

IN FRANCE TO COMMEMORATE WWI HERO SGT. ALVIN YORK

THE VOLUNTEER STATE GUARD

M A G A Z I N E

SGT. YORK

CENTENNIAL
COMMEMORATION

PLUS:

HURRICANE FLORENCE:
OUR SUPPORT IN
SOUTH CAROLINA

THE VOLUNTEER STATE GUARD MAGAZINE

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In France to commemorate WWI hero Sgt. Alvin York on the 100th anniversary of WWI.



ON THE COVER

Tennessee National Guard Soldier of the Year, Spc. Kason Glass, lays a wreath at the memorial site of World War I hero Sgt. Alvin C. York Oct. 7 in Châtel-Chéhéry, France. (Photo by Spc. Lauren Ogburn)

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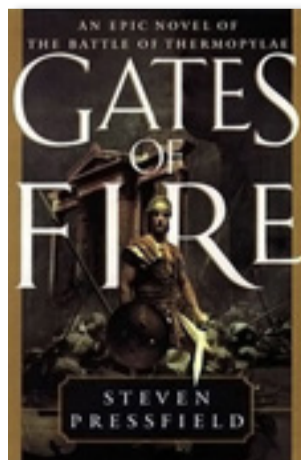
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TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

BLACKHAWK VIEW

Aug 13, 2018 - 278th ACR Task Force Raider infantrymen kick it up a notch with live-fire training at Fort Hood, Texas, in preparation for a 9-month deployment to Poland in support of Atlantic Resolve.

PHOTO BY: SGT. SARAH KIRBY



TENNESSEE SNAPSHOT

CLASS IS IN SESSION

July 17, 2018 - U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Kepner, senior enlisted advisor to the chief of The National Guard Bureau, speaks to Airman Leadership School instructors and students at the I.G. Brown Training and Education Center.

PHOTO BY: STAFF SGT. MICHELLE GONZALEZ



TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

9/11 STAIR CLIMB

Sept. 11, 2018 - Soldiers from RHHT 278th ACR joined firefighters from Knoxville and surrounding areas to pay tribute to FDNY firefighters killed on 9/11/01 by climbing the equivalent of the World Trade Center's 110 stories.

PHOTO BY: 278TH ARMORED CALVARY REGIMENT



TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

SGT. YORK 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Oct. 7, 2018 - A Tennessee National Guard Soldier lays a wreath at the York Memorial near Chatel-Chéhéry. This is the 100th anniversary commemoration of Sgt. Alvin C. York's heroic actions during World War I that awarded him the Medal of Honor.

PHOTO BY: SPC. LAUREN OGBURN

STORY
WRITTEN BY
MAJ. DARRIN HAAS

PHOTOS BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS EDGAR CASTRO
SPC. LAUREN OGBURN

SGT. YORK

CENTENNIAL
COMMEMORATION

MEMBERS OF THE TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD TRAVEL TO FRANCE TO COMMEMORATE THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF TENNESSEAN SGT. ALVIN C. YORK ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS EARNING THE MEDAL OF HONOR.



U.S. Air Force Col. Jason Glass, Tennessee Asst. Adjutant General Air, renders a salute during a wreath laying ceremony Oct. 7 in Châtel-Chéhéry, France.



Chatel-Chéhéry, France – On the morning of October 8, 1918, the 82nd Division of the American Expeditionary Forces was ordered to attack German positions west of the sleepy town of Chatel-Chéhéry in eastern France. As part of the massive Meuse-Argonne Offensive to end World War I, the primary objective for the 82nd Division attack was to relieve pressure on the “Lost Battalion,” an American unit surrounded and cut-off. At 6am, the 82nd advanced on the enemy but the Germans were ready for them. The American attack was soon stalled by overwhelming German machine-gun fire.

Company G of the 82nd’s 328th Infantry Regiment was one of the units stopped and taking harsh casualties from the German machine guns. The company commander decided that the only way to defeat the guns was to try and sneak a force through enemy lines and destroy the machine gun positions from behind. Four squads were chosen. A total of 17 men made up the force. One of the non-commissioned officers in the unit was Cpl. Alvin C. York, a conscientious-objector from Pall Mall, Tennessee, a man who declared he could not kill for his country, but was willing to die for it.

The 17 soldiers from Company G found an opening in the German line and then slipped behind the German defenses. After an hour-and-a-half of searching, they ran into a German force. Two-and-a-half hours later, the American patrol would emerge from the woods. Only seven Americans would still be alive, but they had captured 132 German prisoners and York was credited with killing 20-25 German soldiers. He would be awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in the woods and was destined to become a



Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Alvin C. York

“THE PURPOSE WAS TO HONOR ONE OF TENNESSEE’S GREATEST MILITARY HEROES WHO DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO HELPING OTHERS.”

– MAJ. GEN. TERRY “MAX” HASTON



Members of the Tennessee National Guard and World War I living history interpreters stand in formation during the 100-year-anniversary memorial ceremony for Sgt. Alvin C. York, Oct. 7 in Châtel-Chéhéry, France.

national hero.

After the war, York returned home and devoted the rest of his life to improve the lives and education of the citizens from his home state of Tennessee and Fentress County. He built the York Institute which still teaches students in Jamestown and he helped build the Alvin C. York Highway. After his death in 1964, Tennessee would honor him by naming the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Murfreesboro after him. It cares for thousands of veterans daily. Each year thousands of visitors flock to the Sergeant Alvin C. York State Historic Park to learn about a man who gave so much for his country by following what he believed.

Ten decades later, on Sunday, October 7, 2018, the town of Chatel-Chéhéry, held an international ceremony to mark the 100th anniversary of York’s heroics that earned him the Medal of Honor. To help celebrate and honor him, 12 Tennessee Army and Air National Guardsmen from across Tennessee, and two state legislators, traveled to France to participate in the ceremony held at the very site of York’s heroics. Led by Maj. Gen. Terry “Max” Haston, Tennessee’s Adjutant General, the purpose was to honor one of Tennessee’s greatest military heroes who devoted his life to helping others as well as being one of the most famous soldiers from World War I.

The Tennesseans joined hundreds of townsmen, dignitaries, and members of the York family in celebrating this American hero. During the ceremony, Haston laid a wreath at the York memorial, which was erected by Tennesseans in 1987 located at the steps of Chatel-Chéhéry’s town hall. Wreaths were also laid by the town mayor and Col. (ret.) Gerald York, the grandson of Sgt. Alvin C. York.

Haston had the privilege of giving one of the keynote speeches where he focused on York’s post-war life and legacy. “Throughout his life, York was a man devoted to



God, his country, his family, and making the world a better place for everyone,” said Haston. “Monuments stand throughout France and the United States to celebrate his ideals and the sacrifices he made.”

Tennessee Senator Paul Bailey and State Representative Kelly Keisling also participated in the ceremony. “It was an honor and a privilege to travel with the Tennessee National Guard to Chatel-Chéhéry to celebrate the heroism of Alvin C. York, a Tennessee hero,” said Baily.

Senator Bailey was impressed with the amount of pride and respect the town of Chatel-Chéhéry had for York and what the United States accomplished during World War I. “The excitement that’s here in this little town about what Alvin C. York did for the French people during that time is unbelievable,” said Bailey.

