

MILITARY

We have to make sure that we are a force for peace and stability in the world, and that we're prepared to defend freedom and the security of the American people.

— THAD COCHRAN, U.S. SENATOR (1978–2018) —



Military



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

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MISSISSIPPI MILITARY DEPARTMENT

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

The Adjutant General of Mississippi, via the Mississippi Military Department, is expressly authorized to "issue such orders, rules and regulations as may be necessary in order that the organization, training, and discipline of the components of the militia of this state will at all times conform to the applicable requirements of the United States government relating thereto. Orders, rules, and regulations issued hereunder shall have full force and effect as part of the military code of this state." Mississippi's militia forces formally break down into three broad classes: The Mississippi National Guard (MSNG), the Mississippi State Guard (MSG), and the unorganized militia. The Mississippi National Guard and the Mississippi State Guard are considered organized militia.

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

The Mississippi State Guard is most closely aligned with the concept of state militia. The

members are volunteers, self-equipped (armed only under special circumstances, as defined in law), can only operate within the borders of the State, and are unpaid unless activated to assist or backfill the Mississippi National Guard.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

equipped, fully funded, and serve under the control of the Governor.

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

The Mississippi National Guard has served in the Creek War, War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War, World Wars One and Two, Korea, Operation Desert Storm, Haiti, Bosnia-Kosovo, Somalia, Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn.

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

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

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

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

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

The Guard was activated again for war on November 25, 1940, and served honorably on battlefields throughout Europe and the Pacific. The 31st Infantry (Dixie) Division

was again called on to serve in the Korean Conflict, where almost 95 percent of the Mississippi National Guard units were mobilized.

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

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

In support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve, the Mississippi National Guard has mobilized more than 15,000 service members, with every deployable unit participating.

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

MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD

Joint Force Headquarters – Mississippi National Guard

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

MISSISSIPPI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

155th Armored Brigade Combat Team

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

184th Sustainment Command

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

66th Troop Command

- 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces Regiment
- Special Operations Detachment, Mississippi Army National Guard

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

MISSISSIPPI AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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

MISSISSIPPI STATE GUARD

The mission of the Mississippi State Guard is “to establish and maintain an all-volunteer formal military organization as the State’s reserve to the Mississippi National Guard (MSNG).”

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

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

MISSISSIPPI MILITARY COMMAND OFFICERS



ADJUTANT GENERAL OF MISSISSIPPI Major General Bobby M. Ginn, Jr.

Major General Bobby M. Ginn, Jr. was appointed Adjutant General of Mississippi by Gov. Tate Reeves, Aug. 1, 2024. Ginn serves as the commanding general of both the Mississippi Army and Air National Guard. He is responsible for providing the state of Mississippi and the Nation with a ready force of more than 12,500 citizen Soldiers and Airmen, equipped, and trained to respond to any contingency, natural or manmade.

Ginn has over 34 years of military service, beginning his military career in 1990 as an enlisted Soldier and commissioned as a Logistics Officer in 1993 through Officer Candidate School. He was a vital part of the MSARNG's large-scale response effort to provide support throughout Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In 2006, he served as the Support Operations Officer for the 106th Support Battalion and later serving as Company Commander of the 1387th Quartermaster Company where he deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2007-2008. Following his overseas assignment, he served as the Maintenance Director at Joint Force Headquarters in 2008 with follow-on assignments as the Commander of the 2nd Ordnance Training Battalion, 154th Regiment Regional Training Institute; 66th Troop Command Logistics Officer; and Plans Officer for the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command. Later in 2015, he served as the Future Operations Branch Chief, Distribution Management Division Chief, and the Surface Maintenance Division Chief.

