

SPRING 2022

GUARD DETAIL

A CHRONICLE OF THE MISSISSIPPI ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD



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The Long Road Home

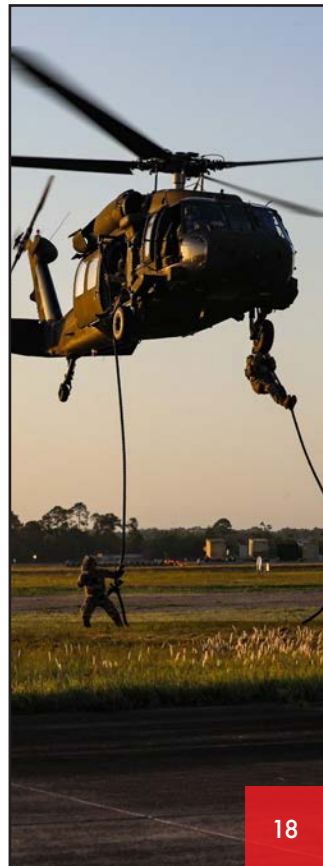
Pvt. Andrew J. Ladner, a WWII veteran killed in action in 1942, has finally returned home to Mississippi 80 years later.



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Air Guard Changes Leadership

National, state, and local leaders – along with Airmen, Soldiers, Family, and friends – gathered at Joint Forces Headquarters to witness the monumental occasion of the Mississippi Air National Guard change of command ceremony honoring Maj. Gen. Billy M. Nabors and Brig. Gen. Barry Blanchard.



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Second Decade of Southern Strike

Read about the 11th year of Southern Strike, the joint, multinational exercise hosted by the Mississippi National Guard comprised of 2,000 U.S. Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen from throughout the country.



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Best Warriors Compete

Mississippi National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, along with two competitors from Mississippi's partner nation of Uzbekistan, competed in the annual Mississippi National Guard Best Warrior Competition at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, Mar. 21-24, 2022.

The Guard Detail is the official magazine of the Mississippi National Guard. It is published three times a year with a circulation of approximately 13,250 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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All submissions should pertain to the Mississippi National Guard and are subject to editing. Contributions and reader comments should be sent to: ng.ms.msarng.list.public-affairs@army.mil.

COVER PHOTO:

An F-16 Fighting Falcon from the 100th Fighter Wing, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama, backs away from a KC-135 Stratotanker out of the 186th Air Refueling Wing, Key Field, Meridian, Mississippi, after receiving fuel during Southern Strike 2022, April 27, 2022. Southern Strike is a large-scale, joint multinational combat exercise that provides tactical level training for the full spectrum of conflict. It emphasizes air dominance, maritime operations, maritime air support, precision engagement, close air support, command and control, personnel recovery, aero medical evacuation, and combat medical support. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Wesley)

Letter From THE EDITOR INSPIRING OTHERS



2nd Lt. Desmond Jones, Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Public Affairs Officer Master's of Science Degree in Sports Science with a concentration in Sports Management, Jackson State University, Jackson, Miss.

Staff Sgt. Connie Jones, MSNG Public Affairs Specialist, NCOIC Master's of Science Degree, Clinical & Mental Health Rehabilitation Counseling, Thomas University, Thomasville, Georgia

Mr. William 'Bill' Valentine, MSNG Public Affairs Specialist Bachelor's of Arts Degree, Liberal Arts, Excelsior College, Albany, New York

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

~ President John Quincy Adams

As military service members, we are part of a unique population. We are the less than one percent of the United States' population who have accepted the challenge of military service. It truly is an extraordinary endeavor to dedicate your talents, time, and, in some cases, your life to a purpose that is greater than yourself.

As extraordinary as it is to understand the meaning of military service, it is even more extraordinary when you see your fellow service members achieve their goals, both personal and professional, especially while meeting the demands associated with military service. Success is truly a dedicated balance.

I am excited to celebrate the Mississippi National Guard State Public Affairs Team, and their recent accomplishments for personal education advancement in 2022.

Celebrating The Honorable Public Affairs 2022 Graduates:

Mr. Daniel Szarek, Deputy Director MSNG Public Affairs Master's of Science Degree in Communication with a Journalism Innovation Specialty, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York

These dynamic professionals inspire me and challenge me daily. They are dedicated members of a talented team, who always celebrate the successes of others in our organization to tell the Mississippi National Guard story through the pages of the "Guard Detail" magazine, the Governor's Annual Report, video packages, command messages, photography, and our various social media platforms.

Every member of our team has talent and skills that build on the talents of others. It is a powerful lasting impression to watch professionals challenge each other through encouragement, friendly competition, and true compassion for the success of members of their team. I encourage you to build your team with professionals that do not settle for the bare minimum but strive to thrive in their professional and personal life. Greatness truly rises in teams!

Who have you encouraged today? What goals did you set for yourself in 2022 that you are still pondering, and procrastinating on? There will never be a perfect time to go to school, to get in shape, to finish that degree, to earn a secondary military occupational specialty, or to take that next step for your career advancement. If not today, when?

Thank you Mississippi National Guard Soldiers, Airmen and Families, for your devotion to duty and continued exemplary service supporting our great State and Nation!

Lt. Col. Deidre D. Smith
Editor-in Chief



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Brigadier General Joe D. Hargett

The Soldiers and Airmen of the Mississippi National Guard continue to perform their missions with exceptional patriotism and intellect, supporting our State and Nation. I am humbled to be a small part of our great team.

Our professional military continues to meet the global challenges facing our democracy and way of life. The steadfast resilience of our service members and their Families serves as a critical component of our success. To reinforce and support team resiliency, periodically, we need to reflect on ourselves- our mental, emotional, and physical wellness.

Our service is simultaneously fleeting and enduring. Our uniformed service to the Nation is temporary and therefore fleeting. However, our efforts in training the next generation of warriors to protect our democracy and the legacy they uphold will endure the ages.

The earth's daily celestial patterns do not just mark days and years on the calendar, they represent time and forward motion. As our societies and cultures grow, so do the complexities of life. Traditionally, we engaged in warfare on land, air, and sea. Within the profession of arms, we are beginning to realize how technology drives the expansion of our warfighting domains into space and cyberspace. When used appropriately, these technological advancements offer limitless efficiencies and productivity for the common good. However, technology can conversely cause us to become unbalanced and counterproductive when they distract us from what is essential; our faith, Families, Nation, and team.

We share the burden of assuring the Nation's enduring freedom collectively and individually. The honor of

servicing our State and Nation leads to some extremely long and difficult days and the blessings of some fast years. Successfully balancing our personal lives with careers and the military requires the absolute best versions of ourselves. Three always-entwined aspects of oneself are the connection of mind, body, and spirit. We are defined by our spiritual, physical, and emotional health. We must focus on balancing the health of all of these aspects to be our best in serving our Nation, its citizens, and our Families.

Service members, especially Guardsmen, are true professionals. We execute countless missions, achieve many military accomplishments and progress in professional careers. However, military readiness and lethality require us to fight modern battles while concurrently preparing for unforeseen future challenges.

Stay focused on the total health of your Families and yourselves. Stay proactive and attuned by relentlessly planning and managing your schedules. View those situations that include personal sacrifice as the opportunities to make your organization and its people flourish. Each of you who read this short narrative have a pulse.....and therefore YOU have a purpose! A purpose for your faith, a purpose for your Family, and a purpose for your service!

Thank you to the Servicemen and women of the Mississippi National Guard, and thank you to the Families for your unwavering support of our Service members.

Joe D. Hargett
Brigadier General
Director of Joint Staff
Mississippi Army
National Guard

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



I brought my military career to a close when I retired 30 April 2022. I have had the opportunity to serve under great commanders and sergeants major who have given me great leadership. Over the course of more than twenty years, I have been around the world and back home again. I have learned in the military, men and women freely sacrifice their lives for our country and their faith in God.

The tenants of the Chaplain Corps - Nurture the living, Care for the dying, and Honor the dead. We obey and follow into battle leaders who drive us with discipline. We go without doubt or fear because our ministry is vital to the men and women of the military. Chaplains take their job serious because it is personal to us. We devote ourselves, at any personal risk, to provide freedom and liberty for our country.

Any great leader possesses dignity, courage, and self-sacrifice. At my retirement, my Family was able to meet many of the men and women that I have served with over the years. It gave them just a small glimpse of the courage and confidence I've seen in so many brave Soldiers throughout my service.

It has been my privileged to serve in many different levels from a Chaplain at a battalion to holding services at the Pentagon. If I had the chance to do it over, I would do it a thousand times again. The leadership in which I have served under has helped me grow with confidence and boldness which I have tried to pass on to my Family and all I encounter. I have a long heritage of military service in my Family; I am proud to say that we have

two sons in the service, one in the MSARNG and another at Eglin Air force Base.

I believe a great military career begins with setting the right foundation to weather many storms to come. It continues with accomplishing a simple task each day - one simple task and then another. This builds character, courage, and confidence in our lives. The simple task may seem silly or redundant, but it allows you to build confidence to accomplish larger tasks. Every one of us embarks upon a journey and our country is depending on us to complete the selfless task.

Duty, Honor and Country are words that speak of the foundation of the American Soldier. The path that we choose provides freedom and liberty, but the cost is always high. We sacrifice time away from our Families to keep our country safe and free. Everyone who chooses this path signs a blank check to provide our Families and all of America the opportunity to live in the greatest country in the world.

It has been a great honor to serve alongside so many men and women who have chosen to lead without any reservation.

