



THE DISPATCH

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SEPTEMBER 2016

THE MAGAZINE OF THE
TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT



**TEXAS LEADS THE WAY
WITH NEW PILOT PROGRAM**

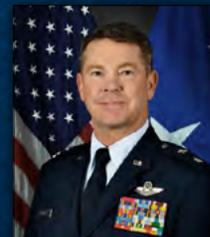


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Cover Story:

143rd Infantry Regiment prior to the patch ceremony held at Camp Mabry in Austin, August 13, 2016. During the ceremony, soldiers changed their unit patches from the Texas Army National Guard's 36th Infantry Division, in Austin, Texas, to active duty, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team out of Vincenza, Italy. For the full story turn to page 6. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Capt. Jessica Jackson)

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WHEN LEADERSHIP AND A VOLUNTEER SPIRIT COLLIDE



“The Texas State Guard personnel possess a unique emergency management and community service skill set”

**Commentary by Maj. Gen. Gerald Betty
Commanding General
Texas State Guard**

Military Leadership in the modern age is all about servant leadership, conducted with the highest level of integrity and honor. In an age of ever expanding distractions, that is sometimes difficult. Leaders have to be focused on a long standing tradition of being blessed with the knowledge that they have arrived home with mission success and their honor intact. Within the Texas State Guard, there have been decades of tradition and focus that has allowed success as far back as the Civil War units, shown in World War II and exemplified in the multiple deployments since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita , continuing through today.

This historical focus on a level of honor, integrity and mission success comes through the State Guard’s focus on preparation. As such, its mission is to recruit Texans whose background and history, combined with a focus on volunteerism, make them one of the most experienced groups in Texas for the missions of military disaster management and support to civil authority, while augmenting state domestic operations.

“TXSG personnel possess a unique emergency management and community service skill set different from its Army and Air National Guard counterparts. It is a principal provider of emergency response functions in the TMD’s operations and is one of the Governor’s most immediately deployable disaster management forces. Its unique structure and task mean TXSG members can be on site anywhere in Texas within eight hours.

What many consider the all-volunteer component of the Texas Military Department, our service members in Texas State Guard are unpaid, unless called upon by the Governor, and supply their own uniforms and equipment. Nonetheless, each member brings a special skill set or knowledge from his/her civilian career that enables the TXSG to be easily adaptable to current and developing missions within domestic operations. Similarly, it perfectly depicts the motto of the Texas State Guard: “Texans helping Texas.” As a result, the Texas State Guard remains a

highly cost effective, heavily trained, highly flexible, rapidly deployable emergency augmentation force capable of a wide variety of missions. The focus on honor, integrity and volunteerism means a TXSG response costs a fraction of what it might through other state organizations. Currently, the TXSG has continued to improve its mission readiness through increased diversity of all types and is known for providing the state more than 320,000 man-hours per year of uncompensated service for a savings to the State of Texas of nearly \$4.8 million annually while maximizing preparations for domestic operations/emergency management requirements that has and will save lives.

- FROM THE TOP -

TXSG EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUNCTIONS

- **Mass care/Functional needs care**
- **Emergency communications**
- **Special needs evacuation tracking**
- **Medical support**
- **Points of distribution/POD Operations**
- **Support to the State Operations Center**
- **Small boat operations**
- **Land and water search and rescue**
- **Dive teams**
- **Local Emergency Operations Center**

FROM THE TOP

If you are thinking of transitioning from active duty or the a reserve or National Guard component check out the [Texas State Guard website](#) and follow our social media as we continue to impact Texas and the United States.

ARMY OF ONE BEGINS WITH PATCH CHANGE



Story by Michelle McBride

Texas Military Department Public Affairs

AUSTIN, Texas - After months of planning, the first step in the process was underway. Once the “change patch” order was given, the Associated Units Pilot Program accomplished its first task.

Soldiers from the Texas Army National Guard’s 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment in Austin, Texas, participated in a patch-over ceremony with the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, an active duty unit stationed in Vincenza, Italy, on August 13, 2016.

“We are honored that the Army selected our unit to help generate reserve force combat power in support of Army total force policy,” said Texas Army National Guard Lt. Col. Kurt J. Cyr, commander, 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne). In March, the U.S. Army announced the implementation of the Associated Units Pilot Program, which is meant to create formal relationships between specified units across the active Army, Army Reserve and the Army National Guard. This will also allow them the opportunity to train together before deploying.

“This is going to be a great demonstration of how the total Army fights,” said Col. Gregory Anderson, commander, 173rd Airborne Brigade.

The Chief of Staff of the Army directed a change to the reserve component force to increase unit readiness, reduce response time and change pre-mobilization training strategy.

The battalion will participate in the Associated Units Pilot Program from 2016 through 2019 in association with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. This means the 143rd will become part of the 173rd’s formation and will wear their unit patch.

Most ceremonies mark either recognition of achievement or a transition,” said Anderson. “This particular ceremony, for them to don the 173rd patch is symbolic of their relationship to us and our responsibility to them.”

After the ceremony, they will visibly be part of the same team, said Anderson. They will then begin working to train and build readiness together, both stateside and overseas.

“The pilot program will ensure that our communication and coordination of training and resourcing requirements to achieve combat readiness is maintained, and will assist in the building of trust and cohesion between our two units, establishing a One Army ethos in our leaders, regardless of what component they come from,” said Cyr.

