



# The MINUTEMAN

THE MONTHLY RECRUITING NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD • DEC. 2014



## On the Move

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FROM THE COMMANDER



By  
**MAJ AUGUST T. MURRAY, Ph.D.**  
 Commander, TXARNG  
 Recruiting & Retention Bn.

**Giving thanks,  
 and focusing on  
 new momentum**

October was an incredible month in Recruiting and Retention.

The month started with a Change of Command at the Capital and the promotion of 1SG Dyer, HHC, and 1SG Hebert, Region I.

Later in the month, we celebrated numerous achievements from FY14 at the Annual Training and Award Dinner at Lackland AFB in San Antonio.

MG Smith and CSM Milford, TXARNG CDR and CSM, joined us along with COL Dement, G1, and CSM Weedon, the new State CSM. LTC Hart was our guest of honor and was able to recognize Soldiers from across our Command for extraordinary work in FY14.

In October, we also achieved all assigned Recruiting and Retention missions.

As a team, we enlisted 210 and extended (reenlisted) 204 members of the TXARNG. We also graduated 19 new Soldiers from Recruiter Basic Training (RBT) at Camp Mabry.

On 28 Oct, CSM Castorena, SGM Grantham, 1SG Thetford, 1SG Hebert travelled to Oklahoma City where SSG Strelsky, TM 9, RGN III was selected as the top Recruiter In 7 states and MSG Guerrero, TM 3, RGN I, selected as runner up NCOIC in the Region.

Yes, October was an incredible month filled with accomplishments by exceptional Soldiers. I have often said that REC RET CMD has the finest Soldiers in Texas. Your hard work and performance reinforces the fact that this is the Best Battalion to serve in - in the entire United States Armed Forces.

As the new Fiscal and Training year continues, our focus in November shifts to maintaining the momentum. We begin the task of training our RSP Warriors for success and making time for our families over the holidays.

Thank you for your dedication - for living by the Warrior Ethos and placing the mission first - for defending the values and standards we live by.



Members of the Texas Army National Guard's Education and Incentives office stop for a team photo during the annual Warrant Officer run. See page 5.

