




109TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT



**DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY PROGRAM
AND MEDIA GUIDE**



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CEREMONY PROGRAM

01 OFFICIAL WELCOME

02 INTRODUCTIONS

03 NATIONAL ANTHEM

04 INVOCATION

05 REMARKS

06 CASING THE COLORS

A symbolic procedure where the unit guidon, or rally flag, is furled and cased, indicating that the unit is closing its stateside mission. It will be uncased and unfurled overseas, indicating the unit is ready for its deployment mission.

07 CLOSING

08 BENEDICTION

09 ARMY SONG

VERSE:

March along, sing our song, with the Army of the free.
Count the brave, count the true, who have fought to victory.
We're the Army and proud of our name!
We're the Army and proudly proclaim:

FIRST CHORUS:

First to fight for the right,
And to build the Nation's might,
And the Army goes rolling along.
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle's won,
And the Army goes rolling along.

REFRAIN:

Then it's hi! hi! hey!
The Army's on its way.
Count off the cadence loud and strong;
For where'er we go,
You will always know
That the Army goes rolling along.



Shoulder Sleeve Insignia of the
213th Regional Support Group

The 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment is a Pennsylvania National Guard unit based at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, with its Soldiers coming from all parts of the commonwealth. The detachment's higher headquarters element is the 213th Regional Support Group, based in Allentown.

The 109th MPAD was established May 15, 1960 in Harrisburg as the 109th Public Information Detachment.

Between 1977 and 1980, the unit was redesignated as a public affairs detachment and relocated to Fort Indiantown Gap.

The unit served in Kosovo 1999-2000 and Afghanistan 2002-2003. During their deployment to Iraq 2010-2011 they earned a Meritorious Unit Commendation. 109th MPAD Soldiers have served on numerous combat deployments with other units and have responded to domestic emergencies including natural disasters and COVID-19.

In 2023 and 2024, the 109th MPAD won back-to-back Public Affairs Organization of the Year awards at the National Guard Bureau.

The 109th MPAD is a modular, specialized unit that provides direct public affairs support during military operations, acting as the nexus between the military command, local communities and international media.

Their primary purpose is to tell the Army story, manage the flow of information to the public and maintain transparency and trust. They primarily do this through photography, videography, written news, media relations and digital media management.



**“...The pen is mightier than the sword”
-Edward Bulwer-Lytton**

ABOUT US

OUR PURPOSE

THE MPAD PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE IN SHAPING THE INFORMATION ENVIRONMENT, ENSURING THE MILITARY NARRATIVE IS ACCURATELY REPRESENTED WHILE ADHERING TO JOURNALISTIC ETHICS AND OPERATIONAL SECURITY.



Media facilitation: MPADs serve as the primary liaison for civilian journalists, upholding the Army's policy of "maximum disclosure, minimum delay." This involves organizing press conferences, facilitating media travel and providing access to information, internet connectivity and other support to help media representatives cover operations accurately.

Content production and distribution: MPAD Soldiers, or mass communication specialists, produce high-quality news stories, photo and video footage from the operational area. This content is distributed to news organizations globally and used in military internal communication channels to inform both the public and service members.

Command information services: They create and distribute informational products, such as news releases, newspapers, magazines or newscasts to keep Soldiers, their families and internal stakeholders informed about unit activities and mission progress.

Advising commanders: Public Affairs Officers within the MPAD advise senior leaders on public affairs decisions, communications strategies and media management, ensuring proper operational security measures are upheld.

Archival documentation: MPADs record archival footage and documentation of military activities and combat operations, which can be used for historical purposes or in future civilian news and documentary programs.

Community and stakeholder relations: They engage with local communities and various interagency, intergovernmental and multinational partners to foster productive relationships and build confidence in military operations.

