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THE **ISPATCH**
JUNE 2014

THE MAGAZINE OF THE TEXAS MILITARY FORCES



Missing In America Project

**72nd IBCT to say
farewell**

**TXANG travels to
Chile**

**249th ARB receives
unit award**

**Boxcar makes its
way back to the
TXMF museum**





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Pvt. Kanbara carries an urn with a veteran's remains during the Missing in America Project ceremony. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Atkinson)

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Camp Mabry security officer Gilbert Gonzalez, and members of the Austin Police Department secure work spaces during an active shooter training scenario at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, March 19, 2014. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm McClendon).



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Texas Veterans App



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Texas' 'Ready Brigade' to say farewell

Story by Capt. Martha Nigrelle
Texas Military Forces Public Affairs Office

AUSTIN, Texas - They were in France during World War I, they were in Europe and in the Pacific during World War II, they have been to Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan and they have served their fellow Texans during hurricanes, fires, and floods. They are the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team or "Ready Brigade," and soon, they could be gone.

The 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, part of the Texas Military Forces' 36th Infantry Division, located in Houston, Texas, could be deactivated as part of a National Guard Bureau reduction of force structure.

The brigade was first organized as part of the 36th Infantry Division upon America's entry into World War I. After arriving in France July of 1918, the brigade fought on the front lines during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive where they saw continuous combat for 23 days straight, said Jeff Hunt, director of the Texas Military

Forces Museum at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas.

Many historians believe this victory led to the German defeat. German defeat, or not, the soldiers were commended for bravery during the decisive battle.

"No braver men ever fought for liberty and right than those who so gloriously upheld the traditions of Texas and Oklahoma," said, in 1918, Maj. Gen. William R. Smith, the then 36th Infantry Division commander, speaking of the men from both Texas and Oklahoma who fought with the 36th.

Although the headquarters was disbanded during World War II, the infantry regiments that fell under the 72nd Brigade were not, and deployed soldiers to both the Europe and Pacific theaters of operation. Again the soldiers from the brigade's infantry regiments were recognized for bravery and valor – three of the unit's soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor

and 38 received the Distinguished Service Cross for their actions in combat, said Hunt.

The Brigade has been reorganized and re-designated several times in order to meet the needs of the state and nation. Yet over the years, the soldiers of the brigade have continued to respond to both federal and state calls to service.

In recent years, the 72nd deployed overseas in support of both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. During their 2009 deployment to Iraq, the brigade's approximately 2,800 troops

"No braver men ever fought for liberty..."

were spread across the country in 11 different locations performing various force protection missions and working one-on-one with Iraqi troops to facilitate the transition of security to the Iraqi Government. The unit was recognized for its work in Iraq with the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the only ribbon award granted by the Department of Defense, said Hunt.

At home the 72nd Brigade has also stayed active.

"We're nicknamed 'The Hurricane Brigade,'" said Col. Gregory



Barrow, Commander, 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team. “The brigade responds, on average, to a major tropical storm every other year.”

Being located in Houston makes the brigade the de facto headquarters for any Gulf Coast response missions that the Texas Army National Guard is asked to perform explained Barrow.

In the last 10 years, the brigade mobilized more than 3,800 troops in response to every major hurricane in the southwestern region of the U.S. In 2005, the brigade sent over 400 soldiers to support recovery operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and in 2008, they sent over 1,000 in response to Hurricane Ike, said Barrow.

Besides hurricanes, the brigade has assisted civilian authorities during flood season, wildfires and recovery operations.

“We routinely provide high water mobility assets to the Trinity River Basin during the fall and winter rain season,” said Barrow.

In 2003 the brigade mobilized approximately 800 soldiers to assist with Space Shuttle Columbia search and rescue operations, a recovery operation that covered over 2,000 square miles after the space shuttle broke apart over Texas during its final descent to Earth.

Now the brigade’s service could be over.

Due to the force structure draw-down proposed by the Department of the Army, the National Guard Bureau was directed to reduce their soldier strength by two brigade combat teams. Only two states in the nation have more than one brigade combat team – Pennsylvania and Texas. The proposal

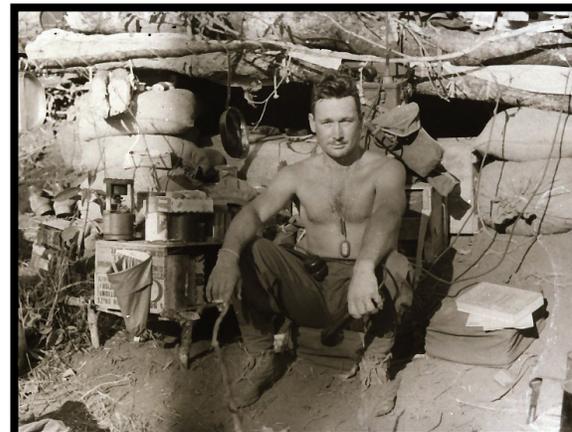
Photos from Top:

- **Soldiers from the 36th Infantry Division gather for a group photo with local children, in France, during World War I.**
- **Mortarmen from the 36th Infantry Division fire a round during the Rapido River Crossing in the Liri Valley of Italy, during World War II.**
- **Soldiers from the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 36th Infantry Division evacuate a casualty from the battlefield, in the Pacific theater of operations, during World War II.**

is to defund the brigade headquarters, explained a Texas Army National Guard Representative.

This would also impact all the subordinate units located throughout south Texas that fall under the 72nd Brigade headquarters. Based on further cuts, which have already been communicated to the states’ Adjutant Generals, this move could affect 2,400 Texas guardsmen over the next two years, said Lt. Col. Joanne MacGregor, the Texas Military Forces State Public Affairs Officer.

Should the proposed force struc-





ture reduction be approved, the brigade would become a non-deployable unit without a federal mission and its subordinate units would no longer have a wartime higher headquarters.

The proposed reductions also affect facilities funding said MacGregor. The proposal calls for a \$1 billion cut to facilities funding across the country which will result in the closure of several National Guard facilities in southeast Texas. The equipment and service members currently located at these facilities would no longer be available to react to natural di-

sasters, making a National Guard response to support this area much more difficult.

Some people believe these cuts are too hasty.

“We’ve got to find the best way to defend America.”

“Currently there is a bill in the House of Representatives, H.R. 3930, which calls for a commission to study the structure of the Army,” said MacGregor. “It would

halt these changes until an independent commission can provide recommendation on the most cost effective way to restructure the Army National Guard.”

This bill has a significant and bi-partisan following with over 167 signatures on it so far, including more than half of the Texas delegation, according to Govtrack.us, a website that tracks Congressional activity. Representatives Sheila Jackson Lee and Pete Olsen out of Houston are two of the many congressmen to sign this bill so far.

The important thing for the Texas





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Military Forces is ensuring they are able to continue defending the state and nation.

“We’ve got to find the best way to defend America,” said Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, the Texas Adjutant General.

H.R. 3930 states that the purpose of establishing a national commission to study the structure of the Army is to do just that.

The bill and the proposed soldier strength reductions are both realities for the Texas Military Forces. Either solution will be a solution

that the organization will have to adjust to and work with in order to continue doing their job.

“As the Texas Military Forces

“Every member of the Texas National Guard will continue to do outstanding work.”

continue to work through this process, every member of the Texas National Guard will continue to do the outstanding work that has become the hallmark of our orga-

nization,” said Maj. Gen. Nichols, speaking about the impending changes to the 72nd. “Our citizen-soldiers remain committed to supporting the state of Texas any time they are called into service by Governor Perry.” - **DISPATCH**

Photos:

- Opposite page - Soldiers from the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team evacuate residents during flooding in Beaumont, Texas.
- Below - Soldiers from the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team conduct a patrol with members of the Iraqi Army, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Iraq.



