

THE VOLUNTEER STATE GUARD

M A Z I N E



XCTC

THE FUTURE OF
ARMY NATIONAL
GUARD TRAINING

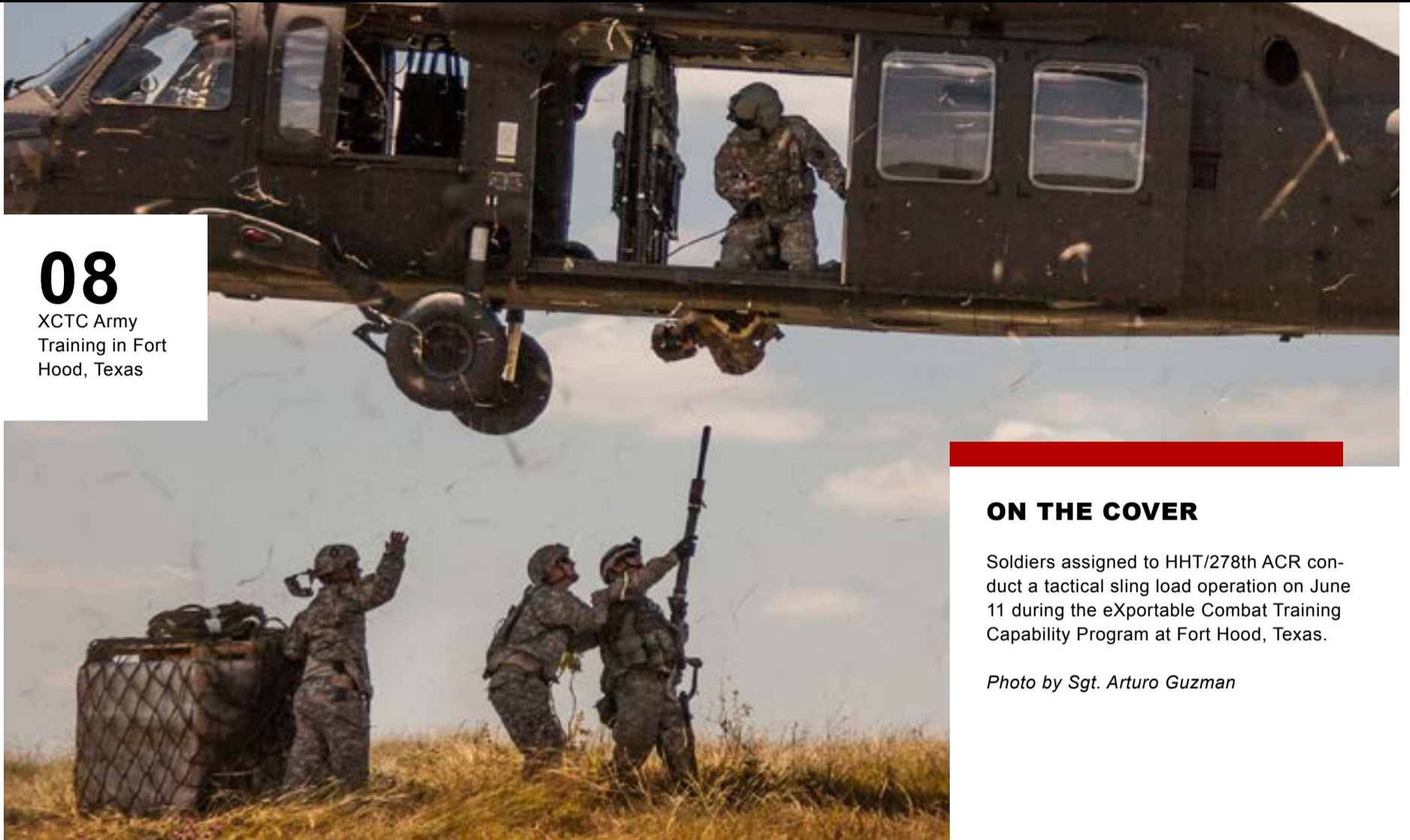
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THE ORIGIN OF
OUR SHOULDER
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Training in Fort
Hood, Texas

ON THE COVER

Soldiers assigned to HHT/278th ACR conduct a tactical sling load operation on June 11 during the eXportable Combat Training Capability Program at Fort Hood, Texas.

Photo by Sgt. Arturo Guzman

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PART TWO



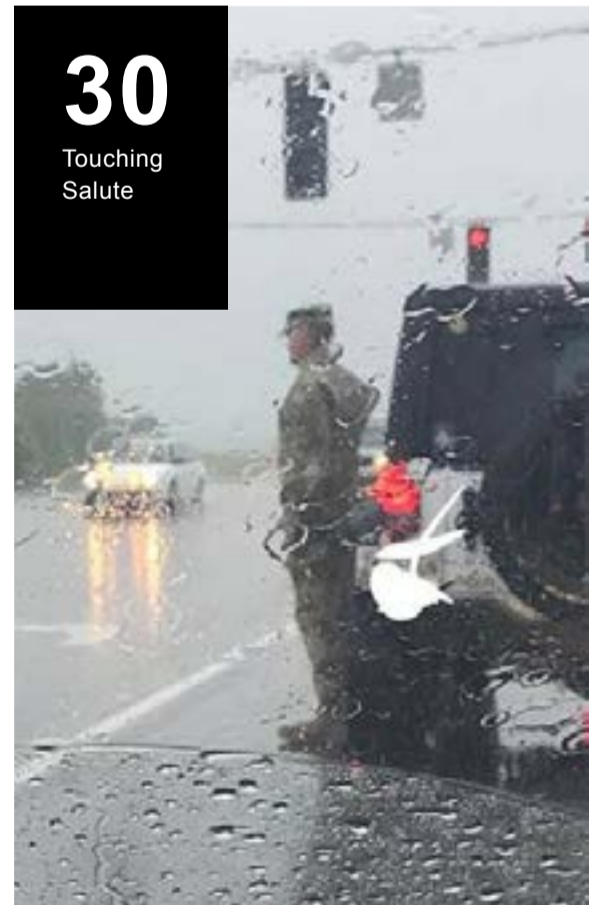
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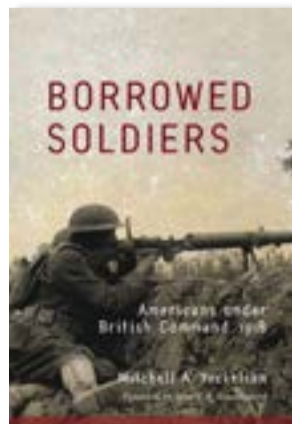
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VSG

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TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

TEXAS TRAINING

May 19, 2017 - Spc. Cody Keele, a Soldier assigned to the 278th Regimental Fire Squadron secures a vehicle to a rail car at Fort Hood, Texas during the U.S. Army National Guard's eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) program.

PHOTO BY: STAFF SGT. MATHIEU PERRY



TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION

July 20, 2017- Soldiers participate in a 13.1 mile ruck-march at Itasca State Park in North Central Minnesota during the 2017 Best Warrior Competition. Afterwards, competitors got a chance to dive into Lake Itasca, the headwaters of the Mississippi River.

