

# TEXAS STRONG

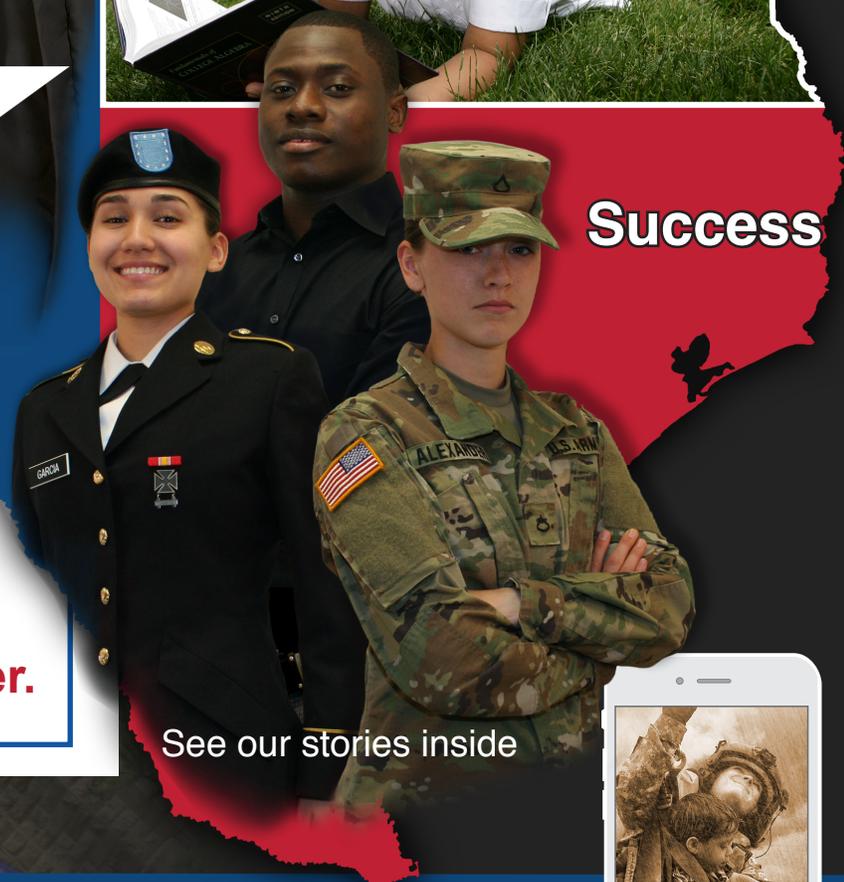
2016



Education



Opportunity



Success

**S**core high on your STAAR, SAT, and ACTs. Go to college with little or no debt. Be successful in your career.

See our stories inside



## 1-800-GO-GUARD

WE'RE DIFFERENT: WE'RE THE TEXAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

A Publication by the Texas Army National Guard

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# **OUR GOALS TOGETHER**

## **PARENTS, GUARDIANS, MENTORS -**

### **What we want for your students:**

- high performance scores on their STAAR, SAT, and ACTs**
- access to over 150 job specialties to fit their passion**
- attend college or university with little or no debt**
- be successful leaders in your community**

**When your son, daughter, or student enlists  
in the Guard, they create a world where  
goals are within their grasp; they'll  
learn to overcome whatever  
is laid out before them.**



# WHAT DO WE DO?

## TEXANS SERVING TEXAS -

### State duties include:

- security assistance to state law enforcement
- emergency preparedness & response
- disaster relief

The Governor can activate the National Guard components under his control for state active duty in Texas, and in support of adjacent states.



The Texas Army National Guard is composed of approximately 19,000 soldiers, and maintains 117 armories in 102 communities.

