



MISSISSIPPI MILITARY DEPARTMENT  
**2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

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JULY 2018 | JUNE 2019







**“Our leaders across the formations of the Mississippi National Guard are the strongest in the nation. The Soldiers and Airmen in our ranks are specialists in their fields. It’s because of these talented and dedicated Guardsmen that we proudly stand “Shoulder to Shoulder” in accomplishing all missions we face.”**

**- Command Sgt. Maj. John T. Raines III, Senior Enlisted Leader**

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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 of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. The Mississippi National Guard stands ready to support, protect, and defend our state and nation regardless of the mission. It is a result of the exemplary training and steadfast professionalism of our Service Members that distinguishes Mississippi as one of the premier Guard states in our nation.

Over the past year, the Mississippi National Guard has continued to serve with distinction, setting a standard of excellence in local missions and overseas contingency operations across the globe. We responded to the Carolinas in the wake of Hurricane Florence to provide lifesaving emergency relief operations after this devastating natural disaster. As a patriotic state, Mississippi proudly has serving MSNG Service Members living in every county of our great state. Our Soldiers, Airmen, Civilian employees and Families are resilient and stand steadfast to answer the call to serve. The dynamic network of talented professionals and dedicated Families and communities enhance our force, preparing us for future service.

This year the MSNG welcomed home the Soldiers of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team and deployed Soldiers of the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command in support of overseas Contingency Operation, among others. The MS Air Guard accepted an extraordinary new challenge by engaging in the 'space race' through the implementation of the Mississippi Space Directorate. The MSNG is thrilled to be on the cutting edge of technology and modernization as we adapt our forces to meet the challenges of the future.

This year MSNG, in coordination with institutions of higher learning, opened up a new opportunity for our Soldiers and Airmen now serving and for future generations to come. The implementation of Free Tuition Programs in coordination with State and Federal Education Assistance Programs for serving guardsmen is designed to help improve and maintain MSNG readiness while keeping our talented Mississippians in our state.

Your Mississippi National Guard continues to set a standard of excellence at home and around the world. We stand ready to serve the great citizens of Mississippi and answer our nation's call to service.

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



## To the Governor of the Great State of Mississippi

Mississippi's strength is steadfast through the accomplishments and resiliency of our Soldiers and Airmen. On behalf of the brave men and women serving in the MSNG, it is with great pleasure that I highlight a few of the key accomplishments of this year.

Our Soldiers and Airmen served with distinction during Operation Ardent Sentry; a multi-component, multi-state and multi-agency no-notice catastrophic earthquake emergency response and recovery exercise. Our Service Members reacted with precision and confidence as they conducted their missions in response to the diverse tasks expected as a result of a natural disaster.

The MSNG Soldiers and Airmen are a trained and ready force. We have shared our strength and expertise with other federal, state, local and military law enforcement agencies, empowering them to achieve milestones in their area of responsibility. This holds true with the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy, who trained Oklahoma Law Enforcement during this reporting year. Skills learned by an Oklahoma Law Enforcement officer resulted in the largest methamphetamine bust ever in Oklahoma. We continue the standard of excellence through the 154th Regional Training Institute, training approximately 6,000 Service Members in Mississippi and throughout the Southeast United States. The training programs offered at the 154th RTI, service all components of the Armed Forces. Their esteemed efforts continue to develop and advance today's warfighter for tomorrow's mission.

Mississippi National Guard has continued to excel in missions such as Southern Strike, Hurricane Response Exercises, and Ardent Sentry. We have challenged our Soldiers and Airmen with the annual Best Warrior Competition and look forward to hosting the National Best Warrior Competition in Mississippi next year. It is through these diverse opportunities that our courageous men and women serving in the Mississippi National Guard surpass all expectations and serve with honor in support of our state and nation. I am honored to be a part of this exceptional formation of military professionals.

Cmd. Sgt. Maj. John Raines  
Senior Enlisted Leader

## KEY LEADERSHIP - ARMY



**Brig. Gen. Amos P. Parker Jr.**  
Assistant Adjutant General - Army

Brigadier General Amos P. Parker, Jr. has served as the Assistant Adjutant General for the Mississippi Army National Guard since Jan. 11, 2019. As the Assistant Adjutant General - Army, Parker directs the operations of more than 10,000 Citizen Soldiers. He guides the formulation, development and implementation of all programs and policies affecting the Mississippi Army National Guard.



**Chief Warrant Officer 5  
Thomas W. Smith**  
State Command Chief Warrant Officer

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Thomas W. Smith has served as the State Command Chief Warrant Officer since April 6, 2018. As the Command Chief Warrant Officer, Smith serves as the senior advisor to the Adjutant General on all matters relating to Warrant Officers. He informs the Adjutant General and makes recommendations in matters of recruiting, retention, morale, welfare, schooling, promotions, and assignments of the Warrant Officers.



**Command Sgt. Maj.  
Christopher L. Young**  
State Command Sgt. Maj.

Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher L. Young has served as the State Command Sergeant Major for the Mississippi Army National Guard since Aug. 1, 2019. As the State Command Sergeant Major, Young is responsible for the welfare of all enlisted Citizen Soldiers. He advises the Adjutant General of Mississippi and the Assistant Adjutant General - Army on all enlisted-related matters, particularly in areas affecting Soldier training and quality of life.

