

# YEAR IN REVIEW

A photograph of three men in military uniforms standing in profile, saluting. The man on the left is in a dark blue suit and tie. The man in the center is in a dark blue military uniform with a peaked cap and numerous medals on his chest. The man on the right is in a light blue military uniform with a peaked cap and medals. They are standing outdoors under a clear blue sky. In the background, the tops of several flags are visible.

The Idaho Military Division  
2024



## **THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF IDAHO COMMANDER, IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD**

Governor Little and the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature,

This publication serves as the Idaho Military Division's annual report, documenting the unwavering dedication and professionalism of its men and women throughout 2024. The following pages highlight our steadfast commitment to maintaining combat readiness and domestic crisis response capabilities while advancing the Governor's priority of expanding education and training opportunities for Idaho's citizens, helping to ensure our children and grandchildren continue to call Idaho home.

The Idaho National Guard's fundamental purpose is to serve as the combat reserve of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force. In 2024, hundreds of Idaho National Guardsmen deployed globally to protect U.S. national interests while the rest trained and diligently integrated new tactical vehicles, advanced weapons systems and aircraft into our training programs. The skills we develop through training and deployments, along with the equipment and funding we receive to perform this federal role, enable us to serve the people of Idaho in times of need.

In 2024, as Idaho Army National Guard helicopter crews conducted 11 search and rescue missions throughout Idaho's wilderness resulting in numerous lives saved, Idaho Air National Guard firefighters responded to dozens of emergencies in the Boise area, while the Idaho National Guard grew its number of Red Card-certified firefighters to 250. The Idaho Office of Emergency Management played a pivotal role in the state's response to fires and other natural disasters including storms, floods and landslides. The IMD strengthened Idaho's cyber infrastructure by partnering with numerous agencies and Tribal partners across the state, resulting in more than \$2.7 million in community benefits. Idaho National Guardsmen seized opportunities to integrate federal training requirements with local community needs by assisting Tribal partners in constructing a new school while others provided medical, dental, and optometry services to multiple Tribes.

The Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Program celebrated as its 2,326th student completed the program, providing at-risk youth an opportunity to rejoin their peers, graduate high school or earn a GED. STARBASE introduced another 2,700 Title I fifth graders to STEM concepts, bringing the program's total impact to more than 13,000 young learners. Together, these programs enhance the education and training that Idaho's children need to succeed.

Our commitment to the community remained unwavering. This year, the IMD participated in over 300 community relations activities, including the annual Return of the Boise Valley People, the Idaho Veterans Day Parade and numerous community flyovers in addition to hosting dozens of local schools, businesses and civic groups at Gowen Field, strengthening connections with the citizens we serve. Our success relies on the mutual support and collaboration with our local first responders, elected officials, community groups, state agencies, Tribal partners, employers and our families.

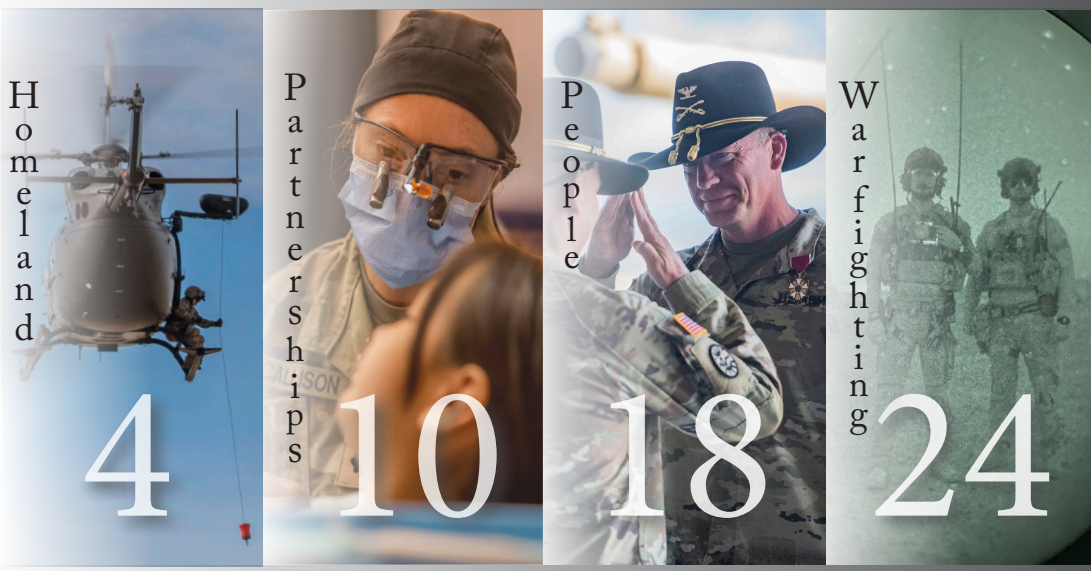
As we reflect on the accomplishments of the Idaho Military Division in 2024, I am reminded of our steadfast commitment to the people of Idaho and our nation. From the inception of the Territorial Militia in 1877 to the present, our dedicated service members have been a cornerstone of our state's resilience and national security.

On behalf of the Idaho Military Division, thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another year of serving the great state of Idaho and our nation.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Donnellan'.

**Timothy Donnellan  
Major General**

# CONTENTS



**4-5 HOMELAND: NEW LEADER, CONTINUED COMMITMENT**  
 DONNELLAN NAMED ADJUTANT GENERAL, MAINTAINS IMD'S DOMESTIC RESPONSE

**18-19 PEOPLE: OUR MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE**  
 IDAHO AIR NATIONAL GUARD, 116TH CBCT WELCOME NEW COMMANDERS

**6-7 FIRED UP AND TRAINED: GUARDSMEN ANSWER CALL**  
 FIREFIGHTERS RESPOND TO REAL-WORLD EMERGENCIES, READY FOR WILDLAND FIRES

**20-21 COMMUNITY SUPPORT KEY TO GUARD'S SUCCESS**  
 GUARDSMEN RECOGNIZE EMPLOYERS; LOCAL LEADERS SERVE AS HONORARY COMMANDERS

**8-9 TO THE RESCUE: IMD READY FOR ANYTHING**  
 FLIGHT CREWS ASSIST WITH 11 RESCUES; IOEM PREPARES FOR, MANAGES DISASTERS

**22-23 TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN, RECOGNIZING OUR BEST**  
 MULTIPLE PROGRAMS SUPPORT MILITARY FAMILIES; SOLDIER EARNS PURPLE HEART

**10-11 PARTNERSHIPS: WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER**  
 MULTIPLE PROJECTS CREATE MUTUAL BENEFITS FOR GUARDSMEN AND TRIBES

**24-25 WARFIGHTING: GUARDSMEN REMAIN COMBAT READY**  
 AIRMEN DEPLOY GLOBALLY IN SUPPORT OF COMBAT OPERATIONS, TRAIN LOCALLY

**12-13 ASSISTING STATE AGENCIES, BUILDING INTERNATIONAL TIES**  
 IMD HELPS HARDEN STATE CYBER SECURITY; IDAHO REAFFIRMS CAMBODIA PARTNERSHIP

**26-27 DEPOYING OVERSEAS, REMAINING RELEVANT**  
 IDAHO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYS TO KOSOVO, MODERNIZES EQUIPMENT

**14-15 SECURING IDAHO'S FUTURE; HONORING WARRIOR CULTURE**  
 IDYCA, STARBASE ENRICH IDAHO EDUCATION; IDNG HONORS BOISE VALLEY PEOPLE

**28-29 LOCAL, GLOBAL PARTNERS ENHANCE PEACE, STABILITY**  
 MEDICS TRAIN WITH LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS; INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS FLOCK TO IDAHO

**16-17 YEAR IN PHOTOS**  
 Follow the Idaho National Guard at:



**30-31 GOOD NEIGHBORS; INVESTING IN IDAHO'S FUTURE**  
 GOWEN FIELD CONSIDERED FOR FUTURE MISSION; IMD CONTRIBUTES TO ECONOMY



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**Editor's Note:** The Year in Review is an Idaho Military Division publication composed of stories published throughout 2024. Some positions and ranks may have changed during the year. Views expressed may not be those of the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Department of Defense or the U.S. Government.

