

GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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

February 2012

Search and rescue

Georgia's SDF fills a vital role

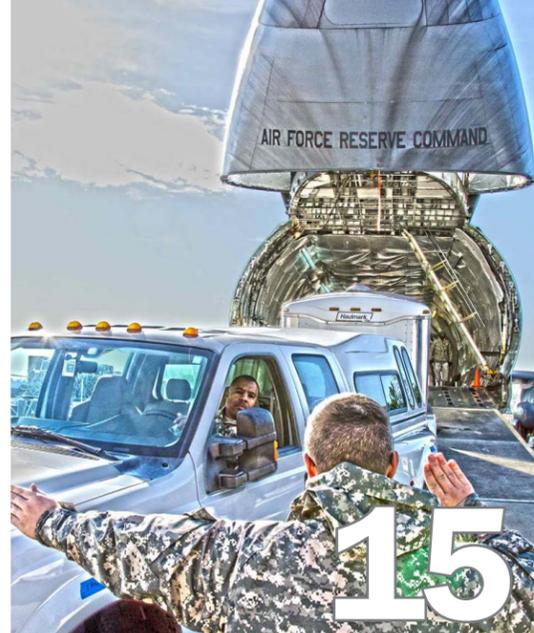
Aviators return!

1-171st back from Iraq

The Guard works

Ga. DoD focuses on employment opportunities for Guardsmen





GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD GUARDSMAN

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648TH MEB STARTS MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN

Story and photo by Capt. Jacqueline Wren
648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade
Georgia Army National Guard

CAMP PHOENIX, Kabul, Afghanistan, Jan. 27, 2012 – Colonel Andy L. Hall, Commander of the 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, a Georgia Army National Guard unit from Columbus, Ga., assumed command of Task Force Hydra and responsibility for the Kabul Base Cluster (KBC) during the official transfer of authority ceremony. The 648th replaces the 26th “Yankee” Brigade, Massachusetts Army National Guard, commanded by Army Brig. Gen. John A. Hammond. The 648th and the 26th Brigades have worked together to ensure a smooth transition of authority in the KBC for over 18 months.

“I look forward to observing your success from the United States this following year,” said Hammond. Hall also recognized the strong partnership that had been built between the two brigades. “We would like to express our gratitude for the way in which you approached this transition” said Hall. “You began the transition with us before you even got here yourself. That level of commitment is unprecedented.”

More than 11,000 service members and contractors

live and work on the KBC. The 648th “Hydra” Brigade provides command and control, security and support operations for the nearly 9,000 U.S. and coalition forces operating in the capital region. Attending the ceremony were representatives from several contracting and government organizations as well as coalition forces from Bulgaria, Canada, France and Mongolia.

Deputy Commanding General of United States Forces Afghanistan, Maj. Gen. William E. Rapp, discussed the expectations he has of Task Force Hydra. “You have the technology, the tactics and the know-how to excel.”

Major Gen Jim Butterworth, the Adjutant General of Georgia, expressed similar confidence. “I am proud of the men and women of the 648th MEB and fully confident that they will accomplish this mission with distinction. I also deeply appreciate the sacrifice and service of their families during this time of deployment and will ensure that the Guard works to keep their needs in mind as well.”

Hall commented on the magnitude of the mission ahead of the 648th and the unit’s readiness for it. “We have been well prepared to assume this mission. We are a professional organization. We will run hard and work smart and we will play a major role in sustaining the momentum of this campaign.”

LONDON PROMOTED TO COLONEL



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

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Feb. 4, 2012 - As projected images recalling three decades of Army service flashed in the background, family, friends, and fellow service members gathered here at the Finch Auditorium to mark the promotion of Mark London to colonel.

“I am honored to be a part of this ceremony,” said Col. Brent Bracewell, Director of the Joint Staff in his introductory comments. “Today we honor a Soldier who has been a member of Active, Reserve, and Guard components of the U.S. Army.” Colonel Bracewell recalled the service of Col. London before calling the room to attention for the pinning ceremony.

London’s daughters Linzi and Lexie placed London’s new epaulets of rank while London’s wife Amy and Col. Bracewell applied the new ranks to London’s Army service uniform.

Following his promotion ceremony, London offered closing comments in which he recognized many old friends

and comrades in the auditorium. The remarks revealed the depth of his military experiences as retired and current members of the Air and Army Guard were recognized for their inspiration and friendship.

London’s military service began with his graduation from North Georgia College as the Distinguished Military Student. In his 29 years of service, London has served in a variety of leadership positions. He deployed to Iraq in 2005 and served as the 48th Brigade Operations Officer.

Most recently, London has served on the Joint Staff as the Chief of Current Operations and later as the Director of Joint Plans.

In his present capacity as Georgia National Guard Director of Soldier and Family Services, London oversees a myriad of programs designed to help Soldiers and their families.

In his concluding comments, London referred to Command Sgt. Maj. Phillip Stringfield.

“Command Sgt. Maj. Stringfield was my command sergeant major when I commanded 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry,” London said. “He is now my command sergeant major for Soldier and Family services. Stringfield once told me ‘take care of Soldiers and they will take care of you.’”

