

THE

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LINE



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THE Maryland LINE

On the cover:



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kaylan Harrington, Afghan National Army Special Operations Advisory Group mentor, assists with the Afghan Commandos' routine essential items distribution at the Camp Commando medical clinic, Kabul, Nov. 6, 2017. All items provided to the Afghan woman and children are donated from local villages.



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TAG's Corner



The Maryland National Guard continues to work to strengthen our relationship with our national, state, and local partners. Our state partnership program remains strong and is an example for other states.

During my last visit with Bosnia and Herzegovina's Defense Minister, Marina Pendes and Deputy Minister of Policy Planning, Sead Jusic, we discussed how Maryland can support their effort to join NATO. Recently members of the Estonian Defense League Cyber Defense Unit visited Warfield Air National Guard Base to discuss future opportunities.

Welcome home to members of the 29th Infantry Division Headquarters from Jordan and Kuwait where they supported operation Inherent Resolve and Spartan Shield. As our operational tempo still remains high, forty members from Co. C, 248th Avn. Support Bn. deployed to support ongoing aviation operations in the Middle East.

As we embark upon the celebration of Black History month there will be a dedication of the Augustus Walley room in the museum at the Fifth Regiment Armory, on Feb. 13, 2018 at 10 am. During this recognition we will also be recognizing and honoring the service of the Buffalo Soldiers.

Managing crowded skies, active airfields

Article and photography by Capt. Stephen James,
29th Combat Aviation Brigade

The soldiers from F Co., 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 149th Aviation Regiment, 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, manage multiple airfields and provide the technical expertise to manage the crowded skies above Kuwait and Iraq.

Soldiers from F Co. out of Camp Buehring, Kuwait, conduct air traffic services at Udairi Landing Zone and have already performed 300 ground-controlled approaches.

In order to maximize safety in all conditions, the soldiers at Udairi are trained on the precision approach radar, which requires air traffic controllers on the ground to use radar to triangulate an aircraft's position when guiding it to land, even in situations of poor visibility.

"If an aircraft were to hit bad weather, we can guide them in," said Sgt. Richard Bosquez, acting facility chief at Udairi Landing Zone.

This capability is unique, as the PAR at Udairi Airfield is the only recovery system of its kind for CENTCOM, said Warrant Officer Elaine Santiago, F Co.'s air traffic/airspace manager.

In addition to the ATS provided by F Co. at Camp Buehring, 29th CAB soldiers also act as airfield managers. Airfield managers are responsible for coordinating operations on the airfield to ensure a vast array of tasks are complete so the airfield runs as efficiently and safely as possible.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Gino Specia, the 29th CAB's command chief warrant officer, sees all different aspects of the job as he performs duties both as an airfield manager as part of the airfield management element cell and as the primary contracting officer representative at Udairi Landing Zone, the heliport at Camp Buehring.

"The airfield management element cell is responsible for the day-to-day operations at Udairi Landing Zone, which can be anything from fuel to repair requests to vehicle usage, so it is never boring and never the same," said Specia.

F Co. soldiers also contribute to a variety of operations at Patton Army Airfield, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, where they provide air traffic control services, passenger and aircrew transportation, airfield inspections, grounding point certifications and a central communications point for airfield security, the fire department and the refueling office, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Barry Bertram, Patton Army Airfield manager.

Outside of Kuwait, a separate contingent of soldiers from F Co. perform ATS services at a remote site where they also have responsibilities as the senior airfield authority and airfield management.

According to Capt. Brian Burgi, F Co. commander, his soldiers have been responsible for the safe execution of over



Sgt. Richard Bosquez, F Co., 2-149th General Support Aviation Battalion's acting facility chief at Udairi Landing Zone, poses in front of the Radome, which houses the Air Traffic Navigation, Integration, Coordination System, where soldiers provide air traffic services and airfield management at multiple locations in both Kuwait and Iraq.

5,500 individual aircraft movements, including 300 cargo air drops and over 4,000 movements across the theater since they arrived in April.

"The airfield manager from F Company was personally responsible for ensuring all construction activities, lighting installation and associated maintenance was performed in accordance with all Army, Air Force and Combine Federal Regulations," said Burgi.

Compounding the complexity of managing an airfield at this site is the fact that the ATS Company was still required to run full-time control tower operations in which they safely manage the skies above them.

The airfield manager was responsible for coordinating with rescue and construction teams from the U.S. Air Force working on the airfield while simultaneously de-conflicting aircraft, said Burgi.

The 29th CAB is an Army National Guard brigade comprising Texas and Maryland Army National Guard soldiers that provides aviation assets, operational and logistical support for operations across the region.

