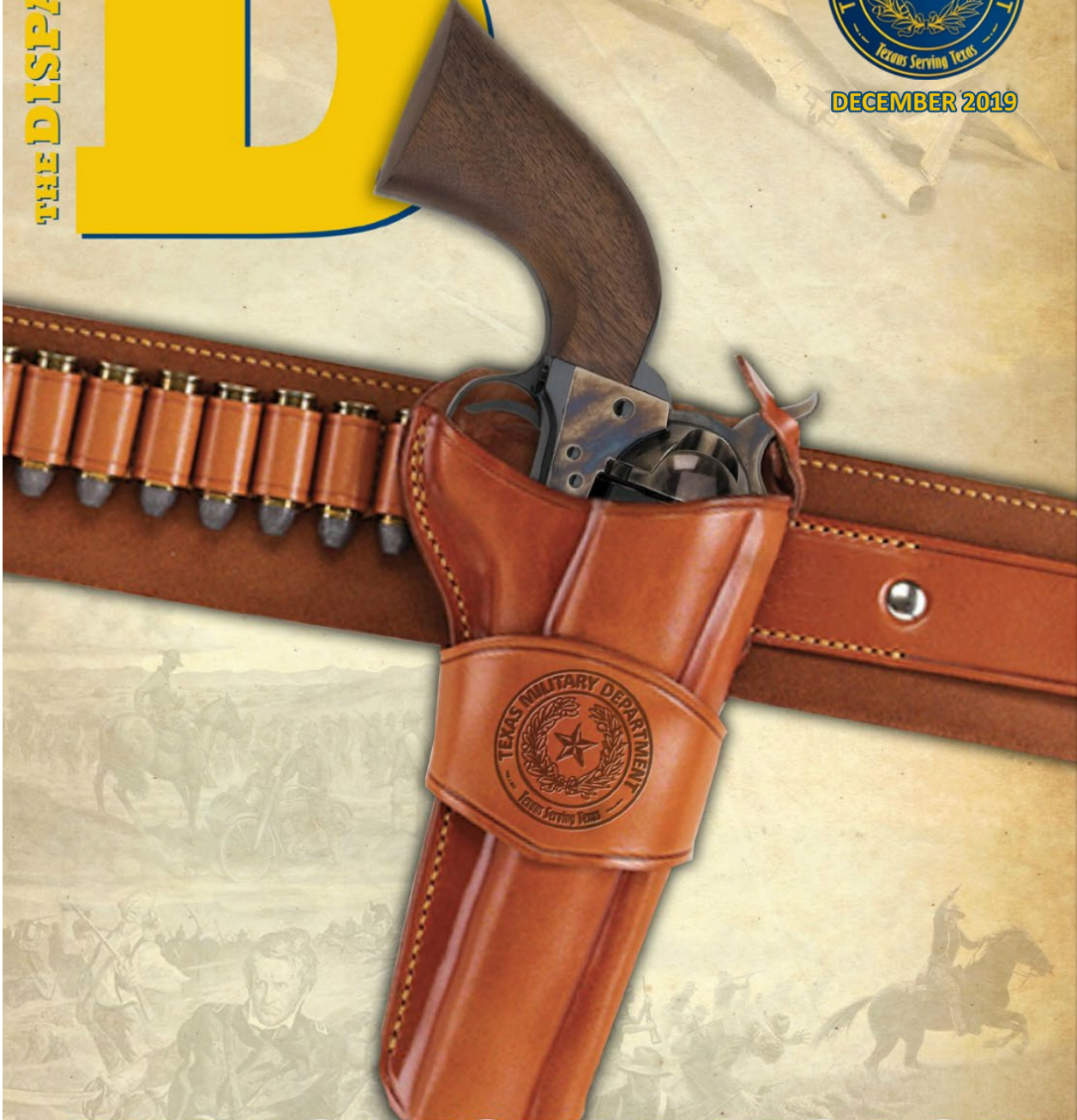


THE DISPATCH

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DECEMBER 2019



THE LONESTAR LEGACY

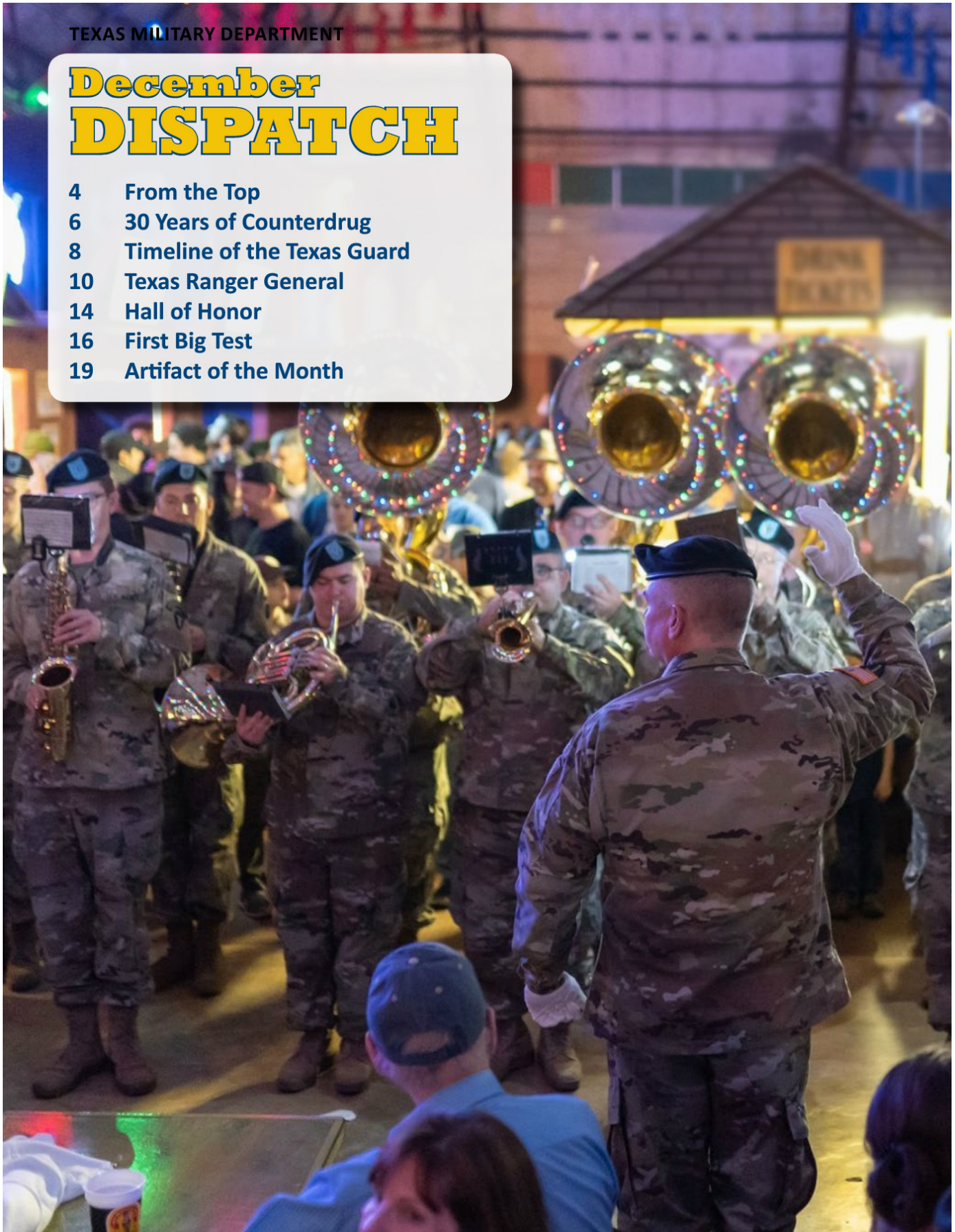
REMEMBERING THOSE TEXANS WHO BUILT
THE HEROIC TRADITION OF THE TEXAS MILITARY

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

December DISPATCH

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The 36th Infantry Division Band participates in the Wurstfest Veterans Day celebration and tribute in New Braunfels, Texas, Nov. 11, 2019. (Photo courtesy of 36th Infantry Division Band Facebook)



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Greg Abbott**



**The Adjutant General
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The Texas Military Department Public Affairs Office would like to thank all the contributing writers and photographers who generously share their work with us. Without the hard work and dedication of Guardsmen and civilians, we would not be able to tell your TMD story.

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TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

FROM THE TOP

COMMENTARIES FROM TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT LEADERS



THE HOLIDAYS ARE A TIME TO REFLECT, RESET AND RECHARGE

BRIG. GEN. GREG CHANEY

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

As we enter into the holiday season, I want each of you to pause and take time to reflect on what brought you into the profession of arms to begin with. We get so caught up in day-to-day tasks that years can go by in a blink, and we look up in amazement at all that has transpired. This same phenomenon can often result in us getting off track and forgetting where we were going in the first place. Taking time away from work to connect with family and friends helps us reconnect to our roots. It is important to re-discover your motivation to get up and do the good work you do day in and day out.

If you are a leader in this organization, I want you to encourage your Soldiers, Airmen, State Guardsmen and civilian employees to reset and take care of themselves and their families. By the very nature of the environment we operate in, there are no "slow" seasons, no set routine breaks in the tempo of effort. We, therefore, must create those for ourselves when and where we can.

