

WINTER 2014

# GUARD DETAIL

A CHRONICLE OF THE MISSISSIPPI ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD





**THE ADJUTANT GENERAL**  
Maj. Gen. Augustus L. Collins

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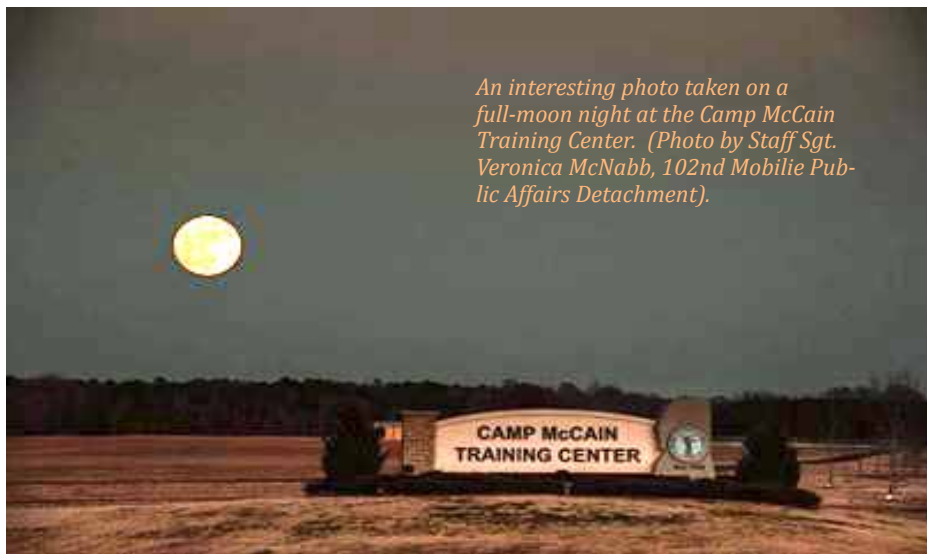


**FRONT COVER:** A member of the Mississippi Army National Guard's 185th Theater Aviation Battalion tests night vision goggles before night flying operations for the Southern Strike multi-force exercise held at Camp Shelby and the Combat Readiness Training Center (ANG) recently. (Photo by 1st Lt. Ben Mackin, JFH-MS Public Affairs).

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An interesting photo taken on a full-moon night at the Camp McCain Training Center. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Veronica McNabb, 102nd Mobilie Public Affairs Detachment).

# 172nd Airlift Wing Runners Fly High at Air Force Marathon



■ By: Tech Sgt. Ed Staton, 172nd AW Public Affairs

Although each member of 172nd Airlift Wing participating in the 2013 Air Force Marathon successfully crossed the finish line, a sense of well-deserved accomplishment was felt long before each runner completed the 26.2 mile run at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 21.

"It's not all about running the marathon, it's the journey to get there," said Master Sgt. Catrina Wilson when talking about the demanding process of preparing for a marathon. "It can be difficult to do your long training runs unless you have people telling you can do anything you set your mind on. The marathon is just the prize at the end."

Wilson who was joined by fellow 172nd members, Tech Sgt. Eric Colson and Senior Airman Josie Wicker, provided that assessment based on the path she followed to become a long-distance runner.

"I started training for marathons because I had gained a lot of weight," said Wilson who has now completed 12 of these grueling races. "In the military, we're supposed to do our physical training.

I had some friends who joined the marathon makeover, so I decided to get off the couch and start training."

The value of the Marathon Makeover program also paid dividends for Wicker whose participation in the Air Force event marked her first marathon. Wicker ran the Wright-Patterson Air Force

The Air Force marathon course is a 26.2 mile run that traverses historical places at Wright-Patterson AFB, including the National Museum of the United States Air Force, the Air Force Institute of Technology, Headquarters Air Force Material Command the Wright-Patterson AFB flight line, Huffman

Prairie Flying Field, and the Wright Brothers Memorial Monument.

"Most of the marathon is run on base and the finish was unique and moving," said Wilson. "You run along the flight line and between different types of aircraft including running underneath a C-17 right before the finish line."



Senior Airman Josie Wicker is glad to

cross the finish line at the Air Force Marathon held recently at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. She was one of three who participated from the 172nd Airlift Wing in Flowood, Miss.

Base course after beginning the makeover course in January.

"At first I wasn't that excited about it, but Master Sgt. Wilson encouraged me," Wicker said after finishing well within the top 25% of the female division with a time of 4:13:50. "Once I started running, it further inspired me to be better. It was a challenge and I like challenges."



# From the Editor

By Lt. Col. (Retired) Timothy J. Powell  
Director, Public Affairs Office

## New Year's Resolution How about PDCPC?

Every year we make them—every year we break them. New Year's Resolutions probably have the highest mortality rates of anything known to man. So, if the resolution thing for 2014 tops your list, at least make one that has a snowball's chance....well, you know.

I have a suggestion for one that will help you in the long run, and will certainly please everyone around you the entire new year—refrain from Public Displays of Cell Phone Conversations or PDCPC (for editorial purposes).

First of all, no one, not even the closest friends, family or significant others care about hearing other people's cell phone conversations. PDCPCs are rude, obtrusive, insulting and mostly unnecessary. My sister and niece were my guests for Thanksgiving this year, and when my cell phone rang, I immediately took it outside—I'm sure they had no interest whatsoever in what I was saying. I always try to be considerate with cell phone calls and other interruptions in the public domain.

I boarded a plane one morning, and before I could get situated and buckled in good, a cowboy hat wearing gentleman (used loosely) in the seat behind me struck up a cell phone conversation reminiscent of a Sheriff Buford T. Justice



diatribe while chasing the Bandit. It was rude, loud, and he smiled as he searched the faces of passengers hoping for looks of amazement at his use of the king's English. How annoying, and now the FCC wants to make in-flight calls legal on all airlines in the U.S. Lunacy, I say!

When people see a Soldier or Airman in uniform, dignity and respect are immediate first impressions. But, when this Soldier/Airman has a cell phone brain deep in the ear and a voice that would top the local tornado siren, the impres-

sion turns into a lasting one of indignation and disrespect. Let's all be cognizant of this and use this as a starting point for a successful New Year's resolution in 2014.

