

THE

Maryland

FY 2018
Issue #2

LINE



OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MARYLAND MILITARY DEPARTMENT



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TAG's Corner



I am very pleased that the Maryland Military Department continues to be relentless in our pursuit of excellence. You will see in this edition of the Maryland Line some of the examples of our best warriors serving here at home and overseas.

We recently held our Best Warrior Competition for our best soldiers, non-commissioned officers, and company grade officers. It was a joint effort with the Air Guard and our state partners from Estonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The competitors had to overcome our most challenging competition ever. Congratulations to all of our warriors who were selected to compete. You represented your commands and your nations well.

In our effort to celebrate our diversity, we dedicated a new display in our museum to a Maryland hero, Augustus Walley. We had the opportunity to enjoy a portrayal of Cathy William, who was a female African-American that impersonated a man to join the famous Buffalo Soldiers. We also recognize the women's suffrage movement with the dedication of a road sign marker in honor of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. The MD Army Guard welcomed its first fully qualified woman to the Infantry.

During this quarter we deployed nearly a dozen soldiers from the 224th Area Support Medical Company and 10 soldiers assigned to the 629th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Battalion. The 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard, bid farewell to its wing commander and welcomed a new one during a change of command ceremony in February.

Md. Guard Intel team deploys, makes history

Article by Maj. Kurt M. Rauschenberg, 58th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade
Photography by Cpl. Elizabeth Scott, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office



imagery from photographic and electronic capabilities. This mission supports the U.S. Army's Vision by incorporating more readily available and rapidly deploying Processing, Exploitation and Dissemination capabilities in the Army's Operating Concept. The Md. Guard personnel will fall under the 525th PED Battalion, an active U.S. Army unit subordinate to the 525th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade and sister-brigade to the 58th EMIB.

Ten soldiers assigned to the 629th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Battalion left on Feb. 26, for a nine month deployment to Ft. Gordon, Georgia. The deploying soldiers are making history for the Maryland Army National Guard as they participate in the first deployment from this command since its activation in Oct. 2016 as an expeditionary battalion. The previously deactivated military intelligence battalion cased its colors in Aug. 2006.

In addition to deploying for the first time, this particular mission is the first of its kind within the U.S. Army's Reserve and National Guard intelligence communities.

"It's so important we build the capabilities now to withstand the weight of the future," Maj. Michael A. Bryant, 629th MI Bn. commander, said when he took command in January. "Today's deployment is the first building block to make this a reality. As these soldiers leave today, they make history."

The military intelligence soldiers will support the active duty command through performing geospatial intelligence imagery; analyzing overhead and aerial

Military Intelligence Battalions were established to provide Intel support to active Corps and Divisions," Bryant said. "With the increase of Regionally Aligned Forces deployed around the world, active duty [units] are no longer able to cover down on all the requirements."

The Md. Guard team will join 30 other soldiers from the U.S. Army Reserve's 336th EMIB and Texas National Guard's 71st EMIB. 1st Lt. Gregory M. Collins, Bravo Company platoon leader, 629th MI Bn., will lead the 40 collective soldiers throughout the deployment.

"It is a huge success story for the State of Maryland," Bryant said. "The Battalion went from activation in October 2016 to deploying its first soldiers in just 16 months."

Col. Julie M. Minde, 58th EMIB commander, was in attendance today and spoke with the deploying soldiers to express her gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

"These soldiers are motivated experts in their field and will make us all proud as they support this critical mission," Minde said. "I could not be more proud of them."

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U.S. Army Spc. Timothy Wilkins, Det. 1, D Co., 3-126th GSAB (Lift), participates in the road march event during the Maryland National Guard Best Warrior Competition on March 15, 2018, at the Lauderick Creek Military Reservation on the Edgewood area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

