THE DISPATCH

MAY 2014

THE MAGAZINE OF THE TEXAS MILITARY FORCES

Force Structure

454th Engineers Deploy

TXMF Joint Best Warrior

Sexual Assault Awareness Proclamation

TXMF Open House

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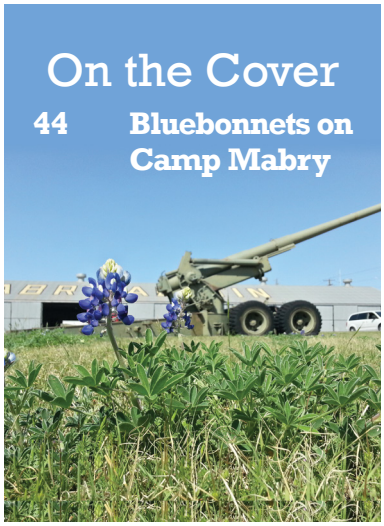

The Texas Blue Bonnets are in full bloom all over the state. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm McClendon)

A Texas Army National Guardsman competes in the Texas Military Forces' Joint Best Warrior Competition at Camp Swift, Texas, Feb. 8, 2014. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm McClendon) See pg. 6

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Texas Army Career Training Program (TACTP)

The Texas Army Career Training Program (TACTP) spawned out of a need to bridge the gap in training between the Army National Guard-level (ARNG) and unit-level. Since the early 1980's Active Guard Reserve (AGR) Soldiers have been placed in assignments and only sent to training at the National Guard Professional Education Center (NG-PEC), where they learned solely at the National Guard Bureau ARNG-level. This provided a foundational set of knowledge pillars for 54 states and, but did not provide Texas-specific knowledge. While beneficial and relevant, NG-PEC also made no allowances for training traditional, M-Day, Soldiers.

In late 2009 a former member of the Texas ARNG, Mr. Raymond Jacobson (CSM Ret), had a vision to bridge this gap and open up training opportunities to both sides of the force, full-time and part-time members. TACTP was established late in the year 2010 with its flagship course, the Readiness Course. This two week course opened up the doors for other courses, all based on real need and resources provided by the Texas Army National Guard Headquarters.

The program is perfectly situated on Camp Bowie, Brownwood, Texas where attending student Soldiers and Leaders can focus on what they are receiving, without training distracters, all while still connected to their units back home via the local area network. Courses offered now consist of: Readiness; Officer in Charge / Noncommissioned Officer in Charge; Medical Readiness; and Human Resources. The Company Commander – First Sergeant Pre-Command Course is conducted on Camp Mabry, Austin, Texas.

TACTP's overriding key to success is in the presentation of current, useful information. This is accomplished by all parties involved with its success and by utilizing guest instructors from the field and major commands, such as: Joint Forces Headquarters, Army National Guard Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, 71st Troop Command, and Domestic Operations (DOMOPS). Each instructor brings current, relevant, useful information to the students as each one of them is a current, subject matter expert in the area which they teach.

The next keys to success are enabled by these same instructors, with expectation and provision to maintain updated presentations that are accessible to graduates, after the course ends in TACTP's "Alumni References" online. Each class builds an after action review of the course, thereafter made public. These after action reviews provide for immediate changes to each course, keeping everything current, balanced, and meaningful for future students.

TACTP's humble beginnings saw 135 students (both full time and part time) become alumni and individual catalyst, changing the culture of the Texas Army National Guard. Today over 1,100 graduates are among the force, doing great things for the organization and many more are reserved for future classes.

Student demographics range from the M-day Battalion or Company Commander, or Command Sergeant Major and First Sergeant, to the AGR Readiness NCO, Training NCO, Supply NCO, OIC, and NCOIC, Medical and Human Resources professionals. Students are a mixture of new-hire and long-time service Soldiers and Leaders.

One of the most interesting, recurring comments TACTP gets is from the seasoned full-timer who says, "I didn't want to come to the training, because I've been doing the job for a long time already, but I learned a lot and I'm glad I attended. I wish this was around when I first started."

Students in 99 percent of all classes receive visits from The TXARNG Commander, TXARNG CSM, JFTX Chief of Staff, ARNG Chief of Staff, ARNG G-Staff, and 136th RTI Command among others who provide emphasis. These key leaders know what a difference their visits make and what a difference TACTP makes in the organization.

Future students and supervisors can find out more about The Texas Army Career Training Program on the Texas Knowledge Online (TKO) site at:

https://www.tx.ngb.army.mil/sites/jflcc/learn/default.aspx

A list of training requirements, course descriptions, contact information, and "TXATRRS" can be accessed at this site. "TXATRRS", as coined by TXARNG-G3, is the online registration/reservation system for organizations within 3rd Battalion, 136th RTI: TACTP, Lethality, and Staff and Faculty Development.

- Submitted by R. Jeff Nash, Captain
TACTP Program Coordinator

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NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

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READINESS = RESPECT

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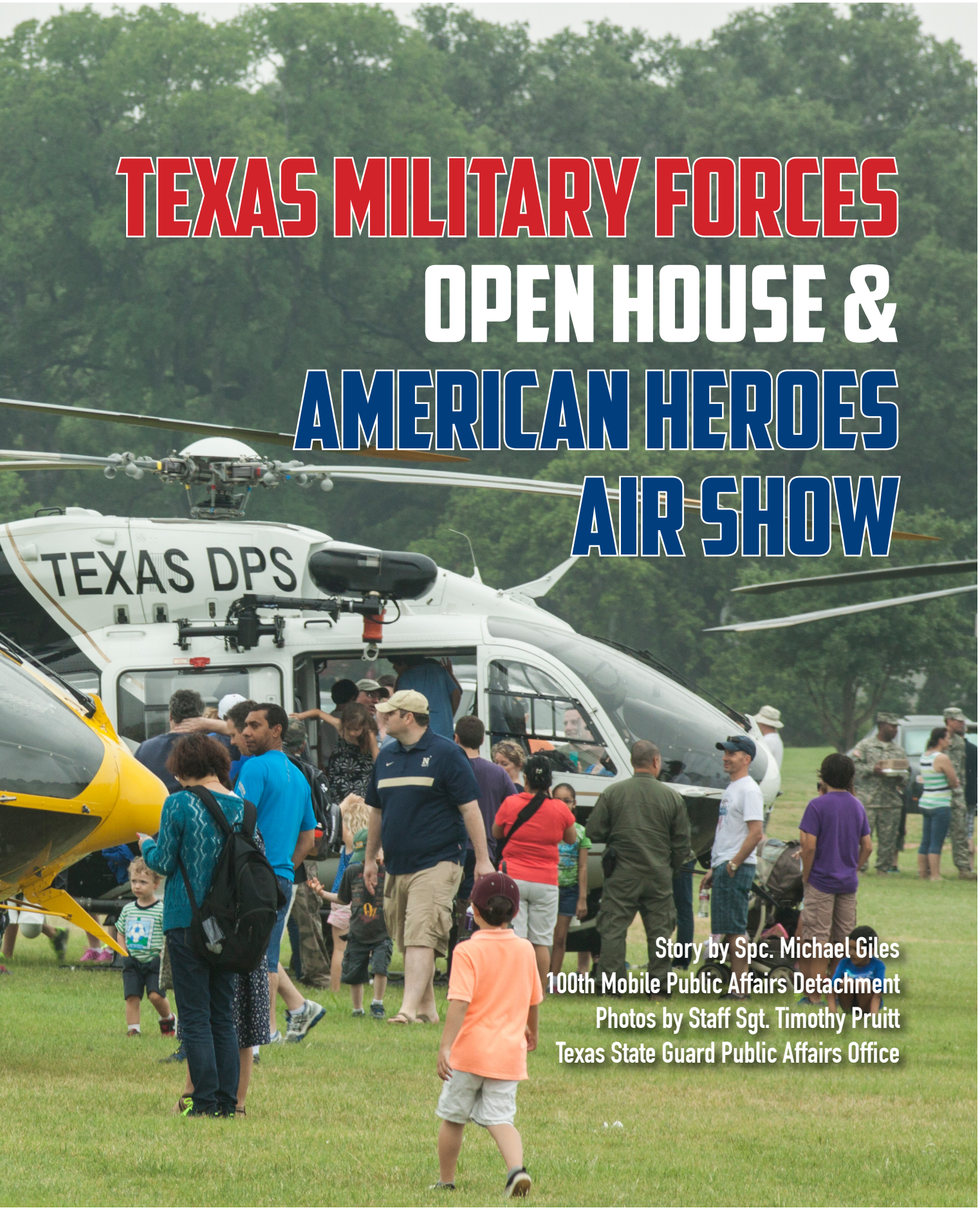
The crowds gathered to check out the multi-agency assets on hand at this year's Texas Military Forces Open House and American Heroes Air Show at Camp Mabry, in Austin, Texas April 26-27, 2014.



TEXAS MILITARY FORCES OPEN HOUSE & AMERICAN HEROES AIR SHOW

Story by Spc. Michael Giles
100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Photos by Staff Sgt. Timothy Pruitt
Texas State Guard Public Affairs Office

TEXAS MILITARY FORCES
OPEN HOUSE

CAMP MABRY, Texas (April 27, 2014) -- The Texas National Guard involvement in responding to natural disasters, like the Bastrop County Complex fire and Hurricane Katrina, were frequent topics of discussion at the 2014 Texas Military Forces Open House and American Heroes Air Show held April 26 and 27 at Camp Mabry in Austin.

