



# THE MINUTEMAN

A 53rd Troop Command Quarterly Newsletter

## Message from the Commander



Soldiers and Families of the 53rd Troop Command,

The warm weather is finally here and with that, most of our units will start a very active annual training (AT) cycle. We will have Soldiers spread out across the country on AT or in some other training

or mission-support status.

First line leaders must ensure that we travel, train, and work safely. Commanders: take the time to review and re-emphasize the safety standards of range, convoy, and equipment maintenance operations before your Soldiers hit the road. Reinforce the high standards of readiness, discipline, conduct, and performance we expect of everyone. You and our Soldiers not only represent your units, but the entire NYARNG!

During this summer, take the time to engage your Soldiers about retention. We will have opportunities to bring on additional battalion career counselors. So, I highly urge you to get the word out to your formations about them and approach those Soldiers and NCOs who are best suited to those positions. Leaders, continue to know your Soldiers' career development goals. CSM and I will be out this summer visiting your formations, and we'll be having those retention conversations with them as well.

Although the summer is always busy, we came off an equally busy winter and spring with: the deployment of the 101st ESB and 501st EOD, the safe return of

the 727th MP Det., and a highly successful AT for the 53rd DLD in support of the UK 3rd Division at the XVIII ABN Corps Warfighter exercise.

As we come to the end of the month of May, we'll once again approach Memorial Day. Please keep the members of our 53rd Troop Command family that passed away in the last year - in addition to all those who we've lost in the service of our nation - in your thoughts. We can never express our gratitude enough, nor adequately repay them and their families for their sacrifices.

Thanks for all you and your families do every day for the New York Army National Guard!

For the Soldier.  
BG Natali



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# ARNG 4.0

## TOTAL READINESS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY



### What is ARNG 4.0?

Army National Guard 4.0 is an evolutionary response to an uncertain, changing operational environment. It increases readiness, over time, through organizational and cultural changes within the Army National Guard. Because readiness is the Army's top priority, ARNG 4.0 is designed to strengthen the contribution of the ARNG within the Army Total Force.

### Why is ARNG 4.0 important?

ARNG 4.0 prepares the Army National Guard to quickly and effectively meet the security challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It **maximizes** limited resources, **prioritizes** capabilities and **enhances** readiness within the Army Total Force. ARNG 4.0 simultaneously increases the Army National Guard's capabilities for homeland security and natural disaster response, as well as for Combatant Commander requirements.

### What are some of the ARNG 4.0 impacts?

- Decreased mobilization timelines
- Increased opportunity for professional development
- Balanced force structure and increased manning in high-priority units
- Top-notch training through challenging collective training exercises to prepare our Soldiers to fight, win and return home safely
- Increased individual and collective training

### Why do we need ARNG 4.0?

America's security environment is complex, chaotic and uncertain. As the largest reserve force in the Department of Defense, the Army National Guard must be prepared to fight and win our Nation's wars whenever called upon. In some cases, "one weekend a month" no longer meets the need. ARNG 4.0 changes the organizational culture and creates a new framework for the individual Guardsman.

### What does ARNG 4.0 mean?

Some priority Army National Guard units will increase their training schedules beyond the traditional one weekend per month and two weeks during the summer. Specific units will increase unit strength and conduct additional Combat Training Center rotations.

### Who will be affected by ARNG 4.0?

Units with specialized, high-demand capabilities will need more training time to build the combat readiness required of them. Because Family members, civilian employers and communities will all be affected by their Soldiers' absence, a renewed commitment is necessary from this support base in order for the ARNG to be successful meeting the Nation's security needs.



# Message from the CSM

Greetings Warriors! The 501st EOD and 101st Signal Battalion are out the door downrange in Afghanistan. They have immediately begun to make an impact to their respective missions and I look forward to conducting a command visit to see them soon. As we roll into the Annual Training (AT) season I would like to stress a few points:

## 1. Safety First!

June is National Safety month but we should treat every day and month the same in regards to putting safety at the forefront. I encourage all leaders to educate our Soldiers on conducting proper Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services (PMCS) before any vehicle is put into operation. Also we should be conducting FOR-MAL safety briefings and informing our troops on the hazards associated with the moving vehicles that weigh several tons, maintaining proper distance and staying within the published speed limits.

Remember: Train to Standard NOT Time!

