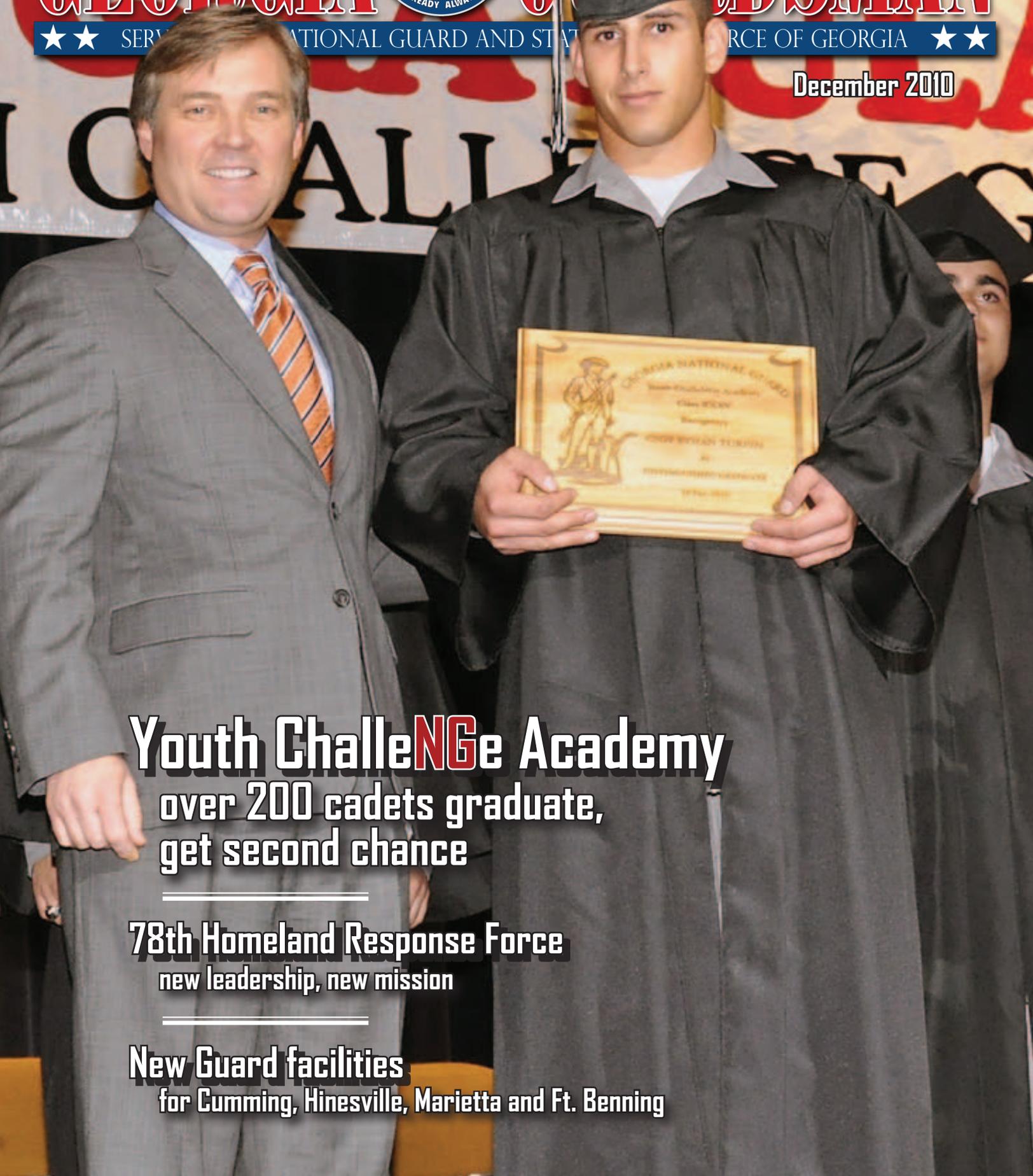


GEORGIA GUARDSMAN



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December 2010



Youth Challenge Academy
over 200 cadets graduate,
get second chance

78th Homeland Response Force
new leadership, new mission

New Guard facilities
for Cumming, Hinesville, Marietta and Ft. Benning



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GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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

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ADT SECURITY UNDERGOES STRESS FIRE TRAINING

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Roy Henry
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Georgia Army National Guard

FORT GORDON, Augusta, Ga., Nov. 20, 2010 – Georgia Army Guard Spc. Christopher R. Ellis of Winder stood, bent over, hands on his knees, sweaty and exhausted. Setting his M4 rifle down against the bleachers in the briefing area, he commented on the stress fire training he had just completed.

“Now that,” Ellis exclaimed as he stopped to catch his breath in front of the range bleachers, “really tests your ability to concentrate and stay calm. I can imagine what it’s going to be like once we get to pre-mobilization training, and that’s probably going to be even more stressful.”

He and the Security Force Platoon of Georgia’s first Agricultural Development Team have been working toward this moment for three days. On day four, the training culminates when the more than 25 members of “SECFOR” will put what they have learned to the test.

“If the senior sergeants make the tasks even harder tomorrow,” said a worn out but grinning Sgt. Nate Smith of Dunwoody, who also was part of this first group, “it’s going to be just that much better.”

When ADT 1’s “AG” specialists hit the ground in Southeastern Afghanistan next year, they will help Afghan farmers and their communities improve their lives with modern agricultural practices aimed at optimizing use of water, soil, crops and livestock. It is SECFOR’s job to protect the AG specialists from a Taliban insurgency that is determined to keep them from succeeding in that mission, says Staff Sgt. Matthew Rice, the security platoon’s trainer and its dismount supervisor.

“It’ll be our people who’ll leave their gun trucks and patrol the area, keeping a wary eye out for the bad guys,” said Rice. “What



the ADT does in Afghanistan is important to the U.S. and NATO effort to help move that country out of the 19th Century and into the 21st. So, it’s our job to make sure no one interferes with that.”

Should insurgents start trouble, SECFOR will cover the ADT as it moves out of the danger zone, Rice says. That is why the platoon is doing stress fire now, instead of waiting until they arrive at the Pre Mobilization Training and Assessment Evaluation at the Guard Garrison Training Center in Hinesville.

Stress fire has been a part of training for deploying units for the past couple of years, Rice says. Soldiers are pushed hard to test their ability to deal with the chaos of a firefight. They move through a series of exercise routines, and then literally drag a fellow Soldier’s body to and from a predetermined checkpoint. Then there is more exercise, followed by an all out run to the firing line, where their weapons and ammo are waiting.

All the while, someone is in their face or standing behind them yelling and screaming to try to get the trainees’ focus off the end task of getting on line, getting on target and then hitting that target.

“Once they pick up and load their rifle, they walk toward their target and continue to fire and reload, with someone still yelling in their ear as they go,” Rice said.

other, but this is the first time many of them have been together,” he said.

“I’m one of those first timers,” said Spc. John Austin Willis of Watkinsville. He will work as an M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) gunner on one of SECFOR’s gun trucks. “We’ve all done quite well at working together, and I think we will continue to do so in country – which means that the mission to help the Afghans make a better life for themselves will prevail.”

“It’s all about focus and not letting the chaos take over.”

Rotating through these exercises repeatedly, the platoon seeks to build muscle memory, so that handling and ignoring stress becomes second nature, when – or and if – the rounds start flying, Rice adds.

Like all the training the ADT has completed, says 2nd Lt. William Westrip IV, SECFOR’s commander and a native of Athens, the goal is to sustain individual skills. “But it is also about building confidence in the person on your left and on your right,” he said.

“For 15 months, we’ll be working and living together, depending on each other for council, camaraderie and the will to come out the winner in close combat,” Westrip said. “It’s important that each of us knows that the man standing next to him can be counted on to do his part.”

While some among the security force and the ADT have deployed before – many to Iraq or Afghanistan – just as many have not, Westrip, explains. “Some know each



Specialist Christopher Ellis hits the ground in the “front leaning rest position,” while Staff Sgt. Matthew Rice reminds him that he needs to try harder if he’s going to make it as part of the ADT Security Force Platoon.

48 MILES, 48 HOURS: SOLDIERS MAKE DIFFICULT TREK TO HONOR THEIR OWN



*Story and photo by Pfc. Mozelle E. Blakley
48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
Georgia Army National Guard*

GEORGIA NATIONAL CEMETERY, Canton, Ga., Nov. 14, 2010 – More than 100 Warriors of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, led by 1st Sgt. Sean Hannes, loaded up their backs with a 35-lb. rucksack and an M-4 Semi-Automatic Rifle, then embarked on a 48-mile journey from the hills of Canton, Ga., in Cherokee County to Centennial Olympic Park in downtown Atlanta.

They embarked on the march to pay homage to veterans past and present, as well as their fallen comrades.

“I’m walking for Justin,” proudly proclaimed Sgt. Joe Johnson, a resident of Lyerly, Ga., and a mortar man with the 108th Calvary. Justin, Sgt. Johnson’s son, was killed in action while serving in Iraq in 2004.

