



MILITARY

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Mississippi's military, as established in Article 9 of the Mississippi Constitution of 1890, serves under command of the Governor as Commander-in-Chief who, in turn, appoints the Adjutant General to serve as executive director of the Mississippi Military Department.

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MISSISSIPPI MILITARY DEPARTMENT

The Mississippi Military Department is part of the Mississippi executive branch and is a State agency. The Adjutant General of Mississippi (TAG) serves as the executive director and is only subordinate to the Commander-in-Chief, the Governor of Mississippi, in matters relating to the department and the state militia forces. The Adjutant General is a political appointee and serves at the will and pleasure of the Governor. The Adjutant General's term of office expires with the term of the Governor.

The Adjutant General of Mississippi, via the Mississippi Military Department, is expressly authorized to "issue such orders, rules and regulations as may be necessary in order that the organization, training, and discipline of the components of the militia of this state will at all times conform to the applicable requirements of the United States government relating thereto. Orders, rules, and regulations issued hereunder shall have full force and effect as part of the military code of this state."

Mississippi's militia forces formally break down into three broad classes: The Mississippi National Guard (MSNG), the Mississippi State Guard (MSG), and the unorganized militia. The Mississippi National Guard and the Mississippi State Guard are considered organized militia. The Mississippi National Guard is the most recognizable military force within our State borders.

The missions of the Mississippi Army National Guard and the Mississippi Air National Guard are dual in nature. The state mission is: to provide protection of life and property, and uphold the preservation of peace, order, and public safety for the citizens of Mississippi, under the leadership and control of the Governor. The federal mission is: to serve for the common defense, under Presidential authority, in times of national emergency or war.

The Mississippi State Guard is most closely aligned with the concept of state militia. The members are volunteers, self-equipped (armed only under special

circumstances, as defined in law), can only operate within the borders of the State, and are unpaid unless activated to assist or backfill the Mississippi National Guard.

The Guard has a history of service in homeland defense. The Mississippi Emergency Service Medal has been given in more than 49 different operations, including: 14 hurricanes, seven floods, five tornados, and numerous civil disturbances ranging from the textile strike in 1934 to civil strife in the 1960s.

In 1927, Mississippi Guardsmen patrolled 70 miles along the flooded Mississippi River Delta, saving, evacuating, and providing campsites for more than 30,000 refugees.

From September 30 to October 9, 1962, President John F. Kennedy federalized the entire Mississippi National Guard in connection with the integration of the University of Mississippi.

In October 1962, a large portion of the Mississippi Guard responded to a major chlorine spill at Natchez.

The state and federal missions collided for the first time during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Hurricane Katrina. With more than 3,000 Soldiers and Airmen overseas, the Mississippi National Guard led a noteworthy response in 2005 to the worst natural disaster to hit the United States.

The Mississippi National Guard's 47th Civil Support Team was certified in October 2006. This full-time unit's only mission is to respond to weapons of mass destruction threats within the state. They are fully equipped, fully funded, and serve under the control of the Governor.

Emergency service at home is not an easy mission. It evokes emotional involvement, requires separation from loved ones, and demands the same professionalism and courage required by the federal mission.

The Mississippi National Guard has served in the Creek War, War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War, World Wars One and Two, Korea, Operation Desert Storm, Haiti, Bosnia-Kosovo, Somalia, Operation

Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn.

The Mississippi Dragoons, under Major Thomas Hinds, demonstrated the fighting spirit and resolve of the Mississippi Militia during the War of 1812.

The 1st Mississippi Regiment of Infantry, Mississippi Rifles, turned the tide at the Battle of Buena Vista during the Mexican War. Colonel Jefferson Davis's command "STAND FAST MISSISSIPPIANS" remains the motto of the Mississippi Army National Guard's oldest unit, and the Army's sixth oldest active regiment, the 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry.

The fourth highest loss suffered by a southern regiment in a single battle at the Battle of Shiloh during the Civil War. The 6th Mississippi Infantry lost 300 of 425 men in less than 30 minutes.

In July 1917, the entire Mississippi National Guard was called into service for World War I. Two regiments of infantry, one regiment of field artillery, nine troops of cavalry, and one company of engineers were called. The first African-American registrants were also drafted for training.

Mississippi's oldest Air National Guard unit, the 186th Air Refueling Wing in Meridian, was activated at Key Field on September 27, 1939, as the 153rd Observation Squadron. Less than 13 months later, it was ordered into active service.

