

**THE DISPATCH**

**GUARD HELPS  
TEXAS SENATE  
HONOR  
LIVING  
LEGEND  
DICK COLE**



**APRIL 2017**

**OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT**



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**HERE:**

**Members of the Texas National Guard's 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team train alongside an infantry squad from 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, as they prepare to board a UH-60 Blackhawk while conducting air assault operations.**

**ON THE COVER:**

**(In Color) Dick Cole offers salutes to airmen while visiting the Texas State Capitol during a recognition ceremony for the 75th anniversary of the Doolittle Raids over Tokyo Japan. (Black and White) Dick Cole, co-pilot of raid leader Jimmy Doolittle, poses alongside crew before preparing for a one way bombing run over Japan.**



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Greg Abbott**



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## TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

# OUR MODERN DAY MINUTEMEN



**“YOU are here for a purpose. Our founders envisioned you, not a large standing Active Duty Air Force or a large standing Active Duty Army.”**

**MAJOR GENERAL DAVID MCMINN**  
COMMANDER OF THE TEXAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

The Minuteman, the symbol of the National Guard, pictures a young man holding a musket with a plow and share behind him, was named for his ability to be ready at a moment's notice. When the Minuteman was called to arms for his territory or his state, he would drop his plow and share and pick up his musket. When our forefathers settled this country, there were many threats – attacking tribes, thieves and marauders. Because of this constant threat, 380 years ago, the Massachusetts territory formed a militia – a group of local farmers who were prepared to defend their home against any attacking enemy. Led by military veterans with prior service in Europe, these men would come together to drill and practice marksmanship. The Governor appointed an adjutant general to organize the troops to defend their territory.

In 1775, at the Battles of Lexington and Concord, it was these Minutemen that defended their home against the attacking British Army, and continued to fight and defend their homeland throughout the Revolutionary War, winning their independence and creating our nation.

All of you are an offshoot of that. You are Minutemen – Farmers, Teachers, Police Officers – All Airmen or Soldiers in the National Guard.

When our founders wrote the Constitution and developed the laws that govern our nation, they decided they did not want a large standing Army like the ones they had seen in Europe, but instead, they wanted the militia construct – militias that would belong to the people of each territory or state and be under the control of that state, so that the federal government could never get too big. This is our legacy.

YOU are here for a purpose. Our founders envisioned you, not a large standing Active Duty Air Force or a large standing Active Duty Army. They wanted YOU to defend the nation and state – to be ready at a moment's notice, hit pause on your work and pick up your musket in defense of your homeland.

Always Ready – Always There – YOU are Texans Serving Texas.

Thank you for what you do and thank you for being a part of the Texas Military.

**FROM THE TOP**

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# AIRMEN HELP TEXAS SENATE HONOR LAST MEMBER OF THE DOOLITTLE RAIDERS

Story and Photos By 1st Lt. Phil Fountain  
Texas Military Department Public Affairs

AUSTIN, Texas – Airmen of the Texas Military Department helped the Texas Senate honor the World War II veterans who participated in an air raid over Japan, during a ceremony held at the Texas Capitol, in Austin, March 6, 2017.

April 18, 2017 marked the 75th anniversary of the Doolittle Raid, which is sometimes referred to as the Tokyo Raid.

This combat operation involved a formation of 16 American B-25 Mitchell bombers. The mission was commanded by then-Lt. Col. James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle of the U.S. Army Air Forces, the precursor organization of the now independent U.S. Air Force.

"The raid was an extremely important event in the development of American air power," wrote Rob Bardua of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in a previous report. "It marked the first combat use of strategic bombardment by U.S. Army Air Forces in World War II."

This mission brought offensive action to the Japanese home islands for the first time during the war.

The Doolittle Raid was credited with boosting American morale following the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attacks on American equities at Pearl Harbor and on the Philippine Islands, which led to the death of more than 2,300 Americans and directly precipitated the entry of the United States into the Second World War.

"While the attack itself caused little actual damage to Japanese war industry, the psychological impact on the Japanese military and the American public proved to be immense," Bardua wrote. "It forced the Japanese military to pull forces back from the front lines to protect the home islands and showed Americans that the war could be won."

Doolittle was later awarded the Medal of Honor by then-President Franklin D. Roosevelt for his actions in planning and leading the raid with pilots who volunteered for the daring mission.



*Lt. Col. (RET.) Dick Cole, The last of the Doolittle Raiders is honored on the floor of the Texas Senate.*

State Sen. Donna Campbell, M.D., of New Braunfels, Texas, authored Senate Resolution 262 of the 85th Legislature, recognizing retired Lt. Col. Dick Cole of Comfort, Texas as the last surviving Doolittle Raider.

"There were 80 men on that raid," Campbell said, "and now, at 101 years of age, Lt. Col. Cole is the last living member of that illustrious group of warriors."

"He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for gallantry in action and was also decorated by the Chinese government," she said. "Lt. Col. Doolittle wrote (of Cole) that, 'He comported himself with conspicuous bravery and distinction.'"

In addition to serving as Cole's state senator, Campbell chairs the Texas Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and Border Security.

Also in attendance was Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, the adjutant general of Texas, and Brig. Gen. Dawn M. Ferrell, deputy adjutant general for air, both gubernatorial appointees.

Nichols and Ferrell led a group of airmen from the Texas Air National Guard's headquarters in Austin and from each of the major wings, located in Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio. They had the opportunity to visit with Cole during a reception before the event and to watch the reading of the resolution from the Senate gallery.

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Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, the adjutant general of Texas, sits alongside Lt. Col. (RET.) Dick Cole on the floor of the Texas Senate as lawmakers prepare to recognize Cole's service during WWII and commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Doolittle Raids over Tokyo Japan.

"As Texans serving Texas, we are humbled by Dick Cole's example," said Nichols, the state's senior military officer and a command fighter pilot who flew combat missions during the Persian Gulf War. "Lt. Col. Cole has that courageous Texas spirit we all admire. Whether serving at home or overseas, all service members can all learn from his example of selfless service."

