

THE DISPATCH

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JUNE 2017

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TEXAS STATE GUARD

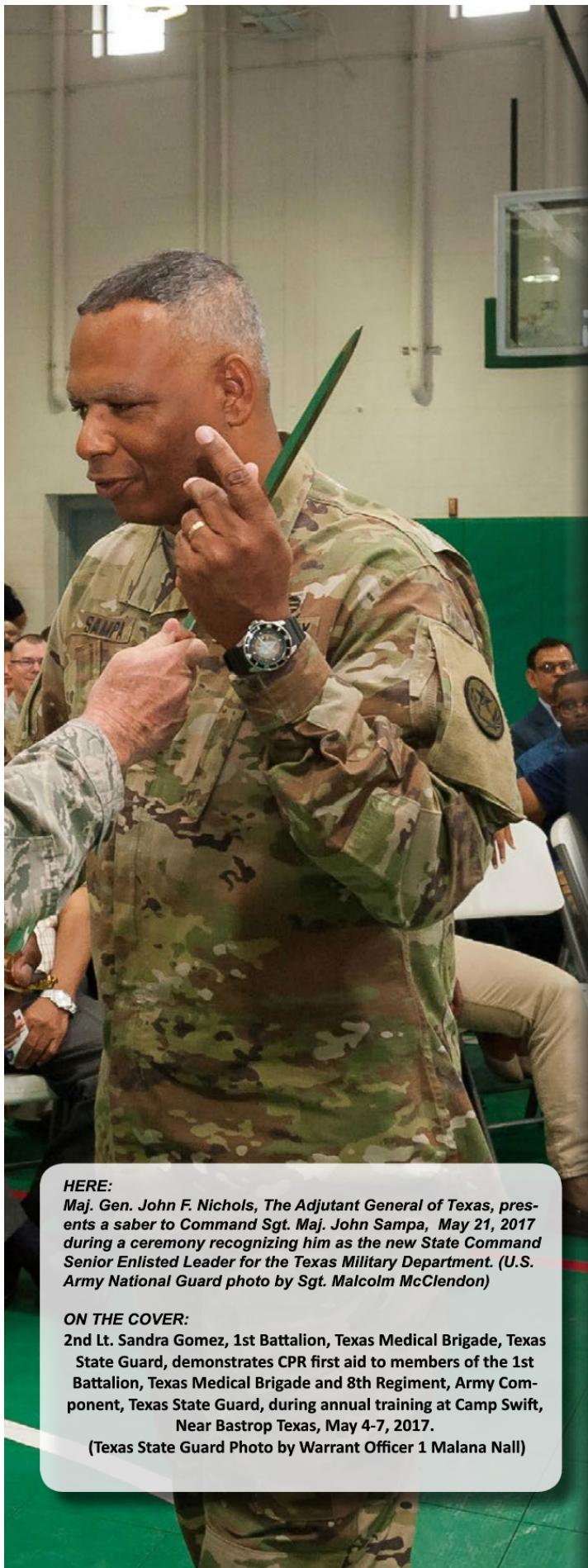
**PREPARE
FOR THE
STORM**


OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

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The Texas Military Department Public Affairs Office would like to thank all the contributing writers and photographers who generously share their work with us. Without the hard work and dedication of Guardsmen and civilians, we would not be able to tell your TMD story.

HERE:
Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, The Adjutant General of Texas, presents a saber to Command Sgt. Maj. John Sampa, May 21, 2017 during a ceremony recognizing him as the new State Command Senior Enlisted Leader for the Texas Military Department. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Malcolm McClendon)

ON THE COVER:
2nd Lt. Sandra Gomez, 1st Battalion, Texas Medical Brigade, Texas State Guard, demonstrates CPR first aid to members of the 1st Battalion, Texas Medical Brigade and 8th Regiment, Army Component, Texas State Guard, during annual training at Camp Swift, Near Bastrop Texas, May 4-7, 2017.
(Texas State Guard Photo by Warrant Officer 1 Malana Nell)

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TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

I'M HERE FOR YOU

A WELCOME FROM THE NEW STATE COMMAND SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER



"Individual readiness is the key component to the success of the Texas Military Department when called upon for a homeland response mission as well as when called upon to protect the people of our nation and its freedom."

CSM JOHN SAMPA
STATE COMMAND SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER

Greetings to all Soldiers, Airmen and civilian employees of the Texas Military Department,

I'm excited and honored to be your newest Command Senior Enlisted Leader for the Texas Military Department. As I continually reflect back on my military journey, my reflections constantly remind me of those who assisted me with acquiring the experiences and skill sets that have seated me in the Texas Command Senior Enlisted Leader position.

There were those who showed me what right looks like. I call that a "standard." There were those who recognized my dedication to duty and the potential in me, so they gave me a chance. I call that an "Opportunity." There were others who personally guided me, mentored me and held me accountable. They remained tethered to me when I made mistakes, either professionally or personally. I call that "Leadership."

It is with that experience I formulated my duty and responsibility to ensure every Soldier, Airmen and civilian employee is provided a fair opportunity to succeed, be held accountable in demonstrating the professionalism and the strength of the Texas Military Department and shown transparency through the department's management policies and procedures.

It's no secret to the families and employers of our Soldiers and Airmen that serving in today's National Guard is quite different from the past. The Texas National Guard is an active operational force with Soldiers and Airmen serving every day of the year either training or on active duty somewhere around the world. With this high operational tempo, individual readiness for our Soldiers and Airmen is my first priority. Individual readiness is the key component to the success of the Texas Military Department when called upon for a homeland response mission as well as when called upon to protect the people of our nation and its freedom. It's imperative that every Soldier and Airman of the Texas National Guard take great strides to remain physically fit, highly trained in their military occupational skill set through field and school house training events and keep their family members and employer up to date with their military service obligations and requirements.

Family members and traditional service member's employer must continually have a clear understanding of the service member's military service obligations and requirements. This will assist family members and employers in their preparation process whenever the Soldier or Airman is suddenly called away for his or her military duty.

