

# D

THE

ISPATCH  
OCT 2014

THE MAGAZINE OF THE TEXAS MILITARY FORCES

**Miss Texas**  
**USA 2014**  
**SGT Lauren**  
**Guzman**  
**looks back**  
**on her reign**





# D

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## The Cover



Sgt. Lauren Guzman, Texas State Guard, wears her crown as Miss Texas USA 2014. (Courtesy photo by Arthur Garcia/Select Studios).





Texas National Guardsmen with 3rd Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment, show off their skills in front of friends and family at their family day event held at Doña Ana Training Area, New Mexico, Aug. 28, 2014. (U.S. Army photo by Wendy Brown).



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**Public Affairs Staff**

Capt. Martha Nigrelle

2nd Lt. Alicia Lacy

Estefania Reyes

Laura Lopez

John Thibodeau

Michelle McBride

**Managing Editor**

**Graphic Layout and Design**

Sgt. 1st Class. Malcolm M. McClendon

**Contributing Writers and Photographers**

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Wishes you a happy and safe  
Halloween

**The Texas National Guard Child and Youth Program hopes you have a fun and SAFE Halloween!**

The Child & Youth Program is located in building 34 on Camp Mabry in Austin. We offer events and trainings all over the state. Contact us for assistance with getting an event in your area!  
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**S**

Swords, knives, and similar costume accessories should be short, soft, and flexible.

**A**

Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.

**F**

Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.

**E**

Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Limit the amount of treats you eat.

**H**

Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you. Always WALK and don't run from house to house.

**A**

Always test make-up in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to prevent possible skin and eye irritation.

**L**

Look both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible.

**L**

Lower your risk for serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.

**O**

Only walk on sidewalks whenever possible, or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe.

**W**

Wear well-fitting masks, costumes, and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips, and falls.

**E**

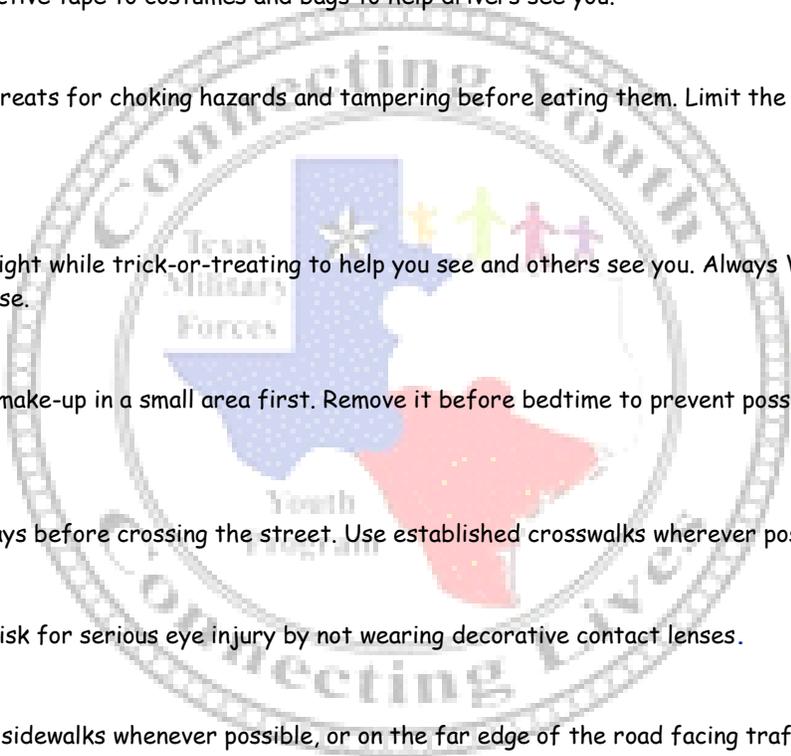
Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats made by strangers.

**E**

Enter homes only if you're with a trusted adult. Only visit well-lit houses. Don't stop at dark houses. Never accept rides from strangers.

**N**

Never walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes.





# The Transitional Leadership of General George C. Marshall

Commentary by Col. Gregory Chaney  
Chief of Staff to the Adjutant General of Texas

**A**S OVERSEAS CONTINGENCIES and operations lessen for our current military forces, many service members returning home may not only question his/her own future career, but that of the profession. Common questions may include a desire for one to predict the types of future conflicts or focus on overall costs of maintaining the most expensive defensive strategy in the world. Regardless of the era or generation, post-war transitions result in leaders providing tough answers to difficult questions, while keeping the well-being of the country a top priority. During these times of uncertainty, the U.S. needs strong leaders across all levels who adhere to attributes necessary to navigate these transitions. Through monumental achievements, ethical qualities and an extraordinary philosophy and managerial style, Gen. George C. Marshall serves as a model of such a leader.

Before discussing the attributes and competencies contributing to revered success, it is important to provide some background and insight to the leader dubbed “a man for all seasons.” A shy and reserved youth and mediocre student at best, it was a love for history and a desire to seek advanced education at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) that launched his career. Fast forward to the day Marshall became the U.S. Army Chief of Staff, at which time, Germany invaded Poland and ushered in World War II. Over a three-year period, Marshall transitioned the U.S. Army from 189,000 outmoded and ill-equipped soldiers into the 8,000,000-soldier force that won the war.

Following the war and its victories, he broke through parochial services plans and rebuilt the total force that included maintaining the National Guard as an integral force, part of America’s first line

of defense. This decision is one we benefited from during a decade of war in Iraq and Afghanistan. As secretary of state and the orchestrator of the so-called Marshall Plan (European Recovery Plan), he helped rebuild European economies and stem the spread of communism. In fact, Marshall is one of a few incredible leaders in our nation’s history whose attributes and competencies are worth emulating in today’s ever-changing environment.

