



56TH THEATER INFORMATION OPERATIONS GROUP

2019 ANNUAL REPORT





COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Thank you for taking the time to review the many accomplishments of our Special Operations, Military Intelligence and Information Operations units and their professionals. I would also like to thank all those who worked behind the scenes to make it happen.

Fiscal Year 2019 was another busy year for the 56th Theater Information Operations Group (TIOG). Missions were conducted throughout the year around the globe supporting Cyber, Intelligence, Contingency and Theater Security Operations.

From Maryland to Maldives and from Korea to Kabul to Kiev, our Citizen-Soldiers were there.

Our professionals also took time out of their busy schedules to prepare for and to train to fight wildfires in our state. Although no response was needed this year, our Soldiers were ready to serve and eager to join the firefighting mission in the event we were needed.

Looking ahead to 2020, all Soldiers of the 56th will remain ready, responsive and extremely relevant. Today's competition in a variety of domains requires relevance, and we're proud to be a part of evolving dynamics to help the national gain today's operational advantages with the myriad talents our members offer.

Lastly, a special thanks this year goes out to the employers of our Traditional Soldiers. Without their support, our Soldiers would not be able to succeed in their training and operational requirements. These requirements are critical to both our nation's defense and also for those times when the State of Washington needs us most.

COL Gerald E. Dezsófi
Commander

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HISTORY OF THE 56TH THEATER INFORMATION OPERATIONS GROUP

When you think of Army Information Operations, you rarely think of Infantry, Artillery or Ordnance, but that is where the 56th Theater Information Operations Group (TIOG) started its path more than 100 years ago.

On September 30, 1918, Company D, 3d Infantry was organized and federally recognized in Seattle, Washington. The short lived

Infantry Company was converted to Field Artillery in May 1921, under the flag of Battery D, 146th Field Artillery Regiment.

As tensions grew in the European and Pacific Theater during World War II, Battery D was called into federal service for mobilization and training in Seattle on February 16, 1940.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the unit prepared the community for a possible attack in the Puget Sound area at the same time they were preparing for war.

In February 1942, Battery D was reorganized for mobilization to New Guinea at Battery A, 167th Field Artillery under the 41st Infantry Division. From 1942 to December 1945, the men of Battery A would fight in Luzon, Southern Philippines, and travel to Japan for inactivation and demobilization back home.

After returning home, the unit moved from Seattle to Vancouver and continued to serve at Battery A until a consolidation in April 1959. Battery A joined with Service Battery to create Company A

in the newly developed 241st Signal Battalion with a focus on communication. As part of the 41st Infantry Division, the unit worked alongside other Washington National Guard units including 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry and 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery.

The 1960s saw a lot of changes for the unit, as it would undergo multiple reorganizations, consolidations and moves. In October 1971, the Company A saw one of its most important consolidations when it joined together with 115th Transportation Group to become the 116th Support Center. The 116th was stationed in Olympia before moving to Camp Murray.

In August 1990, the world saw a new threat emerging in the Middle East, as Saddam Hussein's Iraqi military invaded Kuwait, causing a reaction by the United States to mobilize more than 700,000 troops for Operation Desert Shield from January 17, 1991

to February 28, 1991. Eight members of the 116th Support Center (Rear Area Operations) traveled to the Middle East on a 90-day tour in August 1991. As tensions on the Iraq, Saudi Arabia border heightened, the entire 80-member unit was mobilized on December 6, 1990, for a six-month tour in the Middle East. On June 24, 1991, all members would return home to Camp Murray. The unit was relocated to the Ellensburg armory in September 1992.

One more consolidation in September 2006 prepared the unit for its future reorganization as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 56th TIOG, which was federally recognized in January 28, 2009, under the 96th Troop Command.

As conflicts around the world changed, a greater need for synchronizing the non-kinetic battlefield began to take shape. Unit commanders were asking more from non-traditional warfighters such as public affairs, civil affairs and psychological operations. The Army noticed that Information Operations was becoming as important to the combatant commanders as the traditional means.

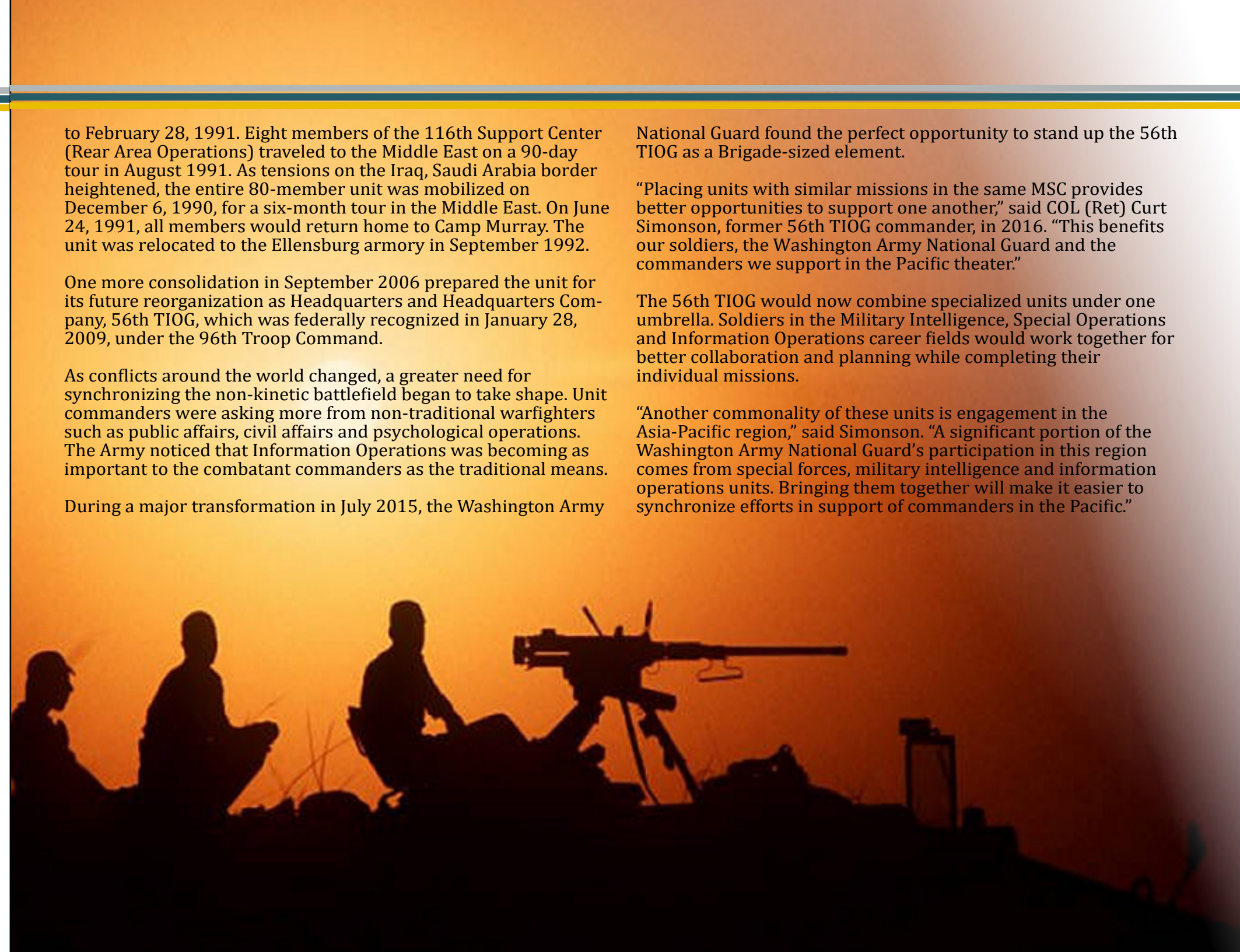
During a major transformation in July 2015, the Washington Army

