



# 2023 Year in Review





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## STATE OF COLORADO

### DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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Jared Polis  
Governor

Laura L. Clellan  
Major General, COARNG  
The Adjutant General

Dear Neighbors,

Gov. Jared Polis activated the Colorado National Guard twice during 2023. In January, while extreme cold gripped Colorado, your Air and Army National Guard members augmented state emergency response efforts to shelter those experiencing homelessness in Denver. In October, our Fatality Search and Recovery team executed a difficult mission in support of federal, state and local partners with empathy and professionalism.

Round-the-clock throughout the year, our Soldiers and Airmen were on duty providing our nation missile warning and defense as well as air defense capabilities.

During 2023, more than 150 Colorado Army and Air National Guard members deployed in support of overseas operations and training. Cyber, special forces, and space operators supported the joint force and allies around the world.

2023 marked the CONG's 100th year in military aviation. The COANG flew a past, present and future formation in the skies above our great state. It was a sight to behold the evolution in our airframes and glimpse the future of our fighter force. June also brought the largest air exercise since the inception of NATO. Your Colorado Air National Guard was there, deploying seven aircraft and 150 Airmen to Germany.

COARNG Soldiers continue to train NASA astronauts at our High-Altitude Army National Guard Training Site in Gypsum so our nation can return to the moon.

In July, the Governor and I welcomed to Colorado His Excellency Marjan Šarec, the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Slovenia, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of a fruitful, strategic state partnership between Colorado and Slovenia.

Since we cannot do any of our missions without our people, we established the first full-time Prevention Workforce and Joint Resiliency Directorate at our headquarters in Centennial in 2023. This innovation, coupled with support from employers and communities, ensures our Soldiers and Airmen can continue to serve Colorado and our nation and remain Always Ready, Always There.

Holding the High Ground!

Respectfully,

Major General Laura Clellan  
The Adjutant General of Colorado





## Lieutenant Governor, Adjutant General host Gold Star and Colorado National Guard deployed families

By Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

**CENTENNIAL, Colo.** – Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera and The Adjutant General of Colorado U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Laura Clellan will host Gold Star families and families of deployed Colorado National Guard members in separate events Dec. 16, 2023, at the Boettcher

Mansion in Denver. Gold Star families are those whose loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom. Nearly 150 CONG members will spend the holidays away from their families while supporting operations overseas.

> Read the story (*right-click, copy & paste link*)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3619771/lieutenant-governor-adjutant-general-host-gold-star-and-colorado-national-guard/>

## Colorado Army National Guard Leaders attend Fort Barfoot redesignation ceremony, keep Colorado Infantry regiment legacy alive

By Colorado National Guard Historian

**CENTENNIAL, Colo.** – The official ceremony redesignating Fort Pickett as Fort Barfoot took place at Blackstone Army Airfield, Virginia, March 24, 2023.

A congressional commission rebranded Fort Pickett to honor U.S. Army Tech. Sgt. Van T. Barfoot, a World War II Medal of Honor awardee serving in the 157th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division – a regiment whose origins are with the Colorado Army National Guard.

Fort Pickett, built in 1941 and covering 41,000 acres, was originally named after Confederate General George Pickett. It is the first of nine Army forts to be renamed.

> Read the story (*right-click, copy & paste link*)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3362288/colorado-army-national-guard-leaders-attend-fort-barfoot-redesignation-ceremony/>





## Colorado National Guard activated for arctic blast, assist civil authorities at warming centers

By Sgt. 1st Class Joseph K. VonNida, Colorado National Guard

**DENVER** – With an extreme cold front bearing down on Colorado, Gov. Jared Polis signed an executive order authorizing the support of up to 100 Colorado National Guard members to assist civil authorities at warming centers across the Denver metropolitan area and Boulder, Colorado, Dec. 20, 2022.

In less than 80 minutes from the time of notification, the first 25 Colorado Air National Guard members volunteered and were prepared to begin onboarding to augment state emergency response efforts at the Denver Colosseum near downtown Denver.

> Read the story (*right-click, copy & paste link*)



<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3258614/colorado-national-guard-activated-for-arctic-blast-assist-civil-authorities-at/>



## Secretary of Air Force makes historic visit to Colorado Air National Guard Airmen

By U.S. Air Force Capt. Benjamin Kimball,  
140th Wing Public Affairs COANG

**BUCKLEY SPACE FORCE BASE, AURORA, COLO.** – The 26th Secretary of the U.S. Air Force Frank Kendall made an historic visit to the 140th Wing, Colorado Air National

Guard at Buckley Space Force Base, Aurora, Colorado, Nov. 3, 2023. Kendall met with Buckley Airmen and Guardians, Governor Jared Polis, and toured 140th Wing facilities and the flight line. Kendall also met with COANG space professionals.

