

# GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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

September 2011



**September 11th**  
10 years later

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**World Trade Center artifact**  
comes to Georgia

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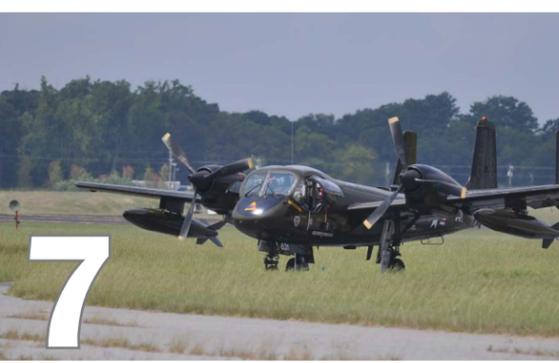
**Georgia National Guard steps up**  
assists warfight after tragedy



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# REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11

By Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt  
Adjutant General  
Georgia National Guard

Most anniversaries celebrate happy events. Birthdays, weddings, even revolutions and military victories. Yet this poignant tenth anniversary of 9/11, with its deep memories of dangerous attacks and terrifying images, clearly falls into a different category.

Yet, not unlike Pearl Harbor Day, we choose to take time on the anniversary to recall the old pain freshly to mind. Just as the news will repeat time and again the images of fire, and smoke, so too many of us will replay in our hearts and minds the thoughts and fears of that day.

Addressing a high school assembly on the first anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, one of our officers – a lieutenant at the time – remarked that Al Qaeda’s goal was for the attacks to make us all curl up in the fetal position on the floor. To pull in, to lie there, collectively to quit the world stage out of grief, and the fear of more to come.

Yet: Quickly and readily, the resilience that is the mark of strong character kicked in. We straightened up. We uncurled from that ball. We as a nation joined the first responders – who never stopped working – and got back to work. Our military transitioned from defense to offense. And flags unfurled from every building and even car roof that I passed in a day.

We all understand as individuals that it’s not always what happens to people that matters. It’s how they react. This is true of our Nation following 9/11. And it is true of the Georgia National Guard as well.

Not only did the Nation get back to work. The Georgia Guard got to work.

It’s easy to forget now, but consider that in the years leading up to 9/11, some of the most exciting things we did was send a brigade to the National Training Center in California, or the Joint Readiness Training Center in Louisiana. Our Airmen were already deployed, but not into combat.

Today we have over 200 Airmen and nearly a thousand Soldiers overseas. The 560th BFSB and the 648th MEB are preparing for major deployments. Our role in the State Partnership Program has grown considerably. The 165th Airlift Wing has just returned from combat. The 116th Airwing has been continuously deployed since the war started. The 48th Infantry Brigade has played a decisive role in two theaters of combat.

Indeed, the combat role of the Georgia National Guard since 9/11 has been truly historic.

And let’s not forget that right here at home, Guardsmen who haven’t even necessarily deployed have provided decisive support to the global war we’re fighting. Our all-volunteer State Defense Force has matured considerably in the last decade, now fielding a successful and professional search and rescue force for the state. Our CBRNE teams are world-class. And our leaders and trainers have managed resources and effort to answer their mandate to provide effective, well trained, well led, well equipped forces to combatant commanders.

True: These deployments have been hard on those we love, and have cost us too many of the people we loved to serve with. Yet all of this incredible response stretches right back in a straight line to 9/11. Our steps today can be traced to a field in Stonycreek Township, Pa., to the Twin towers in New York, and to the very door of the Pentagon.

The professionalism, enthusiasm,

and the excellence of the Georgia National Guard in response to 9/11 has amazed all - but surprised no one who knew you. Your excellence is an outgrowth of your values, your hard work, and your excellent qualities as Soldiers, Airmen, and Volunteers. The war has but brought this all to light.

In fact, I would say that doing what we were always meant to do allowed us to become what we were always meant to be.

So while we recall this awful anniversary, let’s take a moment to do two things. First, to recall all the happy anniversaries we’ve had since that awful day ten years ago: The birthdays and the weddings, the first steps and the graduations, the children and grandchildren we’ve celebrated in peace and safety. And, second, let’s celebrate and recall the powerful reaction, the incredible and positive response our Nation made since 9/11 that has made this peace and safety possible.

So whether you are the newest member of the Georgia Guard, or our most-deployed veteran, I want you to know that I am immensely proud of your work and service to our State and Nation. Thank you for what you do to continue to keep us safe.

# ‘THE DAY THAT CHANGED AMERICA’ ALSO CHANGED THE GEORGIA GUARD

By Col. (Ret.) Dennis Brown  
History Office  
Georgia Department of Defense

Tuesday, September 11, 2001, started out as any other routine day. It was spectacularly brilliant, cloudless and sparkling, a perfect fall day. Soldiers and Airmen of the Georgia National Guard, like the rest of the United States, were going about their daily business...football season, a new school year, routine activities. The Dow Jones Industrial average was riding a historic high, and President George W. Bush had been in office just over seven months.

This momentous day, however, would change our National Guard and indeed the entire United States completely and forever in one morning. As reports began to filter in that the airliner that crashed into the World Trade Center was piloted by terrorists, and that possibly other aircraft would be hijacked to accomplish the same sinister mission, it became clear that the enemy had begun an orchestrated simultaneous attack on the United States

not seen since Pearl Harbor in December, 1941.

The true nature of the attacks was now becoming clear. After consulting with the Georgia Adjutant General, Major General David Poythress, Governor Roy Barnes ordered the 781st Troop Command at Kennesaw to state active duty for possible missions as a precaution. At the time, it was not known the full extent to which additional attacks might take place, whether in Georgia or elsewhere. After the Pentagon attack, it was highly possible that other high-profile locations would in fact be targets of the terrorists. Known as the “Tip of the Spear”, the 781st would be able to respond to any crisis and support local law enforcement as necessary.

This was only the beginning. President Bush ordered the Presidential Selective Reserve Call up in September 2001 activating selective reserve and National Guard units around the country. Georgia had its own share of units called to active duty.

The 221st Military Intelligence Battalion was placed on alert September 15 for Homeland Defense and September 26 the battalion began providing soldiers

for security of Hartsfield International Airport and various Georgia Department of Defense installations.

In addition to the Army units, the Air Guard began its support of the effort almost immediately. Brunswick’s 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron was called upon for their unique capabilities in providing global command communications operations. The 224th was the first Georgia National Guard unit called to active duty and was among the first military units to deploy to Southwest Asia in support of the Global War on Terror (GWOT). The 224th remained on active duty for more than two years until Saturday, October 4, 2003, when the unit demobilized and returned to reserve status.

As a result of the attacks of September 11, 2001, the National Guard was transformed from a strategic reserve to an operational, global force, and equal player with the active components. Over 12,000 Georgia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have deployed in support of the GWOT since that fateful fall day. The Global War on Terror continues today, with no end in sight.



