



WASHINGTON MILITARY DEPARTMENT

# EVERGREEN

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# CASCADE RIFLES HOSTS MANEUVER WARFARE SYMPOSIUM

The Washington National Guard's 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) convened its inaugural Maneuver Warfare Symposium last weekend at Camp Murray, bringing together military leaders, tacticians, and defense experts to explore innovative approaches to modern combat operations.

The symposium, held on Jan. 31, 2025, attracted more than 200 participants, including National Guard members, active-duty leaders, and academic experts in military strategy. Attendees engaged in a series of discussions and presentations aimed at refining maneuver warfare principles in a rapidly evolving battlefield environment.

## Collaborative Learning and Innovation

The symposium featured a lineup of presentations delivered by subject-matter experts such as Dr. Brian Steed, a military history professor with the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Robert Leonhard, author of "The Principles of War in the Information Age", followed by question and answer sessions.

Topics ranged from the philosophy of maneuver warfare to the importance of narrative control, and what recent global conflicts can tell us about the future of modern warfare.

"It's great to have [people] from all ranks and echelons sit down to discuss these topics," said 1st Sgt. Britt Anderson, Alpha Company, 181st Brigade Support Battalion, 81st SBCT, WA ARNG. "The information shared here is incredibly current and up-to-date."

Attendees had the opportunity to participate in virtual wargaming sessions, where they analyzed real-world scenarios and tested new approaches to maneuver operations.

"We covered everything from electronic warfare to the ongoing situation in Ukraine," said Anderson. "Having access to fresh data and insights about what's happening on battlefields around the world right now is invaluable."

## Modern Challenges, Evolving Solutions

With a strong emphasis on adaptability, technology integration, and strategic thinking, the symposium aimed to provide leaders with the framework to better understand how they can adapt to emerging threats and the changing operational demands.

"Several presenters emphasized the importance of using insights from ongoing conflicts to adapt our strategies and better prepare for future challenges," said 1st Lt. Nectaly Barbosa, a scout platoon leader with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment, 81st SBCT. "I thought that perspective was really valuable."

Collectively, the symposium emphasized to Barbosa "how rapidly the battlefield is evolving, especially with the rise of drone warfare, and the significant adjustments our strategies will need to accommodate that."

As commander of a platoon who's primary mission is to serve as the commander's eyes and ears on the battlefield, combining traditional maneuver tactics with emerging capabilities such as unmanned aircraft systems is especially relevant to leaders like Barbosa.

"I think having the conversation about how we train and maybe incorporating more practical training scenarios, as was mentioned," Barbosa said. "For example, we could make better use of some of the capabilities we already have, like our drones. Especially within the recon platoon, we have assets that we haven't utilized enough simply because the focus hasn't been there. Now seems like the perfect time to revisit and emphasize those capabilities, ensuring they're put to better use."

## Looking Ahead

For many attendees, the symposium was an opportunity to connect theory with practice, and lead into a two-day externally evaluated command post exercise.

"It's the concept of providing Soldiers with a mission and a narrative," said Anderson. "It's about being able to identify and communicate that narrative, giving Soldiers a clear sense of purpose. It's like the old-school concept of 'the big picture,' helping them understand what they're doing, their role, and how it ties into the larger mission."

By blending strategic dialogue with practical training, the lessons from this symposium will undoubtedly influence how 81st SBCT leaders tackle XCTC this summer. - Story and Photos by Adeline Witherspoon







# YOUTH ACADEMY HONORED FOR CLEANING UP LOCAL PARKS

Kitsap County named the Washington Youth Challenge Academy its Partner of the Year for the thousands of hours that cadets put into helping restore the county's parks and making improvements to them.

"The county could not keep our roads and parks clean without the dedication of our volunteers," a Kitsap County newsletter noted [\(Opens an external site in a new window\)](#). "This month, a handful of community members and groups were recognized for their exceptional work in keeping local roadways and parks clean and litter-free."

Patrick Cruz, the programs officer who helps run the service programs for the Academy, accepted the award at a celebration in December, along with several cadets from the 24-2 cycle.

Cruz noted that "Service to the Community" is one of the core components cadets need to achieve in order to graduate from the Academy. The Youth Academy is not just about class work.

In September, 50 cadets from the Academy spent hours at North Kitsap Heritage Park [\(Opens an external site in a new window\)](#), removing non-native vegetation and restoring the natural ecosystem at the park.

"Their hard work focused on an area newly restocked with native plants like Western red cedar, Western white pine, and a variety of hardwoods," the county parks division noted in a Facebook post.

And in October, dozens of cadets teamed up with the Newberry Hill Heritage Park Stewards [\(Opens an external site in a new window\)](#) to remove invasive, non-native vegetation and restore the park's natural beauty.

Aaron Bartleson, the natural resources coordinator with Kitsap County Parks, said the most rewarding moment working with the Youth Academy came during mock-interviews where cadets showcased their individual growth throughout the program.

Bartleson worked with second platoon of cycle 24-2 during three work parties over the course of several weeks and said, "I really came to know the cadets, their background, struggles, challenges and desire to improve their station in life. I was deeply impressed with the amount of preparation each cadet put into their interviews. I mentioned to Pat Cruz that there was not one cadet I interviewed that I would not hire. They did great! The continued respect they show on a daily basis echoes in all that they do. The lasting impacts of the program will serve these young men and women for decades to come."

In 2024 alone, Bartleson said the cadets donated 4,839 hours of labor at a monetary value of \$170,000 of labor.

"They helped us remove scotch broom to make room for more native vegetation, cleared illegal garbage dumps, hauled material for trail improvement, removed weeds from Howe Farm, prepped the ball fields for the sports playing season and helped clear ground for a new wheelchair-friendly trail," Bartleson said. "It's backbreaking work they have helped us with and the work they have done goes beyond monetary value." - *Story by Steven Friederich*



# LEGISLATIVE DAY:

## WASHINGTON NATIONAL GUARD

### MEMBERS TAKE PART IN ANNUAL

### EVENT AT THE STATE CAPITOL



With the continued message of support to the state and nation, Maj. Gen. Gent Welsh, the adjutant general, and more than 30 National Guard members took part in the annual Washington National Guard day with the State Legislature, Jan. 29, 2025 at the state capitol in Olympia, Washington.

“We are the same National Guard we have always been,” Welsh said. “We are here to help our neighbors and fellow Washingtonians during disasters and continue to prepare ourselves for federal deployments supporting our national defense.”

Every year, the Washington State Legislature honors the accomplishments of the Washington National Guard during concurrent House and Senate sessions. Along with recognizing the organization’s achievements, this year’s event provided an opportunity for legislators to hear from the new adjutant general in person and express their gratitude to Guard members.

“Their service is more than just an answering to a call of duty — it is a profound and unwavering commitment to safeguarding lives, and straightening communities, and ensuring the security of both our state and our nation,” said State Sen. Deb Krishnadasan, senator from the 26th District. “Their mission extends far beyond the battlefield as we heard in today’s resolution. Through the Guard’s diverse responsibilities that can consistently demonstrate leadership, resilience and compassion. Their readiness to serve both at home and abroad reflects their incredible dedication, sacrifice and contributions of the National Guard in Washington state are monumental.”