## KEY LEADERSHIP - AIR



**Brigadier General Billy M. Nabors**  
Assistant Adjutant General - Air

Brigadier General Billy M. Nabors has served as the Assistant Adjutant General and Commander of the Mississippi Air National Guard since Aug. 4, 2018. As the Assistant Adjutant General - Air, Nabors directs the operations of more than 2,500 Citizen Airmen. He establishes policy to ensure the combat readiness and mission capability of the Mississippi Air National Guard.



**Chief Master Sgt.  
Lynn R. Cole**  
State Command Chief Master Sergeant

Chief Master Sergeant Lynn R. Cole has served as the State Command Chief Master Sergeant for the Mississippi Air National Guard, since Dec. 2, 2017. As the State Command Chief Master Sergeant, Cole is responsible for the welfare of all enlisted Citizen Airmen. She advises the Adjutant General of Mississippi and the Assistant Adjutant General - Air/Commander on all enlisted-related matters of mission effectiveness, professional development, military readiness, and training.

## KEY LEADERSHIP - JOINT



**Brig. Gen. John T. Kelly**  
Director of Joint Staff - Joint Force Headquarters

Brigadier General John T. Kelly has served as the Director, Joint Staff - Joint Force Headquarters/Land Component Commander, since Dec. 15, 2017. As the Director, Joint Staff/Land Component Commander, Kelly directs the operations of Citizen Soldiers and Airmen within the Mississippi National Guard. He guides the formulation, development and implementation of joint programs and policies affecting the Mississippi National Guard.



**Command Sgt. Maj.  
Darrell L. Masterson**  
Land Component Command Sergeant Major

Command Sgt. Maj. Darrell L. Masterson has served as the Land Component Command Sergeant Major since Aug. 1, 2019. As the Land Component Command Sergeant Major, Masterson is responsible for the welfare of enlisted Citizen Soldiers and Airmen within the Mississippi National Guard. He advises the Director, Joint Staff/Land Component Commander on all enlisted related matters, particularly in areas affecting Soldier and Airmen training and quality of life.



## STATE & FEDERAL FUNDING

The Mississippi National Guard maintains a strong presence throughout the Magnolia State. Our entire force consists of approximately 12,500 Soldiers and Airmen, 901 of which are Active Guard and Reserve. We have 1,078 federal technician employees and 988 state employees, both of which are comprised of Soldiers, Airmen, and Civilians. The MSNG has 68 Army National Guard readiness centers in various communities across Mississippi, and three major Air National Guard facilities. With a proactive attitude, our dedicated employees continue 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.



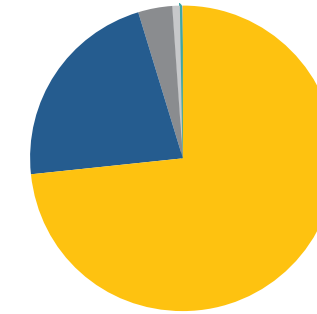
### COLUMBIA ARMORY READY FOR BUSINESS

The Columbia Army National Guard Readiness Center was opened for the third time in July 2019 after being destroyed by two previous storms.

The architects of the center, which was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and again by a large tornado on Christmas Eve in 2014, took its history in account when designing the new facility. The \$11.6 million, 43,400 square foot center was built to withstand high winds and to be used as a community shelter in future state emergencies.

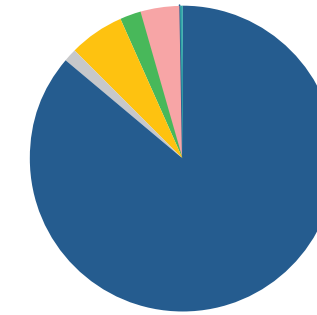
It consists of two stories that are accessible on each level because the lower floor is partially buried in the natural terrain on the eastern side and exposed on the remaining sides. A rise on the eastern side, complete with parking, offers easy access to the building's second floor and landing that overlooks the assembly hall in the center of the structure on the first floor.

### Mississippi Army National Guard FY 2019 Federal Appropriations: \$410,776,200



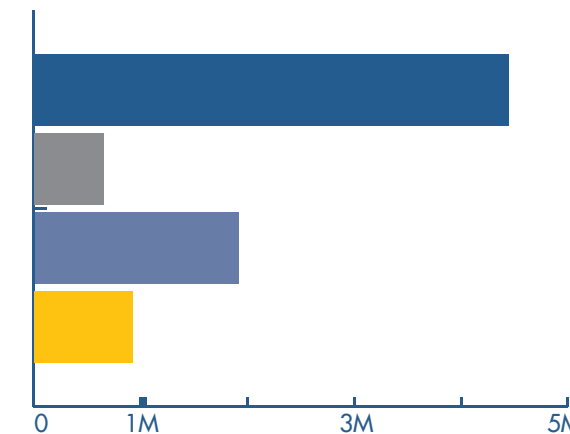
- Operations and Maintenance: \$302,025,800
- Military Pay and Allowances: \$89,689,600
- Goods and Services: \$14,500,000
- Youth Challenge: \$4,350,000
- Special Forces: \$178,000
- Employer Support of the Guard/Reserve: \$32,800

