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Hometown News Release

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Tennessee National Guard Senior Enlisted Leader Retires

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Simmons, Senior Enlisted Leader for the Tennessee National Guard, retired after 43 years of service during a ceremony at Nashville's Joint Force Headquarters on Jan. 27.

"Simmons dedicated more than four decades of service to support the men and women in the Tennessee National Guard, and he has been a key member of our command team," said Col. Jason Glass, Tennessee Assistant Adjutant General-Air. "His passion for serving others is contagious; and we thank him for his commitment to the Guard and wish him luck on his retirement."

"Chief" Simmons enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1980. He graduated basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and later received training as an Air Cargo Specialist. After two years on Active Duty at Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina, he enlisted in the Tennessee Air National Guard with the 164th Airlift Wing in Memphis in 1982.

For the next 40 years, Simmons served in various positions with the Tennessee National Guard including positions as a C-130 loadmaster, a C-171 loadmaster, and an Aircrew Life Support Craftsman.

During the last four years, Simmons served as the Senior Enlisted Leader for the Tennessee National Guard, the highest enlisted position in the Tennessee Military Department. In this position, he was responsible for advising the Adjutant General on all enlisted matters affecting training and utilization, health of the force, and professional development of the more than 13,000 Tennessee National Guard Soldiers and Airmen.

Throughout his career, Simmons earned numerous decorations that include the Meritorious Service Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

Simmons lives in Spring Hill with his wife Robin.

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Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Simmons, Senior Enlisted Leader for the Tennessee National Guard, is retiring after 43 years of military service. (photo from the Tennessee Military Department)