

GEORGIA GUARDIAN



★ ★ SERVING THE NATIONAL GUARD ★ ★

December 2011



Perfect!

116th MDG achieves perfect score
in joint force exercise

Even the Battle of the Bulge...
couldn't stop Christmas

Aviation unit returns from Iraq
just in time for Thanksgiving!



GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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

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ARMY GUARDSMEN RECEIVE AJC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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



DOBBINS AIR RESERVE BASE, Marietta, Ga., Nov. 18, 2011 – Two Georgia Army Guardsmen are among the four Soldiers to receive the 2011 Atlanta Journal-Constitution (AJC) Army Reserve Achievement Award today for outstanding performance.

Sergeant 1st Class Clifton C. Love and Spc. Christopher Powell, both with Rome's 1160th Transportation Company, 348th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), and two Army Reservists from the Atlanta-based 335th Signal Command Theater were presented the award by Andre Jackson, the AJC's editorial editor. The 348th BSB is part of Columbus' 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, whose headquarters component is set to deploy to Afghanistan later this year.

Brigadier Gen. Joe Jarrard, Commanding General of the Georgia Army Guard, was on hand to congratulate the winners.

"All our congratulations go to this year's recipients – Guard and Reserve – for their selection to receive this prestigious honor," Jarrard said. "To this year's winners, I say continue to set the standard among those with whom you serve and for those whom you lead, and inspire them to even greater things."

Love and Powell received this year's award because of their outstanding proficiency in several categories, including conduct, attendance at drills and annual training, and leadership ability.

Love, a maintenance supervisor who lives in Hinesville, Ga., is the platoon sergeant for the 1160th's maintenance section. He has served 12 years as a Citizen-Soldier. His nomination came because of his commitment toward taking on new responsibilities, his dedication to leading from the front, and for encouraging his Soldiers to do the same. According to Love's biography, he has served in several leadership positions, from squad leader, to platoon sergeant, to acting first sergeant – not only with the 1160th but also in other units to which he has been assigned.

"With the exception of my wife, Ashley Marie, there's nothing more important to me than leading Soldiers," Love said. "I'm grateful to those who chose me to receive this award, to those who mentored me along the way as I have

grown as a Georgia Guardsman, and I am even more proud to be standing here representing my unit."

Powell is from Houston, and has been a Guardsman since May 2009. He is a heavy equipment truck operator with the 1160th. His selection was based on the command's recognition of his support of his unit in its overall mission for the past two years, his continual attention to detail, and his willingness to step up and make things happen when given a task. According to Command Sgt. Maj. Ed Andrews, the 348th's senior enlisted leader, Powell is a Soldier who "understands the value of training to standard, and guiding younger Soldiers toward accomplishing any mission successfully."

"Receiving this award isn't something I ever expected, and I feel privileged to have been chosen," Powell said. "Wearing the uniform, serving as a Citizen-Soldier, too, is quite a privilege for me, so I aspire to be the best I can be as a Guardsman, and – hopefully – set a good example for others to follow."

The annual AJC Award is divided into two categories: private to specialist, and sergeant to sergeant first class. To be selected, Soldiers must attend at least 95 percent of their scheduled drills, attend annual training, and be qualified in their particular military occupational skill or Air Force skill identifier. They must also qualify at sharpshooter or higher on their assigned weapon and have had no disciplinary actions taken against them during the nominating period.

"It's always an honor to continue the AJC tradition of recognizing the outstanding men and women who serve our state and our nation," Jackson said. "Our Guard and Reserve and their families sacrifice much in defending our freedom. It's only right that we recognize their sacrifice and their commitment to duty."

COLLEGE STUDENT HEADS TO WAR

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

METTER, Ga., Nov. 15, 2011 – While most college students have their own set of concerns and real-world hurdles to clear, Spc. Andrew Wexel, an infantryman in the Georgia Army National Guard and a psychology major at Georgia Gwinnett College, will be taking on an entirely different set of challenges: long days, mountainous terrain, and helping Afghan farmers.

"I want to go and help the Afghans have a better life," Wexel said.

Wexel, from Lilburn, Ga., has been trying to deploy since he joined the Georgia Guard in 2008.

"This is my sixth attempt at volunteering to go on a deployment," he said. "I originally joined the guard to go with the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) to Afghanistan, but I did not get out of basic training in time for their deployment."

Now, his dream of going to help is becoming a reality as he prepares to deploy as part of the Georgia Guard's Agriculture Development Team (ADT) II – a specially designed unit whose mission is to help Afghan farmers learn better ways to raise crops, care for animals, and improve their agribusiness.

"I will be on the security force team, and we are responsible for keeping our veterinarians and agribusiness experts safe as they help the Afghan farmers," Wexel said.

Currently in his sophomore year, Wexel says his time deployed will be a great opportunity to study another culture.

"I am looking forward to observing and studying the Afghan culture, and seeing the similarities and differences between theirs and ours," he said.

While Wexel has not yet decided if he will take the year off from his studies or continue through an online program, he says the deployment will also help him make some career decisions.

"I think this will help me decide if I want to make the military a career, using my degree in psychology, or if I want to pursue opening my own civilian practice," said Wexel, adding that he has an interest in helping Soldiers

who suffer from post traumatic stress.

