

# THE *Maryland* **LINE**

2015 Issue #5



OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MARYLAND MILITARY DEPARTMENT



# MDNG AIRMAN NAMED OUTSTANDING HUMAN RESOURCE ADVISOR



*By Tech. Sgt. David Speicher,  
175th Wing Public Affairs*

Senior Master Sgt. Sterling Johnson, 175th Wing Human Resource Advisor, Maryland Air National Guard, was awarded the 2014 Air National Guard Outstanding Human Resource Advisor of the Year on January 29, 2015.

The National Guard Bureau looked for and found an advisor who promoted diversity, inclusion, cultural change and force management.

The Guard Bureau has requested that Johnson use the wing's program to enhance the other units in the Mid-Atlantic region.

"Now that we have the number one program, we will show these others wings what we do. My vision is to streamline CCAF (Community College of the Air Force) degrees at these other wings," said Johnson.

Johnson feels he was awarded for working closely with the Army National Guard and setting up new initiatives to enhance Airmen's careers. He organized practice interview boards and worked with the Baltimore Orioles for a wing event at Oriole Park at Camden Yards. He also coordinated

retirement seminars and improved basic morale and welfare for the wing. He has worked hard for Airmen to use the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), which allows students to take an exam to demonstrate knowledge of a subject matter and with a passing score, receive credit without taking the class.

"The biggest thing I am proud of is CLEP testing and fast tracking wing members to their Community College of the Air Force degree," he said. "An associate degree will enhance not only our members' careers but also their personal lives outside the fence."

Johnson, who previously been the 175th Maintenance Squadron first sergeant, is in his fourth year in the job. He felt working as the HRA was the next level from being a first sergeant because it allows him to direct programs at the wing level. Even though he finds it logistically tough, he finds it "easy because of the love of the job."

Because of time restraints of a traditional guard drill weekend, he works with a lot of groups on base: the Chief's Council, First Sergeant Council, Junior Enlisted Council, student flight, retirees and mid-level NCOs.

"I am always looking for feedback to support all aspects of our wing members' needs," said Johnson.



# GOVERNOR-ELECT ANNOUNCED BRIG. GEN. SINGH AS NEW TAG

*By Maryland National Guard  
Public Affairs Office*

The adjutant general is responsible for the daily operations of the Maryland Military Department, which includes the Maryland Army National Guard, Maryland Air National Guard, Maryland Emergency Management Agency, and Maryland Defense Force. She is a senior advisor to the governor and is responsible for the readiness, administration, and training of more than 6,700 members of the Military Department with an annual budget of more than \$314 million. As the adjutant general, she serves as the official channel of communication between the governor and the National Guard Bureau and serves as a member of the governor's cabinet.

- Maj. Gen. James A. Adkins

**“I know that the citizens of Maryland can rest assured that General Singh is an exceptional leader and that the Military Department will continue their proud tradition of defending our great state and nation and keeping us all safe.”**







**She will be the first African-American and first female to serve as the Adjutant General of Maryland.**

Governor-elect Larry Hogan announced today during a press conference in Annapolis that he will appoint the next Adjutant General of Maryland.

Brig. Gen. Linda L. Singh will assume the duties of the 29th Adjutant General and will replace Maj. Gen. James A. Adkins who will retire from a military career that spans more than 40 years of service. She will be the first African-American and first female to serve as the Adjutant General of Maryland.

"I know that the citizens of Maryland can rest assured that General Singh is an exceptional leader and that the Military Department will continue their proud tradition of defending our great state and nation and keeping us all safe," said Adkins.

As the Adjutant General, Singh will be responsible for the daily operations of the Maryland Military Department, which includes the Maryland National Guard, Maryland Emergency Management Agency, and Maryland Defense Force.

She will be a senior advisor to the governor responsible for the readiness, administration, and training of more than 6,700 members of the Maryland Military Department. As the adjutant general, she serves as the official channel of communication between the governor and the National Guard Bureau and serves as a member of the governor's cabinet.

The Military Department has an annual combined federal and state budget of a \$314 million as it continues to support many overseas contingency operations. In addition to supporting operations in Afghanistan and Kuwait, Guard members continue to serve in Africa, Estonia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and on the southwest border with Mexico.

General Singh currently serves as Assistant Adjutant General - Army, Maryland National Guard and as the Director of Operations - Health and Public Service North America at Accenture. She received her commission in 1991 through the Maryland Military Academy's Officer Candidate School in Reisterstown, Maryland. Prior to this assignment, she served as the Chief of the Afghanistan National Security Force Development Current Operations Cross Functional Team integrated into the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command Operations Support Center.

She was responsible for developing processes and systems to track Afghanistan National Security Force growth, development and fielding in support of Commander, International Security Assistance Force established priorities for operations in a counter-insurgency environment. She provided situational awareness products to cover the day-to-day activities related to the growth and development of the Afghanistan National Security Forces. She has received many awards and decorations to include the Bronze Star Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal with 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters and others.



# CHANGING TIME, CHANGING MARYLAND GETS



Story by Pfc. Brianna Kearney,  
29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**T**he Maryland National Guard held a historic change of command ceremony at the 5th Regiment Armory in Baltimore on Feb. 28, 2015. Maj. Gen. (MD) Linda L. Singh assumed command of the Maryland Military Department from Maj. Gen. James A. Adkins. She is the first African American and the first female to attain this position.

The ceremony also marked a change of responsibilities for the state's senior enlisted leaders: U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas B. Beyard replaced U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Glenn D. Hart.

Singh grew up in Frederick County and enlisted in the Army National Guard in 1981. She was commissioned as an officer after 10 years of service as an enlisted Soldier. Her career has spanned more than 30 years.

