

January 2016

THE MINUTEMAN

The Monthly Newsletter of the Texas Army National Guard Recruiting & Retention Command



1st QUARTER CHALLENGE
Awards and Family Fun in
Fredericksburg

EDUCATION CUTS
What this means for REAP and STRP

BRING YOUR "A" GAME!

BMX Team soars into Texas High Schools

A BMX Rider catches some serious air at the "Bring you're 'A' Game to School" event at L.G. Pinkston High School in Dallas, Texas

LETTER FROM **THE COMMANDER**



First of all, congratulations to the 1st Quarter Challenge winners who are featured in this edition of the Minuteman and job well done in the first three months of FY16!

The 2nd Quarter Challenge venue will be the Gaylord Texan, in Grapevine this April. For the 3rd Quarter Challenge, we'll travel to New Braunfels, Texas and lodge at the T-Bar M, a family resort for a mid-week training and awards July event. The T Bar M also features a shuttle for family members to float the Comal river.

This January, I encourage all Teams to achieve their Team Missions with no Zero-rollers. In addition to a zero mission in September for all successful Teams, I have added encouragement in the form of a three day pass super bowl weekend.

Also in January, I ask all members of REC RET CMD to complete the annual climate survey. CSM Dyer and I need your feedback to address any concerns or issues, and also to gauge how well our unit is taking care of Soldiers and setting conditions for success.

All unit members are also tasked to complete the annual assignment preferences worksheet. We will board our FY17 positions in early April, with any PCSs and moves in June-July timeframe. This is intended to limit PCSs, take care of families, and get you well situated for your schools.

I am proud of the incredible efforts and talents you have demonstrated in this mission year, and excited about maximizing the number of promotions we can conduct following the issue of the promotion lists in February. It is an honor to be on this team.

Texas Strong! Texas Proud!

LTC August T. Murray, Ph.D.
Commander, REC RET CMD
Texas Army National Guard



FREDERICKSBURG, Texas -

The Texas Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Command traveled to Fredericksburg, Texas January 15 - 17 for the first Quarterly Challenge of FY2016. After a brief NCOPD session and some Best Practices training, Guardsmen and their families enjoyed a beautiful Texas January weekend in and around Fredericksburg. After a day of sightseeing and visiting the many local attractions, soldiers and their families came together for a true Texas barbecue dinner while well deserving recruiters were recognized for their hard work and achievements during the first quarter of FY16. To cap off the evening, Command Sergeant Major Morwood gave an enthusiastic and encouraging speech to the assembled audience, reminding all in attendance why the hard work and sacrifice of recruiting is a critical and rewarding component of the Texas Army National Guard.



FIRST QUARTER CHALLENGE

Fredericksburg, Texas

1ST QUARTER CHALLENGE FY16

1ST QUARTER AWARD WINNERS:

Quality Boots:

- RGN I – TM 2: SSG Tyler Trenkle
- RGN II – TM 6 - SGT Emerson Salgadovindel - AGIA
- RGN III – TM 9: SSG William Smith
- RGN IV – TM 15 - SSG James Rodriguez - AGIA

Top Brigade Strength Manager:

SFC James Banks – AGIA

Top RSP:

RGN II – TM 5: SSG Nereyda Zapata – AGIA

Top RRNCO:

- RGN I – TM 2: SSG Tyler Trenkle - AAM
- RGN II – TM 7: SSG Jace Halbrook - AAM
- RGN III – TM 9: SSG William Smith - AAM
- RGN IV – TM 15: SSG Luis Sepulveda - AAM



Reduction in State Tuition Reimbursement Program (STRP) funding for 2016

Effective spring 2016 academic semester, the new STRP standard maximum is authorized for up to 6 hrs in tuition & fees, not to exceed \$2,250 per semester.

Applicants are encouraged to request financial aid through their school and utilize Federal Tuition Assistance, GI Bill or Hazlewood to maximize funding for tuition and reduce out-of-pocket costs.

Reimbursement rates for private schools remain the same up to the new standard maximum of 6 credit hrs in tuition & fees, not to exceed \$2,500 per semester.



NATIONAL GUARD 
TEXAS STRONG! TEXAS PROUD!

For more information, please call VA at 1-888-GIBILL-1 to speak with an Education Call Center Agent for questions about benefits or eligibility for education assistance programs. You may also contact the Education and Incentives Office at 512-782-5515 or ng.tx.txarng.list.education-office@mail.mil.

On November 25, 2015, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2016 ended the Reserve Educational Assistance Program.

The REAP program was originally created to provide benefits to members of the Reserve components who were called or ordered to active service by the President or Congress in response to a war or declared national emergency.

REAP served to bridge the education benefit gap between those eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve and those serving in the Reserve component who were called to active duty but were not eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve.

The Change Affects Beneficiaries Differently:

- **Current REAP beneficiaries** - if you were attending an educational institution during the semester, quarter, or term that immediately preceded Nov. 25, 2015, you may continue to receive REAP benefits.
- **REAP beneficiaries not attending school** - Beneficiaries who applied for REAP but were not attending an institution during the semester, quarter, or term immediately preceding Nov. 25, 2015, are not eligible to receive REAP benefits.
- **New REAP applicants** - if VA received your initial REAP application after Nov. 24, 2015, you are no longer eligible for REAP benefits.