"I want to help Soldiers, and this deployment is going to give me the background I need to relate to fellow Soldiers who have deployed, because I will have been there and can then understand some of things they may be going through," he said.

ADT II is in the process of getting ready to deploy by completing their training phase. The unit will head to Afghanistan sometime this winter.

Specialist Andrew Wexel checks the power steering fluid on his humvee during a Preventative Maintenance Checks and Service inspection at his unit during pre-mobilization training.



GUARD AND OTHER MILITARY BRANCHES CELEBRATE KINDNESS AND VETERANS

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

GEORGIA DOME, Atlanta, Nov. 11, 2011 – As Americans gathered at events around the country to honor the men and women who serve, or have served, the nation in uniform, Georgia Army and Air Guardsmen joined Sailors and Marines from the metro area here at the Georgia Dome in commemorating Veterans Day in conjunction with the city’s “Celebration of Kindness and Service.”

The Celebration of Kindness is in recognition of Rachel’s Challenge, started by the family of Rachel Scott, one of 12 students and one teacher who died in the Columbine High School tragedy in 1999. Scott wrote in her diary before she died that she challenged each person to reach out and be kind to everyone in some form or fashion.

“What better way to say you appreciate your fellow human beings than through an act of kindness,” said Spc. Michelle Canas, a human resource specialist with Marietta’s 78th Homeland Response Force. “Coupling that with extending a hand to those who have risked their lives for this nation and saying ‘thank you,’ makes the day just that much more special.”

At one point in the day’s program – sponsored by Atlanta’s 11 Alive News – 59 Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines led by Georgia Army Guard Sgt. Maj. Walter Swinson, senior enlisted leader of Marietta’s Headquarters Company, 78th Homeland Response Force, moved onto the Georgia Dome floor past some of the estimated 800 students, teachers and parents who gathered for the event. The formation took up position while Channel 11 celebrities, along with city and state officials, the Georgia Air Guard’s Band of the South, and a cadet color guard from the National Guard Youth Challenge Academy helped promote the celebration.

“I can’t begin to tell you the pride I felt standing there and hearing the cheers and applause coming from the crowd,” said Master Sgt. Clint Smith, an information management specialist



with Georgia Air Guard Headquarters on Dobbins Air Reserve Base. “Like my fellow service members, I believe myself to be a patriot, and I take great pride in who I am and what I do. So, the recognition we’ve received this day re-enforces that feeling.”

Navy Hospital Corpsman 1st Class June Barfield, part of the inspector-instructor staff for the Marine Corps’ Detachment 1 Ordnance Company in Marietta, says that while she may wear a different uniform, working alongside her Guard counterparts demonstrates a point she has always made when people ask her about serving alongside the other services.

“Days like this just seem to remind me that we are all brothers and sisters in arms, no matter what uniform we wear,”

Barfield said. “In the end, the goal is the same: the protection and preservation of freedom. As Thanksgiving provides us the opportunity to express thanks for what we have, today is the chance for those of us in uniform to thank those who came before us, because they set the example and the standard for us to follow.”

Marine Staff Sgt. James Medlin, logistics chief for Detachment 1 Ordnance Company, says he sees every

day – not just today – as an opportunity to perform an act of kindness. It could be something like helping a neighbor or simply shaking the hand of a veteran and saying, “thank you for what you have done for me.”

“It’s something we should all do every day,” Medlin said. “Civilian, Marine, Army, Air Force or Navy – active duty, Guard or Reserve – there’s no limit to what we can each do to bring kindness into the lives of others, especially to the lives of America’s veterans.”

When the ceremony ended and participants began leaving the Georgia Dome, Smith (who has been a Guardsman for 26 years) offered up a last comment before returning to his desk at Air Guard Headquarters.

“Working together as we have today, I hope, demonstrates to those who have seen us that we truly are ‘cut from the same cloth’ as America’s military,” he said. “It isn’t branch that matters, it’s the service, the self-sacrifice, and the commitment to serving the common good that does.”

NCO NOTEPAD



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

I encourage all members of the Georgia Department of Defense to enjoy the holiday season with appropriate planning and awareness for the unexpected. Many members of the Ga. DoD team will take advantage of this well-deserved time off by spending time with family and friends, either at home or traveling afar. With that in mind, I encourage each of you to keep safety at the forefront of whatever you may chose to do.

Less daylight during the winter season means poorer visibility while you are driving. Stay alert, and watch for children standing along the street, exiting from a bus, walking, or riding a bike. Be especially aware of the high risk involved with holiday travel and outdoor activities, and make sure you have risk-mitigation steps in place to reduce the possibility of accidents happening. This may include anything from the proper wear of personal protective equipment and safe driving practices, to vehicle inspections and proper trip planning before you hit the road.

This is especially true when it comes to the responsible use of alcohol, not just during the holiday season, but all year long. With December being National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, it is important that no one ever gets behind the wheel of any vehicle after drinking, or rides with someone who has been drinking. Be a buddy, a true

friend, and never allow anyone to drive under the influence.

One of the most basic things to do as a driver is to follow the rules of the road. If you ride motorcycles, wear personal protective equipment. Make everyone use seat belts every time.

Let us also remember our personal security. Historically, the crime rate just naturally seems to escalate during this time of the year. Whether you are out and about, or enjoying your holiday at home, keep your situational awareness about you to lessen the probability of becoming the victim of a holiday crime.

