

YEAR IN REVIEW



THE IDAHO MILITARY DIVISION
2015



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

January 2016

Governor Otter,

Last year was very busy for the men and women of the Idaho National Guard who worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and livelihood of not only Idaho citizens, but citizens from all across the world. We've attempted to capture in pictures and written stories, some of the more memorable accomplishments of 2015.

Whether coordinating or supporting firefighting efforts in Idaho and the northwest, to conducting combat training operations in the Middle East; from partnering with our foreign neighbors in Cambodia, to helping reclaim young lives here in Idaho, Idaho's guardsmen have answered the call and have done so exceptionally well, all in the professional manner our citizens have come to expect.

The National Guard motto is 'Always Ready, Always There' and your guardsmen have truly lived up to the momentous task of standing ready and deploying at a moment's notice when called, whether in support of state or federal missions.

To our families, I offer a special thank you. Without their support, our missions could not have succeeded. Their sacrifices allow our personnel to focus on the tasks at hand, and enable us to be successful.

Governor, from the men and women of your National Guard, we wholeheartedly thank you for your support. You've championed our efforts, visiting us on fire lines, attending our events, and supporting our youth program, all while rallying support for the National Guard from state and local leaders, veterans' service organizations, and a host of other individuals and groups. Thank you for all that you do for our guardsmen, our great state and our nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary L. Sayler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gary L. Sayler
Major General

CONTENTS

4 VIGILANT AND PREPARED

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD GOES TO NTC

10 COMMANDER IN CHIEF VISIT

PRESIDENT OBAMA LANDS AT GOWEN

14 IDAHO YOUTH CHALLENGE

AT RISK YOUTH EXCEL IN STATE PROGRAM

18 PREPARING IDAHO

IDAHO BUREAU OF HOMELAND SECURITY

20 FIRE SUPPORT

ARMY AND AIR GUARD SUPPORT THE STATE

24 ESGR

BOISE FIRE DEPT. SELECTED FOR FREEDOM AWARD

26 GUNFIGHTER FLY-IN

1-183RD ATTACK AVIATION COMPETES

30 DEDICATION TO THE COMMUNITY

NOSE ART DEDICATED TO IDAHO COMMUNITIES

8 SHOSHONE BANNOCK TRIBE

FORT HALL FIRST PURPLE HEART RESERVATION

12 ANGKOR SENTINEL

IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD'S STATE PARTNER

16 STAY FOCUSED

SECAF VISITS AND SPEAKS TO AIR GUARD AIRMEN

19 IMPROVING FACILITIES

CFMO IMPROVES TRAINING RANGES AND FACILITIES

22 THE MORE YOU SWEAT

AIR GUARD TRAINS ALL OVER THE WORLD

25 TAKING CARE OF THOSE IN NEED

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM GROWS TO HELP MORE

28 101ST CST

CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM HELPS LOCALLY AND ABROAD

32 A SPECIAL THANKS

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ON THE COVER



An Abrams M1 tank from the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, headquartered in Boise, Idaho waits for engineers from the Arkansas Army National Guard's 1036th Engineer Company to clear a path through a mine field using an M58 Mine Clearing Line Charge on Aug. 16, at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. The 1036th supported the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team during the Army National Guard's first force-on-force high-intensity conflict rotation since the beginning of the War on Terror. (Photo by Maj. W. Chris Clyne, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

The Year in Review is a publication of the Idaho National Guard. Views expressed may not be those of the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, Air National Guard, Army National Guard, Department of Defense or U.S. Government.

VIGILANT AND PREPARED

The 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, supported by nearly all of Idaho's Army National Guard units, completed National Training Center (NTC) Rotation 15-09 in Aug. The 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team was the first National Guard unit to attend the NTC in a decisive action rotation since 9/11.

This rotation was extremely important to the Idaho Army National Guard and the National Guard Bureau (NGB). As one of only two fully modernized Armored Brigade Combat Teams (BCT) in the National Guard, the 116th Cavalry BCT set the standard for NGB Brigades to follow in future NTC Rotations. Our Soldier's professional attitude enabled them to accomplish a seemingly impossible task. They moved to and from the NTC, accomplished all of the Reception, Staging, Onward movement, and Integration tasks; moved to a tactical assembly area, conducted

Situation Training Exercises, a Live Fire, a Brigade Live Fire Coordination Exercise, and Combined Arms Maneuver in support of Unified Land Operations over a three-week period.