The change of command ceremony uses the passing of

the unit's colors (flag) to represent passing on the command of the Maryland Military Department. The outgoing commander passes the flag to the state governor, which represents relinquishing the command. Then the governor passes the flag to the incoming commander to represent entrusting the responsibility of the role.

"When I think about the journey that we have ahead of us, it is going to be tough, and it is going to be challenging," Singh said. "I think you can expect me to be tough and to be challenging, but I will always smile."

The change of responsibility ceremony is very similar to the change of command ceremony, but a sabre (sword) is passed between the enlisted leaders instead of the colors.

After the ceremonies, Maryland Governor Lawrence Hogan commented on the retiring Adkins and the future command of Singh.

"Now he has some pretty big shoes to fill, but I am confident that we found the right leader to fill those shoes," Hogan said. "I could not be more proud of our appointment of Maj. Gen. Linda Singh as our new adjutant general."



# ING GUARD: NEW AG



- Larry Hogan,  
Governor of Maryland

**“I could not be more proud of our appointment of Maj. Gen. Linda Singh as our new adjutant general.”**



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# Maryland National Guard



## FACILITATE CASUAL

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Michael E. Davis, Jr.  
Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office



Sgt. Austin S. Langdon, a veteran flight medic, with C Co., 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment awaits to load a mannequin patient onto a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter during a Tactical Combat Casualty Care exercise.



# TOPICS

## CASUALTY CARE EXERCISE



Sgt. Austin S. Langdon, a veteran flight medic, with C Co., 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment, loads a mannequin patient onto a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter during a Tactical Combat Casualty Care exercise in the Edgewood area of Maryland.

A Health Service Technician, Coast Guardsman Petty Officer 3rd Class (HS3) Shanna Dunn pulls rear security after unloading a mannequin patient from a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.



Sgt. James Hartsell just finished treating a mannequin patient during a Tactical Combat Casualty Care exercise.



The Maryland Army National Guard's C Co., 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment collaborated with active duty Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) instructors from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) during a medic sustainment training event held at Weide Army Airfield in Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and at other locations in the Edgewood area from Feb. 5-6, 2015.

As part of a monthly partnership, the pilots and flight crew in C Co. facilitate WRNMMC military personnel by providing suitable locations, nine-line MEDEVAC support, and familiarization to aircrafts in order to successfully run a TCCC training cycle. The instructors from WRNMMC teach TCCC to service members and civilians throughout the Department of Defense and other federal agencies.

"We coordinated with this National Guard unit here in order to facilitate medical evacuation assets with our trauma lanes," said

Staff Sgt. Daniel Burke, an instructor with WRNMMC.

Even though the MDARNG facilitated this joint operation, C Co. 1-169th flight crew was able to go through sustainable training as well. Guard pilots were also able to receive flight time, which can be beneficial for their career.

"For Charlie company 1-169th, this exercise is helping them do training progression for not only their pilots but also their crew members," said Maj. Teresa M. Parrotta, instructor pilot with C Co. 1-169th. "The medics on the ground were getting the benefit value of running through the nine-line and familiarization of the aircraft because a lot of them have never been around a UH-60 (Blackhawk helicopter) or any other aircraft."

In addition to getting familiar with air-





- HS3 Shanna Dunn

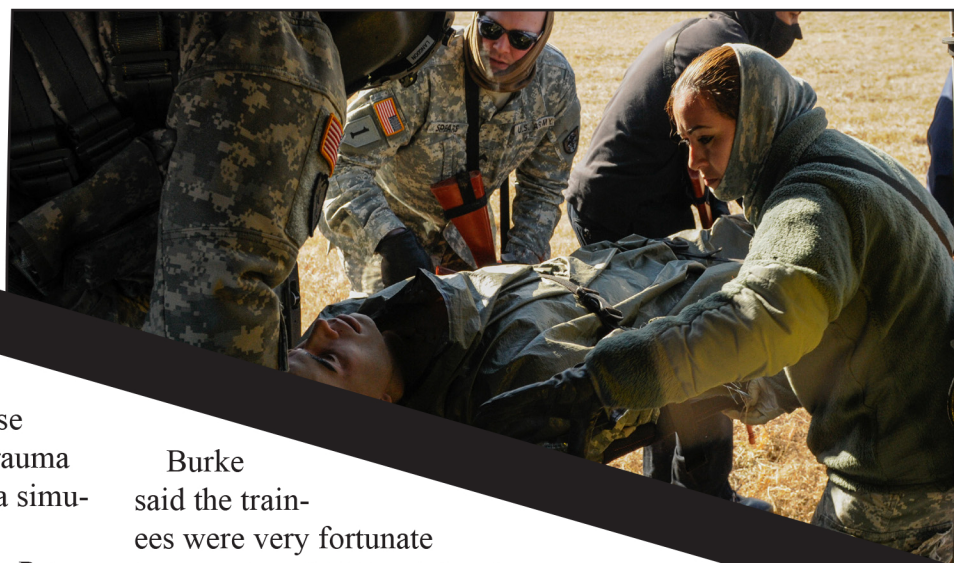


**“It was fun. I’ve worked with the Army before, but this is definitely a different perspective as far as combat because [we] don’t really do [this] type of stuff.”**



◀ An active duty Soldier and trainee calls for assistance as he tries to pull a mannequin patient while holding his simulated weapon.

Sgt. Austin S. Langdon helps trainees load a mannequin patient onto a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. ▶



craft, the trainees had to go through a scenario where they had to treat multiple mannequin patients, otherwise known as the Multiple Amputation Trauma Trainer (MATT), while taking fire in a simulated combat environment.

“It was fun,” said Coast Guardsman Petty Officer 3rd Class Shanna Dunn, referring to the medical training she received and working with the MDARNG. “I’ve worked with the Army before, but this is definitely a different perspective as far as combat because [we] don’t really do [this] type of stuff.” Dunn is a Health Service Technician.

