

YEAR IN REVIEW



The Idaho Military Division
2023



**THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF IDAHO
COMMANDER, IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD**

Dear Gov. Little and members of the Sixty-seventh Idaho Legislature,

The Idaho Military Division is the state's premier public service organization, made up of more than 5,000 citizen-Soldiers, Airmen and civilian employees committed to serving our state and nation.

Together, the Idaho National Guard, the Idaho Office of Emergency Management, Idaho Public Safety Communications, the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy, STARBASE Idaho and the Idaho Military Museum stand ready to serve our fellow citizens here at home and abroad.

The true strength of the Idaho Military Division is our people. In the following pages of this 2023 Year in Review, you will see our amazing people making a difference in the lives of our fellow Idahoans. From leading a four-state National Guard effort to provide medical, dental and optometry services to Idaho Tribes, to rescuing fellow citizens in need from remote locations in Idaho, to providing nearly \$1.5 million of cyber security training to a dozen community partners, we continue to build on our individual and unit mission readiness while providing real value to the state and our citizens.

In 2023, 242 students graduated from the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy, which has helped over 2,000 Idaho youth during the 10 years of the academy's existence obtain the values, life skills and education necessary to succeed as responsible and productive citizens of Idaho. More than 2,600 students traveled to Gowen Field in 2023 to experience "hands-on, minds-on" STEM enhancement training through STARBASE Idaho. These programs help ensure Idaho's most important resource, our children, receive the education and training they will need to work and raise their families right here in Idaho.

The Idaho National Guard continued to train and deploy to numerous locations throughout the world, including Africa, Europe and Southwest Asia, demonstrating its high level of readiness as the primary combat reserve for the U.S. Army and Air Force. The skills we develop to execute these missions make the Idaho Military Division a valuable partner when responding to emergencies across Idaho.

In August, we opened our gates to the public to see these skills firsthand when we hosted the Gowen Thunder Open House and Airshow. More than 120,000 people attended, bringing an estimated \$8 million to the local economy, adding to the Idaho Military Division's nearly \$660 million in annual economic impact on the Idaho economy.

Our accomplishments in 2023 are a testament to the fine men and women of the Idaho Military Division and our community. We thank you for your support in ensuring another successful year and stand ready to complete any local, state or federal mission in 2024.

Always Ready. Always There.

**Michael J. Garshak
Major General**

CONTENTS



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Editor's Note: The Year in Review is an Idaho Military Division publication composed of stories published throughout 2023. Some positions and ranks may have changed during the year.

Views expressed may not be those of the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Department of Defense or the U.S. Government.

On the cover: Nearly 600 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers returned home in August after a yearlong deployment to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Spartan Shield. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joe Morgan)

4-5 IDAHO'S 49TH INAUGURATION; GOV. BATT LAID TO REST

IDNG HOSTS INAUGURATION AT CAPITOL, PAYS TRIBUTE TO STATE'S 29TH GOVERNOR

6-7 FLIGHT CREWS HONORED FOR LIFE-SAVING MISSIONS

BLACK HAWK AND LAKOTA CREWS RECOGNIZED FOR HEROIC ACTIONS

8-9 IDAHO MILITARY DIVISION READY FOR EMERGENCIES

FIREFIIGHTERS RESPOND TO ACCIDENTS; 101ST CST, IOEM PREPARE FOR DISASTERS

10-11 LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS BUILD STRONG COMMUNITIES

CYBER TEAM IMPROVES DEFENSIVE SKILLS; TEENS, IDNG BUILD SHEDS FOR VETERANS

12-13 GUARD MEDICS PROVIDE HEALTH CARE TO TRIBES

TRAINING IMPROVES CAPABILITIES WHILE IMPROVING CITIZENS' LIVES

14-15 PROGRAMS ENHANCE IDAHO'S YOUTH EDUCATION

YOUTH CHALLENGE ENTERS 10TH YEAR; STARBASE CONTINUES STEM EDUCATION

16-17 GOWEN THUNDER AIRSHOW

Follow the Idaho
National Guard at:



18-19 GUARDSMEN GIVE BACK; OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

SOLDIERS, AIRMEN VISIT IDAHO VETERANS, PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY EVENTS

20-21 ESGR: RECOGNIZING OUR EMPLOYER SUPPORT

LOCAL EMPLOYERS AWARDED; HONORARY COMMANDERS EXPERIENCE GUARD LIFE

22-23 SUPPORTING FAMILIES; NEW LEADERSHIP APPOINTED

PROGRAMS SUPPORT MILITARY FAMILIES; EXPERIENCED LEADERS TAKE NEW POSITIONS

24-25 SOLDIERS RETURN FROM OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENT

116TH CBCT COMPLETES OPERATION SPARTAN SHIELD IN SOUTHWEST ASIA

26-27 WARFIGHTING: ALWAYS READY, ALWAYS THERE

IDAHO ARMY, AIR NATIONAL GUARD CONDUCT EXERCISES IN AFRICA, EUROPE

28-29 IDAHO SOLDIERS, RANGES AMONG NATION'S BEST

SQUAD FOURTH IN U.S. ARMY; PREMIER RANGES BRING UNITS TO TRAIN IN IDAHO

30-31 ECONOMIC IMPACT; PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

IMD CONTRIBUTES \$658 MILLION TO IDAHO; AIR FORCE CONSIDERS IDAHO FOR F-16S

H o m e l a n d

SECURING THE HOMELAND

The Idaho Military Division remains committed to providing education and training opportunities for our citizens while working, raising families and remaining here in Idaho. Our ability to fight and win our nation's wars leaves us well equipped to serve our communities in their times of need.

Guard hosts 49th Governor's Inauguration

The Idaho National Guard hosted the state's 49th gubernatorial inauguration ceremony Jan. 6 on the steps of the Idaho State Capitol. During the event, Gov. Brad Little reaffirmed his oath of office, signifying the start of his second term as the state's governor.

In addition, the following constitutional officers were sworn into their new roles: Lt. Gov. Scott Bedke; Secretary of State Phil McGrane; Controller Brandon Woolf; Treasurer Julie Ellsworth; Attorney General Raúl Labrador; and Superintendent of Public Instruction Debbie Critchfield.

The Hon. Chief G. Richard Bevan administered the oath of office to each constitutional officer.

The following evening, the Idaho Military Division, along with numerous volunteer organizations and local and state partners, supported the 49th Inaugural Ball at the Idaho State Capitol. The event included the Inaugural Procession that honored the state's elected



officials, a tradition dating back to 1913. The 25th Army Band provided music for the evening.

Idaho statute charges the state's adjutant general with the coordination and planning of the inauguration of the governor and other elected state executive officers.



Former Gov. Phil Batt laid to rest

Following former Idaho Gov. Phil Batt's death in March, the Idaho National Guard conducted the honorable transfer of his remains to the Idaho State Capitol and to the Cathedral of the Rockies for his funeral.