Following the speech and ceremony in town, a second wreath laying was held on the Sergeant York Trail. The York memorial is located at the trail’s apex just feet from the site near Hill 223 where York captured 132 German soldiers and killed 20-25 enemy troops. The trail was built by U.S. Army Col. (ret.) Douglas Mastriano and follows the route York and his patrol took on the morning of October 8, 1918.

The second wreath was laid at this location by Tennessee National Guard Soldiers Spc. Kason Glass and Sgt. Andrew Trescott. Glass won Tennessee’s Best Warrior Competition this year and Trescott is Tennessee’s Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year. The Army and Air National Guardsmen who participated in the ceremony were selected from across the state of Tennessee and were representative of each major command. Glass, who is a member of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, said, “the ceremony was an opportunity of a lifetime; especially getting to meet the family of Sgt. York and hear more about him.”

Rep. Keisling said, “It is just an honor to be here in the area where Sgt. York and all

“YORK WAS
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—MAJ. GEN. TERRY “MAX” HASTON



Above: Video from ceremony in France

of our troops in World War I fought so heroically for freedom for our French brothers and sisters.”

Also attending the ceremonies from Tennessee were members of the Sergeant York Patriotic Foundation, Tennessee State Parks, and the Tennessee Great War Commission. The ceremony not only honored York but it helped to foster good relations between Tennessee and France, particularly the town of Châtel-Chéhéry, which is also a sister town with Pall Mall, Tennessee.

“York continues to bring people together to remember that there is still good in the world,” said Haston during his speech. “As I look out across this crowd this morning, I see people, organizations, and two countries together that normally would not be, here to honor a man few living people have ever met, and we do this to celebrate his humility, courage, and example.”

The Sergeant Alvin C. York State Historic Park in Pall Mall also held a mirror ceremony that honored the centennial of York’s heroics.

After the second ceremony, the Guardsmen took a tour of the actual battlefield where York captured the German soldiers. Led by Col. (ret.) Douglas Mastriano, the author of *Alvin York: A New Biography of the Hero of the Argonne*, he was also the leader of the Sergeant York Discovery Expedition which located the exact spot where York earned the Medal of Honor. Mastriano took the Guardsmen to the exact location where York fought and explained in detail the fight that occurred on that very ground. Capt. Rachael Hernandez, the commander of Tennessee’s 776th Maintenance Company, said, “It was a great opportunity to hear Mastriano, who personally discovered the site of York’s heroics, explain what happened here and how he came to find it using research and archaeology.”

Before and after the ceremonies, the members of the Tennessee National



A World War I living history interpreter during the 100-year-anniversary memorial ceremony for Sgt. Alvin C. York, Oct. 7 in Châtel-Chéhéry, France.

YORK 100TH



Guard had the opportunity to learn more about World War I and the role York played in it. While in France, the group conducted a historical staff-ride, visiting key battlefield sites and memorials, and learning about the challenges the American Expeditionary Forces had in the Argonne and the role Tennesseans, particularly York, played during the war. The Guardsmen visited battlefields in Verdun, St. Mihiel, Belleau Wood, and various sites throughout the Meuse-Argonne, the largest and bloodiest battle in American history.

“I enjoyed getting to learn more about World War I in the museums since I feel like they skipped over a large portion of it when I was in school,” said Glass. “It gave me chills to walk where so many people fought and died and to see the amount of people buried in the cemeteries.”

The soldiers also had other opportunities to honor the soldiers of World War I. They lowered the American flags at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, the largest U.S. Military cemetery in Europe, as well as at the St. Mihiel American Cemetery. They also met with members of the American Battle Monuments Commission to learn how our fallen soldiers are taken care of.

“It was truly a trip I’ll never forget,” said Glass.

- MAJ DARRIN HAAS



Trail marker along the York Trail



Top: Tennessee Guard Soldiers during the 100-year-anniversary memorial ceremony for Sgt. Alvin C. York, Oct. 7.



Left: Maj. Gen. Haston speaks with a French living historian following the ceremony.

Right: Tennessee National Guard Soldiers also visited the American Montfaucon Monument which was a strategic position during the first phase of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.





NEW PT TEST CHALLENGES

Army National Guard Soldiers Anxious Over New PT Test, Gear Shortfalls.



NEW ORLEANS, La. — Equipment requirements, logistics and training are on the minds of Army National Guard Soldiers this year, as the Army prepares to roll out a new gender- and age-neutral fitness test.

But while Soldiers voice trepidation, the larger Army says it's not going to be an issue.

"I think the test is going to be good, [but] my concern in the National Guard is the equipment requirement," a battalion commander from the Louisiana National Guard said during a discussion with Army Chief

of Staff Gen. Mark Milley at the National Guard Association of the United States conference in New Orleans this past weekend.

"There's a tremendous amount of equipment that's going to be needed at every company, every armory, every detachment in order to administer the test and to train our troops. Have we addressed a plan to do that prior to the roll-out?" the Soldier asked.

Milley said the equipment concerns were not just an issue for the Guard, but one across the force. However, the new Army

The deadlift exercise, which requires a hexagon bar, is one of the new exercises and equipment requirements that makes the new Army Combat Fitness Test a concern for some National Guard and Army Reserve units. *(Photo by Sgt. Erik Warren/Army)*

Combat Fitness Test correlates much better to actual combat requirements, and "we'd all be negligent if we didn't train to this [new] test," he said.

“In order to do it right there’s going to have to be a lot of training the trainers, it has to be phased in, we have to make sure the scoring standards are correct, and, as you pointed out, it does require a little bit of equipment,” Milley said.

The ACFT field tests will begin in October and last one year. It will include 60 different types of battalions from all three components of the total force — active Army, Army Guard and Army Reserve.

Additionally, Milley said, Training and Doctrine Command is currently conducting an analysis of all the equipment required throughout the force, how much it will cost and how to distribute the gear to the entire Army.

There will be some challenges, Milley acknowledged.

“For example, embassies,” he said. “We have soldiers at embassies around the world, not in big units but small ones. ... But the equipment is an issue. The Guard will get the same equipment the rest of the Army gets. In the meantime — which means the next year — you can train for it. This isn’t rocket science.”

For instance, grab “a 10-pound medicine ball, throw it over your head. Every gym in America has a 10-pound medicine ball,” he added.

Similarly, he said, the hexagon deadlift bar needed for the test is available in the majority of gyms soldiers will run across.

“We’re going to get you the equipment. It’s going to get distributed to the force, but don’t wait. I guess I’m stomping my feet. Do. Not. Wait,” Milley said. “This test is hard.”

Maj. Gen. Max Haston, Tennessee’s adjutant general, shared more on the equipment issue in an interview with Army Times.

“I’m really concerned about the new PT test,” Haston said. “It will be an issue. Small-town America doesn’t have a Gold’s Gym.”

Haston said the Tennessee National Guard draws soldiers from small communities where rural areas often have just one armory with only about 100 soldiers. The idea that disassociated soldiers at separate armories could just drive to a collective location



A Tennessee Army National Guard Soldier does push-ups at the 2018 Best Warrior Competition. (Photo by Spc. Lauren Ogburn)

to administer and train for the test doesn’t solve the logistical issue, Haston explained.

“Now you’ve got a cost of transportation. You also just lost a drill day of training,” Haston said. “We’ll make it happen, ... but one of the best deals that ever hit for us was the three-event PT test, because all you had to do was push-ups, sit-ups and a two-mile run. I can do that anywhere.”

“But this, it’s going to create a logistical challenge.”

