



TEXAS LONE STAR CHAPTER

5427 Weston Drive
Fulshear, Texas 77441-4127



February 6, 2021

MEETING: The Texas Lone Star Chapter to be held on Saturday, February 20, 2021 at the South Houston Legion Post 490 located at 11702 Old Galveston Road across from Ellington Field. The meeting will start at 12:30 PM. We will also hold a Convention Planning Meeting at our Chapter Meeting.

CHAPTER WEBSITE: Visit the Chapter website: <https://texaslonestar82.org/index.html>

82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION WEBSITE: www.82ndairborneassociation.org/

ASSOCIATION FACEBOOK PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/Texas-Lone-Star-Chapter-82nd-Airborne-Division-Association>

2021 NATIONAL CONVENTION: On January 21, the Chapter held its first Convention Planning Meeting. We discussed the effect of the pandemic on the Convention. Our main concern was the city, county, state and federal government regulation of the pandemic. The hotel contract was revised last April. The date was moved from the first week of August to the second week of August. (August 11-14, 2021). We did reserved the hotel date from August 8- 15, 2021 so if anyone wished to arrive early would receive the hotel convention room price. We have a \$7,000 deposit with the hotel and we will lose it if we don't host the convention unless the government shuts down the city again. The hotel is willing to work with us and not hold us to the attendance count on the contract. What does that mean? It means we need to host the convention and there is no penalty for having less attendance that what is stated in the revised contract.

The two activities planned for the convention, the George Bush Library and NASA tours are not open yet. It's too early for them to know what they are going to do. So the chapter needs to wait until end of May or June to see if we can offer an entertainment packages.

Karback Brewery will donate the beer at the CP room and at the Ellington dropzone. Also we have a donation of \$2000 for the food in the CP.

So we need to get ready to host the Convention regardless if we have 10 troopers show up or 1000 troopers.

SICK CALL: Keep in you prayers David Mayville, Robert Ontinoves and George W. Clark. The last we heard they are doing well. Get well soon guys we miss you.

MG CHRISTOPHER DONAHUE, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION COMMANDING GENERAL: Major General Donahue was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Infantry Branch in 1992 from the United States Military Academy at West Point. Major General Donahue served as a platoon leader in Korea, Fort Polk, Louisiana and the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia. Following promotion to captain, he served as a rifle company commander in 5th Battalion, 87th Infantry in Camp Kobbe, Panama.

He then served as an assistant operations officer, rifle and headquarters company commander in 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. Major General Donahue subsequently moved to Washington, D.C. and served as Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Following his time at the Pentagon, he served as assistant operations officer, squadron operations officer, squadron executive officer, troop commander, selection and training detachment commander, operations officer, squadron commander, and deputy brigade commander (support) within US Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

After attending Harvard University as a US Army War College Fellow, he returned to Fort Bragg and commanded a brigade within USASOC. He was then assigned as the Director of Operations for the US Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC). He then served as the deputy commanding general (maneuver) of the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, CO where he deployed in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. Major General Donahue then served as the Infantry School Commandant and Director of the Soldier Lethality Cross Functional Team at Fort Benning, GA.

He then served as the Deputy Director for Special Operations and Counter-Terrorism, J-3, for the Joint Staff in Washington, D.C. He most recently served as the Commander, Special Operations Joint Task Force-Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. He has deployed 17 times in support of operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, North Africa, and Eastern Europe. His military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Naval War College, and the US Army War College Fellowship at Harvard University



MG Christopher Donahue

CSM DAVID R. PITT, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR:

Command Sergeant Major David R. Pitt assumed the position of senior-enlisted advisor of the 82nd Airborne Division July 10, 2020. CSM Pitt is a native of the Bronx New York. He enlisted in the Army October 1992 and attended One Station Unit Training (OSUT) at FT. Benning, GA. His first assignment was A Co 2/505 PIR where he served as a rifleman. His other assignments include Scout assistant team leader; XVIII Airborne Corps Commander Driver; Drill Sergeant D CO 2/60th Infantry Battalion FT. Jackson, SC; Long Range Surveillance Team Leader E Co 102 MI BDE 2ID Camp Hovey, Korea; Rifle Platoon Sergeant B Co 2/505 PIR; Anti-Armor Platoon Sergeant

D CO. 2/505 PIR; Scout Platoon Sergeant HHC 1/505 PIR; First Sergeant A CO 1/505 PIR; HHC Special Troops Battalion 3BCT; Senior Military Instructor at Florida A&M University; Command Sergeant Major 1-335 Infantry Camp Atterbury Indiana; Command Sergeant Major Garrison FT. Polk Louisiana; Talent Manager 11/19Z HRC FT. Knox Kentucky; Sergeants Major DAMO-TR G-3/5/7 HQDA Pentagon.

