

2,000TH TENN. GUARD MEMBER EMPLOYED THROUGH J9 TEAM

THE VOLUNTEER STATE GUARD

M A G A Z I N E

SOLDIER'S MEDAL



SOLDIER'S MEDAL

FOUR TENN.
GUARD SOLDIERS
AWARDED FOR
ACTS OF HEROISM

252ND MP COM-
PANY DEPLOYS IN
SUPPORT OF OPER-
ATION ENDURING
FREEDOM

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THE VOLUNTEER STATE GUARD MAGAZINE

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TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

134TH CIVIL ENGINEERS IN CONN.

Tech. Sgt. Matthew Beaver, from 134th Civil Engineer Squadron, removes the old roof off the baseball field dugout at the Coast Guard Academy in New London Conn., one of three main projects completed by CE while in Conn. - June 1, 2014

PHOTO BY: SSG Ben Mellon



TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

RESILIENCY “ROO” RUN

Tennessee National Guard Soldiers and Airmen supported the Resiliency “Roo” Run on September 19th at the Volunteer Training Site in Smyrna, Tenn. The run brings awareness to suicide prevention and the different resources available.

PHOTO BY: MSgt Robin Olsen



TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

JOHN "POPCORN" MOSS RETIRES

Col. (Ret.) Bill Wenzler (Left), speaks at a retirement ceremony held in the drill hall for John "Popcorn" Moss (Right). Mr. Moss is retiring after over 46 years of service to the State of Tennessee. - Sept. 3, 2014

PHOTO BY: MAJ (Ret.) Randy Harris



**TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT**

252ND MP DEPLOYMENT

Tennessee Army National Guard Soldiers from the 252nd Military Police Company, based in Cleveland, Tenn., and Oneida, Tenn., departed Friday, August, 29th in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

PHOTO BY: SPC Rose Browne



SOLDIER'S MEDAL

**Four Tenn. National Guard Soldiers
Awarded for Acts of Heroism.**

BY **LT COL (RET) NIKI GENTRY** | PHOTOGRAPHS BY **SPC CHRIS DALEY**

“Today the Tennessee National Guard recognized the deeds of four of our own, who clearly demonstrated that heroes walk among us.”

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 that 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, crawling into a burning vehicle and rendering 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.

Receiving the Soldier's Medal is a high honor, bestowed on those that risked their lives to help someone else.



Lt. Col. Hunter L. Belcher
Recruiting & Retention Battalion

Lt. Col. Belcher, a Lebanon, Tenn. native, received the award for his 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 was wounded by gunfire and continued to subdue the shooter.



Maj. William J. Crawford
Recruiting & Retention Battalion

Maj. Crawford, a Henderson, Tenn., native, received the award for his 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. Maj. Crawford was wounded by gunfire and continued to subdue the shooter.



CSM Christopher T. Crawford
Recruiting & Retention Battalion

Command Sgt. Maj. Crawford, native of Lawrenceburg, Tenn., received the award for his 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. Sgt. Maj. Crawford assisted in the physical restraint of the assailant.



Sgt. 1st Class Fred C. Mize
Recruiting & Retention Battalion

Sgt. 1st Class Mize, a native of Strawberry Plains, Tenn., observed a severe collision between two vehicles on February 10, 2013. He took action by crawling into a burning vehicle and rendered life saving assistance to three injured occupants. His quick thinking and disregard for personal safety merits the award of the Soldier's Medal.



The U.S. Army Soldier's Medal: The Soldier's Medal is awarded to any individual whom while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, or any citizen of a friendly foreign nation that while working with the United States Army, is recognized by heroism not concerning direct encounter with an enemy. The act of justifying the award of the medal must have entailed a personal risk or hazard and the personal choice of a risk of their life under condition not concerning encounter with an enemy. Simply saving a life will not be basis for the award.