CH (LTC) Madison D. Kelly
66th Troop Command Chaplain





SNAPSHOTS

U.S. Marine Cpl. Dylan Beever, a UH/AH-1 helicopter mechanic with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773 performs maintenance on a UH-1Y Venom helicopter during Exercise Southern Strike 2022 at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center, Gulfport, Mississippi, April 26, 2022. Southern Strike is a large-scale, joint and international combat exercise, which features counter-insurgency, close air support, non-combatant evacuations, and maritime special operations. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Jovi Prevot)



**SCAN
HERE**



172ND AIRLIFT WING FLIGHT MEDIC PRAISED FOR REACTION TO MOTORCYCLE CRASH



Senior Airman Abby Reid, a flight medical technician with the 183rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 172nd Airlift Wing, Jackson, Mississippi, prepares her kit aboard a C-17 Globemaster III March 6, 2022. Reid was praised for her swift reaction to a motorcycle crash she came upon in February 2022. (U.S. Air National Guard Photo by Staff Sgt. Jared Bounds)

Story by Staff Sgt. Jared Bounds
172nd Airlift Wing

Mississippi Air National Guard (MSANG) Senior Airman Abby Reid, a flight medical technician with the 183rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (AES), 172nd Airlift Wing, was recognized for her skill and selfless service after stopping to help a motorcyclist who had wrecked on Interstate 20 near the town of Lake, Mississippi, February 5, 2022.

On a cold February evening, Reid was on her way home from drill when the driver in front of her slammed on their brakes. A woman was in the middle of the highway, flagging down traffic.

"It's not every day you see something like that," Reid said. "I almost wrecked, myself, but when

I saw someone was hurt, and military members standing in the median, I knew there was no way I was going to pass by."

MSANG Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Guyse, A3 Operations Senior Enlisted Leader, 186th Air Component Operations Squadron, was offering aid alongside a Mississippi Army National Guardsman and a Sailor from Meridian Naval Air Station. The three had stopped, separately, and were directing traffic while working to keep the injured man stable.

"It was obvious his wrist was hurt," said Guyse. "He kept saying he just wanted to take a nap, but Reid wouldn't let him." Guyse said Reid immediately knew how to react to the scene. "She said she was a medic and asked if we needed help," said Guyse. "Then she rolled up her sleeves and went right to work."

MSARNG Master Sgt. Steven Davis, State Property Book Noncommissioned

Officer, Joint Force Headquarters, said his impression of Reid was one of absolute composure. "She had her assessment done, and in no time, she had control of the scene."

2nd Lt. Sam Sherrill, flight nurse and Reid's supervisor at the 183rd AES, said he was not surprised to hear of Reid's quick action and eagerness to help. "That sounds exactly like something she'd do," Sherrill said. "You can always count on her. She used a lot of the skills we train for, and it was probably second nature to her."

Aeromedical Evacuation flight medics and nurses are trained to fly and work with any crew, regardless of location or situation. "She's one of our best medical technicians," said Sherrill. "I'm extremely proud to work with her."

Reid has been a flight medical technician since joining the MSANG. "I still think it's a dream that I get to do this job," she said. "I love the way a crew works together; the cohesion." That cohesive aspect was abundantly clear to Davis and Guyse. "It was amazing," Davis said. "It was like we had all worked together before."

Guyse had time to observe Reid's technical and leadership skills as she continued to evaluate the injured man. "They teach us attention to detail from the very start, and it builds the fundamentals of your career," said Guyse. "If that cyclist was more seriously hurt, and he was going to bleed out, you need someone who knows how to go in, know what to look for, and take charge of a situation like she did."

"In the Air Guard, we train like we fight," said Reid, who had no medical gear with her as she pulled up to the scene of the wreck. "So, I had to make do with what I had: my hands and a pair of scissors."

Guyse said once Reid had finished her assessment, the impromptu medical response crew was prepared to splint the man's injured wrist with a stick and a t-shirt. "That's when the ambulance got there, and Reid told them all we had done," said Guyse. "She was speaking their language."

Reid said she inherited her passion for medicine from her grandmother. "I get to be involved in the process of taking a person from a critical place and watch them get better." Reid also takes pride in the legacy of her career field. "When someone asks me what I do in the Air Guard, the look in their eyes when I tell



Senior Airman Abby Reid, a flight medical technician, and 2nd Lt. Sam Sherrill, a flight nurse with the 183rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 172nd Airlift Wing, Jackson, Mississippi, inspect trauma response gear March 6, 2022. Reid was praised for her swift reaction to a chance motorcycle crash she came upon in February 2022. (U.S. Air National Guard Photo by Staff Sgt. Jared Bounds)



Senior Airman Abby Reid, a flight medical technician with the 183rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 172nd Airlift Wing, Jackson, Mississippi, prepares her kit aboard a C-17 Globemaster III March 6, 2022. Reid was praised for her swift reaction to a chance motorcycle crash she came upon in February 2022. (U.S. Air National Guard Photo by Staff Sgt. Jared Bounds)

"I ALMOST WRECKED, MYSELF, BUT WHEN I SAW SOMEONE WAS HURT, AND MILITARY MEMBERS STANDING IN THE MEDIAN, I KNEW THERE WAS NO WAY I WAS GOING TO PASS BY."

-SENIOR AIRMAN ABBY REID

them 'flight medic' is awesome," she said. But when it came to providing aid to a stranger on a lonely stretch of Mississippi interstate, Reid wasn't looking for accolades. Still, her poise while directing two senior noncommissioned officers would not go unrecognized.

"She never asked for recognition; never expected it," said Guyse. "It's those kinds of leaders we need right now: those who lead from the front."

Davis said Reid's capability under pressure set the tone for the improvised joint forces operation. "Army Guard, Air Guard, Navy," said Davis. "We were waiting for the Marines to show up, but

they didn't make it in time," he added.

Guyse said Reid's actions were so impactful, he felt compelled to track down her leadership at the 172nd so they could know how honorably Reid had performed. "This was after the duty day," Guyse said. "She was on her way home and could have just breezed on by, but she didn't."

At the time of this writing, Senior Airman Reid was working on her nursing associate degree, with plans to pursue a nursing bachelor's degree and commission as a flight nurse. "If you have something you can give to others, do it," she said. "Don't let anything take that mentality away from you."



THE LONG ROAD HOME

Soldiers of the Mississippi Army National Guard place a U.S. Flag on Pvt. Andrew J. Ladner's casket during a memorial service at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Long Beach, Mississippi, April 9, 2022. Ladner, 30, of Harrison County, was listed as missing in action until it was determined by scientists from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) that he was killed during World War II. After DNA analysis and extensive research, Ladner was officially accounted for at the DPAA Laboratory, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, July 9, 2021. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 2nd Lt. Desmond Jones)

Story by Lt. Col. David E. Leiva
Director of Personnel and Community Activities

Voetress Breazeale can remember when her Uncle Andrew would throw out a fishing line and collect a dozen fish in the Wolf River near her home in Lizana, a small unincorporated community just north of Gulfport, Mississippi. She can remember how nice he was, a good-looking, single, 28-year-old who volunteered to serve in the Army on Sept. 11, 1941, less than three months shy of America being forced into the war when Japanese planes bombed Pearl Harbor.

Pvt. Andrew Joseph Ladner celebrated his 29th birthday while training up the road at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. Soon after, he was amongst the first Army Soldiers to see combat in the Pacific. Ladner,

an infantryman assigned to Anti-Tank Company, 126th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Infantry Division, was one of hundreds of troops sent to augment the division before it departed. Within six months after arriving on the Island of New Guinea, he was killed by enemy fire, Nov. 30, 1942, the day after his 30th birthday.

The intensity of the fight was so severe that the 126th could not evacuate his body. Instead, he was buried approximately 26 yards off the road as the unit continued to advance in an area known as the Huggins Roadblock. Without any troops to identify where the remains of unit members were located, he and hundreds of others would stay there.

The 126th was decimated by disease and battle in the months it took to overtake fortified Japanese positions. The regiment, a mix of Wisconsin and Michigan Army National Guard troops, landed in New Guinea with 131 officers and 3,040 enlisted Soldiers. When it



Military awards are displayed on a table during a memorial service for Pvt. Andrew J. Ladner at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Long Beach, Mississippi, April 9, 2022. Ladner, 30, of Harrison County, Mississippi, was listed as missing in action until it was determined by scientists from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) that he was killed during World War II. After DNA analysis and extensive research, Ladner was officially accounted for at the DPAA Laboratory, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, July 9, 2021. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 2nd Lt. Desmond Jones)



Awards for Pvt. Andrew J. Ladner are presented to his Family during a memorial service at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Long Beach, Mississippi, April 9, 2022. Ladner was killed in action during World War II and was listed as missing until his remains were accounted for by scientists from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, July 9, 2021. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 2nd Lt. Desmond Jones)

rotated back to the division headquarters area, the regiment was left with only 32 officers and 579 enlisted Soldiers.

The Ladner Family received a government condolence letter that their son had been killed in action, but there was no body to return. The local paper wrote of the death, but the questions of how and what happened would linger in perpetuity. His parents passed away without knowing the details.

Years after the war, repatriation teams were sent to New Guinea. Remains without names were discovered, exhumed, and sent to the Philippines to be buried as unknown Soldiers in the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial. One set of remains, designated "Unknown X-1545 Manila Mausoleum," would remain there until Nov. 3, 2016, when they were exhumed and sent to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Laboratory, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, for identification.

Using modern-day DNA testing and Family samplings, Unknown X-1545 was officially given a name, Pvt. Andrew

Joseph Ladner on July 9, 2021.

In February 2022, the Army assigned a Casualty Assistance Officer from the Mississippi Army National Guard and sent him to hand deliver the news: Andrew's remains had been identified, and he was coming home.

A Southwest Airlines flight landed around 10 p.m., April 1, 2022, at Louis Armstrong International Airport in New Orleans. The pilots told passengers to remain seated and still as the Louisiana Army National Guard military funeral honors team performed planeside honors. Breazeale, now 89, walked slowly to the casket and gently placed her right hand on it before the tears flowed. It had been a long road home.

Louisiana State Troopers served as the official escort to the state line on Interstate 10, handing the mission off to Hancock County (Miss.) Sheriff's Office near Slidell. Across the many overpasses going through the towns leading to Gulfport, firefighters raised the ladder from their fire engines while running the red strobe lights.

At midnight, about 200 people still lined Crossroads Parkway leading to the funeral home. They waved flags, stood at attention, some saluted. The hearse and accompanying traveling party arrived, with Family members and a detail from the Mississippi Patriot Guards along with the Mississippi Army National Guard military funeral honors team awaiting. It was a hero's welcome.

