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Tarheel Guardsmen

Official Publication of the North Carolina National Guard Association



TARHEEL GUARDSMAN

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If you are a Dual Military Family and are both insured through the SSLI program, contact Rhonda Mooring today!

NCNGA Insured Members — Has Your Child Aged Out of SSLI?

If your child has recently turned 21 (25 if in college), please contact Rhonda Mooring at 919-851-3390 ext. 1 or rhonda@ncnga.org and she will be glad to go over your policy and make any necessary changes.

Executive Council

Meeting Dates:

July 28, 2022
October 5, 2022
January 12, 2023
February 23, 2023
March 10-11, 2023, Convention

**Deadline for submitting
articles for the Sept/Oct issue of
the Tarheel Guardsman:**

20 August 2022

Address changes or questions?

Contact us at
919-851-3390

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Members receive the publication free with their membership. The annual subscription rate for non-members of the Association is \$15.00. Please include your old address when requesting change of address.

Deadline for submitted material to the *Tarheel Guardsman* is the 5th of the month, two months preceding the calendar date of issue. Manuscripts and photographs on subjects of general interest are invited. Unless otherwise indicated, material may be reprinted provided credit is given to the *Tarheel Guardsman* and the author where listed. Articles and photos will not be returned, unless requested. (USPS 533-640)

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We Remember...



We remember the following members or the family members of the NC National Guard Association or NC National Guard Soldiers and Airmen that have passed away since our last magazine publication. Listed below are those members (and non-members), spouses and dependent children that have recently passed away. If we have missed someone, please contact Rhonda Mooring at rhonda@ncnga.org or 919-851-3390 ext 1.

Maurice L. Huneycutt,
Army
Oakboro, NC
February 23, 2016

Gary Jackson, Army
Chapel Hill, NC
January 22, 2021

Kenneth E. Gore, Army
Nakina, NC
June 21, 2021

Dennis E. Felton, Army
Elizabeth City, NC
December 29, 2021

John E. Perry, Army
Gatesville, NC
December 29, 2021

Verlon D. White, Army
Roper, NC
April 15, 2022

David M. Adams, Air
Clover, SC
April 22, 2022

Bruce A. Hildebran, Army
Connelly Springs, NC
May 1, 2022

Ira D. Austin, Air
Indian Trail, NC
May 4, 2022

Charles R. Odom, Army
Blue Ridge, GA
May 7, 2022

Hilton R. Holcomb, Army
Ocean Isle Beach, NC
May 10, 2022

Deborah J. Hennessey,
Army
Mocksville, NC
May 14, 2022

Billy J. Reid, Air
Trent Woods, NC
May 16, 2022

John T. Roberts, Army
Creedmoor, NC
May 20, 2022

Ricky Edwards, Army
Macclesfield, NC
May 24, 2022

Michael L. Fields, Army
Mocksville, NC
May 25, 2022

Dora A. Wood
Spouse of
Shelbert M. Wood, Army
Mt. Airy, NC
June 1, 2022

Katherine F. Barefoot
Spouse of
Jerry Barefoot, Army
Fayetteville, NC
June 6, 2022

David C. Salter, Army
Trent Woods, NC
June 6, 2022

Troy M. Holowiti, Army
Raleigh, NC
June 8, 2022

NCMBC: Connecting the Military and Business

by NCMBC Staff

The North Carolina Military Business Center (NCMBC) is a statewide business development and technology transition entity of the State of North Carolina, headquartered at and supported by Fayetteville Technical Community College. The mission of the NCMBC is to leverage military and other federal business opportunities to expand the economy, grow jobs and improve quality of life in North Carolina.

The NCMBC's primary goal is to increase federal revenues for businesses in North Carolina. The Department of Defense has an annual impact of \$66 billion and is the second largest sector of North Carolina's economy (12% GDP). With six major military bases, over 100 National Guard and Reserve facilities and the third highest number of uniformed military personnel in the country, the State of North Carolina created the NCMBC to leverage opportunities with these installations, DoD commands and federal agencies operating worldwide.

The NCMBC connects North Carolina firms to current government contracting opportunities in two ways – with a team of business development specialists across the state who also provide technical services, and electronically with www.MatchForce.org.

