

**NGAUS News Digest**  
**October 25, 2022**

**367 mentions of National Guard in news outlets across the country.**

*Note: Attached, you'll find Defense Morning Clips, news stories compiled by DoD.*

**1. AUSA - Paper Warns National Guard Could be 'Overworked'**

As it has done for more than 380 years, the Army National Guard will meet the mission, but the author of a new paper cautions that citizen-soldiers could be "overworked" if the component is made to mirror the Regular Army.

Examining National Guard 4.0, a program launched in 2017, author Maj. Roye Locklear Jr. lays out the evolution of the Guard's organizational framework since 1636 and the modern-day challenges faced by the Army's second-largest component.

***Currently, the author serves on the NGAUS Awards Committee. Previously, he was a member of the NGAUS Company Grade Committee.***

<https://www.ausa.org/news/paper-warns-national-guard-could-be-overworked>

FULL STORY BELOW

**2. CBS Pittsburgh - Pa. National Guard member from New Castle dies in military training accident**

A Pennsylvania National Guard member from New Castle died over the weekend in a training accident, military officials said.

Spc. Mackenzie Shay, 20, died Saturday, Oct. 22, in a crash involving two military vehicles, the National Guard said.

Three other service members were injured in the crash, the military said. They were all treated and released from Hershey Medical Center.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/pennsylvania-national-guard-member-new-castle-dies-military-training-accident/>

FULL STORY BELOW

**3. Washington Examiner - Troops from 25 states across the country sent to border at Biden's request**

Military troops from 25 states and U.S. territories across the nation have deployed to the southern border at the request of the Biden administration.

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To date, states sending troops include Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Texas, as well as the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico, according to U.S. Northern Command.

Aviators from North Dakota, Michigan, Washington, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Montana, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have sent in pilots and aircraft.

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/defense-national-security/25-states-send-troops-border-bidens-request>

FULL STORY BELOW

#### **4. KSAT/Texas Tribune - What is the Texas National Guard and why does it matter in this year's gubernatorial election?**

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has defined his 2022 reelection campaign largely on his defense of the southern U.S.-Mexico border. In doing so, he has called up 10,000 members of the Texas National Guard — mostly volunteers who have left their civilian lives behind to fulfill their duty.

<https://www.ksat.com/news/texas/2022/10/21/what-is-the-texas-national-guard-and-why-does-it-matter-in-this-years-gubernatorial-election/>

FULL STORY BELOW

#### **5. WTVC (Chattanooga) - 100+ people, TN National Guard fighting large fire in Warren County woods; Man arrested**

Several fire departments from across Tennessee are working to battle a large blaze in Warren County.

<https://newschannel9.com/news/local/more-than-100-people-tennessee-national-guard-fighting-large-fire-in-warren-county-woods>

FULL STORY BELOW

#### **6. WRDW (Augusta, Ga.) - Alleged victim speaks out about fights at the Youth Challenge Academy**

After fights forced officials at the Youth Challenge Academy at Fort Gordon to cancel class, we're learning more about what happened from a cadet in the program.

<https://www.wrdw.com/2022/10/24/alleged-victim-speaks-out-about-fights-youth-challenge-academy/>

FULL STORY BELOW

#### **7. Cleveland.com - Former Ohio National Guard member pleads guilty to making, selling 'ghost' guns**

A man who was once a member of the Ohio National Guard and also is accused of making antisemitic threats has pleaded guilty to charges that he made and sold "ghost guns," and also sold parts that would illegally convert firearms into automatic weapons.

Thomas Develin, 25, could be sentenced to more than 15 years in prison for making untraceable guns and parts, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio.

<https://www.cleveland.com/court-justice/2022/10/former-ohio-national-guard-member-pleads-guilty-to-making-selling-ghost-guns.html>

FULL STORY BELOW

#### **8. Defense One - Sergeant Makes One Counter-Drone Trainer to Rule Them All**

Having too many different counter-drone systems is making training unnecessarily difficult. An Army National Guardsman from CENTCOM has developed a solution.

<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2022/10/sergeant-makes-one-counter-drone-trainer-rule-them-all/378734/>

FULL STORY BELOW

### **9. Task & Purpose - We salute this F-15 fighter jet for rocking the most 'Murica paint job ever**

Fans of fighter jets and freedom will love a new F-15C paint scheme unveiled by the California Air National Guard's 144th Fighter Wing, which on Saturday posted photos of an aircraft bedazzled in the stars and stripes.