One week later, on a sunny morning, it was time for the burial. The caravan of police vehicles, Family members, and scores of motorcycles from the Patriot Guard snaked its way along the curvy roads in Lizana toward the Wolf River Cemetery, a plot of land with deep Ladner ties.

Following Taps and the ceremonial folding of the U.S. flag, Col. Rick Weaver, commander of Camp Shelby, presented the flag to Breazeale, displaying honor and gratitude for Ladner's service to the Nation and finally bringing him home after nearly 80 years.

USING MODERN-DAY DNA TESTING AND FAMILY SAMPLINGS, UNKNOWN X-1545 WAS OFFICIALLY GIVEN A NAME, PVT. ANDREW JOSEPH LADNER ON JULY 9, 2021.



Maj. Gen. Billy M. Nabors (left), outgoing commander of the Mississippi Air National Guard, and Brig. Gen. Barry A. Blanchard, incoming commander, sits with Blanchard's wife Judy and Command Chief Master Sgt. Lynn R. Cole, State Command Chief Master Sergeant, Mississippi Air National Guard, during the opening remarks of the Mississippi Air National Guard change of command ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters, Jackson, Mississippi, March 5, 2022. Blanchard, who previously served as the Air Guard Chief of Staff, was promoted to major general following the change of command. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jared Bounds)

MISSISSIPPI AIR NATIONAL GUARD CHANGE OF COMMAND

Story by Sgt. Victoria Smith
JFH Public Affairs

National, state, and local leaders along with Airmen, Soldiers, Family, and friends gathered at Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi, to witness the Mississippi Air National Guard (MSANG) Change of Command ceremony honoring Maj. Gen. Billy M. Nabors and Brig. Gen. Barry A. Blanchard.

Nabors served an extensive military career of 38 years, with his most recent assignment as the assistant adjutant general - Air, Mississippi National Guard, for the past five years. He has served as the 186th Air Refueling Wing commander and the chief of staff for the MSANG. His total of 4,589 flight hours greatly reflects his dedication and professionalism while serving.

The ceremony celebrated Nabors' career as well as Blanchard's 30 years in the Air Force, with 18 of those years being a part of the MSANG. He has previously served as the 172nd Airlift Wing commander, the director of operations for the MSANG, and the chief of staff for the MSANG. Blanchard has also had a thriving career with more than 4,400 flight hours.

"I am happy and proud to be entrusting Brig. Gen. Blanchard with the Mississippi Air National Guard," said Nabors.

Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, adjutant general of Mississippi, hosted the change of command ceremony and thanked Nabors for his time as the ATAG - Air.

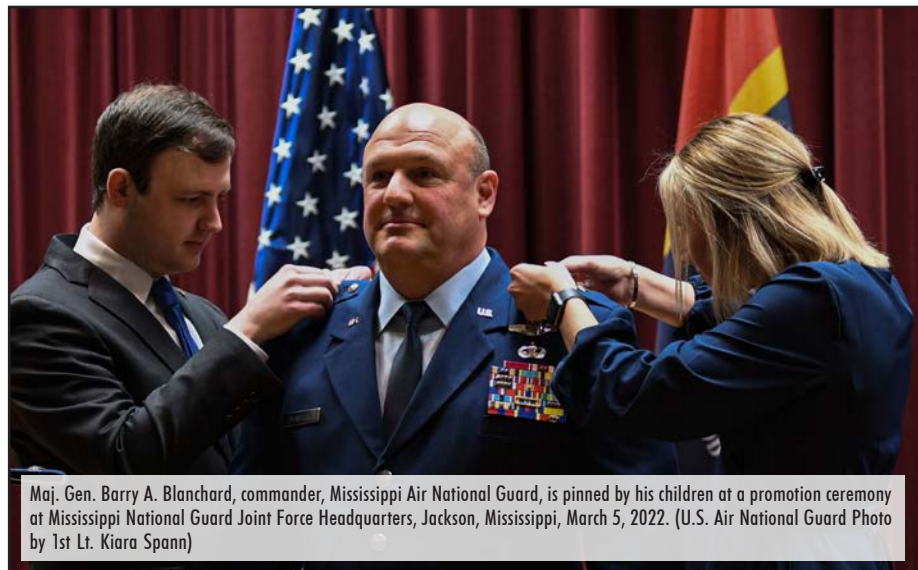
"It was a pleasure to work with Mike all these years. Thank you for your friendship and your knowledge," Boyles said.

Speaking to Blanchard, Boyles said he's looking forward to "Working with you, your friendship and your knowledge that you will bring to the table."

Blanchard was promoted to the rank of major general following the ceremony, and was pinned by his children, Jacob and Jessica, as well as his wife Judy.



Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi, passes the Air National Guard colors to Brig. Gen. Barry A. Blanchard, signifying his trust and confidence in Blanchard as the new Assistant Adjutant General - Air and commander of the Mississippi Air National Guard during a change of command ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters, Jackson, Mississippi, March 5, 2022. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jared Bounds)



Maj. Gen. Barry A. Blanchard, commander, Mississippi Air National Guard, is pinned by his children at a promotion ceremony at Mississippi National Guard Joint Force Headquarters, Jackson, Mississippi, March 5, 2022. (U.S. Air National Guard Photo by 1st Lt. Kiara Spann)

MSANG PROMOTES EVANS TO BRIGADIER GENERAL

Story by 1st Lt. Kiara Spann
172nd Airlift Wing

Col. Edward H. Evans, Jr., the Mississippi Air National Guard (MSANG) chief of staff, has made history on the heels of Black History Month.

Evans, the grandson of Tuskegee Airman, retired Master Sgt. Sidney L. Evans Sr., became the first African American to be promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the MSANG.

"I'm truly honored; I'm humbled and extremely overwhelmed at the honor of this position, and especially grateful for my promotion to brigadier general," said Evans. "For the past several months, I've been overflowing with gratitude and thanks to all who made today possible. I look forward to serving my new commander and supporting his priorities as he leads the Mississippi Air National Guard."

The Gulfport native received his commission in 1992 as a graduate of the Reserve Officers Training Corps program at Mississippi State University. He entered the Air Force in 1993 as a Civil Engineer in the 2nd Civil Engineer Squadron located at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. In 1997, Evans returned to Mississippi as a pilot candidate at the 172nd Airlift Wing.

"He is a great leader and we're looking forward to challenging him further to not only advance his career, but to improve on what we have already accomplished in the Mississippi Air National Guard and the Mississippi National Guard," said Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi.

Evans has been a trailblazer his entire career. While at MSU, he was selected as the outstanding cadet in his ROTC summer camp. In his first three years of



Brig. Gen. Edward H. Evans, Jr., chief of staff, Mississippi Air National Guard, and the first African American Mississippi Air National Guard member to be promoted to the rank of brigadier general, receives his cover from his daughter during his promotion ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters, Jackson, Mississippi, March 5, 2022. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Kiara Spann)



Brig. Gen. Edward H. Evans, Jr., chief of staff, Mississippi Air National Guard, and the first African American Mississippi Air National Guard member to be promoted to the rank of brigadier general, is presented with his command flag during his promotion ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters, Jackson, Mississippi, March 5, 2022. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Kiara Spann)

service at Barksdale AFB, he was chosen as the mission support group commander's company grade officer of the quarter five times out of 12 quarters. He left that base as a Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award nominee. In 2005, he commanded the last flight out of Rhein-Main Air Base in Germany.

Evans has had the unique opportunity to serve in both of the state's Air National Guard Units: the 172nd Airlift Wing in Jackson and the 186th Air Refueling Wing in Meridian, Mississippi.

"As all good leaders know, sometimes you lead where you expect to lead, and sometimes, you're chosen to lead somewhere else; great leaders always answer the call

wherever they're needed," said Maj. Gen. Barry A. Blanchard, assistant adjutant general-Air, Mississippi National Guard. "As standard with Ed, everywhere he goes, he leaves the organization in better shape than what he found it. He leaves it ready and poised for continued success."

Evans closed out the ceremony with his vision for the future - "As I embark on this new position, I look forward to working with the staff and supporting Maj. Gen. Blanchard," he said. "Our mission is to fly, fight and win, anytime, anywhere. So let's get to work, let's get back to readiness, developing our people and protecting our assets."

MSNG SOLDIER HONORED BY FAMILY DONATION TO CHAPLAIN'S WELL



Story by Lt. Col. Deidre D. Smith
MSNG Director of Public Affairs

The 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery Regiment (FA), headquartered in Starkville, hosted a remembrance ceremony at the Camp McCain Training Center in honor of Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Keane, Feb. 18, 2022. During the ceremony, the Keane Family presented a monetary donation to support the needs of Mississippi Army National Guard Soldiers through the Chaplain's Well and the Mississippi Military and Family Emergency Relief Fund.

Paul Keane, father of Christopher Keane, described the support for his family that they received from the unit after his son's passing.

"Over 70 Soldiers from the 2nd of the 114th attended my son's funeral on Veteran's Day in Waynesboro. The funeral director said this was the most Soldiers he had ever seen attend a funeral in dress uniform. Capt. Sellers made sure the Mississippi National Guard 'Honor Guard' was at my son's funeral and there are only two 'Honor Guard' teams in the state. ... after everything the 114th has done for us, how could we not give back," said Paul Keane.

In honor of Keane, his siblings, father Paul and mother Doris, presented a generous donation for \$25,000 – with \$15,000 specifically dedicated to the emergency relief needs of the 2-114th



Doris and Paul Keane of Waynesboro, Miss. presented a monetary donation to Chaplain Terry Partin, state chaplain, Mississippi National Guard at Camp McCain Training Center, Mississippi, Feb. 18, 2022. The donation is dedicated to the Chaplain's Well Relief Fund, designed to assist Mississippi Soldiers and military Families during times of natural disasters or unforeseen needs, especially during military deployments. (US Army National Guard Photo by Lt. Col. Deidre Smith)

Field Artillery Regiment and the remaining \$10,000 made available to all Mississippi National Guard Soldiers and Airmen through the Mississippi Military and Family Emergency Relief Fund. This fund is dedicated to assist Families of Mississippi National Guard service members during times of natural disasters and unforeseen emergencies, especially during deployments.