CSM Pitt is a graduate of all levels of the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Military Education System, Nominative Leaders Course, Sergeants Major Course class #62, Master Fitness Trainer Course, Drill Sergeant School, Ranger School, Long Range Reconnaissance Course, Air Assault School, Garrison Leaders Course, Airborne School, Jump Master Course. CSM Pitt earned his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Excelsior College.

CSM Pitt's awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal (3 OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC), Army Commendation Medal (7 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (3 OLC), Army Good Conduct Medal (9 AWD), National Defense Service Medal (2nd AWD), Iraq Campaign Medal (4 CS), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (Numeral 5), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (Numeral 3), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Award, Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Drill Sergeant Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, British Parachutist Badge, Order of St Maurice (Bronze Award) and is member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.



CSM David R. Pitt

WE STILL HAVE 74th NATIONAL CONVENTION COINS: Even though the 2020 National Convention has been cancelled, the chapter is selling the convention coins we had produced for the convention. These are beautiful coins and are now considered rare because the 74th Convention was cancelled. We need our members to help sale the coins. The cost is \$15 each and the postage is \$5.00. We can mail up to 10 coins for the \$5 postage amount. Send your request order for the coin/coins to Allen E. Schoppe, 5427 Weston Drive, Fulshear, Texas 77441-4127. Again the cost per coin is \$15 plus postage of \$5 to ship up to 10 coins.



Chapter's Convention Coin

WHY SO FEW TROOPS HAVE GOTTEN THE COVID-19 VACCINE: According to the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tallies, the Defense Department has distributed more than 800,000 doses of the novel coronavirus vaccine, but has only put about 60 percent of those “shots in arms,” troops. There are several reasons for this lag, Air Force Brig. Gen. Paul Friedrichs said. “What we’re seeing right now is similar to what we’re seeing across the entire United States, in that there’s ... a higher percentage of people who are older who are opting to have the vaccine, and it trends down with age.” In total, 816,175 doses have gone out, with 485,125 administered to DoD personnel. Of those, 67,913 are now fully vaccinated after their second dose.

The Pentagon has refused to provide details on how many troops have been vaccinated, though DoD posts its confirmed COVID-19 cases broken down by service member, dependent, civilian and contractor. This policy comes from the Pentagon’s general counsel, who has determined that the Defense Health Agency won’t report to DoD the affiliation details of who has taken the vaccine, a defense official.

DoD began shipping out doses in mid-December, starting with 16 bases that had enough personnel and cold-storage capacity to effectively use up those doses. Those bases are farther along in the process, Friedrichs said, but DoD is not experiencing some of the uneven administration of doses that has been reported in civilian public health departments.

Over the past month, stories of vaccine serendipity have popped up throughout the country, where people were in the right place at the right time and had the chance to receive a leftover dose that otherwise would have to have been thrown away. State and local health departments have been in charge of their own administration schemes, and in some cases, haven’t had clear guidance on whom to call up if they made it to the end of the priority list and hadn’t used up a vial. “Our loss rate has been negligible,” Friedrichs said. “We certainly have not lost any vaccines because they’re sitting on the shelf.” Military medical teams have clear guidance on what to do if they finish a priority group — which includes clinic staff, first responders, nuclear submarine crews, deploying troops and more — and have leftover doses. “And they have the authority, if there’s nobody that’s available in a particular tier that opts for the vaccine, to go to the next level down,” Friedrichs said.

Friedrichs could not offer an estimate of the take rate for the vaccine, as medical providers are not required to report up the chain if someone declines. The emergency use authorization renders the vaccine voluntary, and widespread distrust and misinformation have turned many off to the idea of inoculation. Once more people have been vaccinated and DoD is better able to educate people on the risks and benefits, Friedrichs said, he hopes the vaccination rates will increase.

82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION CONDUCTS FIRST EVER OSPREY AIR ASSAULT:

Paratroopers from 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division conducted a joint air assault operation using MV-22B Osprey tilt rotor aircraft during “Panther Storm,” a 4-day Mission Readiness Exercise conducted November 3-6. This was the first known time the Division has employed the Marine Aircraft for Joint Forcible Entry operations during a training exercise.

The unique aircraft offers the ground force commander increased range and air speed over traditional rotary-wing platforms, allowing for more long-range assault, support, and troop insertion options. “We are looking into vertical lift capability for JFE operations in order to get forces in the deep fight much faster,” said Col. Eugene Ferris, commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team. “As we look to penetrate and get forces into the deep fight, it is important to hone our skills as a joint force and utilize all assets available.”

