



The HORNET



113th FA first National Guard unit to receive new Paladin!



**NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD
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Layout and design by Sgt. 1st Class Mary Junell

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The 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery Regiment (1-113th FA), 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) conducted an artillery live-fire exercise with the newly fielded M109A7 Self-Propelled Howitzer System at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, May 20-21, 2021.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Mary Junell

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Don't Forget!

You can click on the story descriptions above to go directly to that story! Then 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!



Operation Homefront and Labcorp hosted a luncheon for several North Carolina National Guard Soldiers and Airmen at NCNG Joint Force Headquarters in Raleigh, North Carolina, June 7, 2021. The lunch was to honor and thank NCNG Soldiers and Airmen for their COVID-19 relief missions across the state. "Operation Homefront is pleased to say thank you to our soldiers by providing them with an individual hot meal due to the support of Labcorp," said Samantha Martin, North Carolina Area Manager for Operation Homefront.

North Carolina Air National Guard welcomed a new senior leader as Chip Wofford assumed the rank of Colonel at a ceremony held at the North Carolina National Guard Joint Force Headquarters in Raleigh, North Carolina, May 8, 2021.

The North Carolina National Guard recognized four infantry Soldiers, Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Stewart, Master Sgt. Kim Richardson, Master Sgt. William Andrews, and Capt. Charlie Noble with the Order of Saint Maurice, an award from the National Infantry Association, for their service and leadership in Infantry Companies with the 1-252nd Armor Regiment, 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team May 18, 2021.

The NCNG participated in a Phase II of Disaster Operations and Disaster Response – Table Top Exercise (TTX) in Botswana in late May, 2021, with the Botswana Defense Force and other organizations including: Ministry of Defense, Justice, and Security, Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana, Botswana Fire Department, Botswana Police Service, Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority, Botswana Red Cross, multiple elements of Botswana Defense Force. This was the first face-to-face State Partnership meeting since the start of the pandemic in 2020.

The North Carolina National Guard celebrated the 246th Birthday of the U.S. Army during a ceremony at NCNG Joint Force Headquarters in Raleigh, North Carolina, June 14, 2021.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE NEST

Members of the NC Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association deliver an AH-1G Huey Cobra Helicopter to the NC National Guard Muse Joint Forces Headquarters in Raleigh, NC, June 16, 2021. The NC National Guard Museum and Learning Center of Excellence collects, preserve and display artifacts, documents, and memorabilia that have specific historical significance to the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard of NC. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Wayne Becton)





Sgt. Emilee Rollins, a parachute rigger with the North Carolina National Guard's 403rd Quartermaster Rigger Support Team, unfolds a parachute while inspecting it for damage at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, April 17, 2021. The 403rd supports Guard units across North Carolina by providing cargo and personal parachutes for airborne operations. (U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Mary Junell)



Soldiers with the North Carolina National Guard's 1452nd Transportation Company haul an M88 Recovery Vehicle at The National Training Center in California, June 2021. This photo was submitted at part of the NCNG's Mobile App Photo Contest by Sgt. Amber Hucks.

NC Guard and First Responders Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team Training in Weldon North Carolina

By Sgt. 1st Class Robert Jordan



North Carolina National Guard Aviators join first responders from several local and state agencies for North Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team training at Weldon, North Carolina, May 20, 2021. The training at the rapids of the Roanoke River simulated swift water rescue missions, "NC HART partners conduct training rescues over land, water, tree, and building ten times a year on average to prepare for Hurricane season," said Army Lt. Col. Benny Collins, NCNG State Army Aviation Officer.

North Carolina National Guard Aviators joined first responders from several local and state agencies for North Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team training at Weldon, North Carolina, May 19 - 20, 2021.

The training at the rapids of the Roanoke River simulated swift water rescue missions.

“NC HART partners conduct training rescues over land, water, tree, and building ten times a year on average to prepare for Hurricane season,” said Army Lt. Col. Benny Collins, NCNG State Army Aviation Officer.

Before mission, NCNG Aviators and civilian aviation staff swarmed over the 64-foot-long twin engine UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter preparing it for water rescue. Seats and doors are prepped to allow for civilian first responders to be lowered by hoist.

The NCNG crew chief briefed the teams of civilian first responders on safety and each person’s responsibilities during the mission. The teams then board the helicopter and lift off from the improvised airfield, a small park’s athletic field next to the river.

Pilots and aircrew look out the windows for a fellow first responder in the river needing rescue.

