

THE DISPATCH

August 2012

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Family and friends gather to wish Task Force Arrowhead good luck and “hurry home soon.”

TXSG CHANGE OF COMMAND 9

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CLEANING UP CIF RECORDS. 10

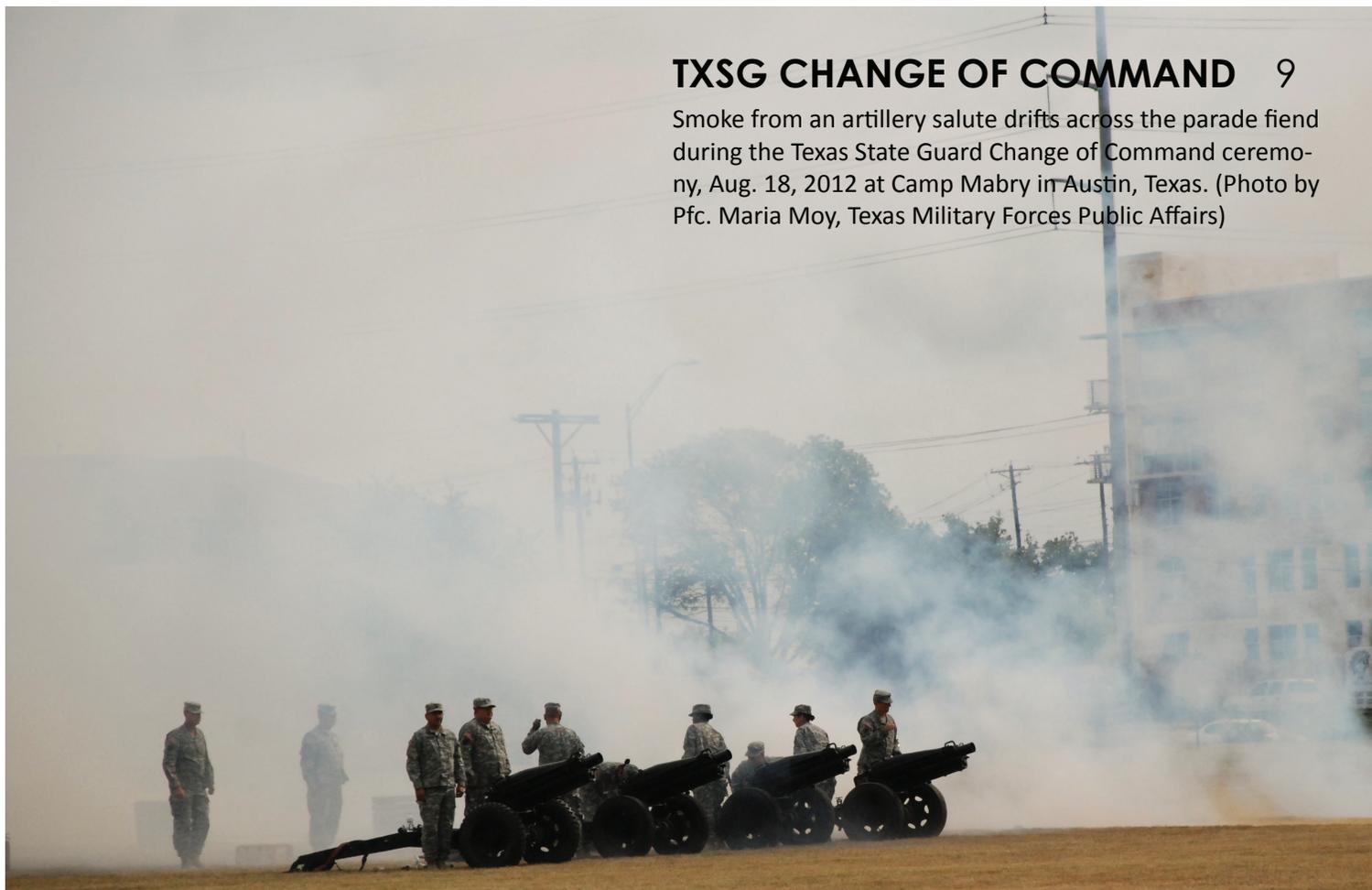
COPA aims to clean up mismatched CIF records, to make better use of materials and equipment issued to the TXMF.



