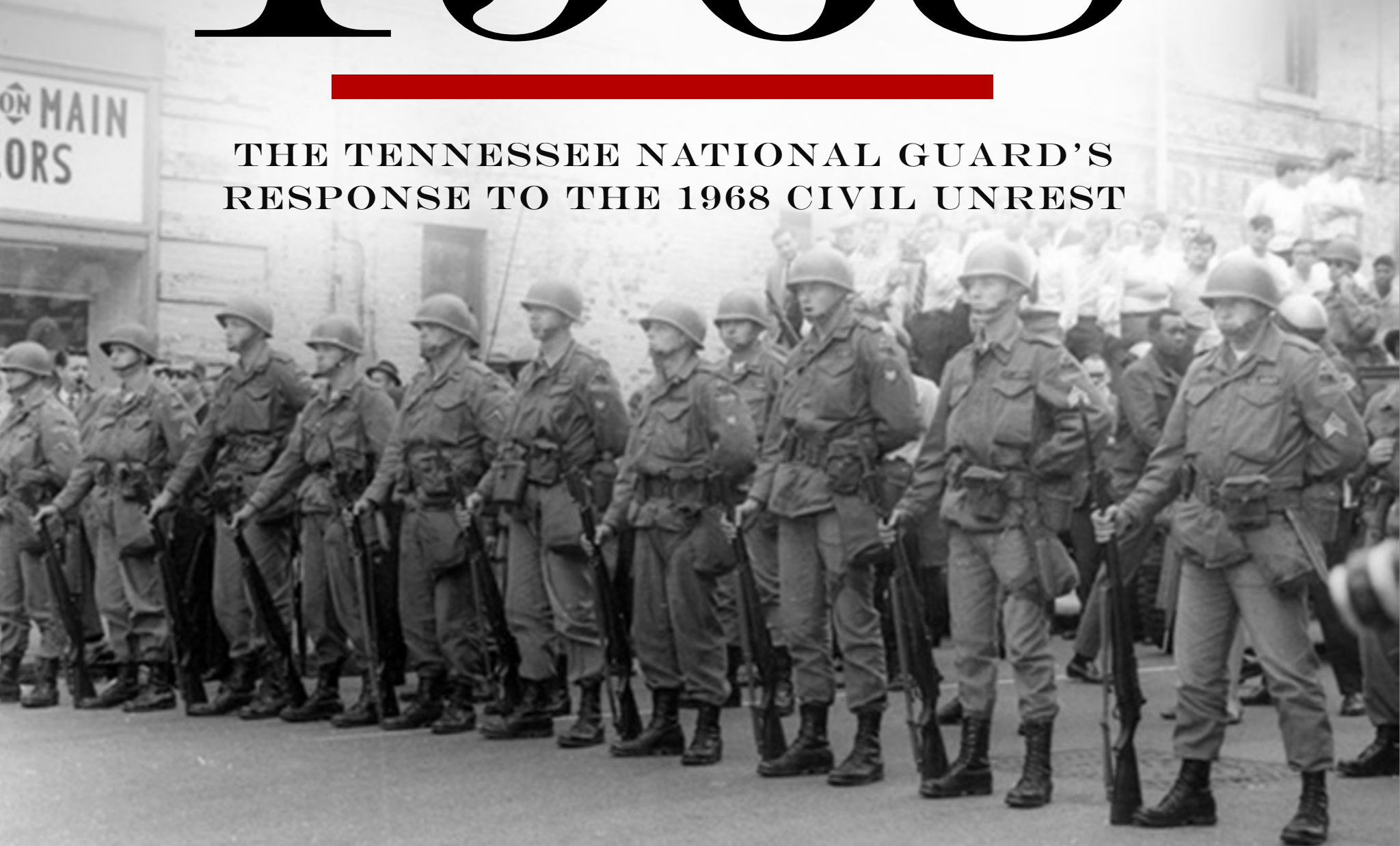


TENNESSEE GUARDSMAN

UNREST IN 1968

THE TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD'S
RESPONSE TO THE 1968 CIVIL UNREST



■ FROM THE EDITOR

LT. COL. DARRIN HAAS
MANAGING EDITOR

Much has happened in the few short months since the publication of our inaugural issue of the Tennessee Guardsman. We're still fighting against COVID-19 as everyone struggles through the throes of a global pandemic, we've responded to civil unrest throughout our state and we've done all of this while continuing to meet our federal and state missions. It has been a truly remarkable effort as we continue to train for overseas deployments and help our neighbors in need. It's no wonder we've been nicknamed the Volunteer State.

Throughout this issue, we did our best to bring you stories of Guardsmen doing what we do best, helping others. One great example of this is the story of Sgt. Leann Roggensack who helped a stranded motorist deliver a baby. Using her training, she knew how to help a neighbor in need. Please read her story inside these pages, it's inspiring. There is also an article on the deployment to Washington, D.C. of more than 1,000 Soldiers with the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment and the 134th Air Refueling Wing to help support the District of Columbia National Guard. They were there and answered the call when our sister Guard force needed us.

Lastly, with all of the civil unrest, protesting, and rioting that has taken place over the last few months, we looked back in our history to see how the Tennessee National Guard has responded to similar events. One of the biggest times we mobilized for civil support was during the sanitation strikes and assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968. We wanted to examine how we responded to similar crises in the past as well as get a first person account. Luckily, we found one from a young major who would continue on to be Tennessee's longest-serving Adjutant General.

With your help and suggestions, we will continue to keep improving this magazine. Please keep them coming as you continue to volunteer to help your neighbors, state, and country. The current situation we find ourselves in reminds me of a phrase that Tennessee's former Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Gus Hargett, used to say, "You are everything that is right about Tennessee."



ON THE COVER: Tennessee Guardsmen prepare for demonstrations in Memphis during the 1968 sanitation workers protest. (Photo courtesy AFSCME Collection)



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TENNESSEE SNAPSHOT

NEW COMMANDER IN MEMPHIS

Aug. 1, 2020 - Col. Matthew Brancato speaks during the change of command ceremony at the Memphis Air National Guard Base in Memphis. Brancato is replacing Col. Raymond S Robinson IV as the new wing commander of the 164th Airlift Wing.

PHOTO BY: AIRMAN 1ST CLASS TRÁVONNA HAWKINS



TENNESSEE SNAPSHOT

EMOTIONAL GOODBYE TO CHARLIE DANIELS

July 8, 2020 - Retired Maj. Gen. Terry "Max" Haston, a close friend of country singer Charlie Daniels, presents a flag to Charlie's wife, Hazel. Daniels received military honors at a ceremony in Mt. Juliet, two days after his passing at the age of 83.

PHOTO BY: STAFF SGT. TIM CORDEIRO



TENNESSEE SNAPSHOT

BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION

June 28, 2020 - A Soldier navigates an obstacle during the Best Warrior Competition at the Volunteer Training Site in Smyrna. The annual competition determines Tennessee's most proficient Guardsmen by testing skills and abilities in many different areas.

PHOTO BY: SGT. SARAH KIRBY



TENNESSEE SNAPSHOT

RAVEN TRAINING

Aug. 15, 2020 - Spc. Chase Eldridge with the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment conducts training with an RQ-11 Raven at the Volunteer Training Site in Tullahoma. This small hand-launched vehicle provides real-time situational awareness for troops.

PHOTO BY: SGT. ART GUZMAN

CHIEF MASTER SGT. MARK HARRIS



We continue to train and support our worldwide mission of defending this great nation

As this new issue of the Tennessee Guardsman is published, our guardsmen are continuing to meet multi-dimensional requirements all across the state. As Maj. Gen. Holmes wrote in our last issue, “we’ve had Soldiers and Airmen on the frontlines protecting Tennesseans since it began.” We continue to battle the COVID-19 threat which started as we were completing our response to the Middle Tennessee EF-4 tornado followed by another EF-3 near Chattanooga. Our Soldiers and Airman have also adopted a new battlefield strategy, working from home and social distancing practices, which increased our challenges.

During these trying times, I have witnessed our guardsmen accomplish so much as a joint, interagency force with over 1,000 Soldiers and Airmen on orders at the forefront. As the Senior Enlisted Leader, I have observed our joint effort increase and improve greatly over the last three years. I want to remind everyone that in addition to testing over 100,000 of our fellow citizens for COVID-19, helping clear debris from our community road ways, supporting the Tennessee health department, and protect citizens from civil unrest, our guardsmen continue to train and support our worldwide mission of defending this great nation. You, the Tennessee National Guard along with the State Guard, have done that. You have accomplished your missions and I have never been more proud of our enlisted Soldiers and Airman.

I’m proud that during these unprecedented times, we continue to train and develop Soldiers and Airmen. As the Adjutant General stated, “we have 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 must continue to mentor and develop our future leaders to continue this management practice. Readiness, training, and equipment must remain a priority for our enlisted leaders, and we must continue to keep mission accomplishment and taking care of each other a priority.

I agree with Maj. Gen. Holmes, I don’t know how or when this pandemic will end, but I know that our team will accomplish whatever mission the future holds for us. Remember: God first, Family second, and work third. So Monna and I thank you, God bless you, and keep yourself and family safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark A. Harris".

*Chief Master Sgt. Mark A. Harris
Senior Enlisted Leader Tennessee*

Honoring the Fallen

A Chaplain's Account of Preserving Memorials

CAMP TAJI, IRAQ (Aug. 23, 2020) — As Coalition Forces transferred Camp Taji to the Government of Iraq on August 23, two Soldiers with Dyersburg's 168th Military Police Battalion were given a delicate mission; to preserve memorials around the camp created by U.S. Forces before the hand-off.

The unique mission was given to Chaplain (Capt.) Joel Reynolds and Sgt. Terri Faye Doughten, a religious affairs specialist, who were both well suited for the job.

"When transitioning a base, we do not want to leave behind anything that can be vandalized or defaced," said Reynolds. "On an emotional or even spiritual level, I found it to be important to make sure the memorials were handled with the proper care they deserved."

