

Battle Born

Quarterly Magazine of the Nevada National Guard Summer 2022



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Summer 2022

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ON THE COVER: Top: A Nevada Army Guard UH-60L Black Hawk, foreground, and CH-47F Chinook fly into position for a flyover to mark the start of the NFL Draft in Las Vegas, Nevada, in April. **Inset:** Staff Sgt. Keahi Granstrom tackles the obstacle course in Guam in June during the Region VII Best Warrior contest.

Photos by 106th Public Affairs Detachment and Guam National Guard

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Submissions and Letters to the Editor

Submission and letters to the editor are welcome. They must be signed and include the writer's full name and mailing address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. Other print and photographic submissions of interest to our diverse readership is encouraged and welcome.

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Publication of material is determined by available space and reader interest. The staff reserves the right to edit all material.



Photo by Spc. Adrienne Lopez, 17th Sustainment Brigade

Nevada National Guardsmen supporting Joint Task Force 17 take time out for a photo at Atomic Motors in mid-March in Henderson to commemorate the conclusion of the Nevada Guard's coronavirus health response support mission. The Nevada Guard was activated on April 1, 2020 to support the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and it ultimately ceased response operations 715 days later on March 15, 2022. All of the Nevada Guard's requisite reverse Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, and Integration was completed by March 31, ending the two-year long mission.

Longest, largest domestic Nev. Guard mission concludes

By Spc. Adrienne Lopez
17th Special Troops Battalion

LAS VEGAS — The Nevada National Guard wrapped up its largest and lengthiest domestic activation in history after the Guard's support of the state coronavirus response concluded March 31.

The mission concluded almost exactly two years to the date when Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen were first called to duty on April 1, 2020. By mid-April 2020, support for the response mission peaked with 1,139 Soldiers and Airmen on duty across the state. More than 1,400 Guardsmen would eventually spend time supporting the mission. Taking into account preparation days and accrued leave, Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen spent 715 days on the front lines of the state's coronavirus battle.

Col. Brett Compston, the director of joint and domestic operations for the Nevada National Guard, recounted the Nevada Guard's contributions to the state's response during the challenging past two years.

"Examples of the types of tasks we did during the pandemic included setting up mass testing and vaccination locations throughout the state and managing personal protective equipment and distribution warehouses," Compston said. "We helped distribute PPE, record contact tracing, and performed administrative duties in various

COVID-19 RESPONSE STATISTICS

- Days on mission: 715
- Peak Personnel: 1139; April 2020
- Tests Administered: 833,298
- Total Tests Supported: 2.5 million
- Vaccinations Administered: 819,330
- Total Vaccinations Supported: 2.9 million
- Total Meals Distributed 2.8 million (2,826,762)
- Pounds of PPE delivered: 3.8 million (10+ million pieces)

"We also supported meal deliveries, established alternate care sites, set up tents outside of the hospitals for additional space, and myriad other miscellaneous missions requested by state officials."

The statistics recorded by Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen during their two years of support were staggering. They performed 833,298 COVID-19 tests and administered 819,330 COVID-19 vaccinations. They delivered 3.8 million pounds of PPE and distributed more than 2.8 million meals throughout communities across the Silver State, including

tribal communities.

The Guardsmen supported 62 mobile sites, seven warehouse/logistic distribution centers, five food distribution operations, 23 stationary vaccination operations, two mobile vaccination operations and they sanitized four alternate care facilities.

The coronavirus mission led to some changes within the state's organizational structure.

Gov. Steve Sisolak requested the Nevada Office of the Military provide oversight of the Division of Emergency Management and Health and Human Services in 2020. The Nevada Legislature made that organizational change with the Nevada Office of the Military overseeing the Division of Emergency Management permanent in 2021.

"We've really become a part of the interagency state team," Compston said. "That integration piece is one of the things we can't lose in the future. It just has to remain the way we do business moving forward."

Compston said the Nevada National Guard learned many valuable lessons during the pandemic response.

"The pandemic gave us new insight into ways to better integrate our operations with other state agencies and work hand-in-hand with local governments and organizations during a crisis," Compston said. "I'm confident the experience will make us better-prepared to deal with future crises." ■

DEPLOYMENT ROUNDUP

137th Military Police Det. departs for Romania mission

Staff Reports

CARSON CITY – The Capital City's 137th Military Police Detachment is the latest Nevada Army Guard unit to support an international mission. About three dozen of the unit's military policemen and women deployed to Romania this summer to support European Command.

The Soldiers are set to perform law and order missions on an Army base located in Romania. Law and order missions on the base will include: force protection, physical security and anti-terrorism measures. The Soldiers will also investigate crimes and enforce traffic regulations on the base.

This deployment has been set for more than one year and is not in conjunction with the conflict in Ukraine. The Nevada Guard has deployed to eastern Europe several times in its history; the 757th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion recently deployed to Poland in 2020.

The deployment to Romania will be the unit's first foreign deployment since it served in Afghanistan in 2015-2016. It also deployed to Afghanistan in 2010-2011. The unit was located in Henderson, Nevada, until 2019 when it relocated and succeeded the 485th Military Police Company as the primary military police unit in northern Nevada.

Many of the deploying Soldiers are veterans of previous 137th and 485th deployments. The 485th deployed to Afghanistan in 2011-2012 and Kuwait in 2016-2017. This will be the fourth international deployment for detachment commander, Capt. Bryan Hernandez, a University of Nevada, Reno, ROTC graduate.

Two dozen of the unit's Soldiers will remain in the Silver State and be available for any domestic contingencies.

The unit spent several days in May at the Hawthorne Army Depot preparing for its upcoming deployment. The unit's Soldiers worked the "graveyard shift"



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

Sgt. Edmar Foronda, center, a policeman in the 137th Military Police Detachment based in Carson City, reviews police reports with his squad during pre-deployment training at the Hawthorne Army Depot in early May. About three dozen Soldiers in the 137th MP Det. deployed to Romania this summer.

from 4 p.m. until 4 a.m. each night to complete needed prerequisites before deployment.

"The training went really well – there are a lot of tasks to accomplish before we deploy," Hernandez said. "We spent the time in Hawthorne undergoing external evaluations. We worked overnights to become proficient in low-visibility operations, an important requirement before departing."

The 137th left Nevada for its final pre-deployment training in July. The detachment will reach Romania in August. It will spend nine months in Romania before returning to the Silver State.

One Nevada Army Guard unit is already deployed internationally. Seventy Soldiers in Delta Company, 1st Squadron, 221st Cavalry are currently in Kuwait. They departed last November and are due back in Nevada this autumn. ■

Delta Company midway through Kuwait mission

KUWAIT – After leaving southern Nevada last November, Delta Company, 1st Squadron, 221st Cavalry finally reached Kuwait in January to begin its support of U.S. Central Command. Since then, the roughly 70 Delta Company Soldiers participating in the mission performed security missions throughout the CENTCOM region and have trained to refine their skills in individual crew tank gunnery, section gunnery and platoon gunnery.

The company has performed well and scored the "Top Gun" score within its regional task force for tank and truck gunnery.

The company is set to return to Nevada this autumn. This is the largest foreign deployment of Cavalry Soldiers since the entire 1/221st deployed to Afghanistan in 2009. ■

Nev. Army aviation flies into national spotlight: Helicopters kick off NFL draft, recover 2 stranded aircraft

STEAD — The Nevada Army Guard's aviation program became a familiar fixture on evening newscasts — and even sports programming *Staff Report* — this spring as Soldiers from the Aviation Troop Command successfully recovered two highly-visible stranded aircraft and kicked off the NFL's annual draft with a three-ship flyover.

SLOPESIDE RECOVERY

In March the Nevada Army Guard assisted its eastern neighbor when it recovered two Utah Guard Black Hawk helicopters that had crashed near Snowbird Ski Resort in February. The Utah Guard UH-60 Black Hawks crashed during a "winter survivability and mobility training" session.

At the behest of the Utah Guard, the Nevada Army Guard deployed a CH-47 Chinook helicopter and sling-loaded the Utah aircraft to Heber Valley Airport. Crews then loaded the aircraft onto lowboy trailers for their journey to the Utah Army Aviation Support Facility in West Jordan, Utah.

Utah Officials said the crash happened during a routine training exercise that prepped aircrews for dusty, mountainous and at times "white-out" flying conditions. The aircraft landed just 150 yards off Snowbird property but fortunately there were no injuries.

KICK OFF TO THE DRAFT

As winter gave way to spring, the National Football League contacted the National Guard and requested a military aircraft flyover for its April 28 NFL Draft in Las Vegas. This was the first time the NFL Draft was ever held in Nevada.

Within just days, the Aviation Troop Command was able to provide a

three-aircraft flyover that featured each of the Nevada Army Guard's airframes, including a CH-47 Chinook, a UH-60 Black Hawk and a UH-72 Lakota. The three helicopters flew over the Las Vegas Strip just as the National Anthem concluded at the draft's outdoor venue.

Tens of thousands of spectators watched from the ground; media statistics estimate up to 48 million people may have seen the flyover, either via network television or social media platforms.

ASSIST TO WASHOE CO. SHERIFF

In June, the Nevada Army Guard was in Nevada headlines once again as it came to the aid of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office. In early June, a Washoe County Sheriff's HH-1H Huey helicopter experienced a hard landing in the Petersen Mountain Range north of Reno. The two pilots were not injured but the helicopter was stranded.

The WCSO contacted the Governor's office for assistance and the state requested the 1/189th Aviation unit provide a Chinook to recover the remote aircraft. With WCSO deputies and aviation Soldiers cooperating both on the ground and in the air, the stranded aircraft was returned to its home hangar at the Reno-Stead Airport.

"We are always glad to assist our state and regional partners," said state Army aviation officer Lt. Col. Matt Jonkey. "It is rewarding to see our past training result in successful real-world missions.

"The first half of the year was full of very visible missions that provided an opportunity to display the amazing capabilities of Army aviation aircraft. The successful completion of these missions shows just how valuable a fleet of National Guard helicopters are to a state." ■



File Photo



New Senior Enlisted Leader's primary job: listen and adjust

Chief Master Sgt. Cameron Pieters, 51, of Reno, succeeded Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Spaulding as the Senior Enlisted Leader of the Nevada National Guard in May after Spaulding became the executive assistant to the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief, National Guard Bureau. As the state's senior enlisted leader, he advises the Adjutant General on matters concerning enlisted Airmen, Soldiers and family members. Pieters will support the directors of the Joint, Army and Air staffs with the management of the full-time enlisted staff, including active Guard and Reserve Soldiers, Airmen and military technicians.

I am honored, flattered and humbled to have been selected to become the Nevada Guard's Senior Enlisted Leader – a position that unarguably affects and majority of our Guard families within our state.

The Nevada National Guard has been my “home” away from home for more than 25 years and I assure you I want to keep the organization moving in a positive direction before my career in the military concludes in the future.

Here's a glimpse at my strategy to continue the upward glide for the Nevada Guard that begins with a personal anecdote. It involves listening to others and adjusting to situations.

In the late 1990s after six years of active-duty service, I decided to separate from the military and move back home to Nevada to pursue my dream of opening a small business in northern Nevada. I didn't care whether the business was a bicycle shop or a dog-biscuit bakery. I finally decided to open a pizza business at the same time I joined the Nevada Air Guard.

Admittedly, I knew absolutely nothing about running a business, let alone making a pizza, when I opened the “Good to Go Pizza Deli” with a balance of less than \$200 in my bank account.

In the beginning, the feedback on the deli's pizzas were, to put it kindly: subpar. Comments included: “soggy crusts”, “obviously canned mushrooms” and, worst of all, “tastes like food straight from a school cafeteria.”

I obviously needed a way to turn my business around, so I listened to my customers and asked questions of them. Many were brutally honest about my lack of the basic culinary expertise needed to produce the most popular global dish. I began to seriously question my decision to open the deli.

As time passed, I took notice of what customers wanted and what was popular and what needed improvement. As I made changes and refined processes, the deli began producing a product I was really proud of. The pizza deli remained in my family for 24 years all due to two important lessons I learned: one needs the ability to listen and make adjustments.

As I begin my stint as senior enlisted leader, I intend to use the same philosophy I learned from my small business



Photo by Sgt. William Marsh, 106th Public Affairs Detachment

Chief Master Sgt. Cameron Pieters stands in front of a joint formation after he became the Nevada Guard's Senior Enlisted Leader in May.

and listen intently to others' comments. We all have two ears and one mouth, so maybe we should all listen twice as much as we speak?

I am keenly interested in what is good and bad and efficient and inefficient throughout the entire Nevada Guard. It's my job to be the sounding board for the Soldiers, Airmen and civilians in our organization and the voice of the enlisted to senior leaders. We can only continue to improve this organization with brutal honesty about what needs to change.

I challenge each of you to get out of your comfort zone and act in a deliberate manner. Strive for excellence, not perfection. Inspire those around you and help them attain a high level of success. Don't forget it is the traditional Soldiers and Airmen in our ranks who give the National Guard its competitive edge. While you give 100 percent to the organization, ensure you get the most possible out of the Nevada National Guard – educationally, emotionally, physically and financially – before your career concludes. ■

DROP ZONE

United States

• Reno
• Carson City



Photo by Spc. Adrienne Lopez

NORTH LAS VEGAS – A plaque in remembrance of deceased Cpl. Graciela Gomez is placed in front of the Speedway Armory in June. First Sgt. Larry Harlan coordinated the memorial, which includes a garden, with brigade leadership as a tribute to Gomez's life and her service to the Nevada Army Guard. In the garden, orange flowers surround the plaque that is engraved with her name and a quote read during her memorial service from poet Maya Angelou: "A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies. It brings us together again and again." Gomez was an innocent bystander at an event last autumn and was inadvertently killed in a drive-by shooting.