For some, it was their second time participating in the long, hard trek. In 2008, the march was led by the Brigade’s former Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Hurndon. This year, the march was led by Hannes of Hinesville, Ga., who has been with the 48th IBCT since 2000 and has deployed with the unit both in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

“This is my second time participating in the march, and this time was very emotional. I cried two times on the last leg coming into the park,” Hannes said. “It was quite a journey.”

Although the primary purpose of the event was to honor the nation’s veterans, the march also represented other principles which embody the spirit of the Warrior Ethos, such as: I will never accept defeat; I will never quit; and I will never leave a fallen comrade.

“This march takes a lot of personal courage,” says Spc. David Privett of Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment. “You have to have some intestinal fortitude to do this type of event.”

“Watching everyone gear up this morning was a very proud moment for me,” said Spc. Danielle McCreight, a volunteer medic from Charlie Company, 148th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB).

“I volunteered for this march because I get a chance to be surrounded by my fellow Soldiers. I love being around these guys because they are family, and this mission is definitely worth it,” McCreight said.

The march was put together by Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Recker and it gained support from organizations such as the Family Readiness Group of the 148th BSB, the American Legion, and the First Baptist Church of Canton.

GUARD AVIATION UNITS DEPLOY FOR NEW DAWN IN IRAQ

*Story and photo by Spc. Joyelle Tornis
Public Affairs Office
Georgia Department of Defense*

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Dec. 1, 2010 – Fellow Soldiers, family, friends and official guests gathered to bid farewell to a couple of Georgia Army National Guard aviation units that will be joining the California National Guard’s 40th Combat Aviation Brigade for operations in Iraq.

Members of the Georgia Army National Guard’s 1-185th Aviation Regiment, Company C, Air Assault unit will be teaming up with Soldiers of the 1-171st General Support Aviation Battalion to provide command, control and communication enhancement, as well as movement of cargo and troops. They will also provide Aero-Medical evacuation coverage to their assigned battle space as U.S. forces in Iraq are transitioning from Operation Iraqi Freedom to Operation New Dawn.

The 171st will deploy more than 250 Soldiers along with eight UH-60 Blackhawks to Fort Hood, Texas, where they will perform pre-mobilization training before heading to Iraq. The 185th will deploy more than 40 Soldiers with five UH-60 Blackhawks to Fort Hood, where they too will train before deploying to Iraq.

“We are quite proud of both aviation units and I am sure they will perform admirably and with distinction,” said Maj. Gen. Terry Nesbitt, Georgia’s Adjutant General.

The 171st has represented the command, state and nation in several operational deployments to include the Dominican Republic in support of Operation New Horizon, Kuwait in support of the Global War on Terror, the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina in support of one of the costliest disasters in American history, and throughout the state of Georgia in support of natural disasters.

In her remarks, Maj. Gen. Maria L. Britt, Georgia Army Guard Commander, noted the previous accomplishments, deployments and experience of the 171st in defending the nation’s freedom in support of the Global War on Terror in 2003 and 2005.

“It is because of these experiences and the seasoned professionals standing before you in the 171st’s ranks, that I have no doubt the unit will once again serve our nation with excellence,” said Britt.

The 185th has deployed numerous times in support of Operation Noble Eagle, Kosovo Force 8, and as part of Task Force Eagle. The 185th was also called to duty in support of security operations for the inauguration of President Barack Obama in 2009. Additionally, since the unit’s inception, it has provided support to elements of the 48th Brigade Combat Team at Fort Benning, Ga.

Distinguished guests – to include Mayor Chip Thompson of Winder, Ga., Commission Chairman Daniel Yearwood Jr., and others – met with Soldiers to provide words of encouragement and gratitude.

State Aviation Officer, Col. Brent Bracewell, assured the attendees that, “While we are deploying more than 13 air assets, we still have the necessary assets available to react to natural disasters.”

For many of the Soldiers, this yearlong deployment will be their second or third deployment.

Sergeant Bill Price of Woodstock, Ga., is on his third deployment in support of the war on terror. His wife, Sandi Price, says that though she will miss him, she now has a better support system the third time around.

“I am extremely proud of the uniform he wears and the job he performs for the National Guard,” she said.

Each Soldier has some part of their normal lives they will miss, but for Pvt. Trenton Mcleod, deploying will be particularly difficult because he has a four-month-old son at home.

“While I will miss Terrence and am sad I will be missing the milestones with him, I am ready to answer the call. This is what I am trained for. This is why I took that oath of enlistment,” said Mcleod.



Sgt. Peter Hellewell, of Covington, Ga., sits with his seven-month-old son, Hunter, in a Blackhawk helicopter after the farewell ceremony in Winder Ga. Before deploying, Sgt. Hellewell worked full-time with the National Guard as a crew chief with the 1-185th.

GUARD ENGINEERS ON THEIR WAY TO AFGHANISTAN

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

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga. Dec. 8, 2010 – The National Guard Armory in Augusta has seen more than its share of Georgia Army Guard units saying their goodbyes, loading their bags aboard waiting buses, and heading off to assist with some state or national emergency, or to war. This time, more than 150 members of Augusta’s 877th Engineer Company are heading out the door and toward the dangerous terrain of Afghanistan.

Led by Capt. Rick Morris, and 1st Sgt. Jeff Logan, the engineers boarded buses Monday, Dec. 6 and left for Fort McCoy, Wis. There, they will undergo specialized training before moving on a month later for a yearlong deployment to help Afghanistan win its fight for independence and self-sufficiency.

“The unit’s primary mission includes ‘area clearance’ around Bagram Air Field, the construction of new forward operating bases, new checkpoints and road repairs,” said Maj. Gen. Maria L. Britt, Georgia Army Guard commander.

“Like their commander and their first sergeant, nearly 40 percent of these Soldiers have deployed before and are combat veterans. Whether they’ve gone before or not, though, they all exemplify the unit’s motto: ‘Fit to fight,’” she added.

As the 877th begins its wartime assignment, it leaves behind its homeland mission as the search and extraction element of Kennesaw’s Joint Task Force (JTF) 781. That now falls to Douglas’ 848th Engineer Company, the other engineer outfit belonging to Columbus’ 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, and the JTF’s parent headquarters. The Douglas engineers recently validated their ability to handle the 877th’s old job during training at Camp Blanding, Fla.

The JTF commander, Lt. Col. Jeff Carlyle, says he is quite proud of the 877th.

“They are leaving at more than 100 percent strength. They left the Guard Garrison Training Center with 99 percent of their people trained up, when the average number for a unit going through pre-mobilization is in the mid-90th percentile. Everyone qualified on the various weapons systems the unit employs, and some among the unit even double-qualified,” he said.

“The 877th is an outstanding unit, and it is the Soldiers, NCOs and officers who make it that,” Carlyle said. “They are going to be missed by JTF 781, and I know they’ll do as well with their wartime mission as they have for the past three years as our search and extraction team.”



“And by the way,” he added, “they have held the record as the best ‘S and E’ elements in the country for those three years.”

Augusta mayor-pro tem, Alvin Mason, says that, as a retired Army first sergeant, he has stood in the 877th’s boots and experienced the feelings of a Soldier being deployed, and the emotions of loved ones being left behind.

Mason presented Morris with an Augusta city flag to fly over his headquarters, and said, “We want to see that flag and those of you leaving for war back here, safe and sound, 12 months from now. On behalf of the Augusta city government, we applaud you and your families for your sacrifice. You have a friend in us; know you are not ever alone.”

Morris says it has taken a year of planning, preparation and hard training to get to this day. “It is an honor,” he added, “to lead a great group of Soldiers and American patriots who are simply the best at what they do.”

Morris looked out across the formation of Soldiers and the families and friends who had gathered to see them off. Recalling the last words of Todd Beamer, one of the passengers who died when United Flight 93 crashed on Sept. 11, 2001, before it could be used as weapon of terror, he said, “Let’s Roll.”

“As we leave to join the 1249th Engineer Battalion and complete our final training phase, we thank the organizations, our senior leaders and our fellow Soldiers and Airmen who continue to support us,” he said. “This is a sad day, but it is also a great day. We are ready to accomplish the mission, and to make our families, our state and our nation proud.”

ARMY ENGINEER RELISHES OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATE AFGHAN CHILDREN

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

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Dec. 9, 2010 – When Sgt. Carmen Benson of Rincon, a small Effingham County community near Savannah, walked into a Georgia Army Guard recruiting office five years ago, the recruiter pointedly asked her, “How do you feel about playing in the dirt?”

“That’s because I have a Bachelors degree in agriculture education from the University of Georgia, and I teach AG science to sixth, seventh and eighth graders at South Effingham Middle School in Guyton,” Benson said. “I told the recruiter, ‘I do it every day with my students. It’s who I am.’ So he signed me up as a 21 Tango Technical Engineer.”

