

The background image shows two military personnel in silhouette on the deck of a ship. They are looking out at a helicopter flying in the distance against a bright, hazy sky. The ship's deck and railings are visible in the foreground.

# MISSISSIPPI MILITARY DEPARTMENT

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ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017



**“Today’s National Guard is always ready, always there, and always on mission. We are the first choice, proven choice, and enduring choice.” - Command Chief Master Sgt. Robbie Knight, Air National Guard state command chief**

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## To the Governor of the Great State of Mississippi

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the annual report of the Mississippi Military Department for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. The Mississippi National Guard continues to be one of the premiere guard states in the nation.

In January 2016, approximately 150 Soldiers and Airmen provided support during the 58th Presidential Inauguration activities in Washington, D.C. Our 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team and several supporting units participated in a National Training Center rotation at Fort Irwin, California in May-June 2017.

Our Air National Guard continued its C-17 Globemaster III and KC-135 Refueling missions. Mississippi's C-17 aircraft and crews remain dedicated to the Air Mobility Command for contingency operations and our refuelers are operating around the globe.

In addition to service at home, Mississippi Guard men and women continued to serve in Afghanistan, Kosovo, and other worldwide locations. They also remained ready to execute our state missions to provide security and storm relief if called upon.

Your Mississippi National Guard remains hard at work providing for our nation's defense and protecting our citizens here at home.

Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles  
The Adjutant General of Mississippi

## KEY LEADERSHIP



**Maj. Gen. Gregory Kennedy**  
Assistant Adjutant General - Army

Major General Gregory L. Kennedy was appointed assistant adjutant general - army September 1, 2016. He guides the formulation, development, and implementation of all programs and policies affecting the Mississippi Army National Guard and its nearly 10,000 Citizen Soldiers.



**Maj. Gen. William Hill**  
Assistant Adjutant General - Air

Major General William O. Hill serves as the assistant adjutant general - air and as commander of the Mississippi Air National Guard. He is responsible to the adjutant general for directing Air National Guard operations and establishing policy, ensuring the combat readiness and mission capability of two flying Wings, a Combat Readiness Training Center, Air Support Operations Squadron, Air Component Operations Center, Special Operations Civil Engineering Squadron, and an Air Control Squadron.



**Chief Warrant Officer 5 Bobby Wayne Tanksley**  
Command Chief Warrant Officer

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Bobby W. Tanksley was appointed as the sixth command chief warrant officer of the Mississippi Army National Guard October 1, 2012. He serves as the adjutant general's personal adviser on all warrant officer related matters. His primary mission is to coordinate with the state military personnel office, the recruiting and retention office, and subordinate commanders to implement a comprehensive warrant officer recruiting program.



**Command Sgt. Maj. John Raines**  
Senior Enlisted Advisor - Army

Command Sergeant Major John T. Raines assumed responsibility as the seventh senior enlisted advisor for the Mississippi National Guard July 10, 2015. Raines also serves as the state command sergeant major for the Mississippi Army National Guard. He advises the adjutant general and the assistant adjutant general - army on all enlisted-related matters, particularly in areas affecting Soldier training and quality of life.



**Command Chief Master Sgt. Robert B. Knight**  
Senior Enlisted Advisor - Air

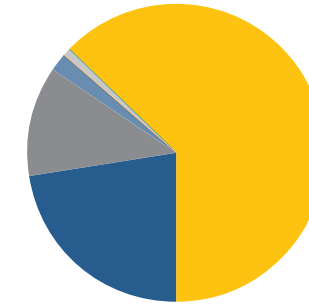
Command Chief Master Sgt. Robert B. Knight assumed responsibility as the twelfth senior enlisted advisor for the Mississippi Air National Guard December 6, 2014. Knight advises the adjutant general, the assistant adjutant general - air, and all Air National Guard commanders and staff on all enlisted-related matters, particularly in areas affecting mission effectiveness, professional development, military readiness, training, and assignment policy.

