

THE VOLUNTEER STATE GUARD

M A G A Z I N E

TENNESSEE GUARDSMEN IN WWI: MEDAL OF HONOR



THE VOLUNTEER STATE GUARD MAGAZINE

08

Tennessee Guardsmen in WWI: Medal of Honor.



ON THE COVER

The Medal of Honor (current Army version shown here) is the highest military decoration that may be awarded by the United States government. It is presented by the President of the United States, in the name of Congress, for risking one's life above and beyond the call of duty.

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THE MEUSE-ARGONNE, 1918.*



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TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

TNVCA GRADUATION

Dec. 16, 2017 - Governor Bill Haslam addresses cadets at the Tennessee Volunteer ChalleNGe Academy's first graduation. Candidates completed the 22-week course, which is designed to intervene in and reclaim the lives of at-risk youth.

PHOTO BY: CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4 NICK ATWOOD



TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

TN NATIONAL GUARD'S NEW IG

Oct. 30, 2017 - Brig. Gen. Don Johnson, (left), the assistant Adjutant General – Air, shakes hands with Col. Jason Mercer, the State Inspector General for the Tennessee National Guard, during Mercer's promotion ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters.

PHOTO BY: MASTER SGT. ROBIN BROWN



TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION

Nov. 19, 2017 - Spc. Glass moves on to compete at the state level of the Best Warrior Competition. Spc. Kason Glass won the Regimental level for the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment at the Volunteer Training Site in Catoosa, Ga.

PHOTO BY: 278TH ARMORED CALVARY REGIMENT



TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

REFUELING NEW TECHNOLOGY

Dec. 6, 2017 - An Israeli F-35 "Adir" jet receives fuel from a Tennessee Air National Guard KC-135 as the aircraft flies across the Atlantic. The new F-35 promises to create system-wide change in the Israeli Air Force (IAF).

PHOTO BY: 1ST LT. ERIK D. ANTHONY




TENNESSEE GUARDSMEN IN WWI:

MEDAL OF VALOR



The image shows a close-up of a Medal of Valor. It features a gold eagle with wings spread, perched atop a gold cross-shaped frame. The frame is decorated with green enamel leaves. In the center of the cross is a circular medallion depicting a figure, possibly a soldier or a personification of valor, surrounded by the words "UNITED STATES". The ribbon is blue with white stars.



The Medal of Honor (current Army version shown here) is the highest military decoration that may be awarded by the United States government. It is presented by the President of the United States, in the name of Congress, for risking ones life above and beyond the call of duty.



THE HONOR

STORY BY MAJ. DARRIN HAAS

MEDAL OF HONOR

Most Tennesseans know the story of Sgt. Alvin York, the conscientious objector from Pall Mall, Tenn., who was drafted into the 82nd “All-American” Division and then earned the Medal of Honor during World War I. Killing 25 Germans and capturing 132 enemy Soldiers during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, York became the most celebrated Soldier of the war, eventually immortalized with a Hollywood film in 1941 and a statue on the grounds of the Tennessee State Capitol in Nashville. But he wasn’t the only Tennessean to earn the Medal of Honor during the Great War. Five other Soldiers and one Sailor also had the distinction of earning the nation’s highest military honor by distinguishing themselves “conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty.” Interestingly, the five Soldiers that earned the award (Joseph Adkinson, James Karnes, Milo Lemert, Edward Talley, and Calvin Ward), were all volunteers in the Tennessee National Guard. Each one risked his life to eliminate an enemy machine gun nest and, in doing so, saved the lives of his fellow Soldiers.

After Congress declared war against Germany on April 6, 1917, these men did not wait to be drafted. They joined a local National Guard unit in order to fight alongside fellow Tennesseans and “to go with those you know.” It was publicly known that National Guard divisions were going to be some of the first units to sail for France. Each of Tennessee’s five future Medal of Honor recipients enlisted in a local infantry regiment in the summer of 1917 and began training for combat. The 1st and 3rd Tennessee Infantry had just returned from service along the U.S.-Mexico border while Tennessee established the 2nd Infantry and the 1st Tennessee Field Artillery Regiment to meet wartime quotas. By October, every Tennessee National Guard unit was federalized and posted in mobilization camps across the United States. They were all renamed and re-designated, most as part of the 30th Division comprised of Southern Soldiers from Tennessee, North and South Carolina.



Sgt. Alvin York





Nicknamed the “Old Hickory” Division after General Andrew Jackson, the 30th Division sailed for Europe in May of 1918 and was assigned to the U.S. II Corps. Once in France and after more hands-on training, the division was assigned to the British 2nd Army along with New York’s 27th Infantry Division. From July to October 1918, the 30th took part in major combat operations in the Ypres-Lys and Somme offensive, during which it was one of the two American divisions to break the Hindenburg Line in the Battle of St. Quentin Canal. The combat along the Hindenburg Line was severe, and it was during these offensives that the five Tennessee Guardsmen earned their Medal of Honor.

The division, in nearly three months, sustained more than 1,200 men killed in action with more than 7,100 Soldiers wounded or missing. After the Armistice on November 11, the division spent a few more months in Europe as part of the Army of Occupation before returning home to Tennessee for parades, dinners, and honors. One Medal of Honor recipient, Milo Lemert, was killed while attacking the machine gun nest for which he was honored. The four others were all discharged from the U.S. Army upon returning home.

THE GILLESPIE MEDAL OF HONOR

During World War I, U.S. Army Soldiers earning the Medal of Honor were awarded what is now referred to as the Gillespie Medal. Designed in 1904 by George Lewis Gillespie, the U.S. Army's version of the Medal of Honor had replaced the original Army design from 1862 which was often mistaken for the membership badge of the Grand Army of the Republic—a union veteran organization for the Civil War.

