



SDF Times

Winter 2014/15

COMMUNICATION

Message from the President

UPCOMING EVENTS

2015 Mid-year meeting -
*Executive Board, SDF
Commanders, Committee Chairs*

Reston, VA
April 25, 2015

2015 Annual Conference

All SGAUS Members

Baltimore, MD

October 29—November 1, 2015

[2014 General Conference Photo
Album—Anchorage, Alaska](#)

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Message from the President, BG Holl:

It is a personal honor for me to be selected to be your President. With that appointment comes the responsibility to faithfully fulfill the duties of that office and to further the missions and purposes of the State Guard Association of the United States.

We are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the State Guard Association of the United States. State Defense Forces have come a long way in thirty years to become trusted members of state military teams. State Defense Forces are now known to be legally authorized forces under military command and control. State Defense Forces are typically treated as other state agencies in time of disaster or national emergencies and are deployed to disasters to augment National Guard forces.

The State Guard Association of the United States has a clear mission. The mission statement of SGAUS clarifies that the association is to provide assistance and support to those state defense forces, state guards and state military reserves that are authorized by the United States Constitution, federal law and state law. The State Guard Association of the United States is a resource that can be used by states, Adjutant Generals and State Defense Forces as a clearinghouse of information. So often it is important to know:

- What are normal uses of state defense forces by states?
- How can state defense forces be used to save the state and the National Guard expense, but still carry out the necessary missions in times of budget constraints?
- What is the experience of other states to be compliant with statutes and regulations?
- What missions are commonly authorized for state defense forces?
- What uniforms should be worn?
- How are state defense forces deployed within various states?

SGAUS can share how state defense forces are used for maximum efficiency throughout the United States.

Another element of the mission of the State Guard Association of the United States is to offer advice and counsel to citizens, who wish to petition states and territories to form a state defense force. We now have the opportunity in several states and territories to give that advice and counsel.

We need to make sure that all state defense forces in the United States have access to the benefits of membership in SGAUS. We need to encourage some states defense forces to become more actively involved in SGAUS. During the next year, State Defense Force Commanders, including myself, will reach out in person to encourage and visit state defense forces to become more active in the State Guard Association of the United States. We need all state defense forces to participate and to take up the mantle of leadership for SGAUS in a manner that is enduring.

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BG Roger Holl's Address

Continued.....

The thousands of state defense force members and their geographical impact and importance can add value to the State Guard Association of the United States. More importantly, the State Guard Association of the United States can give great value to newly involved state defense forces through education, and information sharing. All of this adds value to the effectiveness of state defense forces serving the public. SGAUS needs to continue to be actively serving state defense force members. We need to be good active listeners and receive members input and ideas as to how State Defense Forces can be an effective part of the military teams of the various states.

As we articulate our issues and problem solving capabilities with each other, we articulate and resolve issues that impact most states. We learn from one another. We need to remember, that in time of disaster or foreign threat, state defense forces are very important and greatly needed state resources. State defense forces are knowledgeable, professional and significant force multipliers for the protection of the peoples of our communities, states and nation. This is why the mission statement of the State Guard Association of the United States contains the provision that we will support the idea of volunteer service to local communities, to states, and to the nation.

I have a deep respect for the role of the State Guard Association of the United States to provide education to state defense forces. In my state, we have benefited greatly from the vision and educational instruction received from the State Guard Association of the United States. For example, for many years, our soldiers have received FEMA training on how to respond to disasters through the Military Emergency Management Specialist program, also known as "MEMS". MEMS training provided by SGAUS has benefited thousands of state defense force soldiers, other military and first responders.

Now it is also being offered to National Guard units by SGAUS. Because of his tremendous contribution to disaster education, this year's SGAUS Command Sergeant Major will be CSM Timothy White of Indiana, who is the Director of the SGAUS MEMS program. Likewise, many students and soldiers have benefited from SGAUS stipends and scholarships. Be sure to encourage your soldiers to apply.

In 2013, my state was one that benefited from a highly effective, week long Chaplain's School put on by the State Guard Association of the United States. By combining National Guard and state defense force chaplains on the faculty of these schools, relationships are forged between the National Guard chaplains and the state defense force chaplains. During exercises and humanitarian operations, state defense force chaplains now augment the National Guard chaplains to reach the needs of more people.

Likewise, one of our state's critical missions is engineering for damage assessment and debris removal. This year SGAUS will be working on creating a SGAUS Engineering Academy to train our volunteer professional engineers on how to assist and augment the National Guard's engineering needs.

Another area of concern is how states can make effective use of their medical personnel. Some states have made effective use of volunteer medical state defense force personnel. Other states need to develop standard operating procedures as to how to deploy physicians, nurses, EMTs, and paramedics to respond to their state's disaster health needs and still not fear liability concerns. Some states routinely provide their physicians for medical exams and procedures to assist the poor. That is an impactful way to volunteer to the communities. But is time to share information on how to provide medical services with other state defense forces.

An additional contribution that SGAUS could make would be to prepare private attorneys to work in the military environment as member of a state defense force. There are many aspects of military operations that need legal counsel to give legal advice on matters of liability, risk management, personnel matters and counsel to commanders. Likewise, the law can also be a helping profession, giving advice to homeless veterans or doing pro bono work for state defense force or National Guard members. These educational efforts by SGAUS in the area of medicine, accountancy, engineering, chaplaincy and law reflect that many civilian professionals want to volunteer for state military duty, but need to be trained on how to operate within the military environment in their respective professions. Once again, let us each dedicate ourselves to the mission of the State Guard Association of the United States, which is in part to:

"To provide education in order to sustain the concept of trained militia forces capable of timely and effective response to requests from civil authorities in time of disaster, emergency, or need."

Thank you for this honor. Now let us turn to accomplishing the real work of the State Guard Association, which is to educate state guard members, state defense force or state military reserves to protect the welfare and lives of the people of our states. We need to make serious efforts to increase membership. We need all of you to step up to the present and future leadership of the State Guard Association of the United States as we contribute to the effective use and management of over 14,000 state defense force or state guard members in the United States.

God bless America, and thank you for your valuable service to protecting our states and country.

BG Roger E. Holl
President
State Guard Association of the United States



MEMS Corner



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the SGAUS Board of Director for re-appointing me as the MEMS Commandant for 2014/2015. Over the past year, we have had success and failures with the MEMS Academy, great lessons learned. In efforts to maintain consistency in the program, the past two years have not seen any changes to the MEMS curriculum. 2015 will be the year for change! The Student Handbook updates are almost complete — final editing is under way. Once completed, it will be published at the National Website and the SGAUS website, our hope it to have it published by January 1, 2015. If you are currently enrolled in the MEMS program and you have not completed the level you are in, you have 120 days to complete it under the current program guidelines. If you have not started your certification, please pay close attention to the changes.

As long as FEMA does not delete any of the NIMS Courses, there will not be any changes to the Basic program for 2015. We are striving for efficiency consistency in our program — it all starts with the Basic MEMS! A new waiver policy has also been added to the student handbook. State and Regional Directors will be able to make decisions quickly based on policy.

Our program is getting attention, not only by the State Guard Forces, but by the active duty services. The Federal Government has placed mandated FEMA Training for all forces. SGAUS has been contacted regarding MEMS Certification; the Navy unit at Gitmo and several Active Duty Army NCO's as well. We are getting our name out there for MEMS. If you are a State or Regional Director please pass this word on to your soldiers. You must be a SGAUS member to earn the MEMS Badges. You are not required to be a member to wear your MEMS badge on your uniform; however, if you plan to move forward in the program you must be a member of SGAUS. If your membership expires you are not able to purchase MEMS items from SGAUS until your membership is current. Go sgaus.org to renew your membership!

Our MEMS program is very active -- let's work together to keep it that way! My next article will address the changes in the student manual, to include the waiver system

Respectfully,

CSM Tim White (IN)
MEMS Commandant



From the Desk of the CSM

It is with great pleasure to be selected as your 2014-2015 Association Command Sergeant Major. As a member of SGAUS over the past seven years, I have worked with many great Senior NCOs that have held this position that have accomplished great things -- I honor their service and their sacrifice.

I would like to thank BG Holl for appointing me to this position. I am honored, because he has reposed great trust in me to move the State Guard Association forward during this period of appointment. I want to really address the Senior Enlisted Advisors for all the State Defense Forces in the United States; SGAUS is your representative in so many areas. I am your sponsor for the MEMS program, it is your representative to the National Guard Bureau, and it is a forum of State Commanders bringing us together as one. We need to support this effort and our commanders in the process. Each of us serves with honor and respect for one another and we strive to meet goals and expectations of our units as leaders. Your Association needs you too! It needs you to look to the future of the state guards and see where we really are. We are the Minutemen of old -- we do this so others do not have to. We use our skills, our intelligence and our time to make things happen. We need to do this for the State Guard Association as well.

We should stand united, we should band together to improve and grow the SGAUS organization. We do not want MEMS to be the only reason soldiers join SGAUS. We want them to join because they feel the sense of brotherhood we felt in the Services we served. Personal goals for the upcoming year as your Command Sergeant Major:

1. Attempt to contact all the State Command Sergeants Majors for their input.
2. Post articles on NCO leadership to increase membership.
3. Ensure that training programs do not go by the wayside.
4. Create a webpage for all CSMS to communicate at no cost to them.

One of the things I really learned the hard way on active duty is that when you are asked to take a Leadership position, even if you did not think you are qualified for it, you accept it and take charge. This is the learning curve we live within the military service. Are you, as Senior NCOs, willing to step up and assist SGAUS in meeting these goals -- I stand ready to make this happen, what about you? We only stand together if we are united -- where do you stand?

—CSM Tim White (IN)

Chaplain School Camp Atterbury, Indiana 12—15 November



November 12 – 15th Camp Atterbury, Indiana was the site of our November Chaplain School. There were sixteen SGAUS members from New York, Mississippi, Ohio, and Texas and of course Indiana present. Our wonderful hosts had five support personal to take care of our every need. The Indiana State Guard Commander, F. Barry Green, came by to support and welcome us to the great Hoosier State. CSM Coe and SGM White served as our Drill SGTs. We wound up drilling in a wide hallway as the weather changed and it got quite cold out!

Although we have a schedule, we remain flexible due to unforeseen circumstances. Our Red Cross team was not able to make it at the last minute and an instructor came down ill! No matter what, we all made due and everything went well. We give several courses each school dealing with being a Chaplain in the Military, and Spiritual Leadership as well as Drill and Military Funerals -- these are our core classes. We offer a number of classes dealing with crises and stress, suicide prevention, various types of counseling and addressing issues brought up, such as women in the military.

We learn more and more every time we hold a Chaplain School. A new class that will be added going forward is the Chaplain Assistant. We also find that sometimes attendees have already had some of the training that we offer. We spend 20 hours in the Class Room; 9 of those hours are core materials, 11 hours are additional subjects. Future schools will allow attendees to choose five classes out of a list of 10 when they register that they are most interested in. We will offer the top five classes selected.

Twelve of the sixteen attendees said they want to attend again, many said they want to return to Indiana — Thank You Indiana for your support!



