

TENNESSEE GUARDSMAN

COVID-19

UNIFIED COMMAND

INSIDE TENNESSEE'S FORCE
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST
THE PANDEMIC

FLYOVER FOR
OUR HEALTHCARE
HEROES

TORNADO
CLEAN-UP
IN PUTNUM
COUNTY

■ FROM THE EDITOR

LT. COL. DARRIN HAAS
MANAGING EDITOR

Welcome to the newest edition of the Tennessee Military Department's official publication, the *Tennessee Guardsman*! For nearly 75 years, members of the Tennessee National Guard have been publishing a statewide magazine meant to bring Guardsmen together from across the state. And it continues with the latest issue which you are reading today.

But, it's been a long journey. In the early summer of 1937, a group of officers voluntarily met in Nashville to decide if it was feasible to develop a publication "by, for, and of the Guard." Luckily, they determined it was and created the *Tennessee Guardsman*. The first issue was released in October 1937. It had a few simple objectives: build closer relationships between Guardsmen, acquaint our fellow citizens with the great work of the Guard and the fact that there is one, and be a publication where different branches and specialties could learn from one another. It was not written for just officers, NCOs, or enlisted, but for everybody.

And it has done just that. Over the years that legacy continued as it went through many changes. It survived World War II and was renamed the *Volstate Guardsman* in 1966. Its name would change to the *Volstate Guard*, *Volstate Guard Online*, and lastly *The Volunteer State Guard Magazine*. Its format would also transform as time marched forward: from a magazine to a newspaper, newsletter, and everything in-between. It went all-digital in 2003.

Our last major revamp was just over six years ago when the ever-award-winning Rob Pennington joined the Public Affairs team and brought *The Volunteer State Guard Magazine* into the 21st Century. A one-person design team with dynamic layouts, original designs, and creative ideas, he's the reason this magazine is as good as it is.

So after a 54 year hiatus, we've decided to return to our roots with the original title that started it all. Embracing our rich history we've also made some improvements to the layout and content. We are continuing to try and make your publication relevant to you. But we can't do it without your help. We still need your input and stories. Let us know how we can continue to get better and what you'd like to see. It is your magazine that is "by, for, and of the Guard."



ON THE COVER: 1st Lt. Rebecca Keast, a nurse in the Tennessee Army National Guard and currently serving with the Military Medical Response Force, in Smyrna, helping to combat COVID-19. (Photo by Sgt. Sarah Kirby)



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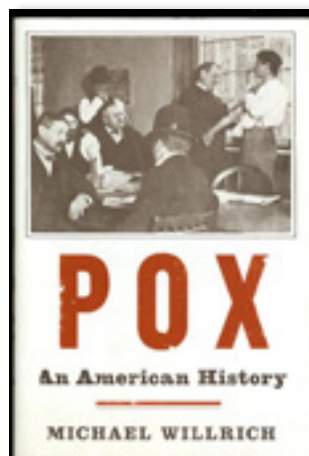
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TENNESSEE SNAPSHOT

PREPARING FOR THE PANDEMIC

March 24, 2020 - Soldiers and Airmen receive training from the 45th Civil Support Team in Smyrna. More than 250 members of the Tennessee National Guard have been activated to augment staff at COVID-19 testing centers throughout the state.

PHOTO BY: STAFF SGT. TIM CORDEIRO



TENNESSEE SNAPSHOT

SEARCH AND RECOVERY

March 5, 2020 - Soldiers from 2nd Squadron of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment partnered with first responders and led a search and recovery mission in Cookeville, after devastating tornadoes ripped through the area.

PHOTO COURTESY: SGT. ART GUZMAN



TENNESSEE SNAPSHOT

CHIEF OF BUREAU VISIT

May 20, 2020 - Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel, Chief, National Guard Bureau, visits with members of the Tennessee National Guard at Berry Field. Gen. Lengyel was briefed on how the Tennessee National Guard was operating during the COVID-19 pandemic.

PHOTO BY: STAFF SGT. TIM CORDEIRO



TENNESSEE SNAPSHOT

TESTING IN EAST TENNESSEE

April 14, 2020 - Members of the Tennessee National Guard working at a COVID-19 Testing Site in Washington County. More than 1,000 Tennessee Soldiers and Airmen volunteered to provide support to the Tennessee Department of Health.

PHOTO BY: SGT. SARAH KIRBY



LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

MAJ. GEN. JEFF HOLMES



Our Team Will Accomplish Whatever Mission is Before Us

At the time this new issue of the *Tennessee Guardsman* is published, we are still in the middle of a global pandemic where we’ve had Soldiers and Airmen on the frontlines protecting Tennesseans since it began.

Prior to that, Middle Tennessee was hit by an EF-4 tornado followed by another EF-3 near Chattanooga. In the last few months, we’ve all accomplished so much as a joint, interagency force with over 1,000 Soldiers and Airmen on orders at the forefront.

I want to remind everyone that sometimes you can get so absorbed by your current mission that you begin to lose perspective. Well, let me tell you, since this began we have tested over 100,000 of our fellow citizens for COVID-19. You’ve done that, on the ground, at multiple sites across the state. We’ve surged in areas where there are high risk patients and residents. You have accomplished your mission and I’m confident you will continue to do so. As I’ve visited testing sites and met with local leaders, I keep hearing the same comment; when they see a Soldier or Airman in uniform it brings comfort to what is already or would be a stressful situation.

I’m proud that we’ve empowered our junior leaders at the lowest levels to make timely decisions based on the situation developing on the ground in front of their very eyes. We’ve asked you to execute missions with only a 75 percent solution and expected you to figure out the last 25. You’ve far exceeded our expectations.

I don’t know how or when this pandemic will end, but I know that our team will accomplish whatever mission is before us. So far, we’ve had more than 1,000 Soldiers and Airmen in the fight, but the Governor knows there are another 12,000 in the balance waiting to get a turn. You are all doing a fantastic job, at every level. So I thank you, God bless you, and keep yourself and family safe.

Sincerely,

MG Jeff Holmes
Tennessee’s 76th Adjutant General

Transitional Healthcare for Guardsmen

House Bill Provides Health Coverage after COVID-19 Missions

WASHINGTON (May 26, 2020) — The voice of nearly 45,000 current and former National Guard officers is applauding new legislation in the House of Representatives that would provide Guardsmen with transitional medical coverage after they demobilize from COVID-19 missions.

Introduced Friday by Rep. Joe Cunningham, D-S.C., and Rep. Steven Palazzo, R-Miss., the Support our National Guard Act (H.R. 6867) would provide Guardsmen and their families with six months of TRICARE medical coverage after they leave federal Title 32 active duty.

The bill in the House is a counterpart to legislation of the same name and provisions (S.3713) introduced in the Senate on May 13 by Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa.

TRICARE is the U.S. military’s health care delivery system. It functions similarly to private medical plans. Guardsmen on federal orders in increments of more than 30 days and their families currently have access to the coverage.

They and their families receive transitional medical care for six months after overseas assignments to help cope with possible post-deployment health issues, but the law governing domestic missions provides no such coverage.

Federal support for Guard COVID-19 missions is set to end on June 24.

