

# GEORGIA GUARDSMAN



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

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Officers and Representatives

## ALWAYS REMEMBERED



MAJ KEVIN M. JENRETTE



ISG JOHN D. BLAIR



SSG JOHN BEALE



SPC JEFFERY JORDAN



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Vol. 1, No. 5

## The Georgia Guardsman

Send comments, suggestions, articles, photos or other contributions to:  
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The Georgia Guardsman is published monthly under the provisions of AR 360-81 and AF 6-1 by the Directorate of Communications, Georgia Department of Defense. The views and opinions expressed in the Georgia Guardsman are not necessarily those of the Departments of the Army and Air Force or the Adjutant General of Georgia. The Georgia Guardsman is distributed free to members of the Georgia Army and Air National Guard, State Defense Force and other interested persons at their request.

### Want to submit a story for your unit?

All submissions for the Georgia Guardsman can be sent to Amanda Kenny at gaguardpao@gmail.com. Please submit your stories in a Word document. All photos should be in a JPEG format and NOT embedded in the document. Online at [www.dod.state.ga.us](http://www.dod.state.ga.us)

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## A different look

Readers of the Georgia Guardsman will notice a change in the way we denote military ranks beginning with this issue. After much discussion, articles now appearing in internal publications – with an audience largely comprised of Guardsmen -- will feature ranks written in the appropriate military style. For example, LTC for Army (active, Guard and Reserve) or Lt Col for Air (active, Guard and Reserve). Rank style for other services such as the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard will be used when the branches are mentioned. For news releases or publications aimed primarily at our external non-military audience, the Associated Press style for all military services is still the preference. For further information contact the *Guardsman* at gaguardpao@gmail.com.

# A 4th of July Message ...



To All Georgia National Guardsmen, and Civilian Employees of the Georgia Department of Defense:

As we celebrate the birth of our country this Fourth of July, let us recognize the brave militiamen who fought skirmishes and full battles at Lexington and Concord well before July 4, 1776, in support of America's will to escape tyranny and form a nation.

On July 3, 1776, as the Declaration of Independence had just been approved, our one-day second President John Adams, wrote in a letter to his wife Abigail, "It ought to be commemorated...solemnized with pomp and parade, with shews, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward forever more...I am well aware of the toil and blood and treasure, that it will cost us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States. Yet through all the gloom I can see the rays of ravishing light and glory. I can see that the end is more than worth all the means. And that prosperity will triumph in that day's transaction..."

In undertaking to uphold the basic principles on which our nation was founded, that all men are created equal and endowed with unalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, John Adams and our founding fathers solemnly recognized that freedom would not be free.

Paying the price of freedom, the National Guard's evolved and seasoned minutemen are a crucial part of today's total force. Your Georgia National Guard is standing firm in freedom's defense. Today, Georgia's Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen carry on the tradition of protecting our homeland, fighting for freedom and serving our fellow citizens.

Words cannot adequately express my gratitude to you and your families for your contributions to the freedom we share. I wish you all a safe and enjoyable Independence Day.

William T. Nesbitt  
Major General  
The Adjutant General

# Videos and Announcements

*To see videos, click on the name of the story.*

205th INF BDE Col speaks to Georgia Families  
Gayle Wells Interview (speaks about her husband becoming the first Georgia Guard African American General)  
Georgia Guard Generals Send Message About Suicide Prevention  
Georgia Senators Deployment Preparation at Camp Shelby  
1-108th CAV REGT Media Day  
General Campbell Speaks at Georgia Governor's Memorial Day Ceremony  
An Interview with Brigadier General Thomas McCullough  
48th IBC T trains at Camp Atterbury  
Georgia Governor Speaks at Memorial Day Ceremony  
Georgia Army Guard, Air Guard Basketball Game  
Coalition Joint Task Force Phoenix Press Conference, Part 2  
Coalition Joint Task Force Phoenix Press Conference, Part 1  
Brigadier General Wells Post Promotion Interview  
Colonel Steven Merkels Georgia Family Message

## July Events

### July 3, 2009

Villa Rica Independence Day Celebration at the Villa Rica Civic Center, Villa Rica.

The 116th Army Band's "Funk Band," will provide a free concert at the Georgia Music Hall of Fame, Macon.

### July 4, 2009

BG Maria Britt is the keynote speaker for the Fabulous Fourth Festival at the Georgia International Horse Park, Conyers, Ga., at 5 p.m.

The 116th Army Band will be marching in the parade and 78th Aviation Troop Command will provide a helicopter fly-over of the parade route during the Dunwoody Independence Day Parade, Dunwoody.

For more events visit: [http://gadod.net/index.php?option=com\\_eventlist&view=eventlist&Itemid=105](http://gadod.net/index.php?option=com_eventlist&view=eventlist&Itemid=105)

## Social Networking

The Georgia Guardsman is now on:

 Twitter

 Facebook

# Air MEDEVAC unit participates in annual training exercise

Story by SPC Adam Dean  
Photos by SGT Jerry DeAvila

**AUGUSTA** – Members of Marietta’s Detachment 1, 832nd Medical Evacuation Company, participated in joint operations exercise Global Medic 2009 at Bush Field here, June 8 to 27, 2009.

The annual joint-force training exercise took place at multiple installations across the country, and incorporated assets from the Georgia Army Guard, Army Reserve, Air Force Reserve and the Navy Reserve, said 1SG Steven K. Hebblethwaite, the 832nd’s acting first sergeant.

Hebblethwaite participated in the exercise for the fifth time. “In addition to MEDEVAC operations we did here, there were elements participating simultaneously at Camp Parks, Calif., Fort McCoy, Wis., and at Fort Gordon,” he said.

The exercise prepares medics and pilots for the real world missions they’ll encounter in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, said SGT David Palmer, a Black Hawk helicopter crew chief with the 832nd and a four-year veteran of Global Medic.

“What we do is simulate battle-field injuries by taking ‘patients’ and moving them through the system from the point of injury, through the forward support base (FSB) and emergency surgical stabilization, and on to the combat support hospital (CSH). From there, we fly them out to a mobile aeromedical staging facility (MASF) where they receive more surgical stabilization while awaiting evacuation,” Palmer explained.

He said the experienced trainers overseeing the event are subject matter experts, most of whom have been to Iraq or Afghanistan several times. Palmer added that their experience is essential since it helps them to create a realistic operating environment for the medics being

trained.

“These guys [the medics] go into the box for the duration of the exercise. Morning, noon and night they’re there 24 hours a day doing their jobs,” he said. “They don’t know when they’re getting missions, they don’t know when they’re getting patients, they don’t know what they have or when it’s coming. They’re sitting there and suddenly they’re alerted that three patients are coming in from an IED blast.

