

MISSISSIPPI

MILITARY DEPARTMENT
2023 ANNUAL REPORT





To the Mississippi National Guard

As the 65th Governor of Mississippi, I am proud to have the distinct honor of serving as the commander in chief of the greatest National Guard unit in the nation.

The Mississippi National Guard represents the very best that our state has to offer. You have consistently demonstrated your unwavering dedication and loyalty to the people of Mississippi, and for that we will always be thankful.

Our state is fortunate to have brave men and women who stand ready to serve at a moment's notice. You, along with your families, play a critical role in serving and protecting Mississippi and our nation. Mississippi is proud of you, and we remain committed to showing you and your families the same commitment that you have shown in your service to us.

I also want to note our continued support for those currently deployed. To all those at the Southern border and abroad – you are not forgotten. Mississippi is thankful for your enduring service and commitment to protecting our homeland. We continue to pray for your safe return home.

To every Guardsman across our state, thank you for your continued support and the sacrifices you make to defend our freedom.

Sincerely,

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

Governor Tate Reeves



MISSISSIPPI MILITARY DEPARTMENT 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2022 | JUNE 2023



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Governor	2
Message from the Adjutant General	6
Message from the Senior Enlisted Leader	7
Key Leadership	8
State and Federal Funding	10
A Year in Review	12
Major Units & Activities	14
Home & Abroad	16
Camp McCain	18
Camp Shelby JFTC	20
CRTC - Gulfport	22
66th Troop Command	24
185th Aviation Brigade	25
47th Civil Support Team	26
154th Regiment Regional Training Institute	27
155th Armored Brigade Combat Team	28
184th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)	30
168th Engineer Brigade	31
Air Guard Overview	32
172d Airlift Wing	34
186th Air Refueling Wing	36
Det. 2, Cyber Protection Team 178	38
Construction and Facilities Management Office	39
Youth ChalleNGe Academy	40
Outreach Services	41
Directorate of Military Support	42
2/20th Special Forces Group	43
Recruiting and Retention	44
MSNG Counterdrug Program	46
State Partnership Program	47
State Army Aviation Office	48
Aviation Classification & Repair Activity Depot	50
114th Digital Liaison Detachment	51
Public Affairs	52
Contributors Page	55





To the Governor of the Great State of Mississippi

I am grateful for having the honor and privilege of leading the brave men and women serving in the Mississippi Army and Air National Guard during this past year. It is with immense pride that I present to you the annual report for the Mississippi Military Department, highlighting our extraordinary achievements during State Fiscal Year 2023.

The Soldiers and Airmen of the Mississippi National Guard have served with honor and integrity in missions throughout our state, nation, and in overseas contingency operations during this past year. We have served on deployed missions in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, Operation Spartan Shield, European Deterrence Initiative, and the Southwest Border mission, among others. Mississippi Army National Guard service members of the 367th Maintenance Company; the 168th Engineer Brigade; 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation Brigade; Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 185th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade; the 106th Brigade Support Battalion; the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team; and Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group were all deployed throughout this past year.

The Mississippi National Guard continues to support and defend our homeland, fostering a platform of deterrence against strategic attacks against the United States and our allies. Members of the Mississippi Air National Guard from the 172nd Airlift Wing, the 186th Air Refueling Wing, and the 255th Air Control Squadron served on group deployments during this reporting period.

In coordination with multiple units deployed, the Mississippi National Guard has provided numerous individual deployments from the Army and Air National Guard to include service members from the 172d Airlift Wing and the 186th Air Refueling Wing throughout our state, nation, and to various locations in Germany, Kuwait, Jordan, and Qatar, among others.

In all endeavors, 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 military service members distinguishes Mississippi as one of the premier Guard states in the nation.

In April 2023, the Mississippi National Guard hosted the twelfth iteration of the Southern Strike exercise. This realistic and fast-paced training opportunity has set a standard of excellence by providing a multi-national, multi-state, and multi-component military force training environment encompassing over 2,000 military service members representing more than 20 states and 6 countries in this year's training exercise. The training focused on a full spectrum of military operations including counterinsurgency, non-combatant evacuation, special forces operations, conventional military operations, and maritime operations.

This year's training included more than 300 international partners from the Republic of Uzbekistan, Belgium, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, and Canada. Fiscal year 2023 saw the National Guard Bureau celebrate 30 years of esteemed partnership, comradery and alliance-building with a multitude of allied countries participating in the State Partnership Program. Mississippi looks forward to continuing to strengthen our alliance and international networking with our international partners in Uzbekistan.

The dedicated heroes of the Mississippi National Guard continue to perform with confidence, skill, and exceptional patriotism in every mission. Our service members proudly represent Mississippi with Soldiers and Airmen living in every county of our great state. Our Soldiers, Airmen, civilian employees, and families are resilient and committed to missions in our communities, our state, our nation and abroad. Your Mississippi National Guard continues to set a standard of excellence at home and around the world. We stand ready to serve the great citizens of Mississippi and answer our nation's call to serve "Shoulder to Shoulder."



To the Governor of the Great State of Mississippi

I am honored to serve as the Senior Enlisted Leader for the finest and most resilient Soldiers and Airmen who fill our formations in the Mississippi National Guard. Our diversity is our strength and a true reflection of the talented men and women who represent every county in our great state. On behalf of the dedicated professionals serving in the MSNG, I am proud to highlight our accomplishments and contributions for this year's annual report.

Readiness through training is an intricate element to the ongoing readiness, resiliency, and professional expertise of our Soldiers and Airmen as well as the other branches of service training at MSNG facilities. More than 100,000 service members from active and reserve components of our military armed forces have trained at Mississippi National Guard facilities, with more than 80,000 at Camp Shelby alone. Service members from the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard have chosen training opportunities at Mississippi National Guard facilities. We share our pristine state of the art training facilities at Camp McCain in Grenada, Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center near Hattiesburg, the Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Thompson Field in Flowood and Key Field in Meridian. Regardless of the military training needs, the Mississippi National Guard sustains a reputation for training excellence.

Mississippi Soldiers and Airmen continue to set a standard of excellence in advanced technological real-world training events conducted state-wide such as Southern Strike 2023, the elite state-wide Best Warrior Competition, Exercise Thunderstrike, and other training ventures including the annual HURREX, a disaster response training specifically formulated for the Gulf Coast area. This year we have broadened our capabilities with emerging technologies including Cyber Warfare and Defense, Electronic Warfare and Defense, Electromagnetic Warfare, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Signal Intelligence. The expansive training opportunities maintained by the MSNG continue to sharpen the skillsets of our professionals as well as our partner nations.

This year's Southern Strike 2023 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. The exercise implemented relevant training strategies including the Air Force's combat employment strategy known as Agile Combat Employment (ACE) tactics techniques, and procedures resulting in a total force concept of being multi-capable Airmen. Looking back at the conclusion of this fast-paced training, we exceeded our target objectives while strengthening joint military operations and interagency partnerships.

The Mississippi National Guard continues to build international relationships through our State Partnership Program promoting comradery with the Republic of Uzbekistan. We celebrated our enduring partnership by hosting Uzbekistan Soldiers in this year's Best Warrior Competition where they trained and competed alongside 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 battle drills.

This year's training has continued to be demanding, direct, and deliberate to ensure every service member in our formation is fit-to-fight when our nation calls. With every challenge, our Soldiers and Airmen exceeded expectations and continued to lead our state as one of our nation's premier combat reserve forces. We have not wavered in our integrity and dedication to serve our communities, state, and nation in response to natural disasters and overseas contingency operations. It is through these diverse opportunities that our courageous men and women surpass all expectations and serve with honor as we stand and serve "Shoulder to Shoulder."



Command Sgt. Maj. Silvester Tatum
Senior Enlisted Leader



JOINT



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



Col. Tommy F. Tillman
Chief of Joint Staff



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

ARMY



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



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



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

AIR



Maj. Gen. Barry A. Blanchard
Assistant Adjutant General
- Air



Brig. Gen. Edward H. Evans, Jr.
Chief of Staff - Air



Command Chief Master Sgt. John W. Myers
State Command
Chief Master Sergeant



Col. Wyatt Rives
Director of Staff - Air

MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS



Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cleveland
Commander, 66th
Troop Command



Brig. Gen. John Nipp
Commander, 184th
Sustainment Command



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



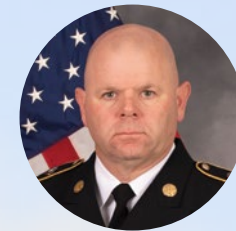
Col. Cynthia L. Smith
Commander, 186th
Air Refueling Wing



Col. Britt Watson
Commander,
172d Airlift Wing



Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth R. Huff
66th Troop
Command



Command Sgt. Maj. Stanley T. Williams
184th Sustainment
Command



Command Sgt. Maj. Brian K. Belue
155th Armored Brigade
Combat Team



Chief Master Sgt. Blake Stanley
Command Chief Master
Sergeant,
186th Air Refueling Wing



Chief Master Sgt. John K. Elliot
Command Chief
Master Sergeant,
172d Airlift Wing

INSTALLATIONS



Col. William L. Henry
Post Commander,
Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center



Col. Robert J. Kirby
Commander, Combat
Readiness Training Center



Col. Joy L. Alexander
Garrison Commander,
Camp McCain Training Center



Command Sgt. Maj. Plez W. Summers III
Post Sergeant Major,
Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center



Chief Master Sgt. Michael A. Jamison
Chief Enlisted Manager,
Combat Readiness Training Center



Command Sgt. Maj. Rickie L. Fortner
Garrison Sergeant Major,
Camp McCain Training Center

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 three Air National Guard facilities.

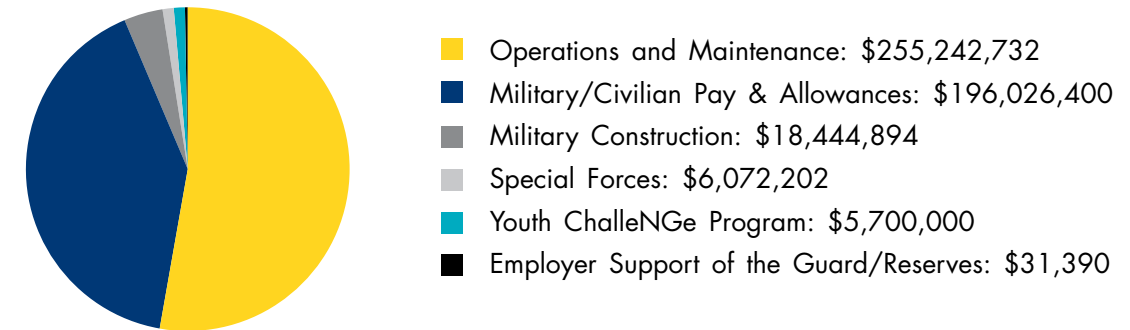
This past year has been extremely busy and challenging for the Mississippi National Guard. During this year our Soldiers and Airmen have responded to numerous deployments around the world, multiple State Active-Duty missions, and several training events culminating with Southern Strike 2023 Exercise at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center where nearly 2,000 military service members participated.

The State Legislature continued its support of the maintenance and repair of MSNG readiness centers. These funds, combined with the Federal match, made the largest maintenance and repair appropriations the MSNG has seen in decades. This year the State legislature also appropriated \$5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to MSNG.