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TXSG CHANGE OF COMMAND 9

Smoke from an artillery salute drifts across the parade field during the Texas State Guard Change of Command ceremony, Aug. 18, 2012 at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas. (Photo by Pfc. Maria Moy, Texas Military Forces Public Affairs)



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Maj. Gen. Manuel "Tony" Rodriguez accepts the Texas State Guard guidon from Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, Texas Adjutant General, signifying the change of command of the Texas State Guard on August 18, 2012 at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas. (Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Janet Schmelzer, Texas State Guard Public Affairs)

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U.S. Army National Guardsmen deployed to the Horn of Africa exchanged best practices in three different night vision goggle, or NVG, familiarization seminars hosted this summer by two East African nation militaries.



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Three-event PT test retained pending further study

FORT EUSTIS, Va. (Aug. 26, 2012) -- The Army will retain the current three-event Army Physical Fitness Test, pending a study to determine the best method to measure baseline Soldier physical readiness.

U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command found that implementing changes to how the Army assesses physical fitness would be premature.

For more information, visit <http://www.army.mil/article/86147/>.

Calendar

September-

National Preparedness Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sep. 15- Oct. 15)

National Suicide Prevention Month

Air Force Birthday (Sep. 18)

Texas Military Forces Museum Casino Night Fundraiser (Sep. 22)

Texas Military Forces 5k Run for Suicide Prevention/Awareness (Sep. 23)

October-

National Crime Prevention Month

National Depression Education and Awareness Month

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

National Brain Injury Awareness Month

Army Family Covenant Anniversary

November-

Native American Heritage Month

Military Family Appreciation Month

Aviation History Month

Veterans Day (Nov. 11)

Armistice Day (Nov. 11)

Thanksgiving (Nov. 22)

From the Desk of the Public Affairs Officer

Transitions

As summer turns to fall, we more visibly see transitions in our weather, and support those transitioning home from deployment or transitioning to new missions and service overseas.

Our forces continue to prepare to support Texas citizens, while simultaneously training for overseas deployments. The dedication and commitment to service and each other continues to be tested by world events and personal choices.

Our leaders hope to instill resilience in our force, especially during a month where we recognize Worldwide Suicide Prevention Day. Our Adjutant General's goal is clear: Texas will not leave any Soldier or Airman behind in the fight to prevent being robbed of our most precious resource: our employees.

Echoing this message, the Texas Army National Guard Commander, Major General Joyce Stevens, encourages all TXARNG soldiers, families and civilians to actively seek help for themselves or others in distress. "Every day, is the day to pay attention to this topic", said Stevens. To raise awareness for our resilient force and to promote suicide awareness, the TXARNG will conduct a suicide safety down to reduce the stigma of asking for help.

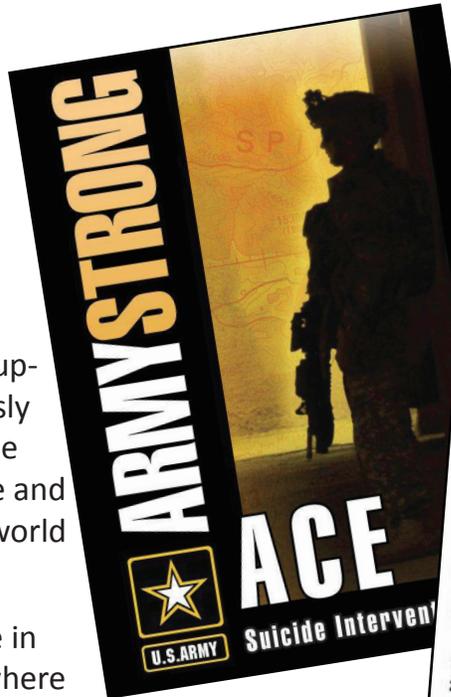
"Real courage and strength is demonstrated by addressing these issues head on." says Nichols.

If you or someone you know is going through a difficult time, the Texas Military Forces has the resources to help those in need become more resilient.

The first step is making a phone call to 1-800-252-8032.

Remember this acronym : ACE -- A (Ask) C (Care) E (Escort)

No permanent transition should be made because of temporary circumstances.



Col. Amy F. Cook
Public Affairs Officer

JCEP 1000th Hired Recognition Ceremony



On Friday, August 24, 2012, Maj. Gen. Joyce L. Stevens, Assistant Adjutant General-Army for Texas and Commander of the Texas Army National Guard honor the Job Education Connection Program (JCEP) for having in 1000th Service Member hired in Texas. Originally began as a pilot program in Texas, Spec. Anthony Tony Christmas became the 1000th JCEP participant hired when he accepted a position with Aramark Uniform Services in Dallas, Texas. (National Guard photo by Laura L. Lopez).