[https://taskandpurpose.com/culture/air-force-f-15-paint-job-stars-stripes/?utm\\_campaign=dfn-ebb&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=sailthru&SToverlay=2002c2d9-c344-4bbb-8610-e5794efcfa7d](https://taskandpurpose.com/culture/air-force-f-15-paint-job-stars-stripes/?utm_campaign=dfn-ebb&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sailthru&SToverlay=2002c2d9-c344-4bbb-8610-e5794efcfa7d)

FULL STORY BELOW

### **10. Fox 61 (Hartford) - Soldier Homecoming | Connecticut National Guardsman surprises son at school after year-long deployment**

A local elementary school student got a massive surprise Monday afternoon during a school assembly when his dad returned from a year-long deployment overseas.

<https://www.fox61.com/article/news/community/connecticut-national-guardsman-surprises-son-school-after-year-long-deployment/520-4761df12-f06b-4548-8827-208f01089c23>

FULL STORY BELOW

### **11. Aerotech News - California National Guard's 1-185th Infantry Regiment return home**

Soldiers from the California National Guard's San Bernadino-based 1-185th Infantry Regiment arrived home at Los Angeles International Airport, Oct. 15, 2022, after a one-year deployment to Poland.

<https://www.aerotechnews.com/blog/2022/10/21/california-national-guards-1-185th-infantry-regiment-return-home/>

FULL STORY BELOW

### **12. KELO (Sioux Falls, S.D.) – SD National Guard breaks ground for a new training facility**

Governor Kristi Noem, Senator John Thune and Representative Dusty Johnson were all in Sioux Falls Friday for the groundbreaking of a new South Dakota National Guard facility.

<https://www.keloland.com/news/local-news/sd-national-guard-breaks-ground-for-a-new-training-facility/>

FULL STORY BELOW

### **13. WMTV (Madison, Wis.) - LIST: Most needed items for NBC15 Share Your Holidays National Guard Food Drive**

The NBC15 Share Your Holidays Campaign is right around the corner and you can help fight hunger in South Central Wisconsin.

This year's campaign will kick off on Wednesday when Two Men & a Truck will deliver over 300 food barrels to area businesses and organizations.

<https://www.nbc15.com/2022/10/24/list-most-needed-items-nbc15-share-your-holidays-national-guard-food-drive/>

FULL STORY BELOW

### **1. AUSA - Paper Warns National Guard Could be 'Overworked'**

As it has done for more than 380 years, the Army National Guard will meet the mission, but the author of a new paper cautions that citizen-soldiers could be "overworked" if the component is made to mirror the Regular Army.

Examining National Guard 4.0, a program launched in 2017, author Maj. Roye Locklear Jr. lays out the evolution of the Guard's organizational framework since 1636 and the modern-day challenges faced by the Army's second-largest component.

At the program's launch, retired Lt. Gen. Timothy Kadavy, then-director of the Army National Guard, explained that National Guard 4.0 is an evolutionary leap from the days of the Vietnam War and operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, to a coming era in which the U.S. expects to be in persistent conflict overseas. The expectation, Kadavy said, would require some Guard units to be ready and able to deploy in as few as 30 days.

In his paper, "Army National Guard 4.0: A Transformation," published by the Association of the U.S. Army as part of its Land Warfare series, Locklear notes the importance of the Guard's adaptability and flexibility over time to be "ever present and ready to respond to the needs of the state and the nation."

The foundational principle of Guard 4.0 is the availability of National Guard units on a predictable and rotational basis. Readiness both in personnel and training proficiency is key to the success of the Army National Guard's transformation, Locklear writes.

The transformation, however, "will come with its own challenges" due to a variety of social implications for the Guard's citizen-soldiers and "maintaining parity, where required, with the Regular Army," he writes.

"These two areas pose the biggest risk to successful implementation because of their inherent importance to success and the level of uncertainty posed by changing social dynamics and government policy," writes Locklear, an Active Guard Reserve soldier with the Florida Army National Guard. He is executive officer with the 927th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

While the momentum is positive, he writes, "the collective leadership across the Army National Guard must remember that Guard forces are not the Regular Army and that Soldiers who serve in the Guard serve for distinct and different reasons from their active-duty counterparts."

Pointing out that Guard service is not diminished by its difference to service in the Regular Army, Locklear writes that Guard soldiers' service is motivated by different expectations and desires. He reminds leadership to "never forget that this choice is a critical aspect to why Soldiers serve."

