

VOLSTATE GUARD

Official Magazine of the Tennessee National Guard

NOVEMBER 2010



**4 Bridges Dedicated
to Tennessee Guard
Fallen Heroes**

**2 Air Guardsmen Honored
at NCO Academy**

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On the Cover:

Staff Sgt. Josh Walker, 105th Airlift Squadron, 118th Airlift Wing, cuts a strap holding two pallets of water that was dropped over a designated drop zone near Tullahoma Nov. 22. The unit is responsible for training Airmen throughout the U.S. for the various C-130 crew-member job functions.

(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Robin Olsen.)



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WALTER DILLON / MONTEGOMERY FLAGG

I WANT YOU

TO KNOW GFEBBS!

Coming 1 July 2011

GFEBs

is coming to Tennessee!

What is GFEBs?

GFEBs is the Army solution to a comprehensive financial, asset management and accounting system.

GFEBs is a single web-based, real-time system that standardizes processes Army-wide. It records transactions and provides real-time access to data, reduce cost of operations and improve accountability and stewardship.

Why GFEBs?

The Army today involves maintaining over 80 legacy systems, such as STANFIN, PRWEB. etc. Having so many separate systems impedes production and requires time consuming and costly reconciliations.

Who is Impacted?

If you buy/purchase anything; manage an organization; prepare a budget; employ civilians or contractors, then GFEBs impacts you! Tennessee has identified over 300 users who will be using the system.

GFEBs Implementation Steps

1. Identify users and their roles.
2. Training and provisioning
3. Data conversion

What's next?

GFEBs will go live in Tennessee on July 1, 2011. All users are required to take three (3) orientation courses.

1. GFEBs Overview
2. Integrated process Overview
3. GFEBs Navigation and reports

These courses are followed by role specific training for your assigned duties, and is both computer-based and instructor-led. Identified users will be notified of training requirements via e-mail and through your section representative. STAY ALERT for more information!

For more information, contact the Tennessee POC's:

LTC John Krenson, GFEBs Coordinator at 615-313-0750

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GFEBs 

Deadlines are Approaching for Mailing Holiday Packages

Holiday Deadlines for Military Mail Announced

The recommended mailing deadline for sending economy-priced holiday packages to service members in Afghanistan, Iraq and other places around the world is Nov. 12, officials at the U.S. Postal Service say.

“Shipping holiday packages early helps ensure that they arrive in time for the holidays,” Pranab Shah, vice president and managing director of global business at the Postal Service, said in a press release. “They are a great morale boost for those men and women serving their country in places far from home.”

Other deadlines for arrival by Dec. 25 are Nov. 26 for space-available mail; Dec. 3 for parcel airlift mail; Dec. 10 for priority mail and first-class mail, letters and cards; and Dec. 18 for express mail military service.

Holiday packages and mail headed for Iraq and Afghanistan must be sent a week earlier than



the deadlines above, postal officials say. Express mail military service is not available to those destinations.

The Postal Service offers a discount on its largest priority-mail flat-rate box - a 12-inch by 12-inch by 5.5-inch carton that can accommodate laptop computers, small conventional ovens and military care packages.

Mail sent to overseas military addresses costs the same as domestic mail and the usual price for the large flat-rate box is \$14.50. But for packages heading to APO/FPO addresses, the Postal Service charges \$12.50 or \$11.95 for those who print the priority-mail postage label online.

Priority-mail flat-rate boxes are free at any Post Office and can be ordered online at shop.usps.com. Postage, labels and customs forms can be printed online at the Postal Service website at www.usps.gov.

APO/FPO addresses usually require customs forms and each country has customs regulations that apply to all mail, including U.S. military mail, coming into the country.

TN Air Guard Swears in 30 New Recruits at Titans Game Oct. 24

Photos By: Tech. Sgt. Robin Olsen



The Tennessee Air National Guard's three units, 164th Airlift Wing out of Memphis, 118th Airlift Wing out Nashville, and the 134th Airlift Wing out of Knoxville, were able to enlist 30 new members into the Air National Guard before a Titan's football game Oct. 24, as part of the Tennessee Air National Guard's partnership with the Tennessee Titans. The Air Guard recruiters also set up inflatable displays and a trailer just outside of the stadium for activities for Titans fans to enjoy before and during the game.

