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THE **ISPATCH**
JULY 2014

THE MAGAZINE OF THE TEXAS MILITARY FORCES

- ★ Independence Day
- ★ 36 ID changes command
- ★ Keeping the skies safe over Kuwait





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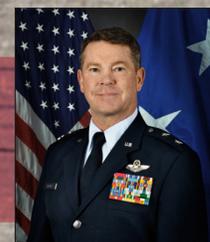
The Cover



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I used a Designated Driver!



***What have
YOU done to save
a life today?***



***ARMY SAFE
IS ARMY STRONG***



Organization of the Texas Military

Commentary by Col. Gregory P. Chaney
Chief of Staff, Office of the Adjutant General

AS WE CELEBRATE another year of American independence, we also reflect on the sacrifice of the early citizen-soldiers, who put down their plowshares and marched and fought alongside George Washington, and others, to begin the process of securing our founder's ideals and promise of greater freedom for all.

Our heritage is directly tied to these early Americans. They laid the foundation of the modern National Guard. Our organization grew from the militias of the early colonies, their experiences during and after the Revolutionary War, and the desire of states to prevent an overreaching federal government.

The Militia Act of 1792 codified the traditional view of the militia, and the organization and control states had over their military forces. Later, the Militia Act of 1903, also known as the Dick Act (after U.S. Sen. Charles Dick of Ohio), restructured state militaries and allowed for greater opportunities for the federalization of state troops, with the consent of state governors. The Act provided federal funds to the National Guard to pay for equipment and training, including annual summer encampments.

The National Defense Act of 1916 established the National Guard of the United States, and gave the president expanded authority to federalize state National Guard forces. While federal responsibilities and funding have increased, one thing remained the same: state National Guards are organized by each state's statute and are controlled by the governor, unless they are called into federal service with the National Guard of the United States or as a part of the U.S. Army or U.S. Air Force.

Each state's militia is organized through the Army National Guard and Air National Guard, and many also have a separate state defense force.

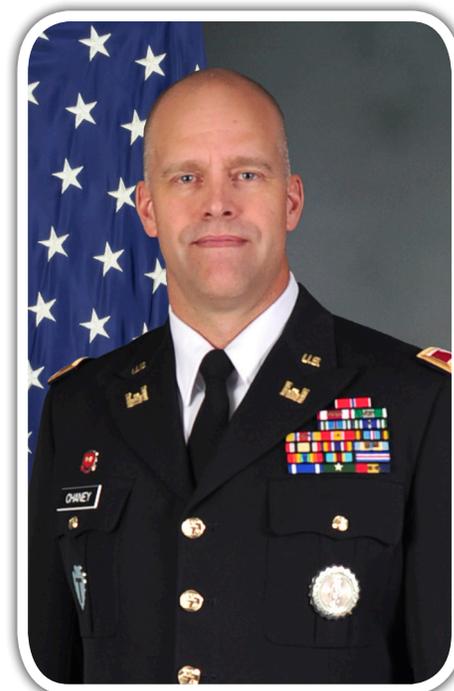
In Texas, our military structure is organized by state law, currently within the Texas Government Code (Title 4, Executive Branch, Chapter 437, Texas Military). This statute organizes the Texas Military into the Texas Military Forces and the Texas Military Department.

The Adjutant General (TAG) of Texas serves the dual-role of commanding general of the Texas Military Forces and is the governing officer, policy maker, and head of the Texas Military Department. The Adjutant General is a state employee who is appointed by the governor of Texas – the state military's commander-in-chief – and must be confirmed by the Texas Senate.

To assist TAG, the governor also appoints two deputy adjutants general (DAGs), one for Army matters and another for Air. Additionally, the governor appoints the commander of the Texas State Guard. These are all state officials, but the DAGs may also serve in dual-roles and assume federal responsibilities. For example, both DAGs also currently serve as the commander of their respective National Guard components.

The Texas Military Forces currently include the Texas Army and Air National Guard, which have federal duty when called upon by the president, as well as a state defense force, the volunteer Texas State Guard, which serves the state and cannot be called into federal service.

The administrative arm that supports the state's resources and military forces is the Texas Military Department. This state agency is managed



by an executive director who serves at the pleasure of TAG, and is a critical component of the Texas Military. Its dedicated civilians support our soldiers and airmen to help ensure they have many of the necessary tools to achieve mission success.

While we are a complex, state-federal organization, our unifying motto is "Texans Defending Texas" – that is the call and charge for all of our members and employees. While times may change, we continue to stand ready. We are proud of our legacy and heritage.

Much like our Guard predecessors who fought during the American struggle for independence, today's citizen-soldiers and airmen live and work in our communities. But we remain prepared to defend our state and nation, when called: from the ravages of wildfires and hurricanes to the threat of foreign enemies abroad.

- FROM THE TOP





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10 June 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Safety Message for the Critical Days of Summer

1. Memorial Day through Labor Day represents the summer season for our personnel and their Families. During this time we see an uptick in outdoor recreational activities, projects around the house, and travel on our nation's roadways. Summer season typically also represents the highest period of accidents, within our ranks. The Department of Defense lost 83 Service Members during this critical period last year.
2. We implore everyone to not only look after themselves and their loved ones, but to also look after their friends and co-workers. Before you engage in off duty activities, take time to think about the hazards you may encounter and how to avoid them.
3. Leaders, we ask that you redouble your efforts to promote safety responsibility and involvement throughout your chain. Impart on your subordinates that the most dangerous things they will do each day take place after they remove their uniform. Help them to identify the hazards they might be facing in their off duty lives. Finally, show them what right looks like by displaying your own responsible behavior, both on and off duty.
4. This summer, we're asking leaders and all personnel to take an active role in ensuring we don't lose a single civilian employee, Soldier, Airmen, or family member from an accident.
5. On both the Army and Air Force Safety Center websites, you will find more resources for the Safe Summer Campaign intended to help you enjoy the summer season while avoiding the high risk hazards that don't have to go along with it.
6. POC for this memorandum is the Safety and Occupational Health Office at ng.tx.txarng.list.safety-office@mail.mil or 512-782-5005.


