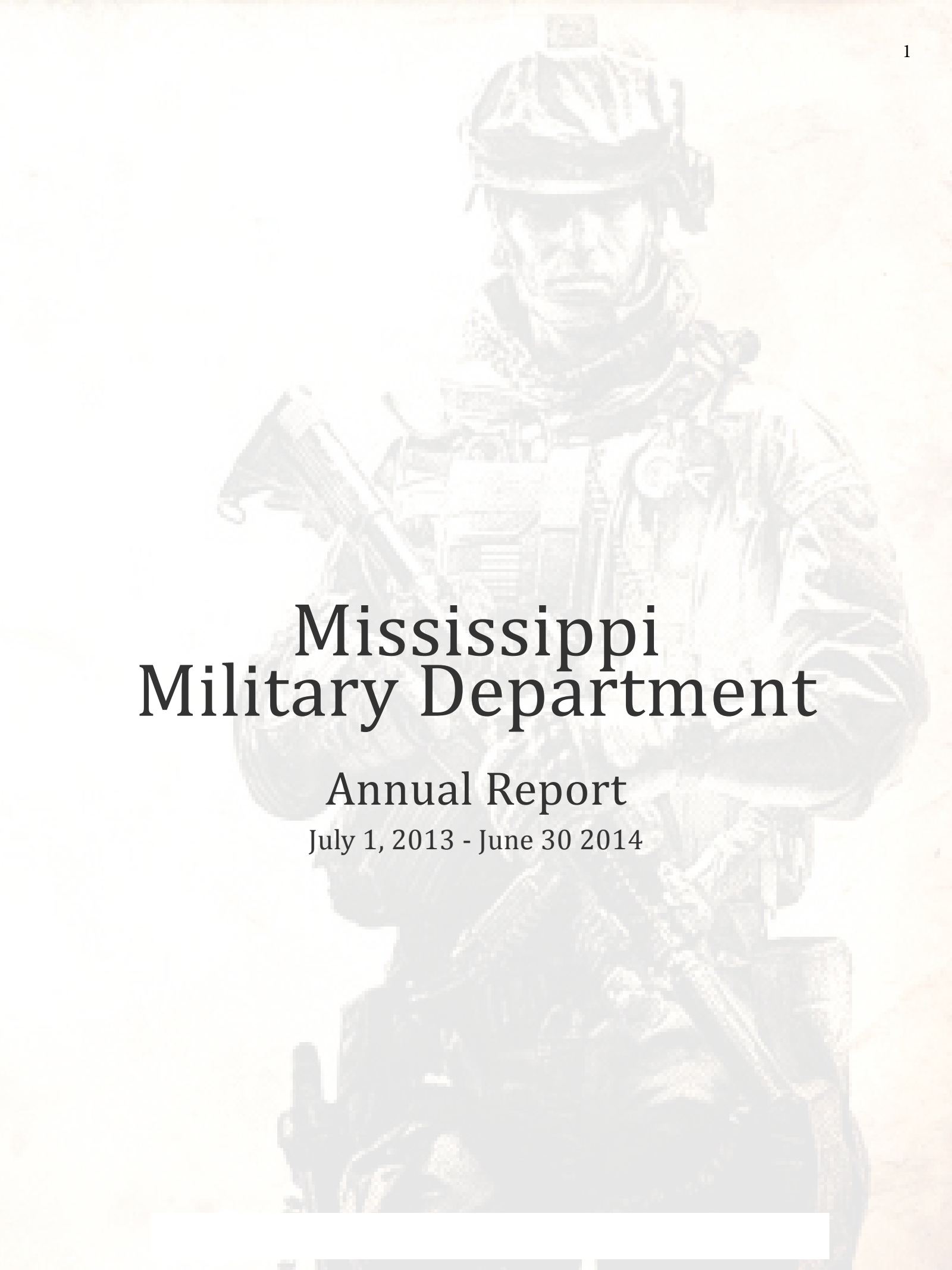

Mississippi Military Department

Annual Report

July 1, 2013 - June 30 2014

To the Governor of the Great State of Mississippi

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the annual report of the Mississippi Military Department for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

The Mississippi National Guard is again leading the nation as a model, force multiplier training in national-level exercises Emerald Warrior and Southern Strike. The 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team conducted the first Combined Arms Live-Fire Exercise in 16 years, featuring infantry, armor, artillery, aviation and unmanned aerial vehicles in a joint assault with live ammunition. Our Air National Guard continued its C-17 Globemaster and KC-135 Refueling missions. C-17 aircraft and crews remain dedicated to the Air Mobility Command for contingency operations and Afghanistan Retrograde Missions, and our refuelers are operating around the globe.