“These soldiers and airmen are on the front lines of our nation’s worst public health crisis in more than a century,” said retired Brig. Gen. J. Roy Robinson, the NGAUS president. “It would be unconscionable to send them home to their families without medical coverage.”

- Full Article at [NGAUS.org](https://nga.us.org)



Tornado Relief in Chattanooga

CHATTANOOGA, TN Soldiers with the 230th Sustainment Brigade and Airmen with the 241st Engineering and Installation Squadron hit the road to Chattanooga in support of tornado disaster relief after at least seven tornadoes ripped through the Hamilton and Bradley Counties Easter Sunday. The Tennessee National Guard troops worked tirelessly to help those affected by the destruction of this storm, delivering water, supplies and assisting in clean-up efforts around the city. (Photo courtesy 230th Sustainment Brigade)



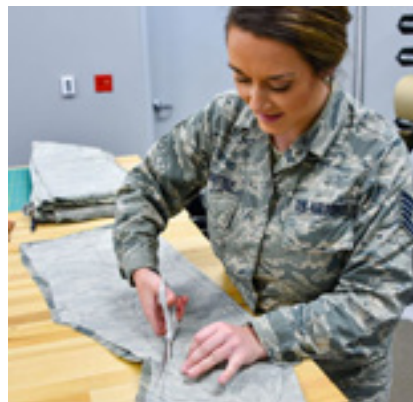
Mrs. Karen Pence Visits East Tenn.

LOUISVILLE, TN Mrs. Karen Pence, wife of Vice President Mike Pence, arrived to McGhee Tyson ANG Base for a scheduled visit to nearby Great Smoky Mountains National Park to attend their re-opening phase ceremony on May 19. Mrs. Pence was greeted by 134th Air Refueling Wing Commander, Col. Lee Hartley, Medical Group Commander, Col. Lisa Simmons, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Mike Johnson. Each was presented a coin by Mrs. Pence. Even with the rainy weather, the “Volunteer Ready” spirit was on full display to welcome America’s Second Lady to McGhee Tyson ANG Base and East Tennessee! (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Kendra Owenby)



Alternate Care Site in Memphis

MEMPHIS, TN Members of the Tennessee Air and Army National Guard refurbished the old Commercial Appeal Building with hospital equipment in Memphis from April 15 - May 15, 2020. This facility can provide additional capacity and be used as patient overflow if needed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Gov. Bill Lee was on-hand for the alternate care site’s opening on May 18. (Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Tra’Vonna Hawkins)



Airmen Recycle old ABUs into Masks

LOUISVILLE, TN Volunteers doing what they do best! On April 13, Members of 134th Aircrew Flight Equipment and the Logistics Readiness Squadron recycled old Airman Battle Uniforms, better known as ABU’s, into protective face masks for personnel. This transformation is possible with the ABU’s only due to their being free of insect repellent that is present in some of the other uniform types. From start to finish, the Airmen traced, cut, assembled and sewed the pieces into reusable protective masks for their fellow Airmen! (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Teri Eicher)



COVID-19 Testing in Tennessee

MEMPHIS, TN Members of the 164th Airlift Wing along with members of the Tennessee Army National Guard and Tennessee State Guard test residents for COVID-19 at the Jefferson Park Apartments in Memphis on May 19. This was the second day of testing for this and many other locations in Tennessee. (Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Chelcee Arnold)

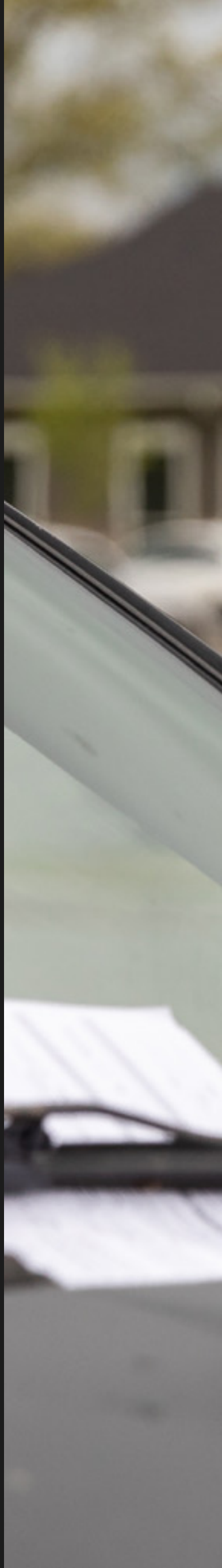
PANDEMIC

COVID-19

UNIFIED COMMAND

INSIDE TENNESSEE'S FORCE
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THE PANDEMIC

STORY BY STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY CORDEIRO





Sgt. Leann Roggensack works as a registered nurse in her civilian occupation. She is one of many Tennessee Guardmembers who have volunteered to help test Tennessee residents for COVID-19. (Photo by Sgt. Sarah Kirby).



Tennessee Governor Bill Lee (right) and Tennessee's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Jeff Holmes (left) meet with members of the Tennessee National Guard, March 26, in Smyrna, prior to them being activated in support of the COVID-19 pandemic. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cordeiro)

Ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes of a pandemic response?

As a full-time photographer/journalist for the Tennessee National Guard the last few months, I have been busier than ever before. The COVID-19 pandemic reared its ugly head in this country and with it came a nationwide response by the National Guard that we have never seen before. Over 50,000 National Guard members were activated at its peak, conducting operations of all shapes and sizes.

In some states, National Guard members set up field hospitals to house COVID-19 patients when local medical facilities reached capacity. Nationwide, the Guard has been utilized for delivering food, Personal Protective Equipment, and testing supplies to those who need it most. Here in Tennessee, the National Guard has teamed up with the Department of Health to administer virus testing at over 30 drive-thru testing sites across the state. By June 9, the Tennessee National Guard had tested over 100,000 citizens for the virus.

I have seen firsthand the great work that has been done out in the community by guard members and medical personnel all over the state, but I wanted to get a better understanding of what goes on behind the scenes of a large-scale activation like this.

I spoke with Maggie Hannan, the Community Relations Officer for the Tennessee



A member of the Tennessee National Guard working at a COVID-19 test site, April 10. (Photo by Sgt. Sarah Kirby)



Members of the Tennessee National Guard work alongside members of the Department of Health to perform COVID-19 testing at a rural testing site in Cheatham County, April 3. At the request of Gov. Bill Lee, more than 1,000 Soldiers and Airmen from the Tennessee National Guard volunteered to provide medical, logistic and personnel support to the Tennessee Department of Health. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cordeiro)

Emergency Management Agency, and she explained how the Tennessee National Guard is working together with TEMA and the Department of Health to try to limit the effects from the pandemic.

“We are all part of a Unified-Command Group,” said Hannan. “Specifically, TEMA’s role is to support local jurisdictions, while facilitating resources and information from the federal side to the local side.” TEMA operates as a liaison between federal and local governments, providing resources and assistance to local agencies that need it.

On March 23, Gov. Bill Lee established a COVID-19 Unified Command, a joint effort between TEMA, the Tennessee Department of Health, and the Tennessee Military Department to streamline coordination across these agencies. The Command makes it much easier to coordinate, plan, and respond to the pandemic.

