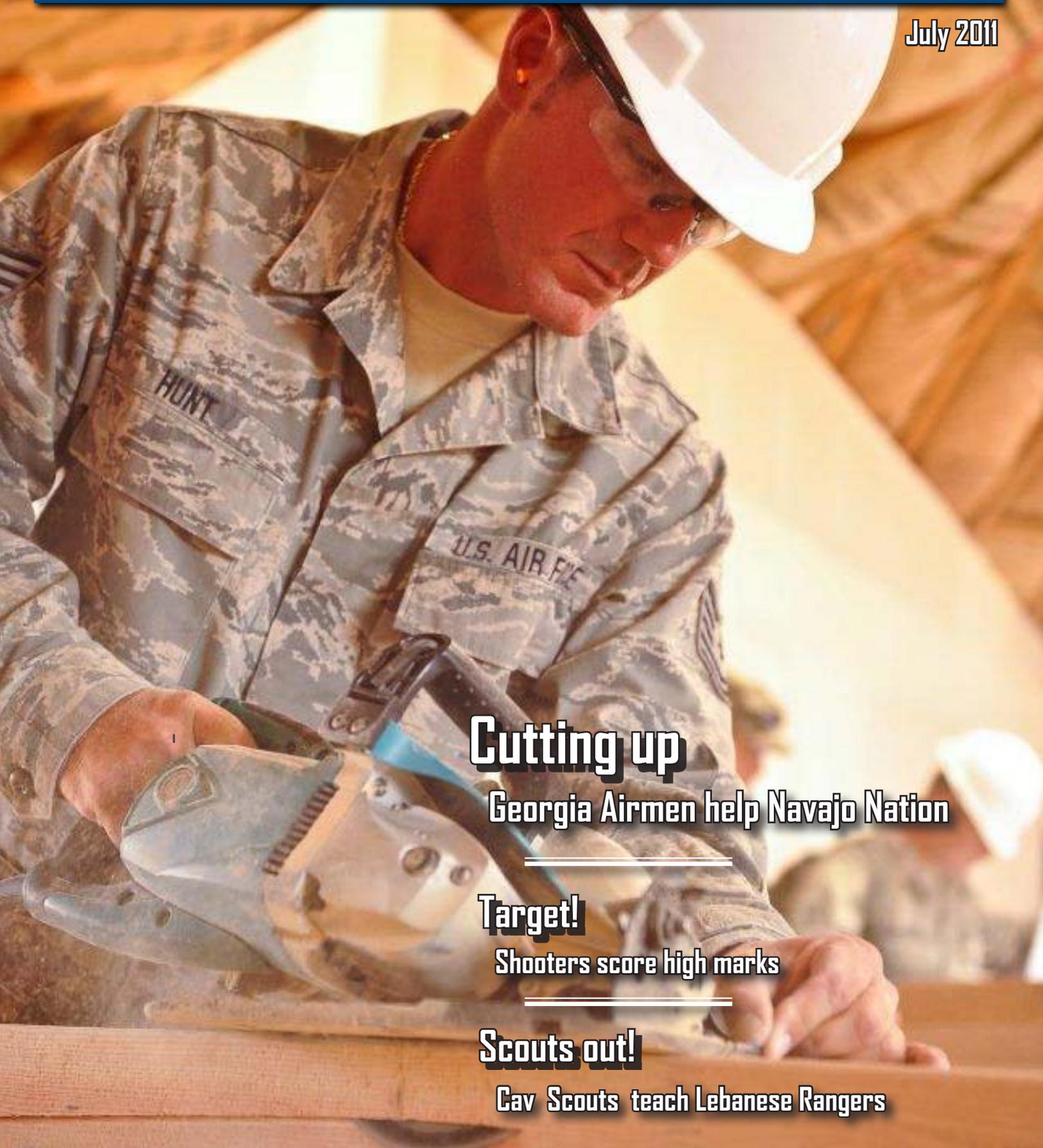


# GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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

July 2011



## Cutting up

Georgia Airmen help Navajo Nation

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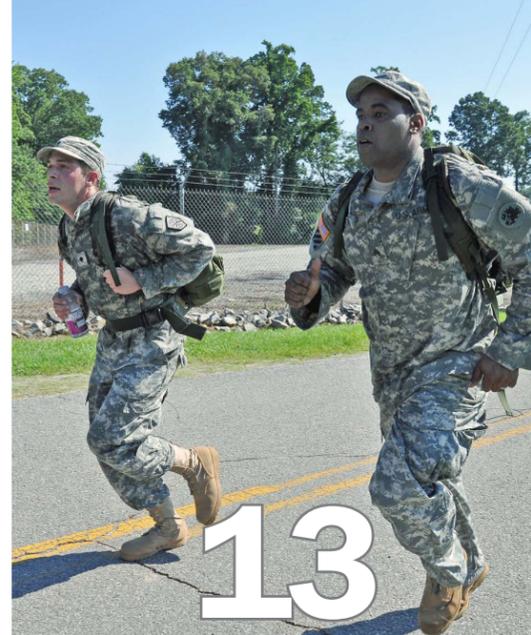
## Target!

Shooters score high marks

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## Scouts out!

Cav Scouts teach Lebanese Rangers



# GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD GUARDSMAN

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



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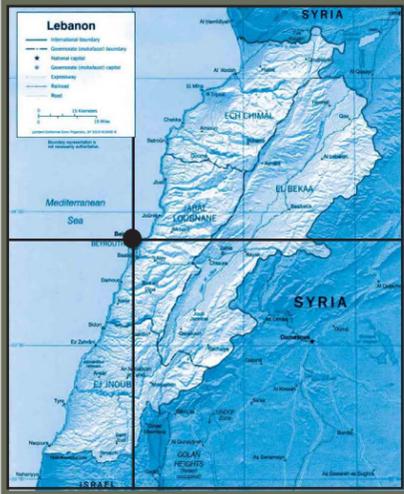


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# 1-108TH SCOUTS TEACH TACTICS TO **LEBANESE RANGERS**



**BEIRUT, LEBANON**  
STAFF SGT. SCOTT McELROY WORKS WITH A GROUP OF LEBANESE RANGERS LEARNING PROPER MOVEMENT TECHNIQUES.



“THE LEBANESE WERE EXTREMELY MOTIVATED TO LEARN THE MATERIAL...”



