

# YEAR IN REVIEW



THE IDAHO MILITARY DIVISION  
2016



**THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, IDAHO  
COMMANDER, IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD  
GOWEN FIELD - BOISE, IDAHO**

Governor Otter,

As we look back on 2016, we see a year of unprecedented engagement locally and globally from our committed civilians, Soldiers and Airmen of the Idaho Military Division. We've brought together the highlights in a second publication of a Year In Review. We share this story with you, which could only take shape through the support and involvement of our state and local leaders, families, employers, and community.

The service members of the Idaho National Guard traveled far and wide to execute the missions of protecting, preserving, and defending the lives, property and individual liberties of the citizens of Idaho and the United States.

Early in the year, the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Fighter Wing embarked on its largest and longest deployment in Idaho Air National Guard history. The 124th deployed more than half of assigned personnel to 10 different locations across the Middle East, Africa and Europe in support of Operations INHERENT RESOLVE and FREEDOM'S SENTINEL.

In the summer, nearly 1,000 Soldiers from the Army National Guard's 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, headquartered in Boise, Idaho, deployed to Romania to join more than 2,500 other Soldiers from 10 different nations to participate in Saber Guardian; a massive training exercise in support of the European Reassurance Initiative.

Here at home the Idaho National Guard hosted leaders from the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces during a leadership exchange as part of our State Partnership Program. Earlier in the year we welcomed nearly 50 Adjutants General from across the country to Boise for the Adjutant General Association of the United States 2016 summer conference.

Our civil servants of the Idaho Office of Emergency Management coordinated and supported numerous local and state agencies throughout the northwest, as well as federal agencies across the country in the first ever "Cascadia Rising" emergency response exercise. This herculean effort brought our state and nation invaluable opportunity to enhance our preparedness in responding to and recovering from large-scale disasters.

The following pages tell the story of a successful 2016, which could only be possible through the unwavering support from a grateful state. Your proclamation officially declaring 2016 as the "Year of Idaho's Military Families," coupled with Boise Mayor Bieter's renewed commitment through "Our Troops, Our Families" are only two examples of the countless ways our community ensured our success this past year.

On behalf of the men and women of the Idaho Military Division, thank you for your support in ensuring a successful 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary L. Sayler".

Gary L. Sayler  
Major General

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### ON THE COVER

An A-10 Thunderbolt II sits on the flightline April 6, 2016 at Gowen Field prior to the largest deployment in the Idaho Air National Guard's history. (Photo by Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras, 124th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

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# FOND FAREWELL



The last of the AH-64 Apache Longbow helicopters stationed at Gowen Field wait for their final departure during a farewell ceremony July 29, 2016. The Pentagon selected the Idaho Army National Guard's 183rd Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, along with other Apache units in several other states to turn their attack helicopters over to the Active Duty Army as part of a cost-cutting measure.

In late 2013, the Pentagon began planning for the Aviation Restructuring Initiative- a cost-cutting measure to retire the OH-58 Kiowa scout helicopter, replacing it with the AH-64 Apache. Select National Guard units throughout the country were identified to turn their attack helicopters over to the Active Duty Army. The Idaho Army National Guard's 183rd Attack Reconnaissance Battalion was among those on the list.

On July 29, 2016, Idaho National Guard leadership along with 183rd personnel, former Idaho Army Aviation members and commanders, as well as community and local media gathered for the farewell

ceremony. All watched as the last five helicopters of Idaho's AH-64 Apache Longbow fleet departed the ramp on Gowen Field for the last time. Gowen Field was home to the Apache since 1992.

The Idaho Army National Guard utilized the Apache while deployed to Bosnia in support of Operation Joint Forge from 2002-2003 and again while deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from 2006-2007.

With the end of an era comes a new beginning. Within a few short weeks after the final Apaches departed, the empty space on the flight line began filling with a new

fleet of UH-60 Blackhawks.

This change in airframe ushers in a change of mission, as well as new training and qualification requirements for more than half of the Soldiers in the battalion.

Idaho anticipates that the increased fleet of Blackhawks will provide additional support for medical/casualty evacuations, a new air assault operations capability, enhanced command and control support as well as personal recovery support for military operations. In addition to new combat roles, the increase of Blackhawks within Idaho means an enhanced capability in local and state emergency response.

# LAND, SEA, AND AIR



The Idaho Army Aviation Group took part in a unique training opportunity Sept. 15-24, 2016, working with personnel from Naval Special Warfare Group-1 and the Air Force's 66th Weapons Squadron School.

Idaho Army National Guard pilots, crews and three UH-60 helicopters from the 183rd and 1-168th Command Aviation Company traveled to Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada to take part in the air-to-ground employment training.

Crewmembers from the Idaho Army National Guard participated in numerous Close Combat Attack and Close Air Support scenarios with 16 aircraft and more than 20 ground personnel representing all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. In total, Idaho Army National Guard helicopters flew more than 73 hours over the five-day period executing nine different mission sets.

Missions were conducted in complex airspace with ground troop insertions in high-threat

areas and simulated "hot" landing zones. Additionally, numerous door-gunnery drills were incorporated into the scenarios. The training received high accolades from military leaders and greatly enhanced aircrew combat competency.

#### PICTURED ABOVE:

A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter from the Idaho Army National Guard balances on a steep cliff during Close Combat Attack and Close Air Support training conducted Sept. 15-24, 2016, in Nevada. In total, Idaho Army National Guard helicopters flew more than 73 hours over the five-day period executing nine different mission sets.



# Cascadia Rising



Brig. Gen. Brad Richy, director of the joint staff for the Idaho National Guard, addresses an audience of exercise participants and local and state leadership during the Cascadia Rising Exercise, June 9, 2016. More than 20,000 players participated in the exercise, including 53 counties, 18 tribes, three state Emergency Operations Centers, multiple federal coordination centers, and numerous private sector and non-governmental entities.

One of the highlights of 2016 for the Idaho Office of Emergency Management was the participation of the Idaho Emergency Operations Center, the Idaho Joint Operations Center and other agencies and organizations in the Cascadia Rising 2016 Functional Exercise, held during the week of June 6, 2016. The purpose of Cascadia Rising was to provide an opportunity for Emergency Operations Centers at all levels to collaborate and solve problems in the aftermath of a catastrophic scenario. The scenario involved a 9.0 magnitude earthquake occurring along the length of the Cascadia Subduction Zone fault with an epicenter 95 miles west of Eugene, Oregon. The earthquake triggered a tsunami which impacted the entire Pacific Basin.

More than 20,000 players participated in Cascadia Rising, including

53 counties, 18 tribes, three state EOCs, multiple federal coordination centers, and numerous private sector and non-governmental entities.

In Idaho, almost 1,200 players participated. At the state level, the state of Idaho EOC and Joint Information Center, the Idaho Military Division Joint Operations Center, and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's State Public Health Operations Center activated and operated. Nine county Emergency Operations Centers stood up and all seven health district EOCs to some level. Two counties (Kootenai and Nez Perce) also conducted affiliated full scale exercises at their respective airports. The Panhandle Health District conducted a full scale exercise and stood up a medical needs shelter in Kootenai County.

