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A CHRONICLE OF THE MISSISSIPPI ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD



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Welcoming New Leaders

The MSNG command staff hosted a few of changes of responsibility this past summer, including the command chief warrant officer and the land component command sergeant major.



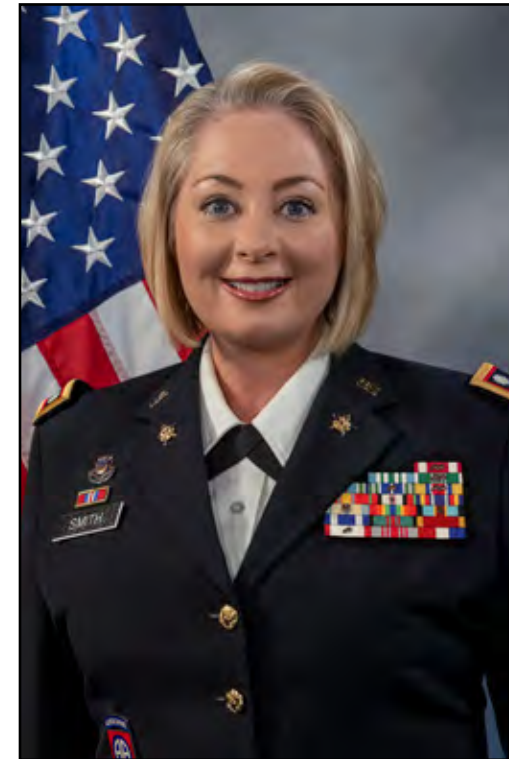
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Battle Handoff Welcomes New Soldiers

Fresh out of basic training and advanced individual training, the newest Soldiers of the Mississippi Army National Guard meet the leaders of their first unit as they're welcomed into the Guard Family.

Letter From THE EDITOR

OUR PATRIOTIC HERITAGE



"This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave."

~ Elmer Davis, Director, Office of War Information, World War II

Everyone seems to adore a story of an underdog. Maybe it is the ultimate triumph over a larger, stronger, faster, better equipped adversary that captures our undivided attention, or maybe it is the surprise when the expected champion is stunned by disbelief in their defeat.

The same exhilaration rings true in our military history and throughout our formation today. From the sound of the first weapon fired at North Bridge in Concord, Massachusetts; 'the shot heard round the world,' to the global challenges our service members face today, we still stand up for the 'Land of the free and the home of the Brave.' Regardless of the conflict or enemy we face, we can reflect on the similarities in history as to the pristine

characteristics that empower an underdog to defeat all odds.

Members of the Mississippi National Guard continue to set the standard of exemplary service to our state and nation. I am constantly reminded of the superior dedication and unwavering patriotism expressed by our service members and their families living in every county in this great state. Mississippi National Guard shone brightly during recent events such as the Battle Handoff hosted by the Recruiting and Retention Battalion. This event ensures a seamless transition into the gaining unit by the incoming Soldier. The ceremonial protocol of the Battle Handoff celebrates the accomplishments of each Soldier while welcoming them into the formation.

The MSNG has been hard at work this summer completing multiple training exercises such as Pershing Strike, stressing the mobilization capabilities of our resources at Camp Shelby and statewide. The men and women of the Mississippi National Guard are always ready and exceed expectations at every opportunity.

As we complete our Summer 2022 annual training season, we have said goodbye to some amazing leaders and comrades, while promoting the next generation of leaders into new and more challenging positions of responsibility. Every season brings change, but each change presents a renewal of the spirit and great aspirations for the days ahead. I encourage you to continue challenging yourself and others to meet your goals, personally and professionally. Each one of us has a voice to inspire, encourage, celebrate achievement, and stand with our brothers and sisters in the Mississippi National Guard during the good times and the challenging times. You just may be the small spark that ignites a season of positive change.

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
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COVER PHOTO:

U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, carrying 33-pound rucksacks, close in on the finish line of a ruck march at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, July 29, 2022. The ruck march was one of several events Soldiers had to successfully complete to qualify for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brian A. Barbour)





Chief Warrant Officer 5 Donny Dukes

Fellow Guardsmen,
 It is an honor and privilege to address you in this format. This is also an opportunity for me to give back to you, the Mississippi National Guard, where I started out as an enlisted Soldier more than 33 years ago. I had some great mentors back then who eventually led me to flight school. When I graduated flight school as a young warrant officer, we started deploying overseas a lot more. I have deployed five times in different roles on each of my deployments.

I've worked with some great mentors and learned a lot about leadership over the years. I've witnessed how effective leadership can be to an organization when applied correctly. In my current role as the Command Chief Warrant Officer (CCWO) for Mississippi, I serve as the senior ranking Warrant Officer in the state. I am responsible to the Adjutant General for a variety of matters – primarily pertaining to policies and actions affecting the warrant officer cohort. More specifically, and in line with the Adjutant General's lines of effort, my number one priority is recruiting and retaining qualified warrant officers to provide MSARNG commanders with a ready and future force.

My second priority is to assist our organization with promoting our resiliency and partnership programs with state, national, and international entities. I have found that one of the most fulfilling attributes as the CCWO thus far is that of coaching, counseling, mentoring, and helping others.

The role of the warrant officer in the Army is ever-changing and evolving. We are unique and often serve as influential agents of change in our respective fields. We are technical officers who provide quality leadership to teams, sections, and crews. We help each other be the best voice to the commander we can be.

I am proud of being part of the best organization in the nation. Our warrants are the best of the best. So, I am making a plea to all leaders out there in identifying someone you may know who would make a great warrant officer. Though our primary audience for recruiting warrant officers is the Army Non-commissioned officer, we do get some from other sources as well. Civilian acquired skills is weighed heavily in qualifying.

We are a family, and I am grateful to be your servant in this capacity and to address the great Soldiers and Airmen of the Mississippi National Guard. I look forward to meeting and getting to know many of you better as we serve our great State and Nation. God Bless.

Donny Dukes
 Chief Warrant Officer 5
 Command Chief Warrant Officer
 Mississippi Army National Guard



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Change is inevitable. Change is constant. At least that's what we are advised to expect. Right? You know, the only things that are sure are death, taxes, and change. The Greek philosopher, Heraclitus of Ephesus, said – "the only constant in life is change."

As I write this article, I am in the process of making a big change in my military career. I will be moving to the New Hampshire Army National Guard. I have had the distinct honor of serving with the men and women of the Mississippi Army National Guard for 12 years now. During this time, I have been shaped and mentored by some of the finest leaders I have ever known. All of you have had some impact or influence on my career to this point. I want to say, "Thank You!" But even that does not adequately express the depth of my gratitude, nor the depth of the bond that has been formed in my heart for each of you.

It is inevitable that as we move to a new opportunity, we are facing in the direction of that new opportunity. If you were to observe this move from the MSNG vantage, my back is to you. It looks like I am walking in the other direction, away. That is a true picture of what is happening, but it isn't the whole picture. Our paths are diverging, taking different tacks, and my face is toward my new destination, but my heart is facing back. My heart is resolutely filled with gratitude and joy as I look back with the "eyes" of my heart toward all of you. And, know this, that I take you with me.

However, I don't want to make this about me. All of us experience change, even major changes. I would like to leave you with a few words of encouragement. I want to give you some "steel rods" of advice to help you, to brace you, as they have helped brace me, in times of change.

Take time for self-reflection. Using the mirror of God's Word, take inventory and assess where you really are. Don't be afraid to be honest with yourself. Give ample time to your spiritual well-being. Go deep! What do you depend on at your very core? Who do you look to when your need is the deepest? Your spirit is you at your deepest, your truest, your most vulnerable; and deep reflection looks something like this.

Is God calling me, in this situation, to think differently? To act differently than the world?

Is God reordering, in this situation, my heart's affections— what I love?

Is God calling me to do something for eternity as I go about my day today?

Daily reflections are simple, but also profound. They can also be short, but deep. They can be challenging, but filled with hope and promise, as well.

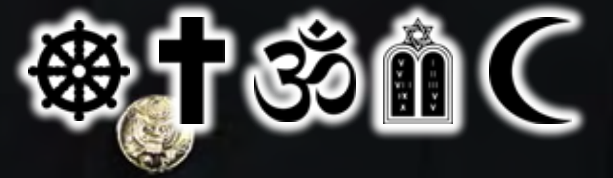
Daily reflection can offer truth for all of life. Giving yourself this time can help to apply that truth to consecrate your life, to transform your life. Daily meditation on God's word will make for individuals, couples, and families who are "steeled" by God's grace and grounded in His Word.

