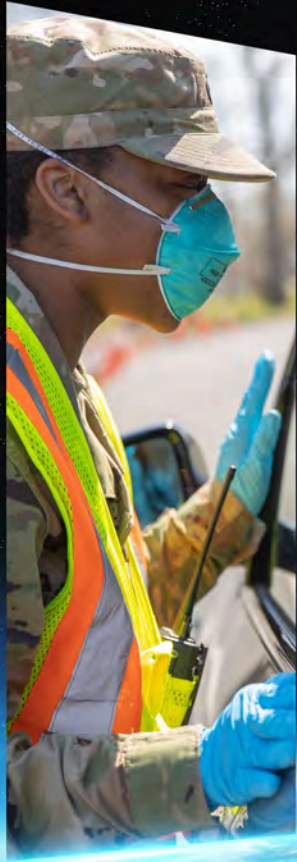


# YEAR OF THE GUARD



**2022 NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU**  
**POSTURE STATEMENT**  
A RECORD YEAR OF BEING "ALWAYS READY, ALWAYS THERE"

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# YEAR OF THE GUARD



# EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

*Today's complex and evolving security environment requires greater reliance on the Guard*

A National Guard soldier in camouflage is rappelling down a rope into a stream. He is wearing a green and brown camouflage uniform with orange patches on his sleeves. In the background, other soldiers in camouflage are standing on a rocky bank, and a tent is visible. The scene is outdoors with trees and a stream.

# Continued investment in the National Guard ensures future threats are met

By Gen. Daniel Hokanson *Chief, National Guard Bureau*

**T**he National Guard is a lethal, cost-effective, dual-role operational force that provides strategic depth to the Army, Air Force, and Space Force, and responds to crises in our homeland. We are capable of operating in a complex global security environment, and continue to invest in modernization and readiness to prepare for the threats of the future. Today's National Guard is an integral part of addressing the gravest challenges facing the Joint Force.

Globally, China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and violent extremist organizations continue to present significant threats to U.S. prosperity and security. At home, our adversaries use of cyber-attacks and disinformation threaten our democracy, while the growing frequency and severity of hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and a global pandemic challenge the safety of our citizens and communities.

The year 2020 was unprecedented and historic. National Guard members supported every Combatant Commander around the globe and met every mission here at home. On June 6, 120,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were mobilized in support of overseas and domestic missions, one of the highest levels of National Guard support to our nation since World War II.

Given the uncertain future and budget priorities, we expect the Department of Defense (DOD) to rely on the National Guard more, not less. Therefore, we must be ready to execute our three core missions: fighting America's wars; securing the homeland; and building enduring partnerships that support our nation's strategic objectives. Continued investment in the National Guard ensures we can meet today's demands while preserving the capability, capacity and deterrence our nation needs against a broad spectrum of potential future threats.



## WARFIGHT

The National Guard is the primary combat reserve of the Army and Air Force, and provides operational capability to the Space Force. We provide enduring, rotational, surge, and follow-on forces to meet any Joint Force mission. Today, thanks to the substantial investment in training, equipment and readiness by Congress and DOD leaders, we have become the most capable, professional, ready, and combat-proven National Guard in the history of the United States.

In 2020, Soldiers with the North Carolina Army National Guard's 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, who tested their combat skills at the National Training Center in 2019, returned from their deployment to Kuwait and Syria and began supporting their communities' COVID-19 response efforts and civil disturbance missions. The Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Fighter Wing also deployed their A-10s and Airmen to the Central Command Area of Responsibility in 2020. The 124th's

deployment, the wing's second-largest ever, required pilots, security forces, maintainers, medical personnel, special warfare tactical air controllers and staffers to support operations across two continents.

The National Guard is also a trusted space and cyber partner. For 25 years, National Guard space units have provided operational, unit-equipped, surge-to-war capability to protect our nation's vital interests in this contested domain and today supply the Space Force with 20% of its space professionals and 60% of offensive electronic warfare capability. In addition, our cyber warriors bring their military and civilian skillsets to bear in support of Cyber Command's global commitments.

Two decades of investment and modernization in the National Guard has paid measurable dividends to our Joint Force's lethality and our nation's security.



## HOMELAND

Unique to the National Guard is our ability to apply the training and equipment from our wartime missions to our state responses in the homeland. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen logged over 10.9 million days serving our communities in 2020 – more than four times as many as 2019.

The events of 2020 required an unprecedented response to various unforeseen events within the homeland. Most significantly, the men and women of the National Guard served more than 7.6 million days in support of the COVID-19 pandemic – a mission that continues today. They provided over 632 million meals to neighbors, distributed over 539 million pieces of personal protective equipment to essential workers, and tested or screened over 16.1 million people for the virus across the 50 states, 3 territories and the District of Columbia (DC) in 2020. In addition, they were called to fight record wildfires in California with specially equipped C-130s, helicopters, MQ-9 drones and shovels; expedited recovery efforts after a record number of named hurricanes battered the Gulf Coast; and provided support to cyber security, cyber assurance and recovery from cyber-attacks at the local, state, and federal levels.