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I'm excited to work alongside The Adjutant General of Texas, Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, as we lead the Texas Military Department. The citizens of the great State of Texas, the United States of America and our allied partners need us now more than ever. The Texas Military Department's mission is clear "to provide the Governor and the President with ready forces in support of the state and federal authorities at home and abroad." The mission will be executed by putting our Soldiers, Airmen, their families and

employers first, being relevant and a highly-trained force, effectively communicating to everyone and building long-lasting relationships locally and around the world.

As the Texas Military Department's Command Senior Enlisted Leader, I serve you, the Soldier, the Airman, the civilian staff, your family and the traditional service member civilian employer in order to maintain while continually building on the long, proud legacy of the Texas Military Department.

**"ALWAYS READY"
DUTY, HONOR, TEXAS**

FROM THE TOP

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Soldiers from the 236th Engineer Company work side by side with soldiers from the Czech Republic to build a mock consulate the Multi-National Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany, October 2016 Courtesy Photo Provided by 236th Engineer Company)

236TH ENGINEERS PARTNER WITH CZECH SOLDIERS

Story By: Sgt. Mark Otte
Texas Military Department Public Affairs

When Capt. John Veracruz took command of the 236th Engineer Company in October 2017, he quickly received his first mission. In less than six months he would be taking his 84 soldiers to the Joint Multi-National Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany where they would partner with the Czech Republic Army for the construction of a parachute landing fall structure and a mock consulate as part of the State Partnership Program.

Because of the unit's recent reorganization and move from Lewisville, Texas to Stephenville, Texas the young commander knew he had his work cut out for him. In the shake-up the unit lost 25 soldiers, many of whom held key positions and equipment licenses and would need to be replaced and trained to bring the unit back to its maximum effectiveness before the movement to Germany.

With a five-month window to prepare his soldiers for a long-awaited opportunity to dig in and get their hands dirty in a real-world vertical construction project, Veracruz says he and the leadership that remained saw it as a chance to bring the unit to 100 percent of its capabilities.

"We had lost a lot of skilled subject matter experts in certain areas," Veracruz said. "We got this mission, and thankfully I had some good leadership come in and when we got rolling we were able to pick it up and do a really good train-up."

With the troops trained and ready, they hit the ground in Germany April 3, 2017 but what Veracruz found waiting for him was a little more than he had bargained for. Like he did state side, he turned to those experienced engineers under him to get the mission started on the right foot.

"When we arrived on the ground a lot of the provided tools we needed were broken," Veracruz said. "So for the first three days Sgt. Louis Cleveland and Sgt. Charlie Brown disassembled and fixed all of the tools."



Parachute Landing Fall Structure completed by Texas Engineers and Czech Soldiers during annual training exercises held in Hohenfels, Germany, October 2017.

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The hurdles for the 236th's 32-year-old Company Commander didn't stop there. He and his new company still needed to complete the mission of building the parachute fall landing structure, with an additional nine soldiers from the Czech Republic, only two spoke English.

Undaunted by yet another challenge, the two nations got right to work building the structures, both countries at times taking the lead. Because masonry is a more commonly used material in the Czech Republic, Czech soldiers led the way building the block walls, while the engineers from the 236th took the carpentry lead with the hammers and saws.

"At first it was a lot of looks and points to overcome the language barrier," Veracruz said. "But they (Czech Soldiers) were only on-site for about five minutes before everyone dove in and got to work."

Working with the partner nation didn't distract Veracruz from what he came there to do: train his soldiers on their mission essential tasks. Being proficient at these skills is what has allowed the 236th Engineer Company to take on missions around the world. In 2014 the unit worked to build schools in Guatemala, and is often called on to help when Mother Nature takes its toll on Texas communities.

One of those mission essential tasks that Veracruz wanted honed, project management, fell under the purview of the 236th's Executive Officer, 1st Lt. David Alexander.

"Because of the availability of materials during this mission, the amount of training the soldiers were able to do really had them motivated to train and work," Alexander said. "The unit is head-and-shoulders above where it was before we left for Germany, in terms of proficiency at our MOS—our job."

The 236th's collective effort to complete the mission with the State Partnership Program, and using it to quickly and effectively make the transition didn't go unnoticed by leadership at its parent battalion.

"Shepherding a unit through a reorganization tests the skill of our leaders to provide purpose and motivation," said Lt. Col. Matthew Calton, Battalion Commander, 111th Engineer Battalion. "I was really proud of the way 236th's leadership and soldiers bonded to achieve remarkable construction project results. Providing a dynamic training environment was the only solution to attain and sustain the unit's reorganization morale and engineer proficiency."

Being part of a mission that not only provided an opportunity for the engineers of the 236th to train, but that through their hard work will allow other soldiers to train at JMRC for years to come, gave Veracruz a chance to see just what his new unit was becoming.

"They blew me away with how they just took to it," Veracruz said. "They were just consuming any work that JMRC had for us." **D**



Engineers from the 236th Engineer Company pose with their Czech Republic partners after completing projects at the Multi-National Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany, October 2016. (Courtesy Photo Provided by 236th Engineer Company)

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PREPARE FOR THE STORM

Story By: CW3 Janet Schmelzer

Texas State Guard Public Affairs Office

AUSTIN, Texas – More than 800 members of the Texas State Guard participated in hurricane preparedness training at Camp Maxey, Camp Swift, Fort Wolters and Camp Mabry from May 4-7, 2017. Hurricane season begins June 1st and the Texas State Guard members are prepared to assist fellow Texans should a storm strike the state.

All units of the Texas State Guard, including Headquarters, Army Component, Air Component, Medical Brigade, Maritime Regiment and the Engineer Group, trained as a combined force to simulate an actual deployment during a hurricane.

Training included American Red Cross shelter operations, emergency tracking network operations (Electronic Tracking Network), land mobile radio communications, casualty care “Stop the Bleeding,” web-based emergency operations center operations (WEBEOC), land navigation, liaison readiness and Texas Department of Emergency Management Disaster District Committee support. Additional training for the Medical Brigade included four-man litter carry onto aircraft, triage, food handling, HIPAA and blood-borne pathogens prevention.

“During this annual training, our members practiced as a cohesive team training together on the basic skills needed when deployed in joint operation with state and local emergency management authorities during an emergency or disaster, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and wildfires. The Texas State Guard stands ready when called upon to assist our communities and fellow Texans,” said Maj. Gen. Gerald “Jake” Betty, Commander, Texas State Guard.

