



Command Message

COLORADO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

January 2020



I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays with family and friends. With the start of the new year, I want to focus on developing a highly disciplined team of professional officers, NCOs, and Soldiers with the operational experience, subject matter expertise, combat fitness, and resiliency to lead, augment, and support any U.S. required action. The directives of operationalize, decentralize, prioritize, professionalize, and incentivize will help increase the Colorado Army National Guard's **readiness**. We have an obligation to be ready and building cohesive teams that are highly trained, disciplined, and fit that can win on any battlefield. Cohesive teams drive tactical to strategic readiness and enable dynamic force employment. We must be ready to fight tonight and the new directives will ensure we are ready.

During this month the **157th Infantry Regiment** made its third beach landing during WWII in Anzio, Italy on January 22, 1944. The 157th Infantry Regiment of the Colorado National Guard was called into federal service at Denver, Colorado on September 26, 1940 as part of the 45th Infantry Division. The division assembled at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, and participated in several stateside maneuvers before receiving orders for shipment overseas. The 45th landed in North Africa on June 22, 1943 and continued training in preparation of the invasion of Sicily. The Colorado Army National Guard has a proud tradition of successfully deploying, fighting, and helping to win our nations' wars.

The Colorado Army National Guard's commitment to our nation remains ever-present. We have 90 Soldiers mobilized for overseas duty with their units, and 22 additional Soldiers are individually deployed. The 2-135th General Support Aviation Brigade will depart to support missions in Kosovo this month. I am confident they will excel and proudly represent our organization. The departure ceremony took place January 2nd at the Army Aviation Support Facility at Buckley Air Force Base, Aurora. Please remember to **reach out to deployed Soldiers and their families** to let them know you are there for them.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is on January 20. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day has come to be celebrated by millions of people in more than 100 countries. In 1994, Congress designated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a national day of service. The theme of the day is, "A Day On, Not a Day Off" to encourage individuals to dedicate the day to community service. The holiday is an occasion to remember Dr. King's remarkable life, to rededicate ourselves to implementing his dreams and to unite through his principles of unity and equality. We recognize the timeless values of courage, truth, justice, compassion, dignity, respect, humility and service he taught us through his words and actions. The Colorado Army National Guard is dedicated to leveraging the strength of our diverse force and ensuring equality for all its members.

Our people are and will always be the centerpiece of the Colorado Army National Guard. The readiness and **resiliency** of our Soldiers, civilians and family members is dependent on their physical, mental and emotional fitness. Resilient individuals are better able to bounce back and overcome adversity by leveraging mental and emotional skills and behavior by seeking out training. Think about this quote from Marcus Aurelius and remember to take advantage of all our resources to become a resilient leader. - "The happiness of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts: therefore, guard accordingly, and take care that you entertain no notions unsuitable to virtue and reasonable nature."



A Colorado Army National Guard Small Unit Support Vehicle assigned to a CONG Snow Response Team at Field Maintenance Shop 7, Watkins, Colorado, is always ready to serve the citizens of Colorado. They are ready to support local agencies with blizzards and other rescue efforts.
(U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Michael Hunnisett)