NATIONAL GUARD

JOB CONNECTION EDUCATION PROGRAM

For more information on JCEP, visit www.jcep.info or call Mike Carter at 512.644.4824

BUSINESS STEPS UP:

HIRING OUR HEROES

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and veteran recruiting partner RecruitMilitary are proud to present this Hiring Our Heroes event to all military job seekers and their spouses. This exclusive hiring fair is free for servicemembers, veterans, and spouses and will be held in San Antonio. This is an excellent opportunity for top employers from across the country to connect with high caliber candidates.

November 15, 2012

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Irving Convention Center
500 Las Colinas Boulevard
Irving, TX 75039

Job seekers, click [HERE](#)

Employers, click [HERE](#)

For more information, visit www.uschamber.com/hiringourheros.com



COMMUNITY GATHERS TO SAY GODSPEED



Clockwise from top left- The color guard stands at attention during the Security Forces Advise and Assist Team deployment ceremony at Manor New Tech High School in Manor, Texas on July 31, 2012. Forty seven teams, comprised of almost 450 Soldiers from units all across Texas will advise and train the Afghan National Security Forces counterparts, building trust and positive working relationships.

Top right- Soldiers render honors during the playing of the National Anthem.

Middle right- Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, Texas Adjutant General addresses the Soldiers, families and community during the SFAAT deployment ceremony.

Bottom right- Capt. William C. Willett takes a moment with his son, Chance, 6, after the SFAAT deployment ceremony.

Middle left- Col. Anthony Woods and Command Sgt. Maj. Darrell Clendennen case the Task Force Arrowhead colors, signifying the SFAAT's transition from home station to training, and from there, deployment. (All photos by Staff Sgt. Jennifer D. Atkinson, Texas Military Forces Public Affairs.)



Texas State Guard Changes Command, Rodriguez assumes command from Peters

**Story by Maj. Michael Sullivan, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Janet Schmelzer and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Cary Wintz
Texas State Guard**

CAMP MABRY, Texas - In a change of command ceremony at Camp Mabry on Saturday, Aug. 18, 2012, Maj. Gen. Manuel "Tony" Rodriguez assumed command of the Texas State Guard (TXSG) from Maj. Gen. Raymond Peters.

The ceremony is a landmark event in the history of the Texas Military Forces and the TXSG to bid farewell to one commander and welcome another. The Texas State Guard, along with the Texas Army National Guard and Texas Air Guard, is a major component of Texas Military Forces under the command of the governor.

The Texas Military Forces are commanded by the state's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols.

Peters was commissioned in July 1965, as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. In July 2009, he was promoted to Major General and appointed commander of the Texas State Guard.

Reflecting on his 49 years of uniformed service, Peters said he was honored to see the organization grow and evolve into its present role as a major component of the Texas Military Forces.

"I'm fortunate that I got to serve in the Texas State Guard. I never dreamed I'd go this far," he said. "To the men and women of the state guard I say, 'Thank You.'"

He is succeeded by Rodriguez, who was commissioned in 1983, as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. During his career, Rodriguez served in Honduras, Germany, Desert Storm, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan and Iraq.

As part of the change of command ceremony, Rodriguez was promoted to Major General.

Rodriguez said he was honored by the appointment and looked forward to serving the people of Texas in this new role.

Paraphrasing WWII era Gen. Haywood Hansell, Rodriguez concluded his brief remarks by saying, "When I've done some more work, I'll do some more talking."

Nichols said the TXSG has become a key component of the Texas Military Forces over the last two decades, with the defining moment occurring during the activa-

tions in response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

"I've asked Gen. Rodriguez to take the baton from Gen. Peters and make the organization even better," said Nichols. "I told him, get ready. Now he's going to get to work helping Texas."



Top- Maj. Gen. Manuel "Tony" Rodriguez accepts the Texas State Guard guidon from Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, Texas Adjutant General, signifying the change of command of the TXSG.

Bottom- (L to R) Maj. Gen. Manuel "Tony" Rodriguez, incoming TXSG commander, Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, Texas Adjutant General and Maj. Gen. Raymond Peters, outgoing TXSG commander, review the assembled troops during the change of command ceremony.

TURN IT IN! COPA TAKES AIM AT GEAR

By Lt. Col. Stanley Golaboff
Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics

As the Texas Army National Guard transitions from the high deployment operational tempo of the Global War on Terrorism, it continues to implement the Campaign on Property Accountability (COPA) with intensity usually reserved for mobilization operations.

