

# GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

★★ SERVING THE NATIONAL GUARD AND STATE DEFENSE FORCE OF GEORGIA ★★

August 2010

## McMakin takes on Guard's best NCOs

3rd Squadron Soldiers  
take third at Leapfest

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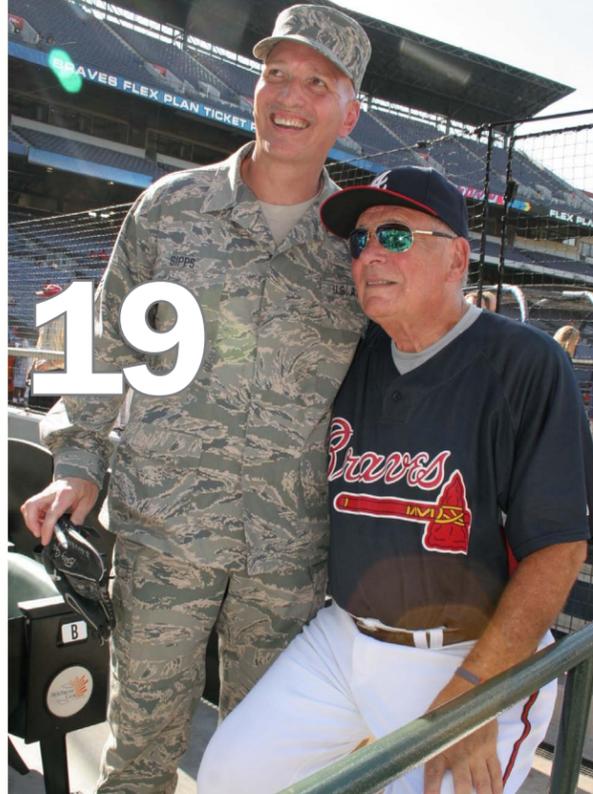
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224th supports SOUTHCOM's  
Operation Continuing Promise





YOU WANT TO READ ABOUT  
**GETTING PAID TO FIGHT  
OR ACTUALLY DO IT?**



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Gov. Sonny Perdue

**Adjutant General of Georgia:**  
Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt

**State Public Affairs Officer:**  
Maj. John H. Alderman IV

**Managing Editor, Layout & Design:**  
Seth G. Stuck

**Media Relations:**  
Lt. Col. (Ret.) Kenneth R. Baldowski

**Operations NCO:**  
Master Sgt. John Kinnaman

**Contributing Ga. DoD Organizations:**  
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs, Army National Guard Unit Public Affairs Representatives, Air National Guard Wing Public Affairs Representatives, Georgia State Defense Force Public Affairs.

**Editorial Inquiry and Submissions:**  
Seth.G.Stuck@us.army.mil or (678) 569-3663

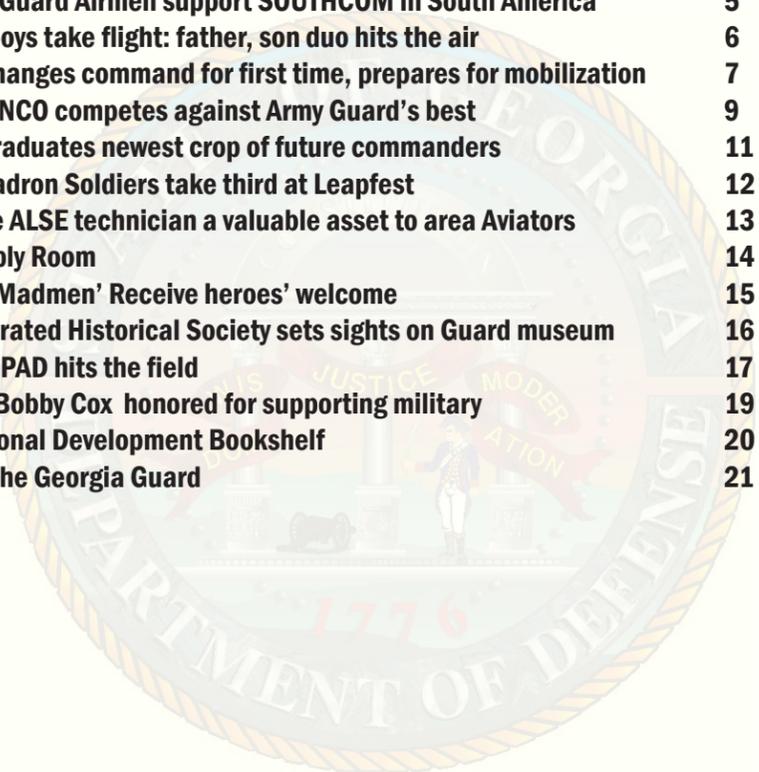
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# AIR NATIONAL GUARD'S PROVOCATIVE AD CAMPAIGN FOR BATTLEFIELD AIRMEN

Story by Lt. Col. (Ret.) Ken Baldowski  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, August 24, 2010** – Battlefield Airmen are elite Air Force and Air National Guard specialists who direct close-air support firepower at enemy targets from forward locations on the ground. They operate deep into enemy territory under austere conditions to direct an Armageddon of firepower upon enemy targets, clearing the way for friendly forces.

Their unique ground operations that assist, control, enable and execute air and space power. Missions include surveillance, directing air strikes, airdrop marking, weather forecasting, airfield surveying, air traffic control, trauma care, and personnel recovery (including downed aircrews).

Always in high demand, Battlefield Airmen have an effect exponentially greater than their small numbers. They are a dynamic human instrument of war that continues to evolve into a national asset. And their utility as tools of precision epitomizes the American effort to mitigate civilian casualties and friendly fire.

Georgia is one of only 14 states that have an Air Guard Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS). The in-demand 52 tactical air control parties (TACPs) of Georgia's 165th ASOS have been deployed multiple times to Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001. They were even on the ground in Afghanistan during the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's most recent deployment – providing a unique example of wartime interoperability between Georgia Army Guard and Georgia Air Guard forces.

