



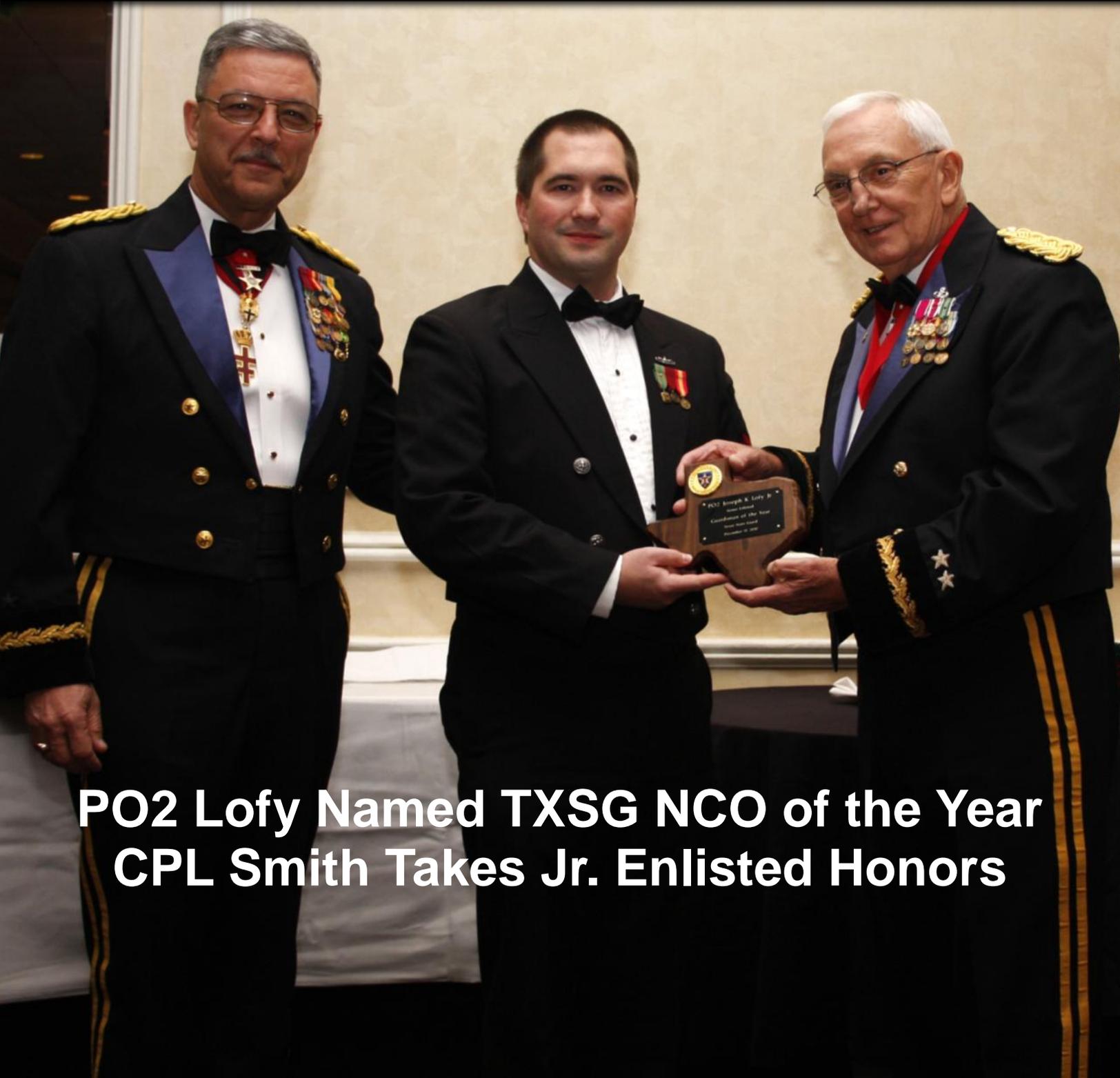
GUIDON



Vol. I No. 1

Quarterly Magazine of the Texas State Guard

Winter 2011



**PO2 Lofy Named TXSG NCO of the Year
CPL Smith Takes Jr. Enlisted Honors**

THE GUIDON

Winter 2011

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On the Cover PO2 Lofy (center) accepts the NCO for 2010 award from MG Raymond Peters (right) Commanding General of the TXSG as Maritime Regiment Commander Brigadier General Robert J. Bodisch (left) looks on. Photo by SGT Timothy Pruitt



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20 January 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR: Component Commanders, Texas State Guard

SUBJECT: Commander's Intent

Commanders,

As we move into the year 2011, I would like to take a moment to reflect on our accomplishments thus far and what lies ahead.

The Texas State Guard continues to be the leader in Defense Support to Civil Authorities for the Texas Military Forces. The TXSG has already made significant strides in disaster response operations and has developed bonding partnerships with multiple disaster response agencies to ensure a unified, coordinated approach to disaster relief. Veterans of nine hurricanes, newly acquired missions, improved training have enhanced interoperability for this organization and has resulted in the largest and best prepared State Defense Force in the nation.

MISSION

Our mission of providing mission-ready military forces to assist State and local authorities in homeland security and community service remains the focus of planning, training, exercises, and operations. The training focus for the Texas State Guard in 2011 is to support this mission.

GROW THE FORCE

Attain the goal of 2300 Texas State Guardsmen prior to the end of 2011. Continued emphasis on refining recruitment and retention management techniques and development of R & R specialists is a must. Retention is a problem that must be addressed.. Diversity of the force is a high priority.

TRAINING

Train to support the mission. Continue to plan, rehearse and conduct regimental / battalion / group level training and exercises that incorporates tough, realistic disaster operations scenarios and the need to understand the relevance of quality response. Leaders at all levels are to set the example, empower subordinates, and take care of their people throughout training, exercises, and operations.

EDUCATION

Continue to emphasize the relevance of military and civilian educations throughout the command. Commanders are to ensure that all members of their unit are knowledgeable of the Professional Military Education (PME) process, the Military Emergency Management Specialists (MEMS) process, and the availability of career enhancing educational opportunities.

COMMUNICATIONS

Commanders are to implement a redundant communications plan that is not reliant upon land line or cell phone communications. TXSG units must be able to communicate within their command in austere disaster scenarios.

AUTOMATION

The key objective in automation is to standardize information management, improve data accessibility and reporting through centralized data collection and storage.

Continue to do the good work you have been doing. Thank you for your efforts

RAYMOND C. PETERS
Major General, Texas State Guard
Commanding General.

Leadership Message**THE GUIDON to Provide Direction, Communication and Information for TXSG****Colleagues:**

On behalf of the Commanding General, MG Raymond Peters, I'm pleased to bring you this premier issue of the TXSG flagship command information publication: **THE GUIDON**.

The leadership of both the Texas Military Forces and the Texas State Guard is committed to keeping you informed of important news and information in an accurate and timely manner. Information is a true force multiplier.



Those of you who are students of military tradition will recognize immediately why we chose The Guidon as the name of this publication. The central role of the guidon is steeped in military history and tradition. Since medieval times, the guidon has served as a source of direction,

communication and pride. Historically, the unit guidon served as the point around which the soldiers of an organization rallied as they moved forward into battle. Today, a unit's guidon represents its legacy and its potential for performance and achievement.