Capt. Richard Sellers, headquarters and headquarters detachment commander of the 2-114th, described Keane as a subject matter expert in his field and a beloved member of the team.

"The words you heard here today about Sgt. 1st Class Keane were genuine and heartfelt. Everyone loved him and he was great at his job," said Sellers. "He is missed."

Sellers shared an excerpt from Michael Alexander's book "Risen from Ashes" aptly named "The Viking Prayer" in remembrance of Sgt. 1st Class Keane, "Lo, they do call to me. They bid me take my place among them, in the halls of Valhalla, where the brave may live forever!"

"Chris was part of this group who joined after 9-11," said Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi. "When you join the military and you put on the uniform after 9-11, you know you are going somewhere. That possibility is very real. Never let your commitment of service to the Mississippi National Guard and to the United States Army be lost in that."

The Keane Family and the Soldiers of the 2-114th FA celebrated the legacy of military service of a beloved friend and cherished member of their team. The remembrance ceremony concluded with fellow Soldiers sharing stories with the Keane Family of his military service and the memories of a life-long brother-in-arms.

The Mississippi National Guard's Chaplain's Well and Mississippi Military and Family Emergency Relief Fund are non-profit funds designed to assist Soldiers and Families. Donations can be made through Mississippi State Tax Return or by contacting the Mississippi National Guard Chaplain's Office at 601-313-6226.

MILITARY POLICE EXCHANGE EXPERTISE WITH STATE PARTNERS

Story by Sgt. Taylor Cleveland
102d Public Affairs Detachment

Military Police from the Mississippi Army National Guard and Security Forces from the Mississippi Air National Guard conducted a Military Police Subject Matter Expert Exchange at the Protection Branch of Bektemir District in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, March, 28-31, 2022. A subject matter expert exchange is an exercise where military branches exchange information about how their job functions.

"The state of Mississippi is partnered with Uzbekistan and Bolivia. We've been a partner with them since 2012 and that's where our opportunity came from, to do these exchanges with the Uzbekistan Military," said Capt. Margaret Krisle, 184th Sustainment Command, Mississippi Army National Guard.

During this mission, Mississippi Guardsmen were able to work with the National Guard of the Republic of Uzbekistan, focusing on alternative methods of protection. The training consisted of classroom lectures in the morning and physical exercises in the afternoon.

"Last year was the first time we did an exchange with the Uzbekistan National Guard Service Protection team and that was our baseline because we didn't know what to expect or where they were with their training and experiences," Krisle said. "So this year, we did a small baseline using law enforcement, protective service detail, combatives, and basic military tactics since this was a different group of individuals. We exchanged ideas and practices of both MSNG and Uzbekistan National Guard and observed how they interacted with each other."

Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi, and Brig. Gen. Michael Cleveland, commander of the 66th Troop Command, visited Uzbekistan for a senior leader visit during the week of the exchange.

"The obvious highlight would be that our adjutant general as well as their commanding general were able to visit during our exchange and were able to witness that relationship that we built in



U.S. Army Capt. Margaret Krisle, bilateral affairs officer with the 184th Sustainment Command, demonstrates the steps on how to handcuff a subject at the Protection Branch of Bektemir District, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, March 28, 2022. Service members of the Mississippi National Guard conducted a Military Police Subject Matter Expert Exchange with Mississippi's state partners in Uzbekistan. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Taylor Cleveland)



Soldiers with the National Guard of the Republic of Uzbekistan practice arresting procedures at the Protection Branch of Bektemir District, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, March 29, 2022. Service members of the Mississippi National Guard conducted a Military Police Subject Matter Expert Exchange, an exercise where military branches exchange information about how their job functions. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Taylor Cleveland)

just a few days," said Krisle. "It seemed as though both were very impressed, and we were very grateful for the opportunity to be able to showcase this exchange while they were doing a senior leader visit."

The Mississippi State Partnership Program works closely with the National Guard of the Republic of Uzbekistan and plans to continue Subject Matter Expert Exchanges in the future.

"Our exchange with them was beneficial

for both sides. They are very skilled in hand-to-hand combat and weapon retention," Krisle said. "We were able to learn from them and practice hand-to-hand combat and we were also able to explain [noncommissioned officer] and officer professional development. It was good for both sides to be able to see each other's daily routine during the training opportunities that we had."

HARGETT PROMOTED TO BRIGADIER GENERAL

Story by Staff Sgt. Connie Jones
JFH-MS Public Affairs Office

Col. Joe D. Hargett was promoted to the rank of brigadier general while surrounded by senior leadership, service members, friends and Family at Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi, Dec. 2, 2021.

“Joe is stepping across a very important threshold today. A threshold of leadership that we are all going to embrace and support him in,” said Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi.

Hargett has served in the military for over 34 years. His extensive career began as a military police officer, serving with the 112th Military Police Battalion, Mississippi Army National Guard, and mobilizing with them in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He shifted his career path to become an Army Engineer officer in 1994, mobilizing in 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He mobilized in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in 2005, and in 2008, mobilized once again in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles (left), the adjutant general of Mississippi, and Pam Hargett pin the rank of brigadier general on Joe D. Hargett, the director of joint staff for the Mississippi National Guard, during a promotion ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi, Dec. 2, 2021. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Mr. Justin Dixon)



Brig. Gen. Joe D. Hargett, the director of joint staff for the Mississippi National Guard, stands with his wife, Pam, following his promotion ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi, Dec. 2, 2021. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Mr. Justin Dixon)

Hargett assumed command of the 168th Engineer Brigade in 2012, where he remained for the next three years. His next big accomplish came when he was selected to serve as the Chief of Staff for the Mississippi National Guard in October 2018, after which he was nominated for promotion to brigadier general in 2021 and assigned as the director of joint staff, Mississippi National Guard.

“Joe translates his leadership and warrior skills, not only on a deployment or in combat, but he also brings that skill-set to his everyday job,” said Boyles. “Not only was he a great leader in combat, but he also has mastered the business of the National Guard.”

In his role as the director of joint staff, he is responsible for supervising and directing the MSNG’s staff and managing budgets and resources for three training installations and all significant MSNG programs. Additionally, Hargett oversees

the development and coordination of all policies, plans, and programs of the Mississippi National Guard.

“We’re all one team and that’s the important thing that I would ask you to remember about what we do,” Hargett said during his first speech as a general officer. “The strength of our Nation lies within our services. The strength of our services lies within the Soldiers and Airmen. The strength of our service members lies within our Families. It’s all about being one Nation.”

Community, teamwork, and unity were the overarching themes of Hargett’s message. He is proud to continue to serve the men and women of Mississippi.

“I am so humbled to have this opportunity to serve a great state and Nation and to serve the Soldiers and Airmen of the Mississippi National Guard.”

CSM MASTERSON NAMED STATE CSM

Story by Staff Sgt. Connie Jones
JFH-MS Public Affairs Office

Command Sgt. Maj. Darrell Masterson assumed the role of State Command Sergeant Major of the Mississippi Army National Guard from Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Young in a change of responsibility ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi, Jan. 7, 2022. Maj. Gen. John Trent Kelly, assistant adjutant general - Army, Mississippi National Guard, presided over the ceremony.

“[Young] has been a great [noncommissioned officer] since the time that I’ve known him,” said Kelly. “He’s been a tremendous Soldier. He’s one that his peers look to for advice. His superiors or those charged over him know they can rely on him to give them good information to make decisions and to guide them in those decisions.”

Kelly congratulated Young on a job well done and said he looked forward to working with Masterson and welcomed the fresh insight.

Young, who has known Masterson for years, felt his selection was a good one for the organization.

“The Mississippi National Guard, as a whole, is a better place with you here. [Masterson] cares as much about the units as he cares about himself,” Young said.

In his new role, reporting directly to Kelly, Masterson plans to look after the well-being of the Guardsmen.

“The number one thing is taking care of the enlisted Soldiers,” said Masterson. “We look at pay, bonuses, promotions, just the general welfare of our enlisted Soldiers and our noncommissioned officers. We want to be sure that Soldiers are given everything that’s entitled to them.”

