

YEAR IN REVIEW



The Idaho Military Division
2017



**THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, IDAHO
COMMANDER, IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD
GOWEN FIELD - BOISE, IDAHO**

Governor Otter,

The Idaho Military Division enjoyed a busy and productive year throughout 2017 as we focused on maintaining readiness in accomplishing our three core missions: fighting America's wars, securing the homeland and building enduring partnerships at the local, state, federal and international levels.

This third publication of The Year In Review highlights only a small sample of the work our Citizen-Soldiers, Airmen and committed civilians accomplished this year. We share these stories with you because our stories belong to the citizens of our great state. Like you, they are members of their local communities who serve their fellow citizens.

Last year, Soldiers from the Idaho Army National Guard traveled to 13 countries to conduct training in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, France, Germany, Guatemala, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Romania, Taiwan, Tanzania and Thailand.

After returning home from the largest and longest deployment in its history, the 124th Fighter Wing was recognized as the Air National Guard's overall outstanding flying wing by the National Guard Association of the United States. The wing also spent much of the year as a finalist to receive the Air Force's newest and most advanced fighter aircraft, the F-35 Lightning II.

Record snowfalls and flooding led to 35 county disaster declarations and four presidential disaster declarations. In each event, the Idaho Office of Emergency Management provided critical support to local jurisdictions as they responded to, recovered from and mitigated the effects of those disasters.

Throughout the year, our Army aviation assets conducted life-saving search and rescue missions. We conducted more than 300 community relations and Tribal events across the state. We hosted Gowen Field's first open house and airshow in over 20 years, drawing a crowd of more than 100,000 spectators.

On behalf of the men and women of the Idaho Military Division, thank you for your support in ensuring 2017 was another successful year for our organization. We look forward to continuing to serve you, the state and the nation in 2018.

Always Ready. Always There.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Garshak".

Michael J. Garshak
Brigadier General



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ON THE COVER

(Idaho National Guard Soldiers and Airmen stand in formation during the change of command ceremony Nov. 5, 2017. Photo by Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras, 124th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Editor's Note: The Year in Review is an Idaho Military Division publication comprised of stories published throughout 2017. Some positions and ranks may have changed during the year. Views expressed may not be those of the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Department of Defense or U.S. Government.

SNOW DAZZE

Many referred to the winter storms and record amount of snow the Treasure Valley received last year as “Stormageddon 2017” or “Snowpocalypse 2017.”

On Jan. 12, Boise Mayor Dave Bieter, and mayors of neighboring cities, declared a state of emergency after receiving more than 15 inches of snow earlier in the week. Fortunately, Boise’s state of emergency happened to fall on the Idaho National Guard’s drill weekend.

Both the Idaho Air and Army National Guard used manpower and resources already scheduled to train on snow removal equipment at Gowen Field, and throughout the valley, to assist the Ada County Highway District and local hospitals with their snow removal efforts.



“Around this time each year, we ramp up our snow removal capabilities to ensure we’re able to keep our assets and facilities ready to respond to a state emergency,” said Maj. Gen. Gary Saylor, commander of the Idaho National Guard.

The Army National Guard supported ACHD in and around neighborhoods, and the Air National Guard supported local hospitals in removing snow from parking lots.

“Because snow removal was on the training schedule, it worked out well to take this training into the community and support local authorities for a win-win situation,” said Idaho National Guard spokesman Maj. Chris Borders.

Staff Sgt. Clint Pline, 124th Civil Engineer Squadron water and fuels management systems technician, took a dump truck and snow plow equipment off base for the first time in this type of training atmosphere. “It gives us the chance to train with this equipment outside of Gowen Field into a real-world environment and gets us out of our comfort zone,” said Pline. “We need to practice and know how to use the equipment, and see how the equipment will work in the event of an emergency situation.”

With the training opportunity came learning experiences. Difficulties of starting the engines on the snow removal equipment posed problems early Saturday morning as cold temperatures caused diesel fuel to gel. Airmen with the 124th CES used heaters to warm the fuel to alleviate the gelling caused by the subzero temperatures.

“Last year, we were able to store our equipment indoors, so we didn’t have to deal with this issue,” said Lt. Col. Elizabeth Sumner, commander of the 124th CES. “This is more snow than we have seen in the last 30 years, along with extremely cold temperatures. Additionally, the warmer temperatures that followed the storm caused the large amounts of snow to quickly melt, creating leaky roofs and flooding parking lots.”

Staff Sgt. Tyler Wilson, heavy equipment operator with CES, said they had difficulties getting the equipment off base because of the extreme cold weather. The unusual weather pattern created other problems for CE around Gowen Field. Icicles measuring more than three feet were removed from buildings to reduce the risk of ice dams. The 124th CES worked shifts around the clock removing snow from the flight line and roads, clearing out gutters and roof dams, and repairing leaking roof damage.

“These record setting winter conditions impacted everyone in the valley, including us here on Gowen,” said Col. Tim Donnellan, 124th Fighter Wing commander. “Our engineers worked tirelessly to ensure ramps, parking lots and roads on Gowen Field were safe for use, and also worked to fix damaged buildings, as well as removed icicles to prevent further flooding. We are excited to support our local community with snow removal efforts - it’s a great time to be an Idaho Air National Guardsman.”





BEST IN NATION

2017 SPAATZ Trophy

The 124th Fighter Wing received the Carl A. Spaatz Trophy in recognition as 2017's overall outstanding flying wing in the Air National Guard Sept. 10.

The Spaatz Trophy is named in honor of Gen. Carl A. Spaatz, former chief of staff of the Air Force. The Idaho Air National Guard was presented the award in Louisville, Kentucky, at the National Guard Association of the United States annual conference.

"Airmen of the 124th Fighter Wing are top-notch," said Col. Tim Donnellan, commander of the 124th Fighter Wing. "I am honored to serve with you and proud of what this recognition means: Idaho Airmen are the best in the Air National Guard!"

The unit earned the award largely for its achievements during its 2016 deployment to the Middle East, the largest and longest deployment in its history. During that deployment, the unit flawlessly executed more than 1,700 combat sorties with zero air-to-ground

mishaps; completed the two largest strikes on ISIS oil production and transportation infrastructure, resulting

in 50 percent of ISIS revenue lost; safely executed over 12,000 flying hours, with 9,800 hours executed in combat and continuous operations during a week-long military coup with zero missions lost.

