

GEORGIA GUARDSMAN



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March 2011



Agricultural Development Teams tap UGA in preparation for Afghan mission

4th CST
successfully tests new field standards

116th Air Control Wing
receives 15th outstanding unit award from U.S. Air Force



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CHEMICAL TERRORISM RESPONSE TRAINING

Members of the Georgia Guard's Joint Task Force 781, out of Kennesaw, wash down a civilian role player during the decontamination phase of a disaster preparedness exercise at Cobb County's Public Safety Village.

Story by Pfc. Ashley Fontenot
Photos by Sgt. Jerry De Avila
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Georgia Army National Guard

The Cobb County Public Safety Village was built about a year ago to mirror Marietta Square. With military and civilian organizations working side-by-side, the Village's large empty parking lot quickly converted into a

victims of the terrorist attack.

"Once our search and extraction team gets the 'victims' out of the hostage situation, each role player has a scenario card that says what is wrong with them, and what symptoms they should exhibit when they're being assisted by the response teams," Hutnick said. "They first go through a triage process, where the responders separate them by injury severity. Since this scenario deals with chemical warfare, the victims must be decontaminated before quickly moving into the medical assistance area."

The CBRNE unit participates in these types of exercises several times a year, each time striving to make their response better and faster.

"We need to be ready; that means equipment that works and Soldiers who are trained. The final piece is knowing how to work together when we're out here with local law enforcement and emergency teams. Training events such as this help us accomplish all the above."

fully functional emergency response operations area.

"Our goal this morning is to get all of this equipment up and running within an hour," Hutnick said. "There are a lot of pieces that have to come together, so organization here is important."

This month's exercise brought out more than 300 Army and Air Guardsmen, including those from the CERFP and Marietta's 248th Medical Company, to train in a true-to-life scenario. Dozens of members from Georgia's State Defense Force also participated, role-playing as civilian

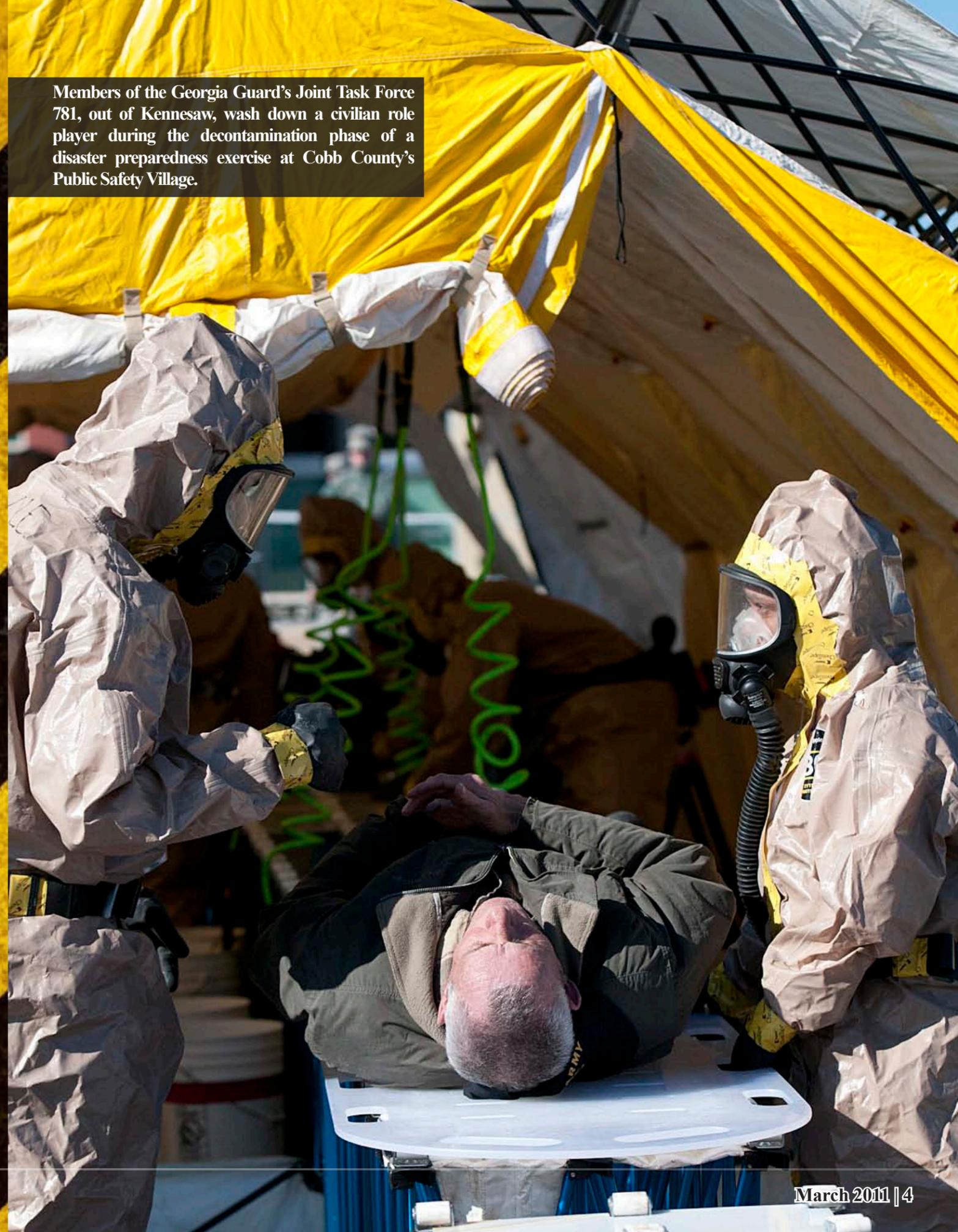


Members of the Cobb County HAZMAT Team test State Defense Force role players for simulated chemical agents during a joint exercise with the Georgia Guard's JTF 781 CERFP.