The last year has been an exciting time for the TXSG. The cover story of this issue is about two of our members who both represent our accomplishments and embody our values. They are great examples of Texans serving Texans. You'll also find news highlights from throughout the year.

The Texas State Guard is a diverse command with a lot happening. This magazine offers you a glimpse into the different activities and the many volunteers hard at work to make a difference across the state to the citizens of Texas. There are many that believe TXSG is one of the most accomplished State Guard units in the country. I believe a quick read through this catalogue of our accomplishments would prove that point.

I invite you to share this magazine with your friends and family so they can share in our achievements.

This is your magazine, so your feedback is important. Communications can only be effective if it's two-way so let us know what's on your mind. Send your comments to me at the email address below.

Colonel Robert Hastings
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THE GUIDON

A Texas State Guard Publication



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Winter 2011

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Two Special Texans Honored for Their Spirit, Professionalism and Desire to Serve Others

**Story by MAJ Michael Quinn Sullivan
Deputy Chief of Public Affairs, TXSG**

Going above and beyond what is expected of a Texan has long been the hallmark of the men and women serving in the Texas State Guard. But this year's junior enlisted member and noncommissioned officer of the year exceed the state guard's high standard for exceptional service.

Corporal James Smith of Arlington said he was just looking for a way to "give something back to my adopted state" when he joined the Texas State Guard in 2009. He said he was motivated to "do something to feel like I have earned the right to call myself a Texan."

As the Junior Enlisted Service Member of 2010, CPL Smith says he believes the award reflects on the collaborative work of his fellow enlisted men and officers in the 4th Regiment.

Since joining the TXSG, CPL Smith has served in the 4th Regiment's 2nd Battalion as a squad leader, developing materials to aid in the training of non prior-service guardsmen. He serves as his unit's personnel NCO and public affairs officer.

During Hurricane Alex, CPL Smith deployed to south Texas where he oversaw the first operational utilization of the battalion's Special Needs Evacuation Tracking System (SNETS). Outside the Texas Guard, CPL Smith is a professional engineer with degrees from Oklahoma State University and Emory-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Major Wendell Sadler, CPL Smith's commanding officer said "CPL Smith has proven to be an apt leader within the unit and has expanded his role into the areas of personnel and public affairs. His attitude and initiative exemplifies the values of the TXSG."

The NCO of the year is similarly motivating.

The Texas Maritime Regiment's 1st Battalion has been served ably by Petty Officer 2nd Class Joseph Lofy of Katy.

Drawing from his prior service in the United States Navy and civilian work in emergency management,

PO2 Lofy serves in the dual role of communications and intelligence NCO. He has pursued qualifications on the IC4U, ISIS and TICP communications systems, while also receiving his general HAM operating license.

"I joined the TXSG because I did not feel like I was finished serving my country and state," said PO2 Lofy. "The state guard was the outlet I felt I needed to explore, as it was a marriage of the two pastimes I enjoy: the military and emergency management."

His enjoyment is evident in by the degree to which he involves himself in his duties and responsibilities. In July, he received the Commanding General's Individual Award for his support of the joint TMAR / Texas Parks and Wildlife training exercise. Commander Wayne Hogard of the Maritime Regiment says PO2 Lofy is a model guardsman.

"PO2 Lofy's professionalism and volunteering spirit, along with his 'can-do' attitude, exemplifies the embodiment of the TXSG soldier."

That spirit was evident in 2010. While returning home from TXSG annual training, PO2 Lofy witnessed a motorcycle accident. He stopped and rendered lifesaving aid – an action for which commendation is pending.

The graduate of Fort Hayes State University is currently enrolled in a master's degree program in emergency and disaster management. PO2 Lofy said he is excited about the opportunities presented in the TXSG to "continue to volunteer and learn all I can."

PO2 Lofy said that from the recognition he feels an even deeper obligation to "model for our junior personnel" the qualities to be a senior NCO.

When asked why he felt the compelled to be in the TXSG, Junior Enlisted Member of the Year CPL Smith spoke for many native born sons of the Lone Star State.

"There is something special about Texas," he said. "I don't care where you go in the world, when you tell people that you are from Texas there is a certain recognition that you are from someplace special."

It's the dedicated service of PO2 Lofy, CPL Smith and the more than 2,000 men and women of the State Guard, who make the Lone Star State special.



*Major General Raymond Peters (right) presents the Junior Enlisted Service Member of 2010 Award to Corporal James Smith at the Annual Awards Dinner in December, 2010.
Photo by SGT Timothy Pruitt*

1LT Davenport is Texas A&M Grad, Navy Vet

Gov Perry Swears In 2,000th Guardsman MG Peters Plans Larger TXSG by 2013

**Story by MAJ Michael Quinn Sullivan
Deputy Chief of Public Affairs, TXSG**

AUSTIN, Texas - Commanding General Ray Peters has established a goal of the Texas State Guard to reach a troop strength of 2,300 by the end of 2012, and this year an important milestone was crossed ending 2010 with 2,003 guardsmen.

On December 1, Texas Governor Rick Perry administered the oath of office to the 2,000th active-duty guardsman, First Lieutenant Troy Davenport, at a ceremony in the Capitol.

It was personal relationships that drew 1LT Davenport into the TXSG.

A 2003 graduate of Texas A&M and the Corps of Cadets, 1LT Davenport was commissioned as an Ensign in the US Navy. He was the assistant navigator and electronic warfare officer on the USS Bataan. 1LT Davenport now works in the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division. It was there he met Lieutenant Colonel Kristopher Krueger, who "was most pivotal in my decision to join."

At that first drill, 1LT Davenport saw a "hero of mine from my Corps days, Colonel (Jake) Betty, and at that point I knew that if he was a part of this organization, then I wanted to be a part of it."

Meanwhile, 1LT Davenport said the more he investigated the Texas State Guard, the more he was struck by the reputation and professionalism of the men and women serving.

"I quickly found out that the guard was filled with individuals that took time out of their own busy, successful lives so that they could serve others," said 1LT Davenport.



Texas Governor Rick Perry administers the oath of office to 1LT Troy Davenport, as his wife Lisa watches on.

Photo by LTC Kristopher Krueger

1LT Davenport, who was raised in San Antonio, lives in Georgetown with his wife, Lisa, and their two children.

TMAR Honors POWs Killed in Bataan Death March

Story by LDCR Dale Lane, TMAR

The Bataan Death March (also known as The Death March of Bataan) took place in the Philippines in 1942 after the three-month Battle of Bataan, part of the Battle of the Philippines (1941-42), during World War II.

On April 9, 2011, the Maritime Regiment of the Texas State Guard will commemorate the heroic sacrifices of more than 10,000 American and Filipino soldiers taken prisoners-of-war by Japanese Imperial forces. The transfer or 'forced march' of American and Filipino POWs began April 9, 1942.

These brave defenders of our freedoms; sick, starving and bedraggled, were forced to march 66

miles under a broiling sun to a railhead for a trip to an even more horrifying and deadly prisoner-of-war camp. Thousands died during the forced march; stabbed, shot or beheaded simply for falling, needing a drink of water, or assisting a fallen fellow soldier.

