

NEW TXSG NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the new TXSG Newsletter! This publication brings news briefs from the TXSG PAO to keep our service members informed. We'll strive to showcase our organization's achievements and share the TXSG story.

THE GUARD POST

A Quarterly Update from the Texas State Guard



TXSG News Briefs

Check out some of the latest TXSG news briefs from all around Texas.

Brigade Updates

What's happening within each Brigade of the Texas State Guard.

Awards & Promotions

Check out who has been promoted or received awards.

MESSAGE FROM THE TXSG COMMANDER



It is an incredible honor to serve as your Commanding General and to stand alongside each of you in service to the people of Texas. As the Governor has said, the Texas State Guard is "the nation's premier state defense force", and that reputation is built on your demonstrated dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment.

Leadership isn't confined to rank—it's found in every member of this force. Our strength lies in those who step up, solve problems, and look out for their fellow service members and their fellow Texans. This means an ongoing emphasis on training. I believe in 'keeping things simple'. As we move forward, we will leverage technology to streamline operations, improve communication, and enhance operational readiness. Change is inevitable, but our core values remain constant: integrity, professionalism, and selfless service to this sacred place we call home.

I look forward to working with you as we build on the proud legacy of this organization. For 84 years now, through severe weather disasters, medical emergencies, in defense of our borders and much more, Texas has depended on us – let's be ready. Let's be "Equal to the Task" – and then some.

We are the "Texas Patriots."

Roger O. Sheridan MG, TXSG

A Changing of the Guard: Sheridan Takes the Helm

AUSTIN, Texas – At a ceremony on Sunday, Feb. 23, Maj. Gen. Roger O. Sheridan officially took charge from Maj. Gen. Anthony Woods as the commanding general of the Texas State Guard. The change of command ceremony at Camp Mabry included distinguished lawmakers, members of the Sheridan and Woods families, as well as Texas State Guard leaders and service members from across the state.

In announcing the appointment of the 22nd commanding general in the modern history of the Texas State Guard, Gov. Greg Abbott said, "Maj. Gen. Roger O. Sheridan's decades of selfless sacrifice and service to his country make him the perfect individual to lead the Texas State Guard. I am confident that he will (further) professionalize the nation's premier state defense force and uphold the integrity of the Texas State Guard."

Sheridan, of Bryan, is deputy director of the Brazos Valley Council of Governments and most recently served as commander of the 6th Brigade. He served more than 21 years in the Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve before retiring in 2009. In federal service, he deployed in support of Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, and Restore Hope. He joined the Texas State Guard in 2012. Sheridan has a bachelor's degree in political science from Sam Houston State University.

Woods concluded his tenure as commanding general after three years of dedicated leadership and a demonstrated commitment to the well-being of service members and their families. More on Woods, his military career, and his profound impact on the Texas State Guard can be found later in this newsletter.



THANK YOU SIR

Maj. Gen. Woods Leaves a Legacy in TXSG

As Maj. Gen. Anthony Woods concludes his three-year tenure as commanding general of the Texas State Guard, he leaves behind a force that is stronger, more professional, and better prepared to serve Texas. His tenure saw increased operational deployments and a focus on professional development, fiscal responsibility, and soldier welfare.

Since October, 2021, Woods led the deployment of Texas State Guard service members across a range of missions, from Operation Lone Star to disaster relief and security support. Under his leadership, the force logged more than 563,000 operational man-days, assisting Texas communities during hurricanes, wildfires, and border security operations. His oversight ensured the guard met and exceeded its commitments while maintaining a 98% budget execution rate.

Woods prioritized professional growth, overseeing more than 72,000 man-day hours of military education. His three-phase retention and recruitment strategy strengthened the organization by retaining experienced leaders and attracting new members.

His leadership is rooted in more than three decades of military and law enforcement experience. Commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1984 through the ROTC program at the University of Texas at Arlington, he served in the 1st Battalion, 112th Armor Regiment, holding multiple leadership roles. Following 9/11, he contributed to Operation Noble Eagle, securing U.S. infrastructure. In 2005, he became the first Black commander of his battalion, leading troops in historic post-Soviet training exercises in Romania.

His influence extended beyond state borders. In 2006, he was deputy commander for Operation Jump Start, reinforcing U.S.-Mexico border security. In 2012, he deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan, mentoring Afghan military leaders.

Beyond military service, Woods had a distinguished law enforcement career, serving as a Dallas police officer and later as a DEA special agent in Los Angeles and Houston before founding a private investigation firm. A devoted family man, he and his wife, Cecilia, have seven children and a grandson.

As he steps down, Woods' impact on the Texas State Guard will be lasting. His leadership strengthened the force in readiness, professionalism, and morale. His legacy of service is firmly cemented in Texas history.

Written by Capt. David Brown, PAO, HQ, Texas State Guard





A Powerful Dose of Preparation: Texas State Guard Medical Specialists Convene

Picture this: Texas State Guard (TXSG) soldiers arrive at the scene of a raging storm. Conditions are poor. A unit from the Medical Corps spots a car accident ahead—both drivers are in critical condition.

But the Corps has trained for this. In mock scenarios at a January conference at Camp Mabry, 48 TXSG Medical Corps members took part in simulations including a car crash scenario, practicing rapid problem-solving, scanning for hazards such as downed power lines or leaking fuel, and safely extricating casualties. They demonstrated how to efficiently transport victims onto stretchers and move them to a safe zone for further assessment and medical evacuation.

Planning for the training weekend began last year, said Lt. Col. Daniel O'Neill, who emphasized the goal of strengthening teamwork within the Medical Corps. TXSG physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, emergency medical technicians, and other specialists from brigades across Texas gathered to take a more proactive approach to mission readiness.

"This was about empowering our team, getting their input, working through clinical governance and credentialing, teaching pre-hospital care and trauma support, and learning how to be as effective in the field as possible," O'Neill said. With more than 20 years of U.S. Air Force experience, O'Neill noted that the conference will help the TXSG Medical Corps align more closely with federal military medical doctrine, mirroring how National Guard forces respond in emergencies.

