

The FOCUS



EXERCISE VIGILANT GUARD
P. 5

JUNE 2025

NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS THEMES AND MESSAGES

June Observances

Congressional Gold Medal
(awarded every June)
National Safety Month
PTSD Awareness Month

1 National Heimlich Maneuver Day

6 D-Day and the Battle of Normandy
(78th anniversary)

12 Anniversary of the Women’s Armed
Services Integration Act (1948)

12 Battle of Bunker Hill
(247th anniversary)

14 U.S. Army Birthday (1775)

14 Flag Day

15 Father’s Day

19 Juneteenth

20 American Eagle Day

20 Summer Solstice

22 National HVAC Tech Day

26 Berlin Airlift
(74th Anniversary)

27 PTSD Awareness Day

30 Army Medical Service Corps Anniversary

30 Social Media Day

28 National Superhero Day

30 Denim Day (SAAM)
Military Brats Day

June - Partnerships

Media Team Themes

The National Guard’s partnerships are built on the foundation that security cooperation supports the secretary of defense’s call for “peace through strength.” Not only does this relate to the Defense Department’s National Guard State Partnership Program, but the global partnership that exist through other venues. Partnerships also play a role in domestic operations, helping to ensure that a well-trained, fighting force remains the proven choice in protecting life and property while preserving peace, order and public safety.

Media operations plays a critical role in supporting that effort by highlighting global partnerships with relevant and accurate communication with the consuming media. This function is also crucial in emphasizing the duel-nature of Guard partnerships. A robust media operations effort not only informs but also protects the Guard’s reputation by countering misinformation, addressing concerns swiftly, and demonstrating the Guard’s commitment to the warfight and the homeland.

“

The shared challenges that we face will test every element of our friendship and our partnership, from diplomacy to intelligence to our militaries, to our economies.

*U.S. Air Force Gen. Dan Caine,
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff*

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[Click here to watch](https://tinyurl.com/3fuypeju)
NIPR users copy and paste: <https://tinyurl.com/3fuypeju>



The Department of Defense National Guard State Partnership Program has forged lasting partnerships with nations across the globe for 30 years while helping to build U.S. and partner capabilities to meet 21st-century security challenges. (U.S. Air National Guard video by Master Sgt. Amber Monio)

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Leadership News and Notes

NGB-PA Job Announcement

OPEN PERIOD: 19 May 2025 thru 2359 EST, 03 JUL 2025	TOUR LENGTH: 2-4 Years
POSITION TITLE: Public Affairs Officer	AGENCY: National Guard Bureau (NGB)
AFSC REQUIREMENT: 35P3/35P4 (PAF SC, 2AFSC, 3AFSC)	DUTY LOCATION: TARC, Arlington, VA
RANK/GRADE REQUIREMENT: Capt/O3 (Promotable) - Maj/O4	WHO MAY APPLY: Current ANG members only and the homeland.
POSITION INFO: Full Time, Title 10, Statutory Tour	See full job announcement PDF attached and at: https://intelshare.intelink.gov/sites/ngbhr/careers/templates/Forms/MVA_Application.aspx

2025 PATW Cancelled

After careful consideration we have decided to cancel this year’s PATW.

We are going to start planning for 2026 this fall and as the planning progresses we will keep everyone informed and we hope for a different outcome next year.

In the meantime, we look forward to our bi-weekly calls. Let us know if there are ways we can help communicate the National Guard story.

On the Cover:

Members of the Tennessee Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team and the 45th Civil Support Team conduct swift water rescue training during Vigilant Guard in Crump, Tennessee, May 14. The Tennessee National Guard, in conjunction with more than 30 partnering agencies, conducted a disaster response exercise throughout the state, May 12-18. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Kalina Hyche)

July Observances

National Roadside Traffic Safety Awareness Month
Bioterrorism/Disaster Education and Awareness Month
National Park and Recreation Month