These elite, mostly enlisted groups of Airmen are essential to the Air Force mission, providing a key link between the air and ground, and their role constitutes the only “direct action” Air Force career field currently available. These Airmen are perhaps the only Airmen regularly engaged in ground combat, “kicking in doors” and securing points of interest.

Simply stated, they “blow up things and kill people,” says Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. James E. Munn, Battlefield Airmen Liaison at the National Guard Bureau, who makes no bones about the physical rigor and strategic value of Battlefield Airmen.

“The career field is increasingly difficult to fill and even harder to qualify for,” said Munn, who underscores the purpose behind a new recruiting campaign by the Air National Guard for the ASOS community. “Our target audiences are males with a penchant for physical fitness and martial arts – Airmen who are looking for real action opportunities.”

“You want to read about getting paid to fight, or actually do it?” reads the provocative new print ad.

One of the first publications earmarked for the new ad is Ultimate Fighting Championship magazine, a magazine appealing to those interested in martial arts and extreme fighting. “We are also targeting athletic clubs, like Gold's Gym, and other physical fitness and bodybuilding communities,” says Munn.

“Rarely do we find the type of individual we're looking for through high school vocational seminars. Traditional recruiting, for this career field, doesn't work,” Munn added.

Those selected for the TACP career field will complete basic at Lackland Air Force Base and then be sent to Hurlburt Field, Fla., for 14 and a half weeks of TACP training, followed by a variety of Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape training schools.

“Few make it that far,” says Munn. “On average, only five out of a class of 50 prospective candidates make it to being qualified Battlefield Airmen.”

To that end, then, it's no surprise that there are only 900 TACPs worldwide in only 36 active duty and National Guard ASOS units.

“The new ad campaign should have a noticeable effect on TACP recruiting,” says Lt. Col. Paul Havel, who commands Brunswick's 165th ASOS and its 26 TACPs, “because it reaches the target audience with a compelling message that they intuitively understand.”



— YOU WANT TO READ ABOUT —  
**GETTING PAID TO FIGHT  
OR ACTUALLY DO IT?**

You want a life of action? You want a life of adventure? You'll want a life as an elite member of the Air Guard. As a Battlefield Airman, do you have any idea what you can do? You can rappel out of a helicopter. Jump out of a C-130 at 12,000 feet. Call in an air strike. And that's just to get to the fight. It's a part time job. For a full-time warrior.

**AIR GUARD**  
PART-TIME BLUE. FULL-TIME YOU.

GoANG.com/battlefield ▶ 1-800-TO-GO-ANG

# GEORGIA GUARD AIRMEN SUPPORT **SOUTHCOM** IN SOUTH AMERICA

Story by Lt. Col. (Ret.) Ken Baldowski  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, August 13, 2010** – Eight members of Brunswick’s 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron joined the U.S. Joint Forces Command’s (USJFCOM) Joint Communications Support Element in early July to provide communications expertise to U.S. Southern Command’s (USSOUTHCOM) Operation “Continuing Promise 2010.”

This annual humanitarian assistance operation allows medical and engineering support teams working in seven Latin American and Caribbean nations to build relationships with partner nations and provide critically needed health services and engineering support to local communities.

The communications expertise provided by the eight Georgia Guardsmen and other members of the JCSE helped establish and maintain reliable links to communicate and coordinate between the medical facilities ashore and the Navy hospital ship, the USS Iwo Jima, anchored off the coast.

While the JCSE has deployed in support of previous Continuing Promise operations, this is the first time members from the JCSE’s 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron, based in Brunswick, Ga., have supported this annual deployment. As an Air National Guard unit, the 224th JCSS is typically called upon to support national relief situations.

“JCSE’s 224th JCSS has deployed to support emergency disaster relief efforts such as Hurricane Katrina, but this deployment will be a value-added challenge as a National Guardsman to react on the international front as we support this humanitarian assistance mission,” stated

224th JCSS member, U.S. Air Force Maj. Charles West, who served as the officer-in-charge during the second half of Continuing Promise 2010. “This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see the beauty and culture of Latin America and actively participate in this humanitarian assistance effort.”

“JCSE is frequently asked to support USJFCOM’s unique missions because we provide command and control support for all combatant commands,” stated JCSE member and Chief of Deployable Systems with the 224th, Capt. Ryan Hampton of Savannah.

JCSE supplied three initial entry packages at different

locations to provide voice, data and teleconferencing communications and maintained connectivity for the operational staff in areas where there were limited communication resources.

“We helped provide communication packages tailored to the specific requirements of joint force missions, and we were able

to solve unique communications and interoperability problems between U.S. military services, coalition partners and the host nation,” continued Hampton.

“We are there to support the Continuing Promise 2010 civil authorities in completing their mission,” said JCSE member and Satellite Journeyman with the 224th, Master Sgt. Donnie Johns of Lake Park, Ga. “Goodwill is what this mission is all about, and it’s an opportunity to help the local people.”

The 224th JCSS includes full-time and part-time U.S. Air Force military members who bring additional skill sets from their civilian jobs that are desirable during unique deployments. Georgia’s 224th JCSS will continue to support “Continuing Promise 2010” for the entirety of the four-month operation in the USSOUTHCOM area of responsibility.



# BUTTON BOYS TAKE FLIGHT



## FATHER, SON DUO HITS THE AIR

Story, photos by Master Sgt. John Kinnaman  
Georgia Department of Defense  
Public Affairs Office

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, August 20, 2010** – Teaching one’s son or daughter to drive is a milestone in every father’s life, however stressful it may be. Validating one’s son to fly an UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter with night vision gear takes that stress level up a notch – up about 500 feet from the ground, to be specific; and that’s exactly what Chief Warrant Officer 5 Gary Button recently had the opportunity to do.

Gary Button, who is the commander of Detachment 9 – Operational Support Airlift, 78th Aviation Troop Command, Georgia Army National Guard – spent the evening certifying his son, Warrant Officer 1 Daniel Button with Company A, 1st of the 171st Aviation Battalion, to fly at night with night vision goggles as part of his Readiness Level Progression (RL1).

Readiness Level Progression requires a pilot to get certified to fly during the day and night, and with NVGs at the unit level. After finishing RL1, there are certain requirements a pilot must maintain – such as doing NVG flights one hour every 45 days.