*Story and photos by 1st Lt. Elijah Carroll  
1st Squadron, 108th Cavalry  
Georgia Army National Guard*

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., June 30, 2011** – Four Soldiers from Calhoun’s 1st Squadron, 108th Cavalry, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, conducted an urban operations seminar in early May with two ranger brigades of the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) in Beirut, Lebanon. Their assignment was to engage the LAF in a “train the trainer” atmosphere, and teach them U.S. tactics in military movement in an urban environment.

That mission, according to American military and government officials, was a success, and even exceeded the expectations of Army Central Command (CENTCOM) and the Office of Defense Cooperation at the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon.

Seminars such as these are essential to the security and stability of the region and the protection of its borders, says CENTCOM representative Sgt. 1st Class Jack Colburn.

After observing the Georgia Soldiers at work, Colburn said, “Working with the Lebanese Armed Forces has been a great experience. The representatives of the Georgia Army Guard are extremely professional; I take my hat off to them.”

Forming the 108th “Urban Ops Team” were 1st Lt. Elijah Carroll, its officer-in-charge; staff sergeants Marcus Edwards and Scott McElroy; and Spc. Aaron Crow. Among the classes the team put together were:

- Covering individual and team movement on urban terrain
- Weapons handling and safety
- Close-quarters combat drills
- Entering and clearing a room
- Building and personnel search techniques

Because of each Soldier’s experiences and training, these, and all the subjects chosen, were easy for the team to teach, Crow explains.

“The instruction was derived from my training experiences for example and my previous deployment to Afghanistan,” Crow said. “The same was true for all of us.”

He pointed to McElroy—who is a member of the Cherokee County SWAT team, served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and helped train the Venezuelan army, as another example of the kind of experience he and his teammates brought to the Lebanese “training table.”

After arriving in Beirut, the team held its first seminar from May 9 to May 13 with the 1st LAF Ranger Brigade, and its second seminar from May 16 to May 20 with the 7th LAF Ranger Brigade.

Edwards, one of the primary instructors who has deployed multiple times to Iraq and Afghanistan, spoke highly of the LAF.

“The Lebanese were extremely motivated to learn the material presented, and they took to the instruction quite well,” he said. “As Citizen-Soldiers, we train hard and

prepare well for what we do, and so does the LAF. I wish we could have stayed longer than we did and shown them even more.”

First Lt. Ahmad Cha’aban Hassan of the 1st LAF Rangers agreed with Edwards’ statement.

“The material they presented fits well into our role and mission,” Hassan explained. “All of the instructors were excellent. They proved, repeatedly, to be the experts in their fields we hoped they would be. Now, we would like to learn more than the basics, especially how to operate at the platoon and company level.”

Overall, the Guardsmen trained six LAF ranger officers and 60 NCOs and enlisted soldiers. Carroll says the relationship between his team and their students is one that will last for quite a long time, and that he believes it will help improve relations between their two countries.

“The opportunity to train others outside our own forces is something most of us have done, at one time or another,” he said. “Should that opportunity ever present itself again, you can be sure we’re ready to demonstrate just how well-suited the Guard is for supporting this type of mission.”

Major Barry Simmons, the Georgia Army Guard's C-27J Spartan government flight representative, explains the mission of the upcoming Army and Air Guard deployment of the aircraft.



## C-27J MISSION 'MORE JOINT THAN EVER'

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

### CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., June 29,

**2011** – When the C-27J Spartan cargo airplane was transferred from the Army to the Air Force, many wondered what would happen to the joint Army and Air Guard cargo transport mission. Now, in what is being touted as the first – and possibly only – joint Army and Air deployment of the Guard's C-27J program, crews from Georgia's Company H, 171st Aviation, stationed at Robins Air Force Base (along with Guardsmen from Ohio, Maryland and Oklahoma) will leave together to conduct time-sensitive cargo delivery operations in Afghanistan next month.

When they and their aircraft will leave has yet to be announced.

"When the changeover [from Army to Air] happened, we never stopped training together," said Maj. Barry Simmons, Georgia's C-27J government flight representative. "Today, the program is stronger than ever, and we actually have Soldiers and Airmen flying side-by-side in the same aircraft, conducting the same missions with the same resources."

The Spartan was originally fielded to replace the C-23 Sherpa cargo plane used by the Army National Guard. The

Sherpa will be retired in 2015 with no plans to replace the aircraft.

The crew for July's deployment is made up of Army and Air pilots and flight engineers from four states. According to Simmons, the direct support mission in Afghanistan will be the first of its kind since 1946 – flown by what was then the U.S. Army Air Corps – with Army and Air Force aviators deploying an aircraft together, an assignment for which the Guard has been hand-picked.

"National Guard aviation is often on the forefront of joint operations. We're used to sharing airspace and, sometimes, restrained resources," said Simmons. "I believe this deployment could give us a template for future joint cargo operations."

Without much precedent to go by, Simmons admits that the joint deployment will entail some new questions and frustrations, but he also acknowledges that opportunities to grow and learn while accomplishing the huge task of supporting the warfight will present themselves to the crews and the program as a whole. While the future of the C-27J's role in joint operations may be unclear, the Guardsmen on this mission are intent on making the mission a success.

"There's really so much work out there to be done – more than any one service could do alone," Simmons said. "I see this deployment for the great opportunity it is: to get together, roll up our sleeves, and help the warfighter on the ground in the biggest way possible."

## NCO NOTEPAD



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

**A**s I sat down to gather my thoughts on what subject or subjects I wanted to address in this month's article, several different messages crossed my mind. Thoughts centered on topics ranging from our great warriors, to their families, to policies and procedures that affect us all. I finally settled on our families and what their resiliency adds to the warfight, a subject that I feel is near and dear to us all...

So many times, we read about what different organizations contribute to military families in different ways, whether through monetary aid, emotional support, or some other way of personalized assistance. These contributions are all needed and appreciated tremendously by our military families. However, we may often overlook the contributions that service member families make in support of our warriors, the warfight, and our country in this process.

It is well known that loved ones are left to carry on the business of keeping the family together while their service member goes off to war. The mere fact that service members can leave home knowing that their families are safe and secure does a great deal to provide them with peace of mind. Speaking from multiple personal experiences, one of my biggest fears was often not of the enemy, but the fear that something could go wrong at home and I would not be there to make it right. Having the assurance that all was well gave me the peace of mind needed to allow me the ability to focus

directly on the mission at hand. Having that spouse, mother, father or child back home to keep things going is definitely a force multiplier, and it can contribute significantly to the warfight in a way only a deployed service member can really appreciate.