Stephanie Slater, a spokeswoman for the Center for Initial Military Training, told Army Times in a statement that the concerns are understood and being dealt with.

“The Army has several remote locations across all components to include more than 1,500 recruiting stations, overseas assignments, Reserve and National Guard unit locations, fellowships and training assignments that take soldiers far from normal military base support,” Slater said. “There are seven National Guard battalions, sev-

en Army Reserve units, and recruiting and ROTC units that were specifically chosen for the field test in order to evaluate and solve minor logistics challenges involved with remote locations. Additionally, training programs and equipping strategies are being developed in close coordination with all components.”

Additionally, Slater said, the Army will soon publish an ACFT training guide with exercises to help soldiers prepare to take the new test.

“These specific exercises will use common strength training methods found in current Army doctrine,” she added.

08.29.2018 Story By Kyle Rempfer / army-times.com

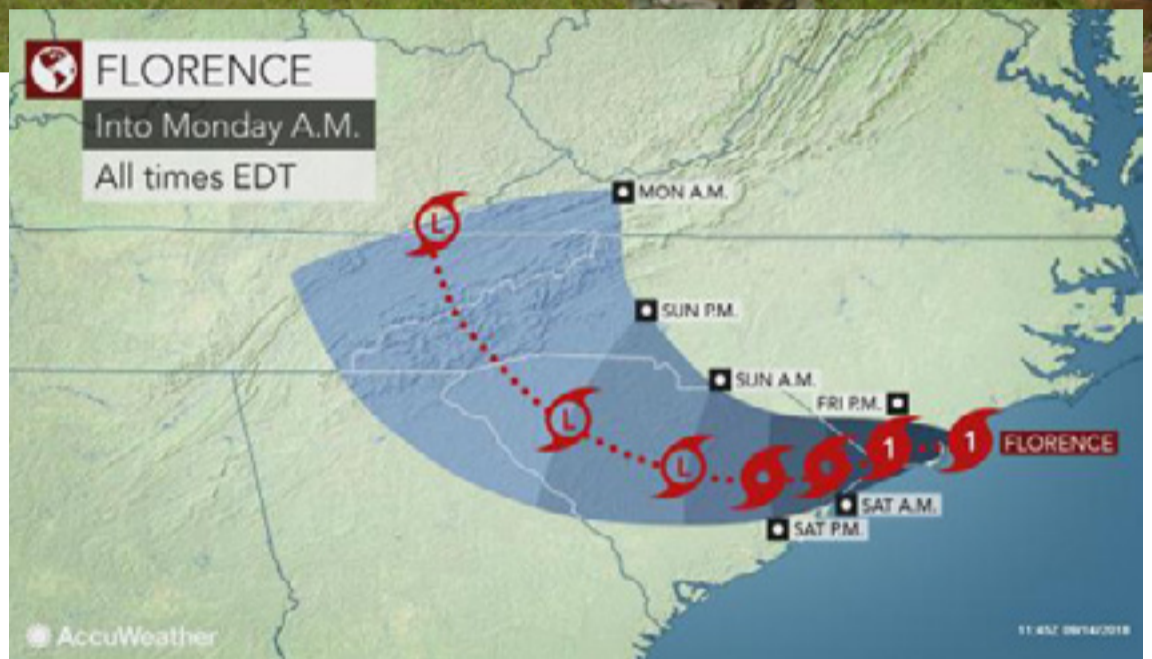
HURRICANE FLORENCE

Tennessee Sends Support to South Carolina



Sept. 18-19, 2018 - Tennessee National Guard Soldiers assisted local authorities in Raleigh, North Carolina following the aftermath of Hurricane Florence. The Soldiers helped move a hospital patient and aided moving cargo in a resupply mission. (Photo Courtesy of 230th Assault Helicopter Battalion).

Soldiers of the 117th Military Police Battalion conduct a convoy operations briefing prior to departure on September 16, 2018. (Photo by CW4 Nick Atwood, Tenn. National Guard)



NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The Tennessee National Guard sent a military police company to South Carolina today to assist residents of that state in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence. More than 100 personnel of the 117th Military Police Battalion departed Athens, Tenn. on Sept. 16 with the necessary equipment and supplies to operate for approximately two weeks.

Once processed through reception, their mission will be to augment the local authorities by conducting door to door health and welfare checks, assisting with the manning

of traffic control points designed to avoid impassable roads due to flooding and providing for the overall safety of those most affected by the storm.

“This is one of our busiest battalions in the state because of the capability of the MP Companies,” said Tennessee’s Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Max Haston. “They did a fantastic job in the Virgin Islands last year when called upon, and I’m confident they will do no less for our friends in South Carolina.”

South Carolina requested the assets through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact process whereby states can ask for help in time of crisis, or other natural disasters. The Tennessee

Emergency Management Agency is the mitigating agency for such requests and works regularly with other state emergency management agencies to facilitate these cooperative agreements.

The 117th Military Police Battalion is part of the 194th Engineer Brigade, headquartered in Jackson. The 194th Engineer Brigade has approximately 2,000 soldiers, and is considered one of the Army’s most diverse multi-functional engineer brigades consisting of an engineer battalion, an engineer detachment, and two military police battalions.

Additional footage is available at: <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/625908/hurricane-florence-relief>

- CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4 NICK ATWOOD



MASON AND
HIS BROTH-
ER SAM
ARE MAKING
SURE WWII
VETERANS
ARE STILL
APPRECIAT-
ED IN 2018



Sam and Mason Roberts pose with Jurgen Mingels and Rini Ackermans at the 2018 30th Division World War II Veterans Reunion in Raleigh, North Carolina. Mingels and Ackermans are from South Linburg in the Netherlands which was a village liberated by the 117th Infantry during WWII. (Photo by Daniel Solomon)



HONORING THE PAST

STORY BY MAJ. DARRIN HAAS



Sam and Mason Roberts honor WWII Veterans as they arrive for a presentation at the 30th Division Reunion.



Every year, there are fewer World War II veterans around to tell the first hand stories of the sacrifice so many soldiers made to defeat Nazi Germany. Soon they will all be gone and there will be no Soldiers left to honor and their tales will only be available in the letters, recordings, and materials they left behind. According to Pvt. Mason Roberts, currently assigned to Smyrna's Company B of the Recruit Sustainment Program, more should be done to honor these veterans while they are still alive and we should never forget the trail they blazed to make us the strong military we are today.

For the last four years, Mason and his younger brother Sam have been volunteering at veterans reunions to help honor these men. Primarily attending reunions for the 30th "Old Hickory" Infantry Division from World War II, which is comprised of National Guard units from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee, Mason takes it as his personal duty to ensure that all of these veterans





WWII Veterans from the 30th Division at the 2018 Reunion.

know they are appreciated.

“These men are all heroes,” said Mason. “They all managed to accomplish feats that are the reasons we all live free today. We should tell them thank you every chance we get.”

