



MISSISSIPPI MILITARY DEPARTMENT 2022 ANNUAL REPORT





To the Mississippi National Guard

As the 65th Governor of Mississippi, it is my honor to have the opportunity to command the brave men and women who serve in the Mississippi National Guard. Our state firmly values our military members and we're deeply committed to supporting them and their families with the same dedication and enthusiasm that they showcase in service to our state and nation.

The Mississippi National Guard currently has service members representing all 82 counties in Mississippi. These patriotic men and women form an incredibly ready and resilient force that is prepared to act in support of our state and nation at a moment's notice.

The Mississippi National Guard has been vital to moving our state forward through a range of natural disasters, emergencies, and numerous contingency operations overseas. No matter the event, they've never hesitated to jump into action when Mississippians needed them most.

I also want to note my enduring appreciation for all our military families who love and support our National Guard service members every day. I recognize the sacrifices made by these families and the critical role they play in our communities as well.

I am deeply grateful to every man and woman who puts on the uniform in service to the people of our great state. We may never be able to fully express the depth of our gratitude for the sacrifices they make each and every day, but Mississippi's appreciation and support will never falter.

Mississippi has much to be proud of when it comes to our men and women in uniform. It is an honor to serve as the Governor of Mississippi and I am especially proud of how our service members represent us both at home and abroad.

Thank you to our Mississippi National Guard for their continued defense of our freedoms and service to the people of our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Tate Reeves".

Governor Tate Reeves



MISSISSIPPI MILITARY DEPARTMENT
2022 ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 2021 | JUNE 2022



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To the Governor of the Great State of Mississippi

On behalf of the brave men and women of the Mississippi National Guard, I am honored to present the annual report for the Mississippi Military Department, highlighting our extraordinary achievements during State Fiscal Year 2022.

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 on deployment missions in support of Operation Inherent Resolve with members of the 210th Finance Battalion and the Special Operations Detachment South. Members of the 114th Digital Liaison Detachment demonstrated their collective capabilities during the Defender 2022 training exercise and the 47th Cyber Security Team deployed to Fort Meade, Maryland as a Cyber Security force multiplier.

In addition to multiple unit deployments, the MSANG has provided numerous individual deployments with service members from the 172nd Airlift Wing and the 186th Air Refueling Wing deploying to locations throughout our state and nation, and to various locations in Germany, Kuwait, and Qatar.

In April 2022, the Mississippi National Guard hosted the eleventh year of Southern Strike. This realistic and fast-paced training provides a multi-national, multi-state, and multi-component environment bringing in more than 1,800 military service members to this year's exercise alone. This year's training also included our state partners from the Republic of Uzbekistan, celebrating 10 years of esteemed partnership, comradery and alliance building as part of our State Partnership Program.

This fiscal year was bittersweet as we celebrated the military service of several of our senior leaders advancing their military careers to higher levels of responsibility. We celebrated the service of others with retirements, including the Assistant Adjutant General – Air, Maj. Gen. Billy Mike Nabors; State Command Chief Warrant Officer, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Tommy Smith; and the State Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher L. Young. We celebrate the continued service of our former Senior Enlisted Leader, Command Sgt. Maj. John Raines as he serves as the 13th Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard at the National Guard Bureau. We welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. Silvester Tatum as the new Senior Enlisted Leader for the Mississippi National Guard, the second person to ever serve in this prestigious position.

The men and women of the Mississippi National Guard proudly represent Mississippi and continue to perform with confidence and exceptional patriotism in every mission. 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. "Shoulder To Shoulder."

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



To the Governor of the Great State of Mississippi

The Mississippi National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are a trained and ready force. As the State Senior Enlisted Leader, I am proud to report 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.

Mississippi Soldiers and Airmen continue to set a standard of excellence in advanced technological real-world training events conducted state-wide. Southern Strike 2022 hosted over 1,800 multi-component military service members from 20 states representing a diverse platform of Active Duty, Reserves, and National Guard military forces. This year's exercise implemented relevant training strategies including the Air Force's new combat employment strategy known as Agile Combat Employment. At the conclusion of this fast-paced training, we exceeded our target objectives while strengthening joint military operations and interagency partnerships.

During this State Fiscal Year, the Mississippi National Guard celebrated 10 years of comradery with the Republic of Uzbekistan in our State Partnership Program. We celebrated our enduring partnership by hosting Uzbekistan Soldiers in this year's Best Warrior Competition. These Soldiers are the best of the best! They trained and competed alongside the MSNG Soldiers and Airmen in various events including a physical fitness test, weapons qualification, obstacle course, a written exam, night land navigation course, and various other warrior tasks and skills.

Another training success this year was Operation Avery conducted in Gulfport. This training exercise focused on deployment tasks of a Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group. Operation Avery yielded an opportunity for the 1108th TASMG to conduct interagency cooperative training with the Combat Readiness Training Center Gulfport Fire Department to simulate the response efforts of a crash scenario.

Engineers of the 168th Engineer Brigade sharpened their skills by training live demolition scenarios while the 210th Finance Battalion conducted a proof-of-concept exercise during Operation Big Easy in New Orleans. 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment coordinated with the 172d Airlift Wing to conduct Rim of the Pacific operations stretching from Southern California to the Hawaiian Islands and Soldiers of the 112th Military Police Battalion conducted annual training in Texas as they prepare for their upcoming deployment in support of the Southwest Border mission.

It has been a busy annual training season and a robust year of missions for our Soldiers and Airmen. With every challenge, they exceeded expectations and continued to lead our state as one of our nation's premier combat reserve forces. 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 while we stand 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 serves as the Director, Joint Staff – Joint Force Headquarters and Land Component Commander. As the Director, Joint Staff and 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.



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Donald R. Dukes, Jr.
State Command
Chief Warrant Officer

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Donald R. Dukes, Jr. serves as the State Command Chief Warrant Officer. As the Command Chief Warrant Officer, he is the senior advisor to the Adjutant General on all matters relating to Warrant Officers. He is responsible for keeping the Adjutant General informed and making recommendations in matters of the Warrant Officer cohort. He also oversees a Warrant Officer Advisory Committee as the spokesperson to advise the Adjutant General and the chain of command on Warrant Officer management issues.



Command Sgt. Maj. Darrell L. Masterson
State Command Sergeant Major

Command Sgt. Maj. Darrell L. Masterson serves as the State Command Sergeant Major of the Mississippi Army National Guard. As the State Command Sergeant Major, Masterson 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. Barry A. Blanchard
Assistant Adjutant General - Air

Maj. Gen. Barry Blanchard is the Assistant Adjutant General and Commander, Mississippi Air National Guard. He is responsible to the Adjutant General for directing Air National Guard operations, formulating, developing, and coordinating all programs, policies, and plans ensuring the mission readiness of the 172d Airlift Wing, 186th Air Refueling Wing, and the Combat Readiness Training Center.



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

Command Chief Master Sgt. Lynn R. Cole serves as the State Command Chief Master Sergeant for the Mississippi Air National Guard. 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



Brig. Gen. Joe D. Hargett
Director of Joint Staff

Brigadier General Joe D. Hargett serves as the Director of the Joint Staff and Land Component Commander (LCC) for the Mississippi National Guard (MSNG). As the Director, Joint Staff he is responsible for the supervision and directing of the MSNG's staff, including managing budgets and resources for all major programs, and oversees the development and coordination of all policies, plans, and programs of the MSNG. Dual-hatted, he serves as the Mobilization Deputy Commanding General, of the Mobilization Force Generation Platform and Large-Scale Mobilization Operations for all things mobilization at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center.



Col. Tommy F. Tillman
Chief of Joint Staff

Col. Tommy F. Tillman is the A3 Director of Operations for the Mississippi Air National Guard at Joint Force Headquarters, Jackson, Mississippi. He develops and executes statewide initiatives in accordance with the Assistant Adjutant General and Adjutant General's vision to ensure the Mississippi Air National Guard's unity of effort.



Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan B. Coleman
Land Component Command
Sergeant Major

Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan B. Coleman serves as the Land Component Command Sergeant Major. As the Land Component Command Sergeant Major, Coleman 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. Edward H. Evans, Jr.
Chief of Staff - Air

Brig. Gen. Edward H. Evans, Jr. serves as the Chief of Staff, Mississippi Air National Guard, Joint Forces Headquarters, Jackson, Mississippi. He assists the commander and the Adjutant General in formulating, developing, and coordinating all programs, policies, and plans ensuring the mission readiness of the 172nd Airlift Wing, 186th Air Refueling Wing, and the Combat Readiness Training Center.



Col. Laura L. Odom
Director of Staff - Air

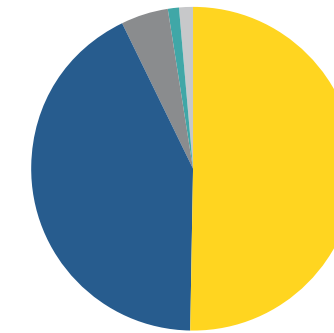
Col. Laura L. Odom is the Director of Staff for the Mississippi Air National Guard. She serves as the primary advisor to the Air National Guard commander regarding the oversight and support of the 2,500 Airmen assigned to the state's two flying wings and combat readiness training center. Odom directs 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 60 Army National Guard Readiness Centers and 3 Air National Guard facilities. This past year has been extremely busy and challenging for the Mississippi National Guard. During this year our Soldiers and Airmen have responded to multiple State Active-Duty missions as we returned to full scale operations, contracts, construction projects and training events after coming out of the coronavirus pandemic. The State Legislature continued its support of maintenance and repair of the MSNG readiness centers. These funds, combined with the Federal match, made the largest maintenance and repair appropriations the MSNG has received in decades. This year the State legislature also appropriated \$5 million in maintenance and repair and \$10.3 million in ARPA funds to the MSNG.