"The conference was incredible," said Maj. Michele Stuart of the 3rd Brigade. "From classroom instruction to field scenarios, the camaraderie with colleagues from across the state was great—I hope we can do this every year. Actually, I wish we could do it even more often!"

From providing triage during weather disasters to delivering emergency care during the COVID-19 pandemic and the TXSG's annual Operation Border Health program, the Medical Corps has already distinguished itself performing lifesaving work. This year's conference promises to take those capabilities even further.

TXSG Medical Conference






Celebrating 84 Years of the Texas Defense Guard Act

February 10, 2025, marks 84 years since the Texas Defense Guard Act laid the foundation for what would become the modern Texas State Guard. Established in 1941, the Guard has remained steadfast in its commitment to serving the people of Texas, responding to disasters, supporting communities, and providing aid in times of crisis. Through decades of change, the Texas State Guard has adapted, grown, and strengthened its mission, ensuring that it remains a vital force for the Lone Star State. On this date, we honor the dedication, sacrifice, and unwavering service of its members, both past and present, who exemplify resilience, duty, and honor.

Happy Legislative Anniversary to the Texas State Guard—84 years strong and always ready!



From the Desk of CSM Thompson: Read another Monthly Rant

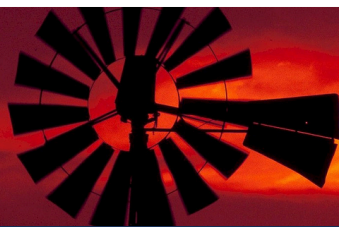
Have you had the opportunity to read one of CSM Harlan Thompson's Rants yet? If not you are in for a treat!

So, what is a CSM Harlan Thompson's "Rant" you ask — Thanks for asking. CSM Thompson's monthly "Rants" are a place on social media for leaders at all levels to grow. Whether drawn from books, podcasts, past experiences, or hard-earned lessons from over 40 years in uniform, these insights are meant to sharpen your leadership skills. While the focus is on NCOs, junior enlisted, warrant officers, and officers can also take away valuable lessons. "I can't reach every unit in person, but I hope to reach you through these rants. Stay sharp," said CSM Thompson.

Check out CSM Thompson's "Rants" on LinkedIn and Facebook.



1ST BRIGADE



A Message from the 1st Brigade Commander

I could not be more pleased than to serve with the Vanguard. Since the change of command, it is clear why the 1st Brigade has a rich history. Our ability to train and provide rapid response teams to safeguard 113 counties located across North Texas and the panhandle is inspired by what I have come to recognize as our CORE values—Character, Optimism, Respect, and Engagement. Character is our foundation; Optimism fuels our positivity; Respect binds us together; and Engagement drives our leadership.

As our senior leadership has learned, I pose challenging questions, uphold high performance expectations, and possess an unwavering commitment to your well-being and our mission success. During my initial unit visits, many will come to know I expect our service members to make ethical decisions, sustain a high state of mission readiness, and be open to innovative ideas.

Lastly, for officers and NCOs placed in unit leadership positions, I expect each of us to be exemplary role models to our peers, subordinates, and junior personnel. Build trust, demand excellence, and support one another. We have a crucial mission, and I am inspired to successfully accomplish all that is expected from the Vanguard with each one of you.

Col. Thomas L. Mitchell Jr., Commander, 1st Brigade

1st Brigade Upcoming Events

Here are some of the key upcoming training dates that we are looking forward to:

- 15 FEB: TETN Awareness/Operator Training (Lubbock)
- 28 FEB: Best Warrior Competition (support from 2nd BN/B and C Co.)
- 22 MARCH: SMRP/COC 3rd BN
- 15-18 MAY: Annual Training
- 20-23 MAY: TDEM Conference/Ft. Worth

Learn More About Col. Thomas Mitchell, Jr., 1BDE Commander

Col. Thomas L. Mitchell, Jr. is a retired U.S. Air Force officer with over 29 years of combined federal and state military service. He served as a squadron commander and held leadership positions at the wing and major command levels in the U.S., Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, including deployments during Operation Southern Watch and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Col. Mitchell joined the Texas State Guard (TXSG) in 2015 where he served as a battalion commander, regiment executive officer, and Chief of Engineers at TXSG Headquarters. His highest military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with a silver oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal, the Texas Outstanding Service Medal, and the TXSG Exemplary Service Medal.

Col. Mitchell holds a Bachelor of Science, a Master of Arts, and a Master of Military Operational Art and Science. He is also a graduate of the Air Command and Staff College and the Air War College. Col. Mitchell will now continue to serve Texas as the Commander of the 1st Brigade, Texas State Guard, stationed at the California Crossing Readiness Center and Armory in Dallas, Texas.





1ST BRIGADE

From Classroom to Field: TXSG Strengthens Search & Rescue Capabilities

By Jeremy K. Stark, 2LT, Texas State Guard

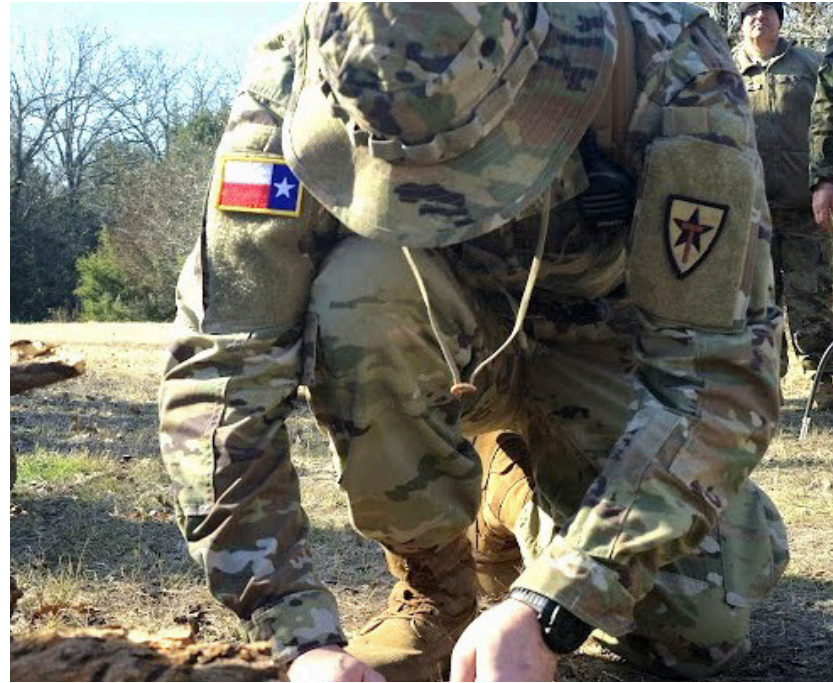
Greenville, TX – Service members of the Texas State Guard’s 1st Brigade recently participated in the TEEX Wide Area Search course, a program designed to enhance Search and Rescue (SAR) capabilities in large, complex environments. This training is vital for responding to disasters like hurricanes and large-scale accidents, equipping personnel with skills in operational preparedness, interagency coordination, and leadership.