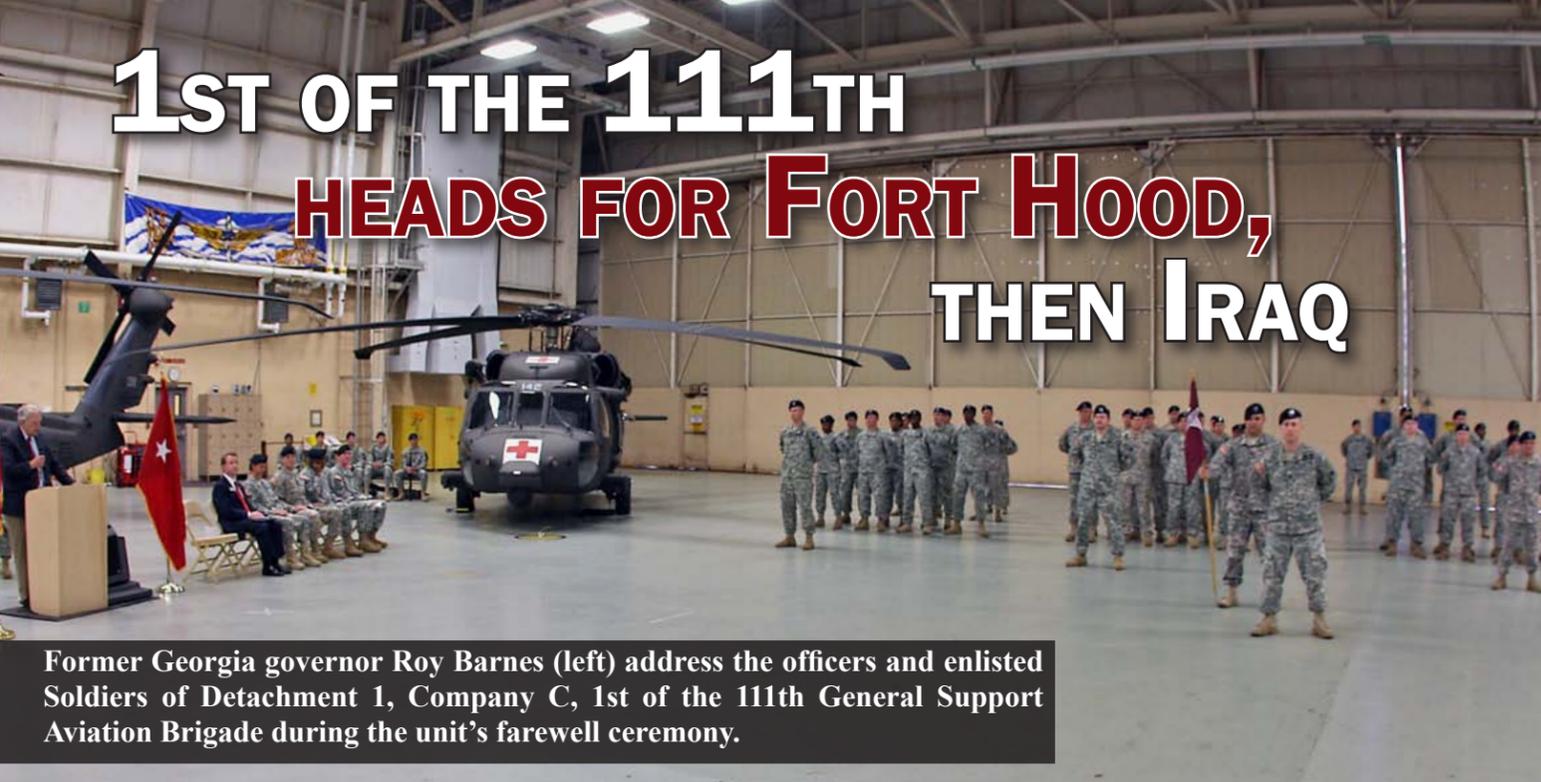
COBB COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY VILLAGE, Marietta, Ga., Feb. 7, 2011

— The Georgia Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive (CBRNE) Response Force Package, also known as the JTF 781 CERFP, conducted a joint force training exercise with several first response agencies from the Atlanta area at Marietta's Cobb County Public Safety Village.

"This exercise is set up to simulate a terrorist hostage situation in an area we are familiar with," said Maj. Ken Hutnick, Executive Officer of JTF 781 CERFP.



1ST OF THE 111TH HEADS FOR FORT HOOD, THEN IRAQ



Former Georgia governor Roy Barnes (left) address the officers and enlisted Soldiers of Detachment 1, Company C, 1st of the 111th General Support Aviation Brigade during the unit's farewell ceremony.

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

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Feb. 3, 2011 – Detachment 1, Company C, 1-111th General Support Aviation Brigade said its farewells to more than 200 family members, friends and fellow Soldiers in a ceremony held here at Army Aviation Flight Facility No. 2 across the flight line on Dobbins Air Reserve Base.

Captain Will Cox, the unit commander, more than 60 pilots and support personnel, Sgt. 1st Class Vincenzo Battaglia – the unit's first sergeant – and six of the unit's MEDEVAC UH-60M Black Hawk Helicopters left for Fort Hood, Texas, two days later. After two months of extensive training there, the unit will move on to Tallil Air Base.

Once its Black Hawks have arrived, the unit will begin its yearlong mission of providing MEDEVAC support as part of the active Army's 40th and 29th Combat Aviation brigades to coalition forces now involved in Operation New Dawn in Iraq.

"When the National Guard Bureau asked us to deploy six months early, we hadn't had our aircraft more than a year, and were short pilots, flight medics and crew chiefs," Cox said.

Even when the unit finally did receive the people it needed, many of them needed training to fly and repair the UH60M, he adds. Even those coming on as medics needed additional schooling to properly care for the patients the flight crews would be picking up.

"The bureau knew it would be a challenge to make it all happen, but it also knows Georgia has a track record of meeting challenges and succeeding," Cox continued. "People, from the

top down, worked late hours and gave everything they had to helping us move to a ready status and getting us on the road to Iraq. There's no way we can ever really thank them for the sacrifice they made – for the support they gave to bring us to this point."

Among those who said farewell to the 111th were former Gov. Roy Barnes; State Sen. John Albers (Dist. 56); Maj. Gen. Maria L. Britt, Georgia Army Guard Commander; and Col. Brent Bracewell, who commands 78th Aviation Troop Command – the parent headquarters of Detachment 1, Company C, 1-111th.

In an earlier statement regarding the deployment of not just the 111th but also the 1-171st Aviation (which is also based at Dobbins and deploying at the same time), Bracewell said operations would be affected, but not so badly that Georgia could not carry out its support to civil authority mission. "Help, when needed," he said, "will be found in the surrounding states, but until then, Georgia's three new UH-72A Lakota helicopters will be used as a replacement for the Black Hawks."

78th Aviation Troop Command hopes to add a fourth Lakota to its inventory later this year.

As Cox and the 1-111th prepared for their departure from Dobbins, Barnes lauded the Soldiers' choice to serve their country's cause.

"You go because you represent the best of America, and you want to show the world that we will never shrink from our responsibility to carry the torch of freedom and liberty around the world," Barnes said. "We hope and pray that we can repay the debt we owe you for the sacrifices you and your loved ones make. And with that, we send you off now with never-ending support – for you and your mission – and our prayers that you all will safely come home again."

GSDF HELPS RECERTIFY 48TH BRIGADE MEDICS

Story by SDF Sgt. Leonard Goodelman
Medical Battalion Public Affairs Office
Georgia State Defense Force

GEORGIA PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER, Forsyth, Ga., Feb. 12, 2011

– The Georgia State Defense Force (GSDF) – using trained CPR instructors from their ranks – helped certify more than 100 National Guard medics from Company C, 148th Brigade Support Battalion, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

"Our ability to help the Georgia Guard with our volunteers is just one of the key assets we bring to the overall warfight," said Capt. Andrew Creed, the GSDF Public Affairs Officer.

To keep Company C's medics' certification from expiring in April, the unit conducted an intensive training and testing program using instructors from the GSDF's 5th Brigade and 5th Medical Company who have been nationally certified

through their civilian occupations.

"The Georgia Army National Guard didn't have sufficient internal resources in either manpower or equipment to perform this mission," Creed said. "By utilizing the assets we have in the State Defense Force, they were able to save valuable training dollars."

All Guard Soldiers tested by the GSDF passed CPR and skills station testing, permitting each Soldier to renew their national registry recertification. If a given Soldier had not successfully completed the training, he or she would have lost their Military Occupation Skill classification as a 68W medic.