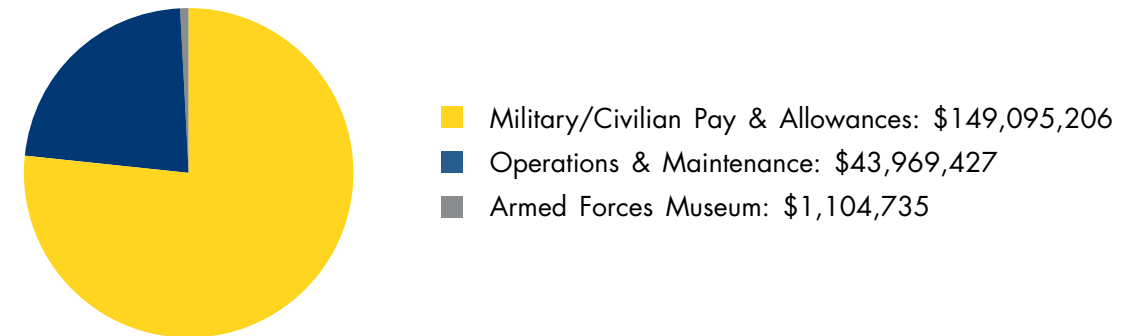
MISSISSIPPI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Fiscal Year 2023 Federal Expenditures : \$481,517,618



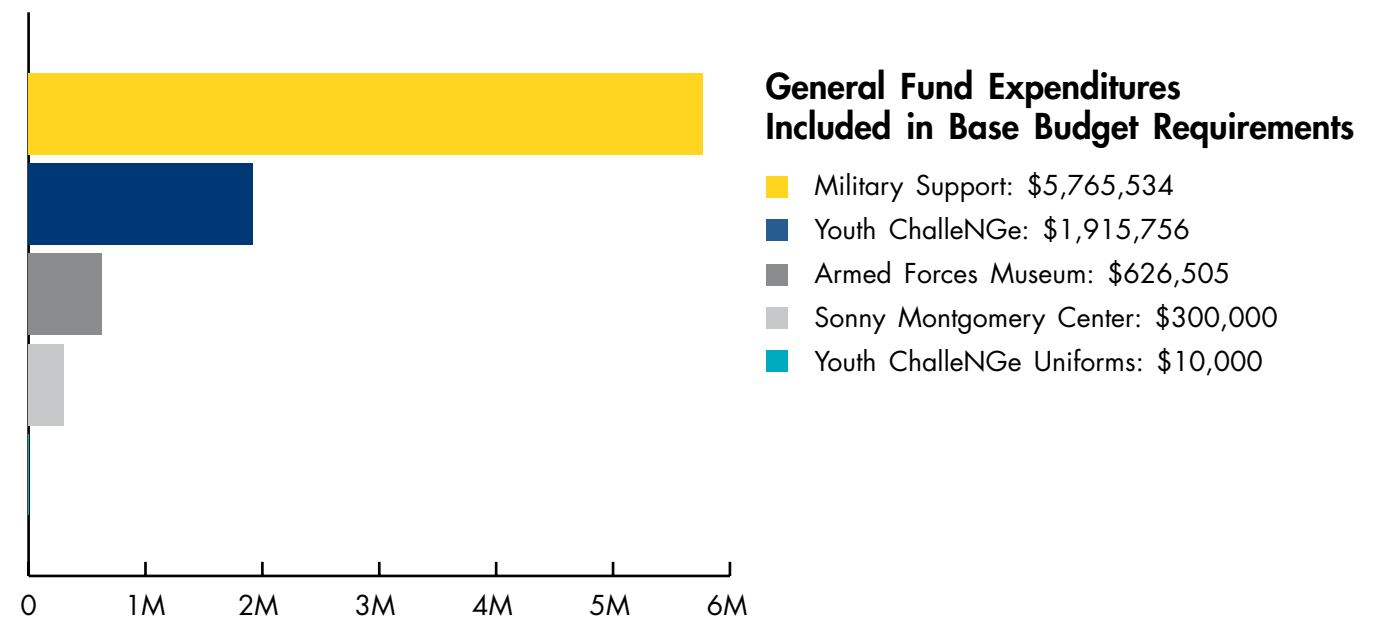
MISSISSIPPI AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Fiscal Year 2023 Federal Expenditures : \$194,169,368



MISSISSIPPI MILITARY DEPARTMENT

State Fiscal Year 2023 General Fund Expenditures : \$8,617,795



CONTINUED PROJECTS THROUGH FY 2023

Completed, Ongoing and Planned Improvements Throughout the State.

- A \$20.7 million Field Maintenance Shop, a \$4.4 million addition to the Forest Readiness Center, and a \$5.2 million addition to the Corinth Readiness Center
- A \$1.2 million water well filtration system at Camp Shelby
- \$5 million in facility repairs to Readiness Centers throughout the state
- \$9 million water basin projects at Camp Shelby
- \$24 million Amory Readiness Center act of nature construction
- \$42.8 million construction of the Southaven Readiness Center
- \$1 million Camp Shelby MATES Shed Row
- \$45.5 million Camp Shelby Microgrid and Infrastructure Harding projects
- \$15.5 million Camp Shelby MATES addition.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

During State Fiscal Year 2023, the Mississippi National Guard assisted with relief efforts in Florida following Hurricane Ian, the fifth strongest and third-costliest hurricane in U.S. history when it made landfall near Fort Myers, Sept. 28, 2022. Severe weather directly affected Mississippi with a string of deadly tornadoes across the state March 24, 2023, with one funnel moving through Amory striking and destroying the armory belonging to Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 98th Cavalry Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team.

The 12th iteration of Southern Strike welcomed every branch of the U.S. military and many international partners to the Gulfport CRTC, Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, and other areas throughout the state. The 186th Air Refueling Wing flew more than 3,000 hours, offloading more than 8.6 million pounds of fuel to nearly 1,150 receiver aircraft using the KC-135R platform. In April 2023, the wing bid farewell to the Fairchild C-26 Metroliner after 34 years of use around the world. The 172nd Airlift Wing celebrated 70 years of service to the state and nation. The wing executed more than 150 missions logging more than 3,500 hours of air time while moving nearly 6,600 tons of cargo, more than 6,800 passengers, and more than 700 patients for medical care.



RC-26 RETIREMENT

The Fairchild C-26 Metroliner aircraft has finally seen sunset in the Air National Guard. The aircraft was assigned to select Air National Guard Flying Wings to provide Operational Support Airlift (OSA) capabilities to customers. The C-26 became the heartbeat of the wing in the early 1990s and was vital to everyday operations, typically flying 90 to 100 sorties per month and executed 500-600 flying hours per year for almost three years. Over the 34-year run of the C-26 at the 186th Air Refueling Wing, the unit's dedication, pride, and excellence was always on display as they put the Metroliner to work around the world.



AMORY ARMORY TORNADO DAMAGE

On March 24, 2023, Mississippi was struck by a series of devastating tornadoes, including one that wreaked havoc in Amory. The town of Amory is the home and armory location of the Mississippi Army National Guard's Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 98th Cavalry Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team. The 1-98 CAV returned to an armory covered in debris, standing water, and remnants from the ceiling. Soldiers immediately gathered up important documents and got to work. They stood strong, defiant, and boldly against what happened to them and their unit, showcasing two of the Army's Warrior Ethos, "I will never accept defeat. I will never quit."



SOUTHERN STRIKE 2023

U.S. military forces from every component and every branch of service worked with international forces for a two-week training event on Mississippi's Gulf Coast during Exercise Southern Strike 2023. Hosted by the Mississippi Air National Guard at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center, the exercise focused on the Agile Combat Employment (ACE) tactics, techniques, and procedures, and multi-capable Airmen training. For the last 12 years, Exercise Southern Strike has provided a unique opportunity for all service members involved to experience a dynamic training exercise; one that will continue to grow annually.

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.



JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS, MSNG JACKSON



66TH TROOP COMMAND JACKSON



HEADQUARTERS MISSISSIPPI AIR NATIONAL GUARD JACKSON



155TH ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM TUPELO



154TH REGIMENT REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE CAMP SHELBY



1108TH AVIATION GROUP GULFPORT



186TH AIR REFUELING WING MERIDIAN



CAMP SHELBY JOINT FORCES TRAINING CENTER CAMP SHELBY



CAMP MCCAIN TRAINING CENTER ELLIOT



MS AVIATION CLASSIFICATION & REPAIR ACTIVITY DEPOT GULFPORT



47TH CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM FLOWOOD



COUNTERDRUG TASK FORCE MERIDIAN



GULFPORT COMBAT READINESS TRAINING CENTER GULFPORT



172D AIRLIFT WING FLOWOOD



184TH SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY) MONTICELLO



20TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP JACKSON



REGIONAL COUNTERDRUG TRAINING ACADEMY MERIDIAN



RECRUITING AND RETENTION BATTALION JACKSON

HOME & ABROAD

CAMP KAMASSA

After learning their three-year-old child had cancer, Mary and Jim Kitchens decided to help other kids and families living with illnesses, diseases, and other special needs, by constructing a space just for them to get out and enjoy. Mary Kitchens, founder of Mississippi's Toughest Kids Foundation, wanted to provide a place where all campers will experience the fun, adventure, educational, and therapeutic benefits of traditional camping regardless of their unique abilities. Soldiers from two companies of the 890th Engineer Battalion, 168th Engineer Brigade, partnered with units from Wisconsin and Montana to continue the construction of Camp Kamassa.



BEST WARRIOR 2023

Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center hosted the 2023 Mississippi National Guard Best Warrior Competition, March 20-23, 2023. Soldiers, Airmen, and competitors from our state partners Uzbekistan, were tested physically and mentally. The competitors completed a written essay, an obstacle course, a ruck march, Army Combat Fitness Test, and several other events. At the end of the competition, Uzbekistan's competitors were honored for their team spirit, hard work and dedication, and MSNG competitors were presented with Army Commendation medals and coins from senior leaders.

KIDS AT 31ST ANNIVERSARY

The Mississippi National Guard's Family Programs directorate held their annual, volunteer-led summer camp, Kids AT, for dependents of Mississippi National Guard service members. Approximately 120 campers gathered at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center for the 31st iteration of the unique camp. The campers participated in a variety of activities that educated them on military service, learning about the Air and Army Guard values and gaining an understanding of drill and ceremony, flag etiquette, and group discipline. At the end of the week, the camp held a graduation ceremony where campers were awarded for their accomplishments.



185TH ECAB DEPLOYS

The 185th Aviation Brigade (ECAB), Mississippi National Guard, mobilized to Fort Cavazos, Texas to support Operations Inherent Resolve, Spartan Shield, and New Normal in the U.S. Central Command area of operations in February 2023. Deployed as Task Force Talon, the 185th ECAB consists of units from 11 states including California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont.



100 YEARS OF AERIAL REFUELING

On June 27, 2023, A KC-135R Stratotanker from the 186th Air Refueling Wing (ARW), Key Field Air National Guard Base, Meridian, alongside other aircraft from across the deep south, participated in low-altitude flyovers of major landmarks in celebration of 100 years of aerial refueling excellence. The flyovers started at Key Field then traveled to Arkansas and Louisiana, before returning to Meridian. The historic landmarks included the Three-foot Hotel in Meridian, the University of Arkansas Razorback Stadium in Fayetteville, and the home of Who Dat nation, the Superdome in New Orleans.



TASK FORCE RIFLES

More than 700 Soldiers with the Mississippi National Guard's 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team were honored during a deployment ceremony at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center this year. Operating under the command of the 40th Infantry Division, these Mississippi Guardsmen will be known as Task Force (TF) Rifles for their upcoming mission in the Middle East in support of Operation Spartan Shield and U.S. Central Command's mission of increasing regional security and stability. TF Rifles received additional Soldiers from California, Arkansas, and Missouri prior to their pre-mobilization training in Texas. This addition enhances lethality and provides additional skill sets to the mission. TF Rifles is harnessing more than just warfighting skills, they're also using this opportunity to grow both personally and professionally.



CAMP MCCAIN

"Camp McCain Training Center is an essential hub of training for units located in the surrounding region. Here, commanders can focus on small unit tactics and take advantage of resources available to increase unit and Soldier proficiency in essential skills. While we provide critical resources to support required training and readiness in the Mississippi National Guard, we also continue to engage Joint opportunities with DoD partners and agencies. Likewise, Camp McCain works diligently to build and strengthen relationships with the local community, governmental organizations, and partners."

**– Col. Joy Alexander
Commander, Camp McCain Training Center**

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 in Elliott, Mississippi, 10 miles South of Grenada. 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, declared its property excess, and 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 the 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 2023, Camp McCain Training Center facilitated training events for approximately 75,500 Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard service members, including support of the Southern Strike Exercise alongside Dutch and Belgian international partner forces. Camp McCain also hosted the 377th Sustainment Command, the largest command in the Army Reserves, for their Field Training Exercise. Finally, Camp McCain hosted its first ever Retiree Day – North and welcomed more than 100 Retirees back to the installation.

