

## Military Operations

In addition to serving more traditional aviation users, Tennessee's airports provide substantial support to military aviation, including both the Tennessee Air National Guard (ANG) and the United States Air Force. These units have played important strategic roles in national defense and the United States' military presence around the world. Further, their locations are tied to the geopolitical history of the nation. For instance, the nuclear research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Tennessee Valley Authority's hydroelectric facilities gave critical strategic value to having military aviation as national defense.

### McGhee Tyson ANG Base - A Legacy of Service in Tennessee

The McGhee Tyson ANG Base is located at McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS). Units housed at the base include the 134th Air Refueling Wing, 119th Command and Control Squadron, and 241st Engineering Installation Squadron.

The 134th flies KC-135 Stratotankers, the military's primary aerial refueling aircraft. The KC-135 has been in service for over fifty years and has a strategic role in extending the endurance of United States aircraft in action. The 134th has served in conflicts worldwide for decades, including most recently in the Middle East. The 119th plays a unique support role in ensuring the United States Air Force's operational readiness as a component of the United States Strategic Command. Its continued presence in Tennessee reflects the state's importance in the nation's geopolitical legacy. The 241st has a long history in Tennessee, most recently relocating from another base in Chattanooga to the McGhee Tyson ANG Base.

In total, McGhee Tyson ANG Base personnel, including both Air and Army National Guard members, account for over 1,400 jobs earning a combined annual \$52 million in wages.



Photo: [Defense Visual Information Distribution Services \(DVIDS\)](#)\*

### McGhee Tyson ANG Base - Training for the Next Generation of Military Personnel

McGhee Tyson ANG Base also houses other ancillary units. The I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Center) provides continuing education for up to 4,000 enlisted personnel at a time. The Center is a detachment of the ANG Readiness Center and is located at the McGhee Tyson ANG Base. The Center provides an average of 16 Enlisted Professional Military Education Courses and 40 professional continuing-education sessions annually. Instruction includes an Air Force Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, Airman Leadership School, training in sexual assault prevention and response, and opportunities for airmen in upgrading training and looking for professional and personal growth opportunities. The Center has a staff of approximately 85 people, many of them based onsite, who represent all components of the regular Air Force, ANG, Air Force Reserve Command, and civil service members.

McGhee Tyson ANG Base also supports the arts with its housing of the 572nd ANG Band of the South. This band is one of five regional United States Air Force bands and more than fifteen total ensembles. The Band of the South includes several ensembles that perform for both military and community events, including a brass quintet, a jazz big band, and a 41-member concert band.



