

THE DISPATCH



OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT



FEBRUARY 2019

# TAKING UP THE GUIDON

LEADERSHIP CHANGES THROUGHOUT  
THE TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

## TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

# February Dispatch

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*(ON THE COVER) Maj. Gen. Tracy R. Norris, Texas Adjutant General, receives the Texas Military Department's colors from Texas Secretary of State David Whitley during the Adjutant General change-of-command ceremony at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, Jan. 12, 2019. As Texas Adjutant General, Norris commands the nation's largest National Guard. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Cpl. Alexander Logan.)*

*Soldiers of the Texas Army National Guard perform a 19-gun salute at the Texas Capitol during the Inauguration of Governor Greg Abbott on Jan 15, 2019 in Austin Texas. (Texas Army National Guard photo by Kyle Burns)*



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Greg Abbott



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TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

# FROM THE TOP

## COMMENTARIES FROM TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT LEADERS



# WHAT DOES A GOOD LEADER LOOK LIKE?

**CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 5 JEFF FELTON**  
COMMAND CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER

What does a good leader look like? We've all had one at some point in our careers, that person who you look back on and in whose actions you recognize wisdom. That person who you say, "thanks to so-and-so, I was able to..." fill in the blank. Good leadership style may look different to each of you. Some people lead through forceful action or outgoing charisma – the very strength of their personality drawing others in, making us willingly follow their orders or direction. Others may be quieter in their leadership style, subtly guiding us towards the outcome that they think is best. A good leader knows how to influence others by providing the purpose, vision and motivation to get the mission accomplished. But no matter the methodology, a good leader always puts people first.

As Soldiers, Airmen and State Guardsmen of the Texas Military Department, our career paths and selfless service have dictated that we put the priorities and concerns of the rest of the state and nation above our own. A lot is asked of us. We always follow through and give all that is required. However, in order for us to have that seemingly endless reserve of service to give, we must have good leaders who protect those who have answered the call to serve.

Leadership is about finding the balance between the good of the whole and the good of the individuals who comprise that whole. Leaders at TMD must work to ensure the future success of our agency, while also being cognizant of the fact that the future cannot exist without the people who work here. Our people are our most important asset, and we must work to retain, develop and care for them.

Without good people, we will be unable to respond to calls for assistance. That means that leadership involves servitude. To lead, one must serve those for whom they have been charged with looking out. Leadership is not just about telling someone when and where to go but also ensuring they are set up to succeed in whatever mission set with which they are tasked. Mission failure is often the result of leadership failure. Good leaders stress the importance of preparation for the many variables of a given mission.

Some of the most important reminders I can give to those who are working to become the leaders of tomorrow is as follows:

Lead by example. Never ask someone to do something that you yourself would not do. Be trustworthy. If you want your people to trust you, you must not only earn that trust, but you must also trust them. Set the example on how to trust and empower them to make decisions at their level. Be clear in your guidance, purpose and direction. No one wins when there is confusion. Your people can handle the truth and full picture of what they are about to get themselves into. As a matter of fact, they may have excellent ideas on how to best approach a problem that you yourself have not thought of, so be ready to listen as well. Never assume that just because you outrank someone that your ideas will also outperform theirs. We have so many opportunities for growth and leadership development here at TMD. I hope that these ideas are useful to our up-and-coming leaders. I can't wait to see where you take this agency in the future. **-D**

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# ALL SERVICE MEMBERS WELCOME TO VISIT SMRCS FOR MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES



## HOURS OF OPERATION

0800-1600 MON-FRI Full-time providers are available at each of your TXARNG SMRCs (Minus Camp Bullis) providing services such as, Health assessments (PHAs and PDHRAs) School physicals (Air Assault, Airborne and Ranger), Vaccinations/immunizations, screening blood tests (HIV, G6PD, etc.), as well as hearing exams.

0800-1600 THUR-FRI Full-time Dentists and dental assistants are available for your DENTAL EXAMS AND TREATMENT IN GRAND PRAIRIE AND HOUSTON ONLY.