Photo by Spc. Adrienne Lopez

CAMP NAVAJO, Arizona – Spc. Ortiz Diaz fires a M320 Grenade Launcher during the 1864th Transportation Company's annual training on the Camp Navajo grenade course in June. More than 20 of the unit's Soldiers learned about the function and capabilities of the M320; for many, it was their first experience with the M320.



Photo by Spc. Adrienne Lopez

APEX – Two Nevada Guard Soldiers in the Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear, and Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) team assist a mock casualty during a training exercise in the small Clark County city of Apex in April. Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen teamed with the Arizona Air Guard during the exercise to test the organizations' ability to cohesively respond to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear situations.

The Nevada National Guard has more than 200 Soldiers and Airmen on its CERFP team. The team is trained to quickly provide specialized assistance to federal and state agencies as well as National Guard civil support teams during and after a variety of hazardous situations. CERFP teams were established by the National Guard in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 to provide quick assistance to civilian authorities in any case of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) disasters in order to save lives, mitigate property loss and ease human suffering.



Photo courtesy Delta Company

KUWAIT – As twilight descends in the Middle East, a Delta Company, 1-221st Cavalry M1A1 Abrams main battle tank stands as a deterrence force to any threat of future violence in Kuwait. About 70 Soldiers in Delta Company, 1-221st Cavalry continue to serve in Kuwait in support of U.S. Central Command. “This deployment has made Delta Company an extremely viable asset within the armor community of the U.S. Army and the Nevada Army Guard. We continue to perform above and beyond what is required of us and excel in all aspects armor,” said Staff Sgt. Henry Grant, a tank commander in the company. The company is set to return to Nevada this autumn. This is the largest foreign deployment of Cavalry Soldiers since the entire 1/221st deployed to Afghanistan in 2009.

BELLEMONT, Arizona – Soldiers from the Nevada Army Guard’s 240th Engineer Company headquartered in North Las Vegas spread the concrete for a new helicopter pad at Camp Navajo in July during the unit’s annual training. The majority of Nevada Guardsmen performed their two weeks of annual training during the summer months. Camp Navajo is an Arizona Army Guard training site that dates to 1942.



Photo by Spc. Adrienne Lopez

HAWTHORNE – From left, Spc. Cesar Tovar, Staff Sgt. Joshua Killinger, Spc. Brenna Hoover, and Spc. Melanie Smith assemble the Nevada Guard’s entry before the start of annual Armed Forces Parade on May 21 in America’s self-proclaimed “Most Patriotic City.” The Nevada Guard annually participates in multiple parades across the state, including the Armed Forces Day Parade, the Nevada Day Parade in Carson City and the Veterans’ Day Parades in Las Vegas and Reno. All Guardsmen and their friends and families are always welcome to march with the Nevada Guard’s entry in each respective parade. The Nevada Guard is a part of every community in the Silver State and community relations and outreach are two of the top priorities of the organization. Call 775-887-7250 for information on participating in a parade entry.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

Nevada Guard **STARBASE** takes flight

By Capt. Emerson Marcus
State Public Affairs Officer

RENO – Speaking to a class of about a dozen Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows 10-12-year-old members during a recent summer afternoon, facilitator Keyano Bunting dropped two bowling balls in a water tank.

The first bowling ball weighed 11 pounds and floated to the top of the tank.

The second bowling ball weighed 13 pounds.

“Will it sink or float?” asked Bunting, a STARBASE teacher, before dropping the second bowling ball into the water tank.

“Sink!” the children exclaimed in unison — and they were correct. The 13-pound ball sank to the bottom of the tank.

The students, attending the Nevada National Guard’s STARBASE educational science, technology, engineer and mathematics (STEM) program, knew the answer following an earlier class that broached density. The course had informed students that mass divided by volume equals density, a simple equation useful to determine whether an object will sink or float in water. They knew two pounds would make the difference because of that equation, one of many the students learned that day during STARBASE camp.

First classes for students in Nevada’s first Department of Defense STARBASE program at the Henderson Armory in Clark County. The two locations continued to house science camps for kids throughout this summer with courses also set for the 2022-2023 school year.

“The goal (of STARBASE) is to drive and foster historically underserved demographics with a love of learning and engagement early in their lives,” said Tiffany Young, northern Nevada’s STARBASE program director. “Hopefully this guides them into wanting careers in STEM.”

First established in 1991 at Selfridge Air Base in Michigan, STARBASE’s primary focus is to foster a passion of learning in STEM fields in fifth graders attending Title 1 schools. For those attending during the school year, students participate in a five-day curriculum that includes 25 hours of



Photo by Capt. Emerson Marcus

Boys and Girls Club of the Truckee Meadows members receive instruction during a STARBASE camp at the Nevada Air Guard Base in Reno in late July. On this day, students learned how to calculate the density of an object to determine whether it would float or sink when dropped into water. Nevada’s first Department of Defense STARBASE program welcomed its initial class of students in March

academic instruction and multiple “hands-on, minds-on” STEM activities. The students also interact with military personnel to explore different career paths and observe STEM applications first-hand.

Nevada’s STARBASE locations in southern and northern Nevada are overseen and managed by the State of Nevada Office of the Military and use civilian educators who lead the weeklong courses.

The Nevada Guard’s STARBASE rollout is nearly two years in the making since the Nevada Guard was selected to begin its first-ever STARBASE in 2021.

Additionally, Nevada’s STARBASE has also held camps in rural Nevada, including Winnemucca, with plans for more spring and summer camps in 2023.

The program’s directors have a wealth of experience in Nevada K-12 education. Traci Davis, a former principal of the year for the state of Nevada, academic manager in Clark County and Washoe County School District superintendent, was hired to lead the program in southern Nevada. Tiffany Young, who previously served as the equity and diversity director in the Washoe County School District and is an adjunct professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, leads the

Nevada STARBASE program in northern Nevada.

“The work of STARBASE leads to equity,” Davis said. “Every kid should have an opportunity for these experiences.”

STARBASE in Reno was initially housed in the finance building at the Nevada Air Guard base, but work is underway on a new building that will host STARBASE on the base. In southern Nevada, improvements on the temporary location now at the Henderson Armory are almost complete with plans to expand and renovate that location as well.

“Between STARBASE and our Battle Born Youth Challenge Academy, the Nevada National Guard has taken several strides in the past few years to show its support of our communities through expanding locations here in Nevada and building on federally-funded and recognized educational programs we’ve lacked here in the Silver State,” said Maj. Gen. Ondra Berry, Nevada’s adjutant general. “Capitalizing on these programs in order to bring them here to Nevada has long been one of my highest priorities since becoming adjutant general. I’m beyond excited to see these young residents of our state grow and learn through these programs.” ■

Project ChalleNGe graduate rises to become Chief

By Sgt. William Marsh
106th Public Affairs Detachment

RENO —Thanks in large part to the National Guard's Project ChalleNGe program, a sputtering start to Jeanie Beck's early education didn't deter her from attaining the highest enlisted rank in the U.S. Air Force: chief master sergeant.

Beck, the chief enlisted personnel manager for 152nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, was promoted to chief master sergeant in late June. According to Nevada Air Guard records, Beck is the 159th Nevada Guard Airman to attain the rank of chief master sergeant and the 13th female chief master sergeant in the organization's history. She is following in her father's footsteps: Beck's father is Pat Morrison, who was chief master sergeant No. 68 in the Nevada Air Guard. (Morrison now resides in Florida but was able to attend his daughter's promotion.)

Beck attributes much of her career success to "Project ChalleNGe," the National Guard youth program for teenage students not on track to graduate on time from their local, public high school. The Nevada Guard sponsors a very similar-type program, the Battle Born Youth Academy ChalleNGe, nowadays in Carlin, Nevada. The second class of BBYCA students graduated June 17.

"I would not be where I'm at today if not for Project ChalleNGe," said Beck, who traveled to Carlin for the BBYCA graduation ceremony. "As cheesy as it sounds, it was a turning point in my life."

Growing up, Beck enjoyed elementary and middle school and experienced academic success. But she dropped out of Carson High School during her junior year in 1997.

"I spent most of my time partying and hanging out with my friends," Beck said "The more time I spent not focused on school, the worse the situation became."

Beck said her high school experience began to snowball into a seemingly hopeless situation.

"I let a few assignments slip by. Before I knew it, I was failing most of my classes," she said. "I felt like there was no way I could get back on track. It seemed pretty hopeless."

Beck was out of school for about one year before she decided to apply for Project ChalleNGe in 1999. At the time, Nevada did not have its own program. Nevada teens traveled to Queen Creek, Arizona, to attend the cooperative Arizona-Nevada Project ChalleNGe program.

"I was extremely nervous. Project ChalleNGe was my last resort. I felt like I had no hope for a career and was afraid I would get stuck at some dead-end job," Beck recalled.

Beck actually spent her first week of the program at the Plumb Lane Armory in Reno, she said. The applicants had to prove they could make it in Arizona because the spots for students were limited. After the week in Reno, the Nevada Guard flew the students down to Arizona to begin the five-month program.

Beck said she finally began to appreciate the program about two months after her arrival. Surprisingly, she discovered she enjoyed the regimented atmosphere of Project ChalleNGe.

"I found it was easy to keep my belongings orderly and figure out what the standards were," Beck said.

Beck developed friendships during her time in Arizona and remains in contact with many of her classmates. In fact, some of the



Photo by Sgt. William Marsh, 106th Public Affairs Detachment

Jeanie Beck, now a chief master sergeant in the 152nd Logistics Squadron, holds her Project Challenge diploma that she earned in Arizona more than two decades ago. Beck credits much of her military career success to the structure and discipline the program instilled in her as a young adult. The Nevada Guard now sponsors a very similar program—the Battle Born Youth ChalleNGe Academy in Carlin, Nevada.

graduates from her class live in northern Nevada and own and manage local businesses.

Beck said two cadre staff, ChalleNGe instructors Nunez and Bigg, proved to be the most memorable individuals from Project ChalleNGe.

"I remember C.I. Nunez would hang a punching bag for the female students and just let us go at it," Beck said. "Nunez understood what we needed."

Beck said C.I. Bigg was an instructor with impossibly high standards who would punish the smallest mistakes — but also take the time to ask individuals how they were and genuinely listen.

"Those two instructors were impactful on my experience and showed me what I was capable of," Beck said.

Beck encourages Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen to consider becoming cadre at the Battle Born Youth Academy ChalleNGe. In upcoming months, it's possible for Guardsmen to go on State Active Duty Orders for a six months to support the academy as a staff member. Lodging and food are provided. The ideal candidates are Soldiers and Airmen in the pay grades E-5/E-6.

"It's an opportunity to make a real difference in someone's life," Beck said. "The cadre are the individuals the cadets will remember for the rest of their lives."

For information on applying to BBYCA or becoming a cadre staffer, call 775-684-9340.

Editor's note: Applicants to Battle Born Youth ChalleNGe Academy are under no obligation to serve in the military if accepted. The BBYCA is strictly a state educational program designed to help students graduate from high school in a timely manner. ■

Staff Sgt. Keahi Granstrom tackles the obstacle course during the Region VII Best Warrior contest in Guam in May.

Photo courtesy
Guam National Guard

Nevada's Best Warriors excel in Guam, Hawthorne

1864th Transportation Co. Soldier 2nd in Region VII

By Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka
Joint Force Headquarters

HAWTHORNE — Staff Sgt. Keahi Granstrom, a motor transport operator in the 1864th Transportation Company, and Sgt. Bryan Brown, a combat engineer in the 609th Engineer Company, emerged as the top Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier in the state — and very nearly the region — respectively during the regional and state Best Warrior contests this spring.

Granstrom, 26, of Henderson, garnered the state 2022 Best Warrior award and Nevada Army Guard Noncommissioned Officer of the Year title with his win in Hawthorne in March. He then finished a close second in the Region VII contest in Guam. Brown, 25, won the Nevada Guard Soldier of the Year title in March and placed fifth in the regional contest in May.

This was the first year the Region VII contest took place in Guam. Region VII includes Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Hawaii, Utah, Colorado, California and Guam.

The Army's Best Warrior competition tests Soldiers' physical and mental abilities in a wide range of events, usually including the Army Combat Fitness Test, weapon marksmanship and myriad Soldiering skills.



Photo by Sgt. Albert Valladares, 106th Public Affairs Detachment

Sgt. Bryan Brown of the 609th Engineer Company takes aim during the marksmanship portion of the state Best Warrior Contest in Hawthorne in March. Brown won two of the marksmanship competitions contested during the state event to win the title of Nevada Guard Soldier of the Year and earn a trip to Guard for the regional contest.

Sgt. Andrew Quintana. Hawaii Guard Staff Sgt. Fred Lino topped the eight-Soldier field. It was a close contest between the trio -- after the eight scored events were tallied, Lino had 50 points and Granstrom and Quintana were a scant four points behind with their totals of 46.

Granstrom was in the lead for much of the contest after finishing first in the Army Combat Fitness Test event and the stress shoot event. But late-charging Lino won the Warrior Tasks event to catch Granstrom, who

was third in that event, and then held Granstrom off in the contest's final event — the 'mystery event' duathlon that included an open water swim and uphill ruck march.

Granstrom said the Guam National Guard pulled out all the stops to make the Soldiers' trip to the U.S. territory in the Mariana Islands memorable. The Guam National Guard was just established in 1981; it now has just over 1,000 Soldiers and Airmen in its ranks.

"The Guam National Guard should be proud of how well it hosted the competitors," Granstrom said. "It was a real privilege to meet the other Best Warriors from our neighboring states and I wish them the best.

"Although I lost the competition, I feel like I won in a lot of respects. Thank you to every-one who supported me during the Best Warrior season. It was a privilege to represent God, my state, Nevada Soldiers and my loved ones."

After dominating the state contest in March, Brown compared himself to the field of competitors. "I was the strongest shot but Soldiers pulled me down in the mystery event and I lost," he said and noted it is difficult to prepare for open-water swimming while residing in landlocked Nevada.

