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TAG's Corner



This quarter the Maryland National Guard continues to strengthen and work with many of our partners on the national, state, and local levels. Our soldiers with the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade continues to do some amazing work with the Iraqi security forces fighting ISIS in Iraq and Syria.

We had our largest presence ever in Estonia when more than 270 Airmen and their A-10 aircraft from the Maryland Air National Guard participated in Operation Atlantic Resolve. We sent members of the joint staff and the public affairs office to work with their counterparts in Bosnia Herzegovina for a domestic disaster exercise that involved more than 1,200 participants from 32 NATO allied nations and partners. I was pleased to welcome home from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, members of our 29th Military Police Company from Westminster, Md. Congratulations and job well done.

The MDNG and the Society of the War of 1812 held an event in July honoring Pvt. Aquila Randall, the first member of the 5th Regiment to fall in the Battle of Baltimore. We held our wreath laying ceremony to remember our fallen since 9-11, we must never forget. Our number one focus is being ready for anything that we are called to do.

On the cover:



Participating in Operation Atlantic Resolve, a crew chief assigned to the 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard, inspects an A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft after landing at Amari Air Base, Estonia, on Aug. 3, 2017. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Sarah M. McClanahan)



29th CAB soldiers expand partnership with Iraqi security forces

Article and photography by Capt. Stephen James, 29th Combat Aviation Brigade



Members of the Iraqi security force load onto a CH-47F Chinook helicopter fielded by the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade at Camp Taji Military Complex, Iraq. The ISF trained with their U.S. counterparts in the 82nd Airborne Division's Task Force Red Falcon and the 29th CAB on security procedures involving aircraft and met to schedule future partnership events. This training is part of the overall Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve building partner capacity mission by training and improving the capability of partnered forces fighting ISIS. CJTF-OIR is the global Coalition to defeat ISIS in Iraq and Syria.

Soldiers from the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade and the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Red Falcon, were hosted at Camp Taji Military Complex, Iraq, July 19, 2017 by their Iraqi partners to conduct joint training that will create a foundation for further operational cooperation and interoperability between the two organizations.

The planning session began with both the Paratroopers and Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) sharing tactics, techniques, and procedures for quick reaction force situations.

"Today's training and planning session was a culmination of almost three months working with our Iraqi partners," said Capt. Logan Reed, the 29th CAB's Iraqi partnership officer.

This event also included a dry-run exercise in which Task Force Red Falcon Paratroopers and the ISF worked together to set up a security perimeter on a 29th CAB CH-47F Chinook helicopter provided by Company B, 2-149th General Support Aviation Battalion, operating as part of Task Force Rough Rider.

"Training at the lowest level is essential for fluidity on the battlefield," said 1st Lt. Max Wiese, an infantry officer assigned to Company C, 1-325th AIR, 2nd BCT.

The 29th CAB soldiers also assisted their Iraqi counterparts with improving their radio capabilities to allow for both Iraqi and U.S. aviation operations centers to digitally talk with one another.

"We assisted in bridging the communication gap between Iraqi army aviation headquarters and the 29th CAB, both located at Camp Taji," said Reed.

Spc. Andrew Minter, a radio-telephone operator from the 29th CAB, acknowledged that working with his Iraqi counterparts was an "eye opening experience" as they exchanged information regarding communications equipment.

The 29th CAB will continue working with their Iraqi army aviation counterparts as they continue to build upon successes in training and on the battlefield.

"We look forward to continuing this vital partnership as we assist the ISF in defeating ISIS and building their capabilities," said Reed.

The 29th CAB, an Army National Guard brigade, supports Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve by providing aviation assets, offensive strike capability, operational and logistical support. CJTF-OIR is the Coalition to defeat ISIS in Iraq and Syria.

175TH WING AND ESTONIA INTEGRATE FOR OPERATION ATLANTIC RESOLVE

Article by Airman 1st Class Sarah M. McClanahan, 175th Wing



An A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft, 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard, taxis down the runway after landing Aug. 16, 2017, for a forward air refueling exercise during Operation Heatwave at Kuressaare Airfield, Estonia.

U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Sarah M. McClanahan



The Maryland National Guard deployed their largest presence ever in Estonia when 10 A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft and over 270 Airmen from the Maryland Air National Guard participated in a flying training deployment at Ämari Air Base, Estonia, during the first three weeks in August.

The deployment included a series of history-making firsts between Maryland and Estonia, a partnership that began 23 years ago through the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program, as well as one important first for the Department of Defense.

The Virtual Integrated Training Environment system, which is relatively new to the Air National Guard, deployed outside the continental United States for the first time ever, said Air Force Col. Jori Robinson, 175th Cyberspace Operations Group commander, Maryland Air National Guard.

"The VITE allows us to do real-world training in an environment familiar to an A-10C pilot," said Robinson. "It allows us to conduct certain types of exercises or operations in a safe, clean, and open environment."

The VITE system gave Airmen from the 175th COG and cyber operators from the Estonian Defense Forces, and British civilians the opportunity to train together on simulated networks that function like the ones they

use in a real-world environment. During Operation Baltic Jungle, a simulated training scenario involving an intricate network of fictional countries with escalating political tension, the mission was to attack and defend air operations.