With such a busy year, Mississippi Guard men and women continued to serve in Afghanistan, Kuwait and other worldwide locations. They also supported our state missions providing security and storm relief following devastating spring tornadoes in Louisville and Tupelo.

Your Mississippi National Guard remains hard at work providing for our nation's defense and protecting our citizens here at home.

Augustus L. Collins
Major General, Mississippi National Guard
The Adjutant General of Mississippi

Maj. Gen. Leon Collins, the adjutant general, briefs distinguished visitors at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center in August.

Mississippi National Guard Annual Report
July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

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1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment Soldiers fire M-4 rifles during Advanced Marksmanship training at the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center on July 25, 2014. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Brooks Little, 102nd Public Affairs Detachment)

CITIZEN SOLDIER FORCE STRUCTURE

Mississippi Army National Guard

155th ABCT
Tupelo

HC 1-155 INF
McComb, Tylertown
CO A
Biloxi
CO B
Poplarville
CO C
Natchez
CO D
Kiln

HC 2-198 AR
Senatobia, Batesville
CO A
Hernando, Holly Springs
CO B
Greenwood, Drew
CO C
Oxford
CO D
Indianola

HT 1-98 CAV
Amory, Nettleton
TRP A
Pontotoc
TRP B
Booneville
TRP C
Fulton, Iuka

HD 106 BSB
Monticello
CO A
Magee, Taylorsville, Monticello
CO B
Camp Shelby
CO C
Crystal Springs
CO D
Corinth, Ripley
CO E
Brookhaven, Gloster
CO F
Grenada, Charleston, Cleveland
CO G
Louisville, Eupora

HB 2-114 FA
Starkville
BTRY A
Columbus, Ackerman
BTRY B
Koscuisko, Winona

HC 155 STB
Meridian, Carthage, Quitman
CO A
Canton, Camp Shelby
CO B
Meridian
CO C
Columbia, Clarksdale

184th ESC
Laurel, Hattiesburg

HC 168 EN BDE
Vicksburg

HC 223 EN BN
West Point
SC 223 EN BN
Aberdeen
288 EN CO
Houston
289 EN CO
Bruce, Water Valley
858 EN CO
Calhoun City, Okolona

HC/SC 890 EN BN
Gulfport
230 EN DET
Purvis
231 EN DET
SURV/DESIGN TM
Gulfport
250 EN DET
Purvis
251 EN DET
Lumberton
287 EN CO
Lucedale
857 EN CO
Picayune, Wiggins
859 EN CO
Pascagoula, Richton

31 SPT DET
Jackson

114 SPT DET
Greenville

HD 298 SPT BN
Philedelphia
367 MNT CO
Philedelphia, Dekalb
3656 MNT CO
Camp Shelby, Waynesboro
1687 TPT CO
Southaven
1387 QM CO
Greenville, Rolling Fork

1984 SPT DET
Jackson

47 CST
Jackson

ARNG SOD SOUTH
Jackson

66th TRP CMD
Jackson

HB 1-204 ADA
Newton
BTRY A
Bay Springs
BTRY B
Forest
BTRY C
Morton
BTRY D
Newton

HD 112 MP BN
Canton
113 MP CO
Brandon, Mendenhall
114 MP CO
Clinton, Vicksburg

210 FI CO
Jackson
220 FI CO
Jackson
230 FI CO
Jackson

HD 1108 AVN GP
Gulfport
CO A
Gulfport
CO B
Yazoo City
CO I 1-185 AVN
Gulfport

185 AVN BDE
Jackson

HC 1-185
Tupelo
CO A
Jackson
CO D
Jackson
CO E
Jackson

DET 1 CO B
834 ASB
Tupelo
CO C 114
Tupelo
CO D/2-151
Tupelo
B/1/111 AVN
Meridian
F/1-171 AVN
Jackson
2-185 AVN
Southaven
A/1/149 AVN
Tupelo