Reynolds noted most memorials were hand-painted unit murals, a tradition among deployed units to commemorate their time deployed. They depicted unit mascots, names, home stations and other artistic touches such as helicopters, desert scenery, and military insignia. With no formal marking or registration process, the chaplain team had to canvas the base and identify more than 25 unit tributes on site.

Many of the murals were deemed too large to move, some over 10 feet tall and painted on heavy concrete "T-wall" barriers, so they are documented with photographs before being sanitized. Some items, like a portrait to 1st Lt. Weston Lee who was killed in combat, was small enough to be preserved and transferred to his home unit.

Reynolds said he was frequently asked why the memorial mission fell to him and his team, and he felt the response was simple.

"One of the core competencies of an Army chaplain is to 'honor the fallen,' and we often act as unofficial unit historians due to that," said Reynolds. "It made perfect sense for a unit ministry team to see this mission through."

- Story by Sgt. Sydney Mariette
- Full Article at dvidshub.net.



Resolution Recognition

NASHVILLE, Tenn. Earlier this summer, Tennessee State Senator Mark Pody introduced a resolution recognizing one of our wing members, Chief Master Sgt. Scott Roberts, for his more than 40 years of service in the military. The resolution passed unanimously, was signed by the governor, and presented to Chief Roberts earlier this month. Congratulations and thank you for your service Chief! (Photo courtesy 118th Wing)



End of WWII 75th Anniversary

NASHVILLE, Tenn. Maj. Gen. Jeff Holmes, Tennessee's Adjutant General, laid a wreath at the Bicentennial Capital Mall State Park with State Rangers Tim Poole and Michael Bunting in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the end of WWII. "I think everyone would agree this was the greatest generation - those that fought and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms during WWII left us with a legacy of tremendous selfless service," said Maj. Gen. Holmes. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cordeiro)



New Journeys after High School

MEMPHIS, Tenn. Members of the 164th Air National Guard, Army Reserves Officers Training Corps, the National Guard and Shelby County Schools salute the Class of 2020 students at SCS Board of Education in Memphis on June 11. These students have decided to join the military after graduating high school. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Tra'Vonna Hawkins)



Band of the South

LOUISVILLE, Tenn. Members of the Tennessee Air National Guard's Band of the South, pose for a socially distanced group photo on the flight line on August 21. These guys and gals work hard to foster, enhance and lift morale and esprit de corps of Airmen in-country and out, including forward deployed locations. Right now, however, they are busy training closer to home while practicing social distancing. Talent abounds with this group and they have some upcoming projects that are sure to please! Stay tuned (no pun intended) for more from these Airmen in the future! (Photo by Staff Sgt. Treven Cannon)

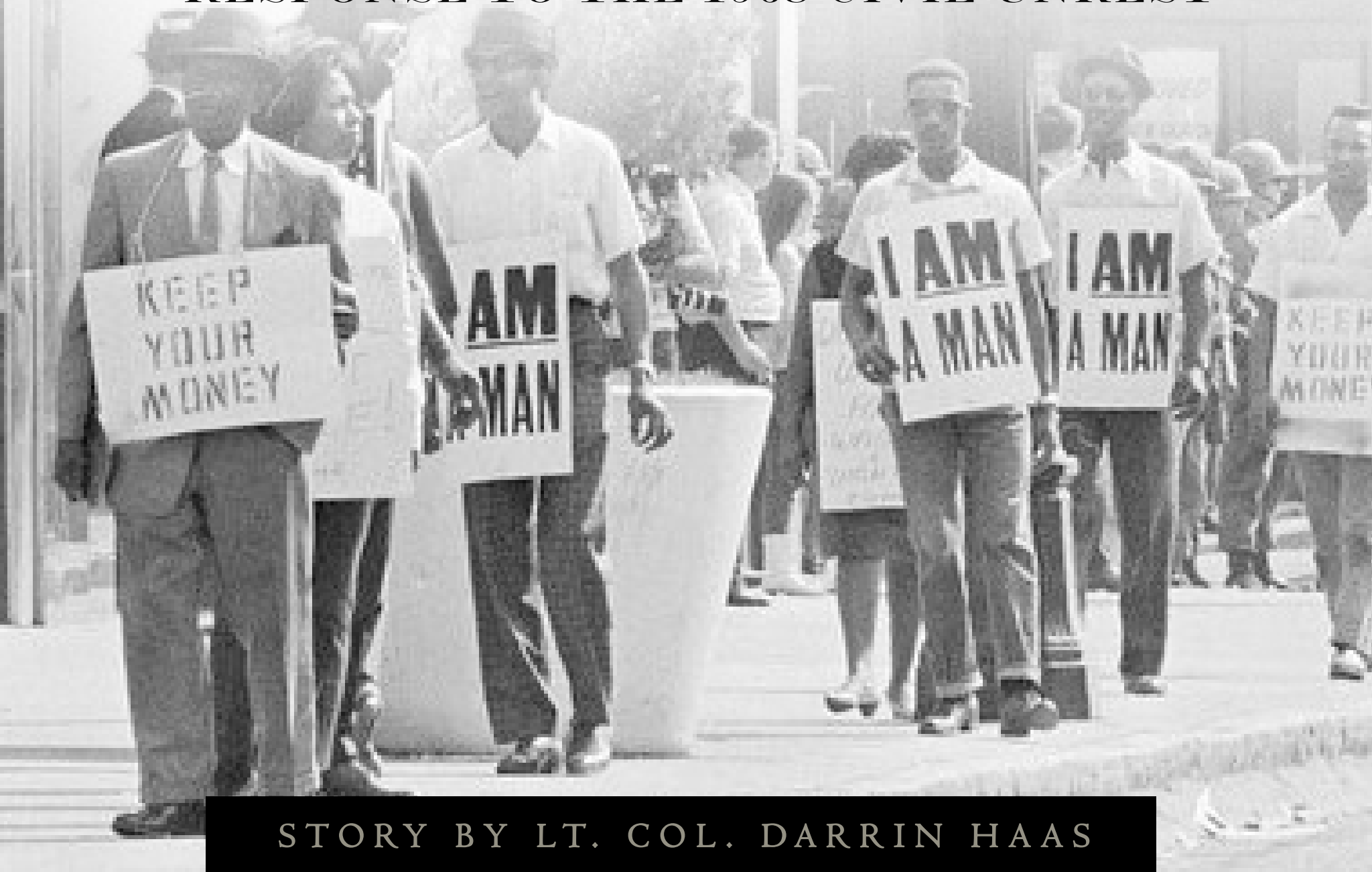


Kellie Pickler Welcomes Back Troops

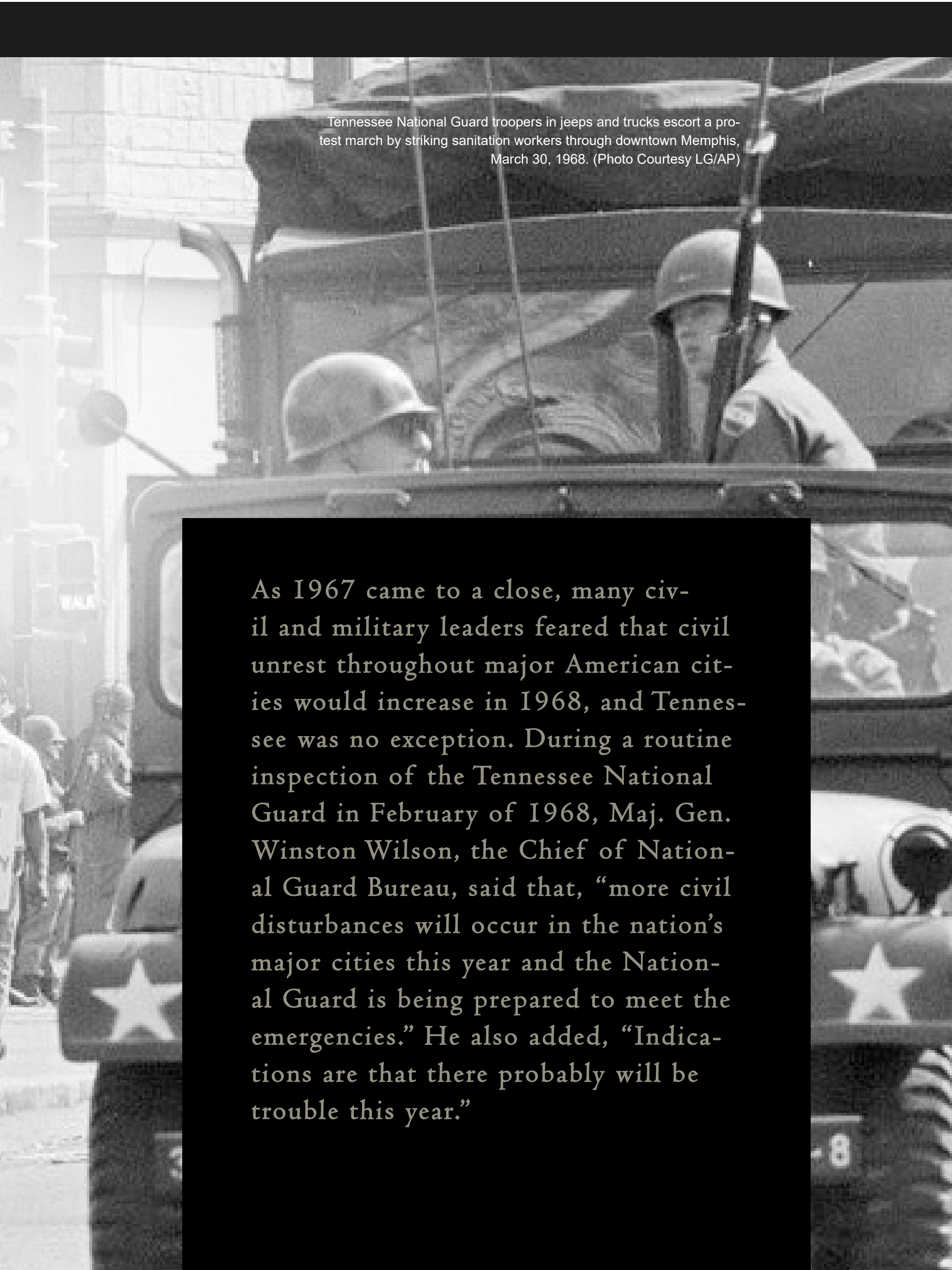
SMYRNA, Tenn. Country music singer Kellie Pickler welcomed back Tennessee National Guard Soldiers upon their return home from Washington, D.C. The troops were deployed to the Nation's Capital to support the District of Columbia National Guard during periods of civil unrest there in early June. The country star met and visited with Soldiers and their families to thank them for their service. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cordeiro)

UNREST IN 1968

THE TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD'S
RESPONSE TO THE 1968 CIVIL UNREST



STORY BY LT. COL. DARRIN HAAS

A black and white photograph showing Tennessee National Guard troops in military vehicles. Two soldiers in helmets are visible in the foreground, looking out from the vehicles. The background shows a city street with buildings and other vehicles. The text is overlaid on the top right of the image.

