

Military, Law, and more ...

Air Force Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, praises National Guard at their U.S. General Conference

By Master Sgt. Zach Sheely
Dept. of Defense (DOD)

August 26, 2025- Air Force Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, praised the National Guard during his address at the 147th National Guard Association of the United States General Conference in Milwaukee, Aug. 23.

Speaking to guard officers from across the country, Caine expressed deep gratitude and out-

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With over 40,000 guardsmen currently serving domestically and abroad — including 2,000 supporting the D.C. Safe and Beautiful Task Force, Joint Task Force District of Columbia — the guard's impact is undeniable, the chairman said.

Drawing from his National



Air Force Gen. Dan Caine is shown here addressing the 147th National Guard Association of the United States General Conference in Milwaukee. (Photo/Courtesy: Dept. of Defense)

Guard service during which he spent a significant portion of his career, Caine shared a personal perspective: "The guard has given me far more than I could ever give back. I'm gifted to have this incredible vantage point of seeing what the guard does for the nation, not only overseas but right here at home."

Caine highlighted the guard's recent achievements, notably its contributions to Operation Mid-

night Hammer in June. Guardsmen from the Missouri National Guard's 131st Bomb Wing worked in tandem with their Whiteman Air Force Base 509th Bomb Wing counterparts to execute this mission — the largest B-2 Spirit strike in history.

"It was weapons builders from the guard that created those bombs that did our nation's business, and guardsmen who went and got after it in the darkness of

night to do the things that our nation calls upon us to do," he said.

The chairman commended the Texas National Guard for its heroic response to the July Fourth central Texas flooding, where Texas guard aviators, and search and rescue crews worked with interagency partners to save more than 525 people.

"[They] went out into the flood zones to do something that is so incredibly hard — to take care of

their neighbors in a time of such incredible pain and suffering and did so in such a caring and thoughtful way."

Addressing global challenges, Caine described the security environment as delicate, dynamic and extraordinarily complex. He likened today's threats to a Tom Clancy novel, citing the ongoing war in Europe, the Middle East crisis from Gaza to Tehran, North Korea's nuclear ambitions and an increasingly assertive China aligned with other adversaries.

"Our global risk score really has never been higher," Caine said, "but I'm comforted by the fact that you are there. You are essential to how we reestablish deterrence, rebuild our military and achieve peace through strength."

The general outlined his four priorities for the joint force to address these challenges, emphasizing the guard's critical role:

- **Proper Armoring:** Equipping the force, including the guard, with cutting-edge technology and modernized equipment to meet evolving threats.
- **Global Integration:** Building trust and collaboration across the joint force, allies and partners. Caine applauded the Defense Department's National Guard State Partnership Program as a cornerstone of U.S. security cooperation, which he called "one

of the great force multipliers inside the joint force."

- **Readiness:** Ensuring the force is organized, trained and equipped with a combat-ready mindset. "It's about being clear-eyed about the challenges ahead," he said.
- **People:** Caine called the more than 2 million joint force personnel the heart of every mission, adding that humans are more important than hardware. "You do this because you care about something greater than yourselves. You do this because you love our great nation. You do it because you love each other," he told the audience.

The National Guard, a joint component of 433,000 soldiers and airmen across every state, territory and the District of Columbia, consists of almost 80% enlisted personnel.

"It is the joint enlisted force that brings us the true exclusivity that America's combat power has," he said. "Often times I contend that no one in the world is better than the enlisted force in the National Guard because you bring your civilian experience together with your military experience. You deliver exponential returns for the United States of America."