PHOTO BY: 278TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT



TENNESSEE SNAPSHOT

A CUT ABOVE

July 25, 2017 - Senior Airmen Robert Behan with the 134th Air Refueling Wing Civil Engineer Squadron cuts a metal stud used for framing during their deployed field training at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

PHOTO BY: STAFF SGT. BEN MELLON



TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

OPERATION SABER STRIKE

June 9, 2017 -Soldiers and Airmen with the Tennessee Army and Air National Guard departed from the Volunteer Training Site in Smyrna, Tenn., for annual training that is taking place in Poland as part of Operation Saber Strike.

PHOTO BY: MASTER SGT. ROBIN BROWN



FORT HOOD, TEXAS

XCTC

THE FUTURE OF
ARMY NATIONAL
GUARD TRAINING

Sgt. Harold Ludwig (right) assists Spc. Anthony North (left), in using a cable to jump-start a M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle on one of more than 70 rail cars used during the XCTC exercise at Fort Hood, Texas. *(Photo by Staff Sgt. Mathieu Perry)*



FORT HOOD, TX - The 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Tennessee's largest National Guard unit, began their training for a possible deployment next year by participating in the Army National Guard's eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) program (<http://www.xctc.org/>) at Fort Hood, Texas from June 9 through June 24, 2017. The program is a field training exercise for brigades designed to certify proficiency at the platoon level in coordination with First Army.

The driving force behind XCTC is the Sustainable Readiness Model (SRM). Recently developed by the Army, SRM is a readiness concept for force generation with the simple goal of providing predictability in an unpredictable and complex world. It is more adaptable, agile and flexible than previous force generation concepts and will provide a higher level of readiness across the Army.

Tennessee's 278th ACR, headquartered in Knoxville and geographically dispersed across the state, is one of the Guard's five armored brigade combat teams (ABCT) scheduled for intensive training in the coming months and years on a rotational basis. Next year, they will train at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., with an opportunity to further develop their combat capability prior to deployment in 2018. This is part of the Army's plans to prepare and deploy Guard ABCT's in the same manner as active combat units.



“A few months ago this was just a concept on a piece of paper,” said Brig. Gen. Tommy Baker, Tennessee’s Assistant Adjutant General – Army, while visiting operations. “And now you’re seeing the execution and the fruition of a plan starting to come together.”

The months leading up to the exercise have seen Guardsmen engaged in a myriad of activities such as maintenance support, railhead operations and site preparation, lanes training, live fire and sling load exercises, just to name a few, that are the culmination of months of force projection planning by all echelons of the command structure.

Tennessee is not the only state that participated in the month long exercise. Units from six states, three of which belong to the Army Reserve, served various functions throughout XCTC that enhanced their own capabilities based on the type of mission they perform. Soldiers from Kansas, Idaho, Minnesota, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Puerto Rico each had a slice of the action that serve to exponentially add a real world flair, otherwise unattainable by an individual unit.

In order to meet the demands of SRM, training years 2017 and 2018 will entail additional requirements. While every effort is made to minimize cost and separation from civilian careers and families, it could mean increased time away at a greater level than recent years.

“Spouses and family members who have loved ones in the Guard, are used to us operating in a different zip code,” Baker said. “It’s critical to our readiness to make sure we can conduct the mission successfully wherever we’re called on to do it. I just want to thank them for their support because their loved ones couldn’t be here without it.”

Tennessee National Guard Soldiers at Fort Hood’s Deployment Ready Reaction Field and Rail Operations Center. *(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Edgar A. Castro)*





VIDEO: Brig Gen. Tommy Baker at XCTC

Aerial view of XCTC training site.



Bradley fighting vehicles on the move at XCTC.
(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class William Jones)

"The training conducted at Fort Hood was exceptional," Col. Jimmie Cole, the 278th Regimental Commander, said. "It provided us the opportunity to test both our troops and equipment. The skills developed and applied here such as leadership, planning, communication, logistics, decision making, adaptability, and resiliency translates to success for any environment; state emergency or national defense. Whether that environment be the battlefield or the boardroom, our Citizen-Soldiers are well prepared to accomplish the challenges at hand."

"I think the training was a culture shock to many of the Regiment's troopers and also to our enabling (support) units," Maj. Gen. Max Haston, Tennessee's Adjutant General said. "Quite frankly, the total Regiment had not been together for training in 8 years because we haven't had a place this big to go and train."

"The training went very well," Haston continued. "I think the learning curve was very steep, and the Soldiers left Fort Hood with an idea of what they need to work on and areas of improvement, and also things they need to sustain."

- MAJ (RET) RANDY HARRIS

BIG 60

2017 Marks 60th Anniversary for the Tennessee Air National Guard's 134th Air Refueling Wing.

MCGHEE TYSON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Tenn. – In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower was beginning his second term, John H. Glenn broke the intercontinental speed record, Tennessee began desegregation in public schools, and "West Side Story" made its debut on Broadway.

Sixty years ago Knoxville also became home to the 134th Fighter Interceptor Group—now known as the 134th Air Refueling Wing. The men and women of the 134th have evolved over 60 years - proudly serving the Nation and the State of Tennessee in true "Volunteer" fashion. Since its inception, Airmen of the 134th have flown five different aircraft, contributed in every American conflict from the Cold War to the Global War on Terror, and assisted Tennesseans during countless natural and man-made disasters.

