



The HORNET



**NCNG responds to
Hurricane Isaias**



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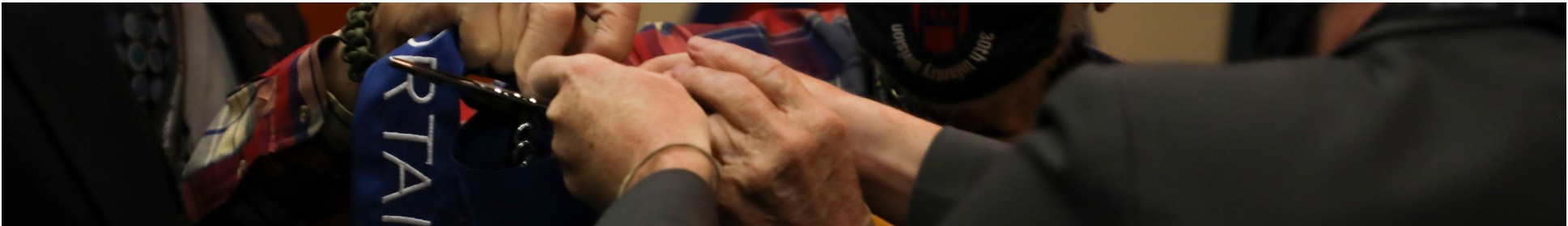
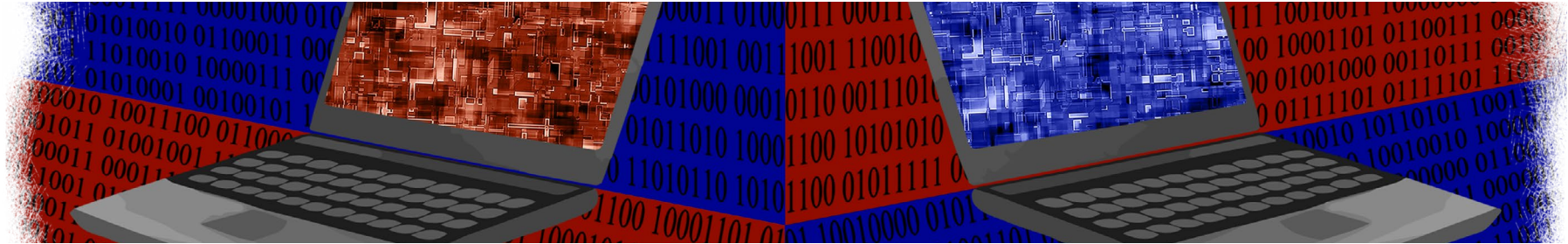
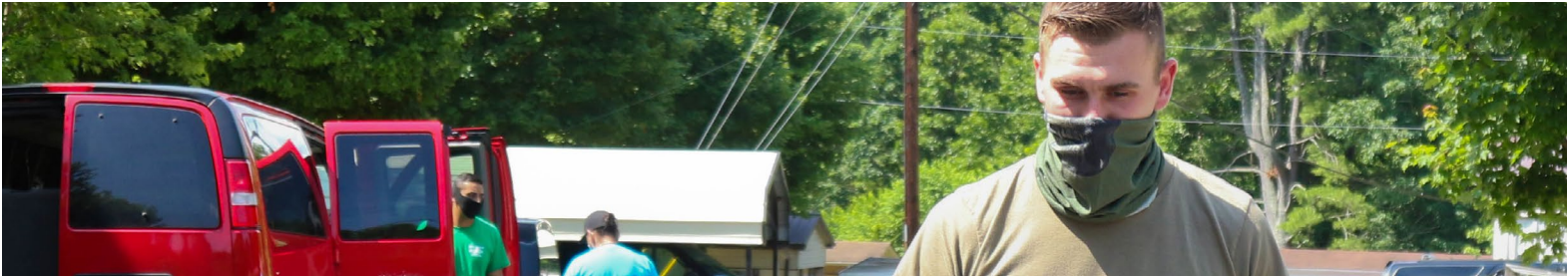
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Layout and design by Staff Sgt. Mary Junell

Inside this Issue:



On The Cover:

A North Carolina National Guard Soldier assigned to the 882nd Engineer Company, 105th Engineer Battalion, helps a resident gather his dogs following a tornado spawned by Hurricane Isaias in Windsor, North Carolina, Aug. 4, 2020. The North Carolina National Guard coordinates with, and assists, N.C. Emergency Management to assess damage and aide civilians adversely affected by the storm.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Mary Junell

Also in This Issue:

Medics at RNC, Pg. 15

690th Reorganization, Pg. 19

Flying Cross Award Cermony, Pg. 25

30th Returns Home, Pg. 31

CST at RNC, Pg. 33

**Click to follow us on
Facebook and Twitter!**

Don't Forget!

You can click on the story descriptions above to go directly to that story! Than click the home button to return here!

Where is SFC Jordan?

Can you find the tiny version of Sgt. 1st Class Robert Jordan hidden among these pages? Our well loved photojournalist is hiding somewhere in the Hornet!



The NCNG Child and Youth Program school drive-in was held at Joint Force Headquarters in Raleigh, North Carolina on August 13, 2020. NCNG Families came by and picked up backpacks full of supplies to help out at the beginning of the school year.

North Carolina National Guard Family Programs presents an award to nonprofit, Military Mission In Action for all their efforts to help guardsmen in need on August 26, 2020, at Joint Force Headquarters in Raleigh, North Carolina..

Friends and Family came together to officially celebrate the promotion of Col. Jeff Copeland to the rank of Brigadier General in a ceremony at JFHQ on Aug. 17, 2020. Effective 15 Aug., 2020, Copeland will join the North Carolina senior leadership team as an Assistant Adjutant General and the North Carolina National Guard's Director, Joint Staff.

A joint ceremony honored incoming leaders for the North Carolina National Guard's (NCNG) "Steel Brigade" 113th Sustainment Brigade (SB), North Carolina Army National Guard (NCARNG) Capt. Shavonne Weston formally took command of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 113th SB at a formation held at the unit's armory in Greensboro North Carolina, July 10, 2020.



North Carolina Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 449th Theater Aviation Brigade were recognized for their work with Action Pathways' Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast North Carolina during a small ceremony in Fayetteville, North Carolina, July 23, 2020. The Soldiers were part of the more than 940 Soldiers and Airmen activated during North Carolina's response to COVID-19..

The North Carolina National Guard was joined by Brig. Gen. Allan Cecil, NCARNG Chief of Staff, to celebrate the Air Force's 73rd birthday with a cake-cutting on September 18, 2020, at Joint Force Headquarters in Raleigh, N.C. The birthdate of the U.S. Airforce was on September 18, 1947.