During the exercise, Idaho was

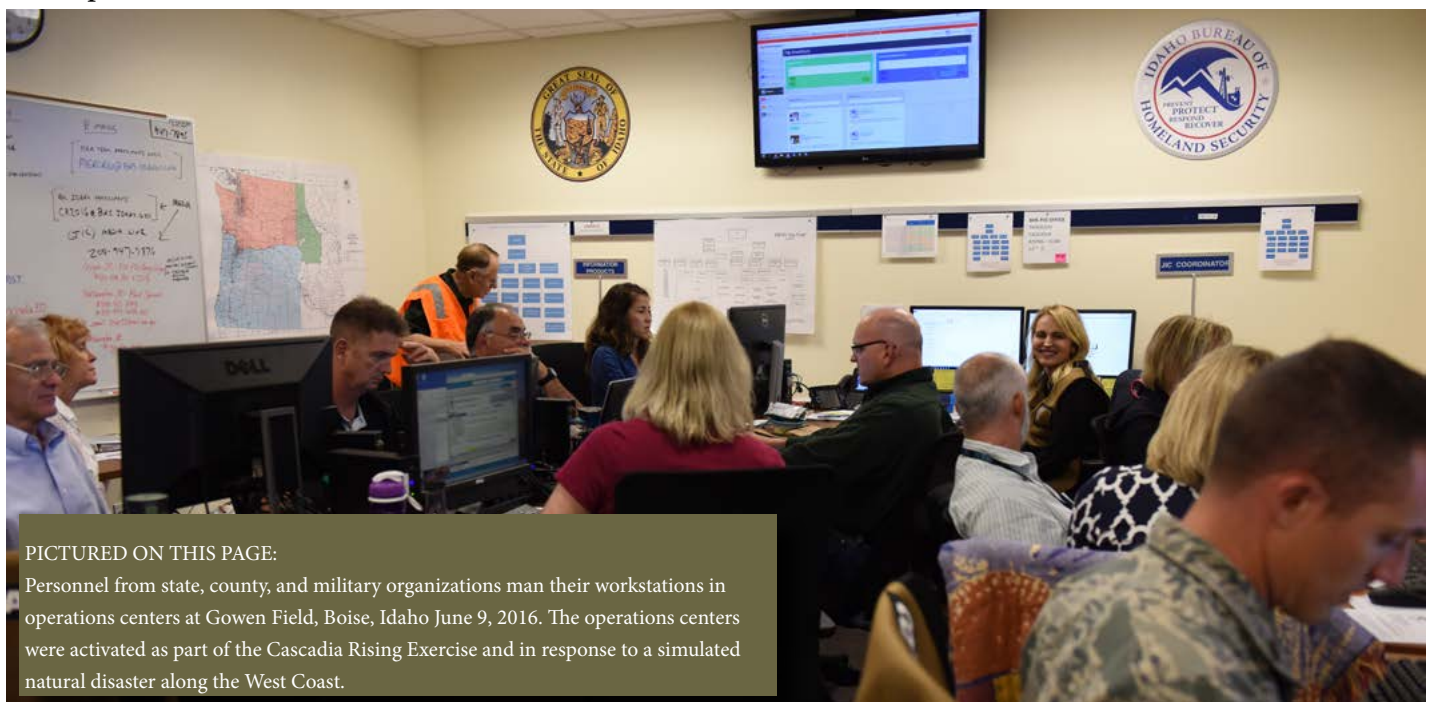
asked to provide assistance to our neighbors in Washington and Oregon, who were dealing with the direct impacts of the disaster. Idaho was also challenged by the corresponding cascading effects, such as preparing for thousands of incoming evacuees, communication difficulties, and disruption of critical supply chains (e.g. food and fuel) into our state.

Exercises play a vital role in emergency preparedness by providing an opportunity to test and validate plans and capabilities in order to identify gaps and areas for improvement prior to a real world incident. During Cascadia Rising, a number of difficulties were identified, as well as specific corrective actions, which need to be taken to resolve capability gaps and shortcomings. Plans are already in the process of being updated, additional operating procedures

are being developed, management processes are being reviewed, and staffing and equipment limitations have been identified.

In addition, a number of strengths in our ability to respond to the needs of Idahoans were identified. This exercise was the first opportunity for multiple emergency operations centers in Idaho to be activated at the same time. The willingness of participants to come together and collaborate as a team was evident at all levels. We will continue to cultivate these capability strengths in order to ensure they are maintained.

Although Cascadia Rising is over, the work is not. IOEM will continue to encourage opportunities for all emergency management programs in Idaho to exercise in this manner and assess our progress toward meeting capability targets. Exercises bring together and strengthen the entire community in our efforts to refine our collective capabilities.



#### PICTURED ON THIS PAGE:

Personnel from state, county, and military organizations man their workstations in operations centers at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho June 9, 2016. The operations centers were activated as part of the Cascadia Rising Exercise and in response to a simulated natural disaster along the West Coast.



# DEDICATED TO THE COMMUNITY

The Idaho Air National Guard dedicated three more A-10 Thunderbolt IIs to communities in the state of Idaho during 2016. The Pride of Eagle and Kuna were dedicated during a ceremony held Jan. 29, 2016 at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho. The Warrior Spirit was dedicated June 10, 2016 during a ceremony that included guests from Tribes of Idaho. During the event several significant tribal ceremonies were performed by the tribes, including a smudging ceremony.







The Department of the Air Force announced on Dec. 7, 2016, that Gowen Field is one of five installations under consideration as a potential location to base roughly 18 F-35s.

The entire decision process could take up to two years, and before a final decision is made by the Air Force several key steps are required, such as a facility validation inspection and an Environmental Impact Study. If selected, the Idaho National Guard may not see the aircraft arrive at Gowen Field until the 2021/2022 time frame.

The F-35 is the premiere fighter aircraft of the U.S. Air Force and has been identified to perform a number of roles—to include close air support—a primary function of the A-10s currently stationed at Gowen Field.

In narrowing the contenders from 18 installations to five, the Air Force looked at weather, air-space, training range availability, facility capacity (hangar and ramp

space) and cost factors.

Gowen Field is in close proximity to several training spaces. The 124th routinely conducts training in the Saylor Creek and Juniper Butte Ranges southeast of Boise as well as the Paradise and Owyhee military operating areas (spanning into Nevada and Oregon) and the Saddle Military Operating Area in Oregon.

The climate of Boise and the surrounding area means the majority of days experience weather conducive to flying/training.

Gowen Field has several available facilities that are relatively new, lending themselves to an F-35 mission. These facilities were built in the mid-90s to accommodate a C-130 mission. Although that mission no longer exists here at Gowen, the facilities do and the Air Force sees it as a savings if they're able to repurpose them for an F-35 mission.

The Air Force looked at those installations with runways of at least

8,000 feet and either operational A-10 Thunderbolt IIs, F-16 Fighting Falcons or F-15 Eagles. The Idaho Air National Guard, which operates the A-10 Thunderbolt II, shares the runways with the Boise Airport, one of which is 10,000 feet long and the other 9,763.

Gowen Field is a logical choice for a number of reasons. Gowen Field has been the home to nine different types of fighter aircraft over the last 70 years. It has many of the facilities required to accommodate an F-35 mission and its close proximity to premiere training space is invaluable. As the most densely populated city in Idaho, Boise provides the necessary population base required to adequately man the Idaho Air National Guard and an F-35 mission.

Gowen Field being considered for the F-35 is a true testament to the Airmen of the Idaho Air National Guard and the high performance standards of our world class organization.



Did you know the Idaho National Guard is the fourth-largest employer in the State of Idaho comprised of more than 5,000 employees?

It is important to remember; however, that the Idaho National Guard is a part-time force, waiting for the call to serve the state and defend the nation. Unlike the top three—St. Luke's, Wal-Mart and Micron—the majority of personnel in the Idaho National Guard serve on average 63 days per year, so payroll totals of the top three are much higher.

Regardless, according to an independent economic study by Dr. Richard Gardner of Bootstrap Solutions, the Idaho National Guard had \$485 million in total economic output in 2014. The total employment impact of the National Guard on Idaho employment amounted to 10,742 jobs, or 1.2 percent.

"A rough estimate of the total fiscal impact of the Guard is that it generates \$17.4 million in various state tax revenues," Gardner said. "Only \$6.5 million of state funds were appropriated to the Guard in 2014, so the organization represents a significant revenue generator for Idaho."

