

THE VOLUNTEER STATE GUARD

M A G A Z I N E

JOINT BASE

BERRY FIELD

ARMY AVIATION HAS
A NEW HOME



SOME OF TENNESSEE'S BEST

2015 BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION

A LOOK AT WHO MOVED ON TO REGIONALS

CONGRATULATIONS
THE VOLUNTEER STATE
GUARD MAGAZINE



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THE VOLUNTEER STATE GUARD MAGAZINE

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ON THE COVER
The first UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters belonging to the Tenn. Army National Guard touch down at Joint Base Berry Field in Nashville. Photo by Master Sgt. Robin Brown

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TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

LOWERING THE BOOM

Boom operator, SSgt. Andrew Webber, conducts aerial refuel operations with the Tennessee Air National Guard, ESGR Bosslift.

PHOTO BY: SSG Melisa Washington



TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

GOVERNOR'S MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Maj. Gen. Max Haston, Tennessee's Adjutant General, thanks one of the many war veterans who attended The Governor's Memorial Day Ceremony on May 15, 2015 in Nashville, Tenn.

PHOTO BY: Lt. Col. (Ret) Niki Gentry



TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

GUARD SUPPORT IN BRISTOL

Tennessee National Guard Soldiers stand at pit row to support the Food City 500 at Bristol Speedway as they celebrate Military service members on April 19, 2015.

PHOTO BY: CW2 Emily Wiest



TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

MILITARY KIDS SERVE TOO

COL Darnbush presents Military children with a coin at the John Rich Red Cross Event, celebrating our National Guard youth as a part of Month of the Military Child on April 26, 2015.

PHOTO BY: CW2 Emily Wiest



The first UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters belonging to the Tennessee Army National Guard touched down at Joint Base Berry Field.

JOINT BASE

BERRY FIELD

ARMY AVIATION HAS A NEW HOME.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - If you have noticed increased helicopter traffic around the Nashville International Airport you may have wondered what's going on.

The first UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters belonging to the Tennessee Army National Guard touched down in May at Joint Base Berry Field in Nashville. The helicopters are part of the 1/230th Air Cavalry Squadron (ACS) formerly headquartered at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Smyrna.

Berry Field has been the home of the Air National Guard's 118th Wing for more than 90 years. Since losing the C-130 Hercules aircraft due to the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission, the base became a C-130 training site for Allied aircrew members, and has since transitioned to a dominant force in intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and support missions. The last C-130 left Nashville in December 2012.

Losing the C-130s left an empty ramp and a multi-million dollar hanger only a few years old without any aircraft to use it. Immediately upon learning of the loss of the C-130s, planning began on the efficient utilization of the facility. The perfect fit was Army Aviation who were operating in antiquated facilities, just a few miles down the road.

In Smyrna, UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters belonging to the Army National Guard were housed in World War II era buildings needing renovations that would cost the American taxpayers more than 70 million dollars.

To Maj. Gen. Max Haston, Tennessee's Adjutant General, the prudent choice was obvious. Move the helicopters to Nashville and utilize an existing facility saving the taxpayers 70 million dollars.

"Moving the helicopters to Berry Field utilizes a state of the art facility that is less than 12 years old," said Haston. "We have an obligation to the citizens of Tennessee to be good stewards of taxpayer monies, and using an existing facility in a joint Army and Air Operation does just that."

The National Guard began planning for this transition more than five years ago, but sometimes the Air Force and Army Aviation



Inside the hanger at Berry Field.
(Photos by Master Sgt. Robin Brown)



don't mix, so after crossing many bureaucratic hurdles, environmental studies and other administrative obstacles, final approval was received earlier this year.

"Renovation of the existing Smyrna facilities and new construction was just not feasible under the current budget," continued Haston. "The reality to move to an existing facility that was not being fully utilized and sitting just a few miles down the road made

perfect sense."

"Increased traffic during this time is due to the training the pilots receive on approach and departure lanes in and out of the airport," said Lt. Col. Gene Reece, the Army National Guard State Aviation Officer. "This training will continue through May when you will see the helicopter traffic dramatically reduce."

- MAJ (RET) RANDY HARRIS

TWO OF TENNESSEE'S BEST

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD REGION III BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION

SPC JOSHUA WEBB FROM THE 194TH ENGINEER BRIGADE AND SSG ADAM JOHNSON FROM RECRUITING RETENTION, MOVE ON TO REGIONALS AND REPRESENT THE GREAT STATE OF TENNESSEE.



SPC Joshua Webb



SSG Adam Johnson

SEEKING RECRUITS FOR VITAL MISSIONS

Tennessee Guard Soldiers seek recruits at MTSU for vital Army air traffic control missions.



Members of the 1-107th Airfield Operations Battalion, headquartered in Tullahoma, Tenn., provided a static display near the Aerospace Department on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn., on April 17. (Photo by Lt. Col. (Ret) Niki Gentry)

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Members of the Tennessee National Guard's 1-107th Airfield Operation Battalion, headquartered in Tullahoma, Tenn., provided a static display of their mission equipment at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn., on April 17. The mission of the unit is to establish and run tactical and non-tactical airfields for Army units. The team of Soldiers set up a Mobile Tactical Terminal Control System and Air Traffic Control Tower for aspiring student recruits to view.

