the National Guard; provide today's Army National Guard members with information for becoming a better Soldier and better citizen; and encourage and assist Guard Soldiers in maximizing the benefits of their military career, as well as achieving personal and professional goals.

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Citizen-Soldier magazine is about and for Soldiers. Your participation is essential to creating an authentic and engaging publication. Submissions are open to both Soldiers and Family members.

We want to hear from you!

Send your submissions to
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HURRICANES OF SUMMER '17

BY STAFF WRITER Tatyana White -Jenkins

The summer of 2017 ended in a wave of destruction with deadly hurricanes wreaking havoc on the United States. Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, two record-breaking storms, brought catastrophic damage to the coastal United States and U.S. Territories in the Caribbean.

Over 40,000 Army National Guard Soldiers were deployed to assist in relief efforts, including evacuation, search, rescue and recovery missions. With just days between Harvey and Irma's landfall, Soldiers of the National Guard proved, once again, that when disaster strikes they are Always Ready, Always There.

SPC Chandler Patterson of the 551st Multi-Role Bridge Company out of El Campo, Texas, performs a boat patrol in hurricane-ravaged Orange, Texas.

130 -mph winds. Over 51 inches of rain. More than 80 confirmed fatalities. These are the numbers that characterized Hurricane Harvey, a catastrophic tropical cyclone that made landfall in Texas on Aug. 26, 2017. Along with those devastating numbers was another figure: 24,000. That is the number of National Guard Soldiers who deployed in response to Hurricane Harvey to carry out relief efforts.

This number includes the entire Texas National Guard force – of approximately 12,000 Soldiers – that Texas Governor Greg Abbott activated to assist with search, rescue and recovery efforts along the Gulf Coast. COL Steven Metz, public affairs officer for the Texas Military Department, said they had not deployed this many people since World War I.

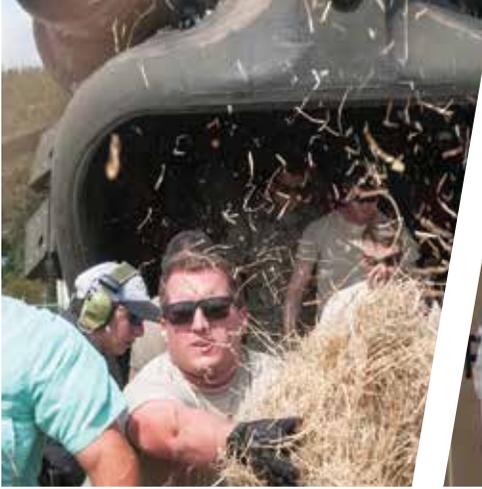
Other states that deployed Soldiers in response to the deadly hurricane were: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and Virginia.

Harvey made landfall near Rockport, Texas, as a Category 4 hurricane and became the most powerful storm to hit the mainland United States in over a decade. Harvey also set a new record for the heaviest rainfall from a hurricane or tropical storm in the continental United States. After making landfall in Texas, Harvey continued on its destructive path, tearing into southern States for almost a week.

After its initial hit, the storm spun offshore then circled back and made landfall again. This second hit brought downpours to not only Texas, but also Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky. With a hurricane of this magnitude, the response was crucial to the relief of the affected areas and civilians. The Army National Guard was ready for the long-term challenge of tackling the destruction Harvey left behind.

Houston received the worst of Harvey's force, making it a large focus of the National Guard's response. The city experienced an immense amount of flooding that left approximately one-third of the Houston area covered in water.

Air Force Gen Joseph Lengyel, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, told the *Houston Chronicle* that it would be “a big undertaking.”



Community members and Texas National Guard Soldiers load hay onto CH-47 Chinooks for delivery to livestock left stranded by Hurricane Harvey flooding near Beaumont, Texas.



South Carolina National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 1118th Forward Support Company load pods with food and water for transport to south Florida in response to Hurricane Irma.

noting the 24,000 Guard troops who would be assisting in the response to Harvey. At a Pentagon press briefing, Air Force Maj Gen James C. Witham, the National Guard Bureau's Director of Domestic Operations, stated, "Our response to this hurricane has been different than anything we've experienced before, and we expect it to be much longer in the response phase in terms of what we would normally see with a hurricane."

When the calls came, Guard Soldiers were at the ready. With a brave sense of selflessness, they began providing relief and recovery to civilians and communities affected by Harvey.

"We were ready to respond in 48 hours," said 1SG Chris Pearson with the Arkansas Army National Guard. "This was an eye-opening experience for Soldiers. I'm very proud of our unit."

"We did a lot of good," said SGT Jason Cameron with the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "We were able to help those in need."

When responding to the hurricane, the Guard initially worked with first responders and later transitioned to supportive roles. Soldiers conducted many missions, including performing evacuations, water rescues, refueling operations and setting up distribution pods to provide food, water and supplies.

"Our readiness is phenomenal," CPT Jeremy Searless with the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team said. "We set up a triage tent jointly with the Air National Guard. We saw a lot of the population around the clock. We had doctors, nurses, dentists and an x-ray tech. Some of our medical staff also helped with the search and rescue missions."

Less than a week following Harvey's

landfall in Texas, National Guard Soldiers had already rescued more than 6,000 people and more than 350 pets in Texas and Louisiana alone. Rescue efforts from the Texas National Guard involved the use of 200 High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicles, 218 high-water vehicles, 15 wreckers and 19 fuelers. They also used 10 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, four UH-72 Lakota multimission helicopters and two CH-47 Chinook cargo helicopters for wide-area search and rescue missions along the Texas coast.

"An engineer battalion linked up with a fire station in Houston," said SGT Daisy Broker with the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "They took [a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle] and rescued 53 citizens in very high flood waters. These were a major asset because local agencies could not get their vehicles out."

"We were with the fire department for almost four days," SGT Noah Balderas with the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team said. "We helped extract people who were trapped and helped with 911 calls. We had a unique opportunity to show compassion to our local community. The reactions and expressions of gratitude and relief are great."

Soldiers faced some challenges while responding to Harvey.

"Initially, a lot of logistics were hindered," said SGT Broker. "Conditions were really rough, and it was cold and rainy."

However, Soldiers were able to overcome hindrances in order to complete their missions. When floodwaters led to vehicle malfunctions, members of the community were there to offer assistance.

"Once we got to Beaumont, we were having a lot of vehicle issues due to the water," said SPC Tiffany Brown. "Local shop

owners opened their businesses to assist the mechanics. They provided meals even though we refused to take food from them in their time of need. They inspired us."

From saving families from their flooded homes, to airdropping thousands of pounds of food and water to stranded people and animals, to simply being someone to talk to during a time of need, Soldiers from the Army National Guard provided comfort to those impacted by Harvey's wrath.

"Some Soldiers didn't want to take a break," 1SG Johnny Salenas with the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team said. "They wanted to keep going. We have nothing but the best military members here. I would go to combat with any one of them. Seeing these Soldiers get out there reminded me of why I am a Soldier."

The Second Wave — Hurricane Irma

As relief efforts continued in Texas, Army National Guard personnel began to prepare for a new threat – another hurricane that would make landfall just two weeks after Hurricane Harvey. This time, it was the eastern coast of the country that was in danger.

Hurricane Irma, yet another record-breaking storm, ravaged the Caribbean and the Florida Keys, becoming a Category 5 hurricane with peak winds of 185 mph. Irma was recorded as the strongest hurricane in the history of Atlantic Ocean storms and caused officials to call states of emergency for Puerto Rico, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia.

Even before the storm made landfall, Army National Guard members from



SGT Aaron Amos and SGT Eric Gutierrez of the 1-124th Cavalry Squadron, Texas Army National Guard, carry a flood victim to safety in Orange, Texas.



Soldiers with the Texas Army National Guard rescue Houston residents as floodwaters from Hurricane Harvey continue to rise.

numerous states were preparing for the impending damage Irma's unclear path would cause. When preparing for Irma's landfall, the Army committed 740 trucks, 38 aircraft and 80 generators to relief efforts. An additional 600 generators, 150 boats and almost 3,200 trucks were put on standby to support relief efforts when needed.

Nearly 20,000 Army and Air National Guard members assisted in Irma relief efforts, including units from Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Alabama, Kentucky, Illinois, California, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

The Army National Guard assisted in evacuation efforts before the storm hit and responded to the immense damage Irma left in its track throughout the southeastern United States and U.S. Territories in the Caribbean.

"Among the first of those who responded to the [9/11] attacks in New York City were members of the National Guard," Air Force Maj Gen Donald P. Dunbar, Wisconsin's adjutant general, said. "Since that day, the National Guard has shown that it is ready and capable of meeting our Nation's needs at home and abroad. Today, as we help our fellow citizens in Florida recover from a natural disaster, is no different."

Florida Governor Rick Scott issued a state of emergency on Labor Day – six days before the storm made landfall – anticipating Irma's destruction to the State. The following day, he began deploying members of the Florida National Guard. On Sept. 6, approximately 1,000 Guard members were activated, and the remaining Soldiers of the Florida National Guard were activated by Sept. 8.

Irma made landfall on Sept. 10 in the

Florida Keys as a Category 4 hurricane with winds of 130 mph. The hurricane caused massive damage and led to at least 80 deaths throughout the Caribbean and the United States. While States as far north as Georgia and as far west as Mississippi felt the impact of Irma, Florida was hit the hardest. Some Florida Army National Guard Soldiers were assigned to help victims in the Soldiers' own neighborhoods and communities.

"About 80 percent of our Soldiers didn't have power back home," said SSG Jesse Powell with the 3-116th Forward Support Company. "[But] we were happy to be serving the Florida community."

"These men and women are putting themselves in harm's way to save the lives of their fellow Floridians while many of their own Families are evacuating," Governor Scott said. "I am proud of their commitment to keeping our families safe."

Guard Soldiers assisted in relief efforts by providing shelter support, setting up distribution pods and responding to emergencies in real time. Soldiers worked alongside local paramedics to secure and transport injured civilians to emergency rooms. As shelters and emergency rooms filled, Soldiers and paramedics devised plans for the best methods to transfer people to the appropriate level of care. SSG Powell recalls working with paramedics to transport civilians. "Everyone handled the pressure well," said SSG Powell. "We worked together and had a plan. We were just happy to get people to facilities that were still taking people in as the storm moved closer."

SGT Kim Leonard, with the 3-116th Forward Support Company, said she used the communications skills she developed while

serving as an MP to assure civilians that they were safe and that the National Guard would be there to help.

"Our first mission was in an Orlando community comprised of the elderly," said SGT Leonard. "Our job was to make everyone feel safe. My communications skills as an MP definitely came into play in keeping everyone calm."

Whether helping to provide shelter, emergency transportation, or simply a sense of safety, the unwavering presence of the Army National Guard brought hope to the communities dealing with the effects of Irma.

"Some people could not bathe or change clothes and didn't even have shoes on when they came to the shelter," said SPC Kenneth Anthony of the 3-265th Air Defense Artillery. "We made sure everyone was comfortable and safe. On our last night, we got with the cafeteria, passed out cookies and let everyone know we were there to help. I was glad to put a smile on someone's face despite the storm brewing around us."

On September 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands as a Category 4 storm. At the time of production for this issue of *Citizen-Soldier*, hurricane relief efforts were ramping up for the affected areas. The next issue of *Citizen-Soldier* will feature an update on the Army National Guard's disaster relief missions in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. ●





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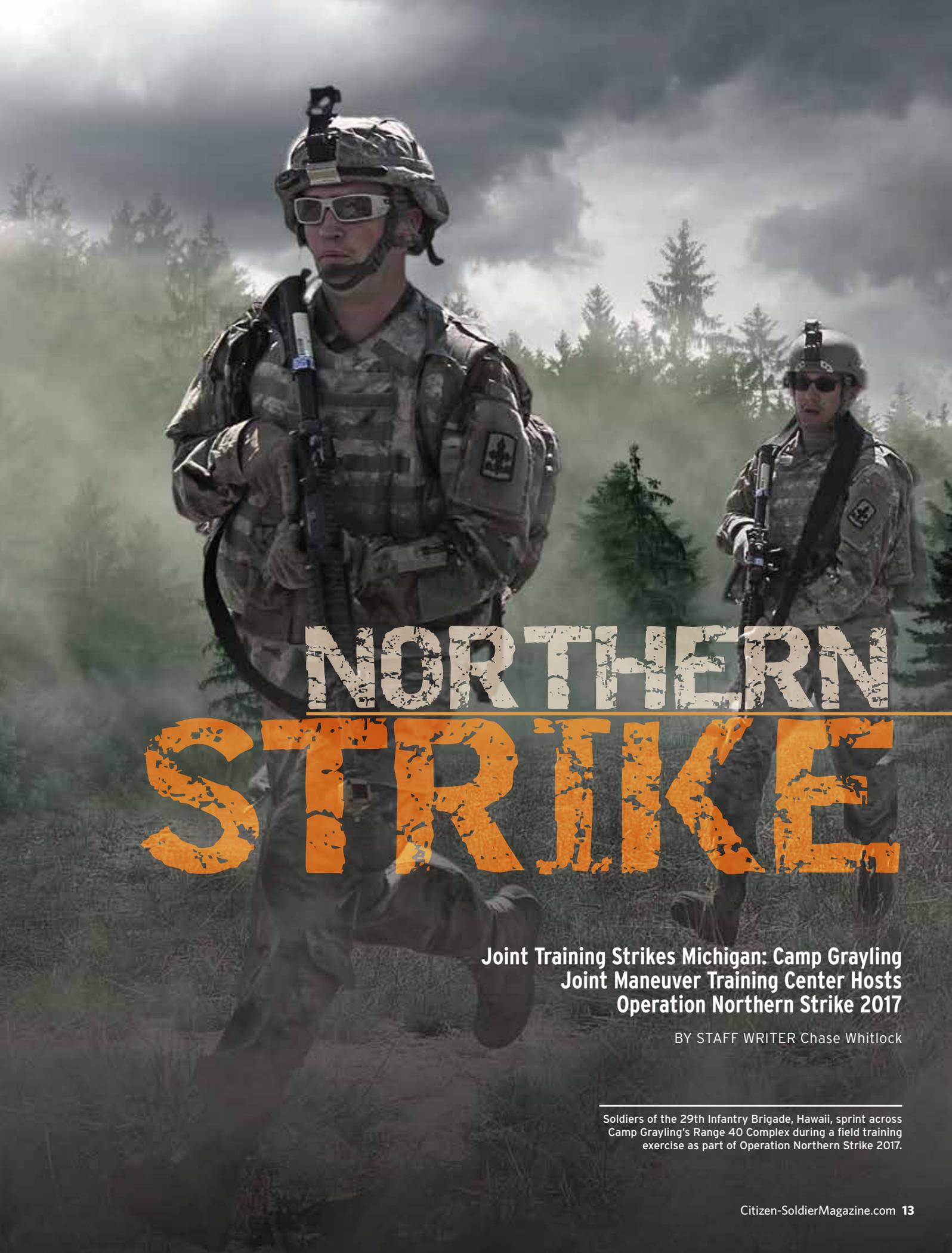
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MAJ Elizabeth Simmons (left), pediatrician at the Hugo V. Mendoza Soldier Family Care Center, and LTC Elizabeth Duque, director, Department of Primary Care.

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NORTHERN STRIKE

**Joint Training Strikes Michigan: Camp Grayling
Joint Maneuver Training Center Hosts
Operation Northern Strike 2017**

BY STAFF WRITER Chase Whitlock

Soldiers of the 29th Infantry Brigade, Hawaii, sprint across Camp Grayling's Range 40 Complex during a field training exercise as part of Operation Northern Strike 2017.

This summer more than 7,000 military personnel descended upon Michigan's Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center for Operation Northern Strike (ONS) 2017.

ONS, an annual joint multinational exercise, brought Soldiers of various branches and nations to the largest National Guard training facility in the country. The two-week exercise provides readiness-building opportunities that emphasize cohesion between branches of service.

ONS has gained notoriety for its remarkably accurate training environment. It is one of only 43 programs worldwide to gain Joint National Training Capacity accreditation and is the only exercise managed by the National Guard that coordinates both ground and air assets, according to the Joint Force Headquarters, Michigan National Guard. The objective of ONS is to provide accessible, readiness-building opportunities for units of all service branches to achieve or sustain proficiency in conducting mission command; air, sea, and ground maneuver integration; and the synchronization of fires in a joint, multinational, decisive action and major combat operations environment that is scalable to unit resource levels.

"Today's warriors go to battle with companions from other countries and other branches of service," said LTC Dawn Dancer, Public Affairs Officer with the Michigan National Guard. "We are all going in together,

//
**The Army,
the Marines,
the Navy –
to get them
synchronized
at the right
place on the
battlefield at
the right time
to decisively
win is what
this exercise
is all about,"**

- MG Greg Vadnais

interwoven – not side-by-side or in separate lanes. Those co-warriors fly overhead and fire adjacent [to] each other's battlefield locations all while speaking another language and using unfamiliar acronyms. The time to learn their acronyms and flight patterns is not the day you set foot on the battlefield. The Northern Strike exercise, by design, trains in exactly this scenario."

ONS, hosted by the Michigan National Guard, was developed in 2012 as an Air National Guard exercise. The goal was to prepare Air National Guard units for employment with an air expeditionary wing within a deployed wing construct or into a brigade combat team. In the first year approximately 500 participants engaged. After six exercise cycles, ONS has grown exponentially. Now a joint initiative sponsored by the National Guard Bureau, ONS 2017 included 7,500 participants and, according to the Northern Strike public affairs office, is the most complex reserve component-led training exercise in the United States.

The current focus of ONS is training for decisive actions in combined arms live fire situations emphasizing close air support, joint fire support and coordinated maneuvers with fires and air mobility – including command, control, communications, computers and intelligence elements of theater air ground system. During the exercise, each branch of the military followed a mock scenario involving simulated city attacks and air-to-ground combat.

Joint team of JTAC airmen from the 227th Air Support Operations Squadron, New Jersey Army National Guard, the 146 Airlift Wing, California Air National Guard and Latvian soldiers man an exercise observation point.



The training helps Soldiers improve their existing skills, thus enhancing their ability to protect States and nations and work under allied partnerships. LTC Ray Stemitz, Operations Officer for the Michigan Guard noted the importance of this type of training.

“It is very unique for Soldiers to gain this type of experience before getting to theater,” LTC Stemitz said. “This exercise helps to build our readiness and keep it sharp. [ONS] ensures we deliver a very transparent experience to the Soldiers.”

This year, ONS participants included Soldiers from 62 Army, Marine, Air Force, Special Forces and multi-national units. International partners included Canada, Great Britain, Denmark, Latvia and Poland.

Planning an event on the scale of ONS is a huge undertaking. ONS 2017 was in the planning stages in 2016, with some coordination beginning as early as five years prior. According to TSgt. Richard Boyer, Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) instructor and lead planner, coordinating a multitude of aircraft, JTACs, and OPFOR [Opposing Forces] proved challenging at times.

“The most difficult part is the execution piece,” said TSgt Boyer. “Because there are so many moving pieces and such a large area, it takes a lot of coordination and planning to finalize the JTAC plan, coordinate with aircraft on station and the OPFOR on the ground and making sure they are all in the right locations.”



Danish Homeguard Soldiers participate in helo training.



Left to right: Sgt. Sanjay Ghale, Capt. Jogendrasing Limbu, Warrant Officer 2 Chhabindra Limbu of 3rd Battalion of the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment (3 PWRR) - "The Tigers."





Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry
Regiment, Arizona Army National Guard.



MG Gregory J. Vadnais, the Adjutant General of the Michigan National Guard, said synchronization was key. “The Army, the Marines, the Navy – to get them synchronized at the right place on the battlefield at the right time to decisively win is what this exercise is all about,” he explained.

Training at a facility like Camp Grayling is a unique opportunity. Each year, Camp Grayling provides training for over 10,000 military personnel from National Guard units in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Ohio. The installation is equipped with maritime capabilities that include locations for dive operations and amphibious assault. Two of Camp Grayling’s major training areas utilized during ONS were the Virtual Battle Simulation (VBS) and the Combined



This exercise helps to build our readiness and keep it sharp. [ONS] ensures we deliver a very transparent experience to the Soldiers.”

- LTC Stemitz

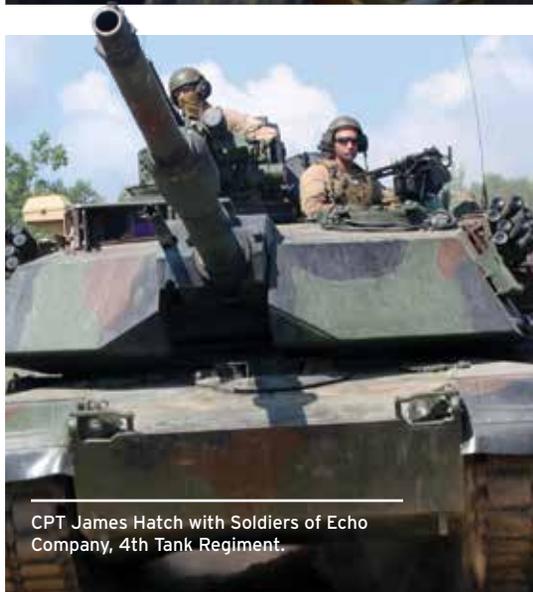
Arms Collective Training Facility (CACTF). The VBS can virtually place Soldiers anywhere in the world. It can also simulate situations like a HMMWV rollover. The CACTF is designed to replicate an urban environment with buildings, streets and other terrain to place Soldiers in realistic scenarios that closely mimic what they might encounter while deployed.

At the CACTF, Army National Guard Soldiers partnered with combined elements from Great Britain, Latvia and Poland to train in company defense tactics during a fictional scenario securing a city from attack by enemy forces.

“Being able to actually get controls in a live environment that has aircraft and



Soldiers of Michigan National Guard perform vehicle maintenance at Camp Grayling’s Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site during ONS 2017.



CPT James Hatch with Soldiers of Echo Company, 4th Tank Regiment.



Arizona National Guard SPC Tyler Mckinney and SPC Oscar Valle watch as members of their fire team fire a 60 mm mortar.

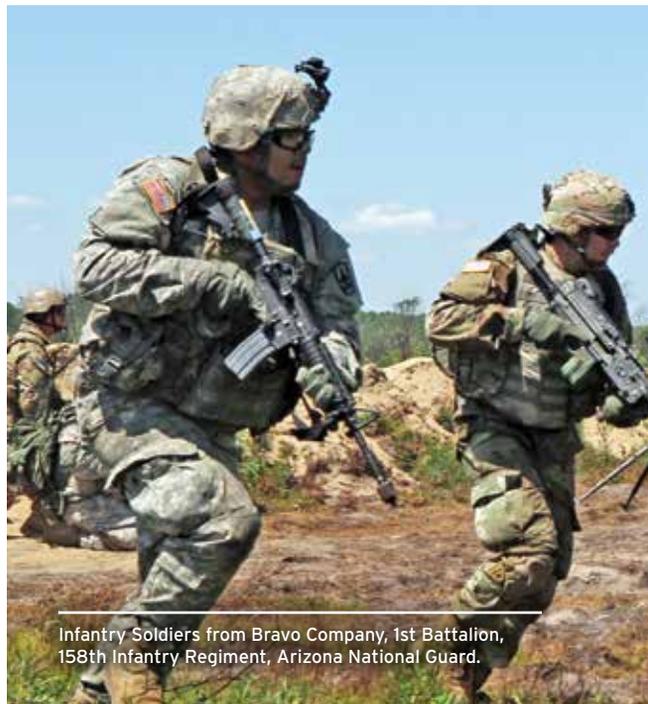


SSG Dickinson, 1071st
Component Repair Company,
Michigan National Guard.

terrain very similar to Afghanistan is important,” said TSgt Boyer. “You have the team working together, so we almost want them to make mistakes here because this is where they learn so, when actual live ordnance is being dropped, they can bring their A-game.”

In addition to the high-tech training equipment available at Camp Grayling year-round, the Michigan National Guard coordinated the inclusion of a very special piece of equipment specifically for ONS 2017. This year, the exercise featured the E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System, known as Joint STARS, an advanced ground-surveillance and battle-management system.

The E-8C Joint STARS is a modified Boeing 707. It provides simultaneous wide-area joint airborne command and control, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support over land and water from a manned platform to combatant commanders around the globe. Joint STARS is equipped with 22 radios, seven data links, two internets and secure telephone capability. The aircraft requires 21 personnel members for full operation. The joint total-force integration unit operates the world’s only Joint STARS weapon system, based out of Robins Air Force Base, Ga. The team consists of Georgia Air National Guard’s 116th Air Control Wing, the active-duty 461st Air Control Wing, and Army Joint STARS personnel. During ONS 2017, Joint STARS provided battle-management command and control as well as intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance data.



Infantry Soldiers from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion,
158th Infantry Regiment, Arizona National Guard.



[ONS] gives us a great opportunity to work out the bugs ... so it won't be so foreign when we're on the ground."

- LTC Craig Norton

Medics with the 238th Medical Group, Grand Ledge, Mich., run through hot-load drills to help prepare medical units to safely load and unload patients from an HH-60 Black Hawk helicopter while the blades are still moving.

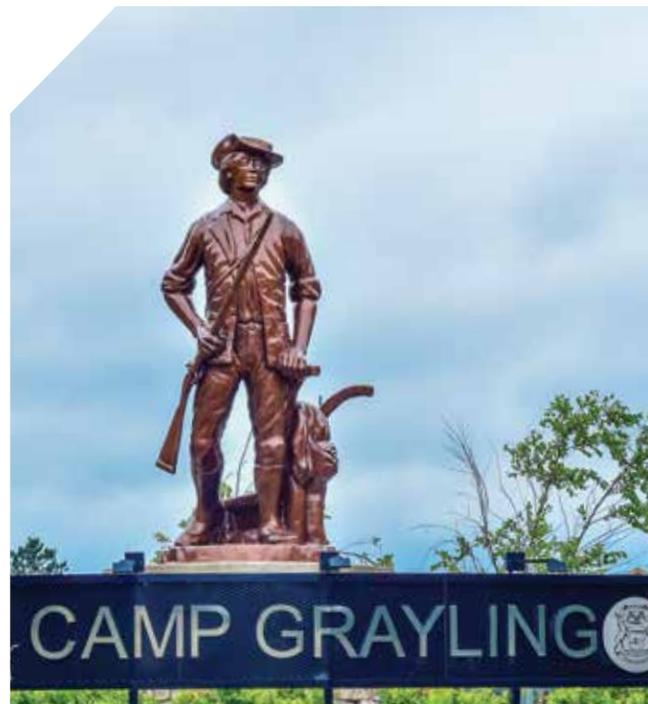
The realistic training scenarios during Northern Strike 2017 presented the Joint STARS team with “abundant opportunities to hone our wartime capabilities while incorporating our joint and multinational partners,” said Air Force Lt Col Kenneth Billings, mission crew commander with the 116th Air Control Wing’s 128th Airborne Command and Control Squadron.

Training at ONS also included live fire scenarios ranging from enemy snipers to convoys to multiple launch rocket systems to high-mobility artillery rocket systems. In fictional scenarios Marine Reserve, Army National Guard and infantry units from Denmark, Latvia and Poland provided area security or conducted platoon attacks.

“We only have one live fire training in Arizona,” said SPC Adolfo Melendez of the Mortar Platoon, 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry Regiment, Arizona National Guard. “It’s great to be here to get training we need on such a large scale.”

In an air-training scenario, two active duty MH-60S Seahawk Naval Helicopters from the USS *John C. Stennis* aircraft carrier, departed Michigan Air National Guard’s Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center en route to Camp Grayling on a fictional search and rescue mission. A flight pattern with rising and falling terrain was chosen to challenge pilots.

“A wounded aviator laid in deep grass behind enemy lines, unable to move,” said LTC Dancer, explaining the scenario. “Four A-10 Thunderbolt II jet aircraft, from the 107th Fighter Squadron flew in and encircled the opposition-held area to provide overwatch and safely guide in the Seahawks. One medevac



chopper landed near the wounded aviator while the other hovered close by to provide security. The medical team quickly exited the aircraft, recovered the wounded and gently brought him on board.”

Collaborating with military members of multiple service branches and countries is a pivotal component of creating a realistic training experience for Soldiers. LTC Craig Norton, battalion commander of 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry Regiment, Arizona National Guard, stated that while his troops usually train alone, in an actual conflict “you would have these additional contributors in the fight.”