Finally, I hope you enjoy your holiday without taking unnecessary risks. You are the last line of defense against a mishap at work, at home, and at play. Look out for other Soldiers, Airmen, Civilians, and their families. Together, we can save lives!

For our Soldiers and Airmen who are deployed, I offer my sincere appreciation for your efforts in contributing to safety, security and prosperity around the world. You are proof that the dedication, professionalism and operational excellence of the U.S. Armed Forces remain unparalleled.

As 2011 draws to a close, I ask that we all recommit to safety – taking care of one another and taking care of our loved ones now and throughout 2012. Please be smart, be safe, use your proper judgment, and – just as importantly – look out for your buddies.

Thank you for all you do. Take care, and happy holidays.



EVEN THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE COULD NOT STOP CHRISTMAS

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

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Dec. 1, 2011 – War is never pretty. It never stops for very long to allow for celebration because there are objectives to take and movements to make. Yet, if you're an American Christian, Christmas is Christmas, whether you are in Baghdad, Belgium or Boston. Soldiers will take the time to celebrate the season, even if it entails nothing more than a simple acknowledgement of the day with a cup of coffee in the field. Conditions may be harsh and time to celebrate short, but the effort is made nonetheless.

The Christmas of 1944 was no different. As the Allies marched across Europe to tighten the noose and ultimately deal the death blow to Nazi Germany, speed was essential. Hitler, however, had other plans. He revealed a plan to his staff for the German Army to break out of the developing Allied noose by counterattacking through the Ardennes forest in Belgium, on to Antwerp, then encircle the Allies and try to destroy them piecemeal by counterattacking. This famous last-ditch effort to change the tide and momentum of the war was known as the "Battle of the Bulge."

It began during a particularly bitter and severe winter in the Ardennes Forest. The Allied Forces were taken by surprise despite many signs of impending attack, and the 101st Airborne Division found itself surrounded by the 15th Panzer Grenadier Division and the 26th VolksGrenadier Division, among others.

General Anthony C. McAuliffe, Acting Commander of the 101st Airborne Division wrote the following to the Soldiers on December 24, 1944:

"Merry Christmas! What's merry about all this, you ask? We're fighting—it's cold—we aren't home. All true, but what has the proud Eagle Division accomplished with its worthy comrades of the 10th Armored Division, the 705th Destroyer Tank Battalion and all the rest? Just this: We have stopped cold everything that has been thrown

at us from the north, east, south, and west... Allied Troops are counterattacking the force. We continue to hold Bastogne. By holding Bastogne, we assure the success of the Allied Armies. We know that our Division Commander, General Taylor, will say: 'Well done!' We are giving our Country and our loved ones at home a worthy Christmas present and being privileged to take part in the gallant feat of arms and are truly making for ourselves a merry Christmas."

Earlier in the day, Soldiers received a promise from General George S. Patton of the Third Army:

"X-mas Eve present coming up, hold on!"

McAuliffe, now dubbed the Commanding General of the Battered Bastards of the Bastion of Bastogne, said on the phone to Maj. G Troy Middleton:

"The finest Christmas present the 101st could get would be a relief tomorrow."

Well, relief did arrive in the form of Patton's Third Army on December 26. Incidentally, a Georgia National Guard unit was instrumental in their relief. Christmas Eve 1944 found the 179th Field Artillery Battalion supporting the Third Army's dash from Alsace to Belgium and the relief of the beleaguered men at the Battle of the Bulge.

Although they were contending with the most severe cold and snow, the batteries were firing more than 100 rounds a day. The unit was again attached to and supporting the Fourth Armored Division, known as "Patton's Vanguard" in its drive to relieve Bastogne.

Soldiers exhibited varying attitudes regarding the situation relative to the time of year. For example, Sgt.

John Hummer said:

"Big deal! Christmas! The Battle of the Bulge was on. First Army was taking a beating. I recorded that they had lost some thirty by thirty miles. There was a Christmas dinner however, and I met a hometown friend by the name of Kenny Hossler whom I hadn't seen since we were together in sixth grade!"

Still others found comfort in the ability to practice longstanding Christmas traditions, even if they were missing home for the holidays. First Sgt. Harold L. Howerter, who joined the Georgia Guard's 118th Field Artillery, 30th Division, sent a Christmas card home to his wife:

"Lu, this is the card that the Chaplain gave out at Church this morning. It's a T.S. Christmas card. I think you know what this means? If not let me know and I'll tell you in your next letter. If a person has a gripe or something, he goes to the Chaplain. Well the Chaplain beat us to it this time, a T.S. card for Christmas because we can't be home."

One thing remains certain, now and in the future: Christmas is a treasured occasion, and Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines will always take advantage of any opportunity to celebrate its anniversary, regardless of the circumstances, terrain or difficulty. And while the Soldiers who fought in the Battle of the Bulge went on to experience some of the most difficult days of the war, there was at least a moment – if not an entire day – of warm-hearted Christmas celebration.



GEORGIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD HOSTS LEADERSHIP SAVANNAH

*Story and photo by Lt. Col. David Simons
165th Airlift Wing
Georgia Air National Guard*

SAVANNAH, Nov. 15, 2011 – Next to the framed college degrees found on the office walls of many local community leaders, you can find a diploma issued by the Leadership Savannah program. As it celebrates its 50th anniversary, the relationship between Leadership Savannah and the U.S. military has not been stronger.