The Guard was activated again for war on November 25, 1940, and served honorably on battlefields throughout Europe and the Pacific. The 31st Infantry (Dixie) Division was again called on to serve in the Korean Conflict. Almost 95 percent of the Mississippi National Guard units were mobilized for the Korean Conflict.

In July 1953, the Mississippi Air National Guard's 172nd Airlift Wing was formed at Hawkins Field in Jackson. It is recognized as the first Air National Guard unit in the nation to use night photo reconnaissance, the first ANG unit to have an aeromedical

evacuation mission, and the first Mississippi National Guard unit to enlist females.

During Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Mississippi was the largest National Guard contributor to the war effort. Over 6,500 Mississippi National Guard members, representing 70 units and 57 communities, served on active duty during the Persian Gulf Crisis, with more than 1,300 deployed to Saudi Arabia.

In support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn, the Mississippi National Guard has mobilized over 10,000 service members, with every deployable unit participating.

From protecting the skies over Washington D.C. with the 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery; to patrolling the streets and conducting historic elections with the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team in Iraq; to hunting the Taliban in Afghanistan with the 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group; to conducting theater-level logistics for all of Southwest Asia with the 184th Sustainment Command; and to conducting combat aeromedical evacuation missions with the 172nd Airlift Wing, the Mississippi National Guard continues her faithful service to the citizens of Mississippi and the United States of America.

MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD

Command: Joint Force Headquarters, Mississippi National Guard

- Mississippi Army National Guard Training Center, Camp Shelby
- Mississippi Army National Guard Training Center, Camp McCain
- 154th Regiment
- 972nd Judge Advocate General Detachment
- Detachment 16, Operational Support Airlift Command
- Mississippi Medical Detachment
- Mississippi Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion

MISSISSIPPI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Command: 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team

- 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment
- 2nd Battalion, 198th Armor Regiment
- 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery Regiment
- 1st Squadron, 98th Cavalry Regiment
- 106th Support Battalion
- Special Troops Battalion, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team

Command: 184th Sustainment Command

- 168th Engineer Brigade
- 223rd Engineer Battalion
- 890th Engineer Battalion
- 298th Support Battalion
- 31st Support Detachment
- 114th Support Detachment
- 1984th Support Detachment

Command: 66th Troop Command

- 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group
- Special Operations Detachment, Mississippi Army National Guard
- 185th Aviation Brigade
- 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment
- 2d Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment
- 1108th Aviation Group
- 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment
- 112th Military Police Battalion
- 47th Civil Support Team
- 210th Finance Company
- 102nd Public Affairs Detachment
- 41st Army Band

MISSISSIPPI AIR NATIONAL GUARD

- 172nd Airlift Wing
- 186th Air Refueling Wing
- Combat Readiness Training Center, Gulfport
 - 255th Air Control Squadron
 - 209th Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron

MISSISSIPPI STATE GUARD

The mission of the Mississippi State Guard is “to establish and maintain an all-volunteer formal military organization as the State’s reserve to the Mississippi National Guard (MSNG).” The State Guard is to assist the Mississippi National Guard with in-state missions, as directed by the Governor and the Adjutant General of

Mississippi. The State Guard is tasked with assuming the mission of the Mississippi Army National Guard should they be fully mobilized outside the State. The State Guard is similarly tasked with securing armories, providing assistance to Guard families, and assuming other duties until the full mobilization ceases. State Guard personnel may, at the request of the Adjutant General of Mississippi, be trained in the protection of life and property of the citizens of Mississippi due to natural or man-made disasters.

The U.S. Constitution, U.S. Code, Title 32, Section 109, authorized the states to organize a State Defense Force (SDF) as provided by its laws. The Mississippi Code of 1972, Chapter 5, sections 33-5-1 through 33-5-53 authorizes the establishment of the Mississippi State Guard.



ADJUTANT GENERAL OF MISSISSIPPI Brigadier General Janson D. (Durr) Boyles

Major General Janson D. Boyles was appointed Adjutant General of Mississippi by Governor Phil Bryant on September 1, 2016. He also serves as the Commanding General of both the Mississippi Army and Air National Guard. He is responsible for providing the state of Mississippi and the United States of America with a ready force of more than 12,275 Citizen Soldiers and Airmen, equipped and trained to respond to any contingency, natural or manmade.

General Boyles directs the Mississippi Military Department and oversees the development and coordination of all policies, plans, and programs of the Mississippi National Guard in concert with the Governor and Legislature of the state.