Many Soldiers deployed ahead of the brigade and stayed after the Rotation Training Units (RTU) returned to home station. Their outstanding job helped the RTUs behind the scenes ensuring the success of the units participating in the exercise.

At the NTC there is no measure of whether any rotation wins or loses, only of how much is learned. If success of the rotation is measured by the amount of learning that went on, then for all the Idaho Army National Guard-the campaign was more than successful. We went to the NTC not knowing what we didn't know, but we came home with a tremendous feeling of accomplishment and we now know what we didn't know in the

beginning. We fought the world class Opposing Force (a complex hybrid enemy made up of active duty Soldiers) and we more than held our own.

All of our systems worked, some better than others, but they all held together and sustained our ability to fight throughout the rotation. We had no major accidents or injuries, and everyone returned home safely. We have learned many lessons about warfighting and know what we must do in the next training years to sustain our strengths and fix our shortcomings. In short, we accomplished what no other National Guard unit has in the past decade while at NTC. We went to the NTC and came home winners, securing the admiration and respect of the NTC staff and all the visitors and dignitaries that came to see us perform.

Our Soldiers' successes during this mission were directly attributed to the nearly two-years



of training our Soldiers received prior to deploying to the National Training Center. This training required our Soldiers to work long hours and complete multiple weeks of additional training. Our Soldiers executed this demanding mission as true professionals and could not have done so without the support of their families and employers.





-NTC by the numbers-

0: Number of units, including active duty units, which previously had successfully defended against the opposing forces' cyber attacks on its networks. The 116th CBCT was the first unit to do so.

2: Number of National Training Center rotations the 116th CBCT has completed. The unit also went in 1998, and with great success setting records then as well.

4: The number of Soldiers from the United Kingdom that participated in the 116th Calvary Brigade Combat Team's training rotation.

7: Number of trains, averaging 60 cars per train, it took to move the brigade's equipment from Boise to Fort Irwin.

7.9: Amount of gallons of water, per Soldier each day, needed during the training cycle due to the environment as follows: three gallons for drinking, 1.7 for personal hygiene, 2.8 for field feeding, 0.4 for heat injury treatment and Preventative Maintenance Checks and Services.

18: Number of states, which had units represented in the task force, including National Guard, Army Reserves, and active Army units.

21: Number of days for the core rotation, from 10-30 August.

23: Number of Air National Guard Airmen that participated in the rotation.

27: Number of total Army aviation aircraft that made up Task Force Talon, which provided aviation assets during the brigade's rotation. Task Force Talon consisted of Idaho's 1-183rd Attack Reconnaissance Battalion and Soldiers from six additional states.

31: Number of units that participated in the rotation.

36: Number of busses it took to deploy all of Idaho's Soldiers to Fort Irwin, in addition to one flight for the state's northern Soldiers.

39: The number of active duty Army Soldiers that participated in the rotation.

120: The highest temperature, in Fahrenheit, the 116th CBCT experienced during the rotation.

289: The number of United States Army Reserve Soldiers that participated in the rotation.

801: Number of miles from Gowen Field to Fort Irwin, California.

1,470: Pieces of track and rolling stock equipment moved.

2,573: Number of Idaho Army National Guard Soldiers that participated in the rotation.

4,247: Total number of National Guard Soldiers from across the country that participated in the rotation.

25,000: Average gallons of fuel consumed each day of the rotation.

FORT HALL BECOMES FIRST PURPLE HEART RESERVATION



Fort Hall Reservation held a ceremony Dec. 30, 2015, proclaiming the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' home as the first "Purple Heart Reservation" in the United States. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Business Council and Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter both delivered proclamations designating the reservation and honoring the many tribal veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart for their heroic actions in combat.

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the Pocatello-

Chubbuck Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee invited the community to participate in the event. "This is a great honor to be a part of such a heroic event," said Vice Chairman Leejuan Tyler of the Business Council, who also signed the proclamation.

The council chamber was filled with veterans, tribal members and current local military members such as Maj. Gen. Gary Sayler, Adjutant General of Idaho, and Brig. Gen. John Goodale, Assis-

tant Adjutant General-Army. Miguel Dominic, Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Scenic Idaho Chapter 630, presented the council with a plaque honoring Fort Hall.

