



MILITARY



DEFENDING OUR HOMELAND

TRUE TO OUR PATRIOTISM AND INGRAINED HOSPITALITY, MISSISSIPPIS WELCOME MILITARY FAMILIES WITH WARM HEARTS AND OPEN ARMS.

It’s a symbiotic relationship. In addition to keeping Mississippi and the nation safe, those stationed here also help support our economy and become integral parts of our communities.

Master Sergeant Dustin Weeks, USAF, is a Security Forces specialist and military working dog (MWD) handler at Columbus Air Force Base. He also coaches his 8-year-old daughter’s softball team, among many other types of community involvement, and loves being stationed in Mississippi. “I hear ‘thanks for your service’ from people anytime I’m between work and home in uniform,” said Weeks. “It’s just part of that famous Mississippi hospitality!”

With six installations across the state representing the Army, Navy and Air Force – not to mention our numerous National Guard units – Mississippi understands the importance of doing our part to keep our nation and her citizens safe and free.



“Having been deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan and Qatar, and after training in Wyoming and San Antonio, I’ve been around a lot in my career. In other places, you don’t see the same hospitality mindset in folks. It makes me appreciate Mississippi even more.”
Master Sergeant Dustin Weeks | USAF



“Our National Guardsmen are dedicated to keeping Mississippians safe by providing response to natural disasters and other events,” said Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, Mississippi National Guard’s Adjutant General. “Many require mobility during a flood or hurricane, engineering support after a tornado or hurricane, logistical support for citizens, or aviation support for partner agencies within the state and at times, the nation.”

Boyles added that Mississippi has deployed engineers, military police, aviators and communication support teams to neighboring states, and sent resources providing essential assets to fight wildfires across the country. The Mississippi National Guard has also provided safety and security to the National Capital Region during civil unrest and other civil disturbance events.

“The exemplary training and steadfast professionalism of our service members distinguish Mississippi as one of the premier Guard states in our nation,” said Boyles. “Our formation is comprised of talented Citizen Soldiers and Airmen who possess diverse skillsets and experience that enable us to adjust quickly to the needs of our state and nation.”

Whether our own National Guard or the thousands of other soldiers, sailors and airmen stationed here, Mississippi’s dedication to our military and its missions is exemplary. Our state is proud to be home to so many who defend our homeland. And we extend a grateful heart to their service.

“Your Mississippi National Guard continues to set a standard of excellence at home and around the world. We stand ready to serve the great citizens of Mississippi and answer our nation’s call to service. We are always ready and always there.”

Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles | The Adjutant General of Mississippi



MILITARY

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 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 evacuees.

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.

Also, 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.

In April 2020, the Mississippi National Guard mobilized in support of the Governor's COVID-19 State Task Force. More than 1,200 Soldiers and Airmen supported operations at all levels including personal protective equipment transportation and COVID testing and vaccinations.

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 Maj. 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. Col. 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 was 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, where almost 95 percent of the Mississippi National Guard units were mobilized.

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. More than 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, New Dawn, Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve, the Mississippi National Guard has mobilized more than 15,000 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

Joint Force Headquarters –

Mississippi National Guard

- Headquarters Detachment, Joint Force Headquarters – Mississippi National Guard
- Mississippi Army National Guard Training Center, Camp Shelby
- Mississippi Army National Guard Training Center, Camp McCain
- Mississippi Medical Detachment
- Mississippi Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion
- 972nd Judge Advocate General Detachment
- Company B, 2nd Battalion, 641st Aviation Regiment
- Detachment 16, Operational Support Airlift Command
- 154th Regiment Regional Training Institute

MISSISSIPPI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

155th Armored Brigade Combat Team

- 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment
- 2nd Battalion, 198th Armored Regiment
- 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery Regiment
- 1st Squadron, 98th Cavalry Regiment
- 106th Support Battalion
- 2nd Battalion, 137th Armored Regiment (Kansas Army National Guard)
- 150th Engineer Battalion

184th Sustainment Command

- 168th Engineer Brigade
- 223rd Engineer Battalion
- 890th Engineer Battalion
- 298th Support Detachment
- 114th Digital Liaison Detachment
- 1984th Support Detachment

66th Troop Command

- 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces Regiment
- Special Operations Detachment, Mississippi Army National Guard
- 185th Aviation Brigade
- 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment
- 2nd 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
- 41st Army Band
- 102nd Public Affairs Detachment

MISSISSIPPI AIR NATIONAL GUARD

- 172nd Airlift Wing
- 186th Air Refueling Wing
- Combat Readiness Training Center, Gulfport

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 role of 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.