Here in Texas, we have a deep heritage of military service. Many of us signed up to serve because of this legacy. Following in the tradition of duty to country that we have had demonstrated to us by family members and those we look up to, has led many of us to where we are today. Throughout our history, the Texas Military Forces have consistently remained the most capable and mission-ready forces in the nation. This distinction is indicative of our hard work and neighborly attitude. When disaster strikes at home or abroad, the nation turns to Texas for personnel, equipment and expertise. Thank you for following in the footsteps of our veterans of the generations before us. It is an honor to serve here with each of you.

Stay safe out there, take care of each other and have a happy and healthy holiday.

- DUTY, HONOR, TEXAS -



*Staff Sgt. Cheylynn De Los Santos leads Texas Military Department members in practicing Christmas carols prior to the TAG Tree Lighting Ceremony held at Camp Mabry, Austin, Texas, Dec. 7, 2018.
(Photo By: Bob Seyller)*



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
2200 West 35th Street, BLDG 86
Austin, TX 78703-1222
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MIL Cell: 512-466-0318
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Houston SMRC (Ellington Field)
(Walk-in and Appointments available)
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MIL Cell: 512-851-7411
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Grand Prairie SMRC
(Walk-in and Appointments available)
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(Appointment only)
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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

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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 for appointments and other important information.

TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

30th Anniversary COUNTER DRUG PROGRAM

*Story and Photos By: Capt. Nadine Wiley-DeMoura
Joint Task Force Counterdrug Public Affairs*

AUSTIN, Texas — Current and former task force members reunited with their law enforcement and community partners to commemorate the Texas National Guard Joint Counterdrug Task Force's 30 years of support to law enforcement agencies, Aug. 7, 2019, at Camp Mabry.