Having this military occupational skill (MOS) landed her in Augusta’s 877th Engineer Company. Her job, at the time, was to execute land surveys, make maps and prepare detailed plans and drawings for construction projects. Benson could also, as a 21T, supervise or participate in construction site development, to include technical investigation, surveying, drafting, and development of construction plans and specifications.

Additionally, a 21T can provide surveys and maps used to locate military targets and plot troop movements.

“Another thing my MOS does is assist in field and laboratory tests on construction materials,” Benson explained. “Those construction surveys my job skill does come before and during construction so equipment operators and others can do their jobs. We also compile technical information for future use.”

The other thing she liked about being with the 877th was the work it did as the search and extraction element of Kennesaw’s Joint Task Force 781. She and her fellow Soldiers, she said, go into a disaster scene, searching the rubble and dilapidated structures for victims.

“I felt my skills as a technical engineer would certainly come in handy for pulling people out and getting them to safety,” Benson said. “But with the restructuring of the unit not long ago, I found myself looking at acquiring another MOS.”

Knowing that she wants to stay an engineer, she decided on the job skill 21 Echo, heavy equipment operator.

“I like having control of something as big a bulldozer, for example,” Benson said. “And I’m still playing in dirt, just doing it with a bigger shovel.”

While she has put in a lot of time doing on-the-job training in her new MOS, she still has to attend advanced individual training



Sergeant Carmen Benson conducts a horticulture lesson with her sixth grade agri-science students in the South Effingham Middle School greenhouse. (Photo contributed by South Effingham Middle School sixth grader Nicholar Hobbs.)

– likely at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. However, that will not happen, she says, until she returns from her first deployment.

Although the 877th is her parent unit, and it recently deployed for a year of construction work at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan, Benson is not going with her fellow engineers. She is going to Afghanistan, she said, as a soil specialist with the Georgia Guard’s Agricultural Development Team One.

Made up of Soldiers with agriculture and combat arms backgrounds from across the state, ADT 1 – which falls under Augusta’s 201st Regional Support Group – is the first of three such teams that will help Afghan farmers and farming communities build better lives through basic, more modern agricultural practices.

“Anything related to soil, soil conservation, or anything of that sort, the team will bring to me,” Benson said. “But I believe the leadership is also going to rely on my agricultural education and experience for teaching the Afghan children basic AG principles in irrigation and horticulture, for example.”

She says she is excited about everything she will be doing as a Soldier, but is especially thrilled about finally putting her passion for agriculture and her civilian education to work for the military.

“I love what I do, especially what I do with my students here at home,” Benson said with a smile. “Helping the Afghans, children and adults alike, become better farmers, better stewards of their land, is – without a doubt – absolutely perfect for me.”

Community brings holiday cheer to families of deployed Guardsmen

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

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Dec. 12, 2010 – This is the season to give, and that is exactly what the city of LaGrange did for more than 160 children of deployed Georgia Army Guardsman today. LaGrange – home of the 1177th Transportation Company, which recently left home to support of the Global War on Terror – took a simple request from the unit’s rear detachment commander, 2nd Lt. Paula Paul, and turned it into a large-scale, community-involved, Christmas dinner for the unit’s families.

“It is the right thing to do,” said Steve Alford, of the local American Red Cross Disaster Administration Team.

“This [deployment] is very difficult for the kids, especially since it happened during the holiday season,” Alford said. “In the mind of a five-year-old child who will not have his mom or dad here for Christmas, it’s going to be a very sad time.”

With that in mind, Alford went to work making phone calls and meeting with local organizations in town.

“Besides the Red Cross, we had the VFW, the American Legion, LaGrange Alliance of Churches, and Milliken Textile Company working on this event,” Alford said.

John West, Adjutant of American Legion Post 75, says that, once he heard about the request for help with the Family Readiness Group (FRG) Christmas dinner, he “rallied the troops and got things moving.”

“This is an opportunity for the community and local veteran’s organizations to prove to this unit and its families that we care about them,” West said.

More than 200 family members gathered for the festivities by squeezing tightly into the LaGrange armory to celebrate the holiday and share a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings.

“It makes me feel so good to see the community stand behind our Soldiers like this,” said Rebekah Marshall, the mother of Sgt. LaTorria Gibson from Cedartown. “I have been to every Christmas function since my daughter joined the Guard six years ago, and this is by far the best I have ever experienced.”

In addition to the usual turkey, cranberry sauce and stuffing, the children received a special visit from Santa and Mrs. Clause. The Clauses took the time to hand each child a Christmas gift, and offered plenty of smiles.

“I got an iPod,” said seven-year-old JaMyah Gibson, Sgt. Gibson’s daughter. “I love being here at the armory because it’s where my mommy works!”

The finances and gifts for this event were provided by the local community, West said. The veteran’s organizations, for example,



raised more than \$2,400 in member donations for the food. Richard Attaway, who commands VFW Post 4629 said the total cost for food came to an estimated \$1,800.

“We plan to use the left over money to help the 1177th FRG with other family activities, like an Easter egg hunt and picnic next year,” Attaway said. “We also plan on throwing one humdinger of a homecoming party when the Soldiers return.”

LaGrange mayor Jeff Lukken, who helped with the Christmas party, said it was nearly impossible for him to describe the sacrifices the families make in supporting their particular Soldier and the Guard.

“The real heroes are the spouses and the children,” Lukken said. “They make the commitment to support their spouse and their Soldier’s commitment to protecting us and the country.”

Milliken wrapped its corporate hands around the event by going to its employees and asking them to adopt one child, and then buy two gifts for that respective youngster. Marcie McCarley, the company’s human resource manager, said the outpouring of charity from the employees was inspiring.

“We had several folks adopt more than one child,” she said. “We are a very community-based company. So, when I found out that 167 children in and around our community were going to be without their mom or dad this Christmas because of their parents’ military service and defending our freedom, it just touched my heart so profoundly.”

McCarley says employees also assumed the responsibility of decorating the armory and wrapping the gifts.

“I had so many people volunteer to help out I actually had to start telling people we had enough,” said McCarley.

West says Post 75 is already coordinating with Troup County schools to have classes adopt Soldiers from the unit and send them care packages and letters.

“This unit is going to know how much the LaGrange community supports them and the sacrifices they and their families are making to keep us safe and living in a free society,” said West.

ULMER RETIRES AFTER 36 YEARS OF NATIONAL GUARD SERVICE

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



CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Nov. 30, 2010 - Colonel Owen Ulmer, former Director of Youth Programs, retired in September capping a 36-year career with the Georgia National Guard. At a farewell luncheon given in his honor by the Adjutant General, Ulmer noted that his career in the Guard had offered him the chance to work in many different places and provided

him many wonderful opportunities.

Ulmer, who began his military career in 1974 as a staff sergeant in the Georgia Air National Guard, later earned his commission as a captain and took command of the Brunswick-based 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron, a position that he held

for four years. After numerous additional assignments at State Headquarters, Ulmer retired from the Air Guard at the rank of Colonel.

Early in his career, Ulmer worked for the University of Georgia, finally retiring in 1992 as its operations director for the UGA aquarium in Brunswick. He later became an instructor with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Brunswick.

Major Gen. William T. Bland, Georgia’s former adjutant general, encouraged Ulmer to come to Atlanta to begin his fulltime career with the Georgia National Guard. For three years he commanded the Georgia National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. He was later appointed as Director of Joint Operations, one of four senior directorships in the Georgia Department of Defense.

Appointed Director of Youth Programs in 2007, Ulmer had responsibility over the operations of the two Youth Challenge campuses and the two STARBASE programs at Dobbins and Warner Robins.

Ulmer is a graduate of the University of Georgia and received his Masters Degree from Georgia Southern University. He holds the prestigious Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal and the Southwest Asia medal among many others. He retires with his wife, Jackie, to their farm in North Georgia.

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

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Dec. 4, 2010 – As the Decatur-based 78th Troop Command, one of the Georgia Army Guard’s five major commands, begins its transformation into the 78th Homeland Response Force (HRF), its unit commander has handed over the reigns of responsibility to a new leader.

As part of the day’s ceremony, here in Hangar No. 1, Col. Thomas H. Blackstock – now the Army Guard’s operations officer – relinquished command to Col. Michael Scholes, Sr., who has been serving as the Georgia Guard’s joint director of military support.

Major Gen. Maria L. Britt, Georgia Army Guard commander, said Blackstock led the 78th in a “visionary manner” during his two-year tenure. He and his staff were “instrumental in the preparation and mobilization of the 110th Corps Support Battalion, two chaplain detachments, the 277th Ordnance Company, and the 1148th and 1177th Transportation companies. By no means is such a feat every easy,” Britt said. “The planning, training and equipping that goes into the movement of units to the theater of operations calls for sound judgment, commonsense leadership and the talents of people who know what they are doing.

“His efforts, along with Col. Bill Williams’ guidance, also built the 201st Agriculture Development Team 1, another first for the Georgia National Guard, which is set to deploy to Afghanistan next April,” she noted.