CAMP MABRY, Texas - Partnering with the Texas Military Forces Military Funeral Honors Detachment, the Missing in America Project performed the solemn rituals marking a veteran's funeral at the Camp Mabry Open House and American Heroes Air Show in Austin, April 27, 2014.

With a full 10-man funeral detail provided by the TXMF, hundreds of visitors attended the ceremony in front of the American Veterans Traveling Tribute Wall on the parade field.

For the 12 veterans honored, each represented by an urn containing their ashes, this was a day that might never have happened if not for the determination and dedication of the many MIAP volunteers.

The Missing In America Project came about just more than seven years ago, after the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery interred the remains of 21 unclaimed veterans in 2006.

Whether they never had families to claim them, or those families had moved with no contact information, no one knew why they had waited on shelves but the state of Idaho made sure those veterans were buried among their comrades in arms with the honors and dignity their service deserved.

In 2014, MIAP continues with that purpose - to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations and to honor those veterans by finding a final resting place for them.

The group has lain to rest more than 1,800 veterans since its conception, but estimates there could be up to another 200,000 in storage all over the country. The remains could date as recently as this decade or as far back as the 1890s.

"We have no idea why they were unclaimed. We don't get into that. We don't care why," said chaplain Warran Wurzburger, the Texas Missing in America Project coordinator.

For Ashlee Earley, daughter of Pfc. Donald George Danylock, who was remembered at the ceremony, this was a chance to make a memory of the father she never had the chance to know.

Pvt. Danylock died when she was 2, and her mother arranged to have the remains left in storage at Cook-Walden until Earley was old enough to decide where Dannylock would be interred. Life happened, and that decision was delayed significantly until MIAP contacted Dannylock's family and Earley agreed to participate in the ceremony.

Missing in America

Missing In America Project honors the fallen at a ceremony at Camp Mabry in Austin.



Flags held by Patriot Guard riders are reflected in one of 12 urns belonging to unclaimed military veterans interred at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery on April 28, 2014.

“I thought it was such a wonderful way to honor him and for me to truly make a memory of him that I would never forget,” said Earley. “I was born July of 1987 and my father passed away March of 1989. Being that I was very young, I have no memories of my own of him and thought this would be such an amazing experience not only for me, but for him also.”

In addition to attending ceremonies, Linda Smith, the MIAP national vice president, also travels around the country to help pass laws to protect funeral homes from legal action if they turn over information about unclaimed cremains including dates and identifying personal information.

From that information, Smith and her volun-

teers track down information through the Social Security Administration, the Department of Defense and other federal agencies.

Recently, although some laws have been passed restricting access to deceased veterans’ information, that’s not slowing Smith down.

“As long as veterans are dying and not being claimed, we will be doing it,” she said.

▪ **DISPATCH**

The 12 men honored:

- * Capt. James Holver Hook (1903-84), U.S. Navy, 1942-46, during World War II; and U.S. Navy Reserves, 1946-64, Korea and Vietnam.
 - * Pfc. Donald George Danylock (1955-89), U.S. Army, 1972, Vietnam.
- * Staff Sgt. John Sidney Clevlen (1922-82), U.S. Army, 1943-45, World War II.
 - * Pvt. Ernest Joseph Bellot (1936-2004), U.S. Army, 1961-64, Vietnam.
 - * Capt. David B. Douglas (1910-98), U.S. Army, 1943-46, World War II.
- * James Ferguson Childress (1925-86), U.S. Navy as seaman second class, 1942-46, World War II; U.S. Army as sergeant, 1946-49; U.S. Air Force, airman first class, 1951-61, Korea.
 - * 1st Lt. Robert Allen Rach (1924-1996), U.S. Army, 1951-53, Korea.
- * Hospital Corpsman William G. Mayes (1928-2005), U.S. Navy, 1945-49, World War II; 1949-65, Korea and Vietnam.
- * Cpl. Donald W. Klein (1924-2001), U.S. Army, 1943-46, World War II. (Combat soldier. Awarded Bronze Star).
 - * Technician Fifth Grade Edgar R. Potratz (1914-98), U.S. Army, 1941-45, World War II.
 - * Spc. Fourth Class Jerry Wiedemeier (1944-2006), U.S. Army, 1962-65, Vietnam
 - * Spc. Fourth Class Jeffrey Albert Huebner (1959-2003), U.S. Army, 1977-82.



Capt. Joshua Amstutz, officer in charge of the Texas Military Forces Military Funeral Honors Detachment presents Ashlee Earley with a flag during the Missing In America Project honors ceremony at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas on April 27, 2014.

HRF EXEVAL

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CAPT. MARTHA NIGRELLE
TEXAS MILITARY FORCES
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**

CAMP GRUBER, OK (March 5, 2014) Emergency management leadership from nine different states attended the Texas Military Forces Homeland Response Force training exercise to observe disaster preparedness certification training at Camp Gruber, near Muskogee, Okla. March 5, 2014.

Civilian and military visitors ranged from various fire departments and the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality, or TCEQ, critical infrastructure director to Maj. Gen. Myles Deering, The Adjutant General – Oklahoma.

Joint Task Force 136 Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Texas Military Forces' Homeland Response Force, or HRF, is conducting a weeklong exercise involving approximately 800 service members rehearsing their response to large-scale disasters.

“This is the reason the National Guard is such a great tool,” said Col. Patrick Hamilton, Domestic Operations commander, Texas Military Forces. He explained that the HRF

often conducts training with other civilian agency first responders. Hamilton further described how the National Guard provides first responders with additional resources to assist with crisis management.

As guests were led through the training area they witnessed Soldiers and Airmen dressed in chemical suits “responding” to a large-scale chemical attack. “Casualties,” in the exercise, were evacuated with precaution as service members ensured the chemical threat was contained.

The scenario involved two large chemical attacks and a broken water main, said Col. Lee Schnell, Joint Task Force 136 Maneuver Enhancement Brigade commander, Texas Military Forces. Service members trained to assist first responders in casualty evacuation, triage, and search and rescue in a contaminated environment.

Even with snow covering the ground, and temperatures hovering around freezing, the service men and women seemed to maneuver easily through





Soldiers from the Texas Military Forces' Homeland Response Force treat a "casualty" during the HRF certification exercise at Camp Gruber, near Muskogee, Okla., March 5, 2014.



Air Guardsmen evacuate a “casualty” during the Homeland Response Force certification exercise. (Right) Lt. Col. Les Edwards explains the concept of operations to Anthony Buck, a hazardous materials specialist for the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

"THE HRF IS A FORCE MULTIPLIER. THEY PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED SUPPORT FOR LARGE DISASTERS."



the makeshift village in their chemical suits to render aid.

TCEQ embedded several hazardous material specialists into the training to work along side the HRF said TCEQ's Critical Infrastructure Director Kelly Cook.

"The HRF is a force multiplier," said Cook. "We do a lot of the same things, but Texas is a big state and they provide much needed support for large disasters."

There are 10 HRFs in the U.S. and each one has to certify every 36 months, said Schnell. Leadership from six different states came out to observe this exercise in order to assist with their own unit operations.

The training is a certification exercise for the HRF, but it is also preparation for the next time Texas, or any other state's emergency response force may need their help.

"I came here today to check on the Texas Military Forces and show my support for the HRF concept," said

Cook, also explaining that this HRF falls under Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, Region 6. "The great Region 6 HRF, we love working with these guys."