"This ceremony is about establishing Fort Hall Reservation as the first Purple Heart Reservation in the nation. It is a way for Fort Hall to not only honor their combat wounded veterans and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, but to all veterans that serve," Dominic said. Idaho has 10 Purple



Heart cities, one county, two universities, and now, “...thank you Shoshone-Bannock Tribes for becoming the first Purple Heart Reservation,” Dominic said.

As part of the Purple Heart ceremony, Fort Hall drummers accompanied the color guard opening the historic event. Volunteers planted over 200 American flags along the entry road to the Tribal Business Center. Dominic said a marker proclaiming Fort Hall as a Purple Heart Nation will be placed at the Fort Hall exit

along Interstate 15.

2015 has been a big year of firsts for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, the State of Idaho and the Nation. Earlier this year, leaders from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the Idaho Military Division signed a memorandum committing to continue efforts of good stewardship of lands on which Idaho military activities occur and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes are tied geographically, culturally, and historically.

The historical significance of signing the document marks

the first time multiple military components entered into such an agreement with a tribe: the Air National Guard and the Army National Guard, on behalf of the National Guard Bureau, signed a federally recognized joint government-to-government tribal consultation protocol with a Native American organization.

The Fort Hall Reservation of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes is located in southeastern Idaho on the Snake River Plain.

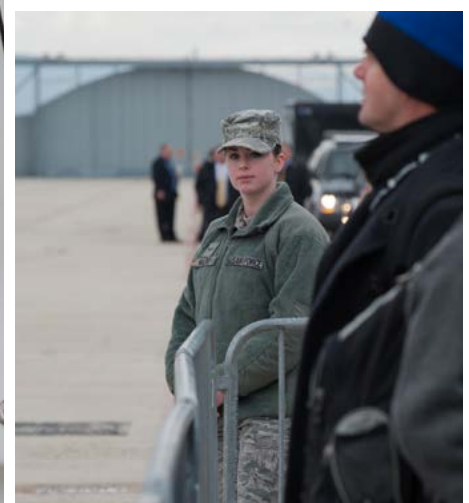
COMMANDER IN CHIEF VISITS IDAHO

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA LANDS AT GOWEN





The Idaho Air National Guard hosted President Barack Obama, here on Jan. 21. The president deplaned from Air Force One and met with several members and family of the Idaho Air National Guard on the tarmac before traveling via motorcade to nearby Boise State University. The brief presidential afternoon visit concluded when his motorcade returned him and a group of traveling press and staffers to the presidential aircraft for departure from Boise Air Terminal.



Angkor Sentinel



In March, and for the fifth year in a row, Idaho Army National Guard Soldiers traveled to Cambodia to participate in the Angkor Sentinel Exercise.

Angkor Sentinel is a bi-lateral exercise conducted each year in Cambodia to elevate the readiness level of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) in carrying out humanitarian aid and disaster relief duties within the boundaries of Cambodia, and in support of UN missions abroad.

Nearly 80 Soldiers from seven Idaho units were joined by 60 other Soldiers from the U.S. Army Pacific Command, along with four civilians for the three-week exercise that included three

Cambodian army battalions.

“The professionalism of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces is inspiring,” said Lt. Col. Scott Sheridan, an Idaho Guardsman who coordinated the event. “The opportunity to participate in Angkor Sentinel offers a tremendous opportunity for Idaho Soldiers to work with Cambodian Soldiers furthering their preparedness to conduct their assigned missions.”

Soldiers conducted a Command Post Exercise (CPX) focusing on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, medical training, junior leader training, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), jungle training and an Engineer Civil Action Project.

The CPX training consisted of academics, use of the Military Decision Making Process, and a scenario in which Cambodian Soldiers reacted to situations brought about by a natural disaster.

The medical training centered on advanced medical training for the medics and first responder training.

The junior leader training focused on teaching leadership skills essential for young leaders, which included Troop Leading Procedures, visual signaling techniques, decontamination of self and equipment, noise and litter discipline, and Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and Unexploded Ordinances (UXO)

identification and reporting.

Soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division conducted jungle training, which included an Expert Academic Exchange in which U.S. and Cambodian Soldiers exchanged best practices in jungle operations. This allowed military members from both armies to learn from each other.

EOD training focused on instructing RCAF EOD Soldiers on best practices for IED/EOD operations. Soldiers on the engineering team renovated a school in a neighboring community.