The award's designer, George Gillespie, was an American Soldier born on October 7, 1841, in Kingston, Tenn. He graduated second in the 1862 class at the United States Military Academy and was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers. A Southerner who remained loyal to the Union, Gillespie joined the Army of the Potomac and entered service from Chattanooga, Tenn. On May 31, 1864, as a first lieutenant with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during the Battle of Cold Harbor, Gillespie volunteered to carry dispatches through enemy lines. While near Bethesda Church in Virginia, Gillespie would place himself in great danger. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions and his citation reads that he, "Exposed himself to great danger by voluntarily making his way through the enemy's lines to communicate with Gen. Sheridan. While rendering this service he was captured, but escaped; again came in contact with the enemy, was again ordered to surrender, but escaped by dashing away under fire." He didn't receive his award until October 27, 1897. Gillespie would continue to serve in the U.S. Army after the Civil War, rising to the rank of Major General with his final assignment as the Assistant Chief of Staff of the United States Army from 1904 to 1905.

The new medal Gillespie developed had a few changes. First, the words "United States of America" were added, replacing a ring of 34 stars. Also, the "Minerva Repelling Discord" was changed to display the helmeted Goddess of War. An open wreath was created enameled in green and an eagle once perched on a cannon with a saber in its talons, was now sitting on a "VALOR" bar clutching arrows. The ribbon suspending the medal was also changed. The previous ribbon had red, white, and blue vertical stripes, but that was changed to a distinct, solid light blue color with thirteen embroidered stars. The back of the medal was blank to allow for the recipients information to be added, with the words "The Congress To," moved to the back side of the "VALOR" bar.

The Gillespie Medal would be awarded to all Army recipients from 1904 to 1942.



The Gillespie Medal of Honor.

MEDAL OF HONOR



Above: Patent for the design of the Gillespie Medal of Honor.

Right: Photo of Brig. Gen. George Lewis Gillespie, Jr., the designer of the Gillespie Medal of Honor. Gillespie was also a native of Tennessee.



George Lewis Gillespie Jr.



Sergeant Joseph B. Adkinson, Company C, 119th Infantry, 30th Division

Born in: Atoka, Tennessee

Hometown: Memphis

Enlisted: June 23, 1917 in Memphis' Company L,
2nd Tennessee Infantry

Age: 24

Citation:

Near Bellicourt, France - September 29, 1918

When murderous machinegun fire at a range of 50 yards had made it impossible for his platoon to advance, and had caused the platoon to take cover Sergeant Adkison alone, with the greatest intrepidity, rushed across the 50 yards of open ground directly into the face of the hostile machinegun kicked the gun from the parapet into the enemy trench, and at the point of the bayonet captured the 3 men manning the gun. The gallantry and quick decision of this soldier enabled the platoon to resume its advance.

*severely wounded in action



Tanks and Troops going forward near Bellicourt on 29th September 1918. Imperial War Museum © IWM (Q 9371).

**Private Calvin John Ward,
Company D, 117th Infantry,
30th**

Born in: Green County, Tennessee

Hometown: Morristown

Enlisted: July 14, 1917 and assigned to Knoxville's Company D, 3rd Tennessee Infantry

Age: 20

Citation:

Near Estrees, France - October 8, 1918

During an advance, Private Ward's company was held up by a machinegun, which was enfilading the line. Accompanied by a noncommissioned officer, he advanced against this post and succeeded in reducing the nest by killing 3 and capturing 7 of the enemy and their guns.



WWI era map of France courtesy Australian War Memorial.



First Sergeant Milo Lemert, Company G, 119th Infantry, 30th Division

Born in: Marshalltown, Iowa

Hometown: Crossville

Enlisted: June 16, 1917 in Crossville's Company D, 2nd Tennessee Infantry as a Sergeant

Age: 28

Citation:

Near Bellicourt, France - September 29, 1918

Seeing that the left flank of his company was held up, he located the enemy machinegun emplacement, which had been causing heavy casualties. In the face of heavy fire he rushed it single-handed, killing the entire crew with grenades. Continuing along the enemy trench in advance of the company, he reached another emplacement, which he also charged, silencing the gun with grenades. A third machinegun emplacement opened up on him from the left and with similar skill and bravery he destroyed this also. Later, in company with another sergeant, he attacked a fourth machinegun nest, being killed as he reached the parapet of the emplacement. His courageous action in destroying in turn 4 enemy machinegun nests prevented many casualties among his company and very materially aided in achieving the objective.



Lemert's Medal Courtesy the Tennessee State Museum

Sergeant James E. Karnes, Company D, 117th Infantry, 30th Division

Born in: Arlington, Tennessee

Hometown: Knoxville

Enlisted: July 10, 1917 in Knoxville's Machine
Gun Company, 3rd Tennessee Infantry

Age: 29

Citation:

Near Estrees, France - October 8, 1918

During an advance, his company was held up by a machinegun, which was enfilading the line. Accompanied by another soldier, he advanced against this position and succeeded in reducing the nest by killing 3 and capturing 7 of the enemy and their guns.



Sgt. Karnes meeting President Kennedy at a Medal of Honor reception in 1962.



Sergeant Edward R. Talley, Company L, 117th Infantry, 30th Division

Born in: Russellville, Tennessee

Hometown: Russellville

Enlisted: June 2, 1909 in Morristown's Company L, 3rd Tennessee Infantry, for three years

Age: 27

Citation:

Near Ponchaux, France - October 7, 1918

Undeterred by seeing several comrades killed in attempting to put a hostile machinegun nest out of action, Sgt. Talley attacked the position single-handed. Armed only with a rifle, he rushed the nest in the face of intense enemy fire, killed or wounded at least 6 of the crew, and silenced the gun. When the enemy attempted to bring forward another gun and ammunition he drove them back by effective fire from his rifle.

