

TENNESSEE AMERICAN LEGION

BOYS STATE

Vol. 77, No. 6, Friday, May 27, 2016
Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, Tennessee

DELEGATES VIE FOR BOYS NATION

At the conclusion of Boys State, two delegates will be selected to represent Tennessee as Boys' Nation senators in Washington, D.C., later this summer. A select 100 delegates from Boys' State programs across the nation will travel to Marymount University in Arlington, Va., to learn how the federal government operates. The two delegates will be privileged to participate in a number of events including a special memorial service at Arlington National Cemetery, a visit to the Pentagon complete with a briefing with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a day on Capitol Hill with lunch in the Senate dining room and a visit to the White House. Traditionally, the President has been available to greet Boys Nation delegates. The trip also offers an excellent opportunity for delegates interested in the U.S. service academies to meet and talk with representatives.

SATURDAY'S EVENTS. . . U.S. Senator Diane Black will speak at the final day of Boys State during the inauguration ceremony for Boys State Governor-elect Crocker. The names of the Boys' Nation delegates and the results of the city competition will be announced. The finalist for the Samsung American Legion scholarship award will also be announced. Samsung established the scholarship in honor of those who served in the Korean War. Only descendants of U.S. veterans who served during wartime are eligible. The winner will join other state finalists, each of whom receives a \$1,000 scholarship, in competition for 12 \$20,000 national scholarships.

Max Haston addresses Boy's State delegates

Major General Terry M. "Max" Haston, Tennessee's 75th Adjutant General, spoke to delegates Thursday evening.

Haston was appointed as Adjutant General, a constitutional officer appointed by the Governor, in 2010. He supervises the Military Department of Tennessee that includes the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, and the Tennessee State Guard.

He has served in various leadership positions with the National Guard, including Armor Company commander, Squadron and Regimental Training Officer, and Squadron commander. He joined the National Guard as a company commander for the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment in 1983, began serving as a training officer in 1987, and joined the 278th Regimental staff in 1989.

In 2001, Haston assumed command as the seventh Colonel of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, headquartered in Knoxville. Following command of the 278th, he was assigned as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and J-3, Joint Forces Headquarters, Tennessee. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Penn.

In May 2005, Haston mobilized and deployed as the Chief of Reserve Components, Multi-National Corps Iraq (XVIII Airborne Corps). Upon completion of his tour in the Middle East, he returned as the J-3, JFHQ TN. He was appointed the Assistant Adjutant General, Army, on May 6, 2008.

Haston is in charge of 14,000 people in his role as the Military Department of Tennessee supervisor. Currently there are more than 200 National Guardsmen deployed around the world and 30,000 troops have been deployed since September 2001.

He challenged the delegates to be proud of their accomplishments and to remember the significance of Memorial Day. In his speech, Haston outlined the numerous regiments and troops established in Tennessee. He emphasized impact these troops are making in-state and across the world in countries like Bulgaria and Estonia. "Our guys are around the clock, around the world," Haston said.

Haston also championed cyber security groups. "The most dangerous weapon in the world today is a 15-year-old in China hacking into our systems. We need to prevent that," said Haston.

Q: What is the greatest national security risk right now?

A: The budget. Sequestration is a terrible thing to have happen. They put five democrats and five republicans in a room and told them to balance our budget. They told them if you don't do this, we're going to have to go into sequestration. That is when they take the budget and salami slice it. They have sliced the military to 980,000 people, that is the smallest the army has been since World War I.

Q: What is the easiest way to join the state guard?

A: Contact your local state regiment and they can get you in, it's pretty simple. But a guy like you needs to be in the Tennessee National Guard. They don't pay you to be in the state guard, it's a volunteer organization. I need you to get in the guard. Those guys [the guardsmen] are why I get up in the morning, they give me a reason to live, I'm serious about that.

Q: What are your future plans for the cyber groups?

A: We want them to keep growing. What I'd like to do is get cyber protection teams and have them all over the state. The air force and the army are very possessive of those teams, but I want more of them.

Q: How can we serve our country through non-military service?

A: Register to vote.

Q: What are your views on America spending more on defense than the next seven countries combined?

I think you need to look at the shape those other countries are in based off of what they spend. It costs a lot to do what we do. Eisenhower cautioned us to "be aware of your industrial conquests." That means that when we are at war, corporate America is making money. If we do not maintain that credibility in this world to go and put down aggression and tyranny, there will be IEDs going off in our streets. Quite frankly, I don't want that. I don't want my family to worry about getting shot at. We are a generation away from that in this country unless we maintain strength.

Q: Is there any way that the National Guard interlocks with college?

A: The Tennessee National Guard can pay for your college. You go through basic training and serve one year before you are eligible for education benefits. But with the Tennessee Promise, we make sure there are curriculums at community colleges that are feeders into four-year schools.