This year, the free event honored Service members, families and veterans with the American Heroes Air Show, while demonstrating the strength of the partnership between the Texas Military Forces and civilian emergency response agencies.

Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo explained that in our present time of diminished budgets, civilian agencies depend on partnerships with the National Guard to keep their communities safe and natural disasters contained.

"Our relationship to the Texas Military Forces is second to none," Acevedo said.

Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo speaks at the Naturalization Ceremony held at Camp Mabry.

Civilian emergency responders, including Christa Lopez, a search manager with Travis County Search and Rescue, value the support of Soldiers and Airmen because of the expertise and discipline they contribute to an operation.

"It is easier for us to conduct a search operation when we have the National Guardsmen who understand land navigation, terrain and physical endurance," Lopez said. "When we work with the emerging volunteers and the public, we don't always have that skill set."

Attractions such as the American Heroes Air Show, a tactical demonstration involving Soldiers in helicopters and Humvees assaulting an enemy

AMERICAN HEROES AIRSHOW

Two Texas National Guard UH-60 BlackHawk helicopters demonstrate some of their capabilities.

vehicle, a World War II reenactment, a Puerto Rican folkloric dance presentation, and a petting zoo, were provided to educate—and to thank—family and community members.

"These events are all about our Soldiers and their families, but we also want to pay tribute to our veterans," said Lt. Col. John "Les" Davis, Camp Mabry garrison commander and coordinator for the open house. "It is extremely important when we have events like this to honor those who have served before us."

Special recognition was given to 107-year-old Tech. Sgt. 5 (Ret) Richard Overton, the oldest living World War II veteran. "This is a true opportunity for us to recognize their service, pay tribute to them and say thank you," Davis said.

Davis explained that the National Guard showcases a cost effective force at the American Heroes Air Show. The nation gains a larger, less expensive force through the citizen-Soldier and citizen-Airmen model maintaining the same required standards as those of their active duty counterparts.

"The primary goal we have with the American Heroes Air Show, working with our Texas Military Forces partner," explained James Paules, CEO and executive director of the American Heroes Aviation Network, "is to dynamically demonstrate, for the community, the value of these organizations and this equipment that the taxpayers are paying for."

- 100th MPAD

Plenty of visitors were on hand to watch the different demonstrations all over the camp.

Click for more photos:

TALKING FORCE STRUCTURE

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Jennifer D. Atkinson
Texas Military Forces Public Affairs Office

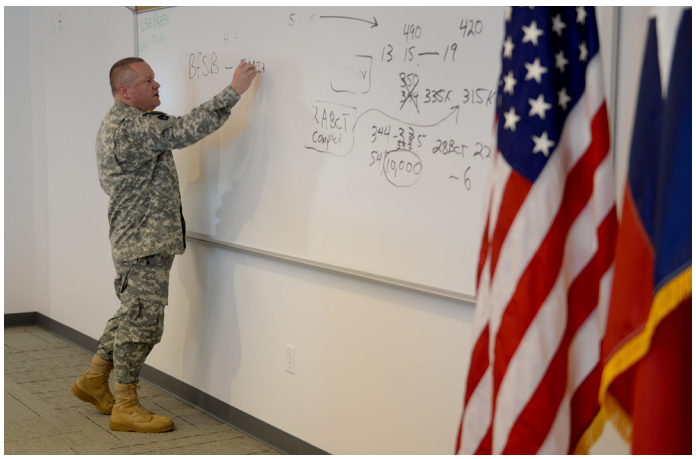
"I WANT TO TALK ABOUT FORCE STRUCTURE. FORCE STRUCTURE IS THE BATTLE WE ARE GOING TO FACE FOR THE NEXT SIX TO NINE MONTHS."

Maj. Gen. William "Len" Smith, addresses attendees of the 2014 Texas Military Forces Senior Enlisted Workshop, April 11, 2014.

TALKING FORCE STRUCTURE

AUSTIN, TEXAS - Speaking at the start of the 2014 Texas Military Forces Senior Enlisted Workshop at the Austin Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) and Joint Vehicle Maintenance Facility (JVMF), on April 11, 2014, Maj. Gen. William "Len" Smith, Deputy Adjutant General and Commander of the Texas Army National Guard gave a no-holds-barred look at the challenges facing the Texas Military Forces and the National Guard as a whole.

"I want to talk about force structure. Force structure is the battle we are going to face for the next six to nine months," said Smith. "You need to be aware of it because there are things you can do to impact how it will happen."



At the height of the Global War on Terrorism, the National Guard numbered 358,000, while the active duty military swelled to 560,000, larger than it had ever been.

With global wartime commitments winding down, the military is looking for ways to trim the number of personnel in the ranks.

Through fiscal year 2019, if sequestration continues, the National Guard is expected to reduce numbers to 315,000, while the active-duty Army will shrink to 420,000, the lowest levels since before World War II. To accomplish this, there's some major reshuffling in the future, said Smith.

"The Department of Defense didn't tell us where we had to make the cuts," said Smith, "so the states came up with a plan to fulfill our part of the drawdown. Unfortunately, the Army wasn't on board with that plan, and came up with another option."

In order to square up the numbers, the National Guard will go from 28 brigade combat teams to 22, with Texas facing the possible loss of the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team. The Maneuver Enhancement Brigades in the National Guard and on active duty will be deactivated, along with the remaining active and Guard Battlefield Surveillance Brigades.

With the deactivation of the MEB, the BfSB and the IBCT, Texas alone could face a loss of 5,000 to 6,000 slots, said Smith. To make the losses more equitable across the National Guard, the DOD would cross level other units from other states, softening the blow to the TXMF.

"Is any body happy about this?" asked Smith. "I'm not. It's never good to look different from the active duty. Our brigades should look just like their brigades, our battalions should line up with theirs."

TALKING FORCE STRUCTURE

Along with the restructuring of the ground elements of the National Guard, the Army is also looking at implementing the Aviation Restructuring Initiative.

Under the ARI, airframes would be retired and replacements would be shuffled from the National Guard to active duty. The OH-58 Kiowa, an older airframe, would be retired from active duty and replaced with the LUH-72 Lakota, a predominately National Guard aircraft. The Lakota has been instrumental in the success of the joint TXMF-Border Patrol mission along the Texas border.

To upgrade the Army's attack aviation capability, all 192 AH-64 Apache helicopters would be transferred to the active duty, replaced by 111 UH-60 Blackhawk aircraft, a decrease of 43 percent in actual airframes, and taking the National Guard out of the attack business altogether.

Despite some dark clouds on the horizon, Smith was still optimistic that the senior non-commissioned officers present could make a difference. "Is it going to be hard? Well, yeah," said Smith, "this kind of stuff is never easy, but you can help."

That help doesn't come in the form of beans or bullets or anything else used directly on the battlefield, but rather, in ensuring the DOD recognizes the readiness, relevance, value and commitment of the National Guard.

The unit strength report is the main tool "Big Army" uses to gauge National Guard readiness, said Smith, and it needs to be good to go by the end of this fiscal year.

"There are a couple of places we need to work on, when it comes to paperwork," he said. "It's not a bad thing, it just needs to reflect reality." Making sure there aren't gaps in unit manning will help, said Smith, as will making sure TXMF members are training hard to maintain job qualifications.

Ensuring Soldiers and Airmen are qualified lets the DOD know the Guard can fulfill commitments, adding another dimension to the nation's warfighting ability, he said. "We can send people to school and order the equipment we need to get the job done," he said, "so let's do it."

"We've got to show big Army that we're the best bang for the buck," said Smith. "We've done everything they've asked of us for the past decade or more, and we can continue to meet those commitments." - **DISPATCH**

Photos above: Maj. Gen. William "Len" Smith, addresses attendees of the 2014 Texas Military Forces Senior Enlisted Workshop April 11, 2014.

Texas National Guard Soldiers and Airmen compete for title of Best Warrior

Story and photos by:
Texas Army National Guard
Sgt. Suzanne Carter
100th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

CAMP SWIFT, Texas (Feb. 10, 2014) -- The overcast sky, chilly temperature and intermittent precipitation did not dampen the excitement among Soldiers and Airmen as they lined up for a ruck march during the Texas Military Forces' Joint Best Warrior Competition held at Camp Swift, near Austin, Texas, Feb. 6-8, 2014.

Twenty-seven competitors from Army and Air National Guard units across Texas participated in the annual three-day event to determine the most physically and mentally fit junior enlisted Soldiers and Airmen and non-commissioned officers.

"I'm here to see what I'm made of," said Air Guard Staff Sgt. Samuel Laureto from 147th Security Forces Squadron, 147th Reconnaissance Wing. "I volunteered for this so I'm just putting in everything that I've learned in the past seven years in the military, and now I'm seeing what pours out at this competition."

Carrying a 35-pound rucksack and M4 rifle for six miles was just one of several demanding tasks the competitors completed. Other competition components included: weapons qualification, land navigation, a service dress uniform appearance review board, a written essay, confidence course, and a mystery event. All aspects of the competition were designed to test competitors' endurance and composure.