## STATE & FEDERAL FUNDING

The Mississippi National Guard maintains a strong presence throughout the entire Magnolia State. Our entire force consists of approximately 12,400 Soldiers and Airmen, 1,100 of which are Active Guard and Reserve. We have 1,700 federal technician employees and 960 state employees, both of which are comprised of Soldiers, Airmen, and civilians. The MSNG has 73 Army National Guard readiness centers in 66 communities across Mississippi, and three major Air National Guard facilities. With a proactive attitude, our dedicated employees continued to search for more effective and efficient ways to conduct business. The MSNG will continue to be good stewards of government funding while always protecting the interest of the state of Mississippi, our Soldiers and Airmen, and the taxpayers.

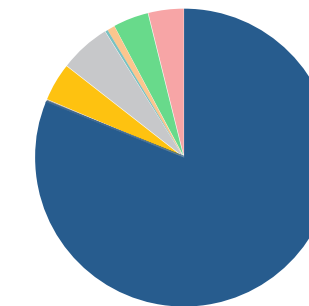


### Mississippi Army National Guard FY 2017 Federal Appropriations: \$514,438,527



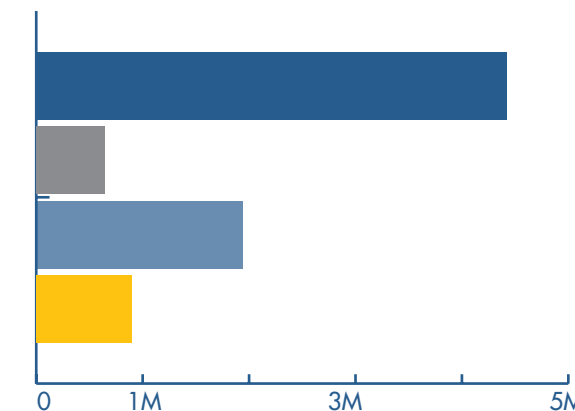
- Operations and Maintenance: \$322,145,527
- Military Pay and Allowances: \$116,310,400
- Goods and Services: \$61,288,995
- Military Construction: \$10,071,716
- Youth Challenge: \$4,351,600
- Special Forces: \$228,675
- Employer Support of the Guard/Reserve: \$41,360

### Mississippi Air National Guard FY 2017 Federal Appropriations: \$134,306,772



- Military Pay and Allowances: \$108,964,583
- Supplies and Equipment: \$7,497,422
- Facilities: \$5,781,978
- BOC: \$5,335,545
- Misc.: \$5,064,332
- Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization: \$1,028,455
- Recruiting & Retention: \$229,752
- Subsistence: \$205,264
- Clothing: \$199,441

### Mississippi Military Department State Fiscal Year 2017 Appropriations: \$7,905,093



- AGO - Fund 2701: \$4,419,517
- Museum - Fund 2705: \$646,026
- Youth Challenge - Fund 2706: \$1,939,550
- State Education Assistance Program - Fund 2708: \$900,000



## FEDERAL FUNDING APPROVED

Construction continues on a new Army National Guard Readiness Center in Columbia, Miss.! The old facility was damaged during a deadly EF3 tornado on Dec. 23, 2014. The new readiness center is 100% federally funded and will cover 42,881 square feet. The 10.5 million dollar facility is scheduled to be completed in September 2018. It will be the home of our Company A, 150th Brigade Engineer Battalion.