102 MPAD
Jackson

HC 2/20 SFG
Jackson, Camp McCain
CO C
Camp McCain
SC
Jackson

Mississippi National Guard
Joint Force Headquarters Command Staff

JFH
Jackson

JFH MSNG
Jackson

972 JAG DET
Jackson

154 RTI
Camp Shelby
OCS TNG CO
Camp Shelby
2 ORD TNG BN
RTS MAINT
Camp Shelby
MED BN TNG SITE
Camp Shelby
1 AR TNG BN
Camp Shelby
2 INF TNG BN
Camp Shelby
3 NCOA TNG BN
Camp Shelby

REC & RET BN
Jackson

ARNG TNG SITE
Camp McCain

ARNG TNG SITE
Camp Shelby

41 ARMY BAND
Jackson

DET 16 OSA
Jackson

MED DET
Jackson, Camp McCain, Camp Shelby

CITIZEN SOLDIER FORCE STRUCTURE

Mississippi Air National Guard

172 Airlift Wing
Flowood

- 172 Financial Management Services
- 172 Operations Group
- 172 Operations Support Flight
- 183 Airlift Squadron
- 183 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron
- 172 Aerial Port Flight
- 172 Airlift Control Squadron
- 172 Logistics Group
- 172 Aircraft Generation Squadron
- 172 Logistics Squadron
- 172 Maintenance Squadron
- 172 Support Group
- 172 Civil Engineer Squadron
- 172 Mission Support Flight
- 172 Security Forces Squadron
- 172 Services Squadron
- 172 Medical Squadron

Combat Readiness Training Center
Gulfport

- 255 Air Control Squadron
- 209 Civil Engineer Squadron

A C-17 Globemaster III, flown by the Mississippi Air National Guard's 172rd Airlift Squadron, sits on the ramp prior to takeoff at the Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) flight line in Gulfport, Miss., while participating in Exercise Southern Strike 15 (SS15) Oct. 29, 2014. SS15 is a total force, multiservice training exercise hosted annually by the Mississippi National Guard's CRTC. The SS15 exercise emphasizes air-to-air, air-to-ground, and special operations forces training opportunities. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Gregory Brook, 1st Combat Camera Squadron)

An RC-26B surveillance aircraft based at the Key Field Air National Guard Base, Meridian, Miss., prepares for takeoff on the flight line at the Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Melissa Goslin, 1st Combat Camera Squadron)

186 Air Refueling Wing
Meridian

- 186 Operations Group
- 186 Air Refueling Squadron
- 186 Operations Support Flight
- 186 Maintenance Operations Squadron
- 186 Maintenance Group
- 186 Medical Squadron
- 186 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- 186 Logistics Readiness Squadron
- 186 Maintenance Squadron
- 186 Mission Support Flight
- 186 Civil Engineer Squadron
- 186 Communications Squadron
- 186 Mission Support Group
- 186 Security Forces Squadron
- 186 Services Flight
- 248 Air Traffic Control Squadron
- 238 Air Support Operations Squadron

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Jackson's 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group conduct a nighttime assault mission Nov. 6, 2014, at Stennis Space Center, Miss. The unit was participating in Southern Strike (SS15), a total force, multiservice exercise hosted by the Mississippi National Guard's Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport. SS15 emphasizes air-to-air, air-to-ground and special operations forces training opportunities for both active and reserve components of all branches of service. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Christopher Muncy)

Mississippi National Guard Training Centers

The Mississippi National Guard is fortunate to have three state-of-the-art training facilities which host hundreds of service members from across the country. Camp Shelby also served as a Mobilization Station for troops who are deploying.

Camp Shelby

Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center (CSJFTC) is primarily located in portions of Perry and Forrest Counties with a small portion in Greene County, in south Mississippi. The training center was established in 1917 in support of mobilization during World War I and it has served almost continuously since then as a training site, not only for the Reserve Components of the Army, but also for the Active Components of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. The training site consists of a mix of State, Department of Defense, and U.S. Forest Service lands in the DeSoto National Forest.