0800-MC IDT weekends (Contact SMRC RNCOs for IDT schedules)

### Austin SMRC

(Walk-in and Appointments available)

SFC Neville B. Patterson, RNCO  
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### Grand Prairie SMRC

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### Camp Bullis (San Antonio) SMRC

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## Behavioral Health Assistance (Call anytime for appointments)

Grand Prairie: Cassandra Coleman 214-490-4661      El Paso: Claudette Barragan 806-632-8488

Houston Mary-Ann Bland 281-543-8839      San Antonio: Liz Becerril 210-608-4547

Killeen: Natalie Cilek 254-493-6615      Weslaco: Juan Guerrero 956-532-8700

Austin: Robin Gardner 956-532-8684 /CPT Wayne Marrs Jr. 512-228-2334

# Visit us on [tmd.texas.gov](http://tmd.texas.gov) for appointments and other important information.

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# A NEW PLAN FOR THE GUARD

## A SIT-DOWN WITH THE NEW ADJUTANT GENERAL OF TEXAS

*Maj. Gen. Tracy R. Norris, the Adjutant General Of Texas, addresses friends, family and fellow Guardsmen at the Texas Adjutant General change-of-command ceremony held at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, Jan. 12, 2019. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm McClendon.)*



*Story By: Kyle Burns  
Texas Military Department Public Affairs*

## TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

# DUTIES OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

AUSTIN, Texas, - Maj. Gen. Tracy R. Norris became the Adjutant General of Texas on January 1, 2019. She previously served as the Deputy Adjutant General – Army and Commander of the Texas Army National Guard. Norris has held positions in numerous units, including the 176th Engineer Brigade, the Construction and Facilities Management Office, the 36th Infantry Division and the Recruiting and Retention Battalion.

Norris received an Army ROTC scholarship and holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Florida State University. She went on to receive her Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Texas at Austin.

**DISPATCH:** As you take on this new responsibility, where do you want to take the organization in the coming years?

**NORRIS:** Maj. Gen. [John] Nichols set a very good baseline for the National Guard and our State Guard, so what I would like to focus on for the future is that we need to grow. We are a growth state, our economy is growing. Our Army National Guard units need to have more force structure. Our Air National Guard needs more units to fill the population that we have in Texas. We need to grow our State Guard numbers to assist in state disasters running shelters and helping keep families together as they evacuate, so we need growth and the ability to grow. It's working at the national level to get the additional units in our force structure, as well as to give opportunities for promotion and ensuring members can attend their military schools.

**DISPATCH:** How did you become the Adjutant General of Texas?

**NORRIS:** There's a lot of timing and a lot of luck involved. I actually started in Georgia and the Florida Guard. I went to Florida State on an ROTC schol-

- (1) Perform duties assigned by the governor relating to the military affairs of this state;
- (2) Assume responsibility for the overall leadership, management, accountability, and operations of the Texas military forces, including the transportation of troops, munitions, military equipment, and property in this state;
- (3) Oversee the preparation of returns and reports required of this state by the United States;
- (4) Maintain a register of all officers of the Texas military forces;
- (5) Publish at state expense, when necessary, state military law and regulations;
- (6) Make available annual reports concerning the Texas military forces;
- (7) Establish reasonable and necessary fees for the administration of this subtitle;
- (8) Employ and arm, as the adjutant general determines appropriate, persons licensed under Title 10, Occupations Code, to protect property that is under the adjutant general's authority and to satisfy applicable security requirements;
- (9) Define and prescribe the kind and amount of supplies, including operational munitions for use in this state, to be purchased for the Texas military forces;
- (10) Prescribe general regulations for the maintenance of supplies and for the transportation and distribution of supplies from the place of purchase to camps, stations, companies, or other necessary places of safekeeping;
- (11) Have supplies, whether the property of the United States or this state, properly cared for and kept in good order and ready for use; and
- (12) As the adjutant general determines appropriate, sell or destroy property and supplies or exchange property and supplies for other military property and supplies.

Texas Government Code Sec. 437.053.

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arship. I never thought I'd still be here after 33 years. I spent five years at the National Guard Bureau, then spent time in Massachusetts and then finally got to Texas. I got to Texas because one of my good friends recruited me. [The state] had a large population of Army engineers. Texas decided to keep me, and they've given me a lot of opportunities. They weren't always things that I thought were opportunities but it's really about the leadership, and I was very fortunate to have great leadership. When Gen. Nichols was getting ready to retire, as his deputy for the Army, he was gracious enough to recommend me to take his position. It was the Soldiers that were working for me and it was those leaders that gave me those opportunities.