The operation involved three Ospreys, flown by the VMM-261 “Raging Bulls,” a Marine Corps Squadron based at Marine Corps Air Station-New River in Jacksonville, N.C. The aircraft air assaulted one dismounted troop from 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment as a part of the exercise. Marine Capt. Victor Bowen, an MV-22B pilot, spoke about the planning process and the great learning opportunity. “As a junior aircraft commander, this was invaluable training to plan and execute a joint mission with the Army.” Capt. Katrina Herrera, also an MV-22B pilot agreed, adding that it was great integrating with the ground force commander to support the scheme of maneuver. “The soldiers were a pleasure to work with and I am glad I got to learn more about how a brigade combat team operates and the unique capabilities they also bring to the fight.”

As the nation’s Immediate Response Force, joint training like this it is vital for the Division to plan, integrate, and train in joint environments as often as possible. “It will take detailed planning and interoperability across all the branches of service to add the most lethal means to the fight.” Ferris said. The Osprey is an American tiltrotor military aircraft with both vertical takeoff and landing capability. With its rotors in vertical position, it can take off, land, and hover like a helicopter. Once airborne, it can convert to a turboprop airplane.

The United States Marine Corps is the lead service in the Osprey’s development. The Marine Corps’ variant is an assault transport for troops and equipment that can operate from land and sea. The MV-22B can transport up to 24 passengers and can travel up to 280 knots per hour. It has a nautical mile range of 900 kilometers and its reach capability provides the ground forces an opportunity to seize key objectives in a timely manner.



HOW THE ARMY WANTS TO REDUCE DEPLOYMENT, TRAINING DEMANDS: A new force generation model was introduced by Army leadership in fall 2020. The intention is to better balance demands across the world with the transformational changes the service needs to prepare for a future fight against a peer adversary, Lt. Gen. Charles A. Flynn, the deputy chief of staff for Army operations, plans and training, has said. Dubbed the “Regionally Aligned Readiness and Modernization Model,” the plan is to allocate Army units to different theaters in roughly one year, giving them expertise in the parts of the world to which they would deploy during an actual conflict and allowing them to stockpile the right equipment for those clashes. “If we call you ... you’re going to go first because your equipment is tailored for that, you understand the environment ... you know the adversary [and] you know the plan,” said one Army general.

The new model was introduced in October, alongside an announcement that the service will be working to reduce the demands of rotational deployments and decreasing requirements for brigade- and battalion-level training. Events over the past year have taxed the force, including a rapid deployment of paratroopers and air defense artillery to the Middle East amid tensions with Iran, an unprecedented global pandemic and nationwide racial justice protests that led to the mobilization of thousands of Army National Guardsmen.

“I am concerned about the Army’s ops tempo as a whole,” Army Chief of Staff James McConville said in an October interview. “For the last 19 years, the Army has been heavily, heavily deployed. And even more recently, with our air defense units, our requirements around the world and particularly in the Middle East have really upped their ops tempo.” That being said, there’s no intent to reduce combat training center rotations for units, McConville explained.

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AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY!
APPLICATION/UPDATE FORM/TRANSFER SHEET
82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

FORMAL NAME (No Nicknames) _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____

9-DIGIT Zip _____ ASN _____ (or) SSN _____ (**MUST SUBMIT AT LEAST LAST 4**)

MARITAL STATUS _____ SPOUSE'S NAME _____ NUMBER OF CHILDREN _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FOR YR _____ **\$35.00** OR _____ **\$36.00** (= \$1.00 DONATION TO ED FUND)

REINSTATE _____ NEW MEMBER _____ TRANSFER FORM _____ MEMBERSHIP UPDATE _____

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP (**\$350.00**) _____

CURRENT VETERAN / MILITARY STATUS (Check Status below and complete the rank and date entries)

ACTIVE DUTY/RESERVE OR NAT'L GUARD – Rank and Date of Rank: _____

RETIRED MILITARY/MILITARY VETERAN – Rank and Date Departed Military service _____

LIST AIRBORNE UNIT(S) (Be Complete; Include FROM Date and TO Date)

UNIT #1 _____ FROM MO/YR _____ TO MO/YR _____

Combat Tour Location: _____ FROM MO/YR _____ TO MO/YR _____

UNIT #2 _____ FROM MO/YR _____ TO MO/YR _____

Combat Tour Location: _____ FROM MO/YR _____ TO MO/YR _____

PLEASE USE THE BACK OF THE FORM IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN 2 UNITS AND/OR COMBAT TOURS

NEW MEMBERS MUST INCLUDE PROOF OF AIRBORNE QUALIFICATIONS OR SERVICE WITH THE 82D ABN DIV

OCCUPATION _____ HOME #: (____) _____ CELL #: (____) _____

EMAIL _____ SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

Chapter Preference: Texas Lone Star Chapter Visit our website: www.texaslonestar82nd.org

**Make Checks Payable to Lone Star Chapter 82nd Airborne Division Association. MAIL TO:
Texas Lone Star Chapter, 5427 Weston Drive, Fulshear, Texas 77441-4127.**





Chapter Chairman David Mayville
"Our Hero"



Here we go, Airborne