The Maritime Regiment of the TXSG will road march from Camp Mabry to the state Capitol. Following a ceremony with top elected state officials, the Maritime Regiment will return via road march to Camp Mabry where a lunch will be served to Regimental members, their families and honored guests, including donors to this project.

Remembering the valor of our nation's fallen heroes is one of the primary values of the Texas State Guard.

Chaplains Bring Unique Gifts in Service to God, Country and Our Troops

Story by Chaplain (COL) Farrar Bentley

Military chaplains serve both God and country by bringing their unique gifts and training in an ever-changing and challenging environment.

The organized chaplaincy in the American Army was established prior to the Declaration of Independence. The Second Continental Congress created the position of chaplain on July 29, 1775 on the recommendation of General George Washington.

A chaplain must have completed both college and theological education, received endorsement by his/her denomination for ministry to military personnel, and meet membership requirements of the Texas State Guard.

The primary mission of a chaplain is to perform ministry as well as providing a program of religious, moral, and ethic leadership to fellow members of the military, their family, and selected civilians as directed in the Texas State Guard.

The chaplain is a special staff officer and serves on the special staff of the commander. In this capacity the chaplain advises the commander on matters of religion, morals, and morale.

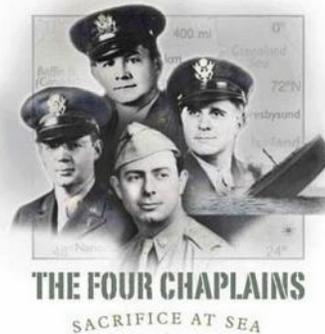
The chaplain maintains liaison with civilian religious groups and other civilian agencies to facilitate the responsibilities of the activity, deployment, or at home station.

The Four Chaplains:

On the 2nd of February, 1943, the troop transport ship Dorchester was steaming the North Atlantic just off the coast of Greenland with 902 soldiers; a German submarine found her target and 672 soldiers and sailors lost their lives.

The Four Chaplains: Catholic, Jewish, Dutch Reformed, and Methodist shared their life jackets, gloves, and comforted the men in the twenty seven minutes before the ship slid under the waves. Many survivors record the Four Chaplains, arms linked, praying together in Latin, English, and Hebrew at the railing of the ship as it went down.

The story of these chaplains captures the best of what a military chaplain strives to be. In their self-sacrifice, their broad-mindedness, their spiritual passion, and their devotion to troops, these chaplains embodied the highest that men of God in the military have hoped to achieve and set a vision of greatness for future generations. It is the clergy in uniform today that symbolize and carry that dream in their daily walk.



NCO Development Program Leads the Way

**Story by CPL James Smith
Unit Public Affairs Representative, 4th REGT**

The 2nd Battalion's Non-Commissioned Officer Development Program (NCODP) continues to lead the way for the entire Texas State Guard. Former battalion Command Sergeant Major Albert Willars started the program and with his promotion to TXSG Army Command Sergeant Major the program is going statewide. As CSM Willars says, "NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS WILL ALWAYS LEAD THE WAY".



*Mr. Edmond Choice instructing NCOs on Generational and Gender Diversity
Photo By MAJ Wendell Sadler*

In the 2nd Battalion all NCO's and junior enlisted in leadership positions are invited to breakfast the weekend prior to the normal Unit Training Assembly. After breakfast, the morning is devoted to various NCOs teaching topics that

are vital to the development of the NCO corps.

An outside speaker is occasionally invited to address the cadre on important topics. Mr. Edmond Choice of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department recently spoke to the group and delivered an outstanding program on Generational and Gender Diversity. Mr. Choice pointed out that there are four different generations in the work force and the TXSG is no different.

Troops at NCODP that morning ranged in age from their early 20s to their early 60s so much of the discussion centered on communication styles of the different generations with the NCOs developing some good insights on how to relate to generations other than their own.

Sergeant Richard Schilling said, "The training was very cleverly presented. I went in thinking it would be the same diversity training I had seen many times over the years. But each time I thought I knew what was coming next, Mr. Choice turned the situation around and posed a question that made me look at it from a different perspective."

All TXSG NCOs are invited to visit the flagship NCODP program of the TXSG. Any NCO wishing to observe a 2nd Battalion NCODP should contact CPL James Smith, james.smith@txsg.state.tx.us.

4AW Showcases TICP at Alliance Air Show, Provides Security and Finds Lost Children

**Story by 2d Lt Jason Allred
Public Affairs Officer, 4AW**

ALLIANCE AIRPORT, FT. WORTH, Texas - Members of the 4th Air Wing showcased the best of the Texas State Guard at the 2010 Alliance Air Show which took place on Oct. 30 – 31 at Alliance Airport in Fort Worth.

Considerable planning and coordination occurred between 4th Air Wing command staff and the Alliance Air Show management team to facilitate the opportunity for the Wing to showcase its newest asset: the Texas Interoperable Communications Platform, or TICP for short.

The presence of the TICP proved highly beneficial for the 4th Air Wing at the air show event as it drew positive attention from the public attending the air show. In addition, the TICP even summoned a few civilians to the adjoining recruiting tent showing their interest in joining the Texas State Guard.

Staff Sergeant Clifford Johnson, 4th Air Wing Recruiting NCO, was pleased by the many show attendees that asked about the TICP and about the Texas State Guard. "I was pleasantly surprised to see how the TICP trailer could garner such interest from people attending the air show and generate the recruiting leads that we received", SSgt Johnson commented.

Managed and operated by Communications specialists assigned to the 454th Air Support Group, the TICP was setup and operated at the Alliance Air Show under clear blue skies on both days that the event took place.



*Members of the 454th ASG set up the TICP dish at the Alliance Air Show in Ft. Worth
Photo by 2d Lt Jason Allred*

ing the radio systems contained in the trailer. "My team demonstrated the abilities of the TICP in a professional manner and showed their skills in their success in overcoming an unexpected satellite link problem that we faced on the first day of operations", stated 2d Lt Patterson.

Members of 2d Lt Patterson's team provided guided tours through the TICP trailer, demonstrated the voice and data capabilities of the radio systems contained inside, and answered questions from those touring through the trailer.

In addition to the TICP and recruiting operations that occurred at the 2010 Alliance Air Show, members of the 4th Air Wing Honor Guard performed ceremonial flag folding demonstrations throughout the day on both days of the event.

There were also many other members of the 436th and 454th Air Support Groups that were providing essential security support for the air show's many controlled entry and exit points. Furthermore, there were several lost children that were reunited with their families as a result of their diligent efforts.