## 2. Fight like you train, train like you fight!

Training is an important part of learning any new skill. However, if your training doesn't resemble the actual setting you'll need to use your skills in, it'll be harder to remember. In an age of ever-evolving technology and weaponry, the most sophisticated computer system known to man is still the human brain. In combat, there is no substitute for Soldiers who, through repeated practice, have developed the ability to react quickly and decisively to defeat the enemy. Challenge yourself and others not to just go through the motions but to make the best of each training scenario you're put into.

## 3. Use White Space time wisely!

There may be times during your AT that you will have down time, please take these opportunities to increase the probability of getting promoted. You ask, how do I do this Sergeant Major? Well for all of my Soldiers and NCO's who haven't completed their Structured Self-Development (SSD), here is a perfect time to make a dent it completing it. For those of you are going out to the range it's a perfect time to sharpen your shooting skills and shoot expert. For those of you that are in the rear and not in the field, its perfect opportunity to do PT and try to max your APFT. All of the above will separate you from your peers and put you in a position to get promoted at the next board.



CSM Corey K. Cush  
53rd Troop Command



HR Professionals and Leaders,

Every day I find myself impressed at the quality of Soldiers who are HR professionals in our organization. Unit administrators at the lowest level are working tirelessly to take care of their company's Soldiers, as well as to improve the quality of HR support at the unit level. We are seeing some of our GOCOM's best HR readiness indicators, from evaluations to Soldier deployability, and it's all thanks to your efforts! As we roll into the summer, please keep a watchful eye on your MRC4s and work to use whatever means are at your disposal to decrease this number. As always, my team and I thank you for your commitment to Soldier care and readiness. Defend and Serve!

-MAJ John Harder, 53rd Troop Command G1

## **FY 2018 53rd Troop Command HR Recognition Program**

The competition continues and we have a new league leader, in first place - for the first time - is the 501st Ordnance Battalion (EOD)! April was an amazing month for the 501st as they scored a record 224 points, lifting them from fifth place into first. The 101st Signal Battalion was knocked from its first place position for the first time, but remains in a close second place tied with the 102 Military Police Battalion. Only 5 months left until the yearly winners are revealed!

## **New Enlisted Promotion Program Guidance MNP Guidance**

Highlights:

1. If an NCO promoted under STEP has more than 36 months time-in-grade and has not completed their required PME, they are deemed "stagnant." The objective is to get them enrolled and to complete their PME. If the NCO refuses to attend PME or cannot meet the standards required for attendance, then commanders will initiate a bar to reenlistment or offer the NCO an administrative reduction.
2. In lieu of a bar to reenlistment, Soldiers may request voluntary administrative reduction to the next lower grade in which they meet the current PME requirements.
3. Effective FY19 EPP Board Cycle - modified selection procedures as outlined SGT through MSG promotion lists. Vacant positions will be offered to the first Soldier

on the list who is both available and has completed the required PME for promotion. After exhausting the lists of available and PME qualified Soldiers, vacancies will then be filled with STEP selected Soldiers.

4. Effective FY 19 EPP Board Cycle (and only through 30 September 2019), Table 7-1 in reference 1b was modified to reduce Time in Service (TIS) requirements for Soldiers being considered for SFC and MSG:

(1) The TIS for SFC changed to 8 years. (previously 9 years)

(2) The TIS for MSG changed to 12 years. (previously 13 years)

Reference: 53rd TC ITU 18-26 & MILPO Gateway

## **MNP Regional Workshops**

It's not too late to sign up for the June workshops in Latham and Syracuse!

Workshop #3: 5-7 June 18 JFHQ-NY, Latham  
S: 29 May 18

Workshop #4: 19-21 June 18 Thompson Road Armory, Syracuse  
S: 12 June 18

Soldiers with a NYARNG account can register online at <http://nyngportal/mnp/workshop> NLT the suspense above for respective workshop. Class size for each workshop is limited to 25 Soldiers. If you do not have a NYARNG account, contact your unit administrative or Battalion S-1.





The 39th Annual Combat Sustainment Training Exercise, or TAG Match, will occur from May 31st through June 3rd, 2018 at the Camp Smith Training Site in Cortlandt, NY. The 53rd Troop Command will host the event with the purpose of promoting excellence in marksmanship.

