

GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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

October 2011



Georgia welcomes 41st Adjutant General

Major General Jim Butterworth

General Nesbitt retires

after more than 40 years of service

116th Air Control Wing reorganizes

deblends for new era



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

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CONGRESSMAN PAYS VISIT TO 4TH CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM

Story and Photo by 1st Lt. Michael Thompson
Public Affairs Office
78th Homeland Response Force
Georgia Army National Guard

DOBBINS AIR RESERVE BASE, Marietta, Ga., Aug. 31, 2011 – U.S. Rep. Phil Gingrey (Ga.-11th Dist.) visited the Georgia Army Guard's 4th Civil Support Team (CST) for a brief on the unit's capabilities.

The 4th CST provides chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and low-yield explosive (CBRNE) expertise to local, state and federal agencies in the event of an emergency. It is part of a larger Georgia unit, Marietta's 78th Homeland Response Force (HRF), which is expected to pass certification in November. When that happens, the 78th HRF will provide additional command and control assets in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region IV.

"To see this unit's capabilities is extremely impressive," said Gingrey. "The CST, as part of the Georgia Army National Guard, is a signature unit that was created over ten years ago. You are amazed at the local capability that they provide, not only to the state of Georgia, but to different regions throughout the United States."

The 4th CST, according to unit members, remains in a constant state of readiness in preparation to respond to events in their region of coverage, which includes six states and two U.S. territories.

Because of its specialized capability, for example, the CST recently responded Aug. 12 to an emergency event in Covington. Employees of PureTalk, an electronics refurbishing company there, reported to Newton Medical Center's emergency room with burning eyes and skin irritation. The civil support team was mobilized, along with other local and state agencies, to assess the situation, according to unit reports.

"Just having the CST there was a benefit for the incident commander," said Capt. Bert Thompson, 4th CST operations officer. "The expertise our guys bring to such situations and their knowledge of the incident command system is really helpful to our local responders."

Once on the scene, unit personnel established a decontamination line and then provided equipment to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team to clear the ER of any potential threats. After the area was cleared, a CST survey team obtained a sample of the substance and determined that it was battery acid. Major Shane Strickland, the unit commander, said the 4th CST has the only mobile lab in Georgia and will soon be ISO certified.

To be ready for these events the unit spends extensive hours training with local, state and federal agencies. Cherokee County Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) and Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) units, for example, conducted



Staff Sgt. David Rygmyr delivers an equipment brief to Rep. Phil Gingrey as he tours the Georgia Army National Guard's 4th Civil Support Team facility.

joint training with the 4th CST Aug. 24 to better understand the different types of assistance available to them, the decontamination process and how to recognize a variety of CBRNE hazards.

"We do a lot of training with local responders on equipment, gear and situations like the one in Covington," said Thompson. "So, the benefit of having an

organization like ours in the Georgia National Guard is great for everyone."

After spending time with the Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen who make up the 4th CST, Gingrey agreed that he'd come to a better understanding of what the unit is, what it does and the importance of the support its members provide to civil authority in times of crisis.

"The next time I'm at a Falcons game or a Georgia Tech game, or – hopefully – see the Atlanta Braves in the playoffs this year, I'll know that this unit and the Georgia National Guard has been there so my family and I can enjoy that particular sporting event in safety," said Gingrey.

NCO SPECIALIST KEEPS 4TH CST ONE STEP AHEAD OF HAZARDS

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

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Oct. 4, 2011 – When the average American is asked what the National Guard does, his most likely answer is, "fighting the bad guys overseas and helping people during times of disaster here at home." All true; but in providing that help at home, one particular group of Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen undertakes a unique mission to support civil authorities.

When first responders are asked to go into a disaster area and determine whether hazardous materials are present, this group of Guardsmen arms those responders with the right information so they know what risks they, and the people needing aid, may face.

Besides its operations and communications teams, a survey section (which gathers samples of possible biological, chemical and nuclear contaminants for identification) and a decontamination team, the 4th Civil Support Team (CST) also has a team member whose sole job it is to create computer-generated models that spell out how wind, weather and temperature can effectively spread a contaminant beyond ground zero and how many people might be impacted.

Enter Sgt. 1st Class Sean Katz, who serves as the unit operations NCO and the Soldier responsible for creating those models.

"Using the signs, symptoms, and physical properties of a possible hazardous situation, I put together the puzzle in order to get a rough idea about what is going on," Katz said. "Once I have compiled this information, I put together a hazard prediction model that tells us not only how bad the situation is, but also who can possibly be affected."

Based on the severity of the situation, such models, he explains, allow first responders to see what critical infrastructure – including schools, fire and police departments, and hospitals – might be affected.

"As the incident continues, I update the models and keep the command abreast on the updates, which can become drastically different in a matter of moments with something as simple as a change in weather or wind direction," Katz said.

Modeling, he adds, is also used for state training

exercises to allow commands to not only remain on top of a situation, but also to familiarize themselves with particular models, which ensures their effectiveness in real emergency situations.

"Modeling is an important part of missions because it gives us, and everyone else involved, a good estimation of where contamination has spread, how many people may be affected, and the possible worst case scenarios," Katz said. "It also helps the incident commander to make informed decisions on how teams should proceed during an operation, the risks involved, and how to get help to the folks who need it most."



Sergeant 1st Class Sean Katz (seated), operations NCO and modeler for the 4th CST, goes over a computer-generated wind, weather, population and estimated hazardous material dispersal model he has created for an upcoming exercise.

NCO NOTEPAD



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

and employers to work out favorable results.

As I think back, the first time I can remember engaging the ESGR was in 2001 while serving a tour in Bosnia. They jumped right on the case and were able to save one of my Soldier's civilian job. This was at a time that was really the beginning of the mobilization of our reserve forces as we know them today, and many employers were not yet fully aware of the law governing their interaction with mobilized employees at that time.

Through the continued communication and partnerships between employers and ESGR, many employment issues are now quickly resolved.

However, Guard and Reserve service members also have an obligation to their employers. We, as Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen, should keep our employers informed of our obligations to the military throughout the year – to include normal drill and annual training periods, but especially during mobilizations. Goodwill works both ways.

Worth noting is that the ESGR offers several ways to recognize employers for their support. I urge each of you to consider nominating your outstanding employer for the ESGR's 'Patriot' Award which honors employers for their support of employees who serve in the National Guard or Reserves.



Employers across the nation are experiencing hardships in a time of economic uncertainty, trying to conduct business as usual with smaller work forces. Those who employ members of the Guard and Reserve face even greater challenges, as they share their valuable military employees with the state and the nation during widespread natural disasters and ongoing combat operations.

Yet, it is heartening to see many Guard and Reserve employers remaining dedicated to supporting their service members and being cognizant of the value they bring to both the civilian workplace and our nation's security.

But sometimes, even while trying their best to support their employees, companies and employers encounter problems that require outside agencies' help to resolve. One of the agencies that assist our service members is the Employee Support for Guard and Reserves (ESGR). ESGR, a Department of Defense agency, was established in 1972, with the mission of gaining and maintaining support for Guardsmen and Reservists by recognizing outstanding employer support, increasing the awareness of the law, and resolving conflicts through mediation.

