

118TH MPAD LEAVES FOR GUANTANAMO BAY IN CUBA

# THE VOLUNTEER STATE GUARD

M A G A Z I N E

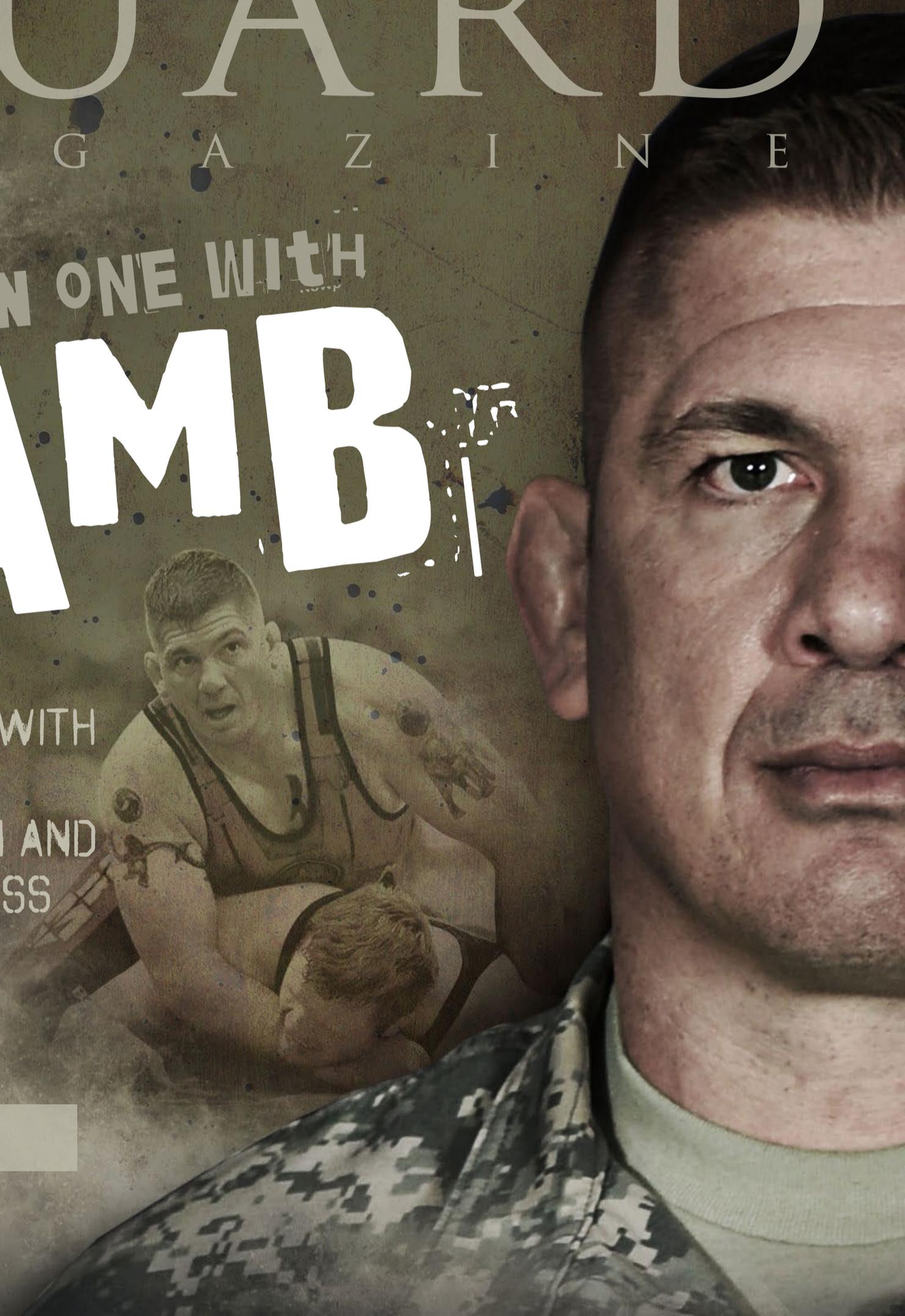
ONE ON ONE WITH

# LAMB

INTERVIEW WITH  
TENNESSEE  
GUARDSMEN AND  
WORLD CLASS  
WRESTLER  
MATT LAMB

PG 8

VOL. 16, ISSUE 2





# VSG

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**TENNESSEE  
SNAPSHOT**

**RESCUE TRAINING IN CALIFORNIA**

RIVERSIDE, Calif. - Staff Sgt. Rodney Smith, of the 118th Civil Engineering Squadron at Joint Base Berry Field, Nashville, Tenn., was one of several Airmen who attended pole and bucket truck rescue training at March Air Reserve Base, Calif., in January.

*PROVIDED BY: CHIEF MASTER SGT. DAVID FREELAND*



TENNESSEE  
SNAPSHOT

**YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL**

Allison Cripps, a member of the Tennessee National Guard Youth Action Council shares her unique story with members of the association at the National Guard Association of Tennessee conference on Mar. 12, 2016 in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

PHOTO BY: J9 FAMILY READINESS



TENNESSEE  
SNAPSHOT

**CW4 CHERRY RETIRES**

Brig. Gen. Tommy Baker presents the Meritorious Service Medal to Chief Warrant Officer 4 Don Cherry on the day of his retirement. Mr. Cherry is retiring with nearly 40 years of service to the Tennessee Army National Guard.