1 Anniversary of the All Volunteer Force (1973)
National Postal Worker Day

2 National Wildland Firefighter Day

4 Independence Day

13-19 Operation Safe Driver Week

16 MLB All-Star Week, Arlington, TX

21 Liberation of Guam (1944)

26 Anniversary of Armed Forces Integration (1948)

27 Anniversary of the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement (1953)

29 Army Chaplain Corps (1775)

30 International Friendship Day (Allies and Partners) - holiday especially celebrated in Latin America

July - Modernization

Media Team Themes

National Guard public affairs plays a vital role in amplifying the Department of Defense’s modernization priorities by clearly communicating how emerging technologies and upgraded capabilities support readiness, deterrence, and national security. Through strategic storytelling and transparent engagement with the public and media, public affairs can showcase how modernization efforts—such as advanced training systems, resilient infrastructure, and integration with joint and allied forces—enhance the Guard’s operational relevance. These communications not only build public trust but also highlight the Guard’s unique ability to adapt and evolve in an era of strategic competition.

Timely communication within the Guard ranks ensures that modernization efforts are understood, embraced, and effectively implemented at all levels. By informing Soldiers and Airmen early and clearly, public affairs helps build trust, reduce uncertainty, and accelerate adoption.

Messages

Whether it’s updated communications gear or advanced training simulators, new technology helps Guard members respond faster, smarter, and safer—at home and abroad.

The world is changing fast, and so are the threats. Modernizing now ensures the Guard can handle tomorrow’s challenges, not just today’s.

New equipment matters, but so does investing in training, innovation, and leadership development to make sure our Soldiers and Airmen are empowered to succeed.

Modernization is crucial to ensuring the National Guard remains a ready, reliable warfighting component of the Army and Air Force—fully equipped to integrate with active forces and operate in today’s complex, high-tech battlespace.

The National Guard is uniquely positioned to lead in modernization because its Soldiers and Airmen bring real-world experience from civilian careers in tech, engineering, cybersecurity, and more—bridging innovation from the community to the battlefield.

Military and civilian world acumen enables National Guard members to flourish as natural innovators—bringing fresh ideas, diverse skill sets, and community-driven solutions that help accelerate modernization across the force.

August - Domestic Operations



South Carolina Army National Guard Soldiers, assigned to the 125th Multi-Role Bridge Company, 122nd Engineer Battalion, conduct bridging operations during Vigilant Guard in Milan, Tennessee, May 13. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Jordan Wright)

Tennessee hosts Exercise Vigilant Guard

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The Tennessee National Guard hosted Exercise Vigilant Guard May 12-18, which focused on statewide disaster response training and included the Tennessee Guard and more than 30 state and federal agencies.

Co-sponsored by U.S. Northern Command and the National Guard Bureau, the exercise saw participating agencies and National Guard members from Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming, respond to realistic major disaster scenarios designed to improve mission command and relationships among federal, state, and local agencies.

“These exercises, where we operate jointly and with various emergency responders, are crucial to our

organization’s readiness,” said U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Warner Ross, adjutant general of the Tennessee Guard.

“The more we work alongside one another, the more we fine-tune our policies and procedures. Building these relationships are vital to our effectiveness, and continuing to practice what we do will make all of us much better when it’s time to respond to the real thing.”

This year’s exercise scenario is based on a 7.5 magnitude earthquake occurring along the New Madrid Seismic Zone near Tipton County. Exercise participants worked together to respond to numerous situations and conduct search and rescue, critical site security, and respond to large infrastructure failure.

Media Team Themes

U.S. service members continue to support efforts carrying out President Donald Trump’s executive orders on protecting the territorial integrity of the United States. Trump promised to secure the southern border, and the DOD has been on the job there since January.

August Observances

National Back to School Month
National Immunization Awareness Month
Antiterrorism Awareness Month
National Traffic Awareness Month

1 Woman Astronomers Day

2 National Friendship Day

4 Coast Guard Birthday (1790)

7 Purple Heart Day

10 DOD Birthday (1949)

14 Navajo Code Talkers Day

15 Victory over Japan Day (1945)

19 National Aviation Day

19-25 National Aviation Week

19-25 Liberation of Paris (1944)

24-28 World Water Week

21 National Senior Citizens Day

26 Women’s Equality Day

29 Marine Corps Reserve Birthday (1916)