Two years ago this week, I took command of the Nevada National Guard, and reminded everyone that, “for 154 years, the Nevada National Guard has served the state and nation with distinction, class and excellence.” That service of distinction, class and excellence has continued in the face of deployments, a pandemic, fires and civil unrest. Nobody predicted the events of the past two years.

As recently as last week, Nevada Guardsmen jumped at a moment’s notice to assist in ongoing efforts to save life and property threatened by the Caldor and Dixie fires in northern California and Nevada. These interagency operations display the Nevada Guard’s ability to seamlessly, at a moment’s notice, partner with county, state and federal entities.

Just last week, I heard a Las Vegas TV reporter say, “We hear the term Nevada National Guard all the time in our newscasts, but what exactly does that mean?” For something so visible, with many missions, it’s hard to concisely say exactly what the National Guard does. We do it all! Throughout the course of the past year, the National Guard accomplished myriad missions in the face of several domestic emergencies while also deploying overseas. The National Guard supports the warfight, first and foremost, but it also executes a long list of assignments, everything its state and nation needs. To succinctly answer the reporter’s question: the National Guard does what is needed to accomplish the mission in support of its state and nation — every single day.

From the bottom of my heart, from the depth of my soul, I cannot thank each of you enough for all that you have done, are doing today and will do in our tomorrows. It is truly heroic, unprecedented, unequaled, unrivaled and unmatched! The only difference in my command ceremony address two years ago is that I can now say “for 156 years the Nevada National Guard has served the state and nation with distinction, class and excellence.” Keep up the heroic work!

Battle Born! Battle Ready!
Air Force Brig. Gen. Shanna Woyak was promoted to the rank of major general during a ceremony at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C., June 16. Woyak will become the first director of the Defense Health Agency's Small Market and Stand-Alone Military Treatment Facility Organization, or SSO, in the coming weeks. In her new role, Woyak will lead the effort to manage stand-alone MTFs and others grouped together into small markets. The SSO will provide executive management and oversee clinical operations, business operations, and analytics and strategy for the MTFs it supports. She will oversee 17 small markets and 68 stand-alone MTFs. Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Robert Miller presided the ceremony and administered the oath of office.

MAJ. GEN. SHANNA WOYAK NOW ONE OF FIVE FEMALE MAJOR GENERALS IN AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Air Force Brig. Gen. Shanna Woyak was promoted to the rank of major general during a ceremony at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C., June 16. Woyak will become the first director of the Defense Health Agency's Small Market and Stand-Alone Military Treatment Facility Organization, or SSO, in the coming weeks. In her new role, Woyak will lead the effort to manage stand-alone MTFs and others grouped together into small markets. The SSO will provide executive management and oversee clinical operations, business operations, and analytics and strategy for the MTFs it supports. She will oversee 17 small markets and 68 stand-alone MTFs. Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Robert Miller presided the ceremony and administered the oath of office.

"When Shanna first started her career, she wanted to do a few things - she wanted to be able to take care of people, she wanted to become a nurse and, even at a young age, she knew that serving her country would allow her to achieve her goals, while being a part of something bigger," said Miller. "Like many, she thought she would serve her four years, be done, and move on to civilian life. Your nation is grateful that you decided to stay a few years longer, and I can't think of a more deserving, more qualified individual for this promotion and to become the first DHA SSO director."

TAG: JUNETEENTH MEANS SO MUCH TO SO MANY

Earlier this spring, the U.S. Senate voted unanimously to make Juneteenth a national holiday, and President Joe Biden signed its passage days later. This means so much to so many as we look to tell a more complete story of our nation's history.

When I became president of the Northern Nevada Black Cultural Awareness Society (NNBCAS) in Reno in 1988, one of my tasks, and personal goals, was to raise awareness of the story and history of African Americans in the United States. That has always been a goal of NNBCAS.

Over thirty years ago, an educator and music teacher with the Washoe County School District, and a board member of the NNBCAS, Pat Ester, approached me with an idea, "We need to celebrate Juneteenth!" she said. I knew about the annual celebration, but I did not know the history behind it. Growing up in Indiana, we recognized and celebrated the day with family gatherings, but I did not recognize the true significance of Juneteenth. Read full address here.
LEGISLATIVE SESSION BRINGS NEVADA GUARD BENEFITS

**SB: 156**

Authorizes transfer of the in-state tuition waiver to one family member. Nevada Guardsmen become eligible to transfer their ability to waive tuition to a family member after they re-enlist following six years of service.