National Guard found the perfect opportunity to stand up the 56th TIOG as a Brigade-sized element.

"Placing units with similar missions in the same MSC provides better opportunities to support one another," said COL (Ret) Curt Simonson, former 56th TIOG commander, in 2016. "This benefits our soldiers, the Washington Army National Guard and the commanders we support in the Pacific theater."

The 56th TIOG would now combine specialized units under one umbrella. Soldiers in the Military Intelligence, Special Operations and Information Operations career fields would work together for better collaboration and planning while completing their individual missions.

"Another commonality of these units is engagement in the Asia-Pacific region," said Simonson. "A significant portion of the Washington Army National Guard's participation in this region comes from special forces, military intelligence and information operations units. Bringing them together will make it easier to synchronize efforts in support of commanders in the Pacific."





56TH THEATER INFORMATION OPERATIONS GROUP

UNIT BREAKDOWN AND INFORMATION

56TH THEATER INFORMATION OPERATIONS GROUP



Location: JBLM



COL Gerald Dezsófi
CSM Steven Strand

Federal Mission: On order, the 56th Theater Information Operations Group (TIOG) will deploy trained and ready units and tailorable force packages to meet Combatant Commander requirements across all phases of the operation.

State Mission: On order, the 56th Theater Information Operations Group (TIOG) deploys a Geographic Task Force to Homeland Security Region 1 and Homeland Security Region 2 in order to support local responders and mitigate loss of life.

110TH INFORMATION OPERATIONS BATTALION



Location:
Annapolis, Maryland



LTC Kristine Henry
CSM Alonzo Amison

Federal Mission: The 110th Information Operations Battalion provides trained, deployable, culturally aware, and regionally focused Information Operations Teams including cyber, in direct support at all echelons to perform tactical through theater/strategic IO tasks. The 110th is organized under the 56th TIOG, which is under 2nd Army/Army Cyber Command (ARCYBER).

State Mission: The 110th Information Operations Battalion is prepared to conduct limited, approved Information Operations (including Defensive Cyberspace Operations-Internal Defense Measures (DCO-IDM)) tasks in support of State and local authorities during governor-declared State emergencies. The 110th is administratively placed under the 58th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade (eMIB).

156TH INFORMATION OPERATIONS BATTALION



Location: JBLM



LTC Nick Parker
CSM Tim Harris

Federal Mission: On order, the 156th Information Operations Battalion (IOBN) provides trained, deployable, culturally aware, and regionally focused IO units in direct support (DS) from Army Service Component Commands (ASCC) to Brigade Combat Team (BCT) echelons to perform tactical through strategic-theater IO tasks.

State Mission: On order, the 156th Information Operations Battalion (IOBN) provides a regional response Taskforce (TF) to the 56th TIOG in accordance with Joint Force Headquarters requirements. The 156th augments the 56th TIOG for Joint Task Force staff support, and provides support to state cyber mission requirements.



Location: JBLM



LTC Teresa Wenner
CSM Larry Weidinger

341ST MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION (LINGUIST)

Federal Mission: On order, the 341st Military Intelligence Battalion(L) provides intelligence capabilities and assets to include foreign language support, prisoner-of-war interrogation, CI, HUMINT, and SIGINT for all Army echelons and serves as a center for language management.

State Mission: On order, the 341st Military Intelligence Battalion(L) provides National Guard Civil Support to state and local civil authorities in response to a natural or man-made disaster or emergency. Civil Support tasks include, but are not limited to, providing general disaster relief, humanitarian assistance, armory support, civil liaison, security and traffic control, firefighting, and incident analysis and assessment.

ALPHA CO. 1ST BATTALION/ 19TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (A)



Location:
Buckley, WA



MAJ Dan Barrow
SGM Tyr Symank

Federal Mission: A/1-19th Special Forces Group (A) prepares for and conducts Special Operations in support of USSOCOM, USASFC, Theater Special Operations command (TSOC) Commanders, United States Ambassadors and other agencies as directed, in any operational environment worldwide.