Krishnadasan’s words were echoed by other members in the state senate and house of representatives.

“I rise today to speak on half of one of the most vital and selfless institutions that we are fortunate to have — the Washington National Guard. These men and women are the embodiment of resilience, sacrifice, and dedication. They’re not just soldiers, they are civilians. They’re our neighbors, friends, our family, who answer the call to serve,” said State Rep. Matt Marshall, representative from the 2nd District. “The Washington National Guard’s mission is simple, yet profoundly impactful, to provide combat ready forces and support of federal missions and, when, called upon, to provide teams prepared to assist civil authorities in protecting the lives, rights, and property of our communities.”

During the day’s events, Washington National Guard members met with Governor Bob Ferguson, new governor for the state of Washington, and took part in an official opening for a new National Guard history display in the Secretary of State’s lobby.

“It is our obligation to make the history of Washington available to the people, and the National Guard is an instrumental part of that history,” said Secretary of State Steve Hobbs. “Our service members have been, and continue to be, critical in contributing to Washington’s history and culture.” - Story by Joseph Siemandel, Photos by Adeline Witherspoon





# 10TH CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM CALLED TO SUPPORT GOVERNOR'S INAUGURATION

In one of the most anticipated events of the year, lawmakers from across the state gathered to celebrate the newly elected members of state government. To ensure the safety of all attendees and their families, the 10th Civil Support Team (CST) partnered with the Washington State Patrol (WSP) Bomb Squad to support the Washington State Governor's Inauguration and Ball at the state Capitol in Olympia, Washington, on January 15, 2025.

Eight personnel from the 10th CST's operations, communication, command, decontamination, and survey sections provided critical support during the festivities.

"We set up air monitoring equipment around the perimeter of the Capitol building, established a real-time data feed to our command post for early warning detection, and formed joint hazard assessment teams with State Patrol," said Staff Sgt. Kevin Propes, survey team chief for the 10th CST.

The 10th CST conducted area monitoring, pre-event sweeps, and provided a hazardous materials response team. Their efforts enhanced the State Patrol's monitoring capabilities, ensuring the safety of the governor and honored guests throughout the event. The WSP Bomb Squad and CST conducted vehicle inspections, event tent screenings, and security sweeps of the legislative building before and during the inauguration and ball. The CST also took the opportunity to share best practices with the Bomb Squad on their new Team Awareness Kits (TAK).

"My favorite part of the event was being embedded with EOD and K9 officers," said Propes. "Our security sweeps covered large areas and began long before guests arrived. We spent hours alongside our K9 partners, learning a lot about the handlers and the dogs' personalities."

The 10th CST is routinely called to support the Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C. However, thanks to its strong partnership with the State Patrol, the team was able to provide security for the governor's event closer to home.

"The 10th CST has a great relationship with WSP SWAT and EOD. We train together as much as our schedules allow and regularly support WSP during events like the Governor's Ball," said Propes. "It's an honor to work alongside our state and federal partners to help ensure the safety of our residents." - Story By Joseph Siemandel





## AIR NATIONAL GUARD AND ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BEGIN PLANNING ON ENDURING PARTNERS 25

Airmen from the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) visited Camp Murray in early February to begin planning for Enduring Partners 2025, an exercise involving RTAF and the Washington Air National Guard to be held later this year in Thailand.

“The initial planning conference went extremely well. Both the Royal Thai Air Force and Washington Air National Guard brought motivated experts to the planning table, making it a highly collaborative and productive conference,” said Col. Carrie Wentzel, director of staff and co-chair of the conference. “The goal of EP25 is to leverage each military’s strengths to enhance combat readiness and interoperability between the Royal Thai Air Force and Washington Air National Guard.”

This year’s exercise will follow the Multi-Domain Operations Concept, which integrates mission impacts across air, space, and cyber domains. Participants from the Washington Air National Guard will travel to Thailand to take part in the Field

Training Exercise and Subject Matter Expert Exchange with RTAF units. Key topics covered during the exercise will include air operations, ground-controlled interception, Air Force special warfare, cyber operations, combat communication, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, medical logistics, and space operations.

Enduring Partners 2025 is scheduled to take place from August 18-29, 2025, in Nakhon Ratchasima Province. The exercise will build upon the successes of EP23 and EP24 while incorporating new partner nations that have expressed interest in participation.

“This is our third iteration of Enduring Partners. Each has been unique, making history by integrating new concepts and capabilities into the scenario,” Wentzel noted. “EP25 will undoubtedly continue this trend, strengthening our relationship with our state partner of over 22 years and our treaty ally of more than 70 years.”

Since formalizing their partnership through the State Partnership Program in 2002, the Washington National Guard and the Royal Thai Armed Forces have engaged in regular exchanges, engagements, and exercises. These ongoing collaborations enhance mutual capabilities, strengthen security cooperation, and foster people-to-people connections that extend beyond military operations. - Story by Joseph Siemandel





# SEVENTH ANNUAL U.S. AND MALAYSIA AIRMAN-TO-AIRMAN TALKS

The Washington Air National Guard hosted Pacific Air Forces and Royal Malaysian Air Force senior leaders for the seventh annual Airman-to-Airman Talks at Camp Murray, Washington, February 11-13.

The talks are an Air Force specific part of the bilateral defense talks that take place annually between the U.S. and Malaysia.

"I'm delighted and honored with the opportunity to host our partners from Pacific Air Force and the Royal Malaysian Air Force for this important event" said Brig. Gen. Kenneth Borchers, Commander Washington Air National Guard. "Our State Partnership relationship with Malaysia has made enormous strides in the past few years. I'm excited to capitalize on this momentum as we look to a promising future of even greater cooperation and interoperability."

During the three-day program, Airmen participate in working groups where they collaboratively plan future engagements and share best practices with the goal of building stronger relationships. Working groups included conversations about enlisted and female professional development, air domain awareness, and exercise and engagements.

"The reason we do this is to help strengthen relationships with allies and partners in the Pacific theatre," said William Riggle, Pacific Air Forces Malaysia Desk Officer and event organizer. "The Royal Malaysian Air Force, Pacific Air Forces, and Washington Air National Guard have similar areas of interest, so this bilateral engagement program works really well."

Washington and Malaysia have been formal partners through the National Guard State Partnership Program since 2017. Since that time the two partners have deepened their bonds through continued subject matter exchanges and exercises.

"It's a great experience to work with our international partners and see where we can learn from them and they from us," said MSgt Zach Rosenberg, an Enlisted Development Working Group Participant. "Despite our different force structures, we face some similar challenges." - Story and Photos by Brandy Burke







## PREPARING FOR THE WORST: ANNUAL WASHINGTON, THAI EXCHANGE EXPANDS DISASTER RESPONSE TOPICS

Focusing on wildland firefighting, CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives) response, and emergency medical operations, soldiers from the Washington National Guard and the Royal Thai Army participated in their annual Homeland Assistance Disaster Relief subject matter exchange from Jan. 30 to Feb. 8, 2025, in Prachinburi and Chachoengsao, Thailand.

"This is the fourth year of this subject matter expert exchange, which continues to foster team building and knowledge sharing between the Washington National Guard and the Royal Thai Army," said Col. Amanda Doyle, the exchange lead.