“Tom’s leadership and vision complimented the efforts of our training site commanders, Col. David Lee at Hinesville’s Guard Garrison Training Center and Col. Bruce Chick – and Col. Scott Carter previously – at the Georgia Guard Regional Training Institute here on Clay,” Britt said. “This synergy resulted in first-class customer service and incredible training opportunities that continue to create readiness, not only for the Georgia National Guard, but for our nation’s military, across the board.”

While Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt, Georgia’s Adjutant General, focused most of his remarks on the 78th “filling a crucial gap in the nation’s ability to respond to a weapons of mass destruction event” as

the response force for FEMA Region IV, and one of just 10 new HRFs in the nation, he also relayed his thoughts about Blackstock and Scholes.

“They join a long line of commanders who have left their own distinctive mark on the 78th and the Georgia Guard,” said Nesbitt. “Colonel Blackstock has provided invaluable leadership over these past two years of high operations tempo, and Col. Scholes brings with him a wealth of knowledge and expertise from his former position. Both have served the Guard, their state and the nation selflessly,” he emphasized. “I know they will continue to be unwavering in that service.”

Blackstock said he may have been in command, but it was the hard work of his staff, his unit commanders and their Soldiers that made things happen over the past two years.

“As Georgia picks up the gauntlet and fulfills its mission as the region’s 911 force,” Blackstock said, “it goes forward knowing that it is the people of the 78th Troop Command who will comprise the 78th HRF, the best homeland response force in the country. And Col. Scholes’ extensive experience in support to civil authority is the right fit, at the right time, for making that happen,” Blackstock said.

Scholes returned the compliment, saying that he has no doubt that the Soldiers, and Airmen of the new 78th will set the example for their comrades in the other HRFs around the nation, and no doubt that they will be ready for, and pass, the external evaluation 11 months from now.

“This unit, through its success, will develop a ‘Center of Excellence’ for CBRNE training, exercising and readiness here at Clay and across the flight ramp on Dobbins Air Reserve Base for other states to emulate,” Scholes said. “I know we are all committed to meeting the challenges ahead and making the 78th HRF a recognized leader among the homeland response force community in the days to come.”

Britt said she sees Scholes transforming the 78th into a state-of-the-art homeland response force. His tour as the joint director of military support, where he developed contingency plans and managed complex operations in response to a number of disasters and special events, uniquely qualifies him to be the first commander of the Army Guard’s newest brigade.

“Mike, congratulations on being selected for this awesome responsibility,” Britt said. “I look forward to working with you as we build this distinctive and relevant unit into an instrument that will greatly enhance our homeland defense capabilities.”



By Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt
Adjutant General of Georgia

The Troop Command’s reputation is one of excellence, and it is known across the state and the nation. Since Sept. 11, 2001, every unit assigned to the 78th has mobilized and deployed in support of Overseas Contingency Operations, serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and various military bases across the United States. This is a battle-tested, and experienced force – and to command it takes no less than the best leadership the Guard has to offer.

Colonel Scholes has replaced Col. Blackstock as the commander of what is to become Georgia’s new Homeland Response Force. Both of these men follow a long line of distinguished 78th commanders, each making his own mark on the Troop Command and the Georgia National Guard at large.

Colonel Blackstock has provided invaluable leadership over the past two years of high operational tempo, and Col. Scholes is certain to bring in a wealth of applicable knowledge and expertise from his former position as J3 that will be crucial in guiding the 78th through its transition into a Homeland Response Force.

And he faces no easy task.

The goal of being fully mission capable by next November is an ambitious and aggressive goal indeed.

Georgia’s unique capacity to execute such a transition in the time allotted was no doubt one of the deciding factors which led to our state being selected as one of just 10 nationwide to have a Homeland Response Force.

The Georgia National Guard continues to lead the way on the national stage, on this initiative and many others.

These Homeland Response Forces are critical to the emerging homeland defense missions and roles the National Guard looks to fill going forward, and one for which we are particularly well suited to execute.

The 78th Homeland Response Forces will provide Georgia and FEMA Region IV with a unique capability to augment first responders and incident commanders. Region IV includes Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky.

The unit’s focus will be on chemical, biological, nuclear detection and decontamination - and its robust command and control headquarters will be capable of commanding multiple CERFPs and CSTs, depending on the mission requirement.

The 78th HRF will be a critical component in the overall ability of the Georgia Department of Defense to perform homeland defense missions and defense support to civil authorities by responding regionally to domestic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high yield explosive attacks, bringing life-saving medical, search and extraction, decontamination, security, and command and control capabilities.

Essentially, we’ve taken the CERFP mission, added in force protection, and command and control capability to make sure everyone’s missions are integrated. This new construct will allow us to save lives and mitigate human suffering as quickly as possible, helping to diminish any redundancy or confusion during an actual response.

The joint focus of the HRF mission allows different regional services and agencies to learn from one another, work together,

exercise and train more efficiently, and feel more comfortable with capabilities and assets in the event of an emergency – which helps overall preparedness immensely.

The HRFs are designed to foster a dialogue between regional first responders and other agencies. Ideally, the 78th HRF will play a very important role at the regional level in terms of helping develop and build regional plans and working with southeastern emergency managers to really build a functioning and cohesive connective tissue at the regional level.

One of the important concerns the HRF construction seeks to alleviate is the need to respond to multiple, simultaneous disasters. Through these HRFs, DoD will have the federal capacity to command and control response to multiple disasters or emergencies throughout the nation, simultaneously.

That being said, a given HRF will see most of its activity in direct response to a request from a governor of an afflicted state, should an incident occur. It is important to recognize the logistical reality that, a vast majority of the time, an emergency or disaster is going to be controlled at the local level by state government. The Department of Defense wanted to rebalance our forces to reflect that reality and provide the optimum capacity for homeland support.

Therefore, it is without hesitation that I note Georgia’s selection as the home of our region’s homeland response as yet another testament to the skill, preparedness and outstanding performance demonstrated by our Guardsmen and, in particular, the 78th Troop Command.

In a sense, what we are seeing here is the creation of a new breed of responders able and ready to serve their nation in an emergency. This authorization demonstrates the confidence our national leadership has in our capability to respond when the need arises.

It is a great honor to be chosen for this important mission, but also a great responsibility and we will be ready to meet that challenge.

YCA CADETS EXEMPLIFY GREAT VALUE OF PROGRAM TO STATE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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

MACON CITY AUDITORIUM, Macon, Ga., Dec. 18, 2010 – Addressing the 211 graduates of National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Academy Class 35, as well as their families and friends, State Rep. Ben Harbin (Dist. 118) said it is easy for those dealing with the state’s budget to simply “look at the numbers and talk about money when it comes to YCA,” but there is so much more at stake than dollars and cents might indicate.

“It takes about \$14,000 per student to support the program,” Harbin told the audience, “but when you attend something like this [graduation], and you see the faces beneath those caps and gowns, it’s worth every penny.”

The National Guard Youth Challenge Program’s mission is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of at-risk youth, and to produce graduates with the values, skills, education, self-confidence and self-discipline necessary for them to succeed as adults. Monies for YCA here in Georgia come in the form of 75 percent federal, 25 percent state-matching funds.

Harbin is serving his second term in the Georgia House of Representatives and his second term as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

“OUR COMMITMENT TO THESE YOUTH IS TO NEVER GIVE UP ON THEM.”

Class 35, from the campus at Hinesville’s Guard Garrison Training Center (GGTC), is the last YCA class to graduate for 2010. A new class takes its place not long after the new year begins.

More than 9,000 youth have graduated from the 22-week program since it began here in 1993, according to YCA statistics. The program will boast 10,000 graduates by next year.

Most cadets receive their GED, with at least 53 percent joining Georgia’s work force, 23 percent going on to college or vocational school and 20 percent entering military service, according to retired

Army Guard Col. Frank Williams, who oversees the Hinesville campus and the one at Fort Gordon in Augusta.

Quite impressive figures when one stops to think about it, Williams says.

“With the continued support of our legislators, we will endeavor to provide Georgia’s at-risk youth the opportunity to better themselves, to achieve the self-confidence and self-respect necessary to make them better citizens and better human beings,” said Williams. “Our commitment to these youth is to never give up on them; they are our future.”

One of the things Harbin said greatly impressed him about YCA, and especially about this graduating class, is the amount of public service the cadets performed as part of their 22 weeks on campus.

