

THE

ISPATCH
3RD QTR 2013

THE MAGAZINE OF THE TEXAS MILITARY FORCES

ANNUAL TRAINING



**CAV soldiers train with
Guatemalan Army and Police**

**Governor Rick Perry
signs Chris Kyle bill**

**149th Fighter Wing
flies to Norway**

**SFAT train Afghan
security forces**

Download the COP app and stay in touch

The TXMF Common Operating Picture (COP) has come a long way in the past year. The COP, on Defense Connect Online, provides all Texas Military Forces members an overview of daily current operations to include potential weather threats and updated CCIRs from the Commander. It provides a summary of each event as well as real-time tracking of deployed Force Packages through the use of Sprint TeleNav cell phones, Blue Force Tracker and other friendly force tracking systems. Most importantly, it enables two-way communication between headquarters when using the chat function and works on almost all civilian smart phones or tablets.

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<https://connectcol.dco.dod.mil/txmfjoccop>

From the desk of the Public Affairs Staff:

As we wrap up the fall edition of the Dispatch, we would like to thank all of the members of the Texas Military Forces for the service you do. Without you, there would be no stories to tell.

For most of us, the summer means hard work and sweat in the hot Texas sun at Annual Training (AT). This edition of the Dispatch hopes to share some of the stories of your hard work and dedication during this time. From Fort Hood, all the way to Norway, our service members' stories show a force that is always ready to support the mission at hand.

As we move into fall, we would like to introduce you all to the two newest members of our team, and bid farewell to two of our own.

Lt. Col. Joanne MacGregor has joined us as the new Public Affairs Officer for the Texas Military Forces. With 23 years in the Army National Guard, MacGregor comes to us with a great deal of experience in many areas. We are looking forward to working with you Ma'am!

Maj. Travis Walters has also joined us, as the new Deputy Public Affairs Officer for the Texas Military Forces. New to both our office and the Texas Air Guard, he comes to us from the Active duty Air Force. Welcome to the Guard, Sir!

Col. Amy Cook, the former Public Affairs Officer, has left us. Ma'am, you were absolutely instrumental to our success. Your guidance and mentorship helped us to navigate through the murky waters of Public Affairs and Public Relations. We were sad to see her go, but luckily, she did not go far! Col. Cook is now serving our force as the J1.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Pettit, the former deputy Public Affairs Officer retired from our ranks after 28 years of service in the Texas Military Forces. His contributions to our office and to the Guard were many. We congratulate him and wish him the best. Sir, you will be missed.

And to all of our fellow service members, thank you for sharing your hard work and accomplishments with us. It is an honor to tell your story.

The Public Affairs Staff



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On the Cover



13 Bravo students at the 136th Regional Training Institute, Texas Army National Guard, conduct artillery training during annual training at Fort Hood, Texas, July 30, 2013. (Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Spires).



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Gov. Rick Perry



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The Texas Military Forces Public Affairs Office would like to thank all the contributing writers and photographers who generously share their work with us. Without the hard work and dedication of Soldiers, Airmen, and civilians, we would not be able to tell YOUR Texas Military Forces story.

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TEXAS MILITARY FORCES LEADERSHIP CHANGES



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TEXAS MILITARY FORCES



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COMMANDER
147TH RECONNAISSANCE WING



LT. COL. JAMES NUGENT
OFFICER IN CHARGE
36TH INFANTRY DIVISION



LT. COL. DANIEL QUICK
G3
36TH INFANTRY DIVISION



A 2,000 year-old ceramic pot, found on Camp Maxey, in Lamar County, Texas. (Photo by Texas Military Forces Cultural Resources Program).

TXMF Preserving our Past

Story and select photos by Capt. Martha Nigrelle Texas Military Forces Public Affairs Office

CAMP MABRY, Texas (Aug. 19, 2013) – Members of the Texas Military Forces (TXMF) and representatives from five different Tribal Nations living in Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma gathered here, in Austin, on Aug. 19, 2013, with one stated goal in mind – to protect their shared history.

Eight thousand years ago, long before any one nation's flag flew over this state, people lived here, on the land that is now known as Texas. Surrounded by the bluebonnets, rivers, hills and plains of Texas, people built homes, cooked meals and raised families. Today, their story remains buried throughout the Lone Star State.

In the 1990s, TXMF began consulting with Tribal representatives in order to identify artifacts and locations of significance. Since its conception, the exchange process has focused on addressing a variety of issues ranging from the protection of sensitive archaeological sites, which allow access and preserva-

tion of traditional natural resources for tribal use, to the identification and return of objects the tribes hold sacred.

"This is our opportunity to meet with different Tribal Nations and help preserve their history," said Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, The Adjutant General of Texas and Commanding General of the Texas Military Forces.

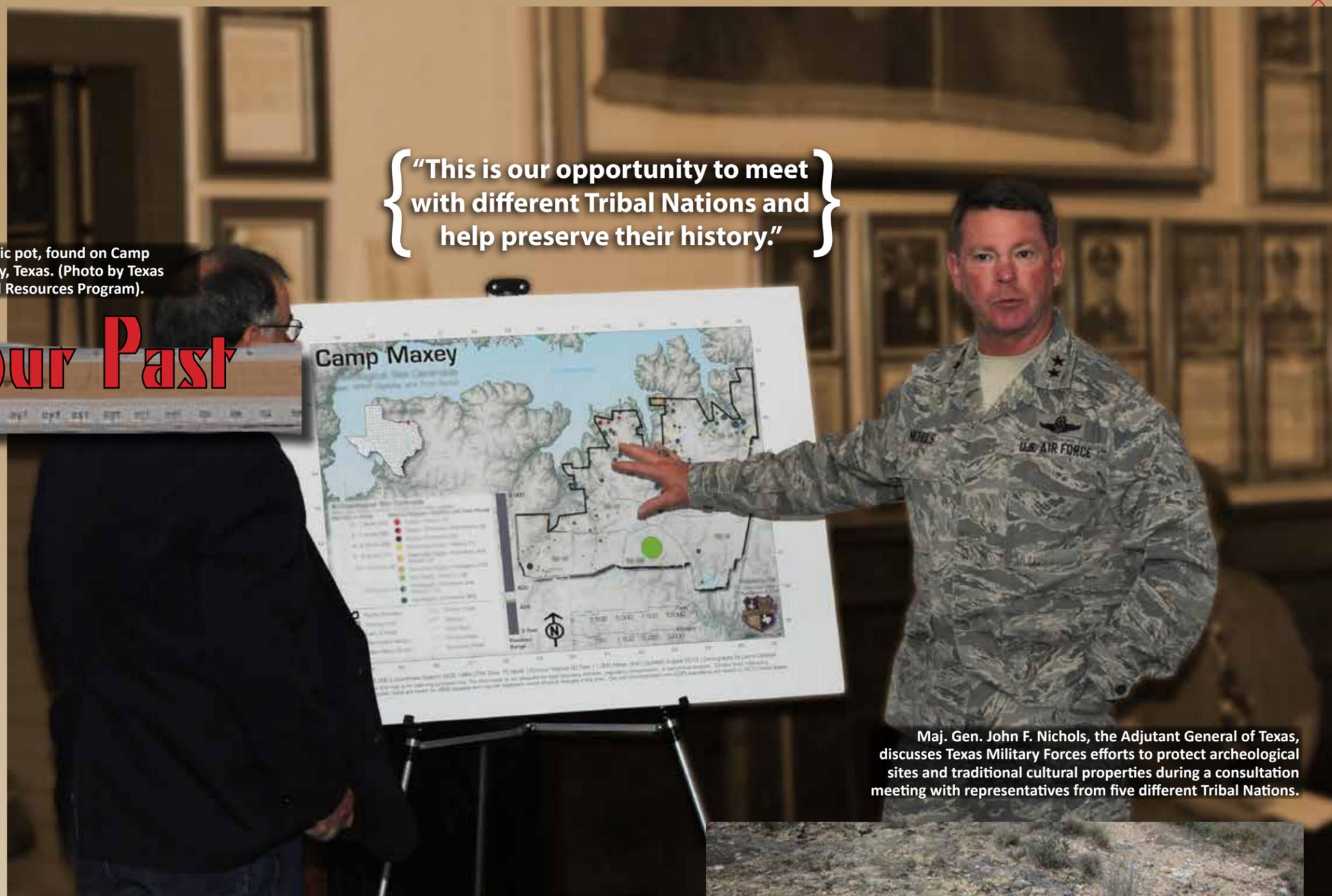
Today, representatives from the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, Caddo Tribe, Comanche Nation, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Kiowa Tribe, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Tonkawa Tribe, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes and the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma regularly meet with TXMF officials to discuss efforts being made to preserve both their heritage and ancient Texas history.

In 2005, according to TXMF Cultural Resource Program records, a 2,000 year old ceramic pot was unearthed

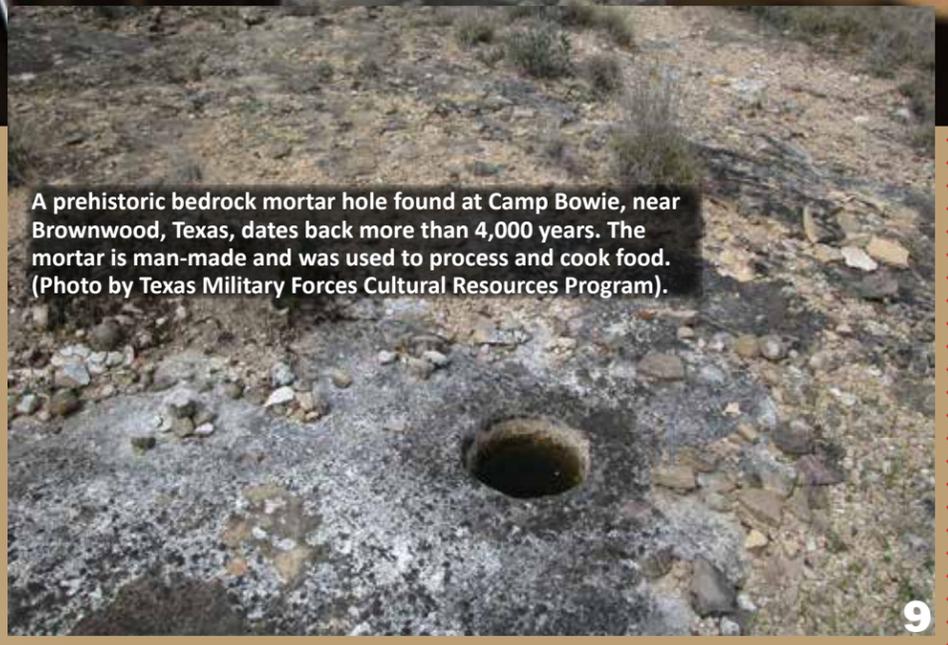
on TXMF property. After visiting with tribal leaders, it was discovered that the artifact held sacred significance to the Caddo Nation and was returned to the tribe.

Currently, TXMF has more than 700 protected archeological sites and has collected tens of thousands of artifacts that help depict life as it was, in Texas, thousands of years ago, said Kristen Mt Joy, Cultural Resource Program Manager for

"This is our opportunity to meet with different Tribal Nations and help preserve their history."



Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, the Adjutant General of Texas, discusses Texas Military Forces efforts to protect archeological sites and traditional cultural properties during a consultation meeting with representatives from five different Tribal Nations.



A prehistoric bedrock mortar hole found at Camp Bowie, near Brownwood, Texas, dates back more than 4,000 years. The mortar is man-made and was used to process and cook food. (Photo by Texas Military Forces Cultural Resources Program).

TXMF and a registered professional archeologist.

"The beautiful thing about our program is that [TXMF] is trying to acknowledge [the Tribal Nations'] role in the history of our state," Mt Joy said. "It isn't just a 'check the box' thing; [TXMF] really wants to hear what the Tribes have to say." The consultation process has resulted in more than artifact identification. As the partnership grows,



Charles Coleman of the Thlopthlocco Tribe presents a traditional wooden flute to Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, the Adjutant General of Texas. The flute was made by members of the Thlopthlocco tribe as one of the ways to preserve their heritage.

“The Tribes take great pride in the military. They understand that we have a mission to train Soldiers and prepare them for service.”

A red and yellow striped post marks a prehistoric site on Camp Bowie near Brownwood, Texas. Texas Military Forces works closely with representatives of 11 different Tribal Nations, whose ancestors once inhabited Texas, in an effort to identify areas of cultural significance and preserve ancient Texan history found on Texas National Guard training sites. (Photo by Texas Military Forces Cultural Resources Program).

TXMF officials are able to learn additional history about the tribes and about the people who once inhabited Texas. Areas that are of cultural significance are labeled traditional cultural property, and special care is taken to preserve the area in its natural state. For example, an area traditionally used to gather plants for medicines – this area TXMF will try to protect, to ensure that the same plant life can continue to grow.

In an attempt to protect these lands, both TXMF and their Tribal Nation partners understand that the focus does not stray from the installations’ primary mission of training service members.

[The Tribes] take great pride in the military,” Mt Joy said. “They understand that we have a mission to train Soldiers and prepare them for service.”

This annual consultation is “an opportunity to share and exchange information on improving preservation,” said Mt Joy. This consultation process has created a partnership between TXMF and each Tribal Nation.

During the meeting, Charles Coleman, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, presented Nichols with a traditional flute and thanked him for his commitment to partnering with

the Tribal Nations. According to Coleman, the flute was handmade, out of bamboo, by members of the Thlopthlocco tribe and is a replica of flutes played by their tribe many years ago.

As the meeting came to an end, a shared theme remained. Members of each tribe shared with each other, and with TXMF, what they are doing to record their history for future generations.

“It is our duty to preserve history,” Nichols said, reiterating a TXMF commitment to continue its work alongside the tribes. - **DISPATCH**

For more information on some of the archeological work being done on TXMF land visit:
<http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/bowie/index.html>.

The end of an era

Texas Air Guard bids farewell to Intel's "best of the best"

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Phil Fountain
149th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SAN ANGELO, Texas (Sept. 7, 2013) – The commander of the Texas Air National Guard's 217th Intelligence Training Squadron, located at nearby Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas relinquished command of the squadron during a ceremony that also marked the squadron's inactivation as a unit here, Sept. 8, 2013. The 217th is a geographically separated unit of the 149th Fighter Wing, which is headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio – Lackland, Texas.

In a traditional military ceremony, Lt. Col. James Marris, the squadron's commander, handed the unit's flag to Col. John F. Kane, the wing's commander, who then handed it to Command Chief Master Sgt. George B. Longoria, from the wing, before it was "cased" by the squadron's Chief Master Sgt. Pedro Tambunga.

The ceremony was held at San Angelo's historic Fort Concho and the attendees included: current and former members of the unit, state and federal military officials, and local residents and business owners.

The squadron's inactivation was ordered by the secretary of the Air Force, at the Pentagon, in Arlington, Va., to be effective Oct. 1, 2013. The decision was part of a broad force-restructuring package implemented by the Department of Defense.

"Our mission was to source, from throughout the Total Force, operationally experienced personnel and fully qualify them as Air Education and Training Command instructors," Marris said. "In addition, our guardsmen maintained the highest-possible level of readiness to accomplish the Defense Support to Civil Authorities

Incident Awareness mission, when directed by the governor."

Not just trained and ready, service members from the squadron were called out by the state on multiple occasions.

"From your service to the people of Texas during Hurricane Ike to your border security missions, the 217th has been instrumental to operations in the Lone Star State and beyond," Gov. Rick Perry wrote to the members of the squadron. "I hope that you will remember the excellence with which you performed your duties and the lasting importance of the training you gave your fellow service members."

During his speech, Marris discussed the professionalism and performance of the unit's members.

"In the six years of our existence as a squadron, the 50 full-time instructors of the 217th have taught over 94,000 hours – that's 50 percent more, on average, than their active-duty counterparts – and directly instructed and mentored over 15,700 Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance students," said Marris, who was the squadron's only commander during their period of activation. "Students who currently represent the backbone of our active duty, guard and reserve intelligence forces. Quite a legacy."

"The level of award-winning production achieved by the 217th is unprecedented for an organization of this size," Marris said. "Members of the 217th have won local and state-level recognition at a higher per-capita



Lt. Col. James Marris, commander of the Texas Air National Guard's 217th Intelligence Squadron, presents Col. John F. Kane, commander of the 149th Fighter Wing, with the squadron's flag, signifying his relinquishment of command, during a ceremony that included the squadron's inactivation, in San Angelo, Texas, Sept. 7, 2013.

rate than any other organization in the Texas Air National Guard during the last six years."

A senior, federal Air National Guard official shared the commander's sentiment.

"Since their federal recognition in 2009, the small cadre of 75 Air Guard Airmen represented the best of the best in the Intelligence community," Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clark III, director of the Air National Guard, in Arlington, Va., wrote in a letter to Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, The Adjutant General of Texas and Commanding General of the Texas Military Forces.

Nichols, a state official appointed by the governor, was on-hand and discussed the unit's short span of existence and its long-term legacy to the nation.

The 217th is "our shining star," Nichols said. "This is a

tough time. We never thought it was going to end as fast as it did."

"Thank you for what you've done," he said. "You make America better. You've trained great airmen and they're out making America safer, today. Without you, we wouldn't be as safe as we are – that's a fact for all to know. We won't forget."

Another senior officer compared the squadron's service during the past decade to units that were temporarily raised during the middle of the previous century.

"This unit has done an outstanding job in a wartime service," said Brig. Gen. Kenneth W. Wisian, Texas' Deputy Adjutant General for Air and Commander of the Texas Air National Guard. "Very much in the tradition of the hundreds of units that were stood up for a brief time, during World War II."



Command Chief Master Sgt. George B. Longoria, left, 149th Fighter Wing, Texas Air National Guard, holds the flag as Chief Master Sgt. Pedro Tambunga, 217th Intelligence Squadron, Texas Air National Guard, ceremoniously cases the flag for inactivation. San Angelo, Texas, Sept. 7, 2013.

“It was a call of Citizen-Airmen to answer the needs of the nation,” Wisian said.

The state has worked with the Airmen to prepare them for their transition from the squadron.

Marrs spent much of the past year focused and working with Texas ANG officials to take care of the airmen he’s led, said Brig. Gen. Brian C. Newby, deputy commander of the Texas Air National Guard.

“My feeling – at least up to this point – is we’ve done our best to try to make sure we have found a place for each and every one of our folks,” Newby said, “whether they’re retiring and we can honor them, whether there are new assignments they need to move on to, we want to make sure they remember their time here at the 217th.”

Marrs beamed with pride when he discussed the men and women he led as the squadron’s commander.

“There will likely never be another team like the one assembled under the banner of the 217th,” Marrs said. “I am honored to have served with this team – through both feast and famine.”

Marrs retired from military service in a ceremony, which followed the inactivation of the squadron he led from its inception. He served nearly 30 years to the state and nation, and said he and his wife plan to remain in San Angelo.

“It’s been a challenging and rewarding journey,” Marrs said. - 149th FW PAO



Celebrate TXMF Recycles Day

Camp Mabry
November 14, 2013

Come by Bldg. 58a between 10am - 2pm
for a chance to win great prizes.





Looking ahead

Texas National Guardsmen help prepare Afghan Security forces for future

Story and photos by Sgt. Jessi McCormick
102nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

TARIN KOT, Afghanistan (July 7, 2013) - Security Force Assistance Team (SFAT) members from the 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Texas Army National Guard, ended their tour in Uruzgan province, Afghanistan, July 23, 2013, having overseen important progress in their partnered police force.

Five SFAT teams, commanded by Lt. Col. William Phillips, from Leander, Texas, deployed with Combined Team Uruzgan to help the police gain a better understanding of their logistics, maintenance and training systems.



Sgt. Joshua Prescott, Security Force Assistance Team, Texas National Guard, provides security at a police station in Tarin Kot, Afghanistan, April 29, 2013.