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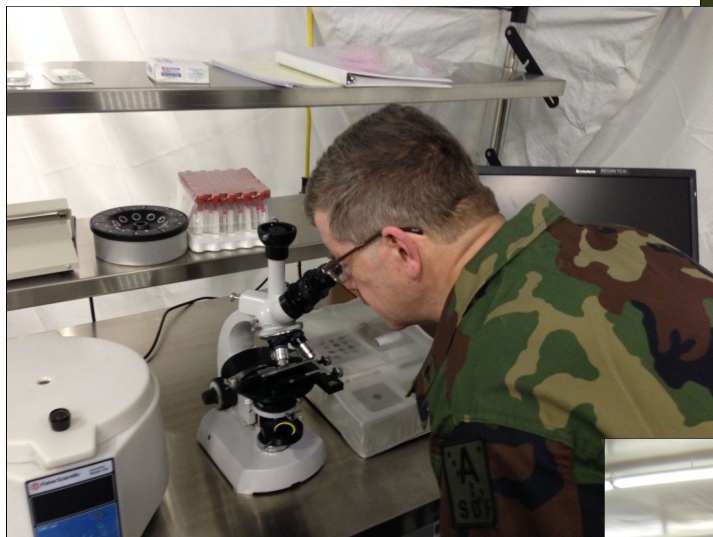
The Alaska State Defense Force at the Alaska Medical Station

By BG Roger E. Holl



The Alaska State Defense Force undertook many missions in support of the National Guard during Vigilant Guard 2014. The exercise was designed to prepare for another magnitude 9.2 earthquake like the earthquake that hit Alaska in 1964. The ASDF served in many roles in this exercise, from serving the Joint Operations Center, joint staging and reception of troops from other states, communications, providing medical personnel, as well as engineering for damage assessment and debris removal. The ASDF has been focusing on training and force development that response to critical missions needed by the State of Alaska in the event of a disaster.

As part of the exercise, the Alaska Medical Station was set up at the Palmer Fairgrounds to treat victims of the earthquake. The Alaska State Defense Force was able to augment those many volunteers in several ways. First, the ASDF worked initially with inventory of the hospital. Traffic control was provided by the ASDF. The ASDF also provided an ASDF physician and an Emergency Technician. Further, the ASDF provided chaplaincy services to the hospital. The ASDF provides an opportunity for those with prior military service or those who wish to serve the people of Alaska with their skills, when Alaskans need help the most!



The State Guard Association of the United States Soldier of the Year & NCO of the Year

The State Guard Association of the United States (SGAUS) has selected two Alaska State Defense soldiers, in a national competition, as Soldier of the Year and Non Commissioned Officer of the Year.

Selection as the SGAUS Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year is an exceptional honor for the soldier selected but also a great responsibility. The soldiers selected will represent SGAUS for a year as the best of the best SGAUS has to offer. The soldiers selected for these honors must also consistently display exceptional dedication, professionalism, performance, military bearing and appearance.

SFC Helga Polsey will be receiving the Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year. SFC Polsey serves with the 3rd Battalion, Alaska State Defense Force in Fairbanks. SFC Polsey joined the ASDF in 2005 and has completed the ASDF NCO Academy. She is employed with the Family & Morale, Welfare and Recreation division of the US Army at Ft. Wainwright. She has taken the SGAUS Military Emergency Management Specialist Academy and Department Of Defense courses. SFC Polsey participated in the Vigilant Guard 2014 exercise.

CPL Taylor Cospser is selected to receive the Soldier of the Year. He is a February 2011 graduate of the Alaska Military Youth Academy. CPL Cospser enlisted in the Alaska State Defense Force in the spring of 2013 and now serves in with the 2nd Forward Support Battalion at Alcantra. In May 2014 CPL Taylor Cospser was awarded the Alaska Commendation Medal, for outstanding service in the Vigilant Guard 2014 exercise. He is a 2013 graduate of the Alaska State Defense Force NCO Academy.

The National Awards are to be awarded in Anchorage, Alaska at the State Guard Association of the United States Annual Conference.



SFC Helga Polsey , NCO of the Year



CPL Taylor Cospser, Soldier of the Year



Growing Need—Expanding support:

New California State Military Reserve Behavioral Health Embed Program Answers the Call

Submitted by CPT Michael Franc, michael.franc.nfg@mail.mil

California National Guard soldiers and their families have felt both the pride and the strain of responding to our nation's call during more than ten years of conflict. Over the past two years the California National Guard (CNG) Joint Behavioral Health Office has worked in partnership with the California State Military Reserve (CSMR) to form a specialized support program to embed CSMR service members in specifically identified California Army National Guard units as a monthly resource. This follows the Army model of embedding support right where it is needed—in units. Although only a handful of CSMR Behavioral Health personnel are assigned to this program, interest and assignments are growing. CSMR Behavioral Health staff are currently embedded in 5 units, with a CSMR OIC, Administrator, and Project officer.

As CPT (CA) Franc, OIC of the CSMR Behavioral Health Embed program explains, "This concept takes the behavioral health professionals out of the clinical setting and places them in units where they will have the most direct and positive impact and develop relationships with soldiers." He emphasized another critical program element, "Embeds put a face to the name of behavioral health and help reduce stigma and remove barriers to soldiers seeking care."

2LT (CA) Jim Hyde, Agency Coordinator for the program states, "CSMR Behavioral Health staff are being attached to units displaying the greatest needs." California National Guard units with embedded personnel are the 578th Engineer Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery, 184th Infantry Battalion, 649th Engineer Company, and the 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion.

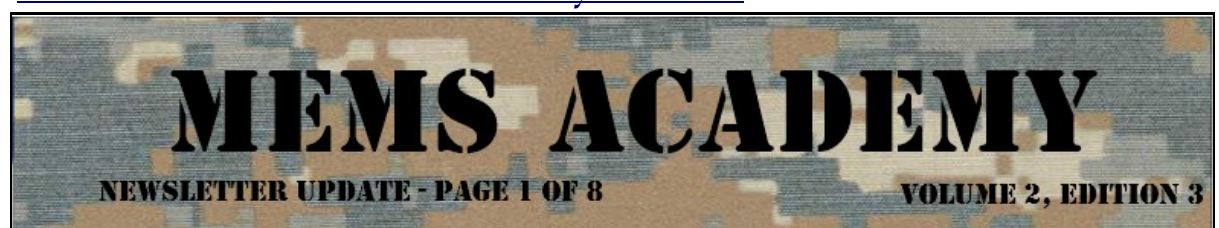


According to CPT (CA) Franc, "Although the CSMR BH volunteers will only be embedded with their assigned CA ARNG unit one drill day a month, their presence will be invaluable to the units they support and greatly help the full-time behavioral health clinicians throughout state meet the continued needs of Guardsmen."

A shining example of the embed program's success is the recent support provided to the 578th Engineer Battalion during their annual training (AT) held in June, 2014 at Camp Roberts. CSMR member MAJ (CA) Lydia Thomas provided on-ground support to the unit including deploying into the field and responded to behavioral health concerns both emergent and routine throughout the AT. For her efforts, she was awarded her the CA Achievement Medal. CNG's ultimate goal is to place a CSMR BH volunteer at any unit needing support in the near term, hoping to expand to 10 units in the next year.



[Click here to read the CA MEMS Academy Newsletter](#)



CSMR 1st BN (SMP) trains 330th MP

Company CA ARNG

JFTB LOS ALAMITOS, Calif. – Elements of 1st BN State Military Police (SMP), Regional Support South (RSS), supported military police law enforcement through its Less than Lethal Measures and Conducting an Automobile Search training courses. During this innovative activity on, the 330th MP Company CA ARNG joined in this training in order to execute their mission in command and control and in the preservation of law and order.

The SMP training roster included: Sgt. Maj. Dennis Barberic, Staff Sgts. Gerald Berry, Erik Krause, Richard Marazsky, Sgt. Andrew Thompson and Spc. Brian Chesmore. Four other Soldiers on the SMP's "Red Phase" also assisted in training: Pfc. Bill Dumas, Pete Helbock, Joseph Reyes, and Wesley Tamson.

Less than lethal measures

Navigating its schedule to upgrade and maintain every Soldiers' combat readiness and effectiveness, the 330th MP Co. planned the use of the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000. The EST 2000 can replicate 11 weapons. The electronic simulator provides and "supports realistic and comprehensive gated rifle marksmanship instruction...". CA ARNG Soldiers filled both EST1 and EST2 training areas. The 96 Soldiers from the 330th, directed by their training instructors, did qualify in the their courses of fire.

Soldiers from the 1st BN (SMP) also trained to increase unit proficiency and collective combat effectiveness, especially when administering the EST 2000. Marazsky controlled the simulator during the M-203 course; and, Chesmore performed the duties as operator during the Less than Lethal 12 gauge shot gun course. "Red Phase" Soldiers, on their first mission, assisted in lane management throughout the first phase of the training schedule.

Traffic stops - vehicle search

The next training event, conducting an automobile search (TS-VS), used everyday by MPs, constitutes an initial response to possible criminal and enemy activity. This area of control also authorizes MP control of persons not included in the military services. The two types of "Stops" in the afternoon exercise included "Low Risk" and "High Risk." Due to the number of Soldiers participating in the exercise, instruction lasted for 45 minutes. Lane training guidelines used the conventional method of instruction, observation, questions and active performance.



Barberic and Krause conducted the "Low Risk" lane training. Thompson and Berry conducted the "High Risk" lane training. This effort by the 1st BN (SMP) "exposed the soldiers of the 330th MP Company on how to conduct a ... traffic stop." The 330th MP Company rallied 91 Soldiers through each course.

Every situational training exercise shares sustainment and improvement goals. As Berry, Small Weapons NCOIC, noted, "This type of training brings the two units (330th /1st BN) closer together in a common goal. I hope our unit not only has many future opportunities to train this unit, but also receives training opportunities from / with this unit of the CARNG.



Is your membership current?

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Member Services: info@sgaus.org

CA SDF JAGs Lead Embezzlement Prosecution

By COL R. Stephen Bolinger (CA) (JA)

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Rene Korn recognized them immediately—and why not, after all she had served with both of them as Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorneys; however, she had never seen them in Army Blue before. “Appearances,” she asked!! “Major John Harold---Major Anthony Colonnino, (CSMR) Special Deputy Attorneys General for the People .” Thus began the latest chapter in California’s quest to recover millions of dollars that is alleged to have been stolen by National Guard Recruiters. Four defendants, all former or present Guard members, have been charged in felony complaints. Three in Los Angeles County and one in Sacramento. If convicted each could receive up to twenty years in prison. All four have had preliminary hearings and have been bound over for trial and are presently waiting to enter pleas at arraignment.

It all started after the administrator of a recruitment bonus program plead guilty to embezzlement in federal court and was sentenced to prison. The California Military Department then decided it wanted prosecute Guard Recruitment Officers and NCOs whom the Military Department believed had knowingly and illegally received money from the program. In looking for JAGs to act as trial counsel, the State Military Reserve, (California’s State Defense Force), was asked if they could provide some legal help—and help they did. Career prosecutors, with over thirty-five years of felony experience each, it was decided that Harold and Colonnino would handle the felony prosecutions in state court as Deputy Attorneys General, thus giving them jurisdiction to bring criminal actions in any county in California. Colonnino and Harold are still Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorneys but in an unprecedented agreement between the California Military Department and California Attorney General Kamala Harris, both are now cross-designated as Deputy Attorney Generals and specially assigned to prosecute these cases.

Colonnino and Harold are not the first State Reserve JAGs to appear in California Courts. In 2012 then Major Dave Fuller and Captain Robert Brode appeared in state court in Burbank California on behalf of the Army Guard and obtained a restraining order against a soldier who had threatened his commanding officer while both were off duty. In 2009 Lieutenant Colonel Jay Cogan, appeared in Los Angeles Superior Court on behalf of a California Guardsman who was facing foreclosure on his house. Cogan stopped the bank foreclosure and eventually wrote landmark legislation protecting California soldiers from predatory banking practices. As of last count, the banks are zero for forty on foreclosure actions against Cogan and California Guardsmen.