Business Development. The NCMBC's business development team includes experienced business development, industry and procurement specialists operating from 12 Community Colleges across the state – from Hendersonville to Elizabeth City. These specialists identify the most lucrative federal contract opportunities (prime and subcontracts), notify and pre-position North Carolina firms for specific opportunities, and assist firms to understand government solicitations, prepare winning proposals and to successfully execute federal contracts.

MatchForce. To connect North Carolina businesses with all federal opportunities, including local opportunities at bases in the state, the NCMBC administers the State's official, FREE web portal for federal contracting – www.MatchForce.org. North Carolina businesses register on the portal and receive automatic matches to federal prime opportunities and to subcontracting opportunities posted by other registered businesses. Firms identifying contract opportunities through MatchForce can then contact the NCMBC business development team for one-on-one assistance.



An airman conducts a high-altitude low opening jump out of an Air Force MC-130J Commando II over Hawaii, Sept. 2, 2021.



Army Pfc. Daniel Candales uses a tactical robotic controller to control an expeditionary modular autonomous vehicle as a practice exercise in preparation for Project Convergence at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., Oct. 19, 2021. Project Convergence is the Army's contribution to the military-wide Joint All Domain Command and Control concept, where data will link together land, air, sea, cyber and space capabilities.

Strategic Initiatives Program. In addition to business development and MatchForce, the NCMBC conducts several strategic initiatives. These initiatives include:

- Market intelligence – identifying future business opportunities in key sectors
- Pre-positioning and training – for future and current opportunities
- Current business development – connecting businesses to contract opportunities
- Solicitation and proposal support – assisting businesses to compete and win
- Training and resources – providing tools to overcome contracting obstacles
- Events and networking – focused on target sectors including statewide Summits for the medical, aerospace, cybersecurity, military construction and textile and soldier systems industries

The NCMBC hosts several annual industry-related events:

- Southeast Region Federal Construction, Infrastructure and Environmental Summit (April 12-13, 2023 – Wilmington, NC). <https://summit.ncmbc.us>
- Federal and Defense Textile Summit (May 24-25,

Charlotte, NC - 2023 Date/Location TBA). <https://fedtex.ncmbc.us>

- Medical, Biomedical and Biodefense: Support to the Warfighter Symposium (June 8-9, 2022 in Chapel Hill, NC – 2023 Date/Location TBA). <https://mbb.ncmbc.us>
- Defense and Technology Symposium (July 26, 2022 in Fayetteville, NC) in conjunction with the AUSA Warfighter Summit and Exposition (July 27-28, 2022 in Fayetteville, NC). <https://defense.ncmbc.us>

Frontline of the Future: Promoting Defense Technologies in North Carolina

North Carolina – the Frontline of the Future - is home to a highly capable and diverse innovation ecosystem, fully capable of supporting America's warfighters worldwide. Fortunately, North Carolina is also home to the best infrastructure in the country to help industry- and academia-based innovators to win and successfully execute research and development opportunities with the Department of Defense (DoD).

The North Carolina Defense Technology Transition Office (DEFTECH), is a statewide resource of the NCMBC. Focused on technology transition, DEFTECH scours the state for business and university researchers who are developing new technologies with defense applications. These technologies may fit in one of many research and development (R&D) categories, including human performance, medical and biomedical, advanced textiles, autonomous systems, artificial intelligence and machine learning, cybersecurity and many more. Once identified, DEFTECH helps these innovators to introduce their advanced technologies to DoD, and assists them in navigating DoD agencies and R&D acquisition processes.

In addition to seeking out researchers developing defense-related technologies, DEFTECH also develops market intelligence and sources future DoD and Homeland Security technology requirements to the innovation ecosystem statewide. DEFTECH builds relationships with DoD and military service agencies that develop requirements and acquire technologies - including the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), Army Futures Command, Marine Corps Systems Command, US Special Operations Command and armed services' rapid fielding organizations - and leverages these relationships to identify, distribute and help innovators to compete for federally funded research and development opportunities. DEFTECH particularly targets and helps businesses compete for and win defense-related Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR), Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) and various Other Transaction Authority (OTS) R&D acquisitions.