Coalition Forces talk with the Provincial Chief of Police, pictured left, at Chakajoy village, Khas Uruzgan district, Uruzgan province, Afghanistan, March 7, 2013.

Based in Tarin Kot, Chora, and Deh Rawud, the teams advised police officers from the provincial headquarters, several local police stations, outlying checkpoints and the Operational Coordination Center, Provincial.

“Over the nine months that the teams have been in Uruzgan working with the Afghan police, we’ve seen several significant achievements in the areas of leadership, capability and professionalism,” Phillips said. “The accomplishments were only possible through first establishing effective and close relationships with our Afghan counterparts.”

“The real turning point came after we had gained a high level of trust by offering Afghan-centric advice and recommendations, rather than just stepping in and trying to force a coalition-centric concept,”

Phillips said. “Our jointly developed solutions formed a foundation that eventually became Afghan independent solutions.”

Phillips said obtaining independence is the key to a successful security force in the post coalition era to come.

He highlighted the challenges of sustaining and maintaining forces deployed in the remote, mountainous regions of the province as one of his team’s key areas of focus.

“With our input, the [Afghan National Police] began to utilize contracted maintenance teams and fixed many vehicles that had been inoperable for up to a year. They now have a maintenance process that works and is completely independent of coalition support.”

Phillips thinks one of the most important achievements was an improved approach to training.

“We started with adviser-initiated training and built over time towards training conducted exclusively by the Afghan police,” Phillips said.

Following coalition-led “train the trainer” courses, the experienced police began passing their knowledge to the more junior members. ANP instructors successfully trained other ANP officers in areas such as countering improvised explosives devices, combat lifesaver medical training, and evidence-based operations.

By fostering this independent mindset to training, the SFAT paved the way for one of the most important recent developments in Uruzgan’s future security.

In late June, Uruzgan-based Afghan Local Police - who provide security to their villages but are

generally untrained – received what is thought to be the first structured training by Afghan Uniform police anywhere in the country.

The course was conceived, planned, and run completely independent of Phillips’ teams. He says it is a huge step forward for sustainable security in Uruzgan.

“This is the crowning achievement for our team’s time here, and exceeded our expectations,” Phillips said.

Other areas of training that have been introduced include instruction for female police officers through the assistance of Combined Team Uruzgan’s female engagement team, as well as an initial course to train police in core competencies before they attend the formal basic patrolman’s course.

“These successes were not the result of any one individual’s effort, but were possible because I had



Afghan Uniform Police Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician Sgt. Mohammad Dawood, examines documents with Maj. David Main, right, the Security Force Assistance Team commander at a police station in Tarin Kot at Uruzgan province, Afghanistan, March 25, 2013.

teams of professional soldiers dedicated to their adviser missions," Phillips said.

The SFAT will return to various units throughout Texas in the coming weeks. Phillips said they have made a difference in Uruzgan.

"The police in Uruzgan are vastly improved from where they were nine months ago," Phillips said. "They are well lead by a provincial chief and senior staff who have a vision for the future, who respect and enforce the rule of law, and are dedicated to developing a professional police force."

"Are they perfect?" Phillips asked. "No, but no one is perfect. They are independent." - **102nd MPAD**



An Afghan National Police officer gives instructions to Afghan Local Police officers during a training course at Multinational Base - Tarin Kot, Afghanistan, July 4, 2013.



Cpl. Leroy Granado, right, with the 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Texas National Guard, shakes hands with a local Afghan child at a police station in Tarin Kot, Afghanistan, March 25, 2013.



THE CHRIS KYLE BILL

Perry signs legislation to allow military experience for Texas state licenses

Texas Gov. Rick Perry (seated) is surrounded by legislators and supporters of Senate Bill 162, after he ceremoniously signed the legislation at the Texas State Capitol, in Austin, Texas, Aug. 28, 2013.



Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Phil Fountain Texas Military Forces Public Affairs Office

“If a Soldier can dodge IED’s in Iraq or Afghanistan while driving a semi, they can drive safely on I-35 or I-30 without having to be trained again.”

AUSTIN, Texas (Aug. 28, 2013) – In a ceremony at the Texas State Capitol, Gov. Rick Perry signed Senate Bill 162, which was passed by the 83rd Texas Legislature to address employment challenges facing military service members, recently separated veterans and their spouses.

The bipartisan legislation requires state agencies that issue occupational licenses to recognize substantially equivalent licenses issued by other jurisdictions – including the armed forces – and provide an expedited licensure process for these individuals.

“The unemployment rate among veterans is one of the highest in the United States,” said state Rep. Dan Flynn of Van (HD-2), who sponsored the bill in the Texas House. “Considering the sacrifices they made for our country, it is imperative we help their transition to civilian life by giving them credit for the hard work and

training they have accomplished in the military.” Flynn, a U.S. Army veteran who also serves as a commander in the Texas State Guard’s Maritime Regiment, worked with state Sen. Leticia Van de Putte of San Antonio (SD-26), who chairs the Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations, to develop the legislation.

“After our heroes fight for us, they should not then have to fight for a job when they get back home,” Van de Putte said.

Until now, military training was not recognized by the state of Texas, for licensure purposes.

“Too often, service members and their spouses must wait too long for licensing in fields in which they already have substantial experience,” Van de Putte said. “This

law will put them on the fast-track for an occupational license, but also will require them to come into full compliance with Texas’ licensing requirements within a year.”

Additionally, SB 162 is also known as the “Chris Kyle Bill,” named after the former Navy SEAL and author who was slain earlier this year, and recognizes the achievements of service members with special operations training. Kyle’s wife, Taya, was on-hand at the signing ceremony.

“I appreciate the sacrifices these many brave special operators have made,” Flynn said, “and I hope that by incorporating these changes into current Texas law we can honor the legacy of Chris Kyle and the many like him.”

The legislation grants these veterans credit toward the

issuance of a basic police officer’s license. Additional training and a certification test is still required to receive the license.

“If a Soldier can dodge IED’s in Iraq or Afghanistan while driving a semi, they can drive safely on I-35 or I-30 without having to be trained again,” Flynn said.

It’s possible that this type of legislation will now be pursued throughout the country, as Van de Putte and Flynn co-chair the National Conference of State Legislatures’ Task Force on Military and Veterans Affairs.

“We hope this legislation will serve as a model for all states,” Flynn said, “and we look forward to continuing to work with the Department of Defense to find new and better ways to show our appreciation to veterans as the return home.” - **DISPATCH**



JTF 136th MEB

demonstrates to Chilean partners homeland response capabilities

Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Griego
JTF 136th MEB Public Affairs



Members of the Chilean armed forces visit Joint Task Force 71 (Maneuver Enhancement Brigade) July 24 at the Round Rock Armed Forces Reserve Center.

ROUND ROCK, Texas (July 24, 2013) - Established more than 20 years ago, the National Guard's State Partnership Program (SPP) program pairs each state with a foreign ally's military forces to share experiences, training opportunities and best practices throughout the spectrum of operations.

Since 2008, the Texas Guard and Chile have shared such a relationship, which most recently included a tour of the Joint Task Force 136 (Maneuver Enhancement Brigade) armory in Round Rock, Texas, July 24.

"We were honored to have some

of their leadership take time to include us in their visit to Texas," said Army Col. Lee Schnell, commander for JTF-71 (MEB).

The group, which included three senior Chilean army officers and a navy captain, toured the Round Rock Armed Forces Reserve Center in order to learn about and discuss the role our National Guard plays in emergency response.

"It's always a good thing to be here in Texas," said Chilean Navy Capt. Francisco Abrego, who serves as a member of the Chilean Joint Staff for North America and Asia. "It's very important

because we are still improving our capabilities in supporting the civilians and all the aid they need after a natural disaster, like the earthquake we had in 2010. You have got a very good organization here that we can take ideas and equipment you use to improve our system."

Building relationships was the focus point of tour, as the discussion frequently returned to the importance of interagency cooperation in the fight to save lives when disaster strikes.

"The big take away from this is that it is all about relationships," said Schnell. "I think this was

demonstrated during our meeting by having one of our civilian first responders at the table giving his perspective on the Homeland Response Force mission."

Chief Warren Weidler, the Austin Fire Department battalion chief in charge of special operations, joined the tour to offer his perspective as a civilian first responder and reinforce the importance of early outreach.

"All emergencies are local," said Weidler. "So the people that are affected are the local people. It is important that we have estab-

lished these relationships prior to the emergency, and that we're very good at working with these people. Establish your relationships before you need them."

The United States' approach to disaster response comes after two decades of engaging natural and man-made incidents, from the 1993 World Trade Center bombing to Hurricane Sandy last year. These response efforts dramatically influenced how the military interacts with civil agencies to save the lives of Americans. "The U.S. National Guard's relationship with civilian first re-

sponders is somewhat unique to other countries' military forces," said Schnell. "Especially the fact that when we arrive to an incident, the civilians are totally in charge of the response and we are in a support role. Sharing this with our partners in Chile gives them a different perspective on emergency response."

This was an important discussion point for our South American partners as they work to refine their own disaster management plans.

"The good thing you have got is

"We were honored to have some of their leadership take time to include us in their visit to Texas."

Building Partnerships





Members of the Chilean armed forces visit Joint Task Force 71 (Maneuver Enhancement Brigade) July 24 at the Round Rock Armed Forces Reserve Center.

the interagency system you use because in our country it's very complicated to talk with other agencies," said Abrego. "Everybody wants to be the boss. You organize that thing and you've got a first responder that's going to be in charge of it so you know how to deal with other agencies. That's the thing we have to teach the other agencies in Chile."

Throughout the visit, members of JTF-71 (MEB)'s consequence management units, such as the 6th Chemical, Biological, Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosives Enhanced Response Force Package,

demonstrated to their decontamination techniques, specialized equipment capabilities, and basic procedures of how to engage an incident.

"We got to have a face to face with the Chileans and really talk," said Army Staff Sgt. Jon Garcia, the operations noncommissioned officer for the 6th CERFP. "They got to see what we have to offer our citizens and they took back a lot of knowledge about how we do [emergency response]. Maybe one day we'll go see what they have."

As this international partnership builds, both military forces depart the experience with the confidence that their primary mission is to save lives when called upon.

"At the end of the day, like you all, we are supporters of the first responders," said Abrego, "and we have got the capabilities because we have got people to support the major issues."

- JTF 136th MEB PAO

"The big take away from this is that it is all about [building] relationships."



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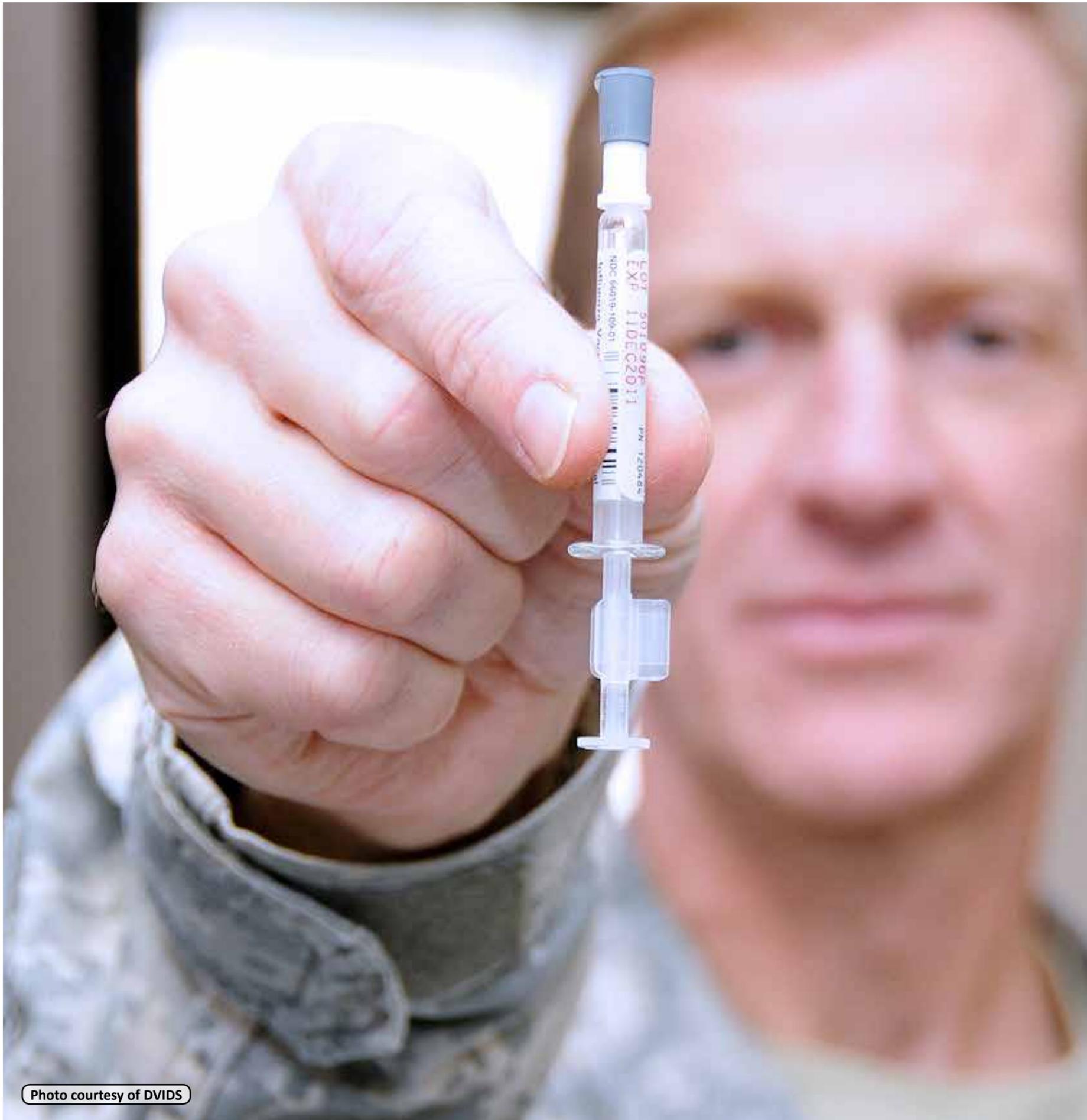
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FLU SEASON

*Commentary by
Staff Sgt. Jennifer Atkinson
Texas Military Forces Public Affairs Office*

As the 2013-2014 flu seasons begin, members of the Texas Military Forces (TXMF) will begin receiving the annual flu vaccine through their units. Vaccinations will be provided at drill or at another scheduled time. The "seasonal flu season" starts in October and can last as late as May.

Although most people associate the flu with being miserable for a few days, influenza is a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and death, especially among vulnerable populations such as the young, the old and the ill. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), between 1976 and 2007, estimates of flu-related deaths in the United States range from a low of about 3,000 to a high of 49,000. About 90 percent of deaths during a "normal" flu season are people 65 and over.

Military populations, with close working environments, are particularly vulnerable to infection from other members. While the "typical" flu generally affects the old, the very young or the ill most, the Spanish Flu of 1918 tended to hit younger, healthy adults, causing the healthy immune system to go haywire, while the weaker immune systems of children and older adults did not ravage the body so badly. Since the military is an overall younger, healthier cohort, it is more vulnerable to another flu pandemic.

There are several ways to help prevent the spread of the flu, according to the CDC. TXMF members who are sick should stay home, and avoid going out until any fever is gone without the use of fever-reducing drugs. Linens, utensils and dishes should not be shared with other healthy people. Good hand-washing practices, using soap and warm water will help prevent the virus from spreading, as will disinfecting and cleaning frequently touched surfaces. One of the most effective ways to help prevent the spread of the flu virus remains the flu vaccine.

Each year, a vaccine is developed to protect against three strains of flu most likely to affect the population. The most common flu viruses circulating these days are influenza B viruses, influenza A (H1N1) and influenza A (H3N2). One virus is picked each year to develop a vaccine from, although there are many types of flu virus in the world.

The CDC recommends everyone who is at least six months of age should get a flu vaccine this season.

It's especially important for some people to get vaccinated.

Those people include the following:

- People who are at high risk of developing serious complications like pneumonia if they get sick with the flu. This includes:
 - People who have certain medical conditions including asthma, diabetes, and chronic lung disease.
 - Pregnant women.
 - People 65 years and older
- People who live with or care for others who are high risk of developing serious complications. This includes:
 - Household contacts and caregivers of people with certain medical conditions including asthma, diabetes, and chronic lung disease.

There are some people who should not get a flu vaccine without first consulting a physician.

These include:

- People who have a severe allergy to chicken eggs.
- People who have had a severe reaction to an influenza vaccination.
- Children younger than six months of age (influenza vaccine is not approved for this age group.)
- People who have a moderate-to-severe illness with a fever (they should wait until they recover to get vaccinated.)
- People with a history of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (a severe paralytic illness, also called GBS) that occurred after receiving influenza vaccine and who are not at risk for severe illness from influenza should generally not receive vaccine.

If there are any doubts about receiving the vaccine, or which type of vaccine to get, visit a medical professional.

Approximately two weeks after vaccination, anti-

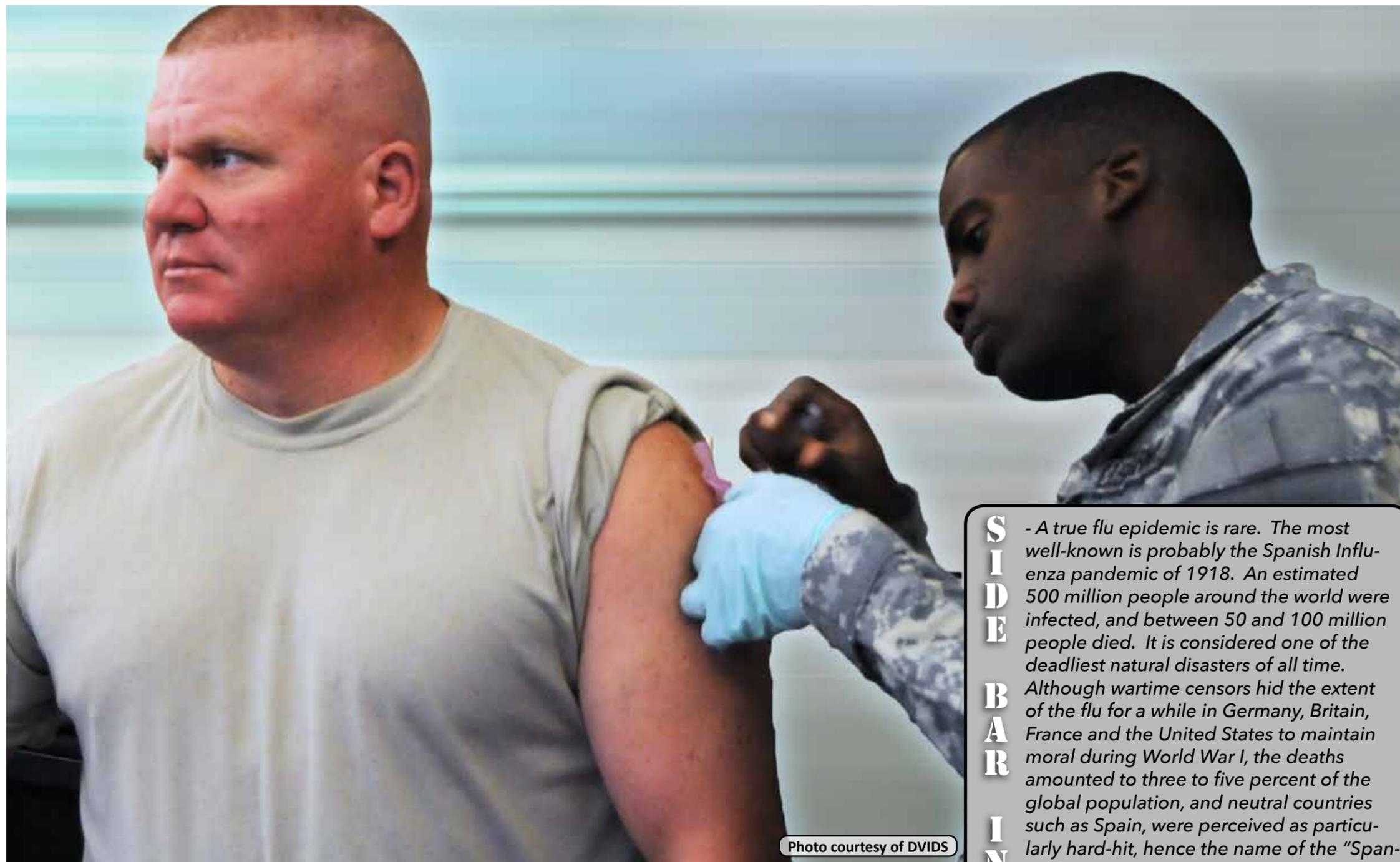


Photo courtesy of DVIDS

bodies develop in the body and provide protection against the flu. Even if the match between the vaccine and the virus is not "good," the vaccine can still protect many people and may prevent illnesses from flu-related complications. Even with a less than perfect match, many times the antibodies produced in response to one strain of the flu can provide some "cross-protection" against different but related flu strains.