To simulate a deployment during a disaster, the Texas State Guard conducted a Category 3 Hurricane exercise with landfall projected along the Texas coast with heavy rain, possible tornadoes and flooding inland. Upon receiving mock orders to mobilize, the TXSG’s mission in this deployment was to support local authorities with

◀ 2nd. Lt. Sandra Gomez, 1st Battalion, Texas Medical Brigade, Texas State Guard, demonstrates CPR first aid to members of the 1st Battalion, Texas Medical Brigade, and 8th Regiment, Army Component, Texas State Guard, during annual training at Camp Swift, Texas, May 4-7, 2017. (Photo by Warrant Officer 1 Malana Nall, Texas State Guard).



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1st Lt. Joe Tillman, 3rd Battalion, Texas Medical Brigade, Texas State Guard, attaches an Emergency Tracking Network wristband on Sgt. Michael Douglas, 19th Regiment, while Sgt. Bien Camungol, 3rd Battalion, Texas Medical Brigade, adds Douglas to the ETN system, during annual training at Camp Maxey, May 4-7, 2017. Texas State Guard members trained on using ETN, which is vital to locating Texas residents evacuated on emergency transportation vehicles from a hurricane strike zone to American Red Cross shelters.

(Texas State Guard photo by Capt. Esperanza Meza)



ETN, WEBOEC and shelter management operations.

The State Guard then set up a Tactical Emergency Operations Center (TEOC) at its Camp Mabry based headquarters. during a real world disaster this facility would support the emergency management operations of civil authorities and provide coordination of the deployment of mission-ready units.

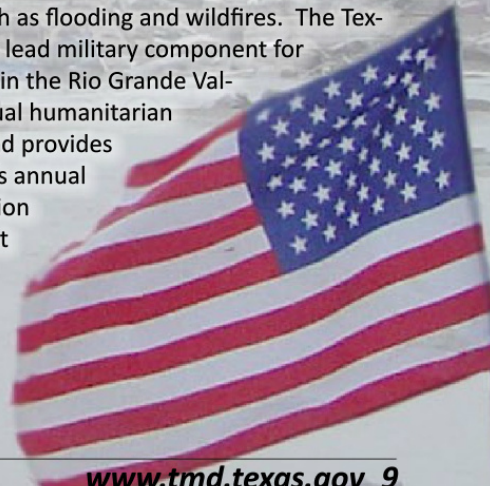
“The TEOC maintains command and control over the support mission of the TXSG and is responsible for accountability of each Guardsmen as the movement of hundreds of guardsmen proceed to assigned locations. Using WEBOEC, the TEOC continuously monitors, 24 hours a day, the status of each location assigned to the TXSG, the storm’s progress, the locations of shelters, evacuation transportation and movement of evacuees, families and pets to shelters,” said Capt. Bruce Minor, Commander, 449th Air Support Group, 5th Air Wing, Air Component and TEOC Lead Battle Captain for 2017 Annual Training.

During this exercise, guardsmen practiced ETN by using the system to in-process each TXSG member at the three training sites of Maxey, Swift and Wolters. Each member received a wristband with an individual identification number which was scanned into the ETN system. It allowed the TXSG to track and maintain accountability of each member, just as they would in-process anyone evacuating the hurricane strike zone on emergency transportation to an American Red Cross designated shelter.

“Our ability to maintain accountability of our guardsmen through ETN is essential to the ability of the TXSG to maintain an effective and efficient force here at annual training and during a deployment. In a real-world emergency, the ETN system helps families stay together during an evacuation and reassures them that their loved ones are account-

ed for during a stressful situation such as a hurricane. We also use the tracking system to evacuate pets so that pet owners know that once the storm has passed, they can locate their beloved animals,” said Minor.

This hurricane scenario also required shelter management by the TXSG. Each training location, guardsmen set up several shelters with sleeping areas with cots and blankets, dining hall space, play areas for children, medical facilities, and food preparation areas, and guest registration areas. Signage was displayed in both English and Spanish. Water and food were provided at the shelters. The Southern Baptists of Texas Disaster Relief Team donated their time to prepare food for the guardsmen in the shelters, just as they and many other relief organizations would do in a real emergency.

The Texas State Guard is the state’s volunteer military agency, trained, organized and ready to respond when a disaster strikes and Texans need help. In recent years the Texas State Guard has been called to state active duty for weather events such as hurricanes and tornadoes, and natural disasters such as flooding and wildfires. The Texas State Guard is the lead military component for Operation Lone Star in the Rio Grande Valley—the state’s annual humanitarian medical mission—and provides support to the state’s annual Oral Rabies Vaccination Program and the East Texas Medical Outreach missions in East Texas. 

(Background Image) Storm damage from Hurricane Rita’s landfall on the Texas Coast. (Courtesy Photo Provided by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

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DOMESTIC OPERATIONS TASK FORCE BIDS FAREWELL TO FIRST SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER

Story and Photos By:

Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm McClendon
Texas Military Department Public Affairs

AUSTIN, Texas – “He is one of those individuals that is really, really good at absolutely everything that he does” said Brig. Gen. Patrick Hamilton, commander of the Texas Domestic Operations Task Force. “He truly excels in everything and it’s infectious.”

Hamilton was speaking about Command Chief Master Sgt. Oscar Tey to friends, family and fellow Guardsmen at the senior enlisted leader’s retirement ceremony held at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, May 20, 2017.

“He has unique skills and is able to communicate with everyone across the force,” Hamilton continued. “He could walk in and talk to a group of Soldiers just as easily as Airmen.”

Hamilton recalled the obstacles the task force, which is made up of both Army and Air National Guardsmen, held and how Tey’s unique military career made him the right person to bridge that gap.

Tey began his military career when he enlisted in the United States Army in 1983 as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division. After three years he left active duty and transferred to the Texas Army National Guard, where he served as a communications team chief with the 49th Armored Division.

“He came into the Army first and then he lost his mind somewhere along the way and joined the Air Force,” Hamilton joked. “But this is exactly what we needed.”