DEFTECH employs various methods to engage and communicate with the innovation ecosystem in our state. Innovators can explore the DEFTECH website at www.DEFTECH.nc.gov, review current and anticipated SBIR, STTR and other federally funded R&D opportunities, and contact DEFTECH by email or phone to register in the DEFTECH network. Once connected, innovators can engage in DEFTECH's Mobilize community (<https://nc-defense-technology-transition-office.mobilize.io/network-groups>) to network with other businesses and receive updates and teaming opportunities. Finally, businesses can contact DEFTECH to attend the weekly, virtual Coffee Call series and other DEFTECH webinars and in-person events - such as the Defense Technology Symposium in Fayetteville on July 26 - that regularly connect innovators in North Carolina with technology acquisition agencies in DoD and other federal agencies. DEFTECH works daily to ensure that North Carolina remains the Frontline of the Future.

If the NCMBC or DEFTECH can be of assistance now or in the future, contact us at: <https://www.ncmbc.us> or <https://deftech.nc.gov>.



Marine Corps Sgt. Jack Chmielewski sights in during a scout sniper challenge at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 27, 2022.



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2022 Tarheel Retiree Homecoming

Date: December 9, 2022

Event Registration: 0900-1000 HRS

Location: Joint Force Headquarters, 1636 Gold Star Drive, Raleigh, NC 27607

Includes: Mission updates, benefits seminar, various information stations, luncheon, and a social time

To Register: If paying by card complete this form online at ncnga.org or call the office at 919-851-3390. Otherwise, send this form and a check for \$15.00 per person payable to NCNGA on or before 2 December 2022 to:

NCNGA
7410 Chapel Hill Rd
Raleigh, NC 27607

Note: Seating is limited to 350; please make your reservation as soon as possible
Questions: Contact us at 919-851-3390 or email info@ncnga.org



2022 Tarheel Retiree Homecoming Registration Form



Attendee Name: _____ Rank (RET) _____

Guest Name(s): _____

Please provide the following:

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Home or Cell Phone: _____

****You can also register online at www.ncnga.org****

North Carolina National Guard Top Three Enlisted Position Changes

Altasia Johnson, Staff Writer

The top three enlisted leadership positions within the North Carolina National Guard changed over, welcoming CSM Garner, CSM Webb and CMSgt Conner into their new positions.

In response to this significance, I sat down with each leader to discuss their new role, future goals, and advice for Soldiers and Airmen.

CSM Benjamin Garner, the newest Senior Enlisted Leader, assumed the role on May 15, 2022. He will be the first M-Day guardsman to fill the position as previous years were filled by a full-time guardsman.



CSM Benjamin Garner in Afghanistan as a SSG with the 211th MP Co. in 2002.

What will you do in your new role?

I'll be advising the Adjutant General on all enlisted matters and overseeing both the Army and the Air Guard just as he does. I see my role as helping to develop, mentor, and coach peers and junior leaders. Another part of my role will be to represent the North Carolina National Guard through our Region III Command Sergeant Major Advisory Council (CSMAC) and Command Senior Enlisted Advisory Council (CSEAC).

How many soldiers or airmen will you be responsible for?

Roughly 10,500

What are your goals once you get settled into the position?

It's a challenging time for the reserve components. As a National Guard, we're very busy. A lot is asked of us

on both our federal and state missions. My aim is to find that balance for our Soldiers and Airmen. I am here to advocate for them while sharing concerns with our Adjutant General. Our Soldiers face many challenges. As a part-time Guardsman, I feel like I understand the challenge. I live four hours away from my assigned armory. I have a civilian career that I juggle. I've got two kids and a wife and a house that I have to maintain. Many of our Soldiers do the same, and it can be taxing both physically and mentally. I'm hoping to be that advocate for the force and minimize some of their stressors. My desire is for Soldiers and Airmen to feel comfortable enough to voice their concerns, and feel confident that I am going to act on their behalf. From my foxhole, I will strive to assist our Soldiers and Airmen to be mentally, physically, and emotionally prepared for their responsibilities. If I can accomplish that goal, we will work as a more effective team and organization. Bottom line, if we don't make it a conducive environment, to where our Soldiers and Airmen want to be there, they're not going to be there.