Troops of the 30th Infantry
Division - France, 1918.



GLASS NAMED NEW ATAG-AIR

Col. Glass Named Tenn. Assistant Adjutant General-Air.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - In a Change of Command Ceremony held on Sunday, January 7th at National Guard Headquarters in Nashville, Governor Bill Haslam and Major General Max Haston, Tennessee's Adjutant General, named Colonel Jason Glass as the new Assistant Adjutant General for the Tennessee Air National Guard. Col. Glass previously served as the Commander of the 218th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group (ISRG), Tennessee Air National Guard at Joint Base Berry Field, Nashville.

Col. Glass enlisted as a traditional guardsman in the Tennessee Air National Guard in March 1989 with the 241st Engineering Installation Squadron in Chattanooga. He was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Course (ROTC) at the University of Memphis in May 1993 and entered the Active Duty Air Force in January 1994. While on active duty, Col. Glass held numerous jobs and deployed in support of Operations Northern Watch, Noble Anvil, and Allied Force.

In 2000, Col. Glass left the Active Duty Air Force and once again became a traditional guardsman in the 241st Engineering Installation Squadron. While employed in his civilian job as a Central Office Manager for Bellsouth, he was mobilized in September 2001 for Operation Enduring Freedom serving at Al Udeid, Qatar; Ali Al Salem, Kuwait; Ali Al Jaber, Kuwait; and Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina. He was released from active duty in 2002 and became

a full-time technician with the 228th Combat Communications Squadron where he was selected as 228th Detachment Commander in 2003.

From Aug. 2004 to Jan. 2005, Col. Glass was again called to Active Duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Joint Task Force Horn of Africa at Al Dhafra Airbase, UAE; Balad Airbase and Bagdad International Airport, Iraq. In 2005, he deployed in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita to aid in the recovery of southern Louisiana. In May 2006, Col. Glass was selected to command the 228TH Combat Communications Squadron until June 2008 when he was selected as the first Air Force, Deputy Chief of Staff, Information Management (J6) at Joint Force Headquarters, Tennessee.

In 2016, Col. Glass was selected as the first commander of the newly formed 218th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group, Tennessee Air National Guard.

He is a graduate of the University of Memphis, cum laude, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electronics Engineering Technol-



Maj. Gen. Max Haston, (left), passes the guidon to Col. Jason Glass (right), symbolizing his assumption of command as the newly assigned Assistant Adjutant General for the Tennessee Air National Guard on Jan. 7. (Photo by Master Sgt. Robin Brown)

ogy. He also earned two associate's degrees, one in Robotics and the other in Computer Science, from the Chattanooga State Technical Community College.

"Col. Glass brings a great deal of professionalism and experience to the job at both the state and national level," Maj. Gen. Haston said. "Jason clearly understands the complexity of global threats and the National and State requirements to lead the Tennessee Air National Guard into the future."

Col. Glass replaces retiring Brigadier General Donald Johnson who has served as the Assistant Adjutant General-Air since February 2011.

- MASTER SGT. ROBIN BROWN

AUTHORITY TRANSFER

Support Battalions Transfer Authority in Afghanistan.



Lt. Col. Brooke C. Grubb, commander of the 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, unfurls his unit colors with the help of his senior enlisted advisor, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Warren, during a Transfer of Authority Ceremony at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Nov. 28. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ben K. Navratil)

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – The Soldiers of the 746th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, formally transferred their authority and responsibilities to the 30th CSSB in a ceremony on Kandahar Airfield Nov. 28.

Combat sustainment support battalions are tasked with acquiring and distributing supplies like food, water, fuel and ammunition throughout the battlefield to the US and Coalition service members that need them. There are only two such battalions supplying the troops throughout Afghanistan, and both fall under the 3rd Infantry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade.

“There’s planning and hard work that goes

into sustaining a unit,” said Col. Jeffrey Britton, commander of the 3rd Inf. Div. “It is a complicated, multifaceted mission, and the requirements are constantly changing.”

During their nine-month tour, the 746th CSSB “Cavaliers” managed the storage and distribution of more than 1.6 million cases of bottled water, 6.3 million gallons of fuel and 1,800 tons of ammunition. They had troops spread across eight different locations throughout the country.

The Cavaliers created more efficient methods of safely storing food for longer amounts of time, constructed a new helicopter landing zone, and initiated a fuel savings pro-

gram that saved 3,000 gallons of fuel.

During the ceremony, the outgoing National Guardsmen ceremoniously cased their battalion colors, in preparation to be brought back to their home state of California, and the incoming unit, the 30th CSSB of the Tennessee National Guard, uncased theirs.

