

# ARKANSAS



## **ARKANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD**

*Arkansas Guard Soldiers stand ready to accept any challenge. Whether fighting America's wars, serving Arkansas' citizens or assisting neighbors during a domestic response or natural disaster, these dedicated Soldiers will always heed the call to defend the Nation and protect its citizens.*

MAJ Dwayne Page, chief of competitions for the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center, Arkansas National Guard, shoots at a target during the regional marksmanship training competition at the Volunteer Training Site in Tullahoma, Tenn.

National Guard photo by MSgt Robin Brown



## Arkansas Guard Members Strengthen Cyber Skills in Exercise

Submitted by TSgt Jessica Condit

**A**rkansas National Guard members, civilians and government employees discovered how best to respond to a cyber incident and how to safeguard against potential cyber vulnerabilities during the Cyber Security Incident Response Training Exercise in early December 2017 at Camp Joseph T. Robinson near North Little Rock, Arkansas.

The three-day training course was part of a program developed by a civilian entity accredited by the Department of Homeland Security. The exercise program targeted critical infrastructure within a simulated city, created by Metova Cybercents, and uncovered potential cyber security susceptibilities.

The training environment is a new concept within an already established learning

curriculum and was designed specifically for this exercise.

"We know that critical infrastructures are susceptible to a cyberattack," said Scott Terry, associate division director at the Texas A&M Engineering Department's Cyber Readiness Center. "The important role that cyber operators play is so vital, we know we need to help them. The unique training environment helps the participants get some hands-on training that they won't have the opportunity to get anywhere else."

Cyber specialists from multiple fields and backgrounds participated in the course. Arkansas Army and Air National Guard members, Arkansas businesses, and State and city departments participated in the event, strengthening their cyber capabilities. The ability to integrate cyber practices across multiple sectors and platforms is integral to successful cyber security incident response.

"The Arkansas National Guard already has the ability to coordinate, train, assist and advise on anything cyber," said MAJ Scott Anderson, director of operations, 189th Operations Group, Detachment 1. "If one of the State agencies or co-ops in Arkansas needs help, they are able to go through the emergency management process to request assistance

from the National Guard. We work for the governor and the State, as well as support our federal mission. All they have to do is ask."

The training is part of a six-delivery grant cycle. This means there are limited courses available for cyber operators to attend. An organization's ability to find value in the training and promote it within its unit upon completion is key to developing further training opportunities such as this response course.

The course, built specifically to meet training requirements within the cyber community, is one of several elements in the cyber training regimen that enhances the skills of Soldiers, Airmen and civilians who are entrusted with protecting the nation's critical infrastructure.

"As a whole, building and executing cyber events like this is key to successful cyber operations," MAJ Anderson said. "The class is geared toward people who will benefit seeing this in a controlled environment, so they will know how to react in a real-world situation." ●

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CW3 Jerry Greuel works with a civilian participant in a brainstorming session during Cyber Incident Response Training Exercise held at Camp Joseph T. Robinson in Dec. 2017.

National Guard photo by SrA Kayla K. Edwards







# **THE ARKANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OFFERS ITS MEMBERS GREAT OPPORTUNITIES TO GET A COLLEGE EDUCATION.**

**The Arkansas National Guard Tuition Assistance (TA) Program is open to Arkansas Guard Soldiers who are residents of the State, in good standing, have completed basic training and are currently enrolled in an undergraduate program.**

Soldiers are eligible for up to 120 credit hours or until completion of a bachelor's degree, whichever comes first. Arkansas Guard TA funds pay for tuition only, but when used in conjunction with federal TA funding, the National Guard funding is applied first. This allows Soldiers to use federal funding to cover the cost of books, room and board or other expenses.

For more information visit [ARGuard.org/Education](http://ARGuard.org/Education), or contact the Arkansas National Guard Education Services Office directly at [ng.ar.ararnq.list.education-office@mail.mil](mailto:ng.ar.ararnq.list.education-office@mail.mil) or **501-212-4045**.