Additionally, three members of the 147th Reconnaissance Wing, based at Houston's Ellington Field, joined Cole on the Senate floor during the reading of the resolution.

One airman in particular had a very personal connection to Cole's generation, often described as the "Greatest Generation" of Americans.

"My grandfather flew 30 missions in a B-17 (Flying Fortress) in World War II and is the reason I became an Air Force pilot," said Lt. Col. Paul Alford, commander of the 147th Reconnaissance Wing's 111th Operations Support

Squadron. "I have always held this generation to be my true heroes."

"Having studied the Doolittle Raiders' story through books," Alford said, "this opportunity to represent the Texas Military Department and Texas Air National Guard was truly a once-in-a-lifetime event and the highlight of my career."

The books Alford mentioned, include: "Thirty Seconds over Tokyo" by Capt. Ted W. Lawson, "I Could Never Be So Lucky Again" by Doolittle and "Dick Cole's War" by Dennis R. Okerstrom.

Cole and his fellow veterans of the Doolittle Raid were an inspiration to another Texas airman who came to meet him from San Antonio's 149th Fighter Wing.

"Lt. Col. Cole is an icon for us," said Tech. Sgt. Guillermo L. De La Cruz, an aircraft structural maintenance craftsman with the 149th FW. "It was a great honor to meet

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him in person. He is a great example for all of us to follow because he accepted the call to defend his nation with his life on a one-way trip mission."

Cole did not make any public comments during the Texas Capitol events, but Campbell said he wanted the Lone Star State senators to know that there were 13 other Texans who also participated in the raid. They were:

- Lt. Thad H. Blanton of Gainesville
- Lt. William N. Fitzhugh of Galveston
- Capt. Robert Gray of Killeen (killed in action)
- Lt. Dean E. Hallmark of Greenville
- Lt. Nolan A. Herndon of Greenville
- Maj. John A. Hilger of Sherman
- Lt. Robert L. Hite of Erath County
- Lt. Edgar E. McElroy of Ennis
- Lt. James M. Parker, Jr. of Houston
- Sgt. Douglas V. Radney of Mexia
- Lt. Kenneth E. Reddy of Bowie
- Lt. Rodney R. Wilder of Taylor
- Lt. Lucian N. Youngblood of Pampa

"Thank you for all you did for our nation, and the free world, on that raid almost 75 years ago," Campbell said to Cole. "I know you reject the title of a Texas hero, but I hope you will give us this latitude to use it in referring to you today. Because that's what you are to us."

In addition to Campbell, others rose to praise Cole after the reading of the SR 262, including state Sen. Paul Bettencourt of Houston, who said his father served with Doolittle later in the war.



State Sen. Donna Campbell, M.D., of New Braunfels, meets with Lt. Col. (ret.) Dick Cole during the reading of Senate Resolution (SR) 262 of the 85th Legislature. Campbell authored the resolution to recognize the service of Cole and his fellow Texans that flew a one way trip over Tokyo Japan at the beginning of the WWII Pacific Campaign.



Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Crew. Left to Right: Lt. Henry A Potter, Navigator- Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle, Pilot - S/Sgt Fred A Braemer, Bombardier - Lt. Richard E. Cole, Co-Pilot - S/Sgt Paul J. Leonard, Engineer-Gunner. Photo Courtesy of the Department of Defense.

"At 101, [Cole] is living history," Bettencourt posted to his Facebook page after the event, the raid "brought all Americans new hope in the war with the Empire of Japan."

"Until that moment the war news had been a steady stream of AXIS victories and the bombing raid of an enemy capital was a huge moral boost to the ALLIES," Bettencourt wrote. "So much so that the Imperial Japanese Empire War Cabinet advanced plans to extend their defensive perimeter to Midway Island in the Pacific, which resulted in the US Navy sinking all 4 of the Imperial Navies' finest aircraft carriers and their planes."

"This shortened the war in the Pacific," wrote Bettencourt, "and allowed time for the industrial capacity of the United States to ramp up European efforts."

Before SR 262 was adopted without objection, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, the Texas Senate's presiding officer, said he was also a son of a WWII veteran and praised Cole for his bravery.

"So many millions of Americans owe their life to you," Patrick said.

"Today, a rare privilege to meet and shake the hand of a living legend, a hero," Patrick said. "And you know he's a hero when he doesn't want to be called one. He really is a hero."

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# TEXAS STATE GUARD HELPS TAKE THE BITE OUT OF RABIES

Story By CW3 Janet Schmelzer & Staff Sgt. Timothy Pruitt,  
Texas State Guard Public Affairs

ALPINE, Texas – The 1st Regiment, Texas State Guard, took to the skies along the Rio Grande Valley, Jan. 10-24, 2017, in support of the 23rd annual Oral Rabies Vaccination Program sponsored and run by Texas Department of State Health Services, Zoonosis Control Branch.

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*Coyote photo provided courtesy of the National Park Service.*



During a joint operation, members of the Texas State Guard provided personnel to assist with the aerial distribution program, dispensing vaccine bait across 19 counties in an effort to eliminate the spread of rabies among coyotes and gray foxes. Additionally, this program works to minimize and eliminate the threat of exposure of rabies to humans and domesticated animals.

“This mission gave me an opportunity to support state and federal entities in eradicating rabies in Texas. Because animals infected with rabies can wander into populated areas and spread the disease, vaccinating the gray fox and the coyote is a vital state health service program to protect families, especially children, and their pets from encountering a rabid animal,” said Texas State Guardsman Sgt. Adrian Zamora, 3rd Battalion, 1st Regiment. “Serving Texans in this way is why I joined the Texas State Guard.”

Guardsmen supported this program during flights by monitoring the GPS system for correct flight alignment, assisting with the bait distribution on-board.

