



MISSISSIPPI MILITARY DEPARTMENT  
**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**



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JULY 2020 | JUNE 2021



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## To the Governor of the Great State of Mississippi

I am grateful for the prestigious honor to present to you the annual report of the Mississippi Military Department for State Fiscal Year 2021. The Mississippi National Guard continues to set a standard of excellence through relevant state-of-the-art training, establishing this organization as a vital resource among our nation's combat-ready reserve forces. The professionalism of our men and women distinguishes Mississippi as one of the premier Guard states in the nation.

The Soldiers and Airmen of the Mississippi National Guard have served with honor and integrity in an extraordinary number of missions this past year, from natural disaster response to civil disturbance in the National Capital Region and the ongoing fight against COVID-19. The MSNG served as a vital force multiplier on your COVID-19 State Task Force, led by the Mississippi State Department of Health and supported by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency.

Approximately 1,700 Mississippi National Guard Service Members contributed to the COVID-19 response. Our Soldiers and Airmen administered approximately 765,000 vaccinations, 226,000 tests and processed more than 109,000 lab samples supporting the MSDH. Our logistics professionals traveled more than 665,000 miles throughout our state to deliver more than 58 million pieces of personal protective equipment to our hospitals, long-term health care facilities, clinics and testing sites.

As the nation's primary combat reserve, the Mississippi National Guard continued to train for and perform contingencies abroad. The 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team culminated three years of preparation, exceeding Army expectations, during its training at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California. Units in the 184th Sustainment Command and 66th Troop Command supported Operation Enduring Freedom, while both the 172d Wing and the 186th Wing supported Air Mobility Command's high demand for domestic training support and Aeromedical and Transportation support to operations abroad.

In September 2020, we hosted the National Guard's National Best Warrior Competition for the first time at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center in Hattiesburg. As a reflection of the Mississippi National Guard's competitiveness, Staff Sgt. Mitchell Schofield, an instructor at Camp Shelby's 154th Regiment Regional Training Institute, won the National Best Warrior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year for 2020.

Our Guardsmen are dedicated to keeping Mississippians safe by providing response to natural disasters and other events where many require mobility during a flood or hurricane – engineer support to infrastructure and utilities after a tornado or hurricane, logistical support of essential needs to citizens, or aviation support to partner agencies within the state and at times, nationwide.

The men and women of the Mississippi National Guard continue to perform with confidence, skill, and exceptional patriotism in every mission. Our Service Members proudly represent Mississippi, living in every county of our great state. Our Soldiers, Airmen, Civilian employees and Families are resilient and committed.

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 serve "Shoulder – To – Shoulder."

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



## To the Governor of the Great State of Mississippi

It is an honor to serve as the Senior Enlisted Leader for the Mississippi National Guard. I am proud to report that the Soldiers and Airmen of our formation continue to stand ready for any mission in support of our state and nation. Our diversity is our strength and a true reflection of the talented men and women who come from and represent every county in Mississippi. On behalf of the talented professionals serving in the MSNG, I am proud to highlight our accomplishments and contributions for this annual report.

This year, like many years before, has presented new mission and training opportunities along with new challenges to overcome. Our Service Members charged forward supporting the statewide COVID-19 Task Force led by the Mississippi State Department of Health and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. The Mississippi National Guard provided approximately 1,700 trained professionals skilled in logistics, transportation, security, and medical during the COVID-19 response. These professionals supported community-based testing sites, vaccination sites, and delivered vital personal protective equipment to the front lines ensuring our Mississippi citizens had the resources they needed to combat COVID-19.

The Mississippi National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are a trained and ready force. Mississippi led the way in September 2020 by hosting the National Guard's National Best Warrior Competition for the first time at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. As a testament of exemplary service and Warrior Ethos, Staff Sgt. Mitchell Schofield, an instructor at the 154th Regiment Regional Training Institute, represented our state, won at the National competition and was recognized as the National Guard's Non-commissioned Officer of the Year for 2020.

The 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team continued their legacy of excellence during their training at the National Training Center, Ft. Irwin, California in spring 2021. They exceeded expectations and continued to lead our state as one of our nation's combat reserve forces. Mississippi National Guard units have shared our strength and expertise as elements of the 66th Troop Command and 184th Sustainment Command served on Operation Enduring Freedom missions. Our Air National Guard professionals in the 186th Air Refueling Wing and 172d Airlift Wing continue service for Aeromedical and Transportation support missions to our nation and abroad. The Mississippi Air National Guard Airmen have also led the way in domestic training support, reaching from coast to coast and across all states and territories. We are always ready and always there.

We have not wavered in our integrity and dedication to serve our communities, state and nation in response to natural disasters, civil unrest and continuing the fight against COVID-19, simultaneously excelling in exercises Southern Strike, Patriot South and at the National Training Center. It is through these diverse opportunities that our courageous men and women surpass all expectations and serve with honor in support of our state and nation, and will continue to fight and serve "Shoulder to Shoulder."

Command Sgt. Maj. Silvester Tatum  
Senior Enlisted Leader

## ARMY



**Maj. Gen. John T. Kelly**  
Assistant Adjutant General - Army

Maj. Gen. John T. Kelly has served as the Assistant Adjutant General for the Mississippi Army National Guard since Nov. 1, 2020. As the Assistant Adjutant General – Army, Kelly 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 Sergeant Major

Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher L. Young has served as the State Command Sergeant Major of 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, readiness and quality of life.

## AIR



**Maj. Gen. Billy M. Nabors**  
Assistant Adjutant General - Air

Maj. Gen. Billy M. Nabors has served as the Assistant Adjutant General - Air 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.



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

Command Chief Master Sgt. 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 on all enlisted-related matters of mission effectiveness, professional development, military readiness, and training.

## JOINT



**Maj. Gen. Clint E. Walker**  
Director of Joint Staff  
Nov. 1, 2020 - Oct. 15, 2021

Maj. Gen. Clint E. Walker has served as the Director, Joint Staff – Joint Force Headquarters and Land Component Commander since Nov. 1, 2020. As the Director, Joint Staff and Land Component Commander, Walker 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.



**Col. Joe D. Hargett**  
Chief of Joint Staff  
Oct. 1, 2018 – Oct. 15, 2021  
Director of Joint Staff  
Oct. 16, 2021

Col. Joe D. Hargett serves as the Chief of the Joint Staff for the Mississippi National Guard. He is responsible for supervising and directing the MSNG's staff and managing budgets and resources for all major programs. Hargett oversees the development and coordination of all policies, plans, and programs and serves as the state-level Army National Guard liaison to the National Guard Bureau and State and Federal leadership.



**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 and Land Component Commander on all enlisted related matters, particularly in areas affecting Soldier and Airmen training and quality of life.



**Brig. Gen.  
Barry A. Blanchard**  
Chief of Staff - Air

Brig. Gen. Barry A. Blanchard serves as the Chief of Staff for the Mississippi Air National Guard at the Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson. He assists the commander and the Adjutant General in formulating, developing, and coordinating all programs, policies, and plans ensuring the mission readiness of the 172d Airlift Wing, 186th Air Refueling Wing, and the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center.



**Col. Laura L. Odom**  
Director of Staff - Air

Col. Laura L. Odom is the Director of Staff for the Mississippi Air National Guard. She serves as the primary advisor to the Air National Guard commander regarding the oversight and support of the 2,500 Airmen assigned to the state's two flying wings and combat readiness training center. Odom directs and implements higher-headquarter policies and guidance and serves as the state-level Air National Guard liaison to the Mississippi Army National Guard, National Guard Bureau, and State and Federal leadership.

# 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 – more than 900 of which are Active Guard and Reserve. We have more than 1,100 federal technician employees and approximately 950 state employees, both of which are comprised of Soldiers, Airmen and Civilians. The MSNG has 65 Army National Guard Readiness Centers and major Air National Guard facilities. This past year has been extremely busy and challenging for the Mississippi National Guard. Throughout the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, many contracts, construction projects and training events were delayed or canceled. However, in an unprecedented action, the State Legislature appropriated \$5 million for maintenance and repair of the MSARNG readiness centers. These funds, combined with the Federal \$5 million match, is the largest maintenance and repair appropriation the MSNG has received in decades. This appropriation is to target the growing backlog of maintenance and repairs for the MSNG’s aging facilities and the contracting of new construction projects.