I pray for you constantly. I expect greatness from all of you. I see professionalism from top to bottom. But I pray that you are never satisfied with where you are. I am seeking to go deeper, and I encourage each of you to give yourself time to be still. And go deeper! To God be all the glory!

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105

Amen.

CH (LTC) Sean McMackin
 185th Aviation Brigade





SNAPSHOTS

Senior Airman Grace Tupper, a crew chief with the 172nd Maintenance Group, Jackson, Mississippi, inspects a C-17 Globemaster III engine after an aerial refueling training sortie at Air Station Barber's Point, Hawaii, July 12, 2022. Members of the 183rd Airlift Squadron, 172nd Maintenance Group, and the 186th Air Refueling Wing recently returned from Hawaii after taking part in training that flexed the skills required to keep the 172nd Airlift Wing's global mission running smoothly. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jared Bounds.)



**SCAN
HERE**





Soldiers with the 290th Military Police Brigade conduct detainee operations training as part of Exercise Pershing Strike 2022 at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, August 1, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Jovi Prevot)

PERSHING STRIKE 2022

Story by Maj. Jeremy Longmire
CSJFTC PAO

The highways of Mississippi were more crowded around Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center (CSJFTC) this summer as National Guard and Reserve units from around the country participated in one of the largest training exercises in recent history. Pershing Strike 2022 saw more than 8,000 military members engaged in events that were designed to stress test the mobilization capability of Camp Shelby.

Brig. Gen. Joe Hargett, deputy commanding general for the mobilization exercise and the director of the joint

staff for the Mississippi National Guard, described the purpose and importance of the training event.

“Pershing Strike is not only the units going through the process [of] gaining proficiency as Soldiers to be able to fight and win our nation’s wars overseas; it is also the units that are needed to prepare the mobilization support force to get those Soldiers overseas,” he said.

The time it takes to mobilize a unit can mean all the difference when it comes to operations.

“What it means is that we bring in thousands of Component 2 and Component 3, so National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers, to one of

our mobilization platforms and we test our ability to get them trained, ready and deployed in relatively short order,” said Col. Josh Davis, commander, 177th Armored Brigade.

Camp Shelby is one of a limited number of Mobilization Force Generation Installations (MFGIs) that can be tasked with the mission of mobilizing Soldiers. Mobilization is a complex task that requires multiple actions to happen simultaneously. Soldiers have their legal, medical and personal records verified all while being examined on a number of warrior tasks.

“As a reserve unit, you’re not always training every day, so what happens is we

bring them in and refine their training aspects and get them ready to go to war,” said Col. Rick Weaver, commander of Camp Shelby. “We’re getting them out of the civilian sector and getting them back into the military.”

The U.S. Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve forces rarely have the opportunity to train together. However, both provide essential personnel that can be called upon to assist the active force.

“While the active forces have the ability to conduct operations and sustain a fight, it’s only for a limited amount of time,” said Col. Chad Abts, commander of Arizona Army National Guard’s 198th Regional Support Group. “We have to have the total Army force because many of the sustainment and long-term operational aspects are contained in both the Guard and the Reserve.”

With training events like Pershing Strike 2022, MFGIs such as Camp Shelby have the opportunity to showcase their ability to prepare, train and deploy Soldiers as well as prepare for future operations that may require the rapid mobilization of reserve forces.



Soldiers with the 290th Military Police Brigade conduct non-lethal munitions training as part of Exercise Pershing Strike 2022 at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, July 26, 2022. Exercises like this demonstrate Camp Shelby’s ability to produce trained and validated units ready to deploy throughout the world. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Jovi Prevot)



Soldiers with 290th Military Police Brigade conduct base security operations training as part of Exercise Pershing Strike 2022 at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, August 1, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Jovi Prevot)

184TH SUSTAINMENT COMMAND RETAINS OPERATIONAL READINESS

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Veronica McNabb

Soldiers of the 184th Sustainment Command, from numerous locations throughout Mississippi, conducted their annual training at various locations across the south. In its military force structure, the Mississippi-based 184th SC is one of the U.S. Army's thirteen sustainment commands and one of only two in the National Guard.

Guardsmen from Headquarters Company, 184th Sustainment Command, 168th Engineer Brigade, and 298th Support Battalion, executed live-fire training and qualified with various weapon systems at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center.

The 287th and 288th Engineer Companies trained on tactics and techniques for employing demolitions. They tested throughout the week and ended with a live demolition and scenario table with a significant emphasis on safety.

Soldiers with the 1687th Transportation Company were tasked with moving multiple pieces of historical military equipment from Anniston Army Depot in Alabama to the



Soldiers of the 184th Sustainment Command fire the M240B and M249G crew-served weapons during a multi-day qualification event at a Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center range, June 8, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Veronica McNabb)

Mississippi Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby.

"We had new Soldiers, and for some, this was their first real mission," said 1st Sgt. Lee Stringer, 1687th Transportation Company. "They all did an outstanding job carrying out the task."

Soldiers of the 3656th Quartermaster

Company volunteered for a community outreach event cleaning Veterans' headstones, restoring more than 100 markers at the Scott Street Cemetery in Hattiesburg.

"We are just grateful for this chance to do a local outreach event," said Capt. Doug Estes, former company commander. "To show them we are not only here to serve and protect our country but also to lend a hand to our community."

Members of Headquarters Company, 184th SC, participated in Warfighter 22-05 at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, as the high command representing the 82nd Airborne Division G-4 [logistics]. The Mississippi Soldiers worked in conjunction with the 3rd Infantry Division as well as the 101st Airborne Division in support of the training exercise for the 38th Infantry Division, Indiana Army National Guard.

"The team performed exceptionally well in an ever-changing environment," said Sgt. Major William Kelly, Support Operations, 184th SC. "Their knowledge of sustainment operations was highly commended."

As the 184th closes out this year's training cycle, senior leadership praise troop success in reaching operational readiness and Soldier readiness.

lift. Employers from many organizations visited Camp Shelby to see what their citizen Soldiers do during their "two weeks a year." Employers were able to watch tanks firing on the range, visit the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum, and see the brigade's artillery sections at work.

The brigade participated in MSNG Family Programs' Kid's AT (annual training). The summer camp had all major

subordinate commands (MSCs) hosting events for the children, and at the end of the camp, the kids voted on the best MSC. The 155th won the MSC competition after assembling four different events, allowing campers to ride in tactical vehicles and personnel carriers, see grenades, practice their shooting skills at the engagement skills trainer (EST), and experience tactical care under simulated fire with the medics.

One particularly unique training event the brigade participated in was the first integration of Operation Thunder Strike. The training event was a combination of military personnel and DOD contractor elements focusing on electronic warfare where brigade personnel worked against the simulated opposing forces using traditional military maneuvers combined with electronic warfare at the squad level.

ON THE ROAD TRAINING WITH TROOP COMMAND

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

The 66th Troop Command was widely dispersed during this year's annual training period. The Special Operations Detachment, Mississippi Army National Guard, conducted airborne missions at Camp McCain Training Center, while the 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group conducted missions with various partner nations around the world.

The 41st Army Band traveled to Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, to receive an external evaluation of the unit. During an external evaluation, units get an unbiased evaluation from an outside agency based on doctrine and guidelines established, which provides feedback to the commander on how their unit is performing and ways they can improve.

The 102d Public Affairs Detachment also had an external evaluation during their AT, which took place on the Gulf Coast during Exercise Southern Strike at Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center. The unit covered the exercise and told the story using photography and videography.

The 1108th Aviation Group participated in a few national exercises including Operation Avery at the Gulfport CRTC – an exercise that involves breaking down and transporting Army rotary wing aircraft using Air Force fixed-wing aircraft. Also in Gulfport, Headquarters Company, 66th Troop Command was the lead component in the Hurricane Exercise (HURREX), an exercise that brings various state and federal agencies together to prepare for hurricane season.

The 210th Finance Battalion had the

unique opportunity to conduct a proof-of-concept exercise, Operation Big Easy, with their parent unit, the 469th Finance Support Center, U.S. Army Reserve, at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans.

