



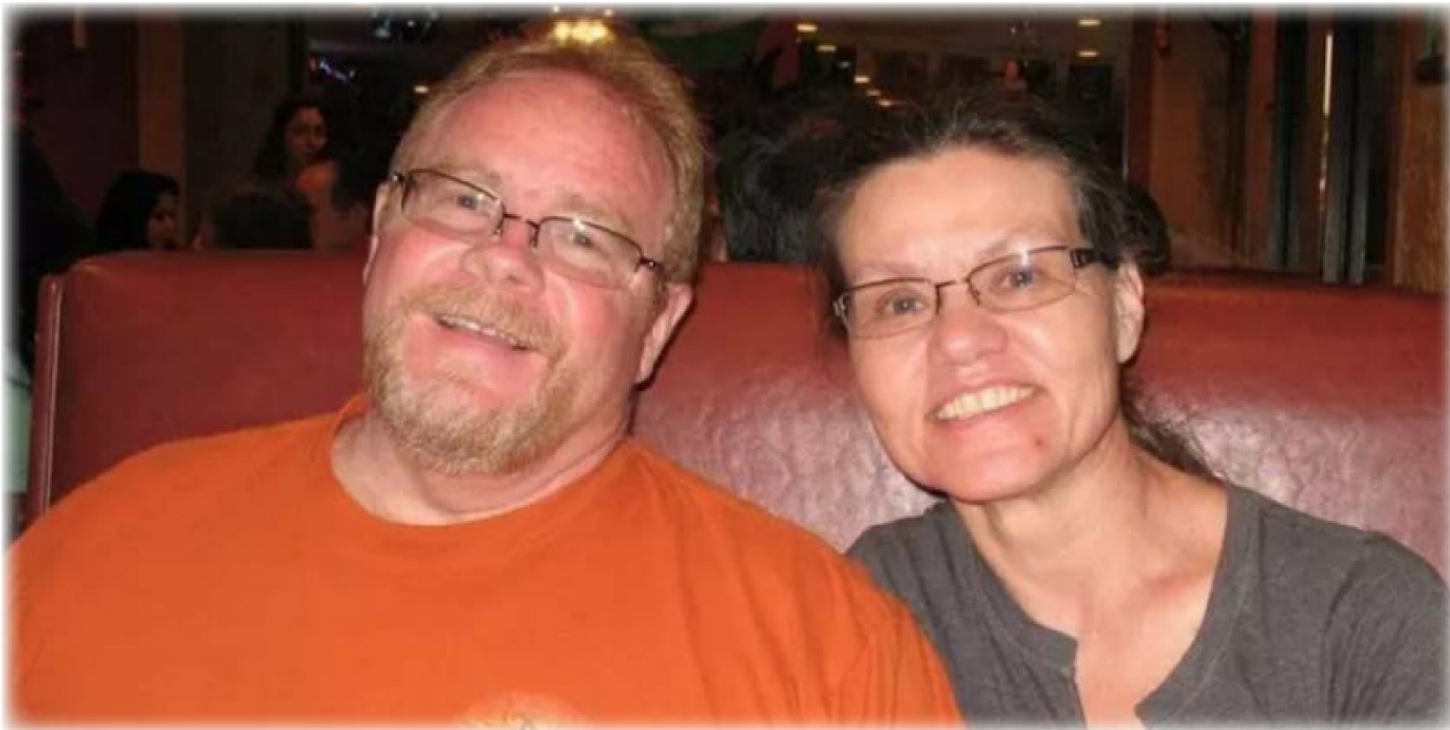
**THE DISPATCH**  
**D**

**OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT**

**OH SAY CAN YOU SEE?**  
**TEXAS GUARDSMEN VOLUNTEER IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES.**



**DECEMBER 2017**



# *Gone But Not Forgotten*

**(Above) Texas Air National Guard member, Senior Master Sgt. Karen Marshall and her husband, U.S. Air Force Veteran, Robert Scott Marshall were killed during the assault at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, Nov. 5, 2017.**

**(Below) Friends, family and fellow service members attend a funeral service for the Marshall's at Joint Base San Antonio.**

**(Right) Both Marshall's were presented with full military honors during their funeral, including the playing of Taps and the reading of promotion orders for Senior Master Sgt. Karen Marshall.**

**(Photos courtesy of 12th Flying Training Wing JBSA Facebook Page)**





## November DISPATCH

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*Sgt. Carlos Meda, 36th Infantry Division Band vocalist, tuba and guitar player, sings the national anthem for the University of Texas men's basketball opening night at the Frank Erwin Center in Austin in honor of Veterans Day on Nov. 10, 2017.  
(U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Suzanne Ringle)*



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Greg Abbott



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2nd Lt. Caitlin Rourk  
Sgt. Kyle Burns  
Sgt. Mark Otte  
Sgt. Orrin Spence  
John Gately  
Laura Lopez  
John Thibodeau

**Dispatch Development**  
Bob Seyller

### **Contributing Writers & Photographers**

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# FROM THE TOP

## COMMENTARIES FROM TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT LEADERS



### KNOW THYSELF:

#### AN ANCIENT KEY TO EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

**MAJ. JEREMY STIRM**

TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT STATE CHAPLAIN

What type of leader are you? More and more is being written these days about the importance of valuing people in organizations. We are told, the “bottom line” is not paramount, people are. The military’s support of this concept is evidenced in the popular slogan, “Mission first, people always.” How, as TMD leaders, are we able to place such a high premium on people and still accomplish the mission?

