

# *The* FOCUS



**MARYLAND GUARD MODERNIZES  
WITH 3D PRINTING P. 3**

MAY 2025

NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS THEMES AND MESSAGES

May Observances

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month  
National Mental Health Awareness Month  
National Military Appreciation Month  
Armed Forces Week  
National Bike Month  
National Foster Care Month

3 Kentucky Derby Day  
  
4 May the 4th be with you  
#NationalStarWarsDay

5 Astronaut Day  
National Space Day

4-10 National Pet Week  
Small Business Week

6-12 National Nurses Week

6 National Teacher Appreciation Day  
#TeacherAppreciationDay

8 V-E Day (1945)

9 Military Spouse Appreciation Day

11 Mother’s Day

13 Children of Fallen Patriots Day

13 National Apple Pie Day  
#NationalApplePieDay

16 National Defense Transportation Day  
NASCAR Day #NASCARDay  
National Bike to Work Day

17 Armed Forces Day  
Preakness Stakes, Baltimore

26 Memorial Day  
#MemorialDay

May - Readiness



Texas Army National Guard Soldiers with the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team and 71st Troop Command exit a Texas Air National Guard C-130J Super Hercules in McAllen, Texas Jan. 27. Aircrews with the 136th Airlift Wing, TXANG, transported nearly 200 troops down to the southern border in support of Operation Lone Star. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Connor Dunne)

Guard supports southern border mission

By; National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

The secretary of defense has directed the National Guard Bureau to provide immediate support for presidential executive orders on protecting the territorial integrity of the United States. In support of U.S. Northern Command, the Department of Defense’s operational lead, the National Guard is “Always Ready, Always There” and is urgently working to fully accomplish the objectives of the presidential executive orders.

Currently, the National Guard is increasing its support and closely coordinating emergent requirements with USNORTHCOM and U.S. Transportation Command for additional personnel, military airlift, barrier construction and other capabilities to meet presidential and secretary of defense directives. The National Guard efforts will remain closely coordinated

and aligned with our partners at USNORTHCOM, other DOD organizations and partner agencies. The National Guard has designated a senior National Guard officer to lead NGB coordination with USNORTHCOM’s Task Force operations.

“The National Guard currently has over 1,600 Guardsmen supporting the federal border security mission,” said Gen. Steven S. Nordhaus, chief of the National Guard Bureau. “In conjunction with our joint service partners, we are developing additional support options to meet USNORTHCOM, USTRANSCOM and Department of Homeland Security force requirements as this critical mission evolves.” Additionally, more than 4,100 Texas National Guard personnel remain on duty at the border, supporting ongoing Operation Lone Star efforts.

Leadership News and Notes

Maryland National Guard uses 3D printing to modernize infrastructure

By: Alexandra Broughton and Turner Dilley, Headquarters Air Force, Office of the Director of Civil Engineers



The 175th Civil Engineering Squadron at Warfield Air National Guard Base, Maryland, is at the forefront of innovation in developing an Expeditionary 3D Concrete Printer to rapidly build fortified infrastructure that supports warfighters and sustains operations in contested environments. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Maj. Brian Vickers)

BALTIMORE — As modern warfare evolves and global logistics grow more contested, the U.S. Air Force faces mounting challenges in building and sustaining critical infrastructure in dynamic, high-risk environments. For Air Force civil engineers, meeting these challenges requires agile, deployable solutions that enhance operational effectiveness and ensure mission success.

One such innovation—the Expeditionary 3D Concrete Printer—is being developed by the 175th Civil Engineer Squadron at Warfield Air National Guard Base, Maryland, to rapidly build fortified infrastructure that supports warfighters and sustains operations in contested environments.

“The idea came from carefully considering the role of Air Force civil engineers in future conflicts,” U.S. Air Force Maj. Brian Vickers, deputy base civil engineer and project manager for the Expeditionary 3D Concrete Printer, explained. “The Air Force civil engineer enterprise has been largely focused on base maintenance and sustainment for over a decade, and our ability to rapidly construct and repair austere airfields and infrastructure on a large scale will likely be strained in future conflicts.”

Traditional construction methods, while proven and reliable, can require significant manpower, time, and materials, as well as extensive skills—factors that can contribute to longer build times, increased costs, and added logistical complexity. In contrast, the Expeditionary 3D Concrete Printer streamlines construction with minimal manpower—just three Airmen—and uses one of the world’s most available materials.

