



GENERAL REFLECTIONS

THE NEVADA NATIONAL GUARD'S NEWSLETTER
MESSAGES FROM LEADERSHIP
AUTUMN 2020

TUMULTUOUS SUMMER SETS NEVADA GUARD ON HERO'S JOURNEY :

America entered a fight this spring against an obscure, volatile, nearly invisible enemy. The whirlwind of information during the early months of the pandemic gave rise to panic and fear in the face of a microscopic foe. Subsequent economic turmoil, civil unrest and fires charring the American west have made this one of the most tumultuous summers in American history. For these four events -- COVID-19, economic turmoil, civil unrest and wildfires -- members of the Nevada National Guard answered and continue to answer a call to service while continuing to support our nation overseas.



Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Ondra Berry

In my opinion, the tumultuous summer set the Nevada Guard on a "Hero's Journey." A Hero's Journey is a term coined by Joseph Campbell in his 1949 classic "Hero with a Thousand Faces." Years from now, when historians write about this chapter in American history, your children and grandchildren will look upon you as heroes because of your willingness to raise your hand and answer the call of our great state and nation. This is a historic era for our country and also for the National Guard. The National Guard in each state and territory has entered one of its most visible, important missions in its 383-year history. Our ability to respond in support of American citizens will shape our future and our nation's path forward. You will prove our purpose as America's sword and shield, its sentry and avenger, its guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

At this time, our nation also confronts politicization and polarization in our collective discourse. As members of the Guard, we see beyond politics and focus on the defense of our nation and its citizens. It's our time-honored duty to support and defend the Constitution and, especially while in uniform, remain apolitical in nature and loyal only to our state and nation's best interests. This is what makes our nation's military special, necessary and trusted dating back to our founding as a country. As Abraham Lincoln said in his first inaugural address: "We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory will swell when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature." It was the military in a large part that helped Lincoln see this vision through preservation of the union and the end of slavery. You follow in the footsteps of giants. How does this apply to the hero's journey? Campbell's use of the term includes a chronology:

1. **Departure or call to adventure.**
2. **Initiation through a series of tests and mentorship.**
3. **Return to the old world with a mastery of the past and future at hand.**

I see the Nevada National Guard's response to these current crises -- COVID-19, economic turmoil, civil unrest, western wildfires and ongoing wars abroad -- in these terms. We must remain focused on our duty to serve as role models, especially as our nation works to uphold its bonds of affection and the better angels of its nature. We are working through our hero's journey. We have not reached our mastery of the past and future. But we have entered an illuminating path forward fueled by our openness; our willingness to learn and explore new and better ways; our urgency to build stronger relationships of trust internally and externally; and our commitment to become leaders who inspire and unleash the incredible talent within.

This period of learning and exploration will lead us forward to new, better practices and systems that will propel us forward. Individually and collectively, we are creating a future state for the Nevada National Guard that will meet the moment and set the stage for our successors. They will be the Soldiers, Airmen, and Guardsmen who will protect our great nation -they are the future heroes, guardians and our democracy's protectors. As we continue to place the mission first, never accept defeat and never quit. The Nevada National Guard and our great nation will get through this tumultuous summer and year and we will emerge even stronger in 2021 as we progress on our HERO'S JOURNEY!



Brig. Gen. Zachary Doser

By Brig. Gen. Zachary Doser, Land Component Commander

The transformation of the Nevada Army Guard from a Ready Force to a Multi-Domain Operations Force began with the approval our 15 year Strategic Plan this year. This Strategic Plan invests in the overarching cultural transformation of the force, maintains and expands on the force's relevant combat capabilities, and ensures the Nevada Army Guard is in position to conduct Multi-Domain Operations by 2035. The individual Soldier, competently led by dynamic leaders at all levels, is the key to the implementation of this strategy. Our strength is in the diverse composition of our ranks. Our strategy will prove successful in an organizational environment in which every Soldier and leader truly believes they are valued, their opinions matters and they trust in the leadership. The contributions and efforts of everyone is crucial for both unit and organizational success. This is not my organization -- this is OUR organization. We are in the War Fighting/War Winning

business. Our performance depends on the success of the individual Soldier whose leaders ensure he/she is trained and ready to defeat any enemy, at any time, on any battlefield. Our strategy and cultural transformation ensures the Nevada Army Guard is and will be a premier War Fighting organization for decades to come.