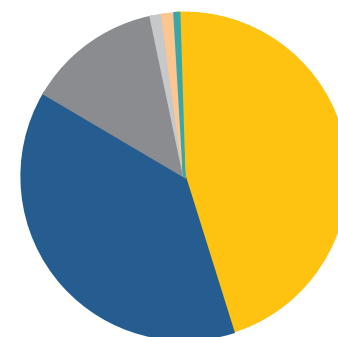


## CONTINUED PROJECTS THROUGH FY 2021

Completed, Ongoing and Planned Improvements throughout the State

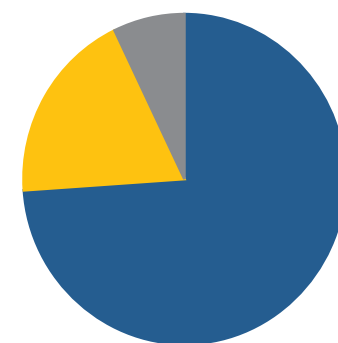
- A 10-lane Multipurpose Machine Gun Range was completed at Camp Shelby, as well as renovations on 19 barracks buildings and 4 dining facilities.
- Camp Shelby received a new Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) facility, a new courtroom, numerous wetland crossings in the training areas and additional RV pads in the campgrounds.
- A WWII hangar was converted to a readiness center in Gulfport and renovation projects were completed at readiness centers in Hattiesburg, Laurel, Jackson, Clinton, Canton and Magee.
- Ongoing training site projects include an ACFT facility at Camp McCain as well as 36 more barracks and drainage basin renovations at Camp Shelby.
- FY 2022 is projected to be an even more productive year than 2021 with the construction of a new \$10.4 million Field Maintenance Shop and a \$4.1 million addition to the Forest Readiness center.

### Mississippi Army National Guard FY 2021 Federal Appropriations: \$531,123,850



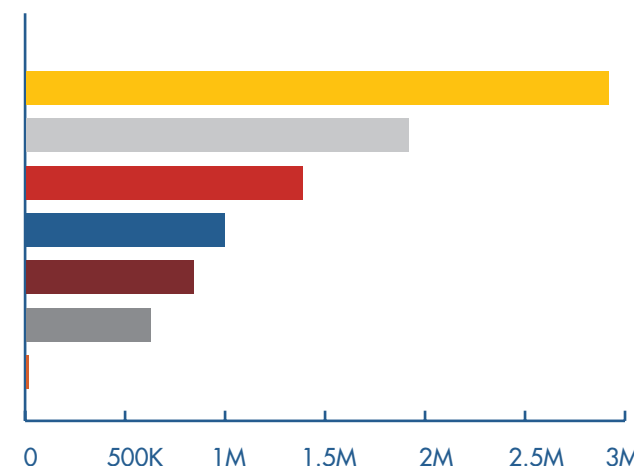
- Operations and Maintenance: \$243,306,600
- Military Pay and Allowances: \$203,500,075
- COVID Response: \$70,028,001
- Military Construction: \$6,000,000
- Youth ChalleNGe Program: \$5,400,000
- Special Forces: \$2,885,674
- Employer Support of the Guard/Reserve: \$3,500

### Mississippi Air National Guard FY 2021 Federal Appropriations: \$253,317,554



- Operations and Maintenance: \$47,995,833
- Military/Civilian Pay and Allowances: \$187,228,954
- COVID Response: \$18,092,767

### Mississippi Military Department State Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations & Bond: \$8,742,793



- Operations and Maintenance: \$2,934,209
- Youth ChalleNGe: \$1,928,075
- Military/Civilian Pay & Allowances: \$1,393,956
- Repairs & Maintenance Bond: \$1,000,000
- State Education Assistance: \$845,000
- Armed Forces Museum: \$626,505
- COVID Response: \$15,048



## A YEAR IN REVIEW

During state fiscal year 2021, the Mississippi National Guard's COVID-19 response mission continued with approximately 1,700 Soldiers and Airmen serving on active duty since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. The MSNG remained strong and steadfast in supporting the Governor's COVID-19 State Task Force, led by the Mississippi Department of Health and supported by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency.

As part of the MSNG's continued efforts and support of our state and nation, significant events included the 155th Armored Brigade Combat

Team's National Training Center rotation and annual domestic support to civil authorities operations responding to hurricanes, flooding and other severe weather threats. The 114th Military Police Company returned to Washington D.C. in support of civil disturbance response and the 59th Presidential Inauguration. The Mississippi Air National Guard has continued their high operational tempo with the 172d Airlift Wing completing 147 real-world missions, including the transportation of nearly 1,000 patients, 11,000 short tons of cargo and 8,600 passengers worldwide.



### 59th Presidential Inauguration

The 114th Military Police Company from Brandon, deployed to Washington, D.C. as Capital Response for the 59th Presidential Inauguration, January 13-25, 2021. The Soldiers completed additional training prior to their deployment, including crowd control battle drills, first aid and equipment use to ensure the safety of service members and the public.



### Exercise Southern Strike 2021

The annual training exercise Southern Strike was hosted by the Mississippi National Guard in April 2021. Approximately 1,200 service members from all branches of the military, including all three components of the U.S. Army, participated in the international, joint combat exercise at Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center, Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Camp McCain Training Center, in the waters of the Gulf and many other locations throughout the state.



### National Training Center

The 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team conducted their fourth National Training Center rotation at Fort Irwin, California, May 21 – June 24, 2021. The massive multi-agency and multi-component exercise included supporting elements from nine states and over 3,500 Soldiers training to remain a combat-ready force.

# 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.



168TH ENGINEER  
BRIGADE  
VICKSBURG



186TH AIR  
REFUELING WING  
MERIDIAN



CAMP MCCAIN  
TRAINING CENTER  
ELLIOT



154TH REGIONAL  
TRAINING INSTITUTE  
CAMP SHELBY



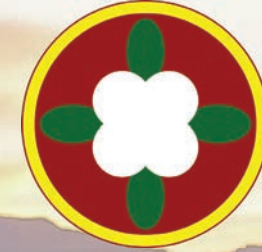
JOINT FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS, MSNG  
JACKSON



66TH TROOP COMMAND  
JACKSON



47TH CIVIL  
SUPPORT TEAM  
FLOWOOD



184TH  
SUSTAINMENT COMMAND  
(EXPEDITIONARY)  
MONTICELLO



GULFPORT  
COMBAT READINESS  
TRAINING CENTER  
GULFPORT



178TH CYBER  
PROTECTION TEAM  
STARKVILLE



HEADQUARTERS  
MISSISSIPPI AIR  
NATIONAL GUARD  
JACKSON



185TH  
AVIATION BRIGADE  
JACKSON



155TH ARMORED  
BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM  
TUPELO



CAMP SHELBY  
JOINT FORCES  
TRAINING CENTER  
CAMP SHELBY



172D  
AIRLIFT WING  
FLOWOOD



20TH SPECIAL  
FORCES GROUP  
JACKSON



# HOME & ABROAD



## COVID-19 Awards

More than 1,700 Mississippi National Guardsmen were activated to support the mission of the Governor's COVID-19 State Task Force since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. The task force, led by the Mississippi Department of Health and supported by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency was responsible for the vast and steadfast response to the outbreak in our state. With the MSNG's assistance, the task force administered more than 765,000 vaccinations, 226,000 tests, processed more than 109,000 lab samples and traveled more than 665,000 miles around the state to deliver more than 58 million pieces of personal protective equipment. Gov. Reeves, Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi, and other senior leadership presented awards to Soldiers, Airmen and medical professionals during multiple ceremonies in July 2021.



## Gold Star Families

Governor Reeves presented Donna Bagwell with the Mississippi Medal for Valor on behalf of her son, the late Marine Corps Lance Corporal Marc Lucas Tucker of Pontotoc, Mississippi. Tucker was deployed in Iraq on June 8, 2005 when he lost his life after his vehicle rolled over from hitting a hole where an improvised explosive device was removed. Bagwell was accompanied by her husband, daughter, and grandson. "We are honored to host Gold Star families, especially to present this medal to Mrs. Bagwell to pay homage to her son. We appreciate Governor Reeves for opening his mansion for the board of directors of the Trail of Honor, former adjutant generals of Mississippi, Gold Star families and special sponsors of this event, which will be held again in 2022," said George Cain, Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator.



## 204th End of Mission

The Mississippi National Guard proudly welcomed home more than 160 Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment at Thompson Field in Flowood, Feb. 10, 2021. The Soldiers of the 1-204 ADA were tasked with a geographically dispersed mission since Spring 2020. One mission was to provide air defense capabilities in the National Capital Region while the other mission had the regiment providing Short Range Air Defense support to multiple brigade combat teams during a multi-national training exercise in Europe.



## National Best Warrior Competition 2020

The annual National Best Warrior Competition for the U.S. National Guard was hosted at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Sept. 13-16, 2020. The event showcased each competitor's Soldier skills, physical endurance, and knowledge. The competitors hailed from nine states – Mississippi, Nevada, Texas, South Dakota, Kentucky, North Dakota, New York, Illinois and Maryland. The winner of the enlisted category was Cpl. Daniel D'Ippolito, Arizona National Guard and the winner of the noncommissioned officer category was Staff Sgt. Mitchell Scofield, Mississippi National Guard.