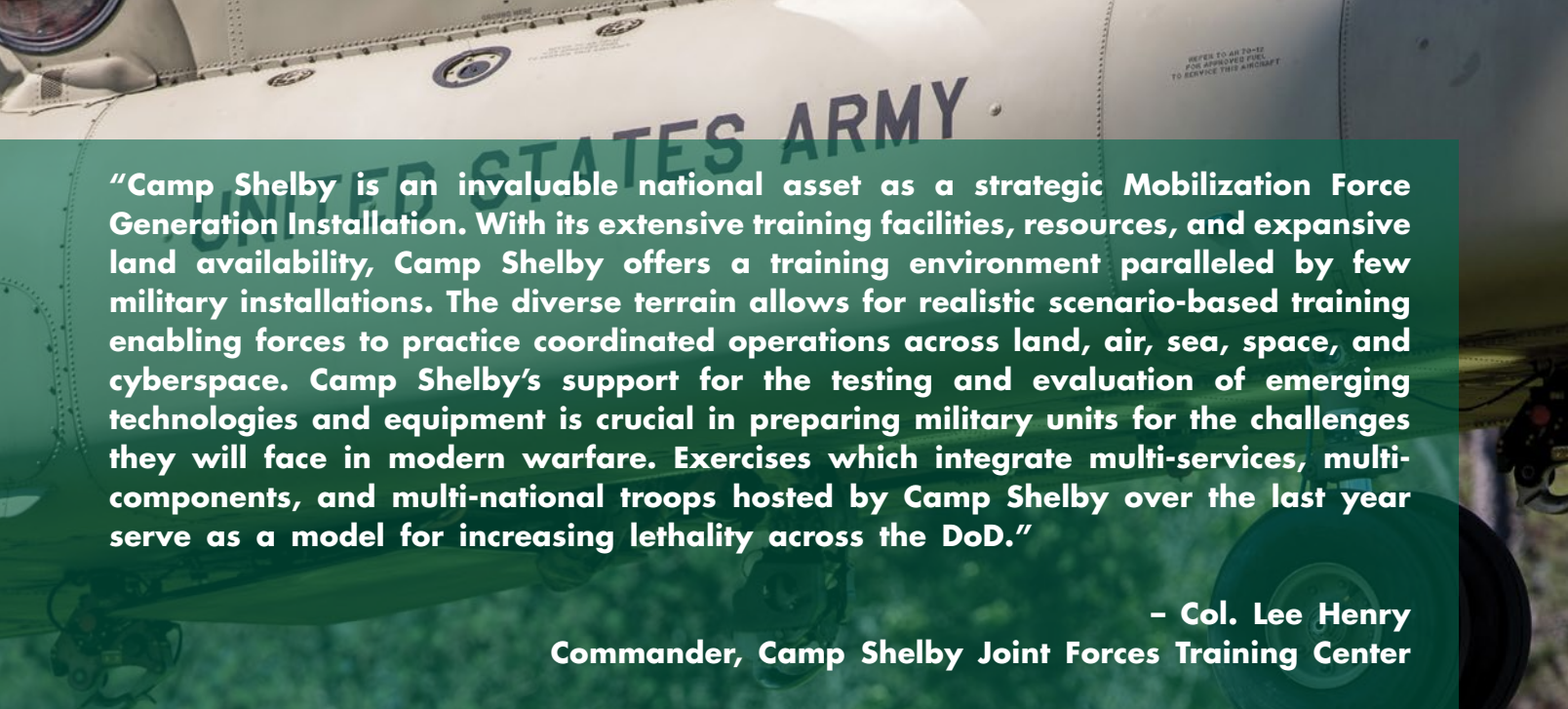
Camp McCain is extensively involved in the local community and has a partnership with local and county governments, Leadership Grenada, Boy Scouts of America, rotary clubs, exchange clubs, Chambers of Commerce, and Economic Development Districts.

Camp McCain continues to enhance its environmental programs and contribute to the protection of the ecosystem and wildlife preservation. Throughout the past year, we completed roughly 3,000 acres of prescribed fire and burned an additional 20-acre artificially regenerated shortleaf pine restoration area. Camp McCain has worked to protect over 10 acres of wetlands and led efforts to protect the Northern Long-Eared Bat, an endangered species, during multiple projects. Finally, Camp McCain has worked to preserve its timber ecosystem by contracting and supervising pulpwood timber thinning, herbicide treatment for over 200 acres of shortleaf pines, and tree marking for timber thinning and natural regeneration of over 100 acres of shortleaf pine.



CMTC'S FIRST RETIREE DAY NORTH



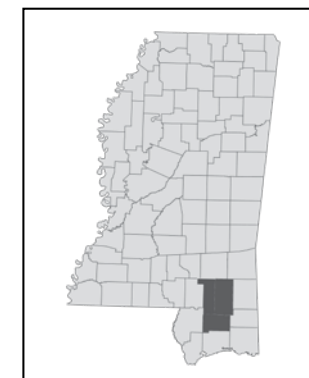


“Camp Shelby is an invaluable national asset as a strategic Mobilization Force Generation Installation. With its extensive training facilities, resources, and expansive land availability, Camp Shelby offers a training environment paralleled by few military installations. The diverse terrain allows for realistic scenario-based training enabling forces to practice coordinated operations across land, air, sea, space, and cyberspace. Camp Shelby’s support for the testing and evaluation of emerging technologies and equipment is crucial in preparing military units for the challenges they will face in modern warfare. Exercises which integrate multi-services, multi-components, and multi-national troops hosted by Camp Shelby over the last year serve as a model for increasing lethality across the DoD.”

**– Col. Lee Henry
Commander, Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center**



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 sites in the Nation and the training platform of choice for every branch of service and multiple Department of Defense components. More than 80,000 service members and federal employees trained here in 2023. Camp Shelby executed over \$111 million in federal and state funds to fortify its infrastructure, improving the overall experience of those who train at Camp Shelby.

Camp Shelby’s mission is to serve as a Joint Accredited Training Site for the Army National Guard, as well as other service branches and components, providing an adaptable training environment tailorable to commander, senior trainer and unit training objectives. Camp Shelby provides a training environment that integrates multi-domain, multi-functional and multi-national challenges in live, virtual, and constructive environments.

In State Fiscal Year 2023, Camp Shelby maintained its Joint National Training Center accreditation and leveraged every entity of the Southeastern Defense Corridor as training enablers through a sophisticated use of range complexes including multiple Restricted Air Space Training Areas. Camp Shelby is also home to a Joint Maneuver Area with a C-17 Assault Strip and an air-to-ground range accessible from the Gulf and is interconnected with the Gulf Who Dat range.

Camp Shelby hosted the Thunderstrike 2023 exercise, a 3-day individual and collective live-fire, free-play, force-on-force training event focused on the platoon and company levels. Select combat units faced a replicated near-peer adversary using a fully instrumented Decisive Action Training Environment (DATE) to enable training and experimentation on emerging technologies while simultaneously validating Camp Shelby’s electronic warfare ranges.

The Norwegian Embassy in Washington D.C. authorized a third Norwegian Foot March at Camp Shelby in 2023, featuring Soldiers and Civilians from across the nation. Participants completed an arduous 18.6-mile ruck march carrying a 25-pound rucksack. Those who completed the ruck march in the allotted time received the coveted Norwegian Foot March Badge.

During 2023, Camp Shelby personnel continued to have a voice in local, state, and national affairs through collaboration with the Area Development Partnership, the South Mississippi Military Higher Education Council, the Installation Commanders Council, and the Training Center Command Advisory Council. Camp Shelby continues a special partnership with Pearl River Community College offering an opportunity to educate Soldiers on skilled trades such as AutoCAD, Welding, and Forklift operations - assisting with their transition to civilian employment after the Soldier’s military career.

Camp Shelby continues to prioritize environmental and natural resource stewardship demonstrating its commitment to maintaining a balanced and harmonious relationship between military operations and the surrounding ecosystem. Camp Shelby contributed to multiple wildlife preservation and ecosystem protection programs including the successful release of more than 400 captive-raised gopher tortoises back into their native habitat.

As it has since 1917, Camp Shelby will remain fully committed to providing a world-class multi-domain training environment preparing the nation’s armed forces for complex and dynamic operations, facing the challenges of modern warfare with complete confidence and proficiency.





COMBAT READINESS TRAINING CENTER - GULFPORT

“The Combat Readiness Training Center has been an integral component in shaping the Department of Defense’s training venues to increase effectiveness of the United States Armed Forces. Gulfport’s dedication to training Air National Guardsmen, as well as joint warfighters, has led to a more lethal force to counter peer adversaries across the globe.”

– Col. Jeff Kirby
Commander, Combat Readiness Training Center

The Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC), originally known as Gulfport Field, was created in 1942 to train members of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Army Air Force and has continued to train the nation’s armed forces for more than eight decades. One of only four Air National Guard (ANG) CRTCs in the nation, the Gulfport CRTC, set on 277 acres along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, provides 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 2022 to June 2023, Gulfport CRTC hosted more than 14,000 service members from around the world 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.

In 2023, Gulfport CRTC continued to prepare forces to meet their wartime mission as its air-to-ground range received upgrades creating a seamless data stream of aircraft and weapons employment. With the increased value, range training officers can better adjudicate combat interactions and determine the effectiveness of weapons engagements.

The CRTC also hosted multiple 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 MOPP (Mission Oriented Protective Posture) level 4 conditions. Additionally, multiple fire departments trained on the installation’s fire training venues to hone their emergency response skills.

Gulfport CRTC hosted a variety of non-exercise events including the Air Force Thunderbirds’ preparation for their airshow performance over Keesler Air Force Base and the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Gulfport CRTC also hosted the Mississippi Air National Guard Recruiting Conference, a Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) conference, multiple National Guard Bureau (NGB) courses, multiple Joint Force Headquarters courses, and the Bernard Blackwell North/South All Star Game.

Gulfport CRTC is an important link in the economic welfare of the local community. The installation employs more than 500 Active Guard/Reserve, Drill Status Guardsmen, Federal employees, and State employees with an annual payroll exceeding \$21 million. Gulfport CRTC adds an additional \$9 million to the local economy through the procurement of construction, services, materials, supplies and equipment. Visiting organizations 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.

JOINT NATIONAL TRAINING EXERCISES

SOUTHERN STRIKE 2023

U.S. Forces across every branch of service worked with international forces for an eventful two weeks of training on Mississippi’s coast during Exercise Southern Strike 2023. Southern Strike has been hosted annually at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center for 12 years due to the training center’s prime location and the resources available in the area. This year, the exercise focused on the Agile Combat Employment (ACE) tactics, techniques and procedures, and Multi-Capable Airmen training. Units conducted training missions that prepared personnel for air-to-air combat, aerial refueling, aerial & ground transport, aeromedical evacuation, and close air support. Southern Strike 2023 provided a unique opportunity for all servicemembers involved to experience a dynamic training exercise; one that continues to grow annually.



MARSOC RAVEN

The Marine Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC) RAVEN exercise provided Marine Corps Special Operations companies and subordinate teams an opportunity to integrate intelligence, communications, and logistics enablers to execute a variety of special operations missions including sensitive activities, tactical collections, special reconnaissance, and direct-action raids. Exercise Raven gives live feedback up and down the echelons of command. From the individual critical skills operator to the company commander, every member of the company has something to gain from the training and evaluations provided by the exercise as they prepare to step out and travel overseas for deployment.



66TH TROOP COMMAND

"66th Troop Command has Soldiers that are ready to act and respond for domestic response and Defense Support of Civil Authority. They are a highly trained and a capable force. They are always standing ready for their homeland but are also on the ready to respond abroad when duty calls. I'm humbled and honored to be able to command such a group of warriors that defend our great state and nation."

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

The 66th Troop Command (TC) stands ready as the Mission Command for domestic response and Defense Support of Civil Authority activities and consists of the 185th Aviation Brigade (AV BDE); 1108th Aviation Group (AV GP); 1-204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment (ADA); 112th Military Police Battalion (MP BN); 2/20th Special Forces Group; Special Operations-Detachment (SOD) South; 210th Finance Battalion (FN BN); 102d Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD); 41st Army Band; and the 47th Civil Support Team.

66 TC had multiple deployments throughout the year, including domestic response by the 1-204th ADA during the Jackson water crisis, the 185th AV BDE deployed to Kuwait for a Central Command (CENTCOM) mission, and the 112th MP BN headquarters deployed to the Southwest Border, with one of its companies deploying to Alaska. 2/20th SFG and SOD-South performed multiple missions across the globe in support of military operations.

The 1-204th ADA was heavily involved with the planning, preparation, and execution of the overseas Joint Training Mission Balikatan in the Philippines where more than 70 Soldiers of the regiment showcased Air and Missile Defense capabilities to our Philippine allies. Their outstanding performance during this exercise earned the unit high praise from the 94th Army Air Defense



Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Brian W. Gibson.

The 112th MP BN deployed more than 170 Soldiers to areas across the country to support defense missions. The battalion headquarters deployed to El Paso, Texas, to provide mission enhancing support to Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) operations. While in Fort Greely, Alaska, Soldiers of the 113th MP Co. supported the 49th Missile Defense Battalion with operating and securing the ground-based midcourse defense system, the same presidentially directed national security mission as the U.S. Army's active-duty component.

1108th AV GP supported the Jackson water crisis by conducting point of distribution (POD) operations throughout the cities of Jackson and Byram, distributing more than 2.5 million bottles of water. The headquarters detachment executed its annual pre-accident plan by conducting a mass casualty exercise and incorporating training with local emergency services. The group also provided logistical support to the Belgian Special Operations Regiment during Southern Strike 2023.

The 210th FN BN supported various state and national missions providing military pay operations, auditing, Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP), contracting, budgeting, and resource management. The unit played a vital role in state pre-mobilization operations and assisted in personnel readiness during the Jackson water crisis. The 210th acted as the lead coordinator in Operation Big Easy, an annual training exercise with units from the Florida Army National Guard, the U.S. Army Reserves, and the Camp Shelby Resource Management team.

The 102d MPAD supported various missions throughout the state during fiscal year 2023. In addition to regular mission support provided to Mississippi Army National Guard units, Soldiers from the 102d provided media coverage for the 2023 Mississippi National Guard Best Warrior Competition at Camp Shelby, and Exercise Southern Strike at various locations throughout the state.

The 41st Army Band's missions included Memorial Day ceremonies, changes of command and responsibility, general receptions and promotions, State Partnership performances with Uzbekistan, and many more. These missions were performed at locations across the country and as they continue to build partnerships with sister organizations, foreign nations, and neighboring states, they expect an influx of requests in the upcoming FY.