State Mission: On order, A/1-19th Special Forces Group (A) as the SAR-TF provides command and control, and liaison elements to conduct search and rescue operations as ordered in support of State operations. Be prepared to conduct flat water rescue, ground mobility rescue, and high angle rescue, while fully leveraging organic communications systems.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS DETACHMENT - PACIFIC



Location: JBLM



LTC Paul Sellars
CSM Erik Clarkson

Federal Mission: Special Operations Detachment - Pacific (SOD-P) provides trained, prepared, and equipped augmentation to the United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) and the Special Operations Command Pacific (SOC-PAC). On order, conduct command and control, staff integration, and synchronization of joint special operations forces as a unit or as individual augmentees as determined by USASOC and SOCPAC.

State Mission: Special Operations Detachment - Pacific (SOD-P) deploys to augment Joint Force Headquarters and conduct interagency coordination as directed in support of Domestic Operations (DOMOPS). Be prepared to serve as the Geographic Task Force 2 Headquarters (GTF 2 HQ), in support of Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap Counties.



INFORMATION OPERATIONS READINESS CENTER

STRATEGICALLY ALIGNED TO ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION

Broke Ground - October 24, 2013
 Ribbon cutting - Sept. 29, 2015
 Cost - \$27 million
 Builder - Burns McDonnell

This 127,100 square-foot facility provides administrative, operations and specialized telecommunications spaces to serve as the headquarters of the 56th TIOG for the Washington Army National Guard. Designed for LEED Silver certification, the new facility features specialized administrative, planning, briefing and support areas to support the five operational units who occupy the facility. The work areas contain a mixture of command suites with self-contained private offices for each unit and large, open-plan workstation areas configured for a collaborative work environment. The facility at Joint Base Lewis-McChord reflects the character of the historic red brick facilities in the Old Fort District. The project was designed under contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District in collaboration with small business subconsultants Helix Design Group and AHBL. The project received a Seattle Society of American Military Engineers Project of Excellence Award and an Excellence in Masonry Award from the Masonry Institute of Washington.



The Language Lab provides the trained linguist in the 341st Military Intelligence Battalion the ability to work on their language skills and provides a place for instruction. Soldiers can utilize the language lab during the week and on drill weekends.



The one of a kind Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) features 10,000 square feet of secured facilities that can be utilized for unclassified to Top Secret work and meetings. The SCIF is connected directly with the Camp Murray Joint Reserve Intelligence Center, making this the first SCIF with two locations. The 10,000 square foot floor is also the largest SCIF in the National Guard, west of the Mississippi River.



The Information Operations Readiness Center (IORC) is also equipped with a TROJAN Special Purpose Integrated Remote Intelligence Terminal Lightweight Intelligence Telecommunications Equipment connection hub that can be utilized for Satellite Communications systems designed to support the Intelligence Warfighting Functions (IWF) during multi-based operations.



56TH THEATER INFORMATION OPERATIONS GROUP
JBLM, WA



ARMY CYBER COMMAND
FORT BELVOIR



SPECIAL OPERATIONS DETACHMENT - PACIFIC
JBLM, WA



110TH INFORMATION OPERATIONS BATTALION
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND



156TH INFORMATION OPERATIONS BATTALION
JBLM, WA



A Co. 1/19TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP
BUCKLEY, WA



341ST MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION - (Linguist)
JBLM, WA



SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND - PACIFIC
HAWAII



58th Expeditionary MI Brigade - MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD



1/19TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP
UTAH NATIONAL GUARD

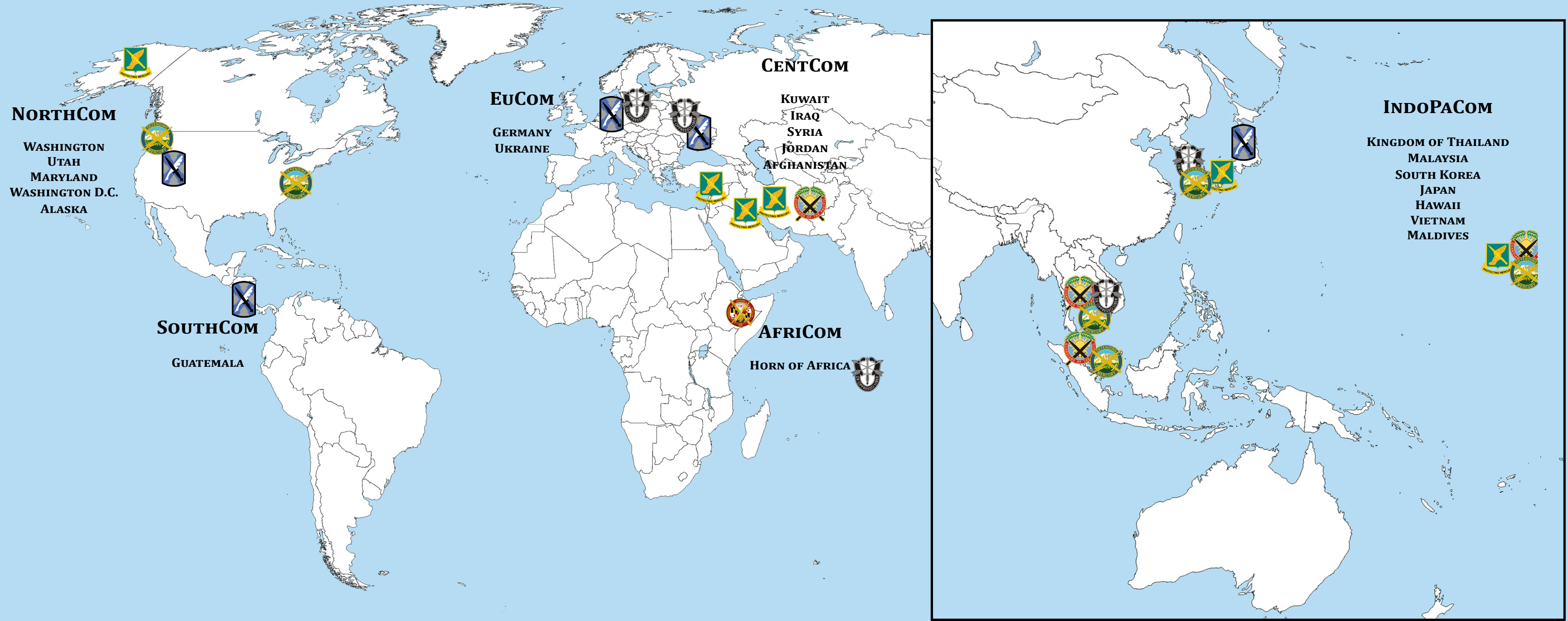


300TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRIGADE
UTAH NATIONAL GUARD



YEAR IN REVIEW

2019 AREAS OF OPERATIONS





ENGAGEMENTS, TRAINING AND DEPLOYMENTS

Federal Mission

The 56th Theater Information Operations Group (TIOG) continues to work with our active duty partners to provide quality support to the warfight overseas and to build everlasting partnerships across the globe.