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware **Communications Award Competition**

National Guard Bureau

2021

- 2nd Place, Feature Photo
- SSG Brandon Nelson

2023

- 1st Place, Organization of the Year (Large)

2024

- 1st Place, Organization of the Year (Large)
3rd Place, Military Photographer of the Year
- 1SG HollyAnn Nicom

Pennsylvania National Guard

2022

- 1st Place, Army Communicator of the Year
- SSG Shane Smith
- 2nd Place, Army Communicator of the Year
- SGT Vail Forbeck
- 2nd Place, Military Photographer of the Year
- SSG Brandon Nelson
- 3rd Place, Military Photographer of the Year
- SPC Aliyah Vivier
- 1st Place, Military Writer of the Year
- CPT Travis Mueller

2023

- 1st Place, Organization of the Year (Large)
1st Place, Army Communicator of the Year
- MAJ Travis Mueller
- 1st Place, Military Videographer of the Year
- SPC Aliyah Vivier
- 1st Place, Military Photographer of the Year
- SFC Brandon Nelson
- 2nd Place, Military Photographer of the Year
- SPC Annie Riley

- 3rd Place, Military Photographer of the Year

- SFC Zane Craig

- 1st Place, Military Writer of the Year

- 1LT Lindsey Foulk

- 2nd Place, Military Writer of the Year

- SPC Aliyah Vivier

2024

- 1st Place, Organization of the Year (Large)

- 1st Place, Army Communicator of the Year

- MAJ Travis Mueller

- 3rd Place, Army Communicator of the Year

- SPC Annie Riley

- 3rd Place, Military Videographer of the Year

- MAJ Travis Mueller

- 1st Place, Military Photographer of the Year

- SFC Brandon Nelson

- 2nd Place, Military Photographer of the Year

- 1SG HollyAnn Nicom

- 3rd Place, Military Photographer of the Year

- CPT Christopher Booker

- 1st Place, Military Writer of the Year

- 1SG HollyAnn Nicom



MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

In December 2011, the Department of the Army awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the 109th MPAD for meritorious service in Iraq, October 2010 to August 2011.



DEPLOYMENT MISSION

SUPPORT TO SOCEUR

The 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment will provide public affairs support to **U.S. Special Operations Command Europe** and primarily be based at U.S. Army Garrison Rhineland-Pfalz, Germany. This mission is directly supporting the U.S Department of War's European Defense Initiative. EDI started in 2014 to boost the American military presence and readiness in Europe. EDI supports U.S. European Command activities and seeks to enhance the security and capacity of NATO allies and regional partners.



Shoulder Sleeve Insignia
of U.S. SOCEUR

Across Europe, our adversaries are challenging national sovereignty, alliance solidarity and U.S. resolve. Within this contested environment, SOCEUR is uniquely postured to galvanize our relationship with Allies and partners to counter malign influence, build interoperability, rapidly respond to emerging threats and, if necessary, defeat aggression.

SOCEUR is dedicated to a culture of respect. We benefit from a broad range of perspectives, backgrounds, experiences and historical relevance to foster enduring teamwork and camaraderie as the most trusted special operations partner in Europe.

Units Supported:

- 352nd Special Operations Wing
- Naval Special Warfare Task Unit-Europe
- 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group
- Special Operations Task Force 10.1
- Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-10

FOLLOW US DURING THE DEPLOYMENT TO SEE OUR WORK



<https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/109MPAD>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/SOCEUR>



<https://www.facebook.com/SOCEUR>



https://www.instagram.com/us_soceur



https://x.com/us_soceur



Join our Facebook Group for information about our unit specifically, and resources for loved ones

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1611999382815227>

Or search "Friends & Family of the 109th MPAD"

DEPLOYMENT MISSION

DEPLOYMENT PREP



Since 2021, the unit has conducted sustained training and operational activity in preparation for deployment. Annual requirements have included 12-mile ruck marches, physical fitness assessments and coverage of dozens of military and community events across Pennsylvania. Soldiers have participated in overseas annual training missions in Africa and Europe, integrating with partner forces and refining expeditionary public affairs capabilities. In early 2025, the unit executed a field training exercise simulating a media operations center in a notional combat environment.

In addition to tactical training, the unit has engaged in real-world media operations, including visits to civilian newsrooms, coordination with local broadcasters and the release of hundreds of official photos, videos and news stories. These efforts have supported both internal military communication and public outreach, reinforcing the unit's role in strategic messaging and operational documentation. The cumulative experience has shaped a team prepared to operate in dynamic environments with both technical proficiency and mission awareness.