185TH AVIATION BRIGADE

"The 185th is committed to building and sustaining readiness to fight and win our nation's wars. Abroad, we are the primary aviation maneuver force in support of the OIR end state to advise, assist, and enable the Government of Iraq and defeat ISIS in Syria. At home, we are prepared and ready to conduct missions any time and place in support of the state, the Mississippi National Guard, and the United States of America."

- Col. Ashley Mills
Commander, 185th Aviation Brigade

The 185th Aviation Brigade (AV BDE) 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. Comprised of more than 800 Soldiers, 36 aircraft, and 5 armories, the brigade is supported by three Army Aviation Support Facilities located throughout the state. The 185th subordinate units include 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment, 2nd Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment, and a Headquarters Company.

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) plans, coordinates, and executes the complex mission sets of the subordinate units assigned to the brigade. It is comprised of approximately 120 Soldiers including the brigade commander, Col. Ashley Mills, the command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Krol, and the command chief warrant officer, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Wesley Skinner. The HQ/HHC trained for its federal mission last fall at Camp Shelby by exercising its organic command and control advanced communication systems. The 185th mobilized in February 2023 and conducted its post-mobilization training at Ft. Cavazos, Texas, before deployment abroad in April.

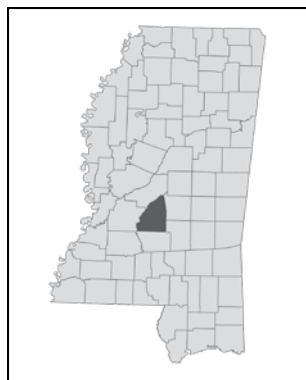
During the deployment, the 185th exercised mission command of more than 2,100 Soldiers in an Attack Reconnaissance Battalion (ARB), General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB), Assault Helicopter Battalion (AHB), Aviation Support Battalion (ASB), Spanish and Italian Helicopter Battalions, and separate components of fixed-wing and Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS). The 185th served as the senior aviation organization that planned and employed tactical and operational aviation assets in support of Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) and Operation Spartan Shield (OSS).

The 1-185th, provides the capability to execute Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) operations and the full spectrum of combat Army aviation operations. The 1-185th practiced its skill sets during a collective training event at Camp Shelby for a combined, joint, and multinational training exercise called Southern Strike 2023. This included conducting an air assault of a ground maneuver task

force, providing aerial security, and evacuation of over 200 civilians. The unit is comprised of more than 500 Soldiers spread between three geographic locations, Jackson, Meridian, and Tupelo, and operates every combat aircraft within the U.S. Army inventory. They also performed training with other states, including a C-17 from the South Carolina Air National Guard conducting approaches into Grenada Municipal Airport while being directed by air traffic controllers of the 2-185th AV.

The 2-185th provides the capability to execute airfield operations and air traffic services, 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 by providing aviators to assist the U.S. Border Patrol, and by executing support missions ordered by the Adjutant General.





47TH CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM

"The Soldiers of the 47th WMD-CST rigorously train so they can be comfortable being uncomfortable when they respond to domestic events. Working in confining, fully encapsulated suits, while breathing through a self-contained breathing apparatus tests one's limits. These Soldiers excel in these conditions to protect our communities and provide CBRN expertise for the state and MSNG."

- Lt. Col. Len A. Fortenberry
Commander, 47th CST



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. Possessing the ability to identify CBRNE agents/substances, assess current and projected consequences, advise on response measures, and assist the 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 Department of Justice, and the Environmental Protection Agency, making them the best at what they do. Additionally, the CST deploys with state-of-the-art equipment providing a broad spectrum of secure communication capabilities, analytical laboratory systems and processes, as well as self-sufficient medical, logistical, and decontamination capabilities. During its highest response posture, "Gold," the 47th CST is capable of deploying advanced assets nationwide, via ground or rapid airlift within 90 minutes.

The 47th CST displayed its ability, technical knowhow, and analytical expertise during three "real-world" incidents in the state of Mississippi over the last year. The CST responded to an Anhydrous Ammonia leak

at the O.B. Curtis Water Treatment Plant in Ridgeland, suspicious deaths in Newton County, and the discovery of Chemical Warfare Agent training materials at the Natchez Historical Society.

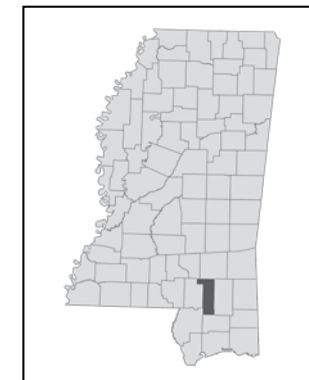
Providing Joint Hazard Assessment Team support across the state and nation every year as part of the larger CBRNE Response Enterprise (CRE), the team supported the Iron Man competition in Juneau, Alaska, July 31 – August 9, "Cruisin' the Coast" October 3 – 9, all Mississippi State University and University of Mississippi SEC games, various concerts and events at the Brandon Amphitheater, the City of Biloxi Mardi Gras Parades February 17 – 22, the Boston Marathon April 14 – 18, and the Thunderbirds Airshow at Kessler Air Force Base April 27 – May 1.

The 47th CST conducts training with local, state, and federal agencies across Mississippi to strengthen partnerships, trust, and unified purpose should an incident occur requiring joint and cross-agency coordination. Training with counterparts is an essential task for any CST to be prepared for the worst-case scenario. To work toward this end, the 47th CST created a regional training event on the Mississippi Gulf Coast with the inaugural exercise starting in January 2023. Operation Oyster saw participants from 13 different state CSTs, ATF Bomb techs, MS Department of Marine Resources, MS Department of Homeland Security, Biloxi Fire and Police, and Tupelo Police Bomb Techs. The exercise was a 36 – 48 hour continuous response to multiple simulated terrorist attack locations and laboratory sites.

154TH REGIMENT REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

"Dr. John Plifka, Director of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) Army Quality Assurance Program, said it best during the 2023 accreditation; "154th RTI is the best I've seen."

- Col. Chris Thomas
Commander, 154th RTI

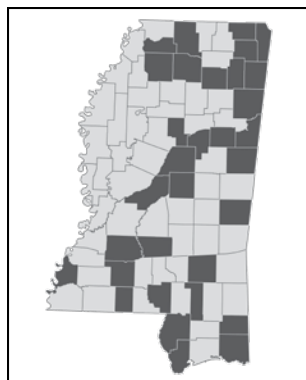


The 154th Regiment Regional Training Institute (RTI) maintained an accredited, trained force to program, plan, and provide Soldiers training within assigned Non-commissioned Officer Professional Development Systems, Career Management Fields, and Officer Candidate Schools. Intent is to empower Soldiers with the ability to solve complex problems through effective implementation of Mission Command that creates a professional and disciplined institutional learning environment. The achieved, desired end-state is unparalleled support to the One Army School System (OASS) that trains future leaders in accordance with the Total Army Concept.

Additionally, the 154th RTI provided support as required to the governor and state of Mississippi with Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) in the event of natural or man-made disasters.

The vision for RTI is to maintain a professional, value-based organization that ensures the Army force is "Ready Now," prompt, and able to deploy, fight, and win our nation's wars through the implementation of Mission Command, Stewardship of the seven Army Values, Army Learning Concept for Training and Education, and the Army Enterprise Accreditation Standards.





155TH ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

"The Soldiers of the Thunder Brigade accomplished monumental tasks this year with multiple large troop and equipment movements in support of our nation's interests in the Middle East and Europe. Our safety and success is due to their hard work."

**- Col. Michael Dykes
Commander, 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 culminating with its Annual Training period throughout the spring and early summer 2023. As one of five Armored Brigades in the National Guard, and one of 13 in the total force, the 155th provides additional capacity 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. Over the past training year, the 155th leadership and Soldiers worked with multiple partners to train, equip, and strengthen the brigade through readiness, capability, and capacity by participating in Thunderstrike II, the National Guard Division Re-Alignment, and Operation Spartan Shield.

2-198th Armored Regiment, headquartered in Senatobia, executed Thunderstrike II testing and evaluating emerging cyber-electromagnetic activities (CEMA) on Camp Shelby's electronic warfare (EW) and cyber ranges. The exercise was performed alongside Delta Company of the 150th Engineer Battalion which acted as the military intelligence element of the exercise. This four-day event



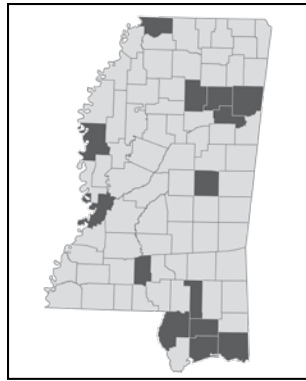
immersed the warfighter in real, dynamic training and simulations using emerging CEMA technologies. The event culminated with a live-fire kill-chain demonstration with EW CEMA assets acquiring, identifying, and then targeting an actual emitter that simulated enemy communications in the impact area with indirect fire, the first and only national exercise to date to successfully execute the kill-chain cycle. This event is quickly becoming one of the nation's premier training exercises to help research and develop multi-domain warfare through use of the Army's newest CEMA platoons.

The purpose of the National Guard's Division Realignment is twofold: to better prepare the National Guard for future fights and to build the Guard divisions into true, combat-ready divisions. It's about building relationships through partner brigades and states, strengthening the National Guard as a whole. The 155th's relationship with the Texas-headquartered 36th Infantry Division (Arrowhead), helps the brigade and state with future talent management, enhanced career development opportunities, and enables the brigade and the division to better understand collaborative fighting.

Task Force Reaper, 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment, headquartered in McComb, is currently training for its upcoming deployment in support of Operation Spartan Shield (OSS). The OSS mission is to build partner capacity in the Middle East through multiple theater security operations and exercises. One of the notable training events is Exercise Bright Star which builds on the strategic security relationship between Egypt and the United States. Exercise Bright Star is one of the longest running exercises in the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility with this year being the 18th iteration. Task Force Reaper leads this exercise through participating as the primary maneuver force helping promote and enhance regional security, cooperation, and interoperability in irregular warfare and hybrid threat scenarios.

The 155th ABCT continues to train and 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 prepare for the brigade's future operations.





184TH SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)

"184th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) is prepared to support the MSNG by bringing professional level support in the way of engineering, transportation, and sustainment capabilities. Our priorities are responding alongside other state agencies, local community leaders, and our sister units to help Mississippians with crisis response and community improvement projects as well as training opportunities to ensure we are ready to respond when called upon. During the coming year we plan to participate in military training exercises Austere Challenge 23, Defender Europe 24, Centam Guardian and stand ready to support Mississippi in crisis response support."

- Brig. Gen. John C. Nipp
Commander, 184th Sustainment Command



Led by Brig. Gen. John C. Nipp and Command Sgt. Maj. Stanley T. Williams, the 184th Sustainment Command consists of the 114th Digital Liaison Detachment (DLD); the 298th Support Battalion; the 168th Engineer Brigade; the 223rd Engineer Battalion; the 890th Engineer Battalion; and Detachment 2, Cyber Protection Team (CPT) 178.

During this past year, the 184th ESC conducted Vigilant Shield 23, a Tier 1 level exercise linked to the Joint Staff's Global Integrated Exercise (GIE), the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's Pacific Fury 23, and U.S. Strategic Command's Global Thunder 23 crisis planning event. The command also provided 55 Soldiers to participate in War-Fighter 23-5 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania in support of III Armored Corps operations.

The 114th DLD conducted extensive training in digital information management and communications interface capabilities, and serviced equipment in preparation for Defender 23, a training exercise in Europe. The 114th deployed 28 service members to Spain to establish digital information flow in a Mission Command Configuration Center. With successful connectivity, the 114th DLD was able to extract and share vital mission information in support of multiple airborne operations in Italy, Greece, and Spain as well as missions in Estonia in support of the U.S. Army V Corps' War-Fighter Exercise.

The 168th Engineer Brigade with its subordinate units,

the 223rd and 890th Engineer Battalions, conducted a deployment to the middle east, community construction missions, and combat training during 2023, including more than 500 construction projects. Community missions included support to Camp Kamassa in Crystal Springs and preparing a sports park for future construction in Houston.

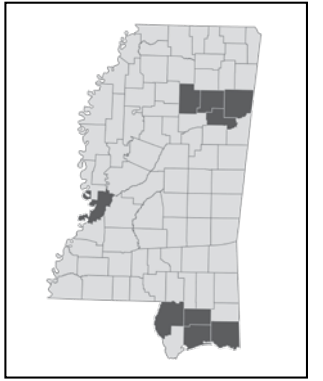
The 298th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) provided critical statewide disaster and civil support response. Its companies assisted in a deployment to Grafenwoehr, Germany in support of the European Deterrence Initiative providing maintenance support to deployed forces in the area. They also assisted Camp Shelby Armed Forces Museum with the 1,300-mile transportation of two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from Corpus Christi, Texas, welcomed the 284th and 285th Field Feeding Teams, and led more than 600 Soldiers in support of a crisis response during the Jackson Water Crisis. With assistance from MEMA and the state's Property and Fiscal Office (USPFO), the 298th provided nearly 6,500 pallets of bottled water, more than 10,500 cases of sanitizer, and approximately 1,760 gallons of bulk water.