In 2021, your National Guard continues to help with logistics, distribution, and vaccination efforts in the communities they serve. To date, Guard Soldiers and Airmen have vaccinated millions of civilians, administering well over 150,000 shots a day – with those numbers continuing to grow.

The National Guard's skills and abilities developed for the warfight – such as leadership, training, logistics, and communications – coupled with its unique array of authorities and trusted local, state, and federal partnerships, make it a natural choice for tackling some of the most difficult challenges we face at home.

# PARTNERSHIPS

Building enduring partnerships at the international, federal, state, and local levels contributes to our nation's strength and readiness. Our approach makes the National Guard a force other nations and organizations are eager to partner with.

At the international level, the National Guard's State Partnership Program (SPP) is a key pillar to the DOD's focus on alliances and partnerships. Through the SPP, the National Guard maintains long-term relationships that strengthen alliances, enhance interoperability, reassure allies and deter our adversaries.

Improving the military, security and emergency response capacity of partner nations improves their resilience, benefiting the entire international community. Through 82 SPP relationships, the National Guard is engaged with 89 nations, 45% of the world's nations, and ensures the Department of Defense has capable, trusted and interoperable partners at our side.

At the federal and state levels, the National Guard maintains productive interagency relationships with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Health and Human Services, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection that contribute to rapid and unified responses when disasters strike. Additionally, the National Guard runs several counterdrug schools that offer in-person training courses to federal, state and local law enforcement personnel.

At the local level, we develop partnerships and connections in the communities we serve through efforts such as the National Guard Youth Challenge, and DOD's Innovative Readiness Training (IRT)

and STARBASE programs. Youth Challenge is a community-based program that leads, mentors and trains 16-to-18-year-old, at-risk youths on values, life skills, education, and the self-discipline required to become productive citizens in America's future. The IRT program connects annual military training opportunities with the needs of disadvantaged or remote communities to produce mission-ready forces, civil-military partnerships and strong communities. The STARBASE program also exposes our nation's most underrepresented youths to activities in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) career fields through a hands-on learning experience at National Guard and other DOD installations across the nation.





## CHIEF, NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

I am honored to serve with you as the 29th Chief of the National Guard Bureau. As a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I provide input on every decision impacting our Joint Force. I also advise the Secretary of Defense on all matters involving the National Guard and the capabilities we provide our nation.

My goal over the next three years is to build a sustainable operational force by focusing on our core missions of Warfight, Homeland and Partnerships through four priorities: People, Readiness, Modernization and Reform. To do this, the National Guard Bureau will work in concert with the 54 states, territories and DC to prioritize our efforts.

Those efforts will focus on providing a sustainable balance for our Soldiers, Airmen, space professionals, families and civilians when it comes to their military career, civilian career, and their family. It will also include access to the resources needed to maintain their resilience. Maintaining the welfare of our force also means ensuring we continue to promote inclusion,

equality, diversity and resilience, with zero tolerance for abuse, harassment or discrimination.

Today's National Guard is the most modern, ready and interoperable Joint Force in our 384-year history. However, our adversaries do not rest.

Today's leaders will have to contend with budget pressures, training shortfalls, time constraints and modernization gaps. We must develop leaders capable of performing at today's pace of change. We must also redefine how we train forces and approach readiness, and seek to become more joint- and multi-domain-minded. This is critical as we look to normalize the capabilities of an operational National Guard within the DOD's processes.

We must continue to build a National Guard that is stronger and more responsive; a force with greater lethality, global influence and the combat readiness to deter aggression.



A night-time photograph of several National Guard soldiers in full combat gear, including helmets and tactical vests, walking in formation. They are positioned in front of the illuminated dome of the United States Capitol building. The scene is lit by the warm lights of the building and streetlights, creating a high-contrast environment. The soldiers are in motion, with some in the foreground slightly blurred, suggesting a sense of duty and readiness.

# Always Ready, Always There!

Serving with the **443,000 men and women of the National Guard** is an honor. We provide combat proven formations to the Joint Force and tirelessly help our communities where we live. We stand ready to face the threats of today, and prepare for the challenges of tomorrow. Serving in nearly every ZIP code, and answering the call in nearly every corner of the globe, the National Guard remains Always Ready, Always There!