Perhaps some of you are like me and you initially struggle to understand the logic of prioritizing mission and people. The struggle may arise in part because the idea and our experience suggest a somewhat false dichotomy. I say somewhat false, because many of us have experienced both extremes in leadership and thus tend to reduce styles of leadership only to two possible avenues.

On the one hand, no doubt many of you reading this article can call to mind the no nonsense, “just the facts ma’am” type of leader. This leader is often so focused on mission accomplishment that he or she seems to care little about the wellbeing of the people tasked with accomplishing the mission, regardless of

the stresses it may place upon them. On the other hand, many also may have had leaders that appear too nice. For instance, leaders may attempt to befriend subordinates at the cost of command presence. This pleasantness, perhaps influenced by guidance from the latest leadership workshop or bestselling book (or simply an expression of the leader’s personality) can be seen as lazy or inefficient management and behavior ultimately harmful to an organization.

What is one to make of all this? Remember the false dichotomy? It turns out that effective leaders are not confined to being mission-focused or people-focused. Recent studies support the incoherence of the supposed dichotomy, people or mission, in leadership. Effective leaders, rather, exhibit both qualities.

**“Effective leaders are not confined to being mission-focused or people-focused. Effective leaders, exhibit both qualities.”**

In one study, reported in the Harvard Business Review, employees were asked to evaluate their bosses. The employees were asked whether they considered their supervisors to be great leaders based on two characteristics—being “results focused” or “social skills.” Bosses who were seen as problem solvers, extremely motivated, and results-focused were likely to be considered great leaders by only 14%. Conversely, leaders who were more socially adept, displaying attributes like empathy for employees, only 12% of the time were seen as great leaders. However, bosses who exhibited both qualities were 72% likely to be viewed as great leaders.

## TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

The results are in: leaders who are both mission-focused and people-focused have a higher probability of being regarded as great leaders. Social cognitive neuroscience, however, shows that it is difficult for our brains to be simultaneously results- and socially-focused. By engaging only one area of the mind—say the analytical part—we make it more difficult to generate social concentration. In doing so, we may miss a crucial social piece to a workplace dilemma. It is important to the organization that we seek to keep these two centers of our brain working in tandem.

**“Know your strengths, and honestly identify areas in need of improvement. Ask trustworthy peers for input. Utilize supervisor assessments.”**

The Ancient Greeks lend support in overcoming the false dichotomy and assisting effective leaders in maintaining an emphasis on both people and mission. The aphorism, “know thyself,” is often associ-

ated with Socrates and his pupil Plato and the phrase was also inscribed on the wall of Apollo’s temple at Delphi. More recently, the phrase appeared (albeit in Latin) on a plaque over the kitchen door through which Neo passed to visit the Oracle in The Matrix.

The wise injunction establishes a touchstone for effective leadership. While Socrates’ fuller meaning may go beyond mere knowledge of facts about ourselves, as leaders, we need first to be self-aware and recognize the type of leadership we tend towards. Taking time for periodic and continuous self-assessments is beneficial for leaders and the organizations in which they serve. Know your strengths, and honestly identify areas in need of improvement. Ask trustworthy peers for input. Utilize supervisor assessments. People are not simply a means to an end. People are what make up the TMD organization. The bottom line, the takeaway is simple: an important aspect of being an effective leader is, “know thyself!” Pro Deo et Patria - **FROM THE TOP -**



**PRO DEO ET PATRIA**  
**For God and Country**

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TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT



# A LIFE OF SERVICE

Story by:

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Janet Schmelzer

Texas State Guard Public Affairs

*Brevet Lt. Gen. Gerald R. "Jake" Betty is honored during a retirement ceremony held at Camp Mabry, Austin, Texas, Oct. 29, 2017. Betty received the Texas Superior Service Medal and was brevetted to lieutenant general. Betty served both Texas and the United States Army for 41 years. (Texas State Guard photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Malana Nall)*

AUSTIN, Texas – “I have been fortunate to have been surrounded by heroes all my life, starting with my family, my education at Texas A&M University and my military career. And the Texas State Guard is full of patriots and heroes,” Brevet Lt. Gen. Gerald R. “Jake” Betty told the gathering of family, friends and fellow State Guardsmen at his retirement ceremony at Camp Mabry in Austin, Oct. 29, 2017. Betty’s retirement was the culmination of 41 years of military service to Texas and the United States and three years as the commanding general of the Texas State Guard.

Betty began his military career upon graduating from Texas A&M University and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U. S. Army in 1973, branching infantry. He was assigned to the 1st /501st Infantry Battalion, 101st Airborne Division, at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He served as an infantry platoon leader, infantry company executive officer, recon platoon leader and battalion operations officer.

After leaving active duty in 1977, he served as the company commander of C Company, 1st /143 Infantry, 36th Airborne Brigade, Texas Army National Guard. In 1979 he transferred to the U. S. Army Reserves and served a nine-month deployment for Operation Joint Guard in Bosnia from 1997 to 1998. He served as the commander of the 3419th Military Intelligence Detachment, Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base in Fort Worth, Texas, until he was deployed with the Defense Intelligence Agency as chief of the Iraq Survey Group, Fusion Center-CONUS as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom in February 2003. That same year he retired with the rank of colonel from the U. S. Army Reserve after 30 years of military service.

In 2006 Betty joined the Texas State Guard. He served as commander of the 8th Regiment, as a joint staff personnel and administration officer and as the commanding general of the Army Component Command. He deployed to state active duty missions for hurricanes Dean, Gustav, Dolly, Edouard and Ike.