“It’s literally real world training for these people,” said Palmer.

CW4 Peter J. Demkow, a pilot with the 832nd and a four-year Global Medic veteran, agreed with Palmer about the realism of the training.

“Other than the distances we have to travel in theatre, it mirrors reality very closely,” he said.

Demkow said that one of most important elements of the exercise was the joint forces nature of the training. This helps make it more realistic, since cooperation between the services is crucial in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“There are several important things at play here. One would be the interaction with the



*SGT David Palmer (left) administers a bag of intravenous fluid to a “patient” while Army Reservists stand ready to move the role-player to a nearby Black Hawk helicopter.*

different branches of service, not only the Air Force, but the Army Reserve, where most of the medical personnel here are from,” said Demkow. “It helps us learn about their skills and their assets, and they get to learn about our ca-

pabilities and our assets. That intermingling of the forces and the joint operations are the biggest benefit that we get from Global Medic.”

## Singing Georgia Soldier knows about second chances

Filed by **Armed Forces Press Service**

**OPERATING BASE BASRA, Iraq, June 5, 2009** – Georgia Army National Guard SPC Cleon Shack of Monroe’s 178th Military Police Company stood in the shadows near the stage, waiting on his second chance.

A week before, Shack and eight others had entered “Basra Idol,” a music competition for service members here. Shack had sung “Midnight Lover,” a song he and his brother wrote, a song that featured such lyrics as “I want to do freaky things to you – freaky, freaky things.”

He didn’t make the cut, that time.

But now that one of the contestants was going on leave, there was a chance – a good chance – he could sneak into this round as a replacement.

“Practice,” the judges had told him.

“You may be able to sing, you might not. Just come. If they let you sing, if they let you perform, be ready. Just come prepared.” And so he waited, ready to perform. He just wanted a second chance.

Then again, Shack knows a thing or two about second chances.

“I had a full scholarship to Albany State University,” the Columbus native said. He was a linebacker with the school’s football team. But when his brothers ran into trouble and got into an altercation, he said, “I made the decision to

go home to back them up.”

The situation escalated, and guns then came into play. “I ended up getting caught with a firearm,” Shack said. His scholarship was long gone, but the courts decided to give him a choice. As a result, two of his charges were reduced to misdemeanors on the condition that he joined the military.



*SPC Cleon Shack performs in Round 2 of “Basra Idol,” a music contest at Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq. Shack was one of three finalists to make it to the final round. (U.S. Army photo by PFC .P. Lawrence)*

The Army became his second chance. “Without the Georgia Army National Guard,” the all-wheel mechanic said, “I probably would have had time in jail, and I would have had a felony on my record.”

The show was about to begin when the master of ceremonies, SFC James Cookman, approached Shack. “Are you comfortable with perform-

ing tonight?” he asked. Shack was very comfortable performing that night. The last time he was on stage, he said, he was “in a rush, trying to get it over with.” The second performance saw a calmer, cooler Soldier.

“I kinda’ calmed down,” he said, “because I knew the song. I knew R. Kelly.”

As he ran through R. Kelly’s “I Believe I Can Fly,” the crowd, which seemed to know all the words, began singing along with him. The judges took notice of the crowd’s reaction, and when the final scores were tallied, Shack had a

*PFC J.P. Lawrence, serving with Multinational Division South, contributed this story.*

ticket to the finals.

“I was kind of shocked,” said Shack, who had enrolled in Basra Idol to join his friend, SPC Russell Dudley, in the competition. “I thought for sure Dudley would have made it.”

The judges invited Dudley and all the other eliminated contestants to sing at the final round the next week, where one of them will get a second chance to win it all.

Shack knows that if not for a fellow contestant going on leave, he would not be in the finals. He also knows that if he hadn’t received a second chance back home, he would be in jail.

“I can’t honestly say everyone deserves a second chance,” he said, “but in certain situations, they are given. If you’re ever given a second chance, just take advantage of it.”

## Army offers 10-day leave for new fathers

**Story by Rob McIlvaine**  
**FMWRC Public Affairs**

The Army’s new paternity leave policy gives fathers additional time to be with their Families when a child is born.

The policy, signed into law under President George W. Bush on Oct. 14, 2008 grants married Soldiers up to 10 consecutive days of non-chargeable administrative leave after the birth of a child.

MAJ Rodney Price, with the Army Inspector General Agency, has spent 23 years in the Army – three as a paratrooper, followed by a tour as infantry drill sergeant before being commissioned as an adjutant general officer. He remembers what having a baby was like before this new law.

“When our now 9-year-old daughter, Fiona was born, I was a battalion operations officer. I was only able to take a day-and-a-half off work to be with my wife, who experienced a horrible delivery and was in pain for nearly a year following the birth. I can’t tell you how many times since then that I’ve wished I could have been there for her in a more meaningful way. I’m not sure a 10-day paternity leave would have provided everything we needed, but it would have been better than what we got,”

Price remembered.

Recognizing the importance of families being together during significant events such as the birth of a child, the Army has developed a flexible paternity leave policy that allows male Soldiers to support their spouses during the joyous, but possibly stressful, time of adjustment following the arrival of a new family member.

This new policy also provides Soldiers returning from deployments uninterrupted time with their child to begin building bonds that will last a lifetime.

The policy allows Soldiers who have taken annual leave in connection with the birth of a child since October 2008 to request up to 10 days of leave be restored and re-credited to their leave account. Soldiers must provide documen-



With the birth of his third child, Maj. Rodney Price was finally able to spend quality time with his wife and their baby, Valerie, during her first weeks of life. (Photo by Price Family)

tation to support their claim (e.g., DA Form 31 or LES) and submit it through the unit personnel officer or Personnel Administrative Center.

Paternity leave must be taken within 45 days of the child's birth; deployed Soldiers must take the leave within 60 days after returning from deployment. Leave not taken within the established timeframe will be lost.

Single Soldiers who father a child out-of-wedlock are not eligible for paternity leave. For those who adopt, the Army Adoption Program that has its own non-chargeable leave policy of three weeks.

"The first opportunity I had to really bond with Fiona came 18 months later when we transferred from South Carolina to California, and she and I drove across the country together," Price said.

The story was the same with their second child.

"Our son Shane was born while I was a student at the Defense Language Institute. Again, there was not much opportunity to take time away from the classroom without getting too far behind to recover. Although difficult, this delivery was not as difficult as the first. With support from our Family, we made it through. Again, a 10-day absence to be with my wife and two children would have eased a lot of the stresses in the Family."

Soldiers and officers are encouraged to take advantage of this valuable family bonding op-

portunity, and supervisors and commanders at all levels should approve paternity leave whenever it is feasible.

Paternity leave provides greater stability and predictability to Soldiers and their families. By providing a benefit that is increasingly more common in the civilian sector, the Army is building on its reputation as an organization that takes care of its families.