F Co. soldiers will provide ATS and airfield management across their area of operation for the remainder of the year.

231st Chemical Company

performs mass decontamination exercise

Article and photography by Airman 1st Class Sarah M. McClanahan, 175th Wing



Members of the Maryland National Guard's 231st Chemical Company assisted with detecting potential chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosive hazards and tested their mass decontamination capabilities on Nov. 3, 2017, during their quarterly sustainment exercise at the North Locust Point Marine Terminal in Baltimore, Maryland.

The 231st Chem. Co., which is based out of Camp Fretterd Military Reservation, near Reisterstown, Maryland, participated in an exercise scenario where the 231st Chem. Co. provided mass decontamination support after the 32nd Civil Support Team initially responded to the CBRNE threat. The 32nd CST was then recalled to respond to a separate incident in the city, while the 231st Chem. Co. remained on location.

The threat was a simulated improvised nuclear explosive device aboard the S.S. Denebola. Various local, state and federal agencies worked together with the 32nd CST, the 231st Chem. Co., and the 251st Area Support Medical Company from the South Carolina National Guard.

The scenario involved a terrorist handling chemical and radiological materials aboard the S.S. Denebola,

a cargo ship that served during the Persian Gulf War in 1990. In the process of dealing with the materials, the terrorist ignited an explosion affecting approximately 400 passengers, exposing them to radiological materials. Baltimore first responders initially arrived on the scene, followed by the U.S. Coast Guard before their capabilities were overwhelmed, and the 32nd CST was called to assess the threat. The 32nd CST made an unknown known by identifying the threats and mitigating the radiological concern.

"After receiving a warning order ... the 231st was instructed to report by 8 a.m. and ... set up a mass casualty decontamination lines," said U.S. Army 1st Lt. Michael Fedner, the executive officer for the 231st Chem. Co. "The 231st was prepared to receive up to 400 casualties which

may exhibit burns, blunt force trauma from the explosion, potential radiological contamination, and chemical contamination."

With a start time of 5:45 a.m., the service members and participants of the exercise were in for a full day of training. The 231st Chem. Co. had two hour, from arriving on location, to establish the mass casualty decontamination line and begin decontaminating passengers.

"We missed the mark by about eight minutes ... but I'm very confident in my soldiers," said Fedner. "This is only our second exercise since annual training and we are still getting back into the groove of things. But, we got through it as a group."

Once set up, the 231st Chem. Co. ushered passengers through the decontamination line, a series of stations to remove radiological and



chemical hazards from a person's body. This included an initial spraying with water, the discarding of contaminated clothing, and additional sprayings. After essentially washing away contaminants, the passengers are scanned to ensure they're clear before proceeding to the medical station established by the 251st ASMC.

U.S. Army Spc. Latara Jordan, a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear specialist in the 231st Chem. Co., was assigned to the wash and rinse section of the decontamination line. Her job, rinsing role-playing casualties with soap and water, happened immediately after the discarding of contaminated clothing.

"It's exciting at times. Other times it can be tiresome or exhausting to continue doing the job," said Jordan. "Other than that, it's exciting because we know what we are doing, We know what the whole purpose is [and] we can see the big picture. We are always willing to just go with it."

Fedner added that the 231st Chem. Co. has come a long way since he initially entered the unit.

"I've been with this unit since I was a cadet in 2009 and commissioned in 2012," said Fedner. "A long time ago, we were a chemical company without any chemical detection equipment at all. It was very difficult. I



remember one annual training driving around once we got our first chemical detection equipment and putting our chemical agent detectors near red solo cups full of something that would set it off to simulate a contaminant. Now we have evolved to this.”

Fedner expressed how proud he is of his soldiers and acknowledged the challenges and difficulties they had to overcome to be able to fulfil the same requirements as a deploying unit.

This mission was not a test and there won't be pass/fail on a regular training mission like this. The unit members received an extensive after action report at the close of the exercise to show

where they performed well and what needs improvement.

In the spring of 2018, the 231st Chem. Co. will participate in an exercise, conducted in Indiana, involving about 8,000 service members ready to demonstrate their capabilities in a simulated deployed environment. The Indiana exercise is an extensive, annual evaluation with a 50-page checklist of tasks they have to perform correctly. Exercises, like the one held in Baltimore this past weekend, allow units to improve upon their skills and capabilities to better ensure readiness when the time comes to apply them when called upon in a real-life situation.

175th Cyberspace Operations Squadron Facility Groundbreaking Ceremony

Article and photography by Senior Airman Enjoli Saunders, 175th Wing



The 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard, held a groundbreaking ceremony for the 175th Cyberspace Operations Squadron's new facility, Nov. 2 at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan was the keynote speaker at the event that marked the initial construction of the structure that will provide closer integration between the ANG and U.S. Cyber Command.