ALARACT 210-2010 and EXORD 259-10 outline the Army's Campaign on Property Accountability. The campaign intends to account for all Army property. Excess equipment or equipment not on record is reintegrated back into the Army supply system to make better use of materiel resources assigned to both units and individuals.

In the Army National Guard, this effort relies on synchronization between the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (DCSLOG), G4 supply and the United States Property and Fiscal Office (USPFO).

A prime example of this synchronization has been the ongoing effort to bring the Central Issue Facility- Installation Support Module (CIF-ISM) records of the TXARNG in line with current policy. This effort has included not only the DCSLOG office and USPFO but also the commanders and logistics personnel assigned to TXARNG MTOE and TDA units. The Texas CIF-ISM

warehouse contains the clothing records of just over 19,000 current TXARNG Soldiers and is valued at a little over \$54 million.

When Soldiers are discharged and still show clothing signed for from the CIF-ISM warehouse, a report, known as the CIF-ISM Discharge Report, is generated, showing a mismatch in the system. Currently, Texas exceeds the COPA goal of less than 5% of mismatched records.

However, great strides have been and are continuing to be made on the CIF-ISM front of the Campaign on Property Accountability. Over the last six months Texas has seen an 18% decrease in the number of records and the overall dollar value of Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment (OCIE) on the monthly CIF Discharge Report.

Texas conducted four regional CIF turns this past year in Midland, Corpus Christi, Houston and Fort Worth. During these week-long turn-in unit supply sergeants were able to work directly with CIF warehouse personnel to turn-in on hand OCIE from discharged Soldiers and correct errors to numerous individual clothing records. These efforts lead directly to the recovery and reintegration of just under \$700,000 of previously report unaccounted gear.

In addition, unit commanders have spent the last year contacting previous TXARNG Soldiers whose records do not show them as clearing the CIF warehouse properly; either by not turning in gear or failing to post turn-in documents if the Soldier cleared supply prior to their discharge. These efforts have enabled unit supply sergeants to gather an additional \$800,000 worth of gear scheduled for turn-in this fiscal year.

Commanders are also using the Financial Liability Investigation (FLI) process to resolve the accountability of many of these records. There are 700 open FLIs with a value of \$1.3 million in OCIE being investigated at this time to determine what if any liability exists for this property being unaccounted.



Maj. Gen. Joyce L. Stevens and Lt. Col. Stanley Golaboff discuss CIF issue and turn in at a recent leadership meeting. (Texas Military Forces Photo)

R MISMATCHES

Of course the real aim is to avoid having to resort to these reactive-type measures to ensure property accountability and as such the TXARNG has instituted several proactive steps. Among them is a change in turn-in policy, a more proactive monitoring methodology and a revised storage policy.

IAW with TXARNG policy 12-22 ETS management, Soldiers are now informed during their 90-day exit interview with their company commander that if they are still undecided about re-enlisting or have decided to ETS, that they are required to clear supply and turn in all OCIE on their clothing by the end of the following drill weekend. The intent is to ensure all gear is recovered 60 days prior to the Soldier's exiting the service.

A new monthly metric tracked at all levels is the number of unconfirmed OCIE records. An unconfirmed report is generated every time a change is made to an individual's clothing record. All changes to a Soldier's clothing record are required to be confirmed by the Soldier. The Soldier can either confirm his clothing record in person or online via the My Clothing tab on AKO. All confirmations are done using the Soldier's Common Access Card (CAC).

Finally, all commanders are highly encouraged to allow Soldiers to store their OCIE in a secure portion of the armory. Many of the newer facilities come equipped with either individual storage lockers or rooms where Soldiers can store locked duffel bags containing their OCIE.

These steps are by no means an all-inclusive listing of the numerous efforts that commanders and supply personnel are using to maintain property accountability but are just a few highlights of the multiple actions on numerous fronts that occur on a daily basis in the Army's efforts to implement the Campaign on Property Accountability.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP COPA?

- ALWAYS CONFIRM YOUR CLOTHING WHEN TURNING IN OR RECEIVING OCIE.
- KEEP COPIES OF ALL CLOTHING TRANSACTION (EITHER HARD COPY OR E-COPY).
- TURN-IN UNNEEDED OCIE WHENEVER POSSIBLE.
- TURN IN OBSOLETE OCIE.