LTC Norton explained, “Typically speaking, we don’t have all these pieces of the pie together until we get there. [ONS] gives us a great opportunity to work out the bugs and come up with processes to step right into theater, so it won’t be foreign when we’re on the ground.”

The inclusion of international forces is a key component of ONS. It not only aids in providing a realistic training environment, for both U.S. and allied troops, this year it also served as an opportunity to strengthen some National Guard State partnerships. The California National Guard’s State partner, Nigeria, attended ONS for the first time. It was a unique opportunity for the Nigerian soldiers to witness their U.S. partner Soldiers in a live mission environment. “The Nigerian soldiers with us are engineers,” said MAJ Chiddy Adighije of the Office of Security Cooperation, U.S. Embassy Abuja, Nigeria.



It is an honor to host freedom defenders from every branch of service and to exchange best practice experiences with our global allies.”

- MG Greg Vadnais

“We are escorting them throughout the exercise to give them an opportunity to observe our engineers and the type of missions we encounter.”

Latvia has been the State partner of the Michigan National Guard for nearly 25 years. This year, Latvia participated in ONS with a robust presence. Approximately 300 troops from the Latvian National Guard (Zemessardzes) operated out of Camp Grayling as participants in ONS 2017.

LTC Dustin Budd, Michigan’s Bilateral Affairs Officer in Latvia, said long-term relationships like those between Latvia and Michigan are key to the success of the State Partnership Program and that, “[Operation] Northern Strike is a key event to showcase this partnership because it puts American and Latvian service members side-by-side in realistic incident-management scenarios that test the skills, trust and mutual experience they’ve built over time.”

In a summary statement about the Operation Northern Strike exercise, MG Vadnais had this to say, “Northern Strike is the capstone exercise to maximize total force training and readiness possibilities. We train as we fight and Northern Strike continues to be a premier, doctrinally based, joint training opportunity. What it boils down to is this: [Northern Strike] offers more and better training options for military units than virtually anywhere else in the world. It is an honor to host freedom defenders from every branch of service and to exchange best practice experiences with our global allies.” ●



A Company, 1-125 Infantry Battalion, Michigan National Guard participates in a live fire company attack.

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1973



GEN Creighton Abrams

ARNG 1.0

Post-Vietnam War Era
*Total Force Policy,
the Abrams Doctrine*

1984



ARNG 2.0

Cold War Era
*Reagan-Era Military
Buildup*

1992



ARNG 2.5

Post-Operation
Desert Storm
Readiness Adjustments

ARNG 4.0

A New Era for the Army National Guard

BY STAFF WRITER Chase Whitlock

Today's global environment is increasingly complex. Modern battles take place not just on land and in air, but also in space and cyberspace. Adversaries are agile and have access to technologies that once gave U.S. forces critical advantages. To successfully ensure the safety of our Nation, the Army must be always engaged and ever vigilant. To meet this level of demand, the Army has increasingly relied on the National Guard component to play an integral role in combat.

In response, the Army National Guard has transformed from a strategic reserve

to a fully integrated operational force. Today, with reductions in size and budgets shrinking the capacity of the active duty component, the Army needs the specific capabilities of the Army National Guard more than ever.

Recently, LTG Timothy J. Kadavy, Director of the Army National Guard, introduced ARNG 4.0 – an initiative designed to prepare the National Guard to both meet the challenges of the 21st century and also partner with the Army in a larger and more continuous fashion.

“Our Nation faces different threats today than we did 100 years ago,” said LTG Kadavy. “Army Chief of Staff GEN Mark Milley asked a question while at a National Guard Association of the United States

conference, ‘Do we have the right Army National Guard for the 21st century?’ I took his question very seriously.”

From a historical perspective, the Army National Guard has evolved significantly over the past 44 years. LTG Kadavy describes this evolution as ARNG 1.0, 2.0, 2.5 and 3.0, culminating with today's era of ARNG 4.0.

In the early post-Vietnam War era of 1973, the Army adopted the Total Force Policy of Army Chief of Staff GEN Creighton W. Abrams, Jr. The Abrams Doctrine, as it was called, activated the 100 percent volunteer Army National Guard component only in the event of total war. This characterized ARNG 1.0.

In 1984, at the height of the Cold War between the United States and Russia, the Reagan-era military buildup placed more emphasis on the Army National Guard.

2001



ARNG 3.0

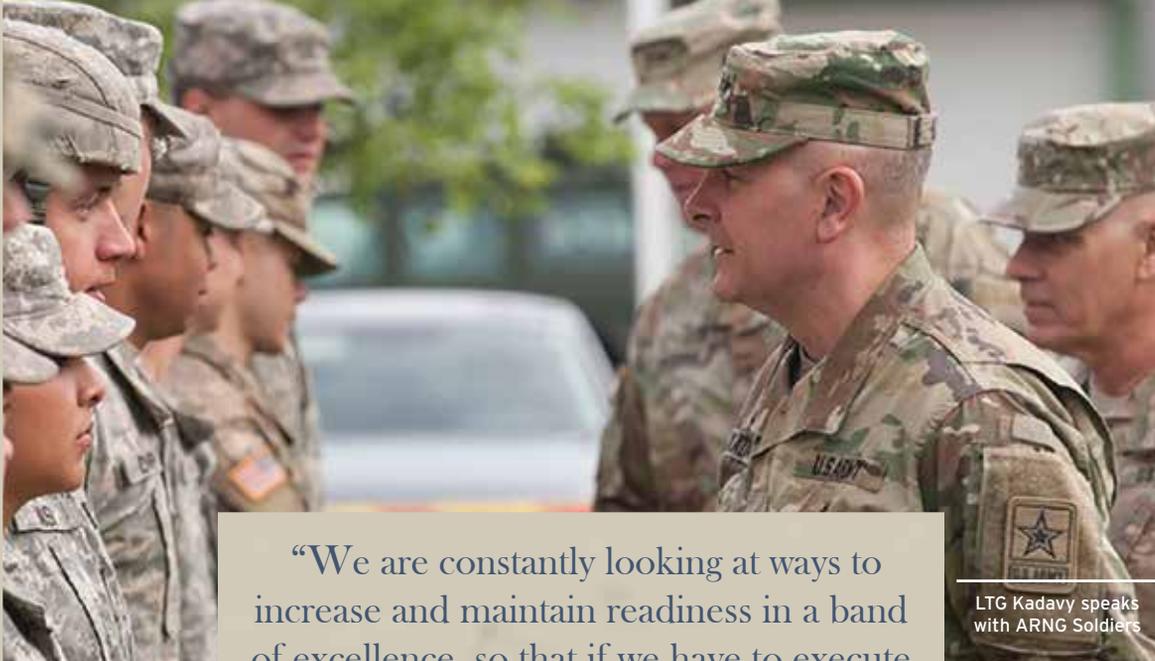
Post-September 11, 2001
Operational Reserve Force

2018



ARNG 4.0

Army National Guard
of the Future
Enhanced Readiness



LTG Kadavy speaks with ARNG Soldiers

“We are constantly looking at ways to increase and maintain readiness in a band of excellence, so that if we have to execute upon ‘America’s worst night,’ we can defend and protect the Nation and defeat those who threaten us.”

It called for increased structure through tiered readiness, “One Army Standards,” and improved training. This was ARNG 2.0.

In 1992, following Operation Desert Storm, the Army Guard adjusted its readiness practices by introducing the round-out concept and identifying the role of First Army in post-mobilization preparation. This readiness adjustment was ARNG 2.5.

In 2001, after the Sept. 11 attacks, the Army National Guard quickly transformed into an operational reserve force, launching its longest sequence of mobilizations and deployments to that date. The Army Guard also experienced an increased role in homeland defense, a modernization of the force and the implementation of the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) model – the method for effectively generating trained and ready forces on a sustainable, rotational basis. This was ARNG 3.0.

That brings us to ARNG 4.0, the future of the Army National Guard. ARNG 4.0 is designed to change methods for training, manning and organizing units. The initiative is expected to enhance total readiness by focusing resources to provide a more rapid response in support of the Army.

“When great powers went to war in the late 1800s and early 1900s, war was declared on a particular day, but the fighting didn’t begin for a year,” said LTG Kadavy. “With today’s technology, as we saw on Sept. 11, 2001, you may not be at war at 0700, but by

LTG Timothy J. Kadavy, Director of Army National Guard

1000 you are mobilizing to fight. This means the Army National Guard has to sustain higher levels of readiness in certain units to help the Nation respond quickly.”

ARNG 4.0 is designed to provide enhanced capabilities more quickly to the Army. Under ARNG 4.0, the Army Guard’s primary focus will move from high-intensity rotational deployments and, instead, hone in on more specialized deployments that send units with mission-specific skill sets. ARNG 4.0 also brings with it the Sustainable Readiness Model (SRM), which replaces ARFORGEN and lays out a four-year cycle of focused readiness for urgent units. Once fully implemented, according to LTG Kadavy, all units will have a higher level of readiness, with focused units displaying an extreme level of readiness.

The director has laid out ARNG 4.0 in two phases. Phase one will concentrate on building enhanced levels of readiness in the focused units. These units include early response enablers, armor and Stryker brigades, selected infantry brigades, brigade field artillery units, attack reconnaissance battalions (ARB) and Apache attack helicopter battalions.

The goal is to better prepare the units through rotations at the National Training Center (NTC) and the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC). The number of

increased training days will vary depending on the unit. For example, in year three of the SRM, the armor brigade combat

teams will have 64 to 66 total training days (in comparison to the traditional 39 days), while an infantry brigade combat team will have 54 total training days. The director said this is all designed to reduce post-mobilization training requirements.

Phase two will focus on increasing readiness of the remaining force. Other initiatives under ARNG 4.0 include reorganization of units to achieve higher efficiency, focused training standards (Objective-T), high-performing leader development, increased manning with the addition of 7,000 Soldiers and increased resources.

When asked if there were concerns that the higher demands and increased training days might have a negative impact on retention, LTG Kadavy said, “What we’ve found over the last 15 years is that mobilization, deployments and these key exercises enhance retention of our Soldiers and don’t hurt it. Our Soldiers are all about service and they want to train and serve to the highest level possible.” He went on to say, “We’ve been to the National Training Center three times and JRTC four times; we’ve not seen a dip [in retention]. We are working to provide more resources to support those who have to train. It’s a tremendous time to be part of the ARNG.”



Army National Guard Soldiers with Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 172nd Cavalry Regiment (Mountain), 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Mountain), and Vermont Army National Guard right a zodiac boat during boat capsizing training in Burlington, Vt.

According to LTG Kadavy, an additional benefit of increased resources is the expansion in the range of training and development options the Army National Guard can offer. “One way ARNG 4.0 improves our current capabilities is through increased opportunities for our Soldiers. Whether it’s deployments or overseas deployment training, whether it’s defending the skies over Washington D.C. or the electrons that fly through space as part of our Cyber Force, there are all kinds of professional development opportunities for our Soldiers in today’s ARNG.”

The Army Guard is also working to ensure the additional time Soldiers spend training is as productive as possible. An after-action review is held following each training event at the National Training Center or JRTC. The reviews are not discussions about how the brigades performed. Instead, they are reviews about how the ARNG, as an institution, performed in helping the brigade and the brigade commanders to be successful and efficient during their time at the training

centers. At the reviews, brigade commanders have the opportunity to share lessons learned. This, in turn, allows the ARNG to improve the training strategy and the overall program.

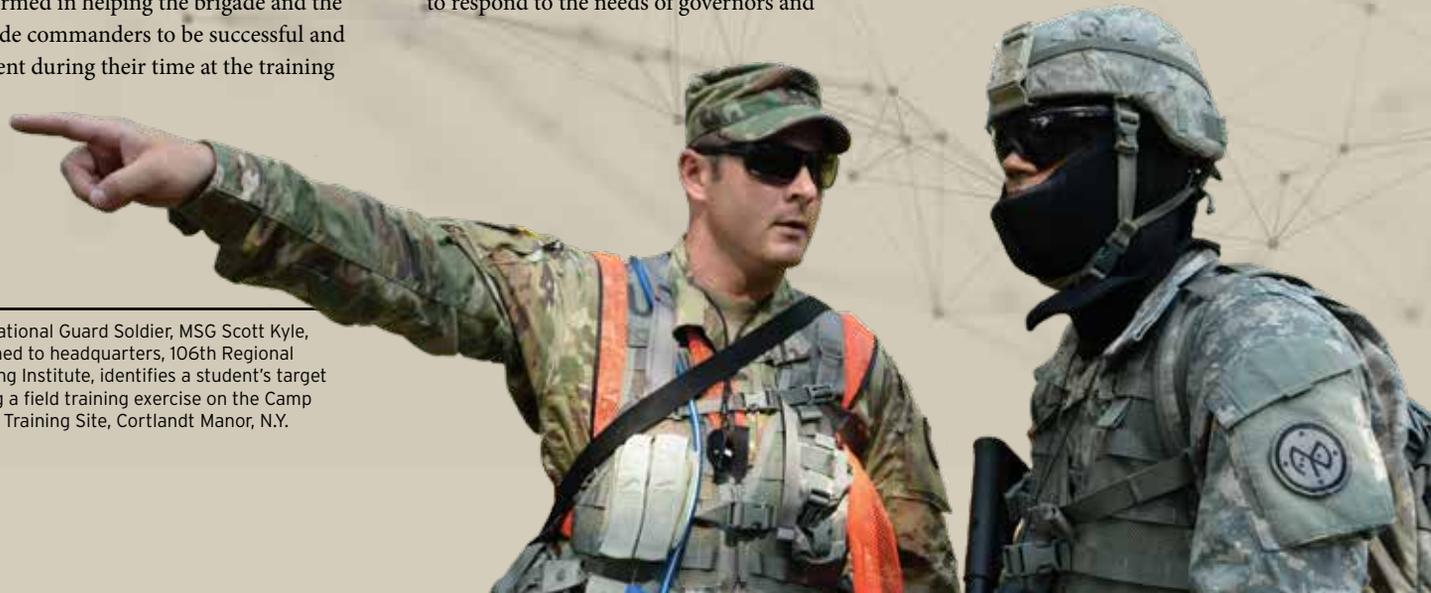
Though ARNG 4.0 is driven by the need to effectively and efficiently support the needs of the Army’s active duty component, the director said the Army National Guard is no less committed to its dual mission to serve the Army as well as State governors. In fact, he noted that ARNG 4.0 serves to strengthen the force even as it carries out operations at home in the States.

“We are the combat reserve of the United States, and we work for our president and help our Army fight the Nation’s wars. But when we are not mobilized and deployed, we are back home in our States where we have the ability to utilize the enhanced readiness and the additional experience and training. It makes us the most capable we’ve ever been to respond to the needs of governors and

States in times of emergency,” said LTG Kadavy.

In a final statement about how the Army National Guard partners with Soldiers’ Families and their civilian employers, the director noted the Army Guard’s commitment to providing transparent and proactive communication. “The key thing I hear when I talk to our Soldiers, Families and [civilian] employers is, ‘We can make this work if you are predictable and you communicate with us. Let us know what’s going on and be predictable so we can plan our civilian lives.’ So, that’s our commitment to our ARNG Soldiers. We are going to be transparent and communicate. We are going to be as predictable as we can in a very unpredictable world.”

ARNG 4.0 will roll out fully in 2018. LTG Kadavy reminds Soldiers, “We are doing this because the country needs us to do this. Continue to serve and do great things for our ARNG, States and our Nation.” ●



N.Y. National Guard Soldier, MSG Scott Kyle, assigned to headquarters, 106th Regional Training Institute, identifies a student’s target during a field training exercise on the Camp Smith Training Site, Cortlandt Manor, N.Y.

Increased Training Days

BY STAFF WRITER Tatyana White-Jenkins

As a part of the effort to enhance readiness, select units across the Guard will see an increase in training days and combat training center rotations.

The increase in training is a direct realization of ARNG 4.0. It comes as part of the need to increase readiness across all three Army components in order to keep up with the growing demand for Soldiers around the world.

The intent of ARNG 4.0 is to enhance the Guard's overall readiness, improve the readiness of Soldiers and develop innovative leaders. A large part of accomplishing these goals is increased training, but only for select units. For the majority of Guard Soldiers, the training commitment is expected to remain one weekend per month and two weeks per year.

Combat readiness is currently top priority. In a written statement to lawmakers on the House Armed Services Committee's readiness subcommittee, LTG Joseph Anderson, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations (G-3), stated that only about one-third of the Army's brigade combat teams (BCT), one quarter of its combat aviation brigades, and half of its division headquarters are ready to deploy if needed. The Guard intends to increase combat readiness over time by making changes in organization and culture. ARNG 4.0 will prepare Soldiers to effectively meet the challenges of the 21st century in a prepared and capable fashion.

As part of a four-year cycle that begins in 2018, focused units will be marked for both an increase in training days and training center rotations. The exact amount of additional training will depend on the unit, but the

increase will be added to all focused units in a tiered fashion. It is expected that training in the first year will remain at the standard 39 days. A slight increase will occur in the second year, and a more substantial increase will happen in the third and fourth years.

The increase in training will help keep pace with the high demand for Soldiers and assist in growing the Army's readiness as a Total Force.

"The Army is one Total Force, and Army National Guard and Army Reserve units deploy regularly and are integral for our contingency plans," said LTG Anderson. "The Army has programmed increased manning, training days and combat training center rotations to enhance Army National Guard and Army Reserve readiness."

High-demand units like armored and Stryker BCTs will receive more complex, high-level training.

With the increase in training time, the Guard will continue to work not only with Soldiers, but also with Families and civilian employers. The increase will be an adjustment for all, and through proactive and open communication, the Guard will keep Soldiers informed and confident in their ability to properly plan for their duties in both their military and civilian lives.

With successful implementation of increased training, the Army expects to reach a higher level of readiness in its current force by 2023. ●

Learn more about ARNG 4.0 on page 22



Soldiers participating in the 2017 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition, held at Camp Ripley, Minn., head out on a two-mile run wearing their competitor numbers.

“Supporting Family readiness is always a priority for the Guard. Programs like the National Guard Family Program offer information and resources specifically geared toward Family members.”



Increased Deployments

BY STAFF WRITER Tatyana White-Jenkins

Aligned with the plan to increase training days is an increase in deployments.

In December 2016, more than 450 Soldiers of the 29th Infantry Division headquarters deployed to the Middle East. They were the second of two Army National Guard division headquarters to be deployed to a forward location, making it the first time two Guard division headquarters had been forward deployed simultaneously since the Korean War.

This exemplifies the initiative to increase deployments by Army National Guard Soldiers. The increase in deployments is a realization of the Army's Total Force policy, which encourages greater integration of the Army's component forces: active duty, the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard. By encouraging collaboration and integration between the three forces, a greater sense of readiness and preparedness can be realized within the Total Force.

A fitting example of Total Force is the Georgia Army National Guard's 3rd Infantry

Division Main Command Post Operational Detachment (3ID MCPOD). The 3ID MCPOD is a unit of both active duty and Guard Soldiers that recently deployed to Afghanistan for nine months.

The 3ID MCPOD's deployment to Afghanistan, and the growing use of Guard Soldiers in MCPODs, embody the push for the Army National Guard to be a more continuous component of the Army. In MCPODs, Guard Soldiers support active Army headquarter elements that have been downsized.

MCPODs can have up to 100 Soldiers from Guard and Army Reserve units, primarily with intelligence, civil affairs, engineering, signal operations and sustainer MOSs. Adding additional support from the Guard in areas such as operations, logistics and intelligence allows active duty and headquarters divisions that were cut from about 700 Soldiers to 500 to be rounded out. There are plans to stand up 13 MCPODs. As part of these units, Guard Soldiers receive the opportunity to boost their capabilities and overall readiness.

A formation of six South Carolina Army National Guard CH-47F Chinook heavy-lift cargo helicopters assigned to Detachment 1, B Company, 2-238th General Support Aviation Battalion, 59th Aviation Troop Command, departs for a year-long deployment to Afghanistan.

The initiative to increase deployments has also been seen in training exercises like Talisman Saber (a training exercise in Australia) and Saber Guardian (a training exercise spanning Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria). Guard Soldiers participating in these exercises trained and worked side by side with active duty Soldiers. While these exercises were for training purposes, they remind us that Guard Soldiers need to be always ready to deploy overseas when needed.

While most Guard Families already know to expect the possibility of deployment, unexpected challenges may sometimes arise. Supporting Family readiness is always a priority for the Guard. Programs like the National Guard Family Program offer information and resources specifically geared toward Family members. These programs help Soldiers and Families feel knowledgeable, ready and supported during their entire deployment cycle. ●

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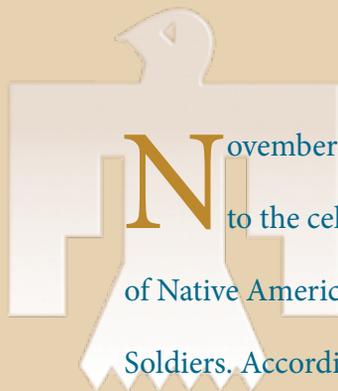
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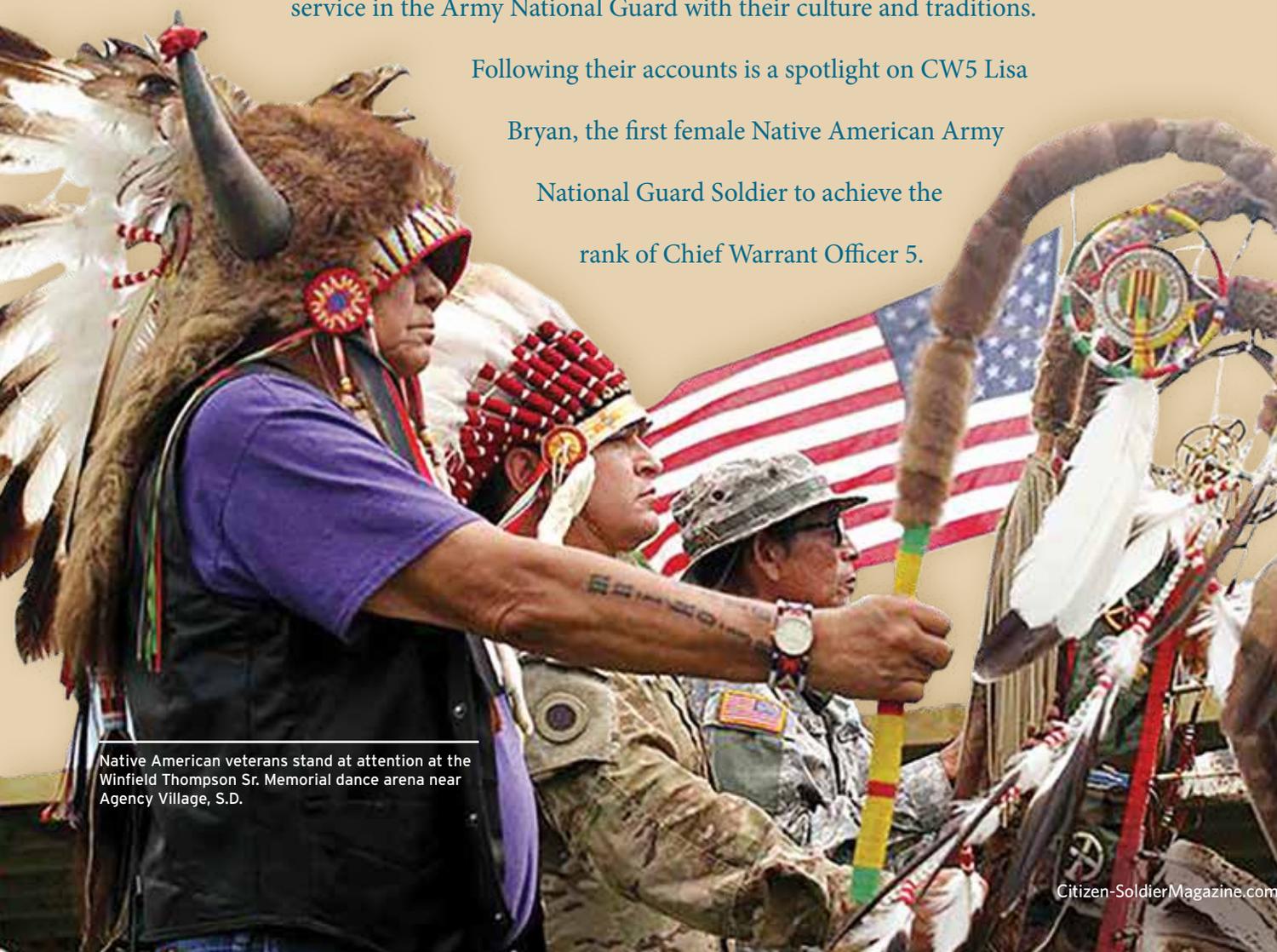




November is Native American Heritage Month, a time dedicated to the celebration of the rich ancestry, cultures and traditions of Native Americans, including Native American Army National Guard Soldiers. According to the Department of Defense, Native Americans have the highest number per capita serving in the U.S. military of any ethnic group in the United States.

In the following pages are stories of three Soldiers who kept their traditions alive while serving in the Guard. These Guard members drew upon their heritage and tribal knowledge as they served the Guard and their communities. Two of the Soldiers share how they infuse their service in the Army National Guard with their culture and traditions.

Following their accounts is a spotlight on CW5 Lisa Bryan, the first female Native American Army National Guard Soldier to achieve the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 5.



Native American veterans stand at attention at the Winfield Thompson Sr. Memorial dance arena near Agency Village, S.D.



POWWOW *for Renewal in* IRAQ

*SFC Debra Mooney (Ret.) Recalls How She Planned
a Powwow While Deployed in Iraq in 2004.*

After working many 12- to 14-hour days for many months, SFC Debra Mooney (Ret.) felt a powwow would offer a means of reconnection for the Native American Soldiers and offer a source of physical and spiritual renewal to the rest of the Soldiers on post with her in Iraq.

“Of course, the first thing I did was pray about it, because I pray about everything,” said SFC Mooney. “We prayed before and after every meeting to make sure this was a blessed event. We prayed during the powwow. This was a celebration for the Creator, and He blessed us with this day. The main goal was to give Him honor throughout.”

Next, she called her uncle, who is a Vietnam veteran, for advice. After speaking to him, she spoke with a representative from U.S. Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation and asked how to go about planning a powwow.

SFC Mooney brought together a committee of five military personnel. Since the powwow was intertribal, she and her team proceeded carefully. They started with a discussion of basics.

“At first,” said SFC Mooney, who has been attending powwows since she was a child, “I was the mouthpiece, so I decided to eliminate anything that might offend someone. I wanted to wipe the slate clean, so the first thing we did was ask participants, ‘What’s necessary for your tribe? What’s important to you? What offends you? What doesn’t offend you?’ We got rid of anything that was offensive and framed the event around the elements that were most important.”



SFC Debra Mooney (Ret.) wearing official Oklahoma National Guard Native American regalia draped over her Army Service Uniform.



SFC Mooney and other Native American National Guard members participate in a powwow in Oklahoma.

“For instance,” explained SFC Mooney, “some tribes dance counterclockwise. Some tribes dance clockwise. The direction in which we were going to do the dancing was one of the things we had to decide up front. A lot of the planners wanted absolutely no weapons in the circle whatsoever, absolutely nothing of violence even though we are in a violent place. The powwow is a sign of peace and harmony. We are all celebrating together. We’re all laughing together. We’re all doing everything in unison. No weapon in our hand; no malice in our heart.”

She added, “Some people call it their church, and then some people don’t. It just depends on who you’re talking to, but you don’t want anyone bringing their weapons in your church.”

The committee then had to find ways to get the things they needed. They decided on a two-day event: one for food, which would be Indian tacos, and one for games, which would include stickball, a tomahawk throw, blow darts and Indian marbles. The most important item, according to SFC Mooney, was the drum, which is now on display at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian.

“We got a drum maker – SGT Michael Morris. He was our major crafter. He made our tomahawks. He made our drum. He used the plasma cutter to cut the Thunderbirds around the bottom of it. We had armor plating off vehicles that were already blown. He used the plasma cutter and ground it down and made tomahawk heads out of it. The handles we used were broken tent mallets, and we used half for the tomahawks. Then the other half we used for the stickball sticks.”