# Army Guard SNAPSHOT

**PROVIDES THE ARMY  
39% OF ITS OPERATIONAL  
FORCES**

**OVER 336,000 SOLDIERS**

- 8 Divisions
- 27 Brigade Combat Teams
- 2 Special Forces Groups
- 1 Security Force Assistance Brigade
- 42 Multifunctional Brigades
- 56 Functional Support Brigades and Groups
- 13 Command & Control Headquarters
- 1,462 aircraft
- 24,687 buildings, 1,397 firing ranges, and 110 training centers in 2,416 communities





# Air Guard SNAPSHOT

**PROVIDES THE AIR FORCE 30%  
OF ITS OPERATIONAL FORCES**

**108,100 AIRMEN  
ACROSS 90 WINGS**

## PERSONNEL CONTRIBUTIONS TO FIVE CORE AREAS:

- 10% of Air, Space and Cyber Superiority
- 13% of Command and Control / Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance
- 40% of Agile Combat Support
- 20% of Rapid Global Mobility
- 17% of Global Strike

## 1,053 AIR GUARD AIRCRAFT

- Provides 36% of Air Force's Tanker capability
- Provides 26% of Air Force's Fighter / Attack capability
- Provides 30% of Air Force's Strategic / Tactical Airlift capability
- Operates 15 of 16 Aerospace Control Alert sites
- Provides 13% of Air Force's overseas MQ-9 Reaper Unmanned Aerial Vehicle capability



# **FIGHTING AMERICA'S WARS**

**THE PRIMARY COMBAT RESERVE OF  
THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE**



## Force for the Future

- The National Guard has supported more than **one million overseas mobilizations** to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, the Balkans, Guantanamo Bay, the Sinai, and other overseas locations since 9/11.
- National Guard Soldiers and Airmen served more than **10.2 million personnel days supporting warfight** missions in 2020.
- **More than 20,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen** are currently deployed in support of missions in Afghanistan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Jordan, Qatar, Ukraine, Poland, Kosovo, Eastern Europe, the Horn of Africa, Central and South America, and the Sinai Peninsula.
- **Two National Guard brigades** will deploy to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif. this year: Mississippi Army Guard's 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team in June; and Oklahoma's 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in July.
- **Three National Guard brigades** will deploy to the Joint Readiness Training Center in Fort Polk, La. this year: Ohio's 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in June; Arkansas's 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in July; and Indiana's Security Force Assistance Brigade in August.

## Overseas Presence

- More than **1,200 Guard Airmen from 48 units served in nine different locations** while filling 33% of the Total Force's civil engineer needs overseas last year.
- The **Air Guard is providing 25% of the Total Force's** Distributed Common Ground System (a system that produces military intelligence for multiple military branches) capacity in direct support of the overseas Combatant Commanders.
- The **Louisiana Army Guard's 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team** is deployed to Iraq providing Security Forces and conducting Advise and Assist missions with Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and partner units to enhance capabilities and secure critical sites in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.
- The **Washington Army National Guard's 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team** is deployed to Ukraine providing training to the Armed Forces of Ukraine to help them develop defense capabilities and build interoperability.
- The **South Carolina Army Guard's 678th Air Defense Artillery Brigade** is providing command and control to air and missile defense in the U.S. European Command in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve.
- The **South Dakota Army Guard's 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade** is deployed to the Horn of Africa working with the Suriname Defense Force to promote regional security, dissuade conflict, and protect U.S. and coalition interests.
- The **Texas Army Guard's 36th Infantry Division** is deployed to Kuwait and provides division-level command and control of Army forces in Kuwait and Jordan in support of Operation Spartan Shield. **The Ohio Army Guard's 16th Engineer Brigade** is also supporting Spartan Shield by providing engineering expertise, project management, and command of subordinate engineer battalions.
- The **California Army Guard's 40th Combat Aviation Brigade** is providing command and control of all Army aviation units in Kuwait in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve.
- Nearly **1,500 Army Guard Soldiers and 64 aircraft** are supporting U.S. Central Command aviation missions in Afghanistan and Kuwait.



# SECURING THE HOMELAND

PROVEN AND PREPARED, THE NATIONAL GUARD MET  
EVERY OVERSEAS AND HOMELAND MISSION IN 2020





## Trusted in the Homeland

- National Guard Soldiers and Airmen **served their communities a record 10.9 million days**, supporting missions such as COVID-19, wildfires, civil disturbances and hurricanes.
- Air Guard personnel protect the airspace over America by **operating 15 of the 16 NORAD Aerospace Control Alert (ACA) sites** and the Eastern and Western air defense sectors. Guard ACA pilots flew 2,058 sorties in FY 2020 – 1,825 scramble sorties (practice and real-world) and 233 Operation Noble Eagle sorties.
- To allow effective communication between local, state and federal emergency agencies, National Guard **Joint Incident Site Communications Capability teams** set-up and operated a self-contained communications package at the Super Bowl and numerous other major events and exercises last year.
- The 57 full-time National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction **Civil Support Teams (CST) carried out 2,475 missions** in FY 2020 ranging from no-notice call-outs to identify substances, to supporting national security events, to training and assisting state partners. CSTs typically respond in 1 to 3 hours.
- The National Guard **runs 17 battalion-sized** (nearly 2,400 people) Chemical, Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) Enhanced Response Force Packages, or CERFPs, in 17 states capable of responding in 3 to 6 hours.
- National Guard Soldiers and Airmen comprise **55% of the DOD's** chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear response capability.