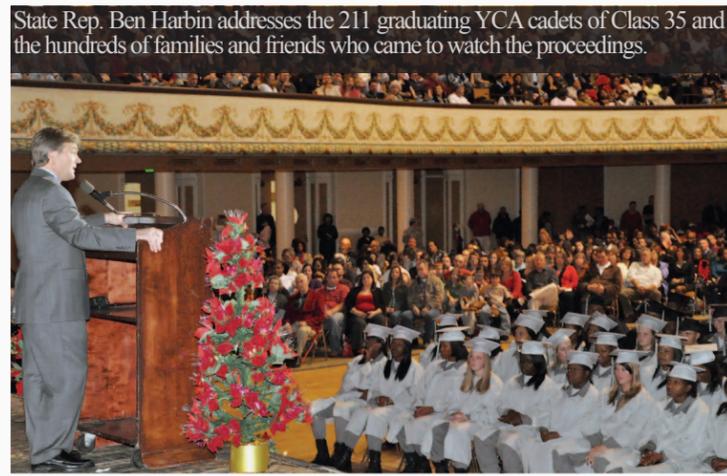
YCA program statistics show that, nationally, communities surrounding ChalleNGe facilities receive the benefit of 590,665 hours of volunteer service. Those hours are valued at more than \$3,000,000, based on the present federal minimum wage.

Through the community projects in which the cadets of Class 35 have participated, they have given more than 14,775 hours of service back to the state, says Bob Hughes, program director at the GGTC campus.

“Meaning Class 35, by itself, has given back \$299,195.75 worth of service to the community,” said Hughes. “For this class, that’s nearly one-third of a million dollars. This is just one example – in addition to the 211 cadets graduating today – as to why this program is so important to Georgia, to its youth, and to its families.”

In his final remarks to the cadets seated before him, Harbin said they should be proud knowing that, from the day they stepped off the bus at the Hinesville campus, they committed themselves to “improving their lives, overcoming the obstacles of non-achievement and achieving great things.” Going forward, he said, they should “walk, speak and act with confidence, and let others see the successes they have become.”

“YCA did a lot for me,” said Cadet Sgt. Ethan Turner, Class 35’s distinguished graduate. “I was going nowhere, and would’ve ended up on the wrong end of everything had Youth ChalleNGe not been there for me. I, for one, sure hope it sticks around for those kids behind me looking for answers.”



State Rep. Ben Harbin addresses the 211 graduating YCA cadets of Class 35 and the hundreds of families and friends who came to watch the proceedings.

JACK HILL PRESENTED WITH NGAUS CHARLES DICK MEDAL OF MERIT



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

GARDEN CITY, Ga., Dec. 17, 2010 – State Sen. Jack Hill (Dist. 4), was presented the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) Charles Dick Medal of Merit by Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt, Georgia’s Adjutant General, during a ceremony at the Georgia Air Guard’s Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center.

Hill, who is Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, spent 33 years as an officer and unit commander with the Air Guard. According to the citation, he spearheaded the funding for

several Guard efforts over the years, most notably the renovation of Guard armories across the state, and he was instrumental in the establishment of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe program here in Georgia.

“It isn’t just me who is deserving of this award,” Hill said. “When you see the success the Army and Air Guard have had in this state over the years, it didn’t just happen by accident. It happens every day because of the hard work of the men and women – military and civilian – who make up the Georgia Department of Defense.”

Nesbitt said Hill is indicative of the kind of leadership – locally and nationally – that, over the years, continues to recognize the importance of the National Guard’s role in homeland operations and in carrying out the warfight alongside its active duty counterparts.

“Many like Senator Hill have been – or are – Citizen-Soldiers, and know first-hand the great work the Guard does, and continues to do,” Nesbitt said. “It’s because of his exceptional support and his forward-thinking that we gratefully bestow on him this prestigious award.”

Established in 1988, the Charles Dick Medal of Merit recognizes contributions to the National Guard by elected officials at the state and national level.

The Medal of Merit is named for Maj. Gen. Charles Dick, NGAUS president from 1902 to 1909. Dick also commanded the Ohio National Guard while also serving as a U.S. senator. He is responsible for passage of the Dick acts of 1903 (which replaced the old Militia Act of 1792) and 1908. The 1903 and 1908 acts established the foundation of the modern National Guard.

GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD FAMILY PROGRAM
GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM

**Military Benefits & Services Expo
For Deployed Family Members**

**JANUARY 22, 2011
TIME: 10AM-5PM
LOCATION: TBA**

GEORGIA YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM:
PAM CONLEY: 404.291.0086
PAMELA.CONLEY@US.ARMY.MIL
FACEBOOK.COM/YELLOWRIBBONGA
TWITTER.COM/YELLOWRIBBONGA

GEORGIA GUARD FAMILY PROGRAMS:
KIM GARRETT: 770.339.5294
KIM.GARRETT2@US.ARMY.MIL
FACEBOOK.COM/GEORGIAGUARDFAMILYPROGRAM
TWITTER.COM/GEORGIAGUARDFAMILYPROGRAM

165TH AIRLIFT WING TRAINS COMBAT SKILLS



Command Sgt. Major Joseph Recker (center) receives the NCO sword from Command Sgt. Major Michael Hurndon during the Change of Responsibility ceremony conducted on November 13, 2010 in Macon, Ga.

48TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COLORS PASSED TO NEW SENIOR NCO

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. David S. Bill
48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
Georgia Army National Guard

MACON, Ga., Nov. 13, 2010 — The mantle of responsibility for the 4,000 Soldiers of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team passed to Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Recker during a ceremony held today at the Brigade Headquarters.

Recker received the traditional NCO sword from Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Hurndon, the outgoing 48th Brigade Command Sgt. Maj., as a symbol of the responsibility that goes with the highest enlisted position within the Brigade.

Command Sgt. Maj. James Nelson, the Georgia Guard State Command Sgt. Maj., told those in attendance of the critical role in leadership within the unit that Recker now holds as the senior advisor to the commander on all Soldier issues, and of the responsibility for the health and welfare of the Brigade.

Nelson recognized Command Sgt. Maj. Hurndon's leadership during the brigade's recent deployment to Afghanistan by quoting comments made by Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Hall, Senior NCO for the International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) Headquarters in Afghanistan, about the brigade, "The 48th Brigade is tactically proficient, well trained, disciplined and the best at Counter Insurgency in the Afghanistan theater."

Colonel John King, the 48th IBCT commander, thanked Hurden for his dedicated service to the Brigade.

"You set the standard for how a commander and command sergeant major should work together," King said.

Tradition requires that the unit colors be passed from the outgoing to the incoming. Command Sgt. Maj. King passed the brigade colors to Recker, signifying that, as the Brigade Command Sergeant Major, he has become the "custodian of the colors".

Recker, a longtime resident of Plains, Ga., told the Soldiers, family and friends in attendance "this job does not require a lot of words, but it does require a lot of action."



Lt. Col. David Simons passes a training grenade to a fellow Airman during Combat Skills Training at Fort Dix, N.J.

By Lt. Col. David Simons
165th Airlift Wing
Georgia Air National Guard

For many in the Army, whether Active Duty, Reserves or National Guard, Combat Skills Training (CST) would be another redux of basic training, without the persistent drill instructors and their constant "encouragement." But for many in the Air Force, once again whether Active Duty, Reserves or National Guard, it is akin to doing Army basic training without the luxury of nice barracks or quality meals. Whereas most Soldiers deploy as part of a unit and train together in preparation for combat zone service, many Airmen fill slots in their necessary career specialties as needed and travel as individuals.

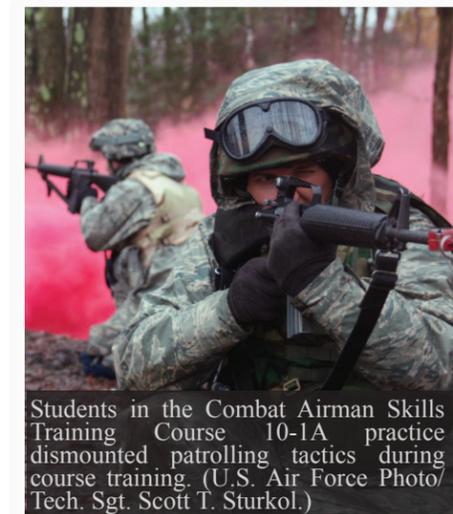
Over the past several years, the Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard have been sending Airmen, Sailors or Coasties whose upcoming assignments are to work with the Army or at Forward Operating Bases outside the confines of an established (read highly protected) air base, to attend CST or Army training-lite. Course work includes the Combat Lifesavers Course (a 40-hour block of instruction), land navigation, radio

training, survival, tactics, and rifle and pistol training on various ranges, as well as numerous other courses. The sole purpose is to help the non-Army understand the Army and their tactics. While the training is designed to be informative on the workings of the Army, more importantly, it also puts the attendee in the mindset of entering a combat zone.

Many of Georgia's Citizen-Airmen have gone through CST in preparation



Lt. Col. David Simons inspects a training grenade before passing it on to a fellow Airman during Combat Skills Training at Fort Dix, N.J.