PHOTO BY: SSG WILLIAM JONES



TENNESSEE  
SNAPSHOT

**HOIST TRAINING**

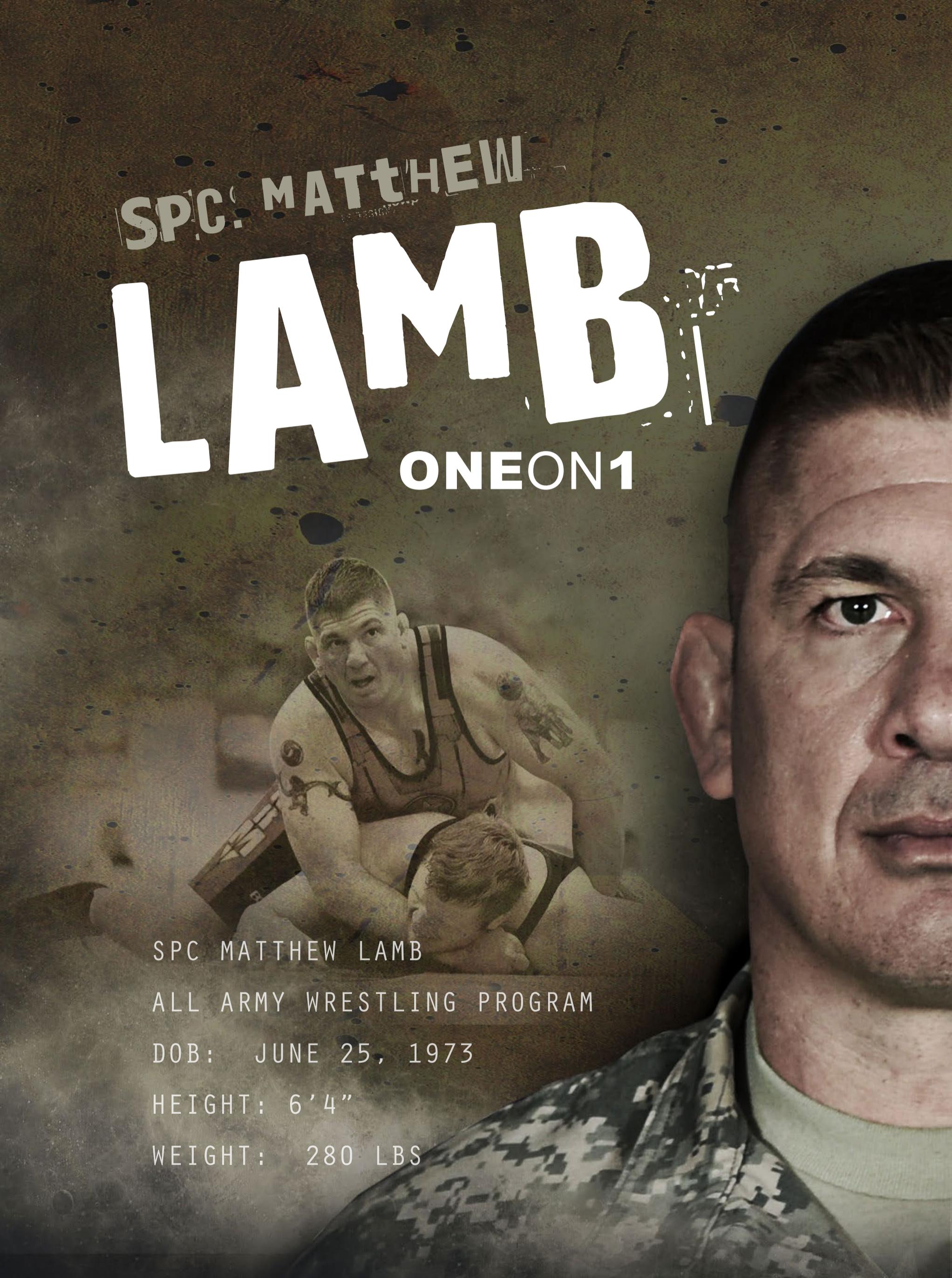
In March, members of the Tennessee Army National Guard's 1-230th Tactical Assault Battalion and 134th Air Refueling Wing Aircrew Flight Equipment conduct hoist training from a UH-60 Blackhawk at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn.

*PHOTO BY: MASTER. SGT. KENDRA OWENBY*

SPC. MATTHEW

# LAMB

ONEON1



SPC MATTHEW LAMB

ALL ARMY WRESTLING PROGRAM

DOB: JUNE 25, 1973

HEIGHT: 6'4"

WEIGHT: 280 LBS



WE TALK TO TENNESSEE  
GUARDSMEN AND WORLD  
CLASS WRESTLER SPC MATT  
LAMB ABOUT WRESTLING,  
LIFE AND HIS PT TEST.

INTERVIEW BY SSG WILLIAM JONES



**What is your current role in the National Guard?**

I'm a 92A, Automated Logistical Specialist, with the 776th Supply Maintenance Company in Elizabethton, Tennessee. I am attached to the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program at Ft. Carson, Colo.

**How has your military life changed since joining the team?**

It hasn't really changed. I was on the All-Navy team prior to being on the All-Army team. It's different being in the Army in the World Class Athlete Program. The coaching staff is a little more professional as far as what we do and how we conduct ourselves and what we attempt to do for the Army for the overall mission. It's different than being in my regular unit in Elizabethton, Tenn. Our days are practice, travel to a lot of competitions, a lot of travel, a lot of working out. But at the end of the day, we're all still Soldiers.

## **Describe what a typical week is like.**

A typical week is a training week. Practice is at 9 a.m. on Monday. Typically, I would go to the gym on my own at 5 or 6 and do some cardio. We'll have a 9 o'clock practice that will typically last two, or two and a half hours. It's nonstop from the warm-up and to the workouts itself. The coaches dictate that depending upon where we're at with competition. The further out we are, the more volume we'll do such as live wrestling, drilling or speed drills. We do time dummy throws, all different kinds of things. Then we'll have practice again in the afternoon. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday are about the same with lifting sessions put in with guidance of a strength and conditioning coordinator. Wednesdays we'll have one practice. That's kind of a recovery day afterwards and then on the weekend we come in on our own. We have a huge sauna, we all kind of hang out and sweat a bunch of weight off.