“Having taken the class last year, I know how valuable it is to train our SAR service members,” said Sgt. Michael Dewey, a TXSG SAR instructor. “It broadens their knowledge and improves interagency collaboration when Texans need us most.”

The course covers planning, organizing, and executing SAR operations, with a focus on optimizing resources and maintaining situational awareness. Service members work in teams, applying search management techniques and using advanced GPS tools. A culminating exercise simulates real-world disaster scenarios.

“This training honed my skills in briefing, planning, and leading,” said Spc. Joseph McMullan. “The hands-on approach built confidence and connected theory to practice.”

The TEEX program enhances SAR readiness, ensuring TXSG personnel are prepared to serve when disaster strikes. “I now have a much better understanding of SAR operations,” added Sgt. Dev Shafeek.



Texas State Guard Battalion Faces the Elements in Winter Training Exercise

By Esperanza Meza, CPT, Texas State Guard

The Texas State Guard’s 2nd Battalion endured freezing temperatures during their January 17-19 field training in Kerens, Texas, with lows in the 20s and wind chills in the mid-teens. Despite harsh conditions, soldiers honed SAR, survival, and navigation skills, covering GPS, drone operations, ATV/UTV handling, fire starting, and shelter building.

During the FTX, Charlie Company’s engineers identified and safely removed a hazardous “widow-maker” tree limb, ensuring troop safety. Soldiers faced scenarios testing their critical thinking and adaptability, including unexpected challenges like additional lost persons. Mixed teams strengthened teamwork and skill development while navigating rough terrain and coordinating extractions.

Staff Sgt. Sean Mounger taught fieldcraft, fire starting, and land navigation. “The joint exercise was a great opportunity to learn from other specialized teams,” he said. Leadership changes mid-exercise required seamless transitions in command.

Cold winds forced soldiers to manage gear carefully, secure tents, and adapt to fire-starting challenges. Leaders extended safety measures and adjusted uniform standards for warmth. Despite logistical challenges, training remained effective, reinforcing flexibility and self-reliance.

“Morale was high as soldiers embraced discomfort with resilience,” said Maj. Richard Bruner. “This exercise set a new standard, preparing the battalion for any mission, in any environment.”





2ND BRIGADE

Message from the 2BDE Commander, Brig. Gen. Buddy Grantham

It has been ten busy months since last Annual Training (AT). We had storm after storm harm Texas's citizens and their property. Houston got its fair share of damaging storms coming from the Northwest and one good sized Hurricane Beryl coming in from the Gulf. There were outstanding training events, duty performing various disaster recovery missions and we rounded out the calendar year with a building capacity crowd at our Holiday Dining In.

Last AT helped prepare us to meet our missions when we were called to help. The medical training, forklift operations, ropes course and even marching and standing in a formation during AT all helped to prepare us.

The Norwegian Foot March, Feb. 8, was a wonderful event and now we lean into the final preparations for AT, April 24-27, in College Station. Also, just before is the TMD Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX), April 22-24, here in Houston where 50 of you can volunteer to be Role Players for the aerial search and rescue and aeromedical evacuation exercises here in Houston.

A busy Spring and the 2nd Brigade is fortunate to have you in its' ranks. I'll see you down range.

BG Grantham

2nd Brigade Upcoming Events

Here are some of the key upcoming training dates that we are looking forward to:

- March: AT Prep, 4BN FTX
- April 24-27 AT - Rellis Campus TAMU, College Station
- May: AirX support, 4BN Hurrex



Brig. Gen. E.A. "Buddy" Grantham presents retired Lt. Gen. Jake Betty with a Lieutenant General flag at the 2BDE Holiday Dining Out in Houston, Dec. 14, 2024, honoring his service and rank upon retirement. (Photo by CW2 Gregory Illich, 2BDE, TXSG)



2ND BRIGADE

2nd Brigade Hosts Norwegian Foot March

By Gregory Illich, CW2, Texas State Gaurd

More than 155 soldiers and civilians from the Texas State Guard's 2nd Brigade participated in the Norwegian Foot March at Long Acres Ranch, Richmond, Texas, on February 8, 2025. The event, hosted by the 4th Battalion, required participants to complete an 18.6-mile course carrying a 25-lb rucksack within set time limits ranging from 4 hours 30 minutes to 6 hours.

Lt. Col. William Carroll awarded the Norwegian Foot March Badge Certificate to 10 participants, with Anthony Flores finishing first at three hours, 44 minutes. Additionally, 25 participants received the Texas State Guard Exemplary Service Medal for completing the full 30-kilometer course within the time frame. Another 24 participants earned the Commendation Medal for completing 12.4 miles, while 23 troops received the Achievement Medal for finishing 6.2 miles.

Carroll praised the turnout, highlighting the event's role in training, problem-solving, and community outreach. He emphasized its importance in recruiting and building camaraderie among TXSG members, National Guardsmen, ROTC, and civilians.

Spc. Daniela Ayala and Pvt. Juan Cavazos of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, earned the TXSG Commendation Medal for their first-time participation. Ayala expressed determination to return and earn the badge, while Cavazos encouraged others to take on the challenge.

Cpt. Matthew Bramanti, the event's Officer in Charge, commended participants for their resilience and teamwork, reinforcing the march's role in fostering esprit de corps.