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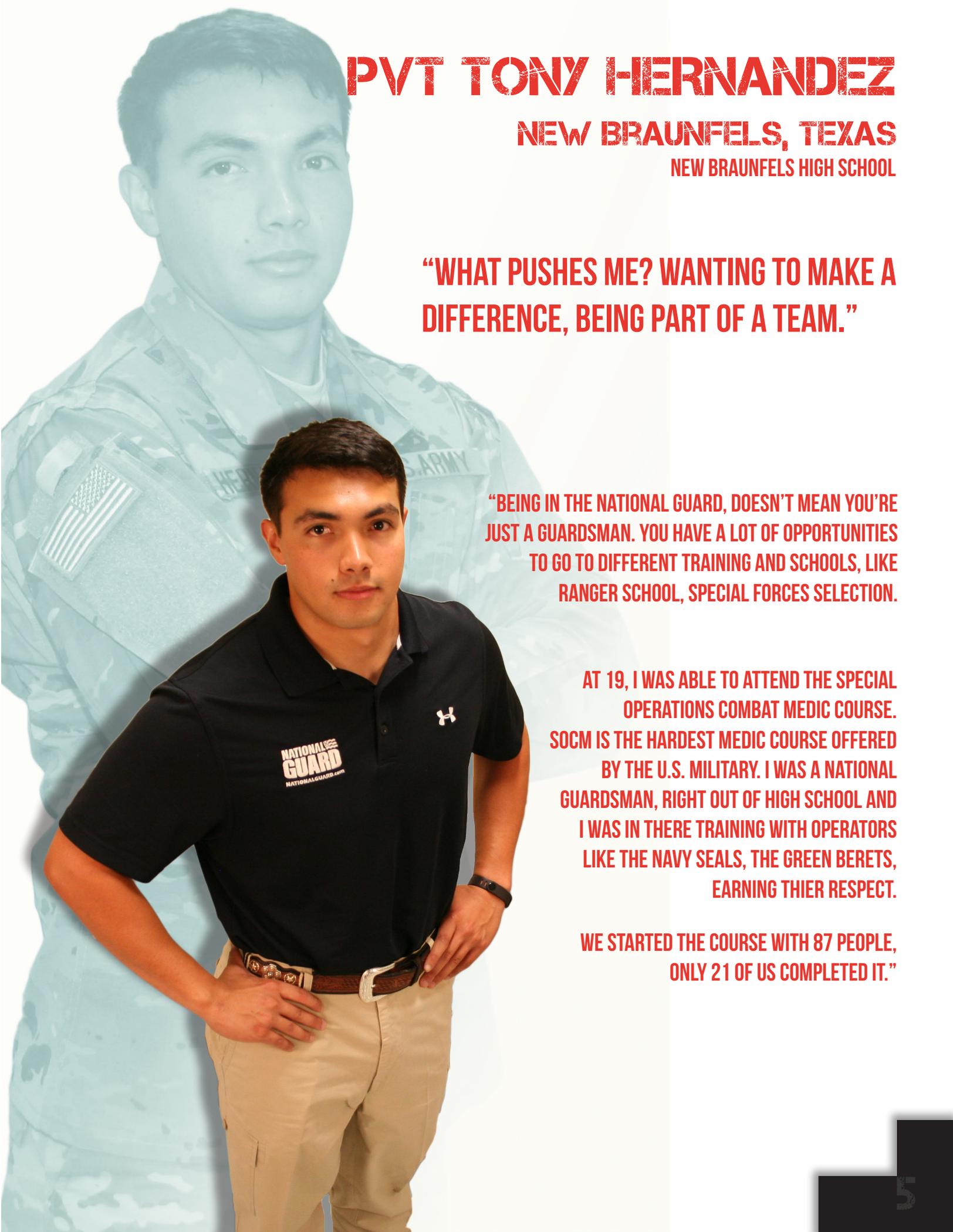
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1-800-GO-GUARD (National)

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# PVT TONY HERNANDEZ

NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS

NEW BRAUNFELS HIGH SCHOOL

**“WHAT PUSHES ME? WANTING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, BEING PART OF A TEAM.”**

**“BEING IN THE NATIONAL GUARD, DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE JUST A GUARDSMAN. YOU HAVE A LOT OF OPPORTUNITIES TO GO TO DIFFERENT TRAINING AND SCHOOLS, LIKE RANGER SCHOOL, SPECIAL FORCES SELECTION.**

**AT 19, I WAS ABLE TO ATTEND THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMBAT MEDIC COURSE. SOCM IS THE HARDEST MEDIC COURSE OFFERED BY THE U.S. MILITARY. I WAS A NATIONAL GUARDSMAN, RIGHT OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL AND I WAS IN THERE TRAINING WITH OPERATORS LIKE THE NAVY SEALS, THE GREEN BERETS, EARNING THEIR RESPECT.**

**WE STARTED THE COURSE WITH 87 PEOPLE, ONLY 21 OF US COMPLETED IT.”**

# PFC CHERYL ALEXANDER

WATAUGA, TEXAS

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, KELLER, TX

“THE ADVENTURE IS TO GO OUT AND DO IT.”