Farther west, part of the 112th Military Police Battalion conducted annual training at Fort Bliss, Texas, in preparation for their upcoming mission to the southwest border. The 185th Aviation Brigade, partnered with different Army components, participated in a large training exercise at Fort Campbell,

Kentucky, for their annual training.

The 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, collaborating with the 172nd Airlift Wing, covered several thousand miles conducting Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) operations. RIMPAC is the world's largest international maritime exercise that involves a month of realistic, relevant combined operations training conducted in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California.



Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, unload a M1078A1 Light Medium Tactical Vehicle (LMTV) at the Allen C. Thompson Field Air National Guard Base in Flowood, Mississippi, July 23, 2022. The unit recently completed their Rim of the Pacific rotation at Fort Shafter, Hawaii and were able to transport their LMTVs with the support of the 172nd Airlift Wing, Mississippi Air National Guard. RIMPAC provides a unique training opportunity while fostering and sustaining cooperative relationships among participants - critical tasks ensuring the safety of sea lanes and the security of the world's oceans. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Benjamin Tomlinson)

155TH ABCT ANNUAL TRAINING



Soldiers with the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi Army National Guard, handle mortar rounds at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, June 19, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Capt. Micah Welch)

Story by Capt. Micah Welch 155th ABCT Public Affairs Officer

The 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) conducted its 2022 annual training at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center throughout the summer. However, for about one week, the entire brigade was on location and training.

Throughout AT, all elements of the 155 ABCT trained to standard, honing their skills in their specialty areas. Units conducted individual weapons qualification and trained on everything from sniper systems to mortar systems.

There were also several changes of command and responsibility. The 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment welcomed a new commander, Lt. Col.

Frank Querns, and a new command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Lorenzo Buckley. Lt. Col. Dennis Bittle became the new commander of the 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery Regiment, and Lt. Col. Richard Rowland assumed command of the 150th Engineer Battalion.

Maj. Gen. Michael Leeney, the commander of the 40th Infantry Division, visited Camp Shelby to see some of the training and spend some time with the 155th ABCT staff. Brig. Gen. John Bowlin, the commander of the 36th Infantry Division, also visited with the team.

The brigade worked with Mississippi's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) directorate to host a boss

ROLLING WITH THE PUNCHES (AND WAVES)

183RD AIRLIFT SQUADRON COMPLETES ANNUAL TRAINING IN HAWAII

Story by Staff Sgt. Jared Bounds
172nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Stay flexible. That's the key to airpower. Members of the 183rd Airlift Squadron, 172nd Maintenance Group, Mississippi Air National Guard, and the 186th Air Refueling Wing, Mississippi Air National Guard, pushed through multiple challenges at Air Station Barbers Point, Kapolei, Hawaii, to successfully conduct annual training this July.

"We launched with a plan, and we expected it to change, based on operating factors and maintenance," said Lt. Col. Chipper Woodruff, operations chief of the 183rd Airlift Squadron. "We see what's going on around the world; in Europe, in the Pacific. It's training like this that allows us to travel a very long distance, stand up an operation and execute. It gives a sense of being forward-deployed."

Planners originally designed a straightforward aerial refueling training mission with KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft from the 186th Air Refueling Wing. However, operating in far-removed environments often presents unique opportunities for value-added training.

"Take the transportation plan, for example," said Woodruff. "We thought we had it sewn up, but with our personnel displaced at multiple points across the island [of Oahu], we had to get creative."

Teams were built, shuttles and carpools had to be worked out, and schedules had to be devised. And when a hydraulic pump grounded one of the C-17 Globemaster III aircraft in the middle of training, members of the 172nd Maintenance Group immediately began coordinating with units on the island to find

a replacement pump, acquire it, and install it. This challenged the maintainers who were operating in an environment more than 4,000 miles from home, and who still had three other mission-critical C-17s to support.

"We were able to get some vital training that we're not typically able to get at home," said Master Sgt. Daniel Clifton, first sergeant of the 172nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. "Wherever we go, it's our job to keep those jets running, and the maintenance team that was in Hawaii did a phenomenal job of troubleshooting, resourcing parts and repairing that aircraft."

The training exercise allowed multiple components of the Mississippi Air National Guard to work together throughout the mission, and it took all of them to ensure mission success.

"We owe our maintainers a huge debt of gratitude," Woodruff said. "Given the professionals they are, the challenges we met did not affect the flying mission, and not a single sortie was lost."

Off-station training not only produces more flexible Airmen; it builds stronger teams.

"You're outside of the parameters you're used to doing business in," said Woodruff. "Challenges arise, and you suddenly find you have to lean a little heavier on the folks around you. That's where the magic happens. These kinds of conditions form stronger relationships between individuals, make the units collectively stronger and enhance our ability to perform our warfare specialty."

Airmen of the 172nd Airlift Wing continue to maintain and operate a fleet of C-17 Globemaster III aircraft that provide flexible, world-class strategic and tactical airlift in support of National Command Authority objectives, as well as the objectives of the Governor of Mississippi.

Airman 1st Class Reagan Rouse, a flight line crew chief with the 172nd Maintenance Group, Mississippi Air National Guard, inspects the nose landing gear of a C-17 Globemaster III at Air Station Barber's Point, Hawaii, July 11, 2022. Members of the 183rd Airlift Squadron, 172nd Maintenance Group, and the 186th Air Refueling Wing, Mississippi Air National Guard, recently returned from Hawaii after taking part in training that flexed the skills required to keep the 172nd Airlift Wing's global mission running smoothly. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jared Bounds)



Airmen assigned to the 183rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 172nd Airlift Wing, Mississippi Air National Guard, search for medical supplies to care for a simulated patient during annual training aboard a KC-135 Stratotanker at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida June 22, 2022. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Kiara N. Spann)



Airmen assigned to the 183rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 172nd Airlift Wing, Mississippi Air National Guard, participate in a mass-casualty training exercise during annual training at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida, June 19, 2022. The Airmen completed their annual training, where they honed their skills in patient care. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Kiara N. Spann)

183RD AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION SQUADRON CONDUCT ANNUAL TRAINING AT MACDILL AFB

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

With more than 100 Airmen and nine Air Force Specialty Codes, the 183rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (AES), 172nd Airlift Wing, Mississippi Air National Guard, stands as a ready and relevant unit postured to deploy in support of military operations, disaster response and humanitarian missions at a moment's notice.

Aeromedical evacuation squadron aircrew members perform their mission in the C-17 Globemaster III, C-130 Hercules and the KC-135 Stratotanker. The AES aircrew members traveled to MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida, and received training on both the C-17 and KC-135 airframes.

Training on the KC-135, an aircraft traditionally used for aircraft refueling, gave each Airman practical hands-on training that tested the skillset they had honed on the C-17. Members also received mass casualty and triage response

training, which sharpened their patient care skills.

"My goal for this squadron is to be a training hub throughout the AE community," said Col. Teri Dawn Neely, commander of the 183rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. "The way that we have fought wars for the past 30 years is going to change, so we need to be ready for that."

Even though the AES mission is to save lives, the flight nurses and the medical technicians aren't the only ones getting the job done.

"Aside from the flight nurses we have and the crews that go out to the airplane and take care of the mission and the patients; our ground crews are the ones that work behind the scenes," said 1st Lt. Chris Roberts, a medical support corps officer assigned to the 183rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. "They take care of getting all the equipment available and ready for the crews to receive and take out to the aircraft."

From the medical logistics airmen, who

ensure that all the support equipment and patient medication is available to the flying crew, to the aeromedical evacuation operations team, who handle all the administrative duties regarding the aircrew and patients, the members of the 183rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron work in tandem to achieve mission success.

"The success that comes from within our squadron is a collaborative effort," said Neely. "Every member has an important role, and their role is essential to completing our mission."

The 183rd AES sets forth to stand out as the premier aeromedical evacuation squadron in the Air Force. In 2021 the 183rd led all Air National Guard units in awards, nearly sweeping all nine categories to include Outstanding Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron of the Year.

MEMORIAL DAY 2022

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

Memorial Day is a time to honor our Nation's heroes. It is a time to remember all the brave souls who have served and pay special gratitude to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Since the Revolutionary War, our Nation has lost more than 1.27 million Americans defending our nation's freedom during conflict on home soil or overseas.