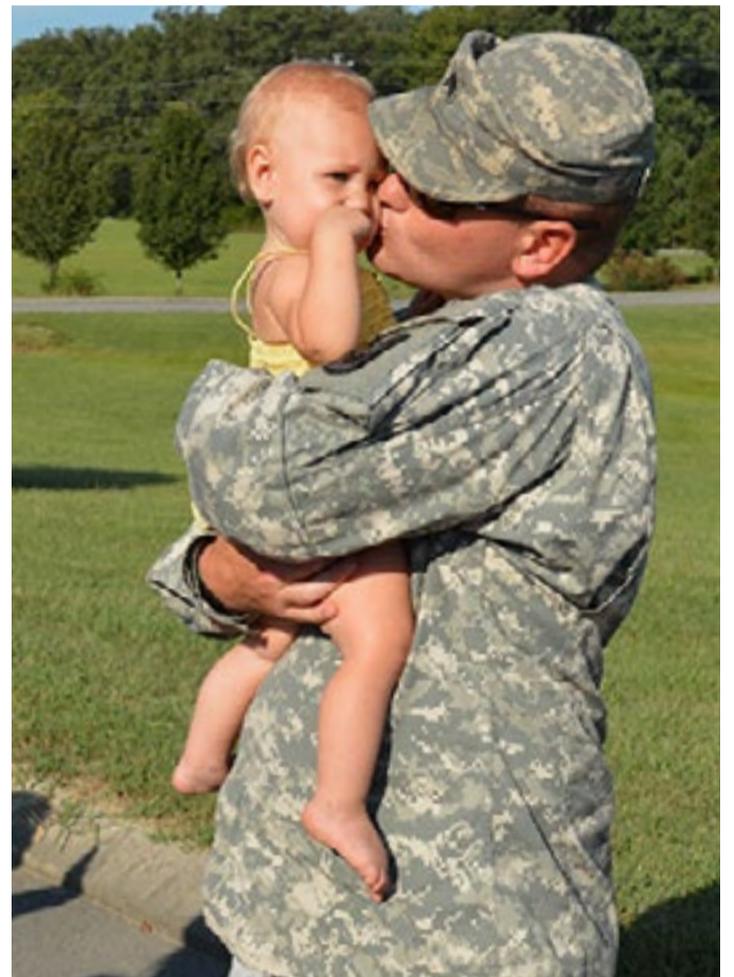
Over the past 10 years, there have been 7 TNNG Soldiers awarded the Soldier's Medal:

- Sgt. 1st Class James Pashal, 129th Army Band - September 27, 2005
- Sgt. 1st Class Edward Street, Detachment 25 OSA - May 10, 2007
- Master Sgt. Robert Lollar, 251st Military Police Company - March 5, 2009
- Staff Sgt. Kyle Hamilton, TNARNG Medical DET - May 23, 2009
- 1st Sgt. Jeffery Gregory, 230th Air Cavalry Squadron - May 3, 2010
- Chief Warrant Officer 3 Peter Neveu, Troop C, 1-230th Air Cavalry Squadron - July 9, 2011
- Maj. Odessa Samkprakra, Joint Force Headquarters - February 20, 2012

MIP DEPLOYMENT

252nd Military Police Company leaves in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Tennessee Army National Guard Soldiers from the 252nd Military Police Company, based in Cleveland, Tenn., and Oneida, Tenn., left Friday, August 29th, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Members of the unit departed from the National Guard Armory in Cleveland, Tenn., for one month of training at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., prior to heading to their deployed location. More than 28,000 Tennessee Army and Air National Guardsmen have deployed since Sept. 11, 2001.



Photos by: SPC Rose Browne

TNNG REACHES A HIRING MILESTONE

Tenn. National Guard Recognizes 2,000th Member Hired by Jobs Program.



Maj. Gen. Max Haston, recognized Retired Marine Lt. Col. Buddy Smith, the Principal of Moore County High School in Lynchburg, Tenn., for hiring Staff Sgt. Jason Gospoderek as the 2,000th Tenn. National Guard member employed through the Tenn. National Guard's J9 Employment Team. Left to Right: Maj. Gen. Max Haston, Retired Marine Lt. Col. Buddy Smith, Staff Sgt. Jason Gospoderek, (Photo by Master Sgt. Robin Olsen)

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Maj. Gen. Max Haston, Tennessee's Adjutant General, recognized Retired Marine Lt. Col. Buddy Smith, the Principal of Moore County High School in Lynchburg, Tenn., for hiring Staff Sgt. Jason Gospoderek as the 2,000th Tennessee National Guard member employed through the Tennessee National Guard's J9 Employment Team. Also recognized

were Greg Persinger and Helen Bailey of Yates, LLC., which has been responsible for assisting over 320 National Guard members obtain employment.

Attending the ceremony from National Guard Bureau was Dinetha Thompson, Program Manager for the National Guard's Job Connection Education Program. Staff

Sgt. Gospoderek's employment along with the 320 hires by Yates represents a significant milestone in the nearly two year old Business Partnership Program assisting National Guard members and their families to find jobs across Tennessee.

"The Employment team heard I was searching for a job and arranged an in-

interview with the school,” said Gospoderek. “I basically was hired on the spot as the Band Director for Moore County High School with help from the Family Programs Employment staff.” Staff Sgt. Gospoderek is a member of the Tennessee National Guard’s 129th Army Band and the Director’s job allowed him to use his unique military skills in a civilian capacity.

