

DISPATCH

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MARCH 2019

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

SERVING ALONGSIDE OUR LOCAL, STATE, FEDERAL & INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

March Dispatch

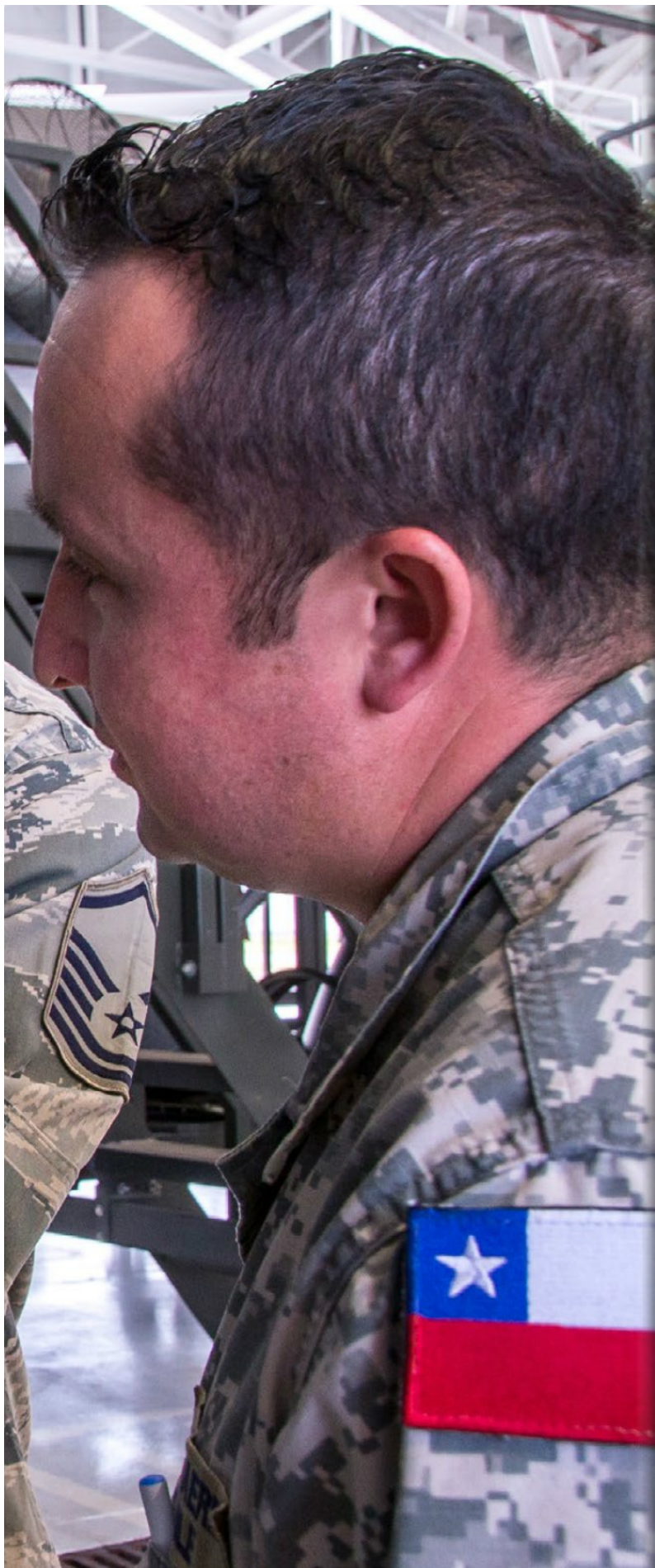
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(ON THE COVER) Staff Sgt. Jose Frias, aerial transportation technician, 26th Aerial Port Squadron, secures a 2,000-pound piece of cargo to a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter flown by Soldiers from the Texas Army National Guard, Company C, 2-149 Aviation Regiment, during a sling load training event on Feb. 1, 2019, at Martindale Army Airfield, San Antonio, Texas. The training event showcased a total force team of active, Guard, and Reserve service members, increased joint interoperability and developed inter-service relationships.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Christopher Boitz)

(Here) Texas Air National Guard Master Sgt. Jonathan D. Rinehart, an aircraft maintainer with the 136th Maintenance Squadron, explains the isochronal inspection process and associated work cards to Chilean Air Force Staff Sgt. Cristian Venegas, a 10th Chilean Aviation Group expeditor, Jul. 26, 2018, at Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas. The Chilean Air Force visited the 136th Airlift Wing as part of the State Partnership Program, which forges mutually beneficial partnerships with some of the wing's staunchest allies and partners worldwide.

(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Lynn Means)



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TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

FROM THE TOP

COMMENTARIES FROM TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT LEADERS



STRENGTHENING TMD'S PARTNERSHIPS

BRIG. GEN. THOMAS SUELZER
DIRECTOR - JOINT STAFF

Gen. Lengyel, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, stresses the mission triad of the National Guard: Fight America's Wars, Secure the Homeland and Build Partnerships. These missions are interconnected; building the capability in one strengthens and reinforces the others. It is the third leg of this triad, partnerships, that enables us to accomplish missions overseas and at home through our enduring relationships at the international, federal, state and local levels.

As citizen-Soldiers and Airmen, our unique civil-military culture embraces building bonds of trust and friendship to bridge different societies, organizations and people. Internationally, our State Partnership Program with Chile and the Czech Republic supports geographic security cooperation goals, provides exchanges of subject matter expertise and deters any potential foes. On the federal and state levels, teaming with our joint and interagency partners allows for a "whole of government" approach to be rapidly brought to bear in events like Hurricane Harvey. Locally actioned programs such as Counterdrug, Texas Challenge Academy and Texas STARBASE leverage the unique depth and breadth of our civilian skill sets along with our military training and experience to provide an essential and visible tie to the communities where we live and serve.

Moving forward, the necessity to become an innovative force that can counter the threats and challenges of a peer competitor requires that we embrace partnerships with public and private organizations. Collaborating with organizations like AFWERX, Army Futures Command and the Small Business Innovation Research program will ensure that the great ideas that reside in the field are efficiently turned into technological advances, improved processes and state-of-the-art training.

As you will see throughout this issue of *The Dispatch*, the Texas Military Department is a partnership-focused organization. Strengthening our partnerships strengthens the agency. Collaborating with our joint and interagency partners, legislators and surrounding communities ensures our personnel are supported, our communities are resilient and our strategic priorities are ultimately realized. Thank you for all you do to uphold our side of this grand bargain. Your service has earned us the trust and respect of the state and nation.