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DISTRIBUTION: A

101 Days of Summer

Commentary by
Michelle McBride

Memorial Day weekend has come and gone and with it began the “101 critical days of summer,” which spans from Memorial Day to Labor Day. This is a time of year that our Texas Military Forces leadership wants to highlight safety on and off the job.

With barbecue, long travel days and fireworks in the mix, it’s easy to lose sight of important safety precautions and become a little careless. For example, did you know that even the “safe” fireworks, such as sparklers can reach temperatures above 1000 degrees Fahrenheit? According to the National Safety Council (NSC), “in 2010, fireworks caused an estimated 15,500 reported fires, including 1,100 structure fires. These fires resulted in an estimated 8,600 people treated in emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries, 39 percent of whom were under 15 years of age.”

Increased travel also seems to decrease safety in personal vehicles. Some important things to remember are don’t drink and drive, don’t drive while tired and take plenty of rest breaks along the way--your destination will still be there even if you stop to use the restroom. Also, if riding a motorcycle remember to wear a helmet, as well as highly visible protective clothing and gear.

When you arrive at your beach vacation of choice remember to always apply sunscreen 30 minutes before going outside and reapply every two hours. This is especially important if you have children with you as the NSC indicates, two sunburns before the age of 18 can double the risk of melanoma. When in the water, try to avoid drinking and swimming so you can stay cognizant of your surroundings as well as the people around you who may not be strong swimmers.

Again, as you embark on the ‘dog days’ of summer, remember these are just a few tips to help you make the most of your summer and help keep you and your family safe. For more tips, visit the National Safety Council website at http://www.nsc.org/safety_home/SafetyObservances/Pages/SummerSafety.aspx

Follow Michelle McBride at <http://www.txmf.us/txmf-blog>





“ We have to be
combat ready.”

An Airman with the 147th Air Support Operations Squadron, waits for other members from the squadron to track him during land navigation and vehicle navigation training at the squadron's annual field training exercise April 3, 2014, at Camp Swift, Texas.

They're all in it together

**Airmen from different job specialties
train together to learn each other's jobs**

**Story and Photos by
2nd Lt. Alicia Lacy
147th Reconnaissance
Wing Public Affairs
Office**

CAMP SWIFT,
TEXAS - Piercing
radio frequency
interrupts the chatter in
a small tent.

Instinctively, a supply
noncommissioned offi-
cer jumps up and grabs
the handset and listens
intently to the message.
A sequence of eight
digits is relayed, hidden
amongst the crackling
radio static.

The NCO then repeats
the transmission and re-
ceives confirmation from
the sender on the other
side of the radio that the
message was received
accurately.

Almost immediately,
with coordinates in
hand, after being input
into a handheld GPS
system, a command sup-
port staff member drives

with a maintenance
member in a humvee to
perform land and vehi-
cle navigation.

Working together, the
two navigate between
waypoints and reach the
targeted destination.

Gen. George S. Patton,
Jr. said it best: "An
Army is a team; lives,
sleeps, eats, fights as a
team."

These airmen were all a
part of the team.

Despite not carrying the
Air Force specialty code
of a Tactical Air Control
Party member, the sup-
port staff at the 147th
Air Support Opera-
tions Squadron, 147th
Reconnaissance Wing,
know what it's like to be
a member of the ASOS
team.



For many in the supply,
knowledge operations,
or human resources
career fields, land and
vehicle navigation is
not a conventional part
of their training or job.
However, the Elling-
ton Field-based airmen
work with the TACPs at
the squadron, and train
with them, as they have
additional expeditionary
requirements that come
with being assigned to
an ASOS unit.

"They're a big asset to
the operations section
to support them in their
training," said Master
Sgt. James Nance, the
squadron's maintenance
section supervisor.

"We have to be combat
mission ready," he add-
ed, about the support
staff.



Left: A vehicle maintenance airman reads off waypoints to another airman from the squadron.

Right: Staff Sgt. Evan Lawson, right, an RF transmission systems supervisor with the 147th Air Support Operations Squadron, explains how to encode and decode communication to Senior Airman Terry Johnson, a knowledge operations manager with the squadron, during a field training exercise April 4, 2014, at Camp Swift in Bastrop, Texas.

All members of the ASOS unit played a role in a skills training exercise April 1-6, 2014, at Camp Swift in Bastrop, Texas, with support personnel operating in their traditional roles, but also achieving training requirements necessitated as a result of them being members of the tactical squadron.

“We have to do tactics training,” Nance said. “As a support function, there are certain training tables that we have to accomplish, so we do basic map skills, night vision goggle driving, convoy training, site defense, site selection, encode/decode, receive transmit procedures on radios, and basic combat skills.”

During the exercise, one individual became combat mission ready and five completed their continuation training.

“A lot of the training is

the training they would use in case they deployed downrange, and it helps with our survivability,” said Master Sgt. Martin, a radio maintenance technician with the squadron. “We’re giving them combat knowledge, how to battle track and operate vehicles in a combat zone and work with us to create a battle station for our communications.”

The roles of support personnel in the overall success of the squadron’s objectives prove that every job and every airman play a part in mission accomplishment. - **147th RW PAO**



Click to follow the 147th RW on Facebook 



“ We’re giving them combat knowledge, how to battle track and operate vehicles in a combat zone. ”



Spc. Justin Stewart, above, trains on an air traffic control simulator at Martindale Army Airfield in San Antonio, Texas, June 4, 2014. Stewart, along with fellow Soldiers from F Company, 2nd Battalion, 149th General Support Aviation Regiment, Texas Army National Guard, will be deployed to Kuwait this year.

Click to follow the 36th CAB on Facebook 

SAFE SKIES OVER KUWAIT

Story and photos by
Maj. Randy Stillinger
36th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS (June 4, 2014) – A detachment of San Antonio Soldiers will be leaving their families for nine months as they deploy to the Middle East. On Wednesday, a brief ceremony at Martindale Army Airfield marked the occasion as the Texas Army National Guard Soldiers were brought onto federal service for the deployment to Kuwait.



Lt. Col. Joanna Gale, commander of the 2-149th, said, “I’m incredibly proud of these Soldiers and the long list of accomplishments over the last year that allowed them to get here today.”

“You are deploying under another state’s flag, but you’ll always be Texas Soldiers,” Gale said. “We will be here for you and your

families while you’re deployed.”