North Carolina Army National Guard (NCARNG) leaders meet with officials and citizens of the Town of Scotland Neck, North Carolina before they return the former North Carolina National Guard (NCNG) Armory to the town at a ceremony held on site, Aug. 12, 2020. The 14,000 square foot facility was home to the NCNG's Detachment 2, A Company, 690th Brigade Support Battalion, 130th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB) for decades until reorganization and modernization required transfer of the Soldiers and equipment to other NCNG facilities.

Chief Master Sgt. Maurice L. Williams was selected as the new Command Chief of the Air National Guard! Many may remember Chief Williams as our state Command Chief just a few years ago.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE NEST

A controlled implosion by Steve Pettigrew Inc., a demolitions contractor brings down the 16-story former Western Youth Institution facility in Morganton, North Carolina, July 11, 2020. North Carolina Army National Guard Col. Rodney Newton, North Carolina National Guard Construction Facilities Management Officer was invited to trigger the detonator that started the controlled implosion that brought down the building to be cleared for the construction of a new NCNG Regional Readiness Center by Hickory Construction and sub contractor D.H. Griffin Companies. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Jordan



An Air National Guard firefighter negotiates a maneuver during the Low Angle and Rappel portion of the Rescue Tech 1 course, August 12, 2020, at the 145th Airlift Wings' regional training center in New London, NC. The 145th Airlift is the only National Guard unit that teaches Rescue Tech 1 and Rescue Tech 2, and open to all firefighters—Active Duty Air Force, National Guard, Reserve and civilian. Photo by Staff Sgt. Sonia Clark

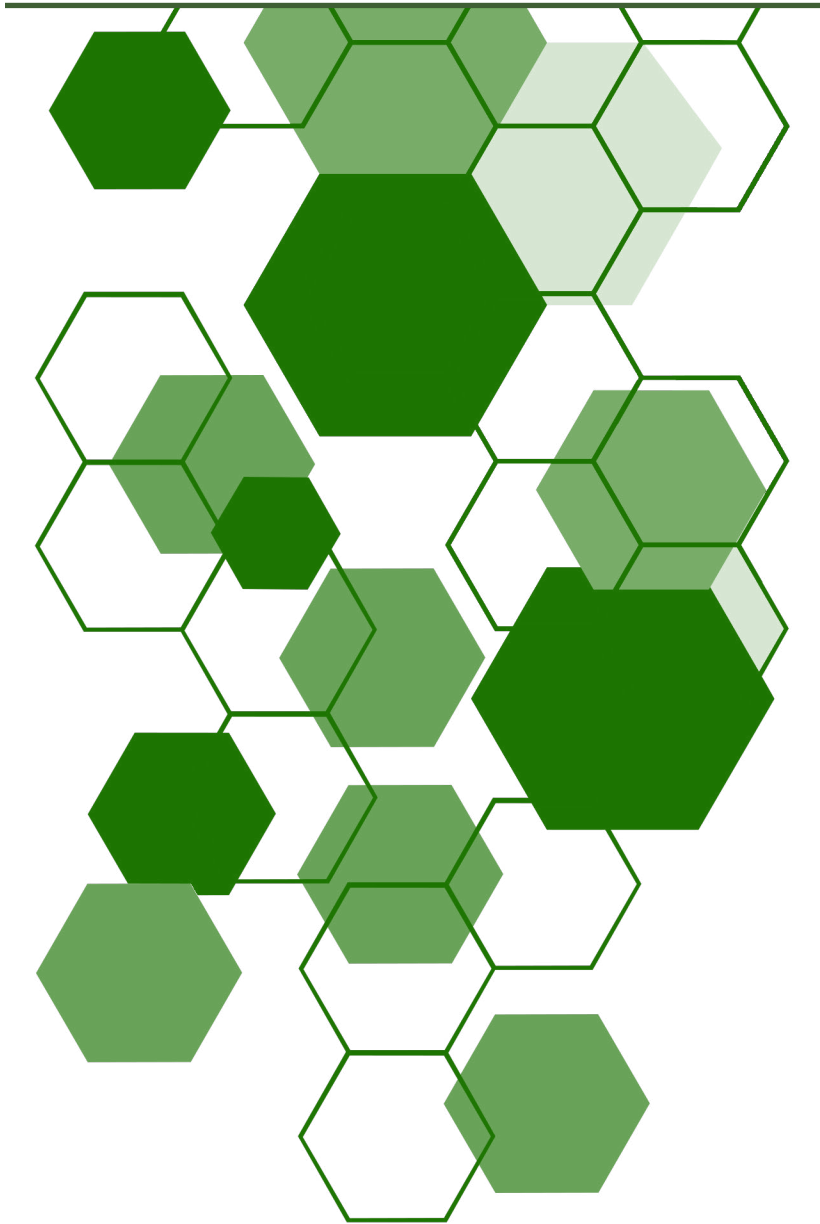




North Carolina Army National Guard Pvt. 1st Class Bennie Kinley (right), assigned to the 875th Engineer Company, helps carry breakfast meals, prepared at the Johnston Elementary School, to the children's houses of Buncombe County in Asheville, N.C., June 26, 2020.

COVID 19: BEYOND THE UNIFORM

BY HANNAH TARKELLY



It was a blistering hot day in the mountains of Asheville when North Carolina Army National Guard Pvt. 1st Class Bennie Kinley and Spc. Enrique Acevedo were handing out meals to the children of Buncombe County. Suddenly, a mother within the neighborhood graciously offered the two hard working Guardsmen ice cream in an effort to cool them down as the temperature continued to rise.

This simple scoop of kindness showcased a turning point in the developing relationship between these service members and the local community. It was more than just ice cream. It was an offering or a symbol of established trust.

"It shows the trust and strength between these programs and the communities," Acevedo said. "They seem to be more accepting that we are just trying to help... that there is

good intention here."

Acevedo and Kinley of the 875th Engineer Company were a part of an eight man team who were called up to help the citizens of Asheville. Their service to their country impacted the community so much so that it set forth an unstoppable wave of unity, kindness, and friendship during a time of crisis.

"Being an influence on the community just by being who you are makes you a better person," Acevedo said.

At the beginning of their orders the guardians in green were met with skepticism and wariness from the community who were not traditionally exposed to the uniform. Therefore, Acevedo and Kinley took off their uniforms and began to distribute food in civilian clothing to integrate into the community and show that they were just human beings trying to help.

"It feels really good to go out there and build trust with the communities," Kinley said.

For more than sixty days the Guardsmen have assisted the Mountain Area Nutritional Needs Alliance (MANNA) Foodbank feed sixteen counties and support local school food programs.

Western N.C. is home to diverse communities whose backgrounds originate from across the world and individuals who speak a variety of languages.

In order to effectively communicate with the Latino community, these Citizen-

Soldiers went beyond their duties and utilized their unique skill sets to break down language barriers and build relationships of trust.

Kinley began to learn Spanish in Army Basic Combat Training to help a fellow trainee, who could not speak English, communicate with her drill sergeants. He continued to enhance his Spanish speaking capabilities through civilian jobs and friends.

