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TAG's Corner



This quarter the Maryland National Guard had the opportunity to strengthen and work with many of our partners on the national, state and local levels. In June, the 175th Infantry Regiment worked with the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board to conduct civil disturbance training in Tallinn, Estonia. In May, units from the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade participated in Exercise Maple Resolve, the Canadian Army's largest annual exercise. Our soldiers not only worked with Canadians but the British, Australians, and New Zealanders. The 175th Wing had the opportunity to work at the 2017 Ocean City Airshow as a recruiting event. Partnerships were created and strengthened in Mosel, Iraq and Kuwait since the 29th CAB and the 29th Infantry Division deployed there. I had the honor of visiting with our troops in Kuwait and I'm impressed and proud of what they are doing to support our nation. I am looking forward to welcoming them all home, and congratulating them on a job well done.

77th CAB transfers authority to the 29th CAB

Story and photography by Staff Sgt. Isolda Reyes, 29th Combat Aviation Brigade

As the soft winds kick up some dust, the orange hued skies clear up just in time to usher in a new brigade, ready to take to the skies in Operation Spartan Shield, Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

Col. Ryan Pace and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Mize of the 77th Combat Aviation Brigade transferred authority of the above named operations to incoming Col. Mark Beckler and Command Sgt. Maj. Steven McKenna of the 29th CAB on April 23, 2017 in a ceremony at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

The process of taking control of such a complex mission took over a year of preparation and training, culminating with over two weeks of left and right-seat training conducted by the 77th CAB. The 29th CAB is not new to such a unique position, however.

"Now as you begin a new and varied mission, as you are not new to working with the division headquarters, you are not new to this part of the world," said



Maj. Gen. Blake Ortner, commander of the 29th Infantry Division. "This is not your first rodeo over here in the Middle East."

The 29th CAB consists of soldiers from both the National Guard and active Army as well as the U.S. Air Force. This total force of over 1500 personnel bring many air assets to the fight to include: AH-64 Apaches, CH-47 Chinooks, UH-60 Blackhawks, unmanned aerial systems and fixed-wing aircraft; as well as personnel to provide vital administrative and maintenance support.

The brigade will provide aviation assets throughout the U.S. Army Central area of operations, which will prove to be a challenge.

"You have met the challenges before and on some of the same helipads as before," said Ortner. "Expect to be overstretched, challenged and under regular changes in this complex and currently evolving environment. I know you will succeed."

The outgoing 77th CAB cased their brigade's colors signifying an end to their mission in the region. The incoming 29th CAB unveiled their brigade's colors signaling the transference of responsibility.

"Good luck, God speed, God bless and win the day," said Col. Ryan Pace, commander of the 77th CAB to the incoming 29th CAB.

"I have confidence in all of you as individuals and I am confident that we will come together as a team like the 77th did and we will show them our best," said Col. Mark Beckler, the commander of the 29th CAB.

The ceremony closed with a benediction by the 29th CAB's Chaplain (Capt.) Wayne Stinchcomb, who spoke of a story from the Bible in which God entrusted his people to Joshua, drawing a parallel to the same trust now placed in the leadership of the 29th CAB.

"As we say in the 29th, 'let's go' so Lord let's go with you," said Stinchcomb.

On the cover:



A mannequin of Baltimore native Sgt. William Creigler of company I earned the French highest military decoration, the Croix de Guerre, for his heroic leadership of the unit after his company commander had been wounded.

(U.S. National Guard photo by Cpl. Elizabeth Scott)

MARYLAND ADJUTANT GENERAL



VISITS DEPLOYED SOLDIERS

Maj. Gen Linda Singh, the adjutant general for the Maryland National Guard, visited soldiers Camp Arifjan and at Camp Buehring in Kuwait on April 27, 2017 to show her appreciation for their dedication.

Story by Sgt. Kelly Gary, 29th Infantry Division

Photography by Capt. Stephen James, 29th Infantry Division



Maj. Gen Linda Singh, the adjutant general for the Maryland National Guard, visited soldiers at Camp Arifjan and at Camp Buehring in Kuwait on April 27, 2017 to show her appreciation for their dedication.

Singh began her tour by having breakfast with Maryland National Guard soldiers deployed with the 29th Infantry Division at the Oasis dining facility at Camp Arifjan. Sgt. Mikhail Morales, a team leader with the 29th Inf. Div. who was in attendance, said that he felt the visit was a morale booster.

"It was my first time meeting Maj. Gen. Singh and she represented in person everything she's put out in writing," said Morales. "Hearing her history and how she persevered through her deployments as a leader, a student and mother were motivating."

Singh's experience of being deployed while a student resonated with Morales, who is in a similar situation trying to balance his studies with his responsibilities in this deployed environment. He was inspired by the fact that she managed to do both of these demanding jobs while also being a mother.

"I couldn't imagine," said Morales. "To hear how she persevered and found motivation when she was ready to give up. It was reassuring and a reminder that I can make it too."

After joining the 29th Inf. Div. staff for their morning brief, Maj. Gen. Singh flew to Camp Buehring, where she was greeted by soldiers from the Maryland-based 29th Combat Aviation Brigade. There, she was briefed on airfield capabilities that 29th CAB provides to aviation operations in the region. Singh also joined CAB soldiers for lunch. This provided an opportunity for Singh to share stories and convey advice from a leadership perspective.