More than 100 Soldiers of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, led by 1st Sgt. Sean Hannes, embarked on a 48-mile journey from the hills of Canton, Ga. in Cherokee County to Centennial Olympic Park in downtown Atlanta Nov. 2010 to pay homage to veterans past and present, as well as their fallen comrades.

# GUARD HELPS BRING 9/11 HISTORY TO OCONEE COUNTY

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

**WATKINSVILLE, Ga., Aug. 2, 2011** – Georgia Army Guardsmen using a material transport vehicle helped Oconee County officials today move a half-ton section of steel beam from the World Trade Center from its pickup point in Athens, Ga., to the Oconee Veterans Park Community Center in an effort by Oconee County Parks and Recreation to bring even greater significance to the upcoming 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

“It’s been a long time coming,” said Lt. Col. John Gentry, who commands Savannah’s 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery, and serves as the Oconee parks and recreation director. “As a Veteran, and as a citizen of this county, I very much appreciate the Guard’s assistance with this. Now that the beam is here, we’ll temporarily house it in the community center’s main lobby until the Board of Commissioners decides where it will be permanently displayed.”

Sergeant 1st Class John Smith and Staff Sgt. Tyler Lawver, both from Winder’s Company E, 148th Brigade Support Battalion, took time and great care in loading the flag-covered 15-inch by 18-inch piece of I-beam aboard their truck at the FedEx Freight Terminal. They, and their cargo, were then escorted 14 miles to the park by Oconee and Athens-Clarke county sheriff’s deputies, the Oconee Emergency Management Agency, and the Oconee County Fire Department.

Artifact H-055a – as the beam has been designated – now sits, still draped with the U.S. flag used to cover it by Soldiers of the New York Army Guard’s 369th Sustainment Brigade before it left Hangar No. 17 at JFK International Airport, beneath a picture of the Veteran’s Memorial located at the park entrance.

Smith is Company E’s full-time readiness NCO. Lawver is its full-time training NCO. Both have seen combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Speaking for myself, I can’t recall anything that’s made me feel as humbled as handling that piece of steel. Seeing it and touching it has strengthened my belief in why I serve, and who I am as a Citizen-Soldier,” said Smith. “I hope it reminds those who see it of the loss, the sacrifice and the selflessness that happened on 9/11, and why service to the nation is so important.”

Lawver, who joined the Guard in 2004, said he became a



Solder because of the 9/11 attacks.

“Whether a person has worn the uniform or not, they should never let that tragedy slip their mind,” he said of 9/11. “When they see this [artifact], they should remember that the way to keep it from happening again is through vigilance, determination, and a heightened sense of who we are as a nation of free people,” Lawver said.

Artifact H-005a came to its new home through the efforts of Tom Popps, Gentry’s assistant director. It was September 2009 while Gentry was deployed to Afghanistan, Popps says, when he came across an online article that told how remnants from the twin towers could be obtained. Popps says he was motivated to submit an application because of Gentry’s service and that of his family, as well as the sacrifice made by all veterans and their families.

“It was also in appreciation for the sacrifices of the police and firefighters who died that day and since, and to those who continue to protect and serve our communities,” Popps said.

The application was approved in April, and with FedEx help – and the hard work of Brenda Bishop, the Athens terminal’s office manager – the process culminated in today’s event.

“FedEx,” said Bishop’s boss Tom Sanchez, “is quite honored for having played a part in that process.”

“Everyone involved, up to and including the Georgia Army Guard, has given us something very special with which to mark the events of September 11,” said Oconee County sheriff Scott Berry. “Our military, like our police and firefighters, make great sacrifices every day – some with their lives – to keep us safe. Their service and their memories should be honored every day, not just on the anniversary of the terrorist attacks.”

## NCO NOTEPAD



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

**O**f all the moral and ethical guideposts we, as Soldiers, are trained to recognize, one that stands above the rest for me – one that I have kept in the forefront of my mind throughout my career – is integrity. It is my ethical and personal cornerstone.

“Integrity” is sixth on the list of Army Values. As Soldiers, we are compelled to do what’s right, legally and morally.

Integrity is a quality you develop by adhering to moral principles. It requires that you do and say nothing that deceives others. As your integrity grows, so does the trust others place in you. The more choices you make based on integrity, the more this highly prized value will affect your relationships with family and friends, and, finally, the fundamental acceptance of yourself.

I’ve heard someone define integrity simply as “doing the right thing, even if nobody is watching.”

As professional Soldiers and citizens, we must try to uphold as many of these targeted qualities as we possibly can. I am reminded of the last sentence of the NCO Creed, which states, “I will not compromise my integrity, or my moral courage. I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, noncommissioned officers, leaders!”

This phrase reemphasizes the importance placed on personal integrity as part of our organizational values. Sound morals and ethical behavior cannot be established or created in a day, a month, or even a year. They must be institutionalized within our character over time. They must become a way of life, and they go well beyond our individual ranks and position. They cut to the heart and soul of who we are and what we must be as leaders: men and women of character.

These values arm us for the challenges to come and, for those we lead, provide a sense of trust and transparency in what we do. They unite us in the calling we refer to as the profession of arms.

Abraham Lincoln once wrote, “I never had a policy; I have just tried to do my very best each and every day.”

**Good words to live by.**



# VIETNAM ERA AIRCRAFT DONATED TO GUARD AVIATION MUSEUM

*Story and photos by Spc. Jasmine Walthall  
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
Georgia Army National Guard*

**DOBBINS AIR RESERVE BASE, Marietta, Ga., Aug. 17, 2011** – Today, an OV-1 Mohawk returned home to Georgia, landing here at Dobbins Air Reserve Base for a brief welcoming ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility. The aircraft then departed to its permanent home in Winder, Ga., where it will be part of the newly formed Georgia Army National Guard Aviation Museum, Inc.

“This aircraft is a reminder to every Soldier, NCO, officer, and warrant officer that’s ever served in aviation or in combat,” said Col. Brent Bracewell, Commander of the Georgia Army Guard’s 78th Aviation Troop Command. “This aircraft allows us to analyze where we come from. It is an honor for it to be in the possession of the Georgia Guard once again.”

“We have always wanted to form this museum to honor troops who have served and are serving,” said Ed

Bearden, a former Georgia Guardsman and the Georgia Army National Guard Aviation Museum president. “It is important to honor all of the troops who served in the Guard. The Guard is all about the people who comprise its ranks. So saving this aircraft, and preserving it, is saving and preserving a vital piece of the Guard. It was only right that it return to Winder, because that is where it served, and a lot of us old guys served in Winder with it, so we are going to take it back to where it belongs.”

For three decades, the Georgia Army National Guard flew OV-1 Mohawks as part of its combat support mission. Dozens of OV-1B, C, and D model aircraft were based at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Winder, Ga., and at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta, Ga. The state boasted two of the few units nationwide capable of flying this difficult, high-performance aircraft.