Detachment 2, Cyber Protection Team (CPT) 178 is a portion of a tri-state cyber unit from Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. The unit relocated from the Mississippi State University campus in Starkville to Camp Shelby near Hattiesburg this year. The CPT provides critical response to the nation's needs while boosting state and federal cyber defense capabilities. The detachment mobilized seven personnel to Fort Meade, Maryland as part of Task Force Echo VI, an Army National Guard Task Force mobilized annually to engineer, install, operate, maintain, and defend critical network infrastructure and conduct cyberspace operations. The team participated in the Mississippi Cyber Initiative (MCI), fostering cybersecurity relationships between academia, state government, and military partners. In April 2023, the Cyber Protection Team provided cyber and multi-domain operations capabilities during Southern Strike 23, a first for the unit.

168TH ENGINEER BRIGADE

"I am extremely proud of our Task Force Southern Castle Soldiers. They rose to the occasion to provide the route clearance, general engineering, geospatial survey design, and project management capabilities for the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. They willingly deployed forward to be a part of something greater than themselves. For my money, there are only two kinds of people that walk the earth...men and women of action...and everyone else. "

- Col. Kendrick L. Cager
Commander, 168th Engineer Brigade



The 168th Engineer Brigade consists of the 223rd Engineer Battalion and the 890th Engineer Battalion. The brigade, with its subordinate units, conducted a deployment to the middle east, community construction missions, and combat training during 2023, including more than 500 construction projects. Community missions included support to Camp Kamassa in Crystal Springs and preparing a sports park for future construction in Houston.

The 223rd Engineer Battalion (EN BN) accomplished many tasks over this past year, including significant roles in various unit-specific goals and joint partner relations such as a partnership with the 14th Medical Group (MDG), an active-duty Air Force element at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Soldiers from the 223rd conducted the first joint training event May 18, with the second training event at the Camp McCain Training Center, June 14. Future events for Fiscal Year 2024 are currently being discussed to further develop the growing partnership.

During Annual Training (AT) at Camp McCain in June 2023, the 223rd conducted a 4-day field training exercise focusing on "shoot, move, communicate" training at the company level and below. The battalion's 858th Engineer Construction Company (ECC) participated in Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) exercise rotation 23-08.5, providing horizontal engineer support to the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) of the Hawaii National Guard. The battalion's 289th Engineer Vertical Construction Company (EVCC) conducted tasks in vertical construction by building one barracks hut at Camp McCain's Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) site.

In State Fiscal Year 2023, the 287th Engineer Mobility Augmentation Company (MAC) received notification that it was scheduled for inactivation for Army conversion to Combat Engineer Company - Armored (CEC-A). The new CEC-A for the state will be headquartered in Houston, and fall under the 223rd EN BN.

Community Support projects in Houston, Mississippi, were conducted during several periods throughout the year by the 288th Engineer Company (Sapper), headquartered in Houston. Construction projects included the removal of

city park baseball field dugouts, posts, and fencing to prepare for new structures to be built in 2024.

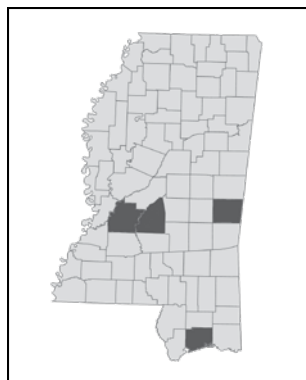
In 2022-2023, the 890th EN BN conducted three field training exercises in which its forward support and construction companies trained to establish tactical assembly areas and mobile command posts. Both battalion's construction companies participated in missions at Camp Kamassa.

The battalion's Forward Support Company serves as the logistical cell for the 890th, providing logistical capability to move across the battlefield. The unit provides unparalleled maintenance support and strives to support its local community in times of natural disaster.

The 857th ECC and 859th EVCC serve as peacetime construction companies providing engineering capability to build, upgrade, or repair facilities and infrastructure. During their AT at Camp Kamassa, the companies provided carpentry support in nine cabins, electrical support for the multi-purpose building, installed more than 30 doors in eight family cabins, plumbing work in seven cabins, and completed a service road. The 857th completed a drainage road that Camp Kamassa could not get anyone else to tackle and, along with the 859th, prepped sites for building foundations, transporting more than 450 tons of clay gravel to the site for future operations.

During this same period, the 859th supported the Marine Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC) for their two-week training in June. The unit also supported the Recruit Sustainment Program by opening the armory for their drill weekends, resulting in a positive change in their retention and new Soldier recruiting efforts.





MISSISSIPPI AIR NATIONAL GUARD

“Over the past year, the 2,600 Airmen of the Mississippi Air National Guard showcased their talents and dedication at home and abroad supporting peacetime and combat operations. Being highly involved in ongoing global operations, joint exercises and home-station training, we are uniquely prepared and ready to face global challenges that lie ahead. The Mississippi Air National Guard, with its Airmen, families, and support of employers, is ready to answer the nation’s call.”

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

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. 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 (SOCES). 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. After 34 years of worldwide operations, the 186th Air Refueling Wing’s RC-26 Condor aircraft has retired from the Mississippi Air National Guard. This aircraft provided 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 at Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, 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.





172ND AIRLIFT WING

“Over the course of 70 years of excellence, the 172nd Airlift Wing has stood as a beacon of unfaltering commitment. As a C-17 airlift wing, our core mission in strategic airlift defines our purpose. From providing combat forces with trained Airmen and ready equipment for global operations to upholding our nation and state’s defense, our legacy is one of versatility, dedication, and pride.”

– Col. Britt A. Watson
Commander, 172nd Airlift Wing

In state fiscal year 2023, the 172nd Airlift Wing proudly celebrated 70 years of excellence, upholding its vision to become the nation’s most responsive, resourceful, and respected airlift wing. This year was marked by significant achievements, unwavering dedication, and a substantial economic impact on the region.

The Wing executed a total of 156 missions, showcasing their versatility. Among these were 102 Title 32 and 54 Title 10 missions, demonstrating their ability to respond to diverse mission requirements. The Wing also logged a total of 3,540.7 flying hours. This reflects their readiness and proficiency in aerial operations.

The 172nd Airlift Wing played a pivotal role in logistics and transportation by effectively transporting 6,569.1 tons of cargo, 6,835 passengers and 714 patients, emphasizing their crucial role in providing aeromedical evacuation services.

The Wing continued to shine, earning its 19th Air Force Outstanding Unit Award and its first Meritorious Unit Award for outstanding support in Operations Allied Refuge and Allies Welcome. These accolades highlight the Wing’s steadfast commitment to excellence and service.

The 172nd Airlift Wing received substantial federal appropriations in the previous fiscal year, totaling \$179,659,873, contributing significantly to their operational capabilities. The federal economic impact reached \$35,370,300.00, showcasing the wing’s role as an economic driver in the region.

The Department of Defense selected the 172nd Airlift Wing to establish its newest STARBASE location, providing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education to surrounding private and public schools while providing positive military role models through DoD-led experiential learning.

Furthermore, the 172nd Civil Engineer Squadron was selected as the runner-up for the Brigadier General Archie Mayes Award, which recognizes the Air Force Civil Engineer Programs Flight that most excelled in providing facility products and services of exceptional quality to base customers.

Airmen assigned to the 172nd Contingency Response Flight participated in Air Defender 2023, an exercise that integrated both U.S. and Allied air power to defend shared values while leveraging and strengthening vital partnerships to deter aggression worldwide.

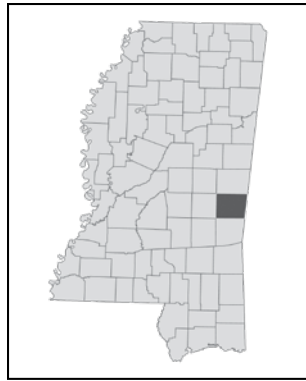
The 183rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron coordinated a training event with the 186th Air Refueling Wing on a KC-46 that not only qualified and familiarized Airmen in the state of Mississippi on the new airframe but also Airmen from the North Carolina, Oklahoma and West Virginia Air National Guard.

The 172nd Airlift Wing’s commitment to the community remained unwavering throughout the fiscal year. In a time of crisis, the wing served as a vital support hub during the Jackson Water Crisis, offering crucial assistance to the local community.

The spirit of giving also shone brightly during the holiday as the wing initiated the annual Flight to the North Pole event. In partnership with the Salvation Army and Digio Strategies in Jackson, this heartwarming event brought holiday cheer to 30 deserving children in the Jackson-Metro area.

Consistently achieving one of the highest mission capability rates among the global C-17 fleet of aircraft, the 172nd Airlift Wing continuously fulfills its mission to provide strategic airlift and combat forces to defend our nation and support our state.





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 Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region-First Air Force (Air Forces Northern and Air Forces Space) - Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) and humanitarian/ emergency response missions. Additional units at Key Field Air National Guard Base include the 186th Air Operations Group, the 238th Air Support Operations Squadron, and the 248th Air Traffic Control Squadron (ATCS).

In State Fiscal Year 2023, our KC-135R and RC-26B aircraft flew a combined total of 3,025 hours with the tankers offloading more than 8.6 million pounds of fuel to over 1,142 receiver aircraft directly involved in Department of Defense operations. The RC-26 mission, after decades of activity, was retired in April 2023. 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.

More than 350 members of the unit deployed to different locations inside and outside of the continental U.S. in support of numerous operations and task forces. The wing also participated in Operation Centennial Contact, Air Mobility Command's celebration of 100 years of air-to-air refueling, and played a huge part in Air Defender 2023. Deployment locations include the U.S., Germany, England, Qatar, Japan, Kuwait, Poland and Guam.

The 186th's support to the local economy and community are astounding and superior. Last year, more than \$81.2 million was injected into the local economy. The estimated annual value of the jobs created was more than \$9.3 million with a total impact of more than \$90.5 million. In addition to its major contribution to the local economy, the 186th ARW is one of the largest employers in East Central Mississippi, providing 100% airport fire protection, all tower air traffic control services and nearly 266 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. \$750,000 in federal funds are provided annually by the Federal Aviation Administration for tower operations. In FY23, the ATC tower facilitated more than 93,000 arrivals/departures and nearly 26,000 instrument arrivals/departures. The base's Fire Department provides 100% of crash/fire rescue services to all civilian, commercial, and military aircraft at Key Field and also participated in a Major Accident Response Exercise (MARE) held by the Meridian Airport Authority and responded to the flooding in Winston County as part of the Mississippi Disaster Task Force.

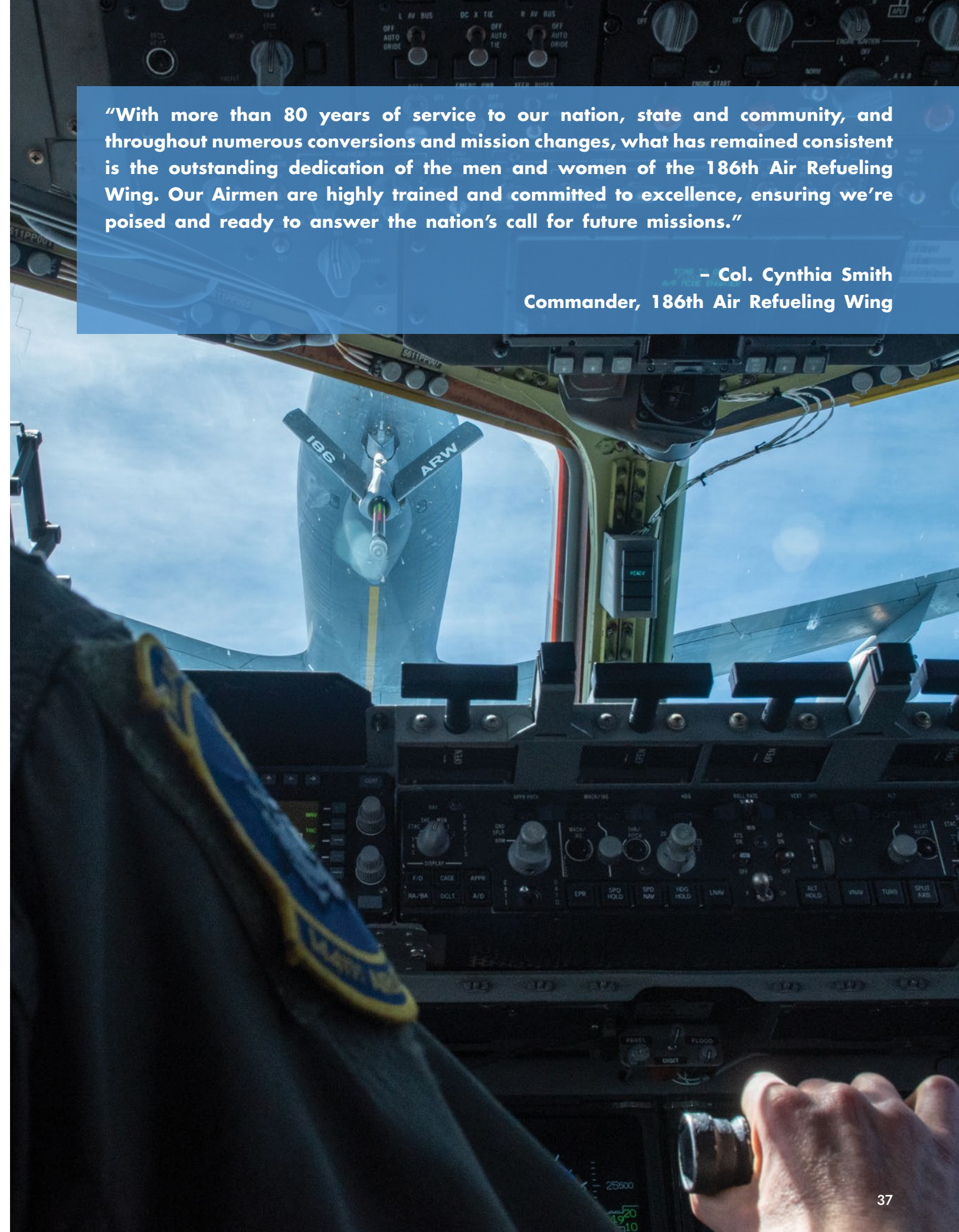
Additional Contributions to the Local Community