"Lofty words cannot construct an alliance or maintain it; only concrete deeds can do that".

- President John F. Kennedy -D

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BORDER MISSION REVEALS NEW CAREERS TO TEXAS GUARDSMEN

*Story by: Sgt. 1st Class Suzanne Ringle
36th Infantry Division Public Affairs*

EL PASO, Texas — As Texas Guardsmen with Joint Task Force Guardian Support continue to provide the U.S. Customs and Border Protection with assistance, citizen-Soldiers are being exposed to a career path they may not have previously considered. Texas Soldiers have been working alongside U.S. Customs and Border Protection staff to keep equipment running, provide surveillance and assist in other non-law enforcement duties, allowing agents to focus on catching smugglers and human traffickers at the border. This hands-on training has given Texas Guardsmen the opportunity to understand how the U.S. Customs and Border Protection works and see that their military career training can be applied to a civilian career at a federal agency.

"There is satisfaction of continuing to serve your country on the civilian side as an agent. But if you like adventure, if you're an adrenaline junkie there is always something new and exciting."

For some Guardsmen, multiple deployments have become a way to improve finances. Though strengthening one's fiscal footing is important, when perpetually done in connection with voluntary deployments, Soldiers and Airmen can see themselves sacrificing time at home and missing out on key family moments. Operation Guardian Support has shown citizen-Soldiers there may be a chance to work for a government agency where frequent deployments and required military schools are seen as a chance to hone skills that strengthen their role in a civilian career that makes a difference.

The CBP Operations Officer commanding the Special Emphasis Recruiting Team, John Sturgeon, believes his department shares cultural similarities with the military that can help Guardsmen find symmetry between both civilian and military careers—especially for Soldiers and Airmen who enjoy the fast-paced lifestyle of deployments.



Spc. Daniel Almodovar wraps Teflon tape around the tip of a hose as part of maintenance procedures for U.S. Customs and Border Patrol vehicles along the Texas-Mexico border on May 23, 2018. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Suzanne Ringle.)

"There is satisfaction of continuing to serve your country on the civilian side as an agent. But if you like adventure, if you're an adrenaline junkie there is always something new and exciting. Rarely, if ever, will you get the same day twice," Sturgeon said. "There is a promise of adventure here."

There are five service members currently in the application process within the El Paso area, including 22-year old Corporal Jose Carrillo of El Paso, who says even though he has lived in El Paso his entire life he had not considered the Border Patrol as a career option, until this mission.

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“I decided to apply mainly because of the money and benefits, but their jobs are mostly outside and hands-on,” Carriello said. He paused to think, and with a big smile said, “Oh, and they get really good gear!”

The reasons some service members choose to join CBP are as individual as the members themselves, but there are some common themes of security and stability that characterize their explanations. Though many employers in Texas work with Guardsmen to allow military service, the impact of a deployment is undeniable, as a company losing an employee has to re-balance or seek temporary hires.

Adding to employment concerns for some Guardsmen is a lack of understanding of current employment protections. Under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Act, it is illegal to terminate or force the resignation of a deploying service member due to his or her military commitment. According to Sturgeon, as an employer that frequently encounters military members, CBP is experienced in helping military members find time for deployments, drill and school.

“We have the benefits to support those that continue to

serve either the National Guard or Reserves; we provide military time off needed for drill and annual training. If they have active duty time they can buy that time back and it goes toward their retirement annuity,” Sturgeon said. “And if they must deploy, we will hold their position and location; it will be waiting for them when they get back.”

As a mechanic for El Paso-based 3rd Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment, Sgt. Juan Hernandez happens to already be an agent. He gave praises for his Border Patrol bosses, explaining the balance between agent and Guardsman.

“I think the two careers go hand in hand. Being an agent is a government job. They know about our weekend drills and my two weeks or if anything changes...but with as long as I have been in, there has never been an issue with my employer; not for military schools, training...Hurricane Harvey or whatever, there’s never been an issue,” Hernandez said.

The Guard, especially in Texas, has worked closely with the CBP for over a decade, leading to an increase in the



A Texas Guardsman and a U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agent discuss the lay of the land on the shores of the Rio Grande River in Starr County, Texas, April 10, 2018, as part of the federal call-up to the Texas-Mexico border. Soldiers called to duty at the border support federal partners and primarily serve in observe-and-report roles. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Otte)

hiring of Guardsmen and veterans. Currently there are no hard numbers for exactly how many Guardsmen CBP has recruited from border deployments, but CBP recruiters are working on recruitment-tracking tools that better locate if a member of the force joined after working alongside their agents.

After speaking with several agents that joined CBP after Operation Jump Start, which ended in 2009, Sgt. Ryan Smith, 3rd Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment, applied and now waits for an appointment date. Smith explained having a steady income and schedule versus the erratic feast or famine of security contracting gigs and the draw of being outdoors is just what he wants. "I like the outdoors and more often than not as an agent I'll be out in the country. I know they will work with my military, plus the money is not bad," Smith said.

Operation Guardian Support offers a multitude of benefits for service members and their families, the communities in which they live and the Border Patrol. Sturgeon feels passionately about the partnership the Texas National Guard and CBP enjoy and highlights the opportunities for citizen-Soldiers.

"This is not a dull career. It's a great opportunity with great benefits. There's an abundance of opportunity. After training you can branch out to special operations, training, recruiting, instructing and more," he said. "This is a career you can enjoy for the following 20-years or more plus a great opportunity to serve and enjoy serving your country."

For Soldiers interested in participating in Operation Guardian Support, please contact your readiness NCO to discuss potential border operation positions. **-D**

"This is not a dull career. It's a great opportunity with great benefits. There's an abundance of opportunity. After training you can branch out to special operations, training, recruiting, instructing and more."

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A Texas Guardsman from El Paso's 3rd Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment, helps keep Del Rio sector's U.S. Customs and Border Protection rolling out to the line while working with the maintenance department mechanics. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Suzanne Ringle.)



A Texas Guardsmen from 3rd Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment, on deployment to the Presidio U.S. Customs and Border Protection Border Patrol station on the Texas-Mexico border takes a closer look to the underside of an ATV during a routine maintenance check, May 23, 2018. (Photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Suzanne Ringle)



At the Texas-Mexico border Eagle Pass point of entry, a Texas Guardsmen with the 1st Battalion, 124th Cavalry Regiment, searches through the cab of an 18 wheeler to assist the Customs and Border Patrol July 11. (Photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Suzanne Ringle, 36th Infantry Division Public Affairs)

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TEXAS GUARD COUNTERDRUG TEAM PARTNERS WITH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR

TACTICAL EMERGENCY CASUALTY CARE

*Story & Photos by: Capt. Nadine Wiley De Moura
Joint Counterdrug Task Force Public Affairs*

AUSTIN, Texas – Since 2017, Texas National Guard Joint Counterdrug Task Force members have provided support for the Texas Department of Public Safety’s Tactical Emergency Casualty Care training by implementing their first-hand military experience for roughly 500 recruits and several multi-agency classes across the state.

