The South Carolina State Guard hosted the annual conference of the State Guard Association of the United States (SGAUS) from September 21 – 23, 2017. SGAUS, the professional association of State Defense Forces (SDF), provides organizational and training information for the state militias organized under Title 10 of the United States Federal Code. Under Title 10 each state may organize a military force to respond to emergencies such as the recent Harvey and Irma hurricanes that devastated Texas, Florida, the US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. In these recent emergencies SDFs provided communications that helped coordinate rescue efforts, performed search and rescue efforts, provided medical services, and distributed food and water to hurricane victims.

SGAUS is composed of over 3,000 soldiers throughout the 50 states and several territories, and over 570 attended the largest SGAUS Conference in its history. The annual conference provides opportunities for soldiers to obtain training in best practices in their specialties including communications, engineering, law, chaplain services, search and rescue, public affairs, and coordination with the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Organized as a military force, each SDF reports to the state’s governor through the adjutant general, and best practices and training are developed through SGAUS and disseminated through the conference.

The SGAUS Conference concluded on 23 September 2017 with its annual banquet. Keynoting the conference was former South Carolina Congressman Jim DeMint.

SFC Patricia Isenberg of the South Carolina State Guard leads the way at the Hurricane Hike at the 2017 SGAUS Annual Conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. (Photo: Ms. Ronnie Berndt of Hickory, North Carolina)
Message from the President

Marjorie Moore, founder of the Marjorie Moore Charitable Foundation, once said: “Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”

I wholeheartedly agree. And as you read through the articles submitted by your State Defense Forces (SDF) nationwide, and published here in our newsletter, you’ll soon get the clear picture of what being a volunteer is all about – making each and every state fielding an SDF a better community in which to live. You are the true stand-up citizens, who – not expecting much – are willing to sacrifice time, effort, and personal resources for others.

As we draw nearer to the end of 2018, I am reminded of all the activity, measurable efforts and goals achieved by SDF volunteers in each state. We have emergency management exercises, communication exercises, medical training, statewide maneuvers, overall professional military training, and community support events, all of which augment our National Guard mission capabilities.

Perhaps one of the most important responsibilities of the State Guard Association of the United States (SGAUS) is in the organization’s role in helping make our SDFs more effective and professional through our Professional Military Training (PME) online courses. I am proud to say that since we instituted the PME Academy in March 2016, we have issued more than 800 certificates of completion to our members. We have also issued over 40 completion certificates in our popular JAG Academy. The popularity of these courses has more than exceeded our expectations, and it is certainly rewarding to me personally to see and realize that our national association is actively contributing to the betterment of each SDF and each member.

SGAUS does not simply support our existing and active SDFs. We are currently working with a number of non-SDF states in their individual quests to establish SDFs. This effort includes Arkansas, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Utah. In some cases, we are even represented in state formation committees. We serve as a source of guidance, experience and a fountain of best practices to these forming SDFs.

Our goal is that, once approved by their respective state governments, these organizations can start running quickly and avoid the pitfalls and mistakes of the past. We know how first impressions can make or break a new or newly forming SDF.

We live on credibility and the confidence of our adjutants general day in and day out. Consequently, this will be a key topic in our upcoming annual conference and meeting.

We want to create and improve on a bank of best-practice documents, regulations, policies and standard operating procedures that can be studied and used by SDFs, nationwide. We know that each state is different, but I propose we concentrate on the commonalities and drive up the level of SDF standardization, as applicable, across the nation. More to come!
Lastly, we are all looking forward to our SGAUS National Conference to be held in downtown Columbia, South Carolina, from Friday, Nov. 30 through Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018.

We are striving to make this conference a training-rich opportunity for all members. Please click on the first spot in our slide carousel here on our website’s home-page for more details and information on our venue hotel, The Hilton Columbia Center on Senate Street. Book early. We will have MEMS, medical, JAG, UPAR, chaplain, and search-and-rescue training sessions on Friday and part of Saturday. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

SGAUS Leaders from left to right: Major General (South Carolina) Thomas Mullikin, Colonel James (Alaska), and Brigadier General Hayhurst (Mississippi).

South Carolina State Guard Commander’s Intent for SGAUS National Conference
MAJ (IN) Terry Heifetz

“It’s about selflessness” said MG Thomas Mullikin, Commander of the South Carolina State Guard and SGAUS President.

Hurricanes, flooding, earthquakes. Right now, it is nearly impossible to miss the news of one natural disaster or another across North America. Those crises helped set the backdrop for the September SGAUS conference in Myrtle Beach. MG Thomas Mullikin, current President of SGAUS, believes State Defense Forces (SDFs) have a role...
to play in helping people prepare and recover during a crisis.

“We’re looking to be a force multiplier,” he said. “We can fill the gaps.”

However, the role of SDFs varies. That creates a challenge for SGAUS. Each state is different.

“We are not command and control military; each state has unique challenges,” Mullikin said. “It’s a constant balancing act.”

In its role as a professional organization, SGAUS can help set guidelines that can cross state lines. “We can establish best practices,” Mullikin said. “These best practices can then inform what each SDF does in its own practice.”

SGAUS is accomplishing this mission by facilitating the formation of standards in several areas including medical, legal, search and rescue and chaplain training.

SDFs share something else, according to Mullikin, the desire to serve.

“There is a different human dynamic,” he said. “We don’t pay them; we’re giving an opportunity to give back.” That is what drives most soldiers in every state. Volunteers are willing and able to give their time and expertise without any financial payback.

“They can find fulfillment they wouldn’t get with pay,” he said. “It’s selflessness.” Mullikin believes that desire to serve will continue as SGAUS develops its future plans.
Welcome to the Capital City of the Palmetto State!

MG Tom Mullikin, President of SGAUS, cordially invites you to join him and the rest of the SGAUS leadership for a weekend of training, camaraderie and collaborative planning as we conduct the affairs of the association.

This is a great opportunity to get great training jointly with the members of other state defense forces. We are planning a great conference. Please stay tuned as we publish more details on training sessions, locations, etc.

Our hotel venue is the Hilton Columbia Center facility in downtown Columbia, SC, on Senate Street, just a block away from the SC State Capitol and Legislature. Two blocks away from University of South Carolina, in the trendy “Vista” section of downtown.

Visit the SGAUS website at SGAUS.org for information about registering for the 2018 SGAUS Conference.
The mission of the State Guard Association of the United States (SGAUS) is to advocate for the advancement and support of regulated state military forces established by state governments under the authority of Title 32, Section 109, of the United States Code. These units are typically called state defense forces, state guards, or state military reserves and are regulated by state law and operational guidance provided by the U.S. Army’s National Guard Bureau. SGAUS carries out this mission by carrying out the following missions:

- Sponsor and promote federal and state legislation in support of state military forces.
- Facilitate cooperation between state defense forces, the Department of Defense, the National Guard Bureau, and active/reserve federal forces.
- Establish and promote uniformed and professional state defense force standards.
- Facilitate and promote the exchange of best practices between state defense forces.
- Educate public officials and communities of the benefits of establishing and maintaining state defense forces.
- Educate public officials and communities that state defense forces established by state governments under the authority of 32 USC 109 are legal and professional military organizations and that they are separate from private militias.
- Support state defense force recruitment and retention programs.

- **PME Academy**
- **MEMS Academy**
- **JAG Academy**
- **Engineering Academy**
- **Chaplain Academy**
- **Medical Academy**
- **UPAR Academy**
“State Defense Forces are one of the least expensive yet most effective service organizations in the United States,” said Captain Steve Estes, coordinator of the Unit Public Affairs Representative (UPAR) Training at the State Guard Association of the United States (SGAUS) Annual Conference.

The South Carolina State Guard (SCSG) is hosting the annual conference of SGAUS from September 21 to 23. SGAUS is the professional association of State Defense Forces (SDF), the state militias organized under Title 10 of the United States Federal Code. Sessions that occur at the SGAUS conference include Chaplain training, the “ministry of presence” in the SDFs; Engineering Training; and for the first time UPAR Training.

Approximately 15 soldiers attended the UPAR training, each a representative of their states. Training began with a justification of what a Public Affairs Officer (PAO) does, which is to tell the State Defense Force (SDF) story. SDFs focus on communications, search and rescue, and medical support needed during a natural disaster. In addition, each PAO serves as a Public Information Officer (PIO) in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) run by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, well known popularly by its federal agency acronym, FEMA.

According to Captain Steve Estes, Coordinator of the PAO training, “PAOs tell the SDF story, and the better we can do our job then the better known SDFs will be throughout the country. Many Americans do not know about SDFs, but that is changing as PAOs use social media, press releases, and public affairs officer methods to get the word out.”

Training in writing techniques was provided by Major (IN) Terry Heifetz, Indiana Public Radio News Director and Instructor of Telecommunications at Ball State University. Students were provided guidance in news writing, and all participated in a writing project that culminated in a press release for a specific event at the SGAUS Conference.

At the 2017 SGAUS Conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, an Engineer Training Seminar was held to educate soldiers on how their individual State Defense Forces (SDFs) could adopt the National Guard’s Installation Status Report (ISR) system in their SDF’s Mission Essential Task List (METL), potentially saving their State’s military budget thousands of dollars.
The ISR system, developed by the National Guard Bureau, tracks data from the field to establish infrastructure spending priorities, helping to ensure that maintenance, repair and upgrade of facilities does not go ignored to the point of affecting mission readiness and quality of life for the soldiers that rely on those facilities.

Effectively utilizing Army wide standards, the ISR program assesses the physical condition and usability of facilities to a degree that especially substandard or unusable buildings are identified and exact requirements to revitalize or rebuild can be estimated. Quantifying the overall planning costs then prepares a scalable facility investment strategy.

Spearheading the approach to closely support the National Guard while providing a funding-neutral contribution is the Maryland State Defense Force, engaging not only in what Lieutenant Colonel (MD) Edward Hubner, PE calls an “all hands in” approach, but teaching the next generation of Engineers as well.

“The Maryland SDF has been executing the ISR program for the State since 2006. They annually contribute in excess of $250,000 worth of in-kind money that the State can apply to their Federal obligation. In the past 10 years, Maryland has also seen their contributions from the National Guard Bureau grow in excess of $30,000,000. In Maryland, the program is managed by the Engineering Division, but is all-hands in execution. In fact, for the last three years, they have been teaching college freshmen to do ISRs as part of a service learning program at the University of Maryland” says Hubner, who lead the ISR Seminar for SGAUS at Myrtle Beach.

“The program demonstrates how we can help to ensure mission readiness, supporting our troops and their well-being, and maximize the impact of investment in infrastructure- to secure future operational capability” summarizes Hubner.

Staff Sergeant (TN) Christopher J. Goodwin, sees an additional benefit, already looking forward to a potential roll-out in his Home State of Tennessee, as “this will enable my soldiers to learn additional highly useful skills, and establish a camaraderie with the National Guard Troops”.

The seminar was well received by engineers from nearly a dozen SDFs. Together, they discussed how the impact of the Installation Status Report (ISR) Program could be multiplied through a Train-The-Trainer approach via SGAUS and inter-SDF cooperation, enabling another long-term benefit for individual SDFs to provide to the citizens of their state.
HURRICANE HIKE ATTRACTS NATIONWIDE PARTICIPATION
Stories and Photos by MSG (NY) Carl Majors

MAJ (TN) Alan Bagley didn’t let his age get in the way of conquering the South Carolina State Guard’s Hurricane Hike. The 53-year old traveled to the SGAUS conference from Kingsport, Tenn. for the MEMS academy meeting. But he felt that he could challenge himself by participating in the hike, a three-mile race on Myrtle Beach.