## CSEL Change of Responsibility

The Mississippi National Guard celebrated the success of Command Sgt. Maj. John T. Raines III as the first senior enlisted leader of the state and welcomed the new senior enlisted leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Silvester Tatum, during a change of responsibility ceremony at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, April 22, 2021. The senior enlisted leader advises the adjutant general on all matters pertaining to providing a ready enlisted force, health of the force and enlisted professional development of more than 13,000 Citizen Soldiers, Airmen, State employees and Federal technicians.



## Logistic Support

The Mississippi Army National Guard Logistics (G4) directorate operated and oversaw combined logistics to support the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team's National Training Center rotation in June. The work of the G4 directorate's NTC team included the movement of 380 railcars and 111 line-haul trucks worth of equipment to support the mission as well as the safe transportation of more than 3,500 Soldiers from various states to Fort Irwin, California.

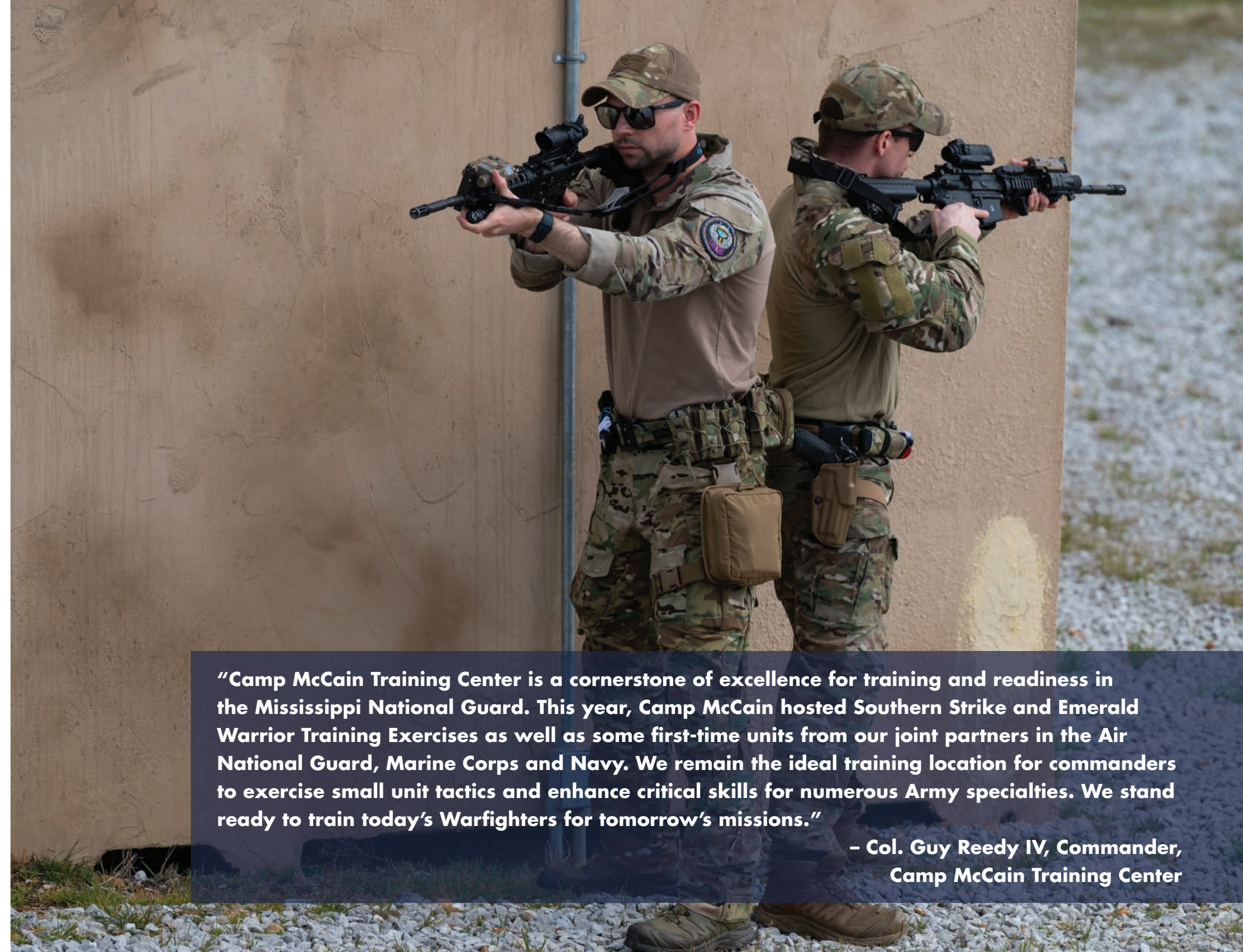
# CAMP MCCAIN

The War Department established the Grenada Triangular Division Camp on December 15, 1942. Shortly after being established, the camp was renamed “Camp McCain” in honor of Major General Henry P. McCain.

The headquarters for Camp McCain was located in Elliott, Mississippi, 10 miles South of Grenada. Camp McCain’s facilities included numerous buildings and training areas on 42,073 acres and located in Grenada and Montgomery Counties. During World War II, the 87th and 94th Divisions trained more than 50,000 service members for deployment to the European Theater. Camp McCain also housed over 7,700 German prisoners of war. Grenada Army Airfield was constructed to support the camp in late 1943. The War Department deactivated Camp McCain in October 1944 and declared its property excess. The War Department transferred 3,006 acres of the camp’s land to the Mississippi National Guard for use as a weekend training site.

The Mississippi National Guard acquired additional land and constructed additional facilities over the following 76 years, culminating in the current 12,895 acre multicomponent, year-round training site. Camp McCain Training Center trains members of U.S. military and civilian services, as well as international partners. Camp McCain is home to Companies C and E, 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, Unit Training Equipment Site and Combined Support Maintenance Shop #2.

In state fiscal year 2021, Camp McCain Training Center facilitated training events for more than 40,000 Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard service members. Camp McCain supported the Southern Strike and Emerald Warrior exercises, both of which are Joint National Training Capability (JNTC) accredited exercises. For the first time in its history, the training center hosted Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133, U.S. Navy, during their annual field training exercise and provided support to the 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company, U.S. Marine Corp, and Air Force Civil Engineers during their annual exercises. Camp McCain’s state-of-the-art training areas include eight live-fire ranges, multiple simulation training aids, three land navigation courses, an 18-station confidence course, a rappel tower and computer labs. This past fiscal year, Camp McCain worked to improve its facilities and training environment with projects such as the rubberization of the running track, construction of the new Army Combat Fitness Test facility and the addition of new engineer equipment simulators and training aids. Camp McCain is extensively involved in the local community and has a partnership with local and county governments and programs – Leadership Grenada, Boy Scouts of America, Rotary Clubs, Exchange Clubs, Chambers of Commerce and Economic Development Districts.



**“Camp McCain Training Center is a cornerstone of excellence for training and readiness in the Mississippi National Guard. This year, Camp McCain hosted Southern Strike and Emerald Warrior Training Exercises as well as some first-time units from our joint partners in the Air National Guard, Marine Corps and Navy. We remain the ideal training location for commanders to exercise small unit tactics and enhance critical skills for numerous Army specialties. We stand ready to train today’s Warfighters for tomorrow’s missions.”**

**– Col. Guy Reedy IV, Commander,  
Camp McCain Training Center**

**“Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center provides training opportunities across all domains, while providing world-class customer service and community partnering. As one of the Nation’s largest National Guard military training installations, we provide units the ability to optimize tactical training efficiency in conducting full spectrum operations. Camp Shelby provides a single location in which air and ground units conduct realistic multi-echelon/multi-domain combined arms maneuver, air-ground integration and mission command training, which allows us to set the standard of readiness and training excellence for multiple components of the DoD.”**

**– Col. Rick Weaver, Commander, CSJFTC**



## CAMP SHELBY JOINT FORCES TRAINING CENTER

Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center (CSJFTC), at approximately 136,000 acres, is the largest state-owned National Guard training site in the nation and contributes to multiple wildlife preservations and ecosystem protection programs. CSJFTC was the recipient of the 17th Annual Military Conservation Partnership Award in recognition of an aggressive landscape approach to restoring and protecting the longleaf pine ecosystem – one of the most imperiled ecosystems in the world. Our environmental experts have also accelerated the recovery of at-risk species such as the black pine snake, red cockaded woodpecker and dusky gopher frog, and has successfully contributed to the release of 400 captive-raised, two-year-old gopher tortoises back into the wild. CSJFTC has also safely conducted controlled burns and timber management across 5,500 acres.