MISSISSIPPI MILITARY COMMAND OFFICERS**ADJUTANT GENERAL OF MISSISSIPPI****Major General Janson D. (Durr) Boyles**

Major General Janson Durr Boyles was initially appointed Adjutant General of Mississippi by Governor Phil Bryant on September 1, 2016 and reappointed Adjutant General of Mississippi on January 14, 2020 by Governor Tate Reeves. 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 12,500 Citizen Soldiers and Airmen, equipped, and trained to respond to any contingency, natural or manmade.

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.

Major General Boyles was commissioned in 1982 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Mississippi State University. Initially commissioned as an Army Medical officer, he later re-commissioned in the United States Army Engineer Corps. In 2005, as the Deputy Commander, 168th Engineer Group, 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 operations 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

Major General John Trent Kelly

Major General John Trent Kelly has served as the Assistant Adjutant General for the Mississippi Army National Guard since Nov. 1, 2020. As the Assistant Adjutant General - Army, Kelly directs the operations of more than 10,000 Citizen Soldiers. He guides the formulation, development and implementation of all programs and policies affecting the Mississippi Army National Guard.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL, AIR

Major General Billy M. Nabors

Major General Billy M. Nabors has served as the Assistant Adjutant General - Air and Commander of the Mississippi Air National Guard since Aug. 4, 2018. As the Assistant Adjutant General - Air, Nabors directs the operations of more than 2,500 Citizen Airmen. He establishes policy to ensure the combat readiness and mission capability of the Mississippi Air National Guard.

STATE COMMAND CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER, ARMY

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Thomas W. Smith

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Thomas W. Smith has served as the State Command Chief Warrant Officer since April 6, 2018. As the Command Chief Warrant Officer, Smith serves as the senior advisor to the Adjutant General on all matters relating to warrant officers. He informs the Adjutant General and makes recommendations in matters of recruiting, retention, morale, welfare, schooling, promotions, and assignments of the warrant officers.

STATE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR, ARMY AND SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR

Command Sergeant Major

Christopher L. Young

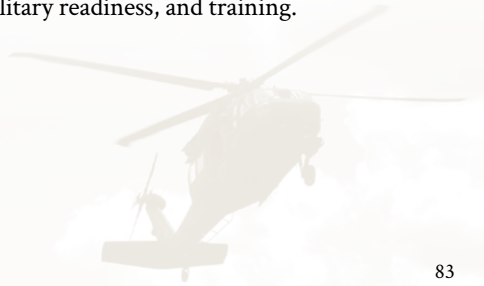
Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher L. Young has served as the State Command Sergeant Major of the Mississippi Army National Guard since Aug. 1, 2019. As the State Command Sergeant Major, Young is responsible for the welfare of all enlisted Citizen Soldiers. He advises the Adjutant General of Mississippi and the Assistant Adjutant General - Army on all enlisted-related matters, particularly in areas affecting Soldier training, readiness, and quality of life.

STATE COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT, AIR

Command Chief Master Sergeant

Lynn R. Cole

Command Chief Master Sergeant. Lynn R. Cole has served as the State Command Chief Master Sergeant for the Mississippi Air National Guard, since Dec. 2, 2017. As the State Command Chief Master Sergeant, Cole is responsible for the welfare of all enlisted Citizen Airmen. She advises the Adjutant General of Mississippi and the Assistant Adjutant General – Air on all enlisted-related matters of mission effectiveness, professional development, military readiness, and training.



MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

CAMP MCCAIN TRAINING CENTER, Grenada

Garrison Commander – Colonel Guy Reedy

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, Hattiesburg

Post Commander – Colonel Rick Weaver

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 as a training site since. 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

Base Commander – Colonel Seth. W. Graham

Columbus Air Force Base is home of the 14th Flying Training Wing, which is part of the United States Air Force's 19th Air Force under Air Education and Training Command. The base is comprised of three parallel runways that service 244 aircraft flying more than 55,000 sorties and 77,000 hours per year. Columbus trains more than 400 pilots and combat system operators annually.

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Biloxi

Outgoing Base Commander –

Colonel Heather W. Blackwell

Incoming Base Commander –

Colonel William H. Hunter

Located on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the 81st Training Wing is host to 2nd Air Force, the 403nd Wing (AF Reserve) and the single largest employer on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Keesler trains more than 28,000 students annually with an average daily student load of more than 2,700. The 81st TRW is a lead Joint Training Installation, instructing not only Air Force, but Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and civilian federal agency personnel.

Keesler's mission is enduring: We provide a wide array of capabilities in over 160 career field specialty training courses from 8 operating locations in the continental United States. Our mission is not only to technically training warfighters, but to develop and inspire them.