Although it is difficult to encapsulate such a large body of leadership success into a form that is easy to imitate or reproduce, an article in the professional journal, “Public Integrity” attempted such a task in 2006. Built on a foundation of moral principles, the following attributes and competencies contributing to his leadership success are listed below.

- **Personal courage**
- **Integrity and self-discipline**
- **An organizational philosophy both task-centered and employee-centered**
- **Ability to recognize talent in others**
- **Exercising and demanding high ethical standards of organization members**
- **Inclusiveness**
- **Understanding of and sensitivity to the political/social/economic environment**
- **Putting the public interest ahead of self-or narrow organizational interests**

The first five attributes should resonate as they mirror the military services' values and leadership doctrine with which we are familiar. However, it is the final two that are the salient points for leaders capable of influencing in transitional periods. First, Marshall had a clear understanding of the world's strategic environment and more importantly, how his actions would affect it. No matter the time period, it is imperative today's military leaders must continue to educate themselves in order to fully understand the operational environment. Secondly, leaders should work to translate their environmental understanding into an operational vision that keeps the overall interest of the nation superior to the parochial self, unit, or organizational interests. In any case, both of these competencies require deliberate development to integrate into the art of one's leadership style.

Every member of the military is a leader and mentor to someone else. As a leader, you are responsible for developing the individual attributes and competencies necessary to keep our military strong, capable of responding when needed, and protecting our nations' interests. As you seek to grow and advance, look to proven leaders like Marshall to guide your development. More importantly, strive to emulate Marshall by maintaining an understanding of the strategic environment, so that your vision and actions continue to contribute to the strong security of the United States. - **FROM THE TOP**



*For more information on the Gen. Marshall and his Marshall Plan, visit the Public Integrity article at the following link:*

<http://academic.udayton.edu/RichardGhere/POL%20318/Pops.pdf>





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**SUPPORTING *our* COMMUNITY**



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for more information on the organizations



# Texas State Guard

## Promotes, appoints new deputy commander

Written by Master Sgt. Juli Blenis  
Texas State Guard Public Affairs Office

**A**USTIN, TEXAS - Robert "Duke" Bodisch, Brigadier General, Texas State Guard, was promoted to Major General, by Governor Rick Perry in a private ceremony in the Governor's mansion Sept. 30, 2014.

Maj. Gen. Gerald Betty, Commanding General of the Texas State Guard, was on hand and very pleased to see Governor Perry add another star to an already stellar career for Bodisch in the Texas Military Forces. After joining the Texas State Guard in 1988, Bodisch was promoted to Brigadier General in 2009. Since then, Bodisch has held significant positions of responsibility, including Command of the Texas Maritime Regiment. His current assignment is as the Deputy Commanding General of the TXSG.

After serving four years on active duty with the U.S. Marine Corps from 1969-1973, Bodisch transitioned into the Marine Corps and Navy Reserve for another six years. He then augmented his Federal Service by working with the Department of Justice's International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program. While with the DOJ, he served two tours of duty in Iraq, and accomplished multiple assignments in leadership positions.

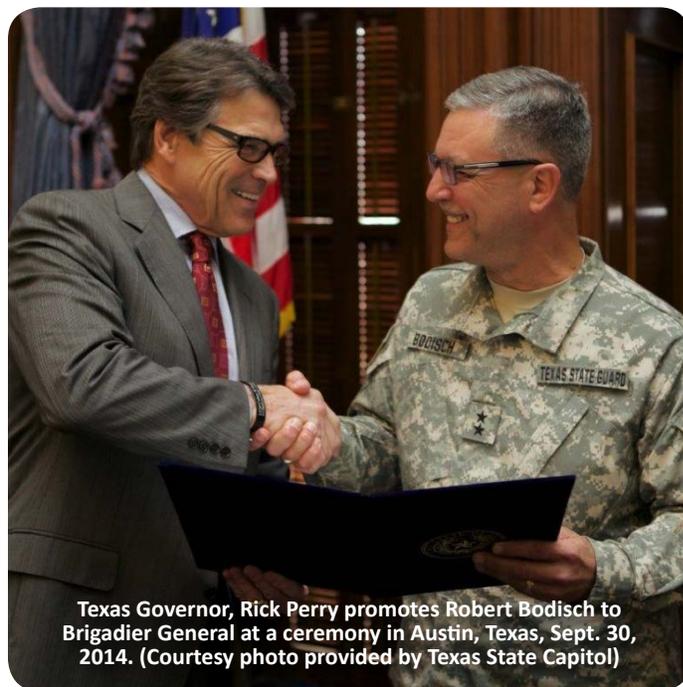
Earlier this year, Bodisch was named DPS Deputy Director of Homeland Security, which includes the Texas Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security State Administrative Agency.

Prior to joining DPS, he was the deputy director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security. Bodisch began his law enforcement and criminal justice career in 1973,

serving as Lieutenant Investigator with the Harris County District Attorney's Office, chief investigator with the Texas Prosecutor Council and senior criminal investigator with the Texas Attorney General's Office. He is also former director of Education and Training for the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education.

Bodisch has earned Associate and Bachelor degrees in Criminal Justice from the University of Houston, and a Masters degree in Quality Systems Management.

**- TXSG PAO**



Texas Governor, Rick Perry promotes Robert Bodisch to Brigadier General at a ceremony in Austin, Texas, Sept. 30, 2014. (Courtesy photo provided by Texas State Capitol)



“She was a soldier before she became Miss Texas USA.”

Sgt. Lauren Guzman crowned Miss Texas USA 2014, Sept. 1, 2013. (Courtesy photo by Arthur Garcia/Select Studios)



# WEARING TWO HATS FOR A YEAR

SGT Lauren Guzman looks back on her year as Miss Texas USA 2014

Story by Capt. Esperanza Meza 19th Regt. Public Affairs Office

**L**AREDO, TEXAS – As members of the Texas State Guard, soldiers take an oath to serve Texas and often sacrifice a great deal to do so, for TXSG Sgt. Lauren Guzman, she wears two hats for Texas – her ACU patterned patrol cap and a crown.