Memorial Day weekend started off with a 'Workout of the Day' or WOD in honor of one of our own. Sgt. First Class Severin W. Summers III, of Bentonia, Miss., served with 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

The 3rd Annual 'Sev WOD & 5k', coordinated and hosted by the Mississippi National Guard Special Forces Association, 5th Squad, and the Mississippi Braves, saw more than 250 participants sweating it out in the early morning light. The workout consisted of 50 pull-ups, 100 push-ups, and a 5k run with a plate carrier vest. This year was the first time the event was open to the public with several participating in the entire workout and many in the 5k run only.

Later in the day, the Braves played in a Memorial Day baseball game with a military appreciation focus. The players honored fallen service members with the names of our military heroes on their jerseys. The 172nd Airlift Wing conducted a flyover in a C-17 Globemaster III, and Skyler James, singer and wife of Chaplain (Capt.) Christopher James, 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, led the National Anthem.

Visitors from around the state gathered at the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi, was the key speaker during the ceremony that honors a different Gold Star recipient each year. This year, Pfc. Henry Lee Keen was honored amongst family and friends. A U.S. Marine and native of Braxton, Miss., Keen was killed in action during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

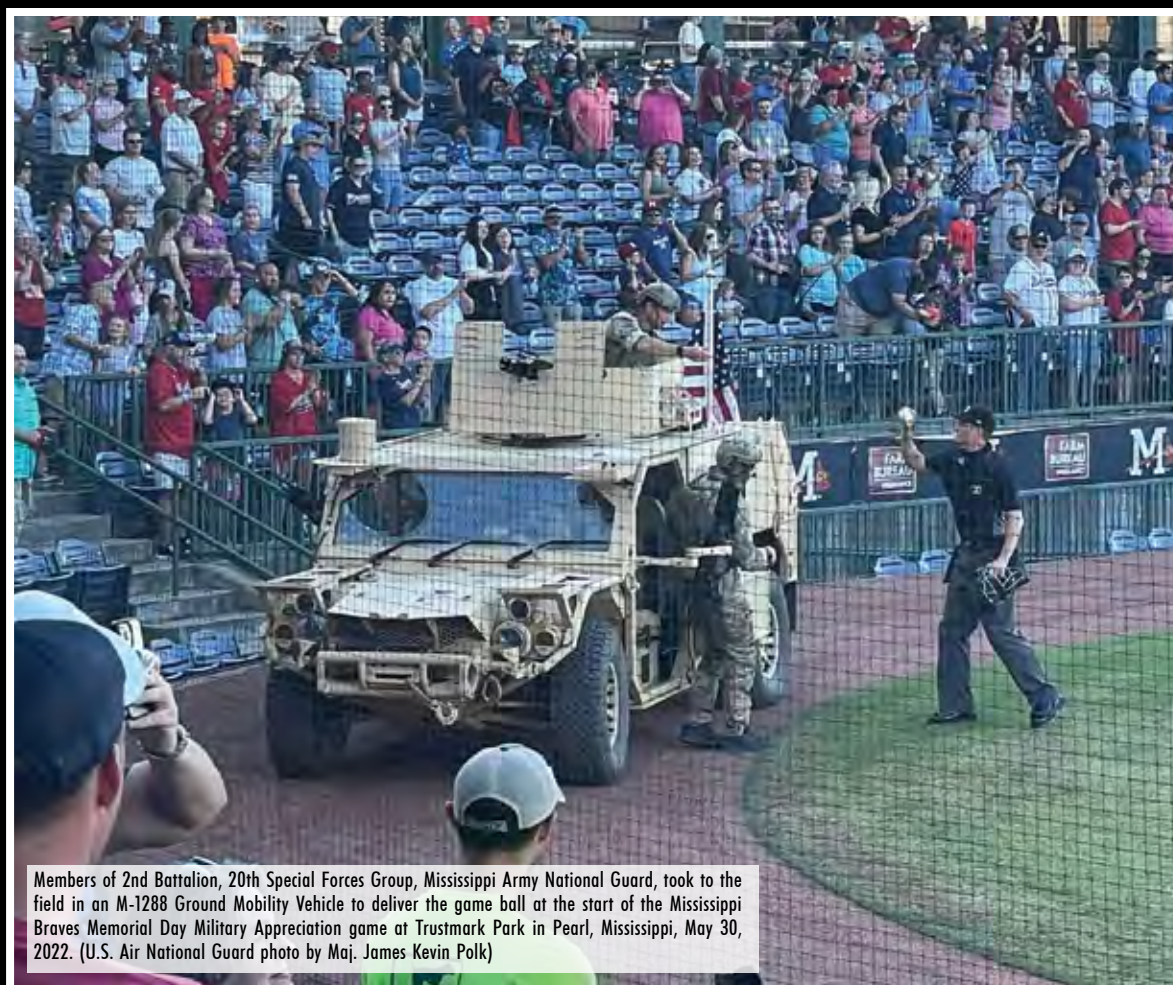
The MSNG is proud of the service and legacy of those who have given so much for the freedoms of our State and Nation.



A Soldier with 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, Mississippi Army National Guard, conducts the pull-up portion of the Sev Workout of the Day at Trustmark Park in Pearl, Mississippi, May 30, 2022. The Memorial Day workout was to honor Sgt. 1st Class Severin W. Summers III who was killed in Afghanistan in 2009. (Courtesy photo by Dawn Elizabeth Harbin)



Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, Mississippi Army National Guard, begin the 5k run portion of the Sev Workout of the Day at Trustmark Park in Pearl, Mississippi, May 30, 2022. The Memorial Day workout was to honor Sgt. 1st Class Severin W. Summers III who was killed during military operations in Afghanistan in 2009. (Courtesy photo by Dawn Elizabeth Harbin)



Members of 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, Mississippi Army National Guard, took to the field in an M-1288 Ground Mobility Vehicle to deliver the game ball at the start of the Mississippi Braves Memorial Day Military Appreciation game at Trustmark Park in Pearl, Mississippi, May 30, 2022. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Maj. James Kevin Polk)



Members of the 172nd Airlift Wing, Mississippi Air National Guard, conduct a fly over at the beginning of the Mississippi Braves Military Appreciation Game in Pearl, Mississippi, May 30, 2022. The fly over and game was to honor all service members who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to our Nation. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Lt. Col. Deidre D. Smith)

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

Story by Mr. Daniel Szarek
MSNG Deputy Director of Public Affairs

There are more than 180,000 Veterans who live in the state of Mississippi. Of those, more than 12,500 are unemployed and more than 16,000 live in poverty. 5th Squad is a group of Veterans, run by Veterans and on a mission to help Veterans.

Created in 2016, the 5th Squad started with just four Soldiers joining together over a common idea of maintaining camaraderie outside of the workplace and serving those who have served.

"The bond of service members is created over time with common interests," said Master Sgt. Lee Stringer, current Mississippi Guardsman and President and CEO of 5th Squad. "We found that we all had a desire and passion to do more than just what the flag called for. Since [2016], we have sought out other Veterans with the same mindset."



The combat veteran 501c3 non-profit organization hosts several events annually to raise funds for Mississippi Veteran aid. The largest events are the Ruck for Rugrats, the Ruck 2 Remember and the Jacob Campbell Memorial Golf Scramble, an event named to honor a Mississippi Army National Guard Combat Veteran who passed away in 2015.

"The Ruck for Rugrats is a toy drive combined with a 5-mile ruck march to the Children's of Mississippi Hospital," Stringer said. "The Ruck 2 Remember is a 5k ruck march to honor all of Mississippi's sons and daughters who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in combat since Sept. 11, 2001."

According to Stringer, the organization is like a wolf pack in the sense that they're not blood family, but have chosen to be a part of each other's family – stronger together and a bond like no other. The "Wolf Pack," 5th Squad's additional moniker and mascot, has several other events throughout the year to

raise money for Veterans in need.

"Our greatest passion is to help Veterans get off the street and back on their feet," Stringer said. "All our funds are donated and go right back into assisting Veterans. We want to be able to provide immediate assistance to a Veteran without all the red tape of larger organizations."

The Squad's vision is to 'help make the world around us a better place,' focusing on God, country and family while serving and supporting their communities.

"We partner with businesses and our community to help support our Veterans with immediate, life-sustaining assistance," said Stringer. "We aid Veterans by helping with rent and deposits for housing, purchasing groceries, paying utility bills, etc."

5th Squad is comprised of 16 currently-serving Mississippi National Guardsmen and Veterans, and is always actively looking for more members to help with their mission. You can find more information, including how you can become a member, by visiting the 5th Squad website, www.5thsquad.com or connecting with them on Facebook and Instagram.