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

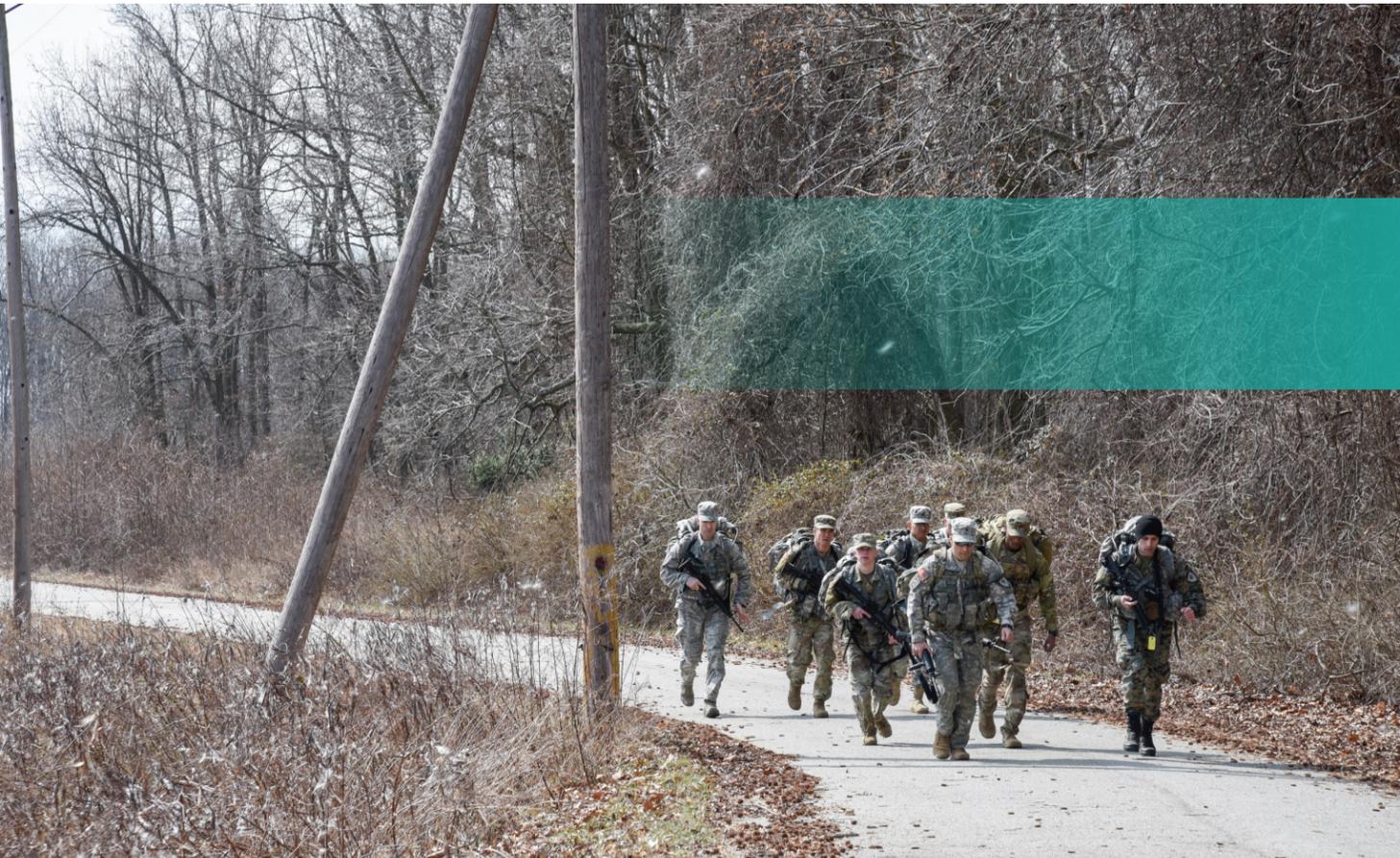


Defining what it means to be the **\ 'BEST' **

One of the toughest tests of a warrior's resolution and training is the Best Warrior Competition. The competition is a multi-day marathon of mental and physical trials, pushing these elite service members to their limits. This year's competition includes junior enlisted, noncommissioned officers, and commissioned officers of the Maryland Army and Air National Guard as well as soldiers from the Armed Forces of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Estonian Defence Forces.

Article by Sgt. Devon Bistarkey, 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Photography by Airman 1st Class Sarah M. McClanahan, 175th Wing
Senior Airman Enjoli Saunders, 175th Wing
Cpl. Elizabeth Scott, Maryland Public Affairs Office



Service members participate in the road march event during the Maryland National Guard Best Warrior Competition.

Service members from the Maryland Army and Air National Guard, as well as state partner nations of Estonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina competed in the Maryland National Guard's Best Warrior Competition at multiple locations throughout Maryland, on March 15-18.

Through their respective service, all 17 participants have earned the title of warrior. The four-day test earned them the title of competitor; but only one earned the title of best company grade officer, best noncommissioned officer and best junior enlisted soldier.

"In order to be the best here you have to do well in each aspect," said Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Beyard, the senior

enlisted leader for the Maryland National Guard. "This means working through the pain, muscle fatigue, lack of sleep, and being able to think."

From three different countries and two U.S. services branches, competitors arrived wearing their respective unit patches. As a first at this year's competition, individual unit patches were replaced with a unified competition patch. Together, the competitors endured the same grueling warrior tasks to prove to themselves, their service branch, and their country, just what it means to be the best.

The state-level competition tests service members each year further defining best.

1 :BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

There is a certain comradery that only the rigors of competition can build. In addition to physical and mental tests, the participants learned from one another. Even while vying for the same goal, the competition strengthened the bonds all the service members share.