**On the cover:** The Idaho National Guard held a change of command ceremony on June 28, signifying the transfer of authority between outgoing commander and adjutant general Maj. Gen. Michael J. Garshak and Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Donnellan.

# H o m e l a n d



## SECURING THE HOMELAND

The Idaho Military Division is committed to providing education and training opportunities for our citizens while working, raising families and remaining here in Idaho. Our ability to fight and win our nation's wars leaves us well equipped to serve our communities in their times of need.



# Donnellan appointed as Idaho's 26th TAG



The Idaho National Guard held a change of command ceremony on June 28, signifying the transfer of authority between outgoing commander Maj. Gen. Michael J. Garshak and the incoming commander, Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Donnellan.

Garshak served as the commander of the Idaho National Guard and as the adjutant general of Idaho since his appointment in 2017 by former Idaho Gov. Butch Otter. Gov. Brad Little appointed Donnellan as the state's 26th adjutant general following Garshak's retirement, which also occurred in June.

"Thank you, Gov. Little for your leadership as our Commander in Chief, and for your trust and

confidence in me as the 26th adjutant general of Idaho," Donnellan said. "It is my solemn promise to you and the citizens of Idaho that the Idaho National Guard will continue to be ready and relevant for any challenges overseas or at home."

Under Garshak's command, the Idaho Army National Guard completed multiple deployments, including the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team's back-to-back deployments in support of Operation Spartan Shield from 2021-2023 in Southwest Asia. The 124th Fighter Wing completed its second largest deployment in 2020, deploying to 17 bases in 13 countries in support of four named operations.

Locally, the Idaho National Guard was activated four times during the Covid-19 pandemic to complete more than 100 missions throughout the state. The Idaho National Guard was also activated to support wild-fire fighting efforts in California and Idaho and deployed twice to Washington D.C. to support civil authorities in the nation's capital.

"My time as Idaho's 25th adjutant general and commander of the Idaho National Guard has been the highest honor and most rewarding of my career," said Garshak. "I am forever grateful for having had this opportunity."

Donnellan had served as the assistant adjutant general- Air and commander of the Idaho Air National Guard since 2019. He was promoted to major general in a private ceremony prior to the change of command.

In addition to commanding the Idaho National Guard, the adjutant general oversees the Idaho Military Division, which includes the Idaho Office of Emergency Management; the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy; Public Safety Communications; STARBASE Idaho; and the Idaho Military Museum.

The Idaho National Guard consists of the Idaho Army National Guard and the Idaho Air National Guard. The Idaho Army National Guard comprises more than 3,000 citizen-Soldiers who serve in nearly two dozen Idaho communities. The Idaho Air National Guard includes more than 1,300 citizen-Airmen who serve primarily in the Treasure Valley.



# Idaho Guard firefighters respond locally

Throughout 2024, Idaho National Guard firefighters responded to dozens of requests for assistance in Boise and along I-84.

The Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Fighter Wing fire department responded to nearly two dozen grass fires, vehicle accidents and structural

fires throughout the year. In February, the unit was among the first to respond to a hangar collapse near the Boise Airport. Firefighters were on scene within minutes and led rescue operations while providing treatment throughout the response.



The unit also assisted in multiple grass and vehicle fires outside of Gowen Field, including assisting the Bureau of Land Management with a 10,000-acre fire in October off of State Highway 21. Teams worked more than 14 hours alongside BLM and the Boise Fire Department to prevent the fire from spreading to any structures.

The Idaho Army National Guard's Orchard Fire & Emergency Services also responded to several calls for assistance throughout the year along I-84. In addition to the Orchard Combat Training Center, the department's area of responsibility includes the section of I-84 between mileposts 64 Blacks Creek/Kuna Mora Exit and 72.6, the Ada/Elmore county line.



## Red Card-certified Guardsmen stand ready

Another 50 Idaho National Guardsmen earned their Red Card certifications as Firefighter Type 2 wildland firefighters in 2024. They join an additional 200 Idaho National Guardsmen who are already certified and stand ready if called upon.



“Idaho’s wildland fires are one of the most common and prolific problems we face in our state,” said Maj. Gen. Tim Donnellan, adjutant general of Idaho and commander of the Idaho National Guard. “Even though we have yet to be asked for assistance this year, we need to be ready for the call when it comes.”

The IDNG began certifying citizen-Soldiers and Airmen in 2020. During the 2021 fire season, after an emergency declaration was issued, Guard members began fighting fires on the front lines and assisting with logistical and operational support, while UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crews dropped water on multiple fires across the state.

## Helicopter crews train with Boise Fire



The Idaho National Guard trains continuously to be always ready and always there for domestic operations like search and rescue missions. The Idaho Army National Guard’s State Aviation Group conducted hoist rescue training in April and November with the Boise Fire Department’s Swiftwater/Dive Rescue Team, utilizing its UH-60 Black Hawk and UH-72 Lakota helicopters and hoist experts.

Together, the Boise Fire Department and the Idaho National Guard have aided in several real-world rescues and the Idaho National Guard assisted local agencies in 11 search and rescue missions in 2024.



# Aviation Group assists with 11 rescues



Photo courtesy Custer County

The Idaho Army National Guard's State Aviation Group assisted local agencies with 11 real-world search and rescue missions throughout 2024.

On July 6, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Theron Cameron, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Brennan Hoover, 1st Sgt. Jared Gilstad, Staff Sgt. James Brundy and Sgt. Jessica Adamson assisted Custer County Search and Rescue with a mission near Thompson Peak, the highest summit in the Sawtooth Mountain Range. The crew located an injured rock climber and worked with the Custer County Rope Extraction Team to successfully extract the patient.

On July 10, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kyle Pearl, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Weston Kania, Gilstad, Brundy, Sgt. Jacob Brown and Adamson assisted Custer County Search and Rescue with rescuing a male with compounding medical conditions located along a remote trail with no

landing site nearby, requiring a hoist rescue. The flight crew successfully conducted the rescue and transported the patient to Stanley.

On July 28, Col. Granger Amthor, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jason Hopkins, Staff Sgt. Kole Newberry and Capt. Bart Carrico, a medic from the Boise Fire Department, helped the Elmore County Sheriff's Department with the rescue of a 44-year-old female with a fracture above her ankle. The patient was located in Idaho back country at an approximate altitude of 7,500 feet and had spent the night in rain and near-freezing temperatures. Due to the high altitude, the crew was flying its UH-72 Lakota near its power limits, but the crew was able to successfully recover and transport the patient to Boise.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kevyn Sears, Kania, Gilstad, Staff Sgt. Bradley Stock and Brown rescued a 19-year-old female with severe abdominal pain near the Middle Fork of the Boise River east of Greylock Mountain on August 12. Life Flight had been dispatched the night prior but was unable to land due to steep terrain at the rescue location. The patient was met by Ada County Paramedics upon return to Gowen Field.

