

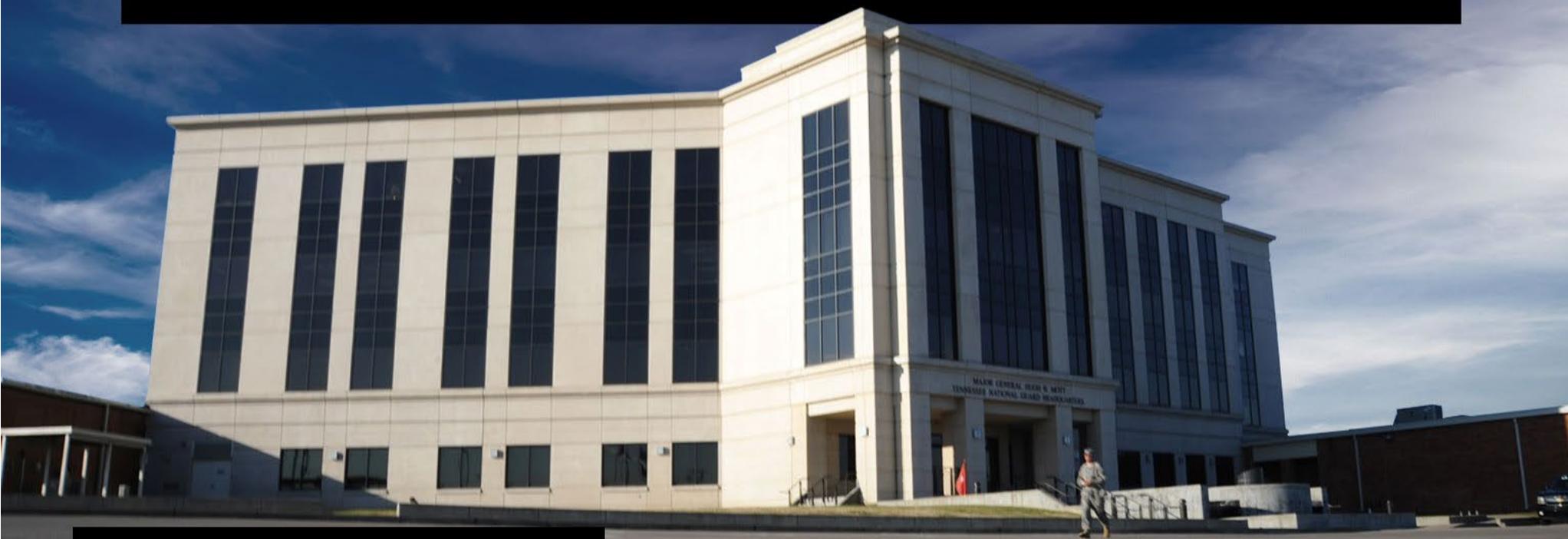
OUR KIOWA WARRIORS KEEP SOLDIERS SAFE IN RC-SOUTH

THE VOLUNTEER STATE GUARD

M A G A Z I N E

JFHQ 102

PART TWO OF THE SERIES FOCUSED ON THE HISTORY
OF TENNESSEE'S JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS



AFTER THE STORM

TENNESSEE NATIONAL
GUARD ENGINEERS AS-
SIST IN TORNADO DEBRIS
REMOVAL

CHANGES TO FEDERAL
TUITION ASSISTANCE
COULD AFFECT YOU

Photo Above: MG Hugh B. Mott Building

THE VOLUNTEER STATE GUARD MAGAZINE

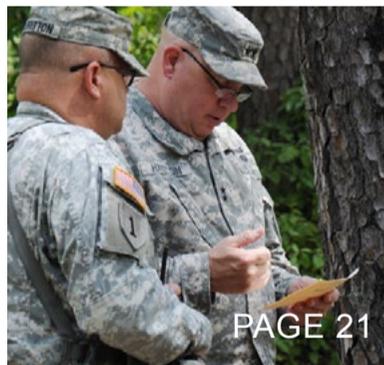
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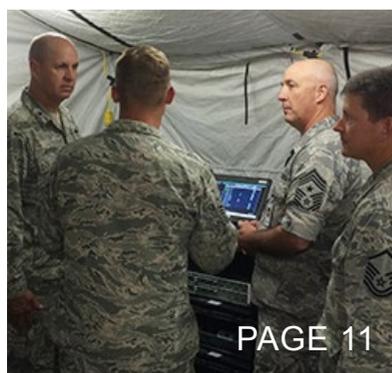
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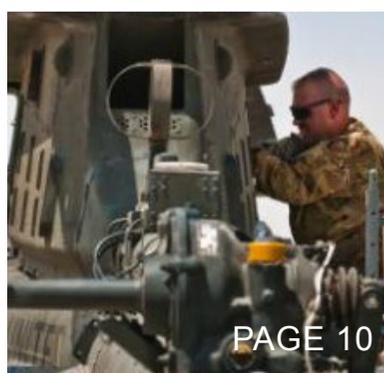
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WHAT'S YOUR STORY!