The National Guard Counterdrug program was established by congressional legislation in 1989, with a mission to leverage unique military capabilities, national resources and community focus in the nation's response to drugs and associated security threats.

"The National Guard Counterdrug Program was one of the most brilliant acts our U.S. Congress established 30 years ago," Col. Miguel Torres, Texas National Guard Joint Counterdrug coordinator, said. "This program allows the citizen-Soldier to support law enforcement agencies down to our communities, making it a solid grassroots initiative."

With miles of border and numerous bridges and border crossings, Texas is prime real estate for major drug trafficking organizations to operate, but not without a fight from the task force.

Shortly after President Reagan declared a "War on Drugs," the Texas National Guard was one of the first states to conduct counter-narcotics support missions with law enforcement.

"Cartels and drugs do not discriminate and show no mercy," said Torres. "The Counterdrug program adds a layer of support and hope to our communities, our great state of Texas and our national security."

Counterdrug law enforcement partners in attendance included the Department of Homeland Security Investigations, three out of the four Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area directors, two of the three Drug Enforcement Administration field divi-

sion special agents in charge, the Texas Department Public Safety, the Texas Rangers and the Customs and Border Protection Air and Marine Division.

The law enforcement partners were presented with a 30th anniversary certificate of appreciation and a 30th anniversary commemorative Counterdrug coin.

As part of the ceremony, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Brandon Briggs was honored as the Counterdrug Bill Enney Task Force Member of the Year, and Staff Sgt. Tiffany Carrion was awarded as the Texas Criminal Analyst of the Year.

In addition, Arthur Doty, a DEA senior executive from Washington D.C., was the law enforcement guest speaker.

"Terrible people do terrible things, but in order to get them into the courtroom you have to synthesize this," said Doty, pointing to a photo of multiple stacks of case evidence in a presentation. "And don't forget the electronic version. The only way we are going to do that is with the relationship with the Guard and law enforcement."

"You take the best and brightest in the National Guard and combine them with our law enforcement analysts and case agents and synthesize that into something a courtroom, an assistant U.S. attorney, and a jury will understand."

Leaders from the Massachusetts, New Mexico and Mississippi Counterdrug programs also attended to commemorate the national program's success.

"I love the fact this is the 30th anniversary and we are proud of that history," said Doty. "The relationship between the Guard and our law enforcement has to grow. This is our community, our state, our country, and we become all the stronger when we work together. On the behalf of all law enforcement personnel, we thank you for support to us as well."

Maj. Gen. Dawn Ferrell, the Texas Military Department Deputy Adjutant General – Air, presided over

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the ceremony with several other TMD leadership in attendance.

“In my opinion, it is the worst epidemic problems that we have in our country when 70,000 U.S. citizens die from drug-related overdoses in a year,” said Maj. Gen. Patrick Hamilton, the 36th Infantry Division commander. “One thing about the Guard is that we are a community-based organization, at the grass roots—it’s how we were built.”

“It shows we were organized from the very beginning and working with our partners in an intergovernmental agency relationship is how we get after the problem.”

Hamilton previously presided over the Counterdrug program when he served as the Domestic Operations Task Force Commander.

“The thing to me, as a division commander, a combat commander, who has troops who serve—the Counterdrug program is not what I think people feared; that it would be a distractor to the readiness of our force,” said Hamilton.

“It was exactly the opposite. The Soldiers who I have serving the program are physically fit because they have to be because they are on active duty, they are medically ready and because of the way Title 32 was written they have to be able to train with my formation to maintain their readiness and be available for deployment at any time. Counterdrug is a readiness enhancer for our force.”

The 30 years of the program’s history are marked by parks that are built in the place of demolished drug houses, record multi-billion dollar drug seizures, positively impacted at-risk youth and enhanced law enforcement agency capabilities.

Hamilton recalled attending Operation Crackdown, where Counterdrug engineers knocked down a home known for illicit drug activity.

“I’ve seen it firsthand, a crack house getting knocked down in a neighborhood and hours later watching kids play soccer on an empty lot that was a crack house 24 hours before with people dealing and using drugs,” said Hamilton. “That is getting after what the problem is in communities. That folks, is why we have a Counterdrug program and why it needs to continue to be successful.” **-D**

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A collection of photos detailing the efforts of the Texas National Guard to battle narcotics and drug use throughout the State. (From Top) 1. Texas National Guard members help local law enforcement seize drugs brought through southern border. 2. Texas Guardsmen demolish a known drug house during Operation Crackdown. 3. Texas Army National Guard pilots look for smugglers carrying narcotics 4. Soldiers collect drugs from local community during take back the night event.

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A Brief History of Conflicts Involving Texas Guardsmen



Lt. Col. William Barret Travis defending the Alamo from Mexican forces seeking to end a brewing Texas revolution. (By Ruth Conerly - The Alamo Commission)



Capt. Charles A. May's squadron of the 2d Dragoons slashing through the enemy lines in the opening campaigns of the Mexican War. (Painting care of the U.S. Army in Action Series)



Future President Theodore Roosevelt and the Rough Riders, a group of citizen-soldiers from Texas and New Mexico who fight in Cuba. (By Mort Kunstler - National Guard Heritage Paintings)



Texas Guardsmen join Soldiers from every state as the Punitive Expedition crosses the border into Mexico. (By Donna Neary - National Guard Heritage Paintings)

The Texas Revolution was a separatist movement by American colonists and Tejanos, rebelling against the Mexican government after a series of laws removed local control and the elimination of the Mexican Constitution of 1824.