FEMA Region 6 states include Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma. - **DISPATCH**

Click to follow the JTF-136 MEB



Preparing for the worst

Camp Mabry security and personnel team up with Austin Police Department to train for active shooter events.

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm McClendon
Texas Military Forces Public Affairs Office.

Camp Mabry security officer Gilbert Gonzalez, and members of the Austin Police Department secure work spaces during an active shooter training scenario at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, March 19, 2014.





“People always downplay things like this, especially since we’re on a base working side by side with military members.”

Camp Mabry security officers secure work spaces during an active shooter training scenario at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, March 19, 2014.

CAMP MABRY, TEXAS (March 20, 2014) – At the sound of blanks fired in the hallway, personnel ran out, jumped through windows or sought cover from the active shooter coming through their workspace. Fortunately, this was only a training exercise held at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, March 19, 2014.

The training scenario was designed to help Camp Mabry's security department better coordinate with the Austin Police Department's Counter Assault Strike Team (CAST), as well as prepare the base's employees should anything like this ever occur.

Sandi Valdespino, a civilian case manager with the Texas Medical Command, felt this was a great exercise not only to prepare the personnel here, but also to make them aware of the realistic threat.

"People always downplay things like this, especially since we're on a base working side by side with military members," Valdespino said. "It's important for us to know what to do. The knowledge gained here will empower them greatly."

Valdespino also shared how a fellow employee took the training seriously

and physically put planned escape measures to the test.

"When the exercise started, we all ran into my office and closed the door as previously planned," Valdespino continued. "Right then, Sgt. Ahmad Ofogh began to actually drag a large filing cabinet to block the door. He said he wanted to see if he could actually physically do it if the time came."

The exercise put Camp Mabry's security officers to the test as well; they are the first response for any type of emergency on the installation. Officer Ian McPherson, day shift supervisor, knows training like this is crucial for his team.

"The realism of the training helped us identify our strengths and weaknesses," McPherson said. "We know it's just pretend, but it got our blood pumping and adrenaline up. Working with CAST added another level of reality, which also allowed us to have an outside organization critique our tactics so that we can either better them or reinforce what we were doing well."

By days end, Austin Police Department's CAST and Camp Mabry security officers and employees went through seven scenarios, each time

discovering new ways to react to an active shooter event. Spc. Danielle Schrag, a case manager with Texas Medical Command, describes the value this has for everyone involved.

“To see the CAST and our security officers go through these scenarios together is comforting,” Schrag said. “It not only gives me confidence in their abilities to respond to an active shooter, but makes us, the employees, aware of something like this happening; and therefore better respond and help ourselves till they arrive.”

- **DISPATCH**



Camp Mabry security officer Fernando Mendez prepares to clear the second floor of a building with members of Austin Police Department.



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“ To see the **CAST** and our security officers go through these scenarios together is comforting.”

Camp Mabry security officers, Patrick Leedy, left, and Patrick Kelly, right, enter and secure a work space at an active shooter training scenario held at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, March 19, 2014.

ASPPPM



Texas National Guard and Chilean Armed Forces leaders meet for the Annual State Partnership Planning Meeting

Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm McClendon
Texas Military Forces Public Affairs Office



SANTIAGO, CHILE (March 26, 2014) – Senior leaders of the Texas National Guard and the Chilean Armed Forces met for the Annual State Partnership Program Planning Meeting in Santiago, Chile, March 26, 2014. There the leaders discussed, planned and agreed on the security cooperation events that the two organizations will conduct in the next two years.

The partnership between Texas and Chile is part of the State Partnership Program, or SPP, run by the National Guard Bureau. It allows State National Guards to partner with nations around the world to strengthen relationships and interoperability, enhance military capabilities, and increase cultural awareness and professional skills among U.S. military personnel and their counterparts.

According to Brig. Gen. Patrick Hamilton, commander of the Joint Texas Domestic Operations Command, an informal relationship with Chile started before the two were formally announced as partners, back when a former Texas Adjutant General and the current Chilean President attended school together.

A Chilean Army platoon leader from the 4th Armored Brigade, 5th Army Division, Chilean Army, describes the capabilities of his unit to the ASPPPM delegation at a site visit to the brigade's base in southern Chile.

“Maj. Gen. [Ret.] Charles Rodriguez went to the Inter-American Defense University with Michelle Bachelet,” Hamilton said. “There they became friends; he became the Adjutant General of Texas and she became the President of Chile. So we reached out to Chile to see if they’d be interested in forming State Partnership with us, they were very interested and so we formally requested the partnership.”

The TXNG and Chile have been partnered since 2008 and have conducted close to 80 exchanges, some of which include airborne operations, artillery fire, C-130 and F-16 maintenance and flight maneuvers, special forces exchanges, combat casualty care practices, homeland response capabilities and even environmentally responsible practices.

According to Hamilton the partnership is a success due a similar partnership with another nation the TXNG has had since the early ‘90s.

“The SPP was started at the end of the Cold War with the intent to bring former Warsaw Pact nations into NATO. Those showing a desire reached out; and in our case Czech Republic did and Texas was assigned to it,” Hamilton said. “Texas was one of the first states to be part of the SPP and we have become very effective since; there-



fore there were no growing pains with the Chilean partnership.”

Hamilton is optimistic about where the partnership is going and how the TXNG and Chile can help each other grow and participate in larger exchanges.

“Because our relationship is as mature as it is and the Chileans are as advanced as they are, U.S. Southern Command has asked us to begin helping Chile pursue leadership roles within the region and in exercises with U.S. Army South and other countries,” Hamilton said. “They’ve done that and we want to continue supporting them in those roles.”

Col. Tim Hodge, Chief of Security Cooperation Division at U.S. Army South attended the meet-

ing as an observer to see how the relationship and future subject matter expert exchanges can help his command achieve similar goals with the South American nation. Hodge believes the TXNG is a key partner not only with Chile, but with U.S. Army South as well.

“U.S. Army South has worked with the TXNG ever since we moved to San Antonio, over eight years ago,” Hodge said. “Throughout the years, Texas has helped us not only with Chile, but with other partner nations throughout our area of responsibility. Texas is our partner-of-choice whenever it comes to fielding engagements like this.”

Hodges also believes these exchanges are key for the future of both countries’ militaries.

Above:
A Chilean Air Force color guard from the 4th Aviation Brigade, Chilean Air Force, welcomes Maj. Gen. William Len Smith, Deputy Adjutant General and the Commander of the Texas Army National Guard, to the brigade’s air base in southern Chile.

Right top to bottom:
A Chilean Army platoon leader from the 4th Armored Brigade, 5th Army Division, Chilean Army, describes the capabilities of his unit to Brig. Gen. Brian Newby, Chief of Staff and Vice Commander, left, Texas Air National Guard and Maj. Gen. William Len Smith, at a site visit to the brigade’s base in southern Chile.

Chilean Air Force Capt. Javier Salinas, left, Commandos, 6th Squadron, 4th Aviation Brigade, Chilean Air Force, briefs Brig. Gen. Brian Newby and Command Chief Master Sgt. Oscar Tey, Senior Enlisted Leader, Texas Joint Domestic Operations Command, on the capabilities of his unit at the brigade’s air base in southern Chile.

Chilean Armed Forces and Texas National Guard leaders at the ASPPPM in Santiago, Chile.



“When a young sergeant or young captain comes to these exchanges they not only meet their counterparts and exchange technical knowledge, they develop friendships as well,” Hodges added. “As they both rise through the ranks as senior enlisted and officers and they now have someone they can reach out to when needed and keep the relationships going.”



Chilean Navy Captain Francisco Abrego, North America and Asian Pacific Area Section Chief, International Operations Directorate for the Chilean Armed Forces Joint Staff and SPP coordinator for the Chileans, believes the face-to-face interaction the exchanges bring to the Texan/Chilean partnership is important.