Our families stand strong and defiant in the face of a determined enemy – an enemy whose goal it is to destroy the will of the people at home and their willingness to support their service member abroad. In that way, the enemy believes it has a psychological advantage. However, our families say "No," not on their watch. Over a period of time, we as a nation have come to realize the necessity of that level of support and commitment that we receive from our families, and that it is equally important as any weapon in the long-term battle against terror.

When you think of what it is we do for our spouses and families in the future, take a step back and think, "What is it that families quietly do for us, the warfight, and country?" It seems as though the noble gesture to say "Thank you" is not adequate sometimes for all they do. Yet, in my heart of hearts, I hope our families know and understand how critical they are to us.

**Thank you all.**



# PTAE PREPARES GEORGIA GUARDSMEN FOR COMBAT



A Soldier from Columbus' Headquarters Company, 648th MEB, armed with a paintball gun, lays siege to a "suspected insurgent hideout" during training at the Georgia Army Guard's PTAE in Hinesville, Ga.

Story and photos by Spc. Adam Dean  
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
Georgia Army National Guard

**GEORGIA GARRISON TRAINING CENTER, Hinesville, Ga., June 18, 2011** – Four elements of the Georgia Army National Guard are enduring the smoldering South Georgia heat this month as they make their way through the Pre-mobilization Training Assistance Element's (PTAE) 21-day refresher course on warrior tasks and battle drills.

Those units undergoing the training are: Ellenwood's 560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (BFSB); Columbus' Headquarters Company, 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB);

Decatur's Headquarters' Company, 170th Military Police Battalion; and Marietta's 202nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Detachment.

"The PTAE concept is a solid one," said Maj. Gen. Maria L. Britt, commanding general of the Georgia Army Guard, during a recent visit to the program's training area. "This gives commanders the opportunity to begin the mobilization process with a training baseline they can build on throughout their unit's train-up. Georgia's PTAE applies the Army training standard to build confidence and trust in our formations.

"These intangibles enhance force protection of our units, and they save lives," she added. "I take this mission seriously, and every Soldier assigned

to the PTAE needs to know that they are critical to the mission success of the Georgia Army National Guard."

Since 2007, the PTAE has worked to ensure units going into harm's way have the basic Soldier skills necessary for taking on the challenges of operating in a combat environment.

PTAE executive officer Lt. Col. Wallace Steinbrecher says that his 26 trainers instruct deploying units in 15 warrior tasks and four battle drills before they move on to their mobilization sites and more comprehensive, mission-oriented training.

"Every member of the PTAE cadre," Steinbrecher said, "has deployed and seen combat in some form or fashion and brings a wealth

of experience to the table with one goal in mind: helping Soldiers keep each other alive.

"That's been our focus from the day PTAE opened its doors. We take our responsibility seriously around here. Believe me when I say that, when you step into our training area, you're going to learn from the best group of instructors anyone has ever worked with.

"They've 'been around the block' a time or two, and they know their stuff," Steinbrecher added, "they know from personal experience the importance of what we do here."

The scope of training is extensive, and when a unit moves up to the next level of mobilization, its Soldiers are certified in all of the skills required by the U.S. Army for going into combat.

"When the training cycle begins, we focus on everything from how to operate a SINCGARS radio to basic first aid, land and mounted

navigation skills, and individual movement techniques. We then roll into individual and crew-served weapons qualifications," said Steinbrecher. "And by providing them with theatre-specific briefings based on where they're going, they receive what they need to survive from the time they step onto the battlefield until the time they leave."

As part of a practical exercise, PTAE trainees move through a village – complete with livestock, civilians, and "insurgents" – similar to what they will find in Iraq or Afghanistan. As the teams conduct patrols, enemy combatants (role-played by members of the Georgia State Defense Force) often accost them, wielding assault-style paintball rifles and dishing out simulated explosives.

It is here, amidst the smoke, concussive artillery simulators, and the rush of adrenaline, that units learn to better deal with the stress

and chaos of combat.

Colonel Thomas Carden, the 560th's commander, says the PTAE offers some of the best, most realistic training he has ever seen in his 26 years of service. He believes his leaders and their Soldiers are more likely to survive the battlefield because of what they have learned.

"The teams are put together at the last minute, and that puts some stress on them. It really gets Soldiers thinking about some of the situations they'll face in combat," Carden said.

Steinbrecher credits the realistic nature of the training to the cooperation of the State Defense Force volunteers.

"They do a tremendous service for us and bring a measure of realism to the training that would be unattainable without them. They do it all on their own dime, and we very much appreciate their service," said Steinbrecher.



Command Sgt. Maj. James Nelson, Georgia Army Guard senior enlisted leader, and Maj. Gen. Maria L. Britt, Georgia Army Guard Commander, talk with Sgt. 1st Class Antonio Rodriguez of Columbus' Headquarters Company, 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, about the training at Georgia's PTAE.

# MENTORING STATE PARTNERS IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE

Story and photos by Maj. John Alderman  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense

**TBILISI, Georgia, June 23, 2011**— Georgia Air and Army Guardsmen are providing key leadership and experience here this week as advisors and trainers in Shared Horizons 11, the first in a new series of emergency exercises in the country of Georgia.

This is just the latest in a long series of engagements conducted over the 16-year partnership between the nation and the state of Georgia. Growing out of the State Department’s Partnerships for Peace program, the State Partnership Program (SPP) reflects an evolving international affairs mission for the National Guard that emphasizes its unique state-federal and civil-military characteristics.

“The country of Georgia and the state of Georgia had an ongoing relationship prior to the SPP, so it was a natural fit,” said Sgt. Maj. Lance Rygmyr, State Partnership Program Coordinator for the Georgia National Guard. “The state of Georgia has partnered with the country of Georgia on many initiatives throughout the years – not only disaster response but also in training and helping the Georgians augment their participation in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

A bilateral emergency response “tabletop” exercise, Shared Horizons 11 is designed to test the country’s National Response Plan as it relates to cooperation between the Georgian Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Internal Affairs in domestic emergency response situations.

“The exercise was planned well. My assessment is very positive,” said Irakli Khadagidze, director of the emergency management department of the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

“I would say that this is valuable training for us, because there are so many emergencies in our country and natural disasters, so it’s very important for us to be prepared. This is a very good experience for our personnel.”

An important aspect of the exercise is to encourage and enable the two ministries – roughly analogous to the U.S. Departments of Defense and Homeland Security – to work together more efficiently.