## **What is it like to wrestle Soldiers who are younger than you?**

It's interesting. I feel like I serve a kind of mentoring role and what I'm expected to do is win. When you're a part of the World Class Athlete Program, and the All-Army Wrestling Program, to stay on the team you have to win. You have to perform. But with the younger guys, I think a lot of times they are astounded that I am still doing what I am doing at my age. They make jokes and they crack at me. But at the end of the day, we're a family. I think the biggest role I play is how to do what we do and conduct yourself professionally. Just be a good role model for the younger Soldiers as for how you do things, how you perform.

## **What do your parents think about your present career.**

My dad is prior Navy. He was an air traffic controller. He's proud. He's down in Jacksonville, Fla., and he's a Virginia boy originally. He likes to watch. He's not able to travel to the competitions and that kind of stinks. It's kind of cool for him to see me do this, especially at my age. I think he just sits back and enjoys it.

## **Is there a friction or camaraderie between you and your dad [who was in the Navy]?**

I'm prior service Navy. So the Navy was my first home. There's no friction. We all served the same country. We're all under one flag. I was asked by some of my friends, "Hey Army-Navy game is coming up. Who are you rooting for?" And unfortunately, my answer for some people out there is Navy. It will always be



SPECIALIST MATTHEW LAMB, 92A  
(AUTOMATED LOGISTICAL SPECIALIST)

776TH SUPPLY MAINTENANCE COMPANY,  
TENNESSEE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD, ELIZABETHTON,  
TENNESSEE

U.S. ARMY WORLD CLASS ATHLETE PROGRAM  
AT FT. CARSON, COLO.

Navy. My step-dad was a Marine, my mom and dad were both Navy, I was Navy. That's my first home. But I am very happy, very proud for the National Guard, for the Army to be my home now. It's a great opportunity. I enjoy the people that I work and serve with currently. I'm looking forward to coming back to Tennessee and serving with my fellow Tennessee National Guard Soldiers. So I don't think there's any friction. At times it's just fun. Just getting after each other.

**Where do you see yourself in ten years?**

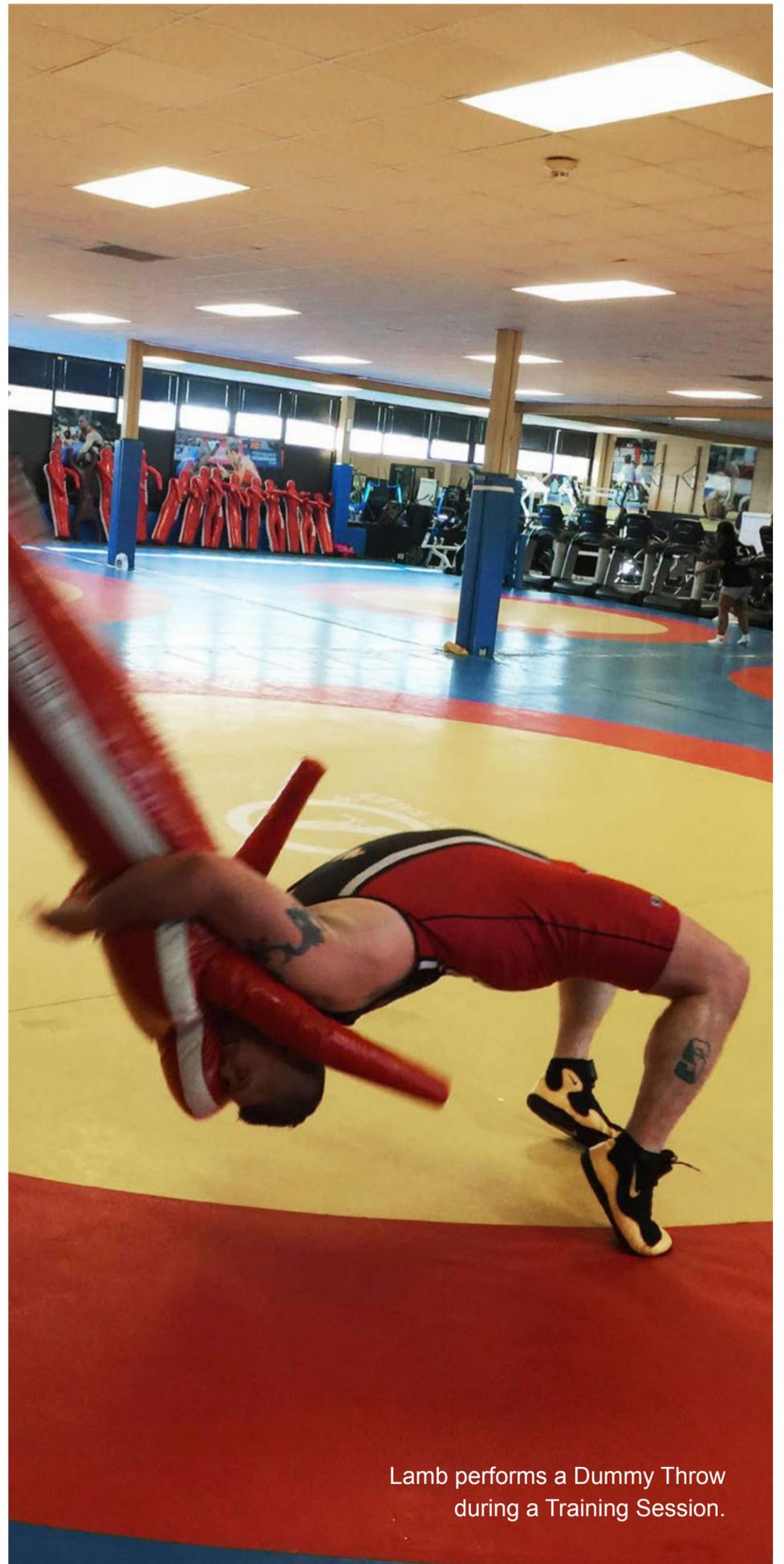
Retired, hopefully! That's why I came in the Guard to pursue an AGR position whether it be recruiting or as a 92A, logistics. I'd like to come back to Tennessee. Serve the Tennessee Guard for ten more years and do my retirement. Then possibly coach at some school and maybe do some logistics in the civilian sector once I've done my time in the Guard.