"I chose to learn to understand," Kinley said. "You could still have a friendship through a language barrier but the more you learn... you gain more of a trust and stronger bond with them."

This experience further encouraged Kinley to learn and communicate with the families they were serving. Acevedo has been a guide in helping Kinley learn the culture and speak Spanish.

Acevedo has been a strong asset to the team due to his background, knowledge, and ability to easily connect with the local community. Spanish was Acevedo's first language

in which he was born in New Jersey, raised in Mexico, and returned to the U.S. with his mother to make a better living.

When Acevedo was younger, he and his family often faced struggles from financial insecurity and because of this, he began working at his mother's cleaning service. Due to these hardships, Acevedo knows what it's like to ask for help and receive assistance from the programs much like the one he is now working at in Asheville.

"I've been working all my life," Acevedo said. "I understand what these people are going through. I used to be on these programs so I understand what that means."

Having diversity within the ranks and Citizen-Soldiers that understand makes a world of difference to the people who are trying to ask for help and communicate their needs.

NCARNG Sgt. Jonathan Greene, assigned to the 883rd Engineer Company and the non-commissioned officer in charge for the Asheville

emergency relief team has also made strides in helping the diverse community.

Back home Greene was a volunteer at a local church that had a chapel for the deaf. The pastor mentored Greene and taught him American Sign Language.

Greene was able to transfer his capabilities and communicate with families in Asheville who were deaf and needed assistance. His unique asset enabled the food bank to effectively understand their needs and provide them the necessary food.

"That always stuck with me," Greene said. "Especially handing out food to the families that were deaf."

This NCARNG eight man team brought more than just a helping hand and went beyond their traditional duties to help achieve the joint mission.

Citizen-Soldiers such as these men are what make the National Guard a diverse, ready, and capable fighting force.

"We're making more of a difference," Greene said. "We're helping a community."



Pvt. 1st Class Bennie Kinley and Amelia Lozano, a school cafeteria worker, to distribute breakfast meals, prepared at the Johnston Elementary School, to the children of Buncombe County.

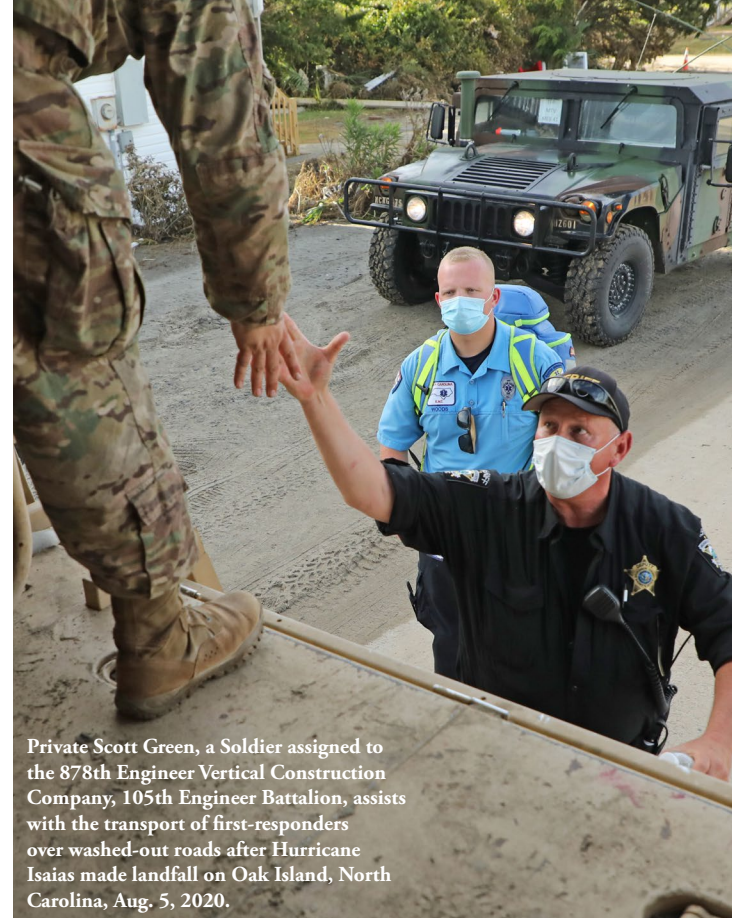


Pvt. 1st Class Bennie Kinley (right) and Spc. Acevedo Enrique, work with Amelia Lozano, a school cafeteria worker, to prepare breakfast meals for the children of Buncombe County.

130th MEB vs Hurricane Isaias

By Sgt. Lisa Vines

North Carolina Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 130th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade's 105th and 505th Engineer Battalions worked alongside Brunswick County Emergency Management to transport first-responders and evacuate citizens stranded on Oak Island following Hurricane Isaias, Aug. 5, 2020.



Private Scott Green, a Soldier assigned to the 878th Engineer Vertical Construction Company, 105th Engineer Battalion, assists with the transport of first-responders over washed-out roads after Hurricane Isaias made landfall on Oak Island, North Carolina, Aug. 5, 2020.



Vehicles assigned to the 878th Engineer Vertical Construction Company, 105th Engineer Battalion, drive through flooded roads and debris on the way to assist stranded civilians on Oak Island, North Carolina, Aug. 5, 2020.

Hurricane Isaias touched down along the southeastern coast of North Carolina as a category one hurricane. Guardsmen were dispatched across the state to assist in efforts in recovery. The NCNG has supported the recovery in various aspects, from tornado clean-up to coastal evacuations.

Guardsmen assigned to the 878th Engineer Vertical Construction Company had just completed annual training and were on their way to Camp Butner for weapons qualification when they got the call to respond. The next day they packed their bags, drove to the Eastern coast, and were dispatched to locations predicted to be hardest hit by the hurricane.

Many of the Soldiers activated for Isaias also assisted with COVID-19 operations.

“There are different missions, but the overall goal is the same; to make sure everyone in the community is taken care of safely,” said U.S. Army Sgt. Richard Ballard, an interior electrician assigned to the 878th. “On the COVID side, we were creating food boxes and kids and families, and here it’s helping with the evacuation and anything they need as far as moving out safely.”

The engineers maneuvered their vehicles through sand and water-covered roads, following directions from local officials and emergency management, to distribute water

and help get people off the island.

“If they need any type of transportation, we use an LMTV or any type of vehicle that we have. Anyone we see walking or any of the civilians that we transport, we make sure they’re hydrated and give out water,” said Ballard.

Teams conducted a house-to-house search of all the homes on the west end of the island to ensure residents were safe, aware of the town’s mandatory evacuation order, and provided them with assistance with getting off the island.

Lyle Johnson, the Deputy Director of Emergency Medical Services for Brunswick County, frequently works with the National Guard.