"The primary reason to host the display at MTSU is to spotlight the Air Operations Battalion's capabilities to students who are enrolled in the Aerospace Department of the university," said Lt. Col. Beason Layne, the 1-107th AOB commander. "MTSU has

a very sophisticated Air Traffic Control Program and is an obvious choice to find students who would like the opportunity to use their skills in military air traffic missions and obtain funds to assist with their tuition."

Along with members of the 1-107th AOB, Tennessee National Guard recruiters were available to answer questions for students interested in the Army program and other opportunities provided through joining the National Guard. Lt. Col. Layne stated the event was a tremendous opportunity to find talented and trained students preparing for a career in a highly challenging and critically needed career field.

- LT. COL. (RET) NIKI GENTRY



Spc. Elizabeth Farrell, offers information to students at an equipment static display conducted April 17. (Photo by Lt. Col. (Ret) Niki Gentry)

A FIRST FOR OUR FIRST SERGEANTS

Tennessee Air National Guard conducts the state's first ever First Sergeant Symposium.



First sergeants arrive at the 118th Wing in Nashville, for the state's first ever First Sergeant Symposium. (Photo by Master Sgt. Robin Brown)

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Tennessee Air National Guard first sergeants from across the state gathered March 3-4 at the 118th Wing in Nashville, Tenn., for the state's first ever Air National Guard First Sergeant Symposium. The active duty Air Force has held these symposiums for years, bringing in first sergeants from around the world, even from other countries; however, this is a first for the Tennessee National Guard.

"We began discussing putting together a state-wide symposium in September 2014," said Senior Master Sgt. Matthew Smith, first sergeant for the 164th Airlift Wing in Memphis, Tenn., who organized and facilitated the symposium. "We quickly decided what

topics we wanted to discuss, but the biggest part was scheduling a time that all three wings could accommodate."

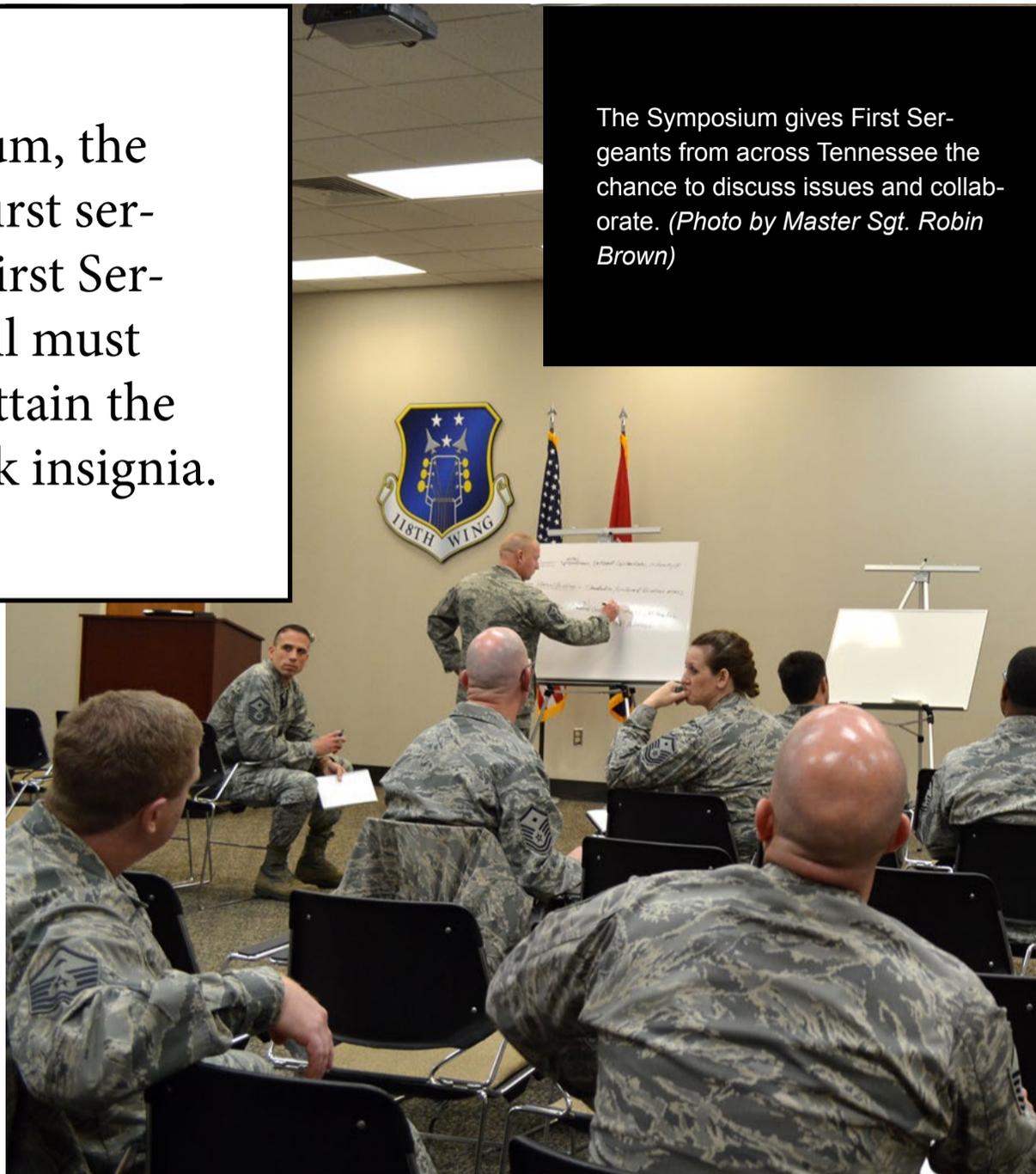
Shortly after Smith became a first sergeant, he viewed an annual broadcast from the Air National Guard Training and Education Center that featured information and briefings from Air National Guard leadership. "I learned the importance of sharing information with my fellow first sergeants from watching this broadcast," he said. In January of 2014, Smith held a symposium

for the first sergeant council of the 164th Airlift Wing. Later that year, he began coordinating all the Wings in Tennessee to share the same experience.