\* The Arkansas TA Program applies only to Soldiers pursuing a first-time bachelors degree. The program does not offer funding for post-secondary degrees or for a second bachelors degree. Soldier already possessing an associates degree are eligible to use the program to advance to a bachelors degree.





Arkansas Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, board an aircraft at the Silas L. Copeland Arrival/Departure Airfield Control Group for a mission supporting the Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa.

## Arkansas Army National Guard Unit Deploys to Horn of Africa

Story and photos by Ismael Ortega

Deploying to support the Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa, 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, Arkansas Army National Guard, departed from the Silas L. Copeland Arrival/Departure Airfield Control Group to serve as security forces throughout the southern region of Africa.

Early last year, more than

500 Arkansas Guard Soldiers worked with other branches and foreign military personnel to ensure the security of their assigned area of operation.

"It's important to build relationships with African countries and support their governments by working with their militaries, cross training and reinforcing their security posture," said LTC B. J. Vincent, commander, 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, Arkansas Army National Guard. "It was a great mission for us and a great opportunity for a lot of the Soldiers who had [yet to] deploy."

With monthly training sessions in their home State, the Soldiers of the Arkansas Guard are always prepared for a deployment and this one was no different. The unit went through two pre-mobilization training cycles before proceeding to Fort Bliss, Texas, for training specifically tailored for the mission.

"The Mission Readiness Exercise

was pretty intense," said SFC Markham McMillan, platoon sergeant, 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment. "They developed a training schedule that would reflect what we were actually doing in Africa and made it as realistic as possible."

With the majority of the unit's Soldiers deploying for the first time, this mission was an excellent opportunity for the Soldiers to implement their skills and possibly further their military – and perhaps their civilian – careers.

"I think we had the best prepared unit that I've been with. I was a prior service Marine and we did a lot of training every day," SFC McMillan said. "The individuals that we had [in] the unit, with the amount of training that we [were able] to get in – whether schedule training or white space training – really helped these Soldiers a whole lot." ●





Soldiers of the 153rd Infantry Regiment are given a departure brief prior to boarding an aircraft on their way to support the Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa.



Soldiers of the 153rd file onboard the aircraft transporting them to the Horn of Africa.





# ***DID YOU KNOW***

## ***THE ARKANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD...***



***offers reimbursement of  
college tuition***

***for classes paid for, but missed  
due to a deployment?***

Get details by contacting the Arkansas Army National Guard  
Education Services Officer at  
**(501) 212-4021**  
or email

**NA.AR.ARARNG.List.Education-Office@mail.mil.**



# DELTA DENTAL OF ARKANSAS

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## Arkansas's 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Deploys to Kosovo

Story by CPT Jason Sweeney

**K**osovo Force, or KFOR, has been conducting a peace and security mission in Kosovo since 1999. In July of last year, Soldiers of the Arkansas National Guard deployed as part of that peacekeeping effort. For three weeks in June

and July of 2017, 34 Soldiers of the Arkansas National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) were at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center at Hohenfels Training Area, Germany, to conduct a validation exercise before deploying to Kosovo for a 9-month KFOR 23 rotation. The California Army National Guard's 115th assumed the role of Higher Control-Commander, Kosovo Force (HICON-COMKFOR) during the exercise.

For the exercise, COL Bruce Balzano, commander of the 115th Readiness Support Group, was in the role of HICON-COMKFOR. "The 115th's battle staff is comprised of veterans from Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn and rotations in the Balkans," COL Balzano said. "We provided an experienced and

capable mission command platform in order to provide realistic command and control during the 39th IBCT's final validation exercise."

Kosovo, which has an Albanian majority, was a province of Serbia when ethnic tensions between the Albanian majority and Serbian minority escalated to violence in 1999. KFOR, a multinational NATO peacekeeping force, was formed to bring safety and stability to the province, which declared independence from Serbia in 2008. The peacekeeping mission has been successful, but the KFOR mission continues indefinitely to ensure the peace continues.