The viruses in the flu shot are inactivated (killed) and cannot actually give anyone the flu. Some minor effects from the shot may include redness

at the site of the injections, low-grade fever and aches.

The nasal spray contains weakened viruses, and does NOT cause the severe symptoms associated with the influenza illness. Adults may experience a runny nose, headache, sore throat or cough.

This vaccine is mandatory for all eligible TXMF service members. Family members should ask their primary care manager for the vaccination, or visit a local pharmacy or medical clinic to be vaccinated. - **DISPATCH**

SIDE BAR INFORMATION

- A true flu epidemic is rare. The most well-known is probably the Spanish Influenza pandemic of 1918. An estimated 500 million people around the world were infected, and between 50 and 100 million people died. It is considered one of the deadliest natural disasters of all time. Although wartime censors hid the extent of the flu for a while in Germany, Britain, France and the United States to maintain moral during World War I, the deaths amounted to three to five percent of the global population, and neutral countries such as Spain, were perceived as particularly hard-hit, hence the name of the "Spanish flu."

The modernization of travel in the beginning of the 20th century is cited as contributing to the rapid spread of the virus, a concern that has only grown as TXMF members move around the state for work and leisure. To illustrate the spread of a virulent flu, the flu moved from Kansas to New York between January and March of 1918. With faster travel in this century, it is conceivable a particularly bad flu could spread globally in hours, rather than nationally over weeks.

DIRECTOR OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD



VISITS THE 136TH AIRLIFT WING

STORY BY AIRMAN CODY WITSAMAN
PHOTOS BY SENIOR MASTER SGT. ELIZABETH GILBERT
136TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke, Director of the Air National Guard, visits with Texas Air National Guardsmen from the 136th Airlift Wing at Naval Air Station Fort Worth.

NAVAL AIR STATION FORT WORTH JRB, Texas (Aug. 22, 2013) - Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III, Director of the Air National Guard visits the 136th Airlift Wing here Aug. 21, 2013. Clarke had other engagements in Dallas and made it a point to visit the local Air National Guard base since he had the opportunity.

He was first met by Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, Adjutant General for Texas along with Col. John J. Conoley, commander, 136 AW who welcomed Clarke to the Texas Air National Guard.

Airmen from around the wing were able to sit and talk with Clarke during a luncheon and discuss topics ranging from ANG budget, deployments, and his own personal history in the Air Force.

Throughout the luncheon Clarke was very attentive showing "that each Airmen's questions and concerns were important to him; so important that he wants to ad-



dress them one on one at a sit down for lunch," said Tech Sgt. Carolyn Tatum, 136 AW Logistics Plans Specialist.

"Ask me anything," said Clarke.

It was apparent to the Airmen involved in Clarke's visit that he cares what each Airman has to say and how each individual supports the ANG through their work and leadership.

After the luncheon, Clarke coined four deserving Airmen of the 136 AW for their outstanding achievements. He thanked each Airman and challenged them to use what they have learned thus far to mentor their fellow Airmen.

On being asked what the coin meant, Tatum said, "I was accepting the challenge to mentor and groom others to the standards of the Air National Guard."

Clarke continued his tour by visiting different shops

around the wing. Clarke was able to get a firsthand look at the Airmen and Family Readiness program, and was able to learn about the Transition Assistance Program for deployed Airmen returning after 180-day deployments with no jobs awaiting them. The 136 AW is one of two hubs in the entire nation, the other is in Phoenix.

"The classroom can hold up to 50 veterans at one time," explained Mrs. Heidi Bearden, Airmen and Family Readiness program manager, 136th Airlift Wing. "Our goal is to expand the knowledge base of our returning [from 180-day deployment] veterans and help them with their financial planning as they transition out of active duty."

Completing the tour, Clarke seemed very pleased with the work being done at the 136 AW and was glad to have met many exemplary Airmen throughout the wing.

"All I ask of the Airmen is to serve with distinction," said Clarke. - 136th AW PAO



Col Arnold "Skip" Jones

TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD DOCTOR Closes File on Last OPERATION LONE STAR

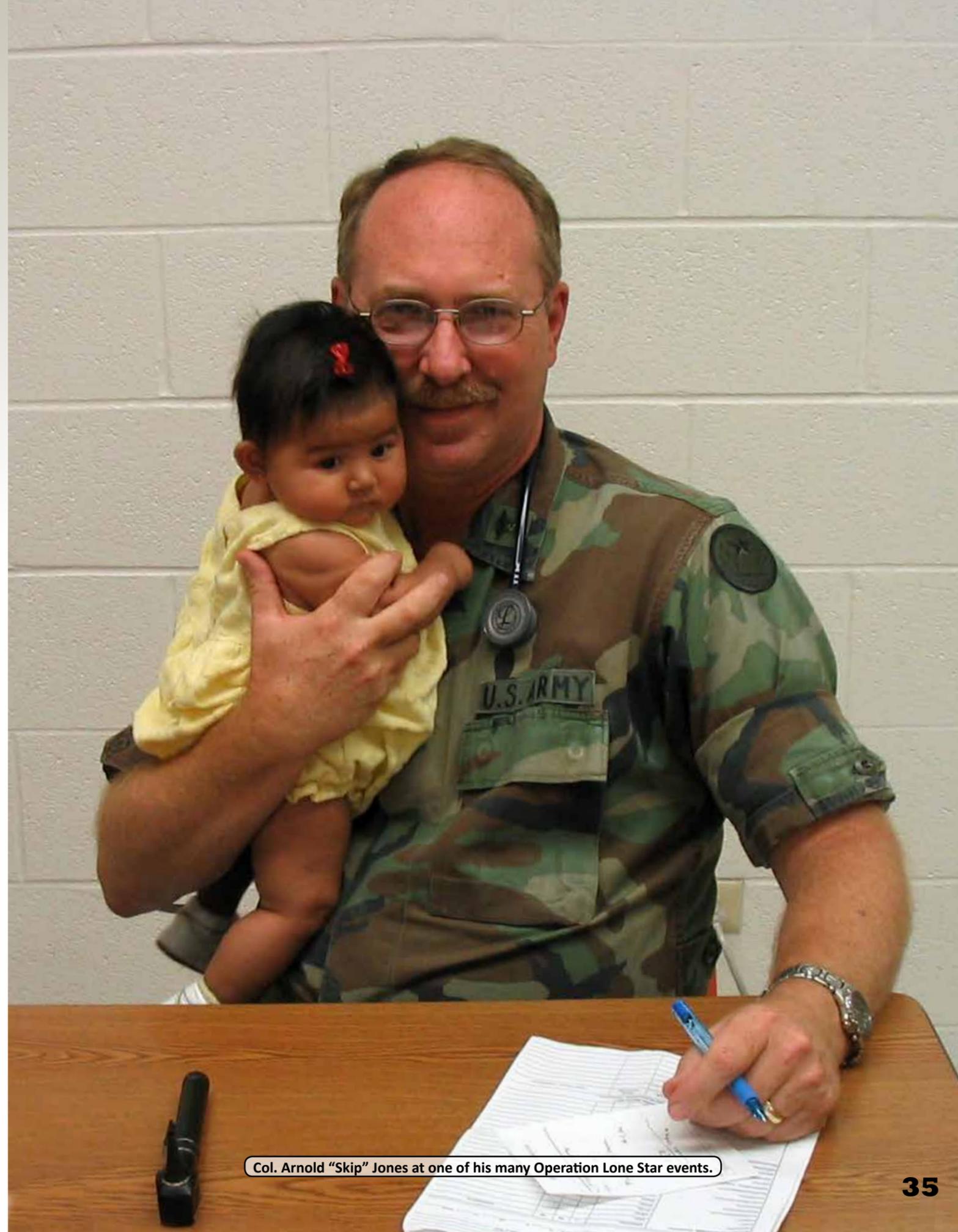
Story by Staff Sgt. Christopher Miller
100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Photos provided by Col. Arnold Jones unless noted.

LAREDO, Texas (Aug. 1, 2013) - He sat behind a teacher's desk with chairs and tables stacked on the right side of the classroom like an incomplete level on a game of Tetris. "I go by Skip," he said with a fast Southern drawl and a sly smile. He sat back in his chair and looked relaxed in his surroundings as though he dispenses medical care and advice from middle school classrooms on a daily basis.

Anyone who has participated in more than one of the 15 Operation Lone Star (OLS) events has likely met or been seen by Col. Arnold "Skip" Jones, Medical Command, 71st Troop Command, Texas Army National Guard. Since the onset of Operation Lone Star in 1998, he has missed only two Lone Star operations due to an Afghanistan tour in 2005, and being "dissuaded due to the lack of funding" from the second operation in 1999.

The first mission was conducted in the southern tip of Texas between McAllen and Brownsville mainly serving the small towns, villages and colonias there. This first mission was a multi-force joint operation including Coast Guard, Air Force, Marines, Army, health department and public health services personnel. Now years later, the scope of the operation has broadened to include the Rio Grande Valley and beyond and is a real-time, large-scale emergency preparedness exercise that provides service and disaster recovery training to state agencies and personnel.

Looking back to his humble start in the U.S. Army, in 1974, as an Infantryman, Jones certainly has come a long way. After being promoted to sergeant, he reenlisted to become a medical specialist and flew air ambulances out of El Paso and Fort Bliss, Texas.



Col. Arnold "Skip" Jones at one of his many Operation Lone Star events.

“This [physician assistant] profession looks really cool. I wanna look into this,” said Jones. “I decided that it was what I wanted to do.”

When he came to the end of his tour, the military physician’s assistant school wanted him to have more experience. He had already been accepted to other colleges for further study in the medical field, so he got out of the Army and went to school.

After completing physician’s assistant school, Jones joined the Pennsylvania Army National Guard to be a commissioned officer. Jones said that the packet for commissioning as a physician’s assistant is an “arduous process.” He also said that the officer packet is “this thick”, while putting about three inches between his index finger and thumb. Once he attained his commission as a first lieutenant, he quickly achieved the rank of captain a year later due to his “time in grade.” In 1995, he joined the Texas Army National Guard.

During one of the 13 OLS missions he has worked, Jones said a local woman came to him with a large lump in her neck. She had been on thyroid medication for two years. Jones advised her to hold back on the medication and go to her primary physician to get the blood tests that they had passed up before due to the cost.

The following year he discovered that the woman he had referred for further testing learned the lump was thyroid cancer. She had the cancer removed and received the proper medications. As she was talking to another provider about her cancer resolution, she saw Jones as she rounded the corner and gave him a big hug.

He saw her over the next couple of OLS missions in that area. “That was very rewarding,” said Jones. “That was as cool as it gets.”

“My most internal desire is to provide good patient education and support to people that I take care of,” said Jones. “The diet in South Texas is deplorable for health. It is high fat, high carbohydrate and notorious for causing diabetes and causing clogged arteries. I’d heard a rumor once upon a time that a person born in the Rio Grande Valley by age 50 has a 50 percent chance of being diabetic.”



Throughout the many years he has participated in OLS, Jones has been up and down the border of Texas and Mexico helping people with little to no access to health care.

Since he is set to retire at the age of 60, this will be Jones’ last year at OLS. Jones said he will stay busy part-time at his clinic in College Station, Texas working with Soldiers on their annual periodic health assessments and managing his 50-acre ranch with his sister in Franklin, Texas.

As Jones finished an exam, two nutritionists were speaking with patients about how their diet affects them and gave patients advice on how to better themselves through their diet. Jones said, “Getting these people to understand what is good for them, what’s good for their health, what they can do to help themselves, without having to go to a doctor and take a pill to fix a problem, that’s what we do. That’s what I love doing.” - **100th MPAD**



Opposite page: Col. Arnold Jones, Texas Army National Guard, visits with local Afghans during his deployment there from 2005 - 2006.

Above: Col. Arnold Jones, Texas Army National Guard, visits with local Afghans during his deployment there in 2005 - 2006.

Center: Col. Arnold Jones visiting with patients at OLS.

**Below: Col. Arnold Jones visiting with a patient at OLS.
(Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Miller)**





Citizen Soldier gives back to community

Story and photos by Laura Lopez
Texas Military Forces Public Affairs Office

CAMP BOWIE, Texas (Sept. 18, 2013) – The numerous men and women who serve their country and communities go by many names; fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, brothers and sisters- and to some, heroes. The Training Center Garrison Command’s camp manager and officer-in-charge at Camp Bowie, in Brownwood, Texas, is a 19-year veteran in the Texas Army National Guard, and proud to call himself a Citizen-Soldier.

Lt. Col. Jamey Creek of Buffalo Gap is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the 9,000-acre site in west-central Texas, which is managed by the Texas Army National Guard. His duties include ensuring mobilization and unit-training requirements are met year round for the more than 25,000 men and women that make up the Texas Military Forces.

After events leading up to a yearlong deployment to Iraq between 2004 and 2005, Creek decided he would ‘pay it forward.’

“It kind of stemmed from a mobilization, as I was not happy with the training that was provided to us,” said

Creek. “So when I mobilized and came back home, I actually volunteered at Fort Hood for a year to help them train outgoing troops before the job (camp manager and officer-in-charge) here became available. At that time, I felt it was a continuation of giving back to the troops and (it was) my destiny.”

Those who know Creek were not surprised to hear he is a Soldier and have also said his service extends beyond the uniform and into his community. He also serves as a level-one volunteer firefighter with the Buffalo Gap Volunteer Fire Department, north of Brownwood.

“Jamey is a family man, a leader in the community and a loyal friend,” said Fire Chief Dana Sowell, with the Buffalo Gap Volunteer Fire Department. “He is always ready to help those in need and often spends extra time at the station to work on equipment.”

He joined the department four years ago after learning about large fires across the state and realizing there was a need for firefighters. Creek said he did not hesitate to make the call to join the 17-member department, add-

ing that his skills and experience from the Texas Army National Guard easily translated into his volunteer role.

“Firefighting is very similar to a tactical mission,” Creek said. “I can literally apply a five-paragraph operations order in place of a wildland fire briefing and vice-versa. Although, the leadership aspects are somewhat consistent in the training center world to that of firefighting, there is absolutely no substitute for the ‘down and dirty’ experience gained on each fire.”

As a level-one firefighter, Creek has been trained to respond to structure and brush fires, automobile wrecks, extraction and medical calls, and is required to be proficient on all equipment owned by the department. While initially concerned for his safety and their family unit, his wife of 20 years, Kimberly, says she is fully supportive of her husband’s desire to give back to others.

“There is a sacrifice that our family has to make in order for Jamey to do his job and serve on the volunteer fire department,” she said. “We understand the importance of serving others and we do our best to make this all work out.”

Receiving his Army commission in 1993, as a second lieutenant through Tarleton State University’s Reserve Officers’ Training Corps program, in Stephenville, Creek proudly admitted that being able to serve as a Citizen-Soldier and a firefighter is an incredible opportunity.

“I am absolutely honored to serve the citizens of my community and work alongside such incredible people,” he said. “I can honestly say there is no better heartfelt satisfaction than serving a person in need.”

Humble in demeanor and honored to call Brownwood and the west-central Texas region home, the term ‘hero’ is a thought that does not normally cross his mind.

“I don’t consider myself as a hometown hero at all,” he said. “I look at my contribution as ‘paying it forward’ to the time in which my friends or family may need emergency assistance.”

However, his wife disagreed.

“We are extremely proud of Jamey’s service to our country and his willingness to serve our community and think he is a hero, our hero,” said Kimberly Creek.

Creek, his wife and one daughter have lived in Buffalo Gap for 12 years. ■ DISPATCH



Opposite page: Lt. Col. Jamey Creek, Training Center Garrison Command manager and officer in charge - Camp Bowie, Brownwood resident, Phil Richey, left, and Del Albright, Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator, City of Brownwood, Texas, right, overlook a hill on the north side of Camp Bowie.

This page: Lt. Col. Jamey Creek with the Buffalo Gap Volunteer Fire Department’s Brush Truck.

Camp Bowie Training site

spotlight

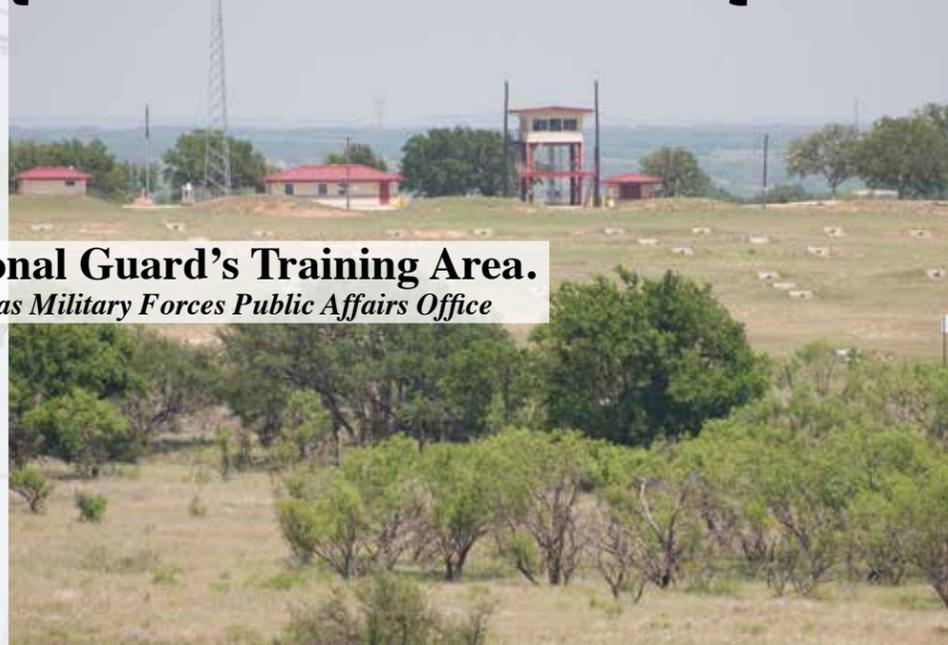
A look at the Texas National Guard's Training Area.

Story and photos by Laura Lopez, Texas Military Forces Public Affairs Office

CAMP BOWIE, Texas (Sept. 20, 2013) – It is a training site that dates back to World War II, where Soldiers with the Texas Army National Guard's 36th Infantry Division completed training before landing on the beaches of Normandy in 1944. The, then- 5,000 plus acres of Camp Bowie, in Brownwood, Texas was acquired by the Texas Military Forces in 1949, with the southern portion of the now almost 9,000-acre site added in 1993 and 1994.

One of four major Texas Army National Guard training centers, a part of the state's Training Center Garrison Command, Camp Bowie employs 32 full-time federal and state employees and is responsible for ensuring mobilization and unit-training requirements are met year-round for the more than 25,000 men and women that make up the Texas Military Forces.