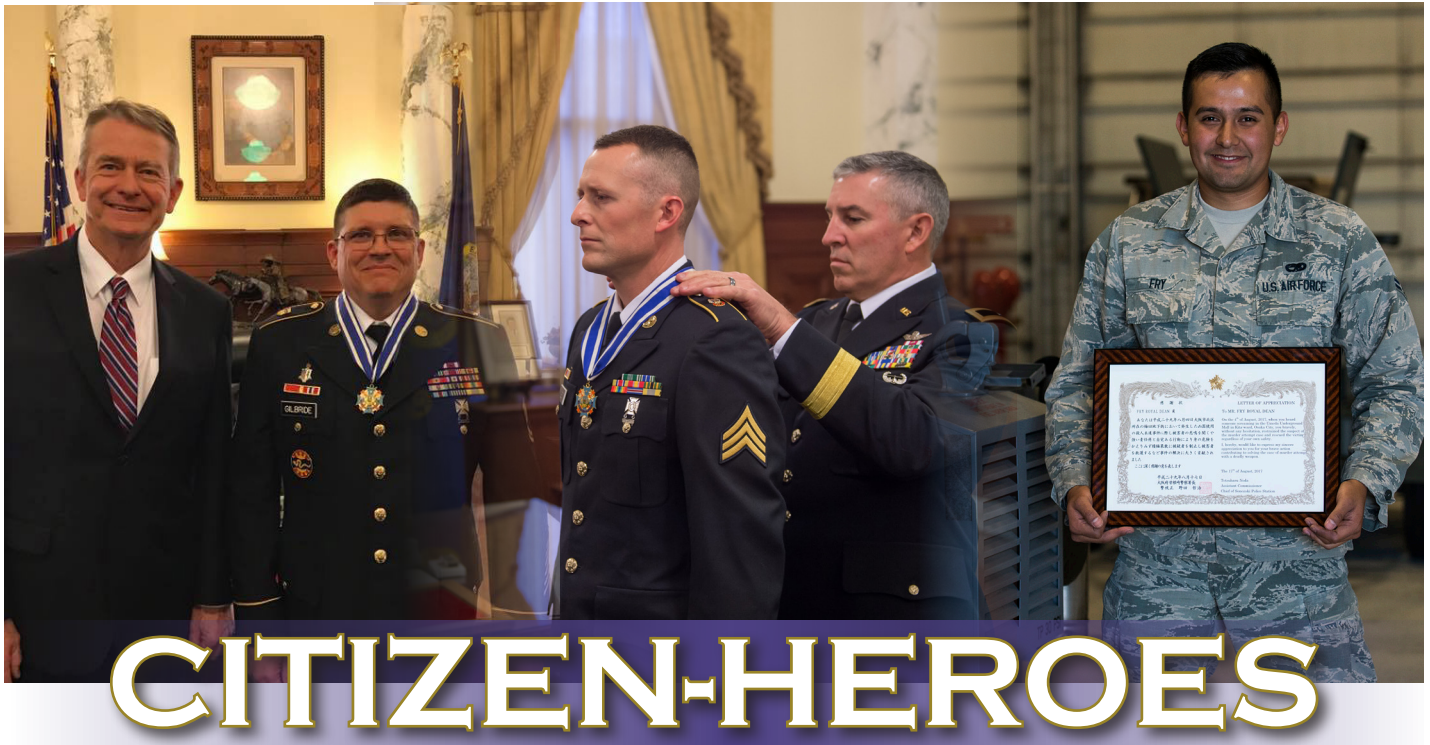
The unit was spread across 10 locations and fired more 30mm ammunition than any other A-10 unit.

At home, community relations remained a top priority. Nine new honorary commanders were sworn in, various community service projects were completed and more than 50 Gowen Field tours were organized and executed, successfully telling the story of the Idaho Air National Guard.

"Each and every one of you play a key role in successfully accomplishing our mission at home and abroad," said Donnellan.

In addition, the wing also received the Governor's Outstanding Unit Award in 2017.





In 2017, three Idaho National Guard members were recognized for heroic actions.

In a quiet ceremony in the governor's office on Nov. 16, Lt. Gov. Brad Little and Brig. Gen. Michael Garshak presented Sgt. Andrew Vincent with the Idaho Cross.

Vincent, a member of the Idaho Army National Guard's Installation Support Unit, received the medal for heroic actions on March 5, 2016, when he performed life-saving measures on an individual involved in a car accident on the interstate until medical help could arrive. Vincent's actions helped revive the man, sustaining his life until his family could see him before he succumbed to his injuries.

On Dec. 5, Little and Brig. Gen. John Goodale, commander, Idaho Army National Guard, presented Sgt. 1st Class Leo Gilbride with the award.

Gilbride, a medic in the Idaho Army National Guard, received the medal for heroic actions on Sept. 24, 2016, when he performed life-saving measures on an individual involved in a motorcycle accident.

"It was clearly evident that Mr. Gilbride provided live-saving treatment and kept a chaotic scene calm and focused," said Roy Miller, Canyon County Ambulance District battalion chief. "It is my professional opinion that had Mr. Gilbride not been on scene and acted in the manner that he did, the victim would have died on scene."

The Idaho Cross is the highest state award presented to a military member or civilian employee of the Idaho Military Division. The award recognizes individuals who distinguish themselves

by saving the life of a person or other significant acts of heroism. Vincent and Gilbride were the 36th and 37th recipients of the award, respectively.

Idaho Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Royal D. Fry received an award from a police chief in Kyoto, Japan for live-saving measures he took on Aug. 4 while there on vacation.

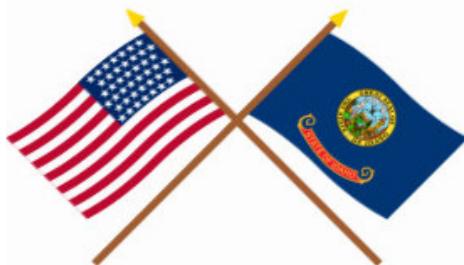
Assigned to the 124th Fighter Wing's maintenance squadron, Fry was visiting Kyoto with a friend when they heard someone screaming near the city subway.

The pair discovered a female who had been stabbed in the head. She continued to bleed while two other individuals held down the man suspected of the stabbing.

As they waited for local police and paramedics to respond, Fry provided first aid to the woman using a towel he had with him to control the bleeding.