For reserve components, this relationship means adding additional training days to their yearly schedule which many see as beneficial for the home states of the reserve components. For Texas, this means an increase in readiness throughout the state.

“This pilot allows us to have a formal relationship with regard to certain training and readiness authorities and responsibilities, but still remain under the command of our parent unit in Texas,” said Cyr.

Along with increased readiness, there are also many other benefits that come from training alongside the active component including the testing of new strategies, frequent rotations to combat training centers and an overall elevated level of experience and cohesiveness. This will allow components to deploy together and fight seamlessly in combat under an established command relationship.

“We will always carry the historic lineage and honors of the 143rd Infantry Regiment,” said Cyr, “but we are looking forward to beginning a new chapter of history for both the 143rd and the 173rd, together.” **-D**

Lt. Col. Kurt Cyr, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment commander, center left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Dornbusch, battalion sergeant major, left, changes the unit patch on Alpha Company commander and first sergeant, from the Texas Army National Guard's 36th Infantry Division "T Patch" to the active duty, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team patch out of Vincenzo, Italy, during a ceremony held at Camp Mabry in Austin, August 13, 2016. The Army's Associated Unit Pilot Program pairs select National Guard and Reserve units with Active Duty units to train and build readiness together, enabling the Army to provide more combat ready formations to combatant commanders. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Capt. Jessica Jackson)



NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS & AIRMEN

POLITICS AND YOU

THE NATIONAL GUARD'S GUIDE TO POLITICAL PARTICIPATION



TRADITIONAL GUARDSMEN

YOU CAN:

VOTE IN PERSON OR BY MAIL

*PARTICIPATE IN ALL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES
NOT EXCLUSIVELY PROHIBITED BY UCMJ*

*MAKE STATEMENTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA IF YOU
DISCLAIM IT IS NOT THE OPINION OF THE MILITARY*



YOU CAN NOT:

*USE THE UNIFORM OR YOUR POSITION IN THE
MILITARY TO CAMPAIGN FOR A CANDIDATE*

IMPLY YOUR VIEWS CARRY MILITARY ENDORSEMENT

*VIOLATE RULES OF CONDUCT
OUTLINED IN THE UCMJ OR TCMJ*

ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE (DEPLOYED, AGR, ADDS)

YOU CAN:

VOTE IN PERSON OR BY MAIL

DONATE MONEY TO CAUSES OR CANDIDATES

ATTEND POLITICAL EVENTS OUT OF UNIFORM

EXPRESS PERSONAL OPINIONS ON ISSUES

ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO VOTE

*MAKE STATEMENTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA
IF YOU DISCLAIM IT IS NOT
THE OPINION OF THE MILITARY*



YOU CAN NOT:

*RAISE FUNDS FOR A PARTISAN
POLITICAL CANDIDATE*

*ENDORSE OR CAMPAIGN FOR A PARTISAN
CANDIDATE THROUGH SPEECH OR IN WRITING*

*SERVE AS AN OFFICIAL IN A PARTISAN
CANDIDATE'S CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE*

CRITICIZE SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

*VIOLATE RULES OF CONDUCT
OUTLINED IN THE UCMJ*

FOR MORE INFO VISIT:

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LONE STAR GUNFIGHTER SOARS AT PENTAGON

Story by 2nd Lt. Phil Fountain
149th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas – A former member of the 149th Fighter Wing, Texas Air National Guard was promoted to the rank of general and became the 28th Chief of the National Guard Bureau at the Department of Defense, in Washington, Aug. 3, 2016.

Air Force Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel of Bulverde, succeeds Army Gen. Frank J. Grass, as the Pentagon's senior National Guard leader and member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Grass, a Missouri National Guardsman is scheduled to retire later this month after four decades of military service.

Lengyel's appointment follows his service as the first three-star, NGB vice chief.

"Gen. Lengyel is the right man for this critical position, and the depth and breadth of his experience make him exceptionally well-qualified," said U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, the senior senator from Texas, during Lengyel's Senate confirmation hearing, on June 22, 2016, in Washington.

"His 34 years of distinguished military service include an array of operational, staff and command assignments," Cornyn said, "as well as service in Operations Desert Storm, Provide Comfort, Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom."

In his new role, Lengyel will serve as a key military advisor to the president, secretary of defense and the National Security Council,

as well as serve as the Pentagon's official channel of communication to the state's governors and adjutants general on all matters pertaining to the National Guard.

He is now responsible for ensuring that nearly 470,000 Army and Air National Guard personnel are accessible, capable and ready to protect the homeland and to provide combat resources to the Army and Air Force.

"I couldn't be more pleased with what I see with the integration of the active force with the reserve components," Lengyel said. "We have no other choice but to leverage the business model of the reserve components as we go forward."

While he's at the peak of National Guard leadership, the general's military roots run deep through the state of Texas.

Lengyel earned his commission through the Air Force ROTC program at the University of North Texas, in Denton, and earned his pilot's wings at Laughlin Air Force Base, near Del Rio, Texas.

After serving nearly 10 years in the Regular Air Force, Lengyel transitioned to the Texas Air National Guard, where he flew with the 182nd Fighter Squadron at San Antonio's Kelly Field. The 182nd is a subordinate unit of the 149th Fighter Wing, headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, and the members of the unit are known as the Lone Star Gunfighters.