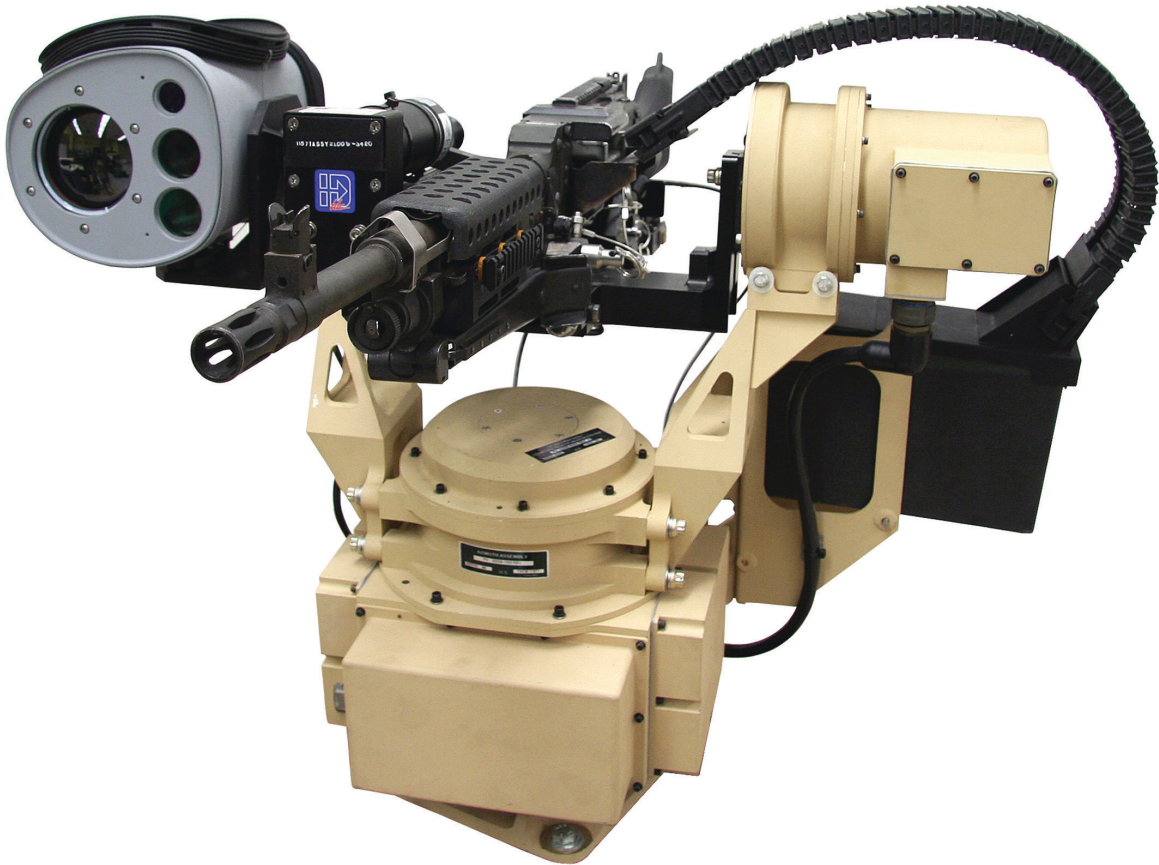
It brings service members from the Army and Air National Guard, as well as State Guard members, together to sharpen shooting skills and to promote healthy competition. Shooters will compete to win the Top Shot trophies and the bragging rights that come along with it.

The match consists of team and individual shooting events with the M9 pistol and M4 carbine. The requirement is that one competitor out of each four-person team is classified as a novice or new to the TAG Match. The event is unique, since service members can choose to participate in either the individual pistol or rifle events, as well as to participate in the team events. The TAG Match is supported by the 53rd Troop Command, with a majority of the support coming from the 369th Support Brigade. The support staff enable shooters to focus on marksmanship, by taking the normal administrative tasks of operating a range away from the shooters.

This event is an important reminder that marksmanship is a foundation to being a service member, being

ready to fight, and maintaining a mission-first mentality. With emerging threats to the U.S. and the roll out of ARNG 4.0, sharpening marksmanship skills is as important now as it has ever been. Service members must be ready to quickly and effectively meet the security challenges of the 21st century. National Guard Service Members, much like our 'Minuteman' brethren from the American Revolution, must be ready when the nation calls. The TAG Match is an important reminder that excellence in Marksmanship is directly related to being ready to fight at a moment's notice when the nation calls.