Major coverage and training events since 2023:

Exercise African Lion 2023

- Ben Gilouf Training Area, Tunisia

Exercise Iron Bison 2025

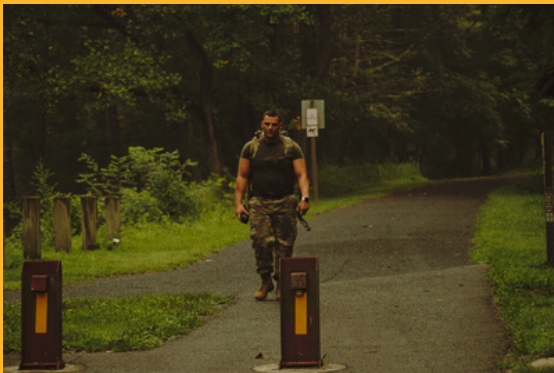
- Fort Indiantown Gap, PA

Exercise Combined Resolve 2024

- Hohenfels, Germany

Region II Best Warrior Competition 2025

- Fort Indiantown Gap, PA



Pa. Guard public affairs unit to deploy in late 2025

July 25, 2025

By Spc. Skylin Simpson

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. - U.S. Soldiers with the Pennsylvania National Guard's 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment has earned validation for an upcoming deployment after a two-week training period here, July 12-26, 2025.

The unit is scheduled to mobilize to Europe this winter where they will support Special Operations Command Europe with public affairs tasks and duties.

During the 109th MPAD's training, they provided photo, video and news coverage during various events and facilitated a media engagement with local reporters. Their coverage focused primarily on the 108th Medical Company-Area Support, a sister unit within the 213th Regional Support Group, who trained in a field medical exercise.

During their coverage of the 108th MCAS, 109th MPAD Soldiers were under the watchful eye of observer controller/trainers, who are Soldiers with First Army tasked with evaluating and validating National Guard and Reserve units before deployments. Soldiers with the 109th MPAD had to work together to develop quality public affairs products, mimicking their duties when they go overseas.

In between that coverage, the 109th MPAD had to complete various warrior tasks and battle drills, including firing M4 carbines during an annual qualification event, traversing a land navigation course, moving through an obstacle course, completing an Army Fitness Test and a 12-mile ruck march. Soldiers completed those tasks to refine their understanding of military operations and maintain a standard of readiness for the upcoming deployment.

"I feel like this has been the best annual training we've had since I've been here, and I've been here for three years," said Capt. Christopher Booker, multimedia team leader and a public affairs officer with the 109th MPAD. "We were challenged to use our skills at the very beginning and I think that set the tone for the rest of our annual training."

The first event was a standard weapons qualification with M4 carbines. The Soldiers executed this training to enhance marksmanship, weapon familiarity and combat readiness in a dynamic field environment. They also hosted the range while providing coverage of the 108th MCAS.

"I had a good practice run on the qualification range and when we went into the actual qualification," said Sgt. Du-Marc Mills, a public affairs specialist. "I feel like I did pretty well."



Later in the first week, 109th MPAD Soldiers flew in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, operated by Soldiers with the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade, to receive familiarization in aviation operations. Later that day the Soldiers tackled a land navigation, or orienteering, course to help enhance their ability to navigate and survive by finding different points in a wooded area using a compass, map and protractor.

The Soldiers moved through an obstacle course made up of several different obstacles to evaluate their fitness and confidence. These obstacles are designed to test physical and mental fortitude, often simulating mental challenges encountered in combat.

"I like seeing the Soldiers taking this exercise seriously, that they are giving it their best, and that they are having fun and enjoying their time here," said Staff Sgt. Melyssa Vazquez, a public affairs specialist and lead of the 109th MPAD's social media task force. "They did all that while trying their best to develop as Soldiers and be mission ready, of course."

The Soldiers executed a 12-mile ruck march at the nearby Swatara State Park, for one of their final events. A ruck march is a timed, long-distance march with a weighted backpack or rucksack. The Soldiers carried out this training to test their physical endurance and military fitness.

"It's always interesting to see how different units do things in their respective roles," said Spc. Annie Riley, a public affairs specialist. "Each individual Soldier has a unique and interesting story."

The 109th MPAD Soldiers responded to the strain of executing all of their tasks on top of performing coverage of other units during their annual training with professionalism and skill. The Soldiers guided one another through both physical and mental challenges, with emphasis on the shared success of the unit rather than individual achievement.

