



THE DISPATCH

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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT



OCTOBER 2018

# A BETTER HOME FOR GUARDSMEN



TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

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*Texas National Guard Joint Counterdrug Task Force Commander Col. Miguel Torres speaks with a Harlingen elementary school student during Operation Crackdown. Texas National Guard members demolished 24 abandoned structures in Harlingen, identified by local officials as high crime areas in August 2018. (U.S. Army National Guard Photo By: 1st Lt. Nadine Wiley De Moura)*

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**Interim Public Affairs Officer**  
Joshua Amstutz

**Public Affairs Manager**  
Laura Lopez

**Public Affairs Staff**  
Steven Alvarez  
Kyle Burns  
John Gately  
Caitlin Rourk  
Bob Seyller  
John Thibodeau

**Contributing Writers & Photographers**

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TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

# FROM THE TOP

## COMMENTARIES FROM TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT LEADERS



## ARMORIES ARE ESSENTIAL TO TRAINING AND DEPLOYING TEXAS GUARDSMEN

**MAJ. GEN. TRACY NORRIS**

DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL - ARMY AND COMMANDER, TEXAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

The Texas legislative session will soon be upon us and one of our primary legislative focuses will be the readiness of our facilities. Since its launch in 2014, the adjutant general's State of Texas Armory Revitalization (STAR) program has been a major initiative for the Texas Military Department.

STAR projects have led to vital upgrades at facilities, bringing them into compliance and ensuring the safety of those working in them. However, these projects cost time and money and require the support of the state and federal governments. We have placed significant emphasis on financial support for facilities updates in our budgetary requests to the Texas Legislature that will allow for the proper federal matching funds.

As many of you are well aware, many of our facilities are not only out of date, but out of compliance with basic life, health, and safety code standards. While each facility has its own unique set of challenges and needed improvements, some of the issues STAR projects fix at our facilities include new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, electrical wiring updates, restroom upgrades, plumbing fixes, and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance issues. Health and safety concerns at our facilities impede our ability to maintain peak level training and readiness. However, I have been impressed

with the projects completed so far, which include Westheimer, Pasadena and Grande Prairie, and equally impressed with the modernization of these facilities.

Last month I testified at the State Capitol on the importance of updating our facilities to ensure the health and safety of our service members in TMD buildings. Until the anticipated and scheduled STAR improvements are complete, this program will remain one of my top priorities.

We need our facilities to be in excellent condition not only for the sake of those working in them, but also so that we are best able to respond in times of emergency. As hurricane season gets into full swing, the memory of Hurricane Harvey weighs heavy on our collective conscience, and it is my goal to ensure our Soldiers and Airmen have all the tools they need to take care of themselves and the citizens of this great state.

I believe one of the most important tools we can provide are safe and functional facilities statewide. Thank you for your service. I am proud to serve in the Texas National Guard alongside such great men and women.

Duty, Honor, Texas. - **FROM THE TOP**-

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## TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

### Dispatch: Why does the TMD request funds for STAR projects?

**Col. Davis:** When you look at our facilities most were built in the 60s. Most have not had major renovations since they were built, and a lot of our major maintenance needs have been deferred for many years. It is important for us to go back in and modernize these facilities so they meet the current needs the state places on them. Obtaining the money we need through the state legislature and additional federal matching funds gives us the chance to go in and meet critical life, health and safety requirements.

### Dispatch: Are all the upgrades for life health and safety?

**Col. Davis:** We are able to go in and make some marginal improvements, like upgrading the information technology infrastructure, some electrical components and other items that stretch the life cycle of the facility.

### Dispatch: How does a STAR project benefit a local community?

**Col. Davis:** With these STAR projects comes a lot of money for the local community. Local subcontractors in these areas will directly benefit. We try to use Historically Underutilized Businesses, which means smaller local compa-

nies with a smaller number of employees are going to see us making purchases in their niche product field.

### Dispatch: How do you make sure federal money is spent with local companies?

**Col. Davis:** When the federal money comes in it is spent using the state process. This lets us keep more money with the local mom and pop businesses and brings a greater economic impact to the local area's economy.

### Dispatch: Can you explain what happens to armories if they don't receive these updates?

**Col. Davis:** Armories, and all buildings, have a life cycle, and that is typically about 20 years. As buildings near the end of that cycle major systems tend to degrade more rapidly. If we provide proper maintenance we can extend that life cycle out sometimes to 50 years. Without frequent and routine maintenance, if we keep deferring maintenance, then when the facility begins to fail, restoration becomes cost prohibitive.