**How would you sell the Army National Guard to someone in high school?**

The first thing that comes to mind when I see a news report and they talk about kids going to college... I remember myself what I was 18 and I didn't know what I wanted to do. My parents weren't going to pay for college. I probably would have flunked out. You have a lot of kids that don't have a direction. They don't know what they want to do and instead of going to college and racking up debt, I think going into the military is a viable option for a lot of our young men and women. I'm personally a fan of two years conscript service. I don't think our country will ever go to that, but the National Guard offers a unique opportunity to our young men and women. It's not active duty so you don't have to leave home. You leave for basic and AIT, but you get a job skill, you get access to the GI Bill, you have tuition assistance programs -- whether it be federal or state. For kids who have already gone to college and racked up some college debt, the Guard has repayment programs. To me it's a no brainer. It's very little to sacrifice for what you get in return. Even for someone such as myself, I'm out with WCAP right now, but I'm taking classes on-line with AMU. It's a no brainer. It's free. It doesn't cost me a dime. I think the educational components, especially now, are way better than they were in the 90s. For most kids, if you don't know what you want to do and you need some kind of direction, you know the National Guard is a great opportunity because you get to serve back home in your own community. That's a pretty special thing that I don't think people understand. We need to do a better job of communicating that and what we have to offer. You can still serve and do what you do in your community.

**What do you think of your team's and your own performance in Korea?**

You know in Korea they don't know what the games are. It was interesting. I qualified for the very first world cham-



Lamb performs a Dummy Throw during a Training Session.



Lamb in Korea. He placed fifth at the 1996 Final Olympic Trials for Greco-Roman wrestling.

pionship military games in 1995 and I didn't realize it was the first ever that until this year. It's a world level competition. Most countries, their athletes are in the military. I don't know whether they are actually in the military or they just slap a uniform on them and send them over to competition like that, but it's unique in that for our military... you have to be in the service to compete for the U.S. The guidelines for active duty, reserve, whatever their countries, it's not like that. My quarter final match was against the Olympic silver medalist from the London games in 2012. That tells you what kind of competition was there. Of the wrestlers that competed, myself and Harry Lester were the only two to place. Harry got a silver medal and I placed fifth at 130 kilos for Greco. We were the only two placers, but again it's not an easy competition. There were multiple world champions. There was at least one Olympic gold medalist. It's definitely not a gimme. But it was a great experience, we stayed in Moungyoung, which is basically South Korea's West Point. So we got to interact with students from the ROK Academy (Republic of Korea Academy). It was a great experience. It's awesome to see the different services from the various countries all come together. This experience was different from my

first one because our athlete's village had all types of sports. So we were able to interact with modern pentathletes, even volleyball. And all the other countries are right there. It's really a unique experience. Similar to the Olympic games, but with a military spin on it.

**How did you do on your last PT test?**

270... 280. I do pretty good for a 42 year-old.

**What are you getting ready to do next as far as wrestling goes?**

We've got the Olympic trials in April in Iowa City. I qualified via the Olympics trial qualifier in Vegas in December. I also took the silver medal in the Dave Schultz Memorial in January and by winning the Armed Forces... whoever won the Armed Forces title in each respective weight class qualified for the Olympic trials so there are three different ways that I qualified for that tournament. But we'll be getting ready for the next month and a half and then we'll go to Iowa City and hopefully we get some guys on the Olympic team and get WCAP represented.

INTERVIEW BY SSG WILLIAM JONES

# HOOPS FOR HEROES

## Hoops for Heroes Honors Tennessee National Guard Officer



Honorees of “Hoops for Heroes” are recognized at halftime during the Ohio Valley Conference basketball tournament held in Nashville. Scates is pictured far right. *(Courtesy Photo)*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** - Tennessee National Guard Officer, Lt. Col. Corey Scates was honored during a men’s semifinals session of the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) basketball tournament. The game was held at Municipal Auditorium in downtown Nashville on March 4, 2016. Scates was selected by The University of Tennessee at Martin Student-Athlete Advisory Committee as its “Hoops for Heroes” ambassador this year.

When asked to comment on his selection as this year’s representative, Scates said, “This is truly an honor, to not only serve my country, but also being honored by my alma

mater and representing UTM at the OVC tournament.”

Scates, a Union City native, joined the Tennessee Army National Guard in 1989 and was later commissioned as a second lieutenant in June of 1994. He has deployed twice since commissioning, once in 2005-06 to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and again in 2009-10 to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Scates is a member of the 194th Engineer Brigade headquartered in Jackson, Tenn., where he serves as a design engineer. Later this year, he will serve as lead construction

manager on a six month overseas deployment training mission to strengthen United States partnerships with our NATO allies. In this capacity, he will supervise construction projects across four countries in Europe while working with our NATO allies and with the Army, Air Force, and Navy.

When not on duty with the Tennessee Army National Guard, Scates serves as an assistant athletic trainer for Skyhawk Athletics at UT Martin. He has held this position since September 2014 and in this role he works directly with the women’s basketball and baseball programs. He graduated from UT Martin in 1995 with a bachelor of science in education with a concentration in fitness management and minor in sports medicine.