Because it was an intertribal powwow in a combat zone, SFC Mooney felt there were issues that had to be overlooked.

“There were certain accommodations we had to make being in the military, certain things we had to change and readjust. The music – I knew there was a sequence of songs. You have to have a prayed-in song. You have to have a memorial song. You have to have a flag song. There’s a certain sequence of events. We pulled all the music that we had there, because a lot of the Native Americans had their own powwow music. We tried to get everything we needed for that sequence of events, and there was not a lot of time.”

SFC Mooney continues, “I would say the time restraint really helped us, because we didn’t have time to gripe. We didn’t have time to complain. No nitpicking. If you had a problem, you fixed it before you got to my door because I didn’t have time for it. We had our missions and our duties for that day, and then we worked on the powwow stuff afterwards. It was a lot of moving and shaking.”

“We also had to have the powwow completely taken apart and everyone out of the area by dark, so we were working fast,” she continued. “I had everything – the music, the talking – timed, and we worked on that time schedule. Whenever someone added something new, we had to adjust the time because we were fighting that time

limit, and we were going to make sure that we kept people as safe as possible.”

Looking back, SFC Mooney knows the powwow was far more than just another MWR event.

“It sent us back home,” she said. “It gave us a little bit of comfort. We were doing something that we’d be doing if we were back home. We were also introducing something brand new to people that didn’t have a clue, and we were representing the state of Oklahoma. We were representing the Oklahoma National Guard. We were representing Oklahoma Native American tribes and pride, and we were representing ourselves individually.”

SFC Mooney hopes this powwow left a legacy for future Native Americans, especially since many of the tribal cultures are disappearing. “For Native Americans, all of our stories are oral. So, this is our Families’ story. This does not belong to us anymore. It belongs to our Family. It belongs to our future – children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, grand-nieces.” She hopes those future Native Americans will someday be proud that their ancestors were at the powwow in Iraq in 2004.

“When we were tearing down the powwow and getting everything back in the truck, the guys were whooping and hollering just like we would at a regular powwow,” she said. “It was one of those things to stand back and watch. I am older than most of those guys by at least 10 years, and I’m watching these kids be kids. I’m watching the hardness of the Soldier go away and the softness of the child come out because of this powwow. We’re dancing into this circle and just five feet away or so, whatever the distance is, there are our weapons. Our weapons – our battle rattle – are just five feet away from us.”

SFC Mooney said she is always glad to share her Choctaw culture with others and takes every opportunity to do so.

“If you cover something up,” she said, “it will either ruin or it will grow. Like if you put a yeast bread under darkness, it will grow. But if you keep it under darkness, it will spoil. Our culture is dying – and that’s no joke. There are a lot of Native people that don’t even know their own language. They don’t know their history. If you can educate people about something, they are no longer afraid of it. You know, educate people about spiders and they’re no longer as afraid of spiders because they understand them. Educate people about your Native American culture, and there are going to be a lot less jokes, a lot less poking fun of Native American kids that have long hair – calling them hippie or calling them girls or different things like that. You bring that same small child into an exhibition where there’s a powwow with his hair braided and his feathers going all over the place, and he becomes a star by just educating his peers or by just exposing his peers to that one little bitty part of his life. Then all [of a] sudden the jokes about his long hair are gone. It opens the door for communication and understanding.” ●



Two Cultures ONE SOLDIER

1SG Paul Tate, Oklahoma Guard Soldier and Comanche Tribal Member, Gives Insight into Warrior Ethos and Military Service

The various tribes represented by Native American Oklahoma National Guard members are moving forward, connecting traditional tribal knowledge and culture with the broader U.S. culture. One way they make this connection is through military and community service, which has been a foundation for tribal organizations for hundreds of years.

1SG Paul Tate, Headquarters Company, Joint Force Headquarters, Oklahoma National Guard, is Comanche and Kiowa and he comes from a Family of servicemen. He reflected on how his Native American traditions and beliefs were naturally incorporated into his career as a member of the Oklahoma Army National Guard.

“I’m on the Comanche roll as a Comanche Male, and I lean toward the Comanche side,” said 1SG Tate, noting his connection to both Comanche and Kiowa. “Each tribe is different. So that’s how it works – two different languages, two different societies and almost two beliefs in a way. Most of the time, I spent my summer with my Comanche uncle in Fletcher, Okla. – my Uncle Joseph Leaf and Aunt Winifred. I would spend time out in the woods hunting, playing – doing what little kids do.”



1SG Tate, who was born in the Indian Hospital at Lawton, Okla., next to the old Fort Sill Indian school, said his father and his father's brothers and sisters were sent to St. Patrick's Catholic Mission in Anadarko, where they were forbidden to speak their native language. His mother, on the other hand, attended public school and her mother, 1SG Tate's grandmother – a hairdresser and a seamstress – had land in Fort Cobb. Her father was James Two Hatchet (Kiowa), a Baptist pastor who attended Haskell Indian College and a landowner. It was there that 1SG Tate said he learned his work ethic.

"My grandmother raised all the kids there," said 1SG Tate. "I remember growing up farming with my dad. We would fix fences, work cattle, raise wheat, bale hay – all that hard work that came along with farming. I figured if they can make it, I can make it. Now times are different. It's not considered cool to go without things. But I have done it. Before I joined the Active Guard Reserve program, I hitchhiked to work for maybe four or five months, but I never missed work. I was working second shift and getting home late at night. I didn't know how I was going to do it, but I was going to make it home somehow. But that's what I took from it: my grandma can do it, and I should be able to do it, too."

Growing up with his cousins, 1SG Tate listened to World War II and Vietnam stories. The patriotism and military service of his father and his uncles heavily influenced him. His father and all his uncles from both sides were in the military – serving in Special Forces, Airborne units and in the Air Force and Marines. His maternal grandfather was awarded a Silver Star in WWII. He joined the U.S. Army in August 1991 and asked to be put into the infantry, but he was assigned to supply because of a drawdown at the time.

"I didn't know what supply was," said 1SG Tate. "Reluctantly, I signed up, but I'm glad I did. In the overall scheme of things, it's helped me. As a Readiness NCO, you have to have a supply sergeant and administrative personnel. I've done admin. I'm doing readiness and I've done supply, so I understand all three positions."

He deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2008-2009 with the 158th Field Artillery, Oklahoma Army National Guard. There, he served as a squad leader, running an entrance checkpoint on the Ogden Gate.

"At that time," said 1SG Tate, "There were no x-ray machines and no dogs. The gate was very busy as the exit and entrance point for mostly military vehicles and the Iraqi police." He said the team depended heavily on each other. "We still keep in touch all the time."

To keep his team focused and alert, 1SG Tate kept his guys close together: working out together, eating together and attending church

together. He also rotated the sergeant of the guard position among them to give them experience and keep them sharp.

"They would plan it from who was to be on shift, to what positions they would be in, what HMMWV we were going to ride to get out there, who was going to pick up chow, who was going to do the refills and so forth," said 1SG Tate. "They would make the decisions and I would go with it. That was the cohesion – I trusted them and they trusted me. I would sit out at Recon in my eight-hour shift, listening to them calling different things in and letting them make the decisions, and 99 percent of the time they were the right decisions."

"That kind of kept their mindset, and it kept the unit intact; they knew that they were not just an E-4 or E-5 or a junior E-6 or something like that. They were always a part of the group and their decision mattered. I tried to foster that as much as possible," noted 1SG Tate. "I've seen leadership where they scare Soldiers so much that they are afraid to do some things, and I never wanted to be that person. My deal is: get them trained, get their trust, get them out there and we will do the right thing together or we are going to absorb it as a group."

He is proud of the professional performance of his team during the deployment. "We did what we were supposed to do," said 1SG Tate. "We didn't take anything to extremes. We were always respectful to the Iraqis. If they were standing out there, we would give them water. We'd give them drinks, anything we had. We would give it to them and talk to them, or try to talk to them through a translator, and let them know what was going on. That was the respectful thing, and I think that had a lot to do with our success. It goes back to understanding the Native American tribes. The Iraqis are just different people. They are trying to do something that we don't understand, but let them do their thing. Let them do it. We are only here to do our job; this is our job, and that's all they are asking us to do. Then we can go back and do what we need to do."

In closing, 1SG Tate talked about the importance of perspective, regardless of heritage.

1SG Tate concluded, "Often when I reach what I think is a tough time, I always think that it could be worse. You know, you could not have heat or food. You could be starving. Many people have it a lot worse. Going overseas to Iraq – seeing how bad they had it over there – they didn't even have electricity in half the places. Those are the little things that put it all into perspective." ●



1SG Tate at the 45th Field Artillery Brigade's Tactical Operations Center in Fort Chaffee, Ark.

1SG Tate assists a Sunni civilian while deployed in Iraq.



LISA BRYAN

First Female Native American to Achieve CW5

Making History & Leaving a Legacy

BY STAFF WRITER
Chase Whitlock



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Lisa L. Bryan

Mvskoke Muskogee Creek Indian Nation citizen Lisa L. Bryan said she always saw the door to opportunity as one that could be opened, “If you look at a door and it’s closed, the best thing to do is turn the door knob and just walk through.” She made that statement after achieving what no other Native American female in the 381-year history of the Army National Guard has achieved – the position of Chief Warrant Officer 5, the highest rank in the Army National Guard Warrant Officer Corps.

CW5 Bryan began her career in the Army National Guard in May of 1986. As an eager 20-year-old, she found herself longing for an opportunity to challenge herself with something new and different. “The most important thing for me was finding an opportunity to grow and do something that was outside of the box to get a skill,” said CW5 Bryan. “Something that I could be really passionate about and that was fun.”

Passion would be a recurring theme throughout CW5 Bryan’s career. She defined finding success as “discovering the driving force of who you are and what you are passionate about.” “[For me,] it was always, ‘what’s next?’

What can you do next, and what can you do to make yourself better?” said CW5 Bryan. Her drive to always find the next challenge propelled CW5 Bryan as she rose through the ranks of the Army National Guard. She ultimately chose to enter Warrant Officer Candidate School and earned an appointment as a warrant officer on Nov. 12, 1999.

CW5 Bryan began her Warrant Officer Career as a Human Resource Technician at the Joint Forces



Reading of the promotion orders: from left to right CW5 Bryan's husband of 20 years LTC Stephen Bryan (Ret.), CW5 Bryan, MG Timothy McKeithen, CW4 Vickie Carriaga and LTC Carrie Perez.



CW5 Bryan as a young private shortly after joining the ARNG.



CW5 Bryan is sworn in as a warrant officer in November 1999.



Headquarters of the Oklahoma Army National Guard where she processed the deployment of Soldiers called to duty following the Alfred P. Murrah building bombing. In 2000, she became the Standard Installation and Division Personnel Reporting System chief for the Kansas Army National Guard. In 2010, CW5 Bryan deployed with the 2/34th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to Bagram, Afghanistan, where she served as the Officer in Charge of the Joint Visitors Bureau and Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs – a position normally held by a lieutenant colonel. She was tasked with the development of activities and events that gave Soldiers a sense of home while on orders in Afghanistan – an assignment CW5 Bryan carried out with enthusiasm. “While I was deployed, it was so

important to ensure that those Soldiers were still connected to home,” CW5 Bryan said. “Looking at their faces and seeing them get excited for the things we were doing for them was truly one of my highest points.”

Following her return home from Afghanistan, CW5 Bryan began serving on a Title 10 tour as a member of the Kansas Army National Guard on active duty as a new media integrator for the Guard Strength Division at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Virginia. Under this assignment, CW5 Bryan was responsible for orchestrating the Army National Guard’s nationwide recruiting and retention social media campaign. In this position, she managed the redesign of the www.nationalguard.com website and the development of nine Army National Guard

MEDALS EARNED BY CW5 Bryan

Legion of Merit
Medal



The Bronze Star
Medal



Meritorious
Service Medal
(2nd Award)



Army
Commendation
Medal
(4th Award)



Army
Achievement
Medal
(2nd Award)



Afghanistan
Campaign Medal



social media pages. She also served as co-manager for the Soldier of Steel recruitment advertisement campaign. The Soldier of Steel campaign was tied to the Warner Bros. blockbuster film “Man of Steel” – part of the superhero film series “Superman.” The Army National Guard partnered directly with Warner Bros. films on the Soldier of Steel campaign, which depicted Citizen-Soldiers changing from everyday city-goers to heroes in uniform, much like Superman. As co-manager of the campaign, CW5 Bryan traveled to Hollywood, Calif., where she worked directly with “Man of Steel” movie director Zack Snyder.

Over the years, CW5 Bryan became recognized within the Army National Guard as a subject matter expert in the areas of data automation processes, social media and recruitment marketing. She was also known for the dedication, passion and commitment she brought to every situation she encountered.

MAJ Robert Perino, a co-worker of CW5 Bryan at the National Guard Bureau, commented on CW5 Bryan’s unshakable commitment to the Army National Guard, “CW5 Bryan brought a quiet yet formidable force of energy wherever she went. Early into our time working together, I accompanied her on a work trip related to a program for which I would assume responsibility in the coming weeks. I immediately took note of her competence, directness and creativity. I came to deeply appreciate her unwavering commitment to deliver excellence to the Soldiers of the Army National Guard.”

Born in Miami, Okla., it could be said that dedication to military service was modeled for CW5 Bryan from the time she was a child. Not only does CW5 Bryan’s Native American tribe, the Muskogee Creek Indian Nation, boast a rich history of military service – to include Medal of Honor recipient LTC Ernest L. Childers who was awarded for his heroism in World War II – she also had several family members who served honorably in the U.S. armed forces. “My Aunt Rachel served in the Women’s Army Corps for the 555th Army Air Force at Love Field in Dallas, Texas, during World War II,” said CW5 Bryan. “She has been a great mentor in my life.” CW5 Bryan had an uncle, Phillip Coon, who also was a decorated World War II veteran. Coon survived the infamous Bataan Death March and persevered through three years as a Japanese prisoner of war. CW5 Bryan also had several cousins who went on to serve in the U.S. military. One cousin, Marine Corps LCpl Hatak-Yuka-Keya Martin Yearby, was killed in action while conducting combat operations in Anbar Province, Iraq. After receiving the news of his death, CW5 Bryan flew to Dover Air Force Base to escort his body. “As a Native American, it is important to us that the body is not left alone. Having a family member there to bring him home meant a lot,” said CW5 Bryan.

The “way of the warrior” is deeply embedded in the Native American culture, and CW5 Bryan said she valued that connection. “Native Americans are grateful for the sacrifices made by our military members and all the great freedoms we have



CW5 Jill Graham and CW4 Vickie Carriaga congratulate CW5 Bryan on her promotion.

*List is not all-inclusive



Promotion reception held at the Bryan home.

in our country as a result of their service. It is always important to know your history, but more importantly to remember those who have gone before you.”

Before she would receive her final military promotion, CW5 Bryan was diagnosed with cancer. She battled the disease for four years. During that time, true to her nature of steadfast resilience, she never gave in to the disease, and she did not allow others to remain in a place of sorrow for her. LTC Carrie Perez, colleague and friend of CW5 Bryan, recalled the day CW5 Bryan received the news that the cancer had returned. “When she found out the cancer was back for the final time, everyone around her, including the nurse and doctor, was crying. She promptly corrected the room and told them that if anyone should

be crying, it should be her. So, they needed to get themselves together. No one gets to be sad around Lisa. It’s just the way she was,” said LTC Perez.

Lisa L. Bryan was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 5 and presented the Legion of Merit by MG Timothy McKeithen at her home in Woodbridge, Va., on April 28, 2017. She passed away just one month later, on May 30, 2017.

In a speech at her last promotion ceremony CW5 Bryan shared the following sentiments, “These last four years, I’ve been in a difficult struggle. But I did not want my illness to define me. [I wanted to] be a positive force to lift up those around me while making myself stronger.” CW5 Bryan continued, “Being promoted, having the military’s

faith and confidence, and seeing that my performance is worthy, exceedingly worthy, of being promoted to CW5, is one of the ultimate high points in my career.”

Across her 31 years of military service, CW5 Bryan received numerous accolades, including the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Legion of Merit. “[CW5 Bryan] had uncommon valor and amazing virtue, even among a population of amazing service members,” said LTC Perez.

In her last weeks of life, CW5 Bryan left a final piece of advice with family and friends, to “live your passion.” ●



MG Timothy McKeithen, CW5 Bryan and husband Stephen Bryan

OF MREs

1907 The Iron Ration: The first individual combat ration issued to Soldiers. These included three 3-ounce cakes made from beef bouillon powder and cooked wheat, three 1-ounce bars of chocolate, and salt and pepper packets.

1917 The Reserve Ration: Issued to Soldiers during the latter part of World War I. These consisted of 12 ounces of fresh bacon or one pound of canned meat, two 8-ounce cans of hardtack biscuits, 1.16 ounces of ground coffee, 2.4 ounces of granulated sugar and .16 ounces of salt.

1938 The C-Ration: An individually canned, wet and pre-cooked meal. The first variation offered three entrée options: meat and beans, meat and vegetable stew, or meat and potato hash.

1942 The K-Ration: Included three separately boxed meals for breakfast, dinner (lunch) and supper (dinner). Entrée options included canned ham and eggs for breakfast, bacon and cheese for dinner, and beef and pork loaf for supper.

1958 The Meal, Combat, Individual (MCI): Consisted of canned wet rations, including 12 menus, averaging 1,200 calories each. Despite being widely disliked by Soldiers, the MCI remained for almost two decades.

1975 The MRE was adopted as the Department of Defense combat ration, followed by large-scale production tests.

1983 The MRE enters the field. Entrées included beef stew, meatballs with BBQ sauce and frankfurters (also called the

“four fingers of death”). While MREs showed major improvements in nutrition and portability, the taste and texture were still unpopular.

1988 After a series of field tests, **significant changes** were made to MREs. They replaced 9 of the 12 entrées and increased the entrée size from 5 ounces to 8 ounces. Cold beverage bases were added to all 12 entrées, while candy and hot sauce were added to 4 entrées.

1992 The flameless ration heater was introduced to increase the calorie intake of Soldiers in the field. Meals included spaghetti with meat sauce and corned beef hash.

1994 Images were added to make MRE packaging more appealing and user-friendly. Biodegradable materials were introduced for nonedible items like napkins and spoons.

1996 MREs for special diets, like vegetarian, were introduced, which helped increase calorie intake for Soldiers. Menu count was increased to 16 items, including ham slices and chili.

1997 The MRE menu was increased to 20 entrée items. New entrées included cheese tortellini and boneless pork chop with noodles.

2006 Beverage bags were introduced to MREs.

2017 Service members now have a variety of MRE options and can choose from up to 24 different entrées, including chicken burrito bowls, and more than 150 additional items like brownies and candies.



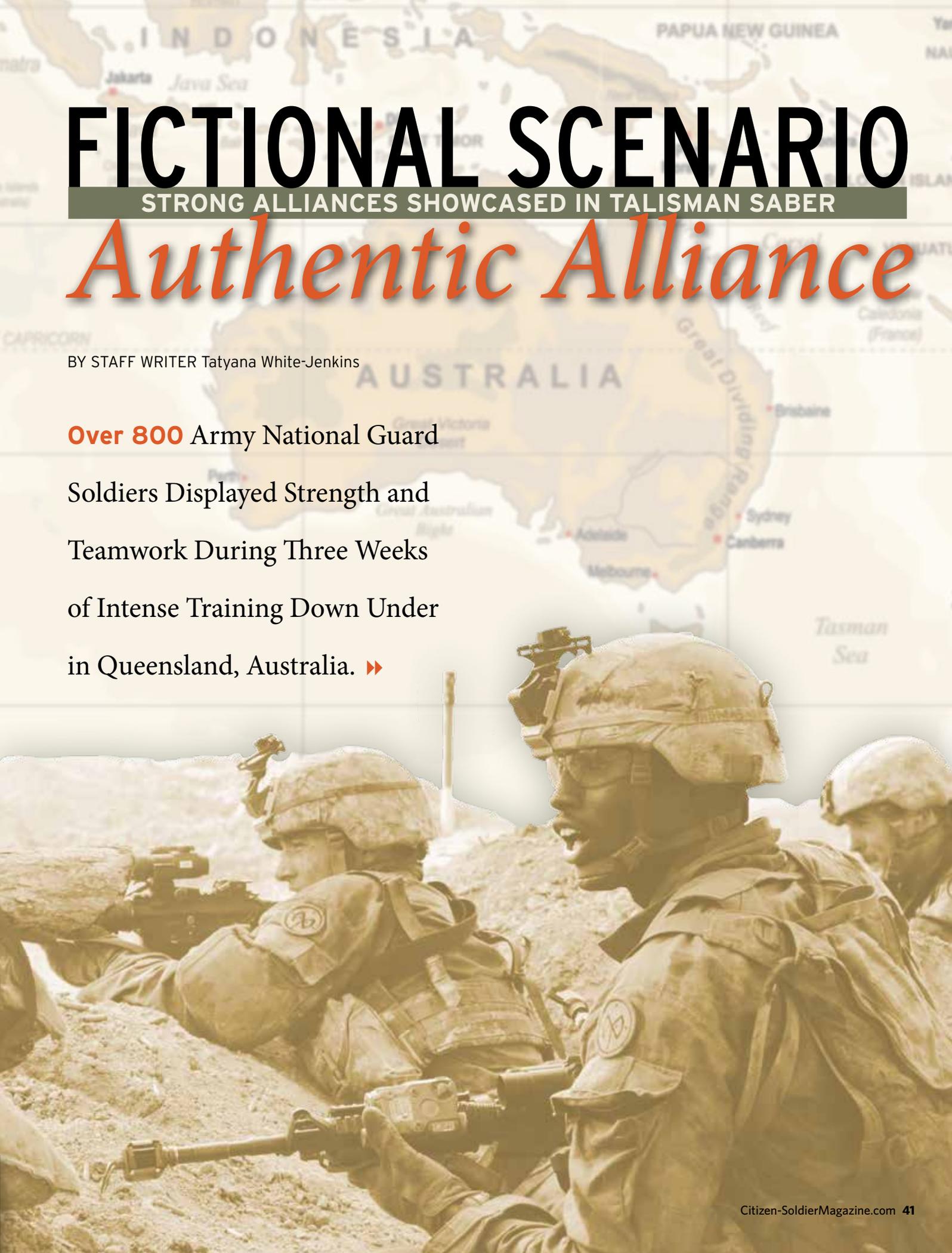


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FICTIONAL SCENARIO

STRONG ALLIANCES SHOWCASED IN TALISMAN SABER

Authentic Alliance

BY STAFF WRITER Tatyana White-Jenkins

Over 800 Army National Guard

Soldiers Displayed Strength and
Teamwork During Three Weeks
of Intense Training Down Under
in Queensland, Australia. ▶▶



New York Army National Guard Soldiers took to Australia's Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area for Talisman Saber, a training exercise with over 33,000 personnel hailing from the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. In its seventh year, the exercise brought together Soldiers to fight a fictional enemy, resembling threats in the real world.

Talisman Saber is a biennial exercise focusing on teamwork and interoperability. Soldiers follow a scripted scenario in each exercise. This year, a fictitious country was "invaded" by its neighbors, and Soldiers served in both allied roles (BLUFOR) and as opposing forces (OPFOR).

"We played the role of OPFOR, an insurgent force for a fictitious nation," said SSG Masami Yamakado with the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, New York Army National Guard. "Our mission was to block the advance of BLUFOR by setting up defensive positions along a major avenue of approach. For us, this meant preparing our fighting positions, digging a fortified trench line, setting up mines and obstacles and aggressively engaging the BLUFOR in hasty ambushes and limited contact patrols."

Although the country and scenario were imaginary, they were based on real-world events. Talisman Saber takes into careful consideration the current happenings of the world to create an accurate exercise. This one incorporated conflicts that simulate the evolving face of war. Thus, Talisman Saber rehearsed battle maneuvers on land and water, and in the air and in cyberspace.

The training exercise reflected the long-lasting strength and closeness of the alliance between the United States and Australia. A routine training period would usually last 15 days, but extending Talisman Saber this year to three weeks provided the battalion with the ability to have a more in-depth and complex training experience.

"The training exercise in Australia was a great capstone on a number of years of training," said SSG Joshua Lord, medical platoon sergeant for the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment.

An immense amount of training and preparation is required for exercises like Talisman Saber. Preparing for such an elaborate event often comes with challenges.

"The greatest challenge was ensuring that the Battalion's forces would be well supported across such a large area with so few assets and,



“The exercise made sure to incorporate conflicts that simulate the evolving face of war. To do so, Talisman Saber rehearsed battle maneuvers on **land and water**, and in **air and cyberspace**.”



Soldiers of Charlie Troop, 2nd Battalion, 101st Cavalry Squadron, New York Army National Guard patrol along the beach wearing a mix of Australian and American uniforms as they served during the exercise, in both BLUFOR and OPFOR roles.

of course, the planning to get to that point,” SSG Lord said.

As a medical platoon sergeant, SSG Lord had a crucial role in providing support for the exercise and ensuring that his platoon was capable.

“Getting a medical platoon – with all of its equipment, medications and personnel – from New York City to Australia is no small task, and a massive amount of planning needed to be done,” said SSG Lord. From quickly reconstituting heavily depleted medical sets after Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) to traveling to Australia to conduct planning, SSG Lord’s role was “to ensure that the 68Ws were ready and able to support the mission.”

The event took place at six different locations where Australian and American military personnel conducted field, command and control exercises. It included a Command Post Exercise that incorporated simulated forces and scenarios, and a Field Training Exercise that involved the maneuvering of extensive forces in Australia.

Most of the National Guard Soldiers participating in the exercise were part of New York’s 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment. Also joining the task force were troops from the 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, the 427th Brigade Support Battalion, the 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry, and the 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry of the Massachusetts Army National Guard.

SSG Lord was proud of his platoon and the expertise displayed throughout the entire exercise.

“As the Battalion’s medical platoon sergeant, my role was primarily focused on ensuring that injured or ill Soldiers were provided the highest quality treatment and evacuated to higher care in a timely manner,” commented SSG Lord. “After years of training and refinement of Tactics, Techniques and Procedures through the Exportable Combat Training Capability and the Joint Readiness Training Center, my platoon was experienced and ready to meet the challenge, which the Soldiers did seamlessly.”

A major goal of the training exercise was for American and Australian Soldiers to learn how to work together to complete a mission. It was a chance to hone the Guard’s capabilities in working directly with a foreign force.

“The training was excellent,” said LTC Don Makay, the 1st Battalion commander. “It was interesting to work for an Australian brigade in a tactical sense. It was an outstanding opportunity to work with an allied partner to demonstrate the National Guard’s ability to train, deploy and plug into a foreign army and conduct our mission.”

The objective of the exercise was to block an amphibious landing force of Australian and New Zealand units. Soldiers were tasked with defending themselves by creating blockades and defensive fighting positions. The battle also involved over 190 aircraft and 26 ships, including the supercarrier *USS Ronald Reagan*. This was the largest landing the Australians have conducted since World War II.

According to SSG Lord, the exercise created a great learning space for Guard Soldiers. It allowed them to put their training and skills to the test in a unique and challenging environment.

“Every medic, from those in the evacuation section to those assigned to infantry platoons, was excited to get the opportunity to carry out their MOS duties providing real-world medical support,” SSG Lord said. “Fighting next to and working with a close ally such as Australia expands their knowledge base and increases their confidence. These large-scale exercises allow medics to perform their duties in a manner reflective of the challenging environment in which they may find themselves later, either in the same duty positions or as leaders.”

A Soldier of the 1st Battalion 69th Infantry Regiment, New York Army National Guard, prepares to face Australian soldiers and U.S. Marines during the final assault at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area.





Soldiers assigned to 1st Signal Regiment, Australian Defense Forces, attach equipment to an Australian protected mobility vehicle while preparing for the exercise.

Being partnered with an allied force and training in a different country presented many new experiences for Guard Soldiers.

“Interacting with our allied forces is always a new experience,” SSG Yamakado said. “Whether it was seeing different gear, eating different chow, noting the similarities and differences in our SOP or being exposed to a familiar yet different military culture, it was like being a foreign exchange student but as a unit.”

SSG Lord noted that he was impressed by the level of support the Australian Soldiers provided and is looking forward to more joint exercises.