Burke said the trainees were very fortunate because the TCCC training is a unique experience that not a lot of people get a chance to go through.

“I appreciate the Maryland National Guard helping [us] to facilitate our training and I’m glad both of us got something out of it,” Burke said.

“I hope to continue the experience.”



# TROOPER of the QUARTER

By Staff Sgt. Michael E.  
Davis, Jr., Maryland  
National Guard Public  
Affairs Office



**T**he Maryland National Guard takes great pleasure in recognizing its citizen-Soldiers and Airmen who have interesting qualities and stand out in their military and civilian careers. This quarter, the MDNG would like to acknowledge Army Sgt. Sarah E. Skelton.





# SGT. SARAHE. SKELTON<sup>E.</sup>

## Guard Status:

**Affiliation:** Maryland Army National Guard

**Unit:** Headquarters and Headquarters Company,  
29th Combat Aviation Brigade

**Military Occupational Specialty:** 68X  
Mental Health Specialist

**Years of service:** 10

## Citizen Status

**Career(s):** Mental Health Services & Veteran  
Service Coordinator

**Affiliation:** George Washington University

**Education:** Doctorate of Psychology (Psy. D)  
Clinical Psychology



**PAO:** Sgt. Skelton, how long have you been in the Maryland National Guard?

**Skelton:** I actually just did an IST (Interstate Transfer) in October of 2103 to the Maryland Guard, but I've in the National Guard since 2005.

**PAO:** And what do you do in the Maryland National Guard?

**Skelton:** I'm a 68X, a behavioral health technician.

**PAO:** What do you do in the civilian world?

**Skelton:** I'm a psychologist at the University Counseling Center at George Washington and I'm the veteran services coordinator. I specialized in working with

At the summit of Lassen Volcanic Mountain celebrating the conclusion of my internship year at Stanford University



people that could be National Guard members, the reserve component, students who are currently enrolled, veteran students who are complete separated, some of the ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Course) students, as well as dependents. I'm also working with the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention and doing some classes in the community here as well in Maryland.

**PAO:** How much schooling did you have to go through in order to become a professional psychologist?

**Skelton:** I did an associate degree in liberal arts, so that's two years, and then I did a bachelor's degree in psychology, which is another two years. Then I went through a masters program, which is another two years, and then I went through a doctorate, which is four years of academic work.

SGT. SARAHE. SKELTON<sup>E.</sup>





**PAO:** Was your schooling a factor in what you wanted to do in the National Guard?

**Skelton:** No, it was just something that I wanted to do with enlisted Soldiers. I really enjoy working with enlisted. I love being able to train them and mentor them about what our job looks like within a National Guard unit. This is something that I always loved doing. Often times I felt like I had an advantage by being enlisted because Soldiers would trust me and come to me more than some of our behavior health officers.

**PAO:** Other than being able to relate to Soldiers, do you feel you have contributed to the Maryland Guard with your expertise?

**Skelton:** I think so. From my understanding, my position in the aviation unit is fairly new. Within the few months since I've been there I've had lots of conversations with the medical team about what we want our behavior health section to look like. We started to add behavior health to the PHA (Periodic Health Assessment) so we can really integrate mental health as part of the physical well-being and look at it more holistically. I think [that] will be a really big part of reducing stigma and getting people to look at mental health as being a part of their physical health as well. I've also been able to co-facilitate suicide prevention classes and I'm a DOD (Department of Defense) certified victim advocate.

**PAO:** As a teacher in the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) course what do you think Soldiers will get out of it?

**Skelton:** Yeah it's a great course. I think it really challenges our Soldiers to think outside of the box. Do trainings that are different than what we have been doing in the past and ... how we're looking at suicide and what we're doing to prevent and intervene.

**PAO:** Growing up, did you always have intentions on working with Soldiers and veterans?

**Skelton:** I didn't. I think after 9/11 happened and as I was growing in the field it was something that kind of came up. I knew I wanted to provide quality mental health care to Service members. I think the passion only really came after I put on the uniform. So that's something that I've kind of grown with. It's been a really interesting and great journey to be able to come up in the mental health care world on the civilian side at the same time that I've grown in uniform on the mental health care side as well.

**PAO:** So you get the best of both worlds, so to speak?

**Skelton:** Yeah, I think I'm pretty fortunate that whatever I do in the civilian side helps me in uniform and whatever do in uniform helps me in the civilian side and so I really get to see the advantage of doing both parts of that.



Deployed with the Red Cross at a Disaster Mental Health Responder for Hurricane Issac, Louisiana



Volunteering at an orphanage in Tegucigalpa, Honduras

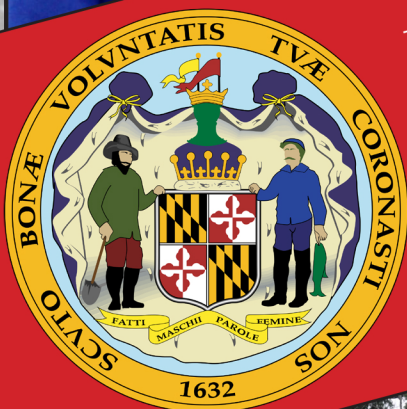


Participating in a survival course for military and veterans Outwardbound





# MARYLAND MILITARY GOV. HOGAN'S



Various members of The Maryland Military Department (MMD) helped with the Inauguration ceremony of the 62nd Governor of Maryland, Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., at the State House in Annapolis Jan. 21, 2015. The MMD took the lead for planning and coordinating the various events.





By Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.,  
Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office

# DEPARTMENT FACILITATES INAUGURATION



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# 2015 MDARNG



# BEST **WARRIOR** COMPETITION



*Photos by Maj. Rick E. Breitenfeldt, Staff Sgts Michael Davis Jr., and Thaddeus Harrington, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office*

**T**he Maryland Army National Guard completed its 2015 Best Warrior Competition at the Lauderick Creek Training Site in the Edgewood area of Md., and at Gunpowder Military Reservation, located in Glen Arm, Md., March 13-16, 2015.

This year, at the request of Maj. Gen. Linda L. Singh, the adjutant general of Maryland, company grade officers got a chance to compete with the Soldiers and noncommissioned officers, making a third category for the competition. 1st Lt. John D. Villanueva from B Company, 1-175th Infantry Regiment was name Officer of the Year, Staff Sgt. Brandon J. Kennedy, from the 253rd Engineer Company, was named NCO of the Year, and Spc. Christopher M. Hoffman, from C Company, 1-169th Aviation Regiment, was named Soldier of the Year.

Runner-ups were Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kaylan G. Harrington, 70th Regiment Training Institute, Staff Sgt. Andrew C. Cullum, Recruiting and Retention Battalion and Russell LeCates Jr., Maryland National Guard Honor Guard.

The competition consisted of a written test, an Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), an M16/M4 rifle qualification, a day/night land navigation course, a seven-mile road march, Warrior Skills Tasks including a mystery Warrior Skills Task, and a board appearance.







# On the +LINE



## MDNG's new SEL

**B**rig. Gen. Linda L. Singh, the adjutant general of Maryland, is pleased to announce her selection of Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas B. Beyard as the Senior Enlisted Leader of the Maryland National Guard effective January 21, 2015.

Beyard will replace Chief Master Sgt. Glenn Hart, who will continue in his role as State Command Chief of the Maryland Air National Guard.

"Please join me in thanking Chief Master Sgt. Hart for his dedicated service as the Senior Enlisted Leader and together let us wish both of these outstanding senior non-commissioned officers well as they move forward in their new assignments," said Col. Adam R. Flasch, acting commander Maryland Army National Guard.

Beyard brings more than 32 years of service and experience in the National Guard to his new Senior Enlisted Leader duties. His previous assignment was the Maryland Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major.



## 175th Infantry Regiment 2014 Pass In Review

**T**he 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment celebrated the regiment's 240th anniversary during its annual Pass In Review ceremony at the 5th Regiment Armory in Baltimore, Dec. 6. Current and former members of the 175th, also known as Baltimore's "Dandy Fifth" Regiment, attended the event, paying their respects to the unit's historic legacy. The Fifth traces its roots back to the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

## Roc drill

**L**t. Col. Amy Bennett walks members the Maryland Military Department and other state agencies through a rehearsal of concept or "roc drill" on Wednesday, Jan. 14, in Reisterstown, for all the primary planners for the inauguration ceremony. The drill floor of the Camp Fretterd Armory was set up with the primary road network; state buildings and other landmarks. The staff members literally walked through their timelines and critical events for the inauguration.





## Maj. Gen. Adkins' last BiH office call

Maj. Gen. James A. Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland, held his last Bosnia and Herzegovina office call with Lt. Gen. Anto Jelec, chief of joint staff of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the historic Fifth Regiment Armory, Jan. 20, 2015. Jelec thanked Adkins for their successful joint missions under the State Partnership Program and discussed his future plans with the Maryland National Guard.



## 231st Transportation Truck Battalion

Throwback Thursday, today we honor the all-Black Maryland National Guard 231st Transportation Truck Battalion. This unit was the first National Guard unit sent to support the Korean War. President Harry S. Truman integrated the active duty military in 1948, years before the 231st went to Korea, but Maryland was slow to follow suit. In fact, it wasn't until Nov. 21, 1955, that Maryland Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Milton A. Reckord complied with President Dwight D. Eisenhower's request to racially integrate the Maryland National Guard with General Order Number 49.

## A-10C Warthog

A Maryland Air National's A-10C Warthog from the 175th Wing drops inert training bombs during joint terminal attack controller proficiency training at the New Jersey National Guard's 177th Fighter Wing Det. 1, Warren Grove Gunnery Range, N.J.



## 175th Wing and Salvation Army show Holiday spirit

Members of the 175th Wing Maryland Air National Guard, in conjunction with the Baltimore area Salvation Army distributed holiday gifts and toys to families in the Greater Baltimore area. The gifts were collected through a program called the Angel Tree Program and distributed on December 19, 2014 at the Salvation Army Warehouse in Baltimore, MD.



## Brig. Gen. Singh's first day as TAG

First day on the job as the Adjutant General of Maryland, Brig. Gen. Linda L. Singh discusses future partnership efforts with leaders of both the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Estonian Defence League during an office call at the Fifth Regiment Armory Jan. 22, 2015.



## MDARNG facilitates AFBiH visit

The Maryland Army National Guard facilitated and escorted members of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH), during their visit to the Maryland and D.C. area from March 8-17, 2015. The Maryland National Guard familiarized the visiting personnel with the officer and noncommissioned officer relationship and institutional education in the U.S. military. Senior enlisted leaders from the AFBiH had the opportunity to tour the Maryland State House and meet with Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., and Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford. The event was part of the National Guard State Partnership Program hosted by the 70th Regiment (LDR) Regional Training Institute to expose our visitors to the role of local government and the relationship with the military.





## MDNG's newest SGM

Sgt. Maj. Iris Cruz-Story was promoted this past drill weekend at the Aviation Support Facility in Edgewood, Md., and she is the Maryland Army National Guard's newest Sergeant Major. We wish her the best of luck in her new assignment with the G-4 office. In the U.S. Army, sergeant major (SGM) refers to both a military rank and a specific leadership position. It is the highest enlisted rank, just above first sergeant and master sergeant, with a pay grade of E-9. The sergeant major is a subject matter expert in their technical field, primary advisor on policy development, analytical reviewer of regulatory guidance and often fulfills the duties of the command sergeant major in their absence.