"It's an exciting day, an exciting endeavor for the 175th Wing and the state of Maryland," said U.S. Air Force Col. Jori Robinson, 175th Cyberspace Operations Group

commander. "It's the first and only facility of its kind solely dedicated to cyberspace operations and owned by the National Guard on Fort Meade."

The new building will be a single-story 9,000-square-foot facility providing operational and command space for missions supporting Maryland, the National Security Agency, and the United States Cyber Command.

"This is a building but this is more than just a building, this is about taking us to the future," said U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Linda Singh, the adjutant general of Maryland. "We are going to be the thought leaders partnered alongside the





“Today we are bolstering Maryland’s leadership even further as we break ground on this much needed and much anticipated facility to support the state of Maryland and the cyber mission force.”

-Gov. Larry Hogan

most professional thought leaders which is CyberCom.”

The new structure will be a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver building as well as meet Sensitive Compartmental Information Facility standards, resulting in an environmental friendly and classified work area.

“Today we are bolstering Maryland’s leadership even further as we break ground on this much needed and much anticipated facility to support the state of Maryland and the cyber mission force,” said Hogan.

The \$5.5 million building is expected to be completed in September 2018.

Team from 110th Information Operations Battalion deploys to Djibouti

Article and photo by Capt. Aaron Testa, 110th Information Operations Battalion

The Maryland National Guard's 110th Information Operations Battalion deployed its ninth team to the Horn of Africa, this past September.

HOA 9 replaces the last team, also comprised of 110th Information Operations soldiers, led by Maj. John Henderson. The official transfer of authority took place at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Sept. 16, 2017.

For the next nine months, HOA 9 will integrate and synchronize various information-related capabilities for Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa, functioning as information operations planners.

Each team member brings unique skills and experience in specialties such as planning for electronic warfare, cyber, operational security, and others, with the goal of gaining and maintaining the advantage in a complex informational environment.

While deployed, Maj. John Rodriguez, the HOA 9 team leader, will lead the information operations directorate, also known as the J39. As the director of information operations, he will oversee the entire integration of conventional non-kinetic fires into the more traditional operations.

"Each team member has a specific role, but the overall combined effort will be towards supporting the information operations for the CJTF," said Rodriguez.

"It is critical for the Army to bring this unique expertise, the functional area 30, to the Joint Task Force in Djibouti," said Lt. Col. Kristine Henry, the 110th IO Bn. Commander. "In today's fight, where information warfare dominates, we have seen an increased demand from combatant commands for these specialized integrators."

To prepare for this deployment, the HOA 9 team underwent a rigorous training regimen, increasing each team member's knowledge of how the different information-related capabilities contribute to the fight.

"Our training focused on how to integrate and coordinate various aspects of these capabilities and how they fit into the IO planning and coordination efforts," said Rodriguez.

Part of the training included completion of the 1st IO Command Information Operations Capabilities Application and Planning course and the Joint Information Operations Planners' Course at the Joint Staff College in Norfolk, Va.

"Through IO, we can influence, disrupt, corrupt or usurp the decision-making abilities of our adversaries and potential adversaries in the region," said Rodriguez.

CJTF-HOA conducts security force assistance and military engagements. It also provides force protection and military support to regional counter-violent extremist organizations.

The Joint Task Force works with U.S. and international partners in East Africa to support aligned regional efforts,

ensure regional access and freedom of movement and protect U.S. interests in the region.

In this role, the Joint Task Force helps fight against violent extremist organizations in the region, such as al-Shabaab and ISIS in Somalia. It leverages U.S. diplomatic, informational, military and economic power to support our international partners throughout East Africa and help build

their capabilities and capacities to defend themselves and shape their future.

The 110 IO Bn. is based at the Annapolis Readiness Center in Annapolis, Maryland. The unit's mission is to conduct tactical through strategic level Information Operations in support of global military operations by training and deploying culturally aware and regionally focused IO teams to defeat adversary information operations and gain information superiority in the information environment. The unit is also prepared to provide support to state and local authorities during governor-declared state emergencies.

In addition to its missions in support of CJTF-HOA, the 110th IO Bn. has also deployed teams to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and is planning to support various other IO missions around the world in the coming months.



Soldiers from the Maryland National Guard's 110th Information Operations Battalion, pose at the entrance to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, following their official transfer of authority, Sept. 16. The Annapolis-based team, known as HOA 9, has deployed for the next nine months to support the Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) and is responsible for integrating and synchronizing various information-related capabilities there.