"I'm proud to serve alongside Gen. Lengyel," said Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, the 51st Adjutant General of Texas, who served with Lengyel at the 149th Fighter Wing when both were colonels. "He's been a wingman for me, in the air and in life. He has the character to do what's right and takes care of his people."



Defense Secretary Ash Carter administers the oath of office to incoming National Guard Bureau chief Air National Guard Gen. Joseph Lengyel, Aug. 3, 2016, at the National Guard Bureau change of responsibility ceremony at the Pentagon. (U.S. Navy Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Tim D. Godbee)

Lengyel served in numerous roles at the 149th Fighter Wing, culminating as vice wing commander, before he was selected to serve as an expeditionary operations group commander at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

“He continues to make us proud,” Nichols said. “We stand behind him as he takes on this greater responsibility. Gen. Lengyel’s expertise, experience and dedicated service are a great asset to Texas and the United States.”

“As vice chief, and now chief, his charge is to look many years into the future and help guide and shape a National Guard force that meets our nation’s needs,” Nichols said. “I trust him to do what’s right for America. In addition to making the right decisions, I know he will continue to inspire those who follow him, just as he did here (in Texas).”

Throughout his time in the Lone Star State, Lengyel has touched the lives of those with whom he served.

“He genuinely cares about others,” said retired Lt. Col. Greg Whiting, a former Gunfighter and current chief of air operations for Headquarters, Texas Air National Guard, in Austin. “It’s who he is and it has always shaped everything he has done.”

Even as his military career has taken him away from the 149th Fighter Wing, Lengyel has remained connected with the Gunfighter community, taking time to interact with Gunfighters when their missions overlap.

Whiting said he first met Lengyel in 1990, at Diyarbakir Air Base, Turkey, prior to the start of the Gulf War. Later, they served together for several years at the 149th Fighter Wing.

“He’s always been approachable,” Whiting said. “Even as he moved up the leadership chain, his situational awareness was always there. He knew what was going on around him because he cared about the people around him - and still does.”

Whiting said he next served with Lengyel during the mid-’90s, when they were both assigned to the 149th Fighter Wing. At the time, there was paradigm shift underway in the Air National Guard, leading to more professional operations.

“We started mirroring and employing active duty tactics,” Whiting said. “He was, without a doubt, the most foundational guy that brought the Gunfighters, and the 149th Fighter Wing, up to where we’re not just a sub for the active duty, but we’re on par with the active duty.”

Whiting said power and position have not changed Lengyel from the man he has known for 25 years.

“My first impression of him hasn’t changed as long as I’ve known him,” Whiting said. “He lived the Air Force Core Values (Integrity First – Service Before Self – Excellence in All We Do) long before they became officially embraced by the Air Force.”

Based on these innate values, Whiting said, Lengyel built trust with his fellow Gunfighters.

“He didn’t just do it, he excelled at it,” Whiting said. “Integrity is what builds trust, and trust is what you have to have in the fighter world. You have to be able to trust your wingman, those in your flight, and that’s what he did.”

Whiting attributes Lengyel’s success to leading by example and setting the standard for others to follow.

“If he says he’s going to do something, he’s going to do it, and if you say you’re going to do something, he expects you to do it,” Whiting said. “It’s a great thing, especially when a leader holds people accountable. It was a professional thing; that’s what makes everyone function at a higher level than they’re used to.”

Whiting also discussed the new chief’s proficiency as an F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot, including how Lengyel remained a top performer as a traditional, citizen-airman of the National Guard while also working full-time as a commercial airline pilot.



Air Force Gen. (then Maj.) Joseph L. Lengyel (second from left), the 28th Chief of the National Guard Bureau, stands alongside fellow F-16 Fighting Falcon pilots assigned to the 149th Fighter Wing, Texas Air National Guard, during an overseas deployment, circa 1996. (Photo courtesy of Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel via www.Facebook.com/GeneralLengyel)

“He could be on airline trips for a month or more, and come back and lead an 8-ship strike package to the tanker, fight his way into the target against red air and somehow know that six miles behind him, ‘No. 8’ was out of position,” Whiting said. “Everybody wanted to be paired with him, because they trusted him, and well, the guy is one of the most gifted fighter pilots I’ve ever flown with.”

During his first remarks as chief, Lengyel discussed the challenges of balancing a military and civilian career.

“One of the most important partnerships that I want to mention is with our employers,” Lengyel said. “Our business model doesn’t work without them. I have been on extended military leave (from a commercial airline).”

Lengyel said the airline he flies for has more than 200 pilots currently on military leave, allowing them to serve in uniform.

“There are hundreds more that have to manipulate the schedules,” Lengyel said. The airline “has to work around to make their model work so that we’re not late and there’s pilots and aviators there” to serve their customers.

Lengyel thanked the work of civilian employers, like his, who work with their National Guard employees to ensure the employees never have to choose one profession over the other.

Praise for Lengyel’s character was also shared up the military chains of command.

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter said, at the change of responsibility ceremony, “I know that the men and women of our National Guard, and the families that stand by them, will be well served by Lengyel who is not only an accomplished pilot and experienced commander, but is also a military son, husband, brother and a father.”

The general’s father, retired Lt. Col. Lauren R. Lengyel, was an RF-4 Phantom II reconnaissance pilot who was shot down over Vietnam and served six years as a prisoner of war. He returned to service and retired from the Air Force in 1990.