The exchange aimed to enhance knowledge sharing and capability development between the two organizations. This iteration focused on equipment demonstrations, organizational structures, communication strategies, fire line tactics, CBRNE response, and emergency medical operations. The lessons learned will help the Royal Thai Army participants refine tactical-level wildland firefighting operations, emergency medicine triage and assessment, and CBRNE response while shaping future training initiatives.

"After each instructional module, facilitators provided participants with opportunities for open discussion, fostering a deeper understanding of disaster response concepts and best practices," Doyle explained. "The dialogue between facilitators and participants was reinforced through hands-on exercises designed to demonstrate and elaborate on disaster response techniques and strategies."

This engagement built upon the success of previous exchange events, validating the receipt of critical safety information and updates to emergency response protocols. Another objective was to enhance collaboration and interoperability between disaster response teams, bridging gaps and strengthening partnerships to ensure effective humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations.

The long-running exchange successfully met its objectives while also offering U.S. personnel valuable insight into Thailand's wildfire environment, response procedures, and the Royal Thai Army's role in wildland firefighting, medical operations, and CBRNE response. Thai personnel gained insight into the Washington National Guard's mission, tactical wildfire response strategies, hand crew organization and training, and its collaborative relationship with the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

"The success of this exchange sets the stage for future engagements in other regions of Thailand, enhancing the capacity for joint disaster response operations and fostering a stronger partnership," Doyle said. "The robust discussions of best practices, shared by both, provided increased awareness and understanding of techniques and processes used in Thailand and Washington state."

This was the fourth exchange of this type, and discussions have already begun regarding future engagements, including expanding the scenarios and duration of the training. - Story by Joseph Siemandel





# AVIATION EXPERT EXCHANGE SHARES KNOWLEDGE AND LESSONS LEARNED

As part of a growing December tradition, soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 168th General Support Aviation (1-168th GSAB) partnered with the 9th Battalion of the Royal Thai Army for a two-week aviation-focused subject matter expert exchange in Lopburi, Kingdom of Thailand, from November 29 to December 14, 2024.

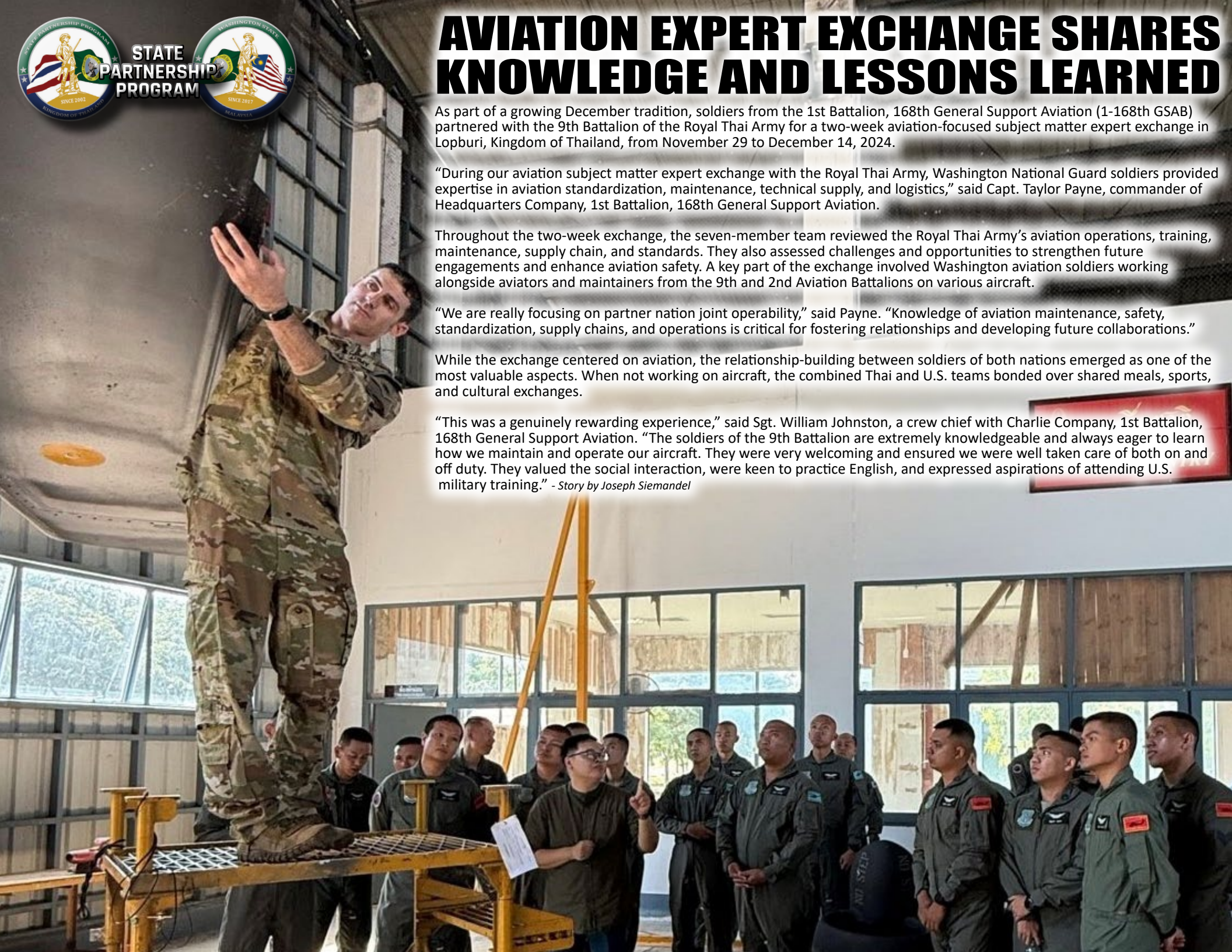
“During our aviation subject matter expert exchange with the Royal Thai Army, Washington National Guard soldiers provided expertise in aviation standardization, maintenance, technical supply, and logistics,” said Capt. Taylor Payne, commander of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 168th General Support Aviation.

Throughout the two-week exchange, the seven-member team reviewed the Royal Thai Army’s aviation operations, training, maintenance, supply chain, and standards. They also assessed challenges and opportunities to strengthen future engagements and enhance aviation safety. A key part of the exchange involved Washington aviation soldiers working alongside aviators and maintainers from the 9th and 2nd Aviation Battalions on various aircraft.

“We are really focusing on partner nation joint operability,” said Payne. “Knowledge of aviation maintenance, safety, standardization, supply chains, and operations is critical for fostering relationships and developing future collaborations.”

While the exchange centered on aviation, the relationship-building between soldiers of both nations emerged as one of the most valuable aspects. When not working on aircraft, the combined Thai and U.S. teams bonded over shared meals, sports, and cultural exchanges.

“This was a genuinely rewarding experience,” said Sgt. William Johnston, a crew chief with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 168th General Support Aviation. “The soldiers of the 9th Battalion are extremely knowledgeable and always eager to learn how we maintain and operate our aircraft. They were very welcoming and ensured we were well taken care of both on and off duty. They valued the social interaction, were keen to practice English, and expressed aspirations of attending U.S. military training.” - Story by Joseph Siemandel







# Senior NCOs Advocate for Stronger Enlisted Corps in Thailand, Malaysia

A joint team of noncommissioned officers (NCOs) from the Washington Air and Army National Guard visited Thailand and Malaysia from Dec. 1-5, 2024, to strengthen military ties and share best practices.