“A lot of former Soviet Bloc countries have issues sometimes with the stovepipe nature of their ministries, the way they work and cooperate and communicate,” said Rygmyr. “So this really is a great moment because we have all these agencies and all these plans written to augment a centralized National Response Plan, working together in a cohesive effort for emergency management and disaster response.”

The tabletop exercise uses laptop computers and a local e-mail system to simulate the communications, coordination, and tasking necessary to respond to an emergency. The



scenario unfolds through a series of “injects,” which are messages to various ministries and contacts, including situation reports from the field, updates from outside agencies, and even simulated media inquiries. Participants then must respond appropriately – for example, by publishing a press release – within the guidelines of the scenario.

“This is all about building partner capacity,” said U.K. Lt. Col. Steve Hunt, British exchange officer to U.S. European Command J-3. “The more robust we make our partners, the more robust we make the regions, the less the U.S. will have to be committed.”

A special area of interest for the exercise was strategic communications, which involves coordinated response to events through the media, internal communications, and even the tasks

assigned to units in an emergency.

A former Soviet Republic, Georgia has a culture of response that is more controlled and limited than its Western counterparts’. On hand to help introduce and teach concepts of strategic communications to the Georgians were officers of the 124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Georgia Army National Guard.

“The Georgia National Guard is proud to have worked closely with our counterparts for sixteen years now, as part of the State Partnership Program,” said Brig. Gen. Larry Dudney, Director of the Joint Staff, Georgia National Guard. “Our enduring relationship with Georgia affords us the opportunity to build lasting trust, which allows us to lend our experience and expertise in many areas.”



Brigadier Gen. Larry Dudney, Director of the Joint Staff, Georgia National Guard, discusses the finer points of staff organization and systems for managing work with Mr. Shalva Akhvlediani, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, at the Georgian National Guard Training Facility in Tbilisi, Georgia.



# GEORGIA ASSUMES COMMAND OF AFGHAN AGRICULTURE MISSION

Story and photo by Spc. Christopher J. Hall  
Unit Public Affairs Representative  
Agricultural Development Team 1  
Georgia Army National Guard

**LOGAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan, June 11, 2011** – Georgia’s 201st Agribusiness Development Team (ADT) 1 stepped into history today when it accepted authority over the mission from the Nevada ADT to help Afghan farmers and their communities better their agricultural practices. The ceremony marking the transfer of that mission from took place at Forward Operating Base Shank.

For the Georgia ADT – which has been in country since the beginning of the month and shadowing its Nevada counterpart for the past couple of days to get a feel for the mission – the day could not have come soon enough, says Staff Sgt. Jeffery Flaucher.

“We’ve been looking forward to this since Georgia’s ADT 1 first came together in July last year,” said Flaucher, one of the team’s Security Force (SECFOR) squad leaders. “Everyone, from the AG specialists to those of us in the SECFOR, has been chomping at the bit to get started with this mission.”

For the past year, the Nevada team has spent its waking hours working with local Afghan villagers in an effort to enhance the Afghans’ agricultural knowledge and skills so they can increase farm productivity, thereby boosting the local economy. As the Nevadians now head home, they do so leaving Georgia with their valuable lessons learned over the past year.

The 201st is the first of three Georgia teams that will provide



the Afghans with basic, more – modern farming and agriculture-based business practices with which to improve their economy, thereby bettering their own livelihoods.

“We are honored and privileged to be the first,” said Col. Bill Williams III, ADT 1’s commander. “As we progress through our year here, we look forward to not only continuing Nevada’s work, but also passing on what we learn to the two Georgia Agribusiness Development teams that will follow in our footsteps.”

ADT 1, Williams adds, has been training hard for this mission ever since its inception. The agribusiness section of the team especially, he says, brings a vast amount of knowledge to the table with which to assist the Afghans.

Sergeant Carmen Benson, a horticultural specialist and member of the Women’s Initiative Training Team, said, “Opportunities like this don’t come along every day. This chance to work with so many dedicated and knowledgeable Afghan farmers and government officials affords me the opportunity to prepare the Afghan women of the region for becoming contributors to their communities. I am also sure I, too, will learn more than I can imagine by the time our year here has ended.”

Now that ADT 1 has accepted authority for the AG mission, the Georgia Guardsmen are moving forward with one goal on their collective minds: picking up where the Nevada ADT left off and doing their very level best to continue providing the Afghans the help they need to be more self-sufficient, says Williams.

“Make no mistake,” he added, “our entire focus is on the Afghan people, and on making this mission succeed.”

# 124TH MPAD CONDUCTS STAFF RIDE TO CHICKAMAUGA



Story by Sgt. Richard Holdridge  
Photos by Sgt. Jerry Deavila  
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
Georgia Army National Guard

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., June 11, 2011** – Soldiers from Marietta’s 124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD) conducted drill with a staff ride up in the northwest Georgia Mountains, visiting the historic Chickamauga Military Battlefield.

The day included visiting famous battle sites and several members giving briefings. Some of the briefings covered generals of the battles, battles that led up to Chickamauga, and some of the weapons systems used.

The battle of Chickamauga was the bloodiest in the Western Theater of the Civil War, with nearly 35,000 total casualties. It took place on the morning of September 20, 1863.

124th MPAD Commander Maj. John Alderman took his unit up to an observation point that overlooked the Lookout Mountain. He briefly explained how General Rosecrans led his men from Nashville all the way to Chattanooga through the rough terrain and discussed what problems the terrain caused Soldiers during that time. He also explained how staff rides are a great way to develop leaders.

“Professional development is the responsibility of leaders. It’s also the responsibility of individuals. It’s something we don’t get to do enough of especially in the National Guard where time is so short,” Alderman said. “A staff ride is a great way to build leaders in the unit and to help them get a better understanding of the things that go into a battle plan.”

The day also included a visit to the site’s museum and a cannon demonstration by some of the local volunteers that were dressed up as Confederate Soldiers. Sergeant Gerardo Deavila, who is a public affairs journalist in the unit, gave a brief on the weapons systems, including the artillery fire power, used in the battle.

In the afternoon, the MPAD Soldiers walked the same trail that General Longstreet led his troops down 149 years ago to attack the Union Army. The battlefield sites were a great way for the Soldiers to get a visual aspect of the war and to see how far the U.S. Military has come in practices of war, uniforms, and medical aid as NCOs briefed aspects of the battle along the way.

The final stop on the staff ride was at Snodgrass Hill, where the unit’s executive officer Capt. Vernon Robinson showed the Soldiers the “blueprint of the battle plans” by using sticks and

rocks on the ground – a practice in the Army referred to as using the “sand table”.

