THE HORNET

NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD



PASSING OF THE GUIDON

Then, Now & Again

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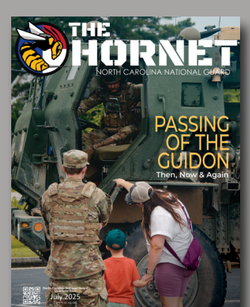
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ON THE COVER



Soldiers of the 5th-113th Field Artillery Battalion showcase a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System.

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Aimee Grace Trinidad

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FOREWARD

CHIEF OF STAFF – AIR



It is my honor to pay tribute to the North Carolina National Guard, an organization that has served with distinction for decades, embodying the very best of our state and our nation. From the air above to the ground below, our Army and Air National Guard components work as a team, demonstrating true strength comes through unity and joint operations.

From our humble beginnings in the post-World War II era, the NCNG has been an intricate detail of our state's heritage. Our predecessors answered our nation's call during the Korean conflict, stood ready during the Cold War, and proved themselves time and time again when duty called. Whether providing ground support, logistical expertise, or air superiority, our combined forces establish a legacy of excellence in all we do that continues to inspire every Guardsman who wears our uniform today.

The foundations they laid will remain the bedrock upon which we stand. Army and Air working as one unified force; their sacrifices, their innovations, and their unwavering commitment to protecting our nation and supporting our communities created the proud tradition we carry forward.

Today's NCNG stands as a testament to adaptability and readiness. Our Soldiers and Airmen have answered the call from the mountains of Afghanistan to the hurricane-ravaged coastlines of our state. Whether responding to natural disasters supporting overseas operations, or maintaining homeland security, we continue to prove that the Citizen-Soldier and Citizen-Airman concept is not just viable, it's essential.

The synergy between our Army and Air components create a force multiplier effect that enhances every mission. With boots on the ground and critical airlift, reconnaissance, and support from above, we form a seamless team that can respond to any challenge with precision and effectiveness.

Our current missions span the globe while keeping our roots firmly planted in the North Carolina soil. We are neighbors, teachers, first responders, and business leaders who transform to elite soldiers and airmen when duty calls. This dual role strengthens our communities and our military capability, creating bonds that make us uniquely effective.

As we look forward to tomorrow, the NCNG stands ready to meet evolving challenges with the same spirit that has defined us for generations. Emerging technologies, new threats, and changing operational environments will test our resolve, but they will not break our commitment.

We are investing in our people, both Soldiers and Airmen, modernizing our equipment across all platforms, and adapting our tactics to ensure seamless integration between ground and air operations. The future will demand greater versatility, faster response times, and deeper integration with our active-duty partners – challenges we embrace with confidence a unified force.

Our young Guardsmen today will become tomorrow's leaders, carrying forward the values and traditions that make the NCNG exceptional. They will write new chapters in our story while honoring the legacy entrusted to them, whether they serve on the ground or in the air.

BRIG. GEN. SHAWNE M. JOHNSON
CHIEF OF STAFF – AIR
NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD

North Carolina ARMY National Guard
SAFETY & Occupational Health

REQUIREMENTS and RECOMMENDATIONS

Physical Fitness Safety

To date, the NCARNG has experienced 7 mishaps this FY due to injuries encountered during the ACFT. We must do a better job to personally prepare for strenuous activity through established personal fitness, stretching, acclimatization & implementing proper control measures when administering the future AFTs.

Scan the accompanying QR code for more information regarding proper planning during physical readiness training.

State Active Duty

Personal Preparedness is vital to ensure that your loved ones are safe so you can perform your duty as an important member of the NC National Guard.

Scan the accompanying QR code for more information to make sure YOU are prepared!

Unit Preparedness is critical to mission success during State Active Duty. During Helene Response, our Servicememberss were involved in 11 mishaps resulting from inattentiveness of the assistant driver & 7 mishaps resulting from improper ground guiding.

Motorcycle Safety Training

Every Servicemember who rides a motorcycle is required to comply with the Motorcycle Training Program.

For initial training, all motorcycle riders must complete Basic Rider Course (BRC) prior to riding a motorcycle.

Within 1 year of completing the initial training course, riders are required to complete Experienced Rider Course (ERC), Basic Rider Course II (BRCII) or advanced Rider Course (ARC) to satisfy intermediate training requirements .

Within 5 years of completing intermediate training, riders must complete an intermediate course to satisfy sustainment training requirements.

Any riders who are deployed for 180 days or more must complete Motorcycle Refresher Training (MRT) at the unit level before riding again.

Fire Safety

Fire Safety applies on & off duty. There are fire risks to our homes, workplaces & vehicles. We must ensure we are knowledgeable to protect ourselves as well as others.

Have you checked your vehicle's fire extinguisher to ensure it's ready to use? Each vehicle, generator, kitchen, ammunition storage location & building must have fire extinguishers that are properly charged & inspected.

Scan the accompanying QR code for more information on common causes, prevention, & helpful information on fire prevention & safety.





NCNG Families Hold Remembrance for Fallen Loved Ones

by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Hannah Tarkelly

Family members of fallen North Carolina National Guardsmen joined together during the annual NCNG Survivors Outreach Fund in Greensboro, N.C., May 16th-18th, 2025.

Since 2008, this dedicated organization has assisted families with continued support and resources in remembrance of their loved one's sacrifice.

Each family in attendance represented a heroic Guardsman who gave their life for an enduring cause.

"Everyone here has a story," said retired U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Ken Beard, the NCNG Survivors Outreach Fund chairman.

Sitting at a round table was a family indulging in a meal and lively conversation. The family wore matching bright red t-shirts with a smiling Soldier on the back.

When inquired about the shirts, Tammy Eakes' eyes lit up and a smile spread across her face as she shared fond memories of her fallen son, Lance.

Sgt. Lance O. Eakes assigned to the NCNG 1132nd Military Police Company was killed in action on April 18th, 2008 in Baghdad, Iraq when an improvised explosive device struck his vehicle during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"He felt God was calling him to serve," Tammy said. "Being the only child, those were the only brothers and sisters he really had."

This year marked 17 years since his passing. In honor of Lance, Tammy asked those who knew him to post a song in remembrance of him being an avid rock and roll enthusiast. In response, a wave of music flooded her feed to include some of his favorites from Journey, The Beatles, and Bad Company.

Tammy reminisced on his kind heart, friendly demeanor, and unwavering bravery. Whether it was helping out a stranger or taking up the responsibility as gunner, Lance embodied what it meant to serve while in and out of uniform.

"I'm very proud of him," Tammy said.

After Lance had been laid to rest, Tammy found support and camaraderie amongst those who truly understood the weighing loss.

If Tammy found herself needing to talk with someone at 2 a.m., she knew she could pick up the phone and someone would be on the other end of the line.

"We all still keep in touch," Tammy said. "We're just family now."

Through the Survivors Outreach Fund, Tammy has been able to keep Lance's memory alive and ensure the Eakes family are never left behind.

"Because of this organization, it will ensure your loved ones are never forgotten," said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. James Gorham.