The Army National Guard has been a major contributor of troops to the ongoing KFOR mission.

In preparation for its deployment, the 39th IBCT conducted realistic training







Soldiers of the 39th IBCT land Chinook helicopters on a landing field near the Joint Multinational Readiness Center at Hohenfels Training Area, Germany.

Images courtesy Arkansas Army National Guard

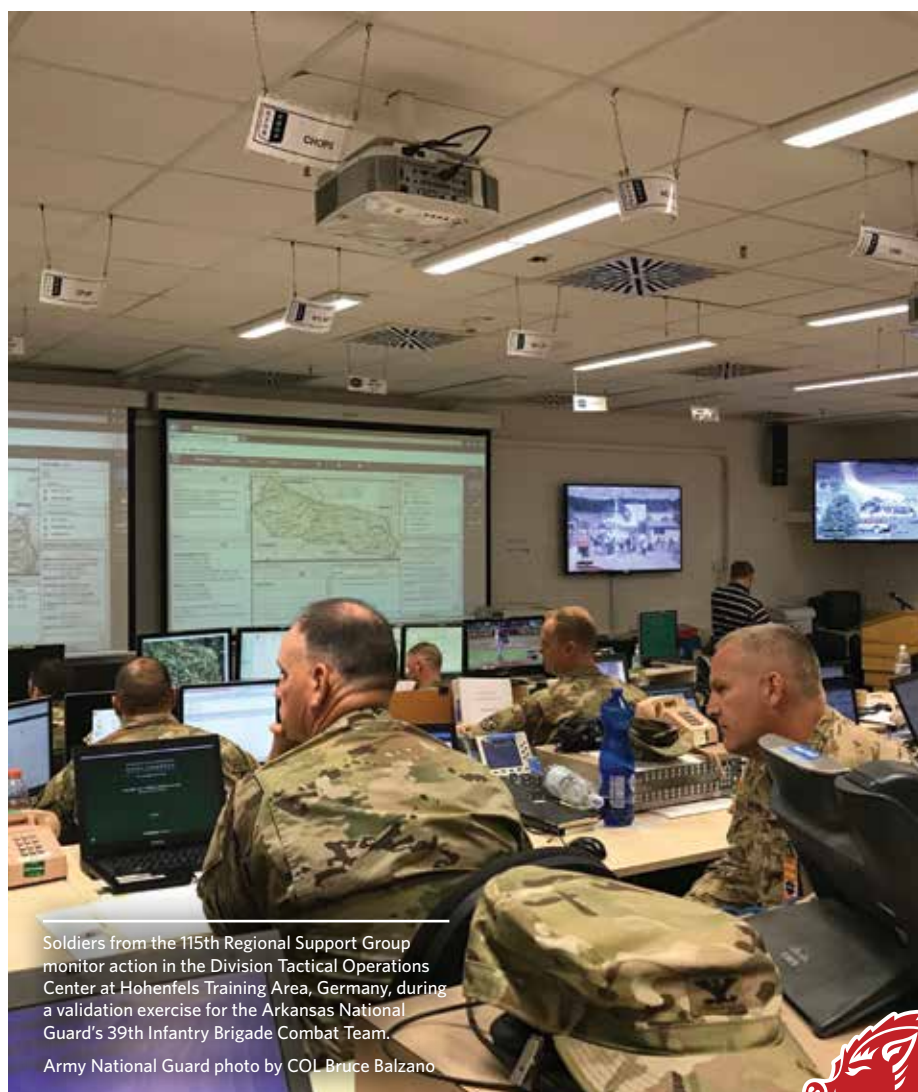


A Soldier of the 39th IBCT briefs allied soldiers while training at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center at Hohenfels Training Area, Germany, in preparation for deployment to support the KFOR mission in Kosovo.

Images courtesy Arkansas Army National Guard

simulating crowd and riot control, situational awareness patrol training, liaison monitoring team training, active shooter incidents, press conferences and other scenarios the troops may have encountered in Kosovo. Once the training in Germany was complete, the 39th deployed to Kosovo and assumed control of KFOR's Multinational Battle Group-East (MNBG-E).