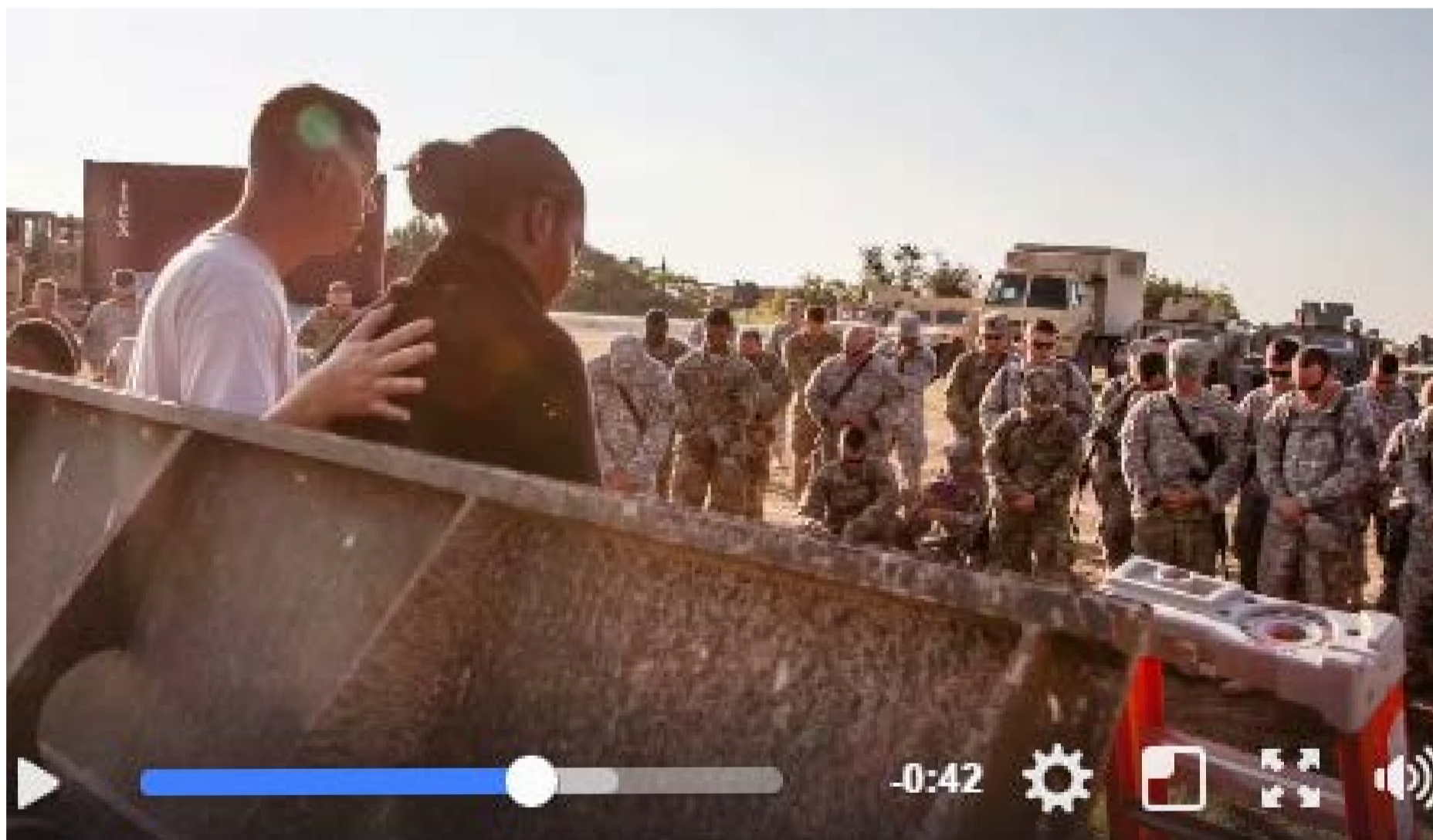
This summer we begin our celebration as we remember the people, aircraft, and missions associated with the 134th. Beginning this month and ending in December, we will highlight six eras the unit has transitioned through as we recall the legacy, contributions and memories from the Cold War, the Berlin Crisis, the Creek Party, Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and the Global War on Terror. Check out our Throwback Thursday posts on Facebook the second Thursday of each month to learn more about how the initial 134th Fighter Interceptor Group evolved to become the outstanding 134th Air Refueling Wing of today.

- 2ND LT. JON LADUE



RESILIENCE IN THE FIELD

Chaplain baptizes 278th Armored Cavalry Soldier in the bucket of a front-end loader at XCTC.



VIDEO: A rare field baptism was held at Fort Hood, Texas during the U.S. Army National Guard's eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) program. Chaplain Maj. Seth Rone baptized Spc. Triplett, of RES/278th ACR, in the bucket of a front-end loader.

What's that patch mean?

part 2

PART TWO OF THE SERIES FOCUSED ON THE HISTORY OF THE SHOULDER SLEEVE INSIGNIAS WORN BY MEMBERS OF THE TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD THROUGHOUT HISTORY.

AS THE UNITED STATES ENTERED WORLD WAR I

in 1917, the U.S. Army had fewer than 200,000 members on active-duty and in the National Guard. Over the next 18 months, the Army grew to over four million troops with two million serving in France by the end of the war. These massive numbers inspired commanders to give their units distinctive nicknames and insignias to help identify their equipment, baggage, personnel, and foster esprit-de-corps.

One of the first divisions to do so was the “Wildcats” of the 81st Infantry Division. Formed in August 1917 at Camp Jackson, S.C., it was predominantly comprised of draftees from the southeastern United States. The division commander, Maj. Gen. Charles J. Bailey, saw that many other units were developing logos and mottos for their troops, so he allowed his Soldiers to develop one too. He eventually approved a snarling wildcat logo modeled after a Carolina wildcat captured by one of his Soldiers while training near Wildcat Creek. The animal became the division mascot.



Maj. Gen. Bailey then took it a step further and allowed the command to develop a distinctive shoulder patch. They choose the wildcat logo they were already using. He assigned different colored patches to different subordinate units and then, on his own authority, he authorized the wear of the patches on his Soldier’s left sleeve.

Bailey’s decision soon drew criticism from other units and senior commanders due to the breach in uniform regulations. He was ordered to remove the patches but didn’t, and he continued to contest it for roughly five months. Eventually, General John Pershing, the American Expeditionary Forces commander, relented and authorized each division to submit a Shoulder Sleeve Insignia (SSI) design for review, approval, and then wear. On October 19, 1918, the 81st Infantry Division was the first division to submit their design, receiving approval the same day, thereby being the first unit authorized to wear a SSI.

During this time, nearly all members of the Tennessee National Guard, along with Guardsmen from North and South Carolina, were a part of the 30th Infantry Division. It was nicknamed the Old Hickory Division after Gen. Andrew Jackson. The division developed a logo they used throughout the war that represented the nickname, also submitting their design to Pershing. It was approved for official wear on October 23, 1918. This would be the first SSI officially worn by members of the Tennessee National Guard.

Since then, the Tennessee National Guard has officially worn nine different SSIs representing various commands within Tennessee over the years. There are four currently being worn representing each of Tennessee’s major commands. Every patch has distinct markings that celebrate its Tennessee heritage, and the ones that we no longer wear tell a rich story as well and should always be remembered.

In Volume 16, Issue 2 of the Volunteer State Guard magazine, we looked at the four SSIs currently worn by members of the Tennessee National Guard. Now, we look at five other patches that Tennessee wore proudly from World War I to 2007.



30TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Symbolism: The letters "O H" are the initials of "Old Hickory" and the "XXX" is the Roman notation for the number of the organization.



"Old Hickory" refers to President Andrew Jackson's toughness as a fighter "Tough as old hickory."

History: During World War I, nearly all members of the Tennessee National Guard were mobilized and became part of the 30th Infantry Division. Made up of Soldiers from Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina, they were nicknamed the Old Hickory Division after Gen. Andrew Jackson, representing the "sturdy fighting qualities of soldiers from these states." The nickname stuck and Maj. Gen. George Read, the Division Commander at the time, personally developed the logo, and authorized its use in divisional transportation as early as June 1918.

It was a custom during the war that the logo, which was an oval shape, be displayed with its long axis laid horizontally. The patch was then authorized for wear on the uniform by Gen. Pershing in October 1918, but with a maroon background and still displayed with its long axis horizontal. The color caused some confusion when seen from a distance, it looked purple, as well as the fact that the "O" symbolizing Old Hickory was laying on its side. But in June 1922, the design was officially changed to have a red background and the long axis would be vertical, to look like the letter "O".

These changes weren't widely known by the Soldiers now spread throughout three different states and the wear of the patch became confusing. The Office of the Quartermaster General was also mistaken in this change, and in 1928, approved for the design to be worn with the long axis horizontal, a change from vertical, but the background color was still red.

Confusion would last throughout the 30s, but by World War II, the division had its Soldiers wearing the patch vertically, officially against regulations. Following the war, changes were again made to the design, and by 1951, the patch was officially oriented vertically and its size and dimensions made clearer.

Many Tennessee Guardsmen wore this patch from 1918 until 1955, when most Guardsmen in Tennessee were reorganized under the 30th Armored Division. The wear of the patch continued on in other states and was redesignated for the 30th Infantry Brigade in February 1974 and again in 2004 for the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team with the North Carolina Army National Guard.