Surviving family members of fallen North Carolina National Guardsmen come together during the annual NCNG Survivors Outreach Fund in Greensboro, North Carolina, May 16th-18th, 2025. Since 2008, the organization has assisted families with continued support and resources in remembrance of their loved ones' sacrifice.

U.S. Army photos by Staff Sgt. Hannah Tarkelly





Coca-Cola 600:

NASCAR Honors Fallen NCNG Hero

by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Ellis J. Parks

When spectators gathered at Charlotte Motor Speedway in Concord, North Carolina, for the Coca-Cola 600 NASCAR race in May 2025, little did they know they were witnessing the making of history as rivalry was set aside to honor the legacy of a fallen North Carolina National Guard military hero.

The NCNG revisited a piece of its history when Spire Motorsports' No. 7 Chevrolet ZL1, driven by Justin Haley, carried its symbol the first time since 2009. The car not only showcased the guard's logo, but it also honored one of NCNG's fallen sons, Staff Sgt. Bobby Franklin, who was killed during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

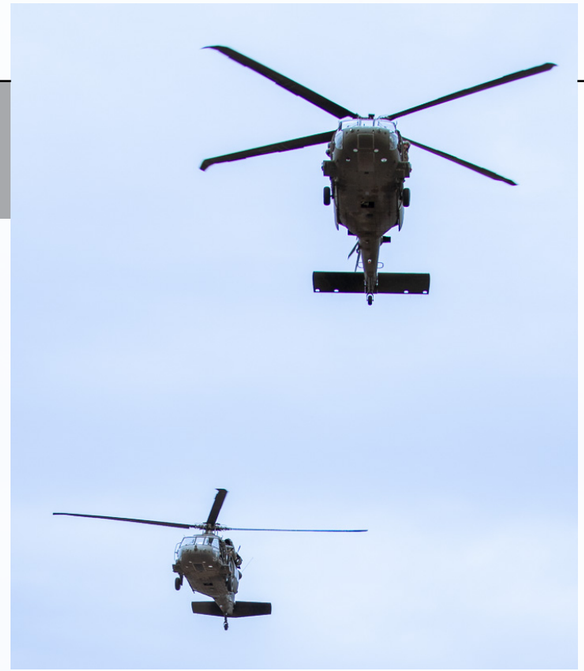
At the heart of facilitating this memorable gesture is U.S. Army Maj. Ryan Shields, assigned to the Main Command Operations Post Detachment, 130th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. Shields served as the local incident commander for the Western branch during Tropical Storm Helene relief efforts in Asheville, where the heroism of Guardsmen drew admiration and prompted NASCAR stakeholders to honor their outstanding service, and Staff Sgt. Franklin's memory during the Coca-Cola 600 race.

"I was honored enough to be able to reach out directly to Brenda Franklin (Bobby's wife) and talk to her about this, and she was so appreciative that we were remembering Bobby and that he's not forgotten," said Shield. "They (the family) enjoyed their time in Charlotte and enjoyed the race. Sitting up on the pit boxes, listening to the radio traffic on the car and watching the race live, watching the car come into the pit stop, his name is right there on the windshield with our logo. They were happy, excited, and grateful. It was just an awesome experience for me to see the smile and the happiness in Brenda and her family's faces while they were there."

The NCNG is comprised of individuals who decided to raise their right hand and promise to give their lives if called, as they serve their state and country. Those who remain after one makes the ultimate sacrifice often work to find ways to honor them. Staff Sgt. Franklin made that sacrifice while serving with the 210th Military Police Company.

"I was able to get some of the Soldiers from the 105th MP battalion to go to the race, and they had nothing but positive reviews on it. They had a great time; they were glad to stand side by side with Brenda to honor Staff Sergeant Franklin," Shields said. "Then they carried that back to the unit and talked about it. They believe that it shows our Soldiers and units that we are appreciated by non-military organizations."

The NCNG continually makes efforts to ensure that its fallen are properly honored, and Maj. Shields' hard work to



U.S. Army photos by Sgt. Hugo Gonzalez

honor Staff Sgt. Franklin helped exemplify the guard's aim, and it also helped introduce another generation to Staff Sgt. Franklin.

"When you're in an event like the Coca-Cola 600 that is designed to honor and remember one of the Soldiers, I think people get that instant pride and respect and honor for what the North Carolina National Guard does," Shields said. "And if young individuals see that and understand what it stands for then they are like I wanna be a part of this organization and … that could lead to them talking to a recruiter and saying hey I want to be a part of the North Carolina National Guard."

For Maj. Shields, the gesture extended beyond just the immediate family and current service members, reaching out to the wider public and instilling a sense of pride and remembrance. The visible recognition of SSG Franklin's sacrifice reminded all in attendance that behind every name honored are loved ones who carry the weight of loss and pride.

"You know, oftentimes the steam of losing a loved one or a fellow Soldier is pretty impactful up front, but as time goes on, it tends to get forgotten, but this reminds us that we don't forget," Shields said. "It goes to show that we remember them, we honor them with grace, and try to put them back on everybody's mind.

So to be a part of NASCAR and to be recognized and be on pit road, shows that there are people out there that appreciate what the National Guard soldiers are doing during relief efforts, during their daily missions and I think that speaks volumes of their commitment to the state, to the organization and what other people respect of their work. So to see those pictures and stories, the soldiers are proud to be a part of that," said Maj. Shields.

NCNG Guardsmen

Driving NASCAR

by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Ellis J. Parks

Very few people can follow their passion while also pursuing what they feel is their purpose. This is what many have found in becoming Soldiers and Airmen in the National Guard. The North Carolina National Guard comprises a diverse group of individuals, including farmers, teachers, construction workers, homemakers, lawyers, doctors, active-duty Soldiers and Airmen, and even NASCAR drivers.

U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Jayson Alexander, a recent graduate of Queen's College in Charlotte, was commissioned as a new transportation officer assigned to the NCNG's 130th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. He met with U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Wes Morrison, the NCNG Assistant Adjutant General – Maneuver, one week after racing his No. 2 Chevrolet Silverado in the NASCAR Craftsman Truck series race held in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

Alexander is another example of how diverse and dynamic the NCNG is and how the approximate 10,000 Soldiers and Airmen are uniquely integrated in almost every community across the state. Alexander's niche is rather exceptional, even for the guard.

"I didn't start racing until I was 19 years old, much older than most kids did," Alexander said. "My parents wouldn't pay for me to race so I started by selling sponsorships for other drivers. I just knew that I always wanted to race, and I followed that."

Morrison acknowledged how rare this opportunity must have been for Alexander and even reflected on his history with NASCAR, exemplifying how closely knit NASCAR's history is with North Carolina and the NCNG's culture.

"I'm actually an old school NASCAR fan," said Morrison. "I ... would drive back from drill and listen to the races on the radio. It would keep me awake after a hard drill weekend."

Alexander, a part-time driver, has been in the NCNG since college. As a student, he was in Army ROTC, where he earned his commission and played on the college's NCAA Division I lacrosse team. This work-life complexity is



U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Jayson Alexander pulls a rope line during Cadet Summer Training at Ft. Knox, Kentucky.