“We are all here as individuals, but now [day three of the competition] it’s like we are friends.”

-Sgt. Kristjan Mägi

"We didn't come here just to win, we came to build friendships," said Sgt. Kristjan Mägi, Kuperjanov Bn., 2nd Bde., Estonian Defence Forces. "We are all here as individuals, but now [day three of the competition] it's like we are friends."

Mägi, a conscripted soldier who traveled to the states for the first time for this competition, is a professional cross-country skier in Estonia. He knew he was physically prepared for the challenges of the weekend.

"They learn how we do things, and we get to learn how they do things," said Beyard. "This type of joint force interaction is helpful in understanding how we all do business and is a great opportunity to enhance our ability to work together."

2 :ENDURANCE

Long, hard, and daunting events tested competitors' endurance, each a measure of just how much of an unpleasant or difficult situation they could bear without giving way. A part of the weekend's gauntlet included a nearly ten-mile road march, a scored high intensity interval training workout event, and an obstacle course requiring strategy to tackle.

When asked how to prepare for a multifaceted competition like this, Senior Airman David Burke, a fusion analyst, 135th Intel Squadron, 175th Wing, followed a single mantra leading up to the weekend.

"Just do the work," said Burke.



4 :TACTICAL & TECHNICAL

His idea is simple. The only way to get better is to do it. For Burke, this meant loading up a ruck and hitting the road, in addition to hitting the books.

“I focused my studying on my weakest areas, which ultimately became my strengths during the competition,” said Burke.



Studying, understanding and applying Army doctrine is a key to tactical and technical knowledge. Being able to apply that expertise in the classroom through written exams and then to apply it in the field draws on what it means to be the best.

Each competitor had to complete a written exam and appear before a board. For the state partnership soldiers from Estonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina this meant taking written tests in English, which comes as a second language for most.

“Each competitor deserves the title of best,” said Staff Sgt. Matthew Gilbertz, an Intel NCO at the 110th Information Operations Bn. “But, being the best here is a matter of readiness.”

For the competitors, readiness means knowing the standards and procedures and then executing them in the field. Plotting points, shooting an azimuth and planning the route are all standards for land navigation. Being able to reach those points in the darkness however puts that technical knowledge into a tactical perspective.

“You can’t see obstacles in front of you, said Gilbertz. “You have to rely on your situational awareness, know your pace count, listen for that creek, and get it done.”

Each competitor drew on their previous training and experiences, but ultimately they relied on each other to bring out the best in themselves.

“If they can do it, I can do it,” said Gilbertz.



“ This competition is going to benefit you, no matter what your job is — these are critical skills that are part of being a soldier.”

3 :STRESS

-Spc. Saum Salehi

The need to be quick, accurate, and cool under pressure tested each competitor resolve when stressed. Each component tested how they were able to deal with stress; not only to deal with it — but excel within each task while under pressure.

The aptly named ‘stress shoot’ demanded speed, maneuvering a casualty loaded sked through challenging terrain including gravel, a long field and over a hill all while receiving simulated fire. Competitors maneuvered to two live-fire ranges where they had to accurately engage targets with a M4 rifle and M9 pistol. Much like drill sergeants, skilled cadre provided added pressure to participants cycling through this station.

“There were a lot of unknown variables to this event,” said Spc. Saum Salehi, 2-20th SF Group (Abn.), Augmentation Detachment. “The terrain was tough and the casualty got heavy.”

This event proved to be a lesson on resilience for many.

“This is where you learn,” said Salehi. “This competition is going to benefit you, no matter what your job is — these are critical skills that are part of being a soldier.”

Not every test was as tactical however. Stress took on a different form when competitors were given a mystery task.

“I had to completely switch tracks from a physical mentality to one of focus and patience when I saw the puzzle,” said Capt. Jonathan Woodworth, a medical-surgical nurse in the 104th Area Support Medical Company.

Competitors were kept on their toes the entire competition. They knew the basics of what to expect: rucking, shooting and warrior tasks — but a puzzle was a surprise for each. Competitors were required to assemble a puzzle of the Maryland state flag. The task was timed, involved many pieces and proved to be a challenge few could finish.



State Partners win Maryland National Guard Best Warrior Competition

Article by Lt. Col. Rick Breitenfeldt, *Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office*
 Photography by Cpl. Elizabeth Scott, *Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office*



After four days of intense competition at the Maryland National Guard Best Warrior Competition, best junior enlisted soldier, noncommissioned officer, company grade officer were announced on March 18 at Aberdeen Proving Grounds-Edgewood Area, Maryland.