Pa. Soldiers leave home, loved ones for Europe deployment

December 13, 2025

By Capt. Leanne Demboski

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. – A group of Soldiers with the Pennsylvania National Guard's 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment were honored during a deployment ceremony Dec. 13, 2025, at the Keystone Conference Center here.

Part of the 213th Regional Support Group, the 109th MPAD is leaving their homes and loved ones for a year-long deployment to Europe. They will serve with U.S. Special Operations Command Europe, supporting the Department of War's European Defense Initiative

The Soldiers and their loved ones were praised for their dedication to duty and selfless service during the ceremony.

Overseas, the 109th MPAD will deliver essential public affairs planning and coverage of SOCEUR's mission to collaborate, train and provide deterrence alongside allies. The mission affords the opportunity to fulfill the DoW's mandate to maintain transparency with the public by releasing timely and accurate information.

The European Defense Initiative boosts the American military presence and readiness in Europe and seeks to enhance the security and capacity of NATO allies and regional partners.

"This team has spent years preparing, not just physically, but professionally and emotionally, for the mission ahead. We're ready to deploy, ready to document history and ready to represent the Pennsylvania National Guard and our loved ones with integrity and precision," Maj. Travis Mueller, commander of the 109th MPAD, said during the ceremony. "Every Soldier in this unit understands the weight of the story we're about to tell."

The 109th MPAD went through a rigorous training program since 2021 to prepare for this deployment. They trained on multiple physical requirements worthy of working alongside special operations units, including annual 12-mile ruck marches and fitness tests.

Soldiers completed multiple real-world media engagements and newsroom visits. They also covered major exercises overseas, including in Tunisia in 2023 and Germany in 2024. In April 2025, the unit endured a field training exercise simulating combat media operations.



Additionally, the unit passed a demanding validation exercise which included real-world events requiring public affairs coverage, including the production of photo, video and news content as well as engagement with local news reporters.

In all, the 109th MPAD released 5,329 images, 558 videos and 106 news stories to the public since 2021.

Several deploying members of the unit are award recipients of the Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware Communications Awards Competition, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal or inductees into the Honorable Order of St. Gabriel by the Army Public Affairs Association.



OUR PEOPLE...





Spc. Skylin Simpson
Public Affairs Mass Communication Specialist

Since joining the 109th MPAD in March 2023, she has documented military life through photography, videography and written journalism.

Her work includes both domestic and overseas assignments. Notable events she has covered are Exercise Combined Resolve 24 at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Germany and the 2025 Region II Best Warrior Competition.

Simpson completed the Mass Communications Foundations course at the Defense Information School in Fort Meade, Maryland July 26, 2023. She continues to improve her writing and production skills. She is motivated by her commitment to service, her passion for visual storytelling and her belief in the power of connection.

Simpson spends her free time split between various hobbies. She enjoys making things, whether it's knitting, whittling or any hands-on creative project.

She loves attempting to grow plants and playing with her pets. She spends a lot of time reading and listening to music. Skylin also has a passion for collecting. Anything from misprint Pokémon cards to military patches, she collects them all.



SPC. SKYLIN SIMPSON



DVIDS Stats

Images: 635

Videos: 51

News Stories: 4

Downloads: 1203





Sgt. Glenn Brennan
Public Affairs Mass Communication Specialist

Sgt. Glenn Brennan began his military career in 1997, enlisting in the Army National Guard as an 11B Infantryman with the 105th Infantry Division. He later transferred to the 133rd Maintenance Company, where he supported the World Trade Center mission. After completing his initial enlistment in 2003, he transitioned out of service before reenlisting in 2015 with the New York Army National Guard's 719th Transportation Company. In 2021, he joined the 109th MPAD where he continues to serve today.

Throughout his time in uniform, he has valued the camaraderie, purpose, and sense of service the Guard provides. Now serving as a public affairs professional, he takes pride in capturing the stories of Soldiers through his photography—highlighting their dedication, resilience, and service to the nation.

Photography has been part of his life since childhood. His father owned a successful photography business for 35 years and gave him his first Canon film camera at the age of ten, inspiring a lifelong passion for visual storytelling. Following in his father's footsteps, he attended the Rochester Institute of Technology, initially pursuing a degree in photojournalism before

discovering an interest in medical photography.