The first OV-1C Mohawk arrived in Georgia in January, 1970. The last OV-1D left Dobbins in 1993. Now one of these unique war birds has returned to its nest here in Georgia: OV-1B Mohawk, Serial No. 59-2631.



The U.S. Army accepted 631 in October, 1962. It went directly to the 503rd Aviation Battalion of the 3rd Armored Division, based in West Germany.

The “B” model Mohawk was produced to use the Army’s new Side Looking Airborne Radar (SLAR), mounted externally to the aircraft in an 18-foot pod. The SLAR provided a film record of ground radar images of moving targets on both sides of the aircraft’s flight path at night and in bad weather. This system was used successfully while patrolling the West German border and in Vietnam. It also tracked drug freighters off the Atlantic Coast and in the Gulf of Mexico.

“I was responsible for supervising the downloading of photography from the aircraft camera after a surveillance mission, and saw firsthand the importance of the unit’s mission,” said retired imagery interpretation sergeant Ron Fannon. “This aircraft made enemy detection much timelier and provided commanders with data about battlefield threats within 30 minutes to an hour after the aircraft landed.”

This particular “B” model Mohawk came to Georgia

in 1978 and was assigned to the Georgia Army National Guard’s 158th Military Intelligence Company based at Winder and served with the Georgia Guard until 1985. Since then, it has traveled many miles, to include a 10-year stint with the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation and the Army Aviation Museum in the late 1980s.

Mohawks are ejection seat equipped, two-man, turboprop, fixed-wing aircraft. They were initially deployed to South Vietnam in 1962 and served throughout the entire conflict. The Mohawk was used for visual and photographic reconnaissance with great success, due to the aircraft’s speed and quiet turboprop engines. The aircraft was also utilized in the light attack role after being armed with 2.75-inch rockets and .50 caliber machine guns. In fact, in late 1966, an armed OV-1A of the 131st Surveillance Airplane Company shot down a North Vietnamese Air Force MIG-17 over North Vietnam. The Mohawk was removed from Army service in 1996, with the last Mohawk unit being the 224th Military Intelligence Battalion based at Hunter Army Airfield, in Savannah, Ga.



**An OV-1B Mohawk taxis at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, August 17. This flight was the first part in a swan flight for the Georgia Guard Vietnam veteran aircraft. The Mohawk’s final resting spot will be in Winder, Ga., where its Guard experience began, so that it can be a part of the Georgia Army National Guard Aviation Museum.**

# NATIONAL GUARD, RESERVE TEAM UP FOR WATER RESCUE TRAINING

Story and photo by Spc. Denise Durbin-Carlton  
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
Georgia Army National Guard

**LAKE ALLATOONA, Cartersville, Ga., Aug. 6, 2011** – The sounds of recreational boaters and jet skiers out on the lake were replaced today by the resonance of helicopter blades as a UH-60M Black Hawk and its crew from the Georgia Army Guard's Detachment 1, Company C, 1st Battalion, 169th General Support Aviation Brigade, teamed up with aviators and flight crew from the Air Force Reserve's 94th Airlift Wing to conduct water rescue training.

Both units are from nearby Marietta, where the 169th is home-stationed at Clay National Guard Center and the 94th at Dobbins Air Reserve Base. Today's training took place at the small section of the shoreline still operated by Navy Morale, Welfare, and Recreation.

"Besides building stronger relations and camaraderie between our two services, joint training like this allows us to understand how the other branch operates," said Capt. Jennifer Jaacks, Company C's commander. "In this way, we're all more

proficient in the skills needed to safely remove people from the water and then safely return them to the shore."

The day's training began early with a safety briefing for the participants to ensure the well-being of everyone involved. They were also made aware of the precautions necessary for using the force penetrator, a device that is lowered from the helicopter to the water, and on which the person being rescued sits and is then hoisted to safety.

Following the briefing, the Soldiers and Airmen role-playing as those needing to be rescued moved their boats to the middle of the lake. Upon arriving at the "rescue site," the Black Hawk crew hovered between 50 and 100 feet above the water, depending on the ability of the role-player to reach the force penetrator.

"It is critical for the pilots and crew to understand how to use the force penetrator and how to secure themselves to it

in the water," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Gary Button, the Blackhawk pilot for this training.

Once a rescue was secured, participants would switch roles and do it all over again. In this way, Jaacks points out, each Soldier and Airman becomes proficient in their individual skills. This, she adds, allows everyone to better understand how their counterpart trains and what it is like to be the person being rescued.

The Soldiers and Airmen in the helicopter worked on perfecting the techniques and skills needed to bring a rescue mission to a successful end. As the person being rescued, they were able to hone their water survival techniques. It also afforded them the experience of dealing with the challenges that arise when the helicopter hovers and its blades cause propwash (where water and wind are pushed up and back by the power of the helicopter blades).

"This made it difficult for anyone to see much of anything from the aircraft or from the water, which makes effecting a rescue that much more difficult," Jaacks said.

"Playing the person being rescued was, for me, a great experience," said Senior Airman Katherine E. Henson, a flight medic for the 94th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, also stationed at Dobbins. "As the waves were crashing into

my face, I also had to fight the wind. This not only showed me what the people I may have to rescue will confront, it prepared me for what I'll encounter should I ever need rescuing myself."

Jaacks, Henson and all the participants agreed that today's training mission helps to keep each team mission ready. They are also better able to coordinate their efforts when the real thing happens in a joint operations environment, they say.

"This is especially true," Jaacks said, "considering the 169th's upcoming deployment."

"Even more important," said Col. Rick Kemble, the 94th's vice wing commander, "is that, when they do work together, they need to know how the other service operates. Services work side-by-side, using the best skills, techniques and equipment of each organization to get the job done. Joint training such as this gives us a better understanding of each other's jobs, and it allows us to spend time learning to speak the other's lingo."



# 116TH ARMY BAND 'PLAYS FOR GRADES' DURING TRAINING

Story and photo by Spc. Jasmine Walthall  
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
Georgia Army National Guard

**ELLENWOOD, Ga., Aug. 6, 2011** – An important part of any unit's readiness and productivity is constant evaluation of its peacetime and wartime mission. Through this process, Soldiers and their commanders identify their strengths and weaknesses and then determine what improvements are needed to meet or even exceed the relevant standard.

That was the aim during August drill for the Georgia Guard's 116th Army Band stationed here at Joint Forces Headquarters, and so an inspection team from National Guard Bureau (NGB) came down from Washington, D.C., to evaluate the 116th.

"This experience teaches us the importance of keeping our skills at the highest level possible," said 1st Sgt. Everett Yeckley, the 116th's senior enlisted leader. "We walked in the door on Friday and were expected to perform our mission after weeks as civilians. In my opinion, we've done well so far, especially today."

Such evaluations help drive home the point that he and his fellow bandsmen must also be able to fulfill their primary mission of being a Soldier first, and a trombone player, bass drummer, or even a band leader second, Yeckley adds.