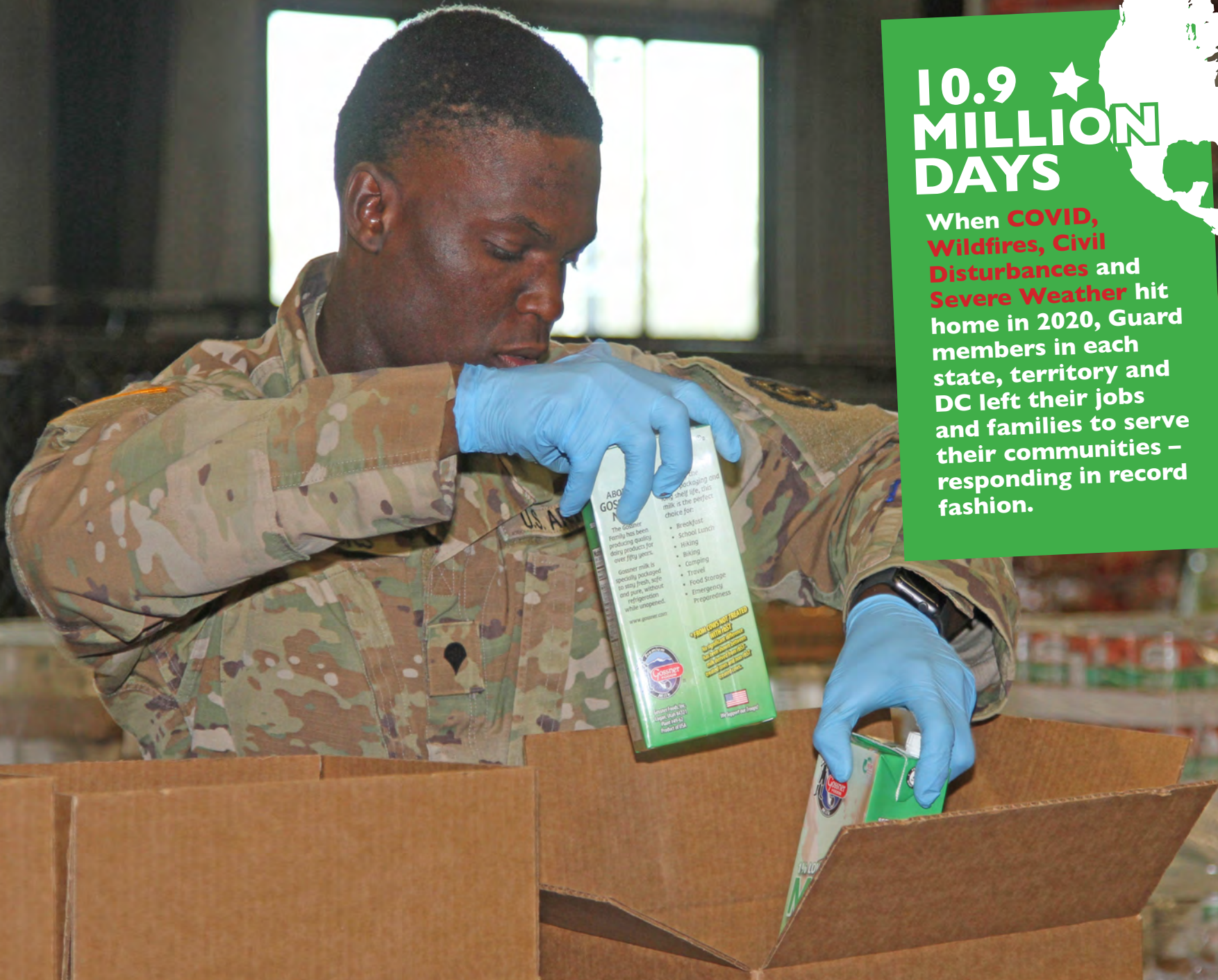


## Cyber Centric

- There are more than 3,900 Army and Air National Guard personnel serving in **59 DOD cyber units in 40 states**.
- 1,219 Guard members **detected 57 “vulnerability events” while supporting the Nov. 3, 2020 national election**. They provided their state’s IT support, vulnerability assessments, network monitoring, vehicle / foot traffic control, and COVID-19 screening and sanitizing.
- **290 National Guard cyber warriors from 15 states** also responded to 33 reported state cyber events in 2020.

## Taking Drugs off the Streets

- More than **\$11.2 billion of illicit drugs, weapons, property, and currency** are off the streets thanks in part to the efforts of over 2,600 National Guard Counterdrug professionals assisting civilian law enforcement agencies throughout the 50 states, three territories and DC.
- National Guard **counterdrug operations supported 1,362 law enforcement agencies** and over 439 community-based organizations.
- Five National Guard counterdrug schools **trained nearly 60,000 law enforcement personnel** in 2020, using subject matter experts who are able to draw upon their military education, operational experience, and knowledge of DOD capabilities.



