GOV. LEE VISITS TROOPS AHEAD OF DEPLOYMENT TO KOSOVO

THE VOLUNTEER STATE

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ARE YOU READY FOR THE ARMY'S NEW COMBAT FITNESS TEST?

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PLUS:

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INTERVIEW WITH USPFO'S COL. PATRICIA JONES

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THE VOLUNTEER STATE GUARD MAGAZINE



Gives Tenn. Soldiers a Special Send Off



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T E N N E S S E E S N A P S H O T

MUSIC CITY FLYOVER

Dec. 30, 2019 - Crewmembers assigned to the 164th Airlift Wing based in Memphis perform a flyover in a C-17 Globemaster over Nissan Stadium during the opening ceremonies of the Music City Bowl in Nashville.

PHOTO BY: STAFF SGT. MATHIEU PERRY





STRIVING FOR THE BEST

Dec. 21, 2019 - 2nd Lt. Devin Pope with the 105th Personnel Company treats and moves a simulated casualty to a safe area during the 230th Sustainment Brigade's Best Warrior Competition at the Volunteer Training Site in Smyrna. *PHOTO COURTESY: 230TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE*



WELCOME HOME

Jan. 24, 2020 - The final wave of Tennessee's 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment troops return home from deployment to Poland in support of NATO's enhanced Force Protection mission.

PHOTO BY: STAFF SGT. TIM CORDEIRO



T E N N E S S E E S N A P S H O T

A FRESH START

Mar. 5, 2020 - A graduate of the Tennessee Volunteer ChalleNGe Academy hugs his mother after graduation from the program. The TVCA's mission is to intervene and reclaim the lives of at-risk youth and produce productive citizens of Tennessee. PHOTO BY: STAFF SGT. TIM CORDEIRO



THE

ARE YOU READY FOR THE ARMY'S NEW COMBAT FITNESS TEST?

With the rollout of the new Army Combat Fitness Test this fall, Tennessee Soldiers are working together to ensure they are up to the challenge ahead.

STORY BY STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY CORDEIRO PHOTOS BY AMIEE STUBBS (COURTESY IO STUDIOS)



A Solder with the Tennessee Army National Guard performs the Standing Power Throw at the Bicentennial Mall State Park in Nashville. The SPT is one of six events in the U.S. Army's new Combat Fitness Test. (Photo by Amiee Stubbs Courtesy IO Studios).

STANDING POWER THROW (SPT)

Throw a 10-pound medicine ball backward and overhead for distance. The SPT event represents tasks requiring quick explosive movements to maneuver equipment and personnel.



"The ACFT is no joke. Those that have taken it know it's going to be a challenge." Tennessee's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Jeff Holmes, said those words regarding the new Army Combat Fitness Test in a social media post in January. Holmes and the rest of the his command team have been putting a major emphasis on making sure the Tennessee Army National Guard is prepared for the transition, officially set to take place on October 1, 2020.

Since 1906, U.S. Army Soldiers have had their physical readiness assessed for battle. Back then, infantry were required to participate in weekly, 12-mile ruck marches and cavalry units performed 18-mile horse-mounted movements to ensure physical readiness. Over 100 years later the Army's makeup has drastically changed, as have the standards of the Army's physical readiness.

In 1942, for war preparation, the U.S. Army developed the Army Grand Forces Test. This test was comprised of six events including the pushup, a 75-yard man carry, and a 4-mile march. These tests have been altered and changed often during the last 70+ years, and standards have continued to be refined to properly dictate the readiness for a strong active duty Army, as well as the Army Reserves and Army National Guard.

The Army Physical Fitness Test, which traces back to 1973, was the first test to include adjusted scores based on age and gender. Comprised of a 2-minute pushup event, two minutes of sit-ups and a 2-mile run, the APFT has been the standard in

Deadlift the maximum weight possible three times. The MDL event represents movements required to safely and effectively lift heavy loads from the ground, jump, bound and tolerate landing.

