

THE FOCUS

NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS THEMES AND MESSAGES

May - Readiness

More than 450 Guard members participate in Arctic readiness exercise



Story by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Richard Mekkri, National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

GRAYLING, Mich. — More than 450 U.S. Soldiers and Airmen braved freezing temperatures and extreme winter conditions during the winter iteration of Northern Strike 26, Jan. 26-29. An Army-sponsored, National Guard Bureau exercise, Northern Strike provides service members from across the total force the opportunity to train to meet the objectives of the Department of War's Arctic strategy.

The winter iteration of the exercise focuses on one of the most unforgiving aspects of warfighting: surviving, moving, and fighting in extreme cold.

NIPR users to play video copy and paste: <https://tinyurl.com/yme7ktcs>

Video by: U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Garas, Michigan Army National Guard

For the full story follow the link below (NIPR users copy and paste link into browser): <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/557461/northern-strike-26-winter-iteration-concludes>

May Observances

OPSEC Awareness Month
Military Appreciation Month
Month of the Military Caregiver

6-12 National Nurses Week
8 Victory in Europe Day (1945)
Military Spouse Appreciation Day
10 Mother's Day
15 Peace Officers Memorial Day
17 Armed Forces Day
22 National Maritime Day
25 Memorial Day
27 Garrison West Point established (1778)
28 Data Privacy Day

Media Messages

Theme:

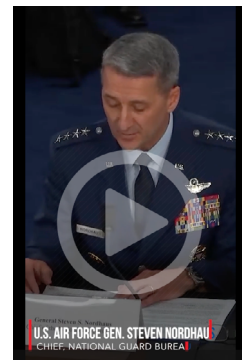
Strategic competitors and the changing character of war demand a laser focus on readiness. The National Guard provides combat-capable Soldiers and Airmen to every Combatant Command, and maintains the depth and readiness needed to rapidly surge for large-scale combat operations ensuring the department is the most elite and lethal force.

Messages:

Our Soldiers and Airmen are formidable, experienced, and battle tested.

We play a pivotal role in the Nation's ability to counter threats, deter adversaries and respond to domestic crises. This is accomplished through foundational readiness on weapon system sustainment, facilities sustainment restoration and modernization.

Command Information



May Readiness Products:

[National Guard Bureau Chief details Guard readiness.](#)

NIPR copy and paste: <https://tinyurl.com/3v5t7pjn>

U.S. Air Force Gen. Steve Nordhaus, chief of the National Guard Bureau, describes the readiness and indispensable role of the National Guard to the Department of War's readiness. (U.S. Army video edited by Master Sgt. Whitney Hughes)

June - Partnerships

Mass., Nebraska Guard SPP programs shine at exercise in Kenya, Tanzania

Story by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Tucceri, Massachusetts National Guard



U.S. Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 134th Infantry Regiment (Airborne), Nebraska Army National Guard conduct infantry squad tactical training in Msata, Tanzania during exercise Justified Accord 26, March, 9. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Catessa Palone)

NAIROBI, Kenya – For the past 33 years, the Department of War National Guard State Partnership Program has fostered relationships around the globe by pairing Guard elements with partner nations worldwide to bolster security cooperation and build lasting ties across military, diplomatic, economic and social domains.

One event that benefits from the SPP is Justified Accord, U.S. Africa Command's largest annual multinational exercise in East Africa.

For the full story follow the link below (NIPR users copy and paste link into browser): <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/561266/massachusetts->

June Observances

PTSD Awareness Month

- 6 D-Day (1944)
- 14 Army Birthday
Flag Day
- 21 Father's Day
- 22 GI Bill Anniversary
- 24 Navy Women Reserves Day
- 25 Korean War Began (1950)
- 27 PTSD Awareness Day



U.S. Navy graphic by Seaman Brianna Bonilla

Media Messages

Theme:

The National Guard maintains partnerships at every level, from local to global, sharing collective responsibility for our national security.

Messages:

In 2024, more than 2,700 Guardsmen supported nearly 2,600 Law Enforcement Agencies in Counterdrug Operations that led to the seizure of more than \$13 billion in currency, property, and illegal narcotics.

At the federal level, the National Guard collaborates with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Justice, and other agencies to seamlessly respond to domestic crises, counter illicit trafficking organizations, and prevent cyber incursions.

Command Information

June Partnership Products:

Social Media Reel

Caption: Strong partnerships are the foundation of our mission. As National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, we train and collaborate with local, state, and international partners to stay ready for any challenge. Together, these partnerships enhance our capabilities, strengthen our communities, and ensure we can be Always Ready, Always There.

Army Birthday Graphic

Caption: Happy 251st Birthday, U.S. Army! Today we celebrate the strength, service, and legacy of the Soldiers who have defended our nation since 1775. Proud of our past and ready for the future, we honor all who have worn the uniform and continue to serve with dedication.

July - State Partnership Program

State Partnership Program enhances U.S. and Slovak airpower

Story by U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. William Hopper, Indiana Air National Guard



An F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot assigned to the Slovak Armed Forces shakes hands with a U.S. Air Force crew chief assigned to the Indiana Air National Guard after a joint training flight at Morris Air National Guard Base, Tucson, Arizona, Feb. 15. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Danielle Hough)

TUCSON, Ariz. – The 122nd Fighter Wing with the Indiana Air National Guard and Slovak Air Force took part in an air-to-air joint training exchange of experience exercise Feb. 12-17 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, in Tucson, Arizona. The exercise aimed to strengthen strategic partnerships and increase NATO interoperability between U.S. and Slovak armed forces as part of the state partnership program Indiana and Slovakia have enjoyed for more than 32 years.

For the full story follow the link below (NIPR users copy and paste link into browser): <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/561675/state-partnership>

July Observances

- 1 Women's Army Corps & Cadet Nurse Corps Established (1943)
Air Force Nurse Corps Established (1949)
- 4 Independence Day
- 25 Hire a Veteran Day
- 26 Desegregation of the Armed Forces (1948)
- 27 National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day



(U.S. Army graphic by Pfc. Alexis Fischer)

Media Messages

Theme:

When we engage and train with our SPP partners, we make them more capable of their own security, and more lethal and interoperable with the United States against shared adversaries.

Messages:

The SPP helps the United States react effectively to anticipated or unanticipated global scenarios as they emerge. This cost-effective, small footprint program delivers a significant return on investment by broadening the pool of foreign security partners.

Today, the SPP has 115 partnerships in every Combatant Command, encompassing nearly 60 percent of globe. The SPP proves its value year after year. In 2024 alone, the program conducted more than 1,000 engagements at less than one percent of the security cooperation budget.

Command Information

July SPP Products:

Social Media Reel

Caption: Through the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program, the National Guard builds enduring relationships with partner nations, strengthening security, trust, and shared readiness around the world. These partnerships create lasting impact by enhancing interoperability, supporting mutual growth, and promoting stability at home and abroad.

July 4th - America 250 Graphic

Caption: As America celebrates 250 years of freedom today, the National Guard continues to stand ready at home and abroad. We remain prepared to protect our communities and defend our democracy—anytime, anywhere. #Freedom250.