CSJFTC is diligently working to upgrade more than 3,000 bed spaces in the barracks in order to provide first class accommodations to training units. This is the first update of its kind for the installation since the 1960’s. Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) has added 18 new campsite pads to better serve the thousands of guests who stop by CSJFTC during their various travels through the state. For the first time since 1946, CSJFTC has a USO (United Services Organizations) on the installation, which is the first to ever be opened on a non-active duty training site.

On March 6th, CSJFTC partnered with Extra Table to bring food to over 18,000 Mississippians. More than 330 service members and civilians marched 18.6 miles throughout the installation with 25 pound rucksacks full of food for the hungry. The challenge was to earn the Norwegian Foot March foreign badge. This was the first event of its kind to be held in Mississippi and was so successful that plans for the Norwegian Foot March and Extra Miles Marathon is already underway for 2022.

The team at CSJFTC has trained over 74,000 Service members in 2021, including: 5,000 Air Force Cadets, 157 DoD organizations and two Federal agencies. The MSNG’s application for certification as a Joint National Training Capability (JNTC) was approved, allowing CSJFTC to further build on the “Fort Mississippi” concept and join the world-wide collection of interoperable training sites, nodes, and events, providing a “joint environment” for units training at the installation. Some of these joint exercises include Emerald Warrior, Southern Strike and Turbo Distribution. The Defense Research Engineering Network (DREN) has approved a 100 MB circuit to be installed at CSJFTC, giving the installation the capability to host cyber exercises for the first time ever. This provides the ability for the Synthetic Training Environment (STE), providing units the most up-to-date tactical level training technology the Army has to offer.

CSJFTC conducted a Level 2 Mobilization Exercise to employ processes and procedures, coordinate resources as necessary, and conduct required training essentials to assist a mobilizing and deploying Military Police Company to a theater of operations. This was successfully accomplished through a combined effort of Mobilization Support Forces, the Garrison Support Unit, as well as the Training Support Brigade. This exercise postured Camp Shelby for the Level 3 Large Scale Mobilization Operation scheduled for training year 2022.



# COMBAT READINESS TRAINING CENTER - GULFPORT

The Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center opened as Gulfport Field in 1942 to train Army and Air Force service members and has continued to train the nation's Armed Forces ever since. One of only four Air National Guard CRTC's in the nation, Gulfport CRTC encompasses 277 acres on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, providing an integrated, year-round, realistic training environment. 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. The installation's location makes it uniquely situated to provide military organizations with access to a wide variety of air, land and sea training venues.

From July 2020 through June 2021, Gulfport CRTC hosted more than 11,500 service members from around the globe participating in military training exercises. Throughout the year, the installation facilitated multiple Joint National Training Capability (JNTC) exercises designed and executed to sharpen readiness and enhance local, state and national crisis response capabilities. Despite the logistical challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, Gulfport CRTC continued to prepare forces to meet their mission requirements. The installation served as a Restriction of Movement (ROM) site, isolating 1,442 Sailors, Airmen, and Soldiers to minimize the spread of illness and sustain deployment timelines. Gulfport CRTC's Air-to-Ground Range continued to increase its value with new high-fidelity targets and is now certified for JDAM (Joint Direct Attack Munition) deployment.

Our Air Combat Training System (ACTS) received an upgrade to the Live Mission Operations Capability (LMOC) that increased our Operational Test and Training Infrastructure. The upgrade, referred to as War Room 1.0, standardizes LMOC capabilities throughout the USAF range enterprise. This allows training officers to better adjudicate combat interactions and to determine effectiveness of weapons engagements. Additionally, multiple Air National Guard fire departments, including the 164th, 172d and the 156th Civil Engineer Squadrons, utilized the installation's fire training venues to hone their emergency response skills. Gulfport CRTC also responded to the impact of Hurricane Zeta, recovering the base and opening the airfield within eight hours of landfall and providing a hub for Mississippi National Guard and Mississippi Emergency Management Agency recovery operations.

Gulfport CRTC is an important link in the economic welfare of the local community. The installation employs more than 500 Active Guard/Reserve, Drill Status Guardsmen, Federal employees and State employees with an annual payroll exceeding \$21 million. Gulfport CRTC adds an additional \$9 million to the local economy through the procurement of construction, services, materials, supplies and equipment. Visiting organizations conducting training at the installation bring in an additional \$8 million to the local economy through hotel stays and meals at local restaurants. Activity at Gulfport CRTC is estimated to create almost 200 indirect jobs generating another \$7 million in revenue.



## JOINT NATIONAL TRAINING EXERCISES

### SOUTHERN STRIKE 2021

Southern Strike 2021 gathered 1,629 warriors from 65 organizations representing all branches of service and 6 international partners conducting counter-insurgency, close air-support, en-route casualty care, noncombatant evacuation and maritime special operations. This year's iteration integrated Cyber operations, which included defeating counter UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems), surveying target structures/area, and emulating enemy tactics, techniques and procedures on the battlefield.

### MAGNOLIA STRIKE

Magnolia Strike exercise provided Special Warfare Airmen with both academic and hands-on opportunities to hone skills, including advanced combat medical treatment, close quarters combat, fast rope insertion and extraction, mechanical and explosive breaching, light and heavy weapon familiarization, and close air support.

### MARSOC RAVEN

Marine Special Operations Command's Raven exercise provided USMC special operations companies and subordinate teams an opportunity to integrate intelligence, communication, and logistics enablers to execute a variety of special operations missions, including sensitive activities, tactical collections, special reconnaissance and direct-action raids.

## 66TH TROOP COMMAND

The 66th Troop Command (TC) trains, equips and maintains a ready force to accomplish mission requirements.

66 TC consists of the 185th Aviation Brigade; 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group; Special Operations Detachment (SOD) South; 210th Finance Battalion; 112th Military Police Battalion; 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment; 102d Public Affairs Detachment; 41st Army Band; and the 47th Civil Support Team (CST).

The units that make up 66 TC stretch across the state. The command has been busy this year with three units deployed overseas and another deployed to the National Capital Region (NCR). The 114th MP Company activated to participate in the Presidential Inauguration Security Mission. 66 TC has a diverse set of units capable of supporting and responding to any mission inside the United States and deployable around the world.

The Magnolia Brass Ensemble of the 41st Army Band provided musical support as Col. Richard P. Tucker assumed command of the 1st Aviation Brigade, United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence (USAACE) at Fort Rucker, Alabama. The band also performed the Star Spangled Banner for 5,776 spectators for the Memphis Redbirds Independence Day double header. The Memphis Redbirds are a Triple A Minor League farm team for the St. Louis Cardinals.

The 102nd MPAD supported various missions throughout the state and nation during FY2021. Three members of the unit supported the State Public Affairs Office during the COVID-19 State Task Force missions. The unit provided coverage of the Capital Response Mission, the National and State Best Warrior Competitions, senior staff visits across the state and many major training events. The entire unit embedded in the 155th ABCT during their month-long National Training Center rotation in Fort Irwin, Calif.

The 114th Military Police Company supported local and federal law enforcement during the 59th Presidential Inauguration, Jan. 20, 2021. The MP's supported civil authorities in the National Capital Region, maintaining order and peace alongside the District of Columbia Police, FBI and Secret Service.

The 1-204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment continued their dual missions in the National Capital Region and the European Command area of operations, completing the highest total of Minimum Deployable Package missions ever completed in a single rotation. The unit provided Short Range Air Defense capabilities to multiple brigade combat teams during a multi-national training exercise in Germany and Poland.

Special Operations Detachment (SOD) South participated in an 11-day Joint Special Operations Planning Course increasing the unit's planning posture in a joint environment. SOD South gained an understanding of the relationship between joint doctrine and Special Operation Forces military strategy in preparation for future deployments.



## 185TH AVIATION BRIGADE

The 185th Aviation Brigade provides Mississippi and the nation with a highly capable and lethal means to quickly and effectively deliver troops, equipment and supplies during times of peace and war.

The 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment, provides the capability to execute operations across the spectrum of Army Aviation possibilities. The 1-185th practiced its skill sets in collective training events like Southern Strike and a National Training Center rotation. The 1-185th also provided numerous volunteers to the COVID-19 State Task Force during the pandemic response. The unit is comprised of more than 500 MSNG Soldiers spread between three geographic locations and operate every combat aircraft within the US Army inventory. It truly is a dynamic organization and critical asset to the State of Mississippi.