Currently in its sixth year, the OVC SAAC representatives created the “Hoops for Heroes” initiative as a way to honor military men and women in OVC communities. The honorees received a two-night hotel stay in Nashville, up to four tickets to Friday and Saturday’s tournament sessions along with gas and meal cards. - **CW4 NICK ATWOOD**

DESTINATION:

# CUBA

SOLDIERS FROM THE 118TH  
MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DE-  
TACHMENT (MPAD) LEAVE FOR  
A YEAR-LONG DEPLOYMENT TO  
GUANTANAMO BAY IN CUBA.

BY LTC JOE HOLLISTER



Below: (Front row) SSG Lila Walker, SGT Chelsea Garcia, SFC Mike Winters, MAJ (Commander) John Parks, SGT Sarah Kirby, SGT Natasha Price, SGT Shannon Ball, SGT Misty Francis, (Back row) SGT Matthew Tarpley, 1LT(P) Harold Williams, SFC John Waderker, SGT Jim Boyd, SFC Walter VanOchten, SGT Matthew Young, SSG Mathieu Perry

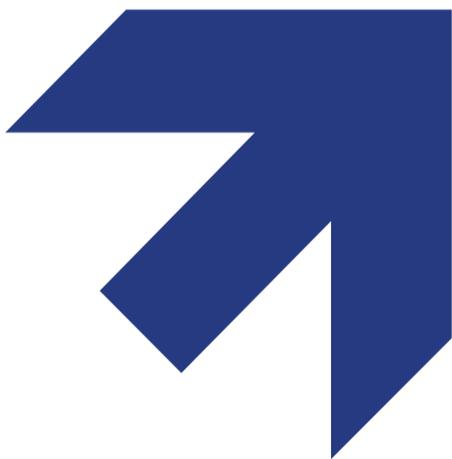


Soldiers from the 118th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment said goodbye to family and friends during a ceremony at the Hall of Flags, Joint Forces Headquarters, Tennessee National Guard on February 16, 2016. The first stop along their journey is Fort Hood, Texas, where they will undergo final training before continuing on to the United States Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay. "Considering the ongoing national discussion we read and hear about in Cuba, this should make for a historic deployment for the unit and for the state of Tennessee", said Maj. John Parks, 118th MPAD commander. Parks went on to say, "We are honored to be chosen at this time and place in history and are prepared to accomplish this significant mission." The 118th MPAD is a uniquely designed unit that provides direct Public Affairs support to units deployed in support of Army, joint, inter-agency, intergovernmental, and multinational operations. This is the first Tennessee Army National Guard unit to deploy to the U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay.

CUBA

# EDUCATING OUR AIRMEN

## New Wing Command Chief Explores Fresh Options for Airman Education



**By Airman 1st Class Anthony Agosti**

The new Command Chief Master Sergeant of Joint Base Berry Field in Nashville has a firm goal in mind of wanting to expand education options for Airmen. Command Chief Master Sgt. Benjamin M. Williams was promoted to his current position at the 118th Wing on Dec. 5, 2015. Despite his new role, he still believes his core duty is the same.

“My area of responsibility had to broaden, But the basic job is still taking care of Airmen.” said Williams, formerly the Wing First Sergeant.

Williams feels that he can best help Airmen on base by increasing their available education options. One of the ways he wants to do this is to improve the teaching and support in the Airman Leadership School.

“We like to get new instructors, the young ones who really excelled in ALS, and try to mentor them to be instructors,” said Williams. “You



Command Chief Master Sgt. Williams in his Berry Field office, Jan. 10, 2016.

have a better connection if you just graduated from the school and excelled in it.” Williams also wants to increase the class options that count toward earning a Community College of the Air Force degree.

“Last year we had a rapport with Nashville State Community College, I want to reconnect with them and make sure that’s still the case,” said Williams. “That should give us more opportunities for young Airmen to get their CCAF degrees.”

Williams is also looking into bringing an NCO Academy to Berry Field so that Airmen don’t have to travel to other bases to receive their schooling.

“We have to see if we have the infrastructure in place to support an NCOA,” said Williams. “The deliberate development plan is to make

our guys competitive, that’s why I’m trying to bring that course here.”

Williams also believes that to make young Airmen more competitive, they have to be adequately trained to take over the jobs of their superiors. “We cannot afford for senior management in organizations to hoard all the knowledge,” said Williams. “We should be constantly training our replacements.”

The reason Williams is focusing so much on education is simple; to take care of Airmen, help them grow, and achieve mission success.

“It’s really back to the basics, making sure that Airmen are properly trained, maintaining deliberate development, and making sure that we keep the standards and expectations,” he said. “That’s the overall mission success right there.”

# What's that patch mean?



A Soldier's patch lets others know what unit they're in, where they're from, and it gives hints as to what they do. It allows others to understand their mission and who their peers are while often telling a story about their history and culture. Officially referred to as a Shoulder Sleeve Insignia (SSI), the patch hasn't always been an integral part of a Soldier's uniform. It wasn't until World War I that the U.S. Army authorized commanders to give their units distinctive nicknames and insignias to help identify unit equipment and baggage as well as foster esprit-de-corps. By the end of the war, shoulder patches were authorized. From World War I to today, the Tennessee National Guard has officially had nine SSIs to represent various commands over the years. But today we have four that embody the history and mission of Tennessee.



## 30TH TROOP COMMAND (JFHQ)

Symbolism: The hickory tree refers to Andrew Jackson who was known as “Old Hickory” because of his toughness as a fighter. The three white stars which appear on the state flag alludes to the three grand divisions or areas of the State: East Tennessee, Middle Tennessee, and West Tennessee. The white and red twists of the wreath refer to the English origin of the original settlers.



The hickory tree refers to President Andrew Jackson’s toughness as a fighter “Tough as old hickory.”



The three stars, which also appear on the state flag shown above, allude to the three grand divisions of the State.

History: The oldest and longest running SSI still used by the Tennessee National Guard, the original design was approved for the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment for the Tennessee Army National Guard on May 29, 1950. It was amended to add symbolism to the design on April 1, 1974, and then redesignated on December 30, 1983, for Headquarters, State Area Command. On April 2, 2009, it was redesignated again to represent the Joint Forces Headquarters 30th Troop Command.