Savannah is home to the Georgia Air National Guard's 165th Airlift Wing (AW), the Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center, and the 117th Air Control Squadron, as well as the home of the U.S. Army's Hunter Army Air Field (HAAF). The military has a prominent role in the community and the region. Throw in the large footprint of the U.S. Army's Fort Stewart just 45 minutes away, and the influence of the military becomes even stronger.

City or regional leadership programs across the state of Georgia, and across the United States, have proven to be an excellent resource and have provided countless teaching moments. Individuals selected for these prestigious programs typically meet once a month for a program highlighting a community issue or major employer in an effort to give the student a broader understanding of how the area is influenced

by that issue or employer.

Over the past 50 years, the Leadership Savannah program has had different iterations of involvement with the Georgia Air National Guard. Most recently, the relationship has grown into a day-long program exclusively dedicated to the positive military influence that both the Air National Guard and HAAF have.

Over the last three years, the leadership of the Georgia Air National Guard has welcomed community leaders to the Guard base at the Savannah International Airport. The leaders are briefed on the role the Combat Readiness Training Center provides in bringing tens of thousands of military visitors to the area for its various training programs. Following the briefings at the Base headquarters, the students receive a first-hand look at one of the 165th AW's C-130H cargo aircraft. They then load the aircraft and are flown to HAAF to continue the program from the Army perspective.

According to Bill Hubbard, the President of the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Savannah's most exciting and memorable program is the "day with the military."

"The meeting of our military combat heroes, both Army and Air, and the showcasing of the military assets in the area, provide our leadership classes a special look past the gates of our military installations," said Hubbard. "To a student, this is our most popular and well-received program, and all the classes walk away with a greater appreciation of the U.S. military."

GUARD'S 648TH MEB LEAVES FOR FORT HOOD, THEN AFGHANISTAN

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

FORT BENNING, Columbus, Ga., Dec. 11, 2011 – Standing outside the new Armed Forces Reserve Center here in the town his unit has called home the past several weeks, Col. Andy Hall, commander of the Georgia Army Guard's 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB), says he and his Soldiers are ready to hit the ground running and carry out the mission they have been given.

The 648th will take over its mission – to assume command and control of the forward operating bases (FOBs) that make up what is known as the Kabul Base Cluster in Afghanistan – from the Massachusetts Army Guard's 26th MEB.

Hall, who assumed command of the 648th from Col. Keith Knowlton last year, and his more than 150 Soldiers of the MEB's headquarters element, embarked on the second leg of their yearlong journey to Afghanistan today from Lawson Army Airfield aboard a chartered flight to Fort Hood, Texas. After several weeks of advanced mobilization training there, the 648th will move on to Camp Phoenix in Kabul.

"We'll be taking over day-to-day operations which include maintenance, security and base defense for the FOBs that make up the Kabul Cluster," Hall said. "We've been watching those operations for about a year now, and for the past eight months have been working closely with 26th MEB so that our folks understand what's going on and what we can expect to be doing once we arrive."

"We have an outstanding team that is highly trained and ready to do the job with which they've been tasked," Hall added. "Our officers and enlisted personnel know what's

expected of them, and they bring great credit upon themselves, the Georgia Army Guard, and the state."

Among those called upon for this deployment is Spc. Ryan S. Machan, an infantryman and former air defense artilleryman from Acworth, Ga. On this mission, he will be working as an environmental compliance officer for the 648th. It is a job he was chosen for, he says, based on his work in the civilian flooring sector which has to meet local, state and federal environmental requirements set out for the flooring and housing construction industry.

"Other compliance teams and I will be traveling throughout the Kabul Cluster, making sure building maintenance is up to standard, and that health and environmental standards are being met regarding food and vehicle maintenance operations," Machan said.

As to the readiness of those compliance teams, he added, "We as Soldiers already know that the environment in which we operate must be kept in a healthy, diverse and sustainable condition if our bases and the personnel who man them are to function properly. The training we've received over the past year will help us do that successfully."

With Machan to see him off for his first-ever deployment was his fiancée of three months, Whitney Wrighting. She finds his going to Afghanistan "a bit scary," as it is her first deployment, too. But Wrighting says she is also very proud of Machan and his fellow Guardsmen.

"I've known from the beginning of our relationship that Ryan is very committed to being a Soldier, as are his buddies, and that they choose to do what they do because of their own sense of duty and pride," Wrighting said. "While there is an anxiety inside me about his going in harm's way, I also know that they are all dedicated to getting each other safely home."



GEORGIA CELEBRATES NATIONAL GUARD BIRTHDAY,

OPENS NEWS HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

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

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Dec. 7, 2011

– More than 500 guests, including local and state officials and three former adjutants general, filled the main assembly area of the new Joint Force Headquarters building here to commemorate its official opening. At the same time, the crowd also helped celebrate the National Guard's 375th Birthday and to mark the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

“Today is a proud day for the National Guard. It's a day when we can take pride in 375 years of National Guard service, and pride in this amazing new facility,” said Maj. Gen. Jim Butterworth, Georgia's Adjutant General. “We can also take pride in the fact that community leaders from throughout the state and region are here to celebrate with us today.

