



M E D I A R E L E A S E

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DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY

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Memphis Air National Guard will unveil new base

MEMPHIS -- One of the largest Air National Guard projects in history is set for a Grand Opening in Memphis this Saturday, September 6, with ceremonies beginning promptly at 11 a.m. The huge new facility is located near the southeast corner of Memphis International Airport on 4607 Galaxy Drive.

The Tennessee Air National Guard's 164th Airlift Wing, currently located at the north end of the airport, will be re-locating to this much larger, more modern, state-of-the-art facility in the coming weeks.

Dignitaries scheduled to attend include Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen; members of Tennessee's Congressional delegation; General Norton A. Schwartz, Chief of Staff, United States Air Force; Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, Director of the Air National Guard; Maj. Gen. Gus L. Hargett, Tennessee's Adjutant General; local and state officials and members of the Memphis International Airport Authority.

The new base will enhance the Memphis Air Guard's mission change made in 2004 which replaced the 168-foot long, 40-foot tall, 160-foot wingspan, C-141 Starlifter, with the 250-foot long, 65-foot tall, 222-foot wingspan, intercontinental transport Lockheed C-5 Galaxy aircraft.

Designed specially to house the C-5, the largest plane in the Air Force fleet, the new 118-acre facility is staggering in size and scope. Twenty-eight acres of 14-inch thick pavement will be used to park the behemoths. Three massive hangars for the Galaxy encompass 320,000 square feet, more than half of the six-building area for the entire base.

The \$245 million project, begun in June 2006, is a collaboration involving the Department of Defense, Tennessee Air National Guard, Federal Express and the Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority. At the peak of construction, the project required four general contractors and approximately 800 workers.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Credentialed media should arrive NLT 9:00 a.m. the day of the ceremony. In the event of inclement weather the ceremonies will be held indoors. Additional lighting may be required.

All Tennessee Army and Air National Guard press releases can be found at
<http://www.tnmilitary.org/PressReleases.htm>

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