Atienza Named 2BDE Senior Enlisted Troop of the Year

In a ceremony on Jan. 18th at the Texas National Guard Armory, Houston, Command Sgt. Maj. John Marshall, of 2nd Brigade, Texas State Guard, presents the '1st Sgt. Christopher Skinner Award' and a ceremonial Bowie knife to 1st Sgt. Hernan Atienza, in recognition of his selection as Senior Enlisted Troop of the Year for 2024.

This award was created in 2018 to honor the memory of 1st Sgt. Christopher Skinner for his years of dedication, selfless service, and leadership, which were an inspiration to all. Well done and well deserved! (Photo by Gregory Illich, CW2, TXSG)



Lt. Col. William Carroll awards Cpt. Jeffery Howard the TXSG Meritorious Service ribbon at 4th Battalion's Annual Dining Out, Houston, Dec. 7, 2024, honoring his 10 years of dedicated service and vital command support. (Photo by Willie Grimes, CW2, TXSG)



3RD BRIGADE

A Message from the 3rd Brigade Commander

The 3rd Brigade of the Texas State Guard covers the largest geographical area in the state, carrying great responsibility. Our brigade has set a high standard for service, proving what it means to be "Equal to the Task."

Our members play vital roles in missions that impact Texans—from the annual Oral Rabies Vaccination Program to Operation Border Health Preparedness, supporting Operation Lone Star, and responding to severe weather emergencies. These missions demand constant training—not just for the expected but the unpredictable—requiring sacrifice.

The dedication of the 3rd Brigade extends beyond drill weekends, often calling for personal time and commitment. That sacrifice is shared by their families, who provide the support that makes our mission possible. Even if they don't wear the uniform, they are part of our extended force, the backbone of our success.

To those family members, I offer my deepest gratitude—on behalf of the Texas State Guard and the citizens we serve. And to the men and women of the 3rd Brigade, it is my honor to serve alongside you. Your dedication and professionalism make us all proud.

Stay ready. Stay sharp. And thank you for what you do.

Brig. Gen. Carl Alvarez, 3rd Brigade Commander, TXSG

3rd Brigade Upcoming Events

Here are key steps to take control of your company's financial health:

- 6-9 March: AT East
- 14-17 May: AT West
- July: Operation Border Health Preparedness (OBHP)

Training at Palo Alto Battlefield

By Joe Martinez, 1LT, 3rd Brigade, Texas State Guard

Readiness is an ongoing process. That's why the 3rd Brigade, 1st Battalion conducted October drill at Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park in Brownsville, Texas.

The training included a two-mile ruck march with a simulated casualty evacuation, testing soldiers' ability to extract and transport injured personnel. Using patient transport litters, troops practiced essential life-saving skills, including first aid and the Stop the Bleed protocol to control severe bleeding.

"All in all, it was an extremely good drill," said Maj. Michele Stuart, battalion executive officer.

Through hands-on training in wound packing, tourniquet application, and emergency response, the unit sharpened its ability to act decisively. Combat-ready teams must adapt, make split-second decisions, and execute complex maneuvers—skills developed through continuous, realistic training.





3RD BRIGADE

Texas State Guard's 3rd Brigade Takes to the Skies for Life-Saving Mission

Are you "equal to the task?" That was the challenge for the Texas State Guard's 3rd Brigade in their mission to prevent the spread of rabies. Texas leads the nation in rabies control, with the Texas Oral Rabies Vaccination Program playing a crucial role.

In 1994, a rabies outbreak led then-Gov. Ann Richards to declare a state health emergency. Since then, aircraft have dropped oral vaccine bait coated in fish oil and fishmeal crumbs annually, primarily along the New Mexico and Mexico borders. Wildlife consumes the vaccine, helping prevent large outbreaks like those first identified among Texas coyotes and gray foxes in 1988.

While the program has greatly reduced rabies threats, the focus now is on maintaining a buffer zone to prevent reintroduction. Texas health experts confirm the vaccine's safety and effectiveness.

This year, Texas State Guard members from the 3rd Brigade, including Capt. Jeannene Tatum, Sgt. Jose Tello, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael White, Privates 1st Class Marivel Moreno and Daniel Wilson, and Private Rafael Cantu, led the 2025 aerial vaccine distribution.

Operating from airports in Culberson County, Del Rio, and Edinburg, the team endured rough weather and low-altitude turbulence while distributing bait along the Texas-Mexico border. Over two and a half weeks, their aircraft logged 33,000 miles in challenging conditions.

"It is a privilege for the 3rd Brigade to work this mission, year after year," said Col. Ian Arvizo. "It's a challenging task requiring courage and fortitude."

With the mission a success, planning is already underway for the next operation: Operation Border Health, launching in July. Stay tuned for more updates in the next newsletter.



Suicide Prevention Briefing

By Joe Martinez, ILT, Texas State Guard

The 1st Battalion of the 3rd Brigade participated in a suicide prevention briefing led by Chaplain Ernest Buchanan during their October drill. According to the latest available statistics from USAFacts.org, Texas has an average suicide rate of 14.4 deaths per 100,000 people.

Suicide remains a serious issue within the military community. A 2023 Department of Defense report found that the suicide rate among active-duty service members was 24.3 per 100,000 in 2021, highlighting the urgent need for prevention efforts. Factors such as mission stress, mental health challenges, and difficulties in balancing duties with civilian life can contribute to the crisis.

"We discussed ways we can help our battle buddies overcome difficulties and tragedies before they become so serious that someone even considers taking their own life," said Buchanan. "What we are emphasizing is A-C-E: Ask, Care, and Escort a battle buddy to get the assistance they might need."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that suicide can result from a range of factors at the individual, relationship, community, and societal levels. Experts emphasize the importance of reaching out to those struggling, fostering open conversations about mental health, and ensuring access to support services.

For those in need, help is available. The Texas Military Department notes the following resources:

- Military Crisis line / National Suicide Prevention Life line: 988
- Military Crisis Line via Text: 838255 and the Crisis Text Line (Mental Health): Text "Hello" to 741741
- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, available to anyone, can be reached by calling 988.
- Veterans Crisis Chat: <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/chat>
- National Alliance on Mental Illness: <https://namicentraltx.org/crisis/>
- Suicide Crisis Lines Around Texas: <http://www.suicide.org/hotlines/texas-suicide-hotlines.html>

If you are not in crisis, but would like to begin mental health counseling, please call 512-782-5069 and speak with someone about the Texas Military Department Counseling Program.



