



2022 Year in Review

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PEOPLE READINESS MODERNIZATION



STATE OF COLORADO

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Jared Polis
Governor

Laura L. Clellan
Brigadier General, COARNG
The Adjutant General

Dear Neighbors,

2022 was another record year for the Colorado National Guard of being "Always Ready, Always There."

The year began with the Marshall Fire, one of the most destructive wildfires on record in Colorado. Many of our Colorado National Guard members who answered the call to help responders lived in the devastated communities and were evacuated themselves.

Throughout the year, our Task Force FireGuard watched over our state 24/7, quickly alerting first responders to wildfires with the potential to spread to populated areas.

Nearly 1,000 of our men and women also deployed overseas, providing capabilities such as Air Power, Field Artillery, Infantry, Military Intelligence, Space Capabilities, and Special Forces to the U.S. Combatant Commands during operations and training.

Our Soldiers and Airmen protected our nation round-the-clock with missile warning and defense as well as air defense.

You'll find many of these stories within this Year in Review, and we appreciate you taking the time to read about the accomplishments of your National Guard.

I also have a favor to ask.

These are challenging times in which to recruit talent, and we need and appreciate your support spreading the word about your National Guard within our communities.

Holding the High Ground!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Clellan".

Brigadier General Laura Clellan
The Adjutant General of Colorado





Colorado National Guard honors fallen warriors, Gold Star Families with new memorial

By Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

Centennial, Colo. – The Colorado National Guard unveiled the War on Terrorism Remembrance Memorial at Joint Force Headquarters, Centennial, Colorado, Sept. 11, 2022.

This memorial is a tribute to the courage of Colorado National Guard service members who made the ultimate sacrifice during contingency operations in support of the Global War on Terror.

“Our National Guard Family will continue to miss these brave Soldiers because of who they were and what they gave,” The Adjutant General of Colorado U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Laura Clellan said. “We are so grateful for our Gold Star Families as our Soldiers could not have served without their support.”

> **Read the story** (right-click, copy & paste link)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3164681/colorado-national-guard-honors-fallen-warriors-gold-star-families-with-new-memo/>

Fort Pickett to be renamed Fort Barfoot, has Colorado National Guard connection

By David Schmidt, Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs
IT Professional & Interim CONG Historian

A congressional commission tasked with renaming U.S. Army bases previously named after Confederate officers is rebranding Fort Pickett to Fort Barfoot, in honor of World War II Medal of Honor recipient U.S. Army Tech. Sgt. Van T. Barfoot.

On May 23, 1944, near Carano, Italy, the 25-year-old Barfoot led an assault on entrenched German positions as part of an offensive campaign, dubbed Operation Buffalo, to break out from the Anzio beachhead. Advancing alone from his squad, which became disconnected from support elements when their radio was destroyed by German small arms fire, Barfoot neutralized three German machine gun positions, disabled a tank with a grenade, took 17 German prisoners, and pulled two comrades to safety while under fire. Barfoot not only earned a battlefield commission for his actions that day, but he also received a Medal of Honor.

> **Read the story** (right-click, copy & paste link)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3227503/fort-pickett-to-be-renamed-fort-barfoot-has-colorado-national-guard-connection/>



Guard members respond to winter wildfire

By U.S. Army Sgt. Taylor L. Lakey-Tamacori

In Colorado, the Army National Guard is frequently activated to assist state emergency operations for fires during the summer months and blizzard rescues during the snowy months. Less commonly are they activated for fires during snow season. Colorado citizens learned to expect the unexpected Dec. 30, 2021.



“Colorado had immense heat, high winds and an extreme lack of rain and snow which left soil moisture the lowest on record for late December,” according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[> Read the story \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/2905603/guard-members-respond-to-winter-wildfire/>



Arctic exercise sends Colorado National Guard troops to Alaska

By Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

Centennial, Colo. – Approximately 40 members of the Colorado National Guard will participate in exercise Arctic Eagle-Patriot 2022, hosted by the Alaska National Guard, Feb. 22 to March 10, 2022, in Anchorage, Alaska.

This year’s event will focus on domestic operations where more than 900 Air and Army National Guard personnel from 15 states and more than 200 Active Duty U.S. Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps counterparts will join together with interagency partners in response to a simulated large scale natural disaster in the arctic environment.