“The relationship with the Australian medical personnel was great,” SSG Lord said. “They brought us in and treated us as if we were their own, supporting us without hesitation every step of the way. I hope to work together again.” In addition to working well with Australian Soldiers, for LTC Makay, it was important to represent the Guard’s readiness and capabilities at Talisman Saber.

“I think it’s important to demonstrate our readiness both from an equipment standpoint and a personnel standpoint,” LTC Makay said.

“It’s important to demonstrate that we are able to mobilize, even across the globe, and quickly integrate into a tactical mission successfully.”

Being able to work with the Australian force and learn from their tactics was a highlight for LTC Makay. He emphasized the importance of creating strong bonds and relationships between U.S. and Australian Soldiers in order to work well together at Talisman Saber and in future endeavors.

“The ability to work with a professional foreign army such as the Australian Defense Force allowed us to really learn from them and learn some of the different ways in which they will be conducting their operations if they are ever called to do so,” LTC Makay said. “Additionally, the relationship building between the Australians and us – from the Soldier level all the way up to the leader and commander level – was important. We were able to share ideas, culture, tactics and strategies; and that was really beneficial and unique.”

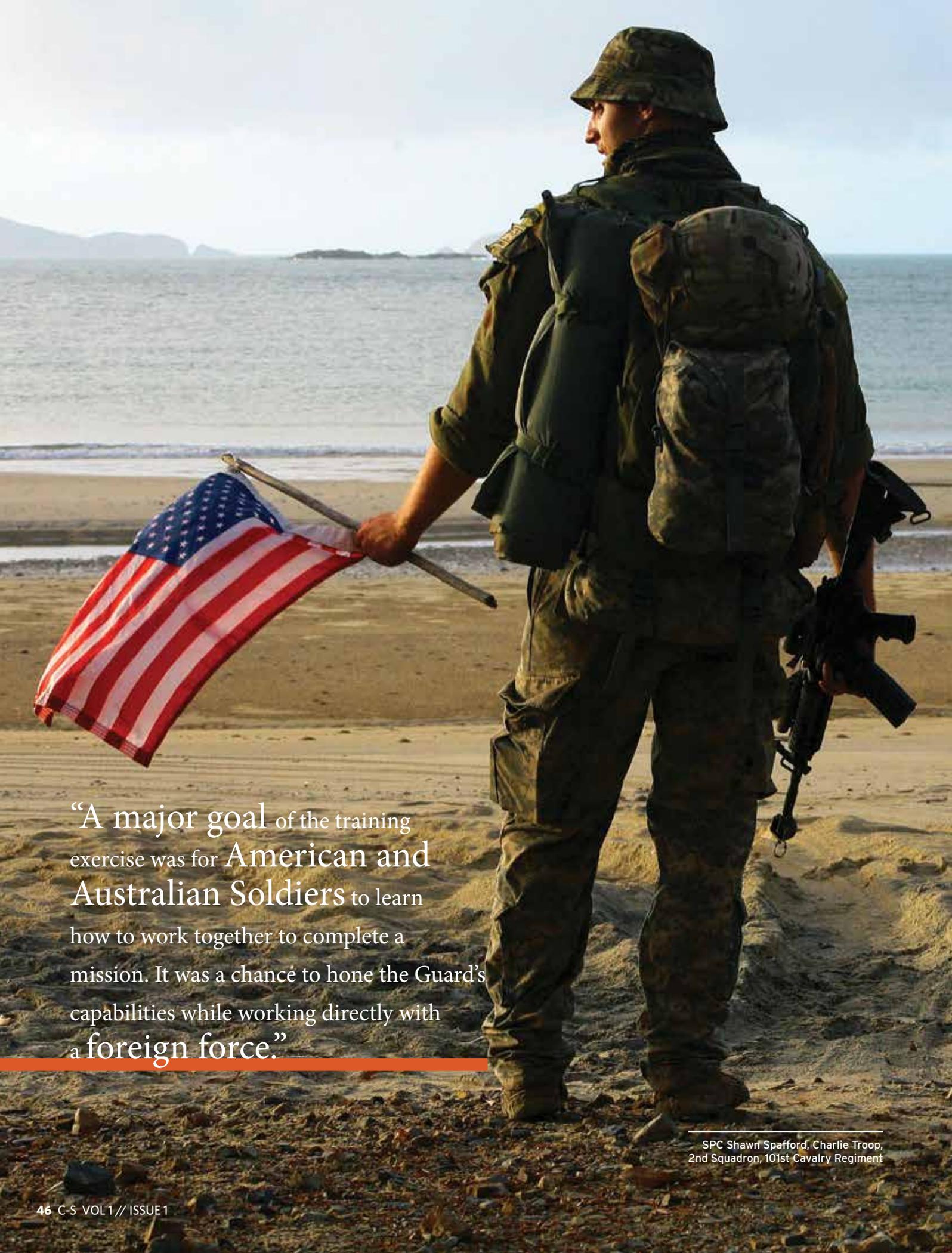
With 10 months to prepare and train for the mission, the Soldiers used the time as a chance to foster relationships with the

Australian Soldiers and become more aware of their culture prior to the exercise.

“Some of us have worked with the Australian military in varying capacities, like if deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan. But when we got this mission, we had spent the last 10 months conducting joint planning and reconnaissance visits to Australia,” said LTC Makay. “So, of course, we did those months of relationship building, which helped us get ahead in understanding their culture and the differences in their service.”

Those on the Soldier level were also able to create a professional and friendly relationship during the training exercise. While there was not much time for American and Australian Soldiers to get to know each other in advance, the exchanges were positive and supportive when they did interact.

“Due to how we were deployed in the training area, we didn’t have too much time with them in the field,” SSG Yamakado said. “But when we did meet, we’d check each other’s gear out, trade unit patches, joke around and generally enjoy the other’s company.”



“A major goal of the training exercise was for American and Australian Soldiers to learn how to work together to complete a mission. It was a chance to hone the Guard’s capabilities while working directly with a foreign force.”

SPC Shawn Spafford, Charlie Troop,
2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment

With any exercise, Soldiers can face challenges. When it came to Talisman Saber, communication presented one of the greatest challenges.

“I think that one of the biggest goals for this exercise was to demonstrate that we could plug in and operate with a foreign service and, of course, that comes with its challenges,” LTC Makay said. “There had definitely been some challenges, such as the different way in which the Australians communicate through their orders processes, and some of the ways that they communicate tactics. And, of course, the technical interoperability was different. Radio and digital communication systems were probably the biggest challenge.”

Despite the differences, SSG Lord found that those challenges easily subsided and served as an incredible learning opportunity.

“I found there to be very little difficulty in working with the Australian brigade once we understood our respective terminology,” said SSG Lord. “We worked closely with the 1st brigade planners and peers in an Australian Army medical treatment team, which was fantastic. We learned a tremendous amount, looking at our own Tactics, Techniques and Procedures from a different perspective, and will be able to apply their strengths to our SOPs going forward.”

Another challenge Soldiers faced during Talisman Saber was working around the exercise’s rules and restrictions.

However, these confinements forced Soldiers to think creatively and find inventive solutions.

“I believe the biggest challenge was to play within the confines of the OPFOR role, something my unit has never done before,” noted SSG Yamakado. “As we catered to the scenario, we were restricted in our options for maneuver. That meant being creative within those confines and focusing on what we could do. If we weren’t allowed to kick out long-range patrols, we conducted short-range ones. If we were assigned a set position to defend that was not of our choosing, we simply fortified it until it was to our satisfaction. We made do.”

Despite these minor challenges, working with the Australian Soldiers in Talisman Saber was a beneficial experience for both parties. Soldiers were able to build strong relationships while showing the strengths and capabilities of the Guard.

“It was extremely positive just being able to go out there and represent what the U.S.



ABOVE: Soldiers from Charlie Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment, man an observation post during Talisman Saber.

RIGHT: SPC Joseph Decosta, a quartermaster and chemical equipment repairer assigned to Fox Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, drives a tent stake while setting up for Talisman Saber.

can bring to the fight,” said LTC Makay. “The strong relationships that Guard Soldiers were able to build with the Australians, the amount that they were able to learn from an active duty force and working with them day in and day out, were all extremely positive. Of course, critical to this is allowing the Soldiers at least one to two days to celebrate their successes, go out, visit the culture, and enjoy Australia and the things that it has to offer.”

Talisman Saber was a crucial exercise for Guard Soldiers, as it was a way to show how they can respond and mobilize in different environments.

“My unit has trained on defensive operations for a while now, and being able to utilize our experience in such a major exercise was exciting for my Soldiers,” said SSG Yamakado. “The unit took a lot of pride in their work, and it paid off dividends in the final stages when we fought with brutal efficiency.”

Talisman Saber also allowed Soldiers to grow within leadership roles and use their training. SSG Lord enjoyed being able to witness the growth of his fellow Soldiers and watching them become strong leaders during the exercise.



“My favorite aspect of the exercise was watching the team leaders, many of whom were new to their respective leadership roles, build cohesive teams and apply the lessons learned from their experience over the past few years,” said SSG Lord.

Talisman Saber concluded with a ceremony aboard the *USS Ronald Reagan* in the Port of Brisbane. After three weeks of training, the National Guard demonstrated that it is well-equipped to handle a large mobilization, work with a foreign force and do so masterfully.

“The National Guard definitely met the challenge of taking a task force-sized element, mobilizing all of its men and its equipment 10,000 miles away and executing with distinction,” said LTC Makay. “I think the



ABOVE: SPC Shawn Tillery and PFC Vaquine Stewart, of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, use their entrenching tools to expand their fighting position.



LEFT: PFC Catherine Urbano, a motor transport operator assigned to Fox Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, prepares to leave on a patrol.

takeaway is that it was a major event, and it definitely requires all hands on deck, from all parties, to help make sure it's a success."

Feeling proud of the performance and accomplishments made at Talisman Saber, SSG Yamakado applauded his squad for being able to thrive in a new and challenging environment.

"My squad was exposed to a very different terrain than they're normally accustomed to and worked alongside multinational and interservice organizations, which was a new

experience for most of the Soldiers," explained SSG Yamakado. "My commander, in particular, emphasized America's ability to project a reserve force globally for training exercises. Very few countries can do that even with their regular components," he continued. "That big picture perspective is hard to contextualize unless you're in an exercise like this."

The success of Talisman Saber is thanks to excellent collaboration between American and Australian forces. The exercise gave Guard Soldiers the opportunity to work with a

foreign military and walk away knowing they can work well together when duty calls. Their ability to succeed showcased the important role of the National Guard, especially in an international setting with allied forces.

LTC Makay reflected, saying, "I think it was a good opportunity for us to demonstrate that while the U.S. is often leading the coalitions involved, this was an opportunity to show that we can come in and follow as much as lead in any formation. I think our men and women proved that."

"I think it showed my team the role the National Guard plays in the international stage," said SSG Yamakado. "Too often, Soldiers can get tunnel vision, thinking the Guard is a domestic force of weekend drills and a 2-week stint at the local active duty post. To those guys, flying to the other side of the world and working alongside a multinational force was an eye-opener. Working with other professionals motivates you to be better, more competitive and to represent your unit." ●



Technical rendering of the XM360 cannon

Tank of the Future

Design concept for high-tech tank hints at a lean, mean fighting machine

BY STAFF WRITER Rita Hess

Early reports from the Army's Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) indicate the Army's "tank of the future," which is currently in design, will be lethal but light-weight – and loaded with high-tech features.

Select engineering ideas and weapons systems, such as those that detect and destroy targets with lasers or with artillery fire, were originally planned for a ground combat vehicle. They are being rolled into future tanks instead. One potential option is a computer-controlled 30 mm cannon that fires up to 200 rounds per minute or that will fire and detonate rounds at an enemy hiding behind an object.

Another likely addition is technology that can detect, track and destroy incoming enemy fire in milliseconds. With such advanced sensor technology on board, the tanks will also ideally have the capability to withstand attacks that cause sensors to malfunction in current tanks.

Remote control technologies may also allow for autonomous vehicles and/or reduced crew size. For example, the tank may control unmanned drones that fire weapons, test enemy defenses, carry supplies or perform reconnaissance missions while manned crews stay at safer distances. Advanced Abrams tanks will use a mobile auxiliary power unit to bring more on-board electrical power to the platform for increased targeting, command-and-control technologies and weapons support as well as future systems such as laser weapons.

Lighter weight armor materials will offer greater protection for troops, and special chassis reinforcements – beefing up the tank's inside

and underbody – will help protect crew in an IED threat environment. The lighter tank may also provide a strategic advantage by giving the ability to travel faster in combat scenarios.

Also on the table is an uber-lightweight 120 mm cannon that can fire rounds available now, as well as next-generation rounds. The weapon initially tested, called XM360, included features such as a thermal and environmental shroud, blast deflector, composite built overwrapped gun and independent recoil brakes. It weighed about half that of an existing Abrams 120 mm cannon. Certain changes in overall manufacturing could shave off roughly 20 percent in weight compared to a 72-ton Abrams tank, according to TARDEC.

You won't see this machine until the 2030s. However, the early start on concept modeling will ensure the tank meets the needs of expected warfare tools that evolve by then. It should far exceed the current Abrams in terms of sensors, networking technology, force-tracking systems and vastly increased firepower. Indeed, expect a vehicle that can quickly change as technology advances and can rapidly adapt to new threats as they develop.

Coming before the debut of the Advanced Abrams tank, will be the roll out of the M1A2 SEP v4 upgraded Abrams tank, which is slated to begin testing in 2021. It will include laser rangefinder technology, color cameras, integrated on-board networks, advanced meteorological sensors, ammunition data links and laser warning receivers. The SEP v4 will certainly whet appetites for the next-generation tank that is sure to be worth the wait. ●

New Ballistic
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WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK



New Battle Belt

BY STAFF WRITER Rita Hess

Troops will be carrying less weight into deployment soon, thanks to the ongoing effort to reduce the weight of body armor. The changes should simultaneously make Soldiers both more comfortable and more efficient. Changes will include an improved outer tactical vest, reconfigured head protection that resembles a motorcycle helmet and special eyewear that transitions from light to dark in under a second.

The enhanced gear is part of the new Soldier Protection System developed at Program Executive Office (PEO) Soldier at Fort Belvoir, Va. Deploying troops are expected to receive the improved products first.

The Gear

The new vest, called the torso and extremity protection (TEP) system, will be five pounds lighter than the current outer vest, which weighs in at 26 pounds. The front and back panel designs allow the vest to be

less bulky than its predecessor, and it does not have the front or back yoke nor the collar with inserts. While far more streamlined than the current vest, the TEP still offers the same or better protection and can be adjusted to meet the immediate threat level. The protection system may be issued as early as 2018 or 2019.

The new ballistic combat shirt, made of breathable fabric, will not have bulky inserts. Instead, smaller ballistic protection is actually integrated into the fabric of the shirt, yet it can be laundered normally.

PEO Soldier has also reconfigured the blast pelvic protection system. Instead of a combination pelvic undergarment and groin and thigh area outer garment, the upgraded system is worn over combat pants to protect against threats like IEDs. According to Soldiers who have tested the system, it feels more like part of the pants than what is currently in use.

A new battle belt should also help Soldiers feel more agile, as certain gear can be strapped onto the hip instead of the vest. This will alleviate some weight on the shoulders.



New TEP Vest



Reconfigured Pelvic Protection System

Photos By: Alan Lessig, Military Times

An integrated head protection system for combat will look more like a motorcycle helmet. Add-on items such as a visor, a lower jaw protector, a protective layer on top for use in high-threat situations and head-mounted night vision goggles can all be attached to the helmet. The redesigned head protection system could be available by 2020 or 2021. A base helmet and mission-/MOS-specific attachments will be issued upon deployment.

Although the new helmet visor does not protect eyes from the sun, there is new eyewear that transitions from clear to dark with the push of a button. As if by magic, the new sunglasses and goggles can adapt to different environments in less than a second. Authorization will be required for the eyewear, as it is not considered a required item while deployed. Commanders will have the option to buy the eyewear for troops.

A selected group of Soldiers tested the new gear across a five-week period in various training exercises and mission sets. At the end of the testing, the Soldiers weighed in on what they did and did not like, and

feedback was positive. Those testing the torso and extremity protection system said they loved the streamlined design. Similarly, troops liked the look and additional protection of the helmet, particularly gunners and Soldiers in turrets.

Those on the redesign and testing teams include engineers, Soldiers and officers whose perspectives help ensure the gear is functional and comfortable in real-world use. Gear configurations are tested using warfighter tasks and other events (e.g., vehicle ingress/egress, a foot march and a grenade throw).

Integration of equipment is a top priority for the Army. Product advancements serve to help Soldiers enhance performance through lighter loads and improved technology. Advancements may also offer long-term protection against back and shoulder strain. Following approval of new configurations, Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) will push items out Army-wide. ●

Saber Guardian



SGT Bryan Park, PFC Aerial Skinner and SPC Jordan Squire, 2nd platoon, 1775th Military Police Company, Michigan Army National Guard, train on armored security vehicle maneuvers in preparation for Exercise Saber Guardian 2017.

ian

International Ties: Soldiers Become Guardians of the Black Sea in Multinational Training Exercise

When **25,000 Soldiers** from over **20 different nations** come together for **one mission**, one might expect difficulties to arise. From language barriers to varying learning tactics, there are many challenges for Soldiers. But at the annual Saber Guardian training exercise, Guard Soldiers thrived in the high-intensity, multinational environment.

BY STAFF WRITER Tatyana White-Jenkins

This summer, over 25,000 military personnel from 22 countries participated in Saber Guardian, the largest of 18 training exercises held in the Black Sea Region. The training exercise included 14,000 Soldiers hailing from Army National Guard units from around the country working alongside active duty Soldiers in various exercises throughout Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania.

Saber Guardian was co-hosted by the Bulgarian, Hungarian and Romanian land force components. Held since 2013, Saber Guardian assures U.S. allies and partners of our commitment to the collective defense and prosperity of the Black Sea Region. Many prepared for the exercise by training online, as well as readying equipment and their state of mind.

"I started preparing for this mission late 2015 at our annual training held in Indiana," said Georgia Army National Guard Fire Support Specialist SPC Christopher Gyening. "I learned a lot from my leadership; I feel like I have one of the best sections!"

For Georgia Army National Guard Human Resource Specialist SFC Cashina Smith, being personally prepared, along with helping

to prepare fellow Soldiers, was a crucial part of her training for Saber Guardian. After receiving intel and training in 2015, SFC Smith felt ready for the exercise.

"I had to prepare myself mentally, but more so I was making sure Soldiers were prepared," SFC Smith said. "We did get photos of Romania from our S1 section [Advanced Echelon] so we knew what to expect. Our annual training in 2015 at Camp Atterbury was a big part of the preparation."

Saber Guardian consisted of a command post exercise, computer-assisted exercise, an air defense artillery live fire exercise, several river crossings and a mass casualty exercise. Thanks to the preparation, training and their ability to work together, the Soldiers successfully executed their missions.

"We were responsible for making sure there was a river crossing," said Specialist Abdoulaye Sidibe, who is a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) Specialist. "The mission was complete."

The exercise was significant in its ability to bring together military personnel from different nations and skill sets over a common goal.



“It was awesome to be a part of it [Saber Guardian 2017]. We represented the Guard very well.”

The 22 allied and partner nations at Saber Guardian were: Armenia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the United States.

One might think Soldiers would find it difficult to work simultaneously with military personnel from various cultures. However, many were impressed by their ability to work together.

While Georgia Army National Guard Fire Support Specialist SSG Craig Robinson, with the 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB), has previously worked with Soldiers from different countries, Saber Guardian

proved to be his best experience.

“This group was better than anything I’ve ever experienced before,” SSG Robinson said. “They requested information and they asked a lot of questions.”

SSG Robinson loved being surrounded by diverse cultures and different locals. Soldiers had the opportunity to go into town for a meet and greet, which turned out to be SSG Robinson’s favorite moment.

“We got the opportunity to go into the town and meet people [while] wearing our civilian clothes,” SSG Robinson said. “You had everybody from all walks of life wanting to take a picture with you just because you are military. People were everywhere. It was a huge crowd of all ages, and they just loved us.”

SSG Robinson stated he was unsure how the locals and other Soldiers would react to their presence. He was pleasantly surprised by the warm welcome they received.

“Every army we worked with was happy to have us there,” SSG Robinson said. “I didn’t expect that upfront, to tell you the truth. From the youngest kid to the oldest person, they were so happy to see us.”

For many of the individual Soldiers, training in Europe was a first-time and potentially once-in-a-lifetime experience.

“It’s just a great opportunity to do something that you probably wouldn’t be able to do on your own dime and on your

own time,” Public Affairs SFC Helen Miller, with the 46th MP Command, said. “To get away for a whole month and do this type of training just isn’t something everybody gets to do. I am just glad we are able to do these types of things.”

It was an especially unique opportunity for Guard Soldiers, as they do not often get the chance to participate in long-term exercises overseas.

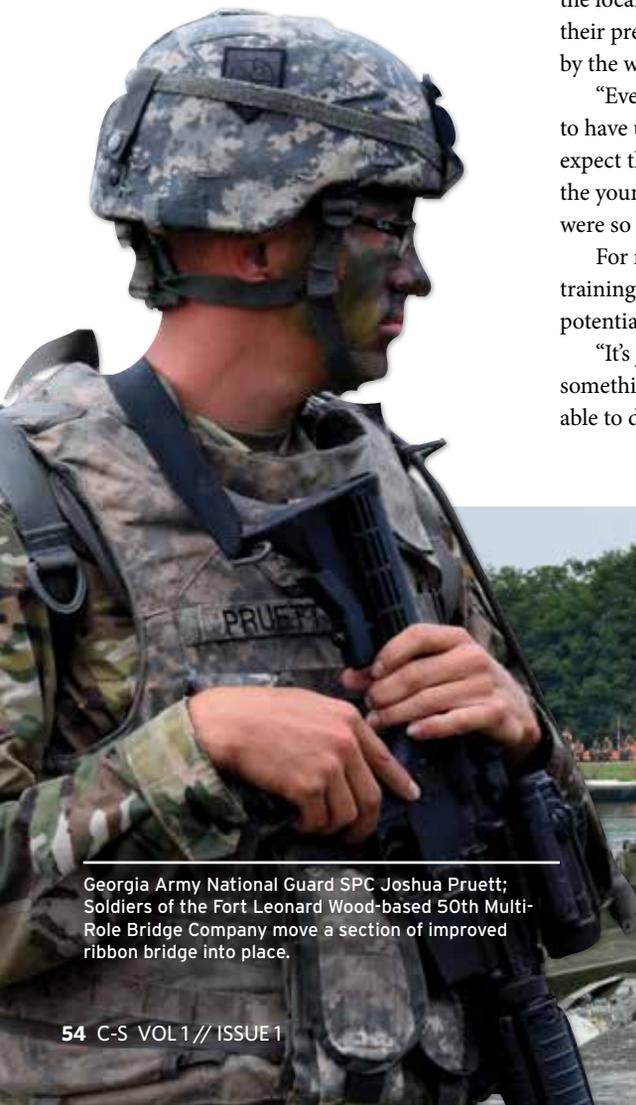
“For the 648th, it provided the first MEB to participate in this type of exercise in this type of environment,” COL John Gentry, Georgia Army National Guard 648th MEB Brigade Commander, said. “No MEB has had that opportunity until now.”

The exercise was the first time SPC Sidibe had left the country, and he highly recommends the experience.

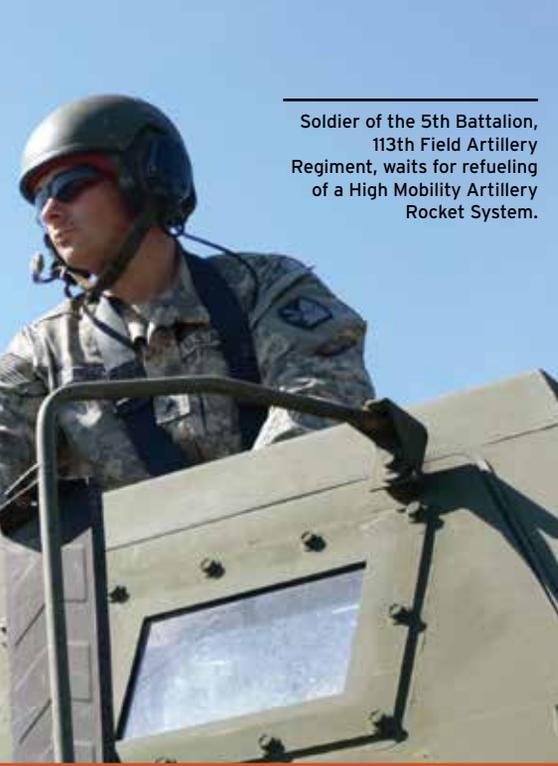
“It was a very interesting feeling,” SPC Sidibe said. “I would do it again. I would tell any Soldier to go and experience another culture.”

Exercises like Saber Guardian open up opportunities for Soldiers to develop their skills and themselves. Some Soldiers were pleasantly surprised by the incredible experiences the exercise provided.

“At first, I didn’t want to go, but I’m glad I did,” SSG Robinson said. “I learned how to do other people’s jobs and learned other systems. We multitasked and we all helped each other. If someone was out or sick, we could cover down. I ended up learning a lot and



Georgia Army National Guard SPC Joshua Pruett; Soldiers of the Fort Leonard Wood-based 50th Multi-Role Bridge Company move a section of improved ribbon bridge into place.



Soldier of the 5th Battalion, 113th Field Artillery Regiment, waits for refueling of a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System.

doing other jobs that weren't my own. It was amazing."

SFC Miller echoed SSG Robinson's enthusiasm about learning new skills and doing so beside Soldiers from different nations.

"One of my favorite aspects was getting to know new Soldiers," SFC Miller said. "Just learning how they do things differently than we do and saying 'oh maybe that's a better way of doing it' or they would say the same to us. That's always great."

The diverse setting of Saber Guardian fostered an environment where Soldiers could learn from and celebrate each other's differences.

"There were so many nations in one area, from Macedonian, Latvian, U.S. Active Army and National Guard," SFC Miller said. "Everyone was just happy to be there and happy to work and train together. Everyone has the same vision and the same focus. Language is not an issue. We make it work. And you would be amazed at how others learn English so well. Soldiers from other nations end up learning English because of these exercises."

Some Soldiers came out of the experience feeling more connected to the Guard and eager to serve. "Every time I go on these exercises, it renews my faith in the Guard and in the military," SFC Miller said. "Every time I come back home from one of them, I'm like 'oh my gosh that was awesome! Let's do it again! I'll stay another six years!' I get renewed energy from going on these types of missions."

As a Public Affairs Specialist, Saber Guardian served as a way for SFC Miller to dive back into her basic skills and remind herself that she was still capable.

"I'm not an Infantry Soldier, but I sure did a lot of infantry stuff while I was there," SFC Miller said. "Just being able to get out there and get back to the basic Soldier skills that everybody has to do; you don't always get to do that when you are just doing your drill weekend."

Getting back into those basic skills turned out to be a personal challenge for SFC Miller. Though she's served for over 30 years, she encountered new experiences (like traveling for five days straight with limited sleep and becoming quite familiar with MREs).

"I probably ate more MREs in that month than I have in my entire career," SFC Miller said. "But that's what you do when you are on this type of mission."

According to SFC Miller, it was comforting to know that this was a new experience for many of the other Soldiers as well.

"The young Soldiers hadn't been through that before either," SFC Miller said. "Most of them had never been out of the country before, so I wasn't alone experiencing some of these things. That was a learning experience because if you've never been active duty or have never been on any kind of exercise, you haven't done [some of these things] before."

The support and excitement shown by the local civilians proved to be a source of encouragement for many of the Soldiers.

"As you are traveling through these nations in your HMMWVs and convoys, sometimes you'd have to stop or sometimes there was a breakdown. There would be people on the side of the road, families, children, everybody and they were always so happy – waving, wanting a picture and wanting to talk," SFC Miller said. "They were really happy to just have us there. Those things just make you smile and feel so proud about wearing this uniform and being in the service. You have to sacrifice and leave your Family so this makes you feel really good about what you are doing."

SPC Gyening compared the experience to being a celebrity after learning the lengths civilians went to just to see Soldiers in action.

"I heard people drove over two hours

to come see us," SPC Gyening said. "I felt famous."

