

DISASTER RESPONSE EXERCISE SIMULATES EARTHQUAKE

THE VOLUNTEER STATE GUARD

M A G A Z I N E

JFHQ 101

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



SPOTLIGHT ON LEADERSHIP

INTERVIEW WITH COL
DARNBUSH OF THE
278TH ARMORED CAV

 FORGING FRIEND-
SHIPS THROUGH
TENNESSEE
NATIONAL GUARD
YOUTH CAMPS

THE VOLUNTEER STATE GUARD MAGAZINE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



JFHQ 101
PAGE 8



PREPARING FOR DISASTER
PAGE 13



PAGE 16



PAGE 10



PAGE 17



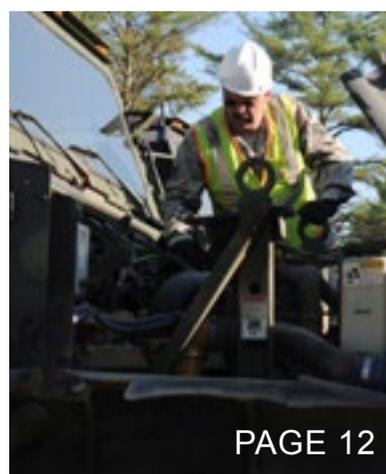
PAGE 18



PAGE 11



PAGE 19



PAGE 12

SHARE YOUR STORY!

Contact us at
tnpao@live.com

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF MAJ (Ret.) Randy Harris
SENIOR EDITOR Rob Pennington
ART DIRECTOR Rob Pennington
PHOTO EDITING Rob Pennington,
SPC Chris Daily

PHOTOGRAPHY MAJ (Ret.) Randy Harris,
CW4 Nick Atwood,
Lt. Col. (Ret) Niki Gentry,
SFC (Ret) John Evans,
CW2 Emily Wiest,
SMSgt Paul Mann,
MSgt Robin Olsen,
SGT Paul Banks, Sr.
SPC Chris Daley,
SGT Art Guzman
SSG Melissa Wood,
SFC Matthew Zier,

WRITERS MAJ (Ret.) Randy Harris,
Lt. Col. (Ret) Niki Gentry,
SMSgt Paul Mann,
MSgt Robin Olsen,
SFC Matthew Zier,
SSG Melisa Washington,
Rob Pennington

VolState Guard is published to provide command and public information about Tennessee Guard Soldiers and Airmen throughout the world. Views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official view of and it is not endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Departments of the Army and the Air Force. This publication does not supersede any information presented in any other official Air or Army publication. Articles, photos, artwork and letters are invited and should be addressed to: Editor, The Volunteer State Guard, 3041 Sidco Dr., Attn: TNPAO, Nashville, TN 37204.

For more information, the staff can be reached by telephone (615) 313-0633, or by email to tnpao@live.com. The Volunteer State Guard reserves the right to edit all material. Published works may be reprinted, except where copyrighted, provided credit is given to The Volunteer State Guard and the authors. Distribution of the The Volunteer State Guard is electronic and can be downloaded at: <http://www.tnmilitary.org>



TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

COL DENSON TREE PLANTING

Soldiers from the Tennessee Army National Guard plant a Bur Oak tree in honor of COL (Ret.) Donnie Denson at Joint Force Headquarters, April 30th, 2014.

PHOTO BY: SSG Melissa Wood



**TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT**

MEMORIAL DAY 2014

Governor Bill Haslam presents flags and state flowers to the families of fallen Tennessee servicemembers during Memorial Day services at Legislative Plaza in Nashville, Tenn., May 23, 2014.

PHOTO BY: SSG Melissa Wood



**TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT**

RANGE TRAINING

Soldiers from the 230th Sustainment Brigade prepare for annual weapons qualification at the range on the Volunteer Training Site - Tullahoma, Tenn., May 3, 2014.

PHOTO BY: SGT Paul C. Banks Sr.



TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

WELCOME HOME 181ST

The 1-181st Field Artillery Battalion returned home from deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, June 17, 2014.

PHOTO BY: SPC Chris Daley



State Sponsored Life Insurance

Planning for the Unexpected

Is your family able to pay for your funeral and household expenses once you are gone?

Although funeral prices vary considerably between funeral homes and geographic areas of the country, here is a reasonable “ballpark” estimate of the main costs that are involved:

1. fee for the funeral director’s services:	\$1,800
2. cost for a casket:	\$2,300
3. embalming:	\$625
4. cost for using the funeral home for funeral service:	\$500
5. cost of a grave site:	\$1,000
6. cost to dig the grave:	\$600
7. cost of a grave liner or outer burial container:	\$1,000
8. cost of a headstone:	\$1,500
9. hearse services:	\$275

TOTAL: \$9,600

That’s just for the “main” items. There could be additional charges for things like placing the obituary in the newspaper and buying flowers.

State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) is a program that provides group term life insurance exclusively for National Guard members and their dependents.

COVERAGE AMOUNT	MEMBER	SPOUSE	DEPENDENT
\$50,000	\$20.40		
\$35,000	\$14.40		
\$25,000	\$10.40	\$10.40	
\$20,000	\$8.40		
\$10,000	\$4.40	\$4.40	\$6.70
\$5,000		\$2.40	\$3.35

If interested in applying for Group Life Insurance Please feel free to contact Julie Longard, Insurance Administrator at 615-833-9100 or Julie@ngatn.org

BENEFITS

1. Total NGAT group claim paid in **24 hours**
2. Payroll deduction from your military check
3. Life insurance payable in event of death from any cause
4. Coverage is 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
5. No war or suicide clause, aviation exclusion, nor hazardous duty or civilian occupation restriction
6. Keep insurance after you discharge, premiums will not change

JFFHQ '10'

The Military History of the Sidco Drive Area

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



(Above) The Sidco Drive Area Barracks housed Nashville area military veterans and their families when they needed a place to live.