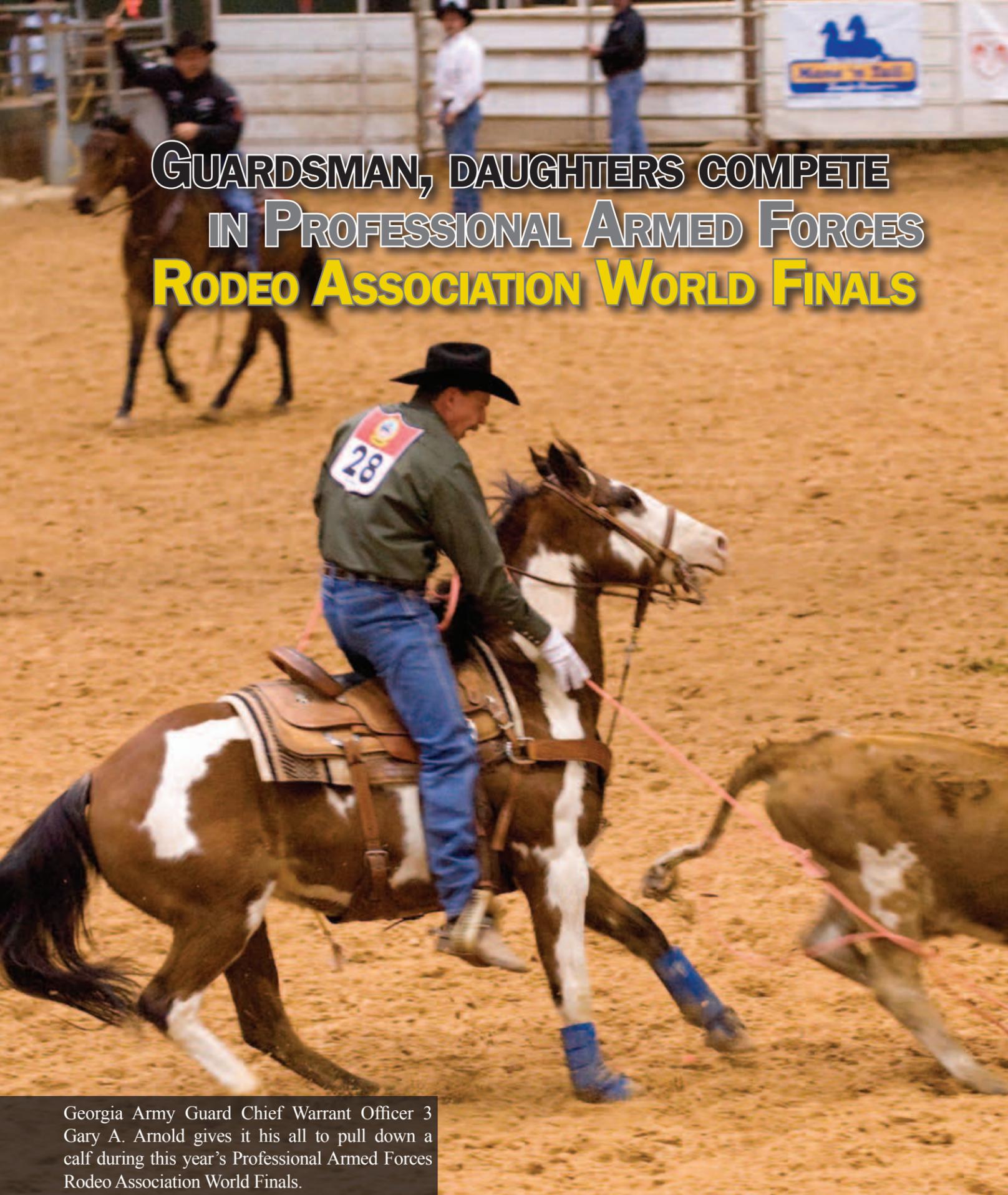


Students in the Combat Airman Skills Training Course 10-1A practice dismounted patrolling tactics during course training. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol.)

for deployment, to include members of the 165th Security Forces Squadron who have been going through a CST train-up for their upcoming service in Afghanistan. Other Citizen-Airmen of the Georgia Air Guard's 165th Airlift Wing who have gone through this training include Col. Todd Freeseemann, commander of the Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center. He was the former commander of the 165th Civil Engineering Squadron when he attended in 2005, prior to his service in Iraq. Senior Master Sgt. Dee Phillips attended in 2010, prior to assignment as a military contracting specialist in Afghanistan. And I was one of the latest attendees, as the 165th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Officer, having just returned from a four-week CST course at Fort Dix, N.J. prior to assignment in Afghanistan.

The CST training for the Air Force brought many specialties together, including pilots, navigators, intelligence specialists, cooks, and public affairs personnel. My 82-person class was one of four classes from the Air Force attending, with one of those classes graduating each week. The CST training certificate is good for up to six months and training must be repeated if, or when, the trainee is reassigned to return to the combat zone. In addition to the Army training, each trainee was issued new army equipment and uniforms for work in theater.

GUARDSMAN, DAUGHTERS COMPETE IN PROFESSIONAL ARMED FORCES RODEO ASSOCIATION WORLD FINALS



Georgia Army Guard Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gary A. Arnold gives it his all to pull down a calf during this year's Professional Armed Forces Rodeo Association World Finals.

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



SOMERVELL COUNTY EXPO CENTER, Glen Rose, Texas, Nov. 20, 2010 – A Liberty County Soldier and his daughters were among the more than 40 military, retired military and civilians to compete Nov. 20 and 21 in the

annual Professional Armed Forces Rodeo Association (PAFRA) World Finals at Somervell County Expo Center in Glen Rose, Texas.

“It’s also where many of the top civilian rodeo stars come to compete on their way to Las Vegas and the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) National Finals,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3, and all-around horseman, Gary A. Arnold. “It’s practice for them, and a great privilege for us to watch and learn from them.”

For Arnold and his two daughters, 17-year-old Ashley and 15-year-old Courtney, who live in Gum Branch near Hinesville, Ga., this is the second time they have competed. The first was in 2009 at the finals in Fort Worth.

“The girls and I have been active in rodeo since 2004,” said Arnold, a full-time supervisor with Combined Support Maintenance Shop-South at the Guard Garrison Training Center on Fort Stewart. “Friends got us interested about eight years ago, and we’ve been doing it as a family – and loving every hardworking moment of it – ever since.”

As a traditional Citizen-Soldier, the 30-year veteran is also the senior automotive technician for Hinesville’s Company B, 348th Brigade Support Battalion.

Gary and Ashley compete in calf roping, also known as “heeling and heading,” where one rider ropes a calf’s legs and the other its head. They do “chute dogging” (where one tries to put down a calf without the aid of a horse and rope), and they do breakaway roping (a variation of calf roping where a calf is roped, but not thrown or tied). Ashley and Courtney also compete in barrel racing.

Last year, Ashley was rookie header of the year and took second in breakaway. Arnold placed second overall in calf roping. Courtney did well in barrel racing, though her final placement did not reflect her effort.

“It takes more than just getting on a horse and believing you can do it – even though that’s part of it. Like being a Soldier, it takes physical conditioning, coordination and teamwork to be successful,” Arnold explained. “That, along with the challenge of lasting through three separate 2½-hour rodeos in one weekend, can really test your resolve.”

“Add to that the fact that you’re competing against cowboys who do this all the time at work and at play,” said Ashley, “and you’re in for one heck of a ride. We do this on weekends and in our free time; for them, it’s second nature.”

This year, with the competition as stiff as ever, Arnold and the girls pushed themselves and their horses to do even better. PAFRA stats show that Chief Warrant Officer Arnold placed second in the men’s all around competition and in calf roping, tied for first in chute dogging, and took rookie of the year in heeling. Ashley was second in breakaway, fourth overall in heading, fifth overall in heeling – finishing as the runner-up rookie of the year behind her dad, sixth overall in calf roping, seventh in barrel racing, and finished second in the women’s all around competition. Courtney placed second overall in barrel racing.

“Placing second, and knowing that I made my dad and sister proud of me, is reward enough... anyway, there’s always next year,” said the youngest Arnold daughter.

From here, Gary and his daughters will go against local cowboys in the February 2011 Southeastern Cowboy Association year-end finals at Ludowici near Hinesville, Ga. They will also be starting the new PAFRA season, improving their roping, riding and timing as they get ready for next year’s finals.

“I’m really proud of who we are and what we do as a Guard family,” Ashley said. “Dad works hard to balance his time with us, his work as a Soldier, and his commitment to our community. Stepping into his stirrups is as big a job as they come, but I don’t know anyone I’d rather follow.”

“Same goes for me,” Courtney said. “Dad pushes himself to give his very best, and he pushes us. Whether it’s getting up on a horse or putting on a uniform, it takes a strong, dedicated person to do what he has done for us, in rodeo, with the Georgia Guard, and for folks he doesn’t even know. I wouldn’t trade the person that he is for anything in this world.”

(Photos for this story were contributed by the PRCA, the Defense Media Activity and the Georgia Guard’s Combined Support Maintenance Shop-South.)



Georgia Army Guard Officer Candidate Kisha Ford and her classmates practice setting security during a simulated patrol.

