

THE DISPATCH



MARCH 2018



**TMD NUCLEAR, BIOLOGICAL & CHEMICAL
FIRST RESPONSE TEAM PREPARES FOR**

TEXAS' DARKEST DAY

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT



Sgt. Hugo Luna, a human resources specialist assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 36th Infantry Division, competes in a six-mile ruck march during the Best Warrior selection competition at Camp Swift, Texas, Feb. 10, 2018. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Scovell, 36th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office)



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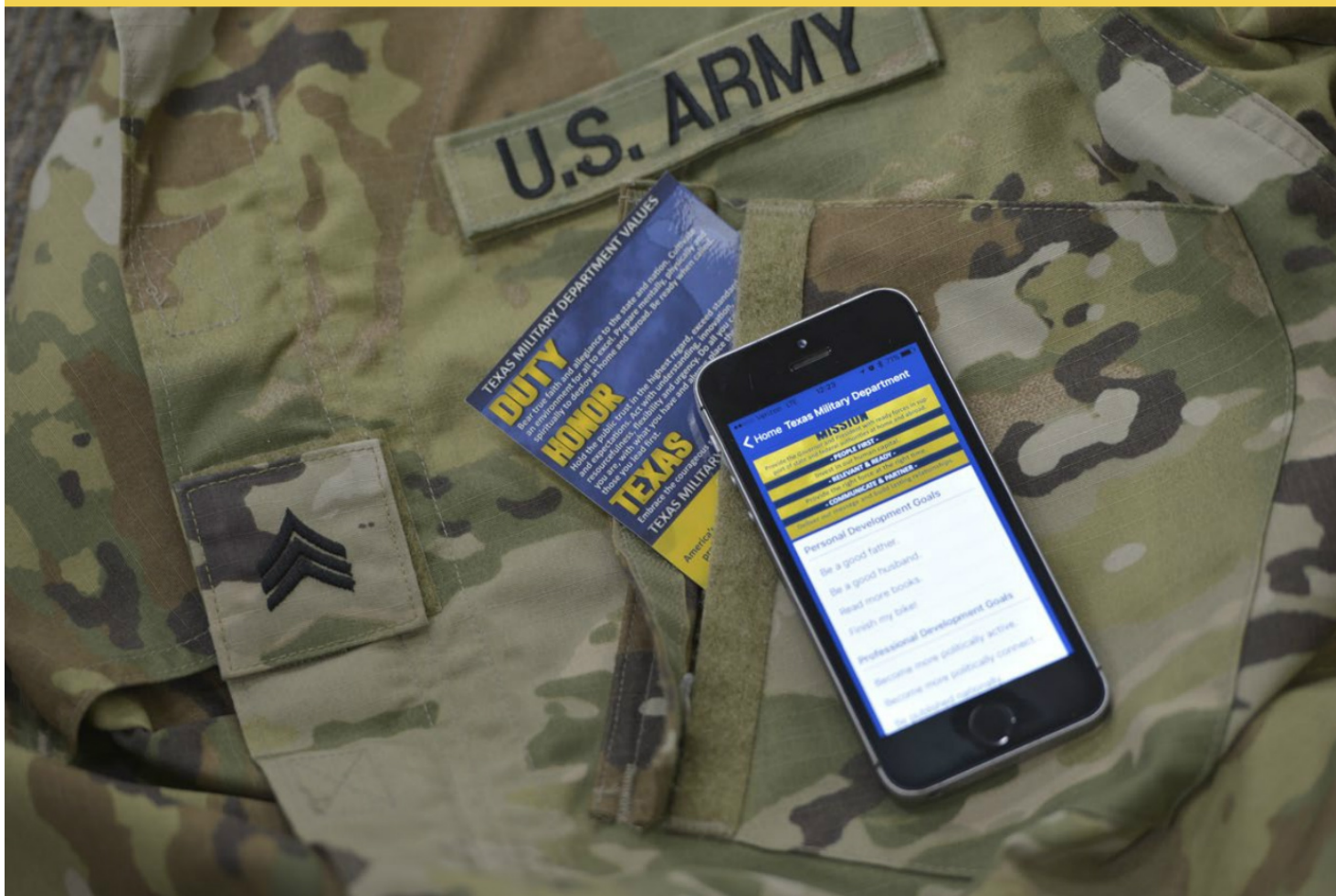
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(ON THE COVER)

Member of the 6th Civil Support team tests for hazardous substances during a training operation held at Camp Mabry, in Austin, Texas, on February 13th 2018.

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"We have a mobile laboratory capable of providing presumptive analysis in a matter of hours," said Maj. Christopher Sedtal, commander of the 6th Civil Support Team. "Those results would normally require a fire chief to send samples off to a lab, and wait several days for the results."

While federal statutes only require the team to be ready at a moment's notice for a small portion of the year, Sedtal says that the team is always ready to respond quickly no matter what cycle the team is in.

"We maintain a 90-minute response time throughout the year," Sedtal said. "We want to be ready if a state or local agency needs us."

The team isn't just sitting around waiting for calls. They also support large-scale events with crowds that can draw in excess of 100,000 people and often exceed the capabilities of local authorities. Most recently, the team provided support to the 2017 Major League Baseball World Series for the three games played at Minute Maid Park in Houston.

The group has also supported Super Bowls, NBA Finals, NASCAR races, Formula 1 races and traveled to the District of Columbia for the Presidential Inauguration.

Among the capabilities the team provides at these events are air monitors that detect even small amounts of material that could potentially jeopardize the safety of those in attendance. A mobile detection device is mounted to an ATV provides the team with real-time data and GPS mapping of dangerous substance levels around the event.

"I've personally supported three Super Bowls, one World Series, four NBA finals, an NBA All-star game and one Final Four, said Texas National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Jorge Hernandez, 6th Civil Support Team.

Hernandez said that all of those events have largely been without incident.