Following lunch, Singh received an orientation brief from the 29th CAB's Battalion Aid Station and spoke with the unit's behavioral science officer. This allowed Singh to gain a better understanding of medical support provided to soldiers of the 29th CAB during their deployment to Kuwait. Maryland soldiers from both the 29th CAB and 29th Inf. Div. got time to sit down and get to know the woman who leads their state's Guard forces. Despite the short trip, Morales felt that such visits are valuable.

"It is always a positive whenever top leadership takes the time to fly halfway across the world to sit down and see what their soldiers are doing," said Morales. "It makes soldiers feel like their work and efforts matter."



29th CAB provides flight medic training to ISF soldiers

Story and photography by Capt. Stephen James,
29th Infantry Division

Twenty soldiers of the Iraqi security forces completed a rigorous Flight Medic Course which was conducted by 29th Combat Aviation Brigade and coalition partners at Camp Taji, Iraq, June 8, 2017.



U.S. Army Master Sgt. Robert Stone, the 29th CAB's flight surgeon operations noncommissioned officer, stated the course was a natural progression that built upon basic casualty care skills that had been provided previously by the United Kingdom training team at Camp Taji and included additional flight-focused instruction in altitude physiology and aircraft safety.

"The overall mission is to introduce the ISF to combat casualty care and how to safely provide care from the point of injury," said Capt. Christopher Stephens, a flight surgeon from the 29th CAB.

As a part of the training, two Iraqi soldiers sat across from a simulated casualty in the back of an ISF UH-1H Huey II helicopter. U.S. Army soldiers rapidly divulged a list of medical issues exhibited by the casualty.

Immediately, methodically and as a team, they applied proper care to their casualty until their instructors deemed their charge in stable condition.

"For the ISF, this is a brand new process, they are starting to build it," said Stone. "It is very exciting to be here in the infancy of this program."

The training progression provided to the ISF gives the Iraqi soldiers an opportunity to expand their own medical care capabilities.

"This course will make the ISF better under pressure and mirrors what they may see in Mosul or the next battle space," said David of the U.K. training team at Camp Taji.

At the start of the course, the instructors and facilitators were unsure what to expect, but left confident with the initial ability of their Iraqi counterparts.

"I was surprised by the ISF's level of knowledge and impressed with the base knowledge that they had," said Stone.

As the cumulative exercise concluded, June 8, the instructors noticed an increased capability of their ISF partners to provide higher-level care on the battlefield.

"The ISF soldiers became more confident in their abilities and more hard-charging in their medical tasks as the course progressed," said 1st

Lt. Katrina Mayes, the 29th CAB's medical operations officer.

"This exceeded expectations," said David. "It exposed Iraqis to conditions they wouldn't have seen in normal training."

Although the training was focused on improving the abilities of the ISF, the U.S. Army instructors also gained some insight of their own.

"We have a clearer understanding of how the ISF approaches medicine and medical treatment; it is different from how we look at it," said Stone.

With the understanding comes the experience, and the reward of training others to preserve life on the battlefield.

"To say that we had the opportunity to help train the Iraqi forces has been an amazing experience," said Stephens. "Ultimately this will save more lives of Coalition Forces downrange."

Now stomp your left and drag yo' right

1-175th's joint training

Story and photography by Maj. Jon Preteroti, 1-175th Infantry Regiment

Maryland National Guard soldiers in the 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment trained with more than 200 international service members from the Estonian Defence League, Estonian Police and Border Guard, and military units from several neighboring countries including Latvia, Lithuania, and Finland in Tallinn, Estonia, June 1-13, 2017. The training focused on civil disturbance operations and included riot control, shield use and formations, baton strikes, traffic control points, and vehicle and personnel searches.

The headquarters of the 1-175th also conducted classes with the Estonian Defence League's regional and district leadership on planning, preparation, and conducting civil disturbance and emergency response operations. The soldiers incorporated real world experiences from when they activated in response to the unrest in Baltimore in 2015.

Training culminated with Exercise Hunt; which involved more than 700 personnel from seven separate nations and provided the Estonian Defence League with an opportunity to practice their civil disturbance, base defense, and direct action capabilities.

During the exercise, the Maryland soldiers provided controllers to ensure

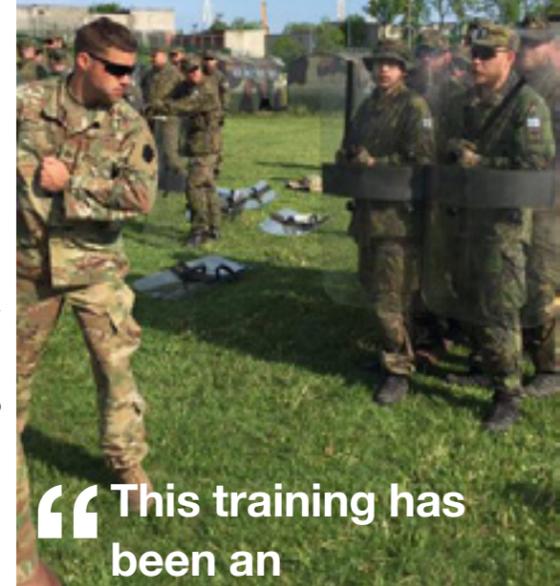
safety during the exercise and offered feedback at the conclusion of training.