“The structure of the Unified-Command Group has been used at various joint headquarters such as the Combatant Commands and at national level Joint Chiefs of Staff,” said Maj. Gen. Jeff Holmes, Tennessee’s Adjutant General. “It’s incredibly useful to bring different organizations together to ensure a unified effort when dealing with a problem or situation, and everyone can make informed decisions based on all information available from the different groups.”

According to Holmes, the structure’s uniqueness is that it allows organizations, like the Department of Health and the Military Department, to work together and learn from each other. They each have a critical role in fighting the pandemic, but very different cultures.

“The Unified-Command allows for collaborative creative solutions that may not be considered if either organization planned separately,” said Holmes. “One of the group’s most important tasks is to provide informed recommendations to the Governor so he can make the best decisions possible.”

As these response decisions are made, they are acted on by the appropriate organization to turn the Governor’s plans into reality on the ground. But what role does the Tennessee National Guard plan in this?

Capt. Michael Boatright is an Assistant Domestic Operations Officer for the Tennessee National Guard. He works inside the Joint Emergency Operations Center, where command and control is administered at the state level during a National Guard activation.





TOP: Members of the Tennessee National Guard working at a COVID-19 Testing Site in Cheatham County. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cordeiro)

RIGHT: Members of the 164th Airlift Wing and Tennessee Army National Guard refurbish the old Commercial Appeal Building with hospital equipment in Memphis on May 18, 2020. This facility can provide additional capacity and be used as patient overflow if needed during the COVID-19 epidemic. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chelcee Arnold)



LEFT: A Belmont University nursing student answers a phone call, March 27, at the Department of Health COVID-19 call center, in Nashville. Nursing students, TEMA, Department of Health officials, Tennessee National Guard and volunteers all work together to manage the large number of calls received during the pandemic. (Photo by Retired Sgt. 1st Class William Jones)

When you walk into the JEOC for the first time, it's a lot to take in. Picture Times Square in New York City, with screens covering the tables and walls showing everything from weather reports, maps, and accountability charts. It can seem a bit overwhelming, but it's actually a well-oiled machine of an operation.

"Here in the JEOC we are conducting operations to facilitate the National Guard response for COVID-19," said Boatright. "When TEMA sends a request, it is processed here, and we put a plan in place to execute that mission."

So, TEMA receives requests for support, whether it be for supplies or for manpower from the National Guard, and those requests are processed through the JEOC. Those resources are then assembled, and those plans are put into motion.

However, this isn't a typical National Guard mobilization. Unlike the deadly tornadoes that ravaged middle Tennessee in early March, this is a health crisis, requiring cooperation from the Department of Health, as well.

The DoH has played many roles during the COVID-19 pandemic. Seeing as it is a public health crisis, the DoH has been an intricate part of the planning and execution process of combating this virus. DoH workers are out at testing sites and medical offices, teaming up with the National Guard to test almost half a million Tennesseans as of the end of May. DoH officials are also working behind the scenes, answering calls in a call center that was established at Joint Force Headquarters in Nashville.

Pete Phillips is a pharmacist for the DoH and has been working at the call center to help disseminate important information to Tennesseans.

"We were taking over 300 calls a day at one point," said Phillips. "We brought in volunteers, nursing students from local colleges and some National Guard members to make sure we can answer every call and help inform our neighbors."

Working in a joint environment is a different, but positive experience, explained Phillips.

"We have a great relationship with the Guard and with TEMA," said Phillips. "Everyone has been extremely professional and communicating well, so everyone's doing a great job."

Other agencies have also taken a big part in the COVID-19 response like the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. On June 5, Maj. Gen. Robert Whittle, Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, opened a newly-established alternate care facility, which will serve the people of Nashville and the surrounding areas. The U.S Army COE, with the help of the Tennessee National Guard, worked within the Unified Command to seek out, and to construct these alternate care facilities in both Nashville, and Memphis.

Between the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Health, the Tennessee National Guard, and many other agencies, the teamwork I've witnessed during this trying time has been a welcome sight.

I've spent a lot of time out at testing sites covering the great work the National Guard is doing. There always seems to be a constant: the level of cohesion and teamwork shown by the Guard and their DoH counterparts. Perhaps that is why Tennessee is considered one of the leaders in COVID-19 testing throughout the country.

"Tennessee is the volunteer state, so we never have a shortage of people that really want to help out," said Hannan. "It's been really nice to have everyone working together, successfully in such a large-scale, collaborative effort. I think we've really been showing our character."



Soldiers and Airmen work alongside medical professionals in Coffee County to test residents for COVID-19. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cordeiro)

COVID-19 RESOURCES

Looking for resources that can help you navigate the COVID-19 Pandemic?

Here are a few websites that can give you some info:

tn.gov/governor/covid-19.html
The State of Tennessee's resource hub on coronavirus.

coronavirus.gov
A website developed by The White House, CDC, and FEMA to help Americans with questions about the pandemic.

cdc.gov
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website.



STORM CLEAN-UP

Tennessee National Guard Helps Clear Debris from EF-4
Tornado in Putnam County



A Tennessee Air National Guardsmen with the 134th Air Refueling Wing uses a chainsaw March 10, in Cookeville, as part of a debris clearing operation. Both Air and Army National Guardsmen are conducting multiple operations throughout the state to aid in disaster relief efforts, after tornadoes ravaged central Tennessee overnight, March 2. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cordeiro)

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Starting on March 10, Soldiers and Airmen from the Tennessee National Guard began assisting Putnam County with cleaning up massive amounts of debris, damaged property, and trash left in the wake of an EF-4 tornado that struck the area in the early morning hours of March 3.

More than 70 guardsmen with 21 dump trucks and other engineering equipment

worked hard to remove debris and trash piled along roadways by citizens and volunteers eager to begin the process of rebuilding.

“We’re here to do whatever is needed to help those in Cookeville and Putnam County,” said 2nd Lt. Timothy Grissom, a platoon leader with the 212th Engineer Company. “They suffered a lot of damage and all of my