### Dispatch: How do STAR projects aid the mission of the National Guard?

**Col. Davis:** They provide the ability to meet the mission requirements. One of those requirements is IT support. You have to be able to communicate with higher head-





**TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT**



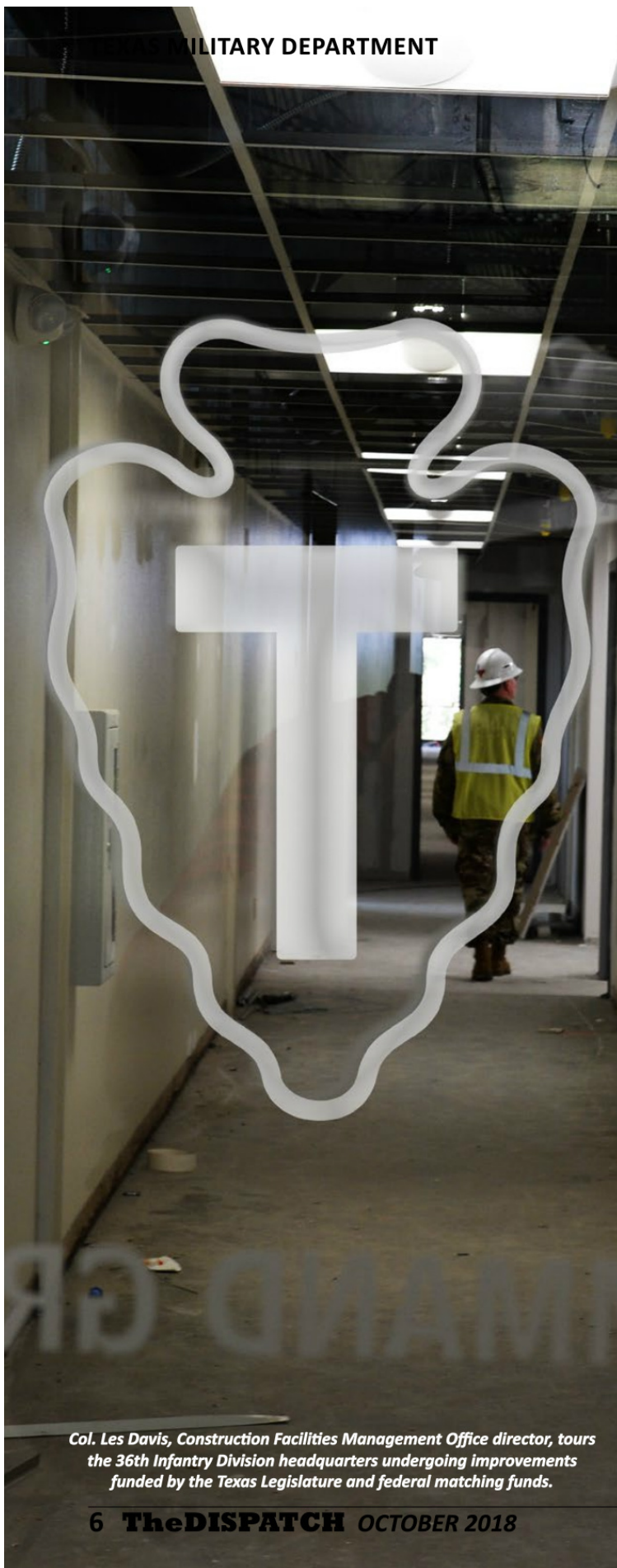
*(ABOVE) Collection of photos of the Bee Caves Armory gym before revitalization.*

*(BELOW) Final product of the Bee Caves Armory gym with painted walls, rehabilitated ceilings, floors and more.*



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MILITARY DEPARTMENT

# 36<sup>TH</sup>

## INFANTRY DIVISION HQ Upgraded During STAR Project

*Story and Photos By: Bob Seyller  
Texas Military Department Public Affairs*

AUSTIN, Texas – On the outside of the 36th Infantry Division’s armory located on Camp Mabry, there are few signs the 56,000 square-foot facility is undergoing a \$6 million State of Texas Armory Revitalization (STAR) project. There are hints that the 45-year-old building is under construction, like the chain link fence circling the facility and the muffled screech of circular saws drifting from inside, but for those familiar with the Arrowhead Division headquarters very little has changed outside.

For Tom Loftis, building and project manager, that means he is doing his job correctly.

“The upgrades we are making to this building are for health, safety and function,” Loftis said. “We won’t be putting in gold-plated water fountains or wasting any of the funds to make the place pretty, we needed all our money to bring this building up to code and supply Soldiers with facilities they need.”

Modernizing the building means adapting the building to meet the needs of today’s forces. For example, one of the female restrooms, Loftis explained, previously contained only one toilet for all the females in the building to share, a situation that made it difficult for Soldiers to work comfortably.

*Col. Les Davis, Construction Facilities Management Office director, tours the 36th Infantry Division headquarters undergoing improvements funded by the Texas Legislature and federal matching funds.*

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## TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

# Guardsmen Revitalize Gym and Workout Space in Bee Caves Armory

*Story and Photos By: Spc. Jason Archer  
100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

AUSTIN, Texas - The Bee Caves Armory received an upgrade this summer thanks to the vision of the 71st Troop Command team, support from the Construction and Facilities Management Office and the carpentry skills of Texas Army National Guardsman Sgt. Nathan Geurkink.