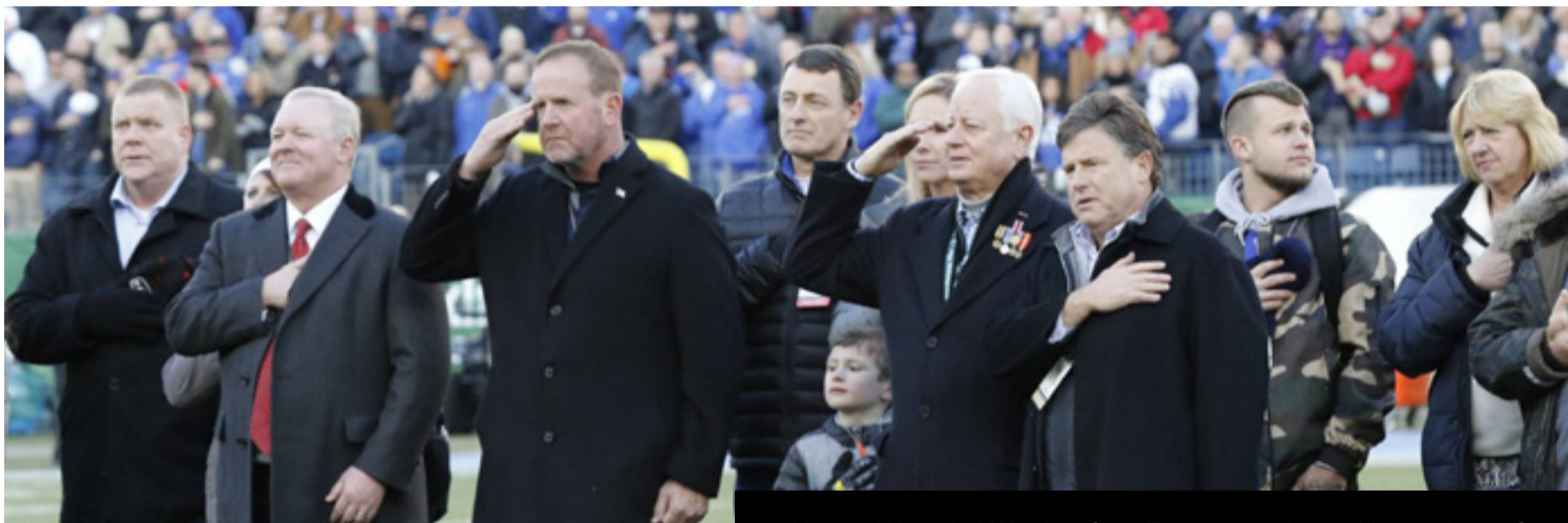
The new commander, Lt. Col. Brooke C. Grubb, acknowledged the legacy the 746th was leaving behind.

“To the Cavaliers, we say thank you for setting such a high bar for us to meet,” said Grubb, “and we look forward to meeting and exceeding the standard you set.”

- SGT. 1ST CLASS BEN NAVRATIL

MUSIC CITY WARRIORS

Tennessee Wounded Warriors Honored at Music City Bowl.



Above: Wounded Warriors from Tennessee along with members of the Tennessee National Guard Military and Family Readiness Directorate stand for the National Anthem at the 2017 Franklin American Music City Bowl on Dec. 29, 2017.

Below: Attendees meet Nashville Mayor Megan Barry (right).
(Photos by Staff Sgt. Mathieu Perry)

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Humana, Delta Dental of Tennessee and Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl worked together in hosting wounded warriors from all over Tennessee. The experience culminated in attending the 2017 Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl. This year, nearly 20 Wounded Warriors and their families were able to visit Nashville for the event.

The Tennessee National Guard Military and Family Readiness directorate, otherwise known as J9, partners with corporate sponsors throughout the year to help current and former Tennessee National Guardsmen and women. The Tennessee National Guard has worked with the Music City Bowl several times in past years to recognize wounded warriors.

This year featured the University of Kentucky, who fell to Northwestern 24-23. The Music City Bowl began in 1998 and is held at Nissan Stadium in Nashville.

- STAFF SGT. MATHIEU PERRY



NAMED FOR A TENNESSEE HERO

Park in Jackson, Tenn. Named for Former Tennessee National Guard Maj. Gen. Robert Frankland.

Story by MASTER SGT. ROBIN BROWN



In a small and quiet ceremony, a small park in the middle of downtown Jackson, Tenn., was dedicated in honor of former Tennessee National Guard Maj. Gen. Robert Frankland on December 1.

“The site used to be home to the Frankland building, but it was destroyed by a tornado in 2003,” said Donna Frankland, granddaughter-in-law to the general. The family owned property became General Frankland Park in 2005, but it was never officially dedicated.

Family members of former Tennessee National Guard Maj. Gen. Robert Frankland stand next to the new sign, Dec. 1, designating a small park in Jackson, Tenn., in the General’s honor. Left to right: William Nichols, great grandson; Leila Frankland, granddaughter; Frank Lawrence, grandson; Donna Frankland, granddaughter-in-law; Robert E. Frankland III, grandson; and Luke Nichols, great grandson.

During the ceremony, Ernest Brooks, the vice mayor of the city, read a proclamation naming the day in honor of Gen. Frankland and the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion of the 117th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division that he led into battle during the D-Day Invasion.

“Today, we rise to honor a great man,” said Brooks. “A man who meant so much to so many—who was part of the history and development of Jackson.”

A “great man” and quiet ceremony barely scratches the surface of the history created by Frankland and his Soldiers.

Ernest Brooks, vice mayor of Jackson, Tenn., (right) reads a proclamation naming December 1, 2017, Major General Robert Frankland day during an official ceremony to dedicate the park to the former Tennessee National Guard General. Family and friends gathered at the location for the official dedication ceremony.



Herbert Alexander, a local historical author, also spoke during the ceremony. He quoted a letter written by one of the General's Soldiers during the war: "Col. Frankland is always out in front of his men. He is a Soldier's Soldier."

Alexander also told of an event that took place in which Frankland killed an entire tank crew with his pistol. The then Lt. Col. Frankland was the commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, 117th Infantry and was using a house as an observation post.

"He noticed a tank pull up next to the building and saw two of his men being led out the door with their hands up," Alexander said. "He pulled out his pistol and shot the two Germans. Then he went after the tank crew, killing all inside."

"According to one of his men, Frankland not only shot the tank commander, he jumped up on the tank and started blasting away down the hatch with his .45. He got the whole crew," said John McManus, author of *The Americans at Normandy: the Summer of 1944 - The American War from the Normandy Beaches to Falaise*.

This incident is also mentioned by Warren Giles on the 30th Infantry website.

"Col. Frankland received orders from Division to hold at all costs because virtually nothing existed past the First Battalion to stop the Germans from advancing directly to the sea," said Giles.