This all-NCO team marked a historic first for the Washington National Guard's State Partnership Program. Their mission was to engage with Thai and Malaysian military leaders to discuss empowering NCOs and enlisted personnel within their ranks.

"If any nation wants to be a formidable force, they need to invest in their backbone: the enlisted corps," said U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Allan Lawson, the command senior enlisted leader for the Washington National Guard.

One significant challenge facing the Royal Thai Armed Forces is their planned transition to an all-volunteer military within the next three years.

"To make this transition successful, they need to establish a stronger NCO corps to improve soldiers' lives and create more opportunities for all service members," said U.S. Army Master Sgt. Magen Fossoth, a chief instructor with the Washington Army National Guard.

Another critical issue discussed was the integration of women into combat roles. Currently,

women in the Thai and Malaysian militaries are primarily limited to staff and administrative positions.

"Empowering your female population will not only make you more diverse but also more lethal," said Lawson.

Fossoth, who has served in the Army National Guard for 17 years, shared her experiences integrating women into combat roles.

"I've seen women taking on greater leadership roles," Fossoth said. "It's something I'd like to see in the Thai and Malaysian forces because I know there are talented females in their ranks. They have a strong sense of pride in their service."

As the State Partnership Program continues to evolve, the goal is for Thai and Malaysian forces to strengthen their enlisted corps and enhance trust between commissioned and noncommissioned officers.

"I hope the engagements we've had on this visit prove effective," said Fossoth. "I hope we continue setting and accomplishing goals and start to see the growth of those positions while improving interactions between officers and NCOs." - Story and Photo by Nick Cloward



# GUARD STRENGTHENS TIES WITH ROYAL THAI ARMY DURING STRYKER MAINTENANCE EXCHANGE IN THAILAND

From Jan. 13 to Feb. 7, 2025, the Washington National Guard and the Royal Thai Army (RTA) came together for a Stryker Maintenance Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE) at the RTA's maintenance facilities in Ko Chan District, Chonburi, Thailand. This event marked a significant milestone in the long-standing partnership between the two military forces.

These Stryker Maintenance SMEEs have traditionally been held in Yakima, Wash., at the Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES), where the Washington National Guard's Stryker vehicles are maintained. However, this exchange in the Kingdom of Thailand was the first to be held abroad, expanding the scope of the collaboration and offering the two nations a fresh perspective on Stryker vehicle maintenance and operation.

This exchange is part of the State Partnership Program, a long-standing initiative that has fostered stronger relationships between the Washington National Guard and the RTA for over twenty years. The program allows service members from both nations to exchange knowledge, share expertise, and enhance their operational capabilities.

For this exchange, personnel from the Washington National Guard's 1st Battalion, 205th Regiment Regional Training Institute, and expert technicians from MATES and the Unit Training Equipment Site traveled to the Kingdom of Thailand to provide specialized training in Stryker vehicle maintenance.

"Being an automotive maintenance warrant officer, one of the things I care about is the maintenance of the Strykers," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ricky Thomas, Joint Force Headquarters Senior Maintenance Warrant Officer, Washington National Guard. "The current priority for U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and U.S. Army Pacific is the ability for the 112th Stryker Regiment to maintain their Strykers."

The primary focus of the exchange was to enhance the RTA's technical expertise in Stryker vehicle maintenance. Washington National Guard experts demonstrated key techniques in vehicle upkeep, troubleshooting and repair. This collaboration benefited both sides, deepening professional relationships and fostering a mutual understanding of military maintenance practices.

"Moving into the future, I think it is important to maintain and repair the Stryker vehicles," said RTA Sgt. Rattaban Kosantia with the 1st Stryker Company, 1st Infantry Battalion, 112th Stryker Regiment Combat Team. "It is good to share this knowledge of this important skill set through this exchange with the U.S. Army."

The successful collaboration between the Washington National Guard and the RTA highlights the ongoing success of the State Partnership Program. Events like these provide both forces invaluable experience that enhances operational readiness and ensures continued mutual support in regional security efforts.

As the partnership continues to evolve, the Stryker Maintenance SMEE remains pivotal in strengthening military-to-military relations between the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand. - Story and Photos by Peter Chang







## 141st Air Refueling Wing Makes Military History by Refueling Russian Made SU-30MKM

A light drizzle falls over the tarmac at the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) Subang Air Base in Malaysia as pilots and maintenance crews from the 141st Air Refueling Wing begin their quarter-mile walk from the passenger terminal to two KC-135 Stratotankers. The team prepares the aircraft for the day's State Partnership engagement flights, a task they've done many times before in Malaysia. However, today's flight will be different. They are about to make U.S. military history by refueling a Russian-made aircraft something that has never been done before.

As the maintenance crews begin their work, the drizzle turns into torrential rain, flooding the area. Water cascades off the sides of the aircraft like waterfalls, creating hard-edged outlines on the ground where the wings act as umbrellas. Lightning and thunder can be seen in the distance, growing closer. Crews continue working cautiously, but there's a sense that history might not be made today, at least not in this weather.

"In my 12 years as a crew chief, this was the most rain I've ever had to work in," said Tech. Sgt. Dallas Browning, crew chief with the 141st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. "We weren't too concerned about the lightning since it was six nautical miles away. The real challenge would have been performing maintenance on the hydraulics, which would have required us to walk out on the wings. Fortunately, we didn't need to do that."

The heavy rain subsides, and the lightning warning clears just in time to board passengers. For this flight, the RMAF would fly two different aircraft: the Boeing F/A-18D Hornet and the Russian-made Sukhoi Su-30MKM. Each KC-135 is equipped with a different type of drogue to accommodate the two aircraft. One tanker, supporting the Sukhoi, is fitted with dual under-wing attachments known as the Multi-Point Refueling System (MPRS), while the other uses a Boom Drogue Adapter (BDA). Unlike the soft canvas basket of the MPRS, the BDA units use a steel basket, grimly known as the "Iron Maiden" by naval aviators because of its unforgiving nature. Although the probes on the Malaysian fighters can accommodate either system, there are risks involved.

"Due to the unforgiving nature of the 'Iron Maiden,' there is a higher risk of damaging or even breaking off the probe of the Su-30," said Chief Master Sgt. Walt Hinton, in-flight refueling manager with the 116th Air Refueling Squadron. "We weren't sure about the durability and strength of its probe, as we had never conducted a refueling mission with this aircraft. It was safer to use the softer basket of the MPRS."

The momentous occasion attracts several distinguished guests, including Maj. Gen. Gent Welsh, adjutant general of Washington state; Brig. Gen. Kenneth Borchers, commander of the Washington Air National Guard; Mr. Manu Bhalla, deputy chief of mission for Malaysia; and Gen. Tan Sri Dato' Sri Mohd Asghar Khan bin Goriman Khan, chief of the RMAF.