In 1942, the area south of Thompson Lane became the Classification Center for the U.S. Army Air Corps. Towards the end of World War II, and up until Oct 1, 1945, it was the Separation Center for the U.S. Navy. Now the hill overlooking Powell Avenue and Sidco Drive is the home of the Tennessee National Guard Headquarters, Houston Barracks. The Maj. Gen. Hugh B. Mott National Guard Headquarters, and the Clement-Nunnally Armory dominate the area south of Armory Drive to the intersection of Powell and Sidco.

The World War II complex had at least 14 Mess Halls, fire halls, recreation halls, two theaters, a chapel, school, library, ware-

houses, drill fields, pistol ranges, and rows of barracks with nearby wash houses to provide showers and toilets at its peak.

The \$5 million dollar facility was two miles long and accommodated 10,000 cadets, 500 enlisted Soldiers and 200 Officers. After expansion, the capacity was reported by the media of over 30,000.

The military complex sprawled over as many as 560 acres starting in 1942. The hundreds of barracks and buildings were intended to be temporary, mostly sided with nothing but tar-paper, which stayed in use as long as ten years.

In the beginning, the center was seen as a great addition to the Nashville area at

Radnor Yards. After proposal in 1942, it was rushed into construction under the direction of the Nashville Architectural firms of Warfield & Keeble and Foster & Creighton, and accepted its first cadets in mid July of that same year.

Nashville's City Council had quickly approved contracts with the federal government to provide water, sewer and electric services. The sites proximity to the rail lines at Radnor Yards was also considered a plus.

The role of the Classification Center was evaluation of skills and aptitudes before classifying cadets as pilots, navigators or bombardiers. The process took from a mat-

ter of days to a few weeks.

Pilot candidates were then sent to Maxwell Field (now Maxwell Air Force Base) in Alabama for training, bombardiers to Santa Anna, Calif., and navigators to Monroe, La.

Candidates recalled that the Psychological tests were the most feared.

“There were questions such as, ‘What would you do if you were driving a military truck with a load of GIs in the back and a little girl ran in front of you. Would you turn quickly and risk injuring the passengers in the back, or would you hit the girl?’”

A Women’s Army Corps (WAC) contingent was added by 1943, and brought females into the classification center mix. They performed mostly clerical duties which freed male Soldiers for foreign service. The center’s 1,000 personnel were about 60 percent women at this time.

The Nashville community was aided in several ways by the center. When it was discovered that no one had thought to provide clothes hangers, a public drive to supply them was launched. When Soldier’s relatives would visit for holidays or other

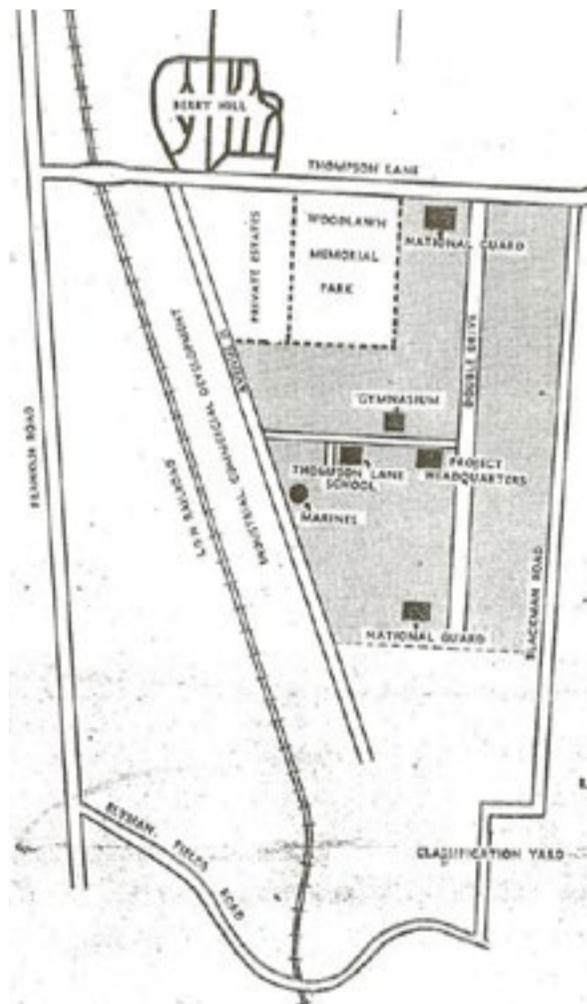
events, more than 400 Nashvillians opened their homes to provide rooms.

The arrival of 86 enlisted men in April of 1944 marked the first group of Army Air Corps casualties being placed in a new convalescent centers developed on the site. They flew in to Berry Field and were trans-

After the Navy’s use, late in 1945, the complex took on a third role housing the Nashville area’s military veterans who needed a place to live. About 800 families ended up here. The barracks were divided into two family dwellings. The tar paper was peeling outside, but to the families, it was home.



Barracks were divided into two family dwellings, tar paper was peeling outside, but to the families, it was home.



The area off Thomson lane where the Classification Center was located - *The Tennessean*

ported to their wards by ambulance and staff cars.

When the war ended, the Classification Center was transformed into the Naval Personnel Separation Center, one of only five in the country. This new facility opened in October of 1945, and was intended to process about 7,000 to 20,000 Navy personnel weekly. The average stay for these troops was three days.

City officials anticipated some problems from what one newspaper described as, “the underworld, gamblers, prostitutes, and camp followers or amateur prostitutes.” Listening to this concern, the Navy sent several hundred Shore Patrolmen to the center to keep order as the thousands of veterans moved in and out of the city with their discharge pay of \$200 to \$1,000, of which only \$50 was in cash.