In 2019, LTC Casey Degroof and her team replaced LTC Reena Emme and her team in support of Special Operations Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve. During the last year, the team has been busy supporting the operations to remove ISIS from the region.

At the beginning of FY 2019, A Co. 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group returned home from a Special Operations Command - Korea Rotation. The unit did extremely well, supporting ongoing operations throughout the peninsula.

Guardsmen from the Special Operations Detachment - Pacific started 2019 supporting exercise Cobra Gold in Thailand this summer.



Above: Soldiers from the 110th Information Operations Battalion at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti supporting Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa.

Far Left: Worlds collide on July 16, 2019, as Guardsmen of the 156th Information Operations Battalion, the 56th theater Information Operations Group and the 122nd Public Affairs Operations Center, 96th Troop Command, meet in Baghdad, Iraq during separate deployments in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. From top left to right: MAJ Johnny Walker, CPT Kris Evinrude, CW2 Shawn Dempsey, CSM Troy Martin, LTC Reena Emme, CPT Nathan Hamburg and MAJ Thomas Luizzi.

Near Left: LTC Reena Emme, team leader of SOJTF Team 5 hands the reins to LTC Casey De Groof, team leader of SOJTF Team 6 in Baghdad, Iraq, on July 22, 2019.

Right: MAJ Brian Harrigan, Special Operations Detachment - Pacific stands in formation during the opening ceremonies of Cobra Gold 19 in the Kingdom of Thailand, February 4, 2019.

They deployed to Afghanistan to support Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force - Afghanistan. The unit continues to support the "train, advise, assist" mission for the Afghan National Army Special Operations Corps.

Military Intelligence professionals also deployed to support operations in Korea, Ukraine, Germany, Afghanistan, and Japan, providing support to the Federated Intelligence Program from their home station.





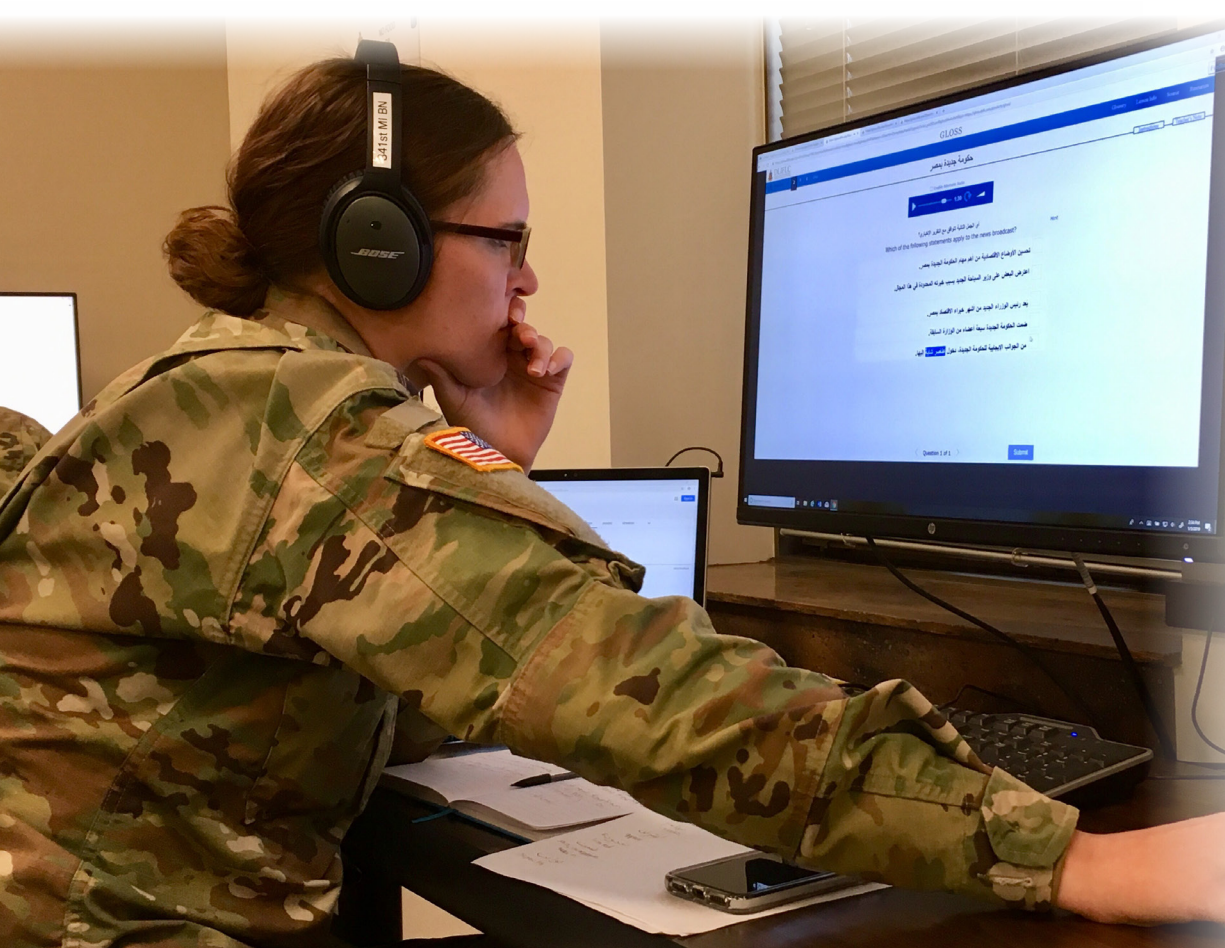
2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

ENGAGEMENTS, TRAINING AND DEPLOYMENTS

State Mission

In 2019, units from the 56th TIOG honed their skills to prepare for their state mission. While the Special Operations Detachment - Pacific is deployed, the 341st Military Intelligence Battalion conducted training at the Kitsap County Emergency Operations Center, further developing relationships with emergency management professionals in Homeland Security Region 2. The unit also began assisting the Washington Emergency Management Division with their Limited English Proficiency program, translating key messages for local emergency management professionals to communicate effectively with non-English speaking populations in the state.