During the evaluation process, nothing goes untouched by an inspection team, says Chief Warrant Officer 5 Thomas Coff, NGB's senior bandmaster and head of the four-Soldier team evaluating the 116th.

"Everything about the band's operations – from logistics, to personnel budgeting, to finance and safety – is evaluated," Coff explained. "We also observe the band's overall musical performance and ceremonial capabilities, as well as those of its musical performance teams."

This inspection, performed every five years, is also a measuring tool NGB uses to decide which bands will perform at various stateside and overseas events. It is both thorough

and extensive, Coff adds.

"Every unit is given a pre-evaluation worksheet it has to fill out. From this, we obtain an understanding of where a band stands on certain issues," Coff said. "We then show up and spend a day with the full-time staff, and later a day with the entire band watching them perform."

Before the evaluation team leaves, he says, it will brief the 116th's higher headquarters on what the inspectors saw and heard, and then suggest areas for improvement.

On this day, Coff and his team literally took the 116th's evaluation "to the streets." It just so happened that the band was scheduled to participate today in the city of Alpharetta's 59th Annual Old Soldiers Day Parade.

The inspection team watched closely as the 116th made its way past a crowd of more than 1,000 parade-goers – from in front of city hall to the parking lot of American Legion Post 201 – marching along with area veterans, American Legion members, a host of high school groups, and government officials.

"I was proud of our performance, especially that of First Sergeant Yeckley, our conductor," said trumpet player Sgt. Scott Clements. "He's just one of the great conductors who lead us, and they do a great job of getting more out of us than we might



believe ourselves capable of doing."

Although it will be at least a month before the 116th's final "report card" is issued to its higher command, band members have some idea about how they did.

"Ask any one of us, I believe, and you will find that we know how well we did, or did not do," Yeckley said as he watched the band board its bus for the ride back to Joint Forces Headquarters. "I am confident that, while there will be things on which we need to improve, we'll see a number of things we did well. In any case, we know that the 116th Army Band knows its job, does it well, and is very proud to represent the Georgia National Guard, anywhere, any place."

# 48TH BRIGADE USES ANNUAL EXERCISE TO HONE ITS READINESS, ‘GET BACK IN SADDLE’

Story and photos by the Public Affairs Office  
48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team  
Georgia Army National Guard

**FORT MCCOY, Wis., Sept. 1, 2011** – Even units that have “been there and back” require continued training to keep sharp the basic skills their Soldiers use to support the warfight overseas or provide support to civil authorities here at home. In fact, without such training, they would tend to lose valuable skills, thereby putting themselves, their fellow Soldiers, and their mission at risk.

For just this reason, Georgia’s 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), many of whose Soldiers have experienced the stresses and rigors of combat in Iraq and most recently Afghanistan, put its Soldiers out in the field for two-week annual training (AT) at Fort McCoy, Wis. This particular AT was performed in conjunction with training exercise Patriot 2011, a domestic operations type of event held every year out on McCoy’s vast training area.

“There’s no better way to live up to the National Guard motto of ‘Always ready, always there,’ than through exercises such as this,” said Col. John King, the 48th IBCT’s commander. “Even though this brigade has seen war and done its part to help Iraqi and Afghan security forces rebuild and retrain, the mission of keeping the 48th’s readiness level high is a challenge we must meet – even when that mission is here at home.”

During this year’s training, Soldiers within brigade elements like the 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry, and the 148th Brigade Support Battalion spent a lot of time working on everything from basic combat skills, to convoy and patrol tactics, to dealing with protesters, to assisting civilians and emergency responders during a simulated disaster.

The 121st, for example, is the Georgia Army Guard’s rapid response force. Should a natural or man-made



disaster happen in some part of the state, battalion members would be among the first called up and sent to assist civil authorities in the affected area.

While the combat medics from its Headquarters Company honed their medical response skills, Soldiers from the battalion’s Company C spent time coordinating and working with civilian law enforcement – including the FBI. The Soldiers of Company C also conducted personal security training by escorting civilian and military dignitaries – such as Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt, Georgia’s Adjutant General, and Maj. Gen. Maria L. Britt, Georgia Army Guard Commander, who came to observe the training overall.

“I, for one, am glad that I got the experience of working with the other agencies,” said Staff Sgt. Michael Flynn, Company C’s acting first sergeant. It’s important that we have an understanding of how the civilian agencies work, and how we as Guardsmen, and the National Guard as a

whole, can work with them for the greater good of our countrymen.”

The task of getting needed equipment and supplies to McCoy before the AT began and then delivering necessities like potable water to troops in the field fell to the “Alpha Dawgs” of the 148th BSB’s Company A.

The movement of the “beans, bullets and fuel” to and around McCoy fell, of course, to the unit’s transportation platoon, led by 1st Lt. Janaire Jackson, who only recently became the unit’s commander.

“People have to eat, equipment and vehicles have to be maintained, and it’s up to my Soldiers to make sure everything that’s needed gets to where it needs to be,” she said. “Believe me when I tell you our drivers are some of the best. They understand that getting their cargo safely in the hands of the Soldiers who need it so they can conduct their missions is – and always will be – their priority.”

Just as Soldiers need to maintain their equipment to meet mission readiness, they must also maintain themselves – not just with food – but with clean drinking water. That is the responsibility of Company A’s Petroleum

Oil and Lubricants Platoon.

“Soldiers can go for more than a couple of days without food, but the body needs water to survive, and it’s our job to make sure Soldiers have what they need to sustain themselves,” said Spc. Patrick Lawrence, one of the platoon’s water purification specialists. “Nothing goes out to the Soldier that hasn’t been purified and medically certified. “Our job is to make sure that happens each and every time water is pushed out for distribution.”

Over all, King later said, “The 48th’s readiness and its ability to carry out its wartime mission, as well as its capacity to fulfill its role in support of civil authorities during domestic operations, were proved to be at the level necessary for getting the job done successfully.

“Everyone, from the most senior leader to the lowest enlisted rank, worked hard, long hours during this annual training to not just ‘meet the standard,’ but to exceed it whenever and wherever possible,” King added. “As we continue training back at our various home stations, we know we are always ready to be there, no matter when, no matter where the next mission may take us.”



A 48th Brigade Soldier, following the instructions of a senior NCO, prepares to dispatch a simulated enemy with a practice grenade.

# NATIONAL GUARD HOLDS KEY TO DoD FISCAL AUSTERITY

By Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt  
Adjutant General  
Georgia National Guard

Budget woes being what they are, there are no “sacred cows.” Every government program, department, and initiative has been – and will continue to be – subject to extreme scrutiny to ensure that tax payer dollars aren’t being wasted. This is as it should be.

As Secretary of Defense Panetta recently noted, “The United States faces a series of tough choices ahead on the budget as we seek to balance the need for fiscal solvency with the need to protect our security.”

In the months and years that lie ahead, the United States will expect its armed forces to continue to provide superior defense services but with a smaller budget than in years past. As the Department of Defense looks for innovative solutions to the changing fiscal and global security realities of our time, it is important to understand how the National Guard can help. More must be done with less, and that is where the cost-efficient National Guard excels.