## Thank you for your service Maj. Gen. James A. Adkins

After serving as the adjutant general of Maryland since 2008, Maj. Gen. James A. Adkins retired ending more than 30 years in uniform.



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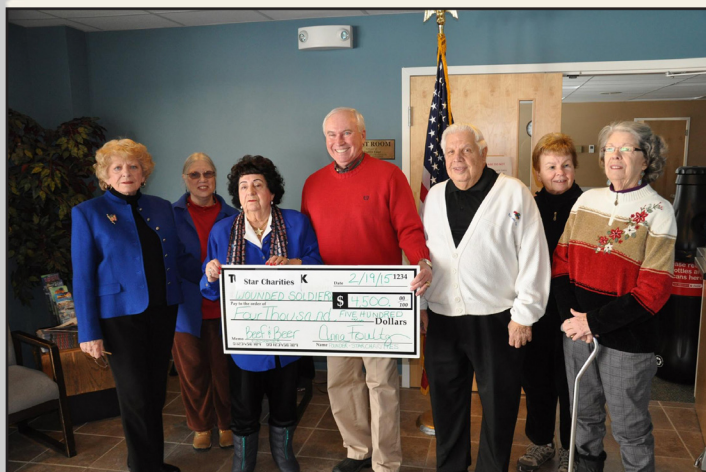


## Gov. Hogan visits MEMA

Governor Larry Hogan visited the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) in Reisterstown last night in response to the winter storm, which moved through the region. MEMA Director Clay Stamp briefed the governor on the weather system and the actions the state took to support Maryland citizens and local governments.

## Star Charities presents check to MDNG foundation

Anna Foulty, president of Star Charities presents retired Maj. Gen. James Adkins a check \$4,500 for the Maryland National Guard Foundation at the Community Center in Ocean Pines, Md., on Thursday, Feb. 19. The donation was from a recent Beef and Beer fund raiser, just one of many events that Star Charities hosts to benefit wounded and deployed Soldiers.







## Brig. Gen. Kramer promotion ceremony

Col. Jeffrey P. Kramer, director of the Joint Staff for the Maryland National Guard, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general during a ceremony on January 10, 2015, at the Edgewood Conference Center in Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. Prior to his current position, Kramer commanded the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB). His previous duty assignments include deputy chief of staff for operations/G3, G5, deputy G3, assistant J3, 29th CAB S1, 29th CAB assistant S3, and the commander of headquarters and headquarters company, 29th CAB.

## Lt. Col. (MD) (Retired) Bailey's promotion ceremony

Retired Maj. Thomas M. Bailey was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel (MD) at the historic Fifth Regiment Armory, located in downtown Baltimore, Md., Jan. 13, 2015.



## Brig. Gen. (MD) (Retired) Schweitzer's promotion ceremony

Retired Col. Robert D. Schweitzer was promoted to the rank of brigadier general (MD) at the historic Fifth Regiment Armory, located in downtown Baltimore, Md., Jan. 13, 2015.

## Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jerry S. Goodwin awarded Purple Heart

More than six years after a blast wave from an exploding 107mm rocket threw him violently to the ground in Iraq, retired Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jerry S. Goodwin was awarded the Purple Heart today during a ceremony at the 5th Regiment Armory in Baltimore. Goodwin, who was deployed with Maryland's 58th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in 2007, was blown to the ground when the rocket impacted approximately 20 meters from his position. After first rendering aid to his fellow Soldiers, Goodwin was then treated for his own injuries, which included Traumatic Brain Injury and hearing loss as a result of the blast. The U.S. Army has since retroactively authorized concussion and brain injuries as eligible for the medal. The Purple Heart is one of the most recognized and respected medals awarded to U.S. Service members. It is ranked immediately behind the Bronze Star Medal in order of precedence.







## MDARNG's 70th RTI conducts TC3 exercise for CLS course

Members of the Maryland Army National Guard's 70th Regiment Training Institute conducted a Tactical Combat Casualty Care exercise at the Warrior Training Center located in Aberdeen Proving Ground in the Edgewood area of Maryland on Feb. 12, 2015.

[youtu.be/cJg4zaP48J0](https://youtu.be/cJg4zaP48J0)

## Hands-on combatives

Members of the Maryland Army National Guard conducted Basic Combatives Level 1 training at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., Dec. 8-11. The 40-hour training consisted of a written portion, hands-on drills, all culminating in a clinch drill test. Chief Warrant Officer Kaylan Harrington participated in the training and was interviewed by the Baltimore Sun for her opinion on the expansion of women's roles in the Army.



## The Baltimore Station outreach from the Chief's counsel

The Maryland Air National Guard's Chief's counsel from Warfield Air National Guard Base in Baltimore, Md., purchased and prepared a meal for over 80 men of The Baltimore Station. Senior Master Sgt Hope Edwards, Chief Master Sgt James Spivey, Chief Master Sgt Anthony Rotundo, Chief Master Sgt Monika Russo, Chief Master Sgt Michele Vogel, Chief Master Sgt Patrick Shaw, Chief Master Sgt Lawrence Wright, Chief Master Sgt Glen Hart, Chief Master Richard Petrush, Chief Master Sgt. Jeff Morse & Chief Master Max Hasselbein.



## JROTC visits 175th Wing

Twenty two Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) from Edmondson-Westside High School had a chance to get up close to an A-10C Warthog aircraft and see our new firehouse and fire trucks.