In 2020, the 56th Theater Information Operations Group will continue to support multiple state missions, while continuing to stand ready for a potential call up for wildfire fight in the state.



Left: SGT Nikole Johnson, Cryptologic Linguist, Delta Company 341st Military Intelligence Battalion, focuses on language training during Inactive Duty Training on January 5, 2018, at the Information Operations Readiness Center, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. (U.S. National Guard photo by Joseph Siemandel)

Right: Guardsmen from the 156th Information Operations Battalion pose with State Rep. Mari Leavitt, 28th District and COL Kevin McMahan, Director of Operations, Joint Force Headquarters during wildfire training on June 20, 2019, in Rainier, Washington. (U.S. National Guard photo by Joseph Siemandel)

Below: From left to right: CSM Tim Harris, COL Gerald Dezsöfi, LTC Kristine Henry and CPT Sam Puri pose for a photo while visiting Army Cyber Command.





2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

COMMANDER'S MESSAGES



110TH INFORMATION OPERATIONS BATTALION

In 2019, the 110th IO BN deployed three teams in support of Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti.

The 110th IO BN also supported the Locked Shield Exercise in Germany which was meant to allow the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Centre of Excellence (CCD-COE) to train teams of NATO cyber professionals to collaborate with each other, to detect and mitigate large-scale cyber-attacks and handle security incidents according to the training objectives for the Blue Team. This in turn, strengthened the international security community by building trust networks, as well as sharing information and experience in EUCOM.

The 110th IO BN conducted its 3rd Annual Information Operations Symposium where they educated military and civilian audiences on the integration and synchronization of information-related capabilities during combatant campaigns as well as support to the homeland.

- LTC Kristine Henry



156TH INFORMATION OPERATIONS BATTALION

The 156th Information Operations Battalion maintained our fast-paced and aggressive OPTEMPO in 2019. We trained and deployed two Field Support Teams to the Special Operations Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve (SOJTF-OIR) to enable the defeat of ISIS in Iraq and Syria. The Battalion also supported numerous Overseas Deployment Training events throughout INDOPACOM, including Hawaii, Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand. We remain committed to the training and development of our information warriors who have become an essential component of a complex battlefield. Demands for IO professionals are steadily increasing as a result of consistent and demonstrable results. We will be ready when called upon.

"We own the narrative"

- Boomslang 6, LTC Nick Parker



ALPHA Co. 1ST BATTALION/ 19TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP

At the end of 2018, A Co. 1/19th returned home from a Special Operations Command - Korea Rotation. The unit, with enablers from Military Intelligence and Information Operations introduced multiple lines of effort that continue to be part of their training profile. Special Forces Soldiers developed close air support, combat medicine, and airborne infiltration packages. Their Programs of Instruction (POIs) set the standard for rotations in the peninsula that remain in effect today. Our teams continued throughout the year to support multiple events, including Balance Metal in the Maldives in July and August, and conducted joint training with multiple foreign military members in 2019. At the end of the year we are deploying a team to the Ukraine to support continued operations in the region.

- MAJ Dan Barrow



341ST MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION (LINGUIST)

The 341st MI BN (L) continued to improve and challenge our Soldiers with real-world training opportunities and current worldwide mission support. The Federated Intelligence Program (FIP) epitomized the concept of "no cold starts" and no MI Soldiers at rest. The 341st team more than doubled production from the previous year, and provided in-depth analytical products supporting missions for USARPAC, NSA-Hawaii, and CYBERCOM. Additionally, they supported the 500th MIB (T) via the INSCOM TTX, Japanese linguist support to USARAK, and the disaster management exchange with China. In FY19, the 341st welcomed Soldiers back from missions in Korea where they supported the Special Operations Detachment-Pacific mobilization and also from Ukraine where they provided language support to Operation Atlantic Resolve. Additionally, the 341st deployed Soldiers to Jordan in support of the 303rd CAV mobilization, to Afghanistan with the Special Operations Detachment-Pacific, and to Germany in support of 10th Special Forces Group and Operation Atlantic Resolve for CI/HUMINT. 341st Soldiers also provided mission support to the 81st SBCT participating in their successful FY19 XCTC rotation, while concurrently providing over 20 Soldiers to conduct wild fire certification training and the annual Panther Strike exercise. The hard work and accomplishments of the 341st were recognized at the annual 300th MI BDE (L) Language Conference where the 341st was awarded the Command Language Program of the Year, the Linguist of the Year, and Polyglot Games team winner.

- LTC Teresa Wenner



SPECIAL OPERATIONS DETACHMENT - PACIFIC

SOD-P conducted a thorough pre-deployment training plan that became the model for USASOC to train, prepare, assess, and deploy all SODs for the future. The staff integrated effectively into the CJSOTF-A staff and became the core of that organization. Executing the "Train, Advise, Assist" mission for the Afghan National Army Special Operations Corps, SOD-P is working at the Brigade and Corps level mentoring their Afghan Counterparts in a highly kinetic fighting season to great effect. In this highly unusual political environment, they continue to bring the fight to the enemy through the Afghans with strong partnerships built on trust.

The Family Readiness Group is working with great effect, allowing spouses to connect with each other and to connect to resources through the Joint Services Support and others. The network of spouses and family members spans the entire continent and yet connects them through social media and the shared experience of loved ones overseas.