My reaction to those out there who would attempt to invade my space with irritating PDCPC s? A scowling look, a silent shake of my head, and a simple "have a good day."

*Until next time.....*



## 186th ARW commander retires on top

*Maj. Gen. Augustus L. Collins, adjutant general of the Mississippi National Guard, looks on as Col. Franklin Chalk's family pins him with the rank of brigadier general during his retirement ceremony Nov. 22. The family members pictured are his daughter Stacey (left), wife Sharon, and grandkids Adeline and Jackson. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Richard Davis, 186th ARW-Public Affairs.)*

■ By Capt. Steven Stubbs, 186th ARW Public Affairs

Col. Franklin Chalk, commander, 186th Air Refueling Wing, retired from the Mississippi Air National Guard with family, fellow guard members, dignitaries and friends watching as he folded his wings for the final time at Key Field Air National Guard Base on Nov. 22.

During his 35-year career, Chalk experienced the thrill of hurtling his body towards the earth at over 1,200 miles per hour in an RF-4C Phantom II reconnaissance aircraft, but also the pain of losing the KC-135R Stratotanker due to BRAC realignment. But Chalk remained calm and fought tirelessly to keep the flying mission at Key Field.

"He has led this wing through some difficult times," said Maj. Gen. Augustus L. Collins, adjutant general of the Mississippi National Guard. "During that time he has exemplified exceptional leadership. He was the glue that held everything and everyone together."

After the BRAC order, the wing jump started the brand new MC-12 Project Liberty training mission. The program began in earnest in

October 2008, when the National Guard Bureau contacted base leadership about the possibility of utilizing Meridian-based crew members who possess extensive intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance experience in a similar aircraft, the RC-26, to train active duty aviators.

The two-and-a-half year training program developed into a "bridge" mission maintaining critical manpower support as the 186th ARW awaited arrival of the C-27J transport aircraft. However the C-27J program, dubbed as supporting the Soldiers and Airmen the last tactical mile, was short-lived due to budget cuts. But through Chalk working alongside national and state representatives, leaders of the Mississippi National Guard, and local lobbying groups, the KC-135R tankers found their way back to Key Field this year.

"There is nothing better than looking out on the ramp and seeing those KC-135 tankers sitting out there," Chalk said. "There has been a lot of talk today about what I did but the truth of the matter is there were so many people who had a strong influence on our getting this refueling mission back to Key Field."

Chalk received his commission through the Academy of Military Science, Knoxville, Tenn. on Nov. 16, 1978. After commissioning, he attended Undergraduate Navigator Training, Mather Air Force Base, Calif., which he completed on Nov. 17, 1979. On Dec. 27, 1979, he graduated from Tactical Navigation Training at Shaw Air Force Base, S. C.

Prior to assuming his current position, Chalk served as Vice Commander of the 186th ARW. Other military assignments include Squadron Navigator, Chief of Standardizations and Evaluations, Training Officer, Air Operations Officer, Squadron Commander, and Operations Group Commander.

Although Chalk received numerous awards and accolades during his ceremony, he sent this touching note to those who served under him for seven years.

"It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve with each and every one of you," said Chalk. "You are the "standard by which others are measured, and I would not have had it any other way."



## *Guard Welcomes New Mentorship Organization*

■ By: Lt. Col. Christian Patterson, JFH-MS  
Public Affairs

The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. formally approved the establishment of the Mississippi National Guard ROCKS Interest Group in July 2013. The ROCKS is a non-profit organization comprised of active, reserve, retired and former commissioned officers and warrant officers of the U.S. Armed Forces, and widows and widowers of deceased members.

The organization was founded in 1974 and was formed to provide professional development and social interaction to strengthen the officer corps.

“We’re very happy to have the opportunity to bring The ROCKS to the Mississippi National Guard,” said Michael Williams, MSNG ROCKS IG Interim President. “We are one of two National Guard component ROCKS organizations. Our group will work hard to achieve chapter status in 2014.”

As more than ten years of fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan comes to close, the Mississippi National Guard will continue to work to maintain the skill sets and practice lessons learned from combat operations overseas. There are many who feel that this critical information should be passed on to future MSNG Soldiers and

Airmen to keep the force strong.

“Approximately 20,000 of our Soldiers and Airmen have deployed overseas since Sept. 11, 2001,” said Rodney Harris, Vice-President of the MSNG ROCKS IG. “Their expertise is priceless and should be shared. Our organization focuses on mentorship and exposure to seasoned Veterans. We’re committed to strengthening the MSNG officer corps and its readiness for the challenges that lie ahead.”

For more information about The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc., visit [www.rocksync.org](http://www.rocksync.org). The MSNG ROCKS IG meets at the Joint Force Headquarters, MSNG monthly. For membership and meeting information, contact Christian Patterson at [christian.patterson@student.shu.edu](mailto:christian.patterson@student.shu.edu).



TAG RUN - Maj. Gen. Augustus L. Collins, the adjutant general of Mississippi, leads approximately 120 Army and Air Guardsmen on a two-mile formation run at the 172d Airlift Wing on Nov. 27.



*Col. Mike Nabors, 186th Air Refueling Wing's incoming commander, receives the wing flag from Maj. Gen. Augustus L. (Leon) Collins, the adjutant general of Mississippi, at Key Field Air National Guard Base, Meridian, Miss., Dec. 7, during the assumption of command ceremony. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Richard L. Smith, 186th ARW-Public Affairs).*



Brig. Gen. Allen Brewer, director Joint Staff (left) and Col. Philip Parker, commander, 154th Regional Training Institute at Camp Shelby, display the wreath at the Joint Force Headquarters, Mississippi National Guard, from the National Wreathes Across America recently. The wreath was one of several hundred that arrived for delivery to various Mississippi locations on Dec. 14. The wreath was presented to Parker for delivery to the Mississippi National Guard in honor of its Army and Air National Guardsmen. (Photo by Sandy Ates, JFH-MS Public Affairs)

# Guard members host Christmas party for children at Jackson Hospital



*Members of the Mississippi National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson, admire a two month old child who recently underwent major surgery at the Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital in Jackson. The parents of the child admired their first child's visit with Santa (Staff Sgt. Ashley Young) center; Mrs. Claus (Ms. Nancy Johnson) left, and Capt Adam Harris who portrayed Santa's elf. There were over 25 members of the MSNG-JFH who volunteered for the hospital's Christmas party.*

■ Photos and story by Sandy Ates, JFH-Public Affairs

To a child, there is nothing more thrilling during the Christmas holidays than seeing a white-bearded, red-suited, ho-ho-ho laughing Santa Claus, complete with toys and elves.