*Maj. Gen. Tracy R. Norris, the Adjutant General Of Texas, in her office with Patsy, the Texas Military Department's SHARP therapy dog. (Courtesy Photo)*



*Maj. Gen. Tracy R. Norris, the Adjutant General Of Texas, attending the governor's inauguration in Austin, Texas, Jan. 8, 2019. (Texas Military Department photo by: Bob Seyller.)*

**DISPATCH:** Biggest accomplishment so far?

**NORRIS:** Getting my husband to marry me (laughs) and becoming Adjutant General of Texas. I still pinch myself. I'm just so excited, and it's such a great honor. If it wasn't for my husband and the support that he's given me, I wouldn't be here.

**DISPATCH:** When was the moment you decided to enlist? How did you come to that decision?

**NORRIS:** The summer before my junior year in college, I got a letter in the mail that said, "Call ROTC." I was not thinking about the military, but they said they would pay for my school, so I went in and talked to them. I got recruited into the National Guard when I was commissioned, and I just knew I was doing six years, then I was going to get out. Then I met a group of people that were Vietnam veterans, and they took care of me and they showed me how different the



Army [is]. Like most people, I said “I’ll stay a couple more years,” and now we’re at 33 years and that’s just the way it happened.

**DISPATCH:** If you had not joined the military, what do you think you would be doing right now?

**NORRIS:** I think I’d probably be a county or city planner or even working for state government as a planner. I think I would be still serving the community, because I find that fun.

**DISPATCH:** How did you overcome a major setback or failure in your life or career?

**NORRIS:** I like to set an objective short, be it 24 months, and work toward that objective. My mother was a very strong support for me, and one of the things that she would always say is, “This too shall pass.” What I learned is that there is a plan, and that wasn’t where I was going and that wasn’t where I was supposed to be, so I was diverted. Eventually an opportunity showed itself, and it ends up working out.

**DISPATCH:** When you are not in uniform what can you be found doing?

**NORRIS:** Spending time with my husband. We like to go to the beach, and we have two hunting dogs that love to play and chase the birds. I have a lot of family in Louisiana, so getting back and seeing my mom as much as I can. It’s really about family. I don’t have a lot of downtime right now, but I’m okay with that because I love what I do.

**DISPATCH:** What does it mean to be a Texan?

**NORRIS:** Texans are independent and don’t necessarily need to be told what to do because they’re going to figure it out and make it happen. For example, in Katrina our Army engineers came back when Rita hit. People had their chainsaws ready, started cutting up trees that fell down in east Texas and still taking care of themselves. We’re very independent, very self-sufficient and I’m very proud to be a Texan and to be serving Texans. **-D**



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*Maj. Gen. Tracy R. Norris, the Adjutant General Of Texas, administers the oath of office to Brig. Gen. Greg Chaney, Deputy Adjutant General - Army, (left) as he assumes command of the Texas Army National Guard during a small ceremony at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas. (Courtesy Photo)*

# HE'S PRETTY GOOD AT THIS "ARMY THING"

## AN INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL - ARMY AND TEXAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD COMMANDER

*Story By: Brandon Jones*

### **Texas Military Department Public Affairs**

AUSTIN, Texas, - Brig. Gen. Greg Chaney was named the Deputy Adjutant General – Army and Commander of the Texas Army National Guard on January 1, 2019, after being appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott to the position. Chaney previously served as the Director of Joint Staff, where he was responsible to Gov. Abbott and the Adjutant General for all hazards response planning, execution, border security operations, counterdrug operations and emergency response to natural and man-made disasters.

An engineer by training, Chaney is a member of the National Guard Association of Texas, National Guard Association of the United States, Association of the United States Army and the Army Engineer Association.

Chaney holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Abilene Christian University. He also has a master's degree from the United States Army War College.

**DISPATCH:** As you take on this new responsibility, where do you want to take the organization in the coming years?

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**CHANEY:** As stated in the *National Defense Strategy*, my priorities are individual readiness and the modernization of our force. Chances are, our next fight will be against a near-peer enemy, so the strategies, tactics and equipment we have grown accustomed to since the Global War on Terror began will have to be updated accordingly. I encourage all TMD members to read the latest National Defense Strategy to get a more in-depth look at the direction we are heading as an organization.