[> Read the story \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/2941885/arctic-exercise-sends-colorado-national-guard-troops-to-alaska/>

Colorado National Guard helicopters visit Western Slope schools for Red Ribbon month

By Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

Centennial, Colo. – The Colorado National Guard Joint Counter Drug Task Force, in partnership with Drug Enforcement Administration and law enforcement officials, will deliver to Colorado youth on the Western Slope a message about the importance of drug-free living and making positive choices April 25- May 5, 2022, during Red Ribbon Month.



[> Read the story \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3008767/colorado-national-guard-helicopters-visit-western-slope-schools-for-red-ribbon/>

Colorado chemical response team receives top marks during Oregon exercise evaluation

By Tech. Sgt. Chance Johnson, 140th Wing Public Affairs

Buckley Space Force Base, Colo. — The Colorado National Guard 8th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and high-yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package traveled to Camp Rilea, Oregon, in July 9-17, 2022, to perform a full-scale external evaluation.

This exercise, performed at a national level, demonstrated Colorado CERFP's capabilities to collectively deploy and respond in times of crisis. The exercise determined a mission readiness recommendation to the National Guard Bureau, U.S. Northern Command and the Adjutant General of Colorado.



[> Read the entire article! \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3117247/colorado-chemical-response-team-receives-top-marks-during-oregon-exercise-evalu/>



Two Colorado National Guard members doubly serving as sisters in arms

By U.S. Army Capt. Remington Henderson

Two sisters have come together in a unique unit where they are not only sisters but sisters in arms.

Serving in separate branches, sisters, U.S. Army Spc. Jessica Lee and U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Julie Lee, are both members of the Colorado National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield explosive Enhanced Response Force Package.

[> Read the story \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3119273/two-colorado-national-guard-members-doubly-serving-as-sisters-in-arms/>

8th Civil Support Team conducts annual evaluation exercise

By U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Katie Lee, Colorado National Guard

Scottsbluff, Neb. — Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Teams from Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska joined civilian first responders to participate in joint exercise Western Sugar Response, a simulated hazardous disaster at an old sugar factory, hosted by U.S. Army North, Aug. 30, 2022, in Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

The exercise provided a realistic threat situation, integrating resources to demonstrate capabilities in responding to an incident requiring chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threat response, assessment, characterization, analysis, identification and mitigation.

[> Read the story \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3171868/8th-civil-support-team-conducts-annual-evaluation-exercise/>



FireGuard's cutting-edge mission saves lives and mitigates property damage from wildfires

By John Rohrer, 140th Wing Public Affairs

The Colorado and California National Guard have a new way to save lives and mitigate property damage from wildfires called FireGuard.

Utilizing military-operated satellites and incorporating civilian resources from the National Interagency Fire Center, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, and the U.S. Forest Service, service members can detect wildfires, notify authorities, and create products that can be disseminated to firefighting networks nationwide.

One of the most critical components in saving lives and property during rapidly escalating fires is being able to make decisions based upon accurate and reliable situational awareness,” Director, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Mike Morgan said.

> [Read the entire article! \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3180825/fireguards-cutting-edge-mission-saves-lives-and-mitigates-property-damage-from/>



Colorado National Guard assists state with shelter support during extreme cold weather

By Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

Centennial, Colo. – By order of Gov. Jared Polis, the Colorado National Guard is assisting the state emergency operations center (EOC) with extreme cold weather support in Denver starting Dec. 21, 2022 through Dec. 23, 2022.

Approximately 50 servicemembers are supporting local authorities at a warming center at the Denver Colosseum, Denver YMCA, East Boulder Community Center, and other locations in Metropolitan Denver to help Colorado people need assistance during the extreme cold front. Additional service members will support warming centers in the Denver metro area.

> [Read the story \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3253781/colorado-national-guard-assists-state-with-shelter-support-during-extreme-cold/>





Colorado National Guard Army Space Support Team deploys

By Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

Centennial, Colo. — Six Colorado Army National Guard Soldiers from Army Space Support Team 16, 117th Space Support Battalion, deploying to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility were honored at a departure ceremony at 3:00 p.m. Jan. 21, 2022, in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The team of six Soldiers will replace ARSST 22, also of 117th, to continue to carry on their mission to maximize space-based capabilities of U.S. and Allied operations in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

[> Read the story \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/2908188/colorado-national-guard-army-space-support-team-deploys/>