"In my past, I've dealt with similar situations and the military training in first aid helped," said Fry. "I just did what anyone really should do, just helped someone out in a bad situation."

**"OUR
PEOPLE"**
of the Guard





BUILDING BRIDGES

Idaho National Guard builds on partnership with Royal Cambodian Armed Forces

A team of subject matter experts and senior leaders from the Idaho National Guard traveled to Cambodia from Sept. 9 to 17 to work with, and learn from, members of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces.

The mission was part of the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program and included members from both the Idaho Army National Guard and the Idaho Air National Guard. The program facilitates the exchange of ideas, capabilities, training and experience between a host country and a state's National Guard.

"We go over with the attitude that we're going to take some things that we know and share it with them, and also elicit the same from them," said Maj. Brady Johnson, bilateral affairs officer for the Idaho Army National Guard who is currently on assignment in Phnom Penh. "The experiences they've had in their training and deployed environments are a benefit to our Soldiers and Airmen, as well."

During the subject matter expert exchange, Soldiers and Airmen experienced in medical, engineer, convoy and legal operations interacted with Cambodian soldiers who are preparing to deploy to several countries with the United Nations' National Peacekeeping Mines and Explosive Remnants of War Clearance program.

Soldiers from both armies and Airmen from the 124th Fighter Wing completed first aid and convoy operations classes together. They also built bridges out of chopsticks and popsicle sticks to explore basic bridging concepts and discussed legal issues that both militaries face.

The interactions and engagements between the American and Cambodian forces were as important as the lessons themselves.

"We gave them a lot of information, but the biggest benefit was building relationships with the Cambodian army," said Staff Sgt. Ramon Montes, a member of the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team's engineer battalion who served as the team's convoy operations subject matter expert.

Montes said that he realized that if Cambodian soldiers were more comfortable with him as a person, they would be more likely to share information with him. Throughout the week, he made it a point to talk to individual soldiers and to learn something about each one.

"I tried to find something they are interested in and talk to them about it so it didn't feel like I'm just a stranger from another country giving them information," Montes said.

Tech. Sgt. Davis Nguyen, a member of the 124th Fighter

Wing's 190th Fighter Squadron, was one of three medical specialists from Idaho who participated in the mission.

"It was a very unique trip," Nguyen said. "It brought me out of my comfort zone and it was an amazing feeling to immerse myself in Cambodian culture. It really gave me a much better appreciation of how people in a different country live."

Nguyen has never deployed but said working in a remote location with limited resources is similar to what he would expect during a deployment. In addition to working with a foreign nation's army, he also enjoyed working with his Army National Guard counterparts for the first time.

"We are going to continue to exchange information with one another, and with the Cambodians," Nguyen said.

As a team of subject-matter experts worked closely with their counterparts during the week, then Col. Michael Garshak, the Idaho Army National Guard's chief of staff, met with the country's senior military officials as part of a senior leader visit.

"Every time we send Soldiers to Cambodia, they fall in love with the country," Garshak said. "I can see why. The Cambodians are appreciative and welcoming to us."

Idaho and Cambodia have participated in the State Partnership Program together since 2009. Each year, the Idaho National Guard makes roughly six to nine similar trips to Cambodia, and provides approximately 40 Soldiers and Airmen the opportunity to participate.

Senior leaders from the Royal Armed Forces visited Idaho in September.



"While we may have only built bridges out of chopsticks, that exercise can be seen as a metaphor for the bigger picture of what we accomplished this week," said Maj. Lauren Tschampl, 124th Fighter Wing staff judge advocate. "We built a strong bridge between the Idaho National Guard and the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces that will surely stand the test of time."





The Idaho Military Museum was established in 1995 to preserve, display and interpret military history and artifacts that have a geographical tie to the history of Idaho and its people.

Museum staff and volunteers conduct several educational outreach programs in Treasure Valley schools throughout the year, and help provide cannon salutes for Memorial Day, Veterans Day and other events, such as the governor's inauguration.



In August, volunteers performed a 19-gun salute in honor of former Idaho Gov. Cecil Andrus that marked the beginning of the 24 hours he lay in state at the Capitol's rotunda.

In October, the museum was featured on the Travel Channel's *Mysteries at the Museum* and in *RECOIL*, a firearms lifestyle publication. The museum, located just outside Gowen Field, is free to the public. Its hours are noon to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.



The Idaho Army National Guard routinely utilizes its aviation assets in support of search and rescue operations.

In 2017, the Idaho Army National Guard's state aviation group conducted two such search and rescue operations to assist local responders, saving two Idaho citizens.

On Feb. 10, a Black Hawk helicopter mobilized to help a stranded 68-year-old male in Washington County whose home had become surrounded by area floodwaters.

The victim, who was believed to be in poor health, was inside the flooded home when crews arrived.

The helicopter crew departed Gowen Field at approximately 1:45 p.m. and flew to the Weiser Municipal Airport. At approximately 2:15 p.m., the helicopter touched down and its crew chief met with the incident commander for a briefing on the situation. It was

determined the helicopter's hoist would need to be utilized in order to pull the victim from the water.

Three members of the Boise Fire Department Water Rescue Unit boarded the helicopter to guide the pilots to the rescue site. At approximately 2:30 p.m., the water rescue unit was lowered into the freezing, chest-deep water to begin their trek toward the flooded house.

Once inside, the rescue crew assisted the victim outside and positioned him so the hoist deployer was able to lift the victim from the icy cold waters and into the helicopter.

Due to concern for the victim's health, he was immediately transported to safety while the water rescue unit remained at the house. At approximately 2:45 p.m., the victim was transferred to Weiser's airport where paramedics were standing by to receive him. Moments later, the helicopter crew returned to retrieve the water rescue unit, and transport them

back to the incident command site. The aircraft then safely returned to Gowen Field.

The Idaho National Guard was activated through the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center after receiving a request for assistance from the Washington County Sheriff's Department.

In early October, the Idaho Army National Guard Aviation Group rescued a man stranded in the Frank Church Wilderness area.

The 55-year-old was hunting at approximately 8,600 feet when an unexpected snowfall destroyed his camp. After being stuck in the wet and cold with no way out for more than 36 hours, he was located by the UH-60 Black Hawk crew, hoisted into the aircraft and transported for treatment at a civilian medical facility.



The 101

on the

101st CST

The Idaho National Guard's 101st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team responded to a hazardous material incident at Gowen Field, Oct. 26. Team members readied their equipment, donned their protective gear and gathered for a mission brief.