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On Sept. 1, 2014, he was promoted to major general and named as the commanding general of the Texas State Guard. During his tenure, Betty focused on strengthening the military doctrine, policies and procedures, training doctrine implementation and the readiness management system within the Texas State Guard. He also increased joint training between components and cooperation between the Texas State Guard and the Texas Military Department through joint training events and joint mission deployments.

“Lt. Gen. Betty embodies all the great leadership qualities expected from a senior leader,” said Maj. Gen. Robert J. Bodisch, Interim Commander, Texas State Guard. “His integrity and his military professionalism are unmatched. His sense of duty, responsibility and accountability, as well as his genuine care for his troops, will serve as a cornerstone of his legacy of military service.”

Betty led the Texas State Guard during Operation Lone Star, Operation Border Star, Operation Strong Safety and Operation Secure Texas. He also led the Texas State Guard during the Hurricane Harvey Response Operation.

“General Betty, because of your leadership, Texas had the Texas State Guard when Texas needed the State Guard. When we called, you answered. When citizens called, you came. When they asked for help, you did,” said Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, the adjutant general of Texas.

Betty was instrumental in the renovation of the headquarters building of the Texas State Guard at Camp Mabry and in maintaining the continuity and functionality of the Texas State Guard to provide services and support to members during the renovation.

According to Col. Thomas Hamilton, Chief of Staff, Texas State Guard. Betty had three focus areas for State Guard Members.

“Lt. Gen. Betty’s guiding principle was ‘Do your duty, take care of your people and go home with your honor.’ He never passed up an opportunity to reinforce it in the minds of our guardsmen and commanders,” said Col. Thomas Hamilton, Chief of Staff, Texas State Guard.

Betty’s military education includes U. S. Army Airborne School, U. S. Army Ranger School, Infantry Officer Basic Course, U. S. Army Air Assault School, Jungle Operations Training Course, Civil Affairs Officer Advanced Course, Command and General Staff College (non-resident), Nuclear Biological Chemical Operations Course, Reserve Components Support Command Course, Combat Service Support Multi-functional Course and Military Intelligence Officer Advanced Course.

During the retirement ceremony, Betty received the Texas Superior Service Medal for his honorable state and federal service and superior performance in key leadership positions.

Supporting Betty’s career is his wife of 43 years, Julianne, with whom he has two children. Their son Josh is a major in the U. S. Army and assigned to Fort Riley, Kansas. Their daughter Alison lives in Mansfield, Texas.

Betty holds a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural economics and master of science in educational administration from Texas A&M University. **-D**



*Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, The Adjutant General of Texas, presented Brevet Lt. Gen. Gerald R. “Jake” Betty, retiring commander of the Texas State Guard, with a promotion to lieutenant general and the Texas Superior Service Medal during a retirement ceremony at Camp Mabry, October 29, 2017. (Texas State Guard photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Malana Nall)*

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# COMMAND SGT. MAJ. SAMPA WANTS YOU TO BE SAFE!



**A Holiday Message From The  
Command Senior Enlisted Leader**



# MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR TEXAS GUARD MEMBERS



**YOU'RE NEVER ALONE!**  
**CONTACT THESE RESOURCES FOR HELP NOW.**

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

**512-782-5069**

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE HOT-LINE**

**512-782-6091**

**CRISIS HOT-LINE:**

**800-273-8255**

**CRISIS TEXT LINE:**

**838255**

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# HOSTING HEROES

## TEXAS CHALLENGE ACADEMY SHELTERS SOLDIERS EN ROUTE TO BATTLE HURRICANE HARVEY

**Story by: Staff Sgt. Michael Giles  
Joint Counter-drug Task-Force**

AUSTIN, Texas – Eleven military vehicles, including 5,000-gallon fuel tankers and trailers carrying 2,500-gallon tankers, merged onto I-10 for the 550-mile trek to San Antonio, where they would refuel aircraft dedicated to rescuing Texans affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Enthusiasm was not at an all-time high as these 29 active-duty soldiers from the 1st Armored Division Combat Aviation Brigade took to the roads the morning of Aug. 30, 2017.

“Morale was mixed when leaving on the convoy from Fort Bliss,” said Sgt. Michael McGrady, a squad leader with the Combat Aviation Brigade’s 127th Aviation Support Battal-

ion. “Obviously there was the unknown of where we were going to stay, and we didn’t know where we were going. But we are soldiers and keep ourselves resilient to accomplish the mission.”

The hope was to complete the trip in one day, but this proved unfeasible. Had they been able to maintain their maximum speed of 45 mph, they would have arrived in San Antonio that evening. Instead, as the sun started to descend, they found themselves still pushing through the high plains of West Texas.

Choices for how and where to spend the night were limited, and the urgency with which they departed on this mission prevented them from thoroughly planning for such a contingency, explained Capt. Jess Baca, with the 127th’s support operations section.

*(ABOVE) Members of the 1st Armored Division’s 127th Aviation Support Battalion en route to Joint Base San Antonio stand together at the Texas Challenge Academy, where they were provided with food and lodging when last minute challenges required them to find a place to stay in West Texas, Aug. 30, 2017. The task force, heading to San Antonio to refuel aircraft engaged in hurricane rescue efforts, intended to make the trip in one day, but unexpected challenges lengthened the journey and led them to the Challenge Academy, which was able to put them up for the night. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Capt. Aaron Oliver, 176th Engineer Brigade)*

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The Texas National Guard Youth Challenge Program is designed to improve the education, life skills and employment potential of students who are disengaged from traditional educational settings. This is accomplished by providing military-based training, discipline, structure, job readiness training and alternative educational approaches. Students work to obtain a high school diploma or its equivalent while developing leadership qualities. If you know a student who could benefit from the challenge program

[CLICK HERE:](#)

“Letting them drive through the night to San Antonio was not an option,” Baca said. “It would take far too long in tactical vehicles. We can’t do that to our soldiers.”