"My sole purpose in life is to provide adequate facilities for those units to train," said Lt. Col. Jamey Creek, the camp's manager and officer-in-charge. "That includes billeting, multiple live-fire ranges, digital training aides, land navigation, maneuver space and roadside bomb (and) route clearance defeat lanes necessary for them to meet their qualification requirements."



Training more than 419,000 service members and other local emergency and first responders since 2006, records indicate Camp Bowie usage averages almost 70,000 people a year. For the 38,000 residents living in the city of Brownwood and Brown County, each and every person in the Texas National Guard is more than just a visitor.

"You could say they are our family because we are such a small community," said Sunni Modawell, the tourism manager for the Brownwood Area Chamber of Commerce. "Everybody knows everyone else and over time you know their spouses, you know their children – so essentially they are our family."

In addition to the Army Guard, other components of the Texas Military Forces regularly conduct training at the facility. In fact, for the past 10 years, the volunteer Texas State Guard has held their two-week annual training encampment at Camp Bowie and says the location and staff makes for a positive experience.

"Camp Bowie is a great resource," said Brig. Gen. Charles Miller, the Texas State Guard's chief of staff, in Austin. "We've found its location to be ideal for our members and its facilities and environment perfect for training, plus the staff there is always accommodating and extremely professional."

A place where many residents are said to say it is not uncommon to see military vehicles driving through-out town or to run into a handful of service members at local establishments, one longtime Camp Bowie neighbor, with his own ties to the Texas National Guard, said his relationship with the training site has been a good one focused on mutual respect and understanding.

"If I have to listen to helicopters and 50-caliber machine guns, and that helps out, then I am OK with it. You have to look at the big picture," said Phil Richey of Brownwood, a resident who lives near Camp Bowie's northern perimeter. "I think these folks here (in Brownwood) real-

ize that the Soldiers are providing a service here and if we are going to remain number one in the world we have to have a well-trained Army."

A training site host to both small and large-scale disaster and emergency preparedness exercises combining local, state and federal agencies aimed at sharing best practices, Creek said Camp Bowie also supports training requests from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Texas Forest Service (TFS), to name a few.

According to the Brownwood Fire Department, the relationship with the Texas Army National Guard (or Texas Military Forces) has not only strengthened the region's mutual aid agreement, but has been instrumental in expanding their training capabilities.

"As a result of the Texas National Guard allowing us to place our mobile fire training trailer on their property we can better serve our residents through continuous training," said Del Albright, Brownwood's fire chief and emergency management coordinator. "Without their support our mobile fire training trailer would be just a piece of equipment we couldn't use."

For Creek, he said it is his principled beliefs in personal communication and strong relationships that enable him to keep many issues concerning the nearby neighbors from escalating, even when unfavorable circumstances arise.

"In 2006, when a wildfire got out of control in less than ideal conditions and jumped the fence, I had some minor property damage," Richey said. "Lt. Col. Creek was instrumental in ensuring I got some financial relief."

A resident of Brownwood for nearly 40 years, Richey said the one downside of having Camp Bowie against his property line is the dust created by the dirt road that serves as a firebreak between the properties. Quick to complement Camp Bowie management for their concern and continued discussions, and research for solutions to mitigate the problem, Richey said he is optimistic about the outcome.

"I don't expect it to be not completely dusty, but you hate to look over and see dust 100 feet in the air," he said.



From serving the residents of this small town in west-central Texas, those with the Brownwood Area Chamber of Commerce said the Texas National Guard's impact extends beyond providing a piece of mind and building relationships.

"I can't imagine any aspect of our community without Camp Bowie," Modawell said.

In 2012, Brownwood Chamber of Commerce's economic impact reports show direct visitor spending totaled \$50.4 million, and local sales tax receipts equaled more than one million dollars.

In addition to providing state-of-the-art training facilities and simulators to enhance the readiness of the Texas Army National Guard, Creek said he hopes to continue expanding the area's mutual aid agreement and maintain positive working relationships with the citizens of Brownwood and various local, state and federal agencies and said their support could not be better.

"Support from this community is amazing. It's an incredible feeling to know we are supported that much," he said.

The Texas Army National Guard's other training centers include Camp Swift, near Bastrop, in central Texas, Fort Wolters in Mineral Wells, west of Fort Worth, and Fort Maxey in Powderly, northeast of Dallas, near the Texas-Oklahoma border.

- DISPATCH

Opposite page: One of the live fire ranges located on Camp Bowie training site located in Brownwood, Texas.

Above: Lt. Col. Jamey Creek, Training Center Garrison Command manager and officer in charge - Camp Bowie, Brownwood resident, Phil Richey, left, and Del Albright, Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator, City of Brownwood, Texas, right, overlook a hill on the north side of Camp Bowie.



TXMF Recycles

Recycling benefits you and your unit.

Story and photos by
Capt. Martha Nigrelle
Texas Military Forces Public Affairs Office



CAMP MABRY, Texas (Sept. 4, 2013) – Reduce, reuse, recycle – most people recognize this mantra, words that promote a greener tomorrow. But according to retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ken Zunker, these are more than just words; they are words to live by.

Zunker, recycling operations coordinator and manager for the Texas Military Forces (TXMF) Qualified Recycling Program, works as a part of a four-man operation that currently serves TXMF locations across Texas. Although the recycling efforts had already been started, the program was not qualified by the National Guard Bureau until 2010. In 2011, Zunker came on and by 2012 TXMF opened its first dedicated recycling facility.

“Reuse is part of recycling” - he stated, indicating that it applies to both TXMF and the surrounding communities. When the old 51st Street Armory, which was located near the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, closed in May 2012, service members recycled 893 tons of refuse. Within that pile were 24 small desks. Camp Mabry’s program does not currently recycle wood, but that did not stop Zunker from finding a way to recycle those desks.

After coordinating with the Texas Army National Guard’s Youth Services Program located at Camp Mabry, Zunker found a home for each desk.

The desks were in excellent condition and exactly the right size for children, said Bob Hankins, the Child and Youth Program Lead for TXMF.

Hankins said he reached out to the Austin Independent School District and discovered that Barrington Elementary School had been given a portable classroom, but did not yet have the funding to fully furnish the classroom. According to Hankins, he worked with Zunker to ensure Barrington Elementary received all 24 desks, further enabling the school’s teaching abilities.

Since that day, Zunker and Hankins said they have worked together in an effort to benefit the families of both the service members and the local community.

“He will stop by my office with a bunch of recycled gift bags wanting to know if we can find a use for them,” said Hankins. “He does little things like that and it has helped lots and lots

of kids. If I get a request for something, like tables, we will tell Ken and he will keep an eye out for that item.”

Zunker stated that the recycling crew often fills special requests of these types. One of his most common requests is boxes from people who are moving. If given at least a week’s notice, Zunker said the crew will set aside large boxes for anyone who asks.

Zunker said he believes in reusing as much as possible, always looking for someone who might benefit from the items that are dropped off at the recycle center.

“It feels good to be able to help others,” he said.

Zunker retired from the Texas Army National Guard in 2008. He served as a maintenance chief for 37 and a half years - as a Soldier, then as a civil servant.

After being retired for six months, Zunker said he was “bored stiff and tired of talking to the dog.” Zunker went on stating that during this time he accepted a position in supply with the Texas Military Forces Combined Support Main-

tenance Shop in Saginaw. It was there that Zunker caught the recycle bug.

“I noticed all of this scrap metal lying around,” said Zunker. “I figured I could recycle it, but wasn’t sure how to. So I did the research and found out how to (within regulation) recycle and sell it.”

Zunker’s experience prompted him to apply for the recycle coordinator position that he now holds.

“One of my goals, and it might happen next year, is to be able to give 25 dollars per service member to the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation account each year,” said Zunker.

According to the Department of Defense, the Qualified Recycling Program is a cost beneficial recycling program that follows strict regulations. Specific guidance on how to sell recycled products for a price is outlined.

Based on regulations, money made from the recycled products will first cover all of the program’s expenses. The remaining funds are then split between pollution prevention projects, for

example, purchasing spill kits for any unit in need, and the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation account, to be used for any morale or welfare activity.

“We are already spending money to dispose of waste,” said Leon McCowan, the Resource Conservation Recovery Act Manager for TXMF. “Why not spend that same money to recycle as much as possible, and then get a little money back?”

According to the program’s financial reports, the recycle program has made over 20 thousand dollars so far this year. With the new brass deformer, a machine that crunches brass casings, the recycle crew can now recycle brass,

which, according to Zunker, could triple the amount the program brings in each year.

“We take almost anything, we are about landfill diversion,” said Zunker.

Although most people probably think of paper, plastic and cardboard when they see the green and blue recycle bins, Zunker said the facility can recycle much more than that. On top of the normal recyclables one might think of, Camp Mabry’s recycling center also accepts old cell phones, rechargeable and non-rechargeable batteries, compact disks, old floppy disks, any kind of wiring or cable, used ink cartridges and anything made of metal.

This past spring the recycle program was recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s South Central Federal Green Challenge in the waste category. TXMF was awarded with a Federal Green Challenge award recognizing the dramatic decrease in the amount of waste disposed, resulting from the dramatic increase of recycling.

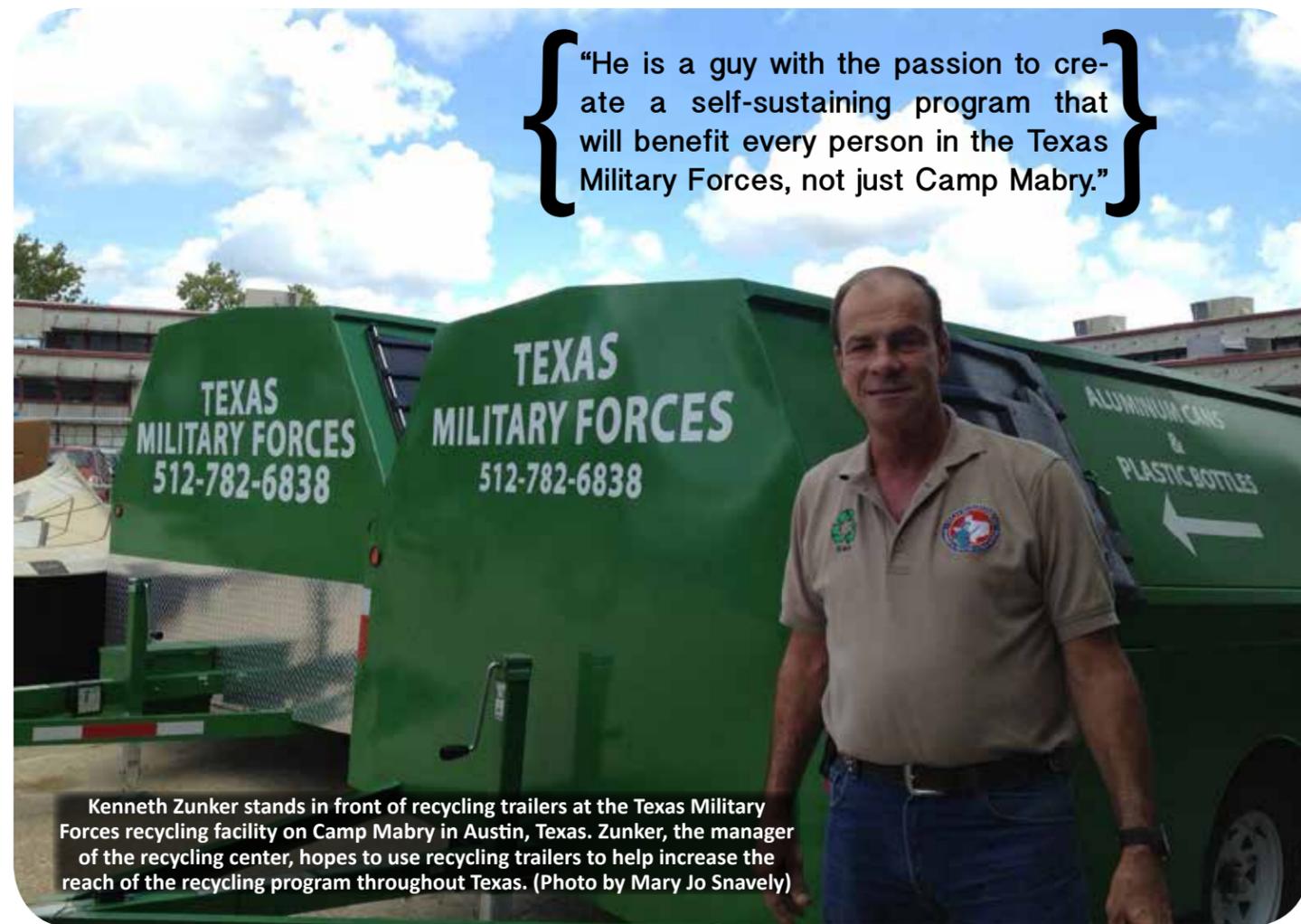
According to the 2011 facility recycle tracker, 222 tons were recycled; in 2012, 311 tons were recycled. The amount continues to increase, so far this year over 1,000 tons have been recycled.

“[Zunker] came in and grabbed the bull by the horns,” McCowan said. “Where we are now is because



“We take almost anything, we are about landfill diversion.”

Recycled cardboard is stacked and ready for shipment at the Texas Military Forces recycling center at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas. The recycling facility is located at Camp Mabry in Austin and is open to all members of the Texas Military Forces and anyone visiting the base.



“He is a guy with the passion to create a self-sustaining program that will benefit every person in the Texas Military Forces, not just Camp Mabry.”

Kenneth Zunker stands in front of recycling trailers at the Texas Military Forces recycling facility on Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas. Zunker, the manager of the recycling center, hopes to use recycling trailers to help increase the reach of the recycling program throughout Texas. (Photo by Mary Jo Snavely)

of his innovation and integrity. He has made this program visible and by making it visible it stays on people’s minds.”

Additional program reports show more than 100 TXMF locations are recycling used oil and scrap metal, but 27 of these spots have a more developed recycle program set up. Zunker’s goal is to expand the program to reach every unit. One of his ideas, to help expand the program, is to supply units with a recycling trailer, giving each unit the ability to drop off a full trailer at any TXMF recycling hub.

“Mr. Zunker had to be the backbone of this program. When he started he was by himself, but now it has become a real team

effort. State Maintenance, many others from [the Construction and Facilities Management Office] and definitely service members have provided their assistance when possible. The success of this program could not have been done without the hard work of the entire team,” said McCowan.

It seems that everywhere Zunker goes, people both like and respect him. He is often seen smiling and saying hello to people as he walks by. He might even stop to ensure you are recycling your empty ink cartridges.

Hankins said he especially likes the energy that Zunker brings to the recycle program, adding, “He is a guy with the passion to create a self-sustaining program

that will benefit every person in the Texas Military Forces, not just Camp Mabry.” - **DISPATCH**



For more information, on the TXMF Recycling Program or to get started on recycling at your TXMF location, contact Ken Zunker or Retired Maj. Penny Chencharick, the TXMF Recycling Plans Coordinator, at (512) 782-6838 or (512) 782-6683.

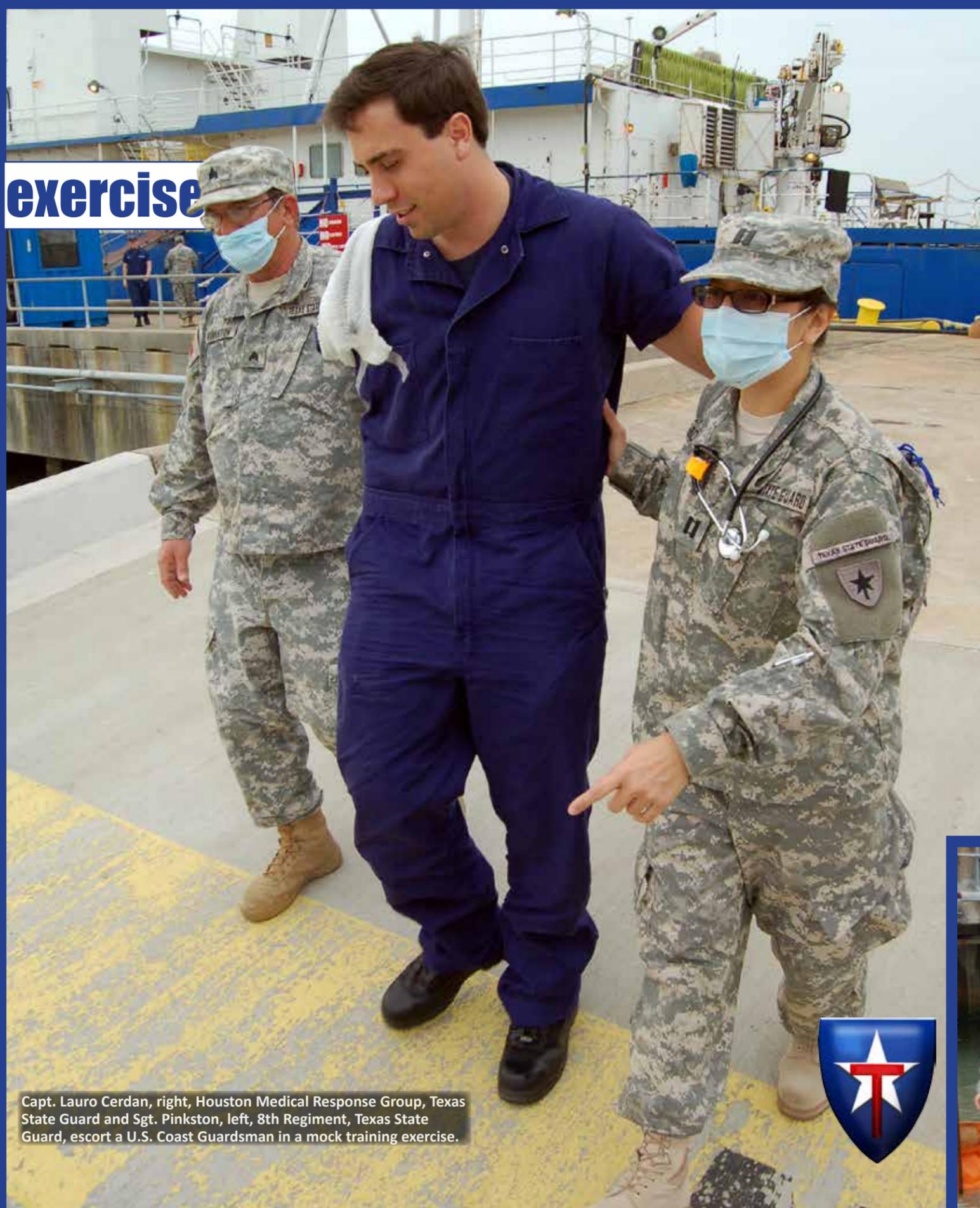


This is only an exercise

Story and photos by Lt. Brad Bryan, Facilities Inspections, Marine Safety Unit Texas City, US Coast Guard.

Galveston, Texas - The sun was barely peaking over the horizon at 0700 outside the Training Vessel General Rudder on the Texas A&M Galveston campus. Though still quite dark, one could just begin to make out the dark blue uniforms of Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Texas City's Law Enforcement Response Team led by MEC Thomas Spears gathering approximately 100 yards from the vessel, preparing their gear, and generating a plan of action. Moving another 300 yards back were three drab green command tents serving as unified command posts and a drove of personnel in digital camouflage from the Texas State Guard's Medical Brigade and 8th Regiment providing force protection.

In a flash, MEC Spears ordered his team to board the vessel where they performed security sweeps on each deck and detained by force several terrorists that had hijacked the ship. Unfortunately, a bomb detonated, killing or injuring several of the ship's crew members that were being held hostage as well as one of the terrorists. When relative peace ensued, members of the Texas State Guard's Medical Brigade, under the direction of Capt. Wadie Williams, rushed onboard the ship for a mass casualty evacuation. As the injured underwent triage, oil began leaking from the vessel due to the explosion, and the MSU Texas City's Incident Management Division, headed by Lt. Tamisha Lewis, worked diligently with members of the Texas State Guard's 8th Regiment to deploy boom to both contain the leaking oil and protect nearby environmentally sensitive areas.