Clearly, fiscal analysis of defense budget cuts must be paired with the management and understanding of risks related to future security threats and challenges. But with the National Guard, the nation will find a cost-efficient force able to handle almost any manner of defense-related challenges.

In addition to the Guard’s ability to offer defense support to civil authorities the National Guard plays a vital role in the warfight. Indeed, the nation cannot even entertain the idea of going to war without the operational support of the National Guard. The operating force of the Army National Guard is nearly 40% of the Army’s overall capacity. The Air National Guard currently accounts for 30% of fighter, 40% of tanker, and 30% of airlift capability for the total Air Force.

Yet, with looming Defense cuts, some voices have suggested that part of the solution may rest on shifting the National Guard back to a strategic reserve role. I am not one of those voices. The Guard can and must be sustained as an operational force for a fraction of the cost of its active duty counterparts.

With the National Guard, America gets two for the price of one. The Guard provides each state’s Governor with a ready force for crisis while simultaneously providing the nation a capable, ready force to defend U.S. interests worldwide. The Guard can be used for rotational, operational, and predictable missions, and it can help retain experienced personnel and crucial force structure in a cost-effective way.

As Gen. Craig R. McKinley, National Guard Bureau Chief,

noted in his white paper *The National Guard: A Great Value for America*, “The central reason for the National Guard’s cost-effectiveness is the part-time/full-time force mix. Until called and placed in paid-duty status, traditional Guardsmen incur minimal cost to the Department of Defense.”

Because traditional Guardsmen only train about 40 days a year, they require lower medical costs and retirement pay. As a result, the embedded costs for the National Guard are significantly lower, yet they maintain much of the same capabilities of their active counterparts.

General McKinley goes on to point out, “The Army National Guard uses less than 11% of the Army’s 2010 budget, makes up 32% of its personnel, and maintains nearly 40% of its operating force. The Air National Guard uses less than 7% of the Air Force’s 2010 budget, makes up 19% of its personnel, and maintains 30-40% of the Air Force’s fighter, tanker, and airlift capacity.”

Beyond the fiscal two-in-one benefits are the professional two-in-one benefits – whereby, with Guardsmen, the nation gets Citizen-Soldiers who bring civilian experience to military affairs and vice versa. The men and women of the National Guard have proven themselves repeatedly in combat, humanitarian, and in domestic response missions. They consistently perform at the professional level that the nation expects from all of its service members.

The United States made the mistake of issuing across-the-board defense cuts after the Vietnam War, which – as Secretary Panetta, himself, recently noted – resulted in a defense force that was “undersized and underfunded relative to its missions and responsibilities.” We cannot afford to repeat that mistake any more than we can afford to maintain our current levels of spending.

Conversely, when the military cut its active-duty ranks in the mid-1990s, Guard and reserve components actually expanded. That shift allowed the Pentagon to keep wartime capabilities in its arsenal while cutting personnel costs by maintaining a part-time force – a strategic force structure shift which proved to be invaluable in the decade of war that followed.

As the nation looks to cut federal spending, it only follows that we should turn to cost-efficient alternatives. As a dual-missioned operational force, requiring only a fraction of overall defense funding, the National Guard can provide that alternative for the Department of Defense. The nation must invest its limited resources wisely while, at the same time, maintaining the security of the country and its interests. I can think of no better means for doing this than investing in a ready, capable and accessible National Guard.

# CIVIL AUTHORITIES WORK WITH GUARD TO UPDATE HURRICANE RESPONSE PLAN

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

**GARDEN CITY, Ga., Aug. 10, 2011** – The Georgia National Guard and the Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) hosted a weeklong hurricane exercise (HURREX 2011), during which leaders from several state and local emergency response agencies gathered to discuss what their roles would be in a joint reaction to a hurricane striking the Coastal Empire.

Held annually, this exercise forges relationships among the key players of various government agencies that would be called upon to provide relief if Georgians were faced with an actual tropical weather-related emergency, says Lt. Col. Mark London, who coordinated the event and serves as the director of the Guard’s Strategic Plans and Policy Office.

“It’s all about building and maintaining those relationships now and throughout the year, not just after a situation occurs,” said London. “As the Adjutant General [Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt] says, ‘You don’t want to exchange business cards at the scene of a disaster.’”

As the exercise progressed, interagency bonds strengthened while the assembly worked through their joint response to a hypothetical Category 3 hurricane named Vector. The scenario followed a timeline that spanned from the inception of the storm in the Atlantic Ocean and then followed its progress as it “plowed its way up the coastline, eventually making landfall in Chatham County.”

Clayton Scott, director of the Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA), says it is important for various agencies to figure out their needs and capabilities now, before such a disaster occurs. He adds that he is encouraged by the candor and sincerity exhibited by the Georgia National Guard leadership as the partners talked through how to best use their resources in the face of the “real thing.”

“All of the people I’ve met and dealt with from the Georgia Guard are extremely professional,” Scott said. “I couldn’t have asked for a better audience or for better support if we ever need it, though hopefully we won’t.”

Besides Scott and CEMA, other agency representatives included those from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, Glynn County Emergency Management Agency, the Army Corp of Engineers, as well as several local and state law enforcement and fire and rescue departments. Present for the National Guard were representatives from Macon’s 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and other Guard elements that would be the first to respond in support of civil authorities in the event of a weather-related disaster.

“This is a great opportunity for the 48th and the Georgia National Guard to work and plan with civilian authorities how we can best support them before, during, and after a catastrophe strikes their communities,” said Col. John King, the 48th brigade commander. “What we do, both here and after this exercise ends, only reinforces the Guard’s commitment to helping the citizens affected by natural or man-made disasters get back on their feet and put their lives back on track.”



# REVERSE SRP

## 'STRONGER THAN EVER'

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

**KENNESAW, Ga., Aug. 6, 2011** – While the essence of the Georgia National Guard's Reverse Soldier Readiness Program (RSRP) is preparedness for overseas deployment, there are also many important adjustments to be made when Guardsmen leave the battlefield behind.

Approximately 90 days have passed since Kennesaw's 277th Maintenance Company returned from a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan, and – during this weekend's drill, their first since returning home – they completed phase two of the RSRP.

Captain Anna Smith, commander of the unit, says that during this second phase, many vital issues are addressed, from education and retirement benefits to the Post Deployment Health Risk Assessment (PDHRA), which monitors the Soldiers physical and emotional health.

“For the Soldiers, this process mainly covers medical situations and concerns that may have come about relating to their deployment,” said Smith. “It also includes counseling that may be needed by the Soldiers and any family concerns they may have during the adjustment period coming back to

the homefront.”

Learning to re-adjust to the pace of life stateside can be challenging for returning overseas veterans who are accustomed to a different world in Afghanistan. Sergeant Donald Newman of the 348th Brigade Support Battalion says RSRP is important because it teaches Guardsmen how to slowly reintegrate into the lives of their loved ones.