On the ground Guardsmen assisted with loading and unloading of more than one million vaccine-baits on the aircraft, keeping the hanger and flight line area free of debris and assuring the safety of all personnel around aircrafts. Flights originated from the Zapata County Airport, Zapata, the Del-Rio International Airport, Del Rio and the Alpine-Casparis Municipal Airport, Alpine, Texas.

“The role of the 1st Regiment is an integral part of the Texas Oral Rabies Vaccination Program and their support is invaluable,” said Dr. Laura E. Robinson, Director, Oral Rabies Vaccination Program, Zoonosis Control Branch with the Texas Department of State Health Services. “They have been our “go to” personnel if back-to-back flights are necessary, and they are always willing to pitch in with the multitude of tasks on the ground.”

Since the program’s inception in 1995, Texas benefited from a significant reduction in rabies cases among coyote and gray foxes. Since 2004 zero cases of rabies have been reported from the dog/coyote, while that same number holds true from the gray fox after 2015. No human cases of the coyote and gray fox rabies virus have been reported since the program began.

“I was honored to have been a part of the 2017 Oral Rabies Vaccination Program that is so important to the health and safety of my fellow Texans,” said Capt. Stephen Walker, 3rd Battalion, 1st Regiment, Texas State Guard. “The Texas State Guard soldiers working alongside multiple state and federal agencies and businesses underscores how joint operations serve the needs of our fellow Texans during natural disasters and emergencies.”

The Texas Oral Rabies Vaccination Program utilizes services from local, state, and federal agencies and businesses such as the Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Cooperative Extension Wildlife Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, Texas Military Department, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Merial Limited (Athens, Georgia), Dynamic Aviation Group, Inc. and the U.S. Army Veterinary Laboratory at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.

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*Sfc. Steven Lozano, 1st Regiment, Texas State Guard, operates the aerial dispensing system filled with rabies vaccination bait packets during the Oral Rabies Vaccination program (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Pruitt, Texas State Guard)*



*Capt. Stephen Walker, 1st Regiment, Texas State Guard, conducts the daily morning briefing to his team for the Oral Rabies Vaccination Program flights. (Photo by Cpl. Stephen Schaus, Texas State Guard)*

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*Brig. Gen. Richard Norlega, Assistant Deputy Adjutant General-Army, and Col. Theresa Cogswell, Director of the Army G6, watch as Hackathon contestant explains how his program will help first responders during a disaster.*

## TEXAS GUARD HELPS TECH EXPERTS TACKLE HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF

**Story By: Sgt. Elizabeth Pena**  
Texas Military Department Public Affairs

AUSTIN, Texas -- Fifteen service members from the Texas Military Department volunteered their knowledge and expertise to over 100 innovators, Feb. 24 – 26, 2017, during a Hackathon event, in Austin.

“Hackathons are weekend problem-solving events that bring together diverse groups of people, innovators and you get them working on a problem of interest for National Security,” said Dr. Bill Kernick, principle of MD5 National Security Technology Accelerator.

The three-day event allowed innovators from University of Texas at Austin and the local Austin community to tackle some of the toughest Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief challenges, a topic very close to home for Texas Guardsmen.

The Lone Star State is home to the Domestic Operations Task Force, which provides direction and oversight of Texas Military Department throughout Texas and Federal Emergency Management Agency Region VI during emergencies and disasters.

“There are Texas Guardsmen here that have first-hand experience with disaster response,” said Gregory K. Bush, strategic planner with the National Guard Bureau, domestic operations directorate. “When you start talking about multi-state disasters like hurricane Mathew and trying to coordinate across state lines... we bring that inter-agency partnership experience to the problem set.”

The participants were broken up into small teams and worked continuously through Sunday tackling hardware and software concepts that addressed challenge areas such as, logistics and planning, communications, water and power.

“I want to bring some perspective and real world examples and try to make the problems concrete,” said Texas Army National Guard Maj. Mark Greene, force protection officer for the state and mentor for the Hackathon. “It’s easy to come up with a solution that you think works, but to have specific insight from the field on what the exact nature of the problems are, would be helpful.”

The handpicked Texas Guardsmen, along with other expert mentors, were readily available to contribute on-the-ground experiences with the teams to help them come up with the best possible solutions.

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“In design and innovation, the rubber really meets the road when you show your rough crude proto type to an emergency responder, or an Air Force pilot or a National Guardsmen and you’re exposing your idea to the messy reality of day to day operations in the military,” said Dave C. Blakely, facilitator at the Hackathon event.

The Hackathon was put together by MD5, the Department of Defense’s National Security Technology Accelerator, a defense technology incubator that provides a place and a platform for people to bring their ideas and technologies to the market.

In October 2016, the company showcased its first Hackathon event in New York with participation from the National Guard; Bush explained that it was really the inception of the MD5 relationship with the National Guard.

“What MD5 is doing fits very well with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau’s innovation initiative, which is one of his three priorities,” said Bush. “Ultimately that’s what MD5 is looking to leverage is the relationship between the National Guard as a whole.”

Texas was the first state to provide mentors and judges to a Hackathon event, but as more national security problem sets are identified; National Guard’s from other states will stand ready to assist its new partner in helping to save lives.

“We have built this collaborative network that includes the 54 states and territories so any time we find a problem we can tap into whatever expertise the National Guard has and can bring to whatever the problem is,” said Bush.

At the close of the event, teams presented their ideas to a panel of judges, two of which were provided by the Texas National Guard.

“This weekend is a demonstration in particular for the military,” said Blakely, “of the power of a heterogeneous group for civilians along with emerging technologies to come up with solid solutions to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief problems.”

On March 10, 2017, MD5 hosted a follow on event that featured DoD and NATO military leaders as well as finalist teams from the Austin Hackathon, presenting their solutions.

“This is an incredibly important event,” said Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel, Chief of the National Guard Bureau. “The combined efforts during the course of the Hackathon not only demonstrate the unity of effort between academia, industry and the DoD, but sincerely the best and brightest in our ability to find the best solutions for our nation’s problems.”