The opportunity finally came about for Price to enjoy the birth of his third child.

"Actually, I had just finished up as aide-de-camp and was on regular leave seven days after baby Valerie was born, the Army policy for paternity leave was released so I was able to get the paperwork adjusted."

The parental leave provision was put in the 2009 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) authorization bill at the urging of the U.S. Navy and with the backing of Sens. James Inhofe - Okla., and Claire McCaskill - Mo. Until then, none of the services had the authority to grant non-chargeable paternity leave.

"There's no feeling quite like holding your new baby girl. I am really glad that the services are doing more than just talking about supporting our families. Army families do a lot for the service, and it's appropriate for the Army to do something to support the family. Kudos to the folks who helped make this a reality," Price said.

## MP commander back from Israel

Story by SFC Roy Henry  
Georgia National Guard Public Affairs Office

ATLANTA – The commander of Decatur's 170th Military Police Battalion was part of an 18-member delegation that returned June 17, 2009, from Israel where they spent two weeks studying counterterrorism tactics and other policing strategies with the Israeli National Police.

LTC Lutalo Olutosin, a Fulton County resident, is also the full-time executive officer to BG Maria Britt, Georgia Army Guard commander. It's the first time he's participated in the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) program and his first visit to the Jewish State.

His trip also marks the 17th time a GILEE delegation has made the trip.

"It was for me – as a military policeman and as a Soldier – a life-changing experience," Olutosin said from his office at Joint Forces Headquarters in Ellenwood. "I strongly encourage any senior law enforcement leader, military or civilian, who has the opportunity to be part of this program to take full advantage of it."

That's just what Olutosin did, when he found out earlier in the year that COL Joe Hoffman, then 78th Troop Command's deputy commander, wouldn't be able to go. Hoffman had to drop out because of his deployment to Afghanistan as part of Joint Task Force Phoenix.

“I’m always looking for opportunities to learn more, and when the adjutant general [MG Terry Nesbitt] told me Hoffman wouldn’t be going, I didn’t hesitate about applying,” Olutosin said. “It’s like the general said, ‘who better to learn counterterrorism from than the Israelis.’”

The GILEE exchange program, founded in 1992 by Dr. Robert Friedmann of Georgia State University’s Criminal Justice Department, provides senior law enforcement leaders like Olutosin the opportunity to train with their overseas peers. It also allows their Israeli counterparts to come here and see how U.S. agencies battle terrorism.

“Law enforcement and public safety agencies know that serious threats [to local and national security] are still out there – despite the relative lull [in terrorist activity] after Sept. 11, 2009,” Friedmann said. “Those same agencies are eager to benefit from the experience and expertise of their Israeli counterparts.”

And benefit they did, said Olutosin. Not a day went by that he and his fellow delegates didn’t learn something from their hosts.

The importance of cooperation between agencies, for example, is something the Israelis really work at he said. Doesn’t matter who has what information – civilian, governmental or military – they share everything. There’s never an issue of what agency may be in charge... even the military will step back and give a civilian partner the lead.

“They’ve really ‘cracked the nut’ on what we call joint operations,” Olutosin said.

At one point in the trip, he and his fellow delegates traveled to Jerusalem and visited the Israeli National Police Command Center. Inside, the delegation was briefed on what takes place inside the center, and watched the Israelis in action.

Because of the surveillance technology the Israelis employ, Olutosin and the delegation

saw a man their counterparts identified as a terrorist stab three Jewish citizens, and then run away.

“They [the police] made it clear that what we saw was no random act of violence,” he said. “By replaying what had happened and looking at it from several angles, police were able to catch the suspect within a short time of the incident.”

Olutosin said that, with the world situation



*LTC Lutalo Olutosin (center) poses with two Israeli Defense Force paratroop commanders during a break in training with Israeli National Police. (Contributed photo)*

what it is today, any opportunity to see how others deal with terrorism and apply those lessons to their own procedures is something no law enforcement official should pass up. Olutosin said that any chance he gets, he’s on the next plane to wherever that opportunity may be.

## Institute of Excellence award goes to GMI



Attached is a picture of SFC Melody Springs (course manager) and MAJ Bill Bailey (company commander) of the Officer Candidate Training Company (Georgia Military Institute), 122nd Regional Training Institute (RTI) holding the Institute of Excellence certificate for 2009. (Contributed photo)

The Army School System awarded Georgia's 122nd Regional Training Institute's (RTI) Officer Candidate School (OCS) the ranking of "Learning Institution of Excellence" this week. This is the second time in a row that the Georgia Military Institute and OCS has achieved the prestigious ranking that sets it among the top 10 percent of all training programs across the nation. Institution of Excellence is the highest academic accreditation ranking available through The Army School System (TASS), and requires a score of 95 percent or higher in 30 standard training criteria. "Everyone in the program worked really hard to get it [the ranking] again," said MAJ Bill Bailey, the OCS commander. Many of the OCS cadre are at Eastover, S.C. This month providing instruction to OCS candidates from across the South East for Phase 1 of the OCS program. COL Randal "Scott" Carter, commander of the 122nd RTI said, "We're extremely proud of the entire OCS team. They set the bar

for the other courses here at the RTI."

## Saudi Nights: 165th SF in the desert

**Filed by the 165th AW Security Squadron**  
28 May, 2008, 2 a.m., 91 degrees.

Ninety-one degrees does not refer to units of latitude or longitude. No, 91 degrees refers to temperature, at two in the morning.

Twenty-six members of Savannah's 165th Security Forces Squadron stepped off an aircraft in the Saudi Desert, May 28, to a balmy 91 degrees. This marked the beginning of a seven-month deployment to Saudi Arabia, or more accurately Eskan Village, what could best be considered as a military suburb of Riyadh.

Joining the 64th Air Expeditionary Group in a forward deployed location, the Airman faced several challenges, including heat stressed working conditions. Led by MSgt Casey Shelby, the Airmen soon learned the next 2,520 hours, or 151,200 minutes of duty would be at

night. These Airmen joined Air Guard units from Guam, Minnesota, Iowa and Utah to make up the security package for the 360-acre village. For the most part, Eskan provides the living quarters for the Army and Air Force personnel assigned to Riyadh Air Base, home of the Saudi Arabian air force.

The duty day required the Airmen to "arm up" about one hour before the beginning of their shift, which began at 6 p.m. The duty day itself was 12 hours, but by the time the Airmen reported for duty and repeated the maneuver in reverse, 12 hours later, the duty day had grown to 14-plus hours.

The Airmen were not given to complain of their duty despite the heated conditions, especially considering their counterparts were standing their posts and providing security in

temperatures ranging from 120 to 135 degrees. Still, the Saudi desert has a disturbing quality all its own without the benefit of sunlight.