“So often, when you transition from one environment into another, you don't think about the subtle nuances, things that your family and your friends notice about you that are different than they remember. I think reverse SRP helps you to be more aware of those things,” said Newman. “When you may be a little quick to judge or a little quick with words, it kind of helps you to say ‘maybe I need to step back, and maybe I need to focus my words a little clearer when I'm dealing with my family and my friends because they don't understand where I've been, but they still love me.’”

Many of the 277th Soldiers say the best part of RSRP has been exposure to resources they otherwise might not have thought about using. Sergeant Jamal Callwood of the 277th says that in his first deployment there was no reverse SRP process, so he never understood some of the benefits he was entitled to as far as education, healthcare, and finances go.

With RSRP, Soldiers see professionals from the Veterans Administration, the Guard Education Office, and various colleges, giving them better insight into the possibilities that lie before them in their new life at home.

“It's helpful in a lot of ways when you know that someone really cares about your well-being,” said Callwood. “I really appreciate all of the information and the people who come here to help us.”

Among those who had more than one deployment, there was a prevalent feeling that the RSRP program has come a long way since the first time they came home, and there was praise for the Georgia Guard's dedication to continuous improvement.



Specialist Tracy Dulmage reviews her health records with Staff Sgt. Jocelyn Anderson from Joint Force Headquarters Health Services Detachment.

# SAFETY FIRST DURING NEW JFHQ MOVE

Story by 1st Lt. William Carraway  
Clay National Guard Safety Office  
Georgia Army National Guard

In the coming weeks, Georgia Guard units and civilian offices will relocate from buildings and armories across the State to the new Joint Forces Headquarters Building here at the Clay National Guard Center. The new Headquarters sits on 100 acres and will encompass more than 220,000 square feet. The three-story building will house the Joint Forces Headquarters and assimilate organizations presently located at Oglethorpe, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, and other facilities.

Movement to the state-of-the art facility will be cause for great excitement. At the same time, the process of moving will introduce hazards that are not part of a normal working routine. One of the most prevalent hazards of moving is back injuries. Other hazards common to office movement are slip, trip, and fall hazards, and potential fire exit hazards.

### Lifting and Carrying

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, back injuries from lifting account for 40% of worker's compensation claims. Lifting and carrying heavy items, attempting to lift too much, twisting the back while carrying a heavy load, or lifting from an unbalanced position can cause permanent damage to the muscles of the back. When lifting, use the knees and leg muscles rather than the arms and

back. Lifting should be exercised with “buddy teams” and hand carts to minimize impact to the back muscles. If you must move your desk or file cabinet, unload it first.

### Slips, Trips, and Falls

OSHA statistics indicate 15% of all workplace fatalities involve slips, trips, and falls. Moving introduces unfamiliar items and congested workspaces which can contribute to increased risk of falls. Maintain clear walkways during moving operations to minimize risk.

### Hallway Clearance

An additional hazard that accompanies slips and falls is the constriction of fire exit egress paths due to the presence of moving materials. Hallways in particular may be blocked by items being moved around. Ensure that paths leading to fire exits are not blocked or constricted by boxes or other items.

### Vehicle Loading and Movement

Loads in moving vehicles must be balanced and interlocked to prevent shifting or collapsing. During loading and unloading activities, all vehicles should be chocked and level. Remember, as vehicles increase in weight, additional stopping room is needed; plan ahead and provide additional space between vehicles. Ensure that ground guides are utilized whenever moving vehicles are backing up and that drivers and assistant drivers rehearse and are familiar with hand-and-arm signals.

### Final Thoughts

As an organization, the Georgia Guard has withstood many transitional moves. Entire brigades have successfully deployed to combat zones around the world. It might seem easy, therefore, to discount the hazards involved in office relocation. Nevertheless, awareness of the risks and prudent exercise of the above controls will ensure that all of us complete our relocation without injury or loss.

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Maintaining an Environmental Management System (eMS) is a team initiative. Georgia's eMS (also known as GeMS) is an installation-wide management system led by senior leadership and coordinated through the Environmental Stewardship section of the Construction and Facilities Maintenance Office (CFMO).

The Environmental Quality Control Committee (EQCC) plays a vital role in this team initiative. The EQCC is comprised of Directorates from each of the Georgia Army Guard's major commands. The divisions represented are:

- 78th HRF
- 648th MEB
- 48th IBCT
- 78th AVN TC
- 560th BFSB
- USPFO
- SAFETY
- GGTC
- DOL

Having representation from various sections within our organization allows us to make the best, inclusive decisions while keeping mission readiness as the top priority. We believe senior leadership's participation in the EQCC demonstrates a commitment to adhering to environmental, legal, and other requirements. Making an exemplary pledge to environmental sustainability sets an example for all personnel to follow.

The EQCC is briefed quarterly on the status of environmental compliance and eMS conformance findings identified through formal, internal and external assessments. The decision-making team provides viable subject matter expertise to assist with taking a proactive stance for the environment. These meetings also serve as a form of awareness to ensure our key players are always aware of changes within the system.

# GEORGIA GUARDSMEN

## 'HIT THE SILK' AT LEAPFEST

Story by Spc. Jasmine Walthall  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Aug. 24, 2011** – For the 18th time in as many years, Georgia Army and Air Guard airborne specialists took to the summer skies above the University of Rhode Island's Kingston campus to compete against fellow paratroops from around the globe in what event planners tout as the "largest, longest running static line parachute competition in the world."

"Leapfest is an international parachute competition," said Sgt Jason Goza, a team leader with Atlanta's 3rd



Squadron, 108th Cavalry. "Teams from around the world compete in groups of four. The one with the lowest cumulative score at the end of the day wins."

Each team – wearing parachutes that have steerable canopies – exits the rear of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter. Their objective, as the ground rushes toward them, is to steer themselves toward a designated drop zone and the place where "X" marks the spot for a perfect landing and a better score.

Time starts not when a team exits the aircraft, but when the team hits the ground, and it stops when the group touches the target. Each team does three jumps, and the team with the lowest cumulative score of all three jumps is crowned the Leapfest champion.

Leapfest, according to the event website, is the largest continuously conducted airborne competition in the world. The event started in 1982 as a way for members of Rhode Island's 56th Troop Command to keep in contact with fellow jumpers within the international parachute community. It is an exercise, the website states, that seeks to "develop the command and control ability of Army aviation, and the capability for delivering a manoeuvrable [sic] force on the tactical objective with timely precision with which to conduct combat operations."

More than 200 paratroopers from the United States and foreign countries participated in this year's competition. These included teams from the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force, and international teams from Canada and the United Kingdom, as well as from across Europe, South America, and Asia. Even a team from Ecuador made its way to Rhode Island to compete.

"Relationships among the U.S. and international

jumpmasters were renewed this year, while others were 'freshly forged,'" said 1st Sgt. Joseph Shirer, operations sergeant for the 108th Headquarters Troop, and first sergeant for the unit's Troop A. "We learn a lot from each other every time we come here. The opportunity to come together and partake of each other's skills and expertise is truly an awesome thing."

