

# GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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

September 2010



## Army Guard and Air Force team up for water survival training

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## Agiculture Development Teams planting the seeds of a new Afghanistan

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## Georgia's Counterdrug Task Force seizes \$52 million worth of marijuana



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# ARMY GUARD AND AIR FORCE TEAM UP FOR WATER SURVIVAL TRAINING

*Story and photos by Spc. Mike Perry  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense*

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Sept. 10, 2010** — In a joint training mission, members from Marietta-based 1st Detachment, Company C 1-111th General Support Aviation Battalion, Georgia Army National Guard, supported Headquarters 22nd Air Force from Dobbins Air Reserve Base in a water survival training class held at the U.S. Navy's Morale, Welfare and Recreation site at Lake Allatoona.

The training is required of Air Force aircrews every three years to maintain flight status.

"It's always good to work with the Air Force," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Peter Demkow, a pilot with Company C. "It was the first time we've used our new HH-60M Black Hawk helicopter for open water survival training, which made things very realistic for us and the Air Force aircrews."

While all military aircraft are outfitted with survival equipment, aircrewmembers need to know how to survive in a variety of conditions in the event of an emergency landing.

"The opportunity to have a realistic scenario where you're lifted by the helicopter puts this training into perspective," said Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Locascio, a boom operator with Headquarters 22nd Air Force. "It gives you a chance to fight the rotor wash and deal with real world situations, things you can not duplicate in training."

For the 22nd Air Force aircrews, training began as they gathered around their instructors for familiarization with the proper use of an assortment of survival gear including flotation devices, survival radios, and the Forest/Jungle Penetrator – all key equipment necessary for the survival and rescue of a downed aircrew.

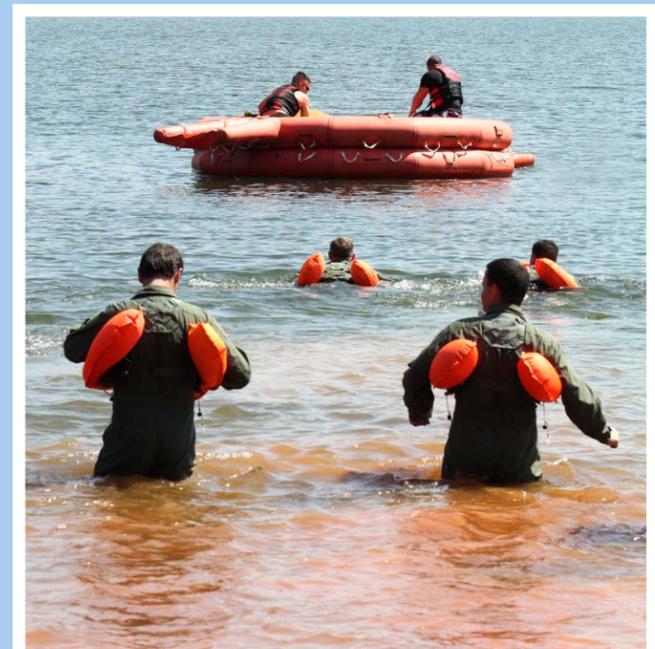
The Airmen then donned helmets and flotation devices and began swimming toward a 20-person life

raft floating about 50 yards offshore, where they learned how to safely get out from under a parachute canopy while in the water.

A short time later, the Company C Black Hawk arrived in the training area and, one by one, each of the aircrewmembers jumped out of the boat into the lake and awaited the helicopter to hoist them up 100 feet above the water.

"With the assistance from several aircrew flight equipment personnel and their training apparatus – along with the Army Guardsmen flying the helicopter – we were able to conduct realistic, hands-on, 'feet wet' training in a great environment," said Chief Master Sgt. Les Davy, aircrew flight equipment functional manager for Headquarters 22nd Air Force.

"We couldn't have asked for a better day or better training," he concluded.



Aircrewmembers from Headquarters 22nd Air Force, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, swim out to a 20-man life raft during water survival training at Lake Allatoona.

# GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD AIRMEN SUPPORT AFRICOM IN LIBYA

Story and photo by Maj. Larry Hadwin  
165th Airlift Wing Maintenance Squadron  
Georgia Air National Guard

**SAVANNAH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Sept. 22, 2010** – The Georgia Air National Guard recently sent two members of Savannah’s 165th Airlift Wing to Tripoli, Libya as part of the Military-to-Military, C-130 Maintenance and Repair Training Event under the auspices of AFRICOM’s 17th Air Force at Ramstein AFB, Germany. This was the first formal U.S. instruction of the Libyan Air Force since the U.S. imposed broad unilateral economic sanctions against the African nation in 1986.

Major Larry Hadwin, 165th Maintenance Squadron Commander, and Master Sgt. Steve R. Harris, Maintenance Supervisor, were selected for the unique international training mission. An aircraft maintenance officer, Maj. Hadwin has extensive background in propulsion systems, and Master Sgt. Harris has experience as a C-130 crew chief.

The training event was aimed at instructing Libyan aircraft maintenance personnel in basic maintenance principles on the C-130 tactical airlifter and encouraging the development of a strict preventive maintenance culture for the Libyan Air Force. The Savannah maintenance experts readily shared information from years of experience on important procedures to manage aviation maintenance schedules, inventory of aircraft parts, and basic safety and training perspectives.



“The class seemed to have a genuine desire to grasp the information we presented,” said Hadwin. “And they showed great pride in the jobs they were performing.”

Both Libyan officers and non-commissioned officers took part of the three-day class. The training occurred at Methega Air Base, formerly Wheelus Air Force Base, outside the capital of Tripoli. The Georgia Air Guardsmen were billeted in the VIP Quarters and were reportedly the first U.S. Air Force personnel to spend the night on the base since it closed in 1970.

As the Savannah Guardsmen quickly learned, morning began with tea or coffee served with the Chief of Maintenance, Col. Mohamed Ashour al-Ghawi, who readily recalled personal stories and experiences of his early military career training in the U.S. at Lackland, Kelly and Sheppard Air Force Bases. The Libyan maintenance chief was quite hopeful that his younger airmen may someday have the same training opportunities he once experienced in the United States.

In recognition and appreciation for the Savannah-based Guardsmen, Libyan Brig. Gen. Mahmud Mustfa Ghasia, Commander of the Transport Air Wing, presented each with bronze plaques and also awarded special coins from the Defense Attaché of the United States Embassy in Tripoli in appreciation for helping to support and encourage greater United States/Libyan relations.



## 169TH AVIATION RETURNS HOME

Spc. Steven Clements, an avionics specialist, is greeted by his two-and-a-half year old son, Bo, who lets ‘dad’ know how tired he is of waiting for his long-deserved hug. Clements – a resident of Pooler, Ga. – spent the last 10 months in Afghanistan conducting maintenance on the detachment’s CH-47 Chinook.

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

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga. Sept. 3, 2010** – As soon as their airplane’s wheels touched the tarmac, members of Detachment 1, Company B, 1-169th General Support Aviation Battalion, let out a loud roar signaling the end of their yearlong deployment. The Savannah-based detachment received a hero’s welcome at Hunter Army Airfield, with hugs, kisses and joyful tears aplenty.

The 67-member unit spent the last 10 months supporting the warfight in Afghanistan by providing aviation support. And they did so, according to Capt. Louis Williams, the detachments commander, with 100 percent mission success.

