



Command Message

COLORADO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

May 2021



As part of the Army's transformational change, the philosophy of "People First and Winning Matters" is heard loud and clear across our formations. The idea of putting our people first is not necessarily new, but more a reevaluation of priority between people and mission. Putting people first comes in two forms – what we need to do, and what we must not do. Through defining these actions, we can build trust with our Soldiers and increase the Lethality of our force. The key to "Winning" is building trust in our formations now. Building trust in leadership through demonstrated sound and ethical decision making when we have the benefit of time is critical to allowing decisions to be made, and followed, when time and trust is at a premium – in combat. We must look inward and identify our institutional and local weakness and recognize our organizational emotional intelligence to discover and define the truth about our People and our units. When we do this, we will realize in notion and on the battlefield that "**Trust equals Lethality**". Click [here](#) to read more on "Trust equals Lethality" in the Army Times.

May brings us Memorial Day which was originally known as Decoration Day. It was first observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War Soldiers and to honor them by decorating their graves. Today, Memorial Day's purpose is to memorialize the military men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice. Please take the time to remember the men and women who died while in the military service of our country. Reach out to a fellow Soldier who lost a battle buddy or a spouse who lost a loved one and let them know you **remember their sacrifice**. We are indebted forever to our fallen Soldiers, and on Memorial Day, I encourage you all to honor the memory and sacrifices of the fallen.

The theme for Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month is "Advancing Leaders Through Purpose-Driven Service." This national observance honors the perseverance of courageous Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, and celebrates all they have given to building our great nation.

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

stands as a reminder of strength the Army has gained, and will gain, through a high-quality diverse all-volunteer force. The COARNG finds its strength not only in its diversity, but in its ability to bring together people of different races, cultures and faiths who share the **Army values** -- loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

We celebrated Military Spouse Appreciation Day on 7 May 2021 to recognize COARNG spouses for their strength, loyalty and commitment to Soldiers and our force. Spouses are the backbone of our families, balancing professional careers, family, health and well-being, all in the context of the unique National Guard lifestyle including deployments and mission requirements. Leadership recognizes and appreciates the positive impact spouses have on our Soldiers and the COARNG. Remember to thank your spouse for all they do to support your military career.



Colorado National Guard Soldiers and Airmen compete for the title of Best Warrior during the 2021 Best Warrior Competition, Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, Colorado, April 9, 2021. The Best Warrior Competition is an annual event designed to test the physical fitness, military knowledge, marksmanship, endurance and land navigational skills of each competitor.

(US Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Ashlev Low)

Mission First, Mountain Strong!