

**Tennessee National Guard
NSA Mid-South (Millington, TN)
April 19-23, 2008**

When temporary base camp facilities were needed for “Vigilant Guard 08,” Mahaffey Fabric Structures was eager to accept the “mission.” The exercise took place at the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Mid-South, located in Millington, Tennessee, 21 miles north of Downtown Memphis. Installing this turnkey base camp had a host of challenges, because the site terrain varied by 12’ and had an array of surfaces.

The exercise was designed to test the National Guard and other first responders in the event of a catastrophic emergency. The training scenario assumed a 7.6 magnitude earthquake hit Memphis, about 50 miles from the New Madrid Fault, a series of cracks in the earth's surface believed capable of producing major temblors. Over 1,700 National Guard troops from Tennessee, Illinois, Kentucky, and Missouri took part in the exercise. Military personnel from the Tennessee State Guard, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and TEMA also needed shelter.



Sleeping Quarters

As irony would have it, the very day troops arrived, a 5.2 magnitude earthquake hit the area. Though training had been planned for months, it took on a fresh urgency following the quake, which was reportedly felt from Nebraska to Atlanta.

Timing was of the essence for the Tennessee National Guard, as it is for all customers. Training exercises were set to start on April 19, so Mahaffey crews arrived on April 11 to begin installation of what would eventually result in 35,972 sq ft of structures and mobile facilities. Despite the uncooperative spring-like weather, our crews managed to finish a day ahead of schedule.



Mahaffey tent

Aside from the tents and structures, Mahaffey provided an executive bathroom trailer, with separate entrances for males and females, shower trailers, and portable hand-washing stations.

The shelters we erected were as follows:

- (2) 60'x210' temporary barracks
- (1) 60'x90' temporary barrack (females)
- (1) 50'x82' dining facility (DFAC)
- (1) mobile restroom trailer (separate male/female entrances)
- (2) shower trailers (cleaned, heated/air-conditioned, gender-specific)



Mobile Shower Trailer

The structures were spread out across the 3500-acre base. In addition, Mahaffey provided sleeping cots, chairs, tables, lighting, modular wood flooring, power distribution, generators, and a stand-by person who remained on-site throughout the training camp. When the site was completed, the National Guard had the structures necessary to carry out their emergency response training exercises without using their own manpower to install, maintain, dismantle, or clean them.