How do you see the North Carolina National Guard changing in the future?

We have been an operational force since 2001 and the attacks of 9-11. I do not foresee that changing. In fact, I think the operational tempo and need for the guard will continue to increase. Over the last 20+ years, the guard has proven our ability to mobilize and deploy and fight our nation's wars. The Army requires the guard in order to be successful. Our focus must be maintained on readiness, preparedness, and our ability to respond when needed. The nation's military and civilian leaders have come to rely on our Soldiers and Airmen both here at home and abroad. The NC National Guard is the force of choice and will continue to strive to be the most ready, responsive, and relevant military force for our state and nation.

What advice do you have for junior or senior NCOs?

Be the best you can be at your job. Don't look for the easy way out, but always look for ways to improve your fighting position. When given an opportunity to better yourself, take it. Go to the schools that are offered. Work on your physical and mental fitness. Seek opportunities to support one another. Know your role, and build relationships with those whom you lead. Identify your weaknesses and determine to turn them into strengths. Have integrity and do what is right, even when it is the hard thing to do. Lastly, don't ever lose sight of your mission.



CSM Webb working as a liaison between NC Emergency Management's Orange County Branch Office and the NCNG in response to COVID-19 as a SGT MAJ in April of 2020. (photo by Staff SGT Mary Junell)

CSM Brian Webb, the newest States Command Sergeant Major for the North Carolina Army National Guard, assumed the role on June 15, 2022. He will fulfill this role as a full-time position.

What will you do in your new role?

I will handle day-to-day Army operations. Anything coming in and going out through day-to-day operations [and] especially dealing with a full-time staff or any issues, pay, congressional inquiries...you name it.

How many Soldiers or Airmen will you be responsible for?

Approximately 7,000.

What are your goals once you get settled into the position?

Taking care of Soldiers, to be honest. One of the seven Army values that I value the most is selfless service. This is the ultimate position to be in to be able to do that. And I hate to say a lot of times people think taking care of Soldiers means, you know, pandering to any Soldiers wishes or stuff, but it's the overall organization of the force. It could come down to the individual level, but it also deals with the overall organization...what is best for the organization. So, it doesn't always come out in an individual's favor.

What are your plans to accomplish this goal?

I plan on utilizing lessons learned. I've been at the company level, battalion level, brigade-level here at staff level here

in G3 and J3. I've been a brigade CSM [and] two-battalion CSM tours. So, I will just use those lessons learned through those experiences. Most of the time it really boils down to accountability and communication. Nobody wants to do the wrong thing. Everybody wants to do the right thing. I think everybody has the best interests of the organization at heart but being able to sift through all that. There again, adjudicate what needs to be adjudicated and appear as a force.

How will you impact the Soldiers in the new position?

I'm probably going to continue to do what I have done and has been most successful for me in the past - getting out and seeing Soldiers on the ground, making unit visits, and meeting with Soldiers, whether it's an individual or a group. That and listening. That's the key to trying not only to listen but to hear.

How do you see the National Guard changing in the future?

We really have to be flexible, to be honest. Obviously, trends change everything. Two years ago who thought the world would have stopped due to COVID-19. We managed through that and we're still managing through it. So just being flexible with social issues, we have now, behavioral health issues, and things of that nature. Just being able to, again, talk honestly and communicate with each other, and then move forward with the best interests of the organization.

Do you have any advice for junior or senior NCOs?

Just to be ready. Maintain your military education, and maintain your physical and mental health. Be accountable and be approachable. Be able to discuss the hard subjects and be honest about it. I briefly touched on it earlier... the seven Army values. There's a reason we still have them and adhere to those. It's almost biblical, like the 10 commandments. If you get those down, you're going to be pretty successful.

--

CMSgt Randal Conner, the newest States Command Chief for the North Carolina Air National Guard, assumed the role on October 1, 2021. He will fulfill this role as a part-time position, making him the second person to fill the role in a part-time capacity.