Another important service the 6th Civil Support Team delivers is reliable, secure lines of communications to incident commanders and relief organizers. Keeping constant communication at large-scale events can be a challenge for organizers and overloaded communication systems present a hazard. The training and equipment available from the team enables inter-agency communication across multiple platforms including voice, data and wireless internet allowing all first responders to work seamlessly during an incident.

These tools are one reason the 6th Civil Support is at the forefront of Texas' response to a chemical, biological, radiological, biological or nuclear incident, said Sedtal.

"The military's CBRN response enterprise starts with the CST," he said. "We are the first on scene, and depending on what we find we may suggest bring in other DoD assets." **-D**



Member of the 6th Civil Support team prepares to suit up in HAZMAT gear during a training operation held at Camp Mabry, in Austin, Texas, on February 13th 2018.

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TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

FROM THE TOP

COMMENTARIES FROM TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT LEADERS



LEADERSHIP VIRTUES

BRIG. GEN. GREG CHANEY
DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT STAFF

I failed my first real test as a platoon leader. I don't remember exactly how it happened, but I remember the results vividly. My platoon was angry at me, and I was angry at them. This failure ended up being one of the most formative moments of my career as a leader, and through it, I eventually learned to lead with wisdom, courage, temperance and justice.

I'm forever thankful to Staff Sgt. H.O. Johnson, my platoon sergeant that day. Once it was apparent that I would not be able to resolve the platoon's anger on my own, Johnson took me aside and began to privately counsel me on leadership. He told me that Soldiers can be unhappy; they just can't be angry. He went on to say that each of them has experience that could help if I just treat them as a part of the team, listen to their input and use it honestly to make decisions. Anticipating the way to resolve this conflict, he gathered the squads around an armored personnel carrier. Each member in turn discussed the issues they had with my leadership style and how I could have approached the stressful leadership challenge better. Somehow, he was able to defuse the platoon's anger, avoid my anger, get us back on mission and set me on a course of leadership development.

At the turn of the first millennia, Stoic philosophers taught four human virtues (or skills) that I believe perfectly encapsulate the virtues required of a leader: wisdom, courage, temperance and justice. As you reflect on these leadership virtues, you will notice Staff Sgt. Johnson exhibited the leadership skills in his interactions with his supervisor and subordinates.

WISDOM:

Wisdom is found where the lessons and understanding of the past meet with the opportunities and vision of the future. Leaders are constantly judging between decisions and actions that must be taken. Decision making is the essence of leadership; choosing correctly means choosing wisely.

COURAGE:

Courage is the power of leadership. At that dynamic moment between decision and action the leader who operates with wisdom and courage takes the chosen course, even if it is difficult.

TEMPERANCE:

Temperance also means restraint or self-control. Temperance ensures leaders are aware of the reins of power and the effects their actions have. Temperance establishes boundaries within which a leader operates; a control measure of extreme emotions which can quickly harm if not used appropriately.

JUSTICE:

Justice is a fair and right way of dealing with other humans, especially subordinates. The just actions of a military leader serve to protect the mission, organization and profession at arms.

Like Staff Sgt. Johnson, the non-commissioned officers of our armed forces are the core that maintains the foundation of our leadership development and mission accomplishment. I'm grateful for the NCOs with whom I've served, because without their influence I would not be the leader I am today. I challenge all NCOs to honor this rich tradition and all leaders to serve with wisdom, courage, temperance and justice.

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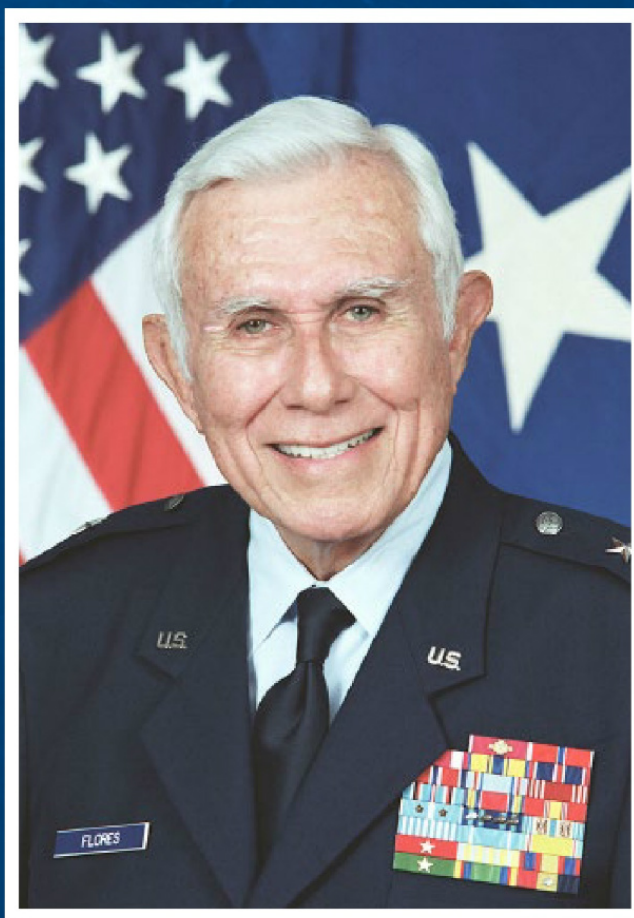


IN MEMORIAM

Brigadier General Belisario J. Flores (RET) Former Texas Military Department Assistant Adjutant General - Air

Brigadier General Belisario J. Flores, USAF (Ret.) born in Eagle Pass, Texas and raised in San Antonio, Texas, passed on to eternal life with the Lord on February 19, 2018 at the age of 91. He was known as Bel by his friends and colleagues and Beli to his family. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife from his first marriage, Josephine Guerrero Flores, his parents Jose Hector Flores and Felipa Hernandez Salinas de Flores and his brother Jose Edmundo Flores. He is survived by his beloved wife from his second marriage, Adelina Greco Flores, two stepchildren, Frank (Anne) Greco, and Anna (Glenn) Maples, seven step grandchildren and nine step great grandchildren as well as numerous cousins and relatives. General Flores was frequently recognized for his forty-one years of military service to his State and Country which included two years of Army stateside duty during World War II and three years of Army service during the Korean War of which ten months were served in combat. His active duty tours were followed by thirty-six years of service with the Texas Air National Guard which included the start and the end of the Vietnam War.