“The North Carolina National Guard is playing a huge support role in this operation,” said Johnston. “The North Carolina National Guard is here to help us get to places we can’t reach and provide transportation for those folks stranded on the island.”

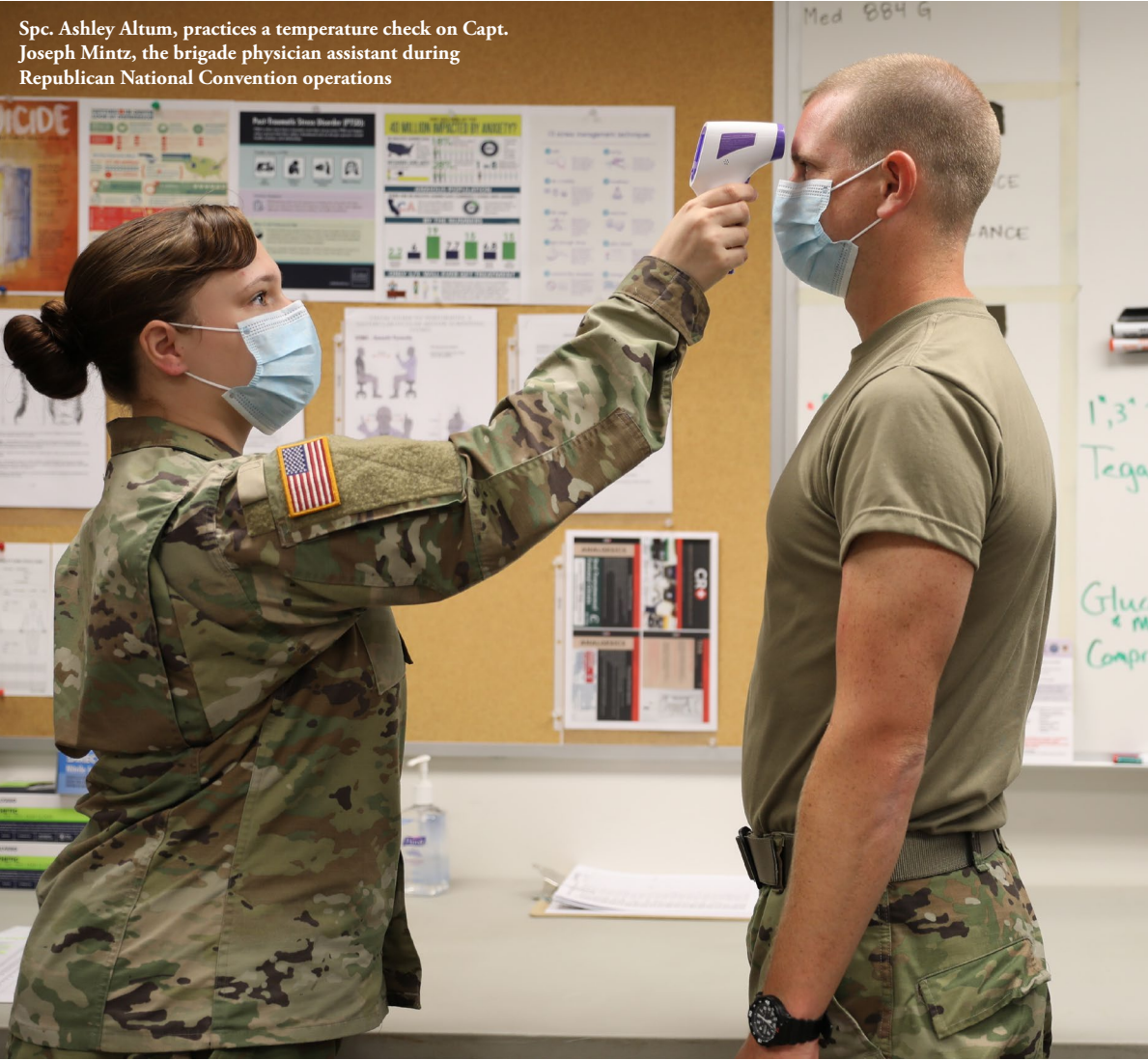
The storm helped strengthen the partnerships and interoperability between the NCNG and NC Emergency Management.

“We all just kind of work as one big team even though we’re from different organizations,” said Johnston.

Hurricane Isaias was the first Atlantic storm of 2020’s hurricane season.