General Boyles was commissioned in 1982 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Mississippi State University. Initially commissioned as an Army Medical Department of the United States Army officer, he later re-commissioned in the United States Army Engineer Corps. In 2005, as the Deputy Commander, 168th Engineer Group, General Boyles managed the engineer response to Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi. In 2008, he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with the 168th Engineer Brigade as Deputy Commander overseeing Engineer Sustainment operation in Regional Command—East and Regional Command—South for the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions. In 2012 he was assigned as Commander, 184th Sustainment Command, overseeing all subordinate unit missions ranging from state disaster relief to federal combat rotations executed under his command. In 2015, he was assigned Chief of Staff, Headquarters Kosovo Forces.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL, ARMY

Brigadier Gen. Gregory L. Kennedy

Brigadier General Gregory L. Kennedy was appointed Assistant Adjutant General—Army, on September 1, 2016. As the Assistant Adjutant General, he guides the formulation, development, and implementation of all programs and policies affecting the Mississippi Army National Guard and its nearly 10,000 Citizen Soldiers.

General Kennedy was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Infantry, on December 17, 1982 through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at the University of Mississippi where he was recognized as a Distinguished Military Graduate. He has served in command and staff positions at every level, including Commander, 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment, Commander, 185th Aviation Brigade, Deputy Chief of Staff, State Aviation Officer, Joint Force Headquarters, Mississippi Army National Guard, Commander, 66th Troop Command, and Commander, 184th Sustainment Command. General Kennedy served on active duty as Brigade S3 Liaison Officer, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team during combat operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2009.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL, AIR

Major General William O. Hill

Major General William O. Hill serves as the Assistant Adjutant General for Air and as Commander, Mississippi Air National Guard. He is responsible to the Adjutant General for directing Air National Guard operations and establishing policy, ensuring the combat readiness and mission capability of two flying Wings, a Combat Readiness Training Center, Air Support Operations Squadron, Air Component Operations Center, Special Operations Civil Engineering Squadron, and an Air Control Squadron.

General Hill was commissioned in 1988, and received his pilot wings in 1989. He has served as Wing Commander, Operations Group Commander, Chief of Safety, Chief of Command Post, Command and Control Officer, and Line Pilot. General Hill is a command pilot with more than 4,900 flying hours in C-141's and C-17s. He assumed his current position May 2015.

COMMAND CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER, ARMY

Bobby W. Tanksley

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Bobby W. Tanksley was appointed as the 6th Command Chief Warrant Officer (CCWO) of the Mississippi Army National Guard on 1 October 2012. He serves as the Adjutant General's personal adviser on all Warrant Officer related matters, particularly in areas affecting professional career management, recruiting, training, assignments, and mentoring. His primary mission is to coordinate with the state military personnel office, the recruiting and retention office, and subordinate commanders to implement a comprehensive Warrant Officer Recruiting Program. In addition, he manages the Warrant Officer mentorship and counselor programs.

CW5 Tanksley began his military career when he enlisted in the Mississippi Army National Guard on March 8, 1985, with Headquarters Company, 106th Support Battalion. He completed basic training in September 1985 at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, and the Utilities Equipment Repairer (51C) Advanced Individual Training course at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia in December 1985. He completed Warrant Officer Candidate School in 1994, the Warrant Officer Basic Course (915A) in 1995, the Warrant Officer Advanced Course (920B and 920A) in 2001 and 2003 respectively, the Warrant Officer Staff Course in 2007, and the Warrant Officer Senior Staff Course in 2012. CW5 Tanksley has served full-time in the MSARNG in

a variety of positions since May of 1986, including; Maintenance Technician, Maintenance Officer, Supply Support Activity Supervisor, Brigade Property Book Officer, and Warrant Officer Strength Manager.

STATE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR, ARMY and SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR

Sergeant Major John T. Raines

Command Sergeant Major John T. Raines assumed responsibility as the 7th Senior Enlisted Advisor for the Mississippi National Guard (MSNG) on July 10, 2015. Raines also serves as the State Command Sergeant Major for the Mississippi Army National Guard (MSARNG). He advises the Adjutant General of Mississippi and the Assistant Adjutant General, Army on all enlisted-related matters, particularly in areas affecting Soldier training and quality of life.