Hotels weren’t an option either, Baca explained. There weren’t many around. So, she began researching nearby churches and schools for a sheltered floor where the team could sleep in their cots and eat their preserved field rations.

Fortunately, her search led her to the Texas Challenge Academy, a National Guard-run educational facility able to provide beds, showers, hot food and space to park the 11 wheeled behemoths.

Any other week the Texas Challenge Academy would have been full of teenagers working to develop into strong adults.

With program oversight provided by the Texas Military Department’s Joint Counter-drug Task Force, the Challenge Academy houses, trains and mentors students for 5 1/2-month cycles. Fortunately for soldiers en route to San Antonio, the Academy’s west campus in Sheffield was on a cycle break, leaving the beds, showers and dining facility available for unexpected guests.

Aaron Oliver, program director for the west campus, said that when he received Baca’s call, he didn’t hesitate to accommodate her soldiers.

“We made that happen,” said Oliver, who is also a captain in the Texas Army National Guard’s 176th Engineer Brigade. “In a span of just a few hours, my staff made sure that the bays were clean, the DFAC manager was able to verify that we had enough chow for this company-sized element, and we got it done.”

Most of the soldiers arrived after 9 p.m. and then local community members surprised them with a generous gift.

“Somebody in the community got wind of it somehow and a couple community members showed up with 30 pizzas and several platters of cookies,” Oliver said.

Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Resmondo, the 127th’s support operations section sergeant major, said thanks to the hospitality they received, the soldiers were safer, more rested and more ready to perform their functions in the hurricane relief efforts.

“It beats going on a 24-hour mission to try to get down to San Antonio, eating MREs and getting rest on the side of the road,” Resmondo said. “It really helped. It probably made things a lot more safe than trying to push through.”

McGrady said the hospitality they received was the answer to the stymied morale.

“Having some hot food along with baked goods and cold water after a long drive was a great relief and helped everyone relax.”

The warmth and professionalism the Challenge Academy staff showed the members of the 127th reflected the high quality of service they provide to their students, explained William Pettit, a retired Air Force colonel and the TCA state youth programs director.

“It does not surprise me that TCA employees extended hospitality to these active duty Soldiers in the same way that they routinely take care of and develop their cadets,” Pettit said.

Pettit also said that the interest in supporting fellow military personnel reflected the spirit of camaraderie and collaboration that the Texas Military Department promotes in its programs.

“As a Department of Defense-funded program, we were pleased to have the opportunity to support these soldiers who were deploying to help Texans deal with and recovery from Hurricane Harvey.” **-D**

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## TOY

## SOLDIERS

**Story by: Chief Warrant Officer 3 Janet Schmelzer**  
**Texas State Guard Public Affairs**

AUSTIN, Texas - The Texas State Guard kicked off its ninth annual "Young Heroes of the Guard" Christmas toy drive Nov. 20, 2017. The toy drive delivers toys to thousands of children at pediatric hospitals, women's shelters and foster homes across Texas.

Since the toy drive began in 2009, State Guardsmen have distributed more than 100,000 toys, donated by individuals and organizations alike. Last year alone, the Texas State Guard distributed more than 33,000 toys and they expect to distribute more this year. Over the past nine years the toy drive has grown from serving pediatric hospitals in the Dallas-Fort Worth area to serving children in need across the state.