The 25th Army Band played music during his transfer into the capitol and the 124th Fighter Wing conducted a flyover in his honor. As he lay in state, Soldiers, Airmen and members of the Idaho State Police conducted a guard of honor as the public paid their final respects to the state's 29th governor.

Batt died March 4 on his 96th birthday. He served as Idaho's governor and commander in chief of the Idaho National Guard from 1995 to 1999. He also served as the state's lieutenant governor, the chair of the Idaho Republican Party and as a member of the Idaho legislature from 1965 to 1979 and again from 1984 to 1986.



Flight crews honored for saving lives

In November, the Idaho Army National Guard's State Aviation Group recognized 22 helicopter pilots and flight crewmembers for their roles in completing seven search and rescue missions from 2018-2023.

"Today we recognize the professionalism and selfless service of Idaho Army National Guard aircrews who have conducted life-saving rescue missions," said Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak, adjutant general of Idaho. "These awards showcase their training and ability

to execute difficult missions in extreme conditions when called upon."

The Idaho Army National Guard's UH-72 Lakotas and several UH-60 Black Hawks are equipped with a hoist that many civilian agencies are not equipped with. The helicopters' advanced technology, mechanical capabilities, hoist and experienced flight crews and medics enable the Idaho Army National Guard to assist in search and rescue missions in areas where landing a civilian aircraft may not be practical or safe

due to Idaho's rugged terrain.

"In each of these missions, our Guardsmen supported search and rescue agencies, police, sheriff and fire departments, and other first responders, to rescue our fellow citizens," Garshak said. "These awards highlight the National Guard's ability to not only fight and win our nation's wars, but to also respond to our citizens in times of need here in the homeland. This is what makes the National Guard such a critical asset to our state and nation."

Airbus Award of Valor

Two UH-72 Lakota crews received the Airbus Award of Valor, which recognizes crews whose efforts saved someone's life. Airbus Helicopters, Inc., which manufactures the UH-72 Lakota used by the Idaho Army National Guard, provides the award.

Col. Granger Amthor, Capt. Fernando Soto, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Langdale and Staff Sgt. Kole Newberry received the award



for their actions on Nov. 1, 2021. On that date, the crew worked together to recover a hunter with a bleeding femoral artery who was located in an area inaccessible to other aviation assets, transporting him to a hospital where he received life-saving medical care.

Just two days later, on Nov. 3,

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Chad Queen, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Mitch Watson and Staff Sgt. Craig McLeod used the Lakota's hoist to rescue an individual injured in a UTV accident on steep terrain near Horseshoe Bend and transport him to a Boise hospital where he received advanced medical treatment.



Winged-S Rescue Award

Five UH-60 Black Hawk crews received the Winged-S Rescue Award, which recognizes aviators who perform a life-saving rescue mission while flying a Sikorsky helicopter. Sikorsky manufactures the UH-60 Black Hawk used by two Idaho Army National Guard aviation units.

Several Soldiers received more than one award for their role in multiple search and rescues.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jess Anderson, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Eric Dillman, Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Nelson and Sgt. Danyon Fontenot received the award for their work on August 15, 2018.

On that date, the UH-60 Black Hawk crew conducted a search

and rescue mission in the Sawtooth Mountain Range. After locating two lost hikers just before overnight temperatures could become dangerous, the crew utilized its hoist to rescue them, including one who had a serious leg injury.

Dillman, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Nate Spaulding and Nelson were also recognized for rescuing a 90-year-old woman from the roof of her house after extreme flooding in the Grangeville area on April 9, 2019. The crew worked alongside members of the Boise Fire Department's Swiftwater Rescue Team to conduct the life-saving mission.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kevyn Sears, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Geoff Laubhan, Staff Sgt. Rich Manning and Staff Sgt. Keaton Nelson received awards for their actions

on August 13, 2020. The flight crew recovered and transported an injured individual in Custer County who was stranded at a significant elevation in high temperatures making it unsafe for civilian aircraft to reach.

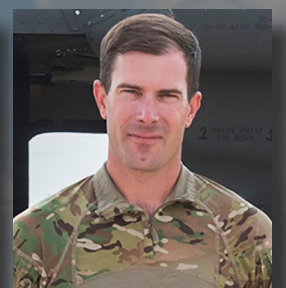
Dillman, Spaulding, Staff Sgt. Tom Barber and Keaton Nelson assisted Elmore County Search and Rescue with the rescue of a man who had been in a rural location for several days and was suffering from serious heat exhaustion on August 18, 2020.

On May 24, 2023, Capt. Morgan Hill, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Theron Cameron, Sgt. 1st Class Jared Gilstad, Sgt. Adam Brundy and Sgt. Brad Stock rescued a hiker who had a complex leg fracture in the Sawtooth Mountain Range. Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue also assisted with the recovery.



In memoriam

Anderson and Laubhan were killed after their UH-60 Black Hawk crashed during a training mission south of Lucky Peak on Feb. 2, 2021. Their spouses accepted the awards on their behalf.



OCTC firefighters respond to emergencies

The Orchard Combat Training Center's Orchard Fire and Emergency Services responded to more than 500 emergency and non-emergency requests for services on the train-



ing complex and along a nine-mile stretch of I-84.

Between May and September, the department battled 181 wildfires ranging from a quarter of an acre to more than 1,100 acres.



The department also responded to 13 motor vehicle accidents, six vehicle fires, eight wildland fires and seven medical emergencies along I-84 between mileposts 64 Blacks Creek/Kuna Mora Exit and 72.6, the Ada County/Elmore County line.



Airmen assist Boise Airport with quick response



Ben Olds, Master Sgt. John Sickau and Tech. Sgt. Daniel Walters were each recognized for their efforts.

Kornberg, the 124th Fighter Wing commander, and Olds, a command post controller, coordinated the assistance that resulted in Sickau and Walters promptly arriving at the taxiway with buses. The Airmen, both members of the wing's logistics readiness squadron, provided safe transport of the plane's passengers, who were all uninjured, to the terminal.

The Boise Airport Commission presented members of the 124th Fighter Wing with certificates of appreciation Feb. 1 in recognition of their quick response to a request for assistance on Jan. 17. On that day, Airmen provided buses to retrieve passengers from a civilian aircraft that safely landed at the Boise Airport but could not proceed to the terminal after it went off the pavement while taxiing.

"We called the Guard and they were there," said Rebecca Hupp, airport director. "One of the tenants of a Guard member is always being ready. Being ready to move and ready to deploy. And they embodied that on that evening and I think they embody that all the time, so I wanted to recognize them publicly and thank them publicly."

Col. Chad Kornberg, Master Sgt.



101st Civil Support Team stands ready

The 101st Civil Support Team conducted several training exercises in 2023, working with dozens of local, national and international partners throughout several states during the year.

In February, the unit participated in an exercise in San Francisco with CSTs from five other states,

the FBI, Coast Guard, the National Parks Service, the California Department of Health and multiple local law enforcement agencies and fire departments. The team also trained in Oregon with seven other CSTs and multiple civilian agencies in April.