Children at the Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital in Jackson, Miss., got such a visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus, as well as members of the Mississippi National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters, who put together a special Christmas party for them at the hospital Dec. 6.

"This is such a wonderful opportunity to make a better Christmas for these children," said Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) Bubba Grace, an original member of a JFH group who started special events for the Batson kids through its Adopt-a-School Program over 18 years ago. "These children fight so hard in their battle with illnesses and many are unable to go home to be with family, so this means so much

to these kids when we visit them at the hospital during the holidays."

Approximately 25 JFH members, and 25 members of the Madison-Ridgeland Academy, served refreshments, sang Christmas carols, and spent chat time with children that were ambulatory, while the Clauses and others went to various floors at the hospital to make special visits to those unable to attend the party.

There were small stuffed Christmas toys for all the children, but, one little boy, Brody, insisted Santa get his Christmas Wish List before leaving early to go home with his parents for the holidays.

"We made sure we read his list twice, and spoke with Brody's parents about his request," said Staff Sgt. Ashley Young, who played the 6 foot-plus Santa Claus, and civilian employee Nancy Johnson, who portrayed Mrs. Claus. "It makes you feel so good to be able to do something for these special children."

"Considering what these kids must go through, they are

just real positive," said Nicholas Cobb, a senior at MRA. He said the senior class at MRA must complete specified service project hours before graduating.

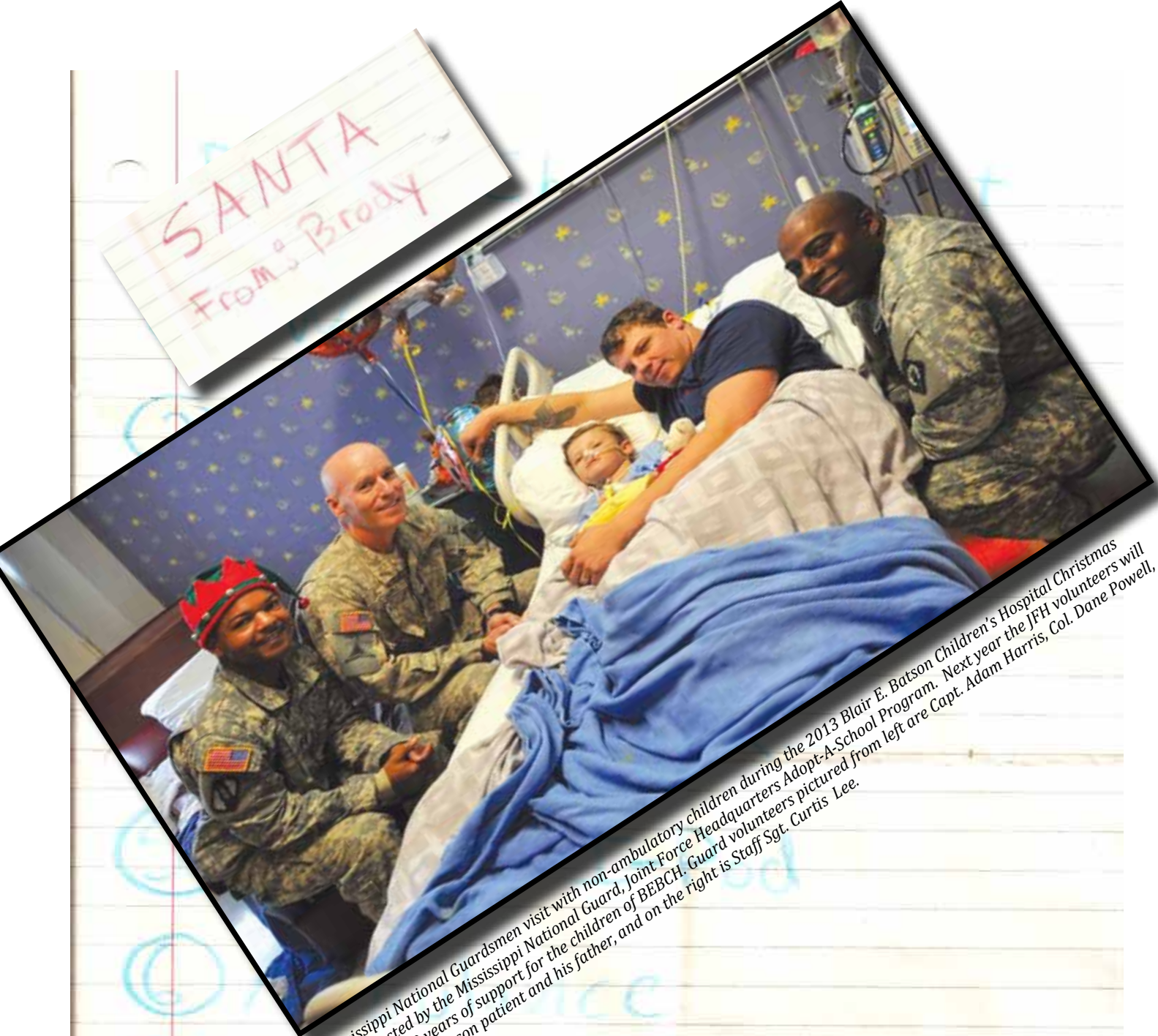
"It was a lot of fun for them and for us," chimed Carson Gilstrap and Harrison Case.

Case's mother, Roxanne, noted "that the visit is part of the senior's service project, but most of the students helping have already finished their project hours, but still wanted to do this for the children at the hospital here, we appreciate the Mississippi National Guard for hosting this program, and allowing us to help."