The study also found that the Guard provides over \$250 million per year in direct impacts, and it is expected that this number will continue to grow.

With continued development of Idaho Army National Guard training facilities south of Boise, their capacity to host units from out of state will increase. This, coupled with other major developments and perhaps a potential new F-35 mission for the Idaho Air National Guard would bring additional civilian job opportunities to the local area. The increasing economic footprint of the Guard could mean hundreds of millions of dollars invested in Idaho.

"Construction impacts are one-time, but increased Guard capacity means increased annual impacts," Gardner said. "When you see fighter jets speeding overhead or military equipment rumbling next to Pleasant Valley Road, please remember the National Guard is not only contributing to our nation's defense, but it is also a major player in Idaho's economy."

*Dick Gardner of Bootstrap Solutions is a consulting economist who conducted this study of the Idaho National Guard. This study will soon be updated using 2016 data.*

### Total Economic Impacts of the Idaho National Guard by Program

Program	Impact on Employment	Impact on Labor Income	Impact on Economic Output
ID Army Guard	7,394	\$189,118,000	\$285,920,000
ID Air Guard	2,801	\$136,027,000	\$155,354,000
ID Military Division	547	\$22,622,000	\$43,256,000
<b>TOTAL IMPACTS</b>	<b>10,742</b>	<b>\$347,767,000</b>	<b>\$484,530,000</b>

SOURCE: IMPLAN, 2013 data

Notes: Program impacts include personnel and Operations and Management direct impacts. Employment includes all full, part-time, and seasonal jobs in Idaho. Labor Income and Output expressed in 2014 dollars.





The Idaho State Police was one of 15 organizations nationwide to be awarded the 2016 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The award marked the third straight year an Idaho company received the nation's top recognition for exceptional support of National Guard and Reserves employees.

"When we employ a Guard or Reserve member we get someone that already understands discipline and the importance of respect and their work ethic has been fine-tuned and battle tested," said Idaho State Police Director Col. Ralph Powell. "They have been trained to practice logic and reason in all circumstances, a critical element in law enforcement."

Below are some highlights of the Idaho State Police Department's support of Guard and Reserve employees:

*A service member suffered a concussion during active duty training. Her supervisor worked with the medical board to ensure she was provided everything she needed to help her recover, contributing directly to her successful therapy and eventual return to work. Co-workers donated 80 hours of personal leave after the service member had exhausted her leave during the recovery period.*

*Leadership actively recruits Guard and Reserve members through the Hero2Hired program and these candidates are given additional hiring points during the hiring process.*

*The department conducted an online auction to raise funds for an Army National Guard Soldier and his military dog, both of whom were wounded in a bomb explosion in Afghanistan. To date, \$10,000 has been raised.*

*Police troopers lined the airstrip with patrol vehicles for a fond farewell upon the departure of a military employee to Iraq.*

*One police unit replaced a fence for a deployed service member's family to help them feel safer in his absence.*

"The extraordinary support these employers provide contributes greatly to the readiness and resilience of our Guardsmen and Reservists," said Defense Secretary Ash Carter. "Their support allows those troops to serve our nation at home and abroad knowing their civilian careers are secure and is vitally important to the success of our national security strategy."

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996.



# 116TH REORGANIZES



The Idaho Army National Guard's largest unit, the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, reorganized in October. The reorganization affected units from every part of the state and brought updated equipment and 200 additional positions for Idaho Guardsman. The 116th's footprint expanded into Nevada.

"Our organization must remain flexible and adaptable to ensure we meet our two primary missions: responding to state emergencies and fighting and winning our nation's wars," said Col. Farin Schwartz, commander of the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team. The additional 200 positions increases the number of artillery, combat engineer and armor positions and provides new opportunities for infantry and specialty schools such as pathfinders, sappers, and rangers.

## **116th adds a third combined arms battalion, Nevada National Guard recon squadron**

In the Treasure Valley, 2nd

Squadron of the 116th Cavalry Brigade, headquartered in Caldwell, reorganized from an armored reconnaissance squadron to a combined arms battalion. This change resulted in an increase in assigned Soldiers, new equipment and a new mission for the unit.

Since the 116th Brigade returned from its first deployment to Iraq in 2005, 2nd Squadron has utilized the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and up-armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, also known as the HMMWV. This change equips the squadron with the M1A2 Abrams SEP tank—a System Enhancement Package—making it the U.S. Army's most technologically advanced tank on the battlefield today.

The brigade's reconnaissance capability now comes from the Nevada National Guard's 1st Squadron of the 221st Cavalry Regiment, along with support from the 777th Forward Support Company, both based in Las Vegas, Nevada. The 116th Cavalry Brigade now con-

sists of more than 4,000 Soldiers in four states, as Oregon and Montana already contribute a combined arms battalion each to the brigade.

## **Special troops battalion becomes an engineer battalion**

In the Magic Valley, the 116th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, headquartered in Twin Falls, reorganized into the 116th Brigade Engineer Battalion and added a forward support company in Jerome and a second engineer company in northern Idaho. Moscow's 126th Engineer Company reorganized into B Company of the 116th BEB.

## **Field artillery battalion adds battery, Soldiers**

In eastern Idaho, 1st of the 148th Field Artillery Battalion stood up an additional battery, which increased opportunities for Soldiers and added two additional M109A6 self-propelled howitzers.

Once all changes have been implemented, the 116th Brigade Combat Team will encompass over 20 communities throughout the state.



# The band plays on



The 25th Army Band was formed in Idaho during the fall of 1925. It is headquartered at Gowen Field in Boise, Idaho. The unit is in its ninety-first year of serving our state and nation. It mobilized during both World War II and the Korean conflict.

The 31 Soldiers currently assigned to the unit perform throughout Idaho each year with a three-point primary mission: to support the men and women of our Armed Forces as well as our veterans, to foster the support of all citizens for our military personnel and to represent the United States Army, the Idaho National Guard and the State of Idaho. The 25th Army Band is the only military band assigned to Idaho.

The unit often sends out small Music Performance Teams of seven to eight musicians for multiple simultaneous performances throughout the state, as well as operating as an entire unit for parades and ceremonial functions. The performances often require many types and styles of music including jazz, rock, country and classical genres.

There were 44 performances by the small musical teams this year with the primary focus on mentoring young musicians at the middle school and high school level. The total audience count for these performances was over 53,000 people.

The unit performed as a single band for 53 performances throughout the training year. Some of these performances included support for the Memorial Day observance at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery and the Veterans Day Parade in Lewiston. The total audience count for these performances, including broadcast audiences, was 112,000 people.



The Idaho Army National Guard's 25th Army Band performs in Kellogg and Coeur D'Alene, Idaho during the 4th of July weekend celebration and Independence Day parades.



# 124TH FIGHTER WING DEPLOYS

Airmen with the 124th Fighter Wing embarked on their largest deployment in wing history beginning in April 2016. The Airmen supported operations all over the world including Southwest Asia, Africa and Europe. Preparations for the deployment began months in advance and culminated in the successful deployment of more than half of the wing. Not only was this the largest deployment in the history of the Idaho Air National Guard, it was also the longest, stretching for six months.









# YOUTH CHALLENGE BURNING THROUGH THREE YEARS

Idaho Youth Challenge Academy, a program that has helped more than 500 young Idahoans get back on track, entered its third year of operation in January 2017. The IDYCA is a volunteer program to give 16 to 18-year-olds at risk of dropping out of high school or those who already have, a second chance to become responsible and productive citizens. The highly-structured program includes a two-week acclimation period and a 22-week residential phase. Since 2014 the program has completed six cycles of the 22-week residential phase.

In 2016, IDYCA continued its innovative approach to helping young Idahoans by adding several programs and opportunities. These programs have aided in IDYCA reaching near full capacity and for the first time in 2016, there was a waiting list for males wanting to enter the academy.