“I WAS ABLE TO GO TO BASIC TRAINING OVER THE SUMMER BETWEEN MY JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEAR. THAT MEANT I COULD BEGIN ADVANCING MY MILITARY CAREER AND ALSO START EARNING COLLEGE CREDITS. AFTERWARDS I WAS ABLE TO COME BACK AND HELP OTHER PEOPLE WHO WERE ENLISTING LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT TO EXPECT.

COMING BACK TO SCHOOL AFTER BASIC TRAINING WAS VERY DIFFERENT... I FELT MORE DISCIPLINED MORE MATURE.

I WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT THE TEXAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD IS A LOT LIKE THE REGULAR ARMY EXCEPT WE SERVE BOTH THE COUNTRY AND THE STATE OF TEXAS. WHEN THERE ARE FLOODS, HURRICANES, TORNADOES, WILDFIRES OR ANYTHING ELSE, WE WILL BE THERE TO HELP AND KEEP THEM SAFE.”



# PVT HERGER KABAKA

CONGO, AFRICA

**“AS A BOY IN AFRICA, BEING AN AMERICAN SOLDIER WAS MY DREAM.”**

**“WHEN I WAS BACK HOME, I ALWAYS KNEW I WANTED TO BE AN AMERICAN SOLDIER ONE DAY. WE WOULD SEE AMERICAN SOLDIERS OUT HELPING US, AND AT THE EMBASSIES.**

**IN 2014 I MOVED TO AMERICA, TO TEXAS AND LEARNED ENGLISH, BECAUSE I KNEW THE NATIONAL GUARD WOULD HELP ME EARN MY CITIZENSHIP AND HELP ME PAY FOR SCHOOL. SCHOOL IS VERY EXPENSIVE.**

**WHEN I JOINED THE NATIONAL GUARD, MY FAMILY BACK HOME WAS PROUD, VERY PROUD BECAUSE THEY ALL KNOW THAT THE UNITED STATES SOLDIERS ARE THE BEST IN THE WORLD.**

**I AM HONORED TO BE ABLE TO SERVE THE COUNTRY THAT WELCOMED ME. I FEEL I HAVE A DUTY TO PROTECT ITS PEOPLE.”**



# PVT ELISA GARCIA

ARLINGTON, TEXAS

TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE

**“YOU CAN DO IT ALL, ANYTHING YOU  
SET YOUR MIND TO, JUST DO IT.”**

**“I WANT TO BE A ROLE MODEL TO MY FAMILY AND MY  
COMMUNITY TO SHOW OTHERS THAT THEY CAN DO  
ANYTHING. THEY CAN BE ANYTHING THEY WANT.**

**I CHOSE THE TEXAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD BECAUSE  
I KNEW THEY WOULD PUSH ME AND SHOW ME HOW  
STRONG I COULD BE.**

**I ALSO DIDN'T WANT MY PARENTS TO GO INTO  
DEBT FOR MY COLLEGE, I DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE  
ANY DEBT. SO BEING ABLE TO HELP OTHERS  
WHILE I PAY FOR MY COLLEGE WAS GREAT.”**



# PFC PARKER BONNEAU

MANSFIELD, TEXAS

TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE

“I WANT TO GET A DEGREE IN FIREFIGHTING. TRAINING AS A COMBAT MEDIC IN THE TEXAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD WILL QUALIFY ME AS AN EMT, WHICH WILL SHORTEN MY TIME IN THE FIREFIGHTER ACADEMY BY HALF. THAT WILL ALLOW ME TO WORK AS AN EMT WHILE I GO TO COLLEGE.

