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# THE VOLUNTEER STATE GUARD

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Z I N E

## the TAG

interview with  
Max Haston,  
Tennessee's  
Adjutant  
General



THE JOURNEY OF  
TENN. FEMALE  
CHAPLAINS

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# THE VOLUNTEER STATE GUARD MAGAZINE

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 2

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Max Haston, Tennessee's Adjutant General speaking at the Tennessee State Capitol. Photo by SSG Melissa Wood.

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TENNESSEE  
SNAPSHOT

**SNIPER TRYOUTS**

Think you have what it takes to be a Sniper? In March, the 1/278th ACR Sniper Section conducted a selection process in order to test Soldiers trying out to become snipers.

*PHOTO BY: 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment*



TENNESSEE  
SNAPSHOT

**THE GUARD HELPS GARTH**

Staff Sgt. Glenn Tate, 129th Army Band, Tenn. Army National Guard, played taps with Garth Brooks for a concert the country singer played as part of the Country Radio Seminar in Nashville.

*PHOTO BY: SSG Delana Hull*



TENNESSEE  
SNAPSHOT

**MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD**

On March 11, 2015 Gov. Bill Haslam met with Tennessee Adjutant General, Maj. Gen Max Haston, military-connected youth, and their families to sign a proclamation declaring April as Month of the Military Child in Tennessee.

PHOTO BY: CW2 Emily Wiest



## TENNESSEE SNAPSHOT

### **JEEA HELPING VETERANS**

Members of the Junior Enlisted Advisory Association (JEEA) from 134th Air Refueling Wing in Knoxville, Tenn., collected canned goods for the Blount County Veterans Affairs Office food pantry.

*PHOTO BY: Master Sgt. Kendra M. Owenby*

# the TAG

an interview with  
Max Haston,  
Tennessee's  
Adjutant  
General

Major General Terry M. "Max" Haston speaking at the Veteran's Day ceremony at the Tennessee Capitol. (Photo by SSG Melissa Wood)

INTERVIEWED BY **CW4 NICK ATWOOD**

**Major General Terry M. “Max” Haston is Tennessee’s 75th Adjutant General. The Adjutant General is appointed by the governor and is also the Commissioner of the Tennessee Military Department. The Adjutant General is responsible for the leadership and command of the Tennessee Army and Air National Guard, the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, the Tennessee State Guard, and the Bureau of War Records.**

**CW4 Atwood: Command of Tennessee’s Military forces is a responsibility held by notable figures of our nation’s history such as former President Andrew Jackson and Sam Houston, who later became the President of the Republic of Texas. Describe for our readers what it means to you personally having been selected, first by Governor Bredesen and now Governor Haslam, to join in the company of these great leaders.**

*Maj. Gen. Haston:* What it really means is that the Guard has evolved past the role of politics and into capabilities and technical and tactical skills that are required to be a military commander. That’s a credit to Governor Bredesen and Governor Haslam because they looked at the qualifications rather than the politics of appointing someone. The National Guard; this country; the mil-

itary has been at war for the past 13 years. Now, I’m not sure America’s been at war because only the military and their families have been daily affected by this. In the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan we didn’t see a national commitment like we did in World War II. What we’ve seen is the military’s commitment. And, so having said that, I think our Commanders in Chief of this state realized that fact and have said, “Look, we’ve got to appoint someone who understands the military and is technically and tactically capable of leading our Soldiers. Now, the first part of your question, talking about even being mentioned in the same sentence with people like Sam Houston and Andrew Jackson along with those folks whose pictures hang on the wall outside my office—Dan Wood, Gus Hargett, Carl Wallace, Van Nunally, Joe Henry—they are not just part of, but have helped write Tennessee history, and that is very humbling to me. To even be mentioned in the same sentence or be captured on the same wall with those guys is very humbling. I mentioned Major Gen. Joe W. Henry—he eventually became the Chief Justice of our Tennessee Supreme Court. He was the Chief Justice when Lamar Alexander took office prior to the originally scheduled inauguration in the aftermath of a scandal involving his predecessor Governor Ray Blanton. So it tells you how ingrained and embedded that is. You mentioned Sam Houston—this guy served as the Governor of two states, the President of a Republic, and Father of a Country—and who he was associated with, people like the famous Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie, and James Travis. You think about those guys and the history involved--that people of this state birthed another state called Texas. It’s very humbling.

**CW4 Atwood: With so much written on the subject of leadership these days, it is nearly impossible to deny the importance implied by the writers. One Army inspector even went so far as to comment to me years ago his view when he said, “leadership makes the world go around.” What are your thoughts on his comment and I’d like you to elab-**

**orate on the basic principles of your command/leadership philosophy.**

*Maj. Gen. Haston:* I think what has to happen first is that every individual has to define leadership and understand what leadership means. I think leadership in what we do is the ability for one person, the leader him or herself, must to be able to get people to do what they want them to do and make them think it’s their idea. That engages their innovativeness and accomplishes the mission. The role we sit in that “getting them to do what you want them to do” could be very dangerous and cost them their lives. And so that’s another added requirement, incentive to ensure that people are doing the right thing and are being technically and tactically proficient with their people. I was raised by an NCO and so my philosophy of leadership is maybe a little bit different. The fact that my Dad was a career NCO told me that, “there ain’t nothing too hard to do if you ain’t the person that’s got to do it.” It’s Important to be able to put yourself in the position of when you ask somebody to do something, make sure that you, the leader, are willing to fall in there and do it with them and experience it with them. Whether it’s tactical or administrative, or whatever the situation. You may not be the absolute professional and understand everything about that task, but to be a good leader you’ve got to understand what your people do. I also find it amazing that when you ask people to do things, or ask them how they’re doing it, (and to get our young warriors to show you as a leader how to do it)—that instills pride in them and what they’re doing in the unit. I think it’s a bit of a blender or a full circle of leading them but understanding what they’re doing and getting them to demonstrate to you their professionalism and their ability to accomplish that mission. It’s really a complete circle. We as leaders are only as strong as our weakest link. So therefore, to me as a leader, I must be able to invest in those places where I see that we have requirements, or we have vulnerability. To help that Soldier or that Airman is what a true leader does. They focus on that. There’s the global mission that we have to accomplish, the overarching 50,000 foot level mis-

sion that we always have to focus on, but if you can't get that message of what you want down to the person that's got to accomplish it then you're really leading nothing.

**CW4 Atwood: What are your expectations for those men and women in your command and what can they expect from you as their senior leader?**

*Maj. Gen. Haston:* Well the first thing they can expect from me is my 100 percent support of them, in whatever it takes to get the job done. If I ask somebody to do something I'm going to give them everything that I have in resources at my disposal to see that they can accomplish the mission. Notice I said, "Everything that's available." Sometimes things are not available and we still have to do the mission. I encourage every Soldier and Airman to watch the mini-series "Band of Brothers". While most of Easy Company of the 101st Airborne Division was on pass in France they were given new orders. With no winter clothes, no ammunition, no food, literally nothing, they were picked up in the middle of the night, taken to Belgium and told to surround and defend the city of Bastogne. With seven roads leading into and out of the city the Germans wanted it because it was essentially a "high-speed" avenue of approach. These men of the 101st Airborne did that with nothing. They had no medical supplies in the dead of winter in 1944, but they did their job. So sometimes we have to do our jobs even when we don't have everything that we think we need. We can't just throw our hands up and say, "Well, I can't do it because I don't have all the proper stuff" but rather we have to improvise and adapt to the situation. But, if I have that resource available I will do everything in my power to see the Soldiers and Airman get that.

My expectations of the men and women of the Tennessee National Guard are high because I believe they are the best America has to offer. They are the best of the best! Less than one percent of our nation serves in uniform, so what does that say about our men and women who volunteer? We haven't had a draft since 1973, so everyone here is a volunteer and I expect the best of them. We are a slice of society. We have good people



Commander Lt. Col. Stephen W. Jaco and Maj. Gen. Haston look over equipment in the 230th EN BN's motor pool in Kuwait. (Photo Courtesy of 230th EN BN)

who do some bad things sometimes and we have to deal with that. On the other hand, we have bad people that do good things and we have to deal with that also. So, I expect that dedication knowing that everybody's level of enthusiasm and dedication to their unit is not the same. I do understand that, but I think they're all patriots. And, as my Dad said, "patriotism is a little bit more than paying your taxes."