“The skills taught to these Soldiers are used every day while they are on mission,” said Maj. Gen. Ken Sosavoeun of the RCAF. “What the Idaho Soldiers are able to show and teach our Soldiers is so important.”

Sosavoeun was the RCAF exercise director in 2012 and 2013 and served as the deputy commander of UN forces in Lebanon in 2014-2015.

The Idaho National Guard’s involvement with Angkor Sentinel stems from its overall partnership with the Cambodian Armed Forces as part of the National Guard Bureau’s State Partnership Program. The Idaho - Cambodia partnership was established in 2009 and consists of multiple Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Response-related subject matter exchanges between military personnel from



both organizations. Each year, the Idaho National Guard on average conducts approximately seven of these engagements, in addition to Angkor Sentinel and senior leadership visits.





A major social challenge facing the U.S. is the growing number of teenagers dropping out of our communities' high schools each year. Idaho's Youth ChalleNGe Academy is a program designed to reclaim the lives of 16 to 18-year-old teens who are at risk of dropping out or have already dropped out of high school.

Located in Clearwater County, a bustling complex of barracks, classrooms, administrative offices, a gymnasium, a cafeteria and even a medical department, are all in place to provide Idaho's at-risk youth a second chance. The completely renovated elementary school located in Pierce, donated by Orofino Joint School District #171,

serves as an opportunity where young Idaho citizens are able to get their lives back on track.

On December 19th in Lewiston, Youth ChalleNGe leaders joined the families and friends of 101 graduating teens. It was the largest class yet for the program established by the Idaho Legislature in 2011 as part of the Idaho National Guard's mission – thus the capitalized “NG.”

Cadets in the most recent graduating class came from 27 of Idaho's 44 counties, led by 26 graduates from Canyon County. Thirteen cadets received their high school diplomas and another 12 earned their GED certificates. Sixteen graduated with a 4.0 grade-point average, and since the Academy started, its

cadets have averaged academic improvement of more than two grade levels during their 22-week residential stays.

Just as impressive, the latest group of cadets contributed over 4,600 hours of community service valued at \$33,524 during their time at the Academy. Since it opened, 333 cadets have contributed almost 20,000 hours of community service in and around Pierce.

There was early uncertainty among some about the State of Idaho getting into the business of helping troubled dropouts as they get their lives back on track. After all, there are plenty of private sector and even non-profit alternatives. But most skeptics came around after

seeing what other states have done with Youth Challenge programs. They've come to understand the value of what a proven, affordable and accountable option can provide for the next generation of voters and taxpayers – fully functioning citizens of Idaho.

Families and students volunteering for the program are looking for a way to succeed outside of a traditional school setting. At the Academy, cadets learn self-discipline, leadership and responsibility while working to complete their secondary education, or to just re-integrate with their high school class back home.

Once they leave the Acad-

emy itself, new graduates start a 12-month “Post Residential Phase” designed to help them continue their progress. They have Idaho Youth Challenge case managers and community mentors helping them continue their education, enroll in college, begin job training, find employment or enlist in the military.

For some of these kids, Idaho Youth Challenge is providing them with their first taste of success with 80 percent of Academy graduates re-enrolling in high school or going on to college, military service, employment or volunteer service for at least 30 hours per week.

But the real change is in the

hearts and minds of the teens who learn how to follow, how to lead, how to respect others, and most of all how to respect themselves.

That is the real measure of the Idaho Youth Challenge program – how it changes the lives and the futures of adolescents at risk, not by restricting and marginalizing them but by enabling them to enter the mainstream of society with pride in what they have accomplished and the confidence to go even farther.

Find out more about how the Idaho Youth Challenge is changing lives, families and communities at <http://www.idyouthchallenge.com/success-stories>



“STAY FOCUSED”



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE VISITS IDAHO

Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James visited Gowen Field Feb. 19, during a visit of Idaho Air Force installations.

James' visit included meetings with the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator and civic and elected officials followed by an all-call attended by Idaho Air National Guardsmen.

“My three priorities are: one, taking care of people; number two, striking a balance between readiness today and readiness tomorrow which means modernizing our aircraft and our Air Force across the board; and third, in this very tight budget period, making every dollar count,” said James. “We’re the best Air Force on the planet but we’re an Air Force under strain from a number of different angles. And something’s got to give—the question is—what will that thing be?”