“The wing’s fighters and space assets are essential to National Defense Strategy and Homeland Defense,” said 140th Wing Commander U.S. Air Force Col. Jeremiah “Weed” Tucker. “We need to modernize our fighters and align our space professionals with the U.S. Space Force to ensure our continued relevance.”

> Read the story (*right-click, copy & paste link*)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3616947/secretary-of-air-force-makes-historic-visit-to-colorado-air-national-guard-airm/>

## Adjutant General of Colorado promotes at official ceremony

By Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

**CENTENNIAL, Colo.** – The Adjutant General of Colorado U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Laura Clellan will promote to the rank of major general during a formal ceremony at the Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum, Denver, Colorado, Jan. 5, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

Retired U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Gregory White will serve as the presiding official at the ceremony. White was a Colorado National Guardsman and served as the director of space operations, National Guard Bureau, and director of joint staff, Colorado National Guard. Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera will be in attendance.

“Congratulations to General Clellan on her well-earned promotion. Laura’s leadership is making Colorado a better place for everyone, including our strong veteran community,” Governor Jared Polis said. “She has led the National Guard through challenges like wildfires and the pandemic and continues working to ensure the Guard remains ready to protect our state and nation.”

Clellan is the 44th adjutant general of Colorado, and the first female to lead the Colorado National Guard. She also serves as a member of the governor’s Cabinet and as executive director for the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

> Read the story (*right-click, copy & paste link*)



<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3631284/adjutant-general-of-colorado-promotes-at-official-ceremony/>



## Colorado National Guard’s director of joint staff promotes to major general

By Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

**CENTENNIAL, Colo.** – The Colorado National Guard’s Director of Joint Staff, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Scott Sherman, will promote to the rank of major general in a ceremony to be held at Wings Over the Rockies Exploration of Flight, Englewood, Colorado, at 4 p.m., Aug. 26, 2023. A traditional howitzer salute will take place to honor the accomplishment.

Sherman directly supervises the Joint Staff and is the commander of the standing Joint Task Force-Centennial, responsible for leading the CONG response to domestic events as directed by the governor.

In his next assignment, Sherman will serve as commander of Contingency Command Post 1 and Task Force 51. Task Force 51, a subordinate element of U.S. Army North, is a scalable, deployable command post that provides mission command options for routine and contingency operations in the U.S. Northern Command area of responsibility.

> Read the story (*right-click, copy & paste link*)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3504502/colorado-national-guards-director-of-joint-staff-promotes-to-major-general/>





## Colorado Air National Guard colonel promotes to brigadier general

By Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

**BUCKLEY SPACE FORCE BASE, Colo.** – Chief of Staff-Air U.S. Air Force Col. Michael J. Bruno will be promoted to the rank of brigadier general during a ceremony to be held at Hangar 909, Buckley Space Force Base, Jan. 7, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

Bruno also serves as the full-time deputy executive director for the Colorado Department of Military and Veteran Affairs in his civilian capacity.

“Ever since I started working with Col. Bruno when we were both group commanders, I’ve known him to have the unique capability to both be a mission-focused leader, and yet at the same time, someone who is intensely caring for those under his command. He’s a people first leader, and I’m excited to see him take this next step in his career,” 140th Wing Commander U.S. Air Force Col. Christopher “Wedge” Southard said.

> Read the story (*right-click, copy & paste link*)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3261627/colorado-air-national-guard-colonel-to-promote-to-brigadier-general/>



## Colorado Army National Guard newly promoted brigadier general assumes command

By Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

**CENTENNIAL, Colo.** – U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Tod M. Fenner, Colorado Army National Guard, will assume the role of land component commander in a ceremony to be held at North Colorado Springs Readiness Center, Colorado Springs, Colorado, at 1 p.m., Nov. 4, 2023.

A traditional howitzer salute will take place to honor the accomplishment.

“Brigadier General Tod Fenner continues our proud tradition of admirable, servant leadership in the Colorado National Guard. I am honored to promote him and place among the Senior Leadership Team as the Land Component Commander,” Assistant Adjutant General, Army, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Bren Rogers, said. “General Fenner is an outstanding officer and will continue to make positive impacts on the Soldiers and their Families within the Colorado Army National Guard and our readiness.”