He entered the service in January 1945 and retired in July 1986. In 1971, he was appointed to serve as Assistant Adjutant General for the Texas Air National Guard where he served until his retirement. In 1974 he was promoted to flag rank making him the first Hispanic of that rank in the Air National Guard of the United States and the second of two flag officers from the State of Texas. In 1986, General Flores was brevetted with the rank of Major General in the military forces of Texas by then Governor of Texas, The Honorable Mark White. In 2008 he was inducted into the Texas National Guard Hall of Honor at Camp Mabry in Austin.



His many military decorations included The Legion of Merit, The Bronze Star Medal, The Air Force Commendation Medal, The Meritorious Service Medal, and the Korean Service Medal with two battle stars.

His military education included certificates from the Command and Staff University, The Air War College, The Industrial College of the Armed Forces and the Defense Strategy Institute of the United States. He was a graduate of St. Mary's University and was honored in February 2018 for his and Adelina's generous contribution to establish a Veterans Center.

Following his retirement, General Flores remained very active in public and civic affairs. Bel was an active member of St. Pius X Catholic Church where he served many years as usher.

Visitation will be at St. Pius X Catholic Church on March 13, at 6:00 PM with a rosary at 7:00 PM. A funeral mass will be celebrated at St. Pius X Catholic Church on March 14, at 9:30 AM. Interment will follow at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery at 11:00 AM with full military honors. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Guadalupe Community Center in San Antonio or a charity of your choice. Condolences may be sent to the Flores family at www.theangelusfuneralhome.com. Arrangements by: The Angelus Funeral Home, 1119 N. St Mary's St. (210) 227-1461.



OUR FORCE

2ND LT CYLA R. HUBER

Texas State Guard Maritime Component

"I serve because it was impressed on me by my grandparents, who were born and raised in south Texas, to serve my community in any way I can. Both of my grandparents were the most patriotic people I have ever known."



NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR: STAFF SGT. DESIREE NG:

Air Force Staff Sgt. Desiree Ng was born in El Paso, Texas, and currently serves in the Texas Air National Guard, assigned to the 149th Fighter Wing's Medical Group as an aerospace medical technician. She is very active in her community and volunteers her time to support local homeless efforts, routinely assisting local community families in need. In September of 2014, she volunteered for a humanitarian mission as a Security Forces augmentee with Border Patrol. In January of 2017, Ng was chosen to attend RUSH trauma training in Chicago; during this training she provided real-world, life-saving rapid trauma care to three gunshot-wound victims, ensuring they were stabilized and assisting in transporting the patients to medical facilities. During Hurricane Harvey she provided triage and medical support for more than 200 flood victims. As a medical technician she has been on scene numerous times providing life-saving care to both airmen and civilians. As an NCO she leads and trains large groups of Airmen and Soldiers across Texas in emergency medical treatment. She has numerous awards and commendation for leadership and is continuously working to further her education in the medical field both in military and civilian education

AIRMAN OF THE YEAR: STAFF SGT. BRYAN KELPS

Staff Sgt. Bryan Kelps, 149th Civil Engineer Squadron, enlisted into the Texas Air National Guard, August 27, 2013 and serves as a Civil Engineer Water and Fuels Systems Maintenance Journeyman. He operates and maintains all interior and exterior plumbing systems, is trained on water/wastewater treatment and on the operation and maintenance of the various Air Force fuel systems. In addition to his primary responsibilities, he also oversees his sections' safety and training program. He deployed to Cuba in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel where he ensured numerous relocation-housing units were in compliance with fire codes, fixed a failed sewage system and several pumps, fixed 13 water breaks and advised Naval representatives on utility repairs saving the military approximately \$1M and improved the overall safety of both deployed service members and local residents. While at Guantanamo Bay, he also participated in the Historical Conservation group, uncovering artifacts and helping to preserve the heritage of the area for the local community. A resident of San Antonio, he is an active volunteer in the community where he routinely volunteers at local area food banks, participates in outdoor cleanup projects at city-owned facilities and spends time tutoring middle-school aged children. Kelps has received numerous commendations from the Air Force for his superior service. He is studying computer engineering at the University of Texas in San Antonio and hopes to pursue a military commission upon completion of his degree. **-D**

TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT



Staff Sgt. Desiree Ng, 149th Medical Group, salutes Maj. Gen. David McMinn, commander of the Texas Air National Guard, after being awarded her Texas Outstanding Service Medal as the winner of the Outstanding Noncommissioned Officer of the Year during a ceremony held at Camp Mabry, Texas, Feb. 10, 2018.



Staff Sgt. Brian Kelps, 149th Civil Engineer Squadron, stands next to Maj. Gen. David McMinn, commander of the Texas Air National Guard, after receiving his Texas Outstanding Service Medal certificate as the winner of the Outstanding Airmen of the Year award during a ceremony held at Camp Mabry, Texas, Feb. 10, 2018.

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Josh Williams donates a check in January for \$7500 to Texas Military Forces Museum Foundation President Bill McMeans. The check brings Williams' total donation toward the purchase of new track for the museum's Sherman Tank to \$10,000. (U.S. Army National Guard Photo by Sgt. Mark Otte)

TEXAS MILITARY HISTORY ROLLS ON THANKS TO GENEROUS DONATION

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

AUSTIN, Texas - A member of the Living History Detachment, G Company, part of the Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry in Austin, recently donated \$10,000 in overtime paychecks to help the museum purchase new tracks for the its Sherman Tank.