A permanently assigned staff of 1,400 enlisted Sailors and 120 Navy officers operated the center. They provided those passing through with “full information on the re-integration to civilian life”. This re-integration included lectures, movies and pamphlets, as well as physical exams, discharge papers and transportation arrangements.

The \$15 monthly rent included electricity and water. A coal stove provided heat, a wood stove was there for cooking, and the kitchen had a sink with running water. For bathing, washing clothes and toilet needs, there was a shared “wash house” in another building nearby.

The federal government leased the site to the Nashville Public Housing Authority until it was declared surplus in 1952. The remaining veterans and their families, about 275 in all, were relocated.

(Continued in the next issue of the Volunteer State Guard Magazine)

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

Contributors to this article include:

The Nashville Tennessean
The Nashville Retrospect
SGT Miles M. Capps III
Mr. Ralph Brown
Ms. Stephanie Day
COL Brad Bishop



(Left) The Tennessee National Guard Youth Camps allows children to interact with other military-connected kids.

YOUTH CAMPS

Forging friendships through Tenn. National Guard Youth Camps

GOODLETTSVILLE, Tenn. - For almost 20 years, the Tennessee National Guard's Child and Youth Program has hosted a Youth Development Week for military-connected children of Tennessee. This year, the Child and Youth Program will host over 200 campers from across the state on Boxwell Reservation in Lebanon, Tenn.

Paige Major, Child and Youth Program coordinator, explains the impact this camp makes on Tennessee's military kids.

"This camp builds confidence in our military youth and cultivates friendships. Due to military families being geographically dispersed, this is a unique opportunity for them to take part in fellowship with other military-connected kids that

share a common bond," she said.

Campers spend the week team-building and bonding with other children that understand the pressures that come with being part of a military family, usually at little or no cost to the family.



Dollar General Employees packed and donated backpacks for the 2014 Youth Camp. (Photo by CW2 Emily Wiest)

In support of the youth camp, the Dollar General Corporation took time during their 2014 Human Resources Summit to donate and pack 300 backpacks with beach towels, water bottles, bug repellent, and sunscreen for campers and volunteers.

Lt. Col. James Reed, deputy director for the Tennessee National Guard Military Family Readiness Operations, expressed his gratitude for Dollar General's donation to the youth camp.

"We really appreciate everything the Dollar General is doing for our kids, donating time putting these bags together," he said to Dollar General employees during the summit.

Employees also packed snack bags for the United Services Organization, or USO, to be handed out to deploying troops from Fort Campbell, Ky.

Dollar General Corporation is known for its exemplary community efforts through the Dollar General Literacy Fund, Paycheck for Patriots, and several other campaigns.

Denine Torr, Dollar General Corporation's Community Initiative Director, put it simply. "We want to be serving others, lifting them up," she said.

The Child and Youth Program graciously welcomes donations for the local community and encourages other organizations to get involved.

"We appreciate the community support because it expands the quality of the program. Military youth have more opportunities than ever before due to the compassion and generosity of local organizations," Paige said.

For more information about the Tennessee National Guard Child and Youth Program and ways to donate, please contact Paige Major at 615-313-0547.

- SSG MELISA WASHINGTON



Family members and senior leaders welcomed home soldiers from the 181st. (Photos by SPC Chris Daily)



THE 181ST COMES HOME

The 181st Field Artillery Battalion returns from Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan

SMYRNA, Tenn. - Tennessee Army National Guard Soldiers from A Battery, 1-181st Field Artillery Battalion, based in Lawrenceburg, Tenn., returned to the state on June 17, following their deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Seventy-five members departed from post deployment processing at Fort Bliss, Texas, and returned to the Volunteer Training Site in Smyrna, Tenn., by a chartered flight. The group was met by a large gathering of friends and family, as well as senior leadership from Tennessee Guard Headquarters.

Maj. Gen. Max Haston, the Adjutant General of Tennessee, attended the event and wel-

comed the Soldiers home while thanking their loved ones for the sacrifices made during the deployment.



“I’m glad your home, I’m glad everyone is safe. Families, thank you for letting us have your warriors for the period of time they have been gone,” said Haston. “They could not have done their job without you here at home so thank you very much,” he concluded.

Returning Soldiers were able to return to their home town of Lawrenceburg, Tenn. The return was a very joyous occasion for those who had served their state and nation so bravely. In one case a member was able to meet his four-month-old son for the first time.

More than 28,000 Tennessee Army and Air National Guardsmen have deployed since Sept. 11, 2001.

- LT. COL. (RET) NIKI GENTRY

TRAIN IN MAINE

Air Guard Annual Training in Raymond, Maine



Sgt. Randy Sylak (middle) and Master Sgt. Bobby Sells (right), both of the 118th Wing Civil Engineering Squadron, providing on-the-job training to Senior Airman Charles Frederick (left), from the 123rd Airlift Wing CES, Louisville, KY, June 3, 2014. Several members from both units as well as Marine Reservists performed their annual training at Camp Hinds Boy Scout Camp from June 1 - June 14. The servicemembers made several additions to the camp, including constructing a road, building staff cabins, laying water lines, beginning construction of a zip line, and establishing electricity across the camp site. Fixing up the camp provided various areas for members to get hands on training for their military career specialties without having to do so in a deployed environment.



Senior Airman Chris Kullman, 118th Wing Civil Engineering Squadron, wires and electric outlet June 13, 2014, to the outside of a staff cabin assembled at Camp Hinds Boy Scout Camp in Raymond, Maine. Kullman is one of eight members of the unit who performed annual training at the Camp, helping to upgrade several areas around the site.