Once or twice a month, Guardsmen assist in the department’s Reality-Based Training Unit courses in Florence and throughout the state.

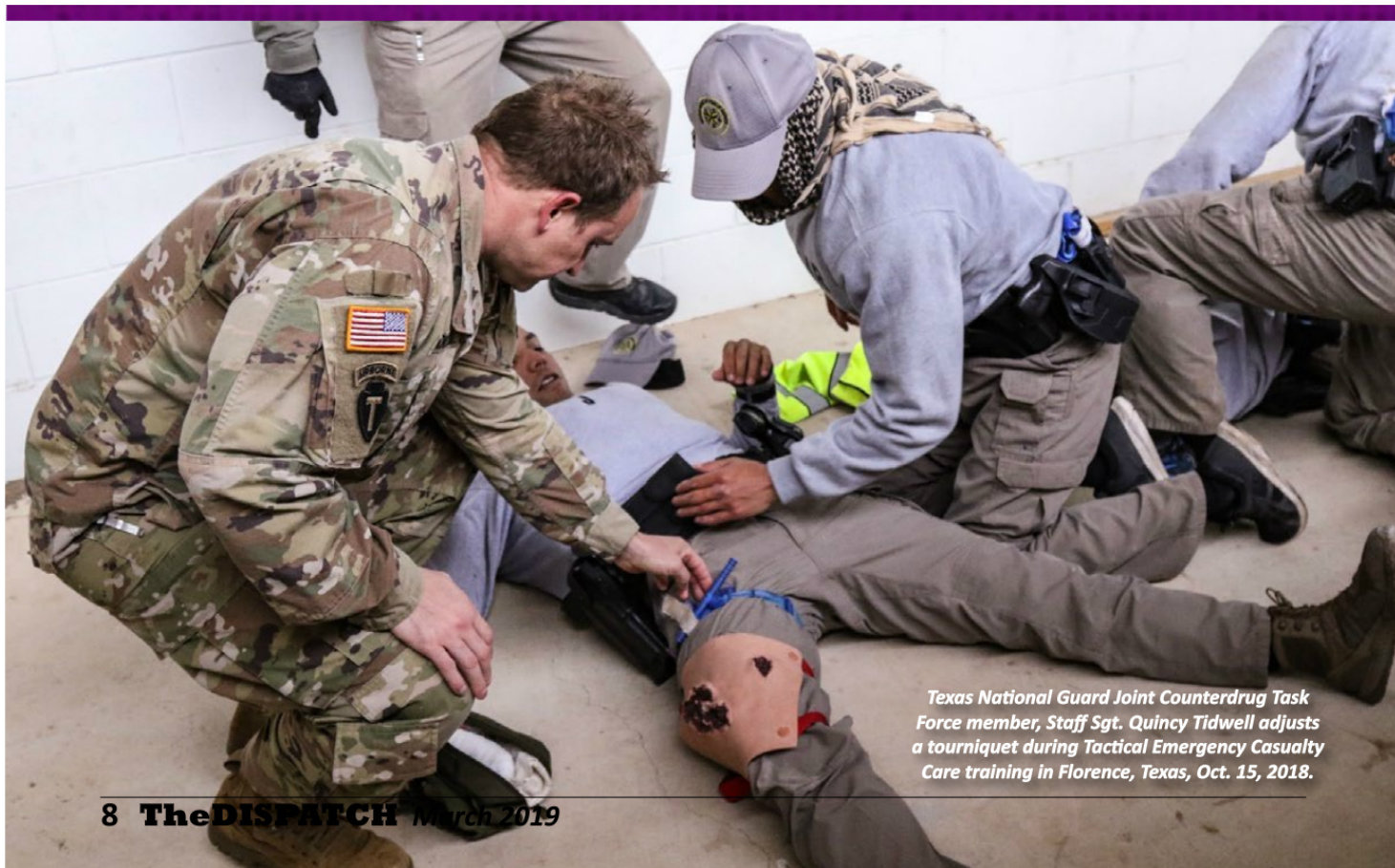
“The Texas Guardsmen support is important because it adds additional instructors that can help us out, especially with large classes,” said Sgt. Jose Chavarria, the DPS Reality-Based Training Unit instructor. “More instructors allow for a greater instructor-to-student ratio. The Guardsmen

bring to the table different experiences and perspectives and they are able to share examples.”

As the training unit fine tunes its curriculum for the emergency casualty care course, troopers like Sgt. Chavarria look to the military’s Tactical Combat Casualty Care because of the similar fundamentals.

“The TECC class is very similar to our TCCC so we are able to bring that same training along with the experience we have from the field or deployments,” said Master Sgt. Rolando Garcia, Texas National Guard Joint Counterdrug Task Force member. “There is a lot of overlap while aiding in instructing these classes. There is so much repetition that you get to know it that much better.”

Garcia and the other Soldiers who participated in supporting the classes were also exposed to other emergency care techniques, which they plan to take back to their units.



Texas National Guard Joint Counterdrug Task Force member, Staff Sgt. Quincy Tidwell adjusts a tourniquet during Tactical Emergency Casualty Care training in Florence, Texas, Oct. 15, 2018.

The team of Guardsmen that assisted the training was recognized with one of the highest DPS awards: the Director's Award. According to Texas DPS award tracking records, since 2003, non-troopers have earned only 198 Director's Awards.

Since Guardsmen began supporting the TECC classes, troopers have put their training to use in the field.

"In service year 2017 to now, there have been approximately 60 medical interventions—meaning troopers are using the knowledge and applying tourniquets, direct pressure, wound packing and basic fundamentals," Chavarria said. "I think that has a lot to do with what we're doing as a joint effort. As a whole team we are pushing this training and knowledge on our troopers."

Agencies around the state have also begun implementing and seeking the TECC training.

Following the Santa Fe, Texas, shooting, DPS Trooper and Emergency Medical Technician Colin Kolpski reached out to the Reality-Based Training Unit in order to bring the TECC training to law enforcement agencies in the Galveston region.