“Hiking in combat gear is hard enough in the woods,” Bagley said. “But doing it in sand is a whole new challenge.”

The race usually attracts local runners. But since it happened at the SGAUS conference this year, it got attention nationwide. Dozens of soldiers from across America participated.

The Hurricane Hike isn’t just for fun. MG (SC) Thomas Mullikin said this is a tool for preparing guardsmen for real-world events. In a disaster, soldiers may have to reach areas that are only accessible by foot.

Not just guardsmen participated; this was a family-friendly event. Recognition was given to the top finishers in several categories, based on age and gender. Several participants also completed the race carrying a 40-pound rucksack.

Because of a recent knee injury, Bagley chose not to carry the extra weight. But he’s still happy with his finish.

“I’m glad it’s over. And I hope to do I again sometime in the future,” Bagley said. “It’s not just about me. It was a great experience sharing the beach with state guardsmen from across the country.”

The South Carolina State Guard plans to keep the tradition alive with the Hurricane Hike next year.
Distinguished military leaders, along with South Carolina state elected officials, came together in an extraordinary leadership panel on Saturday, 23 September 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Conference Center at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. A distinguished panel of military leaders and civilian elected officials assembled and addressed an audience of State Defense Force (SDF) Soldiers and guests from across the country representing 11 different states. The Leadership Forum was a discussion of the increasingly important role - made even more critical by recent weather events - that SDFs are playing across the country.

The event was moderated by SGAUS President and South Carolina State Guard Commander, MG (SC) Thomas Mullikin, and featured other leaders including South Carolina Adjutant General MG Robert E. Livingston Jr; SC Deputy Adjutant General MG R. Van McCarty; Commanding General United States Army Central Command, Lieutenant General Michael Garrett; Former US Senator (South Carolina) Jim DeMint; South Carolina Lt. Governor Kevin Bryant; and South Carolina State Senator Thomas Alexander. Leaders of State Defense Forces from across the nation were in attendance for the conference as well as the forum.

Lieutenant General Garrett emphasized the importance of leadership in fulfilling the mission of a SDF. Garrett said, “Never underestimate the importance of personal example in leadership. It is probably the most important thing that we do.” Adapting what he called his “essential four pillars of leadership” he then went on to discuss his vision for the SDFs saying, “Readiness, force protection, ability to communicate, managing the transitions that surround us” as the core skills that would be useful in times of natural or man-made disasters.”

In his comments, MG McCarty said, “Even in wealthier, more robust counties and states, local resources will be overwhelmed in natural disasters. Putting people out onto the street is critical to creating a calming sense among the citizenry. Our State Guard is well positioned to be one of those uniformed personnel … It is not the dollars: It is the commitment to helping others.”

General Mullikan discussed the spirit of volunteerism as the greatest asset of SDFs, who in turn, through service, become better citizens. He spoke of the personal rewards of serving, saying, “Serving in the State Guard fills a hole in the soul of each soldier.” State Senator Alexander spoke of the pride he has for the South Carolina State Guard, stating, “Every state in the country should stand up and support a State Guard.” Former Senator DeMint similarly noted, “The volunteer spirit in this country IS the American spirit,” and so reiterated the importance of a SDF and the critical need for the missions they perform during a time of disaster.
The panel fielded questions from the State Guard Officers and Soldiers in attendance. Those present at the Forum were enthusiastic to learn best practices for working with the Legislators and National Guard leadership in their own States.

The Conference concluded with the annual SGAUS Banquet, hosting the 570 attendees and their guests. The 2018 Conference will be held in Long Beach, California.

SC Deputy Adjutant General MG R. Van MCarty addresses the 2017 SGAUS Leadership forum. Photo: LTC David Persyn

SGAUS NATIONAL CONFERENCE HOSTS CHAPLAIN TRAINING

Story by CPT (TN) Steven Estes
Photos by PFC (TN) Colt Helton

The South Carolina State Guard is hosting the annual conference of the State Guard Association of the United States (SGAUS) from September 21 to 23. SGAUS is the professional association of State Defense Forces (SDF), the state militias organized under Title 10 of the United States Federal Code. Specific sessions that occur at the SGAUS conference include Chaplain training, the “ministry of presence” in the SDFs for the soldiers who serve in each state.

Approximately 15 soldiers attended the Chaplain training. Training began with a justification of chaplaincy in all military units, and a history of just how chaplaincy came to be in the United States military. Similar to what happens in traditional military units such as Army, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard, and Air Force, Chaplains fulfill an outreach role in each SDF. They provide solace and meaning to SDF Soldiers as they fulfill their specific duties in each unit.

As noted in the training, a chaplain is a clergyman who is appointed to bring the (sacred) to secular culture and institutions, ministering to those who are either un-churched or separated from the immediate influence of their church. In modern practice, a chaplain is a minister who is assigned to provide crisis assistance.

One question that was addressed was the philosophical justification for having a specialty that focuses on a traditionally religious role in society. Some have argued that the separation of church and state requires the military to keep its distance from organized religion. Consequently, the Chaplain corps has had its role challenged five times in court rulings, and in each case the court
found that the Chaplain Corp is constitutional. The Free Exercise clause of the first amendment "obligates Congress, upon creating an Army, to make religion available to soldiers who have been moved to areas of the world where religion of their own denominations is not available to them.”

According to Chaplain Michael Langston, “I believe that chaplains are missionaries with worldwide tendencies, and who go to (soldiers) to ministry... I go to them, and stand with them... on the bridge wing, or on the equipment that they are maintaining... You are standing there at ground zero because you are the trusted entity in that organization. So the chaplain goes to the people.”

The Chaplain training concludes on Friday, 22 September.

ILT (SC) Julian Young, the camerata director said, “It is a great honor to be able to perform before such a great host of State Guard representatives from around the nation. I cannot express in words, how dedicated these men and women are.”

The performance at the "Salute to the Heroes Banquet" lasted 15 minutes and covered numbers such as “America,” “Let there be Peace on Earth,” and “Eternal Father, Strong to Save.”

The banquet attendees, which included a Medal of Honor recipient, Commander of US Army Central Command, the Governor of South Carolina, and many other dignitaries, were roused by the performance and expressed great delight in the Camerata. MG Thomas Mullikin, Commander: South Carolina State Guard and SGAUS President, was heard to say "The Camerata performed brilliantly. Through their beautiful music, a wonderful and patriot milieu was set for the military banquet. Each of the volunteers were extraordinary." Command Sargent Major Mark Freemen (SC) added, "The SCSG Camerata delivered an outstanding performance as they provided entertainment during the Saturday evening banquet at this year’s SGAUS convention.

With such high praise, the Camerata certainly has a great start, and all of those involved look forward to hearing these men and women perform again in the near future.

SGAUS Wraps of 2017 Conference with First Camerata Performance at SGAUS Banquet

While hosting the annual conference for the State Guard Association of the United States, the South Carolina State Guard premiered the first ever State Guard Camerata in the Nation. This small chamber choir is comprised of 16 soldiers, who, in addition to their normal duties have volunteered to showcase their talents and patriotism as ambassadors for the South Carolina State Guard.
Alaska State Defense Force Soldiers make history and deploy out of state
By 2LT Marisa Lindsay

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska - After their historical first-time activation for duty outside of Alaska, four Alaska State Defense Force Soldiers are expected to return next week from a Puerto Rico deployment where they assisted with relief efforts on the hurricane-ravaged island.

The ASDF team have worked in tandem with Alaska Army and Air National Guard members to operate one of 15 Joint Incident Site Communications Capability systems on the island. The JISCC, a transportable 20-foot mobile system developed in the lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina, is essential for effective communication during relief efforts. It bridges the communications gap between military and civilian agencies by providing shared non-secure Department of Defense and civilian network capabilities.

"Our leadership within the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has been incredibly supportive of this opportunity for our team," said Col. (AK) John James, commander of the ASDF. "We sent Soldiers who are knowledgeable in signal and communications support to help directly with the mission we've been tasked with."

The ASDF is an all-volunteer state militia comprised of approximately 120 Soldiers throughout the state. Since its establishment in 1984, their primary role and mission is to augment and logistically support the Alaska National Guard and other state agencies in response to major emergencies. The Soldiers meet monthly and are trained in communications, logistics and emergency shelter management. They were last activated in response to the 2015 Card Street fire on the Kenai Peninsula.

The ASDF members hail from Bethel, Fairbanks, Kenai, and Wasilla.

"We are so very thankful we had this opportunity to help contribute and perhaps relieve some of the discomfort and suffering of the people of Puerto Rico," stated James. "We are proud of our Soldiers' willingness to serve at a moment's notice, for their professionalism and for the technical expertise that they brought to the efforts."

In the last two months, nearly 100 Alaska National Guard Airmen and Soldiers have deployed to support Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands after Hurricanes Irma and Maria; Florida after Hurricane Irma; and to Texas during the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.
Introducing – The New SGAUS Veteran and Premium Member ID Card
Product Fact Sheet

The SGAUS Veteran ID Card is a document sold and issued by the State Guard Association of America (SGAUS) to its members. It is a simple, yet informative card, the member can use for identification and/or registration during SGAUS formal events and conferences and also use it as a Veteran Card in other establishments.

The SGAUS ID card is well labeled. The front of the ID card contains relevant information about the member; to include, head picture of the member, the SGAUS Logo, the member’s state of membership right under the SGAUS Logo, a flowing United States Flag with a “V” device superimposed on the flag to indicate that SGAUS has verified via DD-214 and/or Honorable Discharge certificate that the member is a U.S. Armed Forces veteran. If the member is not a U.S. Armed Forces veteran, then the “V” device will not show. It also displays a QR-Code containing the member’s ID card information so it can be easily scanned with a hand held mobile device during registration for SGAUS events and conferences. This QR-Code should speed up registration processes significantly. Lastly, the front of the ID card displays card issue and expiration dates. For Life members and Veterans, the expiration will read “INDEFINITE”. Below is an example SGAUS ID Card (Back):

The back of the SGAUS ID card includes more information regarding the Veteran certification by SGAUS for Veterans, a gray color security picture of the member, the member’s state seal, instructions if the card is lost and a standard barcode field for SGAUS use.

To purchase, please visit the online SGAUS store in this web site by clicking on the “SGAUS Store” tab in the web site’s Home Page.

Once you complete your purchase, email a picture of yourself; from the chest up, in color, well illuminated, with a neutral background to: Chago.Santiago@SGAUS.org

If you are a U.S. Armed Forces Veteran, please email a copy of your DD-214 or Honorable Discharge Certificate to the email address above.

For more information about the SGAUS Veteran / Premium membership card, please contact BG(TN) Chago Santiago at chago.santiago@sgaus.org
SGAUS Mid-Year Meeting
CPT (TN) Steven Estes

The State Guard Association of the United States (SGAUS) hosted Medical Academy Training from April 20 – 21 in San Antonio, Texas. SGAUS is the professional association of Sate Defense Forces (SDF), the state militias organized under Title 10 of the United States Federal Code. Under Title 10 each state may organize a military force to respond to emergencies such as the recent Harvey and Irma hurricanes that devastated Texas, Florida, the US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. In these recent emergencies SDFs provided communications that helped coordinate rescue efforts, performed search and rescue efforts, provided medical services, and distributed food and water to hurricane victims.