Sears, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robbie Mace, Gilstad and Stock assisted Custer County in the rescue of a mountain biker with a broken hip



on August 31. The crew was able to quickly locate the patient, stabilize his hip injury and transport him to Hailey's Friedman Memorial Airport for transfer.

On September 16, Capt. Fernando Soto, Hopkins, Gilstad and Newberry assisted the Lemhi County Sheriff Department and a Lemhi County EMT with the rescue of a 52-year-



old hunter in medical distress from the back country of Idaho. The patient was in critical condition and required expedited evacuation to a higher level of medical care. The flight crew's rapid response helped save the injured man's life by providing quick transportation to the nearest town with the necessary medical treatment facilities.



# IOEM prepares for, manages disasters

The Idaho Office of Emergency Management collaborated with local, state, tribal and federal partners to tackle significant challenges across the state throughout 2024.

Severe storms struck Idaho, Lewis and Shoshone counties in April, bringing floods, landslides and mudslides. A Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, IOEM and local representatives confirmed damages exceeded \$6.6 million across the three counties.

On June 10, President Joe Biden approved Idaho's Major Disaster Declaration, authorizing federal funding to support emergency work and to repair and replace damaged facilities in affected areas. Additionally, statewide hazard mitigation funding became available through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, helping communities plan and rebuild in ways that reduce future disaster impacts.



An arid summer with record-high temperatures created an active wildfire season with significant incidents like the Gwen, Bench Lake and Wapiti fires resulting in a state emergency declaration. IOEM collaborated with local and state agencies to provide resources and co-

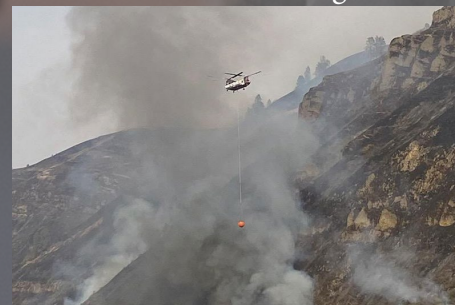
ordination, securing FEMA's Fire Management Assistance Grants, the Emergency Management Assistance Compact and the Small Business Administration's disaster declaration to mitigate fire impacts and aid in recovery.



IOEM's commitment to preparedness extended to hosting multi-state and regional training exercises that emphasized collaboration and readiness.

In October, IOEM hosted a multi-state earthquake preparedness exercise at the National Oregon/California Trail Center in Montpelier. More than 50 representatives from Idaho, Utah and Wyoming gathered to assess the potential impacts of a 7.3 magnitude earthquake on the Bear Lake Fault. Participants identified available resources, reviewed memorandums of understanding and addressed response gaps.

The event featured presentations by leaders from the University of Utah and the Idaho Geological Survey. The exercise enhanced regional co-



ordination and highlighted the importance of continued collaboration to improve earthquake response efforts in the tri-state area.



IOEM, in partnership with Payette and Washington counties, hosted the Southwest Idaho Rail Tabletop Exercise in October in Weiser. As part of IOEM's 2024-2025 training series, the exercise involved 60 participants from local, state and private sector organizations who tested response plans for rail-related hazardous materials incidents.

The scenario simulated a rail tanker derailment and hazardous spill. Participants practiced incident command, communications and public



safety notifications, gaining insights into the Idaho Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Plan, exploring strategies for evacuations and community protection. The exercise reinforced the importance of cross-agency communication and highlighted challenges that will inform future response planning.

10 ALWAYS READY. ALWAYS THERE.

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## IN OUR COMMUNITY

Enduring relationships benefit our communities, state and nation while enhancing our readiness.

# Partnership benefits Tribes, Guardsmen



Idaho National Guard medical personnel and engineers worked with multiple Tribal partners in May to provide realistic training that benefited both the participating Guardsmen and Tribal communities.

Idaho Army National Guard engineers conducted their annual training at the Duck Valley Reservation to enhance Soldiers' deployment-ready skills while providing the groundwork for the reservation's new school and roads leading to the school.

Simultaneously, Idaho Army and Air National Guard medical professionals partnered with the Nevada National Guard to conduct Operation Nimiipuu Health. The operation provided members of the Nez

Perce and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes each with a week of health-care services in their local communities.



Both efforts were part of the Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training program, which allows service members to use their military occupation specialties in communities that benefit from their service.

"Idaho National Guard members are driven by a sense of purpose,"

said Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak, the adjutant general of Idaho. "IRT collaborations not only enable us to sharpen the military skills of our Soldiers and Airmen, but also provide great opportunities to make positive impacts to local communities that strengthen our relationships with the Tribes."

During Operation Nimiipuu Health, approximately 50 citizen-Soldiers and Airmen provided behavioral health, medical, dental



and optometry services to the Nez Perce Tribe's local citizens in Lapwai and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes at the Duck Valley Reservation in Nevada.

Nimiipuu Health and the Owyhee Community Health Facility also assisted with the clinics. The Idaho National Guard conducted Operation Nimiipuu Health in 2023 and has conducted multiple other IRT missions with Idaho's Tribes since 2021.



# IMD helps protect cyber infrastructure

The Idaho Army National Guard and the Idaho Office of Emergency Management, both Idaho Military Division agencies, continued to strengthen Idaho's cyber infrastructure and expertise throughout 2024.

The Idaho Army National Guard conducted 22 cyber assessments with the College of Southern Idaho; St. Luke's Health Services; the Nez Perce Tribe; Adams, Latah, Teton and Washington counties; Boise State University; Idaho Department of Lands; the Idaho Tax Commission; the Office of Information Technology Services and other agencies and community partners.



In July, the Idaho Army National Guard and ITS teamed up to host Cyber Discovery 2024. The regional National Guard exercise focused on security operations, incident tracking and response that takes place within the framework of the Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training program, enhancing its training value to both the state and the Idaho National Guard while saving taxpayer dollars.

"One of the biggest benefits to conducting training like this is that

there's minimal cost to either party," said Col. Dan Lister, chief information officer for the Idaho Army National Guard. "If you were to simulate this, you would be into the millions of dollars."

The Idaho Army National Guard's cyber activities and efforts contributed to more than \$2.7 million of community benefit to Idaho while providing more than 1,700 training days to 58 civilian cyber professionals and 42 service members.

In February, the Idaho Office of Emergency Management hosted the Idaho National Laboratory's ACCELERATE training at the Idaho Response Center, which introduced 50 participants to the Consequence-driven Cyber-informed Engineering methodology. The training focused on shifting from breach prevention to minimizing the impact of cyberattacks on critical infrastructure by protecting entire systems. The training offered practical strategies, risk management tools and collaborative exercises, strengthening IOEM's ongoing partnership with INL to enhance cybersecurity in Idaho.

IOEM played a pivotal role in strengthening Idaho's election security through its participation in the Election Security Group. In collaboration with the Idaho Secretary of State's Office, federal partners and state

agencies, ESG focused on protecting election systems from cyber and physical threats. The group provided training, conducted tabletop exercises and enhanced communication among stakeholders to ensure Idaho's election infrastructure remained secure and resilient in the face of potential disruptions.

IOEM also hosted the 2024 Annual Preparedness and Cybersecurity Conference in December. The conference included presentations



from IT leaders from the City of Boise and the Center for Homeland Defense and Security, along with demonstrations of practical tools like network monitoring solutions from the INL. Conversations focused on the need for teamwork and forward-thinking strategies to manage cyber risks, while reinforcing IOEM's commitment to building a more resilient Idaho.