**SB: 485**

Transferred the Division of Emergency Management and its powers and duties from the Department of Public Safety to the Office of the Military, granting the Adjutant General authority over Division.

**SB: 432**

This law appropriates $1.4 million for state maintenance projects, computer hardware, software as well as shop equipment and tools; 40 percent state funds and the remainder provided by the federal government.

**SB: 28**

This Nevada National Guard proposed bill strengthens existing state law to establish a punitive punishment provision for sexual harassment in the Nevada National Guard and aligns state military justice code with Department of Defense legal definitions for sexual assault and consent for members serving in the Nevada National Guard.

**SB: 440**

The bill revises existing language and creates a sales tax holiday for members of the Nevada National Guard who are residents of Nevada. This three-day tax holiday will occur annually for the next 10 years and will fall on Nevada Day weekend.

**SB: 492**

This bill includes the approval of about $40 million in state funds to assist capital improvement projects at Nevada National Guard facilities around the state. In all, 22 projects were approved, including about $26 million state funds — matched by $19 million in federal funds — for the construction of the 55,000-square-foot addition to the Washoe County Training Center.
The Nevada National Guard and State of Nevada won 18 of 83 National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) awards presented at the 143rd annual NGAUS conference at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas last month.

“This is an amazing accomplishment through the year we've had with deployments and response to COVID, wildfires and Capitol response,” said Maj. Gen. Ondra Berry, Nevada adjutant general. “It is incredible to win this many awards and have the chance to host this amazing conference this year.”

He added: "This recognition is more evidence of how the Nevada National Guard and State of Nevada continue to excel in the eyes of national leadership and NGAUS."

Founded in 1878, NGAUS is the primary advocate in Washington D.C., educating Congress on the roles, capabilities and requirements of the nation’s first military force: the National Guard.

For an entire list of awards, click here.
FORMER 221ST CAV ARMORY NOW YERINGTON’S CITY HALL

Maj. Gen. Ondra L. Berry visited the new Yerington City Hall (previously a Nevada National Guard Amory) to present Mayor John Garry and City Council members Selena Catalano and Terceira Schunke a building plaque to commemorate the transfer and renaming of the armory that took place just a few months ago. The plaque reads: “The City Hall for the City of Yerington shall be dedicated to the proposition that every citizen must be ever vigilant to hold their elected officials accountable to ensure honest, equitable stewardship of their affairs to maintain freedom in all institutions of government. Henceforth, this building shall be known as the Major General Robert T. Herbert Administration Building.” Read the story about the armory renaming and property transition here.

COL AMY KLIMA NAMED NEVADA GUARD’S FIRST CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE JOINT STAFF/J9 DIRECTORATE

Col Amy Klima was named this summer as the Nevada National Guard’s first Chief of Staff to the Joint Staff/J9 Directorate. This new position will work to streamline efforts and support resiliency programming across the force. In her role as the J9 Directorate, COL Klima will bring a disciplined focus and commitment to military services, greatly increasing retention and readiness. The new position, based at the Las Vegas Readiness Center, will bridge gaps in support services, provide continuity of care, share information, collaborate events, increase resource inclusivity and specialize specific state needs. Opening of the new directorate position is tentatively scheduled for no later than 1 OCT.

COL Klima, who currently serves as the Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics, G4, enlisted in the Montana Army National Guard in 1993. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology, COL Klima commissioned in 1998, and eventually relocated to Las Vegas to work as a microbiologist at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas where she earned a Master of Public Health degree in 2007. After eight years at UNLV, COL Klima accepted a federal technician position with the Nevada Army Guard as the Intelligence Specialist for Southern Nevada. She served seven years in this position. She also worked as an Intelligence Analyst with the Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney's Office, Nevada. While working at the U.S. Attorney's Office, COL Klima also served as the Commander of the 757th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

Col Amy Klima speaks at the Office of the Adjutant General auditorium in Carson City moments after being promoted to the rank of colonel during a ceremony this spring. Klima will start her role as the J9 Directorate at the beginning of the 2022 fiscal year.