The Soldiers of F Company, 2nd Battalion, 149th General Support Aviation Regiment, Texas Army National Guard, will provide air traffic control services for U.S. forces in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The unit’s mission includes providing flight following for aircraft, weather reports, warnings to pilots, and Ground Control Approach radar service across the area.

Air traffic controllers have a critical role in Kuwait as the desert weather can deteriorate quickly causing low visibility and blinding sand storms. It is their job to ensure that aircraft remain properly separated and are given the proper instructions at the right time to get them on the ground safely.

The 15 Soldiers will spend the next three months training at Fort Hood before their movement to Camp Buehring in Kuwait, which will occur sometime in August. While deployed, the Texas Soldiers will be assigned to a company from the Massachusetts Army National Guard. Their higher headquarters will be the 34th Combat Aviation Brigade from the Minnesota Army National Guard.

Pfc. Juston Wilson, of Dalhart, Texas, is relatively new to the National Guard and is deploying overseas for the first time.



“I’m a little nervous, but we’re very well-trained and know what to expect over there,” Wilson said. “It should be smooth sailing.”

The 36th Combat Aviation Brigade, which has its headquarters in Austin, recently returned from a deployment to Kuwait and will support these Soldiers as they go forward.

- 36th ID PAO

Getting to this point, where the detachment is ready to go to Fort Hood and beyond, has been no small accomplishment. A year ago, over 90 percent of the Soldiers required training and certification in order to become deployable.

Top: Col. James “Bo” Kenyon, commander of the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade, addresses the Soldiers during their deployment ceremony.

Bottom: Spc. Justin Stewart, right, and Spc. Richard Bosquez train on an air traffic control simulator.

Sharing best practices with Brazil

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

ROUND ROCK, TEXAS (May 5, 2014) - The Texas National Guard is no stranger to international partnerships, sharing long working relationships with both Chile and the Czech Republic. Recently, though, members of Joint Task Force 136 (Maneuver Enhancement Brigade), a Round Rock-based National Guard unit, enjoyed a visit from a new foreign partner: the Exército Brasileiro, the Brazilian Army. The visit, conducted May 8th at the Round Rock Armed Forces Reserve Center, focused on sharing best practices during emergency response operations.

“The main objective is to learn about the program,” said Maj. Anaditália Pinheiro Viana Araújo. “We are beginning our program in Brazil. We are looking for knowledge from different sources.”

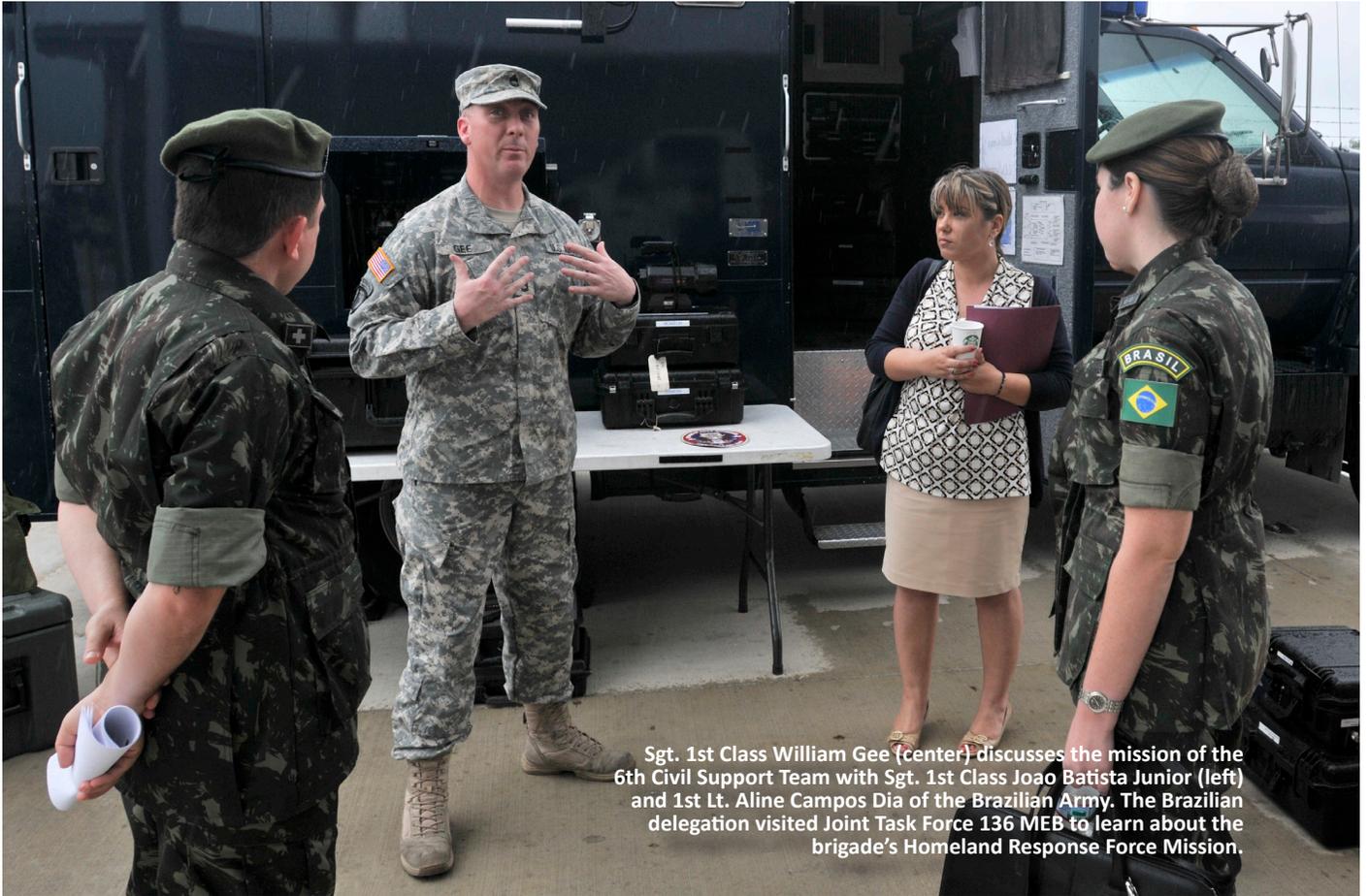
Araújo, a medical officer within the Exército Brasileiro, was joined by 1st Lt. Aline Campos Dias, who serves as a military doctor, and Sgt. 1st Class João Batista Júnior, a combat medic. With their specialty in patient care, learning how the National Guard approaches mass casualty incidents was a natural fit. Prior to meeting with JTF-136 (MEB), they toured the San Antonio Army Medical Center and the San Antonio Fire & EMS Department.

