



# GUIDON



Vol. 3 No. 1

Quarterly Magazine of the Texas State Guard

SPRING 2013

## Presenting the colors to active Military



# THE GUIDON

## Spring 2013

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**On the Cover** - 2nd BN 4th REG Colorguard recently presented the colors to a large crowd of active duty military personnel, veterans, and their families in Cowboys Stadium in Arlington. (left to right in the photo ) SGT Thomas Edwards, SGT Chris Nottingham, SGT Edward Thomas, CPL Randall Hilton, and SGT David Hearne .

*Photo by PFC Ryan Stephens*



The Texas State Guard (TXSG) is a State Military Force which assists Texas Civil Authorities in times of Texas State Emergencies and in On-Going Support of Local Communities; and consists of six Civil Affairs Regiments, The Air Division, The Medical Reserve Corps, and Maritime Regiment.

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# THE GUIDON

A Texas State Guard Publication



Vol. 3 No. 1                      Spring 2013

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# Leading By Following



MG Manuel Rodriguez

Wherever we go, we get there by following someone or something. The GPS in my truck helps get me around the state for work, with a crisp computerized voice telling me to turn and giving me warning about traffic.

A sound philosophy is like an updated GPS: it gets you where you want to go with a minimum of hassle.

The command philosophy I have built up over 25 years as a professional soldier, is drawn from the best practices I have seen lived out by great leaders I have known and worked with. It is also influenced by observing the failings of guys who can best be thought of as “bad examples.”

Our destination as Texas State Guardsmen is simple: We stand ready to serve Texans. That’s not to say the missions handed to us are simple, or that the situations you face are a walk in the park. The truth is that the work many of you do is highly complex, and you are often tasked with difficult jobs when times are at their worst.

But for the purpose of the TXSG, we’re called on to be ready to serve. That’s our “destination.”

There are six core elements getting us there.

## **Pride**

I want every Texas State Guardsman to be proud of who

they are and what they do for Texas. This is driven in large part by my pride in who you are, and I’d encourage each of you to take pride in those around you as well. All of us, and me especially, need to do everything we can to help each other see just what a special organization the TXSG really is. It can be hard, tedious... and when it really works - fantastic.

## **Training**

With so much raw talent pulsing through the organization, training takes on a very special role. Unlike the highly-specific specialization one sees in a big organization, cross-training takes on a whole new meaning when we are deployed by the Governor and the Adjutant General. Each of you comes to drill with the (justifiable) expectation that you will get well-planned and meaningful training. It’s on all of us to make that happen. Got ideas on how we can make things better? Send ‘em up! My CSM and I want to know.

## **Reinforce The Chain Of Command**

But we’re a military organization, and good order must always be kept in mind. I don’t care if you are a PFC in the TXSG for six weeks, or a brigadier general with 25 years: good ideas are good ideas, and I want to hear them. But here’s the deal: I won’t break the chain of command in asking any soldier to do anything, and I ask that you do the same. Don’t jump up the chain or down the chain. Yes, it can be a headache at times, but it ultimately serves as a barrier against abuse and a promoter of accountability. It also gives our leaders a chance to solve problems at the lowest level, and this builds better units.

## **Do Routine Things, Routinely**

We also have to respect each other’s time by doing things in a routine and predictable way. Whether it’s drill dates, training schedules or deadlines. It’s been said wisely that soldiers should sweat a lot in peace to minimize the bleeding in war. Take a hard look at your unit – what routine things should be done automatically without anyone

asking? What systems should we have to minimize the red-tape? Routine things should be done routinely, and we should only ask each others to bend hard when it's an absolute necessity...

**Caring**

And sometimes it is. After all, that's why we exist. We're the ones who are supposed to mobilize in a moment's notice, and then wait patiently for hours. That can be stressful, especially for our families. This is a very important, and personal, point for me. If something is amiss at home, let your friends and colleagues know. We want to help. And be willing to help someone else. On a daily, weekly, and monthly basis, nothing you do in the TXSG is worth hurting yourself or your family. Take the time you need. We'll be here when you come back.