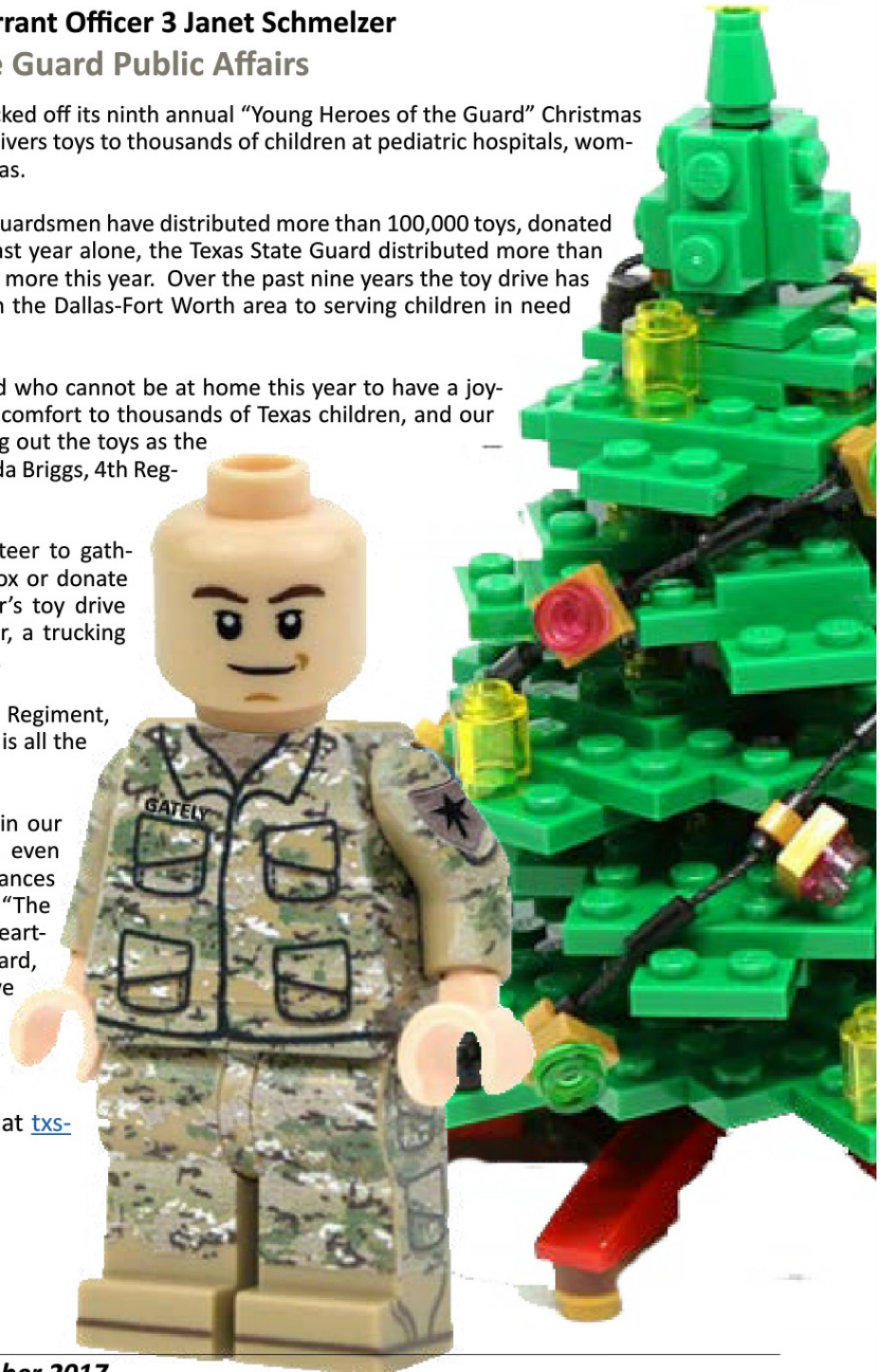
"The Texas State Guard wants every child who cannot be at home this year to have a joyous holiday season. The toy drive brings comfort to thousands of Texas children, and our State Guardsmen have as much fun giving out the toys as the children do receiving them," said Sgt. Lynda Briggs, 4th Regiment, Texas State Guard.

Organizations and individuals can volunteer to gather toys, donate toys, host a collection box or donate money used to purchase toys. This year's toy drive sponsors include from a national retailer, a trucking company, and a web development group.

According to Sgt. Derrick Williams, 19th Regiment, Texas State Guard the children's reaction is all the reward state guard members need.

"When we deliver the toys, kids see us in our Santa hats and greet us with pure joy, even though many face unthinkable circumstances no child should endure." Said Williams. "The toy drive is the most rewarding and heartwarming activity of the Texas State Guard, and it is just another example of how we serve the people of Texas,"

For more information on the Texas State Guard "Young Heroes of the Guard" Toy Drive, visit the toy drive website at [txs-toydrive.com](http://txs-toydrive.com). **-D**



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# 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

$$2\% \times \text{Years Served} \times \text{Retired Pay Base}$$

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



Lump sum with Reduced retired pay as monthly annuity

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

TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

# MARS MEN

## AMERICA'S VOICE WHEN THE WORLD GOES DARK

*Story by: Sgt. Mark Otte  
Texas Military Department Public Affairs*

*Communications tower at Will Rogers Air National Guard Base, Oklahoma.  
(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Brigette Waltermire)*

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AUSTIN, Texas -The idea of a total power grid shut down has largely been the plot line of apocalyptic movies and the daydreams of doomsday preppers. In the movies, after whatever catastrophic event caused the shutdown, the main character eagerly seeks to learn how the rest of the world fared.

But with all means of communications destroyed, how will he ever know?

Spoiler alert: There is a way. While it may lack the cinematic flare needed for action-packed film-making, in real life members of the Texas Military Department's State Guard MARS Detachment will be retrieving their back up shortwave radios from faraday cages, firing up generators and sending messages across the country and the world, with reports on the conditions in the area despite the total lack of communications infrastructure.

The Military Auxiliary Radio System is a Department of Defense program that uses civilian shortwave radio operators when all other means of communications have been destroyed, either by deliberate attack or by Mother Nature.

In November, the group rehearsed for the latter.

The Fall drill began with a notice that a coronal mass ejection had been detected. That's a scientific way of saying the sun is throwing space junk, and it will likely hit earth.

With that notice, the men and women of the Texas State Guard's MARS Detachment began unplugging their radios from both power and antennas and braced for the fictional impact.

The effect of the sun's plasmic flack impacting the earth, while rare, could be devastating to the power grid. Upwards of one terawatt of electricity could be forced into the power lines, zapping the switches and substations that control the grid and knocking out power to large portions of the country.

After the impact, with back-up power on and their radios back online, the MARS operators be-

gan gathering the information requested by the DOD and the Department of Homeland Security. To create a clearer, more comprehensive picture of the after effects, the MARS operators reached out to other amateur radio operators around the state to compile as much data as possible before sending the messages to a central command.

"The MARS program was checking the status of counties all over the United States," said Warrant Officer Lewis Thompson, who serves as the MARS Detachment's liaison officer. "That included the status of power, communications, hospitals, transportation and utilities, including gas, water and sewage."

The shortwave radios the amateur operators use are perfectly suited for the doomsday scenarios because they don't require infrastructure, like hard lines or satellite connections. Each member of the MARS community must maintain a specific set of equipment including an auxiliary power supply like a generator or solar power to keep their station active should there be a total loss of traditional power sources.