When Josh Williams, a 24-year-old tanker on the Sherman tank, was told that the 70-year-old battle wagon needed new tracks he was determined to do his part to keep the beast on the battlefield, putting crowds in awe at re-enactments.

New shoes, for a war relic creeping up on a century of service as a war machine, are not easy to come by. Locating the serviceable set of tracks is a challenge by itself, but raising the funds to purchase them was an even bigger challenge for the museum, said Jeff Hunt, director of the Texas Military Forces Museum.

"There are still parts out there, but they are in far-flung places like Israel and Europe," Hunt said. "They are getting scarcer and more expensive."

After enlisting the help of a fellow museum director to help track down the parts, Hunt learned they were not only nearby but also cheap, so to speak.

"The tracks were right here in Texas and we could get them for the incredible price of \$10,000, which really is a bargain," Hunt said. "The difficulty with that was we didn't have \$10,000.

With only his love of history and learning as motivation, Williams wanted to contribute.

"Because of my job, I couldn't go volunteer at the museum as much, so I decided that from Jan. 1, 2017 until Muster Day in April, I would work two hours of overtime a day and donate that money," Williams said.

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TEXAS GUARDSMEN EARN EXPERT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

*By Sgt. Jason L. Robertson
3rd Battalion, 144th Infantry Regiment*

Djibouti – Texas Guardsmen from the 3rd Battalion, 144th Infantry Regiment joined soldiers from the active component in Bravo Company, 1st Battalion 32nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division for the Expert Infantryman Badge course at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, January 15-27, 2018.

The badge represents the U.S. Infantry's tough, hard hitting role in combat and symbolizes proficiency in the infantry arts; Soldiers must successfully complete a rigorous, multi-day course consisting of 37 Individual Tasks in order to earn the badge.

More than 180 soldiers competed for the prestigious badge; 50 earned the badge with four Soldiers earning True Blue status. True Blue means they completed each station with correctly on the first attempt.

"EIB is not just about earning the badge though, it's about learning the skills needed to be an expert, proving to fellow soldiers that you have what it takes to succeed," said Cpl. Steven O. Galvan, Texas Army National Guard. "With the skills and knowledge gained during EIB I can teach fellow soldiers with a higher level of confidence which in turn will help with our mission as well as future missions."

TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

Once earned, the Expert Infantryman Badge can only be worn by soldiers in either Infantry or Special Forces.

The qualifications for the badge are strenuous. Soldiers had to score an 80% on the Army Physical Fitness Test, complete a day and night land navigation course, conduct a 12 mile road march in three hours carrying all weapons, gear and a 35 pound ruck sack. Additional events included 30 individual training exercises composed of medical, patrol and weapons skill-sets.

In order to qualify, soldiers had to pass every lane. All events were timed and held to strict performance and sequence requirements. After the event Twenty-six Texas Guardsmen and twenty-four soldiers with the 10th Mountain division earned their badge.

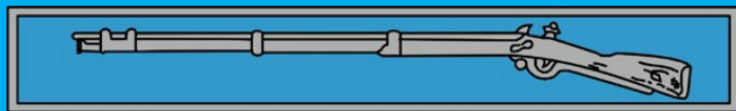
“My experience was very positive and very educational,” said Staff Sgt. Johnathan Pentland, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion 32nd Infantry Regiment. “Everyone worked very well together, making everything run really smooth.”

Brig. Gen. David J. Furness, commander of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, recognized soldiers who earned the “true blue” status a Joint Service Achievement Medal. Texas Army National Guard 1st Lt. Kevin H. Gillespie and 1st Lt. Daniel P. Kernaghan from 3-144th Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division were recipients as well as, Spc. Kyle B. Delp and Pfc. Holden D. Wilson from 1-32nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division.

“The mission is always first and at any point you may have to transition from concentrating on EIB to the mission.” said 1st Sgt. Abraham Lewis, B Co 1-32nd Infantry Regiment. “When you earn your EIB overseas it is even more of an accomplishment because you are essentially preparing for a mission while training for the EIB.” **-D**



Texas Guardsmen from the 3rd Battalion, 144th Infantry Regiment provide emergency medical assessments and trauma care during a competition for the Expert Infantryman Badge. These Guardsmen competed alongside Soldiers from active component Bravo Company, 1st Battalion 32nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, January 15-27, 2018.



The EIB represents the U.S. Infantry’s tough, hard hitting role in combat and symbolizes proficiency in the Infantry arts; Soldiers must successfully complete a rigorous, multi-day course consisting of 37 Individual Tasks, including the Army Physical Fitness Test, Day and Night Land Navigation, 30 Individual Testing Stations, 12-Mile Forced March and Objective Bull Tasks in order to earn the badge. (U.S. Army National Guard photo courtesy of 3rd Battalion, 144th Infantry Regiment)



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TEXAS STATE GUARD



LEGISLATIVE ANNIVERSARY

TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

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NOVEMBER 7-13



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Report to the new armory, just east of Liberty High School athletic field, at 8:00 Wednesday night, if you want to be of real patriotic service to your country and your community.

FALL IN! With the Texas State Guard.

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
 Austin, Texas

October 6, 1948

Officers and Men of the Texas State Guard:

Texas has made, and is continuing to make, many notable contributions to the preservation of World War II. Not the least of these contributions is that being made by the general welfare of the State by the Texas State Guard. The fact that it is organized efficiently and prepared to serve effectively whenever the security of the state and its people is threatened is of great value.

To the members of the State Guard belongs the rare privilege of participating in the tradition of the men who have taken up arms for the preservation of the things which mean so much to Texas.

Much of the work of the Texas State Guard, particularly the tasks of drilling, training and organizing the members into smooth working units, is unheralded and unobtrusive. Members of the Guard have given and given of their time. They have undertaken their tasks in good spirit, and the individual members have demonstrated a high degree of ability which will stand forever as a credit to them and their State.