MERIDIAN NAVAL AIR STATION, Meridian

Base Commander – Captain Timothy B. Moore

Naval Auxiliary Air Station (NAAS) Meridian was commissioned July 14, 1961. NAAS Meridian continued to grow, and by July 1968, the station became a full naval air station (NAS). The mission of the base is to train Navy, Marine and International jet strike aviators for the fleet in the T-45C Goshawk. In addition, enlisted Sailors and Marines are trained in multiple ratings in their schoolhouses. Nearly 3,000 military, civilians and contractors are employed onboard the installation, which has a \$430 million economic impact on the surrounding community annually. NAS Meridian is home to a 6-MW solar generation facility and is a FEMA staging point for the Southeast Region of the U.S. The main base 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

Base Commander – Captain Jeff Powell

Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport is home to the Atlantic Fleet Seabees, one of only two installations that support, train, and forward deploy Seabees around the world. NCBC Gulfport supports the deployment of thousands of personnel and more than 1 million pounds of cargo for over 50 missions for operations supporting every combatant commander, providing humanitarian assistance and disaster recovery while stifling the growth of terrorism in under-developed countries each year. NCBC Gulfport is home to several key tenant command training missions.

The Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) instructed more than 8,200 Navy, Army, and Air Force students, including students attending the Center for Security Forces Expeditionary Combat Skills Course. The Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Professional Development Center trained more than 2,400 Navy and Marine Corps students at learning sites in Norfolk, San Diego, Yokosuka, and Gulfport. On June 11, 2018, the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Professional Development Center (NMOPDC) transitioned into Naval Information Warfare Training Group Gulfport (IWTG-G).

Naval Construction Group 2 has trained more 50,000 students as part of the Fleet Readiness Training Plan.

GULFPORT COMBAT READINESS TRAINING CENTER, Gulfport

Base Commander – Colonel Berry L. McCormick

The Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) has trained the nation's Armed Forces for almost 80 years. One of only four Air National Guard CRTCs in the nation, Gulfport CRTC encompasses 277 acres on the Mississippi Gulf Coast providing an integrated and realistic year-round training environment.

Facilities include ramp space for up to 100 fighter jets, 11,000 square miles of airspace over the Gulf of Mexico, an air-to-ground bombing range adjacent to Camp Shelby, and accommodations for up to 1,000 Airmen.

The installation's location makes it uniquely situated to provide military organizations with access to a wide variety of air, land, and sea training venues.

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER,

Vicksburg

Commander – Colonel Teresa A. Schlosser

The U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) premier research organization, developing innovative solutions and products that help solve the nation's toughest engineering and environmental challenges.

The ERDC is headquartered in Vicksburg, along with four of its seven laboratories – the Coastal and Hydraulics, Geotechnical and Structures, Environmental and Information Technology Laboratories. Additional laboratories include the Construction Engineering Research Laboratory in Champaign, Illinois; Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, New Hampshire; and the Geospatial Research Laboratory in Alexandria, Virginia.

The ERDC uses state-of-the-art facilities, coupled with some of the world's top engineers and scientists, to conduct research in unique competency areas for the Department of Defense and the nation. These core competency areas include:

- Civil and Military Engineering
- Blast and Weapons Effects on Structures and Geo-Materials
- Battlespace Terrain Mapping and Characterization
- Cold Regions Science and Engineering
- Coastal, River, and Environmental Engineering
- Military Installations and Infrastructure
- Computational Prototyping of Military Platforms

The ERDC also conducts research for other federal agencies, state, and municipal authorities and with U.S. industries through innovative work agreements.

The ERDC Discovers, Develops and Delivers new ways to make the world safer and better every day.

STENNIS SPACE CENTER

Director – Richard J. Gilbrech

The Federal Government selected an area of Hancock County to become the home of a static test facility for launch vehicles on Oct. 1, 1961; America set foot on the moon less than eight years later.

The test facility is located in the southwest corner of Mississippi, just 50 miles northeast of New Orleans, and encompasses more than 13,500 acres, with a surrounding sound buffer of almost 125,000 acres.

The program at Stennis Space Center began on April 23, 1966, with the flight certification of all first and second stages of the Saturn V rocket for the Apollo program, and continued well into the 1970s. The program expanded its testing platforms to include space shuttle main engines in 1975 and continued for 34 years before ceasing operations just two years

before the end of NASA's Space Shuttle Program in 2011.

Originally named Mississippi Test Operations in 1961, the name changed to the Mississippi Test Facility in 1965 before again changing its name to the National Space Technology Laboratories in 1974. After being added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places and becoming a U.S. National Historic Landmark in October 1985, the name changed again in 1988 to the John C. Stennis Space Center, honoring the U.S. Senator from Mississippi who led the push for, and support of, the nation's space program.

The John C. Stennis Space Center is also home to the INFINITY Science Center, a 72,000 square foot non-profit museum that also hosts the NASA Visitor Center, replacing the old 14,000 square foot StenniSphere in April 2012.