“The network created by these



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ASPPPM

exchanges is valuable, because now you know a face on the other side,” Abrego said. “It’s not just a phone number and a name, it’s a friend and that makes things go smoother and faster.”

This year’s meeting included a visit to Chilean Army, Navy and Air Force bases located in the southern part of the country. There, Chilean component commanders briefed the TXNG delegation on their respective capabilities and structure.

“We visited the different organizations and this gave us insight into how they work,” Hamilton said.

“This helps us understand how we can better support each other in these exchanges.”

According to the ASPPPM delegation new opportunities did come to mind.

“We noticed through these visits there were some exchanges we can absolutely do that we didn’t plan for; some dealing with flood response,” Hamilton added.

“Chile has plans in place to deal with tsunamis. And even though we don’t deal with tsunami type floods, we still have flooding due to storm surges or hurricanes, so we’re going to plan exchanges to share our procedures and experiences, so that we can both be better prepared.”

This year’s meeting wrapped up with both countries signing an agreement with more than 40 exchanges planned for fiscal years 2014 and 2015.

“We have come away from this meeting with a robust plan in place for both countries.” Abrego said. “The Texan culture is just like the Chilean culture, which is why it’s so easy to work with them; and because of that, our partnership grows stronger every year. We look forward to continue working with Texas for many years to come.” - **DISPATCH**

The Annual State Partnership Program Planning Meeting (ASPPPM) delegation in Santiago, Chile, April 26, 2014.



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Back to the basics

Story and Photos by
2nd Lt. Alicia Lacy
147th Reconnaissance WIng Public Affairs Office

CAMP SWIFT, TEXAS (April 11, 2014) - It looked as if he was walking through the trees in the thick Texas woods.

The branches gave when he marched through them as if they weren't there.

He broke the ones that resisted.

The land navigation exercise was just one part of a week-long skills training that Tactical Air Control Party members from the 147th Air Support Operations Squadron, 147th Reconnaissance Wing, based at Ellington Field in Houston, performed April 1-6, 2014, at Camp Swift.

The TACPs were dropped off in a remote area of the base, just off the sides of dirt roads, equipped with a compass, a map, their packs and instructions to navigate to their next point.

These types of exercises are not what many would typically think a member of the Air Force would do, but these

airmen are not typical airmen.

As TACPs, these men are where the blue meets the green, as they support Army units, bringing their expertise on aircraft and weapons systems to the fight by having the ability to control aircraft and call in close air support attacks from the ground.

"This is the Army side of the job," said Lt. Col. Nigel Atkins, commander of the squadron.

In order to accurately relay those targets to aircraft and support the Army units on the ground, the members have to be able to navigate to the location, Atkins added.

Training leaders dispersed the teams of two among the five points they were required to locate.

As he led his team from Point A to Point B, the TACP blazed the trail through the brush, breaking down any obstructions that can inhibit him and his team from moving forward.

They trekked through the diverse terrain – weeds, trees, thorns, creeks, and rocks – and made their way, counting their paces and studying the needles on their compasses as



it teetered between degrees.

As the sun started to sink toward the horizon, they knew they were losing daylight and would soon have to employ their night vision capabilities.

“Eight hundred meters,” a voice boomed from behind a few trees. It was his partner in the rear calling out the approximate distance traveled to gauge how far they are from their destination.

Although they possess the technology that can locate their point and guide them to it, learning the basics and having the ability to find their way with a map and compass is an invaluable skill for these battlefield airmen.

In addition to land navigation exercises, the airmen performed day and night firearms qualification, with all members rating as experts on the M9, as well as night vehicle operations that included reaction to contact, indirect fire, direct fire, and improvised explosive device, or IED, training.

Most of the training applied to expeditionary skills needed when in a deployed environment, however, that did not exclude the classroom training necessary to build a founda-

tion on the knowledge required to execute the duties and responsibilities of a TACP or joint terminal attack controller, a specialty attained by many of the squadron’s TACPs.

Due to the nature of their jobs and with most members being traditional guardsmen who drill two days each month, it can be difficult to maintain their proficiency in this mentally and physically demanding career field, so skills training such as this proves to be beneficial to the airmen, as they satisfied the qualifications required as part of the career field.

The 147th ASOS is a Texas Air National Guard unit. For more information on the squadron or being a TACP at Ellington Field, call 832-632-1387 or 800-864-6264.

- 147th RW PAO

Click to follow the 147th RW 

Tactical Air Control Airmen from the 147th Air Support Operations Squadron, 147th Reconnaissance Wing, check their coordinates and navigate to their points during a land navigation exercise at Camp Swift, Texas. The squadron travelled to the camp to perform a weeklong field training exercise allowing the members to maintain their proficiencies.



The tracks lead back to Camp Mabry

A piece of international history returns to the Texas National Guard

Story and photos by
Capt. Martha Nigrelle
Texas Military Forces Public Affairs Office

CAMP MABRY, Texas - The Texas Merci boxcar, a gift from the people of France, was welcomed to the Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, in a ceremony held on post, Feb. 23, 2014.

In 1949, this boxcar, filled with gifts by the people of France, was delivered to Camp Mabry - as a gesture of thanks to the American service members for the sacrifices made on French soil during World Wars I and II.

The boxcar was one of 49 given to the United States that same year - one for each state and the then Hawaiian territory. Grand Chef de Gare David Knutson, the Texas State commander for the Society of Forty Men and Eight Horses, explained that in 1947 the American people collected \$40 million worth of relief supplies for the people of France

and Italy who were struggling from the aftereffects of World War II. In response, the people of France created the "Gratitude Train," or the Merci boxcars to thank the American people for these supplies, as well as the sacrifices made during both world wars.

"This is a special day to commemorate a special relationship," said Sujiro Seam, Consul General of France in Houston. "French and American soldiers spilled blood together. That means much more than the dispute on how to name your fries."

Although originally housed at Camp Mabry, the boxcar was moved and placed under the care of the Travis County American Legion during the early 1950s, when space was needed to support war efforts.

The Texas boxcar then was placed under the care of the Society of Forty Men and Eight Horses, a separately chartered veterans' honor society established in 1920 by veterans of World War I. The society gets its name from the stencil painted on the side of the boxcar, "40 and 8," indicat-



Courtesy Photo



“It is very fitting that the boxcar will have a permanent place with the Texas Military Forces.”

ing that the car could hold either 40 men or 8 horses. These boxcars were used heavily for military operations during both World Wars I and II.

“One of the great symbols of World War I and World War II is the boxcar,” said Jeff Hunt, Texas Military Forces museum director. “It is very fitting that the boxcar will have a permanent place with the Texas Military Forces where we can remember what Americans and French did together and continue to do together, in various places around the world.”

The ceremony boasted several unique speakers. The mayor of Austin, Lee Leffingwell, read a proclamation, making Feb. 23, 2014 Texas Merci Boxcar Day in Austin. Retired Navy Lt. Michael Thornton, and Medal of Honor recipient, attended as the keynote speaker.

“Freedom is built on blood, sweat, and tears,” said Thornton. “Today we commemorate this.”

Freedom and the relationship between the French and the American people was the dominant theme during the ceremony, as many recalled how the boxcar symbolized the struggle for freedom that both countries’ service members have fought for together throughout the years.

“France was the first ally of the United States,” said Seam indicating the role the French military played during the American Revolution. “But France was also the first country to recognize the Republic of Texas. I hope you Texans know that France was the first ally of Texas.”