The scenario presented issues resulting from attacks by a group of politically motivated hackers attempting to compromise government networks. The attack also simulated what would happen if the hack affected flying operations on the A-10.

Additionally, this was the first time U.S. fighter aircraft landed and forward air refueled at Kuressaare Airport located in Saaremaa, Estonia, as part of Operation Heatwave.

Operation Heatwave involved the inaugural landing of 175th Wing A-10C aircraft for a forward arming and refueling point exercise with the 352nd Special Operations Wing, Royal Air Force Mildenhall, United Kingdom, and a MC-130J Commando II.



Airmen assigned to the 175th Maintenance Squadron, Maryland Air National Guard perform pre-flight inspections on an A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft.

U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Sarah M. McClanahan



A maintainer assigned to the 175th Maintenance Squadron, Maryland Air National Guard inspects the surface of an A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft for damage.

U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Sarah M. McClanahan



Once refueled, the A-10C's participated in an air-to-boat exercise with the Estonian Defence League in the waterways nearby. The exercise simulating a small boat assault on a target, which was also the first of its kind, said Air Force Maj. Daniel Griffin, 104th Fighter Squadron flying training deployment project officer, Maryland Air National Guard.

The flying training deployment, which was part of Operation Atlantic Resolve, allowed the U.S. to work with allies and partner nations to develop and improve ready air forces capable of maintaining regional security.

In addition to Estonia and the United Kingdom, 175th Wing airmen also integrated and trained with other NATO partners from Latvia, Lithuania, Spain, Finland, and Canada to increase readiness and combat posture.

"We need to work together to solve issues and work in this complex environment to keep our readiness and

combat posture high and build relationships to ensure that we can integrate and work together when we need to," said Griffin.

Joint terminal attack controllers, combat controllers, and ground forces from participating countries trained with A-10C aircraft in a variety of exercises, including daily A-10C flights to ranges in Estonia and Latvia, complex multinational exercises like Operation Heatwave, and an austere landing on a closed highway in Jägala, Estonia.

"No other fighters do austere landings," said Griffin. "It's unique to the A-10C's and gives us the ability to project power even farther in certain areas of operation."

However, with any deployment comes challenges, said Air Force Brig. Gen. Randolph J. Staudenraus, commander of the 175th Wing, Maryland Air National



A munitions airman assigned to the 175th Maintenance Squadron, Maryland Air National Guard performs an ordnance check.

U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Sarah M. McClanahan



An A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft fires at a target, during a training exercise at Tapa Range, Estonia.

U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Sarah M. McClanahan



An A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft from the 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard lands during an austere landing exercise at Jägala-Käravete Highway, Estonia.

U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Chris Schepers

Guard. Especially one of this magnitude with over 270 175th Wing airmen, over 60 other Air Force airmen, and various partnering countries participating.

One such challenge occurred during the A-10C highway landing in Jägala, where one A-10C aircraft landed short of the improvised runway and sustained damage. 175th Wing maintainers were able to perform necessary repairs on the spot so that it could be flown to Ämari to finish repairs.

“Our maintenance folks can not only do roadway landings, but now we can say we can do roadway repair, which is an amazing feat,” said Staudenraus. “It was pretty brilliant of our folks to overcome that.”

Staudenraus commended 175th Wing airmen and other U.S. service members for upholding a high

standard of professionalism and diligent work ethic, despite the various challenges that presented themselves over the course of the deployment.

Estonia and Maryland have held a long-standing relationship through the State Partnership Program since 1993. With the assistance of the U.S. and NATO, Estonia has been able to better train and educate its service members, said Major General Meelis Kiili, Commander of the Estonian Defence League.

“FTD Estonia is not only a simple exercise or training, but it’s an act of solidarity,” said Kiili. “It’s extremely important to show that every square inch of the native territory is going to be protected. It’s not only going to be protected by our own means, but our friends and allies are taking it very seriously.”

MD GUARD CHAPLAIN HONORED

Article and photography by Col. Charles S. Kohler,
Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office



The American Baptist Home Mission Society bestowed their highest honor to a Maryland National Guard Chaplain who has dedicated his career to serving those in need.

Chaplain Col. William Sean Lee, Joint Force Headquarters chaplain for the state of Maryland, received the Lorraine K. Potter Military Chaplaincy Merit Award for faithful and effective pastoral and spiritual care during a July 2, 2017, ceremony in Portland, Ore. Lee is also a co-pastor, with his wife, at Calvary Baptist Church in Towson, Md.

Lee was selected from all other military chaplains affiliated with the American Baptist Church and commented the award was a total surprise and very reaffirming on a number of levels.

“I wasn’t expecting it,” said Lee. “Next year I finish up [serving in the military] after 39 years and it was like God saying well done good faithful servant.”

The American Baptist Church has about 600 endorsed chaplains nationwide and identified Chaplain Lee from a list of distinguished nominees nationwide.

“We believe that your work and witness epitomizes the life and spirit of the award as you have strengthened and nurtured military personnel in an exemplary way,” reads the award citation letter.