**DISPATCH:** How did you become the Commander of the Texas Army National Guard and Deputy Adjutant General - Army?

**CHANEY:** I like to joke that I'm an "accidental general." I originally never thought I would join the military, but I certainly never dreamed of becoming a general officer. When I enlisted I had long hair and a mustache, and the plan was to serve my time, pay off my student loans and live out the rest of my days as a shop teacher. However, I discovered that I was pretty good at this "Army thing," and when I was a captain I was accepted into the AGR program. From there, a combination of work, luck and being surrounded by great Soldiers and leaders helped me get to where I am today.



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**DISPATCH:** Biggest accomplishment so far?

**CHANEY:** Marrying my beautiful wife Angie and raising two wonderful, God-fearing daughters is my proudest accomplishment so far. On the Army side, I think seeing officers and NCOs that I had a chance to mentor and work with succeed – that always makes me feel like I am doing good work for the organization.

**DISPATCH:** When was the moment you decided to enlist? How did you come to that decision?

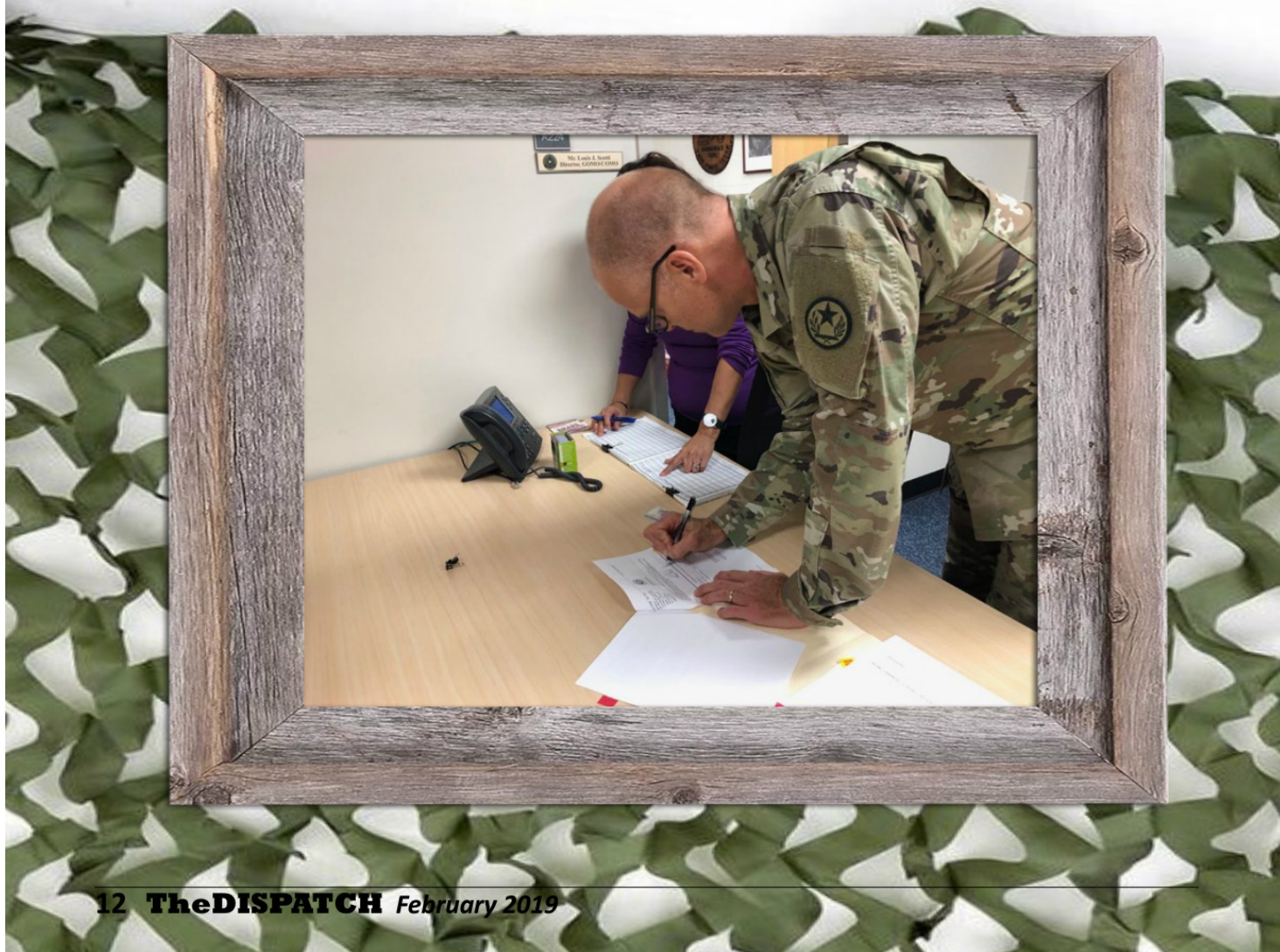
**CHANEY:** I was walking through the hallways of Abilene Christian University when a National Guard recruiter told me about the educational benefits offered by the Guard. Although I had never put much thought into the military, I had put plenty of thought into how I was going to pay for the rest of my college. Not long after that I enlisted as a combat engineer (the best MOS out there, by the way).