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*Texas Guardsmen discuss real world situations and concerns that occur during state active duty as Hackathon contestants attempt to build technical systems that can be rapidly deployed to mitigate the loss of life that occurs during a real world disaster.  
(Photo by Sgt. Elizabeth Pena, Texas Military Department)*



*Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, the adjutant general of Texas, looks on as Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, explains the significance of partnering with the civilian sector and entrepreneurs when looking to innovate in areas like disaster relief and on the battlefield.  
(Photo by Bob Seyller Texas Military Department Public Affairs)*



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**Story By: Sgt. Elizabeth Pena**  
**Texas Military Department Public Affairs**

AUSTIN, Texas – Texas lawmakers had the opportunity to see first hand the Texas Military Department’s capabilities as representatives of the Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, Texas State Guard, Domestic Operations Task force, Office of the Executive Director and the National Guard Association of Texas, set up informational displays and met with elected officials as the Texas Capitol hosted TMD Day on March 8, 2017,

“There are always questions about how our organization works, how our funding works and how we help Texas,” said Maj. Christopher R. McKeag, Texas Army National Guard legislative liaison. “A lot of people know we show up to the scene during disasters, but there’s a lot of behind the scenes work.”

Among the visitors was Texas Senator Donna Campbell, chairwoman for the Veterans Affairs and Border Security Committee.

“She is pretty spun up so there wasn’t any questions that were burning for us,” said McKeag. “But just her coming out here, her presence serves as visibility and it increases the awareness of the organization.”

During the visit, legislators recognized the members of the Texas Military for their service to the state and nation. Service members received a standing applause by all representatives and members of the public present, for the service the Texas Military Department gives to both the state and nation.

“We are Texans first and foremost so we are here for everyone,” said McKeag.

As part of TMD day at the Capitol, the Texas Army National Guard 36th Infantry Division Band held a surprise performance playing several patriotic and military songs in the rotunda.

According to McKeag, the Government Affairs team said they achieved their goal of increasing awareness and understanding of the Texas Military Department’s dual state and federal mission to both state representatives and the general public.

While addressing the gathered soldiers, airmen and civilian employees Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, the adjutant general of Texas explained the importance of TMD Day at the Capitol.

“I thought today went extremely well, they got to meet you all, they didn’t just see Nichols. They got to see the National Guard.”

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*Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, the adjutant general of Texas, Soldiers, Airmen and state employees from the Texas Military Department pose alongside Texas lawmakers during the TMD at the Capitol event.*

# T DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL



*361D Band members play the Capitol Rotunda during a surprise performance*



*Texas Guardsmen prepare to explain the role of the State Guard.*



*Texas Guardsmen in the viewing gallery of the Texas Senate.*



*The Adjutant General of Texas explains the guard to Texas lawmakers.*

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# PATRIOTS PARTNER WITH ARROWHEAD DIVISION

HISTORIC FIRST DRILL OF THE ASSOCIATED UNIT PILOT PROGRAM BRINGS GUARD AND ACTIVE DUTY SOLDIERS TOGETHER

**Story and Photos by: Staff Sgt. Nathan Akridge**  
3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division Public Affairs

FORT POLK, La. – Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (LI) “Patriots” trained side by side with members of the 36th Infantry Division “Arrowhead” during the Mountain Peak exercise at Fort Polk, writing history together as the first two units in the Associated Unit Pilot program, to participate in a major training event together.

In September 2016, the Patriot Brigade became the only Active Duty brigade combat team to wear a National Guard Patch. Col. Brian Sullivan, commander, 3BCT, said that this training exercise shows that the AUP program is more than just a patch change.

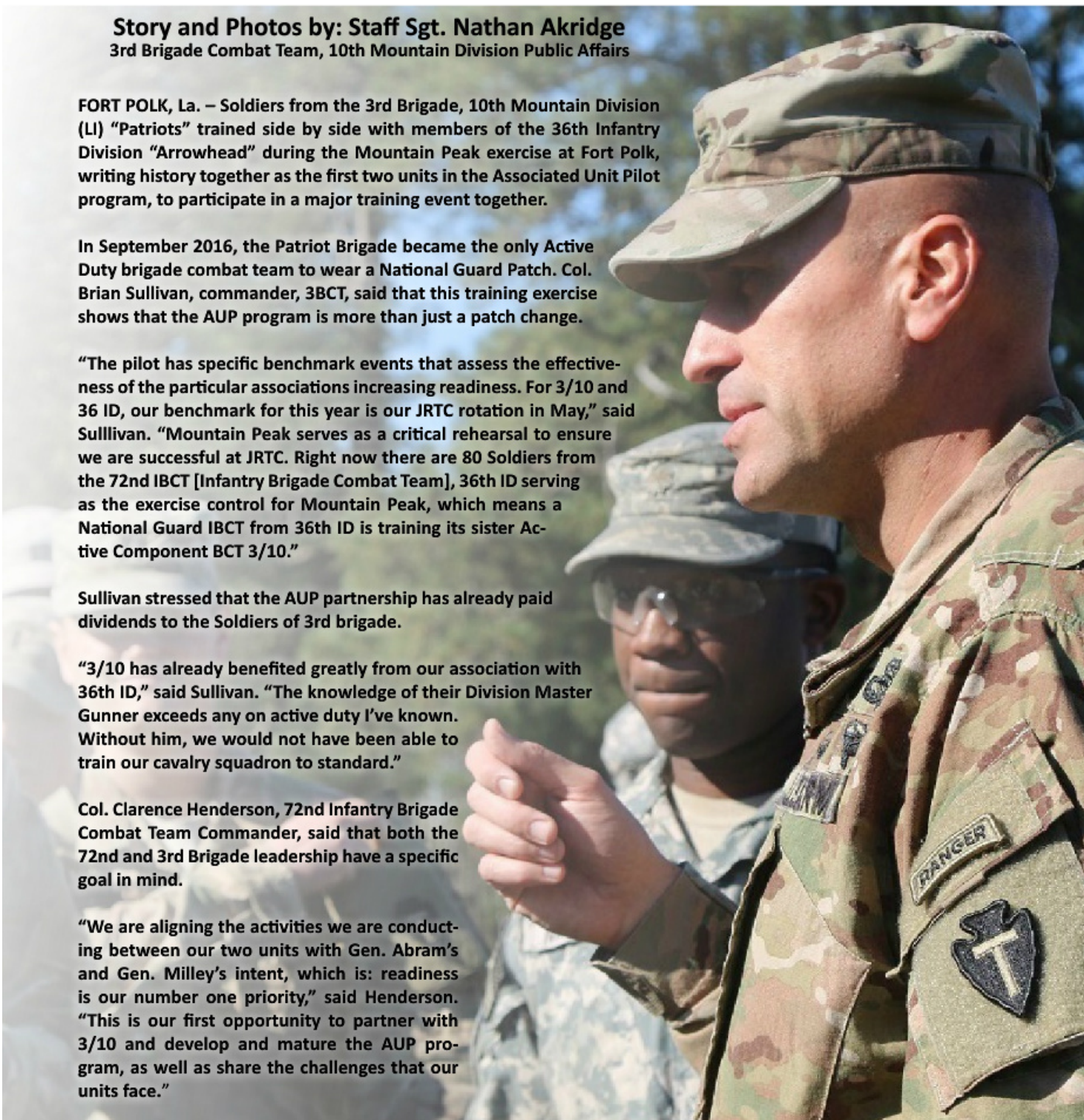
“The pilot has specific benchmark events that assess the effectiveness of the particular associations increasing readiness. For 3/10 and 36 ID, our benchmark for this year is our JRTC rotation in May,” said Sullivan. “Mountain Peak serves as a critical rehearsal to ensure we are successful at JRTC. Right now there are 80 Soldiers from the 72nd IBCT [Infantry Brigade Combat Team], 36th ID serving as the exercise control for Mountain Peak, which means a National Guard IBCT from 36th ID is training its sister Active Component BCT 3/10.”