18th Annual Operation Stand Down

Story and Photos By: Spc. Bill Jones



Above: First Sgt. Greg Snead, Distributive Learning Training Center Administrator at Joint Force Headquarters, Tenn. National Guard.

Right: Sgt. 1st Class William Gipson, Traffic Management Specialist at JFHQ help set up tents to be used during the 18th Annual Operation Stand Down event Oct. 21.

The 18th Annual Operation Stand Down event, which is the primary nonprofit resource for Veterans in Middle Tennessee, was held Oct. 22 through 24 at the Tennessee State Guard Facility in Nashville.

This annual event provides outreach, information and social services to hundreds of veterans who are homeless in Tennessee.

Veterans are able to take advantage of free medical, dental, eye and hearing exams; as well as receive immunizations. They are offered counseling and employment training opportunities.

Along with volunteer organizations, the Tennessee National Guard and Tennessee State Guard provided manpower and equipment to the annual event for veterans.

Soldiers from the Tennessee Army National Guard's four major commands help set up tents and other equipment on Oct. 21 in preparation for the event.

Homeless veterans use the tents, cots and sleeping bags for housing during the weekend. Four cooks from the 30th Troop Command cooked six meals for up 600 people per meal.

As the events were wrapping up on Sunday, 70-80 Soldiers from the Joint Force Headquarters in Nashville broke down the camp.

For more information, visit www.osdnashville.org.



Coolidge Receives Medal of Honor Flag

Story and Photos By: 1Lt. John Fesler

Sixty-five years after being awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during World War II, Charles Coolidge of Signal Mountain, Tenn., was once again recognized for his valiant acts of heroism.

On Friday, Oct. 15, Tennessee's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Max Haston, presented the Medal of Honor flag to Coolidge in the Chattanooga park that bears his name.

In 2002, the Medal of Honor flag was authorized by the U.S. Congress as a way to again recognize recipients of the nation's highest military honor.

Coolidge has been honored numerous times over the past 65 years for his actions during a four-day battle in 1944, in Belmont sur Buttant, France. Then, U.S. Army Tech. Sgt., Coolidge took command of a group of recently arrived Soldiers when they met a German infantry company escorted by tanks, large numbers of munitions, and personnel that outnumbered Coolidge's unit three-to-one.

The official citation awarded to him in 1945 by President Harry Truman, states, "Coolidge armed himself with a bazooka and advanced to within 25 yards of the tanks. His bazooka failed to function and he threw it aside. Securing all the hand grenades he could carry, he crawled forward and inflicted heavy casualties on the advancing enemy."



As Haston discussed Coolidge's military service with him, Coolidge told the general that after 20 months of daily combat, he'd gotten so used to being shot at, he'd walk the front lines like he was walking the streets of Chattanooga.

Coolidge's awards are not limited to those in America. In 2006, he was made a knight of the Legion of Honor in France, the country's highest honor.

Now 89, he describes the events of the battle as if they happened yesterday. His office resembles a miniature museum, complete with photos of himself and three other Medal of Honor recipients. Haston, a student and lover of military history, was very impressed with the items in the office of one of only two

living Medal of Honor recipients from Tennessee, the other being Vernon McGarity of Bartlett.

During the flag presentation, Haston said "the Medal of Honor warrants any and all recognition, and the flag is a great way to keep the heroic actions like those of Coolidge alive and fresh in our minds."

"I think what you have to do is read what it takes to get the Medal of Honor," Haston said. "It is heroism and action without regard to your own life, and it's saving the lives of others."

Several local Tennessee National Guardsmen attended the ceremony. One explained, "We wanted to show our support for one of our own. It's not every day you get to meet a true American hero."

2 TN Air Guardsmen Honored as Top NCOs

Story By: Tech. Sgt. Robin Olsen

The Chief Paul H. Lankford Commandant Award is a prestigious award only given to one person in each graduating class of the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy and members of the Tennessee Air National Guard have now been selected consecutively in the two most recent classes.

Tech. Sgt. Melissa Campbell, a personnel specialist with Joint Force Headquarters in Nashville, was awarded on October 14; and Tech. Sgt. Michael Parson, a security forces member with the 164th Airlift Wing out of Memphis, on August 12.

“It was very humbling experience,” said Campbell. More than half way through the Academy, each flight nominates someone to compete for this award.