Lengyel’s wife, Sally, is an Air Force veteran, and their son, Capt. Michael J. Lengyel is following in his father’s footsteps as an F-16 pilot. Additionally, the new NGB leader’s brother, Maj. Gen. Gregory J. Lengyel, also an Air Force pilot, is the deputy commanding general of the Joint Special Operations Command, headquartered at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Lengyel is a “Proven strategic thinker and citizen warrior,” Carter said. “Gen. Lengyel will lead this force with certainty, clarity and the full confidence and trust of myself and the president.”

Lengyel, a reserve officer on active duty, retains membership in the Texas Air National Guard, has also been praised by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, the state’s commander-in-chief.

“Having defended our nation both at home and abroad, Gen. Lengyel brings a wealth of experience to the Joint Chiefs of Staff,” Abbott said. “Gen. Lengyel’s outstanding service at both the state and national levels has prepared him for this important role on our nation’s most critical body of military leaders.”

The new chief has remained humble and forward-looking throughout his transition.

“Although we are proud of our heritage and our past, I am more excited about our future,” Lengyel said after his nomination was announced. “The development of our most important assets, our people, will be our foremost task.”

Lengyel said his focus will be in three areas: supporting the Army and Air Force in any current or future warfight, defending the homeland, and building partnerships.

He also praised the soldiers and airmen of the National Guard in his first letter to the force, the day after he was sworn in.

“You serve with valor in combat,” Lengyel wrote. “Here at home, no matter the cause – natural disaster, crime, terrorism – you bring safety and resiliency to our communities. All the while, you partner with our allies around the world; with our federal, state, and territorial government partners; and with our fellow citizens throughout the country.”

“I look forward to working hard every day to tell your story,” Lengyel wrote. **-D**

Gen. Lengyel may be followed on Social Media:
www.Facebook.com/GeneralLengyel
www.Twitter.com/ChiefNGB



Air Force Gen. (then-Col.) Joseph L. Lengyel, the 28th Chief of the National Guard Bureau, gets sprayed with water, an Air Force tradition, by his daughter, Katy, with the help of an unidentified pilot following his final flight as an F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot with the 149th Fighter Wing, Texas Air National Guard, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Oct. 27, 2004. Lengyel served in a myriad of roles at wing, culminating as vice wing commander, before he was selected to serve as an expeditionary operations group commander at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Mike Arellano)

TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT HOSTS CHILEAN UNDERSECRETARY



Story by Sgt. Elizabeth Peña

Texas Military Department Public Affairs

AUSTIN, Texas - Key leaders from the Texas Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and State Guard met with Paulina Vodanovic, Chilean undersecretary of the Armed Forces, and other leaders during a key leader engagement at Camp Mabry in Austin, August 8, 2016.

Vodanovic is third in the Ministry of Defense. This was the first visit to Texas and only her second visit to the U.S.

“Our focus was operational,” Rodriguez said. “Her experience and background is administrative and legal so we wanted her to understand the relationship the Chilean forces and the ministry of defense have with Texas at the operational level.”

The Texas National Guard has partnered with Chile since 2009 through the State Partnership Program. The program is managed by the National Guard Bureau, and is designed to link a state’s National Guard with a partner nation’s military forces and government agencies in a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship.

“They basically select states and marry them up with nations that have similar capabilities or interest in what they are trying to accomplish,” said Texas Army National Guard Capt. Edgar Guerrero, State Partnership Program Coordinator for Chile.

Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols Adjutant General of Texas, right, and Paulina Vodanovic, Chilean Undersecretary of the Armed Forces, pause for a photo following a briefing at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, August 8, 2016. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by: Sgt. Elizabeth Peña)

For Texas and Chile, it creates opportunities for high-level exchanges and cooperation in civic-military activities, Armed Forces initiatives, national territory protection, military support to civilian authority, disaster response in case of emergencies and handling of a humanitarian catastrophe.

One example of the collaboration efforts is Operation Lone Star, a medical preparedness exercise supported by local, state and federal officials, provided Texas and Chile the opportunity to partner in a real-world exercise that delivers medical care to underprivileged citizens.

“The Chileans come to see how we provide care to disconnected or disadvantaged personnel,” Guerrero said. “They have Easter Island in which they have an indigenous population on an island that’s completely disconnected from the mainland that they go annually to provide care that we’re involved with as well.”

Last year, Texas National Guard and Chile completed approximately 14 military exchanges that included engineering, medical and disaster response as well as best warrior competitions.

Through these exchanges, Soldiers at ground level, all the way up to general officers gain knowledge and experience from one another.

“In addition, with her being the policy driver in her country for the military,” Rodriguez said, “she is very particular, and interested at that level because she wants to make sure the policies that are developed at the institutional and higher level are exactly what the services need.”

The U.S. has been successfully building relationships for over 20 years that includes 70 unique security partnerships involving 76 nations around the globe.

“Our State Partnership Program is very advanced,” Rodriguez said. The engagement level that the Texas Army National Guard has with Chile is not only at the general officer level but we are operating at the Ministry of Defense level. That’s truly where the impact is made, the decisions are made and that’s where policy and laws are changed. We are making a significant difference through our SPP relationship not only for Texas but also for the U.S. and Chile.” **-D**

WELCOME HOME 136TH



Story by Sgt. Elizabeth Peña

Texas Military Department Public Affairs

HOUSTON – Soldiers from the 136th Expeditionary Signal Battalion were welcomed back from their recent deployment by family members and the local Texas community during a ceremony hosted and sponsored by the Houston Astros at the Minute Maid Park, in Houston, August 5, 2016.