Sgt. Matija Ivaković, Armed Forces of Bosnia-Herzegovina, was named the best noncommissioned officer. Sgt. Kristijan Mägi, Estonian Defence Forces, was named the best junior enlisted soldier. 2nd Lt. Raul Reiljan, was named the best company grade officer.

Unique to Maryland's competition is the inclusion of company grade officers, the Air National Guard, and soldiers from the Estonian Defence Forces and the Armed Forces of Bosnia-Herzegovina, both state partner countries of the Maryland National Guard.

"The race for the best soldier is one of the most beautiful experiences that I could experience in my military career,"

said Ivaković, an infantry squad leader in the Armed Forces of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

A total of 16 soldiers – four noncommissioned officers, six junior enlisted soldiers, and six company grade officers participated in this year's competition. One Maryland Guard airman also competed.

"This competition is for me to broaden my mind," said Mägi, an infantryman in the Estonian Defence Forces, adding that this year's competition improved him both mentally and physically.

Representing the Maryland National Guard at the Army National Guard Region II NCO and Soldier Best Warrior Competition in May will be Sgt. Dominic Barnwell, Co. C, 1-175th Infantry Regiment, and Spc. Gerald Villamar, 629th Military Intelligence Battalion. The regional match will be held at Fort Pickett, Va., and will include soldier competitors from Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., Virginia, West Virginia, and Delaware.

The Maryland National Guard celebrates

National Women's History Month

During the month of March, the Maryland National Guard took time to highlight some exceptional female service members currently serving in the Maryland Army and Air National Guard, as well as an officer from the Armed Forces of Bosnia-Herzegovina.





Sgt. Donita Adams, a religious affairs noncommissioned officer, has been in the National Guard since 2015. Originally she was going to be a human resources specialist, but her recruiter helped guide her into a slot that combined her desire to serve, with her commitment to faith.

“The best part is that your helping someone,” said Adams. “There are a lot of issues that we go through as civilians and soldiers, and all of that can build up. knowing that everyday that your job is meaningful, and helping someone get on the right track. That’s just the most rewarding thing.”

For the past three years, Adams has also been a girl’s varsity head coach at Watkins Mill High School. She felt a calling to come back home while she was coaching division II basketball at Salem International University. Adams wanted to help push and develop the young women in Montgomery County.

Adams not only coaches and mentors young women on the court, she also continues to play. She has been selected for the All-Army team for the last two years, and last season she was selected for team USA and got to compete against a bunch of international teams.

“I had so much fun, and I met so many amazing women,” said Adams.

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

Recruiter leads on and off the field

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

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

Working at a fast food restaurant and living out of his car, Staff Sgt. Kim Kerschner, a recruiter from Co. A, Recruit and Retention Battalion, Maryland National Guard, works to change the life of this potential recruit.

“He said ‘I need a job,’” recalled Kerschner. “I’m making \$9.75 an hour and I need a job. I want a technical job.’ I am trying to put him as an air traffic controller or doing something with IT.”

Enlisting in the Maryland National Guard allows someone to train how to do a job that they have no experience in currently. Service members can then use the training that the Army provides as a way to help get a job in that particular industry in the private sector.

This past year, Kerschner exceeded her enlistment goal set by the Recruit and Retention Battalion. She was named the Director’s Strength Maintenance Award Program’s Chief 54, the top recruiter for Maryland, because she exceeded her enlistment goal by recruiting 23 recruits when her goal was only 16 recruits for the year.

In Maryland, Chief 54 is based on a percentage, rather than the number of recruits enlisted, said 1st Sgt. Tina Sievers, Co. A, Recruit and Retention Battalion. Each recruiter has a different goal based on their recruiting area.

In Maryland, there were two other recruiters who made the competition a tight race just to be named Chief’s 54 for Maryland, said Kerschner.

She appeared before a board to compete in the National Guard SMAG Region II’s competition against five other National Guard recruiters from Delaware, Virginia, Washington D.C., Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

“They look at your performance in front of the board, your appearance, your overall ship rate, and everything like that to represent the region in front of the national board,” said Kerschner. “This was my first board outside of Army training, so I was nervous that I would forget something that I already know or mess up something simple.”

“Kerschner is probably one of the hardest working, most dedicated individuals out there,” said Sievers.

Kerschner competed and triumphed against veteran Chief 54 winners in the National Guard SMAG Region II competition. She would then compete against the winners from the other six regions in the national competition. That competition is a two-day board, where the recruiters are grilled with questions, similar to a promotion board.

Though she didn’t win the national competition, it was a tight competition, said Kerschner. Sgt. Deborah Elliot from the Colorado National Guard finished first in the National Competition.

“I was very honored, and very proud that I was able to represent Maryland and Region II,” said Kerschner.