Both flights take off on time, which is crucial as they are scheduled to rendezvous with five Malaysian aircraft in a predetermined airspace. The location is only 20 minutes away, so everyone must be ready to execute the mission quickly, with little time to process what's about to happen. The lead aircraft, piloted by Maj. Matt Fisk and Maj. Brian Kranches of the 116th Air Refueling Squadron, climbs to a cruising altitude of more than 20,000 feet, maintaining a steady flight pattern while awaiting the Malaysian fighters.

On a KC-135, window space for observing a probe-and-drogue refueling is extremely limited. The fuel hoses are positioned at the ends of the tanker's wings, with the primary viewing spot being a five-by-seven-inch window. Everyone aboard huddles around it, jockeying for a clear view. As they wait, Senior Master Sgt. Shaun Bopp, boom operator with the 116th Air Refueling Squadron, positions himself in the boom pod, ready to orchestrate the historic refueling. There's pressure to get this right. Everyone aboard the KC-135 peers out the windows, hoping to glimpse the approaching Su-30s. Ten minutes later, a call comes over the headset: "They're approaching." The crew quickly huddles around the small window as the aircraft comes into view. Witnessing a Russian-made fighter approaching a U.S. Air Force



plane, even in a friendly posture, felt unsettling for most aboard the jet.

"The sheer presence of the Malaysian Su-30s was awe-inspiring," Bopp said. "They're highly capable, multi-role fighters, and being up close to such advanced aircraft during a refueling was incredible."

During a refueling operation, the in-flight refueling specialist, more commonly known as a boom operator, takes complete control of communications and coordination between the refueler and the receivers when the aircraft are within half a mile of each other. Even for an experienced boom operator, this refueling mission was complex.

"The radio communication process was a significant hurdle," Bopp said. "The accents, mixed with slight differences in procedural phrasing, meant we had to speak slowly and clearly. We rehearsed key phrases beforehand to ensure we were all on the same page. There was a slight delay at times due to radio compatibility issues."

When the first of three Su-30s approaches and makes contact with the drogue, a loud cheer erupts from those aboard for this once-in-a-lifetime moment. It's clear history has been made.

"It was so impressive to see the number of people who stepped up to make this happen, from the outstanding effort of our maintainers to the truly great work from our planners," said Fisk. "Multiple agencies within the Washington Air National Guard came through in a big way to get this done. I'm truly honored to have been a part of it. Hopefully, that's the message our partners in the Royal Malaysian Air Force received—that members of the Washington ANG will step up and come through when it counts."

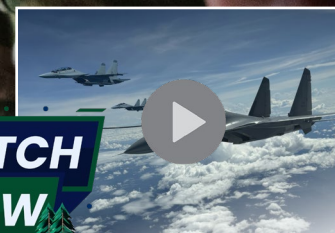
In 2017, the Washington Military Department partnered with Malaysia under the National Guard State Partnership Program to establish long-term relationships and interoperability between the two nations' armed forces. The partnership includes sharing best practices in military support to civilian authorities, emergency management, disaster planning, port security, HAZMAT/WMD response initiatives, and airport security. It also facilitates economic, commercial, social, and cultural interactions between the two governments.

"This was an auspicious moment for our relationship: one that shows our outstanding interoperability and cooperation with key partners in the Indo-Pacific Theater," said Borchers. "I'm incredibly proud of the team at the 141st ARW for this truly historic accomplishment after years of effort and determination. I want to thank our partners in the Royal Malaysian Air Force for their professionalism and airmanship. This engagement was a high point in our more than seven-year relationship with Malaysia under the State Partnership Program. I'm excited to see how we can build upon this success in the future." - Story and Photos by Mike Stewart

**"The sheer  
presence of the  
Malaysian Su-30s  
was awe-inspiring,"**



**WATCH  
NOW**





# BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH MUSIC

133RD ARMY NATIONAL GUARD BAND INSPIRES STUDENTS WITH HOLIDAY SPIRIT



The audience falls silent as the auditorium lights begin to dim. A medley of holiday classics fills the air, performed by a unique blend of students and soldiers, creating a symphony of celebration.

"Music is an amazing language," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Matthew Wenman, Commander of the 133rd Army National Guard Band, 96th Troop Command. "We wrap up the message of the Washington National Guard into our performances."

This year, the 133rd Army National Guard Band collaborated with Bonney Lake High School's band for its annual community outreach performance, which included a musical clinic led by the unit to prepare for the concert.

"Being out there in uniform, serving students while performing, does a lot to build bridges between service members and the community," Wenman shared. "Add the spirit of the holidays, and it's a good time all around."

For Wenman, the visit to Bonney Lake High School evoked memories of his own high school days and his decision to join the National Guard. He reflected on the privilege of combining his passion for music with service to his country.

"The fact that I can play the clarinet and saxophone in the Army shows that there are opportunities for everyone," Wenman said. "That's a message we want to share—whether you're in I.T., chemistry, or music, there are ways to pursue what you love while serving your country."

Engaging with younger generations in the community allows Guard members to share their experiences and inspire students.

"A group of us visited the school to connect with the students," said Spc. David Buroker of the 133rd Army National Guard Band. "We participated in rehearsals, provided feedback, conducted classes, and shared the Guard's message."

Buroker, who also serves as a high school band director at Orting High School, finds joy in working with students daily. Yet, performing alongside fellow service members adds a special dimension to the experience.

"In uniform, people see us differently—they're curious and happy to engage," Buroker said. "When I was in high school, I didn't even know the National Guard had a band. Visiting schools not only helps recruit for the Guard but also spreads a positive message about the military and strengthens community bonds."

Bonney Lake High School band director Brandon Cain shared Buroker's enthusiasm for the event, emphasizing its impact on students and the broader community.

"My favorite part of this event is seeing the students so excited about the music," Cain said. "They're hearing high-level musicians live, often for the first time, while learning about career opportunities they hadn't considered. It's about creating a culture where people come together to serve each other through music."

Despite a tight planning timeline of less than a month, the performance was a resounding success. The preparation and anticipation culminated in a holiday concert that left a lasting impression on students and attendees alike.

"I want to thank everyone who is serving and taking the time to do this," Cain said. "The students are benefitting, and this event is inspiring the next generation of leaders and musicians to build a better world."







## CELEBRATION: WASHINGTON NATIONAL GUARD CUTS THE CAKE ON 388TH GUARD BIRTHDAY AS MUSEUM RE-OPENS

Celebrating the National Guard's birthday was particularly special for Washington National Guard members this year, as the organization proudly re-opened the Washington National Guard Museum after a year-long renovation closure on the same day.

"The museum was closed for just over a year," said Dr. Stephanie Carter, Washington National Guard Museum curator. "We underwent a six-month construction project, which included installing HVAC and air conditioning systems for the first time, along with UV filters on 216 panes of glass overlooking the main gallery. After construction was complete, we spent an additional six months resetting the museum."

These upgrades will enable Dr. Carter and State Historian Dr. Jim Perrin to better preserve the museum's collections by protecting them from harmful light exposure and temperature fluctuations. The building also received critical structural repairs, including filling foundational wall cracks and installing new windows.

"The construction was carried out with great care to preserve our historic building, which in turn helps safeguard the collections inside," Carter explained.

Because the construction work involved the entire museum, including the basement, all display items had to be temporarily relocated.