Major David Liebl, executive officer of the GSDF's 5th Medical Company, said, "We have been invited to continue to train and drill with the Guard. It's an honor to know that we made a difference and a positive and lasting impact with these medics."

NCO NOTEPAD



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

There are many sections of the NCO Creed which have influenced my life, both in the way I live and the way I think. The creed has taught me many things that make me who I am today. But the sentence "I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of soldiers" is the one single phrase that I would consider my favorite. All Soldiers, whether old or new, should try their hardest to abide and live by the NCO Creed.

As proud as I am to be an NCO, I am even prouder to be a leader of Soldiers. I honestly believe the single most important quality that a Soldier in any leadership position owes to those he or she is entrusted to lead is leadership. Over the course of my career, I have had both good and not so good leaders, but I made a conscious effort to learn from each. I have taken in the good and thrown out the bad while at the same time being mindful to never lose myself in the process.

As NCOs, we probably all have an image in our minds of an ideal leader.

Our Soldiers should find us wise, yet open and approachable. My idea of leadership is being able to inspire others, motivate, set a vision, communicate, respect others, and of course lead by example. A leader must have an honest understanding of who they are, what they know, and what they are capable of doing. To be a successful leader, you have to be able to convince your followers, not just yourself or your superiors, that you are worthy of being followed. In my opinion, this builds confidence in your subordinates and allows them to have faith in you. I strongly believe that good leaders are made and not born. Good leaders are not afraid to surround themselves with highly motivated and competent people who are called "Team Mates."

Good leaders are developed through a never-ending process of self-study, education, training, and experience. Leadership does not come naturally in most cases, but is acquired through continual work and study of one's self. A truly great leader continually works and studies to improve their leadership skills. One simple measure of success as a leader I have always used is the amount of effort put forth by Soldiers in order to accomplish a mission in my absence as compared to when I am with them.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "You don't lead by hitting people over the head. That's assault, not leadership." Leaders lead.

560TH BFSB

PARTICIPATES IN U.S.-JAPAN EXERCISE

Story and photo by Sgt. Jerry De Avila
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Georgia Army National Guard

KUMAMOTO, Japan, Jan. 30, 2011 – Guardsmen from Georgia’s 560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade joined U.S. Army and Japan Ground Self Defense Force troops here for two weeks this month for Yama Sakura 59, an annual bilateral joint training exercise intended to strengthen the working relationship and combat readiness of the two nations.

The simulation-based command post exercise underscores

intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance fight for the joint U.S.-Japan Ground Self Defense Force Command.

According to Carden, YS59 is such great training because of the unique interaction between his unit and other units and commanders.

“In this exercise, we have been inundated with activity; so it’s a really intense event used to simulate the stress of an actual combat situation,” said Capt. Erica Dubose, the night Battle Captain for this exercise. The stress, she added, “prepares us for real combat situations in a TOC environment.”

When the 560th was formed in 2007, it only had four people on its roster – including its commander. Now, the brigade has more than 1,200 enlisted Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers assigned to the unit. Of those members, more than 30 are participating in YS59, with an additional 12 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

Based at Fort Gillem, Ga., the 560th has participated in numerous exercises around the world in the past few years, but this is its first time at Yama Sakura.

“My Soldiers are so smart, our Specialists are doing stuff I did as a battle Captain,” said Carden. “It’s really something to see them track unit positions and reports so well.”

“Through this training, we’ve had the chance to develop many new strategies and ideas about how we want to do things,” said Sgt. Meredith Dodson, an intelligence analyst from Columbus, Ga.

Another advantage the 560th has when deployed to foreign operations like Japan is the language skills of several of its unit members. Dodson, for example, is fluent in Japanese. Specialist Sieu Tran, a field artillery specialist with the brigade, speaks several Asian languages, including Vietnamese, Cantonese and Madarin.

“Having Soldiers with language skills in the unit that deliver results to the mission equates to mission readiness,” said Carden.



Guardsmen from the 560th BFSB take advantage of the opportunity to experience the culture of their Japanese counterparts in an authentic Japanese tea ceremony.

the United States’ commitment to Japan’s defense in accordance with a mutual defense treaty that was implemented in 1951 and revised in 1960. Yama Sakura was held first in 1982.

“YS59 truly allows us to train for our wartime mission,” said Col. Thomas Carden, commander of the 560th. “This training is very effective for us because we are forced to function as though we are in battle.”

Although he could not discuss the details of the scenario, Carden noted that it required the 560th to conduct the

3RD ANNUAL PURPLE PIG RUN



560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade Commander Col. Thomas Carden is off to a fast start at the 3rd Annual Purple Pig Run at Stone Mountain Park on Feb. 11. Carden was a member of one of the guidon teams that competed in the race.

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

STONE MOUNTAIN, Ga., Feb. 11, 2011 – Members from various units in the Georgia Department of Defense participated in the 3rd annual Purple Pig Run today at Stone Mountain Park, marking the anniversary of General James Oglethorpe’s landing at Savannah on February 12, 1733.

“This event commemorates the founding of Georgia,” Joint Forces Headquarters Detachment 1st Sgt. Robert Callahan said. “This is one of the events we do throughout the year to bring everybody together to show the concord of the Georgia National Guard.”

Soldiers, Airmen and DoD Civilians ran five miles around the mountain. The winner of the race was 1st Lt. Marcus Ruzek from Atlanta. He ran the course with a time of 37:00. The winning female was Capt. Beth Bourne, also from Atlanta, running the course with a time of 45:25 – though she says she had some help from her K9 friend Daisy, who finished in the same time as Bourne.

In addition to individual categories for male and female, there was a guidon category in which two teams competed.

Members from participating brigades had to run in at least two-man teams while holding the guidon. The winning team was led by Joint Forces Headquarters Detachment Commander Maj. Jonathan Roscoe and Staff Sgt. Gabriel Hicks from JFHQ. They came in with a time of 47:51.

“We wanted some way to recognize founder’s day, so it means a lot that people are coming out to our commemorative run,” Roscoe said.

This run also had a special meaning for several participants. Shannon Jenrette, the spouse of Maj. Kevin Jenrette of the 48th Brigade who was killed in Afghanistan in 2009, ran this race alongside Lt. Col. Dawn Brookshire of Joint Forces Headquarters.

“We started running this event last year because Kevin (Jenrette) used to run the mountain a lot,” Brookshire said.

The race icon – the purple pig – was derived from the boar’s head patch worn by the Georgia National Guard. The purple coloring of the pig comes from the mixture of green (representing the Army) and blue (representing the Air Force).

More than 40 people participated in the run. “Hopefully, more units and brigades can come out next year to participate and take part in what is starting to become a tradition in the Georgia Army National Guard,” Roscoe said.



Professor and entomologist Keith Delaplane (right) educates Soldiers of the 201st and 265th ADTs on beekeeping techniques and honey production.



Captain Homer J. Wright III, agricultural specialist and operations officer for the 265th RSG-ADT 2, gets tips on hand milking from University of Georgia AG student Aimee Sonnier of Waycross.