Frankland joined the 117th Infantry in 1925 and rose through the enlisted ranks. He even spent four years as a first sergeant before being commissioned as a second



Maj. Gen. Robert Frankland

lieutenant in 1930. He was promoted to first lieutenant before being activated to fight the Germans in the 1940s. It was during this time of activation that he would earn the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Star Medals, three Bronze Star Medals, the French Crois de Guerre with palm, the Belgian Fourriege and two Presidential Citations.

"He earned his second Silver Star Medal in 1944 for his actions in Germany," said Maj. Darrin Haas, historian for the Tennessee National Guard. "His battalion was given the mission of attacking the Siegfried Line for US forces to break-through and penetrate in the Nazi-controlled country." Haas then

echoed the General's story in that Frankland was always known for being in the front line with his troops.

"Unmindful of the hazards involved, he personally directed and coordinated the attack by his battalion, storming pillbox after pillbox, until a break-through was made. His personal bravery inspired his Soldiers to give their maximum effort during the difficult mission that ended with a brilliant victory," read the citation that accompanied his medal.

After serving five years on active duty, he would come back the Tennessee National Guard as a Lieutenant Colonel. He was ultimately appointed as Major General of the Line and assigned as the Division Commander of the Tennessee National Guard's 30th Armored Division in May 1957.

During his time with the Tennessee National Guard, he served in the following campaigns: Northern France, Central Europe, Ardennes and Rhineland. He was a member of the First Methodist Church and the National Guard Association of the United States, as well as the National Guard Association of Tennessee. The General was also very active in his community as a member of the Forrest Critters, Jackson Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, VFW and the American Legion.

"Robert Frankland represented everything that was right about the National Guard at mid-twentieth century," said McManus. "He had risen from private to lieutenant colonel through sheer dedication and determination."



RIBBON FOR VALOR

Four Tennessee National Guard Soldiers Receive the Adjutant General's Ribbon for Valor.



Photo by Staff Sgt. William C. Eichenberger

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Four Soldiers assigned to Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, 117th Military Police Battalion based in Athens, Tenn., were presented the Adjutant General's Ribbon for Valor October 21 at the National Guard Armory there. Spc. Charles Woods, of Chickamauga, Ga.; Spc. Nakita Huffman, of Lenoir City, Tenn.; Spc. Matthew Long, of Chattanooga, Tenn.;

and Sgt. Chris Galyon, of Kingston, Tenn., were presented the award by Maj. General Max Haston, the Adjutant General for the Tennessee National Guard.

"I am very proud of our Soldiers and the actions they took at the scene of the accident to assist members of our community," said Lt. Col. John Gobel, Commander, 117th Military Police Battalion. "They upheld our

Army Core Values and represented the 117th MP Battalion and the Tennessee National Guard well. I am glad they were able to be recognized by leadership for their service."

The Soldiers received the award for their response efforts during a vehicle accident on the highway on their way to training for the National Guard.

On November 4, 2016, while traveling

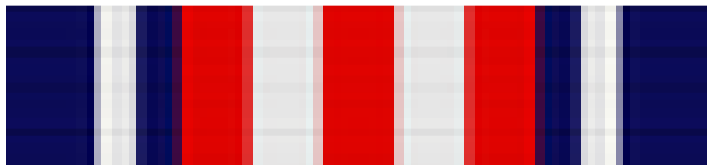


Soldiers from the 117th Military Police Battalion based in Athens, Tenn. (Photo by Staff Sgt. William C. Eichenberger)

to the Volunteer Training Site in Tullahoma, Tenn., the group of Soldiers witnessed a vehicle crash along I-24 and were the first to respond to the incident. The Soldiers directed other vehicles away from the crash site. They kept the injured occupants calm while waiting for emergency responders to arrive. They also assisted the emergency responders with removing the victims from the vehicle, placing them on stretchers and into the ambulance.

“The accident was pretty bad. A semi hit a smaller passenger vehicle,” said Long. “I am proud to have been in the right place at the right time and able to help.”

- MASTER SGT. ROBIN BROWN



RIBBON OF VALOR

The Tennessee National Guard Adjutant General’s Ribbon for Valor is awarded by the Adjutant General to any member of the U.S. Armed Forces associated with the Tennessee National Guard who distinguished themselves in an act of saving or attempting to save another person’s life. The award can be earned regardless if the individual was on duty with the Guard or not, or whether or not the individual was in personal danger. Performance should be clearly an unselfish reaction to an emergency.

LIFE SAVING ACTION

Retired Tennessee Guardsman honored for helping to save motorist life while headed to training.

By Glenn Tanner / Post-Intelligencer

A now retired Tennessee National Guardsman was honored for his role in helping to save the life of another driver as he attended guard training in 2017.

Retired Staff Sgt. Tony Lane, of the 212th Engineer Co., was recognized during a promotions and reward ceremony at the McGarity National Guard Armory on County Home Road.

Lane was awarded the Adjutant General's Ribbon for Valor. It was presented on behalf of Maj. Gen. Terry Haston by Capt. Christian Yoder, commander of the 212th Engineer Co.

According to the text of the award, the ribbon was presented for "extraordinary valor displayed after stopping to assist a victim of a single vehicle accident. He was instrumental in providing life saving measures to the civilian involved in the accident prior to the arrival of emergency medical services on the scene.

"His selfless service reflects great credit upon him, the 212th Engineer Company, the 230th Engineer Battalion, the 194th Engineer Brigade, and the Tennessee Army National Guard."

Lane was also presented with the Tennessee National Guard Distinguished Service Medal for his 27 years with the Tennessee National Guard and the Meritorious Service Medal for his more than 33 years with the U.S. Army and the Tennessee National Guard. Both of those awards were presented by Yoder.

Following the ceremony, Lane said the events leading to the ribbon of valor happened in June as he was heading to the unit's annual training in Tullahoma, Tenn.