“This is one of the proudest moments in my life as a dad,” Gary Button said. “It is the first time my son and I are flying, not only as father and son, but as Pilot and Co-Pilot.”

Daniel Button, who recently graduated from flight school, said the opportunity to fly with “Dad” is exciting and nerve-racking at the same time.

“I feel a little pressure flying with him for the first time,” the younger Button said. “I want to do well and make him proud of me.”

“I’m already so proud of you,” dad chimed in quickly.

The mission is for the younger Button to fly north toward the North Georgia Mountains, and once the sun has gone down, don his NVGs and continue mission. Daniel Button must also fly in formation with other Black Hawks wearing the NVGs.

“I was up practicing last night, so I feel confident tonight’s flight will go smoothly,” the younger Button said.

Daniel Button will be deploying to Iraq with the 171st later this fall. This is his second deployment. His first was with the 82nd Airborne Division as a medic in 2004. He said he is excited about deploying as a helicopter pilot this time.

# 648TH CHANGES COMMAND FOR FIRST TIME, PREPARES FOR MOBILIZATION

“IN NEARLY THREE YEARS, WE’VE GONE FROM  
ZERO TO 60 MILES PER HOUR,  
AS A FULLY FUNCTIONAL BRIGADE.”

Representatives from each of the Battalions under the 648th MEB line up in front of a piece of representative military equipment during the brigade’s first ever change of command ceremony

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Roy Henry  
Photos by GSDF Pfc. Ted Burzynski  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, August 8, 2010** – Columbus’ 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, which formed in July of 2007 and officially activated Sept. 2009, changed command today for the first time in its three-year history.

Colonel Keith Knowlton, the 648th’s first commander, turned over the unit reigns to his successor, Col. Andy Hall, in a ceremony at the unit armory.

The 648th MEB is one of two new brigades placed in Georgia, the other being Ellenwood’s 560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade at Fort Gillem, the Army National Guard’s first battlefield surveillance brigade, which was formed in Oct. of 2007 then officially activated Jan. 2009.

The 648th started with an initial staffing of just 12 personnel, an authorized headquarters company, and a brigade support battalion (the 348th, which is home-stationed in Cumming). The 648th now touts approximately 3,000 personnel. There are just 21 MEBs in the nation – two of which are active duty Army. Three are Army Reserve and 16 belong to the Army Guard.

Since the brigade’s formation, its mission has

remained the same: to provide a mission-tailored force that – in times of conflict – conducts support area operations, maneuver support operations and consequence management in order to enhance freedom of action, assured mobility and protection for the supported force.

According to Knowlton, the outfit prides itself in being Georgia’s “911 force” by rendering support to civil authorities during natural and manmade disasters or times of civil unrest.

“We are the state’s ‘consequence management brigade,’” Knowlton explained. “Through us, the Georgia Guard provides a statewide response for flood and storm relief or dealing with a terrorist attack – all by using the same military police, engineer, chemical and medical assets we would use for our war-time mission.”

Knowlton recalled that there were many challenges in standing up the brigade, namely in developing practices and processes with which to do its two-fold mission, building strength, and taking in additional units needed for providing support to civil authority during domestic operations. The work done by the command staff, Command Sgt. Maj. James Nelson (the 648th’s first senior enlisted leader) and all the men and women who make up the brigade, Knowlton said, has made the 648th a self-sustaining and very productive addition to the Georgia National Guard.

Knowlton received the Legion of Merit during the

change of command ceremony from Brig. Gen. Maria Britt, commander of the Georgia Army Guard. The medal, she said, was bestowed upon Knowlton for his many long hours and hard work to make the 648th what it is today.

“It’s quite an honor, but it’s not mine alone,” Knowlton said. “It also belongs to the enlisted, officers and unit commanders who continue to make this organization the success I know it will continue to be.”

“In nearly three years, we’ve gone from zero to 60 miles per hour as a fully functional brigade,” Knowlton added. “The plaques and serial-numbered commander’s coins and the framed James Dietz prints I presented the unit were hard-earned, and just a small token of my appreciation for what these great Soldiers and Airmen have done, and continue to do.”

Since the 648th MEB came on line, it has picked up Kennesaw’s Joint Task Force 781 (CBRNE); Marietta’s 4th Civil Support Team; Augusta’s 878th Engineer Battalion; Decatur’s 170th Military Police Battalion; and Elberton’s 1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery.

The brigade has deployed Marietta’s 248th Medical Company and elements of the police and engineer battalions in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom – all while continually training for its domestic mission.

In February, the MEB was told its headquarters company will deploy next year to Afghanistan. Once in country, it will pick up units from other commands to carry out missions, Knowlton said.

That’s where Hall, who was a strategic planner for National Guard Bureau director Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, comes in. He and Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Crews (who moved into the position after Nelson became the Georgia Army Guard’s top enlisted leader) will take the lessons learned during the brigade’s “coming of age” and put them into practice during this, the headquarters’ first mobilization.

“Colonel Knowlton and his people put a lot of time and energy into making this brigade what it is today,” Hall said. “I intend to continue that tradition as we work toward this upcoming deployment, and long after it ends, so that the 648th remains one of the best MEBs in the nation.”



# GEORGIA NCO COMPETES AGAINST ARMY GUARD'S BEST

Story and photo Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy  
National Guard Bureau

**FORT BENNING, August 3, 2010** — Fourteen of the Army National Guard's top Soldiers and non-commissioned officers competed in the annual Best Warrior competition here at the Warrior Training Center last week.

They vied for the chance to represent the Army Guard in the Department of the Army's competition, which will be held at Fort Lee, Va., in September.

"All these guys are on top of their game," said Spc. Matt Ryan, from Maryland's 291st Army Liaison Team. "It's a little bit intimidating honestly. All these guys are so good with all they do."

For many competitors, that level of skill and expertise was motivating.

"That's the nice thing about the position we're all in right now," said Spc. Ryan Teter, from Colorado's D Company, 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group. "We all know that the guys around us are squared away and they are hard workers and they all want to be here. It's nice to have good dudes around you, and you don't have to worry about anyone not being squared away."