For SFC Miller, being able to work beside the Soldiers she usually would just photograph made the exercise even more remarkable.

"I basically was embedded with them," SFC Miller said. "I wore all the same gear, wore face camo, I did everything they did. But then I was also there to document their story."

She continued, "I get to make great stories of these Soldiers. When you cover a unit and you come back and give them a video or a slideshow, they get to see themselves. Of course, they want to see that because they don't have time to take [photos]. They are so happy when they get back and can say 'oh yeah, we did this' and they love it."

Undoubtedly, the most important part of Saber Guardian is the collaboration between the U.S. and its allies. It provides an environment where the U.S. can strengthen relationships with our allies and partners while allowing Soldiers to witness the collaboration firsthand.

"These kinds of things are just so important to build relationships with the

“Every time I go on these exercises, it renews my faith in the Guard and in the military...”

other Soldiers and nations," SFC Miller said. "If things happen, we know that we have allies and that they have our backs and we have theirs. Just working with other nations like that, it's amazing to see how easy it is to make things work because we all have the same goal."

Opportunities to build camaraderie between U.S. and allied Soldiers were present throughout the exercise. Soldiers had the chance to not only meet their allies, but also to train and learn from them.

"I think it makes the Soldiers feel better when they go and train with them [allies]," SFC Miller said. "So instead of just saying to them 'oh you have allies,' they actually get to meet them and work with them. It makes it more personal."

SFC Smith concluded, "It was awesome to be a part of it [Saber Guardian 2017]. We represented the Guard very well." ●

Re-Enlistment Considerations

What Every Soldier Should Do Before Ending Their Guard Career

BY: MAJ Kevin Roland OKLAHOMA NATIONAL GUARD

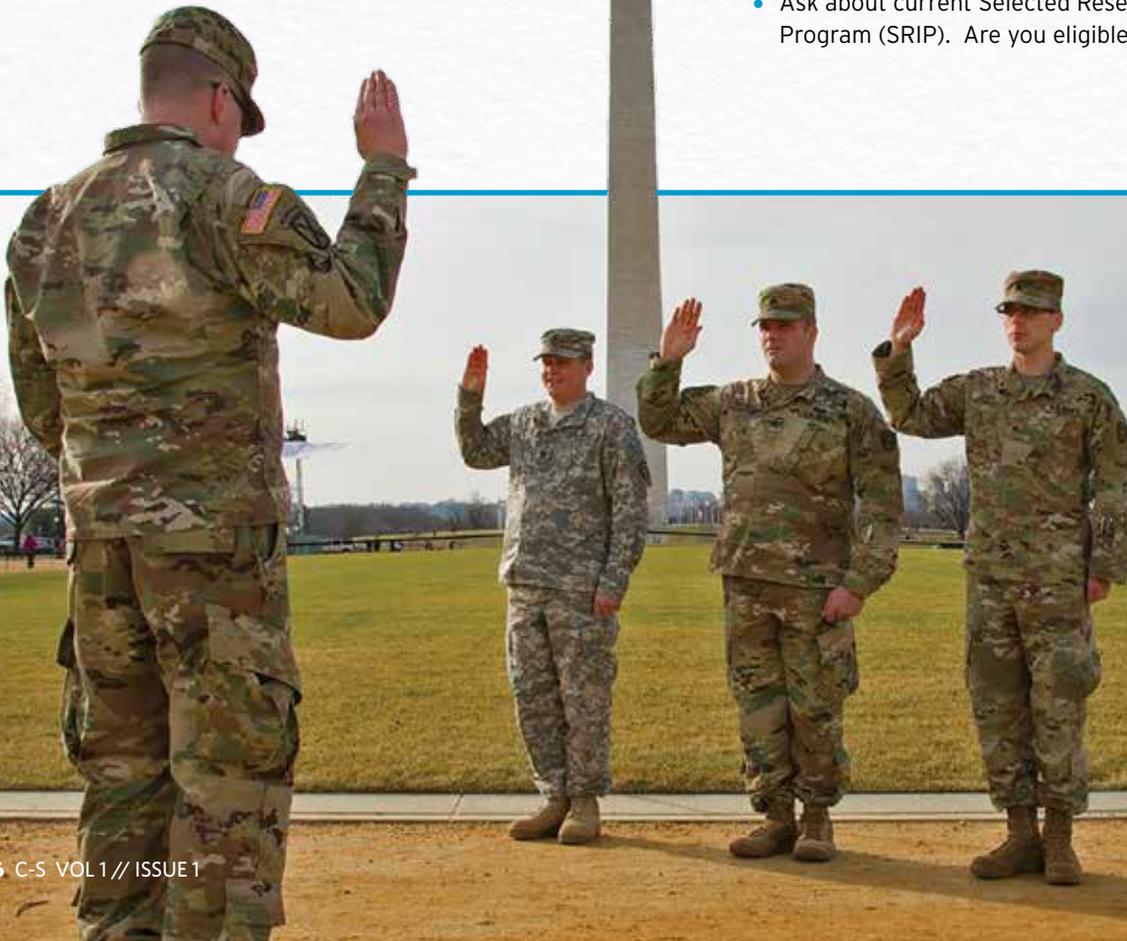
Should I Stay or Should I Go?

Make Sure You Check the Boxes Before Deciding.

COMMUNICATION.

Start the conversation early with your unit Retention NCO/Readiness NCO. Why? You need information to make an informed decision. The unit needs the heads-up in case they need to find a backfill.

- First, ensure you are eligible for re-enlistment. Make sure your height, weight and medical requirements are in line. Do you have the Non-Commissioned Officer Education System (NCOES) credentials needed to move forward? If not, find out what you need to do to get them.
- Ask about current Selected Reserve Incentive Program (SRIP). Are you eligible?



 **FAMILY.**

Now that you have some information, talk to your Family.

- Can you afford to lose your drill pay?
- Can you afford to lose your insurance?
- Have you used all of your education benefits? Which ones are tied to your Guard service?

 **MEDICAL.**

If you decide to leave, leave the door open.

Ensure that you have a good Periodic Health Assessment as close to your ETS as possible. Coming back in is much easier if you don't have to go to the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) again!

 **CAREER GOALS.**

Have you met your career goals or have they changed?

- Stay in current MOS/unit and meet your career objectives.
- Change MOS/unit to improve your skills, drilling location or just for a change of pace.
 - Keep in mind that some Prior Service / affiliation bonuses are tied to being MOS-qualified – check it out before you change.
 - Your local recruiter or Readiness NCO can help you get a list of statewide vacancies if your unit does not have one.
 - It's important to let the organization know one year out if you plan to stay and want to re-classify so a school seat can be reserved for you.

More Advice from RRNCOs

FROM: MSG C. Mickle, Maryland National Guard (former ISG for Recruiting)

Research other MOSs available in your unit and state for future opportunities.

FROM: MSG T. Johnson, Georgia National Guard (former Retention NCO)

- Start looking at options no less than one year out from ETS.
- Find out who your unit's Retention NCO is and make an appointment to talk. Don't wait. Be proactive.
- If you are considering leaving the Guard, find out if there are options to remedy your objections/obstacles (professional or personal).

 **SET EXPECTATIONS.**

Understand that if you are a senior NCO, you may have limited options to change MOS/unit.



Final Takeaway

Avoid assuming changes cannot be made. There may be a program or option that addresses your concerns. Always ask questions before making a decision.



THE FAST LANE TO A PROMOTION OR NEW MOS

Statewide Vacancies

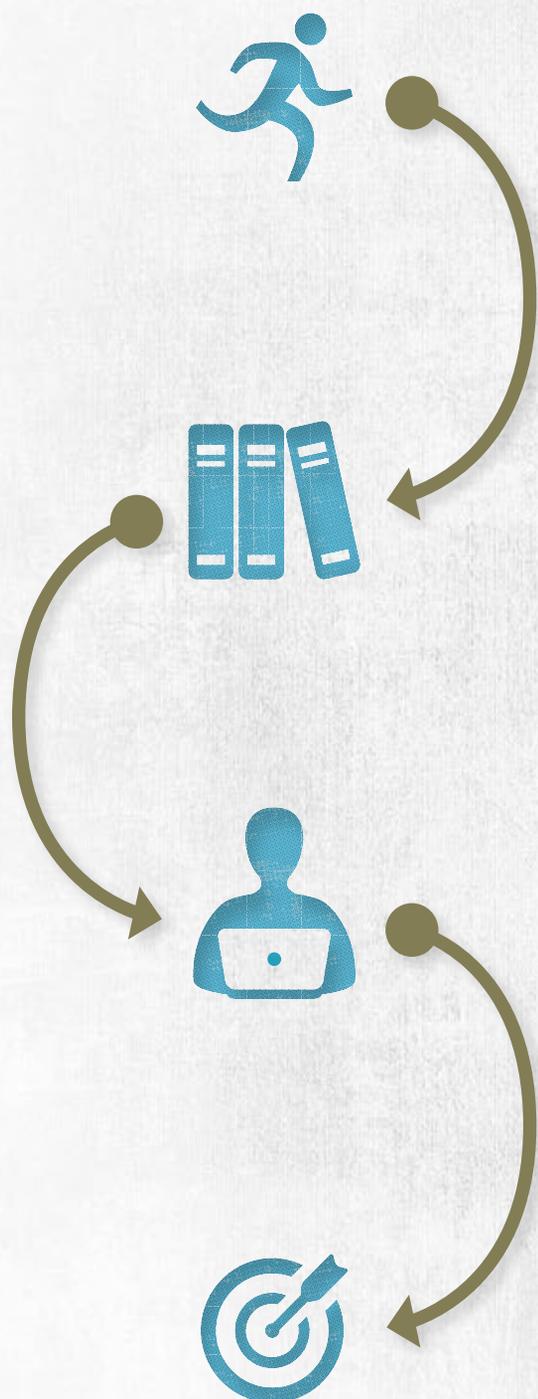
BY STAFF WRITER Tatyana White -Jenkins

Are you looking for an avenue to advance your career in the Guard? Or, perhaps you are seriously considering changing your MOS. While advancing your military career through continued education and specialized training is always encouraged, knowing which areas of study will offer the most opportunity can sometimes be a challenge. Similarly, major life changes like getting married, having kids, going back to school or moving to another state could all be factors that motivate a desire to change specialties. And let's be honest, there may be times when your current MOS is just not the right fit for you anymore. If any of these scenarios ring true for you, then taking advantage of statewide vacancies might be an option to consider.

Statewide Vacancy Announcements (SWVA) fill Army National Guard NCO vacancies in low-density MOSs. Units have the ability to list an SWVA when a vacancy has been identified that cannot be filled through the Enlisted Promotion System (EPS) due to exhaustion of that particular MOS list. This means SWVAs provide a unique opportunity to be promoted – when you meet all promotion requirements – without being number one on the EPS list. This can lead to quicker promotions if you are willing to reclassify, increased pay and the possibility of cross-training into a new MOS before your re-enlistment window. Any Soldier up to two grades below the announced vacancy can apply. Once your packet has been reviewed to ensure you meet the specified requirements, an MOS training course is provided for those not already duty MOS-qualified.

Visit your state's public website to view listings of SWVAs, and check back often as new vacancies could become available at any time.

Tips to Make Sure You're Ready When Your Promotion Opportunity Arrives



1

ALWAYS BE READY TO PASS YOUR APFT

Promotion without passing your Army Physical Fitness Test is not an option. So stay on top of your PT and keep a solid base of fitness.

2

WORK TOWARD ADVANCING YOUR EDUCATION

While a degree is not required for every type of promotion, getting a degree goes a long way toward advancing your promotion points and significantly increasing the number and types of MOSs for which you can qualify. Take advantage of the Guard's tuition assistance programs to get your degree or an advanced degree.

3

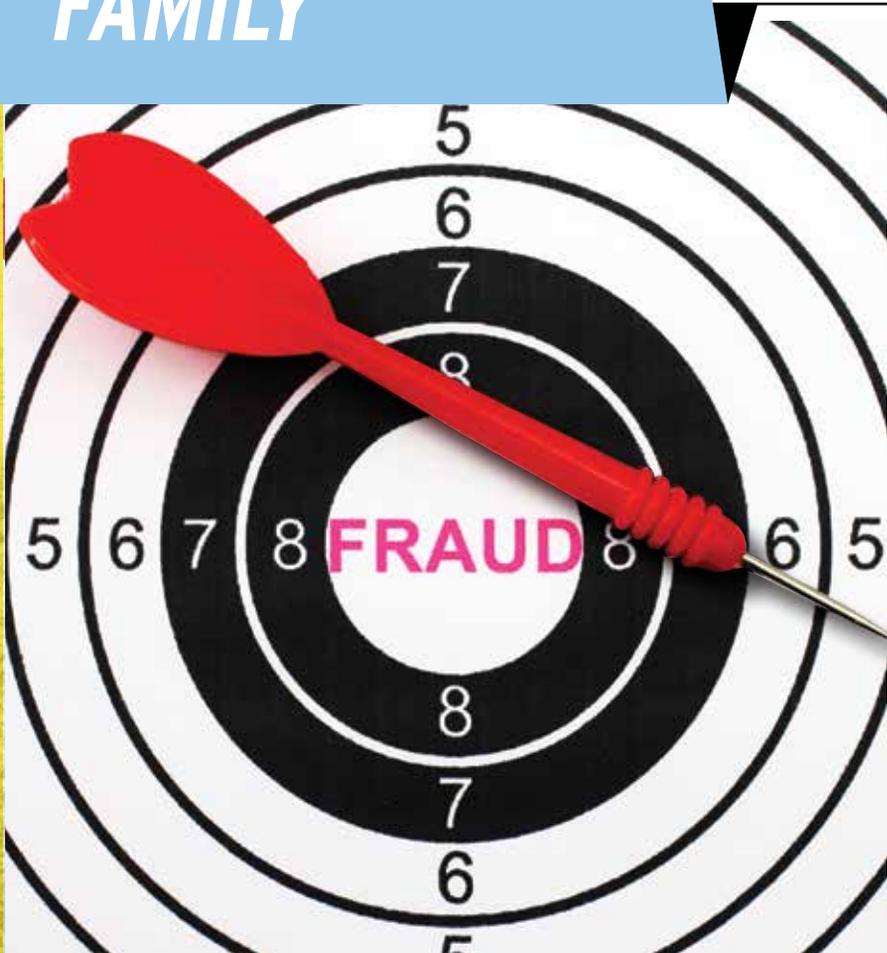
COMPLETE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

Participate in e-learning classes through the Army Correspondence Course Program (ACCP). Earn one promotion point for every five hours of completed ACCP training. Search the ACCP to find MOS-specific courses or complete general courses.

4

KEEP UP WITH YOUR SSD

Structured Self Development (SSD) is mandatory for promotion at specific points in your career. Much like your APFT, promotion without your required SSD is not an option. Stay informed about which course levels are required for the rank and/or MOS for which you would like to qualify.



Thwarting the Trend

The DoJ and Department of Defense (DoD) are diligently working to keep you informed about potential threats of financial fraud and dishonest practices. They often partner with agencies such as Military OneSource or trusted military financial institutions to get the word out. DoJ is dedicated to prosecuting those who target military members and has even implemented programs like the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act Enforcement Support Pilot Program. The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) is a federal law that provides financial protections and benefits for military members. The SCRA Enforcement Support Pilot adds increased legal resources directed at stopping financial predators who target military members and their Families.

How to Protect Yourself

While the government is on your side, you are your own best defense against fraud. Here are 10 steps you can take to protect yourself and your Family:

1. Monitor Your Accounts Regularly. Most financial institutions offer online banking so you can view your transactions at any time.

2. Check Your Credit Report Yearly. Request a free copy from annualcreditreport.com.

3. Research the Company With Whom You Are Dealing. Lawful companies will provide proof of being a legitimate business. If you think a company or organization is questionable, contact the Better Business Bureau or the nearest military installation's legal office before handing over any Personally Identifiable Information (PII) or information about your accounts.

Military Targeted Scams

10 Steps to Guard Against Financial Scams

BY STAFF WRITER Ruth Ann Replogle

In recent years, the Department of Justice (DoJ) has tracked a growing number of scams targeting military Families.

You work hard for your money as a Citizen-Soldier. Unfortunately, not everyone is honest and there are plenty of people looking to make an easy buck off of those who serve. Drive by any military post and you will find more than a fair share of businesses advertising good "deals" and "discounts." Why?

Financial fraudsters specifically seek out military Families because:

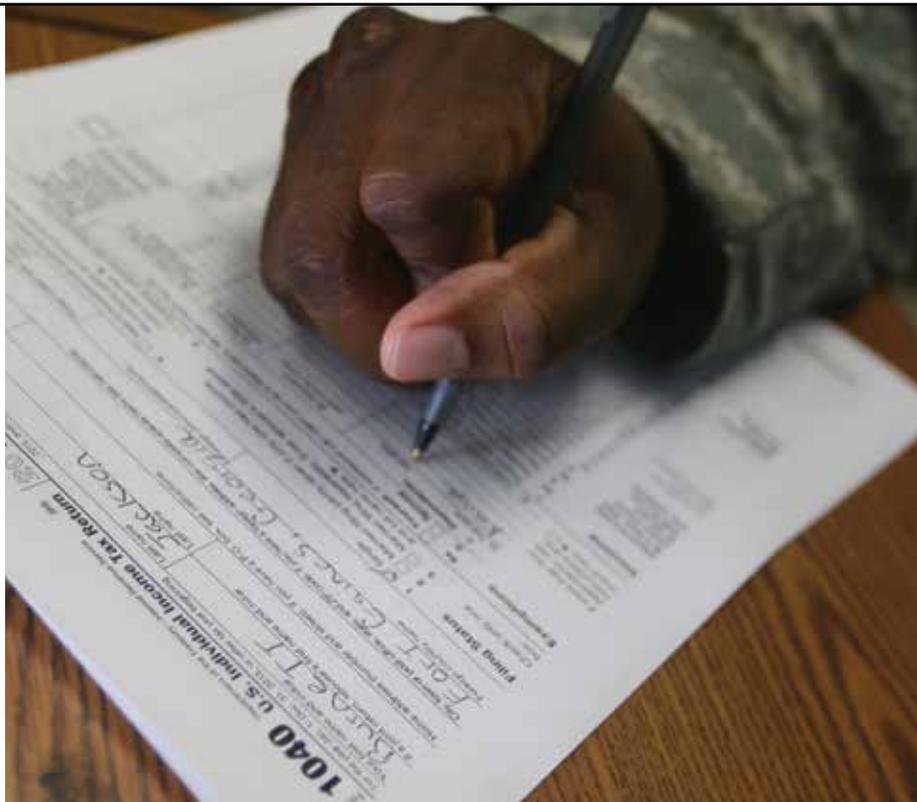
- Military members have a steady guaranteed income;
- Soldiers are under a higher standard for debt repayment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice;

- Heads of household often spend extended periods of time away from home on deployments.

In 2015 alone, nearly 99,000 scam and fraud complaints were filed by military personnel and/or their Families. That number has only gone up over the past two years. You can protect your finances by learning what to look for and by contacting law enforcement about suspected scams.

In 2015 alone

nearly **99,000** scam and fraud complaints were filed by military personnel and/or their Families. That number has only gone up over the past two years. You can protect your finances by learning what to look for and by contacting law enforcement about suspected scams.



▶ During tax season, be vigilant of scam artists claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service.

4. Look for the Telltale Signs of Scam Artists.

They will try to gain your trust – saying they want to help and support you when, in actuality, they want to steal from you. Be sure to do your homework when approached with solicitations from:

- Individuals claiming to be military officials asking for money to help a deployed Family member or friend;
- Individuals claiming to be from the Department of Veterans Affairs asking for PII over the phone or e-mail;
- Educational institutions wanting your GI Bill;
- Non-DoD aid and assistance agencies offering financial services;
- Retirement and investment companies claiming higher returns;
- Lenders and auto dealerships promising special military deals or advance fee loans.

5. Get All the Facts. Make sure you know and understand the true cost of the product or loan – including all fees, payments and final price – before signing any paperwork or putting any money down.

6. Join A Credit Union or Military Financial Institution. Their short-term loans usually have better interest rates and you can even get small emergency loans for little or no interest.

7. Avoid Payday Lenders. Payday lenders are widely known to be predatory and often charge extremely high interest rates. If you find yourself in a short-term financial bind, the Army Emergency Relief (AER) is a trustworthy resource for quick cash flow assistance. AER is a non-profit organization created to help Soldiers and their Family members who experience financial emergencies.

8. Find Programs to Help Your Budget Go Further. Learning tips to help your income go further will help make you less vulnerable to fraudsters and scammers. MilitaryOneSource.com and the National Guard Financial Management Awareness Program both have resources that can help get you started.

9. Get Financial Advice. Visit the Family Support Center at the nearest military installation. Financial readiness programs are available to educate and counsel Soldiers in the area of personal finance. Consumer counseling and classes on money management, financial planning and insurance are offered at little or no cost.

10. Always Ask Questions and Read the Fine Print. The more you know, the better you can protect yourself against fraud and theft. ●

What to Do If You Become a Victim

If you think you're a victim of a fraudulent company or scam, report it immediately.

You can:



- ▶ Contact the legal assistance office at your State National Guard Headquarters or at the nearest military installation



- ▶ Contact the SCRA Enforcement Support Pilot Program
www.servicememberscivilreliefact.com



- ▶ Log your complaint to the Federal Trade Commission
www.ftc.gov



- ▶ Submit a complaint to the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau
www.consumerfinance.gov

There is no shame in reporting a crime, big or small. Law enforcement can't stop what they don't know about.



Cyberbullying

BY STAFF WRITER TATYANA WHITE-JENKINS

When you think of bullying, what do you think about? Being shoved in a hallway? Passing a mean note in class? Being shunned from the popular kids' table at lunch?

Those were common bullying tactics in the past. But now, in a world where technology is constant, bullies have moved from school hallways into our homes. When our kids receive a text, tweet or notification, a bully can virtually enter our homes, a place that should always feel like a safe haven.

Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place using electronic technology like computers, cell phones and tablets. This technology also includes the tools used to communicate on those devices, such as social media channels, apps and text messages. Cyberbullying can be in the form of a negative comment on a Facebook status or a harsh series of text messages.

Although we've been dealing with bullies for generations, cyberbullying is not something that should be downplayed as a normal occurrence. Being a victim of cyberbullying can negatively impact a child's mental, physical and emotional health, as well as their perception of school. These issues can persist into adulthood, so it is important to address them quickly. Children often do not discuss their experiences with bullies out of fear or embarrassment; therefore, parents should create a safe communication environment to help them feel supported.

Here are some tips on how to address cyberbullying if it is affecting your child.

Encourage open dialogue

The National Center for Education Statistics states that only 23 percent of students who reported being cyberbullied notified an adult. It is crucial to create an environment where your child feels he or she can come to you for help. By regularly talking to your children about their online experiences and assuring them that they can confide in you, you can create a safe and open space for discussion.

Do your research

In order to help your child deal with cyberbullying, you should have a good grasp on what cyberbullying is, what means are used and what signs to look out for. Being able to identify warning signs, such as your child becoming upset after using his or her phone or computer, having an unexplained decline in grades or refusing to go to school, can help you decide if you should suspect cyberbullying and to know what steps to take.

Be supportive

If your child opens up about being cyberbullied, this is a time to be understanding, not critical. You should be supportive, listen to their story and come together to find a solution. It is also important not to downplay the situation. Having a "kids will be kids" mentality can cause

your child more emotional harm and deter him or her from opening up. You should express gratitude to your child for confiding in you and encourage continued open communication.

Teach and learn

Discussing cyberbullying is a great teaching and learning opportunity for both you and your child. You can teach your child about appropriate technology use and establish rules together. Also consider sharing what you've learned about dealing with bullies, referencing your own personal experiences. Since your experiences may be different from what your child is experiencing, carefully listening to your child is the best way to understand what he or she is going through.

Reach out

If your child is experiencing cyberbullying, don't be afraid to reach out to your child's school guidance counselor, a teacher and/or principal so that they can watch for troubling interactions and help find possible solutions to the problem.

The National Center for Education Statistics stated that only **23%** of students who reported being cyberbullied notified an adult.

What if your child is the bully?

Realizing your child is a cyberbully can be difficult to accept. A child becoming a bully is often a cry for help so it is important to address the problem immediately. Firmly address the issue with him or her and emphasize the consequences that can emerge due to these actions. Consulting a school official, counselor or therapist to get to the root of why your child has become a bully can also reduce the odds that the bullying behavior will continue. Consider placing restrictions on their technology use until the behavior improves. ●



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A woman with short dark hair, wearing a blue and grey camouflage military uniform, is shown in profile from the chest up. She is looking to the right. The uniform features a patch of the United States flag on the right chest and a diamond-shaped patch with a black eagle emblem. The background is a light beige color with a repeating pattern of faint, semi-transparent American flags.

A FOOTPRINT *for my son*

BY SGT Nerita H. Davis (Ret.)



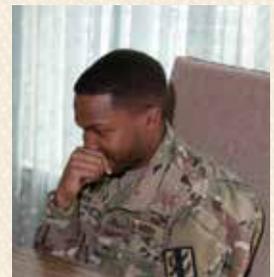
My son, Cedric Hearn Jr., made it clear to me during his senior year of high school that the military was not on his radar. However, one year after graduating from high school in Columbus, Ga., my son called me from Maryland and asked me about the military. He wanted to know what I knew about all branches. I found the conversation a little unusual, but I was excited.

In May of 2016, a few months after that conversation, my son enlisted into the Maryland Army National Guard as a 31 Bravo (military police). I later found out that the first sergeant of his recruiter was someone I had worked with in recruiting in Georgia approximately 12 years prior.

Shortly after enlisting, then-PV2 Hearn decided to return to Georgia to attend college the year following training. He would leave for basic and AIT at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., for over five months of training. During his wait, we contacted the Georgia Army National Guard for transfer options. We were told he had to complete his training before he would be eligible for an interstate transfer.



SGT Nerita H. Davis (Ret.)



PFC Cedric Hearn, Jr.

The Atlanta Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) allowed him to courtesy ship from their site to basic training, which was in lieu of him returning to Maryland to ship to training. When that day came, it was to my surprise that the person at the Atlanta MEPS who assisted with processing my son to leave for basic was the same person who enlisted me into the Georgia Army National Guard 13 years prior. He was my recruiter. Imagine the feeling that swept over me as I saw my son leave for basic from MEPS, knowing he had already crossed paths with people who were instrumental in my own career.

In February of 2017, my heart swelled when I attended my son's graduation at Fort Leonard Wood. I thought I was going to burst when I heard my son, PFC Hearn, say his name and where he was from. My Family now has the honor of a third-generation military member. My father retired from the Air Force in 1981 after serving 26 years, and the month following my son's graduation would mark 20 years of service for me.