The CSMR is reaching out to local agencies

LONG BEACH, Calif. - In its continuing search for new opportunities to provide quality training and assistance to the California National Guard, the California State Military Reserve is starting conversations with various law enforcement entities across Southern California. In its latest outreach effort, the CSMR’s Regional Support South has been talking with the Los Angeles Port Police to learn more about that agency and how it handles its various professional development and training programs. RSS personnel previously have visited the Los Angeles Airport, met with the U.S. Border Patrol and are planning a meet-and-greet soon with authorities at the Port of Long Beach, according to CSMR Capt. Frank Quiambao.

RSS 2nd Brigade, Civil Support units have earned strong praise over the past several years for their initiative in developing and delivering customized training with various Cal Guard units. These training and support efforts have been based on proven tactics and techniques adapted from civilian law enforcement. The efforts also have involved assistance to help the Cal Guard units better understand and liaison with law enforcement and other civil entities. The RSS is awaiting the final go-ahead from the state to operationalize a State Military Police unit. On April 27, the LA Port Police held a morning briefing at the port’s Maritime Law Enforcement Training Center for a small contingent of CSMR Soldiers. The briefing was followed by an hour-long tour of the sprawling waterways on a 65-foot dive support boat. “We could do some cross-training with them depending on what they would need. Any kind of law enforcement agency can learn from another,” said CSMR 1st Sgt. Dennis Barberic about possible future interactions with port police. “They are not always on a boat. They’re also on the ground.” In the briefing, Police Capt. Mike Graychik provided a broad overview of the facilities, which encompasses 7,500 acres of land, marinas and water along 43 miles of waterfront. The port, together with the neighboring Port of Long Beach, constitutes by far the nation’s largest shipping complex. But Graychik noted that being the largest also means a big number of law-enforcement challenges to deal with, including drug smuggling, cargo theft, trafficking of illegal immigrants and the threat of terrorism. “There are a lot of dynamics at work here,” said Graychik about the training center that provides course offerings for the port’s 225-member police force that includes detectives, underwater dive teams, hazardous materials units, narcotics task forces, canine officers and bicycle teams.

The center is also used for training by and for a host of local, state and federal agencies that also have jurisdiction in and around the port such as the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, Los Angeles Police Department, U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.



CSMR Soldiers were given a waterways tour of the Port of Los Angeles by the LA Port Police. Col. Frank Naumann (left) and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Claude Overstreet are on deck with Police Capt. Mike Graychik. (Photo by Staff Sgt. (CA)

Richard Bergquist)

Our State Guards need a Skill Qualification Test System

By: COL (CA) Andre N. Coulombe

Military training and education is based on developing individual and collective skills to conduct the mission. Training is based on Mission Essential Task Lists (METL). METL are those capabilities required for mission accomplishment that units train to. What is missing within State Guards is a common core of individual skills supporting METL, to be tested and quantified. Officer and enlisted Military Occupation Specialties (MOS) training, Officer (OES) and Non-Commissioned Officer (NCOES) educational systems etc. all begin with the same question. What tasks and subtasks must individuals accomplish to support unit METL. With an answer to this question; training, testing and sustainment of skills based on grade needs to be developed. SGAUS can be instrumental in this process.

In most States the backbone of our State Guards are retired and prior service personnel who are presumed to bring basic skills to the fight. In some undefined way these skills are passed along to non-prior service personnel and kept current thru unit training and exercises. Up until recent years OES and NCOES was based around correspondence courses available from the Army Correspondence Course Program and the Marine Corps Institute. Promotion and assignment was roughly based on completion of these courses. If a Federal Colonel required a Command and General Staff College so did a State Officer. The Basic Non Commissioned Officer Course (BNCOC) was equally suitable for a Federal soldier as for a State.

This approach came under challenge with greater residency requirements after 1990 and now most of these courses have migrated online. Without a Common Access Card (CAC) these courses are effectively out of range. I would argue though that we have still not asked that basic question. What do our State Guardsmen need to know at the common core level and to what degree? We do not have a baseline set of required skills and a testing system to sustain these skills. This is what our education, training and exercise programs need to be based on. In looking at the Federal programs once available much of it was inapplicable to likely State Guard missions.

Do State Guardsmen need to train on “Call for fire?” How many of our Guardsmen will be part of a mortar crew? Given the limitations of training time we need to train to the likely mission. These in turn provide us the basic individual common core skill sets.

The US Army facing similar questions developed a program around the Skills Qualification Test (SQT) both common core and MOS. The program is built around skill levels one thru four which roughly equate to enlisted grades E-1 to E-4. The program comes complete with tasks, subtasks, references, training linkages, manuals, job books, standards and conditions. These programs are in the public domain right off the shelf. Two thirds of the common core SQT does not apply to SDF. However among the remaining one third are many that fit like a glove. These are the skills we can build a program around. These SQT tasks are numbered and can be extracted from the original text as required for SDF training. My proposal would be to extract those tasks which are applicable to SDF roles and missions and begin a better training foundation than we have at present. This would be consistent with the limited time available for volunteers and permit Common Core Training (CTT) both for prior and non-prior service. Establishment of a basic Common Core individual training is essential to support MOS, OES and NCOES development. Space does not permit me to go into greater depth. If the Association desires I hope to expand on this basic idea and develop it into a more comprehensive proposal.

The opinions expressed herein are those of the author and do not represent the views of the California State Military Reserve.”

Comments are appreciated, coulombea@gmail.com



GSDF Units Conducted Annual Training

By: 2nd LT Allan Hayes, allan.hayes@gasdf.us

COMBAT READINESS TRAINING CENTER, Savannah, October 4, 2014 – Nearly 400 members of the Georgia State Defense Force (GSDF) attended three days of Annual Training (AT) near Savannah Georgia during the first weekend of October. GSDF members performed a Mass Casualty Triage and Transport Field Training Exercise



(FTX) to maintain readiness to support response to natural disasters, according to Commanding Officer Brig. Gen. Tom Danielson. Training was coordinating with units of the GA Air National Guard. The training scenario included about 50 simulated casualties from a natural disaster that had to be triaged in the field and then transported by fixed and rotary wing aircraft to base for further evaluation and treatment by GSDF with assistance from elements of the Georgia Air National Guard (GANG).

Colonel Lou Coroso, Deputy Commander of the GSDF, said, "It's our mission to make sure we're ready for any contingency, and training events such as this help us identify the things we do well and those areas in which we can improve our readiness in order to better serve our state in the event of a real disaster; whether natural or man-made." The GSDF is one of three branches of the Georgia Department of Defense. Under the direction of Georgia's Adjutant General, the GSDF mission is to provide an organized, trained, disciplined, rapid response volunteer force to assist state and local government agencies, and civil relief organizations in impending or actual emergencies to assure the welfare and safety of the citizens of Georgia.

Major General Thomas Moore, Commander of GANG and Chief Master Sergeant Joe Greene, State Command Chief, GANG observed the training as invited guests. While addressing the final formation of AT, General Tom Danielson praised the effort given by the troops during training and thanked them for their service. He reminded them that they must continue to train to a high standard and be "Ready To Serve". He said AT went according to the Operations Plan and more importantly was conducted in a safe and efficient manner.



He said AT went according to the Operations Plan and more importantly was conducted in a safe and efficient manner.

IGR Soldiers Successfully Explore New Mission

Retrieved from picasaweb.google.com

When 3,000 Explorers and their advisors visited Bloomington, Ind. for the National Law Enforcement & Fire and Emergency Services Exploring National Conference, they depended on



the IGR for safety and guidance. Guard Reservists came out in force the week of July 13 to host the visitors who came from across the country. The IGR contributed to the medical, security, and public affairs operations during the week. IGR members also helped run the Cop Shop, the conven-



tion's law-enforcement store, and judged first aid and other competitions. During the conference, thousands of Explorers participated in team competitions including arrest and search, crime scene investigation, bomb threat response, judgment pistol shooting, and crisis negotiation. Seminars on bomb investigations, combating terrorism, executive protection, narcotic trafficking,

gang recognition, hate crimes, surveillance methods and technology, and other topics were offered by professional law enforcement specialists.

Thousands of American men and women aged 14-20 interested in the field



of law enforcement have participated in Law Enforcement Exploring. This includes former Explorer and current National Law Enforcement Exploring Committee Chair, United States Secret Service Director Julia Pierson. Pierson and Lt. Gov. Sue Ellspermann inspired the Explorers during the event. Both thanked the IGR for its service during the event. [Click here for](#)



MDDF Support Helps Make Star Spangled Spectacular a Success

By MAJ Stephen Rice, srice@mddf.us



Over the course of several days, various elements of Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) provided volunteer support for the Star Spangled Spectacular's festivities. These units, including the MDDF Band, the 10th Medical Regiment and the D9 Recruiting Unit served under the direction of Col. (MDDF) George Rich, the task force commander of Operation Early Light. Their support helped to ensure that the festivities honoring the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the National Anthem were an unparalleled success.

On September 11, 2014, the MDDF Band performed twice for the 200th anniversary ceremony of the Battle of North Point. The first performance at Patterson Park in Baltimore City preceded the ceremonial march of five hundred members of the Maryland National Guard (MDNG) 175th Infantry Regiment (Fifth Maryland) from Patterson Park to Battle Acre Park in Dundalk, Maryland. This march replicated the six mile route that the Maryland Militia took two hundred years ago to engage the British in battle and protect the City of Baltimore from attack. At the end of the march in Dundalk, the MDDF Band played again for a special wreath laying ceremony conducted by Maryland's Governor Martin O'Malley and representatives from the British Embassy.

On September 13, 2014 the MDDF Band performed on the public stage at the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine for the National Anthem Celebration. Some of their musical selections included the *National Anthem*, *America the Beautiful*, *God Bless America*, *The Stars and Stripes Forever* and *My Maryland*. This historic event included speeches by Maryland's Governor Martin O'Malley and U.S. Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. The evening concluded with a demonstration of the largest fireworks display in Baltimore City's history.

On September 14, 2014 the MDDF Band performed for the historic Dawns Early Light celebration held inside the walls of Fort McHenry. This special ceremony honored the exact moment that the National Anthem was born 200 years ago. Various U.S. military units including the Third U.S. Infantry Regiment "The Old Guard," and a U.S. Navy detachment from the U.S.S. Constitution stood in formation on the parade ground. Other military units from the United Kingdom and Canada were

also in attendance. The keynote speaker was former U.S. Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Colin L.



Powell, United States Army (Ret.). This memorable event was shown live and rebroadcast to millions of American households by the C-SPAN television network.

The highlight of the MDDF Band's performance was their playing of the "The Star-Spangled Banner," while the public audience sang all four verses of under the direction of Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley. Lt. Col. Jari Villanueva who directs the MDDF Band, officially known as "Maryland's Musical Ambassadors," commented that "This was a magnificent event that honored our shared American heritage. I am also thrilled that citizens across this great country were able to hear the wonderful music of the MDDF Band." While the MDDF Band was entertaining large crowds, the MDDF 10th Medical Regiment was providing onsite medical support for the thousands of visitors to Fort McHenry. The 10th Medical Regiment operated a mobile hospital that treated patients with various medical issues throughout the Star Spangled Spectacular's celebrations. The medical professionals of the 10th Medical Regiment provided excellent care and a safe environment for all in attendance.

Under the direction of Maj. Bryan Fischer, the MDDF D9 Recruiting Unit established a recruiting and information booth for the MDDF during Star Spangled Spectacular. This booth was staffed with junior officers and non-commissioned officers that educated the public about the mission of the MDDF. "We staffed our recruiting and information booth throughout the festivities so that we could spread the word about the good work that's being done on behalf of the State of Maryland by the MDDF," commented Maj. Fischer. He continued, "We met a host of patriotic Americans and proud Marylanders who were delighted to know that there is a corps of volunteers who donate their time in service to the state. This was a great event for us."

Col. George Rich, the task force commander noted that, "Supporting these festivities was truly an honor for the MDDF. Our volunteers performed extremely well and I am very proud that we had this historic opportunity. Operation Early Light was a smashing success."