Photo provided by the U.S. Army

common for many Guardsmen across the U.S., they just can't claim that their part-time jobs allow them to drive faster than 175 miles per hour, legally.

"I couldn't compete at a full-time level," Alexander said. "My coaches were really cool about my split decision and what my commanding officer expected of me. Both (coaches) were really understanding."

Morrison, who often speaks about how technology modernization is shaping the current operational and tactical landscape for the NCNG and all the military, asked Alexander about how technology is influencing NASCAR. Alexander smiled and explained.

"That's exactly how my pathway ended up," Alexander said. "I went straight from the computer, and playing (racing) video games my whole life, to driving. I didn't ride go-karts when I was growing up or anything like that."

Alexander explained that just as NASCAR was always his dream, so was being in the military. This spark grew even more when he visited a local base and saw pilots and fighter jets for the first time.

"In middle school, my uncle took me to a military air show for the first time at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base." Alexander said. "I got to meet a pilot, I got to see fighter jets and helicopters, and I was like, OK, I got to figure out how to make this (being a pilot) a reality."

Alexander enlisted in the NCNG to pursue the dream of flying but realized that the time and effort it would take to become a pilot might stall his flourishing NASCAR career. He explained that although the dream of being a pilot is on pause for now, his passion to serve remains strong.

"The North Carolina National Guard allows me to continue to pursue my civilian career while serving," Alexander said. "While I originally envisioned going in the military full time, maybe as a fighter pilot or helicopter pilot, I'm really happy about where I ended up landing and the opportunities that have been afforded me by being in the NCNG."

Would you like to see more?

Soldiers with the 449th Combat Aviation Brigade, 1-130th Attack Battalion, refuel an AH-64 Apache after flying an aerial gunnery range at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina.

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Wesley Riley



250th Army Birthday: NCNG Soldiers Honor Fallen Heroes, Reiterate Combat Readiness

by Mr. Paul Agada, PAO Intern

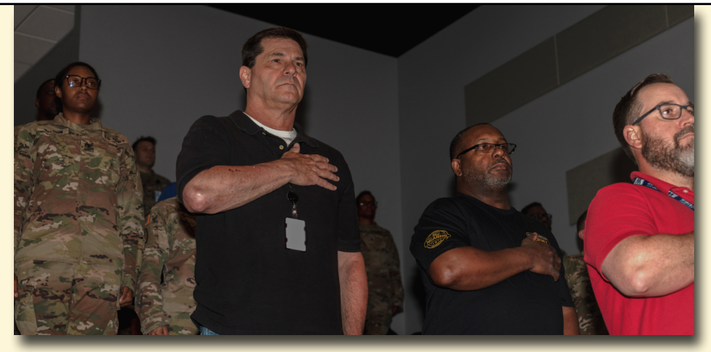
Two hundred and fifty years after the Continental Army was established to defend the homeland, enabling the birth of the United States of America, past and present Soldiers of the U.S. Army have continuously built on the legacy of their predecessors.

For Soldiers with the North Carolina National Guard, the 250th birthday anniversary of the U.S. Army offered an avenue to reflect on its illustrious heritage as they commemorated the milestone at the Joint Force Headquarters in Raleigh, North Carolina, on Friday, June 13, 2025.

Spurred by the spirit of the Army slogan "This We'll Defend", for over two centuries, American Soldiers have defied odds at home and abroad, defending the Homeland against internal and external foes. Part of that rich history are Minutemen and Citizen-Soldiers from North Carolina who sacrificed their lives to earn the freedom enjoyed by Americans today.

Presently, the NCNG has carried the baton of service from the minutemen, serving as Citizen-Soldiers committed to advancing the legacy of their valiant predecessors. Speaking on the interwoven legacy of the U.S. Army and the NCNG, Sgt. Maj. Michael Shipley, G4 Sergeant Major and Command Sergeant Major for the 236th Brigade Engineering Battalion, stated that NCNG personnel have embodied readiness for service.

"Since June 14, 1775, the Army has defended this nation in every corner of the globe, but its foundation, its heart, has always been built at home. Here in North Carolina, that legacy runs deep. From the first colonial militias in the Carolinas to the Minutemen who answered the call at Lexington and Concord, and onward through



every major conflict in our nation's history, North Carolinians have stood ready to serve," said Shipley. "Our National Guard embodies that tradition: Citizen-Soldiers who answer both the federal and state call—whether deploying overseas, responding to hurricanes, or standing beside our communities during times of crisis. This dual mission isn't just part of our identity, it has become our advantage."

While the combat strides of the U.S. Army are often visible, working behind the scenes to ensure their efficiency is the Warrant Officer Corps. The warrant officers are regarded as the technical backbone of the U.S Army as they offer specialized expertise and vital advisory to various Army units.

Highlighting the important contributions of warrant officers to the Army's legacy, U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sofia Phillips, Government Affairs Officer, said, "Being a warrant officer is impactful because we get to shape the trajectory of our organizations, quietly, through technical mastery and sound advice."

She expressed the corps' resolution to evolve with modern technology and adapt to the resulting challenges. This offers ingenious services to ensure the combat readiness of U.S. Army personnel.

"Our corps is evolving. The Army is evolving: transformations, new tech, new robotics technicians, new problems, and some leftover problems. But we keep doing what we do best, quietly solving the impossible with ingenuity and a backup plan," said Phillips.

As the ceremony drew to a close, a clear message resonated with the Soldiers in attendance; they were not just celebrating the past, but actively shaping the Army's next 250 years. This perspective was central to the powerful address delivered by U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Wes Morrison, Assistant Adjutant General - Maneuver. He called upon NCNG's personnel to draw inspiration from the selfless heroism of Soldiers throughout history who demonstrated unwavering dedication to the nation.

"*This We'll Defend* are words with meaning. It means, first and foremost, we will defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic. It means we will defend the lives, property, and rights as defined by the Bill of Rights of our fellow citizens, even at the expense of our own," said Morrison. "And finally, it means we will defend the honor and legacy of the United States Army, built by leaders like Capt. Parker, Lt. Smith, Capt. Cash, and countless others. We are now the caretakers of our Army and our republic. As we celebrate 250 years, we must all remember we are the caretakers who will ensure our republic and Army carry on for another 250 years."

Would you like to see more?



Photos by Mr. Robert Jordan

Flying Into History: The NC National Guard Apache Team at the Army's 250th Birthday Celebration

by U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Bridget Pittman-Blackwell



On Saturday, June 14, 2025, the heart of Washington, D.C. became a landing zone as an AH-64E Apache helicopter touched down on the National Mall.

It was not a combat mission, but it was one just as powerful in symbolism.

As part of the Army's 250th birthday celebration, this moment brought aviation history face-to-face with the public, thanks to the skill and dedication of an elite crew from the 1-130th Attack Battalion of the North Carolina Army National Guard.

Leading the mission was Chief Warrant Officer 4 James "Woody" Watkins, pilot in command, who has spent his entire 30-year career flying and maintaining Army helicopters.