The Mississippi National Guard is always among the front-runners in helping those in need. "This little bit of time spent with these children is something they will remember for a long time, and next Christmas we will celebrate 20 years supporting this remarkable bunch of people at Batson Hospital," says Lt. Col. Billy Hardin,



SANTA  
From Brody



Mississippi National Guardsmen visit with non-ambulatory children during the 2013 Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital Christmas party hosted by the Mississippi National Guard, Joint Force Headquarters Adopt-A-School Program. Next year the JFH volunteers will celebrate 20 years of support for the children of BEBCH. Guard volunteers pictured from left are Capt. Adam Harris, Col. Dane Powell, and Blair E. Batson patient and his father, and on the right is Staff Sgt. Curtis Lee.

*Volunteers throw paint on Soldiers and civilians during the Sara Smiles Neon Splash Dash at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, in Sept. 2013. The United Services Organization and Army volunteers organized the five-kilometer run to raise awareness for suicide prevention and provide Camp Buehring personnel a fun change of pace. (Photo by Spc. Andree Ingram/U.S. Army)*



## Mississippian joins splash and dash in suicide prevention

■ By Spc. Andrew Ingram, Camp Buehring, Kuwait

Soldiers donned bright colors and laughed their way through a Technicolor five-kilometer event organized to celebrate life and raise suicide awareness during the Sara's Smile Neon Splash Dash at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Sept. 28.

In the days leading up to the run, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Britt, Army Recruiter for the Mississippi National Guard and co-founder of the Sara's Smile Foundation, spoke to Soldiers of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, about his daughter's suicide, the importance of asking for help and his commitment to bring something positive out of his family's pain.

"I went into a major depression after losing my child to suicide," Britt said. "Once I came out of my depression, I realized I didn't want Sara to die off in vain. I wanted to use our story to help educate people, promote awareness and help save lives."

Although Soldiers undergo periodic suicide prevention training, Britt's personal experience lends weight to his seminars.

"What sets my brief apart is that I lived through it, my children lived through it and Sara's mother lived through it," he said. "People listen when they know you have personally dealt with something. Soldiers have told me that my story makes an impact because it's from the heart. My story has given some the courage to seek help, and assisted others to cope with the loss of a buddy or a loved one."

Volunteers with the United Service Organizations,

Inc. arranged the more than 1,500 participants into heats. When the sun dipped below the horizon, leaving the desert camp in darkness, the splash dash began.

"Raider Brigade Soldiers, volunteers and USO employees spent months making the event as unique, interesting and exciting as possible, said Tiffany Banks, director of the Camp Buehring.

"First ABCT, 4th Inf. Div., has been pretty fantastic as we've organized this event," said Banks. "We've all worked together to make it happen. Everyone who has been involved, from our staff to our volunteers, worked very hard."

Different obstacles were spread throughout the course. Runners slid down a fire-hose-fed waterslide, slogged through ankle-deep water and got splashed with glow-in-the-dark acrylic paint by volunteers stagering across the route.

"All the paint made the whole thing a lot more exciting than your average Army run," said Pfc. Nicholas Rose, a fire support specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st ABCT. "Personally, though, the slide was my favorite part."

Despite the light tone and manic energy of the splash dash, Rose said he appreciated the message behind the madness.

"I think it helped people realize that this isn't a topic they should be afraid to talk about," he said. "Hopefully this event will give somebody the push they need to get help."

# A Gift of Thanks

■ Photos and Story by Maj. Deidre Smith, Camp Shelby Public Affairs

Veteran's Day means a lot of different things to different people. For many local citizens and children, Veteran's Day means a day off or the best shopping deals before the holiday shopping frenzy. For military members, veterans and their families, it is a time of reflection and remembrance.

In honor of their service and with a gesture of gratitude, the Oasis Student Ministry Team of Macedonia Baptist Church in Petal raised money and purchased 30 gas gift cards valued at \$20 each to hand deliver to Soldiers serving in the Petal and Hattiesburg communities.

"Once a year we host a weekend student ministry called 'Disciple Now' that focuses on outreach missions in our community," said Marlinda Skaggs church member and volunteer parent of the Oasis Student Ministry.

"This is a way to teach our youth to appreciate our military and share Jesus with our community," said Skaggs.

Over 70 youth between the ages of 13 to 18 years old participated in this year's 'Disciple Now' activities. Youth director, Brian Phippen of Petal led the charge for coordination and planning of the community activities to include a free car wash, gas gift card distribution to Soldiers, Habitat for Humanity volunteer service, assistance to Lighthouse Ministries in Hattiesburg, landscaping and lawn care assistance to elderly community members, fresh eggs distribution to local community members in need as well as the efforts of 'Packing the Bus' for an upcoming bus and supply donation to a Belize Ministry.

Brian Phippen, youth minister at Macedonia Baptist Church, explained that it was important for Guard Detail



*Cher Soldnie (left) and Marlinda Skaggs (left center) honor Staff Sgt. Rico Kennedy from Camp Shelby with a gas gift card during Veteran's Day weekend in Petal. The Oasis Youth Ministry at Macedonia Baptist Church of Petal raised the funds to purchase the gas gift cards in honor of military members in the local community. Thirty, \$20 gas gift cards were on hand to distribute to local military members as a token of thanks for their service and sacrifice.*



*Lauren Valentine (left) and Rachel Holley (right), youth members of Oasis Student Ministry at Macedonia Baptist Church in Petal, hand delivered gas gift cards on Nov. 9 during community outreach services honoring community members and military service members. Sgt. Casey Byrd, currently serving at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, was one of the military members honored during the Veteran's Day weekend by the Oasis Student Ministry. (U.S. Army Photo by Maj. Deidre Smith, Camp Shelby Public Affairs)*

their youth to make a difference in the community.

"We strive hard to teach our students to make a difference in the lives of those around them. Furthermore, we truly love and appreciate all men and women of our armed forces and anything we can do to show our appreciation to them, we want to do so," said Phippen.

Phippen explained that they felt with the current economic situa-

tions and with the recovery of the recent government shutdowns and gas prices, the donation of gas gift cards would be a simple way to greatly show appreciation for the military.