"After the Santa Fe incident I saw an opportunity to start this training, to bring it out to as many people as we can and bring it back to the county I work with," Kolpski said. "We wanted to bring these life-saving techniques and extra added tools to not only save themselves, but to also save the lives of others they come in contact with."

Texas Game Warden Jennifer Provaznik, one of the 30 officers who attended the multiagency training in Texas City, said the training is going to save lives one day.

"The state trains us very well," said Provaznik. "I think this training was more involved with the wounds in the legs and more interactive scenarios over a two-day period."

As a game warden, Provaznik's job is different from other law enforcement officers in the state because almost everyone she comes in contact with is armed.

"Everyone you deal with has a gun because they are either road hunting, deer hunting or doing some sort of hunting," Provaznik said. "Everyone has a rifle so you have to be more prepared and on point because you never know what's going to happen. That is why we train so vigorously."

During the training officers have a day of classroom instruction where they learn or refresh their knowledge on applying tourniquets, packing wounds, applying bandages and pressure and making an improvised litter to carry up to 400 pounds using a 25-foot tubular webbing.

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Texas National Guard Joint Counterdrug Task Force member, Staff Sgt. Rene Cervantes instructs a recruit on better methods to apply pressure to a wound during casualty care training in Texas City, Texas, Dec 4, 2018.



Texas National Guard Joint Counterdrug Task Force member, Staff Sgt. Timothy Bresson, helps DPS instructors set up the table for a hands-on course in packing wounds, applying pressure and using tourniquets during TECC training in Texas City, Texas, Dec 4, 2018



Texas National Guard Joint Counterdrug Task Force member, Staff Sgt. Christopher Gregory removes a tourniquet during a real-life-based scenario for TECC training in Texas City, Texas, Dec 6, 2018.

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Instructors also discussed how to remove a victim from a vehicle and away from the danger zone while suppressing the threat.

On the second day, the officers apply everything they learn in real-life-based scenarios.

In one scenario, a responding officer has to apply two tourniquets blind-folded to an officer who is down.

In another scenario, the responding officer has to address leg and neck wounds. In the third scenario, the officer has to respond to a truck accident, pull the victims out of the car and administer medical care.

In the last scenario, the officers have to suppress the threat, remove a victim from the scene and provide medical care.

"I've been—unfortunately—at a lot of traumatic scenes, and it's very helpful to be able to think more quickly and be able to apply things more effectively," Provaznik said. "The biggest thing I got out of this is how to pick up people larger than myself, at my 5-foot, 6-inch and 135-pound stature—which I have to do a lot of in the field. I liked the blind-folded tourniquet station because I work a lot of night shifts and my flash light fails all the time."

Provaznik added that getting to hear the Guardsmen's first-hand experience in addressing gun-shot wounds was especially useful for her in her line of work.

"This multi-agency training made me feel more comfortable because I know whenever I am struggling, we all know what is supposed to happen, we've all been trained with the same tactics," Provaznik said.

Officers and Guardsmen alike agreed that the relationships that have been built through the multi-agency TECC training are invaluable.

"I think it's such a mutually beneficial relationship for all of the agencies involved," said Master Sgt. Rolando Garcia. "It prepares our state's troopers, prepares other departments, refreshes training for the Counterdrug Guardsmen involved and makes us stronger as a state."

In the future Chavarria said that DPS plans to continue refining the curriculum and eventually extend classes to civilian allies and members who deal in general public services.

"The concept is that we will be able to provide guidelines for if you are in a situation that has some kind of threat, car on fire, active shooter or something that is life-threatening, you will have some knowledge to stop and control the bleed and get to hospital," Chavarria said.

The Reality-Based Training Unit plans to continue coordinating and drawing from the experience of Guardsmen to enhance their program. The Iowa National Guard Counterdrug Task Force has also visited and played a role in providing expert medical training.

"We are grateful that we have had the opportunity to work with the Texas Counterdrug program, and Iowa's as well," Chavarria said. "The Counterdrug programs have helped us shape the program by providing perspective and assistance and so much knowledge—we couldn't ask for anything more." **-D**



Staff Sgt. Timothy Bresson gets into character in a real-life based scenario as an officer wraps a pressure bandage on an injured victim during TECC training in Texas City, Texas, Dec. 6, 2018. Since 2017, Texas National Guard Counterdrug Task Force members have provided support for the Department of Public Safety's Tactical Emergency Casualty Care training by implementing their first-hand military experience for roughly 500 recruits and several multi-agency classes across the state.

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Senior Airman Timothy Watson and Staff Sgt. Jose Frias, aerial transportation technicians, 26th Aerial Port Squadron, secure a 2,000-pound piece of cargo to a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter flown by Soldiers from the Texas Army National Guard, Charlie Co., 2-149th Aviation Regiment, during a sling load training event on Feb. 1, 2019, at Martindale Army Airfield, San Antonio, Texas. (U.S. Air Force photo by: Master Sgt. Christopher Boitz)



ARMY & AIR GUARD TRAIN TOGETHER

SOLDIERS AND ARMEN LEARN SLING LOAD TACTICS IN JOINT TRAINING

*Story By: Col. Kjäll Gopaul
Headquarters Air Education and Training
Command (HQ AETC), Mission Pathfinder*

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — As foreboding clouds blanketed the gray morning skies above an austere landscape, two helicopters followed a trail of billowing green smoke onto their landing zone in an awe-inspiring partnership of joint, Total Force capability. On February 1, 2019, warfighters from across the state of Texas converged on Martindale Army Air Field for “Operation Dust Storm,” one of San Antonio’s most ambitious and complex medical evacuation exercises in recent memory. The mission involved two landing zones at Kelly Air Field and Martindale Army Air Field, two Texas Army National Guard aviation units, another Texas Army National Guard unit providing air traffic control, three Air Force security force squadrons, two Air Force Reserve aerial port squadrons, an active-duty Pathfinder team and a blended patient transfer team composed of Air Force Reservists and Army active-duty service members.

“Operation Dust Storm,” named in homage to the dust-off moniker ascribed to MEDEVAC aviation units, saw the flawless, rapid-fire execution of a series of medically related mission-essential tasks. It began with the patient transfer of five litter and ambulatory patient actors from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter flown by Texas Army Guardsmen. A

mass casualty movement of an additional 26 ambulatory patients followed, including loading patients onto a helicopter with an interim MEDEVAC mission support system, 14 sling-load sorties of more than 50,000 pounds of medical supplies and a HMMWV ambulance, in conjunction with a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. The operation concluded with the airmobile extraction of remaining ground forces from the landing zone—all under watchful eyes of air traffic controllers from the 2-149th General Support Aviation Battalion.