Texas Revolution

1835

Political unrest in Mexico led to conflicting beliefs in the boundaries of the nation. As the United States annexed Texas, these disputed territories opened the door to conflict with the United States as Mexico reasserted its claims to parts of Texas.

Mexican - American War

1846

The long simmering disagreement on slavery ignited into armed conflict after the election of President Abraham Lincoln. Texas joined the secession movement sending Texas Soldiers to fight throughout the south.

American Civil War

1861

As Cuba declared independence from the Spanish Empire America supported the movement with both naval and ground forces. Texas Guardsmen volunteered to fight both in Cuba and the Philippines.

Spanish - American War

1898

Continued turbulence in the Mexican government led secessionist forces to raid American cities and military outposts hoping to spur recognition by the United States. America's response came with the Punitive Expedition and loss of territory to the U.S.

Mexican Border War

1910

War had raged in Europe since 1914, but American involvement began as German submarines began bombing all shipping to Britain hoping to starve out the island. As America readied for war, Texas Guardsmen formed the 36th Infantry.

First World War

1917

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Second World War

1941

The entire Texas Guard is called to federal service following the Japanese attack on the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor. Texas Units fight in the Pacific including the lost Battalion while 36th Infantry members fight in Northern Africa, Italy and France.

Korean War

1950

Korea divides into northern and southern segments in a civil war as the Russian- and Chinese-backed northern forces attempt to invade the south. Texan Air Guardsmen flew through MIG Alley on bombing runs and to protect cargo planes.

Vietnam War

1964

After a series of conflicts throughout Vietnam led to separate communist and anti-communist regions. U.S. forces became directly involved when communist forces fired on U.S. naval ships in the Gulf of Tonkin followed by an attack on a U.S. helicopter base.

Persian Gulf War

1990

An Iraqi invasion of Kuwait led to a U.S. response sought to liberate the taken country and secure Saudi Arabia. America began its offensive with aerial and naval bombardments followed by ground forces engaging in the largest tank battles in history.

Operation Enduring Freedom

2001

Following terror attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, American forces launched a series of campaigns throughout Afghanistan seeking Al-Qaeda terrorist leaders and ousting the Taliban government after refusals to turn over terrorists in the nation.

Operation Iraqi Freedom

2003

An expansion on the U.S. War on terror, the invasion of Iraq spawned from fears that Iraq had quietly been developing chemical and biological weapons. American forces began with aerial bombardment followed by a ground campaign and capture of Saddam.



Texas' 36th Infantry Division conducts an amphibious landing at Salerno, Italy, as part of Operation Avalanche. (By Keith Rocco - National Guard Heritage Paintings)



Texas Air National Guardsmen fly through MIG Alley over Korea combating Chinese Air Forces attempting to take down U.S. B-29s. (By Keith Rocco - National Guard Heritage Paintings)



An American patrol pauses near an Afghan town in the Hazara Province during Operation Enduring Freedom. (By Elzie Golden care of the U.S. Army in Action Series)



Soldiers work alongside Iraqi soldiers establishing a competent military force to secure the nation against terror attacks. (By Keith Rocco - National Guard Heritage Paintings)

TEXAS RANGER GENERAL

Story By: Bob Seyller

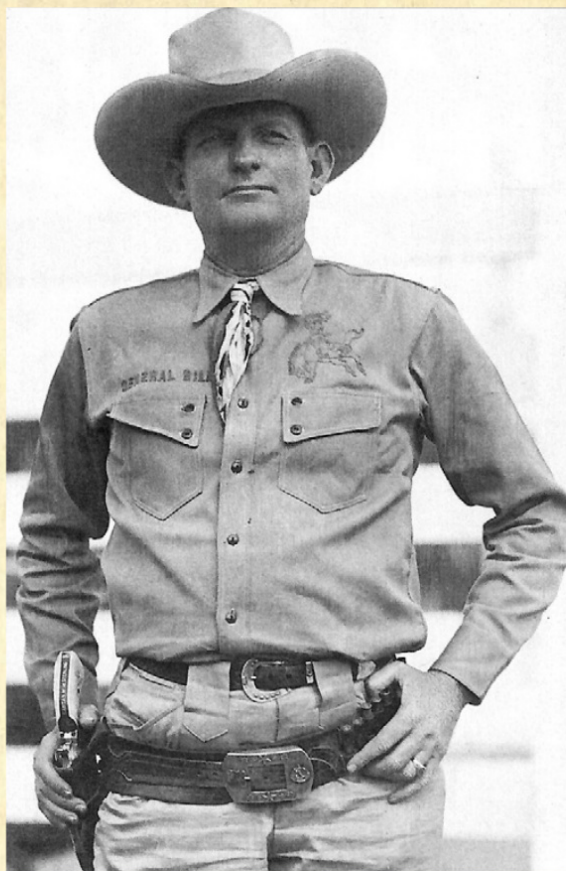
Texas Military Department Public Affairs

In the early days of Texas, the Rangers provided security and rule of law. However, as Texas grew, the Rangers also grew in both size and mission. During the Texas Revolution, the force formalized from a security force for settlers to well-trained soldiers and finally into lawmen delivering justice to an untamed frontier. No matter their role, it was clear: they were a military force. Nearly 100 years after the Texas Revolution, this connection would lead to a Ranger's first term as adjutant general when Brig. Gen. William Sterling took office.