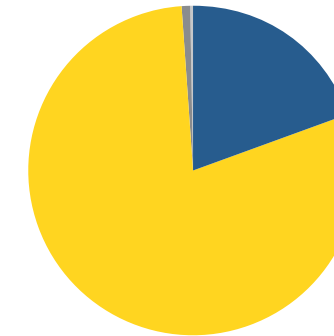


Mississippi Army National Guard Fiscal Year 2022 Federal Expenditures: \$463,424,029



- Operations and Maintenance: \$233,597,920
- Military/Civilian Pay and Allowances: \$196,644,820
- Military Construction: \$22,059,187
- Special Forces: \$5,704,402
- Youth ChalleNGe Program: \$5,400,000
- Employer Support of the Guard/Reserve: \$17,700

Mississippi Air National Guard Fiscal Year 2022 Federal Expenditures: \$183,475,804



- Military/Civilian Pay and Allowances: \$145,618,177
- Operations and Maintenance: \$35,910,215
- COVID Response: \$1,505,729
- Military Construction: \$441,683



FY 2022 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS

MS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

- \$34.5 million for 10 megawatt Generation Plant and Feeder Level Microgrid System at Camp Shelby
- \$15.5 million for Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES) at Camp Shelby
- \$11.1 million for Electrical Distribution Infrastructure Undergrounding Hardening Project at Camp Shelby

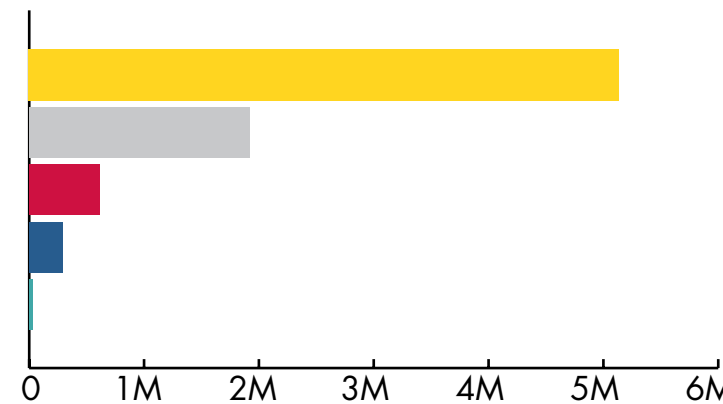
MS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

- \$9.3 million for Fire Crash and Rescue Station at Thompson Field in Jackson

NOTES

- Microgrid will provide approximately 14 days of self-generated power
- Underground hardening will place approximately 1/3 of power poles underground

Mississippi Military Department State Fiscal Year 2022 General Fund Base Budget: \$7,997,192



General Fund Expenditures Included in Base Budget Requirements

- Other Military Support: \$5,132,612
- Youth ChalleNGe: \$1,928,075
- Armed Forces Museum: \$626,505
- Sonny Montgomery Center: \$300,000
- Youth ChalleNGe Uniforms: \$10,000



A YEAR IN REVIEW

During State Fiscal Year 2022, the Mississippi National Guard assisted with relief efforts following Hurricane Ida, sending 200 Soldiers and Airmen to the state of Louisiana. During Southern Strike 2022, the MSNG conducted a proof-of-concept exercise at multiple training sites throughout the state with the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, 185th Aviation Brigade, and U.S. Army Reserve elements, involving more than 1,800 service members. Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center hosted the annual Norwegian Foot March and the first Extra Miles Marathon with the Extra

Table organization, bringing over 600 military and civilian competitors and many donations for food pantries across Mississippi. The 183rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron remains distinguished as they led all Air National Guard units in awards, nearly sweeping all nine categories, including Outstanding Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron of the Year. The 172d Airlift Wing conducted 99 missions, 526 sorties, transported 3,988 passengers, and moved 6,127 tons of cargo during FY 2022.



Pershing Strike

Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center hosted Pershing Strike, an exercise designed to test Camp Shelby's capability as a Mobilization Force Generation Installation (MFGI). The three-week long event involved Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve units from across the nation and included more than 8,000 military members. Mobilization is a complex task which involves reviewing Soldiers' medical, legal, and personal records while also assessing their warrior task proficiency prior to deploying.



Hurricane Ida

When Hurricane Ida made landfall Aug. 29, 2021, more than 200 Mississippi Air and Army National Guardsmen from across the state deployed to central and southern Louisiana to assist in response efforts. The 112th Military Police Battalion assisted with civil support while the 255th Air Control Squadron provided communication support to remote points-of-distribution. The 168th Engineer Brigade brought in heavy equipment to help with clearing debris and elements from the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team provided operations and logistics support during the mission.



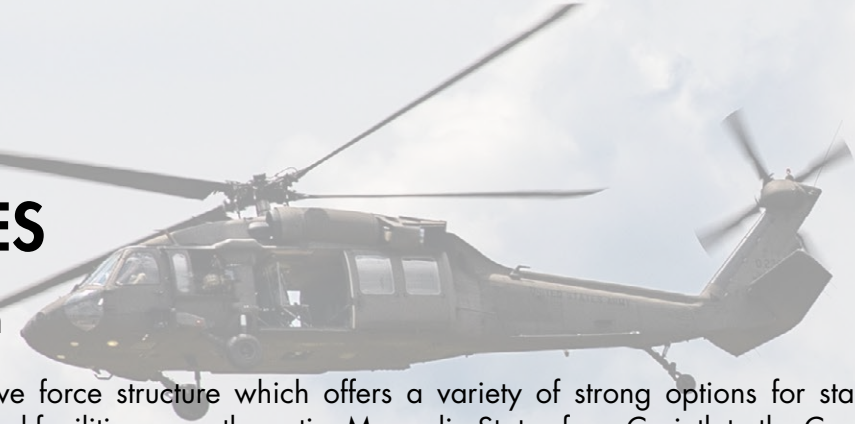
Operation Avery

Operation Avery was a training exercise focused on real-world experiences and tasks the 1108th Aviation Group might conduct during a deployment. The training took place next door to the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center at Hangar 68, Gulfport Army Airfield. The unit also conducted interagency cooperative training with the CRTC Fire Department. This annual training exercise functioned as an external evaluation for the unit, ensuring mission, equipment, and personnel readiness.

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.



184TH
SUSTAINMENT COMMAND
(EXPEDITIONARY)
MONTICELLO



155TH ARMORED
BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM
TUPELO



154TH REGIONAL
TRAINING INSTITUTE
CAMP SHELBY



1108TH AVIATION GROUP
GULFPORT



JOINT FORCE
HEADQUARTERS, MSNG
JACKSON



66TH TROOP COMMAND
JACKSON



HEADQUARTERS
MISSISSIPPI AIR
NATIONAL GUARD
JACKSON



186TH AIR
REFUELING WING
MERIDIAN



185TH
AVIATION BRIGADE
JACKSON



168TH ENGINEER
BRIGADE
VICKSBURG



CYBER PROTECTION
TEAM 178
STARKVILLE



MS AVIATION
CLASSIFICATION & REPAIR
ACTIVITY DEPOT
GULFPORT



CAMP SHELBY
JOINT FORCES
TRAINING CENTER
CAMP SHELBY



CAMP MCCAIN
TRAINING CENTER
ELLIOT



GULFPORT
COMBAT READINESS
TRAINING CENTER
GULFPORT



172D
AIRLIFT WING
FLOWOOD



47TH CIVIL
SUPPORT TEAM
FLOWOOD



COUNTERDRUG TASK FORCE
MERIDIAN



20TH SPECIAL
FORCES GROUP
JACKSON



REGIONAL COUNTERDRUG
TRAINING ACADEMY
MERIDIAN

HOME & ABROAD



Maj. Gen. Mike Nabors

Maj. Gen. Billy M. Nabors, former assistant adjutant general and commander, Mississippi Air National Guard, retired after 38 years of honorable military service during a ceremony in Meridian, March 6, 2022. He served 26 years of his career at Key Field, then became the chief of staff for the MSANG in 2017 before he was selected as ATAG in 2018 at Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson. He relinquished command to Maj. Gen. Barry A. Blanchard March 5, 2022.



Legion of Honor

Arthur M. Newell and Norvin D. McClure, both WWII veterans who served with the 65th Infantry Division, received the Légion d'honneur by Vincent Hommeril, the Consul General of France, based in Atlanta, during a ceremony at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center in November. The French government gives the Legion of Honor awards to both French and foreign nationals based on a recipient's exemplary services rendered to France or to the causes supported by France.



Best Warrior Competition 2022

The Mississippi National Guard State Best Warrior Competition 2022 was hosted at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center in March. The event displayed the warrior capability and knowledge of those competing, including Mississippi Army and Air National Guardsmen as well as several Soldiers from the Republic of Uzbekistan. The enlisted category winner was Spc. Riley Glissen and the noncommissioned officer category winner was Staff Sgt. Christopher Cook.