Despite that, the competition—which many competitors described as part Expert Infantry Badge test and part Best Ranger Competition—proved for many to be a challenging one.

The competitors pushed through ruck marches, casualty evacuation, urban operations scenarios as well as having to engage targets while on the run after a simulated improvised explosive device strike, all while having little sleep and little rest between events.

"Everything is coming at you at once," said Ryan. "It's just non-stop, no sleep, just grind it out. I think when we're all tired and hurting everything is going to be just that much harder."

That constant grind of events is what many competitors said was the most challenging aspect of the competition.

"The physical events (are) all back to back," said Staff Sgt. Kevin McMakin, from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat

Team of the Georgia National Guard. "PT test, followed by Combat Water Survival Test followed shortly by the ruck march and the land nav course, it's going to be tough even for those that are in superb physical condition. Any of us that are kind of lacking in that department (are) going to be struggling."

Despite the fact that this is a competition, participants still helped each other prepare for the different events and passed on techniques and tricks for negotiating many of the events.

"People that are struggling in certain things, other guys are helping them out and giving them pointers," said McMakin. "We're here as competitors, but we're all Soldiers first."

Prior to arriving at this level, each competitor won a similar competition at the unit, state and then regional level, which meant months of preparation and training to make it to Fort Benning.

"It was a long road," said Ryan. "I started in December last year and won the brigade Best Warrior Competition and moved on to the state, then regional and here I am."

Though, for Ryan, a combat medic, events like evaluating a casualty required little training on because of prior knowledge.

"That's the one thing I'm not worried about compared to everything else," he said.

Still, competitors stressed the importance of preparing for the competition, even while it seems daunting.

"Maintain a positive attitude about everything," said McMakin. "Other than that, just keep your head up and do a lot of physical training. As you progress through the different boards the physical events get a lot tougher so as soon as you start physical training the better off you'll be."

Despite the challenges, McMakin said taking part in the competition was worth the effort required.

"Each region sent the best they had," he said. "I just feel honored to be here competing with them."

The results of the completion, including the winners, will be announced at the annual conference of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States this month.

Staff Sgt. Kevin McMakin, from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Georgia National Guard, throws a grenade during the urban operations portion of the 2010 Best Warrior Competition at Fort Benning, Ga., July 30, 2010. The Soldier and NCO who win this competition will go on to compete at the Army level event.

"WE'RE HERE AS COMPETITORS,  
BUT WE'RE ALL SOLDIERS FIRST."





## GUARD GRADUATES NEWEST CROP OF FUTURE COMMANDERS

Story, photos by Sgt. 1st Class Roy Henry  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, August 15, 2010** – The Georgia Army Guard’s newest crop of officers raised their right hands and took the oath of office today in a ceremony held at Marriott Atlanta Perimeter Center in Dunwoody.

“Through these fifteen new second lieutenants, we have given the Army Guard three companies worth of combat power,” said Col. Scott Carter, who commands the Guard’s Regional Training Institute. “Their journey has just begun, and it is one they will face with the same courage, commitment and dedication that saw them through their training.”

The mission of Officer Candidate School is to assess the candidate and help the candidate develop his or her leadership potential to the fullest. Its curriculum demands much of the participants – mentally, physically and emotionally. Everything culminates in the absolute accomplishment of the mission: the building of a leader of Soldiers.

Every day, the candidates saw their interpersonal,

conceptual, technical and tactical skills put the test, said 2nd Lt. April Brown of Macon. Brown held the rank of specialist before OCS, and was an administrative technician for Headquarters Company, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. She will now move on to being a platoon leader with Bainbridge’s 1230th Transportation Company.

“From the time we got up to the time we laid down, the challenges never stopped,” said the Macon police officer. “But while the instructors pushed us hard, they also encouraged us to believe in ourselves because they believed in us.”

Christopher Murphy of Atlanta, a former staff sergeant with Monroe’s 178th Military Police Company, said he has a lot of experience with leadership as a noncommissioned officer. While deployed to Iraq with his unit, he decided he wanted to lead as a commissioned officer. Now, the owner of Standard Pump Co. in Atlanta is a platoon leader with Valdosta’s Company, A, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry.

“NCOs and officers are at different places in the chain of command, but their goals are the same: taking care of Soldiers, fulfillment of the commander’s intent and the successful completion of the mission,” Murphy said.

# 3RD SQUADRON SOLDIERS TAKE THIRD AT LEAPFEST

Story by Master Sgt. John Kinnaman  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense  
Photo by the Rhode Island National Guard

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, August 15, 2010** – The Georgia Army National Guard’s parachute team from 3rd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment just returned with a third-place trophy in hand from the Rhode Island National Guard’s 28th annual Leapfest parachute competition. This year, Georgia sent three teams to the competition, taking not only third place, but fifth and 21st place as well.

This year’s Leapfest is the 17th time that teams from Georgia’s Army Guard have competed.

Rhode Island’s Leapfest is the largest continuously conducted airborne competition in the world. The event began in 1982 as a way for members of 56th Troop Command to keep in contact with the international parachute community they met in their training and deployments. It is an exercise which seeks to develop the command and control of Army Aviation to deliver a maneuver force on the tactical objective with precision and in a timely manner to conduct combat operations.

There is a tremendous amount of tradition, pride and esprit de corps which surrounds Leapfest. More than 200 paratroopers from the United States and foreign countries participated in this year’s competition. Teams from the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force, and International Teams from Europe, South America, and Asia – to include squads from Ecuador, Canada and the United Kingdom – made their way across the globe to take part in the annual event.

A competition team consists of five total jumpers (four primary jumpers and one alternate). During the competition, jumpers make a total of three jumps each

from CH-47 Chinook helicopters at 1,500 feet. Time starts from the moment the jumper touches down and ends when he reaches a red disk in the center of the drop zone.

The teams are scored on their cumulative time after three jumps. The team with the lowest cumulative time won the title of “Leapfest Champions” for the year, but the Georgia squad took immense pride in finishing third out of the 53 competing teams who filled the New England skies above Kingston, R.I. during the three-day challenge.