“But our greatest accomplishment was completing all of our missions and bringing everyone home in one piece,” said Williams.

The mission of the Chinook unit was to provide ground force commanders with the flexibility and use of the CH-47 Chinook aircraft, also known as the “army workhorse.”

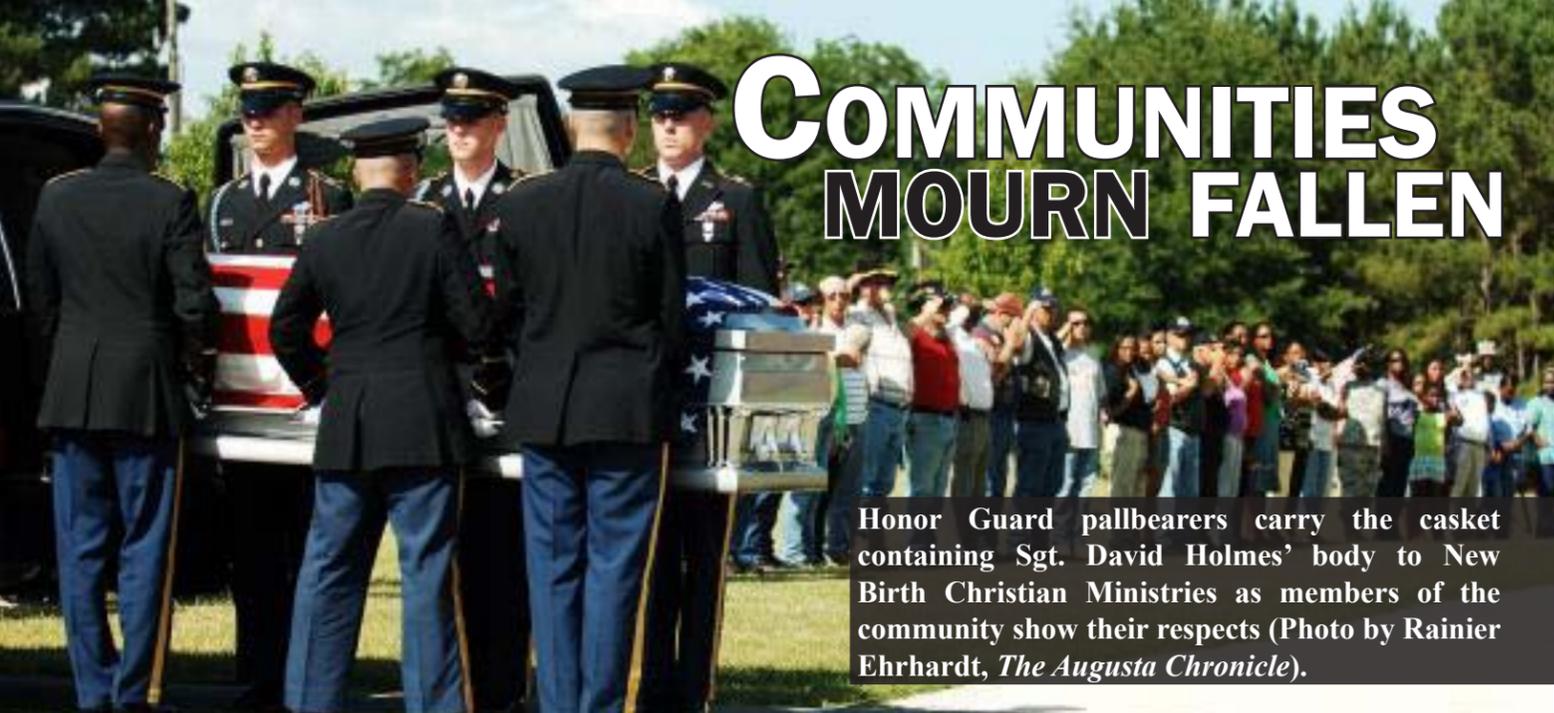
“Because the 47 is the most maneuverable aircraft, it can support air assault missions or quick reaction force missions rapidly,” Williams said. “And it has great load capacity for personnel and cargo.”

The 169th spent most of its days flying a variety of missions around the north eastern and eastern sections of Afghanistan. Sgt. 1st Class Richard Sparks said they never missed an opportunity to fly.

“We never turned down a single mission,” said Sparks. “Our Soldiers did an outstanding job with everything, from flying the Chinook to maintaining it.”

In fact, Sparks added, the unit had a 100 percent maintenance record and never had to turn down a mission request due to maintenance problems.

“I could not have asked for a better bunch of Soldiers to go to war with,” Sparks said.



# COMMUNITIES MOURN FALLEN

Honor Guard pallbearers carry the casket containing Sgt. David Holmes' body to New Birth Christian Ministries as members of the community show their respects (Photo by Rainier Ehrhardt, *The Augusta Chronicle*).

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

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga. Sept. 20, 2010** – Hundreds of mourners lined the streets of Tennille, Ga. June 28, 2010 to honor the life and the service of Georgia Guard Sgt. David Holmes, who died as the result of injuries sustained while on a route clearance patrol when the vehicle in which he was riding was struck by an IED near Sayed Abad, Afghanistan.

The hot late-June sun did not deter many of Holmes' adopted community from turning out for his funeral service. At each city block of the small Georgia town Holmes had called home for several years, groups of supporters waved American flags while others placed hands over their hearts in a show of respect and honor for the fallen Soldier and his family as the procession left services at New Birth Christian Ministries Sanctuary.

"Sgt. Holmes was a model Soldier," said Brig. Gen. Maria Britt, commander of the Georgia Army National Guard, who represented the Georgia National Guard at the memorial ceremony. "His sacrifice reminds us that life is precious and must be cherished every day."

"The loss of Sgt. David Holmes is a stern reminder of the dangers our military men and women face each and every day," said Governor Sonny Perdue upon receiving word of the loss of the Georgia Guardsman.

"We must never lose sight of the fact that we, as one nation, stand on the shoulders of the young men and women who have lost their lives in the line of duty and

of those who are on the front lines today."

Holmes, a father of four, was also described as a man who easily made friends and loved his family.

"David was a giver," said National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Chauncy Ivey. "His focus was always his family, his wife Latonya, and his kids. He talked about them all the time. But you cannot give in this world without making sacrifices, and today we celebrate the biggest sacrifice David could give."

Holmes, age 34, deployed with the National Guard's Swainsboro-based 810th Engineer Company in the fall of 2009. During the service, Holmes posthumously received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Before presenting them to his family, Britt dismissed the Guardsman.

"Soldier, job well done. Mission complete. Be thou at peace," Britt said, raising her hand in salute.

Tragically, Sgt. 1st Class Edgar N. Roberts of Hinesville was also wounded in the same IED attack that claimed Holmes' life. Roberts later transferred from medical treatment facilities in Afghanistan to the National Naval Medical Center, in Bethesda, Md. for treatment, but passed away August 17 due to the injuries which occurred in Afghanistan.

Funeral plans for Roberts have not been finalized, but Roberts' life was celebrated during a memorial ceremony at Fort Stewart's main post chapel Sept. 18. Roberts' family, friends, members of the 810th Engineer Company (SAPPER) and his chain of command were in attendance

Roberts is survived by his wife Jannett and seven children. Swainsboro's 810th Combat Engineers returned to Georgia on Thursday, Sept. 23.