The alert was part of an internal exercise to prepare the unit for an upcoming collective task evaluation in May 2018. The evaluation, which has taken place every 18 months since the unit was first certified in 2002, ensures its ability to react to any type of chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incident.

To prepare for their evaluation, the unit conducts year-round training averaging one large-scale exercise per month, focusing on hazardous material response. This exercise helps team members cross-level their knowledge, train new personnel and practice techniques after several weeks of classroom instruction.

"We keep improving and changing our processes as we go," said 1st Lt. Aaron Decker, survey team leader. "I think we've been successful because we hire really smart people who catch on quickly, and we are able to keep some key people around with that institutional knowledge."

101st CST along with Boise Fire and Rescue conduct rope rescue technician recertification to enhance their partnership and increase 101st CST capabilities



The exercise also gave leadership the ability to evaluate the team's performance and correct any areas that would otherwise cause it to receive a no-go during their evaluation.

"We have some new survey team members, so we do this to expose them to real missions they may come across," said Sgt. 1st Class Marshall Cook, survey team sergeant. "It also gives us the opportunity to help them train on, and grow in, areas that need improvement."

After receiving a mission brief, the entry team members went into the hazardous zone, or hot zone. Their job was to communicate back to personnel in the safe zone, or cold zone, everything that they observed.

The team's science officer, Maj. Jeremy McLean, is responsible for receiving samples collected by the survey team, and then analyzing them to determine what they are. The lab is comprised of advanced analytic equipment and is the only mobile laboratory in Idaho certified by the International Organization for Standardization.

This standard demonstrates that the laboratory is capable of producing precise and accurate tests and data calibration. With the ability to provide answers about unknown substances within hours, instead of days, the laboratory is one of the unit's most unique tools available in a hazardous material environment.



By the numbers

22: Number of Idaho Soldiers and Airmen on the 101st WMD CST

83: Number of job-specific continuing education courses team members completed in 2017

8,500: Number of miles travelled by the team in 2017 by air, ground and sea

"When you are such a small team and there is so much to do, you have to cross-train," said McLean. "You have to be able to do more than one function and make yourself valuable. The operation tempo on the CST is very high and so much time is spent on training."

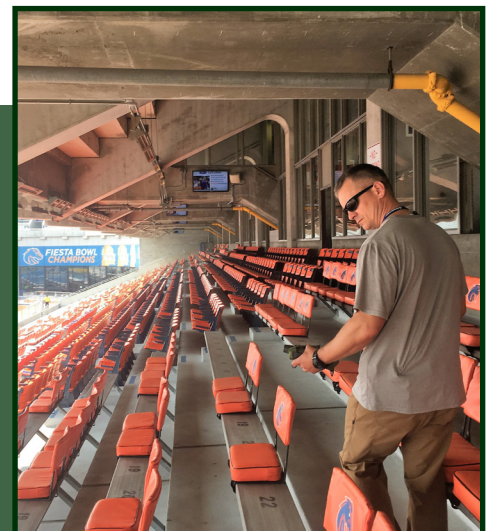
Maj. Jeremy McLean walks through Albertson's Stadium prior to kickoff Sept. 2 searching for potential threats to football fans. McLean is part of the Idaho National Guard's 101st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team. Prior to each home football game at Boise State University

and the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl, the 101st CST works with officers and agents from the Boise Police Department, federal law enforcement agencies and Boise State University administration, athletic department and campus security officials to provide a safe game day experience for fans.

The team intends to continue a strict training regimen in preparation for the evaluation in May, with plans on conducting integrated training this winter with some external local state responders. The integrated training will give the team a situation more similar to what they will experience, both during the evaluation, and in the case of a real-world incident.

The 101st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team consists of 22 Soldiers and Airmen of the Idaho National Guard. The unit supports civil authorities at domestic incident sites, which may involve areas affected by terrorism or natural disasters. The unit's capabilities include identifying hazards, assessing the current and projected consequences, advising on response measures and assisting with appropriate requests for additional support.

In 2017, the unit conducted 15 training events across the Pacific Northwest, 41 agency assistance visits, 15 standby missions and one hazardous material response. The unit also worked with local and federal agencies to provide security for all Boise State University home football games, a technology conference in Sun Valley attended by numerous dignitaries, as well as several other public events.





Tribes and Guardsmen build more than roads

Working Together



The Shoshone Paiute Tribes and the Idaho National Guard conducted two community improvement projects Aug. 5, in Duck Valley, Idaho, as part of the Idaho National Guard's Innovative Readiness Training program.

The projects took place on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation and included improving a two-mile stretch of the existing Damon Trail to provide fire and emergency crews a safer access route during fires and other emergencies. The second project included improving a primary local livestock trail to increase both the safety and mobility for ranchers and their livestock.

The Shoshone Paiute Tribes provided sand, gravel, culverts and other road building materials for the projects. More than a dozen personnel from the Idaho Army National Guard's 116th Brigade Engineering Battalion, the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Civil Engineer Squadron, along with UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and crews from the Idaho Army National Guard's 1-183rd Aviation Regiment, worked together to complete the projects.

The IRT projects build mutually beneficial civil-military partnerships between communities and the Idaho National Guard. By providing mission-essential training to National Guard personnel while meeting public and civil-society needs, IRT projects strengthen bonds between Idaho National Guard personnel and our citizens.

Never Forgotten



The 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team unveiled the 116th Cavalry Brigade Fallen Soldier Memorial, and rededicated the 116th Cavalry Association's memorial May 19 at Gowen Field.

"This is to show the families and loved ones of those who have been lost, that they haven't been forgotten," said Lt. Col. Jim Harper, 116th CBCT executive officer.

The event, held at both the Gowen Field Memorial Park and the brigade's headquarters, celebrated the service of and honored the Soldiers who died in support of the brigade's two deployments to Iraq. Operation Iraqi Freedom III in 2004-2005, and Operation New Dawn in 2010-2011, were the largest deployments in the Idaho Army National Guard's history.

During the ceremony, retired Brig. Gen. Alan C. Gayhart read the names of the 13 Soldiers who died during the deployments. Meanwhile, Soldiers hung individual dog tags on the battlefield cross, which stands on permanent display at the park.