“I am very proud of my team,” said Master Sgt. Joseph Shirer, the full-time operations sergeant for 3rd Squadron, 108th Cavalry. “They were highly motivated and very professional throughout the whole competition. We were kicking butt!”

The third-place team, Shirer’s team, included Sgt. 1st Class Brodie Kirkland, Staff Sgt. Johnathan McLaughlin, Sgt. Jason Goza and Sgt. Brent Johnson.

“Goza had the best time in our team at three seconds,” Shirer said.

The fifth-place team members, who Shirer said were only a few seconds behind his team’s combined time, included Sgt. 1st Class Peter Amis, Staff Sgt. Mark Hurley, Staff Sgt. Timothy Wilder, Sgt. Hector Arbos and Sgt. Stacy Fountain.

In order to make the team, Shirer noted, the Georgia Guard had a competition of its own. Each jumper had a chance to compete for a grader on the ground who recorded their times with a stopwatch during one of their scheduled jumps. Once the team was built, they used scheduled jumps during Annual Training to practice.

“We got about three to four jumps in during A.T. this year,” Shirer said.

This was Shirer’s fifth time competing in the annual parachute jump competition.

“The only thing left to do now is go back and take first place next year,” Shirer said with an earnest grin.



# FULL-TIME ALSE TECHNICIAN A VALUABLE ASSET TO AREA AVIATORS



Story and photo by Brittiny Prenell  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense

## CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, August 15, 2010 –

Behind any Army pilot flying a Black Hawk helicopter, there is a crew chief like Sgt. Louis Qualtiere. These crew chiefs are often charged with responsibilities ranging from in-flight instruction, to performing critical fixes on the aircraft during missions, to monitoring the radio, to being the “eyes of the aircraft” – where they are required to help the pilots maneuver the helicopter in and out of tight areas as well as watch for threats.

Qualtiere serves with Alpha Company, 1-171st General Support Aviation Battalion in his Military Occupational Skill 15TQ2. He has served 10 years in the Guard, and has been a 15T for five years.

“When I joined the Guard, I was in logistics and I

had my sights set on being a 15T crew chief,” Qualtiere said. “I was interested in this MOS because I was around helicopters a lot in the unit, and I really wanted to get into the maintenance of helicopters,” he added.

Not only did he set his sights on maintenance, but he also followed up in his additional skill identifier, Q-2, working in Aviation Life Support Equipment (ALSE).

“This was an additional duty that interested me,” Qualtiere said. “It was another step into the Black Hawk aviation world, and it was a different aspect many people don’t get the opportunity to see.”

Qualtiere, a native of Dallas, Ga., explains how the additional skill identifier in ALSE is related to his main MOS as a 15T.

“I’m a mechanic and a crew chief first, but as a crew member I use the same equipment that I inspect,” he said. “My primary job as an ALSE technician is to inspect and maintain life support equipment worn and used by army aviators, such as flight [survival] vests and flight helmets. These things are used in emergency situations, and I make sure everything is serviceable and meets Army standards.”

According to Qualtiere, his other responsibilities include inspecting first aid kits, floatation devices and survival kits. In working with survival kits, he makes sure that air crew members have enough food and water to sustain them until they are rescued in a downed aircraft situation.

“There are not many people who do what I do. Aviators rely on me, not only for knowledge but for survival.”

There are only three full-time ALSE technicians in Georgia. Qualtiere is stationed in Marietta, while the other two technicians are located in Savannah and Winder.

“As an ALSE technician here, I support close to 170 people, and I have to perform ALSE inspections every 180 days.”

Qualtiere provides training on ALSE to crew members and ensures that survival equipment worn by aviators is fitted properly.

“One of the most interesting things about my job is taking care of the aviators. I get a lot of satisfaction in knowing that these guys are safe,” he concludes.



## THE SUPPLY ROOM

Column by Staff Sgt.. Olivia Singleton  
Supply System Analyst  
USPFO CIF

### CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, August 20, 2010 –

Over the next few months, the United State Property and Fiscal Office (USPFO) Central Issue Facility (CIF) is going high-tech. Through the use of new scanning machines, we will be able to scan clothing items onto a Soldier’s clothing records. The benefit of this new technology is that it will allow us to capture the accurate sizes, quantity and items that each Soldier receives. Once this is done, we will still be able to print out a clothing record and link the clothing items to the clothing records in Installation Support Module.

The National Guard Bureau and the Department of the Army have selected the Georgia National Guard to pilot the new scanning system. The scanners should be in place by December of this year.

In addition to the new scanners, Soldiers can now go

to the Georgia Army National Guard portal to review and electronically sign their clothing records. In order to view your records on the portal, Soldiers will need an active CAC Card. Click on the “Known Issues” button just below the pictures of the command. If you have any questions, contact your unit supply specialist. This will be another step in preparation of the state-wide Command Logistics Review Team (CLRT) inspection in September.

On a final note from CIF, we still have Universal Combat Pattern (UCP) field jackets available. If you have not been issued one, contact your unit supply specialist, and they will make arrangements to get them from CIF. Remember, even though it is 90 plus degrees right now, winter is coming and you need to “come and get them!”

For CIF appointments please e-mail CIFGA.

CIF contacts:

- Sgt. 1st Class Caryl Belk, USPFO CIF Supervisor/PBO – (678) 569-6750 ext: 8497
- Staff Sgt Olivia Singleton, USPFO CIF Supply System Analyst – (678) 569-6749

# MACON 'MADMEN'

## RECEIVE HEROE'S WELCOME

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Roy Henry  
Public Affairs Office  
Department of Defense

**MACON, Ga., July 30, 2010** – Hundreds of cheering, flag waving Bibb County resident braved mid-day heat of nearly 100 degrees to join city, state and Georgia Department of Defense officials in front of city hall to officially welcome home Georgia's 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team home from its yearlong deployment to Afghanistan.