TORNADO



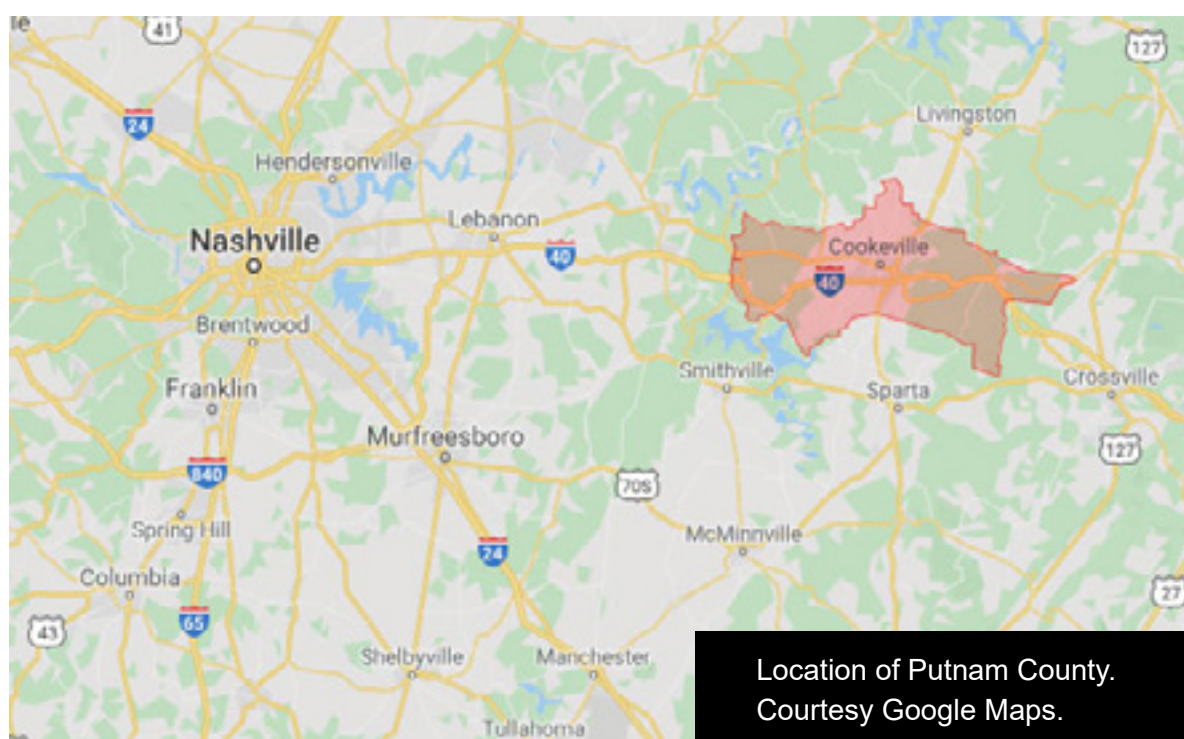
Airmen with the 134th Refueling wing, and Soldiers with the 194th Engineer Brigade work together to clear debris March 10, in a heavily impacted area of Cookeville. Both Air and Army National Guardsmen are conducting multiple operations throughout the state to aid in disaster relief efforts, after tornadoes ravaged central Tennessee overnight, March 2. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cordeiro)

soldiers are eager to help.”

To assist with the clean-up, trained drivers and engineers from multiple units across the state have volunteered. Vehicles, drivers, and engineers from the 230th Engineer Battalion in Trenton, 212th Engineer Company in Paris, 913th Engineer Company in Union City, 255th Engineer Detachment in Tennessee Ridge, 890th Sapper Company from Huntington, and a team of Airmen from Knoxville’s 134th Civil Engineering Squadron are all assisting in tornado relief efforts in Putnam County.

“It’s heartbreaking to see the damage that has been done here,” said Grissom. “I’m just glad I can be here to support those affected.”

- LT. COL. DARRIN HAAS



Location of Putnam County.
Courtesy Google Maps.

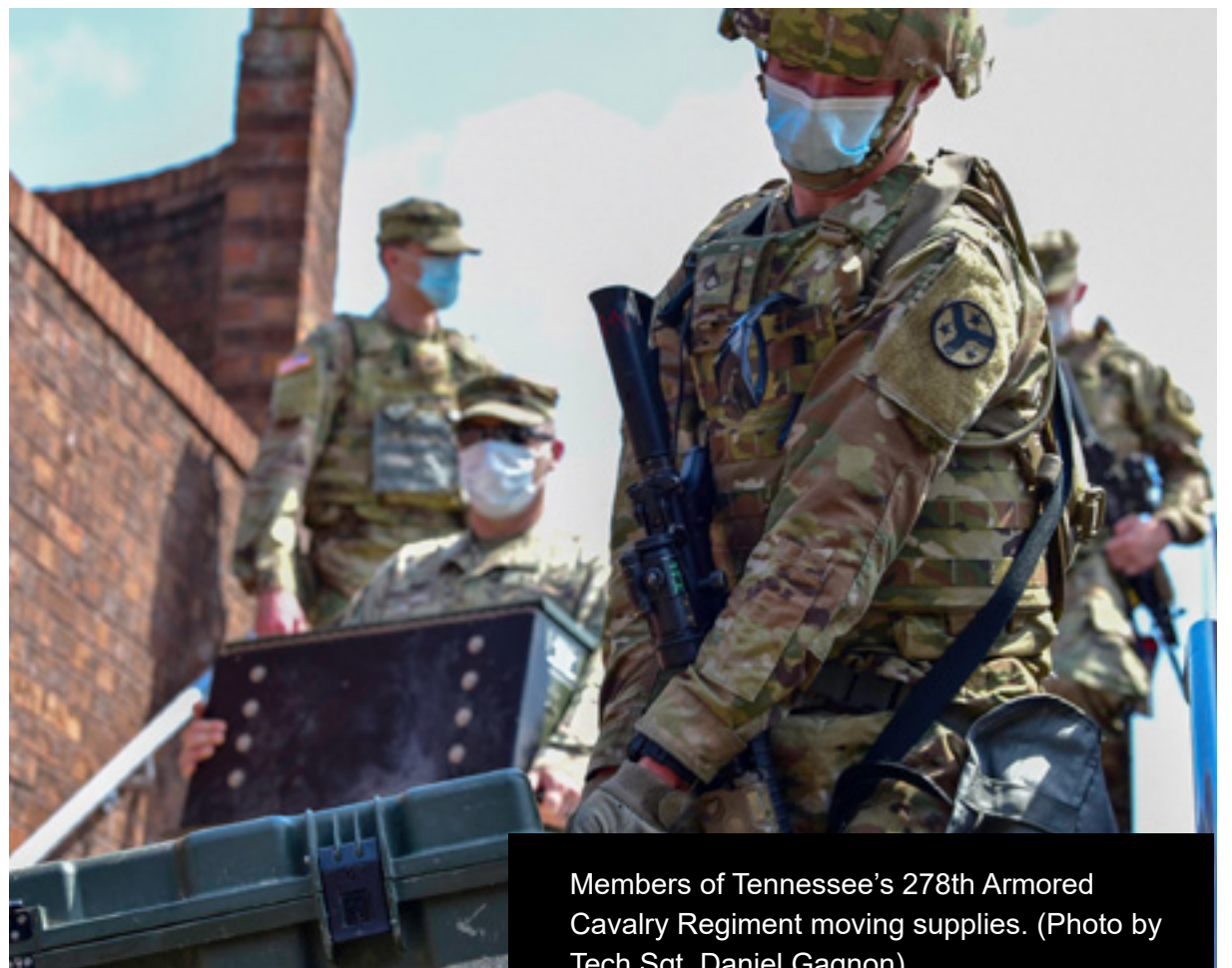
How Will This Crisis Define Us?

Tennessee's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Jeff Holmes gives his thoughts on Sacrifices in the Age of COVID-19

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - This year we're commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, the most devastating conflict the world has ever seen. Tom Brokaw wrote that the men and women who grew up during the Great Depression and won World War II were the greatest generation any society has ever produced. The "Greatest Generation," a term Brokaw coined, sacrificed greatly; not for fame or recognition, but because it was the "right thing to do."

The Greatest Generation came from all segments of our society; rich, poor, public, private; and those who sacrificed the most, our military. I was not part of the Greatest Generation, so I am not qualified to speak on their behalf regarding the current generations' response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I do know those of us who serve hold them in the highest regard and acknowledge them as the "gold standard" for selfless service. I also know many of us who serve feel an obligation to not let them down, no matter the challenge.