Threat conditions remained elevated throughout the seven-month deployment. “FPCON Charlie,” or Force Protection Condition Charlie, was the constant level of security. According to the Joint Chief’s of Staff, “FPCON Charlie” is defined as, “when an incident occurs or intelligence is received indicating some form of terrorist action against personnel or facilities is imminent. Implementation of measures in this FPCON for more than a short period probably creates hardship and affects the peacetime activities of the unit and its personnel.” Seven months was probably not included in the timeframe alluded to by the Joint Chiefs. The constant heightened threat level is easily understood given the sensitive location. Recognizing its proximity to Riyadh, the political climate of the region, the location of strategic national oil refineries, and the memory of the 1996 Khobar

Towers bombing that resulted in the deaths of 19 U.S. service members, Eskan Village must be secured with a delicate threat assessment.

The Airmen, who stood their posts near the village gates, reported several incidents in which their uniforms were illuminated by lasers from weapons off-base and probing of the gates by “individuals”. These “people” would simply walk up and ask permission to enter the base for no apparent reason other than to test base security, or in the words of one Airman, “to see what we would do.”

The airmen remained in near constant “real

world” training while deployed, sharpening their skills while participating in “escort duty” and QRFs, or quick response forces. The role of the QRF is to be the first eyes, and weapons, trained on any actual or perceived act of aggression toward U.S. assets.

As one might imagine, the security forces detachment was confined to base throughout the seven-month deployment, except for one very brief morale visit to Riyadh, that visit lasted only a few hours. One area of particular interest in the city, Chop-Chop Square, was not on the tour itinerary, so the Airmen were prohibited



*Members of the 165th Security Forces Squadron proudly display the Georgia Flag as they pose for a group photo. (Contributed photo).*

from visiting. Chop-Chop Square is the central city location of public punishment for crimes, including the chopping off of hands of a thief or burglar, or the beheading of someone found guilty of more serious offenses.

After seven months of three days on and one day off, the detachment returned to south Georgia; quite a satisfying adjustment from the confines of Eskan Village and the constant threat those who do not appreciate the U.S. presence. The newly refurbished gates of the 165th Airlift Wing never looked so good.

## *History: 'Battle of the Boat' (part 3)*

*Part 3 of 3, continued from No.4*

The Illinois troops began firing into the men fighting on the ship. CPL John Whalen of the Greens, "aye, a fine lad he was, too," died instantly, a ball and two buckshots evidently discharged from the lower deck passing through his heart. When some days later the Greens were moving to the south the corporal's body was at rest beside the Rio Grande in a grave long since lost and forgotten.

"Boys, they are killing our captain!" yelled one of the Greens, and they all seized muskets and cleared the deck. On shore the tumult gradually subsided. Greens and Rangers and Illinois volunteers retired to nurse their bruises and wounds. In the 12 following months in which they served together there appears no evidence of further enmity or outbreaks of violence between the Greens and Rangers.

Wild reports of the encounter of August 31 were circulated and found their way back to Georgia. One was that COL Jackson had shot two men and wounded others with his sword, whereas Jackson was many miles away. Another report was that several bodies were seen floating in the river. Still other reports announced COL Baker as dying from a bullet wound in the neck and gave the deaths as several among the Illinois men and the wounded as quite numerous.

Actually, only one Illinois volunteer was killed. He received a fatal wound while standing by COL Baker. The several wounded of that regiment all recovered. CPT McMahan received a bayonet wound in the mouth. COL Baker was reported hit in the neck by a bullet from one of his own men.

Reports as to his injuries were very conflicting. Some months later, he was leading his men in battle. The 4th Illinois Volunteers took a prominent part in the battle of Cerro Gordo, where Baker led a full brigade. Taylor denied the 1st Georgia the honor of playing a part in the victories anywhere in Mexico.<sup>29</sup>

The reports shocked the country, intimating that the Georgia troops were a rabble. Impossible to secure correct details for some weeks, the Georgians were in somewhat of a frenzy as to what had occurred to their soldiers, all of whom COL Jackson had put under temporary arrest. Jackson quickly ordered CPT McMahan and three others before a court of inquiry, but just as speedily the court exonerated them of any wrong-doing.<sup>30</sup>

COL Jackson, after the court of inquiry, in surveying the "Battle of the Boat," held that "the word 'surrender' addressed to an officer in command of his men was insulting and well calculated to provoke indignation." He continued, "It was not until the command charge was repeated and the words came 'Damn him, run him through,' that the Greens rushed over the prostrate body of CPT McMahan and struck down the bayonets aimed against him." "I ask, could Captain McMahan have acted otherwise? Could the Greens have done less?"<sup>31</sup>

Jackson was emphatic in his statement that but for the interference of Baker with his Illinois Volunteers, the quarrel between the Rangers and the Greens would have been suppressed by their captains. The commander of the Georgia regiment was naturally bitter over the position in which the Greens, his favorite company, were placed, and he was emphatic in his expression of his views as to Baker's "unfortunate interference." "I challenge comparison of the regiment, in point of drill, discipline, and soldierly deportment," he declared.

"Proud of his regiment, outraged by what he deemed unjust attacks, the somewhat hot-tempered Jackson quickly gave it the appearance of a personal issue, and, without the formality of a regular challenge, forbidden by federal military law, through the grapevine of that day conveyed to the Illinois colonel an unmistakable intimation that the Savannahian stood prepared to individually maintain the; honor of the First Georgia, and would waive any military restrictions if the Illinois

commander were willing to likewise become personal champion of his regiment in a meeting under the code. For a time it seemed as though the two officers might settle the issue with their swords or pistols, as neither was inclined to accept the other's attitude with regard to what had occurred on the boat. Jackson held to the end that the responsibility attached to Baker for his "precipitate action."

"Under the United States military law of that day, to send a challenge, to accept a challenge, or to fight a duel, called for the court-martialing of the officers involved, and, if convicted, their being cashiered, a penalty which the friends of both officers were most anxious to avoid."

Conclusion:

The altercation, or "Battle of the Boat," essentially removed the Georgia regiment from the war. That evening the steamer left for Camargo with the now quieted troops and upon arrival, COL Jackson approached General Taylor to report his regiment ready to join the fight. Taylor was aware of the fighting on the boat before it left Camp Belknap and did not take the regiment, indicating he did not want regiments that fought among themselves.

Jackson's men remained in Mexico, and were later ordered to Vera Cruz where they did take a hand in the siege.