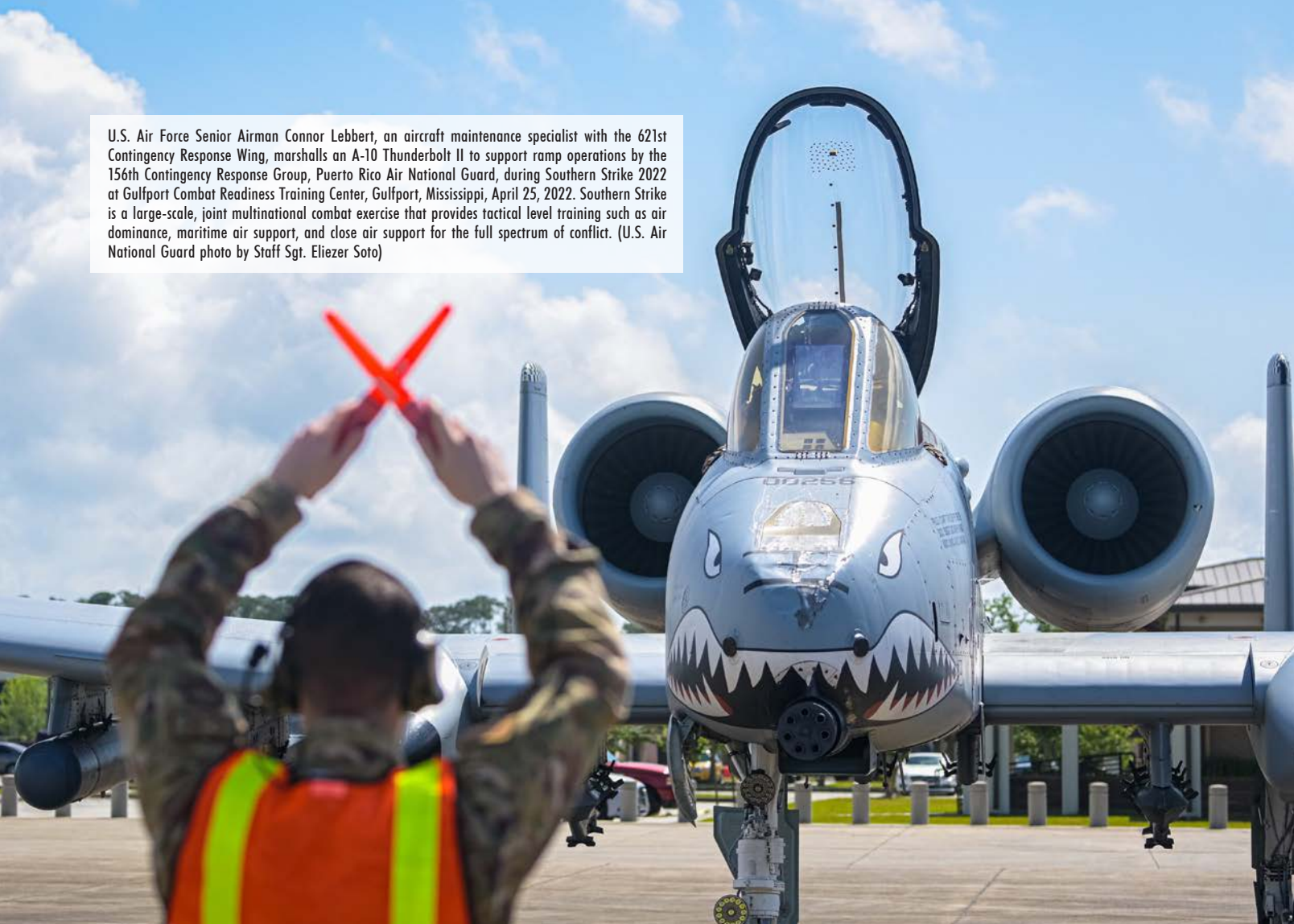
Masterson also shared his gratitude for this unique opportunity he’s been striving for since day one.

“I’m very grateful for the opportunity to serve as the state command sergeant major,” said Masterson. “It has been a goal of mine since I joined the military and fortunately things worked out great. I’ve worked hard for the Soldiers throughout my career and my thought process has always been that as you move up, you work for more people. My philosophy is that I work for every Soldier in the state of Mississippi.”



From left, Command Sgt. Maj. Darrell Masterson, incoming command sergeant major of the Mississippi Army National Guard, Maj. Gen. John Trent Kelly, assistant adjutant general - Army, Mississippi National Guard, and Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Young, outgoing command sergeant major, stand together during a change of responsibility ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters, in Jackson, Mississippi, Jan. 7, 2022. (Courtesy photo)

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Connor Lebbert, an aircraft maintenance specialist with the 621st Contingency Response Wing, marshalls an A-10 Thunderbolt II to support ramp operations by the 156th Contingency Response Group, Puerto Rico Air National Guard, during Southern Strike 2022 at Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center, Gulfport, Mississippi, April 25, 2022. Southern Strike is a large-scale, joint multinational combat exercise that provides tactical level training such as air dominance, maritime air support, and close air support for the full spectrum of conflict. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Eliezer Soto)



SOUTHERN STRIKE 2022

Story by Sgt. Jovi Prevot
JFH-Gulfport CRTC Office

More than 2,000 U.S. Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen from throughout the country gathered at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) for Exercise Southern Strike 2022.

This marks the eleventh year Southern Strike has been hosted at the CRTC.

“Southern Strike is a joint, multinational exercise hosted by the Mississippi National Guard right here at the CRTC in Gulfport, Mississippi, with over 2,000 service members across all branches,” said Col. Andrew Rendon, director of Exercise Southern Strike 2022.

“We conduct a full spectrum of operations including counter-insurgency,

non-combatant evacuation, maritime operations, special forces operations, and conventional operations,” he said.

With a diverse selection of training areas, Mississippi is the perfect place for an exercise like Southern Strike, but this exercise also allows Mississippi to show off its charm.

“Any time we do a military exercise, it benefits the state in a number of ways,” said Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi. “This exercise introduces the men and women who we are bringing in here to do the training, to Mississippi. It shows them our hospitality,

and what a great state we are.”

Hospitality strengthens partnerships, and partnership is a major theme of this exercise.

“We are better prepared for our combat mission if we bring in partners from across the services. In this exercise we have Navy and Marines working side by side with the Army National Guard, Air

“IT SHOWS THEM OUR HOSPITALITY, AND WHAT A GREAT STATE WE ARE. HOSPITALITY STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIPS, AND PARTNERSHIP IS A MAJOR THEME OF THIS EXERCISE.”

-MAJ. GEN. JANSON D. BOYLES

National Guard, Active Air Force and Army along with Reserve forces,” said Boyles.

“We’ve got 20 states represented here. We have a total of about 33 Air National Guard and 20 Army National Guard units working here and then we supplement that with active duty partners,” he said.

In addition to U.S. Forces, international partners also took part in this exercise.

“We are always inviting international partners to come here to train with us and they get a lot of benefit out of seeing how we deploy our operators,” said Boyles. “Uzbekistan is here; they are a strategic partner for Mississippi and we train with them on a number of occasions over the course of any year.”

Being able to work cooperatively with partner forces is important on the battlefield, particularly in the case of peer-to-peer conflicts.

“Working across the joint branches to develop relationships and learn each and every one of our functional areas boosts our ability to fight in a large-scale combat operation, and it is really exciting to be able to have that opportunity right here in Gulfport, Mississippi,” said Rendon.

The joint training was primarily concentrated on events in Mississippi. Each event and location was tailored to a specific training objective.

“At the CRTC, we focused on aviation operations, both Air Force and Army, rotary wing and fixed wing operations,” said Rendon. “We also had operations that took place across three states at different training facilities including Camp Shelby, Meridian Naval Air Station and Avon Park, Florida.”

This year’s Southern Strike exercise added numerous events focused on specific obstacles.

“I think the exercise went very well this year. I asked the staff very early on to incorporate some new concepts as we turn to a near-peer and peer-to-peer focus,” said Maj. Gen. Barry A. Blanchard, assistant adjutant general and commander, Mississippi Air National Guard.

“I asked the team to incorporate some new concepts differently than from how it operated in the past so we could start sharpening our skills on new concepts for a peer-to-peer fight and incorporate those concepts into the exercise,” he said.

One concept added to Southern Strike this year was Agile Combat Employment or ACE.



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi, hosts partner nation Uzbekistan leadership during Southern Strike 2022 at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center, Gulfport, Mississippi, April 28, 2022. Southern Strike is a large-scale, joint multinational combat exercise hosted by the Mississippi National Guard that provides tactical level training for the full spectrum of conflict. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Renee Seruntine)



U.S. Air Force Tech Sgt. Barry Knight, a boom operator with the 153d Air Refueling Squadron, 186th Air Refueling Wing, watches as an F-16 Fighting Falcon from the 100th Fighter Wing, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama, backs away from a KC-135 Stratotanker out of the 186th Air Refueling Wing, Key Field, Meridian, Mississippi, after receiving fuel during Southern Strike 2022, April 27, 2022. Southern Strike is a large-scale, joint multinational combat exercise that provides tactical level training for the full spectrum of conflict. It emphasizes air dominance, maritime operations, maritime air support, precision engagement, close air support, command and control, personnel recovery, aero medical evacuation, and combat medical support. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Wesley)

“In this year’s Southern Strike, we were able to exercise agile combat employment which is the Air Force’s new concept for employing forces into combat,” said Col. Bryce Butler, deputy director of Exercise Southern Strike 2022. “We were able to stress our Airmen. We put them to the test to grow them in their capabilities and be able to execute this type of mission.”

Even with new mission objectives, the highlight of the exercise was the strengthened capacity for joint operations.

“One of the primary training objectives is the relationship that we are going to improve and develop across the joint spectrum between the Navy, Air Force, Army and the Marines with both reserve and active components,” said Rendon. “Through Southern Strike we have strengthened those relationships, which means that we will be successful later to go out, fight and win our nation’s wars.”



Spc. Brandon R. Glissen works his way across a rope during the Mississippi National Guard Best Warrior Competition at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, March 21, 2022. Soldiers and Airmen selected from units across the state competed along with Soldiers of MSNG's partner nation, Uzbekistan. The BWC included the Army Combat Fitness Test, a challenging obstacle course, individual medical tasks, various warrior tasks, a written exam, a ruck march and a night land navigation course. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Shane Hamann)

MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION 2022

Story by Staff Sgt. Renee Seruntine
102d Public Affairs Detachment

On a crisp, sunny morning in southern Mississippi, National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, along with two competitors from Mississippi's partner nation of Uzbekistan, competed in the annual Mississippi National Guard Best Warrior Competition at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, March 21-24, 2022.

"The Best Warrior Competition is a state-wide event we do on a yearly basis," said Command Sgt. Maj. Silvester Tatum, senior enlisted leader of the Mississippi National Guard. "They go out and test their abilities and training to see how far they can go and then move on to the next level."

The competition consists of several events, including weapons qualification, an obstacle course, the Army combat fitness test (ACFT), a land navigation course, board interviews, a written exam, a 12-mile ruck march, and warrior tasks and battle drills related to today's operating

environment. Each Soldier and Airman had to successfully complete events for points toward their overall score.

"It's a lot of fun," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Cook, 154th Regiment Regional Training Institute, winner of the noncommissioned officer category. "You come out of your comfort zone and you get to compete against people that may be considerably better than you at some things and you also get to teach them the things that you're really good at; it's a lot of sharing of information."

There were eight total competitors who represented their units as they each showcased their competence in their fields.