More than 300,000 Tennesseans served in the armed forces in WWII with 5,731 giving their lives. At home, great sacrifices were necessary to ensure those American service members would be victorious overseas. More than 280,000 Tennesseans mobilized to build equipment and weapons necessary for the fight. Those who didn't serve directly also sacrificed by doing what they could to support the war effort. Families planted victory gardens and invested in war bonds. They lived with shortages of cigarettes, rub-



Members of Tennessee's 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment moving supplies. (Photo by Tech Sgt. Daniel Gagnon)

ber, gasoline, sugar, and meat to support the combat troops. Citizens knitted sweaters and socks and rolled bandages for the Red Cross. They volunteered as air raid wardens and block captains, ensuring neighborhoods complied with and practiced blackouts during air raid drills. Tennesseans sacrificed daily for years to ensure their military had everything necessary to win the war and keep their communities safe.

Today, we're engaged in another war that

has already killed nearly 150,000 Americans. As a frame of reference, the COVID-19 virus has taken more lives than WWI and the wars in Korea and Vietnam combined. This represents more than one-half of the total American death toll in WWII. COVID-19 related deaths continue to increase daily. Right now, National Guard men and women, healthcare professionals, and countless other volunteers are on the frontlines risking their lives and their families' lives to defeat

this enemy that is wreaking havoc on us, our economy, and our way of life. COVID-19 is attacking and infecting the most vulnerable members of our society. Yes, this is our current generations' fight and we are at war.

This isn't the first time we've faced a threat like this. Spanish Flu, Yellow Fever, Polio; we've fought them all and triumphed. Americans have persevered through many crises and challenges in our short history and emerged stronger for it. We took our independence from one of the greatest empires in world history, and we fought a civil war to unite our nation that brought devastation and death on a scale never imagined. We've suffered through depressions, natural disasters, pandemics / epidemics, wars, and civil disturbances. In under 250 years, we've been tested time and again.

When this fight is over, I wonder how the "Greatest Generation" will judge our collective will to fight. How will generations ahead view our effort as a nation? How we conduct ourselves today will define this generation. I challenge everyone to take a moment and consider our individual actions and how it could affect history.

Our most valued resource, our men and women in uniform, fight every day for our freedom. This freedom protects our rights to many things, and as an independent-minded population, we cherish this right and are prepared to fight for it on every shore and in every corner of the globe. We feel threatened when our personal rights are challenged; however, there are times when placing our nation's needs above our own is warranted. Once we committed to WWII, people set aside their personal comfort and liberties for the benefit of all.

War is not a mechanical process that can precisely control machines, calculations, or processes; it is a human endeavor. It is more art than science which is won by taking calculated risks through actions that cannot be certain of success. After consideration, the simplest action to take is one with anticipated gains with minimum risk. The collective actions of our Nation's citizens and men and women in uniform brought victory during WWII. All of those "victory gardens" probably never had a direct correlation to how many soldiers were fed, however that didn't



"We've suffered through depressions, natural disasters, pandemics / epidemics, wars, and civil disturbances. In under 250 years, we've been tested time and again."

matter to our Greatest Generation. They simply contributed what they had to the war effort. They just "did the right thing."

Cloth face coverings, or masks, help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus to others. You can be infected with the virus and not know it. Paired with other preventative measures, to include social distancing, we can greatly reduce the transmission of the virus and save lives.

We shouldn't have to be mandated to "do the right thing." If you are against wearing a mask, that is your right, but don't force that risk on others. If you don't wear a mask, then respect a business's right to deny you access

to their store -- it's the same freedoms we all share. But if you think it has some small contribution to this fight, shouldn't you "do the right thing?"

I see medical professionals every day, both National Guard and civilians, on the front lines of this fight. Additionally, I see people who place their comfort aside by wearing a mask. This selflessness is similar to the characteristics exhibited by our Greatest Generation. I think they would judge today's historic fight as worthy of that small sacrifice considering the many they made. I wonder what advice our Greatest Generation would give us about the sacrifice of wearing a cloth mask.

I hope today's generation has the ability to reflect on our past for inspiration and guidance. Can we live up to the example set by the selfless service of the men and women of the Greatest Generation? I remain hopeful we will reach that moment where we will collectively become self-aware of our obligations to one another and our Nation.

We need every American to do their part so we can win this war. The sacrifice is easy -- wear a mask. It's the right thing to do. We will win this fight and add to the many victories our nation has achieved together. We, too, can be an example for generations to come. - **MAJ. GEN. JEFF HOLMES**

BRINGING IN SUPPLIES

Two Memphians Bring Much-Needed Supplies Home



MEMPHIS, Tenn. - Two Memphis-native C-17 pilots transported approximately 972,000 COVID-19 swab kits Thursday, April 2, 2020 to be distributed around the country. This is the seventh load of kits delivered with-in the last two weeks.

1st. Lt. Bryan Burns and 1st. Lt. James Conlan were pilots along with an 11-man crew that flew the testing kits from Aviano,

Italy to Memphis, Tenn. Their mission originally started as a two week stage in Al Udiyd, Qatar and, at the last minute, changed into a COVID-19 transport mission home, according to Burns.

“This mission is super important. We have been out the country flying around U.S. CENTCOM area of responsibility (AOR) and out of the loop on what’s going on in the

1st Lt. Bryan Burns and 2nd Lt. James Conlan perform final shut-down checks at the Memphis Air National Guard Base in Memphis on April 2, 2020. COVID-19 test kits and other products were flown from Aviano, Italy to the FedEx hub in Memphis, to be distributed to medical facilities across the U.S. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Tra’Vonna Hawkins)



Air Force air crew members from McGuire Air Force base and members of the 164th Airlift Wing unload COVID-19 testing swabs at the Memphis Air National Guard Base in Memphis, Tenn. April 2, 2020. COVID-19 test kits and other products were flown from Aviano, Italy to the FedEx hub in Memphis, to be distributed to medical facilities across the U.S. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Leon Bussey)

States,” said Burns. “It’s really awesome to be bringing supplies to my hometown. It brings me back to where I started.”

Burns and Conlan were born and raised in Memphis. Both pilots graduated from Collierville High School in 2011, attended separate universities and pilot training schools, but ended up at the same base, McGuire Air Force Base, in New Jersey.

“I’m really humbled and honored to have the opportunity to be flying these COVID-19 kits from Aviano to Memphis. I’m really excited to be home,” Conlan added.

The mission follows the first Air Mobility Command-directed mission on March 19, which also transported 500,000 testing swabs in support of a U.S. Department of Health & Human Services-led, whole-of-government effort to combat the Coronavirus pandemic. The swabs are produced by the Italian company Copan Diagnostics, Inc., which continues to produce sufficient quantity to satisfy Italian and global requirements. As the U.S. continues to buy these swabs, AMC’s active, Reserve, and Air National Guard components are honored to help transport our Italian partner’s generous support to help the American people.

- TECH. SGT. CHELCEE ARNOLD



EAGLE SCOUT TRIBUTE

Boy Scout Finishes Eagle Scout Project in Lebanon Armory



LEBANON, Tenn. - Soldiers, family, and visitors to the Lebanon National Guard Armory are now treated to a historic and morale-building mural thanks to a recent Eagle Scout project.