Fenner is responsible for the training and readiness of the High-Altitude Army National Guard Aviation Training Site, the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, and Joint Force Headquarters. He also serves as the Army director for the Joint Diversity and Inclusion working group.

> Read the story (*right-click, copy & paste link*)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3579762/colorado-army-national-guard-newly-promoted-brigadier-general-assumes-command/>



# TAG MARKSMANSHIP MATCH



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/conationalguard/albums/72177720310368802/with/53105008124>







## Colorado's 140th Civil Engineering Squadron performs Deployment for Training in Japan

By U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Luca Lovato, 140th Wing Public Affairs

**BUCKLEY SPACE FORCE BASE, Colo.** – The Colorado Air National Guard's 140th Civil Engineering Squadron, 140th Wing, Buckley Space Force Base, Aurora, Colorado, participated in a Deployment for Training exercise at Yokota Air Base, Japan, July 14 - 31, 2023. The main goal of this exercise is to strengthen civil engineering Air Force Specialty Code skills and project management through on-site construction. Eleven other units, on two-week rotations, worked together in tandem to accomplish a large-scale tasking at Yokota.

> Read the story (*right-click, copy & paste link*)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3520801/colorados-140th-civil-engineering-squadron-performs-deployment-for-training-in/>

## Colorado Army National Guard field artillery unit trains for deployment

By Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

**BUCKLEY SPACE FORCE BASE, Colo.** – “Attention in the Tactical Operations Center,” echoes off the high ceilings, the noisy din of various shops stopping abruptly to hear the update from the battle captain. A unit has suffered casualties, and the battle captain proceeds to give everyone the details of the incident. Once the information has been put out, the shops jump back into action, boards and maps changed to reflect the new situation, and coordinating instructions take place for remedying the incident. This is what Soldiers with the 169th Field Artillery Brigade, Colorado Army National Guard, experienced during a communications exercise for their two-week annual training period, Sept. 9 - 23, 2023.

> Read the story (*right-click, copy & paste link*)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3573416/colorado-army-national-guard-field-artillery-unit-trains-for-deployment/>



## Colorado Air National Guard joins 35 states and 25 partner nations for Exercise Air Defender 2023

By 140th Wing Public Affairs

**BUCKLEY SPACE FORCE BASE, Colo.** – The Colorado Air National Guard is participating alongside partner wings and units from 43 U.S. states and 25 partner nations in Exercise Air Defender 2023, June 12-23, 2023, at various sites in Germany and locations in the Netherlands and the Czech Republic.

The joint military drill, under the command of the German Air Force, aims to strengthen cooperation and showcase the alliance's capabilities. AD23 will provide a training opportunity for participating air forces to simulate and respond to a hypothetical NATO Article 5 scenario that requires a collective response from the alliance when one member comes under attack.

> Read the story (*right-click, copy & paste link*)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3434912/colorado-air-national-guard-joins-35-states-and-25-partner-nations-for-exercise/>



## Physical fitness is key to Warrior success

By U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Joseph K. VonNida

**FORT CARSON, Colo.** – Fatigue, muscle failure, sprains, and strains are all side effects for those competing in a Best Warrior competition. The intense physical requirement could be considered enough to invoke sympathetic pain in bystanders and spectators. The Colorado National

Guard’s 2023 BWC tested competitor’s physical stamina, starting with the Army Combat Fitness Test.

> Read the story *(right-click, copy & paste link)*

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3571989/physical-fitness-is-key-to-warrior-success/>

## New Colorado National Guard directorate prioritizes serving its members

By U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Joseph K. VonNida

**Centennial, Colo.** – Due to the unfortunate situation involving U.S. Army Spc. Vanessa Guillen at Fort Hood, Texas, in April 2020, U.S. President Joe Biden ordered the Secretary of Defense to establish an Independent Review Commission to end sexual assault in the military. In conjunction with the IRC, the National Defense Authorization Act 2022 then directed the National Guard to implement a dedicated full-time Prevention Workforce between fiscal years 2022 and 2024.