Born in Belton, Texas, near the turn of the century, Sterling grew up on his family's ranch. It was there where Sterling learned how to ride, forage and shoot, before enrolling in Texas A&M University for courses in animal husbandry. Studying for two years, Sterling never attained his degree. Instead, he left to put his knowledge to use on ranches throughout Hidalgo County. Sterling had worked toward a life of raising cattle and tending herds. However, Sterling's career would soon change as violence from the revolution in Mexico spilled across the Rio Grande.

In 1915, as World War I raged across Europe, another war was being waged closer to Texas. Beyond the Rio Grande, violence spread throughout Mexico in a bloody civil war. At the height of the conflict, Mexican forces raided American cities and military outposts, incurring the wrath of the famous Gen. John J. Pershing and his 10,000-man punitive expedition.

As Pershing pushed deeper into the heart of Mexico, hunting Gen. Francisco Pancho Villa, violence continued along the Texas border. There, Sterling found his calling as a scout and reserve member of the United States 3rd Cavalry Regiment and Texas Rangers. Working closely with both groups, Sterling saw firsthand the slaughter of more than 500 Texans at the hands of Mexican troops. As the raids worsened, word spread of the "Plan of San Diego," a plot that called for race riots between Anglos and Tejanos. These riots were to be ignited by bloody incursions from Mexican secessionists. Supporters of the plan believed the riots would eventually force America to return the Southwestern states to Mexican control.



Fear of the Mexican reoccupation plot was growing as the Zimmerman Telegram arrived, both at the height of the U.S. march to World War I. The telegram offered Mexico help in conquering most of the Western United States in exchange for allying with Germany and possibly Japan. The plot called for the extermination of all Anglo men over 16 and any Latino that fought against Mexico. Texas' response to this threat came from a combination of soldiers, rangers and deputized citizens who left nearly 1,000 of the Mexican secessionists dead.

As the Texas border came under control, the United States prepared to join the European war effort. Sterling, like many Americans, joined this effort, commissioning with the Texas Infantry as a second lieutenant. Though he never served overseas, Sterling's time with cavalrymen on the border helped him prepare newly enlisted soldiers for the war.

After the war, Sterling returned to law enforcement as the sheriff and justice of the peace of Mirando City, a border town near Laredo. He once again worked alongside the Texas Rangers, whose duties had shifted from fighting Mexican revolutionaries and seditionists to catching bootleggers smuggling liquor across the border.

"Bill [Sterling] preserved order in an oil town by methods learned from the Texas Rangers and other border officers. On an unpainted pine shake we found a large sign bearing 'W.W. Sterling, Justice of the Peace, The law of the Tex-Mex,'" described contemporary historian Walter Prescott Webb. "Nearby, stood a boxcar in which the judge held his prisoners by means of a generous length of chain and padlocks." This method of restraint was called a "trotline."

As crude oil gushed from derricks rising against the bright Texas sky, the call went out for roughnecks seeking "black gold" to move to Borger, a city centered in the Texas panhandle. Though every oil town had its share of card houses and lawlessness, a corrupt city government coupled with a population increase of more than 40,000 people in three months, allowed prostitutes, card sharks and bootleggers to become nearly as common as oil workers. Lawlessness in Borger reached a boiling point when murders and explosions within the city limits had become a way of life.

"Many persons have been killed including several officers and two or three women. Daylight robberies, hold-ups, explosions and bootlegging continued practically unabated," according to a contemporary Associated Press report.

Sterling arrived under the command of Capt. Frank Hamer, who would later become famous for putting an end to Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow's criminal careers in a hail of gunfire. Working with 10 other Rangers, Sterling and Hamer brought the town under control as Rangers arrested 124 men within the first day. Each lawbreaker found himself shackled to a trotline awaiting removal to trial in Stinnett, Texas. Rangers also targeted vices throughout the city, issuing warnings to 1,200 prostitutes to leave town or face arrest. Liquor, gambling and corruption were additional focuses of the team as it sought to reign in the lawlessness of the city.

"The liquor traffic was broken up, many stills being seized and destroyed, and several thousand gallons of whiskey captured and poured out. 203 gambling slot machines were seized and destroyed," said Brig. Gen Robert Robertson, the Adjutant General of Texas at the time. "As a result of the demand on the part of the citizens of Borger for administration of the law, the mayor, city commissioners and chief of police resigned, replaced by citizens pledged to uphold laws."

Sterling's work in Borger did not go unnoticed. Among other changes, he would promote Sterling to captain, giving him command of the Laredo-based Company D.

His previous experience on the border allowed Sterling to run an efficient unit far from the headline-grabbing troubles of the booming oil towns of northern Texas. He worked with his Rangers to respect the local population and to be sympathetic to Anglo and Tejano concerns, fairly administering justice. For a time, Sterling seemed to have settled into a job he had always wanted. This changed after the election of Ross Sterling to governor.

Ross Sterling prepared to take office as the nation was entering the Great Depression in 1931. The economic collapse of the nation would ruin many of his initiatives in the legislature, but the one initiative in which he did find support was strengthening the Ranger corps.

Ross Sterling had known Bill Sterling for years, having met through Bill's father. Both men discussed their ancestry sufficiently to decide there was no kinship, a determination that would be important as Ross Sterling prepared to appoint his new adjutant general for the Texas Military.