6TH BRIGADE

A Message from the 6th Brigade Commander

As acting commander of the 6th Brigade, I remain committed to Maj. Gen. Sheridan's mission, keeping our brigade focused on training and support operations. A key priority is training, and we have a unique opportunity to enhance readiness through the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program.

CERT provides 24 hours of instructor-led training and four hours of self-study, equipping volunteers with skills for disaster response. Training covers fire safety, light search and rescue, and the Incident Command System (ICS)—all critical for coordinated response efforts.

By participating, we enhance our ability to support communities, prepare families with disaster response skills, and increase ICS familiarity. This is more than personal readiness—it's about setting the standard for others to follow.

6th Brigade has the chance to lead as the first brigade to achieve CERT certification. I encourage you to seize this opportunity and stand ready to serve Texas when needed. Lt. Col. (P) B. Keith Graf, Acting Commander, 6th Brigade

6th Brigade Upcoming Events

Here are some of the key upcoming training dates that we are looking forward to:

- ☑ 24-28 FEB: 6BDE TICE Training Exercise
- ☑ 29-30 MAR: 1BN Patient Staging, Lackland AFB
- ☑ 22-24 APR: 4BN SAREX25 Houston
- ☑ 24-27 APR: 6BDE FY26 Annual Training
- ☑ 28-29 APR: 1BN Foreign Attache Visit

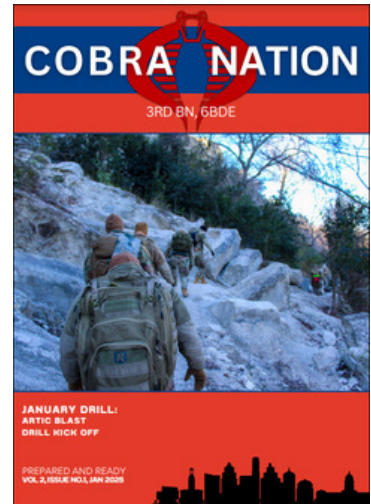
3rd Battalion Launches Newsletter

The 3rd Battalion (3BN) launched a monthly newsletter in October 2024, highlighting drill events and battalion activities. One of the most anticipated features is the "Service Member Spotlight." A job well done to the team behind this high-quality publication:

• Editorial Coordinator
Sgt. Ryan McCready
6BDE, 3BN UPAR
(Newsletter Creator)

• Visual Content Creator
6BDE, 3BN UPAR
Cpl. Ronnie Macek

• Visual Content Editor:
PV2 Andrew O'Brien





6TH BRIGADE

Ocasio Tabled 6th Brigade Sgt. Major

Camp Mabry (Austin), Texas– The 6th Brigade, Texas State Guard (TXSG), marked a leadership transition with a formal Change of Responsibility ceremony on January 25th.

Command Sgt. Maj. John Jacobs officially passed his duties to Command Sgt. Maj. David Ocasio in a ceremony presided over by Maj. Gen. Roger Sheridan, commanding general of the Texas State Guard.

Jacobs, who has more than 35 years of military service—including 23 years in the U.S. Navy and 12.5 years with the TXSG—will continue serving Texas in his new role at headquarters.

The brigade heartily welcomed Ocasio into the senior enlisted leadership position. With 39 years of military experience—25 in the U.S. Army and 14.5 in the Texas State Guard—he brings extensive leadership expertise. Most recently, he was the command sergeant major for the 3rd Battalion, 6th Brigade, from April 2021 to December 2024.

“Be at the right place, at the right time, in the right uniform, and with the right attitude,” Ocasio said.

The 6th Brigade remains committed to strength, service, and readiness—Texans serving Texas!



6th Brigade Battalion Updates

The 1st and 2nd Battalions have merged and now operate as a combined unit specializing in Medical, Search and Rescue (SARR), Boat/Dive Operations, and Engineering. The battalion is led by Maj. Don Bice, 1st Battalion, 6th Brigade Commander.

Norwegian Ruck March 2025 - Six service members from the 4th Battalion participated in the Norwegian Ruck March this year, completing the challenge while carrying 25lb packs:

·30km: 1st Lt. Lucas Meier, Staff Sgt. David Schmid, PV2 Arieious Revonhart

·20km: 1st Sgt. Philip Harralson

·10km: Staff Sgt. Esequiel Garcia, PV2 Jason Schaub

If you have special notes or announcements from your 6th Brigade battalion to include in future newsletters, reach out to SGT Jason Hunter, 6BDE PAO. We'd like to include your news here.





RECRUIT TRAINING

RTC Holds NCO Induction Ceremony

By Boyd D. Ocon, WO1, RTC, TXSG

On January 18, 2025, the Texas State Guard Recruiting and Training Center carried out a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Induction Ceremony. Attending the event were Command Sergeant Major of the Texas State Guard, Harlan Thompson, several brigade command sergeants major, and the leadership of the Recruiting and Training Center. During the induction ceremony, Command Sergeant Major Alan Smith of the Recruiting and Training Center drew a line in the ground with a sword. Inductees were asked to cross the line symbolically representing their induction into the NCO Corps. The NCOs were also administered the oath of the NCO Corps.

Command Sergeant Major Smith emphasized the importance of the NCO Induction Ceremony, "The tradition of the NCO Induction ceremony is a passage used by senior NCOs to convey to the newly promoted sergeants the special [importance] and sense of esteem felt when a young Soldier enters the NCO Corps. This ceremony gives them their first experience of pride and respect that goes along with being a member of the NCO Corps."

Command Sergeant Major Thompson also indicated that this ceremony is important for a new NCO and that it will be implemented in every brigade of the Texas State Guard.