**DISPATCH:** If you had not joined the military what do you think you would be doing right now?

**CHANEY:** I would most likely still be teaching. Either that or building things.

**DISPATCH:** How did you overcome a major setback or failure in your life or career?

**CHANEY:** My faith and family are the foundation upon which I have built my life. Anytime I face adversity or failure, a quick prayer or a call to my wife are my go-to response. Several years ago, our house burned down, which was a big blow to us as a family at the time. We had to lean on each other and our faith for a while, and rebuilding took the help of friends, our community and my fellow Soldiers. When it was all said and done, though, our faith in each other and the Lord was stronger than ever.

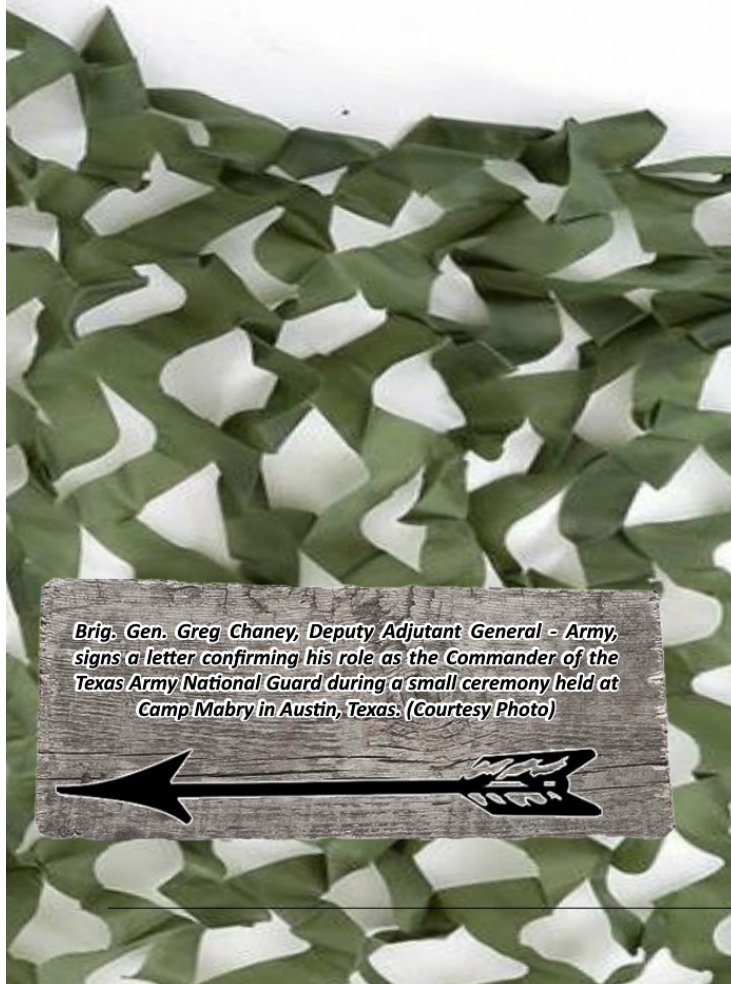


**DISPATCH:** When you are not in uniform what can you be found doing?

**CHANEY:** I enjoy bee-keeping, gardening (vegetables, not flowers) and anything else that I can do outdoors. I go on an annual quail hunt with my dad and spend as many weekends as I can with my daughters. My wife and I are also active members of our church back home in Merkel, Texas.