After a short break in service, Tey joined the Texas Air National Guard in 1991 and served in the 149th Fighter Wing climbing the ranks to Chief, an accomplishment he owes to those around him.

Command Chief Master Sgt. Oscar Tey, Senior Enlisted Leader for the Texas Domestic Operations Task Force addresses family, friends and fellow guardsmen at his retirement ceremony held at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, May 20, 2017.

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"I never imagined I would stay in the military as long as I have and making it as high as I have," Tey said. "It was those senior leaders that guided me when I was a young Soldier and my family that convinced me to stay."

The youngest of seven children, Tey recognized the positive, hard-working traits his parents and brothers laid for him.

"There are many reasons I shouldn't be here today," Tey said. "I could have made many excuses, but I did not because of the strong foundation they laid out for me. And I stand here before you today as a chief master sergeant because of that."

Tey said he recognizes the successful career he has had, but doesn't do it to boast, rather to encourage and show junior

service members that there are many opportunities out there and that one just needs to take advantage of them.

Tey served as the senior enlisted leader for DOMOPS since 2013 and passes on responsibility to Command Sgt. Maj. Elizabeth Shockley.

"He will be missed and it will be a tough time for us," Hamilton said. "But the strong joint environment he has created within the unit will be a platform that Command Sgt. Maj. Shockley can easily pick up and move forward with." **D**



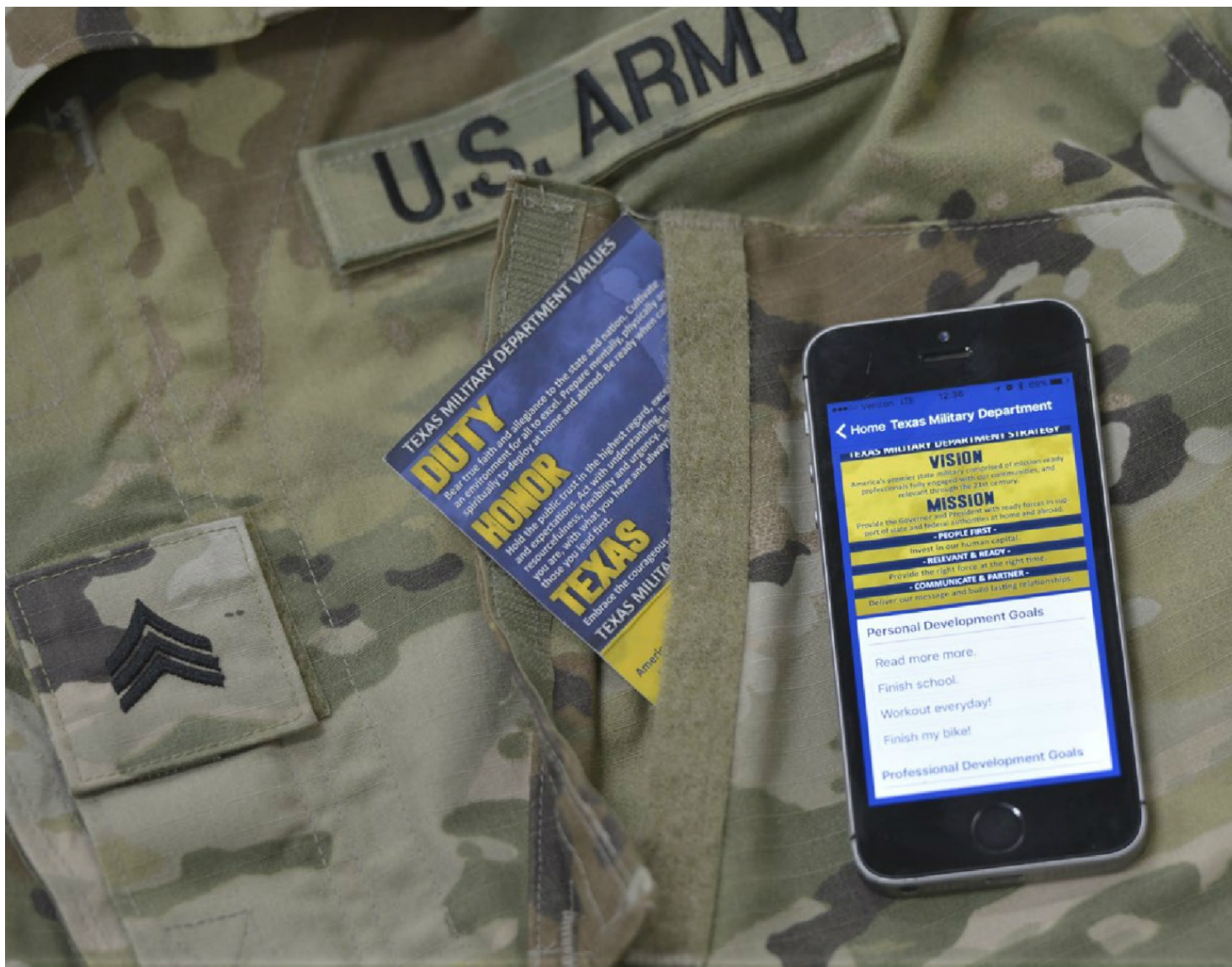
Brig. Gen. Patrick Hamilton, commander of the Texas Domestic Operations Task Force, presents Command Chief Master Sgt. Oscar Tey, Senior Enlisted Leader for the Texas Domestic Operations Task Force, with a State of Texas Retirement certificate at a ceremony held at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, May 20, 2017. Tey served more than 30 years of combined service in the U.S. Army, and the Texas Army and Air National Guards.

