

Hometown News Map displays military news by location

Search for local military news via the new interactive map

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ATLANTA – The new "DVIDS Hometown News Map" officially launches today. The interactive map will enable the news media and public users to search for military news by a specific location. By clicking on the map, users can zoom in on a location until DVIDS icons pop up indicating military news from the area.

To take a shortcut, click on a state within the United States. A list of cities will then display below the map. Click on a city and the map will automatically zoom in to display the military news within a 50-mile radius with DVIDS icons pinpointing the city. Hover over the pins to see

the city name or click on another pin to pull up military hometown news from a different area. Every time a city is clicked, the related military news will display below the map in chronological order. There's also the option to only show results from the selected city.

The color density of the states corresponds to the number of military products. For example, the darker green hue of Texas indicates a higher volume of available news content versus the lighter color of Maine, which has less available military news products. Hover over a state to see its current number of military news products including photos, video, news articles and more. Currently, California has almost 14,000 pieces of content; New York has more than 6,000 and is growing daily.

"With the DVIDS Hometown News Map, we have taken the next step to make military news more accessible," said Major Scott Betts, DVIDS director of operations. "In today's landscape of shrinking newsrooms, we want to make it as easy and fast as possible for the media to find news relevant to their area. The map makes local news just a few mouse clicks away."

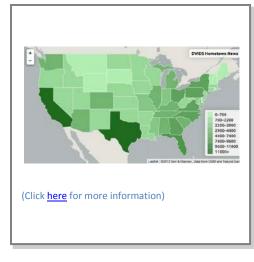
The URL for each state and city can be bookmarked or shared for access to military news from the area in the future. The map is not limited to just news relevant to the United States. Instead of clicking on a location within the United States, users can click on a country listed below the map. The map will auto-zoom to the country on the world map. Click on the zoom button (plus sign on the map) until DVIDS icons appear. Like the U.S. domestic map, the international interactive map allows users to drill down by city. Content must include a hometown, domestically or internationally, in order for it to appear on the DVIDS Hometown News map,

DVIDS registered users also have the ability to sign up for content subscriptions based on locations, keywords, military journalist or military unit.

About DVIDS:

Since 2004, <u>DVIDS</u> (Defense Video & Imagery Distribution System, a U.S. Army Central project) has provided world media with reliable access to all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and coalition partners serving overseas, helping fulfill the military's obligation to provide maximum disclosure of information with minimum delay. With the use of today's newest broadcast technologies and satellite capabilities provided to deployed units, and a distribution hub in Atlanta, Georgia, DVIDS makes available real-time broadcast-quality video, still images and print products, as well as immediate interview opportunities with service members, commanders and subject matter experts.

For questions, comments or suggestions, contact DVIDS 24 hours a day at: toll free 877-DVIDS-24/7, commercial 678-421-6612.



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