MY FIRST DRILL WAS ON LAND NAVIGATION. WHEN I SHOWED UP, I HAD NO IDEA HOW TO READ A MAP, I'D NEVER EVEN USED A MAP. BY THE END OF DRILL, I KNEW HOW TO FIND MY POSITION ON A MAP, HOW TO ORIENT MYSELF AND TRAVEL TO A LOCATION USING COORDINATES. I LOVE CHALLENGES, DOING THINGS I'VE NEVER DONE. EVERY DRILL WAS AN ADVENTURE BECAUSE IT WAS LEARNING ABOUT SOMETHING I'D NEVER DONE BEFORE. SQUAD MANEUVERS, CLEARING BUILDINGS, BATTLEFIELD MEDICINE... THOSE WERE ALL ADVENTUROUS TO ME.”

“ I WANT MY LIFE, MY JOB TO MEAN SOMETHING, TO HAVE A PURPOSE. JOINING THE GUARD GAVE ME BOTH OF THOSE THINGS.”

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# STRAIGHT TICKET OPTION

## PATHS TO YOUR SUCCESS -

The Split Option allows Texas Army Guardsmen to enlist while still in High School or college and attend training during their summer breaks.



By attending BCT and AIT back-to-back, students qualify for all of their education benefits.

This is helpful for students who need assistance paying for college.

This option ensures students satisfy all of their initial entry training prior to starting college.

In addition to qualifying for all of their education benefits prior to college, the student will not have to take time off from school to receive their required initial training.