NATIONAL GUARD 
TEXAS STRONG! TEXAS PROUD!

For more information, please call VA at 1-888-GIBILL-1 to speak with an Education Call Center Agent for questions about benefits or eligibility for education assistance programs. You may also contact the Education and Incentives Office at 512-782-5515 or ng.tx.txarng.list.education-office@mail.mil.

EQUIPMENT UPDATE



The Minuteman

FROM MARKETING

Issued	Quantity
Backpacks	10,500
T-shirts	17,200
Duffle Bags	7,000
Book Covers	5,100
Display Stands	13
Feather Flags	160
Corn hole boards	17
Vertical Jumps	17
Spinning wheels	5
Plinko Boards	11
Pop Up Tents	10
Table Cloths	160
Backdrops	160
Floor Mats	100

Just arrived – will issue ASAP

Baseball Caps	10,000
Water Bottles	3,220
Lanyards	57,000
Knives	6,000

FROM S4/S6

Printers: Issued 44 Dell B2375DNF to all Regions. Issued all 10 HP M605DN to all Regions. Issued 4 HP M605DN to all regions.

Projectors & Screens: Issued 44 Dell B2375DNF to all Regions. Issued all 10 HP M605DN to all Regions. Issued 4 HP M605DN to all regions.

Live Scan Machines:

All equipment issued to regions

Automation Supplies:

All equipment issued to regions

Dog Tag Machines:

All equipment issued to regions

Chain, Lock, Extension:

Locks have been Issued to Regions. Distributing rest with Projectors.

Pelican Cases:

All equipment issued to regions

Folding Chairs & Tables:

All equipment issued to regions

HDMI Cables, Power Strips & Security Cable:

6ft HDMI cables & power strips arrived 12JAN2016. Pending laptop security cable, vendor is having problems with this at the moment.



BRING YOUR "A" GAME TO SCHOOL

A High Flying School Entry Vehicle



Team 4 - FORT WORTH, Texas

Texas Army National Guard recruiters attended the "Bring your 'A' Game to School" BMX event at Saginaw High School December 17, 2015.

"The event was outstanding. The students really got into it," said SSG Spurlock of Team 4 "Renegades".

This is a unique school entry vehicle with demonstrated success in front of a captive audience. Texas Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention has been offered five of these events across the state, with more coming down the pipeline.

"This is definitely an effective tool for lead generation," said Spurlock. "It garnered about 80 leads that showed up in my hot leads within 48 hours."



WINTER OCS / WOCS WORKSHOP

FY 2016

WHO - ALL TXARNG UNITS AND QUALIFIED, INTERESTED PERSONNEL, INCLUDING ALL O9S'S WANTING TO ATTEND OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL (OCS) CLASS 60, OR ACCELERATED OCS, TO INCLUDE ENLISTED SOLDIERS IN GRADE (E5-E9) WITH INTEREST IN BECOMING FUTURE WARRANT OFFICERS.

WHAT - IDENTIFY POTENTIAL OFFICER/WARRANT OFFICER CANDIDATES TO ATTEND THE OCS WORKSHOP IN AUSTIN, TEXAS. POTENTIAL CANDIDATES MUST COMPLETE OCS/WOCS APPLICATION PACKETS.

WHEN - 22-24 JANUARY 2016 AND 19-21 FEBRUARY 2016

WHERE - CAMP MABRY, AUSTIN, TEXAS

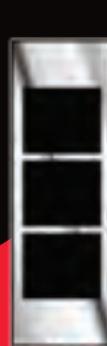
WHY - TO ASSIST ELIGIBLE, INTERESTED SOLDIERS WITH ADMISSION TO THE OCS/WOCS TRAINING PROGRAM TO FILL LEADERSHIP SHORTAGES IN THE TXARNG. THE 2016 WORKSHOP WILL BE CONDUCTED IN SRP STYLE FORMAT TO FULLY SUPPORT POTENTIAL CANDIDATES IN COMPLETING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2016 OCS & WOCS PROGRAMS.