As he was on the interstate nearing Tullahoma, he saw the woman's car hit something, then cross into the median. "If there hadn't been a ditch there, she would have come out right where I was at," he said. Lane stopped and ran to the woman's vehicle to



Capt. Christian Yoder (left), commander of the 212th Engineer Co., returns a salute from retired Staff Sgt. Tony Lane inside the McGarity National Guard Armory on County Home Road Sunday. Lane received the guard's Ribbon of Valor for helping to save the life of a motorist in June.

see if she was hurt. While he didn't see any obvious injuries, he noticed the woman could barely speak. The first thing he did was make sure the vehicle's engine was shut off.

"About that time, another individual came up that had a lot more medical experience than I had and realized off the bat that the lady had a stroke. About that time, she went into cardiac arrest," Lane said.

The two got the woman out of the car and began performing CPR. Shortly after that, a local sheriff's deputy arrived with a portable defibrillator.

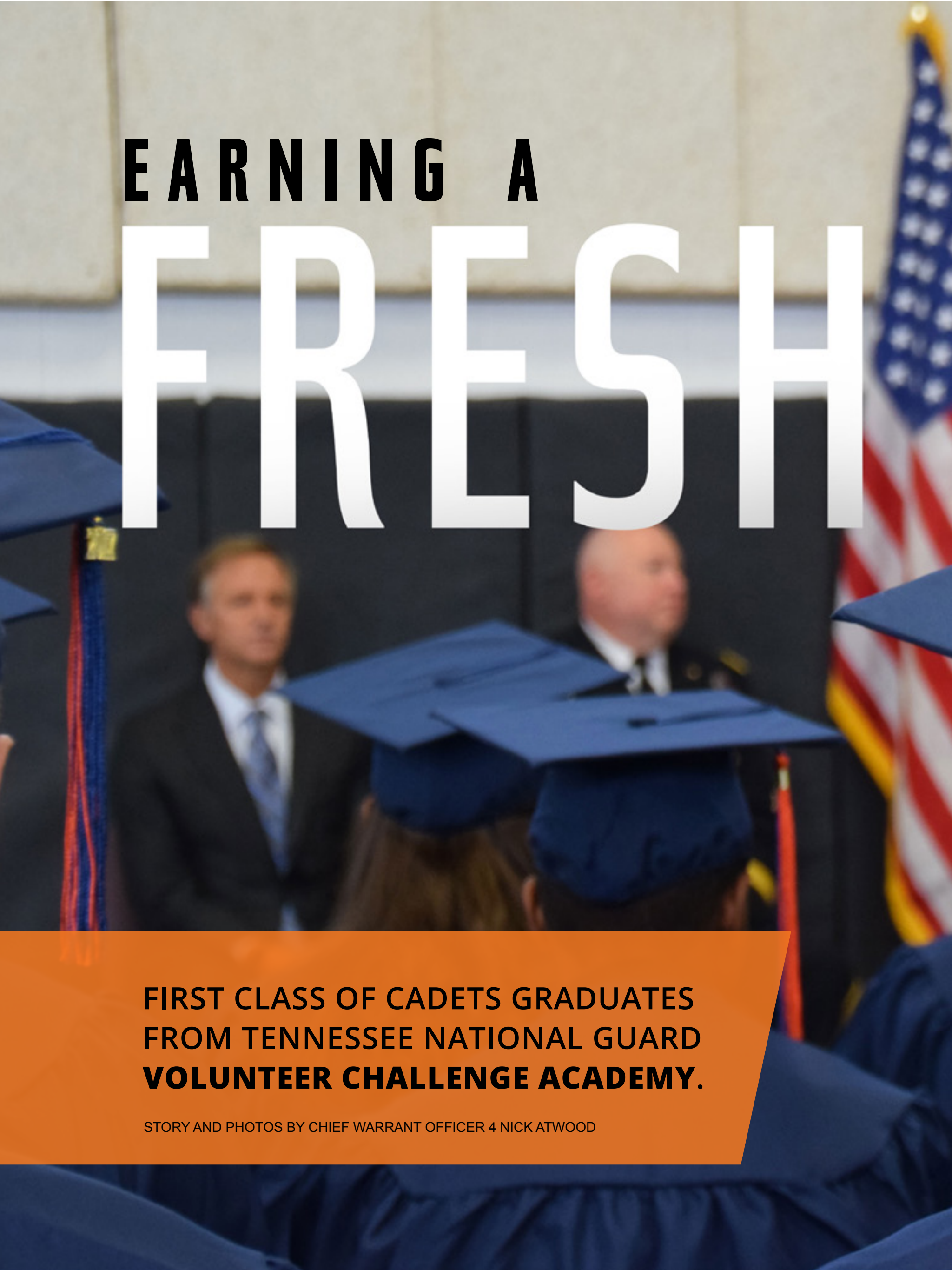
"We got that on her and got her shocked," Lane remembered. "Her heart started beating again, and they loaded her up in the ambulance." To this day, he doesn't know what became of the woman whose life he helped to save.

"They wouldn't tell me anything after that because of HIPPA (the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996)," he said. "We tried to find out."

Also honored Sunday was retired Staff Sgt. David Hinton. Hinton was awarded the Guard's Distinguished Service Medal for his 39 years with the Tennessee National Guard and the Meritorious Service Medal for his more than 39 years with the guard and U.S. Army.

About 230 servicemen and women, as well as their families, attended the ceremony, which included the unit's Christmas party. The event also included the promotion of Pfc. Samson Lanade to Specialist; Spc. Christopher Smith to Corporal; and Cpl. Lindsay Sanders to Sergeant. The ceremony also included several other awards and recognitions.