# Gowen Field hosts ISP counterdrug training

The Idaho National Guard Counterdrug Support Program and the Idaho State Police partnered to host the third annual “Top Gun” Narcotics Investigation Course in September at Gowen Field.

“We recognize the vital role that law enforcement plays in maintaining safety and security throughout Idaho,” said Col. Nicole Washington, chief of staff, Idaho Army National Guard, at the event’s welcoming ceremony. “We are committed to providing you with the highest level of support for the past few years and again this year.”



Top Gun is an intensive undercover narcotics officer course for law enforcement and prosecutors involved in narcotics enforcement. The course teaches practical and legal skills through classroom lectures and practical scenarios using facilities on Gowen Field to create a safe environment for the intense training. The event is federally funded through the Oregon-Idaho High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, a program created in 1988 to assist state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug trafficking regions.

The week-long event brought together nearly 40 participants. Multiple sheriff’s offices and municipal police departments and Idaho State Police troopers participated in the training, as well as members of the

Oregon State Police, Montana Department of Criminal Investigations and deputy prosecutors from Latah and Canyon counties. Members from the Idaho National Guard assisted ISP by playing important roles in the scenario-based training.



By the end of the week, participants gained valuable experience conducting undercover narcotics investigations and learned to navigate the legal intricacies of these operations—skills that will directly impact their work in communities across Idaho, Oregon and beyond.

# Idaho reaffirms state partnership with Cambodia

Maj. Gen. Tim Donnellan, commanding general of the Idaho National Guard, and a delegation from the Idaho Military Division, met with key partners in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in September to coordinate the next steps in enhancing the State Partnership Program between the Idaho National Guard and the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces.



Donnellan and IMD leaders met with General Vong Pisen, commander in chief of the RCAF, as well as leaders from the Royal Cambodian Army, the Cambodia Mine Action Authority, the Cambodia Mine Action Center and the National Center for Peacekeeping.

The delegation also joined Golden West Humanitarian Foundation officials to see how conventional weapons destruction programs, funded by the Department of State’s Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, ensure the safety and livelihoods of Cambodians. The visit builds on the momentum of Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin’s June 2024 meetings with

Cambodian leadership, in which both sides discussed opportunities to strengthen the U.S.-Cambodia defense relationship in support of regional peace and security.

Idaho has been an SPP partner with Cambodia since 2009. The visit was Donnellan’s first since assuming command of the Idaho National Guard.



# STARBASE Idaho enhances STEM education

STARBASE Idaho provided STEM enrichment to more than 2,700 students in eight school districts across Idaho in 2024.



Students from 43 Title I schools in the Basin, Boise, Caldwell, Kuna, Middleton, Nampa, Notus and Wilder school districts traveled to Gowen Field to receive 25 hours of “hands-on, minds-on” training designed to encourage teamwork, spark their curiosity and sharpen their critical thinking skills. Students learned the basics of programming, CAD design, chemistry, physics, engineering and more.

Program staff members also participated in or hosted 20 outreach activities, including Boise State University’s Engineering



Festival, Hewlett-Packard’s “Take Your Inventor to Work Day,” the Owyhee STEM Fair at the Duck Valley Indian Reservation and numerous school STEM nights.

Staff members also conducted camps in partnership with the Idaho National Guard Service Member & Family Support Directorate during spring and summer breaks and Caldwell and Nampa Migrant Summer Schools in June and July. Each camp offered a different theme which varied between forensic science, engineering, robotics and the science of social media influencing.

Four STARBASE Advanced after-school programs were conducted throughout the year, including two First Lego League teams, one Botball team and one First Robotics Challenge team. The



programs’ students learned coding, engineering and design as they worked through multiple iterations of robot creation. The teams brought home several awards, including second place Breakthrough (FLL), best shirt design and second place elimination round (Botball).

In addition to its community engagement, STARBASE Idaho



contributed to the national-level program by providing lesson enhancements that are now featured on the DoD STARBASE curriculum website and available for use at all 88 STARBASE locations.

Since its opening in 2018, over 13,000 students have graduated from STARBASE Idaho. STARBASE is a Department of Defense program hosted on Gowen Field by the Idaho Military Division.

## Idaho's 25th Army Band performs across state

The Idaho Army National Guard’s 25th Army Band conducted nearly 50 performances for approximately 200,000 spectators in 2024.

The band went on tour during its annual training period, playing eight concerts across the state. The band also conducted performances in support of numerous patriotic holidays and parades, including Boise’s Idaho Veterans Day Parade,



Mountain Home’s Air Force Appreciation Day Parade, the City of Hagerman fireworks show, the Boise Holiday Parade and the state capitol Christmas tree lighting event. The band also supported iconic

Idaho National Guard events, such as the changing of command between Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak and Maj. Gen. Tim Donnellan in June.

The band hosted its second annual Battle of the Bands event in downtown Boise in September, one of more than 22 educational outreach efforts conducted throughout the 2024.

# Youth ChalleNGe: 2,326 second chances

Since inception in 2014, the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe has provided a “second chance” to 2,326 Idaho students from every county in the state. In 2024, 251 students completed one of the program’s two 22-week residential training cycles, including 14 students who earned their GED and 46 who earned their high school diploma. The remaining students recovered a year’s worth of academic credits to put themselves back on track to completing high school with their peers.

The Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy is one of 37 National Guard Youth ChalleNGe academies across the United States and its territories. These academies provide students who have dropped out of

high school or who are at risk of doing so with the opportunity to get back on track with their peers, graduate high school or earn a GED.



cadets have provided more than 115,000 hours of volunteer service to the local communities, since the program began with a value of nearly \$3 million.



Since 2014, IDYCA has issued 295 high school diplomas and 211 GEDs. In 2024 alone, students earned 1,915 high school credits.

In addition, as part of the Service to Community core component,

On campus, the state-funded construction of the permanent barracks is fully underway. Early in 2024, the building’s foundation was poured and plumbing was roughed in. During the remainder of the year, the exterior walls were built, framing started and the roof was installed. This allows for interior work to continue through the winter, with a projected completion date of July 2025. The state legislature approved funding for the barracks in 2021.

# Idaho Guard honors Boise Valley People



The Idaho National Guard dedicated its sports complex on Gowen Field to Idaho’s Tribes in June in conjunction with the 13th Annual Return of the Boise Valley People.

“The land we train on is their original land,” Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak, adjutant general of Idaho said. “So, it’s important that we respect their culture and heritage, and it all starts with trust and friendship.”

The complex, “Warriors Play Land” recognizes the shared warrior spirit between the Idaho National Guard and Idaho’s Tribes. The Idaho National Guard previously dedicated an M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank in honor of the Boise Valley People in 2022, a UH-60 Black Hawk in 2018 and an A-10 Thunderbolt II in 2016.



Descendants of the original Boise Valley People include the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall, Idaho; the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Idaho and Nevada; the Burns Paiute Tribes of Burns, Oregon; the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes of McDermitt, Nevada; and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs from Warm Springs, Oregon.







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## MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE

Service in the Idaho Military Division enhances the lives of our members and their families.

## 116th CBCT, state's largest unit, changes command

The 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team held a change of command ceremony in May, signifying the transfer of authority between outgoing commander Col. Eric Orcutt and the incoming commander, Col. Jason Gracida.