"Guam was a beautiful location with



Photo courtesy Guam National Guard

Sgt. Bryan Brown strides toward the finish line during the 2-mile run portion of the Army Combat Fitness Test in Guam in June. Brown placed second in the ACFT event at the Region VII contest and eventually finished fifth overall.

amazing people – everyone was cordial and laid back, which created a welcoming atmosphere for the contest,” Brown said. “I knew I was in trouble for the open water swim portion of the mystery event. I had practiced in my apartment pool, but the Pacific Ocean proved to be way more difficult.”

State Army Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Basilio coached the duo while in Guam.

A total of nine Soldiers who had advanced from battalion level Best Warrior contests converged on Hawthorne in March to determine the state champion. This year’s contest included: the Army Combat Fitness Test, a military knowledge examination board, M17 pistol- and M4 rifle marksmanship events, communications and medical-response skills testing and, ultimately, a 12-mile ruck march conducted in subfreezing temperatures and a biting wind.

Granstrom recorded the top score in the opening event of the contest, the ACFT – 566 out of a possible 600 points – and took an



Photo courtesy Guam National Guard

Sgt. Bryan Brown, left, and Staff Sgt. Keahi Granstrom look sharp in advance of the verbal military knowledge board at the Region VII Best Warrior Contest in Guam in June. Granstrom finished second in the NCO division; Brown was fifth in the Soldier division.

early lead in the NCO division and was never seriously challenged. He recorded the maximum points available in the 3-repetition strength deadlift, the standing power throw and the leg tuck events.

Granstrom, who is on full-time duty to support the Nevada Army Guard’s Southern Honor Guard squad, also won the NCO division in the examination board, the ruck march and three marksmanship events.

He also held his own in his admittedly weak events, the communications- and medical-skills testing events, after seeking coaching from experienced Soldiers in the weeks leading up to the state contest.

“I spent time with several subject matter experts to prepare for the call for fire and medical lanes,” said Granstrom, who was fourth in both the communications and medical response events.

Brown, of Reno, prepared in advance of the state contest under the tutelage of Staff Sgt. Grant Reimers, the current 609th training NCO and the 2017 National Guard champion in Best Warrior (Reimers won the ACFT in the Soldiers’ division with his tally of 540 points; his score was the second-best out of all competitors.

“I am fortunate to have the opportunity to train with Staff Sgt. Reimers,” said Brown, who works for the state’s Division of Emergency Management and at the sporting goods store Reno Sparks Scheels in his civilian occupations. “He helped prepare me for radio communications, the examination board and pistol marksmanship.”

Basilio said it’s not too early for Soldiers to start preparing for the 2023 Best Warrior contest. Interested Soldiers should contact their local administration sergeant for entry into the 2023 company- and battalion level competitions.

The entire list of battalion winners who competed included alphabetically:

NCO Division: Sgt. Enrique Dealba, Aviation Troop Command; Granstrom, 17th Sustainment Brigade; Sgt. Brenden Morgan, 1/221st Cavalry; Sgt. Daniel Sevilla, 757th STB; Sgt. Clifford Stewart, 422nd ESB.

Soldier Division: Brown, 757th STB; Jennings, Aviation Troop Command; Pfc. Christopher Handy, 422nd ESB; Pvt. Donevan Holley, 17th STB. ■

Army set to construct arms range in Hawthorne

Staff Reports

HAWTHORNE – The U.S. Army is set to spend \$14 million in the near future to construct a small arms range on the Hawthorne Army Depot that meets the Army standard for individual weapons qualification.

Currently, Nevada Army Guard Soldiers must travel out of state for annual weapons qualification because there are no ranges within the state suitable for the Army's individual weapons qualification.

The test is often referred to as "Dot 40" test in conjunction with Army Training Circular 3-20.40 that provides the guidance on the Army's small arms qualification standards. The Army transitioned into the Dot 40 test as its standard in 2020. The training circular governs Army pistol and rifle qualification, including the M4, M16 and M9 weapons fielded by the majority of Nevada Army Guard Soldiers.

During the past two years, Nevada Guard Soldiers had to qualify at ranges in neighboring states including California, Arizona, Utah and Idaho, incurring tens of thousands of travel expenses in order to complete the Army's requisite training and qualification.

Sen. Jacky Rosen, D-NV, a member of the Senate Armed Services committee, helped in the acquisition of funds for the new Nevada range.

"When I found out our Soldiers had to travel hundreds of miles out of state to train, I knew we had to do something to fix this," Rosen said.

Rosen said the cost for the Army to build



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

Staff Sgt. Trey Dufresne of Joint Force Headquarters takes aim during marksmanship qualifying familiarization in June at the Hawthorne Army Depot's Freedom Range. Dufresne could not take a standard Army qualification test that date because the range does not feature pop-up targets. The Army is set to spend \$14 million in the near future on a new automated range on the Hawthorne Army Depot that will allow the state's Nevada Guard Soldiers to take the Army's marksmanship qualifying test without leaving the state.

the range will ultimately be less than the transportation costs for Soldiers to travel out of state for marksmanship training and qualification. There are about 3,200 Nevada Army Guard Soldiers in the state who require marksmanship qualification testing annually.

Progress on the Hawthorne range will proceed quickly. The Nevada Guard anticipates awarding a design contract for the

project by May 2023. More than \$1.25 million of the \$14 million project allocation is set for design funding.

Earlier plans by the Nevada National Guard to build a small-arms range would not have been completed until 2030 and would have relied heavily on state funding.

During a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing in June, Rosen brought the lack of a small-arms range in Nevada to the attention of Army Secretary Christine Wormuth and Gen. James McConville, the Army chief of staff.

They later informed Rosen that the Army would establish a permanent range in Hawthorne by fiscal year 2025. The facility will be federally funded.

Earlier plans for the range had already identified Hawthorne Army Depot as the location for the facility. The Hawthorne Army Depot is a 147,000-acre Army ammunition storage depot about 100 miles southeast of Reno and is the site for the current "Freedom Range" that many Nevada Guardsmen already use for marksmanship training. The Freedom Range was the site of the 2015 and 2019 Adjutant General's marksmanship matches.

The Freedom Range, however, features only stationary targets and does not have the automated, "pop-up" targets required for the Dot 40 test. The pop-up range at Naval Air Station Fallon (nicknamed the Bravo-19 range) used in past years by the Nevada Army Guard is no longer an option for marksmanship qualifying due to increased aerial bombing practice in the vicinity, Nevada

Elko Armory transferred back to city

Staff Reports

ELKO – The Nevada Army Guard's armory at 1375 13th Street, Elko, is now in the possession of the City of Elko. Eventually, it is set to be purchased by the Nevada System of Higher Education. The property is located in close vicinity to Great Basin College. In exchange for the armory, the Nevada System of Higher Education is set to pay off the \$190,000 the Nevada Guard owes the federal government for recent improvements on the property.

The Elko Armory has been a fixture in Elko since it was dedicated in August 1961. It cost \$132,450 to build and



Elko Armory as it appears today.

File Photo

initially served as the home of Battery C, 1st Gun Battalion, 221st Artillery.

In the 1990s, the armory was very active, with both the 121st Chemical Battalion and the 137th Decontamination Company drilling in Elko. Reports from

1994 state that 58 Soldiers trained at the armory each month.

NEVADA GUARD PURCHASES NAVY CENTER

The Nevada National Guard has purchased the former Navy Operational Center in the Stead neighborhood of Reno at 4601 Cocoa Avenue for \$3.4 million. The facility includes five acres of land and a 32,000-square-foot building.

Potential scenarios for the facility, nicknamed Camp Washoe, include making it the headquarters for the 92nd Civil Support Team or making it a pre-deployment training center. ■



Photo courtesy State Partnership Program

The U.S. Embassy official Tony Greubal, center left, takes time out for a photo with U.S. military officials including Maj. Gen. Ondra Berry, center right, and the Nevada State Partnership Program contingent during a Memorial Day wreath-laying ceremony in Fiji in May. During his visit to Fiji, Berry spoke with Fijian officials about expanding the range of topics during exchanges and adding subject-matter experts exchanges to the docket.

State Partnership Program engagement schedule bustling in wake of pandemic

Staff Reports

SUVA, Fiji —After a lull in the engagement schedule caused by the pandemic, the Nevada National Guard's State Partnership Program staff's schedule is busy once again with a full slate of interaction set with partner nations Fiji and Tonga in the near future.

The State Partnership Program has been successfully building relationships for over 25 years and now includes 85 partnerships with 93 nations around the globe.

Key leader engagements are a staple of the State Partnership Program. The Nevada Guard was able to support a highly visible meeting recently when Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Ondra Berry called upon Maj. Gen. Jone Kalouniwai, the Land Forces Commander of the 3rd Fijian Infantry Regiment, in the Fijian capital of Suva.

They discussed both the current capabilities and future goals of their respective organizations as well as the expansion of the partnership between the Silver State and the island nation with its population of about 900,000.

Currently, the partnership operates in a narrow military-to-military spectrum. In the future, the partnership aims to expand and include other entities such as higher education and emergency management.

One specific idea discussed on Berry's trip was a proposed university-level exchange program between Nevada's System of Higher Education and universities located in the South Pacific.

Officials also agreed to prioritize subject-matter expert exchanges in the future. Experts in a wide variety of topics from Nevada, Fiji and Tonga will team and discuss best practices in their respective specialties. Some of the proposed topics include: crowd control and disbursement, communications, information technology, cyber security, medical care and explosive ordinance disposal.

The Republic of Fiji became the second country to team with the Nevada Guard under the auspice of its State Partnership Program when the two organizations signed their pact of mutual cooperation in 2019. Nevada has maintained its partnership with the Kingdom of Tonga since 2014.

The SPP evolved from the 1991 U.S. European Command decision to establish the Joint Contact Team Program in the Baltic Region with reserve component Soldiers and Airmen. A subsequent National Guard Bureau proposal paired National Guard states with three nations emerging from the former Soviet bloc and the SPP was born. ■



Photo by Spc. Adrienne Lopez, 17th Sustainment Brigade

Spc. Hector Espino, left, and Sgt. Joseph Santacruz fold the U.S. Flag for presentation during military funeral honors for unaccompanied Veterans (those without known kin) at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City, Nevada, in March. The two Soldiers are part of the small team of just six full-time Nevada Army Guard Honor Guard Soldiers who are set to support more than 1000 missions across the Silver State this year

Honor Guard make seemingly impossible reality

Small team supported 1,013 missions in 2021

By Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka
Joint Force Headquarters

RENO — *Mission: Impossible.*

The title of the 1960s television series on covert operations and the Tom Cruise-franchise of action-spy films could also succinctly describe the seemingly impossible task the small number of Nevada Army Guard Honor Guard Soldiers face this year. With just six full-time Soldiers (and one full-time civilian administrator), the Honor Guard anticipates supporting 1,150 missions in 2022.

As improbable as the upcoming total sounds, it's entirely conceivable after the squad supported a record 1,013 missions last year. That total surpassed the 2019 record of 911 missions and was a

increase from 2020's tally of 729 missions.

Most Honor Guard missions entail military funeral honors for either deceased active servicemembers or military Veterans. The vast majority of missions for the Nevada team involve U.S. Army Veterans. By law, all military Veterans released from duty in any status other than dishonorable are eligible to receive basic military funeral honors; a basic military funeral honors detail includes two service-members (one of whom must be a member of the deceased's parent service of the armed forces) who play "Taps," fold the U.S. Flag and present the flag to the deceased's next of kin.

Full military honors are reserved for certain ranks, those killed by their injuries in combat, and Medal of Honor recipients. Full military honors require 7-9 personnel to act as pallbearers, fire a rifle volley salute and perform the requisite basic military honors duties.

With few active-duty bases or Soldiers in Nevada, the Department of Defense allocates the Nevada Army Guard an annual — arguably shoestring — budget to support the

military funeral honors for the state's Veterans. There are more than 200,000 Veterans currently residing in Nevada, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The constrictive budget combined with the aging Veteran population in Nevada resulted in a remarkable schedule for the Honor Guard Soldiers in 2021. The four honor guard Soldiers in southern Nevada supported the staggering number of 765 military funeral honors missions last year; the two based in northern Nevada supported the nearly-astonishing number of 248 missions.

The number in the south will almost certainly increase dramatically due to the fact the Nevada Army Guard will support the northern Arizona region this year, including funerals in Bullhead City, Kingman and Lake Havasu because of the area's close proximity to southern Nevada.

Funeral Honors Program administrator retired Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Richardson said the recent COVID-19 pandemic was not a primary contributing factor to the high

number of missions in recent years.

"The increasing average age of the nation's Veterans is the main reason for our ever-increasing anticipated numbers," Richardson said. "Our Vietnam-era Veterans are in their 70s and 80s. Even the majority of our Cold War and Persian Gulf Veterans are approaching senior citizen status."

Additionally, the Honor Guard also performs honorable transfers and often participates in community memorials, color guard events and numerous military- and joint-organizational training events.

To meet the mission requirements, the handful of full-time Soldiers is supplemented by volunteer Soldiers placed on Active Duty for Operational Support orders. The Honor Guard often relies on about two dozen dependable volunteer Soldiers who have received basic honor guard training to support missions.

One fact that few realize is that every Soldier in the Nevada Army Guard is eligible to support Military Funeral Honors missions; new volunteers will receive personalized individual training before their initial missions.

Soldiers who volunteer for Military Funeral Honors duty receive military pay and retirement points; the Soldiers who complete advanced Level 2 training receive an Honor Guard tab and an honor guard shoulder cord.

"Military funeral honors support is one of the best ways a Soldier can contribute to the community," said Sgt. Christina Aguilar, the NCOIC the the northern Nevada Military Funeral Honors squad.

The other full-time Soldier in the north is Spc. Reid Hallam of the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion. Hallam is recognized as one of the best Honor Guard Soldiers in the nation after receiving the Distinguished Honor Graduate Award at the National Level 2 Honor Guard course.