Overall, the unit learned a great deal about leaders from both sides of the battlefield. The Battle of Chickamauga was one of the key battles in the Civil War that delayed the Union’s advancement on Georgia. Later, the Union would eventually go through Georgia and declare victory with the surrendering of General Robert E. Lee in 1865.

“We’ve all heard – at one time or another – that ‘those who ignore history, tend to repeat it,’” 1st Sgt. John Kinnaman said. “Through events such as the staff ride, we as Soldiers, hopefully, see what was done right and what was done wrong based on the day’s logistics, tactics and technology and learn to do it better.”



First Lt. Michael Thompson uses the backdrop of an observation point just outside Chickamauga to explain how the historic Civil War battle unfolded.

# GEORGIA SDF WINS DEFENDER'S CUP

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

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., June 29, 2011** – Two components of the Georgia Department of Defense came together June 25 to participate in the inaugural Adjutant General's Defender's Cup competition. The Georgia Army National Guard and the Georgia State Defense Force each sent a team of 10 to battle it out in eight categories of competition.

Although invited to participate, the Georgia Air Guard was – according to event officials – unable to send a team, but looks forward to attending the battle for next year's cup.

Shortly after sunrise Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt, Georgia's Adjutant General (for which the competition is named), addressed the teams.

"This competition will be tough, and the events are designed to push you to give your best and to work as a team," said Maj. Gen. Nesbitt. "They're made to be difficult so that those of you who come out on top can feel truly proud of what you've accomplished."

The Army relay team handed the Army Guard an early lead after beating their SDF counterparts in the relay race. With very little rest time between events, the competitors then split into smaller teams to complete a land navigation course, a four-mile ruck march, and a push-ups and sit-ups event.

"It's a change of pace to compete with the Guard, since we normally play a supporting role for it," said Staff Sgt. John Derucki, an initial entry training instructor with the SDF's Marietta-based Headquarters Company, 911th Support Command. At age 52, Derucki finished the four-mile ruck march in less than 55 minutes, making him the first to cross the finish line. "This kind of thing shows who we are as volunteers and what we can do under pressure."

The last two challenges took all 10 members of each team. Moving with a sense of purpose and all the determination they could muster, the teams pulled an up-armored humvee fitted with ropes over a hill and across a parking lot. They then went straight into the tug-of-war event. In both instances, the State Defense Force would come out on top, but no one knew yet how the points would add up in the final analysis.

"Before this competition, I didn't even know we had a State Defense Force. Today, I saw some of what they're capable of, and what they can do with their talents and strengths," said Spc. Jared Exhevarria, a cook for the Headquarters Detachment, 348th Brigade Support Battalion.

"Of course we all want to win," he said. "But either way I think we can build on our weaknesses to bring a higher level of competition next year."

The final event of the competition was a Soldier and NCO board. Sergeants Major from both the Army and State Defense Force grilled and assessed a representative from each component on topics like military history, customs and courtesy, and professional appearance.

In the end, the prestigious Defender's Cup trophy was presented to the Georgia State Defense Force for accumulating the most points during the competition.

"In my opinion, this is history in the making, and a tremendous step forward for us," said Sgt. 1st Class Wade Price, the State Defense Force team's coach. "I'm proud of my guys, and I feel like we've gained acceptance to stand as equals next to the Guard."

Command Sgt. Maj. James Nelson, the Adjutant General's senior enlisted leader, said the Georgia Department of Defense expects to continue hosting the Defender's Cup yearly, and that all three components are expected to participate in the 2012 competition. It was he and the State Defense Force senior NCO, Command Sgt. Maj. Randy Garrett, who were the driving forces behind the event.

"I think we got everything we wanted out of this first event," Nelson said. "This was meant to be a team-building exercise with which to better develop the working relationship between each of the Georgia Department of Defense components. It's competitive, of course, but I think it also has a great amount of fun mixed in. It most certainly was a great example of collaboration by everyone involved."



## 'SHADOW UNIT' TO SUPPORT OEF WITH REAL-TIME INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION

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

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., June 29, 2011** – Georgia Army Guardsmen with Savannah's Detachment 1, Company B, 48th Brigade Support Battalion – call sign "Nightmare" – are headed to Afghanistan to fly the RQ-7B 200 series Shadow unmanned reconnaissance aerial vehicle.

"I can't tell you where we're going or why," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Anthony Brooks, the unit's commander. "All I can say is that this is the first time in my Guard career that any unit I've ever been assigned to has gotten such short notice to deploy. But I can tell you we're ready. No matter what they hand us once we arrive in country, our folks are ready to take on the unique challenges that go along with a deployment like this."

"The demand for UAV support is high," explained Maj. Gen. Maria Britt, Georgia Army Guard Commander, who dropped in on the Soldiers to observe their training. "The ground commanders in Afghanistan need this intelligence gathering platform to make sound decisions and protect our forces. The UAV mission is critical, especially as the 'footprint of forces' decreases overseas. The soldiers of this unit know the importance of what they're doing. Their pride is apparent, as it should be."

Having existed for two years now,

the unit had only worked with its equipment (from flight simulators with which to keep its enlisted operators who fly the Shadow and its payload masters qualified, to the two unmanned systems they operate, to the tools the system maintainers used to keep the Shadows in the air) for around three months before getting the word about deployment.

"One of the biggest challenges," explained Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Bouchard, Det. 1's non-commissioned officer-in-charge of readiness and the unit's platoon sergeant, "has been getting the unit's operators and systems maintainers through the training pipeline so they are ready to do their job."

"Schools for the operators take 22 weeks, and 17 weeks for the maintainers – with an additional 12 weeks for specialty systems training," Bouchard said. "Walk that back and, at the time, we were focusing on getting folks ready for the initial fielding of the equipment, not deployment. It's a good thing we got that accomplished, with our new orders such as they are."

"But everyone's packed, equipment has been accounted for and prepped for shipment, and we're ready to walk out the door and get this thing started," Bouchard said with confidence. "From the top-down, I can tell you that if we got the word to load up and leave right now, instead of later in the month, we could do that. No sweat."

When call sign Nightmare says goodbye to family and friends at the departure ceremony (scheduled for later this month) and finally hits the road, it will leave its facility at Savannah's Hunter Army Airfield and travel to

Fort Hood, Texas. There, the unit will spend a month increasing flight hours and further honing the specialized skills of its operators and maintainers before moving on to Afghanistan and beginning its assigned mission.