While serving as the Maryland National Guard State Chaplain, Lee created Partners in Care, a network of local congregations, which agreed to support Maryland National Guard members and their families with services like counseling, childcare, youth support groups, and basic auto repair, free of charge and without regard to any religious affiliation.

“Next year I finish up [serving in the military] after 39 years and it was like God saying well done good faithful servant.”

The Maryland National Guard’s Partners in Care initiative matches Maryland National Guard members, in need of support, with local religious congregations and will now lend spiritual support to a multi-faceted assistance initiative helping the DOD to aid service members in need and has been adopted nationwide.

“They really like the bridge I have with the community,” said Lee. “The Guard is a community.”

After nearly four decades of selfless service to the nation, the military, and the community around him, Chaplain Lee hopes soldiers remember that his heart was always in it.

“I’d like soldiers to smile and say Chaplain Lee ... he’s a guy you can always go to and he really really cared,” said Lee.

Behind the camera:

Exercise Bosna I Hercegovina 2017

Article by Airman 1st Class Sarah M. McClanahan, 175th Wing

The Maryland National Guard provided training in public affairs to members of the AFBiH through coordination with the National Guard State Partnership Program. Members of the AF BiH applied the public affairs skills they learned during a NATO exercise, Exercise Bosna I Hercegovina 2017.

In this exercise, more than 1200 participants from 32 NATO allied and partner countries were able to practice disaster response mechanisms, exercise capabilities, and demonstrate their ability to work together effectively in emergency crisis response operations in the surrounding areas of Tuzla.





Members of the Armed Forces of Bosnia-Herzegovina utilize the techniques that they learned in public affairs to cover a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive incident during NATO Exercise Bosna I Hercegovina 2017 in Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

U.S. National Guard photo by Col. Charles Kohler



Outside of my airplane window, the wing pierces thick puffy clouds as we descend into a green valley towards the tiny airfield nestled between a mountain range. I step off the plane onto the runway and look in awe at the vibrant blue sky with clouds resembling a painting. Approaching the terminal, I felt the familiar tinge of nervousness and excitement of arriving somewhere I've never been before. With my bags reclaimed, I rejoin my team and we drive through Bosnia-Herzegovina's capital, Sarajevo, towards the city of Tuzla. Starting on September 24, 2017, we begin what would become a week of growth, not just for me, a recently graduated public affairs airman, but for all those involved in the training events to come.

After the 16-hour journey from Baltimore and the 3-hour ride from Sarajevo, we checked into our hotel and eventually settled in for the night. The next morning would mark the official start of a week-long public affairs workshop at the Dubrave Barracks in Tuzla. My teammates, the Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office, are here to share their knowledge of public affairs with public affairs members of the Armed Forces of Bosnia-Herzegovina. After two days of workshops and hands-on exercises in photography, video, writing, social media, and public affairs, the students would

be given the opportunity to apply everything they learned by covering a multinational NATO training exercise.

The exercise, Exercise Bosna I Hercegovina 2017, was jointly organized by the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre and the Ministry of Security of BiH and involved more than 1,200 participants from 32 NATO allied and partner countries. The intent of the exercise was to practice disaster response mechanisms, exercise capabilities, and demonstrate each nation's ability to work together effectively in emergency crisis response operations. The exercise involved search and rescue operations, flood response, and response to chemical incidents which will affect the civilian populations and critical infrastructure in the areas surrounding Tuzla.

"We picked this week to do the public affairs training event because of the NATO exercise," said U.S. Army Capt. Harrison Bittenbender, bilateral affairs officer and Maryland National Guard member assigned to the U.S. Embassy Sarajevo. "This is as close to a real-world-national disaster as possible and gives the PAOs the opportunity to interact with response teams and see where they fit into that exercise."

Responding to national disasters is something the AF BiH has done time and time again over the years, added Bittenbender.

U.S. Army Cpl. Elizabeth Scott, public affairs specialist, 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, explains basic camera functions to members of the AF BiH.

U.S. Air National Guard photo by 1st Class Sarah M. McClanahan



Armed Forces of Bosnia-Herzegovina 1st Lt. Elman Cosic, public affairs officer of the 2nd Helicopter Squadron, Air Force Brigade, interviews U.S. Army Capt. Delilah Mergupe, nurse practitioner assigned to the 30th Medical Group, 7th Mission Support Command.

U.S. Air National Guard photo by 1st Class Sarah M. McClanahan

They answered the call during past national disasters and offered support to anyone who needs it, providing services that save lives.

“In the absence of a national disaster, people should remember and appreciate the job they have done for them,” said Bittenbender. “A better strategic message is needed and public affairs is one of the right avenues to do that.”

However, an ongoing challenge for the AF BiH public affairs is the tedious and restrictive approval process for releasing media content, said U.S. Army Col. Charles Kohler, workshop instructor and the Maryland National Guard public affairs officer.

The event also had various other challenges which included a limited amount of equipment available for the members of the AF BiH to use and language barriers between instructors and other participants in the NATO exercise. Despite any setbacks, the members were still able to meet and exceed goals set for them.

“The members of the AF BiH exceeded our expectations and were effective in applying public affairs skills at a tactical level,” said Kohler.