Capt. Lauro Cerdan, right, Houston Medical Response Group, Texas State Guard and Sgt. Pinkston, left, 8th Regiment, Texas State Guard, escort a U.S. Coast Guardsman in a mock training exercise.



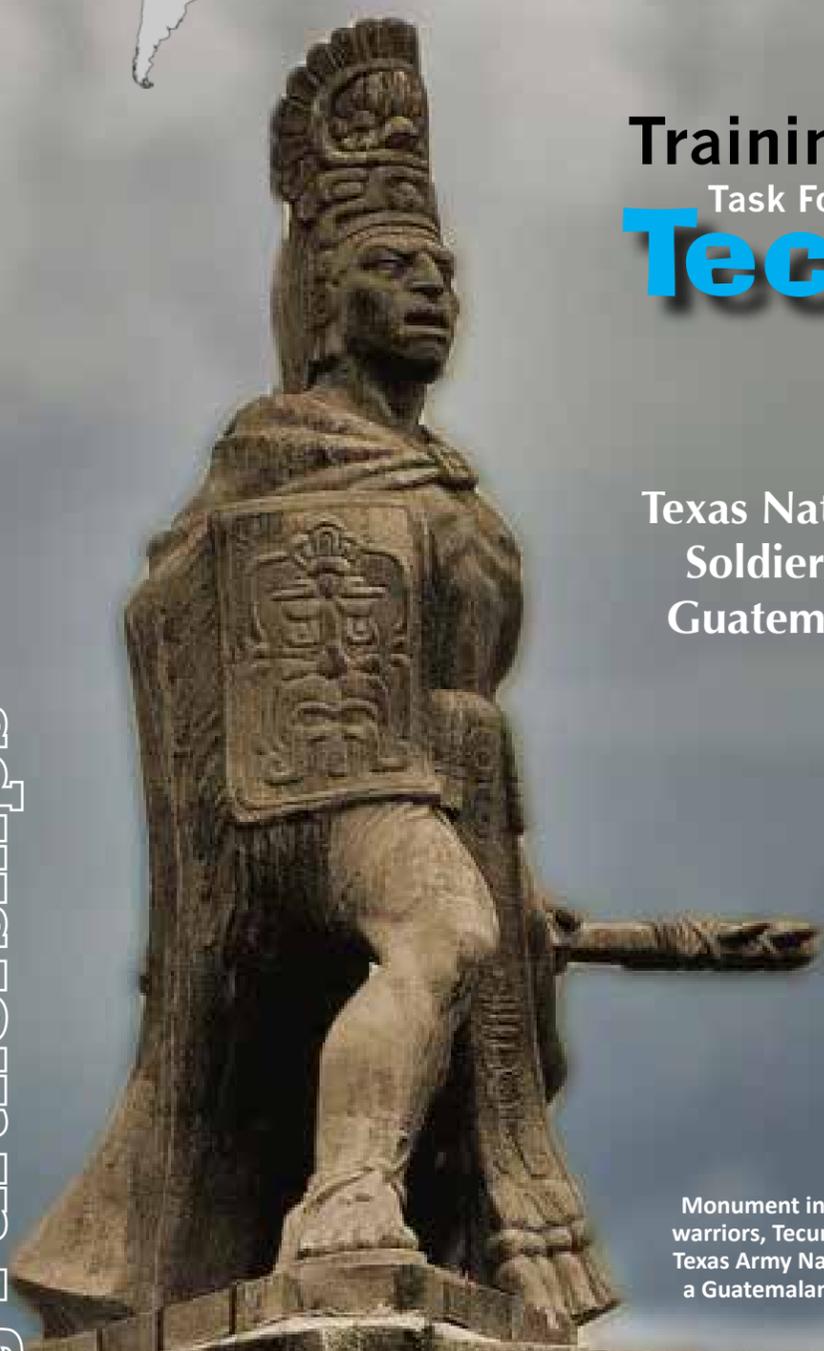
After a hard day's work and the threat of severe thunderstorms in the area, this multi-agency training exercise between the Coast Guard Reserve and Auxiliary components as well as the Texas State Guard was a success. Luckily this was only an exercise, but any Coast Guardsman who has deployed to a real world emergency management operation knows we rarely go in alone.... we are one part of a greater unified command. Thus the MSU Texas City reservists partnered with the Texas State Guard to work side-by-side in a real-world type exercise that provided comprehensive hands-on training where each agency performed its part of the overall mission. The joint exercise provided hands-on training in vessel security, mass casualty evacuation and triage, and oil spill response. Additional classroom training in hazmat, container and vessel inspections rounded out the two day event.

Training in a joint operational environment is invaluable for our future success should a hurricane, oil spill, or terrorist event take place. Not only does it provide a more realistic setting that mimics the actual circumstances that would occur in an emergency operation, it clarifies the strengths and weaknesses of each agency. Moreover, it identifies previously unknown resources that each agency can tap into should a future need arise. For instance, the Texas State Guard (whose members primarily come from a Department of Defense background) was surprised that the Coast Guard had such a strong military and law enforcement presence. Additionally, Coast Guard personnel were impressed with the medical skills possessed by the Texas State Guard's Medical Brigade.

The lessons learned and examples set by this exercise remind us of what can be accomplished by working as a team, not only within the Coast Guard, but with our inter-agency partners as well. - USCG PAO



Texas State Guardsmen train side-by-side with U.S. Coast Guardsmen.



Training with Task Force **Tecun Uman**

Texas National Guardsmen train with
Soldiers from the National Army of
Guatemala and Guatemalan Federal
Police Force officers

*Courtesy photos and story by
1st Squadron, 124th Cavalry Regiment
Texas Army National Guard*

Monument in Guatemala honoring one of the last Mayan leader-warriors, Tecun Uman, Guatemala's official national hero. Recently Texas Army National Guardsmen had the opportunity to train with a Guatemalan Task force named after the hero. (Courtesy photo)



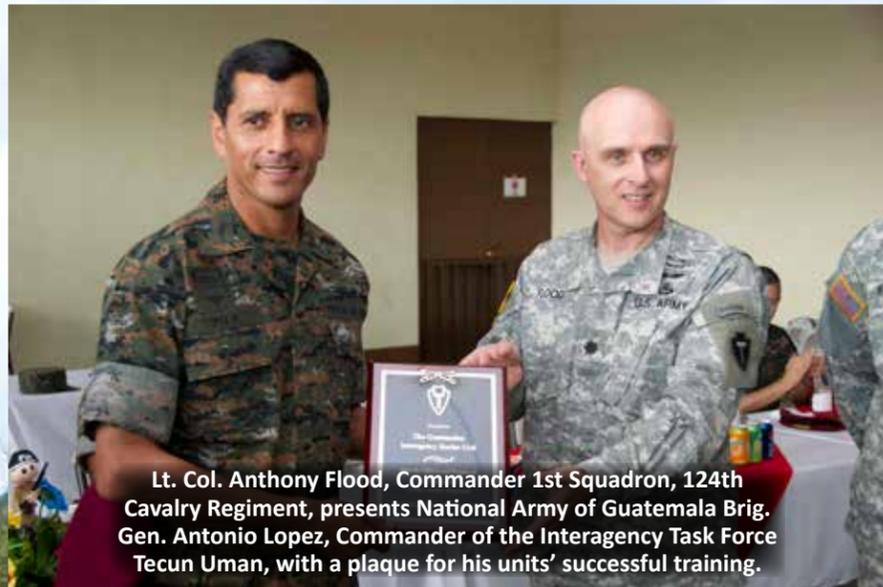
Staff Sgt. Carlos Mariaduena, mentors a member of Interagency Task Force (IATF) Tecun Uman, on the operations on a .30 cal mounted machine gun

Guatemala City, GUATEMALA (July 18, 2013) – Texas Army National Guardsmen from the 1st Squadron, 124th Cavalry Regiment and members of the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol's Border Tactical (BORTAC) team, teamed up to mentor Soldiers from the National Army of Guatemala and Guatemalan Federal Police Force officers from Interagency Task Force (IATF) Tecun Uman, at the Guatemala Military Academy, from January - June, 2013. The newly formed Guatemalan Task Force has the mission of interdicting the flow of illicit activities on the Guatemalan borders.

The six-month exchange between the U.S. and Guatemala is part of an initiative led by U.S. Army South to build partner nation capacity with the Central American country and consisted of a series of exercises and events including fundamentals of marksmanship, weapons maintenance, sand table preparations, mounted and dismounted operations, and gunnery skills.

The Guatemalan Soldiers and police officers, hand-picked for this mission, demonstrated a high degree of motivation and esprit-de-corps. They readily embraced the training, asked questions, and were very willing students, according to U.S. Army Lt. Col. Anthony Flood, Commander, 1st Squadron, 124th Cavalry, who was highly impressed with the proficiency, morale and professionalism of the Guatemalan troops.

"They deliver high quality orders briefs in a format very similar to the U.S. Army, and conduct rehearsals and back briefs very similar to what is taught at the U.S. Army Ranger School," Flood said. "The Guatemalan Soldiers are a dedicated and professional force, and a credit to the Guatemalan Army." Guatemalans and Texas Guardsmen not only trained together, but also lived in the same barracks, exposing them to each other's military culture.



Lt. Col. Anthony Flood, Commander 1st Squadron, 124th Cavalry Regiment, presents National Army of Guatemala Brig. Gen. Antonio Lopez, Commander of the Interagency Task Force Tecun Uman, with a plaque for his units' successful training.

U.S. Army Capt. Derek Ruschhaupt, Commander of Headquarters Troop, noted different leadership styles between the two militaries.

"It was interesting to see the roles Guatemalan Army platoon leaders assume versus ours," Ruschhaupt said. "For instance, they march their troops to chow, do on the spot corrections, and provide all the direction and command and control down to the squad level; different from our system where non-commissioned officers perform those duties."

For U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Chavelo Jimenez, Squadron Command Sgt. Maj., training with the Guatemalan Soldiers and police officers brought back memories from when he first enlisted in the Texas Army National Guard in the early 1980's. Then, he trained with vehicles and weapons systems similar to the current Guatemalan Jeep-mounted .30 caliber machine gun.

"I remember seeing Jeeps at Fort Hood, so it was great to see these again," Jimenez said. "However, these Jeeps are much nicer, with air conditioning, nice seats and up-armored. Much better than what we had."



Staff Sgt. Carlos Mariaduena, mentors a member of Interagency Task Force (IATF) Tecun Uman, on the operations on a .30 cal mounted machine gun

The exercise culminated in a weeklong series of scenario-based missions challenging the Guatemalan Soldiers and police officers with events such as simulated civil disturbances, narcotics lab raids, and vehicle checkpoint operations. At the beginning of each task, the commanders were given an order. From there they had to develop a plan, brief it, conduct rehearsals, and execute the mission.

Texas Army Guardsmen observed the entire event and then conducted after-action review with the Guatemalans offering feedback to help refine tactics and techniques for their future missions.

At the conclusion, a ceremony was held to recognize all the participants. Among the invitees were U.S. Army Col. Michael Knutson, U.S. Embassy to Guatemala Senior Defense Official, and National Army of Guatemala Brig. Gen. Antonio Lopez, Commander of the IATF. Lopez later thanked the Texas Army National Guardsmen for their participation in the event.

"We are happy to have trained with our friends from Texas and appreciate their professional work ethic and dedication," Lopez said. "They are excellent Soldiers." **DISPATCH**



Legislative Wrap-Up

Texas legislative changes take effect, overview of TXMF impact

Commentary by Staff Sgt. Phil Fountain
Texas Military Forces Public Affairs

CAMP MABRY, Texas (Sept. 2, 2013) - At the start of each odd year, the Texas Legislature meets in Austin for 140 days. Bills passed during that time - if not vetoed by the governor - typically become law at the beginning of the following September.

During the 83rd Regular Session (2013), the Texas House and Senate considered 5,868 bills, which were filed among the 150 representatives and 31 senators, according to the Legislative Reference Library of Texas. Gov. Rick Perry vetoed 26 of these bills, and 1,437 are now in (or may soon take) effect.

Several of the bills will have a direct impact on the Texas Military Forces. This article does not comprehensively cover all of the military-related legislation that was approved this year, but it is meant to highlight some of the bills that may benefit or involve our service members, veterans or their families.

The most noticeable change you will probably see is in the name of our state agency.

We are still the Texas Military Forces (TXMF), an umbrella, state-federal organization comprised of the Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, Texas State Guard, Domestic Operations Command, and a State Services component, formerly the Adjutant General's Department - now the Texas Military Department.

This name change is the result of Senate Bill (SB) 1536, which also modernizes many of the agency's structural and business practices, including the separation of military command and policy making from administrative and operational activities. Additionally, TXMF members on state active duty for more than 90 days will be provided the opportunity to access state insurance benefits.

There are several jobs-related bills that were enacted to benefit veterans.

The legislature created the Veteran Entrepreneurship Program through SB 1476, a pilot program at the Texas Veterans Commission to assist more than 1,000 veterans start and maintain small businesses.

As a result of House Bill (HB) 194, disabled veterans with at least a 20 percent service-connected disability and who own a business may now be eligible for state contracting preferences as a historically under utilized business (HUB).

Several bills provide new streamlined procedures to allow service members to earn civilian, state certification within areas or fields that they received military training. Additionally, military spouses may receive expedited occupational licenses, particularly if they already have certification from another state. *(cont. next page)*

Here's a run down of some of the bills:

- **HB 1960 - regarding emergency medical services (EMS) certification**
- **HB 2028 - regarding professional licenses for plumbers**
- **HB 2029 - regarding professional licenses for electricians**
- **HB 2135 - regarding private security licenses**
- **HB 2254 - regarding apprenticeship requirements**
- **SB 162 - regarding occupational licensing requirements**
- **SB 229 - regarding commercial driver licenses**
- **SB 242 - regarding general occupational licensing**

Additional resources have been allocated to assist veterans confronting mental health issues. HB 2392 formalized, and seeks to expand, the peer-to-peer network, which links up combat veterans with each other and to licensed mental health providers.

HB 489 protects disabled Texas veterans that rely on service animals from being denied access to public spaces. Such veterans may suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and other chronic diagnoses.

Vertically integrated electric utilities, retail electric providers, electric cooperatives and municipal electric utilities will now be able to establish a program to assist veterans who received severe burns in combat. SB 981 creates a discount program for these veterans, to help defray the cost of increased air conditioning requirements for their medically necessary temperature regulation needs.

As a result of SB 1061, institutions of higher education will now be required to allow disabled veterans with the appropriate "DV" license plate access to handicapped parking spaces, regardless of on-campus permit requirements.

Also on the higher education front, through SBs 1158 and 1159, the legislature sustained the veteran tuition exemption benefit - also known as the Hazlewood Act - by creating a permanent fund to support the program. Additionally, a network of veteran education counselors will now be available to assist veterans in maximizing their state and federal education benefits.

With the enactment of SB 260, Texas school districts are now required to excuse a child for up to five days if their parent, stepparent or legal guardian, is called to deploy away from home, on active-duty orders, for more than four months. The absences must be taken within 60 days of the deployment or within 30 days upon return of the parent, stepparent or legal guardian.

The legislature has approved the creation of the Cold War Medal, through HB 402, which will soon be available to Texas National Guard and Texas State Guard members who served between Sept. 2, 1945, and Dec. 26, 1991. To receive the medal, authorized veterans are required to contact the Texas Military Department and pay an administrative fee to cover the cost of the award.

Several new military-related automobile license plates will now be available through the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles:

- **HB 120 - Defense Superior Service Medal**
- **HB 1678 - Surviving Spouse Disabled Veteran**
- **HB 2485 - Air Medal and the Air Medal with Valor**
- **SB 165 - U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and U.S. Coast Guard Academy**
- **SB 597 - Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan**

SB 530 authorizes a "DV" (Disabled Veteran) license plate to include the emblem of the veteran's branch of service or the emblem from certain another license plates that they are entitled to receive.

Now, with the passage of HB 1123, tollway authorities with discount programs will have to offer free or discounted fees for automobiles registered with the "Legion of Merit" license plate.

Additionally, automobiles with the "Air Medal and the Air Medal with Valor" (HB 2485), the "Defense Superior Service Medal" (HB 120) or the "World War II Veteran" (HB 1514) plate will be exempted from certain parking fees assessed by state and local governments.

In another area, veterans with concealed handgun licenses may now request to have a "veteran" designation placed on their card (SB 164).

Lastly, for the spouses of our combat fallen, the legislature is seeking to provide a 100 percent property tax exemption for their residential homestead. SB 163 will provide this benefit, if Texas voters approve an amendment to the state constitution, as proposed by House Joint Resolution 62. This issue has been identified as Proposition 1 for the Constitutional Amendment Election, slated to take place on Nov. 5, 2013. - **DISPATCH**

**To find out more about these or any other bills, you can visit the Texas Legislature Online at: www.capitol.state.tx.us
You can also contact your legislator by finding them through Who Represents Me? at: www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us**

**Source material for this commentary was gathered from the Texas Military Department, the Legislative Reference Library of Texas, the Texas Veterans Commission and the Texas Legislature Online.*

GETTYSBURG

CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL

TEXAS MILITARY FORCES MUSEUM'S LIVING HISTORY
DETACHMENT PARTICIPATES IN HISTORIC REENACTMENT.

STORY BY TEXAS MILITARY FORCES MUSEUM
PHOTOS BY JEFF HUNT & J.L. CANTRELL
TEXAS MILITARY FORCES MUSEUM



During the first three days of July 1863, the largest and bloodiest battle ever fought in the Western Hemisphere took place around a little college town in southwestern Pennsylvania called Gettysburg. More than 800 Texans were among the 150,000 soldiers in both blue or gray who took part in the battle. One-hundred and fifty years later, Texans, in the same two colors, marched over the fields of Gettysburg as participants in one of the largest battle reenactments of the Civil War sesquicentennial.



The living history detachment of the Texas Military Forces Museum, located at Camp Mabry in Austin, was one contingent of several hundred Texas reenactors who took part in this once-in-a-lifetime event. More than 10,000 men and women from all over the country signed up to participate, while tens of thousands of spectators observed three days worth of battle reenactments. Every significant part of the battle had its moment in the spotlight – from the first day’s battle to Pickett’s famous charge on the final day. But for the Texans, the afternoon of June 29 was the most important. That is the day they recreated the furious attack of the Texas Brigade on the left flank of the Union Army of the Potomac, which occurred on July 2, 1863.

Consisting of three Texas infantry regiments – the 1st, 4th and 5th – as well as the 3rd Arkansas Infantry, the Texas Brigade is one of the most famous outfits of the war. Its reputation had been earned during horrific fighting at places like Gaines’ Mill, 2nd Manassas and Antietam and that reputation was a fearsome one. Many considered the Texas Brigade to be the best unit in Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia and the legendary Rebel commander considered the brigade’s regiments as his shock troops. As part of a division commanded by Maj. Gen. John Bell Hood, the Texas and Arkansas soldiers who struck the Federal army at Gettysburg added names such as Devil’s Den and Little Round Top to the lexicon of American Military History. Smashing one Union

line, they very nearly overcame a second to win the battle for the South, but were halted by the last minute arrival of Yankee reinforcements. Of the 1,100 men the brigade carried into battle on July 2, 1863, 706 became casualties, including Hood (himself a Texan) whose left arm was shattered by an enemy shell.

Although historians disagree on how significant the battle of Gettysburg was to the outcome of the war, there is no doubt it is the most famous battle of the conflict. President Abraham Lincoln’s memorable speech during the dedication of a national cemetery on the battlefield in November 1863 helped seal the battle’s place in history, and the National Park Service has carefully preserved

the battlefield and its story. In many ways the battle is a fitting symbol of the war, seeming to embrace the entire history of the struggle in just three days – from the first day when the Confederates won a smashing success, to the Southern victory that was narrowly averted by the desperate fighting of Federal troops on the second day, to the majesty of the gallant assault known as Pickett’s Charge on the third day.