The 2nd Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment, provides the capability to execute airfield operations and air traffic services (ATS), as well as aeromedical evacuation and aerial reconnaissance operations in support of Homeland Security Defense (HLS/D) requirements. The 2-185th is comprised of more than 150 MSNG Soldiers located in Southaven and Tupelo. The battalion executed its skill sets through participation in Patriot North '21, during a National Training Center rotation in July 2020, and by providing aviators to assist the U.S. Border Patrol. Additionally, the 2-185th was proud to serve the State of Mississippi by providing numerous Soldiers in support of the statewide COVID-19 response.

The 185th's commitment to national interest and security means sustaining readiness to fight and win our nation's wars. With ongoing operations, the brigade and subordinate units consistently focus their efforts on building and maintaining lethality and readiness and is fully committed to conducting missions in support of the state, the Mississippi National Guard and the United States of America, whenever and wherever they are needed.



## 47TH CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM

The 47th Civil Support Team (CST) is the MS National Guard's technical first responders to civilian authorities for chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) threats. The 47th CST assisted local authorities with safety and security for all five SEC home games at Mississippi State University (MSU) and the MSU Super Bulldog weekend.

The team assisted the Brandon Fire Department throughout the year for all Brandon Amphitheater concerts and from Oct. 4-11, 2020, the 47th CST assisted the Biloxi Fire Department during the annual Cruisin' the Coast event. The team also assisted the MS Department of Homeland Security on Jan. 20, 2021 for the 59th Presidential Inauguration.

The 47th CST conducted 18 joint training exercises throughout the year with various state, local and federal agencies.

From Feb. 3-17, 2021, the team trained with the 62nd CST of the Louisiana National Guard and the Jefferson Parish Emergency Management Agency, simulating Mardi Gras and Family Gras parades and events. The 47th planned and executed a Joint Training Exercise with three Civil Support Teams and government agencies in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., May 2-12, 2021, and another joint exercise in Maine, June 18-27.

The Maine exercise included a Mission Readiness Airlift (MRA) on a C-17 Globemaster aircraft, training with Department of Energy Radiological Assistance Program, an FBI Stabilization team and multiple Public Safety Bomb Technicians.



## 154TH REGIMENT REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

The 154th Regiment Regional Training Institute (RTI) provides the highest quality institutional training in order to produce flexible and agile leaders who are able to adapt and achieve success in a complex and uncertain operating environment. The Regiment cadre facilitate the most relevant, rigorous, and realistic professional military education available in support of the Army's operational force.

The 154th Regiment 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 Regiment'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.

The 154th RTI continued to facilitate training through resident and virtual formats during the coronavirus pandemic, training more than 5,200 Soldiers during state fiscal year 2021. The RTI was instrumental in decreasing the backlog of professional military education by implementing and maintaining the hybrid model of training.

**5,200**

Students Trained During FY 2021



# 155TH ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

The 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), headquartered in Tupelo, is Mississippi's largest unit and is comprised of a headquarters company and seven battalions: Headquarters and Headquarters Company in Tupelo; 1st Squadron, 98th Cavalry Regiment in Amory; 2d Battalion, 198th Armored Regiment in Senatobia; 1st Battalion, 635th Armored Regiment in Kansas City, KS; 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment in McComb; 2d Battalion, 114th Field Artillery Regiment in Starkville; 150th Engineer Battalion in Meridian; and the 106th Support Battalion in Hattiesburg.

The 155th continued building readiness through its training efforts this year, culminating in the National Training Center rotation 21-08 in June. As one of five Armored Brigades in the National Guard, and one of only 13 in the entire Army, the 155th provides additional capacity when called upon to execute its federal mission. The brigade is postured to serve as a combat ready reserve force providing capabilities in response to natural disasters and global threats.

Over the past training year, the 155th conducted multiple complex training events to prepare the unit for its pinnacle training event – the National Training Center rotation in Fort Irwin, California. During the train-up, units executed live, virtual, and constructive scenarios that pitted an opposition force against units through combined arms maneuver in a decisive action environment.

The Soldiers of the 155th conducted multiple live-fire training exercises at Camp Shelby to sharpen their skills on combat crew platforms, as well as scenario-driven planning exercises. These exercises trained commanders and staff in the Military Decision Making Process and the execution of tactical operations in support of corps and division large-scale ground combat operations.



During the National Training Center Rotation 21-08, the brigade stretched its logistics capabilities by deploying the newly fielded Supply Support Activity (SSA). The brigade also trained and employed a robust logistics transportation effort, conducting one of the largest rail-movement operations of the year, moving several hundred combat platforms and rolling stock to Fort Irwin. During the rotation, the 155th conducted the most realistic force-on-force training scenario over a ten-day (and night) period against a world-class opposition force. The training event included a multi-day live-fire exercise that tested both combat and logistics crews.

In addition to the NTC rotation, the brigade also deployed Soldiers and units in support of natural disaster response efforts across the state and nation. Units from across the brigade continued to support the state's operations combating the COVID-19 pandemic by conducting testing and vaccination dissemination.

Soldiers from the 155th conducted relief operations in the wake of Hurricanes Zeta and Ida. Members of the 1-155th provided transportation and manpower to the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency in the aftermath of Zeta. A task force comprised of members from the Kansas-based 1-635th Armored Regiment supported efforts in Louisiana during the multi-state relief operation after Hurricane Ida.

The 155th ABCT continues to train to a full combat-ready capacity and display proven capabilities in support of both federal and state missions. They will continue to produce highly skilled leaders at every level as they move forward to the next operation.



**“This past year has proven to be a demanding yet very productive year for the Mississippi Army National Guard. The strides made in preparing for the Army Combat Fitness Test, the untiring work in transitioning our personnel data systems, national policy reviews, and deployments. All of which continues to prove the professionalism and expertise of the Mississippi Army National Guard. The hard work our Soldiers do daily not only has local impacts, but impacts the whole Guard Nation. I am proud of the Soldiers of the MSARNG and considerate myself fortunate to serve with such fine Mississippians.”**

**– Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Christopher Young,  
MSNG Army Senior Enlisted Leader**

# 184TH SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)

Led by Brig. Gen. Jonathan S. Hubbard and Command Sgt. Maj. Jason D. Little, the 184th Sustainment Command (SC) is authorized 2,360 Soldiers who serve primarily in several component commands: the 114th Support Detachment (DLD), a digital liaison detachment led by Col. Murray B. McCullouch and Sgt. Maj. Cornelius Williams; the 1984th Support Detachment, a contracting team led by Maj. Brady B. Williamson and Sgt. 1st Class LaJessica M. Gatlin; the 298th Support Battalion led by Lt. Col. Rodney M. Hodge and Command Sgt. Maj. James A. Carter; the 168th Engineer Brigade (EN BDE) led by Col. Kendrick L. Cager and Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph S. Cook; the 223rd Engineer Battalion (EN BN) led by Col. Lowell T. Howell and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald S. Howell; and the 890th Engineer Battalion led by Lt. Col. Jason D. Holmes and Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald L. Greenwood.

## State Emergency Service

Soldiers from every unit within the command volunteered to support the Mississippi National Guard's response to the COVID-19 pandemic this year, peaking at nearly 800 Soldiers on June 30, 2021. Soldiers of the 184th ESC formed and led the Logistics Team at the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, coordinating logistics deliveries to long-term care facilities and hospitals statewide through the nine Outbreak Response Teams; supported the MSNG Joint Operations Center and Tactical Operations Center; and conducted COVID testing on the Community-Based Response Teams. 184th Soldiers worked directly with MEMA and the Mississippi State Department of Health Laboratory. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, Soldiers from the 184th ESC formed an engineer Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) team spearheaded by the 168th EN BDE. The 184th ESC Engineering EMAC forces deployed to augment the Louisiana National Guard's response to flooding and debris removal in areas of Louisiana impacted by Hurricane Ida.

The 168th provides improvement operations along with critical national disaster response capabilities utilizing both the 890th and 223rd Engineer Battalions. The 890th conducted improvement operations at the Pine Belt Regional Airport, moving over 48,000 cubic yards of material while building over a half mile of roadway. The 223rd conducted improvement operations in the city of Bruce, completing a 1.3 mile walking trail, hauling over 1,800 tons of rock for the project. Supporting natural disaster events, the 890th provided ice, water and sustenance following Hurricane Zeta and supported EMAC support in response to Hurricane Ida. The 223rd provided the lead EMAC forces in response to Hurricane Ida's devastating impact on Louisiana.

The 298th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), comprised of classification, maintenance, transportation and water purification units, provides critical natural disaster and civil support. The unit participated in the National Training Center (NTC) exercise at Ft. Irwin, Calif., in June 2021, providing logistical support to the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT). During the rotation the 298th was comprised of seven units from five different states. NTC logistical support consisted of moving more than 133,000 gallons of fuel, 77,900 gallons of water and critical repair parts during the thirteen-day exercise. During return operations at NTC the 298th saved Mississippi thousands of dollars by conducting maintenance operations on 292 pieces of equipment, achieving 98% readiness for all equipment drawn from Ft. Irwin.