Once spotted, the pilots position the helicopter to lower a first responder by hoist down to the river nearly 100 feet below. A NCNG crew chief guides the long metal cable holding the rescuer close as possible to another first responder simulating someone trapped in the swirling rapids.

“We increased our skills at responding to a wide area flood,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jay Moon, NC HART UH-60 Lead Technician and NCNG pilot.

It was a carefully rehearsed maneuver, the helicopter must safely hover as close as possible without the wind, caused by the rotors, interfering. The rescuers fought the current and secured the simulated rescue to the harness. Once both are attached, the hoist lifted them back up to the helicopter for the crew to pull to safety



“NC HART partners conduct training rescues over land, water, tree, and building ten times a year on average to prepare for Hurricane season.” - Army Lt. Col. Benny Collins

inside.

The return flight practiced coordination with the other agencies’ helicopters and ground personnel to keep a steady pace of operations.

“We work out communication kinks with other agencies and establish face to face relationships,” said Moon.

NC HART deploys aircraft and aircrews from the NCNG and North Carolina State Highway Patrol with rescue technicians employed by fire departments and rescue squads from across the state on request by civilian officials through North Carolina Emergency Management.

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Army Aviators and first responders practice water rescue maneuvers.

Struggling with Alcohol / Drug use?

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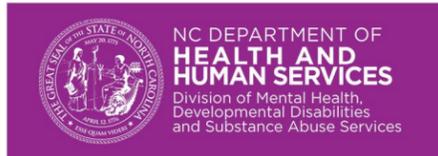


Brenda Monforti

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

SBIRT
Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment

Partnership for Early Intervention Support 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.

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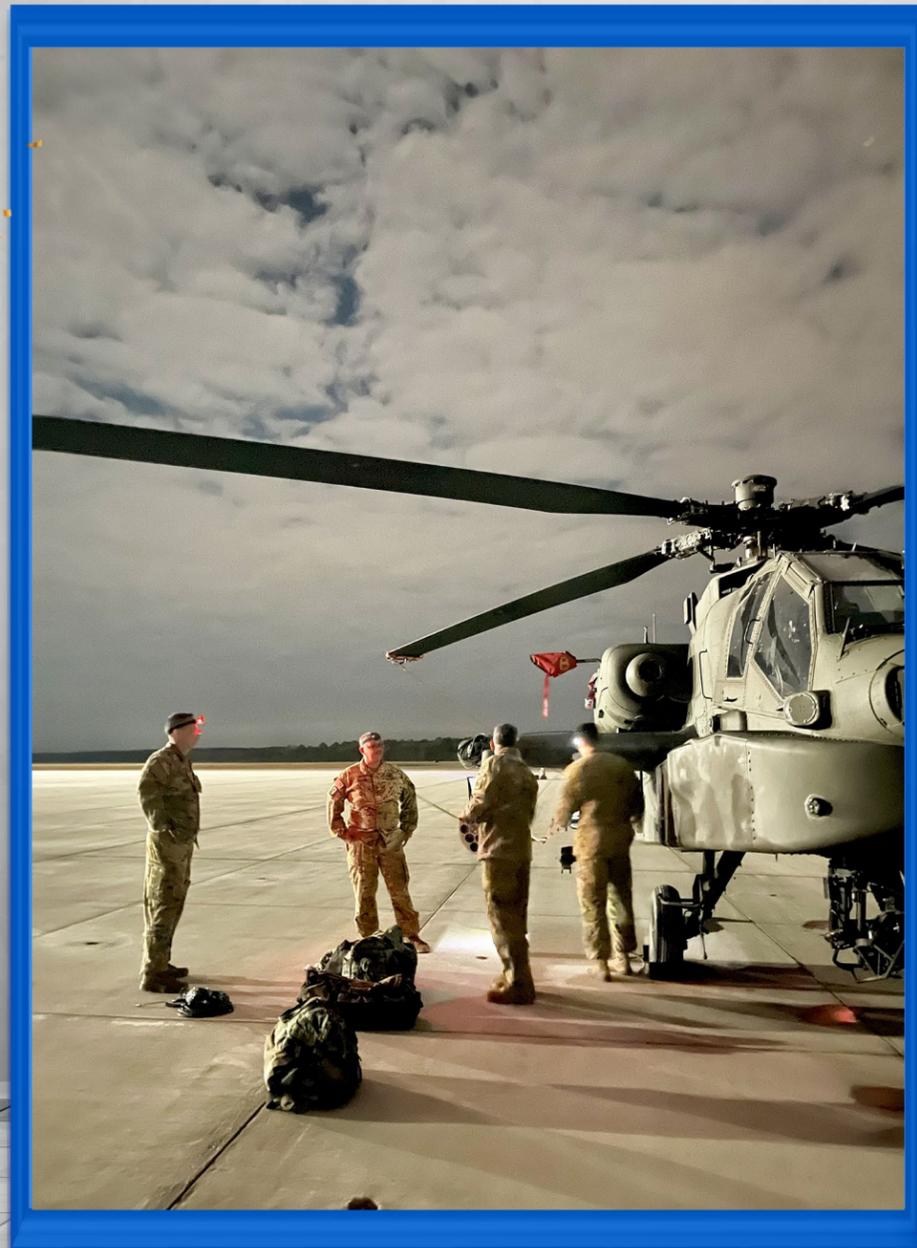