“If we weren’t clipping goat hooves or taking a sheep’s temperature, we were learning how to handle chickens, check a bee hive or even milk a cow,” said Chandler, who spent much of his youth on a farm just outside Commerce, north of Athens. “The best thing about all this is that, no matter what any one of us already knows, we’re now better versed in a variety of things. That can only help us accomplish the mission in a much better way.”

Army Guard Capt. James Partamian, the 201st’s engineer operations officer, said this is especially true for him, considering this is the first time he has ever been on a farm or anything close to it. Partamian, an architect by trade, left his position as the engineer operations officer at the Army’s Forces Command to join the ADT deployment.

“I was born in New York and was raised on the beaches of Florida, and know nothing about farms or farming,” he said. “My wife, who’s the all-around country girl, finds it fascinating that I volunteered for this mission. Frankly, so do I, and I’m pretty happy about being a part of all this.”

With more than 70 percent of Afghans engaged in farming, but lacking the knowledge for viable livestock and crop production, Georgia’s ADT teams are going to have their work cut out for them. However, like their Nevada counterparts, whom the 201st is replacing, Georgia’s ADTs will have help beyond their training here this week.

“Just because they’re done here, doesn’t mean they’re now on their own,” Brown said. “They’ll still have us here at the university to fall back on when they have questions, need suggestions or anything else we can offer them. We’re no more than an e-mail or satellite phone call away.”

“Because of what they provided us, we’re afforded a great opportunity to show the world that not only do we operate on the battlefield as combatants,” Williams said, “but that we are also humanitarians seeking to help our fellow man make a better place for himself, his family, his community and his nation.”

Sergeant Carmen Benson is a CAES graduate and the 201st’s horticulture specialist. What impressed her most about the training this week are the lengths to which the staff went to find out all they could about Afghanistan, its agricultural practices and agricultural economics.

“They did not just teach from generic PowerPoint presentations,” Benson said, “they went far beyond that and tailored it to meet the teams’ needs.”

“We wanted to do all we could to help them do the job they’ve been brought together to do. So, our folks researched and gathered as much information as they could to make the training fit the Guard’s need,” said Dr. Steve Brown. “I believe I speak for all of us when I say we’re quite proud to be a part of what it is these Citizen-Soldiers have been assigned to do in helping bring peace and stability to a people and a nation that have known war and little else in their lives.”

During their week here at UGA, the ADT Soldiers could be found at different CAES facilities across Clarke County and the surrounding area learning everything from basic soil science and seed technology, to animal care and low-tech poultry production, to bee farming, to insect and crop management. Not all of what they learned came from classroom lectures, said Spc. Slater Chandler, a combat engineer who is the 201st’s irrigation specialist on its upcoming deployment.



Seyedmedhi Mobini, a professor and interim head of veterinary technology at Fort Valley State University near Warner Robins, talks with Soldiers of the 201st ADT about medicating goats.

Afghanistan, and the 265th will replace the 201st when its tour ends.

“Now that we’re done with the training, we are much better – I believe – prepared to carry out our mission,” said Col. Bill Williams, who commands the 201st ADT. “I believe we are all better prepared to go forward and do great things for the Afghan people as representatives of our state and our nation.”

He continued, “Guardsmen are particularly well suited for this type of mission. Many of the Soldiers in the ADT have years of personal or professional agriculture experience – experience that can really only be provided by a group of Citizen-Soldiers.”

While commending his Soldiers and those from the 265th, many of whom have extensive agriculture experience or agriculture-based degrees, for their commitment to the program, Williams lauded the UGA team, UGA Assistant Dean for Extension Dr. Steve Brown, and the CAES staff.

ATHENS, Ga., Feb. 18, 2011 – After another week of classroom and hands-on training here at the University of Georgia, Soldiers of the Georgia Army Guard’s 201st Regional Support Group and 265th RSG agricultural development teams (ADTs) say they believe they are ready for their primary mission in Afghanistan: to teach the Afghans how to be better farmers and better stewards of their own resources.

Since Feb. 14, the 201st’s agricultural section, along with its security force, and a small group from the 265th, have received instruction from staff of UGA’s College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES). The remainder of the 265th will get its training later.

The 201st ADT leaves this spring for southeastern

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAMS TAP UGA FOR AFGHAN MISSION

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

4TH CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM

SUCCESSFULLY TESTS NEW FIELD STANDARDS

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

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Feb. 21, 2011—Despite the extreme winter weather that plagued them during their week of training (Feb. 6 to Feb. 10) at Fort Detrick, Md., Georgia's 4th Civil Support Team (CST) says testing of standards for the collection, transport, analysis and communication of results of suspicious substances done by their unit with officials from Cobb County fire, police and sheriff's offices, was a success.

"We've exercised our profession here at the home of the Army's Medical Research Institute of Infection Diseases (USAMRIID) many times," said Capt. Bryon Marsh, the CST's nuclear science officer. "It was only natural that this be the place where we find out if all the things we, and so many other departments and organizations, have been working toward are going to meet our collective objectives during a time of crisis."

The training was all part of a weeklong bio-terrorism exercise called Operation Vigilant Sample III (OVS III), carried out at a remote training site on Detrick under the watchful eyes of the Georgia Division of Public Health and Cobb-Douglas County Public Health.

Also there to watch and evaluate how things went were representatives of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the American Standards for Technology and Material (ASTM), the FBI, and USAMRIID.

"I cannot go into specific detail about those standards or the collection and analysis process, but I can tell you that, through the two scenarios used, we, and our evaluators, have determined that we've met the exercise intent and have demonstrated those standards at the field level with great success," said Marsh, one of those who has spent a year helping bring this latest OVS event to fruition. "As with anything we do, we also identified things upon which we can and need to improve; but, overall, we met the exercise intent and did very well."

According to information provided by the Georgia Division of Public Health, earlier OVS exercises – one in 2006, the second in 2009 – are the first documented laboratory-specific exercises in the U.S. utilizing military and state assets to collect and identify gamma-irradiated bacillus anthracis (dead) spores. Those events generated enough interest among the agencies involved to justify developing an exercise template for use by other CSTs and their own state Laboratory Response Network (LRN) and

FBI WMD Coordinators. The demonstration and evaluation of that template was one of the goals of this latest exercise.

Other goals of the CST included demonstrating integration into the Incident Command System (ICS); exercising its mission request and alert notification through GEMA; exercising the CST's sampling operations in accordance with CST Survey Special Text and ASTM Standard E2770-10; assessing the CST Survey Special Text and the ASTM Standard E2458-10; demonstrating CST analytical capabilities; and conducting joint operations with Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services.

"To accomplish all of this, we first used a 'scripted scenario' in which everything was carried out, step-by-step, according to what had been developed during the first two exercises," Marsh explained. "In this situation, a letter from a known anti-government group was received at the home of a prominent Georgia politician and discovered to contain a white powder."

Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services HAZMAT technicians went into the 'home,' guided by CST operations staff and with CST Survey Team members standing by to replace them if needed. Moving between a mobile home and camping trailer, the team – with Marsh, NIST and

Federal marshals move a "suspect" to a safe area away from one of two homes raided a U.S. Marshal Service SWAT team during the final day of Operation Vigilant Sample III



Georgia Division of Public Health officials trailing behind them – collected samples of the powder. They and their cargo then went through decontamination by the Fort Detrick Fire Department before handing off the samples to CST and Georgia Public personnel who packaged them for movement to a CST laboratory.