### Mississippi Air National Guard FY 2019 Federal Appropriations: \$176,125,931



- Military/Civilian Pay and Allowances: \$151,766,713
- Supplies and Equipment: \$2,480,390
- Facilities: \$10,283,100
- Base Operating Cost: \$4,214,969
- Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization: \$6,897,349
- Recruiting & Retention: \$126,387
- Subsistence: \$137,295
- Clothing: \$219,728

### Mississippi Military Department State Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations: \$7,942,694



- Adjutant General Office - Fund 2701: \$4,443,720
- Museum - Fund 2705: \$653,392
- Youth Challenge - Fund 2706: \$1,920,582
- State Education Assistance Program - Fund 2708: \$925,000





## ANOTHER BUSY YEAR

The Mississippi National Guard experienced a high operations tempo during state fiscal year 2019. The organization's Army and Air National Guard personnel were heavily engaged in training and operations both at home and abroad. As a result of these activities, several headlines were made - approximately 3,250 members of the Tupelo-based 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team returned home from Kuwait in support of Operation Spartan Shield; Soldiers and Airmen supported natural disaster recovery after Hurricane Florence and tornados in Morton; and the MSNG Counterdrug Task Force conducted over 140 operational missions resulting in drug seizures with an estimated street value of \$2.3 million. These are only a few of the numerous examples of superior service provided by our volunteer force.

**"The Soldiers and Airmen of the Mississippi National Guard continue to exceed all expectations at home and abroad. These talented professionals stand ready to fight and win our nation's wars and assist the citizens of Mississippi when disaster strikes."**

**- Col. Joe Hargett, Chief of Staff**



**Space Force**

The Mississippi National Guard and state leadership made an announcement of the formation of the state's first ever Space Directorate.



**Free Tuition Program**

Universities across Mississippi signed a memorandum of understanding providing free undergraduate tuition to their respective universities for Mississippi National Guard members.



**184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command**

Approximately 250 Soldiers of the 184th ESC deployed to Kuwait to provide sustainment support for Operation Spartan Shield, Operation Resolute Support in Afghanistan, and the United States Military Training Mission in Saudi Arabia.





# MAJOR UNITS & ACTIVITIES

## 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 Academy, MERIDIAN
- Readiness Sustainment Maintenance Academy 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 Shop, CAMP MCCAIN
- Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site, CAMP SHELBY
- Regional Training Institute, CAMP SHELBY
- Youth Challenge Academy, CAMP SHELBY
- Mississippi Armed Forces Museum, CAMP SHELBY
- 186th Air Refueling Wing, MERIDIAN
- Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center, GULFPORT
- 172d Airlift Wing, FLOWOOD



CAMP SHELBY  
JOINT FORCES  
TRAINING CENTER  
CAMP SHELBY, MISS.



CAMP MCCAIN  
TRAINING CENTER  
ELLIOT, MISS.



GULFPORT  
COMBAT READINESS  
TRAINING CENTER  
GULFPORT, MISS.



172D  
AIRLIFT WING  
FLOWOOD, MISS.



JOINT FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS, MSNG  
JACKSON, MISS.



185TH  
AVIATION BRIGADE  
JACKSON, MISS.



47TH CIVIL  
SUPPORT TEAM  
FLOWOOD, MISS.



186TH AIR  
REFUELING WING  
MERIDIAN, MISS.



66TH TROOP COMMAND  
JACKSON, MISS.



168TH ENGINEER  
BRIGADE  
VICKSBURG, MISS.



155TH ARMORED  
BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM  
TUPELO, MISS.



184TH  
EXPEDITIONARY SUSTAINMENT  
COMMAND  
MONTICELLO, MISS.



# STATESIDE & FORWARD SERVICE



## Hurricane Florence Support

Master Sgt. Sheri Burkes and Capt. Jonathan Washburn, personnel professionals with the 186th Air Operations Group, were among the Guardsmen deployed to the Air Force's Northern Contingency Action Team at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., for Hurricane Florence Disaster Support to Civil Authorities.



## 1108th Aviation Group

The 1108th Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group returned to Gulfport after their 80 Soldiers served in Southwest Asia. The unit provided joint theater-level aviation field and sustainment maintenance for the aviation units operating in the United States Army Central Command Area of Operations. Also, Soldiers assisted Task Force Sinai in Egypt by providing the Multinational Forces and observers with UH-60 subject matter experts to assist in scheduled and unscheduled maintenance. At home, 1108th TASMG provides maintenance support for hundreds of rotary wing aircraft involved in ongoing CENTCOM AOR rotations.



## 168th Aviation Regiment

Approximately 60 Soldiers of Company G, 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment, were honored January 3 at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Madison during a deployment sendoff ceremony. The Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan for approximately 10 months in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel, providing rotary wing aviation medical evacuation support using UH-60L Black Hawk helicopters. Following the ceremony, the company traveled to Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete mobilization training for the deployment.