Samuel Roberts, a 16-year-old student from Lebanon High School and a Life Scout with Lebanon's Scout Troop 434, led a team of volunteers and other scouts throughout

February and March to develop and paint a 16 feet long by 7 feet wide mural in the Lebanon Armory's drill hall.

"It's a project I thought would be great for the local guardsmen," said Roberts. "The Soldiers there do so much for our community, and I wanted to do something to give back. I felt that this project could assist with unit recruiting, morale, and building esprit

Master Sgt. Jeffrey Holt, Maj. Kevin Brandon, Sgt. Albert Ziss, and Sgt. 1st Class William Lovell from the 278th Regimental Engineer Squadron pose with Samuel Roberts in front of the completed mural in early March 2020 at the Lebanon Armory which was part of Roberts' Eagle Scout project. Photograph taken prior to the implementation of social-distancing measures. (photo courtesy of retired Capt. David Roberts)



Sam Roberts and fellow volunteers paint a mural at the Lebanon National Guard Armory in early March 2020 which was part of Roberts' Eagle Scout project for the 278th Regimental Engineer Squadron. Photograph taken prior to the implementation of social-distancing measures. (Photo courtesy of retired Capt. David Roberts)

de corps.”

After designing and getting the project approved, Roberts and 11 volunteers spent the second week of March gathering materials and completing the hand-painted mural, which celebrates the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment's Regimental Engineer Squadron and their multi-faceted mission. The painting depicts the heraldry and skills that the unit provides the 278th and the state of Tennessee.

The painting included the 278th's shoulder patch, their Distinctive Unit Insignia, and the unit's crossed sabers, which celebrate it as a cavalry unit. The mural also showcases the various branch insignias representing the several missions the unit performs as well as the unit's emblem, the phoenix, which is the same as the mascot for Lebanon's Cumberland University.

“It took over 100 hours of work to just draw and paint the mural,” said Roberts. “There was much more time spent planning and designing the project, as well as getting all the materials and permissions to do it.”

Roberts, who has been scouting for 10 years starting as a Tiger Cub when he was six, completed the project to earn the rank

of Eagle Scout, the highest rank a Scout can earn.

As a Life Scout, he is required to plan, develop, and lead others in a service project that helps the community. Leading a service project demonstrates the Scout Oath, “to help other people at all times,” as well as learning and developing leadership skills crucial to being an Eagle Scout.

“I learned that doing a project like this is a lot harder than I thought it would be,” said Roberts. “I learned that leadership is much more than just telling people what to do. It involves planning, patience, communication, and trying to think of everything necessary for the project. I'm glad to be able to learn these skills while supporting guardsmen who train to lead Soldiers into combat.”

Other skills Roberts had to learn and manage were risk assessments, which make sure volunteers were as safe as possible, and he conducted safety briefings throughout the project to keep volunteers from getting hurt. He also used social media to coordinate volunteers and update project meeting times.

Roberts found that there were difficulties when being in charge of a large project.

“There are a lot of factors that you have to think about before you can even start,” said Roberts. “But, everyone helped, and I couldn't have completed the project without all of the volunteers.”

The Soldiers at the Lebanon Armory were excited to have the mural created and painted by the scouts.

“It was an honor to see these young men and women work together on a project, from start to finish, that gives back to the community,” said Capt. Michael Donovan, the unit training officer. “The Soldiers here really enjoyed the finished product and are honored to have it in our armory. We're very proud of the work they did and being able to help them learn skills that they will use in the future.”

Roberts is currently finishing the final requirements for Eagle Scout and looks forward to graduating high school next year.

“After I make Eagle and graduate, I plan to enlist in the Army and become a paratrooper,” said Roberts. “It's something I've always wanted to do, and I know that what I learned in scouts will help me reach my goal.”

- LT. COL. DARRIN HAAS

SMALL ARMS CHAMPIONSHIP

Over 50 Teams Compete to Recognize Superior Shooters

FORT BENNING, Ga. – From March 8-14, the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit hosted the 2020 U.S. Army Small Arms Championships in Fort Benning, Georgia, to develop marksmanship and recognize superior shooters at the highest levels.

More than 50 teams from all components of the Army: active duty, reserves, National Guard, ROTC, and Air National Guard, competed against each other in this grueling seven-day training event that tested Soldiers ability to employ rifles, pistols, and multi-gun courses of fire. Teams came from across the United States to compete, including a National Guard team from Tennessee.

Air Force Master Sgt. Michael Brumer, the Tennessee State Marksmanship Coordinator, assembled a team of five of the best rifle and pistol marksmen in the Tennessee National Guard to compete in the program against some of the best shooters in the country in a variety of shooting events.

“The team did very well representing Tennessee,” said Brumer. “The All-Army matches are some of the toughest and most enduring marksmanship competitions held in the armed forces, worldwide.”

The competitive shooters are part of a large, diverse training and competition outlet called the Tennessee Combat Marksmanship Program. The program is staffed by a cadre of elite marksmanship trainers and instructors who focus on training and instruction of Tennessee’s guard members, as well as assembling and participating in marksmanship competitions at the state, regional and national level.

Master Sgt. Brian McDonald, an aircraft

A team from the Tennessee National Guard competes at the U.S. Army Small Arms Championship, March 13, at Fort Benning, Ga. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cordeiro)



loadmaster with the 164th Airlift Wing, headquartered in Memphis, has been competing for over 10 years with the Tennessee National Guard.

“It always feels good representing Tennessee, especially when the competition is at such a high level,” said McDonald. “I really enjoy being part of the program. From the training events to state and national competitions; they are a lot of work but very rewarding.”

In the future, the TCMP will be integrated into the overall unit marksmanship training at all levels within the Tennessee National Guard.

“Our job will be advising, developing course curriculum, instructing, mentoring and coaching Soldiers and Airman across the state, across all career fields,” said Brumer. “The program’s mission is to increase overall readiness and enable force lethality, while providing unit commanders and training officers an improved training resource for their Soldiers and Airmen.”

Marksmanship should never be underval-

ued, regardless of your job in the National Guard, says McDonald.

“It is one of the most important fundamental competencies in our profession,” said McDonald. “Training and competing has helped me gain the necessary skills and experience to train Soldiers and Airmen to be more situationally aware, lethal and confident shooters. And of course, it has increased my own abilities as well.”

Whether you’re interested in getting more enhanced marksmanship training for your unit members, or want to test your shot at the next competition, Brumer and the TCMP can provide insight into how to make that happen.