All the while, Cobb County Police and Sheriff Office officials documented the “chain-of-evidence” involving the packaging and movement of the samples for future use in any “criminal prosecution.”

“We used Cobb County personnel because we wanted to see how they have adapted the standards being tested to their existing standard operating procedures or,” Marsh said. “We [the 4th CST] have worked extensively with Cobb County in training on the standards being tested, and felt this was a good time to put that training to its own test.”

The second scenario was more unscripted, where no one knew what was happening before getting the call to respond. This time, the event called for a U.S. Marshal SWAT team from the District of Columbia to kick off the exercise by responding to “a report that a known hate group” – played by Marines of the 4th Light Armor Regiment

based out of the Fredrick Marine Reserve Center – “was conducting suspicious activities out of two adjacent homes.” While arresting group members at one of the homes, the marshals discovered a “homemade lab for making biological agents and bomb-making material.”

“We continued with our original intent – to test the standards for creating our template by which others may create their own workable exercise templates,” Marsh said. “But, this time, we used an ‘integrated response’ by having our folks and Cobb County work together.”

The idea: See if the players would follow the

standards – from collection, to movement, to analysis – without anyone micromanaging their execution.

“Overall, I’d say things went just as well the second go around as they did the first,” said fire Capt. Rick Bennett, one of the Cobb HAZMAT technicians and the Cobb team’s senior leader. “By helping establish the guidance here for standards to be used by our profession across the country, we’re working toward a better coordination of everything we do, locally and nationally, in the name of public safety.”

In the end, the lessons learned from OVSIII will also be used to promote the concept of a CST Joint Readiness Training Center (CST-JRTC), where CSTs can conduct real-time exercises along with their civilian first responder partners, state LRN leadership, public health, and FBI WMD coordinators.

Marsh and Bennett agreed that they look forward to that happening someday, soon. The most likely place is, of course, at Detrick – where such training already takes place using USAMRIID’s expertise. However, there are any number of facilities around the country to set up a joint training center.

“As the Dept. of Homeland Security develops the standards we’ve tested and

establishes the guidance for using them, having a national training center where everyone – from the local, to the state, to the federal level – trains on a common lane can only be to our and the public’s advantage,” Marsh said. “There, on that common lane, we get everyone working off the same standard and developing their SOPs collectively, instead of individually. We exercise together in real-time, using real time samples, from beginning to end, building confidence among the participants in their ability to do the job they’re being paid to do.”

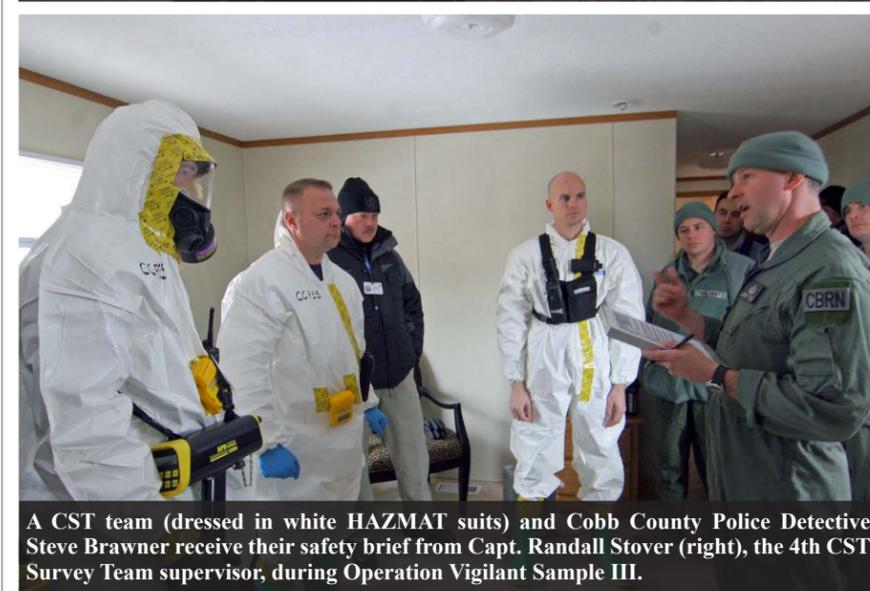
Cobb County HAZMAT technician Lt. Matt Dupree (left) and Sgt. Jonathan Dean of the 4th CST Survey Team, prepare to hand off a sample swab and jar to HAZMAT technician Jason Bell for collection of a “suspicious liquid” found inside a mobile home utility room during an exercise as part of Operation Vigilant Sample III



The Georgia Army National Guard 4th Civil Support team’s Sgt. Jonathon Dean sheds his HAZMAT suit with help from Howard County Fire and Rescue HAZMAT technicians.



Georgia Air Guard Master Sgt. Eric Hogan, communications chief for the Marietta-based 4th Civil Support Team, conducts pre-mission checks on the CST’s communications equipment in a staging area not far from Fort Detrick.



A CST team (dressed in white HAZMAT suits) and Cobb County Police Detective Steve Brawner receive their safety brief from Capt. Randall Stover (right), the 4th CST Survey Team supervisor, during Operation Vigilant Sample III.



Vehicles and personnel with Marietta, Georgia’s 4th Civil Support Team are unloaded from a C-5 Galaxy at the West Virginia Air National Guard’s Martinsburg Air Base by Airmen of the 167th Airlift Squadron, 167th Airlift Wing.



Staff Sgt. Steve Phoenix (front), the CST’s decontamination section supervisor, accepts weapons from a U.S. marshal being directed to the decon line by a Howard County HAZMAT technician.

GUARDSMAN LIVING HIS DREAM AS MILITARY MUSIC MAN

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

GEORGIA GARRISON TRAINING CENTER, Hinesville, Ga., Jan. 6, 2011 – While he already holds one military occupation specialty (MOS) as a 92 Yankee (supply specialist), and is working toward becoming a 25 Bravo (Information Technology specialist), it his 42R MOS as a bandsman that Sgt. Binh Nham says he most enjoys.

Nham, who lives near Clay National Guard Center, plays trombone with the Georgia Army Guard's 116th Band. He also plays the clarinet, the trumpet, the euphonium, and five other instruments.

"I enjoy working with computers and other technology, but music is and always will be my first love," the 15-year military veteran said, smiling. "There's no describing what it does to my soul. Doing something that touches me that deeply, and doing it as a Soldier, is – for me – quite an accomplishment."

Nham, who came to the U.S. with his mother shortly after the Vietnam evacuation in late April 1975, says he has always had an interest in music. That interest really took off, he says, during his high school and college years. Eventually, that interest led him to graduate from Georgia Southern University with a bachelor's degree in music education.

Deciding to follow family tradition, Nham says he joined the Army Reserve in 1995, where he ended up as a supply specialist. That, he says, was because he was told there was no Army band in Georgia at that time.

"Supply wasn't exactly what I wanted to do," he said, "but enlisting allowed me to follow that family tradition and continue my music training, but I still hoped to play in a

military band."

That dream came true a year later when he left the Reserves and joined the Georgia Army National Guard as a traditional M-day Soldier. When he saw folks in Army physical training uniforms one day at band practice, he asked them what they did as Soldiers.