Private Ladner Comes Home

Pvt. Andrew Ladner of Harrison County returned home and given a proper burial April 9, 2022, 80 years after he was killed in action in New Guinea by enemy fire the day after his 30th birthday. Ladner served as an infantryman assigned to Anti-Tank Company, 126th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Infantry Division.



State Partner – Republic of Uzbekistan

Military police from the Mississippi Army National Guard and security forces from the Mississippi Air National Guard conducted a Military Police Subject Matter Expert Exchange at the Protection Branch of Bektemir District in Tashkent, Uzbekistan March 28-31, 2022. Uzbekistan has been an active State Partner of Mississippi since 2012.



Southern Strike 2022

The annual training exercise Southern Strike 2022 was hosted by the Mississippi National Guard in late-April through early-May. More than 1,800 service members participated in the large-scale, joint combat exercise at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center, Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Camp McCain, and in and above Gulf waters.

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 at Camp McCain for deployment to the European Theater. Camp McCain also housed over 7,700 German prisoners of war. Grenada Army Airfield was constructed to support Camp McCain 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 Camp McCain's lands to the Mississippi National Guard for use as a weekend training site.

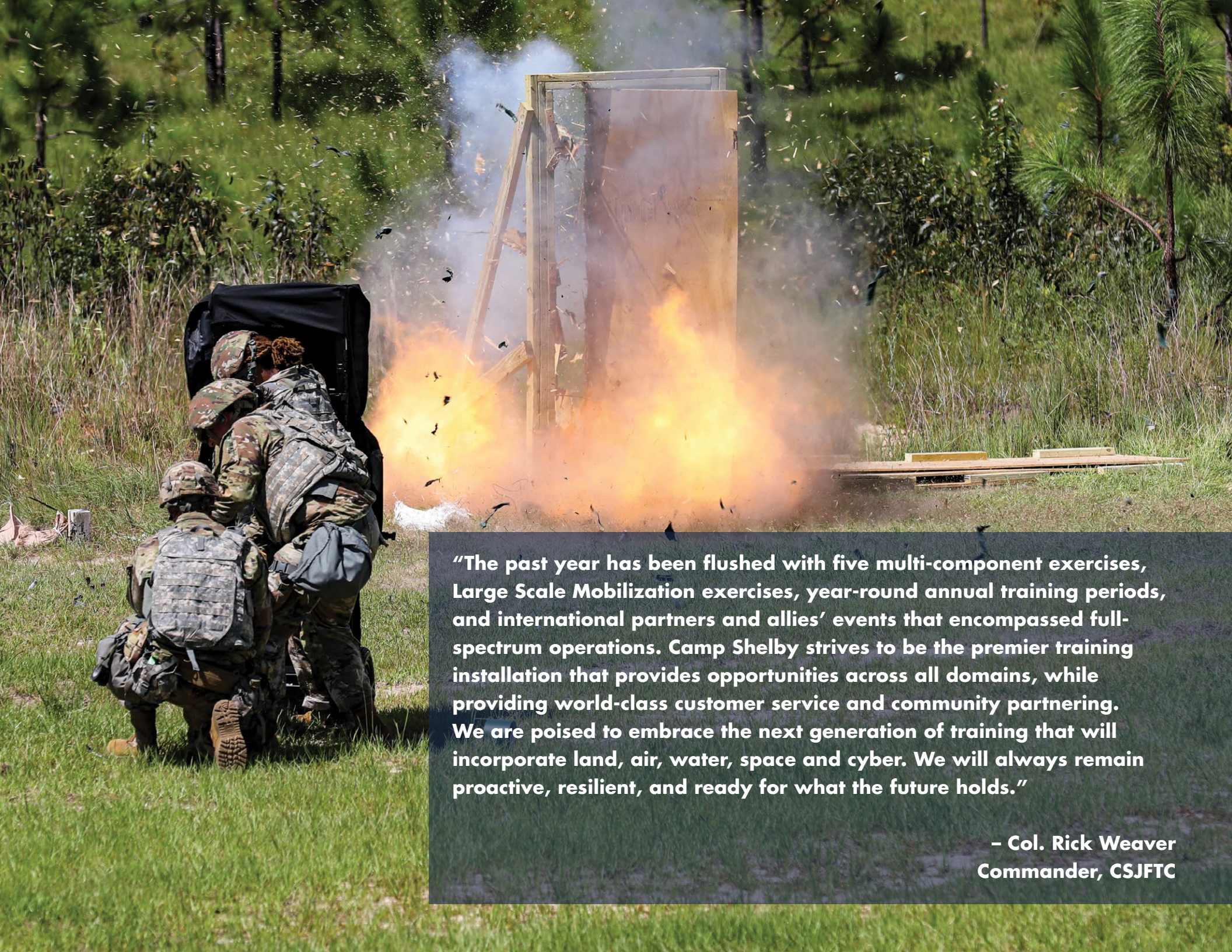
The Mississippi National Guard acquired additional land and constructed additional facilities over the following 76 years, culminating in the current 12,895 acre multicomponent, year-round training site. Camp McCain Training Center trains members of U.S. military and civilian services, as well as international partners. Camp McCain is home to Companies C and E, 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, Detachment 1, Mississippi Medical Readiness Command, Unit Training Equipment Site and Combined Support Maintenance Shop #2.

In State Fiscal Year 2022, Camp McCain Training Center facilitated training events for more than 65,000 Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard Service Members. Camp McCain supported the Southern Strike Exercise and hosted Naval Construction Group 2 during their annual Field Training Exercise. Camp McCain is extensively involved in the local community and has a partnership with local and County Governments, 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 the Southern Strike Exercise 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**



“The past year has been flushed with five multi-component exercises, Large Scale Mobilization exercises, year-round annual training periods, and international partners and allies’ events that encompassed full-spectrum operations. Camp Shelby strives to be the premier training installation that provides opportunities across all domains, while providing world-class customer service and community partnering. We are poised to embrace the next generation of training that will incorporate land, air, water, space and cyber. We will always remain proactive, resilient, and ready for what the future holds.”

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

CAMP SHELBY JOINT FORCES TRAINING CENTER

Established in 1917, Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, at approximately 136,000 acres, remains one of the largest state-owned National Guard training site in the Nation and the training platform of choice for every branch of service and multiple Department of Defense components. More than 79,000 service members and federal employees trained here in 2022. Camp Shelby utilized over \$26 million to bolster its infrastructure, improving its overall training capabilities.

In State Fiscal Year 2022, Camp Shelby continued to experience many firsts. Camp Shelby was accredited as a Joint National Training Capability Installation for the first time in its 105-year existence. First Army chose Camp Shelby as the site of its largest-to-date Mobilization Exercise Level 3, designated Pershing Strike 2022, to prepare it as a Mobilization Force Generation Installation for Large Scale Mobilization Operations.

The Chief of Engineers at the Pentagon selected Camp Shelby over a dozen other sites to be the home of the premier Lines of Communication-Bridging, completing a first “wet gap crossing” test phase in late 2021, which involved full-scale water testing in a basin of bridge components with military vehicles at different weights and travel speeds. This effort led to the first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Camp Shelby and the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center in 2022. Camp Shelby’s strategic placement also led to the first New Equipment Training fielding for the Taiwan Army at Camp Shelby.

The Norwegian Embassy in Washington D.C. authorized a second Norwegian Foot March at Camp Shelby in 2022, featuring Soldiers and civilians from 20 different countries and 30 different states within the U.S. The German Embassy Defense Attaché also sent a group to oversee the first German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge event at Camp Shelby, where 14 Mississippi Guardsmen earned their badge.

This past year, Camp Shelby personnel had a voice in local, state, and national affairs aided by key positions in the Area Development Partnership, the South Mississippi Military Higher Education Council, the Installation Commanders Council, and the Training Center Command Advisory Council. Camp Shelby established a special MOU in 2022 with Pearl River



Community College offering an opportunity to educate Soldiers on skilled trades such as AutoCAD, Welding, and Forklift operations – which could assist with their transition to civilian employment after their military career.

Camp Shelby met the standards set by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters to earn Tree City, USA designation in 2022, one of only 22 communities statewide. These efforts, led by the Directorate of Public Works, also included attendance by Camp Shelby personnel at the University of Mississippi landscape symposium, establishing a reciprocal relationship of learning best practices.

Camp Shelby continues to contribute to multiple wildlife preservation and ecosystem protection programs. CSJFTC was the recipient of the 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. The post’s environmental experts have also accelerated the recovery of at-risk species such as the black pine snake, red cockaded woodpecker, and dusky gopher frog. It has successfully contributed to the release of more than 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.

COMBAT READINESS TRAINING CENTER - GULFPORT

The Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) has trained the nation's Armed Forces for more than 80 years. One of only four Air National Guard (ANG) CRTCs 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 2021 to June 2022, Gulfport CRTC hosted over 14,000 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. This year the Gulfport CRTC received re-certification as a JNTC site, and Exercise Southern Strike was re-accredited by JNTC for the next five years.

Southern Strike 2022 gathered 1,856 warriors from 75 organizations representing all branches of service and 2 international partners conducting counter-insurgency, close air-support, en-route casualty care, noncombatant evacuation, maritime special operations, Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR), and integrated cyber operations. This year's exercise included Agile Combat Employment (ACE) operations at Avon Park, Florida.