LEG TUCK (LTK)

Complete as many leg tucks as possible; maintain a relative vertical posture while moving the hips and knees up and down without excessive swinging.



testing the Army's physical readiness for over 45 years. Through the years, the APFT has been altered to add standards for Soldiers older than 52. In 1985, Soldiers were officially authorized to take the test wearing shorts, t-shirts and running shoes. In 2003, the Army began exploring the possibilities of revising the APFT to include additional events, such as the 12x25 yard shuttle run, the standing long jump, and the 1-minute power squat. These changes never came to fruition, partly due to safety concerns.

Development began in 2013 for a new test, based on a specific set of warrior tasks and battle drills, as well as feedback from Soldiers with combat deployments. It was found that more battlefield medical evacuations were administered during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan due to musculoskeletal injuries than due to the ongoing fighting, prompting officials to establish a new set of events to better gauge physical abilities. The newly developed ACFT was designed to address the declining health and fitness standards of incoming recruits and to help transform the Army's fitness culture.

"It's necessary to change and adapt over time," said Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Gentry, Tennessee's Command Sergeant Major.

"It's time for the Army to be more physically fit for combat," said Gentry. "The old APFT had more of a focus on cardio, and the new test is better suited for gauging if Soldiers are really ready for the rigors of combat."

The ACFT is comprised of six events including; a 3-rep deadlift, a 10-pound backward and overhead medicine ball throw, two minutes of hand-release pushups, a 250-meter shuttle run referred to as the 'sprint-drag-carry,' hanging leg tucks, and a 2-mile run. Soldiers will receive a 0-100 score on each event with a maximum ACFT score being a 600. Age or gender will also not be taken into consideration for ACFT scoring, unlike its predecessor. Instead, Soldiers will be assigned one of three scoring tiers based on their Military Occupational Specialty.

"It's going to be a bit of a culture shock, at first," said Gentry. "It's not necessarily more difficult than the APFT, but overall, I feel the new test does a better job assessing Soldiers' physical readiness."

Adjustments will need to be made by units and personnel across the state. For example, the Tennessee National Guard State Headquarters has begun improvising their gym in Nashville, to better accommodate the new test and its required equipment. "Fitness Fridays" training events are also being conducted once a month to familiarize Soldiers with the new test and its six events.

"The biggest adjustment is going to be for Soldiers of the Tennessee National Guard," said Staff Sgt. Amanda Bailey, a Supply Sergeant with the 301st Troop Command.

"Soldiers need to start training right now," said Bailey, who completed the ACFT Level 2 Trainer Course last year. "If you're not preparing your body now, the new test is going to be very difficult. You're not going to be able to walk up with no preparation and take it. Soldiers need to start training right now and start building the muscles needed to pass the test."

Active duty Soldiers conduct physical training (PT) with their units on a daily basis, but reservists and guardsmen have to stay physically fit on their own time, often leading to Soldiers straying away from established, proven methods of PT that were introduced at every Soldier's initial entry training. The Physical Readiness Training (PRT) program, for example, is something every Soldier should be utilizing, as it is specifically designed with both the APFT and the new ACFT in mind.

"One of the reasons some Soldiers are having trouble with the ACFT is because Soldiers aren't doing PRT," said Bailey. "These tests and events are designed around the training program, so participating in PRT can really help with getting your body ready for the new test."

Army Training and Doctrine Command has released an updat-

TWO-MILE RUN (2MR)

The run event measures aerobic endurance, which is required for conducting continuous operations and ground movements on foot. Higher aerobic endurance allows the body to recover quickly in preparation for executing other physically demanding tasks that may arise during a ground movement, such as reacting quickly to enemy contact.



HAND RELEASE PUSH-UP -ARM EXTENSION (HRP)

The HRP is an upper body endurance test that represents repetitive and sustained pushing used in combat tasks.

ARMY

SPRINT-DRAG-CARRY (SDC)

The SDC is a test of strength, endurance, and anaerobic capacity, which are needed to accomplish high intensity combat tasks that last from a few seconds to several minutes.

ed version of the Physical Readiness Training App for smartphones, featuring instructional videos, score calculators and much more. All Soldiers are encouraged to start using the app to familiarize themselves with the new test and its intricacies.