By Brig. Gen. Michael Hanifan, Assistant Adjutant General

We are certainly at a time in our history when being a member of the Nevada National Guard has never been more important to our state and nation. In addition to multiple unit mobilizations to the Middle East, Afghanistan, and Poland, the Nevada National Guard is continuously supporting emergency efforts here at home. We mobilized a record number of Soldiers and Airmen to respond to the COVID pandemic, while simultaneously mobilizing additional forces to assist with public disturbances in Las Vegas and Reno tied to racial disparity and the killing of George Floyd. The Air Guard also mobilized the MAFFS to support one of the largest fire-fighting efforts in our nation's history. Commanders, Soldiers, and Airmen have had to remain versatile with virtual drills, canceled exercises, teleworking, and children at home for distance learning. Through it all, we have remained a resilient force. Remember that the Nevada Guard is a diverse, strong TEAM that looks out for each other in times of need. Look to the future with HOPE -- while times may be dark now (especially when we experience a smokescreen from the California fires), the future of the Nevada Guard has never been brighter. Stay resilient and take care of your fellow Soldiers and Airmen!



Brig. Gen. Michael Hanifan



NATIONAL BEST WARRIOR 2020 COMPETITION

REGION VII

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

SGT SIDNEY ROMERO
CAVALRY SCOUT
NEVADA NATIONAL GUARD


SGT SIDNEY ROMERO
CAVALRY SCOUT
NEVADA NATIONAL GUARD

SGT Sidney Romero is a cavalry scout with the Nevada National Guard's 1st Squadron, 221st Cavalry.

He enlisted in the National Guard in 2014. SGT Romero has attended Basic Leader Course, Air Assault Course and Cavalry Scout School.

SGT Romero holds a high school diploma from College of Southern Nevada High School.

SGT Romero's interests are in construction and traveling. SGT Romero's goals are to become an electrical journeyman and to own his house. SGT Romero is the first in his family to serve in the military.




REGION VII BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION CLOSE UP:

Sgt. Sidney Romero from the Nevada National Guard won the 2020 Region VII Best Warrior Competition on July 29 in Utah. Soldiers from Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Hawaii participated in the competition for the opportunity to represent Region VII in the National Guard finals in Mississippi in September. Although Romero did not win the nationals in Mississippi, he represented the state of Nevada admirably.

Photo caption: Sgt. Sidney Romero competes in the medical stakes evaluation during the Army National Guard 2020 Best Warrior Competition Sept. 14 in Mississippi. The Best Warrior Competition is a rigorous four-day competition that tests the tactical and technical expertise of Army Soldiers.

RESILIENCY PREVAILS IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

By Brig. Gen. Glen Martel, Nevada Air Guard Chief of Staff



Brig. Gen. Glen A. Martel

Resiliency is defined as the process of adapting positively in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or significant sources of stress. The events during the last eight months, including the global pandemic, social, economic and political unrest and isolation from friends, families and coworkers have tested our resiliency both as individuals and as a community. Although it has not always been easy, the Nevada National Guard is proving to be extraordinarily resilient during these trying times. Each one of us was affected differently by the difficult circumstances, but we have collectively met these challenges head-on with the common goal of emerging stronger on the other side. These stronger on events have not defined us; instead, they have revealed our true strength of character.

Simply put, resiliency is preparing us for the future. Our refreshed view on uncertainty has now turned to ingenuity, readiness and the confidence that we can meet any challenge that comes our way. We are becoming an organization that is proactive rather than reactive. We are becoming more comfortable with being uncomfortable. Uncertainty has become the new normal in the way we work and the way we live our daily lives. We are confidently meeting these challenges with determination and are more prepared than ever to tackle anything thrown our way. The past year has motivated a focused preparedness concerning the future of the Nevada National Guard. We are extremely confident that our laser focus on state strategic planning, domestic mission execution, and forward leaning posture for future opportunities will keep our state highly relevant in the ever-evolving National Defense Strategy. While our objectives may change in the face of new obstacles, we are certainly better positioned now versus in our past to meet future challenges head-on and continue bringing excellence to all we do.