In recognition of the excellent manner in which the Texas State Guard has accepted its responsibilities, and in appreciation of their constant and untiring service, I am designating the week of November 7-13 as TEXAS STATE GUARD WEEK by official proclamation.

With kindest regards and best wishes for a successful celebration, I remain,

Sincerely yours,
 Edw. R. Starnes
 Commander in Chief
 Texas State Guard

Copy of a recruitment advertisement for Texas State Guard Week that ran in local newspapers promoting Texas State Guard units that were active in the community. Guard weeks served as important venues for recruitment and information distribution on how to prepare the homeland during WWII. (Historical Advertisement Courtesy of The Texas State Guard)

The State Guard Signal Corps continued to grow and by the end of the 1950's they had approximately 500 stations. This network allowed them to provide important support to the National Guard and the Red Cross.

The Guard Network proved itself when it provided the only reliable communication between Red Cross Emergency shelters and emergency management officials during 1954's Hurricane Alice. In 1958, the network was used by the National Guard to connect with local first responders providing relief efforts during flooding in Edinburg and Rio Grande City.

The 1960's saw the State Guard take on another unique role as the Texas Army National Guard's 49th Armored Division responded to the Berlin Crisis. As National Guardsmen were called to federal service in preparation for a potential conflict with the United Soviet States of Russia the State Guard stepped in to secure and maintain the now mostly vacant armories positioned in 70 Texas communities.

In 1965, the Texas State Guard became an active member of the state's military forces along with the Texas Army and Air National Guard.

The Texas State Guard's history has helped shape their current mission sets as members still work to provide disaster relief when the state calls. Most recently members of the Texas State Guard were activated to assist in relief efforts during Hurricane Harvey. A mission they were uniquely suited for as members of the maritime force pressed into the flooded city of Houston Hurricane Harvey alongside their National Guard counterparts and rescued Texans in need.

-D

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TEXAS STATE GUARD LEGISLATIVE ANNIVERSARY

TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

Those four months of overtime refueling general aviation aircraft at the airport netted Williams \$2500 to donate towards the new tracks. Unfortunately, after Williams' donation, the museum still only had \$2500 for the project.

In the months following the donation, Williams saw little progress in the effort to raise the money, so he decided he would do it himself.

Over the course of the next year, Williams racked up almost 500 hours of overtime, earning the remaining \$7,500 making his total donation \$10,000, or a new set of tracks for a Sherman tank.

The final installment was handed over in a small ceremony at the museum in late January of 2018. Those in attendance, like Hunt, said that Williams is a truly special kind of person.

"You frequently find people whose hearts are in the right place, but don't follow through," Hunt said. "Josh, on the other hand, selflessly took this on all by himself and was able to execute."

For Williams though, the opportunities to explore his passion for history, to learn and teach and to be able to continue telling the story of Texas' fighting men and women has made all of the long days and nights worth it.

"I just love history that much," Williams said. "Everything about the museum I support 110 percent."

The Sherman and its new tracks are set to make their battlefield debut at the Texas Military Department's Open House held at Camp Mabry, April 20-21, 2018. The event will be free and open to the public. **-D**



*The Texas Military Forces Museum provides a demonstration of the sherman tank firing a round during the Texas Military Department Muster Day reenactment held at Camp Mabry each November and April.
(Photo Courtesy of: The Texas Military Forces Museum)*

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Story By: Sgt. 1st Class John Gately *Texas State Guard Public Affairs*

AUSTIN, Texas - Seventy-seven years ago, the Texas State Guard was officially established. On Feb. 10, 1941, the Governor of Texas signed the Defense Act creating the Texas Defense Guard. The act established the State Guard to protect the internal security of the State while soldiers from the National Guard were called into federal service for World War II.

The height of troop enrollment for the Texas State Guard led to 50 battalions and more than 17,500 personnel volunteering to help with civil service duties and state-side support of the war effort. Women interested in supporting the fight overseas also found a home in the Texas State Guard's female auxiliary corps, the Guardettes. These patriotic women were organized to assist with items like first aid, handling of motor vehicles and administration.

The State Guard consisted of troops from all walks of life – bankers, lawyers, doctors, merchants, ranchers, farmers, laborers and statesmen. Initially, without state or federally allocated funds, State Guardsmen provided their own supplies, equipment and uniforms. Some volunteers, unable to locate firearms due to wartime rationing substituted rifles with broomsticks and two-by-fours to continue training for homeland defense.

Often civic and patriotic clubs such as the American Legion, Rotary, Kiwanis, or Lions clubs sponsored local units. These sponsoring organizations helping with recruitment, formation and financing equipment.

In 1941, the Texas legislature created an emergency appropriation fund of \$65,000 for the procurement and distribution of munitions and other military supplies. In December 1942, the federal government stepped in, through the War Department, to issue regulation uniforms and shotguns to the State Guard.

Soon after equipping the state defense force, the War Department realized that the state defense force was an excellent training opportunity for potential active duty forces. Enrollment in the state force was opened to 16 and 17-year-olds, with the consent of their parents. This allowed the older State Guardsmen, many of whom were veterans of World War I, to mentor and train the younger troops making them combat ready when they turned 18.

U.S. Army Officials said that among a group of recruits, State Guardsmen were quickly identifiable as battle ready.

The training in Texas saved the federal government time and funds allowing these guardsmen to rapidly deploy and join the efforts overseas.

Through an amendment to the Defense Guard Act in May 1943, the name of the Texas Defense Guard was changed to the Texas State Guard. For the next year and half, the War Department continued to provide the Texas State Guard with federal property including rifles, machine guns, sub-machine guns, trucks, jeeps, ambulances and other equipment worth \$15 million (current value of \$200 million). The State Guard also participated in four training schools per year.

With interest in the State Guard waning following V-Day and the decreased need for statewide security forces once National Guard troops returned, the Texas State Guard was officially deactivated on August 28, 1947.