> Read the story *(right-click, copy & paste link)*

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3444506/new-colorado-national-guard-directorate-prioritizes-serving-its-members/>



## 140th Wing Force Support Squadron deploys to Italy for Home Station Readiness Training

By Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

**BUCKLEY SPACE FORCE BASE, Colo.** – The Colorado Air National Guard’s 140th Force Support Squadron, 140th Wing, Buckley Space Force Base, Aurora, Colorado, participated in Home Station Readiness Training at Aviano Air Base, Italy, June 28-July

11, 2023. The purpose of this training was to accomplish HSRT, which is required every 24 months for FSS members, preparing Airmen to perform their mission for future deployments.

> Read the story *(right-click, copy & paste link)*

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3461709/140th-wing-force-support-squadron-deploys-to-italy-for-home-station-readiness-t/>





## Biathlon team finishes season at 2023 National Guard Championships

By U.S. Army Lt. Col. Chip Hahn, Colorado National Guard

**ETHAN ALLEN FIRING RANGE, Vermont** - The Colorado National Guard Biathlon Team placed sixth in the men's and women's team competitions and brought home two sets of individual bronze medals at the 2023 Chief, National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships, Feb. 17-22, 2023, at Camp Ripley, Minnesota.



The CNGB Championship is a week-long biathlon competition consisting of two individual races: a sprint and pursuit race; two team races—a relay and patrol race. This year's championship included 79 Guard members from 21 states and civilian competitors from local biathlon clubs. > Read the story (right-click, copy & paste link)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3342260/biathlon-team-finishes-season-at-2023-national-guard-championships/>

## 100 YEARS OF MILITARY AVIATION IN COLORADO



### Colorado Air National Guard celebrates 100 years of military aviation in Colorado

By 140th Wing Public Affairs

**BUCKLEY SPACE FORCE BASE, Colo.** – The 140th Wing, Colorado Air National Guard will celebrate the 100th anniversary of military aviation in Colorado by

hosting a family day for its members May 7, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Hangar 801, Buckley Space Force Base, Aurora, Colorado.

The COANG has been a pioneer in utilizing aviation as a means of defense for state and nation for a century and has continually adapted and innovated this technology to remain “Always Ready, Always There.”

“We honor the trail blazed for us by our predecessors in Colorado aviation, and the countless achievements by the Colorado Air National Guard that have followed this milestone,” said

140th Wing Commander U.S. Air Force, Col. Christopher “Wedge” Southard. “100 years later we continue our proud aviation heritage by patrolling Colorado’s skies with the F-16C+ Fighting Falcon while also broadening our scope of capabilities towards space and cyber defense.”



> Read the story (right-click, copy & paste link)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3386574/colorado-air-national-guard-celebrates-100-years-of-military-aviation-in-colora/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/conationalguard/albums/72177720309723076/>





## Colorado National Guard electromagnetic warfare squadron celebrates new facility

By Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

**BUCKLEY SPACE FORCE BASE, Colo.** – The Colorado National Guard’s 138th Electromagnetic Warfare Squadron will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the opening of its new facility at Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colorado, at 9 a.m., Aug. 5, 2023.

The ceremony represents the next step in Colorado Air National Guard Space operations and is the result of a multi-year effort by hundreds of individuals who have contributed to the occasion. This will be the permanent home of the 138th EWS and will be the foundation for unit, or according to their motto, “ghostrider,” operations for many years to come.

> Read the story (*right-click, copy & paste link*)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3483503/colorado-national-guard-electromagnetic-warfare-squadron-celebrates-new-facility/>

## Colorado’s 140th Wing F-16s integrate with fifth-generation fighters at Checkered Flag

By U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Chance Johnson, 140th Wing Public Affairs

**BUCKLEY SPACE FORCE BASE, Colo.** – More than 190 Citizen Airmen from the 140th Wing, Colorado Air National Guard participated in the Checkered Flag Exercise at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, Oct. 25-Nov. 8, 2023.



Nearly half of the COANG participants were drill status guardsmen who traditionally serve one weekend a month as well as during annual training and deployments.

“Every shop and person out here contribute a critical piece to mission success,” The Adjutant General of Colorado U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Laura Clellan said while visiting 140th Airmen at Checkered Flag. “It just can’t happen without every single person. They can see how they tie in truly to the mission and, ultimately, the National Defense Strategy.”

> Read the story (*right-click, copy & paste link*)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3618225/colorados-140th-wing-f-16s-integrate-with-fifth-generation-fighters-at-checkered/>







## Colorado Hosts Slovenia to celebrate 30th anniversary of partnership

By Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

**CENTENNIAL, Colo.** – Gov. Jared Polis and The Adjutant General of Colorado U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Laura Clellan will welcome His Excellency Marjan Šarec, the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Slovenia, and delegation, July 14-17, 2023, to Colorado to commemorate the 30th anniversary of a fruitful,

strategic partnership between the State of Colorado and the Republic of Slovenia.