I have been fortunate throughout my career not to have had the need to call upon ESGR, but have witnessed several instances where the organization got involved with Soldiers

completely dismantled, cleaned, finely sanded and then repainted and reassembled. The task proved to be grueling, with 118th Soldiers laboring mornings and weekends in the South Georgia humidity and heat. The effort was well worth it, team members said, once the cannons were back on display overlooking the Savannah River.

"It's important that we take the time to preserve an important part of the 118th's history, of Savannah's history, and that of our nation," said Staff Sgt. Joshua Heaton, who heads up the battalion's training efforts and its Fire Control Section. "The knowledge we take away from this project helps us to better understand those who came before us, the hardships they faced, and their foes."

These guns, although an exceptional memento of this city's history, are but a small part of the Chatham Artillery's past – which dates back to the country's pre-revolutionary period.

"We are proud of our history as members of the Chatham Artillery and as artillerymen," said Capt. Kevin Nicklay, the 118th's operations officer. "We acknowledge the successes and sacrifices of the Chatham Artillery in every major war since the American Revolution, and our Soldiers continue that time-honored tradition of service and self-sacrifice, most recently in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom."



SAVANNAH ARTILLERYMEN PARTICIPATE IN CANNON RESTORATION

Two Soldiers from the 118th Field Artillery's restoration team assist with moving one of the Washington Guns from its static display to the 118th armory.

Story by Capt. Kevin Nicklay
1-118th Field Artillery
Georgia Army National Guard

SAVANNAH, Sept. 2, 2011 – Citizen-Soldiers of the Georgia Army Guard's 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, lent their time and talents recently to help restore a part of their heritage and history as members of the Chatham Artillery.

The Guardsmen, all of whom are members of the Chatham Artillery Corp., assisted with the cleaning and refurbishing of the "Washington Guns" that normally occupy space on Bay Street in the downtown area. These two bronze cannons, one a British 6-pounder captured by colonial troops at the battle of Yorktown, and the other a French gun named "The popular one" given to the Continental Army just before the British surrender at Yorktown, were gifts presented by Gen. George Washington to the Chatham Artillery. These cannons were given in appreciation for the part they played in the celebration of Washington's visit to Savannah in May 1791.

The Washington guns have been on loan to the City for public display since 1968. Seen by millions of local residents and tourists since that time, the guns serve as a great example of why Army artillery is known as "The King of Battle."

As restoration efforts progressed, both cannons were

AIR GUARDSMAN MAKES 116TH ACW HISTORY

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Roger Parsons
Public Affairs Office
116th Air Control Wing

ROBBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Warner Robins, Ga., Sept. 26, 2011 – This year marked a historic moment for Georgia Air Guard Chief Master Sgt. Kipp Stewart and the Air Guard's 116th Air Control Wing, as Stewart became the first African-American female of her rank in the wing's history dating back to 1942.

In 1987, as a broke college student, Stewart enlisted in the active Air Force as a way of paying for her higher education and to help put direction into her life.

"Initially, I needed something to do and wanted to go to school," she said. "My recruiter convinced me that there were very few African-American females in the electronics field, so I took him up on his advice and became a ground radio equipment maintenance technician."

Little did she know, the start of her groundbreaking career would eventually result in her being promoted as the 116th's first and only African-American female chief.

After three years of working in electronics, Stewart says, she decided to seek a new challenge in the field of manpower and personnel through reclassification and retraining. It was with renewed excitement, then, that she began to think the Air Force could be a career, she says. As fate would have it, though, circumstances changed her plans.

Shortly after the birth of their first child, Stewart and her husband – who is also in the Air Force – were slated for remote assignments. However, the idea of leaving her newborn child with someone else was a decision with which Stewart says she could not have lived. Nearing the end of her enlistment, Stewart decided that a return to civilian life would be best for her family.

During her time as a civilian, the future Chief said she received valuable management experience as a teacher and assistant director of a pre-school.

According to Stewart, "I found that managing three- and four-year-olds prepared me for managing adults."

Destiny later steered her back to the military in an unexpected way, Stewart says. After moving to Georgia, a friend told her about the Air National Guard.

"I'd never heard of the Air National Guard while I was on active duty," she explained. "Looking for a change in 1999, I joined the Georgia Air Guard as a senior Airman in what was then the 116th Bomb Wing."

Within months, the motivated Stewart obtained a full-time position working in the wing's personnel section. It was only after joining the Guard that she decided to make the military a career, she says.

"When I came to the Guard, I realized I wanted to make this a career. I loved the fact that I could serve actively and still raise my children in a family environment," she said.

From that point on, she never looked back, Stewart says. Applying the principles her mother taught her about doing her absolute best at whatever task she was given, Stewart blazed a trail to join the top one percent of all Air Force NCOs.

When she learned she was going to be the first African-American female Chief in 116th history, she says it made the achievement "feel sweeter."



"My thought was, 'Oh my, how overwhelming,'" she said. "In another way, I thought, 'I'm not worthy,' and yet I told myself, 'all eyes are on me, and I have to really represent who I am and where I come from.' It's a huge honor and I'm humbled. I'm proud that it's 2011 and I'm the first."

Since her promotion, Stewart says she has received a lot of positive comments and feedback. Fellow African-American female Guard members have shared their desire to follow in her footsteps, and to achieve the top enlisted rank.

According to Stewart, she did not start out a model Airman. What got her to where she is now, she says, are the good mentors who guided her along the way to the success she now enjoys.

An early lesson she says she learned was that the Air Force is based upon the "whole person concept," that it is through a balance between one's personal and professional military lives that success can be achieved.

Having gotten to this level, says Stewart, who is now superintendent of the 116th Force Support Squadron, is "paying dividends."

"I want to make sure that my legacy is that I've given people a formula for success that can help them reach the pinnacle in their careers that I have in mine," she said.

CAV SCOUTS LEAVE FOR MORE TRAINING BEFORE KOSOVO DEPLOYMENT

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

MABLETON, Ga., Oct. 2, 2011 – The Renegades of the Georgia Army Guard's Atlanta-based 3rd Squadron, 108th Cavalry, 560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, led by Lt. Col. Joe Lynch, bade farewell this morning to fellow Guardsmen, family and friends who gathered to see them off at Mable House Amphitheater, as the unit began the first leg of its yearlong deployment to Kosovo.

Climbing aboard buses loaded down with personal gear and equipment, the 3rd Squadron's more than 200 cavalry scouts and administrative, medical and logistics specialists will travel to Camp Atterbury, Ind., for more advanced mission-related training above what the units had previously completed at its home station and during pre-mobilization training at the Georgia Guard Garrison Training Center in Hinesville, Ga. After Atterbury, the unit will transition to Hohenfels, Germany, before moving on to Kosovo.

Since 1999, NATO has led a peacekeeping operation in Kosovo under the auspices of the United Nations mission there. Its purpose is to help maintain a safe and secure environment for the habitants of that former war-torn nation.

"While I cannot speak to the kind of operations we'll be handling, I can tell you that the Kosovo mission has been, and remains, an important one," Lynch said. "It demonstrates our commitment, and that of the nation, and willingness to stand beside our NATO allies in support of peace and freedom around the world."