The MDDF is the State's uniformed volunteer military unit providing professional and technical assistance to the Maryland Military Department.



MDDF Cyber Security Unit Helps Defend Maryland from Attack

By LTC Jane Ohlmacher, johlmacher@mddf.maryland.gov

The Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) Cyber Security Unit was created in 2010 at the request of the Adjutant General of Maryland, Maj. Gen. James A. Adkins. He realized that the threat of a cyber emergency in the State of Maryland was growing and wanted to tap as much private sector talent as possible to supplement the Maryland Air and Army National Guard cyber teams.

The MDDF Cyber Security Unit's mission statement includes providing support to the Maryland Military Department, improving the security stance of the State of Maryland agencies and being prepared to respond with the Maryland Military Department in case of a cyber emergency. In order to complete this mission, the MDDF Cyber Security Unit trains on a monthly basis with the Maryland Army National Guard. In addition, they participate in quarterly joint training exercises with members of the Maryland Air National Guard and with various state agencies.

In addition to external training and support, the MDDF Cyber Security Unit provides training to members of the unit and is an excellent venue for getting hands on experience to enter or advance in this field. In fact recently some MDDF Pioneers, a group of college level state soldiers, trained along with seasoned professionals who are top level experts in cyber security.

The MDDF Cyber Security Unit has many aspiring plans for the near future. The unit is negotiating with the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development to train a group of wounded warriors to be able to start new professions in Cyber Security. Additionally, training requests for different units of the Maryland Military Department have been coming in already and are now being processed. Brig. Gen. Brian R. Kelm, the commanding general of the MDDF stated that he is, "thrilled that our cyber unit is recognized as an essential augmentation component in the defense of Maryland's networks."

The MDDF is the State's uniformed volunteer military unit providing professional and technical assistance to the Maryland Military Department. Established in 1917, the MDDF consists of nearly 450 personnel who perform legal, engineering, finance, medical, chaplain, field support and ceremonial services for the State of Maryland.

Captain James Howard Completes Ph.D. and Provides Talent to the MDDF

By 2nd LT Anthony J. Granado, agranados@mddf.us

The Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) supports the Maryland Army National Guard, the Maryland Air National Guard, and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, with a dedicated and professional body of men and women who volunteer their time and talent for the good of Maryland and its citizens.

One of these talented individuals is Capt. James Howard, Chief of Information Management Branch (MDDF, D6). Capt. Howard works to provide information resources to the MDDF and other related agencies and has been an invaluable part of the MDDF since November, 2006.

This past May, Captain Howard finished his dissertation in completion of his Ph.D. in public policy from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, where his research focused on the economic and social impacts of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Program. In his research, Capt. Howard explored how the benefits of flood insurance are distributed regionally, how the government benefits from the program, and how the program provides a framework for analyzing other disaster management regimes. With this information, Capt. Howard believes the government can better provide and price flood insurance to homeowners.

Capt. Howard brings a background as a statistical expert providing high level economic, policy and data consulting to Federal agencies and other clients. Currently, he is employed as an applied analytics scientist and machine learning engineer at Eagle Ray, Inc. and has previously served the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System as an internal consultant on statistical computing. Capt. Howard is also a passionate educator, teaching at the University of Maryland University College and the University of Baltimore.

The motto of the MDDF is *Officio Vocante Parati* – "Ready When Called." Capt. Howard exemplifies the talent and professionalism of the men and women of the MDDF who are always ready and able when called to serve the people of the State of Maryland.

For more information: mddf.maryland.gov

MDDF Hosts 2014 Annual NCO Induction Ceremony

By: 2nd LT Alessia Timothy, atimothy@mddf.maryland.gov



Maryland Defense Force (MDDF), continuing a 200-year tradition, hosted a noncommissioned officers' (NCO) induction ceremony in Pikesville, Maryland on July 19 for nine new sergeants. The ceremony is meant to mark the newly promoted sergeants' departure from the junior ranks, symbolizing the need for them to remember they are no longer just followers of orders but leaders, with all of the responsibilities and accountability that come with the job. The MDDF ceremony was held at the NCO Club at the Pikesville Military Reservation (PMR). Senior NCOs from across the State of Maryland, and MDDF families and friends watched their state soldiers being welcomed into the ranks of the NCO corps.

At the beginning of the ceremony, Sgt. Maj. Loren Finch, who was the master of ceremonies during this event provided an historical background of the ceremony's tradition that is traced to the Prussian Army of Frederick the Great. He went on to read a deeply moving "Poem to a fallen soldier," and then shared some insight into what it means to be a noncommissioned officer. One by one, the state soldiers and senior NCOs stood up from their seats for a "soldier's request and NCO response" part of the ceremony.

Afterward, three candles were lit. The red candle represented valor and hardiness. The white candle represented honesty and integrity and the blue candle signified vigilance and the field of honor in which an NCO serves. 1st Sgt. Matthew Shertzer, the narrator for the candle lighting ceremony, as he lit the red candle that stands for valor and hardiness, highlighted MDDF's motto, "Ready When Called."



The guest speaker, Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Beyard, the command sergeant major of the Maryland Army National Guard's 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, congratulated the new NCOs on their success, and shared some lessons from his career. The ceremony ended with the reading of the "Charge of the Non-Commissioned Officer" and the "Creed of the Non-Commissioned Officer" as well as some parting words of wisdom from senior NCOs.

Closing remarks were made by Col. James Coleman, the Chief of Staff for the MDDF. He emphasized that the ceremony, "Allows us to instill in a state soldier the significance of being an NCO and also gives them their first experience of the pride and respect that goes along with being a member of the NCO corps." Col. Coleman then addressed the senior NCOs and charged them with helping the newest members of their ranks to grow their leadership skills.

Anne Arundel Community College Student Run Detachment



25November2015—BG(MDDF) Brian R. Kelm, Commanding General of the Maryland Defense Force, officially stands up the MDDF's first student run detachment at the Anne Arundel Community College, in Arnold, Maryland. Twenty-three undergraduate and graduate students will now assist the MDDF in such valued areas as Cyber-Security, Medical, Engineering and Force Protection specialties. "HOOah! to Pioneer Detachment at AACC!"



Trail of Honor Hosts Almost 30,000 Visitors

Retrieved from http://issuu.com/mssgpao/docs/clt_newsletter_v6_final4_september2?e=5814617/9220613

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The Trail of Honor, one of the major family events in the South, has had a long relationship with the Mississippi State Guard. This year, this relationship was expanded with over 100 members from all three Brigades volunteering for the May 17-19 event in Jackson, Mississippi. The trail itself is a half-mile gravel path through the woods behind the Jackson, Mississippi Harley-Davidson dealership. However, since 2003 there are three days every year when it becomes something else – a chronological history of the conflicts the United States has been involved with both at home and overseas. With 26 displays, each staffed with living historians, the Trail of Honor is a family oriented activity where our nation’s history, and sacrifices, comes alive.

Chuck Holifield, VIP and Media Coordinator for the event, outlines what a family can expect to see, “At every stop on the trail there are living-historians demonstrating the uniforms, weapons, equipment, food and lives of soldiers from the French and Indian War in 1754 to present day. Sets have been constructed to bring as much realism to the event as possible. You will witness mock firefights from the American Civil War and Vietnam - Civil War cannons will be fired every 30 minutes during the weekend. You can visit the Vietnam Memorial Wall and enter a mockup of a cell at the infamous “Hanoi Hilton” prison. Inside the dealership we will have special guests – Medal of Honor recipients, Tuskegee Airmen, Navajo Code Talkers and ex-POWs, as well as representatives of many Veterans organizations.” Antique and present day military vehicles are on display both on the Trail and the front lawn of the dealership. In addition to the vehicles on the ground, there are displays in the air. The Sky Soldiers, pilots and crew of the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation, will fly overhead in historic UH-1H “Hueys” and Cobras – often releasing smoke so visitors can follow their flight paths.



A visitor to the Trail of Honor will see the Mississippi State Guard throughout the event. From the parking lots where members direct traffic and help load shuttle busses, to crews delivering water and meals to the over 400 volunteers – or the squads setting up the portable chapel and medical tents – State Guard members are there to ensure the almost 30,000 visitors to the event have the best possible experience. Governor Phil Bryant, a long time supporter of the Trail of Honor, opened this year’s event. “*The Trail of Honor is a tremendous event for families to enjoy together and see history come alive right before their eyes,*” Gov. Bryant said. “*I am honored to help bring awareness to the great sacrifice our men and women have undergone while serving our great nation. I would like to thank the over 100 living historians who have made this one of the major events in our State and the Mississippi State Guard who this year provided over 100 volunteers to provide support services for this event.*” Lt.

Colonel James Matthews, Battalion Commander for the 120th, commented on his three days at the event, “The 120th is billeted in the State Police barracks and is on the trail from early in the morning until hours after the trail closes each day. We have many missions for this event – from operations such as traffic control to ceremony at the Wall. Supporting the volunteers at the exhibits, and the almost 30,000 in attendances, is a rewarding experience for all of our members.”

Trail of Honor Hosts Almost 30,000 Visitors, *Continued*

Page 2 of 2

A highlight this year is the Honor Guard at the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall - a 3/5-scale replica of the Wall standing six feet tall and 300 feet long. State Guard members stand watch over the Wall 24 hours a day from the time it is set up on May 16 to when it is taken down on May 20. MSSG Chaplains, led by Colonel Nathan Barber, provide a portable sanctuary, complete with steeple, next to the Wall to attend to the spiritual and emotional needs of those visiting the Wall. The Changing of the Guard, which occurs every 30 minutes, is a major event for Veterans and their families. Corporal Jon Shaw of the 125th Military Police Battalion, shared his experience as a Honor Guard on the Wall, "What an awesome honor to stand guard over this monument to so many who gave all. There are literally no words to describe the feelings I had. From little kids wanting to know 'Is that man real?' to family members taking pictures, all the way to one Veteran who posted up 15 feet in front of me and saluted me and then stepped over and said 'Thank you for your service'. The one that really got me was this one woman who watched as I came on duty. When I saluted the wall and turned and went to parade rest she started crying. She cried the entire time I was on post. I stood there motionless, expressionless, watching her cry. Two minutes before my relief came she came up next to me, still crying and said 'Thank You' and walked away. It makes me feel a healthy pride to know that my service has had the impact that it has had these past three days."



Standing Guard at the Wall is a highly sought after, and demanding, assignment, as one member posted on the First Brigade page, "Headed to get some rack time. Guard duty from 1800-2230 then back up and report in at 0600 and back on The Wall again at 0700. Such an honor to stand post at this memorial." The 24-hour Honor Guard is an expansion of the support MSSG has provided Trail of Honor over the years. Members have stood watch over the Wall in previous years, but this is the first time the Honor Guard has been there fulltime. Lt. Colonel Steve Kaminski, Battalion Commander of the 110th Military Police, discussed how his members viewed their duties at the Wall, "Many will not be able to go to Washington to see the Memorial Wall," he said, "My Battalion does not see this as a replica Wall, but a continuation of the memorial. We are standing guard here just as if we were standing at the Memorial Wall in Washington."