"This training has been an outstanding opportunity for the Maryland National Guard to showcase our emergency response capabilities with Estonia and learn from one another," said Maj. John W. McDaniel, Jr., commander of the 1-175th Inf. Regt.

Soldiers from the 1-175th were also able to explore the culture of Estonia. Lt. Col. Toomas Vali, Estonian Defence League, hosted a guided tour of the Old Town in Tallinn. The tour provided the soldiers with an understanding of the city and the country, which included historical facts about settlements, occupations, and independence.

Soldiers also completed specialized training. They conducted wetlands survival and recovery training and weapons familiarization with the Estonian Defence League.

Maj. Gen. John L. Gronski, the Deputy Commanding General for Army National Guard, U.S. Army Europe, visited during the training. Gronski discussed the significance of what U.S. soldiers were doing in Europe, recognized several of the soldiers for their contributions, and presided over a noncommissioned officer's promotion ceremony.



“This training has been an outstanding opportunity for the Maryland National Guard to showcase our emergency response capabilities with Estonia and learn from one another.”

Cyber warriors lock horns in Utah

Twenty Maryland National Guard soldiers and airmen joined the 800-plus participants for Exercise Cyber Shield 17. The exercise, which included members of the National Guard from 44 states and territories, the U.S. Army Reserve, state and federal government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and private industry, was designed to assess participants' ability to respond to cyber incidents.



Story and photography by Lt. Col. Wayde Minami,
Joint Force Headquarters Maryland Air National Guard

Things are changing for the 800-plus men and women participating in Exercise Cyber Shield 17, the National Guard cyberdefense exercise being held at Camp Williams, Utah.

For the past week, they've discussed traffic analysis, threat containment, industrial control systems and a host of other topics related to network defense. They've sat side-by-side receiving training in everything from cyber forensics and malware analysis to legal responsibilities and command and control of cyber forces. They're comrades in arms, regardless of component or branch of service, who stand on the front lines of cyber defense.

But all that is over.

Yesterday, Cyber Shield 17 transitioned from training week to exercise week, and the men and women participating in the exercise went from being students to cyber operators locked in mortal combat over the networks they've been tasked to defend—or to disrupt.

"It's one thing to talk about it—it's another thing to do it," explained Louisiana Army National Guard Lt. Col. Henry Capello, the exercise commander. "And this where we come to do it and put fingers on keyboards. We want to train as we fight... so the more we can replicate the real-life environment here, the better we can prepare to respond to it."

In preparation for the fight ahead, the former comrades have split into separate teams: blue cell defenders and red cell aggressors. The blues are at a clear disadvantage: not

only are they facing highly skilled adversaries, but the networks they're responsible for have been deliberately set up with security vulnerabilities, just as they might find in the real world.

The blue cell members have no illusions about the challenge they face.

"They have a lot of sharp guys," National Guard Capt. Dennis delRosario, who is leading the blue cell team from Maryland. "Some of them have decades of experience, and it shows...It's pretty scary knowing that they're the ones who are on the other side of the screen."

While delRosario said that having some friendly competition is a good thing, he stressed that the real goal is to get as much learning value out of the training as possible.

That means that if a blue cell team is able to defeat red cell attack, it can expect that the red cell will keep increasing the sophistication and difficulty of its hacks until they exceed blue's capability to handle.

According to National Guard Maj. Kevin T. Mamula, leader of the Ohio blue cell team, the exercise is designed to challenge the Blue defenders to their breaking points. The goal is form more effective teams by stressing their skills to the utmost.

The classrooms now stand empty and the cyber warriors are settling in to workstations set up in buildings across the

“We want to train as we fight...so the more we can replicate the real-life environment here, the better we can prepare to respond to it.”

-Lt. Col. Henry Capello
The exercise commander

post. At their fingertips are the tools they've been trained on and practiced with. Now they're going to put them to use.

In other words, the gloves are coming off and it's time for war—cyber style.



Maple Resolve 17: aviation annual training

Helicoptering done right, eh?

Story and Photography by Cpl. Elizabeth Scott,
29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

As the sunset at Camp Wainwright in Alberta, Canada, the sky turned a bright golden color. A Maryland National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk was silhouetted against the skyline as a crew performed a hoist mission with a simulated downed pilot.

While many soldiers watched and took snapshots of the hoist exercise, two Maryland National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk crews and their Canadian counterparts prepped for their own mission nearby.

The crew finished its pre-flight briefing and found discrepancies in one of the UH-60 Black Hawk's logbook, which grounded that particular helicopter. Without missing a beat, the soldiers moved on to get another helicopter ready for the mission.

The Maryland National Guard soldiers, alongside the Royal Canadian Air Force's 450 Tactical Helicopter Squadron, picked up and moved the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division soldiers to a designated location during Exercise Maple Resolve 17 at Camp Wainwright on May 25, 2017.



"Having to train like this is so important to us [when] we run into these issues," said U.S. Army 1st Lt. James Murphy, the 2nd Platoon leader of C Co., 2nd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment. "Having these problems, having to work on the fly just makes us stronger as a unit overall."

