

FALL/WINTER 2019

GUARD DETAIL

A CHRONICLE OF THE MISSISSIPPI ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD



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for Deployment 8



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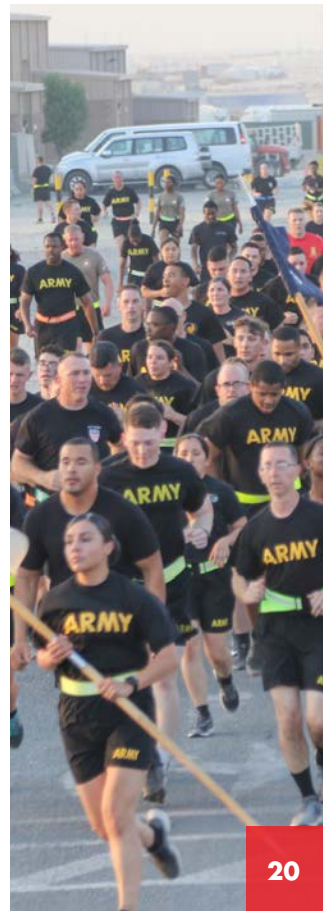
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The Guard Detail is the official magazine of the Mississippi National Guard. It is published three times a year with a circulation of approximately 12,300 copies and also distributed online via the Mississippi National Guard web and Facebook pages. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Army, Air Force, Army National Guard, Air National Guard or the Department of Defense.

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COVER PHOTO: UH-60 (Blackhawks) from 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment, take off after dropping Soldiers off at the landing zone during exercise Arctic Anvil at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center October 6, 2019. Arctic Anvil is a force-on-force exercise that tests the mental and physical toughness of the Soldiers involved. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Shawn Keeton)

Letter From THE EDITOR

A Season of Gratitude



“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.”

~ Melody Beattie

As the holidays are in full swing and we begin to look ahead toward the New Year, this is the time of year to start anew with goals, dreams, plans and projects. There is no time like the present and 2020 is a bright star on the horizon for a prosperous New Year.

This year, the Mississippi National Guard will be conquering new challenges, embarking on extraordinary training opportunities and welcoming exceptional Soldiers from across the nation as we host the National Best Warrior Competition. We will celebrate new elected officials and embrace our new leadership as Governor-elect Tate Reeves begins his journey as the new Governor for the great state of Mississippi.

We understand that a true constant in our professional and personal journey is change. For the Soldiers in our formation, we will welcome the new Army Combat Fitness Test as the new standard

of physical fitness readiness with the record testing taking effect on Oct. 1. We will adjust our training to exceed the standard and maintain our readiness for Citizen Soldiers across the state.

The start of the New Year is also an opportunity to look ahead at professional development for all members of our team. As leaders, it is imperative that you continue your military education and to pursue higher education goals. Encourage your team to seek educational opportunities for career enhancement as well as opportunities to complete a Civilian degree program. With more colleges and universities supporting the Mississippi National Guard with free and reduced tuition opportunities, there is no time like the present to pursue further education goals.

I encourage each of you to educate yourself, and your Soldiers and Airmen on the various opportunities available to them through the MSNG Education Office for tuition assistance and, for eligible service members, the Post 9/11 GI Bill; sometimes we do not pursue an opportunity simply because we are unaware that it is available to us. Discuss personal and professional goals during quarterly counseling sessions with your team. The MSNG Education Office is a great resource to start the process.

The Holiday season is also the perfect time to celebrate your Family and loved ones. Please remember our Service Men and Women serving away from home and their Families during this holiday season. The New Year is an exciting time to start anew with goals, dreams, plans and projects. Again, comrades of the MSNG, there is no time like the present and 2020 is a bright star on the horizon for a prosperous New Year. God Speed and God Bless!

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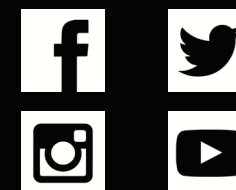
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SNAPSHOTS

Ten Airmen from the Mississippi Air National Guard's 238th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS) were awarded the Bronze Star Medal during a ceremony at Key Field Air National Guard Base, Nov. 3, 2019. The Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) Airmen were recognized for their actions during a recent deployment to the Central Command area of operations.

An additional 13 Army Commendation Medals with the combat "C" device were awarded to other ASOS Airmen for their actions during the deployment. The combat device was announced in MILPER Message 17-095, dated March 15, 2017, to "be placed on designated individual awards to denote recognition of meritorious service or achievement under combat conditions."

The 238th ASOS is the only Air Force Special Warfare Squadron in the MSNG and specializes in the integration and control of joint fires effects through multi-domain command and control, to out-compete, deter, and win across the full spectrum of military operations.



Brig. Gen. Billy M. Nabors (left), Mississippi's assistant adjutant general – Air, stands with Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) Airmen from the 238th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS) following a ceremony at Key Field Air National Guard Base Nov. 3, 2019. The Airmen were awarded the Bronze Star Medal for actions during a recent deployment to the Central Command's area of operations. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Adam Vance)



Command Sergeant Major John T. Raines III

Command Senior Enlisted Leader. What is this name change all about and how does it impact the Mississippi National Guard? What has changed from years past?

Some years ago the regular Army started coding all sergeant major positions with what is called Professional Development Proficiency Codes (PDPC). It is imperative to have an understanding of how the Army's chain of command and NCO support channel are aligned with each other to understand these codes. For the most part, enlisted positions are identified by the level of the officer they work for. This is easy to understand until you get to the E9 population. Let me explain:

2nd/1st Lt. = Sgt. 1st Class
Capt. = Master Sgt. / 1st Sgt.
Maj. = Master Sgt.
Lt. Col. = Sgt. Maj. (6S) / CSM (6C)
Col. = Sgt. Maj. (7S) / CSM (7C)
Brig. Gen. = Sgt. Maj. (8S) / CSM (8C)
Maj. Gen. = Sgt. Maj. (8T) / CSM (8D)

As officers progress through higher levels of responsibility, they are promoted and given new rank identification. NCO's are expected to progress through these levels just like their officer counterparts; with the exception of no promotion after sergeant major. You would no more consider promoting a master sergeant to a sergeant major position working for a lieutenant general than you would promoting a captain directly to lieutenant general. It is in being assigned to all these various positions that we gain the pre-requisite experience needed to lead larger formations.

With this knowledge, the TAG and I decided we needed to make a change. This change would ensure we were providing the most experienced leadership possible for the Soldiers and Airmen of the MSNG at both the joint and Air/Army service command levels.

The Command Senior Enlisted Leader (CSEL) is a joint position and the senior enlisted leader aligned with the TAG, a Major General. It can be either Air National Guard or Army National Guard and it is the senior enlisted billet in the state. The State Command Sergeant Major (SCSM) is an Army position and the senior enlisted leader aligned with the ATAG-Army. It is the senior Army enlisted leader position in the state unless the CSEL is filled by an Army CSM. We have an equivalent position on the Air side that is called the State Command Chief Master Sergeant. It is the senior ANG enlisted position in the state unless the CSEL is filled by a CCMSgt.

CSM Christopher Young was selected as the State CSM and, as we continue to transition the MSNG, we will see him pick up the entirety of the MSARNG portfolio. In the next 90 days, he will continue to take all Army actions while we work to identify all the units, processes, exercises, etc., that fall in the joint domain. After these have been identified, you will see a delineation between Joint, Army, and Air.