The Commandant award is presented to the one student in each class who made the most significant contribution to the overall success of the class through superior leadership and excellent teamwork. Campbell’s class was made up of more than 240 students and Parson’s was more than 180. Students come from around the United States and are members of the active duty Air Force, Guard and Reserves. Each candidate is nominated first by their flight to compete for the award, and then the honoree is selected by the Commandant.

Of the 18 original nominations during Campbell’s



(Photo by Master Sgt. Kurt Skoglund.)

school dates, only five were able to advance to an interview with Commandant, who then selects only one. The winner is announced at graduation.

“My classmates said they nominated me because I was quiet most of the time, but able to be heard when I needed to be, and because I helped one student raise his grade nearly 70 percent by studying with him,” said Campbell, who worked more than 20 hours with the other student. She also participated in a lot of volunteer activities while attending the Academy.

Parson was also honored as a distinguished graduate for his class. Distinguished Graduate Awards are presented to the students who achieve an overall total score that places them in the top 10 percent of the student body, and is based on objective and performance evaluations, demonstrated leadership, and performance as a team player.

Lankford, the first Commandant of the NCO Academy at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, passed away in 2008. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force serving in World War II and the Air National Guard with 42 years of service. He was also a survivor of the Bataan Death March in the Philippine Islands in the early 1940s.



(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Robin Olsen.)

4 Bridges Dedicated to Tenn. National Guard Fallen Heroes

Story By: Capt. Darrin Haas

Bridges along State Route 840 were dedicated Oct. 12, to four Tennessee Army National Guard Soldiers killed while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The dedication ceremonies took place simultaneously along the highway and honored:

Capt. Marcus Ray Alford, from Knoxville, was killed in Iraq Feb.

21; **Chief Warrant Officer 2 Billie Jean Grinder**, from Gallatin, was also killed in Iraq Feb. 21; **Staff Sgt. Michel Wayne Tinsley Sr.**, from Jackson, who died at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, Feb. 10 awaiting deployment to Iraq; and **Sgt. David Clay Prescott Jr.**, from Murfreesboro, who died Feb. 4 at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, awaiting

deployment to Iraq.

Highway 840 is officially named the “Tennessee National Guard Parkway” and the four ceremonies marked the 19th through the 22nd bridges along the parkway to be dedicated to Soldiers of the Tennessee National Guard who have lost their lives in the War on Terror.



(Above: Photo by Nate Crawford.)

(Right: Photo by Capt. Darrin Haas.)



(Photo by Tech Sgt. Robin Olsen.)



(Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Matthews.)

TN Guard Helps Clean Knox. Park

Operation: “Guard the Environment”

Story By: Steve Butera, WBIR

The Tennessee Army National Guard partnered with Keep Knoxville Beautiful in beautifying parks around the local area Oct. 16.

The campaign, “Guard the Environment,” started with nearly 20 Guard Servicemembers cleaning up Tyson Park.

“It gives them an idea of the stuff we do for the community as well as helping out in natural disasters and anything the Governor might ask us to help,” said Staff Sgt. Danny Finstad.

Leaders say the program was a success in its first day, with the Guard finding not just trash, but dirty syringes and broken glass around the nearby

train tracks at the park.

“They have worked really hard making Tyson Park a gorgeous place and I dare you to find a cigarette butt anywhere,” said Keep Knoxville Beautiful program coordinator Stacy Cohl.

And the program teaches some of these volunteers what the military will be like when they start.

Private 1st class Irene Pappas will be going to basic training in November. She said “Guard the Environment” is a great step to finding out what the military will be like. “It’s structure, being determined, and probably discipline more than anything.”



Soldiers with the Tennessee Army National Guard clean up trash in and around Knoxville’s Tyson Park Oct. 16, as part of the Guard the Environment Campaign.

War-Zone Burn Pits Violate Laws, GAO Says

Story By: Kelly Kennedy, MilitaryTimes.com Staff Writer

Burn Pits in Iraq Violate Laws Burn pits still in operation in Iraq violate laws and create health risks for Soldiers, according to a report from the Government Accountability Office.

Prohibited hazardous materials are still burned in the pits. Health hazards such as carbon monoxide, dioxins, particulate matter and carcinogens are still being emitted.

The GAO report is the subject of an Army Times article. The publication began investigating the burn pits in 2008, which led Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., and Rep. Bob Filner, D-Calif., to ask the GAO to study the situation.

The report released last week did not make Feingold happy.