Kerschner was not a recruiter from the beginning of her military service. She originally enlisted in the active Army because of her membership in the American Legion and the history of military service in her family. Her grandfather was in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, her father in the Marines, her sister in the Navy, and an uncle who served in the Marines and the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

“I wanted to also join because I wanted to have pride in something that I do,” said Kerschner.

She started her military career as a chaplain’s assistant at Aberdeen Proving Ground for three years. She decided to leave active duty because she wanted to continue her education.

“I wanted to get a degree,” said Kerschner. “I was really having a hard time going to school full time and working full time.”

Kerschner didn’t know about the opportunities the National Guard could provide until she spoke to a career counselor in the transition assistance program.

She joined the National Guard as a saxophone player in the 229th Army Band. She earned her Associates Degree from Anne Arundel Community College and is currently working on a bachelor’s degree from American Military University in emergency and disaster management.

Kerschner missed working full time for the military and reached out to Sievers to find out how to become a recruiter. Once there, she proved herself by working in a temporary position with Recruiting and Retention. After an interview,

she became a recruiter for the Maryland Guard in October 2014.

“She lives and breathes recruiting,” said Sievers. She’s very passionate about her job, and she’s very passionate about the Maryland Guard.”

Kerschner takes the time in her off-hours to help others. Since 2012, Kerschner balances her National Guard service with her service as a volunteer firefighter, EMT, and hazmat technician for Anne Arundel County and Prince George’s County.

Kerschner was selected to tryout as a goalie for the women’s Armed Forces Soccer Team in 2015. She has played soccer since she was five years old.

“As a goalie I get to be the leader on the field,” said Kerschner. “You control how the team plays, because you can see the whole field.”

Having the vision and leadership is not only evident in Kerschner’s feelings of soccer, it’s clearly evident in the way she recruits.

“I get to change people’s lives,” said Kerschner. “Being able to serve as a recruiter I know that I am impacting someone’s life.”



Capt. Elisa Shutler, operations officer for 175th Security Forces Squadron, Maryland Air National Guard, has served for nearly 18 years. Shutler's desire to serve goes back to when she was 4 years old. At an air show, her leg got stuck in the back door of a KC-135 Stratotanker and the responding medics helped her. As she sat on a medic's lap, she thought, "Wow! These people in uniform are really cool and one day I want to do this." After graduating from high school, Shutler joined the Kansas Air National Guard. She was deployed to Incirlik Air Force Base, Turkey, as support staff to air crews and their airlift mission. She became a geospatial analyst for the 161st intelligence Squadron and was activated for three years to support Special Forces troops in OIF/OEF at Distributed Ground Station Kansas. She commissioned in 2012 and served in the 101st Security Forces Squadron, Maine Air National Guard before coming to the Maryland Air National Guard. Last year she was head of the Air National Guard security detail for the Presidential inauguration.

Capt. Elisa Shutler, operations officer for 175th Security Forces Squadron, at a planning meeting for the 58th Presidential Inauguration on Jan. 18, 2017.

Photo by Cpl. Elizabeth Scott,
29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment





Staff Sgt. Allison S. Balsam, Recruit and Retention Battalion, is the first female in the Maryland National Guard with the infantry military occupation specialty, 11B.

“It was a lot of fun,” said Balsam. “In the field doing things like land navigation, shooting on the weapons systems, and completing the training exercises. Those things were a lot of fun, despite the cold.”

Currently Balsam is serving as a drill sergeant at the recruit sustainment program. She was looking for a change from her original MOS, as an intelligence analyst, and saw the vacancy for the drill sergeant position at RSP. She will continue to serve as a drill sergeant at least through December 2018.

Her husband’s experience in the 1-175th Infantry Regiment influenced her decision to go to the infantry reclass course.

“I got to hear all the cool and awesome stuff that the infantry was doing,” Balsam said. “He would always come back and talk about how much fun that they had.”

She went through a two-week course at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. She was one of three females that graduated along with their male counterparts.

“Graduating this school is just the beginning, the hard work is in front of me,” said Balsam.



Every day brings new challenges

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

Looking towards the future, 2nd Lt. Dajana Dangubic from Konjic, Bosnia-Herzegovina is taking the unconventional road for women.

"Joining the army really opened my eyes, said Dangubic. "It taught me to think of more than just myself. Now, I really enjoy working as a member of a team in a tank. When you're in a tank you have to know how everyone thinks, and you must be able to anticipate their moves. It's like they become part of your family."

Dangubic is a mentor and the officer in charge of her team from the Armed Forces of Bosnia-Herzegovina competing in the Maryland National Guard's 2018 Best Warrior competition. This is her first time visiting the United States. She enjoys traveling and visiting other countries. Dangubic said she is very familiar with American culture through movies. She is interested learning about how women are treated in different cultures.