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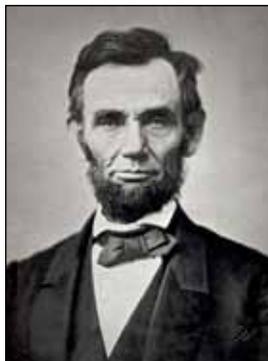
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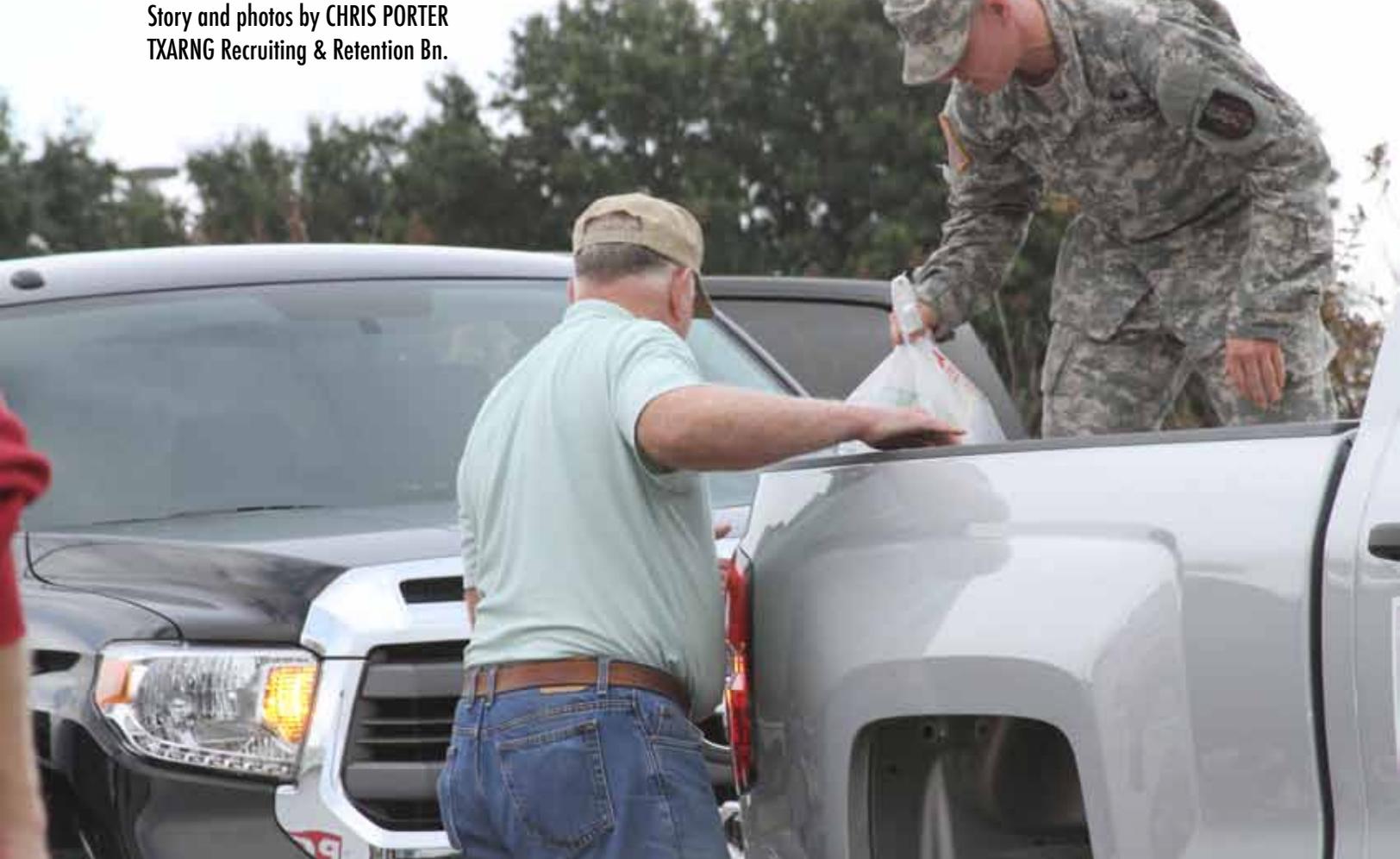
■ **MONTHLY INSPIRATION**



**“Whatever you are, be a good one.”**  
*-Abraham Lincoln*

# Making Spirits Bright

Story and photos by CHRIS PORTER  
TXARNG Recruiting & Retention Bn.



## TXARNG Soldiers volunteer at holiday food drive



*(Top) CW3 L.L. Buckley of the 36th Sustainment Brigade helps a local volunteer offload food donations at the Food For Families Temple food-drive location. Hundreds of TXARNG Soldiers assisted with the drive, which is held before Thanksgiving annually.*

Hundreds of Texas Army National Guard Soldiers joined volunteers across Central Texas Nov. 21 for the 24th annual Food For Families food drive, which collected more than 1 million pounds of donations across 21 locations.

TXARNG troops were visible at locations in Temple, Gatesville, Hillsboro and Mexia, where they assisted local volunteers in collecting, sorting and stocking thousands of pounds of food donations.

“The service members are the absolute backbone of what we’re doing here,” Food For Families Gatesville volunteer Donna Taylor said. “Every time a truck pulls up, the National Guard is out there to help unload and carry it back to the sorting

area. All we have to do is pull a box out, and a Soldier already has it loaded up and ready to do. There’s no way we could do it without them.”

Over the years, Food for Families has grown into the state’s largest one-day food drive, according to organizers. The event, held the Friday before Thanksgiving each year, collected more than 1.5 million pounds of food in 2013.

While this year’s food donations were down slightly due to poor weather at some of the donation sites, Taylor said the campaign was poised to exceed its monetary

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**



*(Top) Volunteers for the Food for Families food drive help drivers through the donation line at the campaign's Temple site Nov. 21. The largest one-day food drive in Texas, Food for Families raised more than 1.5 million pounds of food in 2013.*

*(Left) Dozens of Soldiers from the Texas Army National Guard's 36th Sustainment Brigade assisted volunteers at food drop-off sites across Central Texas. National Guard members have been assisting with the food drive since 1998.*

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

donation goals, thanks to the local community's generosity.