The Southern Lightning Strike exercise developed and evaluated tactics techniques and procedures for Agile Combat Employment (ACE). Those included decentralized command and control, forward operating base (FOB) minimum requirements, communications capabilities between main operating base (MOB) and FOB, MAF/CAF dissimilar air combat training, and integrated combat turns by geographically separated teams.

The MARSOC RAVEN exercise provided US Marine Corps 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.

In 2022, Gulfport CRTC continued to prepare forces to meet their wartime mission. The Gulfport CRTC's Air-to-Ground Range continued to increase its value with new high-fidelity targets and is now certified for JDAM deployment. Gulfport's Air Combat Training System (ACTS) received an upgrade to its Live Mission Operations Capability (LMOC) that increased our Operational Test and Training Infrastructure. The upgrade, referred to as War Room 1.2, fuses ACMI instrumentation with Link-16 messages to create a seamless data stream of aircraft and weapons employment, allowing range training officers to better adjudicate combat interactions and to determine effectiveness of weapons engagements.

The CRTC also hosted six wing readiness exercises designed to test a unit's ability to mobilize, deploy, and operate in an austere, remote location, including the ability to operate in MOPP4 conditions. Additionally, multiple fire departments trained on the installation's fire training venues to hone their emergency response skills. Gulfport hosted a variety of non-exercise events including the 2022 Mississippi Hurricane Exercise (HURREX), Mississippi G4 Logistics Conference, ANG Medical Readiness University, ANG Squadron Commanders' Course, and the Southeastern JAG Conference.

Gulfport CRTC is an important link in the economic welfare of the local community. The installation employs over 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 bring in an additional \$8 million to the local economy through hotel stays and meals at local restaurants. Finally, activity at Gulfport CRTC is estimated to create almost 200 indirect jobs generating another \$7 million in revenue.



“The partnership between the Gulfport CRTC and Camp Shelby gives South Mississippi one of the most capable training venues in the Continental U.S.”

**– Col. Berry L. McCormick
Commander, Gulfport CRTC**



JOINT NATIONAL TRAINING EXERCISES

SOUTHERN STRIKE 2022

Southern Strike 2022 gathered 1,856 warriors from 75 organizations representing all branches of service and 2 international partners conducting counter-insurgency, close air-support, en-route casualty care, noncombatant evacuation, maritime special operations, Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR), and integrated cyber operations. This year's exercise included Agile Combat Employment (ACE) operations at Avon Park, Florida.

OPERATION AVERY

Operation Avery was a training exercise focused on real-world experiences and tasks the 1108th Aviation Group might conduct during a deployment. The training took place next door to the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center at Hangar 68, Gulfport Army Airfield. The unit also conducted interagency cooperative training with the CRTC Fire Department. This annual training exercise functioned as an external evaluation for the unit, ensuring mission, equipment, and personnel readiness.

MARSOC RAVEN

The MARSOC RAVEN exercise provided US Marine Corps 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) has a diverse set of units capable of supporting and responding to any mission inside the United States and deployable around the world. The command had three units deployed overseas and another three deployed for out-of-state and out-of-country training missions. 66th 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; 102nd Public Affairs Detachment; 41st Army Band; and the 47th Civil Support Team (CST).

The 112th Military Police Battalion deployed 124 Soldiers from its headquarters and the 113th and 114th Military Police Companies to the New Orleans area in response to Hurricane Ida. Soldiers provided security at various sites in the heavily damaged area including the security of critical infrastructure sites and Point of Distribution (POD) sites.

The Magnolia Brass Ensemble of the 41st Army Band provided musical support in 72 missions varying from State Partnership Program Ceremonies, Dining Outs, Changes of Command, Changes of Responsibility, Retirement Ceremonies, NCO professional development and OCS Graduations, including several community relations activities. Following an external evaluation this year, the organization was coined as one of the Premier Army National Guard Bands among all 54 states and territories.

“I am reminded of a quote by Robert Reich, ‘True Patriotism isn’t cheap. It’s about taking on a fair share of the burden of keeping America going.’ The Warriors of 66th Troop Command understand this commitment with their unselfish sacrifice to support freedom.”

**– Brig. Gen. Michael N. Cleveland
Commander, 66th Troop Command**

The 102nd Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD) supported various missions throughout the state during fiscal year 2022. In addition to regular mission support provided to Mississippi Army National Guard units, the 102nd MPAD also played key roles in providing media coverage for the MSARNG Best Warrior Competition at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, and exercise Southern Strike, which took place at various locations throughout the state. The 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment was heavily involved with planning, preparing, and executing two major exercises at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) in Fort Polk, Louisiana, and Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 22 in Hawaii – the world’s largest international maritime exercise.

Approximately 50 Soldiers from C Battery, 1-204th ADA in Morton, provided Air and Missile Defense capabilities to the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) of the California Army National Guard during JRTC Rotation 22-8.5. Their outstanding performance during this exercise earned the unit high praise from the 79th IBCT and a special visit from the Chief of National Guard Bureau, Gen. Daniel Hokanson. In the RIMPAC 22 exercise, 43 Soldiers from A Battery, 1-204th ADA in Bay Springs, successfully integrated our Short-Range Air Defense capabilities with the 1st Multi-Domain Task Force from Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington.

Special Operations Detachment (SOD) South mobilized to augment Special Operations Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve (SOJTF-OIR), now SOJTF-Levant, filling director-level and other key billets within the Special Operations Forces (SOF) headquarters, coordinating and directing all SOF activities to train, advise and assist partner forces in Syria and Iraq. SOD-South augmented the Special Operations Advisory Group in Baghdad, Iraq, and had forces in Jordan, Kuwait, and other locations in Iraq.



185TH AVIATION BRIGADE

The 185th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade (ECAB) provides Mississippi and the Nation with a highly capable and lethal means to deliver troops, equipment and supplies quickly and effectively during times of peace and war. It is comprised of approximately 800 Soldiers, 36 Aircraft, 5 Armories, and is supported by three Aviation Support Facilities located throughout the State. The 185th ECAB subordinate units include 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment; 2nd Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment; and a Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

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 such as Southern Strike, including air assaulting a ground maneuver task force from the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team. The unit is comprised of more than 500 Soldiers spread between three geographic locations and operates every combat aircraft within the US Army inventory. It truly is a dynamic organization and critical asset to the State of Mississippi.

“As professional leaders, we owe it to our customers to master the aviation core competencies summarized as see, strike, move, and extend. This concept gives the boss a decision for space and time. We owe it to our Soldiers to mitigate operational risks, so we accomplish the mission and bring our people and equipment home.”

**– Col. J. Ashley Mills
Commander, 185th ECAB**

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 Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) missions. The 2-185th is comprised of more than 180 Soldiers located in Southaven and Tupelo. The battalion executed its skill sets through participation in the State Counter Drug mission, providing aviators to assist the U.S. Border Patrol, and by executing missions ordered by the Adjutant General.

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) provides the capability to plan, coordinate, and execute the complex mission sets of the subordinate units within the brigade. It is comprised of approximately 120 Soldiers. The HHC executed its mission through participation in Warfighter 22-5 at Fort Campbell, KY where it performed duties as the combat aviation element for the 38th Infantry Division, headquartered in Indianapolis.



47TH CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM

The 47th Civil Support Team (CST) is the Mississippi National Guard's technical first responders to civilian authorities for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) threats. With its ability to identify CBRNE agents/substances, assess current and projected consequences, advise on response measures, and assist with appropriate requests for follow-on state or federal resources, the CST provides the State with a broad range of capabilities and is on standby 24/7/365.

Providing these capabilities requires extensive training and a robust network of partnerships with civil authorities and agencies to ensure the CST is prepared to respond at a moment's notice. The expert Soldiers and Airmen that make up the CST receive hundreds of hours of HAZMAT training from agencies such as FEMA, the Department of Energy, the DOJ, and the EPA, making them the best at what they do. Additionally, the CST deploys with state-of-the-art equipment providing a broad spectrum of secure communications capabilities as well as an analytical laboratory system vehicle used to conduct a complete characterization of an unknown hazard. During its highest response posture, the 47th CST is capable of deploying advanced assets nationwide, via ground or rapid airlift, within 90 minutes.

Over the past year the 47th CST conducted multiple training exercises providing Joint Hazard Assessment teams supporting Cruisin' the Coast, Oct. 4-10, 2021, all Mississippi State University football games, and numerous Brandon Amphitheater concerts.

The 47th CST conducted training in Gulfport with the Mississippi Department of Homeland Security and City of Biloxi Bomb Squad, January 17-23, 2022. The training simulated an attack on the Port of Gulfport.

From February 17 – March 2, 2022, the team assisted the 62nd CST and Jefferson Parish EMA in Louisiana with extra personnel during Family Gras and Mardi Gras events with Joint Hazard Assessment teams.

Additionally, from March 18-27, 2022, the 47th CST assisted with Operation Van Winkle, a Joint Training Exercise with multiple Civil Support Teams and government agencies in Juneau, Alaska.



"My first priority is to protect my team, but everyone on the team is focused on protecting the community."

**– Lt. Col. Len A. Fortenberry
Commander
47th Civil Support Team (WMD-CST)**



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 RTI 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 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 trained more than 5,700 Soldiers during Training Year 2022, while improving local and national partnerships through renowned training opportunities. The Regiment's Medical Training Battalion participated in an Active Shooter Exercise with 15 law enforcement agencies, teaching Tactical Combat Casualty Care. The RTI's Officer Candidate School Program has also partnered with the Virgin Island Army National Guard to train their future officers. Finally, as an integral part of the Army's Modernization Program, the 1st Armored Training Battalion was the first training institute to receive the M1A2 SEPv3 Main Battle Tank to train future Armor and Cavalry Troop Soldiers.