"I called in William W. Sterling, a tall, colorful Ranger captain, and gave him the names of several men who had applied and asked 'Whom would you suggest for adjutant general?' Bill replied that he would like to see Torrance of Fort Worth get it, but he could get along very well with any of those mentioned" said Ross Sterling. "I told him you won't have to get along with any of them. I'm going to appoint you."



Adjutant General William Sterling posing with his Texas Ranger Captains. Seated: Captain Dan Roberts. Standing left to right: Captain J. A. Brooks, Adjutant General W. W. Sterling, former Ranger Captain Frank A Hamer and Captain John R. Hughes taken August 8, 1932.

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Brig Gen. William Sterling posing with a rifle at Brooks Field, a former Army airfield located outside San Antonio, Texas. Members of the Texas National Guard participated in pilot training for both fixed wing aircraft and blimps in the 1930's.

With that conversation and a state senate confirmation, Capt. Bill Sterling became known as Gen. Bill, the first adjutant general pulled from the Ranger corps since Texas became a republic. If anything signified the unique path of his ascension, it would be his choice in uniform.

Though he served as a commissioned officer during WWI, Sterling left mandarin collars and olive drab to career Guardsmen. The 6-foot-3-inch Ranger instead donned his

trademark gun belt with a revolver inscribed, "Captain Sterling," on the handle. No stars adorned his uniform; instead he had "GENERAL BILL" stitched above the pocket of his western shirts along with western motifs of bucking broncos or lone cattle.

Sterling took office vowing to eliminate politics from the promotion system within the department. Changes to the National Guard's structure began with the 1903 Dick Act, giving the organization a standardized promotion system within the Guard. However, the Rangers still primarily promoted individuals under a system patronage and political influence. Sterling issued regulations requiring all captains of Ranger companies to serve first for two years. He also directed promotions to occur on merit and the reputation of the candidate.

Trouble from oil towns mostly sprang from vices that followed oil booms and roughnecks from drill site to drill site, but July 1931 would see oil producers for the first time fall under the gaze of both the Rangers and the National Guard.

The railroad commission moved to regulate the oil market and implement production limits but found the task impossible without an enforcement arm. Ross Sterling, an oil man before his political election, knew the problems collapsed oil markets would add to the stagnant economy of the depression era. He called upon his adjutant general and informed him it was time to restore order to the oil fields.

Ross Sterling declared martial law across the oil fields, deploying 1,200 National Guardsmen from the 56th Cavalry Brigade to Southeast Texas, led by Brig. Gen. Jacob Wolter, an expert in population control. Gen. Sterling empowered the Rangers to arrest any producers defying orders from Guardsmen to shut down drilling operations.

The deployment of the Rangers was more than enough to enforce the newly issued production limits. Without a single shot fired, Guardsmen secured the largest-known reserve of petroleum in the world at the time. However, this would not last long. Court injunctions issued in response to lawsuits by oil producers found the occupation to be unconstitutional. Therefore, as quickly as they arrived, the National Guardsmen left the area.

Oil towns would continue to plague Bill Sterling's time as adjutant general. However, a new foe would soon emanate from Oklahoma.

Bill Sterling saw his tenure as adjutant general come to a close in 1933. Ross Sterling lost his bid for the Democratic nomination to Miriam Ferguson, and, as a result, the governorship. Though the Rangers began an investigation into claims of ballot stuffing on the part of the Ferguson campaign, Ross Sterling called the investigation off in order to avoid the appearance that he was using the Rangers to influence an election.

Bill Sterling knew Ferguson's retaliation for the Ranger investigation into election tampering would be fierce, so he tendered his resignation before she took office. Upon his departure, Sterling's biennial report to the governor offered some parting guidance about the Rangers' role in the Texas Military.

"The Ranger service should be taken out of the hands of the adjutant general, who in almost every case is a military man. The military organization of the state has grown to such an extent that the adjutant general should devote his entire time to the military."

It took another two years for Sterling's vision for the Rangers to manifest as the force moved from the Texas Military's control to their new home at the Department of Public Safety. Now part of an official state-sanctioned law enforcement agency, Rangers saw their department grow into a modern investigative force with tools and methodologies at their disposal that their predecessors could only imagine.

The Rangers left the Texas Military Department, and along with it, they left behind a joint legacy of heroism and the story of Texas' only Ranger-adjutant general. **-D**

**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

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**SEXUAL ASSAULT
PREVENTION & RESPONSE**

TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

HALL OF HONOR



The Texas Military Department Hall of Honor was established in 1981 as a way to recognize outstanding service and leadership of individuals while serving as members of the Texas Army, Air and State Guard.

The Hall of Honor is located at the Texas Military Forces Museum in Austin, Texas, where each member's photo and biography are on display for museum-goers and event attendees.

Story and Photos By: Spc. Miguel Ruiz
100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

AUSTIN, Texas – The Texas Military Department inducted three retired veterans into the Hall of Honor, Oct. 27, 2019 at Camp Mabry.

Retired Maj. Gen. Joyce Stevens, retired Col. Timmy Hines and retired Chief Master Sgt. Kevin O’Gorman were recognized for their outstanding and exemplary service to the Texas Military Department during a formal ceremony.

Several senior members of the Texas Military Department, including Maj. Gen. Tracy R. Norris, the Adjutant General of Texas, were in attendance.

“These individuals have records that are lengthy and remarkable,” said Norris during the ceremony. “They have spent their careers supporting their fellow service members and pushing the Texas Military Department forward into the future.”

Framed plaques, displaying a photo of each inductee along with a summary of his or her contributions to the Texas Military Department, were unveiled during the ceremony.