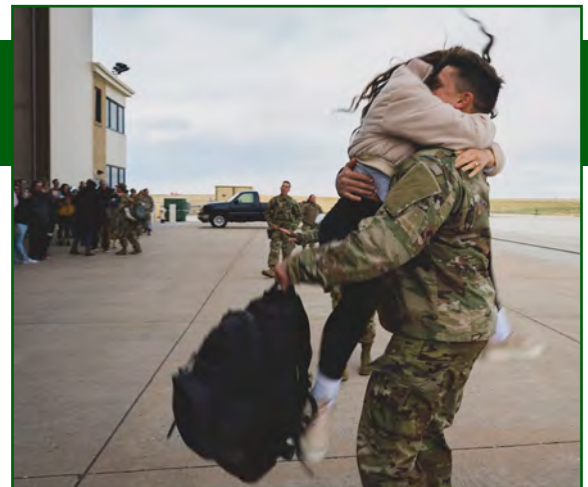
140th Wing Air Expeditionary Force returns to Colorado from deployment

By Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

Buckley Space Force Base, Colo. — Family, friends and colleagues welcomed home deployed members of the Colorado Air National Guard's 140th Wing Air Expeditionary Force at Buckley Space Force Base, Aurora, Colorado, April 13, 2022.

The group of about 300 Airmen deployed in January 2022 in support of operations Inherent Resolve, Enduring Sentinel, and Spartan Shield. [> Read the story \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3031678/140th-wing-air-expeditionary-force-returns-to-colorado-from-deployment/>



U.S. Army makes Historic Landing

By Sgt. Elizabeth Clark

Colorado Army National Guard members teamed with Active Duty counterparts, U.S. Air Force service members and international partners to conduct a simulated air-land raid during an M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems rapid infiltration exercise in Bornholm, Denmark May 24, 2022.

The exercise was in conjunction with DEFENDER-Europe 22 – a yearly multinational training exercise that takes place within Eastern Europe.

[> Read the story \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3062900/us-army-makes-historic-landing/>





Colorado National Guard 1st Infantry Division Main Command Post - Operational Detachment deploys to Poland

By Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

Centennial, Colo. – A ceremony honoring seven Colorado Army National Guard Soldiers from the Main Command Post - Operational Detachment deploying to Poland with the 1st Infantry Division in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve was held at 5:00 p.m. ,Sept. 17, 2022, at Fort Carson, Colorado.

“The MCP-OD offers valuable support to the division staff of the 1st Infantry Division,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Joshua Clopton, MCP-OD Commander. “We are going to Poland to support and assure our NATO allies that we’re committed to

the defense of Europe. We are honored to be a part of that mission.”

[> Read the story \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/2497033/colorado-national-guards-aerial-medical-evacuation-unit-deploys-to-middle-east/>

Colorado field artillery battalion returns from Middle East deployment

By Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

Centennial, Colo. – The Colorado National Guard will welcome home around 300 Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 157th Field

Artillery Regiment Oct. 9, 2022 at the Evie Garret Dennis Campus high school in Aurora, Colorado.

The unit deployed in support of U.S. Central Command as part of Operation Spartan Shield.

“Welcome home Soldiers and thank you families, friends and employers for supporting these warriors as they played an integral role in demonstrating the United States’ commitment to the security and stability of our partners in the Middle East and Central Asia,” The Adjutant General of Colorado, U.S. Army Brig Gen. Laura Clellan said. “Our Colorado National Guard men and women continue to prove that we are a ready, reliable and modernized force ready to serve the citizens of Colorado, the U.S. and our global partners.”

[> Read the story \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3182590/colorado-field-artillery-battalion-returns-from-middle-east-deployment/>





Colorado National Guard Biathlon Team places third at National Guard Championships

By Lt. Col. Chip Hahn, Colorado National Guard

Camp Ripley, Minn. – The Colorado National Guard Biathlon Team took third place in the men’s team competition and brought home an individual bronze medal at the 2022 Chief, National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships, Feb. 12-17, 2022, at Camp Ripley.

The CNGB Championships is a week-long biathlon competition consisting of two individual races—a sprint and pursuit race—and two team races—a relay and patrol race. Soldiers on skis race over a challenging course and, at regular intervals, shoot at targets on a 50-meter range using .22 caliber rifles. The skier or team with the fastest time over the course wins the race.

> [Read the story \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/2947604/colorado-national-guard-biathlon-team-places-third-at-national-guard-championsh/>

First Colorado Army National Guardsman receives prestigious Knowlton Award

By U.S. Army Capt. Remington Henderson,
Colorado Army National Guard Public Affairs

Centennial, Colo. – U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Geoffrey Essman was presented the Knowlton Award in a ceremony at the 168th Regional Training Institute, Fort Carson, Colorado, Feb. 6, 2022. Essman is the first Colorado Army National Guardsman to receive the prestigious award.