**DISPATCH:** What does it mean to be a Texan?

**CHANEY:** Texans have a strong identity and are known for putting pride into their work. I think you can see the effects of this throughout the Texas Army National Guard. It is reflected in our exceptional esprit de corps and backed by a long and storied tradition of military excellence. The Alamo, Goliad, all the way through the amazing accomplishments of the 36th ID during World War II and the Texas Military Department during the current War on Terror. There is a reason that we list Texas as a core value alongside Duty and Honor. I am proud to serve Texas every day. **-D**



*Brig. Gen. Greg Chaney, Deputy Adjutant General - Army, signs a letter confirming his role as the Commander of the Texas Army National Guard during a small ceremony held at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas. (Courtesy Photo)*

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# ***IN COMMAND***

## ***AN INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW AIR GUARD COMMANDER***

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

AUSTIN, Texas, - Maj. Gen. Dawn M. Ferrell is the Deputy Adjutant General – Air and assumes command of the Texas Air National Guard this February. She is the first female in Texas Air National Guard history to be promoted to both brigadier and major general.

Ferrell began her military career in August 1983 as an air cargo specialist in the Texas Air National Guard and later commissioned through the Air National Guard's Academy of Military Science in February 1994. She has held various positions within the Texas Air National Guard, supporting both domestic and overseas missions. Before taking on a full-time role in the Texas Air National Guard, Ferrell served as a professor and in higher-education administration.



*Brigadier General Dawn Marie Ferrell, the Deputy Adjutant General for Air, for the Texas Military Department is pinned with the rank of major general by her parents and friend in a ceremony held at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas on Dec 14, 2018.*



*Maj. Gen. Dawn Ferrell, Deputy Adjutant General-Air and Texas Army National Guard Col. Les Davis, Director of Construction and Facilities Management meet with representatives from tribal nations at Fort Wolters in Mineral Wells, Texas, Aug. 8, 2018, where current and future plans for military construction on tribal lands was discussed. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Miguel Ruiz.)*

Ferrell graduated with Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Midwestern State University and earned her doctorate of philosophy from the University of North Texas.

**DISPATCH:** As you take on this new responsibility, where do you want to take the organization in the coming years?

**FERRELL:** My leadership priorities for the Texas Air National Guard are to take care of our Airmen, recapitalize our aircraft and ensure our mission sets are viable and always support our state and federal partners. I want to ensure the Texas Air National Guard remains the premier choice for additional mission ca-

capacity within the Air National Guard and that we are always able to support the citizens of Texas and all Americans in their times of need.

**DISPATCH:** How did you get to be the Deputy Adjutant General - Air and now commander of the Air National Guard?

**FERRELL:** Many factors led me here. Certainly the support of family, as well as the mentoring by many, many people in my life. My passion for the role the Texas Air National Guard plays in the safety and security of our state and nation has led to my long term of service in the Guard. As one mentor told me many years ago: always work hard, go above and beyond

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the minimum requirements, be willing to step up and do the hard things nobody else wants to do and take care of those with whom you work.

**DISPATCH:** Biggest accomplishment so far?

**FERRELL:** For me, education is a passion. For that reason, obtaining my Ph.D. was a big accomplishment for me and one of the proudest times in my life.

**DISPATCH:** When was the moment you decided to enlist? How did you come to that decision?

**FERRELL:** My father was a career enlisted Airman, so I knew early on that I wanted to join the military. I thought at first I would go active-duty Air Force like him, but I ran into an Air National Guard recruiter and that changed my path. I enlisted into the Air National Guard right out of high school and have been at it ever since. I have been a drill-status Guardsman for most of my military career, and that allowed me to have a civilian life and career, as well as a military life and career – in my mind, the best of both worlds!

**DISPATCH:** If you had not joined the military what do you think you would be doing right now?



*Maj. Gen. Dawn Ferrell, the Deputy Adjutant General - Air, and Col. Raul Rosario, Commander of the 149th Fighter Wing, tour the various aircraft on display for CRUXEX 2018, Nov. 25, 2019, at Natal Air Force Base, Brazil. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Mindy Bloem.)*





**FERRELL:** The military has been such a large and consistent part of my life, that I cannot even imagine my life without it. Since I was part-time military for so long and had a civilian career path in counseling and higher education, I suppose I would've continued pursuing those higher education endeavors. Higher education is a passion of mine and remains so to this day.