Among the five Air Guard jumpers – all from Brunswick's 165th Air Support Operation Squadron (ASOS) – representing Georgia this year were Capt. Roger Brooks, Senior Master Sgt. A.J. Freshwater, Master Sgt. Ryan Baker, Tech. Sgt. Michael Ashurst, and Staff Sgt. Shawn Gordon. The highest individual finisher among the ASOS jumpers was Gordon with a cumulative time of 111.50 seconds. Theirs was the only team representing the Air Force and Air National Guard at Leapfest.

Joining Goza for the 3-108th during this year's jump were fellow troopers 1st Lt. Steven Russell and 1st Sgt. Joseph Shirer along with staff sergeants Timothy Wilder, Mark Hurley and Jonathan McLaughlin. In 2010, the 3-108th team placed third in the overall team event.

"We did pretty well as a team this year. Unfortunately, one of our group members became entangled in some trees on the first jump, earning us a 300-second penalty," Shirer said. "Our last two jumps were spectacular, with us averaging 15 seconds a jump, but that mistake on that first jump cost us second place."

The 3-108th team would walk away from this year's Leapfest placed 35th among the final rankings.

It goes without saying, Goza said, "Such a daunting task under such tight time constraints most certainly comes with its own set of challenges. Though those challenges

are certainly a big part of a jumper's day during Leapfest, so are the benefits that come from having competed.

"The most rewarding part of it all was the opportunity to compete with some of the best airborne units in the world," he added. "This is the sixth time I've been, and each year the teams are different. This year, for instance, we jumped with teams from Germany, Italy, Great Britain and Morocco, just to name a few."

Even after the competition ended, Goza and others jumped with those teams in an effort to earn international jump wings. Those that did not already have them, for example, received their German and Italian parachute badges.

As with any experience, lessons about skills, tactics and equipment are learned, he later added. Those lessons are later used to assist those teams getting ready for each upcoming Leapfest.

"Every year is different, and every year we learn a little more," Goza said. "One new thing we added, that I think will be very beneficial next year, is that we now have special cameras mounted on our helmets. Next year's team will be able to review the footage and learn from what we did right this year, and what we did wrong."

While his team did not do as well as everyone hoped, the day was still very much a win, especially – it seems – for Goza.

"I actually proposed to my fiancée on my third jump," Goza said. "I carried the engagement ring with me through the first two jumps. She was at the giant viewing area that's about 200-300 meters from the drop zone target. I asked her to marry me when I reached the X on that last jump... she said 'yes.'"



Georgia Army Guard Sgt. Jason Goza of Atlanta's 3rd Squadron, 108th Cavalry, walks off the drop zone, the main canopy of his parachute following behind him, after making one of three jumps during competition.



Capt. Roger Brooks (left) and Staff Sgt. Shawn Gordon run toward the target during Leapfest 29. Competitors are scored by the cumulative time it takes each jumper to reach the target.

# PARALEGAL TAKES PRIDE IN HER MOS

Story and photo by Ms. Desiree Bamba  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Aug. 2, 2011** – For eight years, Georgia Army Guard Sgt. Amelia Gordon worked as a military police officer with the Virgin Islands National Guard. Ten years later, she continues putting the skills she learned in law enforcement to work as a 27 Delta (Paralegal Specialist) with the Georgia Department of Defense Judge Advocate General's Office.

"In April 2004, when I enlisted in the Georgia Guard, my intent was to serve as a chaplain's assistant. I was assigned to the Headquarters Company, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, in Macon, but the chaplain's assistant slot was for a sergeant first class and I was only a specialist," Gordon explained. "Therefore, I could not be a chaplain assistant in that unit. So when I saw an opportunity to become a paralegal, I decided to pursue it."

Gordon says the 48th Brigade's need for a paralegal arose right before its 2005-2006 mobilization to Iraq. But, for Gordon, that meant a transition to the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps after the deployment would probably be less difficult because of her previous law enforcement training.

To become a paralegal, Gordon had to attend a two-week training course at Fort Jackson, S.C. Because she was moving from one law enforcement MOS to another, it was not necessary, she says, for her to take the longer course.

Gordon said she and her classmates covered everything from the Uniform Code of Military Justice to legal assistance and the importance of being ethical (e.g., attorney/client privilege). Gordon went on to put her new skills to work during the brigade's deployment to Iraq.

"I love my job because I love serving the Georgia Army Guard, my fellow service members, and the civilians working in support of the Guard and our Armed Forces," Gordon said with a smile. "The job, then and now, gives me great pride and a sense of purpose because I get to help Soldiers remain focused on their mission instead of some pressing legal question. I also get to assist commanders in enforcing current regulations and policies."

She also helps Soldiers who may be facing military or civil criminal charges, or some sort of civil law suit, find legal assistance. To do that, she refers them to civilian attorneys, the Georgia Army Guard's Trial Defense Company – which stood up in April of this year – a legal assistant, or to the Military One Source Website.

In her duties as a paralegal for the staff judge advocate,



Gordon spends a lot of her time coordinating the appointment schedule for the office and for Col. Craig Brooks, the Georgia Army Guard's staff judge advocate. The other part of her job entails doing legal research with which to aid Brooks in his duties.

Gordon also:

- Serves as the initial point of contact for the JAG office.
- Creates and tracks the office's case files and other legal information.
- Manages the intake of legal issues presented to the JAG by commanders and Soldiers seeking counsel from the office.
- Drafts powers of attorney and wills.
- Coordinates JAG support for National Guard missions prior to unit mobilization.

While there are many things she does as a paralegal, there are also things she cannot do within her work or within her personal life as a Soldier, Gordon says. She may not give legal advice to clients and she must avoid all misconduct – to include any adverse personnel actions, such as non-judicial punishment, or the loss of her security clearance.

"There are several other challenges to this job," she said. "Those who choose this profession must also be able to prioritize their work and be aware of deadlines. The inability to do this can lead to unnecessary consequences that reduce the JAG's ability to provide timely and proper legal guidance to not just a unit, commander, or individual Soldier, but to the Georgia Guard and DoD overall."

Ultimately, she says, being a paralegal is a job that she enjoys and is proud to do.

"From the time I graduated from the 27 Delta school, it's been apparent to me that paralegals, like the Judge Advocate General's Office, are vital assets to the commands and the commanders they serve," Gordon said. "Mine is definitely a military specialty worth pursuing."

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

By Maj. John G. Lowe  
J7 Joint Training & Doctrine  
Georgia Army National Guard

**N***o True Glory* is an excellent account of the 20-month struggle for Fallujah, Iraq, in a series of battles in 2003 and 2004. The reader gets a vivid front-line account of the vicious fighting that occurred in the streets, house-to-house, and hand-to-hand.