Staff Sgt. Melody Kimery and Staff Sgt. Jacob Warren, of the 118th Wing Force Support Squadron, prepare sandwiches for lunch June 9, 2014, at Camp Hinds Boy Scout Camp in Raymond, Maine. Members of the FSS attended their two-week annual training at the Camp and were responsible for providing three meals each day for more than 80 members of the Tennessee and Kentucky Air National Guards as well as Marine Reservists from all over the United States.



Staff Sgt. William Leddy performs a maintenance check on a U.S. Marine Corps dump truck at Camp Hinds in Raymond, Maine, June 3, 2014. This is one of pieces of equipment being used at the Boy Scout camp.

Photos and captions by MSgt Robin Olsen

PREPARING FOR DISASTER

Nashville, Tenn., following a massive earthquake (Artistic Rendering by Rob Pennington)

The June morning is beginning to come alive in communities all over Western Tennessee. A morning rush-hour commute is nearly complete. Office workers are half way through the work week and the muddy waters of the Mississippi River are flowing with barge traffic from distant ports. The Memphis International Airport is beginning a busy day as large airplanes lift cargo and passengers to global destinations. In high rise office buildings the clocks show 9:17 a.m., business is underway as usual.

This morning will not be the same. A sudden jolt beneath the earth and a grumbling roar deep underground are the first in-

dications. Giant geysers of water and sand begin to explode from fields, roads, yards and street corners. Cracks begin to open and the concrete sections of Memphis begin to shake violently, turning highways into a wet cement-like consistency as vehicles and heavy objects begin to sink into the rolling ground. Along the bluffs of the Mississippi River, landslides collapse into the water. Buildings in Memphis violently sway as the ground slips away from their foundations. Bridges, pipelines, overpasses and roadways collapse; numerous fires from ruptured gas lines ignite. The air is filled with dust from the giant sand geysers spraying massive amounts of liquefied earth under high pressure far into the sky. Within minutes cities and communities throughout the region be-

come unrecognizable as structures collapse and the bright day is filled with smoke, dust and clouds of hazardous vapors from leaking chemical storage facilities along the east bank of the Mississippi River, the toxic mixture affects every living organism as it slowly creeps across the countryside.

In seconds, the once graceful landscape and beautiful dawn has been turned into one of the worst natural disasters to impact the United States. America is alerted with text of the news – “URGENT - MAJOR EARTHQUAKE STRIKES WESTERN TENNESSEE AND SURROUNDING AREA – PRELIMINARY REPORT – USGS – MAGNITUDE 7 OR GREATER – SEVERE DAMAGE REPORTED...”

The description of such an incident sounds like a page ripped from a science fiction novel - yet at 2 a.m. December 16th,

1811, and for many days following, residents in northwest Tennessee, southeastern Missouri and western Kentucky experienced this very nightmare. In the rural areas of the lesser populated area along the New Madrid Fault, the earth gave way and created a series

junction with the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) and the Tennessee State Guard, worked at locations throughout the state exercising plans laid out in the Tennessee National Guard Emergency Response Plan that fully integrates

On June 16th, a simulated 7.7 magnitude earthquake scenario was declared, setting into action requests for military support from TEMA, as local authorities in areas across the seismic zone began to test the capabilities of the Military Department. Soldiers and Airman of the Tennessee National Guard and Tennessee State Guard rapidly began to meet the challenges, providing numerous levels of assistance and conducting support missions in simulated impacted areas from East to West Tennessee.

“This capstone exercise provided an excellent opportunity to illustrate the interoperability of all the elements that comprise the Tennessee Military Department,” said Brig. Gen. Don Johnson, Assistant Adjutant General, Tennessee Air National Guard. “I am very pleased with the ability of the state’s emergency operations center to communicate with the Air Wings’ command and control centers across the state.” Johnson stated these exercises are designed to stretch the limits of the Guard and allow them to address any issues that may develop. Those lessons learned are critical to ensure they are considered and dealt with prior to an actual emergency.

Brig. Gen. Terry Ethridge, Director of the Tennessee National Guard’s Joint Staff, reiterated, “TNCAT14 was a highly successful operation, demonstrating the seamless spirit within all elements of the Tennessee Military Department.” Ethridge noted a key element tested during the operation was stressing lines of communication to their maximum he said, “no communication failures occurred among military units due to

Inside the TNG Emergency Operations Center, EOC (Photo by Randy Harris)



The Tennessee Military Department plays a vital role in the response and recovery efforts should the New Madrid Fault trigger a major earthquake.

of quakes that altered the landscape to this day, over two centuries later.

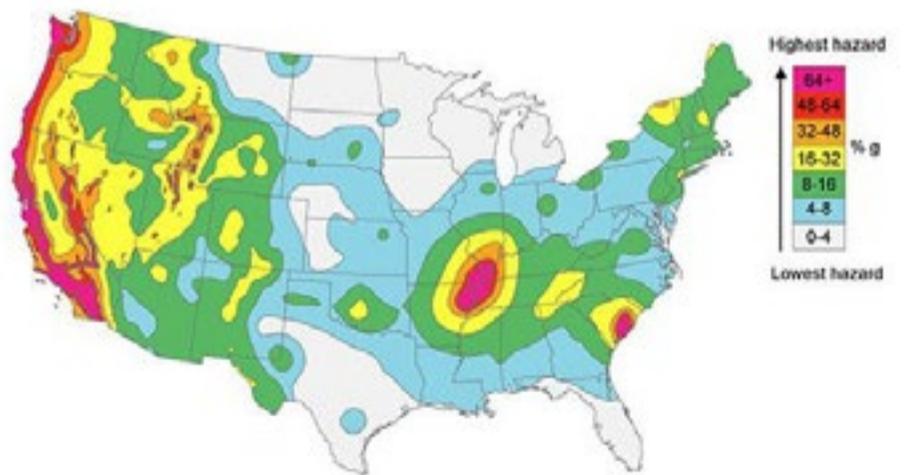
Preparing for a natural disaster of the magnitude projected along the New Madrid Fault is one of the most vital issues facing public safety in Tennessee. Emergency Planners at all levels of government have devised plans and conduct exercises both in the field and in their Emergency Operations Centers (EOC).