CROWS (Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station) are coming! Select military police and engineer units within the 53rd Troop Command will be receiving CROWS systems. This will be conducted as a phased event spanning from July through September 2018.

An M153 CROWS is an externally mounted weapons control system that allows the gunner to remain inside the vehicle, protected by armor, while firing various crew served weapons. MK19, M2, M240, M249 weapon systems can be mounted. It has a Four-Axis Targeting System with color day camera, thermal camera, laser range finder, auto scan, auto lead, auto focus, and auto tracker. It provides the operator with the ability to acquire and engage targets day and night, while stationary or on the move.

The Central Issue Facility has begun issuing some of the new pattern Operational Camouflage Pattern (OCP) OCIE, and will begin to issue even more within the next 90 days. This update to Soldier's issued clothing and equipment will be a phased process throughout the state. Funding has been allotted to

units throughout the 53rd TC to outfit their Soldiers with OCP uniforms; please see your supply sergeant to schedule your issue.

As we exchange large numbers of OCIE, mitigation of property loss is a focal point at the G4. Soldiers need to ensure that they are securing their OCIE properly and comply with unit OCIE storage policies. A FLIPL (Financial Liability Investigation of Property Loss) will always be conducted when OCIE or government property is lost. Remember, if you signed for it, you are financially responsible for safeguarding it.

Our last civil support mission, Operation Debris Clearance, was a great success thanks to the dedication, flexibility, and professionalism of our Soldiers. We are currently working on restocking our supplies and maintaining the level of preparedness required to support our Soldiers and communities in future operations.

## SJA Corner

*Commonly known as “JAGs,” judge advocates represent the command in various administrative, investigative, and punitive settings where Soldiers are named respondents. While they advise and assist commanders with preserving military morale, good order, and discipline, judge advocates also provide legal assistance to individual Soldiers.*

The purpose of the Servicemembers’ Civil Relief Act (“SCRA”) is to strengthen and expedite national defense by giving certain protections to Servicemembers who are on active duty or are within 90 days after release from active duty, thereby allowing them to focus on the mission.

Among other things, the SCRA restricts default judgments against activated Soldiers. “Default judgment” is a legal term for court orders that are entered against a party who doesn’t show up for the hearing. This author has encountered a number of Soldiers who mistakenly believe that they don’t have to do anything when they get sued during their activation or deployments.

Upon receipt of notice of the action or proceeding, the Soldier must do the following:

- (1) Send “a letter or other communication” to the court explaining how the Soldier’s military duty requirements materially affect the ability to appear, and stating when the he or she will be available to appear; and
- (2) Include a letter from his or her commander stating that the Soldier’s current duty prevents appearance and that military leave is not authorized.

Accordingly, the Soldier may or may not benefit from the SCRA protection against civil action depending on the nature and location of the mission, and his or her specific military duty.

If you are aware of a legal action filed against you or a hearing scheduled, you should make an appointment with a military legal assistance attorney or your private attorney, if any, right away. Do not disregard legal or court papers just because you may be covered by the SCRA.



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53rd Troop Command  
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# Soldier Spotlight

**SGT Nick Austin**



“Every year I went for the trophy, said Austin. This was my first time actually winning it!”

SPC Nick Austin, a small arms artillery repairer with the 145th Maintenance Company, earned first place in the Sgt. Henry Johnson Individual Combat Rifle Match portion of the 39th Annual Adjutant General’s Marksmanship Competition or TAG Match at Camp Smith 31 May - 3 June.

“I never won this before. I came close last year, but never reached first place, so I feel great!” Austin said.

The TAG Match is an annual event conducted by the New York Army Guard to promote excellence in marksmanship training while offering Soldiers, Airmen and NY Guard members the opportunity to test their skills on weapon systems in a battle-focused environment.

Austin, who works for Camp Smith’s Shop A and has competed in the TAG Match three times, won the Novice Rifle Award his first year competing and reached second place last year in the individual rifle competition.

While Austin’s been a top-end finisher for the past three years, that’s not the only reason he decides to compete year after year. He does it for the opportunity to train and continue to better himself.