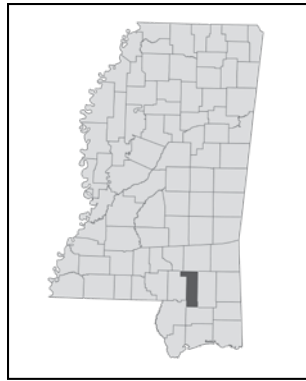
- Feeds 1,000+ senior citizens at the annual Council on Aging Fish Fry
- Generously donates over \$1,200 each year for Muscular Dystrophy Association
- Supports the Special Olympics and Wreaths Across America
- Hosts the annual Dancing with the Greatest Generation senior citizens' social
- Provides media/orientation 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 completed a year-long mobilization in support of Task Force Echo VI stationed at Fort Meade, Maryland. Upon returning to Mississippi, our team successfully designed, coordinated, and executed a cyber-centric multi-domain operation within Southern Strike 23 at Camp Shelby. This exercise assembled assets from the Maryland Air National Guard and the Special Forces. These events will continue to grow the cyber readiness and mission capability of the Cyber Protection Team in support of the state of Mississippi.”

– Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kevin, W. Carwyle
Det 2, Cyber Protection Team 178

Detachment 2, Cyber Protection Team (CPT) 178 is a portion of a tri-state cyber unit from Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. The unit relocated this past year from the Thad Cochran Research Park at Mississippi State University campus in Starkville to Camp Shelby, Mississippi. The CPT provides professional highly skilled Soldiers responsive to the needs of the nation while boosting the state and federal cyber defense capabilities.

The team was mobilized to Fort Meade, Maryland, as a part of Task Force Echo VI during this last year with Mississippi providing seven personnel for the mission. Task Force Echo is an Army National Guard 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 had spent fourteen months on mission when it returned in November 2022.

While most of the cyber team was mobilized, the rear detachment 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 helped to foster relationships with state and federal agencies by participating in the Mississippi Cyber Initiative (MCI) which is building and maintaining cybersecurity relationships among academia, state government, and military partners across the state. Through the MCI, the cyber team rear detachment provided an advisory role to the MCI as it evaluated and procured a Cyber Range Ecosystem for use by the MCI partners which will prove to be a great capability.

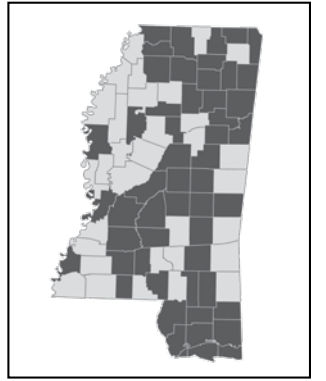
In April 2023, the Cyber Protection Team integrated with the Southern Strike 23 exercise to provide cyber and multi-domain operations capabilities within the construct of the exercise for the first time. The CPT developed and executed an exercise plan that enabled 15 cyber defenders from the Mississippi-based detachment to face off against 25 Cyber Offensive Red Team operators from the 175th Cyber Operations Group of the Maryland Air National Guard in a cyber-range environment. The products and intelligence generated from the cyber exercise was overlaid with the ground operations from the 20th Special Forces Group conducting exercises on the ground, establishing a strong and proven protection plan for Mississippi’s cyber space footprint.



CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE

“Our CFMO team is a group of dedicated professionals that focus on the readiness of the MSARNG facilities throughout the state and our two training sites. This group of individuals sustains approximately 152,000 acres comprising of over 6.8 million square feet of space and various other real property. Our focus remains providing our service members with the best facilities to enable readiness for both their state and federal missions.”

- Col. Rick Weaver
Director, CFMO



The Construction and Facilities Management Office (CFMO) operates and maintains just under seven million square feet of facility space and approximately 152,000 acres across the state. The CFMO’s oversight includes two training sites, 10 field maintenance shops, four Army Aviation Support Facilities, and 60 readiness centers.

The CFMO Project Management Branch completed over \$21 million in projects this year and currently has dozens of construction projects that total over \$210 million in various stages of design and construction. Projects include the Field Maintenance Shop in Brandon, new Readiness Centers in Amory and Southaven, an addition and alteration to the Corinth and Forest Readiness Centers and at the Meridian AASF, a 12-Bay addition to the Maintenance and Training Equipment Site (MATES) and the multi-purpose machine gun range at Camp Shelby.

A \$2 million State appropriation was matched with \$2 million in federal funds to complete the MSARNG’s ongoing Backlog of Maintenance and Repairs (BMAR) project for readiness centers throughout the state. In addition to the BMAR project, the CFMO’s Facilities Management Team completed over 700 work orders totaling over \$2.5 million in readiness center maintenance and repairs.

The MSARNG received \$10.3 million from the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) in January 2023 for the construction of four drainage basins at Camp Shelby and the designs for six more. Other legislative appropriations received were \$1 million for construction of the MATES storage facility (State Bill 3019) and \$4.7 million for conversion of Camp Shelby’s building 1404 to a Domain-Based Message Authentication Reporting Conformance (DMARC) building.

Additional construction included the completion of an addition to the Camp Shelby fire station, a compound expansion at the Greenwood Readiness Center, an addition to the Department of Information Management (DOIM) building in Flowood, and renovations to multiple weapons ranges at Camp McCain and Camp Shelby. Current projects include bridge repairs, roof repairs to the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum, and HVAC repair and replacement projects at the Vicksburg and Gulfport Readiness Centers.



BRANDON FIELD MAINTENANCE SHOP UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Environmental Branch conducted numerous public outreach events including hunters education classes, a youth squirrel hunt, and cultural and natural resources tours for federal agencies, grade schools, universities, archeological associations, and historic groups. The Natural Resources section conducted prescribed burns of over 6,400 acres of land to facilitate more conducive training opportunities. They also have secured over \$600,000 in additional funds to treat cogon grass, an invasive species that is threatening our training areas. The Cultural Resources section was awarded a \$12,000 grant from the National Public Lands Day DoD Legacy Program used to construct an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant observation deck and ramp at one of the World War I training trench locations.

The Special Projects Branch developed and programmed energy and resiliency projects to comply with the Army Climate Strategy and other executive orders. The MSARNG benefitted from the State Legislature appropriating another \$5 million in ARPA funds for life cycle replacement of six chillers at Camp Shelby and the St. Martin Readiness Center. The branch continues to develop projects to meet the 2025 deadline to convert all our fleet vehicles to electric. The Qualified Recycling Program was instrumental in the clean-up efforts in Amory from the March tornado by recycling over 140 tons of mixed metals and awarded a Conservation Award from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR).

YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

"In my opinion, the Mississippi National Guard Youth Challenge Academy is one of the most impactful social programs in the state"

- Retired Lt. Col. John B. Stringer
Director, MS YCA



"Accept the Challenge"

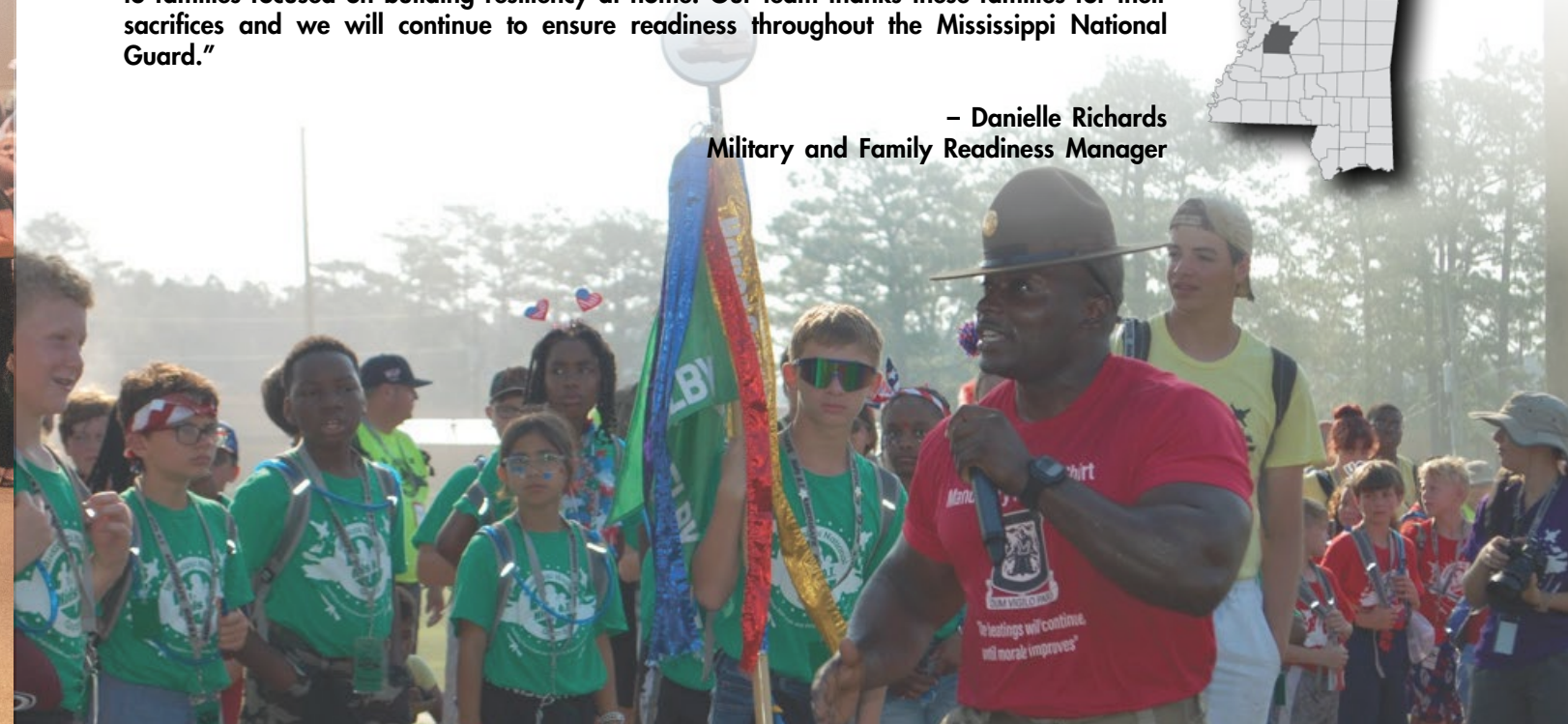
The mission of the Mississippi National Guard Youth Challenge Academy is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of 16 to 18-year-old youths who may have experienced academic difficulties in traditional high school settings, dropped out of high school, exhibited problem behaviors, or in some cases, have had minor legal issues. The Youth Challenge Academy aims to produce graduates with values, life skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as productive citizens. Since its inception in 1994, the Mississippi YCA has had more than 11,120 graduates.



MSNG OUTREACH SERVICES

"FY 23 has been an exciting year supporting families, Soldiers and Airmen at home and abroad. With the number of deployed Soldiers and Airmen, we have ramped up support to families focused on building resiliency at home. Our team thanks these families for their sacrifices and we will continue to ensure readiness throughout the Mississippi National Guard."

- Danielle Richards
Military and Family Readiness Manager



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. The designated resources enhance the readiness, resiliency, retention, and recruitment of service members while providing necessary assistance in times of need. Mississippi National Guard Outreach Services programs include Education, Work for Warriors (WFW), 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 Programs specialists have reached out to over 8,000 families, the Work for Warriors program is responsible for 166 direct hires and our incentives team has paid out over \$6.5 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.