The boxcar is on display at the Texas Military Forces museum, along with several of the gifts that arrived inside of the boxcar in 1949. For more information on how to view the boxcar visit the Texas Military Forces museum webpage at www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org.

- **DISPATCH**

Click to follow the Texas Military Forces Museum



The Texas Merci boxcar on display at its induction as a permanent exhibit into the Texas Military Forces Museum on Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, Feb. 23, 2014.



Awarding Valor

1-149ARB receives award
for combat actions in Iraq

Story and photos by
Maj. Randall Stillinger
36th Combat Aviation Brigade
Public Affairs Officer

HOUSTON, TEXAS (Feb. 2, 2014) - The 1st of the 149th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion (ARB) was recently awarded the Valorous Unit Award (VUA) for combat actions in the skies over Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Considered the unit equivalent of the Silver Star, the award was presented nearly seven years following their actions in Iraq.

The 1-149th, along with E Troop, 1-104th Cavalry (Mississippi) and A Company, 1-135th ARB (Missouri), deployed for a year with the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) in 2006 providing AH-64 "Apache" helicopter support as a Corps-level asset across the country.

Citing the battalion's significant impact on the war in the volatile Al Anbar province in western Iraq, the citation states, "the tenacity of the aircrews to engage the enemy and the constant drive of the units' support elements enhanced the ability of coalition forces to bring the fight to the enemy, destroyed the enemy's initiative and provided a safer and more secure existence for the people of Ar Ramadi, Iraq."

The 1-149th's success stems from their support of various units from across the U.S. military during the "pre-surge" and into the "surge" phases, one of the most deadly periods during the war.

"The units performed superbly as a corps-level attack helicopter battalion, providing aerial weapons teams to the United States Army brigade combat teams, the Marine Expeditionary Force and Naval SEAL teams," the citation states.

During combat operations, the battalion's fleet of aircraft sustained significant damage due to the aircrew's willingness to fly low and stay close to the fight, often drawing fire away from the ground troops they were supporting. In addition to the VUA, aviators from the 1-149th received 12 Distinguished Flying Crosses (DFC) and 39 Air Medals for Valor in the skies over Iraq.

Two of the DFC's were awarded after what became known as the Battle of Donkey Island on June 30th, 2007.

During a ground attack against 20 insurgents guarding a weapons cache in Ar Ramadi, a U.S. Soldier



was wounded by enemy forces. Medevac aircraft were unable to transport the critically-wounded soldier to a treatment facility.

A 1-149th "Apache" landed on the battlefield and placed the wounded Soldier in the front seat of the aircraft. The co-pilot/gunner strapped himself to the aircraft fuselage, outside the cockpit, and the pilot flew the aircraft and wounded soldier to a medical facility.

Col. Rick Adams, commander of the Austin-based 36th CAB, served as the 1-149th's commander during the Iraq deployment.

Adams, of Austin, said, "I was honored and humbled to serve with such a capable team of men and women. Their endurance and tenacity saved lives while turning the tide of combat in Iraq."

"A 1-149th "Apache" landed on the battlefield and placed the wounded Soldier in the front seat of the aircraft."

The deployment to Iraq was Adams' third tour, fighting with both active duty and National Guard Apache battalions.

"I would not trade the Soldiers, skills and dedication of the 1-149th," Adams said.

During the ceremony, the award streamer was placed on the battalion's guidon by Col. Adams and 36th Infantry Division Commander, Maj. Gen. James K. "Red" Brown.

The ceremony also included the official welcome



home of B Company, 1-149th ARB which recently returned from a combat deployment to Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan.

Adams, who visited B Company during their recent deployment, said he was "absolutely impressed by the graduate level of combat they had mastered. From our time in Iraq, I knew they were highly skilled and courageous warriors, but now they were doing it in extremely challenging, high-altitude environments, which requires perfect power management."

"I was further impressed by the fluid and seamless integration they made with the special operations teams they supported," Adams said.

The 36th CAB returned home from a deployment to the Middle East in support of Operation Enduring

Freedom just before Christmas.

Current proposals under consideration by the Department of Defense include the option of having the 1-149th transfer their Apache helicopters to the Active Duty forces. - **36th CAB PAO**

Opposite page: Soldiers from B Co., 1st Battalion, 149th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, stand in formation during a ceremony held in their honor.
Left: Capt. Stacy Rostorfer and 1st Sgt. Johnny Cox uncse their company's guidon during a ceremony that welcomed their company home.
Right: Maj. Gen. James K. "Red" Brown, commander of the 36th Infantry Division, and Col. Rick Adams place the Valorous Unit Award on the battalion's colors.



Wings aimed for the future



A Texas Air National Guard C-130 Hercules parked on display at the FIDAE international air show in Santiago, Chile, March 23, 2014.



Story and Photos by
SMSgt. Miguel Arellano
Contributing writer
TSgt Phil Fountain
149th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

SANTIAGO, CHILE -- About 50 members of the Texas Air National Guard joined international partners for the annual FIDAE (Feria Internacional del Aire y del Espacio) here, March 23-31, 2014. FIDAE is an international trade exhibition air and space show, and includes military and civilian partners and organizations from across the globe.





Master Sgt. Pete Soriano, an F-16 avionics specialist assigned to the 149th Fighter Wing, Texas Air National Guard, exchanges maintenance practices with his counterparts from FACH (Fuerza Aerea de Chile).

Texas and Chile work together through the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program (SPP), and collaborate on numerous projects, including information exchanges and the sharing of best practices.

"It was 2005, when the relationship (informally) began with the Chileans," said Brig. Gen. Brian C. Newby, chief of staff and deputy commander of the Texas Air National Guard. "It's matured significantly since then. The number of engagements that we have has increased to the extent that we're now one of the states with the largest number of engagements, and Chile is that partner that we have the largest number of engagements with."

The purpose of the engagements is multifaceted and relationship driven.

"There are two things at play," Newby said. "One is: the interchange of subject matter experts with the Chilean

military on different weapon systems, on different organizational structure, logistics - all of that is very important. What we're trying to convey to them is that we're trying to learn as much from them as they're trying to learn from us."

"The second most important piece to the relationship is the personal interactions," Newby said. "Being able to develop personal relationships, so that if we ever are in a position where we need to have greater coordination with the Chileans, we have the ability to pick up the phone and call a person who not only puts a face to the name, but also experiences, (and) friendship to that name. And that's what's so very, very important about the SPP program."

The Texas ANG showcased missions from the 149th Fighter Wing, headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio - Lackland, Texas, and the 136th Airlift Wing, based at



Master Sgt. Stephen Dobles, an aircraft maintenance technician with the 149th Fighter Wing, Texas Air National Guard, exchanges maintenance practices with his counterpart with the FACH (Fuerza Aerea de Chile).

Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, in Fort Worth, Texas.

The primary U.S. federal mission of the 149th Fighter Wing is to train pilots to fly the F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft, but the wing also has assets and personnel that are available to the Texas governor and civil authorities to assist with the state’s homeland response force and a myriad of other state missions.

“The Chileans are now purchasing F-16s from one of the Scandinavian countries,” Newby said, “and that’s going to significantly increase our need to have further engagements with them. As they transition into the F-16 - into a newer model F-16, than what they currently have - that’s going to give us greater opportunity for further engagement.”

The 136th Airlift Wing maintains and operates a fleet of

C-130 Hercules aircraft to provide airlift capabilities for the U.S. Air Force, and can help provide a timely National Guard response for the state of Texas and the Gulf Coast region of the United States during any emergency management or disaster situation.

“[The Chileans] fly the C-130, they are very proficient in the C-130 (and) our engagements with the 136th and Chile are very, very strong,” Newby said. “You’ve got two mature air forces working on the same weapons system and being able to exchange good ideas about how those weapons systems can operate.”