“I remember looking at the photos of the Hall of Honor inductees as a junior officer and, though I did not know them, I was inspired by the written accomplishments under each person’s photo,” said Stevens, former Texas Military Department Assistant Adjutant General - Army. “I like to think that someday a junior leader will see my photo and be inspired to serve and lead our Soldiers well and faithfully.”

Stevens, who was the first female to reach the rank of brigadier general in the Texas Army National Guard in 2006, said that she recognized a responsibility for setting a competent and capable example of leadership to her Soldiers.

“With that promotion came a knowledge that female Soldiers were looking up to me for inspiration,” said Stevens. “I would advise both female and male Soldiers who aspire to become senior leaders to learn the job you are in as well as the next job. Volunteer for hard work and boldly volunteer for leadership positions.”

The inductees’ framed plaques and biographies are set to be permanently enshrined at the Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry for future generations to admire.

“To be remembered and recognized by leadership and my peers as someone that they feel made an impact in our force is a great honor,” said O’Gorman, the former state command chief master sergeant of the Texas Military Department.

The inductees will join more than 100 Soldiers and Airmen who have been inducted into the Hall of Honor in the last 38 years.

“Each of these individuals has left a lasting impact on the Texas Military Department. Thank you for the job well done,” said Norris. “We all look forward to their continued service as a motivation for us to strive to be the best we can be, not only for ourselves, but for those that are following in our footsteps.” **-D**

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TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT



Retired Maj. Gen. Joyce L. Stevens is inducted into the Texas Military Department's Hall of Honor. Stevens served more than 34 years in the U.S. Army and Texas Army National Guard and was the first female to be promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the Texas Army National Guard, finishing her career as the Texas National Guard Assistant Adjutant General-Army.

Retired Col. Elizabeth Hines, wife of Col. Timmy L. Hines, receives an award from Maj. Gen. Tracy Norris on behalf of her husband at the Texas Military Department's Hall of Honor induction ceremony. Hines, a Vietnam War veteran, served more than 33 years in the military. Hines also championed equality throughout his career, recruiting the Texas National Guard's first female aviator, and promoted the growth of female aviators at the 149th Aviation Brigade's flight school.



Retired Chief Master Sgt. Kevin O'Gorman is inducted to the Texas Military Department's Hall of Honor. O'Gorman served more than 37 years in the U.S. Air Force and the Texas Air National Guard. O' Gorman facilitated the joining of the Texas domestic operations under one command, which resulted in creating efficiencies to support the Texas governor, state agencies and communities during multiple hazardous responses.



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THE FIRST BIG TEST

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

The Texas Defense Guard, created by the Texas Legislature in 1941 and renamed the Texas State Guard in 1943, was the state military unit responsible for protecting Texas, its people and property during World War II. With the National Guard federalized, the Texas Defense Guard was on the front line to respond to attacks by foreign enemies, domestic civil disturbances and natural and man-made disasters. Within a few months of its official existence, the Texas Defense Guard would face its first big test as a defense force.

In the Caribbean Sea near Cuba, a tropical disturbance started brewing on Sept. 15, 1941. As the storm moved into the Gulf of Mexico, weather conditions were conducive to a tropical depression forming. By Sept. 21, the storm had grown into a hurricane bearing down on the Texas Gulf Coast, headed for Port O'Connor or Matagorda. On Sept. 23, the storm made an unexpected turn, placing Freeport, Houston and surrounding areas in its path.

Preparing for the hurricane, local authorities along the Texas Gulf Coast began requesting the support of the Texas Defense Guard. On Sept. 23, the Guard activated 700 members, the first being from the 2nd, 7th, 22nd and 48th Marine battalions and the 2nd Squadron, Aviation Branch. Battalion and squadron commanders ordered their men to bring their personal sidearms, while the Guard would provide Enfield rifles with fixed bayonets and shotguns. The Texas Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. John Watt Page, instructed all commanders that "their mission is to aid and support in every way possible civil authorities."

When the hurricane made landfall, bringing rising tides, heavy rain and destructive winds up to 95 mph, Houston officials knew they did not have a sufficient number of policemen, firemen or city employees to patrol the city and protect property and people. On Sept. 23, the mayor and police chief assigned Guard members from the 48th Battalion to patrol downtown on foot, ride along in Houston Police Department



squad cars or observe from Houston Electric Company buses. Armed with rifles with bayonets and sidearms, they protected department stores from looters. At the coliseum, which was a shelter for evacuees, they cleared streets where sightseers caused traffic congestion by driving around staring at evacuees arriving on trucks. Keeping streets clear around the coliseum was especially urgent because National Guard convoys were bringing Soldiers and Airmen from airfields and armories threatened by the storm.

One sergeant-in-charge commended his men for their selfless service during the storm. "Not one of them flinched from their duty and were eager to step off the bus in water up to their knees to reach their stations of duty," he said.

The 2nd Battalion who patrolled downtown Houston, stood guard to protect people from stepping on downed high-tension wires and broken glass and

helped 50 women and children seeking shelter at the Houston Light Guard Armory.

The 22nd Battalion braved wind, rain and flooding to make dramatic rescues near the Houston Municipal Airport. Two Guard members drove 50 miles to rescue a woman trapped in her home. Notified that a family was stranded in a car two blocks from the airport, five Guard members went into action. Combating the 95 mph wind and tying themselves together, they pushed forward on foot. As they made their way down the road, they saw a man trying to hold on to a tree branch to keep from drowning in a flooded ditch. One Guard member put the man on his shoulders and carried him back to the airport. The rest continued on, having to crawl as the force of the wind made walking impossible. They finally reached the family of nine men, women and children. They could not take all of them at once. The Guard members made two trips during the rescue, carrying four children on their shoulders on the first rescue and on the second carrying two women and two elderly men while a younger man held on to the ropes of the Guard members.