"When I found out they were with the 116th, I immediately began researching how to move from the Reserve to the Guard," Nham recollected. "It was the best move I ever made."

Although he was awarded the band MOS based on his "civilian-acquired" skills, he still had to do an audition that involved a prepared solo and a standard repertoire with the band director at that time, 1st Sgt. Tyrone Cox. The objective: demonstrate that he could actually play, and read sheet music by interpreting the notes.

The 116th Band, made of 44 officers and enlisted Soldiers, is constantly looking for new members – especially trombonists – as members move on to other positions or retire. New prospects, he says, must dedicate themselves to being proficient with the instruments they play.

As for being the band's only trombone player, "We should have at least four, and have had as many as eight," he said. "The more we have the better we sound."

For those with the talent, all they have to do is meet Army standards, pass the audition, and be able to dedicate time toward becoming proficient with the instrument they play.

"Any new enlistee or veteran wanting to 'march to the beat of a different drummer,' should check into the 42R job skill," Nham said. "I've played at everything from changes of command to ceremonies welcoming troops home from war. This MOS is the best there is in the Guard, at least in my opinion."

116TH AIR CONTROL WING RECEIVES ITS 15TH OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD FROM UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Mrs. Judy Smith
116th Air Control Wing Public Affairs Office
Georgia Air National Guard

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Robins, Ga., Feb. 16, 2011

– The 116th Air Control Wing has been awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA) for performance during the period from Oct. 1, 2008, through Oct. 20, 2010. This is the 15th AFOUA for the wing.

"In the Air Force, only a handful of Air National Guard organizations nationwide receive this honor. I congratulate the men and women in the 116th for earning this distinctive award," said Maj. Gen. Thomas Moore, Commander of the Georgia Air National Guard.

The unit is responsible for operations, maintenance, logistics, training and combat support of the E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) Command and Control aircraft supporting combatant commanders in forward operating locations.

In Oct. 2010, the wing reached a milestone, logging over 62,000 combat flying hours during its eight years of deployments in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom as well as Operation New Dawn. During one of these operations, a SEAL Team lauded the JSTARS unit as "guardians" as reporting from that mission led to 91 enemies killed in action and safe ex-filtration of 90 Special Operations Forces members. The 116th Security Forces Squadron sent 39 members to provide perimeter security for Kirkuk Air Base,

and the Medical Group deployed seven medics to the country of Georgia – where they saw more than 1,000 patients during a nine-day period.

"Team JSTARS' amazing performance has provided critical Command and Control, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance capability supporting Combatant Commander objectives since it flew its first operational mission in 1991 through today's current operations," said Col. Jeffrey Herd, 116th Air Control Wing Commander.

While deployed above surge rates, the wing also continued to perform at an outstanding level by receiving an "excellent" rating during an Operational Readiness Inspection from Air Combat Command in Nov. 2010.

The unit also participated in 75 local and deployed exercises, showcasing their aircraft's capabilities to other services while supporting Air Combat Command and National Guard Bureau joint initiatives. The

116th also gives back to local communities and family members. During a two-year span, the Family-to-Family program gave to over 300 families with over 1,000 children, providing over 11 tons of food, toys and clothing items during the holiday season.

"I am proud to be the commander of such a dedicated unit. The members of the 116th Air Control Wing continue to amaze me with their dedication to their mission, the Air Force and their families," said Col. William Welsh, Commander of the 116th Air Control Wing.



Sergeant Bihn Nham, trombonist with the Georgia Army Guards' 116th Band, and fellow band members provide music for the November 2010 78th Homeland Response Force change-of-command ceremony.

CHANGES AHEAD FOR GUARD'S TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS, Ellenwood, Ga., Feb. 15, 2011

– Big changes are coming for Guardsmen looking to apply for and receive their education benefits. The Georgia Guard's state education office says that, by the end of 2011, they will join other Army components in introducing and streamlining a new website for tuition assistance applications.

Staff Sgt. Angelia Countryman, Georgia's state education office NCOIC, says that introducing the GoArmyEd website is the only change on the calendar for this year.

"It's important to know that the education benefits themselves are not changing," she notes. "We are simply implementing this new website and method for applying for those benefits."



GoArmyEd.com is a one-stop website already being used by Active Duty, AGR, and the Army Reserve Component, and officials are hoping that including the National Guard will make things easier on Soldiers and schools alike.

"In the past, we've had schools dealing with multiple application methods and systems, and with that sometimes complications arise. By putting everyone on the same page, it

should eliminate much of the confusion," Countryman said. "So far, I've gotten all positive feedback from the schools – they're ready to get started."

Major Tiffany Sneed, Georgia's State Education Services Officer, agrees.

"Keeping in mind all of the Soldiers that deploy or switch back and forth between Active Duty tuition assistance and ours," said Sneed, "this program change will largely benefit the Guard as a whole."

It is no surprise that some people can be afraid of change, but Countryman assures that the website is designed to make things easier and faster.

"GoArmyEd is very user-friendly and it allows the Soldier more control over the whole application process," Countryman said. "It'll make it easier to get the benefits, to change the benefits, and to have visibility of where things stand. The faster the students accept and learn this process, the better off they will be."

Requirements like a common access card (CAC) reader, updated degree plan, and grade submission every term will still be around, but a few things have been added or modified. Schools will now submit grades directly, cutting out the middle man of Soldiers receiving and sending in their grades. Students will also now need to sign and update a "Statement of Understanding" every year through the GoArmyEd portal.

Georgia Guardsmen who are eligible for tuition assistance should receive an e-mail in their AKO account, outlining specific deadlines for the new application process. Countryman says the most important part of this change is staying proactive.

"Dates for registration and application are not 'recommendations,' they're set in stone, and Soldiers need to take them seriously. In the past,

our office had a lot more flexibility in changing things from our end. This website puts things totally in the hands of the Soldier and their school," she said. "I cannot stress enough how important it is to keep these dates and information marked on your calendars."

August 1, 2011 will begin the state's transition to GoArmyEd. Guardsmen will be allowed to register for GoArmyEd and apply for tuition assistance benefits for courses beginning 90 days after the application. This means that students starting class in October will need to register and apply as early as August 1, 2011.

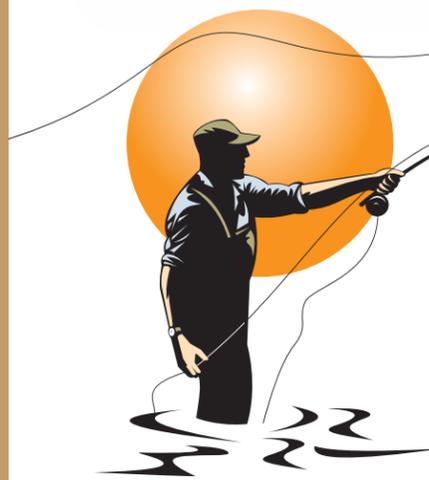
"Keep that 90-day window in mind, and apply as soon as you possibly can. Remember that this money is given on a 'first come, first serve' basis, and it can sometimes run out," Countryman said. "We know the first few weeks and months will be a transition period, I just encourage Soldiers to apply early, and contact our office with questions before it's too late and deadlines are missed."