## MISSISSIPPI AIR NATIONAL GUARD

The Mississippi Air National Guard, comprised of approximately 2,600 active and traditional Guardsmen, has three active bases in Mississippi.

At Allen C. Thompson Field in Flowood, the 172d Airlift Wing operates nine C-17 Globemaster III aircraft providing strategic airlift for federal and state missions. Additionally, it possesses one of only nine Air National Guard aeromedical evacuation squadrons, providing aircrews and equipment to maintain or improve on the 98% survivability rate of service members injured in combat. The 172d also oversees two geographically separated units located in Gulfport – the 255th Air Control Squadron that provides theater aircraft surveillance and the 209th Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron. The 209th SOCES is the only Air National Guard unit to operate the self-sustaining Collective Protective Small Shelter System-3, which provides a safe environment from chemical, biological and radiological contamination.

The 186th Air Refueling Wing, at Key Field in Meridian, operates eight KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft providing the core aerial refueling capability for the U.S. Air Force. The aircraft are also capable of transporting cargo and both litter and ambulatory patients. Additionally, the 186th operates the RC-26 Condor aircraft, providing incident awareness assessment for several mission areas, along with RC-26 aircrew training for the entire Air National Guard. The wing also manages three specialized units providing support to warfighters and civilian partners – the 248th Air Traffic Control Squadron is responsible for all air traffic control operations at Key Field and provides deployed tower and radar capability; the 238th Air Support Operations Squadron provides the interface between supported Army units and air combat support Air Force units; and the 186th Air Operations Group provides staff augmentation to 1st Air Force in support of homeland defense and defense support of civil authorities.

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 (1,200+). The CRTC facilities include ramp space for up to 100 fighter aircraft, 11,000 square miles of airspace over the Gulf of Mexico, an air-to-ground bombing range located on Camp Shelby and accommodations for up to 1,000 Airmen. The CRTC also plays a key logistics role in the Mississippi National Guard's civil support mission, often serving as the operations center for domestic response.



**“The Mississippi Air National Guard continues to lead all across the globe in meeting our nation’s needs. Whether evacuating our nations citizens from Afghanistan or projecting power in the Pacific, Mississippi Airmen have been on the front lines in every major world event. Here at home in Mississippi, our Airmen have led the nation in support of our citizens seeking COVID-19 vaccinations and testing. Their dedication to service and excellence in all they do is an inspiration to our citizens.”**

**– Maj. Gen. Billy M. Nabors,  
MS ANG, Assistant Adjutant General**



## 172D AIRLIFT WING

In 2021, Airmen of the 172d Airlift Wing deployed to many unique locations such as Estonia, Lithuania and New Zealand in support of exercises and missions. The Wing conducted 147 real-world missions, including the transport of nearly 1,000 patients, 11,000 short tons of cargo and 8,600 passengers worldwide; the C-17 traversed the world many times over!

Personnel from the Contingency Response Flight, Security Forces Flight, 209th Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron, 255th Air Control Squadron and the Mission Support Group Orderly Room supported real-world deployments to Qatar, the UAE, Germany and at stateside U.S. bases.

The Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron participated in Operation Deep Freeze, an Antarctic scientific research program. The Maintenance and Operations Groups coordinated and conducted an Operational Readiness Exercise at the Gulfport CRTC to begin preparation for a future inspection, and the Wing continued support of the COVID-19 pandemic response which kept more than 185 Airmen busy for over 14 months.

As a surprise, the 172d AW was presented with the new state flag of Mississippi from Lt. Gov. Delbert Hoseman for all nine of its aircraft – filling the cargo compartment of the airplane with a visible reminder of the progress of the Great State of Mississippi.

Locally, the Civil Engineer Squadron took the leadership role in managing the Department of Defense Innovative Resources and Training program at Camp Kamassa. The goal of this Copiah County project is to provide disabled children with a resource close to home that will enable them to experience the outdoors in a safe environment. The Wing's community outreach continued with the annual North Pole project for local children during the Christmas season, which was modified to ensure the health and safety of all who participated.

During the period of civil unrest in Washington, D.C., Security Forces supported domestic response operations at the request of the National Guard Bureau. Currently, one of the base Chaplains is augmenting the Space Force at Clear Space Force Station, Alaska.



## 186TH AIR REFUELING WING

With a vision of being “The best air mobility unit, the standard by which others are measured,” the 186th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) at Key Field Air National Guard Base in Meridian is leading the pack.

Our eight KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft completed more than 1,800 flight-hours in support of world-wide contingency operations and offloaded more than 5 million pounds of jet fuel to receiver aircraft directly involved in Department of Defense operations. The 186th consistently leads the Air National Guard in aircraft mission-capability rates and hourly use/sortie use rates which assured mission ready aircraft through the efforts of our highly qualified maintainers and cohesive operations with Logistics Readiness Squadron and Operations Group personnel.

While providing rapid global mobility and agile combat support to our nation and allied forces, the wing’s Airmen and aircraft participated in multiple U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, U.S. Central Command, Air Mobility Command and National Guard Bureau missions. The 186th, for the second time in recent years, was the recipient of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, another enormous feat. During June 2021, the wing successfully completed an Air Mobility Command Nuclear Operational Readiness Inspection.

The 186th ARW also supported local communities and the state of Mississippi during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing testing and vaccination support.

The 186th’s support to the local economy and community are astounding and superior. The 186th ARW is a major contributor to the local economy and one of the largest employers in East Central Mississippi, providing 100% airport fire protection, all tower air traffic control services and nearly 300 secondary jobs. Of note, the Key Field Air National Guard Base Fire Department was called on for a trench and well rescue this past year, saving the lives of two citizens.



### Additional Contributions to the Local Community

- Feeds 1,000+ senior citizens at the annual Council on Aging Fish Fry
- Generously donates over \$1,200 each year for Muscular Dystrophy Association.
- Supports the Special Olympics and Wreaths Across America
- Hosts the annual Dancing with the Greatest Generation Valentines Day senior citizens’ social
- Provides media/orientation flights & base tours to joint senior leaders, spouses, employers, and civic leaders
- Hosts annual Fall Festival and Family Day, reaching thousands by providing free resources to the community
- Participates in Annual Buds & Burgers to raise funds to benefit a non-profit charitable organization



**“The Mississippi Air National Guard, being over 2,500 strong, remains at a ready state to provide support to all federal and state missions. The 186th Air Refueling Wing, 172d Airlift Wing and Combat Readiness Training Center led the nation in readiness and support including annual joint exercises and continuous real world deployments. Concurrently, the Mississippi Air National Guard has continued to provide personnel and resources in support of state health officials during the COVID-19 pandemic with over 225 Airmen helping to ensure the health and welfare of Mississippi citizens.”**

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

## MSNG CYBER UNIT

Cyber Protection Team 178 is a tri-state cyber unit from Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. Detachment 2, Cyber Protection Team (CPT) 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. The CPT is currently preparing for a mobilization with Task Force Echo.

Over the past year, the unit has provided cyber training and advising services to multiple state agencies, school districts and local municipalities to assist in improving the overall cybersecurity footprint of the state. The Team trained to participate in Cyber Shield 21 – a concentrated effort to develop, train and exercise cyber forces in the areas of computer network internal defensive measures and cyber incident response. Cyber Shield 21 brings together approximately 800 of the nation's top cyber defense professionals from National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, to various governmental, nongovernmental and industry partners in a hybrid in-person and online environment.

Additionally, the team has helped to foster relationships with state and federal agencies by participating in virtual cybersecurity training events during the COVID-19 pandemic and participated in a state-level tabletop cyber exercise. The Cyber Protection Team also worked with the National Governor's Association and multiple state response agencies to finalize updates to the state's strategic cybersecurity incident response policy.



## FACILITIES MAINTENANCE OFFICE

The Mississippi Army National Guard's Construction and Facilities Management Office's (CFMO) mission is to provide, maintain, manage and operate administrative, logistical, training and support facilities and associated infrastructure to enhance readiness of the MSARNG. The CFMO provides timely support to ensure MSARNG has mission ready facilities that meet current and future readiness requirements.

The CFMO operates and maintains over 7 million square feet of facility space and approximately 152,500 acres. CFMO operations include – real estate procurement and disposal; fire and emergency services; energy management; project management; engineer force protection; and most recently, environmental management. This management oversight encompasses two training sites, 10 field maintenance shops, four army aviation support facilities and more than 1,400 buildings throughout the state.