Back home, the rear-Detachment conducted the Cobra Gold 19 exercise with high accolades from SOCPAC that resonated all the way to the USASOC commander. Their professionalism led to SOCPAC's desire to trust much of the planning for Cobra Gold 20 to be executed by SOD-P. The rear has also continued to build the team for the new 1161st Rigger Detachment, which now has 5/10 with more in the recruiting pipeline.

- COL Paul Sellars



2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

ENGAGEMENTS, TRAINING AND EXERCISES



**USFK Korea Exercise 19-2
Korea**

Six Guardsmen from 156th Information Operations Battalion conducted Information Operations support by augmenting Combined Forces Command (CFC) J39 during an exercise in August 2019.

The training event successfully integrated 156th IO BN planners into various USFK/CFC J39 Directorate staff positions. Partnering alongside ROK Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force to support joint Information Operations planning, targeting, and coordination.

Strong partnerships with the ROK Service Branches were formed additionally IO planning, briefing, and techniques were shared between both forces during the entirety of the exercise.

The 156th continued to improve the positive relationship it has with USFK, who is eager to work with the Washington Army National Guard in future events.



**Keris Strike Final Planning Conference
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

MAJ Joseph Siemandel and CPT Jae Kim attended the final planning conference for Keris Strike 2019 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in Dec. 2018.

Keris Strike 19, a detailed subject matter expert exchange between U.S. Army members and the units from the Malaysian army. Keris Strike will mainly focus on subject matter expert exchanges or SMEEs focusing on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear operations, Unmanned Aerial Systems, Information Operations, Public Affairs, Medical and Special Operations.



**300th MIB Language Conference
Draper, Utah**

In March, members from the 341st Military Intelligence Battalion (MIB) conducted the 30th Annual 300th MIB Language Conference and compete in the Polyglot Games, a series of language skill events designed to challenge and validate a linguist's functional and operational capabilities in their target language. Distinguished guests and presenters were LTG Timothy Kadavy, Director, ARNG; and SGM Dennis Eger, Department of the Army, G2. The conference was attended by over 1,000 participants.

SSG Corduneanu (D/341) was recognized as the 300th MIB Linguist of the Year, which was awarded to over 1,000 linguists throughout the BDE. 341st MI BN Command Language Program (CLP) was recognized as CLP of the Year, awarded amongst the five battalions in the BDE. 341st Team won the overall team award for the 2019 Polyglot Games. They competed against five other teams from Active Duty Army, Navy, Air National Guard, the Air Force, and the 300th.



**Cobra Gold 2019
Thailand**

Soldiers from the Special Operations Detachment - Pacific traveled to Thailand to support Cobra Gold 2019.

The first three days of the exercise consisted of operational planning classes facilitated by JSOU instructors, with inputs from SOCPAC/SOD-P personnel. MAJ's O'Donnell and Hartigan served as the primary mentors to the J2 and J3 staffs as they conducted mission analysis (with MA brief), Course Of Action development, and ultimately a COA decision brief to Senior COL Nat (CTOC Chief of Plans).

The CTOC is a national level asset designed to be activated in the event of a national emergency as defined by the Prime Minister of Thailand.

The week-long training incorporated CTOC staff and members of the Thai Special Forces Regiment.



**Yama Sakura 75
JBLM, Washington**

Yama Sakura 75 was the 37th iteration of the bilateral, command post exercise between the the United States and Japan. The U. S. Army's I Corps and the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force - Northern Army used the exercise to enhance their combat readiness, as well as demonstrate U.S. support to security interests of allies within the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

341st Soldiers successfully performed All Source and GEOINT tasks as part of their role in the exercise, to include the answering of 400 + Requests For Information (RFIs) in the span of five days.

Yama Sakura 75 was the first opportunity for Soldiers of both organizations to operate in the CUOPS/G2 environment of a large-scale exercise.



**Panther Strike
Camp Williams, Utah**

Guardsmen from the 341st Military Intelligence participated in the annual Panther Strike Military Intelligence training exercise at Camp Williams, Utah, in June.

Panther Strike is a multinational, multi-echelon military intelligence (MI) training event featuring more than 700 MI professionals from multiple nations.

This exercise served to reacquaint soldiers with all aspects of their Military Operational Specialty (MOS) and is particularly beneficial to Soldiers new to their MOS, and as a refresher prior to deployments.

The exercise reinforced training and skills in recently reclassified Counterintelligence soldiers.

It also created the opportunity to build professional relationships with counterparts in both British and Canadian militaries.



2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

ENGAGEMENTS, TRAINING AND EXERCISES



Locked Shields
Garmisch, Germany

The Soldiers of the 110th IO BN took part in Locked Shields 2019, in Garmisch, Germany, from April 09 - 12, 2019. The unit participated from their home station in Maryland.

In the exercise scenario, Locked Shields 2019 sees a fictional island nation named Berylia, which is holding national elections, targeted by massive and coordinated cyber attacks. The participants have to defend the infrastructure from the cyber attacks as national cyber rapid reaction teams that help Berylia handle the incident. The Blue Teams were tasked to preserve the operations of more than 150 complex IT systems per team, reporting incidents, executing strategic decisions and solving forensic, legal and media challenges. The attacks caused severe disruptions in multiple areas, including the power grid, water systems, and public safety networks. The French team won the exercise. Czech and Swedish teams took second and third place respectively.



Bersama Warrior 19
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

MAJ James Jack (56th TIOG), CPT Jamie Russell (56th TIOG) and CPT Bryan Adams (156th IOB) took part in Bersama Warrior 19 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from March 3-17, 2019.

The trio participated in a Command Post Exercise that strengthened the relationship between the Washington National Guard and the Malaysian Armed Forces.

The exercise also helped to improve interoperability as they shared best practices, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) during simulated combat operations.

The exercise also enhanced the Washington State Partnership Program through the development of additional Malaysian Armed Forces engagements.