Despite the lack of satellites and newer, more advanced means of sending messages, the MARS operators are not tapping messages out in Morse code or sending crackly voice transmissions over the airwaves. Instead, Thompson said, MARS members send highly formatted digital messages.

"We can talk on our nets using voice," Thompson said. "But all message traffic is sent as a military-standard encrypted digital message."

Because the messages are digital, it allows them to be "machine read," quickly analyzed and displayed, giving commanders a much clearer picture of the status of the country's vital services after a disaster or attack, Thompson added.

With the all-clear given for this quarter's mock disaster, the largely gray-haired posse of unlikely heroes of the apocalypse packed their equipment up and settled back into the slower pace of everyday life waiting for the next disaster to strike. **-D**

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## TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

# SO THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE

**Story By Sgt. Kyle Burns**  
**Texas Military Department Public Affairs**

For many service members, there are a variety of reasons they chose their military professions, but Texas Army National Guard Spc. Maggie Barcellano's reasons are shocking.

"When I was pregnant with my daughter Zoe, her father was diagnosed with cancer," said Barcellano, now a combat medic assigned to the 71st Troop Command.

Vince, her husband, was diagnosed with cancer while she was still pregnant with their daughter Zoe. As time went on, things became difficult beyond comprehension.

"I spent my pregnancy watching him helplessly," Barcellano said. "He passed in July and Zoe was born in November."

For many, the death of a spouse would have been the breaking point in their lives. Not for Texas Army National Guard Spc. Maggie Barcellano. For her it was a turning point.

As a combat medic for the Texas National Guard, she spent the past five years ensuring Soldiers are ready to deploy through hearing, vision, laboratory and immunization screenings. As a case worker contractor, her primary responsibilities are to ensure that service member injuries are tracked and processed correctly.

"We aim to help collect and maintain the documentation needed to clear their case or correctly profile each soldier," she said. "This is such a wonderful job."

Her work in the medical field is amplified by the story behind her dedication.

"There were a handful of hospice workers that had an incredible impact on my life, and the end of Vince's," she said. "I decided I wanted to go into medicine."

After her husband's death, Barcellano didn't have time to feel sorry for herself. She knew she needed to take action.

"I never wanted to feel that helpless again," Barcellano said. "I would not sit idly by if another person I loved got sick."

In the meantime, I would be able to use my skills to help other families and patients to pay forward the love that I got."

Barcellano is currently pursuing entry into the Interservice Physician Assistance Program, which will give her accreditation as a physician's assistant.

In this way, Barcellano exemplified what it means to be a soldier in the Texas National Guard. Persevering through life's trying times and using the experiences from her life, she has decided to help anywhere she can.

She currently volunteers at the Officer Candidate School, following future military leaders and helping them understand the importance of medical functions and its importance. Her work as a medic ensured soldiers were ready, healthy and able to react quickly when Texas needed them most.

"When the hurricane hit, I was able to do something about it," She said. "Mine was a small part, but all of us together made a difference."

With her dedication to her Texas community undeniably clear, one can't help but recall the last line of the Army Medic Creed and how accurately it applies to the life of Barcellano:

"These things we do so that others may live." **-D**



*Texas Guardsmen Maggie Barcellano collects cheek cell swabs from service members wanting to join the national bone marrow registry, during a bone marrow recruitment drive hosted by the Joint Forces Headquarters Detachment at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, Oct. 22-23, 2016. (U.S. Army National Guard Photo By Capt. Martha Nigrelle)*

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# CHECK OUT THE NEW TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT MOBILE APP!

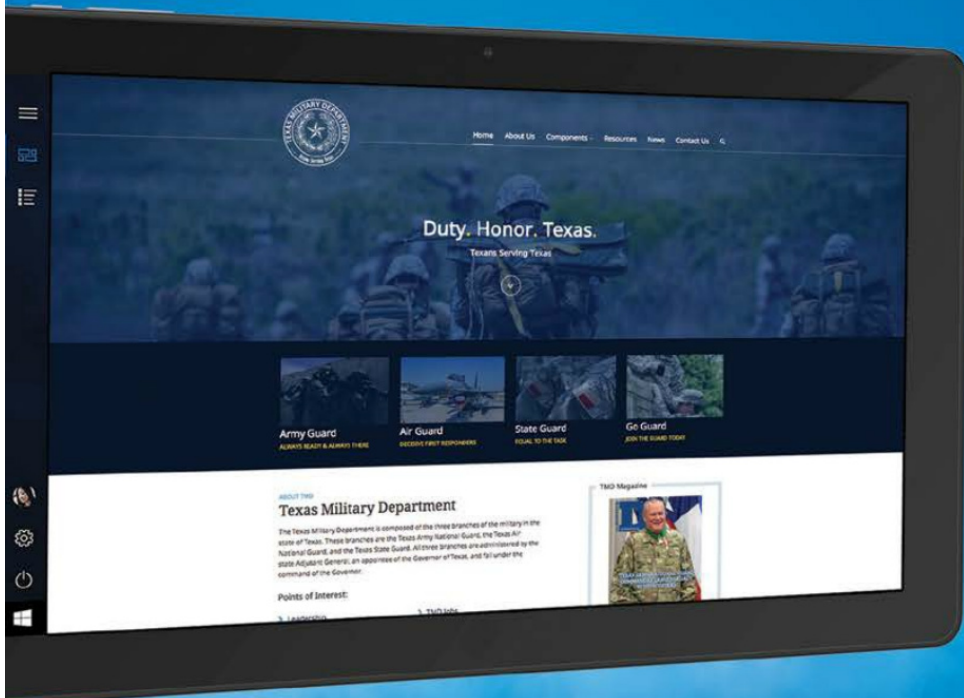


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## CONNECTING TEXAS GUARDSMEN



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[tmd.texas.gov](http://tmd.texas.gov)

### NEW LOOK, NEW CONTENT, NEW NAVIGATION!

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TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

# TMD COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The Texas Military Department has a wide array of resources available to department personnel and their families. These resources not only provide useful programs and cost-saving opportunities, but they also help service members navigate and utilize their benefits.