**“I can truly say that I have had the best job in the world. Being able to work with the best Soldiers, Airmen, and civilians this country has to offer has been a rewarding experience that will never be forgotten.” - Lt. Gen. (MS) Augustus L. Collins**

## MSNG CHANGE OF COMMAND

**Thank you to Lt. Gen. (MS) Augustus L. Collins for your 35 years of dedicated service to the Mississippi National Guard. Your example as a leader and a Soldier is a standard by which every Guardsmen should be measured.**



**Lt. Gen. (MS) Augustus L. Collins**

Lt. Gen. (MS) Augustus L. Collins, former adjutant general of Mississippi, retired from the Mississippi Army National Guard August 31, 2017 after 35 years of service. Collins, a Booneville native, became Mississippi's first African-American adjutant general after Gov. Phil Bryant appointed him in January 2012. He has served in various positions, including TAC Officer; 2d Battalion, 198th Armored Regiment commander; 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team commander; and Mob Forces, U.S. Forces Command director. His deployments include Desert Shield, Kuwait in 1990 and Operation Iraqi Freedom, Iraq in 2005.



**Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles**

Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles was appointed adjutant general of Mississippi by Gov. Phil Bryant September 1, 2016. Boyles, a U.S. Army Engineer Corps. officer, has served in various positions, including 168th Engineer Group deputy commander, 168th Engineer Brigade deputy commander, 184th Sustainment Command commander, and Headquarters Kosovo Forces chief of staff. His deployments and responses include Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan in 2008, and Kosovo in 2015.



# MAJOR UNITS

## Approximately 12,500 Soldiers and Airmen

The Mississippi National Guard possesses an impressive force structure which offers a variety of strong options for state emergency and federal mobilization support. Our units and facilities cover the entire Magnolia State from Corinth to the Coast and Vicksburg to Meridian.

- 1 Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group (TASMG), GULFPORT (1 OF ONLY 4 IN THE ENTIRE ARMY INVENTORY)
- 1 Special Forces Battalion (Airborne), JACKSON
- Regional Counter-Drug Training, MERIDIAN
- Regional Sustainment Readiness Site, CAMP SHELBY
- 3 Army Aviation Support Facilities, JACKSON, MERIDIAN, TUPELO
- 13 Field Maintenance Shops, LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE STATE
- Combined Support Maintenance Shop, CAMP SHELBY
- Unit Training Equipment Stop, CAMP MCCAIN
- Maneuver & Training Equipment Storage Site, CAMP SHELBY
- Regional Training Institute, CAMP SHELBY
- Youth Challenge Academy, CAMP SHELBY
- Mississippi Armed Forces Museum, CAMP SHELBY



CAMP SHELBY  
JOINT FORCES  
TRAINING CENTER  
CAMP SHELBY, MISS.



CAMP MCCAIN  
TRAINING CENTER  
ELLIOT, MISS.



JOINT FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS, MSNG  
JACKSON, MISS.



185TH  
AVIATION BRIGADE  
JACKSON, MISS.



47TH CIVIL  
SUPPORT TEAM  
FLOWOOD, MISS.



186TH AIR  
REFUELING WING  
MERIDIAN, MISS.



GULFPORT  
COMBAT READINESS  
TRAINING CENTER  
GULFPORT, MISS.



66TH TROOP COMMAND  
JACKSON, MISS.



168TH ENGINEER  
BRIGADE  
VICKSBURG, MISS.



155TH ARMORED  
BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM  
TUPELO, MISS.



184TH  
SUSTAINMENT COMMAND  
LAUREL, MISS.



172D AIRLIFT WING  
FLOWOOD, MISS.



## WELCOME HOME

The Mississippi Army National Guard remained busy in fiscal year 2017, responding to several calls to duty in the state and beyond. Much of the focus was on the Tupelo-based 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team's Multi-echelon integrated Brigade Training exercise at Fort Hood, Texas, but also year was also full of other MSARNG service highlights.