Throughout the football season,

the team assisted local and federal agencies in preparing for Boise State University home games.

The 22-member team provides around-the-clock support to civil authorities by maintaining the capability to respond to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear high-yield explosive incidents.



IOEM improves emergency support plans

In 2023, the Idaho Office of Emergency Management continued its unwavering commitment to guiding and supporting state agencies and Idaho citizens in their efforts to create strong, resilient communities.



As part of the agency's cooperative efforts with private sector partners, IOEM spearheaded a series of nine monthly seminars, each lasting 90 minutes. The sessions engaged private sector audiences on how to prepare, respond and recover

from active shooter/mass casualty events. Throughout the series there were more than 10,000 registrants with audiences in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and 52 foreign countries.

IOEM also updated its Emergency Operations Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan to remain ready in the event of any man-made or natural disaster. The agency introduced its first long-term Disaster Housing Plan for the Treasure Valley, as well as a local template for counties.

During the year, IOEM achieved reaccreditation through the rigorous Emergency Management Accreditation Process. The milestone accreditation reaffirms the agency's robust preparedness and response capabilities, ensuring IOEM can

adeptly meet the diverse needs of its partners in times of disaster.

In September, IOEM hosted a unique, private sector-centered, functional exercise based on a Cascadia 9.0 earthquake scenario along the Pacific Northwest coast. Drawing more than 50 representatives from two dozen private sector companies, including the rail, fuel and grocer sectors, the event exemplified IOEM's commitment to fostering collaboration with the private sector.

Over three days, IOEM and partners engaged in insightful discussions and rehearsed how emergency managers can enhance their partnerships with private sector partners on a region wide scale during an unprecedented disaster.

P a r t n e r s h i p s

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Enduring relationships benefit our communities, state and nation while enhancing our readiness.

Cyber element teams with local partners

The Idaho Army National Guard Defensive Cyber Operations Element conducted Innovative Readiness Training with 13 community partners in fiscal year 2023, providing nearly \$1.6 million of value to the state.

The Idaho Army National Guard DCOE provided 985 training days to nearly 100 National Guard members from eight states; Boise State University students; and the state's Office of Information Technology Services and worked with multiple local and state partners, including technology experts from the office of the Idaho Secretary of State, BSU, College of Southern Idaho and nine Idaho counties. Training

engagements included eight areas of cyber security in order to harden the state's cyber infrastructure and increase each agency's cyber capabilities.

"This training initiative has provided us with the unique opportunity to develop military cyber competencies through direct engagement in the cyber terrain," said Chief Warrant

Officer 4 Jarred Edgar, Idaho Army National Guard director of cyber training. "We have built strategic partnerships between the military, civilian government and academia within Idaho. These strategic partnerships allow us to leverage our collective capabilities to develop cyber talent, define the cyber challenges and reduce attack surface throughout Idaho."



Teen students learn skills, help veterans

The Idaho Army National Guard worked with Idaho State University, local contractors and local vendors in early spring during a series of construction events across the state to support a half-dozen Idaho communities by providing hundreds of Idaho high school students with hands-on construction experience.

The events, held in Driggs, Idaho Falls, Meridian, Pocatello and Twin Falls, helped students from over a dozen high schools hone their skills and broaden their interests in construction careers while helping to build 35 storage sheds for veterans.

The events also helped local trade companies recruit future employees while improving Idaho's shortage of skilled workers within the construction industry.

The Idaho Army National Guard helped store and transport supplies for each event and Soldiers assisted in constructing the storage sheds while coaching students.

"One of our main purposes in these events is teaching students through hands-on experience," said Staff Sgt. Kolten Conant. "On-the-job training is a key aspect when it comes to learning tricks of the trade and applying what you've learned in books. That is what most employers are looking for these days."

Conant, a horizontal construction engineer and concrete and asphalt equipment operator in the Idaho Army National Guard, spent

approximately five years working in the civilian industry where he completed a housing development project by assisting a team build 14 homes, including his own in Alaska.



"The Idaho Army National Guard's contributions are immeasurable," said Kaycee Cron, workforce development project manager for Idaho Associated General Contractors. "We wouldn't be able to do these projects without them. Having their skills and leadership to guide students as they build sheds gives us an opportunity to do meaningful projects that give back to our communities. You can't put a value on that."



Guard medics provide care to tribes



Approximately 100 citizen-Soldiers and Airmen from the Arizona, Idaho, Minnesota and Nevada National Guards provided care for two Native American Tribes in Idaho and Nevada in May as part of Operation Nimiipuu Health.

National Guardsmen provided medical, dental and optometry services to the Nez Perce Tribe and

surrounding community of Lapwai, Idaho, May 16-18. Similar care, in addition to behavioral health services, was also provided to members of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes and the surrounding community of Duck Valley, Nevada, May 22-25.

“We were able to provide supplemental health services to the tribal health facilities that help care for tribal members, which is extremely significant since COVID-19 created a backlog of health services in these communities,” said Lt. Col. Tina Williams, Idaho National Guard Medical Detachment chief case manager. “For every patient we can see, we free up the local clinics to see that many more patients.”

Operation Nimiipuu Health is an office of Secretary of Defense Reserve Affairs-sponsored, Army National Guard-led, multi-service training event.

Throughout the operation, Soldiers and Airmen provided care to nearly 800 patients at both locations with more than 3,700 procedures performed. While in Lapwai, Guardsmen provided care for more than 550 community members between Lapwai, Kamiah and Kooskia while simultaneously building relationships with tribal leaders, community elders and members of the Nimiipuu Tribe.

At Duck Valley, Guardsmen detected a tumor on a young patient, assisted a man in the early stages of a heart attack and provided care to a woman who was at risk of going





here who don't normally come to our clinic because they may be worried about being seen by someone they know in the local community," said Crystal Kelly, Owyhee Community Health Facility tribal health administrative assistant. "It's been great to be able to collaborate with the National Guard on these programs. It really increases the opportunity for the tribal community to get free medical care and build relationships with the National Guard members while they are here."

The Idaho National Guard conducts several IRT projects with various tribes each year and was activated to assist the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021.



partment of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training program, which provides military members with hands-on, real-world training to improve individual readiness while providing key services to American communities.

blind had her detached retina gone undetected much longer. Additionally, Soldiers and Airmen provided educational classes to students and participated in cultural events honoring the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes.

The mission was part of the De-

"The skills that I'm reinforcing here at the IRT are patient interactions, making them comfortable and working with them to provide the care that they need," said Senior Airman Gianna Gabrielli, a dental technician assigned to the Minnesota Air National Guard's 133rd Airlift Wing.



"This IRT event addresses all three of my imperatives for the Idaho National Guard," said Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak, adjutant general of Idaho. "It sharpens our combat medical treatment skills, responds to the disparate health conditions which exist in these communities and continues to build on our strong relationships with the Native American Tribes throughout Idaho."