"I am excited with the direction the first sergeants are headed, and we have a great, diverse group," said Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Harris, command chief of the 118th Wing. "I look forward to expanding the symposium next year with more table top discussions that get real issues out in the open."

Without the symposium, the only formal training first sergeants receive is the First Sergeant Academy that all must graduate in order to attain the diamond on their rank insignia.

The Symposium gives First Sergeants from across Tennessee the chance to discuss issues and collaborate. (Photo by Master Sgt. Robin Brown)



The purpose of the symposium was to continue education and training for first sergeants and additional duty first sergeants from Tennessee's three wings and two geographically separated units across the state. An additional duty first sergeant is one who hasn't been to the formal First Sergeant Academy and does not wear the diamond device; yet, they assist in performing the duties of a traditional first sergeant.

"First sergeants are tasked with advising their commanders on a wide range of personnel matters, along with being knowledgeable about resources for taking care of Airmen and their families," said Smith.

"The symposium keeps the first sergeants up to date on changes made to programs and processes we provide to our units and our Airmen," he said. "It gives us time to collaborate and grow our wing council relationships outside the normal setting on drill weekends." Without the symposium, the

only formal training first sergeants receive is the First Sergeant Academy that all must graduate in order to attain the diamond on their rank insignia.

"Our newly revised Air Force regulation for first sergeants, Air Force Instruction (AFI) 36-2113, specifies a number of continuing education hours that we need to receive and the 2015 symposium satisfies that requirement," added Smith. "The symposium also enhances communication between the Tennessee Air National Guard first sergeants and enables a better flow of communication between wings in the state."

First sergeants are traditionally responsible for relaying the commander's messages and voicing concerns of the Airmen below the commander, as well as being the 24/7 "go to" person for all Airmen concerns.

"Our Airmen thirst for leadership. Nothing influences our lives and military career more than a first sergeant," said Maj. Gen. Terry "Max" Haston, the adjutant general for Tennessee, whose father was a first sergeant in the Army. "Those you lead emulate what you do. Somebody is taking notes today, watching what you do; you are a role model!"

"First sergeants are the tie that binds; you relate to your Airmen," said Brig. Gen. Don Johnson, the assistant adjutant general for the Tennessee Air National Guard. "It doesn't matter who you work for, we all work for each other, and it is our obligation as leaders to provide you with the tools to be successful."

"You are the balance between the commander and the Airmen. Ensure the process



“No matter who is who, even Army, a first sergeant is a first sergeant and people are your business,”

- Command Chief Master Sgt. Wade Hudson

MURPHREESBORO, Tenn. - Command Chief Master Sgt. Wade Hudson speaks to attendees at the Air National Guard First Sergeant Symposium. (Photo by Master Sgt. Robin Brown)

is consistent and fair,” Chief Master Sgt. Dan Mitchell, the first sergeant functional manager at National Guard Bureau said. “Your lane is to take care of the enlisted force and your commander.”

Attendees got the opportunity to hear from various other leaders across the state, including Command Sgt. Maj. Terry Scott, the senior enlisted leader for the Tennessee National Guard, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Wade Hudson, the command chief of the Tennessee Air National Guard. “No matter who is who, even Army, a first sergeant is a first sergeant and people are your business,” said Hudson.

“If anything happens regarding an Airman, your first sergeant should be the first person you call,” echoed Harris, emphasizing the role of a first sergeant and the position’s importance.

Col. Keith Allbritten, the vice commander of the 118th Wing, presented his expectations of a first sergeant. Among these were:

be the one with the answers, the person others can go to; bring a notebook and take notes; be the commanders eyes and ears; and don’t be a “yes” man, be proactive and take initiative.

The first sergeants gathered in breakout sessions to work in partnership and communicate what worked well and what needed improvement in various areas of concern.

“As we covered programs that impact all of our units, it was insightful to learn that other first sergeants face similar obstacles as well as hearing about some of the wonderful tools and practices units have developed to handle the tasks and needs of their units,” said Smith. Some of the topics covered included family care plans, the Airman Comprehensive Assessment, professional organizations and development within the National Guard.

The weather forced the symposium to end a day earlier than planned. Despite this, the event was still a success overall.

“It exceeded my expectations. The opportunity to meet and share experiences with other first sergeants was the most beneficial aspect of the symposium,” said Master Sgt. Scott Prichard, 134th Medical Group first sergeant in Knoxville, Tenn. “It was a great learning tool to gain insight into how other first sergeants deal with issues that affect our Airmen.”

He added, “being a first sergeant is an honor. The opportunity to give back to the Air National Guard by assisting Airmen with their professional and personal issues is a very rewarding responsibility.”