SCCMSgt. Lynn Rushing-Cole will continue to serve as the State Command Chief, aligned with the ATAG – Air. The TAG and I still have supervisory responsibility over the Army and Air but will leave the day-to-day management to the respective service.

All three senior enlisted leaders look forward to educating the formation and continuing to give our Soldiers and Airmen everything they need to be successful.

There is nothing more important to us than the people we serve!

Command Sgt. Maj.
John T. Raines III
Command Senior Enlisted Advisor
Mississippi National Guard

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Throughout the Mississippi National Guard there are a special group of men and women, also known as Chaplains, Religious Affairs Specialists, and Chaplain Assistants, who faithfully work every day to ensure Soldiers and Airmen can freely exercise their religious freedom. The right of every Soldier and Airman to religious freedom is extremely important in upholding the fabric of our nation and our military. Religious freedom protects people's (and Service Member's) right to live, speak and act according to their beliefs peacefully and publicly. It protects their ability to be themselves at work, in class and at social activities. Religious freedom is more than the "freedom to worship" at a synagogue, church or mosque.

It makes sure they don't have to go against their core values and beliefs in order to conform to culture or government. Religious freedom benefits everyone. It treats all people equally—Christians, Jews, Muslims, agnostics and atheists. Religious freedom preserves America's diversity, where people of different faiths, worldviews and beliefs can peacefully live together without fear of punishment from the government.

For many military men and women, faith is one of the most important aspects of their service; whether in times of war or peace. It inspires them, drives them, and gives them hope. It more often than not helps to make them better Service Members because of their strong sense of loyalty, patriotism, moral values and work ethic. Religious freedom is in effect a "force multiplier" and it is always beneficial, right, and wise for military leaders to lean more towards encouraging religious freedom of expression than erring by restricting religious freedoms.

Chaplain (Col.) Ramsey Coutta
MSNG State Chaplain





Arctic Anvil 2019

Alaska Brigade Visits Shelby

Story by Sgt. Michael Needham
JFH-MS Public Affairs Office

Exercise Arctic Anvil 2019 started with an airborne operation at the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Oct. 2, 2019. The Spartans of the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, based in Alaska, conducted the large-scale operation, including more than 900 paratroopers and a heavy equipment drop.

“This is the largest exercise that Camp Shelby has hosted in conjunction with an active duty brigade combat team,” said Col. Bobby Ginn, CS-JFTC post commander. “The training capabilities that Camp Shelby has to offer will enhance the 4th Brigade Combat Team’s lethality and set them up for success during their rotation to the Joint Readiness Training Center.”

Arctic Anvil is a force-on-force

training exercise that includes live, virtual, and constructive elements. The exercise provides realistic unified land operations that prepares brigade combat teams for validation. It is part of the brigade’s Joint Readiness Exercise (JRE), which started in August and included a large-scale mobilization of its equipment to Camp Shelby through Mississippi’s strategic ports.

“If we go to war tomorrow, or if we go to war at all, we’re to fight by, with and through the ports,” said Maj. Gen. Stephen Farmen, Surface Deployment and Distribution commanding general.

More than 1,500 pieces of the brigade’s equipment passed through the ports in Gulfport and Pascagoula Sept. 25, to be reunited with the approximately 4,000 Soldiers preparing for operations at Camp Shelby.

“It’s never been done before. This is a first between the Ports of Pascagoula and Gulfport and Camp Shelby in building that Triangle of Freedom,” said Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant.

The Soldiers from Alaska had to overcome more than just long hot days, they faced off with an experienced group of veteran Soldiers from the Mississippi Army National Guard’s 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, who recently returned from a deployment in support of Operation Spartan Shield. Most of the Guardsmen who volunteered for this training mission have conducted multiple events in the thick terrain of Camp Shelby.

“Camp Shelby, Mississippi, provides us similar terrain [that closely resembles current fighting conditions], but we train our paratroopers to be physically and mentally tough - ready to deploy anywhere in the world - so this will prove our ability to do so

regardless of the environment or conditions we are called to operate in,” said brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Evan Lewandowski.

In order to make the training more realistic, 155th ABCT Soldiers played the role of the Opposing Force for the duration of the exercise. The Guardsmen know the training area and training villages and used that knowledge to do their best to trick the Spartans into making mistakes.

“We stand ready to use our intimate knowledge of our backyard and multiple enablers to include engineers, Shadow platoon and aviation to put the Spartans to the test,” said Lt. Col. Christopher Jurney, 1st Squadron, 98th Cavalry Regiment commander.

The exercise tested the Soldiers from the 155th ABCT and 4th BCT, mentally and physically, and the Mississippi heat presented a challenge as well.

“In Alaska, the air is not as thick, it’s kind of thin, and we are at a higher elevation, so the number one key here is to stay hydrated,” said Spc. Andrew Allen, IT Specialist 4th Brigade Combat Team.

The exercise combines and organizes all available assets for when Soldiers encounter the enemy, all the elements of combat power are brought to a decisive point.

“We stand ready in ensuring our Alaskan partners cut their teeth in the Camp Shelby heat in preparing for their JRTC rotation early next year,” said Jurney. “Our team, Task Force Gunslingers, are honored to have been chosen in this historic event, pitting Compo one and Compo two units in competition that will better prepare us all for meeting the needs of our country.”



Left: A Soldier with the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, pulls security while other Soldiers evacuate a casualty during Exercise Arctic Anvil at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Oct. 6, 2019. Arctic Anvil is a force-on-force exercise designed to test the mental and physical toughness of the Soldiers involved. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Shawn Keeton)

Top Right: Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation Brigade, discuss details of an upcoming air assault mission during Exercise Arctic Anvil at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Oct. 6, 2019. Camp Shelby hosted the training exercise to help prepare the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, for their upcoming deployment. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Shawn Keeton)

Right: Soldiers with the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, based in Alaska, assault toward an objective during Exercise Arctic Anvil at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Oct. 6, 2019. The Spartans of 4th Brigade participated in Arctic Anvil in preparation for a Joint Readiness Training Center exercise, followed by an upcoming deployment in support of operations overseas. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Shawn Keeton)



“THE LITTLE SHOP THAT DOES...”

Tech. Sgt. Sadiki Givens and Airman 1st Class Evan Smithson, secure a pneumatic tube of a C-17 heads-up display chassis in preparation for final parts testing by the C-17 Automated Test Equipment system Nov. 6, 2019. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Betsy Winstead)

Story by Master Sgt. Betsy Winstead
172d Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Most people don't even know what avionics means, but the impact of the electronic components and electronic equipment is at the heart of every C-17 Globemaster III.

Mississippi Air National Guard's 172d Air Wing's Avionics Intermediate Systems (AIS) section provides a full spectrum of repair for computerized aircraft components and other electronic equipment that make up the giant C-17 computer.

With the help of two C-17 Automated Test Equipment (CATE) systems, technical orders, schematics and research, two full-time technicians and three temporary technicians keep busy repairing electrical components used worldwide.

The AIS section troubleshoots and repairs 51 aircraft components that are installed on C-17's. These components are vital to – flight control computers; communications; radar; hydraulics; fuel and cargo delivery systems; and many others. The technicians also work closely with Boeing engineers to share information

to improve performance, upgrade software and track write-up trends.

Besides their home station C-17's, the 172d's AIS subject matter experts support a host of other clients including – Memphis Air National Guard Base, Tenn.; Martinsburg Air National Guard Base, W.Va.; Stewart Air National Guard Base, N.Y.; Charlotte Air National Guard Base, N.C.; Pittsburg Air Force Reserve Base, Pa.; Europe; the San Antonio Depot, Texas; Australia; and overflow from active duty U. S. Air Force bases.