Exercise Maple Resolve, the Canadian army's largest annual exercise, ran from May 14-29. Approximately 4,000 Canadian Armed Forces members and 1,000

service members from the U.S., Britain, Australia, and New Zealand participated in this year's exercise.

The Maryland National Guard provided aviation and medical support to the exercise, with 10 UH-60 Black Hawks and one LUH-72 Lakota helicopter.

During the night exercise after one of the helicopters was grounded, soldiers from the other crew, the mechanics, and others not scheduled to fly that night pitched in to get the pre-flight checks done in a timely manner. The soldiers worked thoroughly and efficiently to meet the deadlines needed to complete the mission.

They don't get the opportunity to work in this type of real-world air assaults often, said Sgt. Wesley Richardson, a UH-60 crew chief with C Co., 2-224th. Many things they do in training are simulated. Here, they were able to move actual soldiers, which gave the unit that type of experience.

The crew of the UH-60, prepared with their training and their planning, steady themselves for the soldiers that would be coming aboard.

The UH-60 Black Hawks and the Canadian CH-147 Chinooks touched down. Groups of 10th Mountain soldiers readied themselves, clutched their weapons, and shouldered their rucks to file inside and anticipate a similarly efficient helicopter dismount.

The helicopters took off, the sun almost gone, and the soldiers sat shoulder-to-shoulder with little to no room in between them. The air was crisp and cold, the blades of the helicopter cutting the otherwise silent night.

"Ninety seconds," yelled one of the soldiers.

"Ninety seconds," replied the soldiers in the back.

Muscles started to tense, gear slightly shifting around, as soldiers got ready to move out. At 60 seconds and again at 30 seconds, the soldier called out the time.

The helicopter touched down at the landing zone. Soldiers disembarked from both sides of the helicopter in the dark. They formed a 360-degree defensive perimeter around the helicopter. The soldiers laid in the prone, with their rucksacks provide any type of concealment in the open field. Their weapons pointed outwards, ready to engage the enemy if necessary.

Despite having to restart and prepare a new helicopter, the troop drop-off at the landing zone happened at the right time.

Done! The helicopters took off leaving the soldiers to complete their mission.

"Everyone had their own way of doing things," said Richardson. "To be a combined force and to basically share experiences – what works, doesn't work – it's very beneficial for all sides."