While the aircraft models have different technologies, the Texas ANG pilots and maintenance professionals were able to have meaningful exchanges with their Chilean counterparts.

“We also had the opportunity to do some cross-talk



Lt. Col. Greg Pohoski, an F-16 instructor pilot with the 149th Fighter Wing, Texas Air National Guard, discusses flying operations with cadets from FACH (Fuerza Aerea de Chile).

with C-130 operations and share best practices on tactical employment,” said Maj. Josh Ritzmann, a pilot with the 136th Airlift Wing, in a previous report. “The talks helped enhance our relationship with the Chilean air force and broadened the scope of both U.S. and Chilean C-130 capabilities.”

Master Sgt. Pete Soriano, an F-16 avionics specialist assigned to the 149th Fighter Wing, described his interactions.

“Basic principles and theories - they have it,” Soriano said, even though the aircraft technological systems were not exactly the same. They shared common practices and differences when it comes to flight-line operations, troubleshooting and logistics.

“Sometimes it helps when you can think outside the box,” Soriano said. “I explained to them, sometimes, yes,

you’re asking me for my experience, that what’s we do.” “Most of the time it’s this,” Soriano said of a hypothetical troubleshooting issue, “so I’m going to go with that, I’ll go straight to that (fix)” rather than follow the exact order of suggested fixes.

That judgment and confidence is something that develops through experience, he said.

In addition to flying and aircraft maintenance operations, there were exchanges related to medical readiness and disaster response.

“The (Texas) air flight surgeon was down this week doing subject matter exchanges with the Chileans,” Newby said. “Primarily, we focus on the ability to respond for disaster relief purposes on the medical side.”

“They have experience with search and rescue,” New-



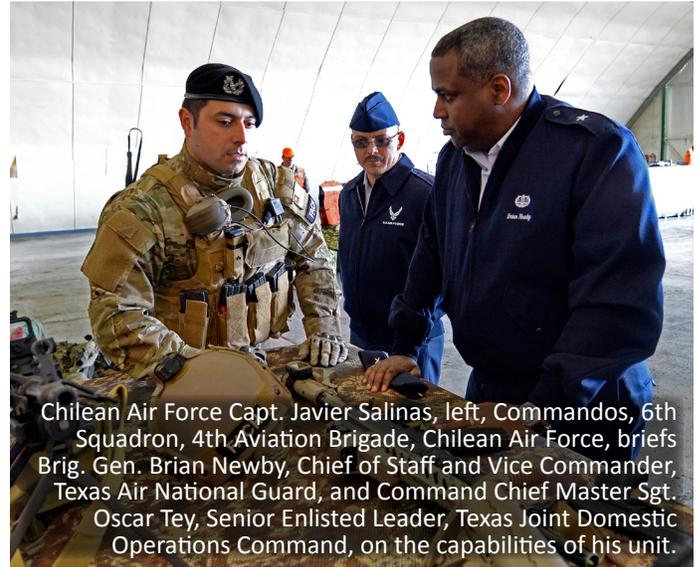
Click to follow the Texas Air National Guard 

by said. “They have experience with how do you take someone from a disaster environment, provide medical treatment, and then transfer to a more sophisticated medical environment. They have experience doing that and we have experience doing that. So being able to have that exchange has been very, very beneficial to us.”

This particular exchange may have laid groundwork for many more potential future exchanges, in different areas, specifically in the legal field and the relationship built with Newby.

“I have not had a lot of interactions with the Chileans,” said Newby, a graduate of the University of Texas School of Law who prior to becoming deputy commander served in the Judge Advocate General Corps.

“Legal engagements under the SPP program are an important piece that we have not put a lot of focus on, on



Chilean Air Force Capt. Javier Salinas, left, Commandos, 6th Squadron, 4th Aviation Brigade, Chilean Air Force, briefs Brig. Gen. Brian Newby, Chief of Staff and Vice Commander, Texas Air National Guard, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Oscar Tey, Senior Enlisted Leader, Texas Joint Domestic Operations Command, on the capabilities of his unit.

the Air Guard side,” Newby said. “On the Army Guard side they have a pretty robust set of legal engagements that they participate in, in a number of states, but not as much so in Texas.”

This is something Newby said he is seeking to change, and that he will soon have an additional platform to propose such change.

Newby was recently selected to become the first Air National Guard Assistant to the Deputy Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Air Force, and will soon assume those duties.

“In essence, it will be the ‘number two’ lawyer in the Air National Guard, working for the ‘number two’ lawyer in the U.S. Air Force,” Newby said. “It’s a fantastic job, and it’s one that I’m really looking forward to.”

“What I would like to do,” Newby said, “is taking from this new position the ability to create additional engagements for Air National Guard judge advocates. Because with the drawdown in the war, our judges advocates who need to have international law experience are not able to get that. So, SPP is the ability to bring that skill set to the fight on behalf of both the Air Force and the Air National Guard.”

The future of the SPP relationship between Texas and Chile seems almost limitless in its potential, from sharing experiences about disaster response to methods involving the training of fighter pilots. There are many overlapping interests and exchange needs.

“It’s all about relationships,” Newby said. “This has been an outstanding experience.” - **149th FW PAO**

REAL

WORLD

Story and photos by
CW2 Janet Schmelzer
4th Regiment, Texas State Guard
Public Affairs Office

GRAPEVINE, TEXAS - The 4th Regiment, Civil Affairs, Texas State Guard (TXSG) was in Grapevine, Texas, Saturday, April 26, 2014 for life-saving skills training and a mock disaster exercise.

The exercise was designed to be as close to real world events as possible. There were four mock training areas: triage, first aid, search and assessment, and extraction. The soldiers had to triage mock victims. Then they had to search and assess the disaster area, administer first aid, and extract victims from a mock collapsed building. The soldiers had to prepare a victim for transport, and transport the patient from the danger zone to a safe zone. Soldiers had to climb through collapsed walls, go through rubble (rocks, dirt, and boards), through narrow tunnels of rubble moving along on hands and knees, and work in small and confined spaces, all of which was designed to replicate a tornado strike. Soldiers had to remain aware of their surroundings and safely treat mock victims as they would in a real world emergency.

Working with the 4th Regiment were soldiers from the TXSG Dallas-Fort Worth Medical Response Group, Arlington firefighter and Texas Task Force One Team leader Billy Hirth, and Grace Cares, a volunteer disaster relief organization.

The 4th Regiment is headquartered at Shor-view Armory, Fort Worth, Texas, with 1st Battalion in Weatherford, Texas, 2nd Battalion in Arlington, Texas, and 3rd Battalion in Decatur, Texas. - **TXSG PAO**