During his studies, he completed a two-month internship with the Westchester County Medical Examiner's Office, documenting autopsies, clothing, and weapons from violent crimes. After graduating from RIT in 2007, he joined the Miami-Dade Medical Examiner's Office, where he photographed more than 400 autopsies ranging from homicides to motor vehicle accidents.

When budget cuts ended his time with Miami-Dade in 2008, he continued developing his skills through portrait, event, and commercial photography alongside his father. In 2013, he began working with the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner, where he served until his retirement in 2019. The intense demands of the role, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, ultimately led him to focus full-time on his service in the Army National Guard.

Today, he continues to merge his lifelong passion for photography with his dedication to service, using his lens to tell the Army's story and honor those who serve.



SGT. GLENN BRENNAN



DVIDS Stats

Images: 241

Videos: 12

News Stories: 1

Downloads: 1089





Sgt. Dave Thomson
Public Affairs Mass Communication Specialist

Sgt. Dave Thomson has supported a variety of missions and training events, including Homeland Response Force operations, Exercise Combined Resolve 2024 and multiple medical readiness exercises. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated commitment to excellence and leadership, notably competing in the 2023 Best Soldier Competition, where he tested his skills in fitness, marksmanship and tactical proficiency.

In addition to his military experience, Thomson is an accomplished creative with a background in graphic design and aerial photography. His work spans both military and civilian audiences, producing visual content that captures compelling stories and moments. He is currently pursuing a degree in Communication, Journalism and Media from Shippensburg University combining his academic studies with hands-on experience in storytelling and design.

Driven by curiosity and a passion for continual growth, Thomson approaches

every challenge as an opportunity to learn and create.

Whether documenting missions, designing visuals, or flying drones to capture unique perspectives, he strives to bring ideas to life and inspire others through his work.



SGT. DAVE THOMSON



DVIDS Stats

Images: 173

Videos: 33

News Stories: 7

Downloads: 1707





Staff Sgt. Melyssa Vazquez currently serves as a Public Affairs Specialist with the 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Pennsylvania Army National Guard. A proud Puerto Rican and Nicaraguan Latina originally from the Bronx, New York, Vazquez now calls Bushkill, Pennsylvania, home.

With 12 years of dedicated service in the Army National Guard, Vazquez began her career as a 25Q Multichannel Transmission Systems Operator Maintainer before graduating from the Defense Information School in February 2025 as a 46S Public Affairs Mass Communication Specialist. While at DINFOS, she served as platoon guide and class leader, earning an Army Achievement Medal for her leadership and performance. She also served two years on state active-duty COVID-19 response missions supporting community operations across Pennsylvania, earning an Army Commendation Medal for her service. Most recently, she served as Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of social media operations during the 109th MPAD's Culminating Training Event in July 2025.

In her civilian career, Vazquez has spent nine years as a crisis worker, providing mental health support in both hospital and

county crisis-center settings. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in communication, combining her background in mental health with her passion for storytelling and service.

Beyond her military and professional achievements, Vazquez is deeply connected to her family and heritage. She credits her parents, siblings, extended family, boyfriend, and friends as her greatest sources of strength and inspiration.

She is passionate about dancing, music, fitness, traveling, reading, and creating content for social media. Mental health advocacy remains close to her heart, and she continues to find purpose in helping others and sharing stories that uplift and connect people.



STAFF SGT. MELYSSA VAZQUEZ



DVIDS Stats

Images: 79

Videos: 13

News Stories: 1

Downloads: 156





Sgt. 1st Class Brandon M. Nelson was born in York, Pennsylvania, and raised in Hellertown. He enlisted in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard on September 20, 2012, as a 14G Air Defense Battle Management Systems Operator. He attended Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and was first assigned to the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade's Air Defense and Airspace Management Cell.

In 2016, Nelson transitioned to the Public Affairs career field as a 46R Public Affairs Mass Communication Specialist and was assigned to the 109th MPAD, where he continues to serve. During his time with the MPAD, Nelson quickly excelled in public affairs operations, leading to an assignment with Special Operations Command Europe. In 2020, he deployed to Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England, where he served with the 352d Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office, supporting multinational special operations missions and events throughout Europe.

Beyond his public affairs duties, Nelson has served in several full-time positions within the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. From 2014 to 2020, he worked as a

Brigade Career Counselor with the Recruiting and Retention Battalion. He later joined the G1 Enlisted Promotions Section, managing state-level promotions. Following his SOCEUR deployment, he became the Readiness Noncommissioned Officer for the 109th MPAD, a full-time Active Guard Reserve position he currently holds.