Tennessee National Guard troopers in jeeps and trucks escort a protest march by striking sanitation workers through downtown Memphis, March 30, 1968. (Photo Courtesy LG/AP)

As 1967 came to a close, many civil and military leaders feared that civil unrest throughout major American cities would increase in 1968, and Tennessee was no exception. During a routine inspection of the Tennessee National Guard in February of 1968, Maj. Gen. Winston Wilson, the Chief of National Guard Bureau, said that, "more civil disturbances will occur in the nation's major cities this year and the National Guard is being prepared to meet the emergencies." He also added, "Indications are that there probably will be trouble this year."



Tennessee Guardsmen prepare for demonstrations in Memphis during the 1968 sanitation workers protest. (Photo courtesy AFSCME Collection)

Governor Buford Ellington agreed. He felt that guardsmen had to be prepared to act as a deterrent if racial tensions escalated in 1968. In 1967, he alerted the guard for civil unrest in Memphis but did not deploy them. In April he also offered to activate the guard for unrest in Nashville. Many leaders believed that there was a good chance the Tennessee Guard would be needed in the summer of 1968.

To meet the Governor's needs, Brig. Gen. Robert Akin, Tennessee's Adjutant General, added an additional 32 hours of riot prevention and control training - to be completed before the spring of 1968 - to the already 32 hours they had in 1967. He also decided to conduct a major statewide emergency mobility exercise over a drill weekend in March 1968.

On Saturday, March 9, more than 11,000 Tennessee Guardsmen from across the state mobilized to test their movement capabilities in case of civil disorder or natural disaster. Guardsmen assembled at their armories and were then transported to predesignated troop assembly points in Tennessee's major metropolitan areas of Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Memphis.

Most movement was completed by busses and trucks. 4,000 troops from Middle Tennessee convoyed into Nashville and assembled at the State Headquarters Armory, Berry Field, Shelby Park, and Percy Warner Park. Units in Southeastern Tennessee assembled at Brainard High School in Chattanooga and units in upper East Tennessee converged at the armory in Knoxville and McGhee Tyson Air Force Base. West Tennessee units journeyed to Memphis and set up operations at the Memphis Airport, the Armory Center, and the Fair Grounds.

An additional 600 guardsmen from 1st Battalion, 181st Field Artillery, were airlifted from Chattanooga to McGhee Tyson on two C-124s, one from Nashville's 118th Military Airlift Group and one from Memphis' 164th Military Airlift Group, as well as four KC97's from the 134th Air Refueling Group in Knoxville.

When the troops arrived in their respective city, they established local security, command posts, set up communications and motor pools, and then established



Tennessee Governor, Buford Ellington. Official Portrait in the Tennessee State Capitol.

UNREST IN 1968



Brig. Gen. Robert Akin, Tennessee's Adjutant General in 1968.

“Looting and violence spread along Beale Street and throughout the city, gaining momentum, and was soon beyond the capabilities of local police.”

dining facilities to serve the noon meal. Once all the troops were fed and command and control established, the troops returned to their home stations that afternoon. Akin and Maj. Gen. Thomas Wells, the 30th Armored Division Commander, both said that they were “well pleased” and considered the exercise “a complete success.” They believed that this was the first statewide movement of an entire guard force for a practice civil disturbance mobility test and it showed that the entire force could be mobilized in just a few hours.

Unbeknownst to the guard, the exercise and additional training would be put to use in just a few weeks, as unrest was already underway in Memphis.

On February 12, city sanitation workers from Memphis abandoned their jobs demanding better benefits and increased pay which the city government disapproved of. Sanitation workers were poorly paid, there were no restrooms, no uniforms, and no grievance procedures. Also, two workers were just killed in a garbage-compacting truck accident. For weeks, the workers stayed on strike and to influence negotiations, they requested the help of Dr. Martin Luther King, the President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization that coordinated protest activities in the South.

On March 28, King arrived in Memphis and by 10 a.m., he had organized a non-violent protest march through the city streets to garner sympathy and aid for the strikers' cause. Unfortunately, before the widely publicized non-violent march ended, violence erupted along Beale Street where the march was taking place. The march halted and King returned to his headquarters, shocked about what occurred. Looting and violence spread along Beale Street and throughout the city, gaining momentum, and was soon beyond the capabilities of local police.

By 11:30 a.m., Henry Loeb, the Mayor of Memphis, requested assistance from Gov. Ellington to help law enforcement protect the city. Ellington responded by immediately sending members of the Department of Safety and the Tennessee National Guard to Memphis. By noon, units from West Tennessee's Task Force Alpha, commanded by Col. Hollis Williams, were alerted and ordered to report to their assigned assembly areas and establish a Task Force Command Post at the Memphis Armory. Made up primarily of the 30th Armored Division's 3rd Brigade, the task force was augmented with a chemical platoon and an anti-sniper platoon from Nashville as well as eight Armored Personnel Carriers.

Once the troops arrived, the task force began executing Operations Plan Ramrod by providing security to vital installations, establishing roadblocks, providing security for fire stations and firemen, and establishing roving teams and tactical units to begin patrolling.

The roving patrols and tactical units were the most critical aspect of reestablishing law and order. A tactical unit consisted of four patrol cars with radios and normally two city police, one sheriff, and one state highway patrol with four law enforcement officers per car. Guardsmen were utilized until the unit could be completely manned by certified law enforcement officers. Roving patrols had one city policeman with a patrol car and radio with 16-20 guardsmen and one commissioned officer in a 1/4 ton jeep and a 2 1/2 ton truck.

The city was divided into zones with various tactical and roving units assigned to each area. The law enforcement officer, who knew the area, would lead the patrols allowing for a quick response to calls for assistance within their zones. The teams were critical in quelling violence and protecting the public. It allowed for better communication and it established a rapid response to violence, allowing several teams to converge in a troubled area at once.



DR. KING SLAIN IN MEMPHIS

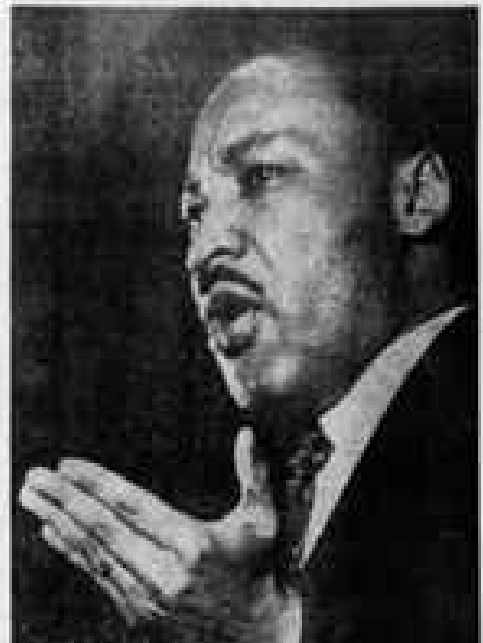


Search On For Young Rifleman

By WAYNE HUFF, Staff Correspondent

MEMPHIS—Dr. Martin Luther King, Nobel Peace Prize winner who made nonviolence his chief weapon in the fight for civil rights, was shot to death here last night as he stood on a balcony outside his motel room.

The 39-year-old Negro leader was killed by a sniper's bullet which struck him in the neck as he prepared to leave the Lorraine Motel for dinner. He was rushed to St. Joseph Hospital and wheeled



Headline from *The Nashville Tennessean* Newspaper on April 5, 1968.

Throughout the activation, guardsmen were armed with M1 rifles, two clips of .30 caliber ball ammunition, and bayonets. Additional ammunition and chemical agents were issued to each patrol leader. When guardsmen left their assembly areas, their bayonets were attached to their belts and ammunition was in their pouches. They did not load their weapons unless the situation warranted it and ordered to by the patrol leader. But when responding to an incident, the guardsmen mount their bayonets on their rifles.

Over the next few days, guardsmen helped enforce curfews and curtailed the sale of weapons, ammunition, inflammables, and intoxicants. Most troops were employed at roadblocks or patrolling. Army aircraft were also used to observe troubled areas and provide a fast means of assessing areas where people were reportedly assembling.

After four days on State Active Duty, the violence subsided and National Guard units began to return home. By March 31, four battalions were released from duty. On April 2, another battalion and the brigade headquarters were released, and the final battalion was released on April 3. In total, 3,433 guardsmen were on State Active Duty during this time.

When violence consumed Memphis on March 28, Dr. King left the city, but promised to return and lead a massive non-violent march to offset the failure of his first march. He eventually returned on April 3 and spoke at a gathering at the Mason Temple, the World Headquarters of the Church of God in Christ, where he delivered his "I've Been to the Mountaintop" address. The next day, April 4, he was assassinated by James Earl Ray at the Lorraine Motel. Once the public received news of his death, violence renewed in Memphis and spread throughout the country, to include Nashville.