“It was wonderful,” said Júnior. “You showed us how the military and the civilians can work together. That is fantastic for us. It would be nice if in the future, we could have the same structure.”

JTF-136 (MEB), as custodian of the FEMA Region VI Homeland Response Force Mission, is uniquely qualified to discuss the role of interagency cooperation during emergency response operations. Their mission is, at the request of civil authorities, to directly support and reinforce the life-saving efforts of local first responders in a disaster engagement. Unlike the United States, Brazil’s military forces serve as their first responders in combating natural and man-made threats.



“There, we are the first responder,” said Júnior. “In Brazil, we are the only



Sgt. 1st Class William Gee (center) discusses the mission of the 6th Civil Support Team with Sgt. 1st Class Joao Batista Junior (left) and 1st Lt. Aline Campos Dia of the Brazilian Army. The Brazilian delegation visited Joint Task Force 136 MEB to learn about the brigade's Homeland Response Force Mission.



Members of the 436th Chemical Company demonstrate the capabilities of their hazard suits for Sgt. 1st Class Joao Batista Junior (left) and Maj. Anaditalia Pinheiro Viana Araujo of the Brazilian Army. The Brazilian delegation visited Joint Task Force 136 MEB to learn about the brigade's Homeland Response Force Mission.

response that we have. We need to teach our people to do the same, to be prepared for some kind of threat and divide the responsibility with us.”

On hand to share the National Guard support perspective was the 6th CBR-NE Enhanced Response Force Package, the life-saving element of JTF-136 (MEB)’s HRF mission. CBRNE refers to the increased threat of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosive hazards during a mass-casualty incident that would require the specialized capabilities of military assets in supporting civilian first responders.

“As an element of the CBRNE mission, the 6th CERFP was delighted to entertain members of the Exército Brasileiro,” said Lt. Col. Les Edwards, commander for the 6th CERFP. “Their visit allowed us an opportunity to positively influence our international partners as they develop their own emergency response management team.”

Sharing their experiences and best practices helped bridge the gap between the two nations’ armies, fostering trust and confidence as they discussed how best to approach their respective life-saving missions.

“It is always interesting to discuss the civil-military relationship that exists in the United States with representatives from other countries, like Brazil, and compare and contrast the two systems,” said Maj. Patrick Nolan, the training officer for JTF-136 (MEB). “Only by understanding such things can we communicate an understanding of how missions like the Homeland Response Force actually work.”

“It is always interesting to discuss the civil-military relationship that exists in the United States with representatives from other countries, like Brazil, and compare and contrast the two systems.”



1st Lt. Aline Campos Dia of the Brazilian Army, and U.S. Army Maj. Patrick Nolan, the training officer for Joint Task Force 136 MEB, discuss the Homeland Response Force mission with a representative from U.S. Army South. The Brazilian delegation visited Joint Task Force 136 MEB to learn about the brigade’s Homeland Response Force Mission.



Communication was a key theme throughout the tour, as Guard personnel shared with the Brazilian delegation the equipment and techniques that allow them to work fluidly with their civil partners.

“The main equipment that we need is the communication equipment to integrate the people we have,” said Dias. When asked what the best capability they could gain in Brazil would be after meeting their US counterparts, she responded, “the possibility to have communications with people who are in the hot zone and people who are in the cold or warm zone.”

These zones refer to the varying levels of contamination that make up a CBRNE situation. The hot zone represents the greatest contamination threat when rescuers are already working to save lives from rubble and debris. The threat of such hazards is especially relevant for the Brazilian army as they prepare to host the World Cup later this year and the Olympics in 2016. Security and safety preparations will be tantamount during these high-profile events.

“They are just now developing those capabilities in Brazil and today’s visit is especially important for them.”

“These are the kind of events in the United States that the National Guard would be called on to support with capabilities like the Civil Support Team,” said Nolan. “They are just now developing those capabilities in Brazil and today’s visit is especially important for them.”

The members of JTF-136 (MEB) look forward to continuing this relationship with their Brazilian counterparts and furthering their emergency response program. For them, it’s not about the uniforms worn, it’s about the lives saved when disaster strikes.

“The more we share best practices,” said Edwards, “the better equipped they will be to answer the call when it comes.” - **136th JTF-MEB PAO**

Click to follow the
136th JTF-MEB on Facebook 



Carrying the Load

**Story and photos by
Capt. Esperanza Meza
19th Regiment Public Affairs Office**

DALLAS, TEXAS (May 25, 2014) - Sgt. Ken Clayton, a Civil Affairs team leader with the 19th Regiment, Texas State Guard, was among the top finishers in the Dallas Memorial Day Carry the Load held in Dallas, Texas. Carrying a 40 lb. load and completing the 79 mile course in 20 hours 14 minutes, Clayton raised more than \$14,000, placing him among the top five fundraisers.

"I am grateful for all of the donors who supported me. Some are family members who can only afford a small donation but I also have others who gave a lot," said Clayton. "To me, the \$30 donation means just as much as the larger ones. I want their support next year but need to earn their respect this year so they will consider continued support."

Clayton, an avid marathon runner, started his Carry the Load experience at the initial event in 2011 and has raised more funds each year with the help of family, friends and sponsorships of businesses like his employer, Sewell Automotive, that know his dedication to the cause. "For me, going 20 hours was more of a mental challenge - for practice I do a few GORUCK events each year," said Clayton.

In addition to his own personal efforts, Clayton led a team from the 19th Regiment who, together, raised more than \$18,000. For his efforts, Sgt. Clayton was awarded a custom made "Carry the Load" guitar which was emblazoned with the U.S. flag. "I am all about building great, successful teams," said Clayton, "especially when motivated and inspired by teammates."