# HERALDRY



## 194TH ENGINEER BRIGADE

Symbolism: Scarlet and white are the colors of the Corps of Engineers, and a castle turret alludes to the branch insignia. Scarlet, white, blue, and three stars refer to the State Flag of Tennessee. Three stars are also on the Tennessee Army National Guard crest, and are used to denote the unit's allocation. The saltire and turret symbolize the overall mission of the organization.



The castle turret alludes to the branch insignia.

History: Originally approved on January 30, 1974, the patch was designed for the 194th Engineer Brigade when it was established in Nashville in 1973 following the deactivation of the 30th Armored Division. In 1996, the unit headquarters was moved to its current location in Jackson where it resides today.

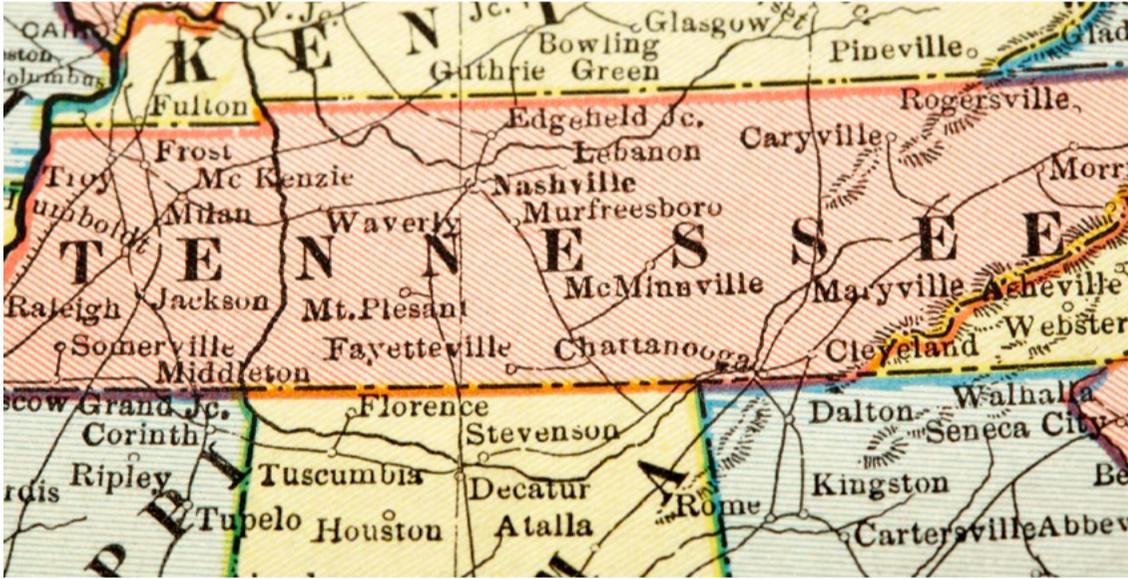


**230TH  
SUSTAINMENT  
BRIGADE**

Symbolism: Red and buff are the colors traditionally used by Sustainment units. Red, white, and blue are the national colors and also the colors of the Tennessee State Flag. The chevron suggests support, the mission of the Brigade. The sword, pointing up, symbolizes military readiness. The three stars allude to the three grand divisions of the state of Tennessee.



The sword, pointing up, symbolizes military readiness.



Three stars represent the three divisions of the state of Tennessee.

History: The newest SSI in the Tennessee Army National Guard, it was developed and approved on January 11, 2007. The new SSI and the 230th Sustainment Brigade replaced the 196th Field Artillery Brigade that was also headquartered in Chattanooga.



# HERALDRY

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## 278TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

Symbolism: The green background with three stars refers to the hickory tree crest of the Tennessee Army National Guard. The wavy blue three-armed partition represents the coming together of the Holston and the French Broad Rivers to form the beginning of the Tennessee River in Knoxville, where the Regiment's headquarters is located.



History: The current SSI was authorized for the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment on August 19, 1977. It was originally approved for the 278th Infantry Brigade on March 19, 1974, following the deactivation of the 30th Armored Division.

The wavy blue three-armed partition represents the coming together of the Holston and the French Broad Rivers to form the beginning of the Tennessee River.

\*Look for the next issue of the Volunteer State Guard as we explore the history of the Shoulder Sleeve Insignia and the past patches that Tennessee Guardsmen have worn since World War I.

# HONORING VETERANS

## Members of the Tennessee National Guard Visit Local Senior Living Community for “Hug A GI Day.”

**LEBANON, Tenn.** - Several members of the Tennessee Army and Air National Guard visited the Elmcroft Senior Living community in Lebanon, Tenn for their “Hug A GI Day” on Mar. 4, 2016. Five former service members are residents at Elmcroft, and several are spouses of Veterans.

“Most of the residents we visited served during World War II and it is a real honor for those of us now serving to say thank you to those of us now serving to say thank you to these members of the Greatest Generation,” said Master Sgt. Robin Brown of the 118th Security Forces Squadron.

“Hug A GI Day” was organized by Ms. Amy Barrenger, Activities Director at Elmcroft and hopes to make it an annual event. “We are very proud of our Veterans and our Veteran spouses,” said Barrenger. “It’s just a way that we can show them, and our current military members, how much we appreciate their service.”