OCS/WOCS RECRUITING & RETENTION -

BASIC BRANCH OIC: CPT URBANEK 512-782-5882

BASIC BRANCH NCOIC: SFC LLOYD 512-782-5491

WOSM: CW2 LOVE 512-782-1989



JANUARY

- 19 BSM Telecon
- 20 TM 5 - N. Dallas HS College Fair
- 20 RGN III Choice Career Job Fair- Houston
- 20 TM 12 – NG Pizza Night
- 20 RSP Telecon North
- 21 RSP Telecon South
- 21-24 36 ID SRP
- 22-24 OCS Workshop
- 22-24 TM 2 - LTX Ft. Walters UTA ROTC
- 22-24 TAMIU Ranger Challenge
- 22-24 RSP Site Visit – TM 3 El Paso
- 22-24 BSM Drill
- 23 TM 6 – TXA21 Career Expo
- 23 RGN IV Benefits Fair McAllen VA Clinic
- 23 RGN IV Veterans Land Board – VET Benefits Fair / McAllen
- 23-24 BSM – FM 8-10-3 DIV MED OP Central SRP
- 23-24 JFQH IDT
- 24 TM 15 - NEISD JROTC Raider Challenge
- 25 NEISD Orienteer Event
- 26 BSM Telecon
- 26 OPS Calendar Scrub 1000
- 26 RGN II – FT. Hood Mega Winter Job Fair
- 26 TM 9 – Spring STRP Round Up
- 26 TM 9 – Conroe Job Fair
- 27 TM 2 - Tremble Tech Center Pres.
- 27 RGN IV – Hiring Our Heroes
- 27 RGN IV – Texas American Legion Job Fair
- 27 RSP Telecon North
- 27 TM 3 – El Paso Job Fair
- 27 TM 6 – Lewisville HS Military Career Night
- 27 TM 14 - Johnson HS Orienteer Meet
- 27 TM 13 Hiring Our Heroes Austin
- 27 RGN IV Texas American Legion Job Fair
- 28 RGN III – Choice Career Job Fair – Houston
- 28 RSP – Telecon South
- 30 TM 3 – 3/133rd FA St. Barber Dinning Out
- 30 TM 16 5K Fun Run Corpus

FEBRUARY

- 1 TM 5 - TWC Job Fair
- 1 TM 2 - UTA Job Fair
- 1 TM 5 - Bryan Adams JROTC
- 2 TM 4 – Birdville HS JROTC Presentation
- 2 RSP Telecon North
- 2 BSM TELECON
- 2-3 Command and Staff/MDMP – Camp Mabry
- 3 TM 5 - TWC Job Fair
- 3 RGN IV – Hiring Our Heroes – San Antonio
- 3 RSP Telecon North
- 4 TM 6 – Lewisville HS Career/College Fair
- 4 TM 2 - Tremble Tech Senior Class Presentation
- 4 TM 3 - UTEP Career Fair
- 4 TM 12 – Westside HS Teacher Appreciation
- 4-7 BSM Drill
- 4-7 Best Warrior Competition
- 5 RGN III Combined Arms Community Collaboration
- 6-7 BSM Drill
- 6-7 TM 16 - Retention Drive 3/141 IN
- 9 BSM Telecon
- 9 RSP Telecon North
- 10 TM 4 – ASVAB Grapevine HS
- 10 TM 5 - TWC Job Fair
- 10 RSP Telecon South
- 11 TM 12 - SFRO Pizza Night
- 11 RGN IV – Choice Career Fair San Antonio
- 13 TM 2 - Tarleton University Career Night
- 13 TM 9 – Tomball Classic JROTC
- 13-14 TM 16 Laredo Airshow
- 15 Presidents Day
- 15-19 RGN II NGB ARISS Boot Camp Right Seat Rides
- 16 RSP Telecon North
- 16 BSM Telecom 1400
- 16-27 RBT 16-002
- 17 TM 5 TWC Job Fair
- 17 RSP Telecon South
- 17-19 TM 6 – JROTC Inspection
- 18 TM 6 - Choice Career Fair
- 18 TM 11- Pearland HS Top 100
- 19-21 WOCS Training B Co, 2-136th Camp Swift
- 20 RGN III Veterans Land Board – VET Benefits Fair / Houston
- 20-21 RGN I – RSP Drill Weekend
- 20-21 JFHQ/RRC/36ID IDT
- 21 TM 3 – El Paso Marathon & 5K
- 23 BSM TELECON
- 23 OPS Calendar Scrub 1400
- 23 RSP Telecon North
- 24 TM 5 - TWC Job Fair
- 24 A&M Staff Ride
- 24 RSP Telecon South
- 25 RGN III – DAV Recruit Military CF – Irving
- 25-27 TM 9 – Nacogdoches Film Festival
- 26 TM 5 – Recruit Military Job Fair
- 27 TM 4 - Cowtown 5K/10K
- 27 TM 9 - Tomball Classic JROTC

**R&R/
BSM
POCs**

Commander
LTC August T. Murray
(512) 782-1383

Executive Officer
MAJ Jim Carney
(512) 782-5404

Command Sergeant Major
CSM Kristopher Dyer
(512) 782-5163
BSM SGM

SGM Richard Grantham
(512) 914-4889
BSM SGM

SFC Eric Larsen
(512) 782-5876
R&R

SFC James Banks
(512) 9641361
TRP CMD / JFHQ / 36ID

SSG William Corcoran
(512) 538-4841
HQ 56th IBCT

SFC William Pyles
(512) 608-2594
HQ 56th IBCT

SSG Bryan Calhoun
(210) 787-9127
HQ 71st BFSB

SFC Craig McCarty
(512) 565-8849
HQ 176th EN BDE

SFC Chaz Patterson
(254) 424-1039
36th SUS BDE

SSG Jimmy Smith
(512) 782-3847
HQ 72nd IBCT

SFC Richard Amundson
(512) 653-5691
HQ 36th CAB

SSG Tracy Christoff
(512) 431-5689
136th MEB