Because the members have already demonstrated their capability in capturing and telling an effective story, it’s our hope

approval processes will be revised to allow the AF BiH story to be shared with the public, said Kohler.

“A lot was learned and there were many firsts during this workshop,” said U.S. Army Cpl. Elizabeth Scott, instructor and public affairs specialist assigned to the Maryland National Guard’s 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. “This was my first experience teaching in BiH and teaching with a language barrier. For some of the members of the AF BiH, this was their first experience in public affairs and even holding a camera.”

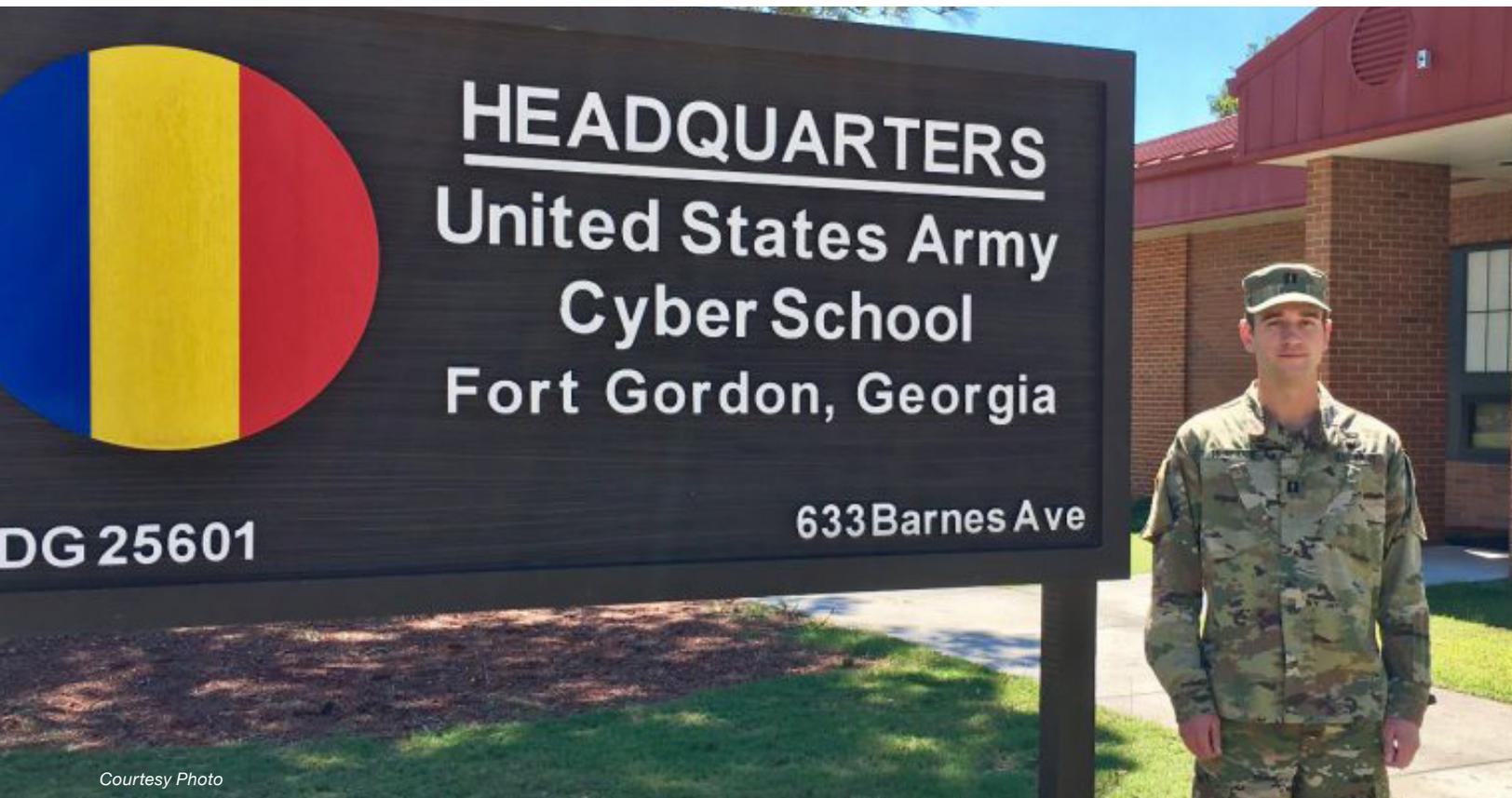
“The execution of this workshop helped build and strengthen AF BiH public affairs operations, tactics, techniques and procedures in emergency situations,” said AF BiH 1st Lt. Elman Cosic, public affairs officer for the 2nd Helicopter Squadron, Air Force Brigade.

Cosic was one of two AF BiH members in the workshop who had attended courses at the Defense Information School, the same school all DOD personnel attend for public affairs training.

“While the workshop was only a few days long, the members of the AF BiH were highly motivated and engaged in learning and applying public affairs concepts,” said Kohler. “We anticipate the AF BiH public affairs will hit the ground running to produce some compelling products.”

