The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) is the nation's oldest military association. Militia officers formed the unit in 1878 to obtain better equipment and training by educating congress on militia requirements. Today with a membership of nearly 45,000 Army and Air National Guard officers, NGAUS continues that mission in support of 460,000 current Guards men and women, their families, their employers and all Guard retirees.

Last month 53 National Guard Company grade and Warrant officers toured the capital, the pentagon, and received an inside look at how NGAUS lobbies congress. They were the first group to take part in an association funded officer professional development program that brings two officers from each state and territory to the nations capital. The Program is open to officers up to the rank of Captain and Chief Warrant Officer. State or Territory associations selected the participants. The goal is to expose young officers to how things work in the capital and help them better understand the critical role NGAUS plays.

The Chief of the National Guard Bureau, GEN Joseph Lengyel spoke informally with them as they toured the National Guard Memorial, and later commented "There's an energy about them that makes me feel good about the Guard". Another OPD program is the Annual Conference.

In recent years the National Guard Bureau has authorized each state and territory to spend a small amount of federal dollars to send Captains and below to the conference for professional development. This year the figure is about $300,000 total for the 50 states, Guam, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. National Guard Bureau has authorized a similar amount for E6 and below to attend the conference of the enlisted association of the National Guard. This year the event is in New Orleans, LA August 21-24. More information about NGAUSOPD Programs is available at www.ngaus.org/opd. The National Guard Association and the Enlisted Association work on a daily basis for the benefit of the National Guard, informing senior military and political Leaders on the status of Guard equipment, benefits, strengths and weaknesses. The folks deserve our support. The best way you can support them is to become an Active Member.
101ESB Quarterly Activities Jul 2016 to Sep 2016

Provided by MAJ Bernie A. Novoa Bn XO

9 to 23 July 2016

Annual Training Highlights

Operations and Current Training: During Annual Training 2016, the 101ST ESB performed a WIN-T Signal Exercise at Fort Drum IOT validate crews and equipment. Concurrently, Soldiers were provided an opportunity for IT certification courses. Weapons Qual was also conducted as make-ups. Other Training included Self structured development, Command SHARP, and Career Management for Officer and NCOs.

VALEX / Network Operations / Software Updates: 101ST ESB Network Operations were established at NYMATES F-Wing and all WIN-T systems were inventoried, maintained, and signal tested over a 24-hour period. Additionally, 101ST ESB Information Management teams supported by Field Service Representatives conducted Joint Capabilities Release Blue Force Tracker training and software updates. During VALEX, a focus was placed on WIN-T crew validation and team training and proficiency.

Field Training Exercise: 101ST ESB conducted an FTX at various training areas in vicinity of FDNY. The purpose of the FTX was validate WIN-T crews and equipment and exercise the Battalion’s Mission Command capability communications package which included: Command Post Nodes, tactical radios, SNAP terminal, VSAT, High Capacity Line of Site, JCR/BFT, Phoenix Satellites, Single Shelter Switches, cellular phones, and CP runner plans. The FTX also provided the Battalion with an opportunity to focus on basic field craft and individual Soldier training.

Weapons Training and Qualifications: Battalion conducted consolidated Preliminary Marksmanship Training (PMT) in preparation for October Battalion wide IWQ, and record qualifications for Soldiers that are currently out of tolerance. The primary effort was placed on quality PMI / weapons training.

CECOM Information Technology / Cyber Defense Certifications: The Battalion hosted a CompTIA Security+ (SEC+) Information Technology (IT) CECOM class, which included 13 participants. Earning the Security+ certification is a requirement to be considered IA Workforce Technical (IAT) Level II and IA Workforce Manager (IAM) Level I certified. This training supports cyber network defense requirements.

VIP Visits: The 101ST ESB received VIP visits from NYARNG senior leaders as follows: Commanding General 53RD Troop Command, BG Swezey, State Command Sergeant Major (SCSM), CSM Piwowarski and 369TH Sustainment Brigade Commander, COL Martinez. All feedback received from the visitors was positive regarding 101ST ESB training posture.
9-11 Sep 2016 IDT TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

Operations and Current Training: During drill at Camp Smith, 101ST ESB performed SRP, refined the “Road to War”, conducted a Unit Risk Inventory, and displayed WIN-T equipment for ESGR awardees. This weekend was focused on Soldier Readiness in preparation for unit deployment.

Road to War: The 101st ESB has been selected for another deployment. In preparation for the Joint Assessment (JA), the 101ST ESB continued to refine their deployment plan known as their “Road to War.” As part of this process, the Battalion prepared their initial draft of the Deployment Manning Document (DMD).

Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP): In preparation for future deployment, the Battalion conducted its first SRP event. Over 350 Soldiers were processed through for both medical and administrative screening to determine availability for deployment.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) WIN-T Display: The 101ST ESB met with ESGR representatives and employees who were visiting CSTS as part of the ESGR’s Patriot Award program. 101ST ESB Signal Soldiers shared information about the Battalion’s mission and provided a display of the Battalion’s Signal equipment.

NYC Surge Mission: Following the unfortunate bombings in the city, 150 Soldiers from the 101st ESB were called to State Active Duty (SAD) in order to augment security forces already in place at the Airports.
READINESS AND CYBERSECURITY

As most are aware, the number of cyberattacks against our DoD systems continues to grow as our adversaries have become increasingly aggressive across the cyber domain. Accordingly, there is a comprehensive effort across all of DoD to improve the cybersecurity of our force. Many cyberattacks against DoD seek to exploit preventable, well-known vulnerabilities due to an absence of effective, basic cyber hygiene. To improve the cybersecurity of our networks and systems, DoD has established a “cyber scorecard” that tracks key elements of cybersecurity throughout the department. In support of this effort, the Army has undertaken a number of initiatives to include ensuring all IT systems administrators use dual authentication to access IT systems; that all Army users access our networks via public key infrastructure-based authentication and credentials; and that Army public-facing servers—such as computers that host websites and other data potentially accessible from the public internet—are supported by DoD-approved firewalls. In coordination with our partners across the U.S.

Army Cyber Command, our sister services and DoD, we are continually assessing our cyber hygiene to improve our ability to defend the network against attack. To further improve the cybersecurity of our force and to enhance interoperability, standardization and efficiency across the joint team, DoD will transition to the Windows 10 operating system. It offers benefits and security advantages over older operating systems.

Moreover, migrating to a single operating system across DoD lowers IT costs and streamlines the IT operating environment through more efficient upgrades, patching and software support.

The Windows 10 transition represents an enterprisewide upgrade for the Army and will be applied to most existing systems and devices including desktops, laptops and tablets, along with mission and weapon systems to the maximum extent practical. Some systems will migrate before January 2017; others will take longer.

This is the first time DoD has simultaneously migrated to a single operating system, and the effort requires close coordination across the DoD chief information officer, the U.S. Cyber Command, the Defense Information Systems Agency and our service teammates. The bottom line is that a synchronized move to Windows 10—while a challenge for a large and complex force—is the right approach to enhance security, interoperability and efficiency.

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