“First sergeants live to serve others. It was a wonderful experience being part of this gathering of servant leaders,” said Smith. “I believe this event was something beneficial, in both satisfying our continuing education as well as building a strong network of resources to better assist our Airmen and commanders.”

- MSGT ROBIN BROWN

ACADEMY TRAINER

Air National Guard selects first member to serve as Academy Military Trainer at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. – Airmen across the Air National Guard have many opportunities to serve in developmental roles and serving at the United States Air Force Academy as an Academy Military Trainer is just one of the roles.

Air Force Master Sgt. Donald Steven Sanders, 134th Air Refueling Wing, located at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tennessee, will become the first Air National Guard member to serve as an AMT at USAFA as he looks forward to his latest career change.

“I’m very excited about it,” said Sanders relating to his latest career change.

Sanders will be leaving his current position as a repair and reclamation craftsman after 16 years to be an instructor at the academy. Airmen in the Air National Guard can serve in many non-traditional roles, and teaching at the USAFA is just another example of these opportunities.

Sanders, who has over 23 years of service, says he is anxious in a good way and looking forward to the opportunity. It’s a great honor to be selected for this position, he said, indicating he will be starting sometime early this summer.

Being an AMT not only benefits the Guard but can allow for personal development as well.

“I need to get out there and grow a little bit more,” said Sanders. “I need to expand my horizon, rather than just working on aircraft.” The change from repairing Air Force KC-135 Stratotankers aircraft to the classroom comes as no surprise to others.

Air Force Col. Burl Lambert, 134th Maintenance Group commander, said that he is certainly happy for Sanders to have the opportunity, noting that they worked together for nine years.



Master Sgt. Donald Steven Sanders

“We’re sad to see him go because we’ve depended on his experience and his expertise,” said Lambert. “Losing that is losing a lot. We’re certainly happy for him to have this opportunity and he’ll represent us well. I think it’s a great thing for the Guard and I think it’s a great thing for the Air Force Academy.”

Opportunities like this are offered to Air Guard members under a program called Developmental Special Duties. DSDs are positions within the U.S. Air Force designed to create and progress Airmen through the leadership of other Airmen and place the most qualified Airmen in several key roles which have an impact on Airmen across the service.

“DSD allow Airmen to challenge themselves and gain unique experiences as leaders, manager and communicators,” said Chief Master Sgt. James Hotaling, command chief master sergeant of the Air National

Guard. “Air National Guard Airmen in any status (drill status, Air Guard Reserve or technician) should look for opportunities outside of their technical specialty at critical points in their career.”

Airmen who perform DSDs are more likely to develop intangible skills and become a well-rounded Airman.

“DSDs are positions that are critical to the development of Airmen,” said Hotaling. “Additionally, these positions allow members to take on a new challenge outside of the technical specialty.”

DSD positions are available at both state and extended active-duty levels and can include the following jobs:

- Academy Military Trainer
- Professional Military Education Instructors
- First Sergeants
- Military Training Instructors
- Military Training Leaders
- Recruiters
- Specialty Training Instructors identified with a T-prefix

The influence that Airmen have filling these positions can be critical to all three Air Force components – Guard, reserve and active.

“DSD positions impact Airmen at every level,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody, regarding DSD. “We must ensure the right Airmen are in these special positions.”

Air Guard members are encouraged to apply for DSD positions and vacancies can be found at <http://www.ang.af.mil/careers/dsdva/index.asp>.

- MASTER SGT. DAVID EICHAKER

NEPAL

EARTHQUAKE RELIEF



MEMBERS OF THE 164TH AIRLIFT WING OUT OF MEMPHIS BRING AID AFTER A MASSIVE EARTHQUAKE DEVASTATES NEPAL.

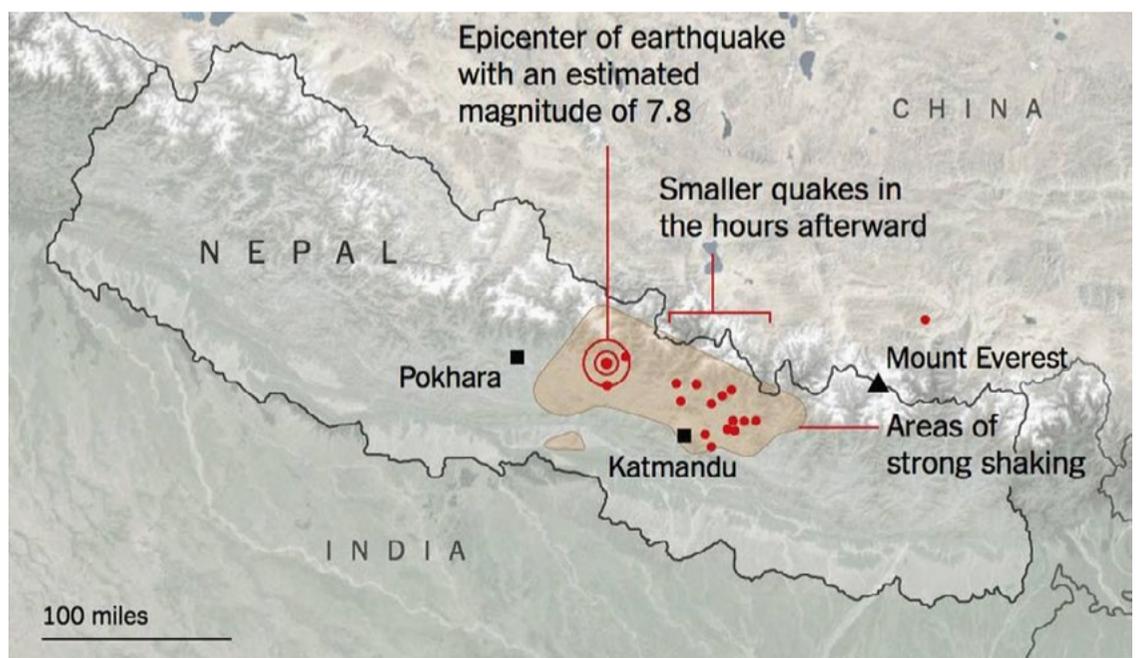
U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Tim Peck, looks out a paratrooper door while taxiing in an Air Force C-17 Globemaster III delivering supplies and search and rescue teams to Kathmandu, Nepal, April 28, 2015. U.S. Air Force Airmen delivered relief supplies for Nepal earthquake victims. (Photo By Airman 1st Class Taylor Queen)