"As hot as it is out here, these folks could have stayed home or been somewhere else where it's air-conditioned," said Sgt. Nate Smith, a military police team leader with Macon-based Headquarters Company, 48th Brigade Support Battalion. Smith, who lives in Dunwoody near Atlanta, and his unit are just one element of the brigade. "Seeing them and knowing that they'd come out on a day like this for us, makes me extremely proud of who I am, as a Georgian and as a Guardsman."

It's been four months since the more than 2,000 Soldiers from brigade units across the state returned from supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. In that time, they've been getting reacquainted with their families, getting back to their civilian jobs and getting back into their roles as traditional Guardsmen.

Following the 116th Army Guard Band up Cherry Street from the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, Lt. Col. Michael Fordham, the brigade executive officer, and the brigade honor guard, led the long line of troops representing every element of the 48th up to the front of city hall.

"Your service as individuals, your time away from

family and work is greatly appreciated and makes us proud," Macon mayor Robert Reichert told the Soldiers. "Your collective service as a unit continues the tradition of honor that is the 48th and of the 'volunteers' who came before you."

Colonel Lee Durham, the brigade commander, and the brigade's senior enlisted leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Hurndon, later inducted Reichert into the brigade "tribe." Dressing the mayor in traditional Afghan open robe and headdress like that sometimes worn by President Hamid Karzai, Durham said he and his Soldiers learned from the Afghanistan that it's critical to know the city elders and other local leaders.

"We [the 48th IBCT] are part of the 'tribe of Macon,'" Durham said. "And so we honor you as our tribal elder, and we honor this city for its support of us with an American flag flown in the face of the enemy during our deployment. Thank you for all you have done for us."

Durham and Hurndon, noting that Gov. Sonny Perdue is already a member of the brigade tribe, presented him a plaque etched

with his name and sporting a Macon Madman tomahawk and Afghan Khyber dagger. Perdue's leadership as commander-in-chief, his willingness to step forward and fight for the 48th, its Soldiers and their families is unmatched by anyone, Durham said.

He also noted that Georgia's 81st governor has deployed almost as much as he has, Durham added, showing up in Iraq and Afghanistan to see first hand how Georgia Guardsmen are making a difference in the War on Terror.

"You and your Soldiers continue to distinguish yourselves as 'the best of the best,' never shrinking from your ever-changing mission, and I want you know that you have the utmost respect of myself, the citizens of this great state and of this great nation," Perdue said.



# REINVIGORATED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## SETS SIGHTS ON GUARD MUSEUM



Story by Eric Tedder  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, August 6, 2010** – An exciting new emphasis on assembling, categorizing, organizing and displaying the history of the Georgia National Guard is currently underway. The new focus on the history of the Georgia Guard builds upon decades of extensive collection and organization of documents, reports, pictures, and artifacts now safely stored away in Guard archives. What's new is the possibility of an actual museum being built, both to showcase some of the unique artifacts of the history of the Guard and to serve as a tangible resource for the research and study of more than 300 years of Georgia military history.

Still in the conceptual stages, the Georgia Military Museum will focus primarily on the role of Georgia's Citizen-Soldiers throughout the state and nation's history. Georgia's rich military history is evidenced in the fact that Georgia Guardsmen have participated in all the nation's wars and conflicts, from those of its earliest settlers against Spanish-controlled Florida in 1733 to the modern battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Colonel (Ret.) Dennis Brown of the Georgia Army Guard is spearheading the ambitious effort to bring new emphasis and focus to the historical effort. With command support from Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt (Georgia's adjutant general) and Brig. Gen. Tim Britt (special assistant to Nesbitt), Brown is calling upon a newly organized history committee comprised of Georgia Guard representatives from the Army, Air and

State Defense Force as well as from various operational and logistical specialties to assist with the effort. Brown has also sought the able assistance of past Georgia Guard historians Dr. Beryl Diamond (formerly a public affairs officer for the Georgia Department of Defense), Major Rich Elwell (command historian for the Georgia State Defense Force), and Gail Parnell (a former Army Guard historian for the Georgia Army National Guard).

In addition to a traditional museum setting – with a myriad of displays of vintage military hardware, uniforms, and military memorabilia – plans for the museum also call for it to have a comprehensive research capability to collect and categorize historical documents, chronicling the history of the military in Georgia and the Georgia National Guard specifically.

The first step toward helping this monumental undertaking, according to Brown, is to become a member of the Georgia National Guard Historical Society. Information on the Historical Society can be found online at [www.hsgng.org](http://www.hsgng.org) or [www.facebook.com/GeorgiaGuardHistory](http://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaGuardHistory).

"I'd add that regularly contributing content to the Public Affairs Office is the best way to ensure we keep a living record of the organization's history," added Seth Stuck, a member of the Georgia National Guard Historical Society and the Command Information Officer for the Public Affairs Office.

"The content we produce goes into the Georgia Guardsman, which has – for all intents and purposes – served as the Georgia Guard's historical log for about six decades," said Stuck, who is currently the managing editor of the Georgia Guardsman. "We're living history right now, every day, and we need to make sure we're capturing and sharing that history."

"I am convinced that the Georgia Guard can develop a history program that rivals the historical efforts of some of our neighbor Guard organizations," added Brown. "We have the command emphasis behind this effort, and the necessary resources and artifacts needed to begin the process. All that remains is the necessary enthusiasm and support to fully develop a historical emphasis amongst all Georgia Guardsmen."

# 124TH MPAD

## HITS THE FIELD



Sgt. Richard Holdridge (front) directs one of his fire teams during a squad dismounted patrolling lane conducted at Catoosa Training Center while smoke clouds billow to screen their movement.

*Story, photos by Sgt. 1st Class Roy Henry  
Photo by Sgt. Gerardo DeAvila  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense*

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, August 23, 2010** – Ignoring rain, heat and humidity, members of the 124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment pushed their mental and physical limits during an eight-day field training exercise (FTX), Aug. 6 to Aug. 13, that allowed them to put their skills as public affairs specialists and as Soldiers to the test.

“In war or in peace, our mission is to provide public affairs support to front-line troops,” said Maj. John H. Alderman IV, the MPAD commander. “This FTX is designed to test us, our equipment and our procedures so we can perform our mission better.”