Colonel Brian Dumble, 4th Air Wing Commander, commented on the performance of all 4th Air Wing personnel, "Our TXSG support at the 2010 Fort Worth Air Show demonstrated our ability to respond to simple events like a lost child or controlling entry points onto the airfield. The success of the Fourth Air Wing continues to be commitment, dedication and teamwork underpinned by an unquenchable craving to attain the highest possible level of excellence," said Col Dumble. "Thanks to all for their work in making the 2010 Alliance Air Show such a



Members of the 4th Air Wing Honor Guard demonstrate flag folding at the Alliance Air Show. - Photo by 2d Lt Jason Allred

Second Lieutenant Patrick Patterson, 454th Communications Squadron Commander, provided the command oversight of TICP operations and reflected his delight around his team's performance in operat-

Air Division Chief Brig Gen Cheeseman Retires From TXSG

Story by MAJ Michael Quinn Sullivan
Deputy Chief of Public Affairs, TXSG

AUSTIN, Texas -- With more than 40 years of uniformed service to his nation and state, Brigadier General Robert Cheeseman's distinguished career was recognized this weekend in a retirement ceremony at Camp Mabry.

"I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to wear the uniform and serve the citizens of Texas," Brig Gen Cheeseman said in his remarks to family, colleagues and fellow guardsmen. "It's been my honor to work among you and serve with you."

Brig Gen Cheeseman has served in the Texas State Guard since 1996, the same year he retired from the United States Air Force. He had enlisted in the Air Force in 1966. As a staff sergeant, he was selected to attend Texas State University as a part of the Airman Education and Commissioning Program. He was commissioned in April 1972.



Major General Raymond Peters (right), Commanding General, Texas State Guard presents the Commander's Award for Public Service to retiring Brigadier General Robert Cheeseman. Photo by SGM Steven Gamboa

He is a graduate of the USAF Air War College, Air Command and Staff College, and Squadron Officers School. Brig

Gen Cheeseman served in the Air Force as a Special Investigations and Counterintelligence Officer. His last assignment, with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, was as Deputy Director and Senior Special Agent, Contingency and Wartime Plans, at Headquarters in Washington, DC.

"We thank you for your service to Texas," said Major General Raymond Peters, commanding general of the Texas State Guard in his remarks at the ceremony. As a member of the Texas State Guard, Brig Gen Cheeseman's assignments have included Air Liaison Officer, Vice Commander and Commander of the 4th Air Wing, Inspector General, and Deputy Commanding General for Air. Brig Gen Cheeseman and his wife, Lorraine, have two children and two grandchildren.

4th Regiment Holds Huge Land Navigation Exercise at Ft. Wolters

Story by CPL James Smith
Unit Public Affairs Representative, 4th REGT

MINERAL WELLS, Texas -The combined battalions of the 4th Regiment took to the field at the historic Fort Wolters Training Area on Nov. 21, 2010 to conduct the largest land navigation exercise in the regiment's history.

The land navigation exercise was conducted in an area of the facility used by National Guard units for the same type of training. Nineteen individual points were mapped out in the exercise area and teams of six to eight soldiers were given compass headings and distances to a series of points.

At each located point the teams were given a task to complete prior to getting their next vector. The tasks covered various first aid scenarios and wide area damage assessment (WADA) tasks. After completing the assigned tasks the teams practiced radio procedures to report in and receive the vector to the next point.

While WADA is the primary mission of the Quick Response Team (QRT) detachments, all troops should have the ability to navigate in the field. Major



4th Regiment Troops Plotting Vector To Their Next Waypoint
L to R: CHPL (1LT) David Fish, CPL Richard Shaw,
CPL Christopher Nottingham Photo by PFC Randy Hilton

Wendell Sadler, Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion and Officer-In-Charge of the exercise, stated "Land navigation competencies are the foundation of military skills that assist the troop for map reading, terrain identification, and routing. Essentially, these skills relate to survivability."

Sergeant Anthony Miller summed the exercise up: "The ability of a soldier to navigate terrain effectively in almost any mission is critical. The trainees demonstrated that they were able to employ a variety of methods to successfully identify locations, navigate and complete the assigned courses."

2010 saw Hurricanes and Oil Spills

Stories by TXSG PAO Contributors

CAMP MABRY, AUSTIN, Texas- 2010 was a busy year for the Texas State Guard. Many of the operations undertaken in the past year were directly related to the safety of lives and property of Texas' citizens.

We've chosen some of the most note worthy events from 2010 to give you a year in review of your Texas State Guard and the many areas and lives that are touched by our member's service.

Hurricane Alex

With the skills they learned during annual training still fresh in their minds, more than 750 members of the Texas State Guard were called to duty begin-



Texas State Rep. Aaron Pena talks with Brownsville residents June 20, 2010 at the emergency shelter.

ning June 28 to staff shelters in support of state and local authorities as a strengthening Tropical Storm Alex meandered toward South Texas and northeast Mexico

Hurricane Alex made landfall Wednesday, July 1 along a lightly populated portion of the Mexican state of Tamaulipas, about 110 miles south of Brownsville. The Category 2 storm generated peak winds of 110 mph and spawned at least two tornadoes but, apart from dumping from 6-12 inches of rain over parts of South Texas, spared the U.S. side of the border from serious damage.

After Alex made landfall, State Guard and Red Cross personnel were working to consolidate shelters and evacuees while preparing for more, should weekend rainfall again leave parts of South Texas underwater. State Guard personnel remained on duty at most of the 17 shelters ordered to open by state and local governments between Raymondville and Brownsville.

Operation Lone Star

"Operation Lone Star is a humanitarian effort here in the Lower Rio Grande Valley," said State Guard Lieutenant Colonel Jann Melton-Kissel, a registered nurse with the Texas State Guard's Medical Brigade. "It's a partnership between the Department of State Health Services, the Texas Military Forces and the community to provide needed health services."

"These services, which include immunizations, physicals, diabetes screenings and check-ups, come to Texas' Rio Grande Valley residents each year courtesy of the collaborative efforts of state civil and military assets. Together, these disparate agencies provide low-income families with necessary and sometimes life-saving medical care through the annual Operation Lone Star (OLS)."

For the joint members of the Texas Military Forces preparedness means more than a ready standing force. With the persistent threat of hurricanes, flooding and seasonal pandemics, preparedness requires a fully trained, joint force capable of engaging a large-scale incident anywhere in the state.

"What we do and what we're training for is a mass casualty," said Texas State Guard Captain James R. Owens, a registered nurse with the DFW Medical Group. "It's about taking care of the population."

This year, these state assets used the annual humanitarian event Operation Lone Star to conduct a complete exercise simulating a mass casualty incident. Providing the Rio Grande Valley with immunizations, physicals and various other medical services, the mission sought to stress and challenge the capabilities of state military and civilian departments, as well as reinforce their cooperation and inter-agency communication.

"At one level, we provide free care," said Dr. Brian R. Smith, lead for the public health agency sponsoring OLS and the regional medical director for Health Service Region 11. "At the same time, it provides a preparedness exercise for those of us in public health and the Texas Military forces to work together and to practice together in a major event."



To augment the medical specialties of the DSHS, several other civilian agencies also contributed personnel, including the Texas Medical Assistance Team

Shelters Ops, Lone Star and Toys

(TexMAT-1), the Department of Family Protective Services, the Human Health Services Committee and even local nursing students from Valley Grande Community College.

The military side of OLS, the Texas Military Forces, includes the Texas State Guard, Army National Guard, and Air Guard. These uniformed personnel function as both duty and medical support, performing roles ranging from security and administration to nurses and doctors. In recent years, the State Guard has taken the lead in executing OLS, providing the greatest number of personnel and assuming command responsibilities of the operation.