The Tennessee Military Department plays a vital role in the response and recovery efforts should the New Madrid Fault trigger a major earthquake. June 16 through June 20, 2014, more than 1,000 Soldiers, Airmen and civilian emergency response personnel throughout the state participated in an exercise called TNCAT14 simulating a New Madrid disaster and enhanced their training on how to respond to dangers and recover from losses that may occur during this type of event.

The Tennessee National Guard, in con-

with the statewide Tennessee Emergency Management Plan.

“The National Guard has a dual mission,” said Maj. Gen. Max Haston, Tennessee Adjutant General. “In addition to providing war fighting troops to the President, the Tennessee Military Department also has a state mission to provide the Governor with troops and equipment ready to respond to disasters or civil disturbances here at home. The close relationship between the National Guard and TEMA makes for a seamless operation integrating TEMA’s mitigation of resources and the Guard’s response capability.”



Earthquake hazard map of the contiguous United States (Source: USGS)

An inflatable antenna provides communication on the fly. (photo by J6)



the numerous redundant systems now available in the state. In an actual emergency, lines of communication, cellular towers and various systems are expected to experience serious degradation. Yet, during the exercise, the ability to communicate was maintained at optimal levels to ensure critical response missions were accomplished.” Ethridge noted there are elements in the response that will need to be assessed and improved. “The TNCAT14 exercise tested a very robust response plan and validated major elements that would prove to be vital in a real world situation,” he said.

The Tennessee National Guard, in conjunction with the Tennessee State Guard, which is commanded by Brig. Gen. (TN) Kenneth Takasaki, played an integral role providing communication support and placing personnel in various staging locations across the state. The use of the Tennessee State Guard, whose members are strictly volunteers, was unprecedented and Guard leadership praised the professionalism and value added by these personnel.

“We spend a lot of time on deliberate planning and working through multiple scenarios. Then we develop the best response for each event,” said Col. Robert Covert, Operations Director for the Tennessee National Guard. “By having a deliberate plan, it allows us to excel at crisis/emergency planning. It is easier to adjust a plan to fit the unknown events that arise than it is to start from scratch each time,” said Covert.

The TNCAT14 Exercise concluded on June 20, and the personnel involved reviewed the overall operations that were effective and identified elements needing further work. Overall, the leadership of Tennessee’s Military Department expressed how successful the exercise was for all involved. Using lessons learned, the Guard is now better prepared to assist fellow citizens during times of crises. - **LT. COL. (RET) NIKI GENTRY**



MAKE A BASIC EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

(for any potential emergency)

- WATER**
one gallon per person per day for at least three days
- FOOD**
at least a three day supply of non-perishable food with a can opener
- RADIO**
hand crank or battery powered with extra batteries
- FLASHLIGHT**
one or two flashlights with extra batteries
- WHISTLE**
to signal for help
- DUST MASK**
- SANITATION**
moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- TOOLS**
wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- LOCAL MAPS**
- FIRST AID KIT**

HONOR VOTE

Program Gives Voters Way to Honor Military

From the office of the Tennessee Secretary of State, Tre Hargett

Voting and paying tribute to our nation's active and retired armed services personnel are two of the most patriotic acts citizens can perform. A new program launched by the Secretary of State's Office this week allows people to tie the two together.

Secretary of State Tre Hargett announced the "Tennessee Honor Vote" program in 2012 which provides citizens with an opportunity to dedicate their votes in the upcoming election to the servicemen and servicewomen of their choice.

A new page has been developed on the Secretary of State's website where people may sign up and dedicate a personal message to one or more active or retired members of the armed forces.

Once the messages have been reviewed, they will be posted online. Each participant in the program will receive an "Honor Vote" button and a letter of appreciation from Secretary Hargett.

The program began with dedications during the November 6, 2012, election, and will continue for future elections as well.

"Members of our armed services fight and sometimes make the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms," Hargett said. "Their service highlights how important it is for us to exercise our constitutional right to vote. I encourage Tennesseans to participate in this program, which is absolutely free of charge. It only takes a few minutes to sign up and prepare a message. And those messages to our active military and veterans may mean more to them than we'll ever realize."

"More than 28,000 members of the Tennessee National Guard have deployed since 9/11, making Tennessee the fourth largest National Guard state for deployments," Major General Max Haston, Tennessee's Adjutant General, said. "Many of these Soldiers and Airmen have seen firsthand, in Iraq and Afghanistan, just how important the right to cast your vote really is. This is a right we too often take for granted. Nothing means more to a service member than to be appreciated for their selfless service. The Tennessee Honor Vote program is just another way to show your support for the men and women defending the freedoms that we all enjoy."



Tre Hargett
Tennessee Secretary of State



To participate in this program, go to: www.GoVoteTN.com/honor or call toll-free 1-877-850-4959.

PERCUSSIONIST TAPS OUT

Air Guard Percussionist Taps Out After 24-Year Performance

MCGHEE TYSON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Tenn.

- A typical annual training day has different definitions for nearly every member of the National Guard. The Air National Guard Band of the South formerly of the Smokey Mountains, began a two-hour road trip on July 3, that started at 5 a.m. For one band member it was a ride to his farewell performance.

After 24 years in military bands, including the Band of the South, a career percussionist tapped out his grand finale for the residents of Panama City, Fla.

Master Sgt. Eric Odiorne, and the band's 40 other members, finished their summer tour, playing for a military audience during a change of command ceremony at Hurlburt Field Air Force Base, followed by two performances in nearby Panama City. It was part of the city's Pier Park Summer Concert Series, with the last show being a Fourth of July fireworks concert.