"They've made this competition fun but challenging," said Spc. Riley Glissen, 223rd Engineer Battalion, 184th Sustainment Command, winner of the enlisted category. "We're competing against each other and having fun at the same time, keeping each other motivated."

It takes months of hard work, physical training, studying and discipline to prepare for this challenging competition.

The competitors are skilled and prepared to meet the challenges presented head-on in each event.

"Soldiers have to go through mentoring as far as preparing themselves to go out for the ruck march, the physical fitness test, weapons qualification and a few other challenging things they normally do to prepare for the competition," said Tatum.

These Soldiers and Airmen said they learned a lot about themselves mentally, physically and emotionally in the process. Through the intensive preparation and spirited competition, they became better leaders and will continue to push themselves to improve.

"The overall importance of the competition is so Soldiers can test their abilities to be able to move on further," added Tatum. "If they want to attend Ranger school or airborne school, that is something that we can provide here in the Guard for them to move up to the very next level in their careers."



Staff Sgt. Christopher Cook and Spc. Brandon R. Glissen, winners of the Noncommissioned Officer and Enlisted categories, stand after being honored during the awards ceremony for the Mississippi National Guard Best Warrior Competition 2022 at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, March 24, 2022. Cook and Glissen will go on to represent the MSNG in the Region III BWC 2022 in Camp Blanding, Florida. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Shane Hamann)



A Mississippi National Guard Soldier dons a gas mask during the Mississippi National Guard Best Warrior Competition 2022 at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, March 21, 2022. The BWC included the Army Combat Fitness Test, a challenging obstacle course, individual medical tasks, various warrior tasks, a written exam, a ruck march and a night land navigation course. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Shane Hamann)



Command Sgt. Maj. Silvester Tatum, the senior enlisted leader for the Mississippi National Guard, stands with Soldiers of the Republic of Uzbekistan during the awards ceremony for the MSNG Best Warrior Competition 2022 at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, March 24, 2022. Soldiers and Airmen selected from units across the state competed alongside Soldiers of our partner nation, Uzbekistan. The BWC included the Army Combat Fitness Test, a challenging obstacle course, individual medical tasks, various warrior tasks, a written exam, a ruck march and a night land navigation course. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Shane Hamann)

184TH CHANGE OF COMMAND



Col. John C. Nipp (center), incoming commander of the 184th Sustainment Command, accepts the command colors from Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi, during a change of command ceremony held at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, April 22, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Veronica McNabb)

Story by Staff Sgt. Connie Jones
JFH-MS Public Affairs Office

Brig. Gen. Jonathan “Scott” Hubbard relinquished command to Col. John C. Nipp during the 184th Sustainment Command change of command ceremony at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training

Center, Mississippi, April 22, 2022.

“I am humbled to be considered for this position,” said Nipp. “The 184th is such a historic, traditional unit. I am proud to be a part of an organization with such great leaders and I’m grateful to Maj. Gen. Boyles for the opportunity.”

Nipp has served for over 30 years, beginning with five years of active-duty service. He spent his next 20 years climbing the ranks of leadership in the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, which is where he met Hubbard.

“We deployed as battalion commanders in the 155 in 2010 and we got to know each other during that time,” Nipp said. “Within the 155, I’ve served in various capacities, and I’ve served at the brigade headquarters level as the operations officer and the executive officer.”

Nipp spoke of his command objectives during the ceremony and placing Soldiers first is at the top of the list.

“Our Soldiers must be our first priority



From left, Brig. Gen. Jonathan “Scott” Hubbard, outgoing commander of the 184th Sustainment Command, Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi, and current commander of 184th Sustainment Command, Col. John C. Nipp during a change of command ceremony held at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, April 22, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Veronica McNabb)

and leaders must balance our Citizen Soldiers’ roles with training readiness. As we integrate our People First strategy, we must find the correct balance between readiness and personnel tempo.”

ARMY RECRUITERS WELCOME NEW COMMANDER

Story by Mr. Bill Valentine
JFH-MS Public Affairs Office

Lt. Col. Andrew Adcock assumed command of the Mississippi Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion from Lt. Col. Adam Harris during a change of command ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi, March 16, 2022.

During his command of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Harris led 153 full-time personnel who shared the daunting task of covering over 48,000 square miles of communities throughout Mississippi in search of new recruits.

“We’ve done a lot of work but there is a lot of work yet to be done,” Harris said to the audience of recruiters. “We still need you out there doing the work to keep this National Guard going and to keep this state moving forward just as those before us did.”

Adcock brings a tremendous amount of experience to the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, spending nearly three years as the commander of Headquarters



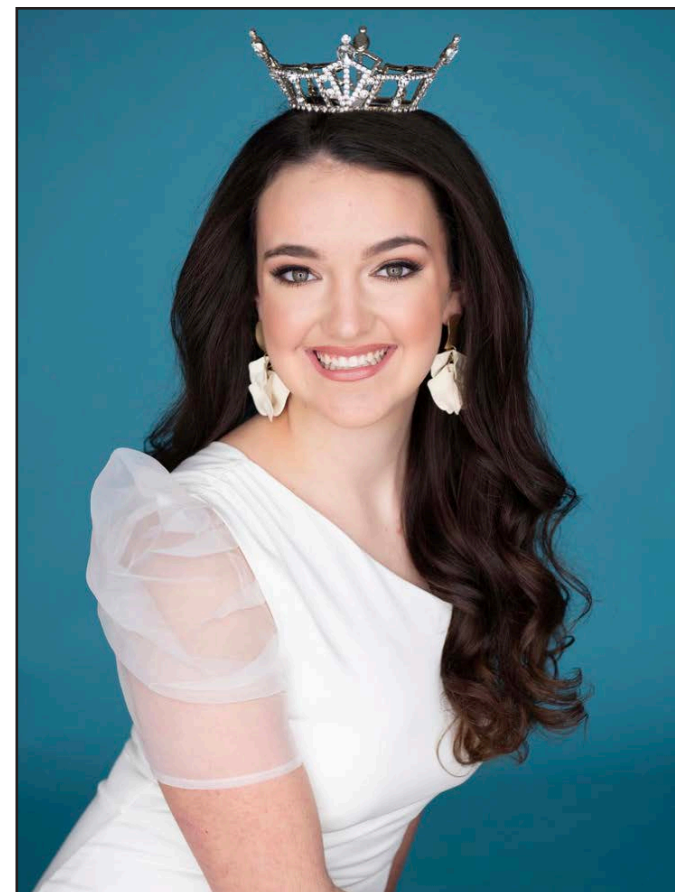
Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Wilson (left), command sergeant major of the Mississippi Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion, receives the guidon from Lt. Col. Andrew Adcock, incoming commander of the R&R Battalion, during a change of command ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi, March 16, 2022. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. D’Markus Burrell)

Company, 184th Sustainment Command and recently relinquished command of the 102d Public Affairs Detachment after serving from 2018 to 2021.

“Lt. Col. Adcock’s experience and diverse skillset makes him the right choice for this command going forward,” said Brig. Gen. Joe Hargett, director of joint staff for the Mississippi National Guard.

Adcock plans to align his priorities with Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi, in order to continue the mission of recruiting and retaining quality Soldiers.

“Recruiting and retention is one of the adjutant general’s top priorities and I’ll do my best to do my duty and exceed all expectations,” said Adcock. “Soldiers are our greatest resource and every Soldier is a recruiter. We are always on the hunt for new and energized members of the team. If anyone is interested in a career working with the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, they should give us a call.”



Anna Kate Ratcliffe, Miss Riverbend’s Outstanding Teen and daughter of Lt. Col. Andrew Ratcliffe, commander of Mississippi Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot. Anna Kate chose to bring awareness to Mississippi’s ‘Our Military Kids’ program as her initiative during her run for Miss Mississippi’s Outstanding Teen. (Courtesy photo)



Anna Kate Ratcliffe, Miss Riverbend’s Outstanding Teen, stands with a class for a photo at Gulfport Elementary School. (Courtesy photo)



Lt. Col. Andrew Ratcliffe, commander of Mississippi Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot, stands with his daughter, Anna Kate Ratcliffe, Miss Riverbend’s Outstanding Teen, following a parade. (Courtesy photo)

MISS RIVERBEND’S OUTSTANDING TEEN PROMOTES MILITARY KIDS PROGRAM

Story by Staff Sgt. Connie Jones
JFH-MS Public Affairs Office

Military Families are the backbone of support for all that service members do. They sacrifice more than most realize. Every time their loved ones deploy or conduct mandatory inactive duty training, also known as “drill,” they tend to miss birthdays, holidays, award presentations, and other life events. The National Guard proudly offers programs to assist families and children during these times. Anna Kate Ratcliffe, Miss Riverbend’s Outstanding Teen and a military teen herself, decided to bring light to one such program.

“As a part of the Miss America organization, more specifically the Miss Mississippi and Miss Outstanding Teens Programs, part of being a titleholder is

having a Social Impact Initiative, or a platform,” said Ratcliffe. “My platform is promoting and working with ‘Our Military Kids’ program to raise money for and bring more awareness to this organization.”

Ratcliffe said that when she was trying to determine what platform to promote, she and her mother decided on the program, based in Virginia, because the organization had helped her Family in the past during a time when her father was deployed.

“The organization offers grants to Families and they pay for activities for military children to participate in,” she said.

The national organization, funded entirely by private donors, foundations, and corporate sponsors, has been able to assist nearly 75,000 children with

participation in sports, fine arts, camps and tutoring programs since its inception in 2004.

Ratcliffe is the middle child of Jennifer and Lt. Col. Andrew Radcliffe, commander of the 1108th Aviation Group, Mississippi National Guard.

“Being a military child is super special,” Ratcliffe said. “People don’t realize the stress children go through during deployments. But being a military kid has also brought some wonderful opportunities in my life. I’ve been able to attend Kids AT, a summer camp at Camp Shelby, which was always a great time. I’ve also been a member of the Mississippi National Guard youth leadership council.”

For more information about Our Military Kids, visit <https://www.ourmilitarykids.org/>.