In 2017, Ginn was appointed as the Commander of Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center with a follow-on assignment as the MSARNG Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics in 2020. In April 2024, he was promoted to brigadier general and appointed as the Director of Joint Staff for the MSNG. Ginn has served as a dual status federal technician for 28 years.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL, ARMY

Major General Trent Kelly

Major General John Trent Kelly has served as the Assistant Adjutant General for the Mississippi Army National Guard since Sep. 3, 2020. As the Assistant Adjutant General - Army, Kelly directs the operations of more than 10,000 Citizen Soldiers. He guides the formulation, development and implementation of all programs and policies affecting the Mississippi Army National Guard.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL, AIR

Major General Edward H. Evans, Jr

Major General Edward H. Evans, Jr. is the Assistant Adjutant General-Air and Commander, Mississippi Air National Guard. He is responsible to the Adjutant

General for directing Air National Guard operations, formulating, developing, and coordinating all programs, policies, and plans ensuring the mission readiness of the 172d Airlift Wing, 186th Air Refueling Wing, and the Combat Readiness Training Center.

COMMAND CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER

Chief Warrant Officer 5

Donald R. Dukes

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Donald R. Dukes has served as the State Command Chief Warrant Officer since August of 2022. As the Command Chief Warrant Officer, he is the senior advisor to the Adjutant General on all matters relating to Warrant Officers. He is responsible for keeping the Adjutant General informed and making recommendations in matters of the

Warrant Officer cohort. He also oversees a Warrant Officer Advisory Committee as the spokesperson to advise the Adjutant General and the chain of command on Warrant Officer management issue.

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER

Command Sergeant Major

Joseph S. (Shane) Cook

Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Shane Cook began his military career in January 1993, attending Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training as a Heavy Wheel Vehicle Mechanic at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. His first assignment was with Company B, 223rd Engineer Battalion located in Calhoun City, Mississippi.

Cook began his Active Guard Reserve (AGR) career in 1998 as the Training NCO with Company C, 223rd Engineer Battalion. His follow-on assignments include Readiness NCO for Company A, 223rd Engineer Battalion; Senior Battalion Operations NCO, 223rd Engineer Battalion; First Sergeant, 289th Engineer Company (Vertical); Operations NCOIC, Camp McCain Training Center; Human Resources Sergeant Major, JFHQ; Battalion Command Sergeant Major, 223rd Engineer Battalion; G3 Sergeant Major, JFHQ; Brigade Command Sergeant Major, 168th Engineer Brigade. Cook was selected as the Command Senior Enlisted Leader for the Mississippi National Guard by Maj. Gen. Bobby M. Ginn Jr. effective Sept. 3, 2024.

Cook was deployed to Tikrit, Iraq, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from April 2003 until February 2004. He was mobilized in support of Hurricane Katrina on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in August 2005. He deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from November 2011 to September 2012. Cook most recently deployed to the CENTCOM AOR in support of Operation Spartan Shield / Operation Inherent Resolve as the 168th

Engineer Brigade Command Sergeant Major from March 2023 to December 2023.

Cook's military education includes the Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course, Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer Course, and the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy.

Cook's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with a bronze oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with three bronze oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with two bronze oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with two bronze oak leaf clusters, the Humanitarian Service Medal with a bronze oak leaf cluster, the Mississippi Magnolia Medal, the Mississippi Commendation Medal, the Combat Action Badge, and numerous other federal and state awards.

STATE COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT

Command Chief Master Sergeant

John W. Myers

Chief Master Sergeant John W. Myers is the 14th State Command Chief Master Sergeant for the Mississippi Air National Guard, Joint Force Headquarters, Jackson, MS. Chief Myers serves as the principal advisor to Commanders and senior staff on matters of mission effectiveness, professional development, military readiness, training, promotion, retention, utilization, health, morale, welfare and assignment policy affecting over 2,300 enlisted personnel. This includes conducting counseling and interviewing sessions through a visitation program to 29 units; and identifying issues and recommending actions directly to commanders. He is the liaison between the enlisted personnel, the Adjutant General and the Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Mississippi Air National Guard. Chief Myers is currently assigned to the ANG Chief Master Sergeant Orientation Course as Lead Facilitator.



MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

CAMP MCCAIN TRAINING CENTER

Grenada

Post Commander – Lieutenant Colonel Curtis J. Garrette

Post Sergeant Major – Command Sergeant Major Rickie L. Fortner

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

CAMP SHELBY JOINT FORCES TRAINING CENTER

Hattiesburg

Post Commander – Colonel William L. Henry

Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center is primarily located in portions of Perry and Forrest Counties, with a small portion

in Greene County. The training center was established in 1917 in support of mobilization during World War I and has served almost continuously as a training site since.

Camp Shelby's mission statement is "to be the premier integrated warfighting and force generation installation while serving as the world-class center of excellence for installation management, customer service, and community partnering."

COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE

Columbus

14th Flying Training Wing Commander – Colonel James J. Blech

Columbus Air Force Base is home of the 14th Flying Training Wing, which is part of the United States Air Force's 19th Air Force under Air Education and Training Command. The Wing is composed of 212 aircraft flying more than 46,000 sorties and 65,000 hours while training over 400 pilots and combat systems officers annually.

GULFPORT COMBAT READINESS TRAINING CENTER

Gulfport

Base Commander – Colonel Robert J. Kirby

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

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

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

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE

Biloxi

**Outgoing Base Commander –
Colonel Heather W. Blackwell
Base Commander –
Colonel Billy E. Pope, Jr.**

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

Keesler's mission is enduring...“we provide a wide array of capabilities in over 160 career field specialty training courses from eight operating locations in the continental United States. Our

mission is to train, develop and inspire warfighters.”

NAVAL AIR STATION MERIDIAN

Meridian

Base Commander – Captain Luke H. Davis

Naval Auxiliary Air Station (NAAS) Meridian was commissioned July 14, 1961. NAAS Meridian continued to grow, and by July 1968, the station became a full naval air station (NAS). The mission of the base is to train the warfighter. Naval Air Station Meridian, which supports aviation and technical training, and other tenant activities, accomplishes its mission of enabling warfighter readiness by providing timely, quality services, and facilities in an environmentally safe, secure community. Departments working under the NAS Commanding Officer form the backbone for the entire installation. Nearly 3,000 military, civilians, and contractors are employed onboard the installation. There are eight Major Commands, as well as the Naval Operational Support Center (NOSC), and Regional Counterdrug Training Academy (RCTA). The main base is quite large, measuring approximately 8,000 acres of land with an additional 4,000 acres at Outlying Field (OFL) Joe Williams Field.

NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER *Gulfport*

Base Commander – Captain Ana Franco

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

The Naval Construction Training Center

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

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

NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY/ NAVAL METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY COMMAND

Stennis Space Center

Commander – Rear Admiral Ron J. Piret

The Naval Research Laboratory, a tenant activity at NASA's Stennis Space Center, is a unique concentration of operational and research oceanographers making the SSC the center of naval oceanography and the largest such grouping in the world. The Research Laboratory has two major research divisions, the Acoustics Division and the Ocean Sciences Division. The Acoustics Division conducts basic and applied research addressing the physics of acoustic signal

generation, propagation, scatter, and detection with the objective of improving the strategic and tactical capabilities of the Navy and Marine Corps in the ocean and land operational environment. The Ocean Sciences Division conducts a research development test & evaluation (RDT&E) program in biological, chemical, dynamical, and physical processes of the open ocean; coastal and littoral areas; marine boundary layers; and marine geology, geophysics, geoacoustics, and mapping, charting and geodesy.

The Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, established in 1830, is a key member of the Information Warfare community and Fleet Forces. There are 60 locations around the world with 14 subordinate commands. The Command's mission/vision is to "define and apply the physical environment, from the bottom of the ocean to the stars, to ensure that the U.S. Navy has the freedom of action to deter aggression, maintain freedom of the seas and win wars." It is the "Department of Defense's authoritative source for characterization, and applying data of the physical battlespace into winning decisions."

The Command occupies six Oceanographic Survey Vessels and consists of a ready Force of well-qualified, well-educated and deliberately trained Sailors, civilians and contractors serving in a wide-range of operational, technical/scientific and service support billets around the globe.