Nelson holds an Associate's degree in Communication Design – New Media Theory & Practice from Northampton Community College and a Bachelor's in Communication Studies with a minor in Entrepreneurship from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. He is currently pursuing a Master of Homeland Security degree with a concentration in Geospatial Intelligence through Penn State World Campus.

His awards and decorations include the Air and Space Commendation Medal, the Excellence in Competition Rifle Bronze Medal and the Expert Rifle Badge. He has also been named the Pennsylvania State Photographer of the Year for two consecutive years and is an Honorary Member of the First Defenders.

Nelson's short-term goals include

successfully completing his upcoming deployment and returning home to his wife, Elizabeth, and their two sons, Garrett and Frank ("Auggie"). His long-term aspirations are to complete his master's degree, achieve the rank of sergeant major, and one day purchase a farm for his family.



SGT. 1ST CLASS BRANDON NELSON



DVIDS Stats

Images: 548

Videos: 15

News Stories: 2

Downloads: 4033





Sgt. 1st Class Zane Craig currently serves as an operations noncommissioned officer with the 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment and as a public affairs specialist for Joint Force Headquarters, Pennsylvania National Guard.

Born in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in 1986, Craig attended Mother Seton School in Emmitsburg, Maryland, where he excelled academically—representing Maryland at the 1999 National Geography Bee—and later graduated from Gettysburg Area High School in 2004. After attending Harrisburg Area Community College, he enlisted in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in 2009 as a public affairs specialist.

Craig deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn from 2010 to 2011. Since then, he has supported public affairs missions across the globe, including assignments in Lithuania, South Korea, Germany, North Macedonia and throughout the United States. He has been a member of the 109th MPAD since 2009 and has served full time at Joint Force Headquarters since 2016.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in public policy from Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg. Before transitioning to his current full-time public affairs role, he worked as a research analyst in the Pennsylvania State Capitol's Legislative Policy and Research Office. Over the course of his career, he has contributed to teams that have earned 1st place Keith L. Ware awards for Organization of the Year (both large and small) and Publication of the Year.

Outside of his military and professional pursuits, Craig enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, reading, movies and theater, history and good food and drink. He especially enjoys summer days on the floating dock at his home along the Conodoguinet Creek.



SGT. 1ST CLASS ZANE CRAIG



DVIDS Stats

Images: 1227

Videos: 11

News Stories: 212

Downloads: 6271





Capt. Angela Clemons
Public Affairs Officer

Capt. Angela Clemons, a native of Ambler, Pennsylvania, currently serves as a Public Affairs Officer with the 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. She began her military career in 2012 when she enlisted as an 88M Motor Transport Operator and deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from 2012 to 2013.

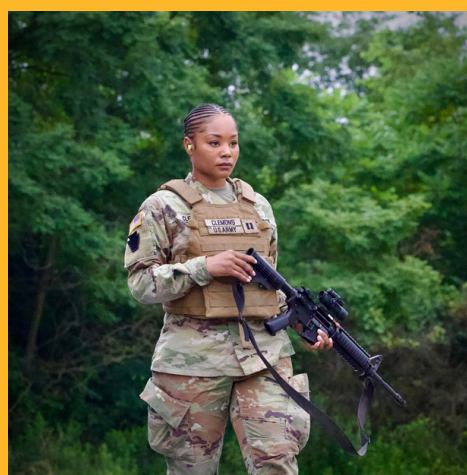
Following her deployment, Clemons pursued a commission through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program at West Chester University, where she graduated and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 2016. Her first assignment was with 1st Battalion, 111th Infantry Regiment, where she served as the Battalion S1. During her tenure, she completed a National Training Center rotation, participated in the historic mission welcoming North Macedonia into NATO in 2019, and played a key role in establishing Pennsylvania's first COVID-19 testing site.

Clemons transitioned to public affairs to continue sharing the Army story and highlighting the accomplishments of Soldiers across the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Throughout her career, she has earned multiple military awards and decorations, though she considers her

greatest achievement the privilege of serving alongside the dedicated men and women of the U.S. Army.