[Click here to read more](https://tinyurl.com/p7rjdbrr)  
NIPR users to watch copy and paste:  
<https://tinyurl.com/p7rjdbrr>

On the Cover:

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Francisco Ortiz, a cyber defense craftsman with 156th Contingency Response Group, Puerto Rico Air National Guard, engages targets in a close quarter battle during an augmented reality training simulator demonstration at Muñiz Air National Guard Base, Carolina, Puerto Rico, March 31. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Victoria A. Jewett)

June Observances

Congressional Gold Medal  
(awarded every June)  
National Safety Month  
PTSD Awareness Month

1 National Heimlich Maneuver Day

6 D-Day and the Battle of Normandy  
(78th anniversary)

12 Anniversary of the Women’s Armed  
Services Integration Act (1948)

12 Battle of Bunker Hill  
(247th anniversary)

14 U.S. Army Birthday (1775)

14 Flag Day

15 Father’s Day

19 Juneteenth

20 American Eagle Day

20 Summer Solstice

22 National HVAC Tech Day

26 74th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift

27 PTSD Awareness Day

30 Army Medical Service Corps Anniversary

30 Social Media Day

28 National Superhero Day

30 Denim Day (SAAM)  
Military Brats Day

June - Partnerships

Media Team Themes

The National Guard’s partnerships are built on the foundation that security cooperation supports the secretary of defense’s call for “peace through strength.” Not only does this relate to the Defense Department’s National Guard State Partnership Program, but the global partnership that exist through other venues. Partnerships also play a role in domestic operations, helping to ensure that a well-trained, fighting force remains the proven choice in protecting life and property while preserving peace, order and public safety.

Media operations plays a critical role in supporting that effort by highlighting global partnerships with relevant and accurate communication with the consuming media. This function is also crucial in emphasizing the duel-nature of Guard partnerships. A robust media operations effort not only informs but also protects the Guard’s reputation by countering misinformation, addressing concerns swiftly, and demonstrating the Guard’s commitment to the warfight and the homeland.

“*The shared challenges that we face will test every element of our friendship and our partnership, from diplomacy to intelligence to our militaries, to our economies.*”

*U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Dan Caine,  
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff*



The Department of Defense National Guard State Partnership Program has forged lasting partnerships with nations across the globe for 30 years while helping to build U.S. and partner capabilities to meet 21st-century security challenges. (U.S. Air National Guard video by Master Sgt. Amber Monio)

July - Modernization

Media Team Themes

National Guard public affairs plays a vital role in amplifying the Department of Defense’s modernization priorities by clearly communicating how emerging technologies and upgraded capabilities support readiness, deterrence, and national security. Through strategic storytelling and transparent engagement with the public and media, public affairs can showcase how modernization efforts— such as advanced training systems, resilient infrastructure, and integration with joint and allied forces—enhance the Guard’s operational relevance. These communications not only build public trust but also highlight the Guard’s unique ability to adapt and evolve in an era of strategic competition.

Timely communication within the Guard ranks ensures that modernization efforts are understood, embraced, and effectively implemented at all levels. By informing Soldiers and Airmen early and clearly, public affairs helps build trust, reduce uncertainty, and accelerate adoption.

Messages

Whether it’s updated communications gear or advanced training simulators, new technology helps Guard members respond faster, smarter, and safer— at home and abroad.

The world is changing fast, and so are the threats. Modernizing now ensures the Guard can handle tomorrow’s challenges, not just today’s.

New equipment matters, but so does investing in training, innovation, and leadership development to make sure our Soldiers and Airmen are empowered to succeed.

Modernization is crucial to ensuring the National Guard remains a ready, reliable warfighting component of the Army and Air Force—fully equipped to integrate with active forces and operate in today’s complex, high-tech battlespace.

The National Guard is uniquely positioned to lead in modernization because its Soldiers and Airmen bring real-world experience from civilian careers in tech, engineering, cybersecurity, and more—bridging innovation from the community to the battlefield.

Military and civilian world acumen enables National Guard members to flourish as natural innovators—bringing fresh ideas, diverse skill sets, and community-driven solutions that help accelerate modernization across the force.

July Observances

National Roadside Traffic Safety Awareness  
Month  
Bioterrorism/Disaster Education and  
Awareness Month  
National Park and Recreation Month

1 Anniversary of the All Volunteer Force  
(1973)  
National Postal Worker Day

2 National Wildland Firefighter Day

4 Independence Day

13-19 Operation Safe Driver Week

16 MLB All-Star Week, Arlington, TX

21 Liberation of Guam (1944)

26 Anniversary of Armed Forces Integration  
(1948)

27 Anniversary of the signing of the Korean  
Armistice Agreement (1953)

29 Army Chaplain Corps (1775)

30 International Friendship Day (Allies and  
Partners) - holiday especially celebrated in  
Latin America