Raines joined the Army in August 1989, completing basic military training at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, and then Army Communications Systems (31U) training at Ft. Gordon, Georgia. His active duty career includes assignments with the Ft. Huachuca-based 11th Signal Brigade, including deployment in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, with the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea, and with the 101st Airborne Division at Ft. Campbell.

Raines joined the Alabama Army National Guard in 1998, working in counterdrug interdiction, and was activated after September 11, 2001 to guard and secure the chemical stock piles at Anniston Army Depot. In 2004, he was selected to serve as the First Sergeant for the Mississippi Army National Guard's newly-organized 47th Civil Support Team. In 2007, he was selected as the operations Sergeant Major for the 2nd Battalion, 198th

Armored Regiment, deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2009-2010. Raines later served as Commandant, Non-Commissioned Officers Academy, and as CSM for the 154th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) at Camp Shelby.

Prior to assuming responsibility as the MSNG SEA, Raines served as the Joint Operations Senior Enlisted Leader for US Pacific Command, where he was responsible for coaching and mentoring joint US Forces as well as multi-national partners throughout the region.

STATE COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT, AIR

Master Sergeant Robert B. Knight

Chief Master Sergeant Robert B. Knight is the twelfth Command Chief Master Sergeant for the Mississippi Air National Guard assigned to the Joint Force Headquarters, Mississippi Air National Guard, Jackson, Mississippi. Chief Knight is responsible for advising ANG commanders and staff on mission effectiveness, professional development, military readiness, training, reviewing promotion, retention, utilization, health, morale, welfare, and assignment policy affecting over 2,300 plus enlisted personnel; conducting counseling and interviewing sessions through a visitation program to 29 units; and identifying issues and recommending action directly to commanders. He maintains liaison between the enlisted personnel, the Adjutant General and the Assistant Adjutant General for Air/Commander, Mississippi Air National Guard.

Chief Knight assumed responsibility as the State Command Chief Master Sergeant for the Mississippi Air National Guard on December 6, 2014.

MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

CAMP MCCAIN TRAINING CENTER, Grenada

Garrison Commander—

Colonel Michael N. Cleveland

Camp McCain was created for the purpose of training Army National Guard and Reserve Organizations. Camp McCain is a state operated training center located approximately ten miles south of Grenada and approximately three miles east of Highway 51.

CAMP SHELBY JOINT FORCES TRAINING CENTER, Camp Shelby

Post Commander—

Colonel Gregory S. Michel

Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center is primarily located in portions of Perry and Forrest Counties, with a small portion in Greene County. The training center was established in 1917 in support of mobilization during World War I and has served almost continuously since then as a training site. Camp Shelby's mission statement is "to be the premier integrated war-fighting and force generation installation while serving as the world-class center of excellence for installation management, customer service, and community partnering."

COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE,

Columbus

Commander—

Colonel Douglas C. Gosney

Columbus Air Force Base (AFB) is home of the 14th Flying Training Wing of Air Education and Training Command's 19th Air Force. Each day the wing flies an average of 260 sorties on its three parallel runways. In addition to the flying training mission, Columbus AFB maintains more than 900 highly trained individuals capable of deploying at a moment's notice to support worldwide tasking and contingencies.

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Biloxi **Commander, 81st Training Wing—** **Colonel Michelle C. Edmondson**

Keesler Air Force Base is located within the city limits of Biloxi, on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The host unit, the 81st Training Wing, is the electronics training Center of Excellence for the U.S. Air Force. Keesler's training center handles more than 28,000 students annually. In its status as a lead joint training installation, Keesler trains not only Air Force, but Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and other military and civilian federal agency personnel.

MERIDIAN NAVAL AIR STATION

Commanding Officer—

Captain Scott Bunnay

On July 16, 1957, the first shovel of earth was thrown, marking the beginning of Naval Auxiliary Air Station (NAAS) Meridian, which was commissioned July 14, 1961. NAAS Meridian continued to grow, and by July 1968, the station became a full naval air station (NAS). Over the years, NAS Meridian has become a refuge for both aircraft and people who have been evacuated from the coast because of hurricanes. The main base of NAS Meridian occupies more than 8,000 acres of land, with an additional 4,000 acres at Joe Williams Field and the target facility SEARAY.

NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER, Gulfport

Commanding Officer—

Captain Cheryl M. Hansen

The mission of Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport is to operate and maintain facilities and provide services and material in support of Naval Construction Force Units. The NCBC was created in 1942. It consists of 10,000 active duty members and 12,300 reserve personnel.