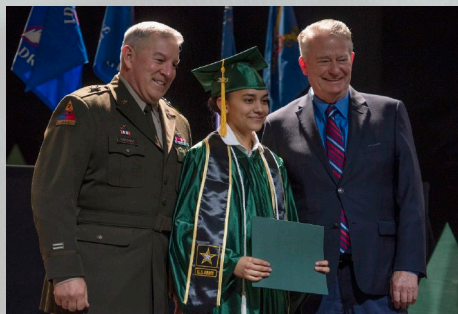


The collaborative program leverages military contributions and community resources to benefit community members while building partnerships between the National Guard and local communities.

"I've seen patients come in

Youth ChalleNGe: 10 years, 2,000 students

The Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy completed its 10th year of operation in 2023, graduating its twentieth class of cadets, bringing the total number of graduates to 2,075 since 2014.



The academy is a nationwide Department of Defense program that provides a second chance to students who are at risk of dropping out of high school, or who already have, with an opportunity to earn their high school diploma, a GED or enough credits to return to their high school and graduate with their peers.



In 2023, 242 young Idahoans voluntarily completed the highly structured and disciplined 22-week residential program located in Pierce.



"I always explain to the cadets that education is something that can never be taken away from you," said Jim Hill, IDYCA principal. "Class 23-02 earned a 3.4 GPA average, which is going from a D plus to a B plus. This class has earned 99 percent of the credits possible, which totals 1,820 credits. Eight cadets have earned their GED, 11 cadets have earned their high school diploma and 20 cadets earned a 4.0."

Since January 2014, Idaho's program has issued 259 high school diplomas and 195 GEDs, with Idaho youth earning more than 30,000 high school credits from the program. In addition, local residents in Pierce have benefited from more than 103,000 hours of public service provided by the cadets, at a value of over \$3,270,000.

"After trying to run away at the beginning of the program, I am an example of having to channel your fears and not let your failures impede your future progress," said IDYCA Cadet Chase Hayden, as he spoke at the program's December graduation ceremony. "And now that I am here at the end of this five-month journey, I can look back and say I am proud of myself and my fellow cadets."

Typically, cadets are required to select an adult mentor who can provide encouragement and guidance in goal achievement during the 12-month post-residential phase. However, in an effort to foster meaningful connections, IDYCA piloted a new mentorship program in 2023, which matches cadets with established professionals in a cadet's career field of interest.

Currently, the IDYCA staff is assisting national program managers in designing and developing the concept for use by all 39 Youth



ChalleNGe Academies in the U.S.

In the fall, former Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, along with President and CEO of CBC Partners LLC John Otter; Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction Debbie Critchfield; and Boise State University President Marlene Tromp visited the academy to learn more about the program.



The program received a grant from the Nez Perce Tribe in 2023, which was used to purchase a large greenhouse that will expand the program's training and educational opportunities in forestry. The cadets also helped construct the building.



STARBASE Idaho enhances STEM education

In 2023, STARBASE Idaho provided STEM enrichment to more than 2,600 students in eight school districts across Idaho; continued its five afterschool programs; participated in or hosted a dozen outreach activities; and provided 11 spring break/summer academies across the Treasure Valley.



STARBASE is a Department of Defense program that offers fifth grade students from Title I schools 25 hours of “hands-on, minds-on” STEM instruction on Gowen Field.

The Idaho Military Division opened STARBASE Idaho in 2018 and has instructed more than 11,000 Idaho students.



During the year, students from Basin, Boise, Caldwell, Emmett, Kuna, Middleton, Nampa and Wilder school districts traveled to Gowen Field for the STEM experience. Staff members also conducted camps in partnership with the Idaho National Guard Service Member & Family Support Directorate and 4-H during spring break, and Caldwell and Nampa Migrant Summer Schools in June and July.

In December, STARBASE partnered with Middleton Middle School to host the First Lego League Challenge

regional tournament. Eleven teams from across southern Idaho competed in the day-long event, with STARBASE’s own Rebel Alliance team receiving the Core Values Award for their outstanding work.

In August, STARBASE hosted the STEM Expo at the Gowen Thunder Airshow, bringing over three dozen community partners together to showcase Idaho’s STEM capabilities.

In 2024, STARBASE Advanced will start a new program at Middleton High School, enabling the program to provide STEM education from fifth to 12th grade in the district.



New exhibit honors Idaho WWII veterans

The Idaho Military History Museum opened a new exhibit in December examining a previously untold story of Idahoans who played a key role in the Battle of the Bulge during World War II.

The exhibit focuses on the U.S. Army’s 526th Armored Infantry Battalion, which included many Soldiers from southern Idaho, including the areas of Buhl, Emmett, Pocatello and Weiser.

The exhibit, which will be on display until April 2024, is the work and brainchild of Boise State University graduate student Kent Kiser.

The museum is open and free to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday. It is closed most federal holidays. To contact the museum, call 208-272-4841.



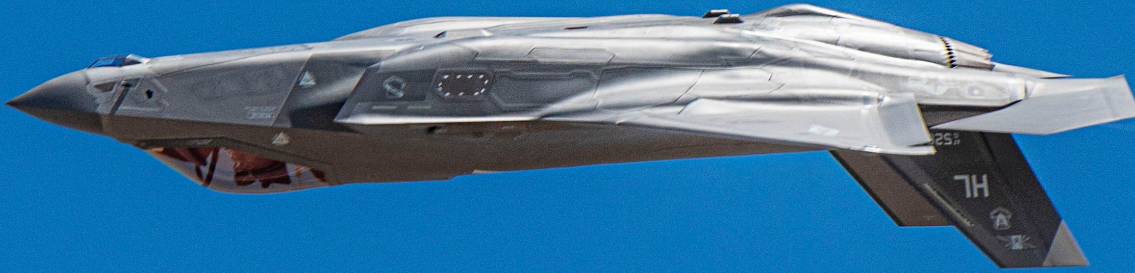
Gowen Thunder thrills community

The Idaho National Guard hosted Gowen Thunder Aug. 26-27 on Gowen Field. An estimated 120,000 people attended the Idaho National Guard's first open house and airshow since 2017.



"Gowen Thunder is one way to show our appreciation for the strong support we receive from our communities," said Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak, adjutant general of Idaho and commander of the Idaho National Guard. "Our citizen-Soldiers and Airmen wouldn't be successful without the support of their local communities."





The two-day show was headlined by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, who were joined by the U.S. Army's Golden Knights and the Air Force's F-35 Demonstration Team. The all-women skydiving team Misty Blues also participated and Boise aviator Mark Peterson flew a P-51 Mustang, an A-37 Dragonfly and a Dornier Alpha Jet during the show.



Visit Boise, the tourism division of the Boise Metro Chamber, estimated the air show had an \$8.7 million economic impact on the local area.