Approximately 70 Soldiers from Meridian's Company B, 1st Battalion, 111th Aviation Regiment completed a one-year mobilization in support of Operations Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve in Kuwait in April 2017. The troops provided general rotary wing aviation support using CH-47F Chinook helicopters. Operation Spartan Shield assists regional partners with operational missions, bilateral, multilateral military exercises, and theater security cooperation activities in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. Operation Inherent Resolve supports the military coalition to support Iraqi Security Force operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

Meanwhile, Soldiers from Laurel's 184th Sustainment Command, Philadelphia's 298th Support Battalion, Greenville's 1387th Quartermaster Company, and Camp Shelby's 3656th Maintenance Company provided support to civilian authorities in south Mississippi following a deadly tornado, January 21, 2017. The guardsmen also assisted the Hattiesburg and Petal Police departments with traffic control and presence patrol operations.

Next, Soldiers of the 1st Battalion 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, headquartered in Newton, returned from a deployment to the Washington D.C. area in August 17, 2016. The unit deployed approximately 170 personnel to protect and guard the skies and no-fly zones in the nation's capital.



## MISSISSIPPI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Members of Tupelo's Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment and the unit's Companies A and D leave Jackson on May 14, 2017 for duty in Kosovo. Approximately 130 1-185th AV guardsmen are deployed to the Balkans in support of Operation Joint Guardian. The unit is providing rotary wing aviation lift support using UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters during their overseas peacekeeping mission.

# 2017 NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

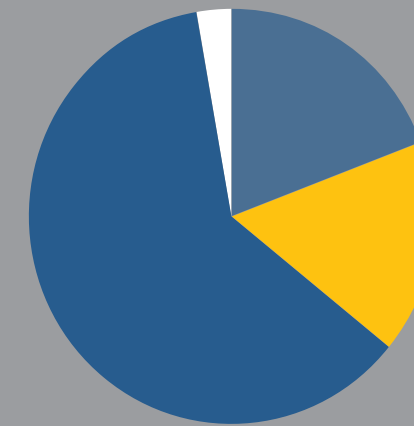
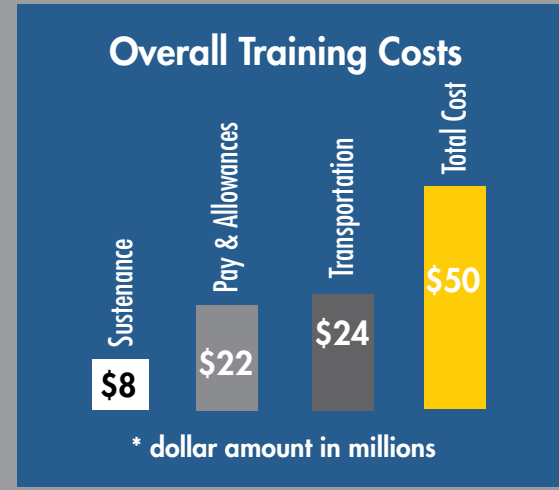
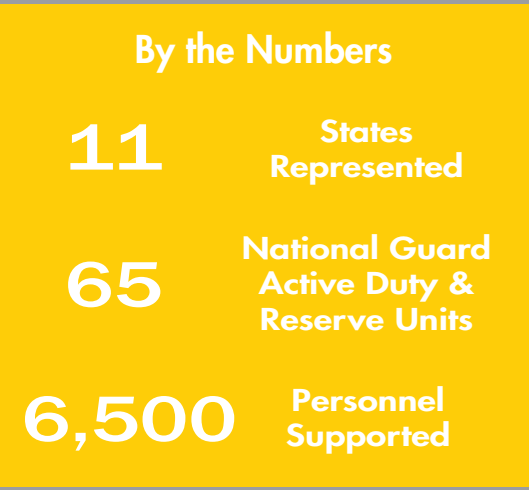
Fort Irwin, California

The MSNG's 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, 184th Sustainment Command and other enabling units participated in a National Training Center combat training exercise at Fort Irwin, California, from May to June 2017. An NTC rotation replicates the tough, realistic operational environment that America's warfighters face in combat; The training is relevant and quickly adaptable to emerging threats and technologies in the current operational environments and for tomorrow's challenges.