“The National Guard's first muster 375 years ago reflects an aspect of its national character that rings true still today – that the Guard's all-volunteer fighting force has always sought to keep ‘one hand on the plow,’ even when going to war,” Butterworth added. “Meaning that, even when fighting abroad, the National Guard has always retained a strong focus on the home front.”

As for the new 220,000 square-foot structure into which an estimated 700 Guardsmen, Georgia State Defense Force members and civilian employees have begun moving, Butterworth says the new headquarters means the strengthening of an already potent bond between the local community and the National Guard.

“It also means enhanced efficiencies – both tangibly in

the form of state-of-the-art technology, and operationally in the form of improved interoperability,” he said. “That translates into better service and execution on our part as we continue our state and federal missions.”

Georgia's National Guard, Gov. Nathan Deal said, has always been central to the state's homeland security. From responses to floods, hurricanes, wildfires and tornados to the 1996 Olympics, and today's post 9-11 security concerns, Georgia Guardsmen have been there every step of the way, providing decisive support to civil authorities. In support of the warfight and other national interests, Deal noted, the Georgia Guard has troops in more than 20 countries spread across five continents. Its presence is world-wide – and so the state of Georgia is, by extension, a player on the world stage.

Yet, despite all this, the Guard's dual-focus ensures that its Soldiers and Airmen are always here for the citizens of Georgia when needed, the governor added.

“This new headquarters will provide a critical tool in Georgia's emergency response tool belt – offering nearly 4,000 square feet for emergency management functions,”

Butterworth said. “More important than all the quantifiable figures, though, is a qualitative one: interoperability. This facility not only allows for more seamless relations amongst the Air and Army Guard, and State Defense Force – but it also allows the National Guard to play an even greater role as a partner to GEMA and other civil authorities as our Guardsmen go about the business of aiding the warfight and defending the homeland.”

Butterworth added that the day was not just to celebrate the opening of new offices, it was to also celebrate a step forward in the service the National Guard will be able to provide to the community, the state of Georgia, FEMA region IV, and the nation.

“The bond with our communities, with our state, is strong,” Butterworth said. “Indeed, it's doubtful this building could have been erected without the considerable and decisive contributions of many in this room. I believe I speak not only for my self, but for all of us who serve the great state of Georgia and the nation, when I say this is a proud day for the Georgia National Guard and the National Guard as a whole.”



AIR GUARD MEDICAL GROUPS PARTICIPATE IN HOMELAND RESPONSE FORCE EXERCISE

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Roger Parsons,
116th Air Control Wing, and Tech. Sgt. Chuck Delano,
165th Airlift Wing
Georgia Air National Guard

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Dec. 1, 2011— Georgia Air Guard medical personnel – stationed at Savannah’s Combat Readiness Training Center and Warner Robins’ Robins Air Force Base – came together for a five-day exercise at the Florida National Guard’s Camp Blanding that not only tested their ability to support civil authorities during times of disaster, but also received high marks from their evaluators for the job they had done.

Joint training exercise Operation Sunrise, in which the 116th and 165th Medical Groups along with other Georgia Air and Army Guard assets participated, was part of the validation process for Georgia’s 78th Homeland Response Force (HRF), home-stationed here in Marietta. The exercise’s purpose was to test the unit’s readiness as a National Guard Joint Task Force 78th Homeland Response Force command and Control element, and to test subordinate units of Marietta’s Joint Task Force 781 Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP).

“We have highly trained and motivated personnel who do an exceptional job. After the decontamination area was set up, we were able to receive ‘patients’ within 27 minutes, and our complex was 100 percent established within 37 minutes,” said Lt. Col. Charles Drown, the 165th’s deployed medical group commander. “People like these, they make my job easy.”

After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the Department of Homeland Security put measures in place to ensure robust support was available to respond to such incidents. The National Guard’s role is to support the efforts of local and state first responders until the arrival of federal response at a disaster.

“It’s great because the military works with local hospitals, firefighters, paramedics, doctors, and nurses,” said Maj. Patricia Hood, the 116th MDG’s assistant chief nurse administrator. “During any incident, local resources can get overwhelmed, and we’re there to fill any gaps.”

The weeklong operation included a series of “crawl and walk” simulations leading up to the evaluation’s “run phase” on Nov. 18. Using residents from the area around Camp Blanding as simulated victims (complete with special effects makeup), 116th and 165th medical personnel ran non-stop operations for 36 hours.

After the simulated CBRNE disaster and the “medical time has started” call went out, the 116th had 90 minutes to get into place, unload its equipment, set up, and be operational.

“To ‘be operational’ means that we have oxygen set up, electricity in the tent, and the capability of treating a patient,” explained Lt. Col. Julie Churchman, 116th MDG chief nurse administrator. During the scored evaluation, the minimum standard was far surpassed.

“That doesn’t happen by accident. It’s one of the things we all practice,” added Col. Louis Perino, the 116th’s chief of aerospace medicine. “It looks like a lot of running around, but it’s a very well-orchestrated dance that’s happening as we back the trailers up, drop the doors, and set up the site.”

When the exercise ended, the Airmen had not only saved the lives of all the simulated casualties they triaged and treated, they also earned perfect scores on their evaluation from the Joint Interagency Training and Education Center (JITEC), Camp Dawson, W.Va., observers who watched the teams progress through their various tasks.