Essman is the senior military intelligence Non-commissioned Officer in the COARNG. He started his career as a Morse Code Interceptor (98H) and, over his 28-year career, has served in leadership positions at all levels..

> [Read the story \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/2993029/first-colorado-army-national-guardsman-receives-prestigious-knowlton-award/>



Colorado National Guard Best Warrior Competition challenges Soldiers, Airmen to be the best

By Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

Centennial, Colo. – Colorado National Guard Soldiers and Airmen will participate in the state’s annual Best Warrior Competition at Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, Colorado, April 21-24, 2022. Competitors will navigate a battery of exercises, testing their physical and mental prowess.

> [Read the story \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3005354/colorado-national-guard-best-warrior-competition-challenges-soldiers-airmen-to/>

33rd Space Group celebrates first graduating class for new qualification course

By Master Sgt. Amanda Geiger, 140th Wing Public Affairs and Staff Sgt. Chastity Lollis, 233rd Communications Squadron

The first official Signal Management System Mission Qualification Course, conducted Jan. 18 - March 25, 2022, for 36 training days, celebrated its first graduation ceremony from the 233rd Space Group, Detachment 1, Combat Training System. The SMS makes up a portion of the Integrated AN/ TLQ-34 Communications Satellite Countermeasure Set. [> Read the story \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3070524/233rd-space-group-celebrates-first-graduating-class-for-new-qualification-course/>



Phillip Connelly Program comes to Military Police food service team

By Staff Sgt. Ray Rivera

Buckley Space Force Base, Colo. - U.S. Army Food Specialists of Headquarters-Headquarters Company, 193rd Military Police Battalion, Colorado National Guard held a food service exercise at the Denver Armory, Denver, June 4, 2022.

The Phillip Connelly Cup, is a competition, where U.S. Army Food Specialists can be recognized for their excellence in food services. A competition based on their training and culinary expertise learned through their army career.

[> Read the story \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3070623/phillip-connelly-program-comes-to-military-police-food-service-team/>

Strong bonds build resilient families

By Chaplain (Capt.) Katie DeClet

The U.S. Army's most valuable resource has always been its people – the men and women who raise their right hand to selflessly serve our nation. But such a high calling comes with great sacrifice not only for the service member, but for their loved ones as well.

In order to build and strengthen families, the Army developed the Strong Bonds program. These training events provide a safe and secure environment for Soldiers and their families to address the impact of deployments, military-life stressors, and common relationship challenges. As service members and their families increase resilience in personal relationships, service in the National Guard is supported by a firm foundation—the family.

[> Read the story \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3206712/strong-bonds-build-resilient-families/>



Colorado's 138th Space Control Squadron pioneers new training

By Mr. John Rohrer, 140th Wing Public Affairs

The Colorado Air National Guard's 138th Space Control Squadron, in conjunction with the National Space Test and Training Complex, conducted a training event named "Neptune Falcon," which took place at Schriever Space Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colorado, to test new capabilities for meeting wartime objectives in the space domain.

The exercise, held over 10 days in October 2022 at a newly created forward operating base by Airmen of the 138th, simulated real-world expeditionary operations and prepared them for upcoming deployments.

[> Read the story \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3233571/colorados-138th-space-control-squadron-pioneers-new-training/>



Colorado Air National Guard conducts F-16 night flying training

By 140th Wing Public Affairs Office

Buckley Space Force Base, Colo. – Residents of Aurora and neighboring communities can expect to see and hear F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft overhead later than usual while the 140th Wing, Colorado Air National Guard conducts supplemental night flying

training Nov. 1-17, 2022. Jets will conduct training missions and land back at Buckley Space Force Base as late as 10 p.m.

"Implementing our flying mission sets at night is critical to maintaining our readiness and effectiveness in support of our nation's defense," said U.S. Air Force Col. Christopher Southard, commander, 140th Wing. "We understand that the increase in noise can be disruptive to our local communities. We appreciate the continued support and seek to have minimal impact by flying during the winter months when hours of darkness begin earlier in the evening."