**Communications**

None of the things I have described above is worth much unless we can share it. I mean good old fashioned two-way communication where the message sent equals the message received. Where the guys giving the orders know what it's like to receive them. Make sure you are communicating, and make sure you are being understood.

Let me go back to my original example with a confession. I really hate that computer voice telling me I left the planned route and the device is "recalculating." I hate it, because sometimes I do make a wrong turn. But unless corrective action is taken, I could end up somewhere I don't want to be. I may yell at the machine for a minute or two, but the cold hard data usually confirms that I need to get back on course, and the sooner I make that change, the easier it is to get where I'm going.

I can absolutely tell you I'll make mistakes as your commander, just as you'll make mistakes in your role. But it's by keeping this command philosophy as our compass that we can reach our destination.

Thank you for everything you do for the State of Texas, I know that each of you reading this is "Equal to the Task."



Headquarters



1st Regiment



2nd Regiment



4th Regiment



8th Regiment



19th Regiment



39th Composite Regiment



Air Division



Maritime Regiment



Medical Reserve Corps



## “To Honor Our Sons”: 4th Regiment SGT Reynaldo Reyes Accepts TXMF Award and PFC Kaye Jordan joins the TXSG

Story by SGT Angie Ogle, 1st Battalion, 4th Regiment

When Austin Garrett Staggs joined the US Army, he was looking for structure in his life. He wanted to find good role models to teach him to be the man that he needed to be for his young son, Kallen.

After graduating from Basic, PFC Staggs was assigned to the 101st Airborne at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. During Operation Enduring Freedom, he was sent to Afghanistan. Only 96 days into his first deployment, on November 29, 2010, he and his fellow soldiers were killed on patrol. He was just nineteen.

His mother, Kaye Jordan, was heartbroken; clinging to his possessions, like the t-shirts he wore in Afghanistan that still smelled like him. She prayed Austin would walk in the front door.

After a while, Kaye felt the need to do something not only for all soldiers but also for their families. She connected with other Gold Star families, those who had lost service members in conflict or in support of certain military operations.

While looking for ways to honor her son, Kaye heard about the Texas



State Guard. She enlisted and joined the 1st Battalion, 4th Regiment in 2012.

“I found myself wanting to do all the things that he did as a soldier,” said PFC Jordan. “I wanted to feel what he felt and go through what he did to the extent that I was able. I needed to learn to march. I wanted to wear the same uniform as he had and to serve Texas and Texans.”

PFC Jordan has dedicated her energies to being a good soldier. She considers drill, training, and community service as essential to her duty to the TXSG. In this way she is not only giving her time, skills, and a helping hand

to fellow Texans, but she is also honoring her son by proudly serving in the Texas Military Forces.

PFC Jordan continues to work to honor soldiers. She is spearheading a project to transform Soldier Springs Park in Weatherford, Texas, into a memorial for Parker County service members who have died while serving their country. PFC Jordan is also creating a registry to help Parker County military families who have lost a service member to connect together in support each other.



## MAJ Blenus Green and CSM Albert Willars Take on New Assignments at the 4th Regiment

Story by SGT Angie Ogle, 1st Battalion, 4th Regiment

Two TXSG personnel have new positions within the 4th Regiment. MAJ Blenus Green is the new commander of the 1st Battalion and CSM Albert Willars is the new 4th Regiment Command Sergeant Major.

On August 30, 2012, COL Howard N. Palmer, Jr., commander of the 4th Regiment, appointed MAJ Blenus Green as Commander of the 1st Battalion. MAJ Green joined the TXSG in 2011 and previously served as the Executive Officer and S3 for the 2nd Battalion, located in Arlington, Texas, and then was reassigned to the 1st Battalion, located in Weatherford, Texas, as Executive Officer.