“It was a great opportunity,” Austin said. “I’m glad to take part in this training and be a part of this event.”

Austin’s supervisor at work and in his unit, SSG Joshua Vallo, can attest to his work ethic.

“At work he’s viewed as a subject matter expert in what he does,” said Vallo. “The unit is always sending him for additional training and he takes it upon himself to go the extra mile.”

For more information and images from this year’s TAG Match: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nyng/albums/72157695804831121>





# Unit Spotlight

## 145th Maintenance Company



New York Army National Guard Soldiers from Staten Island's 145th Maintenance Company will be heading to one of the Army's premier training centers in May, July and August.

Thirty-nine Soldiers will train at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana from April 27 to May 26. Another 39 Soldiers will train there from July 19 to August 20.

The company, which specializes in general maintenance support has a strength of 160.

The Joint Readiness Training Center, known as JRTC, allows Army light infantry brigades to conduct large-scale force-on-force training in a realistic environment.

Soldiers are equipped with laser engagement systems and monitors and fight against an opposing force. Their actions are evaluated so they can learn what worked and what did not work.

The training area also includes villages inhabited by role-players and farm animals to replicate the real-world environment.

The Soldiers will conduct combat support operations in the realistic simulated combat environment of the Joint Readiness Training Center. This means that along with repairing vehicles and equipment, the New York National Guard Soldiers will also have to fight off simulated attacks from the opposing force.

The first contingent of troops will be supporting the Alabama Army National Guard's 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion which is based in Eufaula, Alabama.

The troops deploying to Fort Polk in July will be supporting the 751st Combat Support Sustainment Battalion of the South Carolina Army National Guard. The battalion is based in Newberry, South Carolina.

The 145th Maintenance Company will also conduct their regular two-week annual training period at Camp Smith Training Site near Peekskill for Soldiers who will not deploy for the training at Fort Polk.

# Promotions



## PV2

AMBROSECCHIA MICHAEL SALVAT  
BAILEY ROMELL ANTHONY  
BARRY IBRAHIMA  
BISELL KASSANDRA DAWN  
CHODON TENZIN  
COLLIER ASIYAH DENISE  
EDWARDS CHRISTOPHER J  
FIORE LYNDSEY RAE  
FRANCO STEVEN FRANKLIN  
GONZALEZ ISABEL AURORA  
HARRIS SAMUEL JEANDAVID  
HARRIS JELANI TAHIR  
HUEHN DANIEL BRIAN  
KENROY KAVAR C  
LEE DAVID Y  
LEVEROCK THOMAS KEENEN  
MACRABIEGROAT PHOENIX DARE  
MANN MICHAEL JR  
MINIEL ANDREW  
OSMOND DESHAWN  
PALOMO JONATHAN J  
RECOR JERIMIAH KROSS  
RIVERA CARLOS JAVIER  
VELEZPAUL VALENTIN

JOSEPH ROBERT  
KAMANU RYAN NDICHU  
LEE JOOYOUNG JAMES  
LOGAN RYAN DUKE  
MCFADDEN JAMAL SAQUIRAHEEM  
MCGILL DEVIN PATRICK  
MILLER OSHANE JUNIOR  
MOHAMED BRANDON NATHANIEL  
MORELAND CALVIN KASHIEF  
MYERS ANTHONY AKEN  
PIERRE DJEFF  
PODGAYETSKIY GLEB  
RIVERA ASHLEY JULIETTE  
SAEZ MIGUEL ANGEL  
SMITH CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL  
SWITZER WOLFGANG ARTHUR  
TACURIGUZMAN JACKELINE MIRE  
TIPAN JONATHAN P  
TORRES MATEO ARECIBO  
TURTON STEPHEN E  
VONG MICHAEL HOANG  
WALKER JANESSA  
WILLET ROBERT JR  
WOODS GABRIEL DOUGLAS  
YNOA ORLANDO ARIEL  
ZHAO MAGGIE