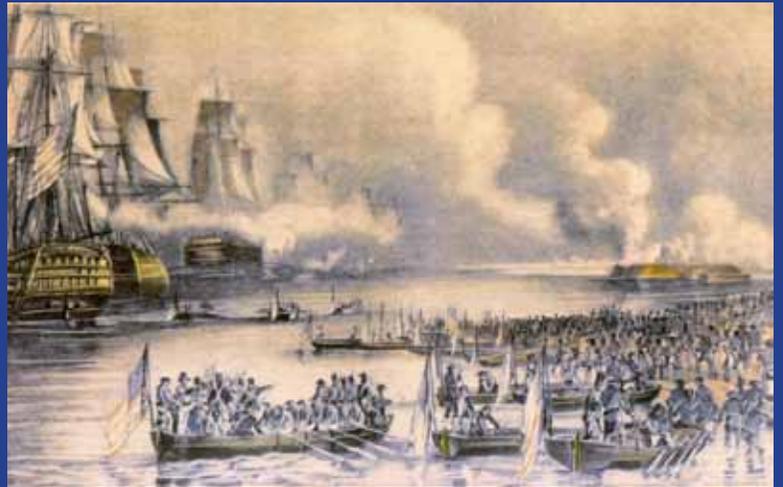
Before the 12 months expired, troops were asked to extend their enlistment. Some did, but others declined, to include the Georgia regiment, knowing that Taylor would never forgive the boat incident. The 1st Georgia was ordered to New Orleans where its soldiers were mustered out of service in May 1847.

Notes

29 *Despite this terrible affront to the Irish Jasper Greens of Savannah, that city still named a major street there in Taylor's honor.*

30 *"From Comargo" in DG, 15 October 1846; "Capt. McMahan" in DG, 22 October 1846.*

31 *Captain John McMahan (1815—1881), a native of County Clare, Ireland, was exonerated for his actions at the "Battle of the Boat," but "his system was shocked by his wound" and his health failed. He resigned his commission from the Jasper Greens and returned to Savannah to resume the management of the City Hotel. During the early part of the War Between the States he first served as a lieutenant in the Pulaski Guards, and subsequently as captain of the Washington Volunteers, both composed of Savannah Irishmen. He and his company were among those taken prisoner at the surrender of Ft. Pulaski and later exchanged for some Pennsylvania "Bucktails." After his exchange he moved to Milledgeville, where he lived until the close of the war. He died in January of 1881. "The Death Of Captain John McMahan" in SMN, 22 January 1881.*



Landing of American forces under General Winfield Scott at Vera Cruz

## Guard foundation partners with Falcons

The Georgia National Guard Family Support Foundation is partnering with the Atlanta Falcons in offering tickets to the Falcons vs. Panthers game Sept 20, for \$30 each (regular \$55 value). All proceeds benefit the Georgia National Guard Family Support Foundation.

Falcon Cheerleaders will be at Oglethorpe Armory July 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to visit with soldiers and promote the game.

TICKETS ARE LIMITED. Please take advantage of these discounted FALCON tickets! Tickets are available by calling Tammy McEvers at 678 569-5756, BB 404 695-9770.

# Tragedy strikes Georgia Guard as four are KIA in Afghanistan

The perils of the Afghanistan mission of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team became vividly clear in June when four Georgia Guardsmen were killed in action. The death of the four Guardsmen, three from the 1st Battalion 108th RSTA and one from the 1st Battalion 121st Infantry at the early stages of the deployment, underscores the risks which more than 2,000-members of the 48th face daily .

MAJ Kevin Michael Jenrette of Lula, SSG John Curtis Beale of Riverdale, and SGT Jeffrey William Jordan of Rome were all killed in a single incident June 4, 2009, near Kipisa,

was 1SG John D. Blair of Calhoun who died June 20, 2009, while on a combat patrol with the Afghanistan army when a Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) struck the turret area of the vehicle occupied by Blair who was in the gunner's position.

Governor Sonny Perdue issued the following statement on the death of three 108th Guardsmen, "News that MAJ Kevin Jenrette, SSG John Beale and SPC Jeffrey Jordan died serving in Afghanistan is a sobering reminder of the dangers our Citizen-Soldiers face there everyday. I know the families' of these Guardsmen

have broken hearts, and though we can not comprehend the loss they are feeling, Mary and I join them in mourning. I have personally visited with our troops, both here and overseas, and I am always deeply moved by their dedication to serve others. These men and women go where they are asked on a moment's notice, leaving behind families and communities that miss them dearly. It is our responsibly to do all that we can to comfort these families and all of the families with a loved one in the line of duty."

On the death of Blair, Perdue said, "1SG Blair demonstrated courage and a readiness to accept the same dangers that he asked of the Soldiers under his command. Mary and I continue to pray for all our Soldiers in harm's way, and we know Georgians will remember 1SG Blair's service and sacrifice."

"The recent death of three Georgia Guardsman is very traumatic to our Georgia National Guard family," said MG Terry Nesbitt, Georgia's Adjutant General. "Their deaths occurring so early in the deployment of the 48th Brigade underscores the very real challenges facing our Soldiers and the inherent risks of the mission. We extend our heartfelt condolences and support to the families

of these brave Guardsmen.

"1SG Blair was a senior enlisted leader with a true 'Follow Me' spirit," said Nesbitt. "He was a hero to the men he commanded and to the members of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat

Afghanistan when their vehicle struck an IED, and the Soldiers encountered small arms fire. The 1/108th had been in Afghanistan less than a month.

The fourth Guardsman to die in Afghanistan



MAJ Kevin Jenrette was laid to rest Saturday afternoon at Timber Ridge Baptist Church. Jenrette, 37, of Lula, died June 4 from wounds suffered in an attack while serving with a Georgia Army National Guard unit near Kipisa, Afghanistan. Two other Guardsmen were lost in the attack. (Photo courtesy of Scott Rogers, photographer and the Gainesville Times Newspaper)

Team with which he served. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this very difficult time.”

The support for these local heroes was clearly shown in their home communities. In Rome, hundreds of residents lined the main street when the hearse carrying Jordan made its way from the airport to the funeral home. At Jordan’s funeral, American flags flew from every building, appeared in shop windows and were carried by citizens lining the streets.

In Clayton and Henry, counties through which the Beale funeral procession travelled, the tribute was equally moving as literally thousands lined busy streets and neighborhoods waving the American Flag.

In the small community of Lula, hundreds of

friends and National Guardsmen turned out in dress uniforms for the horse-drawn cortège that carried the body of Jenrette from the church to the cemetery. A riderless horse followed the solemn march to the burial site. As with all three funerals, the bodies were transported in ultimate reverence and honor by the Georgia Army National Guard Honor Guard. Four Black Hawk helicopters flew the poignant “missing man” formation over all three funerals.

At the time of this issue of the *Georgia Guardsman*, funeral ceremonies for Blair were still being arranged, but, as with the others, Georgians in his hometown of Calhoun will certainly honor their hometown hero with a very special tribute.