In preparation for these types of emergencies SGAUS provides professional military education in the specialties needed to provide support in a disaster area. The range of possible disaster scenarios is breathtaking in scope, and the 2018 Medical Academy Training provides an example of how SDFs must be prepared for almost any situation.

The theme of the 2018 Medical Academy Training was Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) Events. It is not obvious at first glance, but natural and man-made disasters can have both primary and secondary order consequences where chemicals, biological agents in the form of bacteria or germs, radiation leaks, or the threat of additional explosions are a real possibility. The means by which SDFs provide direct and indirect support to National Guard units, and to local, state, and federal emergency management agencies and personnel are studied and taught within each specialty. In doing so SDF Soldiers can maximize the safety of civilians affected by the disaster, as well as to mitigate the threat in the most expeditious means possible.

Soldiers interested in attending Medical Academy Training at future SGAUS conferences are welcome to contact the SGAUS Medical Academy personnel by going to the SGAUS website at https://sgaus.org/sgaus-academy/medical-academy/
California State Military Reserve (CSMR)

California State Military Reserve Soldiers Step Up For Wildfire Assistance
By Specialist (CA) Cullen Lee

A week after the start of the Thomas Fire and other fires that ravaged California, some residents of California, otherwise known as California State Military Reserve (CSMR) soldiers, gave back to their neighbors. Soldiers from the 115th Support Group, the 40th Support Command, and Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB) Installation Support Command (ISC) came together to assist with the fires in two separate areas of California. The objective was the same: Save lives and get goods to firefighters and victims.

Master Sergeant (CA) Mario Marquez got the call with the rest of his fellow soldiers. Only one year into the CSMR, MSG (CA) Marquez seized the opportunity to help out. On short notice, he was deployed to the Santa Barbara Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to assist with the Thomas Fire. Although this was his first Emergency State Active Duty (ESAD) mission, his 23 years of prior Army service helped. “It seemed overwhelming at first, however, I was aided by a seasoned Liaison Officer (LNO). I felt confident by the battle rhythm of both the State Operations Center/Joint Operations Center (SOC/JOC) and the EOC that I served.”

The seasoned LNO MSG (CA) Marquez speaks about is Lieutenant Col. (CA) Daniel Woodward from the 40th Support Command. Prior Navy, LTC (CA) Woodward is a seasoned CSMR officer who has served in the 3rd Battalion, the 79th Support Brigade, and just recently, in the 40th Support Command. Both LTC (CA) Woodward and MSG (CA) Marquez, working for the first time together as LNOs, had to come up to speed and meet the needs of both the California Military Department (CMD) JOC and Santa Barbara EOC.

“This was the first time we had put LNOs into the Santa Barbara EOC, so relationships had to be built with the EOC staff, the Santa Barbara Fire Department, and Cal Fire representatives. We were treated fantastically by the EOC staff and invited to all the appropriate discussions and staff briefings. We quickly developed a strong relationship with the different articles within the EOC” said LTC (CA) Woodward.

Together, both MSG (CA) Marquez and LTC (CA) Woodward were able to assist in requesting a Mobile Response Team (MRT) to the SOC/JOC for requisition of over 100 National Guard Soldiers, to augment law enforcement. Together, both MSG (CA) Marquez and LTC (CA) Woodward coordinated a number of different National Guard assets, mostly Military Police (MP) units already in Ventura who supported Santa Barbara, and an MP unit from Sacramento coming in to take over the traffic control points for the evacuated areas. Both served 12-18 hour shifts, for nine days, before being relieved of their posts.

MSG (CA) Marquez later went back to Santa Barbara for coordination due to recent mudslides.

Meanwhile, to the south, two dozen soldiers from the Installation Support Command stepped up on short notice to help the National Guard’s response to the Southern California wildfires. They helped turn JFTB Los Alamitos into a staging area for personnel and supplies that were going into communities ravaged by the fires. They also manned the front gates of JFTB, conducted traffic control points, and secured and patrolled the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES) staging area, with multi-agency personnel and supplies.

Lesson learned from this experience: you need to be physically and mentally ready when you are
activated. Have your gear ready to go. CSMR soldiers experienced a morning Warning Order (WARNO), noon launch, and immediate travel to the mission area.

The experience was best summed up by LTC (CA) Woodward, "With all the ESAD missions, you have to be prepared for 12-18 hour days. When your EOC counterparts are there, you are there. One morning we had 0300 report time, since the fires had flamed up and serious wind events were forecast. Later that morning, 16,000 Santa Barbara residents received mandatory evacuation orders, so this is serious business."

California State Military Reserve Completes Revised 2017 NCO Academy Training
Jim Peterson, CSM (CA)

The California State Military Reserve (CSMR) recently concluded the 2017 Noncommissioned Officer Academy NCO Professional Development session held at Camp San Luis Obispo, CA.

The NCOA conducted three NCOPD courses simultaneously; the Basic Leader Course (BLC), Advanced Leader Course (ALC) and the Senior Leader Course (SLC). This was the second iteration for the BLC and ALC courses, while it was the first time the SLC was presented.
The BLC program is focused on an introduction level of Squad Leader development and is the first course of study in the CSMR Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES). BLC is a 175-hour course that trains specialists, corporals, and sergeants in the fundamentals of leadership and Soldier care. The course curriculum includes instruction in leadership, training, counseling, and Civil Support skills. To graduate, students must pass extensive assessments of both classroom instruction and practical exercises.

The Advance Leader Course was a mix of prior- and non-prior service members, from two components, and contained troop unit members as well as State Active Duty members. As with the SLC, this mix of experiences allowed the facilitation of lesson material among the members in a greatly-enhanced manner.

ALC is the second course in the CSMR Noncommissioned Officer Education System. ALC is a 210-hour course of study and practical application. ALC is designed to develop mid-level NCOs to function at the Staff Sergeant and Sergeant First Class level, in preparation for assuming the roles of Platoon Sergeant and Staff NCO within the CSMR. ALC focuses on leadership assessment & development, training development, platoon level order and discipline and military reading and writing skills, while stimulating critical thinking and generating innovative problem-solving ideas.

SLC is the third course in the CSMR NCO Professional Development program. The SLC program is structured to support the actions and responsibilities of the Senior NCO working at the strategic level, both at the troop-leading and staff support levels. Within the CSMR, this also includes Senior NCOs who have Title 32 positions within the California Military Department.

Curriculum at the SLC level includes MDMP, building and delivering various military briefings, proper administration of AR 600-9 procedures, correct implementation of a revised personnel evaluation system, working a focus group to better implement a proposed physical fitness and health assessment policy and examining the various personnel policies within the organization.

The CSMR is comprised of service members of three state defense force service sections of the California State Military Department (Army, Air and Maritime). The CSMR NCO Academy is the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development training grounds for all three sections. Each service member must meet enrollment requirements such as Time in Grade /Time in Service standards, body composition standards, and a commanders’ physical fitness assessment. Members with approved applications receive the applicable course guide and self-study online materials which must be reviewed prior to reporting to the first residence phase.
All three of the courses have a total of four phases, with the first phase consisting of various on-line FEMA lessons that support the FEMA Incident Control System theory of operations for civil support. These on-line courses support several of the follow-on residence phase lessons regarding Defense Support to Civil Authority (DSCA), a primary mission of the CSMR.

The phases vary in their curriculum which is specific to each course. All three courses are resident three-day phases conducted over a three-month period at Camp San Luis Obispo. Supporting the resident phase lesson requirements, inter-session assignments (also known as “homework”) serve to reinforce already-presented material while also preparing the student for the next residence phase.

Students must complete all aspects of each phase to proceed to the next phase. Those who are unable to meet specific requirements are recycled to the following training year course. Completion of these NCO Academy courses is a prerequisite for promotion consideration for CSMR members.

Night hours and serves as a culmination of the knowledge learned throughout the program. An extensive final examination completes the multi-phased course graduation requirements.

Among the SLC students, various assignments required the student group to work together during the inter-session periods as they developed military briefings and a change of responsibility ceremony, and prepared to serve as instructors/mentors for the junior classes while interpreting historical monuments at CSLO.

The last day of the final residence session is capped by a graduation ceremony that includes friends, family members, unit personnel and commanders of the CSMR units that the students are members of. Students who excelled in the courses were recognized for their overall academic, assessment and leadership achievement as honor graduates of their respective classes.

The three courses were developed and conducted by members of the CSMR 223d Training Support Regiment which is based at Camp San Luis Obispo. The NCOA Training Director is CPT (CA) John Irwin, assisted by the Training Administrator, WO1 (CA) Darryl McLaughlin and the NCOA Commandant, CSM (CA) Jim Peterson. A number of seasoned NCO instructors delivered the various programs of instruction which had been under development since 2015. All three courses are held on an annual basis. The 2018 training year announcement is slated to be published this upcoming January with residency courses scheduled for September, October, and November of 2018.
CSMR Awards Commendation Medals

On November 18, 2017, California State Military Reserve JAG Officers, MAJ (CA) Dave Fuller, CPT (CA) Michael Campolo, and CPT (CA) Michael Vogler were awarded the California Commendation Medal for their meritorious service, in support of the office of the Command Judge Advocate for the 224th Sustainment Brigade, 40th Infantry Division, California Army National Guard.

Their dedication to service and willingness to accomplish any task assigned demonstrates their commitment to Army values reflecting greatly on the California State Military Reserve, Legal Support Command, headed by COL (CA) Jay M. Coggan, the California Army National Guard, and the United States Army.
Georgia State Defense Force (GSDF)

Charlie Class Graduation Personifies Perseverance
By Spc. Beverly Shepard
Photos by SGT Alexander Davidson

The Georgia State Defense Force (GSDF) Charlie Class brought the year to a close, personifying the true meaning of its class motto: Honor, Serve, and Persevere. In doing so, class members credited a retiring member of the GSDF and other cadre for seeing them through to graduation day — the capstone of a journey that began in April and unexpectedly continued for the better half of a year. The Initial Entry Training (IET) class faced many unforeseen obstacles which extended the class beyond its planned duration. However, instead of driving the team apart, the challenges they faced pulled Charlie Class closer together.

With encouragement from former Commandant of the Military Entrance Processing Station, SGT1st Class Michelle Campbell, and other GSDF cadre, Charlie Class persevered. As time went on, new recruits joined the class, and Charlie Class was back on track.

“They’re all troopers,” SSG Raymond Slocumb, a Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) cadre, said of Charlie Class members on graduation day. “They hung in there until the end.”

For Slocumb, the graduation was particularly meaningful. He had planned to retire. After working in TRADOC for the past seven years, this graduation class would be his last. “We hate to see him go,” Charlie Class Leader Pfc. Jack Nieves said of SSG Slocumb. “The sergeant made it worthwhile (for us) to come back.”

On Sunday, December 3, 2017, class members marched in formation and recited the Soldier’s Creed. GSDF cadre and family members were on hand to congratulate them. “They’re an amazing group,” Pfc. Nieves said of Charlie Class members. “They demonstrated a willingness to serve, to follow orders, to look out for each other.”

And, to persevere.
The Governor of Georgia and Georgia State Legislators hosted an event to honor the Georgia National Guard at the Georgia State Capitol on January 25, 2018.

All Georgia Department of Defense component commanders, including the State Defense Force, participated in this event. The purpose of the event was to demonstrate the importance of the Georgia National Guard’s enduring support to the state.