Countryman suggests that unit leaders also take a proactive approach regarding education benefits by posting important application deadlines and state education office contract information in well-trafficked areas, and ensuring that every Soldier has access to a CAC card reader.

Sneed says that the biggest change for the state education office will be a shift of focus.

"I hope to see a marked difference in the level of customer service that our Soldiers feel we provide. This is going to be a team effort. By putting routine tasks in the hands of the students, and allowing them to view their own benefit status, we can focus fully on helping the Soldiers if and when they do have serious issues."

3RD ANNUAL GEORGIA Fishing for VETS Day

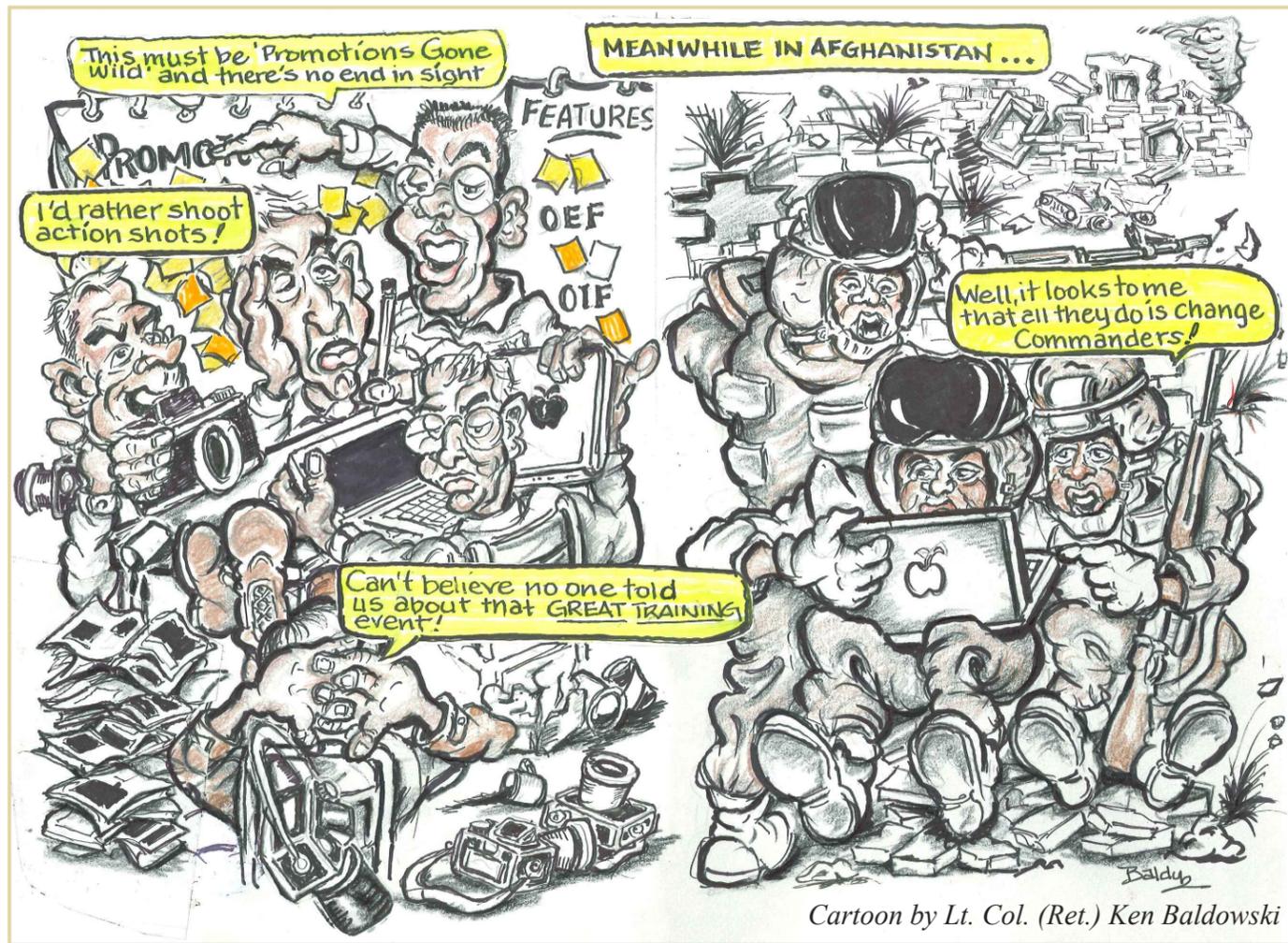


APRIL 9TH
9 AM TO 3 PM | 2011



This is the Third Annual Georgia Fishing for Vets Day, a program dedicated to all Georgia Veterans. This free event is open to all Veterans and is sponsored by Fly Fishing for Vets and Georgia Fishing Guides and Services at Paces Mill Park "on the Hooch." There will be food, drinks, fun for the family, and lots of fish! Volunteers and sponsors will have extra waders, rods, and reels for veterans. All you need is your Georgia fishing license with a trout stamp and you're set! Fly-Fishing for Vets is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created to provide wounded warriors and their families a bit of relief from the many stressful aspects of recovering from an injury. For more information and directions please visit our website where you can sign up as a vet or a volunteer: www.flyfishingforvets.com





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

Ever open up the *Georgia Guardsman*, just giddy with the possibility of seeing yet another story about a promotion ceremony? Neither have I. That's why I hope you can help the Public Affairs Office tell your story better by helping us identify any great stories that are out there that we don't already know about.

It's not that Soldiers and Airmen getting promoted isn't important. It is, and we do well to recognize their accomplishment. Also, it's not as if every story in this magazine is going to make every single reader happy, or even interested. And that's OK.

But the goal of each Ga. Dept. of Defense public affairs channel – this magazine, Facebook, Twitter, the Georgia Guard YouTube channel (that you have to view from home), our website, etc. – is to tell *your* story. We are a growing and vibrant organization, and there are many aspects of the Department people just don't know about.

Do you have some exciting or unusual training coming up in your unit? Does your unit have a special historical significance that people should know about? Because we'd like to know, and we'd love to help you get the message out.

The fastest way to get the word out is to touch base with

your Unit Public Affairs Representative. Many units have trained UPARs now for the first time in a long time; and the PAO is working on training more as we speak. If you have a story idea, tell them. If you don't have a UPAR, talk to your command team about appointing one and, in the mean time, drop a line with your story idea (or your draft of the story with a photo) to 1st Sgt. John Kinnaman at john.kinnaman@us.army.mil.

Finally, if you're a leader and you know you have some significant or especially photogenic training event coming up, drop a line to 1st Sgt. Kinnaman. If we know ahead of time, often we can get one of our collectors there to cover the event.

We have successful channels to help get the word out about your units and the great work you're doing, but we need your help. You have a great deal of which to be proud, and we want to let not just Guardsmen, but all DoD employees, your families, your employers, and our civilian leaders know all about it.

With your help, we can find new ways to tell new stories, and share the great news about your great work that no one knows about... yet.

--By Maj. John H. Alderman IV

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOOKSHELF:

REVIEWS OF BOOKS THAT TEACH US ABOUT OUR CRAFT

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

Watching the A-Team as a kid, it never occurred to me how odd it was that although Hannibal and the boys traded hundreds of bullets with each week's bad guys, practically no one was ever hit. Sure, tires were hit. Drums of gasoline were hit, and fireballed into the air. Makeshift welded contraptions were hit. But not people.