Shop Superintendent Master Sgt. Alice M. Moorman said as the only Air National Guard unit with two CATE systems, the shop production numbers have grown from 183 component repairs in 2017 to 406 component repairs in 2019, a production increase of more than 120 percent. Their Line Replacement Units (LRU's) boast a 100 percent efficiency rating after repair as well. In addition to the component repairs, technicians also have to maintain the CATE systems that enable them to test their equipment.

Technical Sgt. Sadiki A. Givens explained how the CATE system works. When a Line Repair Unit is turned in with a 'trouble write-up,' the technicians begin by breaking out the technical orders and schematics for the unit. Through extensive testing via the CATE, the technicians are able to look up the procedures and parts that they need to repair the unit and order them. Once the part has been installed, the unit is then re-tested twice through the system for quality control and functionality.

"I love the unit, and I love what I do now," said Givens, who transferred from the United States Marine

Corps. He said that he enjoys that the job is never the same from day-to-day, and changes based on unit priorities.

He christened their shop as "the little shop that could...!" However, many customers call the 172d AIS section "the little shop that does...so much more!"



Top: Master Sgt. Alice M. Moorman points out the Central Interface Processor of the C-17 Automated Test Equipment system Nov. 6. This is in preparation for final testing of the repaired unit. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Betsy J. Winstead)

Bottom: Tech. Sgt. Sadiki A. Givens places the Heads-Up display into the Display Unit Test Set Nov. 6. The sight lines of the display must be calibrated to the center of the screen. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Betsy J. Winstead)



A HERO'S WELCOME HOME

Nichols Returns after 77 Years



Courtesy Photo

master Corps and stationed in the Philippine Islands. Their mission was to determine American and allied troop requirements, procure commonly needed items such as food, clothing and petroleum from both American and local sources, and to distribute these items effectively. Quartermaster troops also provided other essential services such as salvage, repair, laundry and graves registration.

Intense fighting erupted in the Philippine Islands on Dec. 8, 1941, when the Japanese invaded, and continued through May 6, 1942, when Corregidor fell. Thousands of U.S. and Filipino Soldiers were captured and forced to endure the Bataan Death March to a Japanese prisoner of war camp on Luzon. Nearly 2,800 of the march survivors died in the camp. Harvey Nichols was officially listed by the Army as MIA on May 7, 1942.

Camp hospital records indicate 13 American servicemen, including Nichols, and one civilian died Nov. 19, 1942, of malnutrition and medical neglect, Upton said. The men were all buried in Common Grave 717 in the camp cemetery.

After the war, the American Graves Registration Service exhumed the Cabanatuan cemetery and relocated the remains to a temporary U.S. military cemetery near Manila for identification. This resulted in several exhumations and disinterments of the Common Grave 717 group and a commingling of the remains.

Scientific analysis was not as advanced in those days and several attempts to identify the remains further complicated identification. In 2014, technicians began using DNA to identify the remains. Family members in Braxton provided DNA approximately two years ago to use as a match and resulted in Nichols' positive identification 77 years after his death.

The Mississippi National Guard Funeral Honors Detail joined family members Sept. 5 in a ceremony to celebrate his return to Mississippi at Medgar-Evers International Airport in Jackson.

Two days later, during funeral services, MSARNG 1st Sgt. Michael Nobles presented the flag to Nichols' niece, Janie Farlee, who was representing his oldest niece, Beatrice Farr, 93, who was unable to attend. Nobles also presented a flag to Patrick Sheppard, one of Harvey's nephews. Farr and Sheppard are the closest living relatives of Nichols.

The services were open to the public at the family's request and Julia Hodges, of Madison, said she was honored to be able to pay tribute to a hero on his return home.

"We don't get to see this very often," she said. "These guys died heroes. Knowing he survived the death march just to die of starvation is moving. It's very moving. It's very important we try to bring as many of these heroes home as possible."

Story and photos by Sgt. Scott Tynes
JFH-MS Public Affairs Office

Army Pfc. Harvey Nichols finally returned home from his World War II service Sept. 5, after more than 77 years. His remains were laid to rest Sept. 7, next to his mother and father in the family plot at Braxton Cemetery.

The funeral services were the conclusion of a remarkable journey for the 27-year-old combat veteran and Bataan Death March survivor.

"In my many experiences in the military, this has been the most positive one I have had the honor of assisting with," said Maj. Marilyn Upton, casualty assistance officer for the Mississippi Army National Guard. "No loss of a service member is easy. However, the closure this family has been given has been such a time of celebration."

Harvey Andrew Nichols was born April 5, 1915; died Nov. 19, 1942; and was finally laid to rest Sept. 7, 2019. The eighth of 16 children, Harvey was one of five brothers serving in the Armed Forces overseas. Harvey's brother Burley served in the same unit and is still listed as Missing In Action.

Harvey enlisted Jan. 9, 1940, into the 33rd Quarter-



Master Sgt. Marcus D. Patterson, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Military Funeral Honors Detail, salutes as Soldiers of the Mississippi Army National Guard escort the remains of Army Pfc. Harvey Nichols Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Scott Tynes)



Mississippi Army National Guard 1st Sgt. Michael Nobles presents the flag to Janie Farlee during funeral services for Army Pfc. Harvey Nichols Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019, at Braxton Cemetery. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Scott Tynes)



The remains of Army Pfc. Harvey Nichols are escorted to the funeral home by family members, law enforcement officers, and approximately 100 members of the Patriot Guard Sept. 5, 2019. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Scott Tynes)



RECRUITS GET A TASTE OF SOLDIERING AT SPARTAN FORGE 2019

Trainees with the Recruit Sustainment Program file away from a CH-47 (Chinook), flown by the Mississippi Army National Guard's 185th Theater Aviation Brigade, after unloading at a Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center drop zone Nov. 16, 2019. The trainees were participating in Spartan Forge 2019, an exercise hosted by the MSARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion to help prepare them for the rigors of basic training. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Scott Tynes)

**Story by Pfc. Christopher Shannon
102d Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

Once a year, while most people are thinking of Thanksgiving dinner and Black Friday sales, the recruits of Company B, Recruiting and Retention Battalion, are charging through Spartan Forge – an annual three-day event hosted by the company.

“This is all based on our three-tenant mission for RSP [Recruit Sustainment Program], which is to have our recruits mentally prepared, physically prepared, and administratively prepared,” said Maj. Dustin Guadagno, Company B commander. “So the first two - mentally and physically prepared - is what this weekend is all about.”

During Spartan Forge 2019, recruits are bussed to Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center from their home stations. The first people they meet are the drill sergeants. Encouraged to leave the bus quickly, they are issued any relevant gear needed for the coming days. On Saturday, they are shown the dining facility procedures at breakfast, loaded into a CH-47 Chinook helicop-

ter and flown to the main event.

“STXs [Squad Training Exercises] are the perfect vehicle to place people out of their comfort zone and to build viable leadership skills inside these recruits,” said Guadagno.

The concept for the first STX scenario is a simple reconnaissance mission leading into an assault on a target. Airsoft rifles are used by the recruits and trainers to simulate combat.

“The reason why we use airsoft rifles, and not just simple dummy weapons, is we want to make this feel as realistic as possible for them so they can actually feel that they are being shot at and they also deliver that same ammunition and fire back at an opposing force,” he said.