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DESERT DEFENDER

Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Gonzalez, assigned to the 203rd Security Forces Squadron, Texas Air National Guard, motivates a group of Close Precision Engagement Course trainees during physical training before they take part in a range estimation qualification test at the Dona Ana Range Complex April 25, 2017. Gonzalez is the non-commissioned officer in charge and teaches advanced precision marksmanship and military scouting skills to Air Force security forces members at the Desert Defender Ground Readiness Combat Training Center in Fort Bliss, Texas. (Air National Guard Photo by Staff Sgt. Agustin G. Salazar)



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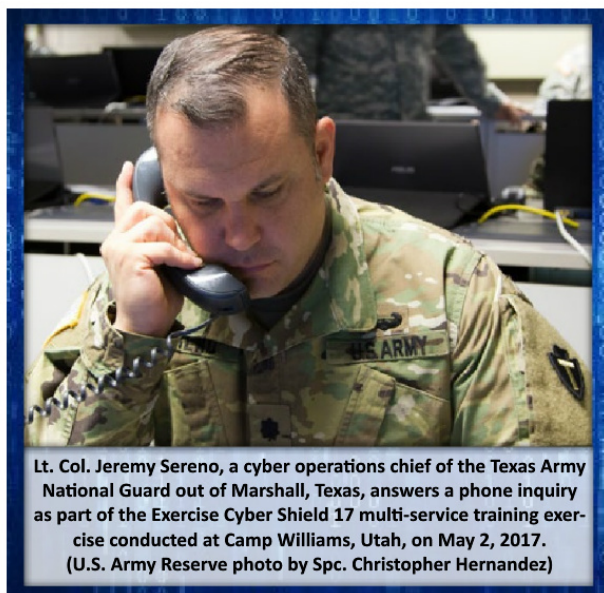


CYBER SHIELD 2017

Story By: Maj. Ray McCulloch
102nd Information Operations Battalion

Members of the Texas Army and Air National Guards participated in a major network defense exercise at Camp Williams in Utah from April 17 - May 5, 2017.

Members of the Texas Army National Guard's 102nd Information Operations Battalion and the Texas Air National Guard's 273rd Information Operations Squadron participated in Exercise Cyber Shield 17, the Army National Guard's premier cyber defense exercise.



Lt. Col. Jeremy Sereno, a cyber operations chief of the Texas Army National Guard out of Marshall, Texas, answers a phone inquiry as part of the Exercise Cyber Shield 17 multi-service training exercise conducted at Camp Williams, Utah, on May 2, 2017. (U.S. Army Reserve photo by Spc. Christopher Hernandez)

The exercise, which included members of the National Guard from 44 states and territories, the U.S. Army Reserve, state and federal government agencies, nongovernmental organizations and private industry, was designed to enhance participants' ability to respond to cyber incidents.

Cyber Shield 17 kicked off with a week of training and preparation that culminated in a scenario-based cyber role play during the second week. This was the sixth iteration of the exercise.

Participants were broken up into several groups, or cells, for the exercise.

Red Cell members simulated hostile hackers attempting to compromise a computer network, while members of the blue cell attempted to defend their networks against the red cell's attacks. The gold cell supported the blue cell members with coaching and mentorship, while white cell members evaluated the blue cell's performance.

Members of the 102nd IO Battalion served on the blue and red teams. Other battalion Soldiers provided network management to support the exercise and served in the fusion center. According to a Department of Homeland Security handout, fusion centers are owned by state and local governments and operate with federal support. Their mission is to "provide multi-disciplinary expertise and situational awareness to inform decision making at all levels of government."

Red team members, such as Sgt. 1st Class Jon Wachter, plays the role of adversary hackers or the opposing forces.

"Our main job is to train the blue team," Wachter stated.

That training included exploiting vulnerabilities to pivot or maneuver through their networks.

"We find gaps in their systems in order to exploit vulnerabilities and establish a stronger foothold into the IT terrain to ultimately gain control of systems, networks, or infrastructure," Wachter said. "We try not to hamstring them so that there is some learning value for the blue team."

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For example, Wachter and his team took control of the administrative password, which would have completely shut down the training for the blue team. After an hour, they gave the blue team their password back so they could re-establish control of their networks.

Wachter was a team member assigned to the Indiana red team. He played the part of a hacker and an insider threat to Indiana's IT infrastructure. His team stole fictitious personal identifiable information, defaced websites and attempted to disrupt business processes. In general, they created havoc on the network and systems used by the Indiana Blue Team and their mission partners.

"I wasn't expecting them to bring so much skill to the table; they had a lot of talent here. It was definitely challenging for me, us," he said. "They actually have a lot of people on this team who do this for their civilian careers as well, so they had a huge advantage!"

Wachter also stated that this exercise helped him network with a variety of very intelligent individuals and learn from their skills and experiences. "I was also able to observe the blue team and take away tips, techniques and procedures from them. That was the big lesson for me," he said.

On the other side of the exercise were the blue teams. Blue teams are state-affiliated National Guard and mission partners who must react to a cyber incident in the exercise. Ultimately, they are charged with expelling the adversary Red Team from their network.

For Texas, this included Staff Sgt. Brian Jones. Jones is an intelligence analyst from the 102nd IO Battalion attached to the Texas Cyber Protection Team for this exercise. He provided embedded intelligence support to the blue team operators, including predictive analysis, intelligence summaries and disseminated information on known threats passed from the fusion cell.

"Cyber Shield 17 is a training exercise developed to enhance the skills of the blue team in order to defend the operational environment – or the friendly networks – from the adversary's cyberattacks," said Jones.

According to Jones, information flow was the most difficult task. That included between governmental agencies at the state and federal levels, as well as between Army National Guard, Air National Guard and civilian mission partners. Understanding how intelligence flows between components of the Texas National Guard was an integral part to the success of the Texas blue team.


This was an excellent opportunity for them to experience the reality of communications shortfalls between mission partners, the National Guard and U.S. government agencies according to Jones. "It's definitely a challenge, but we are working through it really well."