Offering the aviator’s perspective of the mission, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ryan Thurgood, Aviation Mission Survivability Officer, Bravo Co., 2-149th GSAB, the pilot in command of the CH-47 and the event’s air mission commander, was impressed that such a diverse team operating together for the first time flawlessly executed so many different tasks. “Operation Dust Storm was a big mission with a lot of moving parts, and it was flawlessly orchestrated as a textbook sling-load operation. The training value for our aircrew was tremendous,” said Thurgood. “We worked on both dual-point and single-point sling load hook-ups—it was a real benefit for our aircrew to have repetition on a variety of configurations. And working with a live ground crew underneath the aircraft helps the aircrew understand how the hook-up team interacts with the helicopter when we’re hovering right over them.”

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Thurgood assessed that the multi-service partnership benefited all of the involved units.

“Joint training makes us better as a military. In addition to increasing our technical proficiency, the participants gain confidence in the other services’ ability to perform these tasks well, and that builds trust and confidence for future, more ambitious, opportunities,” said Thurgood.

One of the litter bearers, Maj. Maria Kurtz, a gastroenterologist at Brooke Army Medical Center added, “Using live patients raises the performance bar—you can’t quit. This was the most demanding part of the whole exercise for me. I have a new appreciation for their power and capability of helicopters. You have to maintain your situational awareness—where the safe zones are, how to approach the aircraft, where the rotor tips are and how difficult it is to communicate with the noise.”

The pick-up zone noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Technical Sgt. Steven A. Rose, 26th Aerial Port Squadron, highlighted the complexity of the sling load activities. The previous night-time mission only involved one type of aircraft, one type of load and one type of hook-up method with one touchdown point—a single-point hook-up for an A-22 cargo bag under a UH-60 Black Hawk. During Operation Dust Storm, the team had two types of aircraft flying over three touchdown points with three different types of loads: a 2,000-pound single A-22 cargo bag, a 4,000-pound double A-22 cargo bag using single-point hook-ups and a 7,000-pound HMMWV that required a dual-point hook-up for the Chinook.

Rose emphasized that his hook-up teams were up to the task.

“We were constantly hustling to be ready for the next lift, and you could feel the enthusiasm and energy on the LZ from start to finish. We made adjustments—like when the wind changed direction or the lift order changed—stayed motivated and kept things moving,” he said.

One of the hook-up team members, Senior Airman Timothy Watson, 26th Aerial Port Squadron added, “Operation Dust Storm was important because its realism was closer to what we’d face downrange. While we usually train on loads for Air Force cargo planes at home-station, when we deploy we might work alongside other services to transport many different types of cargo in all sorts of configurations. This mission gave our team a lot of experience with new loads and aircraft, an opportunity to train with the Army and how to be adaptable.”

Rose added that it was valuable for his Airmen to see the entire task—that the loads they rigged were the same

loads that they hooked up and then watching their loads being flown overhead. Witnessing the full process take place, he explained, helped them understand the importance of taking ownership for the readiness and air worthiness of their cargo as part of the overall mission.

Offering the air traffic control perspective was Staff Sgt. Alvin Long, mobile tower system facility chief and unit readiness noncommissioned officer, Foxtrot Co., 2-149th GSAB.

“We controlled multi-ship sling loads, working the aircraft into our traffic pattern to maintain safe separation as they approached, and listened to the pathfinder operations on the radio to anticipate future activity.”

He added that participating in a mission as complicated as Operation Dust Storm was a great opportunity for home-station training. “The task was more involved than simply putting an aircraft into a normal traffic pattern for our airfield without carrying an external load. Rather, we operated with multiple aircraft, different airframes and different cargo simultaneously. This required a lot of out-of-the-box thinking for the different loads—the lighter ones versus the heavier ones—while taking into consideration how the various aircraft perform differently.”

Long said his team of air-traffic controllers benefited from the large volume of air traffic during the mission. The repetition allowed the air-traffic controllers to make air-traffic-control instructions clearer and more concise for pilots and to improve as the exercise continued. “We quantify air traffic control through operational hours and traffic movement counts. So, our three personnel over four hours earned 12 operational hours, and our traffic movement counts—the number of landings, take-offs or runway crossings – was about 70,” said Long. “That’s a really good amount. This helped our readiness level progression to maintain training currency, and we qualified one of our newer soldiers to ‘readiness level 1’ to control traffic.”

The last event was the tactical movement of 26 joint personnel off of the landing zone for their forward deployment as part of the mission scenario. Kurtz said she didn’t know what to expect for the tactical passenger movement aboard the Chinook, having only flown on a military cargo plane years earlier, which was markedly different from her experience aboard the Chinook. But even with lots of new experiences under her belt, Kurtz described the day’s events with enthusiasm.

“I thought it was a fabulous mission. The adrenaline that you feel working around a live aircraft and with live patients heightens your sense of urgency and focus. This comprehensive MEDEVAC training makes us better team

members because you appreciate everyone else's duties for the many tasks being executed," she said. "You gain respect for their perspective and priorities, and the practical training helps you internalize this. Operation Dust Storm is the type of experience that a lot of us signed up for, you want to be out there. Not every deployed situation offers this type of experience, so when the opportunity presents itself, it is worthwhile to take advantage of it."

Capt. Jessie Guajardo, Operations Officer, Dallas Army Aviation Support Facility, Texas Army National Guard, coordinated the participation of the CH-47 with initial planning going back to November 2018. Afterward, he said, "Every aircrew member was extremely pleased with the mission's execution and was excited to work with the other branches of service. We deal with many customers and this multi-service team performed at the highest of levels. I hope we can train again soon."

Staff Sgt. Charles Jackson, a critical care flight paramedic, Charlie Co., 2-149th GSAB, served as the crew chief aboard the UH-60 Black Hawk. He remarked on the benefit of the exercise for his unit. "It was a great training opportunity because we had different agencies working together, multiple aircrews, a lot of beneficial repetition of the tasks and a very realistic LZ setup," said Jackson. He also underscored the benefit of training with diverse sling loads. "We progressed from the 2,000-pound load to the 4,000-pound load. It's good experience for the aircrews to have that repetition with a heavier load like that. This directly relates to our wildfire suppression missions for the state of Texas. Our unit can be called up for 'Bambi Bucket' taskings, where we carry a heavy water bag to fight forest fires."