Photo by Spc. Craig Bennett



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Crawford



Photo by Maj. Tony Bassham



Photo by Spc. Craig Bennett

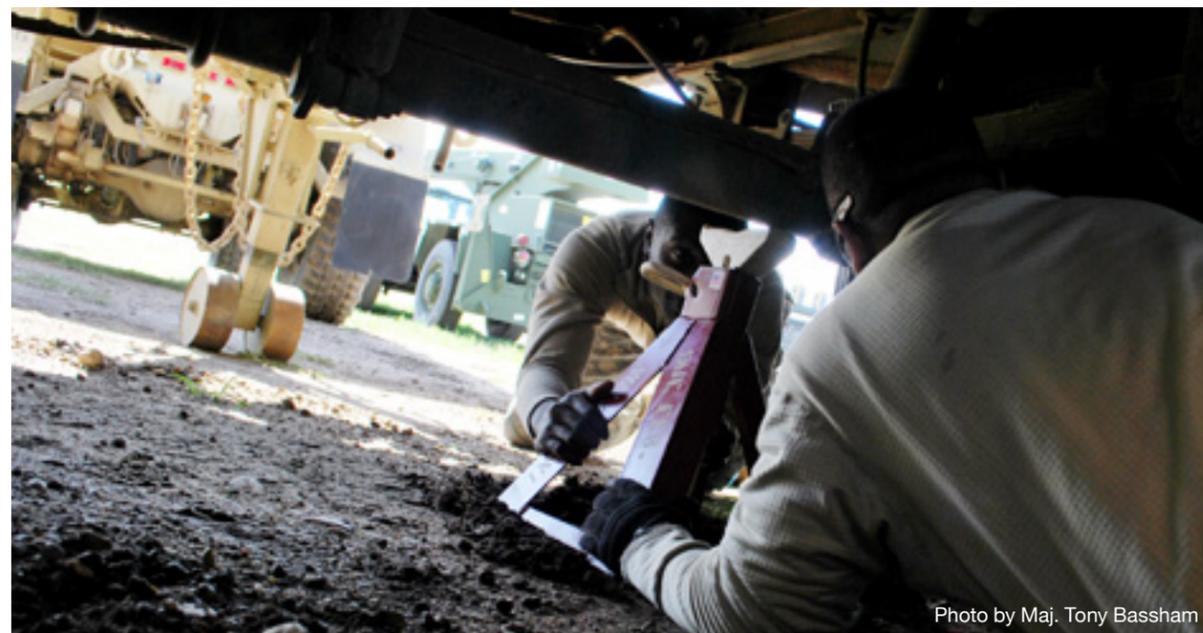


Photo by Maj. Tony Bassham

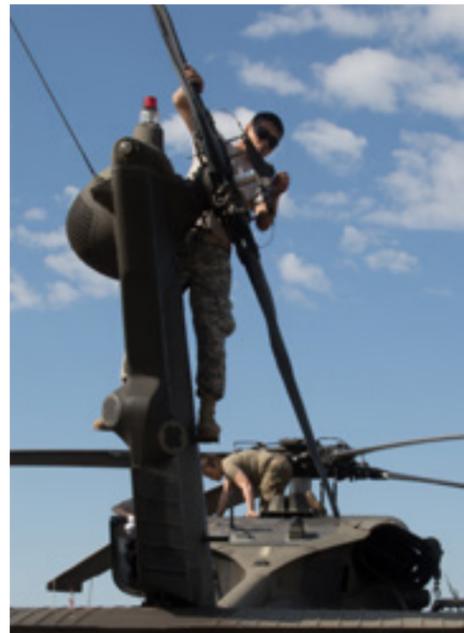


Photo by Maj. Tony Bassham



Medics make training look good on Caribbean Island

Story and photography by Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.,
29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Medics with the Maryland Army National Guard's 104th Area Support Medical Company had a chance to train amid mango trees, clear blue seas, and a warm breeze while providing medical coverage and support for the Puerto Rico National Guard during their annual training at Camp Santiago in Salinas, Puerto Rico, June 3-17, 2017.

Maryland Guard's health care specialists, also known as combat medics, and five PRNG combat medics partnered and set up a functional 24-hour clinic to perform overall healthcare procedures that included dental services, x-ray and electrocardiogram tests, and ambulatory care services. The health care specialists were also tasked with establishing day and evening walk-in times, known to the military as sick calls, to assist all service members on the installation with their specific medical needs.

In addition to running an operational clinic, the 104th ASMC also conducted traditional training to keep their medical skills up to par.

"During the day when we're not running sick call we're going to have medical training, so it will be anything from suturing, airway management, wound care, all types of stuff like that," said 1st Sgt. Ronald D. Barbour, first sergeant of the 104th ASMC.

Barbour is used to running a medical facility in Maryland, but most of his soldiers are not full-time medics in their civilian careers, so the only time they handle a tourniquet is when they show up for drill or at

an annual training such as this one. It just so happens that they could test their medical skills on a Caribbean island.

However, rain or shine, rough terrain or sandy beaches, Capt. Jonathan Woodworth, a medical-surgical nurse with the 104th ASMC and a civilian nurse of seven years, said it was very important that the citizen soldiers received the medical training because it can help them save another service member's life.

"It's definitely critical to prevent further injuries or escalation of harm to a soldier in a training environment ... and for esprit de corps, just keeping everyone motivated in a sense just to know that you have that type of support," said Woodworth.

Spc. Rosa Adino, a health care specialist with the 104th ASMC, who was also raised in Puerto Rico, said she was very much motivated and appreciated the hands-on training she received from her unit while on her home-town island.



"I feel like if you enjoy it, it sticks with you more versus sitting in a classroom doing power point," Adino said. "I really like the training here."

In addition to conducting unit training, the 104th ASMC provided medical coverage to support various PRNG missions such as Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer – vehicle rollover training, convoy defense training, rappel training, land navigation, and weapons qualifications at the range.

"Ultimately, we're trying to support them in every medical endeavor they have to ensure that this is a safe annual training

and that we also provide them with any resources they may need," Barbour said.

The Maryland Guard medics worked hard with the PRNG medics, but during their down time –when they were not training to save lives – the medics were able to eat arroz con pollo (rice with chicken), visit the beaches, and see the city of San Juan, which is a one and a half drive north of Salinas.

"It's definitely different," said Adino about training in Puerto Rico. "It's a change in scenery ... how many times can someone say that they've seen wild horses while walking to the chow hall?"



Flint locks in win at Region II Best Warrior Competition

Story by Cpl. Elizabeth Scott, *Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office*

Photography by Maj. Rick Breitenfeldt, *Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office*

A Maryland National Guard soldier tested his drive and skills through snow and the bitter cold during the Maryland Best Warrior Competition. Though warmer weather, around 50 degrees Fahrenheit, at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, this Maryland soldier proved himself not only against the competition from Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, but against the elements again.

Mud covered uniforms and a damp obstacles course were no match for Spc. Philip Flint from B Company, 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment and neither were the competitors from the other states. Flint emerged the winner of the Region II Best Warrior Competition held May 11-14, 2017.

The obstacle course was his favorite event from the regional competition. He always found that type of thing fun said Flint during a phone conversation while he studied for finals.

Flint, an Environmental Sciences and Technology major at the University of Maryland, College Park, had to prepare for the competition on top of his normal course work and prepare for his spring semester finals.

Flint said, he spent about an hour and a half each night studying from the Army Study Guide. He also endured ruck marches on Saturday mornings to help him prepare physically.

“I didn’t get much free time,” added Flint. “I was either studying for school, preparing for the competition, or just normal [National] guard duty.”

One of the reasons service in the National Guard appealed to him was because he could be in the military and go to school at the same time. Ever since he was a little kid, military service was something he always wanted to do. Many of his family members, including his father, are and have also served in our nation’s armed forces.

The competition had 12 evaluated events, which included the obstacle course, land navigation, weapons qualifications, six-mile ruck march, Army Physical Fitness Test, an appearance board, among other tasks.

The Maryland Best Warrior Competition had increased the difficulty and added events to the its competition over previous years to help better prepare the Maryland National Guard representatives for the regional and national competition.