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TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

134TH REFUELING EXERCISE

An F22 Raptor pilot from the 325th Fighter Wing practices making contact with a KC-135R Stratotanker from the 134th Air Refueling Wing during a refueling mission over the Gulf coast of Florida - May 9, 2014

PHOTO BY: MSG Kendra M. Owenby



TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

278TH AMBUSH TRAINING

Members of B-Troop, 1/278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Tennessee Army National Guard take part of an offensive ambush training, and recovery exercise at Camp Shelby Miss. - June 11, 2014

PHOTO BY: SGT Art Guzman



TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

RAPPELLING TOWER

A Tennessee National Guard Youth Camp attendee rappels down the Alvin E. Hendrickson Rappelling Tower at Boxwell Scout Reservation, Lebanon, Tenn. - June 15, 2014

PHOTO BY: SSG Melisa Washington



TENNESSEE SNAPSHOT

DEMOLITION TECHNIQUES

Soldiers assigned to C-Troop, Regimental Troop Squadron, 278th ACR conduct live demolition and breaching techniques at Camp Shelby, Miss. Nothing motivates combat engineers like live explosives - June 22, 2014

PHOTO BY: SGT Art Guzman

JFFHQ 102

PART TWO: The Military History of the Sidco Drive Area

(Continued from the last issue of VSGM)

The Nashville Chamber of Commerce led an effort in 1952 to transform the site into industrial tracts in hopes of luring factories to locate there. Four local businessmen bought 113 acres of land in the area for \$456,000, and the city hoped to get another 189 acres for about \$800 per acre, the original price determined by the federal government.

Its location between the L&N Railroad tracks on the east, Radnor Yard on the south and Thompson Lane on the north made the location ideal. The Southern Industrial Development Company, formed in 1953, gave the street through the site its current name, SIDCO Drive.

By the next year, the military complex had been destroyed and construction began to transform the former Classification Center for the U.S. Army Air Corps into a warehousing and industrial complex. The first 50-acre portion was completed by 1959.

The Tennessee Army National Guard leased the property in 1955, and construction began on the Clement-Nunnally armory in 1959, and was completed by 1962. A new wing was added to the armory in 1976.

The 30th Armored Division Headquarters was located at the post, along with several other army units such as the 3-109th armor Battalion and the 173rd Support Battalion. In 1972, the 30th Armored Division was dissolved and became separate units to

include the 30th Separate Armored Brigade, the 194th Engineer Brigade, the 196th Field Artillery Brigade and the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

From 1947 to the mid 60's the post had a swimming pool that was fed by a natural spring that stayed at 56.7 degrees, and was manned by the Navy, Marines and National Guard personnel stationed there. They maintained the pool and served as life guards. Personnel and guests paid a nominal fee for the use of the pool, and the water in the pool was known to be clean and always at the same temperature. The pool was closed around 1970.

In 1975, construction began to add a new wing of the Clement-Nunnally armory. It was completed by the spring of 1976.

Construction began on the Major General Hugh B. Mott National Guard Headquarters building in 2006 along with renovations to the Clement-Nunnally Armory, was completed in early 2009.

The 4-story Mott Building dominates the hillside overlooking Sidco Drive and Powell Avenue. Known today as the Joint Force Headquarters-Tennessee, Houston Barracks is also home to the Headquarters, Tennessee Air National Guard; the 301st Troop Command; the 129th Army Band; the 230th Signal Company; the 1128th, 1129th and 1130th Finance Detachments; the 118th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, and Troop A, Special Troops Squadron, 278th ACR. Other key agencies of the Tennessee Military Department located here



The Army Air Force Classification Center on Sidco Drive in 1943.

are the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) and the Headquarters for the Tennessee State Guard.

The Sidco area still has the plants, factories, and warehouses that were the excitement of the post-war years in Nashville. The building frenzy continued until nothing

of the original Army Air Corps Classification Center was left. Those driving by the area today will not realize that during World War II the region between I-65 and the Radnor Rail Yards was home to tens of thousands of American Soldiers.