As for his troopers, Lynch says they have shown in the months leading up to the deployment that they are ready, they are willing, and that they are true patriots. Not one, he says, hesitated for a moment to put their civilian lives on hold in order to step up and support the mission.

"Each and every trooper," he added, "is dedicated to our mission, and is the epitome of a true professional. We – this unit, and the Georgia Army National Guard – are lucky to have such Soldiers."

Before stepping from the podium, Lynch thanked Robby Edwards, who managed Mable House and the amphitheater for supporting today's farewell ceremony. Though he did not go into detail, Lynch said the squadron was unable to hold its ceremony where it had intended, and complimented Edwards and his staff for helping to arrange it in the amphitheater on only a two-week notice.

Saying their own goodbyes to the Renegades today and assuring their families that they can count on the Guard to help

them in every possible way while their Soldiers are deployed, were Brig. Gen. Joe Jarrard, Georgia Army Guard Commander, and his predecessor, the recently retired Maj. Gen. Maria L. Britt. It was under Britt's tenure that the 3rd Squadron began training up for the Kosovo deployment.

"As we send out this fine group of troopers on their deployment, our state and our nation appreciate the sacrifices you and your families are making in support of the important mission," Jarrard said. "You have great leadership from top to bottom, and I know that as you go through the year, you will do the right thing, you will hold yourselves and your fellow Soldiers accountable, and you will execute your mission to the highest standards of the Georgia Army National Guard."

"I appreciate General Jarrard affording me the opportunity to address some of the finest Soldiers in the world, and the families who support them one last time," Britt said. "As these troopers go forward, their nation has placed upon them a most important mission because of their willingness to put boots on the ground to ensure the nation's and the world's interest in peace. They are living and helping to shape history, and I know they, as we, are proud of who they are and what it is they are about to do."

While this is the first deployment for many of the 3rd Squadron's troopers, for others, says Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew Marks, it is their second or third time out. They all, he says, have done what has been asked of them and more in order to ready themselves for the mission upon which they are about to embark.

"Yet is our families who are the unsung heroes burdened with taking on alone the job of keeping things together at home while we're away serving our country," Marks said. "It's because of what they do here that we – as Soldiers – are able to maintain mission focus as we work our way back home."



GEORGIA WELCOMES 41ST ADJUTANT GENERAL



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

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Sept. 30, 2011 – More than 700 members of the Georgia military community and various civilian dignitaries – including Gov. Nathan Deal and Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle – were in attendance as Maj. Gen. Jim Butterworth became the Georgia National Guard’s 41st Adjutant General at a change of command ceremony held here today at this installation’s main hangar.

Butterworth, a former state senator who Deal appointed earlier in the month to replace the retiring Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt, accepted the mantle of leadership from the Nesbitt, who had served four years as the top commander the Georgia Department of Defense. This event also marked a “changing of the guard” for the Georgia Army National Guard, when Maj. Gen. Maria L. Britt, also retiring, passed on the job of Army Guard commander to Brig. Gen. Joe Jarrard, who had previously retired from active Army service.

With all eyes and ears on him, Butterworth thanked Gov. Deal for his “faith and trust, and for this opportunity to lead the great men and women of the Georgia National Guard.”

Turning his attention to his predecessor, he said, “This is a great day for you and Mrs. Nesbitt. Today we honor your four decades of service to our nation, from your brief time as an enlisted Soldier, to your senior leadership of the Georgia Guard. Again, thank you for your service.”

Butterworth then congratulated Britt on her long and storied military career as a Soldier and senior leader, and for her service to Georgia and to the nation.

As he acknowledge the sacrifices and selfless service that have been – and continued to be – made by the Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen who comprise the Georgia Guard’s ranks, the State Defense Force, and their families, Butterworth made clear his intentions toward them in the coming months.

“My primary goal is to serve you, as I begin my tenure as your adjutant general,” he said, scanning the formation of Soldiers, Airmen and State Defense Force volunteers that stood before him. “Going forward, my role will be to ensure that we are mentally, physically and logistically prepared to carry out any and all missions we are asked to fulfill.”

Butterworth went on to commit himself to ensuring the Georgia Guard’s ability to “win on every front.” That, he said, will “be the mark of leadership” he will put on the organization.

With more than 40 years as a Soldier coming to an end,

Nesbitt, too, thanked Deal for his confidence in him, and for allowing him to carry over from Gov. Sonny Perdue’s administration and serve as adjutant general during Deal’s first year as governor.

To those with whom he served – both in uniform and out – he said, “I have told you many times, an adjutant general cannot will the organization to success. The best I could hope to do, especially in [an organization] as large as ours, was to set the standards for success; and you have met that success against all odds.”

The Guard he leaves today, Nesbitt said, “is a well-equipped, well-trained and well-led force whose membership reflects the demographics of Georgia, and a diversity that extends into the ranks of its General Officers.”

He ended, saying, “General Butterworth, I pass on the mantle of a great organization comprised of some of the greatest people on earth. Take care of them, as I know you will.”

Stepping down as Army Guard commander, Britt encouraged not just the Soldiers who served under her, but

every Airman and State Defense Force volunteer serving the Georgia to take their service seriously and remain committed to the history, traditions and ideology that serve those who wear the uniform and to better themselves in order to better the organization.

“As I bring my own service to a close, I do so on the remarks of General Robert E. Lee, Commander of Confederate forces during the War between the States: ‘Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more, and you should never wish to do less.’ I have done my duty and I have never wanted to do more,” Britt concluded.

Jarrard would later thank Britt for her assistance with his transition into the Army Guard commander’s position and more importantly, he said, for Britt’s service to the Guard, which “has seen significant improvement under her leadership.”

“As I begin as their new commander, I look forward to leading the men and women of the Georgia Army Guard to even greater heights,” Jarrard said. “You truly amaze me by your continued selfless service.”



DALE JR. MAKES PIT STOP AT GEORGIA GUARD'S RTI

*Story and photos by 1st Lt. Michael Thompson
78th Homeland Response Force
Georgia Army National Guard*

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Sept. 2, 2011 – NASCAR racing star Dale Earnhardt Jr. made a welcomed pit stop here today to visit the Georgia National Guard's 122nd Regional Training Institute (RTI) and to take a unique look at the communication techniques being used by Soldiers in the military intelligence field. When his plane arrived, Earnhardt was greeted by Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt, Georgia's Adjutant General, and then briefed on the RTI's capabilities and the techniques used for training Soldiers in the art of intelligence gathering.

Earnhardt quickly associated the importance of communication with race car driving.

"During a race, I'm driving the race car and the car is doing different things. That means you want to be able to talk to your crew chief and let him know what you think the problem is," he explained. "That communication has to be going on throughout the day, so you have to keep your cool to give good communication."

After introductions ended, Earnhardt, sporting a National Guard 'multi-cam' ball-cap and t-shirt, visited the RTI Afghan

village set up on what used to be the post tennis court. In the village, role players dressed in authentic Afghan garb go about the normal day-to-day activities typical of Afghan residents in a remote village. Instructors with the RTI's Military Intelligence Academy spoke about how students who attend the course receive realistic training on not only Afghan customs and culture but also extensive language training.