Guzman was crowned Miss Texas USA 2014 on Sept. 1, 2013, representing the Lone Star State and serving the citizens of Texas as both Sgt. Guzman and as Miss Texas all year.

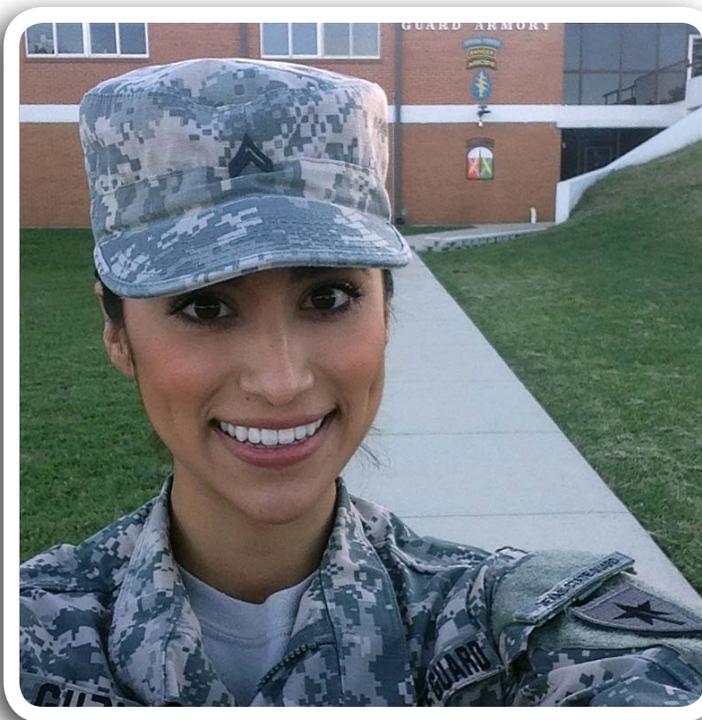
“In the community, being a role model with high standards is expected when being in and out of uniform,” Guzman said, speaking of the TXSG contributing to her success in the pageants. “The TXSG taught me to be on time for events, meetings, and how to network, but it also takes a lot of discipline, commitment and self-motivation when there is no monetary compensation involved.”

Guzman is currently assigned to 1st Regiment, TXSG, in the operations section in San Antonio and served with the regiment’s Quick Reaction Team before it disbanded.

“We’ve given her the latitude to attend required Miss Texas USA functions without penalty or adverse perception for not being able to attend scheduled Unit Training Assemblies,” stated State Guard Col. Vincent Carag, 1st Regiment commander.

and holds a bachelor’s degree in forensic science from St. Mary’s University, which she earned while serving in the guard and is looking to the future.

As her reign comes to an end, she is considering several career options and looking to attend Officer Candidate School.



“She was a soldier before she became Miss Texas USA and I could tell she was a ‘squared away soldier’ when I first came on board,” said 1st Regiment, Command Sgt. Maj., Mario Zuniga, giving accolades to Guzman.

“As a leader, she is a coach and mentor and is not afraid to get dirty or ask questions,” he said, “and when she won Miss Texas USA, both the colonel and I thought she’d be a great spokesperson and recruiter for the TXSG.”

“We, the Soldiers of the 1st Regiment, stand behind her efforts 100 percent.” Guzman agreed, stating the troops and command, her “extended second family,” has been very supportive.

Guzman joined the TXSG in 2007

A pageant veteran, Guzman started in 2005, where she won the Miss Laredo Top Model Pageant. In 2006, she was first runner-up in the Miss Laredo Teen USA but claimed the title in 2008. Persevering, she competed for Miss Texas USA, being third runner-up in 2011, first runner-up in



2012 and fourth runner-up in 2013 before winning the title in 2014.

Guzman followed her father's and grandfather's footsteps into the TXSG. Both served several years with 1st Regiment; her father, a major in the medical corps, and her grandfather, an education professor posthumously promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Guzman looks to her family for inspiration to do well and set an example for others.

"My mom has always been there and pushed me to do well while I also try to do right to be a role model for my sister," she said.

As Miss Texas USA, Guzman traveled throughout the state and nation addressing issues such as breast and ovarian cancer awareness, attended charity



events, parades and visited hospitals and schools to help educate children regarding the dangers of drugs and the importance of education. She also volunteers with numerous non-profit organizations on top of her work with the Guard.

As Guzman relinquishes her crown to the next Miss Texas USA, she leaves us with this advice:

"If you have a goal, push for it and ask yourself why you want it," said Guzman.

"Keep your head up till you achieve what you want and accomplish it. I kept competing till I won Miss Texas USA." - **TXSG PAO**