Further bridging the spirit of cooperation, even service members from the Czech Republic and Chilean armies supported OLS this year. "We need to practice for any kind of mass casualty occasion, too," said Captain Petra Matulkova, an epidemiologist with the Czech Army. "We need to know these things, being military doctors."

With so many organizations working together, key leaders placed a premium on clear and effective communication throughout the operation. "A lot of the training that we're doing is being able to communicate," said Owens. "At any level, at any issue, we will have to be able to communicate."

"We're working together as a team," said State Guard First Lieutenant Steven Trevino, a registered nurse with the Texas Medical Brigade. "We're just Texans helping Texans."

Gulf Oil Spill Training

With the effects of the Deep Horizon disaster still lingering, 30 members of the Texas State Guard recently received specialized instructor training in oil spill response strategies from the Texas Engineering Extension Service. By the end of 2010, a significant portion of the TXSG will be trained in oil spill response.

The course, funded by the Texas Division of Emergency Management, provided participants with the fundamental knowledge and skills needed to effectively manage an oil spill response operation. With 691 drilling platforms on the Texas coast and 9 million acres leased offshore for exploration, the risk for a major spill is real.

State Guard officers and enlisted men learned response strategies and techniques. They also participated in a simulated spill situation, assuming leadership and operational roles. Specific course topics included containment, clean-up and recovery of oil, sorbents, boom deployment, skimmer operations, and oil sampling and documentation techniques.

The Texas Engineering Extension Service, operating under the authority of the Texas A&M University

System, has delivered oil spill prevention and incident management training for the U.S. Coast Guard and the petrochemical industry since 1975. They are experts in oil spill control and response recently developed the curriculum and delivered instructor training for workers, contractors and volunteers involved in the Gulf cleanup operation following the BP Deepwater Horizon incident in April.

Young Heroes of the Guard Toy Drive

The Texas State Guard began its first ever 'Young Heroes of the Guard' toy drive Nov. 7, 2009 with over 40 drop locations throughout the North Texas area. The toy drive was planned and organized to specifically benefit those children who spend Christmas in



Troops from the 4th Regiment making the toy delivery at Cook Children's Hospital in Ft. Worth during the first 'Young Heroes of the Guard' toy drive.

the hospital due to illness or injury.

Over 175 Soldiers and Airmen participated in the effort. The generous people of Texas heard the call and opened their hearts and pocketbooks for these kids, donating a whopping 2444 toys – enough to benefit eight separate organizations.

The 19th Civil Affairs Unit in Dallas, the 4th Civil Affairs unit in Ft. Worth and the 4th Air Wing in Grand Prairie worked together to make this a reality.

"Our original goal was to collect 500 new toys for these kids," said Lieutenant Colonel Jerald Garner, Chaplain of the 4th Civil Affairs Regiment in Fort Worth. "I cannot adequately express my appreciation to everyone that has had any part in this project," LTC Garner continued.

The children's hospitals benefitting from the drive were Cook Children's Hospital in Ft. Worth and Children's Medical Center, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children and Our Children's House at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas.

Air Shows and TMAR Crash Drills,

"I know that many of our patients will not soon forget your generosity towards them," said Becky Britt, spokeswoman for Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. "We are so thankful for friends like the Texas State Guard who have a heart for our patients."

In the end, the number of toys donated was so large that three other organizations also benefitted. The Texas State Guard channeled new toy donations to the U.S. Marine Corp Reserve 'Toys for Tots' program, the City of Grand Prairie's Santa Cop program, and to the Sheffield Primary & Intermediate School in Carrollton. Used toy donations were given to the Good Will in Denton.

"It was difficult to determine who actually received the larger blessing from this project--the children or the Soldiers and Airmen," said LTC Garner. "The officials at Cook Children's Hospital that I've spoken with are 'thrilled' at the success we've experienced in our first year of sponsoring the toy drive," LTC Garner continued.

Houston Air Show Support

Over 100 Soldiers of the 8th Civil Affairs Regiment provided over 3,000 man-hours of service to make the 26th Annual Wings Over Houston Air Show (Oct. 23-24) a success at Ellington Field in Houston.

The Wings Over Houston Air Show draws approximately 50,000 visitors annually. It is organized as a celebration of patriotism and an educational event providing community entertainment, aviation awareness and military recruiting opportunities.

Soldiers of the 8th Civil Affairs Regiment provided gate access control, flight line crowd control, and crowd control during air show performances. This was the 24th time the 8th Regiment has participated in the Wings Over Houston Air Show.

Additionally, members of the Texas State Guard's Medical Brigade, Houston Group, provided medical support during the air show operations.

Show highlights included performances by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and many other military and civilian air performers.

TMAR locates downed aircraft in multi-agency drill

The multi-agency drill at Lake Houston's Anderson Park (April 10, 2010) in Huffman, took six months of planning, but the scenario was all too real as more than 60 men and women in fatigues and police garb swarmed the shore line and waters of Lake Houston in search of the remnants of a downed Air Force drone plane.

"This is a joint operation between the Texas State Guard Maritime Regiment, the Texas Air Guard, and

the Galveston Police Department," said Solomon Cook, public information officer and petty officer in the Texas State Guard Maritime Regiment 1st Battalion, locally known in his role as Humble Independent School District chief of police. "The scenario is that an Air Force aircraft has crashed into Lake Houston and now we're attempting to recover the plane and any debris. We actually sank parts of a plane in the lake."

While divers conducted a side-by-side search of the 58-degree waters, a 3-acre area flanked by a peninsula and far off from civilian fishermen and jet-skiers, Galveston Police Department Marine Division officers used a side-scan sonar to map the bottom of the lake and pinpoint objects possibly related to the crash.



Sgt. Corey Lewis, of Plano, and Petty Officer Carl Clary, of Madisonville, conduct a side-by-side search of Lake Houston waters in an effort to recover aircraft debris during a training exercise April 10. Both are members of the Texas State Guard Maritime Regiment (TMAR) 1st Battalion Rescue Dive Team

The aircraft debris hidden on the lake bottom was donated by the Lone Star Flight Museum.

"We can see items down there and send divers to determine if it's the debris we're looking for," said John Courtney with the Galveston Police Department, adding that the \$3,000 sonar equipment was only recently purchased with funds raised through DVD sales of Hurricane Ike footage. "In Galveston, we plan on using the equipment to locate bodies, vehicles, sunken vessels, and large pieces of evidence. We get about six to 10 calls like that a year."

As mapping of the lake's terrain continues and Courtney monitors the lake bottom, Staff Sergeant Raymond Winkler of the 447th Air Support Group Texas State Guard Security Forces instructs his team to keep onlookers at bay, protect communications equipment and search the ground for aircraft debris during the search and rescue/recovery mission.

"Our team performs security around the perimeter of the scene to prevent unauthorized persons from coming in and picking up souvenirs, since it would be sensitive materials," he said. "We also protect our assets to make sure it doesn't walk off. Our Airmen

PAOs Meet and Chaplains Comfort

come out and we set up the search pattern. We walk that search pattern and any debris we might find is marked. We enter everything in the computer and use the GIS/GPS system to lay out a debris field.”