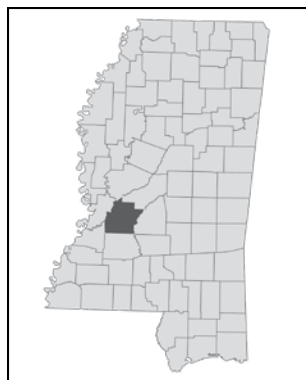
The Mississippi National Guard Child and Youth Program celebrated a milestone during State Fiscal Year 2023 by having their largest number of volunteers to date. Nearly 100 volunteers serve in a range of positions from counselors and support staff during the residential camps, to organization and inventory specialists during the off season. The volunteers tallied a total of 8,153 volunteer hours during this past year as the program

provided opportunities and support to more than 6,100 children and more than 12,200 adults.

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 reflective of their experience and routinely works alongside job seekers to ensure they are equipped with the skills and knowledge it takes to be successful. The 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 including education guidance counseling, education funding counseling, processing of the GI Bill, Federal Tuition Assistance, and the State Educational Assistance Program. The 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 with 650 pay transactions to service members in the Select Reserve Incentive Program, totaling more than \$6.5 million. The team also assisted 25 service members in benefiting from the Student Loan Repayment Program, eliminating more than \$250,000 in student loan debt.





DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY SUPPORT

“The Mississippi National Guard takes sincere pride in serving our state and nation during domestic emergencies. In the past three years we have seen an unprecedented utilization of Mississippi National Guardsmen during domestic crises including our state-wide response to the COVID-19 pandemic, response to the City of Jackson water crisis, and deployments for hurricane response missions in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Florida. The men and women of the Mississippi National Guard are prepared and ready at all times to serve our state in an emergency.”

– Col. Jeremy R. Parker
Director of Military Support



At the direction of the governor, the Directorate of Military Support (DOMS) provides military training and operations to mitigate the loss of life and restore essential life support functions to civil authorities following natural or man-made disasters. DOMS is a vital link merging National Guard capabilities with state and local government and their non-governmental partners during desperate times of need.

Diverse needs for assistance allowed the men and women of the Mississippi National Guard to showcase their expertise, talent, and compassion to the citizens of Mississippi and partner states during State Fiscal Year 2023.

Within Mississippi, heavy rainfall and flooding resulted in significant complications to the city of Jackson’s water treatment facilities serving over 100,000 residents. Soldiers and Airmen of the MSNG provided an unprecedented response to the capital city’s internationally recognized water crisis. Partnering with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), the MSNG worked diligently to establish seven points of distribution locations providing citizens with over 11 million bottles of water, bulk non-potable water, and hand sanitizer, helping alleviate health and safety risks to the citizens of the capital city and surrounding areas.

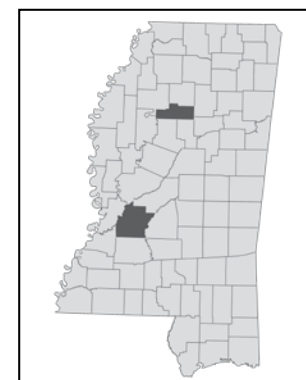
Beyond the state’s border, the MSNG provided critical support to our regional partner state of Florida following the aftermath of Hurricane Ian. The MSNG regularly partners with regional and non-regional states to support Emergency Management Assistance Compacts (EMAC).

During September and October 2022, Soldiers and Airmen deployed to assist the Florida National Guard with recovery and relief efforts near Fort Myers, Florida, following the devastation of Hurricane Ian. CH-47 Chinook helicopters conducted passenger and cargo transport, search and rescue operations, and evacuated stranded civilians from Sanibel, Captiva, and Pine Islands. Additionally, a Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) team provided technical communication support to local and state emergency services and military organizations, enabling vital emergency communications between state leaders and first responders.

2/20TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP

“The battalion remains the premier Special Operations element in the National Guard. The unit continues to conduct counter-terrorism missions abroad while preparing for our nation’s future challenges. The unit’s focus is on irregular warfare operations and activities across all domains in support of large-scale combat operations against our peer competitors.”

– Lt. Col. Ellis C. Monk
Commander, 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.

The 2/20th SFG (A) consists of six companies across the states of Mississippi, Maryland, and Indiana and is among the most deployed and active units in the Army National Guard. In State Fiscal Year 2023, the battalion engaged in multiple joint training events to enhance readiness for an upcoming deployment. The 2/20th SFG (A) conducted joint combined exchange training in Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, and Poland to support Special Operations Command Europe’s (SOCEUR) theater objectives to counter Russian aggression. The battalion sent more than 100 personnel across ten countries during the fiscal year with the training culminating at two large events, Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Ft. Polk, Louisiana, and Southern Strike at Camp Shelby. Bravo Company, 2/20th received among the highest evaluations for units of action at JRTC while Charlie Company, 2/20th was validated as a deployable unit at Southern Strike by outside observers from the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

Additionally, battalion staff focused on the implementation of a new Special Operations Command (SOCOM) initiative for improved readiness and resilience called Human Performance and Wellness (HPW), a program calling for physical, mental, and emotional health awareness. The 2/20th hired a civilian counselor and put physician assistants on orders to commence this program. During the year, the civilian counselor completed over 200 individual engagements and moved four servicemembers to higher levels of care. HPW highlighted the need of additional support for highly deployed units within the Special Operations community. Finally, the 2/20th SFG (A) sent command representation to 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) to observe an exercise with Taiwan in preparation for future training at Camp Shelby. Next year, C/2/20th will be deployed to CENTCOM and the battalion will train with Taiwan forces at Camp Shelby in preparation for another deployment rotation in 2025.

Special Operations Detachment South (SOD-S) is a Task Force level command organized to coordinate and lead special operations anywhere in the world. The SOD-S mission focuses on the conduct of special



operations at the strategic and operational levels with an emphasis in Central and South America. In mid-2022, SOD-S deployed in support of Combined/Joint Special Operations Task Force Iraq to coordinate and oversee Special Operations activities within the CENTCOM area of responsibility.

Post deployment, SOD-S was tasked with leading and executing PANAMAX 2022 for Special Operations Command-South (SOCSOUTH) at Homestead Air Reserve Base in Homestead, Florida. PANAMAX is a U.S. Southern Command sponsored, multinational annual exercise that brings together the Joint, Inter-agency, Inter-Governmental, Multi-National (JIIM) community to plan, prepare, rehearse and exercise support activities to guarantee the security of the Panama Canal. SOD-S leadership in PANAMAX 22 enhanced regional interoperability, reinforced regional security ties, and refined combined campaign planning with coalition partners through the sharing of practices and battle staff procedures. The exercise was an opportunity for SOD-S to apply its training and operational focus, which is battle staff management and execution for global contingencies, to learn from partners, and to mentor allies on key skills.

RECRUITING & RETENTION

"The MSNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion continues to make significant positive impacts to the total end strength of our collective force. While grounded in our three tenets of recruiting, retention and attrition management, we forged the path of what is possible when Soldiers are committed, competent and character-focused to accomplish the mission. The challenges our Soldiers face daily are numerous, but they courageously take each on as brothers and sisters in arms under an oath of selfless service. I continue to be proud and humbled to lead this battalion in such critical areas, which will ultimately determine our success here in the state of Mississippi and beyond."

— Lt. Col. Andrew Adcock
Commander, Recruiting and Retention Battalion



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 the nearly 3 million citizens 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 storefront locations for recruiting and retention operations. Subordinate units include Headquarters, Headquarters Company, in Jackson, Alpha Company in Grenada, and Bravo Company in Hattiesburg.

The battalion remains 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 job skills training. The unit is proud to have a select group of highly qualified and motivated drill sergeants to facilitate new Soldier preparation and hosting of "Drill Sergeant Experience" events, programs designed to introduce athletes at Mississippi high schools and universities to current Army physical fitness standards through highly challenging, yet rewarding, immersion-

styled events.

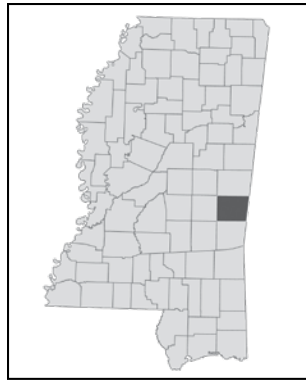
The quarterly "Battle Hand Off" program formally congratulates Soldiers upon completion of basic and advanced individual training. Coupled with this is the "Guard for Life" program focused on retaining Soldiers in the Mississippi Army National Guard through a unique combination of education, benefits and placement programs executed biannually to enhance the overall quality of life for both our Soldiers and their families.

In close partnership with units across the state, the battalion regularly hosts both active and static display events to demonstrate the unique capabilities and opportunities within the Mississippi Army National Guard. From armor displays at the Mississippi Agricultural and Outdoor Expo, and logistics demonstrations through real-world disaster response in the state, to aerial tours on Army aviation assets, 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 developing enduring personal connections with diverse communities throughout the state and abroad. Soldiers from the unit readily assist in numerous non-profit, community and charity events throughout the year, such as 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"!





MSNG COUNTERDRUG PROGRAM REGIONAL COUNTERDRUG TRAINING ACADEMY & COUNTERDRUG TASK FORCE

"We continue to press the fight."

- Col. Robert Bartran
Commander of the Counterdrug Team

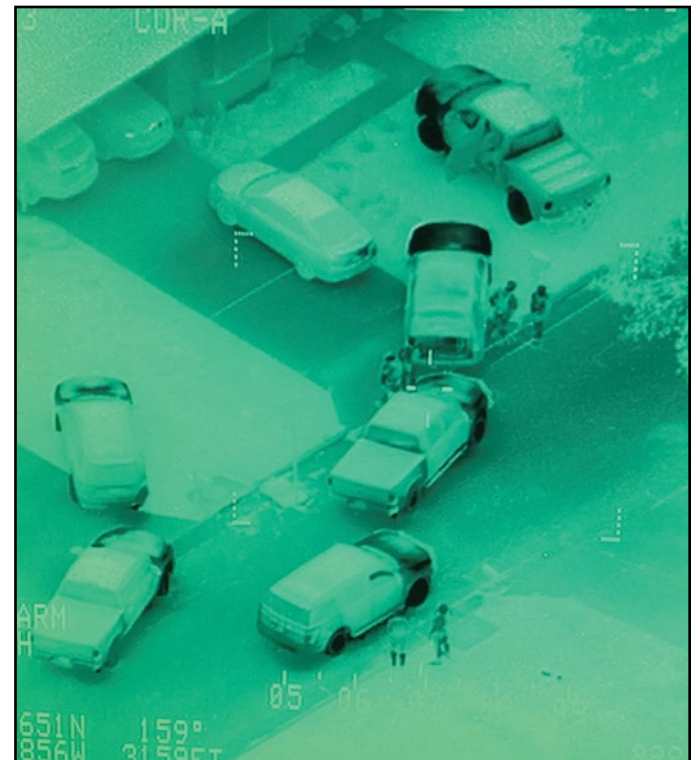
The Mississippi National Guard Counterdrug Program is comprised of two separate entities the Counterdrug Task Force (CTDF) and the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy (RCTA). Each one of the 54 states and territories has a CTDF but Mississippi is one of five states with a school house RCTA.

The 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 212,000 law enforcement officers from all 50 states and four of the U.S. territories.

In FY23, the RCTA conducted 195 courses and trained 12,653 federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement officers from more than 2,500 agencies across 47 states and territories. The RCTA supported training for more than a dozen narcotics officer conferences nationwide.

The Mississippi National Guard CDTF provides air and ground reconnaissance, case analysis and linguist support to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in order to enhance law enforcement operations in countering the drug threat and anticipating and deterring the threat of illegal substances, trafficking and violence throughout the state of Mississippi.

More than 62 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 \$3.6 million. The missions also seized 78 firearms, \$291,079 in cash, and over 180 arrests were made during these operations. Additionally, the Mississippi National Guard Counterdrug Task Force assisted the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration with the "National Prescription Drug Take Back Day," resulting in the collection and destruction of unused prescription drugs collected across the state.



STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

"The State Partnership Program had a successful year by conducting over 30 total events, including revamping our relationship with Bolivia, which had been dormant for over a decade. Additionally, we increased the number of Uzbek participants in Exercise Southern Strike by adding a team of 13 Uzbek National Guardsmen to the 13-man Ministry of Defense team."

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



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.

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, Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) operations, Aviation Employment

(fixed and rotary wing), Legal Studies, Military Medical techniques and procedures, NCO Development, Counterdrug Operations, Search and Rescue, Veterinary Medicine, and Military Police.

In 2023, the Mississippi National Guard conducted more than 25 events with Uzbekistan, including Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs), Key Leader Engagements (KLEs), exercises, and planning conferences. Three events were completed with Bolivia, including a backpack donation and a Subject Matter Expert Exchange on firefighting and wildlife veterinary medicine. This marked the first time the Mississippi National Guard has conducted an event in Bolivia in over 10 years!

2023 celebrated the 30th anniversary of the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program.



STATE ARMY AVIATION OFFICE

“Mississippi National Guard Aviation deployed two units overseas this year and has continued to provide excellent support to the state and our neighbors. Our full-time work force met the challenge of operating shorthanded by maintaining our aircraft fleet and training our aircrews to the highest standards. Our Soldiers are prepared to handle any aviation mission that comes our way.”