"It's really tough," said Army Spc. Heather Shipley from Headquarters Company, 136th Military Police Battalion, 136th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. "It's a learning experience more than anything. I know what I need to go home and work on definitely."

This competition provided a valuable opportunity for members of the Texas Air and Army National Guard to showcase their abilities in a joint environment.

"We're very unique as the National Guard," said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Mitchell Brush, senior enlisted adviser to the National Guard Bureau. "We fight fires together; we fight floods together. It's great that we can meet today and build those relationships instead of when we're in a crisis situation where we don't have time to make those introductions."

Competitors also recognized the importance of the camaraderie they experienced by engaging in the competition together.

"It's a really cool experience and a friendly competition," said Army Spc. Samuel Ellison, Intel and Sustain Co., Division Headquarters Battalion, 36th Infantry Division. "We helped each other, and it's a great time to meet and network with people you don't always get to see."

Laureto said that the support from senior NCOs as well as support be-

Texas Military Forces Joint Best Warrior Competition

Spc. Heather Shipley, 136th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, competes in the Texas Military Forces' State Best Warrior Competition at Camp Swift in Bastrop, Texas, February 8, 2014.

Texas Military Forces Joint Best Warrior Competition

Staff Sgt. Johnathan Grant, 136th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, competes in the Texas Military Forces' State Best Warrior Competition at Camp Swift in Bastrop, Texas, February 8, 2014.

tween the branches made the competition better.

"I've never had [so much] support from such a high enlisted core and from both sides of the National Guard, " Laureto said. "We're playing off each other's weaknesses, playing off each other's strengths as well. It's good to see the challenges brought by both branches."

However, the review board appearances conducted on Thursday demanded more focused preparation as extensive knowledge of military organization, protocol and procedures was required.

"I've spent the past month … trying to know everything I needed to know," said Shipley, a full-time college student, mother, and the sole female participant in this year's competition. "With the school work on top of that and all the studying that's involved, it's a lot of memorizing."

The near-freezing temperatures during the land navigation task, weapons qualification and the ruck march portions of the competition posed an additional challenge. However, the uncontrollable element of the weekend did not deter the competitors from putting forth their maximum effort.

"Distance running is something I do in my off-time, and I really like the combination of physical and mental fitness that you need to keep going during the ruck," Ellison said.

The physical and mental challenges the competitors faced culminated on Saturday with the confidence course and the mystery event. The confidence course is eight structures in a horseshoe format across a quarter-mile distance. In between each object, participants were required to perform various exercises in order to move to the next obstacle.

"I'd definitely say what would tell us apart on the obstacle course was the exercises in between," said Army Spc. Brian Foster from the 102nd General Support Battalion, 71st Theater Information Operations Group. "Especially the burpees. That's my least favorite exercise on the planet."

Senior leaders from the Air and Army Guard along with several local and state elected officials attended the final day of competition to recognize the efforts of those competing. They offered support and encouragement to competitors as they navigated through the confidence course.

"The course is pretty difficult," said Texas State Senator Leticia Van de Putte, chair of the committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations. "I didn't anticipate all the interim activities that they have to do before the major station. Although it's a competition, I really enjoy that each of the folks here are cheering on every competitor."

The final "mystery" event, presented a unique challenge for the already mentally, physically and emotionally taxed Soldiers and Airmen. With a design similar to the obstacle course run, competitors had to complete a

Texas Military Forces Joint Best Warrior Competition

Competitors from both the Army and Air National Guards competed in this years' Texas Military Forces Joint Best Warrior Competition held at Camp Swift, Texas, Feb. 6-8, 2014. Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Griego and Sgt. Suzanne Carter.

variety of physically challenging activities between marksmanship tasks using four different weapons.

During the competition, Soldiers and Airmen applied prior training, demonstrated their physical and mental capabilities and pushed themselves to their limits to meet and overcome each challenge.

"Competition makes our world go around," said Tim Kleinschmidt, Texas State Representative, District 17. "So to me, when you're competing, you tend to perform to the level of your competition. If you've got mediocre competition, well you don't have to strive too hard to win. If you've got good competition, well then the game goes up."

The two top scoring NCOs and junior enlisted from the Army National Guard will continue on to a regional competition to be held later this year.
- 100th MPAD

RESCUE FROM ABOVE

Sgt. Kevin McLaughlin, 36th Combat Aviation Brigade, lowers a member of Texas Task Force-1 into a tree line as part of a combined training event between the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade and Texas Task Force-1, Austin, Texas, Feb. 2, 2014.

TXARNG AVIATORS TRAIN WITH CIVILIAN COUNTERPARTS

Story and photos by
Capt. Adam Musil
36th Infantry Division
Public Affairs Office

AUSTIN, TEXAS (Feb. 2, 2014) - Soldiers of the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade and members of Texas Task Force-1 took to the skies over Decker Lake near Austin, Texas and tested their ability to perform search and extraction operations over wooded areas and water.

The 36th Combat Aviation Brigade provided air support and operated a hoist machine used to raise and lower TX-TF1 members into tree lines and over the lake. TX-TF1 members took turns operating as part of the extraction team and playing the role of civilians in need of rescue.

"This is a great opportunity for the Task Force to get some quality training," said Capt. Scott Bartell, TX-TF1. "When we first started the task force we were only training in helicopters once a quarter. The rest of the time was reserved for practicing swimming. Now we are training in the helicopters about once a month."

Chief Warrant Officer Robert Meischen, a flight Instructor for the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade, piloted the UH-60 Black

A member of Texas Task Force-1 plays the role of a stranded civilian and awaits rescue during a joint training exercise.

Hawk helicopter. Meischen is a combat veteran and executed search and rescue operations during the 2006 floods in San Antonio.

"The most difficult part of these types of scenarios is the water hoist operations. As a pilot you don't have a frame of reference on the ground to guide you and you can't see the motion of the water. These training events really allow us the opportunity to stay sharp on recovery techniques and procedures," said Meischen.

As Meischen ensured the aircraft maintained the correct height and altitude needed for a successful rescue, his crew manned the hoist and called out updates.

When deployed Sgt. Kevin McLaughlin is a door gunner; but for this operation he is one of the crew members controlling the hoist.

"As a soldier in an assault company this mission is not something we would do overseas. That would be for a [Medical Evacuation] company," said McLaughlin. "This training helps us remain proficient with our cable management on the hoist. These guys [TX-TF1] are very professional and have a lot of experience with these types of operations. Our two groups are working together well."

"THESE TRAINING EVENTS REALLY ALLOW US THE OPPORTUNITY TO STAY SHARP ON RECOVERY TECHNIQUES AND PROCEDURES."

The task force is an assemblage of firefighters and other first responders that are called together in times of natural disaster. For his day job Bartell works in the Austin Fire Department's Special Operations Group.

"To me, any day you can fly in a helicopter is a good day. If I wasn't here I'd be paying to do this at Six Flags," Bartell said.

Texas Task Force-1 is the most active urban search and rescue team in the country, having responded to at least one major disaster each year since its first deployment in 1998. TX-TF1's urban search and rescue and water rescue teams have re-

sponded to both man-made and natural disasters, from the 9/11 World Trade Center attacks to Hurricane Katrina's devastation. TX-TF1 functions as a federal team under FEMA's national urban search and rescue program and as Texas' only statewide urban search and rescue team under direction of the Texas Division of Emergency Management. TX-TF1 also coordinates the state's water rescue program. ▪ **36th ID PAO**

Capt. Scott Bartell, Texas Task Force-1, prepares to climb aboard a UH-60 Black Hawk after extracting one of his teammates.

Sgt. Kevin McLaughlin, 36th Combat Aviation Brigade, operates the hoist and lowers a Texas Task Force-1 team member into position for a simulated water rescue.

National Guard SEA visits Texas National Guardsmen

Chief Master Sgt. Mitchell O. Brush discussed the value the National Guard brings to the nation, both abroad and at home.

Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm McClendon
Texas Military Forces
Public Affairs Office

CAMP MABRY, TEXAS (Feb. 9, 2014) – The National Guard's senior enlisted advisor, Command Chief Master Sgt. Mitchell O. Brush, held a Town Hall meeting for Texas National Guardsmen at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, Feb. 9, 2014.

Brush discussed various topics varied from suicide prevention to force structure and specifically highlighted the vital role the National Guard plays both home and abroad.

"Since 9/11, 800,000 deployments have been filled by National Guardsmen," said Brush. "We total only 453,000 both Army and Air National Guardsmen [at any given time], meaning multiple deployments for some."

The senior enlisted advisor explained to the Guardsmen in attendance that these deployments differ from those of the active duty forces.

"When we deploy, we cost the same as an active duty component," Brush said. "However, when we're done, we go home; we go back to our communities. This makes us cheaper."

Brush is referring to the National Guards' ranks, composed of part-time service members who have full-time civilian jobs and careers. This allows the force to have ready trained citizen-soldiers and airmen without having employ them on a full-time active status.

In a time of budgets cuts and reduction in missions, Brush believes this is the Guard's key message to help the fight for funding for its programs.

He reassured the Texas National Guardsmen that this is a top priority for him and Gen. Frank J. Grass, Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

"Let us worry about force structure," Brush said. "You guys out here need to concentrate on what you do really well."

Brush shared a conversation he had with Grass about things that keep him up at night. Instead of responding with budgets and sequestrations, as Brush had

assumed, Grass responded with, "Mother Nature."