The fireworks added the boom for Odiorne to the final concert of his military career. For the band, it was the last show in their annual road tours that entertain and educate thousands with military music and regalia. The band will play on, but without Odiorne. "I will really miss the people, the comradery, and the interactions with the audiences," he said.

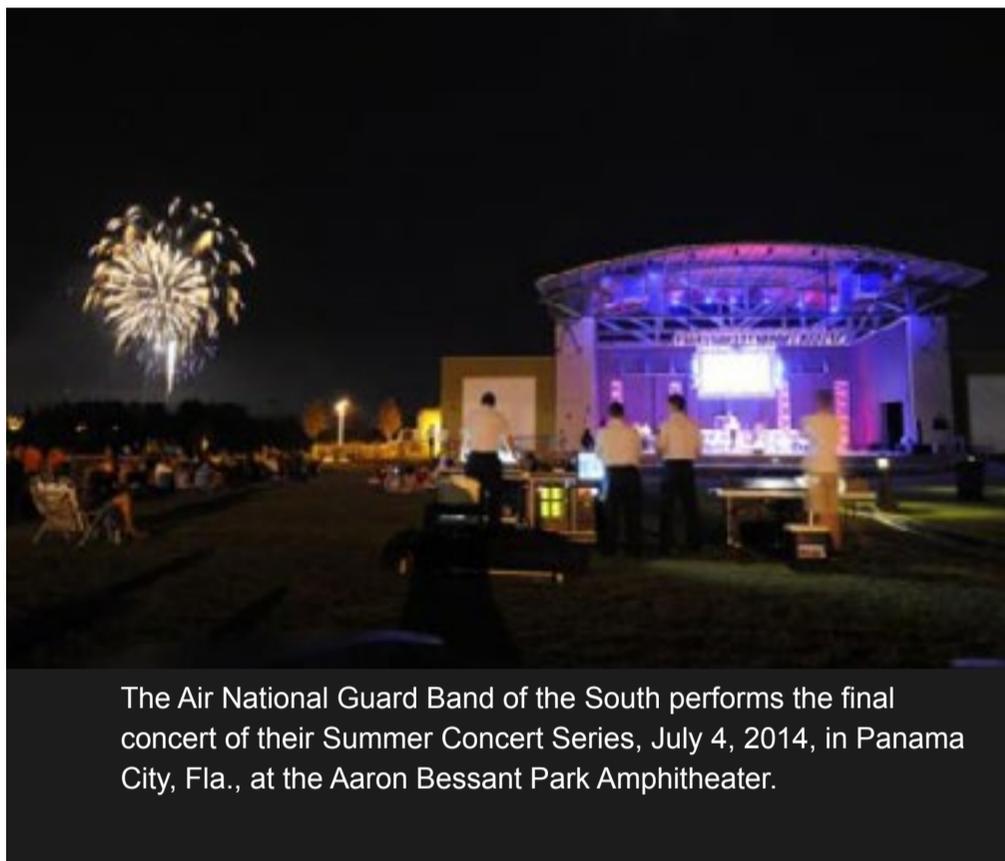
He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in September 1986, playing for the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps at the Marine Barracks, a short walk from the nation's capital. He also played for the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, Calif. "I loved serving and being a Marine, but wanted to finish college and complete my computer programming degree," said Odiorne. He finally did earn his degree and got a job as a software developer. But he always remembered his time serving as a band member.

A trade show four years later brought him back to the service. There, he met Airmen from the Air National Guard Band of the Smokey Mountains, who told him the band was in need of a percussionist. Within months, Odiorne enlisted with the Tennessee Air National Guard. "Eric has been welcoming and kind," said Master Sgt. Patrick Hydo, remembering the first time they met. "Quickly after I joined the unit, he became both a friend and mentor."

Over the next 20 years, Odiorne and the Air National Guard Band of the South played for audiences throughout the southern U.S. and across the world. In 2008, the band deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and Odiorne was there with his percussion talents. He and other band members said the deployment still holds special memories. "I am in denial that he is retiring," said Tech. Sgt. Traci Carico. "There was a special bond formed during deployment. Eric was a key part of holding the group together and has always been a great mentor for our Airmen."

"That bond resonates through the team. I haven't known Eric for as long as some of the others, but I absolutely adore his complete sense of ease," said Tech. Sgt. David Fairchild. "There has not been a situation that I have been in with him where he has not been the epitome of our band - confident, relaxing and welcoming."

With his instruments packed away, Odiorne will orchestrate his career as a software developer at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. "Juggling two separate careers was becoming too difficult to balance, so something had to give," said Odiorne. "This final tour was fantastic, and I'm just happy that I was able to be part of it with my Guard family." - **SMSgt PAUL MANN**



The Air National Guard Band of the South performs the final concert of their Summer Concert Series, July 4, 2014, in Panama City, Fla., at the Aaron Bessant Park Amphitheater.

NCB CHIEF MEETS WITH TNNG LEADERSHIP

Gen. Frank Grass Visits Joint Force Headquarters



While in Nashville, Tenn., to visit the National Governor's Association, Gen. Frank Grass, the Chief, National Guard Bureau, briefs Tennessee Guard senior staff. Pictured in the photo left to right: Maj. Gen. Judd Lyons, Acting Director, Army National Guard, Gen. Grass, Maj. Gen. Max Haston, the Adjutant General for Tennessee and Maj. Gen. Robert Harris, Assistant Adjutant General, Army for Tennessee.

Photos by SFC (Ret) John Evans

SPOTLIGHT ON LEADERSHIP:

An Interview with Colonel Darrell Darnbush

In future editions of the Volunteer State Guard magazine we'll highlight the senior leaders of all Tennessee National Guard major commands. This is the first of such interviews where we endeavor to ask questions that provoke insightful and informative answers all members of the Tennessee National Guard may find beneficial.