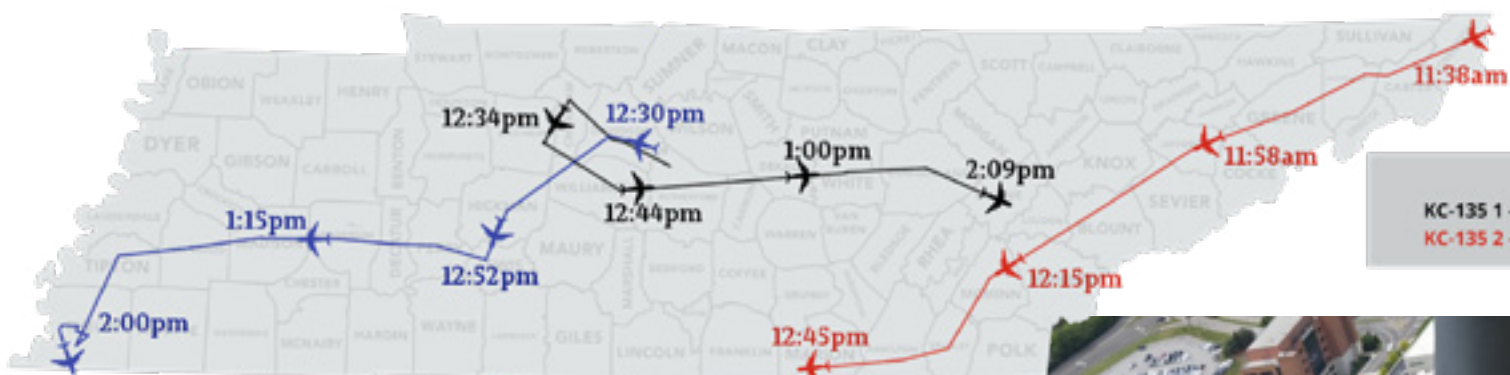
“Personally, I enjoy the training, competition and camaraderie,” said McDonald. “I’ve been able to build relationships with other guard members from across the state, and I’ve been able to travel with the team all over the place. It’s helped me become a better shooter and better leader.”

- STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY CORDEIRO

TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD SALUTE *to* HEALTHCARE HEROES

On May 12, the Tennessee Air National Guard conducted flyovers in both C-17 Globemasters and KC-135 Stratotankers across Tennessee as a thank you to healthcare workers fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic. These flyovers were a salute to those healthcare heroes and their selfless service towards the citizens of Tennessee.

ABOVE: Healthcare workers with Vanderbilt LifeFlight observe the Tennessee Salutes flyover May 12, 2020 at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville. (Photo by Master Sgt. Jeremy Cornelius)



C-17 - 164th Air Lift Wing, Memphis
KC-135 1 - 134th Air Refueling Wing, Knoxville
KC-135 2 - 134th Air Refueling Wing, Knoxville

Flight Path on May 12, 2020

RIGHT: View from the boom operator's window as our KC-135R Stratotanker passes over UT Medical Center in Knoxville. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. Treven Cannon)





PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

30th Infantry Division Awarded Presidential Unit Citation

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – World War II veterans from the 30th Infantry Division are finally receiving an honor more than 75 years overdue. President Donald Trump announced on March 17, that the 30th Infantry Division will be awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for their action at the battle of Mortain during World War II. The battle occurred after the division landed at Omaha Beach, Normandy, on June 11, 1944, five days after the initial D-Day landings.

The 30th, comprised of National Guardsmen from North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia, and nicknamed “Old Hickory” after Gen. Andrew Jackson, fought a ferocious battle against a German force many times its size from August 6 to 12, 1944.

As World War II came to a close, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, tasked Col. S.L.A. Marshall, the chief historian for the European Theater of Operations, and his team of approximately 35 historical officers to rate the divisions based on their combat performance. Marshall analyzed battlefield reports and other information to determine which divisions “had performed the most efficient and consistent battle services.” After much consideration, they decided the 30th Infantry Division was the best infantry division that fought in the European Theater.

Marshall made his recommendation, and Eisenhower concurred, placing it fifth in a



The 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion of the 30th Infantry Division near Mortain France in 1944.

list of eight divisions he would push for the PUC. However, the 30th never received the award, as well as other divisions that were on Marshall’s list. In fact, only four infantry divisions received the PUC in World War II. For reasons unknown, the 30th Division was denied the award it deserved until now.

“The actions of the 30th Infantry Division would prove to be decisive in blunting this attack,” announced Trump. “This action (awarding the PUC) rightfully recognizes our Veterans who triumphed against incredible odds, as well as those who died during a critical battle that helped ensure the Allied

victory in Europe.”

The PUC is awarded for “extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy,” and is the highest unit recognition in the U.S. military. It is the unit equivalent of being awarded a Distinguished Service Cross, which is second only to a Medal of Honor.

“The 30th Division is deeply rooted in our lineage and heritage,” said Maj. Gen. Jeff Holmes, Tennessee’s Adjutant General. “Their bravery is used as an example of the

Portrait of *The Battle of Mortain* By Keith Rocco.



high standards our Tennessee veterans achieved in World War II and our obligation to uphold those standards. This recognition is long overdue and I know it means so much to the veterans and families of these great Americans who embody our Volunteer heritage.”

The 30th fought in all major battle campaigns in Central Europe, earning five battle stars. Its subordinate units received eight PUCs, but not the entire division. Six soldiers earned the Medal of Honor and the division captured more than 53,000 prisoners.

Even though the division fought valiantly throughout the war, The PUC was awarded specifically for its actions at the battle of Mortain.

In the summer of 1944, the 30th, called the Workhorse of the Western Front during the war, had finished fighting through the hedgerows near St. Lo as part of the Normandy breakout to begin reclaiming France. The 12,000-man division suffered more than 4,000 casualties throughout July and was looking forward to a few days of rest.

In early August 1944, the division was sent to a relatively quiet section of the line to relieve the 1st Infantry Division around the French city of Mortain. After taking over, they set up defensive positions and hoped for some quite-time. But Germany

had different plans. The 30th was unaware that Hitler himself had ordered a massive counterattack aimed at splitting the American advance in Northern France, with Mortain as the focal point. Hitler hoped to keep American forces from breaking out of the Normandy beachhead and into the open countryside by cutting through the American lines and fighting to the sea.

The German plan called for four German divisions - including the elite 1st and 2nd SS Panzer divisions - to head directly for Hill 314, a key piece of high ground overlooking the city. A battalion from the 120th Infantry Regiment took position on the hill, while other units from the 30th were dug in around the city and in nearby St. Barthelmy. On August 7, the Germans counterattacked with 80,000 troops and 300 tanks, hitting all along the 30th's front.

The 30th found themselves hit by overwhelming enemy armor, and German panzers broke through their defensive positions. The fighting was especially fierce on and around Hill 314. The battalion on the hill became surrounded and quickly ran low on ammunition, food, water, and medical supplies. However, the 30th did not stop fighting. Everyone, no matter their jobs, became riflemen. Outnumbered and outgunned at the point of attack, the 30th - often fighting in small

isolated units - used stubborn tenacity, artillery fire, and airstrikes to absorb and ultimately turn back the enemy. Division artillery continuously fired to protect encircled and isolated troops.

Soon, Allied close air support arrived to help. By the afternoon, the German attack had stalled. The 30th quickly counterattacked when the initial German attack waned, relieving its trapped units. Over the next five days, brutal combat ensued with the Germans continuing to attack and be repulsed by the guardsmen.

The toll, however, was high: the division lost 1,800 Soldiers. One company began the battle with 190 men, and when relief came, only 24 were not among the casualties. Action elsewhere around Mortain was only slightly less savage. When the battle came to an end, the tenacious guardsmen repelled the German attackers.

Maj. Gen. Leland Hobbs, the division commander, said, “We won’t ever be in a tighter spot and survive as a division.” But the 30th did more than survive. Its defense of Mortain enabled Gen. George S. Patton’s armored forces of the U.S. Third Army to race across France, thereby shortening the war. The 30th continued on to fight in all significant battle campaigns in Central Europe, earning five battle stars. But the highest testament to the division may have come from the enemy; the German High Command referred to the 30th as “Roosevelt’s Shock Troops.”