James addressed budgetary

constraints and the projected 124th Fighter Wing classic association with the 366th Fighter Wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base, which flies the F-15E Strike Eagle. “If this proposal goes through, our goal is to transition the most important part of this weapon system—which are the humans—into good, new jobs that are going to take our Air Force into the future,” James said.

“Stay tuned, this is really only the beginning for FY16,” said James. “We are going to be working very closely with Congress over the next few months. I remain hopeful that we will work this out with a whole-government approach that will lift this sequestration burden and allow us to fully give America the Air Force that people want and deserve.”

“Please stay focused on the mission, on what you’re doing, taking care of one another, being good wingmen—that’s your job and you’ve been doing it



magnificently,” said James.

“The Air Force budget situation, as we all know, is very serious,” said Col. Sherrie L. McCandless, former 124th Fighter wing commander. “For now what the Secretary of the Air Force briefed is exactly where we are. The plan for the 124th FW hasn’t fundamentally changed. We have great Airmen, we have a strong family here at Gowen and we have a community that clearly values our contribution. Please stay proud and continue to embody combat excellence.”



PREPARING IDAHO



The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security is a component of the Idaho Military Division. IBHS provides services to facilitate emergency management and homeland security in Idaho, and to assist neighboring states. The men and women of this bureau are dedicated to their mission of protecting the lives and property of the people of Idaho, as well as preserving the environmental and the economic health of Idaho. IBHS Chief Brad Richy serves as the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor.

IBHS subject matter experts provide critical information as part of Applicant Briefings held in Coeur d'Alene following the November 17, 2015 windstorm in northern Idaho. The unprecedented weather event left tens of thousands without power and led to a Presidential Disaster Declaration, the first in Idaho since 2011.



Lt. Gov. Brad Little, chair of the Governor's Cyber Security Task Force, addresses exercise attendees.

The Idaho Cyber Security Interdependencies Tabletop Exercise, held in October, was the second in a three-year series of statewide and local gatherings meant to develop an Idaho Partnership for Infrastructure Security. The IBHS, in partnership with the Pacific North West Economic Region Center for Regional Disaster Resilience and Micron Technology hosted 180 registrants at the St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center. The primary purpose of developing an Idaho partnership is to advance cross-sector initiatives, which promote awareness and facilitate public-private partnerships, and cross-jurisdictional regional efforts to develop a disaster resilient state and region.

IMPROVING RANGES AND FACILITIES

The Idaho Army National Guard continued to improve and renovate its armories, facilities, and training ranges across the state in 2015. Among the projects:

- Operational Readiness Training Center Phase II (85% complete). The project will be completed by March 2016.
- Expanded machine gun range on the Orchard Combat Training Center from five lanes to 10 lanes.
- Modernized Building 669 to accommodate the Mission Training Center and the Installation Support Unit.
- Repurposed Building 815 to provide up to six new large modern classrooms for Idaho's Regional Training Institute (RTI).
- Began Rexburg Readiness Center renovation (50% complete).
- Regraded and expanded vehicle compound parking at the Lewiston Readiness Center.
- Installed backup generator at Post Falls Readiness Center to enable back up data storage center.
- Converted Building 916 to serve as RTI Headquarters.
- Updated Building 712 (main Gowen Field dining facility).
- Began constructing hutments within the Orchard Combat Training Center Cantonment Area, which will billet 200 Soldiers and be completed February 2016.
- Modernized Emmett Readiness Center.



The Rexburg Readiness Center is nearly halfway complete. The renovation project was one of seven renovation projects started or completed during 2015 to improve the Idaho Army National Guard's training facilities.



The Emmett Readiness Center was renovated in 2015.



Construction in the cantonment area at the Orchard Combat Training Center is scheduled for completion in February of 2016.



Under the direction of Governor Otter through a state emergency declaration, the Idaho Army National Guard's FireHawk and crew, assigned to the 168th Command Aviation Company, were the first Idaho National Guard assets to respond to this summer's fires. The crew used the UH60L Blackhawk to perform nearly 100 picks (water pickups and dumps) during the fire season, dropping over 60-thousand gallons of water on the Lawyer branch of the

Clearwater Complex fire in north central Idaho.

The aircraft is configured specifically for firefighting, equipped with a special one-thousand gallon belly tank designed to disburse water in a manner highly effective in battling wild fires. The aircraft and its crew of four--three flight crew members plus a maintenance crew member--were activated to support firefighting efforts near Lewiston, Idaho on Aug. 16, 2015 before they

were eventually transferred to battle fires near Coeur d' Alene. They were deactivated on Aug. 31 as the fires reached higher containment levels.