## 58th Troop Command change of command

Col. Sean M. Casey, outgoing commander of the 58th Troop Command, relinquishes command to Col. William R. Greer during a change of command ceremony on Dec. 6, 2014, at the CW4 Melvin Sherr Armory in Parkville, Md. (U.S. Army photo/ Spc. Allan Griffith, 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

## MDARNG gets Army National Guard Distinguished Aviation Safety Award

Maj. Gen. Judd H. Lyons (far left), Acting Director, Army National Guard, presented the Army National Guard Distinguished Aviation Safety Award to Maj. David M. Paolucci (middle), State Army Aviation Officer, Maryland Army National Guard, during the FY15 ARNG Safety and Standardization Conference in Norman, Okla., on Feb. 10, 2015.

Paolucci accepts the award for the MDARNG's impeccable aviation safety record - having not sustained an aviation related accident or incident (Class A, B or C) since 1995. To the right of Paolucci stands COL Mark W. Weiss, Chief ARNG-AV.



## Maryland Medics Train to Save Lives

Members of 104th Area Support Medical Company, Maryland Army National Guard, participates in immediate care training using human cadavers at the University of Maryland's School of Medicine in Baltimore, Md., on Feb. 6, 2015. The training focuses on airway management, immediate care under fire, including practicing sutures, and emergency tracheotomy. The personnel on site were health care providers, health care specialists and military doctors. (Video by Pfc. Patrick Rooney, 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.)

[youtu.be/Ltlv4ucuUbU](https://youtu.be/Ltlv4ucuUbU)



## Champions of Courage

**M**aj. Gen. (MD) Linda Singh, the adjutant general of Maryland was the keynote speaker for the 28th annual "Champions of Courage" Black History month essay competition awards breakfast at the historic Tremont Grand hotel in Baltimore, on January 31.

Out of more than 3,000 entries, 20 Baltimore-area students were recognized during the awards breakfast in the competition that challenged students, grades 6 through 12, to write a brief essay saluting their personal "Champion of Courage"....a positive role model who has touched their lives by sharing the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The students will also appear on WBFF-TV FOX 45, saluting their personal heroes during Black History Month this February.



### Garcia appointed warrant officer with the MDNG

**S**taff Sgt. Thomas E. Garcia, a member the Maryland Army National Guard's 70th Regiment Training Institute, gets appointed to the rank of warrant officer at the 5th Regiment Armory, Feb. 10, 2015. Garcia now holds a full-time position as a logistics management specialist with the Maryland National Guard. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael E. Davis Jr., Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office)

### Freedom Salute: Bravo Company, 642nd Aviation Support Battalion

**B**ravo Company, 642nd Aviation Support Battalion, mobilized for Operation Enduring Freedom on October 4, 2013. While deployed, maintainers performed maintenance on both the UH-60 Blackhawk and the AH-64 Apache aircraft and completed more than 2,500 work orders and 250,000 maintenance man hours.





# SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION HONORS MD GUARD



*By Capt. Kurt M. Rauschenberg, 115th Military Police Battalion*

**M**aryland National Guardsmen attended the Annual George Washington Birthday Luncheon hosted by the Maryland Society Sons of the American Revolution today to receive a prestigious award known as the Maryland 400 Distinguished Service Medal.

Amongst the award recipients were Army Staff Sgt. Amber Insley, 1st Sgt. Robert Schmidt, Spec. Benjamin Wertz, Air Force Tech Sgt. Charles Doran, and Senior Master Sgt. David Herpel. The Maryland 400 Distinguished Service Medal is unique given Maryland is the only State in the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution that has a specific medal honoring the National Guard.

The Maryland 400 Distinguished Service Medal, first awarded in 1936 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., was given to Md. Guardsmen for general excellence based on dependability, cooperation, leadership, patriotism, and intelligence. These medals were awarded annually until 1940, when the National Guard was called into active federal service for World War II. It wasn't until 2009, when the medals were rediscovered, that Maryland National Guardsmen once again began receiving this award based on conspicuous distinguished service or achievement.

According to MDSSAR, the medal represents an American soldier in the uniform of the Continental Army with musket and bayonet used by the Maryland 400 in the



# AMERICAN REVOLUTION SOLDIERS & AIRMEN

Battle of Long Island pressing forward under the shield of a militant America mantled in the flowing folds of a star-spangled banner, in her left hand a shield to protect her children, in her right a sword for those who would destroy her faith. At the bottom is, "August – 27 – 1776", the date of the battle when Maryland's 400 saved Washington's Army at Gowanus Creek.

"It's important to the Sons of the American Revolution to recognize the service of those in uniform today as they carry on the traditions of service and sacrifice dating back to 1776", said Maj. Gen. (Retired) James A. Adkins, former Maryland National Guard adjutant general.

Adkins served as the guest speaker during the ceremony and emphasized the importance of the Maryland 400 at the Battle of Long Island, August 27, 1776.

Douglas Favorite, MDSSAR President, and Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Kramer, Md. National Guard Director of Joint Staff, presented the award to each recipient.

"This is critical to the MDSSAR as we recognize our history is full of people who have fought for our freedom and liberty", Favorite said. "The people we recognize today are doing the same in a different way and we must keep the spirit alive and keep it going."

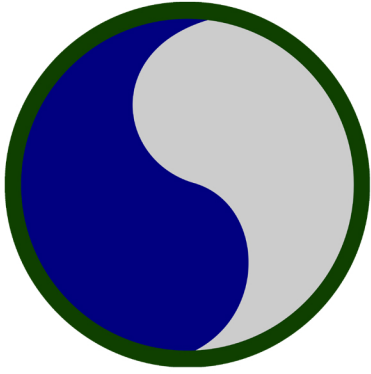
Staff Sgt. Amber Insley, a training specialist with the 115th Military Police Battalion, reflected on what receiving this award meant to her.