Founded in Dallas in 2011 by two former Navy Seals, 'Carry the Load' is a non-profit organization formed to restore the true meaning of Memorial Day by connecting Americans to the sacrifices of our military, law enforcement, firefighters, rescue personnel and their families. It's a life-changing journey for people as they walk or run as far as they can in the 20-hour period ending at the Dallas' Katy Trail. The 27 day, 2,000 mile national relay which began in West Point, N.Y. on April 29 ended in Dallas 26th.

"As a Sergeant in the Texas State Guard, I felt this is the least I can do for those who serve our country and communities in honoring those who keep us safe and risk their lives doing so," stated Clayton. **- TXSG PAO**



6780 FLA

The 6800 plus flags in this
represent the number of American
confirmed by U.S. Central C

- ENCOURAGING FREEDOM CAUSA
- OPERATION WALK FREEDOM
- OPERATION NEW GUNNY CAS

Thank You to All Who Support Freedom & International
Help and in Their Efforts to Help Restore the Free

Sgt. Ken Clayton, 1st battalion, 19th Regiment, Texas State Guard, amidst a sea of flags, comes in on the 11th and final lap of the 79 mile journey during the "Carry the Load" event in Dallas, Texas, May 25, 2014.

 Click to follow the 19th Regiment

Building better

36th Infantry Division and 209th Weather Flight Guardsmen participate in this year's Warfighter.

Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Suzanne Ringle
36th Infantry Division Public Affairs

FORT LEAVENWORTH, KAN. (May 5, 2014) - Texas Military Forces' 36th Infantry Division joined military members from all across the country to hone their warfighting and peacekeeping skills in a wide-scoped, big picture training exercise. Soldiers and Airmen delved into a battlefield scenario and fought through a designed conflict to come away with very real results. The scenarios tested Commanders and their staff's skills at every level from first contact through offensive and defensive measures to sustainment, all without firing a single shot. This highly sophisticated training exercise is known as Warfighter.

In this exercise, the units being evaluated act at their designated level, while the additional units training participate by filling in as higher and complimentary levels of command and support. Each training level leads to the next, building cohesion and a mastery of concepts. This year, the Lone Star State's Soldiers find themselves in the role of Corps Headquarters during the official evaluation for the 42nd Infantry Division from Troy, New York and 12 other states.

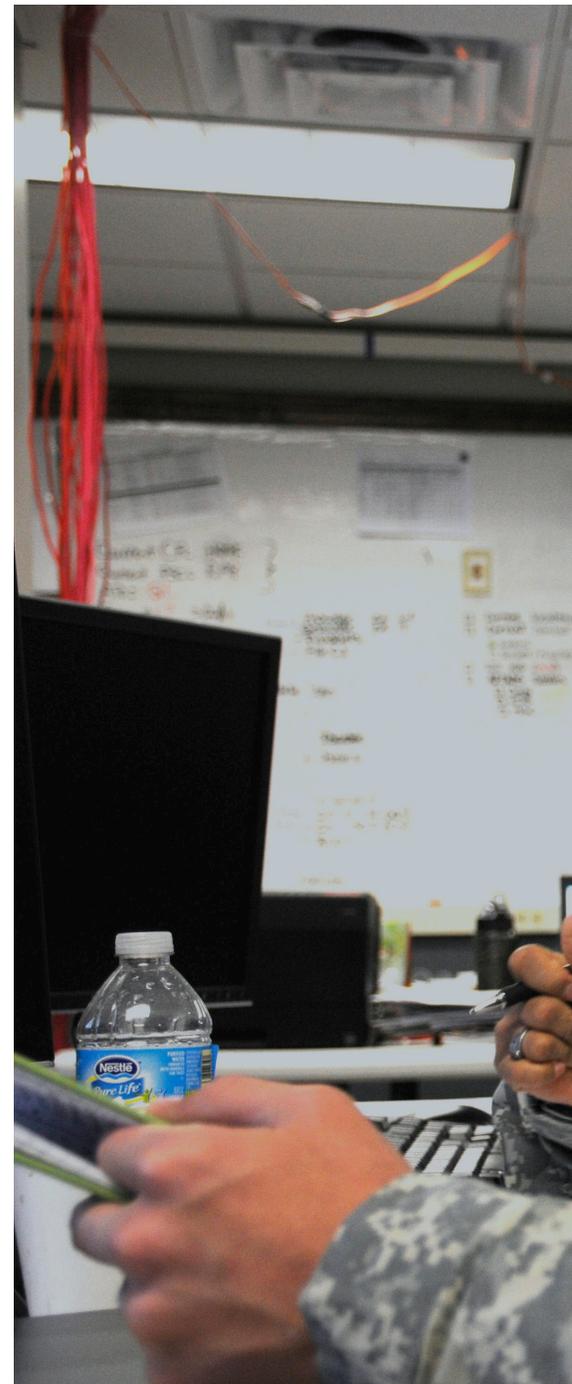
Capt. Dustin Crapse, 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Georgia National Guard, said some of the best advice he would recommend when preparing for the Warfighter exercise would be, "If you are about to go into

the 'box,' it is best to make sure you dust off your SOPs (standard operating procedures), you dust off your 10-level [basic] skills manuals and your [Field Manuals]; bring them to the Warfighter and put your 'game-face' on, because it's long hard days and it is a great learning experience," he said.

Crapse explained further, a Warfighter builds on all of a Soldier's skills gained to date.

"The greatest experience you can have as far as training in the Army, because it forces you to exercise all of your skills inside your MOS (Military Occupation Specialty). We all go through AIT (Army Initial Training) or OBC (Officers Basic Course) they don't have the time and the resources to put together the training environment in which you would function as a unit. So, a Warfighter provides that resource that you can go to, to function as a unit, rehearse your SOP's and practice the doctrine that you were taught back in your MOS-producing school."