First Maryland Guard soldier completes **Cyber Operations Officer Course**

Article by Capt. Aaron Testa, 110th Information Operations Battalion



Courtesy Photo

Capt. Brendan McKeague stands outside of the headquarters of the United States Army Cyber School Aug. 1, 2017. McKeague became the first Maryland Army National Guard soldier to complete the rigorous Cyber Operations Officer Course when he graduated.

An infantry officer with the Maryland National Guard's 110th Information Operations Battalion became the first Maryland Guardsman to complete the challenging Cyber Operations Officer Course at Fort Gordon, Ga., July 25, 2017.

"The course provided me with extensive and in-depth technical, operational, and planning training for cyberspace operations," said the recent graduate, Capt. Brendan McKeague, who is the assistant operations officer for the battalion.

The six-month course McKeague completed featured cyberspace operations planning, joint advanced cyber warfare training, and a team-based capstone exercise. The U.S. Army Cyber School of Excellence has taught the course since September 2015, preparing graduates to conduct offensive and defensive cyber operations.

Through the course, McKeague was also certified as a Certified Information Systems Security Professional, Cisco Certified Network Associate, and he received training in Cyber Common Technical Core—all of which will be useful to him, his unit, and the Maryland Guard as he returns home to put his experience to work.

The National Guard is uniquely postured to integrate cyber operations into more traditional operations, and the 110th IO Bn. and state of Maryland are increasing their roles in the cyber domain both at home and abroad. This mission means Soldiers require new training, skills and competencies to meet the needs of combatant commanders for Title-10 operations and governors for state missions.

The 110th, among other information related capabilities, synchronizes cyber capabilities in its information operations cell in support of Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa, U.S. Africa Command. In addition to overseas missions involving Cyber Operations, the 110th was part of a Maryland Cyber Joint Task Force in January in support of the President's Inauguration activities.

McKeague believes this training is especially important as the Army Cyber Branch matures and the Maryland National Guard expands its cyber capability.

"The Cyber Operations Officer Course produces professional and proficient leaders who can contribute to the critical cyber mission and meet the growing demand for officers who can lead teams that conduct full-spectrum cyber operations," said McKeague.

But the training is not just about equipping leaders with the skills they need to conduct cyber operations. Relationships formed during the course are also important to help the Army meet future cyber demands.

"Besides the comprehensive and rigorous training, the most valuable aspect has been the relationships I've built with cyber leaders who will be going out into the force in the Active Army, National Guard, and Reserve," said McKeague. "These relationships strengthen the concept of the Total Force, facilitate the sharing of ideas and best practices across components, and enhance the Army's cyber capabilities."

The Army does not afford the opportunity to attend the Cyber Operations Officer Course to just anyone. The requirements to apply to the cyber branch limit the pool of applicants to only a select few, highly qualified soldiers—and McKeague was one of them. Not only did he meet all of the administrative requirements, he also possesses the requisite interest in and passion for the cyber domain as well as creativity, intellectual curiosity, problem solving skills, and academic excellence.

McKeague competed for the opportunity, earning his course slot as a result of his technical expertise, operational experience, performance record, and cyber potential. The Maryland National Guard leadership then allowed him to attend the school at Fort Gordon, facilitated by the National Guard Bureau. Now, his record and new training provided him the credentials to be accepted into the Cyber Branch.

McKeague does not take his responsibility, that has resulted from this opportunity, lightly. "It has been an honor and privilege to represent the Maryland National Guard and the 110th IO Battalion at the U.S. Army Cyber School," he said.

The 110th IO Bn. Commander, Lt. Col. Kristine Henry, is looking forward to having McKeague back with his newly acquired qualifications.

"In the 110th, as a part-time cyber warrior, Capt. McKeague will be able to immediately apply his training to real-world operations during weekend drills," said Henry. "But he'll also be able to continue honing those cyber skills during his day-to-day civilian job as a cybersecurity consultant."

According to Henry, within the next few months the Maryland National Guard will roll out a new force structure, a 39-person Cyber Protection Team, missioned for Defensive Cyber Operations.

"Unlike other Guard teams, this team is not slated to have part-time slots—it will be only full-time Active Guard Reserve (AGR)," she said. "However, the 110th will continue to train and deploy part-time cyber superstars, like Capt. McKeague, which will compliment this new AGR cyber team coming to Maryland."

Civil War tintype restored

Article by 1st Lt. Mary Lyons, *Command Historian*

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



Ferrotypes, officially known as Melainotype, came into prevalence in the mid- nineteenth century. These black and white photos are an iconic feature of this time period documenting the latter half of the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Before this time, photographs were uncommon as they were too expensive for the average person. Tintypes are distinctive primarily because they were made using a thin sheet of iron blackened with lacquering, or enamel, then coated with a photographic emulsion.

The Maryland Museum of Military History, located at the 5th Regiment Armory in Baltimore, Md., possess photographs depicting each soldier of B Co., 2nd Regiment, Maryland Eastern Shore Volunteers, a unit that served in the Civil War. Although it was common for groups of soldiers to get tintype photos taken, it was rare for an entire company to get pictures taken individually at the same time and place.

Unfortunately when the Maryland Museum of Military History acquired these valuable artifacts they were showing the wear of over 130 years. These photos had been fastened to a wooden board using double stick tape resulting in small holes. In addition the emulsion had crazed and was flaking off in chunks due to humidity exposure.