Jackson observed that he has seen increasing partnerships among the military services. "Today, we had multiple agencies out there working together. Years ago, these missions might have been more self-contained and separate – just an Army exercise or just an Air Force exercise. But, I've noticed that the military is increasing in inter-agency cooperation, so it's good to have exercises like Operation Dust Storm to strengthen the communication between the branches and joint services."

Lt. Col. Luis Berrios, Chief Nurse of the 433rd Aeromedical Staging Squadron, directed patient transfers and echoed Jackson's sentiment from an Air Force perspective. He said Operation Dust Storm "provided an incredible hands-on, joint-service experience, increased morale and significantly enhanced our launch and recovery skill-sets. We look forward to future engagement opportunities with the Texas Army National Guard." **-D**

*Sgt. 1st Class Dion Cortez looks over Martindale Army Airfield during approach for a sling load training event, San Antonio, Texas, Feb. 1, 2019.
(U.S. Air Force photo by: Master Sgt. Christopher Boitz)*

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AMIGOS OR PŘÁTELÉ

Maj. Mark White
Director of the State Partnership Program

Amigos or přátelé, in Spanish or in Czech, translate the same: friends. For 10 and 25 years, respectively, Texas Guardsmen have gained lifelong friends in Chile and the Czech Republic through the State Partnership Program. Every year, Texas Military Department representatives travel to each of the partner nations between 20 and 30 times and host military-to-military exchanges in Texas that cover the full spectrum of operations in support of U.S. European Command, U.S. Southern Command, respective U.S. embassies and the National Guard Bureau. Topics range from air-to-ground integration, horizontal engineer construction, cyber defense and public affairs, as well as lessons learned from catastrophic events like Hurricane Harvey in Texas or massive earthquakes in Chile.

Our militaries and emergency management professionals have the benefit of such strong bonds through SPP that we are able to regularly work through our contingency plans together and apply recent firsthand knowledge on improving those plans. When TMD conducts its annual hurricane rehearsal of concept or AIR-X, you will not only find civilians with the Texas Department of Emergency Management, but also members of the Chilean Joint Staff. Similarly, you will always see members of TMD in Chile for its volcano exercises. Humanitarian assistance and disaster response are such important topics that the U.S. Department of Defense asked Texas to co-chair the Defense Consultative Committee sub-committee on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief with the Chileans. Currently, Brig. Gen. Greg Chaney, Deputy Adjutant General – Army and Commander of the Texas Army National Guard, is the

co-chair along with Chilean Col. Marcelo Montesinos, who ensure the efforts of the SPP incorporate support to the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief subcommittee through military-to-military and military-to-civilian exchanges in all aspects of HA/DR. In 2019 and 2020, TMD will execute at least ten events each year in support of the HA/DR line of effort with well-known activities such as Operation Lone Star with the Texas State Guard to lesser-known events with TMD physicians and medics traveling to Chile's remote Easter Island to facilitate care to under served populations. It is the belief that through these exchanges, all nations involved become stronger together.



Military intelligence Soldiers assigned to the 636th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Battalion, 71st EMIB, along with soldiers from the Czech Republic debrief a person of interest while going through military source operations lanes training at Camp Bullis, Texas, June 12-27, 2018. This type of exercise is important to validate readiness of deploying MI Soldiers. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by: Staff Sgt. Mark Scovell)

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After a 25-year relationship with the Czech Republic, the exchanges have grown in complexity and scale. Recent highlights include a wet gap crossing with the 551st Multi-Role Brigade Company and Czech 15th Engineer Regiment at Fort Hood in support of III Corps. The exercise was later reciprocated in Litomerice, Czech Republic, during its Labe Exercise, where Texas engineers partnered not only with the Czechs, but also with the Slovaks to share lessons learned, tactics, techniques and procedures for bridging operations across a river. The Gunfighters of the 149th Fighter Wing recently returned to the Czech Republic with their F-16s for the first time since 2009. The Czech-hosted Sky Avenger exercise allowed a multitude of exchanges to occur over a two-week period at Caslav Airbase.

The exchange provided the opportunity to learn how each country conducted air-to-air offensive and defensive operations, maintenance practices, security forces operations, intelligence and logistics support, respectively. Events like these allow larger numbers of Texans to have exposure to other cultures and dynamic training environments that differ from your standard annual training in Texas. They also provide the setting for Chileans or Czechs to come to the United States and take part in TMD annual training periods or participate in competitions such as the Best Warrior Competition or Governors 20 shooting match. Each of the partner nations have created their own Best Warrior competitions that are modeled after what they observed in Texas, a visible representation of the growth and how we learn from each other.



Maj. Enrique Romero, a physician in the Chilean Air Force, right, discusses medical operations with Col. Jonathan MacClements, a physician in the Texas State Guard, center, and Eduardo Olivarez, the chief administrative officer for the Hidalgo County Department of Health and Human Services at an Operation Lone Star site in Pharr, Texas, Jul. 27, 2016. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by: Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm McClendon)

A little known fact about SPP is that Texas has an Airmen and Soldier who work in the U.S. embassies in Santiago and Prague, respectively, and serve as the connection be-



Texas National Guard Soldiers and Airmen receive a safety brief along with Czech and Chilean service members at the M4 qualification event as part of the fifth annual Texas Military Department Best Warrior Competition, at Camp Swift near Bastrop, Texas, Mar. 3, 2017. This year's Best Warrior Competition was the second time Chilean soldiers participated and the first time for soldiers from the Czech Republic as part of Texas Military Department's initiative to develop relations with foreign partners. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by: Sgt. Michael Giles)

tween armed forces of the country and TMD. The bilateral affairs officer is responsible for planning, coordinating and executing the State Partnership Program in cooperation with the TMD J-7 office and respective geographic combatant command. Capt. Edith Alvarado of the 136th Airlift Wing and most recently Maj. Mark White of the 172nd Brigade Engineer Battalion provided those friendly faces and assistance for TMD members arriving after a long flight to Santiago or Prague. The BAO also represents the TAG and components with the embassy country team and ensures that leadership in Austin is aware of the ambassadors' priorities. They really have the pulse of the country and find ways that TMD can help or learn from their state partners. Some recent examples include increasing cyber security practices in Chile after one of their main banks was hacked and lost millions of dollars and in the Czech Republic where senior Non-Commissioned Officer engagements and members of the 136th Regional Training Institute helped to establish the first NCO Academy in support of the professionalization of the force and NCO development.