Balance Metal 19-2629
Kadhdhoo Field, Laamu Atoll, Maldives

Special Forces Operational Detachment Alpha (SFODA) 9115 conducted combined training with the Maldives National Defense Force (MNDF) during Balance Metal 19-2629 from August 16-22, 2019, at Kadhdhoo Airfield, Laamu Atoll, Maldives.

The engagement helped increase Foreign Internal Defense (FID) skills through combined training with Maldives National Defense Force.

The SFODA and MNDF forces completed their training plan, which focused on communications, mission planning, and reconnaissance training. The training culminated in a Final Training Exercise (FTX) involving a hostage rescue situation where MNDF Special Forces, the Marines, Coast Guard, and U.S. Special Forces all formed a single task force to rescue the hostages. Closing ceremonies took place on August 22, with distinguished guests BG Wais, Commandant of the MNDF Marine Corps; and LTC Cox, U.S. Defense Attaché, attending as distinguished visitors.

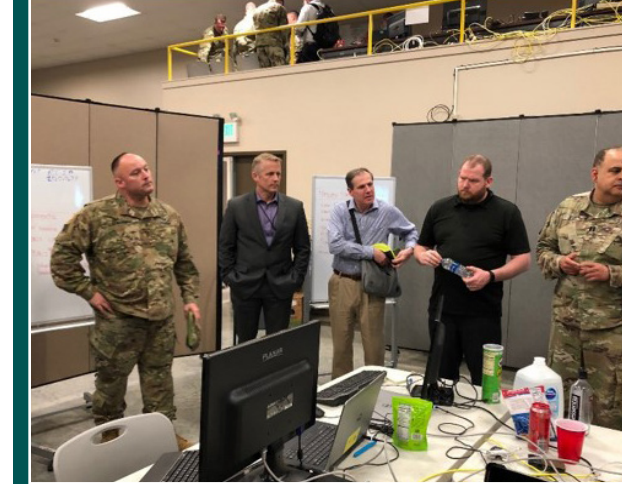


Pacific Sentry 19
Schofield Barracks, Hawaii

MAJ Carr, CPT Worley, CPT Bliss, SFC Gaddis, SSG Escobar, SSG Taribul, and SGT Yoruw from 156th IO BN represented the unit at the Combined Joint Task Force 127 during Pacific Sentry 19-3 from June 2-21, 2019, at Schofield Barracks, HI.

The group provided tailored Information Operations (IO) forces to synchronize Strategic and Operational efforts of PACOM partners, demonstrating mission support capability and USARPAC and 56th partnership.

The exercise integrated WAARNG Information Operations (IO) planning, strategic messaging, assessments and ally/partner leader engagements to support the main effort. Team members were exposed to staffing at the CJTF level, integrating into their staffs and working with counterpart Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to accomplish the mission.



Cyber Shield 2019
Camp Atterbury, Indiana

MAJ Bohman, SSG Garris, and SGT Encinas from the S6 Section of the 56th TIOG worked with the CMAT and DCO-E during Cyber Shield, From April 5-19, 2019, at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

Participants Supported and enhanced line 5A (CYBER), refined The Multi-Disciplinary Vulnerability and Threat Assessment (MDVTA) TTPs, developed increased cyber skills, built partnerships, enhanced threat intelligence capabilities, and evaluated team capabilities against a skilled adversary in an ambiguous environment.

TIOG personnel supported the White Cell, Red Team, and Blue Team (CMAT) functionality. The MDVA concept very effectively supported by civilian/state mission partners.



Moroccan Army Training
Fort Harrison, Montana

Operational Detachment Alpha (ODA) 9113 enhanced individual and ODA combat readiness as well as prepare for future missions during their Annual Training (AT) in June 2019 at Fort Harrison, Montana. The unit trained on basic mountaineering techniques in preparation for basic mountaineering certification.

They also conducted basic rifle marksmanship, barrier training, machine gun familiarization, sniper weapon familiarization, close quarters combat training, small unit tactics movement, medical training, and basic mountaineering training.

As part of the AT, the ODA conducted joint training with the Moroccan military, which was observed by a visiting Moroccan General and his staff. This supported AFRICOM objectives by providing training demonstrations for the visiting general officer.



56TH THEATER INFORMATION OPERATIONS GROUP - EMPLOYERS

56TH THEATER INFORMATION OPERATIONS GROUP (TIQG)
INFORMATION OPERATION READINESS CENTER, BLDG. 6205
JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, WA 98433



Dear Employer,

On behalf of the Washington National Guard and all of our service members, **I want to thank you for your support of our service.** You are a valuable member of our National Guard team and it is our honor to serve alongside you to create a stronger nation for all Americans.

The National Guard and Reserve components comprise nearly half of our nation's entire military, and their contribution cannot be understated. Your flexibility and willing to adapt to our training schedules has allowed us to successfully serve both domestically and overseas.

Since 2001, more than 15,000 Washington National Guardsmen have answered the nation's call to duty at unprecedented rates. They have fought side-by-side with active duty service members all over the globe and have responded to emergencies in our local communities across the United States.

With your positive impact in our lives, Washington's citizen-soldiers have answered the call here at home. Whether it's helping our communities after the devastating State Route 530 Landslide, fighting multiple record setting wildfires, or filling sand bags during floods in Eastern Washington, they have been there. They were called from the safety of their homes to mobilize alongside first responders, providing assistance and search and rescue capabilities. We have you in our debt

As the commander of the 56th Theater Information Operations Group, my entire staff and I want to thank you for your support of our service. **I realize this isn't always easy, but your support to our Guardsmen remains critical to our mission success.** The commitment you have made to our members allows them to focus on the responsibilities of a dual career and their family life. Your support, though not always broadcasted, is greatly appreciated.

With our greatest appreciation,

Gerald E. Dezsöfi
Theater Information
Operations Group

We want to thank all of our amazing employers for their support of the Washington National Guard and the Soldiers of the 56th Theater Information Operations Group

We can't possibly name them all, but we want to thank:

- Microsoft Corporation**
- Boeing Corporation**
- Central Washington University**
- The Space Needle**
- Federal Bureau of Investigation**
- Amazon**
- Honeywell Aerospace**
- Verizon Wireless**
- T-Mobile**
- Google**
- Washington Military Department**

The countless Government Officials, Police Departments, School Districts, Fire Departments, Hospitals, Organizations, Municipalities, Counties and State Agencies that have supported our Guardsmen this past year.