5TH SQUAD EVENTS





(Photos courtesy of 5th Squad)



5TH SQUAD

Join us for the
7th ANNUAL
RUCK 4 RUGRATS

 **Saturday, December 10**
8:00am - 12:00pm

 **Smith-Wills Stadium**
1200 Lakeland Dr, Jackson, MS

Registration is \$30
Register before November 18 to reserve a shirt
Register at: www.eventbrite.com
Search for 5th Squad

For more details:
Email: 5thsquad@5thsquad.org
Visit: [Facebook.com/5thsquadMS](https://www.facebook.com/5thsquadMS)
Or scan the QR code



The R4R is a 4.5 mile ruck march in conjunction with a toy drive benefiting Children's of MS and local Veterans in need. The event was created by 5th Squad and has been held annually since 2016. 5th Squad is a Mississippi based combat Veteran nonprofit organization that assists local Veterans in need. To learn more about the organization, or to find out how you can get involved, scan the QR code or send us email.

www.5thSquad.com



Two campers pose for a photo in a UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopter at the air-to-ground range during Kids Annual Training at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, June 22, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Connie Jones)

Kid's AT 30th Anniversary

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

Drill and ceremony, weapons practice and familiarization, meals in the chow hall and fun in the sun? That almost sounds like annual training for most National Guard units. This was the experience for Kids AT this year at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi.

"This is the 30th anniversary of Kids AT," said Michela Haggerty, Child and Youth Services coordinator and camp director. "The week is designed to allow the kids an opportunity to see what their parents, our service members, do for the

National Guard. This year we've had the [major subordinate commands] sponsor days. The 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, 66th Troop Command, 184th Sustainment Command, and the Mississippi Air Guard have shown the kids what their units do."

This camp is not an ordinary summer camp, but a chance for kids across the state, who share a common story, to come together as their parents do on a regular basis.

"The main reason we do this camp is because we have kids all over Mississippi that are children of Guard members," said Paul Lyon, director, Mississippi National Guard Outreach Program. "It's not like active duty, where they're

all on one base. Our kids don't get to see each other at school and compare the challenging experiences that Guard kids have, such as parents being deployed. Those things can be shared here. They get to know each other and hopefully make lifelong friends here."

For as long as the program has been running, there are volunteers who have been a part of Kids AT. The head counselor, Nick Smith, has been a part of Kids AT for 28 of the 30 years, beginning as a camper. He and a few others assisted in the creation of the aide-de-camp positions, for 13-year-olds; the junior camp assistants for 14 to 17 year-olds and the junior staff, 17 to 20-year-olds, he said. This enabled him

to be a part of the camp every year except the first year and the year he went away to Air Force basic training. Smith has been a member of the MSANG for more than 15 years. He enjoys the camp and all the activities that make the camp what it is, including instilling values into the campers.

"What we do is encourage traditional patriotism, military-themed ideas," he said. "We try to focus on the Air and the Army Guard values."

In addition to learning pride in service and the military way, the campers get the chance to swim, do arts and crafts, go to the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum, and see different military jobs and how they function – they even get to fire weapons and practice treating casualties.

A lot of planning went into this year's camp with it being a significant anniversary. There was a special reception following the camp's graduation to honor those who have participated previously. The team is thankful for those who stepped up to make all of the events great.

"We're blessed to have a lot of support from YCA [Youth ChalleNGe Academy] and Camp Shelby and the National Guard in general," said Haggerty. "They all pulled together to give the kids this experience. We really appreciate everything the volunteers and staff do for Kids AT as well. They really help the camp to run as smoothly as possible and for that, we are grateful."

There is always room for more volunteers, aide-de-camps, and junior staff.

"This is a great experience," said Lyon. "If you want to volunteer and have a rewarding



A group of children pose for a photo during Kids' Annual Training at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi. Kids AT is a summer camp hosted annually by the Mississippi National Guard Family Programs Directorate. (Courtesy photo)

experience, this is a great place to start."

Whether it's physical fitness training, shooting blanks, or watching targets being blown up on an air-to-ground range, learning about all of these cool things that mom and dad do make the children feel closer to them as well as their new-found

friends.

"It's all about the kids," Smith said. "You want them to leave home, have an enjoyable time, meet friends, and gain knowledge they may not have had prior to attending Kids AT."



Staff Sgt. George Heath of 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, shows campers the Avenger table-top trainer during Day 2 of Kids Annual Training at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, June 21, 2022. Day 2 consisted of swimming, arts and crafts, and tasks put together by the 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 66th Troop Command, Mississippi Army National Guard. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Connie Jones)



Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan B. Coleman, incoming command sergeant major of the Mississippi National Guard's Land Component Command, is pinned the rank of command sergeant major by his wife, Fran Coleman, during a change of responsibility ceremony in the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum's Grand Gallery, Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, June 9, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Veronica McNabb)



Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan B. Coleman, incoming command sergeant major of the Mississippi National Guard's Land Component Command, receives the noncommissioned officer sword during a change of responsibility ceremony in the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum's Grand Gallery, Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, June 9, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Veronica McNabb)

MSNG WELCOMES NEW COMMAND CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER

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

A warrant officer is a highly specialized technical expert and trainer who operates, maintains, and manages the Army's equipment, support activities, or technical systems while building upon their knowledge base and leadership. The command chief warrant officer has mastered technical proficiency and has taken the role of leading the next generation of warrant officers in their formation.

The Mississippi National Guard held a Command Chief Warrant Officer change of responsibility ceremony in the post theater at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, Aug. 7, 2022. During the ceremony, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Tommy Smith relinquished responsibility to Chief Warrant Officer 5 Donny Dukes.

The command chief warrant officer is the senior most warrant officer in the state of Mississippi and serves as a personal advisor to the adjutant general, advises the staff on all matters pertaining to policies, programs and actions impacting the warrant officer cohort, to include professional development, promotions, assignments, incentives, morale, discipline, and recruiting programs. This was the first ceremony of its kind for chief warrant officers in the MSNG.

"I don't think we've ever had the ceremony where we've actually passed the symbol of leadership from one chief warrant officer to the next," said Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi. "When I say this is what leadership looks like, this is what I mean. It was Tommy's and Donny's idea that we had a ceremony to recognize this transfer of responsibility. I hope we will continue this tradition in the future."

For the ceremony, Warrant Officer 1 Ebony Byas, the most junior warrant officer in the MSNG, was chosen to pass the warrant officer saber, the symbol of the heart of the organization, to Smith, signifying the future of the warrant officer cohort. Smith then passed the saber to Boyles, who passed it to Dukes as a symbol of his trust and confidence in his ability to lead. Finally, Dukes passed the saber back to Byas for safe keeping.

"This has been the most rewarding and the most demanding job that I've had in my 35 plus years in the military and the Mississippi National Guard," said Smith



Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi, passes a saber to Chief Warrant Officer 5 Donny Dukes, incoming command chief warrant officer for the Mississippi Army National Guard, during a Change of Responsibility ceremony at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, Aug. 7, 2022. The saber signifies the responsibilities bestowed upon the incoming leader as the new senior chief warrant officer in the Mississippi National Guard and the adjutant general's advisor on all aspects of the Warrant Officer Cohort within the state. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Don N. Kazery III)



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Donny Dukes (left), incoming command chief warrant officer (CCWO) of the Mississippi Army National Guard (MSARNG) and his wife Michelle stand with Chief Warrant Officer 5 Tommy Smith, outgoing CCWO of the MSARNG and his wife Kimberly Ables during the MSARNG Command Chief Warrant Officer Change of Responsibility ceremony at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, Aug. 7, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Don N. Kazery III)

of his time as the command chief warrant officer of the MSNG.

During his time in the position, Smith prioritized the warrant officer program and under his leadership, the warrant officer corps in the MSNG grew from around 60 percent strength, with around 215 warrant officers, up to 90 percent with 287 warrant officers. Smith felt that Dukes would be the right person to carry the torch.

"To my successor, one of the best guys I know, Donny Dukes, to anyone who may not know Donny, and to the ones who have asked me since learning that he took my

place, I tell them if you like me, you'll love Donny Dukes. That's just the kind of guy he is," Smith said.

Dukes looks forward to continuing the work started by Smith and serving the warrant officers of Mississippi.