The Maryland Museum of Military History contacted Mary Lou Coyle, a Maryland native and founder of Coyle Studios in Towson, Md., to begin restoring this amazing collection. She was very excited to take on this project and proud to work with the Maryland National Guard.

“Preserving history is such a special job,” says Coyle. “We enjoyed restoring these images and were honored to preserve this piece of Maryland history.”

Mary Lou and her conservator began this project by taking a photograph of the project as a whole then each individual photo in order to document the evolution of the project. They both began repairing the damage caused by the humidity by removing the copper housing showing signs of oxidation. Each photo emulsion was then cleaned and repaired. The flaking pieces were re-secured and the missing pieces were reattached. After these photos were restored the emulsions were sealed with a conservation material in order to completely hold it in place. All of the photos were individually sealed against humidity and the environment and a custom piece of museum glass was placed in the copper housing. The

conservator created new housings out of Optimum Acrylic in order to protect against UV light.

This unit spent much of the Civil War occupying the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia. However, in June of 1863 they were ordered to Baltimore to protect the city and to reinforce the Army of the Potomac in repelling the invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania by the Confederate Army under General Robert E. Lee.

This was a turning point in the war. Abraham Lincoln’s Anaconda Plan was slowly cutting Confederate forces off from the resources they required to wage war. Robert E. Lee in an attempt to bring the conflict out of war torn Virginia and deal a blow to the morale of the North which was war-weary having endured the brutal conflict since 1861.

“Preserving history is such a special job. We enjoyed restoring these images and were honored to preserve this piece of Maryland History.”

-Mary Lou Coyle

In July of 1863, B. Co. joined the 12th Army Corps in Frederick, Md., in pursuit of the Confederate Army retreating back into Virginia. Following the pursuit B. Co. was then ordered to General David Hunter’s Army which advanced up the Shenandoah Valley in May of 1864. They fought with this Army at Piedmont, Virginia, June 5, 1864 and again at Lynchburg, Virginia, June 18, 1864.

These battles also fell under Lincoln’s Anaconda Plan to starve the Confederacy of the resources required to wage war. At this point in the war the Confederacy was feeling the pressure of its dwindling forces and the resources these soldiers required continued to put a strain on the logistical and industrial base of the Army. Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant, in an effort to continue the pressure on the

Confederate Army planned simultaneous offensives across the country.

In the Shenandoah Valley, Hunter’s forces were ordered to employ scorched-earth-tactics destroying a valuable source of Confederate food as well as the central railroads and control of the James River so they lacked the means to move resources. The Union forces were victorious in the Battle of Piedmont but unsuccessful in their attempt to capture the city of Lynchburg. Hunter’s forces retreated under Confederate pressure opening up the Shenandoah Valley.

B Co. joined with the 6th and 19th Army Corps where they participated in the battle at Snicker’s Gap, Va., July 18, 1864. This gap in the ridge of the Blue Ridge Mountains were utilized as a crossing point to the lower Shenandoah Valley. The 6th and 19th

Army Corps were defeated allowing the Confederates to hang onto this strategic logistical point.

Company B participated in the battle at Winchester, Va., July 24, 1864. This also proved a Confederate victory as the two forces fought for control of the Shenandoah Valley. Although B Co. had suffered several defeats, their overall participation in the campaign was one small piece in a larger strategy that would prove successful to the Northern war efforts.

The tintype collection of B Co., 2nd Regiment, Eastern Shore Infantry is a rare and valuable contribution to the Maryland Museum of Military History artifacts. A snapshot in time of an entire unit before the age of common photography and documentation.



Serving the community: **PATRIOT North 17**

Article and photography by Senior Airman Enjoli Saunders, *175th Wing*

The aftermath of a disaster includes infrastructure projects that revitalize communities. Members of the 175th Wing Civil Engineering Squadron, Maryland Air National Guard, and Team Rubicon work together to build a pavilion for the community as well as to provide disaster relief during the PATRIOT North 17 exercise on July 18, 2017, at Butts Park, Tomah, Wis.,

The exercise provided an opportunity to understand how all personnel must work together to achieve success.

“When we are training at an exercise like this in Wisconsin at Volk Field, you get sharper on your skills and it’s okay not to do things perfectly,” said Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Revit, the 175th CES commander. “It allows you to see your strengths and weakness and allows you to adjust.”

The PATRIOT exercise has been an annual training event for over 20 years. However, over the last six years the focus has been domestic operations disaster-response training. The exercise is conducted by National Guard units working with federal, state, and local emergency management agencies and first responders.







MDARNG

Celebrates Army Warrant Officer Cohort's 99th Birthday

Article and photography by Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr., 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Video by Staff Sgt. Nelson Stroman, 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



The Maryland Army National Guard paid homage to the Army Warrant Officer Cohort by celebrating its 99th birthday with cake, a decorated sign, and their own unique song at the Maj. Gen. Warren D. Hodges Armory, located on the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., July 16, 2017.

The Army established of the warrant officer on July 9, 1918. First originating with 40 warrant officers, there are now more than 27,000 of these Army technical and tactical experts between the active Army, National Guard and Army Reserve. There are currently 164 warrant officers in the MDARNG.