For the volunteer living historians of the Texas Military Forces Museum, keeping that history alive, commemorating the heroes on both sides of the battle line, and learning more about the war and those who fought it is a passion. Led by the museum’s director, Jeff Hunt, they portrayed



Company B of the 4th Texas Infantry – which was raised in Travis County. Everything from their uniforms and weapons, down to the food they ate, was one-hundred percent authentic for the event. The volunteers drilled and prepared at Camp Mabry for six months to get ready for their week long excursion back to the 19th Century.

“The dedication these men gave to making this event special is impressive,” Hunt said. “They camped in the field for six days without tents – because Rebel soldiers didn’t carry any – cooked period food over camp fires, shouldered replica muskets and moved and fought in the same formations their Texas ancestors did 150 years ago.”

Being Texans, of course, meant having to do things a little bit bigger and better than everyone else. A fact emphasized by the 24-hour-long bus trip the reenactors endured to get to Gettysburg. The museum’s volunteers toured the actual battlefield before moving south a few miles to do the reenactment on private land (battle reenactments are not permitted on National Battlefield Parks). But for most of these men, the most memorable part of the event wasn’t the camping, marching or reenacted battles.

On Wednesday afternoon, June 26, more than 75 Texas reenactors rededicated the Texas monument on the battlefield. Made of the same pink granite from which the state capitol is built, the monument was erected in 1964 during the centennial of the Civil War. For the 150th anniversary of the battle, the museum volunteers and their fellow living historians in the Red River Battalion – an all Texas unit of 150 men – held a solemn ceremony at the monument which included the reading of a proclamation from Governor Rick Perry and the scattering of soil brought to Gettysburg from each of the 24 Texas counties where the brigade’s troops were recruited in 1861.



GETTYSBURG
CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL



GETTYSBURG
CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL

After the playing of taps and the rendering of honors, the reenactors retraced the movement of the brigade from its jump off position (the site of the monument) to where it won ever-lasting glory in the brutal struggle for Devil's Den and Little Round Top.

“To honor those men on that hallowed ground was incredibly moving,” Hunt said, “and to retrace their steps while wearing the same kind of uniforms and equipment they wore and carrying the same weapons, proved enlightening and emotionally powerful. It was a privilege for us to take part in this commemoration and to remember the sacrifices of the men on both sides of this greatest of all American battles.”

The Texas Military Forces Museum will also mark the sesquicentennial of the war by sending its living history detachment to other battle reenactments and by rededicating other monuments to Texas troops. For those who can't get to Virginia, Pennsylvania, Georgia or Tennessee, the museum is currently expanding and upgrading its exhibit gallery on the War Between the States, scheduled to open in the Fall of 2013. - **TXMF Museum**

All photos depict Living History Detachment, Texas Military Forces Museum reenactors. For more information please visit:

<http://www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org/txmf.htm>

Link to our Past

A historical interpretation by
Lt. Col. Enrique Villarreal

When asked, most Texans believe that the today's Texas National Guard traces its history to the Texas Revolution. Recently, the U.S. Army Center of Military History officially recognized an updated history of the 141st Infantry Regiment's, which extended its history by 57 years to February 18, 1823.

This was due to several years of extensive research, sifting through numerous documents and records. One of these documents, located at the General Land Office, describes the establishment of the militia in Austin's colony.

These documents are not newly discovered and are cited in several histories to include: Allen G. Hatley's *The Indian Wars of Texas*, Mike Cox's *The Texas Rangers* and Darrel Ivey's *The Texas Rangers: A Registry and History*.

However, none of these works ties the formation of the militia in Austin's colony to today's Texas National Guard. This article explores the development of militias from the early Spanish militias to the militia in Austin's colony and makes that tie to today's Texas Military Forces.

Spanish Frontier Defense

At the close of the 17th century, Texas was the northeast frontier of the vast Spanish empire in America. The militia played a vital part in Spain's attempt to settle Texas, serving as an economic and political solution by providing local frontier defense against invasion, insurrection, and lawlessness in Spanish Texas.

To secure and develop this vast territory, the Spanish government set up a series of tri-partite outposts consisting of presidios or forts for military protection, pueblos or villas for community development and missions or churches for spiritual development.

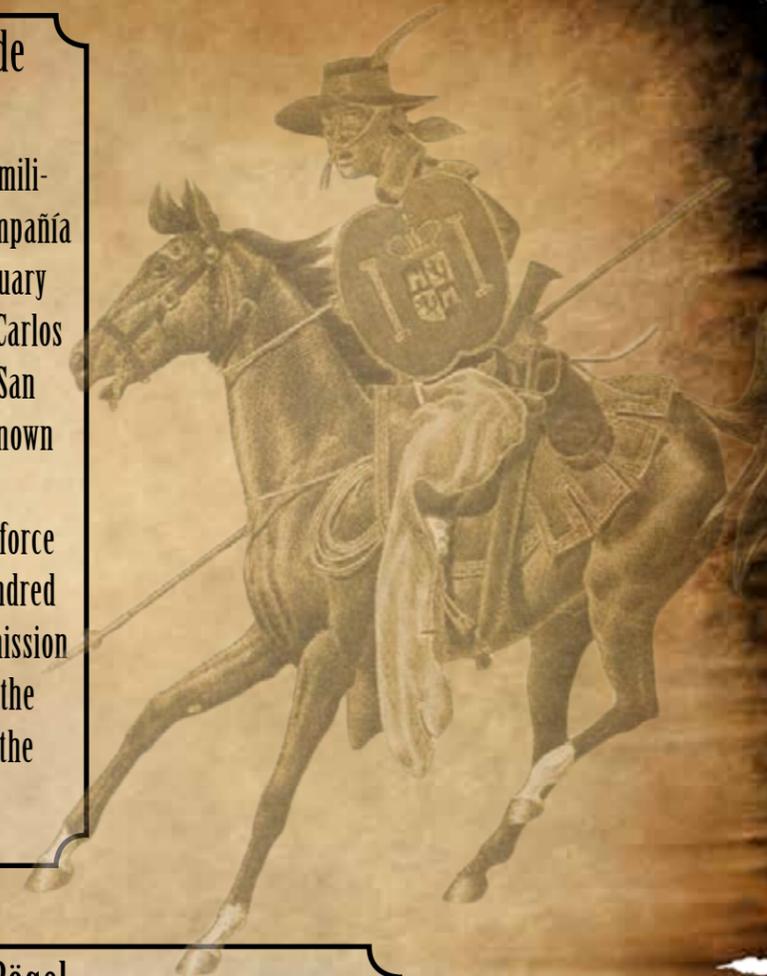
However, Spain's humiliating defeat in the Seven Years' War 1756-1763, drained the Spanish coffers, prompting an urgent quest for resourceful and prudent means to redress territorial vulnerabilities. A strategic reassessment initiated military reform, which sanctioned provincial militias for the first time.

Despite this reorganization, difficulties in acquiring the necessary materiel to arm the militia, coupled with a general lack of enthusiasm among eligible Mexican males to serve and despite the apparent ardor for the status and martial trappings bestowed by a commission, most Creole militia officers harbored little enthusiasm for the rigors of real military duty. Although they formed militias to include the *Compañía de Béjar*, *Compañía Presidial de la Bahía Del Espíritu Santo*, *Compañía Volante de Parras*, *Milicia de Béjar*, and the *Milicia de Texas*, to name a few, their efforts failed miserably.

The Second Flying Company of San Carlos de Parras

The Spaniards created a second system of frontier military companies, called the *tropa ligera* (light troops) or *compañía volante* (flying company), essentially light cavalry. On February 1, 1784, the company, *La Segunda Compañía Volante de San Carlos de Parras*, or *Alamo Company* organized at the town site of San Jose y Santiago Del Alamo in the Parras District, a region known for its grapevines or *parras* and cottonwoods or *los alamos*.

In January 1803, the Alamo Company moved to reinforce the presidio at San Antonio de Bexar. Arriving with one hundred lancers, the company moved into the partially abandoned mission of San Antonio de Valero. This company remained there for the next 32 years; leaving a lasting legacy giving their name to the former mission they called home, "The Alamo".



Philip Hendrik Nering Bögel

Shortly after the Alamo company arrived in San Antonio, Philip Hendrik Nering Bögel, a Dutch immigrant representing himself as a Dutch nobleman, moved to Spanish Texas settling in San Antonio, where he gained influence with the inhabitants and officials. One of his most significant contributions was his intercession with Governor Antonio María Martínez on behalf of Connecticut businessman Moses Austin, who came to San Antonio in December 1820 to propose the establishment of a colony in Texas.

Martinez, under no orders to allow any American settlers, dismissed Austin. After the governor's dismissal, Austin ran into Bögel, who he had previously met in New Orleans. Bögel invited Austin to stay with him and helped persuade Martinez to reconsider the colonization plan. Martínez reconsidered and approved Austin's colony in Texas.

Unfortunately, Austin died suddenly leaving the plan to set up a colony to his son Stephen F. Austin. Bögel continued to serve as intermediary for Stephen F. Austin, who would have encountered many obstacles without Bögel's assistance. After gaining independence from Mexico, the Texas Republic would rename the small community of Mina after Bögel in his honor, but under the name that everyone knew him by, Felipe Enrique Neri, Baron de Bastrop.



Austin's Colonial Militia

In addition to providing assistance to Austin's colony, Baron de Bastrop played a small but significant part in establishing the militia in Austin's colony. The first of Austin's colonists arrived in December 1821. From the start, Austin grappled with problems his colony faced under Mexican rule. Austin learned that the Mexican government refused to recognize the Spanish land grant given to his father. Austin immediately traveled to Mexico City to gain approval for his colony.

With his absence, the fate of the colonist became a concern for the newly appointed Governor José Félix Trespalacios. To address this, he commissioned Bastrop on November 10, 1822 to deliver and implement instruction to organize the settlers and reassure them that their land titles awaited only the completion of a colonization law.

Trespalacios' orders divided the colony into two districts, the Brazos District and the Colorado District, creating the forerunners of today's counties. Although Bastrop found the settlers, "...preparing to abandon [the settlement] and return to the United States, which some families had already done," his assurances eventually convinced them to remain.

Colonist Elect Militia Officers

The settlers along the Colorado River convened near the present town of Columbus on November 20, 1822. There they took the oath of allegiance to Mexico and held elections for civil and militia officers, resulting in the election of John Tumlinson for alcalde, Robert Kuykendall as captain of the militia, Alexander Jackson as first lieutenant and Moses Morrison as second lieutenant.

Bastrop did not proceed to the Brazos district, as he had intended, but authorized Josiah H. Bell to organize the colonists. Bell held the election for the Brazos District at his house, near present-day West Columbia in Brazoria County. The colonist elected Bell as alcalde and Samuel Gates as captain, with Gibson Kuykendall as lieutenant for the Brazos district.

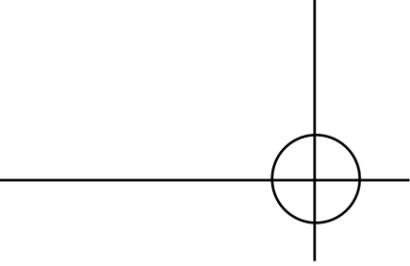
"Great was the satisfaction and happiness of the inhabitants", Bastrop wrote, in his report to learn of the government's protection. Bastrop conducted the elections for the Colorado District on November 20, 1822, the final report from Bastrop to Trespalacios, dated December 11, 1822, marks the date that the election for both districts were completed.

On February 18, 1823, Austin secured his grant authorizing the colonization of Texas and two militia companies officially constituted as part of the National Militia of Mexico. These two companies represent the beginning of today's Texas Military Forces. In addition, they formed the core of Austin's Battalion organized in June 1823 marking the organization of the 141st Infantry Regiment. One hundred & ninety-one years later, members of the Texas Military Forces Department directly trace their beginnings to these two militia companies, as it continues to serve the state and the nation. - **DISPATCH HISTORY**



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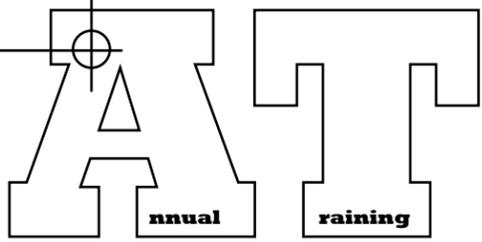
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ANNUAL TRAINING

Humvees, MREs, rows of porta-potties, bad cellphone reception, long hot days followed by longer nights away from a comfortable bed... these are all part of Annual Training. Despite the sacrifices made to make it to the end of the two-week ordeal, great training happens. Soldiers and Airmen get a chance to hone their skills in “real-world” training exercises.

This year’s AT was no exception. Engineers from the 149th Fighter Wing traveled to Norway to help build roads, 36th Infantry Division set up camp at Fort Hood, Joint Task Force 136 (MEB) conducted emergency homeland response training in Oklahoma. Where ever they trained, Texas National Guardsmen put on their uniform, said goodbye to family, friends and co-workers, left home and performed their duty.



Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Jeremy Spires
36th Infantry Division Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas (Aug. 5, 2013) – Texas Gov. Rick Perry made a visit to the Soldiers of the 36th Infantry Division last week during their Annual Training event at Fort Hood.

“I cannot tell you what a privilege it is to get to be the governor of the great state of Texas, and to know that there are great men and women like you who serve sacrificially and understand the importance of what ya’ll do,” said Perry as he addressed the assembly of Soldiers that were waiting for his arrival at the Division’s headquarters.

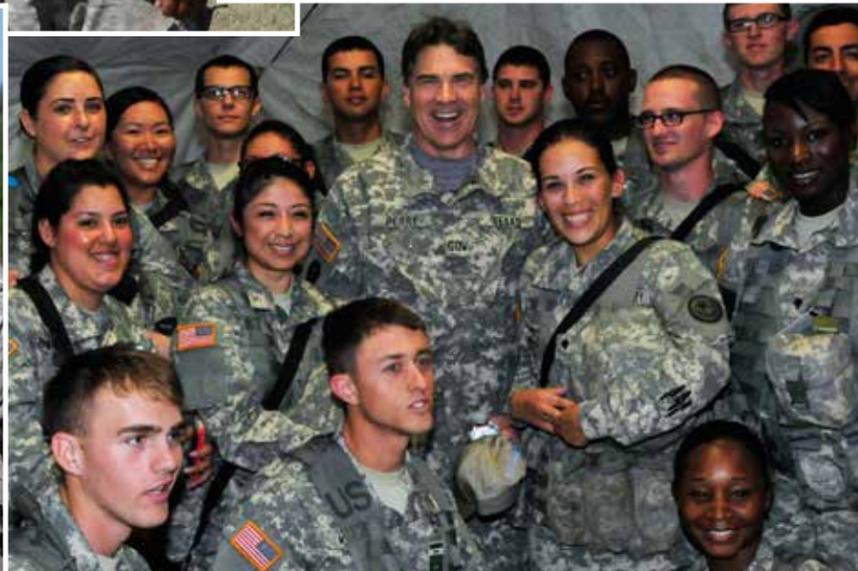
Perry has met with 36th Inf. Div. Soldiers overseas and at deployment ceremonies, but this was first time he had visited an annual training site.

His morning began meeting with Texas Military Forces leadership followed by a battlefield circulation of the annual training sites. His primary stop was a visit to the 36th Inf. Div. mortar school.

“It is not everyday that the Governor of Texas comes out in this heat just to meet with Soldiers.”



Texas Gov., Rick Perry loads a mortar round during his visit with the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division’s Annual Training at Fort Hood, Texas, Aug. 5, 2013.



Texas Governor, Rick Perry, visits with Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division, Texas Army National Guard, at their annual training at Fort Hood, Texas, Aug. 5, 2013.

"It is not everyday that the Governor of Texas comes out in this heat just to meet with Soldiers," said Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Reyes, a mortar platoon Sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, Texas Army National Guard.

Reyes, a native of San Antonio, was given this opportunity when the Governor; Maj. Gen. James K. "Red" Brown, the 36th Infantry Division's Commanding General; and Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, The Adjutant General of Texas, visited the Division Mortar School.

"It was a true honor to brief Gov. Perry," said Reyes. "I pretty much let him know what type of training we are doing here, how we are doing the training, and ultimately what our desired outcome from it will be."

His arrival marked the midway point, and a major highlight

of this exercise for many service members who were enduring the triple digit days and realistic training exercises.

The Texas summer heat did not stop Perry from trekking in full military protective gear to the firing lines, where Soldiers, from throughout the state of Texas, waited eagerly to meet him.

"I just want to come out here and tell you thank you," said Perry as he shook hands with mortar gun crews.

"It makes me very proud to know that there are individuals like you who are willing to hold your hand up and say, 'Here I am, send me.'"

During his trip down the "line," he was given the chance to do something that not many people in a political office can boast about, fire 120mm and High Explosive mortars down range at targets. As the dust settled and smoke cleared, you could hear him telling the crew jokingly, "Now that is how it's done!"

"I hope all of you understand how special you are," remarked Perry. "You truly are the future of this country and coming from an old guy (like me) it makes me very, very proud to know that there are individuals like you who are willing to hold your hand up ... and say, 'Here I am, send me.'"

"I don't get to do this often enough," he said. "You make me incredibly proud to work with you, and to be part of a team. This is as good as it gets." - 36th ID PAO

149th FW engineers jet over to Norway

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Phil Fountain
149th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

RYGGE AIR STATION, Norway (Aug. 20, 2013) – About 50 U.S. Airmen assigned to the 149th Civil Engineering Squadron (CES), a subordinate unit of the Texas Air National Guard's 149th Fighter Wing, headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio – Lackland, Texas, trained with Royal Norwegian military cadets on construction projects here, near Moss, and in Oslo, Norway, Aug. 12-19, 2013.

The Kingdom of Norway is located in Scandinavia, which also includes the Kingdoms of Denmark and Sweden, in northern Europe. Norway has membership in the NATO alliance and currently has military personnel deployed across the globe who are serving alongside U.S. forces.

The Airmen were in on-hand for a training exercise with the Norwegian armed forces called Impeccable Glove 2013, said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Christopher A. Miller, the squadron's commander and a graduate of the civil engineering program at Texas A&M University, in College Station, Texas.



Members of the 149th Civil Engineering Squadron and Royal Norwegian military cadets enrolled in the engineering program, help assemble a steel-frame structure at the academy (Krigsskolen), at Camp Linderud, in Oslo, Norway.

U.S. participation was sponsored through the deployment for training (DFT) program, which is administered by the National Guard Bureau, headquartered in Arlington, Va., he said.

“DFTs enable Air National Guard (ANG) civil engineering units to receive real-world training within the United States or abroad,” Miller said. “Our members have previously deployed to Camp Moreno, in California, as well as Armenia in support of the (DFT) program.”

As part of their deployment, the Texas Airmen collaborated with Royal Norwegian Air Force personnel and with senior Royal Norwegian military cadets enrolled in the engineering program at the Norwegian Military Academy (Krigsskolen), at Camp Linderud, in Oslo.

Krigsskolen is “Scandinavia’s oldest (institution of) higher education,” said Norwegian Army Maj. Anders C. Haavik-Nilsen, the

academy’s chief instructor of military technology and engineering.

The academy was established in 1750 and has been at its current, Linderud location since 1969, he said. Upon graduation, cadets earn a bachelor of military science and are commissioned as second lieutenants in the Royal Norwegian Army.

The joint training paired a Norwegian cadet with an American noncommissioned officer to manage the projects, which were implemented by work crews from the 149th CES.

Impeccable Glove 2013 consisted of six projects, said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Rosario Muñoz, a water and fuels systems maintenance supervisor and the Texas ANG project manager for the deployment. They were undertaken here and at the academy.