910.973.3879 \ duane.m.hernandez.mil@mail.mil

MARCH

Mobile App Photo Contest

WINNER



**Photo by:
Major Bethany
Barden
1-130th Attack
Reconnaissance
Battalion Crew
conducts
post-flight after
successful mission
at Camp Shelby,
MS in support of
Emerald Warrior.**



WINNER

APRIL

Mobile App Photo Contest

WINNER



WINNER

**Photo by: Spc. Michael Caskey
1454th Transportation Company prepares for Annual Training in Concord, N.C.**

MAY

Mobile App Photo Contest

WINNER



SFC Rickey Dixon

SFC Dixon won with his photo entry honoring MSG Thaddeus Farlow, a fellow RRB member retiring, joined by the rest of the recruiting team at the 449th Combat Aviation Brigade flight line.

JUNE

Mobile App Photo Contest

WINNER



SSG Sean Conroy

SSG Conroy won with his photo entry of Bravo Company, 1-252 Armor Regiment preparing equipment for the testing, familiarization, and implementation of the AFCT at the company level.



Self-Flying Parachutes

**North Carolina National Guard
Soldiers learn the ropes of their
newly fielded parachute system.**

By Sgt. 1st Class Mary Junell

Parachute riggers work together to tie strings around the lines of a Joint Precision Air Drop System (JPADS) parachute.



Soldiers assigned to the North Carolina National Guard's 403rd Rigger Support Team (403rd RST) spent five days training on the newly fielded, Joint Precision Air Drop System (JPADS) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, June 7-11, 2021.

The training will allow

the Guardsmen to pack and prepare the new parachute system and train new Soldiers who come to their unit.

Traditional parachute systems require planes to fly directly over the target to drop cargo. However, the new system will allow aircraft to fly 25,000 feet above the target and offset up to 12 kilometers.

One of the instructors, Clint Browning, a cargo parachute equipment specialist with Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, Integrated Logistics Support Center, said one of the significant changes to the new system was the ability to guide itself onto a target.

"You can be very sneaky," he said. "You can be very high

up and very far away, drop the system, and it will fly to its designated point using military GPS."

The self-flying parachute is powered by a modular autonomous guidance unit that provides the parachute canopy's brain and flight control system.

The five-day-long training allowed Guardsmen to get their

hands on the new parachute system, ensuring they can properly pack them for future operations.

Sgt. Emilee Rolins, a parachute rigger assigned to the 403rd RST, participated in the training said the new parachutes would enhance the North Carolina National Guard's air-drop capabilities.

"This will help us with the bigger canopies," she said. "This will let us drop a lot heavier things, and it will be more accurate where we drop it."

The JPADS also allows units like the 403rd RST to program the system to avoid obstacles and avoid enemy interruption.

"The enemy won't see it

coming or interrupt it," Rolins said. "As long as you put in the coordinates and where it needs to go, it will fly there within 10 meters."

Soldiers in the 403rd RST take pride in their job and their support to other units; to date, the company has never had a parachute malfunction.

"I like being out on the

drop zone watching canopies open knowing I did that, or my unit did that alongside me and getting troopers to the ground safely without any malfunctions," Rolins said.

This is one of many ways the North Carolina National Guard has embraced new technology to increase its effectiveness across the force.

Soldiers with the North Carolina National Guard's 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery Regiment, fire newly fielded M109A7 Self-Propelled Howitzer Systems at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, May 20, 2021.