"Making the Army National Guard mirror the Regular Army in more ways gives recruits fewer reasons to choose the Army National Guard over the Regular Army," Locklear writes. More demands on Guard soldiers could curtail their reasons for joining, such as the ability to serve while attending college, holding jobs and working as productive members of their communities.

His paper identifies the periods of inflection in which the National Guard transformed, improved and strengthened its organizations, pointing out that National Guard 4.0 can have the same effect.

However, he writes, there is a concern that, in the transformation, "the Guard may be overworked."

Read the full paper at <https://www.ausa.org/publications/army-national-guard-40-transformation>.

## **2. CBS Pittsburgh - Pa. National Guard member from New Castle dies in military training accident**

A Pennsylvania National Guard member from New Castle died over the weekend in a training accident, military officials said.

Spc. Mackenzie Shay, 20, died Saturday, Oct. 22, in a crash involving two military vehicles, the National Guard said.

Three other service members were injured in the crash, the military said. They were all treated and released from Hershey Medical Center.

Army Maj. Gen. Mark J. Schindler, of the Pennsylvania National Guard, said in a statement, "Our thoughts and prayers are with Specialist Mackenzie Shay's family, friends and colleagues after this tragic accident. Our priority right now is taking care of the family and soldiers, ensuring they have all the resources they need during this critical time."

Spc. Shay was assigned to the 28th Infantry Division's Company G, 128th Brigade Support Battalion.

Gov. Tom Wolf has ordered all U.S. and state flags, including at the state Capitol, to fly at half-staff in honor of Spc. Shay.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

## **3. Washington Examiner - Troops from 25 states across the country sent to border at Biden's request**

Military troops from 25 states and U.S. territories across the nation have deployed to the southern border at the request of the Biden administration.

The Biden administration has chosen to keep several thousand soldiers on the U.S.-Mexico border amid the worst illegal immigration crisis in national history.

The decision by Washington to continue troop deployments, even at lower levels than during the Trump administration, indicates the White House is aware of the crisis at hand. Still, a show of force at the border with 2,500 troops is unlikely to satisfy Republicans who believe President Joe Biden is himself the cause of the surge.

Troops deployed over the past several weeks will remain in the four southern border states for 400 days, returning home around Thanksgiving next year. On the border, they will see firsthand what federal agents have experienced — more illegal immigrants arrested in Biden’s first 20 months in office than in former President Barack Obama’s entire two terms.

This deployment is one of 17 by the Defense Department in the past 21 years, under four separate administrations, U.S. Northern Command spokesman Lt. Commander Bill Lewis wrote in an email to the Washington Examiner.

In July this year, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin approved a request from DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas asking for troops to help CBP starting Oct. 1 through September 2023. National Guard soldiers from Republican-led and Democratic-led states are among the troops headed south.

As with prior deployments, the Pentagon has asked its U.S. Northern Command, a combatant command in North America, to oversee the operation.

“The Department of Defense’s mission-enhancing support enables Customs and Border Protection to address security challenges and conduct their law enforcement mission more efficiently along the southern border,” said Lewis.

To date, states sending troops include Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Texas, as well as the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico, according to U.S. Northern Command.

Aviators from North Dakota, Michigan, Washington, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Montana, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have sent in pilots and aircraft.

“New Hampshire is grateful for the heroic men and women of our National Guard,” Gov. Chris Sununu (R-NH) said ahead of the troops’ departure. “They answered the call to serve during the COVID pandemic and are now answering our nation’s call — deploying to the ongoing humanitarian crisis along our southern border.”

Troops are deployed to California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. They will provide infrastructure and operational and aviation support to CBP, allowing Border Patrol agents to get back into the field.

They will also monitor and operate the Border Patrol vehicles that serve as mobile surveillance command posts. Soldiers use cameras and infrared radars to look for suspicious activity near the border day and night.

The Posse Comitatus Act of 1878 prevents U.S. active-duty military from enforcing domestic laws unless explicitly authorized by the U.S. Congress. The National Guard soldiers are exempt from that law, but because they are deployed under Title 10 active-duty orders, they are barred from enforcing any federal laws.

When troops detect movement in the distance, they are to call in federal law enforcement to investigate.

In addition to the national request for support, Gov. Greg Abbott (R-TX) has dispatched the state’s Guardsmen, which Lewis noted operate at the governor’s orders, not U.S. Northern Command’s.

In late 2018, the Trump administration announced plans to send 5,200 troops to the border on top of the existing 2,100 ahead of the arrival of migrant caravans traveling from Central America.