Walking through the village, Earnhardt was given a look inside the realistic huts, which have places in the walls and floors where weapons and other illegal items can be kept out of sight. Out in the village's open area, he saw everything from fruit stands to an Afghan meal of goat on display. Before leaving the village, Earnhardt watched while Georgia Army Guardsman Spc. Jeffrey Eaton was promoted to sergeant, and then posed for several photos with Eaton and RTI staff.

"I find myself quite impressed with the facility," Earnhardt said, "Training is something done quite consistently, in the military and in NASCAR. Pit stop practices to keep our guys on their toes by putting them in situations that they will be in, getting ready for what they may face, and must be ready for, on race day."

"The same is certainly true for any service member," he added. "Readiness is something no one can afford to come up short on, and the only way to stay ready is to constantly train."

While Earnhardt's tour of the RTI Afghan village was a

highlight for many, the main event of the day came when a crowd of Soldiers, Airmen and Dobbins Air Reserve Base firefighters gathered around a cloaked No. 88 racecar for the unveiling of the National Guard "Always Out Front" military intelligence edition paint scheme for the coming race weekend.

After signing autographs and memorabilia, shaking hands and taking pictures, Earnhardt was presented a framed photo of the RTI staff by Col. Bruce Chick, along with some digital camouflaged backpacks for Earnhardt's own staff.

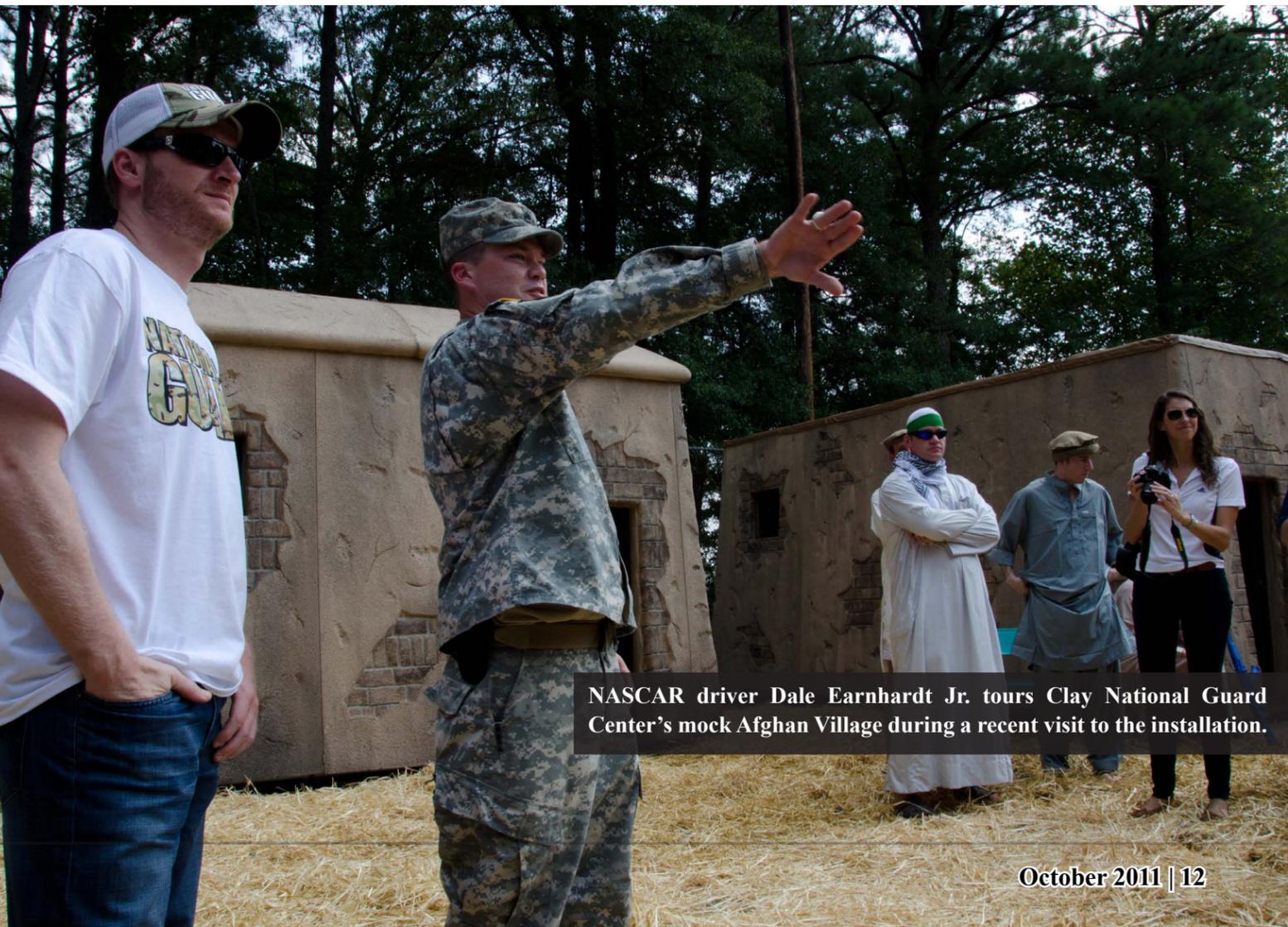
Before heading south to Atlanta Motor Speedway to get ready for his upcoming race, Earnhardt expressed how honored he was to promote the service of Guardsmen by speeding the National Guard racecar around one of the nation's biggest tracks.

"In our sport, we work as a team, as a unit, where everyone has a responsibility to do their job, to carry their weight," Earnhardt said. "Our style of operating is very similar to what the National Guard and the military in general

do. Everyone is expected to do his or her job because it creates a domino effect on whether that day goes poorly or correctly. Each person is a single domino, and it is because of them that their team, their unit, will be successful no matter where they may be in the world."

Earnhardt left Clay National Guard Center later that day with the Georgia Guardsmen he met in full support of the No. 88 team's motto - a motto that happens to coincide with the Military Intelligence Division's slogan and is now emblazoned on the race car's newly designed hood: "Always Out Front."

Captain Roger Roberts, a southeast aircraft flyover coordinator for the national anthems at NASCAR races and an Earnhardt Jr. fan since before the passing of Earnhardt's father, summed up the visit by saying, "What he's doing is great for the Guard and gives a lot of morale and support to the troops. It's good that the Guard sponsors and gets our name out."



NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. tours Clay National Guard Center's mock Afghan Village during a recent visit to the installation.

NESBITT RETIRES

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

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Oct. 7, 2011 – When Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt walked off the stage at the end of the ceremony in which he relinquished command of the Georgia Department of Defense, he also brought to an end more than 40 years of service to his country and his state.

Quoting the late General Maxwell Taylor, Nesbitt said, “I believe it was Taylor who said it best when, upon his retirement, he noted that if he had it to do all over again, ‘I would marry the same woman and I would be a Soldier.’ I have few regrets, but one of them will never be that I put on this uniform, served as a Soldier in the military of the greatest country in world. Given the opportunity to do it differently, I wouldn’t change a thing.”