MSG Michael Thorpe, NCOIC for the TXARNG Recruiting Battalion's Team 8, said his Soldiers have been assisting with the food drive since 1998.

"Texas Army National Guardsmen had been volunteering on their own for several years, but our official participation was limited due to regulations," Thorpe said. "In late 1998, the Secretary of the Army granted special permission for TXARNG to become the Food for Families Drive's fourth partner."

Thorpe's Soldiers helped run donation sites in Hillsboro and Mexia, and provided support in Temple and Gatesville, he said. Soldiers were featured by broadcast news outlets throughout the day alongside volunteers from the Boy Scouts of America and the H-E-B grocery chain.

"The food drive and the volunteers were showcased during live television broadcasts every half-hour from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. throughout the day," Thorpe said.

Food for Families began as a seven-county drive in 1990, with the Boy Scouts joining as partners in 1995. Soldiers from TXARNG stepped in as partners in 1998.

Designed as a means to help needy families stock their shelves in time for the holidays, Food for Families collected 85,000 pounds of food in its first year. In 2013, the drive gathered more than 1.5 million pounds.

*(Right) CW3 L.L. Buckley of the 36th Sustainment Brigade helps unpack a food donation at the Food for Families Temple site Nov. 21. Buckley was one of hundreds of TXARNG Soldiers who assisted at the food drive.*



# ON THE MOVE



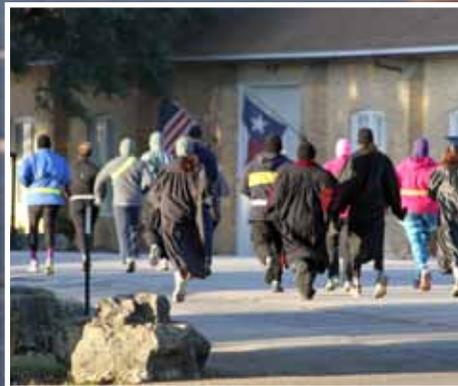
(Above) Members of the Texas Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion Education & Incentives Office make their way past an F-4C Phantom fighter during a fun run hosted by the Audie L. Murphy chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association. The run, which helped raise money for the group's scholarship fund, featured awards for the top finishers in team and individual categories. Also included was an award for 'Best Costume,' which was won by the E&I team. Photos by Chris Porter



(Right) CPT Hunter Smith makes his way across the finish line during the race Nov. 19.



TXARNG Senior Warrant Officer Strength Manager CW3 Michael Long presents the first-place finish medal to first-place finisher CPT Hunter Smith. More than a dozen runners participated in the race, which raised money for the Warrant Officer Association's scholarship fund.



While the normal race route – the Camp Mabry running track – was off-limits due to construction, this year's route was considerably more scenic, taking runners past the TXMF Museum and HQ buildings.



Members of the TXARNG Recruiting & Retention Battalion's Education & Incentives Office show off their graduate costumes prior to the run Nov. 19. The team took first place in the 'Best Costume' category.



# GETTING ROWDY

Story and photos by LUCIA BRIONES, TXARNG Recruiting & Retention Bn.



SSG Derek Tarlton (left) and SSG Gregory Crans pose with Rowdy and members of the Dalls Cowboys Cheerleaders during a presentation at Burleson High School.

## Cowboys, TXARNG team up for local pep rallies

During October, the Dallas Cowboys and Texas Army National Guard hosted its “Team of the Week” program competition online at [www.dallascowboys.com](http://www.dallascowboys.com). As a result, throughout November, the winning schools received an energized pep rally from the Dallas Cowboys. During each pep rally, the school’s TXARNG

recruiters were given the opportunity to speak to the entire student body about the opportunities available through joining the Guard. They also presented the school’s principal and coach a co-branded gameday football along with a certificate signed by Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, head coach Jason Garret, and TXARNG

Recruiting and Retention commander MAJ August Murray. This year’s “Team of the Week” program has proven to be extremely successful by bringing traffic to the TXARNG site, as well as strengthening relationships with our recruiters and its teachers, students, and staff!