She joined the AF BiH just two years ago after graduating from college. She said that her family laughed at her when she said that she wanted to join the military and drive a tank.

"I wanted to prove them wrong," said Dangubic. "I am always looking for new challenges, and in my country women are expected to have a family and raise children."

Dangubic said she is proud of the fact that she is only the eighth woman in her country to jump from the 88 foot tall bridge in Mostar.

"I always want to better each day," said Dangubic.

As a competitive weight lifter and avid CrossFit participant, Dangubic is no stranger to working alone.

In July, Dangubic hopes to be one of the few females to attend the U.S. Army's Armor Basic Leader Course.

"I am full of energy and I want to make things better," said Dangubic. "Women need to work hard to meet the same standard as men. When I am at work we are all soldiers but when I go home I can be a woman."



The Commission on the Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution in conjunction with the city of Hyattsville, Maryland, unveiled a new highway marker.

Maryland Commission Unveils Marker Commemorating the Journey to the Passage of the 19th Amendment

Article and Photography by Lt. Col. Rick Breitenfeldt, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office

The Commission on the Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution in conjunction with the city of Hyattsville, Maryland, unveiled a new highway marker March 3.

The marker recognizes the couriers to Congress who gathered on July 31, 1913, from across the nation, carrying 75,000 signatures demanding the immediate action on a constitutional amendment enfranchising women.

"We are here today not only to celebrate the efforts American women made in decades past to have the right to have our votes counted, but also to acknowledge our continued quest for respect and equality today especially during March, which is National Women's Month, and a time when women are uniting again stronger than ever to be heard," said Director Cynthia Miller, from the Maryland Office of Tourism.

It is the first in a series of events across Maryland and the entire country that will culminate in a national event on Aug. 18, 2020, which is the 100th anniversary of the ratification.

Women from around the country gathered at the Hyattsville baseball park, now Melrose Park, for a rally. The suffrage motorcade paraded in 60 automobiles to the U.S. Capital to deliver the petitions to the Senate. The 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified in August 1920, which granted women the right to vote.

"If I think about just myself, I could not be here but for the women who did what they did. I believe that we have to

be relentless in our pursuit. And when I think of this month 'Nevertheless she persisted' that what's you've got to do," said Commission Chair Maj. Gen. Linda L. Singh, who is also the adjutant general of Maryland.

The Commission on the Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment is commemorating the events that occurred in Maryland connected to women's suffrage and the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

"It's not often that you get an opportunity to stand with intention in the spaces and places where history is made and when you do that opportunity is usually awe inspiring and awesome like the one today," said Hyattsville Mayor Candace B. Hollingsworth.

The commission is looking at sites throughout Maryland that are significant to the suffrage movement. This is an effort to foster collaboration between federal, state, county and municipal organizations to celebrate this significant part of history.

"I stand here today with intention. I seek no permission to say that in Hyattsville this marker not only commemorates the Suffragettes that rallied here, it will also give us a cause to ever remember the women often forgotten," said Hollingsworth. "It will say to those who pass through Hyattsville and read about this day welcome to Hyattsville where all women are liberated and celebrated for their contributions to a fair and just society because -- of course they persisted."

224th Area Support Medical Company deploys

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

Nearly a dozen soldiers from the Maryland National Guard's 224th Area Support Medical Company deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan on Jan. 7, 2018.

The specialized medical unit traces its lineage back to 1921. In addition to landing on Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944, the unit most recently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2008.



175th Wing change of command

Article and Photography by Master Sgt. Christopher Schepers, 175th Wing



▲ U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Paul Johnson (right), 175th Wing commander, accepts the wing guidon from U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Linda L. Singh, adjutant general of Maryland, during a change of command ceremony February 11, 2018 at Warfield Air National Guard Base, Middle River, Md. Prior to being named the 175th Wing commander Johnson held positions as 175th Wing vice commander and 175th Operations Group commander.



The 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard, welcomes U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Paul Johnson as the new commander during a change of command ceremony at Warfield Air National Guard Base, Middle River, Maryland, Feb. 11.

During the ceremony, presided over by U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Linda L. Singh, Maryland National Guard adjutant general, U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Randolph Staudenraus passed command of the 175th Wing to Johnson, the former 175th Wing vice commander.

"Thank you to the men and women of the 175th," said Staudenraus. "You guys have done everything you could for me, and I surely appreciate that."

Staudenraus will be assuming the role of Defense Attaché in Kuwait.

Johnson is very familiar with the 175th Wing having served as the 175th Operations Group commander before assuming command of the 175th Wing.

"I can't challenge you all to do a great job because you're already doing it," said Johnson. "Thank you for this opportunity, keep doing a great job. You make us look good. You prop us up, and continue on."