David McElroy, Director of the Trail of Honor, echoed this in describing how Harley-Davidson of Jackson maintains the area where the Wall stands, "It is sacred ground. We keep that site up year round. The Wall is here for four days, but even though the Wall is gone, it is just like those names on the Wall, just like those people who never came back, that site is not forgotten". What began as a water stop for a Veteran's event in 2003 is now a one of the most looked forward to family attractions in our region. Each year more living history groups participate – and the numbers for Run for The Wall, and families in attendance continue to climb. A brief drive though the off-site parking lots showed cars from all the surrounding states and hotels and restaurants are seeing the impact of this weekend as families come make it a three-day event. "We have many repeat visitors", Holifield said, Walking along the trail you will hear families discuss new exhibits, or ask our living historians about a previous year's displays. We are finding this has become a yearly event for many families with Jackson being the destination for extended families. We now have hotels, such as The Cabot Lodge, offering special packages for this event. This is the kind of activity where we see three generations, and sometimes four generations all engaged in the activities we offer." As the event continues to grow, so does the involvement of the Mississippi State Guard. Plans are already being made on how MSSG can increase support for the Trail of Honor May 16-18, 2015. "We are looking forward to working with the Mississippi State Guard next year," said Holifield, "The dedication and contributions from your organization helped make our 2014 event a great success."

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Bucaria Named New Commander

By Garden City Life Staff, gardencity@antonnews.com



Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that Garden City resident Stephen A. Bucaria has been named commander of the New York Guard, the state's volunteer defense force. Bucaria is a sitting New York State Supreme Court Judge and is also a brigadier general in the New York Guard. He has served in the state force since 1996. Bucaria replaces New York Guard Major General Fergal Foley as commander of the state-service's only uniformed force.

"Stephen Bucaria has served the people of New York selflessly both as a Supreme Court Judge and a member of the New York Guard," Governor Cuomo said. "I am confident that he will continue this great work as commander of this group of dedicated volunteers." Bucaria has served as the commander of the New York Guard's 13th Regiment, where he helped in the National Guard deployment of more than 2,500 Soldiers and airmen following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. His team assisted guard soldiers at armories across New York City as they worked with police, fire-fighters and other emergency responders.

As commander of the 13th Regiment, Bucaria and other New York Guard lawyers assisted in the mobilization of New York Army National Guard soldiers who were deployed around the United States on security missions and overseas to Afghanistan and then Iraq. New York Guard personnel helped draft soldiers' wills and assisted in administering operations.

In 2002 Bucaria was named New York Guard deputy commander for Army operations and played a key role in restructuring the New York Guard's training program and promotion policies. In 2005 he was named commander of the New York Guard's Army Division and in 2006, when the New York Guard became one service without separate air and army components, he was named deputy commander.

New York Guard conducts emergency supply distribution training



CORTLANDT – Members of the New York Guard, the state's volunteer defense force, conducted a supply distribution exercise all week as part of their annual training at Camp Smith in the Town of Cortlandt.

This year, 75 members of the state's volunteer, uniformed state defense and emergency response force, practiced establishing a point of distribution system that could sustain 5,000 people with food, water and other emergency supplies within 12 hours of a natural or other disaster.

The practice ended with a distribution drill on Friday, according to Master Sgt. John Tidona.

"We literally set up a one-lane one lane in and one lane out, where God forbid after a disaster, if you and your family were driving through, as you drove through our distribution point, you would literally be getting supplies, blankets, loaded into your car so you could sustain yourself and your family," Tidona said.

The New York Guard provides additional eyes, ears and boots on the ground for the New York National Guard in the event of an emergency situation.



Guard members train on a Mobile Emergency Command Center or MERC as part of the weeklong exercises at Camp Smith



New York Guard 88th Brigade March in Annual NYC Veterans Day Parade

By CPT Mark Getman

NYC —On November 11th 2014, Soldiers from the NY Guard 88th Brigade based out of NYC and Long Island, marched in the annual



NYC Veteran's Day Parade. Approximately 60-70 soldiers marched in the parade representing the New York Guard, the 88th Brigade and its battalions and detachment units.

NY Guard soldiers with Melinda Katz, Queens Borough President.

In addition to the NY Guard, Units from the NY Army National Guard 369th Sustainment Brigade, whose headquarters' is based in Harlem also participated in the parade, along with the 42 Infantry Division Band. The 88th's parade route started at 24th Street and Fifth Ave in Manhattan, and ended at 51st and Fifth Ave. The pass and review by City and Government officials was located between 41st and 42nd Street and Fifth Ave, where the soldiers of the NY Guard's 88th Brigade were recognized for their service to the State of New York as a component of New York Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

The New York Guard is a state volunteer force which augments and supports the New York National Guard with manpower and skills. New York Guard members are a volunteer, unpaid force which serves at the direction of the Governor. They assist the National Guard in planning, training for and executing state emergency support and disaster missions, and provide legal and medical pre-deployment assistance to the National Guard units and other reserve components as requested.



NY Guard Soldiers march down Fifth Avenue in NYC Veteran's Day Parade

New York TAG Match

By SGT 1st Class Raymond Drumsta

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLANDT MANOR, NY

— One competitor in the 35th Annual TAG Match is such a strong marksmanship advocate that a match trophy is named after him. In addition to almost 40 years of service to the state and nation, New York Guard Staff Sgt. Joseph Dee has a quarter-century of TAG matches under his belt. This year, Dee and about 125 New York National Guard members are taking part in the match here from May 30 to June 1, testing their marksmanship skills with weapons like the M-16 rifle, M-9 pistol and M-249 light machine gun. At the end of the match, one team will be awarded the "Sergeant Joe Dee Combined Arms Team Champion" trophy. But for Dee, taking part in the match seems reward enough. "I'm having a good time," said Dee, a Rochester, N.Y. native. "There's no place I'd rather be."

Marksmanship training and competition has long been a key component of National Guard training. During the 1800s, annual New York National Guard shooting competitions in New York City and at Camp Smith, then known as Peekskill Camp, were reported by the New York Times and other newspapers. The tradition continues with the TAG Match, which gives troops the chance to sharpen their marksmanship training, engage in healthy competition, and pick top contenders to represent the state in national competitions. The modern TAG Match requires participants to employ the weapons used on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. The match consists of eight timed events that include the use of those weapons during close-quarters combat, casualty, and nuclear biological chemical (NBC) drills. Along with the TAG Matches, Dee has competed on the state, national and international level, taking part in shooting matches in Canada



and England. He's double-distinguished in rifle and pistol, and has earned the National Guard Chief's 50 Marksmanship Badge three times: once in the rifle category and twice in the sniper category. "It's in my blood," he reflected, "Ever since I was a boy and picked up a BB gun, I've enjoyed shooting." Dee's passion for shooting went hand-in-hand with his military career. Drafted in 1966, Dee spent two years on active duty and 32 years in the New York Army National Guard, "I always shared my marksmanship knowledge with Soldiers who asked for it or needed it." The need for Dee's knowledge went platinum after terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center buildings in 2001. As a member of the New York National Guard's Small Arms Readiness Training Section, Dee gave small-arms training to troops guarding bridges and tunnels in the wake of the 9-11 attacks. The "Sergeant Joe Dee Combined Arms Team Champion" trophy was created at the time of Dee's retirement in 2007, "They knew I was retiring, and they knew all the work I did to promote the marksmanship of Soldiers in New York, so they decided to have a trophy in my name."

The trophy is awarded to the team with highest combined score. In his experience, the TAG Match draws shooters of all calibers, from experts to beginners, Dee said. The beginners always need help, which yields another benefit of the TAG match. "They can bring back the knowledge they gain here and share it with their units." Dee now serves in 21st Engineers of the New York Guard, a state volunteer force which augments and supports the New York National Guard as required with manpower and skills. When asked, Dee shared some tips from his wealth of marksmanship knowledge, "Stay calm and concentrate on that front sight," he said sagely, "Slow is smooth and smooth is fast."

Governor's Day—2014

By LTC Gelabel Monserrate



The Puerto Rico National Guard celebrated the traditional Governor's Day at the closing ceremonies of the AT 2014. The event took place at the facilities of CSJMTC (Camp Santiago Joint Manure Training Center) in Salinas Puerto Rico and was dedicated to the Vietnam Veterans. The Adjutant General of Puerto Rico Juan J. Medina Lamela expressed his appreciation to the Troops for completing the fifteen day mission with zero accidents, exceeding the expectations of the training planners.



The Puerto Rico State Guard had huge participation in this event; under the Command of BG (PR) Carlos M Martinez, PRSG marched in the pass and review ceremony with more than

16,000 Citizen Soldiers. PRSG offered security support with their MPs and Medical support, as well by the Medical Support Group.



Puerto Rico State Guard Second to None!

Advance Officers Leaders Course

By LTC Gelabel Monserrate

Puerto Rico State Guard Academy Graduates another AOLC Class 2014-01, this course requires abilities and knowledge, not only mentally but physically. After four intensive months — finally graduation day!



Graduates of AOLC Class 2014-01, Ft. Allen Juana Diaz Puerto Rico

Photos—Left side:

Left Top: BG Carlos M. Martinez Commander PRSG call the troops to attention.

Left Middle: CPT Maldonado commands PRSG HHD during the Governor's Day Ceremony.

Bottom Left: PRSF COL Medina Barcelo (in uniform), Vietnam Veteran marching along with his fellow Vietnam Veterans.





SCSG Conducts Its Third Annual "Hurricane Hike"

Exercise to Prepare for Disaster

By LTC Scott Malyerck

2014
STATE GUARD
Hurricane Hike

It was 25 years ago when Hurricane Hugo tore into the east coast and ravaged South Carolina. Many State Guard members remember heading to the coastline with chain saws and other supplies to help clear the roads of debris so first responders could reach citizens in need of food, water and other emergency supplies. The lessons learned from Hugo have helped the SCSG better prepare for any natural and man-made disaster that may occur in South Carolina. It was three years ago when the idea of conducting an exercise that would help train State Guard members to improve upon methods to deal with the immediate aftermath of a hurricane or other natural disaster was discussed and the "Hurricane Hike" was born. The hike is a component of the SCSG's readiness training to rapidly deploy during a hurricane or other natural or man-made disasters.

As the sun rose on the brisk morning of September 20th hundreds of uniformed men and women gathered at the National Guard Armory in historic Camden, SC to take part in the Hurricane Hike training exercise. Although no storm was bearing down on the coast that morning, it's only a matter of time when a natural disaster will strike and the SCSG plans on being prepared when it happens, "The State Guard continually trains in order to be 'boots on the ground ready' when a disaster hits our state. As we are in hurricane season, this event will help our troops in the areas of providing relief materials to citizens, search, rescue and recovery, damage assessment and route reconnaissance," said Brigadier General Thomas Mullikin, Commander of the SCSG.

Members of the United States Armed Forces joined with members of the SCSG along with other first responders and civic and community organizations to be a part of this popular and rapidly growing event. Each participant hoisted up on their shoulders a backpack laden with 45lbs of supplies which simulated materials that would be brought into an area that may be impassable by vehicles in the aftermath of a disaster. They followed a 10k course winding through the business, residential and historic sections of the city where a number of important Revolutionary War events took place. Close to 400 people took part in this years event sponsored by the SCSG including Major General Robert E. Livingston, Jr. The Adjutant General for the State of South Carolina, Brigadier General Darsie Rogers, Commander of the United States Army Special Forces Command and Brigadier General Thomas Mullikin, Commander of the SCSG. The 5th District Congressman, Mick Mulvaney, was on hand as well to give the participants encouragement and lend support.



The Hurricane Hike is only a small part; however, of the aggressive year around training employed by the SCSG. The State Guard continually trains to respond to disasters and as a part of that training, State Guard members attend the Guard's Military Academy held at McCrady Army National Guard Training Center in Eastover, SC and are required to be CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) certified. Many participants specifically trained for months to get ready carrying increasing weight in order to take part in the September event. There was also a team competition that took place during the hike.

After the hike, an awards ceremony, a luncheon and family activities took place on the grounds of the Mullikin Law Firm. Camden Mayor Tony Scully, who attended the ceremony said, "We are excited to be the host City for this great event as we welcome members of our military to Camden. The South Carolina State Guard is truly an outstanding organization consisting of committed men and women who are dedicated to serving our state."