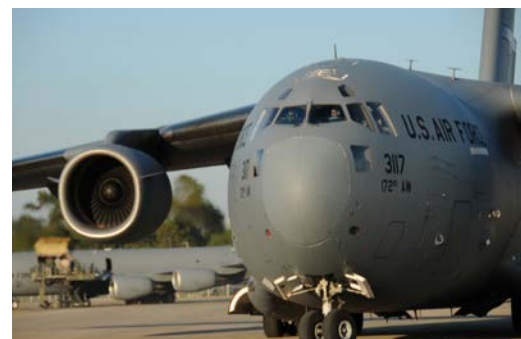


## 859th Engineer Company

Approximately 160 Soldiers from the 859th Engineer Company are serving a nine-month deployment to the Middle East in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. The Soldiers went to Texas for mobilization training prior to their deployment. The group of carpenters, plumbers, electricians, and mechanics are tasked with completing construction projects for Soldiers serving in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

## 287th Engineer MAC

The 287th Engineer Mobility Augmentation Company (MAC), based in Wiggins, completed a 6-week certification course at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. The roughly 43-day training and certification exercise focused on hazardous material handling and decontamination, life-saving skills, and search and rescue operations in a hazardous environment. With the successful validation, the engineers became the new "go-to" team of C2CRE-B professionals and add strength and expertise to the Mississippi Army National Guard.



## 172d Airlift Wing and 186th Air Refueling Wing Deemed Outstanding

The Mississippi Air National Guard's 172d Airlift Wing and 186th Air Refueling Wing received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The honor is given by the Secretary of the Air Force to numbered units that have distinguished themselves by exceptional meritorious service or outstanding achievement that clearly sets the unit above and apart from similar units.



## 172d Contingency Response Flight

More than 100 members of the 172d Airlift Wing deployed to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, for annual training. The Contingency Response Flight's mission is to establish command and control elements and an airfield whenever called to deploy worldwide. The CRF has already deployed in support of recovery efforts following three hurricanes and other assignments.



# TASK FORCE THUNDER: MISSION COMPLETE

The Tupelo-based 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) recently returned from its third deployment to the Middle East in support of the global war on terror. The “Dixie Thunder” brigade completed one of the largest National Guard mobilizations in a decade, spending more than 70 days in an austere training environment at Fort Bliss, Texas. The brigade followed this training by becoming the first National Guard BCT to be the main effort as a part of Operation Spartan Shield (OSS).

The 155th was headquartered in Camp Buehring, Kuwait, with Soldiers spread throughout the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Theater of Operations to include Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Afghanistan, and other undisclosed locations. With the addition of the California National Guard’s 1st Squadron, 18th Cavalry Regiment conducting the Jordan Operational Engagement Program, and the Arizona National Guard’s 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry Regiment, working with Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan; the brigade was nearly 5,000 strong and active in approximately 20 locations in 13 countries conducting theater security cooperation missions, partnership exercises, and maintaining a rapid reaction force - each task aimed at meeting the intent of the OSS mission: deterring aggression and building stability throughout the region.

The brigade drew and maintained Army Prepositioned Stock from Camp Arifjan. This was a daunting task for logistics and maintenance, but the brigade maintainers demonstrated their capabilities by keeping a 90% operational readiness rate

throughout the deployment. This directly contributed to it achieving 100% crew qualification in their tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles, and Paladin self-propelled howitzers.

Soldiers with the 155th conducted multiple partnership exercises and NCO exchanges throughout CENTCOM. Exchanges provided the opportunity for leaders from partner militaries to work and train alongside brigade Soldiers. Exercises included Bright Star in Egypt, Desert Observer in Kuwait, Eastern Action in Qatar, Iron Union in the United Arab Emirates, and Inferno Creek in Oman.

With the intent of growing “stronger every day,” some missions went down to the individual level as guardsmen pushed themselves to grow as Soldiers and leaders. The brigade graduated 185 Soldiers from the Basic Leader Course (BLC) at Camp Buehring, 16 Soldiers earned the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, which consisted of five events testing their physical fitness and marksmanship; and instructors from the 155th led three BLC classes for U.S. Army Central Soldiers. The unit was also instrumental in planning, coordinating, and conducting the first Air Assault course at Camp Buehring in nearly two years, with 54 of the 190 graduates coming from the brigade.

The 155th ABCT continues to be at the forefront of the dynamic demands the U.S. Army requires of the National Guard in order to accomplish strategic missions all over the world.







**“The training our Guardsmen receive within the borders of our great state, is the best our nation has to offer. We are proud to serve the citizens of Mississippi and are always ready to support, protect, and defend our freedoms and our American way of life.”**

**- Col. Brent McCullouch, G3**

## CAMP SHELBY JOINT FORCES TRAINING CENTER

Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center is approximately 136,000 acres, making it 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, collective gunnery, multiple battalion field artillery fire ranges, realistic environmental training and air-to-ground combat training 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. Our mission is to prepare today's Service Members for future missions.