U.S. Air Force personnel from the 155th A.S. in Memphis, Tenn., download a U. S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster filled with U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) members at the Kathmandu International Airport. (Photo By Staff Sgt. Kathryn Lozier)



KATHMANDU, Nepal - Tennessee Air National Guard members from the 164th Airlift Wing in Memphis, Tenn., touched down on April 28 with 60 personnel from the U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and approximately 55,000 pounds of aid and relief at Kathmandu International Airport. The mission was part of a global support effort to render assistance to the millions of citizens struggling for survival following a magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck the region on April 25.

Nepalese officials have placed the current death toll at over 5,800 and rising daily with an additional 19 mountain climbers who were killed from large avalanches that destroyed portions of a base camp on the slopes of Mount Everest. Members of the 155th Airlift Squadron, which is the flying component of the 164th Airlift Wing, were already deployed to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, when their planned mission was diverted to provide emergency support for USAID.



Map showing the Nepal earthquake epicenter. (Courtesy New York Times)

Getting the much needed relief to the disaster region was a complex logistical task. The flight required the assistance of three aircrews comprised of two active duty squadrons from the 437th Airlift Wing stationed at Joint Base Charleston,

S.C., and the third being the Tennessee Guard's 164th Airlift Wing personnel. The mission began, according to Trisha Gallaway, of the Joint Base Charleston Public Affairs Office, with the loading of "a 57-member team of L.A. County Fire



Sixty USAID members and approximately 55,000 pounds of aid and relief supplies (shown above) will help support the local people in search and rescue efforts. (Photo By Staff Sgt. Kathryn Lozier)

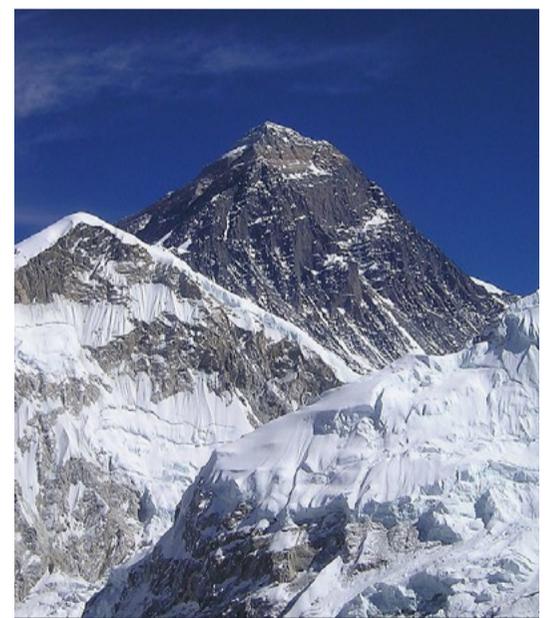
Department firefighters, six search dogs and two semi-trucks worth of equipment. The team known as the Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 2 or CA-TF2...is one of eight teams that make up the California Urban Search and Rescue Program. These teams, when called upon, travel with specialized equipment, such as heavy concrete cutting equipment, chainsaws, search cameras and sonar to locate victims, as well as specialized communications and generators.” The Tennessee aircrew flew the rescue team on the final portion of the journey into the treacherous mountain terrain of the Himalayan region.

“The recent rescue mission operated to Nepal by Tennessee Guardsmen demonstrates the seamless capability our nation’s military brings to bear on world events. The aircrew in this story was diverted from their original mission and thrown into the chaotic aftermath of a natural disaster of epic proportions,” said Col. Mark Devine, Commander of the 164th Airlift Wing. “The fact that we have pilots and loadmasters who can

pivot so quickly from civilian careers and plug into diverse and challenging military airlift missions anywhere in the world is a testament to the capability and value of today’s Air National Guard.” The members of the Memphis unit were able to successfully off load the USAID personnel and equipment from their C-17 aircraft at the Kathmandu Airport and return safely to Ramstein Air Base upon completion of the critical mission. The rapid ability to get trained rescue personnel to the disaster site was vital in order to save as many the lives as possible since time is a precious commodity in earthquake rescue operations.

“Tennessee Airmen serve with pride and distinction and are a proven choice to our state and nation,” said Brig. Gen. Don Johnson, Tennessee’s Assistant Adjutant General, Air. “The 164th’s ability to provide Airmen on a moment’s notice is a true testament to the professionalism and readiness of today’s Tennessee Air National Guard.”