Aguilar said both the northern and southern Nevada Honor Guard teams continue to seek new, volunteer Honor Guard Soldiers.

"We welcome everyone regardless past experience," Aguilar said. "We will individually train new Soldiers so they understand and meet the basic requirements of their upcoming mission. After initial individual training, Soldiers will have the opportunity to refine their skills in Level 1 and Level 2 courses."

All Nevada Guard Soldiers who are interested in supporting Military Funeral Honors missions should call Aguilar at 775-230-9018. ■



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

Sgt. Christina Aguilar salutes after forwarding the U.S. Flag to Sgt. 1st Class Heather Juliot during the military funeral honors for retired Nevada Army Guard Sgt. 1st Class Robert Pool last winter at the Northern Nevada Veterans Cemetery in Fernley. Aguilar is one of just two full-time northern Honor Guard Soldiers; the northern Honor Guard squad supported 248 missions in 2021.



Photo courtesy Nevada Guard Honor Guard

The Nevada Guard Honor Guard team completes an honorable transfer of a deceased servicemember at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport. During an honorable transfer, Soldiers act as pallbearers as they escort a coffin from air to ground transportation.



Photo by Senior Airman Thomas Cox, 152nd Airlift Wing

Cameron Seals, a U.S. Forest Service Modular Airborne Firefighting Systems Airtanker Base specialist, marshals a Nevada Air Guard C-130H Hercules during the annual MAFFS Spring Training in Boise, Idaho, last spring in advance of wildland firefighting season.

152nd Airlift Wing teams with other states for firefighting spring training at Gowen

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Greiner
152nd Airlift Wing

GOWEN FIELD, Idaho — Less than two years after the most devastating firefighting season in the United States, several airlift wings from across the West including the 152nd Airlift Wing teamed for Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System spring training at Gowen Field in April.

Since 1974, the U.S. Forest Service and Department of Defense have jointly implemented the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System. The system can be deployed in the space available in a military C-130 aircraft, the type of aircraft the Nevada Air Guard operates and maintains.

The four participating military MAFFS units included: the 152nd Airlift Wing; the 153rd Airlift Wing, Wyoming Air Guard; the 146th Airlift Wing, California Air Guard; and the Air Force Reserve's 302nd Airlift Wing based in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The military is called to assist with MAFFS by the U.S. Forest Service after all commercial air tankers are committed to previous missions or not available. The request process has been determined through a longstanding agreement between the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of Defense. In states with Air Guard crews are available, MAFFS can be activated for state-fires suppression by the respective governors of affected states.

"Spring training is where we knock off the cobwebs," said Chief Master Sgt. Cameron Pieters, a flight engineer in the 152nd Operations Group. "We haven't flown any aerial firefighting missions since last

season and this is to prepare us and get us ready for the upcoming fire season."

During this year's spring training, MAFFS equipped military C-130s flew a total of 149 sorties. They combined to record 184.52 hours aloft and disbursed a total of 433,065 gallons of water from 902 drops over multiple drop zones around the Gowen Field area not far from nearby Boise.

Each participating MAFFS unit brought two C-130s to spring training.

Pieters underscored the fact spring training provides the opportunity for the air and ground crews to cooperatively refine and sharpen their skills as well as train and certify new members of the team. "It's about getting into the right mindset," Pieters said. "As flight engineers, it's our responsibility to support the pilots: We go through the checklists, we monitor all the systems. Maintaining good communications with the other crew members ensures we have a safe flight."

Pieters recalled the challenging summer and autumn of 2021.

"Last season was a big firefighting season for us," Pieters said. "We were deployed for 96 days and, as a MAFFS community, we dispersed nearly 23 million pounds of fire retardant."

About 70,000 wildfires burn an average of about 6.5 million acres of land in the United States each year. ■

Signal Battalion expands with new unit

Staff Reports

RENO – The Nevada Army Guard's 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion welcomed a brand-new unit into its fold earlier this month when it officially established the 440th Tactical Installation and Networking – Enhanced Company on June 4.

The 440th TIN-E unveiled its unit colors for the first time in history during its inaugural drill weekend at the Washoe County Armory. The first commander of the new unit is Capt. Justin Geil-Crader; 1st Sgt. Andrew Gregory is the unit's initial first sergeant. The company will fall under the oversight of the 422nd ESB and promises to increase the total number of Soldiers in the battalion.

The creation of the 440th TIN-E stems from the Army's desire to modernize its signal assets and resources. The new unit will feature the Army's latest signal Military Occupational Specialties and allow Soldiers with dated military occupations to transition into modern roles to meet the signal and communications needs of the Nevada National Guard.

"The 440th will support all tactical and strategic networks within the state," said a recruiting Col. Campbell. "A recruiting Col. Campbell is looking to fill the 153 personnel slots in the unit."



Photo courtesy 106th Public Affairs Detachment

First Sgt. Andrew Gregory, center, receives the unit colors for the brand-new 440th Tactical Installation and Networking – Enhanced Company on June 4. The company will fall under the oversight of the 422nd ESB and include more than 150 Soldiers.

some of those vacant positions include a \$20,000 enlistment bonus. Enlisted, officer and warrant officer positions are available.

Although it will likely take some time to fill all of the unit's newly-created positions, Geil-Crader believes the 440th will be fully staffed and ready for any

state or federal mission by 2024.

"We are excited about the 440th's potential and look forward to the modernization effects the unit will have on Nevada's armories," Geil-Crader said.

For information on vacancies within the 440th, call 775-220-9203. ■

SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT: Wolfe part of select CW5 pack

By Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

Joint Force Headquarters

CARSON CITY – Although the fleet of the M60 Main Battle "Patton" Tanks he originally hired to maintain and repair was long gone from the Nevada Army Guard's arsenal (but visible in the photo and on display at the Office of the Adjutant General in Carson City), Chief Warrant Officer 5 Chris Wolfe is still going strong and now approaching three decades of full-time Nevada Guard service. Wolfe is in a very rare and select pack of six current Chief Warrant Officer 5s that include Shaun Lazier, Daniel Walters, Brett Johnston, James Anderson and James Baumann.

After starting full time for the Nevada Army National Guard as a M60 tank mechanic in 1993 in Yerington, Wolfe, 57, of Carson City, advanced to eventually become the Deputy Surface Maintenance



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Chris Wolfe in front of an M60 Battle "Patton" tank.

Manager for Army logistics (G4) in 2014. In his position, he manages and provides oversight on the maintenance scheduling and operations concerning the Nevada Army Guard's approximate 28,000 pieces of equipment ranging from weapon systems, communications devices, power generators, and both wheeled- and tracked-vehicles.

Wolfe spent another three years with the 150th after becoming a warrant officer before transferring to the 422nd Battalion in 2001. While with the signal battalion, Wolfe became one of the rare warrant officers to command a unit by taking command of the 422nd's Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment in 2005-2006.

Wolfe has resided in Carson City with his wife, Kathy, for 30 years. Chris and Kathy have three grown sons with their own families and a daughter who recently became engaged. They have four grandchildren.

Wolfe is a native northern Nevadan who – like many of the maintenance warrant officers in the state – spends much of his free time maintaining his own personal fleet of adrenaline junkie "toys" (vehicles). ■

SPORTS News

Now a recruiting Soldier, famous Nevada 2-sport athlete remains a star in multiple fields

By Staff Sgt. Zandra Duran
Joint Force Headquarters

SPARKS – Forget about the fact he stands out in any crowd at 6 feet, 8 inches tall.

Renowned as a Soldier, pastor, athlete, and herpetoculture expert, Nevada Army Guard Staff Sgt. Matthew LaGrone is one of the most recognizable men in the Silver State.

LaGrone, 34, is a modern-day, multifaceted, military Renaissance man. He is a successful recruiter, a father of three children, and a recognized snake breeder. He's also one of the most famous athletes in University of Nevada, Reno, history – one of just a handful of Wolf Pack athletes to experience success on both the football gridiron and basketball court. While on the UNR basketball team from 2006-2008, he shot an astonishing 65 percent from the field.

LaGrone was born in San Diego, California, in 1988. His father Carl was a warehouse worker, a high school football coach, and a pastor. His mother Lisa was a phlebotomist. Carl and Lisa LaGrone raised five sports-loving children. Matt recalls a loving yet strict household in the inner-city neighborhood of San Diego. Matt said his parents were determined to keep the kids safe and off the streets by keeping them busy and involved in sports.

Matt recounted one instance when he was playing in a youth football game at age 15 and he got into an altercation with another player that included gang-related, vulgar language. Matt's father rumbled onto the field right away and pulled Matt away from the donnybrook.

Matt said his older brothers played a huge role in his life.

"My older brothers were my role models growing up in every aspect of life and taught me how to be the man I am today," LaGrone said.

The family later moved to Nevada and LaGrone attended McQueen High School in Reno. He starred for the Lancers in both



Photo by Staff Sgt. Zandra Duran

Former University of Nevada, Reno, two-sport athlete Staff Sgt. Matt LaGrone, second from left, is now an Army Guard recruiter and family man. His family includes, 1 to r, Samuel Lee, LeGrone, AmiraVictoria, Kendra and Hannah Jean.

football and basketball and when it came time to decide upon a college, LaGrone stayed in the Little Biggest City.

"My older brother, Carl, was a University of Nevada, Reno, football player and I followed in his footsteps," LaGrone said.

LaGrone was also on two conference-championship UNR basketball teams in the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 seasons.

Following the 2008 basketball season, LaGrone transferred to Oregon State to play football with his younger brother, Josh. He ultimately graduated from Oregon State with a bachelor's degree in sociology.

After wrapping up his studies in Corvallis, LaGrone returned to northern Nevada to begin his work career, which included stints as a correctional officer and in education at Rite of Passage and Hug High.

After his return to Reno, LaGrone met his future wife Kendra at a local Bully's Sports Bar and Grill.

For Matt, it was love at first sight. But Kendra needed some convincing.

LaGrone said the first time he asked Kendra out on a date, she steadfastly said "No."

Matt's persistence paid off, though. Today, the couple has three children: Amira, 12; Hannah, 5; and Samuel, 2.

"I strive to be the best father I can be," LaGrone said. "My wife and children are my everything."

With the idea to use military educational benefits to finance his college degree, LaGrone joined the Army Guard in 2012 as a generator mechanic. Nowadays, he is a full-time Nevada Army Guard recruiter based



Photo by Staff Sgt. Zandra Dunn

Staff Sgt. Matt LaGrone takes time out for a photo during a recent Recruit Sustainment Company drill day at the Harry Reid Readiness Center in Reno. The former two-sport athlete at the University of Nevada, Reno, is now an Army Guard recruiter based in Sparks.

in Sparks.

LaGrone said he loves being a recruiter and relishes the opportunity to change someone's life for the better.

LaGrone also loves his unusual hobby of snake breeding. He has cared for reptiles his entire life. His parents bought him his first pair of iguanas at age 8.

In fact, he was asked to vacate his dorm room while he was at UNR because he had two snakes in his room. Once he moved into his off-campus, one-bedroom apartment, his menagerie inside his cramped living space included four snakes, three lizards, and dozens of fish in two 80-gallon tanks.

LaGrone currently cares for 40 ball python snakes. His eventual goal is to have 80 breeder snakes.

In addition to his family and military activities, LaGrone is a pastor at New Revival Church in Sun Valley, Nevada. He has been an ordained minister since age 13.

LaGrone said his work at New Revival Church is his "lifelong calling." He especially



Photo courtesy University of Nevada, Reno, archives

In this file photo from 2008, University of Nevada, Reno, basketball player Matt LaGrone goes up for a shot during Western Athletic Conference play at Lawlor Events Center in Reno. LaGrone is one of only a handful of Wolf Pack athletes to star in both football and basketball while attending UNR. LaGrone is now a staff sergeant in the Nevada Army Guard and a full time recruiter.

enjoys assisting the food pantry and working with adolescents in the Sun Valley community.

LaGrone admits his balancing act as a recruiter, father and clergyman can be a real challenge.

"My job as a recruiter can be overwhelming at times, so my ability to balance my home

and work life is vital," LaGrone said.

Regardless if he is interacting with a recruit, fellow Soldier, or civilian, LaGrone has an uncanny ability to motivate everyone he encounters.

"If you win the battle in your mind before anything, then you can accomplish anything you set your mind to," LaGrone said. ■

Born out of tragedy, Purple Resolve program promises to decrease suicides, add resiliency

By Allison Churchill

Reserve + National Guard Magazine

CARSON CITY — Purple Resolve, the suicide-prevention training program implemented last year by the Nevada Guard, has Soldiers and Airmen throughout the Silver State lauding its ability to improve mental health and overall wellness.

The Nevada National Guard debuted the Purple Resolve program last year with special state funding. Now, leaders are looking for ways to expand the program outside of Nevada as other states look to adopt the program.

“We found something that really resonated with the force that was a better anchor to give them coping mechanisms,” said Maj. Gen. Ondra Berry, the Nevada Guard’s Adjutant General.

Purple Resolve was born out of tragedy. Just days after Berry became the Adjutant General in September 2019, the Nevada Guard lost Staff Sgt. Chase Rauchle to suicide, the state’s sixth such loss in four years.

Rauchle’s parents, Craig and Julie, immediately established the Chase Rauchle Memorial Fund as a community foundation; it was named the Chase Rauchle PTSD Now! foundation with the familiar acronym standing for “Prevent & Treat Stress & Depression” instead of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Craig Rauchle said his son had had a hard time finding proper behavioral health care; Chase was also concerned that if he admitted he was having difficulties, it would hamper his career in the National Guard. Julie and Craig looked into the problem and discovered that the Nevada National Guard had just three directors of behavioral health for its 4,500 Soldiers and Airmen.