### Mississippi Armed Forces Museum

Service Members joined with the local community to celebrate the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center's 100th Anniversary Saturday, July 15, 2017.

Please take the time to visit the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby to check out the newly renovated exhibits detailing the military history of Mississippi.

### Training is Our Business

Camp Shelby hosted the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division for Operation Arctic Anvil in October 2019. Arctic Anvil brought roughly 5,000 U.S. Army Alaska paratroopers to Camp Shelby for training before their rotation to the Joint Readiness Training Center. Camp Shelby hosted multiple Joint National Training Center accredited exercises to include Southern Strike, a primarily Special Operations training exercise. Roughly 100,000 Service Members are trained each year at Camp Shelby, keeping it at the forefront of training and remaining a premiere training site for all military branches of service.



Secretary of the Army, Mark Esper



# CAMP MCCAIN

The War Department established the Grenada Triangular Division Camp on December 15, 1942. Shortly after being established, the Camp was re-named "Camp McCain" in honor of Major General Henry P. McCain, with the headquarters located in Elliott, Mississippi. Camp McCain's facilities included numerous buildings and training areas consisting of 42,073 acres and located in Grenada and Montgomery Counties. The 87th and 94th Divisions trained more than 50,000 Service Members at Camp McCain for deployment to the European Theater. Camp McCain also housed over 7,700 German POW's. Grenada Army Airfield was constructed to support Camp McCain in late 1943. The War Department deactivated Camp McCain in October of 1944 and declared its property excess. The Department transferred 3,006 acres of Camp McCain's lands to the Mississippi National Guard for use as a weekend training site. Over the following 76 years, the Mississippi National Guard acquired additional land and constructed additional facilities, culminating in the current 12,919 acre, multicomponent, year-round training site. Today, Camp McCain Training Center trains members of U.S. military and civilian services, as well as members of numerous international partners. Camp McCain is the home of Companies C and E, 2nd BN, 20th Special Forces Group, Unit Training Equipment Site and Combined Support Maintenance Shop #2.

Annually, more than 50,000 Service Members receive state-of-the-art training at Camp McCain's 22 training areas - eight live-fire ranges; multiple simulation training aides; three land navigation courses; 18 station confidence course; repel tower; and computer labs. Camp McCain hosted numerous Joint National Training Capability (JNTC) accredited and joint military/civilian exercises such as Southern Strike, Patriot South and Ardent Sentry. It was the first training center to offer, through simulated, dry and live-fire exercise, Law Enforcement Weapons Training and Qualification, the MP corps' new Military Occupational Specialty standard for weapons qualification. It supported joint military/civilian training for domestic operations, including search and rescue, and Humanitarian Assistance Response Training at Hunt Lake. Camp McCain hosted two statewide Area of Operations conferences, and the first MSNG Youth Resiliency Camp. It supported high school and university ROTC programs and summer training events. Camp McCain supported over 1,400 Boy Scouts, the Rotary Clubs of Winona and Grenada, Exchange Club, Grenada Chamber of Commerce and Grenada Economic Development Organizations. Earlier this year, Camp McCain partnered with the Grenada Airport to expand its training facilities for Air Traffic Control Units.







## BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION

Mississippi's best Soldiers and Airmen were emboldened by the spirits of the warriors of yesterday as they strove to win their individual conflicts on the battlefield of the Vicksburg National Military Park during the 2019 Mississippi Best Warrior Competition April 8-11.

Much like the battle at Vicksburg was only one stop on Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's campaign to cut the Confederacy in half, the road march through the historic landmark was a single event in the campaign to claim the Best Warrior title.

The competition left an imprint on many military installations this year. The event started and ended at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, with event stops at Camp McCain and Vicksburg National Military Park.

Competitors started with the check-in process at Camp Shelby, where they were later hit with a mystery event of escaping a simulated jail at the Combined Arms Collective

Training Facility. They also took the Army Physical Fitness Test, participated in a stress shoot event and were tested on other basic warrior tasks.

The competitors were then flown to Camp McCain on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter to prepare for the day and night land navigation course.

Camp McCain's many training ranges were used during weapons qualification and stress shoot events. The obstacle course was also completed at this installation.

In a monumental move for the competition, the Vicksburg National Military Park was added as an event site for the first time. Participants engaged in a 12-mile road march through the historic and hilly grounds of the park.

The BWC tests for the best, most well-rounded Soldier and Airman in two categories, Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year and Soldier of the Year.