Though officially disbanded the Legislature kept the Texas State Guard alive through passage of a law authorizing a Texas State Guard Reserve Corps. This group would act to provide a reservoir of military strength should the need arise again.

Headquartered out of San Antonio the State Guard Reserve was initially authorized up to 18,000 members. Once fighting began in Korea, however, the U.S. Congress amended the National Defense Act, authorizing states to organize guards when any part of their National Guard was in federal service. This new regulation provided a total strength of 12,700 officers and enlisted.

After reactivation the Texas State Guard began establishing new roles for itself. One of the State Guards most unique missions began in October of 1948 when the U.S.S. Texas was named the flagship of the newly reformed Texas Navy. The re-establishment of the Texas Navy allowed the Texas State Guard to develop the nation's only Maritime State Guard force, the First Naval Battalion charged with patrolling coastal and inland waterways and assuring security in case of an emergency.

Leaders of the State Guard also realized that communications would be an important part of the military's future readiness needs. Efforts began to install communications equipment and provide training to the force. By the end of 1951, the State Guard's communications network had approximately 50 fixed radio stations and 100 mobile units throughout the state.

(CONTINUED)

TEXAS STATE GUARD LEGISLATIVE ANNIVERSARY



TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

of the scene as the role player laid across the floor, dead. This would be the first victim the officers encountered but they soon learned this active shooting simulation was moving toward becoming a mass casualty event. Role players inside the building called out for help or lay unmoving as the security force moved toward the gunshots echoing down the halls.

The security officers were soon joined by their partners in law enforcement all working with one mantra: Stop the killing, stop the dying.

"For us, participating in the annual force protection exercise lets us see where mistakes are being made," said Lt. Oliver Tate with Austin Police Department. "That gives us an opportunity to correct them before a real mass casualty situation, better equipping our officers to be able to stop the killing."

Responding security forces and law enforcement located the shooter and fulfilled their half of the days mantra, Stop the killing. It now fell to the fire and medical services to stop the dying.

"Once law enforcement stops the killing, you have to get EMS inside the building to get the wounded to the hospital

as quickly as possible. So, it's important that we can work collaboratively in a situation like this." said Capt. Mathew Rush with the Austin Fire Department.

Like the Police Department, Devine said he was looking for ways he could help make the officers who guard the base every day, even more capable.

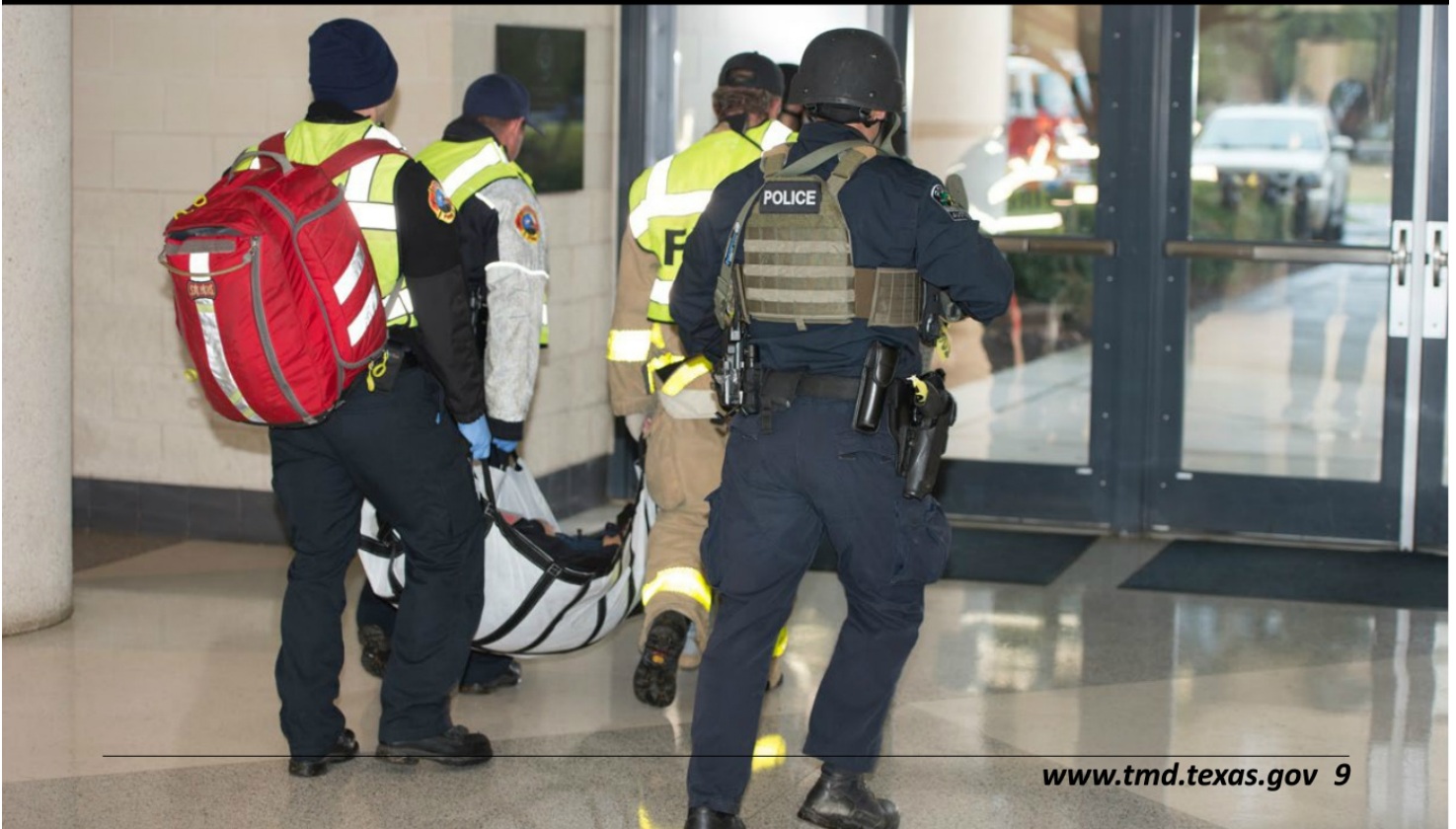
"Today gave us a good baseline to see where we can improve," Devine said. "That's why exercises like this are important; We can take a good response and make it even better."