What will you do in your new role?

I provide the morale and welfare for about 1,500 Airmen from the 145th Wing, to Brig. Gen. Mallette, and the senior leaders for the North Carolina Air National Guard.

How many Airmen will you be responsible for?

1,500

What are your goals once you get settled into the position?

I guess one of my big goals is to make sure that our enlisted force...has access to professional military education and making sure that our people are getting what they need to do for their military education to help them progress to the next level. Another goal is mentoring folks and making sure those Airmen, that want to progress and move up in the organization have those opportunities to gain some experiences from going to the classes, meetings, and things that they might not have been privy to. We can offer them the opportunity to see behind the curtain in areas they might not get to experience.



NC U.S. Air Force Assistant Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Stephan Mallette (left), entrusts the NCO sword to CSM Randal Conner (right), during Assumption of Responsibility Ceremony October 2021.

What are your plans to accomplish this goal?

One of the things we stress a lot with the Chief's Council and through emails, Instagram, and Facebook page is to make sure our Airmen get their PME courses taken care of, especially for promotion. We also have Airmen who apply for national courses through National Guard Bureau. Along with the courses, Airmen apply for national positions (stat tours) at NGB. We have several people currently on stat tours at NGB from North Carolina. I rely heavily on our 32 other Chiefs at the Wing to encourage our Airmen to continue their PME and civilian education to make them competitive for these national positions.

How will you impact the Soldiers in the new position?

I want to be able to get out and meet a lot of folks. I came in right as COVID [19] was a little bit on the downswing and

that's kind of hamstringing me a little bit with being able to get out to units and meet people and just be able to encourage people. I started meeting new Airmen at our newcomers brief at the Wing. I started attending and being on some of the calls for the junior enlisted councils that we have on base to help them realize I'm interested in what they have to say. I try to get out and inspire people and be a regular person. I hope that I'm someone who is approachable and somebody that they can just come up and talk to. That's really what I want people to see and know...that I'm just a guy that wears a uniform, just like they are and I'm no different than they are...I've just been in a little longer than they have.

What do you see as your responsibility and supporting Soldiers, Airmen, and Veterans at large?

The big thing is to make sure that everyone understands what programs and benefits they have and can use for their benefit. I know sometimes there are things that come out that don't get pushed down to the lowest level. In the past that's happened, so I interface a lot with our Chiefs council. Our Chiefs Council help to push out information to our Airmen. And I expect them to push information out to the lowest level because it pains me to know that some Airmen missed the opportunity because someone above them didn't take the time or didn't think they were worthy enough to be able to get that opportunity. So that's a big issue - making sure that we get those opportunities and programs out there, so people can use them to better themselves and their Airmen.

How do you see the National Guard changing in the future?

We have changed at the Wing in the last three years. We just moved over to a new airframe. We had flown C-130s since the late '40s, and early '50s. And now we've switched over to the C-17, which has been a major muscle movement. We are in the process of major construction on base in Charlotte. You know, and with a major airframe changeover, it takes a lot of retraining. We had to retrain aircrews, our loadmasters, and our maintainers which requires a lot of time and money to do. There are other mission sets that are changing as well. We have an ASOS unit, the 118th ASOS unit down in Stanley County. Their mission set is changing due to the pullout of Iraq and Afghanistan. We have a lot of Airmen there and they realize their mission is changing. But the Chiefs at the 118th ASOS are on top of that and they're trying to get some new mission sets for their unit. I know our Comm units, at the Wing and Stanley County are both looking at Cyber initiatives and new communication skill sets for their Airmen. And then, of course, we have our Security Forces that are always on the go. Those Airmen are always deployed in various areas in the world and working with our State Sponsorship Programs countries - Moldova and Botswana. The rest of our units

are leaning forward with assistance from the NGB FAM's to figure out what the next step is for the North Carolina Air National Guard and the Air National Guard in general.

Do you have any advice for any Junior or Senior NCOs?
Tour Airmen are our number one asset. It's important that

we understand their goals and where they want to go. We have great talent in the North Carolina Air National Guard. So, I would say take care of your people. That's what I've always tried to do in my career is take care of the people who work for me or work with me.