Once the unit gets "boots on the ground" at its final destination, its mission will be similar to that of the Georgia Air Guard's 116th Air Control Wing, stationed at Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, Ga., with its E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (J-STARS) aircraft.

"Only we work on a smaller scale," Brooks said, "because of the type of aerial system being used. We are, just as our call sign describes, the bad guys' worst nightmare and the ground commander's dream-come-true. Through the Shadow's on-board surveillance systems, we can tell a commander where the enemy is and other information about his forces. We can also let that commander know what 'surprises' the opposing force most likely has in store for his Soldiers."



"Our system is much, much smaller, and the people passing on information to the battlefield commander are not actually on the aircraft – as is the case with the J-STARS. Our folks will be working from stations on the ground, through specialized wireless communication systems."

"Are we ready to do this? You bet we are," Brooks said. "Our folks are going to be quite affective in supporting the warfighter and Operation Enduring Freedom."

# GEORGIA AIRMEN HELP NAVAJO NATION RESERVATION IN ARIZONA



Story and photos by Master Sgt. Roger Parsons  
116th Air Control Wing  
Georgia Air National Guard

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Warner Robins, Ga. June 27, 2011** – Forty-six Airmen from the Georgia Air Guard's 116th Civil Engineering Squadron (CES) left here June 5, taking their skills to Window Rock, Ariz., to participate in a two-week, ongoing construction project at St. Michaels Association for Special Education (SMASE) on the Navajo Nation reservation.

"This team came together and out-performed everyone's expectations," said Senior Master Sgt. James Love, the 116th's operations superintendent. "Everyone exceeded each benchmark that was set for them during the project."

The main goal of this trip was to get this particular group of Airmen as much training time in their craft as possible, says 2nd Lt. Jonathan Laughrun, the 116th CES project manager.

The Navajo Nation Project is part of the Department of Defense Innovative Readiness Training program. It is designed to provide real-world training opportunities to prepare for wartime missions while at the same time supporting the needs of America's underserved communities.

"Planning for this trip began in February with a pre-

project meeting between the participating individual readiness training teams and staff from the Office of the Secretary of Defense," Laughrun explained. "It all came to fruition with our folks packing their equipment and boarding a KC-135 Stratotanker bound for this country's largest Indian reservation."

The day after arriving in Gallop, N.M., they traveled to Window Rock to begin work. There, they met Senior Master Sgt. Leroy Rusk, superintendent of the Wyo. Air Guard's 153rd Civil Engineering Squadron, and Navy Chief Petty Officer Scott Lodor of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB -25) from Fort McCoy, Wis., to receive briefings and to layout plans for the project. During their stay, the Georgia Guardsmen were augmented by six of NMCB-25's Seabees and five Airmen from the Florida Air Guard's 202nd Red Horse Squadron, home stationed in Stark, Fla.

Once on the ground, everyone rolled up their sleeves and delved into "tremendous" work for the reservation's populace, Rusk says. From that point on, it became more than just another construction project and training opportunity. Interacting with the staff and the clients gave the team "a real sense of purpose," he says. Everyone saw, early on, the lasting positive effect the project would have on the Navajo community.

While on the reservation, the 116th CES, along with its Florida and Navy counterparts, focused on three construction projects and some heavy equipment work on the campus grounds. Benchmarks for each project – consisting of two building renovations to house new classrooms and on-going construction of a new adult life skills center – were established.

"The duration staff – the folks who are here full-time – gave us more work to do than was originally contracted, but the team stepped up and completed the additional work," Love later said. "Feedback from the staff showed that we were one of – if not the – best team that had been to the reservation so far."

According to Gillis Chapela, SMASE executive director, "These efforts by the military will be felt for the next 20-30 years at St. Michaels. I am extremely happy with its commitment to the project, and with the work each of the services has done and continues to do for us."

Senior Airman Lamont Richardson of the Georgia Air National Guard's 116th Civil Engineering Squadron, cuts drywall in the new adult life skills center at St. Michaels Association for Special Education, Window Rock, Ariz.



# NATIONAL GUARD CALLED TO ASSIST WITH SOUTH GEORGIA WILDFIRES

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

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., June 22, 2011** – As of yesterday, Georgia National Guard efforts to assist the Georgia Forestry Commission with fighting two wildfires in the southern part of the state officially ended.

Army Guard personnel and equipment from elements of Augusta's 878th Engineer Battalion – to include three heavy bulldozer teams – and Cummings' Company D, 348th Brigade Support Battalion, are now back at their home stations and have returned to their regular duty status, according to Capt. Cortney Hawkins, the 878th's administrative officer.

CH-47D helicopters and crews from Savannah's Detachment 1, Company B, 169th Aviation, at Hunter Army Airfield – used to drop water onto the Honey Prairie fire near the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and the Sweat Farm fire near Waycross, Ga. – stood down earlier in the week, said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jeffery Hutchinson, the unit's maintenance officer.

Air Guard personnel and heavy earth moving equipment from Savannah's 165th Airlift Wing and the Combat Readiness Training Center have also returned home.

From the time they arrived on June 17 to support local, state and federal firefighters who had been battling the Honey Prairie, Sweat Farm and Racepond blazes since April, Army and Air Guard crews cleared an estimated 4.46 kilometers of firebreaks and opened movement routes for the fire suppression water tankers to travel, Hawkins said.

"Everyone involved volunteered for the mission, and they all performed with energy and enthusiasm," Hawkins said. "We all – Army and Air – train hard and prepare well for everything we do, including providing support to civil authorities during such emergencies."

The battalion, Hawkins adds, is "extremely proud of its Soldiers," and says the 348th and the Air Guard would say the same of their personnel.

In doing their part to suppress the fires, the 169th's three Chinooks have, since June 15, flown more than 26 hours and picked up water more than 60 times from area lakes, ponds, and rivers, dropping about 132,000 gallons onto the Honey Prairie and Sweat Farm fires, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jeffrey Hutchinson, the unit's maintenance officer, reports.

"Low visibility and rising air currents caused by the heat of the fires really challenged our crews and aircraft, but they hung in there, got the job done, and did it well," Hutchinson said. "As Guardsmen, we not only train to support the warfight, but also to support the homeland mission, and we are well-suited doing both."