**CW4 Atwood: When did you begin your career as a Citizen Soldier, what do you see as the two most challenging issues facing Guardsmen today, and are these just challenges, in your opinion, or opportunities?**

*Maj. Gen. Haston:* Well, I can say that I started my career when I was probably two years old in the Guard. I shouldn't say that—No, my Dad was in the Guard and I know I keep referring to that, but that had such an influence on my life. When I got promoted to Colonel I told someone about how much I looked forward to Annual Training, as opposed to Christmas like most kids. Reason being, Annual Training was the time each year my Dad brought home his TA-50 and I got to play with it—it was the highlight of my year. I was commissioned in 1979 and I left

active duty at the end of 1983. I don't know if anyone will actually go back and look at this but I actually raised my right hand while I was on transitional leave out of the active duty coming into the Guard. I came into the 3rd Squadron of the 278th ACR, and of course, being a cavalryman and an armor officer all my life, that was a great fit. I took command of the unit in Rockwood, Tennessee, which at the time was a tank company (Company M), and that's where I began my Guard career. Now at that time I had a civilian job where I did accident reconstruction and insurance adjustment risk management for a Fortune 500 company but my true love was always the Guard. I worked my civilian job to allow me to be in the Guard. The area where I worked was the same location as my unit so it was very comfortable and allowed me to spend a lot of time with the National Guard.

You asked about challenges—I think the greatest challenge that we have today as Guardsman after 13 years of war is to ensure that the Army—The Department of Defense—understands the value that they have in a National Guard Soldier. I think that's the greatest challenge. I think our Guardsman have proven that but it's getting those other entities to recognize it, which will ring true in this upcoming roles and com-

missions that's being formed up right now to be studied on what roles the Army and the Army Guard should play. The Air Force did it a year or two ago now, and they, based off of facts not opinions, said, "hey look, we can't afford an Air Force as large as we once had with all the equipment, people, and mission sets." Now the Army will have to go through that same discovery learning process and they're going to find—if they're truthful—the same answers. What I'm concerned about is that they're not going to be truthful. I'm concerned there'll be people on the commission who may not realize or recognize the commitment that the National Guard has made over the years. I think that is our greatest challenge. I don't think it's an opportunity. I think we've taken everything that we've done and we've been, as former Gen. Max Thurman said, "We've been all we can be." We can be more and we can be a great asset to this country but we have to have people in the Department of Defense who recognize that. I think one of the greatest personal challenges we have today with our Guardsman is the time that they have to dedicate to the National Guard vs. the society that we live in today. We live in a society that's absolutely inundated with other opportunities and challenges as a civilian--kids, family, church, school, other clubs and memberships, and then try to factor the Guard into that. The Guard truly becomes a way of life for our Guard families and we need to be accepting of that. In some cases it just doesn't work out and a guy or girl just cannot fulfill their obligations based on these other challenges. But in the Guard you really have the opportunity to serve your state, country, and self.

**CW4 Atwood: What have been some of the Tennessee National Guard's greatest successes during your time, both pre-command and as commander? What are some of the enduring challenges, and how might they be overcome?**

*Maj. Gen. Haston:* Well, I'll start with the last part of that, first in that the enduring challenge is just what we spoke about earlier and it's our ability to ensure that this country

recognizes the value of the National Guard and to make sure that we are resourced and equipped the same as our active duty counterparts. I've lived through Bold Shift and Quick Silver and all those events where the Army really controlled the rheostat of readiness on the Guard based on resources. When they look at us and say, "Well, your National Guard unit isn't ready". The question is why

**"We can be more and we can be a great asset to this country but we have to have people in the Department of Defense who recognize that."**

is it not ready? The Army says, "You don't have the right equipment; you're not trained in the proper equipment; or, your Soldiers haven't gotten the proper schooling." And, I ask, "why haven't we had all of that stuff?," and the answer is because the Army hasn't given it to us--be it in school seats or school dollars. You've given us equipment that got us by and then said, "You can't take that piece of antiquated piece of equipment into a combat zone because we've got something better, faster, quicker, more expensive, and more lethal out there." I take umbrage to that because we don't control that, and so, I think that if the National Guard could get some more control over that aspect—and what I mean, is that when the Army fields a specific type of helicopter or tank—while

they're going through the purchasing and fielding of the equipment—that plan needs to include the National Guard. That way we're all on the same map sheet, all on the same sheet of music so that when a Combatant Commander requests a specific type of unit, that unit shows up and we're all trained at the same level, and we're all equipped at the same level. To me, that is the greatest challenge that we face and I think we can overcome that today, given the fact that, the most expensive commodity that the military has is the individual Soldier. That's an enduring--that's a reoccurring cost beginning with service now and on into retirement. We have to insure that the training and equipment our Soldiers and Airmen have today is current so they can fill that "place in time" when the active duty is unavailable, and all at a tremendous cost savings to the American taxpayer. The cost of one active duty Soldier or Airman will pay for three Guardsman. I think that's very important and we have to make sure that we get over that challenge. It has been a challenge since the day that I walked into the National Guard, and it'll be a challenge the day that I walk out of here but I think we can never take our eye off that ball. Every Airman and Soldier in the National Guard has to understand and work toward that, and we do it through our Associations, through our readiness reporting, and through our unit assessment tools. We have to make sure we are the best we can be at any point in time—the most ready—and consistently evaluate ourselves to know how we can be better.

You also asked about the greatest successes during my career—we've had many of them here in the Tennessee National Guard. I'm very proud of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment. I had the opportunity to command that organization and take them to the National Training Center (NTC), and successfully engage the world class OPFOR out there. A bunch of country folks from Tennessee went out and outwitted them and that was very humbling. A lot of people that have since retired and some here today may not remember how devastating our rotation to the NTC was to the Army because it was right before we started making large deployments into a combat theater with



Maj. Gen. Haston in his office at Joint Force Headquarters in Nashville. (Photo by Master Sgt. Robin Olsen)

“heavy metal”, and it showed the Army that a National Guard unit could come out there and compete with the best of the best and be successful. Now, were we successful at first? No, we went out and took our “licks in the mouth”, but we figured out what they were doing and we adapted—we overcame—we did to them what they were doing to us and it really made an impression at FORSCOM. In fact, they changed a lot of the rules because of what we did out there because the Army’s goal was to not let a unit deploy to the NTC and stand “toe to toe” with the OPFOR, but rather remain beaten and humble. And, the Regiment was successful in their next rotation as well.

The next thing that I’m very proud of is the deployments. You know, Tennessee has deployed over 29,000 Army and Air National Guardsmen. You know we’re the fourth largest deploying state in the nation. That says a whole lot for the Volunteer spirit and we don’t need to forget that. The 230th Sustainment Brigade shut the doors on Iraq—they were at the K crossing when the war in Iraq ended the first time and they shut it

down. Our folks ran Buca prison—the largest detention facility in Iraq at the time, run by our very own 168th MP Battalion, and Buca housed some of the “baddest” of bad guys. The 278th ACR went to Iraq in 2005-06 and secured the Ala Province during the most volatile time of the Iraqi war with fewer casualties and instances because of their presence. That says a tremendous amount. Our aviators successfully flying missions in Afghanistan with “A” model Apaches prior to the Army’s decision not to allow them to fly in country for lack of modernization—so many things like that we have accomplished. There has not been a mission that the Department of Defense has asked the Tennessee National Guard to do that we didn’t do. I mean right after 9/11 we took an Artillery Battalion and transitioned them to MP’s literally overnight and sent them around the world to conduct security missions. They’ve been amazing and I could sit here and talk all day about successes. They’re not my successes but rather those of the men and women of the Tennessee National Guard and that Volunteer spirit that I spoke of earlier.

**CW4 Atwood: Obviously, your day to day activities are focused on interaction with your staff and MACOM commanders. Most of the Soldiers and Airmen within the state do not get an opportunity to work as closely with you as the aforementioned leaders. With that in mind, are there any insights you can provide that might benefit everyone in your charge regardless of rank or position?**

*Maj. Gen. Haston:* Well, everybody’s important. There’s an old poem: For the loss of a nail we lost a shoe; For the loss of a shoe we lost a horse; For the loss of a horse we lost a rider; For the loss of a rider we lost a battle; And, for the loss of a battle we lost the war. So, I think that every Soldier and Airman in the Tennessee National Guard is vitally important. All you have to do is be around here for a snow storm or something like that, when one individual cannot make it to work, or physically cannot get to a lo-

cation, and we're expecting that "job" to be done from those who can and that person's not there. It just shows how important everybody is from the person who puts paper in the copy machine to the person that pushes the radio button and gives commands and instructions to do something—everybody plays a role and everybody is important. I have never believed that analogy, or thought

good and bad things happen throughout the state and nation. People sometimes don't want to recognize that particularly when it comes to budgets and resources. The tendency is to say, "oh, we don't need you right now", but then later say, "we need you, why are you not ready?" It's kind of like juggling chainsaws that are running sometimes. But, everybody matters.