Service members in Afghanistan pay final respects to their fallen comrades, MAJ Kevin M. Jenrette, 37, of Lula; SFC John C. Beale, 39, of Riverdale; and SPC Jeffrey W. Jordan, 21, of Rome, all three are members of the 1st Battalion, 108th Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition Squadron, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Calhoun; and for MAJ Rocco M. Barnes of the California Army National Guard. (Photo by SGT James D. Sims)

# Jekyll conference focuses on 'Soldier, Airmen, families'

Story and photo by SFC Roy Henry  
Georgia National Guard Public Affairs Office

**JEKYLL ISLAND, June 12 through 14, 2009** – More than 200 members of the organizations that are the voices of Georgia's Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen in the halls of Congress came together under the common cause of "Soldiers, Airmen and families matter," at this coastal community's convention for their annual meetings.

For the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Georgia (EANGGA), it was that group's 35th annual meeting; and, the 61st assembly of the National Guard Association of Georgia (NGAGA), which acts on behalf of the Army and Air Guard officer corps.

Although they represent two different factions within the Georgia Guard, the associations have the same mandate -- promote the status, welfare and professionalism of their memberships, and families, while promoting matters of national defense.

Usually the enlisted and officer associations conduct their conferences separately. What

brought them to the same place on the same weekend, was economics, according to CSM Tony Willis, secretary for the enlisted association.

"Things are tight these days, so anything we [EANGGA and NGAGA] can do to save money and still serve our memberships is important," said Willis, who is also the senior enlisted Soldier for Metter's 265th Regional Support Group. "Since our organizations use many of the same vendors, and often compete for the same guest speakers, we decided both groups would be better served by combining our meetings."

Those who spoke during the combined conference, for example, were U.S. Rep. Jack Kingston – Ga. and Sen. Saxby Chambliss – Ga. (via video); MG Terry Nesbitt, Georgia's Adjutant General, and MG Todd Bunting – National Guard Association of the United States chairman of the board; and LTG Thomas Miller, First Army commander.

Had the associations held their conferences separately, and had invited the same speakers, any one of them would have had to decline one or the other group's invitation.

MAJ Alex McLemore, branch chief for Information Systems Support at Joint Forces Headquarters in Ellenwood, and secretary for the officers association, agreed with Willis. Conducting the two conferences together was an effective arrangement.

"I know that throughout the weekend, I came across enlisted and officer alike who told me that bringing our groups together provided them the opportunity for even greater professional growth," McLemore said. "At the same time—they could work that much closer on issues of mutual interest regarding quality of life for them, their fellow Soldiers or Airmen and their families...right in line with this year's theme.



From the left Marshall Kennemer and Col Murray Hansen, executive director and president of the National Guard Association of Georgia, and CSM (Ret) James Dennis, president of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Georgia, convene the combined conference of their two organizations.

# 116th Airmen earn Bronze Star

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE** – MSgts John Bell and Greg Stephens, both from the 116th Air Control Wing, Civil Engineering Squadron, Explosive Ordnance Disposal flight, were awarded Bronze Stars during a ceremony May 17, 2009.

The sergeants received the awards for their work in supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom from October 2008 to April 2009 as members of the 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, Bravo Flight, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, Baghdad.

Bell was in charge of a team of more than 25 personnel that executed more than 800 combat missions covering more than 190 square kilometers.

Stephens was instrumental in the recovery of notebooks containing bomb building instructions and other information coalition forces were able to use in identifying insurgents.

On short notice, Bell acquired 1,300 pounds of demolition explosives to dispose of more than 4,000 enemy munitions collected from

Baghdad, starving the enemy of munitions required to build IEDs for attacks against coalition and Iraqi Security Forces.

Stephens disrupted two devices in two separate responses and provided specifics of both events to the brigade counter improvised explosive device cell. The cell was then able to build a prosecution package for the insurgent responsible.



*MSgts Greg Stephens and John Bell, 116th Civil Engineering Squadron, Explosive Ordnance Disposal flight, were awarded Bronze Stars May 17, for their work in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Contributed photo)*

# Georgia Soldiers reflect on training, mission at departure ceremony

**Story by SGT Tracy J. Smith**

**Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix IX**

**CAMP ATTERBURY JMTC, Edinburgh,**

**Ind** – The departure ceremony here June 6, 2009, was a time for reflection for the men and women of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and combined Joint Task Force Phoenix.

The Army Guardsmen had completed eight grueling weeks of scenario-based training at their final mobilization station dubbed ‘Indiana-stan.’ A play on the joint maneuver training center’s true purpose...preparation for the mission in Afghanistan.

The ceremony, less pomp and circumstance, and more opportunity for leadership, First Army and Georgia, to brag on the Soldiers ac-

complishments.

Guardsmen logged countless range hours, safety training and basic Soldier tasks as well as thousands of hours doing convoy training.

It is the camaraderie that had been established throughout the hard, focused training that will get the Georgia volunteers through the inevitable difficult times.

With a firm understanding of the Phoenix mission, the Soldiers begin their transition to in-theatre operations over the next few weeks. They closed the ceremony with a recitation of the code of every Soldier – the Soldier’s creed – led by SPC Cort Webb, a Task Force Phoenix joint operations specialist.



*SPCs Russell Jordan, Larry Griffin and PFC. Jeremy Malano (L to R) of 148<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion after the send off ceremony. (U.S. Army photo by PFC Mozelle Blakeley)*



*CPL Stephanie Wammock, a medic with Company. C, of the 148th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, contemplates the approaching tour in Afghanistan as the unit gathers around the reflection pool located within the Veteran's Memorial at the Joint Maneuver Training Center. (U.S. Army photo by PFC Mozelle Blakley)*



*PFC Sol Lopez 148<sup>th</sup> BSB, redresses her gear to march out with the unit. Lopez, a supply specialist from Athens, says she's ready for the mission ahead in Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by PFC Mozelle Blakley)*

# How I created the C-130 official logo

Story By SGT Jeffrey Stone  
1st Battalion, 1st Brigade Public Affairs Office

A good friend of mine, Maj Jim Martin, is a flight nurse in the Air Force Reserve flying in C-130 Hercules Aircraft, and currently deployed overseas. He told me that, in celebration of the 94th Airlift Wing's transition from a training wing to an operational wing, senior leadership was sponsoring a contest to give their C-130's a new look on their tail fins. The current "tail flash" features our base name—"Dobbins ARB," with a blue background and yellow stripes. Maj Peter Wojihowski, 94th Aircraft Maintenance Flight commander said, "A new tail flash look that would signify our new upcoming mission is exactly what we're looking for. The senior leadership wants the opportunity to create a new logo to all of our Airmen and civilians within the wing."