The Texas Military Department Family Support Services Branch is the umbrella organization for all of these programs. In coordination with community partners, TMD Family Support Services strives to prepare and empower service members and their families to be resilient now and in the future.

## SUPPORTING KIDS AND YOUTH

The Texas Child and Youth Program supports the youngest members of the Texas Military Department through educational and recreational programming, including leadership training, college preparedness, service opportunities and events for both.

**512-782-1231**



## STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS

Strong Bonds serves single and married Soldiers alike. Led by trained chaplains, the program helps participants improve and strengthen their relationships. Ask your chaplain for more information about the program.

**[www.strongbonds.org](http://www.strongbonds.org)**

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Don't be afraid to ask for help if you're struggling to pay your bills. Many programs exist to provide financial support to service members through tough times.

**1-800-252-8032**

## FINANCIAL & RETIREMENT PLANNING

Worried about retirement? Wondering if you should be doing more to plan ahead? Service members have access to experienced counselors who can help plan for retirement and manage money.

**512-595-9138**

## LEGAL SERVICES

Don't be afraid to ask for help if you're struggling to pay your bills. Many programs exist to provide financial support to service members through tough times.

**1-800-252-8032**

TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

# FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

**FOR A FULL LIST OF RESOURCES OR  
MORE INFO ON ANY PROGRAM VISIT**  
[tmd.texas.gov/helpful-links-and-resources](http://tmd.texas.gov/helpful-links-and-resources)

## TRANSITIONING FROM SERVICE

Transition Assistance Advisors help transitioning National Guardsmen and their families navigate the DoD and VA systems to understand—and take full advantage of—the many benefits available.

**512-963-2390**  
**512-782-1201**

## EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

The Citizen Soldier Financial and Employment Readiness Program helps service members with resumes, interview skills and forging connections to military-friendly employers.

**[www.casy.us](http://www.casy.us)**

## COUNSELING SERVICES

Need to talk? The TMD Counseling Team offers free confidential counseling services. Counselors are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including holidays, weekends and after hours.

**512-782-5069**

## STRONG FAMILIES

The Texas National Guard Family Support Foundation works closely with the TMD Family Support Service to provide emergency financial assistance, family medical support, youth support and more.

**512-454-1318**

## ADVISING SERVICES

Military OneSource offers extensive training and resources, from helping military spouses find employment to advising families with special-needs members. Services are available around the clock with professionally trained consultants.

**1-800-342-9647**

## ALL RESOURCES

Contact the State Family Program Office—24 hours a day, seven days a week—for more information about all the available resources for Texas Military Department service members and their families.

**(English) 1-800-252-8032**  
**(Spanish) 1-888-443-2124**

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TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

# AND THE BAND PLAYED ON

Story by: Master Sgt. Michael Leslie  
36th Infantry Division Public Affairs



*The 36th Infantry Division Band's Brass Quintet performed for the students and faculty of St. Andrews Episcopal School during a Veteran's Day program, Nov. 10 in Austin. Students and teachers filled the campus chapel for the special service. Veterans Day began to show respect for past, present and fallen service members after World War One when the armistice was signed on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month and for nearly 100 years civilians and military members alike have participated in the tradition.*  
(U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Suzanne Ringle)

AUSTIN, Texas - Schools across Texas honored service members for Veterans Day by showing their support through programs and remembrance. The 36th Infantry Division was there to say thank you and give back to the veterans who came before them.

Maj. Gen. Lee Henry, 36th Infantry Division Commanding General, spoke at Needville High School during an event that honors veterans, as many of them truly understand the work and dedication it takes to be a service member.

"Veterans, both past and present, I ask you to stand," said Henry. "Ladies and gentlemen, look around you. Our veterans represent the best of America." Many in the crowd were standing.

"It touched my heart," said Jeff Cotton, a Navy veteran and lieutenant with the Bellaire Police Department. "It made me proud to be a part of what our country still is."

There were also future Soldiers at the event. Needville student, Hunter Garcia recently enlisted as a public affairs specialist and was inspired by Henry's speech.

"It made me feel proud to be newly enlisted and to hear from a major general about Soldiers who are currently in action," said Garcia.

"Let us together honor the brave men and women of the Fighting 36th, who are serving in Puerto Rico, Africa, the Middle East, Iraq, Afghanistan and other troubled locations around the globe," said Henry.

Another event was held at Cook Elementary School in Austin, where the principal is also a member of the 36th Infantry Division Band. Sgt. 1st Class Framy Diaz delighted his students by bringing a woodwind quintet and a rhythm and blues band to the school.

The band's performance was a way to give back to his staff while he was activated for Hurricane Harvey flood relief efforts.

## TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT



*The 36th Infantry Division Marching Band participated in the half-time show at the Texas State University football game against Georgia State University in honor of Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2017 in San Marcos, Texas. The dual marching bands performed a medley comprised of each military branch's service song with the Division's Bandmaster, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jeffrey Lightsey, conducting. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Suzanne Ringle.)*



*The 36th Infantry Division Band's R&B group and woodwind quintet celebrated Veteran's Day during an event at Cook Elementary School in Austin, Texas on November 10, 2017. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Michael Leslie)*

Another event honoring veterans took place at Lake Travis High School with the division's band playing side by side with the school's band. Veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and conflicts in the Middle East stood, and were recognized by everyone in attendance.