# 'JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES' MOS

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



**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga. Aug. 28, 2010** – As a signal support system specialist, Military Occupational Skill (MOS) 25 Uniform, Georgia Army Guard Sgt. Jason Smalls is truly a "Jack-of-all-trades."

"We trouble shoot all 'commo' problems," Smalls said. "If a piece of equipment receives a signal of some sort, we work on it."

From issues with satellite dishes to frustrations with computers and telephone systems, Smalls – who has been a 25U for nine years – works to identify problems and propose solutions. A federal technician with IDT Netcom here, Smalls is a full-time wide array network engineer.

"Right now, I oversee the telecommunications and network communications at the tier one and tier two levels," he said. "Think of it this way: I handle the signal issue from the wall outlet back."

Smalls has a vast amount of knowledge in other signal areas as well. He spent his first four years as a 25U in the regular Army at Fort Carson, Colo.

"It was great working with the tankers at Carson," Smalls said. "I loved making sure their comms was up and working before they moved to the field."

In addition to having worked with armor, Smalls – as a traditional Guardsman – works with Marietta's 171st Aviation, 78th Aviation Troop Command, as its communication section sergeant.

"I train my fellow Soldiers on the use and maintenance related to the OE254 antenna and Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System equipment," Smalls said.

Love for the military communications world is nothing something new for Smalls. He said that, as a boy, he liked taking things apart to see how they worked.

"I was big into taking apart stuff as a kid," he said. "I would take apart radios and boom boxes to see the 'guts' of them."

In order to receive the 25 Uniform MOS, Smalls had to attend an 18-week course at Fort Gordon in Augusta. According to the course description, Soldiers graduating the school have a solid background in signal support equipment to include installing, maintaining and troubleshooting.

"My occupational skill is supposed to be able to cover down on all other 25 series MOSs," Smalls said. "That's why I consider myself a 'Jack-of-all-trades' but a master of none."

**Sgt. Jason Smalls, a signal Support system specialist with the Georgia Army National Guard, uses an array of monitors to track communication signals and data at his work desk.**

# COBB YOUTH LEADERSHIP VISITS NEW CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER



Story by Lt. Col. (Ret.) Ken Baldowski

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Roy Henry

Public Affairs Office

Georgia Department of Defense

## CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Sept. 21, 2010

— The 25 participants of Cobb Youth Leadership who visited the Clay National Guard Center, the new home for the Georgia National Guard, shared a common sentiment: “Today’s Guard does far more than I realized!”

Cobb Youth Leadership is a program of the Cobb Chamber of Commerce and is sponsored by the Leadership Cobb Alumni Association. The students, all juniors in Cobb-area high schools, were given a detailed look at the many programs and emerging missions of the Georgia National Guard during a full-day tour at Georgia’s new Clay National Guard Center.

Major Gen. William T. Nesbitt, Georgia’s Adjutant General, welcomed the students by explaining the Guard’s dual federal and state mission, where he impressed upon them the significance of the Guard’s almost 400-year history of defending Georgians.

Then, a series of briefings, tours, exhibits and demonstrations clearly illustrated the rapidly changing face of Georgia’s National Guard for the young visitors. While not a recruiting event, the students had the opportunity to speak with Georgia’s top Army and Air Guard recruiters about educational and scholarship programs as well as benefits available to members of the National Guard. Recruiters noted that Georgia is among the top three states in the nation for National Army Guard recruiting.

Highlighting the days’ schedule for the Cobb youth was a look at the Georgia Army Guard’s aviation units stationed at facilities in Clay, where students had the

opportunity to ‘strap in’ to UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters. There, Georgia’s Counterdrug officers told the students of recent operations conducted to eradicate marijuana growing in Georgia, and members of the Guard’s elite 4th Civil Support Team offered insight into their unique and highly sophisticated mission, capabilities and equipment to handle WMD threats.

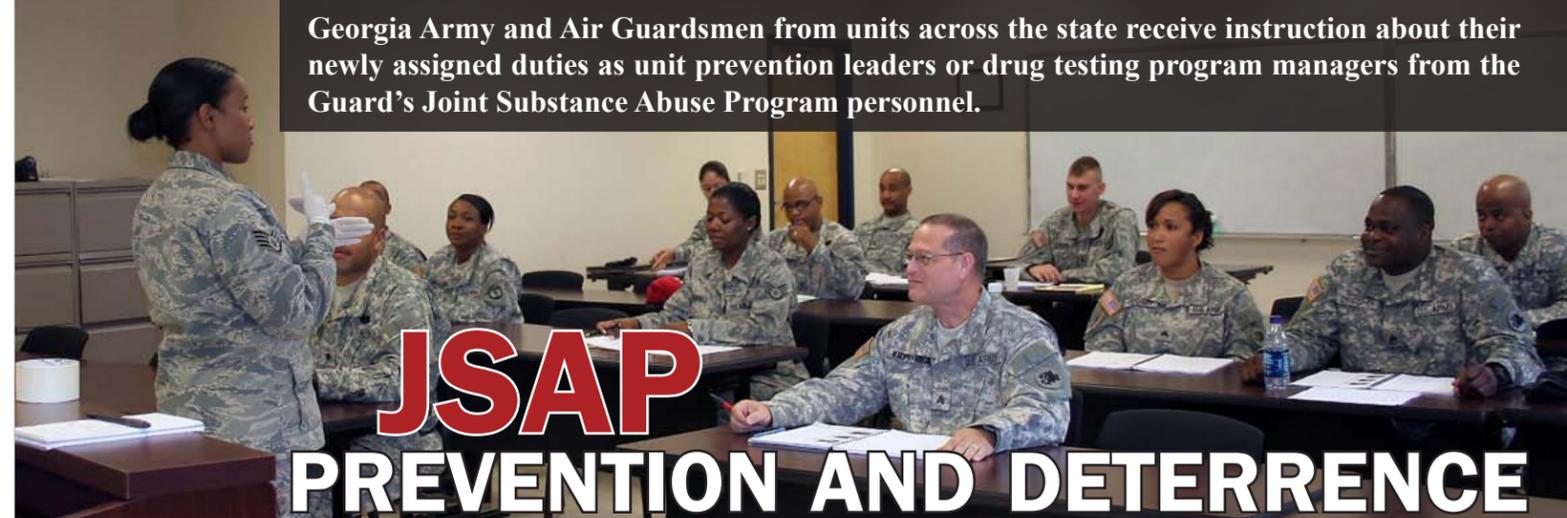
Meredith Heyer, a junior at Hill Grove High School in Powder Springs said that, after talking with Soldiers and Airmen of the 4th CST, it was comforting to know that the special unit is here in Marietta.

Chief Warrant Officer Ron Young, a Georgia National Guard helicopter pilot who was forced to land his Apache attack helicopter in the midst of heavy fighting in central Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, spoke to the youth at lunch. He shared his story of resiliency, describing how he was detained by the Iraqi army, mistreated, and forced to appear on-camera for propaganda purposes. Young was later rescued in an area south of Tikrit, and he still flies for the Georgia Army National Guard.