For Watkins, this flight held a special place in a lifetime of aviation.

"I have had the opportunity for the past 30 years in aviation to participate in multiple static displays, tours, and airshows," said Watkins. "I love aviation and I love the Apache attack helicopter. I have spent most of my life learning everything I could about this amazing aircraft. This one is definitely different for me—mainly because I have never seen my nation's capital in all this time. To come here and land an AH-64E Apache on the National Lawn for the Army's 250th birthday is truly an honor."

Sharing the cockpit was Chief Warrant Officer 3 Darius Jenkins, a 22-year veteran and co-pilot from Raleigh, N.C., who called the opportunity a career-defining moment.

"This is an amazing once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Most aviators will never get to do this, and it's a privilege to have the chance," said Jenkins.

"I get to be part of the Army's 250th birthday celebration, which in and of itself is a unique event."

But the pilots were not the only ones making the celebration happen. Behind the scenes and on the ground stood a dedicated team of maintainers responsible for keeping the Apache display ready and safe.

Staff Sgt. Michael Frutchey, a 12-year veteran from Fuquay-Varina, N.C., has deployed to Afghanistan, and holds Federal Aviation Administration and Army certifications in airframe and powerplant mechanics.

For him, the static display was not just about showcasing equipment - it was personal.

"Personally, to be a part of this celebration, right here in the nation's capital, is extraordinary," said Frutchey. "To highlight what we do, the tactical and technical expertise involved with Army Aviation's history within the Army to the general public in this volume is really amazing. Many of my family members have served in the Army or supported its operations in a civilian capacity, which makes it hit close to home."

Among Frutchey's team was Sgt. Elijah Braddy, of Spring Hope, N.C., who emphasized the meticulous preparation behind the scenes.

"To prepare for a static display, we must choose an aircraft that is equipped the way we want to show it off," said Braddy. "We make sure the aircraft won't have any maintenance issues that will interfere with it being away from home station. We need contingency plans and select maintainers who can handle anything that might come up."

Sgt. Daniel Browning, another experienced Apache mechanic from Kenly, N.C., reflected on the deeper meaning of the mission.

"Being part of the Army's 250th birthday means everything I signed up for," said Browning. "It represents the pride I feel as a soldier in the Army National Guard, my loyalty to my country, and my commitment to selfless service. Celebrating this milestone inspires me to continue contributing to the strength and resilience of our nation every day."

For Sgt. Edgar Echeverria-Nolasco of Winston-Salem, N.C., a technical inspector and night vision specialist, the event was a huge milestone.

"I feel like it's a great honor to be able to show the nation our AH-64E Apache while participating in an event like the 250th Army Birthday. Just standing on the National Mall and seeing our Apache on display brought a sense of pride in what we do as maintainers," said Echeverria-Nolasco.

From their arrival in the skies to their engagement with curious families, veterans, and civilians on the ground, the Apache team did more than just display a helicopter.

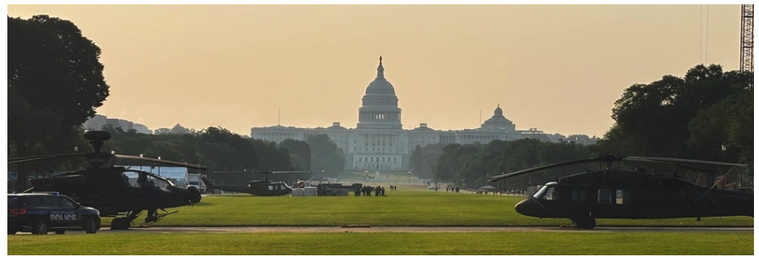
"Seeing that all of our hard work at the flight facility and the attack battalion is paying off," said Echeverria-Nolasco.

They told the story of commitment - of people who have dedicated their careers to mastering complex machines, defending their country, and mentoring the next generation.

The legacy of the U.S. Army is not only alive, it is on proud display, upheld by the hands and hearts of today's Soldiers.

"It makes me so proud to be part of the Army, and specifically the North Carolina Army National Guard," said Frutchey.







U.S. Army photos provided by the 1-130th Attack Battalion

An AH-64 Apache with the 449th Combat Aviation Brigade, 1-130th Attack Battalion, fly an aerial gunnery range at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina.

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Wesley Riley

A Retirement, An Enlistment:

A Father's Dream Comes True

by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Ellis J. Parks



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Todd Hunt, the Adjutant General of North Carolina, and U.S. Army Colonel Edward J. Wallace pin the private rank on Sean Wallace's collar during an honorary enlistment ceremony.

U.S. Army photo by Lt. Col. Ellis J. Parks

U.S. Army Colonel Edward J. Wallace celebrated his over 29-year career in a retirement ceremony at the North Carolina National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters in Raleigh, N.C., May 2, 2025. The ceremony was held in front of a host of family, friends, colleagues, and individuals who served under and with Wallace during his illustrious time in uniform.

The ceremony did more than mark the transition of a great career, it also marked the honorary enlistment of a new Soldier into the NCNG.

"My son, Sean, who unfortunately will never be able to join the National Guard, has always asked me when he would be able to join," said Wallace. "I thought my retirement would be an excellent time for him to have this opportunity."

In almost every retirement ceremony, the honoree speaks about the importance of family and how their family drove them to be the leaders they were. They often explain the efforts it took to maintain a work-life balance.

"When I was a young officer, I devoted a lot more time to the military than I was able to once I had a family," said Wallace. "Once I had kids, it was extremely important [to find work-life balance] because they grow up so fast, and the more time I spent at work, the more I felt like I was missing out on their development."

> "My son is the most resilient person I have ever met; he doesn't quit, he puts a smile on everyone's face, ... I am extremely proud that he calls me Dad."

Wallace's sentiment resonates with a lot of parents who have served. For those with children with special or exceptional needs, these feelings are often doubled.

"Sean was diagnosed with Hurlers syndrome when he was one year old," explained Wallace. "Hurlers syndrome is a rare metabolic disorder that affects the body's ability to properly break down cells, and unfortunately, those with this issue are not able to serve in the military."

Wallace knew the organization that he so proudly served and the organization he saw overcome some of the most unforgiving obstacles, could find a way to assist once again.

"The North Carolina National Guard has given me so many opportunities to grow in my career," said Wallace. "My family has been there with me every step of the way."

So how fitting was it that at the conclusion of his retirement ceremony, Wallace was on stage, front and center, as Maj. Gen. Todd Hunt, the Adjutant General of North Carolina, had the honorary enlistment orders published. Wallace's son, Sean, was now an honorary member of an organization that they both loved.

"I think every father's dream is to raise a family that can stick together in hard times, laugh together during the fun times, and love each other all the time," said Wallace.

Traditionally, the retiree gives flowers and gifts to loved ones and often receives going-away or retirement gifts from the crowd, but how often does the honoree give a gift and receive a gift at the same time?

For 20 of Wallace's 29-plus-year career, he proudly served as "Sean's Dad." As he maneuvered up the ranks and through multiple military occupations, culminating as the Chief-of-Staff for the North Carolina Army National Guard, he never lost faith that one day his son would proudly wear the uniform.