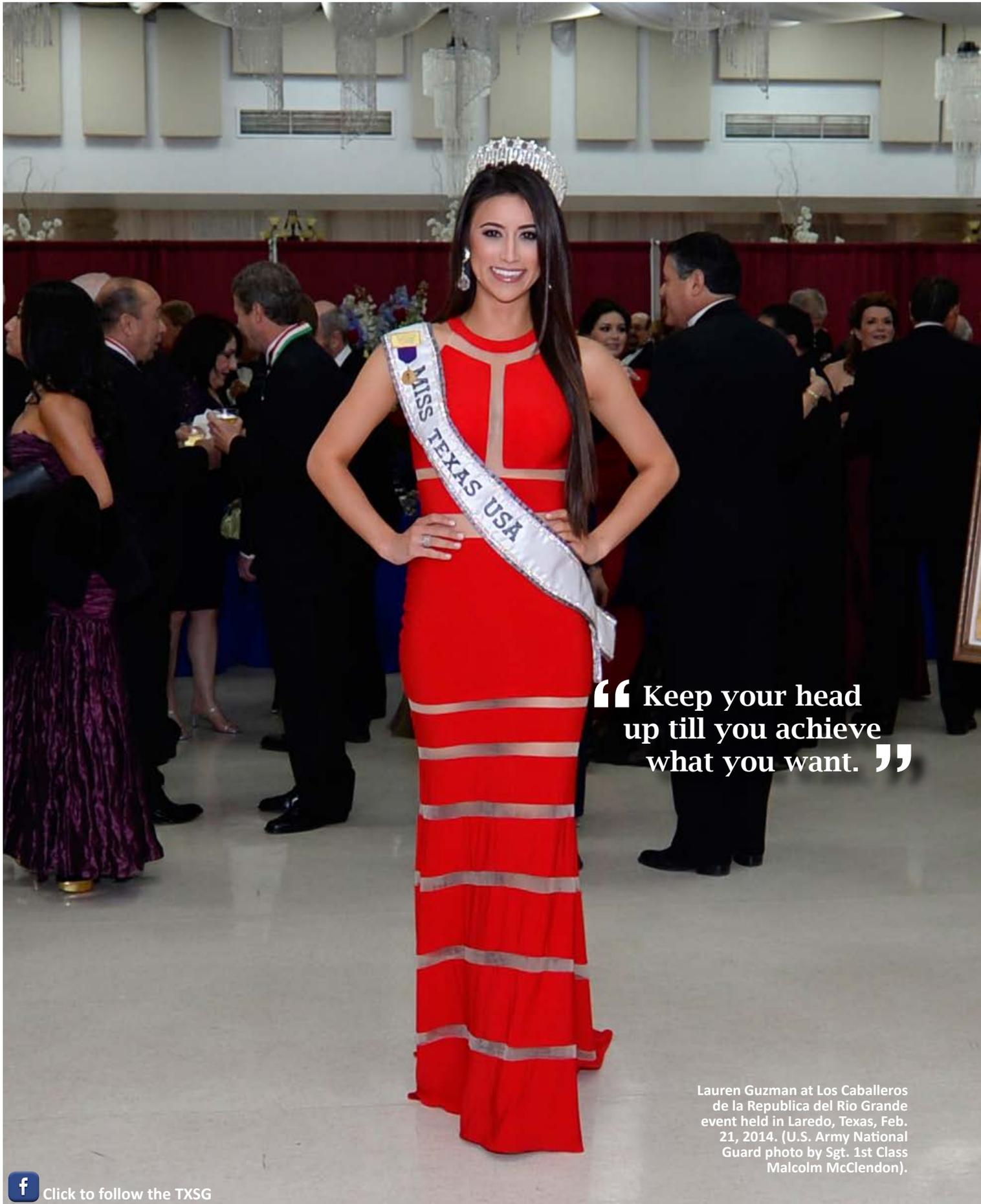


**Previous page:**  
-Cpl. Lauren Guzman prior to her promotion to Sergeant in February 2014. (Courtesy photo)

**This page top:**  
-Sgt. Lauren Guzman poses with, retired Maj. Gen. Christopher Powers, left, former Texas State Guard Commanding General, and Maj. Gen. Manuel Rodriguez, Texas State Guard Commanding General, during ceremonies for the 118th Washington Birthday Celebration in Laredo, Texas, Feb. 22, 2014. (Courtesy photo by Melissa Guzman).

**Center and left:**  
-Sgt. Lauren Guzman and Staff Sgt. Shiloh Harris, guest speaker and combat veteran, pose during 1st Regiment's Dining Out in San Antonio, December 2013. (Texas State Guard Photo by Warrant Officer 1 Tina Jackson).

-Sgt. Lauren Guzman holds the Texas Military Forces challenge coin presented by Command Sgt. Maj. Bradley Brandt, the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the Texas Military Forces. (Courtesy photo by Melissa Guzman).



“ Keep your head up till you achieve what you want. ”

Lauren Guzman at Los Caballeros de la Republica del Rio Grande event held in Laredo, Texas, Feb. 21, 2014. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm McClendon).



Click to follow the TXSG

# SHARING LESSONS LEARNED

Story by Master Sgt. Daniel Griego  
JTF-136th MEB Public Affairs Office

**A**RICA, CHILE - Natural disasters are a constant global threat, and response measures can vary wildly from nation to nation. The emergency preparedness communities of Chile and Texas are looking to bridge that gap in consequence management with long-term exchanges of best practices and training events. The most recent of which, Chile's Volcano VI exercise, brought together representatives of the Texas Military Forces, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Chilean Army, and Chilean civilians in a robust, simulated incident in Arica, Chile. The scenario, held Aug. 18-22, featured a simulated earthquake and volcanic eruption that stressed the capabilities and cooperation of the Chilean Army, the Chilean Office of National Emergency Management, Ministry of Interior, the Carabineros de Chile (Federal Police), the Regional Fire Department, and many local civilian agencies.

"It was very interesting to see how another country took on disaster preparedness and some of the things that they do that are different from us, but are very effective," said Texas

National Guard Col. Lee Schnell. As the commander of Joint Task Force 136 (Maneuver Enhancement Brigade), the Guard unit responsible for the FEMA Region VI Homeland Response Force mission, Col. Schnell has a vested interest in disaster response, having participated in and observed dozens of exercises during the last four years.

"Volcano VI took place in Arica

this year," said Chilean Army Col. Edmundo Villarreal Geissbuhler, "and its purpose was to provide the civilian authorities a training opportunity, in order to verify and update their disaster relief contingency plans. It also allowed them to check their communications flows, and interagency coordination, determining the needs of personnel, material, equipment, and other resources, to successfully face an emergency or disaster caused by nature or human influence."