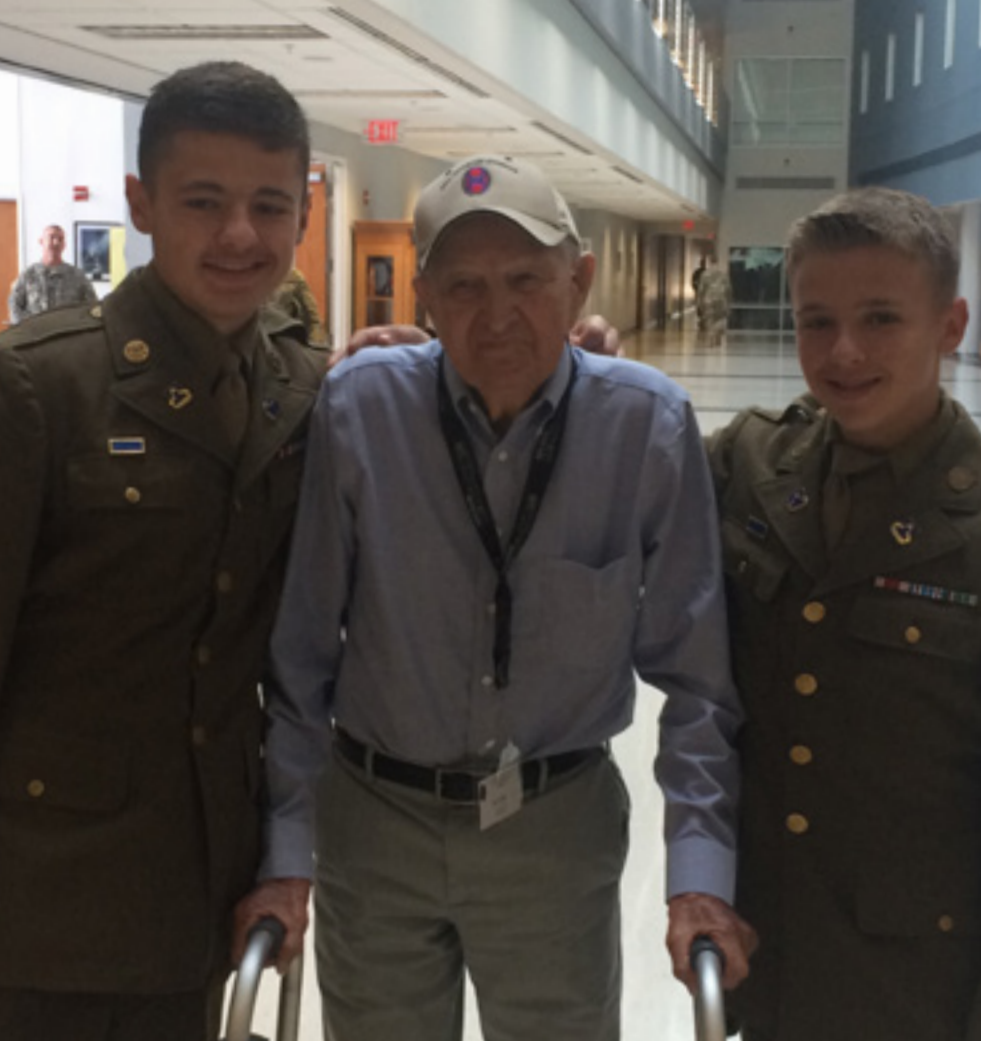
Every year, the 30th Infantry Division Association and the North Carolina Army National Guard host a reunion to honor these World War II veterans which had a reputation as a top fighting unit in the European theater, often referred to as the Workhorse of the Western Front. Mason and Sam travel to them each year, helping the association out in different ways. This year, they attended the 30th Infantry Division Association reunion in Raleigh, North Carolina, from June 21-23.

They meet and talk with World War II veterans, listen to their stories, sell tickets to association events and raffles, help veterans get to each event, and conduct registration. The young men’s most nota-

ble contribution is living history. Donning World War II era uniforms from the 30th Infantry Division, they are often a part of the historic color guard and honor guard.

“We choose to represent the 117th Infantry Regiment when we perform living history, because they were a highly celebrated unit and hailed from Tennessee,” said Mason. “They were also an integral part of the division and the honors that it earned.”

During the reunions, Mason and Sam developed a special friendship with one 117th Infantry veteran in particular, Cpl. Knox Holder of Lawrenceburg, Tenn. Holder joined the 117th Infantry Regiment’s L Company in 1941 after the division was mobilized and then stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He would be assigned the Browning Automatic Rifle and fought throughout the European theater. He arrived in France with the division six days after D-day and fought in every battle with his regiment, including St. Lo, St. Barthelmy, break-



“WE SHOULD
TELL THEM
THANK YOU
EVERY CHANCE
WE GET.”

- PVT. MASON ROBERTS

ing the Siegfried Line, and the Battle of the Bulge. When asked how he survived those many months of combat, Holder replied, “I crawled most of the way. If you stood up, you got shot.”

Mason and Sam’s father, retired Capt. David Roberts, who served 20 years with the Tennessee National Guard and deployed three times to Iraq and Afghanistan, is very proud of his sons and what they do for the veterans. “For their age, it’s amazing that they choose to spend their time doing this,” said Roberts. “Not only are they giving back to their community, but they are getting a rare opportunity to talk to someone who experienced the fighting in World War II first hand.”

Meeting these veterans impacted Mason’s decisions on what he wanted to do after high-school. An Eagle Scout and an officer in his school’s JROTC unit, Mason decided to join the Tennessee Army National Guard in January while still a senior. Currently attending Infantry OSUT training at Fort Benning, Georgia, he chose to be an infantryman in the Springfield’s C Troop of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, whose lineage comes from the 1st Battalion of the 117th Infantry. Sam also plans to enlist in the Tennessee National Guard after he graduates.

“I really wanted to be a part of the legacy of the 117th Infantry Regiment, and hopefully serve my state and country in a manner that would honor the memory and sacrifice of those World War II veterans,” said Mason.

Recently, the 30th Infantry Division Association opened membership to any veteran who served in any overseas deployment from a unit that has lineage to the 30th Infantry Division. Roberts took advantage of the new policy to join the association since he served in Iraq with the 267th Military Police Company (formerly E Company of the 117th Infantry) and the 278th Regimental Combat Team. Anyone interested in joining the 30th Infantry Division Association as full member or associate member can find more information at www.facebook.com/30thIDA/ - **MAJ. DARRIN HAAS**



Sam and Mason pose with Knox Holder, a Veteran from Lawrenceburg, Tenn., who fought with L Company of the 117th Infantry throughout the entire war.

118TH WING TRAINING

118th Wing Conducts Annual Training at the Savannah Air National Guard Air Dominance Center in Savannah, Ga.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - The 118th Wing conducted leadership training and team building events during annual training held at the Savannah Air National Guard Air Dominance Center in Savannah, Georgia, August 13-17 2018.

The week was planned so that units throughout the wing could train together, share ideas, and build unit esprit de corps.

"I feel like we had a really great week," said Lt. Col. Marty Malone, 118th Wing executive officer, "We met commander's intent. We got our leadership training in, we had great camaraderie and time together, we got people on a military airlift twice, so from that standpoint we definitely met commander's intent which is number one, and we had a great experience for our people."

Events during the trip included Enhancing Human Capital, Habits of Effective Airmen, a low ropes course, Savannah history walk, and a visit to the 8th Air Force museum, as well as a presentation by retired USAF Col. Ed Hubbard about his experiences as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam conflict.

"I believe that my favorite event was hearing from the POW gentleman," said Lt. Col. Tracey Kinslow. "His mindset; just his approach to life now is eye-opening to hear that from someone who's main focus was survival. I really enjoyed that perspective. It



Members of the 118th Wing attempt to get all their team mates through the netting without touching it during annual training at the Air Dominance Center in Savannah, Ga. Aug. 16, 2018. (Photo by Master Sgt. Jeremy Cornelius)

gave me a lot of different perspectives on my own life. I think it was really, really valuable to hear."