Soon after my son's return home, we began the process of completing an interstate transfer to Georgia. He was assigned to the 170th MP Battalion, which housed the recruiting office where I joined in

2004; his readiness NCO is one of my former recruiting battle buddies. Additionally, I also knew his new unit's commander who was once assigned to my last unit, the 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

In April of 2017, we got a call that his transfer had been completed and that he needed to come to the Clay National Guard Center, Georgia's National Guard

“I am giving you my son”

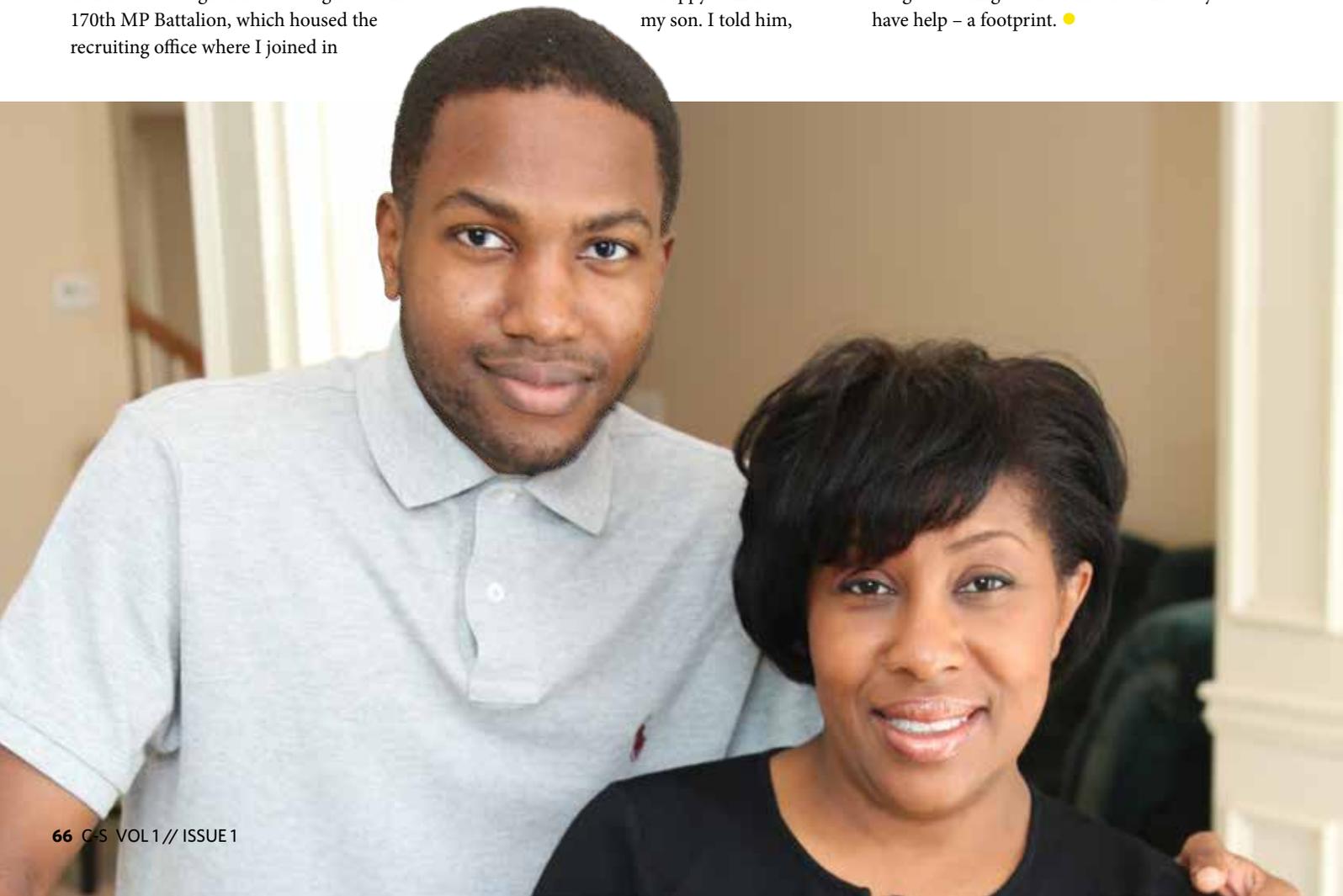
Headquarters in Marietta, to swear in. I accompanied him because I also had paperwork to sign for my retirement. The whole way there, I could not contain my emotions because I felt like I was passing the torch to my son to carry. As we walked out of Clay, we ran into his new commander, whom I was happy to introduce to my son. I told him,

“I am giving you my son.”

The following month was my last in the Georgia Army National Guard, and my unit held a retirement presentation for me. In attendance were my son, mother, sisters and friends.

As I stood before the formation to say my goodbyes, and to leave a word of encouragement, I struggled with my words the minute my eyes found my son standing in the front row of formation looking back at me. I told everyone my tears were of joy because seeing my son standing so proud and tall reminded me that he would be just fine. The Army National Guard is going to take care of him, just the way they took care of my Family and I for many years.

All of this is not by accident; I believe my son's steps have been ordered by God. Never in a million years would I have imagined that all of the training I have received, the jobs I have held, the opportunities that came my way, the places I have been and the people I have met would one day prepare me to provide guidance to my son in his military career. My son will carve his own path, but it is a great feeling to know that he will always have help – a footprint. ●





You've Invested in Your Country, Now Your Country is **HELPING** **YOU** INVEST IN **YOURSELF**

Blended Retirement System Beginning Soon

BY STAFF WRITER Ruth Ann Replogle

Your retirement benefits may be changing.

Starting Jan. 1, 2018, the Blended Retirement System (BRS) will begin. This new military retirement system blends your traditional legacy retirement pension with a Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) account.

As such, your regular retirement benefit that begins after 20 years of service, will be paired with a self-contribution plan that allows you to contribute to a TSP account with matching government contributions.

Benefits of BRS include:

- Government retirement benefit for serving at least two years, even if you don't qualify for a full retirement;
- DoD automatic one percent contribution and up to four percent additional DoD matching beginning the first pay period after opting in (this means no waiting period and immediate entitlement to your own contributions and government matching contributions);
- TSP elections carry over (this means not having to re-elect TSP percentages every time your pay status changes, such as activating or deactivating).

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR BRS, YOU MUST:

- Be drilling or active duty
- Be in a paid status on Dec. 31, 2017
- Have less than 4,320 retirement points

BRS is the result of Congress passing the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission's recommendation to modernize the Uniformed Services' compensation and retirement system. BRS was part of the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that was signed into law by President Barack Obama in November 2015.

To check on your point summary, see your State Retirement Points Accounting Management NCO for your ARNG Annual Statement, Form 23A. Verify your opt-in eligibility by viewing the "Total Creditable Points" column.

Soldiers currently serving will be grandfathered into BRS; however, you must opt-in/enroll. The enrollment period is Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2018. There is mandatory opt-in training that must be taken prior to enrollment.

As part of the NDAA, the DoD is required to provide financial literacy training at key phases during your career. To learn about financial management tips and financial counseling, check out MilitaryOneSource.com or the National Guard Financial Management Awareness Program.

For more details about the Blended Retirement System or to take the opt-in training, go to www.militarypay.defense.gov/BlendedRetirement. ●



SGT Nicholas Malone of ARCOG, 335th Signal Command (Theater), is evaluated while giving a network survey brief.



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CYBER GAMES

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<BY> STAFF WRITER TATYANA WHITE-JENKINS

LEFT: U.S. military personnel working in cyber defense representing units from the 335th Signal Command (Theater), the Defense Information Systems Agency and the Pennsylvania National Guard, listen during the opening brief for this year's Cyber X-Games.



CPT David Jemmott, of ARCOG, 335th Signal Command (Theater), is evaluated while presenting his team's cyber defense strategy.



Army National Guard Soldier MAJ Christine Pierce, a defensive cyber operations team leader for the Pennsylvania National Guard's Cyber Defense element, observes a presentation during the Cyber X-Games.

<ABOUT> 50 military personnel found themselves on a mission in cyberspace this past summer when competing in the 2017 Cyber X-Games.

The Cyber X-Games is an annual event where Guard members participate in cyber mission exercise scenarios and quizzes throughout a five-day challenge. As participants in the games, members garner useful insights into cybersecurity from both military and civilian personnel while also gaining an immense amount of practice in the subject area.

Held at Carnegie Mellon University, in Pittsburgh, Pa., and hosted by the Army Reserve Cyber Operations Group (ARCOG), the exercise was created to help participants focus on cyber and security training.

"The coordination between CMU and the ARCOG was very smooth," SGT Erick Yates with the 335th Signal Command (Theater) and Public Affairs Specialist for the Cyber X-Games, said. "You could definitely see the hard work that was put into the coordination."

<ARCOG> supports the 335th Signal Command (Theater), based out of East Point, Ga., in directly engaging threats

within the cyberspace domain. ARCOG was created from the Army Reserve Information Operations Command in October of 2016 and is in the process of building up the unit through recruitment and advanced cybersecurity training.

"The ARCOG provides trained and ready cyber forces under the Cyber Protection Team construct to conduct defensive cyberspace operations and cyber support to [Army, Combatant Commands, Department of Defense, Defense Security Cooperation Agency] and other government agencies against an evolving threat," COL Michael Smith, then-Commander of ARCOG, said. "Our success depends on the myriad of skills [service members] bring to the ARCOG."

<REPRESENTING> units from the Pennsylvania National Guard, 335th Signal Command (Theater), the Defense Information Systems Agency and the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, members participating in the X-Games competed in a series of challenges that tested their skills in cyber deterrence.

"Cyber training and exercises provide a forge to develop professional, adaptable and resilient teams capable of delivering

world-class cyber operations capabilities for the Army, DoD and Combined Force," COL Smith said.

<UPON> arriving at the games, participants were given orders and then began conducting mission assessments. After breaking into teams and assessing the team member capabilities, competitors were tasked with figuring out how to defend and protect efficiently in cyberspace.

"It's a way for our [members] to operate in a cyber environment and in teams," said LTC Michael Lewis with ARCOG.

Cyber detection, response and recovery were the main areas of focus for the X-Games. Participants were able to use learned techniques, tactics and procedures to practice real-world applications.

<SEVERAL> aspects of the games were considered in the planning and development of the cyber environment. Two important aspects were ensuring the participants' ability to perform in the cyber environment and providing an overall productive learning process. To that end, this year's X-Games included a larger variety of event-based scenarios that tested the competitors' skills on a variety of levels.

<AUSTIN> Whisnant, a cyber exercise developer with the Software Engineering Institute, led the development of the gaming environment for the Cyber X-Games.

“We worked with the Army for about a year on this,” Whisnant said. “It took us about a year to go through the initial scenario development and to get to the point where we were actually testing out the environment.”

For Whisnant, it was important to create an environment that was realistic and provided a useful space in which the participants could learn and accurately train.

“Something that is common to all of our exercises is creating a lot of realism for [participants] to be able to practice,” Whisnant said. “So we had to think about what kinds of tools they would be using, what types of tactics and procedures they needed to work through, and field the environment to suit their needs.”

<THE> Cyber X-Games led into the Cyber Endeavour conference, an annual DoD-sponsored conference addressing the connection between cyberspace and national security. Each year, creators of the conference develop a focus topic and invite well-versed speakers to discuss the threat, concepts and solutions.

To choose the topic, conference planners examine large-scale risks facing the Nation in the given year and then select a theme relevant to those risks. For the 2017 conference, the topic was deterrence. Bringing together military and civilian practitioners from government, academia and private industry, the conference theme of cyber deterrence was the focus in both the conference and the X-Games competition.

<USING> the cyber deterrence theme, Whisnant was able to build an environment that created excitement and enthusiasm from the X-Games’ competitors. “Specific to X-Games, we had to incorporate the conference theme, so we had to build out a scenario and kind of a back story to support that,” Whisnant said.

“The way we incorporated the deterrence theme kept everybody really motivated and challenged throughout the entire exercise,” Whisnant continued. “It was a five-day exercise, so we made it really flexible so the different people with different skill sets could all participate and stay engaged. That was awesome.”

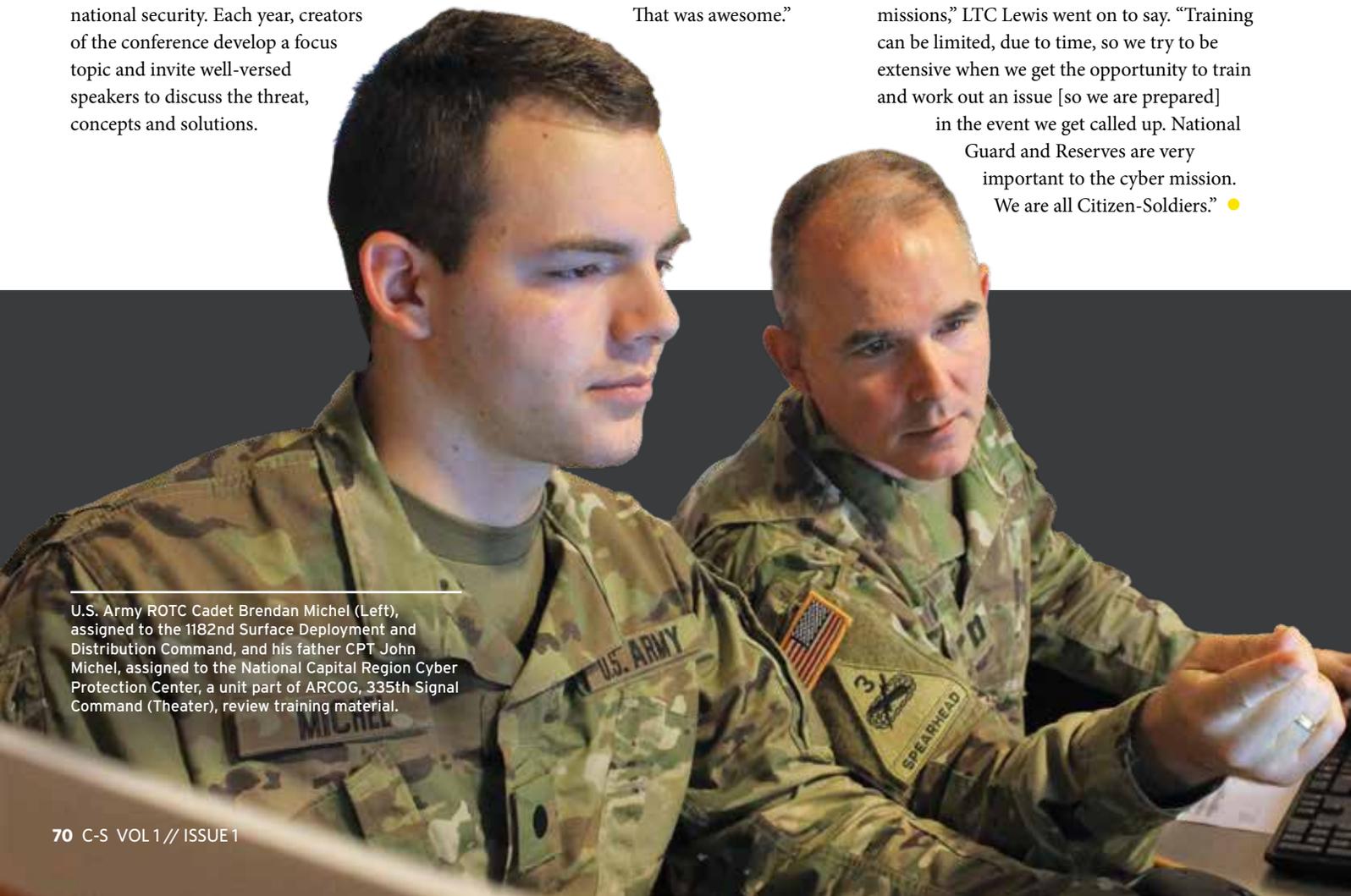
<ACCORDING> to Whisnant, the theme made the X-Games enjoyable for members who said they liked the challenge of being tested on their skills.

“Participants stated that it was more challenging than they expected,” said LTC Lewis. “They enjoyed it and asked for it to be longer.”

“For pretty much anything, practice is important. But I think it’s particularly important for the Guard because they [National Guard service members] don’t get a lot of opportunities to practice with their mission teams,” Whisnant said. “This is a good way for them to act as a team and practice those skill sets. I think the ultimate takeaway for an exercise like this is for them to understand where their current skill set is and what they need to work on going forward.”

According to LTC Lewis, it is important for all members to have experience in these types of training exercises.

“[My favorite aspect was] watching the collection of different units and teams evolve and become efficient to accomplish their missions,” LTC Lewis went on to say. “Training can be limited, due to time, so we try to be extensive when we get the opportunity to train and work out an issue [so we are prepared] in the event we get called up. National Guard and Reserves are very important to the cyber mission. We are all Citizen-Soldiers.” ●



U.S. Army ROTC Cadet Brendan Michel (Left), assigned to the 1182nd Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, and his father CPT John Michel, assigned to the National Capital Region Cyber Protection Center, a unit part of ARCOG, 335th Signal Command (Theater), review training material.



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>> U.S. ARMY MG PETE BOSSE, COMMANDING GENERAL, 335TH, SIGNAL COMMAND (THEATER), AND BG DAVID WOOD, DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT STAFF, PENNSYLVANIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD, LISTEN DURING A DISCUSSION ON THE FINAL DAY FOR THIS YEAR'S CYBER X-GAMES.



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>> SOLDIERS – REPRESENTING UNITS FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD, THE 335TH SIGNAL COMMAND (THEATER) AND THE DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AGENCY – PARTICIPATING IN THE 2017 CYBER X-GAMES.



NATIONAL
GUARD
FAMILY PROGRAM

*Always There for You
and Your Family*



The National Guard Family Program is here to see you through your daily challenges and prepare you for the ones that lie ahead. Find out about Family readiness, Soldier and Family benefits, youth services and more. Contact your local State Family Program Director for more information or visit www.jointservicesupport.org/FP.

A smiling soldier in camouflage uniform stands in front of a helicopter cockpit. The soldier's name tag reads "RUTLEDGE" and "U.S. ARMY". The helicopter's rotor blades are visible at the top of the frame.

TEAMMATES IN THE GUARD

COMPETITORS IN THE SKY

STORY AND PHOTOS BY 1LT Leanna Litsch, OKLAHOMA NATIONAL GUARD
ADDITIONAL PHOTOS BY SGT Michael Adams, OKLAHOMA NATIONAL GUARD

IT'S COMMON FOR GUARD SOLDIERS to start in one unit and stay there for most of their career. This uniqueness brings a plethora of opportunities for connections to be made on the civilian side. Need an electrician? There's probably one in your unit. Need someone in information technology? Look among your ranks. Need a news station helicopter pilot? You can find three at the Oklahoma Army National Guard's aviation facility in Tulsa, Okla.

One of the many unique characteristics of being in the Army National Guard is the civilian role. Most Guard Soldiers drill one weekend per month, conduct a two-week annual training and sometimes deploy overseas. Unlike active duty, Guard Soldiers usually hold two roles: civilian and service member.

Though CW3 Jon Welsh, CW4 Will Kavanagh and CW4 Chase Rutledge compete on the civilian side, they are teammates in the Guard and serve in the same unit: Detachment 1, Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 140th Security and Support Aviation Regiment.

"We flew in Iraq together and now we're flying in Oklahoma together, and we're in the same unit flying for the National Guard," CW4 Rutledge said.

The Three Pilots

CW3 Jon Welsh of Moore, Okla., joined the Oklahoma Army National Guard as an Infantry Soldier before transitioning to a helicopter pilot. He has flown for *News Channel 4* in Oklahoma City covering a multitude of stories, including the May 20, 2013, tornado in Moore.

"I kind of refer to my job as on-demand services," CW3 Welsh said, correlating the similarities of being 'Always Ready' with the Guard. "They want you ready to go when they need you," he added.

CW4 Will Kavanagh has flown for *News On 6* in Tulsa since 2009. He has flown hundreds of major news stories in Tulsa, but he also fills in for his sister station, *KWTV News 9* in Oklahoma City. Like CW3 Welsh, CW4 Kavanagh also enlisted into the Oklahoma Army National Guard as an Infantry Soldier before transitioning to a helicopter pilot.

CW4 Chase Rutledge, originally from Tecumseh, Okla., joined the OKARNG to pay for college and became a helicopter pilot a few years later. Compared to the other two pilots, his position is a little different, as he works full-time for the Oklahoma Army National Guard supporting local, state and federal agencies and is a part-time pilot for *KOCO News Channel 5* in Oklahoma City.

"I love doing what I do," he said. "It's the best of both worlds."

The Competition and Camaraderie

On the civilian side, CW3 Welsh, CW4 Rutledge and CW4 Kavanagh compete against each other within the same news market. The objective for each? Get to the story first. But CW4 Rutledge jokes that there is no real competition between the three.

"I'm always better," he said with a smirk. "And 80 percent of the time, I'm there first."

Though each pilot's news helicopter has different capabilities, all three have successfully won the coverage race at least once, providing an open door of friendly jabs toward one another.

"I thought you were a pilot," CW3 Welsh joked with CW4 Kavanagh after taking advantage of the wind to push his chopper and beat CW4 Kavanagh to a story. "Shouldn't you look at wind speeds?"

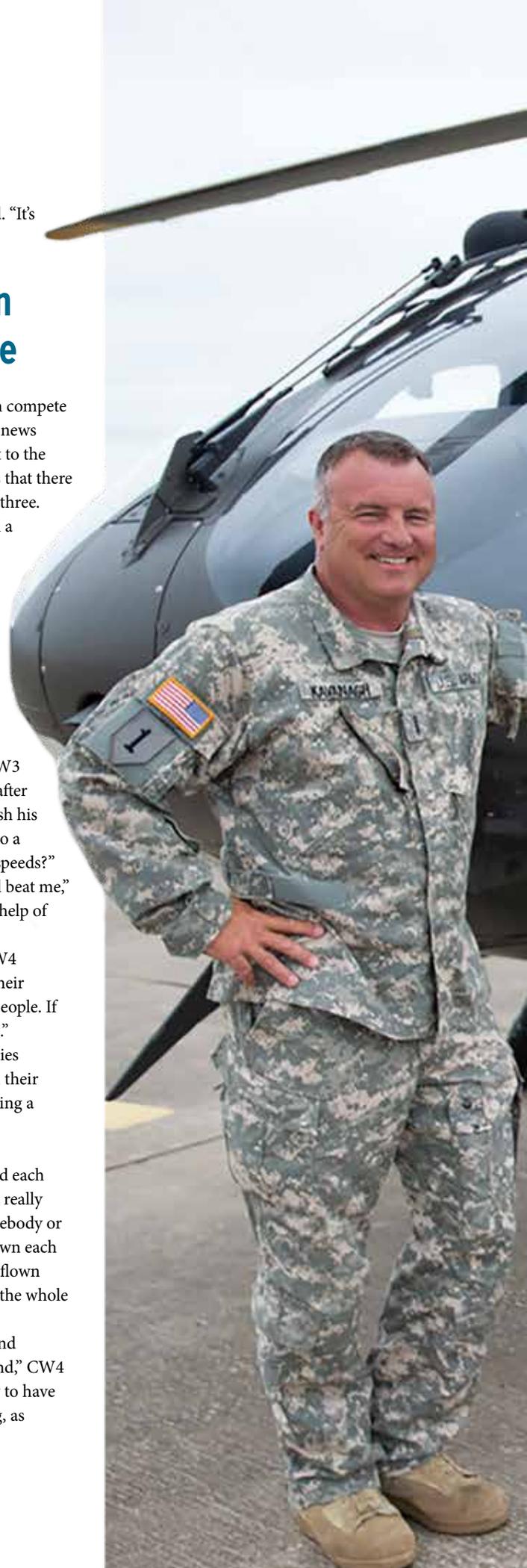
"That's about the only time he'll beat me," replied CW4 Kavanagh. "With the help of Mother Nature."

"That is the pilot mentality," CW4 Kavanagh continued, referring to their competitive spirit. "We're Type-A people. If we're not competing, we're sleeping."

Through that competitiveness lies an unbroken bond that stems from their years in the Guard together, including a deployment to Iraq.

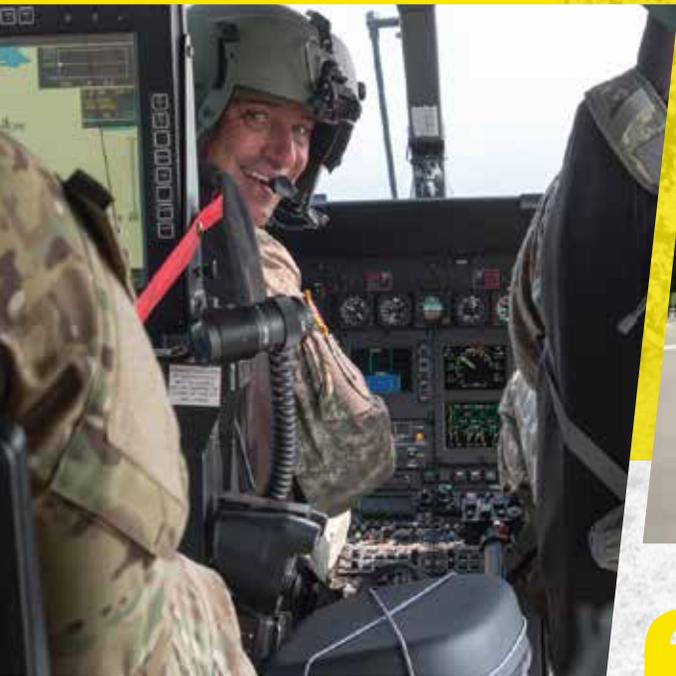
"There's a camaraderie and professionalism that we have toward each other," CW3 Welsh said. "You don't really have to worry about offending somebody or stepping on toes because we've known each other for almost a decade now and flown together in the Guard pretty much the whole time."

"Through all that, the humor and razzing, we do learn and we do bond," CW4 Kavanagh added. "I'm really happy to have those guys out there with me flying, as civilians and in the military."





CW4 Will Kavanagh, CW4 Chase Rutledge and CW3 Jon Welsh



“There are a lot of things the Army has given me that make me better in my civilian career than I would’ve been... The discipline to stay to standard and not deviate from what we know is best practice in aviation, [that came from my military training].”

“We take care of each other for sure. I try to get in Welsh’s shot as much as I can though,” joked CW4 Rutledge.

Although the competition between the three is unwavering, they share the same goal: to keep the citizens of Oklahoma informed, especially during times of severe weather or other dangers.

Into the Storms, the Floods and the Flames

With Oklahoma’s tendency to host tornadoes, floods and fires, the three pilots stay busy. Although their civilian and Guard roles support different objectives, both play an essential part during and after situations like natural disasters.

“In the Guard, when you have storms, you fly away from them. For the station, we fly toward them – and really close,” CW4 Rutledge said.

When disaster strikes, the National Guard is called in to assist by a State’s Office of Emergency Management to provide equipment, personnel or both. The Guard supplements local authorities when under the direction of an incident commander, who is typically a civilian in charge.

CW3 Welsh, CW4 Rutledge and CW4 Kavanagh have all responded to natural

disasters on both the Guard and civilian side. While filling their roles as news helicopter pilots, their main response occurs before and during the natural disaster.

One of those occurred on May 20, 2013, when a tornado ripped through CW3 Welsh’s hometown of Moore, killing 25 people, including seven children, and injuring 377 others. The damage total was \$2 billion, and the effects are still visible today.

CW3 Welsh was in the sky as the storm developed that day, capturing each moment from the tornado’s conception near Newcastle, Okla., to its most devastating point on the east side of Moore. Television viewers heard him on air that day as he said, “This is right at my house.”

The situation amassing beneath him was surreal. Not only was he concerned about his community, but for his family as well. The storm developed around the time the school day ended, and CW3 Welsh immediately called his wife to make sure their family took shelter. But no matter the situation, he had

a job to do. He explained the moment the tornado headed for his home.

“I picked the cell phone up. I hadn’t gotten a text yet, but had to report on the tornado. You can’t really fixate or get worried about one thing; you just have to keep moving the pots around so none of them boil so that you can achieve what you’re meant to do.” CW3 Welsh won awards for his coverage and calm demeanor that day, but more importantly, he saved countless lives.

According to CW3 Welsh, he has met people that have told him he saved their life because they were watching television or listening on the radio and reacted based on his reporting of the storm’s location. He insists he was just doing his job. As Oklahoma Guard Soldiers rolled in with personnel and equipment to assist local authorities after the storm, CW3 Welsh flew above his National Guard brothers and sisters, providing coverage of relief efforts for weeks.

Tornadoes aren’t the only worry for Oklahoma. Storms during the spring of 2015



ended an Oklahoma drought with floods in parts of the state. For CW4 Rutledge, the floods provided an opportunity to speak over the air for the first time as the backup helicopter pilot for *KOCO News Channel 5*.

“It was the biggest flooding story in Oklahoma,” CW4 Rutledge said. “I was really honored to be able to cover that.” His coverage from the air enabled local authorities and other agencies to establish passable routes, assess damage and begin relief efforts and reconstruction of damaged areas.

This year, Oklahoma’s wildfire season set records after untamed flames burned thousands of acres across the state, stretching into Kansas. While flying for *News 9*, CW4 Kavanagh soared above the flames alongside his brothers in uniform while they dropped water buckets on a large wildfire near Edmond, Okla. Because of his experience in the Guard, he was able to explain the process of dropping water on wildfires while on air, which was unknown to many who haven’t served in that particular position.

“It’s almost instructional to me the way I report,” CW4 Kavanagh said. “That then helps people understand what they are seeing.”