Colorado’s enduring partnership with Slovenia commenced July 14, 1993.

“Colorado’s partnership with Slovenia has ensured the peace and security of the region, interoperability with NATO forces, and the modernization of our militaries,” Clellan said. “Slovenia is a key ally and capable partner.”

Slovenia was among the first nations to collaborate with the National Guard, laying the foundation for the strategic State Partnership Program, which now encompasses more than 100 countries worldwide.

> [Read the story \(right-click, copy & paste link\)](#)



<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3463888/colorado-hosts-slovenia-to-celebrate-30th-anniversary-of-partnership/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/conationalguard/52751582732/in/album-72177720306771262/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/conationalguard/albums/72177720306771262/with/52751586887>





## Colorado National Guard members visit local schools in helicopter for Red Ribbon Week

By Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

**CENTENNIAL, Colo.** – Colorado National Guard members will land a helicopter at Colorado schools in Alamosa, Colorado Springs, Denver, Pueblo and the surrounding areas Oct. 10-27, 2023, to deliver a message about the importance of drug-free living and making positive choices to Colorado youth around the state.

The CONG Joint Counter Drug Task Force is partnering with the Drug Enforcement Administration and law enforcement officials during Red Ribbon week. > Read the story (*right-click, copy & paste link*)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3554219/colorado-national-guard-members-visit-local-schools-in-helicopter-for-red-ribbon/>

## Colorado Army National Guard members deploy to Thailand for bilateral exercise

By Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

**CENTENNIAL, Colo.** – Ten members of the Colorado Army National Guard 104th Public Affairs Detachment will deploy in support of U.S. Army Pacific to Exercise Hanuman Guardian 2023 in July 2023. This is the first time that the Soldiers' annual training requirement is in Thailand.



Hanuman Guardian is an annual, bilateral Army-to-Army exercise hosted by the Royal Thai Army with elements from USARPAC. HG23 is the 12th iteration of the event designed to improve humanitarian assistance and disaster relief capabilities and enhance mission readiness and interoperability between the two armies while improving the quality of life in rural areas. > Read the story (*right-click, copy & paste link*)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3448704/colorado-army-national-guard-members-deploy-to-thailand-for-bilateral-exercise/>



## Universal language of medicine unites National Guard and partner forces at Rush University

By Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

**CENTENNIAL, Colo.** – In a world marked by divisions and obstacles created by language barriers and cultural differences, medicine serves as a universal language that transcends boundaries. Given the opportunity to speak the language of medicine, members of the Colorado National Guard, Ohio National Guard, Slovenian Armed Forces, Jordanian Armed Forces, United Kingdom Royal Air Force, and other U.S. military personnel came together for an International Advanced Surgical Training Course at Rush University, Chicago, in September 2023. > Read the story (*right-click, copy & paste link*)

<https://co.ng.mil/News/Archives/Article/3627229/universal-language-of-medicine-unites-national-guard-and-partner-forces-at-rush/>





**Earn \$500 for leads that turn into enlistments!**

## **JOINT ENLISTMENT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**



The overall aim of JEEP is to gain assistance in enlisting Soldiers into the Colorado Army National Guard. The JEEP program will provide a monetary incentive of \$500 to Soldiers who can provide a lead to recruiters that results in an enlistment. **This is a joint effort for tomorrow's Colorado National Guard!**

- 1 Leads will be submitted through <https://co.ng.mil/Join-Us/JEEP/>. You will agree to the terms of the JEEP Program at this time.

### **HOW IT WORKS**

- 2 The JEEP Program Manager will confirm that you are currently serving in the Colorado Guard, and are eligible to receive incentives. They will send your JEEP agreement and lead contact info to a local recruiter based on the lead's zip code.
- 3 The assigned recruiter will complete all processing and paper work necessary for the referred lead to enlist.
- 4 The enlistment contract will be sent to JFHQ to verify all contractual obligations have been met. The \$500 JEEP payment will then be sent via check to your home of record within 90 days of enlistment.



### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Contact the Recruiting and Retention Battalion for questions or additional clarification.



Submit a lead today! Scan the QR code to open <https://co.ng.mil/Join-Us/JEEP/>!

**FOLLOW US:** @CONationalGuard    /CONationalGuard 







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