By 7 p.m. on April 4, all Task Force Alpha units were ordered to return to Memphis. They reported to the same areas to conduct the same missions, starting with enforcing a curfew that began at 7 p.m. Once they arrived, order was rapidly restored to Memphis but tensions remained high.

Nashville's Task Force Bravo, commanded by Brig. Gen. Hugh Mott and comprised of units throughout Middle Tennessee, were alerted for a possible deployment into Nashville at 7:30

Metro police Maj. Joe Casey, left, goes over a map of North Nashville with Gen. Hugh Mott, center, as Tennessee National Guardsmen moved into the area to seal it off in the earlier morning of April 5, 1968. Mayor Beverly Briley requested the troops after rock throwing escalated into gunfire and looting. (Photo by Jimmy Ellis / *The Tennessean*)



Armored personnel carriers of the Tennessee National Guard moved in to seal off North Nashville after midnight April 5, 1968. The troops were called at the request of Metro Mayor Beverly Briley after rock throwing began about 8 p.m. and escalated into gunfire and scattered looting after the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis. (Photo by Jimmy Ellis / *The Tennessean*)

p.m. By 9 p.m., Task Force Bravo was ordered to report to their assembly areas in Nashville. Just before midnight, guardsmen had arrived in the city and began assisting local law enforcement officers. By 4:30 the next morning, more than 2,300 guardsmen were in Nashville supporting police.

Nashville troops operated similarly to those in Memphis, but following Operations Plan Nashville. Their primary duties were secure utilities and vital facilities, establish roadblocks, secure fire stations, and establish tactical and roving patrols. They provided extra security at key sites like the State Capitol building.

By the morning of April 5, the situation was mostly under control with small incidents scattered throughout the city. During the day, tensions would settle but violence would renew at night.

Additional resources were brought in to assist with various missions. Tanks were used in some areas of Memphis for establishing roadblocks while APCs were used in Nashville during patrols and to safely insert police and guardsmen into buildings that need to be searched.

APCs were critical for protecting guardsmen and law enforcement officers from sniper fire. Around 10:30 p.m. on April 5, snipers, from dormitory roofs and the gymnasium at Nashville's Tennessee State A&I University, began firing at a truck near campus. Police and guardsmen responded and immediately came under sniper fire as well. Rocks and bottles were also hurled by students lining the dormitory windows. After being pinned down for more than an hour, reinforcements and four APCs arrived, allowing the police and guardsmen to enter the dorms and begin a room-by-room search looking for weapons. They were met with some barricaded doors but eventually cleared all the rooms and confiscated two pistols and a shotgun.

Other incidents throughout Memphis and Nashville involved guardsmen and law enforcement officers being shot at. Specially trained anti-sniper squads were employed to quickly respond to these situations.

Throughout the next few days, most of the criminal activity occurred at night with the majority of violence in both cities being arson. Citizens were setting fires to buildings throughout their communities and guardsmen

UNREST IN 1968



would protect firefighters from violence as they tried to extinguish them. The most prominent fire in Nashville was the Air Force ROTC building at Tennessee State A&I University just a few days after the sniper attack. Believed to be set by students, guardsmen protected firefighters and law enforcement officers as they tried to extinguish it.

In Memphis, the most heavily damaged area was Beale Street, where numerous stores were hit by looters after store fronts were smashed.

After a few days, King's body was moved to Atlanta for burial and the march King was meant to lead in support of the sanitation workers was scheduled in Memphis for April 8. Dr. Ralph Abernathy, King's successor, and Coretta Scott King, King's widow, promised to lead it.

Law enforcement learned that there were at least ten out-of-state militant leaders in Memphis and there was believed to be plans for renewed violence surrounding the march. On April 7, two additional infantry battalions from East Tennessee were alerted and airlifted into Memphis on Air National Guard aircraft, increasing the total troop strength in Memphis to 5,098.

On April 8, Abernathy and King led the march without incident. Guardsmen were present all along the route and the surrounding areas to help deter violence. Following the march, the violence had subsided and guard forces began to demobilize. On April 9, the two additional battalions that were airlifted in returned home and a gradual phase out of other units was initiated.

On April 10, all troops in Memphis were released, and all guardsmen in Nashville were released by April 14. While on duty, no guardsmen were killed but a few were injured, mostly from ricochet fragments caused by sniper fire.

The use of the National Guard in 1968 to help maintain peace throughout the state is historically the largest mobilization of state forces for a domestic operation. More than 8,265 guardsmen were put on State Active Duty to respond to the civil unrest in Memphis and Nashville from March 28 to April 14. Training and the mobility exercise prior to being mobilized were critical to the Guard's success during this violent period.

- LT. COL. DARRIN HAAS

Three National Guardsmen stand on duty at the Ed Rennolds Gun Service and American Firearms on 12th Ave. in Nashville April 6, 1968, because of the unrest in Nashville. (Photo by Robert Johnson / *The Tennessean*)

The following op-ed was published in *The Lebanon Democrat* on Thursday, April 4, 1968 and is a first person account of the events as seen and written by Maj. Carl Wallace.

On March 28, 1968, violence erupted along Beale Street in Memphis during a protest march for city sanitation workers led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Thousands of Tennessee National Guardsmen were mobilized to help the local police restore order. Maj. Carl D. Wallace, the Public Information Officer for the 30th Armored Division, was one of the Guardsmen alerted. He spent six days in Memphis telling the Guard story as the riots were put to a stop and the Guardsmen returned home. Below is his personal story depicting what he saw, published just one day after he returned home. Unfortunately, it was the same day Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated, igniting nationwide riots and protests, engulfing Memphis again as well as Nashville.

My day began about noon last Thursday. I was called and told to stand by the phone.

A minute or so past 2:30 I was called from the Adjutant General's office and asked if I could be there by 3:00 p.m. At 3:07 I was in his office.

I am a Major in the Tennessee National Guard and Information Officer for the 30th Armored Division. The Adjutant General for Tennessee is Brig. Gen. Robert W. Akin.

When I walked in to his office, Brig. Gen. Van D. Nunnally, the assistant Adjutant General for Army asked if I was ready to go to Memphis. I said that I was.

General Akin told me to be ready in about 30 minutes... that we would be flying.

I changed from my civilian clothes into Army fatigues and we rushed to the airport where Governor Ellington's plane carried General Akin, Safety Commissioner Greg O'Rear and myself to Memphis.

Governor Ellington was at the Armory where later he held a press conference stating that approximately 4000 men had been called for duty in Memphis and another 8000 were on stand-by alert in their respective areas.

At the Memphis airport we were met by a Highway Patrolman and carried downtown to police headquarters where the briefing took place on the afternoon happenings.

Commissioner Claude Armour, special assistant to the Governor on Riots and Civil Disturbances who was at police headquarters, also gave us a run-down on the happenings and the four of us drove through the streets of Memphis to the National Guard Armory, where our main headquarters was set up.

It was like driving through a dead town because it was after 7:00 p.m. and the curfew was already in effect. We skirted the trouble areas but we could hear the radio transmissions telling of looting, breaking whiskey store windows, fires in many sections of Memphis and other violence.

By this time small groups of Negroes were hitting all over the city.

It was to be a long night.

The Armory was a hub-bub of activity just like the police station.

There was Brig. Gen. Hugh B. Mott, the man Governor Ellington had named to command the troops in Memphis.



The Author:

During the 1968 riots, Maj. Carl D. Wallace was the Public Information Officer for the 30th Armored Division, Tennessee's largest unit that engulfed most of the state's forces. A career journalist, Wallace started writing at the Clarksville Leaf Chronicle before becoming the editor of the Waverly News Democrat and then The Lebanon Democrat. He started his military career in January 1951 enlisting in the U.S. Air Force as a Food Service Specialist. After one year, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and then attended Officer Candidate School. As a Platoon Leader he deployed to Korea for six months with the 45th Infantry Division and by the end of 1953 he joined the Army Reserves. In July 1954, Wallace joined the Tennessee National Guard, started as the commander of Company A, 194th Engineer Battalion. He served in various engineer and information officer positions until the 1968 riots. In 1972, Wallace left the 30th Armored Division and took command of the 118th Public Information Detachment followed by being the Information Officer on the staff of the Tennessee Adjutant General. This new position lasted for a little over two years when he was selected as Tennessee's Adjutant General in 1975. Wallace would go on to have the longest tenure as the State's Adjutant General, serving from 1975 to 1991.

My job started almost immediately with a reporter from the Memphis Commercial Appeal.

His questions were how many men we had there, what was our job and many more concerning the activities of the Guard in the wake of the riot.

Until about 3 a.m. on Friday morning, which was all night, I met representatives of the press from British Broadcasting BS, NPC, UPI, AP and just about every major newspaper in the United States, as well as the major magazines. There was never a dull moment.

It was nearing 3 a.m. when NBC shot some final film for their Today Show and Huntley and Brinkly report the next evening.

Later on Friday, ABC's crew shot film that was run in a special on Saturday night.

The ironical thing is that I didn't see any of it. There were other things to be done.

During the height of the operation Thursday night, I had to make several long distance calls. It would take me forever to get an operator. The switchboards were literally jammed and did not clear until early Friday morning.

It finally became necessary for a "hot line" to be installed between Memphis and Nashville guard armory. At the armory in Nashville another "hot line" to Governor Ellington was installed so that we could be kept abreast of the situation.

It was about 3 a.m. Friday morning that I called my wife, Yvonne, to let her know that I was in Memphis and what was going on. She called me each night from then on.

Sleep was a thing of the past.

The headquarters was manned 24 hours each day for the entire operation. Friday morning I, and many others, got in bed about 3:30 a.m. and got up at 5. The next night it was 11 p.m. and up at 5 and the following night it was 2 a.m. and up at 6.

Sunday night I slept from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Crammed in between representatives of the press were hourly reports to National Guard Bureau, 3rd Army and a couple to the Pentagon.

The job was actually easy because the pre-preparation the Tennessee National Guard had done.