“Today we say happy birthday to us, to all Army warrant officers and warrant officer wanna-be’s, and to a cohort of professionalism,” said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Tywanda B. Morton, command chief warrant



The Maryland Army National Guard paid homage to the Army Warrant Officer Cohort by celebrating its 99th birthday with songs, cake and other traditions in the Maj. Gen. Warren D. Hodges Armory at Aberdeen Proven Ground in the Edgewood area of Md.

officer for Maryland and deputy commandant for the Warrant Officer Candidate School.

The ceremony commenced with 16 candidates from class 17-001, who are in the middle of completing WOCS, marching on to the drill floor. The class lined up in a v-shaped formation, presented Morton with a plaque for her mentorship and guidance, and sang a unique song that best represented their class.

“It’s a hard WOC life for us, it’s a hard WOC life for us, instead of getting treated we get dropped, we’re trading in our stripes for the dot, it’s a

hard WOC life for us,” sang class 17-001 as their vocals echoed throughout the first floor of the building.

The audience, to include Brig. Gen. Timothy E. Gowen, assistant adjutant general – Army, who was one of the distinguished guest at the ceremony, smiled after hearing another remix of the classic song from the movie *Annie*.

“Warrant officers are a very special part of my career,” said Gowen. “The warrant officer community is extremely important to the entire Army, but especially important to us in Maryland where we are so focused on aviation and

MI [military intelligence]. Today, just about every single branch we have has a critical role for the warrant officer. To deploy and we certainly couldn’t do the job that we do without the warrant officer community.”

The ceremony also reminded us, through a cake-cutting tradition, that both junior and senior warrant officers play a major part in the MDARNG’s mission.

“The warrant officer cake cutting calls for the oldest and youngest warrant officer present [at the ceremony] to cut the cake [together],” said Morton.



Chief Warrant Officer 4 James Halsey, the most senior warrant officer, presented the first slice to the honored guest, which was Gowen, then Warrant Officer 2 Teri Thomas, the youngest warrant officer, presented the second slice to Halsey. Halsey then presented the third and last slice of cake to Thomas to signify

Thomas is currently an instructor pilot with C Co., 1-169th General Support Aviation Battalion. Halsey on the other hand will be retiring in about two months, but recently held the position of a warrant officer recruiter for the past 7 years.

“I never thought I would make it over the rank of E-6 [Staff Sergeant],

they created, which represented their individual class and the Warrant Officer Cohort.

Although Halsey is retiring he said he has high expectations for the MDARNG’s WOCS and overall program.

“If you know you know your job just as good, if not better than

“Today, just about every single branch we have has a critical role for the warrant officer. To deploy and we certainly couldn’t do the job that we do without the warrant officer community.”

-Brig. Gen. Timothy E. Gowen
assistant adjutant general – Army

that the experienced warrant officers have nurtured and led younger warrant officers to fill the ranks to renew the cohort.

“I think it’s a good thing to be the youngest and to come so far,” said Thomas. “I actually feel like I’m an important factor and it means a lot.”

so I did alright for myself,” said Halsey. “I’ve been a warrant officer for about 14 years and I been in the [Maryland] guard for 41 years.”

As the warrant officer birthday ceremony continued, class 17-001 — the soon-to-be warrant officers in the MDARNG — unveiled a sign

anybody else, except that challenge to become a warrant officer,” said Halsey. “For the warrant officer out there in the Maryland Guard, step up and help this program, let’s make it a success. It seems to be getting better every year because we have more people coming out to help us.”

On the

LINE

Admiral Pitka Recon Challenge



Stills from a video by Sgt. 1st Class Thaddeus Harrington, *Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office*

A 70-mile odyssey over four days through the dense-wet forest of Pärnu, Estonia, while being attacked by opposing forces is not an item on most soldier's bucket list. Highly determined to compete and win, 28 four-person teams from 11 nations assembled for the Admiral Pitka Recon Challenge. It's an arduous competition that tests participants' ability to tactically navigate through difficult terrain; avoid contact with unfriendly forces, military or civilian; negotiate obstacle courses; fight on different equipment/weapons systems; and while sleep deprived, maintain sanity long enough to make it across the finish line. Not every team makes it to the end, four teams did not.

The Maryland National Guard's team and the Trilateral team, made up of soldiers from the MDNG, Estonia, and, Bosnia and Herzegovina, were not ones to quit before the finish. The Trilateral team reflects the state partnerships the MDNG has with Estonia since 1993 and Bosnia and Herzegovina since 2003. This video follows the MDNG team through some of its grueling journey.



National Best Warrior Competition

July 21, 2017



Spc. Philip Flint, an infantryman with B Co., 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry, 58th Troop Command, Maryland National Guard, is assisted in taking off his ruck sack after completing the 13.1-mile ruck march through Itasca State Park, Minn., for the 2017 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition.

Flint won 2nd place at the National Level Best Warrior Competition for the entire Army National Guard.

Flint was the top warrior for the MDARNG and competed against a field of 53 other competitors at the national level.

Photo by Sgt. Sebastian Nemec, *Minnesota National Guard*

1-175th Infantry Regiment training in Estonia

Members of the 1-175th Infantry Regiment learn some survival skills from Maryland National Guard's state partner nation Estonia.