During the daylong event, SDF members socialized and met members of the State Legislature and attended readings of resolutions honoring the Georgia National Guard in both chambers of the state legislature.

While interacting with the Governor and other senior state officials, BG (GA) Tom Danielson, Commander of the Georgia State Defense Force (GSDF), expressed gratitude to the Governor and General Assembly for their continuing support of the GSDF. BG Danielson pointed out that, in the last three years, the GSDF has been tasked with a steadily increasing number of missions.

With support from the Governor and General Assembly, the GSDF will be able to continue serving the people of Georgia.
Georgia State Defense Force members complete water survival training
By 2LT Michael Chapman

Several members of the Georgia State Defense Force (GSDF) recently completed a new water survival course. The GSDF water survival course is designed to allow the student an opportunity to learn basic water survival techniques in a controlled environment while building self-confidence for operations around bodies of water. The course strictly follows the U.S. Army’s water survival training curriculum. The techniques taught can be life-saving even for non-strong swimmers as students will progress through a series of evolutions that help build upon different skill levels. The course will allow the GSDF to safely operate on or near bodies of water while performing search and rescues (SAR) operations. The water survival course is part of the GSDF’s strategic goal of becoming a Type I Federal Emergency Management Agency SAR organization.

Members of the Georgia State Defense Force complete the Water Survival Course in Rome, Georgia, Feb. 18, 2018. The members of the course learned to maintain buoyancy in full gear, swim 15 yards underwater, swim the travel stroke, breaststroke, and sidestroke, assist other swimmers in the water, and to use personal safety and water survival techniques.

Photo by CPT (GA) Allan J. Hayes
Maryland Defense Force (MDDF)

Vigilant Guard Update: MDDF 10th Medical Regiment Supports Hurricane Response
MAJ (MDDF) Stephen Rice

During the recent Operation Vigilant Guard exercise from May 7 – 10, the Maryland National Guard (MDNG) was tasked with responding to a simulated emergency.

“Hurricane Cora,” a Category 2 storm passed through the state leaving a path of destruction in its wake. The MDNG was augmented during the exercise by fully integrated units of the Maryland Defense Force (MDDF).

In this exercise scenario, several civilian hospitals throughout the Baltimore region were left inoperable due to the effects of the hurricane. Consequently, a field hospital was established by the Maryland National Guard at U.S. Army Aberdeen Proving Ground (South) in Edgewood, Maryland. The lead medical unit was the Maryland Army National Guard’s (MDARNG) 104th Area Support Medical Company commanded by CPT Analiza Harry who also served as the Incident Commander. The MDARNG was supported by the Maryland Air National Guard’s (MDANG) 175th Medical Group, the U.S. Public Health Service’s (USPHS) Rapid Deployment Force and Maryland Defense Force’s 10th Medical Regiment.

CPT (MDDF) Evelyn Kloos served as the team lead for the MDDF 10th Medical Regiment. “The purpose of the exercise is to build coordination and cohesion amongst the various medical units so that we can work together effectively in an actual emergency,” shared CPT (MDDF) Kloos. She continued, “This was a great opportunity to learn about the capabilities and strengths that each medical unit can bring to an emergency response situation.”

“Patients” who were volunteer actors arrived via ambulance and were triaged for medical care depending on the severity of their injuries. The field hospital also included behavioral medical services and a mobile dental clinic. “The patients arrived with a wide range of medical conditions from bumps and bruises to acute care situations,” commented MAJ (MDDF) Rick Barnes, who served as the public information officer and leader of the Incident Commander’s Joint Information Center. He added, “The USPHS’ supply trucks were held up as part of the scenario and there was an accident with one of their members. They did not have their medicine or equipment and they weren’t at full capacity. It forced everyone to adjust and adapt pretty quickly.”

“This was an important exercise. Having the Maryland National Guard, the Maryland Defense Force and the U.S. Public Health Service working side by side in an integrated fashion is an excellent training tool for our joint response to a manmade or natural disaster,” shared BG (MDDF) Lorenza Cooper, commanding general of the MDDF.

The Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) is the State’s uniformed volunteer militia unit providing competent, supplementary,
professional and technical support and soldiers to the Maryland Military Department and the State of Maryland as needed. Established in 1917, the MDDF consists of nearly 200 personnel who perform legal, engineering, finance, medical, chaplain, field support and ceremonial services for the State of Maryland. For more information: www.mddf.maryland.gov.

Vigilant Guard Update: MDDF Cyber Unit Built Simulated 911 Call Center

MAJ (MDDF) Stephen Rice

From May 7 – 10, more than 2,000 National Guard personnel from six states and the District of Columbia took part in the Vigilant Guard emergency response exercise. Multiple locations in Maryland were used to improve their ability to respond to a natural disaster and enhance relationships with local, state, and federal emergency response partners. The event simulated a catastrophic regional hurricane.
making landfall in Maryland. The exercise was designed to test how the Maryland National Guard (MDNG) would assist in the state's response to the emergency. The MDNG was augmented during the exercise by fully integrated units of the Maryland Defense Force (MDDF).

“Planning for the exercise started in the Fall (of 2017) and we wanted a cyber scenario where there was some sort of issue with the 9-1-1 call center,” stated MAJ Daniel Molina of the Maryland Air National Guard (MDANG) who served as the Lead Cyber Planner for the exercise. He continued, “Unfortunately, we didn’t have that particular skill set in house. That’s when MAJ (MDDF) Michael Rinkus, commander of the Maryland Defense Force’s Information Technology Unit spoke up at the planning conference and let us know that the MDDF had lots of expertise with private branch exchange (PBX) servers.”

In preparation for Vigilant Guard, the Maryland National Guard’s cyber warriors had to be trained on the PBX 9-1-1 system. MAJ Molina shared, “The MDDF provided training to a joint audience at Warfield Air National Guard Base and specifically trained our personnel on the PBX system. They brought in the equipment and provided hands on training for the soldiers and airmen.” He added, “MAJ (MDDF) Rinkus and then CPT (MDDF) James Lai came in and set-up the equipment in a way that simulated a 9-1-1 call center in a virtual training environment.”

Prior to the start of the Vigilant Guard exercise, “the MDDF provided us with a fully integrated PBX system that we could test,” according to MAJ Molina. “The MDDF also provided us with technical assistance in the setting up the 9-1-1 call center environment and trained our protection team (Blue) as well as our opposing force (Red).” During the exercise, the Blue Team was tasked with surveying the 9-1-1 system and protecting it. The Red team was tasked with hacking the system and disruption of its operation. Various scenarios were explored such as the Red team attempting to power the 9-1-1 call center offline or flooding the system with busy signals or fake phone calls to make it inoperable. MAJ Molina concluded, “Thankfully the MDDF is an integrated part of the Maryland Military Department because we wouldn’t have been able to do this exercise if we didn’t have MDDF expertise.”

CPT Brandon Krantz, also of the MDANG served as the White Team Leader for the exercise. The White Team’s job was to observe and evaluate the players on the different teams. In the exercise, the Black Team was tasked with maintenance of the 9-1-1 call center’s information technology infrastructure. CPT Krantz added, “We also couldn’t have conducted this exercise effectively without the MDDF team players on each of the Black, Red, White and Blue teams. Their expertise was integral to making this exercise a success.”
LTC Thomas A. Herster serves as the commander of the MDANG 275th Cyberspace Operations Squadron and was the Commander of Joint Task Force - Cyber during the exercise. He stated, “The MDDF was a critical enabler for this exercise. The key to our training was having the MDDF’s preparation of the 9-1-1 call center and bringing it to the exercise.” He added, “Having that capability made the scenarios more real for our cyber operators. It was a good demonstration to the team of the effects that cyber-attacks can have on public services.” He concluded, “It really brought home how a community can be impacted.”

The exercise scenario also included the targeting of a local water treatment plant by a malicious actor intent on taking advantage of the emergency situation. The Joint Task Force – Cyber followed-up on the warnings and received notification from the Maryland Department of Information Technology that some of the water treatment facility’s systems were offline.

MAJ (MDDF) James Lai of the MDDF Cyber Unit served as a Blue Team Planner.
for Vigilant Guard. During the exercise he shared, "Our MDDF cyber team substantively contributed to the exercise by providing specialized experience and subject matter expertise in PBX architectures, configuration, vulnerability, identification, exploitation and defense. The PBX is a critical component of any 9-1-1 call center.” He continued, “Emergency calls coming into our counties' 9-1-1 call centers would be seriously impacted and their services disrupted if attackers are able to exploit vulnerabilities in the PBX systems."

MAJ (MDDF) Lai then added, "In the exercise, the MDDF team showed how attackers can exploit vulnerabilities of PBX systems that are not well defended. Our team later debriefed the Joint Task Force cyber team and showed them how these vulnerabilities could have been prevented or remediated. It was great that our MDDF team was able to contribute to the overall success of the cyber component of Vigilant Guard."

LT (MDDF) J. Colin Patrick who served on the Red Team commented, “During the exercise we ran three threat actor attack scenarios that helped to show all of the role players what is possible in the real world.”

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Vigilant Guard Update: MDDF Provides Infrastructure Damage Assessment
MAJ (MDDF) Stephen Rice

National Guard personnel from six states and the District of Columbia took part in the Vigilant Guard emergency response exercise from May 7 – 10. This exercise was designed to test the Maryland National Guard’s response to a major emergency. The MDNG was augmented during the exercise by fully integrated units of the Maryland Defense Force (MDDF).

At the Perry Point Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center in Perryville, Maryland the exercise scenario included critical infrastructure damage from a tornado which triggered a search and rescue effort and the movement of patients and staff. The Perry Point VA is the largest division of the VA Maryland Health Care System. This medical facility provides a wide range of inpatient, outpatient and primary care services. These services include nursing home care, rehabilitation services, geriatric evaluation and management, respite care and hospice care. The medical center is also a leader in mental health and substance abuse recovery services.
Due to the widespread infrastructure damage, the Perry Point VA Facilities and Engineering Services team was overwhelmed and asked the Cecil County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for assistance. Without any county assets that could be deployed to aid the Perry Point VA, the Cecil County EOC contacted the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). MEMA followed-up with the Maryland Military Department which surveyed its resources and eventually tasked the Maryland Defense Force’s 121st Engineer Regiment with providing assistance to the Perry Point VA.

Soldiers from the 121st Engineer Regiment discuss damage assessment.

MDDF 121st Engineer Regiment was activated to do a building damage assessment of a vacant building that sustained tornado damage in order to determine if it was a safe place to shelter patients and staff. “We formed a damage assessment team, mobilized at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation and were transported to the Perry Point VA by the Maryland National Guard,” shared LTC (MDDF) Edward Hubner who led the team. He continued, “Once onsite we first had to review the buildings’ floor plans and specifications which we received from the Perry Point VA Facilities and Engineering Service. We also touched base with the Perry Point VA Fire Department for any additional information on the building that they could provide.”

After reviewing the floor plans and getting updates from the Perry Point VA Fire Department, the 121st Engineer Damage Assessment Team methodically walked through a checklist to determine the building’s fitness for serving as a temporary shelter. “We checked to see if the building had power and a back-up generator in case there was a problem with the power grid,” LTC (MDDF) Hubner explained. “We also checked to see that the water and sewer systems were intact, we evaluated the sprinkler and alarm systems and ensured that the heating ventilation and air conditioning units were fully operational. In addition, we analyzed the structural integrity of the building to see if it was sound.” After walking through their checklist, the 121st Engineer Damage Assessment Team provided a report of their findings to the Perry Point VA Incident Commander.
BG (MDDF) Lorenza Cooper, the commanding general of the MDDF stated, “This exercise was very valuable because the 121st Engineer Damage Assessment Team had figure out how to complete its mission in an uncertain environment. As the exercise scenario played out, one of exercise evaluators informed a Damage Assessment Team member that he had just become “injured,” so they were instantly a person down. They were able to adapt, complete the mission and seek medical attention. I am very proud of their agility, resilience and focus.”