With some minor adjustments, a fresh coat of paint, and some skilled craftsmanship, the Cold War era building was turned into a more functional training space.

Sgt. Maj. Jason Morrow of the 71st Troop Command was a driving force in coordinating the talent of available Soldiers and the resources from the CFMO.

"We upgraded the gym to provide a space that inspires and motivates our Soldiers," Morrow said. "This upgrade will also help the readiness of our unit in preparation for the Army Combat Fitness Test."

The restoration has long been needed in the space, but with more than 150 facilities in Texas, the CFMO had so far been unable to dedicate the manpower needed.

"We have many avenues that commanders can use to improve their armories," said Peter Byers, maintenance supervisor for CFMO. "Projects are limited by the drive of a commander."

The current focus of the CFMO is STAR projects, which update aging buildings to current Department of Defense standards in order to provide a safe and functional area to work in and to maintain readiness. As such, building hazards that endanger life, safety, health, or occupation take precedence, but with clearance from CFMO soldiers can work to make some updates to their workspace.

"Self-help projects like this one are not common, but they're not unheard of," Byers said. "If a commander wants something like this, they just contact our office and submit a request."

The Bee Caves gym project met specific guidelines from the CFMO. It did not add to or detract from the foundational building, yet the upgrades greatly increased functionality. Through following this process, Geurkink was able to get supplies and some funding for the project.

"The on-hand supplies are dependent on funding," Byers said. "Usually we have supplies for cleaning, plumbing, painting, sheetrock, and some carpentry."

The improvement was a success largely because of professional diversity in the Texas National Guard and the organization's ability to utilize the unique skills that its Citizen-Soldiers bring to the table.

While in uniform, Geurkink supports Troop Command's supply operations as a traditional Guardsman, but he owns a construction company in the Dallas-Metro area when not in uniform. His work and expertise drove the vision to fruition.

"I came in, and there was asbestos in the floor, outdated wood paneling and the HVAC system was outdated," Geurkink said. "I restored the ceiling, redid the flooring without disturbing the asbestos and updated the paint."

Because of Geurkink's expertise, the project cost the organization a fraction of what it normally would have.

As the units training at the Bee Caves facility continue to grow, Sgt. Maj Morrow sets his sights toward using all available space for training and to maintaining the highest standards for Troop Command Soldiers.

"With three units drilling here, we have to find the maximum utilization of our space," Morrow said. "Sgt. Geurkink did a fantastic job, but I have plans to continue to update our training area in order to keep a ready force."

The project is ongoing; the next phase of repairs is scheduled to include the installation a new air conditioning system and a classroom for multi-unit use. **-D**



## TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

built along with a Red Cross field office, an indoor sports arena that could hold 4,000 people, and many baseball diamonds, tennis courts, and volleyball courts.

While there were a lot of activities on Swift, many Soldiers would go into Bastrop and Elgin on buses that ran constantly into the local towns. The Bastrop community opened their arms to the Soldiers and their families by opening two USOs.

Camp Swift was also a German Prisoner of War (POW) camp. Most of the German POWs were from the North Africa campaign and it is rumored they were from Erwin Rommel's Afrika Corps. At one point, there were more than 3,800 POWs at Camp Swift.

They had their own compound south of the main cantonment area of Camp Swift. The POWs made a life for themselves at the camp. They created sports teams, had bands, and were allowed to work in several offices of the camp. Once the war was over, the POWs were returned to Germany.

After the POWs departed, a letter was found on one of the typewriters in a camp office where one of the POWs worked.

It read: "Good-by big country, rich country, after 1000 days I'm leaving you forever. Good-by you level farm land, you cotton raising state, You proudest soil under the sun: 'My Texas.' Good-by especially to you, Fortress Swift With your barracks and training grounds; You took it from me, finally this consciousness of mine to belong to that brave mankind. Good-by busy office at this post, Good-by dear desks and copies and typewriters. Good-by folks, all you clerk-typists and lively Stenographers,

with silk stockings, powdered faces And rouged lips. I was amazed seeing you sitting Leisurely at hard work with "cokes" at hand. Good-by America: I'm going to England as a young slave And then to Russia as an old one. Good-by – You swell life."

With the end of World War II combat operations in 1945, Camp Swift transitioned from a training center to an out-processing location. More than 12,000 Soldiers came through Swift as they transitioned back to civilian life. The camp stayed in operation until June 30, 1946 when it was inactivated, and by that time, more than 300,000 Soldiers had come through Camp Swift to train for overseas deployment in both the European and Pacific theaters of operation.

With Camp Swift no longer having an active mission, the War Department began reducing the sizes of the many camps they had opened to train Soldiers. Much of the land that was part of Camp Swift was sold back to their original owners or was bought by other government agencies.