IDYCA has added an animation program called Animate My Action Plan (AMAP), which helps cadets interested in learning about anima-

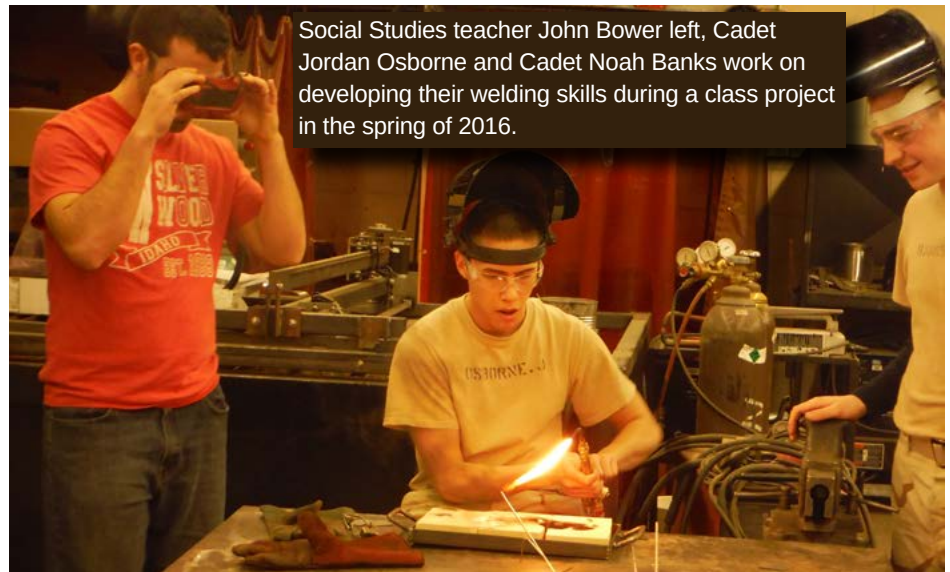
tion and film production gain valuable technical skills necessary to enter the animation field. Three cadets from each class cycle will be chosen to attend a residential vocational Challenge type academy that will begin in January 2017 in Georgia. At this academy, sponsored by Royer Studios with assistance from a grant through the Department of the Navy, students will spend 16 weeks on site and gain advanced animation and film production skills taught by Royer Studios staff. Only students from the eight participating Challenge Academies nationwide are invited to take part, making it a very unique opportunity for Idaho graduating cadets.

IDYCA, through a grant provided by Idaho Department of Labor coupled with local volunteer financial and manpower support has added vocational skills training to the mix of opportunities. In the vocational skills program, cadets learn entry-level skills in the areas of lube tech, carpentry, welding and pre-medical. IDYCA has also

combined forces with the United States Forest Service and Idaho Fish and Game to provide service opportunities to cadets. While cadets are helping with the various projects such as trail grooming, campground maintenance and environmental studies; they are gaining valuable skills and are being taught forest and environmental management principles from USFS and IFG staff.

IDYCA has also been approved as a GED testing center. Once the center is operational, cadets wishing to complete their GED can take one test at a time and do it on site. This should aid in increasing the completion rate of those taking the test.

The dedicated IDYCA staff, cadets, parents and stakeholders alike share the IDYCA vision and are working diligently to ensure the future success and growth that is possible as IDYCA continues to help Idaho youth one life at a time. For more on the IDYCA, visit [www.idyouthchallenge.com](http://www.idyouthchallenge.com).



Social Studies teacher John Bower left, Cadet Jordan Osborne and Cadet Noah Banks work on developing their welding skills during a class project in the spring of 2016.



Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor of Idaho and Idaho National Guard Commanding General Maj. Gen. Gary L. Sayler stand with cadre and the squadron at Pierce Ball Field in September.



# Not Scared

More than 1,000 visitors descend on Silverwood in Coeur d'Alene to enjoy the amusement park's annual transformation into "Scary Woods" for Halloween. The 101st Civil Support Team of the Idaho National Guard was also there to take advantage of a unique training opportunity.

With business as usual, Silverwood patrons wander through the park enjoying rides and other activities. Without warning, sprayers begin releasing an unknown colorless, odorless mist into the air.

Unaffected initially, visitors assume it is part of the staged scariness and continue the fun...until the real horror begins. Moments later, park-goers begin experiencing hallucinations, some go into cardiac arrest. Emergency personnel attempt to care for victims only to suffer the same fate. Dispatchers lose contact with them. Local responders quickly become overwhelmed, unsure of what to do.

Within minutes, an emergency conference call is convened through

the Idaho State Communications Center. The Idaho Office of Emergency Management, the 101st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team and several other agencies are briefed by the Incident Commander already on scene. After a brief recap of the events, the 101st is requested to respond. Once approved, the CST quickly moves to the scene to work in support of the Incident Commander and other civilian first responders.

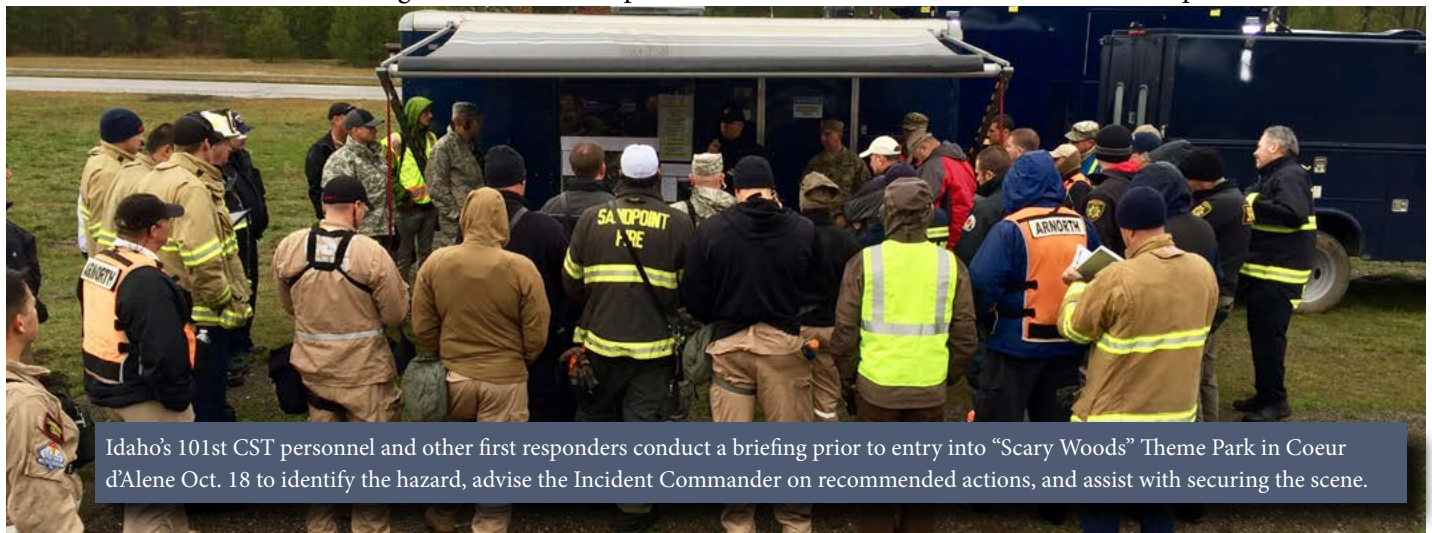
After a quick link-up on scene, the CST quickly begins planning an entry in appropriate protective gear with detection and sampling equipment. Operators inside the mobile laboratory prepare to receive samples taken from inside the park. The team's medical personnel begin building a list of possible hazards fitting the reported symptoms, while the operations center shares critical information with state and national leadership. Within hours, the substance is identified, the threat mitigated, and patients transported to local hospitals with recommended

treatment actions. The scene is stabilized.