Democratic governors in California and New Mexico started cutting back troops sent to the border in March 2019 because they disagreed with President Donald Trump's assertion in February that the border was a national emergency.

Troops from several Republican-governed states returned to the border in mid-2021 at Abbott's request but returned home later in the year due to financial and logistical constraints.

The administrations of President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama both ordered the National Guard to the southern border to improve border security.

#### **4. KSAT/Texas Tribune - What is the Texas National Guard and why does it matter in this year's gubernatorial election?**

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has defined his 2022 reelection campaign largely on his defense of the southern U.S.-Mexico border. In doing so, he has called up 10,000 members of the Texas National Guard — mostly volunteers who have left their civilian lives behind to fulfill their duty.

Abbott, as the state's top executive, serves as commander-in-chief of the state's militia. The term "militia" may hark back to the days of the country's revolution, but in our modern world, these troops serve a vital state function. A governor's military powers are often not discussed as part of the election process, in favor of other prominent issues like education, health care, or taxes. With Abbott's controversial border mission, Operation Lone Star, in plain view, voters may have more questions about what military role the governor has and how the national guard — a uniquely American institution — works. Here's a guide to the state's military role.

Each state and U.S. territory has a national guard, which serves a dual state-federal mission. There are more than 427,000 guards members across all units. Texas alone has about 23,000 members.

Governors typically deploy the guard to help with natural disaster recovery, law enforcement and, more recently, election security, including staffing polling places.

When activated for federal missions, the guard acts as reserve forces under their respective branches, Army and Air Force.

The Army National Guard deployed tens of thousands of troops in support of federal missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Much of their structure essentially mirrors that of regular active-duty army and were used as rotational forces.

The Air National Guard provides roughly half of the U.S. Air Force's aeromedical evacuations, aerial refueling, combat communications and tactical airlift support. The Air National Guard has total responsibility for national air defense, essentially protecting the U.S. from airborne attacks or threats.

What is the Texas National Guard?

The national guard dates back to 1636, predating the Continental Army before the founding of the United States. The Texas National Guard, as it is now, was officially approved in 1941 but traces its roots back to 1838.

Today, the guard is part of the Texas Military Department. The governor appoints the commanding officer, known as the adjutant general, who must be confirmed by the state Senate. In March, Abbott appointed Maj. Gen. Thomas M. Suelzer, replacing Maj. Gen. Tracy R. Norris.

The department has three separate military forces: the Texas Army National Guard, the Texas Air National Guard and the Texas State Guard.

The national guard is a dual state and federal force. The guard, like the regular Army, is made up of all volunteers. However, most active-duty soldiers are employed by the federal government full time, while members of the guard work other jobs and are required to train a minimum of one weekend a month and two weeks a year.

Jobs and duty positions within the guard are as diverse as they are in the regular military. From administrative, legal and medical work to aircraft maintenance, combat arms and systems training, members of the guard reach many corners of expertise. The training can consist of military occupational speciality refreshers to military drills and other activities, depending on each individual unit's mission.

Before Operation Lone Star, many Texans may have encountered the national guard at food giveaways during the pandemic, offering medical support for vaccines or even providing additional support during the deadly winter freeze in 2021.

The national guards are under the command of not only the state governor, but also the president of the United States as needed for missions outside the scope of Texas — for example, units of the Texas guard were deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan for Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

After the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, 25,000 national guard troops were ordered to provide security in Washington, D.C., for a peaceful transition of power of the presidential office. Of those troops, 1,200 were from Texas, and Abbott called them home after complaints that rest facilities were inadequate.

The state guard comprises the state-specific militia. Unlike the national guard, the state guard answers only to the Texas governor and the structure within the state military department. They provide support solely within the state of Texas and assist with emergency response, disaster relief, civil disorder and other state missions.

The state guard is relatively small compared to its national guard counterparts. About 2,200 personnel make up four battalions, roughly the size of a single, small active-duty brigade.

How has Gov. Greg Abbott used the guard?

Abbott has used the guard in many traditional capacities, including natural disaster relief in the aftermath of both Hurricane Harvey and Winter Storm Uri. He also activated the guard to assist local law enforcement during statewide protests after George Floyd's murder.

However, Abbott's use of the guard for Operation Lone Star stands apart for its depth and breadth. Abbott declared a state of disaster at the border to activate 10,000 troops — about half the entire guard's members.