"A catastrophic event that will take out three-quarters of the United States," Brush said. "This is what he worries about."

The National Guard plays a vital role in support of civil authorities during emergency situations. These can be anything from hurricanes, floods, ice storms and even chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear attacks.

Just one more thing that makes the Guard so valuable, Brush believes.

Spc. Jennifer Cubero, Texas Medical Command, Texas Army National Guard, attended the town hall and appreciated the visit from Brush.

"The fact that we have people at the national levels fighting for us is comforting," Cubero said. "Regardless of budgets, I feel that they are trying to let the nation know what we do and what we bring to the fight." - **DISPATCH**

National Guard Bureau Senior Enlisted Advisor, Command Chief Master Sgt. Mitchell O. Brush takes time to meet with Soldiers and Airmen after his Town Hall meeting held at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, Feb. 9, 2014.

STEWARDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Courtesy photo

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

FORT HOOD, TEXAS - The Texas Army National Guard Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site, or MATES, was honored Feb. 11 at Fort Hood during the Hood Hero award ceremony, for outstanding environmental stewardship.

MATES was recognized over 48 other battalion size or larger units located at Fort Hood by Fort Hood's Directorate of Public Works (DPW) explained Glenn Collier, Environmental Protection Specialist at Fort Hood. The DPW conducts regular environmental inspections at these maintenance facilities. Based on results from these inspections, environmental protection specialists determine who will be recognized for outstanding environmental stewardship.

"MATES was selected as a result of a continued commitment to upholding environmental standards and policies. They don't just get cleaned up and look pretty for inspections, they stay that way all the time," Collier said.

Don Melton, Regional Environmental Specialist for the Texas Military Forces, explained that the environmental management system follows policies and guidance set at the federal, state, and local levels.

"This shop is an example of every one of our maintenance facilities. The same level of environmental stewardship that is going on at MATES is going on in all of our facilities."

"This high standard ensures consistency in the program. The Soldiers recycle almost everything," said Melton.

It's about a commitment to the environmental program, visibility on the program, and making good environmental habits simple and easy to maintain explained Texas Army National Guard Col. Stanley Golaboff, Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics.

"This shop is an example of every one of our [Texas Army National Guard] maintenance facilities. The same level of environmental stewardship that is going on at MATES is going on in all of our [124] facilities," continued Golaboff.

The practice of recycling and disposing of waste immediately is what keeps these shops so clean explained Chief Warrant Office 2 Ryan Ramsey, the MATES environmental officer in charge. This prevents shops from accumulating

Photos: Members of the Texas Army National Guard Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site receive a Hood Heroes award for outstanding environmental stewardship Feb. 11, 2014. Fort Hood, Texas. MATES was recognized over 48 other battalion size or larger units located at Fort Hood by Fort Hood's Directorate of Public Works.

waste, resulting in a clean working environment.

This isn't the first time that MATES has been recognized for outstanding environmental stewardship.

In 2012, MATES received the highest state environmental award, the HONDO award, for excellence in environmental stewardship said Texas Army National Guard Maj. John Hutka, MATES superintendent.

According to Hutka, National Guard units outside of Texas have also reached out to MATES as an example for good environmental practices.

The MATES team works hard at being good environmental stewards, but the main focus is always their mission. They maintain over 1600 vehicles for the Texas Army National Guard, servicing vehicles from brigades all over the state. Because of their unique location next to Fort Hood's largest training area, they also prepare and issue necessary equipment to both Texas units, and any other guard or reserve unit that comes to Fort Hood for training. Should an active duty unit need assistance for their training mission, MATES is there to assist them as well.

"We have a very good team over here at Fort Hood. We help out other units who come here to North Fort Hood. We give them that guard hospitality."

"Our facility is like a hub. If anyone ever needs to turn something in, we take it. We never turn anyone away – reserve, civilian, or active," said Sgt. Kisha Mathurin, environmental noncommissioned officer for MATES. "I am very proud of the team here and all of their hard work."

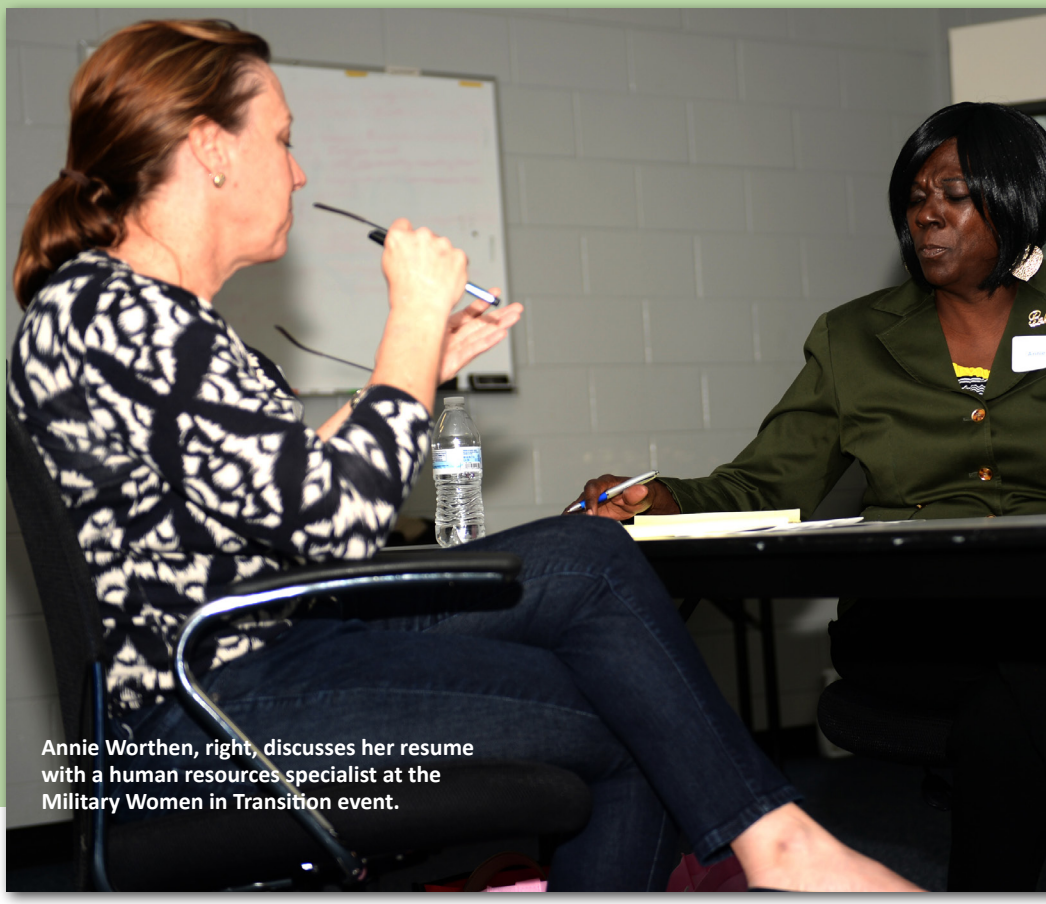
Brig. Gen. Douglas Gabram, Deputy Commanding General 1st Cavalry Division, and keynote speaker for ceremony, said about the awardees, "these are the people who improve the quality of life for all of us at Fort Hood."

The teamwork at MATES, their commitment to the environment, and their commitment to their fellow service members, both guard and active is key to the shop.

"We have a very good team over here at Fort Hood," Ramsey explained. "We help out other units who come here to North Fort Hood. We give them that guard hospitality." - **DISPATCH**

Women in Transition

Texas National Guard teams up with Austin's National Charity League, Inc. to help women veterans find jobs



Annie Worthen, right, discusses her resume with a human resources specialist at the Military Women in Transition event.

Story and photos by
2nd Lt. Alicia Lacy
Texas Military Forces
Public Affairs Office

CAMP MABRY, TEXAS (Feb. 16, 2014) – Be proactive, be prepared and take advantage of all the resources available.

As a recruiter who works to help veterans find jobs, Leslie Goodman said that's advice she wants all military members to know and practice when transitioning from the military to the civilian workforce.

Goodman was one of several employers, recruiters and organization representatives at the Texas National Guard and National Charity League, Inc.'s Military Women in Transition event Feb. 16, 2014, at Camp Mabry.

Organizers of the event touched on several aspects of the job search and career enhancement process, which included social media, resume reviews and mock interviews.

Goodman said one of the biggest challenges for military members transitioning to a civilian career is that there aren't enough military occupational specialties that directly translate into a civilian occupation.

"They have the discipline and training, but not the job skills," Goodman added. "It's difficult to take a service member who worked with artillery to apply those skills to a career in the civilian sector."

> "It's difficult to take a service member who worked with artillery to apply those skills to a career in the civilian sector."

Although some career fields in the military don't directly convert into a civilian career, the basic skills gained from military service can give veterans an advantage.

Carmen Herrera, a stylist with JCPenny, hands information to Lisa Young, a former U.S. Army active duty and Reserve human resource specialist, at the Military Women in Transition event. February 16, 2014.

Lisa Young, Annie Worthen, and Jennifer Grier, all U.S. Army veterans, said they can capitalize on the foundational skills they learned in the military–discipline, attention to detail, how to remain focused on the task, and always completing the mission.

Those are all qualities employers look for, Goodman said.