Besides the dimensions of 12-foot high by roughly 12-foot long, and how the design was to be placed on the aircraft's tail, the guidelines were few. The design was wide open. As an example of what to use as a guide, I was directed to look at the tail flash of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. My idea was to design an eye-catching flash that also displayed the pride of the Georgia based unit. To achieve this, I used elements and colors from the Georgia state flag along with adding stylized gold wings on the back of the flash to signify flight and the U.S. Air Force.

After submitting my entry a few weeks, I got an email from a SMSgt Joseph Brown. He told

me that I had "co-won" the competition with SSgt Seth Richards of the 94th Airlift Wing. He invited me to Dobbins to discuss some changes they wanted to make to my design, and also show me around the hangar and explained how the flash would be applied to the tail. I was told the voting was almost a tie, so they decided to have co-winners. Col Heath J. Knuckolls, of the 94th Airlift Wing Commander had the final say on the design. My original design was a red bar in the middle with only the gold crest of the state flag on a blue background. The decision makers decided to change it to a blue bar with the entire state flag on the end. In my line of work as a graphic designer for The Home Depot, I'm used to having my ideas changed, so I didn't have a problem with their suggested changes.



SGT Jeffrey Stone, a member of the State Defense Force, holds a replica copy of the new Dobbins Logo which will be displayed on the tail of the C-130 aircraft. (Contributed photo).

## 139th IS celebrates one year anniversary

**FORT GORDON** – Augusta's 139th Intelligence Squadron took time to recognize a key proponent during June drill celebrations of the one year anniversary of the squadron activation.

Maj Gen (Ret) William N. Searcy, former Georgia Air Guard commander, was honored June 6, 2009, with the official dedication of the William N. Searcy Cyber Training Facility.

When NGB was conceptualizing the formation of additional ANG cryptologic intelligence

entities, Searcy was instrumental in garnering support to bring this critical mission to Georgia and Fort Gordon.

Maj Gen Scott Hammond, Georgia Air Guard commander, presided over the dedication, which was emceed by 139th commander, Lt Col Kimberley Chatfield. Searcy praised the bright future of the squadron's Airmen and their exciting mission, and he urged them to take advantage of every opportunity to learn more

about the history of the Georgia National Guard .

The Searcy Cyber Training Facility is the heart of the 139th. The dedication was preceded on Friday, June 5 2009, with the 139th's first anniversary golf tournament, which raised funds for the squadron's booster club. Hammond and Searcy led 13 teams from the Air Guard, active duty Air Force, and Army that competed for fun, glory and prizes. Teams from the 31st Intelligence Squadron, an active duty Air Force unit here (and the squadron that the 139th is associated with), took home two of the top three team honors. To wrap up the anniversary weekend, a formal ceremony was held for the promotion of Maj Troy Lewis, 139th IS Detachment commander, to lieutenant colonel. The 139th Intelligence Squadron was activated on May 28, 2008, here at Gordon.



*Maj Gen Hammond, and Maj Gen (Ret) Searcy speak of the origin of the 139th with the Airmen prior to the unveiling of the plaque dedicating the facility to Maj Gen Searcy. (Contributed photo).*

## An interview with Col Dan Zachman

The *Georgia Guardsman* recently sat down with Col Dan Zachman who has occupied the position of chief of the Joint Staff since February 2009. Zachman was formerly chief of staff of the 116th Air Control Wing and has spent more than 21 years as a member of the Georgia Air National Guard. During the interview, Zachman spoke of his new responsibilities as chief, how he sees the Joint Staff concept developing, and what the new organization means to our Soldiers and Airmen. He also took time to speak about his lengthy involvement with the State Partnership Program and his six trips to the country of Georgia. Read excerpts from this interview below. View entire interview with Zachman at

***GG – You have now been in the position of chief of the Joint Staff now for about five months. During that period, how do you see the program developing and what remains to be done?***

Zachman – Basically, the focus of my new position is on the state mission in context of the Army and the Air. How we can use Army

and Air assets in statewide emergencies. I am responsible for all things Joint, for instance, the personnel piece. HRO is Joint, under the J-1; also the chaplain's office, the state partnership that falls to the J-5 and several other activities. My focus is also in working with the other state, local and federal agencies.

I see the Joint force as a “work in progress.” We're modeling ourselves to other joint staffs at the national level, at DoD and at Guard Bureau. We have work to do, but we are making good progress.

***GG – The Air is now more involved in the Joint Forces. How do you view the Air fitting into the JFHQ structure?***

Zachman – I see the Air bringing to the JFHQ many unique capabilities, lots of core competencies. There's a great deal of interest from the Air (in being part of the JFHQ). MG Hammond [Georgia Air Guard Commander] has been a great asset in getting the Air more involved. While the JFHQ was been ‘Army-centric’ due to the manpower involved, the Air

brings new capabilities to the table. For example, tactical communications. The Air Guard has large tactical communications capabilities. Hurricane Katrina taught us a valuable lesson. We had the capability (communications), but we came up short. The Air Guard also has lots of engineering capability and competence, with both wings having engineering units that have wartime experience. We have lots of aircraft ground equipment (AGE) that can be brought to assist in a disaster almost immediately. As for our security forces, many Air Guard security personnel are law enforcement officers in their local communities.

**GG – As we look ahead, how do you see the JFHQ further developing?**

Zachman – We are right now developing plans on how to respond to various scenarios. For instance, we’re working on a scenario involving a 10 kiloton bomb at the Atlanta Airport and the role we’ll play along with other state and federal authorities. But we have been involved in “planned events” before, such as the G-8 Summit and support for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. So we’ve been involved in more than just disaster, situations and with significant large-scale events. Hurricanes are the most likely scenarios which we will have to deal. We were recently involved with the flu pandemic. Atlanta is one of the nation’s distribution and storage sites for flu vaccines, so we looked at possibly using our security forces if needed. Although we were not called to assist, we certainly could have. This was just another example of how the National Guard lends support to local, state and federal authorities.

**GG- Much has been said about the inability of the Army and Air to communicate with one another. How do you see this obstacle?**

Zachman – We’ve faced obstacles in the ability of Army and Air to communicate with one another, but we are making progress. Our intranet goes through two different networks to connect. However, on the tactical side, we have more in common. New capabilities regularly are coming on line,

but there’s room for improvement in our Army and Air communications.

**GG – Recently, many members went**

**through the Adaptive Battle Staff program. How do you see this working?**

Zachman – The Adaptive Battle Staff (ABS) is what the JFHQ will ‘morph’ into in the case of a disaster situation. Through ABS, we have the ability to lend Army, Air and State Defense Force capabilities to a situation from a local emergency to a Katrina-size disaster. We will move from a small, trained and focused force into a huge “Joint Task Force Georgia” that is able to function effectively in a situation. We are building an SOP now for how we work. We received our training by an organization that trains states in ABS and JOC 101, and we were told that Georgia is among the most advanced states in the development of the ABS. We are out front of many states.