56TH THEATER INFORMATION OPERATIONS GROUP - EMPLOYERS

On March 26, 2019, COL Paul Sellars and SFC Aaron Smith presented the ESGR Patriot Award to the Space Needle, Smith's employer. Space Needle CEO Ron Severt, and Smith's supervisor Roy Short accepted the award.

The Space Needle is one of the most recognizable landmarks in the world and is a treasured Seattle icon. The Space Needle is proud to support local organizations who make a positive difference in the Puget Sound region through its community giving and engagement programs.

The Patriot Award reflects the efforts made to support citizen warriors through a wide range of measures including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families, and granting leaves of absence when necessary.





IORC JOINT RESERVE INTELLIGENCE CENTER SCIF DEDICATION

In a highly secure room within the Washington National Guard's Information Operations Readiness Center, a space usually closed to those without the proper clearance, a public celebration highlighted a major milestone and accomplishment. With the opening of a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility within the IORC, the Washington National Guard became a national leader in information sharing.

"The concept of this SCIF and building go part and parcel. Around 1998-1999, Washington state leaders of the information operations, intelligence, and IT communities, and others came together to define what was needed to leverage the talent within information operations and associated units," said COL Gerald Dezsófi, commander, 56th Theater Information Operations Group. "This is a major milestone in capacity, as well as the first Joint Reserve Intelligence Center location with two SCIFs in the nation."

State leadership and Col. Deborah Cricklin, chief of the Joint Reserve Intelligence Program and Integration Office, gave the final approval in July 2017 for the expansion of secured networks and communications from the Camp Murray Joint Reserve Intelligence Center to the Information Operations Readiness Center Annex.

"This building and the SCIF facility are a chance for us to pay tribute and say thank you to all our intelligence and cyber professionals in the Washington Army National Guard," said MG Bret Daugherty, The Adjutant General, Washington National Guard. "The work you do is important."

With the changing landscape of information and intelligence, the Washington National Guard's 341st Military Intelligence Battalion citizen-sol-



diers need to stay on the front line. More is asked of intelligence professionals than ever before. Combatant commanders want to ensure the most accurate and timely intelligence for their soldiers on the ground, and that the mission can be accomplished anywhere in the world.

"The JRIC infrastructure provides a 'train as you fight' environment utilizing the same systems as parent commands and enables analyst-to-analyst integration across the intelligence community," said Dezsófi. "This allows operational intelligence to be transferred in near real time to supported commands and warfighters, amplifying the value of reach back. The benefits of this collaboration is that reserve military intelligence assets remain trained and ready, giving the supported commands a force multiplier and strategic depth to deal with new and emerging missions."

Along with the dedication ceremony of the SCIF, the Washington National Guard's Camp Murray JRIC was named the "Small JRIC of the Year" by the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Each year since 2002, the Joint Reserve Intelligence Program, Defense Intelligence Agency, has awarded the "Director's Award for Joint Reserve Intelligence Center of the Year." This award recognizes outstanding contributions made by the JRICs in support of reserve intelligence operations and training.

"As Brigadier General Jeremy Horn says, relevance equals retention," said Dezsófi. "The JRIC concept alleviates cold starts, leaving no military intelligence Soldier or Airman at rest, while ensuring continuity of effort in support of today's warfighter."

56TH THEATER INFORMATION OPERATIONS GROUP - 2019 RETIREES



MAJ James Jack
28 Years

CW3 Douglas Aguirre
22 Years

CW2 Williams Rogers
22 Years

MSG Roberto Cantu
22 Years

MSG Andrew Freeman
21 Years

1SG Michael Voyles
27 Years

MSG Daniel Wyatt
20 Years

SFC Joseph Caudill
30 Years

SFC Katrina Clem
25 Years

SFC Balmore Escobar
21 Years

SFC Heath Sherrer
21 Years

SSG Brian King
26 Years

SGT Paul Wolfe
21 Years

We want to say thank you to for your service. We also want to our thank employers, families and friends for their endless support to our Guardsmen.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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COMMAND TEAM

Commander - COL Gerald E. Dezsófi
Deputy Commander - LTC Josh Daily
Command Sergeant Major - CSM Tim Harris

STAFF

S1 - MAJ Ashley Coffey Chaplain - LTC David Hatheway
S2 - LTC Michael Camerota JAG - CPT Brian Baker
S3 - LTC Adam Rodgers OPS SGM - SGM Stephanie Kettlewell
S4 - MAJ Robin Skaff
S6 - MAJ Andres Bohman

Website: <https://www.mil.wa.gov/national-guard/army-guard/56th-information-operations-brigade>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/56thTIOG/>



COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR'S MESSAGE

This past year has been tremendous for the 56th TIOG and each one of our units. We have sent many of our best soldiers and teams into harm's way. Each one was incredible in their contribution to our mission and accomplished triumphant results that safeguarded our nation's interests. More importantly, they all came home safely to waiting friends and families. We are just starting to realize the synergy created by coordinating and synchronizing our IO, SOF, and MI capabilities. I am proud with how far we have come and excited about what we will accomplish in the future. This is my last year in the Army and in the Washington Army National Guard as I transition into retirement. It has been a fascinating 35 years and being the Command Sergeant Major of the 56th TIOG has been the pinnacle of a career I could never have dreamed of. Enjoy every moment, maintain your professionalism, and do great things.

CSM Steven K. Strand





ABBY'S TREE

56TH THEATER INFORMATION OPERATIONS GROUP

~ DEFENDING MERCURY ~

110TH INFORMATION OPERATIONS 156TH INFORMATION OPERATIONS 341ST MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS DET. - PACIFIC ALPHA 1ST BATTALION, 19TH SPECIAL FORCES