ing care of the people to support the organization. There are none of us more important than the organization, yet each one of us is important as the organization. I want to be thought of in a way that people say, "he made a difference" and "he went out making a difference". I've made a lot of changes in the Tennessee National Guard. In some cases the program was already in existence and in others I created new events. I started the Guard Your Buddy Program to help our service combat suicide. I'm working on bringing the Youth Challenge Program to Tennessee; moving the aviation squadron from Smyrna to Berry Field, as well as moving other MACOM's and units around to different cities for the purpose of a higher state of readiness. Those types of decisions make people mad. Change is constant but people hate change; and so when they hate change it means they feel like they're not getting something out of it. I can assure you that none of the changes or things that I wanted to do have been malicious toward any one individual—it's not. It's the fact that I want to make the Tennessee National Guard the absolute best it can be. And so, I want to look back in 20 years from now, if I'm still blessed to walk the face of this earth, and say that I started a program, or developed an idea, and it's still ongoing—that there's endurance and some lasting effect to that effort or idea. And then, I hope that I've raised leaders that are wild, or bohemian, enough to make changes in the same way that I have in my career. I say this because I think our greatest legacy is the influence we have on the people we're bringing up to lead the organization. I say this a lot during speeches that I give sometimes and it comes from one of the greatest motivational posters that I've ever seen. It's the one with the little boy standing on the beach looking out at the ocean, and the caption below reads, "a hundred years from now no one will know how much money was in your bank account, what kind of car you drove, or the house that you lived in, but what will be remembered is the difference you made in the life of a child." And I think it's the difference we made in the lives of our Soldiers and Airmen, and their families.



Gov. Haslam (left) being briefed by Maj. Gen. Haston (center) and David Purkey, Director of TEMA (right). (Photo by CW4 Nick Atwood)

process, that says you can stick your finger in a glass of water and pull it out but not really see the difference. There is a difference; you just have to look hard at it, and regardless, you will be affected by that difference. Every person that God put on this earth and allowed to serve in the Tennessee National Guard makes a difference every day. When you're shaving or putting on your make up in the morning don't think that you don't make a difference—because you do! Don't let anybody tell you that you don't, because you do!

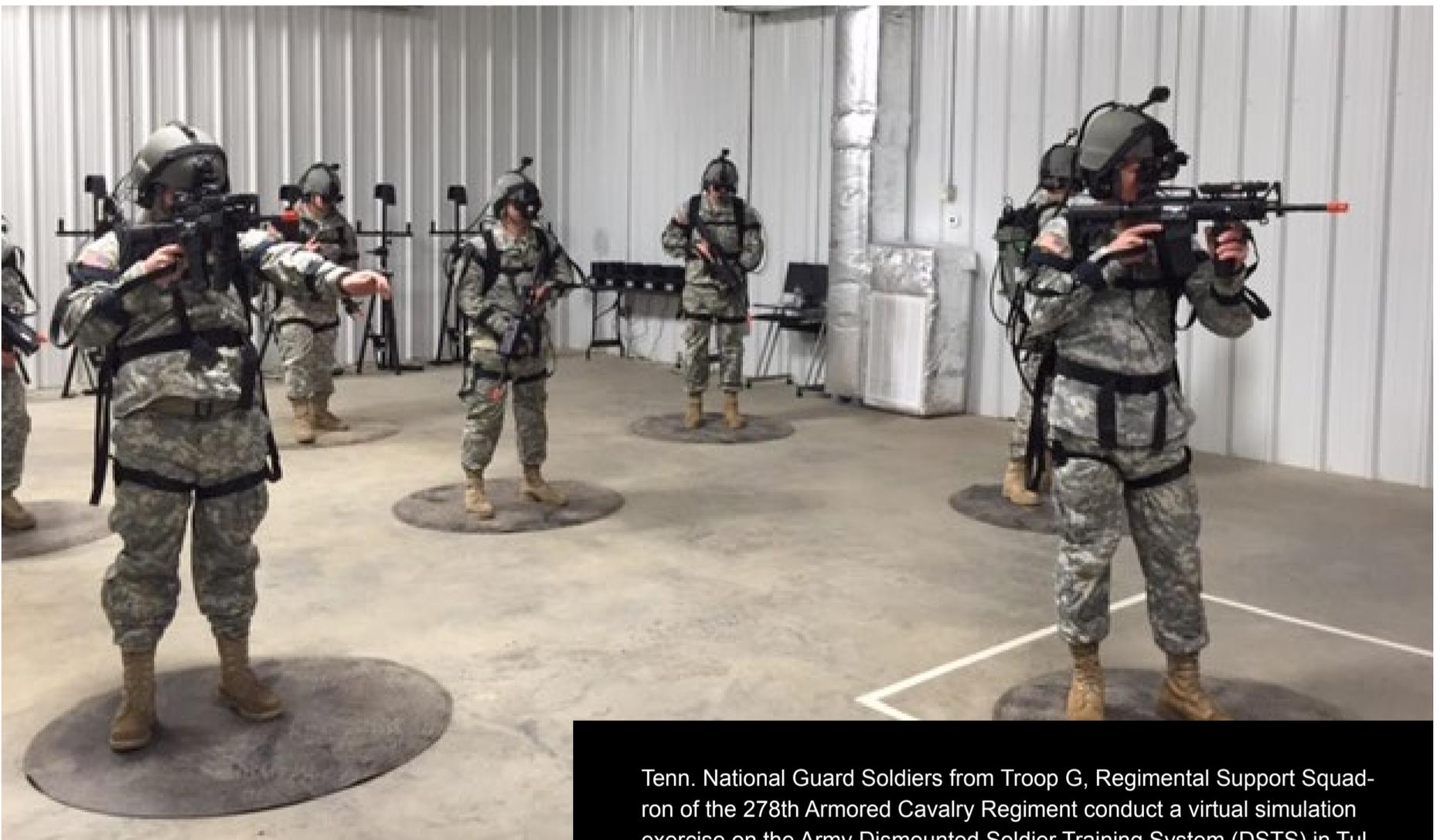
I interact with my commanders and staff, yes, that's true, but I also interact with state government, which is--one of my greatest challenges is convincing state government that we are not "just" another agency. We are a dual status agency that is here when both

**CW4 Atwood: As we've discussed before we cannot all wear this uniform forever. Knowing there is life after the Army how would you like to be remembered when your time arrives to hang up the uniform?**

*Maj. Gen. Haston:* That's tough. You know, I think everyone wants to be remembered in a positive way. But, you won't be due to the fact that doing your job as a leader constitutes making some people mad. Somebody's not getting what they think they deserve. I piss somebody off every day, and it's not my challenge to do that but it happens. It happens because of having to make the "right" decisions. And, I think how I would like to be remembered is that my focus was on tak-

# VIRTUAL TRAINING FOR THE CAVALRY

Tenn. National Guard 278th Armored Cavalry Troops Train in the Real and Virtual World for Success.



Tenn. National Guard Soldiers from Troop G, Regimental Support Squadron of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment conduct a virtual simulation exercise on the Army Dismounted Soldier Training System (DSTS) in Tullahoma, Tenn. The DSTS creates a three dimensional computer simulated environment with enhanced realism to train Soldiers in numerous war and peacetime mission tasks. *(Photo Courtesy of 278th ACR)*

**TULLAHOMA, Tenn.** - Soldiers from Troop G, Regimental Support Squadron of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment from Lewisburg and Shelbyville, Tenn., conducted field training exercises at Arnold Air Force Base in Tullahoma, Tenn., on February 6-8, 2015.

The event consisted of executing movement under direct fire, convoy lane drills, with casualty and medical evacuation tasks assisted by a Blackhawk helicopter provided

from the 1st Squadron of the 230th Cavalry Regiment based in Smyrna, Tenn.

The Dismounted Soldier Training System (DSTS) is a new addition to the training area in Tullahoma. It is the first fully immersive virtual simulation training system for Soldiers. Troop G had the privilege to be the first Tennessee National Guard unit to use

the system at this location. The DSTS puts the Soldiers in a virtual environment and allows numerous training scenarios to be conducted. The capabilities of the virtual system provide limitless opportunities for Soldiers to learn and enhance their critical mission tasks.

Troop G Soldiers gave the Blackhawk



A Tennessee National Guard Blackhawk helicopter provided from the 1st Squadron of the 230th Cavalry Regiment assists members of Troop G, Regimental Support Squadron of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment in aerial medical evacuation training conducted at Arnold Air Force Base in Tullahoma, Tenn. *(Photo Courtesy of 278th ACR)*

pilot a specific medical evacuation landing location and vital patient data during the training. Soldiers were carried via litter and placed in a cargo area of the aircraft upon landing. The training simulated procedures to be conducted during medical emergencies encountered in war or peacetime.