**DISPATCH:** How did you overcome a major setback or failure in your life or career?

**FERRELL:** I've always believed that when one door closes, another door will open. I've made a decision to always have multiple tracks in both my personal and professional life, so that if something doesn't pan out, I have other options. In life, we have to be prepared for the ups and downs. If you are disappointed that something doesn't go your way, then spend an appropriate amount of time grieving, but then spend more time focusing on that next door and how to get through it.

**DISPATCH:** When you are not in uniform what can you be found doing?

**FERRELL:** I love to read, socialize with friends and family and spend time outdoors. Also, I have cats!

**DISPATCH:** What does it mean to be a Texan?

**FERRELL:** Though not a native Texan, I got here as fast as I could! To me, being a Texan means you are strong, proud, friendly and always ready to help other people. **-D**



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# THE VOLUNTEER GENERAL

## MAJ. GEN. Robert Bodisch



*Maj. Gen. Tracy R. Norris, the Adjutant General of Texas, passes Maj. Gen. Robert Bodisch, Commander, Texas State Guard, a guidon signaling the transfer and acceptance of authority during the Texas State Guard change-of-command ceremony held on Jan. 26, 2019, at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas. (Photo courtesy of the Texas State Guard.)*

**Story By: Caitlin Rourk**

### **Texas Military Department Public Affairs**

AUSTIN, Texas, - Maj. Gen. Robert Bodisch officially took command of the Texas State Guard on January 26, 2019, after being appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott to the position in October 2018. A former U.S. Marine, Bodisch has served in the Texas State Guard for more than 30 years and retired from an impressive 45-year law enforcement career.

Before retiring as the Texas Department of Public Safety Deputy Director for Texas Homeland Security and Services, he held positions with the Office of the Governor, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Texas Attorney General's office.

Bodisch holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Houston and a master's degree from the National Graduate School.

**DISPATCH:** As you take on this new responsibility, where do you want to take the organization in the coming years?

**BODISCH:** The Texas State Guard has two large things we're looking at now. One is expanding to 5,000 members. Our current authorized strength is 2,300, and we'll be moving toward the goal of growing to 5,000 over the next few months. I also want to move the organization into the future, looking out five to 10 years. What do we need to look like? What things do we need to be addressing? What gaps can we fill for the National Guard and the Texas Department of Emergency Management? I'm focused on professionalizing the Texas State Guard and providing all the educational and training opportunities to our force, including leadership development for all our leaders.

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**DISPATCH:** How did you become the Texas State Guard commander?

**BODISCH:** Ever since I was a kid, I always wanted to be in law enforcement. In 1973, I went to work for the Harris County Sheriff's Office and have spent time at numerous different agencies throughout my career. It may seem like I couldn't keep a job, but each position was progressive and had more responsibility. When I reached 45 years, I said, "That's probably enough." I retired in August 2018.

The military and law enforcement have a lot of similarities. We have to be disciplined, we have to be ex-

perts at what we do and we have to be confident. We have to have all those skills to accomplish missions. I think both professions complement each other. As a matter of fact, in the law enforcement profession, we were always trying to recruit people getting out of the military.

**DISPATCH:** Biggest accomplishment so far?

**BODISCH:** I don't know that I have just one, but one thing we were able to accomplish made a big difference in a very difficult situation. I was in a meeting one time in the lieutenant governor's office, with lots of folks from south Texas. They were very concerned



*Maj. Gen. Tracy R. Norris, the Adjutant General of Texas and Maj. Gen. Robert Bodisch, Commander, Texas State Guard, cut a cake with a saber during the Texas State Guard change-of-command ceremony, Jan. 26, 2019 at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas. (Photo courtesy of the Texas State Guard.)*

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about illegal aliens coming across the border and getting lost on large ranches. These illegal aliens crossed in the middle of summer, so it was very hot, and they had no water, no food and no communication. They would succumb to the elements. There was no organized way to find these people or to recover their remains. A lot of hard work went into getting grant money to fund a search-and-rescue operation through the Texas State Guard. We've now done that mission that for a number of years and have recovered quite a few sets of remains on those ranches. Hopefully, the bodies can be repatriated using DNA back to their home countries, and families can finally put to rest what happened to their loved ones. The program has always stuck with me; it's Texans serving Texas and the greater good.