Retired local veterinarian Robert "Buddy" Gardner, a Vietnam War Veteran and former Mississippi Air National Guardsman, was the guest speaker.



EARNING A

FRESH

**FIRST CLASS OF CADETS GRADUATES
FROM TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD
VOLUNTEER CHALLENGE ACADEMY.**

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4 NICK ATWOOD

START

A photograph of a graduation ceremony. In the foreground, several graduates are seen from behind, wearing blue caps and gowns. In the background, a man in a dark suit and yellow tie is looking down. Behind him are several red flags and an American flag on the left. The word "START" is overlaid in large white letters across the center of the image.

The first class of the Tennessee Volunteer ChalleNGe Academy prepares for Graduation. Twenty-three candidates completed the 22-week course and achieved their high school diploma, their HiSet certificate, or sufficient credits to go back and finish high school.



VOLUNTEER CHALLENGE



The first class of the Tennessee Volunteer Challenge Academy prepares for graduation. Twenty-three candidates completed the 22-week course.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - In a landmark event for the Tennessee National Guard, Tennessee's new Volunteer Challenge Academy graduated its inaugural class on December 16, 2017.

The ceremony, held on the TNVCA campus in Nashville, honored 23 cadets who earned their high school diploma, their HiSet certificate, or sufficient credits to go back and finish high school.

Governor Bill Haslam gave the commencement remarks, complementing the cadets on their achievement and encouraging them to take what they gained while at the academy and build for the future. The cadets represent 16 counties in Tennessee, from Shelby in the west to Sevier in the east.

The TNVCA is a program for Tennessee youth, administered by the National Guard Youth Challenge Program and the state of Tennessee, for 16-18 year olds who have dropped out of school or are at risk of becoming a dropout. The program gives them the opportunity to succeed outside of a traditional school setting by learning self-discipline, leadership and responsibility.

"I believe that this program has changed the life course of these students who were potentially headed down the wrong path," said Maj. Gen. Max Haston, Tennessee's Adjutant General. "We are extremely proud of each one of these young Tennesseans."

While the National Guard Youth Challenge Program was established in 1993,

Tennessee didn't start the program here until this year, with the first class starting last summer.

Following the 22-week school program, graduates are then paired with a personal mentor for one year to help with the transition into adulthood. All 23 cadets successfully completed the tasks and subtasks supporting the eight Core Components of the Academy; life coping skills, academic excellence, leadership/followership, jobs skills, physical fitness, responsible citizenship, service to the community and health and hy-



Governor Bill Haslam addresses the Cadets at Tennessee Volunteer Challenge Academy's first graduation.



Academy Director Gary Ensminger congratulates Lauren Jones of LaVergne during graduation ceremonies for the first class at Tennessee Volunteer Challenge Academy in Nashville.

TENNESSEE VOLUNTEER CHALLENGE ACADEMY



BEGAN: **2017**

LOCATION: **NASHVILLE, TN**

2017 GRADUATING CLASS: **23**

giene. Also while at the Academy, six cadets took the ACT on Campus, and were registered for the TN Hope Scholarship. All 23 cadets took the ASVAB. One cadet plans to enlist in the Army and one is enlisting in the National Guard.

The program is free and voluntary. It is not boot camp or juvenile detention. Funding is provided by both the Federal and the State governments and is executed via a cooperative agreement between the Military Department of Tennessee and the National Guard Bureau.

The TNVCA is currently accepting applications for its next class, which begins January 14. For more information, visit www.tn.gov/tnvolunteerchallenge, email TNVCA@tn.gov, or call 629-888-5868.

COMBAT HAMMER

Multiple Air National Guard units from several states strike hard in first 'Combat Hammer' exercise.

DUKE FIELD, Fla. - Airmen from multiple Air National Guard units of Texas, New York, Iowa, Ohio, California, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, and North Dakota supported and flew MQ-9 Reaper aircraft during Operation Combat Hammer, the first operational air-to-ground weapons evaluation for the Air National Guard to be a part of as the sole MQ-9 Reaper mission set.

The Combat Hammer exercise takes place twice each year at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. and twice annually at Hill Air Force Base, Utah. It is part of the Weapon System Evaluation Program (WSEP). WSEP has two parts: Combat Hammer evaluates all U.S. Air Force air-to-ground weapons, mostly bombs, while Combat Archer evaluates all the air-to-air weapons, mostly missiles.

"WSEP is an opportunity for the Air National Guard to provide our war fighters with 'as real as it gets' combat training outside of the combat zone, said 1st Lieutenant Josh, WSEP Project Officer for 132d Wing, Des Moines Iowa."

The 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group, out of Eglin, Air Force Base, conducted a maritime Weapons System Evaluation Program in the Gulf of Mexico and in Choctawhatchee Bay, Nov. 1-3 and Nov. 6-8. Within the 53rd WEG, the 86th Fighter Weapons Squadron is the lead for Combat Hammer, an annual exercise conducted to evaluate weapons sys-



Behind the controls of a MQ-9 Reaper. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Shepherd)

"A lot of hours by a lot of people goes into making this happen and it couldn't be done without a whole team effort."

tems.

"As a whole, Combat Hammer has to do that on a much larger scale since we have three to four units here each WSEP...A lot of hours by a lot of people goes into making this happen and it couldn't be done without a whole team effort," Maj. Marcus said, Assistant Director of Operations for WSEP at the 86th FWS, Eglin AFB, Florida.

Participating this year were F-22s from the 94th Fighter Squadron of Langley, AFB, F-16s from the 55th Fighter Squadron of Shaw AFB, A-10s from the 75th Fighter



MQ-9 REAPER

Manufacturer
General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc.