WHY JOIN?

Professional Association

Professionals belong to professional associations. EANGUS provides opportunities for professional development several times each year in order to assist our members in understanding how the government works and the role EANGUS plays in the legislative process. Additionally, these events give National Guard servicemembers the opportunity to hear current information from Senior Military and government leaders on a variety of topics.

Financial Assistance

EANGUS is dedicated to ensure that the National Guard community has somewhere to turn when they are in financial crisis. USAA and EANGUS We Care For America (WCFA) have teamed up to help National Guard members and families in need. EANGUS offers grants and interest Free Loans that are there to support our community.

Insurance

As a member of EANGUS, you have access to a variety of plans and discounts to help protect your hard-earned assets and save money on many types of expenses. Learn more about quality insurance coverage at group rates: Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance, Term Life Insurance, and Technician Insurance.

Scholarship

EANGUS awards full-ride and partial scholarships from various University Platinum partners, corporate partner sponsorships, and personal donations.

News & Publications

EANGUS membership includes a subscription to the quarterly *New Patriot* Magazine, a weekly *Minuteman Update* as well as other educational and useful information. These articles and publications help ensure that our members know what is happening within the National Guard.

Programs

EANGUS provides Employment Resources, Partner Organization Discounts, Fitness Challenges, and Travel Opportunities and discounts as well as a complimentary membership to the Association of the United States Army (AUSA).

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<https://eangus.org/home/>

WE ARE THE ENLISTED VOICE ON CAPITOL HILL

Through State and Federal legislation, EANGUS focuses on improving readiness, quality of life and benefits specifically for National Guard enlisted members; something no other professional military association does.

Recent LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Enhanced VA Home loan eligibility for National Guard Servicemembers
- Expansion of eligibility for counseling and mental health services for NG/RC Servicemembers
- GI Bill transfer with no max years of Service
- Transitional Healthcare coverage for NG/RC Servicemembers after serving in support of COVID-19 operations
- Credit for retired pay purposes for maternity leave taken by NG/RC Servicemembers

What WE ARE WORKING ON

- No Cost Tricare for all Reserve Component Servicemembers
- Sync TRICARE coverage with early retirement
- TRICARE option for Grey Area Retirees
- DD 214 for NG/RC upon separation and career milestones
- Equal Hazardous Duty Incentive Pay for NG/RC members
- Tax credit for National Guard Employers
- Increased USERRA Protections

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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Warfighter 22-5 Concludes Exercise 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team

by Sgt. Joe Roudabush

The North Carolina National Guard's 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), with the addition of 8 Soldiers from the British Army's 3rd Military Intelligence Battalion, concluded a warfighter exercise with the 45th Field Artillery Brigade, the 518th Sustainment Brigade, and the 185th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade, and the 38th Infantry Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky on June 15, 2022.

The 15-day-long exercise, Warfighter 22-5, involved over 1,360 soldiers. This warfighter exercise was designed to give division and brigade level commanders an environment to train their staff for large scale combat and support operations.

U.S. Army Col. Wes Morrison, 30th ABCT Commander, described the training as an "integrated, simulated exercise with an Army division so that our Brigade Combat Team can exercise its mission command functions. It allows us to command and control, issue orders, and plans to our subordinate units and then exercise that in a simulation that we would not get anywhere else, especially tied into a division."

Morrison went on to say this type of training is the only way to replicate realistic mission command relationships, with the exception of being deployed to war, and it increases interoperability across geographically dispersed component commands.

"Most [warfighter exercises] are done as a core level exercise, where the core is controlling the exercise, but also exercising its functions as a core headquarters with multiple divisions reporting to it, and it's focused on its enablers that help shape the fight for the divisions," said Morrison. "The divisions get to practice shaping the fight for us as a brigade."

Where this warfighter exercise differed from other warfighter exercises was in its increased focus on the brigade's role as an active participant of the training audience. Participating brigades practiced shaping the fight for its subordinate units, were evaluated, and provided valuable feedback for each brigade's collective training.