According to Gentry, "with an increase in the amount and complexity of the events, it may take some time to get the body used to the new exercises. This won't happen overnight. We have not adapted to the ACFT yet, but once we get used to the test, it will become the new normal."

Soldiers are encouraged to take advantage of this time leading up to October, when the ACFT is officially set to debut. Preparing your body and getting acquainted with the test as much as possible will be key to a successful launch of the ACFT when the leaves turn this fall.

"I want you to start now," said Holmes. "Set that as a goal this year. We are going to do this together, and we are going to be successful."



GET THE

Want to get a leg up on the new ACFT? Get the Army's PRT app!!

The app is free and helps you calculate your test scores, while laying out a unique training template tailored for your fitness demands. Download the app today - it's the one with the icon shown above and developed by TRADOC Mobile.

INTER-AGENCY TRAINING

45th Civil Support Team Conducts Inter-Agency Explosive Ordinance Device Training



LEBANON, Tenn. – Guardsmen with the 45th Civil Support Team participated in a hands-on culminating event Jan. 31, following a week of training with local, state and federal agencies, in Lebanon.

Headquartered in Smyrna, the 22-mem-

ber unit provides first responders and civil authorities the ability to conduct rapid onsite analysis and identification of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear agents or materials that could put citizens at risk.

It is important for the 45th CST to train

Members of the 45th Civil Support Team and the Metro Nashville Police Department prepare for an Explosive Ordinance Device exercise Jan. 31, at the Nashville Superspeedway in Lebanon. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cordeiro)

45TH CST



continuously to maintain proficiency with equipment and maintain their knowledge base, said Lt. Col. Bobby Rominger, 45th CST Commander.

"It is essential to remain prepared to respond to natural or manmade disasters," said Rominger. "Our mission is to train for a response to domestic emergencies and assist local incident commanders if needed."

From Jan. 29-31, members of the Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville and Chattanooga Police Departments, as well as Tennessee Highway Patrol Officers, and FBI Explosive Ordinance Device Technicians worked together alongside the 45th CST to sharpen their skills as part of a hands-on, practical exercise to gain familiarity of new techniques and procedures related to CBRN policies.

The 57 Civil Support Teams throughout the nation were created to support state and local authorities in the event of a possible incident involving weapons of mass destruction, to include incidents with possible CBRN threats. The 45th CST, originally formed in 2002, is trained to rapidly deploy and assist local first responders, as well as provide medical and technical expertise when there is a CBRN threat detected.

Training with different agencies allows the Guardsmen of the 45th CST to see different ways of doing things. The goal is to learn from the different sets of capabilities and to build relationships that will help with response to real-world scenarios in the future. During an inter-agency, practical exercise, members of the Nashville Metro Police Department and Tennessee National Guard's 45th Civil Support Team work together to disarm a simulated explosive device Jan. 31, at the Nashville Superspeedway in Lebanon. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cordeiro)

"I think everyone attempts to make training as realistic and challenging as possible," said Rominger. "Training with all these different local, state and federal agencies allows detailed discussions, and the intangible effect of this inter-agency training is relationship building that will allow the CST to respond effectively when called upon."

- STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY CORDEIRO

SPOTLIGHT ON LEADERSHIP:

An Interview with Colonel Patricia Jones

In honor of Women's History Month, 1st Lt. Kealy Moriarty, Public Affairs Officer at Joint Force Headquarters, sat down with Tennessee's first female U.S. Property and Fiscal Officer, Col. Patricia Jones. During her highly decorated 38 year career, Jones deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Hurricane Katrina, and Operation Jump Start as a Military Police Officer.

1LT Moriarty: As the USPFO, you have one of the most demanding jobs in the Tennessee Military Department and shoulder great responsibility, how does it feel to be given that level of responsibility?

Col. Jones: It is humbling. Congress and the CNGB direct each USPFO to provide oversight of all funds and property of the United States in the possession of the National Guard of assignment. I am very fortunate to work with the best team in the nation. Each Air Wing has 3 Assistant USPFOs, the Army has an assistant USPFO, a Deputy USPFO and five branch Chiefs; each are outstanding. All employees are dedicated and well versed in their job. Fiscal stewardship is our watch word. Our goal is helpful customer service as we provide professional support and guidance for the success of the TNNG.