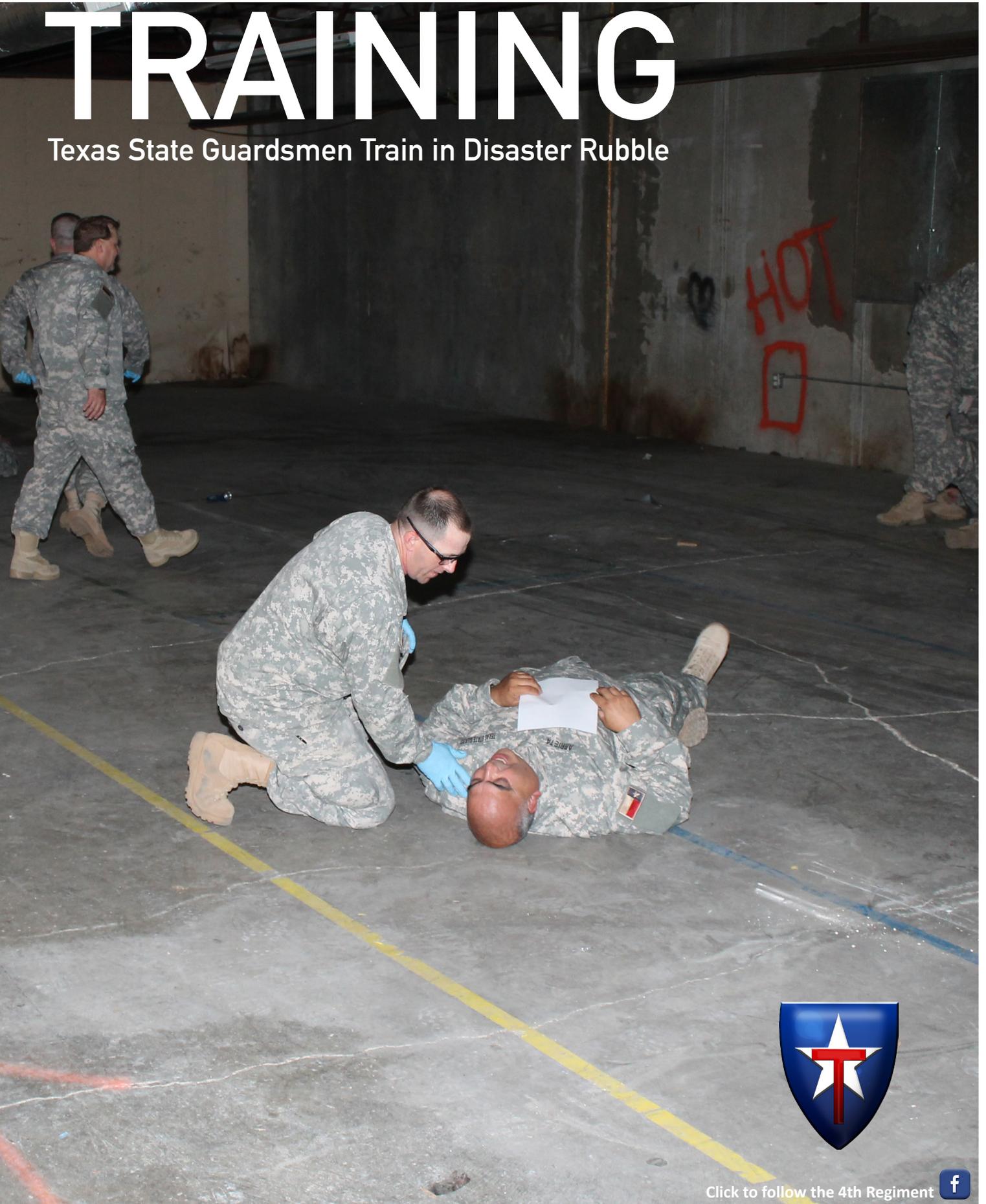


Texas State Guard, 4th Regiment soldiers provide first aid to fellow soldiers who are acting as victims during a mock tornado disaster exercise in Grapevine, Texas, on April 26, 2014.



TRAINING

Texas State Guardsmen Train in Disaster Rubble



Click to follow the 4th Regiment





Evolution of the National Guard and the Mexican Expedition

A historical compilation by
Lt. Col. Enrique Villarreal





In the last dozen years, significant changes in National Guard organization, along with conflicts overseas and violence along the Mexican border have redefined the role of the National Guard. At first glance, this statement seems to reflect recent events that culminated with President George W. Bush's announced plans, in 2006, to mobilize more than 6,000 Army National Guard Soldiers to assist the Border Patrol in its efforts to secure the US border with Mexico. However, the story that follows occurred nearly 100 years before, validating the maxim that history repeats itself.

The mobilization of state military forces for the Spanish-American War in 1898, while more effective than previous mobilizations, clearly demonstrated that the Guard was not prepared. At issue was the antiquated Militia Act of 1792, which limited the President's ability to issue a call for troops from the states. Each state organized units in response to the President's call, by requesting state units to volunteer, for service. Guardsmen, however, were under no legal obligation to volunteer. To fill units to full strength, required states to recruit civilians, which resulted in most of the units organized for Federal service, being inadequate to meet the demands of extended field operations.

On January 21, 1903, the Militia Act of 1903, or the "Dick Act" passed into law. This law repealed the

Militia Acts of 1792 and organized the militia into two groups: the Reserve Militia, and the Organized Militia. The legislation codified the circumstances under which the Federal government could federalize State militias and redesignated the organized militias as the National Guard. The act also provided federal funds to pay for equipment and training, including annual summer encampments. In return, the National Guard organized its units along the same lines as the regular Army, taking steps to ensure they met the same training, education and readiness requirements as the active duty units. Amended with the 1908 Militia Act, which gave the President power not only to federalize the National Guard but also the authority to summon the National Guard indefinitely and send them abroad.

In order meet the organizational requirements, it became necessary to reduce the organization of the Texas National Guard from a division to a brigade. As a result, a board convened to review a course of action and recommend changes in order to match the organization of the regular army. On January 1, 1908, and in accordance with the recommendations made by the board, the Texas National Guard reduced its force from a division to a brigade.

Meanwhile, in 1910, the first step towards organizing the militia into higher tactical units came with the War Department of General Orders No. 35,



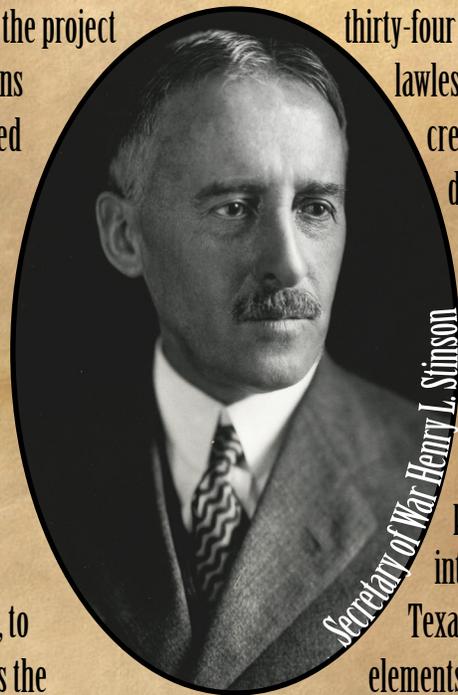
February 24, 1910, which proposed the organization of seventeen divisions composed of Regular Army and National Guard regiments. Texas would form part of the 9th Division along with Mississippi and Louisiana. However, this organization did not have the necessary qualities of permanency, as each state had different degrees of training and readiness for service. The War Department and the Regular Army felt that a considerable amount of time and training was necessary before Guard units were capable of engaging in operations. For this reason, the War Department abandoned the project of combining militia organizations with regular troops and developed a separate plan to organize the National Guard into a complete and independent force.

In 1912, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson requested the General Staff to review national defense policies and to develop a mobilization plan for the Army, to include reserve elements such as the National Guard. The plan that emerged was *The Report on the Organization of Land Forces of the United States*. Known as the Stimson Plan, it set out the need for “A regular army organized in divisions and cavalry brigades ready for immediate use as an expeditionary force or for other purposes” Behind it was to be “an army of national citizen soldiers organized in peace in complete divisions and prepared to reinforce the Regular Army in time of war.” The plan contemplated the formation of

12 tactical divisions corresponding to 12 groups of contiguous States, numbered 5th through the 16th divisions. Texas, along with Arkansas, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Louisiana would form the 15th Division.