A strategic asset despite its small size, an Army MPAD consists of four officers and 16 photojournalists and broadcast journalists trained to capture the Soldier’s story and then tell that story to the public.

“We must be able pick up, pack up and move out quickly, arrive safely and then set up rapidly to provide public affairs support to commanders in the field, here at home and out on the battlefield,” Alderman said. “And that takes practice.”

During its FTX, the 124th traveled to three training sites in the North Georgia region. Moving out initially from Clay National Guard Center by land and air, their subsequent moves cut an arc from east to west across the Blue Ridge Mountains. A major part of their training was to send out quartering parties – at least once by helicopter, other times by vehicle convoy – in front of the main body to secure and establish tactical assembly areas from which the MPAD operated.

Being “mobile,” the 124th must live up to the Guard motto, “Always ready, always there,” said Alderman. Its members may tell the story of Soldiers and Airmen assisting civil authorities during a domestic situation, he said, or they may be covering a unit fighting in Afghanistan or the pullout of combat forces in Iraq.

“Our Soldiers may have to put down their cameras, note pads and pens, and engage an enemy alongside the people whose story they’re telling,” he said. By training the way we do, the MPAD learns how to ‘not’ become a liability to the forces it supports.”

“This is really great training for me,” said Pfc. Ashley Fontenot, a broadcast Journalist and student at Kennesaw State University. “I’m learning things that

were never taught to me in Basic or AIT.”

The first two locations the MPAD “secured” were at Camp Merrill, a base used to train Army Rangers. MPAD members practiced entering, setting up and establishing security and then leaving their assembly areas. In between, they practiced land navigation, movement as a fire team and other Soldier skills. The teams also practiced their journalism skills in the field.

The MPAD then established a field Media Operations Center at Pine Valley Training Area near Dahlonega. In their training scenario, the MPAD was operating in support of National Guard units helping the area after a devastating earthquake. Working independently to mirror their expected tactical employment as stand-alone teams, each of the MPAD’s three teams prepared media releases in response to the hypothetical scenario and interacted with media role-players who needed information about the Guard’s relief efforts.

As a capstone event, each team held a practice press conference complete with role-playing journalists. Each press conference was broadcast live via satellite to a practice website with the hope of setting the parameters for widespread use of similar tactics at an organizational level. Air Guard Col. Dan Zachman, the Guard’s chief of the Joint Staff, and Army Guard Col. Mark London, chief of current operations at the Joint Operations Center on Dobbins Air Reserve Base, flew in to participate as speakers at two of the mock press conferences.

As the FTX neared completion, the 124th moved to Catoosa Training Center outside the North Georgia city of Tunnel Hill. Public affairs work was replaced by tactical patrols, reaction to enemy fire and handling enemy prisoners-of-war in mock combat scenarios scattered across the hills and forest of the training area.

“This part of the training is as real as we could possibly make it, using blank ammunition, smoke, artillery fire, grenade and mine simulators,” said Capt. Vernon Robinson, the 124th MPAD executive officer, who ran this phase of the training. “If our guys are integrated into a combat unit, they’ve got to know what’s going on and how to react to combat.”

“Learning from training saves lives when the time comes to do it for real. The intensity and training of this field training exercise made it a real challenge for the Soldiers,” said Alderman.

“It was tough on everyone,” said 1st Sgt. John Kinnaman, the unit’s senior enlisted leader, “but the training is designed to be hard. Only in this way can we truly say we’re ready for any mission given to us.”



# BRAVES, BOBBY COX HONORED FOR SUPPORTING MILITARY

Story, photos by Sgt. 1st Class Roy Henry  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, August 23, 2010** – With this being Bobby Cox’s 25th and final year as the Atlanta Braves manager, the Georgia National Guard’s adjutant general decided it was time to honor Cox and his players for their support of the Guard and the military as a whole.

“We, as an organization, have always admired and respected the Braves for what they bring to the lives of our military men and women,” said Maj. Gen. Terry Nesbitt, Georgia’s Adjutant General. “With Bobby leaving the team next year, we wanted to express our great appreciation for his and the team’s never-ending support of those who proudly serve their state and nation.”

Shortly before the second of three at-home games against the Washington Nationals, Cox took time to speak with and sign autographs for about 80 active duty, Guard and Reserve Soldiers and Airmen. Even Nesbitt had a ball signed by the legendary Braves manager. He later presented Cox with a letter expressing the Guard’s thanks for the evening’s events and for supporting the military.

“It’s been my privilege, over the years, to have shaken the hands of so many who serve this great nation,” Cox said after Nesbitt handed him an Adjutant General’s coin.

“As they remember me and this moment, I will always remember and honor them,” added Cox.

Among those to get Cox’s autograph and then later enjoy the game, was Sgt. Darcy Lawver, training NCO for Winder’s Company E, 148th Brigade Support Battalion. He and his wife Kristin are avid Braves fans.

“I wouldn’t have missed this opportunity for the world,” he said. “I’ll be able to tell people I shook hands with one of the greatest managers in baseball because his team honored my service as a Soldier.”

“It’s just not going to be the same without Bobby at the helm,” added Christy about Cox’s leaving. “He’s a great man and it’s just not going to be the same.”

Chief Master Sgt. Michael Sipps of Cary, which is just outside Warner Robins, is the operations flight chief for the 116th Communications Squadron, 116th Air Control Wing, at Robins Air Force Base. Attending the game with him were his wife Julie Lynn, sons Chris and Michael Brandon, and daughter Abbey. Sipps was one of about 12 Airmen in all from the 116th and Savannah’s 165th Airlift Wing who attended the day’s events.

“This is something only a few people may ever have the chance to do,” Sipps beamed. Looking at his children, Sipps added, “I know they’ll long remember the respect and admiration paid by Bobby Cox and his team to everyone who serves – those who wear the uniform and those whom they leave behind, our families.”