“The projects include: structures, electrical and roadway repair,” said Muñoz. “Throughout, our

Airmen are upgrading their proficiency levels for their AFSC (Air Force specialty code) and our broader career-field.”

The leadership at Rygge selected the projects, but the Krigsskolen cadets completed their design and troubleshooting, said Haavik-Nilsen, who’s also a graduate of the academy.

One of the cadets explained the different challenges he had to overcome to complete his project, which included structural repairs and upgrades to a canoe storage facility at Rygge.

“We started to plan (the projects) before summer,” said Cadet Kjetil Waal, one of the Norwegian project managers. “You learn a lot because everything doesn’t go as planned – you have to improvise.”

Other projects included: assembling and raising a steel-frame structure at Krigsskolen; constructing a multi-layer, reinforced steel vault at Krigss-



Members of the 149th Civil Engineering Squadron, help assemble a steel-frame structure at the Norwegian Military Academy (Krigsskolen), at Camp Linderud, in Oslo, Norway.

“Throughout, our airmen are upgrading their proficiency levels.”

kolen; constructing an exterior wall at Krigsskolen; digging a cable trench and installing lighting masts at a shooting range at Rygge; and repairing roadway, and digging a drainage ditch and laying a drainage pipe at Rygge.

“This is the first time we’ve had projects inside our camp (at Krigsskolen),” said Haavik-Nilsen. However, U.S. Air National Guard engineers have participated in Impeccable Glove for about 20 years. Previously, units have carried out projects on property near the academy, at Rygge, and at Ørland Main Air Station, which is located in central Norway.

The projects had many moving pieces and some challenges to complete – Rygge and Krigsskolen are separated by approxi-

mately 65 km (40 miles) or about a one-hour drive by automobile.

“We’ve had to adjust to using their materials, which are different than ours, but the materials here in Norway are pretty good,” Muñoz said. “We’ve had to adjust for not having our cellphones here – it’s been an adjustment for project management.”

However, the Texas-based engineers were able to hit the ground running with their knowledge of weights and measurement scales that differ from the United States.

“Our guys are pretty good with the metric system and being able to adjust, since we’ve deployed several times,” Muñoz said. “It’s working very well, (and) the Norwegians speak English, which is a plus for us.”

In addition to DFTs, the 149th CES regularly deploys to participate in Silver Flag, a combat readiness exercise for Air Force civil engineers, and has twice deployed to Iraq since 9/11, in 2004 and 2010, she said. Their training and operations are conducted in accordance with Air Force Instruction 10-210, Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force (BEEF) Program, among others.

Waal said that he was initially nervous about working with the U.S. Airmen.

“I know I can explain myself in English,” Waal said, “but there are all these words that I don’t know. We haven’t done anything like this. We usually do regular soldier training – this is more about management, planning and cooperation.”

“The projects include: structures, electrical and roadway repair.”





A Texas Air National Guardsman and a Royal Norwegian military cadet work together to assemble a steel-frame structure at the Norwegian Military Academy (Krigsskolen), at Camp Linderud, in Oslo, Norway.

“It’s been an incredible experience getting to work with the Norwegians.”



Impeccable Glove is the first experience the cadets have had with foreign military personnel, said Haavik-Nilsen. “They’ve got their challenges – it’s not easy to communicate in their second language.”

The Norwegian cadets received briefings on American culture and discussed different leadership styles with their instructors before the Air National Guardsmen arrived, he said. “They’ve got to find out these things themselves – there’s not really any answers.”

“It’s very significant,” Haavik-Nilsen said of the exercise. “They’ve done the theory in all the engineering subjects, they’ve done the project management, they’ve read a lot about leadership, and they’ve done English at school and a little cultural understanding. And now it’s time to put it all together

and see if it works.”

“On these projects, we do training (on) leadership, project management and all the engineering subjects at the same time. It doesn’t help if you can do them separately – you’ve got to be able to put it together and make things work,” Haavik-Nilsen said.

Waal said his nerves were quickly put at-ease once his project got underway.

“I don’t have the knowledge – I’m not a carpenter,” Waal said. “I like challenges, but one of the things I didn’t know was how good they were at what they did.”

The Airmen and cadets each benefited from the bilateral training.

“We’ve been working very well with the Norwegians,” said Muñoz. “We’re getting our upgrade

training and also helping them with their projects. Their cadets are also getting training and getting graded.”

“We both get training and learn from the experience,” Muñoz said.

In addition to accomplishing their U.S. National Guard training, an added benefit of the deployment is the opportunity for members of the squadron to build esprit de corps.

“We are like a family,” Muñoz said. “When we travel together, we’re like brothers and sisters.”

“It’s (been) an incredible experience getting to work with the Norwegians,” Muñoz said. “Their hospitality has been amazing.”

- 149th FW PAO



Members of the 149th Civil Engineering Squadron, Texas Air National Guard, help clear a road in Norway.

MASCAL

162nd ASMC Soldiers conduct Mass Casualty Exercise

Courtesy story and photos by
 36th Infantry Division Public Affairs



Soldiers of the 36th Infantry Division, Texas Army National Guard, participate in a full mass casualty exercise Aug. 5, 2013, during Annual Training at Fort Hood, Texas.

FORT HOOD, Texas (Aug. 8, 2013) - Soldiers of the 162nd Area Support Medical Company (ASMC), 36th Brigade Support Brigade (BSB), 36th Infantry Division, Texas Army National Guard, participated in a full mass casualty exercise Aug. 5, 2013, during Annual Training at Fort Hood, Texas.

“We are a modular medical company, meaning we can be pushed out anywhere to provide support,” said 1st Lt. Frank Johnson. “We used the MASCAL exercise to flex our unit’s capabilities on a large scale, and to stress our leaders, our soldiers and our process to determine their responses.”

The unit of a dozen medics, two physician assistants and numerous other emergency volunteer Soldiers from other jobs within the 36th BSB treated more than 20 simulated casualties under the guise of a motor pool explosion.

“Three things happened all at once,” said Johnson. “We had two casualties waiting to be air evac’ed by a medevac helicopter from 36th Combat Aviation Brigade. So as soon as the bird arrived to pick up those casualties, then a driver delivering eight simulated casualties showed up at the aid station, and a 9-line radio call came in calling for emergency medical response to an explosion at the motor pool with multiple casualties.”

With three immediate response situations taking place simultaneously, the aid station and its medical teams jumped into action. A field litter ambulance with medics was dispatched to the motor pool, a triage intake

point was created to take the injured out of the vehicle that had arrived at the aid station’s front door, and a medical team quickly moved the soldiers to be air evac’ed to the waiting helicopter.

“Our medics were quick and efficient,” said 1st Sgt. Jeff Adams of the 162nd ASMC. “Medical teams at the aid station quickly prioritized the patients. Those that were expectant, who would not survive, were put into a separate area for comfort care; those who require immediate surgery were taken in first; those who had minor injuries, who could wait a little longer to be seen, were put into a waiting area and had some of their smaller wounds treated by our field medics until they could be seen by one of the providers.”

As slots opened up in the aid station, those with more severe injuries to the least were taken in, in that order.

“The purpose was to identify holes or gaps in our process,” said Johnson. “We also were able to refine our procedures and clearly define each role that each Soldier would take in a situation like that.”

The unit credits the volunteers and command of the 36th BSB for support and assistance they provided for the exercise.

“The casualties and the emergency volunteers from the brigade were excellent,” said Adams. “They really jumped into their roles and sprung into action doing whatever it was that we needed them to do - whether that was to act accordingly to their assigned injuries or to be a mechanic who was pulled to provide comfort care to a casualty who was not going to make it.”

This MASCAL exercise was one of many exercises each medical company from each brigade within the 36th Infantry Division, held during Annual Training.
 - 36th ID PAO



SHOOT AND MOVE

136th Security Forces Squadron at annual training

Story and photos by
Airman Cody P. Witsaman
136th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Texas Air National Guard Security Forces from the 136th Airlift Wing practiced their shoot and move maneuvers at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, July 28, 2013.



Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth (July 25, 2013) - One team, one fight, a common phrase used in the military, has become the motto of the 136th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) here. The SFS team is constantly focusing and training to handle realistic encounters down range, with the focus of this training on team building.

The shoot and move exercise organized on July 25, 2013, here focused on “acting as a team, communicating as a team and being able to shoot as a team,” said Master Sgt. Aubrey Beaver, 136th Security Forces Squadron.

Security forces members ran through the course with M16 blanks and body armor, targeting paper targets and using the cover they were given for each exercise. While navigating the course members shouted commands, “such as cover and move”, to let each member from a four-man squad know when to provide cover fire and advance to the next position.

“The point of the exercise is to keep constant fire on

the enemy so the enemy is always going to have their head down,” said Staff Sgt. Mark Wilinski, 136th SFS. “This allows constant movement within the unit while forcing the enemy to stay put.”

The course prepares security forces members for engagements in the urban environment, using the cover given to complete the mission.

During deployments security forces usually are broken down into squads of three, said Wilinski. “You get to know your team very well, as well as, your specific role.”

Security forces hold teamwork extremely high because if something were to go wrong, members would know each specific role within a squad to provide the safest course of action.

“Team movement is the safest most effective way for us to move,” said Wilinski. The course has “brought us to move the safest way possible with live weapons as well as giving the most realistic feel.”

Team building is only one aspect Beaver focuses on when preparing courses. Another goal in training is to provide the most realist scenarios possible for the participants.

“We try and make the courses as real as possible because we train like we fight,” said Beaver. “The courses allow these guys to go down range with situations they can handle based on what we train them here.”

With this confidence, a synergy is created within the group. “We are stronger as a team rather than what we are individually,” said Wilinski.

Security forces members will rarely go into a situation alone; because in any military situation the goal is to fight with an unfair advantage to provide the best scenario for fellow service members, said Wilinski

Even though training is very important to Airman 1st Class Theodore Oliver, SFS, he is ready to get out in the field and observe what his career field can offer. “I love training; training is always good, because I

train how I would fight,” said Oliver.

The shoot and move course provided a very active way to show how it would be like in the field, at the same time taking place on a hot and humid day. That being said, Beaver receives feedback from his troops, good and bad. “I explain to them, yes you are hot and yes you are uncomfortable, but that is what you will be facing down range.”

Watching the activity and speaking with Security Forces members, the courses that are set up here provide a wide variety of skills to learn and improve what is of monumental importance in the field. Weather is an obstacle present everywhere in the world, “so when they get down range, it isn’t a foreign concept to be hot and uncomfortable in all your gear,” said Beaver.

With these training exercises, members will be able to perform to the best of their ability in any condition, providing the help and support their fellow squad members require. - 136th AW PAO

PREPARED FOR THE WORST

Minuteman Brigade participates in Operation Joint Eagle

*Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Griego
JTF 136th MEB Public Affairs*

CAMP GRUBER, Okla. (Sept. 19, 2013) - Civil leader Spencer W. Kimball once said, "Preparedness, when properly pursued, is a way of life, not a sudden, spectacular program."

The members of the Texas National Guard's Joint Task Force 136 (Maneuver Enhancement Brigade) demonstrate this level of preparedness in all they do.

This was especially true the week of Sept. 13-19 at Camp Gruber in Muskogee, Okla., as the "Minuteman Brigade" took part in Operation Joint Eagle, an interagency, multi-state exercise that tested the response capabilities of the region when confronted with a notional F-5 tornado.

"We're running an incident management team for a simulated event here at Gruber City," said Sgt. Mike Fitzgerald, incident commander and officer with the Tulsa Police Department. "You're going to have fire and police and medical agencies working together to come up with a plan in how you would handle something like this."

The role of the National Guard in this exercise is as a force multiplier under the authority and guidance of local and regional civil agencies. This support is in fulfillment of JTF-136 MEB's DOD-mandated Homeland Response Force mission, which tasks the military outfit to provide life-saving capabilities to augment the efforts of civilian first-responders within FEMA Region VI.

"To be able to support the civilian entities is an awesome feeling," said Air Guard Tech. Sgt. Diana Huezo, a RIG medic with the Search and Extraction Team. "Once you know what role you have and what you're supposed to be doing, it really makes you feel good that you're part of a huge entity. We do need to do these trainings in case a real-world disaster does happen."



Soldiers with Joint Task Force 136 Maneuver Enhancement Brigade's 136th Military Police Battalion conduct Casualty Assistance Search and Extraction training during Operation Joint Eagle Response at Camp Gruber in Muskogee, Oklahoma.



The training, in order to effectively stress the response teams, compounded the simulated natural disaster with subsequent incidents, such as a terrorist attack and civil unrest among the affected populations. Such escalations call for the resources available to the brigade's 6th CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP). CBRNE refers to the collective threats of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosive contaminants.

"The scenario today is that we had an explosion go off," said Army Maj. Heather Arndt, the Joint Eagle exercise coordinator and member of the Oklahoma National Guard. "The Texas CERFP is setting up to do a mass decontamination of all the innocent people who happened to be there. The beauty of the CERFP is not only can they do a mass decontamination, they can also do search and extraction to help save those people who are trapped. They also have a security element that can help keep control of the situation. They're all able to go into that contaminated area and help bring those people out to safety."

In addition to preparing for real-life emergencies, JTF-136 (MEB) used Joint Eagle as a precursor for their National Guard Bureau external evaluation in March to re-certify to conduct the Homeland Response Force mission.

"It's very different from a combat mission," said 1st Lt. Lance Willingham, a platoon leader with the 236th Military Police Company, part of the 6th CERFP. "We're here to help our fellow Americans in time of disaster. It's a very different mission but in a lot of ways it's a much more rewarding mission."

"They've done this quite a few times so this is very familiar to them," said Sgt. 1st Class Heather Sanchez, a platoon sergeant with the 236th MP Company. "They know what to do. They got out here, set it up, no issues. Their morale is really good."

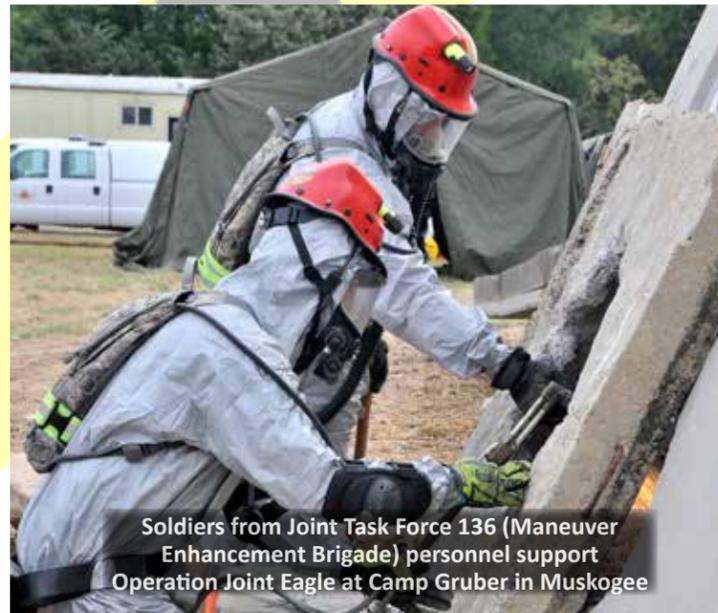
With lives on the line when disaster strikes, preparation, training, and rehearsals are a way of life for JTF-136 (MEB).

Operation Joint Eagle, along with other scenarios like it, ensure these skilled Guardsmen will be equipped with the tools to support their civil partners and react as needed.

"We are always ready to go," said Sanchez. "We are always prepared." - **JTF 136th MEB PAO**



Soldiers from Joint Task Force 136 (Maneuver Enhancement Brigade) personnel support Operation Joint Eagle at Camp Gruber in Muskogee



Soldiers from Joint Task Force 136 (Maneuver Enhancement Brigade) personnel support Operation Joint Eagle at Camp Gruber in Muskogee



Members of the 136th Military Police Battalion, part of Joint Task Force 136 (Maneuver Enhancement Brigade), conduct medical evacuation training during Operation Joint Eagle at Camp Gruber in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

HURTS ONE. AFFECTS ALL.

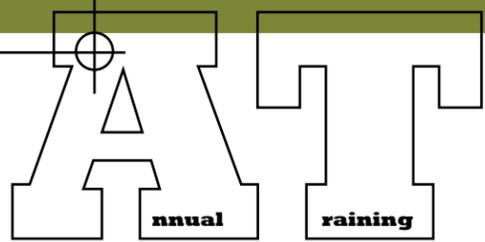
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Chaplain Corps answer the call

Texas Army National Guard Chaplain Corps provide spiritual services at Annual Training

Story by Spc. Maria Moy
Texas Military Forces Public Affairs
Photos by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Spires
36th Infantry Division Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas (Aug. 9, 2013) – A chaplain assistant with the Texas Army National Guard’s 136th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, headquartered at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base, in Houston, was baptized during the unit’s annual training (AT) exercise here, Aug. 7, 2013.

Pfc. Heather Hale received the religious sacrament during her unit’s two-week AT. The event took place in the field, and she was joined by many of her fellow service members.

After discussing her faith and the meaning of baptism with a chaplain, Hale said she was ready to take that step.

“I’ve always wanted the experience of baptism,” Hale said, “but I wanted to feel comfortable in the right setting. I didn’t approach the situation, the situation approached me.”

The sacrament was administered by Chaplain (Capt.) Brian Hudson, who is assigned to the Texas Army National Guard’s 36th Infantry Division’s Higher Headquarters Battalion, at Camp Mabry, in Austin, and served as the primary chaplain for the Fort Hood AT exercise.

Hudson, who’s new to the Chaplain Corps, said the ceremony is something he will not forget.

“To have two weeks of field training culminate in a baptism service – while gaining the trust of a Soldier that I have never met before – will forever be a career highlight,” said Hudson. The Chaplain Corps’ primary duty is to tend to Soldiers’ spiritual needs, Hudson said. They focus on morale by providing the unit with religious support, as needed.

During this year’s AT, the unit ministry team held six Protestant services and celebrated one Roman Catholic Mass.

In addition to Christian services, the Texas Army Chaplain Corps has the ability to tend to the spiritual needs of all faiths.

For example, in 2010, Texas welcomed the first Muslim chaplain into the Army National Guard – Chaplain (Capt.) Rafael Lantigua. He continues to serve in that capacity and is also the Texas Military Forces’ diversity and inclusion advisor, at Camp Mabry.

There were many moving parts during the AT exercise, and the Chaplain Corps stepped in to provide additional services for the Soldiers.

A movie night was offered with popcorn, candies and sports drinks.

Additionally, one morning, they gave the food service specialists a break by serving breakfast. Chaplain assistants played worship music, and some Soldiers requested prayers before

they moved out for their missions. “We care for them,” was the message Hudson said he wanted the service members to know.

This is something Hale also discussed.

“I help provide religious support for members of my unit and help the chaplain set up services,” Hale said. “As for the enlisted side, I spend a lot of time with Soldiers to make sure they are okay and ask (them) if there is anything they need help with.”

“I provide a sense of security religiously and non-religiously by being a friend,” Hale said.

Regardless of one’s personal beliefs, the Chaplain Corps provides great resources to meet a variety of Soldier and Airmen needs across the Texas Military Forces. Hale’s baptism is just one example. - **DISPATCH**

Left page: Chaplain Brian Hudson, 36th Infantry Division, Texas Army National Guard, center, conducts a baptism service.

Right page: Chaplain Brian Hudson, 36th Infantry Division, Texas Army National Guard, prepares to baptize Private 1st Class Heather Hale during the Division’s Annual Training. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Spires)



“To have two weeks of field training culminate in a baptism service, will forever be a career highlight.”



Charlie Med

Keeping Soldiers in the fight

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Jennifer Atkinson
56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs



CAMP MABRY, Texas (Sept. 18, 2013)
Training for combat, while not as potentially deadly as combat itself, still results in strains, sprains, broken bones, and sometimes, especially in the Texas summer, heat injuries. For C Company, 949th Brigade Support Battalion, 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, getting Soldiers treated and back to training is a high priority.