MDDF Soldier, NCO and Officer of the Year Honored
MAJ (MDDF) Stephen Rice

On April 21, 2018 the Maryland Defense Force’s (MDDF) Soldier, non-commissioned officer (NCO) and officer of the year were recognized at the MDDF Annual Muster that was held at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore. All three honorees were presented with formal resolutions from the Maryland House and Delegates and the Maryland Senate from MG Linda Singh, the adjutant general of Maryland on behalf of Delegate Michael E. Busch, speaker of the House of Delegates and Senator Thomas V. “Mike” Miller, president of the Senate. SGT(MDDF) Leon Eady is the MDDF Soldier of the year, SSG (MDDF) Matthew B. Markle is the MDDF NCO of the year and CPT (MDDF) Mark S. Schroeder is the MDDF officer of the year. Each recipient will also compete for nationwide honors from the State Guard Association of the United States (SGAUS) amongst similar recipients from other state defense forces.

SGT(MDDF) Leon Eady’s military service started with the Maryland Army National Guard where he served with the 175th Infantry Regiment prior to joining the U.S. Army Reserve. In 2016 he joined the MDDF where he became the staff NCO for the Professional Service Corps unit. This unit provides pre-deployment, post-deployment and retirement financial advisory services for Maryland National Guard members. As an additional duty, SGT(MDDF) Eady provides communications support to the Maryland National Guard (MDNG) Joint Staff under the direction of the Joint Staff NCO in charge. SGT(MDDF) Eady has spent a career in the information technology field and currently works with the Maryland Department of Human Services as a computer network specialist supervisor.

From left to right: SGT Leon Eady, MG Linda Singh, MG Meelis Kiili, BG Lorenza Cooper

“He is a model of professionalism and he serves as an excellent representative of the MDDF,” commented MAJ (MDDF) Fred Sanford who formerly commanded the Professional Service Corps. MAJ (MDDF)
Sanford continued, “He has a perfect drill attendance record and he even finds time to support MDDF recruits who are going through Initial Entry Training (IET). He is very deserving of this honor.”

SSG (MDDF) Matthew B. Markle’s military career began with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard where he served with the 103rd Engineer Battalion before he joined the MDDF in 2013. Since joining the MDDF, SSG (MDDF) Markle has served as the Administrative NCO in the 121st Engineer Regiment and Operations NCO in the Operations unit amongst other roles. He currently serves as the Staff NCO for training within the Plans, Policy and Training unit. In this role he helped to revamp the MDDF IET curriculum with updated material and prepared the MDDF Basic Instructor Course. As an additional duty, SSG (MDDF) Markle worked as the Assistant Training NCO for the MDARNG 70th Regiment for three years. Currently, he serves as Staff NCO for the MDARNG 29th Military Police Company while concurrently serving as an instructor for the MDDF IET. As a civilian, SSG (MDDF) Markle works as an account executive with SHI International Corporation.

From left to right: SSG Matthew B. Markle, MG Linda Singh, MG Meelis Kiili, BG Lorenza Cooper

“SSG (MDDF) Markle gets things done plain and simple,” explained CSM (MDDF) Guy Johnson who serves as the MDDF’s senior enlisted leader. “Wherever he sees a need, he is the first to volunteer to fill it. His service has been invaluable to the State of Maryland,” CSM (MDDF) Johnson added.

CPT (MDDF) Mark S. Schroeder joined the MDDF in 2016 and was initially assigned to the 121st Engineer Regiment as a Training Technician. He was later appointed Assistant Chief of Staff and Director of the Plans, Policy and Training unit of the MDDF. In this role, he has been tasked with updating all of the MDDF training programs. After spearheading the effort to rewrite the curriculum for MDDF IET this year, he is currently implementing the new MDDF Basic Instructor Course as well as the MDDF NCO Course and the MDDF Officer Candidate School Course. As an additional duty, he serves as the Assistant Chief of Staff for the Maryland National Guard Joint Staff. In the private sector, CPT (MDDF) Schroeder owns an energy development firm named the Castlebridge Group. He also has bachelor and master degrees in engineering from the Johns Hopkins University.
“CPT (MDDF) Schroeder’s leadership and care in upgrading the existing MDDF training programs and his launch of new training initiatives will make us a more effective force in the long run,” said LTC (MDDF) Kirk Pietsch, MDDF chief of staff. “We have to continue to tweak our training to the demands of dynamic present and future needs. CPT (MDDF) Mark Schroeder has done a wonderful job recalibrating our training doctrine which will help to transform the MDDF for the better,” added LTC (MDDF) Pietsch.

BG (MDDF) Lorenza Cooper, commanding general of the MDDF commented, “The entire MDDF is proud of the accomplishments of these three individuals who go above and beyond in service to the State of Maryland. They represent the best that the MDDF has to offer.”

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Former MDDF Officer Receives Maryland Meritorious Civilian Service Medal

MAJ (MDDF) Stephen Rice

Recently, a newly retired Maryland National Guard (MDNG) staff sergeant was in the process of applying for a Veterans Administration (VA) home loan through a major lender, when he ran into a bureaucratic “brick wall.” The sergeant was attempting in a short timeframe to get certain financial information from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) agency that was needed for his loan application to be approved. The sergeant shared, “After searching through every resource that I was in possession of, and after calling every military phone that wasn't manned by an automated voicemail system, I found a single business card in the bottom of one of my manila envelopes from a Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) officer. The officer was MAJ (MDDF) John Cory. He gave his card to me at a retirement briefing as part of the retirement process in the MDNG.”

The sergeant continued, “He was able to put me in contact with former CPT
Not only did CPT (MDDF) Hermann find a point of contact at DFAS, he facilitated a four way phone call between all parties to help resolve a very complicated situation. My VA home loan was approved. For that, I am eternally grateful.”

At the MDDF Annual Muster at the Fifth Regiment Armory on April 21, 2018 BG (MDDF) Lorenza Cooper, the commanding general presented Mr. Philip Hermann with the rare and prestigious Maryland Meritorious Civilian Service Medal in recognition of his exceptional service to the Maryland Military Department. Mr. Hermann served as a captain in the MDDF Finance Corps (now called the Professional Service Corps) from December 2011 until January 2016, when he resigned to devote full attention to his financial services career. He has worked in the financial services industry for 13 years, and is currently Vice President and Senior Business Relationship Manager for Wells Fargo & Company, an American multinational financial services provider.

Mr. Hermann flew into Baltimore for the ceremonies from Colorado where he now lives in with his wife Michelle who is an active duty officer in the U.S. Navy. Also in attendance for the ceremony were his father Doug and stepmother Sheila. Philip is not the first in his family to wear a military uniform. His great-grandfather served in the U.S. Navy on the U.S.S. Connecticut and his grandfather served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

At the Annual Muster, BG (MDDF) Lorenza Cooper commented, “It says a lot when MDDF personnel are willing to step up and volunteer in service to the State of Maryland even when they no longer wear the MDDF uniform. That willingness is a testament to the esprit de corps within our ranks. We are immensely proud of Mr. Hermann’s successful efforts to support a member of the Maryland National Guard. That’s exactly what the MDDF is all about.”

Mr. Hermann holds an associate degree from the Community College of Baltimore County - Essex, a bachelor degree from Morgan State University and a Master of Public Administration degree from Arkansas State University. He hopes one day to rejoin MDDF to resume his volunteer support of the Maryland Military Department.
Estonian Defense League Commander Keynotes MDDF Annual Muster
MAJ (MDDF) Stephen Rice

On April 21, 2018 the Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) held its Annual Muster at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore. The Annual Muster is a mandatory all day training activity for all Maryland Defense Force personnel. Company formation and ceremonies will commence at 9:00 a.m. The guest speaker for this year’s muster will be MG Meelis Kiili, commander of the Estonian Defense League. This will be an historic event given that it will be the first time that the MDDF has had a foreign military officer as its guest speaker.

Since 1993, the Maryland National Guard (MDNG) has had a relationship with the Estonian Land Forces (Estonian Army) under the U.S. Department of Defense’s State Partner Program. This initiative partners state National Guards with the militaries of allied nations around the world. The Estonian Defense League is similar to the MDDF in that it is an all-volunteer militia force that supports the Estonian Land Forces.

MG Kiili joined the Estonian Land Forces in 1991 and served in various command and staff positions during his long career. Some of the career highlights include his service as chief of staff of the Estonian Land Forces, deputy chief of general staff and later as defense attaché to the United States and Canada. In his final posting, he served as the commandant of the Baltic Defense College until he retired in 2012. That same year he became commander of the Estonian Defense League. MG Kiili is a graduate of the Estonian University of Agriculture, Baltic Defense College, the NATO Defense College and the U.S. Army War College.

BG (MDDF) Lorenza Cooper, commanding general of the MDDF commented, “We are truly honored to have MG Kiili address the MDDF. It means a lot to us that he was willing to travel a great distance to give the address at our Annual Muster. His participation at the Annual Muster is a great opportunity for us to learn more about the Estonian Defense League and exchange ideas. This also provides the Maryland Military Department with another opportunity to strengthen its ties with the Estonian Land Forces.”

MDDF Launches International Partnership at Historic Annual Muster
MAJ (MDDF) Stephen Rice

The Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) held its Annual Muster at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore on 22 April 2017. The Annual Muster is a mandatory all-day
training activity for all Maryland Defense Force personnel. The guest speaker for the muster was MG Meelis Kiili, commander of the Estonian Defense League. This was an historic event since it was the first time that the MDDF has had a foreign military officer as its guest speaker. Remarks were also given by MG Linda Singh, the adjutant general and BG (MDDF) Lorenza Cooper, commanding general of the MDDF.

Since 1993, the Maryland National Guard (MDNG) has had a relationship with the Estonian Land Forces (Estonian Army) under the U.S. Department of Defense’s State Partner Program. This initiative partners state National Guards with the militaries of allied nations around the world. The Estonian Defense League (EDL) is similar to the MDDF in that it is an all-volunteer militia force that supports the Estonian Land Forces.

BG (MDDF) Cooper kicked off his comments by stating, “Success needs no excuse but failure there is none.” That’s what we’ve done in the MDDF, we’ve driven success. We have a force that generates millions in cost savings for the State of Maryland.” He continued, “Although we are succeeding, we are continuously improving by focusing on cyber security which is a new frontier of homeland defense. We have a strong cyber unit leader and with your help we will exceed all expectations.”

During her remarks, MG Singh shared, “There isn’t a day that goes by that I don’t think about the MDDF. I want to thank you for the tangible value that you bring to the Maryland Military Department. Every year you save the state millions of dollars through your volunteer hours.” She continued, “I want the MDDF to set the standard for all of the state guards across the country. That’s my goal. I expect the MDDF to double in size by next year but we need to do it smartly and in a way that complements the Maryland Military Department. I hope that you keep an open mind as we evolve and I hope that you continue to enjoy the journey with us.” She concluded, “During my last visit to Estonia, when I learned more about the Estonian Defense League, it became clear to me that they are very much like the MDDF and that there was a connection that I needed to make. I am excited that we are establishing a partnership between the Estonian Defense League and the MDDF.”