Guiled Age room to be dedicated to Augustus Walley in ceremony

Article by 1st Lt. Mary Lyons, *Command Historian*

Photography by Cpl. Elizabeth Scott, *Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office*

The Maryland Museum of Military History is excited to be dedicating the Gilded Age room to Medal of Honor recipient Augustus Walley. The dedication ceremony will be held on February 13, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. on the drill floor at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore, Maryland, followed by an open house of the museum for visitors.

This event will be attended by Walley's descendants, the Morgan State Buffalo Soldiers chapter, and Maj. Gen. Linda Singh, the adjutant general of Maryland. Augustus Walley was a remarkable soldier who received the Medal of Honor for his actions on Aug. 16, 1881 in the Cuchiullo Mountains of New Mexico while he was serving with the 9th Cavalry, Troop I, famously known as the Buffalo Soldiers. On this eventful day, Walley was fighting as the rear guard during his unit's retreat. After mounting a horse, he galloped into enemy fire to assist a fallen comrade too injured to make it back to his unit without assistance. For this action Walley's Medal of Honor citation states "bravery in action with Indians."

This career soldier served in the Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection, and World War I. He would eventually be promoted to First Sergeant, and was nominated for a second Medal of Honor for his actions in the Battle of Las Guasimas in Cuba on June 24, 1898, while serving with the 10th Cavalry, Troop E.

On February 13, Capt. Charles Ayres was attempting to carry Maj. Bells to safety, causing a great deal of pain as Bells' bone had pierced through his flesh. Ayres' account of this rescue mentions the tremendous risk to life and limb Walley faced in assisting Bells. In the battle's aftermath, there were sixteen men killed and wounded within fifty square feet. Ultimately, Walley would not receive this second Medal of Honor for his actions in the Battle of Las Guasimas, but was awarded the Certificate of Merit for distinguished service, soon to be the Silver Star.

The Maryland Museum of Military History is honored to be dedicating our Gilded Age room to this remarkable Marylander.



What is the Blended Retirement System all about?

By Staff Sgt. Margaret Taylor

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT to do in 20 years? Ten? Five? How about next year, or even next month?

Me neither.

Like you, I have ambitions for my military career, but I have no idea how they will pan out. I'd love to make sergeant major someday, but there are a couple of milestones between E6 and E9. I'd love to do my 20 years and retire, but can my body hack it? Will I have the gumption to re-enlist when my current contract is up in 2022?

I can't see the future, and this sometimes makes retirement planning – if I think of it at all – feel like a wild gamble.

BRS

The Department of Defense has laid out a new retirement option, the Blended Retirement System, that those of us currently serving can choose to participate in starting Jan. 1, 2018.

Reservists and Guardsmen who have fewer than 4,320 retirement points are eligible to switch over, and we have until the Dec. 31, 2018, deadline to make the switch. If we don't choose to change over, we'll stay on the legacy pension system (also known as the High-3).

Once the switch to the BRS is made, it's final.

The DoD, the Reserves and the National Guard have no preference which retirement plan an eligible service member chooses. I have to make that decision for myself. You do too.

How do we choose?

TOOLS

To educate myself, I took the mandatory BRS training course on JKO, which was an informative introduction. Next, I played around with a few of the retirement calculators available online.

The one I found most useful is on <http://militarypay.defense.gov/BlendedRetirement/>. This calculator let me experiment with how long I plan to serve, what rank I think I will hold at the end of my service and about a dozen other variables. After all the variables are plugged in, the calculator spits out several charts comparing the legacy and BRS retirement plans side-by-side.

Worth noting: No calculator I saw shows how TSP contributions affect the legacy High-3 plan, only the BRS.

RESEARCH RESULTS

The main difference I discovered between the two options is the amount of effort (and money) a service member must put in to make



This is Spc. Roger Jones. He's only been in the Army National Guard for a few years and retirement is a long way off. He's not even sure if he wants to do 20 years. Which option is the better bet for him?

*In the Guard
or Reserves,
how will my pension
be calculated?*

Retirement 20+ years

Separation < 20 years

BRS-unique
government
contributions
to TSP

Match 4%

Auto 1%

TSP

Gov. match
up to 5%

TSP

Pension
at 2.5%

Pension
at 2.0%

Roger's
TSP
contributions

Roger's
TSP
contributions

High-3

BRS

If he gets out early, it
seems like the BRS is
a better option.

If he stays in until
retirement, though, it
looks like the High-3
may be a better option.

High-3

BRS

that particular plan yield the most that it can.

Without any investment into TSP, the legacy High-3 pension pays out more every single time.