Texas advise, assist teams tr

Story and photos by Sgt. Vanessa L. Josey
First Army Division East

CAMP SHELBY, MISS. - The first National Guard units identified to provide Security Force Assistance Advisor Team support in Afghanistan recently mobilized at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Miss. Not only is this a new mission for the National Guard, it's a new mission for the trainer mentors tasked to prepare those Soldiers for deployment.

The 158th Infantry Brigade, First Army Division East, mobilizes, trains, and validates Reserve Component Soldiers to meet all deployment requirements for worldwide missions.

The brigade normally trains brigade-size elements for traditional security forces missions. The brigade planners and trainers revamped their normal training strategies to meet the unique requirements of the SFA AT mission. However, for this SFA AT deployment, the brigade prepared to simultaneously train 47 teams with individual missions, explained Col. Christopher S. Forbes, 158th Inf. Bde commander.

"One of the main functions for the SFA AT team is enabling and advising the ANSF in their planning capability," said Forbes. 158th Inf. Bde

Training for the SFA AT mission required Forbes and his planners to take this planning requirement, all individual and collective Soldier skill requirements as well as the different types of advisory teams into account. They also planned around the changes to the unit structure. Comprised of nine-to-12 Soldiers, the SFA ATs must provide all support internally as opposed to a modularized brigade. The SFA AT members, however, have unique capabilities.

"Soldiers on these Security Force Assistance Advisor Teams are all subject matter experts who have deployed in their various fields multiple times," explained Master Sgt. Timothy Lawless, 158th Inf. Bde., senior operations noncommissioned officer. "Each member brings unique skills to their team."

Forbes explained the measures his team takes to ensure mobilization training is relevant, realistic and reflects the most current conditions Soldiers will face in theater.

"We do regular Pre-deployment Site Sur-

veys and always have people deployed overseas who send us reports and updates to ensure training is current, up-to-date, and the most relevant," said Maj. Donald Lambert, current operations officer, 158th Inf. Bde.

Additionally, Forbes and his team began working with the National Guard units approximately a year in advance.

"The SFAAT mission has three parts with multiple legs under each part," explained Command Sgt. Maj. William Gardner, senior enlisted advisor, 158th Inf. Bde. "One, the SFAAT team must build a trusting relationship with their ANSF [Afghan National Security Forces] counterparts. Two, they must build a working relationship with their Battle Space Owner (BSO). And, finally, they must learn how to put an Afghan official between the team and the problem, giving credibility to the ANSF."

"This is in keeping with the U.S. Army's design of being responsive, innovative, flexible, agile and lethal, providing versatility and depth to the Joint Force," continued Gardner. "When bringing teams together you're bringing together a concentration of knowledge and experiences gained through deployments."

Once in theater, SFA ATs provide mentorship and training, enabling Afghan National Security Forces to conduct more effective intelligence and tactical operations and to prevent terrorism and insurgency. When they arrive in theater,



Train for Afghanistan mission

the teams will be assigned in the following roles: Afghan National Army (ANA) Brigades Advisory Teams, Afghan Uniformed Police (AUP) Provincial Advisory Teams, Operations Coordination Center (OCC) Regional Advisory Teams, Operations Coordination Center (OCC) Provincial Advisory Teams, Afghan Uniformed Police (AUP) Brigade Advisory Teams, Afghan National Army (ANA) Infantry Kandak Advisory Teams, Afghan Uniformed Police (AUP) District Advisory Teams, Afghan National Civic Order Police (ANCOP) Kandak Advisory Teams.

"It is not give a cookie-cutter system," explained Lawless. "Each team will help the ANSF navigate their own systems for their mission set.

"SFA ATs must be able to plan a deliberate defense and ensure the ANSF do well," said Forbes. "We must provide SFA AT teams training in fundamentals of offense and defense and how to advise these in the field. This will only increase in its importance as the ANSF take a greater lead in security operations and BSOs get smaller with responsibility for larger areas."

"The type of training that develops these SFAT teams will also develop leaders for the future of our Army," said Gardner. "Our Army will be leaner and more agile. That requires leaders who are flexible and can make smart decisions quickly. This training will produce these leaders."

The 47 National Guard teams, primarily from Texas and Hawaii, began arriving at Camp Shelby in early August. Over the next several months, they'll complete post-mobilization training at Shelby. This includes security, medical, gunnery, convoy urban operations, react to IEDs or other unexploded ordnance, COIN, base defense, driver's training and take part in various Gunnery ranges. They'll also complete advisor specific training at Fort Polk, La. This includes advisor skill training, language training, COIN, culture training, working with an interpreter and Key leader engagement training. Prior to deploying, they'll complete their culminating training exercise at the National Training Center, Calif.