In her civilian career, Clemons works as a Corporate Recruiter with U.S. Security Care, where she has connected talented professionals with meaningful careers since 2016. Balancing her dual roles as a recruiter and Army officer, she brings her passion for people, service, and storytelling to every aspect of her life.

Outside of work and the military, Clemons enjoys reading, traveling, and spending quality time with her family.



CAPT. ANGELA CLEMONS



DVIDS Stats

Images: 44

News Stories: 3

Downloads: 83





Capt. Christopher Booker began his Pennsylvania Army National Guard career in 2014, enlisting as an Aviation Operation Specialist. He later became a cadet at West Chester University and enrolled in their Simultaneous Membership Program in 2017. Upon commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in May 2019, he joined the Adjutant General Corps as Human Resource Officer.

Booker currently serves as a Public Affairs Officer in the 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. Where he leads communication initiatives that enhance transparency, strengthen community relations and support mission readiness.

In addition to his public affairs responsibilities, Booker provides critical personnel support to ensure Soldier welfare, accountability and readiness. He has advised battalion leadership on personnel management, overseen training and professional development, and implemented process improvements to enhance organizational efficiency.

Booker earned dual Master's degrees in Human Resource Management from West Chester University and Criminal Justice with a concentration in Law Enforcement Administration from Saint Joseph's

University, along with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Delaware State University. He is a graduate of the Defense Information School, a Certified Scrum Master (CSM), and CompTIA Security+ certified, with a pending Top-Secret clearance.

In the civilian world, Captain Booker works in cyber security for the Department of War as a System Engineer. He is a loving father to two beautiful and happy children, he is a son, a brother and an ever-supporting friend. He is a die-hard Eagles fan who loves anime and karaoke!

Go Birds!!! 🐦



CAPT. CHRISTOPHER BOOKER



DVIDS Stats

Images: 121

Videos: 25

News Stories: 7

Downloads: 618





1st Sgt. HollyAnn Nicom currently serves as the Senior Enlisted Leader of the 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, a position she has held since 2022.

A Soldier since enlisting shortly after 9/11, Nicom has proudly served for more than 24 years. She began her career as a motor transportation specialist from 2001 to 2014, deploying twice to Kuwait and Iraq in 2003–2004 and 2008–2009, where she drove convoy missions for line-haul units. Domestically, she supported recovery operations in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina and completed four missions assisting U.S. Customs and Border Protection along the Arizona border as part of Pennsylvania’s Joint Task Force Operation Jump Start.

After completing the Public Affairs Qualification Course at the Defense Information School in 2015, Nicom transitioned into public affairs, serving in Latvia, Germany and Tunisia during multiple joint exercises as a content collector. She completed the Master Leader Course in 2021 and has since become a respected mentor and leader within her field. Her work has earned multiple honors, including being part of the National Guard Bureau’s Public Affairs Organization of the

Year (large category) in both 2023 and 2024, placing third for Military Photographer of the Year at the National Guard Bureau level and being named Writer of the Year for the Pennsylvania National Guard’s state-level competition in 2024.

In her civilian career, Nicom works as an Equipment Operator with the City of Lancaster’s Waste Water Department, where she helps maintain the city’s sewer and stormwater systems. She previously spent more than 30 years as a horticulturist, designing and maintaining landscapes and golf courses through the region. She holds a degree in art from Temple University and continues to consult for Jumping Brook Country Club in Neptune, New Jersey.

Beyond her professional achievements, Nicom is guided by her faith and the principles of Matthew 25:35–40, striving to live a life of compassion and service. She has volunteered extensively in her community, tutoring English as a Second Language learners, hosting book clubs and family game nights, and providing comfort to nursing home residents through hospice programs in Lancaster County. In one of her proudest and most selfless acts, she donated a large portion of her liver to a

Vietnam veteran twelve years ago, saving his life.

Nicom and her husband, David Nixdorf, reside in Lititz, where they run a small woodworking business, Woodenpeace, creating handmade wooden bowls, vessels and décor from reclaimed materials. In her spare time, she enjoys collecting and repurposing unique items, spending time with family, and appreciating the simple joys of creativity, nature, and connection.