With TSP investments that can be made under either plan, the pension-plus-TSP amount almost always went in the High-3 plan's favor.

The BRS *only* consistently beat the High-3 when I ran the numbers for separation and not retirement (in such a case, no pension).

BOTTOM LINE

The newer the Guardsman or Reservist (three years or less), the closer the two plans get to being equal, as long as the person puts at least 5 percent into TSP. For the newest of us, the BRS can actually yield a few hundred dollars more.

For the rest of us, though, the High-3 yields a higher return simply because of its higher pension.

Wherever we fall on that line, the birth of the BRS is a good kick in the pants for us to take stock.

Here are a few questions I recommend you ask yourself that, hopefully, don't sound too much like an AARP commercial:

Am I doing anything now to take care of my older self? Have I started saving for retirement, whether it be through the TSP or a civilian 401(k)? Am I relying solely on a pension that's "20 or nothing"? Have I looked into all my options?

The true bottom line is to take charge, figure out what you want and then choose.

(cont.)

Equivalent
years of service

x

Retired
base pay

x

2.5% = High-3

2.0% = BRS

Examples



To see how the legacy High-3 and BRS plans would stack up, **Spc. Roger Jones** experimented with a few scenarios in the Military Pay retirement calculator. He checked to see what would happen if he separated after contributing to TSP, retired with zero TSP investment, or retired after moderate investing.

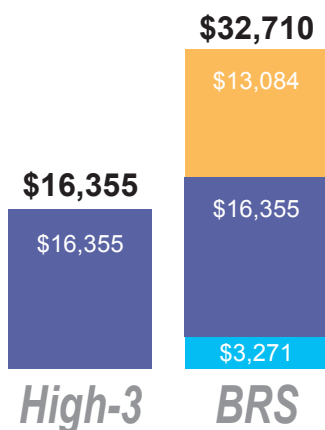
What's what?

Pensions

- BRS
- High-3

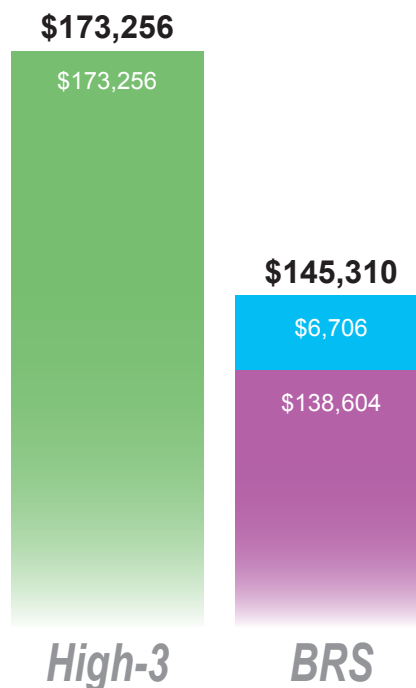
TSP contributions

- Service member
- Gov. automatic (1%)
- Gov. match (4% max)



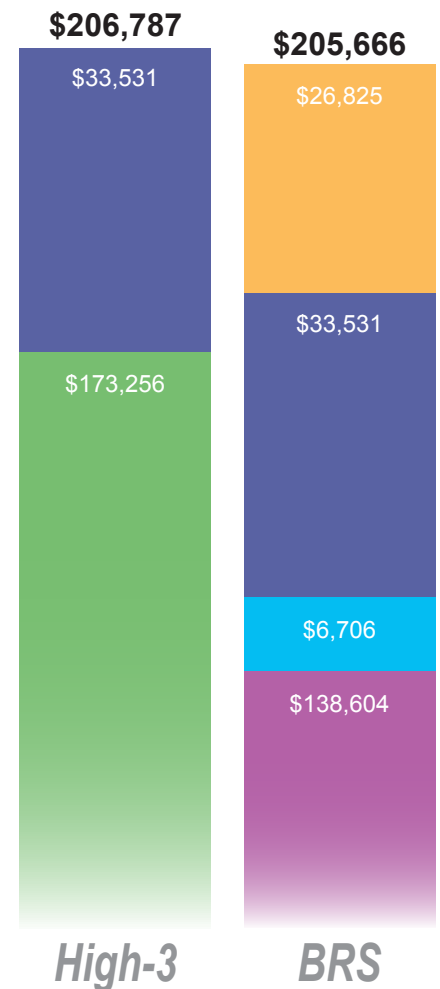
- Reservist with 4 years time in service.
- **5% TSP** contributions years 5-12.
- Separates as an E6.

Separation



- Reservist with 4 years time in service.
- **No TSP** contributions years 5-20.
- Retires as an E7.