Lifting spirits was next on the list as the 36th Infantry Division Band's brass quintet played at Saint Andrew's Episcopal School for a special service in the campus chapel.

"I think it's really good to be a part of the Army, still be able to support our veterans and do events like this," said Spc. Andrew Smith, a tuba player from Taylor. "It helps people be aware of what we do and it's great to be able to help lift the spirits of Soldiers and veterans."

"When I'm about to start singing the national anthem, the very first thing I notice is when everyone is standing up," said Sgt. Carlos Meda, vocalist, tuba and guitar player for the band.

"I admire how everyone knows exactly what to do. I can spot the veterans in the audience either by what they are wearing or the position they stand in," said Meda.

Meda also believes that the national anthem brings everyone together.

"The best feeling is when the audience starts singing along because I know that no one is thinking about anything else except for those lyrics," said Meda, "We are in tune together. We have each other's attention."

The final event of the weekend was in San Marcos at the Texas State University football game where the division's marching band played side by side with the university's marching band at halftime.

The dual marching bands played a medley of each military branch's service song with the division's bandmaster conducting.

"I consider it a real honor to be the band's commander," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jeffrey Lightsey, "They are great troops who represent the 36th Infantry Division throughout the year and are committed to being the best at what they do."

Lightsey said he enjoys being a Citizen-Soldier as it makes him proud to be working with students in his Soldier role.

"As a public educator in my civilian job, working with students is a true bonus during special events like this," Lightsey said, "It is fun talking, sharing and mentoring them."

Veterans Day began as a remembrance of the end of World War I, "The Great War," when the armistice was signed on Nov. 11th, 1918.

"We don't mark this day each year as a celebration of victory," said Henry, "but rather, as a celebration of those who made victory possible. We keep the story of their sacrifice alive through our remembrance" **D**



OUR FORCE

## AIRMAN KRISTEN PEREZ

*147th Attack Wing Force Support Squadron*

*"I serve because I want to be a part of something bigger than myself. I also want to serve the great state of Texas and my nation."*



# New Key Leadership Positions



**Col. Michael J. Lovell**  
Director of Intelligence (J2)



#### EXPERIENCE:

Lovell received his commission, following nine years of distinguished enlisted service, through the Academy of Military Science in 1994. He has served in command at the flight and squadron levels along with staff positions at the wing, Joint Force Headquarters, Numbered Air Force, and Major Command levels. In addition to his current role as the Texas Military Department's Director of Intelligence for the Joint Staff and Domestic Operations Task Force, he is the Air National Guard Advisor to the 25th Air Force at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. He is an Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Mission Operations Commander with more than 1,800 mission hours in the MQ-1 Predator, MQ-9 Reaper, MC-12 Liberty, RQ-4 Global Hawk, and U-2 Dragon Lady in direct support of OPERATIONS IRAQI FREEDOM, NEW DAWN, ENDURING FREEDOM, ODYSSEY DAWN and UNIFIED PROTECTOR.

#### EDUCATION:

Lovell is a Certified Public Accountant and holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Virginia Commonwealth University and a Master of Science in Executive Leadership from Champlain College in Burlington, Vermont.

#### DID YOU KNOW:

Lovell and his wife Cindy recently celebrated their 28th wedding anniversary and are the proud parents of their 18-year-old twins, Carter and Kelsey.

#### IN HIS WORDS:

It is an absolute honor and privilege to be part of the Joint Staff and Domestic Operations Task Force and I look forward to serving Texas with such an incredibly talented team.



**Lt. Col Rodrigo Gonzalez III**  
Commander of the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team

#### EXPERIENCE:

Gonzalez was commissioned a Field Artillery officer through ROTC at Texas A&M University – Kingsville in 1991. He served on active duty for 12 years; successfully serving numerous roles from company to Secretary of Defense staff level service. While on active duty, Gonzalez served with the 82nd Airborne, 1st Cavalry Divisions, and 3rd Corps Artillery. In 2008, Gonzalez was recalled to active duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and was the brigade operations officer and embedded team trainer for the 203rd Corps of the Afghanistan National Army. His battalion level command was the 1st Battalion 133rd Artillery "First Texas Artillery" and was the Chief of Fires for the 36th Infantry Division. On December 2, 2017, Gonzalez took command of the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

#### EDUCATION:

Gonzalez received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas A&I Kingsville and has a Masters Degree in Strategic Security Studies from the National Defense University, where he was a Counter-terrorism Fellow. Gonzalez has completed military courses to include the Field Artillery School, Combined Arms Service School, and Command and Staff College.

#### DID YOU KNOW:

Gonzalez is a Special Agent with the FBI and deployed to Iraq in 2004, where he worked in the Saddam Hussein Regime Crimes Liaison Office. In this role, Gonzalez was part of a team of investigators who conducted investigations in the Kurdish region of Iraq. The team identified victims of Saddam Hussein's ethnic cleansing campaign against the Kurds known as the ANFAL. This campaign included the 1988 chemical attack of Kurdish victims in Halabja.

#### IN HIS WORDS:

"I am honored to serve the great State of Texas as the commander of the 72nd IBCT. Being with and leading soldiers is the critical point in any officers service. I will do my best to ensure soldiers of the brigade uphold the valorous legacy of the 36th Division and are ready to meet any challenge. ANZIO!"

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