30TH ARMORED DIVISION

Symbolism: Yellow, blue, and red are the colors of the branches from which armored units were formed. The tank tread, gun, and lightning flash are symbolic of mobility, power, and speed. The division's designation is in Arabic numerals.



History: The 30th Armored Division was organized in Tennessee on October 1954 from Tennessee units that were part of the 30th Infantry Division, making it the largest organization in the state. During the 1960s and 1970s, the division responded to many state emergencies, to include riots in Memphis and Nashville in 1968. The division was the State's largest unit until it was deactivated in 1973 and the SSI was canceled for wear effective November 1973.

The patch was often seen with a "Volunteer" tab when worn with khakis or the dress uniform. It was unauthorized, and in 1962, the Division Commander requested that that the division officially be given the nickname "Volunteers" and be allowed to wear the tab. The Chief of Historical Services denied the request and recommended that the division nickname be changed to "Volunteer State" or "Vols." because most Army units were historically made up of volunteers. The recommendation was never acted on and Soldiers continued to wear the unauthorized tab.



HERALDRY



30TH SEPARATE ARMORED BRIGADE

Symbolism: The colors yellow and green are for Armor, blue for Infantry and scarlet for Artillery. The disk alludes to a targe and buckler and symbolizes the armored strength and protection offered by the unit. The disk bearing three stars is also found on the State Flag of Tennessee. The annulet refers to the unit's speed and mobility.

History: Designed in 1974 for the 30th Separate Armored Brigade that was organized in 1973 due to the deactivation of the 30th Armored Division. It consisted of most of the former division units located in West Tennessee, and was headquartered in Jackson. The 278th Infantry Brigade was organized in East Tennessee and was headquartered in Knoxville at the same time, encompassing the former division units located in the east. The 30th Separate Armored Brigade was deactivated in 1996.



A "targe" or "buckler" was a small shield, used, not to cover the body, but to stop or parry blows.

196TH FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE

Symbolism: Scarlet and yellow are the colors used for Artillery. The vertical band, known as a “bend” in heraldry, is an allusion to the bend in the Tennessee River Known as Moccasin Bend which is in Chattanooga, the home of the Brigade headquarters. The gun barrel represents the basic mission, and the blue disk with the three stars, adapted from the state flag of Tennessee, further alludes to the home area of the organization.



Moccasin Bend in Chattanooga, Tenn.

History: In 1973, the 30th Armored Division Artillery, headquartered in Chattanooga, was reorganized and redesignated as the Headquarters for the 196th Field Artillery Group, and relieved from assignment to the 30th Armored Division. It was then changed in 1978 to the 196th Field Artillery Brigade, spurring the need for a new patch. Designed and authorized in January 1979, the unit would wear this patch during its deployment to Desert Shield and Desert Storm from December 1990 to May 1991. In 2006, the 196th was converted to the 230th Sustainment Brigade and the unit patch was replaced in 2007.



HERALDRY



278TH INFANTRY REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

Symbolism: The design of one gold pheon, an ancient combat weapon, symbolizes the unity and readiness of the 278th Infantry Regimental Combat Team to accomplish its mission.



A pheon is a conventional heraldic representation of the head of a javelin, dart, or arrow point.

History: The 278th Infantry Regimental Combat Team was originally created as an Armored Infantry Battalion in 1946 from elements of the 117th Infantry Regiment which had just returned from combat in the European theater during World War II. In March 1947, the 278th Armored Infantry Battalion was expanded to become the 278th Infantry Regiment headquartered in Cleveland, Tennessee. At that time, the 278th Infantry Regiment, along with the 190th Combat Engineer Company headquartered in Dayton, and the 191st Field Artillery Battalion headquartered in Maryville, comprised the 278th Infantry Regimental Combat Team headquartered in Athens.

On September 1, 1950, over 2,600 Tennessee National Guardsmen from the 278th Regimental Combat Team were mobilized in support of the Korean War. The unit was part of the fourth increment of mobilizations called up starting in August of 1950. The regiment was divided up and served in Fort Devens, Massachusetts; Pine Camp, New York (now known as Fort Drum); and Reykjanesbaer, Iceland.

In June 1951, the Regiment requested a new SSI. The original design was not accepted and in September 1951, the gold pheon patch was authorized for wear. After four years on active duty, the 278th RCT was released from federal service on September 8th, 1954 and reverted to state control. The unit was not reconstituted and disbanded by October 1954.



The original patch design that the Regiment requested in 1951, as seen above, was not approved for wear. The patch's symbolism was: "The atomic explosion represents the striking power of the Regiment, also East Tennessee played an important part in the research and manufacture of the Atomic Bomb."

TN MAN '17

Tennessee National Guard Joins in Statewide Cyber Security Exercise as part of Tennessee Maneuvers 2017.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – From June 12 through 16, 2017, Soldiers and Airmen of the Tennessee National Guard took part in a statewide exercise focused on cyber threats. This is part of the annual joint Tennessee Maneuvers (TNMAN) exercise, working with the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, Tennessee State Guard, and various other state agencies.

“TNMAN exercises one of the three key focus areas of the National Guard – Domestic Operations,” said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Brown, G3 Directorate of Military Support, Tennessee Army National Guard. “Interagency coordination during domestic operations is built on relationships, and the Tennessee National Guard works with our state partners throughout these exercises.”

“We are fully invested in responding to disaster events,” he added. “Outreach, training, and exercises are the best way to build key relationships with other agencies and for building mutual trust and understanding.”

Last year's exercise scenario centered on the New Madrid fault erupting in Memphis. This year, the situation is a cyber attack targeting power grids across the state.

“The exercise was developed with TEMA, and is coupled with the Guard's response to extreme temperatures in the state as well as various civil unrest scenarios,” said Brown.

Part of the “civil unrest” requires the Tennessee Army National Guard's 168th Military Police Battalion, out of Dyersburg, Tenn., to team up with the Tennessee Department of Corrections (TDOC) and state parks in Milan.



Tech. Sgt. Anthony Cherry, left, and Staff Sgt. Philip Wallace work in the Emergency Operations Center of the Tennessee National Guard Joint Force Headquarters June 15. (Photo by Master Sgt. Robin Brown)

“The 1/230th Assault Helicopter Battalion, based in Nashville, Tenn., is also participating with the TDOC portion of the exercise, conducting flights of TDOC and state park personnel from Nashville to Milan, to replicate interagency movement,” said Brown.

The National Guard has a smaller footprint in this year's exercise due to their largest unit, the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, previously scheduled training at Fort Hood, Texas.

“Last year was proof that the adaptive battle staff concept worked with multiple units participating,” explained Brown. “This year, we had to scale it back due to the amount of resources needed to support the training event in Texas.”

TNMAN is critical for interagency relationship building across the state.

“It enables our state partners and ourselves

to better understand each other's capabilities and limitations, making us better equipped to handle real-world situations that occur within the state,” Brown said. “We need to understand how the emergency response effort works at every level; to understand the language, planning factors and how we all operate.”

“Our internal education of the domestic framework will speed our response and ultimately mitigate suffering for our fellow citizens in a time of crisis,” he added. “These are excellent exercises to continue to train and refine the practices of the Tennessee National Guard. They build confidence in our members and competency in domestic response missions.”