The battlefield cross memorial consists of a cast of the fallen Soldier's rifle stuck into the ground with the Soldier's boots at its base and helmet on top of the rifle. Gayhart explained the historical significance of the cross, which is often used to honor the fallen in combat by fellow Soldiers unable to attend their comrade's funeral.

A battlefield cross was also dedicated to the unit's fallen Soldiers in a separate ceremony and now sits in the brigade's headquarters building. The memorial was forged from the brass of ammunition fired by the brigade's Soldiers during its first deployment to Iraq.

The family of Cpl. Carrie French, who was killed in action during Operation Iraqi Freedom III, attended the event.



"This is to show the families and loved ones of those who have been lost, that they haven't been forgotten."-- Lt. Col. Jim Harper





NEW LEADERSHIP, CONTINUED COMMITMENT

Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter announced his selection of Col. Michael J. Garshak to serve as Idaho's 25th adjutant general and commanding general of the Idaho National Guard on Oct. 27, 2017.

Garshak, who has since been promoted to brigadier general, follows in the footsteps of Maj. Gen. Gary L. Sayler, who retired Oct. 31 after more than 45 years of dedicated service to the state and nation. The appointment took effect on Nov. 1.

Sayler joined the Idaho National Guard in 1976 and was appointed to serve as the adjutant general in January 2010. During this period, the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team and the 124th Fighter Wing, the state's two largest combat units, both deployed under Sayler's command. The Idaho Army National Guard's Orchard Combat Training Center continued to expand, and Gowen Field ranked among the top five sites across the nation as a

Sayler worked with Otter and the state legislature to establish the Idaho Youth Challenge Academy in 2013, which has provided structure and a second chance for 648 graduates from 41 Idaho counties since the program began. Following on its success, STARBASE is set to receive its inaugural class in 2018. Though Sayler has moved on and won't be there to personally welcome the students, he was instrumental in bringing the program to Idaho.

"I am deeply humbled by the opportunity to serve Idaho and the nation in this capacity."-- Brig. Gen. Michael Garshak

"I am truly honored and I appreciate Governor Otter's trust and confidence in my abilities," Garshak said. "I am deeply humbled by the opportunity to serve Idaho and the nation in this capacity."

Garshak previously served as the chief of staff, Idaho Army National Guard.

contending base for the Air Force's newest and most advanced aircraft, the F-35 Lightning II.

Several new programs were established under Sayler's command that will continue to impact the Idaho National Guard and the community for decades to come.

Unlike the Youth Challenge Academy, which focuses on high school students and is located in Pierce, Idaho, STARBASE will be located on Gowen Field and focus on science, technology, engineering and math development among fifth grade students.

Idaho's involvement in the National Guard's State Partnership Program started during a conversation between Sayler and retired Maj. Gen. Larry Lafrenz when Sayler was the assistant adjutant general. That conversation led to Idaho's partnership with the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces. Sayler was part of Idaho's first delegation to Cambodia to finalize the partnership between the two countries in August 2009. Today, the SPP serves as the only form of U.S. military engagement with the country.

"I just built on what people before me had been working on," Sayler said, describing his accomplishments as the state's commanding general.

During Garshak's remarks at the change of command ceremony Nov. 5, he acknowledged Sayler's many accomplishments and committed to continuing full support and promotion of the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy and STARBASE programs.

"We will continue to provide education and life tools that empower the youth of Idaho to take charge of their futures, creating their own destinies as successful and contributing members of our society."

During the ceremony, Garshak shared his three primary strategic objectives for the organization.

"Our first and most fundamental purpose, as intended by our founding fathers, and codified in the Constitution of the United States, is to maintain combat readiness for when we are called upon to fight and win the nation's wars.

Our second principal objective while we prepare to protect our national interests beyond our borders, is to continue to develop and strengthen our homeland security and emergency response readiness. In times of natural disasters and domestic emergencies, our local and state governments and the citizens of Idaho can be confident that the Idaho National Guard and the Idaho Office of Emergency Management are Always Ready, Always There.

And third, we will continue to build and foster partnerships, throughout Idaho, the nation, and internationally, in order to enhance and strengthen our ability to maintain readiness.

The outstanding support we currently receive from employers, local

the sky of our beautiful state, while respecting and protecting the natural environment, and the cultural heritage of our friends and neighbors."

Garshak is a Master Army Aviator with more than 2,400 flying hours, primarily in the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter.

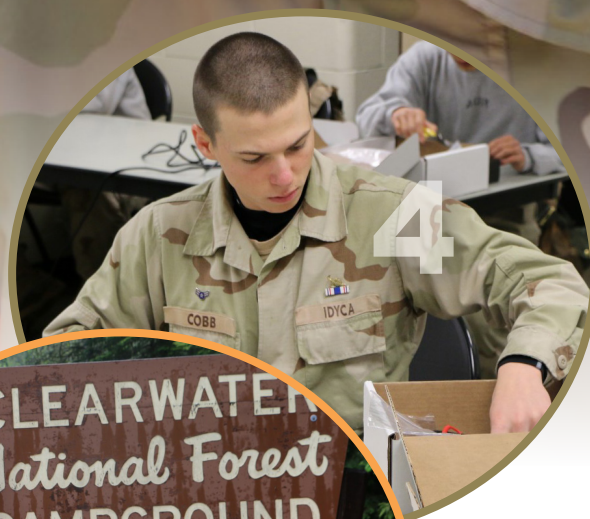
"I just built on what people before me had been working on."-- Maj. Gen. Gary Sayler

communities, as well as city, county and state governments, is second to none and we would certainly suffer without it. Additionally, our strong and healthy relationships we enjoy with the Native American Tribes of Idaho, allow us to share the land and

He has served as the Idaho Army National Guard's 1-183rd Aviation Regiment commander, Aviation Task Force SFOR12 commander in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the aviation group commander/state Army aviation officer at Gowen Field in Boise, Idaho.



Changing Lives, Creating Futures



UP FOR

THE CHALLENGE

Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter calls cadence for academy cadets while visiting the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy in Pierce, Idaho. Each year the program hosts two class cycles averaging roughly 100 students each.

The Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy will enter its fourth year of operation in 2018.

IDYCA has completed eight 22-week residential cycles, and 763 young Idahoans have completed the residential portion of the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy.

IDYCA's most recent class set a couple of records. With 116 graduates, this year's class was IDYCA's largest to complete the residential program. Those students earned 16 high school diplomas and 13 GEDs, the most academic credentials earned by any class in the program's history.