Image still from video by Sgt. 1st Class Thaddeus Harrington, *Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office*

32nd Civil Support Team in Puerto Rico

Aug. 8, 2017

The Maryland National Guard's 32nd Civil Support Team conducts relief-in-place mission in Ponce, Puerto Rico. This multi-CST exercise included the 22nd CST from the Puerto Rico National Guard. Exercises like this prepare the 32nd CST to be able to respond anywhere within the United States and seamlessly integrate with fellow Civil Support Teams. The Mercedita Airport Security and the Mercedita Airport Fire and Rescue Department also participated in the exercise.

Estonian folk dance

July 6, 2017

Members of the Maryland National Guard improve their Estonian folk dance skills with the Estonian Folk Dance Group from Paide, Estonia, on July 6, 2017, at the historic 5th Regiment Armory, in Baltimore, Md.

The cities of Westminster, Maryland, and Paide, Estonia, partnered back in 2002 and have had many exchanges in the area of culture, philanthropy, education, business, and government. The Community Foundation of Carroll County - Westminster - Paid Partner City Fund sponsored the event.



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Thaddeus Harrington, *Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office*



Image still from video by Sgt. 1st Class Thaddeus Harrington, *Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office*

MDNG Engineers in Puerto Rico

Aug. 2017

During the Maryland National Guard's 243rd and 244th Engineer Companies' August 2017 annual training, citizen-soldiers complete multiple projects while gaining a new cultural experience at Camp Santiago with the Puerto Rico National Guard. Soldiers from both companies work on construction projects at eight different sites around Camp Santiago, utilizing their training as road builders, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, engineers, and mechanics.

29th Infantry Division returns from Middle East

July 25, 2017



Photo by Cotton Puryear, Virginia National Guard Public Affairs Office

One of the final groups of Maryland and Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division returns to Virginia, after serving on federal active duty since November 2016. The soldiers served in the Middle East in support of Task Force Spartan Shield as the first intermediate division headquarters under U.S. Army Central Command. Senior leaders from state government and the Maryland and Virginia National Guard soldiers they arrive at Dulles Airport. The soldiers then reunite with family, friends, and fellow soldiers. A small number of soldiers remain at their demobilization station in Texas to finalize their transition from federal active duty to traditional Guard status.

Pre-game ceremony at Ravens' home opener

Sept, 17, 2017



Maryland National Guard service members participate in the pre-game ceremony at the Baltimore Ravens home opener against the Cleveland Browns at M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore, Md., Sept. 17, 2016. The pre-game ceremony included service members holding a large flag at mid-field during the national anthem, and a flyover of four A-10 Thunderbolt IIs from the 175th Wing flew over the stadium.



Photo by Cpl. Elizabeth Scott Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office

MDNG Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program

Aug. 17, 2017



Video by Sgt. Paul Porter, 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Maryland National Guard runs a two-week Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program to assist soldiers in meeting the physical fitness requirements. The program is designed to improve soldier retention by promoting healthy living through eating healthy, portion control, and physical fitness.

Soldiers in the National Guard are required to maintain their fitness and health to stay in service and this program has been able to help some soldiers meet those requirements and reenlist.

Retired U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski presented Montgomery Medal

July 26, 2017

The National Guard Association of the United States presents retired U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski with the Montgomery Medal in honor of her outstanding support in the pursuit of NGAUS objectives. With more than 30 years of service as U.S. Senator.

She was an advocate for the Guard and ensured that it had the resources and budget to carry out its mission.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Thaddeus Harrington, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office

29th Military Police Company Freedom Salute

Sept. 24, 2017



Soldiers from the 29th Military Police Company are honored, during a Freedom Salute ceremony in Westminster, Md.

Maj. Gen. Linda L. Singh and other Maryland National Guard senior leaders recognized the nearly 30 members of the 29th Military Police Company after their nearly year-long mission to Guantanamo Bay.



Photo by Lt. Col. Rick Breitenfeldt, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office

Wreath-laying ceremony

July 21, 2017

The Maryland National Guard and the Society of War of 1812 hosts a wreath-laying ceremony in honor of the first member of Maryland's 5th Regiment to fall in the Battle of Baltimore. More than 200 years ago, Pvt. Aquila Randall a member of the Maryland Militia (today's historic 175th Infantry Regiment of the Maryland National Guard) fell in 1814.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr., 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Photo by Lt. Col. Rick Breitenfeldt, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office

Four MDNG officers commission

Aug. 5, 2017

The Maryland National Guard Officer Candidate School Class 58 graduates four MDNG officers.

Maryland OCS is comprised of three phases; an initial two-week phase, a year of drill weekends in between, and a final two-week phase.

Final Frame



PHOTO BY LT. COL. RICK BREITENFELDT

Friends, family and colleagues gather at the Fallen Warrior Memorial at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation, near Reisterstown Md., Sept. 10, 2017, for an annual wreath-laying ceremony in honor of the Maryland National Guard Warriors who paid the ultimate price defending freedom. Twelve citizen-soldiers, whose names are inscribed on the memorial, were remembered during the ceremony.