The air show opened with a demonstration from the Honorary 116th Cavalry Regiment Color Guard, led by Brig. Gen. Farin Schwartz, commander of the Idaho Army National Guard. During the air show, nearly 40 Idaho citizens enlisted in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The Idaho Army National Guard and Idaho Air National Guard teamed up with the Mountain Home Air Force Base's 366th Fighter Wing for a combined arms demonstration over the weekend. A-10 Thunderbolt II and F-15E pilots provided security from the air while a Bradley Fighting Vehicle crew assisted with recovering a downed pilot, who was rescued by an Idaho Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk crew.



People

MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE

Service in the Idaho Military Division enhances the lives of our members and their families.

Guardsmen stay connected with veterans



The Idaho National Guard values its relationships with Idaho's veterans. Each quarter, Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak, adjutant general of Idaho, along with other Soldiers and Airmen, visit the Idaho State Veterans Home in Boise for "Coffee with Vets."

In December, individual service members and units donated hundreds of gifts in support of the annual Camouflage Christmas, where Soldiers and Airmen visit the Vets

Home to help veterans open presents and celebrate the holiday season.

In February, senior leaders visited patients at the Boise VA Medical



Center in support of National Salute to Veterans Patients Week. In April, Idaho Army National Guard Honor Guard members granted veteran Sgt. Walter Leman Messley one final wish: to have his service and legacy honored with his loved ones as he celebrated his 94th birthday with a flag-folding ceremony and presenta-

tion at Meridian Meadows Transitional Care.

During the ceremony, Messley sat with pride showing in his eyes while wearing an old World War II uniform jacket. Although WWII had all but ended by the time he joined and the jacket he wore did not display his actual rank, it had significant meaning to him. He passed away the following week.



Community engagements build relationships

The Idaho National Guard conducted more than 300 community relations events in 2023, both on Gowen Field and throughout communities across the state.

Community engagements inform the public about the Idaho National Guard's state and federal missions and help maintain viable relationships with our communities and civic leaders.



Community relations include tours of Gowen Field and local armories; vehicle and aircraft static displays; aerial flyovers; the use of the color guard at public events; public concerts performed by the 25th Army Band and more. To submit a community relations request, visit imd.idaho.gov.

ESGR recognizes employers

In 2023, Idaho's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve volunteers continued to promote supportive work environments for National Guard members throughout the state, doubling the number of employers and service members reached over the previous year.



Volunteers engaged more than 1,600 employers at numerous events throughout the year to educate them about the benefits of hiring National Guardsmen and the basics of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

"Supportive employers are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's Guard and Reserve units," said Idaho ESGR State Chair Cindy Reese. "It is our role to open doors that lead to good jobs, reemployment after military duty and career progression."

ESGR efforts led to more than 250 signed statements of support from Guard and Reserve employers and more than 2,300 service members briefed on their USERRA rights, which helped resolve or refer 116 USERRA inquiries.

Idaho Military Division

"The National Guard is part of what makes the United States of America distinctively who we are as a nation," said Mark Baker, chief administrative officer of Bingham Memorial Hospital. "It comprises citizens who are trained, able and willing to fight if necessary to defend their family, life, liberty and country."

ESGR emphasizes acknowledging employers who demonstrate superb support of their Guard and Reserve employees through an extensive awards program, including 69 Patriot Awards, three Above & Beyond Awards, one Seven Seals Award and one Extraordinary Employer Support Award.

Extraordinary Employer Support Award:

Wright Brothers - The Building Company



Seven Seals Award:

Sgt. 1st Class Richard Eisele, Idaho National Guard Community Relations Office

Above & Beyond Awards:

Terry Reilly Health Services
The J.R. Simplot Company
Bartlett Roofing

Patriot Awards were awarded to supervisors from the following companies:

Advantage Plus Federal Credit Union****
Amalgamated Sugar Company
Atlas
Barrie's Ski and Sports
Blue Cross of Idaho
Boise State University**
Boise VA Healthcare System
C&L Locker
Call Automotive
Cascadia of Nampa**
Department of Veterans Affairs
Experian Health
FA Engineering
Faith Outdoors
FMS-1
G2 Secure Staff***
Homedale High School
Homedale School District
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Idaho State Department of Education/
Child Nutrition
Idaho Transportation Department**
Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy**
ISU Veteran Student Services Center
Just In Time Services
Kootenai Clinic - Neurosurgery and Spine
Kootenai Health
Limitless Life Counseling
Lit&Co. Candles**
Madison Transportation Department
Melaleuca
Meridian Fire Department
Mountain West Bank
Nailed It Construction
Naval Nuclear Laboratory
Neider Hearing LLC**
Peace Valley Charter School
Saint Alphonsus Cancer Institute
Saint Alphonsus Medical Group**
Salvation Army
Silver Ridge Construction
St. Luke's***
St. Luke's Boise Endoscopy
St. Luke's Boise Medical Center
St. Luke's Physician Center Magic Valley
Surface Maintenance Manager's Office
Terry Reilly Health Services
Texas Roadhouse
Trademark Heating, Cooling & Electrical
Tree City Family Dental**
Twin Falls Fire Department
Twin Falls Police Department
Ulta Beauty
Wright Brothers - The Building Company
* Indicates number of awards

Honorary commanders experience Guard life

The Idaho National Guard's honorary unit commander program provides opportunities for civilian leaders throughout Idaho to learn about the organization's state and federal missions and to build enduring partnerships and support within our local communities. The following leaders served as honorary unit commanders in 2023:



Idaho Army National Guard

- Todd Erickson, CapEd Credit Union: State Aviation Group
- Alta Graham, West Ada School District: 2-204th Regional Training Institute (Modular Training Battalion)
- Theresa Hart, Panhandle Health: 145th Brigade Support Battalion
- Brent Reinke, commissioner, Twin Falls County: 116th Brigade Engineer Battalion
- Paul Roberts, Boise Fire Department: 101st Civil Support Team
- Bob Tettleton, Veterans of Foreign Wars: Idaho Army National Guard Training Center
- Joe Tornello, director of athletic bands, Boise State University: 25th Army Band
- Melvin Wagoner, AvCenter, Inc.: 1-148th Field Artillery Regiment
- Colonel Kedrick Wills, Idaho State Police: 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team
- Charles Winder, Idaho State Senate: 204th Regional Training Institute
- Scott Woolstenhulme, Bonneville Joint School District 93: Recruiting and Retention

Idaho Air National Guard

- Jennifer Cammann, Micron: 124th Operations Support Squadron
- Dan DeCloss, PlexTrack: 224th Cyber Operations Squadron
- Hilary Flint, Ph.D., St. Luke's Health System: 124th Medical Group
- Jessica Flynn, Red Sky Communication: 124th Mission Support Group
- Lisa Grow, IDACROP, Inc. and Idaho Power: 124th Maintenance Group
- Alex LaBeau, Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry: 124th Civil Engineer Squadron
- Todd Lindsey, A10 Capital: 124th Air Support Operations Squadron
- Kacey Nelson, Aaron Butler Memorial Foundation: 124th Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Mark Peterson, Saber Holding: 124th Operations Group
- Annie Price, Scentsy: 124th CF
- Roger Quarles, JA & Kathryn Albertson Foundation: 190th Fighter Squadron
- Sarah Rohrbach, Earth to Sarah Media, Southern Idaho Tourism: 124th Maintenance Operations Flight
- Spenser Shaw, Hayden Beverage Company: 124th Maintenance Squadron
- Chris Taylor, Fisher's Technology: 124th Security Forces Squadron
- Bernie Zimmerman, Cultivation Counseling: 124th Force Support Squadron



Multiple programs support military families



More than 850 Idaho Army National Guard Soldiers deployed to Southwest Asia in 2022 and 2023. The Idaho National Guard Service Member & Family Support Directorate assisted these Soldiers as they returned home and reintegrated back into their families by hosting numerous post-deployment events and ensuring Soldiers and families had access to the resources they need.