SAF celebrates 51 years of Second Amendment advocacy... from sports page 1

"It's hard to believe we've already passed the 50-year milestone," Gottlieb said. "We have amassed numerous wins over the last five decades, but our mission remains as critical today as it was in 1974. The freedoms we fight for today are the same as they were when I founded the organization, and we will not stop until all Americans have the ability to exercise their full Second Amendment rights."

played a pivotal role in landmark legal victories, including the all-too-important McDonald v. City of Chicago Supreme Court case, which paved the way to allow legal action against states and municipalities for violations of the Second Amendment. Currently, SAF has more than 50 ac-

tive cases across the nation challenging unconstitutional firearms regulations such as "assault weapon" bans, magazine capacity bans, young adult carry laws, "sensitive places" restrictions, red flag laws, prohibited person and many, many more.

"When Alan started SAF 50 years ago he laid the foundation for an organization that would become a driving force in defending our right to keep and bear arms," said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. "This anniversary milestone is a testament to the dedication and perseverance of the SAF team and celebrates the countless members, donors, and corporate partners who have supported us over the past five decades."

As the organization looks to the future, it remains committed to its mission of safeguarding and promoting the fundamental rights enshrined in the Second Amendment. The organization continues to engage in aggressive legal action and public education to en-

sure the principles of personal liberty and our Second Amendment rights are defended, secured and restored.

For more information, visit SAF.org.

The Second Amendment Foundation (saf.org) is the nation's oldest and largest tax-exempt education, research, publishing and legal action group dedicated to safeguarding and promoting the fundamental rights of individuals enshrined in the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution. SAF engages in aggressive legal action to ensure the principles of armed self-defense, personal liberty, and the ownership of arms are defended, secured, and restored. Through public education initiatives, SAF teaches the importance of the Second Amendment to promote a society that values and exercises the right to keep and bear arms.

Navy reservationist achieves dream of becoming NFL cheerleader for Jaguars from sports page 1

to pursue other dreams while still serving my country," said Gloster, who has now served a total of nine years in the Navy. "The Navy Reserve has given me the best of both worlds — remaining part of something bigger than myself while continuing to grow personally and pro-

"I've loved performing and cheerleading for as long as I can remember," she said. "Becoming an NFL cheerleader was a way to share that passion on a huge stage while also making a positive impact in the community."

One of those dreams was professional cheerleading.

"I've loved performing and cheerleading for as long as I can remember," she said. "Becoming an NFL cheerleader was a way to share that passion on a huge stage while also making a positive impact in the community." Earlier this year, the Fort Lauderdale, Florida, native auditioned for the Jaguars cheer squad. The process was rigorous, stretching across multiple rounds and last-

ing two weeks.

"We had to learn and perform choreography under pressure, complete an interview and stand out among more than 300 candidates," she recalled. "It really pushed me to be the best version of myself every single day. When I was selected, it made the moment even more special. It was intense but so rewarding."

Now, with the NFL preseason underway, Gloster is focused on balancing her Navy Reserve duties with the commitments of cheerleading on a national stage.

"It's definitely a balancing act, but the discipline and time management I've learned in the Navy help me stay on top of both," she said. "When you love what you're doing in both worlds, it makes the hard work worth it."

For Gloster, her role with the Jaguars is about more than performing in front of thousands of fans on Sundays.

"It's bigger than the field — it's about inspiring others, representing an incredible organization and connecting with people in meaningful ways," she said. "I feel so proud to wear both uni-

forms, the Navy's and the Jaguars'. They represent two very different worlds, but both are built on teamwork, dedication and heart."

Capt. Roger Dubé, Navy Reserve NAVSUP FLC Jacksonville commanding officer, said Gloster's role as a professional cheerleader could help with the Navy's recruiting efforts and set a good example for other Navy reservists to pursue their dreams.

"It is one of our unit's hard-chargers and also serves as our command fitness leader," Dubé said. "She is humble about her achievements as I was unaware of her selection as a professional cheerleader. We're looking forward to seeing her lead the games' crowds with her vibrant smile and energy."

As she looks ahead to her first season as an NFL cheerleader while continuing to serve in the Navy, Gloster hopes her story will motivate others to keep reaching for their goals.

"I hope my story shows others that you don't have to choose just one dream — you can chase them all," she said.

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