“The Georgia Guard team is a standard for all the teams I’ve seen in the United States,” said Capt. Billie Jo Hoffman, JITEC lead medical inspector. “We have what we call best-practices, and in almost every category for the medical section, the 116th and 165th Medical groups had a perfect best practice.”



Air National Guard Col. Louis Perino (right), the 116th Medical Group (MDG) chief of aerospace medicine, treats a simulated injured patient in the critical care tent while 2nd Lt. Sarah Kathe, a 116th MDG nurse, looks on during Operation Sunrise Rescue at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center.



REALISTIC SCENARIO TESTS 78TH HOMELAND RESPONSE FORCE'S CAPABILITIES

Story by by Sgt. 1st Class Blair Heusdens
Public Affairs Office
Florida National Guard

STARKE, Fla., Nov. 18, 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.

It's a capability that's critical to our national security, but one no one wants to ever have to use. Housed within the National Guard are several Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosive (CBRNE) and Weapons of Mass Destruction response forces and teams, tasked with responding to serious incidents and disasters throughout the country at a moment's notice.

They go by different names, with unique skill sets and capabilities, but they all have a similar mission: to save lives and ease human suffering during disasters.

Several of these units came together for training and a regular evaluation at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. The Florida and Georgia National Guard's CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Packages (CERF-Ps) and the newly-formed Georgia National Guard Homeland Response Force (HRF) responded to a disaster scenario that could realistically happen in the local area.



With evaluators and observers closely monitoring, the Soldiers and Airmen demonstrated their ability to respond to a disaster by conducting urban search and rescue, decontamination and medical triage. New to this concept is the command and control and security element provided by the HRF when multiple response forces are on scene.

"This is adding a new layer of responsibility in the chain of command," said Maj. Teri Travis, commander of the Florida CERF-P. "I'm proud of how we've come this far. This is a good team and I'm very pleased with all the hard work and motivation that all the Soldiers and Airmen have put forth in working hard and training hard."

CERF-Ps are joint Air National Guard and Army National Guard units formed with Guardsmen from different units with very specialized skills. This scenario brought these specialized units from two states together to learn the best way to work collectively during an emergency.

"There are always challenges when you're working with folks from other states because they do things differently," said Travis.

All of the exercises and the training produce Guardsmen with very specialized skills, prepared and ready to quickly respond locally and nationally to save lives after a disaster.

"These folks have joined the National Guard for a reason, they have it in them to help mitigate suffering," said Travis. "So this is just another skill set in which we're training these Soldiers and Airmen to be proficient."



WINTER SAFETY TIPS FROM AN ALASKAN

Story by 1st Lt. William Carraway
Public Affairs Office
Georgia Department of Defense

As a former Alaskan, I am happy to offer winter safety tips based on my experience enduring snowy conditions for the better part of my life. While I spent nearly two decades in Alaska, I have lived in Georgia long enough to adjust my winter safety planning.

First and foremost in winter safety planning is an understanding of weather effects. As the ice storm of January 2011 showed us, the worst-case scenario can easily overwhelm available snow removal resources. It is imperative that each household have a plan for such ice storms and be prepared with food, water, and a backup plan for heat and electricity.

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency maintains a website designed to assist in planning for such winter emergencies. This site provides emergency planning guidance and checklists to ensure you are prepared for inclement weather. They even provide a mobile app for your smartphone to help the planning process along.

The best way to avoid the hazards of icy roads is to stay off

them. Regardless of the number of hours you have spent driving in an Arctic zone, you are on the roads with folks who are late, hopped up on coffee, and who have a hard enough time staying in the lane when the pavement is dry.

If you must drive, ensure that you can see. Your primary ice scraper should not be a credit card, and you should not drive with only a four-by-two-inch, periscope-sized scraped area on your front windshield. Allow time for your windows to defrost and check your headlights for maximum visibility. If there is snow on the roof of your car, brush it off. Don't be "that guy" with the humungous roofberg that flies off your car and into the windshield of the car behind you.

Bear in mind that the same ice that causes your car to slip will cause you to slip. Most ice-storm-related injuries are caused by simple falls. Keep a couple of bags of inexpensive kitty litter in the garage. The kitty litter is better than salt, as it will provide traction but the melted water will not kill your grass and rose bushes.

The Center for Injury Research Data notes that over 229,000 sledding injuries occurred from 1997-2007. Lest you think these were mere bumps and bruises, 26% of these accidents were fractures and 34% involved head injuries – most following collisions.

The risk for sledding injuries is particularly great when the winter season compresses all the possible sledding days into one snow or ice event – as is often the case in Georgia. The "hey watch this" effect may lead otherwise thoughtful individuals to attempt to recreate the opening of Hawaii Five-0 on a sled in their driveway. Be responsible, be safe, plan ahead, and enjoy a wonderful winter.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Story by Rolandria D. Boyce
GeMS Coordinator
Georgia Army National Guard

Training is a basic requirement of any organization's plan to reduce risk in specified areas. It has the potential to effectively support a mission or further define a job responsibility. Providing subject-related appropriate training could determine organizational success or failure and serve as a building block for improvement. Proficient training provides employees with the key knowledge and skills needed to perform specific duties.

While training is relevant for an organization from a broad perspective, the same is true for supplementary initiatives within the agency. Training is defined as a key component of the GAARNG's Environmental Management System (eMS).