Gracida has served in the military since 1992, earning his commission as an officer in 2002. Most recently, Gracida served as director of operations for the Idaho Army National Guard. He previously served as the 116th CBCT's executive officer from 2020 through 2023 and de-

ployed with the brigade in 2004 and 2010.

Orcutt has served as the unit's commander since August 2021. Under his command, the 116th CBCT completed two back-to-back task force mobilizations in support of Operation Spartan Shield in the Central Command area of responsibility; two joint and multinational overseas training exercises in the Republic of Tunisia and the Kingdom of Morocco; and continued the modernization of 116th CBCT equipment.

"It has been an absolute privilege and honor to command the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team and serve alongside the officers, NCOs, and Soldiers of Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Nevada," Orcutt said. "Their professionalism and expertise are unmatched and stand as an example for all other armor brigade combat teams to follow. I am confi-

dent that the long-held traditions of excellence and mission accomplishment for the 116th will continue for many years to come."

Orcutt will continue his service in the Idaho National Guard as chief of the joint staff.

The 116th CBCT is the state's largest National Guard unit and is located throughout the state in nearly two dozen communities with subordinate units in Montana, Nevada and Oregon.



## Smith appointed Idaho Air Guard commander



Brig. Gen. Shannon "Sinjin" Smith was selected by Maj. Gen. Tim Donnellan in June to serve as the commander of the Idaho Air National Guard and assistant adjutant general- Air.

Smith assumed command following Donnellan's promotion to major general and commander of the Idaho National Guard.

Smith's prior roles include chief of staff of the Idaho Air National Guard, commander of the 113th Wing in Washington D.C., and commander of the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Fighter Wing. He has served in the Air National Guard since April 2002, following a decade of active duty service in the U.S. Air Force.

As a pilot, Smith has logged more than 4,200 flight hours throughout his career and has deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait in support of combat operations.

# ESGR recognizes employers

In 2024, Idaho-based Bartlett Roofing was one of 15 employers nationwide recognized for its outstanding support of military service members, receiving the prestigious Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. This honor is the high-



est recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers who go above and beyond to create a workplace environment that supports the unique contributions of Guard and Reserve members.

Throughout the year, the Idaho Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve presented 86 supervisors at 66 companies with the Patriot Award, recognizing their commitment to creating a supportive work environment for military employees.

Bartlett Roofing also received the Above and Beyond Award for demonstrating exceptional sup-



Idaho Military Division

port for its military employees. Rustic Pig BBQ was presented the Seven Seals Award for providing significant support to a military unit during drill weekends.

In July, ESGR hosted approximately 100 local employers and supervisors from across the state to participate in its annual Boss Lift on Gowen Field.



Guardsmen and Reservists invited their employers to spend the day in their boots receiving hands-on equipment demonstrations, participating in military training simulators and getting an up-close look at aircraft and other military equipment used by Idaho units.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support from Idaho's employers and ESGR," said Maj. Gen. Tim Donnellan, adjutant general of Idaho and commanding general of the Idaho National Guard.

ESGR is a Department of Defense program established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Guard and Reserve Component service members and their civilian employers.

Idaho ESGR recognized 86 supervisors from 66 companies with the Patriotic Employer Award in 2024:

- 1,4GROUP, Inc.
- 366th Civil Engineer Squadron
- 3-D Fire Protection
- A-1 Heating & Air Conditioning Inc.
- Ada County Sheriff's Office
- Advantage Plus Federal Credit Union
- AgWest Farm Credit
- Altecca Communications LLC
- Aspen Valley Senior Living Community
- Aweclectic Works LLC
- Bartlett Roofing
- Battelle Energy Alliance LLC
- Boise State University
- Boise VA Hospital
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Call Automotive
- Cascadia Healthcare LLC
- Cascadia of Nampa
- City of Nampa, Centennial Golf Course
- City of Post Falls
- Clearwater Analytics
- Comfort Heating, Cooling, Electrical & Plumbing
- D&B Supply (Overland)
- Developmental Options
- Dollar Tree
- Evergreen Carpentry LLC
- G2 Secure Staff LLC
- Granite Enterprises Roofing
- Gritman Medical Center
- Heartland RV
- Idaho Department of Corrections-Probation and Parole
- Idaho Forest Group LLC
- Idaho National Laboratory
- Idaho Office of Attorney General
- Idaho State Police
- J.R. Simplot Company
- J-U-B Engineers Inc.
- Latah County Sheriff's Department
- Levco Builders LLC
- Liberty of Oklahoma Corporation
- Meadow View Assisted Living and Memory Care
- Mike's Mechanical Repair
- Pioneer Title Company
- Power Engineers Inc.
- Redicare
- Rehab Specialists of Idaho
- Saint Alphonsus Cancer Institute
- Saint Alphonsus Medical Group
- St. Luke's
- Salvation Army
- Sasquatch Contracting LLC
- Shoshone County Sheriff's Office
- Silver Ridge Construction LLC
- SPS Idaho Inc.
- Surface Maintenance Manager's Office
- The Pacific Companies
- T-Mobile
- Trademark Heating and Cooling
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service
- U.S. Department of Energy
- Valley View Nursing and Rehabilitation
- Wellspring Health and Rehabilitation of Cascadia
- West Bonner School District
- Western States Equipment Company
- Wet and Wild

## Civilian leaders serve as honorary commanders

The Idaho National Guard's honorary unit commander program provides opportunities for civilian leaders to learn about the organization's state and federal missions while building and fostering partnerships and support in our local communities. The following leaders served as honorary unit commanders in 2024:

### Idaho Army National Guard

- Dr. Paul Bennion, vice president for student affairs/dean of students, College of Idaho: Idaho Army National Guard Training Center
- Pastor Dave Bruyette, Mountain Lakes Bible Church: 145th Brigade Support Battalion
- Dr. Derek Bub, superintendent of schools, West Ada School District: 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team
- Debbie Critchfield, superintendent of public instruction, Idaho Department of Education: Recruiting and Retention
- Mayor David Davis, Jerome: 116th Brigade Engineer Battalion
- Special Agent Dan Ramirez, Idaho WMD coordinator, Federal Bureau of Investigation: 101st Civil Support Team
- Frank VanderSloot, executive chairman, Melaleuca Inc.: 1st of the 148th Field Artillery Regiment
- Dr. Bill Waterman, associate director of athletic bands, Boise State University: 25th Army Band
- Greg Wiles, superintendent of Nampa Christian Schools: 2nd of the 116th Cavalry Regiment
- Charles Winder, Idaho State Senator: 204th Regional Training Institute

### Idaho Air National Guard

- Jennifer Cammann, director of business operations, Micron: 124th Operations Support Squadron
- Dan DeCloss, CEO, PlexTrac: 224th Cyber Operations Squadron
- Hilary Flint, Ph.D., senior manager, applied research division, St. Luke's Health System: 124th Medical Group
- Jessica Flynn, founder and CEO, Red Sky Communication: 124th Mission Support Group
- Lisa Grow, president and CEO, IDACROP Inc. and Idaho Power: 124th Maintenance Group
- Alex LaBeau, president, Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry: 124th Civil Engineer Squadron
- Todd Lindsey, owner, A10 Capital: 124th Air Support Operations Squadron
- Kacey Nelson, board secretary, acting executive director, Aaron Butler Memorial Foundation: 124th Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Mark Peterson, president and CEO, Saber Holding Inc.: 124th Operations Group
- Annie Price, vice president of consultant support, Scentsy: 124th Communications Flight
- Roger Quarles, executive director, JA & Kathryn Albertson Foundation: 190th Fighter Squadron
- Sarah Rohrbach, owner, Earth to Sarah Media, Southern Idaho Tourism: 124th Maintenance Operations Flight
- Spenser Shaw, accounts payable supervisor, Hayden Beverage Company: 124th Maintenance Squadron
- Chris Taylor, CEO, Fisher's Technology: 124th Security Forces Squadron
- Bernie Zimmerman, managing partner, Cultivation Counseling: 124th Force Support Squadron

## Community engagements build relationships

The Idaho National Guard conducted more than 300 community relations events in 2024, both on Gowen Field and throughout communities across the state.