MG Kiili began his remarks by sharing that, “Maryland is my second home. In my office, I have three flags, representing the Estonian Defense League, the Republic of Estonia and the State of Maryland. He also noted that, “This is the 100th anniversary of the EDL. At the end of WWI we fought for independence and became a free nation. The occupying Russian soldiers looted, murdered and raped Estonian
citizens as they left the country. Consequently, local citizens began organizing for self-defense. Our organization filled from the bottom up. Regular people joined to protect their families and communities and EDL is currently the biggest organization in Estonia.”

MG Kiili continued, “Our national constitution states that it is the right of everyone to defend the country. We understand that a ‘right’ is a stronger emotion than having an obligation. Here, the MDDF is exercising the same right to defend Maryland. We too want peace but a peace that is on our terms. We even pay a membership to join our organization. Everyone’s contribution is equally valued and every community in Estonia has EDL members.”

“We’ve found that if we apply existing civilian skill sets to military operations we can withstand all kinds of threats, including cyber,” Gen. Kiili added. “The big difference between the MDDF and the EDL is not the mentality but the border. Estonia has a peaceful neighborhood except for one country. The EDL are the first responders to an attack until the Estonian Land Forces can be mobilized. Our presence sends a strong message that we’re going to fight if necessary.”

MG Kiili next shared that, “Someone once asked me if there was an attack on Estonia whether or not I would protect my family or my country. I responded to them that my family has made that choice very easy for me. My wife and my daughters are members of the EDL and they can take care of themselves. Therefore, if under attack, I will defend the country.”

In his concluding remarks, MG Kiili stated that, “The MDDF is full of citizens and dedicated warriors for peace. Thank you for your service. I’m proud to be one of you. God Bless America and God Bless Estonia.”
MDDF Command Chief Warrant Officer Retires
MAJ (MDDF) Stephen Rice

On November 18, Chief Warrant Officer 5 (MDDF) Thomas B. Insley, Sr. retired from the Maryland Defense Force after nearly 10 years of faithful service. Mr. Insley started his MDDF career as a security technician in the Military Support Unit. After that unit was dissolved, he transferred to the 121st Engineer Regiment where he served as operations officer and later as supply officer. While with the 121st Engineer Regiment, Mr. Insley also served on the MDDF Rapid Action Team (RAT). Most recently, he served on the MDDF 70th Regiment Augmentation Team.

Prior to joining the MDDF, Chief Warrant Officer 5 (MDDF) Insley served in the U.S. Navy and the Maryland National Guard before his retirement from the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. During his Federal military tenure he served in both the Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars. He is also a retired police officer.

“I come from a long line of servicemen,” shared Insley. He continued, “My family fought in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War and World War I. My father fought in World War II at the Battle of the Bulge. The tradition continues with my grandsons who are currently serving as officers in the South Carolina Army National Guard and the U.S. Navy.” Upon reflection on his retirement Mr. Insley added, “As Gen. Colin Powell stated when he retired, ‘My only regret is that I could not do it all over again’.”

BG (MDDF) Lorenza Cooper, the commanding general of the MDDF shared, “Mr. Insley’s selfless service to this nation and to the State of Maryland is extraordinary. His impact on the Maryland Military Department will be felt for years to come and he will definitely be missed.”

“What I most enjoyed was working on the 70th Regiment Augmentation Team as a Supply Specialist and as a Safety Officer,” stated Insley. “This gave me the opportunity to directly support the Maryland National Guard’s Officer Candidate School,” he continued. “I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with the MDDF and I am thrilled that I had an opportunity to continue my service.”
MISSISSIPPI STATE GUARD

MSSG Soldiers Hope for the Best, Prepare for the Worst
1LT (MSSG) Russ Jones

The Mississippi State Guard held its Annual Training April 25 – April 29, 2018, at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center (CSJFTC), the largest state-owned training site in the nation. Soldiers from all across the Magnolia state and parts of Alabama and Louisiana gathered for the five-day training.

The AT included one key assumption: “The state of Mississippi is vulnerable to three major categories of threats (Natural, Man-made violent and Man-made non-violent). A major incident will result in the loss of resources (personnel, time, material, equipment, facility, and money), which will significantly impact on the state’s ability to perform its mission.”

Officially, the hurricane season for the Atlantic Basin (the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico) begins June 1 and runs through November 30. Researchers predict a slightly above average season, anticipating 14 tropical storms in 2018. At least seven are expected to become hurricanes.

In preparation for a hurricane along Mississippi’s southern coastline, Soldiers engaged in Hurricane Exercise training, also known as “HURREX.”

Preparatory training during the AT included a Casualty Lifesaver course, Point of Distribution instruction, and crisis medical training from the State Medical Assistance Team, and Train the Trainer classes. The Public Affairs Office conducted social media awareness training and presented on news media interactions, which included mock interviews.

While MSSG chaplains led crisis-counseling instruction, Soldiers also went on night search and rescue missions, practical Land Navigation exercises, and learned key concepts on Camp Shelby’s land navigation course.

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency was present to teach the fundamentals of the emergency planning process.

“These soldiers volunteer their time to help the citizens of Mississippi,” said Don Wilson, MEMA logistics chief. “That’s what it is all about.”

MEMA’s Logistics branch manages the flow of commodities and goods, along with
other resources during the response to a disaster to help meet needs.

“MEMA’S training was very informative, “ said 2LT Leslie Brady of Liberty, Mississippi. “It was real life training. I now have a better understanding of what the agency wants and a more clear understanding of their chain of command.”

BG (MS) Doug Hayhurst said possible deployment makes the role and preparedness of the MSSG more essential. If deployed MSSG Soldiers need to know how to execute the Operation Order (OPORD), trained to standard and ready to mobilize and serve the State and citizens of Mississippi in the event of any emergency.

“This possibility makes our training more relevant,” said Hayhurst. “We have enthusiastic and talented people who are excited to serve Mississippi.”

State guard Soldiers train with the knowledge that the learned skills may never be used, yet it’s that very training that could help Mississippians in their darkest time of need.

It’s this very reason the MSSG attracts patriots like Col. Tommy Malone, who serves as Leake County emergency management director.

“One of my greatest regrets in life is not serving in the military,” said Malone. “At 60-years-of-age, I’m excited to be here.”

During a declared disaster, State Medical Assistance Teams trainers serve as a resource for the Mississippi State Department of Health.

These teams activate at the request of MEMA as an Emergency Support Function resource.

“The SMAT training was extremely informative and important for the guard to learn, “said SGT Andrew Bryson of Slidell, Louisiana. “It may help save lives one day.”

On the medical front, State Medical Assistance Team trainers engaged MSSG medical personnel.
New York Guard

COL David Warager Promoted to Brigadier General in New York Guard

CPT Mark Getman

White Plains resident David J. Warager has been promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the New York Guard, the state's volunteer defense force.

Warager, who has served in the New York Guard for 33 years, is the commander of the 500-member state force.

The New York Guard augments the New York National Guard during state emergencies. The members are uniformed volunteers who provide support to the New York National Guard when additional trained personnel are needed to deal with natural disasters.

New York Guard personnel have responded to Superstorm Sandy, flooding along Lake Ontario, and snowstorms. They provide expertise in areas like logistics, communications, and headquarters operations. New York Guard members wear military-style uniforms and use military rank structure.

Many are retired military personnel who want to continue to serve, others have never served in the military. Unlike the National Guard, New York Guard members serve only in a state status and cannot be deployed on federal mission.

Unlike members of the National Guard, New York Guard members are not paid for their training drills and assemblies. They are paid only when placed on state active duty during an emergency.

Warager was selected as the commander of the New York Guard by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo.

Major General Anthony German, the Adjutant General of New York, praised Warager for taking on the duties of command and for the members of the New York National Guard for stepping up to serve the state.

"Whatever we have asked of the New York Guard they have responded," German said.

He also praised Warager's family for their support of him and his service to New York.

"You can't do the things you do without family support," German.

Warager has served in the New York Guard since 1985 when he joined as a first lieutenant. He has served in a variety of positions to include commander of the New York Guard's 56th Brigade.

During Superstorm Sandy, Warager commanded the New York Guard assisting in recovery operations.

Warager was selected as deputy commander of the New York Guard in January 2017 and also served as Acting Commander. Cuomo appointed him commander in May 2018.

As commander, he is responsible for the mission readiness of the New York Guard, with units organized across New York State.

In his civilian career, Colonel Warager is Executive Director, Assistant General Counsel and Co-Head of the Global Trade
Legal Practice Group for JP Morgan Chase & Co. This Group supports the Global Trade and Loan Product business within the JP Morgan Investment Bank.

Warager hails from a military family and said he always wanted to serve in the military, but a minor medical issue prevented him from joining the Navy. When he found out he could serve New York in the New York Guard he eagerly joined, Warager said.

Since he took over as acting commander, the New York Guard has responded to eight state missions ranging from dealing with flooding along Lake Ontario, to helping gather supplies for Puerto Rico, Warager said.

The New York is one of 26 states which have a state defense force which augments and supports the state's National Guard.

The New York Guard was created in 1917 to replace the New York National Guard when that force was mobilized to fight in World War I. In World War II, with the New York National Guard fighting in Europe and the Pacific, the state once again stood up the New York Guard to serve as a state military force at home.

In the 1950s the New York Guard was authorized on a full-time basis and has served ever since.
Brigadier General Stephen A.
Bucaria Retires, Reflects Upon His Military Career
SPC Richard Mayfield, New York Guard

Left: BG Bucaria, outgoing Commander of the New York Guard, conducts the 89th Band following the conclusion of morning formation at his final drill on 21 JUL 2016. Photo by SGT Zach Perkins.

“Accomplish the mission and take care of your people,” this simple thought sums up the lifetime of service of Brigadier General Stephen A. Bucaria, the recently retired Commander of the New York Guard.

In 1993, because of his belief in the power of public service, he ran for and was elected to the District Court of Nassau County and then in 1995 was elected Justice of the Supreme Court, of the State of New York where his work continues to this day.

Never one to be content with the status quo, Bucaria joined the New York Guard and was assigned to the 7th Regiment where as an attorney; he joined a group of professionals whose talents and experience are utilized during difficult and stressful times in the lives of our soldiers.

As his time and experiences grew, so too did his responsibilities. Shortly after the active involvement of the 13th in its post 9/11/2001 deployment, LTC Bucaria was transferred from a Legal Affairs Division to the Army Division as Deputy Commander for Operations. He was instrumental in changing the NY Guard’s training and promotion policies. The next challenge was being named Commander of the NY Guard’s Army Division. It was during this time many significant changes occurred, most notably the reorganization of the New York Guard into the current one service we know today.

Looking back, September 11, 2001 forever and fundamentally changed not only the world we live in but the New York Guard as well. On September 12, Bucaria found himself and his unit of lawyers ordered into New York City. After an initial deployment of 5 days in New York City, he was ordered to organize a distribution center at
a King Kullen warehouse, in Hicksville, Long Island. It was here that rank and privilege were left at the door.

These men became working soldiers, spending hours unloading trailers of supplies, sleeping on unfolded cardboard boxes, often on the floor, and doing anything they could to respond to the attack on our nation.