"I'm honored to follow in your footsteps," Dukes said. "Thank you for being a good mentor and friend to me and leaving us, the state of Mississippi, with a better program and some awesome warrant officers. The best in the nation. I'm honored to serve Mississippi."

MSARNG WELCOMES NEW LAND COMPONENT CSM

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

The Mississippi Army National Guard hosted a Land Component change of responsibility ceremony in the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum's Grand Gallery at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, June 9, 2022.

Command Sgt. Maj. Darrell Masterson relinquished responsibilities to Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan B. Coleman, who was pinned the rank of command sergeant major by his wife, Fran during the ceremony. Brig. Gen. Joe D. Hargett, director of joint staff for the Mississippi National Guard, was the keynote speaker of the event.

Coleman said having a good team has been crucial throughout his career.

"I couldn't do any of the other jobs I've had without the Soldiers on my team who do their job correctly," he said. "I've always believed that if you take care of your Soldiers at every level, all the stuff above you works out."

Coleman is also the G4 (Logistics)

sergeant major full-time for the MSARNG. His familiarization with logistics will help him in his current position working alongside the Director of Joint Staff, said Masterson, who assumed responsibility as the state command sergeant major earlier this year.

"He'll do a good job in the Land Forces Component role. Being from the G4 Section, he already has a major role in the logistics which is everything that the Land Component Sergeant Major does," said Masterson. "The Director of Joint Staff is over all the training events. The overhead units, Camp Shelby, Camp McCain, [Joint Force Headquarters], MEDCOM; those units that support training events, they are the lead on those. He's got a good grasp on what's required for each exercise and each unit that may be mobilizing."

In addition to his work with G4, Coleman has moved throughout the MSARNG in various positions. He is the first active guard reserve Soldier in his current role.

"I've been in every [Major Subordinate Command], including JFH and Camp

McCain," he said. "I was a readiness NCO, a training NCO, a supply NCO and an operations NCO. It has helped me understand different pieces of the mission and I'm able to apply that knowledge in this role."

In this position, Coleman is responsible for the welfare of enlisted Soldiers and Airmen in the MSNG and advises the director of joint staff and the land component commander on matters related to enlisted service members.

Coleman encourages Soldiers to go to developmental courses to continue gaining knowledge and skills as a Soldier and to seek out opportunities in the Guard for various positions to expand their horizons.

"There may be times in a person's life where they may wonder why they're doing what they're doing," he said. "I can look back now and say every job, as simple as I may have thought it to be or as far out as it may have been, I can tell you from this seat, I can see that every bit of it makes sense now."

SOLDIER SERVES AS FIRST RESPONDER



Staff Sgt. Lisa Nunley, an automated logistics specialist with Headquarters Company, 184th Sustainment Command, Mississippi Army National Guard, stands with Kara Burns and her daughter Avery Burns at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Tupelo, Mississippi, July 29, 2022. Kara and Avery were involved in a serious car accident earlier this year and Nunley rescued the two. (U.S. Army National Guard Photo by Cadet Jarvis Mace)

Story by Cadet Jarvis Mace,
102d Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The motto for the National Guard is “Always Ready. Always There.” On May 3, 2022, a Soldier encompassed this motto through and through by being ready and being there when others were in need.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Lisa Nunley, an automated logistics specialist with Headquarters Company, 184th Sustainment Command, was driving to a routine doctor’s appointment when she noticed a diesel rock truck had struck a car crossing a highway.

“I pulled over and asked the two individuals on the side of the road if anyone was injured,” said Nunley. “I had assumed they were the ones involved.”

After one of the civilians pointed, Nunley noticed someone lying face down in the ditch, and she ran to perform aid.

The car crash victim was unconscious and bleeding heavily from the head.

When the victim regained consciousness, Nunley treated her for shock as she applied pressure to her head injuries. Another civilian warned Nunley that a child was in the vehicle as she was still applying aid. In another act of heroism, Nunley went out to find the child as she reassured Kara Burns, the victim, that she would be fine.

Nunley acted quickly and located the child beneath the wrecked vehicle.

“The doors were locked, so I ran over to the passenger side and luckily was able to unlock the door through the broken window,” Nunley said. “I went to the driver’s side of the vehicle and opened the back door to find the child partially under the driver’s seat on the floorboard.”

Nunley then carried Avery, Kara’s five-year-old daughter affectionately

nicknamed “Avie”, to safety as the paramedics arrived.

“I didn’t know if Kara was going to make it, and I didn’t want Avie’s last image of her mom being that,” she said. “I held Avie until the paramedics arrived and carried her to the ambulance.”

Miraculously, both Kara and Avery recovered from their injuries, and Kara even invited Nunley to her birthday lunch. Since then, they talk daily, and the families spend time with each other.

Nunley credits the National Guard for preparing her to protect her community.

“The military, in general, has taught me a lot of things that I use on a day-to-day basis as far as staying calm and being able to assess the situation,” Nunley said. “As a [noncommissioned officer], you are over many people, and they’re your responsibility.”

GUARDSMEN EARN COMMERCIAL DRIVERS LICENSES

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

The national demand for commercial truck drivers is at an all-time high. Recruiters for professional trucking companies have become increasingly interested in military trained motor vehicle operators as a potential source for drivers. Thanks to Gov. Tate Reeves signing House Bill 1486, the Commission of Public Safety can now grant Commercial Drivers Licenses (CDLs) to Mississippi National Guard (MSNG) members who are trained and qualified to operate heavy military vehicles.

The MSNG Outreach Services program, Work for Warriors, is especially interested in opportunities to help Guardsmen translate their military experience into civilian credentials and are working with both state and private stakeholders to increase employment opportunities for qualified service members.

On July 23, 2022, motor transport operators from the 1687th Transportation Company and 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group turned their 88M Military Occupational Skill into a commercial driver’s license at Camp McCain Training Center. This two-day training program is a partnership between the Work for Warriors program, the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, the Mississippi Construction Education Foundation (MCEF), and multiple trucking companies throughout the state.

“The Work for Warriors CDL training is a win-win for everyone involved. Our service members are going to be more competitive, being able to utilize the training and knowledge from their military experience in the civilian sector,” said Sarah Frey, MSNG Employment Director. “The industry partners had a chance to do a ride-along interview and connect with service members that may be interested in careers, and we are getting better trained Soldiers from the experience as well.”

Day 1 of the CDL training began with participating Soldiers receiving their driver’s packages and a presentation from stakeholders such as the Mississippi



Sgt. Whitney King, a motor transport operator from the 1687th Transportation Company, receives guidance from instructor Frankie Pringle of Total Transportation at Camp McCain, Mississippi, July 23rd, 2022. This training is a part of a Work for Warriors program that helps Soldiers who are qualified to operate heavy military vehicles obtain a civilian commercial driver’s license. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Bill Valentine)

Department of Public Safety, the MSARNG Education Office, and MDOT physical providers from Cycle Eight Clinic.

Once the paperwork was complete, the Soldiers traveled to nearby Grenada where the Department of Public Safety licensed all 21 National Guard participants. Upon returning to Camp McCain, Dwight Brown, CEO of Goal Line CDL, led a military to civilian transportation class. Afterward, each Soldier took the wheel in a state-of-the-art commercial truck simulator provided by the MCEF. The evening came to a close with a network dinner where stakeholders met with Soldiers, shared their company overviews, benefits, and ready-to-fill career opportunities.

Day 2 kicked off with the program’s “Over the Road” experience where expert CDL trainers set up four challenging

courses for the Soldiers to master. First, the trainees navigated each scenario driving a familiar M915 truck pulling a 40 ft. trailer. Next, the drivers took the wheel of a commercial semitrailer provided by Total Transportation company. Spc. Zion Lee, 2-20th SFG, found the courses demanding but also familiar.

“It was a little bit different backing the commercial trucks in but most of the things we learned as Army motor transport operators we were able to apply to these similar rigs,” said Lee.

Once the Soldiers felt comfortable with the big rigs, the trainers reset the challenge course for a CDL Rodeo competition. The top three drivers were awarded gift cards for their safety knowledge and demonstration of the driving skills they learned at Camp McCain Training Center. For information on the Work for Warriors military to civilian skill training,

BATTLE HANDOFF

Story by Staff Sgt. Paul Byrne
MSARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion

Nearly 100 Soldiers of the Mississippi Army National Guard were welcomed to their units of assignment during a battle handoff ceremony at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, July 11, 2022. The battle handoff ceremony marks the transition of Soldiers from the recruit sustainment program to their unit of assignment.