The 30th’s lineage was carried on in Tennessee in 1954 as the 30th Infantry Division was reorganized, with units in North Carolina and South Carolina constituting the 30th Infantry Division, and units in Tennessee forming the nucleus of the new 30th Armored Division.

Trump announced that he was “proud to direct the Army to honor the remainder of the Division and attached units with the Presidential Unit Citation for their heroic stand at Mortain.”

- LT. COL. DARRIN HAAS



POX

An American History

MICHAEL WILLRICH

POX: An American History

By Michael Willrich

Lt. Col. Darrin Haas Gives his Review of:

POX: AN AMERICAN HISTORY

There are times in American history when individual liberties and public welfare come into direct conflict. When this happens, legal, political, and social change may occur that can alter the course of history. One instance where this occurred is the focus of Michael Willrich's engaging and timely work about the smallpox epidemic at the turn of the 20th century.

Pox: An American History, published in 2011, examines a widespread smallpox epidemic that ravaged the United States from 1898 to 1904, resulting in the death of thousands of Americans. To combat this major outbreak, which could kill 25 to 30 percent of those infected, the government responded by calling for universal compulsory vaccination. They enforced the law through quarantines and "pest houses," which were public hospitals used to isolate poor people suffering from an infectious disease. Doctors and virus squads forced vaccinations. It was ultimately successful and defeated the last major outbreak in the United States.

The epidemic forced the public and government to examine how they deal with future health crises. The government grew modern public health institutions and passed new policies for mandatory government vaccinations. The effort met with widespread legal and social opposition, but smallpox outbreaks became rare events due to health departments swiftly isolating patients and mass vaccinations, ag-

gressively stamping out the disease.

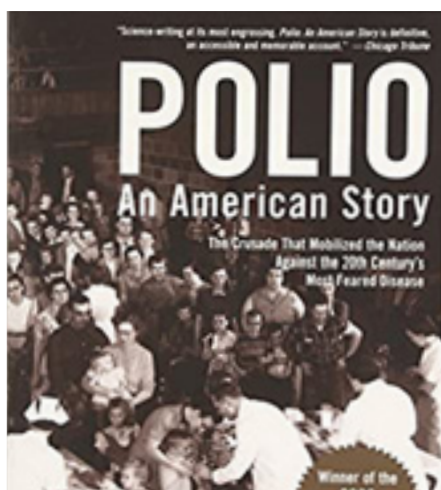
Willrich, a Professor of History at Brandeis University who specializes in the legal, political, and social history of the United States, provided an accurate and accessible view of this nationwide crisis while also explaining complex medical and scientific concepts. He told a compelling story about the conflict between individuals fighting to avoid forced vaccination and expressing their civil liberties against the local, state, and federal agencies that enforced public health law working in the best interests of the public good.

He accomplished this by thoroughly analyzing primary source documents of the period, relying heavily on various newspapers, medical journals, government reports, and personal papers of key participants, particularly the doctors involved. His command of the primary and secondary sources resulted in a work that can be used today. It also examined why Americans fought so doggedly against being vaccinated during a nationwide epidemic, resulting in the United States is the least vaccinated of any first world country.

Overall, this work is a masterful narrative and fantastic historical text. With its engaging style and pacing, it is easy to see why the Organization of American Historians declared it the best book in American cultural history in 2012. I would strongly recommend this book to any member of the Tennessee National Guard who wants insight into past pandemics and how the government responded to them.

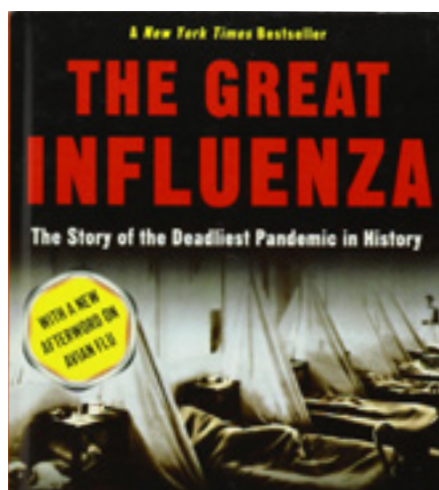
.- LT. COL. DARRIN HAAS

Additional **MUST-READS** about American plagues and epidemics



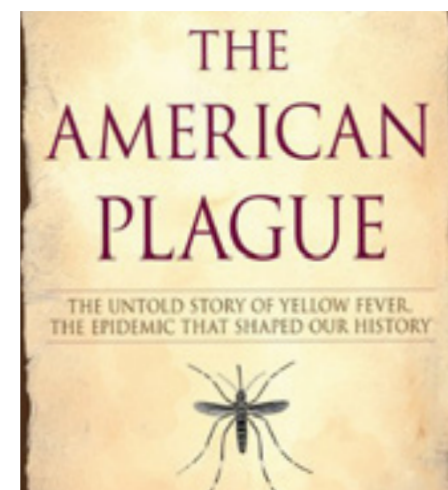
Polio: An American Story By David M. Oshinsky

Reading like a scientific suspense story, David Oshinsky, a Professor of History at the University of Texas at Austin, tells a remarkable tale about the polio epidemic and the intense effort to find a cure during the 1940s and 1950s. Focused on key individuals like Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin, he chronicles the dramatic race and fierce rivalry between researchers as they tried to uncover the cause and cure of the disease, which was marked by numerous setbacks and complications. He also examines the disease's public perception, the March of Dimes, various private fundraising organizations, and the revolutionary way the government licensed and tested new drugs. Polio, which won the 2006 Pulitzer Prize in History, shows that polio was an uncommon disease, not the epidemic often portrayed by the media during its outbreak.



The Great Influenza By John M. Barry

Nearing the end of World War I, history's most lethal influenza engulfed the world in less than 24 months, killing nearly 100 million people. Hospitals and morgues were overwhelmed by dead bodies that had to be buried in mass graves. Overcrowded military camps and rapid troop deployments to Europe allowed the flu to spread quickly. In *The Great Influenza*, John Barry explores how the virus and war created conditions for the influenza to easily spread while inept public health officials and a shortage of doctors and nurses hurt the response. Politicians did little to contain the disease, causing many unnecessary deaths. This ambitious book examines the failure of many public figures to protect the public but deftly described the hard work done by researchers to create vaccines and find the cause.



The American Plague By Molly Caldwell Crosby

In the spring of 1878, cases of yellow fever were reported in New Orleans and Memphis, resulting in city-wide quarantines. By the summer, a yellow fever epidemic erupted in Memphis, causing panic and fear. But when the first death was reported in August, roughly 25,000 citizens fled the city in less than two weeks, leaving 19,000 to fend for themselves. By the late fall, the fever had infected 17,000 people, killing 5,150. It also decimated Memphis' economy and political structure. In *The American Plague*, Molly Crosby not only examines the summer when Memphis became a "city of corpses," but its long history with the disease and how the epidemic forced the federal government to uncover the cause. Walter Reed traveled to Cuba and finally proved that mosquitoes were the root cause, and his work led to a vaccine we still use today.



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