RTC Upcoming Training Dates

Here are some of the key upcoming training dates that we are looking forward to:

- ☑ 26 Feb – 02 Mar 2025- Annual Training/DCOOC
- ☑ 22 Mar 2025- OCS Graduation
- ☑ 26-30 March 2025 - RBOT and Officer PME
- ☑ 16-20 April 2025- NCO Academy & DCOOC
- ☑ 28 May – 01 June 2025- RBOT

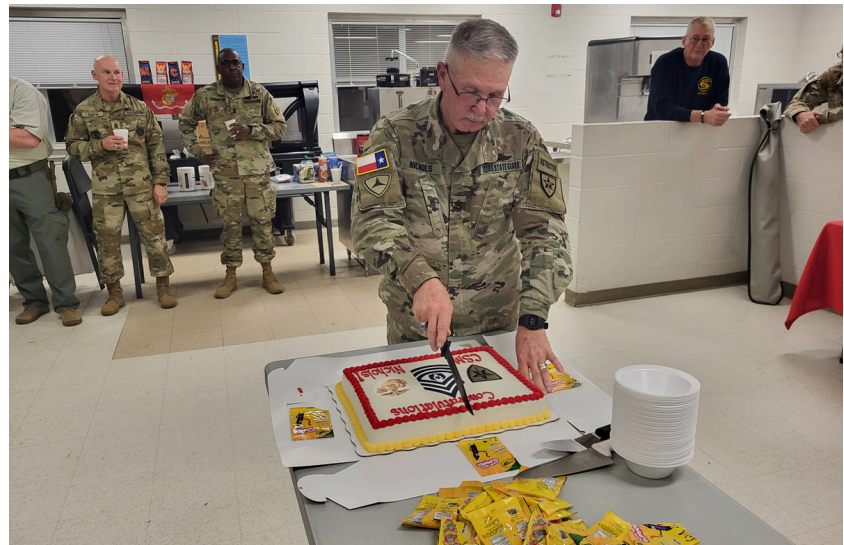




RECRUIT TRAINING

January Combined Skills Course at RBOT

In January 2025, as part of the Basic Orientation Training, new troops went through the Combined Skills Course at the Texas State Guard Recruiting and Training Center. This course encompasses all of the medical, land navigation, and teamwork skills learned during their time in BOT at the RTC. Trainees are tasked with locating a downed pilot using land navigation skills, properly communicating on the radio, providing first aid, and carrying the injured pilot to an extraction point.



CSM John Nichols Retiring

CSM John Nichols of the Texas State Guard Recruiting and Training Center completed his final drill in January, marking the end of a faithful 36-year career in the United States Marines and the Texas State Guard. Those who have trained at the RTC will undoubtedly remember him for his unwavering dedication to mentoring and instructing troops, particularly in drill and ceremony. The RTC extends its deepest gratitude to CSM Nichols for his decades of devoted service to both his country and the great state of Texas.



September Basic Orientation Training

Cadre from the Texas State Guard Recruiting and Training Center gave vital instruction to new troops during the Basic Orientation Training course during a hot weekend in September 2024. New soldiers learned essential skills to help them become mission ready members of the Texas State Guard.



PROMOTIONS

**NOTE: Information per HQ T1, accurate at time of award/promotions

JAN – FEB 2025 PROMOTIONS

3BDE PV2 Braydan Allen
 RTC SPC Alfred Alvarado
 1BDE PV2 Tyler Arrington
 3BDE PV2 Summer Arroyos
 2BDE SGT Ryan Best
 6BDE SPC Joshua Bradshaw
 1BDE PV2 Jacob Brown
 3BDE SPC David Cameron
 2BDE SGT Laura Carrell
 RTC SPC Gerardo Castillo
 B/S SGT Travis Cena
 3BDE PV2 Abraham Chapa
 B/S SGT Christie Cole
 RTC 2LT Rowdy Daigle
 RTC OC Jose Dorsey
 6BDE SPC Alexander Downey
 RTC SGT Ricky DuBay
 2BDE SGT Ian Dunson
 B/S SSG Joseph Eanes
 2BDE SGT Javier Escobedo
 RTC CPL Djiaudeu Faustini
 RTC PV2 Joey Fick
 6BDE MAJ Dane Fowlkes
 6BDE SPC Douglas Gable
 3BDE PV2 Franco Gamez
 3BDE PV2 Alejandro Gonzalez
 1BDE PV2 Sharon Grammer
 RTC CW4 Lynn Hale
 RTC 2LT Rodney Henderson
 RTC MAJ Guy Hood
 RTC PV2 Ian Hopper
 3BDE SGT Maria Huerta
 3BDE PV2 Hector Ibarra
 6BDE SGM John Jacobs
 1BDE 2LT Donald Kannel

6BDE PV2 Dylan Kotara
 3BDE 2LT Michael Landa
 RTC SFC Michael Leal
 3BDE PFC Marcus Leanos
 RTC PFC Kelley Ledlow
 6BDE SPC Bryan Lopez
 1BDE SPC Larry Mangum
 3BDE PV2 Rosalinda Martinez
 RTC SPC Camden McCulloch
 6BDE CPT Mary Jane Meisner
 3BDE PV2 David Menchaca
 3BDE SPC Allan Moya
 HQ BG John Muirhead
 6BDE PFC Joshua Muth
 RTC SPC Christelle Ngueumeni
 2BDE CPL Oluwapelumi Olaode
 6BDE PFC Ariyo Olutayo
 RTC PFC Cody Paulsen
 RTC SPC Liza Pena
 RTC SPC Arnold Richmond
 RTC SGT Orlando Rivera
 RTC PV2 Justin Roberts
 3BDE PFC Noelia Sanchez
 RTC SPC Emiliano Sandoval
 3BDE SSG Alexander Santiago
 3BDE PFC Carlos Segovia
 HQ MG Roger Sheridan
 RTC SFC James Stephenson
 RTC SPC Colton Talk
 HQ BG Stephen Thomas
 3BDE SPC Shawn Villarreal
 6BDE SPC Vanessa Villarreal
 RTC CW4 John Harris Watts
 1BDE MAJ David West
 1BDE 1LT Madison West
 2BDE SPC David Wright
 1BDE SGT Daniel Zanelotti

A Note from the TXSG Public Affairs Office

Welcome to the first edition of 'The Guard Post: The Quarterly Newsletter of the Texas State Guard.' This newsletter represents the first attempt by the TXSG Public Affairs Office in producing a statewide publication by, for, and about Texas State Guard service members. We hope you enjoy it and find it helpful in keeping up with the broad range of activities of the TXSG.