In another rescue near the airport, Guard members received a message that a family was in grave danger as flood waters rushed into their home six blocks away. Guard members struggled down the road on foot in rain so heavy and wind so fierce that they could not see or breathe. This rescue team first stopped to rescue a boy and his grandfather who had suffered a heart attack. Putting the old man on his shoulders, one Guard member with the boy holding onto his belt returned to the airport. Once there, the Guard member administered first aid while waiting for the ambulance to arrive. The rest of the rescue team, wading through flooded prairies and roads in waist-high water, found the house and brought the family members to the airport. In all, the 22nd Battalion at the airport rescued 100 people between Sept. 23 and 24.

(Page 12) An officer in the Texas State Guard conducts commando tactics during the Texas State Guard Training Camp held at Camp Bullis near San Antonio, Texas in July of 1943 (Courtesy of: The Texas Guardsmen Magazine, June 1943)

(Page 13) Pvt. James Barrow guards a pile of aluminum cookware gathered during a donation drive to support the war effort during World War II. Donors visited Peter Smith Park in Fort Worth, Texas, to drop off the items with members of the Texas Defense Guard who turned them over to the Department of Defense. (Courtesy of: University of Texas Arlington Digital Archive)



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The 43rd and 9th battalions in Port Arthur mobilized to stop traffic at the seawall, maintain order in hotel lobbies and protect local schools filled with hundreds of evacuees. At Gulfport Boiler and Welding Works, Guard members kept watch over the shipyards and assisted workers trying to save equipment and materials from flooding waters.

Although escaping the impact of the storm, Corpus Christi had requested the 28th Battalion to protect downtown and north beach businesses from looters. Guard members with Enfield rifles closed the Nueces Bay causeway and prevented traffic at the seawall and water gates.

Radio operators from the Texas Defense Guard maintained communications by radio throughout the storm. At Palacios, 1st Lt. J. C. Johnson of Houston, who served in the radio division, worked throughout the night of Sept. 23 and early morning of Sept. 24 and was one of only a few radios that continuously broadcast along the Texas coast.

On the morning of Sept. 24, the final mission of the Texas Defense Guard was to survey the coast and report back the damage. The 2nd Squadron, Aviation Branch, received the mission. Capt. N. E. Meador piloted the first plane to leave any Houston airport for the previous 30 hours. He flew over oil fields, several

towns and airfields, such as Freeport and Ellington Field. He reported that fields and structures along the coast sustained significant damage and flooding, the road to Freeport was impassable and the town of Kemah was under water. The second pilot, Capt. W. H. Cocke, flew over Houston and the lowlands, Liberty, Galveston Bay and Galveston. The third pilot, Capt. Bernie Groce, checked out Kemah because the Red Cross had sent a message that people needed rescuing, but he found no one there. All pilots relayed reports of total devastation.

The Texas Defense Guard ended its mission on Sept. 24. In their first disaster response, Guard members proved they were ready as a state defense force. They were proud, and their morale soared. They had earned the respect of the civilian authorities, local law enforcement and the public.

"I cannot speak too highly of the work of everyone concerned. If the Texas Defense Guard had not mobilized and contributed their service, we would not have been able to handle the situation alone," remarked Houston Chief of Police Ray Ashworth.

Texas Defense Guard members were men of selfless service, bravery and dedication to serving fellow Texans during the 1941 hurricane. Those qualities remain in the character and soul of every Guard member who serves today in the Texas State Guard. **-D**



Emergency trained scouts cooperate with other community agencies in case of disaster. Studying a project map during the Emergency Service Corps training program are, left to right, Don Mason, Dwight Burcham and Skipper Leon Rickert, all of the Sea Scout Ship Vampyre, and Capt. Tom Berryhill of the Texas Defense Guard, Mates Malcolm Cross, Thomas Hubbard and Tom Turner. They are standing outdoors, all wearing their respective uniforms. (Courtesy of: University of Texas Arlington Digital Archive)

TEXAS GUARD ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH



Victory Mail

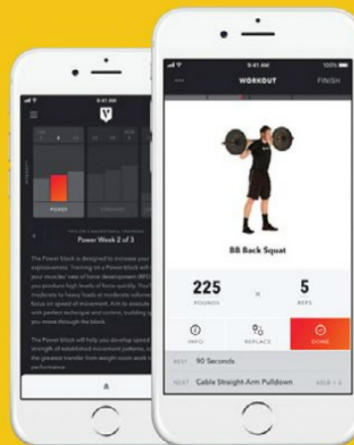
In order to save space in valuable transport ships and aircraft, the U.S. military developed Victory-Mail, or V-Mail. Letters were written on a standardized form that was then photographed and reduced to microfilm for shipment. When the correspondence reached its destination, it was printed at a reduced size for delivery. During the war, military units provided their personnel with V-Mail versions of greeting cards for various holidays such as Easter, New Year and Christmas.

Victory-Mail Christmas letters sent home from Italy in 1943 by Tech. Sgt. Doyle Reed of Niotaze, Kan., who served in the 36th Signal Company and from France in 1944 by Staff Sgt. William J. Hennessy of Houston, Texas, from Company I, 142nd Infantry.



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