10.9 ★  
MILLION  
DAYS

When **COVID, Wildfires, Civil Disturbances** and **Severe Weather** hit home in 2020, Guard members in each state, territory and DC left their jobs and families to serve their communities – responding in record fashion.



# COVID-19

## PANDEMIC RESPONSE

- **632 Million:** Meals provided by Guard members in 2020.
- **36.9 million:** Masks made by Guard members in 2020.
- **16.1 million:** People tested or screened for COVID-19 virus by Guard members in 2020.
- **11.5 million:** Miles driven to deliver supplies in 2020.
- **2.4 million:** Calls answered, made at call centers in 2020.
- **71,259:** Facilities deep cleaned by Guard members in 2020.
- **19,211:** Increased bed capacity at Alternate Care Facilities in 2020.



# WILDFIRES

## Fighting Fires

- Guard members from 19 states **logged 155,108 days responding to 52,834 wildfires** covering over 9.5 million acres in 2020.
- C-130 crews, equipped with U.S. Forest Service Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems, **flew 470 missions and logged 549 flying hours** while dropping over 1.3 million gallons of fire retardant.
- More than 1,700 National Guard hand crews **cleared over 341,000 acres of land**, while Army Guard helicopter crews logged over 743 hours fighting fires.
- Air Guard fixed-wing and MQ-9 Remotely Piloted Aircraft crews **logged over 2,000 hours** providing real-time fire mapping; evacuation route identification; and new fire / hot spot detection.
- Two California National Guard helicopter crews were **awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross** for bravery by the president **after saving over 200 stranded residents** from the Creek Fire.



## Supporting Peace

- Guard members from **38 states** **logged 627,659 days** supporting law enforcement agencies in 2020 by providing crowd control, monument and infrastructure security, traffic control, and roving patrol missions.
- At its peak on June 7, 2020, **43,351 Guard Soldiers and Airmen** were providing civil disturbance support.

# CIVIL DISTURBANCES



# SEVERE WEATHER

## Bringing Calm after the Storms

- Guard members from **22 states supported 22 severe weather events**, to include a record 12 named storms in 2020.
- During hurricane responses, Guard members **rescued 9,812 people, and distributed over 6 million meals**, 12.1 million gallons of water, 1.6 million bags of ice, and nearly 319,000 tarps in 2020. They also cleared over 2,700 miles of road to assist recovery efforts.
- Guard members **logged 118,748 personnel days responding** to hurricanes and tropical storms; 36,767 days for earthquakes; 11,340 days for floods; 5,106 days for severe weather; 3,502 days for tornadoes; and 1,174 days for winter storms in 2020.

# **BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS**

**ENDURING GUARD RELATIONSHIPS BENEFIT OUR COMBATANT COMMANDS AND IMPACT GLOBAL SECURITY**





## PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

- Competition with rivals demands greater cooperation with partners. The National Guard's **network of 89 allies and partners** through the State Partnership Program provides our nation a great advantage and directly supports competition objectives outlined in the National Defense Strategy.
- Through the SPP, National Guard and partner nation personnel learn together, work together, and prepare – if necessary – to fight together.
- National Guard Soldiers and Airmen **conducted more than 1,200 SPP activities** worldwide in support of Geographic Combatant Commands in Fiscal Year 2020.
  - Since 9/11, **27 SPP partner countries have contributed troops** to coalition operations – 15 of those SPP countries deployed forces alongside their National Guard partners.
- The SPP is a cost-effective program that provides DOD decision-makers a proven tool to help **address today's security challenges** and a wide range of potential future threats.
- The National Guard's **reputation in disaster response at home and proven combat capability overseas** makes it an attractive partner to nations faced with military and non-military threats.
  - The National Guard plans to grow two new partnerships per year.
- In the homeland, **planning and training with local, state and federal responders** has resulted in unified and rapid responses to man-made and natural disasters – ultimately saving more lives and property.