The Idaho Air National Guard participated in several training missions throughout 2015. Our Airmen trained in locations across the world including Southwest Asia, Operation Pathfinder Minuteman in Oregon, March Air Reserve Base in California, the Orchard Combat Training Center south of Boise, and even with the Idaho Army National Guard at the National Training Center on Ft. Irwin in California. Training is one of the key elements to ensure the Idaho Air National Guard stays “Always Ready” to support not only the State of Idaho, but the United States.



Orchard Combat Training Center



March Air Reserve Base



Return from Southwest Asia



Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Training Boise



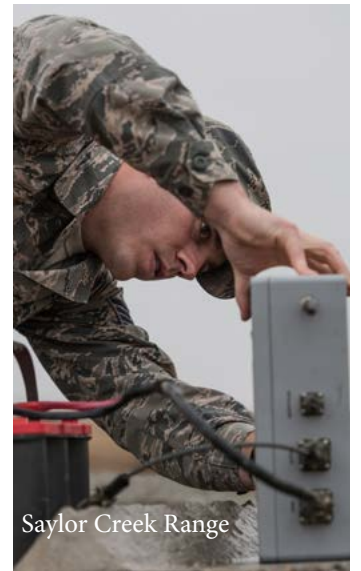
Operation Pathfinder Minuteman Oregon



Wing Inspection Training Gowen Field



Return from Southwest Asia



Saylor Creek Range



LifeFlight Training Boise



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EMPLOYER SUPPORT
FREEDOM AWARD

The Idaho ESGR program promotes cooperation and understanding between reserve component service members and their civilian employers and assists in the resolution of conflicts arising from an

employee's military commitment. ESGR is supported by a network of people from small businesses, industry, government, education and prior military service bringing a vast wealth of experience to assist in serving

employers, service members and their families. Together with a small cadre of ESGR staff, Idaho volunteers work to promote and enhance employer support for military service in the Idaho Guard and Reserve.



Fifteen employers from across the nation received the prestigious Freedom Award, the Nation's highest honor given to employers for exceptional support of Guard and Reserve employees. The Boise Fire Department earned the award for a number of reasons, including: more than 30 percent of the fire department's workforce is made up of National Guard, Reserve members and veterans, the Boise Fire Department has an appointed military liaison, a retired Air National Guard member whose duties include assisting military members and their families, and the department sends care packages and letters to their employees while they are deployed.

TAKING CARE OF THOSE IN NEED



The Idaho National Guard is blessed to have its own “Santa Clause” of sorts. For the last eight years, Retired Air Force Chaplain Maj. Thomas J. Westall has been an angel in disguise for military families in need during the holidays.

One year it was \$33,000 in Christmas tree donations, last year it was Christmas gifts for roughly 500 families. This year, 2015 continued the upward trend.

“We’ve identified 700 families

who will receive holiday assistance in 2016. The demand rises each year but thankfully, so does the giving,” Westall said, pointing out the 40 percent increase in donations from 2014 to 2015.

Westall and his “elves” from Idaho National Guard Family Programs delivered hundreds and hundreds of high-quality toys, clothes, games and other gifts for Idaho’s military families in need. Additionally, over \$6,000 in gift cards were do-

nated.

This year in addition to Westall’s efforts, donations from Lewis-Clark State College, Target and Idaho National Laboratory, all totaling roughly \$11,000 made their way to Idaho’s military families in need.

Idaho military families in need can contact their local Family Assistance Coordinators or by dialing 1-800-479-7006 and from the automated menu, can link directly to their local specialist.



Soldiers from the Idaho Army National Guard's 1-183rd Attack Reconnaissance Battalion participated in the first Gunfighter Fly-In in November in Marana, Arizona.

Teams from seven National Guard states competed in the five-day event that showcased the skills of company-grade AH-64 Apache pilots and ground teams.

Idaho finished third in the competition that included a timed and scored Longbow Crew Trainer scenario with stationary and moving engagements involving friendly and hostile vehicles; a live-fire gunnery competition with F-16 Forward Air Control-Army and Joint Terminal Attack Controllers; Manned-Unmanned Team Training Tactics with a Raven Unmanned Aircraft System; and a graded Helicopter Gunnery Skills Test.