One cannot write a history of Nashville's

Houston Barracks without recognizing the contribution of so many dedicated professional officers and enlisted Soldiers who have, and still continue to uphold the very flame of the volunteer spirit of military service by which this state is renowned.

Beginning with the Overmountain Men,

The 4-story Mott Building dominates the hillside overlooking Sidco Drive and Powell Avenue.

(Tennesseans, Virginians, and North Carolinians who defeated the British at Kings Mountain in 1780,) and continuing today, Tennessee stands tall, because of those heroes in our past who have laid the foundation for us to follow.

The outstanding officers and enlisted men and women who served in the 30th Armored Division, and all units housed at Houston Barracks have participated in every major and minor U.S. war endeavor and conflict since World War II. It is a list of who's who, and the service they have rendered to our beloved state and nation should be forever remembered. The sacrifice of those Soldiers who gave the ultimate price of their lives for the freedom we share as Tennesseans, and consequently, as Americans.

Article by MAJ (Ret) Randy D. Harris
Director, Joint Public Affairs & Strategic Communications

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COL Brad Bishop



Major General Hugh B. Mott Building
Tennessee National Guard Headquarters,
located in Nashville, Tennessee.
(Photo by SSG Melissa Wood)

CHANGES TO FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE

Beginning July 2014, Big Changes Happened to the Military's Federal Tuition Assistance Policy (FTA).

Basic information about FTA:

1. Up to \$4000.00 dollars or \$250.00 a semester hour each fiscal year; 16 semester hours cap.
2. Partial courses will not be funded; this means you must have the required number of hours left in FTA benefits in order to receive FTA for a course. One FTA benefit hour remaining/3 hour course needed, Soldier will have to pay for the entire course.
3. Must complete IADT, OCS, or BOLC and wait one year after completion before you can use FTA
4. If you used FTA for any reason, then you must have at least 10 years of service to use FTA for a Masters Level Degree.
5. 130 hours allowed for completion of a Bachelor's Level Degree, 39 hours allowed for a Masters Level Degree.



New Changes to FTA beginning July 2014, see below.

1. Most Soldiers (80% or more) are now required to input at least 50% of their required courses in course planner. FTA cannot be approved for any course not approved in the Soldier's course planner. This can be done by using your current degree plan in E-File and inputting the courses into course planner. There is a tutorial in GoArmyEd on how to complete this new requirement.
2. As of 24 July 2014, all courses starting after this date must be input by the Soldier and approved by an Education Counselor before the start date. Soldiers must submit their FTA request 14 days prior to the start date in order to receive FTA Funds. Those who fail to do this will not receive FTA for the fall semester or any other semester thereafter.
3. Fees will no longer be covered by FTA for any reason. Tuition is the only thing that FTA will pay for in the future.
4. For classes starting on or after 24 July 2014, Soldiers will now have to pay back FTA money for grades below "C" when enrolled in a bachelor's Degree Level Program or lower. Soldiers enrolled in a Masters Level Program will have to pay back money for grades below a "B".
5. Lastly we will not be able to help any Soldier students who do not meet the requirements for FTA in every way this semester and thereafter. We can no longer input courses for Soldiers, they must do this themselves.

Contact the TNARNG Education Office at ng.tn.tnarng.list.ngtn-j1-education@mail.mil or 615-313-0529/0625 for assistance with FTA issues.

Information from the TNARNG Education Office
Photo by SSG Melissa Wood

KEEPING 'EM SAFE

Tenn. Kiowa Warriors Keep Soldiers Safe in RC-South



OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters from the 1st Air Cavalry Squadron, 230th Cavalry Regiment, Tennessee National Guard, watch over Soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division as they lead the Afghan Border Police of Zone 3, Kandak 4 out of the Nawa Valley after air assault operations in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, May 24.



Chief Warrant Officers 3 Blake Hardison and Donnie Anderson, both natives of Jackson, Tenn., pilots with the 1st Air Cavalry Squadron, 230th Cavalry Regiment, Tennessee National Guard, train in their OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, July 28. The 1st of the 230th serves with Task Force Raptor to help provide security for KAF, as well as reconnaissance and convoy and ground patrol security.



Staff Sgt. Daniel Bean, a native of Clinton, Tenn., who serves as a crew chief with the 1st Air Cavalry Squadron, 230th Cav. Regiment, Tennessee National Guard, tunes up a OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, July 29. Bean's unit serves with Task Force Raptor to help provide security for KAF, as well as reconnaissance and convoy and ground patrol security.