The general feeling among the attendees was that the week was a great success. Time spent bonding with co-workers and team building were favorites among those who participated.

"I think that it's wonderful to have all the units come together as one [and] be able to work together," said Staff Sgt. Amanda Bishop. "I really loved all the speakers and all the classes that we had. I think it was really beneficial for our unit as a whole and the morale of our wing."

Because of the success of the trip, the

118th Wing will most likely be continuing wing-wide annual training like the trip to Savannah.

"We're in discussion about how we're going to do it, how often we're going to do it," said Malone. "This type of thing, if not every year, maybe every other year, with something else on the off years, but we're working on that and figuring that out so it's a great possibility that it'll happen again soon." -

TECH. SGT. DARRELL HAMM



FIRST ARMY SELECTION

Maj. Gen. Jeff Holmes is selected as next Deputy Commanding General, First U.S. Army.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Maj. Gen. Jeff Holmes, Tennessee National Guard, is the new Deputy Commanding General, First U.S. Army headquartered in Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois. He previously served as the Deputy Adjutant General, Tennessee National Guard.

The First Army is the oldest and longest established field army of the United States Army activated in France in 1918. In World War II First Army's troops were the first to land on Omaha and Utah beaches in Normandy. In 1973, First Army's mission transitioned to improving the readiness of the Reserve Components and now includes the training, readiness oversight, and mobilization for all U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard units within the continental United States and two U.S. territories.

Holmes is responsible to assist the Commanding General with the training and readiness of all Army National Guard and Army Reserve units. An official assumption of responsibility ceremony occurred in mid-July.

“The Tennessee National Guard is proud to see one of our own selected for such a prestigious assignment,” said Maj. Gen. Max Haston, Tennessee's Adjutant General. “Jeff is without a doubt one of the most balanced leaders in our Army today. His command leadership experience at multiple levels in combat while forging a private career as



Maj. Gen. Jeff Holmes (Official Photo)

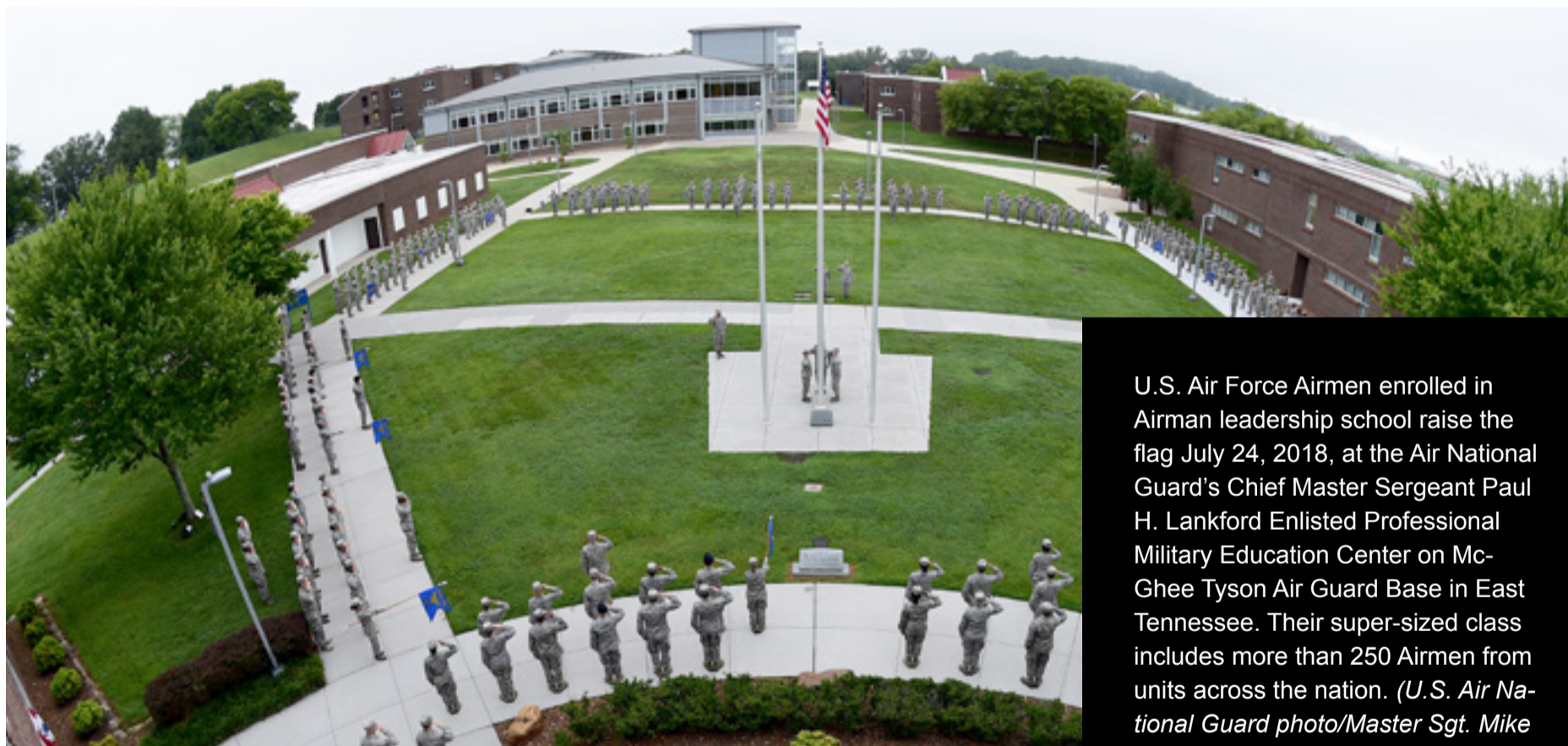
an accomplished architect and ultimately founding his own company, establishes him as the epitome of the Citizen Soldier.”

Maj. Gen. Holmes has deployed twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, first as the Commander of the 3rd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment and second as the Regimental Commander. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture from the Univer-

sity of Tennessee in Knoxville and a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College in Carlisle, Penn. He is a registered architect, founder of J. Holmes Architecture and resident, with his wife Rhonda, of Lascassas. - **CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4 NICK ATWOOD**

SUPER-SIZED AIR CLASS

More than 250 Airmen from units across the nation Attending Airman Leadership School in East Tennessee.



U.S. Air Force Airmen enrolled in Airman leadership school raise the flag July 24, 2018, at the Air National Guard's Chief Master Sergeant Paul H. Lankford Enlisted Professional Military Education Center on McGhee Tyson Air Guard Base in East Tennessee. Their super-sized class includes more than 250 Airmen from units across the nation. (U.S. Air National Guard photo/Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith)

MCGHEE TYSON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Tenn. - U.S. Air Force Airmen enrolled in Airman leadership school raised the flag during reveille this morning, July 24, at the Air National Guard's Chief Master Sergeant Paul H. Lankford Enlisted Professional Military Education Center in East Tennessee.

Reveille involves raising the flag at the start of the duty day, and retreat involves lowering the flag at the end of the duty day.

EPME students conduct both ceremonies and recite the Airman's Creed, as part of other customs and courtesies.