The CFMO's Environmental Branch conducted



numerous public outreach events during the past year. They hosted the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) Annual Youth Squirrel Hunting event at Camp McCain. Camp Shelby and Camp McCain hosted and supported a number of federal agencies, elementary schools, universities, archeological associations and historic groups, including the MSNG Kids Annual Training, Youth Challenge Academy, AmeriCorps and the Boy Scouts of America.

Camp Shelby was honored to be selected for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Military Conservation Partnership Award and became one of only three National Guard installations to receive the award since its inception. All components of the DoD are eligible to compete for this prestigious award.

The MSARNG CFMO received the Region 3, Fred Aron Regional Award, for the best overall performance within the seven facilities



advisory council (FEAC) regions. Every year the Installations and Environment (G9) Directorate sponsors this awards program to foster the excellence and esprit de corps among the CFMOs and Environmental Offices of the 54 states and territories.

The MSARNG CFMO continues to be a service-based organization that leverages the skillsets of more than 200 professionals consisting of engineers, architects, facility managers, environmental scientists and support personnel who provide expertise in all facets of the construction and facility management fields. Our staff recognizes that facilities represent capital investments by the federal and state government and therefore are dedicated to properly managing facilities and real estate to enable the overall readiness of the MSARNG. Our goal is to understand the facility management and environmental requirements of our stakeholders and to leverage State and Federal resources to meet those requirements.



# YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

## “Accept the Challenge”

The mission of the Mississippi National Guard Youth Challenge Academy is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of 16 to 18-year-old youths who may have experienced academic difficulties in traditional high school settings, dropped out of high school, exhibited problem behaviors, or in some cases, have had minor legal issues. Challenge Academy aims to produce graduates with values, life skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as productive citizens. Since its inception in 1994, Mississippi Challenge Academy has graduated 54 classes for a total of 10,468 graduates.

The Challenge Academy creates an environment for young men and women to take control of their lives and to accept responsibility for their present and future. In the five-month residential phase of the program, The Challenge Academy staff is an active part of encouraging the students to plan for and envision a future by setting realistic and achievable life goals.

Challenge Academy places emphasis on eight core components: leadership and followership, responsible citizenship, service to the community, life coping skills, physical fitness, health and hygiene, job skills, and academic excellence. Many graduates leave the program and continue their education through institutions of higher learning, join military service, or enter the civilian workforce.

According to Rand Corporation cost-benefit analysis, every dollar expended on Challenge yields \$2.66 in benefits, a return on investment of 166 percent. This return is substantially higher than other rigorously evaluated social programs that target disadvantaged youth. Youth Challenge is unmatched in helping the youth of Mississippi succeed in learning and thriving in life.



# FAMILY PROGRAMS

The Mississippi National Guard's Family Programs office works diligently to support Guard Service Members and their families across the state and is equipped with 14 Military and Family Readiness Specialists and two Child and Youth Program Specialists. The Military and Family Readiness Specialists provide family assistance, family readiness, spouse employment and financial readiness. Child and Youth Specialists provide support and programs for Guard dependents.

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected the ability to facilitate youth programs' events since March 2020, yet our team has adapted to and continues to overcome the ongoing challenges. We continuously present opportunities for Family Programs to offer various camps, programs, events and more via virtual means and, hopefully soon, in-person gatherings.

Throughout this past year, our office has supported and attended a variety of events: 6 Yellow Ribbons, 10 partnered events, 4 Youth Council Meetings, 2 Military Spouse events, 2 ACT workshops, 200 community events, 8 Month of the Military Child events and a Providers Fair Summit. This past year Family Programs had 1,100 deployment contacts, 400 hurricane contacts and 135 unit briefs. Our office reached 3,602 adults and 2,884 children across our great state.



## DEFENSE SUPPORT OF CIVIL AUTHORITIES

The Directorate of Military Support serves as a vital link to merge Mississippi National Guard capabilities to support civilian authorities' response to natural disasters, criminal enterprises, terrorist threats and the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic. DSCA operations are 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.

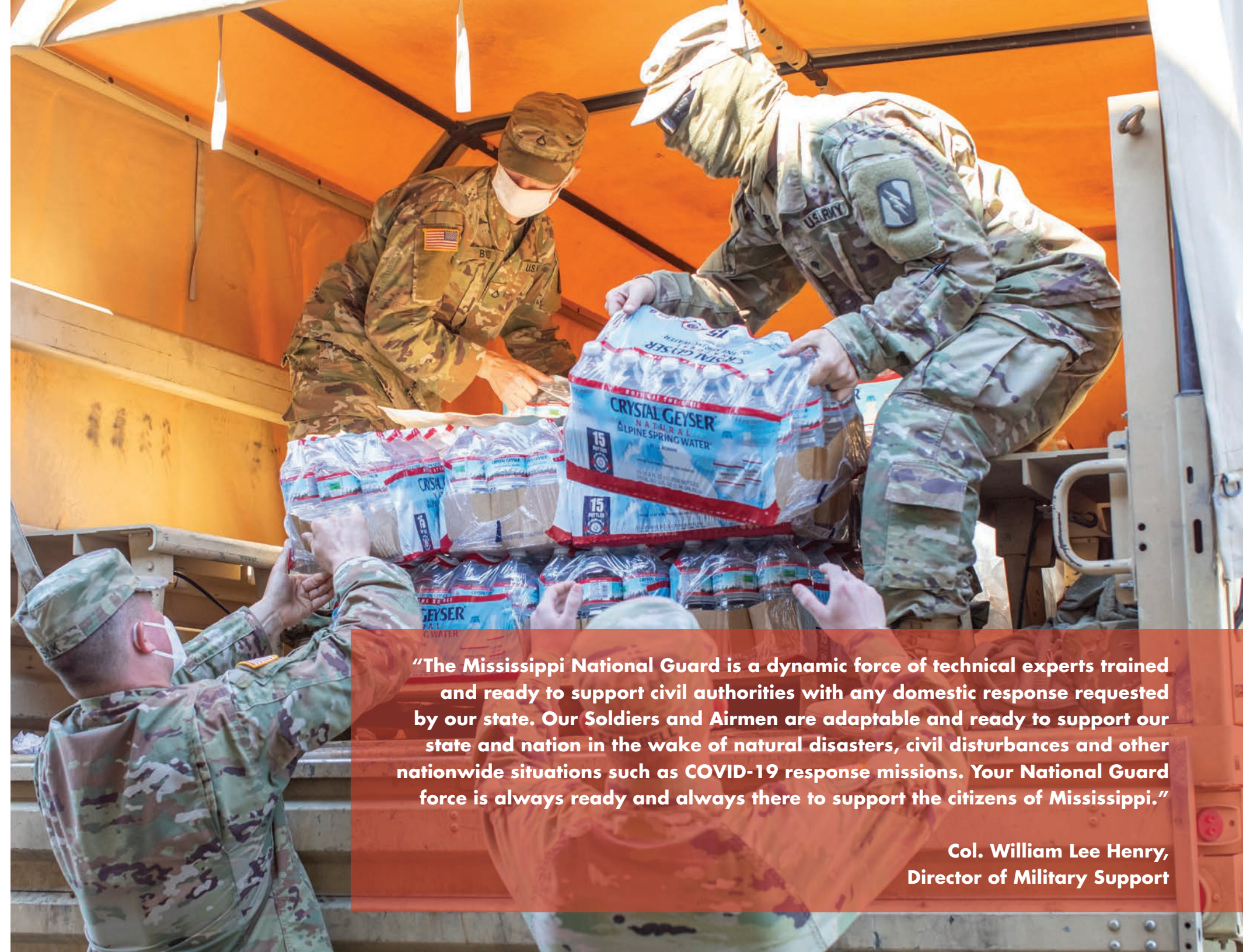
The events in state fiscal year 2021 have highlighted the diverse talents and skills of the MSNG. We have served in vital roles supporting civilian authorities throughout our state to confront the COVID-19 pandemic and provide essential assistance to first responders in the wake of natural disasters such as Hurricane Sally, Hurricane Ida, the state-wide ice storm in February and flooding in the Mississippi Delta.

This year, during the COVID-19 pandemic, your MSNG Soldiers and Airmen served with extraordinary professionalism and technical adaptability. The MSNG is a versatile force that serves as a foundation for our nation's combat

ready reserve. We are a diverse team of first responders; medical personnel; military police; maintenance personnel; public affairs professionals; both fixed and rotary-wing pilots; maintenance technicians and administrative professionals. On top of all of that, they are capable of deploying at a moment's notice to answer the call of our state, governor and nation.

Our service members supported the Governor's COVID-19 State Task Force as a force multiplier for statewide mission execution supporting testing sites, vaccination sites, logistical distribution, outreach teams, public affairs support and streamlined communication efforts all over the state. This robust group of professionals executed COVID-19 support missions in every county in our great state.