Each lane has Mississippi Army National Guard members playing roles from aggressors to civilian bystanders. The recruits have to determine who is a threat.

The second of four STX lanes introduces the trainees to improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Recruiters, alongside a counter IED team at Camp Shelby, confronted the future Soldiers with command explosive simulations and trip

wires while conducting a presence patrol.

In the third lane, trainees are presented with a mission to move into a village and locate a weapons cache.

“They will encounter civilians on the battlefield and will have to use them to help identify quickly where the weapon cache is. Some of those civilians may actually end up turning hostile,” Guadagno said.

Personnel recovery is the focus on the final lane.

“The scenario is a pilot has crashed and they have to recover that downed pilot,” said Guadagno. “After recovering the pilot, they must evaluate his condition, call in the nine-line medevac, and get the injured pilot to the extraction point.”

Guadagno said he hopes exposure to scenarios like those encountered during Spartan Forge will motivate the trainees to do more in preparation for the rigors of basic training. It provides a basic understanding of the types of missions Soldiers face in the real world and dispels their video game perceptions.

“A lot of these trainees have never done anything outside of playing with cell phones,” said Sgt. 1st Class Ashley Gilbert, a Company B drill sergeant. “This event as a whole will give them an overall idea of what working as a team looks like.”

Spartan Forge will help them develop tactical skills as well as give them a much needed wake-up call of what’s in store for them at those training sites, said Gilbert.

Just like homework for school, this training is a way to practice, said recruit Michelle Campbell, a Biloxi High School senior. She hopes to apply what she learned from the exercise to give her an edge over other recruits during basic and advanced training.

“I’ve never done anything like this before in a regular drill,” said recruit Kayla Wells. “You mainly just run, work out, and learn the basics; but this is real life. This is something you could use on the battlefield one day.”



Top: Drill Sergeants with the Mississippi Army National Guard welcome trainees of the Recruit Sustainment Program to Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center with a “shark attack” Nov. 15, 2019. The event was the beginning of an intense weekend of training for the recruits at Camp Shelby. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Pfc. Austin Eldridge)

Bottom: A villager distracts trainees with the Recruit Sustainment Program during a squad training exercise to locate a weapons cache during Spartan Forge 2019 at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Nov. 16, 2019. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Scott Tynes)





ARMY HR

Transitions to IPPS-A



Story by Sgt. Scott Tynes
JFH-MS Public Affairs Office

The Mississippi Army National Guard went live Nov. 18 with a system designed to revolutionize administrative actions among its more than 9,500 service members.

The Integrated Personnel and Pay System - Army (IPPS-A) is an online Human Resources (HR) system designed to provide integrated personnel, pay and talent management capabilities in a single system; a first for all Army components in the Department of Defense. It integrates more than 30 current systems, eliminating more than 300 interfaces, ensuring secure and consistent processes and data while meeting required standards.

“(Administrative management) is better now. And over time, once everyone gets used to it, it will be much better,” said Sgt. 1st Class Nilia Evans, automation and IPPS-A non-commissioned offi-

cer-in-charge.

The merging of various programs and systems has increased the speed of certain processes immensely, said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sara Smith, human resources systems branch chief. For example, she said, promoting a Soldier attached to another unit required returning them to their original unit, filing the promotion action, and then returning the Soldier back to the attached unit. Each action required a day’s delay because different systems were used and it took time for data to update.

“I can do that in five minutes now,” she said. “Some things that used to take several days to process can now be done in one day.”

More importantly, Smith said, Soldiers have more access than ever to their own records and a faster process to request changes. A mobile application will allow Soldiers to see their records, but because the system requires a Common Access Card to login, a computer is necessary for Soldiers to change information or to request changes.

“You don’t have to be on a VPN to access it,” she said. “Any computer with a CAC reader will allow Soldiers to make corrections or request changes to their records. Anything from missing awards, pay issues, name changes when someone gets married, or home of record, for just a few things, can either be made by the Soldier or requested for change through the system.”

It’s a great benefit to Soldiers, Evans said.

“I really like that this puts the power at the Soldier’s level where they can manage their own stuff,” she said.

The transition to IPPS-A was not easy, however. Smith said she began hearing about the new system approximately two years ago when she became the systems integration branch chief.

“It was very conflicting in the beginning,” she said. “They were still trying to figure out how the deployment would go and it was evolving with each state that went live.”

Currently 22 states in the National Guard are live, including the latest fielding group of Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, New Hampshire and Georgia.

“We were named Best of the Best out of the five states in our fielding group,” Smith said. “It was a lot of hard work and a lot of long hours, but I feel like the work we did on the front end is what made us so successful at ‘Go Live.’”

The IPPS-A team worked every day since the last week of September, including weekends, to prepare the state for the transition, she said. Mississippi was lauded by higher headquarters for their work, resulting in the state being the first of the three Army components to transition with a Force Management Identification rating of zero.

“Why that is so critical is because it is basically an error report on how many Soldiers would fall out of the pay system when we transitioned to IPPS-A. No errors means no pay issues,” Smith said.

Mississippi’s success in the transition has led to Smith and some of her team being tapped to assist other states in their transition as IPPS-A continues to deploy.

The next step, in fiscal year 2020, is to incorporate a one pay system, evaluation system and retention management.

“We were named Best of the Best out of the five states in our fielding group. It was a lot of hard work and a lot of long hours, but I feel like the work we did on the front end is what made us so successful at ‘Go Live.’”

- CW3 Sara Smith



Human Resources specialists train at Camp Shelby on the Integrated Personnel and Pay System-Army (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Michael Needham)



SFC Nilia (Liz) Evans works diligently on IPPSA in preparation for the official launching of the program. (U.S. National Guard photo by Amanda Kibble)

Family

IN AND OUT OF THE GUARD

Story and photos by Pfc. Jarvis Mace
102d Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The National Guard encourages Soldiers to build a close relationship with one another in order to accomplish missions more efficiently. Many times these relationships grow on to be called “military families”. So, what happens if the Soldier is actually family? Members of the

Lee-Price family, who currently serve in the Mississippi Army National Guard, are among those who can claim both.

Lt. Col. Annie Lee, the logistics officer for the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command; Sondra Price, first sergeant of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion,

198th Armored Brigade; and Sgt. Nia Davis, a human resources noncommissioned officer with 66th Troop Command, are all currently serving in the Mississippi Army National Guard. In both their military and civilian facets of life, they put the family at the center and focus on the values, experiences, and relationships they share with one another.

Lee, a native of Collins, Mississippi, is Price’s older sister and Davis’ mother. Lee said that she grew up around the Mississippi National Guard because her father, a retired staff sergeant, fought during Desert Storm. However, it was her older sister, Command Sgt. Maj. Stephanie Price, serving on active duty with the 407th Army Field Support Battalion, who ultimately influenced her decision to enlist and continue her family’s extensive military history.

“I graduated from Collins High School in 1990,” Lee said. “My older sister, [Stephanie], had already joined the Mississippi National Guard in ‘88, her senior year of high school. So, instead of going straight to college, I chose to join the Guard, also.”

With Lee and Stephanie Price both starting their military careers, it influenced their



Lt. Col. Annie Lee, logistics officer for the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command; Sgt. Nia Davis, a human resources noncommissioned officer with the 66th Troop Command; and 407th Army Field Support Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Stephanie Price, pose after Davis’ promotion ceremony Oct. 19, 2019.