Sean was born in 2005 with a plethora of talents and, even more, a supportive family. Today, Wallace proudly stands with a family that loves him and a fellow Soldier whom he is proud of.

"My son is the most resilient person I have ever met; he doesn't quit, he puts a smile on everyone's face," said Wallace. "I am extremely proud that he calls me Dad."

Army National Guard Training Center Garrison Command Soldiers stand in formation during a change-of-command ceremony held at Camp Butner Training Center in Stem, North Carolina.

U.S. Army photo by Capt. Shamari Pratt

60th Troop Command Welcomes New Commander

by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Justin Stannard

North Carolina National Guard service members, friends, family members, and distinguished guests attended a change-of-command ceremony to welcome the new commander of the 60th Troop Command held at Claude T. Bowers military center, June 8, 2025. U.S. Army Col. Michael Marciniak, the outgoing 60th Troop Command brigade commander, relinquished his command responsibility to U.S. Army Col. Jamie Godwin, the incoming brigade commander, symbolizing the passing of colors.

Marciniak enlisted in the NCNG in 1989, where he served four years as an enlisted Soldier before attending Officer Candidate School, class 37. He earned his commission as an Armor officer. Marciniak has commanded at all levels of the brigade. He served two combat tours in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and one combat tour in support of Operating Enduring Freedom.

Marciniak thanked the Deputy Adjutant General and other leaders for their guidance and mentorship.

"Maj. Gen. Robert Boyette and the entire command ..., thank you for establishing clear left and right limits that empowered me to lead this brigade with confidence and effectiveness," said Marciniak. "I truly value your exceptional leadership and resources you've provided and the consistent mentorship you offered whenever I sought guidance."

The successes of Marciniak were also recognized to commemorate the excellent leadership he displayed while commanding Soldiers of the brigade during various federal and state missions, reaching record breaking retention numbers within the Recruiting and Retention Battalion and integrating Special Forces units within North Carolina.

Serving as commander for the brigade for over 36 months, Marciniak entrusts the Soldiers of the 60th Troop Command to Godwin who looks to further improve upon the successes and achievements of his predecessor. The 60th Troop Command continues to be ready and effective as a team for the North Carolina Army National Guard.

Godwin thanked the Adjutant General of North Carolina for this new opportunity.

"Thank you Maj. Gen. Todd Hunt for selecting and entrusting the privilege of commanding 60th Troop Command," Godwin said. "I gladly accepted that responsibility and would like to thank the many officers and noncommissioned officers who have made me the leader I am today."

The 60th Troop Command is comprised of an assortment of units, all with distinct missions and purposes making it the most diverse brigade in the NCNG. Its units include the 42nd Civil Support Team (WMD); 5th Battalion, 113th Field Artillery Regiment; NCNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion; B Company, 3rd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne); B Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne); Special Operations Detachment-X; 403rd Rigger Support Team, NCNG Medical Detachment; 430th Ordnance Company (EOD); 130th Military History Detachment; 382nd Public Affairs Detachment, and 440th Army Band.



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Christina Moore awards U.S. Army Col. Michael Marciniak the North Carolina Distinguished Service Medal.

U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Justin Stannard



Tarheel ChalleNGe Cadets Overcome the Obstacle Course

by U.S. Army Capt. Shamari Pratt

Cadets from Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy, a military-style program for at-risk teenagers, had the opportunity to train at Camp Butner Training Center in Stem, N.C., April 23, 2025, under the guidance of North Carolina National Guard Soldiers.

The Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy is part of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program, a nationwide initiative established in 1993 and sponsored locally by the NCNG. Its mission is to help cadets earn a high school diploma or equivalent while developing the skills needed for success in life.

"It all starts with your mindset. If your mind has changed, the environment will become different," said Shanetta McNeil, a teacher at Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy.

During the training, cadets participated in a variety of activities including land navigation, physical fitness, nutrition education, and an obstacle course. They were divided into small teams and received detailed instructions on how to complete each event.

"The cadets enjoy having the opportunity to speak with National Guard members about future endeavors. There are a lot of cadets who would love the opportunity to join the military," said Steve Berger, activity coordinator for Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy.

The academy provides cadets with the opportunity to change their future and thrive outside of a traditional school setting. This is made possible through strong community partnerships, such as the one with the National Guard.

"I planned this training to help instill discipline, confidence, and teamwork," said Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Kornegay.







Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy cadets hone their skills by challenging their physical and mental strength, and toughness on the obstacle course at Camp Butner Training Center in Stem, North Carolina, April 23, 2025.

U.S Army photos by Sgt. Wesley Riley



"It all starts with your mindset"

Making a Difference, One Athlete at a Time

by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Ellis J. Parks and Mr. Paul Agada, PAO Intern

The average North Carolina National Guardsmen will share with anyone willing to listen to the struggles they endured during any exercise. They seem to fondly reminisce about basic training days as they describe their drill sergeants yelling, the corrective smoke sessions, the long days, the extremely short nights, and more than anything else, the way they were driven mentally and physically. For some of these brave men and women, this may be the first time they challenged their athletic selves.

One of the secondary effects of military training is the building of teamwork where service members learn to wholeheartedly cheer on those who are challenging themselves to do and be better. This is possibly why some NCNG Soldiers and Airmen jumped at the opportunity to assist and cheer on the athletes of the Special Olympics of North Carolina during the 2025 Summer Games.

"As Citizen-Soldiers, I feel we are Soldiers for the citizens of North Carolina, whether it is responding to disasters or building communities, boosting morale, or to give hope," said U.S. Army Sgt. Grace Trinidad, a motor transport noncommissioned officer with the 1454th Transportation Company, 113th Sustainment Brigade, and the lead coordinator for the NCNG-Summer Olympic volunteer team. "I think this is what we do for the athletes of the SONC."

The SONC 2025 Summer Games hosted more than 1,400 adults and children with intellectual disabilities, from across the state who competed in one or more of the seven sports held over two days in Raleigh, N.C. This year, more than 20 NCNG Soldiers and Airmen volunteered.



Soldier and civilian volunteers with Special Olympics North Carolina hold up snacks after prepping and packing meals for athletes during the Summer Games.

"Having the NCNG support the SONC is a tremendous help in making our events efficient and successful for our Special Olympics athletes," said Keith Fishburne, SONC's president and CEO. "The Soldiers and Airmen are kind and supportive no matter what task we ask them to do in event management. In addition, the experience and skills they bring to us are immeasurable!"

The NCNG is part of every community across North Carolina, including the Special Olympics community, and the impact that these Citizen-Soldiers have on the athletes is not taken lightly.

"Our athletes are so honored to have them (the NCNG members) give their time and service to SONC," said Fishburne. "We particularly love seeing those in uniform present medals to our award-winning athletes from their competitions."

One of the goals of the NCNG is to give or help when possible and make the experience mutually beneficial. The SONC Summer Games are no different.