MAJ Green served in the U.S. Air Force and received his commission through ROTC upon graduation from Valdosta State University in 1987. He earned his pilot wings at Reese AFB in 1988 and later became an Instructor Pilot assigned to the B-1 Formal Training Unit. In 1997 MAJ Green cross flowed to the U.S. Navy where he served as a flight instructor at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida. He separated from military service in 2000 but was recalled to active service after the attack on the World Trade Center in New York on September 11, 2001. He was assigned to Dyess AFB where he flew the B-1B as an Instructor Pilot. MAJ Green retired from active duty in 2009.

"I have truly been amazed at the camaraderie and esprit de corps of the Texas State Guard and the 1st Battalion," MAJ Green commented. "Texans serving Texans is what makes the TXSG special. It's a noble cause. I consider myself lucky to be a part of the TXSG. I look forward to serving as the commander of the 1st Battalion and continuing the excellent work of the former commander, LTC Jaime Silva."

With the retirement of CSM Paul Kirk from the TXSG 4th

Regiment, CSM Albert Willars was tapped to be the new CSM. He officially assumed his position during the Change of Responsibility Ceremony on July 21, 2012, at Shoreview Armory, Fort Worth, Texas. CSM Willars previously served as the 4th Regiment's 2nd Battalion Sergeant Major from 2008 to 2010. In August 2010 CSM Willars went to the TXSG headquarters as the Army Command Sergeant Major, Army Component Command.

In 1985 CSM Willars retired from the U.S. Army after 24 years of service. His duty assignments included in the 3rd Armored Division, U. S. Army Europe Command and the U. S. Army 1st Infantry Division, also known as the Big Red One. CSM Willars also served with the U.S. Army 1st Armored Division at Ft. Hood, Texas, and the 4th Infantry Division at Ft. Carson, Colorado.

CSM Willars is glad to be back at the 4th Regiment. "Returning to the 4th Regiment is a real thrill," CSM Willars commented, "I am so pleased to be working with the Officers, NCO's and the outstanding Soldiers that make this unit function."



(left to right) CSM Albert Willars, COL Howard N. Palmer, Jr., Commander, 4th Regiment, CSM Paul Kirk, and MSG Freddrik Taylor salute the colors at the Change of Responsibility Ceremony, at Shoreview Armory, Fort Worth, Texas, on July 21, 2012. CSM Willars assumed the position of 4th Regiment Command Sergeant Major from CSM Paul Kirk (Ret.) Photo by SPC Patricia Adams, PAR, 1st Battalion 4th Regiment.



## “Two of Our Very Best Soldiers”

Story by COL Howard N. Palmer, Jr., CDR, 4th Regiment and CW2 Janet Schmelzer, PAO, 4th Regiment

Two of the 4th Regiment’s most honored and valuable soldiers have retired from the Texas State Guard with a combined 98 years of service to the United States and Texas.

After 44 years of faithful service to the Texas National Guard, U. S. Army Reserve, and the Texas State Guard, COL Ray V. Peters retired on October 1, 2012. Peters enlisted in the Texas National Guard in July 27, 1964, serving in the 71st and 36th Airborne Brigades. After completing Texas National Guard Officer Candidate School in Class 11, he received his commission as a Second Lieutenant and became a company commander. During that time he earned his Parachutist and Senior Parachutist badges. He continued his military education in Infantry Officer Basic Course and Advanced Course, Armor Officer Advanced Course, Quartermaster Officer Advanced Course, and Command and General Staff School.

In 1981 Peters transferred to the U. S. Army Reserve as a Major and spent 14 years with the 75th Maneuver Area Command as a Brigade Personnel Officer and Logistical Controller. He went on Inactive Reserve in 1995 until his retirement from the U. S. Army in 2002 as a Lieutenant Colonel. During his federal service he earned the Expert Infantry Badge, Jumpmaster Budget, Armed Forces Reserve Component Medal and the Texas Faithful Service Medal.

In 2006 COL Peters joined the Texas State Guard in order to continue serving his fellow Texans. He was assigned as the first commander of the 3rd Battalion 4th Regiment and led his troops on deployments for Hurricanes Dean and Alex and wildfires in Montague and Jack Counties. He has influenced many soldiers under his command.