Nia Davis, a human resources noncommissioned officer with the 66th Troop Command, is promoted to sergeant at the Raymond Road Readiness Center Oct. 19, 2019. Davis was pinned by her aunt, Command Sgt. Maj. Stephanie Price, brigade command sergeant major of the 407th Army Field Support Brigade.

younger sister to follow in their path.

“They are two of my biggest mentors,” Sondra Price said. “They guided me in the right direction.”

Seeing that the MSARNG offered many benefits and opportunities for success, Sondra joined shortly after her two older sisters.

“We decided at a young age that we were all going to join the military,” she said. “[We] didn’t know where it was going to take us. I’ve been in for 27 years [and] it’s been a great experience for us. Coming to the military was for the opportunity to better ourselves and to stay on a straight and narrow road.”

Sondra Price said her older sister Lee, who was her commander at one point, influenced her to grow as a leader when she served in her command.

The influence of serving in the MSARNG went into the next generation with Davis joining while still in high school.

“I knew back then that I wanted to join, because my whole family was in the military as well,” Davis said. “I really looked up to them. They did a lot of great work so I knew I wanted to do that one day.”

Davis credits her mother and aunts for encouraging her to always do the right thing and instilling the Army values in her to be the best Soldier she can be.

Sondra expects Davis, who was recently promoted to sergeant, to be a proficient leader for the future.

“I let her know as soon as she became an NCO that it’s called ‘lead by example,’” Price said. “There is no more ‘I can’t do this’ or ‘I can’t do that.’ Everything should be ‘I will do it.’ You know, I will try to do my

best at it and put my best foot forward to guide my Soldiers as well as we guided her in the right direction.”

Outside of uniform, the Lee-Price family enjoys being together and strengthening the bonds they all share.

“We love to do a lot of traveling,” Lee said. “We are a sports-oriented family, so we love to attend sporting events as much as possible.”

Lee adds that they love to cook, share fellowship, and have simple “family time,” growing and prospering together as a family in and out of uniform.



Sgt. Nia Davis, a human resources noncommissioned officer with the 66th Troop Command, stands with her platoon at the Raymond Road Readiness Center Oct. 19, 2019. Davis was promoted from specialist to sergeant during a ceremony at drill formation.

THEATER SUSTAINMENT IN CENTCOM AOR: ESC IS THE KEY

Story by Lt. Col. Andy Thaggard
184th Sustainment Command

Sustaining operations across an area as geopolitically diverse as the U.S. Central Command's requires a team effort. From December 2018 to September 2019, the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC) served as the team captain.

Deployed to Kuwait as the 1st Theater Sustainment Command's Operational Command Post (1TSC-OCP), the 184th was responsible for executing day-to-day mission command of more than 23,000 Soldiers, civilians and contractors, while sustaining four named operations spanning 20 nations, 18 languages, 22 ethnic groups and 550 million people.

"The ESC is the TSC's forward presence, our constant forward presence in the [area of responsibility] and absolutely crucial given the fact that our headquarters is split - based be-

tween Fort Knox and Kuwait," said Maj. Gen. John P. Sullivan, commanding general of the 1st Theater Sustainment Command.

The 184th ESC proved itself under Sullivan's command, but the general needed no justification since he had served with them before.

The unit was organized as the 184th Transportation Command Element from January 2005 to December 2006 and fielded two container management elements to the CENTCOM area of operations. They managed more than 141,000 shipping containers, and developed and implemented a Container Management Support Tool (CMST) - with more than 2,800 CMST users trained globally.

"I was very pleased to see some of the same individuals that we worked with back then still in the 184th. I've just been extraordinarily impressed with the professionalism, the proficiency, and the unit cohesion that, in my mind, is really the trademark of the 184th,"



Brig. Gen. Howard Geck, 103rd ESC commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Hassler, 103rd ESC command sergeant major, receive responsibility of the 1st TSC's overseas command post from the 184th ESC Sept. 3, 2019. (U.S. Army Reserve photo by Staff Sgt. Godot Galgano)



Primary and special staff of the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command gather for a picture at the conclusion of the transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Sept. 3, 2019. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Ashley Breland)

said Sullivan.

The impact of those 80 Mississippi Guardsmen, over two rotations, was measured by saving the Department of Defense more than \$173 million annually by ensuring shipping containers were properly tracked and returned to their owners - "mitigating the largest logistics crisis in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom," according to the U.S. Army's Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command.

Experience in support of the 2005 Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in Mississippi and Exercise Saber Strike 2018 in Poland, proved sustainment is something the 184th has mastered.

"From combat operations in Afghanistan; to helping the Jordanian Army professionalize their NCO corps; to medical subject matter expert exchanges in former Soviet-bloc countries - operations here never stop. And it's our job to make sure American troops, partners, and allies have what they need to do the job every day," said Brig. Gen. Clint E. Walker, 184th ESC's commanding general.

Through their most recent deployment, Soldiers of the 184th served in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and provided direct support to Task Force Sinai as the U.S. Army contingent for the Multinational Force & Observers in Egypt. The unit also led the 1st TSC's

Syrian Logistics Cell in Erbil, Iraq.

"It was really evident to me right after taking command that they are completely plugged into all of our subordinate units and what they're doing," said Sullivan. "An ESC staff that is not completely engaged can find themselves getting in the way of tactical execution of sustainment, and that is not what the 184th does. The 184th enables."

Before returning to home station, the 184th seamlessly transferred authority to the 103d Expeditionary Sustainment Command of the U.S. Army Reserve, said Sullivan.

"And that is a credit to the 184th. It gets [them] back to people focus, professionalism, knowing their business and knowing that it's not about them. It's not about any individual or any unit. It's about the mission. And, again, that's a great credit to the 184th and the culture that they have fostered, built, and continue to reinforce," said Sullivan.

The Total Army Concept was in force every day during the 1st TSC mission. All three Army components worked seamlessly with sister services, DoD agencies, and partner nations. "One Team, One Fight" was more than a mantra, it was a requirement.

"I think if you were looking at a model for how this can work at its best, this would be it here with the

TSC-ESC; complete unity of effort in executing a very difficult mission," said Sullivan.



Sgt. David Adkin, 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, talks about the dangers of heat injuries during the U.S. Central Command's Safety Fair at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, June 21, 2019. The safety fair is a highlight of the U.S. Central Command's '101 Critical Days of Summer' safety program that encourages leaders to engage with their Soldiers and to stress the importance of being safe in everything they do. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Zachary Mott)





Planned Improvements

to Readiness Centers in FY 2020

Story by Lt. Col. Deidre D. Smith
JFH-MS Public Affairs Office

Mississippi National Guard Readiness Centers across the state are projected for essential maintenance and repair projects for this fiscal year.

“Degraded facilities and critical space shortages threaten our ability to provide trained and ready forces to meet our State and Federal missions,” said Lt. Col. Kendrick Cager, director MSARNG Facilities Management Office. “Facilities and infrastructure are inherently related to the overall readiness of the MSARNG. Sustaining and improving the quality of our readiness centers are essential elements to support current and future readiness requirements.”

Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi, presented a maintenance and repair plan for various armories throughout the state to U.S. Congressman Trent Kelly and Governor-elect Tate Reeves at the Tupelo Armory Oct. 3, 2019.

During the ceremony, Boyles presented Reeves with the Mississippi Distinguished Meritorious Civilian Service Medal for his dedication and support to legislation and initiatives – providing positive impacts and

enduring support to the men and women serving in the Mississippi Army and Air National Guard.