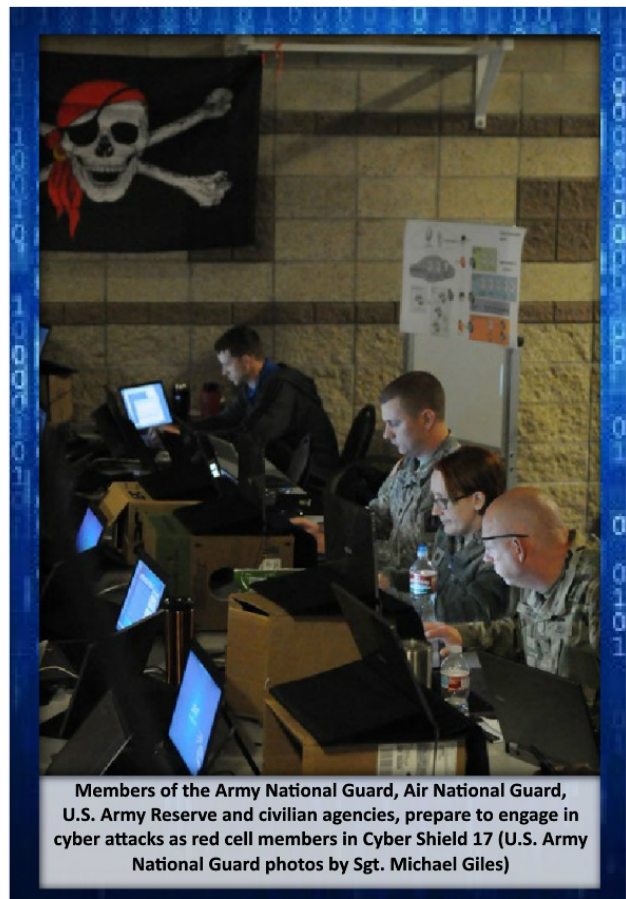
The provided training facilitated the blue team's ability to identify indicators of compromise in the network. Indicators are "observables" that there may be an intrusion in the system – such as malware, phishing or unauthorized access.

"This exercise was a great opportunity to work with multiple mission partners in a group effort of incident response to take back a compromised network that we have been called in to defend," Jones emphasized.

The Army and Air National Guards worked in coordination with federal agency partners including the FBI and DHS, state department, and DOJ. Private companies such as Microsoft, Lockheed Martin and Monsanto also assisted with the exercise.

The lessons learned here are vitally important moving forward to defend state infrastructure and networks from cyber threats, cyberattacks and other cyber incidents.

"What we learn here makes us more effective communicators in the future. I've learned so much from this exercise," Jones said. 



Members of the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, U.S. Army Reserve and civilian agencies, prepare to engage in cyber attacks as red cell members in Cyber Shield 17 (U.S. Army National Guard photos by Sgt. Michael Giles)

2017 BEST WARRIOR



Overall non-commissioned officer winner Sgt. Randy Flores, left, 136th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, and Overall Soldier winner Sgt. Richard Douglas, right, 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, are recognized during the Texas Military Department Joint Best Warrior Banquet held at the Texas Military Forces Museum on Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas May 5, 2017.

Brig. Gen. Tracy Norris, Deputy Adjutant General - Army and the Commander, Texas Army National Guard, presents awardees with the Adjutant General's Individual Award at the Texas Military Department Joint Best Warrior Banquet held at the Texas Military Forces Museum on Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas May 5, 2017. (All Photos by U.S. Army National Guard, Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm McClendon.)



Tech. Sgt. Janice Liversidge, 149th Fighter Wing



Pfc. 1st Class Collin Doyle, 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team,



Sgt. Richard Douglas, 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team



Spc. Tristan Hearn, 36th Sustainment Brigade



Staff Sgt. Jovanne Martinez, 147th Reconnaissance Wing

AWARD CEREMONY



Brig. Gen. Dawn Ferrell, Deputy Adjutant General - Air and Command Chief Master Sgt. Marlon Nation, Senior Enlisted Advisor, Texas Air National Guard, present Staff Sgt. Felipe Fernandez with the Air Force Achievement Medal.



Brig. Gen. Tracy Norris, right, Deputy Adjutant General - Army and the Commander of the Texas Army National Guard and Command Sgt. Maj. John F. Sampa Command Senior Enlisted Leader, Texas Military Department, present Spc. Edwin Portillo with the Adjutant General's Individual Award and the Army Achievement Medal.



Brig. Gen. Tracy Norris, right, Deputy Adjutant General - Army and the Commander of the Texas Army National Guard and Command Sgt. Maj. John F. Sampa Command Senior Enlisted Leader, Texas Military Department, present Sgt. Richard Douglas, right center, and Sgt. Randy Flores, left center, with the Adjutant General's Individual Award and the Army Commendation Medal.



Brig. Gen. Dawn Ferrell, Deputy Adjutant General - Air and Command Chief Master Sgt. Marlon Nation, Senior Enlisted Advisor, Texas Air National Guard, present Staff Sgt. Jovanne Martinez, with the Air Force Achievement Medal



Staff Sgt. Felipe Fernandez, 147th Reconnaissance Air Wing



Cpl. Camilo Riffo, Chilean Army



Sgt. Randy Flores, 136th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade



Private 1st Class Mauricio Collio, Chilean Navy



Staff Sgt. Richard Sterling, 36th Sustainment Brigade



Sgt. David Kreiner, 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team,



Story By: Master Sgt. Sean Cowher
147th Attack Wing Public Affairs

One hundred years ago a group of 150 military personnel at San Antonio's Kelly Field stood up the 111th Aero Squadron, marking the beginning of the now famous moniker, The Texans. As the second oldest flying unit in the United States military, the 111th has a rich and distinguished history. The unit has been called to action in every major conflict the U.S. has been involved in since World War II.

On May 20, 2017, the 111th was honored with an induction into the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame during a gala at the Lone Star Flight Museum in Houston, Tex-

as. The Texas Aviation Hall of Fame was established in 1997 to honor famous aviators who are Texans and famous Texans who are aviators. One of the other honorees this year is former 111th pilot and former President of the United States, George W. Bush.

Lt. Col. David Peck, commander of the 111th, accepted on his units behalf.

"We are profoundly honored to be in the company of such legendary figures as those enshrined in the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame," he said. "For a century the men and women of the 111th have proudly answered the call to arms for our nation in times of war, and rendered aid to our fellow Texans in times of crisis.

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These are duties that the Aces hold sacred and when called upon we will continue to perform them with pride.”

The 111th has changed and adapted throughout the past 100 years and continues to do so again as the squadron transitions to a new aircraft, the MQ-9 Reaper, a remotely piloted aircraft.

Judging from its past, its present and its plans for the future, the 111th Attack Squadron stands to remain an essential part of the Texas Military Department, Air National Guard and U.S. Air Force. **D**

Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, The Adjutant General - A Texas, and Lt. Col. Dave Peck, 147th Attack Wing Commander, accept a Texas Aviation Hall of Fame induction memento during a gala at the new Lone Star Flight Museum in Houston, Texas, May 20, 2017.