Throughout those 40 years, Nesbitt has served in various types of leadership positions. From his time as a “wet-behind-the-ears, poorly educated second lieutenant,” as he once called himself during a story about his time with 5th Special Forces during the Vietnam War, to his tour as deputy commander of Georgia’s 48th Infantry Brigade, to Georgia Army Guard Commander, to Director of Homeland Security for Georgia, to the position of Adjutant General, he says his ability to lead and to inspire others to do the same has “always been a work in progress.”

“When I graduated from Officer Candidate School, I was barely 20 years of age, and I was leading troops in combat when I was 21 years and one month old,” Nesbitt recalled. “Acting on the advice of my dad, who was an NCO during WW II, I turned to my NCOs for the thing I lacked most as a young leader: experience.”

Those NCOs responded, he says, by teaching him the tools of the trade, how to fight, how to lead with confidence, respect, integrity, morals and with physical courage. Those NCOs also taught him how to be loyal and trustworthy and, far too often, “how to die.” Each lesson stayed with him over the years as he, in turn, did his part to empower and inspire others to lead by example.

Among the things he has tried to do as a leader, he says, is to take those lessons, and others he has learned over the years, and use them to motivate new and seasoned leaders alike to be as technically proficient at their chosen craft as they possibly can.

“No one, not even a major general, can ever say, ‘I know all there is to know.’ I have found, and have tried to instill in others, that there is always one more thing that can make you better than you are,” he said.



“IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR TO HAVE SERVED”

The other lesson he has tried to instill in those he has led, he says, is to watch others, from the most junior leader to the most senior. By learning not only from what someone else does right, but also what that person does wrong, the observer builds his own leadership style, his own vision of how things should be done, and then sets his sights on accomplishing whatever mission or task he is given based on those observations.

Returning to his time as the 48th’s deputy commander, Nesbitt talked about his long-time association with and respect for Soldiers who make up the Noncommissioned Officer Corps. He remembered, for example, one particular night as the brigade prepared to return home from the Army’s National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., where it had been training for its wartime mission. Everyone, especially the mechanics, were working around the clock to get things packed up, turned in and ready to go, he says.

During a late-night walk through one of the motor pools, he passed a crew working to remove a track from a vehicle in need of repair. Seeing the Soldiers and the sergeant in charge were frustrated because of the lack of help they needed to get the job done, Nesbitt says he removed his BDU jacket, picked up a tool, and began pitching in.

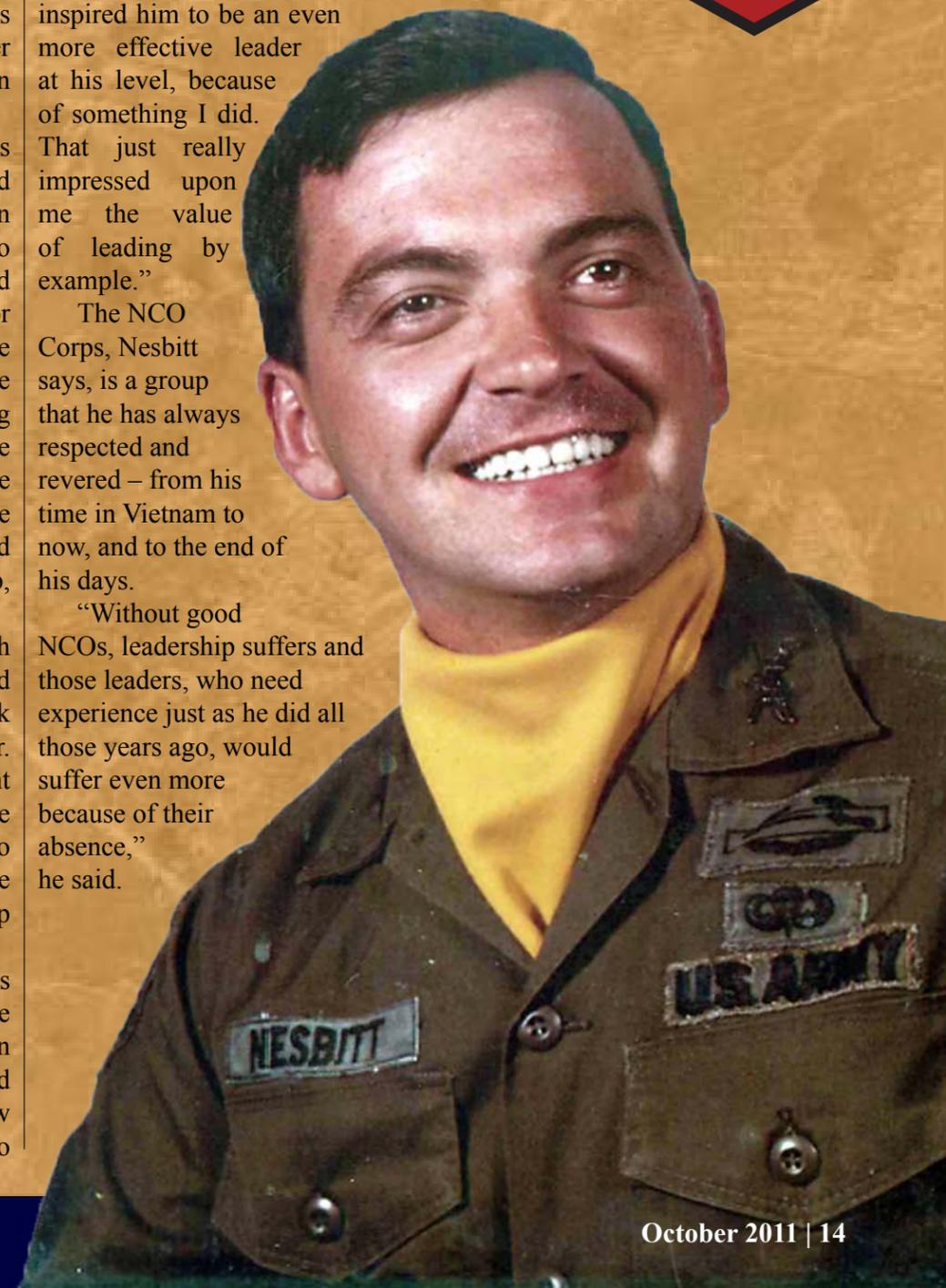
“Months later, while I was visiting our MATES facility at the Guard Garrison Training Center on Fort Stewart, that sergeant recalled that night in the motor pool, and how he saw the fact that a colonel – who

could have just walked on without so much as a ‘by your leave’ – stepped in and got his hands dirty so his crew could finish its task, as an outstanding example of leadership,” Nesbitt said. “While I had forgotten about that night, it was something that stuck with him all that time. He says it was also something that inspired him to be an even more effective leader at his level, because of something I did. That just really impressed upon me the value of leading by example.”

The NCO Corps, Nesbitt says, is a group that he has always respected and revered – from his time in Vietnam to now, and to the end of his days.

“Without good NCOs, leadership suffers and those leaders, who need experience just as he did all those years ago, would suffer even more because of their absence,” he said.