- MASTER SGT ROBIN BROWN

OUR HEROIC LEGACY

Lt. Col. Grover Wilson Recalls the 2015 Attack on a Navy and Marine Reserve Center in Chattanooga, Tenn.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. – July 16, 2015, was a very quiet summer morning in Chattanooga. Grover Wilson had just finished patrolling a residential area and was thinking about where he might stop for a quick lunch. A field training officer with the Chattanooga Police Department, Wilson decided to meet with a fellow police officer at a local Arby's. Just after the officers met in the parking lot, they heard one of the worst announcements an officer could hear come over their police radio, "shots fired!"

The officers stopped, and when the location was announced, Wilson immediately thought, "That's not far from here, let's go!"

The officers sped off to help. Within minutes, Wilson had pulled his cruiser into the parking lot of a local strip mall where the first thing he saw was several bullet holes in the windows of the military recruiting station responsible for supporting the U.S. Army, Air Force, Marines, and the Tennessee Army National Guard. The recruiting station also had numerous shell casings in the parking lot and in front of the recruiting office entrance.

A fellow police officer on the scene that had arrived earlier then gave him a quick description of the shooter's vehicle, the driver, and the suspect's direction of travel. The information was limited, but Wilson, who was also a lieutenant colonel in the Tennessee Army National Guard, was determined to catch whoever did this. He wasn't just responding to a shooting, it was an attack on

his fellow service members. He felt it could also be an act of terrorism, so he sped off to find the gunman and keep him from inflicting more harm.

Lt. Col. Wilson

Everyone has a different definition of a hero. Some say heroes wear capes while others say they are mothers and fathers who actively raise a child. When asked if Wilson was a hero that day, he simply replied, "No, I was doing my job." But what he did was nothing less than heroic.

When not wearing a police uniform or a member of the SWAT team, Wilson is wearing the Operation Camouflage Pattern (OCP) uniform as the deputy commander of the 230th Sustainment Brigade, Tennessee Army National Guard. A resident of Chattanooga, Wilson is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. He also earned a Master's of Science in Criminal Justice from American Military University. Wilson was commissioned in 1990 and deployed to Iraq with the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment in 2004. It was there Wilson learned various techniques for urban operations. These tasks, along with many others, became the founda-



Grover Wilson is a Field Training Officer with the Chattanooga Police Department and member of the Tennessee National Guard. (Courtesy Photo)

tion for his military career and his career as a police officer with the Chattanooga Police Department.

Wilson deployed two more times after his initial deployment to Iraq. In 2008, he deployed to Bosnia for five months and later to Kuwait in 2011, both as a member of the 230th Sustainment Brigade. During each of



Lt. Col. Grover Wilson (second from left) receives an award from Maj. Gen. Max Haston (far left) at the NGATN Conference. (Courtesy Photo)

these deployments, he was able to hone the skills necessary to prepare him for that fateful day in July 2015.

“The military pre-deployment training helped prepare me for that day,” said Wilson. “I used the training I learned during my deployments as an enhancement for our SWAT training.” All of the military pre-mobilization training as well as SWAT training and a take charge mentality prepared Wilson for the moment when he would be called upon to take the shot that killed a terrorist in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

July 16

Since it was nearing lunch time, there was a lot of traffic on the road as Wilson sped in the direction of where he thought the shooter might be. While in pursuit, Wilson’s police cruiser reached speeds of 120 miles per hour. He listened intently to the radio when he heard police dispatchers report that the shooter was now at a different military facility, the U.S Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center at 4051 Amnicola Highway in Chattanooga, which was in the direction he was heading.

As he arrived to the scene, he heard gunfire. Several police officers were already there and had taken a covered position at a safe distance along a tree line. Wilson grabbed his rifle and extra ammunition and ran to them. He looked at the officers and

said, “Guys, we can’t do anything from here. Follow me.” With that, Wilson led the charge to take down a terrorist.

As Wilson and the other police officers approached the front of the center, he signaled for some to break to the left side of the facility and for some to go to the middle while he and the others went to the right. They could hear the gunshots to the rear of the facility and Wilson’s intent was to ensure the terrorist would not double back on them. He wanted to prevent the gunman’s escape. Wilson knew the back of the center had a fenced-in motor pool which could contain the gunman.

When Wilson reached the corner of the building, he went left and took cover behind a large air conditioning unit. Wilson felt this would provide the best cover and concealment which would allow him to assess the situation. The motor pool was in front of him and Wilson could see between the privacy slats on the chain link fence. Suddenly, he saw the gunman thru the chain link fence and without hesitation, Wilson fired his rifle. Only a few rounds discharged before his weapon jammed. Without hesitation, Wilson instinctively dropped his magazine, cleared the jammed round, and loaded a different magazine containing different ammunition. He fired again, striking the gunman and ending the attack.

Aftermath

On October 5, 2016, the Chattanooga Police Department recognized Wilson, along with several other police officers, for their valorous actions on July 16, 2015. Chief Fred Fletcher, Chief of the Chattanooga Police, presented Wilson with the Police Medal, the Medal of Valor, and the Leadership Award.

Beyond that, Wilson received little recognition for his heroism that day. The Chattanooga Times Free Press did write a story on him and the other officers, but Wilson does not do what he does for recognition. He does his job as a police officer and as a military officer for a greater purpose, not for self-glory. He is a servant leader, ensuring the welfare of others before his own personal comfort.

Throughout all this, Wilson and the Chattanooga Police Department have had a great relationship. “I want to thank them for their continued support of my National Guard service. They have been great to work with and allowing me to fulfill National Guard obligations. My deployments, as well as my long term active duty order last summer as part of Operation Anaconda in Poland bring a lot of experience to the police force. My interactions with other cultures allow me a better understanding and appreciation of various ethnicities.”

The events of July 16, 2015, changed the lives of many people. It changed the lives of the citizens of Chattanooga. It changed the lives all of the first responders. It also changed the Force Protection Posture of the Tennessee National Guard. More importantly, it changed the lives of the families of the Marines and Sailor who were taken from us that day. Rest in Peace Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Randall Smith, Sgt. Carson A. Holmquist, Gunnery Sgt. Thomas J. Sullivan, Lance Cpl. Squire K. “Skip” Wells, and Staff Sgt. David Wyatt. - **LT COL (RET) JOSEPH HOLLISTER**



TENNESSEE IS ON THE MARK

Tennessee National Guard Provides Fierce Opponents at National Marksmanship Competition.



Tennessee National Guard Soldiers and Airmen participate in the annual Adjutant General's Pistol Match May 19-21 at the Volunteer Training Site in Tullahoma, Tenn. *(Photo by Master Sgt. Robin Brown)*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Tennessee National Guardsmen scored high in the Chief National Guard Bureau Postal Match that took place May 20-26 at Camp Joseph T. Robinson in North Little Rock, Ark.

The Tennessee team consisted of five members of the Army and Air National Guard. Air National Guard members were Staff Sgt. Allen Hendryx, Master Sgt. Brian McDonald, and Lt. Col. Keith Stiles, all from

the 164th Airlift Wing based in Memphis, Tenn. Army National Guard members were Sgt. Christopher Fischer of Detachment 1, 268th Military Police Company, based in Alamo, Tenn., and Capt. Andrew Hahn of the 268th MP Co. out of Ripley, Tenn.