Members also had the rare opportunity to fly over the training area. During this element of the exercise, medics from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, Field Artillery Squadron of the 278th ACR in Winchester, Tenn., assisted Troop G in medevac procedures while completing their certification for required annual tasks.

The primary goal of this training was to complete Army Warrior Tasks and strengthen unit cohesion. The morale, motivation, and determination displayed throughout the exercises provided a tremendous sense of accomplishment and readiness among the Troop. Training is, and will always be the most beneficial way to stay attentive and prepared for the future of our country. Troop G will continue to train to the highest standards and go above and beyond expectations. - **SGT. KIRBY W. BANNISTER, JR., AND SGT. BENJAMIN M. HILTON**



A virtual three dimensional image is displayed inside The Dismounted Soldier Training System (DSTS) helmet worn by Soldiers to simulate numerous war and peacetime environments and scenarios to assist in training personnel they may encounter in their modern military missions. *(Photo Courtesy of Intelligent Decisions, Inc., the developer of the DSTS for the U.S. Army.)*

# KOREAN VET GETS BRONZE STAR

Cpl. Robert A. Marshall Receives Bronze Star with “V” Device Nearly 63 Years After Having Earned it.



Maj. Gen. Max Haston, Tennessee's adjutant general, presents Army Veteran Corporal Robert A. Marshall, the Bronze Star with “V” device for his heroic actions while under enemy fire near Kong-Dong, Korea, in September 1951. (Photo by MAJ (Ret) Randy Harris)

**KNOXVILLE, Tenn.** - Cpl. Robert A. Marshall, Company A, 72nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, was presented the Bronze Star with “V” device for valor on March 16, 2015 by Maj. Gen. Max Haston, the adjutant general, acknowledging his selfless service in Korea in September 1951.

Marshall, who now resides in Knoxville, led a small group of Soldiers assigned to retrieve an abandoned American tank in a river near enemy lines.

As Marshall waded through the river toward the abandoned tank, that was lodged

against large rocks and partially submerged, he began receiving enemy automatic weapons fire and mortars began impacting all around him.

Despite the hostile fire, he was able to reach and enter the tank and start it by reaching under water to access the controls. Knowing that the tank could easily overturn or become further lodged against the rocks, Marshall was able to put the tank in reverse, lock the brakes and let out the clutch causing the tank to lurch backwards dislodging it from the rocks.

While still under heavy enemy fire, Marshall was able to extract the tank from the river and drive it to a friendly position. His quick thinking and gallant actions that day ensured the tank was not captured by enemy Soldiers and no friendly Soldiers were injured.

“I am humbled to be a small part in this ceremony, recognizing one of our forgotten heroes of “America’s Forgotten War” in Korea. It is an honor and privilege for me to make this presentation,” said Haston.

**- LT. COL. (RET) NIKI GENTRY**

# GAINING KNOWLEDGE AFTER DEPLOYMENT

Yellow Ribbon Program Welcomes Troops Home.



Servicemembers of 1176th Transportation Company and 105th Personnel Company attend their Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program with their families, to gain valuable knowledge upon returning from a nine-month deployment to Kandahar, Afghanistan. (Photo by SGT Matt Young)

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** - After a nine-month deployment to Kandahar, Afghanistan, both the 1176th Transportation Company and 105th Personnel Company were welcomed home with a Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) event hosted at the downtown Nashville Maxwell House Hotel.

The YRRP is designed to provide local resources to National Guard and Reserve soldiers and their families before, during and after deployments by helping families reconnect with their Soldier, connecting them with information and care that can reduce stressors associated with long term separation, and outline the benefits each soldier earned as a result of their deployment. This is also an opportunity for the Tennessee National Guard to welcome their citizen-soldiers home.

“You can’t hear this information enough

throughout your career,” Capt. Daniel Isley, 1176th Transportation Company Commander said, “to be able to get this information into my Soldiers hands through this program is amazing.”

Attendees received marriage counseling and assessment information, Veterans Affairs information and enrollment assistance, education and training benefits, domestic violence awareness and prevention, suicide awareness and prevention, as well as vital health information on TBI and PTSD.

The program first began in 2008 and has improved with every homecoming event.

“The level of support has grown exponentially as this program has come along each year” Isley said.

Chief Warrant Officer Emily Wiest, Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program Support Officer, feels these events have helped

Soldiers connect with their local resources and provided opportunities with local employment for returning soldiers through the many vendors attending these events.

Chief Warrant Officer Parry Hazen, Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program Manager, has been working with the program for nearly two and a half years and feels the program is very beneficial to the troops and their families, in that it is able to bring resources to light that may have been unknown upon their return from deployment

For more information on the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program and how your unit can become involved, contact Chief Warrant Officer Parry Hazen at 615-313-0686 or [parry.c.hazen.mil@mail.mil](mailto:parry.c.hazen.mil@mail.mil).

**- SGT MATT YOUNG**

TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD HIGHLIGHT:

# OUR FEMALE CHAPLAINS

*Attaining the role of military chaplain has not always been an easy journey for women.*

STORY BY **MSGT ROBIN OLSEN & LT COL (RET) NIKI GENTRY**

Since the inception of the Women's Army Corps in 1943, women serving in the armed forces of the United States have demonstrated their dedication and sacrifice throughout the many wars and conflicts our nation has endured.

Whether flying sophisticated aircraft, sailing upon hostile seas or defending the lives of their fellow service members in combat zones, the role of women in the military is critical to achieve success in our global missions. Gaining new roles in our national defense structure has not always been an easy journey for women. Inequality based upon gender has often unfairly been a restrictive issue within critical military specialties.

The military chaplaincy is but one area where female service members encountered difficulty gaining entry. Capt. Ella Gibson, famous for her service with the 1st Wisconsin Regiment of Heavy Artillery during the Civil War, is noted as the first female Chaplain in the U.S. military. The Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, under President Lincoln, refused to recognize Gibson's status because she was female; however, she was posthumously commissioned in the grade of Captain in the Chaplains Corps by the 107th Congress, one hundred years after her death. It was not until 1973 that the U.S. Navy would become the first service to federally recognize a female military chaplain, Lt. j.g. Dianna Pohlman Bell.

"I may be the first to serve in this role, but I'm happy that I wasn't the last. We aren't finished and have many more challenges ahead of us," said Rev. v. Pohlman Bell during a ceremony celebrating 40 years of women in the military chaplaincy on March 4, 2013, in Arlington, Va. "It's the humanizing steps we take toward the future."

"We need to stick together for the future," she added. "None of us can do this alone."

These two women, who served over a century apart, paved the way for hundreds of others to serve their country by breaking antiquated stigmas and ultimately gaining the ability to provide spiritual guidance to their comrades in arms.

It would not be until 32 years later, in 2005, that the Tennessee National Guard would finally welcome its first female chap-



Reverend Dianna P. Bell, the first woman military chaplain, speaks about the accomplishments of 40 years of women in the military chaplaincy at the Women in Military Service For America Memorial, Arlington Nation Cemetery, Arlington, Va., March 4, 2013. (Photo by Sgt. Jennifer C. Johnson)

lain, Capt. Ashley Bell (no relation). She was first a member of the Tennessee Air National Guard's 118th Airlift Wing based in Nashville, Tenn., later transferring to the 164th Airlift Wing in Memphis before leaving the Guard in 2012.

There are currently four female chaplains following in Capt. Bell's footsteps serving in the Tennessee National Guard. Tennessee's second female chaplain is Capt. Jennifer Pacheco, assigned to the Air National Guard's 118th Wing since August 2012; and its third, 1st. Lt. Dianna Watkins-Dickerson, serving the 164th Airlift Wing since September 2012.

Pacheco decided to become a chaplain during a deployment to Kuwait in 2003 with the 265th Combat Communications Squadron, Maine Air National Guard. Then she was a Staff Sergeant serving as an information management specialist.

"I was actually thinking about getting out of the military, but while listening to a sermon there, I found a different career into which I could cross train," she explained.

"The role of a chaplain is vast, whether it is inside the Guard or in the community. We are the ministers; some of us pastor churches, whereas others work in hospitals or prisons," she said.

When not wearing the uniform, Capt. Pacheco serves as a full time chaplain resident at the James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa, Fla., where she has worked with military Veterans since September 2014.

"An individual can come to you, at any time, pouring their heart out and in need of a chaplain," Pacheco said. "It is a beautiful gift to be able to assist someone in their time of need and an honor to make history as one of the first female chaplains in the Tennessee National Guard."

The Tennessee Army National Guard added to the ranks of female chaplaincy in July 2013, with its first woman, Capt. Kyn-dalin Mooney. She is assigned to the Volunteer Training Site in Tullahoma, Tenn. More recently, its second female chaplain, Capt. Misti McCreary, began her service in July 2014 with the 1-181st Field Artillery.