Not unlike our response plans and interagency agreements here in the United States, the disaster operations in Chile must be tested and certified in accordance with high standards of efficiency.

"The purpose of the exercise was to validate the current emergency plans incorporated by the various participating agencies in attendance," said Sgt. 1st Class Alfonso Garcia, the International Affairs NCO for the Texas Military Forces. "The exercise players used a computer system that controlled and monitored the development of events during the disaster



Lt. Col. Daniel Rodriguez, bilateral affairs officer for SCO Chile, left, Brigade Commander Col. Lee Schnell and Texas Department of Public Safety Capt. Luis Najera are received by Chilean Army Maj. Herrera, right, of the 1st Brigade "Coraceros" in Arica, Chile, Aug. 20, 2014.



Brigade Commander Col. Lee Schnell, left, discusses observations made during the Volcano VI emergency exercise with Chilean Army Brig. Gen. Miguel Alfonso Bellet, commander of the 1st Brigade "Coraceros," in Arica, Chile, Aug. 20, 2014.

both civilian and military members of Texas' consequence management community, the Chilean forces were able to gain a neighboring perspective on asset allocation and the need to include all stakeholders in support of the citizens.

"While we attended the exercise in the role of observers and not evaluators," said Texas Department of Public Safety Capt. Luis Najera, "I feel it was important for the Chilean military forces and civilian authorities to understand the roles between the Texas Military Forces and the Department of Public Safety in Texas' response to emergencies. The Chilean government clearly understands the need to have all their governmental resources working together to respond to emergencies and natural disasters."

With so much on the line, the priority throughout the exercise was how best to serve the citizens of Chile in the fight to save lives. By sharing best practices through long-term partnerships like this, service members, first responders, and civil servants ensure a state of constant improvement and cooperative relationships.

"There was no doubt," said Najera, "that there was a strong commitment by both civilian and military authorities to continue to improve their country's emergency management response." - **136th JTF-MEB PAO**



exercise."

The exercise primarily took place at the University of Tarapaca. Members of the Texas Military Forces and Texas Department of Public Safety were invited in order to provide feedback and share best practices from their own disaster management experience.

"Here was an exercise and you had elected officials, their staffs, all engaged in this exercise, and that's difficult to do anywhere," said Schnell. "They really immersed themselves in the exercise. That was probably the thing that most impressed me, how everybody came to the table, it wasn't just the military and first responders."

Throughout the week, Chilean authorities met with the U.S. delegation to discuss not only the ongoing exercise, but also previous encounters with disaster response, such as this past April's magnitude 8.2 earthquake that hit Chile's coast and created a seven-foot tsunami. This background in natural incidents was instrumental in their successful validation at the university and

in effectively discussing large-scale response measures. Other topics of discussion included logistical hurdles created by natural disasters and how to reach geographically isolated areas within their respective areas of responsibility.

"During the exercise, they had the chance to interact with the Chilean representatives involved in it," said Villarreal Geissbuhler, about the Texas visitors. "They met representatives of the Chilean National Police, Army, government, Air Force, Navy, NGOs, etc., discussing with them different topics of mutual interest. At the end of the exercise, Col. Schnell also provided input during the AAR, not only from his perspective, but also from the Texas Military Forces and the U.S. Army South perspective, allowing the Chilean authorities to hear a different point of view. That will certainly be used as part of the lessons learned."

Interagency cooperation was a recurring theme for the week, as the two nations shared with each other how their militaries worked alongside civilian authorities. By inviting



# FIRE AWAY



“We appreciate them coming out, the Soldiers get really excited getting to showcase what they do.”



## Military families invited to see their Guardsmen in action.

Story and photos by  
Wendy Brown  
Fort Bliss Bugle Staff

**F**ORT BLISS, TEXAS - Not many military spouses get the chance Stephanie Renteria received when she attended the 3rd Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment, Texas Army National Guard, family day.

After members of the unit loaded a M119A3 howitzer and completed all the checks and double checks to fire the weapon, they let her pull the trigger at the command of, “Fire!”

“It’s pretty loud,” Renteria said afterward, “and there are a lot of fumes. It’s pretty cool though. They have to be

right on point with what they’re doing with all the quadrants and deflections.”

Renteria was one of about 100 family members, employers and other guests who attended the culminating day of the unit’s annual two-week training session at Forward Operating Base Ubique, Doña Ana Training Area, New Mexico, Aug. 28. The unit had spent the previous weeks learning how to operate the M119A3, which fires 105 mm rounds, and the M777 howitzer, which fires 155 mm rounds. The weapons are new, digitized versions of previous artillery.

Capt. Von Spence, 3rd Bn., 133rd FA Regt., Texas ANG, holds up an earplug that fell when his son Nathan, 4, tried on his helmet at FOB Ubique, Doña Ana Training Area, New Mexico, Aug. 28.

Only adults wearing Kevlar helmets and protective vests



were allowed to pull the weapon's trigger, and young children had to watch from a distance. Ear plugs were required for everyone.

Brig. Gen. Lester Simpson, commander, 36th Infantry Division, Texas Army National Guard, said it was great that Soldiers' family members and employers received a chance to come out and see what the Soldiers do.

The Soldiers not only learned how to fire new equipment, but they've mastered it in two weeks, Simpson said, and they are only able to do that through the support of their employers and families. "We appreciate them coming out," he said, "and the Soldiers get really excited getting to showcase what they do."

Col. Heyward Hutson, commander of Division Artillery, 1st Armored Division, attended the event, and Simpson said he appreciated being able to partner with the unit

and looks forward to more collaboration with Fort Bliss.

Lt. Col. Miguel Torres, 3rd Bn., 133rd FA commander, said the event was the first time the unit had hosted an event of this size, and he was ecstatic to see everyone attend.

"Sometimes the families don't know what the Soldiers do when they come out here," Torres said. "For a lot of them, this is the first time they're seeing what they do." The Soldiers did a great job planning the event, Torres said, and he would like to do it again.