The Tennessee National Guard Military and Family Readiness Operations, under the Command of Lt. Col. Eric Goslowsky, and the employment

Gospoderek is a member of the Tennessee National Guard’s 129th Army Band and the Director’s job allowed him to use his unique military skills in a civilian capacity.

team has successfully found employment for over 2,100 Tennessee Guard members and their families since inception just over two years ago. More than 2,600 individuals have registered for assistance. Working in conjunction with the Tennessee Department of Labor, local employers, various agencies, and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), Tennessee continues to conduct one of the most successful National Guard employment programs in the nation.

“Fortunately, as our Tennessee govern-



Maj. Gen. Max Haston, The Adjutant General of Tennessee, presents a plaque of appreciation to Greg Persinger of Yates, LLC. (Photo by Master Sgt. Robin Olsen)

ment works diligently to reduce the state unemployment rate every day and our Tennessee National Guard has also joined forces in this effort, said Maj. Gen. Haston. “It takes the team work of a combined force to achieve the goal of meaningful employment for our service members and their families. While we recognize our 2,000th hire today, an average of 100 service and family members a month are being placed in large and small businesses statewide.”

Haston not only thanked the leadership of Moore County High School for hiring a Guardsman, but also recognized them for their support of 1st. Lt. Brad Sanders with the 1176th Transportation Company who is currently deployed. Sanders is an Assistant

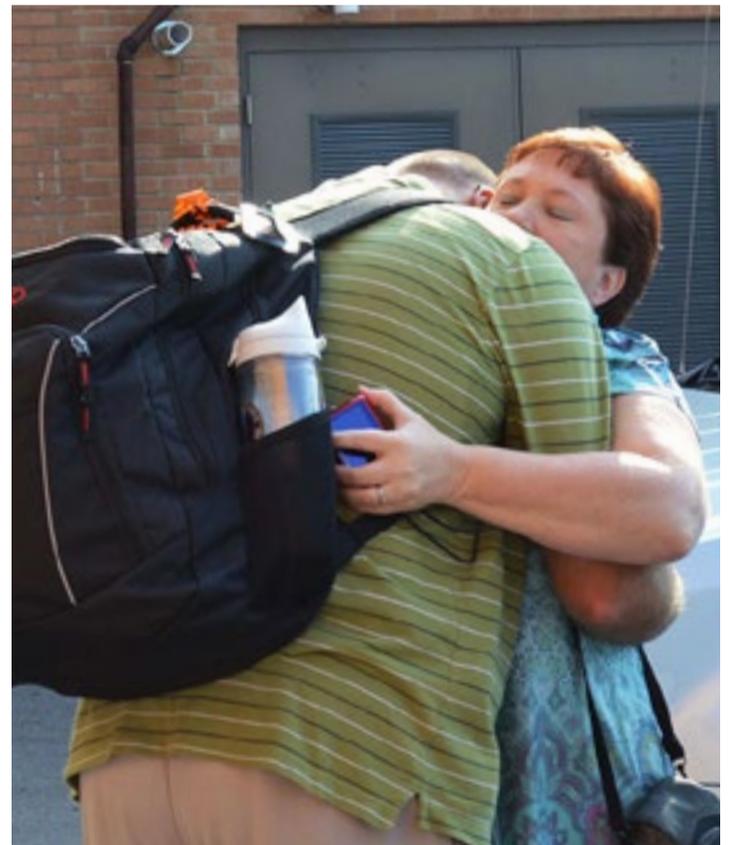
Principal at Moore County High School and the Moore County School District is holding his position when he returns home from deployment. Additionally, Moore County High School has put up a sign in 1st. Lt. Sanders’ parking spot that reads “No Parking, Awaiting A Safe Return for 1st. Lt. Brad Sanders.”

Maj. Gen. Haston emphasized the goal of finding jobs and establishing long term careers was the cornerstone of the program. “Our Tennessee National Guard Employment Team is an incredible resource for members of the Tennessee National Guard and their families.” - **LT. COL. (RET) NIKI GENTRY**

105TH PERSONNEL COMPANY DEPLOYS

105th Personnel Company Deploys in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Tennessee Army National Guard Soldiers from the 105th Personnel Company, based in Nashville, Tenn., left Thursday, 28 August, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Members of the unit departed from Tennessee National Guard Headquarters, for one month of training at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. prior to heading to their deployed location. More than 28,000 Tennessee Army and Air National Guardsmen have deployed since Sept. 11, 2001.