The couple also discovered that, due to the Guard’s unique command structure — with the governor as commander-in-chief — it was legal for a state program such as the Department of Veterans Services to accept money from a nonprofit organization.

In April 2021, PTSD Now! presented \$200,000 to Nevada’s Department of Veterans Services to fund two therapists. The setting for counseling was important to the Rauchles, Craig said, because they understood service members did not want to draw attention to themselves sitting in a civilian therapist’s



Photo courtesy Purple Resolve staff

The Purple Resolve training team including, l to r, Maj. Todd Brown, Capt. Jeff Hopkinson, Karen Ulan-Goll and Master Sgt. Lemuel Iniguez, takes time out for a casual photo following a recent Purple Resolve course in Las Vegas.

But that didn’t seem like enough. The Rauchles wanted to help service members get ahead of mental health crises. The search led them to Blue Courage, a resiliency training program for law enforcement officers. Blue Courage’s team had instructors who had served in the military; their military experience helped them adapt Blue Courage and create Purple Resolve.

The first pilot sessions took place in June 2021 and those were followed by train-the-trainer sessions. Attendees receive a manual to reinforce the course’s lessons and a mirror to prompt self-reflection. Berry said he sees Soldiers and Airmen constantly carry their small mirrors so they stay anchored to the training.

“The question you always have to answer when you’re creating an initiative or development opportunity is, No. 1: Are you really creating well-being for individuals?” Berry asked rhetorically. “Are you really creating something that’s going to take care of them overall — mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually?”

“And No. 2, are you really helping people develop skills and add things to their toolbox that will help them to reach their full potential

— and also take care of themselves and their families and their coworkers?”

The program’s “Pattern Interrupt” concept, in which a person takes one minute for deep breathing to reset a situation, is a favorite takeaway of Berry and Spc. Luis Moran, a graduate of the course. Moran, a motor transport operator in the 1864th Transportation Company, said the breathing technique has been helpful in preventing difficult conversations with his leadership from going awry. Purple Resolve training also has a courage component that Moran said helped him realize he can request simple things during a difficult conversation, like an opportunity to take a deep breath.

Moran, 21, of Las Vegas, also credits the training with keeping him centered. He pivots between his main military occupation, truck driving, and human resources assignments while simultaneously pursuing a degree in business accounting and employment as a part-time civilian security guard. He’s taken several other highly-recommended personal development courses, but he said most often returns to the lessons from Purple Resolve to remind himself to stay focused and keep a healthy mindset. ■



106th Public Affairs Detachment

Nevada Guard's Purple Resolve program nurtures personal growth, individual improvement

By Staff Sgt. Zandra Duran
106th Public Affairs Detachment

Admittedly, I knew very little about the Nevada National Guard's Purple Resolve program before I enrolled in the course earlier this year. I had read a description of the Purple Resolve program online and learned how it aimed to refine leadership skills and promote the pursuit of lifelong learning.

That overview of the course sounded right up my alley. I welcomed the opportunity to become a better leader and improve my leadership skills.

The day before the course began, I had serious second thoughts about the program.

"What in the world did I get myself into? What am I doing? Do I have time for this? Will I understand the material?" were questions that flooded my mind. Before the class began, I had time for one final panic attack and worried: "What if there is a final test or exam and I fail?"

Purple Resolve proved to be far different than any of my previous military classes.

On the first day of class, I steeled my nerves and took a seat. During the course of the next few days, I established new friendships within the Nevada National Guard that I will maintain and, in my opinion, improved my leadership skills.

Early in the course, I learned Purple Resolve is a military adaptation of Blue Courage, a program aimed at enhancing leadership and learning strategies for law enforcement.

E Nevada Blue Courage instructors helped the Nevada National Guard develop its Purple Resolve program over the course of the last year and reshaped it for a military audience.

The Purple Resolve educational process provides foundational leader-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Zandra Duran
Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen take time out for a recent Purple Resolve course graduation photo in southern Nevada. All Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen are welcome to sign up for a future Purple Resolve course: Call 702-856-4829 to register for a course and gain valuable tools for future personal growth.

ship development for 21st Century Guardsmen. The process closes the gap between how Guardsmen are traditionally trained and what is required of today's Soldiers and Airmen to effectively serve and meet the demands of the armed forces while remaining healthy and resilient.

As the course progressed, I realized Purple Resolve was the type of program I needed for both personal improvement and growth at this time in my life. It occurred to me that what I learned during the course could be applied both at work and at home.

The Purple Resolve course encouraged everyone to share their personal feelings on myriad topics. We learned discussions and conversations on difficult topics are an important tool for potentially decreasing the number of suicides in society. It's no secret there is a need for a cultural change in the military to eliminate stigmas surrounding mental health.

I shared past, life-changing experiences from my family and military life — things I never thought I would discuss in public. It proved to be a healing experience. It dawned on me that throughout my adulthood, I often

failed to ask for help when I truly needed it.

Other class members — even the quietest and most-introverted students — contributed with terrific, awe-inspiring personal reflections. Some shed tears. Others seemed to gain confidence and move ahead and proactively meet the next challenges in their respective lives.

Purple Resolve also touched on the topics of mission and purpose, diversity and inclusion, resiliency, respect, and health and wellness including holistic health. The class brought students together for open dialogue on dignity, respect, resiliency, courage, and culture and how those topics are applicable with the National Guard. In a nutshell, it provides tools for people to grow, learn and be the best they can be.

Nearly a year into refining the Purple Resolve curriculum, Nevada National Guard officials have already showcased the course to other National Guard states and the National Guard Bureau in Washington D.C.

After completing the course, I can personally attest Purple Resolve is life-changing. If the opportunity arises, I encourage all Soldiers and Airmen in the Nevada National Guard to take the course. ■



Former Nev. Army Guard commander concludes illustrious military career

By Lt. Col. (Ret.) Steve Ranson
Special to Battle Born

RENO — After nearly four decades in the active-duty U.S. Army and Nevada Army Guard, Fallon native Brig. Gen. Michael Hanifan retired from military service at the end of February. From 2013-2017, he was the commander of the 3,300-soldier Nevada Army Guard.

Former and current colleagues marked the end of his career with a retirement dinner in April for Hanifan, 57, who spent the first 10 years of his career as an active-duty military intelligence officer. He spent the remainder of his time in uniform concurrently serving as both the assistant adjutant general for the Nevada Army Guard and as deputy commanding general (Reserve Component) for the U.S. Army Intelligence Center at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

Coincidentally, another Fallon native, Brig. Gen. Michael Peyerl, replaced Hanifan in his position as assistant adjutant general.

After graduating from Churchill County High School in 1982, Hanifan received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy. He graduated in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science in engineering and physics.

Hanifan, who now lives in Carson City, recognized his military colleagues during his remarks at the dinner, particularly those in the Nevada Guard. He reflected on his early career as a newly-commissioned second lieutenant and his active-duty assignments at Fort Lewis (now Joint Base Lewis-McChord), Washington, Fort Polk, Louisiana and Fort Hood, Texas.

Hanifan worked extensively with National Guard units during various military exercises before he transferred to the Nevada Guard in 1998.

"I wondered if I should stay for another 10 years and make it a career?" Hanifan said.

After consulting with his wife, Denise, and pondering his active-duty Army options, he decided to transition in 1996, first to the Individual Readiness Reserve for two years and then to the Nevada Guard. Hanifan said during his next decade of service, it felt as if he was an active-duty officer transplanted in the National Guard.

During that same era of his life, Hanifan was hired by Bently Nevada as a civilian engineer. At the retirement dinner, Hanifan thanked his business colleagues and supervisor for their support of his reserve-component service. At times, Hanifan's military duty took him away from Bently for weeks; one assignment called for Hanifan to go on active-duty for two years.

"They have been great in supporting me and supporting my mission," Hanifan said. During his military career, Hanifan reflected on a number of many memorable moments, including when the Nevada Guard first established the 17th Sustainment Brigade. Hanifan served as the brigade's deputy commander from April 2009–March 2010. After Hanifan became commander of the Army Guard, he visited the brigade when it was deployed in Kuwait in January 2016 within the Iraqi combat zone.

"It was great to start a unit from the ground up," Hanifan said in a separate interview, remembering the process to form and staff the brigade.

Earlier in his career, Hanifan was the commander of 1st Battalion,



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

Retired Brig. Gen. Michael Hanifan delivers a speech at the Daughters of the American Revolution Tribute to Civil War Soldiers in Carson City in April. After nearly four decades of Army service, the former commander of the Nevada Army Guard retired in February.

421st Regional Training Institute from 2002-2005. Prior to that assignment, he commanded Headquarters, State Area Command in Carson City. In his last month of command, 9/11 occurred when 21 terrorists hijacked four passenger jets on Sept. 11, 2001.

In October 2001, Hanifan was selected to lead the Nevada Guard's mission to provide airport security at the state's major airports. After the Soldiers received additional training from the Federal Aviation Administration at then McCarran International Airport (now Harry Reid International Airport), Guardsmen worked around the clock at McCarran and airports in Reno and Elko.

"This was the first time the state did something like that," Hanifan recalled.

During the airport security mission, he noted the Transportation Security Administration didn't exist and the screeners were airline employees. In the wake of 9/11, Hanifan said the government and airlines beefed up security and, during the Nevada Guard's airport activation, the Guardsmen were responsible for responding to security threats.

"My service was never about me," Hanifan said. ■



Photo by Steve Ranson, *Special to Battle Born*

Gov. Steve Sisolak, left, and Maj. Gen. Ondra Berry, right, the adjutant general of the Nevada National Guard, promote Michael Peyerl to the rank of brigadier general during his promotion ceremony in February.

Fallon native attains rank of brigadier general

By Lt. Col. (Ret.) Steve Ranson
Special to Battle Born

STEAD, Nev. — A self-described Army officer who likes to get dirty and train hard, Michael Peyerl, was promoted in February at the Army Aviation Support Facility north of Reno to become the state's newest brigadier general in the Nevada National Guard.

Peyerl, a 1991 graduate of Churchill County High and the University of Nevada, Reno four years later, became the fourth man from Fallon during the past 20 years to be promoted to the general officer corps. The other three are retired Brigs. Gen. Michael Hanifan, Randall Sayre and Todd Plimpton. Hanifan just retired in February.

Peyerl's last assignment before becoming the assistant adjutant general and director of the joint staff was chief of staff for the Nevada Army Guard, which includes approximately 3,200 Soldiers in addition to civilian employees.

In his remarks, Peyerl said he's humble and grateful to serve the men and women of the Nevada Guard. During the past two years since the coronavirus pandemic altered how people worked and lived, Peyerl faced many difficult challenges as chief of staff. More than 1,00 Nevada Guard men and women deployed across the state and into almost every commu-

nity to assist with the pandemic.

"The work we did had a direct impact in the community we live in," he said.

Other visible missions during Peyerl's stint as chief of staff included the Washington, D.C., security mission at the nation's capital in January 2021 and ongoing missions abroad involving more than 600 personnel for contingency operations. Meanwhile, the Guard supported firefighters and law enforcement during the numerous forest and wildland fires that consumed thousands of acres in Nevada and neighboring states.

Peyerl thanked representatives from the congressional delegations for their attendance. Gov. Steve Sisolak and Maj. Gen. Ondra Berry, the adjutant general, also made remarks.

Peyerl paused and addressed the audience.

"I am grateful to have served with each and every one of you today," he said. "I am grateful for your leadership, your trust and your mentorship."

Peyerl thanked friends and family for attending, but specifically singled out members of his family. He thanked his high-school sweetheart and wife, Andrea, along with their son, Austin, who will be a freshman in the fall at the University of Nevada, Reno, and his mother, Phyllis,

who all attended the promotion.

"My family is my life," Peyerl said. "It is one of the primary factors that drives my sense of service."

In his new assignment, Peyerl reports to Berry and he oversees the J9 section of the Nevada Guard that includes domestic operations, Soldier and Airmen care, and military education.

During his years on active duty, Peyerl was a tank platoon leader and tank company executive officer with the 2-72 Armor Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division in the Republic of Korea and then a support platoon leader with the 1-64 Armor 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia. He was also a professor of Military Science at the University of San Francisco before he joined the Nevada Army National Guard in 2005. Peyerl holds a Master of Science degree from National Defense University.

His assignments in the Nevada Guard included: executive officer of the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, which deployed to Afghanistan in January 2011 for one year; director of Manpower and Personnel; squadron commander of the 1-221 Armor in Las Vegas; and deputy chief of staff. ■



Honorary Nevada Guard commander circulates among southern troops

By Spc. Adrienne Lopez
17th Sustainment Brigade

LAS VEGAS – The honorary commander of the Nevada National Guard, James Murren, met with southern Nevada Soldiers in March to introduce himself and share his perspectives on the Nevada Guard's effectiveness in acquiring and delivering personal protective equipment to southern Nevada communities during the coronavirus pandemic.

Murren was named Nevada Guard's honorary commander by Nevada Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Ondra Berry last November. Murren's role in the Nevada Guard is to educate key community leaders about Nevada Guard missions and foster a supportive community relationship between residents and their military entities. He strives to increase military involvement in civic endeavors and organizations and strengthen local communities' ties to the National Guard.

Murren's desire to support the Silver State was evident in 2020 when he stepped down as the Chief Executive Officer of MGM Resorts International head the state's COVID-19 Response, Relief and Recovery Task Force that mobilized private sector organizations to assist state agencies in the battle against coronavirus.

Murren's curriculum vitae is unparalleled. He remains a member of the Board of Trustees for Howard University and a board member of Cirque du Soleil, Paysafe and Playstudios. Murren co-founded the Nevada Cancer Institute and he was also a major contributor Nevada's first Fisher House, which provides temporary housing for military families during extended medical care for servicemembers and Veterans. He also served as chairman of the American Gaming Association and was on the Board of Trustees of the Brookings Institute.