*TXARNG Recruiters SSG Derek Tarlton and SSG Gregory Crans join Rowdy at Burlson High School during the Elks' pep rally Nov. 7.*

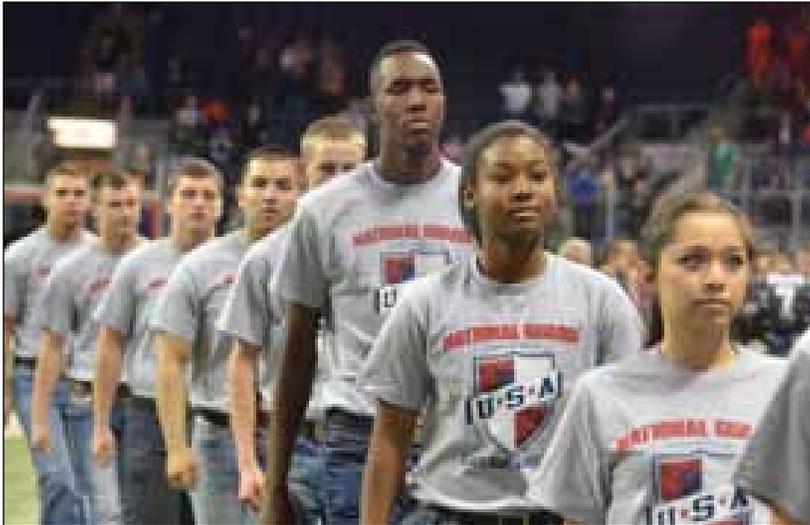
*SFC Marcellous Williams (left), SFC Dawn Robbins (center) and SPC Nathaniel Red (right) join Rowdy and staff from South Grand Prairie High School at a special pep rally Nov. 7.*



*SSG Ashley Jeanes joins Rowdy and coaching staff from MacArthur High School during that school's pep rally Nov. 7.*

# HAPPENINGS

## Dallas Sidekicks honor new TXARNG enlistees



RSP Warriors from Region II, Team 6 took part in an on-field swearing-in during the Dallas Sidekicks Military Appreciation Night Nov. 15. Courtesy photo.

The Dallas Sidekicks soccer team hosted its annual Military Appreciation game against the Brownsville Barracudas at its Allen stadium Nov. 15.

This is the second year Region II's Team 6 took part in the festivities by performing an on-field mock ceremony with of its own RSP Warriors. The 15 Warriors were marched onto the pitch by SGT Higar and sworn in by MAJ Douglas Yates. More than 85 family, friends, and fellow TXARNG soldiers were in attendance to witness the event.

"We were absolutely thrilled to partner with the Texas Army National Guard again this year," Sidekicks owner Ronnie Davis said. "It was an honor to have so many brave young men and women pledge their service on our turf, and it was an unforgettable moment to see thousands of our fans standing in support and shouting 'USA!' It's a special partnership that means a lot to our whole organization, and I hope to keep it going for many years to come."

## Region II, Team 6 recruiter honored as Soldier advocate

Every day, ordinary people are doing extraordinary things in our community. Dallas-Fort Worth-area radio station WBAP and Hal Jay recognize these uncommon acts of kindness, service and achievement as part of the HAL'S HEROES program.

Last month, TM 6's SSG James Grintz was recognized as one of Hal's Heroes. Earlier this year, SSG Grintz was nominated by one of his adopted RSP Warriors, SPC Aimee Miller, in appreciation for the persistence and dedication he provided in ensuring she was slotted into her desired MOS.

SSG Grintz was presented with an award by Hal Jay, and treated to a special breakfast with the WBAP 820 AM morning crew.



SSG James Grintz (center) is honored as one of "Hal's Heroes" for his work with local TXARNG recruits. Photo courtesy WBAP-AM.