Edward Mendoza, 10, came to the event with his uncle, Capt. Alejandro Saenz, and he said he had never experienced anything like it before. "The event here is really nice," he said. "The explosions are cool."

Members of the 3rd Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment, Texas Army National Guard, fire a M119A3 howitzer at FOB Ubique, Doña Ana Training Area, New Mexico, Aug. 28.

Not only did he get to eat one of the Army's Meals, Ready-to-Eat, he also got to try on a protective vest and see a variety of artillery vehicles.

"They're all my favorites," Mendoza said of the vehicles. Renteria said her husband, Sgt. Victor Ramirez, enjoyed having the opportunity to show her what he does, and she was grateful for the chance to see it. "I don't think we'd ever get so close otherwise," she said. - Ft. Bliss PAO



# LIFE SAVERS

TXNG Soldiers help save life on border



Story and photo by Maj. Randall Stillinger  
36th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office

**W**ESLACO, TEXAS - The quick response of three Texas Army National Guard soldiers on Sept. 11, 2014, helped save the life of a local Texan.

The soldiers, who were manning an observation post as part of Operation Strong Safety, administered emergency first aid to an injured man after he accidentally cut himself while clearing brush along the river.

At one point during their shift, a pickup truck came speeding toward the soldiers' observation post. "At first we thought they might be runners," one soldier remarked.

The driver then jumped out of the vehicle and started yelling, "He's cut! He's cut!"

The soldiers, who asked not to be identified for the security of themselves and their families, thought this might

be a training scenario.

"I thought someone was testing us," said one of the soldiers, "but then the driver opened the passenger door and we saw the blood. We knew it was real."

The shift leader for the observation post immediately jumped into action, grabbing a tourniquet from his first aid kit. He placed the tourniquet just below the arm pit, but it didn't completely stop the bleeding. A second tourniquet was required lower down on the arm to completely stop the bleeding.

The driver was also showing the initial signs of trauma shock, which prompted assistance from a second soldier.

As this was happening, a radio call went to the Texas Department of Public Safety for medical assistance. A medic from the Texas Army National Guard also arrived



A Texas National Guardsman on Operation Strong Safety observes a section of the Rio Grande River. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Randall Stillinger)

on scene to provide additional help.

While the others were providing care, one of the original three soldiers noticed a Mission Police Department vehicle nearby and ran to flag him down. An ambulance arrived not too long after that and the man was transferred to the nearest emergency room.

Although none of the three soldiers were Combat Medics, each of them had received specialized training as Combat Life Savers and had trained specifically for similar scenarios. The three soldiers included an infantryman, a heavy vehicle repairer and a heavy vehicle operator.

The shift leader, who had previously deployed to Afghanistan in 2012, said he didn't think he would be doing something like this for a U.S. citizen.

"I'm just glad we were there," he said. "If not, he probably would have bled out due to the amount of blood he had lost."

The shift supervisor said that he was proud of these soldiers "because they didn't panic."

"They took care of the situation without senior leadership being there," he said. "It feels good to know that I have soldiers like this on point."

When asked if he considered himself a hero, one soldier said, "I was just doing my job, sir."

The injured man is doing well and is expected to make a full recovery. - **36th ID PAO**

# BEHIND THE SCENES

SOLDIERS WITH THE 100TH MPAD  
TRAVEL TO GERMANY TO PLAY CIVILIAN  
MEDIA IN MULTINATIONAL EXERCISE

Story by  
Sgt. Adrian Shelton & Sgt. Josiah Pugh  
100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**N**UREMBERG, GERMANY - Public Affairs soldiers from 100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Texas Army National Guard, in Austin, Texas, traveled to Nuremberg, Germany to capture the activities of thousands of troops in a joint exercise called Saber Junction, August 23 - Sept. 12, 2014.

Nearly 6,000 troops representing 17 countries participated in the multi-week international exercise at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels in Nuremberg. Often times, militaries from around the world work together to support a larger operation, such as seen during Operation Enduring Freedom. At the height

of Operation Enduring Freedom, more than 20 different countries' militaries joined forces to support operations and peace keeping missions. This type of multi-national training is designed to prepare militaries for large-scale contingency operations.

MPAD soldiers role-played as civilian media personnel to provide commanders from each country's military; an understanding of how civilian journalism can shape the perception of war in public.

"It's the best opportunity I've had so far in my military public affairs training to improve my skills at

writing and taking photos," said Spc. Michael Giles, print journalist with the MPAD. "It's also given me a great opportunity to see how the public affairs structure works and why it's an important part of military operations."

Each day the service members headed into "The Box," where role players, located in numerous mock cities provided information on military operations to the MPAD with the help of German translators.

"They created this world that we got to be a part of and have an impact based on what we reported," said Army Sgt. Suzanne Carter,



another print journalist with the MPAD. “The best part for me was figuring out their characters and who would support my side of the scenario.”

Annual training normally lasts only two weeks. But with an extra week, Army 1st Sgt. Merrion Lasonde directed her Soldiers to switch jobs for a day in order to become proficient in both skill sets. This meant the broadcast journalists would do the work required of print journalists and vice versa.

“In my mind, it was necessary,” Lasonde said. “They would find their groove and ultimately make

the mission a success in their own individual way.”

Exercise leadership thought the MPAD provided an accurate representation of the media in a war zone.

“It’s greatly contributing to presenting an immersive picture of the operating environment for the Rotational Training Unit,” said James Dorough-Lewis Jr., the Operational Environment Training Specialist with the U.S. Army at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC).

“We love having Reserve and Na-

tional Guard elements come out to cover these exercises,” said Mark Van Treuren, media advisor, JMRC Public Affairs Office Operations Team. “We can’t do this without you.” - **100th MPAD**

Sgt. Marline Duncan films Soldiers as they carry a wounded Soldier during an exercise near USAG Hoehenfels, Germany, Aug. 29, 2014. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Scovell).