Mooney, and her husband, who serves in the Army Reserve decided to become chaplains together.

"After 20 years in the Army Reserve, both my husband and I were feeling the call to serve through chaplaincy. We actually were ready to retire and go into the mission field; however, we realized that the Army is a mission field, and after lots of consideration, we decided to embark on the journey to become



Chaplain (Col.) John Mark Toby, State Chaplain for the Tennessee National Guard, administers the oath of office to 1st Lt. Misti McCreary in Frankfort, Ky., March 6, 2014. McCreary, formerly with the Kentucky Guard, transferred to her home state to pursue placement as a pastor in Tennessee. (Photo provided by Kentucky National Guard)

chaplains,” she said.

Prior to her chaplaincy, Mooney served 26 years in the Army. She has been a medic, a bandsman, and a career counselor in the Army Reserve.

“While I enjoyed each of my previous assignments, they all pale in comparison to being an Army chaplain,” she explained. “It is an incredible honor to serve as a chaplain and serve my fellow Soldiers.”

After all of her time in the Reserve, she already has many fond memories in the Tennessee National Guard.

“My first year in the Tennessee Guard provided me the opportunity to perform the wedding of our readiness NCO, Sgt. 1st Class Nancy Crosson; the baptism of the Commander of the Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, 30th Troop Command, Capt. John Ballantyne; and the memorial service for the father of Sgt. 1st Class Cindy White. I was promoted the first year as well,” she said.



Capt. Kyndalin Mooney (Center)

“The support that I have received over the past two years has been outstanding. Chaplains John Toby and Mark Phillips have welcomed me with open arms and have given me all of the tools that I need to be successful,” she said. Col. (Chaplain) Toby serves as the State Chaplain and Maj. (Chaplain) Phillips is a full-time chaplain at the Tennessee National Guard Joint Force Headquarters.

In addition to serving the Soldiers of the Tennessee Army National Guard, Mooney is also a high school physics instructor, as well as coach for volleyball, track and cheerleading at Middle College High School in Memphis, Tenn. One of her daughters is a member of the Arkansas National Guard and is currently in training to be a physician’s assistant. Her son is scheduled to graduate from the University of Arkansas later this year and plans to commission into the National Guard through the university’s ROTC program.

“My eldest daughter was in the National Guard band with her husband. Now, he is an attorney and attending Officer Candidate School in Smyrna, Tenn. My youngest son, only 15, plans on eventually joining the service as well. Military service is a big part of who we are as a family!” she exclaimed.

McCreary, who grew up in Friendsville, Tenn., initially joined the Kentucky National Guard in 2009 to participate in the Chaplain Candidate Program. She earned two Master’s degrees while studying at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Ky.; a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling.

She transferred back to her home state to

pursue placement as a pastor in Tennessee, and Chaplain Toby administered her oath of office on March 6, 2014.

“It is a real honor to be able to walk with our Soldiers through the highs and lows of life both in the Army and in the civilian world. These are hardworking people and it’s a privilege to serve them,” McCreary responded when asked her why she decided to become a chaplain. “Every generation of my family has served in the United States military all the way back to the Revolutionary War. I’m proud to be part of that tradition as well.”

McCreary stated her fondest memory of serving as a chaplain was when she, “met a Soldier who checked off every box for PTSD but was still undiagnosed. We talked and I was able to convince him to seek help. It took some time but he’s able to work again, to see the good in life, and really have a functional and productive life. That, and the memories like it, are the greatest reward a Chaplain can receive. We don’t get ribbons for those moments but we certainly feel them.”

“We are a strength multiplier for our Soldiers, even when we aren’t in drill status. Our Soldiers know that we are available to chat and that we offer full confidentiality so that they feel safe bringing their issues to us,” said McCreary. “We are there primarily to protect their freedom of religion, but also to monitor and boost morale. We honor the dead, care for the wounded, and nurture the living in a way that boosts their mental, emotional, and spiritual health.”

In addition to her role as a military chaplain, McCreary is busy in her civilian life as a full-time pastor to two small churches in eastern Tennessee.

As Lt. j.g. Pohlman Bell said in 2013, “Every woman who goes into military chaplaincy is a pioneer in her own right by choosing to enter into and serve within a male-dominated profession and organization.”

# NGAT DIRECTOR RECEIVES AWARD

Retired Tennessee Army Guard Col. Larry McKnight Receives the 2015 Col. James F. Gamble Award.



Tennessee National Guard retired Col. Larry McKnight accepts the 2015 Col. James F. Gamble Award from retired Lt. Col. Kenneth E. Moix, the President of the National Guard Executive Directors Association on January 24. The Col. Gamble Award is the highest accolade that can be given to a state National Guard Association Executive Director for their exemplary performance and dedication in support of the Guard Association member states and their activities. *(Photo courtesy of the NGAUS staff)*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** - The Executive Director of the National Guard Association of Tennessee, retired Army Col. Larry McKnight recently received the Col. James F. Gamble Award at the 2015 National Guard Executive Directors Association Annual Meeting held at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn.

The prestigious award was established in 1991 to recognize an individual who has demonstrated exemplary performance and dedication in support of the Guard Association member states and their activities.

"I am humbled and honored," said Col. McKnight upon acceptance of the award

from retired Lt. Col. Kenneth E. Moix, the Executive Director of the National Guard Association of Arkansas and the President of the National Guard Executive Directors Association (NGEDA). The Col. Gamble Award is the highest accolade that can be given to a state Executive Director for their dedication and service.

Col. McKnight became the Guard Association's Executive Director in Tennessee on May 1, 2006. He was elected to the Executive Committee of the NGEDA in 2007 and served as the President of the Association until 2011 when he was awarded the Pres-

ident's Award honoring his successful four year term.

Col. McKnight has been acknowledged by his peers as a person they could turn to for advice and counsel throughout his tenure. He served as a mentor to many new Executive Directors and gave generously his time and talents to enhance the overall organization. Throughout his tenure, Tennessee has maintained its status as a 100 percent membership state and recognized as one of the strongest supporters of the National Guard Association of the United States.

**- LT. COL. (RET) NIKI GENTRY**

# EDUCATION VIA SATELLITE

Airmen from the 118th Wing in Nashville use satellite technology to further their military education.



Members of the 118th Wing in Nashville attend the first satellite course available in Tennessee. (Photo by 118th Wing)

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** - Eighteen Airmen assigned to the 118th Wing in Nashville received their professional military education at home station through the use of satellite technology in January 2015. Previously, the Airman Leadership School course was only available by attending one of the five-week in residence courses offered at only a handful of locations nationwide, or by complet-

ing a correspondence course that required months of studying to pass an online exam.

The course broadcasts through the Air National Guard's Warrior Network Satellite system and originates from McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base in Knoxville, Tenn., where the instructors are located.

Airman Leadership School is the first PME that enlisted members of the Air Force

encounter and it focuses on developing leadership abilities and building effective communication skills in Airmen, and is required to achieve the rank of Staff Sergeant. The ALS course accelerates qualified Airman through disciplined training that includes open-ranks inspections, local instruction from Tennessee Air National Guard facilitators at the 118th Wing in Nashville and

Professional Military Education instructors from McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base in via satellite in a two-way, audio and video interactive format.

McGhee-Tyson is one of only locations across the country that offers the course in residence for all members of the Air Force, Active Duty, Reserve and Guard. Even though it is only a few hours away, few slots are available each year for Air National Guardsmen from around the country to attend the full course there.

“The satellite program helps to alleviate

“The satellite program helps to alleviate the lack of available seats at the in residence courses offered around the country,”

the lack of available seats at the in residence courses offered around the country,” said Chief Master Sgt. Mark Harris, Command Chief for the 118th Wing.

Often, National Guard members take the course via correspondence rather than attending one of the course facilities due to the lack of available slots for Guard members. “This is the answer to the ALS issue and Nashville was fortunate to secure this opportunity,” Harris added. More ALS courses will be instructed this way in the future at the Nashville base, at least four each year.

While the Air National Guard has been utilizing this program for over a year now, this is the first satellite course available in Tennessee. Initially, when the Wing was approved to enter the satellite ALS program, five Airmen from the Wing were selected to participate as course facilitators. They had



to attend a two-week certification course at Little Rock Air Force Base in Arkansas this past September.

To complete phase one of the program, the course must be taught twice a year for five consecutive weekends. After completing these five weeks, the Airmen then attended a two-week in residence course in Gulfport, Miss., to complete the course.