The super-sized, total force class is in the third week of a five-week school and includes more than 250 Airmen from units across the nation.

Additional instructors arrived from Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska, Nellis AFB in Nevada, Ellsworth AFB in South Dakota, and Offutt AFB in Nebraska. They

are assisting faculty to graduate additional flights of students in what is considered a super-sized class.

In-resident ALS prepares Senior Airmen for positions of greater responsibility by providing leadership skills required of supervisors and reporting officials. It is an Airman's first level and experience in EPME.

- MASTER SGT. MIKE R. SMITH



241ST EIS

From Iraq to the White House, the 241st Engineering and Installation Squadron is making a difference.



NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The official mission statement of Tennessee’s 241st Engineering Installation Squadron (EIS) is to provide engineering and installation of cyberspace infrastructure and electronic systems. This unit also embraces their Vision Statement, “To provide consistently flawless engineering and installation services anytime, anywhere, during peace and war”.... And they

do it very well!

The 241st EIS, commanded by Lt. Col. David Moss, is currently leading a Joint engineering and installation team in Iraq comprised of active-duty Soldiers and Air National Guard Airmen from three different states. They are responsible for engineering and network infrastructure installation across several bases and Special Operations

Airmen and Soldiers from four different units make up the Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve Engineering and Installation Team. They are responsible for engineering and network infrastructure installation throughout Iraq to enable warfighters to degrade and defeat the enemy.



Lt Col David Moss (left), commander of Tennessee's 241st Engineering and Installation Squadron accepts the flag of the Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve Engineering and Installation Team from Lt Col Joe Harris (right)



Units throughout Iraq to enable warfighters to degrade and defeat the enemy. Their work also contributes to Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) mission of training and assisting Iraqi Forces.

In an email to the commander of the 253rd Cyberspace Engineering Installation Group, Colonel Jason Fick, Director of Communications, CJTF-OIR/CJ6, said, "I visited Dave Moss and his team this past Saturday and they are crushing it for us. It is obvious from my short visit this team is motivated, well lead, and aggressive. They are working hard to robust our networks, which is increasing our ability to find, fix and finish the enemy. I depend on Dave and his team. Thanks for sending them."

Back at home, the 241st EIS is stretched from Puerto Rico to the White House, where their engineers and installers designed and installed a state-of-the-art security system to include access control, fence protection, surveillance cameras, network infrastructure, and all associated cabling. The result is a

modernized Physical Access Control System (PACS) with over 105k feet of cabling and \$3 million in total material and equipment installed over 18 months, making it the first project of its kind in the DOD to exclusively leverage organic manpower from concept to completion.

The impact of this project resulted in system performance that enhances facility security, providing greater ability to safeguard National Security Information and protect operations directly supporting POTUS and cabinet members. The total savings over contract of \$2.8 million enabled funding to be utilized for countless additional initiatives.

In Puerto Rico, a 241st EIS Project Engineer and Team Chief, aiding another EIS unit, rapidly responded following Hurricane Irma to provide a complex technical solution to expedite the relocation of critical communications infrastructure from hurricane damaged facilities. Infrastructure and equipment in excess of \$1 million were safely and efficiently relocated to hardened

facilities with minimal interruptions to base operations. Relocation avoided catastrophic communication failure that would have severely diminished mission capabilities at a time when airlift operations were crucial to continuation of Hurricane Irma disaster response and humanitarian relief efforts.

Whether its repairing a fire alarm system and modernizing the base wide video distribution system in Louisville, Kentucky; adding nearly 5,000 feet of optical cable for the expansion of the outside plant fiber optic cable network in Montgomery, Alabama; or contributing to the installation of over 650 miles of communications cabling in supporting construction of the new MAJCOM HQ, in Omaha, Nebraska, the 241st EIS is on the job.

Chances are if you are communicating in the United States Air Force, you owe a big THANK YOU to the Airmen of the Tennessee Air National Guard's 241st Engineering and Installation Squadron.

- MAJ. (RET) RANDY HARRIS

TASK FORCE

COMMAND SGT. MAJ. MIKE GENTRY VISITS SOLDIERS at
the TASK FORCE RAIDER EXERCISE in TEXAS.



Tennessee Army National Guard's State Command Sergeant Major Michael Gentry visits his Soldiers assigned to Task Force Raider at Fort Hood, Texas, August 14, ahead of their 9-month deployment to Poland.
(Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Sarah Kirby)

RAIDER

Story by SGT. SARAH KIRBY

Task Force Raider combat engineers shape the rugged terrain of Fort Hood, Texas with heavy explosives to improve mobility operations during a pre-deployment training exercise. *(Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Sarah Kirby)*



Tennessee Army National Guard's State Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Gentry visited Soldiers assigned to Task Force Raider during their pre-deployment training at Fort Hood, Texas, August 12, and awarded select Soldiers a challenge coin for their devotion to duty and exemplary performance as seen by their chain of command.

"I was really surprised to be coined," said U.S. Army Sgt. Ryan Duginski, a Clarksville, Tenn. native, a M1 Abrams master gunner. "It's a huge honor especially from him. I love my job and what I do. I try my best to make everything run smoother and take as much stress off the guys actually on the ground running the tanks."

The awarded Task Force Raiders were nominated by their direct supervisors and approved by Task Force Raider Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Haynes. "You

don't deserve anything from the Army you haven't earned," said Gentry to Soldiers of Task Force Raider. "If you haven't earned it, you won't get it. You earn promotions and awards through doing the right thing, completing schooling, keeping yourself healthy and maintaining discipline."

Gentry represents and advises the Assistant Adjutant General - Army on matters pertaining to policies and actions that affect enlisted Soldiers.

During his visit to Task Force Raider Soldiers, he answered questions ranging

from topics such as pay discrepancies, health care coverage, new noncommissioned officer education system and the impending Army Combat Fitness Test.

Command Sgt. Maj. Gentry's final words were full of encouragement and advice all can appreciate.

"Lastly, always maintain your discipline it's what separates you apart from others," said Gentry. "Surround yourself with good people that have similar successful goals as you do. I've only surrounded myself with the best and so far it's taken me all the way to the top."



ASSUMING COMMAND

The Tennessee's 278th ACR Assumes Command of Joint Multinational Training Group - Ukraine.



278th ACR's commander, Jimmie Cole and CSM Dale Crockett, perform the transfer of colors during the Transfer of Authority ceremony, Aug. 8. (Photo by Sgt. Timothy Massey)

YAVORIV, Ukraine - Soldiers from the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment out of the Tennessee National Guard participate in a change of command ceremony on, Aug. 8.

The 27th IBCT transfers authority to the 278th ACR over the Joint Multinational Training Group - Ukraine. The 27th IBCT deployed to Yavoriv on November 2017.

The ceremony consisted of partnering nations at the combat training center from Canada, Poland, Lithuania and Ukraine. The distinguished guests in attendance include

the Commander of the 7th Army Training Command, Brig. Gen. Christopher C. LaNeve, Governor Deputy of the Lviv Oblast, Mr. Rostyslav Zamlynskyi and representing the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, is Col. Thomas Wofford.

The ceremony included the transfer of colors and speeches from the outgoing JMTG-U commander, Col. Dennis Deeley and incoming JMTG-U commander, Col. Jimmie Cole.

"I would like to honor and celebrate the

success of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Orion and our friends, partners and allies that have worked to ensure the success of this critical mission", said Cole.