Medics keeps RNC support teams safe from COVID-19

Story by Staff Sgt. Mary Junell
Photos by Staff Sgt. Leticia Samuels

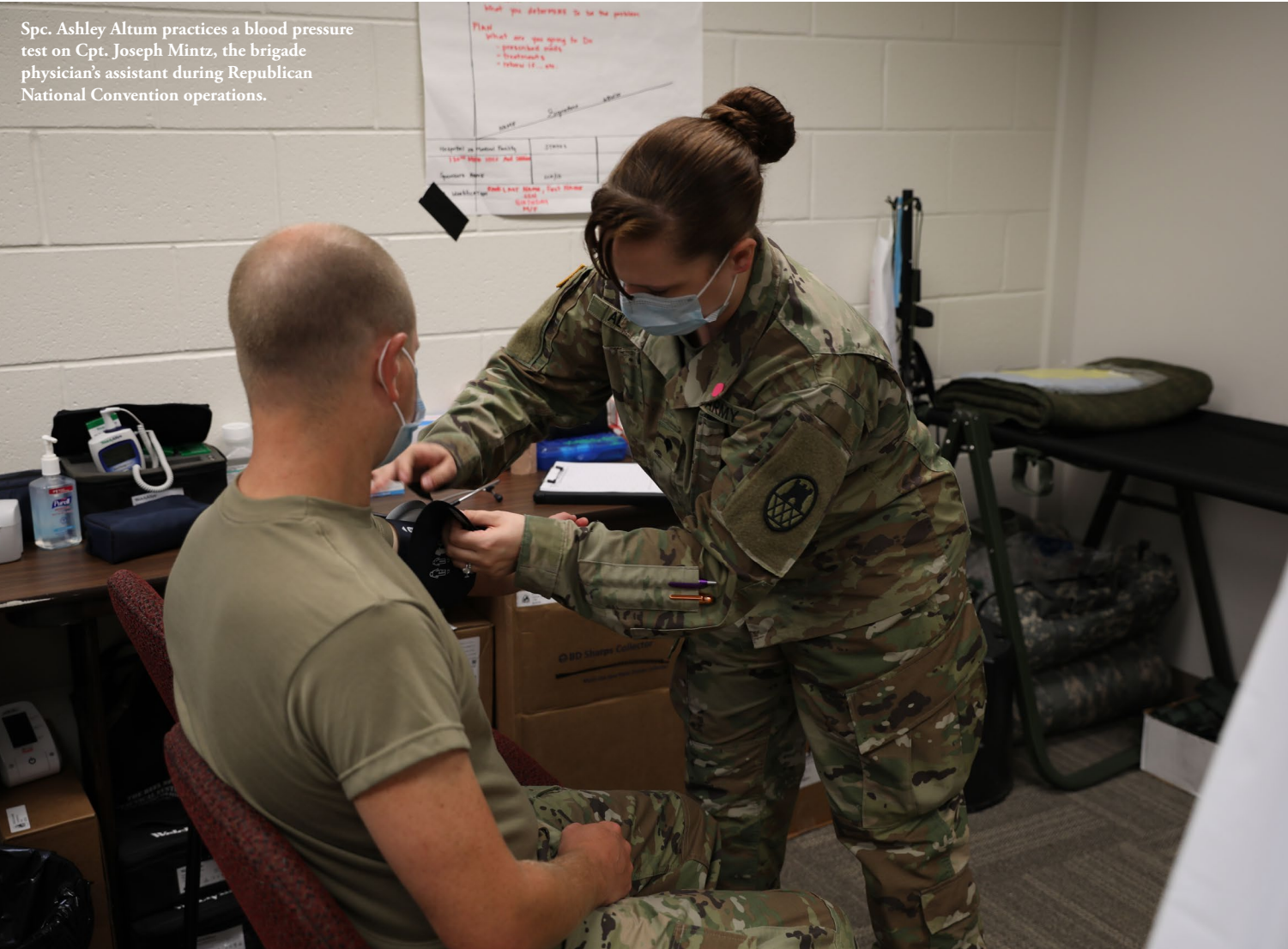


Spc. Ashley Altum, practices a temperature check on Capt. Joseph Mintz, the brigade physician assistant during Republican National Convention operations.

Medics keeps RNC support teams safe from COVID-19. Joint Task Force – Republic National Convention (JTF-RNC) came together in Charlotte, North Carolina Aug. 21-24, 2020 amidst a global pandemic to ensure the safety of citizens, delegates and critical infrastructure during the RNC event. However, with the spread of COVID-19 a concern, JTF-RNC medical staff's priority was to develop

and implement a plan to keep joint forces – consisting of North Carolina National Guardsman, Active Duty Soldiers, Marines, Airmen, and Department of Defense civilians, safe. Staff Sgt. Stacy Tindle, the medical non-commissioned officer in charge for the 130th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB), had a primary responsibility to ensure the medical welfare of all the joint forces

within the joint operations area – preventing the spread of COVID-19. Every person who entered the North Carolina National Guard Armory in Charlotte was required to wear a mask and advised to maintain 6ft of separation whenever possible. They were also greeted with a list of questions – asking about possible contact with COVID-19 positive patients, signs symptoms that could be associated with COVID-19 and if



Spc. Ashley Altum practices a blood pressure test on Cpt. Joseph Mintz, the brigade physician's assistant during Republican National Convention operations.

personnel had a temperature within the last 24 hours. “We check temperatures of every personnel coming inside the building,” Tindle said. “We also provide medical support throughout the day whenever there’s a need.” JTF-RNC participants were given a sticker with the color of the day to wear – indicating they went through a preliminary medical screening. If a person had a temperature or answered yes to any of the questions, they were not allowed to enter the building and required further medical attention. The medical team, including Capt. Joseph Mintz, a physician assistant with the 130th MEB, prepared for months to make sure they were ready to keep JTF-RNC

safe during the event. “We had a few drills where we had personnel here when we were doing these screenings and mask-wearing procedures,” Mintz said. “We collaborated with other sections to make sure we had enough cleaning supplies and surfaces were being sanitized. We had [time] to get that system set up so it was already in place by the time we got to here.” Even though the Republican National Convention was downsized due to the pandemic, the event still brought support teams from across the country, a concern for the medical team. Teams of medical personnel, physicians, nurses and medics went around the state to ensure everyone involved was complying with the CDC guidelines.

“A huge number of [people] have come from all over the state, as well as Washington D. C. to support the Republican National Convention,” Tindle said. “This has been a huge undertaking. We’ve all been really excited about it, and it’s just been a great honor, but the number of personnel is key because we want to make sure [everyone is] safe at all times.” Although the RNC was a large event bringing together military service members and Department of Defense civilians from across the country, the JTF-RNC medical team had the same priority they always do – health and safety. “Our overall mission didn’t really change much for the RNC,” Mintz said.

CYBER SHIELD 2020

STORY BY MAJ. MATTHEW BOYLE

“THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GROW AND TRAIN OUR FORCE, INCREASE THE FIDELITY OF OUR STATE PARTNERSHIPS BOTH OF WHICH GIVES THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA THE BEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT DURING AN EMERGENCY, INCIDENT OR EVENT.”

Soldiers and Airmen of the North Carolina National Guard participated in Cyber Shield 2020 at the Fort Fisher Training Center, Kure Beach, N.C. on Sept. 21 – 25, 2020.

Cyber Shield 2020 is a national event with over 500 participants, including 21 groups from the East Coast to Guam, replicating the real world interaction between National Guard, state and territory agencies.

Each group includes a blue team defending the network and a red team attacking or exploiting the network. The exercise is supported by a virtual range control and fusion cell which provide technical support and liaison with other federal and state agencies.

“Being able to work across physical locations, trouble shooting technical problems at each site, we formed this team during Cyber Shield 2020 exercise leveraging Microsoft Teams and other platforms to collaborate, so to do all this is very rewarding,” said North Carolina Army National Guard Maj. Justin Hillberry, Blue Team 22 leader and Cyber Security Specialist.

The blue team is responsible for defensive cyber operations to include conducting incident management response for state and local partners, augmenting state partner information technology teams, defending the virtual network which simulates a mission partner network, and intercepting attacks and exploits.

The blue team is comprised of 20 personnel, five from Virginia and 15 from North Carolina from the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, North Carolina Air National Guard and North Carolina Army National Guard.

“The North Carolina National Guard is heavily involved in incident response,” said Hillberry. “This is an opportunity to grow and train our force, increase the fidelity of our state partnerships both of which gives the state of North Carolina the best possible support during an emergency, incident or event.”

The red team is responsible for emulating threats and opposition forces. They use known tools to compromise

the blue team network. Red team leaves evidence of compromise and provides exploits for the blue team to interact with.

Red team tactics include phishing, water hole attack and exploiting outdated software and expired software patches.

“It is an opportunity to practice offensive capabilities, which is a valuable learning experience, during the year I focus on defending our network, here at Cyber Shield I get the chance to be offensive which makes me a better defender,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Timothy Hitch, Red Team 22 Leader.

Cyber Shield Range Control, designed the network architecture for the digital range. The digital range includes the traffic generation, back end development and is the virtual environment that the entire Cyber Shield exercise is operating on.

The digital range took 13 months to build. This is the first year that the range has been designed and operated by

military personnel, and is the foundation for Cyber Shield for 2021 and beyond.