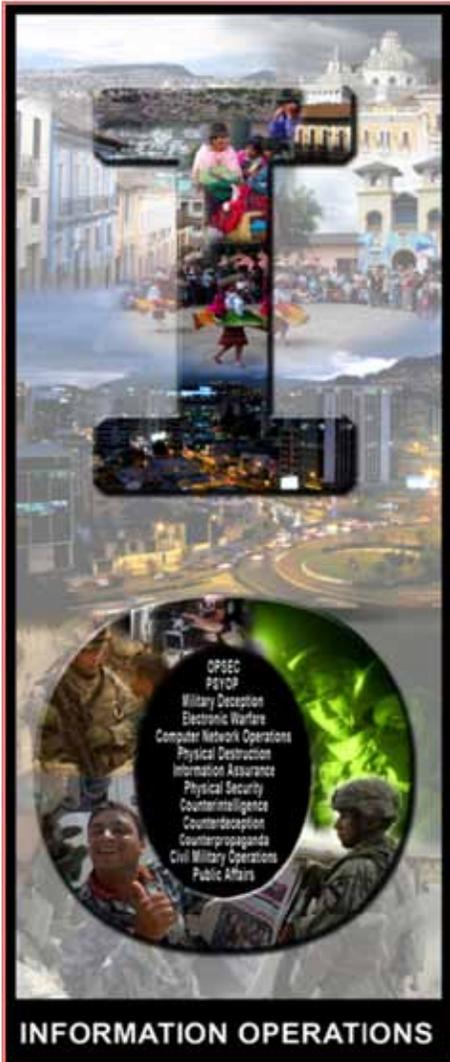
### New Retention NCOs Graduate

NCOs from across the Texas Army National Guard recently graduated from the Unit Retention NCO Training course, held at the Recruiting & Retention Battalion Headquarters on Camp Mabry.

Each of the graduating NCOs will be charged with identifying and assisting Soldiers in their units who are eligible for reenlistment. Courtesy photo

# 2015: THE YEAR OF THE OFFICER

## TXARNG seeking officers for Information Ops



The Texas Army National Guard is currently seeking promotable captains and current majors to fill several critical Information Operations vacancies across the state.

The positions fall under the Austin-based 71st Information Operations Group, according to MAJ Erik Fuentes of the TXARNG Officer Strength Management office.

The 71st TIOG's missions take its members across the world to locations in Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and the Far East/Pacific Rim. In the last decade, Soldiers from the 71st have deployed on engineering and humanitarian missions in Kosovo, the Mideast, Central America, Korea, the Phillipines and the Caribbean.

The 71st Theater Information Operations Group provides Tactical, Operational and Strategic IO support to Commanders at BCT level and above. The unit focus is to achieve the Commander's End State by synchronizing Information Related Capabilities and providing subject matter planning expertise in OPSEC, Military Deception and Assessments.

Assigned missions of the IO Group in order of priority are:

- Support the Army Service Component Commander

- Support the Joint Commander
- Support Defense Support of Civil Authority

The IO Group Battalions are organized to address the Commander's need for synchronization of Information Related Capabilities. These units are comprised of culturally adept and nuanced IO operators, technology experts and support personnel.

Between November 2001 and December 2012, the 71st Theater IO Group deployed Soldiers in support of Service Component, Joint Commanders and Installation Commanders worldwide.

These missions ranged in duration from one month to eighteen months.

Interested officers could find new careers in the following:

- Military Information Support Operations
- Public Affairs Operations
- Combat Camera
- Soldier and Leader Engagement
- Civil Affairs Operations
- Civil and Cultural Considerations
- Operations Security

For information regarding available positions, call (512) 782-3984 or (512) 782-5943.

## Latest Warrant Officer candidates/assignment named

The Texas Army National Guard's Warrant Officer Strength Management Office has named the Warrant Officer Candidates for November:

- **WOC Byron Duncan** will be one of two Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Technicians warrant officers in the state. He will serve with the 636th Military Intelligence Battalion in San Antonio.

- **WOC Michael Daley** will serve as one of two Electronic Warfare warrant officers in the state. He will serve with the 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Dallas.



- **WOC Travis Moring** is a product of the Army's Active Component to Reserve Component (AC2RC) program. He will

attend training to become an Automotive Maintenance Technician warrant officer before serving with the 636th Brigade Sustainment Battalion in Dallas.