"We are thankful for the opportunity to serve them for once. Christ laid down his life for us, what we are therefore called to do is to lay down our lives in service to others," said Phippen.



*A huge U. S. flag hangs from the rafters of the hangar where families welcomed the 255th ACS home, Thursday night.*



*Johnny Campbell Jr. kisses his adopted son as the 255th ACS returned from deployment, Thursday night.*

# Air Guard's 255th Control Squadron returns home from deployment in December

(All Photos by Tim Isbell/Sun Herald)



*Families hold up signs and wave flags as the 255th ACS returns home, Thursday night in Gulfport.*



*new son, John A. Campbell, Thursday as deployment. The younger Campbell was deployed.*



*Jonathan Arroyo hugs his wife, Stephanie, and son, Isaac, Thursday as the 255th ACS arrived in Gulfport. Arroyo had never seen his son as Isaac was born while he was deployed. TIM ISBELL*



*Jonathan Arroyo hugs his wife, Stephanie, and son, Isaac, Thursday as the 255th ACS arrived in Gulfport. Arroyo had never seen his son as Isaac was born while he was deployed. TIM ISBELL*

# Football Trophy comes home for display at Camp Shelby museum

■ By: Maj. Deidre Smith Camp Shelby Public Affairs

## A Legacy Remembered

It is the roar of the crowd, the triumphant energy in the air and the thrill of victory that helps to define a legacy in the American passion of football, magnified by an undefeated season and of course an almost three feet tall gleaming trophy. The 38th Division “Cycloners” Soldier football team was victorious on the football field just shortly before being deployed in support of World War II as members of the Allied Forces in the Pacific Theater.

The Mississippi Armed Forces Museum recently obtained the V Corps (Fifth Corps) Army football championship trophy won by the “Cycloners” Soldier Football team in 1941. The team was undefeated against other Soldier football teams from training camps in the Southeastern United States. All of the dates, opponents and scores are engraved on the trophy.

The 38th Division was stationed at Camp Shelby from February 1941 until deployed to the Pacific Theater of Operations in late 1942. The division consisted of National Guardsmen from Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia. The “Cycloners” played all of their home games at USM’s (then Mississippi Southern College) football stadium and were cheered on by the local Hattiesburg High School’s cheerleaders.

The museum received the trophy from Ms. Ginny Sidlowski,



*Lt. Wayne T. Sandefur*

daughter of the Cycloners’ coach, Wayne T. Sandefur. Sandefur was a star football player at Purdue University and, after college, became a high school football coach in Indiana. He also obtained a commission as an officer in the Indiana National Guard. While at Camp Shelby, Lieutenant Sandefur met and married his wife, Ms. Sarah Rhodes of Hattiesburg. The couple was married on November 15, 1941. Sarah’s sister, George Ann, was one of the Hattiesburg High School cheerleaders that often cheered for the Cycloners. Ms. George Ann Rhodes also attended the dedication.

Lieutenant Sandefur served heroically in World War II. He was promoted to Captain while overseas and earned two Silver Star Medals for valor during the Philippine Liberation campaign (1945). After World War II, Captain Sandefur remained in the Army Reserves during his career with the Physical Education College at the University of Florida. He was promoted to the rank of Colonel in 1962 before retiring from the Army Reserves.

The 1941 V Corps Football Trophy is the focal point of a larger exhibit about Colonel Sandefur’s time at Camp Shelby and honorable service in World War II.

## WW II Trophy dedication

When asked about the Family’s feelings upon the trophy’s return to Camp Shelby, Ginny Sandefur-Sidlowski replied, “We feel wonderful. When I was a little girl, this trophy sat on the shelf and we would walk by it and look at it and kind of stand in awe and wonder at what this big huge trophy was. The sad thing about being a little girl is that you don’t think to ask the questions that you wish you would have asked. The three of us just got together and decided that this trophy belongs someplace besides in our personal possessions, in our closet. So that got the whole thing started and I started digging through my dad’s memorabilia and that’s where we have the exhibit, and I have to thank my sisters for helping me put the whole thing together and contribute, sending me over the things that they had stored in their shoeboxes, etc.”

This trophy meant a lot to the Soldiers who won it back in 1941, but the dedication date was very significant too.

“This (November 15th) is the 71st Wedding anniversary of my parents. Back in 1942 on Nov. 15, they were married at the Camp Shelby chapel,” said Sidlowski.

Mississippi Armed Forces Museum Director, Chad Daniels



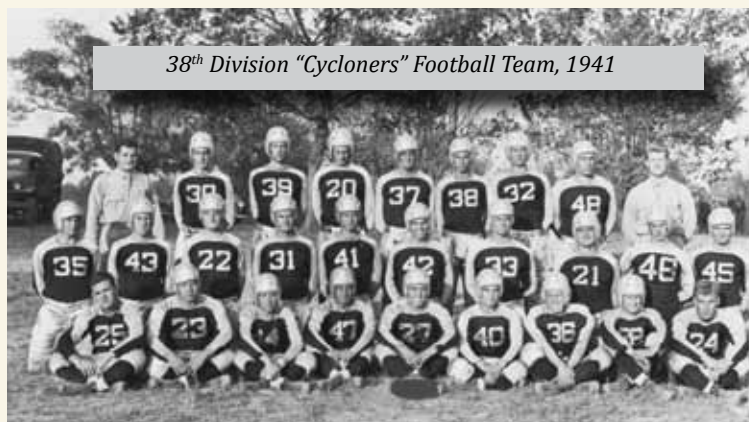
*Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Commander Col. Brad Smith (left) stood alongside members of the Sandefur Family Center and Mississippi Armed Forces Museum Director Chad Daniels during the exhibit unveiling and dedication of the 38th Division "Cycloners" Soldier football team championship trophy. The trophy was dedicated on Nov. 15 in honor of Col. Wayne T. Sandefur and his wife's wedding anniversary in 1942 and coupled with the Veteran's Day holiday. This trophy is a sign of the times and relic in history that embodies the success of Soldier athletes.*

explained that the dedication of this trophy also had a distinct tie back to the Hattiesburg community.