This overseas mobilization marked the first time for a Texas Army National Guard unit to be sponsored by a major league association.

“Having a sports team that’s willing to sponsor a unit is really cool,” said Staff Sgt. Richard Gonzales, an information systems technician for the 136th ESB. “I’ve never heard of anything like it. The fact that we are able to do these events here and partner with them where we can see the community that supports us and the community can see that we are here for them and its all just tied in by the Astros.”

The signal battalion just completed a nine-month tour in Kuwait and surrounding areas. During their deployment, the unit was responsible for providing communication capabilities in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, Operation Freedom Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield.

“They did a fantastic job,” said Lt. Col. Tanya Trout, commander of the 136th ESB. “We were dispersed to 18 different locations across eight countries. At the end of deployment, both our brigade commander and the theater signal command said we exceeded expectations of any signal battalion that had been there before.”

The Guardsmen concluded their successful mission with a ceremony to uncase their unit colors. During this time-honored Army tradition, a unit or higher headquarters undergoes a permanent change of station signified by the guidon or colors

being “cased” and placed inside a canvas cover, marking the end of operations at that location. The colors are then “uncased” at the new location to signify that the command is operational at its new station.

The Houston Astros supported the battalion throughout their entire mobilization, hosting their original casing ceremony more than a year ago just before game two of the Lone Star Series against the Texas Rangers.

“Being able to go out there in front of thousands of fans kind of brings almost tears to your eyes; just knowing what we are doing is defending this great nation,” 1st Lt. Jeffrey Houser, of the 136 ESB.

Like most Texas Guardsmen who work a civilian job and drill on the weekends, many of these soldiers will be returning back to their respective employments.

“I actually work in the medical field,” said Spc. Sophonie Billings, a multichannel transmissions operator with the 136th ESB. “I would never trade the experience, it was something I needed as a person, to grow as a soldier, and as a civilian. It builds character, and to know that I can go through that helps to know that I use the character I built to be a better person on my civilian side as well.”

As the service members transition back to their normal duties, they can use the experience gained from deployment for their stateside mission.

Coming home to Texas, “our soldiers feel trained and confident,” said Trout. “They know how to do their mission; they understand how to get communications in the way customers need and I think they’ll be able to do that when it comes to domestic operations or another

(TOP) Soldiers from the 136th Expeditionary Signal Battalion were welcomed back from their recent deployment by family members and the local Texas community during a ceremony hosted and sponsored by the Houston Astros at the Minute Maid Park in Houston, Texas, August 5, 2016.

(U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Elizabeth Pena/Released)

AROUND THE WORLD IN 8 DAYS

Story by Staff Sgt. Kristina Overton

136th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class John Karley, 136th Maintenance Squadron propulsion technician, Texas Air National Guard, pauses from repairing a propulsion system to take a photo at Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas, Aug. 27, 2016. Karley recently returned from a short overseas trip with his unit, leaving the central time zone for the first time.

(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert)

The engine cranked on as vibrations coursed through the cargo bay. Outside the small windows, he could see the propellers spinning into action as his C-130 taxied out for departure from the 136th Airlift Wing at Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas. Secured to one side of the bay, he acclimated to the constant hum of the aircraft and as they took off, he braced and prepared for the bumpy ride to destinations unknown. For the rest of the aircrew, this occurrence was a regular day at the office, but for Airman 1st Class John Karley, 136th Maintenance Squadron propulsion technician, this was all a first.

Karley had worked on C-130's for more than two years with the Texas Air National Guard, but until now, had never actually flown in one. More than that, he had never left the country. But as they lifted off at seven that morning that would change. During an eight-day deployment with his unit, Karley would visit Hawaii, Australia, Samoa, and Guam.

"I was honestly in awe the entire time," said Karley. "I'd never really thought I would have an opportunity to go anywhere with the Air Force, besides maybe a Middle East deployment. Initially, when they told me about the trip, I thought it was just a training exercise. I definitely didn't expect to go to the places we did. I'd only been to Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri in my entire life. Don't get me wrong, I wasn't a secluded child, but we weren't big travelers as a family."

After a quick refueling stop in San Diego, his initial escapades took him on a brief overnight to Hawaii and then crew made their way to the second stop, American Samoa. During the course of the flight, Karley got called to report up to the flight deck. He thought there was some type of engine malfunction, but was relieved to know that the issue wasn't an aircraft problem at all.

“When I got up to the flight deck, our commander tells me we are about to cross the Equator,” Karley said. “I was excited, and at that moment realized how far I truly was from home. I didn’t know there was more to it though, when the commander informed me of a tradition in the Air Force that the first time you fly over the equator, you have to put all your clothes on backwards. I thought he was joking around with me, until I saw two other crew members beginning to turn their shirts around. It was fun and a great experience, I was just glad to be part of it.”

The crew arrived in Samoa around 9 p.m. The small group of islands rest in the South Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and New Zealand. He didn’t see anything until the next morning, but when Karley woke up, he arose to a humid climate and beautifully scenic mountain range. Having never been out of the central time zone, this new scenery was beyond anything he could have expected.

On extended trips, the C-130 crews take an engine mechanic along with them, so in the event of an aircraft issue, they have someone proficient who can analyze and fix the problems effectively. Karley, along with one other technician, maintained regular inspections of the aircraft throughout the trip. After fixing a few maintenance glitches, he was able to explore the local area before they departed the next day.