The crackle of the radio is constant, and the orders come in quick succession. Actors pose as civilians trying to breach security; two young girls are missing their father. The scenario is interspersed with many variables.

“Finding a body, for example, will get the chaplain involved,” said Wayne Hogard, commanding officer for the TMAR 1st battalion. Injuries are also part of the scenario, as are missing persons, and bring out the medical team. “We try to get as many people involved as possible.”

John Hesse, the training and operations officer for the 1st Battalion TMAR, said the planning of the drill involved covering every detail from organizing an incident command system, communicating with the national emergency and military emergency management systems, to ensuring civilian safety and plotting activities.

“The idea is to overwhelm the teams and see how they act under stress,” he said. “The better they train now, the better they will perform when an emergency actually happens.”

TXSG PAOs participate in 3rd Annual TXMF International PAO Conference

A blast of unusual nasty winter weather greeted the attendees at the 3rd Annual International Public Affairs Conference hosted at the Bees Cave Armory in Austin by Colonel William Meehan and the staff of the Texas Military Forces (TXMF) Public Affairs office. The international flavor was added by Army and Air Force representatives from the Republic of Chile and the Czech Republic with their attendance and presentations.

COL Meehan, head of Public Affairs for the TXMF, welcomed the participants to the conference and stated that the purpose of the two-day meeting was to build and strengthen professional relationships and to share experiences and best practices with other military public affairs practitioners.

In addition to the Czech and Chilean delegations, the conference was well attended by Texas Military Forces PAOs. Additionally, Guardsmen from South Dakota, Alabama, Florida, Kansas and Puerto Rico were in attendance. Civilian attendees included representatives from Governor Perry’s office, the National Guard Bureau in Washington and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve in Dallas.

The conference builds upon the State Partnership Program. Since 1993, Texas and the Czech Republic have held joint exercises such as medical certifica-



Participants in the 3rd Annual TXMF International PAO Conference prepare to fly to Camp Mabry to attend a briefing in the Joint Operations Center.

tions, combat instruction and F-16 aircraft demonstrations. The Republic of Chile entered the same program in 2009, which helps strengthen the bonds of communication between the Texas Military Forces and the Chilean Armed Forces.

During the two-day conference, attendees shared multi-media presentations and discussed the universal challenges that face all public affairs professionals. The conference provided a rather unique forum, as we heard how military forces in other countries handle the same issues and challenges that we face here at home.

The conference was capped off with a tour and briefing at the Joint Operations Center at Camp Mabry, with transportation provided by a TXMF UH-60 Blackhawk, from Bee Caves Armory to Camp Mabry and back.

TXSG Chaplin visits Haiti on a civilian mission

Chaplain (Major) Fair of Brownwood, Texas visited Haiti on a civilian mission known as “The Hope for Haiti Medical Mission” which was comprised of medical personnel from the Brownwood area.

Chaplain Fair said “my TXSG training and the real world experience I’ve received when activated with the TXSG in my role as Chaplain during Hurricanes Ike and Dolly helped prepare me for this mission in Haiti”.

The Chaplain further indicated after seeing the destruction and suffering, he feels that Texas is blessed with having a dedicated group like the TXSG who stand ready assist their fellow Texans in time of need. The military personnel of the TXSG give of their time, money and sweat to be prepared to live up to the TXSG motto “Texans Serving Texas”.

Wild Land Fire Training Gives TXSG Tools to Beat Back the Flames

Story by PFC Peggy Gutierrez
 Unit Public Affairs Representative, 4th REGT

WEATHERFORD, Texas - One of the Texas State Guard's stated objectives is to provide mission-ready military forces to assist state and local authorities in times of state emergencies. If that emergency were to be a wild land fire, the TXSG 4th Regiment, 3rd Battalion would be equal to the task.

Parker County Fire Marshal Shawn Scott and Assistant Fire Marshal Ron Schultz gave classroom presentations to Soldiers at the scheduled August 28 drill in Weatherford. They shared some on-the-job experiences and current firefighting practices, stressing a "fight from the black" safe and effective approach.

Of special interest during the class was a video comparison of how California wild land fires differ from those here in Texas. The classroom training concluded with a video of a tabletop exercise examining actions taken locally at a past wild land fire, which gave Soldiers great insight into the serious nature of being prepared.

Further thanks to Fire Chief John Burgoyne and Assistant Chief Chuck Tingle of the Greenwood Volunteer Fire Department who brought various fire fighting trucks for the second part of the day's training.

Out in the field behind the armory, Soldiers were made familiar with important aspects of the Brush Truck and the Tanker Truck. Hands on practice with hose attachments, and other aspects of the trucks



Greenwood Fire Chief John Burgoyne shows 3rd BN troops the use of hoses on the brush truck. Photo by PFC Peggy Gutierrez

built confidence that guardsmen will be able to support firefighters if the need should arise. Support, they said, would include providing manpower to fill the brush trucks on demand, and keeping the nearby tankers at the ready while allowing firefighters to be where they are needed most, at the fire.

The Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan states that "drought and wild land fires regularly pose serious threats to substantial portions of the state. Wild land fires are a growing concern, given rapid population growth and the steady increase of the wild land urban interface. The problem is exacerbated by the continuing drought of recent years. Texas experiences more wild land fires than any other state, recording more than 13,000 in 2007 and 2008 – over twice as many as California, which ranks second."

Warrant Officer Frederick P. Lohmann, is greatly appreciated for his effort in setting up this timely and important training.



Photo by PFC Victor Segura

'Young Heroes of the Guard' Toy Drive Puts Smiles on the Faces of Boys and Girls in Dallas and Ft. Worth

Troops of the 4th Regiment deliver toys again this holiday season to Cook Children's Hospital in Ft. Worth. This is the second year for the Texas State Guard Annual "Young Heroes of the Guard" Toy Drive.

The toy drive recognizes the struggle of those children confined to one of the several children's hospitals in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The 19th Regiment collected and delivered toys for Our Children's House at Baylor and Children's Medical Center in Dallas.

Color Guard Builds Community Ties with Practice and Service

Story by SPC Byron Sims
 Unit Public Affairs Representative, 4th REGT

In their first public performance, members of the 2nd Battalion 4th Civil Affairs Regiment Color Guard took the field at the homecoming football game between Grace Preparatory Academy and Aubrey High School at Elk Stadium in Burleson, Texas.

The color guard is directed by Sergeant Richard Schilling. Members include Corporal Chris Nottingham, and Privates First Class Eddie Thomas, Randy Hilton, and David Hearne.

Color guard team members have trained over the course of several months for this occasion- often during the week on their own time away from monthly Unit Training Assemblies. This is the first of many proposed public events.

“At one of our Non-Commissioned Officer Development Program sessions, the idea of trying to get more exposure and developing relations within the community was discussed” said SGT Schilling. “In discussing it with Sergeant First Class Vass and Major Wendell Sadler, Corporal James Smith was identified for the liaison role. CPL Smith drafted a letter and sent it to several schools and other organizations offering the services of the color guard and the battalion as a whole.”