Murren first met with Nevada Army



Photo by Spc. Adrienne Lopez, 17th Sustainment Brigade

James Murren, center, the honorary commander of the Nevada National Guard, speaks with recruiting and retention officials alongside Land Component Commander Brig. Gen. Troy Armstrong, left, at the Army Guard's Spring Mountain Recruiting Station in March. Murren was named Nevada Guard's honorary commander by Nevada Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Ondra Berry last November.

Guard Soldiers who were conducting COVID-19 testing at a vaccination site at the College of Southern Nevada. He spoke about how the coronavirus health support mission got started and how it faced difficult obstacles back in 2020 as the state began to fight back against its relentless microscopic enemy.

"We were getting outbid on PPE and the Governor said 'that's not right,'" Murren said. "We started the task force and in the span of two weeks we raised \$13.5 million. That allowed us to go from the back of the line to the very front of the line and not settle with PPE that was not to standard."

Murren noted the state then faced its next barrier: How would the state distribute the PPE?

"When we have a problem, whom do we call? The National Guard! With the help of General Berry and the task force, we were able to disperse the PPE to all of the communities of Nevada and help save lives," Murren said.

At the end of the visit, Murren and Brig. Gen. Troy Armstrong coined three Soldiers who worked at the site: 1st. Lt.

Kristopher Hayman, Sgt. Joanna Medina and Spc. Keith Davis.

Murren then traveled to the Army National Guard's Spring Mountain Recruiting Office to meet with Retention and Recruiting Battalion leaders. They discussed how Murren could assist with recruiting and other Army Guard priorities. At the end of that meeting, Murren and Armstrong recognized Capt. Nick Galbiso, 1st Sgt. Michelle Ochoa, Sgt. 1st Class Marvin Fabella, Staff Sgt. Yvette Hernandez, Staff Sgt. Jazzmene Loftis and Spc. Benjamin Visser with their personal coins.

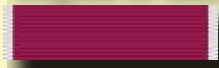
After his whirlwind day, Murren said he was appreciative of his opportunity to command Nevada Guard. "They are the greatest fighting force in the world is right here in our state – Nevada Guardsmen constantly helping their fellow Nevadans," Murren said. "I am humbled and honored to play a small part within the organization. When General Berry asked me to jump on board, the only thing I could ever say to him was 'Yes!'" ■

AWARDS • PROMOTIONS • RETIREMENTS

MOVING UP AND MOVING ON • November 2021 through January 2022

This list will continue to print here but will soon be available on our web site: <https://nvng.nv.gov/>

Legion of Merit



CSM Joshua Lappin Recruiting & Retention

Defense Meritorious Service Medal



CPT Madison Winzler JFHQ
SFC John Hefner JR 991st Aviation Troop Com
SFC Michael Noyes JR JFHQ
SSG Leonard Bundy JR 1-221st Cav HHT

Meritorious Service Medal



CMSgt Jeffrey Linton 152nd Logistics Readiness Sqd
CPT Samuel Delaney 609th Engineer Co
CPT Adam Gardner 757th CSSB
CPT Luis Muruatocortez JFHQ
CPT Kevin Yim 422nd ESB
CSM Shauna Reese JFHQ
Lt Col Erik Brown 152nd Maint Group
Lt Col Catherine Grush Air Guard HQ
LTC Nicholas Chavez JFHQ
Maj Masten Bethel 152nd Airlift Wing
Maj Brian Janes 152nd Airlift Wing
Maj Rimando Poyaoan 624th Civil Eng. Sqd
MSgt Zachary Michalski 152nd Maint Sqd
MSgt Zachary Michalski 152nd Maint Sqd
MSgt Clark Olsen Air Guard HQ
SFC Julia Martinez JFHQ
SFC Jeremy Murphy 422nd ESB
SMSgt Gerardo Navarro 232nd Ops Sqd
SSG Tatyana Smith 421st RTI
MSG Rafael Aguilera JR 72nd MP
1LT Kemple Howard 1-221st Cav HHT
1LT Todd Okazawa Med Det
2LT Kristopher Hayman 593rd Trans Co
Capt Tristan Hutchinson 152nd Airlift Wing
CPT Hopkinson Jeffrey Recruiting & Retention
CPT Theresa Pittman 421st RTI
CPT John Sivia 1859th Trans Co
MAJ Troy Dandrea 1-221st Cav HHT
MAJ Jeremy Manuele Med Det
MAJ Denise Martinez Med Det
MSgt Ryan Pratt 152nd Maint Group
MSgt Kristofer Whetzel 152nd Ops Support Sqd
SGM Johnson Zell 1-221st Cav HHT
SFC Delpozo Alejandro 1-221st Cav HHT
SGT Candy Delatorre Med Det
SGT Angelina Iniguez Med Det
SGT Ryan Knutson Med Det
SPC Jana Andrión Med Det
SPC Jack Boerger Med Det
SPC Jolene Bosl Med Det
SPC Lauren Damiano Med Det
SPC Keith Davis Med Det
SPC Kim Loarevalo Med Det
SPC Michael Orozco 92nd CST
SPC Nakisha Perry Med Det
SPC Deidilyn Quiazon Med Det
SPC Caden Salois Med Det
SPC Eddie Samudio Med Det
SrA Dustin Ewing 152nd Airlift Wing
SSG Robert Anderson 1-221st Cav HHT
SSG Jonathan Barton 17th STB
SSG Gary Buri 421st RTI

SSG Lincoln Delgado 72nd MP
SSG Keith Linford 593rd Trans Co
SSG Taimanglo Mercedes 145th Forward Support Co
SSG Wong Santitivech 17th STB
SSgt Robert Pape 152nd Ops Support Sqd
SSgt Guillermo Parra 232nd Ops Sqd
TSgt Kelly Elloyan 152nd Logistics Readiness Sqd
TSgt Michael Jimenez 232nd Ops Sqd
TSgt Jeremy Vranken Air Guard HQ
TSgt Anthony Winder 152nd Maint Sqd

Air Medal



CPL Wendell McGowan III 1859th Trans Co
SPC Robert Leggio III 422nd ESB
WO1 Harry Dixon III 1/189th Aviation Co
SPC Joe Trujillo JR 422nd ESB

Army Commendation Medal



1LT David Henry 17th STB
1LT Matthew Hornback 92nd CST
CPT Samuel England Med Det
CPT Tyler Redden 2/238th Aviation Det
CW3 Sean Reiter 422nd ESB
PFC Morgan Forry 422nd ESB
PFC Aaron Zamora 757th CSSB
SFC Robyn Connolly 757th CSSB
SFC Savannah Ellis 991st Aviation Troop Com
SFC Anthony Gomez 422nd ESB
SFC Eddie Rivera 422nd ESB
SGM Kristina Little 422nd ESB
SGT Anthony Abell 422nd ESB
SGT Caleb Alexander 422nd ESB
SGT June Anajao 422nd ESB
SGT Brian Anderson 422nd ESB
SGT Efrain Avalosvaldez 422nd ESB
SGT Abrahamadan Bernalmorales 422nd ESB
SGT Dkota Brodie 17th STB
SGT Conor Czyniewski 422nd ESB
SGT James Davidson 422nd ESB
SGT Sean Harasti 422nd ESB
SGT Aaron Laforteza 422nd ESB
SGT Mason Low 422nd ESB
SGT Wilfredo Matul 422nd ESB
SGT James Morrison 1/189th Aviation Co
SGT Roxana Neagoe Recruiting & Retention
SGT Joel Olivares 17th STB
SGT Iii Patlan 422nd ESB
SGT Sean Rawlins 422nd ESB
SGT Fernando Rosales 422nd ESB
SGT Jose Sanchez 422nd ESB
SGT Anthony Sequeira 422nd ESB
SGT Daniel Sheahan 1-221st Cav A Troop
SGT Dominik Souder 1-221st Cav B Troop
SGT Michael Stanko 422nd ESB
SPC Jordan Allard 422nd ESB
SPC Robert Anderson 422nd ESB
SPC Anthony Avelar 422nd ESB
SPC Zachary Crump 422nd ESB
SPC Ronaldo Diazsosa 422nd ESB
SPC Crystal Galvez 422nd ESB
SPC Eduardo Gonzalezlopez 422nd ESB
SPC Johnny Hernandez 422nd ESB
SPC Jasmine Kent 422nd ESB
SPC Kobelenox Maristela 422nd ESB
SPC Anna Phillips 422nd ESB
SPC Shaira Roscom 757th CSSB
SPC Benjamin Stover 72nd MP
SPC Alexandria Wilson 422nd ESB

SPC Troy Withers 422nd ESB
SSG Christopher Davis 422nd ESB
SSG Stephanie Davis 422nd ESB
SSG Lee Fuller 17th STB
SSG Anthony Hardy 422nd ESB
SSG Dillin Hart 422nd ESB
SSG Tyson Hawkins 609th Engineer Co
SSG Stephen Kopylcheck 17th STB
SSG Lucky Lo 422nd ESB
SSG Alexis Matute 422nd ESB
SSG Grant Reimers 609th Engineer Co
SSG Matthew Scarine 137th MP
SSG Paige Timothy 422nd ESB

Air Force Commendation Medal



SPC Jamison Mccurley II 422nd ESB
SPC Christopher Mckellar II 422nd ESB
SGT Charles Banks JR 2/238th Aviation Det
SGT Jesus Lozoya JR 422nd ESB
SPC David Leathers JR 422nd ESB
SPC Reno Mcshane JR 422nd ESB
SPC Miguel Pantaleon JR 422nd ESB

Army Achievement Medal



1LT Jason James 422nd ESB
CPL Taylor Cunningham 422nd ESB
CPT Michael Ross 1-221st Cav A Troop
MSG Nathaniel Borja 421st RTI
PFC Kimo Awaseann 2/238th Aviation Det
PFC Mitzy Bello 422nd ESB
PFC Jessica Edgell 422nd ESB
PFC Destiny Hasandavis 145th Support Bat
PFC Simon Horwitz 609th Engineer Co
PFC Juan Mayorga 3/140th AV Det B1 SEC & SPT
PFC Daniel Perez 422nd ESB
PFC Lynn Rodgers 100th Quartermaster Co
PFC Helen Valdez 1859th Trans Co
PFC Hailey Wilson 609th Engineer Co
PFC Aaron Zamora 757th CSSB
SFC David Hoinoski 421st RTI
SFC Rutilio Lara 137th MP
SFC Linda Nelson 422nd ESB
SFC Alfonso Zafra 422nd ESB
SGT Alexander Benhase 422nd ESB
SGT Joel Cohen 757th CSSB
SGT Jon Cuevas Med Det
SGT Angela Delacruz 422nd ESB
SGT Andrew Denney 422nd ESB
SGT Edmarraymick Foronda 137th MP
SGT Ethan Fredsti 422nd ESB
SGT Cameron Fricke 609th Engineer Co
SGT Shayne Fulmer 422nd ESB
SGT Robert Glass 422nd ESB
SGT Alyssa Grew 991st Aviation Troop Com
SGT Kyle Hotchkiss Recruiting & Retention
SGT Reese Johnson 422nd ESB
SGT Timothy Kawaratani 2/238th Aviation Det
SGT Chris Linares 1-221st Cav A Troop
SGT Wesley Nelson 422nd ESB
SGT Julio Ramirez 422nd ESB
SGT Daisy Reyes 422nd ESB
SGT David Rising 422nd ESB
SGT Fernando Rosales 422nd ESB
SGT Joshua Sasser 72nd MP
SGT Daniel Sevilla 609th Engineer Co
SGT Daniel Sheahan 1-221st Cav A Troop
SGT Paris Smith 3/140th AV Det B1 SEC & SPT

SGT Julius Stankevicius 422nd ESB
 SGT Kyle Stephens 3/140th AV Det B1 SEC & SPT
 SGT Clifford Stewart 422nd ESB
 SGT Elizabeth Torres 757th CSSB
 SGT Lorin Tseu 991st Aviation Troop Com
 SGT Daniel Waller 1/189th Aviation Co
 SGT Teyona Watt 991st Aviation Troop Com
 SGT Jonah Younghaines 2/238th Aviation Det
 SPC Gamil Abdelmalek 422nd ESB
 SPC Evelyn Aguirre 422nd ESB
 SPC Dulce Alaniz 17th STB
 SPC Trevor Allen 593rd Trans Co
 SPC Hiruy Amanuel 422nd ESB
 SPC Miles Antone 609th Engineer Co
 SPC Devon Arnold 609th Engineer Co
 SPC Rylan Barone 609th Engineer Co
 SPC Richard Bemh 422nd ESB
 SPC Vince Bengco 422nd ESB
 SPC Maxwell Biggs 422nd ESB
 SPC Jack Boerger Med Det
 SPC Christopher Brizuela 137th MP
 SPC Kayla Brown 422nd ESB
 SPC Bryan Brown 609th Engineer Co
 SPC Steven Britton 422nd ESB
 SPC Colton Calhoun 422nd ESB
 SPC Chasen Carter 422nd ESB
 SPC Autum Choe 422nd ESB
 SPC Ramon Contreras 609th Engineer Co
 SPC Joshua Curry 422nd ESB
 SPC Yonatan Daniel 422nd ESB
 SPC Daniel Diazchavez 422nd ESB
 SPC Daniel Dib 422nd ESB
 SPC Louis Durano 609th Engineer Co
 SPC Issai Edge 422nd ESB
 SPC Kimberly Elizondo 422nd ESB
 SPC Cody Farris 757th CSSB
 SPC Citlali Floresvilla 609th Engineer Co
 SPC Zackary Fowler 422nd ESB
 SPC Griffin Foxworthy 422nd ESB
 SPC Lizette Gamiochipe 422nd ESB
 SPC Iker Gancheguiplatas 422nd ESB
 SPC Daniel Gil 422nd ESB
 SPC Kyle Goff 2/238th Aviation Det
 SPC Edgar Gomezrios 150th Maint Co
 SPC Daniel Gourlay 609th Engineer Co
 SPC Amy Grund 609th Engineer Co
 SPC Samantha Gustafson 422nd ESB
 SPC Jason Hale 422nd ESB
 SPC Erigers Halush 17th STB
 SPC Christopher Handy 422nd ESB
 SPC Justin Haskett 422nd ESB
 SPC Johnny Hernandez 422nd ESB
 SPC Joshua Hill 593rd Trans Co
 SPC Pathan Hiranrak 422nd ESB
 SPC Jonathan Hoover 422nd ESB
 SPC Andrea Howes 422nd ESB
 SPC Jennifer Jackson 422nd ESB
 SPC Christina James 422nd ESB
 SPC Brock Jenks 422nd ESB
 SPC Nicholas Johnson 422nd ESB
 SPC Peyton Johnson 422nd ESB
 SPC Fermin Jose 422nd ESB
 SPC Zachary King 422nd ESB
 SPC Shane Kuhry 422nd ESB
 SPC Joshuarian Laporte 422nd ESB
 SPC Lynn Lazaro 422nd ESB
 SPC Jaemin Lee 422nd ESB
 SPC Gilbert Lemos 422nd ESB
 SPC Stephanie Leos 422nd ESB
 SPC Alexis Lopez 609th Engineer Co
 SPC Cory Luce 1859th Trans Co
 SPC Joshua Marran 422nd ESB
 SPC Beau Marshall 609th Engineer Co
 SPC Sarah Martindale 422nd ESB
 SPC Brandon Maye 422nd ESB
 SPC Jacob Metzker 422nd ESB
 SPC Veronica Meyer 609th Engineer Co
 SPC Nactuce Miller 422nd ESB
 SPC Valeria Miranda 422nd ESB
 SPC Michael Molinarodriguez 422nd ESB
 SPC William Montano 422nd ESB
 SPC Melissa Muniz 422nd ESB
 SPC Benjamin Nance 422nd ESB
 SPC Ngoc Nguyen 422nd ESB