1LT Moriarty: What are your expectations for the men and women in the Tennessee Military Department and what can they expect from you as one of their senior leaders?

Col. Jones: I expect from them the same as they can expect from me, to give our very best effort each day; treat others as you want to be treated; and understand the importance of our mission. Each individual's performance affects the success of the entire TNNG.

1LT Moriarty: What are the basic prin-



Col. Patricia Jones Command Photo.

ciples of your leadership philosophy?

Col. Jones: Give your very best every day and treat others the way you want to be treated. Strive to lead with fair and firm consistency. Mistakes are training events, as long as we learn from them and do not make the same mistake twice. In addition, it is important to nurture resiliency; look for the positive in each situation and forgive yourself, as well as others, for shortcomings and mistakes.



1LT Moriarty: When did you begin your career as a National Guardsman and how have things changed over the years?

Col. Jones: I joined the military in 1982 and was commissioned into the TNARNG in 1984. Over the years, we have become an operational force prepared to execute the war fight; we have built partnerships throughout the world and protect the homeland with very little or no prep time.

1LT Moriarty: Your bio states that you were a commander during Desert Storm. Can you tell me a little about that experience and how it influenced you as a young officer? Col. Jones: I learned leaders vary in capability; senior leaders from other organizations don't always give solid advice. I was accustomed to TNARNG leaders; when they said something it was true and helpful. The Tennessee National Guard truly is the best in the nation. I was amazed how many units would search for the Tennessee flag when they came to base, seeking assistance. Biggest take away – training, relationships, and teamwork truly are the keys to success.

1LT Moriarty: What event or events in your career has shaped your leadership style the most? *Col. Jones:* I could name several, however, it is the interaction with co-workers, fellow servicemembers and their families. These interactions helped me realized I am blessed to be a part of something bigger than I am. Myers Briggs was also a revelation; I didn't like my personality trait. Therefore, I strived to change and become a servant leader, focusing on each team member's success while still meeting the mission.

1LT Moriarty: You are a Military Policeman with deployments to Desert Storm, OIF, Katrina, and Operation Jump Start, as well as vast experience in logistics. How has that helped you in your position and in your career? *Col. Jones:* Military Police motto's are "Serving those who serve" and "the "Training, relationships, and teamwork truly are the keys to success."

- Patricia Jones

INTERVIEW: COL JONES

"Leaders give up the right to have a bad day. Complain up - not down or laterally."

- Patricia Jones

Force of Choice". We have to read the room to assess the situation quickly and use the least amount of force to get positive control of the situation. As a logistician, you have to think far forward to ensure the right supplies and support are in the right place at the right time. Both of these functions create a servant leader, which I strive to be every day.

1LT Moriarty: You were the first director of the Tennessee National Guard's J9 - Family Programs division. What was it like to be the first and what challenges did you have to overcome? Col. Jones: This assignment was a true blessing. The only challenge was understanding all the programs available to servicemembers and their family. The J9 Military & Family Readiness Operations is a diverse group of professionals with distinctive skill sets that form the center of gravity to enhance our Guard families' circle of life. They are dedicated to provide guidance and direct actions to implement enduring solutions that will reduce high stress and at-risk factors

promoting resiliency and prevent suicide. We pulled all our resources together and began marketing the capabilities to support the servicemembers and their families, enhancing readiness of the Tennessee National Guard. This assignment was very rewarding and a lot of fun!

1LT Moriarty: What do you see as the two most challenging issues facing guardsmen today and are these just challenges, in your opinion, or oppor-Col. Jones: I believe the two tunities? most challenging issues are balancing everyday work life with family needs and remaining mentally and physically fit. These roles of responsibility, career, family, and traditional National Guard service, can overlap and push you beyond your comfort zone. It is important to find a balance so you can give quality time to each. Once you find balance, opportunities open up for you to learn, grow and mature as a person/Service Member/ leader and productive member of society.