Chief Warrant Officer 5 James Baumann

By Chief Warrant Officer 5 James Baumann, State Command Chief Warrant Officer

There has never been a better time than today to serve as a warrant officer in the Nevada Army Guard. During the last year, we recorded the largest simultaneous mobilization of warrant officers in the history of the Nevada Army Guard. Multiple units with warrant officers in vital positions were concurrently deployed to the Middle East, fought wildland fires, and supported the state's health response to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

The efforts of our Army Guard Soldiers displayed we are truly a resilient force that is ready to serve the state and nation when called upon. As we near the end of one of the most challenging years in the National Guard history, I encourage everyone to continue to be resilient and look out for your fellow Soldiers and Airmen.

By Sergeant Major Michael Spaulding, Senior Enlisted Leader

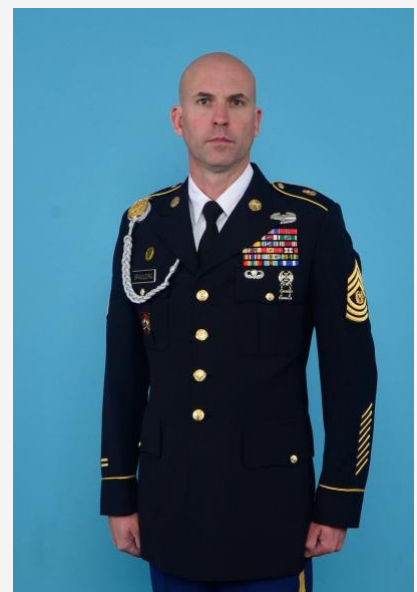
2020 has been a year for the record books. In December 2019, Maj. Gen. Ondra Berry spoke to his senior staff about how 2020 was going to be a "great year...a defining year."

It most certainly has been. We have experienced and continue to battle a worldwide pandemic, we survived a record number of wildfires, civil unrest remains a major topic, and a record number of storms threaten the Gulf and Atlantic states.

Throughout all of the challenges this year, the best of the National Guard has been on display to the nation's citizens. Every Nevada Guard Soldier and Airmen called to duty this year has responded with class, professionalism, and dignity to care for, help and provide comfort to both Nevadans and our California neighbors as well. You have demonstrated the best attributes of our state's Citizen-Soldiers and Citizen-Airmen.

Gov. Steve Sisolak talks about the Nevada National Guard like a proud father. Although I would have preferred 2020 to be less turbulent, I could not be more proud of everyone's response, perseverance and professionalism.

As Maj. Gen. Berry predicted, 2020 was certainly a "great year...a defining year" in a challenging manner. I am incredibly proud of each and every Nevada Guardsman and consider myself privileged to serve with all of you.



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Spaulding

NVNG NEWS

Minority Guardsmen fill special role on front lines of Nevada's coronavirus fight

Nevada National Guard plaque honors victims of IHOP shooting

Nevada Air Guard continues MAFFS firefighting mission

Col. JoAnne Meacham receives award from American Red Cross of Northern Nevada



Nevada National Guard Leadership Council

The Nevada National Guard is creating a Army & Air National Guard Leadership Council to advise The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Ondra Berry, and his senior leadership teams on internal matters within the Nevada Guard. The purpose of the council will be to improve communication at all levels within the organization -- with representation from all ranks -- to provide a forum, discuss issues and formulate ideas on how to improve the work environment.

Additionally, the council will serve as a barometer on the effectiveness of the Strategic Plan and ongoing cultural changes. Units will appoint one Soldier from each rank during the first quarter of the year to the council. These members will meet with their rank peer groups and elect one member to represent the entire rank group on the council.

Once the council is formed, each rank peer group will meet quarterly to discuss current topics and prepare a briefing for meetings with TAG, the Land Component Commander, the State Command Chief Warrant Officer, enlisted leaders and all directors. Each member will serve for 18 months. The council will include one Active Guard and Reserve Soldier or Airman and/or a full-time technician as well as one traditional Guardsman in rank groups with these ranges:

E-5 - E-9 : CW2-CW4 : O-3 - O-6