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOOKSHELF:

### REVIEWS OF BOOKS THAT TEACH US ABOUT OUR CRAFT

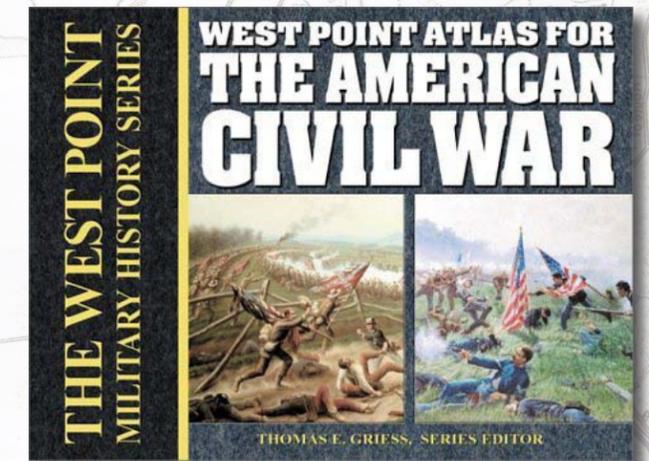
By Maj. John H. Alderman IV  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense

The perennial trick to understanding a given battle or campaign is matching the detail of written description to the visualization of a map illustration. *The West Point Atlas of War* series spans centuries of warfare in a simple, effective manner that supports both close reading and general browsing. First published in the 50’s under the auspices of Gen. Esposito at the Military Academy, many of the maps are available online.

The books are harder to find, but if you’re lucky, you can still pick up reprints at larger bookstores. The most recent reprint included separate volumes on the American Civil War, World War I, and the European and Pacific theaters of World War II. The latter is the one that most opened my eyes.

Just as Paul Davis’s *100 Decisive Battles* (featured in this column this past June) perfectly balances scope and detail, so too does *The West Point Atlas*. For each battle or campaign, a map of the area of operations (and sometimes area of interest) is set with a concise description of the action. Sometimes, the two are perfectly matched; sometimes, the maps may only illustrate the decisive part of the action.

Throughout, the prose is lively and appropriately detailed, a good read that balances analysis with reporting in some pretty neat ways. So, for example, sometimes the narrative is explicit in its condemnation or praise for a commander’s decision. At other times, facts are presented in such a way that a student of history can draw his or



her own conclusions about the action. Rather than feeling uneven in its treatment, it keeps the atlas interesting and makes it more a tool of instruction.

The maps are beautiful. Perfectly scaled and illustrated, there is enough detail to give the reader some terrain to analyze to help see how commanders’ decisions were shaped – similar to the utility provided by staff rides.

The maps are rarely unclear or cluttered, with a clear and concise black-and-white color scheme. Another nice detail is the inclusion of local place-names, which give a feel for what the commanders may have seen on the ground. Unremembered places like Catherine’s Furnace, Barber’s Point, and Todd’s Tavern show up next to the names we know well only because a battle took place a little farther down the road.

The atlas maps and descriptions are probably best at teaching an understanding of the higher-order decisions that shape wars. The volume on the Pacific Theater, for example, was the first book that really helped me fully visualize and understand the division-level maneuver that surrounded or supported some of the smaller-scale (or seemingly unconnected) battles with which I had previously been familiar.

Ultimately, a robust appetite for and understanding of the various factors which have affected major battles and campaigns in the past allows any commander to better contextualize any challenges faced by his or her own unit. *The West Point Atlas of War* series effectively puts salient facts and mitigating factors into a visually and intellectually compelling format that makes it easy for commanders to make use of the lessons hard-learned in battles past.

# AROUND THE GEORGIA GUARD



## PILOT BUILDERS HONORED AS PATRIOTS

CUSCOWILLA, Ga., July 8, 2010 – Thirteen Soldiers traveled to Cuscowilla to show appreciation to Chris Hilsman and Doug Tumlin of Pilot Builders for their outstanding support of the National Guard – support that has always been evident but was especially apparent during the past year and a half when one of their employees, Maj. Kris Marshall, Operations Officer for the 221st Military Intelligence Battalion, participated in multiple overseas deployments.

## CAMP TAKES REINS AS NEW AIR GUARD COMMAND CHIEF

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, August 20, 2010 – The Georgia Air National Guard has selected 36-year veteran Chief Master Sgt. Donald M. Camp as its new Command Chief Master Sergeant. Camp, who succeeds Command Chief Master Sgt. Betty Morgan, was the former Wing Command Chief for the 116th Air Control Wing. In his new position, Camp is responsible for advising both Georgia's Adjutant General and the commanding general of the Georgia Air National Guard on all matters pertaining to the enlisted personnel within the organization. Camp entered active duty in 1972 and transferred to the Georgia Air National Guard in April 1974. While assigned to the 116th Tactical Fighter Wing, Dobbins Air Force Base, Camp has held various enlisted leadership positions in the aircraft weapons and aircraft maintenance areas over the last 28 years.



## HQ COMPANY, 122ND REGIMENT CHANGE OF COMMAND

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, July 29, 2010 – Captain Kate Sanborn said her final goodbye and turned over the command of Headquarters Company, 122nd Detachment Regiment of the Regional Training Institute to Capt. Jace Walden of Blue Ridge at a recent change-of-command ceremony. The unit's mission is to offer, organize and run classes for National Guard Soldiers from across the nation.



## DROP ZONE MEMORIALIZES GUARDSMAN

CATOOSA TRAINING SITE, Ringgold, Ga., August 4, 2010 – Loved ones, friends and fellow Guardsmen honored 1st Sgt. John D. Blair of Calhoun during a ceremony where the Copperhead parachute drop zone (DZ) was renamed in his memory. Shortly thereafter, troopers parachuted from the sky in the "missing-man formation," honoring 1st Sgt. John Blair's memory and declaring Blair Drop Zone "open for business," as they guided their parachutes toward the DZ.

## MRS. GEORGIA VISITS YCA

JACKSON, June 10, 2010 – Mrs. Lalona Richards, 2010 Mrs. Georgia, spent the afternoon visiting with Cadets from the Ft. Stewart Youth Challenge Academy. Mrs. Georgia addressed the cadets about the importance of living out their dreams and working hard to make them happen. A former teacher, Richards is on a year-long speaking tour promoting "Equality in Education."





# GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense  
1000 Halsey Ave. Bldg. 2  
Marietta, Ga. 30060