> "We're so used to wearing a uniform everyday, so they're teaching us what to wear."

Goodman also stressed that service members should always be prepared when interviewing.

Many job seekers don't know to research the company, the company culture, or the interviewer prior to going to a job interview, Goodman said. By doing their homework, job seekers can have an edge.

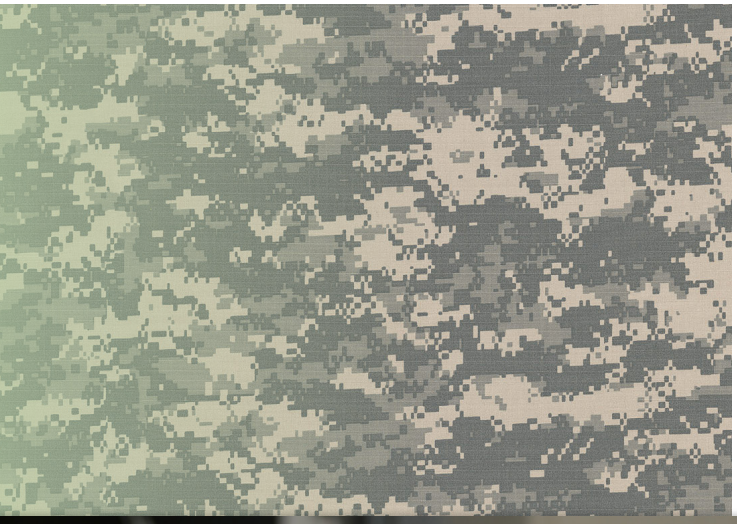
In addition to doing research and planning for the future, Goodman said it is important for service members to take advantage of the programs the military offers its members like the G.I. Bill and eArmyU.

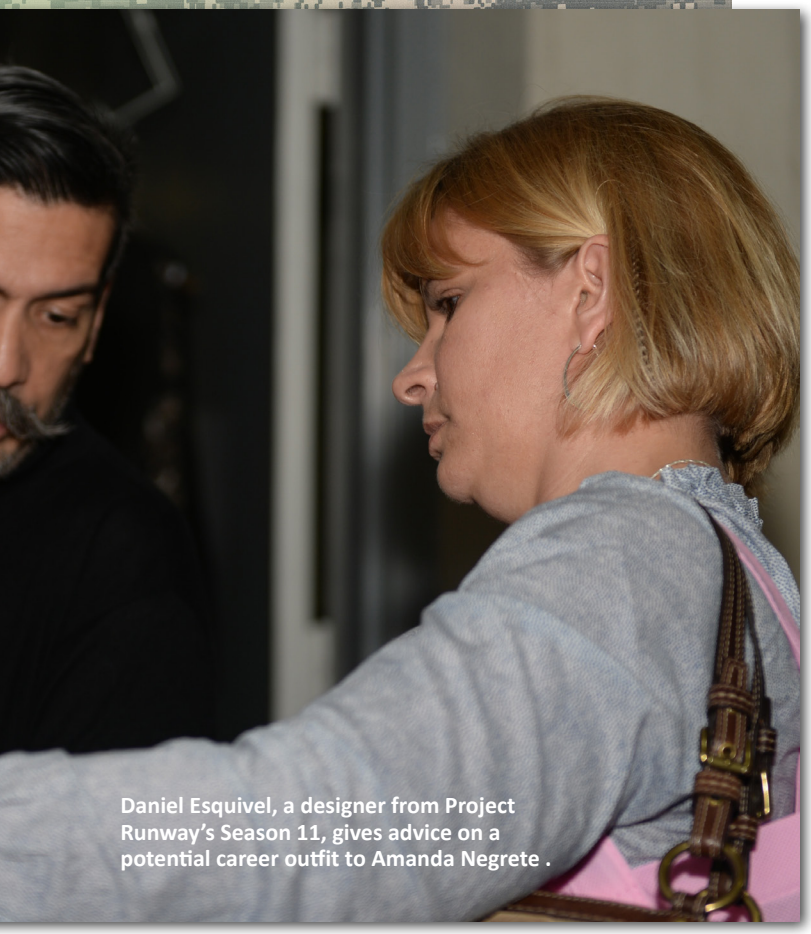
Worthen had the opportunity to perform a mock interview with Good-

Daniel Esquivel, a designer from Project Runway's Season 11, gives advice on a potential career outfit to U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Bedalina Rosario.

Women in Transition

"Our organization has a national initiative, Service from the Heart, focused on supporting military members and their families,"





Daniel Esquivel, a designer from Project Runway's Season 11, gives advice on a potential career outfit to Amanda Negrete .

man, where she said she learned helpful information that can aid in her own career search.

Worthen was pleased with the event and the honest feedback she received.

"This event is great because the information they're giving us, we didn't know," Worthen said.

Members from the Austin chapters of the league, Texas Military Forces Family Support Services and Operation Homefront conceived the idea for the event after a brainstorming session. As a result, the group recognized a lack of transitioning services for military women.

"Our organization has a national initiative, Service from the Heart, focused on supporting military members and their families," said Julie Ballard, Hills of Austin chapter president. "There were transition services for men, but none that focused on the unique needs of women."

After spending 12 years in the Army, Young said she appreciated the clothing closet and the opportunity to speak with hair and makeup experts.

"We're so used to wearing a uniform everyday, so they're teaching us what to wear," Young said.

The clothing closet allowed attendees to choose from new or gently-used business attire and receive advice from hair and makeup professionals, which featured Daniel Esquivel, a designer from season 11 of "Project Runway" and season 3 of "Project Runway All Stars."

Esquivel, whose father served in the U.S. Air Force, said he was happy to give back to the community.

Esquivel gave fashion advice and raffled one of his designs to an attendee.

Organizers described the event as successful and said they can see another event in the future.

"We can see this happening again," Ballard said. "But we will always bend toward the greatest need." - **DISPATCH**

Texas Military Forces Leadership sign Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation

Story by Capt. Martha Nigrelle and Michelle McBride
Photos by TSgt Phillip Fountain
Texas Military Forces Public Affairs Office

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

PROCLAMATION

Whereas,

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is intended to highlight that sexual violence is widespread and has public health implications for every Texas Military Forces member; and

Whereas,

Sexual assault and sexual harassment impact our military; one in six women and one in 33 men will have experienced sexual assault during their lifetime; and

Whereas,

We must work together to educate our Service Members, Family Members, and Civilians about what can be done to prevent sexual assault and how to support survivors; and

Whereas,

Staff and volunteers of anti-violence programs at Texas Military Forces encourage every person to speak out when witnessing acts of violence however small; and

Whereas,

Texas Military Forces, through leadership and dedication, can be successful in reducing sexual violence in the military through preventative education, increased awareness, and perpetrator accountability for violent acts ; and

Whereas,

Texas Military Forces support Service Members, Family Members, and Civilians in actively working together to address sexual violence awareness and prevention. Texas Military Forces are encouraged to engage in open discussions defining sexual violence, promoting sexual assault prevention, and disseminating information about services available to survivors.

Now, therefore it be resolved, on this day, the 4th of April 2014,

That we, Major General John F. Nichols, Major General William L. Smith, Command Chief Master Sergeant Kevin J. O'Gorman, and Command Sergeant Major Richard L. Milford, join anti-sexual violence advocates and support service programs in the belief that all community members must be part of the solution to end sexual violence. We do hereby proclaim April as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month."

JOHN F. NICHOLS
Major General, TXANG
The Adjutant General

WILLIAM L. SMITH
Major General, TXARNG
Deputy Adjutant General, Army

KEVIN J. O'GORMAN
Command Chief Master Sergeant, TXANG
Senior Enlisted Advisor, Air

RICHARD L. MILFORD
Command Sergeant Major, TXARNG
Senior Enlisted Advisor, Army

Image of the proclamation declaring April 2014 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month for the Texas Military Forces. The proclamation was signed by senior leaders within the Texas Military Forces, including Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, the adjutant general of Texas, who is the senior National Guard official in the state and was appointed by the governor of Texas. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Phil Fountain)

AUSTIN, Texas (April 4, 2014) – Maj. Gen. John Nichols, the Texas Adjutant General and Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Milford, Senior Enlisted Advisor Texas Army National Guard, signed a proclamation declaring April Sexual Assault Awareness Month within the Texas Military Forces during a ceremony at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, April 4, 2014.

The ceremony focused on spreading awareness in order to increase prevention of sexual assaults.

"One is too many," said Amy Allen, the guest speaker for the event and community organizer for Safe Place, a nonprofit organization that works with victims of sexual and domestic violence. "Sexual violence is preventable. It takes everyone to get involved."

Nichols encouraged service members to take action against sexual assault.

"Sexual assault is worse than bad," Nichols said. "It has no place in our community, on our Texas Military Forces team."

Nichols advised service members not to be naive in thinking that sexual predators aren't in their

"Sexual violence is preventable. It takes everyone to get involved."

midst. He encouraged service members to watch out for themselves as well as their battle buddies and wingmen, and to stop behavior that could lead to sexual assault immediately.

To better support its members, the Texas Military Forces created the Sexual Assault Prevention and Report Program which focuses on education in order to spread awareness.