Encompassing more than 134,000 acres (525 square kilometers), Camp Shelby can support battalion level maneuver training, and has a wide range of training and logistical support facilities. It is a training ground for the M1 Abrams Tank, Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles, and M109A6 Paladin Howitzers and home to the 177th Armored Brigade (Training Support). Camp Shelby serves as a training site for National Guardsmen and Reservists from throughout the country hosting as many as 100,000 personnel annually.

Camp McCain

Camp McCain, in Elliott, Miss., is a National Guard training site that covers 13,000 acres. Training at the facility includes tank maneuvers, artillery training and general training for National Guard troops.

Camp McCain was one of several training sites that sprang up throughout Mississippi during World War II. In 1942, the United States Army opened a major training facility on a 42,000 acre site at Elliott, Mississippi in Grenada County. The facility was named Camp McCain in honor of a famous family of military men from neighboring Carroll County, including Carroll county native Major General Henry P. McCain. Troops for the army's 87th and 94th divisions trained at Camp McCain before being sent into combat in Europe. At the peak of its expansion, Camp McCain served as many as 50,000 troops.

The US Forest Service (USFS) permitted 5,874 acres to the Army in December 1942 to be utilized as the Oxford Bombing Range. The Oxford Bombing Range was to provide the Army Air Forces with a site for testing bomb dropping mechanisms and like purposes. It is assumed that practice bombs (with spotting charges) were used at the site. In 1943, The Secretary of War determined that there was longer a military necessity for the bombing range. In August 1943, the USFS permitted 30,617 acres (including the bombing range area) to the Army for use as a maneuver area. The maneuver area was utilized by the Army units stationed at Camp McCain, MS, for bivouac and maneuver purposes. The maneuver area remained active until 1947. Currently, most of the site is forest land within the Holly Springs National Forest.

The camp also served as a prisoner of war camp for captured German soldiers -- Camp McCain housed 7,700. In 1944, the four base camps - Camp McCain, Camp Como, Camp Clinton, and Camp Shelby - developed fifteen branch camps that furnished POWs to work in the cotton fields. The Camp closed on October 15, 1944 and all but 3,000 acres of the site was sold. The camp was deactivated after the war and most of the buildings were dismantled and some sold to municipalities and colleges.

Camp McCain today functions as an important Army National Guard training site, but with only one-tenth of its original area and capacity. In 1947, the Mississippi National Guard prevailed upon the U.S. Government to retain part of the camp for small arms training. The rifle ranges and 3000 acres were retained under state control, and the rest sold.

In the beginning, the camp was administered by the local unit in Grenada. As usage increased, the demand for more facilities also increased. In the mid to late 60's, the 223rd Engineer Battalion constructed mess sheds, quonset huts, a latrine, and some of the first roads in the tactical area. In 1969, tracked vehicles were added to Camp McCain , and 1971 a maintenance facility was built. The opening of the tactical areas caused many changes, including the organization of the 221st Engineer Detachment. This unit is now named Detachment 2, State Area Command.

In recent years, the camp has expanded at an excited rate. Additional buildings have been constructed for operations, maintenance support facilities have been added, and three more National Guard Units are now stationed on Camp McCain . Buildings for troop housing have been constructed, so that now 1200 troops may be housed here. In 1984, an additional 4500 adjoining acres were added, increasing the tactical training area. In 1987-1988, ten modern weapons ranges were constructed. The road network on Camp McCain has been expanded and improved, allowing improved tactical training.

Combat Readiness Training Center, Gulfport

The Air National Guard Field Training Site, Gulfport, Mississippi, was established at the Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport in 1954. Renamed the Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) in 1990, military training actually began

A look of determination crosses the face of Spc. Edward Lampley as he crosses a rope bridge on the obstacle course at the Camp McCain Training Center on July 23, 2014. The Brandon-based Soldier was competing in the 112th Military Police Battalion's annual Warfighter Competition. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Veronica McNabb, Camp McCain Training Center)

A U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagle conducts aerial training during exercise Southern Strike 15 (SS15) near the Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) in Gulfport, Miss., Oct. 28, 2014. SS15 is a total force, multiservice training exercise hosted by the Mississippi National Guard's CRTC. The exercise emphasizes air-to-air, air-to-ground and special operations forces training opportunities for both active and reserve components from all branches of service. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Barry Loo, 1st Combat Camera Squadron)

with the Army Air Corps in 1941. The CRTC's mission is to provide an integrated, year-round, realistic training environment of supersonic airspace, gunnery ranges, systems, facilities and equipment for deployed units to enhance their capabilities and combat readiness. The CRTC fully supports the "Total Force" concept by supporting units from all branches of the Department of Defense (DoD), as well as the National Guard and Reserve components.