While the specifics of this scenario were unique to this event, the training environment is business-as-usual for the 22 Soldiers and Airmen of the 101st CST, which conducts at least 12 full-scale joint training exercises of similar scope and complexity around the state and elsewhere each year.

The CST's focus on realistic training and systematic approach to its duties made the presence of a team of evaluators from the U.S. Army North's Civil Support Training Activity a near non-issue. Held every 18 months, Training Proficiency Evaluations like this one held Oct. 18 check more than 500 individual and collective tasks that are required in order for the 101st CST to retain its national certification.

Once again, the team earned 100 percent "GO" ratings on all collective tasks and evaluators identified several of the team's unique processes as nationwide "best practices."



Idaho's 101st CST personnel and other first responders conduct a briefing prior to entry into "Scary Woods" Theme Park in Coeur d'Alene Oct. 18 to identify the hazard, advise the Incident Commander on recommended actions, and assist with securing the scene.

# 116TH BLAZES A PATH TO SABER GUARDIAN 16



CINCU, ROMANIA -- Soldiers from the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, Idaho Army National Guard, packed their duffle bags and traveled more than 5,800 miles from Boise, Idaho, to the Romanian Land Force Combat Training Center in Cincu, Romania, this summer. They hauled their tanks, helicopters, and several tons of military equipment with them to collaborate with Soldiers from nine other nations to participate in Exercise Saber Guardian 2016, from July 27 to August 7.

Saber Guardian is a multinational military training exercise involving almost 2,800 military personnel from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Canada, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania, Ukraine and the United States.

As a part of the U.S. European Command Joint Exercise Program, Saber Guardian is designed to enhance interoperability among the participants by training them to successfully operate in a joint environment.

The training opportunity allowed

Soldiers a unique opportunity to interact with military members from other nations and to observe the differences in culture, language and terrain they may encounter during a future deployment.

The training focused on combat operations and included Soldiers from the 116th's units in Idaho, Montana and Oregon as well as the 125th Multi-role Bridge Company, based in South Carolina.

"We're executing movement to contact, attack and defend," said Col. Farin D. Schwartz, 116th Brigade Commander. "This exercise also provides an excellent opportunity for us to practice mobilizing and deploying in an expeditionary manner."

It took several months for the unit to coordinate the movement of more than 50 large shipping containers and 450 tracked and wheeled vehicles from Idaho, Oregon and Montana to South Carolina and then to the port in Constanta and the Romanian training center.

Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Kadavy, di-

rector of the Army National Guard, visited the Soldiers in Romania to discuss the importance of incorporating the National Guard Soldiers into a multinational exercise.

"It's about our Soldiers coming out here and getting some realistic training in an area they don't usually get to train in," said Kadavy. "With the resources the Army is providing us, I think we can achieve a level of readiness that enables us to [...] help the joint force fight and win our nation's wars."

Kadavy said the National Guard should be ready to supplement the Active Duty components when necessary. For major exercises like Saber Guardian, the Army has certain capability needs that can be fulfilled by National Guard Soldiers.

"The Army, as it gets smaller, is going to need each and every Soldier in each and every unit," said Kadavy. "The 116th is a tremendous unit and they've done a great job."

The exercise involves field training in scenarios that are simulated



by Soldiers and their command in the most accurate way possible. The tactical training allows Soldiers to battle each other as if in real combat. They perform full-scale tasks like live artillery fire all the way down to smaller scale tasks such as weapons cleaning and maintenance.

The Romanian Soldiers hosting the exercise often train in combat training centers in Europe, specifically Germany, said Schwartz.

“The Romanians are excellent allies,” he said. “They’ve been very impressive in their ability to integrate themselves. They practice the United States doctrine and are very proficient at what we do.”

Likewise, the National Guard understands the importance of training and integration, having only 39 training days a year to be as proficient as the active Army in an exercise like Saber Guardian, Schwartz said.

“The men and women here with the 116th are really trendsetters and blazed a path for others to follow,” Schwartz said. “It doesn’t matter what component you are, regular Army or National Guard, we all integrate and we all have the capabilities to execute any mission that is given to us.”



(Top) Spc. Anson Toal, a scout with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, Idaho National Guard, pulls security during a situational training exercise at Saber Guardian 2016, July 31, at the Romanian Land Forces Combat Training Center in Cincu, Romania.  
(Middle) Soldiers with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, Idaho National Guard, identify opposing forces targets during a situational training exercise at the RLF-CTC July 31.  
(Bottom) Soldiers with Delta Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team conduct a live fire exercise in an M1A2 Abrams Tank during Exercise Saber Guardian 16 at the RLF-CTC August 2.





# 124TH HONORARY COMMANDERS 2016



124th Maintenance Squadron  
Bill Whitacre, CEO of J.R. Simplot Company



124th Civil Engineers Squadron  
Jessica Flynn, CEO of Red Sky Communications



124th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron  
Dr. Bart Hill, VP & Chief Quality Officer of St. Lukes Health



124th Security Forces Squadron  
Tracy Kasper, owner of Silverhawk Reality



124th Medical Group  
Rodney Reider, CEO & President of St. Als Health Systems



124th Communications Flight  
Chris Taylor, CEO of Fisher's Technology



124th Force Support Squadron  
Karen Vauk, President & CEO of the Idaho Foodbank



# GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

The 124th Fighter Wing had the opportunity to give back to the community that gives so much to them on several occasions throughout 2016. Two of the larger events that our Airmen participated in were with the American Red Cross Home Preparedness Campaign and the FitOne race. These were only two of the larger volunteer efforts from our Airmen.





# STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS



Senior leaders from the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, along with their U.S. counterparts receive a tour of the Dworshak Reservoir in Orofino, Idaho during a senior leadership exchange on Sept. 22, 2016.

Senior leaders of the Idaho National Guard's official military partner—the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces—visited Idaho for a week in September as part of the State Partnership Program.

Since the partnership was formally established in 2009, the partners have conducted several subject matter expert exchanges, but this visit was only the second time senior Cambodian leaders participated by traveling to Idaho.

“The purpose of the senior leader development engagement is to give us the opportunity to interface with RCAF senior leaders and it gives them an opportunity to see all of the various capabilities we have in the Idaho Guard,” said Lt. Col. Danial Lister, Idaho State Partnership Program director.

The four Cambodian leaders on the exchange included representatives of the Institute of Health Science, the National Defense University, the Military Institute of Technology and Material and

the Department of International Affairs.

The mission of the State Partnership Program is to exchange best practices in humanitarian aid and disaster response. The RCAF benefits from an exchange of best practices and in turn, the Idaho National Guard receives experience working with a foreign military partner, Lister said.

During the visit, RCAF leaders met with a panel of key Army and Air leaders from the Idaho National Guard. Then the RCAF representatives broke out with leaders in their functional areas allowing Idaho Soldiers and Airmen to demonstrate their capabilities pertaining to emergency management and emergency response. The Idaho National Guard commanding general and commanders of the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team and the 124th Fighter Wing met with the RCAF leaders to reinforce the state's commitment to the partnership.

“We want the relationship to grow and there's no shortage of Soldiers and Airmen who would volunteer at a moment's notice to assist Cambodia,” said Lister.

RCAF leaders also visited state, local and federal agencies during their visit.

Earlier in September a group of Idaho military chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) subject-matter experts and civil engineers visited Cambodia on an exchange. The six CBRN experts included Army and Air National Guard, Army Reserve, and Marine Reserve personnel. They shared best practices with Cambodians about chemical hazards and identification, chemical mask cleaning and maintenance, response planning, CBRN equipment, and personal protective equipment with hands-on demonstrations and a field exercise.