Learning about each other and creating an environment where several agencies can work seamlessly toward a common goal was the real value in February's training, Tate said.

"It's important we learn to work and cooperate with each player that is going to have a role in one of these events," Tate said. "Whether is AFD, APD, the TMD Security officers, or just the administrative people who may be here, because those are the people that are going to have knowledge of the area and more than likely, the shooter." **-D**

◀ A Texas Military Department security officer and Austin Police officer work together to clear the Texas National Guard Joint Force Headquarters building during a simulated active shooter exercise hosted at Camp Mabry, in Austin Texas on February 21, 2018.

Austin fire fighters evacuate role player with simulated wounds to waiting emergency medical services while an Austin Police Officer provides security during a simulated active shooter exercise hosted at Camp Mabry, in Austin Texas on February 21, 2018 ▶



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TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

SILVER ANNIVERSARY

The Adjutant Generals Of Texas & Nebraska Mark 25th Anniversary of State Partnership with the Czech Republic

*Story & Photos by: Capt. Jose Martinez
State Partnership Program Officer*

PRAGUE – Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, the adjutant general for Texas, Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, the adjutant general for Nebraska, accompanied by command senior enlisted leaders from both states, traveled to the Czech Republic Feb. 1-2, 2018 to meet with senior Czech military leaders.

The unique relationships Texas and Nebraska have with the Czech Republic through the State Partnership Program reaches its 25th silver anniversary this summer. Through this program, Texas and Nebraska guardsmen have conducted numerous military exchanges with Czech service members that built and maintained a partnership capacity while also preparing for future coalition deployments.

The State Partnership Program was established in 1993 following the collapse of the Soviet Union. The program initially helped strengthen less militarily-developed Eastern bloc nations, increased training with NATO-member nations and encouraged accession into NATO. The Czech Republic formally joined NATO in 1999.

During the two-day stay in Bratislava, Slovakia both Texas and Nebraska Adjutant Generals met with senior military leaders from Poland, Romania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, and Albania.

NATO leaders were also present for the annual Chief of Defense Conference to discuss strategic military objectives for Eastern European and former Soviet bloc nations.

The visit reinforced partnership priorities and developed strategies for cooperation between Texas, Nebraska and the Czech Republic. It provided the opportunity to update each other on changes to force structure, upcoming missions and challenges being faced.

Both adjutants general and command senior enlisted leaders developed cooperation, and knowledge of capabilities to effectively execute the U.S.-European Command's Country Campaign Objectives and strengthen relationships.

During the exchange the relationship between the Czech Republic and the Texas and Nebraska National Guards were reviewed by both sides. Everything the nations had done together previously, and how to continue building the partnership to continue strengthening both mutual strategic objectives were discussed by those in attendance with a goal of strengthening the international friendship.

Texas and Nebraska leaders then accompanied the Czech general staff for a conference at the Czech Ministry of Defense where



Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, the adjutant general for Texas, & Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, the adjutant general for Nebraska, receive briefings on how members of the Czech Republic military conduct explosive ordinance disposal during a leadership exchange, Feb. 1-2, 2018.

they focused on the future, developing exchanges, partnership opportunities, multi-lateral exercises throughout Europe and how to bridge current military obstacles such as equipment modernization.

On the last day of their visit, National Guard leaders toured the Czech Army's 15th Engineer Regiment in Bechyne, and discussed with the regimental commander how to continue building on the engineer partnership for the future.

The countries conduct approximately four engineer-military exchanges each year. Military engineers specializing in explosive ordinance, countering roadside bombs and bridging work side-by-side training and sharing lessons learned. To build on this, the regimental commander requested Texas Soldiers conduct a bridging exchange in the Czech Republic, and Nichols asked that Czech engineers, specializing in explosives, visit Texas.

The formal 25th Anniversary of the State Partnership Program celebration is planned for the summer and will be held in Washington D.C. **-D**

TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

OUTSTANDING AIRMEN OF THE YEAR

Story by: Tech. Sgt. Mindy Bloem, 147th Attack Wing Public Affairs



Texas Outstanding Airmen of the Year winners showcase their awards for their respective categories. Pictured left to right: Master Sgt. Emily Martinez, 147th Attack Wing, First Sergeant of the Year; Staff Sgt. Desiree Ng, 149th Fighter Wing, Noncommissioned Officer of the Year; Staff Sgt. Brian Kelps, 149th Fighter Wing, Airman of the Year; Capt. Jennifer Marrs, 136th Airlift Wing, Junior Officer of the Year
(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Mindy Bloem)

10 **TheDISPATCH** March 2018



Texas Military Department **OPEN HOUSE** & American Heroes **AIR SHOW**
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FREE FAMILY FUN

MILITARY TANKS
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FIRST RESPONDERS
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CAMP MABRY*
 2200 W 35TH St.
 AUSTIN, TX 78703

APRIL 21-22
8AM - 5PM

tmd.texas.gov
 *photo ID required to enter post



Members of the Texas National Guard's 6th Civil Support Team travel to set up a safe perimeter following the unexplained deaths of more than 60 birds Jan. 8 through downtown Austin, Texas. (Photo Courtesy of af.mil)

6TH CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM PREPARES FOR TEXAS' DARKEST DAY

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

AUSTIN, Texas - When faced with a disaster or attack beyond the scope of local first responders it falls to the 6th Civil Support Team, a group of highly trained Texas National Guardsmen, to provide unique testing and analysis capabilities for disasters and attacks that may contain chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear material.