Putting aside the number of troops, what makes Abbott's deployment extraordinary is its ongoing status. In modern history, guards are typically deployed in short bursts. State active-duty status, for missions specific to the state, usually runs 15-60 days, according to averages provided by the National Guard.

Federal deployments, however, are usually a minimum of 12 months. The national guard troops ordered to cover the Operation Lone Star mission on state mission orders were deployed for 12 months with 72 hours' notice.

How would Beto O'Rourke use the guard if elected?

It's not clear how Beto O'Rourke would use the guard outside its traditional scope, such as natural disaster relief. His campaign has provided few concrete details.

However, O'Rourke answered a Texas Tribune reporter's question after a campaign event in Austin, saying he would use the state's military "sparingly, and only when it's a necessity."

For the past year, O'Rourke has consistently and on multiple occasions condemned Abbott's use of troops in border security as a political stunt, stating that "this spending \$4 billion over the last two years to solve not a single thing — other than perhaps advanced the political career of Greg Abbott — deeply dishonors the service of those who wear the uniform."

O'Rourke said he would address border security differently, coordinating more with the department of public safety, state police and some voluntary selective deployment of the national and state guard.

#### **5. WTVC (Chattanooga) - 100+ people, TN National Guard fighting large fire in Warren County woods; Man arrested**

Several fire departments from across Tennessee are working to battle a large blaze in Warren County.

The Dunlap Fire Department is among those helping battle the blaze on Highway 8, which is just across the Sequatchie County line.

The Warren County sheriff posted an update Monday night on Facebook saying the fire is contained in the gulf located behind Isha, but it is not under control.

Isha is a non-profit, spiritual organization.

He says the firefighter's priority Monday night was structure protection.

On Tuesday, the sheriff says the Tennessee National Guard and two Blackhawk helicopters will respond to assist with fire control.

The post says County Mayor Terry Bell will be requesting a State of Emergency for the purpose of obtaining the much needed resources to assist in this situation.

Sheriff Matheny says that if the fire shifts and homes are in danger, every method of notification available will be used, including door to door notification if necessary.

The Warren County Sherriff's Office says a man is facing charges in connection to the fire.

Warren County Deputies were dispatched to 951 Isha Lane in response to an individual that had been banned from the premises of Isha and had set up camp with a fire on their property.

They say Robert Vincent Halter has been arrested and taken into custody charged with Reckless Burning and Criminal Trespassing.

#### **6. WRDW (Augusta, Ga.) - Alleged victim speaks out about fights at the Youth Challenge Academy**

After fights forced officials at the Youth Challenge Academy at Fort Gordon to cancel class, we're learning more about what happened from a cadet in the program.

On Monday, we got an update from the Georgia National Guard on what they call "escalating incidents" last week.

They're investigating the most recent fights from two weeks ago that led to one cadet being sent for a "medical check".

We're hearing from another cadet who was in the program and says he was stabbed during the fighting.

"All of it, it still...it still rings in my head about the fact that somebody had tried to kill me," he said.

This cadet, whose family asked to remain anonymous for safety reasons, says the Youth Challenge Academy had been a tense experience from the start.

He says by day three, he heard on barrack radios instructors called 'cadres' found weapons. And by day four, he says he was in the middle of a giant fight and got stabbed.

"I had to defend myself against two people, and as I was defending myself, I was watching one of the cadres. He was just standing there, recording and laughing. Instead of trying to help," said the cadet.

With the adrenaline of the situation, he didn't realize he had been stabbed until after the fight. He says he was bleeding profusely from his arm but was not treated until much later.

"That same night, right after that huge fight, alpha came back into our barracks again. They came in, and we had another fight, and during this time, somebody had tried to shank me again," he said.

The parent said: "My son was begging to come home."

The family is now getting X-rays for his injuries, and Fort Gordon is leaving the weight of security on the Georgia National Guard.

The guard tells us they are investigating and said "we are committed to running the program safely or not at all."

For the time, it looks like they're still moving forward to bring in a new class very soon.

#### **7. Cleveland.com - Former Ohio National Guard member pleads guilty to making, selling 'ghost' guns**

A man who was once a member of the Ohio National Guard and also is accused of making antisemitic threats has pleaded guilty to charges that he made and sold "ghost guns," and also sold parts that would illegally convert firearms into automatic weapons.

Thomas Develin, 25, could be sentenced to more than 15 years in prison for making untraceable guns and parts, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio.

As part of his plea deal, Develin admitted he sold ghost guns, which are homemade weapons with no serial numbers and often are sold without a background check. He also created parts to convert semiautomatic pistols and AR-15 rifles into fully automatic weapons, prosecutors say.