"The main focus of these exercises in the past has been exclusively a division training event. We're the first Armored Brigade Combat Team, from what I've been told, in well over 20 years to participate as a training audience; which means we're here deployed in the field, we tie into

the exercise, and we simulate doing large scale combat operations," said Morrison.

For this training exercise, the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) was comprised of the Headquarters Company, Signal Company C-236 Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB) and Military Intelligence Company D-236 BEB. Other supporting units attended as smaller versions of their full element, called slices. This included a maintenance slice from E Company, 230th Brigade Support Battalion, who helped maintain the operational life support aspects, such as generators used during the exercise and other support and maintenance tasks for the rest of the 30th ABCT. During a deployment, such units would work in slices to support the larger, rear bulk of the force, while units like forward support companies (FSC) would work at the front lines to sustain and maintain the fight. Other slice elements attended in support of the 30th ABCT as response cells.

"[Response cells are comprised of] a field grade or company senior representative who can act as the



commander of the subordinate battalion, and then what we call, affectionately, 'Pucksters' or people who are moving those units in the simulation," said Morrison.

Decisions and actions within the simulation are reflected in relation to the real-world implications. Together, these two halves of the response cells allow for a more comprehensive overview of a division's potential performance in a deployed, wartime environment.

"I asked each battalion to send an experienced leader and then also the people who are manning those response cells. So, we see the units moving, and we see them executing the plan that we're doing. That's all a part of the simulation, and we wouldn't be able to do it without those response cells," said Morrison. "Having the senior representatives from the 4-118th, 120th, the 236th, 252nd, our fires battalion, the 113th, and our armor reconnaissance squadron, the 150th Cavalry Squadron, enhances our training but also gives us a realistic interface via communications during the exercise with those units and more experienced leaders."

Warfighter 22-5 did not conclude without its share of unexpected challenges. Real-world challenges that could be experienced on an actual battlefield were also at play during the exercise, including hot and humid summer weather

at Fort Campbell. Power supply and communications challenges, and illness that caused temporary staffing issues, all added to the realism of this training exercise.

"The level of motivation, despite whatever challenges came up, whether it was a challenge within a particular warfighter function, getting information needed to help complete the operation, [or challenges with] COVID, the soldiers kept plowing through it. The motivation remained high level at all times. For a commander, that's extremely rewarding, and it's motivating to see soldiers that are that willing to do their job, not letting anything get in their way to accomplish the mission, coming up with innovative and adaptive solutions," said Morrison. "That's just really rewarding for any commander to see that throughout his unit."

"Definitely the biggest highlight was the depth of talent I saw in our HHC. That's really the biggest takeaway; that depth across the board, and it's not just one warfighting function like 'protection' or maneuver,' it's just across the board," said Morrison.

"I think that's one thing that a citizen soldier has above everything else. We can apply those civilian skills. With the COVID, we had an admin soldier who, as a [civilian] ER nurse, started helping to evaluate patients. That's just one example of folks chipping in wherever they can, not just doing their own job but doing something a little extra to make sure everyone's taken care of."



Above: Col. Morrison presenting SPC. Erika Foti an AAM (Army achievement medal). She is an ER nurse as a civilian and a 42A in the Guard.

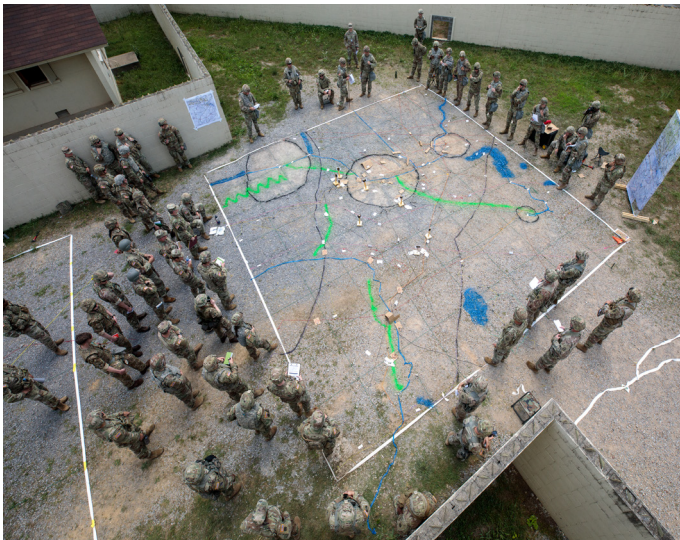
Left: TOC before the event began, the planning phase. Tent is 30th ABCT Tactical Operations Ceter (TOC) where the event primarily took place.