JMTG-U is part of an ongoing effort in the development of the Yarvoriv Combat Training Center.

The JMTG-U hosts this years multinational training exercise, Rapid Trident this September.

- SGT. TIMOTHY MASSEY

FRANKLIN PROMOTED

Col. Vincent Franklin Tennessee Air National Guard Chief of Staff promoted to Brigadier General.



Col. Vincent Franklin Tennessee Air National Guard Chief of Staff was promoted to Brigadier General Oct. 14, 2018 at McGhee Tyson ANGB. Previously Franklin served as the commander of the 119th Communications Operations Squadron. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Daniel Gagnon)

MCGHEE TYSON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Tenn. – The Tennessee Air National Guard Chief of Staff returned to his home unit for an important milestone in his career.

Vincent Franklin was promoted to Brigadier General at the Louisville, Tennessee Air National Guard Base during a ceremony on Saturday, October 13, 2018.

“This ceremony isn’t for me; this is for all of you who supported me,” Franklin said, to the crowd. “I did not get here on my own.”

“If I could have drawn up my career back in 1988 when i got my first mission, it would not have looked anything like this, but I would not change a single solitary thing that would have kept me from knowing the people in this room” he added. “You guys are my

treasure.”

Maj. Gen. Max Haston, Adjutant General, Tennessee National Guard, also made the trip from Nashville to personally promote Franklin.

“No one I have ever met has as much humility as he does, Haston said. “The world is full of selfishness. Vince knows it is not all about him, he makes it all about the Airmen out there.”

“Today is a great day. To all the junior officers out there, look at all this guy has done,” he said.

Franklin has been serving as the Chief of Staff of the Tennessee Air National Guard in Nashville since February.

He previously attained the rank of Colonel serving at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base where he first led the 228th Combat Communications Squadron in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Hurricane Gustav humanitarian relief.

When the squadron disbanded, Franklin took command of the 119th Command and Control Squadron, now known as the Cyberspace Operations Squadron.

In that role, he led the Air National Guard’s Cyber Weapons System, supporting more than 15 cyber squadrons and the Air Force Information Network.

- COURTESY STORY 134TH ARW



134TH TRAIN IN THE UK

134th Guardsmen Train with 100th Air Refueling Wing at RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom.



RAF MILDENHALL, United Kingdom
- Tennessee guardsmen from the 134th Air Refueling Wing traveled to RAF Mildenhall, England for annual training June 11-22.

During the two-week temporary duty Airmen completed training and worked with their active-duty counterparts learning best practices to bring home. Working with active-duty Airmen was mutually beneficial,

allowing both active duty and traditional guardsmen to accomplish necessary training.

“It’s outstanding training because we get away from the unit, integrate with active-duty and learn how they do things,” said Lt. Col. Jonathan Pinkard, 134th ARW deputy mission support group commander. “It allows us to be more prepared for how we

Airmen from the 134th Air Refueling Wing recently assisted the 100th ARW in their base-wide terrorist attack response exercise by playing “victims” with various simulated injuries and moulage applications. The Tennessee guardsmen were at Mildenhall for their two-week annual training. *(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Daniel Gagnon)*



An Airmen from the 134th Air Refueling Wing has simulated wounds addressed by members of the 100th ARW in their base-wide terrorist attack response exercise. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Daniel Gagnon)

could deploy and be ready for those types of missions.”

134th Guardsmen also volunteered to assist the 100th ARW with their inspection by portraying victims in a terrorist attack response exercise. Airmen spent several hours having simulated wounds applied to limbs, head and torso. This is referred to as “mouflage”, which is French for “casting”. Mouflage helps give a realistic element to training by creating a dramatic visual of injuries that

could occur.

“It gives us an opportunity to compare active-duty exercises with the Air National Guard,” said Lt. Col. James Blanton, 134th Air Refueling Wing inspector general. “It allows us to observe how Mildenhall does their exercises and how we can benefit from their practices and processes.”

The Airmen worked together seamlessly and the experience provided valuable training for both parties.

“We were thrilled that the 134th ARW volunteered to participate in our challenging exercises, specifically the protests and vehicle ramming scenarios,” said Capt. Joseph Brzozowski, 100th ARW chief wing readiness inspector. “I was very happy and appreciative for Lt. Cols. Blanton and Thiele’s expertise on the Inspector General side.”

One specific training the Airmen found beneficial was the Individual Airman Professional Development class. The course was designed to help Airmen achieve success and develop interpersonal relationships. It taught Airmen about different personalities, strengths and potential relationship pitfalls and how best to work with the differences.

Training helps Airmen learn to work as a team, but experiencing “down time” together is equally important. Morale and welfare trips reduce stress and create an atmosphere for bonding with others. Most members on the TDY took advantage of the off days to visit London and the surrounding areas as well as nearby countries like Scotland, Ireland, France and Spain.

“We have people from different sections that did not know each other, but through this TDY, now they do,” said Pinkard. “This will benefit us back at home station for years to come.”

The 134th ARW Airmen benefit from these trips with improved skills and morale. However, collaboration between guardsmen and active duty Airmen strengthen the total force mentality which benefits the Air Force as a whole.

“The leaders I’ve met here have been very excited about the interaction, teamwork and integration of our unit with them and have welcomed us back,” said Pinkard. “We will definitely keep the 100th ARW on our short list of places to come back to.”

- TECH. SGT. DANIEL GAGNON

A PRESENCE IN POLAND

Tenn. Army National Guard Assumes Responsibility of NATO's eFP Battle Group Poland.

BEMOWO PISKIE, Poland – Task Force Raider, part of the Tennessee Army National Guard, has officially assumed responsibility of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence, Battle Group Poland, during a transfer of authority ceremony at Bemowo Piskie Training Area, Poland, Sept. 20.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Donny Hebel, commander of the Tennessee Army National Guard's 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment (Task Force Raider) assumes command of Battle Group Poland from U.S. Army Lt. Col. Timothy Wright, commander of 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment (War Eagles).

The arrival of 2/278th ACR marks the first rotation of a U.S. Armored Task Force under NATO providing presence along the eastern border of Poland.

"Our presence strengthens the defensive capability within Poland," said Hebel. "And is evidence of continued US commitment to NATO, as well as the deterrence of aggression."

Among the distinguished guests were the Polish Minister of National Defense Mariusz Błaszczak, the Tennessee Army National Guard's Adjutant General Terry 'Max' Haston, the Tennessee State Command Sergeant Major Michael Gentry and U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Todd Wasmund, the Commander of the Mission Command Element.



Lt. Col. Donny W. Hebel (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Sarah Kirby)

"This is a historic event," said Haston. "The United States has not had heavy forces this far here in Europe since November of 1989. We are bringing a lot of disciplined fire power here to Poland. This mission shows that we have not taken our eye off of our Eastern European allies. We are here in defense and deterrence against Russian provocation; it simply will not be taken lightly."

Battle Group Poland (BGPOL) is a unique, multinational battle group comprised of U.S., U.K., Croatian and Romanian soldiers who serve with the Polish 15th Mechanized

Brigade as a defense and deterrence force in northeast Poland in support of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence.

"We stand ready to take the reins and continue the mission with our NATO partners," said Hebel, the new commander of BGPOL. "We are a group of highly motivated individuals chosen to improve interoperability by strengthening relationships and trust among Allied armies. I look forward to leading this enhanced Forward Presence with our fellow nations and with our host nation, Poland."