Photos & captions by SSG Whitney Houston

PATRIOT 14

Tenn. Air National Guard Participates in a National Emergency Exercise:

PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT ACROSS THE STATE DEPLOY TO WISCONSIN FOR PATRIOT 14

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Tennessee Air National Guard personnel and equipment from Memphis to Knoxville participated in Patriot 14, a disaster relief training exercise at Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center, Wis., during 22-24 July. Members of the 134th Air Refueling Wing and 119th Command and Control Squadron in Knoxville, the 118th Wing in Nashville, and the 164th Airlift Wing in Memphis, travelled to Volk Field to provide critical military assets to support civil authorities in numerous simulated disaster scenarios.

The Patriot Program was developed by National Guard Bureau to create a joint training and exercise environment that allows Soldiers and Airmen from the National Guard with an ability to assess their military, and special life-saving capabilities to respond to a domestic disaster, either natural or manmade. The program's three goals are to provide realistic training for both civilian and military organizations, assist in improving coordination between civil-military entities and ensure vital tasks are met through a system of self assessments. Forty-nine Air National Guard units from across the nation supported the exercise with four Army Guard support elements and numerous other government / civilian organizations.

Providing support during times of emergency to federal, state or local agencies is a primary task of the National Guard in the United States and globally. Using equipment to restore power, provide water,



Brig. Gen. Don Johnson, Tennessee's Assistant Adjutant General, Air (second from left) and Chief Master Sgt. Wade Hudson, Command Chief, Tennessee Air National Guard (second from right) are briefed by Airmen from Tennessee and other states at Volk Field, Wis., concerning the capabilities of the Joint Incident Site Communication Capability Systems or JISCCS.
(Courtesy Photo)

evacuate casualties, re-supply impacted regions and overall to support civil emergency responders are just a few examples of the tasks required.

A total of 62 organizations participated in Patriot 14, from military units to agencies such as the Red Cross and Salvation

Army. Tennessee Air National Guard units had specific responsibilities that were evaluated to determine their effectiveness in mitigating issues resulting from disaster scenarios. The 134th ARW provided two Airmen to work in an emergency operations center to assist other Air units in

planning for aircraft requirements to ensure they fulfilled vital transportation missions.

The 119th CACS provided ten Airmen and constructed two Joint Incident Site Communication Capability Systems, or JISCCS, that allow mobile communications capability to be placed in disaster areas so responders and emergency managers have a means of talking to each other when established lines of communication are disrupted.

The 118th Wing's Civil Engineering Squadron provided six Airmen to support Power Pro Generators that have the ability to function for numerous days and provide substantial electrical power to remote base facilities or sites where emergency power is in dire need such as hospitals or shelter areas.

The 164th AW deployed a Chaplain to provide morale and religious counseling to effected individuals in the simulated disaster zone.

Due to the substantial size and scope of the mission several key leaders were on hand to observe and review the operations first hand. The Tennessee contingent was visited by Brig. Gen. Don Johnson, Tennessee's Assistant Adjutant General, Air and Command Chief Master Sgt. Wade Hudson, Tennessee Air National Guard.

"Global Patriot was an outstanding exercise that provided the Tennessee Air National Guard an opportunity to showcase its ability to respond to a natural disaster. Our mobile satellite communication support to military and civilian authorities is paramount to saving lives in this scenario. Additionally, our Airman tend to get lost in the big scheme of things with our support functions. Medical, spiritual, power generation and logistics are a few critical capabilities that the Air National Guard brings to the fight in our domestic response for the Adjutant General and Governor," said Johnson.

The Patriot exercise was very successful and illustrated the ability of multiple military and civil entities to train and interact in a scenario driven environment to adequately prepare for future real world emergencies. - **LT. COL. (RET) NIKI GENTRY**



Members of the 119th Command and Control Squadron brief communication exercises plans outside the Joint Incident Site Communication Capability Systems or JISCCS tent to support Patriot 14 at the Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center, Wis. (Courtesy Photo)



Airmen of the 118th Wing's Civil Engineering Squadron prepare to unload and begin training missions with Power Pro Generators to provide electrical power for equipment being utilized in the simulated disaster site at the Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center, Wis. (Courtesy Photo)

AFTER THE STORM



Tennessee National Guard Engineers arrive to assist in tornado debris removal



Severe Storms in Claiborne and Campbell Counties - Full Story Pg 14

AFTER THE STORM

SPEEDWELL, Tenn. – On the evening of July 27, an unusually strong storm system ravaged areas of Campbell and Claiborne Counties in northeast Tennessee. Significant damage occurred in and surrounding the town of Speedwell, Tenn., where an EF-3 tornado with winds exceeding 140 miles per hour damaged and even destroyed several structures along its path. According to the National Weather Service Office in Morristown, Tenn., the tornado lofted wreckage as high as 10,000 feet into the air as it moved through the area. Upon inspection by local and state authorities, the Tennessee Army National Guard was requested by the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency to provide heavy equipment and personnel to assist in recovery operations beginning on August 3, in the impacted area under Operation Task

Force Engineer.