Above- Staff Sgt. Tremelle Gibson, a medic with the 2-351st Regiment Battalion 158th Infantry Brigade, looks on while Sgt. Edgar A. Caraveo, a field artilleryman with the 29th Brigade Combat Team, opens Cpl. Ian M. Hetzel's airway. The training is part of a Combat Life Saver course the Soldiers underwent in preparation to deploy on a Security Force Advise and Assistance Team to Afghanistan. **Opposite page-** Staff Sgt. Trammelle Gibson, a medic with the 2-351st Regiment Battalion, 158th Infantry Brigade, gives Combat Life Saver instruction to Soldiers who are part of a Security Forces Advise and Assistance Team slated for Afghanistan.

The SFA AT concept was created to support continued efforts to prevent terrorism and insurgency originating in Afghanistan. SFA AT are security forces assistant teams tasked with providing mentorship and training to help enable the Afghan National Security Force to conduct more effective intelligence and tactical operations and to prevent terrorism and insurgency. Successes in Afghanistan allow for transition from the comprehensive COIN strategy to an increased focus on training and mentoring with the ANSF. A key component of this strategy is our Army's ability to provide training and mentoring of the ANSF using SFA AT.

Army doctrine defines security force assistance (SFA) as the unified action to generate, employ, and sustain local, host-nation, or regional security forces in support of a legitimate authority.

A new concept and announced only last winter, the first SFA AT were comprised of active-duty Soldiers. The first SFA AT began training rotation in mid-January 2012 and deployed in the spring. The second iteration is slated for the fall of 2012.

Security force teams ensure mission safety and accomplishment

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Marasky
Provincial Reconstruction Team Kunar

KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – As Kiowa scout helicopters and soldiers from both the 1st Battalion 12th Infantry Regiment and Afghan National Army provide outer security, members of Provincial Reconstruction Team Kunar's engineering section conduct quality assurance checks at the Shigal Girl's School.

But the real security, both at the school and at the numerous other places that the PRT conducts its mission on a daily basis, falls to the team's security force element, composed of soldiers from A Company, 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry (Airborne) out of Austin, Texas.

The unique unit, the only airborne battalion in the National Guard, brings special mission capabilities and skillsets to the security mission of the PRT, according to Army National Guard Capt. Jeffrey Preston, A Company commander.

"What's unique about our unit is the way our mandate was created, we're very airborne ranger centric in those we bring into leadership roles," he said. "This is a factor out here in Kunar specifically, because we're seeing more traditional stand-off engagements and ambushes, and our guys are trained to conduct and counter those types of engagements."

A key factor in the team's success has been meeting the tactical directives set forth by the International Security Assistance Force commander, specifically using the appropriate amount of force to combat the enemy, an area in which the team has excelled, according to Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Jason Broyles, the team's platoon sergeant.

"It comes right down to the scope of their duties and how they are conducting themselves, which has been exceptional," he said. "At no point have they been over-aggressive or under-aggressive, it's a very fine line that a soldier has to walk, and our guys have done an extremely good job of walking that path."

The good work done by the security force element has been noted by the PRT

leadership as well, as U.S. Navy Cmdr. Michael Yesunas, PRT Kunar commander, complimented them on their professionalism and military bearing.

"They have allowed us to safely continue our mission with confidence, poise and professionalism," he said. "They always use the amount of force necessary to take the fight to the enemy and protect the people of Afghanistan at the same time."

Fortunately for the PRT, the engagements with the enemy have been few and far between, which provides its own challenges for the combat ready security force element according to Preston.

"There aren't a lot of dynamic missions within the PRTs, we're not conducting raids or providing cordons, our intent is non-lethal, it's all about governance and stability," he said. "What we're getting from across all of the provinces is that our guys aren't giving in to the boredom and complacency that can come from this stable mission set. They remain focused and ready, so that if a threat does present itself, they aren't caught off guard."

That professionalism is visible not only in the way the security forces

conduct themselves, but in the way the engineers, agricultural specialists and civil affairs personnel, as well as key leaders within the PRT and local governance conduct their missions without fear thanks to the efforts of the soldiers, said Yesunas.

"The nature of the PRT mission is heavy with meetings with local leaders, and speaking to them and using what they're giving you to help them with a way forward with their country," he said. "When I'm in these meetings I can't concentrate on my security, but I have absolute confidence that we're safe and the guys outside are watching over us."