The students also visited with the 94th Airlift Wing of the Air Force Reserves while at Dobbins and received a tour of a C-130 originally produced at Lockheed in Marietta. The tour then moved on to STARBASE, a National Guard-sponsored program designed to provide concentrated training in math and science to 5th and 6th graders from Cobb and Fulton County. While at STARBASE, the participants showed their piloting skills by “flying” different aircraft with STARBASE’s numerous simulation stations.

“I have to say, I am considering joining the Guard, or some military branch,” said 17-year-old senior Joey Celeste of Kennesaw, “but I’m working toward a career in financial consulting, so I have to see how that may benefit the military and myself.”

Georgia Army and Air Guardsmen from units across the state receive instruction about their newly assigned duties as unit prevention leaders or drug testing program managers from the Guard’s Joint Substance Abuse Program personnel.



Story by Sgt. 1st Class Roy Henry

Public Affairs Office

Georgia Department of Defense

## CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Sept. 17, 2010

— To better its prevention of substance abuse and deter the use of illegal drugs among its more than 14,000 Soldiers and Airmen, the Georgia National Guard started looking to the units in which those Soldiers and Airmen serve to provide direct leadership. And it’s working.

“There isn’t anyone among us who doesn’t know that the illegal use of drugs just isn’t compatible with military readiness,” said Sgt. Brian Fekler, the Army Guard’s Joint Substance Abuse Program (JSAP) coordinator. He and Tech Sgt. Jennifer Roberts, the Air Guard JSAP coordinator and the program’s senior enlisted leader, operate the program out of the Georgia Counterdrug Task Force (CDTF) office across the flight ramp on Dobbins Air Reserve Base.

“Through the units, we create an environment of prevention and deterrence that is compatible,” said Fekler.

According to a May 2008 memorandum issued by National Guard Bureau in Washington, states failing to meet minimum testing rates “continue to expose the Guard to increased safety risks, criticism and budget reductions.” These offenders also undermine the policy of a drug-free force, the NGB memo states.

According to statistics provided by Roberts, Georgia once ranked 54th amongst all states and territories in terms of meeting testing requirements.

“Our program, like many others,” Fekler said, “was stagnate under the Guard’s centralized but separate testing efforts, with both the Army and Air each doing their own testing.”

“With so many people to test, and not enough people to do it, things obviously needed to change, and for the

better,” said Roberts.

Early in 2009, Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt, Georgia’s Adjutant General, issued the policy that the Georgia Guard would – in accordance with NGB mandate – decentralize testing by establishing a joint program that put the responsibility of testing in the hands of the individual Army and Air units. Oversight of the program and quality assurance of all samples fell to the CDTF and, consequently, under the prevue of Capt. Shilo Crane, the task force’s executive officer, and Lt. Col. Ben Sartain, CDTF commander.

Under the newer policy, 100 percent testing is mandatory for Active Guard and Reserve Soldiers and Airmen, aviation personnel, firefighters, anyone with top-secret clearance, counterdrug members, military police, security forces, and all general officers. Unit Prevention Leader (UPL) training must also be provided to Army UPLs and Air drug testing program managers (ADTPM), along with resources for prevention education.

Georgia has come a long way in the past 10 months, according to figures supplied by Roberts. More than 300 UPLs and ADTPMs are now conducting testing and prevention education at their home stations. Adverse Action, or “Positive Action” packets for those who test positive for a controlled substance are being handled more efficiently because of JSAP, and Georgia has moved from its 54th ranking into the top one-third of states meeting NGB requirements.

In the end, the Joint Substance Abuse Program and the efforts put forward by the JSAP staff, the Army and Air medical review officers, and the 300 UPLs and ADTPMs across the state are not to “catch” drug users and abusers, says Fekler.

“It’s about the prevention and deterrence of substance abuse. It’s about keeping the force ready to act, ready to do the job it’s paid to do,” Fekler said.

Arkansas Guardmembers examine heads of wheat crop growing on the outskirts of Shahr-e-Safa, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Lt. Col. Keith Moore)



# GEORGIA GUARDSMEN CULTIVATING AFGHAN AGRICULTURE

## PLANTING THE SEEDS OF A SELF-SUSTAINING AFGHANISTAN

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

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Sept. 21, 2010** – The Georgia Guard is hitting the farmlands of Afghanistan to sow the seeds of something the Taliban can't take away or destroy: knowledge.

Helping the unfortunate and disenfranchised through noncombat initiatives is nothing new to the National Guard. In the Global War on Terror, Guardsmen have helped Iraqis and Afghans improve infrastructure, advance law enforcement, bring utilities to towns and villages, and enhance relationships with local leaders.

As a specific example, Guardsmen in Georgia's 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team took on several noncombat roles during their recent yearlong deployment to Afghanistan. Soldiers of the 121st Infantry Regiment provided medical assistance to children of the Kuchi nomadic tribe. Members of the 1/108th Cavalry Regiment opened two radio stations in the Muhmand Dara and Shinwar provinces to give the people of those regions a voice to counter Taliban propaganda. Georgia's Citizen-Soldiers were also actively involved in civil-military projects designed to create Afghan jobs and

offer military-age men a paying alternative to joining the insurgency.

As Georgia's Guardsmen can now attest, such initiatives not only bolster the economy and generate goodwill, but they also lead to increased cooperation and security.

Now, Georgia's Citizen-Soldiers are joining the effort to help the Afghans – more than 70 percent of whom are farmers – revitalize their agricultural industry by using sustainable and culturally appropriate projects.

Agribusiness development teams are part of the counterinsurgency strategy put forth by the U.S. led International Security Assistance Force. The ISAF was formed to put a stop to the violence in Afghanistan and improve the Afghan people's confidence in their central government.

"[Afghanistan] may be a high-tech battlefield," said Col. Bill Williams, who commands Augusta's 201st Regional Support Group, "but its agriculture practices are like those of America's during the 1900s, or in some cases the 1800s. And the income of its people, especially the farmers, is in terrible shape."

And any "best practices" the Afghan people may have learned have been forgotten – if they were ever learned – because of 30 years of war and prolonged drought, says Williams, who will lead the first of Georgia's three

Agribusiness Development teams (ADT) to Afghanistan in the spring of 2011.

"Our job, like that of the ADTs who've gone before us, will be to help the Afghans change their practices through education, mentorship and 'easy-to-train, easy-to-sustain' crop, livestock, water and land management projects that fit their culture and their environment," he said.

One such practice may be a simple seed-cleaning technique, with which the Afghans can improve crop yields by 10 percent or more. The idea is that the Afghans who learn these straight-forward practices can pass them on to their fellow farmers, especially those of the next generation. In this way, they move ever closer to self-sustainability and the revitalization of the local and national agricultural economy, says Williams. By improving the farmer's lot in life, the hope is that hostility toward local leaders and the central government will diminish, he adds.

Williams' team of 58 officers and enlisted, which is part of the 201st's "AG" team, will "get down in the dirt" with the Afghans next year in one of the eastern provinces. They will be followed in 2012 by a team from Metter, Georgia's 265th Regional Support Group, to be succeeded by another team from the 201st. Georgia has made a three-year commitment of returning to the same province.

"Just as Missouri, Kansas, Texas and a few other states have done, we want the Afghans to know us and to know we will return and continue our partnership with them," Williams said. "Whether it carries on after that third year will depend, I believe, on how well our first three teams have done their job."