“The Tennessee National Guard’s 230th Engineer Battalion, located in Trenton, Tenn., is leading the operation with 16 Soldiers from the 190th Mobility Augmentation Company located in Russellville / (Morristown), Tenn., and Jefferson City, Tenn., 10 Soldiers from the 212th Engineer Company located in Paris and Camden, Tenn., six Soldiers from the 913th Horizontal Engineer Company from Union City, Tenn., one Soldier from the 230th Headquarters / Headquarters Company and five Soldiers from the Forward Support Company located in Trenton also participating in the effort.”

“Our mission is to clear roads and provide support to civil authorities in response to the natural disasters in Claiborne and Campbell Counties. This is but one of the

state missions that we have the honor to conduct to help our fellow Tennesseans and is one of the primary reasons my Soldiers joined the Guard as engineers,” said Capt. Eric Madison, officer in charge, with the 190th Mobility Augmentation Company. During the first week of the mission over 3,400 cubic yards of storm debris have been removed by the Guard and other supporting agencies according to Madison.

“The mission has been a model domestic support to civilian authorities operation,” said Madison. “All of our efforts have been fully integrated with the local civilian authorities and the help of the Tennessee Department of Transportation, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Tennessee Department of Forestry and the Tennessee Department of Safety.

“Our mission is to clear roads and provide support to civil authorities.”

Additionally, the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Team of Tennessee provided meals for those supporting the overall mission.”

“The Tennessee National Guard response, along with all the support agencies, has been very efficient. We were very glad they were able to assist and have been instrumental in clearing a debris swath that spans approximately 40 miles,” said Gina Breeding, the public information officer for the Claiborne County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Breeding indicated 30 structures had been damaged with 11 homes and two businesses completely destroyed.

Due to the extensive damage in the region the mission has been extended from a one-week to two-week completion phase with a planned end date of August 14. - **LT**

COL (RET) NIKI GENTRY



Spc. Cody Short, 190th Mobility Augmentation Company, directs Spc. Kevin Porter and Spc. Karin Cathey, both with the 212th Engineer Company at the site of a devastating tornado that impacted Campbell and Claiborne County, Tenn., on July 27. (Courtesy Photo)

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF RECOGNIZED

ESGR Presents Numerous Awards to Sheriff John Fuson for his Contributions to Tenn. Guardmembers



CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. – Maj. Gen. Robert Harris, The Tennessee National Guard's Assistant Adjutant General, Army and Mr. Carl Lambert, State Chair of the Tennessee Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve presented numerous awards to Montgomery County Tenn., Sheriff John Fuson on June 16. The Sheriff was recognized for his contributions to the members of the Department who are also Soldiers and Airmen of the Tennessee National Guard and those serving in various components of the Reserves.

"We are very proud to be here.... a lot of

times we take it for granted that our leadership in organizations are understanding of the folks that are in the Guard and Reserve and the difficulties they have in getting off to do this mission because of their work schedule, so I am very excited to be part of this and proud to help present these awards to you and your organization," said Maj. Gen. Harris.

"These guys (the military members) are professionals who have demonstrated the attributes and skills desired by employers... but the most enjoyable part of my job is to recognize employers who do what you

do," stated Mr. Lambert in the news article when recognizing the Sheriff.

The ceremony consisted of the Sheriff accepting the "Patriot Award" recognizing the contributions his Department provides to military personnel that include:

- Continuance of pay beyond the 20 days of military leave required by State Law for Soldiers who are activated to duty for local emergencies or State crises.
- Actively hiring Tennessee Guardsman within his agency and ensuring all

military employees receive adequate representation and consideration for promotions and transfers within agency divisions.

- Ensuring the concerns of guardsman and their families whether deployed or conducting traditional training are immediately brought to his personal attention.
- Establishing and enforcing a “Worry Free” workplace allowing members to concentrate on their military task and not be distracted by their duties at the Sheriff’s Office when on drill status, training or activation.
- Taking a vested interest in the Tennessee Army National Guard’s Defense Support of Civilian Agencies mission and maintains two way communications through the Homeland Security District 7, Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office and Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

Sheriff Fuson was also awarded the “Above and Beyond Award” on behalf of the Sheriff’s Office for supporting citizen Soldiers as well as their families. “This award is just what it says. You know what the law says, but you have gone past that, above that especially when dealing with Guardsmen, their families and making sure that they have everything that they need, giving them



the assurance that their job is safe upon their return,” said Lambert.