Develin used a 3D printer to make most of the guns and parts, prosecutors say, and advertised them for sale online. He admitted in his plea deal that he knew the weapons were illegal.

When Develin was arrested on March 31, 2022, prosecutors say federal agents found in his vehicle night-vision goggles, ballistic plates, a ballistic helmet, first aid equipment, and a large amounts of ammunition, including several loaded magazines.

More than 25 firearms were found in his home and vehicle, prosecutors say. Two manuals on improvised explosive devices also were found.

Develin admitted he was aware authorities might search his residence, so he hid and burned parts of illegal firearms on the property of a person he knew, prosecutors say. Develin also reportedly sent texts to another person in which he wrote about hiding and destroying evidence.

Meanwhile, Develin has been charged in Franklin County Court of Common Pleas with various crimes, including making terroristic threats.

Prosecutors also say Develin made anti-Semitic and violent statements while he was employed to provide security services at synagogues and Jewish schools in the Columbus area. Officials say Develin also made several anti-Semitic, white nationalist, racist and misogynistic comments on social media while using the fictional name "Patrick Bateman."

He is accused of writing posts online in which he discussed committing terrorist attacks at John Glenn International Airport and at the Budweiser manufacturing facility in Columbus, and killing a Morgan County Sheriff's deputy and the deputy's entire family, prosecutors say.

## **8. Defense One - Sergeant Makes One Counter-Drone Trainer to Rule Them All**

U.S. troops serving in places that are vulnerable to drone attack have many different counter-drone systems to choose from. But that's a curse as well as a blessing, as it forces operators to stay up to date on a menagerie of different systems. But Army National Guard Sgt. Mickey Reeve, one of the winners of CENTCOM's recent Innovation Oasis competition, developed a solution: a virtual trainer that allows operators to develop their skills across multiple systems at once.

Reeve, with the 1-182nd Infantry Regiment serving at Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia, said there are so many different types of counter-drone systems, it can be hard for operators to stay up to date on all of them.

"Right now, what counter-[unmanned aerial system, or UAS] looks like at most locations is multiple proprietary independent counter-UAS systems," he told Defense One, explaining that proprietary systems can't talk to each other. That makes it very difficult to train on all the systems at once, which causes other problems for commanders trying to plan base security. "If we aren't able to have all the

systems running concurrently and running the same training scenario across all systems, then it becomes hard to create that training for teams and training for leaders,” he said.

Reeve developed a software tool that allows operators “to train concurrently across all of our systems, at the same time.”

The software isn’t intended for relatively easy-to-use handheld systems, but the much larger drones that use multiple sensors and electronic means to jam or interfere with drones.

Adversary drones have become a major concern around the world, particularly in Ukraine. The drones Russia is using to target infrastructure in Ukraine are from Iran, the State Department confirmed Thursday.

“The United States began warning in July that Iran was planning to transfer UAVs to Russia for use in Russia’s brutal war against Ukraine, and we now have abundant evidence that these UAVs are being used to strike Ukrainian civilians and critical civilian infrastructure,” State Department spokesman Ned Price said in a statement.

“What that means, obviously, again, we continue to see Iran be complicit in terms of exporting terror, not only in the Middle East region, but now also to Ukraine,” Pentagon spokesman Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder said Thursday.

### **9. Task & Purpose - We salute this F-15 fighter jet for rocking the most ‘Murica paint job ever**

Fans of fighter jets and freedom will love a new F-15C paint scheme unveiled by the California Air National Guard’s 144th Fighter Wing, which on Saturday posted photos of an aircraft bedazzled in the stars and stripes.

“That’s Tail Flash #113, which recently reached more than 10,000 flight hours,” the wing wrote on its Facebook page. “To celebrate, members of the 144th Fighter Wing painted the aircraft with this special paint scheme.”

The jet doesn’t just look pretty — it flies too. The wing wrote that the jet flew for the first time on Saturday since receiving the paint job as part of a functional test flight.

Though the wing did not provide any more details in the post, we can say with certainty that this is one of the best and loudest paint jobs we’ve seen in a while.

There are other F-15 fighter jets with patriotic paint schemes out there. For example, in July, Royal Air Force Lakenheath unveiled a F-15E Strike Eagle with the stars and stripes wrapped around its nose, tail and wingtips and the Statue of Liberty painted on its speed brake in honor of the 80th Anniversary of U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

The 144th Fighter Wing has also adopted a full-body state pride paint job in the past by splashing elements of the California flag on an F-15’s tail and the wing’s mythical mascot, the Griffin, along its wings, fuselage, and nose.