Top ANG leadership visits 175th Wing

Article and Photography by Airman 1st Class Sarah McClanahan, 175th Wing



Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice, the Director of the Air National Guard, speaks to 175th Wing airmen next to Command Chief Master Sgt. Ronald C. Anderson Jr., Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard, while touring Warfield Air National Guard Base.

The top leadership of the Air National Guard met with airmen of the 175th Wing on Feb. 10, during a visit to Warfield Air National Guard Base, Middle River, Maryland during a day of their weekend training.

Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice, director of the ANG, along with Chief Master Sgt. Ronald C. Anderson, command chief master sergeant of the ANG, talked with the members of the MDANG and answered their questions during the tour of the facilities.

"It's a good way for them to get a pulse of the worker bees, the people who are in the trenches every day," said Tech Sgt. Joshua Winchell, a cyber warfare operator with the 276th Operations Squadron. "They were willing to talk about the tough issues we are facing and give us an idea of what they're looking to do."

When speaking to the airmen, Rice discussed topics like the global and local importance of their work and how the family-dynamic of the ANG sets it apart.

"When we hire you, we hire you with the opportunity to become a guardsmen for the rest of your life," said Rice. "I don't care if you say your enlistment is up after your first term and you go out into the community to do other things. To me you will always be a guardsmen because you have made a difference for our country, our organization, and our unit."

Anderson, who started his ANG career with the Maryland National Guard, said visiting the 175th Wing was like coming home.

"Much of who I am and what I bring to this position as the ANG command chief started right here," said Anderson. "It's great to walk around this organization and see so many friends who I've known for so many years."

Over the course of the day, Rice presided over two enlistments and one reenlistment. He also recognized individual airmen for their outstanding contributions.

Staff Sgt. Miriam Y. Jarvis was recognized for her contributions as the president of the 175th Wing's Junior Enlisted Council and was surprised to receive the director's coin.

"It's everyone else in the JEC that makes it what it is, not just me," said Jarvis, the customer service non-commissioned office for the 175th Force Support Squadron. "I'm just the overseer of what they all do. I wish that everyone else could have gotten the coin too."

Since May 2016, Rice and Anderson, who are responsible for more than 105,500 guard members and civilians across 213 locations throughout the 50 states and U.S. territories, have visited many bases to get a first-hand glimpse of the organizations they are responsible for.

"I'm grateful that they took the time to meet with us on a weekend and make the drive over to speak to us," said Winchell, who had lunch with Rice, Anderson and other junior enlisted airmen. "It's great for them to get an idea of what our issues are and what our opinions are on certain things."

Corrective training done right



Push-ups aren't always the solution. Corrective training should appropriately address the deficiency that needs to be adjusted, and should not be applied in an oppressive manner.

"I have heard the following statement countless times throughout my over three decades of service; 'a leader who walks by a deficiency and fails to correct the deficiency has just created a new standard, since the leader's inaction states - this is acceptable to me,'" said Col. Royce Edington, the Maryland National Guard inspector general. "Corrective training is a valuable tool that leaders can and should use to correct deficiencies that will significantly improve the discipline and readiness of an organization."

Corrective training is an effective tool all Army leaders can use to correct minor deficiencies during the course of their daily duties. When used correctly and fairly, corrective training allows everyone, from the most junior Army leader to the most seasoned general officer, to teach their fellow soldiers what right looks like, and correct a deficiency. However, company commanders must ensure that all corrective training conducted in their unit is in accordance with Army Regulation 600-20 (Army Command Policy, 6 November 2014.)

One of the most effective administrative corrective measures is extra corrective training or instruction, including on-the-spot correction. For example, if a soldier appears in an improper uniform, a leader may require them to correct it immediately. If a soldier fails to properly maintain their accommodations, a leader can require they immediately undertake corrective actions.

"Leaders who effectively use corrective training will also increase morale in the unit because soldiers will see they have leaders who care about doing things the right way and leaders who take the

time to make corrections," said Edington. "Corrective training is one element that helps a unit go from good to great."

If a leader believes a simple on-the-spot correction will not adequately address a deficiency, they may require the soldier to undergo additional corrective training directly related to the shortcoming. Soldiers can be required to attend corrective training and take corrective actions after normal duty hours. These activities should only continue until the leader believes the soldier has overcome the training deficiency or has adequately applied the appropriate corrective measures.

Leaders at all levels must ensure that they and their subordinates do not use corrective training in an oppressive manner. For example, thirty minutes of intense physical training after final formation is not considered appropriate corrective training for littering in the company area. Leaders should never evade the procedural safeguards while, applying to imposing non-judicial punishment.