"Given the nature of the project and the need to protect our exhibits, we had to move everything from the main gallery floor to alternate locations," Carter noted. "During this process, we took the opportunity to make meaningful changes and upgrades to the exhibits themselves as part of the reset."

On December 12, the museum officially reopened in celebration of the National Guard's 388th birthday,

welcoming guests for the first time in more than a year.

"We want this building to be a symbol for all Washington National Guard members, a place where they can learn about the organization's history," said Perrin. "We're thrilled to have it open again. The renovations will make it easier for us to preserve and display our collections for years to come."

Known as "The Arsenal," Building Two on Camp Murray is the oldest structure on the base. Over its lifetime, it has served as a storage facility, armory and office space. Since the early 2000s, it has housed the museum, telling the story of the Washington National Guard to countless visitors.

The museum will now be open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on drill weekends from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"We look forward to welcoming Guard members and visitors alike to enjoy their museum," Carter said.





# WAYS AND MEANS:

## Washington National Guard Soldiers talk strategy during two-day conference

Success is rarely an accident. Great organizations focus on utilizing its current time effectively while actively shaping a path toward the future.

In 2019, the Washington Army National Guard took its first steps in defining that path by publishing its inaugural Strategic Plan for 2020–2025. This foundational document established the six tenets and forward-looking path for the Army National Guard, endorsed by then-commanding general Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Dan Dent and current commanding general Brig. Gen. Paul Sellars.

Maj. Tom Haydock, strategic plans officer and graduate of the School of Advanced Military Studies, recently hosted a Strategic Planning Conference on October 23–24, 2024, at Camp Murray, Washington, to update the 2019 plan.

“The Washington Army National Guard is focused on readiness for our federal and state missions, adaptability to changes in the operational environment, and a reputation that makes us the partner of choice for state leaders, combatant commanders, and our Soldiers,” said Haydock. “This conference aimed to envision what the Washington Army National Guard should look like in 2035 and determine how we can achieve that vision.”

As the Army has modernized and looked forward into the new mission sets, strategic planning has become more important to the organization. Strategic plans help the Army prepare for operations that are different from those it’s currently structured for, adapting to shifts in international relations and the need to balance warfighting readiness with other needs.

The Washington Army National Guard’s last Strategic Planning Conference provided a framework that guided more than 40 officers, non-commissioned officers, warrant officers, and civilians during this year’s conference.

“This builds on that framework, examining changes within and outside our organization, including geopolitical shifts, demographic trends, and updates in the National Defense Strategy,” Haydock explains. “It also assesses successes and shortfalls in our previous strategy. Unlike many organizations that adjust their strategy frequently, we’re looking a decade ahead to establish a long-term vision.”

Over the two-day conference, the group identified four key lines of effort to channel resources and attention for future progress: People and Talent Management, Winning Teams, Reputation, and Innovation and Transformation.

“We need to keep the momentum going,” said Haydock. “The G5 needs to transform the conference outputs into clear visuals that articulate our goals and the roadmap to achieve them. The G5 must also initiate separate working groups to execute each line of effort and create a scoreboard to track our progress. Rapid action is essential to sustain momentum, along with continuous communication of our strategic objectives.”

In the coming months, Haydock plans to collaborate with various directorates and offices to develop materials to highlight the strategic plan and its goals moving forward.

“This strategy will be shared with the leadership of each battalion, ideally between January and March, to ensure unified understanding and commitment,” said Haydock. “Additionally, anyone interested in learning more or contributing is encouraged to contact me directly. The G5 shop is actively recruiting M-Day soldiers who want to help shape the organization’s future by tackling complex issues beyond routine tasks. We’re looking for individuals who aim for excellence and refuse to settle for mediocrity.”

- Story by Joseph Siemandel, photo by Adeline Witherspoon



# THERE WHEN NEEDED

NATIONAL GUARD RECOGNIZED FOR EFFORTS IN NAVY AIRCRAFT CRASH RECOVERY



Senior Department of Defense leaders, including Vice Adm. Dan Cheever, commander of Naval Air Forces, recently honored members of the Washington National Guard for their role in supporting the multi-agency search and recovery mission following the crash of a U.S. Navy EA-18G Growler aircraft.

“I wanted to send a heartfelt thank you to your National Guard team for their support of the downed EA-18G Growler,” wrote Cheever in an email to Washington National Guard leaders. “Their first-class assistance and exceptional professionalism were greatly appreciated during this tragic event. The dignified transfer off the mountain and participation in the memorial service are testaments to the heart within your force.”

The crash occurred on October 15, 2024, during a routine training flight in a remote, steep area east of Mount Rainier in Yakima County, at an elevation of approximately 6,000 feet. The challenging terrain complicated initial search and recovery efforts. After several days, Navy personnel and local law enforcement determined that specialized units were needed to assist.

The 1st Battalion, 168th General Support Aviation, 96th Aviation Troop Command, was one of the first units called to support. Their CH-47 Chinook helicopters delivered essential equipment and transported Special Forces soldiers to aid in the difficult operations. Despite these efforts, the Navy confirmed the loss of both crew members and shifted the mission to recovery and investigation.

To secure the crash site, soldiers from the 420th Chemical Battalion were mobilized under State Active Duty authority. While Navy Security Forces lacked the authority to restrict civilian access, Guard members provided 24/7 security at traffic control points to ensure the integrity of the recovery site.