However, the War Department did not implement either plan, as trouble along the Mexican border began to escalate. It was during this reorganization that the Mexican Revolution began when President Porfirio Díaz could no longer suppress opposition to his thirty-four year rule. The uncertainty and lawlessness of the Mexican Revolution created an environment of fear and distrust along the Texas-Mexico border. It also acted as a catalyst for border troubles and the greatest single cause for activations between 1910 and 1917. The revolution caused an influx of political refugees and immigrants into Texas, which politicized the Texas Rio Grande Valley. Some radical elements saw the opportunity to bring about drastic political and economic changes in South Texas. The extreme example of this was the “Plan of San Diego”, a revolutionary manifesto, which was thought at the time to have been written in the small South Texas town of San Diego in Duval County, on January 6, 1915.

The plan provided for the formation of a “Liberating Army of Races and People”, composed of Mexican Americans, African Americans and Japanese to “free



Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson



the states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California and Colorado from the United States control. The liberated states would organize into an independent republic, which would seek annexation to Mexico. The plan called for the revolution to begin on February 20, 1915. However, local authorities discovered the plan, on January 24, 1915, when they arrested one of the leaders of the plot. When nothing happened the following month, federal authorities dismissed the plan as merely “revolutionary rhetoric”.

Despite the complacency of federal authorities, Texas governor Oscar B. Colquitt, pressured by South Texas residents, increased state presence along the border with Texas Rangers and National Guard Soldiers. However, the feeling of complacency would soon fade when a series of raids in the lower Rio Grande Valley not connected with the “Plan of San Diego”, but more to do with President Wilson’s recognition of Venustiano Carranza as President of Mexico.

On March 9, 1916, a band of marauders, led by General Francisco Villa, swooped down on the town of Columbus, New Mexico, killing two Soldiers of the 13th U.S. Cavalry and eighteen Civilians. A month later, on May 5, 1916 two groups of Mexican raiders under Rodriguez Ramirez and Natividad Álvarez attacked the villages of Glenn Springs and Boquillas in southern Brewster County. Estimates of the number

of raiders at the Glenn Springs raid ranged from between sixty and several hundred; outnumbering the nine soldiers of Troop A of the 14th Cavalry stationed there. Three soldiers were killed and four more were wounded. The raiders themselves suffered few losses.

Both public outcry and pressure from the army moved President Wilson to order the military to pursue Villa and his revolutionary army to punish him. General Funston, now commanding the Southern Department, telegraphed the War Department the day after the raid, “I urgently recommend that American troops be given authority to pursue into Mexican Territory hostile Mexican bandits who raid American territory. So long as the border is a shelter for them they will continue to harass our ranches and towns to our chagrin.” Wilson responded by directing Secretary of War Newton Baker to organize a punitive expedition.



The campaign officially known as the Mexican Expedition, but because of its goal to punish Villa and other raiders, it was better known as the Mexican Punitive Expedition. With the discovery of the “Plan of San Diego” and Poncho Villa’s raid into New Mexico, nearly the entire Regular Army moved to the American-Mexican border under the newly promoted commanding general, Brigadier General John J. Pershing. With the army stretched thin along the border, the War Department mobilized the National



Guard from Texas, Arizona and New Mexico on May 8, 1916.

With congressional approval of the National Defense Act on June 3, 1916, Guard units from the remainder of the states, and the District of Columbia, were also called for duty on the border. The act authorized the enlargement of the Regular Army and the National Guard and increased federal control over the latter. By July 4, the National Guards of 14 states were on duty in makeshift camps along the border. The presence of 112,000 Guardsmen by late July undoubtedly discouraged any further serious incursions into the United States by border bandits.

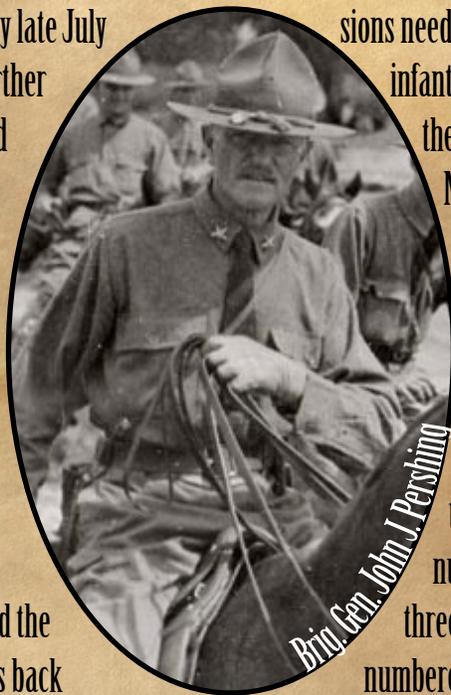
By early March 1917, the Texas Guard units began to demobilize after nearly a year along the border. However, the demobilization halted when the War Department suspended further deactivations and recalled the partially demobilized Guard units back into Federal service. The recall was the result of worsening relations with Germany caused by the resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare and the publication of the Zimmermann telegram.

In January of 1917, British cryptographers deciphered a telegram from German Foreign Minister Arthur Zimmermann to the German Minister to Mexico, von Eckhardt, offering United States territory to Mexico in return for joining the German cause.

In an effort to protect their intelligence from detection and to capitalize on growing anti-German sentiment in the United States, the British waited until February 24 to present the telegram to Woodrow Wilson. The American press published news of the telegram on March 1 and on April 6, 1917, the United States Congress formally declared war on Germany and its allies.

Although the War Department was unsure of the final divisional structures or the numbers of divisions needed, it decided to organize 32 infantry divisions immediately, 16 in the National Guard and 16 in the National Army. By May 1917, the department announced that the designations of the National Guard's 5th through 20th Divisions would change to the 26th through the 41st to conform to a new numbering system. The numbering system consisted of three components the Regular Army, numbered 1-25, the National Guard, 26-75 and the National Army, 76 and above. The division designations for the National Guard were assigned by geographical location beginning in the most northern states, working south. The East Coast states were assigned the 26th — 31st Divisions; the Central United States would form the 32nd — 39th Divisions while the West Coast and Western states would form the 40th and 41st Divisions.

Per the War Departments General Order No. 95, dated



Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing

July 18, 1917, the National Guard units from Texas and Oklahoma formerly the 15th Division would be designated the 36th Division. Although designated the 36th Division the actual organization of the Division would not begin until August 5, 1917 when the War Department federalized all National Guard units. The organization would continue into the fall until October 15, 1917 with the consolidation of the regiments from Texas and Oklahoma.

The National Guard, regulated to protecting the border between the US and Mexico did very little in the way of operations. However, the primary value of its mission, along the border, was the training it received. The men were hardened physically and learned the fundamentals of soldiering in the field. In addition, the Guard leadership gained valuable experience in handling men and in providing for their basic needs. Deficiencies and weaknesses in the Guard units were revealed and shortages of equipment and clothing were to some extent corrected by the army. The experience and training that the National Guard received along the border proved valuable as it prepared for the Great War, in Europe. Today, it provides us with valuable lessons towards understanding the dynamics of the National Guard's mission, and the preparations needed to defend the State and the Nation. - **DISPATCH HISTORY**



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Chief Master Sgt. Cesar Acosta, a maintenance supervisor with the 149th Maintenance Group, 149th Fighter Wing, Texas Air National Guard, carries a wheelchair-bound Chilean boy up the crew entry ladder for a better look at the cockpit of an F-16 Fighting Falcon at the FIDAE Air Show in Santiago, Chile, March 26, 2014. Airmen from the 149th Fighter Wing and the 136th Airlift Wing hosted the Chilean Make-A-Wish/Teletón Children's organization during their visit. (Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Miguel Arellano).