In December 1947, the remaining land of Camp Swift was leased to the state of Texas. Today, Camp Swift Training Center is 11,800 acres, and it is the largest and busiest training center of the Texas Military Department. It can house approximately 1,500 Soldiers, and has an extensive firing range complex that can support individual and crew served weapons qualification. Recently, Camp Swift was also the primary pre-mobilization training site in support of the war on terror, thus following in the footsteps of its original purpose started in 1942. **-D**



*Camp Swift service buses provided rides to the post from a local transportation station in Bastrop. (Photo courtesy Lt. Col. Phil Kost)*

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*(ABOVE) Soldiers attend the re-opening of the newly updated Grand Prairie Armory after the facility completed a State of Texas Army Revitalization program update. Funding for the project was provided by the Texas Legislature and federal matching money distributed by the National Guard Bureau. (U.S. Army National Guard Photo By: Spc. Liz Hernandez)*

*(BELOW) Dallas County Commissioner Elba Garcia, Construction and Facilities Maintenance Operations Project Manager Dedra Dahl, Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins, Lt. Col. Charles Brundrett and Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce President Michelle Madden cut the ceremonial ribbon to the Grand Prairie Armory during a ceremony held September 7, 2018. (U.S. Army National Guard Photo By: Spc. Liz Hernandez)*





## TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

quarters, and communicate with partner agencies during a disaster. It also keeps the major components like the HVAC system operational so the building is inhabitable.

### **Dispatch: Are there disaster specific updates that the STAR program is integrating into the armories?**

**Col. Davis:** Most of our armories don't have back-up electric generators or switch gears that let us bring in back-up generators. Our STAR funds are allowing us to include this equipment. This creates a more resilient facility. We had examples of this during Hurricane Harvey. For the most part our armories were functional, only two of them lost power, which was restored quickly, but that building is essentially rendered unusable until the power was back, because it cannot meet the mission requirements.

### **Dispatch: What happens if an armory is shut down during a disaster?**

**Col. Davis:** In times of disaster the armories often become an island. Not only do our units come to those facilities, muster, and then begin operations, often the community is going to come as well because they know if they come to the armory they will find someone who can help them.

### **Dispatch: Of the allotted funding, both state and federal, how much does TMD expend?**

**Col. Davis:** We spend 100 percent of all funds received. In the first round of STAR projects in fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2017, we received about \$19.6 million. We expended every penny of that.

### **Dispatch: How do you receive federal money for projects?**

**Col. Davis:** It is important for me to know the full component of funding I'm going to have available from the state. That lets me go to National Guard Bureau and leverage for matching funds. Depending on the facility we may go in and receive 50-50 match, or we may receive 75 percent of the funding in federal match with 25 percent coming from the state.

### **Dispatch: Is being proactive in seeking armory funding helpful in completing STAR projects?**

**Col. Davis:** Absolutely, with lots of great work with my staff every year we execute 100 percent of the state funds, and we leverage National Guard Bureau at the end of the

fiscal year for funding. We go all the way up to the last day of the fiscal year seeking money. In the past we've received more than \$12 million that fully funded all projects.

### **Dispatch: What is one of your favorite STAR projects to date?**

**Col. Davis:** It is hard to name a specific favorite, all of the buildings are unique. One of the most complex renovations we've had is the Fairview Armory. My staff had to work very closely with the contractors and vendors on Fairview, but it is a project that we learned a lot from and any project that you can learn from makes you better and more efficient on the next project.

### **Dispatch: What challenges does your staff encounter during a STAR project?**

**Col. Davis:** These are complex old buildings that we think we know everything about but when you start tearing into walls you realize there are problems no one knew about. Every project we have poses new challenges. Sometimes we find buildings that were never built to code or with rules that may have been different back then but we need to take time to fix these issues.

### **Dispatch: What does the CFMO want our Soldiers to know during a STAR project?**

**Col. Davis:** Our force needs to know we understand the difficulties and stress that it puts on a unit to relocate. Training requirements don't stop. We had a hurricane hit in the midst of restoration so we could not use that facility, but this is a small price to pay for a lifelong investment in our facilities. I can remember when I came in the Guard 25 years ago and they were old and run down then. We can't deliver a new facility but you deserve better than a run down dilapidated place to train.

### **Dispatch: What do you want local residents to know about armory restorations?**

**Col. Davis:** I want the community to understand that we are working to make our armories better for the community. For the last 20 years the Guard has been very busy so we have not been out in the local area much. We want to deliver the message that we are a component in the community and we are there to do the right thing. **-D**





# BUILDING THE GUARD A BETTER HOME

As the Texas Military Department (TMD) continues to build for the future we took a moment to discuss the State of Texas Armory Revitalization program with Col. Les Davis, director of the Construction and Facilities Management Office. He explained the importance of continuing funding and how old armories are being updated and upgraded to keep local communities safe.

(PAGE 8) Col. Les Davis, Construction Facilities Management Office director, visits the 36th Infantry Division headquarters to discuss updates and construction plans with contractors and work crews.