Sullivan stressed that the AUP partnership has already paid dividends to the Soldiers of 3rd brigade.

“3/10 has already benefited greatly from our association with 36th ID,” said Sullivan. “The knowledge of their Division Master Gunner exceeds any on active duty I’ve known. Without him, we would not have been able to train our cavalry squadron to standard.”

Col. Clarence Henderson, 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Commander, said that both the 72nd and 3rd Brigade leadership have a specific goal in mind.

“We are aligning the activities we are conducting between our two units with Gen. Abram’s and Gen. Milley’s intent, which is: readiness is our number one priority,” said Henderson. “This is our first opportunity to partner with 3/10 and develop and mature the AUP program, as well as share the challenges that our units face.”



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Soldiers from the 36th Infantry Division participated in all facets of the training during Mountain Peak, including the preparation, planning and execution phases of the exercise. Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Sublett, Command Sgt. Maj. of the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, a Soldier with 34 years of service, 13 of which were on Active Duty, said the program has helped both the Active Duty and National Guard units involved.

"It gives us a better insight on lessons learned from the Active Duty side to the National Guard side and vice versa," said Sublett. "What do we each do better than the other? It's more of a best practices, what we learn from you and what you learn from us."

Maj. Philip Waggoner, the 3rd Brigade Plans and Operations Officer in Charge, said the National Guard enhanced

the effectiveness and training value of the Mountain Peak exercise allowing both sides to benefit from the training.

"I think this exercise proves that the National Guard and Active Duty components are very capable of working together," Waggoner said. "36th ID, 10th Mountain Division, and 3BCT have conducted integrated planning on this exercise since October to make it a worthwhile training event for the 3BCT Soldiers. 36th ID's ability to send personnel to serve as the EXCON and OC/Ts is truly valuable not only to making the exercise run properly, but provide critical lessons learned to make the BCT better during JRTC and in combat."

So as the Army goes rolling along, the Associated Unit Pilot program charges full speed ahead, strengthening the bond between our Active Duty and National Guard forces.

*PAGE 14: Col. Brian Sullivan, (Right) Commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, addresses his staff following the Brigade Combined Arms Rehearsal.*

*ABOVE: Two CH-47 Chinooks from the 82nd Airborne Division work with Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division to conduct sling load operations training.*

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# ARMY DAY WELCOMES STATE AND FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS AND STAFFERS

Photos by: Sgt. Steve Johnson & Bob Seyller  
Texas Military Department Public Affairs



Black Hawk Helicopter ride from Austin to Bastrop, Texas.



Engagement Skills Trainer  
M-16/M-4 simulator



Machine Gun range  
Live fire exercise.



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Room clearing and hostage rescue simulator



Meals Ready to Eat dining experience.

**State and federal elected officials and staffers were invited to Camp Swift, near Bastrop, Texas, on March 24, 2017 to participate in Texas Military Department Army Day, an exhibition and hands on training session showcasing the Army National Guard's equipment and capabilities.**