- LT. COL. (RET) NIKI GENTRY



Satellite data of Nepal after the huge earthquake shows the tallest mountain in the world, Mount Everest actually got about 2.8 centimeters smaller than it used to be. The change is explained by a relief of strain in the Earth’s crust, according to UNAVCO, a nonprofit geoscience research consortium (Courtesy Photo)



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BOSSLIFT

ESGR GIVES TENNESSEE EMPLOYERS A GLIMPSE INTO GUARD TRAINING.

Aircraft from the 164th Airlift Wing and 134th Air Refueling Wing conduct an aerial refuel during a bosslift to Gulfport, Miss. The Tennessee Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve hosted the bosslift to give employers a perspective into the lives of their Guard and Reserve employees when they perform their military duties. (Photo by CW2 Emily Wiest).

SMYRNA, Tenn. - The Tennessee Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, or ESGR, hosted a bosslift for over 20 Middle and West Tennessee employers from May 5-6 to familiarize them with some of the training their Guard and Reserve employees conduct during their service.

The group from West Tennessee left from Memphis on a C-17 while the group from Middle Tennessee left from Smyrna on a KC-135. The two aircraft met in flight and employers from both aircraft witnessed an aerial refuel before their arrival to Gulfport, Mississippi.

Upon their arrival, the employers visited the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport where they watched sailors conduct convoys on simulators. They toured the Seabee training center where servicemembers acquire skills to perform their military jobs.

David Augustin, one of the founders and the chairman of the board for Corporate Flight Management in Smyrna, Tenn., was impressed by the caliber of training the Seabees were receiving.

"I had no idea the Guard and Reservist employees have gone through such activities and training before they become employees. It was very eye-opening to me to see all the time and effort spent in training" he said.

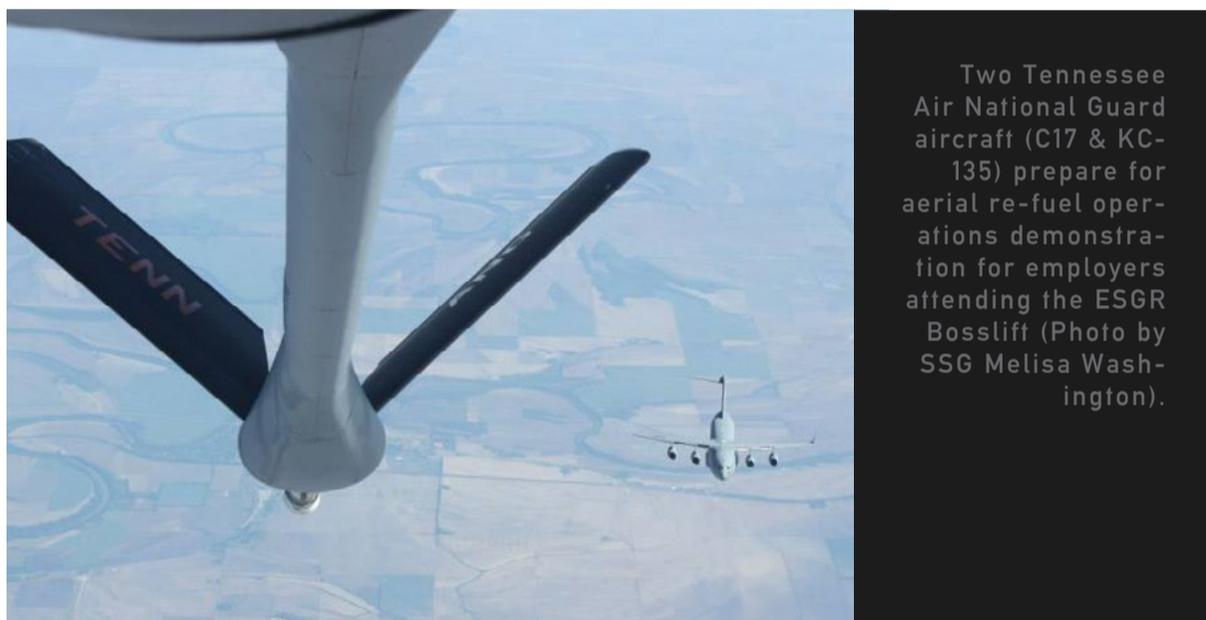
The next morning, the employers toured Keesler Air Force Base, home of the Hurricane Hunters, an elite group that flies C-130s into hurricanes and storms to collect weather data. Following their visit to the Hurricane Hunters, the group went to Camp Shelby, one of the largest National Guard training bases in the country. They witnessed a tank demonstration and climbed on some of the tanks as well.

To conclude the trip, the group watched touch and go's before they boarded a C-17 to return back to Tennessee.

- SSG MELISA WASHINGTON



Instruction for the Naval Construction Battalion Center briefs Tennessee employers during a tour of the Seabee training center in Gulfport Mississippi. (Photo by CW2 Emily Wiest).



Two Tennessee Air National Guard aircraft (C17 & KC-135) prepare for aerial re-fuel operations demonstration for employers attending the ESGR Bosslift (Photo by SSG Melisa Washington).



Tennessee employers load onto a C-17 in Gulfport, Miss. to return home after a bosslift. (Photo by CW2 Emily Wiest).



For more information about the Tennessee ESGR, please visit esgr.mil/tn.

GIRL SCOUTS HELP OUT IN EAST TENN.