“Every moment I was there I kept thinking, I can’t believe I am halfway around the world,” he said. “Samoa was definitely my favorite stop on the entire trip. The people were great and it was just a gorgeous place. Then the next day we headed out for Cairns, Australia, and had to cross the International Date Line. That was

crazy for me because we took off Friday morning and landed in Australia Saturday night. Calling family, it was kind of hard to comprehend the time difference at first. On top of that, being in another country was so much to take in. In Australia, the accents, and them driving on the other side of the road was so interesting for me.”

Thirty minutes south of Cairns was Townsville, Australia. They would stop here and pick up a load of equipment before traveling to Guam and Wake Island. Karley was able to explore the World War II historical land mark, and then as they made their last stop back in Hawaii before heading back to mainland America, he was able to take in more of the island and enjoy his final day on the beach swimming and staring out at the crystal blue water. After eight days, the crew touched back down in Fort Worth, in the 105 degree Texas heat.

“I’ll never forget that experience, literally being on the opposite side of the world,” Karley reminisced. “It’s not something you can just take in and go on with your life. Texas is beautiful, but that was completely different. The scenery, the water and beaches and the mountains. It was unforgettable, and I am so thankful that I got a chance to go. It gave me a new perspective on the world and my aircraft, and now I’m excited about the next trip. Anywhere I can go, I’ll take it.” -D

For more information about the Texas Air National Guard, call the 136th Airlift Wing recruiter at (817) 852-3299, or visit <https://tmd.texas.gov>.



TEXAS GUARDSMEN PARTNER WITH CHILEAN FORCES TO PROVIDE RIO GRANDE VALLEY WITH HEALTHCARE

Story by Capt. Martha Nigelle
Texas Military Department Public Affairs



A U.S. Army Reserve dentist works to provide free dental services to a patient during an annual medical disaster preparedness exercise, July 27, 2016 in Pharr, Texas. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm McClendon)



Maj. Enrique Romero, a physician in the Chilean Air Force, right, discusses medical operations with Col. Jonathan MacClements, a physician in the Texas State Guard, center and Eduardo Olivarez, the chief administrative officer for the Hidalgo County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) at an Operation Lone Star site in Pharr, Texas, July 27, 2016. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm McClendon)

PHARR, Texas – Patients lined the hallways and examination beds filled the gym as both military and civilian personnel worked together to provide hundreds of people with medical services.

This was what the Chilean military delegation saw as they walked into Pharr San Juan Alamo High School to observe Operation Lone Star, July 27, 2016.

Texas Guardsmen and U.S. Army Reservists partnered with medical students, volunteers and local and state health service agencies, treating hundreds of patients throughout the school gym and classrooms during the annual event.

“Observing this event is an excellent example of how the U.S. and Texas respond to the needs in the state and the country,” said Maj. Enrique Romero, a physician in the Chilean Air Force. “I am impressed with how big the operation is and how many people are being attended to. I am also impressed with the overall humanity that all of the volunteers display – there is a genuine sense of caring for the people being treated.”

Operation Lone Star is a collaborative medical disaster-preparedness exercise that unites local, state and federal health providers addressing the medical needs of thousands of underserved Texas residents and providing real-time, large-scale emergency response training.

The exercise first began in 1998, following an outbreak of tuberculosis in the Rio Grande Valley. Over the years, it has grown into one of the nation’s largest disaster preparedness exercises of its kind. As well as providing annual training to disaster response agencies, Operation Lone Star ensures that thousands of Texas residents receive medical services they may not receive otherwise.

“We are creating a ring of public health safety,” said Eduardo Olivarez, chief administrative officer for the Hidalgo County Department of Health and Human Services. “Because of this

training, we are prepared for any future outbreaks. We know exactly how long it will take us to immunize a large number of people and what resources we will need to do that.”

The military has long been a part of this operation.

“The military role is important,” said Olivarez. “One, they have special medical services and can train on medical support, but more importantly, this desensitizes any fears or anxiety some people may have of uniformed officers, and that is powerful.”

While visiting the operation, the delegation had an opportunity to see in-processing, vital signs, immunizations, physicals and dental operations and meet volunteers from both military and civilian health service agencies, as well as, students volunteering from the local medical school. They also walked through the optometry process, where patients were able to pick out a pair of glasses and then wait as a group of volunteers from Remote Area Medical cut a pair of lenses to fit the frames.

Customers needing glasses left Operation Lone Star with a brand new pair, customized to their needs.

The Chilean military has a similar process of bringing medical services to parts of the population who may not receive medical attention otherwise, explained Lt. Col. Claudio Orellana, Public Affairs Officer for the Chilean Army.

But it is usually just the military said Orellana. “I am impressed with how the military and the civilian agencies work together and I think this is good and something we can do in Chile.”

“It is an honor to have the Chilean group here,” said Col. Jonathan MacClements, a physician in the Texas State Guard Medical Brigade. “We can learn from each other. The way the world is at the moment, diseases can spread rapidly around the world, so being able to build relationships before the disaster occurs is a wonderful opportunity.” **-D**



Airmen assigned to the 149th Maintenance Squadron, 149th Fighter Wing, Texas Air National Guard, headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, perform a foreign objects and debris (FOD) inspection of the taxi-way at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii, Aug. 22, 2016. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Rebekkah Jandron)



By Staff Sgt. Mindy Bloem
149th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii – Pilots, maintainers and various support personnel from the Texas Air National Guard’s 149th Fighter Wing traveled to Honolulu, Hawaii to participate in Sentry Aloha, Aug. 17-26, 2016.