– Col. Bradley K. Howe
State Army Aviation Officer

Mississippi Aviation continues to have a robust presence in the state conducting the core tasks of training aircrews and maintaining aircraft while preparing for both federal and state missions. We continue to perform our key tasks even with the 185th Aviation Brigade and units from the 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment deployed. The state maintains more than 20 students in flight school and has over 80 other aviation school quotas to keep the ranks full of qualified Soldiers. The aviation enterprise has provided flyovers and static displays and supported ROTC units at our state’s universities and colleges.

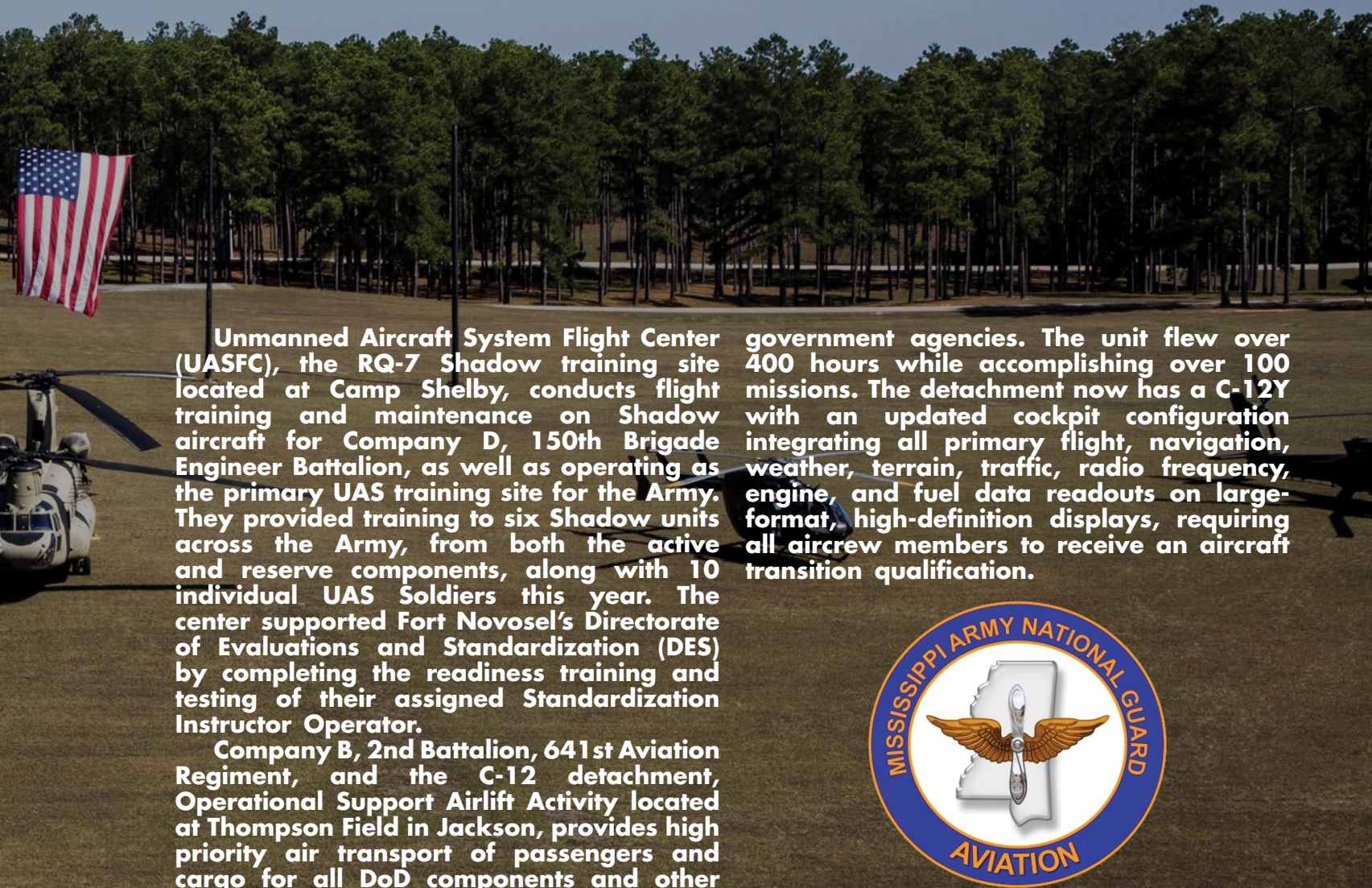
Army Aviation Support Facility 1 (AASF1) at Hawkins Field in Jackson provided maintenance, training and evaluation flights for the state’s UH-60 Blackhawk fleet, conducted air support missions including air movement missions, VIP flights, community support missions, and flyovers for sporting events. AASF1 provided maintenance and flight training support for assemblies and current mobilizations in support of U.S. Central Command. The facility also supported Exercise Southern Strike 2023 allowing units to successfully complete assigned wartime missions. Executing more than 1,800 total flying hours for all missions flown out of AASF1, it was an extremely busy but 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 Security and Support), 1st Battalion, 114th Aviation Regiment; and Company D (Lakota Medical Evacuation), 2d Battalion, 151st Aviation Regiment. The facility and units

supported a host of memorial observances, recruiting and retention events, and community humanitarian activities.

Company A successfully completed all assigned missions including participation in the joint Southern Strike Exercise, annual aerial live-fire gunnery qualification, and multiple training missions in support of Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and coalition Special Operations Forces (SOF). Company C (S&S) conducted storm damage assessment missions, assisted with the Counterdrug Task Force, and participated in interagency training in support of Mississippi’s 47th Civil Support Team and numerous law enforcement agencies. Company D (MEDEVAC) provided aeromedical evacuation support to Camp Shelby and participated in joint training exercises with federal, state, and local agencies and units. Both Lakota elements participated in multiple domestic missions assisting with air traffic control and services training and provided aircraft and personnel for modernization activities at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

Army Aviation Support Facility 3 (AASF3) in Meridian conducted flight training and maintenance for the CH-47 Chinook community including several air missions supporting the 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, and Belgian and Uzbek Special Forces during Southern Strike 2023. The facility and unit initiated a two-year training plan with the U.S. Navy’s Special Boat Team 22 to prepare aircraft and crews for the Maritime External Air Transport System (MEATS). The Chinooks provided aerial firefighting capabilities to Camp Shelby during the annual training season and two CH-47s and crews deployed to Florida in support of the Hurricane Ian disaster response and relief efforts.

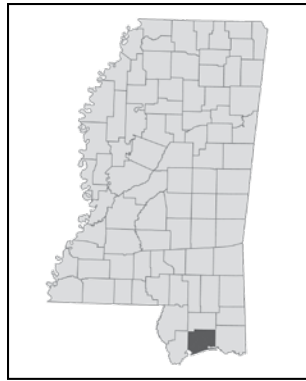


Unmanned Aircraft System Flight Center (UASFC), the RQ-7 Shadow training site located at Camp Shelby, conducts flight training and maintenance on Shadow aircraft for Company D, 150th Brigade Engineer Battalion, as well as operating as the primary UAS training site for the Army. They provided training to six Shadow units across the Army, from both the active and reserve components, along with 10 individual UAS Soldiers this year. The center supported Fort Novosel’s Directorate of Evaluations and Standardization (DES) by completing the readiness training and testing of their assigned Standardization Instructor Operator.

Company B, 2nd Battalion, 641st Aviation Regiment, and the C-12 detachment, Operational Support Airlift Activity located at Thompson Field in Jackson, provides high priority air transport of passengers and cargo for all DoD components and other

government agencies. The unit flew over 400 hours while accomplishing over 100 missions. The detachment now has a C-12Y with an updated cockpit configuration integrating all primary flight, navigation, weather, terrain, traffic, radio frequency, engine, and fuel data readouts on large-format, high-definition displays, requiring all aircrew members to receive an aircraft transition qualification.





MISSISSIPPI AVIATION CLASSIFICATION AND REPAIR ACTIVITY DEPOT

"The MS-AVCRAD continues to provide robust and advanced repair capabilities for the Army National Guard rotary wing fleet. We remain employee focused, ensuring they are equipped and trained in cutting edge technology and processes. This allows our workforce to apply their knowledge and skills towards sustaining the fleet, something at which they continue to excel."

- Col. Andy Ratcliffe
Facility Commander, MS-AVCRAD

The Mississippi Aviation Classification and Repair Activity Depot (MS-AVCRAD) provides Army National Guard (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 U.S., the MS-AVCRAD is an industrial-based maintenance facility located on 35 acres at the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport in Gulfport, Mississippi. Housed in 227,920 square feet of maintenance bays and warehouses, the MS-AVCRAD employs a hybrid workforce of 242 personnel, comprised of 163 Federal Technicians and 79 State Employees.

In FY23, the MS-AVCRAD successfully executed \$121 million in funding for the region, resulting in a total of 892 component work orders, 78 aircraft modifications, 103 aircraft special projects, and eight aircraft paint projects. A total of 25,622 maintenance hours were expended, resulting in \$34.7 million in cost avoidance for the year.

The MS-AVCRAD also trains 1108th Theatre Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group (TASMG) Soldiers by providing the workload, experience, special skills training,

qualifications, and certifications necessary to perform field, sustainment, and limited depot aviation maintenance; crash and battle damage repair; repair of major end items; sustainment-level maintenance for aircraft and aviation ground support equipment; and repair parts for all aviation assets in a theater of operations. Additionally, the MS-AVCRAD equips, grows, and modernizes the 1108th TASMG's capabilities by leveraging reimbursable workload in coordination with and in support of Product Managers, Life Cycle Management Commands, Engineers, OEMs, Program Executive Offices, and ARNG Aviation. The MS-AVCRAD also develops repair procedures, unique processes, and special tools and test equipment, with these solutions becoming part of the 1108th TASMG's deployable capability.



114TH DIGITAL LIAISON DETACHMENT

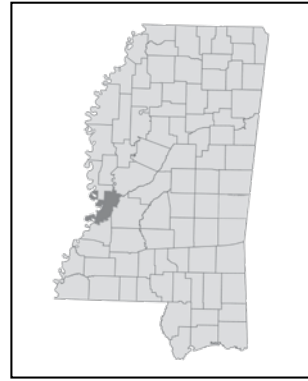
"This year's training was a great learning opportunity for the 114th DLD. We not only were able to train with a NATO partner, the Spanish Division Castillejos, but also enjoyed the hospitality that the division and the people of Huesca showed us."

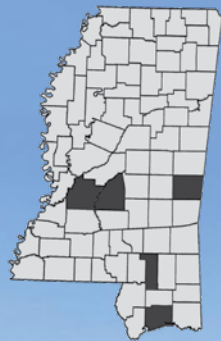
- Col. Brent McCulloch
Commander, 114th Digital Liaison Detachment

The 114th Digital Liaison Detachment (DLD) participated in Exercise Immediate Response during May 2023. The exercise was part of the larger exercise Defender 23, which helped demonstrate and improve upon the U.S. Army's ability to integrate with our ally and partner nations to increase scale, capability, and interoperability of rapidly deployed forces.

During Immediate Response, the 114th DLD worked with the Spanish Division Castillejos in Huesca, Spain,

ensuring the division maintained digital communications with their higher headquarters, V Corps. The exercise bolstered the readiness of the division and exhibited the scalability, flexibility, and survivability of the mobile command post to NATO allies and partners, while simultaneously demonstrating the interoperability of each participating nation. Immediate Response was historic with the multinational division, Division Castillejos, leading the exercise with command and control of U.S. units.





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"There is no greater honor than celebrating the accomplishments, enduring spirit, and unwavering patriotism of the brave men and women serving in the Mississippi National Guard. The MSNG Public Affairs professionals are among the very best in their skillset continuously striving to capture and highlight the legacy of service of our Soldiers and Airmen dedicated to safeguard the freedoms of our state and nation."

- Lt. Col. Deidre D. Smith
MSNG Director of Public Affairs



The Mississippi National Guard's Public Affairs community is dedicated to telling the story of our Soldiers, Airmen, civilian personnel, and the families who support us during operations in peacetime, conflict, and during natural disaster response. Our team of professionals are dedicated to amplifying the command messages of our leadership while streamlining organizational messaging throughout our formation. We utilize every communication platform available to us, internal and external, to broadcast the accomplishments of our esteemed talented professionals representing every county in our great state.

The MSNG Public Affairs team fulfills the Army's fundamental duty of informing the American people, Department of Defense stakeholder's, our personnel, and our interagency partners of the exemplary accomplishments and ongoing worldwide missions executed by the MSNG Soldiers and Airmen.

MSNG Public Affairs professionals are located throughout the state to provide media engagement and PAO coverage state-wide. The State Public Affairs Office is located at Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson, the 102nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment is located at Raymond Rd. Armory in Jackson, the 172nd Airlift Wing PAO is in Flowood, 186th Air Refueling Wing in Meridian, Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center in Hattiesburg, the Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport as well as the Major Subordinate Commands located throughout our state.



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