**DISPATCH:** When was the moment you decided to enlist? How did you come to that decision?

**BODISCH:** I was here at Camp Mabry for some reason and ran into Brig. Gen. John L. C. Scribner, after whom the museum is named. He pulled me aside

and said, "Hey, what are you doing on weekends?" He convinced me to join the Texas State Guard, which I had never heard of before that point. It was an opportunity as a citizen to give back to my community, so he swore me in August of 1988, and it's been a good ride ever since.

**DISPATCH:** If you had not joined the military what do you think you would be doing right now?

**BODISCH:** I clearly was always aiming to go into law enforcement. The big problem was, I graduated from high school but didn't have any college and came from a very large family of eight kids, so college wasn't in my cards at that point. So, going into active-duty military gave me the opportunity to go to college, and that was very beneficial for both careers.

**DISPATCH:** How did you overcome a major setback or failure in your life or career?

**BODISCH:** For many years, the Texas State Guard got few dollars to run the organization. It took a num-



*Maj. Gen. Robert Bodisch, Commander, Texas State Guard, speaks during a banquet in San Marcos, Texas, December 8, 2018, about the future plans for the Texas State Guard. (Texas State Guard Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Pruitt.)*

ber of years working with members of the legislature and educating people that a military organization should not run on a shoestring budget. We were successful a few years ago getting a reasonable budget to operate and to pay for people going to annual training and some specialized training. Now, we have nine full-time employees to help run the organization. As we go forward, we're requesting even more full-time employees and a larger budget to make sure we can pay all our Guardsmen for annual training and specialized training, to provide all the necessary equipment and supplies to do these operations and to operate efficiently and effectively.

**DISPATCH:** When you are not in uniform what can you be found doing?

**BODISCH:** I'm a prolific reader. My wife is always moving my books, because I'll be reading a book in this room, I'll be reading a book in that room and I'll be reading a book in another room. I love to read, especially biographies and history. I've done a lot of research about the Middle East for the past 20 years. And every now and then, I like to have a celebratory cigar.

**DISPATCH:** What does it mean to be a Texan?

**BODISCH:** Fortunately, I got to Texas as soon as I could. I'll tell you, there is no greater country in the world than the United States of America, and there is no greater state than Texas. I love living here. I love being a Texan. It's just very gratifying to be a Texan and help other Texans, especially in their time of need. If I have to explain to you why we do what we do, you wouldn't understand. It's great being a Texan and doing what we do in the Texas State Guard. We're always looking for new recruits, including people getting out of the National Guard and people that have skillsets we need, like doctors and lawyers. For anyone who just wants to serve, we have a place for you in the Texas State Guard. **-D**



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# PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

## FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCES OF OUR TEXAS GUARDSMEN



Photo By: Sgt. Maj. Jason Morrow  
71st Troop Command

Governor's 20 competition at Camp Swift,  
Jan. 5, 2019.

Photo By: Petty Officer 2 Behnam Benjamin  
Texas Maritime Regiment

Bravo Co. dive team answered the call to re-  
cover a boat for Texas Parks and Wildlife.



Photo By: Staff Sgt. Thomas Streeter  
1-149th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion



Dual aircraft launch during night operations on  
drill weekend at Ellington Field, Jan. 12, 2019.

**YOU ARE A LINK IN THE CHAIN THAT  
CAN END SEXUAL HARASSMENT  
AND SEXUAL ASSAULT**

**STAY STRONG!**



**SPEAK UP**  
DON'T TOLERATE  
INAPPROPRIATE  
BEHAVIOR

**INTERVENE**  
RECOGNIZE THREATS  
AND PREVENT THE  
ASSAULT

**REPORT**  
ALL INSTANCES  
OF HARASSMENT  
AND ASSAULT

**WERE YOU SEXUALLY ASSAULTED?  
NOT SURE WHO TO CALL?**

**TMD Sexual Assault Support Line: 512-565-4410**



**DoD Safeline: 1-877-995-5247 available 24/7**

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



**SEXUAL ASSAULT  
PREVENTION & RESPONSE**