"The MNBG-E conducted training that focused staff and Soldiers on cultural awareness as well as a strong understanding of the political and economic considerations we needed to be aware of in NATO," said 39th IBCT Commander COL Michael Spraggins. "We conduct training with our NATO allies to increase interoperability while conducting peacekeeping operations. Overall, we enjoyed tremendous success preparing ourselves for the mission in KFOR." ●



Soldiers from the 115th Regional Support Group monitor action in the Division Tactical Operations Center at Hohenfels Training Area, Germany, during a validation exercise for the Arkansas National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Army National Guard photo by COL Bruce Balzano



ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD

# YOUTH COUNCIL

The Arkansas Youth Council consists of 10 officers, ages 13 to 17, but all youth are encouraged to come to meetings and **become a part of the fun.**

The Youth Council conducts community service and awareness projects and plans youth events - including camps - workshops and symposiums for youth throughout the State.

Register at **JointServicesSupport.org** to receive the Youth Council newsletter.

Be sure to **visit the news and events page** on the website to find local activities and meetings. New events are added throughout the year so **check back often.**



If you have any questions or comments about the Youth Program, please call **Arkansas State Youth Coordinator at 1-800-446-4645.**



2LT Blake Rouse, of the 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, returns to his wife Makenzie and their daughter Elaine after a 9-month deployment to the Horn of Africa.

Photo courtesy Arkansas Army National Guard



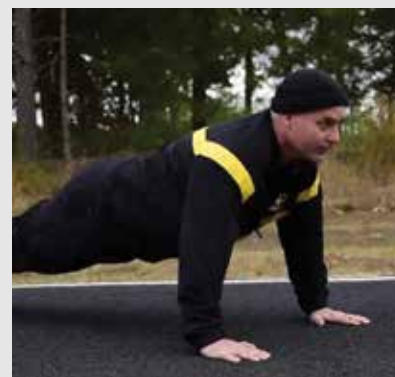
# ***Military Family Relief Trust Fund***

**THE MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF TRUST FUND** was established to provide short-term, emergency financial assistance in the form of grants to Arkansas National Guard members and their Families who have been impacted by active duty service.

All funding is received from the State Treasury. This fund provides a valuable means to assist and improve the morale and welfare of Arkansas National Guard Soldiers.

For more information, contact Arkansas  
National Guard Joint Services Support at  
**501-212-4012.**

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE STATE



**T**his year, I would like all Arkansas Army National Guard Soldiers to make a commitment to improve their physical fitness.

I'd like to share with you principles that will not only improve your score on the annual physical fitness test, but will also help you be a more effective Soldier on the battlefield. For [these principles and] more on physical fitness, follow me on Facebook at [Facebook.com/ARKArmyCSM](https://www.facebook.com/ARKArmyCSM).

– CSM Rick Megoloff, State Command Sergeant Major, Arkansas National Guard

Images courtesy Arkansas National Guard



**U**.S. KFOR personnel competed for the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency. This was a hard 3-day event that tested participants physically and mentally. Congratulations to all the winners and a *huge* thank you to our German allies that helped with the event.

U.S. Army images by SGT Austin Parker







Soldiers from the 61st Civil Support Team, Survey Section, conducted a training exercise at the 233rd Regional Training Institute at Robinson Maneuver Training Center on Jan. 25. The Team is tasked with surveying operations during natural disasters, which requires them to locate, identify and control the impact of contaminated and hazardous material. The Talon IV robot was deployed to assist with damage and risk assessment.

National Guard photos by Capt Jerald Hogan



Senior Enlisted Leader, Arkansas Army National Guard CSM Steven Veazey held a dual town hall and kickoff for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) at Phillips Armory, Camp Robinson, on Oct. 31, 2017. Arkansas State CSM Rick Megoloff, CSM Veazey, Camp Robinson Post CSM Vince Sherrill and LTC Chuck Vereen volunteered to go in the dunk booth to raise donations for CFC.