Upon accepting the two awards, the Sheriff signed a “Statement of Support” for the Guard and Reserve that was also signed by the Secretary of Defense. He commented

upon completion of the formal event, “to the people who work here, in addition to their National Guard job, it’s all about service, it’s in their hearts and minds, it’s what they want to do for our community. We are proud to have people like this in our organization and I know Gen. Harris is also proud to have the same folks in his organization, who have service in mind. They are not doing it just for a paycheck or prestige, it’s what they feel in their hearts and it’s their commitment to the values that built this country and really makes me appreciate all of you.”

Specific questions concerning Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve in Tennessee may be directed to Marvin Wells, Employer Support Specialist for the Tennessee National Guard at 615-313-0753 or John Rutherford, Program Support Technician at 615-313-0752.



Information in the article cited from *The Clarksville (Tenn.) Leaf Chronicle* and compiled by Niki Gentry, TNG JPAO Office.

JOIN THE AIR FORCE SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION



What is the AFSA?

The Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA) is a non-profit organization representing the professional and personal interests of nearly 111,000 active, retired and veteran total enlisted members of the United States Air Force and their families. Membership is open to Air Force Active Duty (AFAD), Air National Guard (ANG), Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) active, retired, and veteran enlisted members of all grades.

Why should you join?

Benefits of AFSA membership are numerous and valuable. In addition to having a strong, respected voice on Capitol Hill, and an opportunity to make lasting friendships, AFSA members enjoy a wide range of member only benefits including:

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- Low interest rate credit cards
- Discounted travel and hotel rates
- Magazine and newspaper subscription discounts
- College tuition discounts, computer discounts, mobile phone discounts
- And much more

Go to www.hqafsa.org and become a member today.

THE MEMPHIS C-17 TEAM

Streamlining Maintenance Processes of the C-17 Globemaster III fleet in Memphis, Tenn.



Members of the 164th Airlift Wing in Memphis, Tenn., safely fly thousands of miles each year aboard the C-17 Globemaster III aircraft. Accomplishing their mission requires a team of dedicated Airmen working tirelessly to maintain the hundreds of systems essential to lift the winged giants into the air. During late July a team of C-17 Globemaster III Sustainment Program Quality Specialists, Field Service Operations and Sustaining Engineering Fleet Performance personnel from the Boeing Company, along with members from the 164th Airlift Wing's Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century (AFSO21) group participated in a week long workshop to streamline their maintenance processes.

"The goal of the event with Boeing and the AFSO21 team was to determine how

to make our maintenance workflow more efficient. Ultimately saving time but ensuring each task of the aircraft Home Station Checks (HSC) were conducted safely and properly," said Lt. Col. Keith Stiles, Commander of the 164th Airlift Wing's Maintenance Squadron.

"Roughly 460 total processes were analyzed by the group, and although none of them were removed, many were rearranged to achieve a more logical flow in the inspection process, resulting in approximately a 25 percent reduction in inspection time," stated Master Sgt. William Hess, a supervisor and lead member of AFSO21 for the 164th Airlift Wing's Maintenance Squadron.

The final outcome obtained by the team



Boeing and 164th Airlift Wing maintenance team leaders. (Courtesy Photo)

effort between Boeing and the Tennessee Air National Guard members resulted in the reduction of C-17 HSC inspection time from six and one-half days to five. Ultimately, the new maintenance process means the aircraft are ready to respond to missions around the globe more rapidly while being maintained safely and more efficiently for flight. - **LT COL (RET) NIKI GENTRY**

TAG PISTOL MATCH

The Tenn. National Guard's annual TAG Pistol Match at the Volunteer Training Site in Tullahoma, Tenn.

Master Sgt. Kendra Owenby, 134th Air Refueling Wing, fires at a target as part of a team competition held August 17 just before the awards ceremony. (Photo by Master Sgt. Robin Olsen)



TULLAHOMA, Tenn. – The Tennessee National Guard's annual TAG Pistol Match took place August 15-17 at the Volunteer Training Site in Tullahoma, hosting about 15 teams, or roughly 60 individuals, representing major commands from the across the Tennessee Army and Air National Guard.