They were pretty comparable, said Flint. He also mentioned that the regional competition was at a faster pace in the order of events and the additional events it made it more challenging.

Flint was originally part of C Co., 1st Squadron, 158th Cavalry Regiment (Long Range Surveillance) until that unit was inactivated in 2015. He and a lot of other soldiers from the LRS went to B Co., 1-175th Inf. Regt., said Flint.

“I’ve always had a good atmosphere of people who strive to be the best, and want to set the standard for everyone else,” added Flint.

He was competing against soldiers from the other mid-Atlantic states and D.C. He got to learn about what they had to go through, balancing their National Guard life and their civilian life. Flint also mentioned that everyone was giving their best effort and his fellow competitors had also come prepared for the competition.

“I felt pretty proud,” said Flint about winning the Region II competition. “I’ve been really busy with school and it was difficult to balance my guard and civilian life. Winning just showed that I could do it. I had good mentors that trained me well enough where I could perform and win regionals for the Maryland National Guard.”

Flint will be representing the Maryland National Guard and Region II in the national level competition at Camp Ripley, near Little Falls in Minnesota, July 17-20, 2017. This competition will feature the best soldiers and noncommissioned officers of the Army National Guard from the seven regions across the United States. This is the first time a Maryland National Guard soldier has won Region II.

The winner of the national-level Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition will represent the National Guard at the Army’s Best Warrior Competition.

5K race

for sexual assault awareness, prevention month

Story by Master. Sgt. Christopher Schepers, 175th Wing
Photography by Senior Master Sgt. Edward Bard, 175th Wing



Airmen and soldiers from the Maryland National Guard along with family members laced up their running shoes to participate in a 5K walk/run to kick off the start of the military's observance of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention month, April 1, 2017 at Warfield Air National Guard Base, Middle River, Maryland.

The "SAAPM SHARP 5K" was hosted by U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Linda L. Singh, 29th adjutant general of Maryland, who along with Guard members were looking to change the culture of sexual assault and harassment where they live and work.

"This is not just for us to be out here and just socialize," said Singh. "This is us standing up and saying we are putting our foot down to stop sexual assault and sexual harassment happening within our community."

The mission of the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program is to reduce with an aim toward eliminating sexual offenses within the Army.

"We lose more of our airmen and our soldiers in the National Guard to sexual violence and sexual harassment and there is no reason for that to happen," said U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Randolph Staudenraus, 175th

“This is us standing up and saying we are putting our foot down to stop sexual assault and sexual harassment happening within our community.”

-Maj. Gen. Linda L. Singh
the adjutant general of Maryland

Wing commander, Maryland Air National Guard. "The next thing we need to do is change our culture to get sexual violence out of our workplace and out of our lives."

This year's race is the 3rd annual SAAPM SHARP 5K and has grown steadily since its inception. Over 225 soldiers and airmen registered to participate in this year's event.

"It was a great race mainly because of the crowd, a lot of people here just to support each other throughout our communities which is awesome," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Reid Novotny, cyber officer assigned to the 175th Cyberspace Operations

Group, Maryland Air National Guard. "Sometimes running can be kind of lonely but it's great to have a community behind you especially in a race like this."

Singh signed two proclamations at the beginning of the event. The first reiterated the Maryland National Guard's support of victims of sexual assault and harassment as well as the continued support of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

Singh then thanked the children of military members before signing the second proclamation that reaffirmed the Maryland National Guard's unwavering support to

them and all that they do for soldiers and airmen.

The month of April is also the military's observance of military children and was established to underscore the important role children play in the Armed Forces community. There are approximately 2 million military children, ranging in ages from newborn to 18 years old.

On the

LINE



Photo by Airman Sarah M. McClanahan

175th Cyberspace Operations Group receives

Military Officers Association of America Maryland National Guard Unit of the Year award

June 3, 2017

175th Cyberspace Operations Group, Maryland Air National Guard, receives the Military Officers Association of America Maryland National Guard Unit of the Year award for 2016 from the Maryland Council of Chapters of MOAA at Warfield Air National Guard Base, Maryland.

The 175th COG was officially activated and federally recognized in 2016, along with its four subordinate squadrons. This group and subordinate units provide combat ready cyber crews for USCYBERCOM National Mission Teams and Cyber Mission Force engaging adversaries in full spectrum cyberspace operations by delivering offensive and defensive effects when ordered.



Photo by Senior Airman Enjoli Saunders



HHD 629th Military Intelligence Battalion completes annual training

April 6, 2017

Soldiers from HHD 629th Military Intelligence Battalion completes their annual training at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey.

Photo by Cpl. Michele-Corinne Ako

DroneDefender

June 3, 2017

Spc. Damion Malik Washington, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel White, and Spc. Charles Calloway train with DroneDefender which can be used to counteract ISIS controlled drones Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

DroneDefender is a point-and-shoot, electromagnetic, rifle-shaped weapon that disrupts communications between a remote-controlled drone and its operator





Family Day at Warfield Air National Guard Base

May 7, 2017

Members of the 175th Wing Maryland Air National Guard along with friends and family celebrate Family Day at Warfield Air National Guard Base, Middle River, Maryland. Nearly 1,000 families had the opportunity to come on base and enjoy festivities including an A-10 static display, Humvee display, face painting and many other activities.