Next year, the 30th ABCT will be conducting XCTC (Exportable Combat Training Capability) training at Fort Stewart, Georgia, giving the brigade an opportunity to utilize experiences gained during Warfighter 22-5.

Morrison said that having the entire brigade together in one place at Fort Stewart will provide an opportunity to further hone the brigade's full battle rhythm by integrating actual support battalions into the brigade's targeting process.

“Not having a full battle rhythm with our support battalions, because the response cells could only do so much [during the warfighter exercise,] it's a little bit different than what we were doing with division.

Rock/sand map as part of the briefing on mission strategy. Members of each battalion were present to give presentation on their part of the mission.



Col. Morrison during the final formation of the training event after awards were given out.

So, that's one thing we need to look at going forward. We'll try and tackle that next year at XCTC," said Morrison.

Morrison went on to highlight the value and importance of this training experience for the 30th ABCT.

“It's our mission as a brigade headquarters to enable the fight for the maneuver battalions,” said Morrison. “This training: it's the bread and butter. This is where, as a commander, I learn how to visualize, then the staff helps me describe and direct those operations that are going to help us accomplish the mission. So, without this to help us get better, we don't provide purpose, direction, and motivation to the rest of the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team. That's why it's important. It's fundamental to what we do.”

This type of training keeps the 30th ABCT, and the rest of the North Carolina National Guard, an always-ready team.

HHC 20th ABCT Soldiers at Warfighter Exercise



Tarheel Minuteman Foundation Educational Fund Scholarship Spotlight



As the Tarheel Minuteman Foundation merges with the NCGA Educational Foundation we would like to spotlight some of our Memorial Scholarships.

Weldon E. Holcomb Memorial Scholarship

Mr. Holcomb joined the military in 1942 as part of the 28th Infantry Division. He participated in D-Day invasion of Normandy, June 6, 1944. He was captured by the Germans at the Battle of the Bulge in December of 1944. He was a POW for nine months before escaping and making his way back to the American lines to be released in May 1945. Mr. Holcomb joined the NCNG in 1947 as a full-time unit administrator in

Winston-Salem. He serves as Division Food Service Chief and Battalion Administrative Officer for the 230th Support Battalion, 30th Infantry Division, Winston-Salem. Upon his death in 1973, Mr. Holcomb had attained the rank of Chief Warrant Officer Four.

Lt Col William C. Polk Memorial Scholarship

Lt Col Polk enlisted in the US Army in February of 1943 in September of that year he entered duty as an aviation cadet in the Army Air Corps ultimately serving as a bomber pilot. He flew the A-26 over “The Hump” in the Burma-China Theater at the age of 21. He was reassigned in April of 1946 to the Army Air Corps Reserves where he served until joining the North Carolina Air National Guard, 156th Fighter Bomber Squadron in 1954 as a pilot flying the F86A. He was seriously injured in the crash of his T-33 at Savannah, Georgia during exercises. He was employed as the full-time Base Civilian Engineer for the NCANG. Many changes on the base were the result of his efforts. His last large design and construction project was the base operations building. He retired from as a full-time technician and from the NCANG on April 30, 1981.

Do you get the magazine but not our weekly email?

We may not have your current email on file.

You can email us at larry@ncnga.org with your current email to be included in the Weekly Guardsmen’s Thursday Update.

To update our records, the Association is working with a summer youth program. Please be aware, they are making calls to our membership to update these records.

Do you know a college student that is looking for a meaningful paid internship?

We have a fall semester position open at our HQ office in Raleigh

Email larry@ncnga.org for additional information.

If you have a retiree event you would like to advertise in the Tarheel Guardsman email larry@ncnga.org



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61st Annual NCNGA
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Convention: March 10-11, 2023

Combined Ball: March 11, 2023