Community engagements inform the public about the Idaho National Guard's state and federal mission and help maintain viable relationships within our communities and with our civic leaders.

Community relations activities include tours of Gowen Field and local armories; vehicle and aircraft static displays; aerial flyovers; the use of the color guard at public events; public concerts performed by the 25th Army Band and more. To submit a community relations request, visit [imd.idaho.gov](http://imd.idaho.gov).

# Multiple programs support military families

In 2024, specialists from the Idaho National Guard Service Member & Family Support Directorate provided crucial support to over 2,300 service members and families. Support included TRICARE assistance, financial aid and counseling. Holi-



day initiatives included delivering Thanksgiving meals to more than 150 families and supporting approximately 115 families during Christmas.



The Yellow Ribbon Program conducted two pre-deployment events supporting over 400 Soldiers and their families providing them with resources and benefit information. The chaplain team supported over 900 individuals with religious services, retreats and camps promoting spiritual well-being.

Financial counselors provided 890 participants with more than \$130,000 worth of support at no cost and Gowen Field's first Volunteer Income Tax Assistance prepared



137 tax returns, saving the military community at least \$66,000.

The IDNG Prevention Team provided resilience workshops, suicide prevention training and command climate assessments addressing critical service member and unit needs. Health and wellness efforts included 11 Total Health workshops reaching nearly 500 participants; the launch of the Total Health Basic Course for 29 individuals; and leadership courses for 131 personnel to foster resilience, strategic planning and team cohesion.



Retirement services hosted five pre-retirement briefings and assisted with 103 retirement packets and completed survivor benefits packets for 19 widows and widowers.

The Idaho National Guard opened a childcare facility in June to provide

Guardsmen with child care during drill weekends. The center, which opened in January in a temporary location, provided care for more than 400 children in 2024, saving families an estimated \$140,000.

The pilot program is the first of its kind in the National Guard, providing children ages 6 months to 12 years with free child care, easing the burden on members to find and pay for child care while attending drill.

Idaho Army National Guardsman 1st Lt. Kelly Minium said she is thankful for the program and to the organization for providing the support.

"Finding child care on the weekends is both difficult and expensive," said Minium. "As a single mother with no family in the area, having access to child care at no cost on drill weekends gives me the ability to continue serving in the Idaho National Guard, which further enables me to take care of my family."

## Soldier earns Purple Heart while deployed

Idaho Army National Guard Sgt. Douglas Kenz-Woods received the Purple Heart medal during a ceremony on Gowen Field in September. Kenz-Woods was injured in Syria in February 2023 when a Bradley Fighting Vehicle he was in struck a land mine.



After recovering from his injuries, Kenz-Woods participated with the squad that competed in, and won, the U.S. Army Central Best Squad Competition in Kuwait. He is currently assigned to Company C, 2-116th Combined Arms Battalion.

The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the president to those wounded or killed while serving in the U.S. military.



## First warrant officers graduate at home station

Eight Idaho Army National Guard and one Utah National Guard warrant officer candidates were among the first in the nation to graduate and pin on their new ranks in their home state or Regional Training Institute in August under a revamped training timeline being implemented to the phased commissioning program across the country.

Historically, National Guard warrant officer candidates who choose to commission through the phased program have begun Phase I of their Warrant Officer Candidate School training at RTIs located at their home station or regionally over the course of five drill periods. Phase II of the training took place over the course of two weeks at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, and candidates graduated and pinned on their new rank there.

The changes allow home state units to personalize the course, focus on local history and make graduation celebrations more accessible to family members. It also reduces the number of training days in the accelerated course hosted at Fort McClellan, Alabama, from 28 to 24.

As part of its graduation events, Idaho's candidates participated in a staff ride to Minidoka, a World War II-era Japanese national internment camp near Twin Falls, hosted a mentorship dinner and took part in a victory run on Gowen Field.

"It's just a more personable experience for the candidates," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Edward Barnowski, Idaho's command chief warrant officer. "There were so many families at the graduation. They were really excited to see their Soldiers graduate from this course, and they never had that opportunity before."



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## COMBAT CAPABLE

Our Soldiers and Airmen who live and train in Idaho stand ready to respond to emergencies or in defense of our national interests throughout the world.



# 124th Fighter Wing deploys globally, trains locally

In 2024, approximately 100 Idaho Air National Guardsmen from the 124th Fighter Wing deployed to nearly a dozen locations throughout the Central Command and Africa Command areas of responsibility in support of operations Spartan Shield, Inherent Resolve and New Normal.



On average, deployments lasted between nine and 12 months and involved personnel from various units within the fighter wing, including the logistics readiness squadron, civil engineer squadron, flight services support squadron, air support operations squadron and the security forces squadron. Additionally, 124th Fighter Wing Airmen trained across the state and country in order to maintain the unit's combat efficiency and prepare for missions in any environment and location.

In February, A-10 Thunderbolt II pilots practiced landing at the Magic Valley Regional Airport in Twin Falls to gain experience in landing in unfamiliar places. The pilots also serviced their own jets to train for scenarios where crew chiefs are unable to support flight operations.

The training demonstrated the agile combat employment concept, which is a protective and reactive operational scheme of maneuver to increase survivability while generating combat power.

"When thinking within this ACE concept, we may land in a place austere enough that there isn't support by crew chiefs, especially A-10 trained crew chiefs," said Col. Ryan Richardson, 124th FW deputy commander, "so pilots need to be familiar with how to service their own aircraft on the turns."

Pilots practiced landing in austere locations while the unit was participating in Green Flag West in



November, spending more than 15 days training in the Nevada desert outside Nellis Air Force Base.

"Training the way we plan to fight better prepares the wing for whatever the future fight asks of us," said Col. Chad Kornberg, 124th Fighter Wing commander.

The exercise tested the concept of mission-ready Airmen by challenging them in scenarios including close air support, combat search and rescue, joint-fire integration and loading and building munitions.



"The training that the 124th Maintenance Group got at Green Flag replicated real-world scenarios as closely as possible by introducing contested environments, rapid turnaround times and interoperability with other units," said Lt. Col. Daniel Benfield, the exercise officer in charge of the 124th Maintenance Group. "The complex training environment tested our Airmen's ability to react quickly to changing scenarios."

Pilots weren't the only Airmen who gained real-world experience in 2024. In June, Airmen participated in a weapons system evaluation program exercise at Hill Air Force Base, Utah. The exercise tested the building, loading and employment of various live munitions.



# Task Force Sawtooth deploys to Kosovo



In August, Soldiers from the Idaho Army National Guard's 1st of the 183rd Assault Helicopter Battalion deployed in support of Operation Joint Guardian in Kosovo.



Operation Joint Guardian is a joint mission under the United States European Command. Soldiers will focus on training and supporting allied partners in Kosovo for an 11-month rotation in support of the NATO peacekeeping mission.