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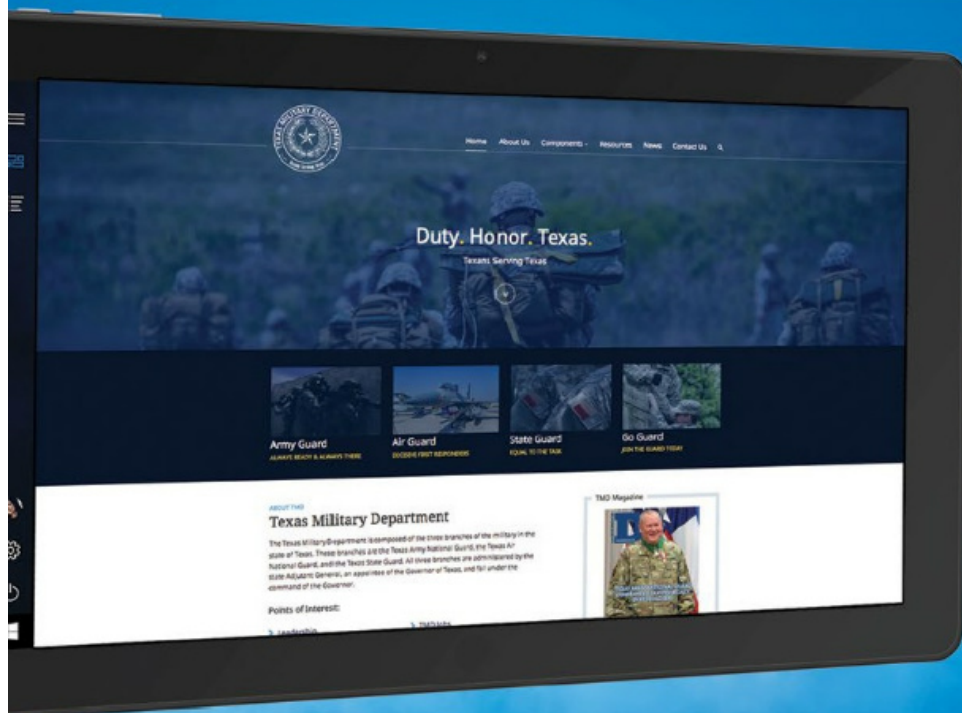


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## Texas Military Department Recognized by State Senate for Energy Conservation efforts

Story by: Mr. Joey Estrada

Construction and Facilities Management Office

The Texas Military Department was recognized by the Texas Senate on March 28, 2017 for its commitment to energy efficiency and water conservation efforts at eight of its facilities across Texas.

These efforts include a 20,000 gallon rainwater harvesting system at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, the design phase to implement a geothermal heat pump at a Readiness Center in El Paso, Texas and other energy conservation measures such as lighting retrofits and replacing HVAC systems with more energy efficient systems. The energy conservation projects were funded through the State Energy Conservation Office and Department of Defense.

Senators José Rodríguez (D), representing State Senate District 29, and Kirk Watson (D), representing State Senate District 14, co-sponsored Senate Resolution 456 which was adopted and enrolled on March 28, 2017.



*(Above) Rain water collection system similar to the 20,000 gallon capture system to be installed at Camp Mabry outside the Joint Force Headquarters.*

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## Texas State Guard Members Use Civilian Job Skills to Save Texas Millions

**Story by Capt. Esperanza Meza**  
Texas State Guard Public Affairs

AUSTIN, Texas- While the New Year often brings new resolutions and goals, the Texas State Guard kicked off 2017, by rolling out a new personnel management system, saving the state of Texas \$2.5 million.

Officially launching on Jan. 2, 2017, the development of the new Readiness Management System, was the result of Texas State Guardsmen using their civilian job skills to benefit the guard.

“Our goal was to create a more efficient system that requires less manpower to maintain, saves money for the state, and frees up personnel to be assigned to other important mission tasks,” stated Chief Warrant Officer 4 Thomas Dodd, programming team member.

The Information and Communications section of the Texas State Guard Joint Staff is comprised of a team of Guardsmen, who in their civilian lives are computer and system professionals, with the skills and knowledge to build a new

database system to replace an outdated and inefficient personnel management system.

As part of their service, they dedicated thousands of hours at no cost to the state to complete this two-year, three-phase project. The result is a system that is robust, user-friendly, efficient and accurate.

“Taking care of our service members is a top priority for the organization,” said Sgt. 1st Class John Gately, program manager. “This RMS database will allow us to more efficiently manage an individual’s career for success.”

A project executed in multiple stages involved complex research and analysis in order to determine what kind of information and data was necessary and valuable to Texas State Guard headquarters, commanders and to the mission. Once it was determined force strength, training, recruiting, locations of guardsman and units and up-to-date personnel data for each guardsman were the top priorities, the 15 member team put their computer and programming skills to work.

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**TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT**

Initially, the team had to design a system that could handle every function of the old database, which was primarily a collection of personal information on each guardsman. From there, new functions were added to the system.

One new function allows recruiters to track the information and progress of new and potential recruits, as well as gather and analyze data related to the number of applications received during different time periods and where recruiting was most successful.