The CRTC hosts regular deployments of ANG units, and offers convenient offshore airspace that is fully instrumented for recording air to air engagements. Nearby Camp Shelby features an air to ground range and sufficient low altitude airspace to provide realistic ground attack scenarios.

The CRTC enjoys a very supportive and proactive relationship with the local community. Community involvement includes participation in Chambers of Commerce, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves' (ESGR) programs, and Adopt-A-School and Mentoring programs. During emergencies, the CRTC is supportive of both the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Mississippi Emergency Management Agency operations.

The CRTC has two tenant Mississippi Air National Guard units on base. The 255th Air Control Squadron (ACS), activated in 1971 as a Combat Communications Squadron (CCS), was converted to a Control and Reporting Center (CRC) in 1987. They were the first Air National Guard unit to receive datalink capabilities for all joint forces. In 1998, the 255th was converted to their role of Air Control. ACTS provides state-of-the-art Ground Control Intercept (GCI) capability to the total force, as well as other very vital activities. The 255th ACS has 255 personnel and is combat ready in all areas. Their mission is to organize, train and equip personnel to provide an operational ready Control and Reporting Center in support of worldwide theater air operations and statewide emergency contingencies.

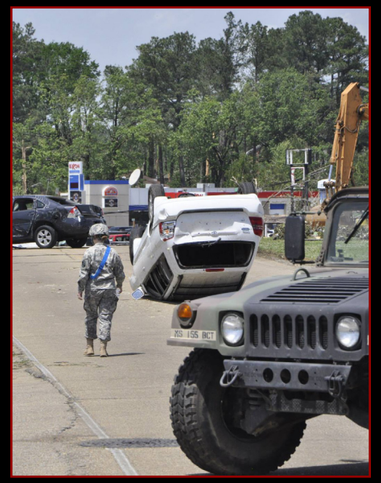
The other tenant is the 209th Civil Engineer Squadron (CES). The 209th CES was formed as the 173rd Civil Engineering Flight in 1969, and has grown over the years at its present manning of 90 personnel. The mission of the 209th CES is to provide a highly mobile emergency engineering force for base damage recovery after attack. This unit constantly trains and maintains a state of readiness to allow short notice deployment capability. This is accomplished through management of the Rapid Runway Repair (RRR) site and the fire training facility. Within the first year of opening, the new RRR site had trained 1,600 personnel, and over 1,400 personnel were scheduled for training in the year 2000. The 209th CES began augmenting the United States Air Force (USAF) "Silver Flag" Training Program at Tyndall AFB, FL in FY00.

An RQ-7B Shadow Unmanned Aerial Vehicle lands at Champion Airstrip at the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center on July 25, 2014. The UAV is flown by the 155th Special Troops Battalion. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spec. Brittany Anderson, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team) Below, Soldiers with Company C, 106th Support Battalion, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, treat a mock patient in a mass casualty drill during Annual Training at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center in July 2014. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Tynes, 102nd Public Affairs Detachment)

Mississippi Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Hugh Jordan, of Macon, and Sgt. Richard Mitchell, of Booneville, with the 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery Regiment of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, based in Starkville, spot incoming artillery rounds and adjust fire during Annual Training at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center July 22, 2014. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Tynes, 102nd Public Affairs Detachment)

1st Lt. Bryce Wade is welcomed home by Jalyn Wade in Jackson on Nov. 11, 2014, following a tour in Kuwait with the 210th Finance Company in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Army National Guard photo by Lt. Col. Christian Patterson, JFH-MS Public Affairs)

A 9mm bullet casing is ejected as PFC Jeremy Betts of Pontotoc, fires his pistol during weapons qualification July 24, 2014, at the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. Betts is a medic assigned to the Mississippi Army National Guard's 1st Squadron, 98th Cavalry Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. William Hill, 155th ABCT)