"The 155 is... critically important for us to be able to meet our combatant commander objectives and requirements while simultaneously building capacity and capability to deal with these near-peer threats."  
 - Gen. Robert Abrams  
 FORSCOM Commander

## NTC ROTATION 17-07



- 25,000 Gallons of Diesel Fuel
- 164,484 Meals Served
- 187,767 MREs Issued
- 600,000 Gallons of JP-8 Fuel







**88,500 Service Members Trained**  
from all components including Active, Guard,  
& Reserve



### 10 Joint Training Exercises

Including:  
MARSOC Raven  
Southern Strike  
Patriot South  
Raven's Challenge



**380 Youth Challenge Academy Graduates**

**70 Police Academy Graduates**  
from 16 Counties



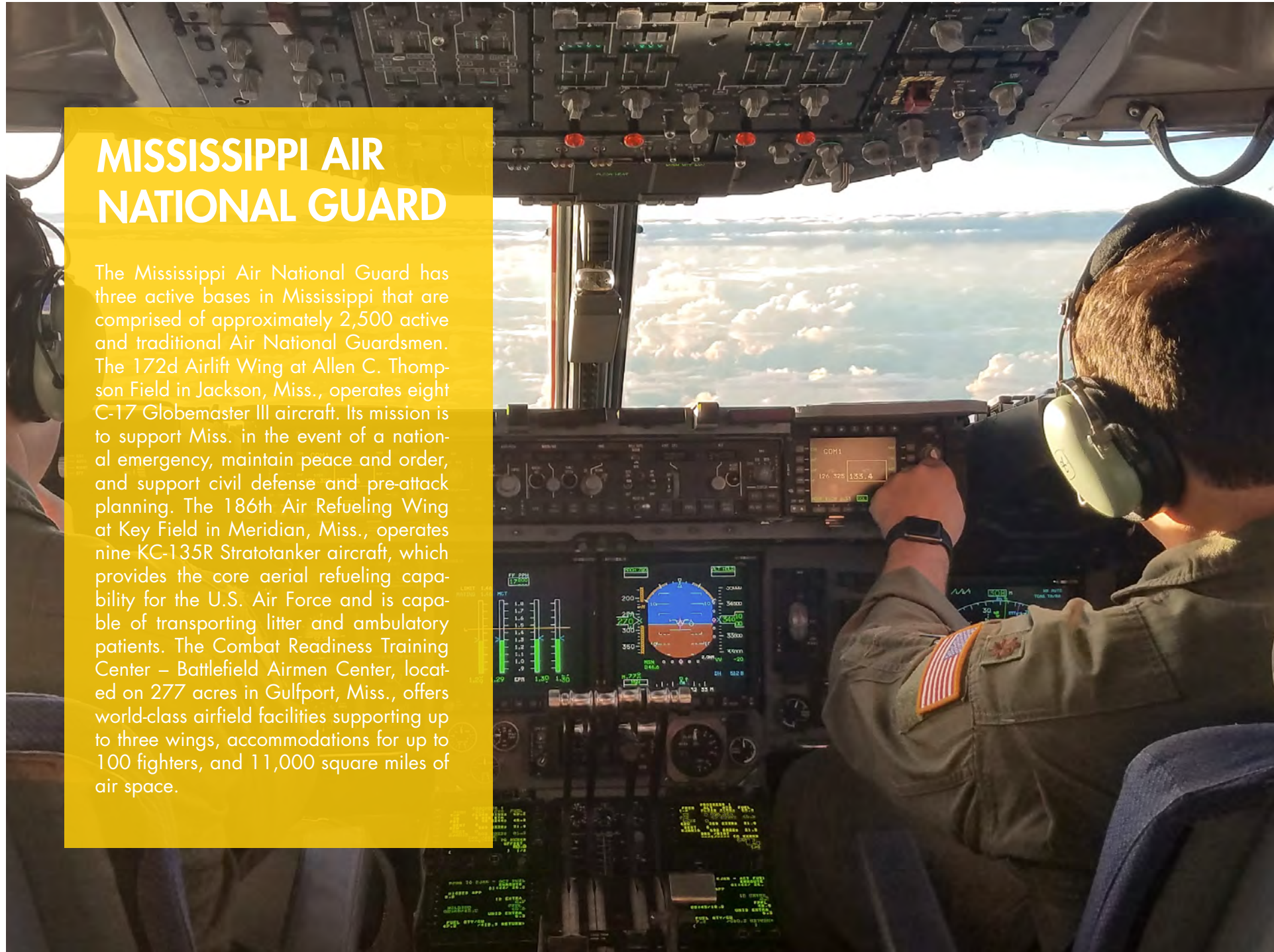
## CAMP SHELBY JOINT FORCES TRAINING CENTER

At 135,000 acres, the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center is the largest state-owned National Guard training site in the nation. It supports a wide variety of training and logistical support activities, including heavy maneuver and collective gunnery, multiple battalion field artillery fire ranges, realistic environmental training, and air-to-ground combat training capabilities for all branches and components of the military. Founded in 1917, the post has served as a training and mobilization site for American troops from World War I all the way to current Overseas Contingency Operations in locations all around the world.

### Mississippi Armed Forces Museum

The accomplishments of the troops trained and mobilized at Camp Shelby, as well as other Mississippi service members, are featured at the post's Mississippi Armed Forces Museum. The museum underwent a massive \$2 million renovation in 2016 that added 7,500 square feet, three new galleries, and an overhaul of all of its exhibits.





## MISSISSIPPI AIR NATIONAL GUARD

The Mississippi Air National Guard has three active bases in Mississippi that are comprised of approximately 2,500 active and traditional Air National Guardsmen. The 172d Airlift Wing at Allen C. Thompson Field in Jackson, Miss., operates eight C-17 Globemaster III aircraft. Its mission is to support Miss. in the event of a national