"I don't have to worry about if they'll do the right thing or not, I know they will, and they'll keep us all safe," said Yesunas. "I think we have the best platoon in Afghanistan, and I'd put our guys against any enemy, and I know they'd come out as good or better than anyone else."

The day at the school ended quietly, with the engineers conducting their assessment and heading back home without incident, but confident that if needed, the team's Security Force element would be there to protect them.



Members of Provincial Reconstruction Team Kunar's Security Force Element wear the "Texas T" patch to show they are assigned to A Company, 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry (Airborne) out of Austin, Texas.

IN PHOTOS - TEXAS INFANTRY BATTALION PROVIDES SECURITY IN EASTERN AFGHANISTAN



KAPISA PROVINCE, Afghanistan – A Texas Army National Guard battalion deployed to eastern Afghanistan in February to provide security for a U.S. provincial reconstruction team charged with conducting governance and development missions here. The state's only airborne infantry battalion, the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, has spent the last six months protecting Provincial Reconstruction Team Kapisa as it coordinated projects across the mountainous eastern province. From funding road repair to putting the finishing touches on schools built for local children - both girls and boys - the PRT's missions have been made possible by the protective presence of their Texas troopers. These photographs were taken on two of the battalion's recent missions in Kapisa (All photos by Sgt. Roland Hale, Combined Joint Task Force 1 Public Affairs).

Texas Medics share knowledge

Story and photos by Spc. Heidi Krueger
Nebraska National Guard

VYSKOV, Czech Republic- Texas Army National Guard medical personnel traveled to the Czech Republic, July 9-13, to share their knowledge with the country's military medical personnel while building relationships they believe will enhance global security, understanding and cooperation through the National Guard's state partnership program.

The Texas Army National Guard medical personnel conducted subject matter expert classes and training on advanced trauma care with the Czech Republic Armed Forces medical personnel.

Involved in the training were the Texas National Guard's Capt. Angela Todd, physician assistant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-149th Aviation 36th Combat Aviation Brigade; Sgt. 1st Class Arthur Phillips, special forces medical sergeant with Company C., 5-19th Special Forces Group (Airborne); Staff Sgt. Robert Harris, health care specialist with Texas Medical Command; and Spc. Conrad Krueger, health care

specialist with 627th Heavy Dive Team.

While in the Czech Republic, the four Texas Guardsmen, who have a wide range of medical knowledge, were able to teach and give hands-on-training to approximately a dozen Czech Republic Armed Forces medical personnel. The Czech medical personnel, who included enlisted, warrant officers and officers, ranged from a combat lifesaver truck driver to family physicians and even a surgeon.

They mostly wanted to learn about all the advanced life saving innovations we knew and used, said Krueger.

Throughout their time in the Czech Republic, the Texas Guardsmen were able to teach and share advice on such things as advanced airway, intubation, needle chest decompression, hemorrhage and much more. They also shared stories from their experiences in the medical field.

"There were some tips or tricks from sergeant (Sgt. 1st Class Arthur) Phillips that helped me improve my knowledge," said Warrant Officer 1st Class Jari Duchon, military vice president of Czech Association of Combat Medics, "like how to treat a patient with small amount of materials."

The education wasn't one-sided, either. The Czech medical personnel were also able to pass on medical experience and information to the Texas medics. According to the Texans, this enabled them to return home with a better understanding of the Czech's medical system along with knowledge and tips they could use in their own practices.

"They taught us little techniques that they used to quickly find the second intercostal space for putting



2, friendship in Czech Republic

in a needle chest decompression,” said Krueger, “little techniques that medical personnel pass along to each other after being in different situations in your career.”

During one of the classes, the Texas medics not only used mannequins to create lifelike scenarios, but also pork ribs to help the Czech medical personnel better visualize the techniques the American Guardsmen use to do needle chest decompressions.

“It was great,” said Duchon. “It’s always a great experience to share knowledge. It doesn’t matter what it is, (combat lifesaver) or just training for medics and doctors, it’s always something new we can learn and we can share because everyone has some experience.”

For the Texans, the opportunity to share their knowledge and experiences with another culture was something they will never forget.

“It’s a great experience cooperating with a different country,” said Krueger. “Medical collation between countries on the battle field leads to a sense of interchangeable healthcare easily recognized at a higher level of care in the field.”

The Texas National Guard members also saw the exchange as a way to give back and do their part.