IDYCA cadets have earned 10,632 high school credits during the past eight classes, 91 high school diplomas and 69 GEDs. Cadets who haven't earned a diploma or GED have returned to their home high schools on a much better track

to graduate than prior to attending the academy.

IDYCA has continued to offer vocational opportunities to its youth through classes in animation, welding, carpentry and lube tech. IDYCA cadets also worked with the United States Forest Service, building and clearing trails, cleaning up campgrounds and gathering data for ecological studies.

IDYCA also continued to improve facilities and operational capabilities throughout 2017. With assistance from the National Guard Bureau, IDYCA added a radio repeater to improve radio capabilities amongst staff, and a snowplow blade for the skid steer to allow for improved safety through faster snow removal.

Dining facilities were also improved with new food trays, tables and a freezer.

1

Cadet Rhianna Vera and Detective Mitchell Jared of the Clearwater County Sheriff's Department during a mock interview day.

2

Cadets Kelci Winters, Sisilia England and Elizabeth Murphy during a science course.

3

Cadets of Class 17-1 assist with Clearwater River cleanup for a USFS Service to Community.

4

Cadet Tyran Cobb participates in an Electronics Course



GOWEN THUNDER

Crowds and Engines Roar at Gowen

The Idaho National Guard hosted the Gowen Thunder Open House and Airshow, October 14-15 at Gowen Field, Boise. This was the first time Gowen Field held an open house and airshow in more than 20 years.

The Thunderbirds, the aerial demonstration squadron of the United States Air Force, and their Canadian counterpart, the Royal Canadian Snowbirds, were the premier performers at Gowen Thunder. Both demonstration teams performed throughout the two-day airshow, and also provided opportunities for families to meet and get autographs from the pilots.

The Thunderbirds fly the F-16 Fighting Falcon. It is a front-line fighting aircraft used by the United States Air Force. Though the Thunderbirds have been around since 1953, they didn't adopt the F-16 until 1982.

The legendary team is comprised of enlisted, officer and civilian personnel, including maintainers, inspectors, administrators and other people who work together to accomplish the mission.

During the Thunderbirds' aerial demonstrations, the aircraft get alarmingly close to each other.

"Depending on the maneuver they are performing, the closest the aircraft will get is 12 to 18 inches apart," said Tech. Sgt. Conrad Nelson, line chief for the USAF Air Demonstration Squadron, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. "The diamond gets very close, granted that it's wing over wing, and not wingtip to wingtip."

Other airshow performers included Brad Wursten, Dan Buchanan, Mark Peterson and aircraft demonstrations from both the Warhawk Air Museum and A-10's Warthog Heritage Flight.

Gowen Thunder also had various static displays of aircraft and military vehicles for attendees to see up close. Static displays included the A-10 Thunderbolt II, the UH-60 Black Hawk and the F-35 Lightning II.

The combination of demonstrations and static displays at Gowen Thunder helped the community learn more about the Idaho National Guard, its mission and capabilities. The open house and airshow is an opportunity for the military to connect with the local community.

"My overall perception on how Gowen Thunder went was very smooth," said Nelson. "I was surprised to see the performances, especially with the A-10s, going up and showing their capabilities. They did a phenomenal job."

Gowen Thunder also brought in many vendors that provided food, refreshments and other items. A science, technology, engineering and math center featured several activities for children of all ages. STEM activities included robotics, virtual reality and 3-D printing.

The Idaho National Guard looks forward to holding more open houses and airshows in the future.





VETERANS DAY PARADE SALUTES GOWEN FIELD

The 2017 Boise Veterans Day Parade was held Nov. 4 in downtown Boise. Although the parade recognizes the sacrifices and honors the service of all U.S. Armed Forces veterans, 2017's parade theme was "Saluting the Rich Military History of Gowen Field."

The parade occurred the Saturday before Veterans Day, falling on drill weekend for the Idaho National Guard, which allowed local military units, including those at Gowen Field, to have a larger presence in the parade.

The Idaho National Guard helped kick off the event with a flyover of A-10s from the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Fighter Wing. A joint honor guard team helped lead the way with the 25th Army Band following along playing patriotic music.

More than 15 Idaho National Guard vehicles rolled through the streets, while two Idaho Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters thundered overhead. More than 100 Idaho National Guard personnel participated.

The Veterans Day Parade Committee adopted the theme because Gowen Field has served as the Idaho National Guard headquarters since 1946, and represents a tradition of voluntary military service dating back to 1867, 33 years before Idaho was admitted to the United States.

Gowen Field was named after 1st Lt. Paul R. Gowen, a West Point graduate and pilot from Caldwell, who was killed in a plane crash in 1938. On July 23, 1941, the Idaho Statesman announced "Gowen Field" as the new title for the Boise Air Terminal.

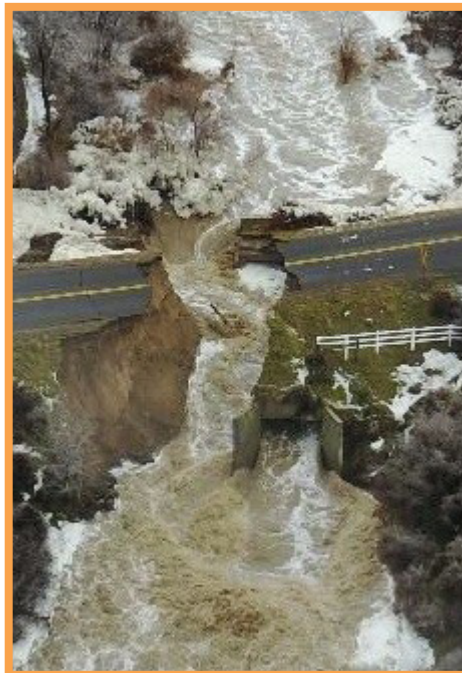




The Idaho Office of Emergency Management is a critical branch of the Idaho Military Division and works with all 44 counties, the Tribes, and state and federal partners to provide essential support before, during and after a natural or man-made disaster.

The extreme winter snowfall and subsequent spring flooding in 2017 led to 35 county disaster declarations, and four presidential disaster declarations. In each event, IOEM provided important assistance to local jurisdictions to respond, recover and mitigate the effects of disasters.

In 2017, IOEM became the first state emergency management agency in the Northwest to receive the prestigious Emergency Management Accreditation



Program distinction. EMAP is a voluntary standards, assessment and accreditation process for disaster preparedness and response programs throughout the country. Idaho is the first state to receive the accreditation in FEMA Region 10, which also includes Alaska, Oregon and Washington.

