



## Command Message

# COLORADO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

February 2020



With the recent events impacting the world, I want to make sure the Colorado Army National Guard is ready. Soldiers and squads are the foundation of our force. We must be organized, equipped, and trained with superior **lethality**, situational awareness, mobility and protection that provides the overmatch required to defeat capable and determined adversaries in complex operating environments. Soldier lethality spans all fundamentals: shooting, moving and communicating, protecting, sustaining and training. The battlefield of tomorrow will be more lethal, and we must be ready with that in mind. To ensure overmatch, the Colorado Army National Guard must train and structure the force to build land-power capability against near-peer threats. It is every Soldiers duty to ensure they are ready to fight tonight.

In the early morning hours of February 3rd 1943, 900 service members aboard the USAT Dorchester were near safe waters when a German torpedo slammed into the engine room. Four courageous and selfless chaplains remained calm during the panic following the attack, first distributing life preservers and assisting others to abandon ship, then giving up their own life preservers and coming together in prayer as the ship disappeared beneath the surface. The story of these four chaplains stands out among the countless stories of commitment and bravery that make up the pantheon of the U.S. Army, as one of the finest examples of **courage to country**. No matter your job in the Colorado Army National Guard, we should all strive to exemplify their courage and selflessness.

The New Year is already witness to increased tension in the middle east. We saw aggressive action by our President and a brigade of 82nd Airborne Soldiers deployed with less than 48 hours' notice in support of troops in Iraq. We have a part to play. Last month we shipped 2-135th AV Battalion out to Kosovo and wished them God Speed. This month we say farewell to the 220th MP Co at Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum, in Denver on February 22nd. They will continue the warfight in Afghanistan. My staff and units have done well following my directive of prioritizing supplies, time, and other resources to ensure deploying units get as much support as possible. I want to emphasize that the work is not done we have other units at the apex of their readiness cycle. Units that are not priority should be prepared to make do with less and be willing to help those in the "Urgent" bin.

Each February, the U.S. reflects upon and celebrates the tremendous contributions of African Americans to our great nation. The theme of **African American History Month** for 2020 is "African Americans and the Vote." The theme highlights the 150th anniversary of the 15th Amendment, which gave African American men the right to vote after the Civil War. This commemoration gives us the chance to reflect on the contributions of African American Soldiers. African Americans, who have defended our nation since the Revolutionary War, have built a legacy of courage and professionalism by serving with great honor and distinction, inspiring generations to come. Embracing and celebrating diversity makes the Colorado Army National Guard stronger, and we are dedicated to ensuring quality for all of our Soldiers, civilians and family members.

To ensure the Colorado Army National Guard is ready to fight tonight and provide superior lethality to our adversaries, we need to be physically fit. The implementation of the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) occurs later this year and we all need to be ready. I **challenge** all of you to take personal pride in your physical fitness and set the example of what it means to be combat ready. This month your assigned task is to try to do five pull-ups five days a week. You will notice a difference by the end of the month. "The pain of discipline is nothing like the pain of disappointment" – Justin Langer



Three UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopters from The Colorado Army National Guard 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion 135th Aviation Regiment prepare to depart Fort Carson, Colorado. 120 service members of the 2-135th departed to support missions in Kosovo last month.

(Photo by Maj Darin Overstreet)