General Nesbitt is an infantry officer with over 40 years of service which include service in the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in the Republic of Vietnam. He was promoted to the rank of 2nd Lt. on January 27, 1967, and reached the rank of Maj. Gen. on November 18, 2005.





As the Adjutant General of Georgia, Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt served as the chief conduit to the governor and to GEMA during times of natural disaster. Pictured here, Nesbitt (right), Vance C. Smith Jr., Georgia Department of Transportation Commissioner, and Terry Ball (not shown), the Hazard Mitigation Director for GEMA, use an Army Guard UH-72A Lakota helicopter to make an aerial assessment of road conditions during the worst winter storm to hit Georgia in over a decade, Jan. 12, 2011.



Nesbitt received the 2011 “ChalleNGe Champion” award at the sixth annual Youth ChalleNGe Champions Gala presented by the National Guard Youth Foundation March 1, 2011, in Washington, D.C. He was among just four individuals to receive the prestigious award for his many years of dedicated service to the program.

Pictured here, Major Gen. Nesbitt presents a plaque commemorating the graduation of Youth ChalleNGe Academy Cadet Joshua Carroll at the Ga. DoD’s Fort Gordon YCA campus March 5, 2011. Carroll was the 10,000th youth to go through Georgia’s YCA program – an achievement previously reached by only two other states. This was the largest graduation in Georgia YCA’s 18-year history, with 250 cadets. During Nesbitt’s tenure, Georgia – one of 33 total YCA programs nationwide – has produced 10% of all the nation’s YCA graduates.

It is true, too, Nesbitt adds, that while some may not believe what he did in the motor pool is something a senior leader should do, he says he has always been of the opinion that a leader should never be above doing the right thing.

“I have always been of the mind that I am not above facing any challenge that presents itself to me, or doing anything outside my own level when it comes to setting others up for success,” he said. “I never have, and never will, ask anyone to do anything that I am not willing to do myself.”

It is such things as this, he adds, that not only makes a world of difference in how a leader sees himself, but how others see him.

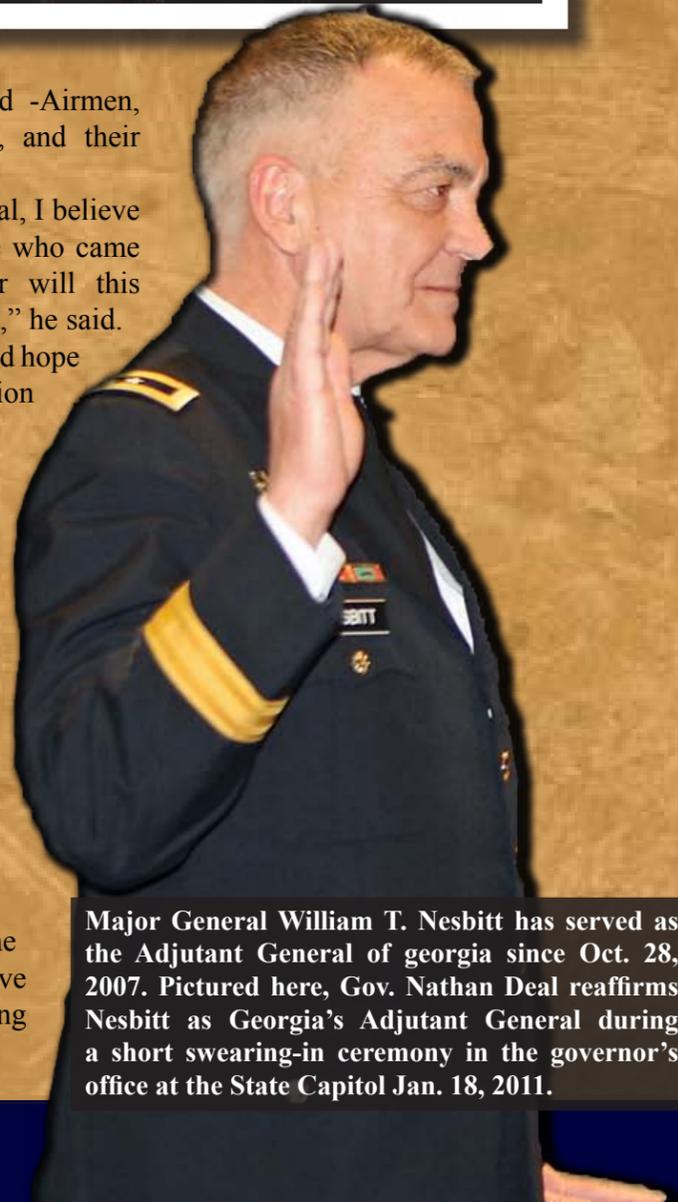
Leaving the role of the consummate Soldier who served a nation for more than four decades and led the Georgia DoD for four years, Nesbitt says he leaves behind an organization that has succeeded because of the sacrifices made by

its Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen, its civilian employees, and their families.

“As Adjutant General, I believe that neither I nor those who came before me could ever will this organization to succeed,” he said.

“The best any of us could hope to do in an organization as large as ours is set the conditions for success. The people who make up the Georgia Department of Defense met those conditions, succeeded against all odds, and will continue to do so as the organization moves forward.

“The Guard I leave today is a well-equipped, well-trained and well-led force,” he added. “I’m proud to have played a role in shaping and guiding that force”



Major General William T. Nesbitt has served as the Adjutant General of Georgia since Oct. 28, 2007. Pictured here, Gov. Nathan Deal reaffirms Nesbitt as Georgia’s Adjutant General during a short swearing-in ceremony in the governor’s office at the State Capitol Jan. 18, 2011.

TEAM JSTARS REORGANIZES FOR NEW ERA 48TH IBCT IN ZANZIBAR, READY FOR CONTINGENCIES

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Roger Parsons
Public Affairs Office
116th Air Control Wing

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Warner Robins, Ga., Sept. 30, 2011 – Past and present 116th Air Control Wing members, dignitaries, families, and friends filled the Museum of Aviation’s Century of Flight hangar here for ceremonies making the 116th Air Control Wing an active associate Air National Guard wing and the standing up of the 461st Air Control Wing, its active duty counterpart.

During one ceremony, officiated by Maj. Gen. Stephen L. Hoog, 9th Air Force commander, Col. Jeffrey A. Herd relinquished command of the 116th to Col. William Welsh. In another a short time later, Col. L. Dean Worley Jr. assumed command of the 461st ACW followed by the activation of the 461st Operations Group, commanded by Col. Troy Stone, and the 461st Maintenance Group commanded by Col. David E. Foote.

Hoog began by recalling that the 116th was the first blended Guard-active duty wing, and then praised the unit for its many accomplishments over the past nine years. Formerly the 116th Bomb Wing flying the B-1 Bomber, the unit changed over to the air control- Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (Joint STARS) mission in



October 2002. The wing has since then flown more than 70,000 combat hours supporting the Global War on Terror, and has worked effectively as a blended organization, Hoog added.

“You have a proud tradition of combat excellence and a warrior’s ethos and spirit that is personified by all of you each and every day,” he said.

Welsh – promoted to brigadier general in a ceremony following the change of command – says he has seen many changes since coming to the wing in 1996 as a weapons system officer.