“While exposure and awareness are goals of these efforts, the most important reason for doing this is to develop relationships with the community. By spending time with organizations such as Grace Preparatory Academy, we hope to find more significant opportunities to serve them or others they know who



Color Guard of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Regiment Presents the Colors at Grace Preparatory Academy Homecoming L/R: CPL Christopher Nottingham, PFC Eddie Thomas, PFC Randy Hilton, PFC David Hearne
 Photo By: SPC Byron Sims

are in need. It also helps to build support for the Guard within the community.” said SGT Schilling

The next week the color guard performed at the Saginaw High School homecoming game and the combined 4th Regiment Color Guard marched in the Weatherford Veterans Day Parade November 13. For information about the 2nd Battalion Color Guard contact CPL James Smith, james.smith@txsg.state.tx.us.



Photo by PFC Victor Segura

Three New Recruits Join the 4th REGT at Randol Mill Armory in Arlington

Three new Troops joined the Texas State Guard on Dec. 18, 2010 at the Randol Mill National Guard Armory in Arlington, Texas. Administering the oath to the new recruits was WO1 Janet Schmelzer and LTC Ray Peters

The new Troops are (left to right) PFC Hood, PFC Gorena, and PFC Warren. Let’s welcome them to the TXSG, Hooah!

Texas Parks and Wildlife Looks to TMAR for help

TMAR 3rd BN Prepares Troops with Weapon, First Aid and Water Drills

**Story by LT Mark Hukel
Unit Public Affairs Representative, 3rd BN**

The last quarter of 2010 saw the 3rd Battalion very busy with training and exercises but we did manage to squeeze in a little time for some fun.

October's Unit Training Assembly was Oct. 1 – 3 at Ft. Wolters in Mineral Wells. Weapons training took place on the Firearms Training Simulator and live fire training at the manual hand gun range. Additionally, Wide Area Damage Assessment (WADA) familiarization training was completed in conjunction with a 10 mile hike.

Our November Unit Training Assembly began at the California Crossing Armory in Dallas, our regular training location, but it didn't end there. We were



(Left to Right) CDR Mike Boothe, LCDR David Faltot and LT Marl Massey taking small arms live fire training at the Ft. Wolters range. Photo by LT Mark Hukel.

given simulated emergency orders to relocate to the Police and Fire Training Academy in Fort Worth, located on the banks of the Trinity River. There we engaged in simulated water rescue training. Additionally, we practiced simulated security and emergency training scenarios with the help of civilian volunteers posing as distressed victims.

Seventeen members from the 3rd Battalion took part in the Texas Maritime Regiment birthday celebration Nov. 6 on the U.S.S. Texas at San Jacinto State Park near Houston. Several family members accompanied the 3rd Battalion to the awards ceremony where Corporal Joshua Flory was named 3rd Battalion Marine of the Year and Chief Petty Officer Aaron Smith was named 3rd Battalion Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year.

December's Unit Training Assembly focused on basic first aid, CPR and Automated Electronic Defibrillators (AED) training. Twenty-nine members of 3rd Battalion received their live saving certification, just in time for our Christmas Party. Kilo, Lima and Mike Companies held a combined Christmas Party and rumor has it that a good time was had by all.

2010 was an exciting year for 3rd Battalion. We experienced a large growth in our membership and we plan to continue the trend for 2011. We have tried to expose 3rd Battalion to various types of training while we work on organizing a dive team, shooting team and a Seabees squad.

At the request of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, we will continue to assist their Wardens on busy boating holidays. And we also plan on more "emergency" order deployments to ensure our troops are ready, willing and able to get to an effected area in a timely manner with the proper gear and attitude.

On Jan. 15, 2011, 3rd Battalion participated in a mass casualty exercise conducted at the Dallas/Ft. Worth International Airport. Some of our troops were victims and others assisted in applying moulage to other victims to add to the realism of the event. More on this exercise in the next edition of THE GUIDON.

USCG Provides Cold Water Survival Training to 1st BN

The US Coast Guard in Houston provided informative and timely training at the Dec. 4-5, Unit Training Assembly for the 1st Battalion Maritime Regiment.

TMAR Personnel were trained in cold water survival, proper use of life jacket and attached equipment and surface swimming. Additionally, identifying and describing standard distress signals was reviewed.

USCG instructors also reviewed equipment located on the RB-S watercraft.



SN Dustin Hogard and SN Kevin Hesse get briefed in rubber boat operations..

OCS Program Gets Major Overhaul

**Story By COL Robert Hastings
Chief of Public Affairs, TXSG**

The Commanding General of the Texas State Guard has approved a major redesign of the Officer Candidate School (OCS) resulting in an entirely new course for candidates beginning this year.

“We’ve completed a wholesale redo of OCS to make it more mission specific to the TXSG,” said Colonel Paul Watkins, TXSG Operations J3.

“Our goal in redesigning OCS is two-fold,” COL Watkins explained. “First, our new officers must be mission-ready when they are commissioned. OCS will produce junior officers already trained to our major mission sets. Second, our program will begin to build depth in our officer corps, growing a new generation of future leaders of the Guard.”

The existing OCS curriculum was repurposed from the regular military courses and included classes of little purpose for officers of today’s TXSG.

According to the OCS course management plan, it is an intense leadership training platform. It is physically and mentally challenging, and not everyone is cut out for it. But those who are accepted, and make it through agree it’s one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives.

“The new OCS program directly supports our goals, missions and objectives,” said Colonel Tom Hamilton,



the Operations J3 project officer who led the redesign effort. “In addition to basic leadership training and soldier skills, officer candidates will be trained in shelter management, TXNET, and WADA (Wide Area Damage Assessment) among other subjects.”

The eight-month program is expected to launch in June 2011 during Annual Training. It will consist of

two phases and will encompass two field exercises. Phase I is designed to immerse the candidate in leadership development through training, hands-on practical experience, leadership reaction course, assigned leadership positions and the introduction of the Officer Basic Course that is required for promotion to Captain.

Phase II entails Texas State Guard mission-specific training. Through the use of classroom instruction and practical exercises, candidates will receive instruction that will equip them for success in an opera-

tional environment.

Interested personnel can expect to see implementing instructions published in February, with a detailed timeline that counts down towards an application cut-off in late April and a selection board in May.

“We won’t settle for mediocre or average in this new course,” said COL Hamilton. “We will be selecting the very best to be our new junior officers.”

“From this point forward, OCS is going to be the primary source for commissioning lieutenants and ensigns,” added Major General Raymond Peters.

TXSG Leaders Kick-Off 2011 With Commander’s Conference

**Story By COL Robert Hastings
Chief of Public Affairs, TXSG**

Fifty senior officers and NCO’s assembled at Camp Bowie Training Center for a weekend in January for the annual TXSG Commander’s Conference.

“2010 was a great year. I’m proud of each and every member of the Texas State Guard,” said TXSG Commanding General, Major General Raymond Peters. “But for this conference, we need to focus on where we’re going.”

During his opening remarks, MG Peters pointed out that that the 2000th member of the TXSG joined the command in December, putting the Guard at its highest strength since World War II.