“The process involved hundreds of hours of time and energy to document all of IOEM’s policies and processes to substantiate the good work we do,” said Brad Richy, IOEM director.

“IOEM also relies upon support and assistance from our State agency partners when responding to disasters, so this really is a statewide distinction of excellence and accountability,” Richy said.

1 STATE IN 13 COUNTRIES



THROUGHOUT 2017, IDAHO'S CITIZEN-SOLDIERS TRAVELED TO 13 COUNTRIES TO COMPLETE A VARIETY OF MISSIONS: BANGLADESH, CAMBODIA, CANADA, FRANCE, GERMANY, GUATEMALA, KOREA, MALAYSIA, NEPAL, ROMANIA, TAIWAN, TANZANIA AND THAILAND. THESE MISSIONS ALLOW IDAHO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS TO HAVE AN IMPACT AROUND THE WORLD.



DISTANCE FROM BOISE, IDAHO, TO THE CAPITAL CITY OF EACH COUNTRY

CANADA 12,469 _{MI}	FRANCE 5,043 _{MI}	NEPAL 7,218 _{MI}	KOREA 5,572 _{MI}
GUATEMALA 3,223 _{MI}	ROMANIA 5,923 _{MI}	MALAYSIA 8,843 _{MI}	TAIWAN 6,443 _{MI}
GERMANY 5,147 _{MI}	TANZANIA 9,334 _{MI}	BANGLADESH 7,476 _{MI}	CAMBODIA 7,827 _{MI}
13 COUNTRIES	THAILAND 7,841 _{MI}	82,359 MILES	

IDAHO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS SERVE AROUND THE WORLD

Soldiers join the Idaho Army National Guard to serve their local communities, but they also have the opportunity to serve across the world, even without a major deployment to a conflict zone.

Idaho's Citizen-Soldiers traveled to 13 countries in 2017 to complete a variety of missions, including training peace keepers in Cambodia; participating in the Canadian Army's largest training exercise; providing medical training in Bangladesh; and mentoring ROTC cadets in the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency program in Nepal and Tanzania.

"Overseas Deployment Training missions are a great opportunity for members of the Idaho Army National Guard," said Brig. Gen. John Goodale, commander, Idaho Army

National Guard. "It provides an opportunity to demonstrate their tremendous skills and abilities, as well as learn from our partner nations and bring that experience and knowledge back to Idaho."

In total, Idaho Soldiers deployed to Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, France, Germany, Guatemala, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Romania, Taiwan, Tanzania and Thailand during the calendar year.

"Our Guardsmen truly benefit from being able to experience other customs and cultures while training with foreign military members," Goodale said.

"Participating in ODTs enhances the readiness of our Soldiers and the Idaho Army National Guard."

Idaho Soldiers volunteered for the chance to visit locations most people wouldn't otherwise travel. Missions typically lasted from five days to three weeks.

1st Lt. Jeremy Rausch traveled to Tanzania in July as part of a Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency mission. The CULP program introduces Army ROTC cadets to foreign cultures around the world.

"It was a great experience, both professionally and personally," said Rausch.

"I worked with civilian and Tanzania People's Defense Force instructors. I was hesitant about traveling to Africa, but it exceeded anything I expected. The people were friendly and open-minded."

Missions around the world allow the Idaho Army National Guard to have a global impact in both the State Department and the Department of Defense efforts. Idaho Soldiers have trained under eight of the military's nine geographic combatant commands.

"Idaho is known as a respectable, capable and willing partner, supporting different combatant commands with extremely capable and motivated Soldiers," said Col. Scott Sheridan, director of operations for the Idaho Army National Guard.

While the majority of these missions task the Idaho Army National Guard with training and teaching soldiers from the host nation, those soldiers aren't the only ones who benefit from Idaho's participation.

"Soldiers who volunteered for these missions had the opportunity to utilize their Military Occupational Specialty with our allies and partners," Sheridan said.

"Anytime you utilize your MOS, you increase your aptitude and increase interoperability with the host nation's soldiers and our partners."

Idaho's Citizen-Soldiers are well-suited for missions that require more than just their military skills and capabilities.

"Guard Soldiers typically spend one weekend a month and a few weeks at drill," said Lt. Col. Jon Frye, an Idaho Army National Guard operations officer. "The rest of the time they are at their civilian employment. They bring their civilian skills and perspectives to their Army job."

Frye said these skills and perspectives helps Soldiers connect with their counterparts prior to and during any training opportunities.

"It helps build bridges when they are first getting to know one another and find a common ground," Frye said. "They quickly realize they're not so different," he said.



B Company, 116th Brigade Engineer Battalion conducts a live-fire demolition exercises at Fort Hood, Texas, June 17. The 116th Brigade Engineer Battalion deployed to Fort Hood, Texas from May 30 to June 21 for the unit's annual training.

Soldiers of the 116th Brigade Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Twin Falls, returned home June 21, after spending three weeks at Fort Hood, Texas, conducting annual training.

The battalion provided command and control to Task Force Dagger during the 278th Armored Brigade Combat Team's eXportable Combat Training Capability rotation. The task force provided Opposing Forces that allowed the Tennessee Army National Guard unit to train against a capable near-peer force.

"We played the game as much as possible to get our new guys experience and to give the 278th ABCT experience so they know what to expect if they get deployed," said Cpl. Rene Alarcon.

Task Force Dagger was made up of more than 500 Soldiers, including approximately 350 from the Idaho Army National Guard's 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team.

"This was an unprecedented opportunity for the 116th Brigade Engineer Battalion to exercise command and control over an armored task force," said Lt. Col. Dennis Stitt, 116th Brigade Engineer Battalion commander.

XCTC is a field training exercise designed to certify platoon proficiency for National Guard units. The task force conducted approximately 180 training and mass casualty lanes in support of the exercise, which involved more than 4,100 Soldiers.

Task Force Dagger was comprised of units from six states, representing four of the five Army National Guard armored brigade combat teams.

2017

Funeral Honors

The Idaho National Guard presented the U.S. flag to a service member or veteran's next of kin at 831 ceremonies.

Color Guard

The Idaho National Guard presented the U.S. and Idaho flags at 61 events.