But the new paint job unveiled Saturday kicks the ‘Murica pride up to eleven by draping red and white stripes down most of the plane’s belly and wings and coating the jet’s intakes and nose with a blue field

and white stars. To top things off, a streak of black runs down its spine, with '10k' for 10,000 hours on the speed brake and the griffin painted on either side below the cockpit.

All in all, it's a pretty sweet look, and we can't wait to see more shots of the workhorse jet tearing the skies asunder in its new coat of liberty.

It also must have taken quite a lot of paint to cover the massive jet. F-15s are sometimes called "flying tennis courts" because of how big the planes are: 63.8 feet long, 18.5 feet tall, and with a 42.8 foot wingspan, according to the Air Force.

Part of the reason the jet is so big is that it was built around a large radar designed to dominate the skies.

"What's interesting is the radar for the F-15 was designed first," retired Air Force colonel and F-15 pilot Brian "Spiderman" Kamp told the Fighter Pilot Podcast in 2020. "They said, 'to win this war in the air we have to be able to detect other planes. So basic engineering: the bigger the dish of the radar, the further you can see. So they built a three-foot wide diameter dish of radar ... what needs to support that? So they built a tennis court behind it."

It paid off: more than 50 years after its first flight, the Eagle is still undefeated in combat. In fact, the jet's greatest threat at the moment may not be enemy fire, but instead its own old age.

"These aircraft are not mission capable—and in many cases are no longer safe to fly— because of their advanced age and systems and structures that are failing at increased rates," wrote the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies, a think tank that studies airpower, about the F-15C and other aging aircraft like the E-8 Joint STARS, E-3 AWACS and several B-1B bombers, in a paper last month.

If all had gone according to plan, many of the Air Force's F-15s would have stopped flying years ago. The stealthy, nimble F-22 Raptor was designed to replace the F-15 as the Air Force's premier air-to-air winning machine. The branch originally planned to buy 750 Raptors, but the jet became operational in 2005, right as the Global War on Terror was kicking into gear. The case for an expensive, stealthy, air-to-air platform became more difficult to argue when America's most urgent enemies fought with homemade roadside bombs, not integrated air defense systems. By the start of the 2010s, Congress decided to cap the total fleet of Raptors at 187, and production of the plane was shut down.

"This decision has proven to be extremely near-sighted given the growing threat of Chinese aggression and Chinese 5th generation fighters and advanced air-to-air weapons that now threaten U.S. air superiority," wrote the Mitchell Institute in its paper.

The 144th Fighter Wing's newly-painted Eagle is a great example of the fighter's old age. The F-15's initial operation requirement was for a service life of 4,000 hours, wrote the Nellis Air Force Base public affairs office in a 2017 press release about one of its Eagles hitting the 10,000-hour mark. The service life limit of Nellis' F-15C was extended to 8,000 hours and beyond "because of the need for air superiority," the release explained.

"To get to 10,000 flight hours means probably a couple hundred thousand maintenance hours have been put in," said Master Sgt. Joseph Romero, lead production superintendent for the Eagle aircraft maintenance unit. "So for over 30 years, day in and day out, maintainers have done everything asked of them and more to get the aircraft to this point."

The California F-15C may be in a similar situation, and it's a credit to the maintainers at the 144th Fighter Wing for keeping tail flash 113 looking so good despite its many hours of flight time. No matter how old 113 gets to be, hats off to the Griffins — and post more pictures of your beautiful jet!

### **10. Fox 61 (Hartford) - Soldier Homecoming | Connecticut National Guardsman surprises son at school after year-long deployment**

A local elementary school student got a massive surprise Monday afternoon during a school assembly when his dad returned from a year-long deployment overseas.

First Sgt. Dan Grenier has been on active duty with the Connecticut National Guard for more than a year. He was serving in Poland and on Monday, he went to Bielefield Elementary in Middletown to see his son Anakin for the first time in several months.

"Overwhelmed being home," Grenier told reporters. "Today it's been exactly a year – a year ago today I got on an airplane here from Connecticut and went down to Texas, did some training and then went over to Poland. Just did the same thing in reverse."

Anakin Grenier, a third grader who apparently has been on a haircut strike since his father left, had no idea his father was coming home on Monday.

"Mom and dad didn't tell me," he told reporters after the surprise. "Every grown-up knew ... they totally kept it a secret from me."