Hendryx took first place in the Combat Rifle Excellence in Competition, second place in the 3-Gun Shoot Out Championship, and third place in the General George

Patton Combat Rifle Match.

Hahn took first place in the Rifle Individual Champion, and in the Close Quarter Engagement Matches; second place in the General George Patton Combat Rifle Match, Close Quarter Battle, and Rifle Run Down;



THE P320

The U.S. Army awarded Sig Sauer a contract worth \$580 million to make the next service pistol based on the company's P320 handgun, according to an announcement from the Army on Thursday, Jan. 19.

Sig Sauer beat out Glock, Smith & Wesson, and Beretta, the maker of the current M9 9mm service pistol, in the competition for the Modular Handgun System, or MHS.

The P320 Full-Size offers a smooth, crisp trigger to make any shooter more accurate, an intuitive, 3-point takedown and unmatched modularity to fit any shooter and any situation. Its full-size frame is ideal for target shooting, home defense and any scenario where shootability and sighted accuracy are of the highest priority. This modular, striker-fired pistol features a full-size grip, full length slide, and choice of contrast or SIGLITE Night Sights. Available calibers include 9mm, .357SIG, .40S&W and .45ACP. Safety features include a striker safety, disconnect safety.

(www.sigsauer.com)

The Sig Sauer P320 (above) will reportedly be replacing the Beretta M9 as the Army's new service pistol.

and third place in the 3-Gun Shoot Out Championship and Reflexive Fire portion of the competition.

McDonald took third place in the Pistol Positional Match, and Stiles took third place in the Rifle Run Down.

All members made the top 20 of the Overall Individual CNGB Postal Match Championship: Hahn – 8th, Hendryx – 11th, Fischer – 12th, McDonald – 17th, and Stiles – 20th.

Team Tennessee proved to be fierce opponents in several of the matches that make up the entire competition. Out of the approximately 20 different matches, the Tennessee National Guardsmen achieved positions in the top ten 38 times. Most matches had 52 competitors, but several had nearly 100.

Additionally, Tennessee recently held its state level Adjutant General Pistol Match on May 19-21. The Tennessee Air National Guard's 118th Wing, Joint Base Berry Field, Nashville, Tenn., took first place team for the competition. The Vol-

unteer Training Site in Tullahoma took second and the 269th MP Co., based in Murfreesboro, Tenn., placed third.

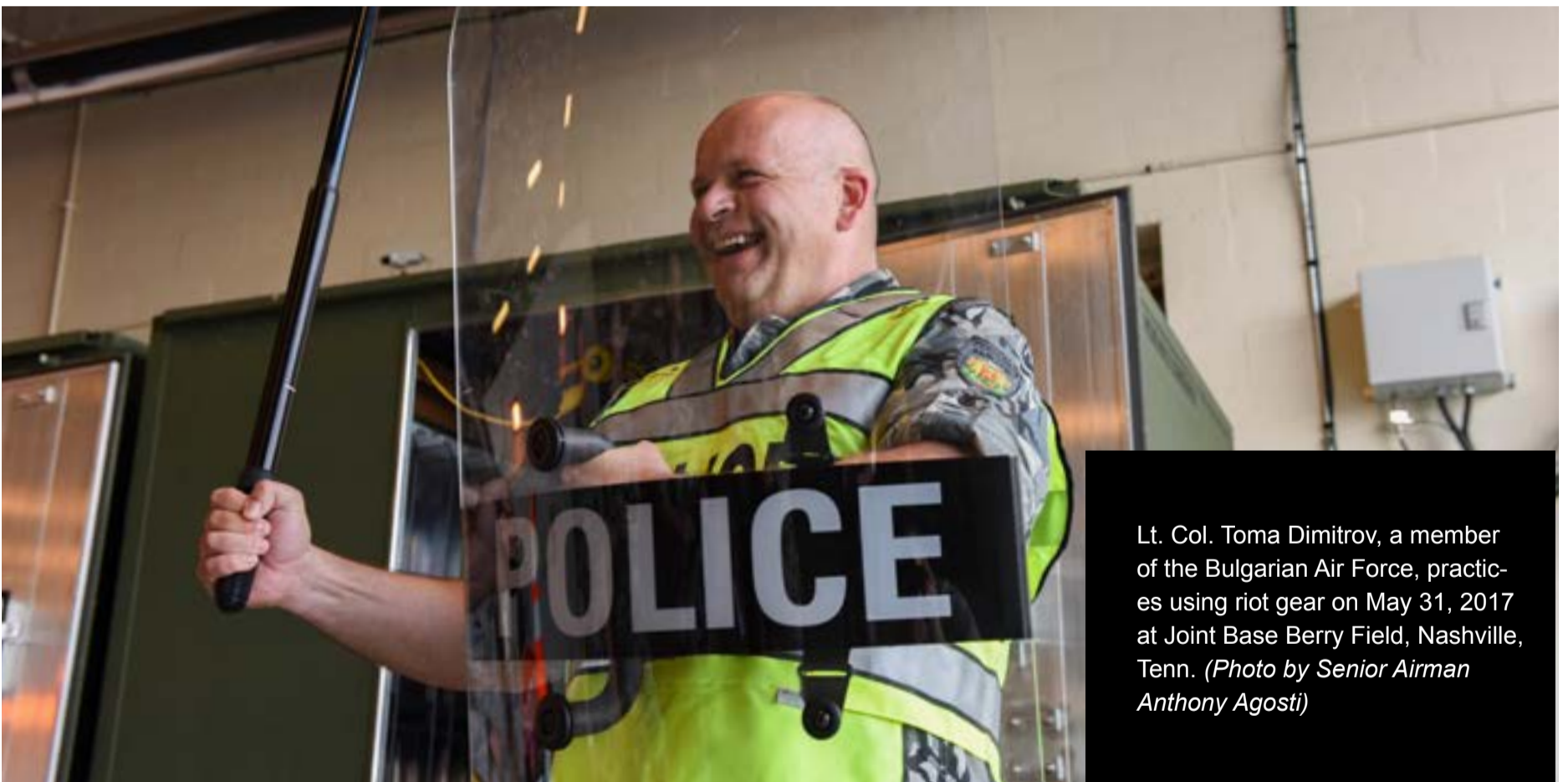
Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Aaron Davis of B-Troop, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Clarksville, Tenn., took first place in the individual competition. Army National Guard Sgt. Charles Wright, 1/230th Assault Helicopter Battalion at Joint Base Berry Field in Nashville, Tenn., took second in the individual competition. Finally, Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Michael Carey, 118th Wing, Nashville, Tenn., placed third in the individual competition.

The purpose of the state level competition is to train and learn. Regional and national level competitions are meant to showcase your skills. While safety is paramount at all shooting events, participants do get some down time to relax and meet their fellow Guardsmen from across the state.

- MASTER SGT ROBIN BROWN

BULGARIANS TRAIN IN TENN.

Tennessee Air National Guardsmen Foster a Cooperative Partnership with the Bulgarian Air Force.