PRIDE IN TRADITION





Community relation events, known as COMRELs, inform the public about the Idaho National Guard, and help the organization maintain a viable and visible relationship with the two dozen communities throughout the state where units are located.

“It’s important we create unity with the public,” said First Lt. A.J. Edwards, the Idaho Army National Guard’s community relations officer. “People are always appreciative and grateful when we participate in their events. It also helps us educate the public on Idaho National Guard assets.”

During the past year, the Idaho National Guard participated in more than 300 COMREL events.

COMREL requests include tours of Gowen Field or local armories; use of the leadership reaction course and vehicle or weapon simulators on Gowen Field; vehicle and aircraft static displays; aircraft flyovers; the use of the 25th Army Band; the Idaho National Guard’s color guard at public events; and the use of local facilities for public events.

COMREL requests can be initiated by members of the public, unit representatives or the Idaho National Guard’s command team. Requests get reviewed by the impacted unit, the state public affairs and legal offices, and the organization’s senior leadership.

“We’re not just trying to have a good time. We want to teach the boys something to become *better men*.” --John Tonks

Most requests should be made at least 30 days in advance. Grander scale requests, such as large vehicles, aircraft displays and flyovers, Edwards recommends submitting 90 days before the event.

In August, John and Marjo Tonks of Pocatello requested the Idaho Army National Guard’s color guard to present the state and national flags at their Cub Scout pack meeting. The meeting focused on patriotism and included representatives from the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Tonks said he was surprised to learn that there was more to requesting the Idaho National Guard’s participation than just calling the local Pocatello armory, but that process worked for him. He said he plans to request Idaho National Guard participation in the future for additional Cub Scout events.

Tonks said it added a lot to their program to have the Idaho Army National Guard there.

“We’re not just trying to have a good time. We want to teach the boys something to help them become better men,” Tonks said. “We want them to understand patriotism is important, and we want them to see it’s possible that some day they could do something like this as a career. It’s good for them to see young men and women in that capacity.”

SFS FTX



TRAIN, DEFEND, PROTECT

124th Security Force Squadron Stands Ready

The 124th Security Forces Squadron participated in a four-day field training exercise June 16-20, 2017 at the Saylor Creek Training Range.

The unit's training included convoy operations, setting up, securing and defending a forward operating base, dismounted patrols and training with military working dogs.

The training provided field experience for the defenders, by preparing them to operate in austere environments such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

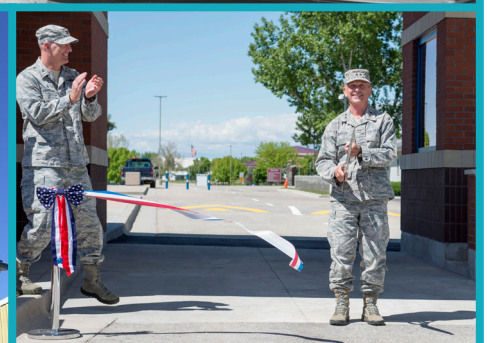
The Idaho Army National Guard's 1-183rd Aviation Regiment transported the unit to the training site using UH-60 Black Hawks.





FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Gowen Field's main entrance has changed over the years. The newest improvements were completed in May 2017 and enhance security, increase public safety and ease traffic flows.





MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

My Fellow Idahoans,

The Secretary of the Air Force recently announced Gowen Field and the Idaho Air National Guard as a preferred alternative to receive the F-35 fighter aircraft.

It is an honor to be among the top five contenders across the nation to receive the world's most technologically advanced aircraft. As a preferred alternative, we remain a viable option should the Air Force determine that one of the two primary candidates is unfit for the mission. We will now prepare for the Environmental Impact Statement study, which will highlight our long history of outstanding environmental stewardship.

I remain certain that the superior facilities, airspace, training ranges and proven record of performance by the men and women of the Idaho Air National Guard make Gowen Field the best location to base an F-35 squadron. I also remain absolutely confident that the 124th Fighter Wing, equipped with the combat-proven A-10, remains a relevant and lethal warfighting asset in our nation's defense.

The key takeaway from this arduous selection process is the undeniable display of support for the Idaho National Guard from our citizens and communities. This fall, over 100,000 of you attended our first open house in over 20 years. We are truly blessed to serve in a state where citizens, from the Governor to the legislature, mayors, private and public organizations, all go above and beyond to support members of the Idaho National Guard and our efforts to remain modernized and relevant.

Beyond the Idaho National Guard's presence here at Gowen Field, the Idaho Army National Guard is represented throughout the state in nearly two dozen communities. Idaho's largest unit, the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, received extensive community and employer support during their recent expansion, reorganization, and increased training requirements resulting in improved retention of Soldiers in this critical, premier unit. Additionally, the legislative and community support to the Idaho National Guard's Youth Challenge Academy in Pierce and the STARBASE program in Boise have been instrumental in providing high quality programs that greatly benefit Idaho youth in their educational pursuits.

It is reassuring to know that Idaho values the National Guard's contributions to the safety and security of our state and nation in times of war and domestic emergencies. The success of the Idaho National Guard is a direct reflection of the outstanding support we receive from our community. This success contributes to economic prosperity and a higher quality of life for Idaho citizens. The Idaho National Guard mission provides over \$440 million in economic impact to Idaho, employing over 5,200 citizens.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to Governor Otter, Mayor Bieter and our other state and local elected officials and agencies, the surrounding business community, along with numerous public and private organizations—specifically Idaho Power and Micron—that have demonstrated such overwhelming support during our pursuit of the F-35 mission. Most of all, I wish to thank the citizens of Idaho, for continuing to stand behind the Soldiers and Airmen of the Idaho National Guard, as you always have.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Garshak".

MICHAEL J. GARSHAK
Brigadier General
The Adjutant General, Idaho



The Idaho Military Division is comprised of the Idaho Army and Air National Guard, the Idaho Office of Emergency Management, the Idaho Youth Challenge Academy, State of Idaho Communications, the Idaho Military History Museum and STARBASE. The division's headquarters is located on Gowen Field in Boise with facilities spread throughout the state in two dozen communities. Its far-reaching presence throughout Idaho provides a critical emergency response capability in times of crisis and disaster.

The Idaho Military Division's commitment to the community is codified in the Idaho Adjutant General's three strategic imperatives: to maintain combat readiness to fight and win our nation's wars when called upon; to continue developing and strengthening our homeland security and emergency response readiness; and to continue building and fostering partnerships throughout Idaho, the nation and the world.