



# MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
13 FEBRUARY 2012  
12-10

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## Munford resident named Tennessee Air National Guard 1st Sergeant of the Year

**NASHVILLE** – Munford resident, Master Sgt. Matthew Smith, of the 164th Airlift Wing, was named as the Tennessee Air National Guard First Sergeant of the Year.

Smith, who is currently assigned to the 164th Security Forces Squadron as the First Sergeant, now moves on to compete with other National Guard, Active Duty and Reserve winners at the National level for the 12 Air Force Outstanding Airmen of the Year Award.

“He became First Sergeant almost two years ago, and since then, he has established himself as a First Sergeant with impeccable character, integrity, and honesty,” said Capt. Eric Mott, 164 SFS Commander. “He is truly a First Sergeant worthy of emulating.”

After serving with the Active Duty Air Force, Smith transferred to the Tennessee Air National Guard in 1992, and was originally assigned as a C-141 Crew Chief.

Smith has deployed as part of Operation Enduring Freedom and has also served in Bulgaria as part of the Tennessee National Guard's State Partnership Program.

Outside of the Guard, he volunteers his time with the Memphis Runners Track Club, participating in local 5k charity runs, and has served on the Tipton County Board of Education Strategic Planning Committee.

Smith has completed three Associate's Degrees through the Community College of the Air Force in Human Relations Management, Avionics Technology, and Aviation Maintenance Management.

Other Tennessee Air National Guard recipients for different categories include 134th Air Refueling Wing Senior Airman Travis Pruett of Knoxville for Airman of the Year; the 164th Airlift Wing's Tech. Sgt. Michael Parson, NCO of the Year; and the 164th Airlift Wing's Senior Master Sgt. Roy Dowdy, Senior NCO of the Year.



### CAPTIONS:

**001 – (Right) Master Sgt. Matthew Smith**

**002 – (Left) Master Sgt. Matthew Smith talks with another 164th AW member about progression in the National Guard.**