Lt. Col. Dave Peck, 147th Attack Wing Commander, accepts a Texas Aviation Hall of Fame induction memento during a gala at the new Lone Star Flight Museum in Houston, Texas on May 20, 2017. The Texas Flight Museum was established in 1997 to honor famous aviators who are Texans and famous Texans who are aviators. This year the 111th Attack Squadron was one of the inductees into the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame.



TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

111TH

ATTACK SQUADRON LINEAGE

- 1917 - Organized as 111th Aero Squadron*
- 1917 - Re-designated as 111th Aero Squadron (Supply)*
- 1918 - Re-designated 632d Aero Squadron (Supply)*
- 1919 - Demobilized*
- 1923 - Re-constituted with 111th Observation Squadron*
- 1940 - Ordered to active service*
- 1942 - Re-designated: 111th Observation Squadron (Medium)*
- 1942 Re-designated: 111th Observation Squadron*
- 1943 - Re-designated: 111th Reconnaissance Squadron (Fighter)*
- 1943 - Re-designated: 111th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron*
- 1945 - Inactivated*
- 1946 - Re-designated: 111th Fighter Squadron*
- 1950 - Ordered to active service on:*
- 1951 - Re-designated: 111th Fighter-Bomber Squadron*
- 1952 - Released from active duty*
- 1952 - Re-designated: 111th Fighter-Bomber Squadron*
- 1955 - Re-designated: 111th Fighter Interceptor Squadron*
- 1970 - Re-designated: 111th Combat Crew Training Squadron*
- 1982 - Re-designated: 111th Fighter Interceptor Squadron*
- 1982 - Re-designated: 111th Fighter Squadron*
- 1996 - 111th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron*
- 2008 - Re-designated: 111th Reconnaissance Squadron*
- 2017 - Re-designated: 111th Attack Squadron*

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TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

RANGE SAFETY

A MESSAGE FROM TEXAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SAFETY & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH OFFICE

If AT plans include training with weapons systems, a primary focus should be on Ammunition and Explosives (A&E) Safety.

Before you schedule a range event, take a moment to properly plan and minimize your risk exposure.

- Units forecast requirements 90+ days out & complete an E581 to request A&E 30+ days out. Always forecast & request based upon training time available.
- Once your request is approved, contact the ammunition supply point (ASP) to ensure you understand all requirements to draw, transport, store and turn in your A&E.
- Ensure Ammunition Handlers and Drivers are properly trained (see below).
- Determine equipment & vehicle requirements before arriving at the ASP.
- If you need to store A&E, notify the training site/installation where you need storage & comply with all storage requirements.
- Assign experienced Soldiers to recon, run your range operations and act as safeties.
- Always follow the Range SOP, clear Soldiers coming on and off the range
- Screen your brass for live rounds before bringing it back to the ASP.

**AMMUNITION & EXPLOSIVES POINTS OF CONTACT**

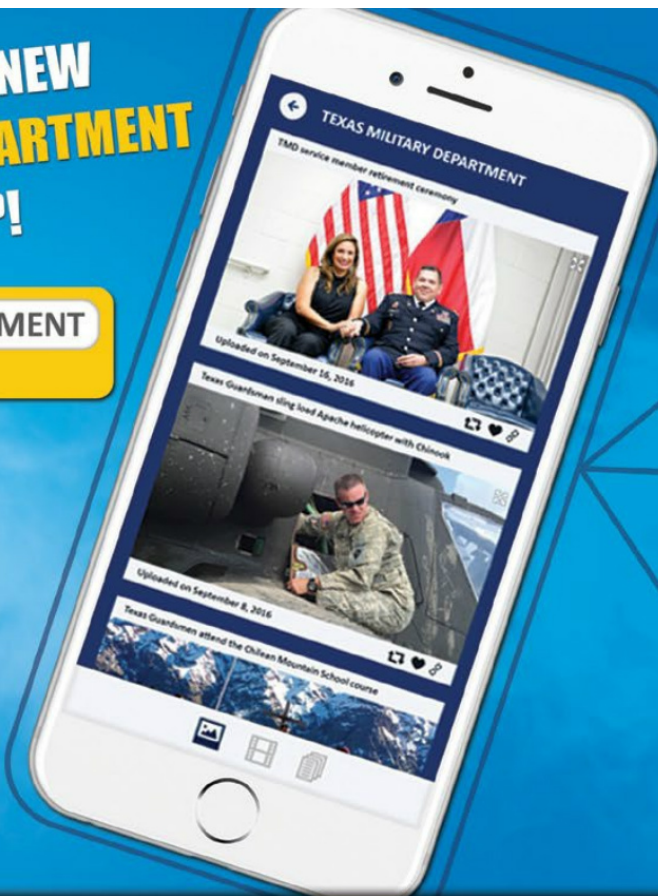
Division Ammo Off: SSG Grant Tunell, 512-782-6690
 G3 AMMO NCO: SFC Edgar Sanchez, 512-782-5320
 USPFO CL V Manager: SGT Ike Garza, 512-782-5813
 TCGC Ammo: CW3 Michael Brown, 512-782-6805
 QASAS: Mr Fidel Camarena, 512-782-1065
 Safety Office: CW3 Bryan Shaw, 512-782-5005

TXARNG Ammunition Handlers & Drivers Training FRAGO 17-075

[https://portal.tx.ng.mil/arg/arg003/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/arg/arg003/OPORDsFRAGOs/OPORD%2017-01_FRAGORD_075_\(Ammunition_and_Explosives_Training\).docx&action=default](https://portal.tx.ng.mil/arg/arg003/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/arg/arg003/OPORDsFRAGOs/OPORD%2017-01_FRAGORD_075_(Ammunition_and_Explosives_Training).docx&action=default)

20 TheDISPATCH June 2017

CHECK OUT THE NEW TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT MOBILE APP!