BLASTING *into* ***BATTLE***

**I-113th Field Artillery Soldiers
move into the future of warfare as
the first Guard unit to receive the
newly fielded M109A7 Paladin.**

By Sgt. 1st Class Mary Junell

Soldiers with the 113th Field Artillery Regiment fire newly fielded M109A7 Self-Propelled Howitzer Systems.



The 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery Regiment (1-113th FA), 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) conducted an artillery live-fire exercise with the newly fielded M109A7 Self-Propelled Howitzer System at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, May 20-21, 2021.

The 30th ABCT was the first National Guard brigade to receive the newest iteration of the Paladin and trained for almost two weeks before the live-fire event.

During the training, 1-113th Soldiers had the opportunities to learn the differences between the old hydraulic system and the new electric system before heading to the range.

Staff Sgt. Cody Fields, a section chief with C Battery, 1-113th FA, was excited to learn the new system.

"The new weapons system allows us to do it a little bit faster," Fields said. "Everything went from hydraulic to electric. It allows us to mitigate some of the maintenance issues we had in the past."

Col. Wes Morrison, the 30th ABCT Commander, saw the opportunity to be the first Guard unit to receive the Paladins as an honor.

"The 1-113th, with their history and the leadership they show in the field artillery community, they're certainly deserving," said Morrison.

Soldiers with the 1-113th, who returned home from the Middle East less than a year ago, will have spent 23 days training on the new equipment, which falls in line with the Army's post-deployment training goals.

"To get such a brand new piece of equipment and be able to come out here post-deployment and modernize exactly like we talk about in the Army; post-deployment you modernize on equipment, and then you start a new training cycle, so it's perfect for them," Morrison said.

Soldiers firing the new artillery were excited to get the hands-on training and took pride in learning how the new equipment operates.

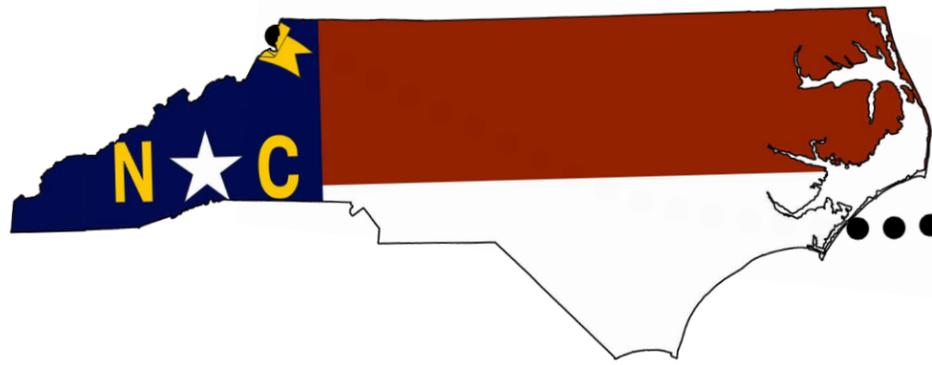
"We're really excited to be given that honor and get to shoot these first," Fields said. "To actually shoot artillery and send that 100 pounds downrange in support of our brothers downrange, it's a great feeling."

The 1-113th replaced their entire fleet of Paladins with the new A7 model.



Col. Wes Morrison
30th ABCT Commander

"To get such a brand new piece of equipment and be able to come out here post-deployment and modernize exactly like we talk about in the Army; post-deployment you modernize on equipment, and then you start a new training cycle, so it's perfect for them."



THE **N** COLLECTS DONATIONS FOR MOLDOVAN CITIZENS

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NC Secretary of State and NC-Moldova Bilateral Partnership Co-Chair Elaine Marshall visits the Textbook Warehouse.

By Sgt. 1st. Class Robert Jordan

North Carolina Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall, who Co-Chairs the North Carolina - Moldova Bilateral Partnership, visited North Carolina National Guard Soldiers at the North Carolina Textbook Warehouse in Raleigh, North Carolina, April 8, 2021.

The Soldiers were preparing donations collected statewide for citizens of Moldova as part of the ongoing NCNG supported State Partnership Program between the Republic of Moldova and North Carolina which began in 1996.

“We know what we send will go to good use,” said Marshall.