“The intent of these engagements is to exchange information and build relationships that are time



tested so they can start to institutionalize what works best for Cambodia. We bring our information and expertise that is unique to the Guard,” said Lister. “We learn from them as well and where it applies we make it part of our practices and benefit from the cultural exchange as well.”

The SPP nation-wide has been successfully building relationships for over 20 years that includes 70 unique security partnerships involving 76 nations around the globe. The SPP links a unique component of the Department of Defense – a state’s National Guard – with the armed forces or equivalent of a partner country in a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship.

“We’ve got great support from our senior leaders and the program has great potential to increase the number and quality of partnership engagements in the future,” said Lister.



(Top and Middle) Senior leaders from the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces tour the Idaho Army National Guard Installation Support Unit warehouse Sept. 23, 2016.



(Bottom) RCAF senior leaders look at a dismantled M113 Armored Personnel Carrier Sept. 23, during a senior leader exchange held in Idaho. The purpose of the exchange was to share best practices in leadership and to develop enduring relationships.



# MAJOR DISASTER TRAINING

Pilots, crew chiefs and flight paramedics from the Idaho Army National Guard's Detachment 1/1-112th deployed to Astoria, Oregon June 4-14 for a multi-state, multi-agency training exercise.

The event provided an opportunity to highlight the Idaho Army National Guard's newest airframe—the UH-72 Lakota—along with its rescue capabilities. During the training event, the unit was able to practice a range of skills

from mobilization and deployment, to search and rescue operations using the aircraft's mounted hoist.

The training scenario was in conjunction with the Cascadia Rising event, providing simulations of an earthquake and tsunami causing widespread devastation throughout the Pacific Northwest. The scenario exercised the pilots' and the crew's ability to work closely with civilian and military first respond-

ers from surrounding states.

Flight crews logged more than 35 hours and ground crews logged more than 1,400 miles without incident. The training experience enhanced the unit's ability to deploy both critical skills and assets in response to a major disaster. While strengthening existing relationships, Det. 1/1-112 was also able to establish new partnerships with local response agencies throughout the region.

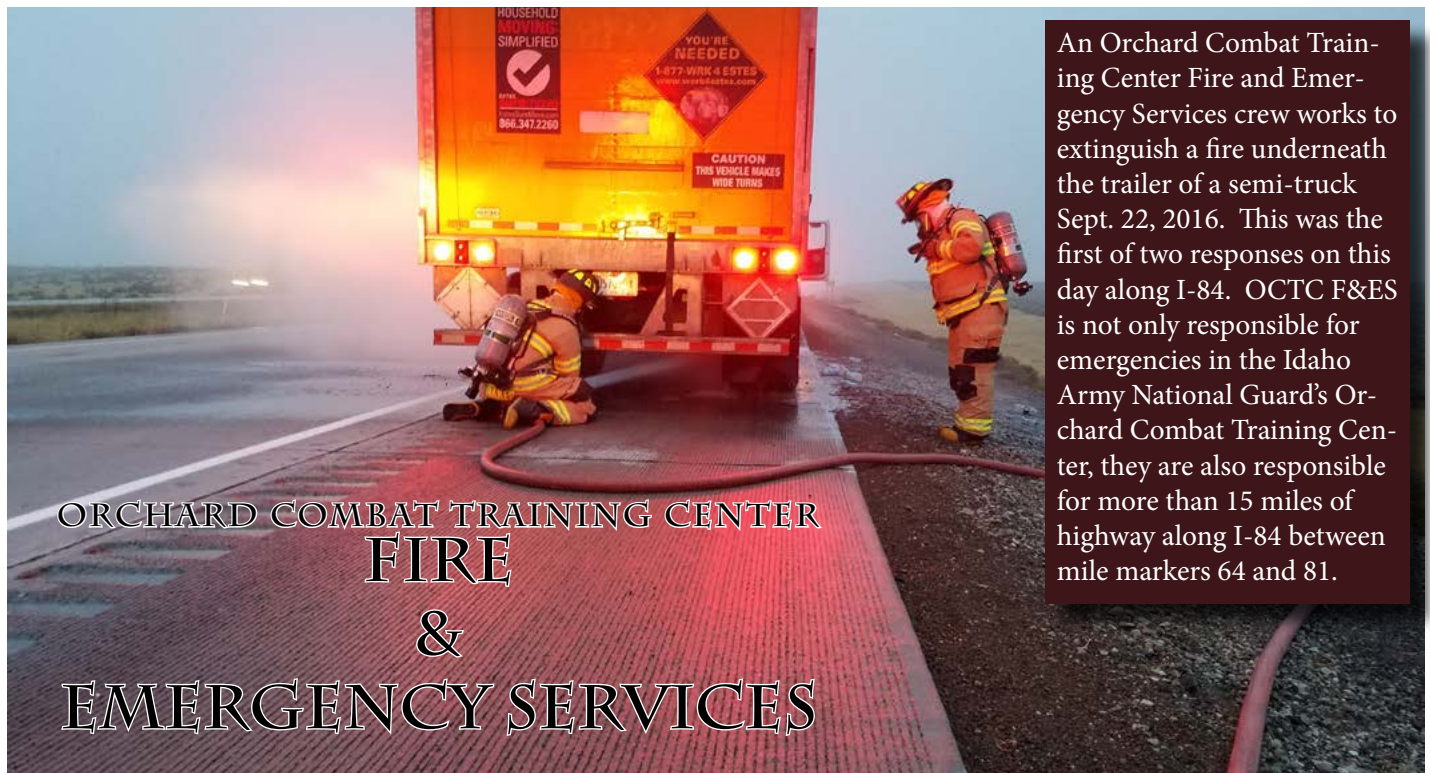


(Top) A crew from the Idaho Army National Guard's Detachment 1/1-112th uses a hoist mounted to a UH-72 Lakota during a training exercise in early June. The training event enhanced the unit's ability to deploy both critical skills and assets in response to a major disaster.

(Bottom) Members of the Combat Control Team, 125th Special Tactics Squadron, train on a search and rescue mission with members of the 183rd Army Aviation, Idaho Army National Guard, during Cascadia Rising June 8, 2016.







## ORCHARD COMBAT TRAINING CENTER FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

An Orchard Combat Training Center Fire and Emergency Services crew works to extinguish a fire underneath the trailer of a semi-truck Sept. 22, 2016. This was the first of two responses on this day along I-84. OCTC F&ES is not only responsible for emergencies in the Idaho Army National Guard's Orchard Combat Training Center, they are also responsible for more than 15 miles of highway along I-84 between mile markers 64 and 81.

Activity in the Orchard Combat Training Center has steadily increased over the years and so has the demand for a more robust emergency response capability.

In 2014, the OCTC Fire and Emergency Services was established to increase fire protection of the Idaho Army National Guard's largest training facility in the state. This newly established fire department began fire protection for the 143,304 acres of land owned by the Department of Interior and the Bureau of Land Management that is utilized by Guard, Reserve, and Active Duty Units for pre-deployment combat training.

While the primary mission of the OCTC F&ES is focused on the safety and training of those civilians and service members who work and train in the OCTC, in 2015, through an Automatic Aid Agreement with the Idaho Transportation Department, the OCTC F&ES began providing emergency services along a 15-mile-and-a-half stretch of Interstate 84.

In 2016, the OCTC F&ES received its medical license, increasing lifesaving capabilities to better serve not only those who frequent the OCTC, but those who travel along that section of I-84. With capabilities including 24-hour wildland fire coverage, structural protection and automotive extrication to name a few, the OCTC F&ES responds many times throughout the year to fires and automobile accidents.

The OCTC F&ES is primarily comprised of Idaho Army National Guard firefighters belonging to the 937th and 938th Engineers. These individuals work hand in hand to create a team dedicated to ensuring our ranges and roadways are safe.