One of the most significant accomplishments during Reeves’ time as lieutenant governor was the procurement of \$5 million in bond money for armory construction and maintenance. His efforts continued to support the MSNG with an additional \$2 million in 2019.

The maintenance execution plan stretches across 11 armories from Tupelo to Pascagoula. Repairs include bringing facilities, such as the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team armory in Amory, to proper construction code requirements. The repair of parking lots is scheduled for Newton, Picayune, Brandon, Clinton and Forest. Facility repairs are planned for the armory in Pascagoula and in Jackson at the Raymond Road and Northwest Street locations. Erosion repair is planned at Hawkins Field.

The funding to complete essential armory repairs throughout the state are made possible by the Fiscal Year 2020 State Facilities Bond, offering \$2 million in state funding support that will be matched by federal funds. A total of \$5.6 million will be reinvested throughout the state to complete the renovation and repair projects at identified armories.



Amory Armory

- Improving the HVAC, lighting and mechanical systems
- Adding a classroom, locker room and storage room
- Resurfacing and improving the parking lots
- Adding smart metering, fire sprinkler, fire alarm, and mass communication systems

Pascagoula Armory

- Repairing drainage
- Repaving the parking lot and increasing space to meet current authorization strength
- Installing new energy-efficient lighting
- Repairing or replacing ceiling tiles and paint
- Installing fire sprinkler, alarm and mass communication systems

Raymond Road, Jackson

- Upgrading to energy-efficient lighting
- Upgrading bathrooms to meet ADA standards
- Replacing and repairing flooring in various locations
- Upgrading water heaters to meet energy-efficient standards
- Replacing HVAC systems, electrical systems and windows

North West Street, Jackson

- Replacing HVAC systems
- Upgrading to energy-efficient lighting
- Replacing plumbing fixtures in the kitchen and all bathrooms
- Installing vent hood fire-suppression systems

Clinton Armory

- Repairing existing parking areas
- Constructing approximately 3,200 square yards of flexible parking to withstand light vehicle traffic
- Striping and lighting parking areas according to the Unified Facilities Criteria and MDOT standards

Tupelo Armory

- Repairing the HVAC system, bringing it up to federal standards
- Repairing and replacing ductwork to improve energy efficiency

Hawkins Field, Jackson

- Repairing erosion and drainage issues
- Stabilizing embankment areas

Newton Armory

- Expanding the parking compound approximately 2,400 square yards
- Repairing existing parking
- Installing fencing and lighting

Picayune Armory

- Resurfacing existing parking area

Brandon Armory

- Repairing existing parking area
- Constructing about 2,300 square yards of additional parking

Forest Armory

- Resurfacing existing parking area



172d Deploys to the Arctic

Special Day at McCain

Story and photos by Sgt. Scott Tynes
JFH-MS Public Affairs Office

More than 225 competitors and their families brought joy with them Nov. 8-9 when Camp McCain Training Site hosted its first Special Olympics Winter Games.

“How can you not get excited to see those smiles and hear that laughter,” said Col. Richard Weaver, installation commander.

“We will continue to come back to Camp McCain for this event as long as they will have us,” said Leigh Anne Lamm, director of finance and operations for Special Olympics Mississippi. “The first year you hold an event like this, you always have to expect the worst since you have never had the chance to work out any kinks. This was not the case for this event. The effort that Camp McCain and the Greater Grenada Partnership put into this event to make it special for our athletes exceeded expectations.”

Special Olympics is held year-round at the state and local levels, Lamm said. At the state level, the Spring Games are hosted in March, Summer Games in May, Fall Games in October, and Equestrian, Flag Football and Cheerleading in November.

In order for athletes to participate in state level events, they must first qualify in their local area. The state is broken up into 16 multi-county areas. Between the state and local level competitions, Special Olympics Mississippi holds roughly 200 competitions a year.

This year, 10 flag football and seven cheerleading teams competed at Camp McCain, near Elliott.

“It’s been amazing,” Weaver said. “We’ve been working hard to better unite the military and civilian communities here and Special Olympics has been that key to help tie us back in. We plan on making this an annual tradition.”

While November was Camp McCain’s first time to host the Games, it is not the first time the Mississippi National Guard has hosted events. Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, near Hattiesburg, has been a host for over 30 years and held their Fall Games in mid-October. The active duty component in Mississippi also gets involved with Keesler Air Force Base hosting the Summer Games.

“We love working with the military,” Lamm said. “The relationship that SOMS has with the military in Mississippi is like none other in the world of Special Olympics. This means that we are able to provide our athletes a unique experience that no other athletes are able to have.”

“Athletes find it fun and exciting to live and sleep like Soldiers because that is an experience they will never have on their own. They also love seeing members of the military in their uniforms. There is just something about this that they really enjoy. They also love when military members come and cheer them on while they are competing ”

- Leigh Anne Lamm

Director of finance and operations for
Special Olympics Mississippi



Story and photos by Spc. Jovi Prevot
JFH-MS Public Affairs Office

The 172d Airlift Wing teamed up with local charities and businesses in an effort to give 60 children a Christmas they would never forget. The Airmen graciously accomplished this mission with a “Flight to the North Pole,” boarding from Thompson Field in Jackson, Dec. 17.

The “Flight to the North Pole” has been an annual Christmas tradition for the 172d for 13 years. Each year is a little different, but children always embark on a simulated flight to “Santa’s Private Hanger” aboard a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III.

“I think that the program has grown and it has developed itself into a truly great experience for the children and parents who participate in it,” said Senior Master Sgt. Jeannine Smith, lead program coordinator, 172d Airlift Wing.

The guests of honor were not the only ones that enjoyed visiting the home of Father Christmas himself.

“We have been doing this for years and it was absolutely wonderful,” said Senior Master Sgt. Rita Fetzer, a superintendent assigned to the 172d Force Support Squadron. “The adults love it just as much as the children do.”

The event affected all those participating, from the children and the pilots, to the elves and the parents.

“I think it leaves a lasting memory, a lifetime of memories for those who participate,” said Smith. “It tends to develop in them a sense of appreciation of what others can do for someone in need.”

Once complete, the 60 Angel Tree children were transported back home to Jackson, Mississippi with a sack full of toys and books along with a new bicycle and a helmet to ride safely into the Christmas season.



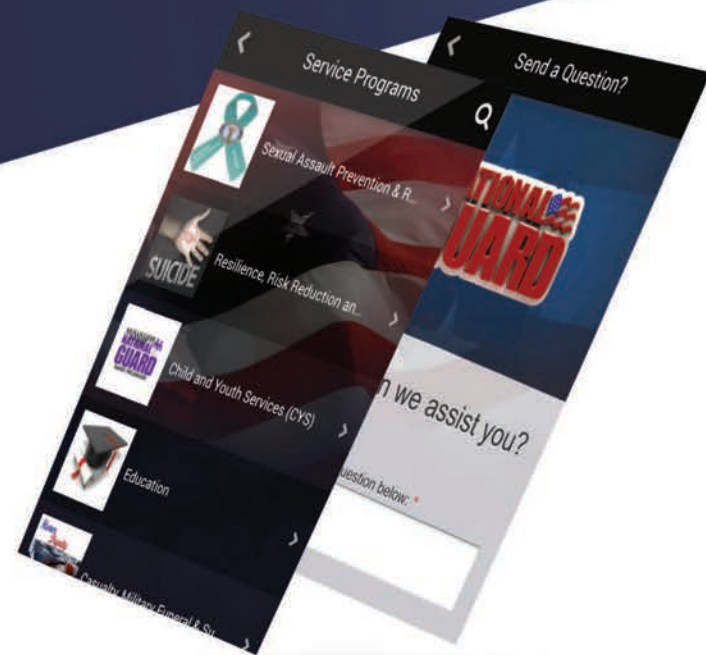
Mississippi National Guard Outreach Services Mobile App

Your one-stop-shop for Information and Resources to support MSNG Service Members and their Families.