Lt. Col. James Castleman, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, 136th Airlift Wing, Texas Air National Guard, said that the program provides resources to victims of sexual assault including access to follow on care for both counseling and medical support and assisting commanders in working with victims to ensure they are treated fairly and not discriminated against.

The program is scheduled to host several events this month aimed at spreading awareness amongst the force. Among those is a Sexual Assault Prevention 5K hosted by the 136th at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, April 18, 2014 at 1100.

Another event, Denim Day, is aimed at debunking many of the myths surrounding sexual assaults. It is scheduled for April 23, 2014 on Camp Mabry.

"Today's ceremony is very important," Castleman said, "because it shows that the Adjutant General is committed to reducing the number of sexual assaults in the Texas Military Forces as well as increasing awareness of the issues faced by Texas Military Forces members." - **DISPATCH**

ENGINEERS DEPLOY

Texas Army National Guardsmen with the 454th Engineer Company say farewell to family and friends at their deployment ceremony.

Story and photos by
Private 1st Class Shannon Gatta
454th Engineer Company
Public Affairs

The 454th Engineer Company colors are cased during a mobilization ceremony at the McNease Convention Center in San Angelo, Texas, on Feb. 19, 2014.

SAN ANGELO, TEXAS (Feb. 19, 2014)- Leaders with the Texas Army National Guard, together with friends and family, said goodbye and good luck to members of 454th Engineer Company during a mobilization ceremony at the McNease Convention Center, in San Angelo, Texas, on Feb. 19, 2014.

The approximately 100 Soldiers deploying to Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, will provide route clearance missions with convoys and dismounted patrols, in order to detect and interrogate buried roadside bombs and other explosive devices. Just one of a handful of route clearance mission teams within the entire National Guard and the only one within the TXARNG, this potentially dangerous mission will ensure the remainder of the forces will be able to move freely around the battlefield.

"Our mission stands out as unique and vital one for the stability and safety of the Afghani people," said Staff Sgt. Melissa Wofford, medic noncommissioned officer, 454th Engineer Company. "We are one of very few route clearance units in the country and the very first to deploy with females like myself. I'm here to do the job that is needed and to support and protect my [fellow] Soldiers as well as to carry out the mission at hand."

With hundreds of loved ones attending the deployment ceremony to wish their loved ones well, friends and family arrived to the Concho Valley from across the state and even as far away as another country. For the only son of Army Veteran Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) Steven Alsept and his wife, the trip from Yongsan, South Korea not only showed support for their son, Lt. Raymond Alsept, but came with advice on the eve

- KEEP ROADS SAFE

Spc. Jessi McKee says her goodbyes to nephew, Shane, at her mobilization ceremony at the McNease Convention Center in San Angelo, Texas, on Feb. 19, 2014.

of his first deployment.

"[He said] listen to my NCO's," Lt. Alsept explains, "I have the final decision in our platoon but it's the NCO's that sway the decision [for me] tremendously."

Along with the focused training that each individual has received for their military occupational specialty, all of the Soldiers have been through various trainings to include gunnery, medical, combative, explosive and field training in the past few months to be well prepared for any mission given. This deployment to Afghanistan will mark the first overseas mission for the San Angelo based company and an opportunity to represent the state of Texas.

"This multifaceted mission allows the National Guard's Citizen-Soldiers to prove how diverse it is and be a recognizable force alongside our active duty counterparts," said Capt. Eric Leatherman, Commander, 454th Engineer Company.

The traditional formation of Soldiers, casing of the colors, and a final salute from leadership to the company commander signified their mission a go and served as a reminder of the absence, from friends and family, which lie ahead.

Guest speakers such as Congressman Mike Conaway; Col. Patrick Hamilton, Domestic Operations Commander, Texas Military Forces; Col. Tracey Norris, 176th Engineer Brigade Commander; Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Leonard, 111th Engineer Battalion Command Sgt. Major were among those who came to show their gratitude and encouragement for those Soldiers and their families.

The 454th Engineer Company will undergo further training at Fort Bliss in El Paso, before leaving for Afghanistan this spring. - **454th Eng. Co. PAO**

Click to follow the 454th:

County resolution recognizes Texas Guardsmen

Bastrop County recognizes TXMF and its highly skilled service members

Story and photo by
Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Griego
136th MEB Public Affairs Office

BASTROP, TEXAS - National Guard supporters at the Bastrop Country Commissioners Court issued a proclamation Feb. 8, 2014, in support of the Best Warrior Competition, held annually at Camp Swift. The installation, located near the city of Bastrop in central Texas, hosts the joint, statewide event each February to recognize the fittest and most professional Guardsmen within the Texas Military Forces.

"We're very excited about this competition being here," said Hon. Paul Pape, county judge for Bastrop County. "We believe in the mission of the National Guard. We are so thankful that men and women in the National Guard are here to protect our country and to serve our country to promote freedom here and abroad."

Pape, who read the resolution just prior to the confidence course event, welcomed the competition and all Texas Guardsmen to the county and offered further support in the form of a fund-raising golf tournament benefiting the competitors.

"It's our way of saying thank you," said Pape. "I hope that they can go back to their homes in Texas and know that we here in central Texas appreciate what they're doing."

The day was celebrated by regional and national figures within the military community, including Chief Master Sgt. Mitchell Brush, the National Guard Bureau's senior enlisted adviser.

"When we go out and get a chance to see these events hosted in our states," said Brush, "the biggest thing that we're looking for is support from the community because we certainly can't do any of this without our communities and our families supporting us."

The competition featured 16 non-commissioned officers and 11 junior enlisted Guardsmen engaging a three-day gauntlet of events, including land navigation, weapons qualification, a six-mile road march, the confidence course, an appearance review board, and a written essay.

"We're very unique as the National Guard," said Brush, speaking of the two branches that make up the component. "We fight fires together, we fight floods together. It's great that we can meet today and build those relationships instead of when we're in a crisis situation where we don't have time to make those introductions."

Strong working relationships are important to Texas Guardsmen, where the airmen and soldiers seldom have opportunities to train alongside each other. Events like this bridge the gap between the branches and reinforce the common ground in our missions.

"It's a good thing for Texas as a whole," said Don Nicholas, the district director for Texas Representative Ralph Sheffield. "People come from around the area, around the state, to witness this important event that takes place here."

The resolution demonstrates a commitment of support from the county only an hour from Austin's Camp Swift, headquarters for the Texas Air and Army National Guards. By celebrating the competition that highlights Texas' finest, the county recognizes the sacrifices and duty of the state's men and women in uniform.

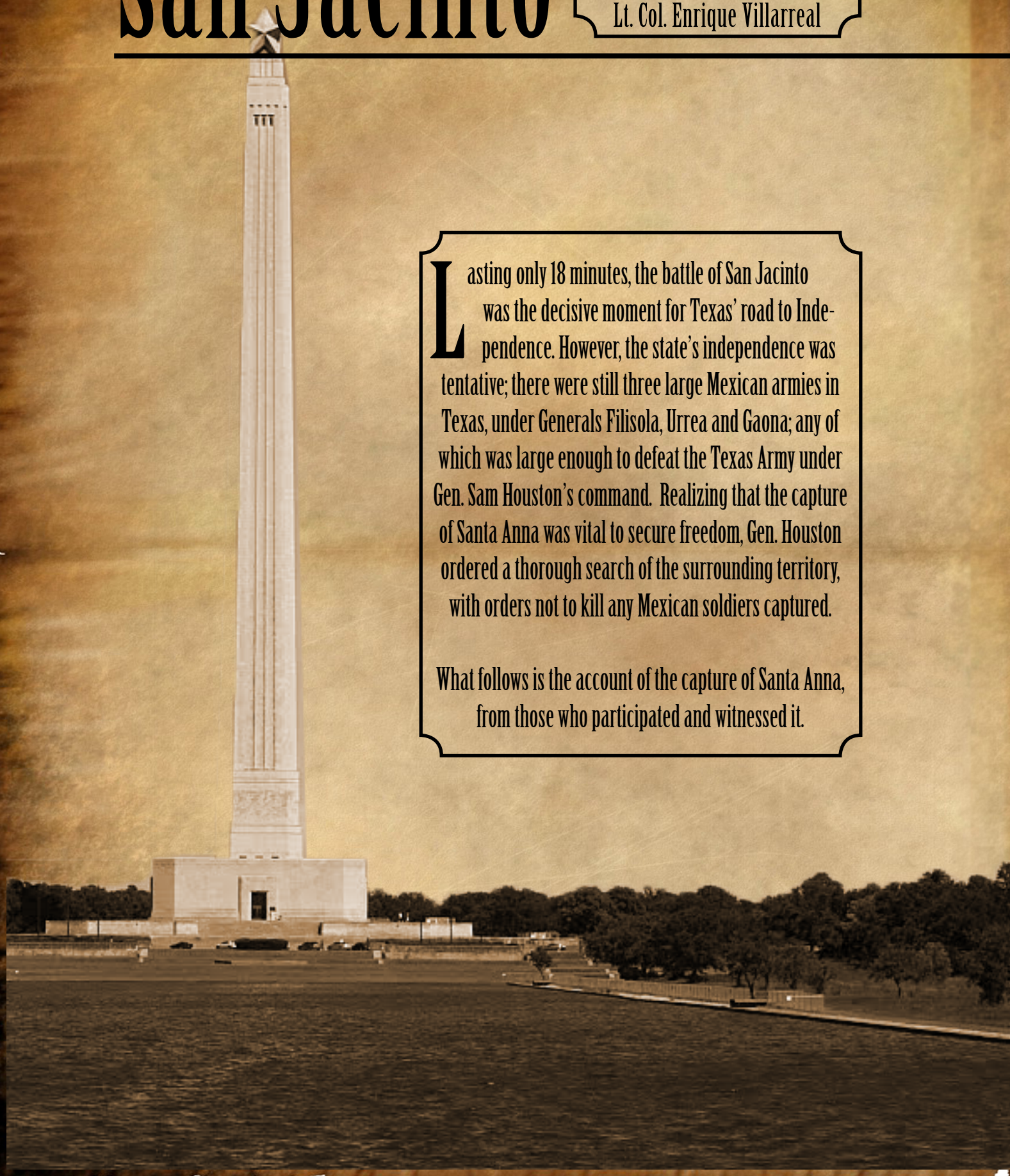
"It gives the public an opportunity to see that our military is trained and prepared," said State Rep. Tim Kleinschmidt, "and it's not just sitting behind a desk somewhere."