The following Individuals will fill aviation warrant officer vacancies within TXARNG:

- WOC Desiree Staffeldt, 1-108th Aviation
- WOC Dustin Derrington, 1-149th Aviation
- WOC Chris Taylor, 1-108th Aviation
- WOC Timothy Sears, 1-108th Aviation

# NEED *to* KNOW

## Calendar of Events

E-mail [christopher.a.porter14.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:christopher.a.porter14.ctr@mail.mil) to list your events

Texas Army National Guard Recruiters are scheduled to man booths at the following events at locations across the state. Community members are invited to stop by to visit with recruiters and learn more about serving in the National Guard.

### December 2014

Dec. 10 - Annual Fiesta, El Paso - RGN I, TM 3

Dec. 6-7 - Texas A&M Corpus Christi ROTC Winter Carnival, Corpus Christi - RGN IV, TM 16

Dec. 7 - Tailgating at Baylor Football, Waco - RGN II, TM 8

Dec. 7 - Whitehouse Holiday Parade, Whitehouse - RGN II, TM 7

Dec. 7-14 - Toys for Tots, Rio Grande Valley, RGN IV, TM 16

Dec. 9 - Florence HS Career Day, Florence - RGN IV, TM 13

Dec. 12 - Border Patrol CrossFit Challenge, El Paso - RGN I, TM 3

Dec. 13 - Gatesville Holiday Parade, Gatesville - RGN II, TM 13

Dec. 13 - Magnolia Christmas Parade, Magnolia - RGN III, TM 13

Dec. 14 - Bryan-College Station Marathon, Bryan - RGN III, TM 9

Dec. 17 - El Paso Food Drive, El Paso - RGN I, TM 3

Dec. 18 - Texas State University ROTC Commissioning, San Marcos - RGN IV, TM 14

Dec. 20 - Old Town Katy Market Days, Katy - RGN III, TM 12

Dec. 20 - Operation Blue Santa, Austin - RGN IV, TM 13

Dec. 20 - Taylor Rodeo, Taylor - RGN IV, TM 13

### January 2015

Jan. 2 - Armed Forces Bowl @ TCU, Fort Worth - RGN I, TM 2

Jan. 10 - Tomball JROTC Meet, Tomball, RGN III, TM 9

Jan. 10 - Premier Gun Show, Mesquite - RGN II, TM 10

Jan. 12 - Traders Village BBQ & Chili Cook-off, Houston - RGN III, TM 25

Jan. 18 - Dallas Sidekicks Soccer, Dallas - RGN II, TM 6

Jan. 19 - Mavericks Basketball, Dallas - RGN II, TM 5

## POINTS OF CONTACT

### TXARNG Bde. Strength Management POCs

ARNG, DIV HQ, MED, TIOG	(512) 964-1361
136th MEB	(512) 517-6742
36th CAB (Austin)	(512) 422-6958
36th SUS BDE (Temple)	(254) 424-1039
72nd IBCT (Houston)	(512) 782-3847
71st BFSB (San Antonio)	(210) 787-9127
176th ENG BDE (Dallas)	(972) 804-2602
56th IBCT (Fort Worth)	(817) 343-8946

### TXARNG Recruiting & Retention Bn. POCs

Education & Incentives	(512) 782-6084
AMEDD Recruiting	(512) 782-5269
Officer Strength Management	(512) 782-5491
OCS Recruiting	(512) 782-5882
Warrant Officer Recruiting	(512) 782-5547
Special Forces Recruiting	(903) 701-5207
Marketing	(512) 782-5165

Jan. 22 - Hendrickson H.S. Soccer, Pflugerville - RGN IV, TM 13

Jan. 24 - Run at the Beach and Cross-Fit Competition, Corpus Christi - RGN IV, TM 16

## The Last Word



Members of the College Station City Council and the College Station Parks & Recreation Department honored members of TXARNG's Recruiting & Retention Region III for their assistance during the 2014 Games of Texas. National Guard provided hundreds of volunteer man-hours at the end, which hosted thousands of athletes. Courtesy photo