But Williams has no doubts that Georgia's agribusiness teams will be successful, noting that many of his participating Soldiers have agricultural degrees, hands-on experience, or both. Other members of the team, like himself, have leadership and administrative experience that lends its self to the team's second job: building trust between the Afghan farmers, local leaders and their government's Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation

and Livestock.

Williams adds, his team will "get more into the weeds" of their agricultural training in January at the University of Georgia in Athens, and later at Camp Atterbury, Ind., with assistance from Purdue University.

"The contacts we make at these colleges will give us 'reach back' capability as we come across unique situations which may require additional subject matter expertise," he said.

As Williams and his team move closer to their deployment date, he says there is no doubt in his mind that this mission is "right up the Guard's alley."

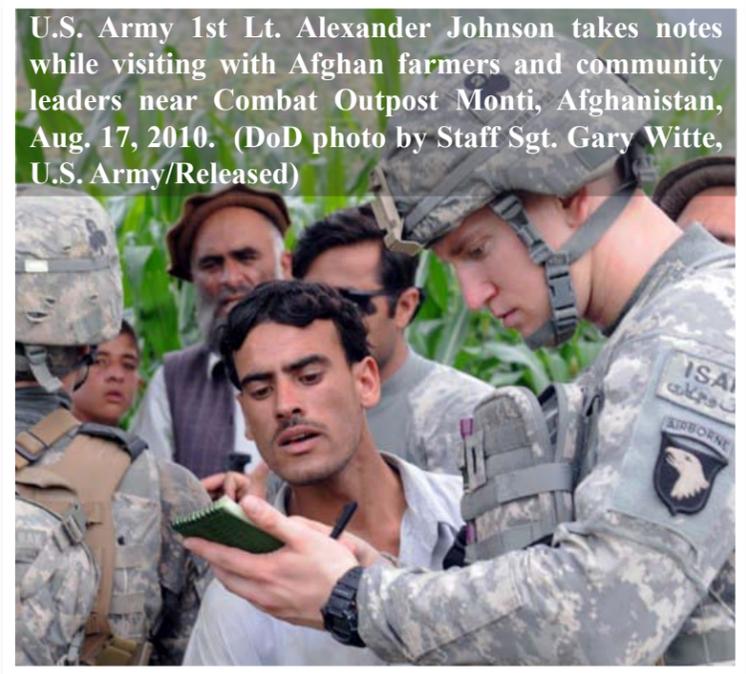
"After all, our organization's symbol [the Minuteman] is an armed farmer standing next to his plow," he said.

While America's agricultural initiative in Afghanistan may be considered a "noncombat mission," it is still dangerous. Keeping the Taliban at bay, let alone trying to force them to leave the team's area, will not be easy, especially in those places the Taliban calls home.

Williams cannot say which province his team is going to, except that it is in the southeast region where the insurgency is still quite active. The Taliban, he says, has eyes and ears among the towns and villages, and that means team members have to be ready for anything.

"For the most part, keeping the team safe while it travels and works with the Afghans is the ADT security section's job," Williams said. "These folks all have combat, military and civilian law enforcement or security backgrounds. Still, every team member must know what to do, and will learn what right looks like during training."

"Make no mistake; this [the agricultural initiative] is 'counter insurgency,'" Williams added. "We're working to sway the Afghans away from the Taliban's rhetoric and abuse by giving them the tools to build better lives and a better country. We want the Afghans picking up shovels to solve their problems, not AK-47s and rocket-propelled grenades," Williams concluded.



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Alexander Johnson takes notes while visiting with Afghan farmers and community leaders near Combat Outpost Monti, Afghanistan, Aug. 17, 2010. (DoD photo by Staff Sgt. Gary Witte, U.S. Army/Released)

# 165th Airlift Wing ATTENDS ENGLAND'S AIR TATTOO



*Story and photos by Lt. Col. David Simons  
165th Airlift Wing  
Georgia Air National Guard*

**SAVANNAH, Ga., Sept. 24, 2010** – The Savannah-based 165th Airlift Wing of the Georgia Air National Guard represented both the State of Georgia and the Air National Guard during the 2010 Royal International Air Tattoo at the Royal Air Force Base in Fairford, England July 17-18.

The 165th was selected from many U.S. tactical airlift units to send one of its eight C-130 H models to what is considered by most observers of military aviation to be the world's premier military air show. Savannah's C-130 was one of more than 100 different aircraft on display before hundreds of thousands of European visitors.

The Royal International Air Tattoo is one of the most coveted invitations to receive for military aircrews, and benefits go to Britain's Royal Air Force Charitable Trust.

The Georgia "Hercules" was commanded by Major Jonathon Drew and his crew of seven Savannah Guardsmen. The Savannah airlifter took its place alongside a C-130J model and a vintage B-52 Bomber as part of a static display showing the capabilities of Western aircraft.

Air Tattoo 2010 showcased an aerial reenactment of the infamous "Battle of Britain," the legendary World War II air battle that many historians say turned the tide of the air war in Europe.

International guests to the air show also witnessed the European unveiling of the United States' most advanced

combat aircraft, the F-22 Raptor, air superiority fighter.

Drew – a command pilot with over 3,500 hundred flight hours and six tours serving in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom – along with his combat-tested crewmembers helped explain unique capabilities of the tactical airlifter to the European crowd.

"This was a great opportunity for us to work with one of our greatest allies [England] and help explain the role we've played in recent combat operations as well as the unique capabilities of our C-130H models (among the oldest H models in the U.S. military's inventory) in their endless role as a combat 'workhorse,'" said Drew.

This year was the first time since 1999 that the 165th was invited to attend this international aerial exhibition because the Savannah unit has been fully engaged on the front lines of air combat operations in Southwest Asia.

The air crew briefed many distinguished visitors and thousands of civilians on capabilities of the aircraft. Young visitors wanted pictures with the crew and autographs, and visiting children celebrated as they received a Savannah "Guard Dawg" pin.

Fine weather over southern England provided for excellent conditions for thousands to view the huge variety of combat aircraft at the Tattoo.

The Lockheed-built F-22 Raptor was by far the most anxiously anticipated air craft at the event, as America's most advanced "stealth" fighter took to the air with never-before witnessed combat maneuvers.

Major Gen. William T. Nesbitt, Georgia's Adjutant General, visited Tattoo for the first time and had dinner with the Savannah-based aircrew before returning to Savannah.

# WITH VALOR: PERFORMING BRAVELY AGAINST A DETERMINED ENEMY

*Story and photos by Spc. Mike Perry  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense*

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Sept 2, 2010** — Seven members of the Georgia Army National Guard's Calhoun-based 1st Squadron, 108th Cavalry, received awards for individual valor at the unit's Armory for their actions under heavy fire during operations in the Kapisa Province of Afghanistan.

Captain Nathaniel C. Stone of Monticello, Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Brooks of Calhoun, Sgt. Roger Mavis of Dallas, Sgt. Williams Bookout of Villa Rica and Spc. Christopher Lowe from Savannah received the Bronze Star Medal with valor. Staff Sgt. William Moore of Newnan and Spc. Justin Evans of Silver Creek received the Army Commendation Medal with valor. Rarely awarded, these medals recognize distinction on the battlefield.