At the end of each working day or event, it is common for participants to exchange emails, WhatsApp numbers or become friends on Facebook. SPP allows commanders to also reward the hard work of their Soldiers and Airmen with a unique opportunity that helps to improve retention and ensure readiness. But a secondary effect is gaining amigos and přátelé, lifelong friends. **-D**

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CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM TRAINS WITH TEXAS PARTNERS

*Story By: Brandon Jones
Texas Military Department Public Affairs*

HOUSTON, Texas – Rain, cold weather and hours of training are no match for the Texas Army National Guard's 6th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team. The group has logged more than 650 hours of HAZMAT and high-tech training from a number of agencies including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Energy, the Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency. The unit is divided into six sections: command, operations, communications, administration and logistics, medical and survey. During a recent training exercise in Houston on Jan. 31, 2019, the 6th WMD-CST ran through a series of real-life scenarios that tested the team's capabilities. Working with experts from the Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center, the 6th WMD-CST and the Harris County Fire Marshal Office brought nerve agent training to the Houston regional HAZMAT teams.

The event focused on preparing for fourth generation agent threats and identifying the signs of deliberate acts of chemical warfare and how to stop them. CST needs

this type of training to prepare for the kind of headline-making attack that took place in Salisbury, England, on March 4, 2018. Former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia were attacked with a Novichok nerve agent that left both seriously ill. The 6th WMD-CST is the first group to receive this type of training since the release of declassified information. Resources were published for first responders' awareness and can be found at this link: <https://chemm.nlm.nih.gov/nerveagents/FGA.htm>.

It is this training that will prepare the group of 22 men and women, which includes both Army and Air National Guardsmen, for situations like the one they faced at a facility in the Houston area just a year ago. The CST was investigating hazardous chemicals in gas cylinders, 15 of which exploded before the group arrived. The cylinders were full of chemicals such as HF, Phosphine, Hydrogen Cyanide, Cyanogen Chloride and Phosgene. A multi-agency response from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the EPA helped during the investigation and cleanup continues at the facility. Lt. Col. Christopher Sedtal referenced the team's response during that time.

"The team responded admirably during this dangerous situation," said Sedtal. "I'm proud of their efforts."

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A 6th CST team member provides mission briefing prior to Guardsmen entering the impacted area during a mock Sarin gas attack inside a shipping container during a joint exercise with local first responders in Houston, Texas, on Jan. 31, 2019. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by: Staff Sgt. Mark Otte)

Although there are 57 CSTs in the United States, Texas' CST is the only group in Texas of its kind to assist local law enforcement with chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats. The team began operation in 1999 after then-President Bill Clinton issued a directive to develop and field such capabilities. The unit also provides support during natural and man-made disasters. The 6th WMD-CST is on standby 365 days a year and is ready to respond to emergencies within one to three hours. The unit conducts real-life trainings 12 times a year throughout Texas, which help increase readiness for large-scale events like

Super Bowl 49 and national-level events like the United



6th CST team members respond to a mock Sarin gas attack inside a shipping container during a joint exercise with local first responders in Houston, Texas, on Jan. 31, 2019. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by: Staff Sgt. Mark Otte)

Nations General Assembly.

The team's vehicles, which are used to provide secure communication systems and laboratories that examine chemicals and evidence, are critical to every incident. The group and its equipment can deploy by aircraft or using the team's ground transportation assets. The unit has its own decontamination operations to support testing potential CBRN contaminants. During the CST's recent exercise in Houston, the unit dressed in HAZMAT suits and entered train cars at a Houston facility to identify Sarin gas. During the scenario, the team discovered the production of hazardous material. States' adjutants general may employ CSTs for state response under the direction of the governor or to help another state in the event of an emergency. Like much of the Texas National Guard, the unit's resources were truly put to the test during Hurricane Harvey in 2017. CST members worked alongside TECQ and the EPA for a hazard evaluation mission. The CST and its partners found several leaking propane tanks, which stopped a major potential crisis. Maj. Sean Thurmer, 6th WMD-CST science officer, analyzed some of the findings.

"We worked all the way from Corpus all the way up to Houston over three weeks finding containers of hazardous materials," Thurmer said. "These materials have been moved for where they're supposed to be. We try to characterize the hazard and identify it if we can."

Bringing a broad range of capabilities to bear at a moment's notice is the motto by which the 6th WMD-CST lives. **-D**

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TEXAS STATE GUARD JOINS JOINT DISASTER EXERCISE

Sgt. Samuel Garza, 2nd Regiment, Army Component, Texas State Guard, gets ready to play the role of a victim while Round Rock Fire Department personnel apply moulage of bullet injuries during the Capital Area Council of Governments full-scale exercise to train multiple city and county emergency operations centers to respond to simulated terrorist and active shooter emergencies at the Round Rock Training Facility, Round Rock, Texas, Feb. 5, 2019. (Texas State Guard photo by Capt. Michael Meadors)

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

ROUND ROCK, Texas – The Texas State Guard 2nd Regiment recently participated in the Capital Area Council of Governments multi-agency, full-scale training exercise, giving 25 Texas State Guardsmen the opportunity to learn how partner agencies and victims respond during two categories of emergencies. They supported 45 local, state and federal agency partners during the exercise, called Pinnacle Peril, as role players acting as victims of a simulated terrorist attack, active shooter scenario and radiological dispersion device detonation held at the Round Rock Training Facility, Round Rock, Texas, February 5, 2019.

2nd Lt. Thomas Marriott stated that “these exercises are an example of how the incident command structure functions and how responders adapt to the changing conditions posed by a threat. We served as a force multiplier as role players, which allowed our partner federal, state and local emergency management agencies the opportunity to sharpen their vital skills to protect and serve fellow Texans.”

Role playing as victims of an active shooter event, Guardsmen helped make the exercise as realistic as possible for the participating agencies. They went through moulage, the application of mock injuries, to create a sense of realism during the exercise. Their support gave the moulage artists from the Round Rock Police Department the opportunity to practice the craft of designing and applying fake bullet wounds.

“Every element of an exercise contributes to the success of the exercise. Acting as victims gave Guardsmen another training tool when we support local and state agencies

during an emergency. We had the opportunity to better understand how victims react to the trauma of the event and how to empathize and respond to victims in a real emergency,” said Capt. Michael Meadors.

During the active shooter exercise, local and state law enforcement and emergency medical services had the opportunity to practice how to extract victims, triage and neutralize the threat. As victims, Guardsmen watched and learned how first responders, such as the Round Rock and Austin Police Departments and the Austin Fire Department, managed the situation.