The New York Guard that we all serve today owes an enormous debt of gratitude to BG Bucaria. His talents and skills have helped to shape the organization we are so proud of. His legacy of professionalism will be remembered long after we have moved on to other challenges. His hope is the organization will continue to grow and prosper. His confidence in the current Acting Commander, Colonel Warager is without limit. Without a doubt, Colonel Warager has stepped up and proven his ability-most noticeably in the recent deployments due to natural disasters that have struck the state.

Command Sergeant Major Parker  
Retires After 21 Years of New York Guard Service  
Story and photos by SGT Zach Perkins

On September 16th, 2017, Command Sergeant Major Pamela Parker-Collwood, Command Sergeant Major of the New York Guard, called soldiers to attention at morning formation, at what was to be her final drill before retirement. In this somber but proud moment, CSM Parker was then called forward by the Commander of the New York Guard himself, COL David Warager, to be awarded the Long and Faithful Service (20 Year) Award and the Medal for Meritorious Service from the State of New York.

Later at that same drill, a Change of Responsibility ceremony was held in which CSM George Hodge III was appointed the
new Command Sergeant Major of the New York Guard, following CSM Parker-Collwood’s retirement. Following that ceremony, CSM Parker took a moment to reflect on her 21 years of service in the New York Guard.

CSM Parker first enlisted in 1996 and was assigned to the 88th Area Command (then the 88th Brigade). At that time, the New York Guard was involved with a youth cadet program, and Parker was a part of the parent’s association. Parker recalls that cadets would come to drill at Camp Smith with New York Guard and National Guard soldiers, which helped keep the young cadets off the streets and out of trouble. She became involved with her own son’s participation, which helped him go on to JROTC and ROTC, to eventually be commissioned as an officer in the US Army. The program was in need of additional cadre for the cadets, and Chief Warrant Officer 5 (CW5) Milton, a friend of Parker’s, convinced her to enlist in the New York Guard so she could bring her years of civilian experience as a transit supervisor to the program to help mold more cadets into responsible young adults. Despite her experience, Parker said that she had much catching up to do in her transition to a military role – but catch up she did.

Later that same year, Parker graduated New York Guard Initial Entry Training (at that time still called “Basic Training”) and was named Soldier of the Year for 1996 and awarded the New York Guard Achievement Medal. Over the next few years, Parker received one on one training from New York Army National Guard senior enlisted, who became her mentors and helped prepare her for becoming an NCO. Parker fondly remembers one of her mentors, Sergeant First Class James Johnson, “he was like a personal trainer to me.” SFC Johnson gave Parker a copy of Mckinney’s Consolidated Laws Of New

Above: Colonel David Warager (Center), Acting Commander of the New York Guard, commends the service of CSM Parker-Collwood (Right), outgoing Command Sergeant Major of the New York Guard, during the Change of Responsibility ceremony on September 16th, 2017, in which the role of Command Sergeant Major of the New York Guard was transferred to CSM George Hodge (Left). Photo by SGT Zach Perkins, New York Guard.
York and told her to learn the New York Code of Military Justice and recalls him saying “know that you will be held accountable for your actions. You have to read this.”

By the time of the September 11th terrorist attacks in 2001, Parker was now a Master Sergeant in the 88th Area Command. During the New York Guard activation following the attacks, MSG Parker had significant responsibilities to bear. “I had to know where each and every soldier was” Parker said. During the activation from September through January, Parker was sleeping at the Lexington Armory most nights to keep her close to her duties. Parker recalls the New York Guard soldiers under her command stepping for anything the National Guard was unable to do while resources were being stretched – posting as guards for the armory while the National Guard were on duty at Ground Zero. “We wound up down at the Trade Center distributing supplies to the first responders. We had to be all over the place, wherever we were needed.” When asked what her fondest memory of this challenging activation was, Parker replied jovially; “being able to get everybody paid!” This was a serious responsibility during such a long activation, especially during such a trying time for New York, and Parker took her obligation to the “health and welfare of the troops” to heart.

Later that decade, Parker became the Command Sergeant Major of the New York Guard’s 12th Regimental Training Institute (RTI), returning full time to her role as a mentor and molder of enlisted soldiers. This was to be the longest held leadership position of her military career, and one where she enacted significant changes that still hold today. While CSM of the 12th RTI, Parker re-designed the then “basic training” program into the New York Guard Initial Entry Training program that we know today and adapted National Guard manuals into the first New York Guard IET Manual. During that time, she also overhauled and updated the Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course (BNOC) and the Advanced Non Commissioned Officer Course (ANOC), and introduced the Senior Non Commissioned Officer Course (SNOC) in 2008. Despite all of these major institutional reforms and accomplishments, Parker said that her proudest moments as CSM of the 12th RTI were marching new soldiers in as fresh recruits at the beginning of Annual Training, and then seeing the transformation they had made into soldiers as she marched them out again as graduates.

In 2016, Parker left the 12th RTI to become Command Sergeant Major of the New York Guard, completing her ascent to the highest position that can be held by an enlisted soldier in the New York Guard. Parker received no less than six New York Guard Commander’s Citations during her career, as well the New York Guard Commendation Medal, the New York State Military Commendation Medal, and the New York State Defense of Liberty Medal with WTC Device for her service during 9/11.
But most all, CSM Parker will be remembered for her unyielding dedication to crafting junior enlisted and NCOs into exemplary leaders. “It’s important to for all NCOs to be good leaders, and to learn as much as you can. Your troops rely on you more than you know, and they learn from you,” she said. “You have to remember that people are volunteers and appreciate them. But remind them that even though they are volunteers, they have responsibilities.”

New York Guard Activation
Triples in Size in Response to Puerto Rico Recovery Efforts
Story and photos by SGT Zach Perkins, New York Guard

CAMP SMITH – As donations of relief supplies for Puerto Rico continue to pour in, the New York Guard has more than doubled the size of its force on State Active Duty.

The activation, now surpassing 70 New York Guard members, is one of the largest forces assembled by the New York Guard.

On September 24th, under the direction of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, the New York National Guard established donation collection points across the state. These collection points were set up to accept the influx of much needed public donations of emergency relief supplies for Puerto Rico, following the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, including items such as bottled water, flashlights, batteries, diapers, baby wipes and baby formula.

The influx of donations from the public has been remarkable, reaching far beyond New York State, with trucks coming from as far as Ohio.
“I’ve been on State Active Duty alongside the National Guard before,” said Specialist Steve Morelli of the 88th Area Command, New York Guard, “but this is by far the most challenging and rewarding activation yet”.

What began as an activation of 25 New York Guard members on September 29th, has nearly tripled in size in just under two weeks.

The rapid increase in personnel has been necessary to meet the full scope of the New York Guard’s mission to provide the logistical manpower needed to support the New York Army National Guard at Camp Smith, who have been working together in an Operation officially known as Task Force Donation Warehouse Ops.

Since day one, the New York Guard and Army National Guard efforts have been a 24-hour operation, working around the clock to consolidate and prepare these much-needed supplies for rapid shipment.

With its current force of 70 soldiers, led on the ground by Second Lieutenant Richard Shaw, the New York Guard has been working in three shifts to keep the supplies moving out the door for shipment to Puerto Rico, as new donations continue to arrive each day.

“We’re ahead of the curve,” said 2LT Shaw. “Our committed soldiers are preparing relief supplies faster than
expected. We’ve processed over 1500 pallets, which exceeds our previous target goals.”

For many of the New York Guard members, who come from all over the state, this mission hits close to home.

“This is personal for me,” said Staff Sergeant Jesus Sanchez. “90% of my family are in Puerto Rico. When I was a kid I lived there for two years.”

Before the hurricane hit the island, Sanchez’s family was already sending supplies in preparation. “We were on the phone with my grandma when it hit, and the phone line went dead. It was scary because for a week we didn’t know where my family was. I couldn’t sleep.”

When the New York Guard was activated, he jumped at the chance to help.

“Whether I’m working here in New York over there, I’m helping my people. When I’m on the forklifts moving water, clothes or medical supplies, I think about them. I’m here for the long haul on this activation. I owe it to them, and that’s why I’m here and working so hard.”

This mission for the New York Guard lasted till the end January 2018, and that point all the soldier on State Active duty were released from duty.

10th Area Command Participates in Commo Exercise with Air National Guard
SGT (NYSDF) Frank Valvo

NIAGRA FALLS, NY – On November 2, 2017, during EXERCISE WRECK-IT at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station in Niagara Falls, NY, Officer Candidate Ross Mazzola, of the 10th Area Command’s S6, assisted Technical Sergeant Richard Burns, of the New York Air National Guard’s 107th Attack Wing, to erect a portable near vertical incidence skywave (NVIS) antenna and connect it to a radio system located in the 107th Attack Wing’s communications trailer.
Technical Sergeant Richard Burns (Left), of the New York Air National Guard’s 107th Attack Wing, and Officer Candidate Ross Mazzola, of the New York Guard’s 10th Area Command, test MERN radio systems at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station as a part of EX: WRECK-IT on November 2nd, 2017. Photo provided by Officer Candidate Ross Mazzola, New York Guard.

On the other end of the radio waves was SGT John O’Neill, Operations NCO of the 10th Area Command’s 65th Detachment, who was located at the Connecticut St. Armory in Buffalo, NY. SGT O’Neill provided a radio check for Officer Candidate Mazzola, and successfully received a SITREP from the 107th Attack Wing over High Frequency (HF) radio on the New York Military Emergency Radio Network (MERN). This test demonstrated the capability of New York Guard commo teams to provide contingency voice communications between the Joint Task Force 5 Joint Operations Center and National Guard armories in Joint Operation Area 5 and reinforced the ability of New York Guard Soldiers to work seamlessly alongside and in support of New York’s National Guard forces.

New York Guard Conducts 100th Anniversary Memorial of First Provisional Regiment
CPT Mark Getman, New York Guard


SLEEPY HOLLOW, N.Y. – On May 6th, 2018, the New York Guard, New York’s volunteer state-defense force, held the 100th Aqueduct Defense Memorial Service which honored and remembered the 40 soldiers of the New York Guard First Provisional Regiment who died while serving New York State during World War I.

The memorial service commemorates the members of the New York Guard’s First Provisional Regiment who died while guarding New York City’s water system in 1917 and 1918. Thirty two of the forty men memorialized died from the Spanish
Influenza pandemic which swept the world in 1918 as World War I ended. This year marked the centennial of the commemoration.

To honor the New York Guard members who died on duty, a boulder from Bonticon Crag in the Shawangunk Mountains, along the line of the aqueduct that the Guard members protected, was moved to Sleepy Hollow Cemetery and turned into a memorial on property dedicated by William Rockefeller.

New York Guard Acting Commander, Colonel David Warager, stated the following at the ceremony, “Today we commemorate the dedicated efforts of our Brothers in Arms who answered the call to serve and protect the home front during the War to End All Wars, 100 years ago. They were citizens who cared for their country, its ideals and the freedom that they enjoyed due to the service of those who served before them.” COL Warager continued, “Our vigilance and our mission continue today. The dangers of sabotage and terrorism faced by the members of the First Provisional Regiment are still with us today.”

COL Warager added, “During the last year the New York Guard has been activated for State Active Duty on three major missions, [Operation Lake Ontario, Operation Maria Support and Operation March Debris Clearance] and have had NYG soldiers on duty since last May with only a few breaks. As members of today’s New York Guard, we continue to carry the tradition of service of citizen soldier that the First Provisional Regiment exemplified, as did their forefathers before them dating back to the earliest days of our country.”