“This is an historic occasion,” he said. “Nine years ago to the day, we went from two wings [the 116th Bomb Wing and the active duty 93rd Air Control Wing] to one, and today we go from one wing back to two. We’re still one team, Team JSTARS, and it’s going to take Team JSTARS to get us to the next level, to continue the successes that we’ve enjoyed, and to continue providing JSTARS support around the globe.”

Worley, drawing inspiration from the original 461st Bomb Group’s World War II motto, “On The Attack,” encouraged the members of Team JSTARS to go on the attack and work together to build an even better team today, and in the future.



Story by Sgt. Timothy Book,
326th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

ZANZIBAR, Sept. 19, 2011 – Seventeen members of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Georgia Army National Guard, recently participated in Natural Fire 11, a multi-national exercise held in Zanzibar, Tanzania. The 48 IBCT along with 325 members of the armed forces of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and the United States trained side-by-side on the remote African island.

The aim of the exercise was to provide the participating countries with the skills to conduct peace support operations, humanitarian assistance, disaster response, counter terrorism and counter piracy. The contributions of the Georgia delegation included planning and executing the command and control operations for the multinational exercise.

The tasks for the 48th IBCT began many months ago when they accepted the challenge of providing logistics, conducting all administration tasks for the exercise, and managing a continuous operation of the Tactical Operations Center for this island exercise.

Training also included familiarizing Soldiers of the 48th IBCT with Africa.

Master Sgt. Chris Mullins, the brigade Operations NCO, has been involved since the unit took over in May.

According to Mullins, it “is not too unusual” that the unit was tasked with this mission, but he was expecting that they would be helping to provide support under the direction of another element. While they still fall under a higher element (U.S. Army Africa) – this is not their exercise, he notes. The command and control part, administration, and logistics is the 48th Brigade’s responsibility.

In addition to its designated tasks, it was important through the planning process for the 48th to stay in constant communication with the U.S. Army Africa lead planner, Ralph Park, who is stationed at the USARAF headquarters in Vicenza, Italy, but in Zanzibar for the exercise.

The 48th also had to coordinate with the U.S. Army Reserve 75th Division from California, the 339 Reserve Medical unit from Massachusetts, the Joint Visitor Bureau from the Utah Army National Guard, offices from the CJTF-Horn of Africa at Camp Lemmonier in Djibouti, the USARAF Chaplain’s Unit Mission Training program, the 326th MPAD from Pennsylvania, and multiple senior leaders and distinguished visitors.

Although for the 48 IBCT, this mission is a first in Africa, there is no question that the brigade executed its mission well and the exercise was successful.

ESGR INFORMS EMPLOYERS, PROTECTS GUARDSMEN

Story by the Georgia ESGR Office
Georgia Department of Defense

Balancing one’s duties as a Citizen-Soldier or -Airman with the rigors of a civilian job is no easy task. The same goes for a given Guardsman’s employer – especially small business owners – who must cope with having an employee gone for any length of time. Standing beside them both to help them achieve that balance and to recognize the contributions both make toward the welfare of their state and nation, is the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense agency.

“Our goal is to promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees, with ESGR as the principal advocate within the DoD,” said Penelope Harbour, director of the Georgia ESGR office. “We accomplish that by advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, educating employers and service members alike on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), and by providing informal mediation when things get out of balance.”

One of the ways ESGR accomplishes its goals is by honoring

employers who recognize the importance of their employee’s military service. All a Soldier or Airman has to do is nominate his or her company or supervisor for a Patriot Award, Harbour says. The Patriot Award is also the first in a series of awards that may be given to a supportive employer. Other awards in the series are Above and Beyond, ProPatria and the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, Harbour explains.

“When employers are not supportive or have even violated a Guardsman’s employment rights,” she said, “then it is critical to help that employer understand their responsibility toward the service member. To do that, ESGR provides training on the USERRA at no cost to the employer.”

“If a Guardsman believes his or her employer is violating their rights, ESGR can help to resolve this issue,” she explained. “We have trained ombudsmen throughout the state who work with both sides to resolve any issues. If a Citizen-Soldier or -Airman believes their rights are being violated, they can contact our national helpdesk at (800) 336-4590 to open a case.”

Besides mitigating employment and reemployment issues, ESGR has several programs with which to increase employer support of military employees. One such program is “Operation Boss Lift.” ESGR also offers to help Guardsmen with their resumes and interviewing skills.

GUARDSMAN JOURNALIST ENJOYS ‘TELLING THE MILITARY STORY’

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

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Sept. 23, 2011 – As a 46 Quebec (Public Affairs Specialist), Spc. Jasmine Walthall says there is nothing better than a good story. For the past four years – which includes a tour of duty in Iraq – Walthall has been using her skills as an Army photojournalist and public affairs specialist to “tell the military story,” and to interact with civilian media who want to do the same.

“I love to write, and I certainly enjoy working with my civilian counterparts. I don’t know of any other job I would want to do as a Soldier,” Walthall explained. “Telling our story, providing the public with an idea of who we are and what we do, especially as Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen, is as important today as it ever has ever been.”

To become an Army qualified photojournalist, Walthall had to attend a three-month training course at the Defense Information School (DINFOS), in Fort Meade, Md. During those three months, she and her classmates – Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen all attending the same school – covered everything from photography, to journalist writing, to conducting interviews, to creating newspaper and magazine layouts. At one point in the training, Walthall and her fellow journalists switched gears and focused more on the military public affairs aspect of being a 46 Quebec.

“Besides being a writer and photographer, one must understand how to interact with civilian media, how to assist them in their coverage of military personnel, units and issues, how to assist with press briefings, and how to – among other things – teach others, from private to general, how to interact with the media on and off the battlefield,” Walthall said. “The training is lengthy, so that by the time students complete school, they have more than just a rudimentary knowledge of how to tell the military’s story, but also how to best facilitate civilian media as they go about the business of doing the same thing.”

While formal schooling provides the military photojournalist with plenty of brick-and-mortar classroom training, it is the opportunity to put those skills to work during real operations that determines whether a student has actually learned what she needs to do the job right.

“Shortly after graduating from DINFOS, I deployed to Iraq with the North Carolina Army Guard’s 449th Theater Aviation Brigade,” Walthall said. “I was one Soldier in a two-Soldier

shop, and I got a ton of hands-on experience.”

Today, Walthall is a member of the Georgia Army Guard’s Marietta-based 124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. Walthall continues to use her wealth of knowledge and experience as a deployed Army public affairs asset to help her fellow Soldiers build on their own skills – especially those who are new to the field of Army photojournalism and public affairs.

“Passing on what I know to others and gaining from the experience of those in my unit who have been in this business longer than I, is important to me. As a person and as a Soldier,” she said, “I hope that any Soldier – veteran or prospective recruit – looking to pick up a new job skill would take a close look at the 46 Quebec career field. The more Army journalists we have out there, the more opportunities there are for telling our story – the Guard story.”