“The most rewarding aspect of this project has been working with all the states and territories from the East Coast to Guam, making sure they are set up to have a productive Cyber Shield exercise,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Schaecher, Telecom Manager, North Carolina National Guard.

Cyber Shield 2020 provided an opportunity to develop, train and exercise cyber forces the ability to conduct cyber incident response and computer network internal defensive measures. This effort allows National Guard Cyber experts to coordinate, train and assist federal, state and industry network owners that are threatened by cyberattack. offensive capabilities, which is a valuable learning experience, during the year I focus on defending our network, here at Cyber Shield I get the chance to be offensive which makes me a better defender,” said

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North Carolina Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Latrica Quander-Freeman, a cyber operator assigned to the 263rd Combat Communications Squadron, updates a computer as part of Cyber Shield 2020.
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Jordan

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**Brenda
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Director, NCNG SBIRT Voucher Program
Alcohol/Drug Council of NC

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**Partnership for
Early Intervention
Support Services**



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Mental Health,
Developmental Disabilities
and Substance Abuse Services

The Alcohol / Drug Council of North Carolina
is partially supported by the Division of Mental Health,
Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse
Services through a Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration Grant.

690TH BRIGADE SUPPORT BATTALION AND 109TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION REORGANIZATION CEREMONY



PHOTO BY SGT. ODALISKA ALMONTE

An end of an era and the beginning of a new one as the 690th Brigade Support Battalion cases their colors and the 109th Military Police Battalion encases their colors, at a Reorganization ceremony on 12 September 2020, at the Kinston Armory.

The 690th Brigade Support Battalion's lineage is derived from North Carolina's

Service Battery, 117th Field Artillery an Element of the 31st Division dating back to 1925. The 690th was reorganized and transformed on 1 September 2006 as an element of the 130th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. On 1 October 2008, the 690th BSB was reassigned to the 113th Sustainment Brigade formerly the 113th Field Artillery Brigade. The 690th BSB was finally reorganized on 1 October 2014 back to the 130th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

Among their many accomplishments,

the 690th BSB was crucial to the complete transfer of equipment for the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team's 2019 NTC rotation to the most recent COVID-19 response that transitioned into civil unrest support.

"From combat service to hurricane response to winter storm support, to civil disturbance support, to core sustainment missions, there has never been an ask of this Battalion that they did not willingly and ably answer," said Lt. Colonel Kimberly S. Graham, commander of the 690th Brigade Support Battalion. "I have witnessed, first hand, an unmatched level of commitment, compassion, and genuine desire to serve something greater than themselves in each and every mission 690th Soldiers undertook. Their flexibility, adaptability, and their commitment to each other and the mission is their shining trait and the example they have set for so many others."

As the colors of the 109th Military Police Battalion were uncased the history of the unit was recalled. The 109th dates back to 24 March 1888 when it was organized as Company F Asheville Light Infantry, 4th Regiment of Infantry in North Carolina State Guard. Their history spans WWI and WWII, as well as activations and inactivation within North and South Carolina in the late 1960s.

The activation of the 109th MP Battalion welcomes back over 130 years of rich history to the North Carolina National Guard.

"It is with the advice of Gen. Carl E. Vuono, Chief of Staff of the Army from 1987 to 1991, who said "We need to draw on the past, be responsible for the present, and shape the future" that I humbly take command of the 109th Military Police Battalion," said Lt. Colonel Leland G. Pearson, Commander of the 109th Military Police Battalion.



As service members transition out of the military and into civilian lifestyles, they can experience difficulties adjusting to their new routines. They may also experience increased day-to-day stressors, or sudden unexpected changes, while still serving. For many, they must also overcome the stigma of seeking mental health care. The North Carolina National Guard's Integrated Behavioral Health System (IBHS) is a program that seeks to help Guardsmen dissolve that stigma.

"If you as an individual aren't healthy, your career is going to suffer," said retired Staff Sgt. Ricky Cannon.

Cannon, a veteran of the North Carolina Army National Guard, sought the help of IBHS following suicide attempts and a conversation during a routine health assessment.

"I was in this place where I really felt like I needed help," said Cannon, who deployed with the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, in 2003. "When I started the process, I felt like I was in a tunnel, the deepest darkest tunnel, and I was alone."

Mental health is an integral part of everyone's life, especially for service members and their families. Guard men and women carry a lot of responsibility, and that mental load can sometimes take a toll.

"I realized there was a light at the end of that tunnel, as opposed to feeling isolated. You just kind of get that tough skin that not only keeps people away from your heart, but it keeps you from coming out," said Cannon. "It's been beneficial for me. I'm not where I want to be, but I'm way, way further than I ever thought I would be."

IBHS treats its clients as humans, not another name on a list, which was one of the keys to why the IBHS program stuck with Cannon.

"I really had to put in effort. Anything that I do and I have to put in effort, I like to see results," said Cannon.

The North Carolina National

Guard's IBHS is a program that services all reserve-component service members and their families, whether their need is clinical or they need help handling unforeseen situations.

Staff Sgt. LaTonya Sherrod is a Soldier who needed help with one of those unforeseen situations as she found herself in the temporary custody of her grandchildren, infant twins and a toddler.

"I was given my grandchildren unexpectedly through Child Protective Services," said Sherrod, a G1 medical detachment Soldier assigned to the 449th Theater Aviation Brigade. "So, after that point my life became a little overwhelming."

The newfound stress in Sherrod's life began to affect her work, and it was at that point when she found herself in need of help.

An IBHS case manager, Jennifer Farrelly, quickly responded and offered Sherrod more assistance than she had anticipated.

"The beauty of IBHS is that we can come in and help a service member when they just have basic needs," said Farrelly, who has been in her position at IBHS almost since the inception of the program in 2010. "A lot of people are afraid to call IBHS because of the stigma, but it's not just about clinical, or suicidal or homicidal thoughts, it is when you are in a place where you're really struggling with those basic needs."

The stigma that Farrelly, and many service members, spoke of is the fear that there will be repercussions for asking for help. As Sherrod discovered, that stigma should be an issue.

"I've been in the military for twenty years, and the stigma that everyone talks about, I had as well," said Sherrod. "I was afraid to call and give my situation, my story, because I didn't want it to affect my military career. But things had already affected my career to the point that people noticed something was wrong. So when I called IBHS I actually got more information and more help than I ever

thought I would have."

Farrelly assisted Sherrod in obtaining cribs, mattresses, diapers, food, and more.

Sherrod said that discovering what resources IBHS could offer was eye-opening.

Farrelly was present throughout the entire process and continued to keep in touch even after her grandchildren returned to their mother.

"To be able help so many people, especially the service members, who go out and protect us all the time, to be able to come in at their point of need – is what I love about my job," said Farrelly. "If you listen well, you can answer the question that they're not even able to ask themselves. By doing that, you immediately take them off guard and they realize that you care about them as a person because you've heard what they have to say without even having to say it."