5,700

Students Trained During FY 2022

"The 154th Regiment remains the premier training venue for NCO development and training. We will continue to maintain the standard of excellence and look forward to another year of robust training for our future leaders."

**– Col. Chris Thomas
Commander**

154th Regiment Regional Training Institute

155TH ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

Headquartered in Tupelo, the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) is Mississippi's largest unit. The 155th continued building readiness through its training efforts this year, culminating with its Annual Training period in June 2022. As one of five Armored Brigades in the National Guard, and one of 16 in the Total Force, the 155th provides additional capacity and lethality to the Army when called upon to execute its federal mission. The brigade is also postured to provide an array of capabilities to support its state mission when called upon to respond to natural and manmade disasters.

The 155th is comprised of a headquarters company and seven battalions: Headquarters and Headquarters Company in Tupelo; 1st Squadron, 98th Cavalry Regiment headquartered in Amory; 2nd Battalion, 198th Armored Regiment headquartered in Senatobia; 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment headquartered in McComb; 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery Regiment headquartered in Starkville; 150th Brigade Engineer Battalion headquartered in Meridian; 106th Brigade Support Battalion headquartered in Hattiesburg; and 1st Battalion, 635th Armor Regiment headquartered in Kansas City, Kansas.

New command and leadership have been a constant for the 155th over the last year. Col. Jason Nelson passed the guidon to Col. Michael Dykes as the newest, and current, brigade commander. He is now leading and preparing the 155th for the future. Along with this change comes many new battalion commanders: Lt. Col. Richard Rowland, 150th Engineer Battalion; Lt. Col. Frank Querns, 1-155th Infantry Regiment; Lt. Col. Michael Greco, 1-98th Cavalry Regiment; Lt. Col. Dennis Bittle, 2-114th Field Artillery Regiment; Lt. Col. Zach Rolf, 1-635th Armor Regiment, and Lt. Col. Rob Sands, 2-198th Armored Regiment.



Over the past training year, the 155th conducted three major training events: Southern Strike; Thunder Strike; and Annual Training – participating in Kids AT and Boss Lift. Southern Strike was a joint, multinational exercise where units from the 155th supported multiple national and international partner units by conducting both counterinsurgency and conventional operations. In Thunder Strike, the 155th acted as both primary and oppositional forces to train and evaluate emerging warfare techniques on UAS based electromagnetic detection systems. Annual Training focused on several Brigade mission-essential and administrative tasks across the seven Battalions and HHC.

During Annual Training, the 155th conducted a Boss Lift, as part of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's "Boss Lift" Program, where employers from across Mississippi were flown into Camp Shelby, providing them the ability to see what their employees experience during military training. The 155th also won the "Best MSC (Major Subordinate Command) Day" during Kids AT.

Another major focus for the 155th was recruiting and retention efforts. Many down-trace units participated in recruiting and community interactions such as the Mississippi Army National Guard Career Day at Copiah-Lincoln Community College, working with the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, and the Amory Railroad Festival. Battalions also participated in numerous static displays at Colleges, Universities, and community events across the state.

The 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team continues to train to provide combat-ready capacity and proven capabilities in support of both federal and state missions and will continue to produce highly skilled leaders at every level as they move toward the next operation.



"After our training last year at NTC, the 155th has only continued to grow and strengthen ourselves. Over this last year we have seen many changes in the brigade with our training and leadership. Our electronic warfare training with Thunder Strike and new command teams only increases the readiness of the 155th. We are very proud of the growth our Soldiers and units have shown, but we are not done yet and will keep moving forward."

**– Col. Michael Dykes
Commander, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team**

184TH SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)

Led by Brig. Gen. John C. Nipp and Command Sgt. Maj. Stanley T. Williams, 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 led by Col. Kendrick L. Cager and Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph S. Cook; the 223rd Engineer Battalion led by Lt. Col. Brenton B. Montgomery and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald S. Howell; and the 890th Engineer Battalion led by Lt. Col. Joshua J. Ulrich and Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald L. Greenwood.

The 184th SC Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) forces deployed to augment the Louisiana National Guard's response to flooding and debris removal in areas of Louisiana impacted by Hurricane Ida. 184th Soldiers worked directly with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Mississippi State Department of Health. Following Hurricane Ida response efforts, 33 Soldiers from the 184th participated in Warfighter 22-5 at Fort Campbell, Kentucky as the Higher Command while the remaining members of the command conducted annual training at Camp Shelby. Additionally, transportation Soldiers of the 184th line-hauled 15 pieces of historic military equipment from Anniston, Alabama to the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum on Camp Shelby.

114th DLD conducted extensive training in digital information management and communications interface capabilities. The 114th fielded new equipment in preparation to partner with the French 3rd Division for Defender 22 at Grafenwoehr, Germany, June 7-19, 2022, in support of U.S. Army III Corps. Due to real-world circumstances, the DLD had to shift focus from the Defender 22 training mission to support the 184th at Camp Shelby for the Warfighter exercise 22-5. The DLD successfully partnered with 184th and Camp Shelby staff to establish digital information flow in a new Mission Command Configuration Center (MCCC). With successful connectivity, the 114th DLD was able to extract and share vital mission information for the 184th in support of the 18th Airborne Corps' War Fighter Exercise.

The 168th Engineer Brigade managed Camp Kamassa construction, responded to Hurricane Ida, and transitioned COVID operations to civil authorities. In Crystal Springs, the 859th Engineer Company managed Camp Kamassa construction that resulted in an economic impact of \$2.2 million. Upon completion, Camp Kamassa will provide children and adults with disabilities and illnesses the opportunity to participate in outdoor activities like swimming, horseback riding, and canoeing. The 223rd Engineer Battalion deployed an engineer company for more than two weeks to support Louisiana after Hurricane Ida's devastation. In Louisiana, the 223rd Engineer Battalion cleared debris and distributed 1,120 Meals Ready-to-Eat, 2,240 gallons of water, and 1,120 bags of ice.

The 298th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), comprised of classification, maintenance, transportation, and water purification units, provided critical natural disaster response and support to civil authorities during state fiscal year 2022. The 1687th Transportation Company out of Southaven, were key in the movement of over 20 pieces of Ohio National Guard equipment from Camp Shelby back to their home station in Canton, Ohio. The weeklong round trip proved to be a great experience for Soldiers to put the skills they learned to the test. The company also moved 15 pieces of historic military equipment from Alabama to be put on display at Camp Shelby's Mississippi Armed Forces Museum. The 3656th Quartermaster Company were key in performing more than 200 technical inspections over the past year. The unit performed more than 100 inspections on the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team's deployment equipment sets alone. The unit also performed technical inspections on 20 pieces of equipment that would later be transferred out of the state, clearing \$2.5 million from the state's property book.



“The 184th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) is prepared to support the MSNG by bringing professional-level support in engineering, transportation, and sustainment capabilities. Our priorities are responding alongside other state agencies, local community leaders, and sister units to help Mississippians with crisis response, community improvement projects, and training opportunities to ensure we are ready to respond when called upon.”

**– Brig. Gen. John C. Nipp
Commander
184th Sustainment Command**

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 ensure the 98% survivability rate of service members injured in combat. The 172d Airlift Wing 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 Air Refueling Wing 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 186th Air Refueling Wing also manages three specialized units providing support to warfighters and civilian partners – the 248th Air Traffic Control Squadron, which 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. 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 in Hattiesburg, Miss., 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 Airmen of the Mississippi Air National Guard prove daily that they are an agile, innovative, and resilient force ready to serve both at home and abroad. At the same time, we pursue cutting-edge training and readiness exercises to ensure our Airmen are prepared to succeed in contested environments across the globe. The Airmen of the Mississippi Air National Guard are Always Ready, Always There!”

**– Maj. Gen. Barry A. Blanchard
Assistant Adjutant General-Air, MSNG**





“The 172d Airlift Wing is constantly improving our combat capability to defend our nation and support our state. The inherent flexibility and performance of our fleet of C-17s are needed to meet armed contingencies, peacekeeping, and humanitarian missions worldwide. These efforts will continue to establish our Wing as an elite force prepared to defend and provide support during times of contingency and domestic operations.”

**- Col. Britt A. Watson
Commander, 172d Airlift Wing**

172D AIRLIFT WING

With one of the highest mission capable rates among the global fleet of C-17 Globemaster IIIs, the 172d Airlift continuously provides global, rapid, and flexible air mobility. To date, the Wing conducted 99 missions, 526 sorties, moved 6,127 tons of cargo and transported 3,988 passengers during the state fiscal year 2022.

The 172d Airlift Wing conducted numerous exercises and real-world missions this year. Notably, the 172d Contingency Response Flight, a unit comprised of experienced multi-capable Airmen, participated in Southern Strike 2022 where, for the first time, the unit opened an airfield at a simulated austere location and conducted an exercise in Agile Combat Employment.

Additionally, Airmen assigned to the 172d AW deployed in support of Exercise RED FLAG, Operation Freedom’s Sentinel, and Operation Allies Welcome, supporting the evacuation of vulnerable Afghan citizens in Kabul and providing support and assistance at three air bases within the U.S. The Wing continued its global reach by delivering munitions and equipment in support of Ukraine’s defense against Russia.