Lt. Col. Toma Dimitrov, a member of the Bulgarian Air Force, practices using riot gear on May 31, 2017 at Joint Base Berry Field, Nashville, Tenn. (Photo by Senior Airman Anthony Agosti)

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Airmen from the 118th Security Forces Squadron had the special honor to host and train four officers from the Bulgarian Air Force May 30-June 1, at Joint Base Berry Field Air National Guard Base, Nashville, Tenn.

Tennessee partners with Bulgaria under the State Partnership Program, which is designed to provide cooperative training to allied military forces, strengthen global

partnerships, and enhance regional security around the world.

“The Tennessee-Bulgaria State Partnership has facilitated mutually beneficial training opportunities for all parties, encompassing a myriad of skillsets and experiences,” said Lt. Col. Tucker Rojas, Tennessee State Partnership Program director. “The Tennessee National Guard is a better, stronger fighting force as a result of our enduring partnership

with Bulgaria.”

“This long standing relationship gives us an opportunity in the future to continue to be useful to each other,” said Col. Nikolay Lyaskovski, head of Force Protection in the Branch of Training Department for the Bulgarian Air Force. “Because we are both military and we are both NATO allies.”

On this visit, the Bulgarian officers received in-depth training from several mem-



Maj. Bozhidar Petrov, a member of the Bulgarian Air Force, examines a riot control helmet on May 31, at Joint Base Berry Field, Nashville, Tenn. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Darrell Hamm)

bers of the 118th SFS.

“They were coming to learn about force protection,” said Master Sgt. John Chaffin, the operations superintendent for the 118th SFS. “So I broke it down on how the security

forces squadron is set up.”

Trainings covering the anti-terrorism program, firing range operations, access control points, and active shooter situations were some of the main topics of training provided

to the visiting Bulgarian officers, said Chaffin.

“They showed a great interest in learning how we educate our base populace,” said Chaffin. “We are trying to get them some resources to take back home.”

The Bulgarian officers also got a chance to take part in some hands on training.

“We were privileged to observe the (simulated munitions) training,” said Lyaskovski. “And I am most proud to say two people from my team also took part in it.”

Training events like this have proven very effective in fostering relations between the two states.

“The Bulgaria and Tennessee relationship is both strong and enduring; dating back to 1993, we have participated in over 500 military to military events with our Bulgarian state partners,” said Rojas. “We have even deployed to Afghanistan together between 2009 and 2011.”

“We sincerely hope that our mutual cooperation and partnership will continue in the future,” said Lyaskovski. “In order to improve our contacts and partnership.”

The information provided to the Bulgarian officers should be beneficial in not only supporting the security mission of the Bulgarian Air Force, but also for U.S. service members stationed with them.

“We will try to implement what we have learned in the future, and make our facilities more secure,” said Lyaskovski. “Especially the joint facilities, which are used by U.S. and Bulgarian forces for joint training.”

“They work on a lot less budget then we do, that’s probably one of their biggest limiters,” said Chaffin. “But if we can get them some education materials to take back to their people and their bases, I think it would be a good trip.”

- SENIOR AIRMAN ANTHONY AGOSTI

Open for the Challenge



The Tennessee National Guard's Volunteer ChalleNGe Academy Officially Opens its Doors

Gov. Bill Haslam officially opened the Tennessee Volunteer ChalleNGe Academy, an alternative residential program operated by the Tennessee National Guard that offers youth 16-18 years old who have dropped out of school a chance to earn a high school equivalency diploma outside of a traditional school setting.

The academy is housed at the site of the former Woodland Hills Youth Development Center in Nashville where Deputy Gov. Jim Henry and Maj. Gen. Max Haston joined Haslam for a ribbon cutting ceremony. The first class of about 100 cadets began July 9.

“This is an innovative approach to

help teens who may be headed down the wrong path to change the trajectory of their lives. It sets them up for success by helping them earn high school diplomas and makes them eligible for Tennessee Promise, which is right in line with our Drive to 55 goals,” Haslam said. “It’s a great example of the departments of military and children’s services collaborating in an inventive way to serve young Tennesseans.”

The program is voluntary and open to youth with no criminal record. It consists of a 22-week residential phase during which cadets focus on core components in a quasi-military environment while setting goals and

creating a life plan. Graduates return to their communities for a 12-month post-residential phase under supervision of caring adult mentors who serve as role models.

“For the past 15 years, the Military Department has attempted to establish a Youth ChalleNGe program,” said Haston, Tennessee’s adjutant general. “Through our collaboration with the Department of Children’s Services we have done so. Our goal is to provide cadets with the opportunity to complete high school, or the high school equivalency test, and get a job while learning life, leadership and social skills they can use as productive citizens for the

NGe



Gov. Bill Haslam speaks to a crowd of onlookers during the official opening of the Tennessee Volunteer Challenge Academy. (Photo by Dawn Majors)



Gov. Bill Haslam greets cadre and instructors at the Volunteer Challenge Academy housed in Nashville. The program is designed to intervene in and reclaim the lives of at-risk youth and produce program graduates with the values, life skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as productive citizens of Tennessee. (Photo by Dawn Majors)

rest of their lives. I can't say thank you enough to Gov. Haslam, Deputy Gov. Henry, and Commissioner Bonnie Hommrich for making this a reality."

The Tennessee Volunteer Challenge Academy was approved by the U.S. Department of Defense and is the 40th in the country. Its implementation is one of the steps in the governor's public safety action plan.

Funding for the program was part of Haslam's budget that consisted of \$4.35 million from new federal funds and a \$1.35 million state investment.

For additional information on the program and how to apply, visit the Tennessee Volunteer Challenge Academy online at www.tn.gov/tnvolunteer-challenge.

Story courtesy lebanondemocrat.com



TOUCHING SALUTE

Viral Photo of Soldier Saluting Funeral Procession Identified as Tennessee National Guardsmen.



VINE GROVE, Ky. – The viral photo of a Soldier saluting a funeral procession while standing in the rain has been identified. Col. Jack L. Usrey is the Senior Army Advisor to the Adjutant General at Tennessee National Guard Headquarters in Nashville, Tenn. While driving from Fort Knox, Ky., last week, Usrey saw a funeral procession, stopped, got out of his vehicle and paid his

respects to the deceased.

“I didn’t really think,” said Usrey. “I just did what my parents taught me to do growing up.”

“I stopped, got out, saluted the police escort and held my salute as the hearse and family passed by, then went on my way and didn’t give it a second thought.”

The photo, that has since gone viral, was

Col. Jack Usrey stands and salutes a passing funeral procession in a small town in Kentucky. The photo, taken by Erin Hester and posted to Facebook and Instagram, has been shared more than 133,000 times, garnered more than 196,000 “Likes”, and generated more than 9,282 comments on social media. *(Photo by Erin Hester).*



Erin Hester

July 6 at 5:44pm - Instagram

I was so completely touched by this today. A funeral procession was passing by and this soldier got out of his jeep to stand at attention in the pouring rain. I always get frustrated when I see cars that don't pull to the side and stop for a procession, but this gentlemen went above and beyond. I feel pretty confident that there isn't a military rule that soldiers have to do this. This made my heart happy to see the amount of respect that this gentleman showed a family that he doesn't even know. #values #respect



Col. Jack Usrey, Official Military Photo.

taken and shared on Facebook and Instagram by Erin Hester of Vine Grove, Ky., on Thursday, July 6th. Since that time, the photo has garnered more than 196,000 “Likes”, been shared nearly 133,000 times and generated more than 9,200 comments.