On March 9, over 11,000 Tennessee Na-

tional Guardsmen were moved into the four major cities in Tennessee on a dry-run basis.

As you probably remember, the Guard was criticized, severely in some cases, for this action by some media and negro groups in Nashville stating that this would cause a riot. It didn't.

Due to the fact that West Tennessee Guard units had been to Memphis only two weeks before, they knew where they were going and were able to spend minimum time in setting up their operation.

The units moved into Memphis were Headquarters, 3rd Brigade, Jackson; 168th MP, Dyersburg; 230th Signal from Jackson and surrounding area; 4-117 Infantry from Hendersonville with units from that area; 230th Engineers with companies east to Waverly in Middle Tennessee; 3-115 Artillery, Memphis; a special chemical detachment from Nashville and Division Headquarters from Nashville.

These were the troops and they knew what they were doing and the job they had to do.

General Akin expressed the feelings of all when he said if the Guard had been two hours later, it would have been harder to bring it under control and there was a chance many areas in Memphis would have been burned and shambles made of others. He was right.

The Memphis police are to be congratulated for the excellent job they did. Without the Guard and approximately 250 Highway Patrolmen flown in Thursday afternoon, they could not have contained the riot.

There may have been police brutality but there was also negro brutality.

Force had to be used and force was used to bring an unruly mob into realization they were supposed to be living in a civilized community.

The march led by Dr. Dr. Martin Luther King Thursday morning had been one of many striking garbage collectors had held in Memphis. The majority of these had been peaceful.

Trouble had been sensed when Dr. King had said that he would be present to personally lead the march from Clayborn Temple.

Several hundred young negroes broke away from the march, began smashing windows, throwing bricks near Main and Beale. Po-

lice officers pushed them into Beale where they dropped their banners, broke windows, looting as they went.

For four blocks they tore Beale Street apart and finally the scattered in all directions. Many were arrested, but the majority went into the city to burn, loot and rampage for the remainder of that week and well into the first part of this week.

A young Negro boy was killed. A wake was held Monday afternoon at the Temple and burial was on Tuesday. Dr. King was on his way again.

According to the local negro newspaper, Tri-State Defender, another march headed by Dr. King was scheduled for today followed by another Saturday.

It was noted when the violence started, Dr. King escaped to his room at Rivermont and stayed out of sight until the following day at which time he said that he had nothing to do with the violence and that he would return to Memphis the following week to show the world that he would hold a parade without violence.

On Friday and Saturday, the city permitted the striking garbage collectors to hold their daily march. Both had about 200 to 300 marchers and went off without incident.

Friday's march was under the watchful eye of National Guardsmen and four armored personnel carriers, armed with 50 caliber machine guns. Guardsmen, who rode the carriers, carried M1 Rifles with bayonets. They had live ammunition.

Snipers played a part in the Memphis operation. They were dealt with fast and efficiently. No National Guardsmen had to fire a shot.

Marchers carried signs, titled "I AM A MAN," Kill Loeb (Mayor Henry Loeb of Memphis), We Are Here to Impeach Loeb, not to Praise Him, and many more slogans. These were scattered all along the march route.

It was Friday before I went into the Beale Street area. It was sealed by Guardsmen on duty 24 hours a day. The units were relieved daily and the men only had to stand watch about three hours each.

Beale Street has a place in history. W. C. Handy made it so with his famous "Beale Street Blues." To local residents, there are

other famous parts to it.

But to Tennesseans and the nation, it has another aspect. It carries the riots and violence connected with an outbreak Thursday.

A park, the W. C. Handy Park with a statue to him, stands in the middle of the area sealed off by Guardsmen. It is a shame that this park had to become a Command Post for a military operation. But it did.

As I walked from one end to the other, I saw sights I had not seen personally since I was in Korea. It was a mess.

One this was apparent to me however, you could tell which business places were white owned and negro owned – the negro ones were left intact. They were not touched. Their windows had not been broken, doors smashed or looted.

For this reason, I believe it was planned and planned well.

The fires of places burned throughout Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights were deliberately set with the intentions of burning them to the ground.

Firemen were harassed as they tried to fight fires and for that reason, Guardsmen were assigned to fire trucks to ride “shotgun” and protect the firemen. They did.

Saturday afternoon, I flew by helicopter over Memphis and looked closely at Beale Street from the air. You could easily tell where the trouble was, had been and the places to watch.

Saturday night, I rode with Highway Patrolmen and watched them work very close with Memphis Policemen. These men are to be congratulated for the performance they gave.

Memphis Police and Highway Patrolmen formed what they called Tactical Squads. This consisted of two Memphis cars and two Highway Patrol cars. They were all over Memphis and when an outburst would appear, in two minutes or less, they were there taking care of it. When a whiskey store window was broken, about all the looters would have time to do would be to grab one bottle and run.

Thursday night alone, over 300 persons were arrested.

Trooper Sam Gardner of the Lebanon

Highway Patrol unit was there. I talked briefly with him Saturday night after he had spent some 12 hours on duty.

General Akin termed the operation a success. He praised the Memphis Police and the Highway Patrolmen on the job they did and their excellent cooperation.

About 20 police chiefs from major cities throughout the United States visited Memphis to see why the Memphis Operation had been so successful.

President Johnson offered help if it were



needed. He was informed that it was not.

At 5:00 p.m. Mayor Loeb came to the armory and personally thanked General Mott for what the Guard had done and had nothing but praise for them.

Speaking of praise, every newsman with whom I talked, also had nothing but high praise for the Guard. Most of these had seen Watts, Chicago, Newark, and Detroit.

They said that the operation was smooth and that it was the best they had seen. They all went into the area and talked to many Guardsmen. Each report was nothing but the best.

An operation like this is not cheap. It cost money and it comes from the taxpayer.

It is estimated that before it is over that the cost will be near one-half million dollars.

There is much more that I could tell you. It is a shame that an American city is punished this way. It is a shame that Tennesseans have to be called to duty to squelch other Tennesseans in their crimes against the people of a city in our state.

At noon on Sunday, I left Memphis. Several thousand were not as fortunate as I was. They had to stay until later this week, depending on what happened.

One major item was the fact that a “wake” had been planned for the youth killed last Thursday. Originally, it was planned that the “wake” would start on Monday at 3 p.m. and would conclude at 8 p.m.

This was later changed to a two hour “wake” with burial on Tuesday morning. Dr. King was to be present for the burial on Tuesday.

Walking along Beale Street, I saw one shop open and talked with a negro, Ernest Withers. He is a photographer and owns his own studio at 327 Beale.

His windows were not smashed in the riot. They were not boarded up like a lot of the other businesses were.

In the window was a sign, “I am a man.”

On Saturday, Capt. Bill Burke, an Air Guard officer from Memphis who works at the Press Scimitar and was helping me with the news media, walked with me and we noticed that his windows were boarded up tight.

We wondered what he knew we didn’t.

The day before, he told us that Life Magazine had contacted him, wanting to buy some pictures from him of the rioting.

I believe that Governor Ellington has let it be known that none of this will be tolerated in Tennessee. His quick action saved lives and millions of dollars in damage in Memphis. He is determined that peace will be kept in Tennessee.

The Memphis police and firemen were glad to see the guardsmen and highway patrolmen. Everyone worked hand-in-hand.

The Memphis operation is not over, but I believe that the leadership in the rioters, looters, and arsonist organization will have second thoughts before they start another one.

If additional action is needed, it might just be a “cool long summer” for those people.

I hope so.

I Saw a City Torn By Violence...

By: Carl Wallace

Originally published in The Lebanon Democrat on Thursday, April 4, 1968

CONTINUED TESTING

Tennessee National Guard Continues COVID-19 Testing at Nissan Stadium Site in Nashville



NASHVILLE, Tenn. – In March, Governor Bill Lee authorized the activation of the Tennessee National Guard to assist with the fight against COVID-19. Since then, the Guard has been teaming up with the Department of Health and various other state and local agencies to combat COVID-19 in communities throughout the state. Establishing Remote Assessment Sites to test citizens and determine if they have been infected with COVID-19, over 2,100,000 tests

have been administered at these locations, and the Tennessee National Guard administered more than 300,000 of those tests.

In early July, Meharry Medical College joined forces with the Tennessee National Guard to operate a drive-thru testing site in downtown Nashville next to Nissan Stadium. The number of tests being administered was immense, and having assistance from the Tennessee National Guard was a big help, explained Dr. Julie Gray, the site leader