The 172d also hosted a base-wide readiness exercise, which tested the Wing’s ability to operate in a contested environment with various threat levels. Exercise scenarios included ground-burst simulations (simulated explosions), smoke, simulated gunfire, role-player adversaries, sirens, and outdoor mass notification system announcements.

In addition to specialized military training, personnel from the 172d Security Forces Squadron and the 172d Aircraft Maintenance Squadron conducted joint anti-terrorism/high-jacking training with the FBI SWAT team for the C-17 airframe.

Expanding the Wing’s capabilities, the 209th Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron was one of two Air National Guard units selected for Explosive Ordnance Disposal flights. Furthermore, the 183rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron led all Air National Guard units in awards, nearly sweeping all nine categories, including Outstanding Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron of the Year.

The 172d’s community outreach continued with the annual Flight to the North Pole project for local children during the Holiday season. Partnering with the Salvation Army and Radio People in Jackson, the event brought holiday cheer to 30 well-deserving children in the Jackson-Metro area.

With one of the highest medical readiness rates in the Air National Guard, the 172d Airlift Wing ranks within the top 10%, ensuring that our always-ready force of Airmen is fit to fight.



186TH AIR REFUELING WING

The 186th Air Refueling Wing's (ARW) mission of "providing rapid global mobility and agile combat support to our state and nation" is accomplished by more than 1,100 airmen and eight KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft for worldwide operations. In addition to the refueling mission, the Wing also supports 1st Air Force - Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) and humanitarian/emergency response missions as well as overseas combatant commander requirements with two RC-26B aircraft. Additional units at Key Field Air National Guard Base (KFANGB) include the 186th Air Operations Group, the 238th Air Support Operations Squadron, and the 248th Air Traffic Control Squadron (ATCS).

In State Fiscal Year 2022, our KC-135R and RC-26B flew a combined total of 3,646 hours with the Tankers offloading more than 12 million pounds of fuel to over 1,000 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.

292 members of the unit deployed to different locations inside and outside of the continental United States in support of numerous operations and task forces. Deployment locations include the United States, Great Britain, Qatar, Afghanistan, Jordan, Kuwait, Curacao, Canada, Guam, Germany, and Djibouti.

Supporting operations within the U.S., our Airmen deployed in support of Hurricane Ida, the COVID-19 pandemic, Operation Allied Welcome with the resettlement of Afghan refugees, and several national level exercises.

The 186th's support to the local economy and community are astounding and superior. Last year, over \$75 million was injected into the local economy. The estimated annual value of the jobs created was in excess of \$10 million with a total impact of \$91 million. 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.

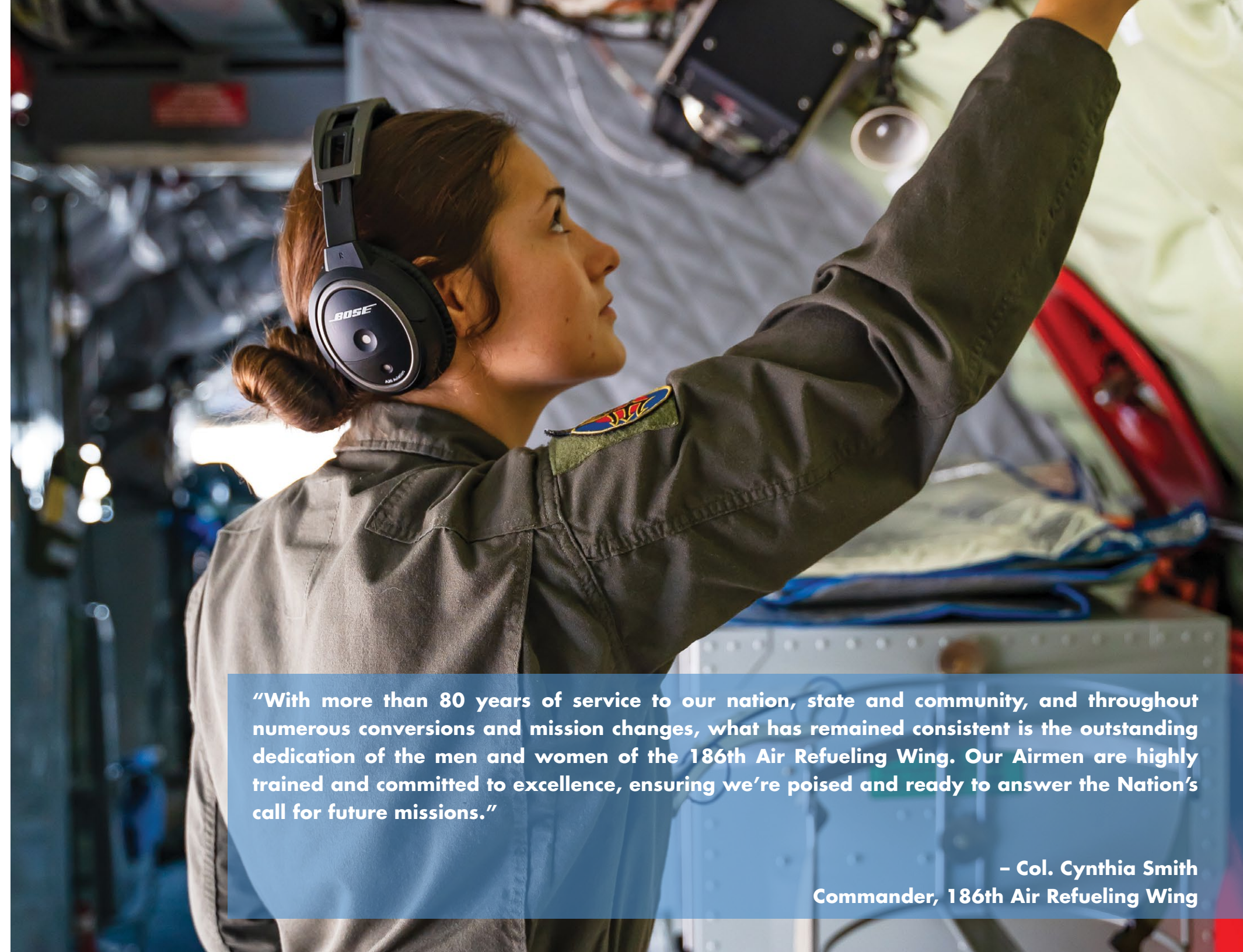
The Key Field Air Traffic Control (ATC) Tower, operated by the 248th ATCS, is the busiest in the State for military and commercial traffic and second busiest in the Air National Guard. \$200,000 in federal funds are provided annually by the Federal Aviation Administration for tower operations. In FY22, the ATC tower facilitated more than 79,000 arrivals/departures and nearly 30,000 instrument arrivals/departures.

The KFANGB Fire Department provides 100% of crash/fire rescue services to ALL civilian, commercial, and military aircraft at Key Field. In FY 2022, the fire department assisted the Mississippi Disaster Task Force in the recovery of a missing 5-year-old. In a joint rescue effort, both the ATCS and the Fire Station responded to an inflight emergency by a civilian pilot, ensuring a safe landing and rescue.



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, 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



"With more than 80 years of service to our nation, state and community, and throughout numerous conversions and mission changes, what has remained consistent is the outstanding dedication of the men and women of the 186th Air Refueling Wing. Our Airmen are highly trained and committed to excellence, ensuring we're poised and ready to answer the Nation's call for future missions."

**- Col. Cynthia Smith
Commander, 186th Air Refueling Wing**

MSNG CYBER PROTECTION TEAM 178

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 currently located in the Thad Cochran Research Park at 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 Cyber Protection Team is currently mobilized to Fort Meade, Maryland, as a part of Task Force Echo VI. Task Force Echo is an ARNG Task Force mobilized annually to engineer, install, operate, maintain, and defend critical network infrastructure and conduct cyberspace operations in support of U.S. Cyber Command and the Cyber National Mission Force. This team will have spent twelve months on mission when it returns in November 2022.

While most of the Cyber team mobilized, the Rear Detachment has continued to support and conduct operations within the state. 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. Furthermore, the team has helped to foster relationships with state and federal agencies by participating in the Mississippi Cyber Initiative (MCI) which is fostering cybersecurity relationships across the state among academia, state government, and military partners.

Through the MCI, the Cyber Team Rear Detachment conducted the GenCyber Camp at Camp Shelby in partnership with the University of Southern Mississippi and the National Security Agency. MSARNG Cyber Soldiers taught interactive blocks of instruction to High School JROTC students from across the state. Additionally, the Rear Detachment participated in the Cyber Impact 2022 exercise in Buffalo, New York. Cyber Impact 2022 was a strategic national-level tabletop cyber exercise that challenged participants to discuss and address scenarios to build response plans to cyber-attacks to critical infrastructure such as water treatment plants, electrical grid, financial institutions, and medical facilities.



“Cyber Protection Team 178 has spent the entirety of Fiscal Year 2022 mobilized in support of Task Force Echo VI stationed at Fort Meade, Maryland. CPT 178 is set to return home in November 2022 and a full slate of exercises and events are planned for Fiscal Year 2023, such as, Southern Strike 23, Patriot 23, and Cyber Shield 23. These events will continue to grow the Cyber readiness and mission capability of the CPT in support of the State of Mississippi.”