**25 Soldiers, Airmen And Families**

**PROGRAMS SUPPORTING  
GUARD MEMBERS AND  
THEIR FAMILIES ARE  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

**SOLDIERS, AIRMEN  
AND FAMILIES**



## Programs Making a Difference

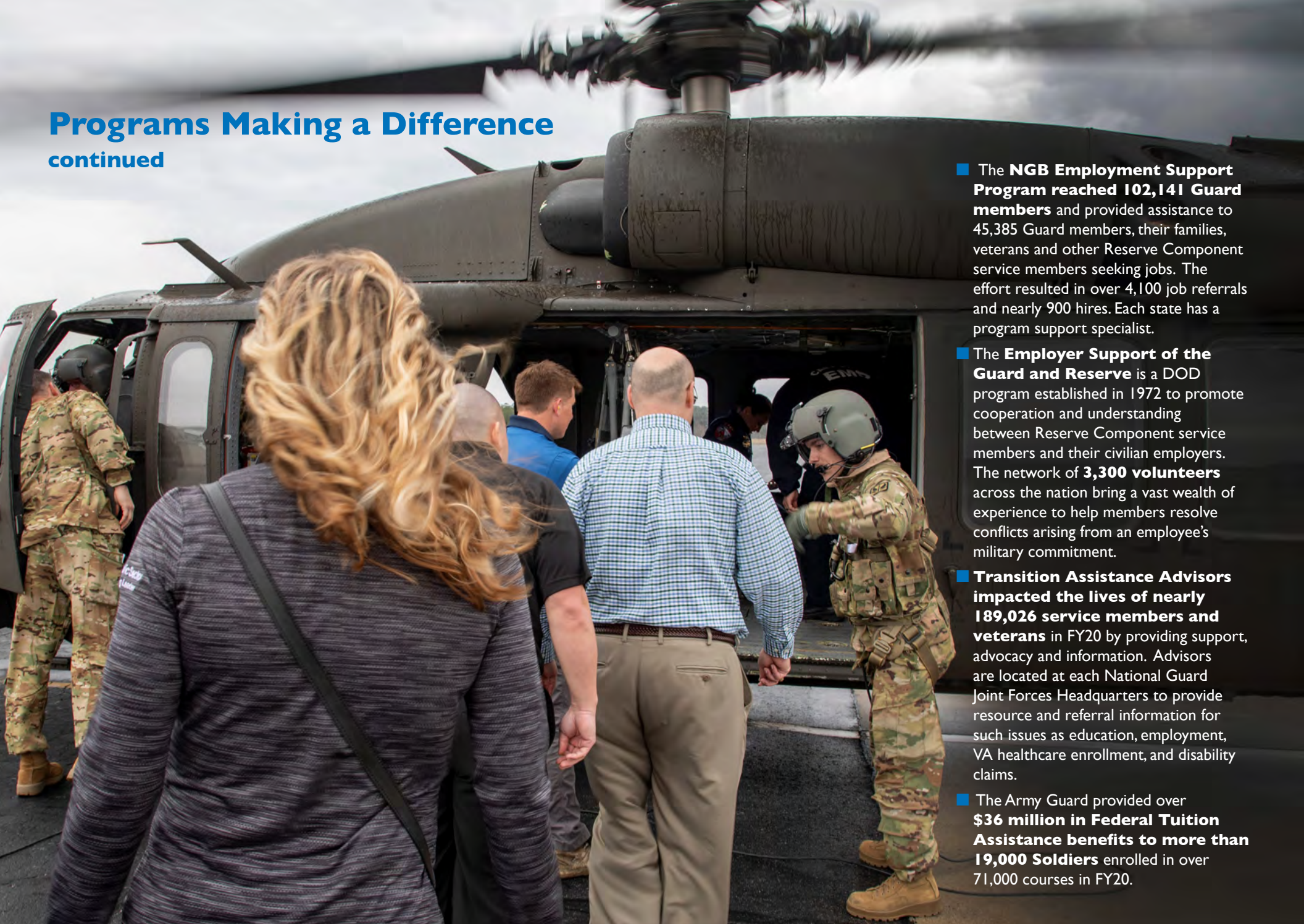
■ Army National Guard **Child and Youth Services** conducted over **2,598** events for over **66,800** National Guard youth ages 6-18 in an effort to promote resilience and sustain the quality of life through high-quality support services and enrichment programs. Coordinators transitioned 202 events into virtual / online programming that might have otherwise been canceled as a result of COVID-19.

■ The Air National Guard **Home Community Care Program** is available at over **42** Air National Guard Wings with state-accredited providers offering free child care to Guard members. In FY20, the Home Community Care Program, provided over 27,000 hours of child care, spending \$290K in support of Air National Guard families.