Texas has no shortage of potential targets. Within the state are three of the nation's five largest land ports and the second busiest seaport. Texas also hosts petroleum refinement facilities, two active nuclear-power plants and the nation's primary nuclear-weapons depot. All of these targets co-exist with a population growing toward 30 million and the largest landmass in the continental United States, leaving a lot of ground to cover.

Texas' 22-person team was one of 10 original pilot programs. Since the late 1990's the program has grown, with each state hosting at least one of 57 squads. Together, they can provide incident response across the country, with the first assets leaving a base in less than two hours.

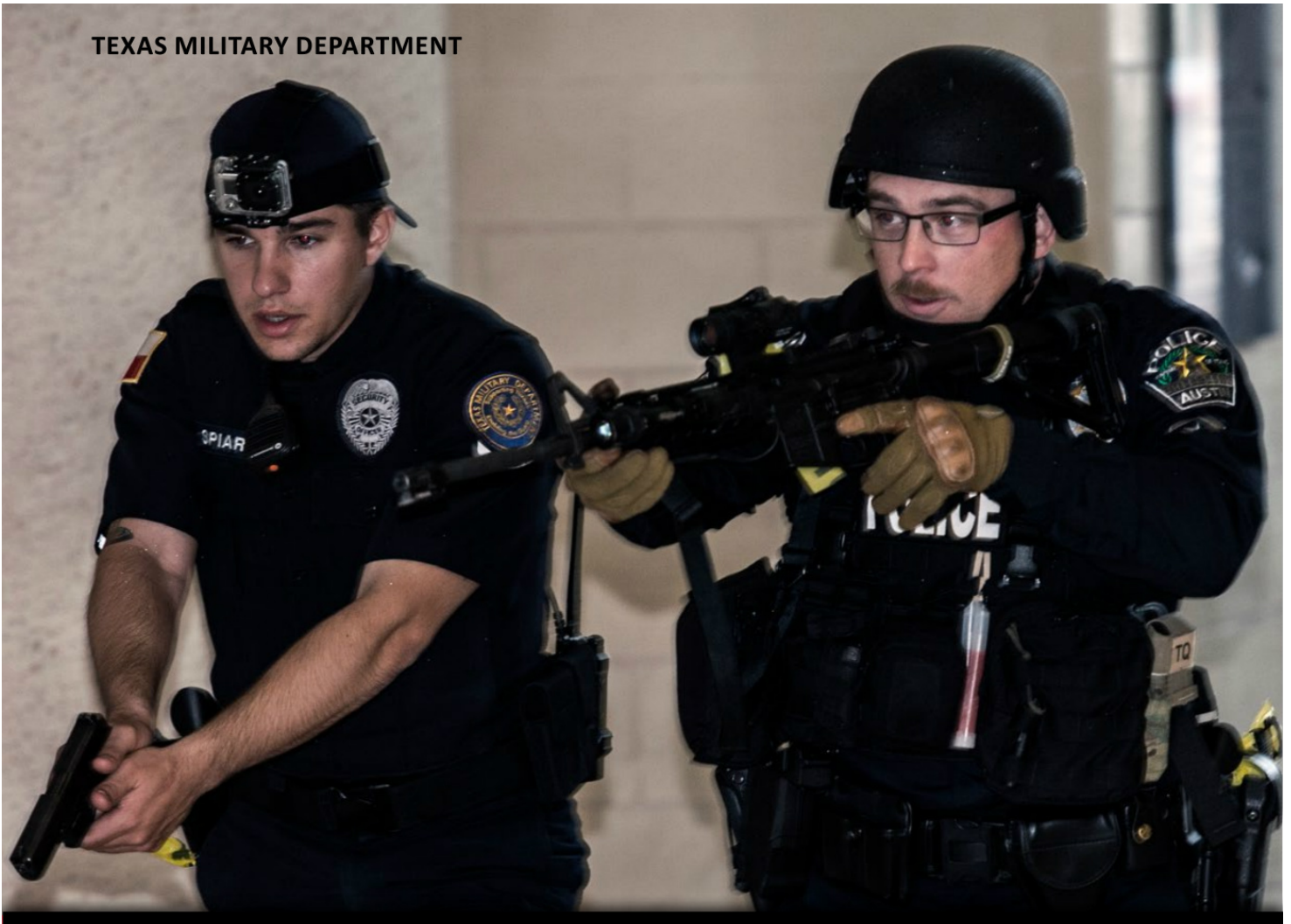
"When we are on gold cycle, we have a federally mandated 90-minute response time," said Capt. Bradley Smejkal, the deputy commander for the 6th Civil Support Team. "If we get called out we can sustain ourselves and operations for three days."

The team remains on gold cycle for a month at a time then rotates for a month to silver cycle, a phase that requires them to be on-site before the gold cycle responders three days of provisions has expired.

Once on site, the group brings a host of chemical and incident response assets with them, assets that are not typically part of a local HAZMAT response team's equipment.

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TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT



STOP THE KILLING

TMD ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING FOCUSES ON SAVING LIVES

*Story & Photo's by: Sgt. Mark A. Otte
Texas Military Department Public Affairs*

AUSTIN, Texas - The Texas Military Department Camp Mabry Security Force partnered with the Austin Police Department, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, Austin Fire department and Travis County EMS for a force protection exercise, Feb. 22, at Camp Mabry in Austin.

The annual event furthered the working relationships the agencies share, this time working together during an "active shooter" incident.

"With today's climate and the things you see happening around the country, you never know when an installation, with as many people as this, will have an active shooter

situation," said Roger Devine, the training sergeant with the TABC who helps train the security officers at Texas Military Department installations.

Camp Mabry Security Guards would be first on the scene during an incident at the post, therefore they took the lead in establishing a secure foothold inside the building. Officers went room-to-room clearing them of potential threats, identifying the location of casualties or wounded and attempting to eliminate the assailant or confine them until partner agencies could arrive.

As the first two guards entered the building they quickly encountered a victim that had been shot in the head. Realistic wound make-up was applied to increase the tension