One of the great benefits of implementing an eMS is that it educates and empowers employees so everyone (not just

the environmental staff) takes it upon themselves to find a way to improve environmental performance. The purpose of eMS awareness training is to create a basic awareness and understanding of eMS principles and to communicate the installation's environmental policy to all appropriate personnel. Implementation of awareness training is an ongoing requirement; therefore, procedures should be reviewed and revised as necessary to ensure that the awareness training program is effective.

The purpose of environmental awareness training is to:

- communicate general eMS concepts and principles
- communicate the environmental policy to all appropriate installation personnel
- communicate that installation leadership supports the eMS.

We look forward to training personnel in the diverse areas of environmental sustainability. For your convenience, awareness training will be coming to a region near you. We encourage your participation in learning more about how sustaining the environment can positively impact mission readiness.



U.S. Army Soldiers of the 3-108th Cavalry push back “protesters” during rotation 12-02 at the 7th U.S. Army Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany, Nov. 14, 2011. The purpose of the exercise was to prepare the unit for peace support operations in Kosovo. The 3-108th Cavalry and 221st Military Intelligence, Georgia Army National Guard, units are among the multiple Guard and Reserve units assuming responsibility for safety and security in Kosovo. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Michael Sharp.)

ROCKET MAN TURNED RIFLEMAN

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

FORT BENNING, Columbus, Ga., Dec. 11, 2011 – When Spc. Ryan Machan of Acworth enlisted Feb. 8, 2010, into the Georgia Army Guard, the job skill he and his recruiter found him best suited for was that of a 14 Juliet – Air Defense Tactical Operations Center Operator.

Machan recently deployed with Columbus’ 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. While he is gone, he will be working as the brigade’s environmental compliance officer.

“What I wanted more than anything – at the time – was infantry, but there were no openings in any of the infantry units then, especially with the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team when it deployed to Afghanistan,” Machan recalled. “So I thought, ‘why not take it? The job sounds really cool, and I can always do that until there’s an opportunity for me to get what I really want.’”

So for 10 weeks, he attended the 14 Juliet course at Fort Bliss, Texas, where he learned the ins and outs of his new job skill. This included, but was not limited to, being a member or the supervisor of a manual early warning network section, team or platoon involved in operations or intelligence functions. Upon graduation from Advanced Individual Training, Machan would be able to detect, track and identify aircraft and tracked vehicles, and broadcast early warning information to units on the battlefield.

“My other duties include the operation and preventive maintenance on team vehicles and power generation equipment,” he explained. “I also am able to perform a

variety of operations and intelligence functions as they relate to the 14 Juliet MOS.”

Still waiting patiently for the 48th to return from Afghanistan, Machan was assigned to the 648th where he is one of only two 14 Juliets – by his account – in the Georgia Army Guard.

Since then, he was given the opportunity to make the switch from air defense to infantry and immediately jumped at the chance, he said. It was then off to the Georgia

Army Guard’s two to three week, non-stop, Infantryman Reclassification Course at Hinesville’s Guard Garrison Training Center, where he would learn everything from small unit tactics to combatives to becoming more proficient with a variety of weapons.

“Anyone coming into the Army as infantry – whether they are active, Guard or Reserve – for the first time, will end up here at Benning going through 14 weeks of very intense training at the Army Infantry School,” Machan said. “Folks like me, who have been Soldiers for awhile and are looking to change job skills, are going to attend the kind of course I did because they already have the basic concept of ‘being a rifleman first, their job skill second,’ ingrained in them.”

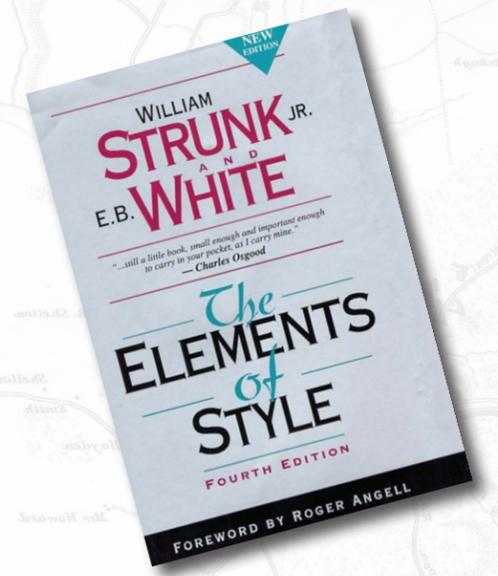
What he said makes him want to be an infantryman is the closeness, the camaraderie and the pride that is about being a part of what the Army calls the Queen of Battle.

“While being an Air Defense Soldier was – as I said – really cool, the infantry is where it’s at for me,” Machan said. “It’s intense, it’s hard and it’s one of the best military occupational skill in the Army, and being able to do that as a Citizen-Soldier is where I want to be.”



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

Ask five people to define leadership, and you’re likely to have 10 definitions when you finally cut off discussion. Yet, most would agree that leadership requires interaction between people. Leadership therefore requires *communication* – and this slim little volume is one of the most important and accessible works on the subject.

Of course, it’s mostly about written communication. The book covers three main areas: Rules of usage, principles of composition, and style. Strunk & White clarify common usage errors, help us understand how to compose for greater effect, and help us suit that composition both to the rhetorical situation and to our own particular ways of doing things.