Photos by: SPC Rose Browne

CHARLIE DANIELS AND CLARK FLATT AWARDED

Charlie Daniels and Clark Flatt are awarded the prestigious Patrick Henry Award for their contributions.



Maj. Gen. Max Haston (Left) presents the Patrick Henry Award to Country Music Legend, Charlie Daniels (Right).



Maj. Gen. Steve Danner (Left) presents the Patrick Henry Award to The Jason Foundation's Clark Flatt (Right).

One of the most prestigious awards given to civilians by the National Guard Association of the United States was recently presented to Charlie Daniels and Clark Flatt.

The Patrick Henry Award is designed to provide recognition to local officials and civic leaders, who in a position of great responsibility distinguished themselves with outstanding and exceptional service to the Armed Forces of the United States, the National Guard or NGAUS. An individual must have distinguished him/herself over an extended period of time in their support of the Armed Forces of the United States, the National Guard or NGAUS.

Country Music legend Charlie Daniels has distinguished himself over numerous

years by his untiring dedication to our nation's military. Traveling all over the world to entertain American troops has been a mainstay of Daniels touring schedule over the past several years. He and the Charlie Daniels Band have performed in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Korea, Kosovo and Germany, to name but a few. Daniels recognizes the contribution of our military at the more than 150 concerts he performs each year.

Clark Flatt is the founder and President of The Jason Foundation, Inc. (JFI), an organization dedicated to the prevention of the "Silent Epidemic" of youth suicide through educational and awareness programs that equip young people, educators/youth workers and parents with the tools and resources to help identify and assist at-

risk youth.

In 2011, JFI and the Tennessee National Guard partnered with E4 Health to initiate Guard Your Buddy, a program that gives the men, women, and families in the Tennessee National Guard constant access to critical life resources, on-demand counseling, and on-call suicide prevention. The Guard Your Buddy project is designed to enhance the excellent resources already in place for the Tennessee National Guard.

"Both Daniel's and Clark's contributions to our Tennessee National Guard are immeasurable." Said Maj. Gen. Max Haston, Tennessee's Adjutant General. "Their tireless dedication, support and devotion to our Soldiers and Airmen can never be repaid." - **MAJ (RET.) RANDY HARRIS**



September 4, 2014 - Members of the 45th CST are awarded the first Safety Streamer ever received by a Tenn. Unit. (Photo by SFC (Ret) John Evans)

SAFETY FIRST

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Tennessee’s 45th Civil Support Team (WMD) was recently awarded the Unit Safety of Excellence Award, and is the first recipient of this prestigious award. The award recognizes the accomplishments of the 45TH CST in Safety Excellence, and has earned the distinction to display the Safety Excellence

Streamer on their unit guidon.

Maj. Gen. Terry “Max” Haston presented the award to Lt. Col. Jeff Brown, commander.

The 45th CST participated in 17 total exercises during FY 13 (15 local/ 2 National), traveling over 100,000 highway miles with 13 specialized service vehicles. The

unit scored 98% on FY 14 Tri-Annual NGB Standardization, Evaluation, and Assistance Team (SEAT) evaluation program. and had no reportable accidents in the past two years. Additionally, the 45TH CST has been nominated for the DA level Army Exceptional Organization Safety Award- Battalion level.

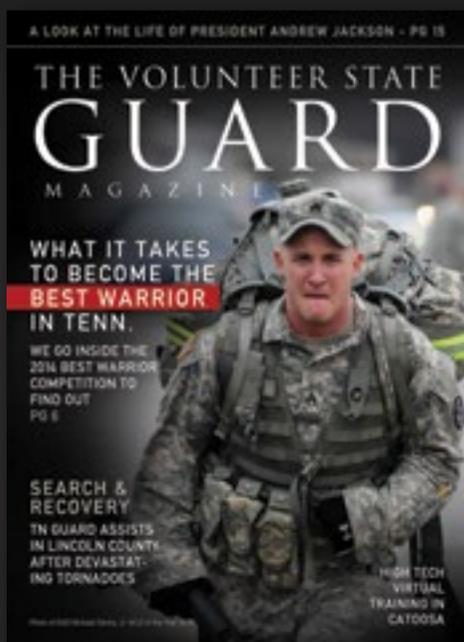
The mission of the Civil Support Teams (WMD) is to support local and state authorities at domestic WMD/NBC incident sites by identifying agents and substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on response measures, and assisting with requests for additional military support.

The 45th CST(WMD) is a joint 22 person unit and consists of both Army National Guard and Air National Guard personnel (18 Army/ 4 Air). It is commanded by a lieutenant colonel, which can be Army or Air. There are 55 CSTs throughout the nation. - **MAJ (RET.) RANDY HARRIS**

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