"This is one of those great stories where you have a link between Camp Shelby, between the University of Southern Mississippi and Hattiesburg and it's really great to have it here because so many people in Hattiesburg helped to support the Soldiers when they were playing their games and then bring home the trophy. It was something celebrated in the area so it's really good to have it here because it has that real community connection and real Camp Shelby connection too," said Daniels.

The trophy is currently being displayed at the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby as part of a new exhibit. The exhibit also pays tribute to Col. Sandefur and his distinguished accomplishments during his military career.

Guard Detail



"Among a unit of really distinguished Soldiers, he (Sandefur) really stands out, awarded two Silver Stars for valor and some of the hard fighting on the Lathe Island in the Philippines, but you know for every Soldier you have a story like that. You know thousands of connections, that all kind of happens here in the museum," said Daniels.

The timing of the dedication during the week of Veteran's day also had symbolic significance.

"A lot of the exhibits in the museum are emblematic of so many who serve. We may focus on one Soldier here or there, it really speaks to

many who are not in the museum, but we recognize that service and remember that service. We shouldn't forget what this is, this being around Veteran's day- even better," said Daniels. is a sign of the times and relic in history that embodies the success of Soldier athletes.

# 204th Air Defense Artillery exercise tests skills of battalion warriors.

■ by Staff Sgt. Michael Williams, JFH-MS Public Affairs

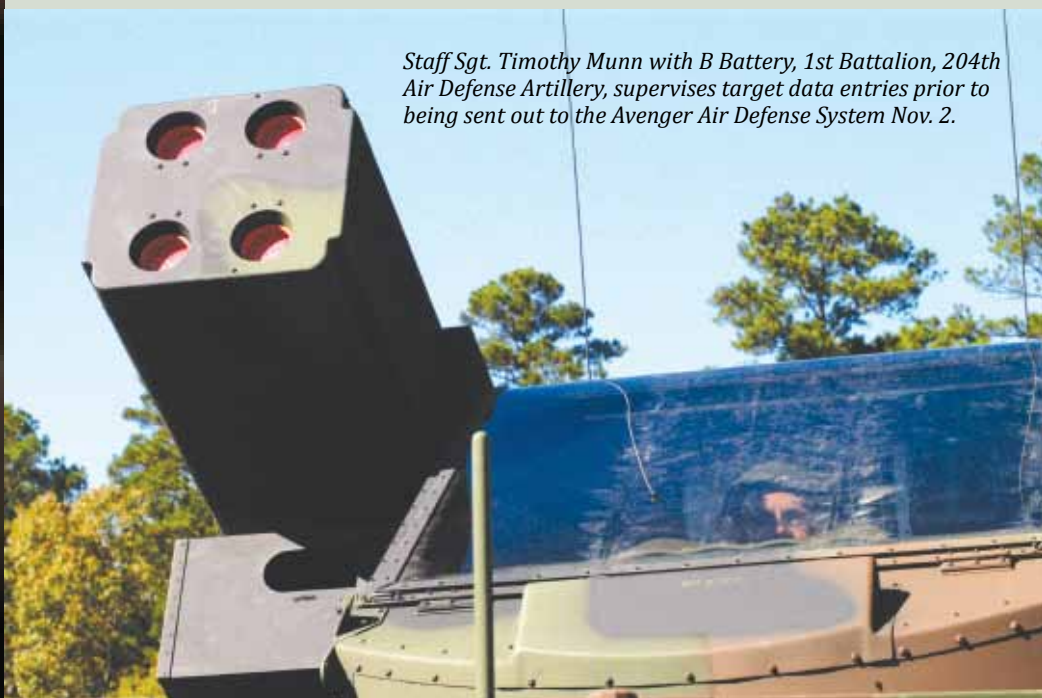
Staff Sgt. Timothy Munn with B Battery, 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery, supervises target data entries prior to being sent out to the Avenger Air Defense System Nov. 2.





*(LEFT) Spc. Troy Melton, a gunner with C Battery, 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery, demonstrates his knowledge to Sgt. 1st Class James Shelley, a platoon sergeant with Charlie Battery 1st Battalion 204th Air Defense Artillery, points out key information in the Defense Advanced GPS Receiver (DAGGER) system to another Soldier during the units training mission Nov. 2.*

*(BELOW) Sgt. Corey Turner, a member of Charlie Battery 1st Battalion 204th Air Defense Artillery, inputs data into a Defense Advanced GPS Receiver (DAGGER) during the units training mission Nov. 2.*



*Staff Sgt. Timothy Munn with B Battery, 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery, supervises target data entries prior to being sent out to the Avenger Air Defense System Nov. 2.*



*(LEFT) Mississippi Army National Guard Spc. Dominique Anderson inputs data into the Forward Area Air Defense System (FAAD) Nov. 2. The battalion was completing hands-on training after completing classroom instructions. Anderson is assigned to Bravo Battery 1st Battalion 204th Air Defense Artillery, headquartered in Forest.*

# Always on Ready...

*Readiness level training on a routine basis keeps aviation personnel and aircraft steady on the ready.*

■ Photos and Story by Staff Sgt. Veronica McNabb, 102nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

It is a cool autumn morning the first weekend in November for the crews of the 185th Aviation Brigade's A Company, 1st Battalion, 149th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, of Tupelo, who were conducting readiness level training at Camp McCain Training Center at Elliott, Miss., in conjunction with Initial Weapons Qualification.

Readiness Level training is an ongoing process for aviation personnel in order to meet aviation requirements of the various aircraft belonging to the 185th ABC.

Staff Sgt. Clayton Yielding, who serves as one of the crew chiefs for the fleet of Boeing AH-64s, said, "This is the Apache helicopter 'which we say is the battlefield champion of helicopters.' It can reach speeds up to 167 mph and is equipped with HELLFIRE missiles, unguided missiles, and a 30mm chain gun that have proven to be very effective in the modern day battlefield."

Yielding said that a huge part of success for the Apache was the flight crews who maintain them.

At one point of the training, Yielding communicated with his crew and informed them what the mission was for the day and told them to "pick a bird" to do pre-flight inspections. The crews dispersed upon the Apaches to start "un-wrapping" them for the upcoming flight.