Chief Master Sgt. James Despain serves as the Lead Facilitator for the course. “This position acts as the course coordinator with National Guard Bureau and the Base Education and Training Manager at the 118th, schedules course classes, and manages the program,” said Harris.

Along with satellite learning, five instructors from the local unit were assigned to the class to facilitate activities. Staff Sgt. Rachel Kurilko was on the facilitators. “We serve as a link between the students at the unit level and the instructors at the schoolhouse in Knoxville,” she said. “About once an hour, we would turn to the Knoxville facilitators

GULFPORT, Miss. - Tech. Sgt. Joshua Hatcher, instructor for the Paul H. Lankford Enlisted PME Center, teaches a lesson here Feb. 9, 2015, during Airman leadership school for satellite students at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center. Hatcher and other instructors from the I.G. Brown Training and Education Center traveled here to graduate 56 students from satellite ALS. (Photo by Master Sgt. Matt Schwartz)

for a local discussion on a particular topic.”

Each instructor taught at least one block per day. This year, 2015, marks the first time this method of instruction was used in Tennessee.

“Hopefully, I can get into a satellite NCO course within the next year an experience it myself,” said Kurilko. “The instructors had a blast, and I know the students did as well.”

**- MSGT ROBIN OLSEN**

# WINTER STORM

Tenn. Guard Surveys Winter Storm Damage Response.



Soldiers from the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment clear broken limbs from a roadway in Cumberland County, Tenn. on February 21, 2015. *(Photo by CW4 Nick Atwood)*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** - Late on Presidents Day 2015, 19 members of the Tennessee Army National Guard's 194th Engineer Brigade, equipped with High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs), were called out to perform health and wellness checks on motorists in response to rapidly deteriorating road conditions on two major interstates.

That was two weeks ago, and today, Tennessee Army and Air Guard personnel are still at work aiding state and local responders in efforts to recover from a severe winter storm that swept across the state in two waves. The storm left roadways treacherous, knocked out power to tens of thousands, and ultimately required Gov. Bill Haslam to elevate Tennessee to a Level II-State of

Emergency.

The initial order from the department also directed units to be prepared to perform additional house-to-house welfare checks, provide trucks and crews to assist with debris removal, and man chainsaws to assist in clearing roads should the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency make a request.

"We had crews positioned in Jackson and Paris west of Nashville and Knoxville and Mount Carmel in the east--virtually everywhere in between," said Lt. Col. Joe Spivey, Military Support Officer.

As winter precipitation moved across the state in February leaving behind extremely cold temperatures, Military Department officials increased the number of personnel available to 34 as members of the 278th

Armored Cavalry Regiment equipped with 17 HMMWVs stood ready to augment the ongoing missions. In addition, two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from the Army Guard's 1/230th Air Cavalry Squadron, were placed on standby to assist with aerial reconnaissance of the hardest hit areas.

In hindsight, Feb. 18 and 19, although extremely cold, would represent a pause in the storm as road conditions improved and the number of residents without power decreased. By Feb. 20, however, the National Weather Service predictions of another system moving through the region were already beginning to materialize resulting in the issuance of a Winter Storm Warning.

On Feb. 21, eight personnel from Detachment 1, 777th Maintenance Company were

ordered to duty as the Sparta armory was opened to serve as a storm shelter for those without power in White County.

“My first count after we began accepting residents was exactly 80 people,” said Sgt. Geovani Mariscal, administrative and supply NCO for Detachment 1, 777th Maintenance Company.

The number of residents at the armory would fluctuate in the coming days finally stabilizing at more than 30 individuals displaced and receiving shelter due to the storm. By mid afternoon on Saturday, Guard officials ordered four additional personnel and two HMMWVs to again provide wellness checks in White county with another six personnel and three HMMWVs preparing to deploy.

On Feb. 21, 12 personnel and six HMMWVs from the 278th ACR were called out to support TEMA ground operations in Cumberland, Fentress, and Putnam counties. By day’s end the 278th would form two debris clearance teams of 10 personnel each in support of road clearance procedures in Putnam and Overton counties. These teams consisted of three chainsaw operators and seven members to remove debris from roadways.

“I don’t believe I’ve seen damage this extensive as a result of a winter storm, or any



Maj. Colby Tippens delivers a can of kerosene to a family in need in Monterey, Tenn. (Photo by CW4 Nick Atwood)

storm for that matter, my entire life,” stated Maj. Colby Tippens, a native of Cookeville who also serves as the Operations Officer for the second squadron of the 278th ACR.

His Soldiers make up the bulk of debris clearance teams operating on the Cumberland Plateau.

“The residents here are so thankful for the support we’ve provided and my crews are highly motivated because they can see the difference they’re making for their fellow

citizens during this time of disaster” said Tippens.

Governor Bill Haslam toured the hardest hit areas along the Cumberland Plateau on Tuesday, February 24th, in an Army National Guard Blackhawk. He landed in Crossville and met with County and City Mayors and Emergency Response personnel. Governor Haslam assured them that departments throughout the state were working diligently with local responders to lessen the impact of this severe winter storm.

The Tennessee National Guard continued support on March 2nd, providing 12 military dump trucks with crews from both the Army and Air Guard to assist in debris removal in Fentress, Putnam, Cumberland and Overton Counties.

“This storm was for real and took all emergency assets available! We are a major tool in the Governor’s toolbox in time of crisis and have assets to combine with other state agencies to mitigate risk to human lives and property damage. The National Guard is a multi-talented agency that can respond to any situation. Over 400 Soldiers and Airmen are to be commended for their efforts in response to this devastating winter storm,” said Maj. Gen. Max Haston, Tennessee’s Adjutant General.

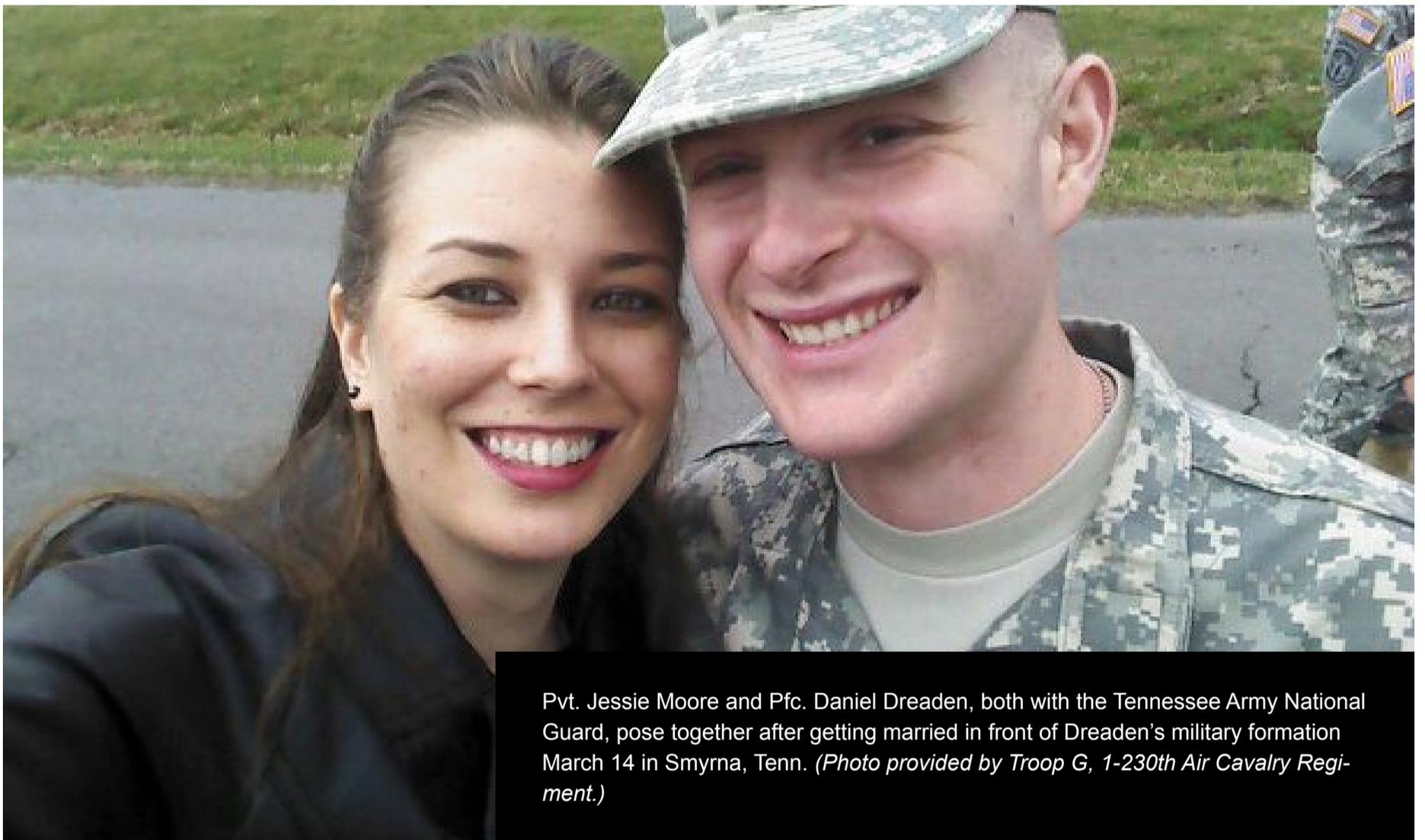
**- CW4 NICK ATWOOD**



A portion of I-40 was closed and many remained without power in in eastern Putnam County. (Photo by Putnam County EMA)

# SOLDIER WEDDING IN FORMATION

Tenn. Soldiers Hold Impromptu Wedding In Formation.