Part of our mission is to amplify the extraordinary work of TXSG service members, to celebrate our accomplishments and highlight our goals. Feel free to share this newsletter with your colleagues and friends. If you know of an official TXSG activity we should be covering, reach out to our full-time PAO, Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Farley. If you would like to be a contributing photographer or writer, reach out to your brigade PAO.

You may well find your own name mentioned in this newsletter! You may also spot mistakes. We are aiming for perfection, refining our workflow and tools, but as a certain General (who shall remain nameless) likes to say with a laugh, "nobody's perfect, but we know that next time, we'll suck less." That's the plan: to get better and better with each edition. Let your brigade PAO know what you like, what needs improvement, and how we can better serve you: the men and women of the premier State Guard force in the country!

DUTY. HONOR. TEXAS.

PAO: CPT David Brown
 DPAO: CW2 Kevin Farley





AWARDS

**NOTE: Information per HQ T1, accurate at time of award/promotions

JAN & FEB 2025 AWARDS

1LT Vadim Akhmadikin, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 1LT Vadim Akhmadikin, TXSG Service Medal
 OC Md Noor E Alam, TXSG Training Ribbon
 OC Md Noor E Alam, TXSG Physical Fitness Ribbon
 PV2 Braydan Allen, TXSG Training Ribbon
 PV2 Braydan Allen, TXSG Physical Fitness Ribbon
 SSG John Alvarado, TXSG Service Medal
 2LT Leonar Alvarez, TXSG Op. Border Star – Permanent
 PFC Joe Aquino, TXSG Service Medal
 PV2 Tyler Arrington, TXSG Training Ribbon
 PV2 Tyler Arrington, TXSG Physical Fitness Ribbon
 PV2 Summer Arroyos, TXSG Training Ribbon
 SPC Alfred Baber, TXSG Service Medal
 MSG Martin Baise, TXSG Service Medal
 SGT Nandor Bank, TXSG Service Medal
 SSG Scott Barnett, TXSG Service Medal
 MAJ Cori Bergeron, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 CPT Iain Berry, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 CPL KC Blacklock, TXSG Service Medal
 PFC Michael Brasket, TXSG Achievement Medal
 PFC Ashley Brown, TXSG Service Medal
 PV2 Jacob Brown, TXSG Training Ribbon
 PV2 Jacob Brown, TXSG Physical Fitness Ribbon
 CPL Randy Burnett, TXSG Service Medal
 SPC Daniel Butler, TXSG Service Medal
 CW2 John Butler, TXSG Service Medal
 PFC Andre Cachero, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 SPC David Cameron, TXSG Service Medal
 SPC Thiago Campos, TXSG Training Ribbon
 SPC Thiago Campos, TXSG Physical Fitness Ribbon
 CSM Ernie Casiano, TXSG Recruiting Ribbon
 CPL Erick Castillo, TXSG Service Medal
 1LT Cliff Cedeno, TXSG Recruiting Ribbon
 CPT Kent Chambers, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 CPT Kent Chambers, TXSG Commendation Medal
 PV2 Abraham Chapa, TXSG Training Ribbon
 SPC Ulysses Chua, TXSG Service Medal
 SGT Timothy Coleman, TXSG Service Medal
 CPT Mark Coleman, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 CPT Mark Coleman, TXSG Service Medal
 SGT Zachry Correa, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 SPC David Criswell, TXSG Service Medal
 CPT Ysenia Crouse, TXSG Service Medal
 SPC John Dennis, Commanding Generals Individual Award
 SPC John Dennis, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 CPT Merlin Doepner, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 SSG Alberto Dominguez, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 SPC Mark Dong, TXSG Service Medal
 SGT Ian Dunson, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 SGT Ian Dunson, TXSG Service Medal
 SPC Brenton Eaton, TXSG Recruiting Badge – Basic
 COL David Erinakes, Texas Faithful Service Medal

SGT Kevin Evans, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 SGT Kevin Evans, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 WO1 Michael Faber, Commanding Generals Individual Award
 WO1 Michael Faber, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 CPL Djiadeu Faustin, TXSG Training Ribbon
 PV2 Joey Fick, TXSG Training Ribbon
 SGT Pedro Flores, TXSG Service Medal
 LTC Randy Frazier, SGAUS Meritorious Service Medal
 PV2 Franco Gamez, TXSG Training Ribbon
 PV2 Franco Gamez, TXSG Physical Fitness Ribbon
 SGT Adam Garcia, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 SSG Meredith Garraway, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 CW2 James Gigante, TXSG Service Medal
 SGT Roman Gonzales, TXSG Service Medal
 PV2 Alejandro Gonzalez, TXSG Training Ribbon
 PV2 Alejandro Gonzalez, TXSG Physical Fitness Ribbon
 PV2 Sharon Grammer, TXSG Training Ribbon
 PV2 Sharon Grammer, TXSG Physical Fitness Ribbon
 CPL Danelle Hall, TXSG Service Medal
 PV2 Loyd Hanson, TXSG Service Medal
 SPC James Hardin, Adjutant Generals Individual Award
 SFC Lee Harper, TXSG Service Medal
 SPC Justin Harvey, TXSG Service Medal
 SPC Edward Hawkins, TXSG Service Medal
 PFC Sean Hendricks, TXSG Service Medal
 2LT Cebron Hendrix, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 SPC Crystal Hernandez, TXSG Service Medal
 CPL Luke Hinton, TXSG Commendation Medal
 CPL Eric Hoffman, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 MAJ Frank Hooton, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 SPC Garrett Hopper, TXSG Service Medal
 PV2 Ian Hopper, TXSG Training Ribbon
 CW2 Stephen Hopper, Texas Medal of Merit
 CPL Jerah Hutchins, TXSG Service Medal
 PV2 Hector Ibarra, TXSG Training Ribbon
 PV2 Hector Ibarra, TXSG Physical Fitness Ribbon
 1SG Ruel Isales, TXSG Service Medal
 SGT Trevor Jackson, TXSG Service Medal
 SGM John Jacobs, Texas Outstanding Service Medal
 SGT Jose Jimenez, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 SFC Jeannette Jimmerson, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 PFC Justin Jones, TXSG Service Medal
 SPC Caleb Jones, TXSG Training Ribbon
 SPC Caleb Jones, TXSG Physical Fitness Ribbon
 SGT Andrew Khachikian, TXSG Service Medal
 CPL Shawn Kimsey, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 CPL Shawn Kimsey, TXSG Service Medal
 CPL Michelle Kirby, TXSG Service Medal
 CPL Richard Kitterman, TXSG Service Medal
 PV2 Dylan Kotara, TXSG Training Ribbon
 CPL Kevin Kusch, TXSG Service Medal
 LTC Dale Laine, Texas Faithful Service Medal