WWI exhibit ribbon cutting ceremony commemorates 100th anniversary of American entry into WWI

April 6, 2017

The Maryland National Guard's Maryland Military Historical Society hosts a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new World War I exhibit in the Maryland Museum of Military History at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore, Maryland. The opening of the "Over There" exhibit commemorates the 100th anniversary of the American entry into World War I, and highlights the role of Maryland men and women in the war.

Lt. Gov. Boyd K. Rutherford, Maj. Gen. Linda Singh, the Adjutant General, and David Craig, the executive director of the Maryland World War I Commission all spoke about Maryland's role in World War I. The Maryland National Guard Honor Guard presented the colors, and the Maryland Defense Force Band played during the ceremony.



Photos by Cpl. Elizabeth Scott

“Maryland is heir to a proud tradition, to a proud military heritage. Our sons and daughters have fought in every war since the Revolution. They have made incredible sacrifices fighting to protect our way of life.”

-Lt. Gov. Boyd K. Rutherford



Photo by Cpl. Elizabeth Scott

ChalleNGe Academy Cadets at Camden Yards

May 9, 2017

Cadets from the ChalleNGe Academy presents the colors before the Baltimore Orioles game at Oriole Park at Camden Yards in Baltimore, Maryland.



Photo by Cpl. Elizabeth Scott



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Thaddeus Harrington

Easton armory groundbreaking

June 2, 2017

The Maryland National Guard held a groundbreaking ceremony for the state and federally funded \$17.3 million renovation of the BG (MD) Lewis G. Smith, Armory in Easton, Maryland.

Maj. Gen. Linda L. Singh, the adjutant general of Maryland, hosted the ceremony. The renovation will replace the facility that was built in 1974 and will provide 37,000 square feet of new space for more than 150 soldiers.