Sentry Aloha is a large-scale, combat exercise that employs several different fighter and support aircraft from varying Air Force units, maneuvering together in a simulated wartime environment.

Various aircraft – C-130s, KC-135s, C-17s, F-16s, F-15s, F-22s lined the ramps along Hickam’s runway ramps in order to perform strategic joint combat operations.

“Part of the purpose of Sentry Aloha is to integrate with the other guard platforms, as well as, some active duty units that are here to better understand how each other operates, so if called upon for some type of contingency, we have a backbone to fall on – that we’ve operated together, and we can all be force multipliers for each other,” said Lt. Col. Kristian Thiele, a 149th Fighter Wing F-16 instructor pilot.

Performing these coordinated scenarios with other type of aircraft was a chance for the 149th FW pilots to broaden their scope of training.

“Back home, we typically fight F-16s against F-16s, so to get to work on the same team with other aircraft, both F-15s and F-22s, teaches everyone how the different systems work and how we can all work together, enhancing our strength,” said Lt. Col. Louis Davenport, another 149th FW F-16 pilot.

Davenport is a traditional guardsman who typically comes to the unit to fly the F-16 aircraft once a month during Unit Training Assembly weekends, or “drill” as it’s known among guard members.

“This really provides me an opportunity to get to know everyone and figure out what’s going on in the unit and to just get a greater opportunity for continuity of learning,” Davenport said. “I mean, I’m here flying at least one mission a day, so it really compounds our capabilities, at least for me, instead of being like, ‘well, that was great and now I’m going to do my other job.’ Now I’ve got two weeks of intense training.”

Since the primary mission of the 149th FW is to train and create combat capable F-16 pilots, this exercise also added unique value to the pilots’ distinctive skill set.

“We are definitely fighting some pretty difficult scenarios, learning a lot of good lessons based on those scenarios,” said Thiele. “We don’t necessarily get the opportunity to do a lot of this high-level integration with very robust threats so we are getting a lot out of it, and I think a kind of ‘re-blueing’ as we

would call it in our community – getting to see a lot of these newer combat tactics and be involved in it.”

The fighter pilots weren’t the only ones involved in the exercise. Several supporting agencies from the wing traveled by military airlift to offer their assistance for this year’s training as well, which featured more than 40 aircraft from eight other states.

Texas Air National Guard Capt. Christopher Myers, a logistics readiness officer with the 149th FW’s Logistics Readiness Squadron, understands the kind of effort it takes to pull off an event of this scale. Myers, who was in charge of requesting airlift and arranging many of the logistical details that go into deploying nearly 80 personnel, began the planning several months in advance.

“There’s a lot that goes into planning these things out – a lot more than people realize,” Myers said in regards to figuring out details like cargo, bus transportation, securing forklift operators, and all the other tasks a trip like this entails. He likened it to putting out fires, where once you put one out, another one pops up.

“It basically comes down to thinking through the entire process,” Myers said. “That’s the hardest part is trying to think through the whole process – all the variables and everything that can go wrong.”

The host of support is not lost on the fighter pilots training in this exercise. They know a lot of people are behind them to make a mission like Sentry Aloha happen.

“Everyone has been able to launch their full complement of aircraft so we can conduct the mission because of the great support from not only the Sentry Aloha staff providing for us here but obviously also just the internal unit – the folks we bring along to make the mission happen,” Thiele said.

And for Thiele, that team effort is much of what makes the Guard shine during these types of training events.

“This is a Guard-centric exercise, typically, but what I really think it shows is how important the guard is to not only the overall structure of the Air Force but also the military in general and what we bring to the fight,” he said. “You’ve got F-22s here at Hickam that are on the leading edge of what’s going on here in Pacific Air Forces and U.S. Pacific Command and they’re a Guard unit. Same with the F-15)eside guys, getting them a little taste into what’s going on right now in PACAF and PACOM, then seeing that from an entire guard perspective how we can do stuff – I think it’s good for the guard and good for everyone else to see how involved we are around the world.”-D

Master Sgt. Dwayne Gore, a crew chief with the 149th Fighter Wing, Texas Air National Guard, headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, services the tire of an F-16 Fighting Falcon at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii, Aug. 18, 2016. Gore participated in Sentry Aloha 2016, a large-scale fighter exercise hosted by the Hawaii Air National Guard.. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Rebekkah Jandron)



TEXAS GUARDSMEN GRADUATE CHILEAN MOUNTAIN SCHOOL



Texas Guardsmen work alongside the Chilean soldiers during the Chilean Mountain School course August 15-26, 2016 in Portillo, Chile. The 10-day course consisted of basic competencies on movement, maneuvering, and life-saving techniques in spring and winter mountain terrain. Through these military exchanges, soldiers are given the opportunity to experience new types of operations. (Courtesy Photo)

Story by Sgt. Elizabeth Peña

Texas Military Department Public Affairs

RIO BLANCO, Chile – Twenty-one Texas Guardsmen successfully completed the “Escuela de Montaña” Chilean Mountain School short course August 15-26, 2016 in Rio Blanco.