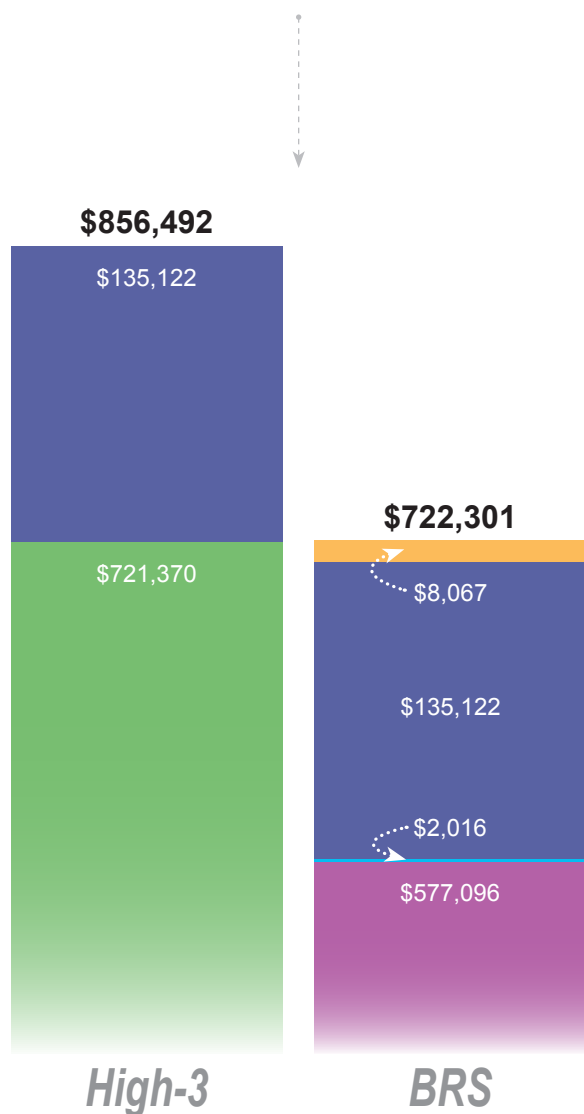
Retirement



- Reservist with 4 years time in service.
- **5% TSP** contributions years 5-20.
- Retires as an E7.



His boss, **Maj. Lulu Smith**, also put her numbers in. Even though she just needs four more good years to retire, she only has 3,500 retirement points. This means she's eligible to switch to the BRS. She has not contributed to TSP, but has a 401(k) plan through her civilian employer. Knowing that the BRS pension is only 80 percent of the legacy High-3, she was curious to see how aggressively she would have to invest in her TSP account to make up the difference.



- Reservist with 16 years time in service.
- **67% TSP** contributions years 17-20.
- Retires as an O5.

Q and A

Q. Does the DoD, Reserves or National Guard have a preference for which plan I choose?

A. Nope.

Q. Do I have to contribute to TSP?

A. Nope. However, if you switch to the BRS, you'll get the biggest bang for your buck if you do.

Q. How long do I have to decide?

A. The opt-in window for those of us who are eligible to switch is Jan. 1, 2018, until Dec. 31, 2018. After that, we're in the High-3 for good.

Q. Why doesn't the Military Pay calculator include TSP contributions with the High-3?

A. My guess is it's because government matching contributions are part of the BRS, not the High-3.

Q. Can anyone actually make more money by switching to the BRS?

A. Yes. I have found that two groups of Guardsmen or Reservists can. First, those who separate will get at least the 1 percent government match (it's not much, but it's more than nothing). Second, those who have served approximately 3 years or fewer when they switch to the BRS can receive a few hundred to a few thousand dollars more in retirement than they would under the legacy plan. This can *only happen* if they contribute at least 5 percent to TSP for most, if not all, of their service.

Q. Does the BRS have any other unique perks?

A. Yep. To check out continuation pay and lump sum options, see <http://militarypay.defense.gov/>.

On the



LINE

Freedom Salute Ceremony for the 29th Infantry Division

Photos by Lt. Col. Rick Breitenfeldt, *Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office*



Dec. 3, 2017

More than 100 Maryland Army National Guard soldiers are honored for their recent overseas deployment.

Soldiers for C Company (SIG), B Company (I&S) and A1 and T1 Detachments were recognized in separate ceremonies in Cheltenham and Annapolis Maryland.

The 29th Infantry Division's most recent deployment to Jordan and Kuwait was in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield.



Deployment Ceremony for Company C, 248th Aviation Support Company

Oct. 1, 2017

Maj. Gen. Linda L. Singh, the adjutant general of Maryland, hosts a deployment ceremony for about 40 members of the Maryland Army National Guard's C Co., 248th Avn. Support Bn. The soldiers will deploy to Kuwait for nine months to provide tactical communications in support of the ongoing aviation operations in the Middle East.