AWARDS

**NOTE: Information per HQ TI, accurate at time of award/promotions

CPL Brian Lamb, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 CPL Brian Lamb, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 CPL Brian Lamb, TXSG Service Medal
 PFC Steven Lane, TXSG Service Medal
 MSG Loren Ledlow, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 SFC Sarah Lewis, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 SSG Michael Littlejohn, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 WOC Matthew Liu, TXSG Training Ribbon
 WOC Matthew Liu, TXSG Physical Fitness Ribbon
 SSG Jennifer Mabry, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 1SG Mario Magallanez, TXSG Service Medal
 PV2 Rosalinda Martinez, TXSG Training Ribbon
 PV2 Rosalinda Martinez, TXSG Physical Fitness Ribbon
 SGT Katherine Marx, TXSG Service Medal
 SSG Erik Matthies, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 2LT Dawn McCormick, TXSG Service Medal
 SGT John McDonald, TXSG Achievement Medal
 MAJ Scott McKinlay, TXSG Exemplary Service Medal
 PV2 David Menchaca, TXSG Training Ribbon
 PV2 David Menchaca, TXSG Physical Fitness Ribbon
 SPC Charles Mikolajczyk, TXSG Service Medal
 LTC William Moore, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 MAJ Sharon Moreno, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 1LT Earnest Navarro, TXSG Service Medal
 CW2 Armando Nevares, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 SFC Brenda Newton, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 CSM David Ocasio, TXSG Recruiting Badge - Basic
 WO1 Boyd Ocon, TXSG Service Medal
 CPL Oluwapelumi Olaode, TXSG Training Ribbon
 CPT Kym Olson, TXSG Recruiting Badge - Basic
 PV2 Juan Ortega, TXSG Service Medal
 PFC Jose Ortiz Santes, TXSG Service Medal
 PFC Christopher Osaigbovo, TXSG Service Medal
 1LT Luis Pamintuan, TXSG Service Medal
 SPC Rafael Paredes, TXSG Service Medal
 SSG Jose Perez, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 SSG Jose Perez, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 SSG Yvonne Perrin, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 SSG Yvonne Perrin, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 1LT Steven Poston, TXSG Service Medal
 CPL Jonathon Prior, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 CPL Jonathon Prior, TXSG Service Medal
 1LT Mohammad Qureshi, TXSG Service Medal
 MAJ Kameron Raisi, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 MAJ Kameron Raisi, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 SPC Avis Ramirez, TXSG Training Ribbon
 MSG John Rios, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 PV2 Justin Roberts, TXSG Training Ribbon
 PV2 Justin Roberts, TXSG Physical Fitness Ribbon
 LTC William Rockett, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 SGT Johnny Ruiz, TXSG Good Conduct Medal

SGT Johnny Ruiz, TXSG Service Medal
 COL Wendell Sadler, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 SSG Angela Scarborough, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 CPT Michael Sevilla, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 PFC Nathan Shaner, TXSG Training Ribbon
 1LT Antonio Shavers, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 CPT William Smith, TXSG Achievement Medal
 CPT William Smith, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 CPT William Smith, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 CPT William Smith, TXSG Service Medal
 CPT Charles Southern, TXSG Service Medal
 CW2 Raymond Spoth, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 SGT William Stanley, TXSG Service Medal
 SGT Anthony Steck, TXSG Service Medal
 PV2 Kathleen Stevenson, TXSG Service Medal
 SGT Andrea Stevenson, TXSG Service Medal
 MSG Gerald Steward, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 LTC William Tarver, Adjutant Generals Individual Award
 CPL William Terrell, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 WO1 John Thomas, TXSG Service Medal
 SSG James Thompson, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 CPL Cassandra Trevino, TXSG Service Medal
 SPC Carlos Turcios, TXSG Training Ribbon
 SSG Benjamin Turner, TXSG Service Medal
 CPL Timothy Van Dresar, TXSG Service Medal
 MAJ Michael Wagoner, TXSG Service Medal
 SSG David Wagstaff, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 SSG David Wagstaff, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 SSG David Wagstaff, TXSG Service Medal
 CPT Timothy Walker, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 1LT Mark Walters, TXSG Service Medal
 SPC Jake Ward, TXSG Service Medal
 CW4 John Harrison Watts, TXSG Exemplary Service Medal
 SGT Mikky Wehman, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 SGT Mikky Wehman, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 CPL Jarrod Whitney, TXSG Service Medal
 1LT Christopher Whitt, TXSG Meritorious Service Medal
 1LT Christopher Whitt, TXSG Service Medal
 CPL Nicholas Willenberg, TXSG Good Conduct Medal
 CPL Nicholas Willenberg, TXSG Service Medal
 CPL Nicholas Willenberg, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 CW2 Georgina Wolfert, TXSG Recruiting Ribbon
 SPC Rllan Wood, TXSG Service Medal
 SPC Robert Wood, TXSG Service Medal
 CPL Ariel Wood, TXSG Commendation Medal
 MG Anthony Woods, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 MG Anthony Woods, Texas Superior Service Medal
 SPC Matthew Worrell, TXSG Service Medal
 SSG Stefan Wray, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 WO1 Aaron Young, Texas Faithful Service Medal
 SGT Daniel Zanelotti, NCO Professional Development Ribbon