SPC Pinky Nguyen 422nd ESB
 SPC Casey Niles 422nd ESB
 SPC Hunter Noel 422nd ESB
 SPC Warren Oana 422nd ESB
 SPC Michaelanthony Olandria 422nd ESB
 SPC Devin Parker 593rd Trans Co
 SPC Jr Penamunoz 422nd ESB
 SPC Nicolas Perez 422nd ESB
 SPC Yaret Perezsaldana 422nd ESB
 SPC Ethan Price 609th Engineer Co
 SPC Conor Pugh 422nd ESB
 SPC Oscar Ramos 422nd ESB
 SPC Alejandro Rea 422nd ESB
 SPC Wesley Robb 3/140th AV Det B1 SEC & SPT
 SPC Miyah Roberts 422nd ESB
 SPC Caleb Robinson 422nd ESB
 SPC Seth Rojas 422nd ESB
 SPC Donovan Ross 422nd ESB
 SPC Reliance Sabol 422nd ESB
 SPC Richmond Santos 422nd ESB
 SPC Julian Senda 422nd ESB
 SPC Nolan Sheehan 609th Engineer Co
 SPC Shannon Sheridan 422nd ESB
 SPC Gregory Smith 991st Aviation Troop Com
 SPC Joshua Sorenson 422nd ESB
 SPC Zachary Squires 609th Engineer Co
 SPC Jerrica Stanko 422nd ESB
 SPC Raquel Trujilloquevara 422nd ESB
 SPC Carlos Vegareza 422nd ESB
 SPC Eric Velez 422nd ESB
 SPC Anthony Vu 422nd ESB
 SPC Dayten Weber 422nd ESB
 SPC Allyson Wilson 422nd ESB
 SPC Troy Withers 422nd ESB
 SPC Kayleigh Yonker 422nd ESB
 SPC Sergio Zamora 422nd ESB
 SSG Steven Acree 609th Engineer Co
 SSG Christopher Cargill 422nd ESB
 SSG Zandra Duran 106th PAD
 SSG Larissa Givens 422nd ESB
 SSG Tyson Hawkins 609th Engineer Co
 SSG Colton Hults 2/238th Aviation Det
 SSG Nathaniel Krider 422nd ESB
 SSG Walter Lowell 106th PAD
 SSG Andrew Lynch Det 1 D Co Bat 3
 SSG Janette Mejia 17th STB
 SSG Kristy Reynolds 422nd ESB
 SSG Gregory Zemp 422nd ESB
 WO1 Sean Phelps 3/140th AV Det B1 SEC & SPT
 WO1 Rader Rollins 422nd ESB

Air Force Achievement Medal



A1C Kyle Barter 152nd Security Forces Sqd
 A1C Sarah Jacques 152nd Logistics Readiness Sqd
 A1C Dylan Tibbals West 152nd Logistics Readiness Sqd
 A1C Maria Uribe Salas 152nd Airlift Wing
 A1C Brian Vargas Palacios 192nd Airlift Sqd
 Maj Jennifer Evans 152nd Medical Group
 SGT Rjhunalexander Rimon 92nd CST
 SPC Aaron Gomez Med Det
 SPC Luis Moran 1859th Trans Co
 SPC Arisa Perez 1859th Trans Co
 SrA Tanner Allen 152nd Maint Sqd
 SrA Jason Anderson 152nd Maint Sqd
 SrA Alexia Ball 152nd Maint Sqd
 SrA Alana Bills 152nd Maint Sqd
 SrA Ryan Coffey 152nd Maint Sqd
 SrA Dana Cooper 152nd Airlift Wing
 SrA Aris Gabriel Cunanan 152nd Civil Eng. Sqd
 SrA Daniel Lara 152nd Medical Group
 SrA Marcus Medina 152nd Maint Sqd
 SrA Christina Perry 152nd Civil Eng. Sqd
 SrA Jessica Santella 152nd Medical Group
 SrA Dawson Smith 152nd Maint Sqd
 SSG William Frederick 92nd CST
 SSG Keahi Granstrom 1859th Trans Co
 SSG Travis Backlund 152nd Civil Eng. Sqd
 SSgt John Danilo De Guzman 152nd Force Support Sqd
 SSgt Austin Dutra 152nd Force Support Sqd

SSgt Ray Encallado 152nd Ops Support Sqd
 SSgt Mateis Maehler 192nd Airlift Sqd
 SSgt Gabriel Newberry 152nd Ops Support Sqd
 SSgt Habum Song 152nd Force Support Sqd
 TSgt Joseph Smith 192nd Airlift Sqd

PROMOTIONS

COL/Col

John Duffy 152nd Airlift Wing
 Brett Compston JFHQ
 Michael Fugett JFHQ

LTC/Lt Col

Jami Cavins JFHQ

CPT/Capt

Thomas Robb 1-221st Cav HHT
 Samuel Manghane 152nd Maint Sqd
 Jesse Wilson 152nd Medical Group
 Boyan Alexandrov 192nd Airlift Sqd
 Sean Grady 192nd Airlift Sqd
 Garrett Mcspadden 192nd Airlift Sqd
 Lynne Mcchrysal 3665th Ordnance Co (EOD)
 Justin Geilcrader JFHQ
 Hailey Martini Med Det
 Joshua Wood Med Det

1LT/1st LT

Chestermar Rihn 72nd MP
 Christopher Le Med Det

2LT/2nd LT

Seanderek Adina 440th Signal Co
 Katarina Faulkner 593rd Trans Co
 Joshua Palabay JFHQ

CW2

Sean Phelps 3/140th Aviation Det

CW1

Julio Guzmanbonilla 1/189th Aviation Co
 Christopher Moll 3665th Ordnance Co (EOD)

CSM/SGM/CMSgt

Sherdean Din 152nd Medical Group
 Joseph Loader 757th CSSB
 Jose Obregon JFHQ
 Marco Irenze Recruiting & Retention

1SG/MSG/SMSgt

Alejandro Delpozo 1-221st Cav HHT
 Christopher Harty 145th Support Bat
 Luis Quiroga 17th STB
 Katie Williams 17th STB
 Chestin Adaoag 232nd Ops Sqd
 Benjamin Hopper 3665th Ordnance Co (EOD)
 Samuel Boyd 421st RTI
 David Hoinoski 421st RTI
 Veronica Jasper JFHQ
 Brent Peden JFHQ
 Sara Harger Recruiting & Retention
 Luciana Irenze Recruiting & Retention
 Michelle Joy Ochoa Recruiting & Retention
 Ronald Portillo Recruiting & Retention

SFC/MSgt

Nickolas Huttinga 1-221st Cav D Co
 Jordan Coleman 1-221st Cav HHT
 David Eisele 150th Maint Co
 Kristopher Maccario 150th Maint Co
 Wake Garrett 152nd Airlift Wing
 Garrett Wake 152nd Airlift Wing
 Melanie Pearmain 152nd Force Support Sqd
 Matthew Curitti 152nd Intel Sqd
 Brian Kentris 152nd Intel Sqd
 Curitti Matthew 152nd Intel Sqd
 Christopher Schmitt 152nd Intel Sqd
 Mathew Chanez 152nd Maint Ops Flight
 Winder Anthony 152nd Maint Sqd
 Codey Beattie 152nd Maint Sqd
 Woodburn Kyle 152nd Maint Sqd
 Jeffrey Sarkis 152nd Maint Sqd
 Anthony Winder 152nd Maint Sqd
 Kyle Woodburn 152nd Maint Sqd
 Gagliardo Sadie 152nd Ops Group
 Trace Libby 152nd Security Forces Sqd

Libby Trace 152nd Security Forces Sqd
Theresa Faoa 17th STB
Jaime Flores 17th STB
Jonathan Franklin 17th STB
Anthony Hardy 17th STB
Adam Patterson 1859th Trans Co
James Brooks 1864th Trans Co
Craig Garnette 1864th Trans Co
Michael Jimenez 232nd Ops Sqd
Jared Hale 3665th Ordnance Co (EOD)
Stephanie Davis 422nd ESB
Anthony Gomez 422nd ESB
Ronald Chadwick 593rd Trans Co
Marcelo Vargasguerra 593rd Trans Co
Christopher Bushey 609th Engineer Co
Nicholas Cotham 609th Engineer Co
Douglas Braithwaite 757th CSSB
Vicki Gilmore 991st Aviation Troop Com
Jacob Roseberry 991st Aviation Troop Com
Race Shelton 991st Aviation Troop Com
Domenzainrodriguez Berenice Air Guard HQ
Bobby Peroddy DET 45, NVARNG
Natalia Dailey JFHQ
Donald Gibbs JFHQ
Christina Holm JFHQ
John Cooley Med Det
Jeremy Fenstra Med Det
Jeremy Dittberner Recruiting & Retention
Erik Gondorf Recruiting & Retention
William Mariona Recruiting & Retention
Justin Nacua Recruiting & Retention
Garry Willis Recruiting & Retention

SSG/TSgt

Nicholas Fusco 1/189th Aviation Co
Austin George 1/189th Aviation Co
Jared Stuber 1/189th Aviation Co
Daniel Waller 1/189th Aviation Co
Matthew Wargo 1/189th Aviation Co
Sasha Lawrence 100th Quartermaster Co
Zandra Duran 106th PAD
Trevor Camacho 1-221st Cav B Troop
Matthew Erbach 1-221st Cav C Troop
Ronald Kingston 1-221st Cav C Troop
David Neeley 1-221st Cav C Troop
Christopher Rojas 1-221st Cav C Troop
Jacob Sheire 1-221st Cav C Troop
Erick Fabela 1-221st Cav D Co
Robert Anderson 1-221st Cav HHT
Joshua Bales 1-221st Cav HHT
Tyler George 137th MP
Jonathan Loder 137th MP
Timothy Evans 145th Support Bat
Richard Martinez 145th Support Bat
Miguel Solis 145th Support Bat
Miles Abbott 150th Maint Co
Robert Baker 150th Maint Co
Robert Diaz 150th Maint Co
Zachary Konecne 150th Maint Co
Evelyn Rosasflores 150th Maint Co
Zachary Towle 150th Maint Co
Cooper Dana Erin 152nd Airlift Wing
Pettek Elizabeth 152nd Force Support Sqd
Whitney Norman 152nd Force Support Sqd
Paloschi Christopher 152nd Intel Sqd
Machuca Faith 152nd Intel Sqd
Sicard Jaya 152nd Intel Sqd
Terry Eric 152nd Logistics Readiness Sqd
Schumacher Jericho 152nd Logistics Readiness Sqd
Godoygomez Marco 152nd Logistics Readiness Sqd
Arata Alissa 152nd Maint Ops Flight
Mims Andrew 152nd Maint Sqd
Bagwell Joseph 152nd Maint Sqd
Taft Raymond 152nd Maint Sqd
Laura Artega 17th STB
Jonathan Barton 17th STB
April Diliberto 17th STB
Keven Lahde 17th STB
Roxana Lozano 17th STB
Janette Mejia 17th STB
Shaun Moreno 17th STB
Roxana Neagoe 17th STB
Kelsi Norman 17th STB
Karina Padilla 17th STB
James Richardson 17th STB
Jalyn Todd 17th STB