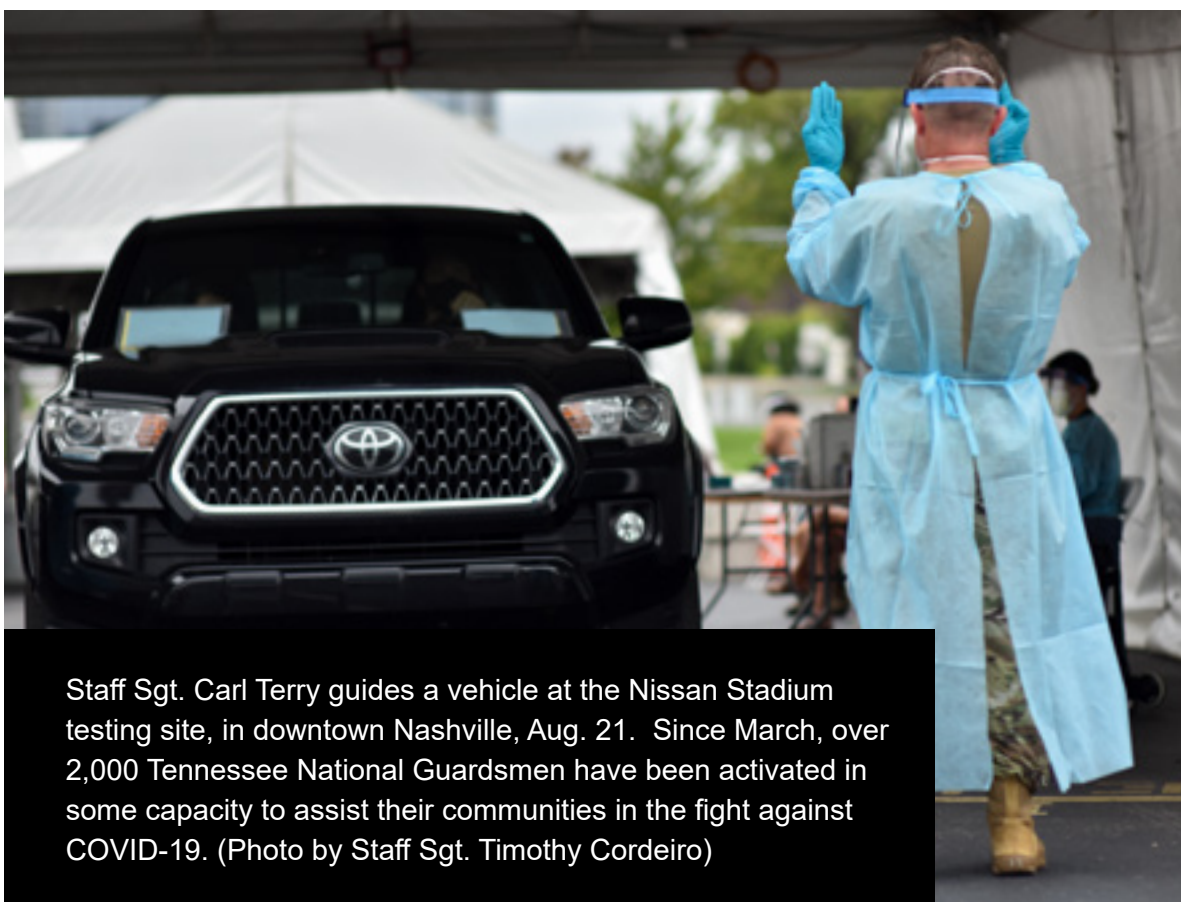
at Nissan Stadium.

“Our testing numbers were very high,” said Gray. “In the heat of the summer we really needed the extra manpower. The addition of the guardsmen truly assisted us when we needed it most.”

Gray, who has called Nashville home since she first attended Meharry Medical College in 1995, is currently a Dean of Student Affairs at the Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry. She praised the Tennessee Na-



Pfc. Kathryn Ratliff works at the Nissan Stadium COVID-19 testing site in downtown Nashville, Aug. 21. Since March, over 2,000 Tennessee National Guardsmen have been activated in some capacity to assist their communities in the fight against COVID-19. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cordeiro)



Staff Sgt. Carl Terry guides a vehicle at the Nissan Stadium testing site, in downtown Nashville, Aug. 21. Since March, over 2,000 Tennessee National Guardsmen have been activated in some capacity to assist their communities in the fight against COVID-19. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cordeiro)

tional Guard for their commitment to the community.

“At Meharry we have a mission that says we serve our community through God,” said Gray. “The guardsmen definitely align themselves with that train of thought as well. They are very willing to help their neighbors in this fight against COVID-19.”

Initially, Gov. Lee requested 250 Soldiers and Airmen from the Tennessee National Guard to provide support in response to the pandemic. Since then, over 2,000 guardsmen have been activated in some capacity to serve their communities and many are still activated today.

Going forward, Meharry Medical College and the Tennessee National Guard will continue to test members of the community for the virus, helping limit the spread so we can conquer this enemy and get back to a sense of normalcy.

- STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY CORDEIRO



FIRSTNET

New Communications Tech Helps Tennessee National Guard with Domestic Operations



NASHVILLE, Tenn. – In the early morning hours of March 3, a storm system moved through the state of Tennessee which produced deadly tornadoes killing 24 people, damaging over 1,500 structures and leaving over 80,000 Tennesseans without power across four counties.

In Nashville, one of those tornadoes incapacitated one of four master sites that supports a statewide land mobile radio system, severely inhibiting public safety communications across the region for the first two

days of the response effort.

U.S. Army Maj. Dallas Clements, Systems Operations Chief for the Tennessee National Guard’s Communications section, has been working on improving the relief efforts across the state by overcoming communications challenges for the National Guard and first responders.

“The radio site in Nashville being damaged was a very big deal,” said Clements. “Because the disaster area was so widespread, the towers in Nashville weren’t able

A Soldier with 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, uses a communication device operating on FirstNet, March 5, while conducting search and rescue operations in Cookeville. The Tennessee National Guard was activated to aid local communities that were affected by tornadoes that ravaged central Tennessee overnight, March 2. (Photo by Sgt. Art Guzman)



to communicate with the towers of other affected areas, meaning first responders in Cookeville couldn't communicate with officials in Nashville."

Less than two days after the Tornadoes touched down in central Tennessee, the National Guard was activated to conduct various missions coinciding with disaster relief efforts across the state. Debris clearance, search and rescue and hazard assessment operations were some to name a few. Operations have benefited from a new form of network communication called "FirstNet."

FirstNet is a nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. The reliable, highly secure, interoperable and innovating public safety communications platform brings 21st century tools to public safety agencies and first responders, allowing them to receive more information quickly and helping them to make faster and better decisions.

Since then, the Tennessee National Guard has been called upon to assist with COVID-19 response, another tornado that affected the Chattanooga area, and to pro-

tect lives and property during protests in cities across the state following the death of a Minneapolis resident, George Floyd, while in police custody.

Over 1,000 Guardsmen were activated to assist the Department of Health in combatting COVID-19, where Soldiers and Airmen were dispersed throughout the state to provide testing for citizens at over 35 rural assessment sites. With personnel scattered throughout the state, effective tracking and communication was essential while conducting daily operations.

This network grants the Tennessee National Guard the ability to communicate more effectively than ever before. Operations personnel can now track every mission in real time using an ultra-reliable broadband GPS system, which is a capability the Tennessee National Guard hasn't had in the past.

"The speed at which we are able to work now is an incredible advantage," said Clements. "With previous systems, we would have to manually conduct terrain analysis and set up the infrastructure needed for those communication systems. Now we are much more

Soldiers from the Tennessee National Guard's 45th Civil Support Team assess damages March 5, following severe weather that week. Tornadoes ravaged central Tennessee overnight March 2, killing at least 24 people from Nashville to Cookeville. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cordeiro)

efficient in what we can offer these communities that need our help."

The FirstNet broadband network makes it possible to have clear and concise communication for the National Guard during disaster relief, and for a variety of other statewide events such as pandemic response and during periods of civil unrest.

When tornadoes ravaged central Tennessee this spring, when COVID-19 spread throughout the state, and when civil unrest threatened property and lives in our cities, having effective wireless capabilities were absolutely critical for the Tennessee National Guard; FirstNet made that possible.

- STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY CORDEIRO

UNREST IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

Tennessee's 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment Deploys Troops to Washington D.C.



WASHINGTON, D.C. – In 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. marched the streets of Memphis fighting for racial equality, ultimately leading to his assassination and a tense period of protests and riots across the country. This period of American history, although over 50 years ago, has often been brought up recently, as protestors took to the streets across America fighting for the same equalities Dr. King fought for in 1968.

For a few weeks at the end of May and beginning of June, Washington D.C. was at the

forefront for these protests centered around racial injustice following the death of Minneapolis resident George Floyd on May 25.

When officials from the District of Columbia National Guard decided to ask for assistance with the protests, Tennessee was one of the first states they called. Luckily, Tennessee was in a position to help with one the most well trained units in the nation, the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

On June 4, roughly 1,000 Soldiers from the Knoxville based 278th departed Tennes-

Soldiers from the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment walk the flight line before departing to Washington, D.C., from Smyrna, June 4. (Photo by Sgt. Sarah Kirby)

see for the Nation's capital. A unique unit, the 278th is one of just two ACR's in the U.S. Army and is comprised of everything from engineers and tank crews, to medics and lawyers.

"I have complete faith in your leader-



Soldiers from the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment are briefed by Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel, Chief of the National Guard Bureau. (Photo by Sgt. Art Guzman)



An Ongoing Commitment to Serve Our Nation

While deployed to our Nation's Capital, in support of the Washington D.C. National Guard civil unrest mission, Soldiers of the 287th ACR reenlisted. "Our Soldiers and Airmen are trained and equipped to support both the United States Department of Defense globally and as a domestic response force within the United States," said Maj. Gen. Jeff Holmes, Tennessee's Adjutant General. "I have complete confidence in our ability to tackle these very difficult missions. Our Soldiers, Airmen, and their families have made huge sacrifices and we are grateful for their continued commitment to serving their State and Nation in this unprecedented time of need." (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cordeiro)

ship, your training, your discipline," said Maj. Gen. Jeff Holmes, Tennessee's Adjutant General, during the unit's departure. "It's been proven, you represent everything good about this state. Citizens can take comfort when you are out."

Once the 278th arrived in Washington D.C., they began assisting with traffic control, protecting landmarks and administering medical assistance. They served throughout the city, helping wherever they were needed, and represented the best of the National Guard and the state of Tennessee.

Spc. Ramon Rodriguez, a combat engineer, is a 34-year-old FedEx driver from Nashville. He has two children and was deployed for the nation's last large-scale activation of the National Guard, the response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

"I'm just happy to be in a position to help," said Rodriguez. "We want to protect the constitutional right to free speech and peaceful assembly. At the end of the day, we're all Americans."

The guardsmen of the 278th Armored

Cavalry Regiment come from all three of Tennessee's grand divisions. For the last few months they have been serving throughout the state, helping with disaster relief from deadly tornadoes in Middle Tennessee, testing citizens for COVID-19 at sites throughout the state, and assisting law enforcement agencies and first responders at protests. They have been Tennesseans helping Tennesseans. With the deployment to D.C. being a successful mission, the 278th were now Americans helping Americans.