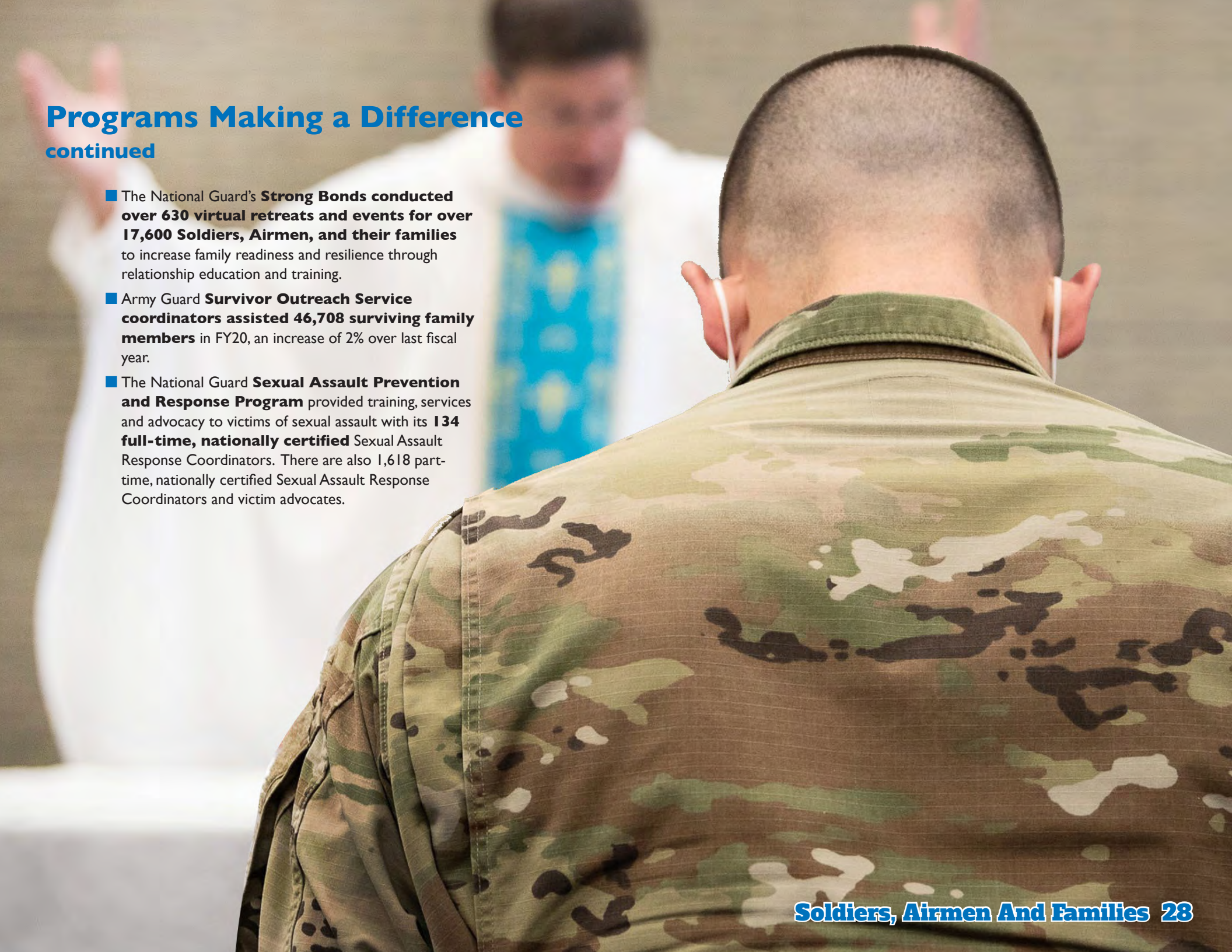
■ The **Joint Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program** helped over **31,229** service members and families connect with their local community support services before, during, and after deployments by overseeing 440 nationwide events in 2020. The Army National Guard conducted 419 events and **supported 26,319** Soldiers and family members, while the Air National Guard conducted 21 events for **4,980** Airman and their families.



## Programs Making a Difference continued



- The **NGB Employment Support Program** reached **102,141 Guard members** and provided assistance to 45,385 Guard members, their families, veterans and other Reserve Component service members seeking jobs. The effort resulted in over 4,100 job referrals and nearly 900 hires. Each state has a program support specialist.
- The **Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve** is a DOD program established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component service members and their civilian employers. The network of **3,300 volunteers** across the nation bring a vast wealth of experience to help members resolve conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment.
- **Transition Assistance Advisors impacted the lives of nearly 189,026 service members and veterans** in FY20 by providing support, advocacy and information. Advisors are located at each National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters to provide resource and referral information for such issues as education, employment, VA healthcare enrollment, and disability claims.
- The Army Guard provided over **\$36 million in Federal Tuition Assistance benefits to more than 19,000 Soldiers** enrolled in over 71,000 courses in FY20.



## Programs Making a Difference continued

- The National Guard's **Strong Bonds** conducted **over 630 virtual retreats and events for over 17,600 Soldiers, Airmen, and their families** to increase family readiness and resilience through relationship education and training.
- Army Guard **Survivor Outreach Service coordinators assisted 46,708 surviving family members** in FY20, an increase of 2% over last fiscal year.
- The National Guard **Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program** provided training, services and advocacy to victims of sexual assault with its **134 full-time, nationally certified** Sexual Assault Response Coordinators. There are also 1,618 part-time, nationally certified Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and victim advocates.