Yielding speaks very highly

about his mechanics, of which some are veteran mechanics like Sgt. James Parks and newer mechanics like Spc. Hopkins. These crewmen are both full-time technicians and traditional guardsmen. He also ensures the training for all crew members is efficient and that all of his Soldiers are on the same page, and that is why Yielding says his crews work so well alongside one another.

As the crews finish with their maintenance inspections the pilots arrive; they work side-by-side with the mechanics on up-to-date information.

Once the pilots arrive, they also conduct checks and readings on the Apache that they are flying,

Parks said, "That the pilots have a lot of trust in the crews that maintain the Apache and that teamwork and communication by pilots, crew chief, and mechanics is what keeps the Apache in the air, efforts go hand in hand to fulfill the training to prepare for combat readiness."

Chief Warrant Four Joseph Weeks who is an instructor pilot and a veteran pilot has flown three combat tours; his copilot for the RL training day is Warrant Officer One William McIntosh, who was an Apache mechanic before going to flight school.

"We train when we can, and any training is good training, progress is what we are looking for," said Weeks, "You have to be ready for anything when flying, so there is no such thing as bad training."

When Weeks is asked what made him decide to become a pilot,

fellow crew and pilots alike gather around to listen; he smiles and tells a story of a boy that had to take daily trips to the local airport, developing a passion for flying and always taking pride in what he does. "You can say I have the greatest job in the Army National Guard."

Weeks and McIntosh climb into the cockpit of the Apache, after the proper checks and radio tests, they know the birds are ready to fly. With a wave from the pilots, they fire the twin-engines up; the blades begin slowly picking up speed, and within minutes the wind picks up and the rumbling from the four rotary blades take over the quiet airfield, it is time to put the birds in the sky.

They fly low and abruptly take off into the wind. Moments later, it is silent once more with the crews watching the birds fly off into the horizon, another good day of training completed. In perspective at the end of the day, the pilots and crews are like the machines that they fly and work on, maintained, well composed, and ready for the next mission.

All guardsmen are from the Tupelo area.



*Apache helicopter pilots from A Company, 1st Battalion, 149th Attack Reconnaissance out of Tupelo, unwrap their helicopter for readiness level training in November at the Camp McCain Training Center near Grenada, Miss.*



*All systems go following readiness training of personnel from A Company, 1st Battalion, 149th Attack Reconnaissance out of Tupelo, Miss. Mississippi National Guardsmen from the unit continuously stay readiness trained.*



# MIGHTY MONTICELLO

## The 106th Brigade Support Battalion settles into new home!

■ Photos by Lt. Col. Christian Patterson, JFH-MS Public Affairs

*NOTE: The following photos were intended for the Fall 2013 issue of the Guard Detail, but were inadvertently left out.*



*Friends, families and Mississippi National Guard members assemble at the new Monticello Army National Guard Readiness Center on Sunday, May 19 for the facility ribbon cutting ceremony. The center is the new home for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 106<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion, 155<sup>th</sup> Armored Brigade Combat Team. The new \$11.3 million dollar facility is 54,175 square feet and is now the largest readiness center in the state.*



*Old Glory and the Mississippi state flag fly high at the new readiness center just prior to the start of the ribbon cutting ceremony.*



*Congressman Gregg Harper, 3<sup>rd</sup> District – Miss., thanks members of the team who helped to secure funding for the new Monticello Army National Guard Readiness Center.*





*The old Monticello Readiness Center from Highway 27 in Lawrence County. It is directly across the street from the new facility and now belongs to the American Legion.*



*Maj. Gen. Augustus L. Collins, the adjutant general of Mississippi, reflects on the quality support provided by the 106<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005.*



*Maj. Gen. Collins officially opens the new facility with state and local leaders.*



*Maj. Gen. Collins signs a portion of the ceremonial ribbon for Agriculture and Commerce Commissioner, Cindy Hyde-Smith.*

Staff Sgt. James Buckley, left, with a Tactical Control Party from the 238th Air Support Operations Squadron, Miss. Air National Guard, radios close air support (CAS) information to AC-130 Gunships while participating in Southern Strike 14 at Camp Shelby, Miss. Additional team members include Tech Sgt. Ross Waguespack, middle, and Senior Airman Nicholas Guilliot, right. The training event hosted by the Mississippi Air National Guard is providing tactical combat training for combined forces from the Army, Air Force, Navy and the Marines. (Photo support provided by Senior Master Sgt. Ricky Davis, 186th ARW)



# Southern Strike 14 flies over Mississippi

■ By Tech Sgt. Ed Staton, 172nd Airlift Wing  
Public Affairs

The Mississippi Air National Guard hosted what was hailed as the ANG's premier southern training event for two weeks in December when Southern Strike 14 was conducted at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center and Camp Shelby. The exercise provided tailored, cost effective and realistic combat training for the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines.

"This large-scale war exercise quadrupled in size from what began last year as primarily a Close Air Support event for the Mississippi Guard," said Southern Strike 14 Director Col. Craig Ziemba. "We invited units from all over the country and had a tremendous response."

In order to meet each unit's training objectives, Southern Strike planners created a scenario based around the fictitious country of Crimsonia, surrounded on the east, Guard Detail

west and north by aggressor nations that tried to seize its recently discovered natural gas deposits. Crimsonia's request for U.S. assistance set the stage for Southern Strike's war game featuring close air support, aeromedical evacuations, combat search and rescue, electronic warfare and suppression/destruction of enemy air defenses in a counter-insurgency scenario.

"We focused on tactical level training for all of the participating units incorporating all of their training requirements," said Ziemba. "We crafted a war game scenario that met all of those objectives and then brought them here to participate in air-to-air, air-to-ground and everything in between."

The Navy Electronic Attack Squadron known as the Black Ravens, flew approximately 140 Sailors to Gulfport for the exercise. Their aircraft, the EA-18 Growler, is a uniquely configured, two-seat F/A-18 Super Hornet specializing in

electronic warfare. The unit's focus was maintaining its skills after returning from its recent Afghanistan deployment, where it was awarded the coveted Battle "E" award.