- SGT. SARAH KIRBY

OUT OF THIS WORLD

118th Wing Base Recycling Program Saves Enough Oil to Drive to Moon Multiple Times.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The 118th Wing took great strides in protecting the local environment with eye-popping numbers from its recycling program.

Based on a report from Jil Norman, the state environmental officer for the 118th Civil Engineering Squadron, the 118th Wing recycling program has recycled nine tons of cardboard and mixed paper, and saved over 43,000 gallons of crude oil in 2017.

Broken down further these numbers equate to approximately 2.3 million sheets of paper, and enough fuel for a Toyota Camry to drive the distance from Earth to the moon three times.

“Everyone is doing a real good job when it comes to recycling,” said Ray Jones, the operations and maintenance superintendent for the 118th CES. “Filling up the



The moon is an average of 238,855 miles (384,400 km) away. (Getty Images).

dumpsters every month.”

The 118th Wing also recycled over seven tons of metal, enough to build almost 12 Fiat 500’s. The recycled metal also provided an additional financial incentive to the program.

“We do receive funds for the metals, that’s what helps to fund the recycling program,” said Norman. “The funds for metals pays for other recycling that we do.”

While the wing has done well overall, there is still room for improving recycling numbers in other areas, especially with plastic bottles.

“Getting new water fountains on base have helped with less bottles going out,” said Norman. “But there is still a lot of bottles not being recycled.”

For the upcoming fiscal year, Norman wants to place a big focus on both plastic recycling and water conservation.

“Our water fountains have counters; I want to use that data to educate how much water and energy have been saved since their installation,” said Norman. “It will be quite an eye opener to many people.”

- SENIOR AIRMEN ANTHONY AGOSTI



Photo by Senior Airman Anthony Agosti

VALOR IN THE FAMILY

Husband and Wife Chaplains are Awarded The Adjutant General's Ribbon for Valor.



Chaplain (Captain) Donald Mooney and Chaplain (Major) Kyndalin Mooney are presented the Adjutant General's Ribbon of Valor by Brig. Gen. General Tommy Baker

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – A Tennessee Army National Guard husband and wife Chaplain team were recently presented the Adjutant General's Ribbon for Valor in a ceremony at Tennessee Joint Force Headquarters in Nashville.

Chaplain (Major) Kyndalin Mooney and her husband Chaplain (Captain) Donald Mooney were traveling on Interstate 40 to the Tullahoma Readiness Center to hold a memorial service for a Soldier assigned to the 107th Airfield Operations battalion who was killed in a recent vehicle accident. On the way, they witnessed another vehicle ac-

cident and were the first to respond to the scene. The Mooney's immediately jumped from their vehicle to assist the victims. While approaching the vehicle, they saw a male in his early 20's who had succumbed to his injuries and a female victim who was having difficulty breathing.

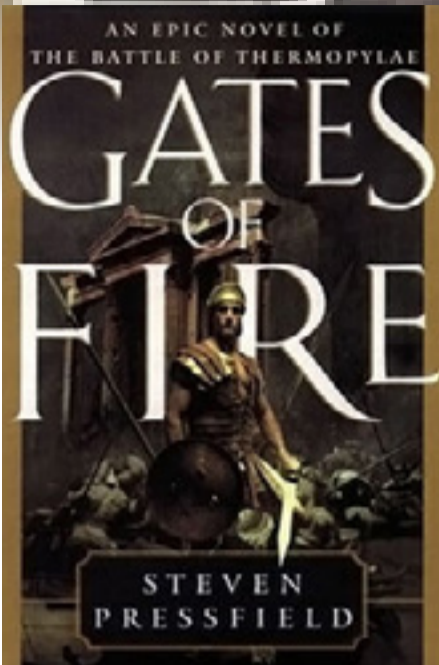
Chaplain K. immediately used her military and civilian life saving training to clear the victim's airway enabling her to continue breathing, while Chaplain D. performed first aid to stabilize and prevent further harm to the victim. The Mooney's also performed first aid to control bleeding on another vic-

tim still in the wrecked vehicle.

Upon arrival of paramedics, Chaplain's Mooney stayed to provide spiritual comfort for the father of the deceased man and driver of the vehicle.

The Adjutant General's Ribbon for Valor was presented by Brigadier General Tommy Baker, Assistant Adjutant General, Army.

- MAJ. (RET) RANDY HARRIS



Gates of Fire: An Epic Novel of the Battle of Thermopylae

By Steven Pressfield
New York: Doubleday,
1998

Maj. Darrin Haas Gives his Review of:

GATES OF FIRE: AN EPIC NOVEL OF THE BATTLE OF THERMOPYLAE

Secretary of Defense James Mattis gave a keynote address to thousands of National Guardsmen at the National Guard Association of the United States General Conference in August of 2018. A former Marine General and distinguished combat veteran, he explained that one of our national strategy's main lines of effort is to build a more lethal military force. He announced, "We have no God given right to victory on the battlefield, so we need you, my fine young National Guardsmen, at the top of your game. Lethality begins when we are physically, mentally, and spiritually fit to be evaluated by its most exacting auditor on earth... war."

There are many things that a soldier needs to do to make themselves a more lethal warrior prepared for combat. For example: increased physical fitness, professional education, discipline, and a warrior ethos are just a few. Mattis, a prolific reader, feels that soldiers should also be avid readers and they "need to have that broader reading as you grow and personally develop." Last year, Mattis recommended 30 books that every young leader should read. One that he recommended to help instill a warrior ethos and promotes lethality is Steven Pressfield's *Gates of Fire*.

Published in 1998, *Gates of Fire* is a fictional account of the Battle of Thermopylae, where allied Greek nations deployed a small force of four thousand Greek infantry to defend against two million Persians invading at a place nicknamed the "Hot Gates." The Greek plan was to delay the Persian advance at a natural choke point, giving themselves time to amass a larger army to defeat the Persians. The mission was considered suicidal

and was led by a small force of 300 Spartans, an elite warrior class of Greeks prepared to die to the last man.

Told through the eyes of Xeones, one of only three Greek survivors, the novel brilliantly narrates the intense training, culture, and mindset that made these 300 Spartans the best and most feared warriors on the battlefield. Told from a soldiers' viewpoint, this fictional tale gets into the horror of war and puts the reader on the front line to witness Greek combat against insurmountable odds. Their sacrifice would ultimately lead to a Persian defeat, thus saving the Greek way of life.

Written by Steven Pressfield, a former Marine who graduated from Duke University in 1965, the fictional telling of this historical event explains Spartan culture in all its brutality, glory, and humor. Pressfield was able to masterfully do this by drawing on his personal experiences as a Marine, and using their code and ethics to flesh out the fully fictionalized parts of the book. Thus, resulting in a fascinating tale of honor, heroism, and self-sacrifice.

Overall, Pressfield has taken this story of valor and created a novel that is not only a brilliant recreation of combat in Ancient Greece, but it can stand beside other great war novels like Michael Shaara's *The Killer Angels* and Robert Heinlein's *Starship Troopers*. The novel stresses military themes of honor, duty, stoicism, and esprit de corps and should be read by every member of the Tennessee National Guard and used to inspire our soldiers to become more lethal and embrace the warrior ethos.

- MAJ. DARRIN HAAS



Produced in collaboration with the Tennessee Military Department
and the Tennessee National Guard