Photos by Lt. Col. Rick Breitenfeldt, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office

Special Operations Detachment-OTAN/NATO in Afghanistan

The Special Operations Detachment-OTAN/NATO are currently deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan, and are assigned to NATO Special Operations Component Command Afghanistan. They are working with the Afghan National Army Special Operations Command on coordinating close air support and conducting tactical ground movements near Kabul. They are also conducting humanitarian assistance missions like helping a girl's school.



Photo by Senior Airman Sean Carnes



29th Combat Aviation Brigade cases colors in Kuwait

Dec. 29, 2017

The 29th Combat Aviation Brigade cases its colors at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, which signified the end of the 29th CAB's deployment supporting Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield.



200th Military Police Company mobilizes to the U.S. Virgin Islands

Oct. 23, 2017

Nearly 100 members of the 200th Military Police Company, Maryland Army National Guard, deploy to the U.S. Virgin Islands from Catonsville, Maryland, Oct. 23, 2017. The unit is deploying up to 30 days to provide additional security to the U.S. Virgin Islands as a result of Hurricane Irma.

Photo by Cpl. Elizabeth Scott, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office







729th Quartermaster Composite Supply Company **mobilize to provide aid to Puerto Rico**

Fifteen members of the Maryland National Guard's 729th Quartermaster Composite Supply Company work in Puerto Rico to help purify and distribute potable water to the victims of Hurricane Maria. The 729th deployed from Warfield Air National Guard Base in Middle River, Maryland, on Oct. 15, 2017.



Meeting with BiH defense minister

December 7, 2017

The Bosnia and Herzegovina Defense Minister Marina Pendes and Deputy Minister of Policy and Planning Sead Jusić and meets with Maj. Gen Linda L. Singh, the adjutant general of Maryland, Colonel Mark Karas, military attaché of the United States of America in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and representatives of the Department of Defense Cooperation (ODC) of the US Embassy in Sarajevo.

The members discuss current Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces of BiH activities, specifically focused on fulfilling the conditions for activation of the NATO Membership Action Plan. The discussion also centered around corruption prevention in institutions, public procurement and the budget in defense institutions, participation in peacekeeping operations, and other important issues concerning defense.



Armed Forces Basketball Championship game



Nov. 7, 2017

U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Christi Ayers drives the lane against U.S. Army Sgt. Donita Adams, of the Maryland National Guard, during Navy's win over Army during the Armed Forces Basketball Championship game. Adams was selected for the 2017 Women's All-Tournament team. The 2017 Armed Forces Basketball Championship is held at Joint Base San Antonio, Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.



Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Emiline Senn, U.S. Navy

Thanksgiving meals for MDNG service members



Nov. 20, 2017

As part of the Partners in Care program, Christ Our King Presbyterian Church in Bel Air, Maryland, donates 50 Thanksgiving meals for National Guard service members at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore, Maryland.

This is the ninth consecutive year that the church has donated meals, which includes a turkey and some traditional sides.

The Partners in Care program is an initiative of the MDNG where local congregations provide support to Maryland National Guard members and their families when they are in need. Services include counseling for individuals, couples and families; child care; basic household and auto repairs; emergency food, clothing and housing support; crisis and grief counseling; and transportation.

Photo by Cpl. Elizabeth Scott, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office



Morgan State's Veterans Appreciation Day Game

Nov. 18, 2017

Maj. Gen. Linda Singh, the adjutant general of Maryland, spent the day at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland, as a part of a goal to strengthen relationships with communities throughout Maryland. At the start of the Veterans Appreciation Day Football Game, Singh performed the coin toss and at half-time she reviewed the Bear Battalion Cadets.





WOCS pinning ceremony for Class 17-001

Oct. 22, 2017

Maj. Gen. Linda L. Singh, the adjutant general of Maryland, hosts a pinning ceremony for the newest National Guard Warrant Officers. Six soldiers from the Maryland Army National Guard, the Delaware Army National Guard, the District of Columbia Army National Guard, and the U.S. Army Reserve were commissioned in the ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility, Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

Photo by Lt. Col. Rick Breitenfeldt, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office



175th Wing collects food for donation



Nov. 16, 2017

Members of the 175th Wing collect canned, dry, and frozen goods to donate to the Salvation Army. The goods were scheduled to be donated to families in need over Thanksgiving.

This event was made possible through the coordination of Master Sgt. Ashley Mooney, 175th Logistics Readiness Squadron training manager.