“Because of COL Peters’ example and encouragement, I

became a TXSG officer so that I teach others, as he has, what a good soldier means,” 1LT Rob Davis commented. In 2011 COL Peters became the executive officer of the 4th Regiment.

To honor his service, COL Peters was inducted into the TXSG Honorary Reserve.

COL Howard N. Palmer, Jr., commander of the 4th Regiment, expressed his thanks to COL Peters for his dedicated service: “You have left a great legacy as the commander of the 3rd Battalion and 4th Regiment executive officer, and have raised the bar of excellence as an officer.”

COL Peters and his wife Pat have been married for 44 years and reside in Denton, Texas. They have four children and five grandchildren.

For 54 years, Command Sergeant Major Paul Kirk served the United States and Texas in the United States Air Force, Texas Army National Guard, and the Texas State Guard.



Col Ray V Peters

He enlisted in the United States Air Force on January 31, 1957. He completed Technical School Camera Repair and spent a three-year tour in Europe where he worked on radar and strike camera systems, armament systems, and

RF-101A aerial reconnaissance camera systems. Upon his return to Charleston AFB, he retrained as a flight loadmaster and obtained flight instructor status.

In 1965, Kirk enlisted in the United States Air Force Reserve for two years during which he became a Staff Sergeant and aircrew loadmaster on C-119G aircraft. In 1971 CSM Kirk re-enlisted USAFRes, served as aircrew on C-130A and B aircraft and was designated as a flight examiner standardization evaluator. By this time CSM Kirk had more than 5,000 hours of flight time.

In 1977 he joined the Texas Army National Guard 536th Transportation Battalion (later reorganized as Combat Corps Engineers 386th Engineer Battalion) in Pasadena, Texas, as a Sergeant First Class and later became operations sergeant and first sergeant for HHC 386th Engineers. After a distinguished career, he retired from federal service in August 1998.

That same month, Kirk joined the Texas State Guard as operations sergeant for the G-3 as sergeant major. He participated in the modernization of the Texas State Guard, raising the professionalism of enlisted personnel. In 2006 he was transferred to the 4th Regiment as the CSM, and was deployed for Hurricanes Gustav, Ike, and Alex.

CSM Kirk has many commendations during his career of service, including the Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal, the US Meritorious Service Medal, the Adjutant General's Individual Service Medal, the Texas Medal of Merit, the Army Commendation Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Upon his retirement from the Texas State Guard on July 21, 2012, CSM Kirk was appointed to the TXSG Honorary Reserves and received the Outstanding Service Medal for his faithful and dedicated service to the Texas State Guard.

"CSM Kirk was right there when I needed his expertise," COL Palmer stated. "He is an old warhorse who knows what to do and so you better just get out of his way." State Rep. and LTC Phil King presented a resolution in the Texas House of Representatives honoring CSM Kirk for "a consummate professionalism and an unflinching commitment to safeguarding the welfare of his fellow citizens."



CSM Paul Kirk

CSM Kirk and his wife Georgia have been married for 46 years and reside in Spring, Texas. They have three children and nine grandchildren.



## 8th Regiment Celebrates Three upon Their Retirement from the TXSG

By: SGT Malana Nail

There comes a time in every soldier's life when they take off their boots for the last time. For three distinguished members of the 8th Regiment, this was the year. LTC Mary Ward, LTC John Adams and CSM Paul Esler were all honored at separate ceremonies by the men and women they served with.



LTC Mary Ward shows the Proclamation declaring Oct. 06, 2012 as LTC Mary Ward Day in the City of Houston, as bestowed upon her by Houston mayor, Anise Parker.

LTC Mary Ward was granted her retirement in a ceremony held October 6th at the annual Fort Bend County Fair. COL Dennis O'Driscoll presented LTC Ward with the Distinguished Service Award and City of Houston Mayor, Anise Parker declared October 6th, "Mary Ward Day" in the City of Houston. LTC Ward served in the Texas State Guard for 22 years, having been sworn in on December 7, 1990. She has participated in all hurricane operations starting with Katrina and Rita in September 2005, as well as taken part in Operations Rio Grande and Lone Star.