Pvt. Jessie Moore and Pfc. Daniel Dreaden, both with the Tennessee Army National Guard, pose together after getting married in front of Dreaden's military formation March 14 in Smyrna, Tenn. (Photo provided by Troop G, 1-230th Air Cavalry Regiment.)

**SMYRNA, Tenn.** - A first for the Tennessee National Guard, two Soldiers were wed on a whim in front of a military formation March 14 at the Volunteer Training Site in Smyrna, Tenn.

Pfc. Daniel Dreaden, who had just recently completed his Army advanced individual training (AIT) and was only at his fourth drill with the Tennessee National Guard, married his wife, Pvt. Jessie Moore, during his unit's formation this past Saturday.

Dreaden is assigned to Troop G, 1-230th Air Cavalry Regiment, and Moore to the

777th Maintenance Company, both located in Smyrna, Tenn.

The couple were looking for a pastor to officiate their wedding in October, when they came across Chaplain (Capt.) Howard Avery, who would perform the impromptu ceremony.

"We were looking for a chaplain for our wedding and he said he was able to do it that day," said Moore. "It was a big surprise for everyone."

"He needed witnesses, so we opted for formation," Dreaden said. Since he had to

be in formation that afternoon, he contacted his soon to be wife and asked her to come to be wed in front of his unit, and she agreed.

"What better witness than a 1-230th Air Cavalry formation!" said Avery, who performs about five or six wedding ceremonies each year on average. He added, "conducting one in front of a formation was a first for me."

"The chaplain walked up to the formation and announced that we were going to have a wedding today," said Dreaden. "He called my name and my best men to come out of

formation and began.”

“Spc. De Andre Bell wanted to be the best man, but he was holding the paperwork, so Staff Sgt. Christopher Kain was it,” said Dreaden.

“I asked if anyone had just cause why these two Soldiers should not be joined together and nobody spoke, so that’s a good sign,” Avery joked.

The couple still plans to hold an official

“We were supposed to go through basic together, but we got different location and different dates,” explained Dreaden. “But we still got to see each other at AIT, although she started a couple weeks before I did.”

It was at AIT, on September 6, 2014, that Dreaden

**“I asked if anyone had just cause why these two Soldiers should not be joined together and nobody spoke, so that’s a good sign,” Avery joked.**

wedding ceremony in October for their family friends and they are hoping Chaplain Avery will be available for the service.

The couple not only married in an unconventional way, they met in an unusual way as well. Moore resided in Florida and Dreaden in Tennessee. They were originally introduced via the video game “Left for Dead.”

“We were in the same online clan,” said Moore.

“At first, she didn’t like inviting me to play with the group because I was so bad at the game,” recalled Dreaden. But, after four years of playing together online, they finally decided to meet. “I was always fascinated with her,” he said. “It was love at first sight!”

After meeting face-to-face, they dated for just over a year, traveling back and forth between Florida and Tennessee to see each other.

Video games weren’t the only thing the two had in common. The couple also bonded over the military. Moore has two brothers in the Florida National Guard, and her father and grandfather were also in the military. Dreaden has several military family members also.

The couple even decided to join the Army National Guard together, attending basic training and AIT only weeks apart from each other.

popped the question.

“He seemed like he had been having a rough day so I went over to talk to him,” said Moore. “He was pacing around.”

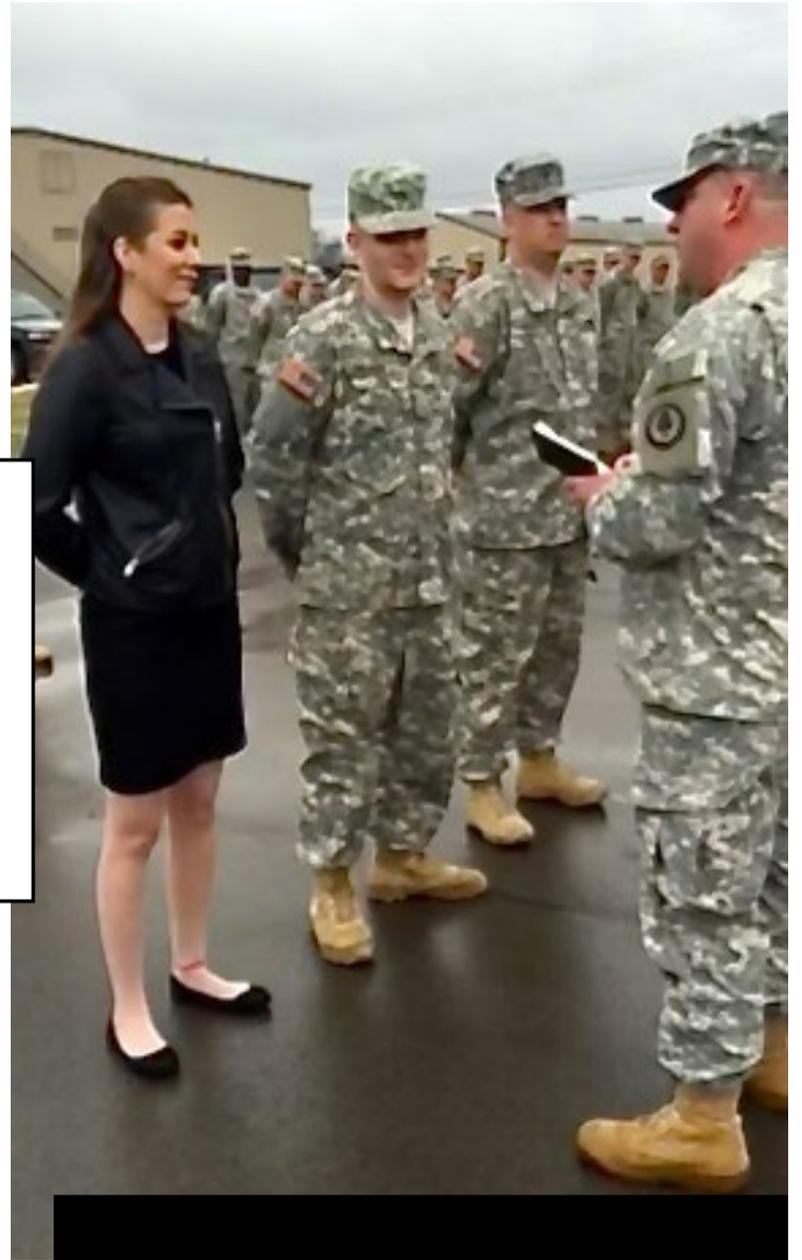
“I told her I had a surprise for her and asked if she knew what it was,” said Dreaden. “She said she had an idea, then I asked her if she wanted it now, knowing what it was, and she said yes.”

“She didn’t really think I would do it, so after I initially proposed, she said she had to put it on pause for right now, it was too much,” he said.

“In the following weeks, I caught a glimpse of a picture of us that she kept in her wallet. There was writing on the back, but I didn’t know what it was,” he recalled.

“She later told me she had planned that to happen. While at a restaurant, she let me look at the back of the picture,” he said. “On the back it said ‘It’s always been yes’ and was dated shortly after I proposed. She said she had been waiting for a good time.” Moore moved to Tennessee in October after their training was completed.

In the Guard, they are putting their video



Chaplain (Capt.) Howard Avery (right), Troop G, 1-230th Air Cavalry Regiment, performs the official ceremony during the unit’s evening formation March 14 at the Volunteer Training Site in Smyrna, Tenn. (Photo provided by Troop G, 1-230th Air Cavalry Regiment.)

game knowledge to good use; both serve as radio and communications security repairers, and both are sharpshooters in the National Guard.

“The military has always meant a lot to me. I’m glad that we got to do this,” said Moore regarding the marriage in front of formation.

“We train together, fight together and go through tough losses together. I feel this was the perfect crowd to witness and celebrate their union as they start their lift together,” said Avery.