Major Gen. Maria L. Britt, Georgia Army Guard Commander, pointed out that not only did the Guardsmen help combat the South Georgia wildfires, they did it on very little notice. The aviation personnel, for example, were quick in their response and, through that, helped firefighters position crews in "appropriate areas,

which ultimately led to the containment of the fires in their most resistant areas."

According to the most recent Georgia Forestry Commission figures, the Honey Prairie fire burned an estimated 286,698 acres and is now 70 percent contained, while the Sweat Farm fire has destroyed about 19,169 acres and is 75 percent contained. As for the Racepond fire, it has burned close to 20,934 acres and is 72 percent contained. Firefighters continue to mop up and widen fire lines on all three fires, with Racepond resources continuing to provide structure protection at Okefenokee Swamp Park.

Combining Army and Air Guard efforts leverages and complements their capabilities, thereby making the Georgia Guard response to any given emergency even stronger, Britt says.

"Our Soldiers and Airmen are always ready to do their part in helping our communities, any way they can, whenever they can," she said. "In situations such as this, the National Guard's dual capabilities [supporting the warfight and supporting civil authority here at home] proves vital to accomplishing the mission, no matter where that may be."



# GEORGIA 'TRIGGER PULLERS' RETURN TO SHOOTING COMPETITION



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

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., June 22, 2011** – It has been 10 years since a shooting team has represented the Georgia National Guard in the MAC III Shooting Competition at Camp Butner, N.C., but a team of four "trigger pullers" from 1st Squadron, 108th Cavalry, and the Georgia Medical Command (MEDCOM), stepped up to the firing line and placed fourth in individual rifle and first in individual pistol.

Though the team did not place overall in the competition, the wins it did manage suggest there is an opportunity to "bring it all home" next year, says 1st Sgt. Robert Callahan, the Georgia Army Guard's marksmanship coordinator and the senior enlisted leader for Headquarters Company, Joint Force Headquarters, in Ellenwood, Ga.

"It's been a long time coming,"

Callahan said. "I can't begin to tell you how important it is to everyone involved that Georgia is back in the competition again, and how excited everyone is that this team did so well its first time out. These four Soldiers deserve the accolades that have been, and will be, bestowed upon them. They have brought honor and respect to the Georgia Army Guard, and we applaud them for their dedication toward making this, the first of many wins to come, happen."

Making up the 2011 shooting team were Staff Sgt. Jakob Raven, a sniper squad leader with Dalton's Troop C; Staff Sgt. Robert Waters, currently a combat medic from MEDCOM and a former 108th Cavalry Soldier; Sgt. Christopher Hall, a sniper team leader and squad designated marksman with the 108th's Headquarters Company in Calhoun; and Cpl. Kevin Stiles, a sniper team leader with Headquarters Company. All of these Soldiers saw combat while deployed with Georgia's 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Afghanistan from 2009 to 2010.

Stiles, says Raven, was recently accepted to sniper school and is slotted to attend the sniper school soon at Camp Robinson in Little Rock, Ark. It was Raven who took first in pistol with a score of 154 points. The second place shooter scored 150, while the third place shooter left the range with a score of 146.

"Not for a minute did I believe that, just because our opponents were glad to see our state competing again, they would let that stand in their way of outshooting me," Raven said. "It's good to know they didn't let up on me, because their determination to win made me want it that much more."

His teammate, Hall, is the one who placed fourth in individual rifle using an M4 carbine. Hall scored 155 and put six rounds of 5.56 caliber ammunition in the center of his target. The top scorer, though, out-did him with 160 points and 11 center shots, causing Hall to miss first place by just a few points.

"Competition was tough, believe me," Hall said. "We, all of us, went up against some of the best 'guns' in the Army, Air Guard and Reserve. Next year, though, you can bet that this team will do better – individually and overall."

"Getting Georgia back on board with competing in the MAC III competition is important, and with this first team doing as well as it did, the chain of command is seeing the rewards that will come from getting back up that firing line," Callahan said.

"Besides having those trophies on display for everyone to see, I believe the greatest benefit is that it can spark the desire of more Soldiers to get involved," he said. "By participating in such competitions, they will get more trigger time, thereby helping them become better shooters. The effect of that is more people will qualify better during annual weapons qualification and be able to perform that much better at our primary job as Soldiers: being a rifleman first."

# ‘NO BETTER JOB THAN BEING A PARACHUTE RIGGER’

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

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., July 1, 2011** – When Sgt. 1st Class Wesley Prince – a 92 Romeo (parachute rigger), the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of readiness for the Georgia Army Guard’s first-ever aerial delivery system unit, and the 165th Quartermaster Company here at Clay – moved over from the New York Army Guard in 2006, he also decided it was time for a change in military job skills.

“I’d been a heavy construction equipment operator since joining the Guard in 1995,” Prince said. “After coming here and being assigned to Augusta’s 878th Engineer Battalion, I thought to myself, ‘It’s time to make a change. I’d like to try something different.’ When I found out the 165th existed, and that it had riggers, I was determined to become one of them.”

To get there, Prince first had to attend three weeks of airborne training at Fort Benning in Columbus, Ga. For those who doubt the sanity of jumping out of a perfectly good aircraft, they may want to rethink their options, because there is no going onto parachute rigger school at Fort Lee, Va., without having first earned the Army jump wings, Prince says.

“To me, there’s nothing like standing in the door – or on the ramp, depending on the aircraft you’re jumping from – and feeling the mixed excitement and fear that comes over you at the thought of putting your life in the hands of whomever packed the chute you’re wearing,”



Prince said, smiling. “It really makes you understand the importance behind our motto, ‘I will always be sure.’”

After airborne school, the prospective rigger spends 90 days at Fort Lee’s Parachute Rigger School studying the fundamentals of everything from inspection, to packing and rigging, to recovery and storage, to maintenance of personnel, cargo, extraction parachutes and airdrop equipment, to the service of High Altitude Low Opening (HALO) Automatic Ripcord Release (ARR) equipment, he said.

After rigger school, there are any number of other courses – sling load inspector, airdrop load inspector, jump master, air assault, and pathfinder, to name a few – that the Soldier can take to “keep himself current.”

“We in the 165th encourage that among our people,” Prince said. “The more experiences – academically and realistically – a rigger has under his belt, the more he knows and understands the importance of what he does. Whether in the packing room or out on the drop zone, we as parachute riggers must know that what we do greatly affects people’s lives and the mission.”

Before stepping back to the T-10D parachute he was packing, Prince re-emphasized that being an Army parachute rigger is something near and dear to his heart, and that he just cannot see him self changing job skills ever again.