The memorial service was also attended by police officers from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection Police, also known as NYC DEP Police, and formerly known as the Bureau of Water Supply Police and the Aqueduct Police, whose law enforcement duties are to protect and preserve the New York City water supply system. The NYC DEP Police are directly related to the New York Guard soldiers who protected the systems 100 years ago, through their mission which the NYC DEP Police continues to this day.

During the First World War, German agents appeared to have successfully destroyed a munitions plant on Black Tom Island in Jersey City, New Jersey, prior to American entry into the war in the Spring of 1917. There was concern that the New York City water system reservoirs and aqueducts could be sabotaged as well. In February 1917 the New York National Guard’s 27th Division was ordered to patrol the reservoir system, but in August 1917 the 27th Division was called into federal service and sent to France, so a new force, the New York Guard, was formed to take the place of the National Guard. Across the country, states created State Guards made up of older men, and those who could not meet military physical requirements to replace the National Guard.

New York formed the 1st Provisional Regiment to guard the aqueduct system in 1917 and 1918. These citizen volunteers, ranging from their teens to their 60s were armed with obsolete weapons, clothed in old uniforms and paid $1.25 a day.

They did their duty despite these challenges, walking patrols day-after-day and night-after-night. The average standing strength of their force was 1,600 volunteers, but more than 8,000 New Yorkers served in this home guard throughout World War I. When the so-called “Spanish Influenza” swept across the world in 1918, 32 New York Guard volunteers of the 1st Provisional Regiment were struck down in the last three months of 1918. Eight more New York Guard soldiers died of other causes during the War, including a one of a gunshot wound.

The New York Guard of today is an all-volunteer uniformed force whose soldiers augment and assist the New York Army National Guard in response to state emergencies. The New York Guard has an authorized strength of just over 700 volunteer soldiers.

**New York Guard's Newest Soldier Sworn in by Identical Twin**

*Story by Cpt Mark Getman*

*Photos by SGT Zach Perkins – New York Guard*

Volunteers of the New York Guard might do a double take here this spring with identical twins serving in the force headquarters here at the Camp Smith Training Site. More importantly, these members might have to take a better look at uniform rank to make sure the twin they know as a captain may just be the other
twin who enlisted in May as a private first class. New York Guard Captain Mark Getman, from Cedarhurst, N.Y., swore in his older identical twin brother, Private First-Class Steven Getman into the New York Guard as a Public Affairs Specialist during the unit drill assembly May 19th, 2018.

Pfc. Steven Getman of Rockville Center, N.Y. was born first, two minutes ahead of his brother, CPT Mark Getman, who previously served as a Chaplain Candidate and Unit Public Affairs Representative in the New York Army National Guard from 2006-2014 before returning to the New York Guard as the organization's Public Affairs Officer. Getman had previously served four years in the New York Guard before he enlisted in the Army National Guard.

The New York Guard is a force of 500 uniformed volunteers, organized as a military unit, who augment the New York National Guard during state emergencies. They provide administrative and logistics support to the National Guard. Members of the New York Guard have been involved in flood control efforts along the Lake Ontario shoreline this past summer and supported the large-scale management of donations for the storm recovery in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria.

The two Getman brothers have worked side by side before. They previously worked together in their family restaurant equipment and supply business, where Steven Getman was Mark's boss. "My brother, Captain Getman, worked for me, but he would say he worked with me…but I paid his check," stated Pfc. Steven Getman. Now the two will continue to work together in the New York Guard Headquarters' Recruiting and Retention and Public Affairs staff.

After being sworn in by his "new boss," Pfc. Getman added "but now, I work under him, and roles are reversed, and I guess I will be doing a lot of pushups for being his previous boss. I fully respect my brother's position and rank, and I'm honored to be part of the New York Guard, where I will be helping my fellow citizens."

Unlike members of the New York National Guard, New York Guard members do not have a federal military role and do not deploy outside the state. New York Guard members usually train in a volunteer status and are only paid when they are placed on state duty during emergencies.

"I know it will cause a lot of confusion at first, especially with the command staff, having twins both in the same unit," said CPT Mark Getman, who now serves as the Deputy Director of Recruiting/Retention and Public Affairs.

"But everyone will be able to tell the difference," he added. "I promised our commander, Colonel David Warager, just that."

The younger Getman has been trying to get his brother to enlist for the past four years, and when Steven Getman finally joined, CPT Mark Getman stated to his twin: "It
took you four years to get up here, but I'm glad you did," said CPT Getman.

PFC Steven Getman will be assigned to Headquarters Company, New York Guard, and will attend his Initial Entry Training during the New York Guard annual training in September.

This is the third set of identical twins serving in the New York Guard. Besides the Getmans, there are also the Molik twins, both colonels in the Guard, and the Gil twins, both 2nd Lieutenant. When one Gil twin moved to Virginia recently, they continued their service with the Virginia State Defense Force.

Colonel David Warager swore in Pfc. Getman in front of the morning formation, while CPT Getman took photos in his role as a Public Affairs Officer. Later in the day, CPT Getman re-administered the oath to his twin brother in front of the headquarters staff to memorialize and capture this special moment between brothers.

"Enlisting and serving in the military is always a special moment in a soldier's career, but to have your twin brother deliver the oath of enlistment for you is truly special," Warager said. "It will be a moment that both Captain Getman and Private First Class Getman will remember for the rest of their careers."
The Tennessee State Guard (TNSG) participated in the annual Tennessee Maneuvers (TNMAN) Cyber Security Exercise in support of the Tennessee National Guard. TNMAN was conducted during the week of 12 June 2017 throughout Tennessee, and TNSG’s support focused on the Communications Exercise component.

According to MSgt Robin Brown, Tennessee National Guard Public Affairs officer, the TNMAN exercise is conducted in conjunction with the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) and other state agencies, and takes place in June and July of this year.

TNSG’s part of the exercise focused on supporting TN National Guard communications. TNSG personnel served as embedded communicators at armories that were staffed for TNMAN, and passed traffic as directed by TNNG. All units participating in the COMMEX passed communications traffic over WINLINK and HF voice/digital circuits in support of maintaining statewide communications. TNSG soldiers from 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Regiments and 2nd Battalion Support Team participated in the statewide TNMAN exercise, making this an excellent exercise for the entire Tennessee State Guard.

MAJ Alan Bagley, Commander of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Regiment in the Tennessee State Guard, was named State Guard Association of the United States (SGAUS) Military Emergency Management Specialist (MEMS) Academy Deputy Commandant. Appointed as Commandant
is SGM (CA) Fred Tredy. SGM Tredy and MAJ Bagley replace CSM (IN) Timothy White, who held the position from 2010 – 2017.

The Military Emergency Management Specialist (MEMS) program is part of SGAUS Professional Military Education (PME) program, and is designed to prepare military personnel to effectively function in and operate local or statewide military Emergency Management mobilizations. The MEMS Academy qualification complies with current US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), Incident Command System (ICS), and National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements for emergency management personnel. Information on the program can be found on the SGAUS website at https://sgaus.org/sgaus-academy/mems-academy/

MAJ Bagley holds a BS in Criminal Justice from East Tennessee State university, and earned the JD from the University of Tennessee. MAJ Bagley currently serves as an Emergency Management Professional, and is a small business owner in Kingsport, Tennessee. He joined the TNSG in 2014, first serving as Engineering Officer in 1st BTN, 3rd RGMT. He assumed command of 1st BTN, 3rd RGMT in December 2014, a position he continues to hold to present day. He attended the Officer Basic Course (OBC) and Officer Advanced Course (OAC) with TNSG, and Command and Staff I Course with SGAUS. He has earned numerous decorations with TNSG and SGAUS including the Membership Recognition Medal, Recruiting Achievement Medal, SGAUS Commendation Medal, SGAUS Meritorious Medal, the Officer Achievement Award (3rd), and Commendation Award. In 2015 MAJ Bagley was recognized as both the TNSG Officer of the Year, and as the SGAUS Officer of the Year.
2018 SGAUS JAG Training Conference
held in Cowtown (Fort Worth, Texas)
CPT (TX) Michael Parker

Gathering from across the nation, the Judge Advocates met in Fort Worth, Texas, for the 2018 SGAUS JAG Training Conference on 20-21 April 2018. MAJ (TX) Michael Parker and LTC (IN) Gary Miller served as co-chairs of the weekend, which was held in the Tim Curry Criminal Justice Center. Representing the states of Texas, California, New York, Indiana, New Hampshire and Georgia, the group was honored to be joined by the DCG of the Texas State Guard, BG (TX) Anthony Woods.

Kicking off the weekend in Cowtown with an Icebreaker Social hosted by CPT (TX) Daryl Coffey and his wife, Debra, the attendees had an opportunity to visit and enjoy Cajun fare prepared by Chef Keith Hicks of Buttons Restaurant, a local favorite.

The training offered up to 7.5 hours of CLE credit, and covered a variety of MilOps and DomOps. From terrorism and investigations to employment issues, attendees were provided a wealth of information to use in their home state JA duties.

With terrorism a constant concern in today’s political and social climate, Jeffrey Addicott, U.S. Army, LTC, ret., spoke on the Legal Issues in Domestic and International Terrorism. LTC (ret.) Addicott is a Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Terrorism Law at St. Mary’s University School of Law in San Antonio, Texas. He defined terrorism, outlined the War on Terror, and spoke on the major categories of the people who use terrorism. Providing historical and current data on terrorism attacks, he identified key differences between President Trump’s current policy and previous administrations.

Discussing the ins and outs of USERRA, COL Mark Sullivan (Ret.) and 1LT (TX) Myron Kimball clarified in what circumstances this Act applies, and what the rights are for each individual. Also addressing what happens if an individual is deployed, and a lawsuit is filed against them, COL (ret.) Sullivan and ILT (TX) Kimball identified the provisions in The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, and how it applies to in various instances. While many SGAUS JAG Corps practice law in the civilian arena, SCRA is important when handling any type of litigation involving servicemembers.

Special Agent Michael Elkheir of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) joined the training to provide insight on his role in investigating alleged sexual assault crimes. Elkheir outlined the suggested protocol to be followed to prevent, and properly handle, accusations. As NCIS investigates civilians and servicemembers alike, they provide an autonomy and investigative presence in today’s U.S. naval forces.

Today’s highly technological society means that virtually every crime has a
cyber component. To better identify cyber threats, the California Military Department has created the CMD Joint Task Force – Cyber. COL (CA) Jay Coggan spoke on the various military elements and capabilities of the Task Force. The state will also benefit from the California Cyber Training Complex, a 10,000-square-foot facility at Camp San Luis Obispo. With a mission to protect California against cyber threats, the CCTC will have a Cyber Crime Field Training Complex, a Central Coast Forensic Lab, a Cyber Academic Training Center, and a Cyber Test Range and Experimental Lab.

After a very educational morning, the participants split into groups and conducted courtroom practicum exercises, utilizing three case studies to prepare opening and closing arguments as well as direct and cross examinations. These exercises provided valuable experience and insight into military legal issues and courtroom familiarity.

With the completion of the SGAUS JAG Training and the online portion of Practicing Military Justice Course, several JAGs received their PMJ Certificates, including SPC Stephen Yip, 1LT Stephen Vollbrecht, 1LT Sabrina Karels, 1LT Jeremy Schwendiman, 1LT Myron Kimball, CPT Frederick Veit, and 1LT Dan Wallis. Congratulations to all!