Service
USAF

Armament
Combination of AGM-114 Hellfire missiles, GBU-12 Paveway II and GBU-38 JDAM

Propulsion
Honeywell TPE331-10GD turboprop engine

Speed
230 mph

Range
1,150 miles

Crew
Two (pilot and sensor operator)

(www.military.com)

Airmen from multiple Air National Guard units of Texas, New York, Iowa, Ohio, California, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, and North Dakota supported and flew MQ-9 Reaper aircraft during Operation Combat Hammer, the first operational air-to-ground weapons evaluation for the Air National Guard to be a part of as the sole MQ-9 Reaper mission set. *(Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Shepherd)*

Squadron of Moody AFB, and MQ-9s from multiple Air National Guard units of Texas, New York, Iowa, Ohio, California, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, and North Dakota and the 2nd Special Operations Squadron of Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Approximately 30 boats simulated realistic swarm attack formation maneuvers in the Choctawhatchee Bay while military aircraft target them from above to practice simulated “real time kills” and evaluate the precision of guided munitions.

The 96th Range Control Squadron gathered data from the aircraft, weapons, targets,

and a multitude of other range sensors. This combined information will provide full situational awareness to the WSEP engineers, allowing them to make real-time decisions on the performance of the various weapons systems.

The exercise also marked the first time an MQ-9 Reaper across multiple states back to its home unit instead of being shipped back. The 171st Attack Wing in Syracuse, New York flew its MQ-9 over 1,200 miles from Duke Field, Fla.

Combat Hammer ensures that the employment of weapons work as intended, thus enabling the warfighter to accomplish the mission downrange.

- SENIOR MASTER SGT. ROBERT SHEPHERD



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Tennessee's Home for the Holidays open house event at the Tennessee Residence honors "Tennessee Heroes."



Visitors tour the Tennessee Residence during the open house.
(Photos by Staff Sgt. Mathieu Perry)

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - The 7th annual open house holiday event at the Tennessee Residence was held throughout December. Governor Bill Haslam and First Lady Crissy Haslam host the special event in the executive residence.

This year, the holiday decorations honored "Tennessee Heroes." The trees and mantels showcased memorabilia and articles depicting the work of brave men and women who serve our communities in the Tennessee Department of Military, Department of Safety, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, as well as Veterans, local law enforcement, and first responders.

In Conservation Hall, the trees were decorated with ornaments created by military connected youth and families.

- STAFF SGT. MATHIEU PERRY



TO CONQUER HELL

THE MEUSE-ARGONNE, 1918



To Conquer Hell:

The Meuse-Argonne,
1918

By Edward G. Lengel.
New York: Henry Holt and
Company, 2008.

Maj. Darrin Haas Gives his Review of:

TO CONQUER HELL: THE MEUSE-ARGONNE, 1918

Nearing the end of World War I, the United States would engage in the largest and bloodiest battle in American history, the six-week long Meuse-Argonne offensive. For 47 days from September 26 to November 11, 1918, nearly 1.2 million U.S. Soldiers would fight in the Argonne, resulting in the death of more than 26,000 U.S. Soldiers and the wounding of nearly 96,000. This accounted for almost half of all U.S. casualties for the entire war. Shockingly, within 20 years after the guns went silent in the Argonne, “hardly anyone could name, much less describe, America’s greatest battle in the late war.”

Even today, most Americans still know little about the United States’ largest battle. According to Edward Lengel, the current chief historian for the White House Historical Association, the battle “gets nothing like the attention it deserves as one of the largest and most critical military engagements in the nation’s history.” Lengel, while serving as a history professor at the University of Virginia, sets out to remedy this national amnesia with his book, *To Conquer Hell: The Meuse-Argonne, 1918*.

Published in 2008 and using numerous primary sources, secondary sources, and oral history interviews, Lengel crafts a unique and sweeping narrative that delivers a raw look into World War I combat. Focusing primarily on the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) during those 47 days in France, he does not try to write a full-scale operational history or a top-down study of AEF generalship. Instead, he looks at how various U.S. Soldiers experienced the carnage and how it all interrelated. He chronicles the history of this battle through their stories. Concentrating his research on first-person accounts from the Soldiers that participated, he thoroughly examines diaries, letters, memoirs, veteran questionnaires, as well as small unit histories in order to illustrate the experiences of the common Soldier in the

trenches.

Lengel does this by dividing his book into three main sections with a total of 25 chapters. The first two parts set the stage for the battle and how the AEF mobilized and assembled in France. Done in just seven quick chapters, it briefly looks at the raising of the AEF, its first taste of combat, the struggles of creating a cohesive and independent American Army, and then the AEF’s first unified fight at the St. Mihiel Salient. The third phase is the meat of Lengel’s work. He uses 19 chapters to follow the four battles, ending with the Armistice on November 11, 1918 and the Soldiers return home. This is where he does his best work by explaining a long and complicated battle where 22 American divisions with more than 840 airplanes and 320 tanks battled German forces.

The organization and colorful writing results in a dense narrative and a detailed account of combat experiences from Soldiers that are not as well-known as more famous veterans that have been written about. There is mention of Alvin York and the Lost Battalion, but the work’s greatest strength is that it highlights stories that have not been heard or were forgotten. Lengel writes that “for each man who found fame during or after the battle, there are thousands whose tale of valor, cowardice, death, and survival have been largely forgotten.” He attempts to remedy some of this through his work by focusing on the heroism, tragedy, and transformation that occurred during those six weeks in France.

Overall, Edward Lengel skillfully tells the story of a long and complex battle, giving the reader a clear understanding of what Soldiers went through and why it is important to understand it. I highly recommend this work to anyone wanting a sense of what Americans endured during World War I or looking for an understanding of what U.S. Soldiers experienced in the world’s first modern war during the industrial age. It is also a highly recommended read because it helps celebrate the centennial of the war and honor all those that served and fought during the war to end all wars.

- MAJ. DARRIN HAAS



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