Later this spring, we will conduct a ROC (Rehearsal of Concept) drill to work out any inconsistencies as a trial run of the ABS system in preparation for the beginning of hurricane season.

**GG – As the JFHQ concept develops, what does it mean to the average Soldier or Airman?**

Zachman – I believe it will have many benefits. I see it as a more tangible connection to one’s local community. We not only have a federal mission, but also a state mission. We are the first responders, able to respond quickly and effectively in an organized manner. Young Soldiers can say with pride that “the Army has trained me for war missions, and at the same time we’re able to respond to events when you need us at home.” This is the unique capability of the Guard. We live in the community and we are there when we’re needed.

**GG- You have been very active in the State Partnership Program for several years. Tell us about this experience.**

Zachman – I have made six visits to the country of Georgia. We’ve had a relationship with



Col. Dan Zachman





Georgia since 1995. In 2004, it left the Soviet Union and became a democratically elected nation. Since then, there has been tremendous progress. Georgia, which is about the size of South Carolina with a population of 2 ½ million, finds itself in key geopolitical situation. Three oil pipelines go through the country, and they are the only oil pipelines not under control of Russia. It has a strategic location, it's a Christian nation and it's now exercising capitalism. It wants to be a part of the European community. Geor-

gia has shown great support to the U.S. operations in Iraq, and it is the second largest supplier of troops. Georgia has also indicated its interest in sending a battalion sized unit to Afghanistan. Success in this part of the world comes in developing relationships. Recently we met with the U.S. Ambassador to Georgia who told us that by far the Georgia Guard partnership with the country of Georgia is the best partnership program he has seen. We have done a tremendous amount of nation building...it's a beautiful relationship with which to be involved.

Col Daniel J. Zachman is the chief, Joint Staff, Georgia National Guard, Joint Force Headquarters, Georgia. The joint chief manages and directs the administration, coordination, planning, development, execution and supervision of all Joint Staff programs that prepare the state for contingency operations in either a federal or state emergency, to include man-made or natural disasters, and federal military mobilizations. He ensures that contingency plans provide for alert, mobilization, deployment, and employment of National Guard assets in response to a wide range of emergency situations. Zachman also oversees the state's Homeland Defense Program includes the state rapid reaction force, the contingency emergency response force, counterdrug operations, civil support teams, expeditionary medical support, and explosive ordnance disposal.

Col Zachman entered the Air Force in June, 1980, earning a commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps Program at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He has commanded a services flight, two aircraft maintenance squadrons, and a maintenance group. He also served as chief of transportation-Exercise Elf One, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, director, Logistics Readiness Center, Joint Task Force - Southwest Asia, and as battle watch captain, Joint Operations Center-Headquarters European Command, Patch Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany. He further served as a chief of supply, and a logistics division chief. Zachman was the 1999 Lt Gen Leo Marquez Outstanding Aircraft Maintenance Manager of the Year for the Air National Guard, the 1994 Senior Supply Manager of the Year for the Air National Guard and the 1990 Transportation Company Grade Officer of the Year for the Air National Guard.



## 6,000th YCA graduate receives diploma

MACON — It was a “red letter date” Georgia’s Youth Challenge Academy –Fort Stewart on Saturday, June 20, 2009, when more than the 200 cadets filed across the stage of Macon City Auditorium to receive their diplomas. However, besides receiving her diploma, Cadet Diah C. Nelson of College Park also moved into the YCA history books as she followed in the path of 5,999 previous students from throughout the state whose lives have been changed by completing the 22-week National Guard youth program.

Nelson was the 6,000th student to graduate from the Fort Stewart-based Youth Challenge

Academy since it opened as a pilot program in 1993. When adding that number to the number of graduates from the second Youth Challenge Academy campus at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia’s total number of YCA graduates now exceeds more than 9,000.

Georgia continues to rank among the top states graduating the highest number of YCA cadets. Since its early days at Fort Stewart, and an initial enrollment of 100 students, Georgia’s Youth Challenge has boasted graduation classes of more than 800 students each year from its two campuses.

Youth Challenge is a voluntary in-residence

program for teens who have dropped out of high school. Within the regimented, military-styled environment, YCA students complete their academic requirements to graduate, or earn a GED, while receiving a healthy dose of physical fitness training, personal discipline and life skills training.

“We receive our students often as troubled teens, but they leave here with a high school education, drug and alcohol free, physically fit, goal-oriented, and ready to deal with life’s many challenges,” said Robert Hughes, Fort Stewart’s YCA director.

State Sen. Jack Hill, Senate Appropriations chairman, was the commencement speaker at the 32nd graduation ceremony. Hill, a former Georgia Air National Guardsman with Savannah’s 165th Airlift Wing, has been a legislative champion of the YCA program since its beginning. Georgia’s General Assembly has continued to provide financial support for the program since its inception.



Diah C. Nelson

## ROC drill preps officers for disasters

Senior leaders and key staff members of the Georgia Department of Defense participated in a Rehearsal of Concept Drill at Jekyll Island, June 11, 2009, as part of the Joint Planning Group’s strategic preparedness efforts. The ROC Drill focused on hurricane response preparedness and planning for two phases: Deploy and Operate.

All six phases were rehearsed in order to incorporate input and changes from several Emergency Management Agencies across the state in late May. The ROC Drill at Jekyll Island included representatives from across the GaDOD and included local emergency response authorities from Glynn and Chatham Counties and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency.

ROC Drills are intended to put exercise plans into a tangible format with movement of organization-designator icons on large floor maps that indicate phase-dependent deployment and placement of assets, troops, and equipment. The drill at Jekyll Island focused on the Deployment and Operational phases of response operation plans for Defense Support to Civil Authorities, as spearheaded by the J-5/7/9 division, under the supervision of Don Venn, in conjunction

with COL Michael Scholes with participation by representatives from the full Joint Staff.

Guidance and additional planning considerations were provided to the staff as feedback from MG William T. Nesbitt, Georgia’s Adjutant General; BG Maria Britt, commander, Army Guard; Maj Gen Scott Hammond, commander, Air Guard; Col Dan Zachman, Chief of the Joint Staff; BG Jerry Bradford of the State Defense Force; and COL Timothy Romine, Army Guard chief of staff.

The next major planning event for DSCA will be an off-site with the Joint Planning Group, scheduled for the end of August at Fort Stewart.



Senior leaders and key staff members of the Georgia Department of Defense participate in a Rehearsal of Concept Drill at Jekyll Island. (Contributed photo)