We now have a texting feature that allows Service Members to subscribe to receive updates based on different text codes.

For example, to receive information about enlisted promotions text the code EPMG1 to 95577. See chart below for more details.



DOWNLOAD from App Store



Text Codes	Description
EPMG1	Enlisted Promotions
FRSAS	Family Readiness Support Assistant
GOARMYED	College Enrollments
GUARDOUTREACH	Outreach Services
MSNGEDU	Education Support
MSNGFAC	Family Assistance
MSNGSP	Suicide Prevention
MSNGYOUTH	Youth Services
SEAP	State Educational Assistance Program
MSNGSHARP	Sexual Harrasment-Assault Response Prevention

Text **95577** for updates.

MSNG Outreach Services, 1410 Riverside Drive Jackson, MS 39202

MISSIONS AT A GLANCE



Generations of Mississippi Army National Guard aviators pose for a photo after the retirement of Brig. Gen. Dane Powell at Hawkins Field, Jackson, Miss. Oct. 30, 2019.

Brig. Gen. Dane Powell

Retires after 33 Year Career

Story and photos by Spc. Jovi Prevot
JFH-MS Public Affairs Office

Mississippi Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Dane W. Powell, a Madison resident, has retired after nearly 34 years of service in the Mississippi Army National Guard, during a ceremony at Hawkins Field in Jackson, Mississippi, Oct. 30, 2019.

Powell's last assignment was as the state Army aviation officer (SAAO) at Joint Force Headquarters, Mississippi National Guard. In that role, he managed more than 200 full-time military and civilian personnel who support the MSARNG aviation operations throughout the country.

During the ceremony, he was promoted from colonel to brigadier general and was awarded the Legion of Merit and Mississippi Magnolia Cross Medal in recognition of his many accomplishments.

Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi, praised Powell for his time as the SAAO.

"His aviation skills are incomparable," said Boyles. "There are officers out there who are just that steady voice in the storm and we have fought through a number of issues in aviation through the years. Dane has always been a steady voice in the storm."

In his remarks, Powell thanked his extended family for the support given during

his career. He also praised the Guardsmen for the missions they accomplished in his 11-year tenure as SAAO.

"I've been fortunate to do a job every day that I love - flying," said Powell. "One of my favorite memories of the National Guard - almost too many to pick - but I enjoyed training exercises to Japan and South Korea."

For Powell, retirement is bitter sweet. "It's been great to show up every day to work for the last 30-some odd years. I've enjoyed aviation, and I'll miss it," he said.

Powell received his commission through the University of Southern Mississippi Army Reserve Officer Training Corps in December 1985 and attended flight school shortly after. He has served at every level in various units throughout the MSARNG, including serving as the executive officer of the 185th Theater Aviation Brigade during a 2004 deployment to Iraq.

Powell later commanded the 185th TAB before accepting the position as the SAAO in September 2008.

Powell's awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Mississippi Magnolia Cross, the Combat Action Badge, the Army Master Aviator Badge, the Airborne Badge and the Air Assault Badge,

among others.

Powell plans to continue his service to Mississippi even after he takes off the uniform.

"I've already stepped out in the next chapter of my life flying civilian EMS," said Powell. "I'll be working for AirCare for the University of Mississippi Medical Center."

Powell is ready for his next "assignment".

"I am looking forward to the new position with the daily ability to help those in need of air medical services," he said. "I will also get to continue flying helicopters, which is something I have a passion to do."



Dane Powell is promoted to brigadier general during his retirement ceremony held at Hawkins Field in Jackson Oct. 30, 2019.



1108th Super Ceremony

Unit Earns MUC

It was a big day for the 1108th Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group in Gulfport Oct. 18, 2019, with three concurrent ceremonies. The unit received a Meritorious Unit Commendation for their support in Operations Spartan Shield, Inherent Resolve, Freedom's Sentinel and the Multi-National Force and Observers during the period of Nov. 11, 2017, to Aug. 21, 2018. Afterwards, Lt. Col. Bradley Howe was promoted to colonel before assuming command of the TASMG from Col. Troy Flowers Jr.

Col. Flowers has transitioned into his new role as MSNG State Aviation Officer. Congratulations leaders on your new assignments and thank you for your service to the Mississippi National Guard.



114th MPs Deploy

Overseas Mission Follows Fort Bliss



Family and friends gathered at Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton, Miss. Nov. 2, 2019 to celebrate the service of the 114th Military Police Company who are preparing for deployment to the Middle East. Safe travels to the men and women of the 114th MP Co. We will see you soon. Thank you to the Family and friends who support our men and women at home and abroad. War Eagles!



Rails to Trails is officially open. For the past 9 years Camp Shelby has been working to create an outdoor running trail. This running trail utilizes the old central railroad bed that once ran through the post.

#RailstoTrails

Mississippi College

Partners With Guard

Dr. Blake Thompson, president of Mississippi College, and Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi, sign a memorandum of understanding at the Alumni Hall of Mississippi College, Nov. 1, 2019. The MOU establishes a half-tuition rate for undergraduate students and a reduced-tuition rate for graduate students, a first in the state, and is available to all Service Members and Veterans. Mississippi College also authorized its facilities for future use during drill weekends for Guardsmen.



Welcome Home

Monticello Community Greets 184th ESC



(L to R) Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Little, 184th ESC command sergeant major; Brig. Gen. Clint Walker, 184th ESC commanding general; the Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith, R-Miss; Mayor Martha Watts, Monticello; and Maj. Gen. Janson Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi, stand together following a ceremony in Monticello Dec. 7. The 184th ESC's unit colors were uncased during the ceremony, signifying their return from overseas and their move from Hattiesburg and Laurel to their new armory in Monticello.



184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command Monticello, Mississippi

- June 1921 - Organized and federally recognized in the Mississippi Army National Guard as Company G, 1st Infantry Regiment, part of the 31st Division and re-designated as Company G, 155th Infantry Regiment in December 1921.
- February 1925 - Re-designated as Company I, 155th Infantry Regiment, 31st Infantry (Dixie) Division.
- November 1940 - Mobilized into federal service at Laurel as part of the wartime buildup for World War II. The unit served in the Pacific theater, earning the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation and New Guinea (with arrowhead) campaign participation credit. The unit demobilized in December 1945.
- January 1951 – Mobilized into federal service for the Korean War. Federally recognized as Company I, 155th Infantry in January 1953 and re-designated as Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 3d Battalion, 155th Infantry, in November 1953.
- May 1959 - Consolidated with other units as Headquarters Company, 1st Battle Group, 155th Infantry; an element of the 31st Infantry Division.
- September 1962 - Mobilized into federal service as civil unrest spread throughout the South.
- May 1963 - Reorganized and re-designated as HHC, 3d Brigade, 31st Infantry Division.
- February 1968 - Converted and re-designated as HHC, 184th Transportation Command, and was relieved from assignment to the 31st Infantry Division.
- February 1972 - Reorganized and re-designated as HHC, 184th Transportation Brigade.
- December 2004 - A contingent of the 184th TCE was mobilized and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom serving as the 184th Container Management Element. Unit awarded the Army Meritorious Unit Commendation for its 2004 service in Kuwait.
- July 2006 - Reorganized and re-designated as HHC, 184th Sustainment Command.
- December 2006 - A second contingent was mobilized and deployed to provide relief-in-place. The second increment redeployed completing a two year deployment mission.
- August 2010 - Mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan, to serve as the Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan. The unit returned home in July 2011 and unit members were awarded the Joint Meritorious Unit Award.
- November 2018 - Mobilized in support of Operation Spartan Shield and deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, serving as the Operational Command Post for the 1st Theater Sustainment Command. The unit returned home in September 2019.
- March 2019 – Relocated from Laurel to Monticello.