Military and Family Readiness Specialists conducted more than 6,200 welfare calls to friends and family members of deployed Soldiers while supporting and hosting hundreds of events across the state for military families. Activities included holiday assistance events,



baby showers, school supply drives and more. MFRS, in collaboration with various community partners and the Idaho National Guard State Chaplain's Office, distributed holiday assistance to more than 550 families in need during the holiday season. These efforts were made possible by the many volunteers who donated more than 24,360 total hours, saving the state over \$750,000 in labor costs.



The Child and Youth Program provided resources to military families and their communities throughout the year that included one summer and three winter camps across multiple regions of Idaho. The program served over 3,000 military youth from families belonging to the Army and Air National Guard, the Army and Navy Reserve and the active duty Army and Air Force.

The directorate also provided financial counseling and education to members and families of the Idaho National Guard, as well as Marine and Navy Reserve. Personal financial counselors conducted over 580 hours of in-person and virtual consultations; over 300 hours of phone calls; and 21 briefs to 500 attendees

from multiple units. The directorate partnered with the IRS and Boise State University to offer free military tax assistance for service members throughout the state.

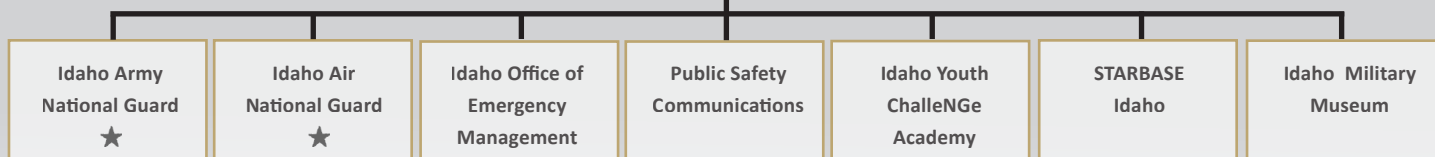


In addition, the directorate implemented the Integrated Primary Prevention Workforce program, which consists of prevention specialists and an attorney advisor. The team helps to develop strategies and implement research-informed prevention policies, programs and practices within the Idaho National Guard. The new prevention capability enhances leaders' ability to identify and mitigate risks within their units that lead to harmful behaviors.



Idaho Military Division

Adjutant General of Idaho
Commander, Idaho National Guard



Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak
Adjutant General
and IDNG
Commander



Brig. Gen. Cole Packwood
Assistant Adjutant
General - Army
and IDARNG
Commander



Brig. Gen. Timothy Donnellan
Assistant Adjutant
General - Air
and IDANG
Commander



Brad Richy
Director,
Idaho Office
of Emergency
Management



Ben Call
Director,
Public Safety
Communications



Trevor Sparrow
Director,
Idaho Youth
ChalleNGe
Academy



Courtney Taylor
Director,
STARBASE
Idaho



Jeff Packer
Director,
Idaho Military
Museum

Experienced leaders take new positions

Throughout 2023, there were several retirements and new appointments among senior Idaho National Guard leaders.

Brig. Gen. Cole Packwood was appointed to serve as the assistant adjutant general – Army and commander of the Idaho Army National Guard following the retirement of Brig. Gen. Farin Schwartz in September. Packwood previously served as the IDARNG chief of staff since May 2019.

In May, Command Sgt. Maj. Alice



Mapes was appointed as the Idaho National Guard's senior enlisted leader, the first female in the organization to serve in the position. Prior to her appointment, she was a regimental and battalion command sergeant major, served as a company first sergeant and deployed to Iraq in 2004.

Mapes replaced Command Sgt. Maj. Scott White, who retired from

the Idaho Army National Guard in May after 29 years of service.



Chief Master Sgt. Nathaniel Durfee was selected to serve as the Idaho Air National Guard's state command chief master sergeant following the retirement of Chief Master Sgt. Kelly Bongiovi in February. Durfee has served in multiple positions in the 124th Fighter Wing throughout his career.

W a r f i g h t i n g

COMBAT CAPABLE

Our Soldiers and Airmen live and train in Idaho, while standing ready to respond to emergencies or in defense of our national interests throughout the world.



116th CBCT returns from Southwest Asia

Nearly 600 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers returned home in August after a yearlong deployment to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Spartan Shield.



Photo courtesy U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Latasha Price

The Soldiers deployed in August 2022 to support the 116th CBCT's Task Force Rattler. Idaho Soldiers comprised nearly 65 percent of the task force, which included Soldiers from the Montana, Ohio, Oregon and South Carolina Army National Guards.

"Task Force Rattler Soldiers served their state and nation with distinction during this deployment," said Brig.

Gen. Farin Schwartz, commander, Idaho Army National Guard. "We welcome them home and thank them for their service and recognize their families and employers for their support.

"Over the past two years, Idaho Army National Guard Soldiers have deterred enemy aggression in a hostile environment, demonstrating our nation's commitment to our global partners and allies," Schwartz said.

OSS is a joint mission under the United States Central Command and is part of Operation Enduring Freedom. A separate 116th CBCT task force, which included nearly 200 Idaho Army National Guard Soldiers, deployed to support the same mission from 2021-2022.

The task force provided three mission response forces to the CENTCOM commander and conducted

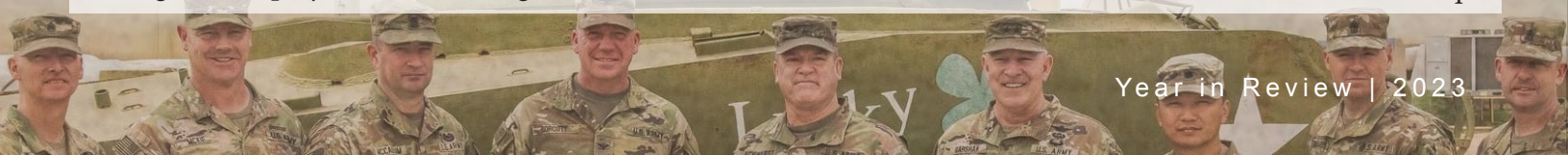


Photo courtesy U.S. Army



missions and training exercises in Iraq, Jordan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Syria and Qatar.