PROTECTING AND ENHANCING  
THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR EVERY  
SOLDIER, AIRMAN, AND CIVILIAN  
WORKING AND TRAINING AT THE  
OCTC.

# WELCOME HOME

The 124th Fighter Wing welcomed home Airmen and aircraft throughout the fall of 2016. The final Airmen did not arrive home until 2017.









Sgt. 1st Class Erin Smith of the Idaho Army National Guard became the nation's first female enlisted Soldier to graduate from the U.S. Army's M1 Armor Crewman School, June 25, 2016.

The 204th Regional Training Institute's Armor Training Battalion, located in Boise, Idaho, also set a record of being the first school to graduate a female enlisted armor crew member.

Smith has gone shoulder-to-shoulder with her male peers through the technically and physically demanding "19 Kilo" Army Military Occupational Skill curriculum.

Females historically have been prohibited from serving in combat roles within the various branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. However, in December 2015, Defense Secretary Ash

Carter announced that the U.S. military would open all positions to women, without exception. This means those occupational skills previously off limits to females, like infantry and armor, are now open to both women and men who can meet the standards set by the different military services.

"I was interested in the idea of being an Army tanker long before talk about integration, so when the opportunity came up I decided to go for it," Smith said. "It was intimidating at first—the fear of failure or not being good enough—but it's been an awesome experience."

The 204th RTI's ATB adheres to the Army Enterprise Accreditation requirements, the same standards all Army components—Active Duty and

Reserve—must meet. In turn, each graduating armor crew member is held to the same United States Army Training and Doctrine Command standards. These standards are high and they are a challenge to meet. An M1 armor crewman is responsible for operating armored equipment such as the M1A1 and M1A2 Abrams tanks, in maneuvering against and destroying enemy targets.

Armor crewman graduates must demonstrate expertise in operating the Abrams tank over varied terrain while using hi-tech communications equipment to receive and relay battle orders. Additionally, qualified crew members must be able to load and fire the tank's direct fire weapons, read maps, and operate the targeting acquisi-



tion system. Tankers must also possess a thorough understanding of the art and science of U.S. military combat doctrine.

“Any doubts I had about not being accepted or being treated different I no longer have. My peers, the leadership and instructors throughout the training have all been extremely supportive,” Smith said. “I would encourage any interested female to talk with her leadership and pursue being a 19K.”

Nationally, hundreds of thousands of women have served alongside men in Iraq and Afghanistan – more than 280,000 having deployed over the last decade. The Idaho Army National Guard is a force of nearly

3,000 personnel, with just under 400 females currently serving; slightly less than the 15% average of the rest of the U.S. military.

“We’re an all-volunteer force, so we need access to every talented Idahoan who can bring something to the fight, whether female or male,” said Brig. Gen. John Goodale, assistant adjutant general and commander of the Idaho Army National Guard. “Our military is always adapting and implementing change. This is how we remain relevant and ready to address both global threats abroad and local emergencies here at home.”

The 204th graduates on average 1,000 students per year.

These students are some of the best-trained armor Soldiers in the nation. The 204th’s reputation throughout the country is phenomenal and the school is recognized by the United States Army as an Institution of Excellence. As a result, Idaho’s 204th receives students from across the nation and from all three components of the Army, who go on to become highly trained and lethal 19K armor crewman.

As for Smith being the first female enlisted 19K M1 Armor Crewman School graduate in the nation, she will serve as a mentor and leader of future female enlisted combat professionals in the Idaho Army National Guard.



(Opposite) Sgt. 1st Class Erin Smith of the Idaho Army National Guard maneuvers an Abram’s M1A2 tank at the Orchard Combat Training Center south of Boise, Idaho during a live fire exercise June 23. Smith is the nation’s first female enlisted graduate of the U.S. Army’s 19K M1 Armor Crewman School.

(Above) An Idaho Army National Guard M1A2 tank fires a round at a moving target during a live fire exercise, June 23. The tank in this photo is being driven by Idaho Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Erin Smith—the nation’s first female enlisted graduate of the U.S. Army’s 19K M1 Armor Crewman School.

# Bringing airpower to Vegas

The 124th Fighter Wing deployed to Green Flag West Jan. 15-19, 2016 in preparation for the largest overseas deployment in the wing's history. The mission of Green Flag is to prepare Air Force units to support Army units engaged in force-on-force combat operations on the ground. Not only was the 124th preparing for supporting ground troops, but they were able to perform an austere landing in a dry lake bed north of Las Vegas. This was the first time all but one pilot from the wing had performed this type of landing. The A-10 Thunderbolt II is the only fighter-type aircraft capable of performing landings on austere runways.







# GRAND OPENING

In August, the Idaho Army National Guard officially opened the doors to a new Operational Readiness Training Complex located on the Orchard Combat Training Center southeast of Boise.

Senior leaders of the Idaho National Guard, along with retired general officers and other former members welcomed the local community and media for the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony, Aug. 19, 2016. Visitors were able to tour the training, administrative, maintenance and other support facilities now available for use by military personnel.

The Department of the Army authorized construction of the ORTC to support mobilization and training operations of large troop numbers in an effort to meet the high demand of the current U.S. Army operations tempo.

The opening of this facility has greatly enhanced and expanded the training capabilities of the ORTC. This is not only a benefit to local Guard units that come to train, the expansion is drawing more units in from other parts of the country, which means more out of state dollars coming into Idaho.

The project broke ground in 2011

with the construction of a dining facility, a two-story barracks and a pump house. Over the years, additional barracks, a battalion headquarters and a vehicle maintenance facility were added to increase its capability and capacity.

Today, the seven-year process that involved hundreds of contractors from across Idaho and the northwest has resulted in an 880-bed facility with commercial dining, showers, laundry rooms and nearly 50,000 square feet of office and maintenance space to support battalion and company-level operations at the OCTC.



(Top) The company administration buildings pictured here are part of the Idaho Army National Guard's latest expansion in the Orchard Combat Training Center's Operational Readiness Training Complex. The expansion will enhance and expand the training capabilities of the OCTC resulting in a benefit to Idaho National Guard units that come to train.

(Left) Jeff Hill, construction branch chief for the Idaho Army National Guard, addresses a crowd during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand opening of the Idaho Army National Guard's Operational Readiness Training Complex located on the Orchard Combat Training Center, southeast of Boise. The facility consists of an 880-bed facility with commercial dining, showers, laundry rooms and nearly 50,000 square feet of office and maintenance space to support battalion and company-level operations.

(Right) Retired Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart, retired Maj. Gen. Larry Lafrenz, Maj. Gen. Gary Sayler, Commanding General of the Idaho National Guard and Aaron Trainor of Western States Construction, the project superintendent, cut the ribbon to officially declare the opening of the Idaho Army National Guard's Operational Readiness Training Complex.



## DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

During 2016 the 124th Fighter Wing hosted Lt. Gen. Scott Rice, director of the Air National Guard, and Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Anderson, Command Chief Master Sgt. of the Air National Guard. During their visit to Gowen Field the distinguished visitors were able to face-time with deployed Airmen and learn about the unique skill sets and Airmen that the Idaho Air National Guard brings to the frontline of all operations.



Not only did one Command Chief Master Sgt. of the Air National Guard visit the 124th Fighter Wing during 2016, but the eleventh Chief Master Sgt. visited in January. Command Chief James Hotaling took time during his visit to speak with junior enlisted Airmen, leadership, and NCOs at all levels. This included open and candid question and answer all-calls.





# TriEx 2016

A cloud of dark smoke filled the air as dozens of emergency response vehicles swarmed the simulated aircraft wreckage used for a full-scale airport exercise May 25, 2016.