“The purpose of the exercise was to promote marksmanship skills and training. This exercise offers servicemembers from the Army and Air National Guard an opportunity to test their marksmanship skills and weapon systems in a competitive and battle-focused environment,” said 117th Military Police Battalion member Capt. Timothy Butler, who is a range officer

in Tullahoma and serves as the assistant marksmanship coordinator for the state. “In the military, marksmanship is a cornerstone of what we do. The focus is to leave here having learned something that they can take back to their units,” he said. “We focus on training, not winning. Competition makes it fun.”

Participants were allowed to use either an M9 or a SIG M11. “Every Soldier leaves with a weapons qualification that is good for 18 months,” said Butler.

The Friday before the competition days is spent registering and in class. Participants get the opportunity to perform weapons checks and go to the range to learn the fundamentals of marksmanship and conduct

shooting drills in various positions. “It's a good warm-up before the competition day as well,” said Butler.

Four-man teams, representing every Major Supported Command from across Tennessee, participated in the event. Teams were comprised of three different participant classifications: Pro, Open, and Novice. A Novice participant is one who has never participated in any discipline at the TAG match or higher before. An Open participant is one who has participated at the TAG match in prior years. A Pro is one who has shot on the “A” team at Winston P. Wilson match, a national competition held every year pitting National Guardsmen from across the country against each other. Any



Top Left - Army Capt. Timothy Butler (left), of the 117th Military Police Battalion, annotates his score following a portion of the Pistol Match August 16. (Photo by Master Sgt. Robin Olsen)

Bottom Left - Tech. Sgt. James Rice of the 164th Airlift Wing took 1st place in individual competition.

Bottom Right - 1st place team honors went to the 118th Wing. Left to Right: Master Sgt. Mike Brumer, Maj. Demetrius Ritt, Tech. Sgt. Mike Carey, and Tech. Sgt. Kermit Purcell.



participants who have fired at the WPW previously are considered old participants. Teams were required to be 50 percent Novice, with no more than one Pro per team. The match was structured for both individual and team competition. Participants had to shoot from a variety of positions, including standing, kneeling, crouching, and prone. As well as from various distances, approximately 15 to 30 yards.

Individual Pistol Champion went to Tech. Sgt. James Rice, of the 164th Airlift Wing. Staff Sgt. Mark Prince of the 1175th Transportation Company took second place, and Staff Sgt. Chris Smith, Range

Control for the Volunteer Training Site in Tullahoma took third.

Individual "Pro Class" Pistol Champion was awarded to Staff Sgt. Scott Cavin, of the 134th Air Refueling Wing. Second place was Sgt. 1st Class David Keenom, 194th Engineer Brigade, and third was Maj. Demetrius Ritt, of the 118th Wing.

Pistol Team Champion was awarded to the 118th Wing: Maj. Demetrius Ritt, Master Sgt. Mike Brumer, Tech. Sgt. Mike Carey, and Tech. Sgt. Kermit Purcell. Coming in second place was the 164th Airlift Wing: Lt. Col. Keith Stiles, Master Sgt. Jason Crawford, Tech. Sgt. James Rice,

and Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Deutsch. Taking home third place was the 1175th Transportation Company: 1st Lt. Kevin Wittwer, Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Hollis, Staff Sgt. Mark Prince and Sgt. Terry Musick.

Several members also received Expert and Sharpshooter ratings. Expert is 38 to 40 targets hit during the pistol competition. Sharpshooter is 33 to 37. The Marksmanship rating is 26 to 32, and anything less than that is considered unqualified. The top Soldiers and Airmen who participated in the event will move forward to regional and national matches. - **MSGT**

ROBIN OLSEN

TAG VISITS OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL

Maj. Gen. Max Haston, visits Tenn. Soldiers in phase three of Officer Candidate School at Ft. McClellan, AL

FORT MCCLELLAN, Ala. – The Tennessee National Guard's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Max Haston, visited his fellow Tennessee National Guard Soldiers who were in phase three of Officer Candidate School at Fort McClellan, AL, on July 29.

For Officer Candidate Jordan Donegan, of Antioch, currently attached to Det. 1, 267th Military Police Company in Waverly, the TAGs visit was remarkable. "I haven't seen any other TAGs visit their Soldiers. It shows that Tennessee cares about us and wants to see its future leaders be successful," he said. Donegan is one of 13 Tennessee National Guard Soldiers preparing to graduate and become the state's newest officers. There are 168 candidates in his class, representing nine different states.

"It is important to have the TAG visit OCS because it demonstrates the program is important to him, and it enables him to have a better understanding of how the program operates," said Master Sgt. Ronald Cannon, Chief Instructor, 117th Regimental Training Institute.

