



Command Message

COLORADO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

August 2020



I am proud of the COARNG team! During the coronavirus pandemic, you continue to prepare for our federal wartime and homeland defense missions while supporting your neighbors in the fight against COVID-19. It is an honor to serve with you. We must remain vigilant to ensure we are sustaining a strong healthy force to maintain our readiness and defend our national security.

When Iraqi ground forces entered Kuwait on August 2, 1990, President Bush immediately proclaimed that the invasion “would not stand” and vowed to help Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. President Bush ordered the organization of Operation Desert Shield in response to Iraq’s invasion. The order prepared American troops to become part of an international coalition in the war against Iraq that would be launched as Operation Desert Storm in January 1991. This piece of history serves as a reminder in today’s climate that every member of the COARNG team must be ready to fight!

Currently, 221 service members are mobilized to support the warfight overseas and we welcome B company/5-19th SFG (Airborne) back from deployment. On the home front, we remain focused on adapting to the situation as the state flexes to the needs of Colorado during the coronavirus pandemic. **We are a critical component to our nation’s warfight and humanitarian efforts; we are always ready and always there.**

On August 26, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which granted women the right to vote. The passage of the 19th Amendment is a testament to the courage and tenacity of the women—and men—who challenged the nation to live up to its founding principles. In celebrating Women's Equality Day, the COARNG recognizes not only the significance of women's contributions but also the value of diversity and an inclusive environment. To sustain a high quality force that is trained and ready, we must ensure that all COARNG Soldiers and Civilians are given the opportunity to maximize their talents and potential.

In Secretary Mark T. Esper’s [Message to the Force on DOD Diversity and Inclusiveness](#), he announced three initiatives that will launch a new era, marked by a reinvigorated effort to build a better U.S. military that pursues equal opportunity and aspires to true meritocracy with greater vigor and purpose. Secretary Esper asked us to reflect upon the issues of race, bias, and inequality in our ranks, and have the tough, candid discussions with your superiors, your peers, and your troops that this issue demands. This is an added responsibility for our Officers and NCOs, who must also double down on their mentorship of up-and-coming minority leaders, and make diversity and inclusion a priority. This is what Secretary Esper and I expect of leaders.

As your unit focuses on annual training preparing for our federal wartime and homeland defense missions, focus on your individual readiness. Ensure you are medically ready and your military education is complete so you remain mission capable at all times. We are incentivizing opportunities for you to gain valuable training to support the progression of your career. Communicate with your leadership your career objectives and they can provide you with innovative training opportunities. One opportunity to take advantage of is the Electronic-Based Distance Learning Compensation (EBDL) program and get paid to take EBDL courses. Do not waste any opportunity to improve yourself.

I participated in a diagnostic ACFT last month and I can assure you it is more challenging than the APFT. You need to maintain and take personal pride in your physical fitness to set the example of being combat ready. This month your assigned task is to try to incorporate leg tucks into your workout routines. The ACFT will help transform our fitness culture, reduce preventable injuries and attrition, and enhance mental toughness and stamina so we are ready to deploy, fight and win on any battlefield.

TAKE ON THE GOVERNOR'S CHALLENGE
to Prevent Suicide among Service Members, Veterans and their Families

- Every Soldier in Every Unit Needs to Watch the 6-Minute Lethal Means Safety Video
- Volunteer to do Gatekeeper Training
- Make sure Caring Contacts information is readily available (NowMattersNow.org)

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Mission First, Mountain Strong!