Shane Truesdill 17th STB
Luisenrike Gonzalez 1859th Trans Co
David Kille 1859th Trans Co
Keahi Granstrom 1864th Trans Co
Charles Julian 1864th Trans Co
Roberto Mendiola 1864th Trans Co
Mason Burkhart 2/238th Aviation Det
Joshua Fowler 2/238th Aviation Det
Kaylee Rutledge 2/238th Aviation Det
Jonah Younghaines 2/238th Aviation Det
Jared Scott 232nd Ops Sqd
Aaron Bogdanovich 240th Engineer Co
Christian Chavarria 240th Engineer Co
Edward Ojeda 240th Engineer Co
Adam Smith 240th Engineer Co
Joshua Bigham 421st RTI
Gary Buri 421st RTI
Amberley Dorrell 421st RTI
Garrett Juhnke 421st RTI
Philip Stenberg 421st RTI
Nicolas Aparicio 422nd ESB
Conor Czyzniewski 422nd ESB
Marvin Fennimore 422nd ESB
Michael Fernandez 422nd ESB
Shayne Fulmer 422nd ESB
Larissa Givens 422nd ESB
Dillin Hart 422nd ESB
Reese Johnson 422nd ESB
Nathaniel Krider 422nd ESB
Marco Martinez 422nd ESB
Julia Chadwick 593rd Trans Co
Shaela Salangdrone 593rd Trans Co
Steven Acree 609th Engineer Co
Daniel Sevilla 609th Engineer Co
Zachary Fierst 72nd MP
Ernest Lopez 72nd MP
Jacob Flick 757th CSSB
Chaz Rapp 92nd CST
Alyssa Grew 991st Aviation Troop Com
Robert Zamzow 991st Aviation Troop Com
Wright Edna Air Guard HQ
Joseph Page Det 1 D Co Bat 1
Eric Stout Det 1 D Co Bat 1
Scott Cline Det 1 D Co Bat 3
Andrew Lynch Det 1 D Co Bat 3
David Tecson Det 1 E Co Bat 1
Jason Davis JFHQ
Trey Duffesne JFHQ
Alexander Angelo Med Det
Whitley Beattie Med Det
Alexander Drossulis Med Det
Jeffery Fiske Med Det
Joshua Ioritone NVARNG TRAINING CENTER
Daisy Mejiaramirez Recruiting & Retention
Melissa Vargas Recruiting & Retention
Teyona Watt Recruiting & Retention

SGT/SSgt

Jefferson Cavanaugh 1/189th Aviation Co
Kevin Dillon 1/189th Aviation Co
Nicole Ikesil 100th Quartermaster Co
Thomas Knickmeyer 100th Quartermaster Co
Silvia Parrasolis 100th Quartermaster Co
Sarah Placentia 100th Quartermaster Co
Gabriela Portillochamul 100th Quartermaster Co
Albert Valladares 106th PAD
Brenden Morgan 1-221st Cav A Troop
Johan Rosales 1-221st Cav A Troop
Cyrus Zacarias 1-221st Cav A Troop
Luis Zarate 1-221st Cav A Troop
Darius Childress 1-221st Cav B Troop
Anthony Johnson 1-221st Cav D Co
Anthony Ortiz 1-221st Cav D Co
Haeden Kyung 1-221st Cav HHT
Jessica Lawrence 1-221st Cav HHT
Bryan Pendley 1-221st Cav HHT
Nicholas Ball 137th MP
Joseph Novelli 137th MP
Edgardo Alonzo 145th Support Bat
Maury Anderson 145th Support Bat
Logan Mcmillion 145th Support Bat
Nayla Rodriguezvensor 145th Support Bat
Andres Aguirre Olivares 150th Maint Co
Juan Diaz 150th Maint Co
David Gardiner 150th Maint Co
Faith Machuca 152nd Intel Sqd

Jaya Sicard 152nd Intel Sqd
Dkota Brodie 17th STB
Bryanna Chaffee 17th STB
Fabian Chavez 17th STB
Katie Colette 17th STB
Tristin Iwanski 17th STB
Michael Mahavong 17th STB
Fritz Mijares 17th STB
Jonathan Diaz 1859th Trans Co
Michael Xavier 1859th Trans Co
Justin Lemay 1864th Trans Co
Wendell McGowan 1864th Trans Co
Omar Sernamacias 1864th Trans Co
Kendall Goldsworthy 2/238th Aviation Det
Adam Mastrantonio 2/238th Aviation Det
Scott Plimpton 2/238th Aviation Det
Meagan Evans 240th Engineer Co
Marlon Garcia 240th Engineer Co
Makayla Spadafora 240th Engineer Co
Robert Anderson 422nd ESB
Jonjay Bemel 422nd ESB
Abrahamadan Bernalmorales 422nd ESB
Maxwell Biggs 422nd ESB
Matthew Clarkbenett 422nd ESB
Taylor Cunningham 422nd ESB
James Davidson 422nd ESB
Adam Dittberner 422nd ESB
Lizette Gamiochipe 422nd ESB
Jasmine Kent 422nd ESB
Kobelenox Maristela 422nd ESB
Jamison Mccurley 422nd ESB
Sarina Moran 422nd ESB
Anna Phillips 422nd ESB
Raul Silverio 422nd ESB
Derek Slentz 422nd ESB
Clifford Stewart 422nd ESB
Eric Velez 422nd ESB
Kayleigh Yonker 422nd ESB
Daniel Gourlay 609th Engineer Co
Peter Petrillo 72nd MP
Bailey Naylor 991st Aviation Troop Com
Greggory Smith 991st Aviation Troop Com
Learena Drake Det 1 D Co Bat 1
William Hayes Det 1 D Co Bat 1
Jacquelyn Trujillo Det 1 D Co Bat 3
Coleman Monahan JFHQ
Joe Philavanh Recruiting & Retention

ACCESSIONS

Includes: New enlistments, transfers from other states/active duty and newly commissioned officers.

Shane Freeth 1/189th Aviation Co
Mariana Martin Agustin 100th Quartermaster Co
Michelle Ramos Tapia 100th Quartermaster Co
Litzzy Romero-Bahena 100th Quartermaster Co
Brittany Sierra 100th Quartermaster Co
Iris Aguila Alejandrez 106th PAD
Jaihlyn Alston-Potter 1-221st Cav A Troop
Xaviar Boykins 1-221st Cav A Troop
Giancarlo Garcia Mandujano 1-221st Cav A Troop
Eric Mildenhall 1-221st Cav A Troop
Richard Pelorin 1-221st Cav A Troop
Xavier Albert 1-221st Cav B Troop
Landon Acevedo Vasquez 1-221st Cav D Co
Francisco Acosta 1-221st Cav D Co
Jonathan Capistrano 1-221st Cav D Co
Charles Klein 1-221st Cav D Co
Tarnell Graham 1-221st Cav HHT
Kevin Juarez 1-221st Cav HHT
Allen Tolentino Villanueva 1-221st Cav HHT
Joshua Barajas Tamayo 137th MP
Skylar Carmack 137th MP
Dylan Gonzalez 145th Forward Support Co
Decary McGill 145th Forward Support Co
Noemi Rivera Hernandez 145th Forward Support Co
Henry Djorbuah 150th Maint Co
Chancellor Hudnall 150th Maint Co
Brandon Mueller 150th Maint Co
Serenity Underwood 150th Maint Co
Megan Cly 152nd Civil Eng. Sqd

Robert Cornish152nd Civil Eng. Sqd
 Thojae Howard152nd Civil Eng. Sqd
 Jennifer Peoples152nd Civil Eng. Sqd
 Quinton Degiovanni152nd Coms Flight
 Omar Swinehart152nd Coms Flight
 Carly Falcon152nd Logistics Readiness Sqd
 Lizette Hall152nd Logistics Readiness Sqd
 Steven Hayth152nd Logistics Readiness Sqd
 Estevan Madole152nd Logistics Readiness Sqd
 Jayzen Mendez152nd Logistics Readiness Sqd
 Braxton Oriol152nd Logistics Readiness Sqd
 Luke Cloninger152nd Maint Sqd
 Douglas Fossum152nd Maint Sqd
 Marco Hawley152nd Maint Sqd
 Ezequiel Northrup152nd Maint Sqd
 Steven Stellar152nd Maint Sqd
 Floyd Bridges152nd Mission Support Group
 Andrew Benavidez152nd Security Forces Sqd
 William Henry152nd Security Forces Sqd
 Marquise Ramos152nd Security Forces Sqd
 Jose Fajardo17th SB
 Milana Shaw17th SB
 Aidan Bowman1859th Trans Co
 Marissa Di Stefano1859th Trans Co
 Johnanthony Hallberg1859th Trans Co
 Skylar Harrington1859th Trans Co
 Kaycee Schulz1859th Trans Co
 Israel Sosa1859th Trans Co
 Valerie Braun1864th Trans Co

Chanley Noel Lubaton1864th Trans Co
 Jackson Phadah1864th Trans Co
 Brayan Rodriguez Lopez1864th Trans Co
 Arturo Roman1864th Trans Co
 Taylor Morales192nd Airlift Sqd
 Andrea Donigan2/238th Aviation Det
 Antonio Almeida240th Engineer Co
 Erick Ramirez240th Engineer Co
 Noah Eisenbraun422nd ESB
 Emely Hernandez Martinez422nd ESB
 Kieran Hollis422nd ESB
 Drake Pyatt422nd ESB
 Christian Rapp422nd ESB
 Denise Reyes422nd ESB
 Monica Degro593rd Trans Co
 Orlando Garcia593rd Trans Co
 Austin Hill593rd Trans Co
 Robert Quevedo593rd Trans Co
 Caleb Lewis609th Engineer Co
 Kyle Rickman609th Engineer Co
 Kendalyn Alvarade72nd MP
 Karlie Brown72nd MP
 Mirella Macias72nd MP
 James Santacruz72nd MP
 Gabriel Gideon757th CSSB
 Alyson Vejar Torres757th CSSB
 Christopher LeMed Det
 Brian Albert QuimsonMed Det

RETIREMENTS

MSGT Robert Marshall152nd Maint Sqd
 MAJ Brain Janes152nd Airlift Wing
 SSGT Christopher Baughman152nd Civil Eng. Sqd
 TSGT Douglas Quevedo152nd Civil Eng. Sqd
 MAJ Gregory Green152nd Coms Flight
 TSGT Luis Batizmalonado152nd Logistics Readiness Sqd
 SMSGT Erik Eigenman152nd Logistics Readiness Sqd
 MSGT Robert Garrett152nd Logistics Readiness Sqd
 MSGT Yvette Maynard152nd Logistics Readiness Sqd
 MSGT Benjamin Reynolds152nd Maint Group
 CMSGT David Gonzales152nd Maint Ops Flight
 MSGT Charles Mendoza152nd Maint Sqd
 MSGT Matthew Zierenberg152nd Maint Sqd
 TSGT Frank Zuniga152nd Medical Group
 LT COL Nima Alinejad152nd Medical Group
 TSGT Nathaniel Steiner192nd Airlift Sqd
 COL Robert GregorySquadron Headquarters
 SSG Thomas CinkovichJFHQ
 SFC Crisa ObregonJFHQ
 SSG Kevyn SolarezMed Det
 SGT Kevin Sagner2/238th Aviation Det
 SGT Sara Martinez17th SB
 SGM Gary Giddens17th SB
 SSG Ignacio Gonzalez1859th Trans Co
 MSG Juan Ruvalcabaamezola150th Maint Co
 SGT Richard Mirabelli72nd MP

Air Guard welcomes new assistant adjutant general

By Capt. Emerson Marcus
 State Public Affairs Officer

NELLIS AFB, Nev. – The Nevada Air Guard promoted its new assistant adjutant general, Troy Havener, to the rank of brigadier general in May.

Instead of the usual promotion ceremony at the Air Guard base in Reno – where the majority of promotion ceremonies are held – the promotion occurred at a location where the Nevada Air Guard hopes to expand: Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas. Havener was promoted to the rank of brigadier general during his promotion ceremony at the Nellis Club on the active duty base in Las Vegas.

“It’s an honor and privilege for sure, something I never expected or felt entitled to,” Havener said. “My wife and I are committed to continue to serve as long as we are making a difference. Being given this opportunity and responsibility to lead as a general officer allows us to keep serving – it’s great.”

Recently, the Nevada Air Guard’s 232nd Operations Squadron reclassified and relocated from Creech Air Force Base (about 40 miles north of Las Vegas) to Nellis as the 232nd Combat Training Squadron with squadron command staff at U.S. Air Force Warfare Center on Nellis AFB. Maj. Gen. Case Cunningham, commander of the warfare center, attended Havener’s promotion ceremony along with Nevada adjutant general Maj. Gen. Ondra Berry, the presiding officer.

Before his most recent stint as the commander of the 144th Fighter Wing in



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jakob Ivanick, 152nd Airlift Wing

Troy Havener, the Nevada Air Guard’s new assistant adjutant general, addresses the audience during his promotion ceremony to the rank of brigadier general in May at the Nellis Air Force Base Club in Las Vegas.

Fresno, California, Havener served as the Air Guard Advisor to the U.S. Air Force Warfare Center at Nellis. During his time as advisor, his family made Las Vegas their home and they lived in Nevada even as Havener commanded the fighter wing in Fresno.

“I believe we are in a good place right now (in the Nevada Air Guard),” Havener said. “Nevada Guard Airmen clearly understand the global situation of strategic competition and we are training and executing mission tasks with a focus on global competitors.”

He added: “I’m optimistic at where we are at in terms of our people. There are always

process improvements and a new mission narrative that can be better refined or improved upon. Like any organization, there are areas in which we continue to do things as we have always done them – or we can find new innovative ways to be better. I look forward to helping figure that out.”

Havener, a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, commissioned in 1993 and served more than nine years in the active duty as an F-15C pilot, flight commander and AT-38 instructor pilot.

In 2002, Havener joined the Iowa Air National Guard and served in various 132nd Fighter Wing roles, including F-16 instructor pilot and commander of the Air National Guard Distributed Training Operations Center.

In 2015, he began work in the National Guard Bureau’s Air Operations Directorate as operational training infrastructure enterprise lead, where he established live, virtual and constructive operational training capabilities for the 90 Air National Guard wings.

Havener also served as vice wing commander of the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth, Minnesota, before becoming the Air National Guard Advisor to the U.S. Air Force Warfare Center.

“Given his knowledge, experience, and relationships built through a variety of mission sets and leadership roles during his career, Col Havener is without a doubt the right person at the right time to serve as assistant adjutant general of the Nevada Air Guard,” Berry said. ■



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