The 116th CBCT previously deployed in support of the Global War on Terror in 2004 and 2010 to Iraq.



Soldiers, Airmen train in Africa, Europe



Idaho National Guard Soldiers and Airmen departed days apart in early June to support training exercises in Africa and Europe.

More than 150 Idaho Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team deployed to Morocco in support of African Lion 2023 as more than 100 Airmen from the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Fighter Wing traveled to Germany in support of Air Defender 2023. Both units returned later in June.

"The 124th Fighter Wing's partici-

pation in Air Defender '23 and the 116th CBCT's participation in African Lion are clear demonstrations of the Idaho National Guard's readiness and relevance," said Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak, adjutant general of Idaho and commander of the Idaho National Guard. "Both deployments provide us the opportunity to fulfill our critical role in the United States' defense commitment to our international allies and partners."

African Lion is the U.S. Africa Command's largest exercise and has occurred annually since 2008. The exercise involved nearly 4,000 U.S.

service members training alongside 4,000 service members from 19 African, European and South American armed forces. The exercise occurred across Ghana, Morocco, Senegal and Tunisia.

"This exercise demonstrated the 116th CBCT's ability to mobilize anywhere in the world," said Col. Eric Orcutt, 116th CBCT commander. "African Lion allowed Soldiers the opportunity to test their combat capabilities, work with other international forces, experience the Moroccan culture and gain new life experiences. These short duration overseas missions are great because they allow Soldiers to gain new perspectives, build on their leadership competencies and develop as individuals."



Photo courtesy U.S. Army Capt. Jeffrey Brenchley





Air Defender was a German-led, multinational, live-fly exercise and was NATO's largest exercise since its foundation. The exercise involved more than 20 countries and over 85 aircraft from 44 Air National Guard units and 35 states, which included six 124th Fighter Wing A-10 Thunderbolt IIs.



The exercise provided operational and tactical-level field training, held mainly in Germany with additional locations in the Czech Republic, Estonia and Latvia.

Air Defender is a collective defense exercise that focuses on Germany's ability to command and control a multinational air force operating from German airfields. Partner nations tested their abilities to integrate multiple platforms from multiple nations into a single package of aircraft and systems to carry out a specific mission.

"We have to keep exercising this capability so movements of this size become easier," said Col. Ryan Richardson, 124th Fighter Wing's operations group commander. "The amount of effort and manpower it required to deploy our aircraft, equipment and people over there was staggering. Like any major exercise or operation, we ran into a few hurdles, but as always, our Airmen were highly successful."



Idaho Soldiers among Army's best

Soldiers from the Idaho Army National Guard's 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team finished fourth at the U.S. Army's Best Squad Competition in October.

The squad earned the chance to compete among the Army's 12 best squads after winning competitions at the United States Armed Forces Command and the U.S. Army Central Command levels while deployed in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

Staff Sgt. Joshua Hutchings, Sgt. Douglas Kenz-Woods, Spc. Christian Brown, Spc. David Hann, Spc. Anthony Hill and Spc. Evan Skaug made up the U.S. Army's fourth-best squad.

Along the way, the squad won the

FORSCOM Best Squad Competition in August at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina. Skaug was named the FORSCOM Soldier of the Year and Kenz-Woods was the competition's Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year runner-up.

In May, the squad won the U.S. Army Central Command's competition, held at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

"At C Co., 2-116th CAB, we spend a lot of time training hard and we excel because of it," said Hutchings. "This competition is an opportunity for us to show that our unit is a unit that trains hard."

The Army's competition was held Sept. 24 through Oct. 6 at Fort Stewart, Georgia. The nine-day competition assessed each squad on their technical and tactical proficiency,

as well as their ability to work as a disciplined and cohesive team. The competition featured several different fitness and combat-related events.



Photo courtesy U.S. Army



Photo courtesy U.S. Army

Guard, Reserve, active duty recruit together

Idaho Air National Guard Recruiting, along with the 368th Recruiting Squadron assigned to Hill Air Force Base in Utah, hosted the grand opening of the Pacific Northwest's first Total Force Recruiting Office in Meridian in May.

The office provides potential Air Force recruits a one-stop shop to



learn about active-duty Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve career opportunities. Teaming up with the Air Force provides the Idaho Air National Guard with a storefront office for the first time.

"The Air National Guard has been the best-kept secret in the military," said Senior Master Sgt. Casey Bermensolo, Idaho Air National Guard Recruiting superintendent. "But because we historically have never had a storefront recruiting office, the awareness level, at least of the Idaho Air National Guard, is low and we unfortunately don't receive the funding we need to adequately get the word out."

The Air Force benefits from the relationships built by long-term community members.

"The great thing about this opportunity is that the Air National Guard has relationships that are deeply rooted within the community," said Lt. Col. Annie Driscoll, commander of the 368th Recruiting Squadron. "Because active duty recruiters are only in one location for three years at a time and Guard recruiters have been in their communities for decades, Guard recruiters are going to be able to open doors we wouldn't otherwise have access to and we have the resources needed to get the word out."

Premier ranges bring units to Idaho

The Idaho Air National Guard's 266th Range Squadron hosted Exercise Forging Sabre 2023 in September. The large-scale Singapore Armed Forces exercise was one of many exercises and training missions that brought hundreds of Soldiers, Airmen and Marines to train at the Idaho Army National Guard's Orchard Combat Training Center and with the Idaho Air National Guard's 266th Range Squadron at the Mountain Home Range Complex.



Between Idaho's varied terrain and its world-class military training ranges, units maintain proficiency by participating in exercises that replicate realistic combat conditions in a multitude of environments.

The 266th RANS is responsible for providing superior electronic simulations of ground-based air defense threats. In addition to the squadron's ability to simulate enemy threats, the training complex provides an environment that is sought out by many units across the U.S. and the globe.

"Units like the airspace that the Mountain Home Range Complex provides, it's big," said Maj. Patrick Hickie, the director of operations for the 266th RANS. "They can get all the training they need done here. We have a ton of threat emitters on the range that provide a realistic

density of threats. It also helps that the scheduling is easy, which facilitates with their planning."

Hosting Forging Sabre provided valuable training to Idaho Air National Guardsmen.

"We have been able to provide GPS jamming to the aircrews on the range," said Master Sgt. Phillip Mason, the 266th RANS GPS jamming shop chief. "The aircrew uses GPS for navigation and munitions. Our equipment allows them to work through GPS denial scenarios and these issues are issues they would see in the real world. This allows them to come up with ways to work around this and still put bombs on targets."



In March, Soldiers from the German Army's 6th Battery of the Artillery Battalion 345 conducted close air support training at Saylor Creek Range with pilots and joint terminal attack controllers from the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Fighter Wing. Members of the German unit have trained in Idaho annually since 2016.