More than 16,000 boxes of cookies distributed to the Tenn. Guard through Operation: APPRECIATION



Front Row - Anne Haston, Audrey Thomasson, Julia Mason, Heather Hatmaker. Back Row - John Patterson, Kim McHugh, Jerry Goines. (Photo by Judith Rosenberg)

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. - Anne Haston, along with the Family Assistant Specialists in east Tennessee, visited the Girl Scout Headquarters to present an ESGR Seven Seals Award to Heather Hatmaker and the Girl Scout Council of the Southern Appalachians.

More than 16,000 boxes of cookies were distributed in early May to the TN National Guard within the local Girl Scout Council

of the Southern Appalachians jurisdiction thanks to generous cookie customers and hard-working scouts. The cookies are part of the council's annual 'Operation: APPRECIATION' effort that allows customers to purchase cookies for members of the armed services.

"We are thrilled by the success of the program," said Heather Hatmaker, director of

revenue for Girl Scouts of the Southern Appalachians. "We are honored to give a little taste of home to the folks that risk their lives to keep our Girl Scouts and their communities safe,"

- CW2 EMILY WIEST

MARKSMANSHIP CHAMPIONSHIP

Tennessee Marksman travel to Arkansas to compete in the Winston P. Wilson Marksmanship Championship



Left - The Tennessee National Guard A-Team are presented a coin by Gen. Frank Grass, Chief, National Guard Bureau, for their third place victory in the Overall Team Aggregate and second place victory in the Rifle Team Aggregate Competitions. (Pictured left to right: Gen. Frank Grass, Staff Sgt. Mark Prince, Maj. Glenn Jackson, Sgt. 1st Class Dave Keenom and Capt. Tim Butler). (Courtesy Photo)

CAMP ROBINSON, Ark. - Two teams of Tennessee marksmen traveled to Camp Robinson, Ark., to compete in the 2015 Winston P. Wilson Marksmanship Championship during April, 2015. This year, 44 teams from across the nation competed for the All States Trophy at the event. Tennessee's A-Team is comprised of Maj. Glenn Jackson with 30th Troop Command, Capt. Tim Butler with the 269th Military Police Company, Sgt. 1st Class Dave Keenom with the Volunteer Training Site, Tullahoma, Tenn., and Staff Sgt. Mark Prince with the 730th Quartermaster Company.

The Tennessee team won third place in the Overall Team Aggregate Competition and also second place in the Rifle Team Ag-

gregate Competition. Based upon their win, they were coined by Gen. Frank Grass, the 27th Chief, National Guard Bureau and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In addition to the team's success, Maj. Jackson won first place in the 100-500 Special Zero match. The event requires firing 12 shots each at 100, 300, 400 and 500 yards. He was presented a plaque from the Commander of the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center for his win.

Congratulations to Tennessee's A-Team for a job well done! Tryouts for the Tennessee Team will be held at the Volunteer Training Site, Tullahoma, Tenn., during Au-



Above - Col. Franklin D. Powell, Commander of the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center presents Maj. Glenn Jackson a first place plaque for his victory in the 100-500 Special Zero Match. (Courtesy Photo)

gust 14-16, 2015. Members interested may contact Lt. Col. Keith Stiles at Keith.Stiles@ang.af.mil for more information.

- LT. COL. KEITH STILES

SOLDIER-ATHLETE

MATTHEW LAMB

Tennessee National Guardsman places 2nd in National Joint Service Greco-Roman Wrestling Competition in Colorado.



NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Kingsport, Tenn., native, Spc. Matthew Lamb helped bring All Army Sports its 14th consecutive Armed Forces Wrestling Championship, on March 28-29, at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Special Events Center at Fort Carson, Colo. Lamb placed second in individual competition in his weight class in Greco-Roman wrestling.

“It’s an awesome sense of pride knowing that I’m representing my fellow Soldiers,” said Lamb. “To be part of number 14 is something I will always remember.”

Spc. Lamb is currently assigned to the Tennessee Army National Guard’s 776th

Maintenance Company based in Elizabethton, Tenn., as an automated supply chain specialist. He enlisted in the Tennessee National Guard in April of 2014, but he has also served in the US Navy, and participated with the all Navy wrestling team previously.

In All Army Sports, Soldiers from Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard compete in a variety of sports at the highest levels to include Armed Forces, USA Nationals and Military World Games.

“Although wrestling is very much

Pictured from left to right: Capt. David Smith (Company Commander), Spc. Matthew Lamb, Maj. Patrick Ellis (Battalion Commander). Spc. Matthew Lamb is a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard with the 776th Maintenance company of Elizabethton, Tenn., and recently was picked up on active duty to wrestle with the All Army Wrestling Team. He participated in the inter-service competition March 27-28, 2015, where he placed second in individual competition in his weight class in Greco-Roman wrestling, and helped the team earn the gold medal. *(Courtesy Photo)*

an individual sport, you can't expect to achieve your goals without the support of your training partners and teammates," said Lamb. "It's the same as serving with your unit; the mission cannot be accomplished without everyone working together to achieve a common goal."

Wrestling is not new for the Tennessee National Guard Soldier.

"I started wrestling in eighth grade in New Jersey. I wrestled junior varsity and was the only New Jersey individual state qualifier from my school that year," he said. Lamb comes from a military family and moved often growing up. "My senior year, we were transferred to Beaufort, SC, where I placed second in the state, losing to a wrestler I had beaten eight times during the season."