Sitting in the school's gym, Anakin Grenier thought it was just a normal school day. When they announced this dad's name, he wasn't sure if it was true.

"It was when I saw him open his arms (that I knew it was him)," the third grader said. "[I thought] 'Is this a different Dan Grenier or is it the same Dan Grenier?'"

But it was his dad. Anakin quickly jumped up, ran to his dad and gave him the biggest hug.

"One of the first things he said when I first put him down, he looked at me and said 'I can finally get a haircut now,'" Dan Grenier said.

Dan Grenier said returning home had a small bump in the road – or the air – as he had some flight problems in Atlanta and didn't know if he was going to make it to Bielefield on time for the surprise.

"Fortunately, everything worked out," he said, adding: "When my wife got me from the airport, it was emotional. This was for all of us, it's what we've been looking forward to for a year – getting back together."

The first thing he wants to do now that he's home: drive down to New Haven to get pizza at Sally's or Modern.

"I don't care what they say about Europe – they do not have pizza like they do here," he said.

### **11. Aerotech News - California National Guard's 1-185th Infantry Regiment return home**

Soldiers from the California National Guard's San Bernadino-based 1-185th Infantry Regiment arrived home at Los Angeles International Airport, Oct. 15, 2022, after a one-year deployment to Poland.

During their deployment, the 1-185th was part of Battlegroup Poland, a NATO lead operation that enforces NATO and a multinational military presence in Northeastern Europe.

Their specific mission was to train with other nations to demonstrate an alliance and the ability to respond as one force against any potential aggression.

## **12. KELO (Sioux Falls, S.D.) – SD National Guard breaks ground for a new training facility**

Governor Kristi Noem, Senator John Thune and Representative Dusty Johnson were all in Sioux Falls Friday for the groundbreaking of a new South Dakota National Guard facility.

The new 41,522-square-foot readiness center will be able to house more than 220 soldiers from three units for training in the near future.

“This fantastic facility will allow us to be prepared for whatever may come,” Noem said. “Our National Guard not only go out and are deployed around the world — they also do security missions, they respond in South Dakota when we have a crisis such as a flood, pandemic or weather situations.”

The facility will be named after Retired Brigadier General Dean Mann who dedicated over 33 years of his life to the National Guard.

“Who is a legend within the South Dakota National Guard and, really, within this community,” Thune said. “I mean, he’s a guy who has contributed so much through the years. Not only to our state, to our country, but to this community, involved in countless activities. And just a true patriot.”

“General Mann is an absolute legend. I’ve talked to, I don’t know, maybe a dozen people who have served with him over the decades,” Johnson said. “To a person, they hold him in exceptionally high regard. When we think about the best of the best of the United States Military, we are thinking of General Mann.”

The \$21.7 million facility is funded at both the federal and state level.

“This is a special day, we’ve been talking about this project for over 10 years. To have a partnership here at the federal level with the state of South Dakota and our city of Sioux Falls is incredible,” Noem said.

The new facility will be located in northeast Sioux Falls just east of I-229 near the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society. Construction is expected to be done in 2024.

## **13. WMTV (Madison, Wis.) - LIST: Most needed items for NBC15 Share Your Holidays National Guard Food Drive**

The NBC15 Share Your Holidays Campaign is right around the corner and you can help fight hunger in South Central Wisconsin.

This year’s campaign will kick off on Wednesday when Two Men & a Truck will deliver over 300 food barrels to area businesses and organizations.

The annual campaign benefits the Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin. Starting Wednesday, community members can donate food items by dropping them off in barrels scattered around the community. This year, barrels will feature a new design with a QR code, making online financial donations easier to access.

On Thursday, you can also help by donating to a drive-thru food drive hosted by the Wisconsin Army National Guard. It will be held from noon to 6 p.m. at ABS Global, located at 1525 River Road in DeForest. Second Harvest is collecting packaged, non-perishable items. Some suggested donations include:

- Beans (canned or dry)
- Low-sugar cereal
- Canned tuna
- Oatmeal
- Low-sodium soups and stews
- Low-sugar canned fruits
- Canned vegetables
- Pasta
- Peanut Butter (nut butter)
- Canned Chicken

Since 1996, the campaign has provided millions of meals. Learn more about how you can help here.

Help us meet our goal of raising five million meals for families facing hunger in our community.

One in 13 people in our community are food insecure, including one in eight children.

The NBC15 Share Your Holidays campaign is the largest fund and food drive in southwestern Wisconsin.