BURNING QUESTIONS

Employment Outreach

Lt. Col. James T. Barry
Commander, 150th Engineer Battalion
Employer Outreach Coordinator

What employment assistance resources are available to assist Soldiers and Airmen with job search?

Mississippi has six Citizen Soldier for Life (CSFL) counselors throughout the state to assist Soldiers and Airmen with obtaining meaningful employment. Counselors are located at armories in Senatobia, Tupelo, Jackson, Camp Shelby, Brookhaven, and Gulfport.

What services do they provide?

- Resume & Cover Letter Development
- Interview Skills & Information
- Career Exploration
- Individual Assessment & Development
- MOS Crosswalk w/Gap Analysis
- Job Search Assistance Plan
- Employment referral with one of our employer partners
- Job Application Information & Assistance

What other services can Employment Outreach and the CSFL provide?

The CSFL counselors are available to travel to and support units during drill weekend to help identify and address unemployment issues within the formations. They also set up hiring events and job fairs with local employers at the armories.

What opportunities are there for unemployed or underemployed Service Members?

We currently have over 900 employer partners throughout the state. These employers include companies such as Yates, KLLM, Ingalls Shipbuilders, and Lowe's. KLLM has collaborated with us to provide paid training and internship programs that provide lodging during training, which culminates with a CDL and a guaranteed job. Ingalls has multiple Guard initiatives, which include free training programs and guaranteed employment upon completion.

Who do I contact for support or assistance?

For individual assistance, contact the counselor that supports the county of residence; for unit assistance, contact the counselor that supports the county in which the Armory is located. Contact information is located on the ESGR website: www.esgr.mil.



If I have a Soldier or Airman who is having issues with their employer because of Guard obligations, what should we do?

Have the Guardsman log-on at www.esgr.mil, click on the seek assistance button and open a case. It is important that the service member provides as much information as possible, including the names and contact information of representatives pertinent to the case. A trained mediator will contact the Guardsman within 24 to 48 hours. You can reach Leanne Hall, ESGR HR rep, at 601-313-6508 or leanne.y.hall.ctr@mail.mil, if you have any questions.

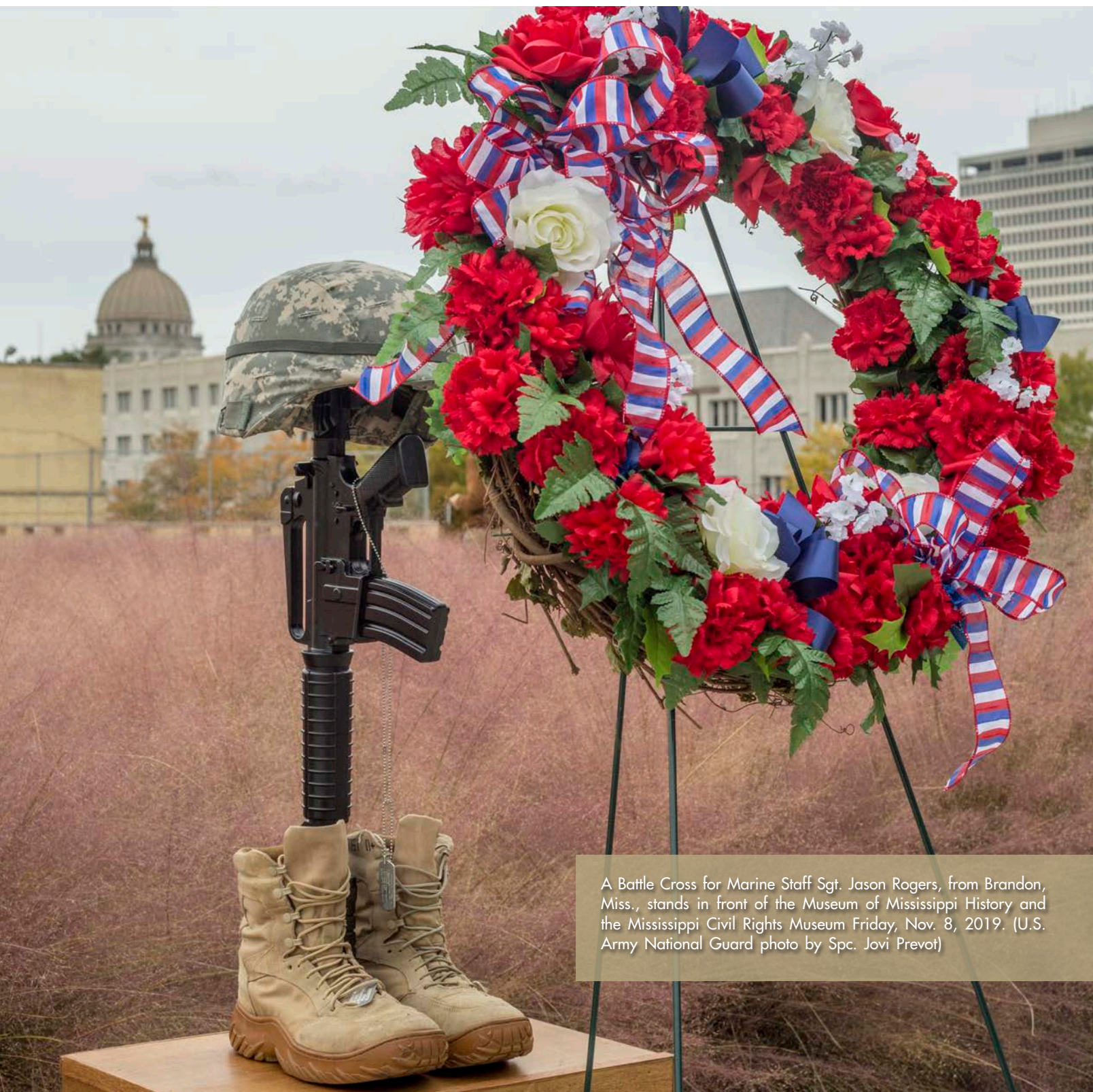
What can I do to recognize an employer for their support of the Guard?

ESGR offers a series of Department of Defense awards to honor the sacrifices made by so many employers year after year. To nominate your employer, visit our website at www.esgr.mil, then select "Employer Awards" and "Patriot Award".

What other services are available through ESGR?

Boss Lifts gain and maintain support from all public and private employers of the Guard and Reserve by inviting employers to observe their employees performing military duties. To schedule a Boss Lift, units should forward a contact roster of the employer they wish to invite, along with a tentative agenda no later than 90 days out from the event. ESGR will arrange the flight, the meals and escorts for the employers.

Joint Force Headquarters
Mississippi National Guard
P.O. Box 5027
Jackson, MS 39296-5027



A Battle Cross for Marine Staff Sgt. Jason Rogers, from Brandon, Miss., stands in front of the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum Friday, Nov. 8, 2019. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Jovi Prevot)