OPERATION AVERY

Firefighters from Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center and U.S. Army medics with the 1108th Aviation Group, 66th Troop Command, work together during a simulated crashed aircraft response exercise in Gulfport, Mississippi Jan. 31, 2022. During the exercise, an aircraft designated for fire training was intentionally ignited and rescue personnel rehearsed responding to and extinguishing the fire, providing emergency medical treatment and evacuation. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Jovi Prevot)

Story by Sgt. Jovi Prevot
Gulfport CRTC Public Affairs Office

Soldiers assigned to the 1108th Aviation Group, 66th Troop Command, Mississippi Army National Guard, created a unique annual training experience this year in Gulfport, Mississippi, from Jan. 18 to Feb. 4, 2022.

Operation Avery focused on real-world training and tasks, also functioning as an external evaluation for the 1108th.

“This has been a very exciting and productive annual training,” said Col. Bradley Howe, commander of the 1108th. “I can’t remember seeing a unit as active and involved during an annual training. They have far exceeded my expectations. I’m very proud of everyone.”

More than 400 Soldiers were training at the historic World War II era Hangar 68, Gulfport Army Airfield.

“Just about one-half of the Soldiers in my unit are full time in various statuses and you really see the benefit of that in training events,” Howe said. “When we’ve got Soldiers that do maintenance full time - that’s their job every day - and we bring in the Soldiers that are police officers, clerks, or something like that. My full-time members can come in and impart their experience and training into those traditional Guardsmen.”

The 1108th tailored training to maximize all assets.

“We built the teams with a mix of more experienced and less experienced Soldiers and through many iterations of training, we came out with a stronger team,” said Howe.

In the Army, training is usually administered in a graduated fashion known as crawl-walk-run; however, Operation Avery was set to mirror a deployed environment.

“Our goal was to get past that crawl stage, so we went into a sprint, sped up the training and it went well,” said Command Sgt. Major Fredrick Roundtree, the command sergeant major of the unit. “I think this was a good experience for a lot of Soldiers that have not been in a deployed environment,” he said. “I think now they understand what their mission will be if and when they deploy.”

The training included many tasks a unit would be assigned while deployed as a Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group.

“Operation Avery is basically a deployable package; this is what we would look like if we went overseas and worked for a combatant commander,” said Roundtree.

“We set up a tactical operations center with command post of the future (CPOF), we established communications networks, and we completed convoy training with live-fire exercises,” said Howe. “We also had training events focusing on loading helicopters on C-17 Globemaster III aircraft and sling-load operations.”

During Operation Avery, the 1108th also conducted aircraft recovery training.

“We conducted interagency cooperative training with the [Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center] Fire Department simulating a downed or crashed aircraft,” said Capt. Brennan Vaughn, a physician’s assistant with the unit.

This training is important for the aviation group, training to work as first responders alongside those who traditionally fill that role.

“In the event that one of our helicopters does go down, we would be the ones to respond with the CRTC Fire Department,” Vaughn said. “They would put out the fire and we would evaluate the casualties on the scene and then transport them to hospitals. Even though it’s a rare occurrence, if a helicopter does go down, we need to be able to respond effectively to save lives.”

Operation Avery has set the gold standard for the 1108th and lessons-learned this year will be incorporated into future annual training events.



U.S. Army medics with the 1108th Aviation Group, 66th Troop Command, Mississippi National Guard and firefighters from Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center work together during a simulated crashed aircraft response exercise at the Gulfport CRTC, Gulfport, Mississippi, Jan. 31, 2022. During the exercise, an aircraft designated for fire training was intentionally ignited and rescue personnel rehearsed responding to and extinguishing the fire, providing emergency medical treatment and evacuation. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Jovi Prevot)



A U.S. Soldier with Company A, 1108th Aviation Group, 66th Troop Command, Mississippi National Guard, performs maintenance checks on a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter as part of a battle damage assessment and repair at Camp Shelby Joint Force Training Center, Mississippi, Jan. 27, 2022. The Soldiers are at Camp Shelby as part of their Annual Training. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Jovi Prevot)

MISSISSIPPI'S AIR NATIONAL GUARD COMMANDER RETIRES AFTER 38 YEARS OF SERVICE



Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi, presents the Mississippi Magnolia Cross to Maj. Gen. Billy M. Nabors, former assistant adjutant general and commander, Mississippi Air National Guard, during Nabors' retirement ceremony, March 6, 2022, at Key Field Air National Guard Base, Meridian, Mississippi. Nabors, a former 186th Air Refueling Wing Commander, retired with over 38 years of service to his State and Nation. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Adam Vance)

Maj. Gen. Billy M. Nabors, former assistant adjutant general and commander, Mississippi Air National Guard presents his mother, Marjorie Nabors, with the Mississippi Magnolia Necklace during his retirement ceremony, March 6, 2022, at Key Field Air National Guard Base, Meridian, Mississippi. Nabors retired with over 38 years of service to his State and Nation. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Hulbert)

Story by Maj. Sabrina Dalton
186th Air Refueling Wing

Members of the Mississippi National Guard and leadership of the state gathered at the 186th Air Refueling Wing in Meridian, Mississippi, to take part in a retirement ceremony for a revered Mississippi Air National Guard leader, Maj. Gen. Billy M. Nabors, March 6, 2022.

Nabors, the assistant adjutant general - Air (ATAG), Mississippi National Guard, officially retired after 38 years of honorable service to the state and nation. His tenure at the Mississippi National Guard Joint Force Headquarters (JFH) began in 2017, where he served as the chief of staff before being selected as the ATAG in 2018.

Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi, hosted the ceremony and thanked Nabors for his leadership and friendship.

"He was the right decision for the Mississippi National Guard," said Boyles. "Not only did I seek his counsel for Air Force decisions, Mike and I, as a team, made decisions together involving both the Army and Air Force."

Nabors joined the military in 1983 and spent his first eight years on active duty stationed at Columbus Air Force Base, where he served as a T-37 primary jet trainer instructor pilot and later as a KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft pilot and commander.

In 1992, Nabors transferred from active duty to the Mississippi Air National Guard as a KC-135 Stratotanker instructor pilot at the 186th Air Refueling Wing, when the wing converted from the tactical reconnaissance mission to the aerial refueling mission.

Nabors worked his way up in command at Key Field, serving as the commander of the 186th Operations Support Flight, 153rd Air Refueling Squadron, 186th Operations Support Flight, 186th Operations Group, and eventually as the 186th Air Refueling Wing commander from 2013 to 2017.

Lt. Col. Charles Schellbach, 153rd Air Refueling Squadron commander, considers Nabors a mentor who taught him a very valuable lesson.

"He was enjoyable to fly with, a very capable pilot, and helped change my perspective when trying to make a big life decision," Schellbach said. "He taught me that sometimes you have to tell people what they don't want to hear for the betterment of the unit. This helped steer me on my career path to where I am today."

A native of Collinsville, Mississippi, Nabors served a total of 26 years at Key Field and his last five and a half years at JFH.

Throughout his time in service, Nabors deployed overseas in combat operations supporting Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Kosovo, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and multiple other contingency operations.

Nabors' contributions while serving as the ATAG will be realized for years to come, as he worked to reorganize the recruiting process in the MSANG during this time.

Currently, all three MSANG units, the 186th Air Refueling Wing; the 172nd Air Lift Wing; and the Combat Readiness Training Center, are above 100 percent manning. This was accomplished during two years of restrictions brought on by a pandemic.

"The command team and I have taken a leadership role on ensuring that diversity is a positive aspect of our force and recognized as such," Nabors said. "We want all of our Airmen to have the same opportunity to be all they can be, and we put in place procedures and processes where they can do that."

Retirements are usually referred to as turning the page, entering a new season of life, and crossing the finish line.

Nabors' next chapter will give him more time to spend with his family who surrounded him on the day of his retirement.

"It's a balance of excitement," said Nabors. "I'm looking forward to hanging out with my grandkids and not being distracted from playing with them, but there's a bit of trepidation, too, of not being a part of this great military family on a day-to-day basis."



Command Sgt. Maj. John T. Raines III (left), 13th Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard and former senior enlisted leader of the Mississippi National Guard, presents an award to Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Young during his retirement ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson, Feb. 28, 2022. After 33 years of dedicated service in the Mississippi Army National Guard, Young was awarded many accolades by Raines, who was also the ceremony's keynote speaker. Young was joined on stage by his wife, Cheryl, who received the Mississippi Magnolia necklace and a certificate of appreciation, and his son Christopher. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. D'Markus Burrell)



Brig. Gen. Joe D. Hargett (left), director of joint staff for the Mississippi National Guard, presents the Legion of Merit and the Mississippi Magnolia Cross to Chief Warrant Officer 5 James "David" Spires during his retirement ceremony at Camp McCain Training Center, Mississippi, Feb. 25, 2022. In addition to those awards, Col. Bobby Ginn (right), director of logistics for the Mississippi Army National Guard, presented Spires with the Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe for excellence and superior performance throughout his career in the maintenance field. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Victoria Smith)



Sgt. Maj. Jeffery Etheridge was honored during his retirement ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson, Feb. 25, 2022. Etheridge was awarded several merits to reflect his dedication to duty and selfless service to the Mississippi National Guard, including the Legion of Merit and the Mississippi Magnolia Cross. Etheridge's wife, Julie, was awarded the Mississippi Magnolia necklace and a certificate of appreciation for her dedication to the MSNG and support of her husband throughout his career. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Connie Jones)

A LEGACY OF SERVICE: JOB WELL DONE

**"NOT ONLY DID I SEEK HIS COUNSEL FOR AIR FORCE DECISIONS, MIKE AND I, AS A TEAM, MADE DECISIONS TOGETHER INVOLVING BOTH THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE."
-MAJ. GEN. JANSON D. BOYLES**

COMMAND SGT. MAJ. RAINES BECOMES 13TH SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



Command Sgt. Maj. John Raines, incoming top senior enlisted member of the Army National Guard, speaks to Army Lt. Gen. Jan Jensen, the director of the Army National Guard, outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. John Sampa and other attendants during a change of responsibility ceremony at the Herbert R. Temple Army National Guard Readiness Center, Arlington, Va., Feb. 9, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Priscilla Desormeaux)

Command Sgt. Maj. John T. Raines III was appointed as the 13th Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard during a ceremony in D.C., Feb. 1,

2022. He previously served as the executive assistant to the Senior Enlisted Advisor of the National Guard Bureau.

"I'm the senior enlisted for all 54 states and territories, including the District of Columbia," said Raines. "I have a responsibility to those 335,000 personnel, no matter if they are enlisted, officer, warrant officer, or Civilians working with us. I'm responsible for carrying the director's priorities for people, readiness, modernization and reform, and then taking that message to those 335,000 and telling them how we are going to get after those priorities. We set policies and we fund things at the higher level."