Baltimore Police Department's trunk or treat

Oct. 31, 2017

Soldiers from C Co., 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment from Glen Burnie, Maryland had a special treat for Halloween, they had the opportunity to celebrate during the Baltimore Police Department- Western District's annual trunk or treat and haunted house.



175th Wing's Airman Recognition Ceremony

Dec. 3, 2017

The 175th Wing conducts it's Airman Recognition Ceremony at Warfield Air National Guard Base in Middle River, Maryland. During the ceremony, units and individual service members of the wing were recognized for their achievements throughout the year.





Joint E-9 Professional Development Dinner



Oct. 14, 2017

The Maryland National Guard hosts the Joint E-9 Professional Development Dinner at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation near Reisterstown, Maryland.

The keynote speaker for the dinner was Sgt. Maj. Siim Saliste, sergeant major of the Estonian Defence Forces. The dinner highlighted the role that senior NCOs have in the development of the force.

Photos by Cpl. Elizabeth Scott, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office



58th EMIB Best Warrior Competition

Nov. 4-5, 2017

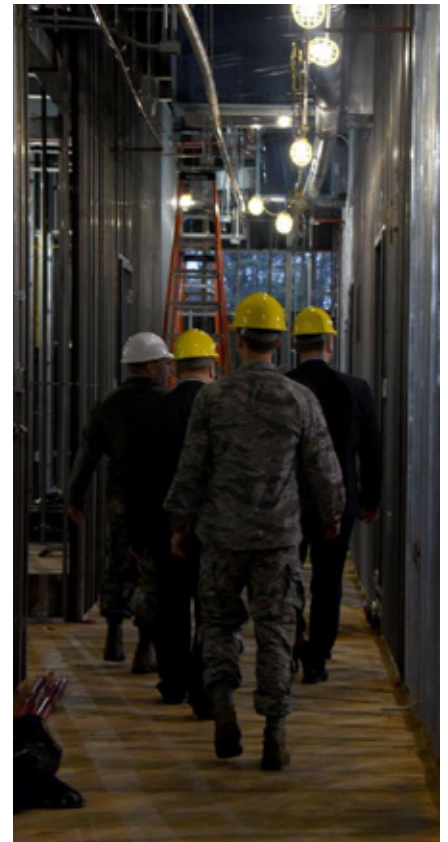
Maryland National Guard soldiers in the 58th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade competes in a Best Warrior Competition at Gunpowder Military Reservation, Maryland. Soldiers competed for best officer, noncommissioned officer and soldier. The two-day competition tested basic warrior tasks including completing in a ruck march, land navigation, a stress shoot, and an appearance before a board.

Photo by Sgt. Devon Bistarkey, 58th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade

Estonian Defense League Cyber Defense Unit visits MD Air National Guard

Dec. 5, 2017

Members of the Estonian Defense League Cyber Defense Unit visits Warfield Air National Guard Base, Middle River, Maryland.



Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Training



Nov. 4, 2017

Maryland military police and infantry soldiers from the National Guard Reaction Force participate in joint non-Lethal weapons capability training at Gunpowder Military Reservation, Maryland. The NGRF is a specially trained force comprised of soldiers and airmen from existing National Guard units that provide each state with a rapid response capability focused on incidents requiring law enforcement or security support.

Photos by Lt. Col. Rick Breitenfeldt, *Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office*



175th Infantry Regiment Pass and Review

Dec. 2, 2017

The 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment celebrates the regiment's 243rd anniversary during its pass and review ceremony at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore, Maryland. Current and former members of the 175th, also known as Baltimore's "Dandy Fifth" Regiment, attended the event, paying their respects to the unit's historic legacy.



Photos by Lt. Col. Rick Breitenfeldt, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office

629th Network Support Company deactivation ceremony

Dec. 2, 2017

The 629th Network Support Company cases its colors in the deactivation ceremony at Towson, Maryland.

The 629th Network Support Company traces its lineage back to the 29th Signal Company, Special Troops, of the 29th Infantry Division, which was organized in 1924. Since its beginning the unit participated in many historic events including the June 6th D-Day landing, the NATO Stabilization Force in Bosnia, and most recently, Operation Restore Order in the wake of the Baltimore Riots.



Photo by Lt. Col. Rick Breitenfeldt, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office

Final Frame



PHOTO BY COL. CHARLES KOHLER

Fifteen members of the Maryland National Guard's 729th Quartermaster Composite Supply Company work in Puerto Rico to help purify and distribute potable water to the victims of Hurricane Maria. The 729th deployed from Warfield Air National Guard Base in Middle River, Maryland, on Oct. 15, 2017.