"I was most inspired by watching the athletes encourage and cheer for each other, and the pride and joy the athletes showed while competing," said U.S. Army Col. Christina Henderson, NCNG's Occupational Health Nurse. "A reminder to me that ability is not defined by limitations, but by the courage to try."



North Carolina National Guard Soldiers volunteer as nearly 1,400 Special Olympics NC athletes and Unified Partners competed at the 2025 Special Olympics NC Summer Games.

Photos provided by Special Olympics North Carolina

NC Guard Hosts Ambassador of Botswana Press Conference

by Mr. Robert Jordan

The North Carolina National Guard hosted the Ambassador of the Republic of Botswana to the United States' press conference at Joint Force Headquarters in Raleigh, North Carolina, May 22, 2025.

His Excellency Mpho Churchill O. Mophuting took questions on the National Guard State Partnership Program, a program begun by the National Guard that conducts military-to-military engagements and whole-of-society relationships, including civil government, economic, and social spheres.

"I have seen it grow beyond military to military cooperation and bring other entities into the program," Mophuting said.

Mophuting brought his blend of military experience as a career officer in the Botswana Defense Force and his new role as ambassador to the United States.

"I came first wearing the uniform and am on a fact-finding mission to look for the areas we can partner with North Carolina and bring the North Carolina (state government) Leadership to Botswana someday," Mophuting said.

Questions covered coordination between North Carolina and his country in education, medicine, research, development and technology, agriculture, and disaster management.

"We have (the SPP) knowledge and experience, and are looking for a partner in development, and working together, we believe in transforming the economy and building strategic partnerships," Mophuting said.

The North Carolina National Guard and the Republic of Botswana have worked together since they were paired under the National Guard's State Partnership Program in 2008. This partnership is focused on military training, disaster preparedness, peacekeeping, and professional development.

"North Carolina and Botswana have a lot of similarities and can partner with mutual benefits, exchange notes, and we can learn from each other," Mophuting said

Ambassador Mophuting's visit earlier included meetings with North Carolina Governor Josh Stein, North Carolina Department of Public Safety Secretary Eddie Buffaloe Jr., NCNG leadership, and members from Visit NC, primarily focusing on expanding the partnership beyond defense.

"You are more than welcome to do business and invest in Botswana, we will try everything possible to make it as attractive as possible," Mophuting said.



His Excellency Mpho Churchill O. Mophuting, the Ambassador of the Republic of Botswana to the United States, addresses questions from the press about the National Guard State Partnership Program and the work being done in education, medicine, research, development and technology, agriculture, and disaster management between the U.S. and Botswana during a press conference at Joint Force Headquarters in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Photos by Mr. Robert Jordan



Would you like to know more?

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Cyber Shield 2025
Coding Collaboration on a Global Scale

by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Hannah Tarkelly

Once a year, the National Guard sends an invite to cybersecurity professionals worldwide to attend a cumulative event known as Cyber Shield where they can compete, learn and challenge their skill sets.

> "The biggest win for us is being able to strengthen the cooperation between our nations"

Cyber Shield is the longest-running and largest Department of Defense cyber exercise. For this year's exercise, the National Guard's State Partnership Program welcomed 15 countries to work alongside 38 U.S. states and territories.

Cyber Shield 2025 hosted a variety of competitions, brain teasers, informative classes, and realistic exercises that allowed cyber professionals from around the globe to expand their knowledge and share their own expertise.

In attendance this year was Norway, one of the newest countries to join the SPP. Despite their fresh partnership with Minnesota, Norway quickly became a trailblazer, crushing the cyber competitions.

Norway was among the various international teams that raced to decode their way to the finish line in the annual capture the flag event. During the game, there was a pinnacle moment when the Norway team realized that their coding expertise had led them to uncover physical grid coordinates. With Brazil hot on their heels, Norway was able to secure the victory by locating and capturing an American Flag.

"I think this is a very good arena to gamify cybersecurity expertise," said Norway Chief Petty Officer Simen Voll assigned to Norway's Security Operations Center.

In addition to these coding competitions, participants were provided real-world training and exercises in preparation for real-world cyber threats.

"In this world, there are advanced persistent threats," said Poland 2nd Lt. Pawel Borowski, assigned to the Poland Cyber Detachment. "So, the key here is sharing knowledge between each other so that we will be better prepared for our adversaries."







U.S. Army photos by Staff Sgt. Hannah Tarkelly

Due to the global and detrimental nature that cyber threats have posed in today's world, international collaboration has become more pertinent than ever.

"Cyber is a global problem and we are all fighting the same cyber battle," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Cristine Pierce, the Cyber Shield Deputy Director. "So why not come together and unify with our international partners to combat a threat that we are all facing?"

Cyber Shield's expanding global participation has demonstrated how international partnerships will continue to be the best defense against an enemy who has no borders.

"It's important to show that we are united, capable of working with each other, and capable of learning from each other," said Czech Republic Army 2nd Lt. Edita Bozkova, a network analyst.

Although the Norwegians have proven to be fierce competitors, Voll expressed that they won something far more valuable than a trophy.

"The biggest win for us is being able to strengthen the cooperation between our nations," Voll said.

Would you like to know more?



Soldiers with the North Carolina National Guard's 440th Army Band perform with the Botswana Defense Force during a cultural celebration at Thebephatshwa Air Base in Botswana on July 13, 2019. U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Mary Junell

440th Army Band
Goes International for Independence

by 2nd Lt. Catherine McGuire

During June and July, the North Carolina National Guard's 440th Army Band spent its annual training traveling, celebrating U.S. independence, and connecting with local communities.

Under the National Guard's State Partnership Program, the 440th Army Band spent time in Africa visiting Zambia and Botswana. Working directly with the Zambian Defense Force Band and the Botswana Defense Force Band, they hosted concerts and celebrated U.S. Independence Day.

> "Telling the Army story through music has allowed us to strengthen connections with our partner nations"

"My day job is a teacher, I am a music teacher, so I was teaching them American jazz," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tyson Sterne, commander of the 440th Army Band. "I was doing my second job, so it's great. It was fun."

When not performing for U.S. ambassadors, the Soldiers visited Kasisi Children's Home, an orphanage and a home for children with disabilities in Lusaka, Zambia. There, they performed for the children and taught them how to play their instruments.

"It is like a bucket list thing as a musician, you know? It was life-changing and surreal," Sterne said of his experience playing for the children.

Even at the end of their long journey, the band made it back to the U.S. just in time for Independence Day celebrations at home. In the first week of July, the 440th performed at the North Carolina Fourth of July Festival in Southport, N.C. On their last day, they marched in the parade.

Despite the quick turnaround, the band put in every effort to dutifully represent the North Carolina National Guard. With thousands in attendance to watch the band march by playing "The Army Song," the celebration was a success.

"I'm tired … but we're out here, and we're going to do a good job," said Sterne.

Throughout their adventures, the 440th Army Band was able to build relationships and make memories that will last a lifetime, further strengthening the North Carolina National Guard's relationship with Zambia and Botswana, and the North Carolina community.

"Telling the Army story through music has allowed us to strengthen connections with our partner nations while enabling the NCNG commanders to shape the environment to accomplish the mission," said Sgt. 1st Class Kendell Hills, the operations non-commissioned officer for the 440th Army Band.