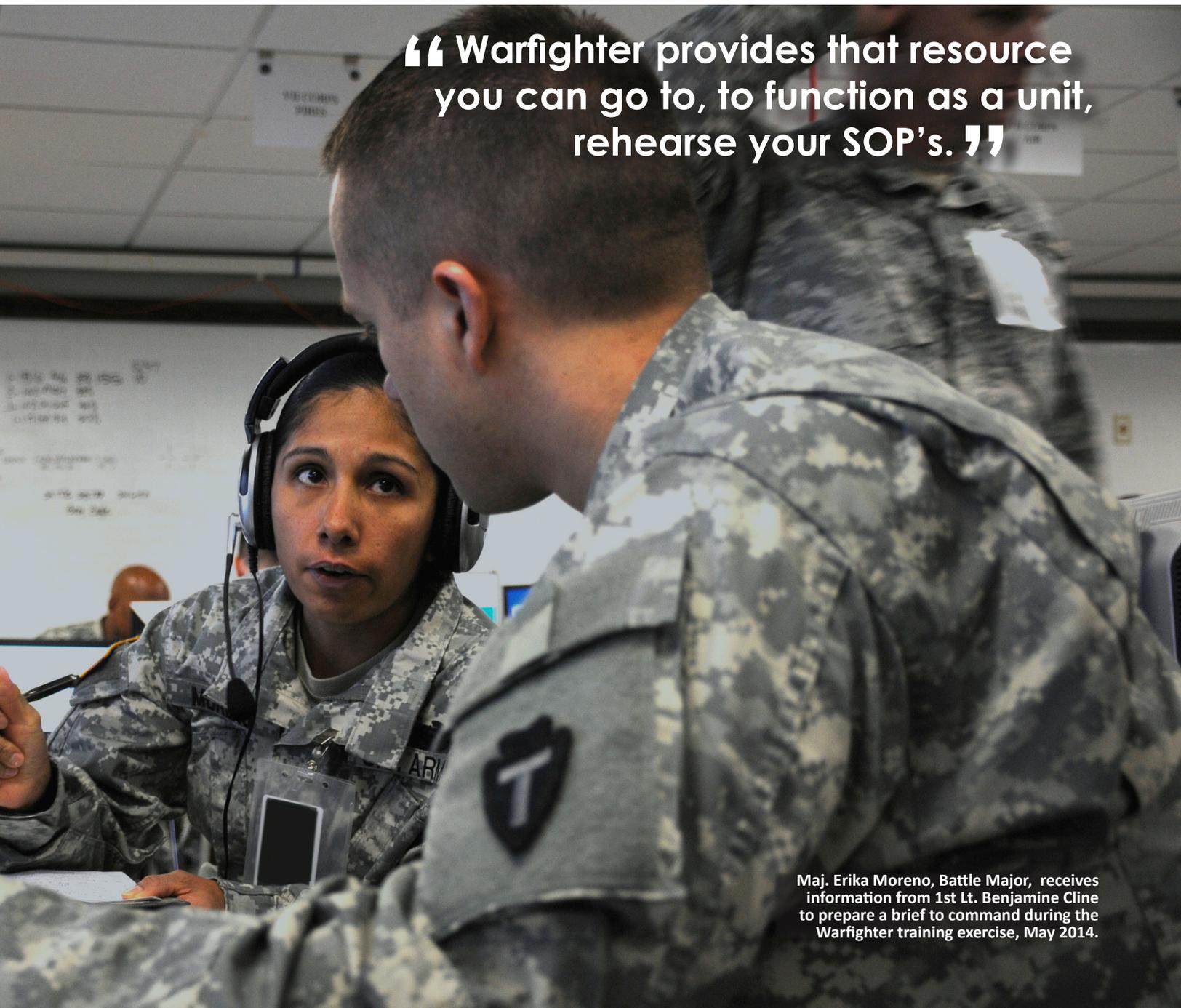
Over 50 acres of Fort Leavenworth are dedicated to supporting the specialized training environment where fiction and reality go head-to-head. The Mission Training Complex-Leavenworth provides a versatile training facility that includes projected and response training products as



Warfighters



“ Warfighter provides that resource you can go to, to function as a unit, rehearse your SOP's. ”



Maj. Erika Moreno, Battle Major, receives information from 1st Lt. Benjamin Cline to prepare a brief to command during the Warfighter training exercise, May 2014.



“ You have to be ready to lose those systems and capabilities and still be able to fight in a [more] degraded type mode than what we are used to. ”

Above and right: Soldiers and Airmen of the Texas Military Forces' 36th Infantry Division and 209th Weather Flight, along with the 42nd Infantry Division, participate in Warfighter, a training exercise held at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. May, 2014.

well as a staff of civilian and military experts to design and execute the training scenarios. While these scenarios are computer driven they offer a level of interaction that test Commanders' and senior leaders' critical decision making skills and offer a broader understanding to staff members.

Working in a Combined Operations Integration Cell, Soldiers and Airmen

from each facet of the operation navigate a three-screened computer that offers a detailed view of the battlefield so they can manage their assets and keep the Command aware of the subtlest of threats or changes.

Sgt. Jeremy Terry, 36ID, Plans and Operations, has participated in three other Warfighter Exercises and has taken away some valuable lessons, "Keeping your head on a swivel,

what I mean by that is, you may think you know what you are doing but there are other people around you that are doing the same job day in and day out with you; you need to be able to learn new things and not think that you are the [only] subject matter expert of your area," he said. "You can always learn new things and not be afraid to operate outside of your role. If you see someone struggling, go over and help them out and that



Click to follow the 36th ID on Facebook 

will be returned to you.”

For every Army unit there is a three phase training cycle that takes the units from a reset mode (after a deployment) where units overhaul their gear and personnel, to battle drills and computerized training scenarios (like this one), ending in a final evaluation exercise before deployment; Then it cycles back again. This training cycle is called ARFORGEN.



Short for Army Force Generation, ARFORGEN is the Army’s core process of building trained and ready forces.

National Guard units have a four-year cycle while active components are on a two-year cycle. Commander of the 36 ID Headquarters Battalion, Lt. Col. Gary Beaty, relayed the importance of training like this is it allows those Soldiers who in the last 12 years have not known an environment where we did not fall into operations and pick up from where the last unit stopped, “It still comes back to the basics. It does not matter how technologically advanced we become, those systems are still vulnerable especially as we move further into the 21st century - You have to be ready to lose those systems and capabilities and still be able to fight in a [more] degraded type mode than what we are used to.”