Her special assignments have included the inauguration parades for Governors George Bush and Rick Perry and the parade for Olympic Ice Skating Champion, Tara

Lipinski.

She held postings at the 2nd MP Group, Headquarters Detachment, Commander of the 5th Battalion / 8th Regiment, and most recently as the Logistics and Supply Officer in Charge at 8th REGT HQ. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the 3 and 5 year service awards: Medal of Merit, Texas Faithful Service Medal with Bronze Cactus and the Adjutant General's Individual Award. Currently, LTC Ward serves as Justice of the Peace (R) for Precinct 1, Place 2 in Fort Bend County.

John Adams was presented a brevet promotion to full Colonel on the occasion of his retirement at the 27th annual Wings Over Houston Air Show on October 28th.

Houston Mayor, Anise Parker also declared that day "Colonel John Adams Day" in the city to honor his more than 30 years of federal and state military service.

COL Adams enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1966 and served in Viet Nam with the 1st Infantry Division until July 1968. He enrolled in Sam Houston State University in 1969 earning his degree in Criminal Justice and completing ROTC. He re-enlisted in the Army joining the Officers Corps and enrolling in Helicopter Flight Training. Some of his assignments while in federal service include serving in leadership positions in the 1st Cavalry Division, 2nd infantry Division (Korea) 3rd Infantry Division (Germany) and as Logistics Operations Officer at Ft. Carson, Colorado. He left active duty and joined the Reserves in 1987. There he worked in the 75th Maneuver Command in various logistical positions until 2001. He served as the Military Assistant to the Political Advisor for the Commander of Kosovo Forces Command for 5 months before transferring to the Retired Reserves in August, 2001. Among his many awards and commendations are the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

COL Adams joined the Texas State Guard in March 2004. He held the position of Regimental Ops Officer for 5 years before taking over command of the 1st BN in 2009. His assignments while in state service include, Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Dean, Humberto, Dolly, Eduard, Gustav, Ike and Alex where he managed shelters and supply distribution points.



MG John H. Bailey II pins on the Distinguished Service Medal, while COL Dennis O'Driscoll shakes CSM Paul Esler's hand.

Command Sergeant Major Paul Esler was honored in front of students, faculty, friends and family in a brief ceremony at Onalaska High School where he is the JROTC Instructor. The Distinguished Service Award was presented to him by MG John H. Bailey II (Ret) and COL Dennis O'Driscoll, while 8th Regiment Personnel Officer, CPT Joseph Conte read the proclamation signed by Gov. Rick Perry. Onalaska Mayor, Roy Newport declared the days from November 1st to November 11th to be "Paul Esler Days" in the City of Onalaska, recognizing for his 46 years of service to country, state and town.



LTC John Adams receives gifts from CPT David Moore and SGM Steven Dunbar on behalf of the 1BN / 8REGT.

CSM Paul Esler joined the US Navy in 1964 and did three tours in Vietnam until 1970. From there he joined the US Army Reserve until 1982. He was active duty from 1982 to 1999, where he was known as the "Ping Pong Recruiter." He was a member the US Table Tennis Team known for bringing "Ping Pong Diplomacy" to the talks between the United States and China. (There is no one in the 8th Regiment that will challenge him.)

He retired after 35 years from federal service as the Command Sergeant Major of the Recruiting Battalion. His federal awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (2 times), Army Commendation Medal (4 times) National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and both army and Navy Good Conduct Medals.



COL Dennis O'Driscoll pins the brevet rank of full Colonel on LTC John Adams.

He enlisted in the Texas State Guard in 2001 and held the positions of 8th Brigade S-3 Sergeant Major, 2nd Bde CSM, QRT 8th Bde CSM and 8th REGT CSM. Awards given during state service include the Governor's Unit Citation, TXSG Service Medal, Physical Fitness Ribbon, TXSG Recruiting Ribbon, Commanding General's Individual Award and the Texas Outstanding Service Medal.

The dedication these individuals have shown the people of Texas is unsurpassed and their example will live on in the men and women who were privileged to serve with them.