"This exercise is extremely important because it gives us the opportunity to maintain our readiness," said Cdr. Adam "Pinto" Carlstrom, squadron commander. "Since we're based in Washington State and it's the winter season, opportunities to train with joint forces provide tremendous experience for us." Cdr. Carlstrom also noted that its deployment to the Gulfport CRTC cost only \$100,000 compared to a price tag of \$600,000 for its last two-week deployment to Nellis Air Force Base.

Along with the Navy Electronic Warfare Squadron, Southern Strike 14 attracted joint forces flying more than 20 types of aircraft (F-22, F-35, F-16, F-15, AC-130, U-28, UH-1, AH-1, AH-64, CH-47, UH-60, UH-72, KC-135, C-17, AWACS, Shadow UAS, C-130, T-38, C-21, C-38). Their mis-



*Petty Officer Second Class Daniel Schiller of Navy Unit VAQ-135 is shown conducting a radio communications check onboard an EA-18G Growler aircraft. Based at the Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in Washington State, the VAQ-135 is participating in Southern Strike 14 which is hailed as the Air National Guard's premier Southern training event. Southern Strike 14 is being held at the Trent Lott Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss and at Camp Shelby near Hattiesburg, Miss. The exercise was initiated to provide tailored, cost effective and realistic training for the National Guard in a joint and multinational environment from Dec. 2-13.*

sions included simulated air-to-air combat, airdrops, assault landings and more. On the ground, Special Operations forces retook strategic objectives, Joint Terminal Attack Controllers directed aircraft through close air support and aeromedical evacuation teams transported patients from one aircraft to another at the Camp Shelby Range.

“The Gulfport CRTC not only has great facilities on base, but

more importantly, we have huge military airspace over the Gulf of Mexico,” exclaimed Ziembra. “We also have access to the Camp Shelby Range where units practice air-to-ground weapons, assault strip landings and strategic airdrops.”

What’s next for the CRTC? “The plan for 2014 is to work towards going international,” said Mississippi Air National Guard Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. William J. Crisler. “The

Israelis are coming back to Gulfport in April for the Emerald Warrior Exercise and I believe they will very likely be a part of the next Southern Strike. The growth of this exercise is incredible and unbelievable.”  
186th ARW)



*Master Sgt. Zack Swain, right, with a Tactical Control Party (TAC) from the 238th Air Support Operations Squadron, Mississippi Air National Guard, radios close air support (CAS) information from their Humvee mobile control center. The 238th ASO has been participating in Southern Strike 14 exercises taking place at Camp Shelby, Miss., and the Gulfport, Miss., CRTC. Also pictured is Capt. David Callahan of the 238th ASO. The training event hosted by the Mississippi Air National Guard is providing tactical combat training for combined forces from the Army, Air Force, Navy and the Marines. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Ricky Davis, 186th ARW)*



*Senior Airman Steven Mueller, with the 238th Air Support Operations Squadron, Mississippi Air National Guard, uses a laser to identify targets while conducting close air support (CAS) training while participating in Southern Strike 14 at Camp Shelby, Miss. The training event hosted by the Mississippi Air National Guard is providing tactical combat training for combined forces from the Army, Air Force, Navy and the Marines. (Photo support provided by Senior Master Sgt. Ricky Davis, 186th ARW)*

# 112th Military Police Battalion Commemorative Exercise The “Guardians of Honour” celebrate 50 years



■ By: Staff Sgt. Michael Williams, JFH-MS  
Public Affairs

Approximately 100 Soldiers, retirees, Family and friends gathered at the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 112th Military Police Battalion Readiness Center, in Canton, to celebrate the unit’s history and achievements in the Mississippi Army National Guard, Dec. 7.

“Today is our 25/50 Commemorative Exercise,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Darrell Masterson, 112th MP Bn. Senior Noncommissioned Officer. “We wanted to honor those who came before us while serving 25 years in Canton and also 50 years as a military police battalion. We wanted to bring them in and identify those leaders that have set the path for this battalion and we want to give credit where credit is due.”

Like most old facilities, they have plenty of history and stories to tell. In 1927, the first National Guard armory was built in Canton. After several years of strategic planning and appropriated funding, a groundbreaking ceremony was conducted in 1989 and the first drill was held in August 1990.

Military police personnel protect the lives and property on Army installations by enforcing military laws and regulations. In addition, Guard Detail

*Sgt. Chris Tadlock, Spc. Catlin May and Spc. Edward Williams stand beside an M1117 Armored Security Vehicle at the 112th Military Police Battalion 25/50 Commemorative Exercise, Dec. 7. The unit is celebrating 25 years being headquartered in Canton and supporting the Mississippi Army National Guard for 50 years. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Williams, JFH-MS Public Affairs)*

the MP’s also serve as a major force in response to all state emergencies.

“Military police Soldiers bring a unique skill set such as law enforcement capabilities and being an enabler to enhance security,” said Lt. Col. Gregory Hargett, 112th Military Police Battalion commander. “Not only domestic operations such as hurricane relief but any disaster operations. We are the enablers for the governor and adjutant general for the state. We also provide a multitude of skills of law enforcement detention operations as well as a combat multiplier to engage and destroy the enemy and provide security. The skills are over-arched and unique and wide spread.”

For 50 years, the unit has provided support to the state and the United States and will continue to play a key role in future operations. For years the unit has been mobilized in support of the Overseas Contingency Operations

to include Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn and numerous of state emergencies.

“The battalion has and will continue to play a vital role in serving this great state and this nation,” said Masterson.







Former commanders, command sergeants major and Soldiers of the 112th Military Police Battalion, headquartered in Canton, pose for picture during the unit's 25/50 Commemorative Exercise, Dec. 7. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Williams, JFH-MS Public Affairs)



Lt. Col. Gregory Hargett, 112th Military Police Battalion commander, addresses the crowd during the unit's 25/50 Commemorative Exercise, Dec. 7. The unit is celebrating 25 years being based in Canton and supporting the Mississippi Army National Guard for 50 years. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Williams, JFH-MS Public Affairs)



*Members of the Mississippi Army National Guard's 41st Army Band of Jackson, prepare for a pass and review at the start of the 2013 Veterans Day Parade Nov. 10 in downtown Jackson.*