As part of making the battle simulation world come to life for the service members and to be true to an Army training motto of “train as we fight,” the two-week training exercise is conducted at an operational

tempo as if in theater. That means 24-hour operations, tense sessions of accountability, dealing with the loss of troops and assets, as well as print, online and video news stories that are either accurate or designed to fuel the fires of enemy combatants. No detail has been overlooked; even weather conditions provide a very real impact on plans and operations.

Maj. Sean Gibbons, 209th Weather Flight, Texas Air National Guard, Camp Mabry said, “Weather affects everything, out there; weather stops missions from even getting off the ground. Air Force Weather provides 24-hour global forecasting support. During this mission we worked out a lot of the bugs on how our product needs to look for the general to make the decisions he needs to make at the Corps level. Meeting the staff will be a huge benefit when it comes time for us to be evaluated next year or deploy ... We are one family ... one fight.”

Warfighter exercises provide as close to real world as you can get -- Minus the blood and bullets. - **36th ID PAO**



'T-PATCHERS' GREET NEW COMMANDER



Story by Spc. Christina Clardy
Photos by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Atkinson
36th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office



CAMP MABRY, Texas (June 21, 2014) - The proud servicemen and women of the Texas Army National Guard gather with their unit flags, streamers and guidons on the Camp Mabry parade field in Austin, Texas, to welcome a new commander of the 36th Infantry Division and bid farewell to a seasoned leader during a change of command and pass in review ceremony June 21, 2014.

Outgoing commander Maj. Gen. James K. "Red" Brown passed the division colors and ceremoniously relinquished command of the 36th Inf. Div. to Brig. Gen. Lester "Les" Simpson.

Accompanied by Brig. Gen. Simpson and Division Command Sgt. Maj. John F. Sampa, Maj. Gen. Brown performed a final review of the historic 36th Infantry Division units and troops in front of gathered families, friends and fellow Soldiers.

Maj. Gen. Brown assumed command of the division in January 2012 and commanded the 56th Brigade Combat Team during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. For his next military assignment, Maj. Gen. Brown will serve as the deputy commanding general-operations for First United States Army based in Rock Island, Ill.

The incoming commander, Brig. Gen. Simpson, assumes command of the 36th Inf. Div., becoming the 17th commanding general in the history of the unit. He previously served as the special assistant to the director of the Army National Guard at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Antoinette, joined the 36th Inf. Div. family with their adult children: Lester Jr., Solomon, Nathan and Morgan.

The 36th Division was originally organized at Camp Bowie, near Brownwood, Texas on July 18, 1917, and was called the "Texas Division," and the "T-Patchers."



Click to follow the 36th ID on Facebook 

Right: Maj. Gen. William “Len” Smith, Deputy Adjutant General and Commander of the Texas Army National Guard hands the guidon to Brig. Gen. Lester Simpson, the incoming commander of the 36th Infantry Division.

The division, comprised of Texas and Oklahoma National Guard units, fought in numerous offenses in World War I and World War II, and was awarded 12 presidential unit citations.

The 36th Infantry Division’s most recent deployment was as United States Division – South for Operation New Dawn in Iraq. Since Sept. 11, 2001, the unit has deployed Soldiers to Afghanistan, Bosnia, Cuba, Egypt, Iraq and Kosovo. - **36th ID PAO**



Our Independence

A historical compilation by
Lt. Col. Enrique Villarreal

This month the United States celebrates its 238th birthday, when the Second Continental Congress unanimously declared the American colonies as “free and independent states”. The Fourth of July is marked with celebrations across the nation, which John Adams foresaw and proclaimed, “That it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.”

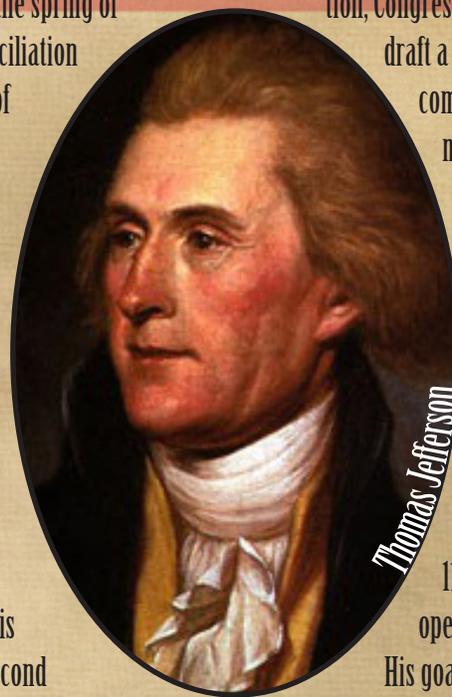
His prediction was accurate; today Americans across the country celebrate the Fourth of July with parades, speeches, fireworks, and backyard barbecues. However, his prediction was only partially correct, because the date that he referred to in his letter to his wife, was July 2, 1776. For many, this would sound like an odd date to celebrate the nation’s birthday on July 2, the day that Congress formerly declared its independence from Great Britain and not the date, two days later, when it finalized the iconic document we recognize today. This fact and others prompted this article to reflect on its origins, its meaning and impact on America and a brief history of the Declaration of Independence.



Between 1756 and 1776, Parliament issued heavy taxes, including the Stamp Act of 1765 and the Tea Act of 1773. Not surprisingly, Parliament's taxes met with stiff colonial resistance. Instead of compromising, Parliament passed oppressive measures to force colonists to obey the new laws. Eventually, tensions culminated in the shots fired between British troops and the colonial militia at Lexington and Concord in 1775. In the spring of 1776, colonists still hoped for reconciliation with Britain. Despite the outbreak of violence, the majority of colonists wanted to remain British. Only when King George III failed to address colonists' complaints against Parliament did colonists begin to consider independence as a last resort.

The clearest call for independence from Britain came when Richard Henry Lee of Virginia introduced his resolution on June 7, 1776, to the Second Continental Congress proposing independence from Great Britain.

Resolved, that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved. That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances. That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation.



However, some delegates, under instruction from their state, sought reconciliation with Britain. Therefore, Congress postponed the resolution by a vote of seven colonies to five, with New York abstaining. Congress recessed for 3 weeks, giving those delegates time to reconsider the reconciliation. The tone of the debate indicated adoption of the resolution. In anticipation of passing the resolution, Congress appointed a committee of five to draft a declaration for independence. The committee consisted of two New England men, John Adams of Massachusetts and Roger Sherman of Connecticut; two men from the Middle Colonies, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania and Robert R. Livingston of New York; and one southerner, Thomas Jefferson of Virginia.