**– CW4 Kevin W. Carwyle
Det, 2 Cyber Protection Team 178**

CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE

The Construction and Facilities Management Office’s (CFMO) mission is to execute the Mississippi Army National Guard Facilities and Environmental Programs by providing, maintaining, managing, and operating administrative, logistical, training, support facilities, and associated infrastructure to support and enhance readiness. We continue to be a customer service-based organization that employs efficient processes and procedures that drive better management and resource decisions. The CFMO provides timely support to ensure the MSARNG has mission-ready facilities that meet current and future readiness requirements.

The CFMO operates and maintains over 7 million square feet of facilities space and approximately 152,500 acres. The CFMO operations include Planning and Programming, Project Management, Resource Management, Facilities Management, and Environmental. The CFMO’s oversight includes two training sites, ten Field Maintenance Shops, four Army Aviation Support Facilities, and 61 Readiness Centers located throughout the State.

Project activity for the CFMO has been extensive. Just this past year, the CFMO’s Project Management team completed almost \$30 million in projects. Camp Shelby projects included renovations to 36 Barracks, the completion of a new 6,000 square foot Squad Advanced Marksmanship Training (SAMT) facility, and the realignment of the South Tank Trail. Project activity at Camp McCain included an Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) facility along with latrine renovations and range repairs. Major projects for next year include a \$15.5 million 12-Bay addition at the Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES), a \$34

million 10-Megawatt Microgrid at Camp Shelby, and an \$11 million utility hardening project also at Camp Shelby.

The MSARNG continues to receive support from the Mississippi Legislature by virtue of a \$5 million appropriation, which was matched with \$5 million in Federal funds, to address the MSARNG’s Backlog of Maintenance and Repairs (BMAR) for Readiness Centers. 56 of the 61 Readiness Centers will benefit from this project. In addition to addressing the BMAR, the CFMO’s Facilities Management team completed over 850 work orders, totaling over \$1.4 million in Readiness Center maintenance and repairs.

The CFMO’s Environmental branch conducted numerous public outreach events during the past year. In conjunction with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP), they hosted a Hunters Education Class and the Annual Youth Squirrel hunt. The Camp Shelby and Camp McCain Environmental teams hosted and supported several federal agencies,

grade schools, universities, archeological associations, and historic groups. In addition to the activities at the installations, over 10,000 acres were prescribed burned to facilitate more conducive training opportunities. The Environmental Branch placed 2nd in the National Guard Bureau’s (NGB) Environmental Security Awards – Natural Resources Conservation.

The CFMO continues to be a service-based organization that leverages the skillsets of over 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 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 youth 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 the values, life skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as productive citizens. Since its inception in 1994, Mississippi’s Challenge Academy has graduated 56 classes for a total of 10,768 graduates to date.

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, 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 the National Guard Youth Challenge: Progress in 2017-2018, Mississippi Challenge Academy is among the top three programs nationally in awarding high school diplomas.



MSNG OUTREACH SERVICES

The Mississippi National Guard Outreach Services Program provides essential statewide services and dedicated resources to improve the quality of life for our service members and their families during all phases of military service. The designated resources enhance the readiness, resiliency, retention, and recruitment of service members and their families while providing necessary assistance in times of need to strengthen the partnership among commands, service members, families, and communities.

Mississippi National Guard Outreach Services programs include Education, Work for Warriors, Employer Support, Family Programs, Youth Programs, Yellow Ribbon, Risk Reduction, Resilience, Suicide Prevention, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, Funeral Honors, Casualty Assistance, Survivor Outreach and Transition Assistance. Our Family Program specialists have reached out to over 7,250 families, the Work for Warriors program is responsible for 294 direct hires and our incentives team has paid out over \$7.5 million to service members. Over the last year, service members used \$1.5 million in Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA), over \$1 million from the State Educational Assistance Program (SEAP) and \$2.4 million from the GI Bill.

The Work for Warriors’ mission is to prepare and connect members of the armed forces and their immediate family with employment and education opportunities that align with Mississippi’s in-demand industries. WFW educates, assists, and connects military personnel with opportunities becoming of their experience and routinely works alongside job seekers to ensure they are equipped with the skills and knowledge it takes to be successful. WFW team is comprised of five Employment Coordinators across the state to guide service members and their families through every step of the employment process.

The MSNG Education and Incentives office offers several functions to the men and women of the MSNG including education guidance counseling, education funding counseling, processing of the GI Bill, Federal Tuition Assistance, and the State Educational Assistance Program. In addition to education, the MSNG Education office also maintains oversight and functionality of the incentives used by the Guard for Recruiting and Retention efforts and administers the Army Personnel Testing program, testing hundreds of service members and potential recruits each year. The Incentives Team assisted enlisted and officer service members with 735 pay transactions in the Select Reserve Incentive Program totaling more than \$7.5 million. The team also assisted 26 service members in benefitting from the Student Loan Repayment Program, totaling more than \$266,000 in student loans paid.



“Whether it’s educational or employment assistance, financial counseling, healthcare, mental health, youth programs, family readiness, or just someone to talk to, the 70 plus personnel in Outreach Services stand ready to assist.”

**– Mr. Paul A. Lyon
Director Outreach Services**



DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY SUPPORT

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, and terrorist threats. Domestic operations are at the direction of the Governor to preserve the lives and property of the people of Mississippi and ensure continuity of state and local government.

Events in State Fiscal Year 2022 showcased the diverse talents and skills of the MSNG. At home, the MSNG mobilized over 250 Soldiers and Airmen before Hurricane Ida's landfall providing Engineer, Military Police, and communications support requested by local authorities. In conjunction with U.S. Northern Command, MSNG established a Dual-Status Command with both Title 10 and 32 Army and Air Forces providing critical medical support to Mississippi hospitals due to COVID-19 staffing shortages. MSNG also aided local authorities with rotary wing aircraft during local search and rescue efforts for missing persons when requested.

In addition to serving at home, the MSNG provided critical support to other states in support of requested Emergency Management Assistance Compacts. In August, Hurricane Ida caused minimal damage to Mississippi as it made landfall on the southwestern region of the state. Sustaining significant infrastructure damage and extensive power outages, the Mississippi National Guard was able to quickly shift assets to Louisiana providing support such as presence patrol, traffic control points, debris removal, emergency communications, law enforcement and heavy aerial lift support requested by Louisiana's governor. Over 250 MSNG Soldiers and Airmen participated in this response. Simultaneously, the MSARNG deployed CH-47 aircraft and crews to support California wildfire response in northern California providing water bucket operations and maintenance support. Mississippi's willingness to provide forces through EMAC agreements galvanized nationwide relationships should Mississippi require outside assistance.

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, we can deploy at a moment's notice to answer the call of our state, Governor, and nation.



2/20th SPECIAL FORCES GROUP

The 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group Airborne (SFG-A) works by, with, and through partner forces to conduct unconventional warfare as well as foreign internal defense. 2/20th SFG (A) consists of six companies across the states of Mississippi, Maryland, and Indiana. They among the most deployed and active units in the Army National Guard.

In State Fiscal Year 2022, the Battalion deployed to Northwest Africa in support of overseas contingency operations as a Special Operations Task Force. 2/20th SFG (A) deployed teams to Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, and Chad. The Special Operations Task Force (SOTF) managed 300 personnel across the five countries. During the deployment, the SOTF conducted 40 kinetic strikes, eliminated one high value target, and completed 35 special operations missions.

The rear detachment continued training with a company supporting the Southern Strike Exercise at Camp Shelby. Additionally, the staff focused on recruiting efforts with a culminating event on Memorial Day at the Mississippi Braves Stadium in Pearl. At this event, more than 300 people

participated in a hero workout to honor Sgt. 1st Class Severin Summers who was a former member of 2/20th SFG (A). The influence of this event highlighted the presence and strength of the military community within the state borders, and generated interest in the entire Mississippi Army National Guard.

In late summer, Special Operations Command Europe (SOCEUR) tasked 2/20th SFG (A) to counter emerging threats in the area of operations. Charlie Company and Bravo Company deployed teams to Eastern Europe to conduct joint combined exercise training (JCET) with other special operations forces in the countries of Bulgaria, Poland, Slovakia, and Estonia. The teams deployed to SOCEUR increased NATO allies' readiness and lethality.

Next year, the Battalion will prepare to participate in the Joint Readiness Training Center validation exercise at Fort Polk, Louisiana, to be ready for another deployment rotation in 2024.





“End strength is the number one mission of the Mississippi Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion. The three tenants of recruiting, retention and attrition management lie at our core, while our Soldiers drive to make this organization a leader among all others. As a commander, I am truly honored and humbled to serve alongside each of them daily as we strive to make a difference across the State of Mississippi and beyond.”

**– Lt. Col. Andrew Adcock
Commander, Recruiting and Retention Battalion**

RECRUITING & RETENTION

The Mississippi Army National Guard’s Recruiting and Retention Battalion is headquartered at Mississippi National Guard Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi. The battalion consists of over 150 Active Guard Reserve (full-time) personnel and serves as the major command within the Mississippi Army National Guard tasked with recruiting and retention across the more than 48,000 square miles and nearly 3 million citizens across the State of Mississippi.

In addition to the core tenet missions of recruiting, retention and attrition management, the battalion also provides robust initial training preparation to over 1,000 trainees through 10 Recruit Sustainment Program training sites strategically located throughout the state. The unit also maintains 12 commercial store front locations throughout the state for recruiting and retention operations. Downtrace units include Headquarters, Headquarters Company, in Jackson, Alpha Company in Grenada, and Bravo Company in Hattiesburg.