TNSG Fully Committed

By WO1 Colleen Curtis

November 1st, 2014 — 118th Wing (Command HQ), Nashville, TN – It is not every day that you see a room full of National Guard, Air National Guard and State Guardsmen sitting together discussing strategic plans and comparing notes on how well prepared we are in the event of a disaster. But, that is exactly what took place in the heart of Music City recently. Several National Guardsmen inside HQ of the 118th Wing Air Base greeted States Guardsman Col. Tony Shipley. The National Guard was anxious to hear what the TNSG brought to the table in the event of a crisis situation. It was clear after the brief introductions and chatter was over each person in the room was ready



to hear details and exchange ideas.

Col. Shipley's presentation was educational and informational. The room of over 50 soldiers was focused on graphical and statistical information. Confidently, Col. Shipley delivered just the right information needed to get the pertinent information delivered and the essential questions asked.

After the presentation concluded the Q&A was interesting at best. General Holmes with the Army National Guard stood up and gave his passionate remarks that seemed to resonate across the room. His take away from the presentation was described as an analogy. He stated, "Each one of us represents a stove pipe that goes up in selected areas of TN. The Army National Guard, Air National Guard and State Guard. Each one is unique and important as they are all connections. In order to be efficient in disaster response these stove pipes must not only go vertical they need to go horizontal. These connections are not useful until they are connected...All of them in communication." General Holmes expressed the need to commit to a plan of action by connecting these forces in 2015.



It became clear and obvious to all we are on the same team of responders working together to get the job done. It was also pointed out the glaring difference between the National Guard and State Guard was only one word, Volunteer. TNSG is and will always be an oath of honor to serve as a volunteer. This fact was pointed out and recognized by all.



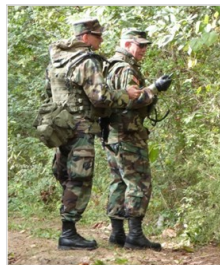
Boots on the Ground

By WO1 Colleen Curtis

October 3rd - 5th, 2014, Boy Scout Jamboree (BSJ/AT), Lebanon, TN — Guard members from the HHC and all four regiments gathered together at the James W. Ward Agricultural Center to conduct Security, crowd and traffic control for the Middle Tennessee Boy Scouts of America Jamboree. Total attendance included 152 TNSG Guardsmen who actively participated in the three-day mission.



Each regiment was assigned and responsible for 24-hour security and crowd control in an area of operation of over 267 acres containing over 9,500 Boy Scouts and their families. The participants were pleased to have the TNSG on site to provide a safe environment for all.



This three-day endeavor was also an annual training exercise. 101 Guardsmen completed CPR-First Aid AED training. Night land navigation teams suited up and headed out into the deep wooded area. Just as the last Guardsman disappeared into the woods, temperatures fell and the rain poured. The day navigation teams walked into a designated area in the same expansive 267 acres. Five teams competed for the best time and accuracy making the exercise fun and engaging.

The training continued with five disaster scenarios that included PODS and Medical. Highly experienced Guardsmen took recruits under their wings by sharing their knowledge and experiences. The TNSG Medical Unit successfully resolved 13 medical incidents. No major medical incidents were reported. Each TNSG Guardsman had their own individual talent that lent nicely to each drill and training. Teamwork was an essential part of making the BSJ/AT a tremendous success.



Scouts clamored to see the Black Hawk Helicopter piloted by the Tennessee Air National Guard as it floated across the sky and landed safely in an open field secured by our very own TNSG. It should be noted and recognized that at the end of this successful event each Scout and his family went home safely.



Legal Framework Authorizing the TNSG

By CPT Daniel Brown

The legal framework authorizing the Tennessee State Guard begins with the definition of the governor as commander in chief in the Tennessee Constitution. **Article III, § 5 of the Tennessee Constitution** states that the Governor is the commander-in-chief of the state's military.

He shall be the commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy of **this State**, and of the Militia, except when they are called into the service of the United States: But the Militia shall not be called into service except in the case of rebellion or invasion, and then only when the General Assembly shall declare, by law, that the public safety requires it. Art. III, Sec. 5.

That section makes clear that the Governor is the commander-in-chief of the **Army** of this state. The Tennessee code defines **Army** of this state as follows:

Tenn. Code Ann. § 58-1-104 Military Forces – Division and Composition

- (a) The military forces of the state, **in conformity with the Constitution of Tennessee**, shall be divided into three (3) parts, as follows: the **army**, the navy and the militia. (Emphasis added.)
- (b) The **army** shall be **comprised of** army national guard, and an air national guard, which forces, together with an inactive national guard, when such is authorized by the laws of the United States and regulations issued pursuant thereto, shall comprise the Tennessee national guard; **and the Tennessee state guard, whenever such a state force shall be organized, and its reserve.** (Emphasis added.)
- (c) The navy shall consist of such naval or sea forces as may be duly organized.
- (d) The militia shall consist of all able-bodied male citizens who are residents of this state and between eighteen (18) and forty-five (45) years of age and who are not members of the army or navy as hereinabove defined, and who may not otherwise be exempted by the laws of this state or the United States.

Also, under the statutory provisions that relate to the state guard, the governor can prescribe the rules and regulations that apply to the state guard and the governor can authorize training (and not just active service). Specifically, under **Tenn. Code Ann. § 58-1-405 Powers of governor in supervision of guard** - The governor is authorized to:

1. Appoint and commission officers
2. Prescribe rules and regulations
3. Obtain necessary arms and equipment
4. Make available to the state guard the facilities of the state armories and their equipment for the purpose of drill, housing and instruction, rent, if necessary, such additional property as may be required for drilling, housing and instruction (emphasis added).

Note that the emphasized passage above includes “for the purpose of drill” and not just a call to active service.

And **Tenn. Code Ann. § 58-1-409 Duties, privileges and immunities** states that all duties imposed, and all privileges and immunities conferred on national guard personnel, are also imposed and conferred upon state guard personnel. See text below.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 58-1-409 Duties, privileges and immunities

All duties imposed by the military law or other statutes of this state or by regulations issued hereunder; upon units, commissioned officers, warrant officers, and enlisted personnel respectively of the national guard are hereby imposed upon the units, commissioned officers, warrant officers and enlisted personnel respectfully of the state guard, and all rights, privileges and immunities conferred by the military law or other statutes of the state or by regulations issued hereunder; upon the units, commissioned officers, warrant officers and enlisted personnel respectfully of the national guard are hereby conferred upon the units, commissioned officers, warrant officers and enlisted personnel respectfully of the state guard as otherwise prescribed in parts 1, 2 and 4-6 of this chapter.

Applicable definitions from Tenn. Code Ann. § 58-1-102:

- (10) “Military” is used as a descriptive adjective to denote a quality pertaining to any or all of the armed forces;
- (11) “Military department” means the military agency or division of the state, the composition of which is set forth in § 58-1-114;
- (12) “Military service of the state” means service in or with any of the forces of the military department.



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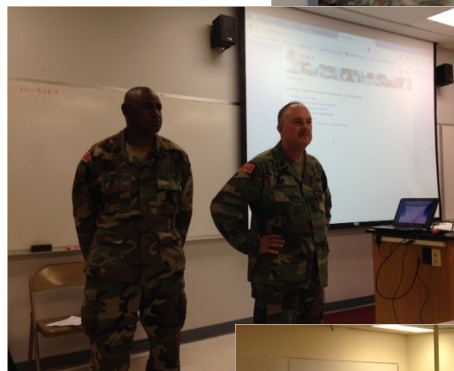


Soldiers of the TNSG Conduct a NIMS Two-day Training Session for 29 Soldiers of the 194th Engineering Brigade

The Tennessee Army National Guard has among its objectives to provide more training, and even attain FEMA certification, for its soldiers in the area of emergency management. Pursuant to their objective, the 194th Engineering Brigade requested the Tennessee State Guard for help in facilitating a group of their soldiers going through four FEMA National Incident Management System (NIMS) courses. The Tennessee State Guard already counts with a good number of certified NIMS instructors. These instructors have been certified in the State Guard Association of the United States (SGAUS) Military Emergency Management (MEMS) program, which requires its instructors to have received FEMA certification in a long list of courses plus certified and approved practical exercise, conduct of instruction and real world experience. Emergency Management is a TNSG mission essential task list (METL) critical item.

The TNSG assigned instructors and cadre from its 1st Regiment, based out of Millington, TN, to meet the needs of the NG request. The TNSG's 1st Regiment, commanded by LTC Chago Santiago and CSM James Garner, worked with the 194th and local organizations in Jackson to secure an optimal location and a sizable computer lab to facilitate the 29 soldiers, NCO's and officers going through the course material, taking the online FEMA tests and obtaining their FEMA completion certificates for the following courses: ICS 100, ICS 200, IS 700 and IS 800. These four courses present the NIMS framework, concept of operation and processes. Additionally the courses also explain how incident management is organized, planned and executed under the NIMS framework. The instruction and online testing after each course was executed over a two-day period on 2-3 August 2014 at Jackson, Tennessee, Union University facilities. The courses were taught/facilitated by 1st Regiment instructors, computer lab monitors and technical support soldiers.

By the end of the two-day period of instruction and testing, all 29 soldiers had completed the courses and passed the FEMA online tests. Mission accomplished! Currently the TNSG is in the process of planning a repeat for the 194th EN BDE in the Murfreesboro, TN area where the 194th has another group of soldiers needing similar training.



BG Gerald “Jake” Betty to Assume Command of TSG

CAMP MABRY – Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, The Adjutant General of Texas is pleased to announce Brig. Gen. Gerald “Jake” Betty will take command of the Texas State Guard on Sept. 1, 2014, upon the retirement of Maj. Gen. Manuel “Tony” Rodriguez, who has commanded since August 2012. Governor Rick Perry made the appointment last week. As commander, Betty will be responsible for the organization, training and administration of the Texas State Guard, reporting directly to the Texas Adjutant General.

Betty joined the TXSG in January 2006, serving first as the Director of Personnel and Administration for the organization headquarters. While commander of the 8th Regiment, Betty, served on several State Active Duty missions for Hurricanes Dean, Gustav, Dolly, Edouard, and Ike. He is currently the TXSG Deputy Commanding General of the Army Component Command. Betty was commissioned in 1973 upon graduation from Texas A&M University and holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree in education administration. He retired from the U.S. Army Reserve in 2003 and currently resides with his wife in College Station.

Betty is honored to take command from Rodriguez and is ready for the next chapter of his military career. “I am honored and humbled to be selected for this role by our commander in chief,” said Betty. “I look forward to serving our citizens of Texas. An official change of command ceremony will take place in October with the details forthcoming.



State search teams to assist in recovery of deceased illegal immigrants on border

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and TSG have established special search teams to assist the Brooks County Sheriff’s Office with locating and recovering human remains in remote areas north of the Texas-Mexico border. The majority of the remains are suspected to be those of illegal immigrants who died attempting to avoid detection while entering the United States. The first of these search missions began this week and will continue through the weekend. “For many years, law enforcement and landowners in this area have been overwhelmed by the tragic impacts of human smuggling across our county,” said Brooks County Sheriff Rey Rodriguez. “We are grateful for the assistance these search teams will provide in locating the numerous individuals who have lost their lives. Each of these victims – regardless of how or why their lives ended in our community – deserve the dignity of being found, and if possible, returned to their

families for proper interment.” This effort is not a part of Operation Strong Safety. However, the deceased remains being recovered in Brooks County are primarily suspected to be individuals who were smuggled and trafficked into the country by the Mexican cartels and criminal operatives exploiting security gaps along the Texas-Mexico border. Since 2011, at least 332 sets of human remains have been recovered in Brooks County alone. “We know that Brooks County is home to a busy drug and human trafficking route used by Mexican cartels – and it has been for far too long,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw. “Tragically, many individuals have died while traversing this area, and DPS is committed to assisting our law enforcement partners in Brooks County in addressing these challenges and locating these victims. Our organization stands ready to serve Texas using our search and recovery skill sets towards this important recovery mission,” said Brig. Gen. Patrick Hamilton, Commander-Domestic Operations Task Force, Texas Military Forces. “By supporting the Brooks County Sheriff’s Office in this mission, the TSG is reinforcing our enduring partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies, while helping others find a sense of closure.”