“THE ACT OF COMPOSITION DISCIPLINES THE MIND.”

I won’t be the first to argue that good writing and good speaking are inescapably connected. And certainly, modern leaders are required constantly to communicate up, down, and sideways in the chain of command in both written and oral formats.

Few things are as unnatural as reading. Consider what our pets must think as we sit for hours (or minutes!) on end, staring at blocky objects covered in squiggly lines. Yet somehow, those scratches of letters on the paper convey ideas and emotions across time and space. Small wonder that writing, then, could be so tricky (especially with as

natty and contradictory a language as ours).

We may not like it, and we may not want our audience to care, but grammar and punctuation matter. Minor, non-recurring errors matter less. Glaring or frequent errors are indicators (conscious or not) that the writer does not know what he is talking about.

Even grammatical errors affect credibility in sometimes unpredictable ways --- and, I think, the fear of this keeps some leaders from communicating as often or as confidently as they should.

The bulk of *Elements of Style* is about grammar and usage, but it all drives toward higher-order questions of composition. The goal is to get the basics down so we can focus on actually shaping communication for better effect.

How many of us have ever been confused by an unclear order? Or failed clearly to communicate our intentions? Or had cause to present a complex situation simply? Clearer, more vigorous communication is key to good leadership. Consider this passage from *Elements of Style*:

“Vigorous writing is concise. A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts. This requires not that the writer make all his sentences short, or that he avoid all detail and treat his subjects only in outline, but that every word tell.”

Sounds like great advice for orders and plans.

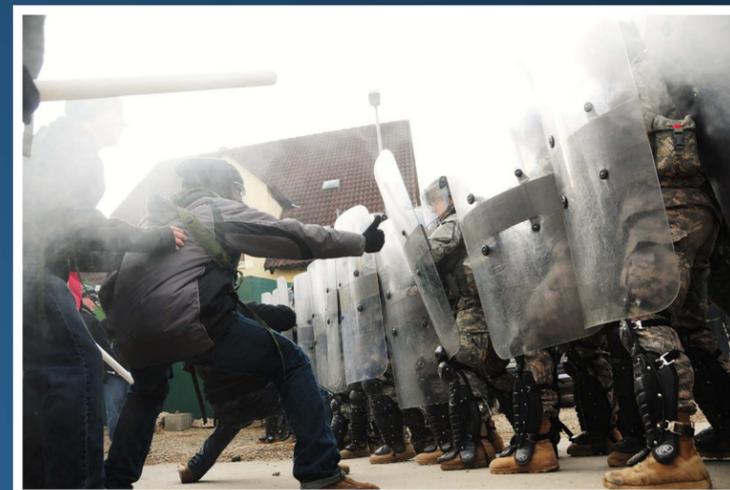
Communication is essential to leadership. If we are going to get this right – if we are going to develop ourselves in this profession, not just serve time in a mere occupation – we must also develop ourselves as leaders. This book is a great start in an important area – and a good companion and reference throughout our careers.

AROUND THE GEORGIA GUARD



1-171ST GSAB RETURNS FROM IRAQ JUST IN TIME FOR THANKSGIVING

Soldiers from the 1-171st General Support Aviation Battalion salute during their homecoming ceremony here at the Clay National Guard Center in Marietta, Ga. The more than 130 Georgia Guardsmen returned from a year of duty in Iraq, conducting MEDEVAC assistance and other aviation support missions.



CIVIL DISTURBANCE KFOR EXERCISE IN GERMANY

U.S. Army Soldiers of the 3-108th Cavalry push back “protesters” during rotation 12-02 at the 7th U.S. Army Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany, Nov. 14, 2011. The purpose of the exercise was to prepare the unit for peace support operations in Kosovo.



KNUCKLEBUSTERS OF THE MONTH

Members of the 116th and 461st Air Control Wings, based at Robins Air Force Base, receive the 379th EAMXS “Knucklebusters of the Month” award while deployed overseas, Oct. 17, 2011. The units, flying the E-8 Joint STARS aircraft, earned the award for dedication to duty and hard work resulting in aircraft mission effectiveness, positive aircraft performance indicators, leadership, and maintenance group activity involvement.

AIR GUARD LEADERSHIP AND CONGRESSMAN VIEW JSTARS IN ACTION

Air National Guard Lt. Col. Thomas Grabowski, left, the 116th Operations Support Squadron commander, briefs Maj. Gen. Jim Butterworth, Georgia’s Adjutant General; Lt. Gen. Harry Wyatt III, ANG director; and Congressman Austin Scott on the mission and capabilities of the E-8 Joint STARS during an orientation flight aboard the unique aircraft.



GEORGIA’S ADJUTANT GENERAL AND AIR GUARD COMMANDER TOUR CRTC

Senior leaders of the Georgia Department of Defense and the Georgia Air National Guard tour Savannah’s Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) and Coastal Georgia’s Townsend Bombing Range. Transporting the leaders to facilities and back again was the responsibility of aircraft and crews from Savannah’s Detachment 1, 169th General Support Aviation Brigade.



VETERANS DAY PARADE

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, participates in the Atlanta Veterans Day Parade. Several family members and friends of HHC soldiers were in attendance, traveling from various locations across the state to support these Soldiers for the unit’s “Strong Bonds” weekend.



New digs

Georgia Guard opens new headquarters building

GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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