“The course was designed as a two-week synopsis of their four-month long mountain warfare course, which is similar to our Ranger school,” said Texas Army National Guard 1st. Lt. Michael A. Affeldt, scout platoon leader of the 1st Battalion (Airborne) 143rd Infantry Regiment, and officer in charge of the Texas military exchange for the course. “So it’s a pretty prestigious course to go through in Chile.”

The 21 Guardsmen had to score at least a 290 on the Army Physical Fitness Texas, speak Spanish and have previous experience in cold weather and mountain terrain. The course consists of basic competencies on movement, maneuvering and life-saving techniques in spring and winter mountain terrain.

“The course starts off in Rio Blanco, which is at the base of the mountains. It was 30 degrees at night and 65 degrees during the day,” said Texas Army National Guard Cpl. Nicholas C. Graff, fire team leader with the 143rd Infantry Regiment.

The first phase focused on summer climbing techniques such as rock climbing, repelling, ascending and water crossings.

“We practiced pack animal training so we used mules,” said Graff. “They use mules to carry gear where they can’t get vehicles. All the stuff that we did in the summer phase, led into a culminating event for the winter section.”

The second phase consisted of winter operations such as, cross-country ski, downhill skiing, medevac and foreign weapons familiarization.

“We also dug snow shelters that we slept in a couple nights. Digging ice caves was a lot of fun,” said Graff.

Texas’ coldest winters couldn’t hold up to the Chilean seven-degree mountain climate, but Affeldt said his Soldiers kept perseverance throughout the course.

“Downhill skiing was a struggle in itself, then they threw in cross-country skiing, which is a little bit more difficult. So the first day everyone was kind of looking like Bambi, but by the end of the week we were able to climb up mountain and do a company exercise,” said Affeldt.

Through these military exchanges, soldiers are given the opportunity to experience new types of operations.

“The ability to sit down with another army and to be able to hang out with people of a different culture, and see the world through their eyes was incredible,” said Affeldt.

Texas National Guard and Chile have been working together since 2009 through the National States’ partnership program. The program is managed by the National Guard Bureau, and is designed to link a state’s National Guard with a partner nation’s military forces and government agencies in a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship.

“The way it benefits the Texas Military Department is the ability for us to take soldiers from across the division and entire state and send them to an environment to train in that we don’t have the ability to train in,” said Affeldt. “Now we have Soldiers coming back that understand how to do operations in cold weather climates, mountainous terrain and how to deal with adversity in different environments.”

Although the training environment between Chile and Texas may differ slightly, military-to-military battle rhythms are quite similar.

“The army values were a major part of the training,” said Affeldt. “It took large amounts of personal courage for some to overcome uncomfortable and new situations, but when it comes down to it, duty and honor wouldn’t let us fail.”

Last year, the Texas Military Department conducted 14 military exchanges with Chilean partners that included engineering, medical and disaster response as well as the best warrior competition.

“It’s crazy that the soldier mentality transfers that far,” said Graff. “They like to train, they like to go hard everyone seemed to get along really well. The best thing we did was build relationships down there and learning how to interact with them and who they are as people. I made some good friends.”

The Texas Military Department is scheduled to host their Chilean partners this November to conduct search and rescue training at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas. **-D**





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New Key Leadership Positions



Col. Carlton G. Smith
Commander, 136th Regional Training Institute (CA)

EXPERIENCE:

Col. Smith began his military career in 1993 as a Company Fire Support Officer with 2-2 Armored Cavalry Regiment in Fort Polk, Louisiana. Following his active duty commitment, he joined the Texas Army National Guard where he has served in a number of positions to include Battery Commander and Battalion Commander. Prior to assuming command of the 136th RTI, Smith was assigned as the 36th Infantry Division G3 Operations. He has deployed multiple times to support overseas contingency and state operations.

EDUCATION:

Bachelors of Business Administration from Prairie View A&M University, Masters of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix and Masters of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

DID YOU KNOW:

Col. Smith's first overseas deployment was with the 136th RTI in 2003, where he served as an advisor to the Afghan military.

IN HIS WORDS:

"I am excited about the future of the Texas RTI and our critical role in training the force. We will remain a Training Institute of Excellence as we lead the way in Active and Reserve Component integration within the One Army School System."



Col. Robert J. Ferry
Commander Texas Medical Command,
Texas Army National Guard

EXPERIENCE:

Dr. Ferry has served as a Medical Corps officer in the Texas Army National Guard since 2004. He deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom for about fifteen months with Texas units and other forces during 2005-06 and 2009, in addition to three short tours to Iraq between 2006-2009, as a volunteer with the U.S. State Department.

EDUCATION:

Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry from Yale University, Doctor of Medicine from The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA), residency in pediatrics at UTHSCSA and fellowship in pediatric endocrinology at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

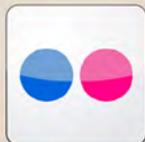
DID YOU KNOW:

Dr. Ferry is board-certified in disaster medicine, pediatrics, and pediatric endocrinology and has published over 135 peer-reviewed articles and chapters with particular focus on pediatric diabetes and growth disorders.

IN HIS WORDS:

"Be worthy of praise," was my late grandfather's best advice and remains a touchstone for me. "I am deeply humbled to serve with the troops and officers of the Texas Medical Command who are prepared, proactive and professional defenders of public health for Texas and worldwide."

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