The Balance

Having the ability to multitask is key for these three pilots. From wheels up to wheels down, pilots must simultaneously balance a swarm of responsibilities. With the experience gained

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: CW4 Rutledge flying for Oklahoma National Guard ▶ CW4 Kavanagh with his *KOTV News Channel 6* chopper ▶ CW3 Welsh with his *KFOR News Channel 4* chopper ▶ CW4 Rutledge with his *KOCO News Channel 5* chopper

from flying for the Oklahoma National Guard, they are better prepared to fly for their news stations.

“You have to make quick decisions quite a bit,” CW4 Rutledge said. “Being able to balance all of that – talk on the radio to other aircraft, talk live while you’re doing the broadcast and pay attention to flying – is difficult, and the Army prepared me for that.”

For all three, the experience and discipline gained from the Oklahoma National Guard has helped them become better pilots.

“There are a lot of things the Army has given me that make me better in my civilian career than I would’ve been,” CW4 Kavanagh said. “The discipline to stay to standard and not deviate from what we know is best practice in aviation, [that came from my military training].”

CW3 Welsh agreed that there are benefits to working as both a news pilot and a Guard Soldier. “You can really work together as a team,” he said. “Even though I’m in the Guard, today I’m being paid by Channel 4. Either way, we’re helping achieve the mission.”

Community Ties

With all the joking between the pilots aside, the value of what these three men do for the community, in both roles, is immeasurable.

“Anytime you get a chance to pay back your community, it’s very rewarding. That’s one of the reasons I joined the Guard, because we have an actual stateside mission,” CW3 Welsh said. “I enjoy the aspect of getting to help people.”

“The things I’m most proud of happen when I work with the police and fire departments,” CW4 Kavanagh explained. “At my discretion, I’ll put a police officer or fire department personnel on the helicopter and we go on people searches.”

CW4 Rutledge stated that he loves letting Oklahomans know what’s going on and helping them in both of his roles. “There have been times when I’ve gone from reporting the tornadoes,” he added, “to putting on my National Guard uniform, to jumping in the National Guard helicopter and working it from the air in a different platform.”

Oklahomans can take comfort in knowing that these three pilots have their eyes in the sky, as both Citizens and Soldiers. ●

HITTING THE

with **GEORGIA'S
MARKSMANSHIP
PROGRAM**



SGT Daniel Lavelle of the
48th Infantry Brigade,
Georgia Army National Guard

MARK



Targeted at developing and challenging Soldiers, Georgia's marksmanship program is hitting the mark when it comes to continuing the spirit of excellence within the Army National Guard.

BY STAFF WRITER Tatyana White-Jenkins

The Georgia Marksmanship Program offers Soldiers of various ranks and skill levels the opportunity to practice and develop their marksmanship abilities. Completely inactive just seven years ago, the marksmanship program was brought back to the State of Georgia thanks to SFC Jakob Raven, the State Marksmanship Coordinator and State Ammunition Manager.

SFC Raven saw the potential Georgia Soldiers had to succeed and develop within a marksmanship program, so he decided to take action. After inquiring about the State Marksmanship Coordinator position, SFC Raven spearheaded the resurgence of the Georgia Marksmanship Program.

“Our State had the talent sitting in its Soldiers,” SFC Raven said in an interview with SSG Jeremiah Runser from the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center. “It was just giving Soldiers the platform so that they could show their talents.”

While every State in the Nation has the capability to have a marksmanship team, not all of them have a program dedicated to marksmanship. After leading the resurgence of Georgia's program, which has regional relationships with the Tennessee Guard, the South Carolina Guard and the Florida Guard, SFC Raven had the opportunity to help other states start one.

“Participants in the program are members of the Army National Guard, Air National Guard and Active Army,” SFC Raven said. “Regardless of rank or skills, they can participate. All Soldiers learn from it, and we don't want them to be afraid.”

U.S. and German Soldiers prep for a shot during the competition.



Competition. The competition is in its fourth year and is held at Fort Stewart, Ga. The 2017 competition brought together participants from the Army and Air National Guard, along with Soldiers from German Armed Forces Command and German law enforcement.

The competition is named after SPC Andrew Sullens (Ret.), a former Soldier in the Georgia Guard who was wounded in Afghanistan in 2009. Although he is retired, he continues his service by dedicating his time to training Soldiers in marksmanship. Sullens assists in many aspects of the competition, from helping

set up targets to mentoring shooters one on one. This year, he competed with other Soldiers in the pistol anti-body armor phase. Knowing the importance of marksmanship and the training it takes, Sullens actively shared his knowledge and experiences with the other competitors.

For this year's competition, Soldiers competed in several events, including anti-body armor, reflexive fire and an excellence in competition qualification. Their skills were put to the test in realistic scenarios and conditions. Soldiers competed to have the honor of wearing the Georgia Governor's Twenty Tab that signifies subject matter expertise in marksmanship excellence. This year, Soldiers

Fundamental marksmanship is a skill every Soldier needs to master.

In Georgia's marksmanship program, Soldiers develop these vital skills by participating in competitions that provide hands-on training in real-life scenarios.

"We have several competitions throughout the year, ranging from small arms to sniper," SFC Raven continued. "We provide everything for Soldiers to compete. We want it to be fun with more advanced techniques being taught. Our last competition was about stamina. We trained all day."

One of the major competitions in Georgia's program is the Andrew Sullens Marksmanship



Competing Soldiers examine targets during the competition.



Spc. Kristopher Nailor assigned to the German Armed Forces Command, engages several targets during the multi-stage combat rifleman portion of the competition.



also competed for the German Armed Forces Badge for Weapons Proficiency, which is the equivalent to the U.S. military's rifle and pistol qualification.

A central goal for the marksmanship program is for Soldiers to gain something new with each competition.

"Going through the competitions, you learn something every match," SFC Phillip Keeter, Team Leader, said.

The National Guard Marksmanship Training Center is dedicated to the National Guard's marksmanship school and competition programs. Located in North Little Rock, Ark., the Training Center serves all 54 States and Territories within the Army and Air National Guard. It provides service members the opportunity to learn advanced level marksmanship skills through training and programs that help develop their skills and confidence in the field. Georgia took full advantage of the resources available at the Training Center.

The Training Center also hosts a series of its own competitions that serve to test and promote marksmanship training. One such competition is the Winston P. Wilson Small Arms Championship at the Robinson Maneuver Training Center in North Little Rock. Over 300 Army and Air National Guard marksmen from 47 States and Territories competed in the 46th annual competition this year, including Soldiers from Georgia's

Marksmanship Team.

With individual and team matches, this competition tests a full range of shooting skills. For a team to win, members must excel in skills across the entire spectrum of 11 events. The events develop new and experienced competitors in advanced marksmanship and focus on combat scenarios like close-quarter battle, combat pistol barricade, dueling trees and reflexive fire.

Other competitions held each year at the Training Center include a sniper competition, a light machine gun match, the Armed Forces Skills at Arms Meeting and the Chief National Guard Bureau Postal Match. With these competitions, Soldiers have the opportunity to gain knowledge and build beneficial relationships with the other participants.

"Some of these guys that are leaving here are PFCs and E-4s. That's the future," SFC Raven said. "The new NCOs are going to take the knowledge they acquired here, the camaraderie and the contacts from other States, and they're going to go back and spread the word to other people. Hopefully, when they pick up NCO, they'll take what they learned, the good tactics and techniques, and use it to help run a team properly."

Along with providing the opportunity to compete, Georgia's marksmanship program assists Soldiers in other ways.

"Our team can also assist with unit weapons qualification and range operations,"

SFC Raven said. "We have a small arms clinic that includes RSO certification."

Georgia's program also offers an NCO induction course for Soldiers who are looking for further development opportunities.

"This course is for E4 Specialists who are promotable," SFC Raven said. "It teaches range operation, day and night land navigation, how to properly track matrix and how to diagnose marksmanship deficiencies."

While it is still developing, Georgia's marksmanship program is on target for steady growth and success.

"We're definitely not to the level of the States that have full-time teams, but we're well on our way to becoming as good as those States," SFC Raven said. "We're going to continue to develop, and I'm pretty sure that you'll eventually see Georgia up on top." ●

For more information about the marksmanship program in your State, call the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center at 501-212-4420 or email at ng.ar.aranng.mbx.ngmtc@mail.mil.



SLEEP APNEA

Affecting Your Readiness
from Night to Day

BY STAFF WRITER Tatyana White-Jenkins

There is nothing quite like waking up after a good night of sleep. Sleep is vital to our bodies. A lack of sleep can affect mood, health and performance. Therefore, when a disorder that causes you to stop breathing interrupts a much needed night of shuteye, the aftermath of that interruption can end in nightmarish consequences.

Sleep apnea, a condition that disrupts a person's breathing while asleep, is a disorder affecting more than 18 million people in the country. A study conducted by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine reported that 51 percent of military personnel suffered from sleep apnea. That's an unsettling statistic that means at the time of the study, over 500,000 members of the military were not getting the amount of sleep needed to function properly.

Because this disorder interferes with a person's breathing and sleep cycle, sleep apnea is considered a serious condition that should not be ignored. The tricky part is that, since sleep apnea usually cannot be detected in routine office visits, the disorder often goes undiagnosed. But letting it go undiagnosed, and hence untreated, can have detrimental effects on your health and your ability to serve.

According to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, untreated sleep apnea can lead to a host of other disorders. The Institute's website states that untreated sleep apnea can

“increase the risk of high blood pressure, heart attack, stroke, obesity and diabetes.”

Untreated sleep apnea can also increase the risk of, or worsen, heart failure. It can also increase the odds of on-the-job mishaps or driving accidents.

Why does sleep apnea have such a large effect on our bodies? It is mainly due to sleep apnea's ability to interfere with our natural sleep cycle.

500,000
members of the military
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properly.

When there are pauses in your breathing while you sleep, your brain is basically sending out a call for help that wakes you up without your realizing it. This causes you to move out of a deep sleep (called REM sleep) and into a light sleep multiple times throughout the night.

The lack of a full normal sleep cycle can leave you feeling exhausted, irritable and unalert throughout the day. In fact, research conducted by the Annals of the American

Thoracic Society suggests that people suffering from sleep-disordered breathing, such as sleep apnea, may experience trouble paying attention and memory deficits.

Other symptoms of sleep apnea include loud snoring, daytime drowsiness and morning headaches due to oxygen deprivation. These symptoms can have a negative impact on your life and your performance both in the Guard and at your civilian job. When it comes to diagnosing your sleep apnea, and seeking treatment options, you shouldn't hit the snooze button.

If any of these symptoms are hitting close to home, or if someone close to you suspects that you could have a sleep disorder (like your spouse or significant other who complains about your loud snoring every night), talk to your doctor.

If sleep apnea is suspected, you may be asked to have a sleep apnea test known as a polysomnogram (or sleep study). Following the study, your doctor can recommend the best treatment options for you, such as Continuous Positive Airway Pressure therapy (CPAP). You may be able to treat mild cases of sleep apnea at home by changing small behaviors. Adjusting your sleep positions, like not sleeping on your back, can often improve breathing. Other home remedies include losing weight and avoiding alcohol, smoking and sleep aids. ●



POWER DOWN

BEFORE HITTING THE RACK

SUBMITTED BY GuardYourHealth.com

Checking email or flipping channels instead of sleeping? Playing video games or browsing social media in bed? Sleeping with your smartphone under your pillow?

The National Sleep Foundation reports 90 percent of adults sleep with at least one electronic device in their bedroom. Staring at your screen after 9 p.m. can sap your body, turning you into a zombie the next day. To get a good night's rest, consider shutting off all electronics before climbing into bed.

Your Body Clock

Your body functions on a 24-hour internal clock, which controls your sleep cycles. This clock is influenced by your physical environment and daily schedule.

Light and darkness affect your body clock. Staring at the blue glow of electronic devices – computers, tablets, televisions, gaming systems and/or smartphones – before bedtime – can trick your body into thinking it's still daytime. It can make you tired the next day instead of at night when you should be sleeping.

Studies show staring at bright screens within four hours of bedtime reduces a hormone that makes you naturally tired when it's time to sleep. This may cause difficulty falling asleep and poor quality of sleep.

Get off the Grid

As a Soldier, it is important to get seven to nine hours of quality sleep each night. To get a good night's sleep, experts recommend:

- Spending 30-45 minutes technology-free before you climb into bed.
- Making the bedroom a technology-free zone (i.e., no smartphones, tablets, laptops, TV).
- Putting caps over electrical outlets in the bedroom to discourage plugging in.
- Reading a book or magazine in bed instead of an electronic device.

Power down tonight and don't let your technology keep you from having a good night's rest! ●





PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



SGT First Class

Roy Chandler III (left) assigned to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment, SGT Jazmin Jenkins (middle), a public affairs specialist with the 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Fort Bragg, and SPC Benjamin Grogan (right), a helicopter repairer with the Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment, sit on the tail of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter en route to deliver hay bales to cattle that have been stranded by Hurricane Harvey near Hampshire, Texas.





PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



A Soldier With The

Texas Army National Guard keeps an eye on rising floodwaters in a Houston neighborhood while working to rescue those stranded by Hurricane Harvey. More than 12,000 members of the Texas National Guard were called out to support local authorities in response to the storm.





PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



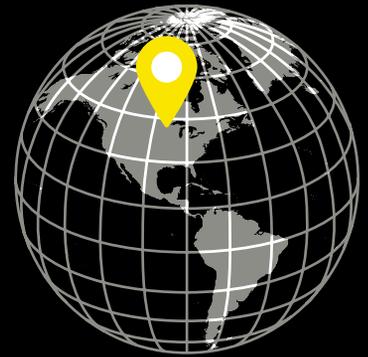
An Oregon Army

National Guard Soldier proceeds through a combination of thick smoke, tear gas and razor wire as their unit mentor watches from above, during the 2017 Oregon Best Warrior Competition at Camp Rilea, near Warrenton, Ore. Soldiers compete in a variety of warrior tasks to determine which Soldier and NCO will represent Oregon at the regional-level competition.





PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



ARNG SGT Zachary

Scuncio, a military police officer with the Rhode Island Army National Guard's 169th Military Police Company, runs to his next objective while competing in the 2017 Best Warrior Competition at Camp Ripley, Minn. The competition is a three-day event that tests Soldiers on a variety of tactical and technical skills to determine the Army Guard's Soldier and NCO of the year. The winners move on to compete in the Department of the Army Best Warrior Competition.





PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Soldiers From The

Tennessee National Guard's Regimental Support Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, perform sling load operations on Black Hawks from the Minnesota National Guard's 2-147 Assault Helicopter Battalion during an exportable Combat Training Capability exercise at Fort Hood, Texas.



CSM Bill Marley (Ret.) counsels a member of the Tennessee National Guard enrolling in the Job Connection Education Program.



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gsc@ng.army.mil or 866-628-5999.

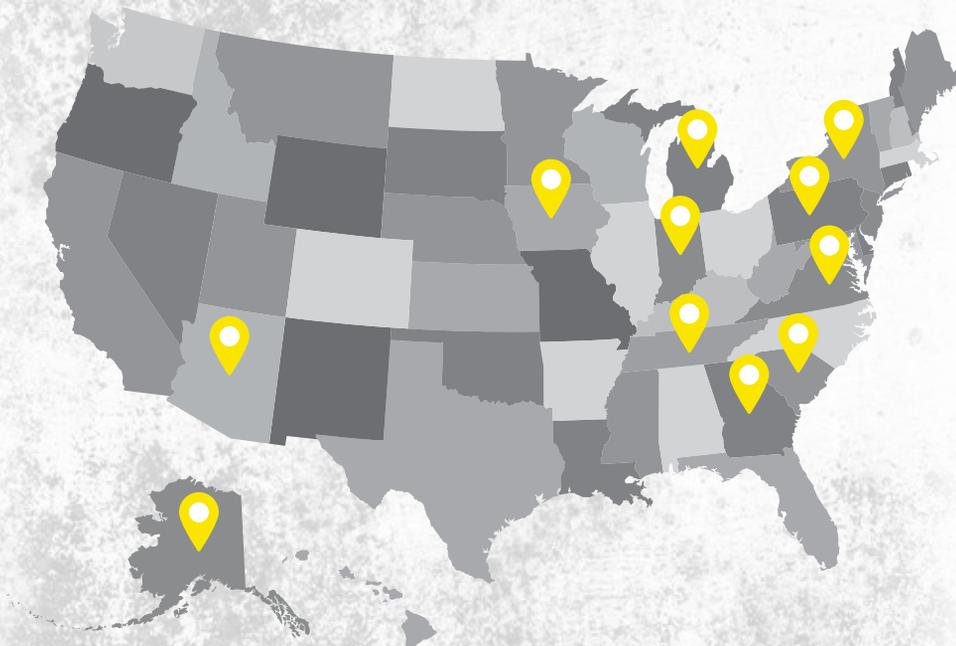
www.nationalguard.com/education-programs





Soldiers with the 152nd Engineer Support Company, New York Army National Guard, rest after the SGT Reidar Waaler Team Combat Rifle Competition.

States featured in this issue's **ON YOUR RADAR**



- ALASKA
- ARIZONA
- GEORGIA
- INDIANA
- IOWA
- MICHIGAN
- NEW YORK
- SOUTH CAROLINA
- PENNSYLVANIA
- TENNESSEE
- VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA

BY SFC Terra C. Gatti,
VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD

Son of Fallen Virginia National Guard Officer Enlists on Parents' 20th Anniversary

Twenty years after his parents got married and 10 years after losing his father in an Iraq helicopter shoot-down, PVT Paul David Kelly, 19, raised his right hand and enlisted into the Virginia National Guard.

COL James Ring, Chief of Staff for the Virginia National Guard, administered Kelly's oath in front of his mother, his grandmother, younger brother, a few friends and his recruiters.

"We are honored and proud for my son to be part of the Guard Family," PVT Kelly's mother, Maria, said. "I thank God for all



PVT Paul David Kelly enlists into the Virginia National Guard.

the support and love. I know my husband is looking down on us and I know in my heart that he will protect our son.”

Serving in the military was always one of PVT Kelly’s goals. Both his parents served; his father, COL Paul M. Kelly, in the Virginia National Guard; and his mother, Maria, in the Air Force. Photos of Paul as a child show him dressed up in a uniform just like the one his dad would wear to work every day. He’d stick his legs into his father’s boots and stomp around the house, just like his dad.

When PVT Kelly was nine, the helicopter his father was traveling in was shot down north of Baghdad and COL Kelly, along with 11 other Soldiers, including fellow Virginia National Guard member SFC Darryl D. Booker, died. For PVT Kelly, this only strengthened his resolve. He was sure that he would serve, just like his father.

“When he was killed in Iraq, it had a huge impact on me,” PVT Kelly said. “I remember when I was nine years old, I decided then that I wanted to pursue something in the military.” Ten years later, at the Military Entrance Processing Station located on Fort Lee, Va., PVT Kelly fulfilled that goal by enlisting as an infantry Soldier assigned to the Christiansburg-based Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

PVT Kelly’s enlistment falling on his parents’ 20th wedding anniversary felt as though it was meant-to-be, according to Maria. Plus, she knew without a doubt that COL Kelly was there with her to celebrate PVT Kelly’s enlistment. COL Kelly left Maria a sign after his death, she explained, a symbol

to let her know that he was still with her. On the day of PVT Kelly’s enlistment, Maria saw that sign twice on the way to military entrance processing station.

“I know he’s saying it’s ok,” Maria said. PVT Kelly echoed his mother’s sentiment, saying, “I feel like I owe my country service. The least I can do is give a little bit of service.”

PVT Kelly is studying sports medicine at Radford University and will attend basic training at Fort Benning, Ga., next summer. ●

NEW YORK

BY Eric Durr,
NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD

Western NY Guard Soldiers Use Backyard Dry Firing, Private Ranges to Prep For National Guard Shooting Match

As he gets ready for the National Guard’s annual rifle and pistol competition, New York Army National Guard SSG Michael Kapela is spending a lot of time in his Buffalo backyard.

He doesn’t have a home range but

SSG Kapela, a long-time shooter who headed the team that won the 2017 New York National Guard Adjutant General’s Match, says you can get a lot done at home with some targets, a little space and an empty weapon.

He practices changing from firing position to firing position – prone to kneeling, then to standing, and back to prone – while getting a good sight picture on a target, SSG Kapela explained.

The goal is to set a good shooting stance into muscle memory by doing it again, and again, and again, he said.

“The first time you do the kneeling position, or the last time you do the kneeling position, it should not be on the range,” SSG Kapela said.

He compared it to doing push-ups during the Army physical fitness test. “If you do a push up once a month at drill, you will never get stronger, and you never really experience the benefits,” he said. “Working on shooting stances is the same thing.”

SSG Kapela and three other members of the 152nd Engineer Support Company represented New York at the Winston P. Wilson Championship marksmanship competition being held at the Robinson Maneuver Training Center in North Little Rock, Ark., July 23-27.

The competition tests the ability of Guard shooters to employ their issue weapons – M-4s, M-16s and M-9 pistols – in a variety of shooting situations.

Dubbing themselves “the Gravediggers” because of their engineer backgrounds, SSG Kapela and 1LT Christopher Tornabene, SSG Raphael Ramos and SPC Tyler Studd will represent New York at the event.

SSG Ramos, like SSG Kapela, is a Buffalo resident, while 1LT Tornabene lives in nearby Williamsville, N.Y., and Studd lives in Medina, N.Y. Their unit is located in Buffalo at the historic Connecticut Street Armory.

The events test the Soldiers’ ability to hit targets with pistols and their assigned rifle. No specially modified target weapons are used. Soldiers fire the weapon their unit assigns to them.

Events replicate combat situations and a variety of targets are used. There are both team and individual shooting events.

One of the really challenging events involves engaging targets with shotguns at close range, SSG Kapela said. After engaging, the shooter runs a half mile to a new location

and shoots targets with a pistol and then with his or her rifle.

He said that despite being a competition, the best part of the event is that the Soldiers and Airmen there are not super competitive. The participants share knowledge and best practices and talk shooting.

For a guy like him who loves shooting, SSG Kapela said, there is no better place to be. "It's like you're at a Star Trek convention, but for gun nerds." ●

ALASKA

BY SGT David Bedard,
ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD

Alaska Guard Soldiers Train In Urban Warfare

For Alaska Army National Guard SGT Christopher Radach, close-quarters combat in an urban environment is a deadly serious business.

The veteran of six combat tours with the Marine Corps in Iraq and Afghanistan knows the challenges of close-quarters combat from firsthand experience, most notably in Iraq during the 2005 Operation Steel Curtain campaign that seized towns on the Iraq-Syria border and aimed to destroy al Qaeda operating in the area.

The insurgents weren't going to leave the towns quietly, requiring Marines and coalition partners to go block-by-block, house-by-house and room-by-room.

The coalition prevailed, and SGT Radach learned tough lessons he was all too eager to share with fellow Soldiers of A Company, 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Shoot House.

The shoot house is little more than a bare-bones plywood building with rooms of different sizes and configurations. The rooms might be locked, requiring a breaching of the door, and each room has targets in unpredictable places.

While in the woods, infantry units enjoy maximum freedom of maneuver due to open terrain. In contrast, operating in a city restricts maneuver to narrow alleyways, streets and buildings.

"Our focus is urban warfare, so we're working on room clearing and the fundamentals of room clearing while using live fire ammunition," SGT Radach said. "It's to get our guys more comfortable and competent in room clearing."

Because security is key, the teams didn't speak before breaching the rooms, and they were careful not to brush up against the wall or make any other compromising noises.

When the stack of four rolled up on a room, the fourth Soldier moved to the side of the door opposite the rest of his team. He quietly checked to see if the door was locked. If it was, he raised his M26 Modular Accessory Shotgun System to the deadbolt.

A nod to his team leader signified the No. 4 man was ready to blow the door with a 12-gauge buckshot blast. The team leader nodded back, signifying the rest of the team was postured to enter the room.

The No. 4 man blasted the door, turned opposite the door, and donkey kicked it open, allowing the team leader to throw in an M84 stun grenade through the door. The subsequent blast unleashed the team to enter the room with maximum action, shooting any targets and visually clearing the room.



Soldiers with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment, Alaska National Guard, keep eyes on their target.

The team members then shout updates to their fellow Soldiers.

“Left side clear!”

“Right side clear!”

“Check overhead!” the team leader shouted.

“Overhead’s clear!”

“Room’s clear,” the team leader announced.

“Four friendlies coming out.”

The company advanced to the live fire stage at the shoot house after two days of dry- and blank-fire exercises to ensure they were ready for the culminating live fire event.

“Safety is the number one concern,” Radach said. “This is one of the more technical things the infantry does. If a Soldier can do this safely, then that Soldier can do just about anything.” ●

PENNSYLVANIA

BY SGT Zane Craig,
PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL GUARD

Fort Indiantown Gap Hosts Inaugural Air Assault Course

This past summer, more than 200 National Guard Soldiers participated in the first Air Assault course offered

at Fort Indiantown Gap and facilitated by members of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Army Air Assault School is a 10-day course designed to prepare Soldiers for insertion, evacuation and pathfinder missions that require the use of multipurpose transportation and assault helicopters.

“Air Assault is important because the Army is transitioning to a different fight with different enemies. With the capabilities we have now versus previous wars, giving Soldiers air access to the battle space is increasingly important,” said SSG Robert Rancher, an Air Assault instructor with the Warrior Training Center in Fort Benning, Ga.

Fort Indiantown Gap has begun hosting Air Assault courses to expand its offering of training courses and make Air Assault training more readily available in the Eastern Region. Only seven other military installations in the Nation offer Air Assault courses.

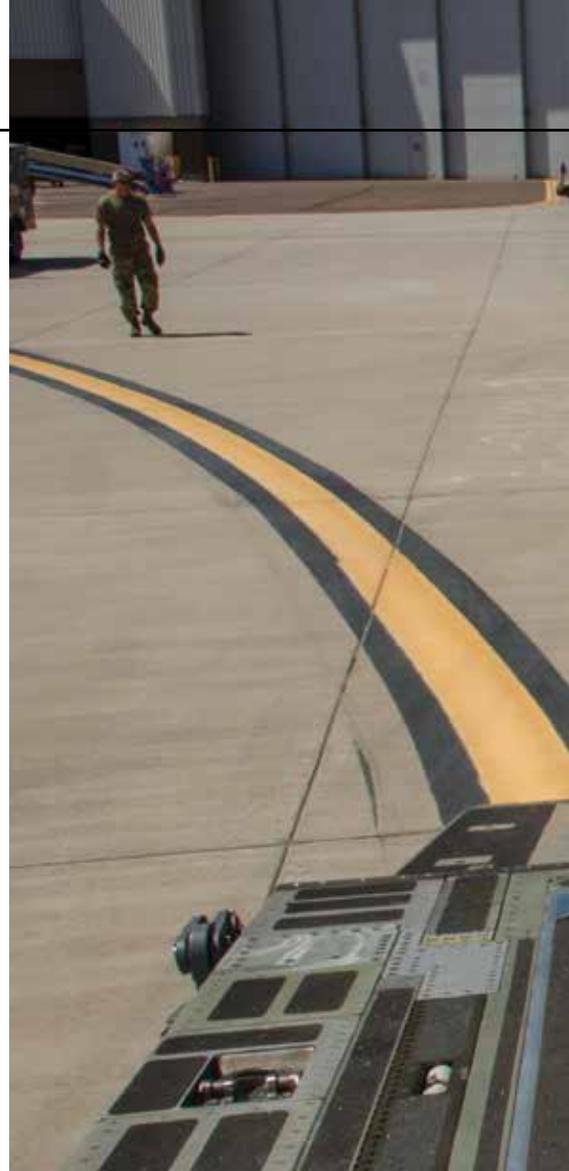
The course took several years of planning by the training center, explained SFC William Lewis, range operations NCO. “We’re proud of the first graduating classes of students and we are excited for the increased training capabilities that the installation now has to offer,” he said.

“I personally love this course. I love getting worked out; the PT is great and the instructors are knowledgeable and really try to set us up for success. It means a lot that they’re actually here for us and not just screaming at us the whole time,” said PFC Miranda Kurjack, a small wheel mechanic with the 55th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 28th

Infantry Division, Pennsylvania Army National Guard and a Quakertown, Pa., native.

Both the instructors and students are Soldiers from across the Nation, though most students are from the Pennsylvania National Guard. Its personnel supported the training with

Soldiers training as part of Fort Indiantown Gap’s inaugural air assault course rappel from a UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopter.



logistics, manpower, vehicles and equipment. The Eastern Army National Guard Aviation Training Site provided UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters for the final rappelling challenge.