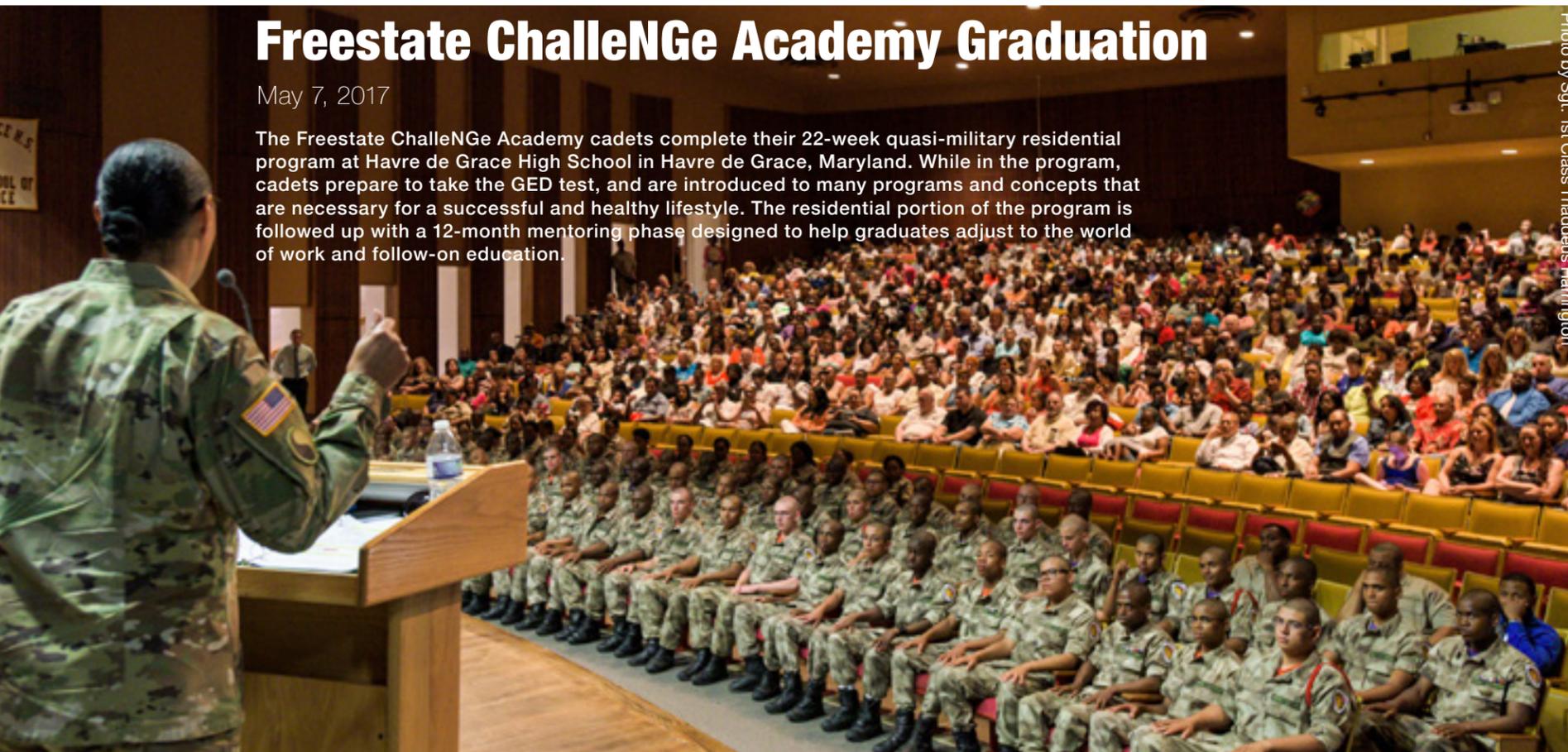


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Thaddeus Harrington

Freestate ChalleNGe Academy Graduation

May 7, 2017

The Freestate ChalleNGe Academy cadets complete their 22-week quasi-military residential program at Havre de Grace High School in Havre de Grace, Maryland. While in the program, cadets prepare to take the GED test, and are introduced to many programs and concepts that are necessary for a successful and healthy lifestyle. The residential portion of the program is followed up with a 12-month mentoring phase designed to help graduates adjust to the world of work and follow-on education.

MD runners compete in Lincoln National Guard Marathon

May 7, 2017



From left to right: Staff Sgt. Rachel Walter (3:34:06), 1st Sgt. Tyler Thomas (3:58:04), and 1st Lt. Meg Landymore (3:11:28, 10th in the overall women's category)

150 runners from the Army and Air National representing 40 states and two U.S. territories participates in the Lincoln National Guard Marathon to compete for one of the 61 positions on the All Guard Marathon Team in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Maryland National Guard team finished in 12th place overall, and all three MDNG runners qualified for the All Guard Marathon Team.



58th Troop Command change of command ceremony



May 21, 2017

Col. William R. Greer Jr. turns over command of the 58th Troop Command to Col. Joseph D. Reale at a change of command ceremony at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation near Reisterstown, Maryland.

Photos by Cpl. Elizabeth Scott



Photos by Capt. Aaron Testa

56th Theater Information Operation Group change of command

May 7, 2017

Lt. Col. Kristine Henry, commander of the 110th Information Operations Battalion stands with her Battalion's colors at her side during the change of command ceremony for the 56th Theater Information Operations Group (TIOG). The 56th TIOG is the operational higher headquarters 110th IO BN. Henry and the Battalion's Command Sgt. Maj. Alonzo Amison represented the Maryland National Guard and 110th IO BN at the event at Joint Base Lewis-McChord May 7, 2017 (photo by Capt. Aaron Testa)



32nd CST participates in CBRN training exercise

May 17, 2017

Service members in the Maryland National Guard's 32nd Civil Support Team participate in a training exercise at 1SG Brandt Army Reserve Center in Glen Bernie, Maryland. The unit's performance was assessed by U.S. Army North evaluators.

The 32nd CST utilizes this type of exercise to train, so that they are always ready to support civil authorities in a domestic chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear incident. They also use the experience in these types of exercises when they support the planning and operations of large scale scheduled events.



Photos by Cpl. Elizabeth Scott

Delegation from Mali visits MEMA and 32nd CST

April 5, 2017

A Mali delegation consisting of the director of the National Police Contrôleur, Gendarmerie Nationale Magistrate, Civil Protection and Garde Nationale visits the Maryland Emergency Management Agency as a part of a State Department program that helps other nations to improve their ability to respond to emergency situations. The delegation also learned about the 32nd Civil Support Team and its capabilities



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Thaddeus Harrington

C-130 aircraft arrives at airfield

May 21, 2017

A C-130 aircraft from the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, Ohio arrived June 15, 2017, at Warfield Air National Guard Base, Middle River, Maryland. Today marked the end of the aircraft's final flight and it is scheduled to become Warfield's newest static display.



175th Wing's Passover service

May 21, 2017

Maryland Defense Force Rabbi (Maj.) Chesky Tenenbaum leads a Passover service for members of the 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard, at Warfield Air National Guard Base, Middle River, Maryland.



Joint Force Headquarter's joint service

April 9, 2017

The Maryland National Guard Joint Force Headquarters celebrates Passover with Maryland Defense Force Chaplain (Maj.) Rabbi Chesky Tenenbaum and Palm Sunday with Maryland National Guard Chaplain (Col.) Sean Lee.



Maryland Military Department's Unity Day

April 20, 2017

Members of the Military department celebrate the 12th Unity Day at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore, Maryland. The event showcased food and memorabilia from many ethnicities and provided information on benefits for military members and their families.

Unity Day was established to enhance cross-cultural awareness and promote harmony among all members and retirees of the Maryland National Guard, Maryland Air National Guard and Maryland Military Department. Unity Day consisted of cultural dances, singing, ethnic food samples and cultural exhibit booths that observed all aspects of diversity. Booths included heritage from African American, Asian-Pacific Islander, Latin American, Native American, German and Italian cultures.

The Sergeant Major Association, Suicide Prevention and Family Readiness along with many other organizations also had booths that provided information on how to support the groups.



Final Frame



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS ROBERT BRUNNEY

U.S. Army soldiers assigned to Bravo Troop, 4-6 Heavy Attack Reconnaissance Squadron, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade, 7th Infantry Division conduct sling load operations with CH-47 Chinook helicopter pilots assigned to 29th CAB, Maryland National Guard in Iraq, April 21, 2017. The 4-6 HARS team is supporting Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve in the fight against ISIS.

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