"I feel extremely honored to have even been nominated for this award that contains a big part of the Maryland National Guard's history", Insley said. "Words cannot express the honor I feel to receive this medal and to represent the Maryland National Guard. I am especially grateful for all those who have mentored me and those I've able to mentor throughout my years of service. Without them, I would not have this great honor."

Lt. Col. Mary Staab and Sgt. First Class Anthony McGrath were in attendance to show their support for Staff Sgt. Insley during the award ceremony.







# MDNG SIGNAL COMPANY GETS FIRST DIBS ON COMMUNICATION UPGRADE







By Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr., Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office

**T**he Maryland Army National Guard's Company C (Signal) of the 29th Infantry Division was the first unit in the Army to field and train on the latest tactical network at the Military Reservation in Pikesville Md., Jan. 14, 2015.

Known as the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical Increment 1 (WIN-T Inc 1), it provides Soldiers at the battalion level and above with a high-capacity voice, data and video communications.

This networking system has been a major support for over 94 percent of the Army and National Guard's tactical network and a full range of military operations since 2004.

"It's about getting better communication to the Guard," said Maj. Gen. Daniel P. Hughes, program executive officer for command, control, communications-tactical. "This really will increase the ability of this unit to support the nation in the fight or even support the governor."

Hughes said the new upgrades on the WIN-T Inc 1 would allow faster responses when there are natural disasters and the Maryland National Guard is needed to support its citizens.

"Look what happened to Hurricane Sandy on the coast of New Jersey,

there are places right now that don't have basic services. The Guard's critical mission in the state is now enhanced greatly. It's great to have the Guard getting [this] first," Hughes said.

The four modernizations to the WIN-T Inc 1 networks are: End Of Life Technical Refresh (EOL Tech Refresh), the WIN-T Inc 1b Upgrade, Network operations (NetOps) Convergence Upgrade, and the High Capacity Line Of Sight (HCLOS) Radio upgrade.

The EOL upgrades include new commercial hardware and software components such as routers, switches, servers and firewalls. The new products reduce size, weight and power (SWaP) by combining capabilities that once required their own hardware on virtualized servers.

The EOL also enables the Army to reduce the number of required Increment 1 transit cases by one third, shedding 1,000 cases over the next three years, and reduces the weight of the remaining cases.

The WIN-T Inc 1b upgrade adds the Network Centric Waveform (NCW) modem that takes advantage of NCW, a dynamic waveform that optimizes bandwidth and satellite utilization. Another key attribute of the NCW is that it enables Soldiers to send all information across the battlefield securely.

"The 1b allows us to do a number of different things," said Lt. Col Joel

Babbitt, product manager for WIN-T Increment 1. "It makes the Increment 1 a Swiss Army knife of communications. We could put Top Secret traffic through it; we could commercial traffic through it like we're doing right now for Operations United Systems in West Africa for Ebola response.

The NetOps Convergence Upgrade simplifies and reduces the number of network management tools that communications officers use to manage the tactical communications network.

And finally, the HCLOS radio upgrade provides more than a fourfold increase in throughput, enabling higher-data applications such as full-motion video, high definition video teleconferencing, and network convergence.

Twelve National Guardsmen within this Maryland-based signal company have the privilege to learn, utilize and to train their fellow Soldiers on the new the WIN-T upgrades.

"Some of the other Soldiers couldn't make the training today, so moving forward we're going to have to get them up to speed, just in case one of us is out," said Sgt. Dewayne Carruth, a nodal network systems operator-maintainer, with the 29th Inf. Div.

An aggressive fielding schedule is planned to rapidly bring this new equipment capability to all Army WIN-T 1 units by the end of 2017.



# PARTNERS IN CARE



# FEEDS GUARD FAMILIES

*By Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.,  
Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office*

**T**he Maryland National Guard's Partners in Care initiative donated 50 holiday meals to Soldiers and Airmen for Thanksgiving. The meals were delivered to the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore, Md., Nov. 24, 2014.

This support for Service members and their families is done annually. This year was the first time the food was delivered to the armory.

"We usually go pick them [meals] up and deliver them to the Soldiers," said Sgt. Noel Mason, Maryland National Guard chaplain's assistant.

Mason said the traditional part-time MDNG Service members referred by their supervisors are eligible for the holiday meal. With the help of chaplains, and other Service members, Mason assisted with the food distribution.

"I feel blessed," said Spc. Jerry Paige, expressing his gratitude toward receiving a holiday meal.



Just coming home in June from a deployment with the 1229th Transportation Company, Paige said he is looking forward to having Thanksgiving dinner with his wife and three children.

A few Soldiers like Paige were able to pick up their meal from the Armory, but others who were not able to had their family or other Service members pick it up for them.

Sgt. Kimberly Kline, an administrative noncommissioned officer with the 29th Military Police Company,

traveled two hours to pick up a few meals for Soldiers in her unit.

"We had four Soldiers who signed up for the turkey meals, but they couldn't make the drive so I drove over here for them," Kline said.

Even Thurman Doolittle, a fellow veteran who was responsible for driving the truck filled with the holiday food, helped by downloading the meals off the truck.

Doolittle said he served as a chaplain's assistant while in the Army and currently helps veterans







out on Memorial Day, Veterans Day and holidays like this one.

"The Army was very good to me and I really appreciate what you guys are doing," Doolittle said. "It's our honor to help."

The meals provided for the Service members consisted of a turkey and non-traditional foods such as a pasta dinner, pancake batter and canned foods.

Mason said Zion United Church of Christ, a Partners in Care congregation located in Baltimore, contributed all of the food provided.

Mason also said food and toys would be provided during the Christmas holiday as well. Service members who are in need of assistance can contact the MDNG's Chaplain Office to learn

how to sign up or refer a Soldier or Airman.