“I’ve seen first-hand how the professionals at Elmcroft go about their day to day services



CW3 David Scott talks with former Navy Yeoman 2nd Class Dorothy Ruth during the Tennessee National Guard’s “Hug A GI” Day at Elmcroft Senior Living in Lebanon. (Photo by Maj. (Ret) Randy Harris)

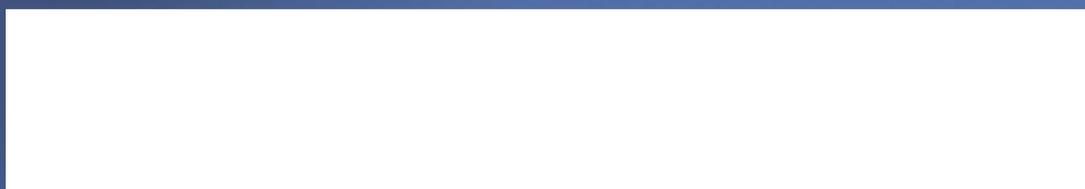
with the residents. It is truly a community atmosphere where each resident has their own comfortable apartment, and are able to interact on numerous levels,” said Randy Harris, Director of Joint Public Affairs for

the Tennessee Military Department. “We are humbled and very honored to be able to spend some time with these true American heroes.” - **MAJ (RET) RANDY HARRIS**

COMBINED FORCE

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ONE  
TEAM  
ONE  
FLIGHT





## Medevac Training Brings Soldiers and Airmen Together as One Force to Rescue Wounded Behind Enemy Lines.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY: STAFF SGT. BEN MELLON  
VIDEO BY: MASTER SGT. KENDRA OWENBY

# COMBINED FORCE



Members of the 1-169th Det. 1, Co. C. Aviation Regiment (Medevac) and 151st Air Refueling Squadron simulate evacuation of wounded aircrew at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Knoxville, Tenn. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Ben Mellon)

**LOUISVILLE, Tenn.** - Soldiers and Airmen from the Tennessee Army and Air National Guard recently combined forces to conduct Aircrew Survival and Evasion Training and Extraction/ Evacuation Training simultaneously March 6, 2016 at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Knoxville, Tenn.

Members of the 134th Air Refueling Wing and 151st Air Refueling Squadron were able to combine their annual survival training with the 1-230th Tactical Assault Battalion's Det. 1, Co. C, 1-169th Aviation Regiment's Medevac hoist extraction training on their newly acquired UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters to complete mission training requirements.

"This is a joint-force training mission for the evacuation of wounded aircrew behind enemy lines," said Tech. Sgt. Timothy Cross, an Air Crew Flight Equipment Specialist for the 134th ARW. "Our flight crew doesn't make their living on the ground. They make their living in the sky and once they are on the ground they become survivors. This training is to make sure that they are survivors."

The 1-169th Aviation Regiment recently transitioned to a new mission involving the UH-60 Blackhawk. Lots of training is involved in receiving a new aircraft and this particular training gave pilots and crew chiefs the ability to conduct hoist training for Medevac personnel.

"The mission is designed to respond as a first-up crew on Medevac duty with a Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) mission. A call will come down requesting Medevac/CSAR for a downed aircrew. The first-up crew has 15 minutes to be off the ground and responding to the mission," said Sgt. 1st



*Video by Master Sgt. Kendra Owenby*



A harness is secured during hoist extraction training. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Ben Mellon)

Class Tracy Banta, Standardization instructor AASF#2 / Det. NCOIC, Det. 1, Co. C, 1-169th AVN Regt.(Medevac). “We have trained with Air Force units in the past and it builds great cohesion between the units. It gives the services a chance to blend and see what each other has to offer.”

The Tennessee Air and Army National Guard are closely related to one another as a whole, however, there are differences in the way they operate. This makes it much more valuable for both branches to be able to participate in training events such as these.

“It’s important for both of our missions for us to train together because you never know when the need may arise for a response,” said Cross, “If you have worked with another branch of service and see how they work and respond to you, it takes the guess work out of what to do if the situation arises.”

Training missions like these have proven effective in the past and continue to strengthen America’s fighting forces. Dedicated Soldiers and Airmen coming together as one force to complete the mission embodies the spirit of the Tennessee National Guard - “Volunteers” coming together when the need arises to protect and defend America. - **STAFF SGT. BEN MELLON**

\*A Note from the Editor-In-Chief,

While we were preparing to publish this issue of the Volunteer State Guard magazine, our pilots and Paramedics from the 1-230th Assault Helicopter Battalion's Det. 1, Co. C, 1-169th Aviation Regiment, showcased in the previous article, conducted a real-life rescue using the tactics and techniques they were training for.

The following story was added after initial publication of the magazine through the expertise and flexibility of our Senior Editor Rob Pennington, and is a classic example of why the realistic training we do on a daily basis is vital to mission success.

A "Job Well Done" goes out to the pilots, Paramedics and crew of Co. C, 1-169th Aviation.

RDH

# ADDENDUM: SMOKY MOUNTAIN RESCUE



**ALCOA, Tenn.** - The type of medical helicopter that normally flies into Knoxville's Ft. Sanders Regional Hospital heliport is a UT Lifestar bird, but yesterday the heliport was reminiscent of a scene from MASH.

A HH-60 Blackhawk assigned to the Tennessee Army National Guard's 1-169 Medevac unit landed at Fort Sander's after rescuing a 66 year old man suffering from a critical medical condition from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

At approximately 5:00 p.m., Flight Paramedics Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Banta and Staff Sgt. Giovanni Dezuani were lowered from the helicopter, reached the man who is diabetic and suffering from hypertension, stabilized him and rode with him as they were hoisted more than 200 feet into the hovering helicopter. SSG Dezuani and Sgt. 1st Class Banta continued to treat and stabilize the patient, who was responsive but weak, as they flew from the Mount Cammerer tower area to Fort Sander's Regional Hospital.

"We knew it was crucial that we reached the patient as soon as possible, because of the medical threat and the remote area where he was located," said Chief Warrant Officer 4



Tennessee Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Doug Edmisten operates the hoist bringing Flight Paramedic Staff Sgt. Giovanni Dezuani and a critically ill hiker out of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. *(Photo by National Park Ranger William Jaynes)*

Brad Hutsell, pilot in command of the HH-60. “When the National Park Service called us, we knew that time was essential.”