# SERVE AND STUDY

# EDUCATION & INCENTIVES

KEEPING TEXAS STRONG -

2015 STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

**\$1,434,878.00**

2015 FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE

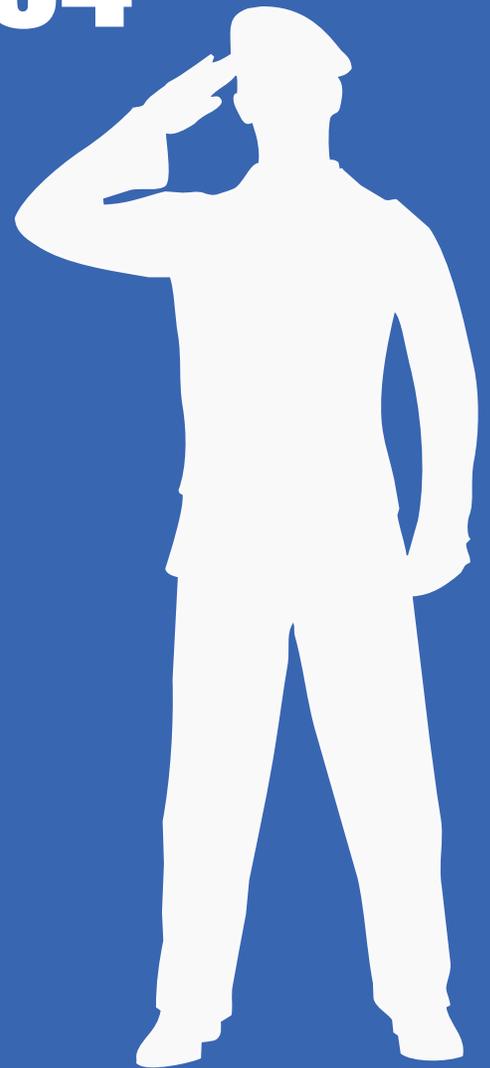
**\$2,052,422.71**

2015 TOTAL ENLISTMENT BONUSES

**\$8,109,062.50**

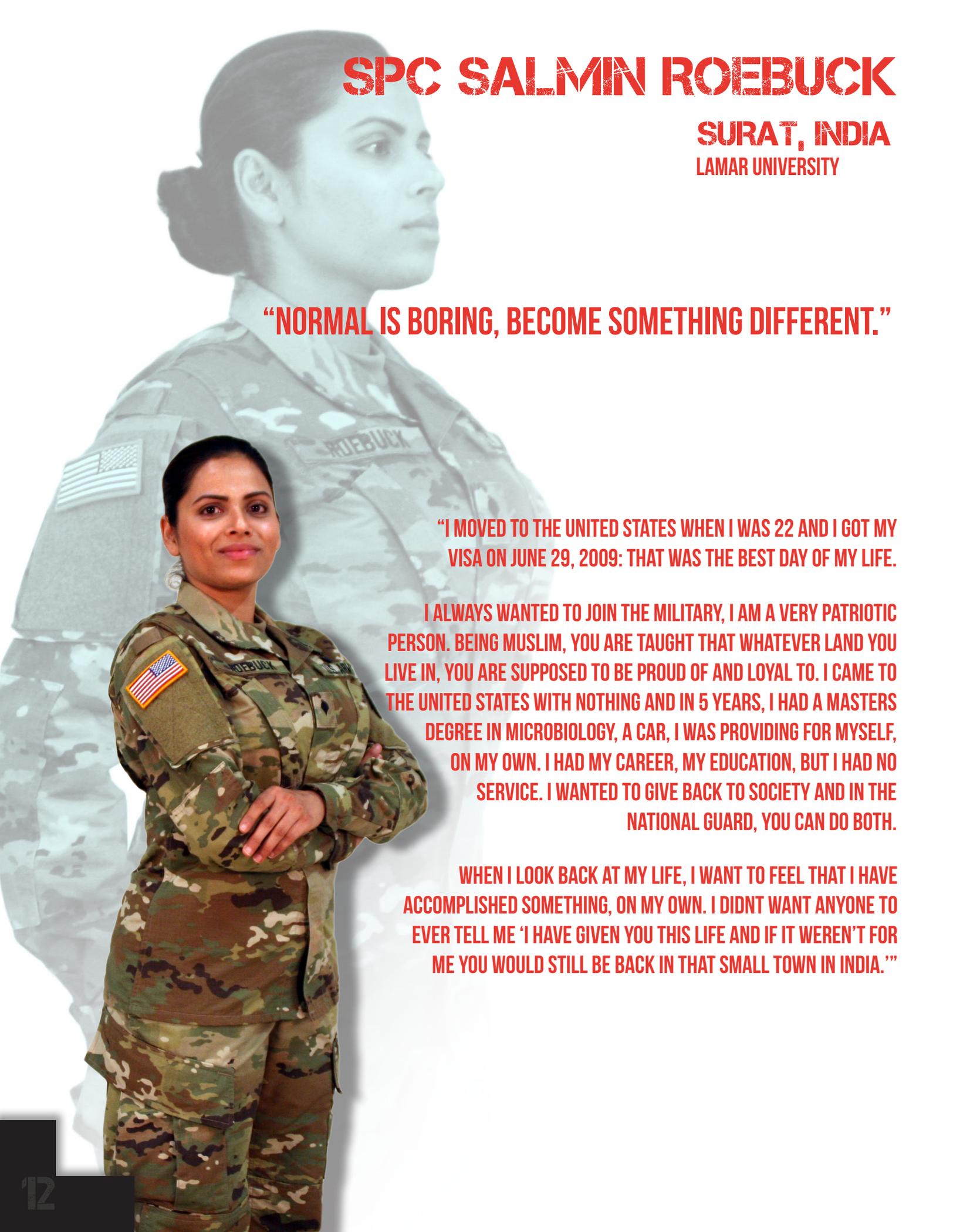
TOTAL NUMBER OF SOLDIERS TO  
RECEIVE BONUSES

**1,454**



TOTAL NUMBER OF SOLDIERS TO  
RECEIVE BENEFITS

**3,260**



# SPC SALMIN ROEBUCK

SURAT, INDIA  
LAMAR UNIVERSITY

**“NORMAL IS BORING, BECOME SOMETHING DIFFERENT.”**

**“I MOVED TO THE UNITED STATES WHEN I WAS 22 AND I GOT MY VISA ON JUNE 29, 2009: THAT WAS THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE.**