"In Germany, our soldiers never get into realistic situations like they do in Idaho because of training restrictions," said a German platoon sergeant. "Here you can be 500 meters away while a 2,000-pound

bomb is flying off the jet. It helps our soldiers to see live munitions hit their targets because then they know what they say to pilots really matters."



Marines assigned to the 1st Marine Division from Camp Pendleton conducted Exercise Garnett Rattler 2023 in April for the second consecutive year at both training complexes. For three weeks, Marines conducted close air support training missions with multiple aircraft at Saylor Creek while also conducting live-fire and demolition training at the OCTC.

The OCTC includes 23 ranges to train on everything from individual weapons qualifications to tank crew qualifications on the National Guard's only Digital Air Ground Integration Range. The premier training center also includes grenade ranges, demolition ranges, a live-fire shoot house, a combined-arms collective training facility and more, providing realistic combat training to service members from all components and branches throughout the year.

The Oregon Army National Guard's 3rd Combined Arms Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team conducted tank and Bradley Fighting Vehicle gunnery at the range in August.

Idaho Military Division Economic Impact

IMD AGENCY/IMPACT	DIRECT AND INDIRECT JOBS	DIRECT IMPACT	INDIRECT IMPACT	INDUCED IMPACT	TOTAL
		MILLIONS (\$)			
IDAHO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD	5,339	224.95	15.59	123.40	\$363.94
IDAHO AIR NATIONAL GUARD	2,212	128.95	2.17	74.47	\$205.59
EMERGENCY/MILITARY MANAGEMENT	257	25.78	0.15	15.16	\$41.09
IDAHO MILITARY DIVISION CONSTRUCTION	312	27.72	10.74	9.71	\$48.17
TOTAL	8,120	\$407.40	\$28.65	\$222.74	\$658.79

The Idaho Military Division, which includes the Idaho Army National Guard, the Idaho Air National Guard, the Idaho Office of Emergency Management and the Idaho Office of Military Management, contributes more than \$658 million annually to Idaho's economy as the state's fourth largest employer, ultimately responsible for providing 8,120 jobs in Idaho.

The division's total economic impacts are estimated to generate nearly \$30 million in Idaho tax revenue, compared to the \$7 million the state appropriates for the Idaho Military Division each year, a robust return on the state's investment. To see the full study, visit www.IMD.idaho.gov.

New Army, Air sites improve future readiness

The Idaho Army National Guard and the Idaho Air National Guard broke ground on two construction projects in July that will enhance the readiness levels of both organizations once complete.



The Idaho Army National Guard conducted a groundbreaking ceremony July 6 at the future site of the Jerome County Regional Readiness

Center, located off Interstate 84 on the west side of US-93.

The \$23 million project will take two years to complete and will house two 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team units currently located in Jerome and Twin Falls. More than 200 Soldiers will train at the readiness center, which is expected to be 53,000 square feet and include a 28,000-square-foot maintenance facility.

Less than a week later, the Idaho Air National Guard conducted its own groundbreaking ceremony on Gowen Field to celebrate the beginning of construction on a new medical training facility to support

the 124th Fighter Wing.

Once complete in the fall of 2024, the facility will help increase the organization's overall medical readiness while serving as a place for medical personnel to care for its more than 1,300 Idaho Air National Guardsmen. The facility will be more than 10,000 square feet and cost approximately \$8 million.



Air Force considers Idaho for F-16 mission

The U.S. Air Force announced in July that the 124th Fighter Wing has been identified to potentially receive an F-16 Fighting Falcon mission at Gowen Field. If selected, F-16s would begin arriving at Gowen Field in 2027.

The Idaho National Guard expects a more detailed timeline from the Air Force in 2024 that will outline the next steps, such as the completion of an environmental impact analysis planned for the spring of 2025.

The Idaho Air National Guard has maintained a fighter mission at Gowen Field for more than 75 years. The transition would replace the A-10 Thunderbolt IIs that have been in service at Gowen Field since 1996.

The Air Force has planned to divest its aging A-10 inventory for over a decade. Discussions have been ongoing among Idaho National Guard leaders and local, state and federal officials since 2012. Then, the Idaho Air National Guard was notified that their A-10 fleet was identified for divestment by 2015.



Photo courtesy U.S. Air Force

However, events in Southwest Asia at the time extended the aircraft's relevance just as the 124th Fighter Wing embarked on the largest deployment in its history the following year. The 124th Fighter Wing deployed again in 2020, marking its second-largest deployment.

This modernization would better align the Air Force to support the current National Defense Strategy by leveraging the 124th Fighter Wing's existing fighter aircraft operations and maintenance expertise once the A-10s at Gowen Field are retired, beginning in the fall of 2026.

The Idaho Air National Guard has been a fixture in the Treasure Valley since 1946. Idaho National Guard pilots have transitioned through nine different types of fighter aircraft. With each new aircraft, the organization modifies its noise abatement procedures to minimize the impacts of jet noise on the community.

"Being good stewards of our environment is a priority and we will ensure Boise continues to be one of the most livable cities in the country, regardless of the aircraft we operate," said Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak, adjutant general of Idaho.

"Idaho is proud of the critical role we have long played in supporting the nation's defense strategy through the valuable work of the men and women serving at Gowen Field. The transition to the sophisticated F-16 mission at Gowen Field is the next step in the Idaho Air National Guard's enduring commitment to safeguarding the liberties and freedoms we hold dear as Americans. This is an exciting step that will benefit the State of Idaho and the United States of America."

-Gov. Brad Little

The July 2023 announcement from the Secretary of the Air Force indicates the potential for continued viability of the Idaho National Guard. With more than \$650 million in annual economic impact, coupled with nearly 8,000 jobs the Idaho National Guard creates, securing a follow-on fighter mission is critical to ensuring Idaho's prosperity.



Photo courtesy U.S. Air Force

"This Replacement Mission signals the importance of Gowen Field and the 124th Fighter Wing to America's military readiness and capabilities. Previous concerns raised regarding fleet divestment of the A-10s are being addressed by investments in replacement aircraft known for their close air support capabilities and the Air Force's commitment to continuing to leverage the knowledge and expertise of experienced Air National Guardsmen and women."

-U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo

The Idaho Military Division's commitment to the community is codified in our adjutant general's three strategic imperatives: to maintain combat readiness to fight and win our nation's wars when called upon; to continue developing and strengthening our homeland security and emergency response readiness; and to continue building and fostering partnerships throughout Idaho, the nation and the world.

Our Mission: to maintain combat and domestic emergency response readiness in the Idaho National Guard and guide the state, through the Office of Emergency Management, in effectively preparing for, responding to and recovering from all hazards. The division also provides a fully accredited residential high school with the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy in order to intervene in and reclaim the lives of at-risk Idaho youth.

Our Vision: to be Idaho's premier public service organization; attracting our leading citizens, promoting a safe and secure environment for our state and nation.