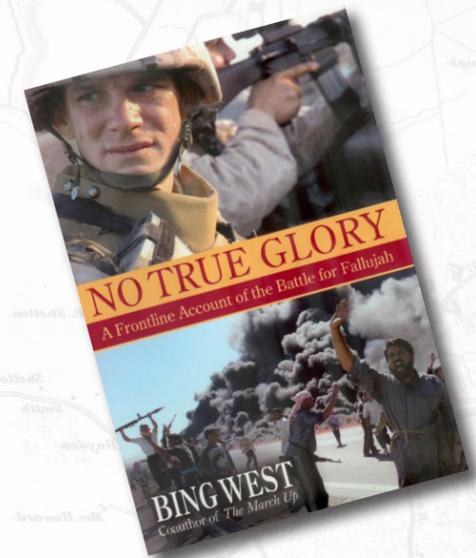
Bing West takes the reader through four phases: counterinsurgency, siege, reversal and attack. The reader rides along with American units as they apply counterinsurgency doctrine to fighting insurgents.

Early in the counterinsurgency phase, Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division spent time constructing a soccer field in downtown Fallujah. Once they had finished, a mob gathered, ripped down the nets, removed the dirt, and dumped garbage on the site. The enemy was determined to prevent ordinary Iraqis from ever seeing that the American invaders had improved their lives. This was an ominous sign of what was to come.

The author further showcases how little cooperation, and often how little civility, existed between the military and the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) planners in Baghdad, partly due to having two separate chains of command.

**"EVERY NIGHT, IMAGES OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES WERE TRANSMITTED WORLDWIDE VIA SATELLITE AND ACROSS THE INTERNET."**

Mr. West also takes a look at how the U.S. lost the information war to Al Jazeera and allowed them to shape



the story of Fallujah.

"Every night, images of civilian casualties were transmitted worldwide via satellite and across the internet. Western television networks pooled video from Fallujah, including film from the Arab cameramen with the insurgents. The pictures stressed destruction. Al Jazeera was unrelenting in depicting the death of civilians."

As Lt. Gen. James T. Conway, Commander of the 1st MEF, put it, "Al Jazeera kicked our butts."

The heart of the story, though, is about the brutal fighting in close combat – the courage and bravery displayed everyday by the men who fought the battle of Fallujah. West's accounts are detailed and riveting.

"Chandler kned Sanchez in the buttocks to signal 'Go!' and they flooded the room. Sanchez ran straight across the room. Chandler and Severtsgard broke right, aiming up at the catwalk. Farmer was the last one to the door, where he froze for a moment, trying to convince himself it wasn't fear. A second later, a grenade landed in the middle of the room and exploded right where he would have been standing. Farmer was blown off his feet back into the foyer. Severtsgard and Chandler disappeared in a huge swirl of dust and debris, as the deafening roar of AK's filled the main room. Chandler fell instantly with three bullets in his leg and both his shoulder and leg shredded by the grenade shrapnel. Severtsgard was also torn up, with shrapnel in his leg and foot. With one hand he dragged Chandler from the kill zone into the kitchen."

This book has something for Soldiers of all ranks. From leadership and decision making at the strategic level and how it affects Soldiers on the ground in the thick of the fight, to close quarters combat at the squad level, this candid look at combat will help leaders understand what they may one day face in person.

# AROUND THE GEORGIA GUARD



## FORMER FIRST LADY VISITS GUARD LEADERSHIP

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Aug. 16, 2011 – Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter spent an hour this morning talking with Georgia National Guard leaders about a possible partnership with a program designed to help the caregivers of wounded warriors better deal with problems associated with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or Traumatic Brain Injury.



## F-15s ON THE COMBAT READINESS TRAINING CENTER TARMAC

Savannah, Ga., Aug. 12, 2011 – F-15 Strike Eagles park on the tarmac of Savannah's Combat Readiness Training Center after pilots completed flight operations for the day.



## GEORGIA GUARD SENIOR LEADER RECEIVES BRIEF ON BOEING'S AIRBORNE GROUND SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Aug. 12, 2011 – "Buy capability, not development" was a key message delivered to Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt, Georgia's Adjutant General, during his recent visit to Puget Sound, Wash., to learn more about The Boeing Company's P-8 Airborne Ground Surveillance (AGS) platform.

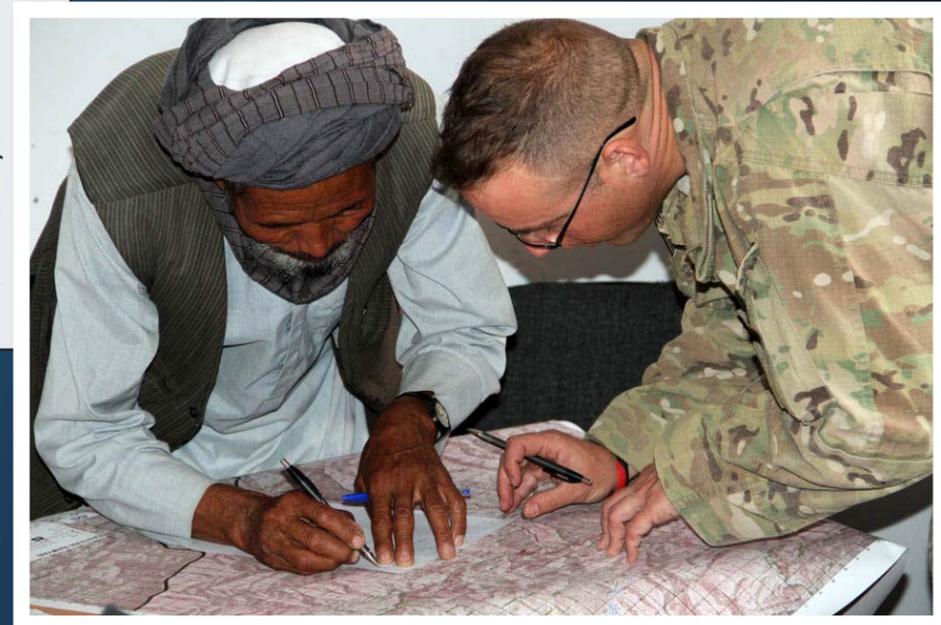
## 124TH MPAD DEPLOYS IN SUPPORT OF RELIEF EFFORTS FOR HURRICANE IRENE



CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Aug. 27, 2011 – Sergeant Gary Hone passes equipment to Staff Sgt. Harold Lewis while packing up vehicles in preparation to travel to Virginia in support of Hurricane Irene relief efforts. Lewis and Hone are members of the Georgia Army National Guard's 124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, based here in Marietta, Ga.

## ADT MAP TRAINING

BAMYAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan, Aug. 10, 2011 – Captain Partamian (right) of the Georgia Guard's Agribusiness Development Team 1, assists a Bamyan Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) extension agent with plotting points on a Bamyan map during a recent training event.





## **Mohawk returns to Georgia as part of new Army Guard aviation museum**

**GEORGIA**  **GUARDSMAN**

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