**- MSGT ROBIN OLSEN**

# TULLAHOMA UNIT RECEIVES NEW 1SG

1st Sgt. Kenneth Latham Welcomed as New First Sergeant.



Outgoing first sergeant, 1st. Sgt. Greg Sawyer (second from left), hands the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 30th Troop Command, Tennessee Army National Guard, guidon to Command Sgt. Maj. Greg Turner during a formal change of responsibility for the unit, held Feb. 8, 2015. Sawyer relinquished his position as the unit's first sergeant to incoming 1st Sgt. Kenneth Latham (right) while Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Cannon (left) the unit's guidon bearer, oversees the traditional exchange. (Photo by SGT Sarah Holt)

**TULLAHOMA, Tenn.** - The Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment of the Tennessee National Guard's 30th Troop Command, based in Tullahoma, Tenn., welcomed 1st Sgt. Kenneth Latham as the new unit first sergeant during a formal change of responsibility ceremony conducted Feb. 8, 2015.

"I am honored and humbled by the opportunity," said Latham, who also serves as supervisor of the Tennessee National Guard Joint Operations Center in Nashville, Tenn. Before joining the Guard, he served with the active duty Army, and has a total of 24 years of service.

Latham became the senior non-commissioned officer through the tradition of passing the unit guidon, which he received from outgoing 1st Sgt. Greg Sawyer, who had been the unit's first sergeant since August 2013. Sawyer now serves as the non-commissioned officer in charge of the active Guard and Reserve section at the Tennessee National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters in Nashville, Tenn.

The change of responsibility is a simple traditional event that is rich with symbolism and heritage. Key to the ceremony is the changing of position of responsibility

between the outgoing and incoming first sergeants. The unit first sergeant is the custodian of the unit guidon and as such, he is the senior enlisted advisor in the unit and the principal advisor to the commander on all facets of the unit's operations.

Throughout history, leaders used a banner or other symbols to identify themselves and used them as a rallying point for their warriors. For the modern day Soldier, the unit's guidon symbolizes the unit's history, its glories, its battle, and its campaigns.

**- SGT SARAH HOLT**

# RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE BREAKFAST

164th Mission Support Group works with Ronald McDonald House to serve breakfast to families in need.



(Left to right) Staff Sgt. Troy Pollock, Staff Sgt. Tim Andrassy, Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth von Allmen, Staff Sgt. Robert Morgan, Tech. Sgt. Al Wilson, Tech. Sgt. Nathaniel von Allmen, Staff Sgt. Vanessa Nickles, Senior Airmen Terrance Jones, Airman 1st Class John Oliver, Master Sgt. Vanilla Nixon, Tech. Sgt. Sherveta Campbell, Staff Sgt. Shane Howell, and Tech. Sgt. Melissa Scott. (Photo by 164th Airlift Wing)

**MEMPHIS, Tenn.** - Approximately 15 members of the Tennessee Air National Guard's 164th Airlift Wing Mission Support Group, out of Memphis, Tenn., volunteered their time at St. Jude's Ronald McDonald House, serving breakfast to more than 80 families and patients on December 21, 2014. Ronald McDonald House is a no cost residence for St. Jude patients and their families.

The Guard members prepared breakfast in the 164th AW's dining facility and the Ronald McDonald House kitchen. Normally, family members are allowed to prepare meals from donated food from the local community.

"The Guard members also interacted with the families and patients, learning about their treatments and telling them about the Air National Guard," said Col. John Trautman, commander of the 164th AW Mission Support Group. "Our members are doing great things and giving back to the community."

Leftover food items were donated to Ronald McDonald House, and hot breakfast items were donated to the Union Mission for the homeless.

**- MSGT ROBIN OLSEN**



Staff Sgt. Robert Morgan, left, and Tech. Sgt. Nathaniel von Allmen at the St. Jude's Ronald McDonald House in Memphis on December 21, 2014. (Photo by 164th Airlift Wing)



# BRIG. GEN. HARRY D. MONTGOMERY

The Tennessee Military Department congratulates Brig. Gen. Harry Montgomery, Jr., the Chief of Staff, Tennessee Air National Guard and his family upon the occasion of his retirement in January 2015. Brig. Gen. Montgomery enlisted in the U.S. Navy in June 1974. He served aboard the USS Independence and the USS Eisenhower as a helicopter aircrew member. In 1978, he joined the Tennessee Army National Guard as a helicopter crew chief assigned to the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Montgomery graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1981 and joined the 134th Air Refueling Group in Knoxville, Tenn. He completed the ANG Academy of Military Science, and was commissioned in 1982.

He was selected to attend Undergraduate Pilot Training and received his wings at Williams Air Force Base, Ariz., in 1983. Brig. Gen. Montgomery served in the 134th AREFG as a KC-135 pilot and transferred in 1989 to the 164th Tactical Airlift Group in Memphis, Tenn., where he flew the C-130, C-141 and C-5 aircraft, culminating over 8,000 flight hours during his career. In 2006, he became Commander of the 164th Airlift Wing until his promotion as the Tennessee Air National Guard Chief of Staff in 2011.

The Military Department expresses tremendous gratitude for his leadership and selfless dedication to the Airmen and Soldiers of the great state of Tennessee.



# BRIG. GEN. TOMMY BAKER

The Tennessee Military Department congratulates Brig. Gen. Tommy H. Baker, along with his family, in recognition of his promotion and appointment as the Assistant Adjutant General-Army. Baker is responsible for the training and supervision of the more than 13,000 Soldiers in the Tennessee Army National Guard.

Brig. Gen. Baker has served as a Cavalry and Armor Officer, Maintenance and Logistics Officer and in various command and staff assignments within the Tennessee Army National Guard. Most recently, he served as the J-4 for Joint Force Headquarters-Tennessee, and was responsible for the Logistics and Maintenance operations for the Tennessee Army and Air National Guard.

He deployed to Kuwait in 2004 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom III, serving as the Theater Combat Service Support Automation Management Officer, and again in 2008 as the Commander of the 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion at Q-West, Iraq.

His awards include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

Brig. Gen. Baker is married to Camille Arnold Baker and they have two children, Hillari and Cody.



# BRIG. GEN. THOMAS J. KENNETT



Members of the Tennessee Military Department congratulate Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Kennett on his recent promotion and appointment as the Chief of Staff-Air for the Tennessee Joint Force Headquarters. He plans and formulates executive support functions for the Adjutant General and Assistant Adjutant General-Air on all ANG issues and represents the Tennessee National Guard in their absence. He provides oversight to the three ANG flying Wings and three non-flying units comprised of over 1,000 full-time and over 3,400 part time personnel. Brig. Gen. Kennett directs and implements the policies of senior USAF, ANG, and State leadership, conveying command intent to the field.

Before his appointment as the Chief of Staff-Air, Kennett served as the Vice Wing Commander for the 164th Airlift Wing in Memphis, Tenn.

He received his commission in January 1987 as a graduate of the Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and received his pilot training from Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, in December 1987. He is a command pilot with over 5,000 flying hours in: T-38, KC-135A, KC-135R, KC-135RT, C-17, C-5, C-141, MD-11 and Boeing 727 aircraft.

Brig. Gen. Kennett received his Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Arkansas State University in 1985 and a Master of Arts in Computer Information Management from Webster University in 1995.

He is married to Penny Dawson Kennett and they have two sons, Thomas and Chris.

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COLONEL MARTIN BASHAM

## 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 Col. Martin Basham, the commander of the 230th Digital Liaison Detachment based in Memphis, Tenn. Col. Basham, of Jacksonville, Fla., died unexpectedly after a brief illness on February 10, at Malcolm Randall VA Medical Center in Gainesville, Fla. Basham was on his way home after completing a National Guard drill weekend when he became ill. He served as the commander of the 230th DLD since 2013.

Basham served in many capacities throughout his career, to include commands at both the battery and battalion levels. He served two tours of duty supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and one in support of Operation New Dawn. In his 40 years of service Basham received numerous awards to include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star (third award), Meritorious Service Medal (third award), Army Commendation Medal (second award), Army Achievement Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal with three campaign stars, the Tennessee Distinguished Service Medal, the Tennessee War Service ribbon (third award), and other various awards.

Basham leaves behind his wife of 35 years, Inez Basham; five sons, his mother, five brothers and several nieces and nephews. He also has family in Whitwell, Tenn., and the surrounding area. He will be greatly missed by the many Soldiers he has served with in his long and distinguished career.

**“Col. Basham was a Soldier’s Soldier, he never forgot what it was like to come up through the ranks. He understood their perspective and what they needed.”**

*Col. John G. Krenson, Commander of 30th Troop Command*

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