1LT Moriarty: What has been some of the Tennessee National Guard's greatest successes that you've seen throughout your career and what are some of the enduring challenges? How might those challenges be overcome? Col. Jones: Over the past 30 years, the National Guard transitioned from a strategic reserve to an operational force. We learned how to mobilize and deploy in the 1990s and evolved into a full member of the Joint force in 2000s. The National Guard is the Nation's Combat Reserve, integral to the total force; we provide DoD inexpensive capabilities that the active component counts on. Unfortunately, the operational tempo is very difficult to sustain. I pray the National Guard will find the balance where we remain the relevant militia in support of the war fight without taking on the Active components' roles. The National Guard has a unique dual Federal and State mission. The Chief, National Guard Bureau's vision for the National Guard is to be prepared to fight America's Wars, Secure the Homeland and build partnerships. "The National Guard is constitu-



tionally unique and fulfills two key roles: the primary combat reserve of the Army and the Air Force and the first military responder in the homeland. The Guard has evolved as an operational force through the skill and devotion of America's Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen. Together, we will forge a future based on these foundational principles that define how we see ourselves."

1LT Moriarty: Is there any advice/lessons learned you would give young leaders in the National Guard? *Col. Jones:* Below is my top 10 list for leaders:

1. Be the master of your profession – being technically and doctrinally proficient, being aware of current events and understanding strategic ramifications, shows that you are a confident leader.

2. When you are promoted, obtain the qualifications for your next rank as soon as possible. Continue your military and civilian education – Be Goal Oriented – Know where you want to be in a year - 5 years. You are responsible for you own career.

3. Leaders give up the right to have a bad day. Complain up - not down or laterally. Bring solutions with the problem to your leader. They will typically approve your recommendation.

4. Develop subordinate leaders; give them as much responsibility as they can handle and resource them; if they don't produce coach, mentor and counsel.

5. Be proactive, ride to sound of the gun, if you see a void fill a void. Think ahead - anticipate next step and have the resources in place.

6. High integrity - Do right all time - whether you are being watched or not. Leaders who say one thing and do the other are not respected. If you are fair, firm, and consistent - Soldiers will typically forgive your errors.

7. Have a confidant or two that can provide



guidance and you can bounce ideas and vent to. Try to keep who they are close hold. If you don't, they will be treated differently and others will try to influence them.

8. Take care of your Soldiers – Yes that means, beans, bullets, and pay - it also means train them to standards, even if it is hot, cold or rainy – Make it as fun and entertaining as possible. Taking care of Soldiers means enforcing the standards and following up.

9. Soldiers may not remember what you say. They will remember how you made them feel. CARE – once they know you care they will care about what you say and know.

10. Most importantly, treat others the way you want to be treated. Put yourself in their boots, we all have the same basic needs – appreciation, fair evaluations, respect. When

delivering bad news, look them in the eye and explain the reason why when possible.

1LT Moriarty: Is there anything else you'd like to add? *Col. Jones:* I will leave you with a few Quotes; Lou Holtz said, "Life is 10 percent what happens to you and 90 percent how you respond to it." It's not the load that breaks you down, it's the way you carry it. A man who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing he cares about more, than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature who has no chance of being free, unless made and kept so by exertions of better men than himself.

> Interview by 1st Lt. Kealy A. Moriarty Photos courtesy of Col. Patty Jones

YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL

Youth Action Council, Tennessee Adjutant General Meet to Better Lives of Military Families



Tennessee Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Jeff Holmes, poses with members of the Youth Action Council, Jan. 13, following a meeting at Joint Force Headquarters in Nashville. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cordeiro)

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Maj. Gen. Jeff Holmes, Tennessee's Adjutant General, knows what it's like being part of a military family. As a father of two sons who also serve in the Tennessee National Guard, Holmes can relate to children of service members and some of the challenges that military families face on a daily basis.

"As a child, you miss out on having a par-

ent home when they're

away," said Holmes. "And you certainly miss a lot when you're a parent and you are away training or deployed."

This is one of the reasons he was eager to meet with members of the Tennessee National Guard's Youth Action Council, a group of military children working together to make positive change in the lives of families affected by the National Guard.