1ST SGT. HOLLYANN NICOM



DVIDS Stats

Images: 228

Videos: 3

News Stories: 35

Downloads: 762





Maj. Travis Mueller currently serves as the Commander of the 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment and as the State Media Relations Officer for the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Previously, he served as the Public Affairs Officer of the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade 2014-2021. During this time, he led the 28th ECAB's public communications and media relations through a deployment to Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia 2020-2021.

He has served on domestic missions as well, including serving as the PAO for Pennsylvania's Task Force Aviation during Hurricane Florence in South Carolina in 2018. In 2023, he responded to an Emergency Management Assistance Compact request from Hawaii and supported the Hawaii Wildfire Response in Maui.

He completed the Public Affairs Qualification Course at the Defense Information School in March 2016.

Prior to public affairs, Mueller served as the 28th ECAB's Brigade Strength Manager, handling S1 tasks 2013-2014. Prior to earning a commission as an officer, he served as a Rifleman with Bravo Company, 3-116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in the Virginia National Guard. He completed Infantry One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, GA in August 2011.

In 2024 he was inducted into the Honorable Order of St. Gabriel by the Army Public Affairs Association. In 2023, he was part of the Department of the Army's Public Affairs Organization of the Year (small category) in the Keith L. Ware Communications Award Competition.

He is happily married to his wife, Anna, and they have four kids. They enjoy being together, doing activities as a family and finding the best food places in the area.

Sadly, Mueller roots for the Pittsburgh Steelers and Penn State Nittany Lions.



MAJ. TRAVIS MUELLER



DVIDS Stats

Images: 2972

Videos: 268

News Stories: 119

Downloads: 22,495



REAR DETACHMENT

Though not deploying overseas, the rear detachment plays an important role by supporting the unit from the home front and standing ready to deploy in case of emergency. They will carry on the unit's stateside mission while also providing support to deployed Soldiers' loved ones.

They will provide public affairs coverage of various events at home such as exercises, ceremonies and domestic operations. They will also assist the family programs office with welfare checks on Soldiers' loved ones.



CAPT. LEANNE DEMBOSKI
REAR DETACHMENT COMMANDER



STAFF SGT. URIAH CLITES
REAR DETACHMENT OPERATIONS NCO



STAFF SGT. VAIL FORBECK
PUBLIC AFFAIRS MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST

REAR DETACHMENT



STAFF SGT. ASHON CALHOUN
PUBLIC AFFAIRS MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST



SGT. DU-MARC MILLS
UNIT PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE



SGT. TRISTAN MURRY
UNIT PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE



SPC. ALIYAH VIVIER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST

“THE MIGHTY BYSON”

THE BISON: SYMBOL OF STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE

The 109th MPAD proudly adopted the bison as our mascot, a symbol that embodies the strength, resilience and determination of our unit. The bison, a majestic and powerful creature, roams the plains with a steadfast presence, much like our Soldiers who navigate the challenges of their missions with unwavering resolve.

Just when you count them out, they find a way to not only survive, but thrive.

Why the Bison?

The bison is more than just a symbol. It represents the core values and spirit of the 109th MPAD.

- **Strength**
 - The bison is known for its incredible strength and ability to endure harsh conditions. Similarly, our Soldiers demonstrate physical and mental fortitude, overcoming obstacles and persevering through demanding situations.
- **Resilience**
 - Bison have survived and thrived despite numerous challenges through history. Our unit mirrors this resilience, serving in a unique career field but adapting to changing environments and emerging stronger from every challenge.
- **Unity and Teamwork**
 - Bison move in herds, relying on each other for protection and support. This reflects our unit's emphasis on teamwork and camaraderie. We work together, support one another and achieve our goals as a cohesive team.
- **Steadfastness**
 - The bison stands its ground in the face of adversity. Our Soldiers exhibit the same steadfastness, maintaining their commitment to the mission and their duty to serve.
- **Misunderstood**
 - Like the bison, MPAD Soldiers and the entire public affairs career field are often misunderstood. The bison was once seen as a threat and nearly driven to extinction, but it has proven to be a vital part of the ecosystem. Similarly, our Soldiers may be underestimated or misunderstood in their roles, but are essential in shaping public perception, preserving the Army's legacy and aiding mission accomplishment.

In adopting the bison as our mascot, the 109th MPAD honors the qualities that make our unit exceptional. We are proud to carry forward the legacy of the bison, embodying its spirit in every story we tell and every mission we undertake.