"As we've seen time and time again, the Tennessee National Guard can and will respond at a moment's notice to provide capabilities and capacity," said Holmes. "In less than 24 hours and without hesitation, more than 1,000 Soldiers and Airmen were able to answer the call and support our fellow guard members in Washington D.C. In true volunteer spirit, these men and women answered the call, and made all of us proud."

The Soldiers from the 278th returned to Tennessee on June 9.

- STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY CORDEIRO



SOLDIER'S MEDAL

Gov. Bill Lee Presents Soldier's Medal to Tennessee National Guard Soldier Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Shields



BROWNSVILLE, Tenn. – Governor Bill Lee presented the Soldier's Medal to a member of the Tennessee National Guard on July 10, at the Wyatt Duke Armory in Brownsville.

Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Shields, a 24-year veteran of the Tennessee Army National Guard, acted heroically when shots were fired in a parking lot following a high school football game on Oct. 8, 2018. A fight had broken out

after the game and a teenager opened fire, striking two citizens.

Shields, a member of Detachment 1, 1175th Transportation Company, is responsible for stopping the shooter, disarming, and restraining him until law enforcement arrived.

"I just grabbed his hand and fell to the ground with him," said Shields. "I didn't want anybody to take the gun, so I held him

Gov. Bill Lee presents the Soldier's Medal to Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Shields, a member of the Tennessee National Guard's Detachment 1, 1175th Transportation Company, in Brownsville on July 10. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cordeiro)



Gov. Bill Lee and Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Shields.
(Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cordeiro)



Maj. Gen. Jeff Holmes, Tennessee's Adjutant General, speaking at ceremony for Sgt. 1st Class Shields.
(Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cordeiro)

there until police arrived.”

The Soldier's Medal is a decoration awarded to any person of the armed forces who distinguishes themselves by heroism not involving conflict with an enemy, while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Army. Instituted in 1926, the decoration was established to recognize acts of bravery during peacetime.

“Sgt. 1st Class Shields’ actions are a validation of not only his training, but a validation of his character,” said Maj. Gen. Jeff Holmes, Tennessee's Adjutant General. “He exhibited the courage that every Soldier is trained to exhibit and aspires to achieve. He fully encompasses all of the Army and is such a positive example to all of us. He acted with great instincts and his impressive act of courage and bravery saved countless lives that day. We are truly proud of him and his selfless service.”

Gov. Lee, Holmes, and other distinguished guests attended the ceremony, one that Shields said he won't soon forget.

“I just did what I thought anybody else would've done in my situation,” said Shields. “But for the Governor and Adjutant General and everyone to be here, it's truly humbling, and I'm thankful for everyone here today.”

- STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY CORDEIRO

SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT

Keeping a Healthy Cavalry

by SGT. ART GUZMAN

Spc. Nicole Edwards, a 68K, Medical Lab Specialist, with Charlie Medical, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, prepares her work stations during Annual Training at the Volunteer Training Site located in Tullahoma. A Medical Laboratory Specialist keeps troops healthy by performing medical tests on blood, tissue, and other bodily fluids. In her civilian capacity, Spc. Edwards is also a lab technician at CSL Plasma, a plasma collection center in Knoxville.

Spc. Nicole Edwards
(Photo by Sgt. Art Guzman)

1ST FLIGHT

Col. Brancato Takes his First Flight as the Tennessee National Guard's 164th Airlift Wing Commander

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Col. Matthew G. Brancato, Commander of the 164th Airlift Wing, Memphis, takes his first local flight on Aug. 18. The 164th is one of the Air National Guard's six strategic airlift wings whose personnel are trained and equipped to provide rapid global mobility in C-17 aircraft supporting National Security Objectives.

Brancato started his career in the C-17 in September 2001. He then flew the MQ-9 Reaper for several years.

"It's a full-circle moment for me; being commander here was an opportunity for me to get back into my original starting aircraft," stated Brancato, recalling the beginning of his career years ago.

For Brancato, an appreciation for aviation runs deep in the family. His father was an air traffic controller at Chicago Center and his grandfather also worked in a tower. His fascination with aviation was cultivated by his family.

"I am really enjoying the city and the personnel of the 164th," said Brancato. "The Memphis mantra is, 'taking care of business.' My personal leadership goals are to take care of the people at the Wing and that is my business."

Now, Brancato is living his personal mantra of taking care of his people and is back in the seat of the C-17 - which he started his Air Force career in. - **STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER TARANTINO**



Col. Matthew G. Brancato, Commander of the 164th Airlift Wing, takes his first local flight August 18, 2020. (Photo by Staff Sergeant Christopher P. Tarantino)



SPECIAL DELIVERY

Tennessee National Guard Soldier Helps Deliver Baby on
the Side of the Road, Finds an Adoptive Family



NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Tennessee National Guard Soldier Sgt. Leann Roggensack was driving home in the rain on May 27 when she noticed a car in her neighborhood was pulled over with the flashers on.

The 29-year-old initially drove past, as it was around 11 p.m. and she was alone. But she was compelled to turn around and see if

the driver needed help.

What Roggensack saw when she pulled up was a new mother standing next to the vehicle, still attached via umbilical cord to her newborn son, who was lying on the pavement covered in blood. Immediately, Roggensack retrieved her phone, towels and an iPhone charger.

Sgt. Leann Roggensack, a cannon crewmember assigned to Battle Group Poland, is awarded an Army Commendation Medal, by Lt. Col. Donny Hebel, Commander of Battle Group Poland, for her outstanding military professionalism and performance, at Bemowo Piskie Training Area, Poland, Dec. 28, 2018. (Photo by Sgt. Sarah Kirby)

As a nurse with extensive experience helping mothers and babies, Roggensack knew what to do as she waited for EMTs to arrive.

While on the phone with emergency medical services, she used the iPhone charger to tie off the umbilical cord when the mother delivered the placenta. Roggensack wrapped the newborn in a towel and waited with the mother in the rain.

Despite her years of experience as a nurse and a cannon crewmember in the Tennessee Army National Guard, Roggensack said she had never encountered a situation like that. She was used to having medications, supplies and others around to help her in such dire moments, she said.

“I’ve never had that kind of adrenaline rush before,” Roggensack said. “I didn’t sleep for 48 hours after that.”

Roggensack is a soldier in the Tennessee Army National Guard’s 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Most of her work has been in field artillery since she enlisted in 2015 as Tennessee’s first female cannon crewmember.

Before working her current day job at an orthopedics company, Roggensack was a nurse at St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville for four years, where she mainly worked with mothers and newborn babies.

A fellow guardsman was “not surprised” that Roggensack stepped in to help someone in need.

“(Roggensack is) such a strong trooper, always volunteering for that extra duty that no one wants, whether it be a competition or whether it be just setting a standard,” said Arturo Guzman, a public affairs noncommissioned officer at the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment who deployed to Poland with Roggensack in 2018. “It is really a privilege to serve alongside her and to have her in our ranks.”

Roggensack kept in touch with the mother after her delivery, and found out the child would be put up for adoption. The mother had carried through with the



Sgt. Leann Roggensack during a training event while deployed to Poland with the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment in 2018. (Photo by Sgt. Sarah Kirby)

pregnancy but knew from the beginning that she would not be able to keep the child even though she loved him, Roggensack said.

The child’s birth mother could not be reached for comment.

Coincidentally, Roggensack had family friends, Sara and Paul Wizniuk, who had been looking to adopt and expand their family. In addition to raising their own two daughters, the family had been fostering children for about a year and had all the paperwork ready to adopt, according to the family’s GoFundMe page.

The GoFundMe page, which was created to help with adoption expenses, met its goal within 24 hours of being created and has now raised nearly \$16,000. The extra funds will go toward the baby’s medical treatments, Sara Wizniuk said in a post to the page.

The Wizniuks could not be reached for comment on this story.

Roggensack had kept in touch with the birth mother after the incident, who requested that the soldier become the baby’s godmother — a request the Wizniuks supported. The baby was baptized in early July, with Roggensack as godmother.

Roggensack said she was glad she encountered this situation rather than someone who had a stroke or another medical emergency. Her experience working in postnatal care as a nurse allowed her muscle memory to kick in and help this mother and child, she said.

“She’s a professional in all aspects of the word,” Guzman said of Roggensack. “As a soldier, as a nurse, as a person, she has such a caring heart.”

- HANNAH GRAF / ARMYTIMES.COM



CHAPLAIN CORPS

Reflecting on 245 Years of the Chaplain Corps



NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Older than the nation itself? Yup, that’s right. It was George Washington who asked the Continental Congress to authorize chaplains in the Army to help meet the spiritual needs of Soldiers back in 1775. For 245 years now, the Chaplain Corps has been serving alongside men and women in uniform, across all branches and every conflict in our nation’s history.

“It’s the best decision I ever made,” said Maj. James Saunders, Regimental Chaplain

for the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment. “I think it’s the best job in the military. It’s so gratifying to be in a position to offer moral and ethical guidance to service members across all branches.”