On January 13, members of the Youth Action Council met with Holmes to discuss their latest venture to improve the quality of life for military families. This time, they presented Holmes with a purple military child graduation cord, a device worn around a high school graduates' neck while wearing



their cap and gown. The cord will distinguish those graduates with parents who serve. This is just one example of the work the Youth Action Council is doing behind the scenes to improve the lives of military youth and their families in the state of Tennessee.

The Youth Action Council is a branch of the Tennessee National Guard Child and Youth Program, which assists children of National Guard members to develop resilience, mitigate risky behaviors, and uncover their potential as future leaders.

Lead Child Youth Coordinator Caitlin Vassar, who has been heading the Child and Youth Program since 2012, says the Youth Action Council is an important asset in bridging the gap between the military kids and the public.

"The Youth Action Council is a group of spokespeople for the thousands of kids across Tennessee in their position that have parents or family members in the National Guard," said Vassar. "Most of the general public doesn't understand the challenges that come with being a military child and how hard it is to say goodbye to a parent for an extended period of time. We are working to educate and work with the public to improve the lives of these kids and their families."

The Youth Action Council is comprised of 14 young adults between the school grades of 8-11, all of which are sons or daughters of members of the Tennessee National Guard. The council meets quarterly, discussing new ideas to make positive change in the lives of military youth and their respective families.

Vassar said having support from the top of the organization is important for the Youth Action Council.

"The leadership cares about the military kids," said Vassar. "Their willingness to meet with and discuss new ideas really makes a difference."

Holmes told the members of the council that they will be stronger for being a military

Tennessee Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Jeff Holmes, meets with members of the Youth Action Council, Jan. 13, at Joint Force Headquarters in Nashville. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cordeiro)

child.

"As far as my family, I know we are stronger because of what we've overcome as a military family," Holmes told the council members. "My kids are stronger and more resilient, and I don't know if you all will be able to pinpoint what values you're getting out of it right now, but it's significant."

Vassar, along with her counterpart Stephanie Miceli, is working to get the military child graduation cord into more school systems throughout Tennessee, and the Youth Action Council will continue to meet quarterly to come up with new ways to improve the lives of National Guard families.

- STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY CORDEIRO

BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS

Ceremony Marks the 205th Anniversary of Gen. Andrew Jackson's Victory at the Battle of New Orleans

HERMITAGE, Tenn. – In commemoration of the 205th anniversary of the crucial American victory at the Battle of New Orleans, the Tennessee Military Department was proud to participate in a wreath laying ceremony at the tomb of General Andrew Jackson at the Hermitage on Jan. 8.

The Battle of New Orleans was a key American victory during the War of 1812 and was the event that helped catapult Gen. Andrew Jackson to national fame and recognition.

Chaplain Maj. James Saunders gave the invocation, Sgt. Mary Potts with the 129th Army Band sang the National Anthem, and Spc. William Hicks with the 129th Army Band played taps. A team of Tennessee National Guard Soldiers presented the colors.

- LT. COL. DARRIN HAAS







NEW 118TH COMMANDER

New 118th Wing Commander Takes Over at Berry Field

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – There is a new "wing king" at Berry Field.

In front of 1,100 Airmen in formation, Col. Todd Wiles took command of the 118th Wing, Tennessee Air National Guard from Col. Keith Allbritten on Nov. 3, at Berry Field Air National Guard Base in Nashville.

Wiles, now the twenty-seventh commander of the 118th WG, was previously commander of the 118th Operations Group.

"To be asked to be the wing commander of the 118th WG was just an incredible honor," said Wiles. "To have a chance to serve in this capacity, it's definitely the highlight of my career."

"Col. Wiles is a great guy, he's a good man inside, and that will carry him a long way," said Allbritten, who will be retiring in December 2019 after 30 years of military service. "I feel very confident about him sitting in my chair."

118th WG members should expect much of the same great leadership qualities from the previous commander, but with a new approach.

Chief Master Sgt. Benjamin Williams, the 118th WG command chief, said that while Allbritten leaves the wing in great shape, he expects Wiles' leadership to take the wing to the next level of excellence.