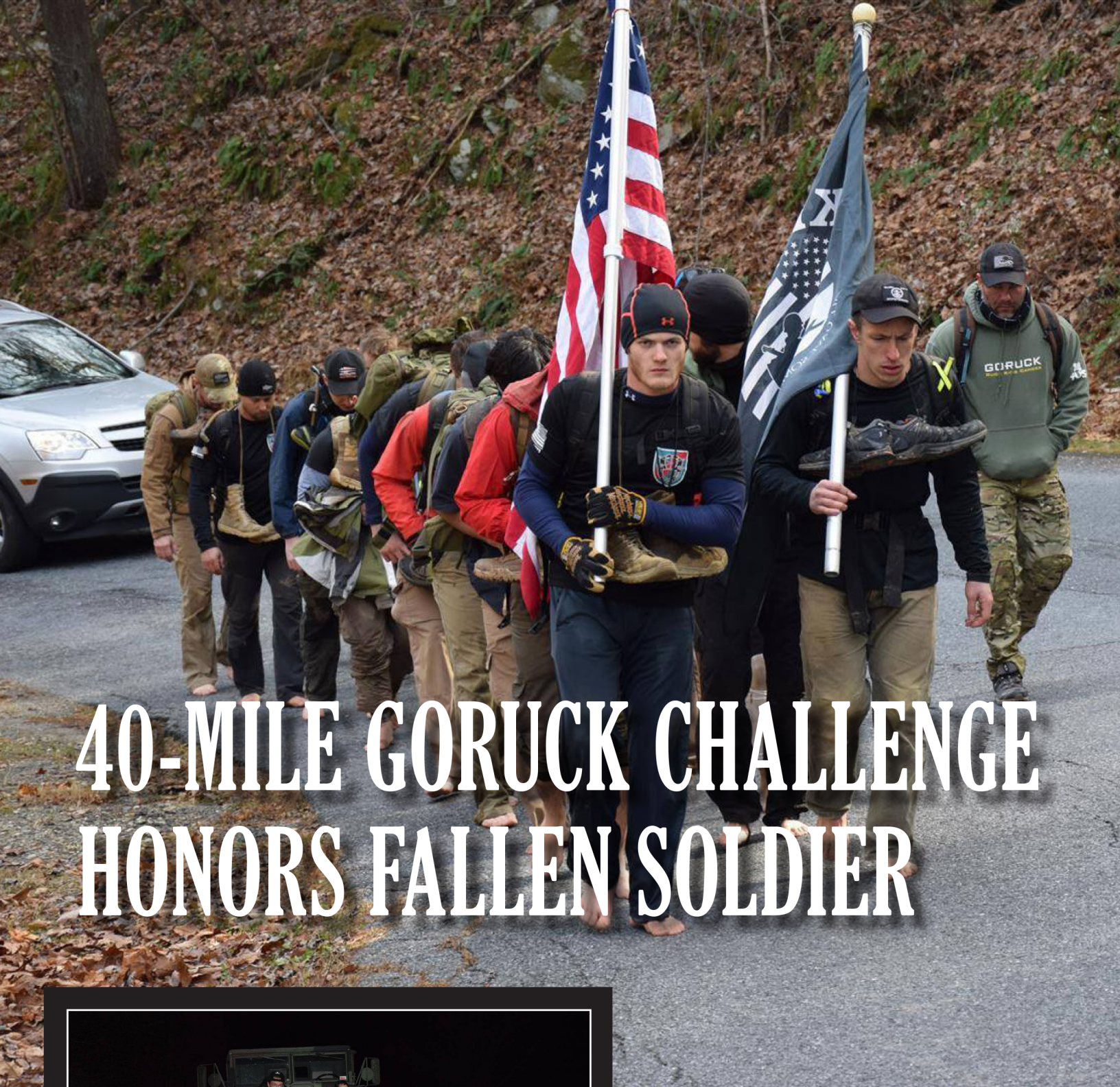
Eligible Service members are also able to receive donated gift cards, from Partners in Care, for groceries.

"The gift cards are a thing we do continuously with Partners in Care," Mason said. "Soldiers having hard times or just need groceries for their family can fill out a request form and we'll provide them with a \$50 a gift card."

Partners in Care is a faith-based program started by Chaplain (Col.) William S. Lee, Maryland National Guard Joint Force Headquarters chaplain, and was initiated to extend support to all referred Service members and their families.







# 40-MILE GORUCK CHALLENGE HONORS FALLEN SOLDIER



Courtesy photos by Larry Kuzela



Maryland National Guard members of Bravo Company 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group participated in a 24-hour, 40-mile GORUCK challenge Nov. 22-23, 2014, to raise money for the SSG Matthew (Blackbeard) Pucino Memorial Foundation and the Green Beret Foundation. The event took place in Hampstead, Md. and started at 3:00 p.m. on the 22nd and ending at 3:00 p.m. the following day.

On Nov. 23, 2009, Pucino laid down his life to free the oppressed. While on a combat patrol in the vicinity of Pashay Kala, Afghanistan, an improvised explosive device struck his all-terrain vehicle, thus ending his warrior's mission. Pucino was a Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha Intelligent Sergeant, earning numerous awards and commendations for bravery and acts of meritorious.







# Final Frame

*By Senior Master Sgt. Ed Bard,  
175th Wing Public Affairs*

**M**aj. Gen. (MD) Linda L. Singh, the adjutant general of Maryland, visited the 175th Wing Maryland Air National Guard (MDANG) in Baltimore, Md., on February 20, 2015.

This was Singh's first visit since being appointed to the cabinet of recently elected Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan. She took the opportunity to meet face to face with leadership and Airman to discuss her vision and expectations for the MDANG.