“It’s rewarding to know that if our Soldiers were ever treated on the battle field by these Czech medical professionals that it would be as if one of my fellow medics or myself were performing the treatment,” said Krueger. “I hope that we hear of or even get the chance to be a part of many more missions like this one.”

The Czech participants agreed.

“I think the cooperation was good,” said Duchon. “It was great because we meet each other during military deployments to Afghanistan and we complement each other, especially like medics, they are close to each other.”

“We must know how you treat a patient and how we treat a patient,” said Duchon about the importance of the training exchange. “The sharing of information improves



Opposite page, left- Staff Sgt. Robert Harris, a health care specialist with Texas Medical Command, demonstrates on Spc. Conrad Krueger, a health care specialist with 627th Heave Dive Team, how to properly stop blood from an open wound to a group of Czech Republic Army medical personnel in Vyskov, Czech Republic on July 12.

Opposite page, right- Warrant Officer 1st Class Jari Duchon, military vice president of Czech Association of Combat Medics, practices proper care of a wound on Spc. Conrad Krueger, a health care specialist with 627th Heave Dive Team, in Vyskov, Czech Republic on July 12.

Top right- Sgt. 1st Class Arthur Phillips, special forces medical sergeant with Company C., 5-19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), ensures proper placement when a Czech Republic Soldier demonstrates different medical procedures to his fellow Soldiers after Texas National Guard Soldiers gave classes on Advanced Trauma Care in Vyskov, Czech Republic on July 12.

the treatment because the only goal for medics is to save the lives.”

Both groups say they hope it isn’t the last time they have the opportunity to exchange information, either. “We want to share information in the future,” said Duchon, “not only with the Czech medics, but also internationally.”

The Texas National Guard members also saw this exchange and teaching of medical practices as a way to give back and do their part.

“It’s rewarding to know that if our Soldiers were ever treated on the battle field by these Czech medical professionals that it would be as if one of my fellow medics or myself were performing the treatment,” said Krueger. “I hope that we hear of or even get the chance to be a part of many more missions like this one.”

Texas National Guardsmen, East Africa militaries shed light on NVGs

*Story by Staff Sgt. Malcolm McClendon
Task Force Raptor (3-124 CAV)*

EAST AFRICA – U.S. Army National Guardsmen deployed to the Horn of Africa exchanged best practices in three different night vision goggle, or NVG, familiarization seminars hosted this summer by two East African nation militaries.

Sergeant 1st Class Andrew Filbeck and Spc. Rumaldo Hinojosa, Task Force Raptor, 3rd Squadron, 124th Cavalry Regiment, Texas Army National Guard, were invited by the Kenya Armed Services to participate in an NVG exchange May 28 to June 1 and later invited by the Djibouti Armed Forces to two additional NVG seminars held June 11-12 and June 23-26.

The seminars included the exchange of best practices on the maintenance and usage of the night vision system.

“We started with the basics of the goggles: how they work, the functions available, how to adjust the settings for best results, and how to wear them properly,” said Filbeck, a platoon sergeant in Charlie Troop. “We also discussed the limitations of the NVGs and how to work around them.”

At the end of each seminar the soldiers participated in a practical exercise to apply what they had learned.

“Each exchange ended with all of us putting on the NVGs and conducting a series of

events,” Filbeck said. “It gave us a chance to see how well we retained the information shared.”

Filbeck said he knows firsthand the value NVGs bring to men and women in combat environments.

“My squad and I used NVGs many times in Iraq during cordon and search missions, and dismounted and mounted patrols,” Filbeck said. “I was able to realize the importance and advantage these goggles give us to successfully conduct missions.”

At all three exchanges, he was asked to share these experiences with the partner nation soldiers.

“When they learned that I had experience using NVGs in Iraq, they immediately asked me to share them with the group, and I was honored to do so.” Filbeck said. “I feel privileged that I was able to not only contribute to the exchange, but learn from it as well. It’s good to know that maybe one day what was shared here could save someone’s life.”

Filbeck, Hinojosa, and the soldiers from Task Force Raptor (3-124th CAV) are deployed in support of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, whose mission is to strengthen partner nation military capacity in East Africa.



Djiboutian army soldiers walk to their start point during a night vision goggle class in Arta, Djibouti, on March 25, 2012. The U.S. Army's 3rd Battalion, 124th Regiment Cavalry Brigade, deployed in support of Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA), is helping train Djiboutian army soldiers for an upcoming deployment to Somalia. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Dan St. Pierre)

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