Colonel Darrell Darnbush is the 11th Commander of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, headquartered in Knoxville, Tennessee. A construct of the U.S. Army's Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) the 278th geographically stretches across the entire state. Their mission is to conduct decisive action, which is the continuous, simultaneous combination of offensive, defensive and stability or defense support of civilian authorities (DSCA). In a June interview with Chief Warrant Officer Nick Atwood, Deputy Director of Joint Public Affairs, Colonel Darnbush spoke candidly about the storied lineage and mission of the Regiment, his personal leadership philosophy and the unit posture in light of the current environment of constrained resources. He also addressed why now is the best time ever to serve as a Citizen Soldier, and what every Soldier in his command needs to know about his views on the way forward after more than a decade at war.

CW4 Atwood: Selection to command at the brigade level is a significant milestone in any

officer's career. Considering the regimental heritage of the 278th, educate our readers on the lineage and mission, as well as what it means to you, personally, having been selected to command such a storied unit.

COL Darnbush: First of all, that saying of, "you can never go home again", is not entirely true. I've spent 22 of my 31 years in the 278th ACR. I left the regiment as a squadron commander in 2008 and thought I was gone forever but last year, lo and behold, I was asked to command again. So it was very exciting for me to go home again.

The uniqueness of the National Guard, specifically the 278th, is that you can trace your roots back to the beginning, to the pre-revolutionary war days, through the Civil War, then WWI, and WWII. Then there was that lull during the Korean War for some units, and portions of the 278th were mobilized for Korea, but not as a whole unit with the regimental combat team. In 2004 and again 2009 the Regiment was mobilized for Operation Iraqi Free-

dom.

We can look back to World War II and see how we were part of the 30th Division with the 117th Infantry Regiment, the unit the historian for the European Theater of Operations claimed was the best battalion in the European Theater of Operations. Mr. Marshall wrote that himself, and so the lineage and honor is like, "really?"

Then in the blink of an eye, I find myself in command of the unit in which our grandfathers and great grandfathers fought and commanded during the major wars of this nation's history.

Some things never change regardless of names of the city. What is unique about the National Guard in Athens, or Knoxville, Tennessee is that they have been home to many, many units. It's how you trace your lineage going back to pre-revolutionary war days. That's the great thing, as we look back and see what this unit was in 1955 what is it now in 2014. The regimental heritage in total is something that has been part of the National Guard, the Tennessee National Guard, since Kings Mountain. In 1977 it became the 278th Armored Cavalry



Regiment and that's what it's been for the past 30 plus years. That's where we get the local National Guard tie-in, when we talk about "the regiment" we're talking about the people. We've gone where a town can be a infantry unit—the 117th Infantry Battalion a long time ago—it became an Armored Cavalry Squadron and a few years later it's a Military Police company or battalion. But, that's what is unique about that town, it's the people of each town who support the unit.

The past commanders of the 278th sought participation in active component warfighter/war games to get the name of the regiment out there. We learned by doing through all the military buildup in the 70's and 80's, and then in the 90's when we started getting the active component units to be our external evaluators the regiment had a really good name with our active duty counterparts because there were select few Armored Cavalry Regiments. Then it just took off when we look back at the history of the regiment in the late 90's to the present.

We did an NTC rotation in 2002 and we thought that was it—and then two years later we were mobilized for OIF—and the regiment has done that twice. Being a commander today, I can look back into the roots when the 117th was chasing Poncho Villa across Mexico, and then coming back and mobilizing for WWI, and then later WWII being named the best battalion in the European theater of operations. What I'm saying is that those cities and towns that were part of that are still part of the

regiment or at least the National Guard of Tennessee.

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 elaborate on the basic principles of your command/leadership philosophy.

COL Darnbush: Well, as far as leadership makes the world go "around"—it's leadership that makes the world go. "Around", to me, means there's a circular motion, which means someone is mentoring/developing someone else so there is a continuous circle of leadership. Leadership provides the direction and motivation for Soldiers to do great things and that is why they are here. Leadership is at all levels—formal and informal. You can have a Citizen Soldier in our civilian population who is a subject matter expert in a field totally unrelated to their military occupational skill, but that skill set might be needed and would make him an informal leader if that trade or skill is necessary. That said, within the 278th we want to expand our unity. Using our command and leadership philosophy we

want to extend the unity beyond the armory walls, meaning—jobs for example—if you're an employer we want you to hire people from your unit that are in the 278th or in the Tennessee Army National Guard. If you need a job then your battle buddy, or someone in your unit, can help. They can point you in the right direction and if not then we've also got plenty of areas within the Tennessee Army National Guard that can assist in that effort. We want to be able to have an individual battle buddy support program to expand our unity outside our armory walls for Soldiers to maintain contact—not just see each other on drill weekend but during the month.

What can we do? Come to training meetings—no. They might be friends on Facebook; they might connect through social media or other sort of contact. Family support—whether it's the family readiness group that's the formal structure or family support because a family is in need then someone's going to step up and meet that need. That goes to business support—if you own a business and you're in the regiment or in the Tennessee National Guard that's the business we want to solicit, that's the business we want to support. So when we talk about making the world go around, that's our circle and that's our regiment within the Tennessee Army National Guard. In short, at the end of the day some individual is going to stand up and take responsibility, whether that's a duty position or somebody sees a need—they meet the need.

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?