"The Gunfighter Fly-In gunnery competition provides a great venue to unite National Guard attack aviation units and discuss skills, knowledge, and best practices," 1st Lt. Mark Dillion, a pilot with the Idaho Army National Guard said. "It also provides a wonderful mechanism to develop training opportunities in other regions of the country and promotes comradery and training integration amongst the attack aviation community." The fly-in, proposed to become an annual event, provides an opportunity for all National Guard helicopter attack battalions to share tactics, techniques and procedures, best practices and lessons learned throughout the Apache community, and to foster relationships and build unity of effort among the National Guard AH-64 states.

Idaho is planning to host the Gunfighter Fly-In event in 2016.







The 101st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team is as unique as it is accomplished, and 2015 bolstered the unit's strong reputation in the state.

As the Idaho National Guard's only operational Joint (Army/Air) unit, on-call 24/7/365, the 101st CST works primarily with civilian emergency responders like firefighters, police, FBI and other agencies to strengthen Idaho's disaster response posture in the event of a natural or man-caused disaster or WMD-related incident.

The CST's busy year was highlighted by a combination of real-world support missions, strong performance in inspections and audits, and

innovative outreach efforts that stretched from Coeur d'Alene to Idaho Falls and beyond.

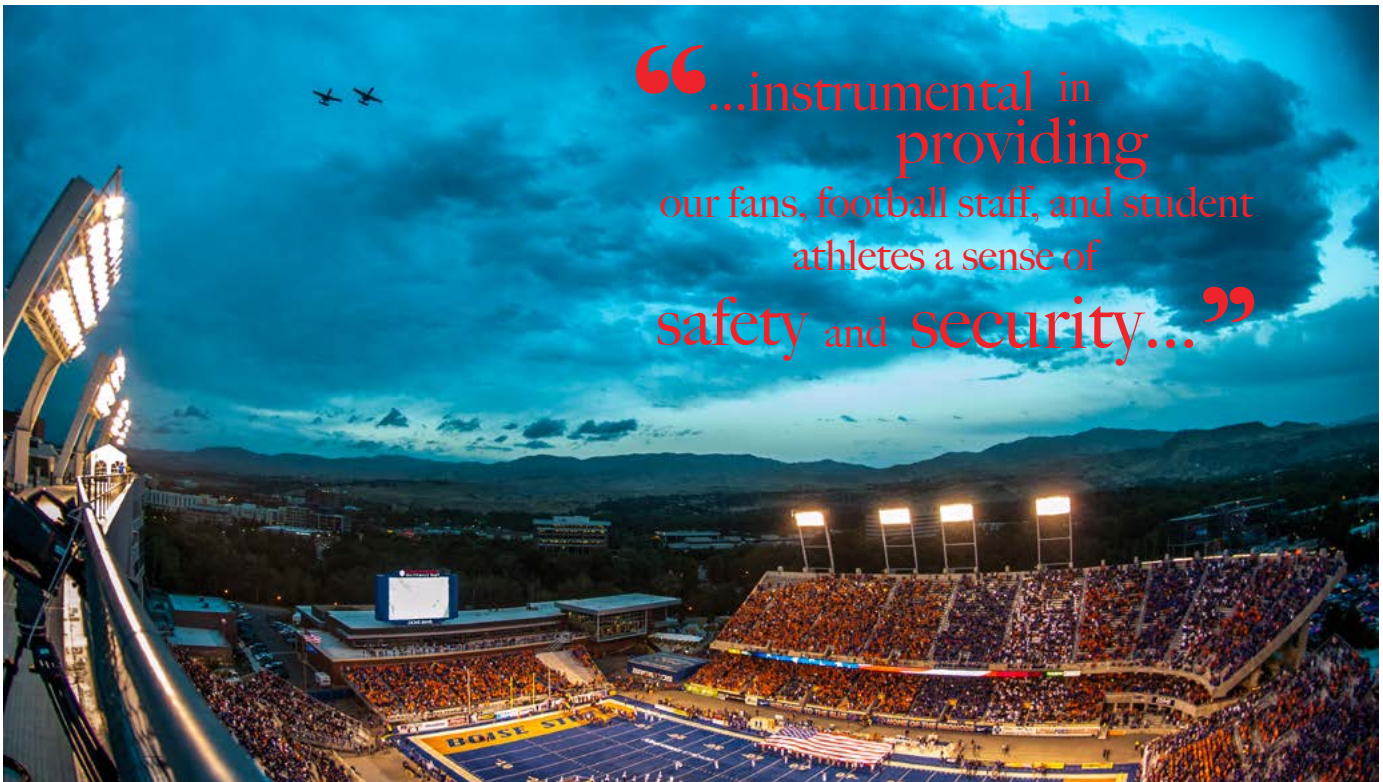
When the unexpected occurs, the ability to work with civilian counterparts from multiple agencies across the state is critical. The key to outreach is consistency. Seeing the same faces over time builds relationships, which improves communication and understanding.