[> Read the story \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3207477/colorado-air-national-guard-conducts-f-16-night-flying-training/>



Colorado National Guard first to receive modernized helicopter capability

By Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

Buckley Space Force Base, Colo. — The Colorado National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility, Buckley Space Force Base, Aurora, Colorado, received the first two of 18 UH-72B Lakota helicopters purchased by the Department of Defense exclusively for the U.S. Army National Guard, Aug. 4, 2022.

Nine states will receive two each of the B models based on their previous UH-72A utilization, domestic operations support mission sets, and environmental factors.

“We constantly campaign for high-tech capabilities and capitalize on Colorado’s cutting-edge, integrated partners in the civil and defense sectors,” The Adjutant General of Colorado U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Laura Clellan said.

“The Colorado National Guard will utilize the new platform primarily for counter-drug and search and rescue in Colorado,” State Army Aviation Officer U.S. Army Col. William Gentle, Colorado Army National Guard, said. “The increased aircraft capabilities over the UH-72A in support of domestic operations will help lessen the load on our UH-60 fleet.”

UH-72Bs are more powerful than the UH-72A. The power margins on the UH-72A made them unusable for hoist rescue operations at higher elevations in Colorado’s mountains.

These new helicopters are now closer in power margins to the state’s UH-60 fleet, and the Colorado Hoist Rescue Team can use the new Lakotas at higher elevations.

The CHRT’s mission is to incorporate civilian alpine rescue personnel and military helicopter capabilities to improve Colorado search and rescue systems, operations, and training. The CHRT has saved 13 lives year-to-date.

“The UH-72B (Airbus H-145 D3) has 25 percent more power than the UH-72A, along with a redesigned 5-bladed rotor system, fenestron (enclosed) tail rotor, and 4-axis autopilot that allows for hands-off hovering,” Instructor Pilot and Colorado Hoist Rescue Team Program Manager U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Clayton Horney said.

UH-72Bs cost roughly half as much to operate as UH-60s, benefitting both the Army and the state.

“The UH-72B is not a warfighting aircraft,” Gentle said. “This means that, traditionally, if our UH-60s were deployed in a federal capacity that we would be unable to support as many domestic operations missions locally. Pairing their lower cost of operation and higher power margins means that we can save flying hours for our UH-60s.”



<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3124617/colorado-first-national-guard-in-nation-to-receive-modernized-helicopter-capabi/>





Partnership spotlight: Royal Jordanian Air Force Commander Brig. Gen. Mohammad Fathi Hiyasat visited the 140th Wing at Buckley Space Force Base, Aurora, Colorado, Sept. 19, 2022. Colorado and Jordan have been partners in the National Guard State Partnership Program since 2004. One of the benefits of the SPP is that it gives partners access to the full range of National Guard capabilities. Military-to-military exchanges support mutual defense goals.



The Colorado Army National Guard 169th Field Artillery Brigade trained with NATO and partner militaries during the Defender Europe Exercise June 22, 2022. This was a large-scale multi-national joint exercise designed to build readiness and interoperability within the forces that supported cohesive and positive relationships with our Allies.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nf4T7IDtZrU>

US, German Reserve Officer Exchange Program begins in Colorado National Guard

By Spc. Clayton Eggan, 104th Public Affairs Detachment

The National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program, which connects individual states within the U.S. to allied nations, was established in 1993. Examples of these partnerships include Colorado's partnership with Slovenia, Utah's partnership with Nepal, and Kansas' partnership with Armenia. Germany is not currently a state partner.

In a further attempt to develop connections among U.S. allies, the U.S. and German Reserve Officer Exchange Program was created to exchange officers between nations in order to collaborate on leadership and to create and strengthen alliances with our allied nations for further support in future conflicts.

> [Read the story \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3090575/us-german-reserve-officer-exchange-program-begins-in-colorado-national-guard/>



Military Intelligence Soldiers, Kosovo Police Force develop female leadership to further Kosovo Force success

By Spc. Paul Blythe, 104th Public Affairs Detachment

Denver, Colo. – Colorado Army National Soldiers from Company D, 572nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Military Intelligence) returned stateside March 10, 2022.

While deployed, the unit joined with NATO's peace support operation Kosovo Force, or KFOR, which has been operating

in the Southeast European country since 1999, with intent to support broader international efforts to build peace and stability in the region.

KFOR's original objectives included the deterrent of renewed hostiles, ensuring public safety, and supporting the global humanitarian effort. With much success, KFOR continues to maintain local public safety and ensure freedom of movement for all in the region.

> [Read the story \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3114400/military-intelligence-soldiers-kosovo-police-force-develop-female-leadership-to/>





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