



Command Message

COLORADO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

April 2021



First and foremost, I want to congratulate our **COARNG Marksmanship Team for winning** the All-Army Small Arms Marksmanship Championship in Ft. Benning, GA! This is an incredible achievement for any active duty unit let alone a National Guard team. Congratulations to SFC Catlin, SFC Sager, SSG Fulmer, SSG Davis, and SGT Norcross for coming together as a competitive team and winning the entire Army event – wow! These are the types of NCOs and shooters we have at the CTS that are available to assist you and your units to improve shooting skills.

Also, thanks to ALL of our **Best Warrior** competitors and sponsors. Two full days of arduous competition and individual and collective teamwork. A great event that brings out the very best within the CONG.

With the weather changing, comes opportunity to take advantage of the great outdoors more and engage in activities to focus on you and your family's health. The number one priority of the COARNG is the protection of its people and their family. Our mission readiness is composed of many things, but Soldier and family readiness is crucial. Everyone should also maintain their focus on being ready by continuing to train on mission essential tasks. Take the time and personal responsibility to do your part. **Medical and dental readiness** starts as an individual responsibility and moves up through the chain for leadership accountability. The tools are there, and have always been, to stay in compliance with guidance and regulation. We need the capabilities, talents, and experience each one of you possess to defend our commitment to our nation.



Colorado Best Warrior competitors receive their final in-brief from U.S. Army Sgt. Major David Ceja prior to start of the 2021 competition, Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, Colorado. At the state level Army and Air National Guard members will compete in physically and mentally challenging events for a shot at being named the Best Warrior

(U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph K. VonNida)

I attended the Green Tab Commander's Conference in Arkansas last week and was able to meet with CNGB Jensen among other senior leaders. CSA McConville addressed the attendees remotely and provided his concept of "**People First.**" His concept breaks down into two ideas: what we want to do, and what we want to prevent. We want (need) to be trained, disciplined, and fit. We want to prevent things that break trust such as sexual assault, suicide, and racism and extremism. He further offered his take on our traditional 4 "Cs." His 4 Cs are Competence, Commitment, Character, and Care. He noted that Competence equate to IQ while Character and Care form our EQ. The best leaders must have both.

The Army's 2021 **Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month** theme is "Building Cohesive Teams through Character, Trust and Resilience. Protecting Our People Protects Our Mission." The COARNG promotes an environment of mutual trust, where leaders and Soldiers are committed to upholding the safety, respect and dignity of every team member. General James C. McConville, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, stated he "wants to make sure that we have an environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, and everyone takes care of each other." I expect our leaders to do that and that is what we are going to do.

Gold Star Spouses' Day, commemorated on 5 April, is dedicated to remembering and honoring the surviving spouses of fallen service members. We remember and honor the surviving husbands and wives of fallen service members. The COARNG is indebted to Gold Star spouses as they are the legacies of their service member's ultimate sacrifice. This is an opportunity to show respect to Gold Star husbands and wives and thank them for their spouse's service to our nation.

Mission First, Mountain Strong!