# 36th Division enters WWI

A historical interpretation by  
Lt. Col. Enrique Villarreal

July, 1918 - the 36th Division sets sail for France. While in route, the Allied commanders agreed on a series of major converging offensives, in the Meuse-Argonne region to begin in late September, with "The immediate purpose ... to reduce the salient which interfered with railroad communications, essential to further offensives operations."

The Allies anticipated a fierce defense, by the Germans as noted by a 36th Division officer who commented later, "While it is undoubtedly true that the morale of the German troops had deteriorated since the ... termination of the spring offensive... there was little indication of (a) weakened spirit."

In anticipation, Gen. Henri Philippe Pétain, Commander of the French army, sought American assistance. In response, Gen. John J. Pershing designated the 2nd and 36th Divisions to assist the French Fourth Army. The campaign began on Sept. 26, and by Sept. 30 the Americans progressed more than six miles east of the Argonne Forest. However, the Germans shattered the offensive of the French Fourth Army, at Mont Blanc Ridge, south of the Aisne River, the key to the German defenses.

When the French attack bogged down, the Fourth Army commander Gen. Henri Gouraud directed the 2nd Division, commanded by Maj. Gen. John A. Lejeune, to assume the offensive, with the 36th Division in reserve. On Oct. 2, the 2nd Division succeeded in capturing the ridge, suffering heavy casualties.

The 36th Division's first chance to fight the Germans came only two months after arriving in France. The normal program of training prescribed for an American division was to carry out intensive training in an area in rear of the front lines for a couple of months, after which they were to serve in quiet sectors before assuming a sector of its own.



Gen. Henri Philippe Pétain

To complicate the situation, shortly after arriving, the 61st Field Artillery Brigade received orders to move to the Artillery Training Camp at Coetquidan. In addition, the 11th Engineer Regiment received orders reassigning them to the First American Army in support of the St. Mihiel Offensive. Finally, the Division lost two thousand of its infantrymen as replacements to other divisions, further depleting the Division's strength.

The Division was also short of equipment. Because of the amount of men rushed overseas during the summer of 1918, it was impossible to get the necessary equipment across with the available shipping. To compound the issue, the First Army grabbed any available material in preparation for the offensives at St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne.



Despite these obstacles, the Division received its orders on Sept. 23 to move. The morale of the men of the 36th Division was high. Capt. Alexander W. Spence described the morale of the 36th Division as, "Nothing short of superb. Although they had never been under fire... their confidence in themselves was amazing; they had come to France to whip the Boche, and it never occurred to any of them that they would not do it."

On Oct. 4, the 71st Brigade, commanded by Brig. Gen. Pegram Whitworth moved by camions or French trucks to the vicinity of Suippes and Somme-Suippes, completing the movement just before dawn. From there, the 71st marched to its camp near the village of Somme-Suippes. There, the brigade relieved a part of the 2nd Division, which suffered severe casualties from the day before. Maj. Gen. Lejeune told Commanders of the brigade that the next night they would relieve the 3rd and 4th Brigades of the 2nd Division.



Brig. Gen. Pegram Whitworth

As they marched to the front lines, the men of the 36th could see smoke clouds, airplanes and observation balloons, as artillery shells burst around them. A division member wrote that as the shelling "increased in the early evening, the wandering troops frequently found it necessary to ... hug the places of shelter to avoid casualties." Another added, "There's absolutely nothing so uncanny as to hear a shell approach. It is not comfortable in broad daylight, but at night, it is positively bloodcurdling." Fortunately, for the 71st, the first day on the line was quiet.

On Oct. 7, the French 21st Corps commander, Gen. Stanislas Naulin, told Gen. Lejeune a general attack would take place on Oct. 8 with the fresh soldiers of the 71st, anticipating they would "achieve a success equal to that gained by the 2nd Division."

Gen. Lejeune protested that the French general "was expecting the impossible of untried troops," urging a few days of training before the attack. Gen. Naulin disagreed and declared, "Tomorrow will be another great day for the 21st Corps!"

Although the 2nd Division issued warning orders the day before, Brig. Gen. Whitworth did not get written attack orders for the 5:15 am attack until after midnight. It took his staff an additional three hours to get copies and his own orders out to his subordinate commanders. Some company commanders received their orders just as the artillery barrage, marking the beginning of the attack began.

The Germans put up a stiff defense, with severe artillery and machine-gun fire. The din of battle drowned out commands to assault, despite this fact, one by one individual soldiers and units moved steadily forward. For a moment, their movement was perfect, until they encountered the wire, where the "Boche" machine gunners waited.

"In a short space of time all liaison between units (ceased) .. platoons broke up into small groups and ...intermingled as the men fought for themselves." A soldier of the 36th remembered that, "We got so mixed up (with) the Germans that no one could use their guns. Our men used their bayonets and rifles for clubs, some of them had pick handles and trench knives. By sun up we killed or captured, (mostly killed) every Boche in our front and had left the French on both sides of us about a mile to the rear." A German major added that he "had been in the war ever since it began, but never had seen such fighting."

Meanwhile, the remainder of the 36th Division had marched up



to the vicinity of Suippes and Somme-Suippes, and on the night of Oct. 9, completed the relief of the 2nd Division, who captured the vitally important Blanc Mont Ridge, which was the key to the advance in this region.

The 36th Division immediately took advantage of the favorable conditions and attacked east of St. Etienne-à-Arnes. After considerable gains, the 36th Division ordered its units to start the pursuit the following day. The 71st Brigade, exhausted from the previous day's fighting, assumed the reserve while passing the 72nd Brigade through their lines to assume the attack.