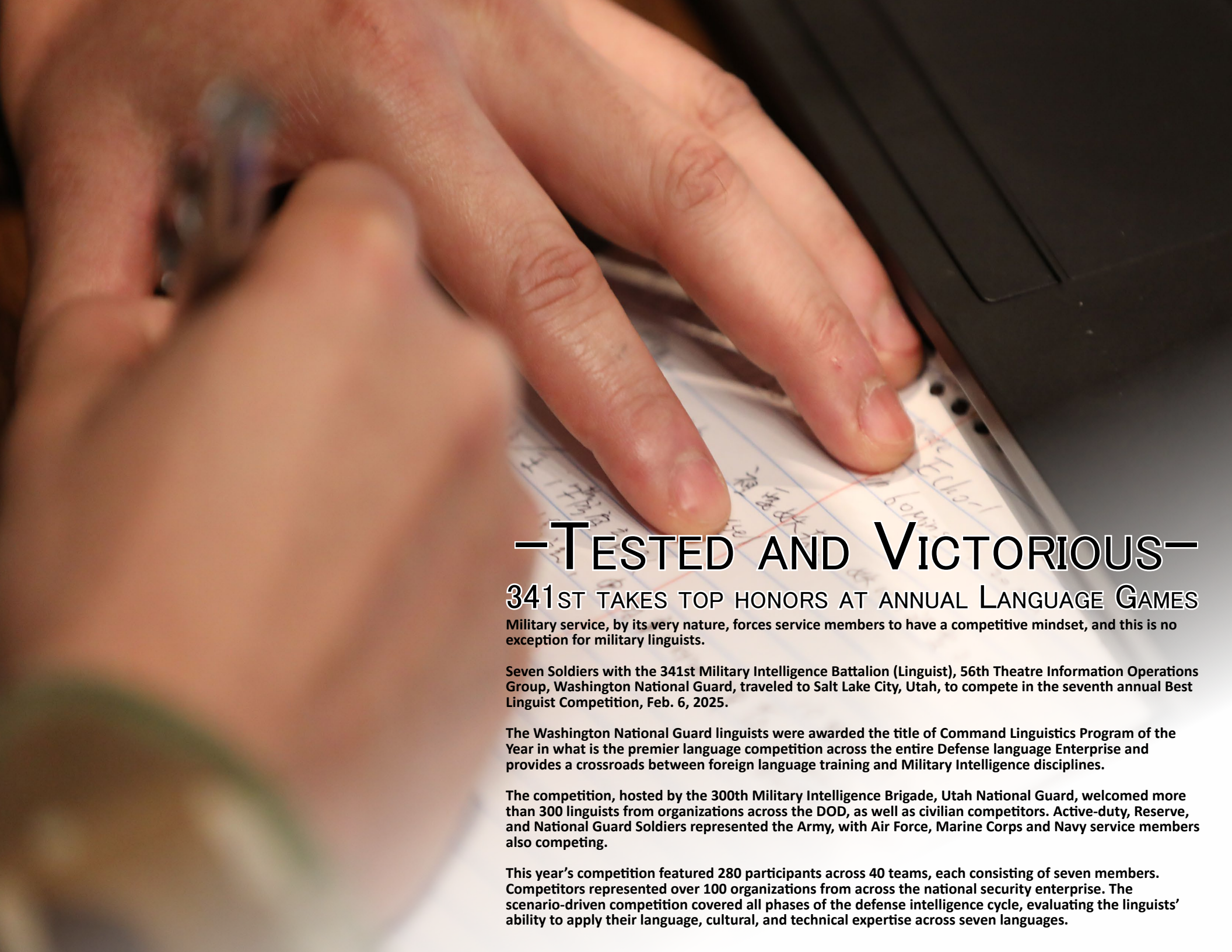
“When the mission turned from search and rescue to recovery / reclamation the National Guard stepped up and provided crash-site security,” said Adm. Lisa M. Franchetti, chief of Naval Operations in an email to National Guard leadership. “It made a difference in a challenging time.”

The recovery efforts concluded on October 27, 2024, with all personnel demobilized afterward. The operation highlighted the seamless collaboration between the Navy, National Guard, and local agencies in addressing emergencies in difficult environments.

“This was quite a sobering experience. It was an honor to be called upon and trusted to support the recovery operations,” said Col. Angela Gentry, director of operations, Joint Force Headquarters, Washington National Guard. “This is never the circumstance for which you would want to bring the community together, but the amount of professionalism in the seamless activation and execution of every duty and responsibility was simply impressive.”

- Story By Joseph Siemandel, Photo by Adeline Witherspoon





# —TESTED AND VICTORIOUS—

## 341ST TAKES TOP HONORS AT ANNUAL LANGUAGE GAMES

Military service, by its very nature, forces service members to have a competitive mindset, and this is no exception for military linguists.

Seven Soldiers with the 341st Military Intelligence Battalion (Linguist), 56th Theatre Information Operations Group, Washington National Guard, traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah, to compete in the seventh annual Best Linguist Competition, Feb. 6, 2025.

The Washington National Guard linguists were awarded the title of Command Linguistics Program of the Year in what is the premier language competition across the entire Defense language Enterprise and provides a crossroads between foreign language training and Military Intelligence disciplines.

The competition, hosted by the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade, Utah National Guard, welcomed more than 300 linguists from organizations across the DOD, as well as civilian competitors. Active-duty, Reserve, and National Guard Soldiers represented the Army, with Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy service members also competing.

This year's competition featured 280 participants across 40 teams, each consisting of seven members. Competitors represented over 100 organizations from across the national security enterprise. The scenario-driven competition covered all phases of the defense intelligence cycle, evaluating the linguists' ability to apply their language, cultural, and technical expertise across seven languages.





**"Competition is important," said U.S. Army Sgt. Daniil Rubashka, a Russian linguist and native Russian speaker with the 341st MI BN (L), "It's also an opportunity to showcase your skills and to improve on them, so that we will always be the most lethal fighting force going forward."**

**Rubashka, who also speaks Ukrainian and Mandarin Chinese, won the 300th MI BD (L) Linguistics Professional of the Year.**

**"I'm grateful for this award," said Rubashka. "I've been in the military for five years, but I've been a linguist since I was probably eight and had to help my parents with translation, so I feel like [I've been] a linguist since then."**

**Other members competing on the 341st MI BN (L) team included Sgt. Jacob Farrows (French), Cadet Sueyeon Kim (Korean), Sgt. Shufei Yin (Mandarin Chinese), Staff Sgt. Ben Woyvodich (Modern Standard Arabic), and Sgt. Colton Abraham (Spanish) from Alpha Company, 341st MI BN (L). Sgt. Shahim Palman (Persian Farsi), with Charlie Company, 341st MI BN (L), Illinois National Guard, filled out the team of seven.**

**"I felt great about my team the moment I stepped into it," said Capt. Evan Shelton, command language program manager for the Washington National Guard. "Today the team looked confident and loose and they took everything in stride. We feel very good about how we've invested our training efforts and it looks like they're very well prepared out there."**

**After check-in, teams received a "Road to War" brief before moving on to individual tasks, where evaluators graded them on voice intercept, document exploitation (DOMEX), site exploitation, (SITEX), operational analysis, and open source collection missions, culminating in a commander's brief.**

**During the voice intercept challenge, team members translated material they received live via headphones. They quickly translated and transcribed intricate foreign speech while prioritizing and transcribing the gathered intelligence.**

**The DOMEX involved competitors identifying materials they gathered, deciding what is important and what may be a red herring.**

**In the SITEX, teams geared up with helmets and simulated weapons to find intelligence in a darkened environment, using night vision equipment to search vehicles. They recorded all evidence they found within the stressful and loud simulation.**

**Open source collection involved receiving and processing large quantities of intelligence. Teams used their knowledge of language and culture to identify disinformation, propaganda and any outright fiction.**

**The teams then ended with a Commander's Brief, summarizing everything they'd found throughout the competition.**

**"We have a ton of good intelligence professionals in our state," Shelton added. "You want to do right by them because they're doing amazing things...It would be a disservice not to bring our 'A-game' as both a program and recognizing our stars." - Story and Photos by Kelly Weibe**





## TRAIN WITH GREEN BERETS

Airmen from the 194th Security Forces Squadron took part in a rigorous two-week exercise alongside soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) for Exercise Sage Eagle 25-1 at Fort Knox, Kentucky, Oct. 18-30, 2024.

Sage Eagle is a recurring training event designed to test the readiness of Army Special Forces and integrate conventional forces into complex, contested environments. It is intended to validate the Army Special Forces' ability to train and incorporate local partner forces.

The exercise brought approximately 230 Air National Guard security forces personnel from over 30 states to train alongside the Green Berets. Five airmen came from the 194th SFS.

Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Martin, 194th SFS superintendent, was a platoon leader of 25 airmen. His platoon worked closely with an Operational Detachment Alpha, a team of 12 Special Forces.

For Martin's platoon, the event involved three days of intensive training, followed by two full mission profiles, and concluding with roles as opposing forces.