North Carolina National Guard's Integrated Behavioral Health System is a free, confidential program that begins when you call their 24 hour, seven days a week, phone line at 1-855-322-3848. Benefits include crisis intervention, clinical assessment, treatment, emergency financial assistance, food, shelter, and many more support sources.

Since IBHS began helping NC Guardsmen, the program has successfully conducted hundreds of interventions, counselings, clinical visits, and referrals to other specialists.



SAVE YOURSELF A TRIP TO YOUR COMMANDER'S OFFICE THIS ELECTION SEASON

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Post or display contempt toward senior leadership and officials

Wear your uniform at a political event

Distribute political campaign literature while in uniform or at any NC Guard/DoD facility

Speak publicly or provide written commentary while on NC Guard Duty (any pay status)

Engage in political activities while on NC Guard Duty (any pay status) or while at work in a NC Guard/DoD facility

DO...

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TWO NCNG AVIATORS EARN DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS WITH VALOR

STORY BY SPC. ALONZO CLARK

Airmen and Soldiers from across the country gathered at the North Carolina National Guard Joint Force Headquarters in Raleigh, North Carolina, to witness Capt. Stephen Scott, and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Eric Carver, both of the 1-130th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion (1-130th ARB) receive the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor award on August 18, 2020.

In 2018, while deployed in Afghanistan, the 1-130th ARB was spread out in several locations.

The 1-130th ARB deployed as Task Force Panther, had, 680 Soldiers and 54 aircraft both from Army Active Duty and National Guard units, were tasked with general support and direct support missions for Operations Freedom's Sentinel and Resolute Support.

For Scott and Carver, their mission was to provide security and attack operations in support to Special Forces Operational Detachment Alpha (ODA) 7225.

In late November 2018 during a night mission, immediately as ODA 7225 stepped off their aircraft in a remote village of the Uruzgan Province of Afghanistan, they received heavy fire from enemy forces. The two pilots in close support of ODA 7225 quickly used their situational awareness to identify enemy targets and engage them after permission was given.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brandon P. Faia, ground force commander for Special Forces ODA 7225 reminisced and gave his perspective on his bond with the pilots.

"Pilots and Green Berets have their own languages," said Faia. "We could always count on Carver and Scott to chime in and say, 'Oh

yeah, the place you are going to is not safe, but you can count us in.' Immediately we became friends."

Faia shared with the audience the details that happened that night, including capturing the Senior Taliban Leader in Deh Rawud District, Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan, and the many actions that lead to Scott and Carver

receiving this valor award.

"CW4 Carver and Capt. Scott risked their lives for us that night in Deh Rawud District. No medal, no words can describe how grateful we all are," said Faia.

Carver and Scott's heroism and efforts resulted in a successful mission for ODA 7225 without injuries or loss of lives.



Airmen and Soldiers from across the country gathered to witness Capt. Stephen Scott (left), and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Eric Carver, both of the 1-130th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion receive the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor award. Photo by Lt. Col. Matthew Devivo



Command Sgt. Major Russell Prince, the North Carolina National Guard State Senior Enlisted Leader, pins the Presidential Unit Citation onto George Hamm, a 30th Infantry Division veteran, during an event honoring the Division in Raleigh, North Carolina, July 25th, 2020. The 30th ID was honored with the award 75 years after their triumph of the Battle of Mortain.



30th Infantry Division Receives Long Awaited Presidential Unit Citation

By Sgt. Lisa Vines

Leaders and veterans of the "Old Hickory" Division finally had the opportunity to pin the Presidential Unit Citation on to veterans of the 30th Infantry Division, more than 75 years after the

close of their European campaign, at Joint Force Headquarters in Raleigh, North Carolina, July 25th, 2020.

In March, President Trump announced that the Army was to award to 30th

Infantry Division with the Presidential Unit Citation for their extraordinary heroism at the Battle of Mortain, France, in 1944. Many subordinate units of the 30th earned Presidential Unit Citations

(PUC), but not for the division level until now.

"We will continue to tell these veterans stories day in and day out, and make sure they understand what legacy they are carrying by wearing the patch," said U.S. Army Col. Wes Morrison, the North Carolina Army National Guard Chief of Staff and veteran of the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team.

Morrison was a history major in college and worked for the North Carolina Division of Archives and History. His experience and devotion to these World War II veterans helped progress the award

The 30th Infantry Division's Colors and Mortain streamer are displayed during an event honoring the Division's receipt of the Presidential Unit Citation



30th Infantry Division veterans attach the Presidential Unit Citation streamer, embroidered with Mortain, to the 30th Brigade Colors during an event honoring the Division's receipt of the Presidential Unit Citation.

recommendation through to final approval.

"I organized their arguments historically, pieced the evidence together to say here is a solid argument that can be made for this award," Morrison said.

The 30th Infantry Division landed at Omaha Beach on June 10th, 1944. On August 6th, multiple Nazi tank divisions attacked the soldiers of Old Hickory at Mortain

for six days. The National Guard Soldiers, including its cooks, clerks, and drivers, fought back and defeated the Nazis, saving Mortain and its residents.

One of those heroes, Tony Jaber, a Raleigh native who was a mortar gunner assigned to Company E of the 120th Infantry Regiment, remembers his time in Europe and the battle at Mortain in great detail.

"I wondered if we'd ever get rescued, but I didn't think that I'd ever get killed up there," said Jaber. "We had a company commander who wouldn't surrender, so we were lucky...but those people who weren't on that hill, but were still fighting to get us off that hill, they won't ever know that they were ever honored."