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

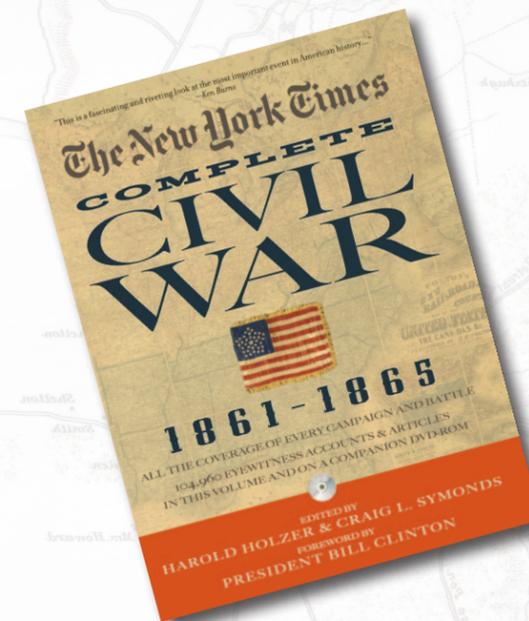
We’ve begun passing through the 150th anniversaries of some of the most trying, dramatic, dangerous, heroic, and bloody times in our Nation’s history: those of our Civil War.

While many of us have studied particularly famous military battles of the period (many of which can be read about in the books we reviewed in the June 2010 or August 2011 editions of the *Georgia Guardsman*), and most folks know something about the political history of the time, *The New York Times Complete Civil War* offers a unique reference for the time period, and a penetrating view into the intersection of military and political events of the war.

“A BATTLE IS NOT A PRIZE-FIGHT. ITS OBJECT IS NOT TO TEST EITHER THE PLUCK OR ENDURANCE OF THE COMBATANTS, BUT TO SECURE POSSESSION OF CERTAIN POSITIONS.”

Holzer and Symonds have reprinted no fewer than 650 articles published in the *New York Times* between 1850 and 1877. Complementing these articles are timely and informative footnotes to explain vague allusions or dated comparisons. Included are spot-on choices from illustrations and engravings, and even a number of political cartoons that capture the flavor of the time.

With the hardcover edition, they include a DVD-ROM with (literally) every single article published by the paper during the war. While this represents an incredible body of



text – and a searchable database – the text is unedited and unformatted, making reading somewhat cumbersome.

But the real value of this book is to put the war into a very different context than most of us have experienced before. The articles are arranged chronologically as they were published – and therefore in the order people were made aware of events, rather than when they actually occurred. In an age where even telegraphs were still rare, it could take days – and from the Western theater, weeks – for a story to reach New York. So the story of battles or political events unfold and evolve much as they would have for readers 150 years ago.

That’s important because it reminds us (who have certain knowledge of the outcome of Gettysburg or Vicksburg) of how wars unfold in the public understanding. Many of the articles are not just late getting to New York – they are wrong. Or, because the journalist had to dispatch an article before the battle was over, they are incomplete.

So, understanding the military and historical events of the day really took an extra effort to piece together fragments of information – and sift through the rather pro-Lincoln bias that the Times had – to get closer to the truth.

The reader also better understands that the War was not a long string of battles, one after another. Rather, there were long periods of inaction and indecision. Complex problems and powerful sentiments meant pervasive uncertainty; And it is within this context that we should place not just our understanding of the Civil War, but of war and of warfare in general.

What we do on or above the battlefields – or on the scenes of a domestic response – of tomorrow will of course have a profound effect on the Citizens we serve... and on their support, which we require in order to succeed.

AROUND THE GEORGIA GUARD



GEORGIA GUARD ENGINEERS HELP ISAF BUILD NEW ROAD TOWARD CHANGE FOR AFGHAN CITIZENS

FARYAB PROVINCE, Afghanistan, Sept. 24, 2011 – Two U.S. Army engineers with 877th Engineer Battalion, Georgia National Guard, operate bulldozers to push rocks and debris out of the way. The engineers were part of an effort to construct a bridge and detour for easier transportation for travelers along a main highway here.



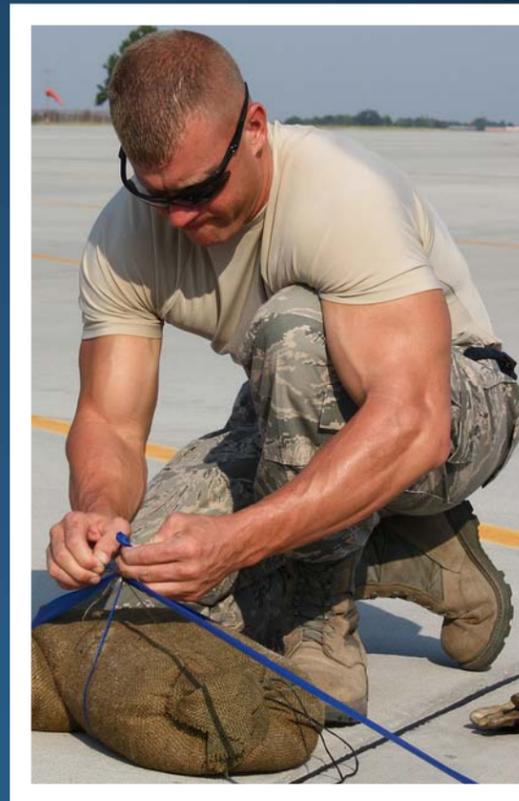
INCOMING ADJUTANT GENERAL OF GEORGIA MEETS WITH TRANSITION TEAM

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Sept. 14, 2011 - The Transition Team for the incoming Adjutant General of Georgia, Maj. Gen. Jim Butterworth, met for the first time Sept. 14 here to begin planning for a smooth transition following the Sept. 30 Change of Responsibility with outgoing Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt.



ADT SOLDIERS MEET AFGHAN YOUTH

AFGHANISTAN, Aug. 30, 2011 – Sgt. 1st Class Bill Dunn smiles with an Afghan boy following a cool storage ribbon cutting ceremony in the Baraki Barak district here in Logar Province, Afghanistan. The ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the beginning of the first Afghan-led project in the district. The cool storage facilities will allow Baraki Barak residents to store their crops long after they have been harvested, thus reducing starvation in the winter months.



116TH ACW VISITS CRTC FOR ORE

COMBAT READINESS TRAINING CENTER, Savannah, Sept. 14, 2011 – Staff Sgt. Randy Daniels ties the final knot on sandbags as they line the aircraft ramp here at Savannah's Combat Readiness Training Center. Daniels is a water-fuels systems maintenance craftsman with the Georgia Air Guard's 116th Air Control Wing (ACW), headquartered at Robins Air Force Base. In an Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE), all Airmen are tasked to prepare and operate in a simulated wartime environment. The 116th ACW is in Savannah for its ORE as it continues to prep for additional taskings on the horizon.



GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS

ELLENWOOD, Ga., Sept. 11, 2011 – Citizen-Soldiers with the Georgia Army National Guard's Joint Forces Headquarters in Ellenwood, Ga., pose for a photo as a display of unit pride. Among the elements that make up the headquarters are the Georgia Medical Command, Georgia Army Guard Recruiting and Retention Division, higher level officer and enlisted personnel, and operations and training sections.



Dale Earnhardt Jr. visits RTI

GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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