As for his first priorities as wing com-



mander, Wiles said he just wants to observe what everyone is doing.

"I never want to come into a new position with a scorched-earth policy," said Wiles. "A smart, new leader would take a little bit of time to make sure he sees the complete battle space, and has situational awareness of why all the procedures and programs are in place."

Wiles said that while he will look into applying improvements and efficiencies where necessary, he has complete trust in his Airmen to be professionals and get Col. Jason Glass, left, the Assistant Adjutant General, Air, passes the guide-on to Col. Todd Wiles, right, the incoming commander of the 118th Wing, at a change of command ceremony Nov. 3, at Berry Field Air National Guard Base in Nashville. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Thompson)

their jobs done.

"Col. Wiles is a dialed-in and focused leader," said Williams. "I'm looking forward to working with him, and being under his command."

- STAFF SGT. ANTHONY AGOSTI

a very SPECIAL SEND OFF

Story by STAFF SGT. TIM CORDEIRO

Governor Bill Lee Visits Tennessee National Guard Troops Ahead of Deployment to Kosovo



NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Tennessee Governor Bill Lee and Tennessee's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Jeff Holmes, visited with more than 20 Tennessee Army National Guard Soldiers at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base in Alcoa on January 3, as the Soldiers prepare for an upcoming overseas deployment.

"On behalf of 6.7 million Tennesseans, we are forever grateful for your service and sacrifices that you and your families are willing to make for our great state. Thank you for protecting our country, our way of living, our freedom and our liberties that we enjoy every day." said Lee. "Maria and I will keep you and your families in our daily prayers."

"I am always humbled in the patriotism and the sacrifices made by our Soldiers and their families," said Holmes. "These Soldiers are some of the best at their very specialized mission and not only within the National Guard, but in the Army as a whole."

The deploying Soldiers are from C Company's Detachment 1 and D Company's Detachment 3 of the 2-135th Aviation Regiment headquartered in Louisville and will be departing for a 10-month deployment to Kosovo. They are part of a NATO-led international peacekeeping force known as Kosovo Force (KFOR) that has been serving in the region since 1999.

"These Soldiers will be conducting an important mission by providing aeromedical

Gov. Bill Lee meets with Soldiers ahead of their deployment to Kosovo. (Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Kendra Owenby)



evacuation for all NATO forces serving in the region," said Holmes. "It's a mission they conduct often here in Tennessee and in other states in support of various state and federal agencies, so they get very proficient at their mission and I think it is a great example of the unique readiness level found in the National Guard. We're very proud of them

and we're equally excited to get our Tennessee Soldiers currently deployed home."

The unit will depart from Tennessee for Fort Hood, Texas, where they will receive additional mobilization training before arriving in Kosovo.

- STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY CORDEIRO

134TH AIR REFULING WING MEDIA FLIGHT



STORY AND PHOTOS PROVIDED BY 134TH AIR REFUELING WING

Members of the 134th Air Refueling Wing traveled to Homestead Air Reserve Base in Florida to conduct a media flight featuring the in-air refueling capabilities of the KC-135R Stratotanker and how it aids in the security protocols prepared for Super Bowl LIV. Media from the local area, as well as national outlets attended the event at the base on Jan. 28, which also featured F-15s from the 125th Fighter Wing in Jacksonville, Florida, and craft operated by Homeland Security and local law enforcement.





(and)

Boom Operator Staff Sgt. Briana Lindquist focuses on her mission, refueling jets at Homestead Air Reserve Base in preparation for Super Bowl LIV.



1917

Directed by: Sam Mendes Written by: Sam Mendes, Krysty Wilson-Cairns Released in theaters on December 25, 2019

Lt. Col. Darrin Haas Gives his Review of:

World War I is perhaps one of the most horrific and brutal wars in modern memory. In a little over four years, nearly 10 million soldiers and eight million civilians were killed as more than 70 million military personnel were mobilized to mainly fight along the Western Front in France. It was the first industrial conflict with a global reach utilizing new technologies like tanks, airplanes, chemical warfare, improved artillery, and machine-guns. Modern films have paid little attention to this conflict and the horrors those soldiers endured, until now.