The battalion is a national leader due in large part to its aggressive posture throughout the state. Some recurring annual events include high school and collegiate athletic program sponsorships, academic mentorship, career counseling and skills training. The unit is proud to have a select group of highly qualified and motivated drill sergeants to assist with new Soldier preparation and hosting of a “Drill Sergeant Experience” event, a program to introduce athletes at Mississippi high schools and universities to current Army physical fitness standards through a highly challenging, yet rewarding, immersion-styled event.

The unit has also launched career life cycle initiatives to positively affect end-strength objectives. The “Battle Hand Off” program formally congratulates Soldiers quarterly upon completion of Basic and Advanced Individual Training. Coupled with this program is a reinvigoration of the “Guard for Life” program focused on retaining Soldiers in the Mississippi Army National Guard through a unique combination of education, benefits and placement programs executed biannually to enhance the overall quality of life of both our Soldiers and their Families.

In close partnership with Mississippi National Guard units across the

state, the battalion hosts both active and static display events regularly to demonstrate the unique capabilities and opportunities within the Mississippi Army National Guard. From armor displays at the Mississippi Agricultural and Outdoor Expo to logistics demonstrations through real-world disaster response in the state, and aerial tours on Army helicopters, the unit is constantly at the forefront of education and visibility for the citizens of Mississippi and the American public.

The battalion prides itself on personal connections with communities throughout the state and abroad. Soldiers from the unit assist in numerous non-profit, community, and charity events throughout the year, including the Over the Edge rappelling event in Jackson, benefitting the Children’s of Mississippi Hospital. The Mississippi Army National Guard’s Recruiting and Retention Battalion is committed to its motto, “Excellence in Action”!



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 200,000 law enforcement officers from all 50 states and four U.S. territories.

In FY22, the RCTA conducted 189 courses and trained 10,923 Federal, State, Local and Tribal law enforcement officers from over 2,500 agencies across 45 States and territories. The RCTA supported training for 15 narcotics officer's conferences nationwide. www.RCTA.org



Mississippi National Guard Counterdrug Task Force (CDTF)

The MSNG Counterdrug Task Force provides air and ground reconnaissance, case analysis and linguist support to local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. In FY22, 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 88 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 \$300,000. The missions also seized 84 firearms, \$248,727 in cash, and over 275 arrests were made 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 8,000 pounds of unused prescription drugs collected across the state.

In our pursuit to train our Law Enforcement Professionals, "We will never quit...", and we will always continue to "Press the Fight"!

**-Col. Robert R. Bartran III
Commander, Regional Counter
Drug Training Academy**

STATE FY 2022 STATS

10,923
Students trained
at RCTA

2,500
Law Enforcement
Agencies trained
by the RCTA

189
Total RCTA Courses
Conducted

45
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 April 2022, General Daniel Hokanson, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, presented the MSNG with the SPP Partnership of the Year Award First Runner Up for the entire State Partnership Program.

Uzbekistan and MSNG participated in two exercises together this year: Regional Cooperation in Tajikistan and Southern Strike 2022 in multiple locations across Mississippi. Two Soldiers from the Republic of Uzbekistan competed in the MSNG Best Warrior Competition for the third year in a row and both placed first in their respective categories.

2022 marks the 10 Year Anniversary for the Mississippi-Uzbekistan partnership!



"In 2022, the Mississippi National Guard's State Partnership Program reached new levels of success. The program was awarded Partnership of the Year First Runner-Up by General Daniel Hokanson, Chief of the National Guard Bureau. Mississippi and Uzbekistan celebrated their 10th year as partners in the State Partnership Program, and Mississippi was one of five States selected to partner with Taiwan. We look forward to expanding our foreign partners' participation in Mississippi hosted exercises in 2023."

**- Lt. Col. Amanda Villeret
Director, Mississippi State Partnership Program**

STATE ARMY AVIATION OFFICE

Army Aviation Support Facility 1 (AASF1) in Jackson provided maintenance, training, and evaluation flights for the state's UH-60 Blackhawk fleet; conducting air movement missions, VIP flights, community support missions, and flyovers for sporting events. They provided aviation support for numerous high-profile visits and surveys for Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center (CSJFTC), and water bucket crews were available when needed to provide fire suppression coverage to Camp Shelby and Camp McCain. AASF1 provided maintenance and flight training support for flight companies throughout the year in preparation for normal training assemblies and for upcoming mobilizations in support of U.S. Central Command. AASF1 also supported Exercise Southern Strike 2022 which allowed our units to successfully complete their assigned missions. The facility executed over 2,100 total flying hours during this period for all missions flown out of AASF1. Overall, it was an extremely busy yet successful training year.

Army Aviation Support Facility 2 (AASF2), located in Tupelo, provides the maintenance support and flight training for the AH-64D Apache and UH-72A Lakota helicopters and crewmembers. The facility supports Company A (Apache), 1st Battalion, 149th Aviation Regiment; Company C (Lakota), 1st Battalion, 114th Aviation Regiment; and Company D (Lakota Medical Evacuation), 2d Battalion, 151st Aviation Regiment. The Apaches successfully completed all missions assigned, including participation in the

joint Southern Strike Training Exercise, air defense training integration, and multiple training missions with local units including joint terminal attack controller (JTAC) training. The Lakotas assisted with supporting the Counter Drug Task Force with drug interdiction missions, and the Lakota MEDEVAC participated in joint training exercises with federal, state, local agencies and local units including collaborative and live-hoist training with Mississippi Task Force One. Company D also provided support to the Southwest Border mission with aircrews and flight operations. Both Lakota elements participated in multiple local search and rescue missions and provided aircraft to assist 2nd Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment (Air Operations) in meeting their training requirements.

Army Aviation Support Facility 3 (AASF3), the CH-47 Chinook facility in Meridian, conducted flight training and maintenance for the Chinook community within the state including several air missions supporting the 20th Special Forces, 155th Armor Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), and other military components. Company B, 1-111th Aviation Regiment provided aircraft to support the 5th Special Forces Group, Special Boat Team 22 and Marine Special Operations Command (MARSOC) during Southern Strike 2022. They deployed a Chinook and a maintenance team to California for fire suppression missions during this year's devastating wildfire season and postured to provide heavy helicopter lift missions to Louisiana in response to Hurricane Ida. The aircraft in Meridian received an upgrade this year consisting of the most current software and hardware for the Chinook F-models, and all aircrews were trained on the new systems.

Unmanned Aircraft System Flight Center (UASFC), the RQ-7 Shadow training site located at Camp Shelby, conducts flight training and maintains Shadows for Company D, 150th Brigade Engineer Battalion as well as operating as the primary UAS training site in the Army. They provided training to nine Shadow units across the Army from both the active and reserve components along with fifteen individual UAS Soldiers this year. The center built upon its established relationship with Fort Rucker's Directorate of Evaluations and Standardization (DES) by completing the readiness training and testing of the newly assigned Standardization Instructor Operator to DES. The center helped maintain the readiness for the Shadow fleet for the 155th ABCT during Exercise Thunder Strike.



"Mississippi National Guard Aviation had an eventful year from supporting multinational, multicomponent exercises to providing support to California and Louisiana for disaster relief, all while preparing for two units to deploy for federal mobilizations and handling our daily workload. Our full-time work force continues to display their excellence by maintaining our aircraft fleet and training our aircrews to the highest standards. Our Soldiers have answered the call many times and are well trained to handle any aviation mission and to overcome any obstacle."

**- Col. Bradley K. Howe
State Army Aviation Officer**



MISSISSIPPI AVIATION CLASSIFICATION AND REPAIR ACTIVITY DEPOT

The Mississippi Aviation Classification and Repair Activity Depot (MS-AVCRAD) provides ARNG aviation sustainment maintenance, including depot capabilities, to 24 Army Aviation Support Facilities (AASFs) in the 10 Southeastern states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. One of only four AVCRADs in the United States, the MS-AVCRAD is an industrial based maintenance facility located in Gulfport, MS on 35 acres at the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport. Housed in 227,920 square foot of maintenance bays and warehouses, the MS-AVCRAD employs a hybrid workforce comprised of 146 Federal Technicians and 81 State Employees.

In FY22, the MS-AVCRAD successfully executed \$98.8 million dollars in funding for their region, resulting in a total of 1,232 component work orders, 145 aircraft modifications and 22 aircraft maintenance projects as well as seven (7) aircraft paint projects. A total of 21,705 maintenance hours were expended, resulting in a \$61,911,816 million in Cost Avoidance for FY22.

Additionally, 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, located at the Southern end of CRTC. Hangar 68 provides a functional place to operate and train the leadership and Soldiers of the 1108th Aviation Group for their overseas missions. While separate organizations, the MS-AVCRAD and the 1108th Aviation Group have similar Lines of Effort, but maintain a symbiotic working relationship.

“The men and women that make up the ranks of our full-time workforce are some of the most highly trained and highly skilled at aircraft maintenance and aviation logistics. The work they perform for our regional customers allows us to continue acting as a readiness enabler for not only the State of Mississippi, but for the entire Army National Guard rotary wing fleet.”

**– Lt. Col. Andy Ratcliffe
Facility Commander
MS-AVCRAD**



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MISSISSIPPI MILITARY DEPARTMENT

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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