The unit had anticipated the mission since October 2022 and the battalion's Task Force Sawtooth trained for 18 months in preparation for the mobilization.

"I have complete confidence that

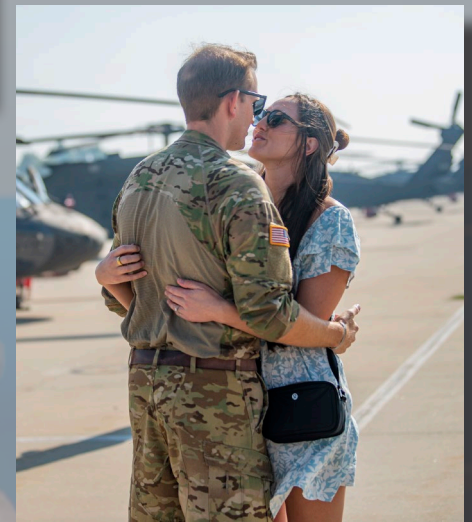


you will carry out this mission successfully and return home safely," said Maj. Gen. Tim Donnellan, adjutant general of Idaho and commander of the Idaho National Guard. "You are among the finest Soldiers and your commitment to duty and to each other will see you through. We will continue to support you from here, and we look forward to welcoming you back home with pride and honor."

Several UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters and more than 100 personnel deployed to Texas to receive approximately 30 days of additional training before departing to Kosovo.

The deployment is the first time since 2003 that the unit has de-

ployed to the region. The battalion previously deployed to Bosnia in 2002-2003 in support of a humanitarian aid mission and to South-



west Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2006-2007. Most recently, the unit conducted a large-scale exercise in Guatemala in 2019, training with the Guatemalan Armed Forces as part of a humanitarian effort to help build schools and medical facilities while gaining critical experience working with a foreign military partner.

# IDARNG remains ready with modernized equipment

The Idaho Army National Guard continued its modernization efforts in 2024 with the fielding of the Army's newest Paladin artillery system and the transition to the latest models of medical evacuation helicopters.



"Upgrading to the Army's most modern equipment is more than an investment in equipment—it's an investment in our Soldiers," said Brig. Gen. Cole Packwood, commander, Idaho Army National Guard. "It also allows our force to remain relevant and ready in today's ever-changing environment."

The 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team's 1st Battalion, 148th Field



Artillery Regiment received 18 new M1097A7 Paladins to replace the unit's A6 models. The next-generation artillery system features a Bradley Fighting Vehicle chassis-mounted howitzer with upgrades that increase ammunition capacity,

rate of fire and mobility on the battlefield and decrease maintenance and repair requirements.

"We're able to increase our round capacity by 10 additional rounds," said Capt. Stephen Pyper,

commander of Battery C, 1-148th FAR. "We're able to provide a much faster response from the time we receive fire missions, to being in the correct positions and elevations to fire those missions."

In October, the Idaho Army National Guard State Aviation Group received its first HH-60M Black Hawk helicopter, of which the unit will eventually receive enough to replace its entire UH-60L Black Hawk medevac fleet. Although these aircraft deploy to combat environments, they are frequently used to support local and state agency search and rescue missions. This upgrade is on par with the improved UH-60M Black Hawks the group received in 2022 to replace the helicopters in its assault helicopter battalion.



The forward interior of the new Black Hawk boasts an electric litter lift, increasing capacity to six littered or seated patients in addition to the hoist operator and medic



seats, which have been moved to the rear of the interior to enhance the mobility and effectiveness of those personnel.

A hoist operator-controlled searchlight has also been added to the undercarriage, enabling Soldiers to spotlight injured personnel or lost hikers for rescuers. Additionally, the forward-looking infrared camera has been moved to the helicopter's nose for a more unobstructed view and its images can be shown directly on the pilot's multi-function display.

# 124th Med Group trains with local agencies



Tactical Medical Airmen from the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Fighter Wing's medical group, along with medics from other military services, teamed up with local agencies and first responders from across Idaho for two intense mass casualty joint training exercises in 2024.



In February, more than 200 Idaho National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, Airmen from Mountain Home Air Force Base and Navy Reservists practiced providing care in a tactical environment while Idaho Peace Officers Standards and Training instructors created realistic scenarios on simulated casualties.

"It's anticipated in future conflicts

that there will be a lot more integration with forces," said Maj. Mark Urban, Critical Care Air Transport Team physician. "We need to interact with each other and speak each other's languages," Urban said. "This exercise was developed with that in mind, being able to integrate is really key to that Total Force concept."

The Idaho Army National Guard's State Aviation Group incorporated UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and pilots who responded to 9-Line medevac requests, transporting critical care patients with CCATT officers and medevac Soldiers who stabilized them onboard while flying through simulated combat zones until they reached a higher echelon of care.

The 124th Medical Group conducted the exercise with the Navy Operational Support Center; Mountain Home Air Force Base 366th Fighter Wing Airmen; the Idaho Army National Guard's Medical Detachment; Charlie Company, 145th Brigade Support Battalion; and medevac Soldiers from the 1st of the 168th General Support Aviation Battalion.



In October, 124th Fighter Wing medics teamed up with paramedics from Ada, Canyon and Payette counties and the Meridian Fire Department to provide local first responders with the Tactical Combat Casualty Care Tier 2 Combat Lifesaver course to train in active shooter and mass casualty events at public venues.



"The goal of this training was to immerse community medics from varying agencies and backgrounds with a stress inoculation to dynamic threat environments," Urban said. "Local agency paramedics, whether embedded within law enforcement special response teams or SWAT teams, respond to an array of calls, some of which can involve active shooters, mass casualties, etc."

ISP's POST provided the classroom space and support with materials and live actors as part of the simulation. Scenarios included SWAT and EMS vehicles, dummy bodies and live actors.

"Our TacMed Airmen need to continue to reinforce our skills of TCCC Combat Lifesaver to be trained and ready for future deployments," Urban said.

# Idaho Guardsmen, ranges attract international partners

In May, 16 field grade officers from the 41st Canadian Brigade Group, headquartered in Calgary, formed a brigade staff to participate in the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team's staff exercise. The exercise was the third interaction between the two units since November of 2023 and gave soldiers from both armies the chance to work with a foreign unit without having to cross an ocean.



"Canada is an allied nation that supports the same missions we do," said Lt. Col. Cody Rutz, the 116th CBCT's executive officer. "It's easier for us to test interoperability with a NATO partner if we can train with our neighbor instead of having to travel to Europe."



During the same week, the Idaho National Guard hosted two maneuver battalion commanders and one operations officer from Poland as part of the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program.

As the armor component of the Illinois National Guard's state partnership with Poland, the Idaho National Guard has maintained a relationship with the Polish Land Forces for approximately 3 years.



In June, joint terminal attack controllers from the German military and the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Air Support Operations Squadron trained together at the Saylor Creek Range, the eighth straight year German airmen have traveled to Idaho to train. The Idaho Army National Guard's UH-60 Black Hawk crews also flew in support of the training while the 124th Fighter Wing's A-10 Thunderbolt IIs practiced close air support during the exercise.

In November, the U.S. Army's 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), the Indian Army's Special Operations Forces and the 124th Fighter Wing's 124th Air Support Operations Squadron participated in Exercise Vajra Prahar at the Orchard Combat Training Center. The exercise enhances cooperative relationships between the elite units, focusing on realistic training scenarios that challenge participants in complex environments.