“The Defense Department’s slow reaction has exposed another generation of veterans to the exact same carcinogens found in Agent Orange,” he said.

Agent Orange was used to destroy jungle vegetation in Vietnam to limit concealment of the enemy. It has been found to cause a variety of ailments.

The GAO looked at four bases in Iraq where pits are operated by Kellogg, Brown and Root. The bases were Asad, Marez, Taji and Warhorse.

Legislation passed to address the burn pits was insufficient and also ignored. Feingold says he will create legislation to ensure enforcement of the laws.

McKinley Tells Guard Enlisted Force to Prepare for Prolonged Overseas Role

Story By: Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill, National Guard Bureau

The National Guard likely will continue to play a significant role in overseas contingency operations for the foreseeable future, the chief of the National Guard Bureau said here today.

"Just like we have in Kosovo for 14 years and the Sinai and the Horn of Africa, I think the National Guard will be asked to stay longer and give our civilian-acquired skills to emerging government," Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley told about 1,800 Guard members attending the 39th annual conference of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States.

"The things that we bring from our civilian occupations will mean that the National Guard will be in huge demand for years to come," McKinley said.

"There's going to be some pretty rough days and months ahead."

-Gen. McKinley

During a July visit to Iraq and Afghanistan, McKinley said he was struck by the contrast between the two countries.

"What I felt in Iraq is the Iraqis are on the verge of taking control of their own destiny and their own country by forming a government and moving out," he said.

This time, as McKinley rode from the U.S. Embassy in

Baghdad to the airport, something had changed from previous visits: security along a route once infamous for violence was provided entirely by the Iraqi military.

"It gave me a sense of hope that this country has the potential to turn a corner and to make a stand on its own and to determine its own destination," he said.

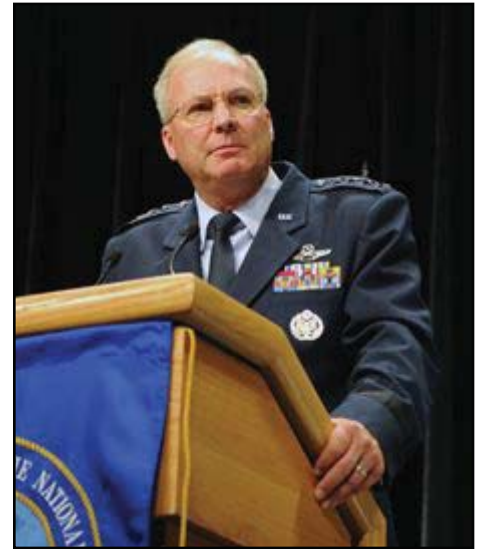
In Afghanistan, McKinley found a hot war - and a surge in which the Army National Guard is playing a key role.

"There's going to be some pretty rough days and months ahead," he said. "We're going to be at this for a very, very long time."

"The only thing that can take this nation down is loss of our will to fight and to remain free and to remain strong. Because on those young men and women's shoulders rest our hopes and our future, and I have a great deal confidence in them that we will get it right."

All Guardmembers stand on the shoulders of our predecessors and mentors, he said.

"For anyone who doubts that this nation is committed to remaining strong and being the beacon of hope for the rest of the world, all you have to do is look in the faces of these young men and women. We have the finest, most capable, most resilient, most battle-tested National Guard, in the history of the



Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, tells Guard members attending the 39th annual EANGUS conference on Aug. 8, that the National Guard likely will continue to play a significant role in overseas contingency operations in the future.

United States," he said. "One of the finest, most well-trained, most well-led, most inspired forces that we could ask for."

Recognition of service-members' sacrifices, McKinley said, and the implementation of the Total Force concept is one reason why "It's a different Guard. 'One weekend a month. Two weeks in the summer.' How distant and remote those phrases are, that was our National Guard. Today, our voices are heard not only in the Pentagon but in the White House, and that's a significant achievement that we can all be proud of."

James K. Polk Annual Wreath Laying

Story By: Tech. Sgt. Robin Olsen

Former President James K. Polk was honored during the annual wreath-laying ceremony that took place at the State Capital Nov. 4.

Col. William Wenzler, Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Breece, and Maj. Jim Reed, Tennessee

National Guard Joint Force Headquarters, placed the wreath next to the President's headstone in his commemoration.

Several students from Springhill Elementary were also in attendance to watch the ceremony.



(Photos by Nate Crawford.)