August 7, 2009, Brooks, Mavis, Bookout, Evans and Lowe (all members of Embedded Training Teams (ETTs) and mentors to the 4th Kandak Engineer Platoon, 3rd Brigade, 201st CORPS Afghanistan National Army) were conducting a reconnaissance mission in the Shpee Valley to disrupt the insurgent's mobility and deny the enemy safe haven.

Operation Brest Thunder is a joint operation with the Afghanistan National Army (ANA), French Marines of Task Force Korrigan, the United States Army and the United States Marine Corps that took place in one of the most dangerous areas within the 201st Corps Area of Operation: the Shpee valley, Alah Say District, Kapisa Province, Afghanistan.

Shortly into the operation, they encountered fire from enemy forces. Initially, the enemy was able to capitalize on the terrain to overwhelm the ANA. Fortunately, the engineering platoon and ETTs were able to find cover from the deadly barrage of fire.

During this time, a Marine officer made his way to the rooftop of a nearby house to gain a vantage point for employing combined arms upon the enemy. In doing so, however, he received a fatal gunshot wound to the head.

Moments later, Spc. Lowe, who was assisting the medic treating the Marine, was shot in the leg himself. As the intense gunfire continued, the ground commander made a decision to dispatch the Quick Reaction Force led

by Capt. Stone. Stone's mission was to evacuate casualties from the battlefield back to the command out post (COP).

"My first thought was 'let's go!'" said, Stone. "I'd already looked at the maps and figured out where we might get bogged down. All we were doing at that time was waiting on the call to move."

Stone recalls realizing the only way he was going to retrieve the casualties was by dividing his men and laying down a base of fire at the tree line.

"We did what we could with them. We mainly used the mine resistant ambush protected vehicle for a mounted machine gun platform, which had two Mk 19 grenade launchers and two M2 Browning .50 Caliber Machine Guns," said Stone, "and they were invaluable."

Once Stone's men were in place, with help from air support, they were able to lay down an aggressive base of fire. The team was able to recover Lowe and the Marine captain and return them back to the COP.

"It seemed like the enemy would run and hide while air support was around, but when the Kiowa and the Apaches left the fire fight started up again," said Stone.

Stone along with Brooks, Mavis, Bookout, Moore, Evans and members of the 4th Kandak continued to suppress the enemy until all of their casualties and fatalities had been evacuated back to the COP.

"It was some of the heaviest gun fire I have ever seen," said Stone. "It was a little similar to the firefights I'd seen during my deployment in Iraq, but different because it lasted seven hours and was more intense than anything I've ever encountered."

Lowe, a six-year veteran of the Georgia National Guard, received his Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device during a ceremony Feb. 26., 2010 while he was being treated for his injuries at Walter Reed.



(Left to Right) Capt. Nathaniel C. Stone, Spc. Justin Evans, Sgt. William Bookout, Staff Sgt. William Moore, Lieutenant Governor of Georgia Casey Cagle, Sgt. Roger Mavis, Sgt. First Class Kenneth Brooks, Rep. Johnny Meadows, and the Adjutant General of Georgia Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt at the award ceremony.

# COUNTERDRUG SEIZES \$52 MILLION WORTH OF MARIJUANA, 2ND LARGEST FIND IN STATE HISTORY

Story by Lt. Col. (Ret) Ken Baldowski  
Photos by the Georgia Guard Counterdrug Task Force  
Georgia Department of Defense  
Public Affairs Office

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga. Sept. 21, 2010** – The secret lying underneath the heavy canopy of north Georgia pines and old oaks might have remained concealed from the eyes of law enforcement for many months, except for one slight detail that appeared “not quite right,” according to the Georgia Army Guard counter drug pilot who spotted it.

“It was pretty obvious,” said the Counterdrug pilot, whose identity needs to remain anonymous. Laser-straight lines on the side of a remote mountain are an unusual site, even for this pilot who has seen his fair share of marijuana growing operations. A closer look from an altitude of a few hundred feet clearly revealed telltale emerald green marijuana plants peeking out from under the heavy tree cover blanketing the mountain.

This pilot and his spotter had spent nearly an hour and a half flying along the remote mountain tops, identifying nothing out of the ordinary. “We decided to drop into a sunlit valley and I immediately noticed a well-furrowed area, completely out of place in the rustic mountain terrain,” said the pilot.

This discovery would yield what officials estimate to be the second largest marijuana operation in Georgia history, a staggering 26,212 plants with a conservative

street value of more than \$52 million in an operation called, “Forest Surge.”

The Georgia National Guard Counterdrug Task Force is an integral part of the Governor’s Task Force of Drug Suppression and provides sophisticated equipment and aviation support to local law enforcement in waging war against illicit drugs in Georgia.

The dense, uninhabited and rarely visited National Forest area sitting just miles away from Helen, Georgia’s winter tourist destination, was the site of this huge pot-growing enterprise. Eight to ten separated plots had been cultivated with plants reaching the optimum height of 3-4 feet, all in neat, revealing rows. Authorities who later combed the mountaintop for additional pot fields and evidence, found the makeshift camp of the growers, complete with running water source, tents, propane tanks with fuel for cooking, and primitive marijuana packaging equipment.

“I’d say these guys were pretty experienced,” said 1st Lt. Scott Carden, Counterdrug executive officer. “We discovered an intricate irrigation system leading from a water source (stream) high in the mountains through irrigation pipes extending to each of the growing areas below.”

The fertile mountain soil and the ready water source made this the ideal location for growing, except for one critical fault: pine beetles had caused some trees to fall, opening the fields up to just enough sunlight to catch the watchful eyes of drug investigators. The once concealed planting fields were now bathed with



Georgia Army National Guard Counterdrug commander; Lt. Col. Ben Sartain, displays the contraband his pilots found amidst the tangled undergrowth and fallen trees in north Georgia. The find of more than 26,000 mature plants represents the second largest drug bust in Georgia history.

sunlight, revealing the contraband below.

Lieutenant Col. Ben Sartain, Counter Drug Coordinator, said that intelligence shared amongst various law enforcement agencies prior to July indicated a frequency of large marijuana areas being found on National Forestry property and wildlife sanctuaries. With three large National Forest areas in north Georgia, and with tightly restricted access to the property, Sartain and his counterdrug agents instinctively knew the Georgia Mountains were remote enough to sustain such marijuana growing operations in complete secrecy.

Reports of the huge drug find travelled quickly and, within hours, units of the U.S. Forestry Service, DEA, Georgia State Patrol and other state and federal agencies set up a Command post to coordinate operations. An intricate plan emerged and unfolded over the course of the next month, consisting of constant ground surveillance. Eight members of Georgia’s Counterdrug Task Force rotated surveillance responsibilities, with other agencies only yards away from the planted cannabis fields. Uses of helicopters were restricted in order not to arouse attention.

The state’s second largest bust took place in early August, more than a month after the fields were first located. Dozens of agents and 10 helicopters were

involved in the operation. Four growers were immediately apprehended, and weapons and ammunition were taken from the campsite as evidence.

In order to prosecute the growers for possession with intent to distribute, the law requires plants to be harvested with the rootball intact. Within hours, Sartain and 4-5 members of the counterdrug team along with other agencies labored up the mountain to harvest the more than 26,000 plants. A landing zone was prepared for helicopters of Georgia’s 1-171st Aviation to sling load the thousands of marijuana plants off the mountain.