# Texas Maritime

## TMAR Color Guard Supports “Suicide Charley” Reunion

By PO1 Scott Runnels

NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS – Veterans’ Day 2012 and the United States Marine Corps’ 237th birthday were both honored in east Texas by the Texas Maritime Regiment’s 1st Battalion Color Guard honoring a special group of veterans. These were the remaining survivors of Operation Indiana (March 28-29, 1966), at a reunion of Company C “Suicide Charley”, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines.

In addition to the honor of presenting the colors, later in the evening 1st BN TMAR’s HM2 Chris Paulson was asked to perform “Last Roll Call”, a moving remembrance of fallen brothers, which drew tears from many of the grizzled old Marines present.

The event also celebrated the publication of “Chopper Blues”, a collection of Vietnam remembrances written

by former C Company platoon leader, Charles Jones. It is an art, poetry and military history book compiling the individual recollections of those who fought in Operation Indiana, the harrowing final mission of Suicide Charley.

The book comes with a DVD of art work (including images

from Jones’ sketchbook he kept during his time in Vietnam), poetry readings, music and some raw war footage and news reports from that battle that have never been aired. The book also includes the now declassified after-action report, the company commander’s account, and individual accounts by surviving company members.

Jones received a silver star for his actions during Indiana, though the former platoon leader gives all the credit to his

men, who in the 1960’s enlisted in the Marines as 19- and 20-year-olds. They rapidly proved their mettle in combat, through many feats of selfless heroism and are in their own way, a “greatest generation” of Marines and Corpsmen.

Chopper Blues is available through SFA Press ([sfapress.sfasu.edu](http://sfapress.sfasu.edu)) and a special limited edition version is available through Lanana Creek Press



L-R: HM2 Chris Paulson, PO2 Samantha Gish, PO2 Scott Runnels, SGT Chad Branton. Present but not shown: LT Robert Killingsworth and SCPO Lloyd Wallace.

([lananacreekpress.com](http://lananacreekpress.com)).



## TMAR 1BN Continues Mission Ready Dive Training

By: CDR Wayne Hogard

The Texas Maritime Regiment's 1st Battalion conducted a field training exercise at Lake Conroe with Montgomery Search and Rescue.

Dive team members searched for a drowning victim and crime evidence as part of the exercise, while four land-based Search-and-Rescue teams participated in multiple missing-people searches. As part of the exercise, corpsmen treated and evacuated simulated injuries.

To provide even more training opportunities, the Incident Command System was utilized to successfully run the exercise.



The Texas Maritime Regiment's 1st Battalion diver PO3 Kevin Hesse prepares to dive at a recent field training exercise (FTX) at Lake Conroe. Divers were part of a battalion-wide exercise conducted with Montgomery Search and Rescue.

The east Texas lakes and thick Piney Woods provided a challenging environment for training. There are four additional SAR exercises scheduled in upcoming months with multiple public service partners, training in different geographic environments.



# Around the Wing



Airmen of the 449th Air Support Group Communications Squadron, Lackland AFB, prepare to set up, operate and test (2) Motorola Astro Spectra Consolettes. This monthly UTA exercise ensures that the airmen are proficient in setting up the 20' antenna as well as communicating successfully thru both consoles.





# 4th Air Wing



Airmen First Class Gabrielle Galvan and Airmen First Class Ivy Girard, 449 Air Support Group, Lackland AFB, are briefed by SMSgt Mike Arellano, 149th Fighter Wing Public Affairs on proper procedures for selecting photographs and stories for future Texas Air National Guard articles and publications.



# Medical Brigade



## Protecting the Troops, Preserving the Mission

By WO1 Cary D. Wintz

While soldiers of the Texas State Guard participated in a rigorous regimen of training followed by Operation Bayonet (a coordinated response to a simulated hurricane), the soldiers from the Medical Brigade served an equally important mission—keeping the soldiers safe, healthy, and in the field during Annual Training. One group of soldiers, comprised largely of EMTs, was attached to the army units taking part in the field training and exercise. The second group staffed the medical Aid Station at Camp Bowie.