"When the [judge] comes out here on a day that's overcast, cold and gray," said Brush, "and he wants to read a proclamation declaring that today is best warrior day, it just fills my heart with pride to see that we've got such amazing support from our civilian counterparts." **- 136th MEB PAO**

Bastrop County Judge Paul Pape, right, reads a proclamation recognizing the soldiers and airmen competing in the Texas National Guard Best Warrior Competition at Camp Swift, Bastrop, Texas, on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014.

San Jacinto

A historical compilation by
Lt. Col. Enrique Villarreal



Lasting only 18 minutes, the battle of San Jacinto was the decisive moment for Texas' road to Independence. However, the state's independence was tentative; there were still three large Mexican armies in Texas, under Generals Filisola, Urrea and Gaona; any of which was large enough to defeat the Texas Army under Gen. Sam Houston's command. Realizing that the capture of Santa Anna was vital to secure freedom, Gen. Houston ordered a thorough search of the surrounding territory, with orders not to kill any Mexican soldiers captured.

What follows is the account of the capture of Santa Anna, from those who participated and witnessed it.

Santa Anna's Army Surprised

"At this fatal moment, the bugler on our right signaled the advance of the ... His Excellency and Staff were asleep; the greater number of the men were also sleeping; of the rest, some were eating, others were scattered in the woods in search of boughs to prepare shelter. I stepped upon some ammunition boxes... and saw that their formation was a mere line in one rank, and [much] extended. In their center was the Texas flag; on both wings, they had two light cannons, well manned. Their cavalry was opposite our front, overlapping our left. In this disposition, yelling furiously, with a brisk fire of grape, muskets and rifles, they advanced resolutely upon our camp."

"The utmost confusion prevailed. I saw our men flying in small groups, terrified, and sheltering themselves behind large trees. I endeavored to force... them to fight, but all efforts were in vain... The enemy kept up a brisk crossfire... Meeting no resistance, they dashed, lightning-like, upon our deserted camp. Then I saw His Excellency running about in the utmost excitement, wringing his hands, and unable to give an order." *Extract from Col. Pedro Delgado's, from Gen. Santa Anna's Staff report, dated 25 April 1837*

Santa Anna's Escape

"I was sleeping deeply when the din and fire of battle awoke me. I immediately became aware that we were being attacked and that great disorder prevailed. All hope lost, with everyone escaping as best he could... A servant of my aide-de-camp... offered me the horse of his master and earnestly pleaded that I save myself. I remembered that General Filisola was at Thompson's Crossing, sixteen leagues distant, and... tried to make my way to that place, through the enemy's ranks."

"They pursued me and overtook me, a league and a half from the battlefield... The coming of night permitted me to evade their vigilance. The hope of rejoining the army and of vindicating its honor gave me strength to cross the creek with the water above my waist, and I continued on my route afoot. In an abandoned house, I found some clothes, which I exchanged for my wet ones. *Extract from General Santa Anna's report of defeat and capture at San Jacinto, 11 Mar 1837.*

The Pursuit of Santa Anna

"When the Mexicans commenced retreating... Santa Anna, General Cos and other officers ... hastened to join forces ...under Filisola. Santa Anna [with others]...attempted their retreat by way of Vince's Bridge not knowing that [Deaf Smith had destroyed this bridge] on the morning of that day."
About the time, Captain [Henry] Karnes called for all those having loaded guns to follow him in the pursuit... While pursuing the Mexicans on the road to Vince's bridge, we overtook numbers... and as

we overtook them, we felt compelled to kill them and did so. [Even though they were] on their knees crying for quarter and saying "Me no Alamo - me no Bahia," meaning that they were not in either of those horrible massacres.

"When we arrived within half or three-quarters of a mile of Vince's Bridge, Capt. Karnes ordered those in advance to halt [until] the rear could come up. [He stated] that Santa Anna was, no doubt, with the other Mexicans and when they should reach the bridge and find it destroyed, they could certainly make a fight..."

Antonio López de Santa Anna

"Within 300 or 400 yards of the bridge, we discovered Vince's large, black stallion [Old Whip] with a fine-looking officer on him dressed in uniform. Capt. Karnes, supposing it was Santa Anna himself... [Karnes] made for him. When he came up to him on the bank of the bayou, the officer dismounted and Karnes asked him if he was Santa Anna. He replied that he was, supposing that quarter would be given, [to] Santa Anna... When he discovered that no quarter would be shown to him he jumped into the bayou saying ... that he was not Santa Anna, whereupon some pistols were discharged...killing him in the bayou."

"We then continued our pursuit up and down the bayou... When we came to the wreck of the bridge, the sun was near setting. Continuing our search, we finally found four horses in a thicket... We saw that their riders had dismounted and crossed the bayou on foot... and had got into a much larger thicket on the opposite side."

"Capt. Karnes then called on Dr. [Horatio Alexander] Alsbury who spoke the Spanish language, to call to Santa Anna in the thicket...and say to him if he would come out and give himself up, we would take him a prisoner and spare his life. [However], no reply was made.... Yet we were satisfied Santa Anna must be there." "Capt. Karnes then dispatched a runner to camp with the news that we had Santa Anna in a thicket near Vince's Bridge and... that more men should be sent immediately to help us..." *William S. Taylor, "Pursuit of Santa Anna and his Cavalry after They Had Commenced Their Flight from the Battlefield of San Jacinto." Texas Almanac: A Compendium of Texas History, 1857-1873. Waco, Texas: Texian Press, 1967.*

The Capture of Santa Anna

"On the morning of 22 April 1836, news came into camp that a portion of our cavalry had surrounded Santa Anna ... Col. Edward Burleson, commanding

the First Regiment of Texas troops, called for volunteers, and... they set out in search of the Mexican chief. After marching from the camp, near Lynch's Ferry to Vince's Bayou... Col. Burleson called a parley."

"Some of the party was anxious to proceed... while others thought it useless to proceed farther, after an ignis fatuus (a foolish goal). Col. Burleson ordered [Sylvester] to take charge of such men as were disposed to return to camp and the others proceeded toward the Brazos...The squad under my command proceeded back to camp. We left the main road and took down the bayou. We had not proceeded very far before some one of them proposed to skirt the timber in search of game. I took the straight direction promising to await their arrival at a certain point."

James Austin Sylvester

"After leaving the party... I suddenly espied an object coming towards me... Riding in the direction in which I had seen it, I came up to the figure... covered with a Mexican blanket... I ordered him to get up, which he did, very reluctantly and immediately took hold of my hand and kissed it several times, and asked for General Houston... [Inquiring if Houston] had been killed in the battle... I replied... that General Houston was only wounded, and was then in his camp."

"I then asked him who he was when he replied that he was nothing but a common soldier---I remarked the fineness of his shirt, which he tried to conceal and told him he was no common soldier, if so he must be a thief. Now a portion of my squad came up, and as near as I can now, recall consisted of Messrs. *[Alfred H.] Miles, [Joseph D.]Vermillion and [Charles P.] Thompson." Sergeant J. A. Sylvester from New Orleans, La., December 7, 1872.*

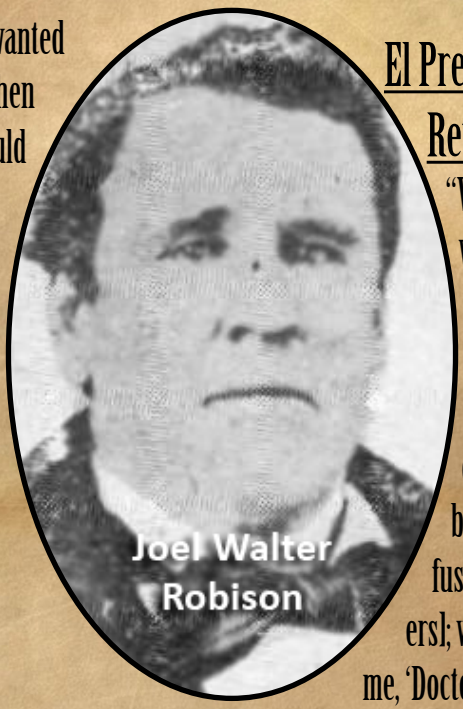
"I was one of a detachment of thirty or forty men commanded by Colonel Burleson, which left the encampment of the Texas army... Colonel Burleson with the greater part of our detachment went up Vince's Bayou but six of us, to wit, Sylvester, Miles, Vermillion, Thompson, another man whose name I have forgotten, and myself..."