**I ALWAYS WANTED TO JOIN THE MILITARY, I AM A VERY PATRIOTIC PERSON. BEING MUSLIM, YOU ARE TAUGHT THAT WHATEVER LAND YOU LIVE IN, YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE PROUD OF AND LOYAL TO. I CAME TO THE UNITED STATES WITH NOTHING AND IN 5 YEARS, I HAD A MASTERS DEGREE IN MICROBIOLOGY, A CAR, I WAS PROVIDING FOR MYSELF, ON MY OWN. I HAD MY CAREER, MY EDUCATION, BUT I HAD NO SERVICE. I WANTED TO GIVE BACK TO SOCIETY AND IN THE NATIONAL GUARD, YOU CAN DO BOTH.**

**WHEN I LOOK BACK AT MY LIFE, I WANT TO FEEL THAT I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING, ON MY OWN. I DIDNT WANT ANYONE TO EVER TELL ME ‘I HAVE GIVEN YOU THIS LIFE AND IF IT WEREN’T FOR ME YOU WOULD STILL BE BACK IN THAT SMALL TOWN IN INDIA.’”**

# PVT PAYTON LAUDER

HOUSTON, TEXAS  
CONCORDIA LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

**“IT’S A CALLING. A CALL TO SERVE.”**

**“MY FAMILY HAS A HISTORY OF SERVICE. MANY OF MY FAMILY MEMBERS HAVE SERVED IN THE MILITARY. MY GRANDFATHER WAS A POLICE OFFICER, MY FATHER IS A SHERIFF.**

**I ALWAYS KNEW I WANTED TO JOIN THE ARMY, BUT I ALSO WANTED TO GO TO COLLEGE. MY UNCLE IS IN THE ARMY AND WHEN I TALKED TO HIM ABOUT IT, HE SUGGESTED THE NATIONAL GUARD.**

**SOMEDAY I WANT TO BE A GAME WARDEN OR A POLICE OFFICER AND BY JOINING THE GUARD, I CAN GET TRAINING, SERVE MY COUNTRY, AND STILL GO TO SCHOOL.”**



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# SERVICE EQUALS EXPERIENCE:

## WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE LOOKING FOR

**Colonel Robert Gaudsmith** is a combat veteran of the United States Military. He is also the Regional Media Manager for MediaCom, one of the world's leading media agencies whose clients include; Volkswagen, Dell, Subway, Revlon, Shell and Bayer.

**TS:** Good afternoon Colonel, thank you for taking the time to speak to us today.

**RG:** No problem, glad to be here.

**TS:** Can you tell us how long you have been a member of the military?

**RG:** 29-1/2 years. I retire in December with 30 years commissioned service. I was commissioned from the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M.

**TS:** Could you please tell us a little about your background, what degrees and professional certifications you have?

**RG:** I have a BBA in Marketing from Texas A&M, and a Masters in Strategic Studies at the U.S. Army War College. I am also very active in leadership in my church.

**TS:** So in addition to your role in the military, you have a very successful civilian career also?

**RG:** Yes, I am currently the Regional Media Manager for MediaCom. I manage the Regional marketing communication program for Volkswagen. Essentially, I plan and sell advertising plans for 18 dealer co-ops in the South Central Region for VW. I manage budgets and sell ideas to dealers. All this is in support of VW's regional marketing manager and national marketing team.

**“MILITARY SERVICE ON A 20-SOMETHING’S RESUME MEANS THEY HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGE IN MATURITY AND TEAMWORK... PERIOD.”**

**TS:** Would you say that there are skills that your service in the military have taught you that made you more successful back in your civilian career?

**RG:** Absolutely. The military has taught me several valuable lessons. Team work, attention to detail, and discipline. The clients depend on me to get difficult projects done on time. I work in a highly collaborative and competitive environment and the military teaches you how to deal with different personalities and have the discipline to push through roadblocks. I know some goals take years to accomplish and I take the long view of things.

**TS:** What does military service mean to you when you see it on a resume?





**RG:** Military service on a 20-something's resume means they have a significant advantage in maturity and team work, period. Many employers find hiring millennials challenging. Veterans are much less likely to display the traditional weaknesses of millennials. Also, it shows they have problem solving skills: They found a way to pay for college.

**TS:** Many people generally see the military and civilian worlds as very, very different. Can you compare and contrast your experience with leadership in military and civilian sectors?