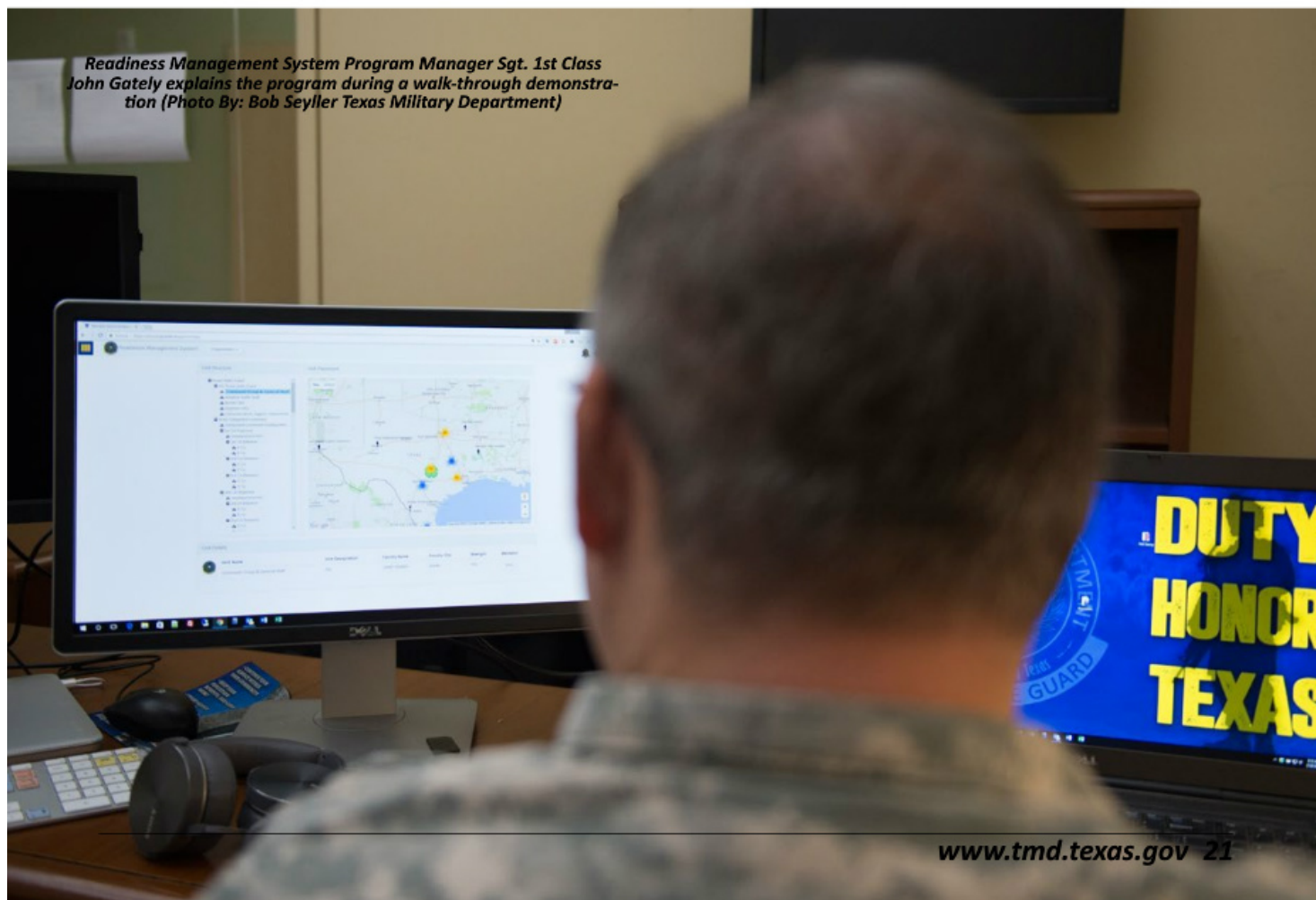
“The landscape of Texas State Guard recruiters has improved dramatically. Gone are the days of manual tracking and information being maintained outside of secure systems. The TXSG recruiter is able to manage the process of an applicant from the initial paperwork to the swearing-in of a new guardsman within one system,” stated Sgt. 1st Class Jason Rogers, TXSG Recruiting and Retention.

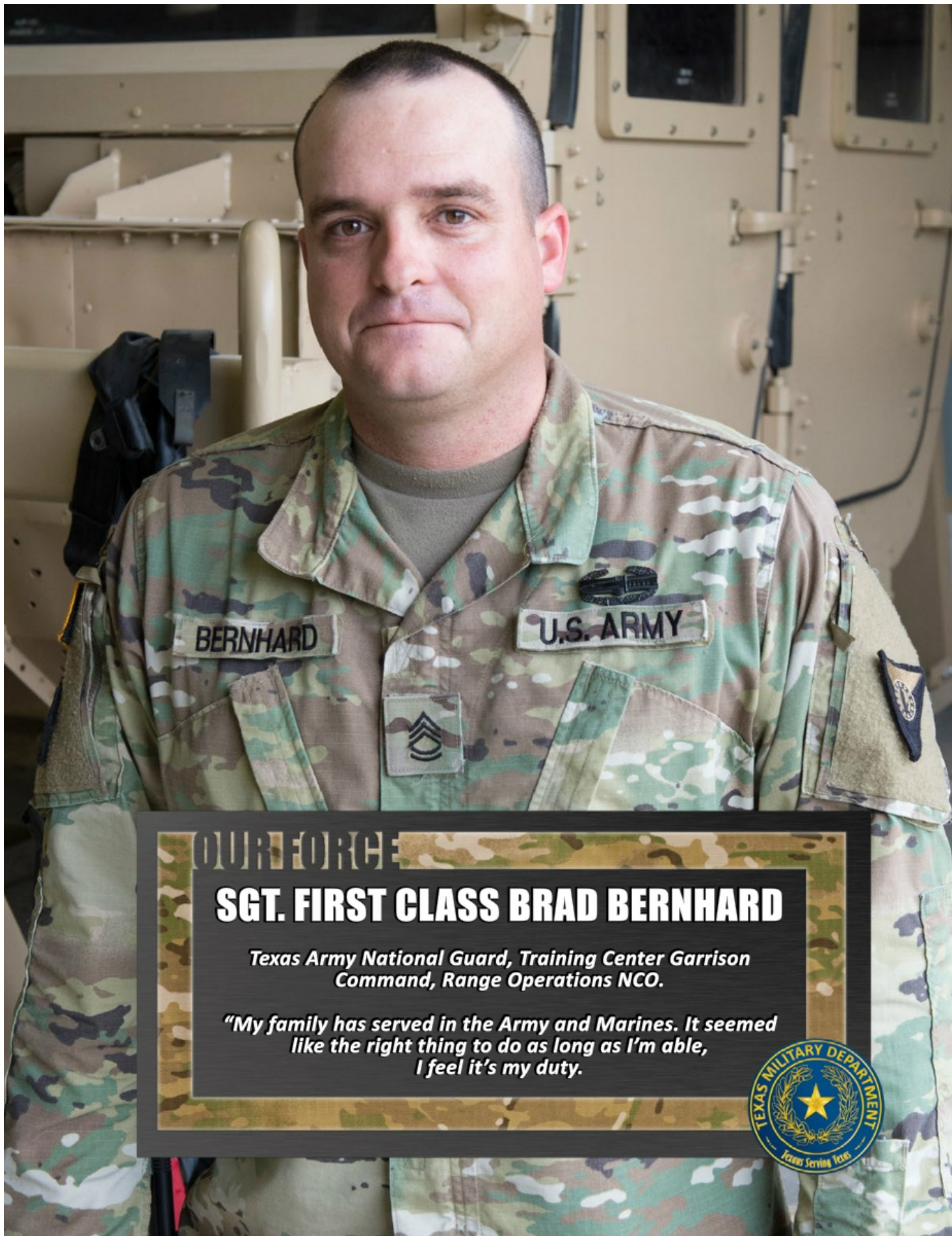
A second more advanced function built into the new RMS database uses mapping and gives the TXSG the immediate

ability to contact and check on the well-being of individual soldiers and their families in a disaster strike zone or assigned to a mission.