Colonel Paul Watkins, Texas Military Forces Operations J3 addressed the conference on behalf of the Adjutant General. “I can’t say enough how im-

portant the State Guard is to the TXMF and the citizens of Texas,” said COL Watkins. “You are a critical part of our plans and play a tremendous role. In many ways, you have become TXMF’s first responders”

The conference provided the senior leaders briefings and detailed discussions on a wide range of subjects as well as the opportunity to address common issues and concerns. Among the subjects briefed were the TXSG Strategic Plan, a legislative and state budget update, the Officer Candidate School restructuring, Annual Training 2011, and incident management training.

The senior leaders were also briefed by a number of subject matter experts and staff officers who addressed ethics and code of conduct, public affairs, property accountability, community service programs, communications and recruiting.

Texas State Guard History

National and State Guardsmen Spring to Duty at Texas City

COL Martin Takes Charge, 49th Bn. of TSG Called Out

When the French Freighter *Grandcamp*, loading ammonium nitrate fertilizer, blew up in Texas City on April 16, setting in motion a chain of explosions that devastated that thriving industrial area and took the lives of hundreds of persons, Texas Guardsmen – both state and national – sprang to action.

Constant communication by radio was maintained with the Adjutant General's department through the Texas Department of Public Safety, which had its mobile radio unit in the area.

Three truck loads of equipment were sent at once to the stricken area. Equipment included blankets, shelter-halves, raincoats, mackinaws, gas masks, field ranges and canteens.

Later two truck loads of tents, cots and comforters were sent from Camp Mabry Headquarters. More trucks and drivers stood ready and waiting for further call.

Adjutant General Department personnel sent from Austin include:

Col. William H. Martin, Assistant Adjutant General.

Col. Sidney C. Mason, G-4 Texas State Guard.

Col. Ralph Lewis, Subsistence Specialist, Texas State Guard.

Lt. Thomas W. Anderson, Subsistence Specialist, Texas State Guard.

Major Charles L. Gamble Personnel Records AGD

Col. Emory Whitley, Supplies, Texas State Guard.

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Civilian and Military personnel search through the rubble for survivors or human remains following the blast at Texas City on April 16, 1947

Photo by John P. Blazetic, 32nd Medical BN

Deadliest US Accident Kills Hundreds, Injures Thousands in Texas City Blast

The Texas City Disaster is the deadliest industrial accident in U.S. history. The incident took place on April 16, 1947, and began with a mid-morning fire on board the French-registered vessel SS *Grandcamp* in the Port of Texas City. The fire detonated approximately 2,300 tons of ammonium nitrate and the resulting chain reaction of fires and explosions killed at least 587 people.

The *Grandcamp* explosion destroyed the Monsanto Chemical Company plant and resulted in ignition of refineries and chemical tanks on the waterfront. The tremendous blast sent a 15-foot wave that was detectable over nearly 100 miles of the Texas shoreline. The blast lev-

eled nearly 1,000 buildings on land.

Sightseeing airplanes flying nearby had their wings shorn off, forcing them out of the sky. Ten miles away, people in Galveston were forced to their knees; windows were shattered in Houston, Texas, 40 miles away. People felt the shock 250 miles away in Louisiana. The explosion blew almost 6,350 tons of the ship's steel into the air, some at supersonic speed.

Official casualty estimates came to a total of 587, but many victims were burned to ashes or literally blown to bits, and the official total is believed to be an underestimate.

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Texas City Devastated by Port Blast

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The entire volunteer fire department of Texas City was killed in the initial explosion, and with the fires raging, first responders from other areas were initially unable to reach the site of the disaster.

The first explosion ignited the ammonium nitrate cargo in the *High Flyer*. About fifteen hours after the explosions aboard the *Grandcamp*, the *High Flyer* blew up demolishing the nearby SS *Wilson B. Keene*, killing at least two more people and increasing the damage to the port and ships with more shrapnel and fire.

Of the dead, 405 were identified and 63 have never been identified.

There is some speculation that there may have been hundreds more killed but uncounted, including visiting seamen, non-census laborers and their families, and an untold number of travelers.

Over 5,000 people were injured, with 1,784 admitted to twenty-one area hospitals. More than 500 homes were destroyed and hundreds damaged, leaving 2,000 homeless. The seaport was destroyed and many businesses were flattened or burned.

Burning wreckage ignited everything within miles, including dozens of oil storage tanks and chemical tanks.

Some of the deaths and damage in Texas City were due to the destruction and subsequent burning of several chemical plants (including Monsanto and Union Carbide), oil



An honor guard including two civilian and two military pallbearers carry a flower-draped casket at the mass burial service for the victims of the 1947 Texas City Disaster on June 22, 1947. Two rows of veterans standing at attention line the walkway.

storage, and other facilities near the explosions.

Fires resulting from the cataclysmic events were still burning a week after the disaster, and the process of body recovery took nearly a month.

Estimates of the injured are even less precise but appear to have been on the order of 3,500 persons. Although not all casualties were residents of Texas City, the total was

equivalent to a staggering 25 percent of the town's estimated population of 16,000.

One-third of the town's 1,519 houses were condemned, leaving 2,000 persons homeless and exacerbating an already-serious postwar housing shortage.

The burial service for the 63 unidentified dead was held June 22, 1947, with 5,000 people attending.

TSG Troops Rush Supplies to Texas City Blast Zone

Continued from page 18

Capt. Harry Quist Motor Transportation, Texas State Guard.

Pvt. W. A. Barton, Payroll Expert, Texas State Guard.

The 49th Battalion, Texas State Guard, under the command of Lt. Col. George W. McLean, Jr., located in the area (Galveston) went on active duty when Governor Beauford H. Jester proclaimed a state of emergency on April 17.

Col. Martin took command of all state troops called to active duty in the area.

Offers of assistance by individual officers and mili-

tary units flooded the Adjutant General's department from all over the State.

The 22nd Battalion, Texas State Guard Houston, sent all its vehicles with drivers, and the 48th Battalion Texas State Guard Houston, sent its ambulances.

Several of the newly organized National Guard units offered their assistance. Individual members of the medical detachments may have gone into Texas City on a voluntary basis.

Editors Note

Near the end of WWII, the TXSG and other state defense forces began to receive equipment such as trucks, ambulances and arms from the U. S. Army for use in support of civilian authorities.

GEAR UP! FOR WINTER OPS

Good all-around visibility is essential to safe cold weather driving. To achieve optimum visibility during cold weather:

- Remove all ice, snow and fog from all windows before operating the vehicle.
- Keep all windows and mirrors clear at all times during operations.
- Use defrosters and windshield wipers to keep the windshield free of ice, sleet, snow and fog.
- Keep inside and outside rearview mirrors clean and properly adjusted.
- Use headlights during snowstorms and periods of reduced visibility according to local SOPs and the tactical situation.
- Increase gaps between vehicles when exhaust gases cause ice fog.
- Use a ground guide when backing the vehicle or where assistance is required in picking a trail in deep snow.

SOURCE: FIELD MANUAL 55-30, ARMY MOTOR TRANSPORT UNITS AND OPERATIONS, APPENDIX G, VEHICLE OPERATIONS IN ADVERSE WEATHER

ARMY SAFE FallWinter NO TIME TO CHILL



ARMY SAFE
IS ARMY STRONG

