



Texas Military Department News

"Texans Serving Texas"

PRESS RELEASE

Media representatives wishing to obtain more information should contact the Texas Military Department's State Public Affairs Office at ng.tx.txarng.mbx.pao@mail.mil or 512-782-5620.

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLIC RELEASE:

Tanks scheduled to return to the Texas Army National Guard

AUSTIN, Texas (Jan. 27, 2021) – The Texas Army National Guard was selected by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau and the United States Army to receive additional force structure consisting of an Armored Cavalry Squadron. The Squadron, relocating from the Pennsylvania National Guard, is a subordinate unit of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee. The 278th is aligned with the Texas 36th Infantry Division. Adding this capability increases the overall strength of the Texas Army National Guard and will bring tanks back to the Texas Guard for the first time since 2004.

“In 1949, the 49th Armored Division was organized in Texas. With the end of the Cold War and the dawn of the War on Terror, light infantry was needed more than heavy armor and the Department of Defense made the decision to convert the 49th to a light infantry division. In 2004, the 49th was officially reflagged as the 36th Infantry Division,” said Jeff Hunt, Director of the Texas Military Forces Museum. “Maintaining a Tank Battalion is not easy and it really shows great trust in the Texas National Guard and our maintenance, training and recruiting abilities to be entrusted with this mission.”

The 3rd Squadron of the 278th ACR will be re-stationed from Pennsylvania to the National Guard armory located in Temple, while the equipment will be relocated to the Texas National Guard Mobilization and Training Equipment Site on North Fort Hood. This move will enhance the relationship of the Texas National Guard with the U.S. Army's III Corps and Fort Hood, as III Corps is the Army's heavy corps.

This capability will also enhance the Texas National Guard's State Partnership program with Egypt, Chile and the Czech Republic. Each of these nations currently have heavy forces within their armies. Egypt, Texas' newest partner, has the fourth largest inventory of tanks in the world and adding this capability to Texas will strengthen these relationships and military alliances around the world.

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"Because of the Texas Guards' deep roots with armor, we have a lot of experienced officers and enlisted Soldiers who bring a wealth of knowledge to the fight," said Maj. Gen. Tracy Norris, the adjutant general of Texas. "Through our state partnership program, we capitalize all of our Soldiers' skill sets and draw on our partners' real-world best practices. This process is simultaneously strengthening both forces and making the world a safer place."

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The mission of the Texas Military Department (TMD) is to provide the Governor and the President with ready and trained forces in support of the citizens of Texas and State and Federal civil/military authorities at home and abroad.

The Texas Military Department is commanded by the Adjutant General of Texas, the state's senior military official appointed by the governor, and is comprised of the Office of State Administration (formerly the Office of the Executive Director), the Texas Army National Guard (TXARNG), the Texas Air National Guard (TXANG) and the Texas State Guard (TXSG).

For more information about the Texas Military Department visit our Website at <https://tmd.texas.gov>.