When requested by the Brooks County Sheriff’s Office, these specially trained teams of approximately 20 to 25 personnel will be called upon for several days at a time to search for human remains in the area. These searches will largely be conducted on private property, and the Brooks County Sheriff’s Office will coordinate with landowners in those cases. The Texas State Guardsmen, who will be conducting the actual searches, are trained in search and rescue/recovery operations, and will be utilizing a number of resources and methods during these missions, including but not limited to using all-terrain vehicles, cadaver dogs, grid searches and medical support personnel. Security support during these searches will be provided by DPS troopers or U.S. Border Patrol agents, who will also provide specialized resources for these recovery missions. During these missions, if the search teams encounter criminal actors or individuals who are suspected to be or admittedly in the country illegally, those individuals will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement officials.

Every discovery of human remains must be handled as a crime scene, including proper evidence collection and processing, reporting, autopsy, etc. The Texas Rangers may provide investigative support for these cases when requested.

Former Miss Texas Serves in Texas State Guard

Former Miss Texas USA, Lauren Guzman, also serves as a sergeant in the Texas State Guard. Guzman was crowned Miss Texas USA 2014 on Sept. 1, 2013, representing the Lone Star State and served the citizens of Texas as both Sgt. Guzman and as Miss Texas this past year. “In the community, being a role model with high standards is expected when being in and out of uniform,” Guzman said, speaking on how the TXSG contributed to her success in the pageants. “The TXSG taught me to be on time for events, meetings, and how to network, but it also takes a lot of discipline, commitment and self-motivation when there is no monetary compensation involved.” Guzman is currently assigned to the 1st Regiment, TXSG, in the operations section in San Antonio and served with the regiment’s Quick Reaction Team. “We’ve given her the latitude to attend required Miss Texas USA functions without penalty or adverse perception for not being able to attend scheduled Unit Training Assemblies,” stated State Guard Col. Vincent Carag, 1st Regiment Commander. “We, the Soldiers of the 1st Regiment, stand behind her efforts 100 percent.” Guzman agreed, stating the troops and command, her “extended second family,” has been very supportive. Guzman joined the TXSG in 2007 and holds a bachelor’s degree in forensic science from St. Mary’s University, which she earned while serving in the guard. Now that her reign as Miss Texas USA has ended, she is considering several career options to include looking to attend Officer Candidate School. “She was a soldier before she became Miss Texas USA and I could tell she was a ‘squared away soldier’ when I first came on board,” said 1st Regiment, Command Sgt. Maj., Mario Zuniga, giving accolades to Guzman. “As a leader, she is a coach and mentor and is not afraid to get dirty or ask questions,” he said, “and when she won Miss Texas USA, both the colonel and I thought she’d be a great spokesperson and recruiter for the TXSG.” [Click here to read more.](#)

A pageant veteran, Guzman started in 2005, where she won the Miss Laredo Top Model Pageant. In 2006, she was first runner-up in the Miss Laredo Teen USA but claimed the title in 2008. Persevering, she competed for Miss Texas USA, being third runner-up in 2011, first runner-up in 2012 and fourth runner-up in 2013 before winning the title in 2014. Guzman followed her father’s and grandfather’s footsteps into the TXSG. Both served several years with 1st Regiment; her father, a major in the medical corps, and her grandfather, an education professor posthumously promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel. Guzman looks to her family for inspiration to do well and set an example for others. “My mom has always been there and pushed me to do well while I also try to do right to be a role model for my sister,” she said.



As Miss Texas USA, Guzman traveled throughout the state and nation addressing issues such as breast and ovarian cancer awareness, attended charity events, parades and visited hospitals and schools to help educate children regarding the dangers of drugs and the importance of education. She also volunteers with numerous non-profit organizations on top of her work with the Guard. As Guzman relinquishes her crown to the next Miss Texas USA, she leaves us with this advice. “If you have a goal, push for it and ask yourself why you want it,” said Guzman. “Keep your head up till you achieve what you want and accomplish it. I kept competing until I won Miss Texas USA.” The mission of the Texas Military Forces (TXMF) 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 Forces are 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).



Texas State Guard Saves Lives During Search for Human Remains



AUSTIN (CBSDFW.COM) – A special state search team, trained in rescue and recovery operations and ordered by Gov. Rick Perry to assist Brooks County with locating human remains of suspected illegal immigrants, is also saving lives during its mission. According to the Texas State Guard, during their first search mission of private ranch land on September 19, they found two people showing signs of heat distress and dehydration. They told team members about a woman who was on the property; reportedly near death. The Texas State Guard members immediately began a secondary search for the woman. Once located, the woman, identified later as a Honduran national, was administered lifesaving aid and evacuated by a Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) helicopter for further care. All three, as well as two additional people located in the immediate area,

were taken into custody by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

“This state-led effort is aimed at addressing yet another consequence of a border left unsecure by the federal government – fortunately this time it did not end in the loss of life,” Gov. Perry said. “But as long as the federal government refuses to secure our border and end policies that encourage people to risk their lives in an attempt to enter our country illegally, we will continue to see the death toll rise in places like Brooks County.” Since 2011, at least 332 sets of human remains were recovered in Brooks County alone. While this effort is not part of Operation Strong Safety, the majority of the remains recovered are suspected to be those of illegal immigrants who died attempting to avoid detection while entering the U.S., or are suspected victims of human smuggling or trafficking by Mexican cartels or their operatives.

“Whether these people are found alive or dead, this is a human tragedy Brooks County has no choice but to address,” Brooks County Sheriff Rey Rodriguez said. “In its very first mission, this state search team has already shown its value in helping our county deal with the issue, and I expect they will discover many more victims during subsequent searches, either deceased or clinging to life.” Our priority is meeting our mission, and that is finding victims who did not survive their trek through this hazardous landscape,” Brig. Gen. Patrick Hamilton, Commander-Domestic Operations Task Force, Texas Military Forces. “But any time our service members can use their training to save a life – that is a rewarding outcome. Mexican cartels and transnational gangs continue to exploit private property for drug and human smuggling, and too often, victims are left dead or dying in the elements with little to no hope of survival, while DPS continues working to secure the border and combat criminal activity, we will also continue to support Brooks County and our state and federal partners on the border, said DPS Director Steven McCraw.”

When requested by the Brooks County Sheriff’s Office, these specially-trained teams of approximately 20 to 25 personnel will search for human remains in the area. The Texas State Guardsmen conducting the searches are trained in search and rescue/recovery operations, and will utilize a variety of resources, including all-terrain vehicles, cadaver dogs, grid searches and medical support personnel. Security support during these searches will be provided by DPS Troopers or U.S. Border Patrol agents, who will also provide specialized resources for these recovery missions. The Texas Rangers may also provide investigative support for these cases when requested. During these missions, if the search teams encounter criminal actors or individuals who are suspected to be or admittedly in the country illegally, those individuals will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement officials.

The Governor’s Division of Criminal Justice has previously awarded Brooks County \$151,150 in state grant funds to assist with the costs of autopsies and transporting remains to the medical examiner in Laredo. Grant funds have also helped purchase a four-wheel drive SUV for use in accessing remote areas where remains are located, in-car video cameras and computers. Brooks County is in the process of applying for a second grant to help with ongoing costs for remains recovery and autopsies.



The other Texas border deployment: doctors, dentists, opticians

By: Reuters Media, Aug. 14, 2014 at 9:00 PM

MISSION, Texas - For the Texas State and National Guard, Operation Lone Star is a disaster preparedness exercise. For public health experts, it is a humanitarian mission. And for Itzel, a teenage schoolgirl, it is a chance to finally get glasses so she can read textbooks. Operation Lone Star started 16 years ago to help the guard prepare for emergencies such as hurricanes or pandemics in south Texas. Since then it has expanded its medical care component, treating thousands in a region that hugs the Mexican border, including some who come because no identification papers are required. "It feels weird to see things in focus," Itzel said as she tried on newly made prescription glasses. Itzel was among more than 10,000 people who received care at last week's Operation Lone Star, held at five sites in four border counties. Because the people are medical patients, Texas privacy laws do not permit them to be formally identified.

Public health officials said it makes sense to piggy back on the guard's emergency relief drills, which are not related to a move by Governor Rick Perry to deploy Texas National Guard troops to the Mexican border in order to bolster security. The guard has been joined in recent years by medical aid groups such as Remote Area Medical, which operates in places ranging from Appalachia to sub-Saharan Africa. "This is first and foremost a training exercise, but it also turns out to be a humanitarian effort," said John Villarreal, spokesman for the Texas Department of State Health Services.

The need for free medical care is great in Texas, where about a quarter of the state's 26.5 million people lack health insurance, and particularly acute in the Hispanic communities along the border, many of which are mired in poverty. About 300 military staff members including medical professionals, 200 state and local employees, Baylor University dental school students, and scores of volunteers staffed the operation. Services included immunizations, diabetes screenings and physicals for students, as well as hearing and vision exams. The Texas plan is being studied by other states looking to use it as a model for dispensing public health care. "We do not require ID at Operation Lone Star because if a disaster were to hit this area, it wouldn't be about checking ID. It would be about saving lives," Villarreal said.

For most of those who lined up each day at the five sites, it was their only chance to see a doctor for the year. Remote Area Medical brought dozens of portable dental chairs, as well as equipment for vision exams and equipment to grind lenses for prescription eye-glasses and fit them into frames. The benefits for the state come from tracking thousands of people as they move from triage to treatment and coordinating work with volunteer agencies. "If it is a person in Texas and they have a contagious illness, whether they are legal or illegal, if they pass it on to another person, then Texas ends up suffering," said Robert Morecook, a colonel in the Texas State Guard's Medical Brigade.

For many living hand-to-mouth along the border, the clinic fits into a dual-nation strategy to obtain medical care as cheaply as possible. "The document thing is big for a lot of people around here. It makes it easier for them if they don't have to bring IDs," said Denisse, one of hundreds who had lined up beginning in the pre-dawn hours to receive care. Stan Brock, the founder and president of Remote Area Medical, wants the U.S. government to make it easier for doctors to cross state borders to work as medical volunteers, which would bring more care to more people in need. "Some people may argue that this is a Band-Aid. But for the person who comes in ... and has never been to a dentist in their life, or doesn't know what a leaf looks like on a tree until they get glasses, that is a life-changing experience," Brock said.



Texas Military Forces Partner with State and Local Authorities—Operation Lone Star

Retrieved from: dvidshub.net

BROWNSVILLE, Texas – Texas Military Forces, in partnership with state and local authorities, gained valuable training experience from the 16th iteration of Operation Lone Star in the Rio Grande Valley and Laredo, Texas, Aug. 4-8, 2014. Texas State Guard, a component of the Texas Military Forces, in particular, put into practice the second step of its shelter, recover and return emergency response plan during this annual, medical and emergency preparedness exercise that covered five sites throughout South Texas. "[Civil authorities] would have us come in, work with them, and we would run the operation of the shelter, managing the clients within it, meeting their needs, keeping them safe in a disaster situation," said Capt. Vicky Nunn, 39th Composite Regiment, 1st Battalion, Texas State Guard. "[Meeting client needs] is what you'll see here. It's recovery training."