As she toured the facility with other members of her N.C. Department of the Secretary of State staff, she met with Maj. Sean Daily, the incoming NCNG Bilateral Affairs Officer, along with Col. Mike Marciniak, NCNG Strategic Plans Director, Maj. Mike Sterling, NCNG State Partnership Director and 1st Lt. Kory Dearie, incoming NCNG Museum Officer in Charge, while they were delivering a recent donation of surplus medical supplies and devices from the Pediatrics Office of Dr. Shilpa Gosrani in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Everyone helped unload the large box truck Daily drove from Greensboro packed with

an examination table, specialty medical and cleaning supplies. Many hands made quick work as they loaded the forklift driven by Chris Green, the warehouse supervisor.

He added the pallet to other donations he and staff had sorted and packaged for later shipment.

“I am glad we are able to do it,” said Green.

Staff from the N.C. Secretary of State office, Lora Sinigur, North Carolina - Moldova Partnership Liaison and Rodney Maddox, Chief Deputy Secretary of State, discussed the future shipping and distribution of the supplies in Moldova with the NCNG leaders.

“The Moldovans are super excited,” said Sterling.

They walked throughout the warehouse along the many rows of books, wheel chairs, toys, and personal protective equipment as the Guard experts and members of Marshall’s staff highlighted the types of donations and who could best use the supplies.

“It is quite impressive,” said Sinigur.

Future contributions and the current inventory will be loaded into a transatlantic shipping container for delivery in May funded by a non-profit grant.

2021 marks the 25th anniversary of the N.C. National Guard State Partnership Program with Moldova.

NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD COVID19 RESPONSE

March 6 - July 24, 2020
Sept. 23, 2020 - June 30, 2021

FOOD DISTRIBUTION



8.7M
food bank meals

332K
school lunches



422
down from **940**
during peak response

NC Guardsmen on Duty

945K

COVID19 vaccinations

PPE DISTRIBUTION

- 4.3M** masks
- 1.6M** hand sanitizers
- 7.9M** gloves
- 766K** face shields
- 234K** gowns
- 707K** shoe covers
- 21K** thermometers



