



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
3 SEPTEMBER 2014
14-42

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Tennessee National Guard Soldiers Awarded for Heroism

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Four Tennessee National Guard Soldiers were awarded the Soldier’s Medal by Maj. Gen. Max Haston, Tennessee’s Adjutant General, in a ceremony at the Headquarters, Tennessee National Guard. The Soldier’s Medal is the highest peacetime award given to a Soldier for acts of heroism that are not directly related to conflict with an armed enemy. The Soldier must have placed their own life at risk while saving another person to earn the award.

Haston presented Lt. Col. Hunter L. Belcher, a Lebanon, Tenn., native, Maj. William J. Crawford, a Henderson, Tenn., native, Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher T. Crawford, native of Lawrenceburg, Tenn., and Sgt. 1st Class Fred C. Mize, III, a native of Strawberry Plains, Tenn., (all current or former members of the Tennessee National Guard Recruiting and Retention Command), the award for actions taken during life threatening events they bravely acted upon in recent months.

“Today the Tennessee National Guard recognized the deeds of four of our own, who clearly demonstrated that heroes walk among us,” said Maj. Gen. Haston. “These Soldiers are the epitome of the ‘Citizen Soldier’ and are true Tennessee Volunteers. Each risked life and limb to save others. No greater deed can be done. I am proud to serve with each of these outstanding Soldiers.”

Lt. Col. Belcher, Maj. Crawford and Command Sgt. Maj. Crawford received the award for their actions during an active shooter incident occurred when an assailant entered the Millington Armory trying to kill Soldiers in the facility on October 24, 2013. Lt. Col. Belcher and Maj. Crawford were wounded by gunfire and continued to subdue the shooter, while Sgt. Maj. Crawford assisted in the physical restraint of the assailant. Placing their lives at risk, the members’ conduct was above and beyond the call of duty that met the strict criteria for the award of the Soldier’s Medal.

Sgt. 1st Class Mize observed a severe collision between two vehicles on February 10, 2013. He was passing by the scene and took action by crawling into a burning vehicle and rendered life saving assistance to three injured occupants while others assisted in care of victims in a second vehicle. His quick thinking and disregard for personal safety while rendering aid to the accident victims merits the award of the Soldier’s Medal.

The four Soldiers were awarded in the presence of friends, family and co-workers. They also received a shadow box with the award certificate and citation to include a duplicate Soldier’s Medal mounted in the center.

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Soldier's Medal Ceremony

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

PHOTOGRAPH 14-42-1: "Maj. Gen. Max Haston, Tennessee's Adjutant General, prepares to award four Tennessee National Guard personnel The Soldier's Medal during a Sept. 3, ceremony in Nashville, Tenn. The Soldier's Medal is the highest peacetime award given to a Soldier for acts of heroism that are not directly related to conflict with an armed enemy. The Soldier must have placed their own life at risk while saving another person to earn the award.

PHOTOGRAPH 14-42-2: "Each Tennessee National Guard Soldier's Medal recipient was given a framed copy of their award and citation with a full sized Soldier's Medal mounted in the center."

PHOTOGRAPH 14-42-3: "Pictured left to right are the four Soldier's Medal recipients. Lt. Col. Hunter L. Belcher, a Lebanon, Tenn., native, Maj. William J. Crawford, a Henderson, Tenn., native, Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher T. Crawford, native of Lawrenceburg, Tenn., and Sgt. 1st Class Fred C. Mize, III, a native of Strawberry Plains, Tenn., (all current or former members of the Tennessee National Guard Recruiting and Retention Command), received the award for actions taken during life threatening events they bravely acted upon in recent months.

(ATTACHED IN PRESS RELEASE E-MAIL IS AN OVERVIEW OF THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL LISTING THE PAST 10 YEAR RECIPIENTS FROM TENNESSEE, COPIES OF SOLDIER'S MEDAL CITATIONS AND AWARDS FOR THE CEREMONY RECIPIENTS.)

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