Raines started his military career on active duty in August 1989. During this time, he became an infantryman, earned his Ranger tab, deployed during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and served a tour in Korea. He left active service and joined the Alabama National Guard in 1997. He rose through the ranks there, becoming a first sergeant in 2002. He transferred to

the Mississippi National Guard in 2004 and, after various leadership roles, served as the first command senior enlisted leader of the Mississippi National Guard.

"I really was so young when I joined, that I didn't know what I was getting into," Raines said. "But the Army changed me. It changed my thought process. The Army values are fully ingrained in me. That's why I continue to serve. This service and these values just fit me to a T."

While Raines hails from Alabama, he also calls Mississippi home and is proud of his service to the Mississippi National Guard.

"You know, I'm a two-state guardsman," said Raines. "I joined the Alabama National Guard when I first left active duty. I served there for a few years and was a first sergeant there, and then I came over to Mississippi, so I've got two states that are proud of me and I will tell you that I'm proud of both of them. I'm proud to be a Mississippi Guardsman, and I'm proud to be from Alabama. It makes you feel good to call both of these places home."

MISSISSIPPI TOP 50



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Jeremy R. Parker and U.S. Army Lt. Col. Deidre D. Smith were selected as part of the Mississippi Top 50 for 2022 and honored in a ceremony Feb. 17, 2022.

The MStop50 awardees are nominated by their peers for their talent and influence in the State of Mississippi.

Parker is the Deputy Director of Military Support for the Mississippi National Guard where he is responsible for coordinating Mississippi National Guard domestic operations and training with State and Federal agencies, the National Guard Bureau, and USNORTHCOM. He is the primary officer in charge of the

MSNG Joint Operations Center during domestic operations and standby missions, providing time-sensitive information to the Adjutant General of Mississippi.

In September 2020, Parker was appointed Commander of the Mississippi National Guard COVID-19 Joint Task Force where he led more than 1,200 Soldiers and Airmen providing testing, logistics, and vaccination support to the Mississippi State Department of Health and Mississippi Emergency Management Agency.

Smith is the Director of Public Affairs for the Mississippi National Guard. She is the senior officer responsible for advising the Adjutant General and senior leaders of the MSNG on all Public Affairs matters concerning command information, public information, community relations and media engagement.

Smith has served in a variety of positions in the United States Army at locations throughout the United States, Europe and during overseas contingency operations. Her military field of service includes positions in Human Resources, Public Affairs, Information Operations and Equal Opportunity. She has served on two deployments in support of Operation



Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles accompanies the first Mississippi National Guard recipients of the Mississippi Top 50 award, at a ceremony in Jackson on February 17, 2022. This year's honorees are Lt. Col. Jeremy Parker MSANG and Lt. Col. Deidre Smith MSARNG. (Courtesy Photo)

Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. In the Mississippi Army National Guard, she has served as the Deputy Chief of Staff – Personnel for 66th Troop Command, the MSNG Director of Outreach Services, in Jackson, the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center's Director of Personnel and Community Activities and the Camp Shelby Public Affairs Officer, in Hattiesburg.

NORWEGIAN FOOT MARCH



Lauren Cook stands with Col. Rick Weaver, commander of Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, after coming in first place for the Norwegian Foot March at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, March 5, 2022. The Norwegian Foot March and the Extra Miles Marathon event was held to increase community relations and to receive donations for the Extra Table, a Mississippi non-profit organization that provides food to pantries and soup kitchens throughout the State. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Cdt. Jarvis Mace)

Story by Lt. Col. Deidre D. Smith
MSNG Director of Public Affairs

The Mississippi National Guard and partners hosted the Norwegian Foot March and Extra Miles Marathon at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, March 5, 2022. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Timothy Herrington, lead coordinator for the event, and a representative from Extra Table welcomed participants to the race,

while Col. Rick Weaver, Camp Shelby commander, and Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi, were keynote speakers during the opening ceremony.

The event included more than 600 military and civilian participants with marathon competitors earning a finisher's medal and Norwegian Foot March participants completing 18.6 miles with a 25-pound rucksack to earn the coveted Norwegian Foot March Badge.

The winner of the overall Norwegian Foot March was Lauren Cook, who finished in just over three hours and 12 minutes, followed by the male winner, Caleb Miller, who finished less than 40 seconds later. The winner of the marathon was Noah Pickering.

In addition to the competition, the event offers competitors and spectators an opportunity to donate funds or canned goods to Extra Table, a nonprofit organization in Hattiesburg dedicated to ending hunger by establishing food pantries in various communities in Mississippi.

"It's a good thing for the Soldiers, it's good for morale," said Herrington. "It's a little bit of a fundraiser for us, but much



Noah Pickering cools off after coming in first place for the Extra Miles Marathon at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, March 5, 2022. The Norwegian Foot March and the Extra Miles Marathon was held to increase community relations and to receive donations for the Extra Table, a Mississippi non-profit organization that provides food pantries and soup kitchens throughout the State. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Cdt. Jarvis Mace)

more so for Extra Table, and it gives a way for Soldiers to give back to the community."

The Norwegian Foot March, or the 'Marsjmerket,' was first conducted in Norway in 1915 as a test of marching endurance for Soldiers in the Norwegian Military. The strategic goal was to quickly move large units of troops over a great distance and in a manner that enabled them to maintain combat effectiveness even at the end of the march.

MISSISSIPPI GUARDSMAN RECEIVES PURPLE HEART

Story by Lt. Col. Deidre D. Smith
MSNG Director of Public Affairs

In a rare public recognition of U.S. Special Operations forces in Africa, Master Sgt. Steven Corley, and intelligence noncommissioned officer with 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Mississippi Army National Guard, was awarded the Purple Heart medal during a ceremony in Stuttgart, Germany, April 8, 2022.

The Purple Heart medal is one of the oldest medals of the U.S. military, dating back to 1782, and recognizes service members who are wounded or killed in combat.

Corley earned the award in January 2022 while serving as the leader of a six-person team in northwest Africa where he was responsible for intelligence exploitation and integration with partners and allies. Though wounded in an attack on base



U.S. Africa Command Commander, General Stephen J. Townsend and Master Sgt. Steven Corley pose for a photo during a Purple Heart ceremony April 8, 2022, Stuttgart, Germany. Corley was wounded during an attack while serving as the leader of a six-person team in northwest Africa. The Purple Heart medal is one of the U.S. military's oldest medals dating back to 1782. It recognizes military members who were wounded or killed in combat. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jasmonet Holmes)

where he was assigned, he assisted partner forces in locating the enemy position of attack.

"Wherever you look in Africa, when

it's somewhere tough or dangerous, SOCAFRICA (Special Operations Command Africa) is there," said Gen. Stephen Townsend, commander of U.S. Army Africa Command. "Master Sgt. Corley did what U.S. forces typically do when wounded, stay in the fight until they pass out or are instructed to stand down."

Corley was medically evacuated the following day and has spent his time since the attack focusing on physical recovery and staying in the fight from the SOCAFRICA headquarters in Stuttgart.

"This has been an amazing rotation in seeing how much the battalion has done for the mission," said Corley. "I especially want to thank my family, my battalion, and the staff at Landstuhl [military hospital], especially the rehab team, for doing an amazing job taking care of me. I'm very fortunate to be here to accept this medal."



IMPOSTOR ALERT

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

REPORT FAKE SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES IMPERSONATING OUR SENIOR LEADERS

GO TO ms.ng.mil AND CLICK ON THIS IMAGE LINK TO REPORT FRAUDULENT ACCOUNTS TO PAO



DO NOT SEND MONEY!

Military leaders will not ask you for money for transportation cost, communication fees, medical fees and especially not a marriage proposal.

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Check the facts of people you are corresponding with online. Research what they are telling you, and ask questions.

BE SUSPICIOUS

Military service members have access to mail and internet even in deployed settings. Be suspicious if you have never talked to the person on the phone or through written letters in the mail. Be suspicious if you are asked to send money or property. Be suspicious if someone you have never met declares their love or devotion at warp speed.

BE AWARE

Be aware of common misspellings, grammatical and language errors in email or text messages.

RED FLAGS

- Requests for money
- Profess their love immediately
- Parents deceased
- Wife deceased
- Child being cared for by someone else
- Refer to you as "my love," "my darling" or any other affectionate term almost immediately
- Telling you they cannot wait to be with you
- Telling you they cannot talk on the phone or via webcam due to security reasons
- Telling you they are sending you something (money, jewelry) through a diplomat
- Their English and grammar do not match that of someone born and raised in the United States



Janson Boyles

Add Friend Message ...

Worked at 2 star general commander

Lives in Aleppo, Syria

CLICK THE THREE DOTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILE

Janson's Profile link

Janson's personalized link on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/robert.dickson.5623293>

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SCAN THE ARMY CID CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REPORTING



OFFICIAL MSNG COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS



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

A U.S. Naval Special Warfare combatant-craft crewman operator holds his position at an M2 machine gun during a maritime insertion and extraction combined with a direct-action live-fire mission near Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, April 25, 2022. The unit worked with the 1st Special Forces Group to conduct joint training during Southern Strike 2022, a large-scale, joint and international combat exercise, featuring counter-insurgency, close air support, non-combatant evacuations, and maritime special operations. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Connie Jones)