The OCS program at the RTI is offered in two different formats to accommodate the reserved component's citizen Soldiers. The traditional OCS program is a 16-month course of instruction conducted from April to August of the following year. It is broken down into four phases: Phase 0, or Pre-Phase, is two drill weekends and designed to prepare Officer Candidates for the OCS program. Phase 1 is a 15 day annual training period held in June. Phase 2 is conducted one weekend per month for a period of 13 months. Phase 3 is a final 15 day annual training period, culminating with graduation and commissioning.





“The 117th RTI conducts Pre-Phase and Phase 2. Phases 1 and 3 are conducted at Fort McClellan by the 200th Regiment there,” said Cannon. “Our focus is on having the candidates administratively and logistically ready to pass all of the training in Phase 1 to be able to continue through the OCS program.”

The Army National Guard also offers an “Accelerated” OCS program which is a 56 day, full-time program. The accelerated program is the most physically and mentally demanding program. While the majority of candidates for the accelerated program are already enlisted Soldiers, the failure rate is consistently over 40 percent for both the accelerated and the traditional programs.

The high failure rate is one of the main reasons for Gen. Haston’s visit. Phase 3 has been identified as the phase where most candidates fail out of the program, not just in Tennessee, but nationwide.

“Some of the largest losses in the past, came from Soldiers not being properly taught about the rigors of the OCS program,” said Cannon. “Most, if not all, candidates are not surprised now when they begin Pre-Phase.”

OCS requires Soldiers to work long weekends and stay engaged throughout the month. “Their days are completely filled with military training, from classroom instruction to field training,” Cannon said. “The dropout rate issue is not isolated to

just Tennessee, the other states have similar percentages in comparison.”

“I think it is very important to see what they do here in this phase of training so we can prepare the next batch when we get back to Tennessee,” explained Haston. “I’m concerned about what we are teaching and I want to make sure they are prepared for what they are about to walk into, even after OCS.”

Phase 3 has been identified as the phase where most candidates fail out of the program, not just in Tennessee, but nationwide.

“The number one reason they fail out in Phase 3 is injuries sustained during field training,” said Maj. Randy Albritton, 200th Regiment, Fort McClellan, Ala.

The second biggest reason is due to the candidate’s inability to pass the events. Another is due to a candidate’s inability to get a waiver to enter OCS in the first place.

“They are graded on eight different

categories, and they can only miss two in order to pass,” said Lt. Col. James Heartsill, Deputy Commander, 200th Regiment.

The 117th RTI in Smyrna, Tenn., has already instituted new training methods. “We adjusted training in Phase 2 to set them up for success when they get to Fort McClellan,” said Sgt. Maj. Hank White, 117th RTI.

About 25 percent of candidates fail out of the program in the earlier phases, which are mainly academic. Phase 2 is primarily classroom instruction, featuring ten exams. These prepare the candidates for Phase 3.

“I think we were very well prepared in Phase 2,” said Officer Candidate Donald Eli, of Murfreesboro, and member of the 777th Maintenance Company based in Smyrna, Tenn.

“Going through the traditional course, I feel like I’ve been afforded more institutional knowledge than those going through the accelerated version of the program. I think it makes it easier,” said Officer Candidate Elliot Martin, 913th Engineer Company, based in Union City, Tenn.

Upon successful completion of Army National Guard OCS, the candidates are commissioned as second lieutenants if they possess at least 90 semester hours, and must complete Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC) II and III within 24 months. The commission received from this version of OCS is the same federally recognized commission as offered through the active duty counterpart version at Fort Benning, GA.

It is interesting to note that in 2009 the U.S. Army began sending Soldiers to the accelerated OCS program conducted by the National Guard RTIs. This was determined to be a more cost efficient way of producing officers compared to expanding the Fort Benning program.

“There are primarily six states that send candidates to Fort McClellan,” explained Cannon. “The loss rates are similar for them all. People who do well in one phase do not necessarily do well in other phases.”

“It doesn’t make a difference if you are a wrench turner or you work in an office all day long; everyone has to have the skills to be a Soldier,” said Haston. “They should be able to be commissioned and go do something right then.” - **MSGT ROBIN OLSEN**



I N M E M O R I A M

We would like to express our sincere condolences to the friends and the family members of Sgt. 1st Class Michael Braden. SFC Braden, a decorated, 27-year veteran of the Tennessee Army National Guard, lost his life on July 9th, 2014, while serving as the NCOIC of Readiness for Troop A, Support Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Lobelville, Tenn.

*"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."
Joseph Campbell, American scholar and author*