In another disaster scenario, Guardsmen played the role of victims exposed to a detonated radiological device. During this simulation they experienced how victims are evacuated from the danger zone. In one exercise, Guardsmen learned how the Round Rock Fire Department screens victims of nuclear contamination. The Texas National Guard's 6th Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Enhanced Response Force Package guided State Guardsmen out of the contaminated building and escorted them to the decontamination facility where CERFP personnel examined victims for simulated radiation exposure and gave them stabilizing medical treatment.

Marriott stated that “as members of the Texas State Guard, we saw firsthand who responds during an emergency and how our partner agencies respond. We learned about their roles so that we are prepared to work cooperatively with other agencies when we are needed. We are proud to have been a part of this training experience.” **-D**

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PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCES OF OUR TEXAS GUARDSMEN



Photo By: 2nd. Lt. Kylie Green
Texas State Guard

Texas A&M University
Disaster Day Training

Photo By: Spc. Hussein Khairi
101st Information Operations Battalion
Best Warriors Competition Participants



Photo By: Maj. Paul Hernandez
JFHQ, J3 Southwest Border Liaison

CPT Bransom, Operation Texas Shield Troop
Commander addressing his company leader-
ship on mission requirements in support of US
Border Patrol in Del Rio, TX.



Maj. Gen. Dawn Ferrell, Deputy Adjutant General - Air, (center) joins leaders from across the Texas Military Department as they participate in the Center for Defense Innovation opening held at the Capital Factory in Austin, Texas, Feb. 21, 2019. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by: Sgt. Kyle Burns)

GUARD LEADERS VIEW FUTURE OF DEFENSE INNOVATION

*Story By: Caitlin Rourk
Texas Military Department Public Affairs*

AUSTIN, Texas – In recent decades, Texas has grown into a global center of technology and innovation. The Lone Star State is also home to a large military community, including active-duty and reserve units from all components. Those two worlds recently collided with the emergence of several military-backed programs that harness the state's thriving technological climate.

The Texas Military Department has been on the front lines of these new Texas-based programs since their inception. One of the biggest players is Army Futures Command, which opened its headquarters in downtown Austin in August 2018. AFC aims to modernize the Army and ensure its capabilities remain competitive against near-peer threats. Col. Scott MacLeod, who serves as TMD's liaison to AFC, explained the importance of the partnership.

"Texas leadership recognizes that personal and military relationships act as catalysts for the advancement of innovation, and they are committed to supporting Army Fu-

tures Command, as it turns these strategies and ideas into actions," said MacLeod. "Teaming with AFC allows us to play an important role in supporting the Army as it concentrates on the singular focus of its modernization strategy, to make Soldiers and units more lethal."

The Air Force opened its third national AFWERX office in Austin in June 2018. AFWERX aims to foster innovation within the Air Force and hosts a number of programs that seek to involve new, often non-traditional, entrepreneurs with the Air Force. AFWERX forged an instant partnership with the Texas Air National Guard, and several Texas Guardsmen serve on orders in support of the program. Maj. Alexander Goldberg, the Air Guard's Chief Innovation Officer, described the Guardsmen working at AFWERX as the "gas that makes the machine go."

Maj. Gen. Dawn Ferrell, Deputy Adjutant General – Air and Commander of the Texas Air National Guard, pointed to the benefits TMD receives from participating in AFWERX and other Air Force and DoD programs, as well as how the active duty Air Force benefits.

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“Our service members are on the cutting edge of technology. The active duty benefits from the vast experience of our Texas Guardsmen,” said Ferrell. “The partnership is ideal, and it enables us to do things faster when we work together.”

The newest addition is the Center for Defense Innovation, which opened at Austin’s Capital Factory—the self-described “center of gravity” for entrepreneurs in Texas—on February 21, 2019. At the grand opening ceremony, attendees were as diverse as the community that will inhabit the new facility. The center has offices for technology-focused detachments and extensive meeting and office space, housing Army Futures Command, the Department of Defense’s DIUx, AFWERX and defense contractor Booz Allen Hamilton. The Center

for Defense Innovation not only gives civilian entrepreneurs the opportunity to more directly access government programs, but it also broadens the military’s access to Texas’ civilian talent and expertise.

Ferrell wasn’t surprised that the military has made Texas a center for innovation and believes the state is an excellent place for the military to launch these new programs.

“Texas is a hub of industry and technology. We have so much innovation taking place here,” said Ferrell. “We also have so much military talent and civilian industry, so Texas is the ideal place for the military to keep placing these.” **-D**

Maj. Gen. Dawn Ferrell, Deputy Adjutant General - Air, (left) and Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Castle, Senior Enlisted Advisor - Air, (right) discuss military technology at the Center for Defense Innovation with a presenter at the Capitol Factory in Austin, Texas, Feb. 21, 2019. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by: Sgt. Kyle Burns)



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OUR FORCE

MEMBERS OF THE TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT



STAFF SGT. RAYMOND MARTINEZ PACHECO

**RADIO MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN
147TH AIR SUPPORT OPERATIONS SQUADRON , 147TH ATTACK WING**

**"I serve because I want to increase my knowledge of radio operations
and be part of something bigger that will make my family proud"**



LTC Jim Carney

Army G1

EXPERIENCE:

LTC Jim Carney is a third-generation U.S. Soldier, son and son-in-law of Vietnam veterans and grandson of a World War II veteran. He was commissioned as an ordnance officer through Army ROTC at Marquette University and served five years on active duty with assignments in Korea and Fort Carson, Col. He joined the Texas Army National Guard in 2001 and has served as a battalion S3, company commander, officer strength manager, inspector general, battalion executive officer and battalion commander. He has served on mobilizations and deployments to Bosnia-Herzegovina, the National Training Center at Fort Irwin and Afghanistan. His most recent assignment was as the commander, TXARNG Recruiting and Retention Command.

EDUCATION:

Carney holds a master of public affairs from the University of Texas at Austin and a bachelor of international affairs from Marquette University. He is a graduate of the Army ordnance officer basic and advance courses, Command and General Staff College, the ISAF counter-insurgency course and is currently enrolled in the Army War College-distance education.

DID YOU KNOW?:

Carney is happily married with two boys. He is a huge 90s alternative and grunge fan who loves to ski.

IN HIS WORDS:

"The strength of our enterprise is our people. I'm very excited and grateful for this opportunity to continue to serve our great Soldiers and keep the TXARNG ready."



TMD OPEN HOUSE AND AMERICAN HEROES AIR SHOW APRIL 13TH & 14TH



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CAPITOL CONNECT SERIES**



TMD DAY AT THE CAPITOL
12 - MARCH - 2019

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