Photo: [Air Force Bands](#)\*

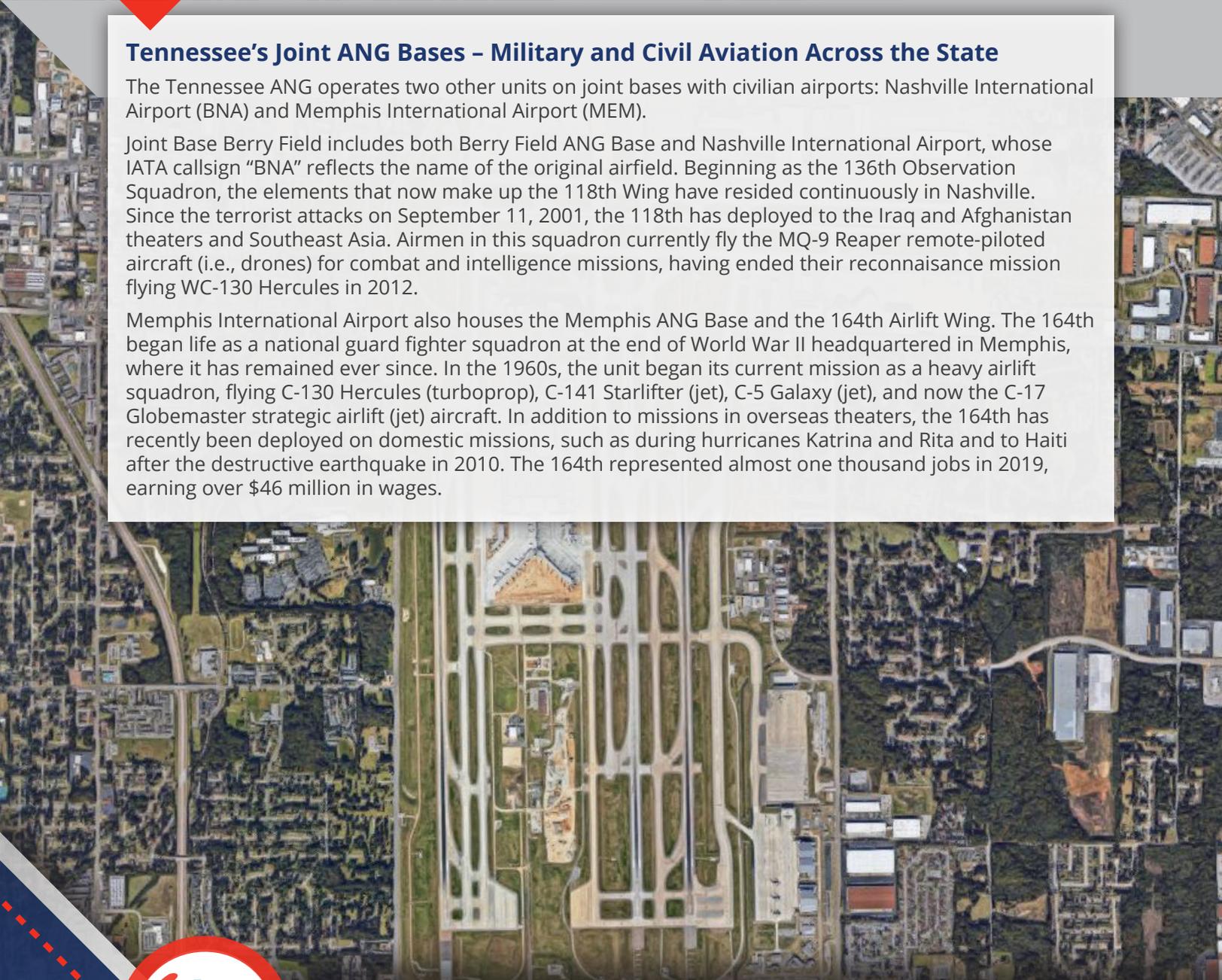
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### Tennessee's Joint ANG Bases - Military and Civil Aviation Across the State

The Tennessee ANG operates two other units on joint bases with civilian airports: Nashville International Airport (BNA) and Memphis International Airport (MEM).

Joint Base Berry Field includes both Berry Field ANG Base and Nashville International Airport, whose IATA callsign "BNA" reflects the name of the original airfield. Beginning as the 136th Observation Squadron, the elements that now make up the 118th Wing have resided continuously in Nashville. Since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the 118th has deployed to the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters and Southeast Asia. Airmen in this squadron currently fly the MQ-9 Reaper remote-piloted aircraft (i.e., drones) for combat and intelligence missions, having ended their reconnaissance mission flying WC-130 Hercules in 2012.

Memphis International Airport also houses the Memphis ANG Base and the 164th Airlift Wing. The 164th began life as a national guard fighter squadron at the end of World War II headquartered in Memphis, where it has remained ever since. In the 1960s, the unit began its current mission as a heavy airlift squadron, flying C-130 Hercules (turboprop), C-141 Starlifter (jet), C-5 Galaxy (jet), and now the C-17 Globemaster strategic airlift (jet) aircraft. In addition to missions in overseas theaters, the 164th has recently been deployed on domestic missions, such as during hurricanes Katrina and Rita and to Haiti after the destructive earthquake in 2010. The 164th represented almost one thousand jobs in 2019, earning over \$46 million in wages.



### Overview

Co-locating military units on joint bases at civilian airports provides an economic boost from service members using nearby services during the course of military activity on the bases. This is especially true of facilities like the I.G. Brown Training Center, where students and staff work at full capacity year-round. In total, direct impacts of military units at Tennessee airports include 2,500 jobs and \$102.5 million in wages per year.