emergency, maintain peace and order, and support civil defense and pre-attack planning. The 186th Air Refueling Wing at Key Field in Meridian, Miss., operates nine KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft, which provides the core aerial refueling capability for the U.S. Air Force and is capable of transporting litter and ambulatory patients. The Combat Readiness Training Center – Battlefield Airmen Center, located on 277 acres in Gulfport, Miss., offers world-class airfield facilities supporting up to three wings, accommodations for up to 100 fighters, and 11,000 square miles of air space.

## MSANG YEARLY OVERVIEW

The Mississippi Air National Guard provides Miss., the U.S. Air Force, and the Department of Defense a trained, combat-ready strategic military force prepared to respond stateside or abroad. The 172d AW conducted multiple missions in 2017, including heavy support to the Patriot South, Southern Strike, and Virtual Flag training exercises, contingency mission support to Air Mobility Command, and monthly missions in support of the Pacific Air Forces in the U.S. Pacific Command. The 186th ARW was also busy this year providing support to multiple contingencies across 10 different countries, including operations Freedom’s Sentinel, Inherent Resolve, and Enduring Freedom. The CRTC-BAC was assigned a new specialized training mission in 2017 to become a Battlefield Airmen Center to ensure Battlefield Airmen are trained and ready to support both global contingency operations and stateside domestic responses.



### CRTC-BAC

- 217** Training Exercises
- 18,735** Personnel Trained
- 12** States
- \$89M** Economic Impact

### 186th Air Refueling Wing

- 840,000** Deployed Man Hours
- 641** Sorties
- 3,077** Flying Hours
- 12M** lbs of Fuel Offloaded

### 172d Airlift Wing

- 258** Missions
- 1,439** Sorties
- 5,981** Flying Hours
- 730** Patients
- 15,256** Passengers

# MSNG COUNTERDRUG PROGRAM

## Meridian Naval Air Station

Meridian, Miss.  
"Press the Fight"

Since 1992, the Mississippi National Guard's Regional Counterdrug Training Academy has trained over 137,000 law enforcement officers from all 54 states and territories.