“Where else can you get paid for doing something you really love, the way I love being a rigger? Maybe there’s a Soldier, or two, or three, out there who feels the same way and wants to experience what I have,” he said. “If there is, they need to come see me.”

## 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

Early in this collection of excellent essays and articles, German Capt. Adolf Von Schell points out that, while in peace we learn about leading and maneuvering forces, we are not instructed in the thoughts and fears that run through the mind of the front-line Soldier. “We are not told how we can help him in his mental battles.”

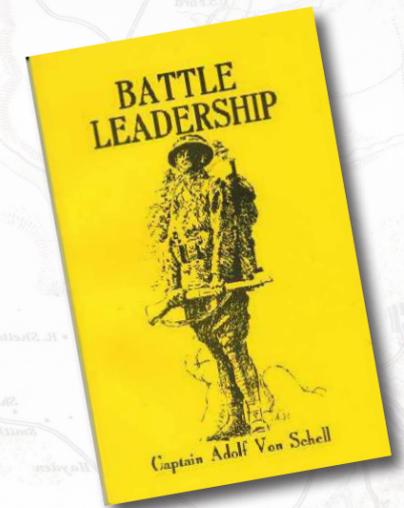
Von Schell wrote this between World Wars I and II, while a student at Fort Benning – and well before the Resiliency programs we now have in place. Yet his approach to *Battle Leadership* can inspire and inform our approach to training.

Topics covered include battlefield psychology, “leavening” green troops with tested veterans, the development of the German Army, and numerous descriptions of battles and maneuvers in World War I.

“IN PEACE WE SHOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PREPARE THE MINDS OF OUR SOLDIERS FOR THE STRAIN OF BATTLE.”

These battles are wonderfully detailed, following combatants at the company and platoon level in open warfare against the British and Russians. Some sections chronicle the leader’s thought process as well, giving further insight.

The focus is always on the mental state of troops involved – the feeling of constantly being under fire, the thoughts going through a young leader’s mind in a changing situation, the effect of darkness or retreat on march casualties, etc. These small incidents, writes Von Schell, make up Troops’



experiences and should be considered ahead of time.

Another key characteristic of the battlefield is *uncertainty*. Reports are exaggerated (and first reports always wrong); information is slow in coming, or comes in unrelated bits and pieces that somehow must be connected. On a modern battlefield, the problem can actually be exacerbated by the sheer amount of information coming in.

Yet, writes Von Schell, in our peacetime training, too often we present perfect information to leaders and even prompt them when to make a decision and even on what needs to be decided.

“Our field exercises, our map problems, and our war games should be conducted with as little information of the enemy as possible,” he writes. Then they will prepare our leaders for battle.

“Leaders must nearly always issue orders without exact information. Our mission and our will are often the only things untouched by obscurity. These will frequently form our only basis for an order. If a leader awaits complete information before issuing an order, he will never issue one.”

For all this talk of battlefields, Von Schell’s observations apply equally well to domestic emergency operations and, to a lesser extent, in day-to-day office environments. In the latter, there are stressors in Troops which leaders must take into account regularly; in the former, a potential for disasters that cause mass casualties and a corresponding deep effect on Troops that probably cannot be fully calculated in tranquil times.

Though it is especially useful for leaders in light infantry, *Battle Leadership* contains lessons for leaders at all levels and in most professions. It makes an excellent companion to *On Killing* (review), which is more limited in scope and to *The Stress Effect* (review), which explains the science behind Von Schell’s anecdotes.

# AROUND THE GEORGIA GUARD



## CG VISITS 1-118TH FIELD ARTILLERY'S ANNUAL TRAINING

FORT STEWART, Hinesville, Ga., June 23, 2011 - Major Gen. Maria Britt, Commanding General, Georgia Army National Guard, looks through the sight of a M119A2 during a visit to the 1-118th Field Artillery's annual training.



## 878TH ENGINEERS IN GERMANY

HOHENFELS, Germany, June 25, 2011 - Soldiers from the Georgia Army National Guard's 878th Engineer Battalion conducted an overseas training event here in Hohenfels, Germany, at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, executing training center support and general engineer, sustainment, and battle staff training. The 334 878th Soldiers were in Germany May 19 through June 25, 2011. While there, the Georgia Guardsmen conducted local training in such tasks as vertical and horizontal engineering and maintenance, and they provided vital training to host-nation Soldiers who were rotating through the training center.

## LITTER CARRY

FORT STEWART, Hinesville, Ga., June 23, 2011 - Soldiers from the 1-118th Field Artillery conduct SKEDCO/litter carry training as part of their annual best unit competition during annual training. After completing all levels of the competition, Battery B emerged as the victor with bragging rights until next year's event.



## MILITARY POLICE HELP IN HAITI

HAITI, June 2011 - Military Police Soldiers from the Georgia Army Guard's 178th and 190th MP Companies conducted an overseas training event in Haiti to support that country's ongoing Foreign Humanitarian Assistance. The 107 MPs mainly conducted force protection operations at various sites, specifically at the main Seaport, the Airport in Port-au-Prince, engineering construction sites, and medical and veterinary support locations. After countless hours of labor, thousands of Haitians and their animals received care as a direct result of the professional efforts of the Georgia Guard MPs.



## GEORGIA GUARD SHOOTING TEAM

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., June 22, 2011 - The Georgia shooting team from the left: Spc. Kevin Stiles, Staff Sgt. Jakob Raven, Sgt. Christopher Hall, and Staff Sgt. Robert Waters proudly display their awards while posing with the judges of the MAC III Shooting Competition. It has been 10 years since a shooting team has represented the Georgia National Guard in the MAC III Shooting Competition at Camp Butner, N.C., but this team of four "trigger pullers" from the 1st Squadron, 108th Cavalry, and the Georgia Medical Command, stepped up to the firing line and placed fourth in individual rifle and first in individual pistol.



## ARMY GUARD COMPETES FOR DEFENDER'S CUP

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., June 29, 2011 - Georgia Army Guard Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Crane with the Recruiting and Retention Battalion in Ellenwood Ga., and her teammates dig in their heels in hopes of toppling their State Defense Force foes during a tug-of-war event. The two components of the Georgia Department of Defense came together, June 25, to participate in the inaugural Adjutant General's Defender's Cup competition. The Georgia Army National Guard and the Georgia State Defense Force each sent a team of 10 to battle it out in eight categories of competition, but the SDF emerged victorious.



## Georgia SDF defeats Army Guard in inaugural Defender's Cup competition

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