Airport Triennial Exercise or “TriEx2016” involved multiple response and support agencies at the local, regional, state, and federal level to include the Idaho Air National Guard firefighters, Boise Fire Department, Ada County Paramedics, Boise Airport and local law enforcement. The scenario involved a commercial Boeing 737 aircraft that crashed at a designated training location, simulating the Boise airport’s third runway.

The IDANG firefighters responded within minutes to the crash site and with fire fighting, rescue, medical treatment, and triage.

“As we approached the scene, dispatch had already painted a picture for us. Sure enough, there was a large frame aircraft that had crashed into some construction equipment,” said Tech. Sgt. Miguel Sandoval, one of the responding IDANG firefighters. “There was fire from inside the aircraft engines and mangled metal scattered around.”

Approximately 80 actors played out roles of injured passengers, while emergency responders reacted as if it were a “real-world” crisis. Among the actors were four Idaho Air National Guardsmen with blood painted onto their skin and clothing by make-up artists.

“The actors all did a great job. It was a more realistic approach compared to other exercises with a bunch of mannequins tagged with

a list of injuries and symptoms,” said Sandoval. “The sense of an actual emergency was definitely present.”

This exercise had participation from a large realm of emergency responders that arrived on-scene, extinguished all fire hazards, evacuated the aircraft and performed first aid to anyone injured. The scenario continued beyond the crash site to include transporting the injured by ambulance and life-flight, admitting them into the Veterans Administration Medical Center, St. Luke’s, and Saint Alphonsus hospitals.

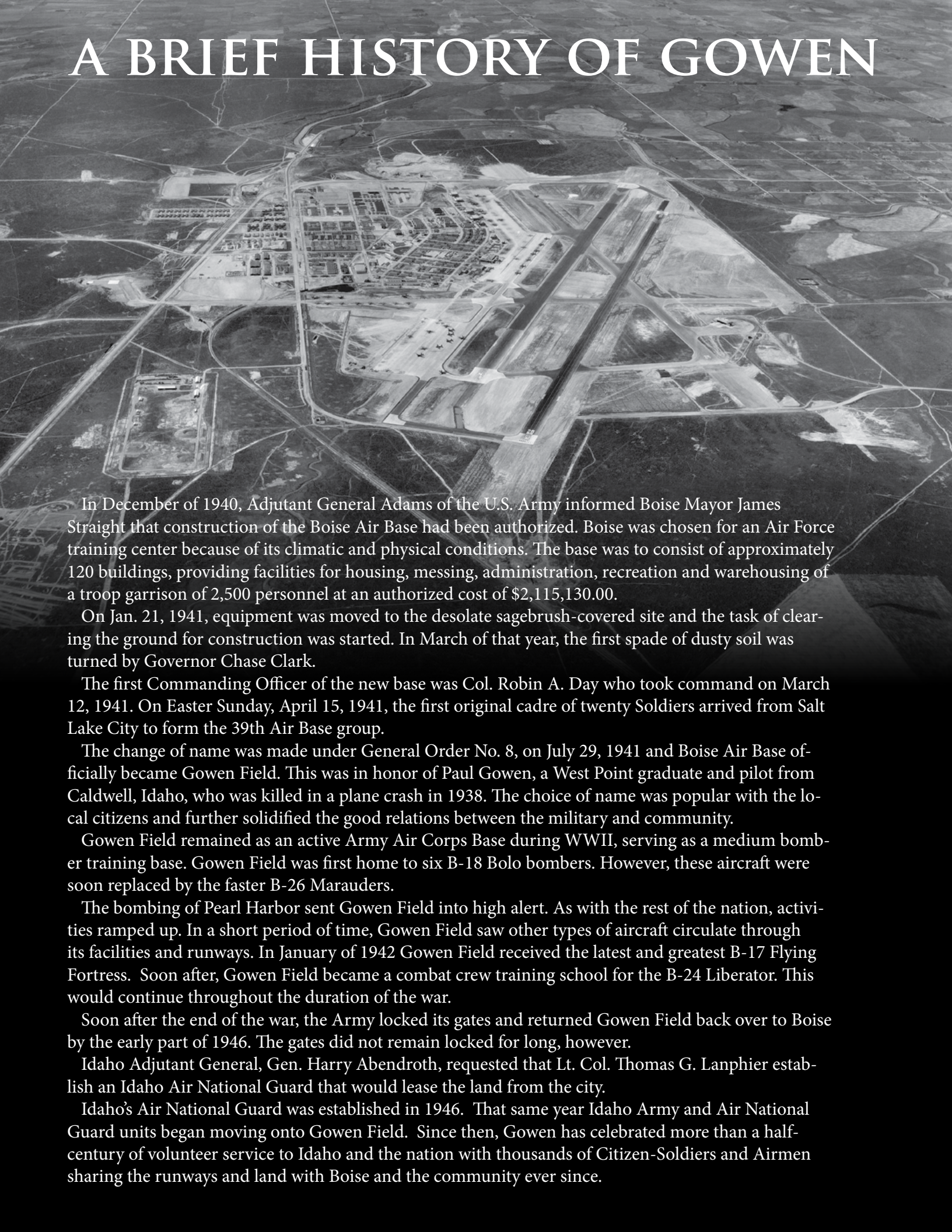
“I was excited to work with everyone involved in rescue operations,” said Sandoval. “It was great to see us all come together and work to achieve one common goal of helping people.”







# A BRIEF HISTORY OF GOWEN

An aerial photograph of Gowen Field, showing the long runway, taxiway, and surrounding infrastructure. The field is surrounded by a mix of developed and undeveloped land.

In December of 1940, Adjutant General Adams of the U.S. Army informed Boise Mayor James Straight that construction of the Boise Air Base had been authorized. Boise was chosen for an Air Force training center because of its climatic and physical conditions. The base was to consist of approximately 120 buildings, providing facilities for housing, messing, administration, recreation and warehousing of a troop garrison of 2,500 personnel at an authorized cost of \$2,115,130.00.

On Jan. 21, 1941, equipment was moved to the desolate sagebrush-covered site and the task of clearing the ground for construction was started. In March of that year, the first spade of dusty soil was turned by Governor Chase Clark.

The first Commanding Officer of the new base was Col. Robin A. Day who took command on March 12, 1941. On Easter Sunday, April 15, 1941, the first original cadre of twenty Soldiers arrived from Salt Lake City to form the 39th Air Base group.

The change of name was made under General Order No. 8, on July 29, 1941 and Boise Air Base officially became Gowen Field. This was in honor of Paul Gowen, a West Point graduate and pilot from Caldwell, Idaho, who was killed in a plane crash in 1938. The choice of name was popular with the local citizens and further solidified the good relations between the military and community.

Gowen Field remained as an active Army Air Corps Base during WWII, serving as a medium bomber training base. Gowen Field was first home to six B-18 Bolo bombers. However, these aircraft were soon replaced by the faster B-26 Marauders.

The bombing of Pearl Harbor sent Gowen Field into high alert. As with the rest of the nation, activities ramped up. In a short period of time, Gowen Field saw other types of aircraft circulate through its facilities and runways. In January of 1942 Gowen Field received the latest and greatest B-17 Flying Fortress. Soon after, Gowen Field became a combat crew training school for the B-24 Liberator. This would continue throughout the duration of the war.

Soon after the end of the war, the Army locked its gates and returned Gowen Field back over to Boise by the early part of 1946. The gates did not remain locked for long, however.

Idaho Adjutant General, Gen. Harry Abendroth, requested that Lt. Col. Thomas G. Lanphier establish an Idaho Air National Guard that would lease the land from the city.

Idaho's Air National Guard was established in 1946. That same year Idaho Army and Air National Guard units began moving onto Gowen Field. Since then, Gowen has celebrated more than a half-century of volunteer service to Idaho and the nation with thousands of Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen sharing the runways and land with Boise and the community ever since.