(PAGE 9) Col. Les Davis, Construction Facilities Management Office director, discusses installation and repair techniques with a construction crew member working on updating security features for a recent STAR project.

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# TEXAS STATE GUARD ENGINEERS REVIEW TEXAS GUARD FACILITIES

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

AUSTIN, Texas - The Texas State Guard Engineer Group has earned a reputation as a professional and experienced team which can conduct Texas Army National Guard installation and facility inspections for the Texas Military Department.

Since the unit began conducting inspections in 2013 at the request of the TMD Construction and Facilities Management Office, the group, comprised mostly of retired and veteran military engineers, has provided civil engineering and environmental infrastructure asset management support. So far, they have completed 36 installa-

tion status reports conducted at Ellington Field, Cobb Park, Fredericksburg, Angleton, Rankin Road, La Marque, Fort Sam Houston, Bee Caves, Camp Swift, Fort Wolters, and Rosenberg. From 2015 to 2017, the engineers completed reports covering more than 246,000 square feet of facility space.

The engineer group's installation status reports contributed significantly to the success of the TMD's appropriation of \$40,000,000 for sustainment, restoration, and maintenance work under the State of Texas Armory Restoration (STAR) program. The reports assist the National Guard Bureau in determining what funds are appropriated to the state to keep facilities and infrastructure ready to serve missions critical to national security.



*A team from the Texas State Guard Engineer Group examines a window air conditioner as an environmental safety issue during an installation status report inspection at Camp Swift, Bastrop, Texas, April 2018. (Texas State Guard Photo By: Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm Cowdin)*



## TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

## STATE OF TEXAS ARMORY REVITALIZATION

In 2014, The Adjutant General of Texas launched a 10-year plan called the State of Texas Armory Revitalization (STAR) program to help address the state's military facility needs. Through the allocation of state funding the department is able to secure federal matching funds to allow much needed life, health and safety upgrades in its aging armory infrastructure. Facilities designated in previous bienniums have been completed and are back to supporting their local communities, while others are still under construction. Though the provided funding has done much to increase troop readiness, only a handful of more than 50 armories have been brought up to code and meet the requirements of the force. The STAR campaign is a continuing program dedicated to funding sorely needed repairs and upgrades to facilities that both support Soldiers, and serve as a community resource in times of disaster.

## 2018 STAR Projects



**CAMP MABRY (Building 1) Austin**  
(FY - 2018 Project)

<b>TOTAL SQUARE FEET:</b>	<b>20,099</b>
<b>FUNDING SPLIT:</b>	<b>50 / 50</b>
<b>STATE COST:</b>	<b>\$2,700,000</b>
<b>FEDERAL MATCH:</b>	<b>\$2,700,000</b>
<b>TOTAL COST:</b>	<b>\$5,400,000</b>



**WESLACO ARMORY: Weslaco**  
(FY - 2018 Project)

<b>TOTAL SQUARE FEET:</b>	<b>74,541</b>
<b>FUNDING SPLIT:</b>	<b>50 / 50</b>
<b>STATE COST:</b>	<b>\$1,850,000</b>
<b>FEDERAL MATCH:</b>	<b>\$1,850,000</b>
<b>TOTAL COST:</b>	<b>\$3,700,000</b>



# 2021 Proposed STAR Projects

# STATE OF TEXAS ARMORY REVITALIZATION



**LUBBOCK ARMORY: Lubbock**  
(FY - 2021 Project)

**TOTAL SQUARE FEET:** 128,763  
**FUNDING SPLIT:** 25 / 75  
**STATE COST:** \$7,275,000  
**FEDERAL MATCH:** \$2,425,000  
**TOTAL COST:** \$9,700,000



**WACO ARMORY: Waco**  
(FY - 2021 Project)

**TOTAL SQUARE FEET:** 63,873  
**FUNDING SPLIT:** 50 / 50  
**STATE COST:** \$5,250,000  
**FEDERAL MATCH:** \$5,250,000  
**TOTAL COST:** \$10,500,000



**CORPUS CHRISTI ARMORY: Corpus Christi**  
(FY - 2021 Project)

**TOTAL SQUARE FEET:** 51,166  
**FUNDING SPLIT:** 50 / 50  
**STATE COST:** \$4,250,000  
**FEDERAL MATCH:** \$4,250,000  
**TOTAL COST:** \$8,500,000



**NEW BRAUNFELS ARMORY: New Braunfels**  
(FY - 2021 Project)

**TOTAL SQUARE FEET:** 22,914  
**FUNDING SPLIT:** 50 / 50  
**STATE COST:** \$2,125,000  
**FEDERAL MATCH:** \$2,125,000  
**TOTAL COST:** \$4,250,000



# TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

# RISING STARS



Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, the adjutant general of Texas, swears Maj. Gen. Tracy Norris, deputy adjutant general and commander of the Texas Army National Guard into the rank of major general during a ceremony at the Texas State Capitol on Sept. 9, 2018. (Photo By: Capt. Maria Mengrone)



Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, the adjutant general of Texas, swears Maj. Gen. Patrick Hamilton, Commander of the 36th Infantry Division into the rank of major general in the Texas Army National Guard. (Photo By: Master sgt. Michael Leslie)

**Brig. Gen. Anthony Woods**  
Deputy Commanding General  
Texas State Guard

**Brig. Gen. Robert Hastings**  
Commander  
TXSG Army Component

**Brig. Gen. Constance McNabb**  
Commander  
TXSG Medical Brigade

**Brig. Gen. Johann Kinsey,**  
Commander  
TXSG Air Component

**Rear Adm. Joe Cave,**  
Commander  
TXSG Maritime Regiment







*Camp Swift main gate during the 1940s.  
(Photo courtesy Lt. Col. Phil Kost)*

**Story By: Lt. Col. Phil Kost  
Officer in Charge, Camp Swift**

BASTROP, Texas - Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. military put into motion the necessary infrastructure to train and deploy combat troops where needed. As part of this plan, the War Department decided to build a U.S. Army training camp in the Bastrop-Elgin area of Texas.

On December 25, 1941, a telegram was sent by future U.S. president, Lt. Cmdr. Lyndon B. Johnson to the City of Bastrop notifying the community that a camp was to be constructed. By January 1942, contracts totaling more than \$21 million were awarded to companies from Texas and Oklahoma and the project was completed in about four months by about 12,000 workers.

The camp was named after the late Maj. Gen. Eben Swift who hailed from Fort Chadbourne, Texas. Swift attended the U.S. Military Academy and was assigned to frontier postings during the American Indian Wars, he participated in the Spanish-American War, and he would eventually be the first commander of the 82nd Division during World War I. Not only is



**Maj. Gen. Eben Swift  
Camp Swift Namesake**

the post named after him, but Swift is credited as being the "Father of the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP)."

Camp Swift opened May 4, 1942 and troops began to immediately train on the approximately 52,000 acres of training area. The first commander of Camp Swift was Col. Lawrence A. Kurtz and while numerous Soldiers trained at Camp Swift, on July 15, 1942, the 95th Infantry Division was activated at the camp and sent to the European theater after training. The 97th Infantry Division, 102nd Infantry Division, 10th Mountain Division, and the 2nd Infantry Division all trained at Camp Swift.

Along with these divisional units, more than 100 non-divisional combat and support units trained at the camp and Swift was also the home of one of 15 Army nurse basic training sites in the nation, graduating more than 800 nurses to support overseas operations.

The camp itself consisted of more than 2,700 buildings and provided many activities for Soldiers and their families. There were five service clubs, libraries, as well as five War Department theaters for Soldiers to watch the latest films during their down time. Several post exchanges were



**STATE OF TEXAS ARMORY REVITALIZATION**

**2019 STAR Projects**

**SOME NEEDED FACILITY REPAIRS**



**RUSTED AIR CONDITIONER**



**WORN OUT FLOORING**



**COBB PARK ARMORY: Fort Worth  
(FY - 2019 Project)**

<b>TOTAL SQUARE FEET:</b>	<b>35,549</b>
<b>FUNDING SPLIT:</b>	<b>50 / 50</b>
<b>STATE COST:</b>	<b>\$2,425,000</b>
<b>FEDERAL MATCH:</b>	<b>\$2,425,000</b>
<b>TOTAL COST:</b>	<b>\$4,850,000</b>



**SHOREVIEW ARMORY: Fort Worth  
(FY - 2019 Project)**

<b>TOTAL SQUARE FEET:</b>	<b>59,000</b>
<b>FUNDING SPLIT:</b>	<b>50 / 50</b>
<b>STATE COST:</b>	<b>\$2,125,000</b>
<b>FEDERAL MATCH:</b>	<b>\$2,125,000</b>
<b>TOTAL COST:</b>	<b>\$4,250,000</b>



**TERRELL ARMORY: Terrell  
(FY - 2019 Project)**

<b>TOTAL SQUARE FEET:</b>	<b>22,138</b>
<b>FUNDING SPLIT:</b>	<b>50 / 50</b>
<b>STATE COST:</b>	<b>\$1,600,000</b>
<b>FEDERAL MATCH:</b>	<b>\$1,600,000</b>
<b>TOTAL COST:</b>	<b>\$3,200,000</b>



# TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

# EMPOWER EVERY EMPLOYEE



## NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS





# SEND US YOUR FIELD PHOTO VIA THE TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT APP



**Staff Sgt. Yuliana Patterson  
Joint Counter Drug Taskforce**

Operation Crackdown, a program unique to the Texas National Guard's Joint Counterdrug Task Force, tears down nuisance structures in Harlingen, Texas on August 23, 2018. Twenty-four structures were torn down during the two-week long operation. Members of the program were recognized by Harlingen's chief of police for their continued efforts to tear down the crime-attracting structures. A local elementary school was invited to witness the demolition of the structure.