In her Facebook post, Hester said, “I was so completely touched by this today. A funeral procession was passing by and this soldier got out of his jeep to stand at attention in the pouring rain. I always get frustrated when I see cars that don’t pull to the side and stop for a procession, but this gentleman went above and beyond. I feel pretty confident that there isn’t a military rule that soldiers have to do this. This made my heart

happy to see the amount of respect that this gentleman showed a family that he doesn’t even know.”

“Two days later, I saw the photo hit Facebook – since then it’s exploded,” Usrey said. “It’s baffling to me that something so simple caused so much attention. I guess it goes to show how simple it would be for our Nation to be more united if we just treated each other using the Golden Rule.”

A mutual friend at Fort Knox contacted Hester and said they were sure they knew the Soldier in the photo and contacted Usrey. The photographer and the subject of the photo connected by phone and Hester was able to express her appreciation personally.

Usrey started his career in the Tennessee Army National Guard in 1988 as an enlisted Soldier in Union City, Tenn. After graduating as a distinguished military graduate from the University of Tennessee at Martin ROTC program, Usrey served on active duty as an Armor and Adjutant General officer for 25 years. His assignments ranged from tank platoon leader to the Executive Officer to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs).

He has served in the 82nd Airborne Division, United States Army Recruiting Command, 1st Armored Division, Special Operations Command Pacific, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, 1st Cavalry Division, III Corps, and the Combined Arms Support Command. Usrey’s operational and combat deployments include Operation (Restore) Uphold Democracy, Joint Task Force-Bravo, Operation Joint Guardian, Operation Iraqi Freedom I, Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09, Operation Enduring Freedom XII, and Operation Enduring Freedom XIV.

Usrey is a native of Martin, Tenn. and has more than 29 years of military service.

- MAJ (RET) RANDY HARRIS



STRONG ACT TO FOLLOW

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam Signs the Tennessee STRONG Act at the Joint Force Headquarters in Nashville.



Gov. Bill Haslam signs the Tennessee STRONG (Support, Training and Renewing Opportunity for National Guard) Act May 25, 2017 at the Tennessee Department of Military in Nashville. (Photo by Master Sgt. Robin Brown)

NASHVILLE, Tenn. Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam recently signed the Tennessee STRONG (Support, Training and Renewing Opportunity for National Guard) Act at the Tennessee Department of Military in Nashville. Haslam was joined by Rep. Tilman Goins (R-Morristown), Rep. David Hawk (R-Greeneville) and Major General Max Haston, Tennessee's Adjutant General.

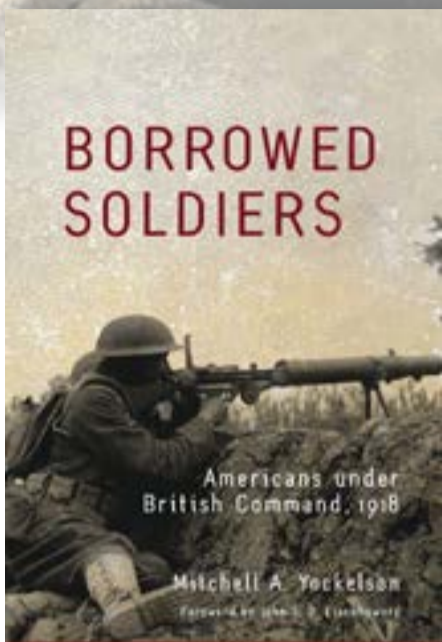
The Tennessee STRONG Act is the governor's legislation that provides tuition free educational opportunities for eligible mem-

bers of the Tennessee National Guard and supports the Drive to 55 goal to increase the number of Tennesseans with a degree or certificate to 55 percent by 2025.

The Senate passed HB 530/SB 1216 31-0 on April 3, and the House of Representatives passed the legislation 97-0 on April 10.

The Tennessee STRONG Act creates a four-year pilot program for members of the Tennessee National Guard. Eligible members will qualify for tuition reimbursement toward a first time bachelor's degree. The

legislation is part of Haslam's NextTennessee legislative plan aimed at building and sustaining economic growth and the state's competitiveness for the next generation of Tennesseans. - **CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4 NICK ATWOOD**



Borrowed Soldiers:
Americans under British
Command, 1918.
By Mitchell A. Yockelson,
John S. D. Eisenhower
(Foreword)
Norman: University of
Oklahoma Press, 2008.

Maj. Darrin Haas Gives his Review of: **BORROWED SOLDIERS**

As we celebrate the centennial of the United States' participation in World War I, there are many books, articles, and stories worth reading that highlight the role of Tennesseans in the Great War. Many look at the U.S. participation in its entirety and mention noteworthy Tennesseans like Clifton Cates, a U.S. Marine who was a platoon leader during the Great War and would later become the commandant of the Marine Corps. Others highlight the heroics of Tennessee's most famous Soldier, Sgt. Alvin York. But he was just one of six Tennesseans who earned the Medal of Honor while fighting in France, and one of thousands of Tennesseans who fought valiantly.

What is often forgotten about the State's role in the war is that of its National Guard. Drafted in its entirety in the summer of 1917, more than 95 percent of the Guard would deploy to France and fight as part of the 30th Infantry Division comprised of Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina National Guard troops. Tennessee's five other Medal of Honor recipients all came from this division, fought with it during its most fierce fighting, and started their service as members of the Tennessee National Guard.

Currently, the best work written that highlights this division and the role they played in the Great War is Michael Yockelson's *Borrowed Soldiers: Americans under British Command, 1918*. Not intended as a chronicle of just the 30th Infantry Division, it is a thorough examination of New York's 27th Infantry Division and the 30th's role in the American Expeditionary Force. Particularly, he focuses on how these two divisions were the only U.S. divisions in II Corps and assigned to the British Expeditionary Force. It was the first time that the British and Americans would fight together as part of a coalition, something which

would happen prominently in World War II and America's more modern wars in the Middle East.

Yockelson, a military historian with a Ph.D. from Cranfield University, currently works as an investigative archivist in the Office of the Inspector General for the National Archives and Records Administration. He was a professor at the United States Naval Academy and now teaches graduate classes in history at Norwich University. While using numerous primary sources, records, diaries, letters, and official papers from Great Britain and the United States, he masterfully chronicles the experiences of the 27th and 30th Divisions from their initial training in the United States through their combat in France. What Yockelson highlights is the difference in experiences these two divisions had compared to other American divisions. The 27th and 30th fought in the Somme and around Ypres, taking part in the breaking of the Hindenburg Line, while most other Americans troops were engaged at the Saint-Mihiel Salient and later the Meuse-Argonne.

Throughout his work, Yockelson examines the various aspects and levels of warfighting, the role that the National Guard units played, and how they were crucial to the British fight along the Hindenburg Line. The historical importance of these events and the impact they have on later warfighting coalitions makes this work a valuable addition to the library of any Soldier at all levels of leadership. Also, it is one of the few works that discusses the creation and early combat history of the 30th Infantry Division, of which the Tennessee National Guard played a crucial role. This work should be a must have for anyone interested in the history of the Tennessee National Guard and the role they played in World War I.

- MAJ DARRIN HAAS



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