FORMER WNBA PLAYER JOINS GEORGIA GUARD, LOOKS TO BECOME OFFICER

Story and photo by Sgt. Richard Holdridge
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Georgia Army National Guard

FORT BENNING, Columbus, Ga., Nov. 29, 2010 – Former WNBA basketball player and Georgia Tech Hall of Famer Kisha Ford enjoyed the spotlight for several years as one of the Lady Yellow Jackets’ top players. Now, this Stone Mountain resident is taking her skills as a leader on the court and applying them in her quest to become a Georgia Army Guard officer.

After staking her claim in Georgia Tech history as the university’s all-time leading scorer in women’s basketball, Ford went on to compete with the United States Women’s Basketball team as a member of the 1995 Jones Cup Team that won the Bronze Medal in Taipei. She was later selected in the fourth round of the 1997 WNBA draft by the New York Liberty, where she gained playoff experience in the WNBA finals against the Houston Comets.

The 5’10” guard’s career was impressive, having played in the WNBA from 1997 to 2001, averaging 3.6 points a game in that time period. WNBA statistics show that, over the course of her WNBA career, Ford scored 442 points, grabbed 218 rebounds, had 90 assists and 111 steals.

When she graduates OCS, Ford will exchange her basketball jersey for ACUs and the gold bar of a Georgia Army Guard second lieutenant.

Born in Baltimore, Md., Ford played high school basketball and was highly recruited for her ball-handling skills. Georgia Tech sought her out after graduation and she accepted. She says she was intrigued about attending school there because of the academics and the playing time she would receive as a freshman.

Ford, who has not played basketball professionally for a couple of years now, left the Miami Sol and spent three years as an Atlanta

police officer. She is now working for Dekalb County Police, and has been there for three years.

Ford joined the Guard earlier this year and by June was attending Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, S.C. As a leader on the hardwood, the transition to becoming a leader of Soldiers was something that came naturally to her, and something she has always wanted to do, she says.

“I’ve always had the desire to enlist,” said Ford. “At this point in my life, I believe I would be of better service to the military leading Soldiers, than returning to the court.”

Once she receives her commission, Ford said she plans to make the Georgia Guard her new career. She expects that to happen Jan. 20 next year. Her plan, she says, is to become a military intelligence officer. She credits her time on the court and going through the Police Academy with helping her get through Basic Training and now OCS.

“The discipline I learned as young player and then as a rookie police officer taught me how to listen, take orders and carry out whatever task was given me to the best of my abilities,” she said. “It also taught me to push myself, to go beyond what I believed myself capable of to achieve success.”

Looking back on her basketball days, Ford took a moment to talk about one of the greatest moments in her life: the day she went pro. It, like becoming an Army Guard officer, was a dream come true, she says.

“The day I got the phone call from the coach, and was told I’d been drafted, was a fun and exciting time,” Ford recalled. “It meant I’d have to find my niche on the team to get playing time, so my goal was to play the best defense I could.”

Now, she says, her focus is still on defense – but the defense of a state and nation.

THE NCO NOTEPAD

By Command Sgt. Maj. James Nelson Jr.
State Command Sergeant Major
Georgia Department of Defense

Today, tens of thousands of Army National Guard Soldiers are serving in harm’s way in Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries around the globe.

As the ARNG continues its historic dual mission – providing units trained and equipped to protect life and property in the homeland, while providing units trained, equipped and ready to defend the United States and its interests worldwide – deployments can result in physical, emotional and financial strains for Soldiers and their Families.

Even those Soldiers who have not deployed face the strain of possible deployments and the challenges of everyday life.

Some of the most challenging issues Soldiers face include: strained relationships due to separation from loved ones over long periods of time, dangerous assignments, the residual effects of combat exposures, unemployment, and financial strain. These issues can negatively impact their emotional well-being. Delays in addressing these issues often lead to absenteeism in the work place, sleep disorders, anxiety attacks, divorce, substance abuse, or even suicide.

We know that many Soldiers are apprehensive in seeking help due to the perceived stigma associated with obtaining such services, to the point where they forego treatment. Many Soldiers are unaware of the signs and symptoms of stress-related disorders and as a result we miss the opportunity to provide the resources available to aid in the recovery process.

As part of the Georgia Army National Guard team, it is our collective psychological hardiness coupled with our ability to bounce back from adversity that allows us to fight our wars and keep our homefront safe. So, as leaders, we must implement engaged leadership practices that promote resilience and encourage our Soldiers and families to seek assistance when needed.

Remember, Soldiers need not suffer in silence.



NEW GUARD FACILITIES COME TO GEORGIA



**HUNTER READINESS TRAINING CENTER
HINESVILLE, GA.**



**ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER
FT. BENNING, GA.**



**GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY
CUMMING, GA.**



**LUCIUS D. CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS
MARIETTA, GA.**

*By Mr. Seth G. Stuck
Public Affairs Office
Georgia Department of Defense*

Georgia continues to support the growth of its National Guard, as evidenced by the new \$26-million Cumming regional armory and the \$17-million Lorenzo-Benn facility. The Cumming armory is the first new armory in Georgia in many years.

The National Guard has grown in Georgia in other ways as well, with the recent acquisition of Naval Air Station Atlanta and that base's transition into the Clay National Guard Center, where the Georgia Department of Defense's new \$30-million JFHQ building is under construction and a recent ribbon-cutting ceremony on base marked the opening of a new language lab. Other Guard expansions in the state include the Fort Benning joint use armory, the new Hunter Readiness Training Center at Ft. Stewart and AASF 2 being renovated to house our parachute rigger company.

The State's investments in its National Guard have more than paid off, as the Guard has had a significant

positive impact on the State's economy. Because most of the organization's funds come from federal sources, Georgia actually sees more tax revenue from the income of its Citizen-Soldiers than it spends on the Georgia Guard as a whole. That is to say nothing of the profoundly positive and direct economic impact the Guard's armories, bases and other facilities have on their surrounding communities and businesses.

As an illustration, the Guard receives \$10 million in Georgia state funding annually. This money pulls down another \$30 million in federal matching funds into the Georgia Guard's state account. The Georgia National Guard's federal budget is about \$500 million. So, Georgia's \$10 million investment annually generates \$500 million for the state's economy.

Additionally, Georgia's Guardsmen and Airmen pay about \$25 million in state income tax. One could look at the original \$10 million funded by the state as a loan that the Guard uses each year to generate a half-billion dollars in revenue, then pays the loan back with 250% interest.

In addition to providing Georgia with a very robust capability to respond to contingencies, the Guard is clearly a significant economic engine for the state as well.

WARRANT OFFICERS : LEADERS AND SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS

Story by Pfc. Ashley Fontenot
Public Affairs Office
Georgia Department of Defense

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Dec. 13, 2010 – When most people in the National Guard hear the words “chief” or “warrant officer,” their thoughts turn to aviation and pilots. There are, however, dozens of other jobs in the Georgia National Guard that are in need of technically trained warrant officers. Beyond aviation, warrant officer specialties range from quartermaster, to transportation, to signal, to Special Forces, and much more in between.

“What sets a warrant officer apart from a commissioned officer or an NCO is simply years of experience,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Owen McDaniel, the property accounting technician for the 78th Homeland Defense Force (HRF). “Our warrants usually stay in the same shop and specialty their whole careers, and they’re expected to be subject matter experts.”

As the Georgia National Guard looks to fill its ranks with warrant officers, leaders are looking to their most highly dedicated and professional NCOs, says McDaniel.

“Not everyone has what it takes to make the transition to warrant officer. The standards are rigorous and not easy to achieve, but those who do prove that they have what it takes to become leaders and expert instructors of the National Guard,” said McDaniel.

According to the National Guard website, the requirements for warrant officer candidate school require NCO candidates to be between the ages of 18-46, have a passing score on all events of

the Army Physical Fitness Test, and have a high school or GED diploma. Many fields also require an individual to have already performed a job in a “feeder MOS” as an enlisted Soldier within a relevant field.

Those requirements might get you in the door, but Soldiers still have to endure four to six weeks of a very challenging warrant officer candidate school, where they must prove themselves worthy of the position, says McDaniel. Once graduated, the warrant officer becomes the technical advisor for the entire command.

“Most importantly, we need someone who is self-motivated, thinks outside the box, and is not one-dimensional,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 David Dumas, a technical maintenance advisor for the 78th HRF.

“In today’s Army, things change so fast, regulations can’t keep up with the basics, and we need someone who can think on their feet and then communicate to anyone at all levels, up and down their chain of command.”

Twenty years ago, Chief Warrant Officer 4 David Dumas was a 1st Sgt. He explained what motivated him to go warrant, and why it was the best decision of his career.

“A lot of older Soldiers who’ve made rank on the enlisted side don’t feel like

they want to start all over at the bottom,” Dumas explained. “But making this transition put me in a whole new way of life. Nobody tries to tell me what my job is, they expect me to know what I’m doing and how I’m going to accomplish it when I walk in the door,” he added. “It’s up to me to know what’s supposed to be done. That’s the kind of respect that a warrant officer naturally commands.”