**“Over the past year, the Mississippi Air National Guard has distinguished itself in operations to include combat, combat support, projection of national power in the Pacific and Europe as well as aeromedical and natural disaster support across the globe. The pride, readiness, and professionalism of our Guard members, their families, and our civilian employees sets the standard for other states to follow.”**

**- Billy M. Nabors, Brig Gen, MS ANG**

## MISSISSIPPI AIR NATIONAL GUARD

The Mississippi Air National Guard, comprised of approximately 2,500 active and traditional guardsmen, has three active bases in Mississippi. At Allen C. Thompson Field in Jackson, the 172d Airlift Wing operates nine C-17 Globemaster III aircraft providing strategic airlift for federal and state missions, as well as aeromedical evacuation airlift and aircrews. The 172d Airlift Wing also oversees two geographically separated units located in Gulfport, the 255th Air Control Squadron and the 209th Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron. The 186th Air Refueling Wing at Key Field in Meridian, operates nine KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft and two RC-26 Condor aircraft. The KC-135s provide the core aerial refueling capability for the U. S. Air Force, and are capable of transporting cargo and litter, and ambulatory patients. The RC-26 aircraft provide incident awareness assessment (IAA) for several mission areas along with RC-26 crew training for the entire ANG. The 186th Air Refueling Wing also has three specialized units providing support to warfighters as well as civilian partners - the 186th Air Operations Group, the 238th Air Support Operations Squadron, and the 248th Air Traffic Control Squadron. The Combat Readiness Training Center, located on 277 acres in Gulfport, provides an integrated, year-round, realistic training environment for units up to wing size. CRTC facilities include ramp space for up to 100 fighters, 11,000 square miles of airspace over the Gulf of Mexico, an air-to-ground bombing range adjacent to Camp Shelby, and accommodations for up to 1,000 Airmen.

## MSANG OVERVIEW

The Mississippi Air National Guard provides the Magnolia State, the U.S. Air Force, and the Department of Defense a trained, combat-ready operational military force prepared to respond stateside or abroad. The 172d Airlift Wing conducted numerous exercise and real world missions during Fiscal Year 2019. In addition to the Southern Strike and Patriot South training exercises, they provided contingency mission support to Air Mobility Command and mission-ready airlift to the National Guard Bureau; their efforts reaching across 43 countries and transporting over 1,100 patients this year. Meridian's 186th Air Refueling Wing has been heavily engaged in 11 different countries providing support to multiple operations/contingencies including Freedom's Sentinel, Inherent Resolve, Key Resolve, Enduring Freedom, Southwest border operations, and continuing bomber presence/theatre support. The CRTC hosted Southern Strike, the south's premier joint, combined warfighting exercise, as well as full-spectrum readiness training exercises for multiple Air National Guard wings.

As an organization with deep roots in the local community, the Mississippi Air National Guard has made community outreach a priority. This year, the 186th Air Refueling Wing continued its commitment to Meridian's Aldersgate Retirement Home by coordinating and attending an annual Valentine's Day dance, dubbed "Dancing with the Greatest Generation." The 172d Airlift Wing partnered with the Salvation Army and the Radio People in Jackson to host its 12th annual Flight to the North Pole in which 60 underprivileged children were treated to Santa, gifts and a new bicycle. The CRTC partnered with the Mississippi Air National Guard Recruiting and Retention Office to support the Bernard Blackwell North/South All-Star Football Game in Gulfport, providing indispensable volunteers while simultaneously sharing the benefits of the Air National Guard with participants and attendees.



### CRTC-BAC

**13,365** Trained  
**12** Major Exercises  
**19** States  
**\$50M** Economic Impact



### 186th Air Refueling Wing

**559** Pax  
**630** Sorties  
**2319** Flying Hours  
**7.8M** lbs of Fuel Offloaded



### 172d Airlift Wing

**177** Missions  
**982** Sorties  
**9981** Cargo  
**9902** Pax  
**1168** Patients



# DOMESTIC SUPPORT TO CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES

The Directorate of Military Support ensures that Mississippi units are prepared to support civilian authorities' response to natural hazards, criminal enterprises, terrorist threats, and industrial related incidents, at the direction of the Governor in order to preserve the lives and property of the people of Mississippi and ensure continuity of State and local government.

The MSNG has the following agencies trained and ready to support civil authorities throughout our state: MSNG Counterdrug Program, the 47th Civil Support Team, and Detachment 2, Cyber Protection Team 178.



# MSNG COUNTERDRUG PROGRAM

## Meridian Naval Air Station

Meridian, Miss.  
"Press the Fight"

The Regional Counterdrug Training Academy (RCTA) was established in 1992 under the Gulf States Counterdrug Initiative for the purpose of identifying resources, services, and support that could be legitimately provided by Department of Defense components to support counter-drug activities along the U.S. southern coastal region. Since it was established, the Mississippi National Guard's Regional Counterdrug Training Academy has trained over 170,000 law enforcement officers from all 54 states and territories.

The Mississippi National Guard Counterdrug Task Force is managed through the RCTA. The Counterdrug Task Force provides air and ground reconnaissance, case analysis, and linguist support to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

In FY19, the Task Force provided support that resulted in immediate, large-scale and international effects in the deterrence of illicit narcotics production, trafficking and distribution while maintaining strong relationships with law enforcement agency partners at all levels.

Over 140 armed and unarmed (air and ground) Counterdrug operational missions were conducted in support of Mississippi Law Enforcement, resulting in drug seizures with an estimated street value of \$2,319,886. The missions also seized 86 firearms and \$91,513 in cash during these operations.