Photo courtesy Arkansas Army National Guard





**T**wo Soldiers from Alpha Company 39th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), out of Stuttgart, Arkansas, were called on Dec. 27, 2017, to assist the residents of Lake View in Phillips County. Phillips County's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) requested the assistance of the Arkansas National Guard through the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management to provide water support to the city of Lake View.

Lake View lost one of its water system pumps, and the city was not able to stabilize its water. A Company, 39th BSB provided a HIPPO (M1120A2) water truck and a team of four military personnel to assist with the water support mission.

SSG Steven Heard and SSG Maurice Collins drove the HIPPO to Barton, Arkansas, where the truck was filled with water by the Barton Fire Department and followed the Phillips County OEM to the Lake View City Hall, where the HIPPO was set up for use by the public. SSG Heard and SSG Collins will remain in the area to monitor the HIPPO and the equipment.

Arkansas Army National Guard photos by  
CPT Jerald Hogan

**A**rkansas Army National Guard, Detachment 1, B Company, 449th Aviation Support Battalion service members returned home from a 10-month-long deployment from Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve on Dec. 22, 2017.

Approximately 50 Soldiers of B Company, 449th ASB deployed to the Middle East where they supported operations, exercises and security cooperation programs. The Soldiers of B Company were the main driving force of aviation intermediate maintenance in both Kuwait and Iraq.

The deployed service members were met by family and friends, who anxiously awaited their return. The Soldiers were released immediately to their families and friends after arriving at MG Charles H. Wilson Army Aviation Support Facility at the Robinson Maneuver Training Center.

Arkansas Army National Guard photos by  
CPT Jerald Hogan





Soldiers from the 77th Combat Aviation Brigade taught search and rescue tactics and wilderness survival techniques to Boy Scouts of America Troop 23 out of Cabot, Arkansas, on March 3, 2018, at Camp Robinson Maneuver Training center in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

The Scouts were learning valuable life-saving lessons embodied in wilderness survival training.

Arkansas Army National Guard images by  
SPC Stephen Wright



Members of the Arkansas National Guard command staff and members of the Arkansas congressional delegation welcomed home Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment of the 39th IBCT as they returned to Little Rock after a 9-month deployment to the Horn of Africa on Nov. 4, 2017.

Soldiers were greeted by Representative French Hill, Patricia Herring from Senator Tom Cotton's office, COL Steve Eggensperger from Governor Asa Hutchinson's office and Tim Johnson from Attorney General Leslie Rutledge's office.

Members of the command team included MG Mark Berry, BG Kirk Van Pelt, CSM Steven Veazey and CSM Rick Megoloff.



Arkansas Army National Guard  
photos by MAJ W. B. Phillips II





Current and Future

# COLLEGE STUDENTS!

Be sure to take advantage of the **25 PERCENT REDUCTION IN COLLEGE TUITION COST** offered through the Arkansas Army National Guard.

Additionally, the Tuition Waivers for National Guard Soldiers and Airmen bill allows colleges, universities, technical schools and other post-secondary institutions to **waive up to 100 percent of that institution's tuition for Soldiers and Airmen of the Arkansas National Guard.**

The Tuition Waivers bill applies in addition to the 25 percent reduction in tuition cost offered through the Arkansas Army National Guard.

While the percentage reduction applies to all Arkansas State colleges and universities, only educational institutions located in the State of Arkansas and in direct receipt of funds appropriated by the State General Assembly fall under the Tuition Waivers bill.

Contact your school for detailed information about its participation level in the Tuition Waivers for National Guard Soldiers and Airmen bill.

To find out more about the 25 percent reduction, contact the **Arkansas Army National Guard Education Services Officer** at (501) 212-4021 or email [NA.AR.ARARNG.List.Education-Office@mail.mil](mailto:NA.AR.ARARNG.List.Education-Office@mail.mil).