Lamb joined the Navy in 1991 and was stationed in Newport, RI, where he initially applied to be part of the All Navy team.

"While waiting to be accepted, I entered and won numerous freestyle and Greco-Roman tournaments on the east coast," he said. "This culminated with winning an AAU Greco-Roman Grand National title and placing third in freestyle."

After attending his first All Navy camp, his Greco career took off.

"After my first camp, my coach, Rob Hermann, sent me to the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs," where he said he may be training for the next Olympic trials also. "It's exciting, but ultimately tough. Knowing you have the chance to represent your country and your branch of service in the highest profile sports event in the world is awesome."

All Army Sports is a short-term opportunity that may last between four days or up to three months, depending on your sport and whether you're selected for higher competition. It is not a change in Military Occupation Specialty or Permanent Change of Station.

Participants in the All Army Sports Program are called Soldier-Athletes because they must be Soldiers first and outstanding athletes second. Soldier-Athletes must apply to be selected for the All Army program. They represent the Army in Armed Forces Sports Championships and national and international competitions.

"I've worked hard over the past two years to return to good physical, wrestling condition," said Lamb, who added that so far his age has been his biggest obstacle. "When I was younger, I would just hop on the mat without warming up or taking treatment; now I think I appreciate the process more."

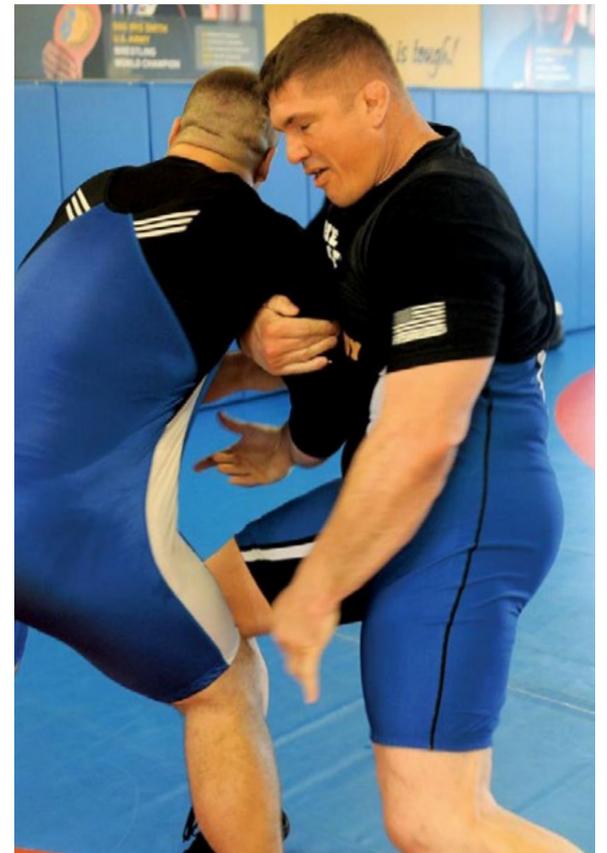
Soldier-Athletes require command approval before they can be considered. Reviewing officials include All Army Sports staff and the Army Coaches of each designated sport. They consider the applicant's background, past performances, athletic awards and sports standards. Applicants have the opportunity to supplement their applications with newspaper articles, letters of recommendation, award certificates or other forms of support.

"Typically, you are required to have placed in high level tournaments at the FILA Cadet, Junior and/or Senior level. NCAA Division 1, 2, and 3 placements are also considered," said Lamb. "Based on my past performances and experiences, the All Army coach, Shon Lewis, decided to bring me to camp once again. He wrestled for the Army while I was on the Navy team, so we have known each other for quite a few years."

Training is rigorous for the athletes. Applicants must have graduated Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) and at an actual duty assignment. Active duty officers must have graduated their basic course and be assessed.

Lamb said he most likes being able to represent his fellow Soldiers, the Army, and his country in domestic and foreign competition. "I would encourage any Soldier interested in All Army sports to pursue their dreams," he said. "The program is not easy--qualifying and being invited is the first step. Once you are in the camp, you are training with the best athletes in the country. It's well worth the effort."

The following sports are currently being offered: Army Ten Miler (Men and Women); Basketball (Men and Women); Boxing (Men and Women); Bowling (Men and Women); Cross-Country (Men and Women); Golf (Men and Women); Marathon (Men and Women); Rugby 7's (Men and Women); Soccer (Men and Women); Softball (Men and Women); Taekwondo (Men and



Lamb (Right) wrestling with the All Army Wrestling Team. (Courtesy Photo)

Women); Triathlon (Men and Women); Indoor Volleyball (Men and Women); and Wrestling (Men and Women).

Lamb is heading to Korea in October to participate in the Council International Sport Military (CISM) World Games.

"It is very similar to the Olympic games... the competition level is very high," Lamb said. "Most countries have a mandatory military requirement, so their best athletes will be there representing their respective nations as well."

"The biggest lesson I have learned from my time in the sport is to embrace and enjoy the process," he added. "Take care of the day to day business, the small things, and the big picture will come together."

For more information about All Army Sports, email usarmy.jbsa.imcom-hq.mbox.army-sports@mail.mil or call 210-466-1337. Applications for an All Army Sport are available at <https://apps.imcom.army.mil/appracmain>.

- MASTER SGT. ROBIN BROWN

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