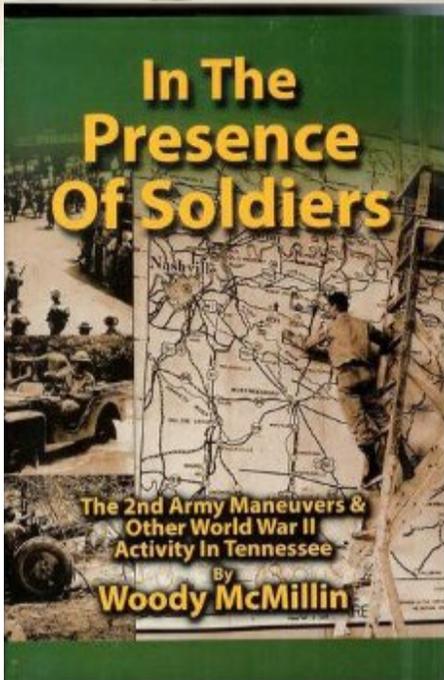
“The Medevac unit has only been at McGhee Tyson for a few months”, said Maj. Gen. Max Haston, Tennessee’s Adjutant General. “We moved part of them from Smyrna just to address missions such as this after losing the OH-58D Kiowa Warriors due to the redesign of Army Aviation. It’s very fulfilling that these outstanding Soldiers are fully operational in such a short time on an entirely new aircraft.”

Assisting in the mission were Guard pilot CW2 Keith Bowery, and crew chief Staff Sgt. Doug Edmisten, who operated the hoist bringing both Flight Paramedics and the patient onboard for treatment and transport.

The 1-169th is based at Joint Base McGhee Tyson in Alcoa as part of the Guard’s newly formed 1-230th Assault Helicopter Battalion. The battalion also has Blackhawks based in Nashville and Jackson. - **MAJ (RET) RANDY HARRIS**



**BOOK REVIEW**



***In the Presence of Soldiers:***

The 2nd Army Maneuvers & Other World War II Activities in Tennessee.  
By Woody McMillin.  
Horton Heights Press, 2010.

MAJ Haas Gives us his Review of:

# **IN THE PRESENCE OF SOLDIERS**

As the Tennessee National Guard begins one of the largest domestic training exercises in its history – Tennessee Maneuvers 2016 – it is imperative that we look back and study its inspiration and how it relates to today. Lessons learned and a greater understanding of issues and challenges that occurred during the original Tennessee Maneuvers, held from 1941 to 1944, would benefit all those participating in the exercises this summer. There is no other book that better describes what happened than Woody McMillin’s *In the Presence of Soldiers: The 2nd Army Maneuvers & Other World War II Activities in Tennessee*, the first comprehensive study of its type.

Published in 2010 and using countless primary sources and exhaustive research, McMillin crafts a narrative that looks at all seven major combat exercises that occurred throughout Middle Tennessee to train active-duty Soldiers for combat in Europe. He argues that the Tennessee Maneuvers were critical in the training and development of U.S. Soldiers to be victorious against the Axis powers.

The Maneuvers hardened Soldiers for combat, taught them how to conduct combined-armed warfare, adjust to different terrain in various weather conditions, and allowed leadership an opportunity to evaluate the performance of officers and non-commissioned officers to see if they were suited for combat leadership roles. Roughly 850,000 Soldiers from 25 divisions, where all but three would see combat in Germany, battled through 21 Tennessee counties during the Maneuvers.

McMillin begins his work with background leading up to the American involvement in World War II and follows it with the first maneuvers held by Maj. Gen. George S. Patton in June 1941. Utilizing the 2nd Armored Division near Manchester, Tenn., Patton used the exercise to validate his newly developed armored doctrine that he based on Nathan Bedford Forrest’s cavalry tactics from the Civil War. During the exercise he soundly defeated the opposing forces, proving that large-scale armored fighting based on Forrest’s tactics was possible and successful. Middle Tennessee was used because the terrain so closely resembled France, Belgium and Germany, the very countries the Soldiers were preparing to fight in.

Following that, McMillin presents a detailed account of the next six exercises and how the maneuvers were conducted. He examines the maneuver space, logistical problems, billeting and entertainment issues, and how the exercises themselves were conducted. The influx of Soldiers in very realistic simulated combat greatly impacted the life of Tennessee residents, which McMillin examines in great detail. He also honors the loss of more than 250 Soldiers and civilians killed during the exercises.

Throughout his work, McMillin touches on various aspects and levels of training as well as the changes that the event made to Tennessee culture. As a complete look at the largest training exercises ever conducted in Tennessee, I highly recommend this work to all Soldiers participating in the 2016 Tennessee Maneuvers and anyone interested in the history of Middle Tennessee and the history of the U.S. Army in World War II.

**- MAJ DARRIN HAAS**

# NGATN CONFERENCE

The 87th Annual NGATN General Conference held 10-13 March 2016 in Murfreesboro, Tenn.



Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam is presented a barrel top branded with the Tennessee Military Department logo.



Above: United States Senator for Tennessee Lamar Alexander speaking to the association.

Below: An Airman presents the U.S. Air Force flag at opening ceremonies of the conference.



LTC James Reed speaks at the business session of the NGATN conference.



Photos by TNGG Public Affairs Office



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Beginning in 2014, Tennessee Army and Air Guard Officer personnel requesting a license plate must order your plate(s) online NO LATER THAN 15 MAY 2016.

The request form can be found at [tnmilitary.org/license-plate-request.html](http://tnmilitary.org/license-plate-request.html).

The information will be submitted to the State of Tennessee for production of plates. Those failing to meet the 15 May 2016 deadline will not get a specially numbered Officer plate in September.

All questions should be directed to the Joint Public Affairs Office, Tennessee Military Department at 615-313-0633.