Officials say that if the grow had gone undetected, the product would have been cut, packaged at the site, hauled by strong backs to hidden transportation in the National Forest, then taken to repackaging and redistribution sites.

Many factors contributed to this multi-million dollar drug bust. Sartain sites good intelligence, excellent cooperation among various units of the Governor’s Drug Task Force, involvement by federal agencies of Forestry and DEA, and access to sophisticated intelligence resources and surveillance equipment. However, this historic drug operation may not have occurred without the experienced eyes of a pilot who took careful notice of the “neat, revealing rows” stretching across the side of a mountain.

# GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

## MARCHES TOWARD ENERGY EFFICIENCY



Under the leadership of Col. Scott Carter, the Construction Facilities Management Officer, and David Holland, Director of Facility Management, the Georgia Army National Guard has embarked on Governor Sony Perdue's Energy Challenge initiative. The Governor's initiative has committed all state agencies to reduce energy consumption 15% by 2020.

The Georgia Army National Guard is moving toward participation in energy efficient rebate programs and implementation of water/energy conservation policies. Energy conservation strategies proposed for Georgia include installation of smart meters/monitors, photovoltaic systems, solar water heaters and lighting retrofits. Georgia facilities range from multi-story and single-story administration buildings, to maintenance shops, hangars and readiness centers.

Major Hunter, Director of Design and Project Management, in collaboration with the new energy staff at CFMO, continues development of energy efficient and renewable energy projects. Currently, several building renovations are in the design phase with Hunter's engineering team.

Audits were conducted on several state DoD facilities whereby inefficiencies were identified. Dobbins Air Reserve Base and Clay National Guard Center in metro Atlanta held prime opportunities to implement energy conservation measures.

Immediate initiatives were quickly identified recognizing the old, inefficient luminaires. Recent projects were completed at Building 555 Hangar and Building 831 at Dobbins, and Hangar 1 at Clay.

In Building 555 Hangar, there were a total of 30 existing 1000-watt high pressure sodium (HPS) lamps and old magnetic coil core ballasts. Retrofitting the old luminaires and using the same quantities with T5 high output (T5HO) luminaires, contributes approximately \$10,900.00 to annual cost savings.

Building 831 administrative office luminaires were older, T-12 troffers. These were replaced on a one-for-one basis, with more efficient T-8 luminaires and electronic ballasts. The warehouse portion of this facility was equipped with a total of 18 HID metal halide luminaires. The luminaires

were replaced through a one-for-one swap using T5HO.

This retrofit project reduces energy costs by approximately \$7,750.00 per year. Maintenance costs are reduced by roughly 20% due to the extended life of newer technology ballasts and bulbs.

Hangar 1 at Clay National Guard Center was also a prime candidate for retrofit as the older, metal halide 1000 watt lamps and magnetic coil core ballast offered an opportunity to reduce energy costs by approximately \$12,340 per year. The old luminaires were replaced on a one-for-one basis, with electronic ballasts, reduced wattage, using T5HO's lamps which maintain recommended light levels.

Aside from energy conservation and savings from maintenance on extended lamp life, added benefits of retrofitting allows for replacements to be scheduled as useful life is reached. Replacements can be budgeted to contribute to cost management.

Jon Fetta, maintenance engineer with Georgia's Clay National Guard Center, has worked diligently with local AE firms and contractors to bring these projects to a close.

"We are satisfied with the overall lighting performance for several reasons. First, the increased output and visibility in the Hangars is a much needed improvement. Secondly, service staff can devote more time to preventative maintenance and routine services rather than spending time replacing lights and ballasts."

As with any team, success is paramount. That is why the leadership in the Georgia Army National Guard continues to take a proactive approach to energy conservation and reductions to overall environmental impact. It is a small effort compared to the total impact of the goals and objectives.

Georgia's Army National Guard is marching forward, anticipating the approval of SB194 which allows state agencies to enter into energy performance contracting agreements. EPCA's are typically between a customer and an energy service company. Costs saved by implementing energy projects are the medium by which projects become viable, based on capital investment costs and returns on investments.

Pending approval of SB194, the Georgia Army Guard looks to surpass Governor Purdue's Energy Challenge.

# DENA JESTER

## LEAN SIX SIGMA GREEN BELT



The Commander of the Georgia Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Maria Britt recently announced the designation of Mrs. Dena Jester as an Army certified Lean Six Sigma (LSS) Green Belt practitioner. Jester is just the second member of the Georgia Army Guard, following Maj. Tiffany Sneed, to complete the intense training program cumulating in the completion of a Process Improvement Project.

This training and process improvement resulted in her earning the recognition by the United States Army Enterprise Transformation Task Force. She joins an elite team of less than 50 peers within the National Guard.

Continuous Process Improvement (CPI) is a strategic approach for developing a culture of continuous improvement in the areas of reliability, process cycle times, costs in terms of less total resource consumption, quality, and productivity. Deployed effectively, it increases quality and productivity, while reducing waste and cycle time.

In late FY2007, The Georgia Department of Defense embarked upon one of the largest enterprise-wide deployments of Lean Six Sigma within the state of Georgia in an effort to institutionalize the tenets of CPI, a component of Business Transformation. LSS combines the principles of *Lean* (reducing and eliminating non-value activities) with *Six Sigma* (reducing variation, increasing quality) to improve process effectiveness and alignment with the Voice of the Customer.

This approach can be applied to any process, whether it is manufacturing, acquisition, logistics, administration, or service. The objective of using LSS methodologies is to deliver high quality products and services more efficiently (e.g., faster) and effectively (e.g., increased ready units.)

"To sustain the force and transform the Georgia Department of Defense, we have to find efficiencies wherever we can and then take those savings and reapply them to other areas in the organization," said Mr. Larry Deaton, Georgia Strategic Management Director and Lean Six Sigma Deployment Director.

"The resources that we save through (Lean Six Sigma) projects – whether it's optimizing training and operations or streamlining staff or office service operations – will stay within the Georgia DoD and can be redirected to other

military requirements here," said Deaton.

Lean Six Sigma was launched in the Ga. DoD with executive-level awareness training and a projects sponsor workshop. The participants gained an understanding of Lean Six Sigma methodology and identified underperforming processes. A list of those processes was formed, and initial projects were selected from the list and led by personnel attending either a Green Belt or Black Belt course.

The LSS students attend two and four-week courses, respectively, of classroom time learning advanced problem-solving tools and techniques while simultaneously completing a project. A Green Belt project is smaller in scale and can take up to three months to complete, Deaton said, while a Black Belt project is a larger-scale, more complex project that can take up to six months to complete. Dena attended the Green Belt Course.

"LSS is not an easy process and it takes command involvement. The only way it will be successful is if you have commanders who support the approach and intent behind the project, and the commitment to see it through," Deaton said.

Dena's project involved the reduction of unliquidated funds (growback) by Management Interagency Purchase Request (MIPR). The goal of her project was to decrease the amount of growback caused by MIPRSs. Growback happens when prior year funds de-obligate after the year of execution.

When funds are not properly managed during the year of execution, it creates an availability of funds only after those funds are no longer accessible for use. This problem has been ongoing for over 20 years and occurs across all federally funded programs in the Georgia National Guard. Historically, more than \$500,000 per year is lost to growback, negatively impacting the ability to execute efficiently within the current year.