With that in mind, the CST implemented a common-sense approach to lasting outreach in 2015. For as long as a Soldier or Airmen is assigned to the 101st CST, he or she will be assigned to a specific region of the state. They will frequently attend planning meetings, schedule

and coordinate training and outreach, and incorporate lessons learned into future training with a myriad of local, county and state emergency response counterparts.

In the program's first year, more than 500 civilian emergency response partners were re-educated on the CST mission and, together, they successfully executed 12 full-scale joint training exercises in all of Idaho's six HAZMAT regions.

Another key CST role is its participation in Joint Hazard Assessment Teams, which are often conducted in close coordination with universities, municipalities, law enforcement and security personnel to provide chemical, biological and



“...instrumental in providing our fans, football staff, and student athletes a sense of safety and security...”

radiological standoff monitoring, periodic sweeps and standby assistance. These JHAT missions, as they are called, resulted in more than 600 combined hours of event protection where potential threats were identified and adjudicated without incident



at high-profile events like the Governor’s Inauguration, Boise State University home football games, and the Allen and Co. Sun Valley Conference.

The CST’s response during a radiological incident at a recent home football game was highlighted in a Facility of Merit for Safety and Security Award presented to Boise State University in July 2015 by the National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security.

“(The CST’s) participation has been instrumental in providing our fans, football staff, and student athletes a sense of safety and security that we alone could not provide,” said Boise State University Vice President Kevin Satterlee.

The team performed superbly on two exhaustive national-level inspections with scores of 100 and 98 percent that looked at more than 1,500 individual and collective tasks, processes and procedures.

Just 22 personnel strong, CST members average an additional 500 hours of training over and above that of the typical National Guard Soldier or Airman, due primarily to the high degree of specialization required to serve on the CST. As a result of the amount of time it takes to fully train an average CST member, the team often retains that member for a long time. To wit: some current CST members have served in the unit since it was stood up in 2002.

DEDICATION TO THE COMMUNITY

NOSE ART DEDICATED TO IDAHO COMMUNITIES

The Airmen of the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Fighter Wing dedicated 11 A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft to the cities of Boise, Meridian, Caldwell, Nampa, Lewiston, Moscow, Twin Falls, Jerome, Chubbuck, Pocatello, and Post Falls during 2015.

The 124FW is honoring these Idaho communities by painting community-specific "nose art" on A-10s --dedicating an aircraft

to each respective community. Each of the 21 Idaho Air National Guard fighter jets assigned to Gowen Field will eventually honor an Idaho community.

This Idaho ANG community recognition program acknowledges the support and sacrifices communities and citizens make to defend freedom at home and abroad.

Historically, combat flying squadrons used nose art (creative

dedications to specific people, places, or concepts) to personalize combat aircraft and boost unit morale. Artwork was in high demand during World War II, and extravagant creations highlighted unit pride and cohesion.

In this tradition, the United States Air Force allows specialized artwork for aircraft that is distinctive and symbolic to enhance unit morale.







TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE IDAHO MILITARY DIVISION

Without the support from our family, friends, employers, state and local leaders, veterans' service organizations, and the host of other key elements and entities within our community, the Idaho National Guard would simply cease to exist. We are one in the same; we are comprised of members from our community and our community is comprised of our members.

The Idaho National Guard strives to show its appreciation for the tremendous support we receive from our community each and every day. In 2015 alone we conducted over 300 community relations events.

Community engagement is a cornerstone of the Idaho National Guard. It is a key to our success. Every Soldier, Airmen, civilian or officer—all of our personnel—are keenly aware, that without you, we could not fulfill our responsibility to the state or to the nation.

Thank you Idaho, for the tremendous support over the years and for taking good care of us.