In addition to completing their basic combat training and advanced individual training, the Soldiers have completed all administrative and medical clearances and are ready to assume their duties at their new units from day one.

“The new Mississippi Army National Guard Consolidated Battle Handoff Program (CBHP) represents an evolution to the previous program where Soldiers are formally welcomed to the MSARNG after completion of Basic Combat Training (BCT) and Advanced Individual Training (AIT),” said Lt. Col. Andrew Adcock, commander of the MSARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion. “The program is slated for execution quarterly throughout the year and provides the opportunity for new Soldiers to size, receive and sign for their new organizational clothing and individual equipment (OCIE), receive briefings from joint staff, and ask questions of subject matter experts ranging from employment services to healthcare benefits and retirement savings plans.”

Representatives of the Mississippi Army National Guard’s Major Subordinate Commands (MSCs) stepped forward to receive the new Soldiers into their units. Approximately 20 Soldiers were received by 66th Troop Command, more than 30 into the 184th Sustainment Command, and over 40 into the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team.

Adcock felt this new way of conducting the battle handoff went well and plans to continue this quarterly ceremony.

“The MSARNG CBHP is a vital part of the three-tenet mission of the MSARNG R&R Battalion, including recruiting, retention, and attrition,” said Adcock. “After the strong performance of our first event in July with nearly 100 new Soldiers handed off to their units, we are looking forward to our next CBHP in October and the potential of integrating our biannual Guard for Life Program within the weekend.”

The Guardsmen will serve in a variety of career fields that range from vital support in logistics, transportation, military police, and human resources to combat arms as infantry, combat engineers, and field artillery. Others will enter technical careers in signal, intelligence, chemical and medical fields. They will serve in nearly 30 different units throughout the state.



Close to 100 Soldiers of the Mississippi Army National Guard were welcomed by their units of assignment during a battle handoff ceremony at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, July 11, 2022. Subordinate units of the 66th Troop Command, 184th Sustainment Command, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, and Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center received new Soldiers during the event. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Cadet Jarvis Mace)



Command Sgt. Maj. Stan Williams, command sergeant major of the 184th Sustainment Command, welcomes Pfc. Deja Cobbert to the unit during a battle handoff ceremony at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, July 11, 2022. Subordinate units of 66th Troop Command, 184th Sustainment Command, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, and Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center received Soldiers during the event. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Cadet Jarvis Mace)

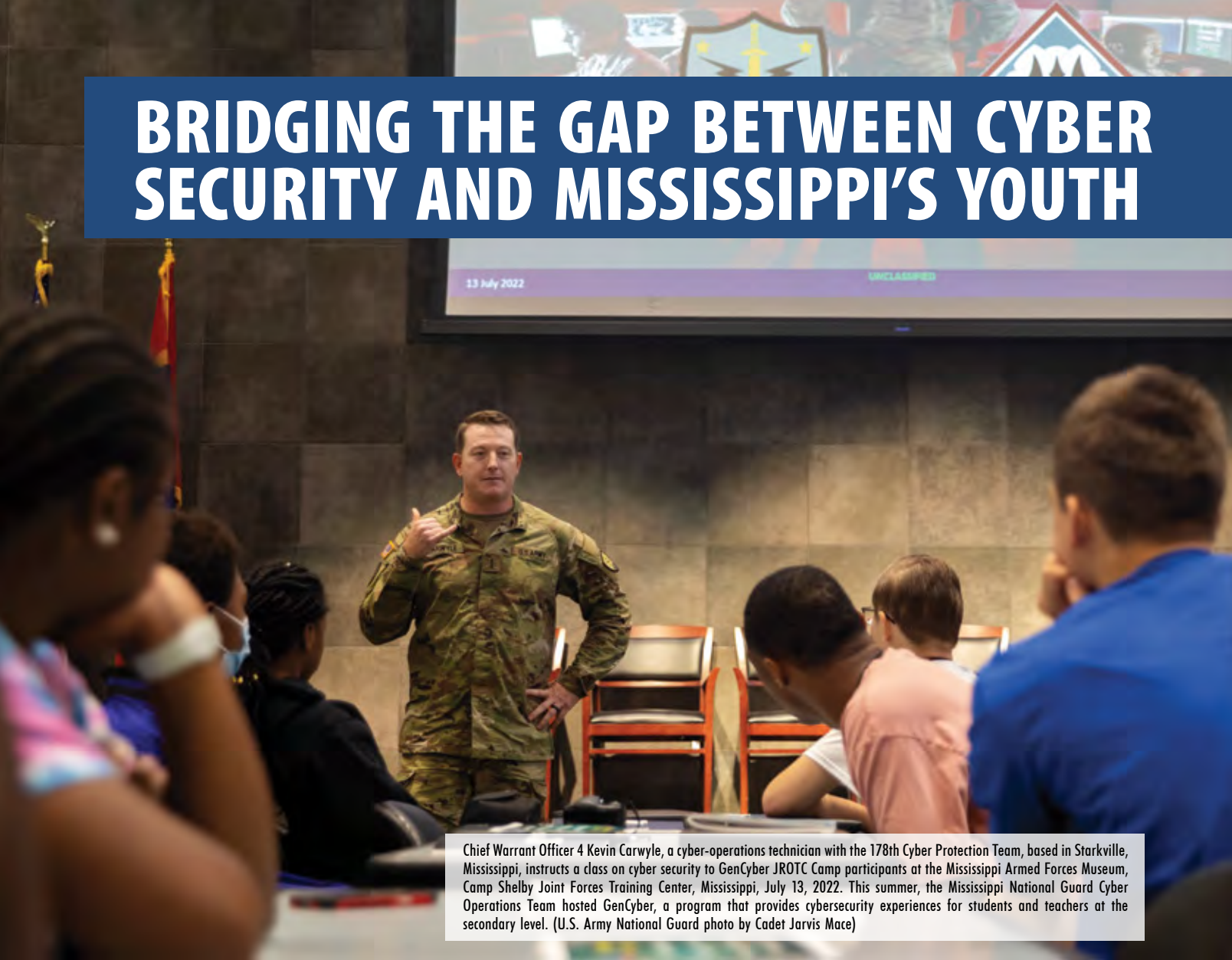
MISSISSIPPI RECRUITING MEDAL



1. Provide 3 leads to a MSARNG Recruiter
2. Leads complete enlistment process and swear into the MSARNG
3. Service Member processed for award of MRM

The third qualifying lead will result in the award of the MRM. Enlisted recipients of the MRM will be eligible for 10 promotion points. Personnel who are assigned to Recruiting and Retention positions as their primary duties are not eligible for the MRM.

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN CYBER SECURITY AND MISSISSIPPI'S YOUTH



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kevin Carwyle, a cyber-operations technician with the 178th Cyber Protection Team, based in Starkville, Mississippi, instructs a class on cyber security to GenCyber JROTC Camp participants at the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum, Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, July 13, 2022. This summer, the Mississippi National Guard Cyber Operations Team hosted GenCyber, a program that provides cybersecurity experiences for students and teachers at the secondary level. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Cadet Jarvis Mace)

Story by Cadet Jarvis Mace
102d Public Affairs Detachment

Technology has become a day-to-day necessity of our lives, providing entertainment, banking, and even education. So, what happens when either foreign or domestic adversaries jeopardize this technology? Cyber security is more critical than ever and must be taught to all, starting with the younger generation born into the digital world.

This summer, the Mississippi Army National Guard's Cyber Protection Team 178, one of the newest units to the Guard, helped bring awareness of cyber security to young students by hosting GenCyber. The GenCyber program, a National Security Agency funded endeavor, provides cybersecurity experiences for students and teachers at the secondary level by igniting, sustaining, and increasing awareness of cybersecurity content, and post-secondary

and career opportunities for participants through year-round engagement.

GenCyber strives to be a part of the solution to the Nation's shortfall of skilled cybersecurity professionals. Ensuring that enough young people are inspired to utilize their talents in network security is critical to the future of our country's national and economic security as we become even more reliant on technology in every aspect of our daily lives.

Soldiers of Cyber Protection Team 178 hosted sessions at The Mississippi Armed Forces Museum on Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center to provide a fun and educational experience for JROTC students attending the camp.

"It starts at this level," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kevin Carwyle, a cyber-operations technician with CPT 178. "We have a huge gap to close, and in the next few years, we have to continue our knowledge to protect our networks

and data."