Data and process analysis revealed that not all growback originates – or can be managed – in the same ways. Therefore, Dena and her team categorized different types of growback as either preventable or non-preventable relative to the capacity to manage, report and take action within the same fiscal year.

The completion of Dena's project garnered more than \$500,000 in additional funds available during the year of execution and eliminated the penalty against current-year funds.

# THE SUPPLY ROOM

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

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Sept. 21, 2010** – The song “Say Goodbye to Hollywood” helped launch Billy Joel’s career. However, here at the Clothing Issue Facility, we have changed the song title to “Say Goodbye to Woodland.” Hum along as you begin the process of collecting your woodland gear and making preparations to turn it in.

Items like ponchos, green ammo pouches and trousers need to be returned. To keep it simple, if it has a “woodland camouflage” pattern, turn it in.

Unit supply sergeants need to begin their work by going to the Installation Support Module (ISM) to identify all woodland items on each Soldier’s clothing record. Once you have completed this list, notify the Soldiers of the items they need to return and arrange a time, preferably during a drill weekend, to turn in and sign off the gear.

Once the unit supply sergeant has acquired all items, contact us at CIF and make an appointment to return the woodland gear.

Our goal is to have all woodland items to us by December 25, 2010. All units which have deployed since February of 2009 should already have this done. If you have any issues, give us a call.

In addition to humming “Say Goodbye to Woodland” while working this issue, we want all unit supply sergeants to make arrangements to come get the ACU field jackets. If you have not done this, you need to. Cold weather is around the corner and we need the space in the warehouse.

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



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOOKSHELF:

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

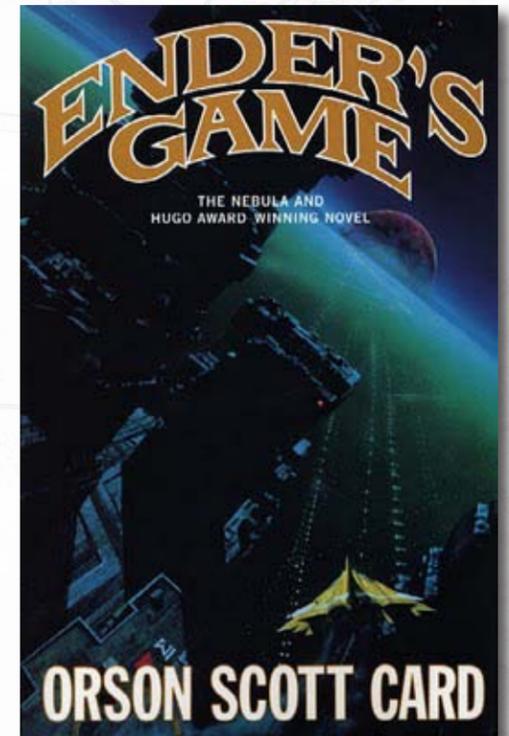
Column by Maj. John H. Alderman IV  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense

A science fiction book? On the Professional Development Bookshelf? You better believe it! Right up there on the shelf next to *Starship Troopers*.

*Ender’s Game* is the story of a young boy becoming a leader under unique and trying circumstances. Set in the relatively near future, the novel spins a fairly straightforward tale. Earth has been attacked by aliens twice, and now the planet is desperately trying to prepare for the rematch they know is coming. So, they are selecting and developing leaders at very early ages and pouring everything into the hope that one of them will be, essentially, perfect.

Like all good fiction, this storyline is about developing character and solving problems. In this case, how does a society select and develop leaders? What makes a good combat leader, and how does a trainer pull that out of a candidate for leadership? What does that candidate go through as the transformation takes place?

That selection and development process forms the core of the novel. Card takes us inside two minds: one shaping a leader through direct counseling and by indirect situational challenges; the other, Ender, growing into that leader as he is poked and prodded along. Then,



as he becomes a leader and starts shaping teams, we see it all over again from a different angle.

Ender’s Game really becomes an exploration of the methods – a philosophy, really – of training junior leaders. Ender is thrown into a real maelstrom of experiences and people, and he encounters different attitudes toward command, leadership, followership, and decision making. He has to handle superiors less talented, and subordinates more talented, than he is.

Most useful to us as readers are the lessons Ender learns about how those without power can influence those in power through example, or counsel, or even direct challenge. The parallels to be drawn by a new lieutenant – in charge but inexperienced – are clear. The same could be said for junior NCOs.

A minor theme explores the power of rhetoric: Methods to shape thoughts and action with words and ideas. In fact, we come to see the ability to communicate effectively as the leader’s best tool.

Card is a fantastic storyteller. His characters have an edge to them, and project a peculiar kind of reality. So, although the book is practically a manual on leadership, it never feels like one. In fact, it is plenty enjoyable just to read as a space yarn. But that would be to miss the point.

So, if you need a change of pace, or prefer to learn by example and consideration, give this novel a shot. You will probably immediately see why it has been on the Marine Corps Reading List since its inception.

# AROUND THE GEORGIA GUARD



## 810 ENGINEERS RETURN HOME

FORT STEWART, Hinesville, Ga., Sept. 16, 2010 – Citizen-Soldiers of the 810th Engineer Company, 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade return home after a yearlong deployment at Hunter Army Air Field, in Savannah, Ga. The Swainsboro-based engineers spent the past year clearing routes for coalition forces in Afghanistan. During the deployment, two Soldiers from the 810th were killed in action: Sgt. David Holmes and Sgt. 1st Class Edgar N. Roberts.

## WOUNDED GUARDSMAN KEEPS HIS SPIRITS HIGH WITH LAUGHTER

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Sept. 14, 2010 – Specialist Danny McGowan of the Georgia Army National Guard receives a visit from Brig. Gen. Maria Britt, commander of the Georgia Army National Guard. McGowan is in the Augusta Veterans Affairs Medical Center as a result of injuries sustained in a combat related incident on June 26, 2010 in Afghanistan. Specialist Danny “Buckshot” McGowan says he keeps his spirits high through laughter with his family and visitors.



## FLAG DEDICATION CEREMONY

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Sept. 13, 2010 – Cadets Britney Thomas and Justin Long from Spalding High School Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps raise the American flag over the Chick-fil-a Dwarf House in Griffin during a ceremony honoring Georgia Guardsmen who died in Iraq and Afghanistan as local bystanders watch on and pay their respects.

## LOCAL COUPLE HONORED FOR THEIR SERVICE TO MILITARY FAMILIES

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Sept. 14, 2010 – William and Lana Lockhart receive the Georgia Meritorious Service Medal for their superior service and support of Georgia National Guard Soldiers and families. Brigadier Gen. Maria Britt, the Commanding General of the Georgia Army National Guard, said she was proud to recognize their dedicated service to the Georgia National Guard’s Family Support Programs as a Family Readiness Assistant and Family Assistance Center Specialist, respectively.



## JOINT SENIOR ENLISTED CONFERENCE

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Aug. 30, 2010 – Command Sgt. Maj. John Gipe, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, speaks to Georgia’s senior enlisted leaders during the three-day joint conference at St. Simons Island, Ga. These enlisted leaders from Georgia’s Army Guard, Air Guard and State Defense Force attended briefings that focused on new policies, readiness and taking care of Soldiers.





# GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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