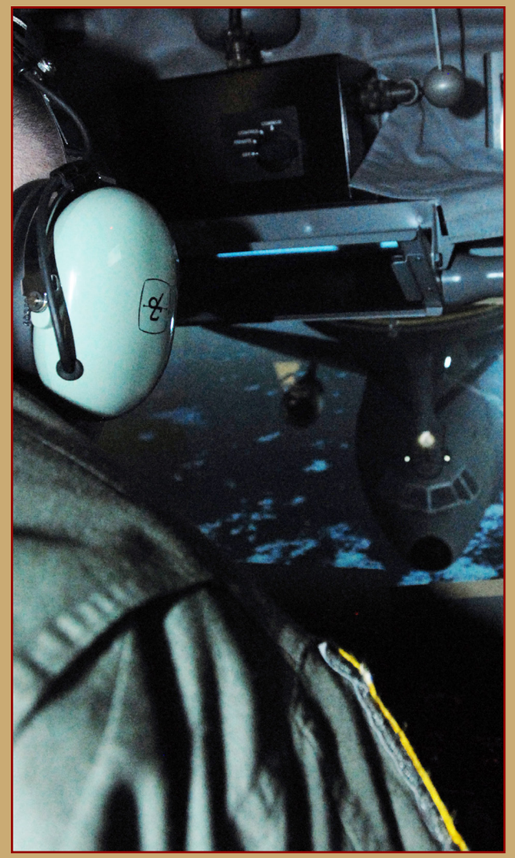
A Mississippi Army National Guard Soldier surveys damage caused by a tornado that struck on April 28, 2014, between Tupelo's Green and North Gloster streets. Civil disaster response is one of the Guard's chief missions. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jessi McCormick, 102nd Public Affairs Detachment.

Pfc. Joshua Smith of Tylertown, fires an AT-4 Anti-Tank Missile Launcher during the Detachment 1, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment Annual Training at the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center July 31, 2014. The detachment is based in Tylertowns. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Tynes, 102nd Public Affairs Detachment)

Mississippi Army National Guard Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group conduct fast rope insertion training with the 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment, as part of Exercise Emerald Warrior, a multinational, joint force training exercise April 30, 2014, at the Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Shane Hamann, 102nd Public Affairs Detachment)

North Carolina Air National Guard Senior Airman Doretha McLaughlin provides care to a simulated wounded patient by using a respiration device on a C-17 Globemaster III flown by the Mississippi Air National Guard, 183rd Airlift Wing, in flight over the Combat Readiness Training Center flight line in Gulfport during Exercise Southern Strike 15 on Oct. 29, 2014. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Gregory Brook, 1st Combat Camera Squadron)

Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC) from the 238th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS), Mississippi Air National Guard; 122nd ASOS, Louisiana Air National Guard; and 147th ASOS, Texas Air National Guard, prepare to direct an AC-130 Spectre for an air-to-ground mission during Exercise Southern Strike 15 at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center on Nov. 4, 2014. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Melissa Goslin, 1st Combat Camera Squadron)



Master Sgt. Shane Haney, a master trainer from Air Military Command Detachment 2, demonstrates the Boom Operator Simulator System during its National Guard debut with the 186th Air Refueling Wing April 16, 2014, at Key Field, Meridian. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Tynes, JFH-MS Public Affairs) Below, Mississippi Air National Guard Lt. Col. Joelee Sessions, 172nd Airlift Wing, Charlie Flight commander, explains information during the morning battle update briefing at the Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport on Oct. 30, 2014. Exercise Southern Strike 15 is a total force, multiservice training exercise hosted by the Mississippi National Guard's CRTC. The state's Air National Guard directs the exercise for active duty and reserve components by providing mission opportunities and operational support. (Photo by Senior Airman Logan Brandt, 1st Combat Camera Squadron)

Mississippi Air National Guard aircrew with the 186th Air Refueling Wing conduct a preflight safety brief during Exercise Southern Strike 15 at Key Field, Meridian on Nov. 4, 2014. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Alexandra Minor, 1st Combat Camera Squadron)

Mississippi Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Walton, 186th Air Refueling Wing boom operator, refuels a F/A-18 Hornet during Exercise Southern Strike 15 over Key Field, Meridian on Nov. 4, 2014. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Alexandra Minor, 1st Combat Camera Squadron)

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1 Jul 13 - 30 Jun 14

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