“This is the first time in the history of the TXSG that we will have ‘live mapping,’ based on Google maps involving geographic coordinates,” said Gately. “We will now have immediate accessibility to troops to be deployed to areas most affected by a natural disaster and at the same time a system of soldier accountability. This system allows the TXSG to minimize our troops’ manpower, and allow us to maximize the mission.”

Now less than three months into operation, the volunteers behind the multi-million dollar program plan to roll out two more phases. Phase 2, expected to roll out later this year, will develop programming to generate a variety of reports. The final phase, scheduled for 2018 will make the database a completely paperless system. Upon completion, the system is expected to save the state more than \$10 million.





OUR FORCE

## SGT. FIRST CLASS BRAD BERNHARD

*Texas Army National Guard, Training Center Garrison  
Command, Range Operations NCO.*

*"My family has served in the Army and Marines. It seemed  
like the right thing to do as long as I'm able,  
I feel it's my duty."*



# New Key Leadership Positions



## COL Andrew J. Rochstein Chief, Joint Staff & Domestic Operations Task Force

### EXPERIENCE:

COL Rochstein previously served as the J3 and Director of Joint Operations for the Domestic Operations Task Force at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas. Prior to his appointment as the Director of Operations, Rochstein was the acting State Army Aviation Officer for the Texas Army National Guard. He has extensive experience planning, executing and supporting DSCA and civil support missions throughout the U.S., including Hurricanes Andrew, Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike, as well as the Bastrop fires of 2011. Rochstein is a Master Army Aviator and an instructor pilot with more than 3,000 hours of flight time and qualifications in the TH-55 Osage, the UH-1 Huey, and the UH-60 Blackhawk. His company grade assignments began in the Florida National Guard in 1988, prior to his inter-state transfer to Texas in 1995. From 1997 to 2001, Rochstein commanded Blackhawk companies in Austin and San Antonio. Immediately following the 9/11 attacks in 2001, Rochstein was mobilized in support of Operation Noble Eagle, and assigned as Task Force Iron Confidence Officer in Charge and Central Texas Regional Commander for airport security. In 2003, he deployed to Bosnia as the Aviation Task Force S3 in support of Stabilization Force (SFOR) 14. In January 2006, he was mobilized as the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) S4 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) 06-08. The 36th CAB was tasked to provide direct support to Multi National Corps-Iraq, and was comprised of six National Guard battalions with 2,800 Soldiers and 144 aircraft from 46 states. Upon re-deployment from Iraq, Rochstein held a number of traditional, M-day assignments in the Texas National Guard, including the Executive Officer, 36th CAB. From September 2008 until December 2011, Rochstein commanded the 449th Aviation Support Battalion, headquartered in San Antonio. He was assigned as the 36th CAB S3 from December 2011 until September 2013. Rochstein also worked as the G5, Chief of Plans for 36th ID.

### EDUCATION:

Rochstein was commissioned through ROTC at the University of Tampa in 1987, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree. He completed his master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College in July 2014.

### DID YOU KNOW:

COL Rochstein and his wife Vickie recently celebrated the birth of their first child, Mia Akemi Rochstein. She was only 3 lbs. and 30 weeks gestation when she was born, but she is now 5 lbs. 7 oz. and she's almost ready to come home from NICU. He is eagerly accepting parenting tips from those who are willing to share.

### IN HIS WORDS:

(Borrowed from a NICU nurse) "If it fires, it wires." "I'm humbled and honored to work with and for the best leadership team in all of the 54 states and territories and the DoD, and to follow in the footsteps of three previous DOMOPs Chiefs of Staff who I consider friends and mentors, Col. Scott MacLeod, Col. Danny Quick and Col. Jim Nugent."



## LTC Rob Eason Director of Operations, Domestic Operations Task Force

### EXPERIENCE:

LTC Eason commissioned in the Texas Army National Guard in 1992 from Texas A&M ROTC. He served as a Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, and S-4 in 5-112 Armor, as well as a liaison officer in 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood. He assumed command of C-Company, 5-112 Armor in 2000. Eason mobilized the company in August 2002 for Operational Noble Eagle at Pine Bluff Arsenal until July 2003. In May 2005, he deployed to Afghanistan as the Assistant S3 for 3-141 Infantry. Following a tour in the Texas National Guard's Joint Forces Headquarters, he was assigned as the S3 of 1-124th Cavalry, and deployed to Iraq with the squadron. Upon his return to Texas, he was assigned as the Squadron Executive Officer, and then the S3 of the 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. He commanded the 72nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion from July 2013 to September 2016. Eason's full-time assignments have included J-3 Planner, Chief of Operations, Protection Officer; Deputy Human Resource Officer and Deputy G-1/Personnel.

### EDUCATION:

LTC Eason has a Bachelor of Arts in History from Texas A&M University.

### DID YOU KNOW:

LTC Eason has been married for 24 years and has a son. He was a Houston police officer for seven years and races road, mountain and track bikes for fun.

### IN HIS WORDS:

"It's great to be back in the J-3 and working with such a fantastic team. I'm really looking forward to serving the members of the DOMOPS Task Force and people of Texas."



Texas Military Department

American Heroes

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