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U.S. Air Force photos by 2nd Lt. Mary McKnight

N.C. State Air Surgeon Reflects on Military Medicine, Career and Service

by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Reanna Hartgrove

After nearly three decades of military service, and more than 25 years in medicine, U.S. Air Force Col. Daniel Martinie, North Carolina National Guard Joint Force Headquarters - Air chief flight surgeon, remains committed to readiness, resilience and mentorship in the North Carolina Air National Guard.

Martinie, the state's highest-ranking medical provider, advises senior leadership on all issues related to medical readiness and deployment. His role extends well beyond the clinic — supporting international partnerships through the State Partnership Program, guiding junior medical staff, and coordinating emergency responses during natural disasters.

"It's a multi-hat thing," Martinie said. "And I think it's complemented well by my 25 years in the ER. We don't just take care of sick patients — we deal with mass casualties and big logistical questions, like COVID outbreaks."

As the state's Public Health Emergency Response Officer, Martinie has been instrumental in leading medical operations during hurricanes, floods and other emergencies. He also actively flies with the 145th Airlift Wing and still manages patient care.

Martinie's military medical journey began with the Health Professions Scholarship Program, which funded his medical education at Pennsylvania State University. After completing his active-duty commitment, Martinie joined the Air National Guard in 2005 and has since served 20 years in the Guard.

"It's a great program, and it's good for the military," Martinie said. "Some people stay in, some get out, I decided to stay."

Martinie's experience in the emergency room and in uniform often overlap. Whether stabilizing patients for MedEvac or leading responses to health crises, the skills are transferable.

"We make decisions in the ER about who to MedEvac to a bigger hospital, how to prepare them, and airway management," Martinie said. "I see that in both sectors."

One of Martinie's most meaningful assignments was serving as a Squadron Medical Element, a role in which physicians deploy directly with units and serve as a consistent, embedded presence.

"You get to know the families, you take care of the whole team. It's a really unique role in the military," Martinie reminisces.

From mentoring the next generation of flight surgeons to working with international partners in Moldova, Zambia, Malawi and Botswana, Martinie continues to see his role evolve — but his passion remains the same.

"Being an Air Force physician has been the best part of my career," Martinie explains. "I've gotten to see the world and take care of the best America has to offer."

North Carolina National Guard Soldiers with the 113th Special Troops Battalion, 113th Sustainment Brigade, conduct room clearing rehearsals at Camp Butner Training Center, Stem, North Carolina, June 3, 2025.

Photo by Ms. Regan Sumy, PAO Intern

A North Carolina National Guard Soldier with the 113th Special Troops Battalion, 113th Sustainment Brigade, conducts room clearing rehearsals at Camp Butner Training Center, Stem, North Carolina, June 3, 2025.

Photo by Mr. Paul Agada, PAO Intern

A North Carolina National Guard Soldier with the 113th Special Troops Battalion, 113th Sustainment Brigade, conducts room clearing rehearsals at Camp Butner Training Center, Stem, North Carolina, June 3, 2025.

U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Catherine McGuire



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A Soldier with the 449th Combat Aviation Brigade, 1-131st Assault Helicopter Battalion, rides in a UH-60 Blackhawk at a door gunnery range at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina.

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Wesley Riley

Would you like to see more?

NCANG Ushers in 235th Combat Airfield Operations Squadron

by U.S. Air Force 2nd Lt. Mary McKnight

Effective Feb. 1, 2025, the 235th Air Traffic Control Squadron formally reclassified to the 235th Combat Airfield Operations Squadron during a redesignation ceremony in an auditorium at the North Carolina Air National Guard's New London, North Carolina, location, March 7, 2025.

Since standing up in March 2002, the 235 ATCS has been responsible for air traffic control services in the form of radar surveillance, tower operations, airfield management, deployable air traffic control, and landing systems, as well as theatre communications. Redesignating as the 235 CAOS increased their capabilities to include Combat Airspace, Combat Communications specialists, Airfield Management, Landing Zone Safety Officers, and surveyors.

This evolution made the 235 CAOS one of eleven combat airfield operations squadrons worldwide, but not all combat airfield operations squadrons are equal.

"We are different," said Master Sgt. Jacqueline Plumley, 235 CAOS superintendent. "The 235th (235 CAOS) and 243rd (243 CAOS, Wyoming Air National Guard) have three additional positions to instruct a formal NGB (National Guard Bureau) LZSO course."

While classified as an air traffic control squadron, the 235th ATCS operated in the capacity of a combat airfield operations squadron.

"We earned this tasking," said Plumley. "Our unit developed the lesson plan for the LZSO course, acquiring the required validation from AFSOC (the Air Force Special Operations Command) to make it official."

As an air traffic control squadron, the 235th ATCS operated at the "Establish the Airbase" and "Sustainment" phases of operations; as a combat airfield squadron, due to their landing zone capabilities, the 235th ATCS can now perform at the "Open the Airbase" phase in addition to their previous responsibilities.

"Our Airmen saw a need in the community and figured out a way to train and execute the missions to fill those needs," said Plumley. "It has taken us around five years of hard work to build a rapport within the flying community, to include the Army and Marines, not just the Air Force," Plumley continued. "Our conversion is the apex of the work that everyone has put in and is an official recognition of the unique expeditionary skillsets we possess."



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Erin M. Root, 235th Combat Airfield Operations Squadron commander, retires the 235th Air Traffic Control Squadron flag during a redesignation ceremony.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Reanna Hartgrove



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U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Aimee Grace Trinidad

5th-113th Field Artillery Touch-A-Truck

by U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Catherine McGuire and U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Bridget Pittman-Blackwell

Members from the North Carolina National Guard (NCNG) 5th-113th Field Artillery Battalion and the City of Dunn hosted a "Touch-A-Truck" event in Dunn, North Carolina on June 5, 2025. This kickoff event, executed in collaboration with the City of Dunn, the Town of Erwin, and Harnett County Emergency Services, marks a powerful chapter in both military readiness and local cooperation.

For the first time in history, the 5th-113th Field Artillery Battalion of the North Carolina National Guard has launched a joint training operation unlike any before—one that brings together military precision and community partnership.

"They've (the cities) been very gracious in hosting us and helping us achieve our training objectives, while we also support them and their training objectives in the exercise," said U.S. Army Maj. Ronald Colvin, Executive Officer of the 5th-113th. "So it's been a great situation that I hope we can build on in the future."



U.S. Army photos by 2nd Lt. Catherine McGuire

For one Soldier, this event is more than just a mission. It's a homecoming.

Born and raised in Dunn, Colvin isn't just leading part of the operation—he's doing so in the very city where he grew up.

A graduate of Triton High School in Dunn and Campbell University, just down the road in Buies Creek, Maj. Colvin's roots in this community run deep. His family has long been woven into the fabric of Dunn: his father served as a school principal in the city for 31 years, and his mother

dedicated over 40 years as a teacher—shaping generations of students in the very neighborhoods where the battalion now trains.