As ridiculous as this now seems, perhaps the show was more realistic than we think. At least, that's a conclusion one might reach after reading *On Killing*, a psychological tour de force by former Ranger and paratrooper Dave Grossman.

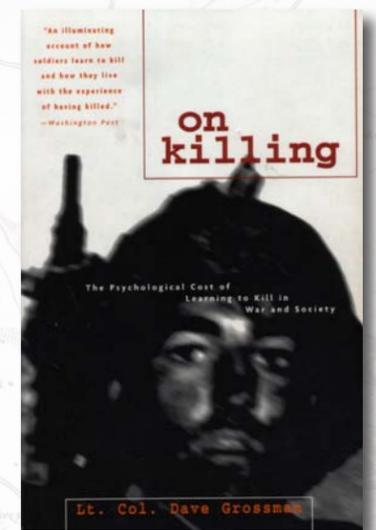
Grossman's book thoroughly explores the psychology of humans killing other human beings: What it takes,

"OUR CHANTS IN BASIC TRAINING... WERE NOT JUST MEANT TO MAKE US DISDAINFUL OF THE DANGER OF OUR OWN DEATHS, BUT MORE WILLING TO KILL IN COMBAT, AS WELL."

mentally, as well as the costs, psychologically. Reasons why it is hard to kill, and the things we do to make it easier. The reaction most people have to killing, and what can be done to ease the difficulties that often later result.

Even in the Army we don't seem too eager to talk about it in such blunt terms – unless we are boasting, or talking about blood making the grass grow. Both can be useful; but neither is a particularly effective way to improve ourselves professionally. And we should be honest: While Peace may be our Profession, killing is our business. Army or Air, and especially on today's battlefield, any of us entering a combat zone had best be prepared to kill.

Grossman builds off of previous studies (particularly



those of S.L.A. Marshall) which revealed that, historically, the vast majority of Soldiers (and pilots) in combat either never pull the trigger, or miss that target, even at pretty close ranges. The historical examples aren't perfect (certainly there are exceptions!) but they're there.

He demonstrates, in part, that humans and animals alike have powerful urges not to kill members of their own species. Grossman explores why, and the training that has been implemented in the last century to help correct that deficiency.

Grossman goes on to help us understand why and how combatants do kill, a model based on the demands of authority; group absolution; predisposition of the killer; distance from the victim; and the attractiveness of killing the victim. And he explores what happens later, the visceral reaction most people have to killing, even if they are willing to do it in the first place.

Finally, he turns his attention on society – on the TV

shows, movies, and video games that desensitize us to killing and to death not at all unlike military training meant to make us more comfortable with killing. Is that a good idea for our society?

On Killing reminds us that this subject is worth considering, and perhaps even discussing with our fellow Guardsmen. Certainly these considerations can affect how we prepare ourselves and our units for combat. It certainly did both for me.

As for those of us who have never been to combat, and perhaps never will – these days, many around us have. Reading this book is also a great way to help us understand them better.

AROUND THE GEORGIA GUARD

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES FOR SOLDIERS ABROAD

FORT STEWART, Hinesville, Ga., Feb. 24, 2011 - Georgia Army Guardsmen (from left to right) Sgt. Jonathan McCoy, Staff Sgt. Drayton Dowd, Sgt. Johnathan Brown and Sgt. Martin Rios help Charlotte (left) and Sarah McCauley unload boxes of Girl Scout cookies to be donated to troops overseas. The McCauley girls – part of the Buckhead Service Unit of the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta – set a goal to sell 8,000 boxes of Girl Scout cookies for donation to Operation Sandbox (an organization in Georgia that sends care packages and supplies to military members serving in Iraq and Afghanistan). The sisters actually sold 12,000 boxes of cookies and delivered them to Ft. Stewart for shipment overseas. Virginia Pearson, one of the Co-founders of Operation Sandbox, was impressed by the McCauley sisters' initiative and dedication to military servicemen, saying, "It is thrilling to see young people wanting to support our troops." (Photo courtesy of Virginia Pearson, Operation Sandbox.)



117TH ACS DONATES TO FOOD BANK

SAVANNAH, Feb. 5, 2011 – Lieutenant Col. Kevin Alwood, Commander of the 117th Air Control Squadron, Georgia Air National Guard, based at Hunter Army Airfield, presents an \$800 check to Mary Jane Crouch of the Second Harvest Food Bank. The 117th ACS collected the money for the food bank during the unit's annual charity campaign held after the holidays to help offset the typical decrease in donations the food bank usually sees during the month of January.

AIR GUARDSMAN AT BAGRAM AIRFIELD

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan, Feb. 21, 2011 – U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Slade Hall inspects the horizontal stabilizer of a C-130 Hercules during a routine inspection. Hall is deployed from the 165th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Georgia Air National Guard. Hall is a crew chief assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Sheila Devera.)



MARIETTA MUSEUM OF HISTORY'S NEW AVIATION WING RECEIVES OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION FROM U.S. AIR FORCE AND U.S. NAVY

MARIETTA, Ga., Feb. 10, 2011 – Georgia's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt, along with local military, business, and government leaders, gather for a photo on the site of the Marietta Museum of History's new Aviation Wing to celebrate the wing's official certification from the departments of the Air Force and Navy. Pictured here: Mr. Tim Lee, Chairman of Cobb County Board of Commissioners; Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt, the Adjutant General of Georgia; Mr. Harlon Crimm, Chairman of the Marietta Museum of History; Maj. Gen. James T. Rubeor, Commander, 22nd Air Force; and Col. Patrick W. Webb from the 94th Airlift Wing, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, all display the certification letter from the National Museum of the United States Air Force. They are joined by Mr. Dennis Brown and Mr. Steve Tomlin (middle row), and Mr. Dan Cox, Mr. Alan Price, and Mr. Philip Stein (back row). The certification allows the museum to receive aircraft on loan from the Air Force for display purposes.



1-118TH SOLDIERS CONDUCT ANNUAL INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS QUALIFICATION

FORT STEWART, Hinesville, Ga., Feb. 05, 2011 – Specialist Bernard Lassetter of Savannah prepares to engage targets during weapons qualification at Ft. Stewart. Savannah's own Headquarters, Headquarters Battery (HHB), 1-118th Field Artillery, recently held its annual individual weapons qualification here at Fort Stewart. This training is an annual requirement for Soldiers aimed at keeping them prepared for potential deployments by helping them focus on the fundamentals of marksmanship. "The intent of this training is to qualify 90 percent of Soldiers during IWQ,"

said Captain Rodney Edenfield, battery commander of HHB. "Our Soldiers' efforts led to 93 percent of the unit being qualified." The Soldiers prepared for this training during previous drills by conducting primary marksmanship instruction at the unit level. Hands-on experience with the weapon, as well as using the Beam Hit laser device, created a training exercise that was instrumental in preparing the Soldiers to fire their weapons, says Rodney. The HHB is an element of the 1-118th that provides logistical support for the firing batteries. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ronnie Mays, HHB, 1-118TH Field Artillery, Unit Public Affairs Representative)



560th BFSB

participates in U.S.-Japan exercise

GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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