



# PRESS RELEASE

Mississippi National Guard Public Affairs

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / PRESS RELEASE**

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## Mississippi and Republic of Uzbekistan Celebrate 10 Years as State Partners

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / PRESS RELEASE**

**JACKSON, Miss.** – The Adjutant General of Mississippi and the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Uzbekistan celebrated the 10th Anniversary of joining forces in the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program during a reception at the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Washington, DC, December 12, 2022. Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles and other senior leaders from the Mississippi Army and Air National Guard were in attendance to celebrate this achievement.

"We greatly cherish our partnership with Mississippi that for the past years has grown and expanded as never before," said Vladimir Norov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan. "It started with a mutual desire to enhance military to military partnership."

The NGB State Partnership Program is a Department of Defense security cooperation program that establishes a military relationship between a State's National Guard and a partner country's military forces. This program is successful through complementary purposes of promoting mutual understanding, building enduring relationships, interoperability, and maintaining readiness with partner country's military forces and designated U.S. National Guard forces.

"This year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the State Partnership Program between Uzbekistan and Mississippi. In the past 10 years, we have conducted 200 partnership engagements together through key leader meetings, military-to-military exchanges, exercises, celebrations, military ceremonies, and virtual events," said Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi. "I am grateful for our steadfast partnership with Uzbekistan and the Mississippi National Guard looks forward to continuing our partnership and building relationships for many more decades to come."

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*The Mississippi National Guard (MSNG) is commanded by the Adjutant General of Mississippi, the state's senior military official appointed by the governor, and is comprised of the Mississippi Army National Guard (MSARNG) and the Mississippi Air National Guard (MSANG). The MSNG consists of approximately 12,500 Soldiers and Airmen that are "Always Ready, Always There" for Mississippi and the Nation. For more information about the Mississippi National Guard visit our website at <https://ms.ng.mil>*

## MSNG Celebrates State Partnership 10-Year Anniversary with Uzbekistan

Mississippi and Uzbekistan have celebrated several significant milestones during the partnership. In 2018, Mississippi hosted Senators from Uzbekistan to discuss opportunities with partnerships in trade and industries. In 2019, representatives from Mississippi, including the Governor, Agriculture Commissioner, and the Adjutant General, met with leaders of the Republic of Uzbekistan to discuss further opportunities for partnership in trade, education, and economic development during a trade delegation meeting in Uzbekistan.

In April 2021, Uzbekistan Soldiers participated alongside Mississippi National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group for their first joint airborne operation. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Lt. Gen. Michael A. Loh, Director of the Air National Guard, observed the jump.

The partnership has included various subject matter expert exchanges, key leader engagements, bilateral conferences, as well as multiple partnerships between universities in Mississippi and Uzbekistan. The leaders and troops of Uzbekistan significantly contributed, observed, and participated in joint exercises including Southern Strike, Patriot South, Ardent Sentry, Regional Cooperation exercises, Best Warrior Competitions, disaster response training, and soldier development training.

Ongoing efforts between Mississippi and Uzbekistan bring significant accomplishments and recognition to our state and our partnership country. This year, Gen. Hokanson, celebrated the significant achievements of Uzbekistan and Mississippi during their combined efforts in the State Partnership Program.

"In 2022, the Mississippi National Guard's State Partnership Program reached new levels of success and recognition by receiving 'Partnership of the Year First Runner-Up' by Gen. Daniel Hokanson," said Lt. Col. Amanda Villeret, director of the Mississippi State Partnership Program. "Mississippi [also] celebrated our 10-year anniversary with Uzbekistan. We look forward to expanding our foreign partners' participation in Mississippi-hosted exercises in 2023."

The Mississippi National Guard Soldiers and Airmen continue to serve with honor and integrity in diverse missions throughout our state and nation. We are Always Ready, Always There.

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PHOTOS AND CUTLINES FOLLOW NEXT PAGE

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**CUTLINE:**

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES

12.12.2022

Photo by Master Sgt. Erich SmithNational Guard Bureau

Army Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of the Mississippi National Guard, showcases a traditional wood plate presented from Uzbekistan Foreign Minister Vladimir Norov during a reception at the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Washington, D.C., Dec. 12, 2022. The reception was in celebration of the 10-year anniversary of a partnership between the Mississippi National Guard and Uzbekistan. The partnership is part of the Defense Department's State Partnership Program, a 29-year-old program that pairs National Guard elements to a nation's military, security forces and disaster response organizations. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Erich B. Smith)

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**CUTLINE:**

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES

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Photo by Master Sgt. Erich SmithNational Guard Bureau

Ambassador Javlon Vakhobov, the Uzbekistan ambassador to the United States, speaks to senior U.S. military leaders, Uzbek officials and other dignitaries during a reception at the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Washington, D.C., Dec. 12, 2022. The reception was in celebration of the 10-year anniversary of a partnership between the Mississippi National Guard and Uzbekistan. The partnership is part of the Defense Department's State Partnership Program, a 29-year-old program that pairs National Guard elements to a nation's military, security forces and disaster response organizations. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Erich B. Smith)

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WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES

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Photo by Master Sgt. Erich Smith

National Guard Bureau

Army Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of the Mississippi National Guard, shakes hands with Ambassador Javlon Vakhobov, the Uzbekistan ambassador to the United States, during a reception at the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Washington, D.C., Dec. 12, 2022. The reception was in celebration of the 10-year anniversary of a partnership between the Mississippi National Guard and Uzbekistan. The partnership is part of the Defense Department's State Partnership Program, a 29-year-old program that pairs National Guard elements to a nation's military, security forces and disaster response organizations. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Erich B. Smith)



### **DVIDS HIGH RESOLUTION PHOTO LINK:**

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/7557030/mississippi-national-guard-and-ministry-defense-republic-uzbekistan-celebrate-10-year-partnership>

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