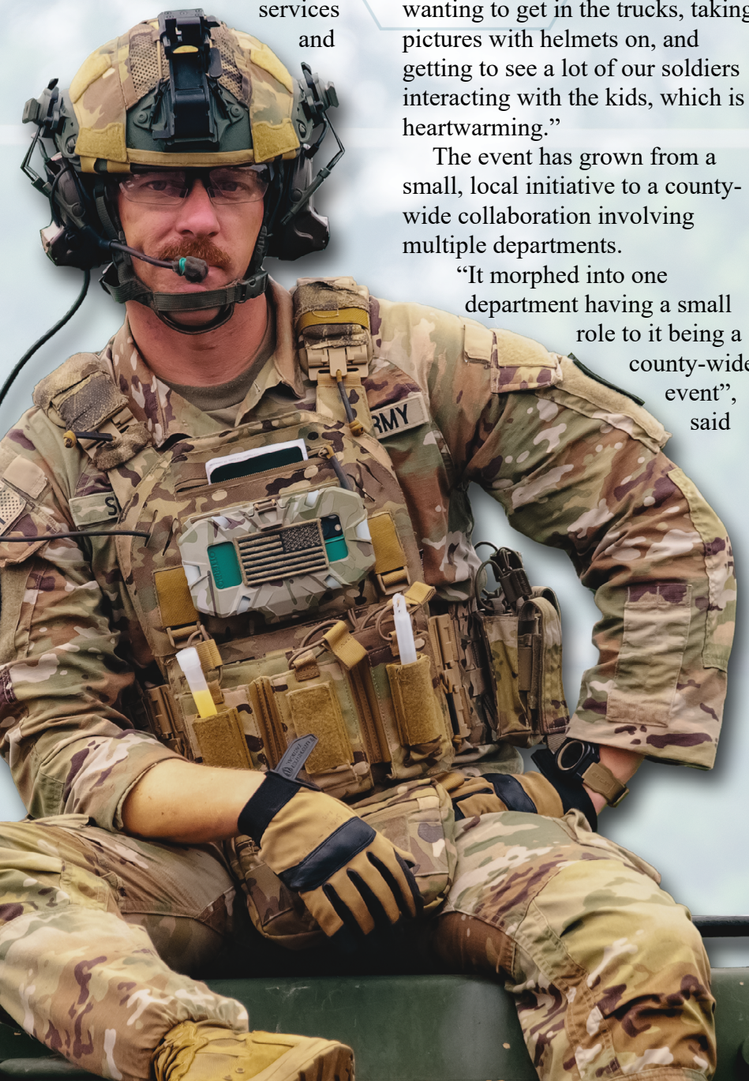
Soldiers from Alpha Battery, in the midst of their annual training, worked with first responders, emergency management, and police to bring together vehicles for the event. They welcomed local civilians, including families and children, to interact with a variety of vehicles and speak with soldiers about the NCNG.

"We've gotten a lot of training value out of it so far: working on our operational readiness, going somewhere unfamiliar, doing something that we haven't done before, while also getting to do something that's pretty familiar, which is work with our civilian partner – fire, emergency services, the police department – to achieve a goal," said Colvin.

The exercise not only displays tactical capabilities but also strengthens mutual understanding.

For Soldiers like U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Adam Elmilgy, 2nd Platoon Sergeant for Alpha Battery, the event offers a bridge between the military and everyday life.

"I think it's an awesome opportunity that we have to work with Dunn and all the emergency services and



incorporate ourselves in the town," said Elmilgy. "But also, just to interact with the general public and create those relationships and those bonds."

That sentiment echoed throughout the battalion.

"[The event] helps us get to know the community…Get some hearts and minds," said Cdt. Luke Bowling, a Soldier in Alpha Battery and a senior in UNC-Chapel Hill's Army ROTC program. "It's been really good to see the kids coming out here, wanting to get in the trucks, taking pictures with helmets on, and getting to see a lot of our soldiers interacting with the kids, which is heartwarming."

The event has grown from a small, local initiative to a county-wide collaboration involving multiple departments.

"It morphed into one department having a small role to it being a county-wide event", said



Deputy Chief Rodney Eason, Dunn Emergency Services.

This historic collaboration sets a strong precedent for the future—not just for the 5th-113th Field Artillery Battalion, but for all communities looking to partner with those who serve them. Together, they are proving that when duty and community meet, both are stronger.

"This event here at Dunn has just been an excellent…training event for these guys to get out and actually take on some civilian considerations and interact with people," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Samuel Shore, who operates the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS). "[It is] a good opportunity for the folks to come out and see what we do…maybe inspire some guys and gals to join the National Guard one day."

Would you like to see more?

Staff Sgt. Samuel Shore, 5th-113th Field Artillery Battalion, shows off a HIMARS, High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, during a Touch-A-Truck event held in Dunn, North Carolina.

U.S. Army photos by Sgt. Aimee Grace Trinidad

A North Carolina National Guard Special Forces Soldier loads a weapon at the Patriot Range training event held quarterly at the Camp Butner Training Center in Stem, North Carolina, April 15, 2025.

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Wesley Riley

Capt. Maverick Bostic, 211th Military Police Company Commander and Aide de Camp to the North Carolina National Guard Adjutant General, attends The Adjutant General's Invitational Pistol Match held at Camp Butner Training Center in Stem, North Carolina, April 25, 2025.

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Nigel Hatcher

A 113th Sustainment Brigade Soldier, in coordination with the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, 60th Troop Command, shows off an M2 Browning .50-caliber machine gun at the Greensboro Readiness Center in Greensboro, North Carolina, April 30, 2025.

U.S. Army photo by Capt. Timmy Marshburn



1-120th Infantry Regiment, 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, sets up a battalion aid station on an early morning during May IDT.

U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Jacob Deese



U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Rolly Evans, mechanical maintenance supervisor, 1450th Transportation Company, 630th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 113th Sustainment Brigade, secures a load of palletized crates during a mission, March 11, 2025.

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Tristin Lennert



Soldiers with the 1-120th Infantry Regiment medical section, 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, sharpen their map skills in order to quickly locate and MedEvac troops across a battle field.

U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Jacob Deese



U.S. Army Sgt. Nicholas Sansoucy, 211th Military Police Company, 105th Military Police Battalion, 130th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, navigates an obstacle course in a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicle during night driver training at Fort Barfoot, Virginia.

U.S. Army photo by Capt. Maverick Bostic



U.S. Army Sgt. Lauden Hundley, a motor transport operator with the 1450th Transportation Company, 630th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 113th Sustainment Brigade, secures equipment onto the bed of a M872 semitrailer with a chain and binder during Operation Spartan Shield.

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Tristin Lennert



U.S. Army Sgt. Jarrell Grant and U.S. Army Sgt. Mejia Jaramillo, wheeled vehicle mechanics with the 1450th Transportation Company, 630th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 113th Sustainment Brigade, recovers a M915 tractor truck with a M984 Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck wrecker during vehicle recovery operations in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Tristin Lennert

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U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Catherine McGuire

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