The interagency collaboration necessary to activate Operation Lone Star, one of the largest medical and emergency preparedness missions in the country, benefits from the inherent value in utilizing the Texas Military Forces to serve the citizens of Texas. "It's a good value for the State of Texas because as Citizen Soldiers, we're able to be activated, come down, provide the care, and then go back to our civilian jobs after that," said Army Capt. Adam Wood, a field surgeon with Texas Medical Command, Texas Army National Guard. "So the amount of resources and time and money it takes to use us in that tactical situation is significantly less than it would be to use the active duty side in that same tactical setup."

Brig. Gen. Sean A. Ryan, commander of the 71st Troop Command, Texas Army National Guard, also emphasized the role of the Texas State Guard in the planning and implementation of this collaborative training exercise. "We have more relied on our Texas State Guard to the point where we're pretty much ready to turn it over to [them] to do all the planning, the preparation, the training" for Operation Lone Star, Ryan said. "I think it has really helped us to exercise ... the Texas State Guard to really do their mission. They are a huge part of what we do during a natural disaster."

Texas Army, Air and State Guard involvement in Operation Lone Star also fosters vital relationships with state and local agencies that they would work with in an emergency situation. "This is just another incident in a different county with different relationships with other authorities," Nunn said. "Because we may be deployed here at some point if they need us, I think it is very important to build those contacts." Service members often form relationships with patients who return to Operation Lone Star every year for the critical health services that are provided.



"Some of our Soldiers look forward to coming back here year after year to see individuals who might be returning and to see the updates in those families and how their children have grown and how their lives have changed," said Army Maj. Jerri Gates, senior behavior health officer with Texas Medical Command, Texas Army National Guard.

Spc. Marcus Fernandez, 39th Composite Regiment, 1st Battalion, Texas State Guard, said that interacting with patients was all part of the training experience that prepares him and other service members for future emergency response situations. "We see, throughout the week, so many different things that if we have to open a shelter, anybody that comes to the door, we should be able to handle it because we have this experience," he said.

Area residents who visited Operation Lone Star expressed appreciation for the services that were available through the collaborative training exercise. "Seeing the men and women in uniform is an awesome blessing, because everyone is walking around with a smile, very happy," said Zulema Silva, a Brownsville resident. "It's just a happy feeling to see y'all here, helping us and providing us with services that we otherwise wouldn't be able to afford. Again I appreciate everything that you all do for us in the community."

Air Force Capt. Laura Lokey, an optometrist with 149th Medical Group, 149th Fighter Wing, checks Miguel Gomez's eyes on day four of Operation Lone Star at Manzano Middle School in Brownsville, Texas, Aug. 7, 2014. This was the first year that full vision services were available at the Brownsville medical point of distribution during this annual, five-day, medical and emergency preparedness exercise. More than 600 patients received eye exams and prescription glasses through Remote Area Medical, the Knoxville, Tenn.-based organization that provides the equipment for the exams and fills glasses prescriptions on-site, and Texas Military Forces during Operation Lone Star 2013. [Read more.](#)

CARLITTI NAMED NEW COMMANDER OF VIRGINIA DEFENSE FORCE



SANDSTON, VA — Retired Marine Corps Col. Justin P. Carlitti, Sr., will succeed Maj. Gen. (VA) John Taylor as the commander of

the Virginia Defense Force, according to an announcement made Aug. 11, 2014, by Brig. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. Carlitti currently serves as the chief of staff for the VDF, and Taylor is retiring after leading the VDF for eight years and serving in the Virginia National Guard for more than 33 years. “Col. Carlitti’s wealth of military and civilian experience make him the ideal candidate to lead the Virginia Defense Force and build on the dramatic improvements made to organization under Maj. Gen. Taylor,” Williams said. “He knows the organization well, and I am confident he will maintain the same high levels of readiness and continue to make sure the VDF continues to be an integral part of the Virginia Department of Military Affairs response capabilities.”

Carlitti will take command of the VDF in a ceremony scheduled for Sept. 28 at Fort Pickett and will also be promoted to brigadier general in the Virginia militia. Taylor served for more than 33 years in the Virginia National Guard and retired as a colonel. He took command of the VDF in August 2006. While serving as the commander of the Virginia Defense Force, he worked full time providing contract support at National Guard Bureau conducting strategic analysis and management studies on homeland security, consequence management, homeland defense, civil support operations and reserve component force integration and modernization. “We wish Maj. Gen. Taylor the best in his retirement and thank him for his decades of service to Virginia and our nation,” Williams said. “During his time in command of the VDF, he brought much needed focus to the organization’s mission capabilities, promoted the volunteer spirit vital to the organization’s



success and greatly increased the VDF’s role in DMA’s overall response plan.”

The VDF is an all-volunteer force authorized by the Code of Virginia and organized under the Virginia Department of Military Affairs reporting to the Adjutant General of Virginia. The members of the VDF volunteer their time for training and are only paid when called to state active duty by an authorization from the Governor of Virginia. Carlitti, a native of Syracuse, New York, attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York with a

Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps scholarship. Upon graduation in 1982 with a Bachelors of Science degree in electrical engineering, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He was designated as a communications officer upon completion of the Basic School and the Basic Communication Officers Course in Quantico, Va. He served on active duty until 1991 when he joined the Marine Corps Reserve and accepted a civil service position with the Department of the Army in Washington, D. C. Through his career as a Marine reservist, he served in multiple assignments including a mobilization in 2003 in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom serving as an operations officer and deputy communications officer for II Marine Expeditionary Force Augmentation Command Element based on Camp Lejeune, NC.



Leadership Staff Ride—2014

By COL Dennis P. Mroczkowski



“Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it.” (President Dwight D. Eisenhower)

On 7 June 2014, soldiers of the Virginia Defense Force were once again on the battlefield of Manassas. For the second time, VDF officer candidates participated in a specially designed staff ride of this historic ground. As before, the tour did not

Staff Ride 2014 Participants in front of the Stonewall Jackson Monument at the Manassas National Battlefield Park

focus on the tactics and grand strategy of the battle, although it is important to know these. The reason for these soldiers walking about the battle-field on a warm day was to familiarize themselves with leadership principles and traits, and how these affect any human endeavor. “Great leaders are made, not born,” is a saying that is familiar to everyone in the military. There are few individuals who can, by strength of character, will, or innate ability, get others to follow them effectively and accomplish assignments. This is particularly true when it comes to leading people into situations that are inherently dangerous or physically demanding. Like so many other military skills, effective leadership must be learned by most soldiers. In order to ensure that the Virginia Defense Force has capable leaders, a more formal Basic Officers’ Leadership Course (BOLC) was instituted last year, through which VDF soldiers may earn a commission as a second lieutenant. A part of this course is the leadership staff ride.

Colonel Dennis Mroczkowski, the VDF historian, put together the first such staff ride in 2011. That ride, which studied the Seven Days Battles outside of Richmond, was attended by three officer candidates. This year’s ride saw seven OCs moving about various points of the battlefield, discussing fine points of leadership and the character traits that were exhibited by officers and enlisted soldiers of the Union and Confederate armies. There were eight stops, and at each a group of two or three soldiers explained what they understood about leadership at that point. Fortunately, the Battle of First Manassas provides many examples of both good and bad leadership, from both sides of the conflict. The remarks by the appointed group of OCs at each stop invariably brought out lively discussions by every soldier attending. Lively and thoughtful discussion was precisely the purpose of the whole exercise. Not only did the OCs have specific readings about the battle to help them to learn about how the great fight played out on the ground they had to traverse, they also had to familiarize themselves with the US Marine Corps’ leadership principles and traits. The OCs had several weeks to complete their reading assignments and to coordinate among themselves how each group would present their ideas and stimulate discussions. Despite the heat and the long walks through forest and open fields, all participants kept up a lively discourse about the battle and the leadership of famous officers such as Irwin McDowell, Pierre G. T. Beauregard, Thomas Jackson, and William Sherman, as well as some more obscure persons as Nathaniel Evans, Bernard Bee, Romeyn Ayres, or Israel Richardson.

The staff ride was led by COL Mroczkowski, assisted by LTC Kent Brinkley, the Deputy Division Historian. LTC Brinkley, who is an experienced re-enactor of the Civil War, also provided a special lesson about how the equipment carried by the soldiers in the battle helped shape how it was fought. LTC Brinkley demonstrated the typical weapons carried by officers and enlisted soldiers, and showed how they were loaded and fired. This demonstration, along with the heat of the day, served to remind the candidates of how various physical factors can have an outcome on the plans of officers and on the execution of orders.

The Officer Candidates who attended the ride were Frederick Glover, Michael Hertrick, George Lamb, James Lamb, Marina Murdock, Marc Ripperger, and Robert Wilbur. In addition, the VDF chief of Staff, Colonel Justin Carlitti, accompanied the exercise for the first three stops. 2LT Jones, of the Recruiting and Retention Command, which has oversight for the BOLC, and who participated as a candidate in last year’s ride, was also present to ensure that the ride was successful in meeting its goals. Two capable soldiers, SGT James Mitchell, of the Division G-4 section, and SP4 Edward Jacobson, of the 1st Regiment, drove the vans. Everyone who was there was an active participant, and all learned from the day on the battlefield. SGT Mitchell said it was “one of the best days of my time in the VDF.” In an after action report, OC Murdock wrote, “Everyone did a fine job of presenting and I hope each of you were able to pick up some additional leadership traits and presentation techniques to add to your bag of tricks. Even though I have attended the staff ride before, I walked away with several new ideas for my own improvement.” The staff ride will likely continue as a part of officer candidate training next year. While the Manassas staff ride is a fine one for the purposes of leadership, there is a possibility that others may be created for other battlefields around the state for the use of the regiments.

VDF Personnel Participate in a Stimulated Emergency Test (SET)

Two communications personnel from the Virginia Defense Force volunteered to put their radio communication skills to the test on a chilly Saturday. On 4 October 2014, CPT Randy Lilly and CPL Taylor Seigler took their private communications trailer up on Big Walker Mountain in Wythe County, Virginia to take part in the annual Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) simulated emergency test (SET). From their lofty vantage point, they operated as regional net control for three linked Very High Frequency (VHF) radio repeaters providing coverage from Marion to Roanoke and as far south as Boonville, NC.

The statewide event was a test of the preparedness of local amateur radio operators or "hams" and the Emergency Communication (EmComm) Association interacting with local governmental agencies, hospitals, the National Weather Service, the Virginia Department of Health, local Red Cross chapters, and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. The scenario was that of a large hurricane named "Echo" striking the eastern Atlantic coastal area with locally severe flooding as far inland as southwest Virginia. The radio traffic consisted of weather reports, requests for assistance, logistical support for shelters, and staffing reports. Over 200 pieces of radio traffic were routed through the two VDF participants. Most of this traffic was handled digitally by VHF and High Frequency (HF) packet radio. The emphasis was on utilizing the ICS formats for requesting and reporting information. The two VDF soldiers are not only members of the VDF's communications cadre, but also belong to RACES and the new Virginia EmComm Association. CPT Lilly has been a general class ham since 1979 and CPL Seigler just passed his general test in June of this year.



PRSG Takes Anchorage — 2014!

Annual Conference of the SGAUS was held in Anchorage Alaska from the 11th to the 14th of September, 2014 with the participation and assistance of many States throughout the country. Puerto Rico State Guard under the Command of BG (PR) Carlos Martinez had the largest delegation of the event with sixteen participants. We truly believe this event is a great opportunity to get to know each other and exchange ideas for the growth and benefit of the SGAUS.

See you 2015 in Maryland and 2016 in Puerto Rico!



Team Puerto Rico at Downtown Anchorage Alaska during SGAUS 2014



BG(PR) Carlos Martinez receives award from BG Roger Holl AK SG Commander



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**Merry Christmas
and a very Happy,
Safe & Prosperous
New Year!**



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