During their 2013 Annual Training (AT), the providers in "Charlie Med" had new equipment to test, and old challenges to overcome.

"This is a brand new set-up," said Sgt. 1st Class David Holland, the Treatment Platoon sergeant. "It's called the BaseX tent system,

"Without this new system we couldn't do the patient hold or leave our equipment out and ready for use," said Holland. "This just allows us to give Soldiers better treatment."

Holland gives a great deal of credit for the new BaseX system to Lt. Col. Cogswell, the 949th BSB commander.

"Lt. Col. Cogswell was really the driving force behind this," said Holland. "We've needed it for years, and she pushed hard for it."

The Evacuation (Evac) Platoon, guided by Sgt. Sandy Scott, has a bit different mission. "We work with the aid station," said Scott, "so we do a lot of coordination and field

well as their missions."
"We've had some challenges out here," said Scott. "Communications have been a little hard, but Soldiers have just found ways to overcome them."

Maj. Scott Davis, acting 56th IBCT surgeon, did not mince words when discussing C Co.

"These folks here keep the Soldier in the fight," said Davis. "A lot of their challenges are environmental but the new tents helps the medics overcome those, and eases up constraints on care. But in a word, these people are dedicated."

"I have never met such a tightly-knit group

"Without this new system we couldn't do the patient hold or leave our equipment out and ready for use. This just allows us to give Soldiers better treatment."

and we've never gone to AT with anything like it." The BaseX tent is a fully enclosed environment, including an integrated floor panel system instead of a dirt or grass floor. Optimally, the center area of the aid station sets up with eight Soldiers, instead of 20, allowing more resource allocation to patient care rather than tent construction.

"We're still learning the new system," said Holland. "It's been a bit of a challenge, because we've never been to AT with anything like it."

With the adoption of the BaseX tent, Charlie Med can provide "Level 2" care in the field, including dental care, X-ray capability, a lab, behavioral health services, and a 72-hour patient hold for observation and treatment.

evaluations and then make the decision to evacuate a Soldier."

With medics a bit thin on the ground during AT, having the ability to perform x-rays has helped ease the strain on resources. "We've reduced evac traffic with this capability," said Holland. "There have been about 20 Soldiers that we didn't have to send to the local hospital just for X-rays."

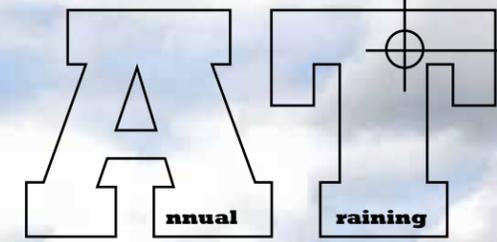
Scott and Holland each praise the medics of Charlie Med for their unwavering work ethic and genuine care for Soldiers.

"Everyone works together," said Holland. "Because my platoon is a bit low, the evac platoon is helping me out, providing 75 percent of coverage for the aid station, as

of young people," said Holland. "They want to learn everything they can and the best part is teaching someone something, and then just watching them light up."

"I was a civilian nurse for years and I never saw this level of camaraderie there," he said.

"There is nothing in the world I wouldn't do for these people," continued Holland. "We really are part of a family. I've been in the military since 1989, on Active Duty, the Reserves and the National Guard, and this is the best group of people I've ever worked with." - **DISPATCH**



Senior Airman Leslie Blansett, 136th Airlift Wing, prepares lunch for Patriot Exercise 2013 participants in the new Disaster Relief Mobile Kitchen Trailer.



Airman 1st Class Suri Cuellar, right, 136th Airlift Wing, serves a hot meal.



Guardsmen from the 434th Chemical Company, enjoy their hot lunch served by the Airmen from the 136th Airlift Wing, out of their newly implemented Relief Mobile Kitchen Trailer during Patriot Exercise 2013, Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center.



Mobile kitchen Hits the Road to feed Patriot Exercise

Story by Tech. Sgt. Natalie Stanley
153rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

VOLK FIELD, Wis. (Aug. 1, 2013) - Nine Airmen from the 136th Airlift Wing, Fort Worth, Texas, and two Nebraska Army National Guardsmen are testing the real-world capabilities of the Disaster Relief Mobile Kitchen Trailer (DRMKT) during Patriot Exercise 2013 at Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center, July 2013.

The DRMKT is a new state-of-the-art mobile kitchen used during disaster relief situations.

"It's a self-contained unit that has everything we need included, and it transports easily and sets up easily," said Senior Airman Thomas Criger, 136th AW services member. "So far, we love it and it has saved a lot of set up time compared to the old system."

Some of the features include cold storage units, a sanitation station, two ovens and a lot of convenient built in storage.

The DRMKT is being utilized to serve meals to all players that are a part of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Emergency Enhanced Response Force Package.

The 136th AW received their DRMKT in January 2013 making this is the first exercise of this ca-

capacity that they have participated in.

"We can serve at least 400 at this point," said Criger. "Beyond that, we're still playing it by ear."

The 136th AW airmen are part of more than 2,000 Army and Air National Guard members from 26 states joined members from a variety of local, state and federal agencies to train on responding to a large-scale domestic emergency. - **153rd AW PAO**



Talisman Saber

Texas National Guardsmen participate in the combined exercise held at Ft. McChord, WA.

*Story and photo by
Sgt. 1st Class Suzanne Ringle
36th Infantry Div. Public Affairs*

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MC-CHORD, Wash. (July 29, 2013) - Texas' 36th Infantry Division deployed approximately 150 soldiers to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., July 14-29.

The soldiers participated in the fifth Talisman Saber training exercise. Talisman Saber 2013 is a U.S. and Australian multiservice military training exercise involving nearly 30,000 troops in a complex and realistic war-fighting scenario.

In order for the scenarios to be as authentic as possible, the exercise design included conditions for actions to take place on several levels, including civilian living conditions and infrastructure concerns. In these scenarios each separate element relies on another's information or actions.

The Arrowhead Division Soldiers' command and control efforts in a computer center fed into higher elements' operations halfway around the world. At the same time an exercise of this scale allows the division headquarters to work within a combined task force. "We are very interested in learning staff process-



es," said 36th ID Commander Maj. Gen. James K. "Red" Brown. "Since the 2010 deployment, we have new people in new jobs. Most of the people that are here have done some type of job in a division headquarters but probably not the job that they are doing."

The 36th Division soldiers, or "T-Patchers," gained new understanding of the processes involved at a variety of decision-making levels. Brown sees the exercise as a superior and cost-effective way to train those in his command, saying, "This is the Army of today. These systems that we use are the systems we go to war with. This is an in-depth exercise over multiple days in current Army systems, current Army doctrine and

working at a level that we normally don't get to do. So this (training) is very beneficial."

Ten days into the exercise, new and old staff members said they had developed into a much more effective team. Division operations officer, Lt. Col. Danny Quick said this staff had developed synchronization tools he had seen others take months to create.

Division chief intelligence officer, Lt. Col. Paul Nunn said, "I would highly recommend this type of exercise for other Divisions in the Army. It offered a different environment with combinations of all sorts of geopolitical interests, different terrain or problems that we may run into. I

thought it was very well designed."

T-Patch soldiers working in the response cell provided training for the division staff and higher elements by moving their units in computer tracking systems, responding to their assigned missions and sending up incident reports from their area of responsibility. Soldiers acted in roles well above their current rank. Capt. April Frye, 36th ID physician's assistant-turned brigade commander for the exercise, said, "I've had to grab a lot of information and resources from the personnel around me. We have people here with limited experiences but collectively we have a multitude of experience at different levels from Battalion and below this makes our positions in this exercise easier."

This mission has the Guardsmen working two shifts in rooms filled with three-screened computers and the air humming with a palpable sense of urgency. Like a scene out of a movie, the information flow sounds like controlled chaos from the interspersed ringing phones to shouts of, "Attention in the TOC!" or "Call Division and get that info to them now!"

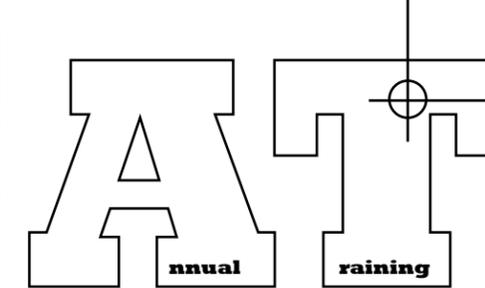
Maj. Jessica Emery, 36th ID military intelligence officer, who helped the response cell said she has seen them quickly master their new positions. "I am very proud of all of them... Over the past week our level of understanding, across the board, has improved one hundred percent every single day, every day it is that much better."

Soldiers performing an unfamiliar job can be apprehensive. One of the priorities of the 36th ID Commander was that the soldiers come away from training knowing they can do any job asked of them. New to the unit and fresh out of Army basic and advanced individual training, Spec. LaToya Lockhart, ammunitions supply specialist said, "At first I was confused at what I really need to do, but then it just clicked and now I am even more confident. During this mission I was real glad to see the other side of the Army, the mental side. Don't get me wrong, I like the physical part too."

The training during this exercise was as real as it could get, Capt. Frye said, "during one incident where casualties were part of the scenario she felt a real emotional reaction," further saying she believed that knowing how the situation feels before it happens is helpful preparation.

The Talisman Saber exercise brings together U.S. and Australian forces every two years. The two militaries have strengthened and improved their ability to plan, communicate, and conduct complex operations together. A partnership fostered by the first U.S. Naval Fleet visit in 1908. For over one hundred years our two forces and governments have solidified into a great partnership through training and fighting together. We have served alongside each other in every major conflict since WWII.

- 36th ID PAO





HUNTING AND FISHING SEASON

Compiled by
Capt. Martha Nigrelle and Spc. Maria Moy
Texas Military Forces Public Affairs Office

It's fall and as the temperatures drop in Texas, outdoor recreation becomes a lot more fun. Across the state of Texas numerous military installations open their doors to hunting, fishing and camping enthusiasts each year. With proper military identification – and sometimes a minimal fee – service members are welcome to enjoy the amenities that these bases offer. All members of the military are eligible for free Texas hunting and fishing license, including traditional members of the National Guard.

Hunting Locations in Texas

Camp Bowie in Brownwood (325-646-0159 ext. 716-4400)

Fort Wolters in Mineral Wells (940-325-6872 ext. 20)

Camp Maxey in Powderly (512-782-5001 ext. 4517)

Fort Hood near Killeen (254-532-4552)

Camp Bullis in San Antonio (210-295-7577 or 295-7529)

<http://www.fortsammwr.com/recreation/camp-bullis.html>

Laughlin Air Force Base, Southwinds Marina in Del Rio (830-775-7800)

http://laughlinservices.com/?page_id=55

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department offers both a free online course on hunter's education and a guide to finding a licensing agent nearest to your location. If you plan to go hunting, ensure that you have a current Texas hunting license and hunter's education certificate.

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/outdoor-learning/hunter-education>

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/licenses/license_agents/

The Texas National Guard Hunting Program requires that all hunters register prior to hunting. Participants may register at any time after Sept. 1, through the duration of the season.

Bow-Hunting Season: October through the end of December

Rifle Hunting Season: Nov. 2nd through the end of December

As rules and regulations vary at each installation, be sure to call ahead or check out their facilities website to ensure you have all necessary documentation.



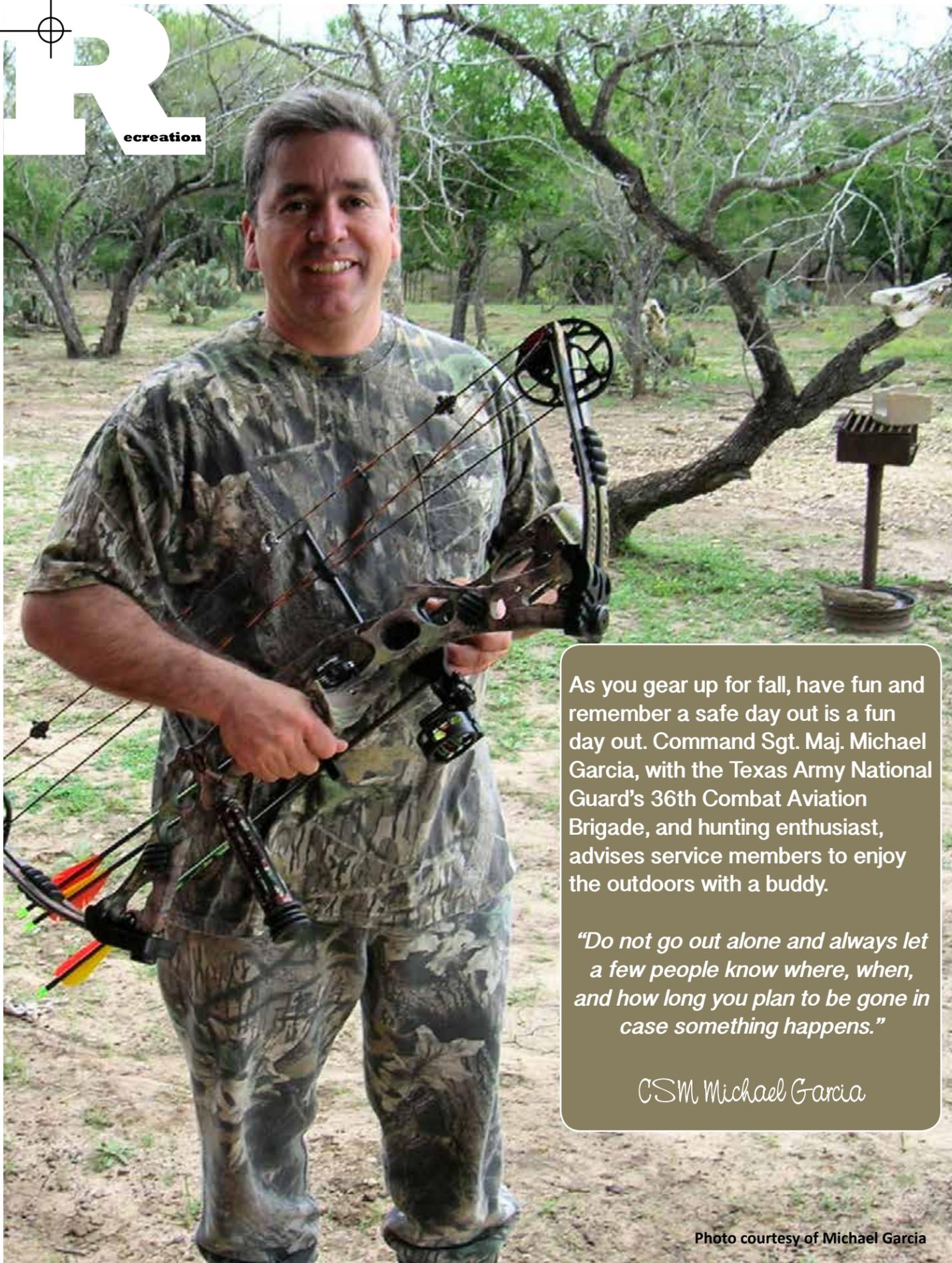
Fishing Locations

- Camp Mabry in Austin (512-782-1125) *Catch and release only
- Fort Hood near Killeen (254-532-4552)
- Camp Bullis in San Antonio (210-295-7577 or 295-7529)
www.fortsammwr.com/recreation/camp-bullis.html
- Laughlin Air Force Base, Southwinds Marina in Del Rio (830-775-7800)
http://laughlinservices.com/?page_id=55
- Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo (325-944-1012)
- Dyess Air Force Base near Abilene (325-696-2402)
www.dyessfss.com/outdoor-rec.html
- Sheppard Air Force Base at Lake Texoma in Wichita Falls (903-523-4613)
www.82fss.com
- Elliott Lake, Red River Army Depot in Texarkana (903- 334-2688)
www.redrivermwr.com/index_files/ElliottLake.htm

Camping Locations

- Camp Mabry in Austin (512-782-1125)
- Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area (BLORA) in Belton (254-287-2523/8303)
www.hoodmwr.com/rv_camp.htm
- Joint Base San Antonio Rec. Area at Canyon Lake (800-280-3466)
www.randolphfss.com/cm/templates/canyonlake.asp?articleid=37&zoneid=20
- Camp Bullis in San Antonio (210-295-7577 or 295-7529)
www.fortsammwr.com/recreation/camp-bullis.html
- Laughlin Air Force Base, Southwinds Marina in Del Rio (830-775-7800)
http://laughlinservices.com/?page_id=55
- Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo (325-944-1012)
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As you gear up for fall, have fun and remember a safe day out is a fun day out. Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Garcia, with the Texas Army National Guard's 36th Combat Aviation Brigade, and hunting enthusiast, advises service members to enjoy the outdoors with a buddy.

"Do not go out alone and always let a few people know where, when, and how long you plan to be gone in case something happens."

CSM Michael Garcia

Photo courtesy of Michael Garcia

Whether hunting, fishing, or camping it is best to travel with a phone, first aid kit, a flash light, and extra food and water. Here are a few other safety tips keep in mind:

- 1. Make sure that any firearm is treated as though it were loaded and ready to fire, and always remember to keep the safety on, without exception, unless the weapon is about to be used.**
- 2. Keep in complete control of your weapon. Only aim your gun when you intend to shoot.**
- 3. Make sure you have targeted an area with no one in close range of your game.**
- 4. Wear a blaze (or a neon-bright) orange outer layer to allow for additional visibility.**
- 5. Be sure you are not targeted as game!!! In addition to wearing bright orange, always have a flashlight with you when hunting in the dark.**
- 6. Stay alert! You can be a danger to yourself and others if you are not alert while hunting. Hunting safety depends upon observation and ability—if you are impaired by sleepiness, (or anything else) - it is not safe to go hunting.**
- 7. If around water, always have a properly fitted personal flotation device on hand.**
- 8. When fishing, look behind you before casting so that your hook will not catch a power line, tree or another person.**
- 9. Protect yourself from the sun! Sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat will help to prevent overexposure.**

If you use a tree stand:

- 1. Be sure to use a harness or safety belt.**
- 2. Always work within your own physical limits. Do not attempt to climb where you cannot.**
- 3. Never climb with equipment. Use a haul line.**

For more information contact the Texas Army National Guard Safety Office at

(512) 782-5005 or email at ng.tx.txarng.list.safety-office@mail.mil

COMPETITOR _____

SPOTS TOUCHING A SCORING RING
RECEIVE THE HIGHER VALUE
SHOTS OUTSIDE OF SCORING RING
ARE SCORED AS MISSES.

Government Shutdown Assistance

Family Support Services Website: <http://txfss.com/HelpfulLinks.html>

Financial - Family Assistance Hotline 1-800-252-8032

Local Resources (Financial):

Caritas of Austin
American Legend Department of TX
Capital Area Food Bank of Texas
Local area Churches
Austin Texas Salvation Army
Austin Health and Human Services

Helpful Resources:

Veterans Of Foreign Wars (VFW)
Armed Forces
Un Met Needs
Catholic Charities
Fe-Ma-Le Foundation - Female Veterans

Employment:

Hire A Hero - www.hireahero.org
Recruit Military - www.recruitmilitary.com
TX Dept. of Public Safety - www.txdps.state.tx.us
Texas Workforce Commission - www.twc.state.tx.us/ 800-252-3642
Texas Veterans Commission - www.tvc.state.tx.us/
Job Connection Education Program - <http://jcep.info>

TXMF Counseling Line: 512-782-5069

TRICARE Support:

Texas TRICARE Liaison: 512-782-1985
National TRICARE Hotline: 1-800-444-5445

DEERS Support:

Texas DEERS NCOIC: 512-782-6841

Other Helpful Websites:

www.operationhomefront.net
www.usacares.org
www.onceinalifetime.com

*(Please note that processing of financial assistance applications ranges from 5-10 days)