The 124th ASOS provided the In-

dian soldiers with joint terminal attack controller and close air support instruction to enhance interoperability between Indian and U.S. special operations forces.

"We helped build stronger relationships with the partner force by demonstrating the tactical air control party's commitment to their success and providing them with valuable training and resources," said Master Sgt. Douglas K. Brock, a JTAC with 124th ASOS. "In the end, the 124th ASOS showcased their abil-



ity to work with anyone, anywhere, at any time to achieve mission success by maintaining a high level of readiness, while also building a foundation for future training and development opportunities."



In December, the 124th ASOS also hosted the Netherlands Armed Forces.

## Air Force considers Gowen Field for F-16 mission

In July 2023, the U.S. Air Force designated the 124th Fighter Wing at Gowen Field as a prospective unit for an F-16 Fighting Falcon mission, which would replace the 18 A-10 Thunderbolt IIs the unit has operated since 1996.

This proposed fighter aircraft transition would preserve the wing's existing operations and maintenance expertise once its current aircraft retire in 2027. Additionally, the transition would align the unit with the current National Defense Strategy in the near term while ensuring it remains a candidate for advanced fighter aircraft in the future.

The Idaho Air National Guard has maintained a fighter mission at Gowen Field for nearly 80 years and has been routinely deployed since its inception. The 124th Fighter Wing is recognized for its combat expertise, particularly in its close air support mission and has been heavily relied upon by the Department of Defense to support combat missions, most

recently in Southwest Asia.

"Modernizing our aircraft is crucial to maintaining an edge over our adversaries and ensuring ongoing relevance and effectiveness of our force," said Maj. Gen. Tim Donnellan, adjutant general of Idaho and commander of the Idaho National Guard. "Adapting to current threats in today's battle space not only deters conflict but also enhances the lethality of Idaho pilots, allowing them to perform their duties with the utmost confidence and security."

The Idaho Air National Guard has transitioned through nine different types of fighter aircraft throughout its history. With each new aircraft, the organization refines its military flying operations to minimize the negative impacts on the community, ensuring Boise remains one of the most livable cities in the country.

"The Idaho Air National Guard has proudly flown fighter aircraft out of Gowen Field since 1946, always



Photo courtesy U.S. Air Force

striving to be good neighbors while remaining prepared to protect our citizens and defend our nation," said Donnellan. "Like the rest of our community, we live, work, and raise our families here. We will remain good neighbors and responsible stewards of our environment while adapting to current and future global threats."

In October 2024, National Guard Bureau signed a contract with Whitetail Ayuda JV to evaluate the environmental impact of an F-16 mission at Gowen Field. If selected, F-16s would begin arriving in 2027.

## OCTC earns 2024 Environmental Security Award

In November, the National Guard Bureau announced the Idaho National Guard as winner of the 2024 Environmental Security Award. The annual award recognizes individual installations that exhibit outstanding environmental leadership and have made significant innovations in the conservation of natural resources and the protection of human health and the environment.

The Idaho Army National Guard's nearly 200,000-acre Orchard Combat Training Center is entirely situated within the National Conservation Area and the Idaho National Guard provides a comprehensive environmental stewardship plan within its portion of the

conservation area's boundaries.

Each year, the Idaho National Guard partners with the Birds of Prey Partnership, Bureau of Land Management and members of the public to conduct multiple community oriented projects to promote good environmental stewardship in the Orchard Combat Training Area.

This year, the Idaho National Guard hosted two public cleanup events in June and October that focused on

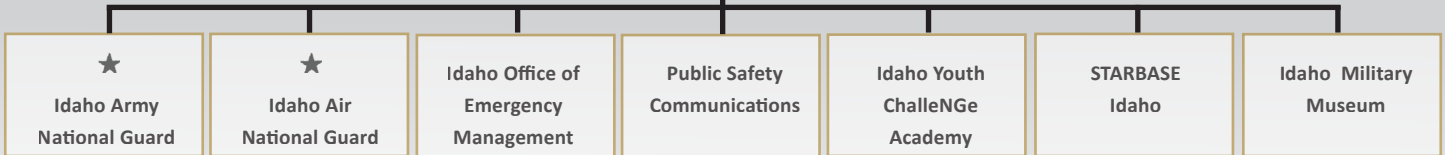


removing trash and other items left behind by the public that had accumulated over the years along Pleasant Valley Road, south of Boise. The groups also conducted restoration projects in October and November to help plant more than 11,000 live native plants on public lands within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA.

"One of our priorities is to safeguard and enhance our environment," said Maj. Gen. Tim Donnellan, the adjutant general of Idaho and commander of the Idaho National Guard. "We are committed to protecting and managing our natural and cultural resources as evidenced by our longstanding relationships with our NCA partners."

# Idaho Military Division

The Adjutant General and  
Idaho National Guard Commander



**Maj. Gen. Timothy Donnellan**  
Adjutant General and IDNG Commander  
★★



**Brig. Gen. Cole Packwood**  
Assistant Adjutant General - Army and IDARNG Commander  
★



**Brig. Gen. Shannon Smith**  
Assistant Adjutant General - Air and IDANG Commander  
★



**Brad Richy**  
Director, Idaho Office of Emergency Management



**Ben Call**  
Director, Public Safety Communications



**Melissa Brouwers**  
Interim Director, Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy



**Courtney Taylor**  
Director, STARBASE Idaho



**Chris Titus**  
Director, Idaho Military Museum

## Idaho Military Division Economic Impact

	DIRECT AND INDIRECT JOBS	DIRECT IMPACT	INDIRECT IMPACT	INDUCED IMPACT	TOTAL
		MILLIONS (\$)			
IDAHO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD	5,339	224.95	15.59	123.40	\$363.94
IDAHO AIR NATIONAL GUARD	2,212	128.95	2.17	74.47	\$205.59
EMERGENCY/MILITARY MANAGEMENT	257	25.78	0.15	15.16	\$41.09
IDAHO MILITARY DIVISION CONSTRUCTION	312	27.72	10.74	9.71	\$48.17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,120</b>	<b>\$407.40</b>	<b>\$28.65</b>	<b>\$222.74</b>	<b>\$658.79</b>

The Idaho Military Division, which includes the Idaho Army National Guard, the Idaho Air National Guard, the Idaho Office of Emergency Management and the Idaho Office of Military Management, contributes more than \$658 million annually to Idaho's economy as the state's fourth largest employer, ultimately responsible for providing 8,120 jobs in Idaho. The division's total economic impacts are estimated to generate nearly \$30 million in Idaho tax revenue, compared to the \$7 million the state appropriates for the Idaho Military Division each year, – a robust return on the state's investment. To see the full study, visit [www.IMD.idaho.gov](http://www.IMD.idaho.gov).

**The Idaho Military Division's commitment to the community is codified in our adjutant general's three strategic imperatives: to maintain combat readiness to fight and win our nation's wars when called upon; to continue developing and strengthening our homeland security and emergency response readiness; and to continue building and fostering partnerships throughout Idaho, the nation and the world.**

**Our Mission: to maintain combat and domestic emergency response readiness in the Idaho National Guard; and guide the state, through the Office of Emergency Management, in effectively preparing for, responding to and recovering from all hazards. The division also provides a fully accredited residential high school with the Idaho Youth Challenge Academy, in order to intervene in and reclaim the lives of at-risk Idaho youth.**

**Our Vision: to be Idaho's premier public service organization by attracting its leading citizens and promoting a safe and secure environment for our state and nation.**