COL Darnbush: The regiment expects attendance for individual drill weekends (IDT) and your annual training. We expect the Soldier to be able to become duty MOS qualified and when possible perform and get trained on additional duties. Whether that is a sexual assault point of contact, a sexual assault representative, equal opportunity, or unit movement officer. Those additional duties are enormous, so when they are assigned that position there's already training established so they can receive what will aid them in the job, which in turn

aids each Soldier of the regiment. Another expectation I have of the Soldiers is individual readiness—you know leaders can only do so much so the individual Soldier needs to ensure they are physically fit and medically capable of performing their duties. I expect the Soldier to be professional and conduct self-development. As far as NCO's and Officers are concerned, the moment they put on the stripe or bar the Guard is no longer just a "weekend job". In short, the Soldier takes care of his or herself, their family, and wants to develop and progress—they will do those things—they will show up for drill. And then, what the Soldiers can expect from me as their leader, is fair and equitable treatment, training for their MOS (military occupational skill), training for their unit whether it's individual or collective tasks to prepare them for a mission or a capability. I'm just pointing in the direction and believe me we have numerous Soldiers that will go.

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

COL Darnbush: I enlisted in 1983 as an E-3 71B personnel administrative specialist. I was in college about to begin my junior year so I joined in an effort to pay for college—but then I found something that I needed—I found the discipline, I found order in my life and I definitely found purpose. Probably, I found something I was good at. As far as those challenges you mentioned—one of them is social media. It's a great way to tell the individual story, the Guard story. It's great for contact, as I mentioned regarding expanding the unity beyond the walls of the armory. It also includes the family, so the family knows what's going on and the family can stay in touch with not just each other but with the unit itself and possibly its leaders.

Then there's always the "but". But, using social media for rumors, falsehoods, ganging up on somebody, or you might say or do something that's not respectful, social media becomes a negative. For example, on Facebook you say that you are COL

Darnbush and you just say bad things about people or about a certain political office . . . people aren't seeing Darrell Darnbush they're seeing that rank and they're seeing that I'm a member of what organization. Think before you post!

The second challenge is our domestic operations—in the event of a natural disaster, our first responsibility is the accountability of our Soldiers and their families. Are they safe? Do they need any assistance to eliminate that personal suffering? When a tornado comes through a town it's hard for the Guard to respond if its own members have suffered, so we need to make sure that they're taken care of and they know where to go to seek help and that others will continue the mission.

CW4 Atwood: What have been some of the 278th'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?

COL Darnbush: Well, the 278th's greatest success during my time, you know as I said 22 years, has been its endurance. Endurance during cutbacks in the 90's when we became an enhanced brigade, the only armored cavalry regiment in the Reserve Component!

New equipment training—as the National Guard was allowed to modernize equipment the 278th ACR went from M48A5 and M60A3 tanks to M1IP's, and then M1A1's within a four or five year period right after Desert Storm. You're able to field new equipment because Soldiers are available and Soldiers do the training, and that speaks very highly of your organization.

Some of the other key things that have come up during my time—we provided security for the summer Olympics in 1996 on the Ocoee River venue for the white water rafting—specifically, the 1st Squadron, 278th ACR provided that security. The NTC rotation in 2002, at the time, was the largest deployment and movement of equipment and personnel since WWII.

Our mobilization and deployment in support of OIF III in 2004 exceeded that of both NTC and WWII. Then again in 2009—we faced the difference between going from a full spectrum operation to a

security force operation. In all those cases, the Soldiers and leadership of the regiment performed the tasks that they were given to do—and really wanted to do more if provided the opportunity. The strengths of the regiment are those that endure regardless of the unit type and the city, remember I talked about how they can change, and that the Soldiers have the passion to serve their state and nation. To be able to know that there's a state mission as well as a federal mission. One of those challenges is the predictability—what does the future hold for the National Guard as a whole. Then you start to look at Tennessee and then the 278th. I'm confident that the state and national leadership is doing everything it can to make sure the 278th ACR maintains itself as a brigade combat team and definitely remains relevant to the total force policy.

CW4 Atwood: Obviously, your day to day focus as Regimental Commander is on interaction with your staff and squadron commanders. Most of your Soldiers 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 command regardless of rank or position?

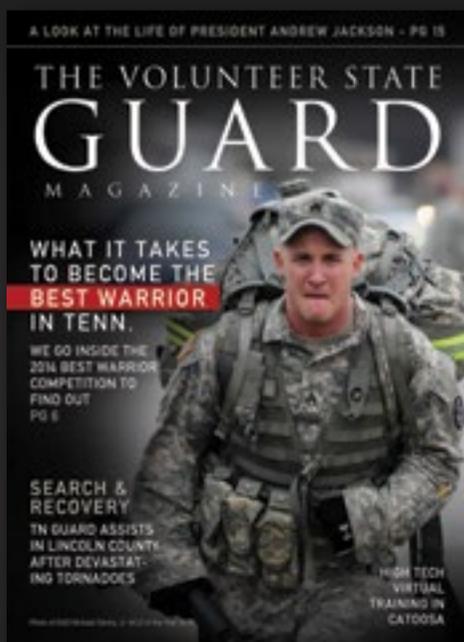
COL Darnbush: The regiment is always about the troopers—the Soldiers that perform their missions and execute those given tasks are the heart and soul of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment. We are a family—and we are in the family business. Just as important are the families of every Soldier. The family provides the stability for our Soldiers to attend drills, go to military schools, conduct annual training, and when necessary, deploy to protect our national interests. In addition, we're prepared to provide assistance to our state in the event of state emergencies. The regiment's motto of, "I volunteer, Sir!" has a meaning and purpose. We're all part of an extraordinary history—today at this time and together, the current regiment—we're going to make our own history.

Interview by CW4 Nick Atwood
Photos by SGT Art Guzman

**STORIES
FOR YOUR
TABLET**

**GO
DIGITAL**

**GET THE
MAGAZINE**



- On your tablet:
tnmilitary.org/volstate-guard-magazine.html
- Click on the issue you want.
(Hint for ipads select "Open in ibooks" this will save the magazine to your own personal library).*
- Check back!
New editions arriving quarterly.