Carwyle and the rest of his team expect their classes to create a pipeline of cyber security professionals by reaching out to the youth of our state.

The partnership between the University of Southern Mississippi and the MSARNG assisted in bringing GenCyber to the state so students can expand their computing and cyber awareness as well as their military knowledge.

"We are excited to host GenCyber here at USM, partnering with Camp Shelby and Keesler Air Force Base," said Dr. Sarah Lee, professor and director, School of Computing Science & Computer Engineering at USM. "We think that providing an opportunity that exposes students to what they can do in the military and civilian world with cyber security is very beneficial."



Master Sgt. Elroy Winding serves as the Casualty Assistance Non-Commissioned Officer for the State of Mississippi. He has dedicated a vast majority of his career to taking care of our fallen Soldiers and taking care of service members' families. Winding's experience and professionalism is a mirror image of how the Casualty Assistance Program operates – aiming to make sure fallen Veterans' families are the number one priority when they are experiencing the loss of their loved one.

What are the duties of the Casualty Operation Section?

The Casualty Operation Section is dedicated to the mission of aiding families of fallen Soldiers on Active Duty, National Guard non-duty status, and M-Day Soldiers in an Active-duty status. We are committed to providing first-class service to the fallen Soldiers and their families, as well as training and resources to the members of our Casualty Operation Team.

What is a benefit service members may not be aware of?

The Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI) contains a little-known benefit for families who experience a late pregnancy loss. FSGLI for stillborn children has specific rules and qualifications:

FSGLI for Stillborn Children

Under FSGLI child coverage, the \$10,000 benefit is paid upon the death of a covered, dependent child. Under

BURNING QUESTIONS

CASUALTY ASSISTANCE

FSGLI guidelines, the definition of a dependent child includes a stillborn child whose death occurs before expulsion, extraction or delivery, and not for the purposes of abortion, and:

1. whose fetal weight is 350 grams or more; or
2. whose duration in utero is 20 completed weeks of gestation.

While no one ever hopes to make a claim under this coverage, it may provide financial relief to families during a challenging time. It may be used for any purpose; common uses are to pay funeral costs and transportation to another location for a funeral service.

How does a service member make a claim?

A servicemember starts a claim for FSGLI benefits by notifying his or her personnel support office, who should notify a trained casualty assistance person. Documentation from health care providers will be required.

Are there any other little-known benefits in SGLI?

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI) provides short-term financial assistance to severely injured Servicemembers and Veterans to assist them in their recovery from traumatic injuries. TSGLI is not only for combat injuries but provides insurance coverage for injuries incurred on or off duty.

Eligibility

If you are insured under full-time SGLI, you are automatically covered by TSGLI. TSGLI coverage applies to active-duty members, reservists, National

Guard members, funeral honors duty and one-day muster duty.

To be eligible for payment of TSGLI, you must meet all of the following requirements:

- You must be insured by SGLI when you experience a traumatic injury
- You must incur a scheduled loss and that loss must be a direct result of a traumatic injury
- You must have suffered the traumatic injury prior to midnight of the day that you separate from the uniformed services
- You must suffer a scheduled loss within 2 years (730 days) of the traumatic injury
- You must survive for a period of not less than seven full days from the date of the traumatic injury (The 7-day period begins on the date and time of the traumatic injury, as measured by Zulu [Greenwich Meridian] time and ends 168 full hours later)

This benefit is also provided retroactively for Service members who incurred severe losses as a result of traumatic injuries incurred between October 7, 2001 and November 30, 2005, regardless of the geographic location where the injury occurred, and regardless of whether coverage was in effect at the time of injury.

I hope this information may be helpful to military families who are facing the loss of a child, Soldier, or a traumatic injury as listed above. Please tuck it away so that you can share it with a friend, family member or co-worker who may be in this situation. Thank you.

MSNG STAFF RIDE TO BOSTON



Officers and noncommissioned officers of the Mississippi National Guard explored the battle sites of Lexington and Concord during a staff ride to Boston, Massachusetts, July 20-22, 2022.

“We are going through the Battle of Concord and Lexington,” said Master Sgt. Robert Short, operations non-commissioned officer with 66th Troop Command. “A staff ride gives us an opportunity to see where we came from and how we’re developing. This specific

one is really kind of the birth of the Guard.”

The staff ride provided senior leaders an opportunity to study the battles of the Boston Campaign with expert historians, as well as strategies used by both sides during this point of the Revolutionary War.

“For me, the staff ride gives me different perspectives for understanding operations and mission command,” said Capt. Kendriqua Cary, administrative

officer of the 210th Finance Battalion.

The staff ride also allowed Army and Air National Guardsmen to network and share ideas from different perspectives.

“Anybody that gets a chance to do this and is interested in military history and networking with your extended guard family should do this,” said Senior Master Sgt. Raymond West, 172nd Airlift Wing.

(U.S. Army National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. Connie Jones)

SHARP MONTH



Senior leadership of the Mississippi National Guard, Representatives of the MSNG Sexual Assault Response team, Deborah Bryant, and Col. Allen McDaniel during the Sexual Harassment Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) Kickoff at Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi, March 31, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Connie Jones)

The Mississippi National Guard’s Sexual Harassment Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) team hosted various events throughout the month of April in support of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM), beginning with a kickoff event at Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi, March 31, 2022.

Speakers for the event included Mrs. Deborah Bryant, the 64th first lady of the state; Command Sgt. Maj. Silvester Tatum, senior enlisted leader of the MSNG; Chief Master Sergeant Lynn R. Cole, state command chief master sergeant of the Mississippi Air National Guard; Col. C. Allen McDaniel, the 5th Executive Director of the National Guard Association of Mississippi; Beth McCord, representative of The Bridge; Maj. Tiffany Crawford, State Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC); and Sgt. 1st Class Stephanie Kennett, State Victims Advocate Coordinator (VAC).

The team also hosted a chair massage event, a Zumba class, a 5k run, and a sip and paint event. These events, which took place every Tuesday of the month, were organized to bring awareness to sexual assault prevention and to ensure people were able to interact with the advocates and ask questions.

“We wanted to advocate for consent while shedding light on common misconceptions about our program,” said Kennett. “We also wanted to celebrate our advocates because they make a choice to stay and be a voice when a service member is in need.”

To reach the MSNG SARC or VAC, contact Tiffany Crawford or Stephanie Kennett at (601) 313-6356 or (601) 850-6872. The 24/7 DOD SAFE Helpline number is (877) 955-5247.

MEDICAL READINESS UNIVERSITY

The Air National Guard Medical Service’s Medical Readiness University brought Airmen from across the nation to teach classes at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center, Mississippi, May 20, 2022. The Medical Readiness University is a mobile training initiative that connects certified medical trainers with medical technicians to train on annual medical tasks.

“The training taking place at Medical Readiness University at the Gulfport CRTC is important to me, as the chief of the medical enlisted force for the Air National Guard,” said Chief Master Sgt. Faith Federspiel. “Our nation has entrusted myself and my staff to provide training to our Medics so that when we head out for the fight, we have the confidence and ability to save their sons and daughters.”

(U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Jovi Prevot)



SCAN TO SEE MORE



186TH ANNUAL TRAINING

Members of the 186th Civil Engineer Squadron, 186th Air Refueling Wing, Mississippi Air National Guard, and Mission Support Group and Services personnel, participated in two weeks of training at the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Heart Butte, Montana, as part of the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program, Aug. 13 - 27, 2022. During the training, members completed several projects that included concrete formation and pouring for building and utility pads, along with accessibility structures.

“We were excited to partner with the National Guard Bureau and Blackfeet Nation to provide a new senior citizen community center in northwest Montana,” said Lt. Col. Vaughn Threatt, commander of the 186th Civil Engineer Squadron.

According to Threatt, the 10 days of construction and services in Montana provided a cost savings of \$100k while enabling service members to exercise their skills and complete important core tasks essential to training in their respective career fields.



(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Justin Brown)



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Soldiers assigned to the 344th Engineer Company (SAPPER), a U.S. Army Reserve unit based in Tallahassee, Florida, detonate a linear charge to create an entry point on a door during range training at Exercise Pershing Strike 2022 at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi, July 27, 2022. The Soldiers stood behind a blast blanket to protect them from flying debris. (U.S. Army Reserve photo by Staff Sgt. David Lietz)