The 72nd Brigade's attack began in the afternoon on Oct. 10, but as the brigade began to move, the enemy laid down such intense artillery fire that it was nearly impossible to continue the advance. Despite this, throughout the night, the brigade fought its way under heavy machine gun fire. Shortly before dawn, the enemy began to withdraw and later that morning completed its passage to the front lines, taking up the pursuit of the retiring enemy.

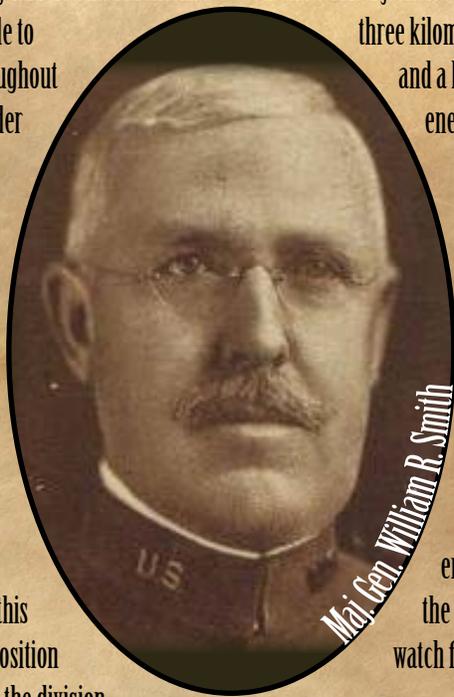
By noon, the Division encountered a brisk resistance, near the village of Machault. After about an hour's fighting the 144th Infantry pushed through, about three-quarters of a mile north of this village, while the 143rd established its position directly to the east of it. By that evening, the division was beyond Machault.

Early the next morning, the Division resumed its advance in the direction of Givry and Attigny, on the Aisne River, pushing steadily north against light artillery resistance through Dricourt and the eastern edge of Mt. St. Emy. Its aggressive advance, in conjunction with the French, continued on Oct. 12, capturing Dricourt and Vaux-Champagne. The Division reached the Aisne River on Oct. 13, where it would remain until relieved, extending its flanks along the Aisne.

Reconnaissance patrols showed that the enemy held the north

bank of the Aisne in great force. The Germans made every attempt to stop the American patrols from making a crossing of the Aisne, destroying bridges and cutting away trees from the south bank and covering potential crossing by heavy machine gun and rifle fire.

Despite these attempts, the southern bank of Aisne was in Allied hands, except for one bend in the river, about three kilometers east of the Division's position, near an abandoned farm, called the Forêt Ferme or Forest Farm. The Aisne River at this point made a horseshoe loop, the toe of the loop pointing to the north and extending into the German lines. The Germans had withdrawn their general line from the south bank of the Aisne, but the territory enclosed within this loop, which was about three kilometers wide at the mouth and some two and a half kilometers in depth, remained in enemy hands.



Maj. Gen. William R. Smith

The Germans, masters at rear-guard defense, took great pains to make this position as nearly impregnable as possible. Machine-gun emplacements, a series of barbed-wire entanglements, and a well-organized trench system protected the mouth of the loop, and to make any attack more difficult, enemy artillery placed on the hills along the north bank of the Aisne provided over watch fire, over the whole position.

The 73rd French Division attempted to take the Forêt Ferme several times, but failed. On Oct. 18, the 36th Division received orders assigning it to French XI Corps and assumed control of the front facing the bend of the Aisne on Oct. 23. It also received orders to prepare and execute an attack before Oct. 27. General Smith recommended postponing his attack and that the French should first attack the heights of Voncq prior to his attack, which dominated the Forêt Ferme position.

General Prax, commander of the French XI Corps, overruled General Smith's recommendation, but directed that the heavy artillery of the 11th Corps, the artillery of the 9th Corps, the 61st



Division and the 53rd Division, and the Trench Mortar Battery of the 11th Corps placed at General Smith's disposal, in additions to the artillery already attached to the Division.

Nevertheless, the Division was prepared and everyone was thoroughly familiar with the plan of attack from the battalion commanders down to the automatic riflemen; each soldier in the division knew exactly what part he was to play in the attack.

At 4:10 p.m. on Oct. 27, the artillery began firing upon enemy positions across the river, effectively neutralizing their positions. Smoke shells screened the movement, shielding the infantry from observation and direct fire from the enemy positions north of the Aisne. At exactly 4:30 p.m., the infantry began the advance.

The 2nd Trench Mortar Battery concentrated its efforts on the wire entanglements. A detail of wire cutters from the 2nd Engineers cut paths through the wire, leaving guides to show the infantry the way.

The 133rd Machine Gun Battalion furnished forward machine gunners laying a heavy fire to cover the attack. The infantry moved swiftly and overcame all resistance offered by the enemy.

In less than one hour the 36th Division secured all of its objectives. According to historian Lonnie White, the operation

was "Admirably planned, elaborately prepared and superbly executed, Forêt Ferme, was from start to finish, a magnificent operation."

Maj. Gen. Smith elated by the success, said that it "went off like a rehearsal for the movies."

The operation at Forêt Ferme marked the end of the 36th Division's fight in the First World War, being relieved from the front line on Oct. 29 by the 22nd (French) Division. The 36th Division left the front with a substantial record and an excellent reputation. For its service, it earned 2 Medals of Honor, 41 Distinguished Service Crosses, 31 Citation Stars (Later designated as the Silver Star Medal), 10 Distinguished Service Medals, 7 Médaille Militaire (Second highest French combat award, equivalent of the Distinguished Service Medal) and 129 Croix de Guerres, with the vast majority of awards earned for their actions conducted between Oct. 8-10.

**- DISPATCH HISTORY**



Maj. Gen. John A. Lejeune

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A Texas National Guardsman on Operation Strong Safety observes a section of the Rio Grande River at sunset. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Randall Stillinger)