**Photo By: Maj. Craig Neeley  
2-149th GSAB, 36th CAB**

2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 149th Aviation Regiment Soldier of the month presentation to Spc. Angelique Laise, center, by Lt. Col. Charles R. Brundrett, left, and 1st Sgt. James McChristian, right.



**Photo By: Lt. Col. Jose Reyes  
36th CAB**

A member of the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade catches a photo of Maj. Gen. Tracy Norris, deputy adjutant general - Army, and commander of the Texas Army National Guard, asking a leadership conference who has downloaded the Texas Military Department app.





**STATE OF TEXAS ARMORY REVITALIZATION**

**2020 Proposed STAR Projects**



**CAMP MABRY (Building 8) Austin**  
(FY - 2020 Project)

**TOTAL SQUARE FEET:** 144,458  
**FUNDING SPLIT:** 50 / 50  
**STATE COST:** \$5,025,000  
**FEDERAL MATCH:** \$5,025,000  
**TOTAL COST:** \$10,050,000



**CAMP SWIFT: Bastrop**  
(FY - 2020 Project)

**TOTAL SQUARE FEET:** 20,099  
**FUNDING SPLIT:** 25 / 75  
**STATE COST:** \$4,687,500  
**FEDERAL MATCH:** \$1,562,500  
**TOTAL COST:** \$6,250,000



**CAMP BOWIE: Brownwood**  
(FY - 2020 Project)

**TOTAL SQUARE FEET:** 37,741  
**FUNDING SPLIT:** 50 / 50  
**STATE COST:** \$3,625,000  
**FEDERAL MATCH:** \$3,625,000  
**TOTAL COST:** \$7,250,000



**FORT SAM HOUSTON: San Antonio**  
(FY - 2020 Project)

**TOTAL SQUARE FEET:** 67,256  
**FUNDING SPLIT:** 25 / 75  
**STATE COST:** \$2,687,500  
**FEDERAL MATCH:** \$8,062,500  
**TOTAL COST:** \$10,750,000



“Our installation status reports help to identify problems, determine the condition of those facilities and indicate what repairs are recommended,” Col. Robert Hudnall, deputy commander of the Engineer Group said. “It is important that the Texas National Guard and the Texas State Guard have training facilities that are well-constructed, properly maintained and environmentally safe,” he added.

The 45-person Engineer Group consists of highly-trained professionals and technicians who hold licenses or certifications from the State of Texas. They are seasoned specialists in the civil, structural, environmental, mechanical and electrical engineering fields with more than 500 years of experience between them. Many more are plumbing technicians, state certified in water and wastewater systems. Others are experienced in utilities, heavy construction, engineering design, public works, concrete work, water production, high-voltage electrical, environmental issues and logistics.

“As engineers and technicians in the Texas State Guard, we contribute our knowledge and experience to the benefit of the Texas Military Department and the State of Texas without any cost to the state,” Engineer Group Commander Col. Patrick Fink said. “So far, we have saved the state from having to spend \$265,500 to hire outside contractors to conduct installation inspections,” he added.

In addition to providing the Texas National Guard with cost-free facility inspections, the Texas State Guard Engineer Group also provides mentorship to Texas Air and Army National Guard engineer units whose members are not required to be licensed engineers or credentialed technical specialists. -D



*Inspectors from the Texas State Guard Engineer Group check the electrical conduits and structural defects in a building at Camp Swift, Bastrop, Texas, April 2018. (Texas State Guard Photo By: Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm Cowdin)*

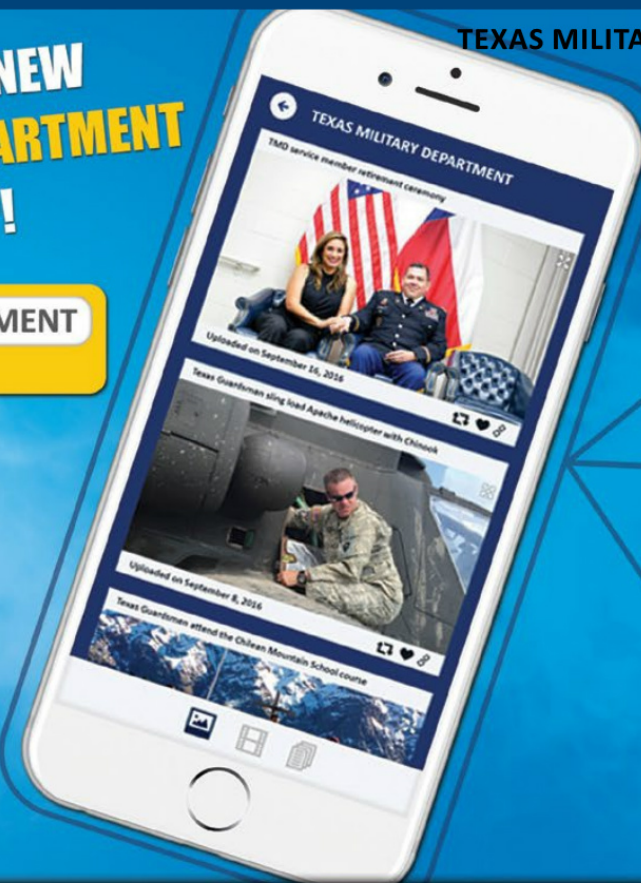


*Texas State Guard Engineer Group member Capt. Ian Taylor inspects an electrical circuit box during an installation status report inspection at Camp Swift, Bastrop, Texas, April 2018. (Texas State Guard Photo By: Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm Cowdin)*



TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

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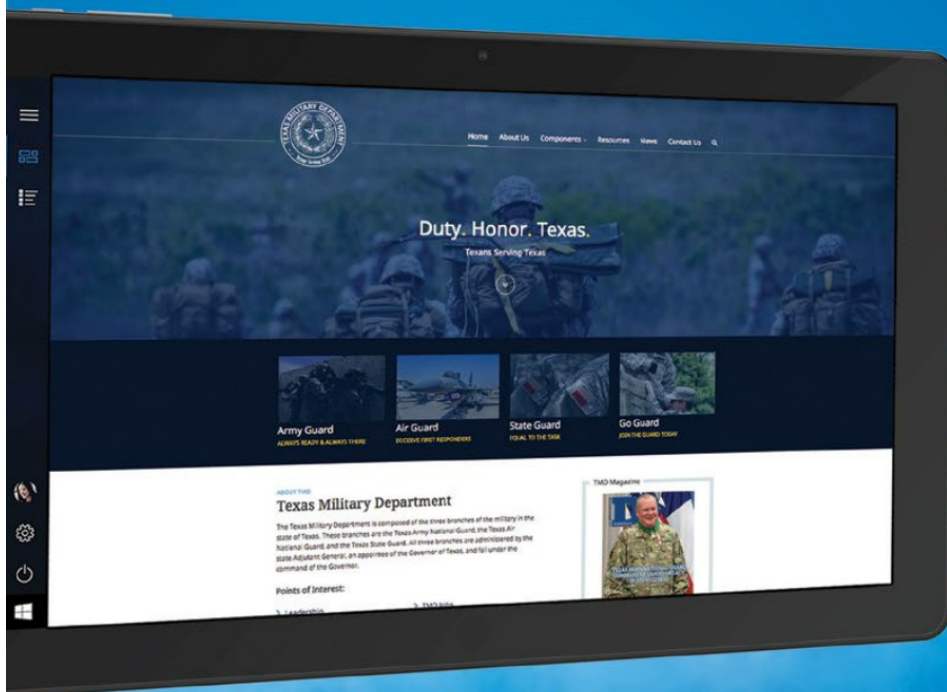


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TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

(ABOVE) A construction crew member reviews floor plans for the 36th Infantry Division headquarters currently under construction at Camp Mabry.

"In the 70s the force was mostly men," Loftis said. "But we need to have these facilities represent the current Soldiers and that means having facilities for all our Soldiers."

Unlike obvious changes like the female latrine, Loftis said numerous infrastructure projects would go unnoticed by most, but were essential to extending the service life of the building.

"We installed information technology baskets throughout the building so in the future the department can make rapid modifications to meet the technological needs of the force," Loftis said. "You never know what will be needed next by the Army to meet mission, so these make more sense than conduits," he added.

According to Loftis another key to extending the life of the building was locating unknown structural problems and applying solutions to mitigate or eliminate threats to the building. The biggest issue came from water pooling in the crawlspace and under the foundation.

After the initial review, a team determined that the entire building foundation and plumbing system had corroded. The rust was so thick and located in such a difficult location the only solution was to send crews under the foundation to crawl inch by inch and remove the rust by hand along every pipe in the building, Loftis said.

"Even though our building has been undergoing renovations for the past year, our operations have not been interrupted as we continue to maintain a high level of readiness throughout our ranks," Lt. Col. Oliver Mintz, chief of staff for the 36th Infantry Division said. "Part of caring for our Soldiers is providing them with a suitable facility that is equipped to meet the basic and advanced needs they require to perform critical functions in support of our state and nation."

The project looked at ways to save money during the revitalization process. Among the money saving tactics was recycling as many of the original materials as possible. Every door from the building was removed and underwent a restoration process that stripped decades of paint and replaced broken glass. Additional savings will come from replacing antiquated and failing air conditioning systems with high efficiency units. Loftis said the project will be completed by early 2019.

"We are a community-based organization, and the appearance of our facilities remains a priority for me," 36th Infantry Division Commanding General Maj. Gen. Patrick Hamilton said. "Our facilities are the first impression most will have of our organization, and I take great pride in ensuring they are something we are proud to show off to our neighbors. Our headquarters building is no exception." -D

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