

# THE FLORIDA GUARDSMAN



PUBLISHED BY THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE - FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS EDITOR - FY Q2 - 2024

## Adjutant General's Message

After a year in command of this great organization, I can honestly say that I've never been prouder to be a Florida Guardsman. We've had Soldiers and Airmen deployed in almost every Combatant Command across the globe, and continue to support our state, our citizens and citizens of Texas as they are daily challenged with migration issues. We have over 400 men and women assisting the Department of Corrections and continue supporting state and federal agencies in the Keys with Army Aviation assets. Every day we are making a difference to secure and safeguard our freedom.

Our operational pace is picking up in the coming months as the Army prepares for its Exportable Combat Training Center (xCTC) exercise and our federal deployments increase to over 900 Soldiers and Airmen. This increase in OPTEMPO has an impact on relationships with our families and our employers, so I encourage you to use all available resources to assist with any challenges or issues. Care starts at the unit level, but you can also use the Florida National Guard website to help direct you to our helping professionals. <https://fl.ng.mil/>

Thank you for your continued service to your state and nation. Florida First!

Sincerely,



John D. Haas  
Major General  
Florida National Guard  
The Adjutant General

## Leadership around the Guard



125th FW JAX, FL - MARCH

## Conquering the Norwegian Foot March: A test of grit, confidence, and personal courage



Through grit and personal courage, four Soldiers with the 164th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade (BDE) successfully completed the Norwegian Foot March held in St. Augustine, Fla., March 22, 2024. Among the participants, Capt. Foy, Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CW3) Howard, Spc. Jenkins, and Spc. Malla proved that personal courage is not the absence of fear but rather the ability to act in spite of it, showing resilience and determination in the pursuit of goals.

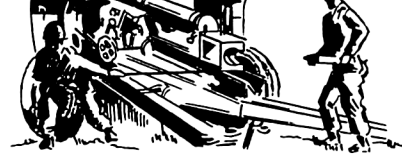
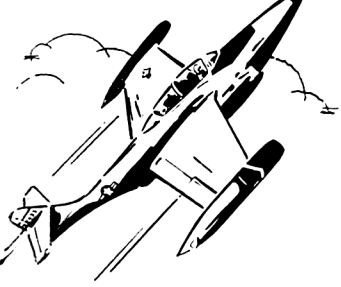
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## FLARNG supports state through coastline patrolling operations



The Florida Army National Guard maintains daily flight operations off the southern coast of Fla., March 20, 2024. Over 80 personnel and 6 aircraft conducted these patrolling missions to support local and state authorities with the identification of possible migrant vessels.

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## Leadership around the Guard (continued)



BWC CBJTC, FL – MARCH

## Florida Army National Guard concludes Best Warrior competition



Spc. David Little, 2-111th Airfield Operations Battalion, emerged victorious as the Best Warrior Soldier of the Year at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center on March 3, 2024. Little's triumph marks the culmination of the grueling annual Best Warrior competition, where Florida Army National Guard Soldiers underwent rigorous mental and physical endurance tests as they competed against their fellow Soldiers. The event serves as a testament to the dedication and adeptness of these soldiers as they demonstrate their skills in a challenging series of tasks.

Participants in the Best Warrior competition faced a series of challenges, including navigating a demanding 12-mile route while shouldering over 35 pounds of equipment. The course tested their endurance and resilience under strenuous conditions. Additionally, Soldiers engaged in marksmanship exercises, honing their accuracy and proficiency with firearms. Negotiating through an obstacle course further assessed their agility and tactical prowess.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

## 202nd RED HORSE hosts annual contingency exercise



The Florida Air National Guard's 202nd RED HORSE Squadron conducted the FEBEX24 exercise Feb. 2-3 to assess and enhance the readiness of its members. Airmen assigned to the Florida Air National Guard's 125th Civil Engineer Squadron and 125th Medical Group also participated in the exercise.

"RED HORSE deploys as a unit and is a self-sustaining unit," said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Brian Encarnacion, 202nd RED HORSE Squadron unit deployment manager.

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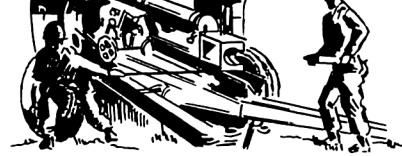
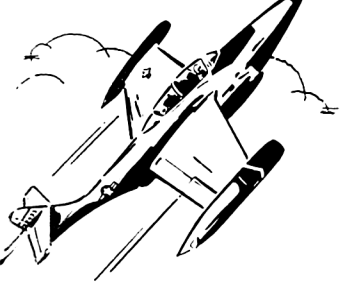
## 50th Regional Support Group's best warriors compete



Nine Florida Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to units within to the 50th Regional Support Group (RSG) reported to Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Florida, to compete at the brigade level of the Best Warrior Competition (BWC) on Feb. 1, 2024.

Over three days, contest officials tested these Soldiers' strengths and proficiencies in several different warrior tasks and drills that are core skill sets in the U.S. Army.

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## 3/20th holds Special Forces conditioning and preparation at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center



Following December's Special Forces Readiness Evaluation, candidates from all over the country traveled back January 25th-28th for the second phase: Special Forces Conditioning and Preparation. There are multiple areas of participation that candidates must participate in before being chosen for National Guard Special Forces. SFCP is considered phase two; while significantly different in focus, it provides a different kind of challenge equal to SFRE's.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

## 50th Regional Support Group conducts change of command ceremony



Army Brig. Gen. William Temple transferred his command of the 50th Regional Support Group to Army Col. Jeremy Davis during a change of command ceremony in Homestead, Florida, on Jan. 21, 2024.

Davis recently left the 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade where he served as the task force commander providing air defense for the United States capital.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

## Florida Guard Soldier helps train Ukrainian forces, receives award from senior official



Army Sgt. Iuliia Nichols, a culinary specialist assigned to the Florida Army National Guard's (FLARNG) 927th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), received Ukraine's Commander-in-Chief Award for her contributions in training Ukrainian soldiers from Ukrainian army Maj. Gen. Oleksiy Taran, head of the Main Department of Doctrine and Training of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, in Wiesbaden, Germany, in December 2023.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

## Newsletter editor contact information

The Florida National Guard and Department of Military Affairs remains engaged as a community-based organization committed to serving the citizens of Florida. This periodic newsletter highlights the accomplishments and activities of our organization as we prepare for and execute both state and federal missions.

Please reach out to the Florida National Guard's Public Affairs Office at (904) 823-0166 or [ng.fl.flarnng.list.pao@army.mil](mailto:ng.fl.flarnng.list.pao@army.mil) with any recommendations or questions about our newsletter.

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