"About two miles east of Vince's Bayou..., we discovered a man standing in the prairie near one of the groves. He, no doubt, saw us first, for, when we started towards him; he sat down on a high place, and waited until we came up. He was dressed in citizen's clothing, a blue cottonade frock coat and pantaloons. I was the only one... who spoke any Spanish [and] asked the prisoner various questions, which he answered readily. In reply to the question, whether he knew where Santa Anna and Cos were, he said he presumed they had gone to the Brazos...I asked him if he was an officer. "No", he said, he belonged to the cavalry, and was not accustomed to being on foot..."

"When we started with him, one of our party [Miles]

dismounted and went up the ravine to look for the Mexicans spoken of by [the soldier], and [the soldier] rode [Miles] horse some two miles up to the road. [Miles]...finding no Mexicans, then came back up and told [the soldier] to dismount."

"He refused to do it, and [Miles] then leveled his gun at him, when he dismounted and asked me how far it was to camp. I told him eight or nine miles. He said he could not walk so far. [Miles] wanted to kill him, and I told him so. He then said he would try to walk, but would have to go slow...Miles, who was a rough, reckless fellow, was carrying a Mexican lance [and would] occasionally [prick] the prisoner to quicken his pace... At length he stopped and begged permission to ride saying that he belonged to the cavalry and was unaccustomed to walking."



"We paused and deliberated as to what should be done with him. I asked him if he would go on to our army if left to travel at his leisure. He replied that he would. Miles insisted that the prisoner should be left behind, but said that if he were left, he would kill him. At length my compassion for the prisoner moved me to mount him behind me...I then took him up behind me and carried him to camp, some five or six miles further."

"He asked me many questions, the first of which was, 'Did General Houston command in person in the action of yesterday [and the size of his army]?' I informed him that the Texian force... was less than eight hundred men, he said I was surely mistaken, that our force was certainly much greater. We rode to that part of our camp where the prisoners were kept, in order to deliver our trooper to the guard..." *From Dixon, Sam Houston and Kemp, Louis Wiltz. The Heroes of San Jacinto. The Anson Jones Press, Houston, TX, 1932 and Texas Almanac of 1859 from a letter to the editors from Joel Walter Robison, 5 Aug 1858.*

El Presidente! Santa Anna Revealed

"While I was... dressing the wounds of [a Mexican lieutenant], Mr. Sylvester... appeared... with Joel W. Robinson, conducting a prisoner [to the camp where the prisoners were being held]... [The prisoner] refused to [join the rest of the prisoners]; whereupon Mr. Sylvester called to me, 'Doctor Labadie, what does this man want?' I [explained] that this was the place where all prisoners were kept. He replied that he wanted to see General Houston. "Is he in camp?" said he. "Yes," I replied, "Mr. Sylvester, take this man to... [pointing toward the bayou] where General Houston lies." As he left, I observed that all the Mexican officers arose at once, [exclaiming El Presidente, El Presidente] and my little wounded lieutenant whispered to me, 'Est el Presidente' (He is the President)." *Extract from the journal Dr. Nicoloas Labadie*

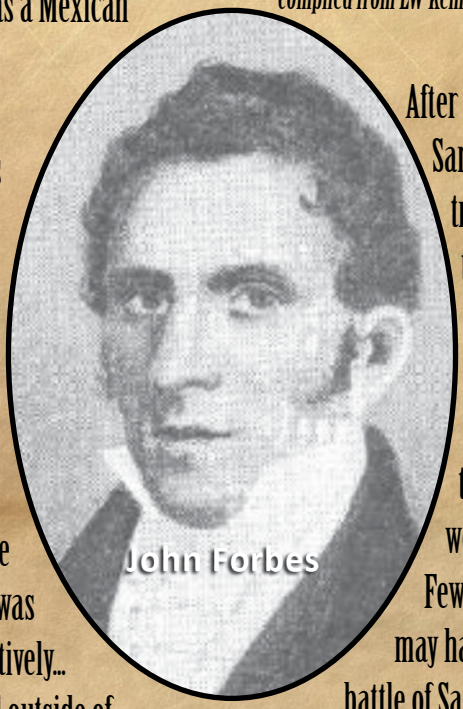
The Surrender of Santa Anna

"I was attending to some duties ... where the Mexi-

San Jacinto

can prisoners were under guard. I noticed two men approaching me from the Prairie skirting Buffalo Bayou... One of the men was a very youthful soldier with his gun on his shoulder...I think his name was Joel Robertson; the other man was a Mexican in undress and unarmed."

"The young soldier stated that as he was coming into camp... and requested to [see] Gen'l Houston. The Mexican ...addressed me... intimating a desire to see the General and [handed me] a letter... pressing his finger on its address, which read Don Lopez de Santa Anna. I ... asked him if he was Gen'l S't Anna, he replied affirmatively... On our arrival, we found the Gen'l outside of his tent stretched on a mattress at the foot of a large tree asleep... I put my hand on his arm to arouse him, he raised himself on his elbow and looked up the prisoner [who] immediately addressed him telling him who he was and surrendering himself to him [as] a prisoner of War."


John Forbes

"Gen'l Houston looked at him intensely but made no reply, turning to me requested me to [bring a soldier who was reported to be] ...the private secretary of Santa Anna... I did so, and ...the young man on seeing the Prisoner assured General Houston that the Prisoner ... was truly Gen'l Santa Anna. General Houston wanting additional evidence sent [for] Gen'l Almonte... [Who] fully recognized and identified [him as Santa Anna]." *Statement made by John Forbes 31 Dec 1870, compiled from LW Kemp.*

After lengthy discussions and debates, Santa Anna ordered all Mexican troops to evacuate Texas, ending the revolution of 1836, establishing Texas as a free republic and opening the way for the United States to extend its boundaries to the Rio Grande in the southwest and to the Pacific in the west. Few military engagements in history may have been more decisive than the battle of San Jacinto. However, all of this may have turned out differently were it not the actions of a handful of men who unknowingly changed the course of history, when they captured a common Mexican soldier, known as Santa Anna. Their names - James A. Sylvester, Joel W. Robison, Joseph D. Vermillion, Alfred H. Miles, Charles P. Thomson and David Cole. - **DISPATCH HISTORY**

April showers bring May flowers

Commentary and photo by
Capt. Martha Nigrelle
Texas Military Forces Public Affairs Office

A father and son outing to view the bluebonnets at Camp Mabry.

It's spring and the wildflowers are popping up all over Texas!

Camp Mabry, in Austin, Texas, is home to a large variety of wildflowers. Texas bluebonnets, Indian paintbrushes, prickly pears and more can be found scattered across Camp Mabry's trails, picnic area and parade field.

Camp Mabry is open to the public and has several trails and walking areas where the wildflowers can be viewed and enjoyed.

In addition to flowers, Camp Mabry is also home to more than 100 different species of bird. Avid bird watchers may enjoy visiting the base to catch a glimpse of some of these birds.

"Early mornings are the best time to interact with the birds through sightings and listening to their calls," said Linda Brown, Texas Military Forces Natural Resources Specialist.

If you are interested in seeing some beautiful Texas flowers, listening to a wide variety of bird calls, or enjoying the beautiful Texas spring, stop by Camp Mabry and take some time to walk our trails. Come, and enjoy!

For more information regarding the wildflowers or bird watching on Camp Mabry contact Mr. Wayne Strebe, Texas Military Forces Natural Resources Specialist at:

512-782-6227.

Texas Military Forces Counseling Department

Counseling Service Members and their Families

Counseling Program

Providing assistance to Soldiers, Family Members, and employees of the Texas Military Forces with behavioral, mental or emotional needs. Promoting mental fitness in the Texas Military Forces and networking with community resources best suited to aid clients.

What type of counseling do our counselors perform?

Our counselors will meet with Service Members and/or their Family Members experiencing individual stress, anxiety, depression, anger, grief, family problems, relationship problems and many other issues that may be presented.

Is it confidential?

Yes! Meeting with our counselors is confidential and will not be reported to your command or anyone else, with the exception of reporting abuse of a child, elderly, or disabled person (TX State Law) and/or danger to self or others (Duty to Warn).

What do our counselors do?

Meet with Service Members and their Family Members to discover their individual needs.

Develop support plans for individuals and/or their family.

Respond to critical incidents and provide post-vention care.

Coordinate with TXMF unit leadership to support behavioral health awareness and wellness promotion plans.

Conduct behavioral health training for TXMF.

Provide support through the 24/7 Counseling Line.

Coordinate with TXMF Family

Support Services (FSS) programs to offer holistic care to all clients.

Assist and execute plans for behavioral health assistance to TXMF Soldiers and employees during disaster response missions.

Who are our counselors?

All of our counselors are licensed by the state of Texas. They will have at least one of the following licenses:

- Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

How much will it cost me?

NOTHING!! Our services are free of charge to Service Members and their Families.

Texas Military Forces Counseling Department

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Visitors at the Texas Military Forces Open House and American Heroes Air Show visit the Traveling Vietnam Wall on display at the event. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Pruitt, Texas State Guard Public Affairs Office)