## Programs Making a Difference continued

- The Army Guard's **Funeral Honors team rendered honors at 94,285 service member funerals in FY20**. The funeral honors team is projected to conduct over 104,147 requests to render burial honors for veterans and retirees in FY21.
- Due to the Army National Guard **resilience program's** robust training platform, they received the Army's only exception-to-policy to conduct a two-week Master Resilience Training certification remotely during the pandemic. The team used the lessons learned to conduct nine one-week and two-week trainer certification courses, helping to offset attrition caused by three canceled classes due to the pandemic. The resilience program **trained 648 total Master Resilience Trainers** in FY20, bringing the total number of MRTs trained to 7,297.
- The **MRT schoolhouse in Wisconsin is now certified** to bring any resilience, suicide prevention and substance abuse training to the 50 states, 3 territories and DC upon request. Three Army Guard MRT Mobile Training Teams **provided resilience, risk reduction, and suicide prevention training 25 times** last year.
- The Army National Guard provides **54 Suicide Prevention Program Managers**, one to each state, territory, and DC. They provided **advanced training to 76,479 Soldiers and family members** in FY20, enabling them to recognize the signs of suicide, giving them the skills to intervene appropriately, and connecting those in need to military and community resources.
- The Army National Guard provides between **one-to-four contracted Risk Reduction and Prevention Coordinators** in each state, territory and DC to help commanders assess high-risk behaviors that are counterproductive to readiness – such as substance abuse, sexual crimes, family violence, and suicide. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, coordinators were able to **survey over 150,000 Soldiers** in FY20, resulting in remote drills, risk mitigation plans for 2,588 units, and nearly 3,000 prevention training events.



# Resilient Warriors

- The **Chief, National Guard Bureau established NGB Warrior Resilience and Fitness** to ensure multiple programs supporting the well-being and resilience of Guard members and their families are synchronized into a holistic and integrated model that leverages the Total Force Fitness framework.
  - Warrior Resilience and Fitness developed a Compendium of Warrior Resilience and Fitness Strategies with **over 167 research-informed programs** aimed at preventing and responding to suicide, sexual assault, and substance abuse.
  - Warrior Resilience and Fitness Innovation Incubator provides funding and technical assistance to **22 pilots across 29 states and territories** to assist with implementation and evaluation of programs that promote resilience and prevent harmful behaviors.
  - **NGB signed a memorandum with the Veteran's Administration** to provide greater access to behavioral health services for Guard members during drill weekends. The initiative has seen an increase in the number of Guard members receiving services during drill weekends (14%) and at Vet Centers (44%).
  - **SPRINGboard is the first** National Guard-specific readiness tool that will help leaders make more informed decisions about the health of service members.
  - **NGB partnered with the Uniform Services University and Purdue University** to train community-based behavioral health providers in military culture. More than 800 providers have received specialized training.
  - **NGB signed a memorandum with Psych Hub** to provide Guard members with access to the COVID-19 Mental Health Resource Hub that has over 600 videos and podcasts that support mental health and reduce stigma about seeking care.
  - **NGB and the Marines partnered** on the first Innovation, Prevention, and Outreach forum to improve behavioral health, access to care, and overall well-being for geographically dispersed Reserve Component members and their families.



# GIVING TEENS A SECOND CHANCE

■ Forty **National Guard Youth Challenge** and five Job Challenge academies across the country have **graduated more than 187,923 cadets** since the program's inception in 1993. The 5-1/2 month Youth Challenge in-residence course takes at-risk 16- to 18-year-olds and teaches them the life skills and self-discipline needed to succeed, while helping them to earn credits toward high school diplomas or prepare them for a GED. The 5-month Job Challenge in-residence program allows some Youth Challenge graduates to obtain job certifications, credentials or apprenticeships to facilitate obtaining living wage jobs.

■ **Nearly 83% of all Challenge graduates earn their high school diploma, GED or obtain college credits;** nearly 32% go on to attend additional college or other schools.

■ The **per-student-cost** for a Challenge graduate averages **\$21,450 compared to the almost \$63,000 per-year cost** for a youth in juvenile custody.



# 25 YEARS IN SPACE

- The National Guard provides our nation and DOD partners a proven capability by supplying **100% of its unit-equipped, surge-to-war** operational reserve forces.
- Currently, the Air National Guard provides **60% of the Space Force's** offensive space electronic warfare capability.
- The Air National Guard **operates the nation's only survivable and enduring strategic missile warning / nuclear detection capability** and provides one-third of the nation's strategic missile warning within the U.S.
- In support of DOD space missions, Guard members conduct **training that bolsters space capabilities** and enables homeland protection.
- The **Air National Guard's 14 space units in seven states** (AK, CA, CO, FL, HI, NY, and OH) and one territory (Guam) are conducting daily missions in support of global Combatant Command operations.
- **Long-standing partnerships and civilian employment** with state and local space entities, in both the public and private sectors, allow for access, seamless integration and immediate response.



“ **The National Guard retains decades of depth and expertise in space operations. Guardsmen are masters of their trade and many work directly with the space industry. Every day, Guardsmen conduct missile warning, satellite command and control, analyze space intelligence, and conduct space electronic warfare operations on behalf of Combatant Commanders around the globe.** ”

— **GEN. JOHN W. RAYMOND**  
U.S. Space Force's Chief of Space Operations