Jefferson began his work on June 11, claiming that he wrote it "without opening a single book or pamphlet."

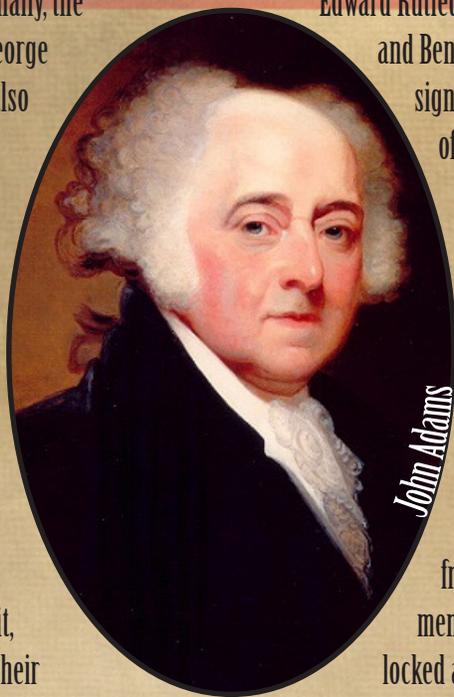
His goal was to express the unity of Americans—which he called an "expression of the American mind"—against the tyranny of Britain. The Declaration of Independence is perhaps the most masterfully written work of political prose of Western civilization. Ascribed as one of the charters of freedom, along with the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the Declaration, written in the form of a deductive argument, consist of five sections--the introduction, the preamble, the indictment of King George III, the denunciation of the British people, and a conclusion.

From beginning to end, the Declaration is a work of



consummate artistry. The introduction elevates the quarrel with England from a petty political dispute to a major event, defining it as a contest of principle, implying that the American cause was morally legitimate. Like the introduction, the preamble outlines a general philosophy of government that made the Revolution justifiable. To justify the conditions for revolution, Congress presents an indictment of King George III. Finally, the Declaration follows the attack on George III by noting that the colonies had also appealed in vain to the people of Great Britain. All that remained was for Congress to conclude with its declaration of independence.

Congress took up Lee's resolution, on July 1, with only nine colonies voting in favor of the Declaration. South Carolina and Pennsylvania opposed the proposition, Delaware's two delegates split, and New York's abstained because their twelve-month-old instructions precluded them from approving anything that impeded reconciliation with Great Britain. When Congress took its final tally on July 2, the nine affirmative votes of the day before had grown to twelve, adding South Carolina, Delaware and Pennsylvania. Only New York abstained until July 9, when New York authorized its delegates to approve independence along with the other twelve colonies. Nevertheless, Congress officially severed its political ties with Great Britain on July 2, 1776.



On July 4, 1776, Congress completed its editing of the document and formally adopted the Declaration; on July 19, Congress ordered a formal copy of the Declaration prepared for the Congressional members to sign; and on August 2, the final parchment was presented to Congress for signing. The first and most famous signature was that of John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress.

Edward Rutledge (26) was the youngest signer, and Benjamin Franklin (70) was the oldest signer. A copy was to the printing shop of John Dunlap, who printed about 200 broadsides for distribution. Before long, the Declaration was read to audiences and reprinted in newspapers across the thirteen states.

For the last two centuries, the document has had many homes, from humble lodgings and government offices to the interiors of safes, locked away in forts and presented in great public displays. It has been carried in wagons, ships, a Pullman sleeper, and an armored vehicle. In its latest home, it has been viewed with respect by millions of people, every one of whom has had thereby a brief moment, a private moment, to reflect on the meaning of democracy. The nation that emerged out of the Declaration of Independence, has had an immense impact on human history and continues to do so today, providing an inspiration of freedom for all. - **DISPATCH HISTORY**

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles and organizing its Powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government; and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World. He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of People, unless they would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to Tyrants only. He has called together legislative Bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the People. He has refused for a long time after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of Invasion from without, and convulsions within. He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Law for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither; and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers. He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their Offices, and the amount and payment of their Salaries. He has created a multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance. He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our Legislature. He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power. He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: For quartring large Bodies of armed Troops among us: For exercising them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: For depriving us in many Cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury: For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences: For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies: For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the lives of our People. He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & Opprobrium scarcely parallelled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation. He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. He has excited domestic Injuries amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction of all Age, Sex and Conditions. In every Stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered by repeated Injury. A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free People. Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British Brethren. We have warned them from time to time of Attempts by their Legislatures to extend an unwise and cruel Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigration and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our Connections and Correspondence. They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of Mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends. We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Buttton Gwinnett
Lyman Hall
Geo Walton.

John Hancock
Samuel Adams
John Adams
John Jay
George Washington
Richard Henry Lee
Thomas Jefferson
Benjamin Franklin
John Adams
John Jay
George Washington
Richard Henry Lee
Thomas Jefferson
Benjamin Franklin

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George Washington
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Thomas Jefferson
Benjamin Franklin

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Texas Military Forces outdoor running track at Camp Mabry, in Austin, Texas closed on June 20, 2014 and will remain closed through the end of summer due to construction.

Improvements scheduled to be made to the track during the renovations include widening it, replacing the crushed granite and installing a concrete curbing around its edge. Additionally, the one-mile track will be completed with a new rubberized running surface prior to its re-opening.

All renovations to the track will be performed by the 342nd Horizontal Engineer Company, Texas Army National Guard in conjunction with members of the Texas Air National Guard and Texas Military Forces Construction and Facilities Management Office.

“This is a great opportunity for our members to work together on a project that will give back to their community, as well as fellow Soldiers and Airmen,” said Lt. Col. Les Davis, Camp Mabry Garrison Commander.

For more information regarding the track improvement project at Camp Mabry, contact the Texas Military Forces Public Affairs Office at 512-782-5620.

**CAMP MABRY'S RUNNING TRACK
GETS A RETREAD**





*I hope ever to see America
among the foremost nations
of justice and liberality.
- George Washington*