**RG:** The military teaches leadership. The civilian sector teaches management. A leader focuses on the mission and the whole person. A manager focuses on one aspect of an individual for a very specific task. While there are leaders in corporate America and managers in the military, the culture of the military builds leaders.

**TS:** What about team work and task management, similar or different?

**“PERSEVERE AND I PROMISE YOU WILL GET MORE OUT OF IT THAN YOU EVER INVESTED.”**

**RG:** The military teaches “team work” in general to prepare for unexpected tasks. Corporate task management has more emphasis efficiently completing specific work on time and on budget.

The corporate world is much more competitive from a dollar perspective.

**TS:** One of the core tenets of the military is Selfless Service. Can you tell us what the idea of Selfless Service means to you?

**RG:** I personally believe it is an honor to serve something bigger than oneself. I have worn the uniform of our country for almost 30 years. I can call myself a combat veteran and know I have joined a long line of men and women who came before me. I have made a difference in the lives of many.

**TS:** What advice/words of wisdom do you have for young people considering a military career?

**RG:** Take the long view of life. The military training can be difficult because it needs to be that way.

# MEDICAL BENEFITS

## TAKING CARE OF SOLDIERS & THEIR FAMILIES

Texas National Guard members have access to TRICARE Reserve Select, a high quality and affordable health insurance plan:

The cost for a Soldier and Family is

**\$210.83** per month or  
**\$2,520** annually

The average cost for a comparable plan in the civilian market:

An annual deductible of no more than \$300 per family.

No Co-Pays.

The cost for an Individual is  
**\$388.00** per month or  
**\$4,656** annually\*

This doesn't include family members, co-pays, coinsurance, deductibles, prescriptions or specialist visits.

\*source The National Council of State Legislatures study in premium increases dated 5/16

# MILITARY TERMINOLOGY

## ABBREVIATIONS, ACRONYMS, DEFINITIONS

### MILITARY ENTRANCE TESTING SITE

At one of the 14,000 METS (Military Entrance Testing Site) you'll take your Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB). These series of tests will be used to determine your qualification for military service and help determine your intellectual and occupational strengths.

### MILITARY ENTRANCE PROCESSING STATION

There are 65 MEPS (Military Entrance Processing Station) throughout the United States of America where applicants are processed and receive physical exams prior to shipment to Basic Training.

### BASIC COMBAT TRAINING

BCT (Basic Combat Training) is a demanding 10-week course broken into 3 phases of roughly three weeks each. The intense training will transform you from ordinary civilian to Citizen-Soldier under the expert guidance of your drill sergeants.

### ADVANCED INDIVIDUAL TRAINING

After BCT, your life in the military begins. At AIT (Advanced Individual Training) you'll learn what you need to know to do your specific MOS (Military Occupational Specialty). There are over 150 options in several career fields to choose from.

# IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS



## FITNESS PROGRAMS

Give your high school students the unique opportunity to harness the same team-building Challenges used by the US Army Rangers, professional sports teams, and college athletes with the SpeedTracs' programs.

## CAREER PREPARATION

Career Direction 2's no-cost workshop enhances your school's career development efforts, helps students involve their parents, and gives each student an individual understanding of key career concepts.



## GOAL SETTING

The Texas Army National Guard offers real conversations (not lectures) that are designed to enrich your school's curriculum, broaden individual perspectives, and aid in setting higher goals to shape a better future for each student.



## ANTI-BULLYING CAMPAIGNS

Created by recognized experts from Harvard, the HEAR program has helped thousands of students understand bullying, recognize bullying, and think about what they can do when they witness bullying.

# GUARD YOUR FUTURE

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO BRING THESE RESOURCES TO YOUR SCHOOL

# CONTACT US NOW

CALL YOUR LOCAL REGION'S  
REPRESENTATIVE OR CONTACT THE  
NATIONAL NUMBER 1-800-GO-GUARD

Abilene

SFC A. Jeanes  
**1-325-725-7226**

Dallas

SFC D. Rodriguez  
**1-972-556-0319**  
EXT. 7214100

Austin

SFC K. Stefanos  
**1-210-808-5812**

SFC C. Dougherty  
**1-713-397-7426**

Houston



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