## PFC

ABDOULAZIZ SOULEY  
BALBUENA KRISTAL LORRAINE  
BALDWIN KCIE ALIC  
BIRMINGHAM CHRISTOPHER LEE  
BLACKMAN VICKIE KIM  
BONNER DANIEL MARK  
BROWN DANIEL LEE  
BRUNDIGE BREANNA JOY  
CENTENO ORLANDO ANTHONY  
COBA JOSE ALEJANDRO  
CONKLIN GERAID MICHAEL  
CUI YUQING  
DAVIS SHEYMEL CHRISTOPHER  
DIDOMENICO NICHOLAS DAVID  
DZEBLE EMMANUEL  
GONZALEZ GABRIEL OMAR  
HUDA MOHAMMED MIRAZUL



## SPC

AHUMADA HAYLEY  
ALVAREZFERNANDEZ MIGUEL A  
BARKSDALE ERICK AMOKWEI  
CASTRO LUIS FERNANDO  
CHERON EMMANUEL  
DUARTE JOSE ALEXIS  
ESCALERA JUSTIN LUIS  
FONSECA LEONARDO J  
HEUBACH JOSHUA SCOTT  
IRONS JASON ADRIAN  
JOE SAHR RICHARD  
KUKAJ RRAP  
LEONCE KWAYNE CHRISTUS  
MACKAY ANDREA VICTORIA  
MARTEY EVANS TEKPER  
MILLARD BRYANNA LYNN  
MITCHELLOXLEY DINICIO THADE

# Promotions

MOREL PETER  
 PLANTHOLT JAMESRICHARD  
 RODRIGUEZTORRES NEFFTY HIRA  
 RUBERA TYLER DEAN  
 SORIA CRISTINA YASMINE  
 SWEET MATTHEW ALAN  
 VENEZIANO LUIS ALEXANDER  
 WALTON DAEMON W  
 YANDA BRANDON M  
 YE MICHAEL



AQUINO ESTENIA ALTAGRACIA  
 BLAKE BRANDON MICHAEL  
 CHIQUIPAUCAR MARCIA V  
 CONSTANTINE ROSHAWN REGINAL  
 CORNELIUS KYLE  
 DE PIJUSH K  
 EDWARDS CONNOR CRAIG  
 FOMINA SVETLANA DMITRIYEVNA  
 FORDE JULIUS  
 GOLSON ANDREW DAVID  
 GUEST ERIC MATTHEW  
 HAUDRICOURT DARREN MAURICE  
 HAYES EVA SHANNELL  
 ITURBIDES ERIC  
 JENKINS NICHOLAS KEITH  
 JOHNSON ZACHARIAS ROBERT  
 MARIN LUKE RANIER  
 MARSHALLTHOMPSON TRICIA RAC  
 MCGOLDRICK CHRISTOPHER PATR  
 NELSON DAKOTA AVERY  
 PETERSON HANNAH MEYRICK  
 RAMDHAN DILLON DEENASH  
 REID OKIEF JUNIOR  
 SKELLY PETERADAM  
 SMITH DILLON RYAN  
 SOTO BREANNA CONSUELO  
 WALTON RODNEY SEBASTION  
 WILLIAMS ROBERT JR  
 YOUNG NICHOLAS ALEXANDER



NADEAU MICHAEL ALAN  
 PERRYJOSHUA WARREN  
 TORRES ADRIAN DIEGO  
 WHITAKER GENE E



BROCKMAN SHENEKA MONTRICE  
 JALIM RYAN  
 ROMANO JUAN CARLOS  
 WHEELER AMANDA LYN



ONEILPATRICK ARTHUR  
 VILLACRES ALFONSO



BRINTON AMANDA LYNN  
 FRICANO MARKJAMES  
 OGUNKOYA SEUN AWOKOYA  
 SIERRA ROLANDO ALEXIS



CARPENTIERI MICHAEL ALFRED  
 RASCHKE STEPHEN PAUL



SCHAFFER MATTHEW AMODEO

*\*For this issue of The Minuteman, 29 Mar. - 14 May promotion information was used.*

## 53rd TC

**Quarterly Newsletter**  
**Commanding General**

Brig. Gen. Michel Natali

**Command Sergeant Major**

Command Sgt. Maj. Corey Cush

**Public Affairs Officer**

Capt. Phyonne Reynolds

**Layout and Design**

Staff Sgt. Michael J Davis

138th PAD

Do you know a Soldier or unit that you would like to nominate for the next issue's Soldier Spotlight or Unit Spotlight? If so, please email:

[michael.j.davis445.mil@mail.mil](mailto:michael.j.davis445.mil@mail.mil)

Thank you!