**15,229**  
Students trained  
at RCTA

**2,108**  
Law Enforcement  
Agencies trained  
with the RCTA

**236**  
Total Counterdrug  
Courses

**54**  
States & territories  
involved in RCTA



## 47th CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM

The 47th Civil Support Team's mission is to assist civil authorities by identifying unknown hazardous substances including chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive material at any state incident site. Additionally, their support provides assistance, advice on consequence management, and immediate response operations for events that could potentially result in catastrophic life or property losses. The 47th CST is a joint group that operates on a 24-hour-a-day deployment cycle and has deployed and assisted in almost every state disaster since its establishment in 2005.



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

**25,000 Hours**  
of Specialized Training

**13 Training Exercises**  
8 Emergency Management  
14 Assistance Missions

## MSNG CYBER UNIT

Cyber Protection Team 178 is a tri-state cyber unit from Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. Detachment 2, Cyber Protection Team 178, was organized on April 7, 2017, and awarded unit federal recognition on Dec. 12, 2017. The unit is located on the Mississippi State University campus in Starkville. The CPT provides professional highly skilled Soldiers responsive to the needs of the nation while boosting the state and federal cyber defense capabilities. The mission statement for the team: conduct defensive cyberspace operations on military networks to support mission requirements as identified by DoD or state leadership. In compliance with federal and state laws, defensive cyberspace operations may be expanded to include cyber command readiness inspections; vulnerability assessments; cyber opposing forces support; critical infrastructure assessments; theater security cooperation; Federal Emergency Management Agency support; training support; and advisory and assistance support.

After organizing, the unit participated in multiple cyber industry certification events (e.g., Security+, Certified Ethical Hacker, CompTIA Advanced Security Practitioner, etc.) in preparation for mobilization. The Cyber Protection Team mobilized on March 4, 2018, to provide support to U.S. Cyber Command and Army Cyber Command by providing supervision and maintenance to Title 10 U.S. Cyber Command infrastructure. The CPT returned to Mississippi in April 2019. During mobilization, CPT 178 was able to achieve the Full Operational Capability designation a full two years ahead of the scheduled validation. This designation required completion of more than one-thousand hours of structured and progressive cyberspace training, including cyberspace operations planning; network operations; network architecture; and technically detailed software analysis and development. Since returning to Mississippi, the unit has provided cyber training and advising services to multiple state agencies to assist in improving the overall cybersecurity footprint of the state.





# 154th REGIMENT REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

The 154th Regiment Regional Training Institute (RTI) provides the highest quality institutional training, producing flexible and agile leaders who are able to adapt and achieve success in a complex and uncertain operating environment. RTI cadre facilitate the most relevant, rigorous, and realistic professional military education available in support of the Army's operational force. The 154th is recognized as the premier National Guard Training Institution in the nation due to outstanding instruction, excellent facilities, cutting-edge technology and employment of instructors of the highest caliber. The Regiment remains an asset to all three Army Components and continues to enhance strategic relationships with stakeholders. The 154th's vision is to maintain a professional, value-based organization that uses the principles of mission command, stewardship of the seven Army values, The Army Learning Concept for Training and Education and the Army Enterprise Accreditation Standards to develop leaders and provide the Army a force that is "Ready Now," prompt, and able to deploy, fight and win our Nation's Wars.



**6,000**  
Students Trained During FY 2019



# STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

## Working Together For Stability

**"Our relationship with Uzbekistan has truly evolved in FY19 by incorporating state government agencies, businesses, and colleges into our partnership."**

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

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. The NGB allocates approximately \$250,000 to the MSNG SPP annually.

The Mississippi National Guard currently maintains State Partnership Program relationships with Uzbekistan and Bolivia. The MSNG and partner delegations have discussed items of mutual interest, including but not limited to - aviation employment (fixed and rotary); NCO development; military medical and aeromedical; Special Forces operations; and combat vehicle maintenance. Additionally, the MSNG and Uzbekistan conducted numerous key leader engagements to including Governor Phil Bryant and various other state agencies visiting Uzbekistan, and the Uzbek Minister of Defense and Uzbek National Guard Commander visiting Mississippi. Uzbekistan participated in this year's MSNG-led exercise Southern Strike, marking Uzbekistan's first ever participation in a Special Operation Forces-level exercise conducted outside of their home country.





# YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

## “Accept the Challenge”

The mission of the Challenge Academy is to intervene in the lives of 16-18 year olds, who have not been successful in the traditional educational environment, and produce program graduates with the values, life skills, education and self-discipline necessary to become productive citizens of their communities and society. The Youth Challenge Academy has graduated 50 classes for a total of 9,762 graduates to date. Over 200 are on track to graduate this upcoming cycle.

The Mississippi National Guard Youth Challenge Academy creates an environment for young men and young women to take control of their lives and to accept the responsibility for their past, present, and future behavior. In our five-month phase, we witness a miraculous metamorphosis. Whether it be the average kid from down the street or an “at-risk” youth, all can see the difference from day one to month five. Our students develop pride, self-respect, discipline, direction, ethics, values and educational skills. In every graduating class, we have had ACT scholarships and Community College scholarship recipients. Many others were college-bound using grant or parental assistance, and a few entered civilian and military employment. The Mississippi National Guard Youth Challenge Academy currently has a 97.6 percent success rate of our graduates either entering college, the work force, or the military.



# FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE

The Construction and Facilities Management Office experienced a tremendous 2019 due to the unprecedented funding amount executed by the Directorate. Mississippi received a total of approximately \$42 million in Federal MILCON (Military Construction) funds along with approximately \$45 million in SRM (Sustainment, Restoration & Modernization) funds. Approximately \$22 million was appropriated for the barracks renovation project at Camp Shelby. In addition to these funds, the Mississippi Military Department applied the approximately \$6.8 million towards the maintenance and repair (M&R) of our readiness centers and maintenance and aviation support facilities. The MSARNG currently has 68 readiness centers across the state. The Mississippi Military Department completed over 1,200 work orders in 2019, but the constrained Fiscal environment over the past 10+ years contributed to an \$8 million backlog of facility maintenance and repairs. During 2019, the Mississippi Legislators provided \$2 million to the MSNG to perform maintenance and repair to armories and readiness centers throughout the state.

Additionally, the MSARNG is set to construct a new Desoto County Readiness Center in FY 2024. The MSARNG also received design authority approval for the new Field Maintenance Shop to be constructed in Brandon. Construction for this maintenance shop will start in the spring of 2021. Along with these MILCON projects, the MSARNG is currently converting existing facilities to create readiness centers at Camp Shelby and Gulfport to support the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team’s Military Intelligence Company and the 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment’s Forward Support Company.

In 2019, MSARNG returned the Charleston, Taylorsville, and Rolling Fork Readiness Centers back to their respective communities. This is part of an ongoing facility consolidation initiative to reduce force structure and save costs. The cities receiving the armories were greatly appreciative due to the various needs for multipurpose use of the returned facilities. These returns also aided in reducing the MSARNG’s annual facility maintenance and utility cost.



**JANSON D. BOYLES**  
MAJOR GENERAL  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

**FUTURE HOME OF  
DESOTO COUNTY**




**NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER**



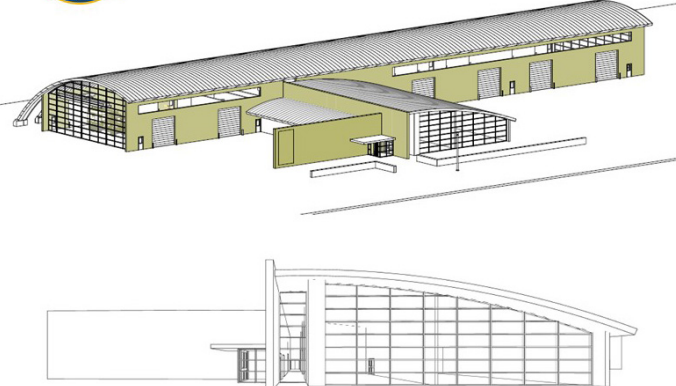


Jessie Medlin Dist 1  
Mark Gardner Dist 2  
Bill Russell Dist 3  
Lee Caldwell Dist 4  
Michael Lee Dist 5





**Field Maintenance Shop (FMS) #9**





## IN THE COMMUNITY

The Mississippi National Guard strongly supports the communities around the state. Employment Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) continues to reward employers who have supported and adapted to their National Guard employees by participating in over 592 events. Over 80 Patriot Awards were presented and 433 Statements of Support were signed during FY19. The 186th Air Refueling Wing at Key Field in Meridian participated in the ESGR Bosslift flight to Vicksburg's Employer Appreciation Day in April. The 172nd Airlift Wing at Thompson Field in Flowood participated in the Annual Bosslift in September, allowing employers from around the state to be involved in the activities that their National Guard employees perform during drill weekends. Continuing a celebrated tradition with the Y-101 Radio station, the Salvation Army and the Mississippi Brain Injury Association, the 172nd Airlift Wing sent Salvation Army Angel Tree Children to the North Pole to see Santa Claus and open presents.

Mississippi National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are also out in the community using their skills developed from the military in domestic situations. During a house fire in Leflore County, Mississippi on Feb. 21, 2019, Sgt. 1st Class Bradley Edmonson of the 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, entered a burning building to rescue a civilian. Although both were taken to the hospital due to smoke inhalation, no further injuries were sustained.

Again, a Soldier was called upon when a civilian was trapped inside a burning mobile home in Saucier on April 7, 2019. Staff Sgt. Dusty Cooley, from the Mississippi Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion, was able to save the woman from being engulfed in flames.

When Mississippi National Guardsmen are not saving civilians from disaster, they are involved in community events, such as dancing. Airmen from the 186th Air Refueling Wing Non-Commissioned Officers Association and the residents of the Aldersgate Retirement Community danced away the afternoon on Feb. 14, 2019, in a community outreach event. Soldiers and Airmen also host an annual Christmas party at the Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital, where they hand out treats and sing Christmas Carols. All of these events, the more dangerous to the more subdued, continue to prove that the MSNG is "Always Ready, Always There."











MISSISSIPPI MILITARY DEPARTMENT  
**2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

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