The RCTA was initially started in 1992 under the Gulf States Counterdrug Initiative for the purpose of identifying resources, services and support that can be legitimately provided by Department of Defense components to support counterdrug activities along the U.S. southern coastal region.

National Guard support for the state's Counterdrug Task Force is managed through the RCTA. One of the key assets the Mississippi National Guard contributes to this mission is the UH-72A Lakota Light Utility helicopter, manufactured in Columbus by Airbus. They are flown by Army Guardsmen assigned to the 114th Service Battalion, based in Tupelo.



**6213**  
Students trained  
at RCTA

**1430**  
Law Enforcement  
Agencies registered  
with the RCTA

**214**  
Total Counterdrug  
Courses

**54**  
States & territories  
involved in RCTA

# 47th CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM

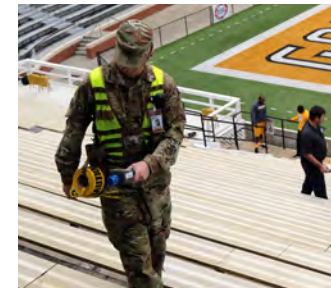
Flowood's 47th Civil Support Team's mission is to assist civil authorities with identifying chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high yield explosive agents at state incident sites. Specifically, their support includes providing consequence management and immediate response operations for events that can result in catastrophic life and property losses. The joint group operates on a 24-hour-a-day deployment cycle and has responded to almost every state disaster since its establishment in 2005.



**22 Full-time Soldiers & Airmen**  
14 Occupational Specialties



**25,000 Hours**  
of Specialized Training



**4 Training Exercises**  
5 Community Events  
2 State Responses



## University of Southern Mississippi Radiological Exercise

"The relationships that we build with local first responders and security at these sporting venues is critical."

- Capt. Heath Morgigno  
CST Operations Officer



## STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

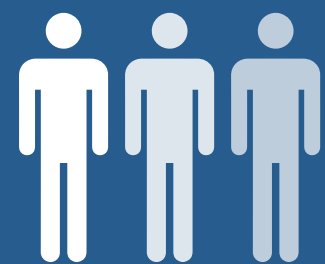
### Working Together For Stability

**“The hope and mission is to enhance interoperability and flourish partnerships.”**

**- Maj. Amanda Villeret, SPP Director**

The Mississippi National Guard currently maintains State Partnership Program relationships with Uzbekistan and Bolivia. The SPP is a key U.S. security cooperation tool, facilitating local government, academic and economic contacts as well as National Guard and civilian community involvement with the partner country.

It enhances cooperation across all aspects of international civil-military affairs and encourages people-to-people ties at the state level. Administered by the National Guard Bureau, SPP engagements are conducted both in the U.S. and the partner nation to nurture bilateral relationships via mutual understanding and trust. NGB allocates approximately \$100K to the SPP annually.



**50**  
MSNG  
Participants



**11**  
Partner Nation  
Engagements



## IN THE COMMUNITY

The Mississippi National Guard continues to maintain a strong presence throughout its communities. This year the MSNG's Kids Annual Training summer camp celebrated its 25th anniversary of serving Mississippi military families allowing military children to see a small glimpse of what their parents do during their military service. Whether visiting patients at Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital or assisting with recovery efforts after a devastating tornado, the Magnolia Guard will continue to be "Always Ready, Always There."



**25th**  
Kids AT  
Anniversary

**EF3**  
Tornado Assistance

**60**  
Air National Guard  
Flight to North Pole  
Salvation Army Angel  
Tree Children





**Mississippi  
National  
Guard**



**12,500  
Soldiers  
&  
Airmen**



**Shoulder  
to  
Shoulder**



**Mississippi  
Military  
Department  
Annual Report  
State FY 2017**