Air Assault training focuses on the mastery of rappelling techniques and sling load procedures, skills that involve intense concentration and a commitment to safety and preparation.

“They have a very short time to learn a lot of material. As an instructor, you have to get the students to put everything else that’s not an emergency out of their minds so they can focus here,” said SSG Rancher.

Training is broken into three phases, each lasting three days: combat assault phase, sling load phase and rappel phase. Cadets will perform a 12-mile ruck march on their final day of training, earning their wings as official Air Assault Soldiers, with a graduation ceremony the following day.

“I love the ruck marches, the running and everything, but this has been the longest nine days so far of my life,” said PFC Kurjack.



A loadmaster from the 452nd Airlift Wing guides a vehicle and trailer onto a C-17 Globemaster cargo aircraft at Goldwater Air National Guard Base.

With the addition of the Air Assault course, Fort Indiantown Gap is building on its position as the busiest National Guard training center in the Nation. ●

SOUTH CAROLINA

BY SGT Brad Mincey,
SOUTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD

South Carolina Guard Chaplain Corps To Assist Soldiers and Families In Deployments

For more than 240 years, the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps has attended to the faith and spiritual needs of American Soldiers and their Families.

Chaplains fulfill a multitude of duties: advise leaders and commanders on Soldiers' issues and morale, ensure Soldiers' religious rights are upheld, perform religious activities, and provide support for Soldiers and their Families. Chaplains provide services for nearly 140 religions, as well as support for the nonreligious.

Unlike other leaders, chaplains can speak about religion to Soldiers. "When you have Soldiers performing the missions they do, we can fill the faith piece. We can bolster, support and lift up Soldiers and their Families," said LTC Roy Butler, South Carolina National Guard Joint Force Headquarters Senior Chaplain.

"I love being in the field and being with the Soldiers," said LTC Butler, who has been a chaplain in the South Carolina National Guard for nearly 20 years. "During deployments, we are combat multipliers. We monitor the morale of the unit and provide support and counseling for the Soldiers while they are away from their friends, Families and churches."

Additionally, chaplains play an integral role in supporting the units, providing counseling and keeping up the morale during any difficult times.

During LTC Butler's deployment to Afghanistan in 2007, the National Guard lost several Soldiers, and one of his most difficult jobs was helping Soldiers deal with the pain and grief of losing their friends and comrades in arms.

"We lost seven Soldiers in our command and others throughout parts of the country," said LTC Butler. "The chaplain's role in that situation is to work with the unit, the command and the service members who worked with those Soldiers. I've seen holy things happen in a C-130 and C-17 [aircraft] when they set the casket down. That is a powerful moment for many people."

Another South Carolina National Guard chaplain who serves is Chaplain (MAJ) Brandon Candee, with the 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion. He became a chaplain candidate in 2010 and chaplain in



Chaplain (MAJ) Brandon Candee conducts chapel services during annual training at Fort Stewart, Ga.

2014 and is scheduled to deploy for Operation Resolute Support along with his unit.

“I love Soldiers and I love God, so what better way to put those together than to be a chaplain,” said MAJ Candee.

“In the few months we’ve been preparing for this deployment, I’ve been able to walk several Soldiers through very difficult times. It is an awesome responsibility, but an awesome gift that I receive from them, as well.”

The Army Chaplain Corps was officially established on July 29, 1775, as part of the Continental Army and will celebrate its 242nd birthday this year. The U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School is at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and serves as the U.S. Army Chief of Chaplain’s institutional training base for Army chaplains and chaplain assistants. ●

ARIZONA

BY SFC Robert Frees,
ARIZONA NATIONAL GUARD

Arizona Guard Civil Support Team Trains in Colorado

The Arizona National Guard’s 91st Civil Support Team (CST) practiced loading vehicles and equipment on aircraft at Goldwater Air National Guard Base to train with other CSTs from Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and California.

As part of its annual requirement to practice loading equipment onto aircraft, the 91st loaded six vehicles and one trailer on two C-17 Globemaster cargo planes from March Air Force Base and Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

“We have to at least do a static load every year. We’re actually taking it to the next level,” said Air Force Maj Michael Spencer, the operations officer for the 91st. “We’re doing a multi-CST exercise with some of our sister units.”

The unit is marked to go to Colorado to participate in a large-scale chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear-explosive (CBRN-E) and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) exercise with counterparts from other states with the purpose of maintaining proficiency in CBRN-E response capabilities.

While in Colorado, the 91st will take part in a multi-CST exercise, hosted by the Colorado National Guard’s 8th CST, after participating in another training event in

Colorado earlier this year.

“The Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and California teams will rotate daily through four venues-related WMD incidents,” said Army 1SG Josh Steele of the 91st.

“This allows teams to conduct an exercise in which it has command and control of multiple CSTs in a single location. It also allows a team to exercise command and control of a large or widespread incident,” he said.

Army SGT Grace Ogesen, a survey team member with the 91st, said that she enjoys being part of a well-trained and experienced team and enjoys the opportunity to train with other teams.

“It’s always nice to see the other CSTs from different states and how they operate. It gives us fresh ideas,” she said.

A CST’s mission is to support civil authorities at domestic incident sites within the United States. According to Army National Guard regulations, teams accomplish this mission by identifying hazards, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on response measures and assisting with appropriate requests for support. The 91st fulfills a rotating on-call requirement with CST units across the country and must be ready to quickly mobilize when receiving a request for support.

This year, the 91st has supported civil agencies statewide, including the NCAA Final Four Championship. Some upcoming events the 91st plans to support include Arizona State University football home games.

“The 91st CST is a great group of people. Everybody from the lowest enlisted to the highest ranking comes together when a job needs to get done,” Maj Spencer said. “They are not afraid to roll their sleeves up and get dirty. There’s great morale and great cohesion in the unit. It’s a good group of people I’m proud to be part of.” ●

NEW YORK

BY Eric Durr,
NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD

100 years of Rainbow Division Marked by Long Island Ceremony

Veterans and current leaders of the 42nd Infantry Division and the New York Army National Guard marked the 100th anniversary of the Rainbow Division with a Saturday, Aug. 12, 2017, ceremony in Garden City, N.Y., where the division first organized in 1917.

In an effort to organize and deploy combat units quickly as the United States entered World War 1, the division was formed by assembling the most ready National Guard units of 26 States and the District of Columbia.

Because it would take in units from many States, MAJ Douglas MacArthur, the officer who came up with the idea, said it would stretch across the country “like a rainbow.”

Before it even acquired the number 42, the division became known as the Rainbow Division.

With active service in both world wars, the division has been a part of the

New York Army National Guard since 1947. National Guard units in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont and New Jersey are aligned with the division today, which is headquartered in Troy, N.Y.

“It’s a great day to see our comrades and honor our World War I founders,” said retired MG Joseph Taluto, who commanded the division in Iraq in 2005 and now serves as director of the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation.

The short ceremony featured remarks from MG Taluto, the mayor of Garden City, the French Deputy Consul General in New York City, a member of the national World War I Centennial Commission and MG Steven Ferrari, the current commander of the 42nd Infantry Division.

The ceremony took place at the monument, erected by Rainbow Division veterans in 1940, which marks the site of Camp Mills and commemorates the division’s World War I service.

A number of famous Soldiers served in the 42nd Infantry Division during World War I, including LTC William “Wild Bill” Donovan, who won the Medal of Honor; SGT Joyce Kilmer, who wrote the poem “Trees”; and Father Francis Duffy, the fighting Catholic priest.

“It is a privilege and it is an honor to lead the 42nd Division,” MG Ferrari said.

Ryan Hegg, representative of the World War I Centennial Committee, reminded those present that the American Soldiers were known for their energy and enthusiasm. They turned the tide of the war in favor of the Allies.

“They ended the war. They saved lives. No Soldier could ask for more,” Hegg said.

About 100 people attended the event, including Bill Vorlick, a New York Army National Guard Veteran from Queens, N.Y.

“It felt great that their service was not forgotten,” Vorlick said. ●

Retired MG Joseph Taluto, commander of the 42nd Infantry Division in Iraq in 2005.

TENNESSEE

BY CPT Matthew Gilbert,
TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD

Tennessee Soldier Excels in U.S. Army Intelligence

SG Krystle Parks, an intelligence analyst with the Tennessee Army National Guard’s 230th Sustainment Brigade based in Chattanooga, recently went to Romania in support of exercise Saber Guardian, a large-scale training operation led by U.S. Army Europe.

While there, SSG Parks worked with a team of service members whose job it was to collect and analyze important information from various sources that could impact the operation’s success.

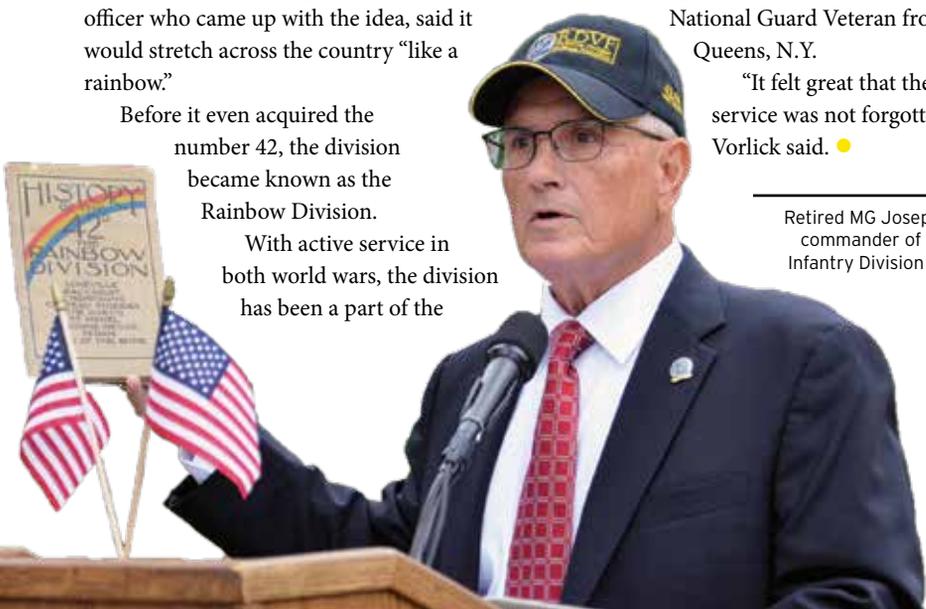
“My job was to learn everything I could about our mission area – the terrain, environment, political climate, the social structure, you name it,” explained SSG Parks. “I needed to analyze everything to determine what could positively or negatively affect our mission.”

She received an Army Achievement Medal for her excellence in intelligence analysis during Exercise Anakonda in Poland in 2016, as well as the Tennessee Army National Guard Individual Achievement Ribbon for her administrative support of the Knoxville-based 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Tennessee Army National Guard.

SSG Parks isn’t just an intelligence analyst with the U.S. Army. When she is not drilling or overseas with the Tennessee Army National Guard, she doubles as an analyst for local, state and federal law enforcement in middle Tennessee.

SSG Parks credits her intense training to her ability to work in both fields.

“My work with the military and with law enforcement is very similar,” explained SSG Parks. “My military training helped me to quickly learn how to work with law enforcement. I am constantly exposed to new complications and applications in cases, so I have to keep my skills and understanding of technology up-to-date.”



“Working in law enforcement has given me a different perspective. It helps keep me focused and helps me hone my skills as a military analyst. Whether I am working with the military or civilian law enforcement, I get to do something new and something I enjoy every day,” SSG Parks says.

SSG Parks is not the first person in her family to serve in the U.S. Army. Her grandfather enlisted when he was a teenager, and his military career motivated her to follow in his footsteps.

“I spent my life looking up to him and listening to his stories about being in the Army. He joined when he was 15, back when you could sign up at the postmaster’s office,” said SSG Parks. “He talked his father into lying about his age for him on the paperwork, and he went off to be a tanker. He served as a tanker through World War II and Korea, where his service took him all through Africa and Italy. He was called back during Vietnam and worked as an MP.

“My Papa knew when he was 15 that he wanted to give his loyalty to his country and that he wanted to protect his Family and friends. He instilled in me the desire to do the same,” said SSG Parks.

And now as an intelligence analyst for the U.S. Army, the Tennessee Army National Guard and the State of Tennessee, SSG Parks has continued her Family’s tradition of service. ●

INDIANA

BY MSG Jeff Lowry,
INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD

Nighthawks Close Out JRTC Rotation, Return to Indiana

Indiana National Guard Soldiers with the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, nicknamed the Nighthawk Brigade, closed out their nearly monthlong training at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk in Louisiana.

Approximately 4,000 Hoosier Guard Soldiers with the brigade tested their combat

skills over the course of 12 days in the field that covers approximately 90,000 acres and 14 villages at the central Louisiana post.

“This exercise allowed us to see what worked for us and what didn’t,” said COL Robert D. Burke, the 76th Brigade Commander. “As an entire brigade with a lot of enablers, we did very, very well. I think there was a lot of both personal and professional growth throughout the organization that people can take forward and learn from and use that experience to make themselves better no matter what organization they’re with.”

The citizen-warriors conducted decisive action training to develop adaptive leaders and confident units, and to improve Army readiness. The combat skills included reconnoitering and attacking the enemy, and occupying and defending battle space.

The Soldiers trained as they would have to fight in overseas contingencies, and the training here also enhanced their team-building skills. That team-building included integrating enablers, approximately 2,000 troops from more than 20 States.

Those enablers included Army aviation assets, with attack and lift capabilities, from North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Colorado that took part in the battle scenarios. Pennsylvania National Guard Soldiers with a Stryker – an eight-wheeled, armored personnel carrier – unit also participated.

“I think the Stryker and aviation elements were key,” said COL Burke. “We are not used to working with them, but they did a great job.

“Our whole movement plan and how we managed our equipment here and back will actually help us do very well in the Pacific,” he added. “This whole exercise has helped prepare us for any type of operation that we may face as a brigade going forward from here. And we will be ready if Big Army needs us.”

In addition to the training in the field, the brigade’s higher headquarters personnel with the 38th Infantry Division conducted collective and mission-command training that will enable the personnel to have oversight of subordinate units.

“This kind of training, while we are not part of the rotation, gets us ready in collective training,” said MG David C. Wood, the 38th Infantry Division’s commander. “With limited training days and with limited training dollars, we need this collective training on the battle systems.”

Practice makes proficient, and

MG Wood said that repetitive training on the computerized systems that manage and communicate with subordinate commands will be key in possible future deployments. ●

GEORGIA

BY CPT William Carraway,
GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD

National Guard Engineers Train Half a World Away

Less than one year ago, Georgia Army National Guard Soldiers of the 810th Engineer Company (Sapper) based in Swainsboro, Ga., were conducting debris clearance operations in the coastal counties of the State of Georgia in the wake of Hurricane Matthew. Just a few months later, those same engineers were half a world away supporting the armed forces of the country of Georgia with combat engineer training as part of Exercise Noble Partner 17.

“We will be at this location for several days conducting blank and live fire,” said CPT Christopher Butler, commander of the 810th during the exercise. “Our training will progress into demolitions.”

For nearly 10 days, the combat engineers lived in tents pitched on the dry, grassy side of a mountain in a remote rocky section of the Vaziani Training Area.

SSG Krystle Parks of
the Tennessee Army
National Guard



During that time, they trained with a company of engineers from the Georgian Armed Forces on tasks such as range operations, obstacle emplacement and removal.

Noble Partner 2017 is the third iteration of the Noble Partner series of exercises. The exercise, held in Vaziani and Camp Norio training areas in Georgia, was to support Georgia's training of a second light infantry company contribution to the NATO Response Force.

For many Soldiers, like SGT Maurice Taylor of Waycross, Ga., and PFC Jalin Anderson of Augusta, Ga., this was their first experience as part of an overseas mission.

"It has been a lot of good training," said SGT Taylor. PFC Anderson agreed, citing the opportunity to travel and experience new cultures while training in a new environment.

BG Tom Blackstock, commander of the 78th Troop Command, visited the combat engineers at Vaziani as they began construction of a small arms range. A Sapper himself, BG Blackstock shared memories of past mobilizations and exercises as commander of the 265th Engineer Group and 648th Engineer Battalion (Sapper).

BG Blackstock also recognized two Soldiers with challenge coins for excellent service. CPL Andrew Fergine and SGT Caleb Taylor were recommended by CPT Butler for their contributions to the unit.

"CPL Fergine was on the advanced party," said CPT Butler. "He was a game changer."

BG Blackstock noted that SGT Taylor was an outstanding NCO who

had gone above and beyond expectations.

In addition to the engineers of the 810th, Georgia Army National Guard members of the Marietta, Ga.-based Company H, 121st Infantry (Long Range Surveillance) and 165th Quartermaster participated in Noble Partner 2017, along with aviators and crews of the Savannah, Ga.-based 165th Airlift Wing, Georgia Air National Guard. They are part of a multinational involvement that includes units from U.S. Army Europe, as well as service members and equipment from Germany, Armenia, United Kingdom, Turkey and Slovenia. Nearly 3,000 Soldiers contributed to the exercise. ●

IOWA

BY SSG Mike Kelly,
IOWA NATIONAL GUARD

Iowa and Kosovo Soldiers Train Side by Side

Building on six years of partnership, Soldiers and Airmen of the Iowa National Guard, together with members of the Medical Company (Medcoy) of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), participated in a two-week medical training course and field training exercise in July.

The exercises were conducted at the Sustainment Training Center (STC) on Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center as part of the State Partnership Program (SPP).

The SPP links U.S. States and Territories with partner countries around the world to promote access, increase capability, improve interoperability and enhance the principles of responsible governance. This traditional security assistance program focuses on military-to-military exchanges.

These events are typically small in nature, involving four to six Soldiers, Airmen or KSF members conducting an exchange for a period of five to seven days. Also present were several medics from the United Kingdom.

Building on several in-country SPP medical events from summer and fall 2016, medical planners from Iowa and Kosovo worked together to identify goals that both broaden the skill set and leadership experience of medical personnel, and explore combined "warrior task" engagement opportunities.

"To train side-by-side with the Iowa Soldiers and Airmen has been a dream of mine," said MAJ (Dr.) Genc Shalla, Medcoy deputy commander. "Working together as one team in support of medical missions built cooperation between us. By the end of the training, it was like we had worked with each other for years."

Participants grew as leaders during staff section training and seminars on the Military Decision Making Process.

"Human physiology is the same no matter what nationality or branch of service you are," said Tech SGT Davy Crockett, 132nd Medical Group nursing NCOIC. "When it comes to medical care, it's a universal language. Blood is red regardless."

BG Tom Blackstock presents coins to SGT Caleb Taylor and CPL Andrew Fergine of the Georgia National Guard's 810th Engineer Company at the Vaziani Training Area.





Soldiers from the Iowa Army National Guard 209th and 134th Medical Companies practice transferring a patient from an ambulance into the Sustainment Training Center.

“Joint international collective training exploits knowledge from all individuals involved, incorporating a collective element, thus creating new quality,” said Maj Jamie Clasen, 209th Medical Company Area Support.

While the overarching goals of this training touch on deployment of personnel and equipment, management of casualties under austere conditions and conducting forward medical operations, the main objective was to conduct Role I & II training while integrating Soldiers, Airmen and KSF personnel into a single unit focused on collective training.

“Training with Airmen and KSF members is a very unique opportunity for our Soldiers,” said Maj Clasen. “Following the exercise, I was able to speak with many of them, and the feedback that I received was very positive. I believe that it was great for the Soldiers, Airmen and KSF partners to work side by side, learning from each other while building lasting memories during this STC rotation. Training like this is a tremendous readiness tool that can help keep our Soldiers coming back for more as we continue to develop a larger medical training concept that partners with Iowa Airmen and members of the KSF” ●

SOUTH CAROLINA

BY NaSwana Moon,
SOUTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD

South Carolina Guard Soldier Broadens Her Horizons

SPC Kimberly Hurtado is a South Carolina Army National Guard Soldier with the 1223rd Engineer Company, 122nd Engineer Battalion located in Columbia, S.C. She currently serves at the Joint National Training Center, Cincu, Romania, in support of Resolute Castle 17, an operation that builds infrastructure and relationships within Eastern European NATO countries.

SPC Hurtado grew up listening to a retired Marine uncle tell his war stories. “It interested me so much that I started to think about joining,” she said. “When he passed away, it solidified my decision to join.” Upon deciding to serve, she enlisted in the Army and her older brother enlisted in the Marines.

She began her military career training as a plumber in Advanced Individual Training, but has been learning other skills as well. At Resolute Castle 17, she has been building a berm that will protect moving targets from live tank rounds.

To support the construction of moving armored targets, at which tanks will fire for training purposes, she fills Gabion baskets that will support a protective berm. The baskets will later be covered with dirt, creating the berm, and receive the impact of the tank shells. Filling the Gabion baskets requires SPC Hurtado to build metal cages with spring coils, fill them with rocks, level the rocks and stack them.

“Just keep swimming” is one of SPC Hurtado’s favorite quotes that she applies to her civilian and military life. She relates to that as a Soldier and as a civilian, as there are times she has to do a job or complete a task that she doesn’t want to do, but she just keeps going.

She applies this philosophy to staying busy at home. Aside from her military career, SPC Hurtado works as a cook at a seafood restaurant, and she currently studies science and math at the Technical College of the LowCountry. SPC Hurtado’s dream is to become a chemical or mechanical engineer. “What I have in mind is something like an oil refinery, working the machines,” she explained.



She is ready to face the challenges in a field where women make up only 11 percent of the population. “It doesn’t matter to me,” she says.

Resolute Castle particularly focuses on engineer skills, deploying active Navy, Army Reserve and Army National Guard engineer units to work alongside the Romanian 10th Engineer Brigade and the UK Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers on training infrastructure at the Joint National Training Center in Romania. Additionally, Resolute Castle has overseen engineering operations in Poland conducted by the 15th Engineer Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade.

The mission supports Operation Atlantic Resolve by developing training infrastructure in Eastern Europe, creating interoperability among NATO forces, and enhancing stability and resolve among allied nations. ●

MICHIGAN

BY SPC Savannah Lang,
MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD

Michigan Guard Soldier Receives Prestigious Award

From being one of the first three women in the state of Michigan to complete the Soldier of the Year competition in its entirety, to running marathons in her spare time, it seems there’s nothing SPC Anna Shutes can’t do.

SPC Shutes enlisted into the Michigan Army National Guard in August of 2013 and has spent her career as a Human Resources Specialist, impressing everyone she’s worked with at the 246th Transportation Battalion. 2LT Alex Kraft says, “As a brand new Second Lieutenant coming into a totally new branch, it’s really reassuring for me to have Soldiers like SPC Shutes on my team. She’s always looking for things she can accomplish as well as ways to improve herself both as a leader and a Soldier. She has done great things for this organization so far.”

In 2015, SPC Shutes participated in the Governor’s Twenty. This was her first experience outside of drill and her first opportunity to spend time at Camp Grayling. “It is what motivated me to increase my level of involvement in the Guard,” she said.

SPC Shutes has gone above and beyond the standard in every aspect of her career and is being rewarded for her hard work. This year, SPC Shutes was awarded the Rasmus Hanson Award, which is given once a year to the most outstanding Soldier in the Michigan

Army National Guard who holds the rank of specialist/corporal up to staff sergeant. Mr. Hanson donated the original piece of land that is now known as Camp Grayling and, in tribute, the Michigan Army National Guard selects a Soldier to receive the award every year. Nominees are reviewed by a board of senior NCOs and officers to assess the nominee’s contributions to their community and the National Guard.

During Northern Strike 17, SPC Shutes supported the subordinate units of the 246th with their Human Resources needs. She also put together storyboards and took pictures to show off the accomplishments of the units in support of Northern Strike.

When SPC Shutes isn’t with the Guard, she works at PNC Bank in Kalamazoo and is a Nursing student at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. She spends most of her free time either running or at the gym. ●



SPC Kimberly Hurtado lines Gabion baskets in a designated row for a berm.



SPC Anna Shutes stands in front of her unit’s Tactical Operations Center at Camp Grayling during Northern Strike 2017.



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DOWN THE PIKE

140

Nevada National Guard members activated

\$3.5 million

spent in response effort

1 million

sandbags deployed

These are the numbers characterizing the Nevada National Guard's response to massive floods in the State earlier this year.

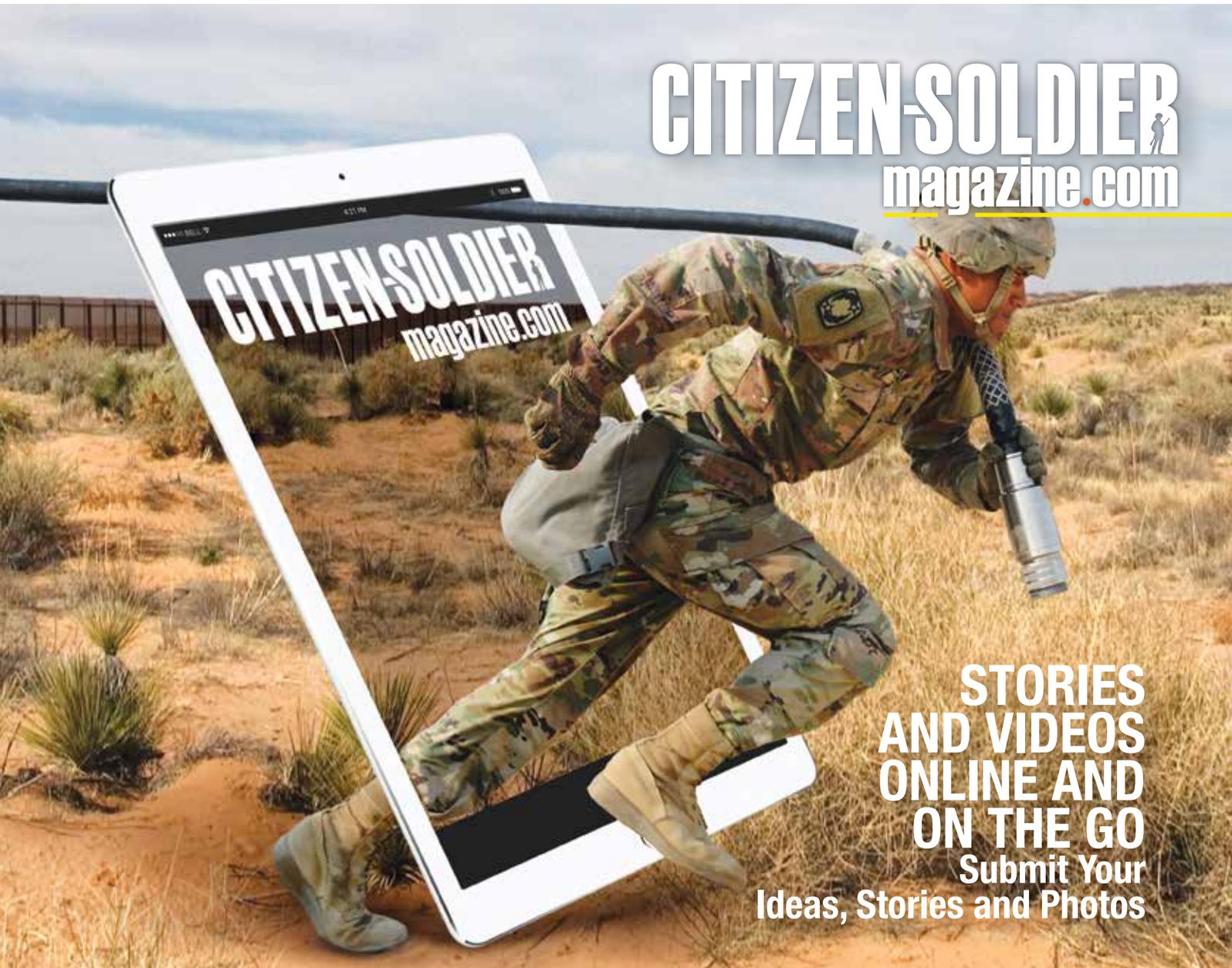


IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Citizen-Soldier will feature the Nevada National Guard's historic response to record-breaking flooding in northern Nevada. The state experienced rainfall totals that broke records going back over a century and spurred relief efforts requiring the Nevada National Guard to activate its largest domestic operation in response to a natural disaster in 20 years.

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