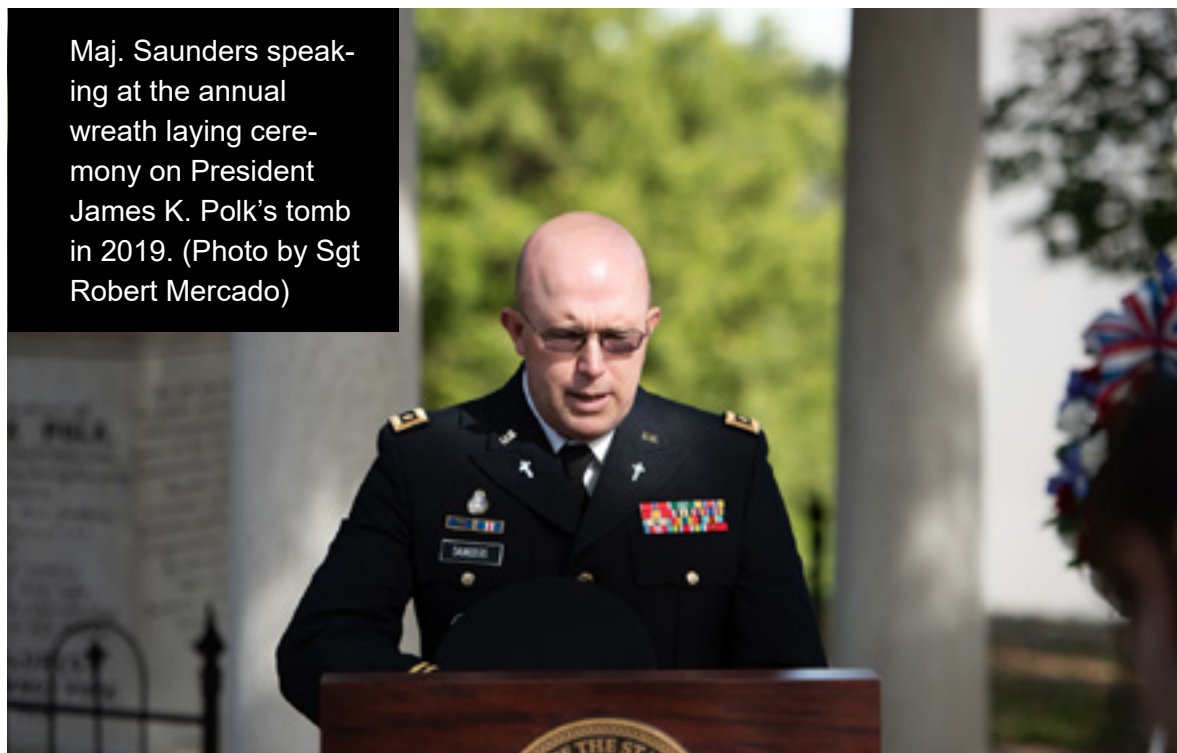
Saunders, a 13-year veteran of the Tennessee National Guard, joined the Chaplain Corps when he heard of the shortages of chaplains serving during the wars in the Middle East. He explains that the history of the Chaplain Corps has not changed much

in the last 245 years.

“The chaplains back then wore many hats,” said Saunders. “They were counselors and ethics teachers, and they provided religious support. We do the same thing now. Times have changed but the role of chaplains remains the same.”

Through many conflicts, both domestic and abroad, chaplains have stood side-by-side with their brothers and sisters in arms, offering a sense of compassion and under-

Maj. Saunders speaking at the annual wreath laying ceremony on President James K. Polk's tomb in 2019. (Photo by Sgt Robert Mercado)



The U.S. Army Chaplain Corps is Born



The U.S. Army Chaplain Corps is one of the oldest and smallest branches of the Army. Less than a month after taking control of the Continental Army, George Washington petitioned the Second Continental Congress to authorize one chaplain for each regiment to be paid as a captain, compensating ministers that were already volunteering alongside colonial troops. On July 29, 1775, the request was granted and the Chaplains Corps was born.

(James Caldwell, a Presbyterian minister known as the "Soldier parson," at the Battle of Springfield. - Painting by Henry Alexander Ogden)



Maj. Saunders visits with troopers during Annual Training at Volunteer Training Site in Tullahoma. (Photo by Sgt. Art Guzman)

standing; something service members may not get much of otherwise.

In 2020, chaplains are being called on more than ever, as record numbers of guardsmen are being activated to assist with COVID-19, natural disasters, and civil unrest. Tennessee alone has had more than 2,000 of its 12,000 member force activated at one time.

"Any time there's a joint mission or if someone may need to talk through and pro-

cess some things, I'm here if needed," said Saunders. "There's a lot of different things going on right now, both internationally and domestically, and these service members have a lot on their plate."

The Chaplain Corps celebrated its 245th birthday on July 29, and that may seem like a very long time, but some things are done so right, they don't require too much adjusting.

- STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY CORDEIRO

TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Tennessee National Guard’s Senior Enlisted Leader Transfers Responsibility



NASHVILLE, Tenn. – After 31 years of dedicated service to the Tennessee National Guard, Chief Master Sgt. Mark A. Harris, the state’s Senior Enlisted Leader, retired and held a Transfer of Responsibility ceremony welcoming incoming SEL, Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth J. Simmons at Tennessee Joint Force Headquarters, Oct. 3.

During his three years as the state’s SEL, Harris continuously prioritized Tennessee’s

Soldiers and Airmen’s interests and needs.

“I am so proud of the Soldiers and Airmen within this state and have seen so much improvement and advanced effort made,” said Harris. “I have seen leadership stand up and take deliberation in developing our Soldiers and Airmen; our recruiting and retention components have improved tremendously, and we had more joint training between the Army and Air than any other time.”

U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Mark Harris at Joint Force Headquarters, Nashville, Oct. 3, 2020. Harris retired with 31 years of service with the National Guard. His final assignment was Senior Enlisted Leader of the Tennessee National Guard. (Photo by Sgt. Sarah Kirby)

Harris dedicated a significant amount of time to Tennessee's Support, Training, and Renewing Opportunity for the National Guard Act. The STRONG Act provides tuition-free educational opportunities for eligible members of the Tennessee National Guard.

A year after his appointment as the SEL, Harris was diagnosed cancer. "I enter a battle every day for my life," said Harris in a public service announcement style video in which he addressed his philosophy on resiliency.

"I've been battling cancer for the third time since August of 2018. Dealing with a stage-four diagnosis, it is untreatable and not curable to medical standards." In the video, Harris continues despite his circumstances and provides unwavering motivation to all. Consistently Soldiers and Airmen, in the video, make note of what a loving leader he is to them.

Harris received numerous awards and multiple tables full of unique gifts during his ceremony. One included a letter of appreciation for service to the United States of America's Armed Forces, signed by President Donald Trump.

Harris passed the Noncommissioned Officer's Sword to Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth J. Simmons, who is no stranger to the volunteer state and its service members. Simmons's previous assignment was the state's Chief Master Sgt. of the Tennessee Air National Guard.

"When I look across our forces, I see Soldiers and Airmen, and I've always believed that diversity is a strength of the National Guard," said Simmons. "We have members of all walks of life with many different backgrounds, thoughts, and experiences; this sets us apart and makes us powerful. You are the guardian of freedom and justice, the Nation's sword and shield; you are an American Soldier, and you are an American Airmen."

- SGT. SARAH KIRBY





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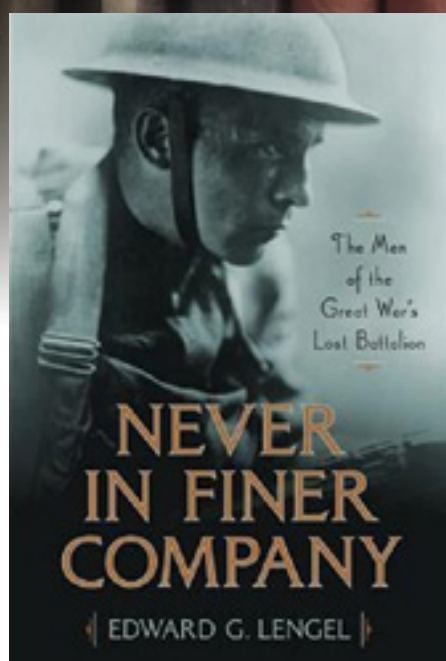
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Never in Finer Company: The Men of the Great War's Lost Battalion

By Edward G. Lengel

Lt. Col. Darrin Haas Gives his Review of:

NEVER IN FINER COMPANY:

THE MEN OF THE GREAT WAR'S LOST BATTALION

In early October 1918, the United States was engaged in the most deadly battle it had ever fought; the Meuse-Argonne offensive. More than 1.2 million American soldiers fought for 47 days, resulting in the death of more than 26,000 Americans. In the first week of the offensive, 600 soldiers from the 77th Division attacked into the deadly Argonne Forest. The soldiers met their objectives but were soon cut-off from their lines and surrounded by enemy troops. They ran out of food, water, ammunition, and medical supplies. They were bombarded by German artillery, attacked by infantry and flamethrowers, suffered from friendly fire, yet continued to fight ferociously. After seven days of relentless attacks, the soldiers were rescued. Unfortunately, only 194 U.S. soldiers walked away from the battlefield. The heroic stand captivated the American public, which nicknamed these men the Lost Battalion.

Over the years, many books were written about these men who displayed unprecedented heroism under fire against impossible odds. But Edward Lengel, a foremost award-winning World War I historian and battlefield tour guide, takes a dynamic new look at the story. In his new book, *Never in Finer Company*, Lengel takes a unique approach to the narrative by focusing on the lives of four different men who were forever changed by the battle.

Lengel follows three Medal of Honor recipients: Maj. Charles Whittlesey, a New York lawyer who led the Lost Battalion throughout

the ordeal; Capt. George McMurtry, a New York stockbroker who fought alongside Whittlesey; and Cpl. Alvin York, a Tennessean with the 82nd Division who fought tirelessly to rescue the surrounded soldiers. The fourth participant he examines is Damon Runyon, a famous newspaper reporter who interviewed the survivors and wrote about the battle, turning it into a legend. Each man Lengel chose to examine was forever changed by the fight and the public accolades they received.

The book begins by providing background on all the characters and their journey to the Argonne Forest. Following the first three chapters, the story takes off as Lengel describes what happened when the 77th Division was ordered to attack the German line in coordination with other Allied forces. He vividly shows how the Lost Battalion, led by Whittlesey, was unexpectedly pinned down and cut off in an isolated pocket in the forest. Next, Lengel examines the fierce fighting, heroism, and suffering endured during the next seven harrowing days. The book ends with a fascinating examination of the roles Alvin York and Damon Runyon played to rescue and honor the trapped soldiers. Each soldier left the war forever changed, and Lengel expertly shows the effects that war and the media had on their lives.

Overall, *Never in Finer Company* is a straightforward and gripping account of four lives that were changed by one of the most legendary military events. I recommend this work to any Guardsman looking for a riveting account about a critical battle in American history and how lives were affected in its aftermath. - **LT. COL. DARRIN HAAS**



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