The Brigade's receipt of the award coincided

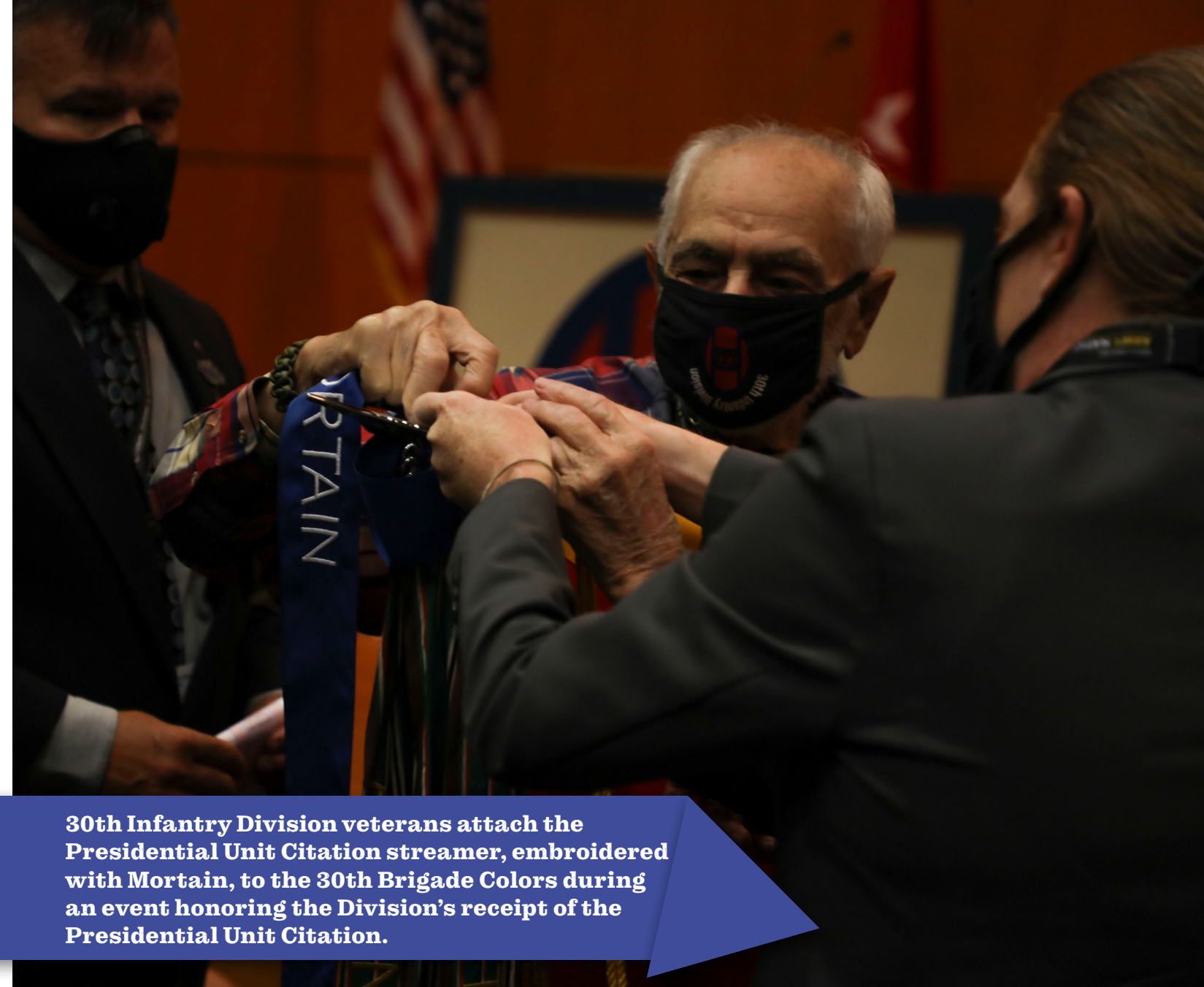
with their 74th Annual Reunion, where the remaining veterans of the 30th ID meet and reminisce. Although the attended veterans are all at least 90 years old, their bonds remain familiar and strong.

"This is the first time that I've been out in a really long time," said Jaber, speaking on how he was fortunate to attend the reunion, despite the

pandemic. "I wouldn't miss it, and I'm not going to miss the rest of it either."

Click the link below to view the Citation!

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NC Guard 30th Brigade Soldiers Return from Middle East Deployment

Family and loved ones welcome home Soldiers of the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team as they arrive at the Sgt. Lance Eakes Readiness Center in Durham after a year-long deployment to the Middle East in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield August 1, 2020.

(Photos by Robert Jordan and Staff Sgt. Brendan Stephens)



42nd CST stands ready at RNC in Charlotte

Story by Sgt. Lisa Vines

The North Carolina National Guard's 42nd Civil Support Team worked alongside the Department of Energy to ensure attendees' safety and welfare during the Republican National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, Aug. 21-24th, 2020.

There are seven National Guard Civil Support Teams from across the country in Charlotte for the event, ready to respond whenever the call arises. All of the teams specialize in chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and environmental (CBRNE) response.

"Our job here is to provide CBRNE efforts to the Republican National Convention," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Bradley Merritt, the 42nd CST commander. "We're providing radiological support to the department of energy, and we're also providing support to the fire and life safety teams that are on the ground responding to issues that arise."

Although the teams are from across the country, North

Carolina remains in the lead.

"At the end of the day, it's a local event," Merritt said. "It's going to start local, it's going to end local. We're here to provide all that chemical radiological biological support to Charlotte in the event something does happen, even after all the federal level assets leave."

The 42nd CST frequently works alongside state and federal departments during training exercises and real-life events. The United States Department of Energy also deployed teams to Charlotte to work in tandem with the NCNG.

"The department of energy is the overall lead for what we call preventive radiological nuclear detection activities," said Christina Edwards, the Dept. of Energy's (DOE) senior response official for the RNC. "With my operation, there are 25 CSTs. We have some that will be supporting sweeps of the convention center and then some that will be supporting the personal screening at the magnetometer operation."

Civil Support Teams frequently train for events just like this one. Communication plays a critical role between the various departments and is a large part of their training.

"The reason why all this training is important is because you never know exactly what you're going to run into in the types of situations," said U.S. Army Capt. Kevin Meccariello, a survey team leader for the 42nd CST. "A lot of the training is just being able to communicate between us at the Army National Guard level to DOE to FBI to Secret Service – making sure that we're fluent in that type of communication helps us do the mission most effectively."

The 42nd CST is made up of active duty NCNG service members and conducts multiple training exercises throughout the year, many alongside local and federal emergency responders. In addition to supporting the RNC in Charlotte, the CST assisted medical authorities at COVID-19 testing sites earlier this year.

Service Members assigned to National Guard Civil Support Teams from South Carolina, Kentucky, Connecticut, Washington D.C., Maryland, and Idaho perform preventative maintenance checks on radiation detector equipment prior to a sweep of the Time Warner Spectrum Center during the Republican National Convention, Aug. 23, 2020. Photo by Capt. Briana McFarland





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The Mission of the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Program

The SHARP program helps to achieve the goal of the Secretary of Defense to eradicate sexual assault and sexual harassment from the military. SHARP helps to create an Army culture where all Soldiers have the values, tools, and skills to prevent sexual violence. SHARP also provides sensitive care and confidential reporting for victims of sexual assault while holding offenders accountable for their actions.

The goals of the SAPR Program are to:

- (1)** Create a climate that minimizes sexual assault incidents, which impact Army personnel, Army civilians, and Family members, and, if an incident should occur, ensure that victims and subjects are treated according to Army policy.
- (2)** Create a climate that encourages victims to report incidents of sexual assault without fear.
- (3)** Establish sexual assault prevention training and awareness programs to educate Soldiers.
- (4)** Ensure sensitive and comprehensive treatment to restore victims' health and Well-being.
- (5)** Ensure leaders understand their roles and responsibilities regarding response to sexual assault victims, thoroughly investigate allegations of sexual assault, and take appropriate administrative and disciplinary action and subjects are treated according to Army policy.