

Texas Military Department News

"Texans Serving Texas"

MEDIA ADVISORY

Members of the media are invited to cover the toy distribution preparations on Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016, beginning at 9 a.m. at the National Guard Armory at 1807 Stone Rd. Kilgore, Texas 75662.

Those media wishing to cover the toy distribution at the area hospitals are welcome to do so at Trinity Mother Frances Hospital at 2:45 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016, and must arrive no later than 2:30 p.m. for parking and coordination. Trinity Mother Frances Hospital is located at 800 E. Dawson Tyler, Texas 75701.

Members of the media are required to RSVP no later than Friday, Dec. 10, 2016, by 7 a.m. with 19th Regiment Texas State Guard Public Affairs Officer Capt. Esperanza Meza at 817-733-6269 or esperanza.meza@txsg.state.tx.us.

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLIC RELEASE:

Texas State Guard to Deliver Toys to Tyler Hospital

AUSTIN, Texas (Dec. 8, 2016) – Dozens of uniformed members of the Texas State Guard (TXSG) will sort, organize and prepare hundreds of toys for delivery to pediatric patients at Trinity Mother Frances Hospital across Texas, Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016. Media is also invited to watch the Texas State Guard prepare the toys for delivery.

In its eighth year, the toy distribution is part of the Texas State Guard "Young Heroes of the Guard" toy drive program designed to collect and deliver new toys to pediatric patients at every dedicated children's hospital in Texas during the holiday season. Additionally, the goal is to collect enough toys to leave behind an inventory of stuffed animals, games, dolls and more for the hospitals to give to patients throughout the following year.

"This year thanks to the generous donations of Texans around the state, we hope to deliver more than 30,000 toys," said Chaplain Capt. David Fish, statewide toy drive coordinator for the Guard. "To see the children smile with joy is the most rewarding experience during the year. During Christmas, the Guard puts children first."

Since 2009, Texas State Guard volunteers have collected and distributed more than 77,000 toys to children across Texas who are spending the holiday season away from home.

For more information about the Texas State Guard and the "Young Heroes of the Guard" Toy Drive visit <u>http://txsgtoydrive.org/</u>

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

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

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