supported testing of **78K** citizens



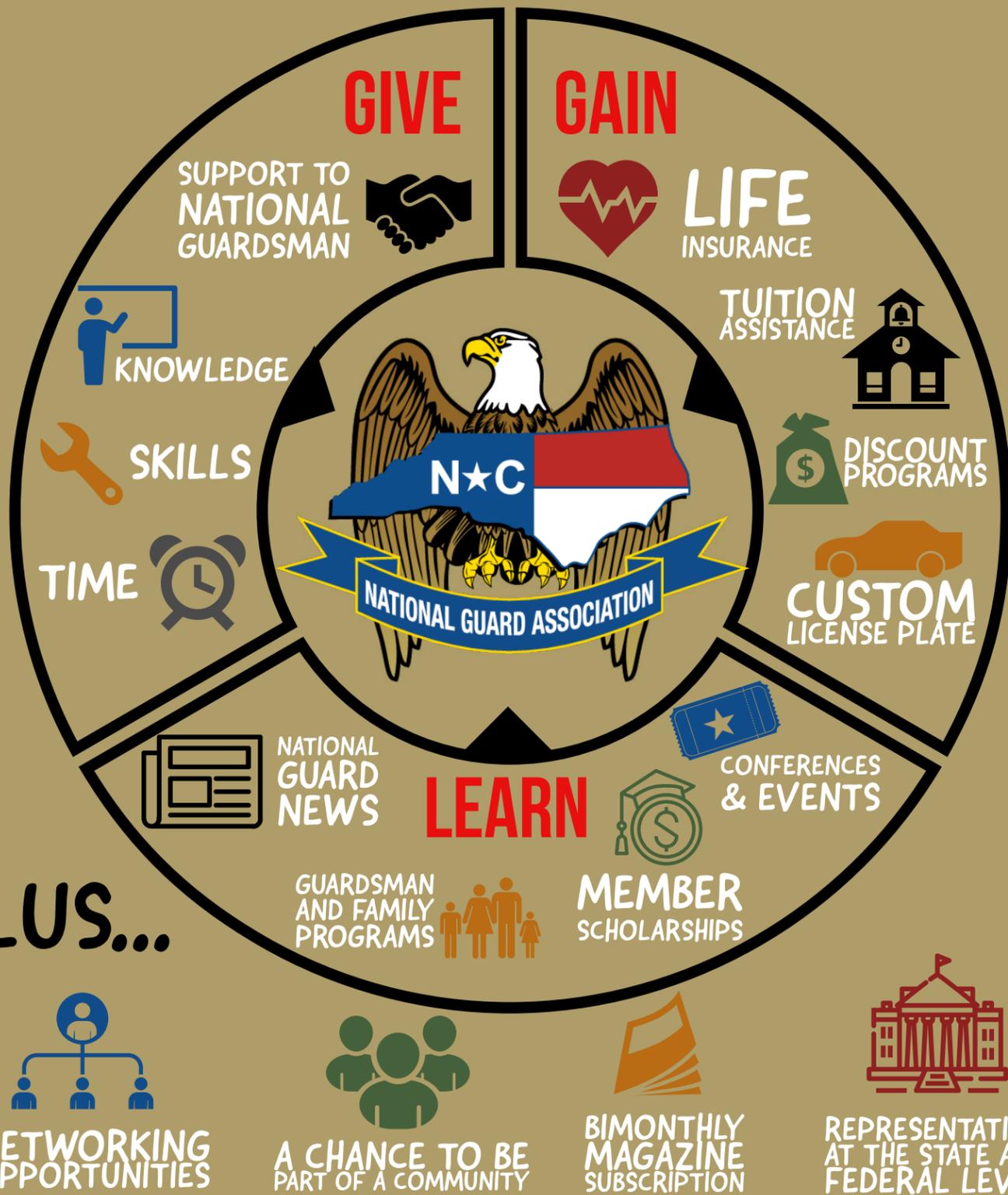
25.6M
pounds of cargo delivered



252K
miles driven

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FOOD BANK HONORS NC GUARD SOLDIERS FOR COVID-19 RELIEF OPERATIONS

By Sgt. 1st Class Robert Jordan



Capt. Phanat Senesourinh addresses Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast North Carolina staff at a ceremony honoring NCNG COVID-19 support.

North Carolina National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were honored for their months of support of COVID-19 operations at a ceremony held at the Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast North Carolina's campus in Fayetteville, North Carolina, on April 12, 2021.

Local leaders thanked them for their expertise and dedication that enabled the food bank to 10 times more food distributions during the pandemic than they typically do in an average year.

"It is full circle, my family went to food banks growing up, now I join the Guard and I can give back,"

said North Carolina Air National Guard Capt. Phanat Senesourinh, the NCNG officer in charge of missions supporting the food bank.

Since March 6, 2020, the NCNG food distribution support provided 8.5 million meals, delivered 24.8 million pounds of food and drive 252 thousand miles on mission.

"It is full circle, my family went to food banks growing up, now I join the Guard and I can give back," said Senesourinh.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.NCNGA.ORG/BENEFITS.PHP

Capt. Robert Essic
encourages Spc
Briana Zike to take
that first step.

“I am nervous, I am terrified of heights.”

Spc. Briana Zike

THAT FIRST STEP

SOLDIERS WITH THE 130TH MEB CONQUER THEIR
FEARS ON THE RAPPEL TOWER AT CAMP BUTNER.

By Sgt. Abraham Morlu

Confidence

is a desired trait of those who serve in the military, and there are many different ways to build that trait among Soldiers.

One way is to overcome something that holds you back, such as fear.

For some Soldiers, who took part in the rappel tower exercise at Camp Butner in Stem North Carolina, on June 16, 2021, it was an aversion to heights.

“The bravest people you meet are not free of fear. They look fear in the eye and say, ok, I am not going to be bested by it,” Spc. Briana Zike, a combat medic with the 505th Engineer Battalion,

130th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

Zike is afraid of heights, and she made no secret of it.

“I am nervous, I am terrified of heights,” she said.

She did not let that fear stop her. She was the first in line for instructions and the first to go down the wall.

Her nervousness grew as she got closer to stepping off the edge of the wall. She closed her eyes and took a deep breath.

“There are two ways to get someone to take that first step, one is to be very direct, and the other is to be very encouraging and get fellow Soldiers involved,” Capt. Robert Essic, rappel master with the 505th Engineer

Battalion.

Essic asked Zike to step forward. He inspected her harness and hooked her up to the rope that would lead her down the wall.

He encouraged her, letting her know she is in charge of how she gets down the rope.

After composing herself again, she stepped backward, securing her weight against the rope, and began to bound down the wall.

She was relieved once her feet reached the ground.

“It felt like insanity,” said Zike, “it was probably the coolest sense of freedom and the most intense fear I have ever felt.”

Spc. Brianna Zike sizes up the 40 foot obstacle in front of her.



Capt. Robert Essic Composes a Soldier who is fairly nervous about rappelling down the wall.



Capt. Robert Essic secures the rope in order for a soldier to rappel down the wall



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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.