Our Soldiers deployed to support civil authorities during civil disturbances in the National Capital Region and during the 59th Presidential Inauguration. The MSNG has served with honor and integrity in every mission, ensuring safety and security of the communities in which we serve.



**"The Mississippi National Guard is a dynamic force of technical experts trained and ready to support civil authorities with any domestic response requested by our state. Our Soldiers and Airmen are adaptable and ready to support our state and nation in the wake of natural disasters, civil disturbances and other nationwide situations such as COVID-19 response missions. Your National Guard force is always ready and always there to support the citizens of Mississippi."**

**Col. William Lee Henry,  
Director of Military Support**



## RECRUITING & RETENTION

The Recruiting and Retention Battalion strives to gain and maintain the balance of forces in the Mississippi National Guard by retaining strong service members and starting new recruits on the path to success.

The R&R Battalion continues to reach its goals and immersing ourselves into communities throughout the state by providing outreach events throughout the state fiscal year:

### **R&R Spartan Challenge:**

The R&R Spartan Challenge was a 3-day team-building event and orientation to basic combat training that tested the limits of new recruits to the Mississippi Army National Guard. This event was to generate new leads for the Mississippi Army National Guard as well as to aid in the overall recruit success upon their arrival to basic training.

### **Over the Edge:**

Members of the R&R Battalion and the State's Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP) Soldiers volunteered to help the Over the Edge program in working a

five story rappelling event. The annual event was held to thank and honor those who helped raise funds for the Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital. Our battalion's involvement increased the visibility of the Mississippi Army National Guard in the communities in which we serve.

### **Dixie National Rodeo:**

The Recruiting and Retention Battalion maintained static displays and partnerships with the Dixie National Rodeo as this event adds value by increasing the Mississippi Army National Guard's visibility throughout the state. The FY21 iteration of this event garnered over 100,000 impressions within a one-week time frame.

### **Tuition Exemption:**

The William Carey University and the University of Mississippi chancellors signed a tuition exemption policy with Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles to enhance the Mississippi Army National Guard's education benefits within the state.



# REGIONAL COUNTERDRUG TRAINING ACADEMY

## Regional Counterdrug Training Academy (RCTA)

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 provided by Department of Defense components to support counterdrug activities along the U.S. southern coastal region. Since establishing, the Mississippi National Guard's RCTA has trained more than 177,000 law enforcement officers from all 54 states and U.S. territories.

In FY21, the RCTA conducted 102 courses and trained 4,793 Federal, State, Local and Tribal law enforcement officers from 1,042 agencies across 16 States. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all 102 RCTA classes were exported and/or conducted virtually during this period – first time since the inception of the RCTA nearly 30 years ago. The productivity during this period is a testament to the adaptability and dedication to the mission of the Mississippi National Guard Counterdrug personnel.



## Mississippi National Guard Counterdrug Task Force (CDTF)

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 FY21, 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.

More than 87 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 over \$325,500. The missions also seized 21 firearms and \$26,942 in cash during these operations. Additionally, the Mississippi National Guard Counterdrug Task Force assisted the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration with the "National Drug Prescription Take Back Day," resulting in the collection and destruction of more than 14,700 pounds of unused prescription drugs collected across the state.



## STATE FY 2021 STATS

**4,793**  
Students trained  
at RCTA

**1,042**  
Law Enforcement  
Agencies trained  
with the RCTA

**102**  
Total Counterdrug  
Courses

**16**  
States & territories

# STATE PARTNERSHIP

The State Partnership Program 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 partner countries.

SPP enhances cohesion 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 \$400,000 to the MSNG SPP annually.

The Mississippi National Guard currently maintains State Partnership Program relationships with Uzbekistan (2012) and Bolivia (1999). The MSNG and partner delegations have exchanged ideas on items of mutual interest including: Special Forces Operations, aviation employment (fixed and rotary), military medical, NCO Development, Counterdrug and Military Police.

In their third year of participation in Exercise Southern Strike (SSTK), Uzbekistan doubled its number of participants to 24 for SSTK21. The Uzbeks conducted a joint Airborne jump with the 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and conducted a foreign wing swap ceremony upon completion. This was the first time that Uzbekistan participated in an Airborne operation with the U.S. Military outside of schoolhouse training. Gen. Dan Hokanson, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Lt. Gen. Mike Loh, Director of the Air National Guard, His Excellency Javlon Vakhobov, Uzbek Ambassador to the U.S., and General Major Shuhkrat Halmukhamedov, Chief of Defense for Uzbekistan, visited Mississippi to observe the Uzbeks' participation in the exercise.

Two Uzbek NCOs competed in the MSNG Best Warrior Competition, where they both placed second in their respective categories.





## STATE AVIATION

Mississippi Army Aviation continued to support both state and federal missions this year. Mississippi responded to calls for support for hurricane relief efforts after Hurricane Ida in Louisiana and wildfire suppression efforts in California. A detachment from Company B, 2-641st Aviation Regiment (Fixed Wing) and Task Force 25 from the 1108th Aviation Group, completed federal deployments in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield. Company A, 1-185th Aviation Regiment (Air Assault) and Company A, 1-149th Aviation Regiment (Attack) participated in a National Training Center (NTC) rotation with the 34th Aviation Brigade. The Mississippi drug task force in Tupelo (UH-72 Lakota) continually supported state officials in its law enforcement efforts.

Army Aviation Support Facility 1, at Hawkins Field in Jackson, provided maintenance, training and evaluation flights and conducted over 40 air support missions which included air movement missions, VIP flights and community support mission totaling 363.2 flying hours. Water bucket crews were available to provide fire suppression coverage to Camp Shelby and Camp McCain throughout the year. AASF1 provided three Blackhawk helicopters to the Alaska National Guard in support of their mobilization requirements, building on relationships developed during previous exercises. They also provided aircraft maintenance and mission support for Exercise Southern Strike 2021 and the FY21 NTC rotation which allowed our units to successfully complete their missions.

Army Aviation Support Facility 2 in Tupelo provided the maintenance and flight training for the AH-64 Apache and UH-72 Lakota units as well as supported multiple air mission requests from the Adjutant General and other Mississippi National Guard leadership. Company A, 1-149th Aviation Regiment (Attack) successfully completed aerial gunnery during the NTC rotation. Company C, 1-114th Aviation Regiment (Support and Security) and Company D, 2-151st Aviation Regiment (MEDEVAC) participated in the Patriot North exercise honing their domestic operations skills with federal, state, local agencies and units from across the nation. They also deployed personnel to Texas in support of the Southwest border security mission and provided aircraft to assist 2-185th Aviation Regiment (Air Operations) in meeting their training requirements.

Army Aviation Support Facility 3 conducted flight training and maintenance for the CH-47 Chinook community within the state, and conducted several air missions for the state and other military components. Company B, 1-111th Aviation Regiment provided aircraft to support the 7th Special Forces Group and Marine Special Operations Command (MARSOC) during Southern Strike 2021, a multi-national, multi-agency exercise. They deployed a Chinook to California for fire suppression missions during this year's devastating wildfire season as well as being postured to provide heavy helicopter lift missions to Louisiana in response to damage from Hurricane Ida.

Unmanned Aircraft System Flight Center (UASFC) continued to provide training to 13 Shadow units, both active and reserve, along with ten individual Soldiers this year. The UASFC successfully completed the Aviation Resource Management Survey (ARMS) inspection with no major issues. They maintained readiness of the RQ-7 Shadows for the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team during their NTC rotation this past summer.

The Mississippi Aviation Classification and Repair Activity Depot (AVCRAD) continued to provide sustainment maintenance support for the southeastern region of the United States, including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. They successfully completed a total of 1,171 component work orders, 145 aircraft modifications and 11 aircraft phases, and painted 9 aircraft for an annual total of 25,589 maintenance hours. The MS AVCRAD and the 1108th Aviation Group were finally able to separate the facility and unit with the grand opening of the historic Hangar 68 Readiness Center. Hangar 68 provides a functional place to operate and train the leadership and Soldiers of the 1108th Aviation Group for their overseas missions.



**"Mississippi National Guard Aviation has a rich history of excellence in providing air support to the State of Mississippi. Our units and facilities can cover every aspect of Army Aviation...attack, air assault, MEDEVAC, reconnaissance, security, cargo, maintenance, air traffic control, and air movements with rotary-wing, fixed-wing and unmanned aircraft. We are well prepared to answer the call for any mission the state or nation requires at a moment's notice."**

**– Col. Bradley K. Howe,  
MSARNG, State Army Aviation Officer**



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MISSISSIPPI MILITARY DEPARTMENT  
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