Inspired by a tale told by his paternal grandfather, Sam Mendez wrote and directed 1917, a dynamic story that follows two British soldiers as they cross the Western Front on a desperate rescue mission. The plot is simple and reminiscent of Saving Private Ryan; two soldiers, Lance Cpl. Tom Blake and Lance Cpl. William Schofield, are tasked with delivering a message to stop a battalion of 1,600 men from attacking a German position, who were waiting to ambush the attacking British forces. To do this, they have to carry their message across no man's land and navigate enemy obstacles, death-strewn devastation, and perilous circumstances to reach the battalion before they attack into the enemy's trap. Blake has a personal interest in the mission, his older brother is among the soldiers that could be killed if they fail to deliver their message in time.

According to Mendez, the film has two main purposes, to bear, "witness to the staggering destruction wrought by the war, and yet it is a fundamentally human story about two young and inexperienced soldiers racing against the clock."

What makes the film so dramatic and real is the way Mendez chose to creatively tell the story. He lets the film unfold in real-time, starting the moment Blake and Schofield were first summoned to deliver their important message. The film also appears to be shot in one continuous 117-minute take. The fluid camera movement and unfixed point of view show you what the soldiers see and, it sometimes moves like another character that has joined the duo. This cinematic style and choice makes the viewer feel like they are personally with the protagonists on their journey. You are taken on a tour through the trenches, mud, and destroyed landscape to see and experience what the soldiers endured at every step. The visceral imagery and gritty filming helps make the viewer feel the anguish and suffering felt by these two men.

Overall, *1917* is an incredibly engaging film that shows the trials and sacrifices endured by two soldiers at the height of combat during World War I. The themes of hope, horror, brotherhood, and sacrifice in combat is apparent throughout the film and is a must see for anyone trying to understand the trials and emotions soldiers endure. The film was highly celebrated by reviewers and was nominated for over 158 awards, winning 109, to include the Golden Globe for Best Motion Picture and Best Director. I highly recommend and encourage everyone in the Tennessee Military Department and anyone interested in the history of World War I to see it.

- LT. COL. DARRIN HAAS

Movies to To Watch **BEFORE** You See 1917



They Shall Not Grow Old (2019)

This critically acclaimed documentary by Lord of the Rings director Peter Jackson is a must-see for anyone interested in the Great War. An homage to British Infantrymen using digitally remastered, restored, and colorized never-before-seen footage from England's Imperial War Museum, it captures the soldier's experience and the look of the war like no other documentary. Narrated only by World War I veterans that were interviewed in the 60s and 70s, the film tells the story of your typical British soldier using enhanced film, lip reading to recreate dialogue, and countless other technological techniques to bring this 100-yearold footage to life. Be sure to also watch the follow-on documentary that explains the techniques used and decisions made to make the film.



The Lost Battalion (2001)

A made-for-television movie starring Ricky Schroder, The Lost Battalion is a depiction of events surrounding Major Charles Whittlesey, a "New York lawyer," as he led a five-hundred-man battalion from the 77th Division into the Argonne Forest during a major attack. Whittlesey and his men were soon cut off and surrounded by German forces. Without food, water, ammunition, and medical supplies, the battalion endured countless enemy attacks until they were relieved. Less than two-hundred soldiers walked out of the forest after five days of German attacks; the rest were missing, dead, or captured. The story captivated the American imagination at the time and highlighted the bravery of American soldiers.



Sergeant York (1941)

Nominated for 10 Oscars and winning two, Sergeant York was the highest grossing film of 1941 and was often used to recruit men to volunteer for military service during World War II. A film that examines Tennessee's famed Alvin York, it chronicles his religious conversion, military experience, and the events that earned him the Medal of Honor. Many aspects of the film are fictionalized, but it provides a good starting point to understand Alvin York's story and why he is considered the greatest American war hero to come out of World War I. The American Film Institute ranked the film 57th in its 100 most inspirational American movies, and Alvin York was ranked 35 in its list of the top 50 heroes in American cinema.



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