Commanders who encourage or tolerate improper corrective training within their unit are in violation of AR 600-20 and can be subject to allegations of regulatory misconduct. Company commanders should have an active plan to monitor corrective training within their company and make it very clear to both their subordinate leaders and soldiers that improper corrective training will not be tolerated.

Army leaders are encouraged to refer to AR 600-20 or contact the IG if they have any questions related to the proper use of corrective training.

On the +LINE



175th Cyberspace Operation Group feature in Airman Magazine

Tech. Sgt. Kyle Hanslovan, a cyber-warfare specialist serving with the 175th Cyberspace Operations Group of the Maryland Air National Guard, works in the Hunter's Den at Warfield Air National Guard Base, Middle River, Maryland.

Born of a small detachment of 35 airmen that performed network warfare operations for intelligence agencies in 2013, the 175th COG, activated in 2016, has grown to more than 200 airmen comprising four squadrons — the 175th and 276th Cyber Operations Squadrons, performing active cyber engagement, the 275th Cyber Operations Squadron, performing defensive operations, and the 275th Operations Support Squadron maintaining the systems those squadrons use in the fight.

In its short history, the 175th COG has also benefited from conducting the diverse cyber operations inherent in working for the governor of its home state, such as securing city and state government networks during the Baltimore riots and conducting mutual cyber support and training exercises with MDNG's partner nation, Estonia, to working with the FBI, Secret Service and Homeland Security to protect networks during the 2013 and 2017 presidential inaugurations and supporting operations for 24th Air Force, NSA and U.S. Cyber Command.

Photo and excerpt by J.M. Eddins Jr., U.S. Air Force



MDDF receives a Governor's Citation in recognition of its 100th anniversary

Jan. 11, 2018

Gov. Larry Hogan presents Brig. Gen. (MDDF) Lorenza Cooper, commander of the Maryland Defense Force with a citation in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the all-volunteer, uniformed agency of the Maryland Military Department at the state house in Annapolis, Maryland.

"We recognize just how important your work is to the Military Department," said Hogan. "I want you to know that you have our support."

Hogan, Maj. Gen. Linda Singh, the adjutant general of the Maryland National Guard, and Cooper talked about how the MDDF provides trained and competent personnel with professional and technical skills that augment the Maryland National Guard in its state mission and support its mobilization to, and redeployment from, federal missions. The MDDF was formally established by the Maryland legislature more than 100 years ago.



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



Gilded Age room dedication to Augustus Walley

Feb. 13, 2018

As part of the celebration of Black History Month, the Maryland Military Department and the Maryland Museum of Military History hosts a ceremony for the dedication of the Gilded Age room in the Maryland Museum of Military History at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore, Maryland on Feb. 13, 2018. Walley, a Buffalo Soldier, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for rescuing fellow soldiers who were under heavy fire from the Apache.

Betty Stokes, Walley's grand niece and members from the Baltimore chapter of Buffalo Soldiers attended the ceremony. Rosalyn Gaines of the the Kuumba Ensemble performed as Cathay Williams, the first African-American woman to enlist in the U.S. Army by posing as a male soldier.

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





MDNG and Towson University sign memorandum of understanding

Jan. 27, 2018

The Maryland National Guard and Towson University affirmed their partnership prior to the Military Appreciation men's basketball game, with a signing of a memorandum of understanding that will provide new opportunities to both service members and Towson University students.

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



MDNG celebrates Estonia's independence day



Feb. 21, 2018

The Swing Swindlers led by Mart Sander performed Estonian music for members of the Maryland National Guard at the Fifth Regiment Armory to celebrate proclamation of Estonia as an independent, democratic republic on February 24, 1918.

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

231st Chemical Company conducts training

Feb. 10, 2018

Maryland National Guard soldiers, from the 231st Chemical Company, conduct critical interagency training at North Carroll High School in Hampstead, Maryland. More than 100 soldiers spent the day simulating a mass casualty incident with the Hampstead Fire Company. They trained on both their reconnaissance and denomination mission.

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



MDNG at Maryland Polar Bear Plunge

Jan. 26, 2018

The Maryland National Guard service members participate in the Polar Bear Plunge at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis, Maryland, in support of the Maryland State Police, for the Special Olympics of Maryland. This fundraising event had service members splashing in the icy Chesapeake Bay to benefit the 7,549 athletes of Special Olympics Maryland.



Photos by Col. Charles Kohler, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office

Final Frame



PHOTO BY CPL. ELIZABETH SCOTT

Senior Airman David Burke, 135th Intel Squadron, 175th Wing, pulls a Skedco litter up a hill during a stress shoot event in the Maryland National Guard Best Warrior Competition at Glen Arm, Maryland on March 16, 2018.