WANTED:



Warrant Officer Candidates:
Dedicated, professional Soldier with the desire for experience, expertise and a long career in a specific technical field.

REWARD: Years of work in a position of highly respected rank, for a technical field that you choose yourself.

CONTACT GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD RECRUITING AND RETENTION FOR MORE INFORMATION

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOOKSHELF: REVIEWS OF BOOKS THAT TEACH US ABOUT OUR

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

Colonel Dandridge Malone’s masterpiece, *Small Unit Leadership: A Commonsense Approach*, should be on your bookshelf, highlighted, tabbed out, and with notes written in the margins. It covers the essential things sergeants, lieutenants and captains need to know and do to lead units successfully.

It’s not like these folks – Soldiers or Airmen – are the only leaders in the world, or even in the armed forces. But it is at the small unit level that orders get translated into actions; and this book will help you understand how to make that happen.

Key to Malone’s approach is understanding that leadership doesn’t start at the point of contact (whether battlefield, cubicle, or board room). If we expect subordinates to perform well under stress, we must first focus their efforts, develop them as individuals, and prepare them to operate as a team. They must have confidence in their abilities, confidence in those around them, confidence in their equipment, and confidence in their leaders.

And that takes a ton of work.

Malone has an underlying focus on competence, communication, organization, bearing, and integrity. This shows in his commonsense notes on leadership traits, including some practical ways to demonstrate those traits to the subordinates leaders depend upon.

“THERE MUST BE LEADERS AND FOLLOWERS. LEADERS AND FOLLOWERS DO DIFFERENT THINGS. LEADERS ANALYZE, ORGANIZE, DEPUTIZE, AND SUPERVISE. FOLLOWERS EXECUTE.”

For example, how can a leader demonstrate integrity except in telling the truth? Answer: by always using power to work toward mission accomplishment, or for subordinates – never for personal gain. Maybe that seems obvious, but the book also highlights not just the need to do this, but how to carefully demonstrate integrity in the most productive ways.

Organizing effort and allocating resources are two key tasks of any leader. Malone’s approach to the division of labor includes a discussion of who should do things, based on traditional roles and responsibilities. His discussion is based on his Army experience, but understanding the division of labor is harder than it seems,

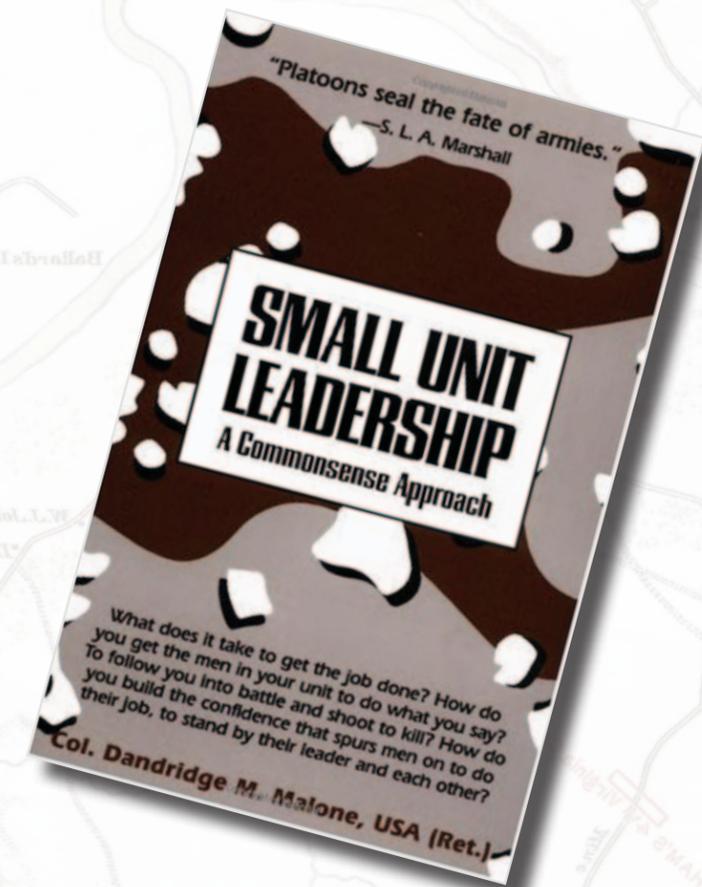
especially when one realizes that some tasks are more attractive than others.

Perhaps the most important aspect of leadership for the long-term success of an organization is developing subordinates. Representing both our immediate and our distant futures, subordinates’ actions in the absence of direct supervision are

critical to success. And how can we trust they will do the right things if we don’t take the time to develop them beforehand?

In a closing chapter, Malone provides invaluable outlines for common leadership challenges. How to reward, how to inspect, how to counsel, how to handle “sharpshooters,” how to set standards...each is basically turned into a commonsense battle drill of what to do, when to do it, and how to measure success.

An interesting effect of the book is to actually motivate the leader, or would-be leader, into reading it –to remind us of our place in the organization. –to charge us with the drive to meet our responsibilities as leaders –to define us, in a way.



AROUND THE GEORGIA GUARD



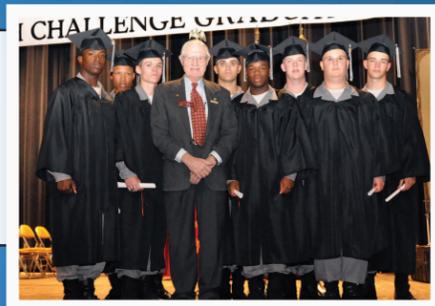
Georgia Department of Defense celebrates National Guard's 374th birthday

DOBBINS AIR RESERVE BASE, Marietta, Ga., Dec. 14, 2010 – General James Oglethorpe (left), the founder of Savannah – played by Staff Sgt. Gerard Brown (kneeling center), readiness and training NCO for the Georgia Army Guard's 124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment – poses with (from the left: Robert Banks, Chipa Wolfe, Patrick, Stephen McKinney, Eric Tedder and Phil Jones) re-enactors from the Historical Society of Georgia. The group helped members of the Georgia Army and Air National Guard,

the air base, as well as local, state and federal government officials celebrate the National Guard's 374th birthday here at Air Guard Headquarters.

Representative John Yates poses with YCA grads

MACON, Ga., Dec. 18, 2010 – State Rep. John Yates (center) poses with Henry and Spaulding County youth who are among the 211 cadets of Class 35 to graduate the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Academy program.



Georgia Air National Guard unveils restored F-86

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Nov. 6, 2010 – The 165th Airlift Wing unveils the restored F-86 Korean War era fighter jet flown during the 1950's by the 158th Air Squadron of the Georgia Air National Guard. One of the veteran combat pilots of this aircraft, Brig. Gen. Bill "Foots" Taylor (Ret.), spoke during the presentation. The restored aircraft now sits in the new "Air Park," a vision of Col. Jim Grandy, commander of the 165th Airlift Wing Maintenance Group. The Air Park includes a restored F-84 fighter that also belonged to the 158th Air Squadron and a new running track. It is situated near the Combat Readiness Training Center's new dormitory and the combined headquarters building of the 165th Airlift Wing and the CRTC.



Georgia Guard officially unveils Lakota

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Dec., 2010 – Georgia's Adjutant General, Maj. Lucas Rice and Sgt. Matt Parker take a moment to pose for a photo with the log book for the new aircraft. The passing of the log book and keys is a formalized practice which signifies the beginning of the Lakota's service in the Georgia Army National Guard. The unveiling ceremony represented the official acquisition of three UH-Lakota helicopters by the Georgia Guard.



"Not only are these Lakota helicopters extremely capable, but they are also very affordable, which makes them a great value for the American taxpayer.

The Lakota helicopter was cited by Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition as one of the top five 'model' acquisition programs within the Department of Defense," said Col. (Ret.) Jim King, a retired Georgia Guardsman who spoke on behalf of the Lakota manufacturer.

Col. Bracewell, 78th Aviation commander, noted that the new Lakota helicopters will provide increased capabilities for homeland security and homeland defense missions.

Birdies for the Brave

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Nov., 2010 – Members of the 165th Airlift Wing help out the PGA of America and the TPC Sawgrass in their annual "Birdies for the Brave" golf tournament fundraiser for military charities. The last couple of years, the event has invited the unit to provide an Honor Guard detail, vocalist and chaplain to help celebrate the event.

The November 2010 tournament included the unit taking second place. In addition, PGA golfer and winner of the 2009 British Open, Stewart Cink, provided a golf lesson to the tournament participants.

165th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Officer Lt. Col. David Simons presented Mr. Cink with a Wing coin. Captain Brannon Bowman, the 165th's Chaplain, also provided the invocation for the event.





Army tech Engineer
to educate Afghan children,
farmers

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