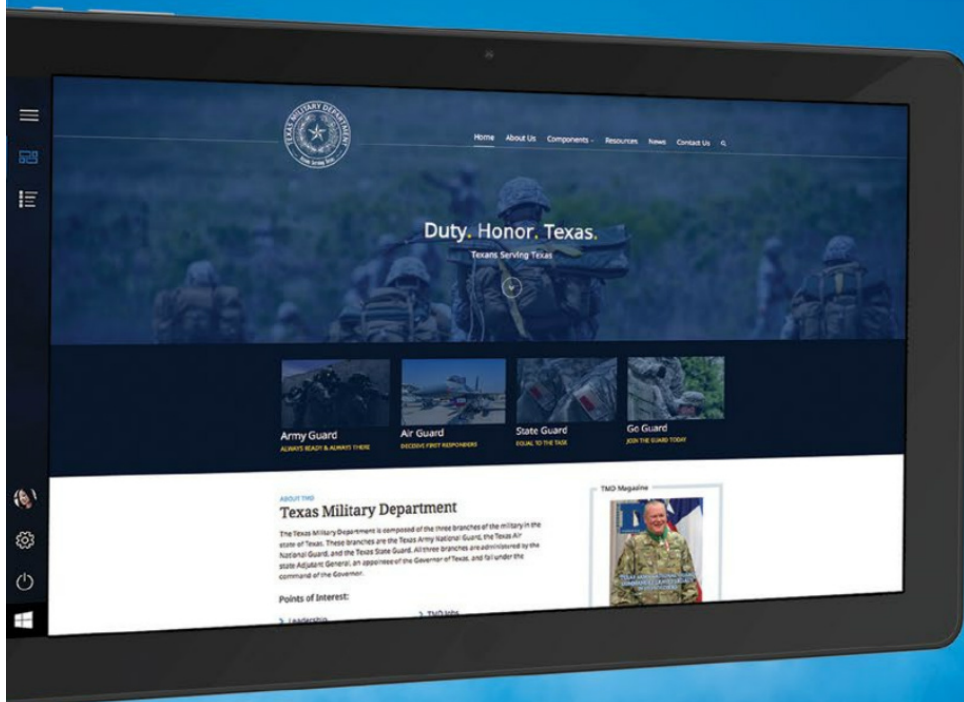


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tmd.texas.gov

NEW LOOK, NEW CONTENT, NEW NAVIGATION!



OUR FORCE

TECH. SGT. JESSICA J WAHPEPAH

Texas Air National Guard Headquarters, Personnel and Enlisted Actions Noncommissioned Officer-in-charge

"I served because both of my grandfathers served, so now I am carrying on that legacy as part of my American Indian heritage."



New Key Leadership Positions



COL Scott H. Kingsley

Chief of Staff, 36th Infantry Division, Texas Army National Guard

Experience:

Kingsley's first assignment was Scout Platoon Leader, 6-112th Armor in El Campo, Texas. He then attended flight school and was assigned to the 1-149th Attack Helicopter Battalion at Ellington Field and eventually assumed command of the battalion. During the invasion of Iraq, he commanded Company G, 149th Aviation, a Heavy Lift Helicopter Company with 14 aircraft. Kingsley also deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom- Kuwait as the Executive Officer of the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade. Most recently, he served as the Branch Manager for Family Support Services, Texas Military Department.

Education:

Bachelor of Science from Texas A&M University. He has also attended Command and General Staff College.

Did you know:

Col. Kingsley is qualified on the UH-1 Huey, AH-1 Cobra, AH-64 Apache, CH-47 Chinook and UH-60 Blackhawk aircrafts.

In his words:

I love the 36th Infantry Division and it is an honor to serve as its Chief of Staff during its 100th year anniversary. "In Spite of Hell"

The DISPATCH Takes Top Honors



Your Texas Military Department Magazine Has Been Nationally Recognized As the First Place Winner For The Defense Media Award - Online Magazine.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



The U.S. Uniformed Services Blended Retirement System

Reserve Component

The Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act provides our military force with a modernized retirement plan built for retirement savings. Beginning in 2018, Reserve Component service members can get **automatic and matching Thrifts Savings Plan contributions, a mid-career compensation** incentive, and if they obtain 20 years of service, **monthly retired pay** for life starting at age 60.* All service members under the current system are grandfathered into today's retirement system.

Effective Date: January 1, 2018



Retirement System Selection



Reserve Component members with more than 4,320 retirement points will remain under the legacy retirement system.



Reserve Component members with less than 4,320 retirement points as of December 31, 2017, will have the choice of whether to opt into the new Blended Retirement System or remain in the legacy retirement system.



New accessions after January 1, 2018, will automatically be enrolled in the new Blended Retirement System.

Reservists and Guardsmen While Serving

Thrift Savings Plan Contributions



You Contribute	DoD Auto Contribution	DoD Matches	Total
0%	1%	0%	1%
1%	1%	1%	3%
2%	1%	2%	5%
3%	1%	3%	7%
4%	1%	3.5%	8.5%
5%	1%	4%	10%

The DoD automatically contributes 1% of your basic pay or Inactive Duty Pay to your **Thrift Savings Plan** after **60 days of service**.

You'll see matching contributions at the start of 3 years through the completion of 26 years of service, and...

You're fully vested – it's yours to keep – after completing 2 years of service and it goes with you if you leave.

Continuation Pay

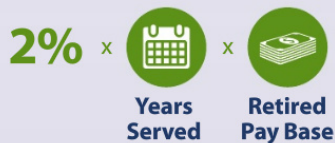
Received at the mid-career point



At the mid-career mark, you may receive a cash payment in exchange for additional service.

Retired Reservists and Guardsmen Eligible for Retirement Pay

Monthly Annuity for Life



Calculate your **retired pay base** by averaging the **highest 36** months of basic pay.

You'll gain this monthly annuity for life after completing 20 qualifying years of service and attaining age 60*

**or earlier based on qualifying active service.*

Collecting Your Retired Pay

OPTION 1

Full retired pay annuity beginning at age 60 or earlier based on credited active service

OPTION 2



25% or 50% lump sum and reduced monthly annuity at age 60*
Monthly annuity bumps back up to 100% at full retirement age (67 in most cases).

You can find additional information at <http://militarypay.defense.gov/BlendedRetirement>

Sources: Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, sections 631,632, 634, and 635

Created: 8/2016