EMTs and medical support personnel accompanied the army units that trained in shelter set up and operation, field navigation, and wide area disaster assessment (WADA). The embedded medical personnel both took part in the training and stood ready to provide medical support as needed. On Saturday during Operation Bayonet they simulated the operation of a shelter medical station while remaining vigilant in case the troops needed real-world medical attention.

Back at camp Bowie, a combination of medical providers -- including physicians, a nurse practitioner, and a physician's assistant -- worked with registered nurses and EMTs to provide medical support for the troops. The Aid Station consisted of a triage point, an examining room, and cots for those patients who needed them. All patients received a thorough examination and necessary treatment before they were released back to duty, placed on light duty, or sent back to the barracks and assigned follow-up treatment.

The unusually hot weather combined with the rigorous training exercises taxed the endurance of the troops. Most who arrived at the Aid Station suffered from heat-

related ailments, although there were several who experienced other injuries or illnesses.

The Aid Station remained open until about 2000 hours each evening, and a primary care provider remained on call overnight.

Most important was the quality of care that the troops of the Medical Brigade provided. LTC Troy Smith reported that the highly qualified medical volunteers worked tirelessly to keep the troops healthy, to provide appropriate medical aid and follow up, and when possible to return them to duty. Major Joseph Roosth, a physician attending his first AT, observed that the care provided by the health care professionals of the Medical Brigade was at the level he provided patients in his private practice.



SPC Woods (HMRG) and UTMB medical staff at the South Aid Station treat 12- year-old Lisa Robertson who had an eye injury at Wings Over Houston (TXSG Photo by WO1 Wintz)

## Engineering Team Saves Texans Money

By MAJ Michael Quinn Sullivan

While the work of the Texas State Guard Engineering Detachment often goes unnoticed, Texas Military Forces – and the state’s taxpayers – are getting a big return on the volunteer services of these dedicated soldiers.

While long serving as the TXSG’s technical early responders helping municipalities re-start life-sustaining water and wastewater facilities, the detachment recently began providing non-emergency services as a way to put their skills to practical use. The two dozen engineers and technicians have more than 100 years of combined professional experience.

“In the absence of a hurricane, we can still be of use to the state,” said Col. Patrick Fink, a licensed professional engineer from San Antonio and the deputy S-3 officer.

He approached the Texas Army National Guard and Texas Air National Guard to see how his engineering team could help. The result? He and his team have been reviewing TXMF facilities around the state. So far they have completed preliminary reviews of a half-dozen facilities, providing TXMF with an overview of what those sites require in terms of maintenance, repair or expansion depending on the overall plan and circumstances.

“I found out that the demand for our services was very badly needed,” said Fink. “[They] have a plethora of projects that needed the help of someone evaluating them, sitting down with the staff to provide intelligence on what the facilities need. We’re providing a professional review of their facilities. We’re an advance team for them.”

Each preliminary site review would cost TXMF between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Their work includes a site visit, reviewing structural plans, and then producing a report. A

visit alone can last a half-day more, and the write-ups can take days.

Fink said the work his team does isn’t meant to take the place of outside engineers, but rather help TXMF decide how to allocate their resources.

“I’m an engineer, but I’m also a Texan. What we’re trying to do here is use our talents to help our state where they aren’t staffed.”

A retired Air Force engineer and medic, Fink was an advisor to the Base Re-Alignment and Closure Commission. Today, he does civil structural engineering work for the firm Ahtna Netiye and serves as the company’s deputy director for strategic planning.

During last year’s annual training, the team reviewed two facilities at Camp Bowie: Building 30, and the unfinished “Musgrave House.”

The team is also reviewing the options for additional sewage capacity at Camp Swift.

Fink had just completed a review of the Army Reserve Center at Camp Mabry, which is due to be vacated in the spring, with the National Guard slated to take over the facility.

“We love our profession,” Fink said, looking ahead to a dozen more projects awaiting his team in the year ahead. “We’re honored to be doing this.”



Stay tuned for the new Guidon coming soon...



Also coming a new Texas State Guard Web Portal...