"We had three days of training with our ODA and it was dawn to dusk, which was awesome," said Martin. "It was tough but the guys got a lot out of it. For probably all of us, it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience to be trained by literally the best of the best."

After their intensive training, the airmen were tested with two mission profiles which the Green Berets termed "type two plus" and "type three."

For the type two plus mission, Martin and his platoon were tasked to traverse through a heavily forested terrain under the cover of night... while carrying ladders.

"We're carrying these ladders because the target building is surrounded by a nine-foot-high perimeter wall," said Martin. "And then we wanted to enter the building from the first and the second floor at the same time."

Before reaching their objective, the platoon encountered an unexpected obstacle.

"We ended up having to go down this really steep ravine that was not on our maps," said Martin. "We basically slid on our butts carrying ladders down this ravine and then slogged our way up it."

There was no turning back. They had to complete their mission.

"It was miserable, but everybody just pushed through it and kept going," said Martin. "We made it out on the other side. We assaulted the building. It was complete chaos."

Detailed planning and coordination were critical for the operation, but once they reached the breach point, the situation quickly shifted from preparation to action.

"When we got to the breach point, that's when we got engaged," said Senior Airman Noah Williams, 194th SFS installation entry controller. "Everyone just went through... push, push, push!"

Williams breached the compound through a window on the second floor.

"The first room of entry was clear," said Williams. "We pushed to the second room, and that's when we got engaged by one individual. We eliminated that threat, and then we eventually made it down to the stairs and reconnected with our team."

Once the area was secured, the Green Berets were called in to conduct sensitive site exploitation, gathering intelligence and securing any persons of interest. Then the team followed their pre-planned evacuation, mounting up in their vehicles and leaving the area. This concluded the type two plus mission.

For the type three mission, the Green Berets embedded with Martin's platoon. They were tasked to capture a high value target.

"There was a main building," said Martin. "We knew there was a high value target in that building, but he may run away. We had to plan the mission to take that building initially and then



potentially continue on clearing buildings if we didn't find him."

The Green Berets and security forces airmen rolled in with machine-gun-mounted vehicles for fire support.

"As soon as we hit the village, it was total shock and awe," said Martin. "Machine guns open up on the vehicles... 50 cal's shooting blanks, 240s shooting blanks, Green Berets are throwing flash bangs... I can barely see through my night vision because the flashes are going off and my goggles are just whiting out."

The group was split into three assault teams, each accompanied by a couple Green Berets. They jumped out of the truck and entered the first building. Meanwhile, a separate sniper team ascended a tower using ladders to gain a strategic vantage point.

They cleared the first building. The target was not there.

"The Ground Force Commander gives the order to move to the next phase line. The vehicles move up, machine guns open up again, flash bangs go out again. My guys get to the second building."

In the second building, they found the target. They captured him, loaded up, and were gone.

"From the time that we started the mission to the time that we got back to our staging point was less than 45 minutes," said Martin.

The intensive training provided by the Green Berets was invaluable for participating airmen.

"It was great to learn and absorb the information they were giving us," said Williams. "They've been there. They've done that. They've been in a combat environment multiple times. Being able to take their advice, hone it, and add what we wanted to our toolbox... it was huge."

Reflecting on the experience, Martin emphasized the importance of challenging, realistic training in preparing forces for the future fight.

"I think that it's important for Security Forces and our unit... in order to get better, in order to better prepare for a potential great power conflict, to conduct training that is difficult and meaningful."

The training not only provided new knowledge and skills, but also a sense of accomplishment.

"It was just such an incredible experience that I am truly grateful to have been a part of, both from a leadership perspective and a participant perspective," said Martin. "The training was so good. The exercise and full mission profiles were excellent. Getting training and then being able to execute a full mission and see all of your training come to fruition... it was just a full package." - Story and photos by Jordan Kvale







## LEGACY OF SERVICE: GUARD MEMBER CONTINUES FAMILY TRADITION WITH WASHINGTON-THAILAND STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

During a recent subject matter exchange in Lop Buri, Thailand, Sgt. William Johnston, a crew chief with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 168th General Support Aviation, participated in his first visit with soldiers from the 9th Battalion, Royal Thai Army.

"This was a genuinely rewarding experience," said Johnston. "The soldiers of the 9th Battalion are extremely knowledgeable and eager to learn how we maintain and operate our aircraft. They were very welcoming and made sure we were well taken care of both on and off duty."

While the trip marked Johnston's first experience with the State Partnership Program (SPP), it wasn't the first for his family. From 2008 to 2013, his father, Col. (Ret.) William Johnston, served as the program director for the Washington State Partnership Program. The elder Johnston traveled frequently to Thailand participating in exchanges and developing future relationships with the leadership in the Southeast Asian nation.

"I've always heard about the SPP program from my father, and I jumped at the opportunity when it was offered by leadership," said Johnston. "I have fond memories of Thailand from when I vacationed there with my family. Now, being able to return and share something I enjoy doing is truly special. Combining my passion for traveling with the chance to work alongside foreign counterparts is incredibly rewarding."

Johnston joined the Washington National Guard in November 2018, about a year after his father retired from the organization. He now works as an aircraft mechanic on the KC-46 Air Refueling Tanker at Boeing full-time, and drills with the Guard in the same aviation unit his father once commanded.

"Aviation is a big part of my life, and it's been great to see both civilian and military operations firsthand to become a better aircraft mechanic for the Guard," said Johnston.

Johnston acknowledges that his father passed along valuable advice before he participated in his first exchange.

"He told me to be open to all experiences and to be prepared to make close friends within the program," Johnston said. "The Thai soldiers have so much to teach us as we share our own knowledge with them. Be a sponge, and find ways to help them however you can. At the end of the day, they're just as excited to interact with us as we are with them. Not everyone gets this kind of training, so don't take it for granted."

It was this advice, along with his own experiences, that Johnston believes has strengthened the Washington/Thailand relationship over the past two decades.

"Have an open mind to different cultures and take the time to learn how they operate in a professional setting," he said. "We were given this opportunity not only to strengthen their maintenance programs but also to build a stronger bridge between our two nations. They work in a tropical and humid environment, so they face different constraints within the aviation community. As we deploy around the world, there are many operator- and mechanic-specific lessons we can incorporate into our own Standard Operating Procedures." - Story by Joseph Siemandel





In this episode of Raven Conversations, Col. Brian Bergren and CMSgt John Austin join us to discuss the 194th Wing and their vision for it.



In this episode of Raven Conversations, we invite guest host CMSgt Allan Lawson, State Senior Enlisted Leader and guest SGT Matt Sprowl, a member of the 122nd TPASE. Tune in as SGT Sprowl talks about his motivation in serving the community in two different uniforms.



In this episode of Raven Conversations, we are joined by COL Tim Ozmer, WA National Guard Director of Operations and Commander of the 205th Regional Training Institute. You don't want to miss out on this episode, as COL Ozmer shares his personal story about resiliency.



In this episode of Raven Conversations, we are joined by Maj. Drew Nevins, Information Operations officer with the 156th Information Operations Battalion. Drew shares his Guard story, talks about his time in recruiting, military police, but also as a civilian working for Amazon.