YELLOW-RIBBON PROGRAMS

ASSIST SOLDIERS AND FAMILIES

WITH REINTEGRATION, JOBS



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

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Feb. 2, 2012 – Since time immemorial, Warriors have been welcomed home from distant battlefields. On a sunny January weekend in Savannah, the Georgia Army National Guard continued that tradition. Lieutenant Col. Mark London, Director of Soldier and Family Services, welcomed more than 200 Soldiers of the 877th Engineering Company, 221st ACE Team 2, and family members to their first post-deployment yellow-ribbon event.

The Georgia Guard's yellow-ribbon program serves as a series of stepping stones to help reunite families and Soldiers and reacclimatize Soldiers to the civilian world. Events are held 30 days prior to the return of a deploying unit and then at 30-, 60-, and 90-day intervals following the unit's return. At this event, the focus was bringing families back together and providing tools to help Soldiers get jobs.

"The Adjutant General has been at the legislature every day this week advocating for Veteran's jobs," said London in his opening remarks. London related recent success stories for Guard Soldiers seeking jobs but also noted the importance of the reintegration aspect of yellow-ribbon. "If you're like me when I came back from Iraq you are still looking for IEDs along the side of the road. Does that sound familiar?" London asked to a sea of head nods. "We will help you reintegrate but we are also here to make sure that you do not have to face these things alone."

Soldiers and family members were provided with two-and-a-half days of classes. Some of these classes dealt with the issues of reuniting families following a combat tour. Chaplain Leslie Nelson taught a series of classes dealing with "emotions of reintegration." Steven Mansfield, a Military Family Life Consultant, facilitated a discussion on reintegration for single Soldiers. Yellow-ribbon program manager Clovis McDowell and Yele Olanyi also assisted Veterans and family members with questions.

Attendees were given instruction in resume writing, personal finance and interview techniques. Lisa Kuyk, a

testing administrator with Savannah Technical College, assisted nearly 50 Soldiers in obtaining Georgia Work Ready certifications. Georgia Work Ready offers four certification levels: bronze, silver, gold, and platinum.

"Some companies will require a certification level and others will require a minimum score to be considered for employment," explained Kuyk.

To earn their certifications, Soldiers were tested in reading for information, applied mathematics, and locating information. Each test section took 55 minutes to complete and featured real-world questions.

Specialist Roger Carnes took the test along with his wife Vicki, who could be heard encouraging her husband through the testing process. Their perseverance ultimately paid off as both Roger and Vicki scored at the Gold certificate level with two out of three scores in the platinum range. "These are very impressive scores," Kuyk noted. The Rabun County couple hopes the scores will improve employment prospects as Spc. Carnes starts college.

"They taught us how to translate military skills to civilian skills," Sgt. Christopher Wiley agreed. "This weekend has been very helpful. Soldiers don't know all the resources available to them. This event helped bring it all to light."



NCO NOTEPAD



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

Because of the current slow economy, some Guardsmen are returning from deployments to find their civilian jobs have been downsized or completely done away with. Others are encountering difficulties with finding employment on a day-to-day basis while stateside.

The Georgia National Guard, under the leadership of Maj. Gen. Butterworth, has implemented several employment initiatives to help Soldiers and Airmen during these times. Beginning with the Family Programs Directive, they have reached out to several private companies as partners in the effort to assist with the job-finding process for our members. Family Programs in conjunction with its Yellow Ribbon events and regularly conducted job fairs which provide direct contact between returning service member and potential employers.

What we have always known and what potential employees have discovered in the Guard is a great pool of talent that makes great employees. Loyalty, dedication, responsibility... these are all the qualities that our members possess. These qualities come already built into our Soldiers and Airmen. Connecting Guardsmen with jobs that match their military skill sets is one of the goals of this effort.

A new addition to this effort is our site located at

www.jfhq-ga.com/education/. It is a one-stop-shop online so Soldiers and Airmen can search for potential employment. It is still undergoing daily improvements, but it is at the point we can start using it. It is a team effort between the Family Programs office and the Education Office. In future updates, you will see job postings for positions offered through the Apprenticeship Program and links to jobs which can be accessed in three clicks or less. I encourage everyone to visit the site and ensure our service members are aware.

In addition we have discussed better ways to assist departing members from the Guard during their transition to a complete civilian lifestyle. More to follow as this effort continues to develop.

There is a spirit in the air and its goal is to promote thinking outside the box and coming up with new and innovative ways that we as leaders and as an organization can better serve our Soldiers, Airmen and families - whether they are past, present or future. Still, there is a certain amount of personal responsibility an individual must accept in order to make himself or herself marketable in a competitive job environment. Personal accountability and initiative can go a long way towards making opportunities, instead of just waiting for them to happen.

**"Once a Georgia Guardsman
Always a Georgia Guardsman."**





*Column by Maj. Gen. Jim Butterworth
Adjutant General
Georgia National Guard*

As the Adjutant General of Georgia, I am the personal representative of the 15,000 men, women and families serving in the Ga. DoD. I am responsible for ensuring that we are fully prepared mentally, physically, and logistically for the fight. Whether we are called to defend the homeland or support the war fight, I commit that I will continue to ensure this organization's ability to win on every front. That commitment will not fade.

I am also responsible for advising the Governor, our Commander-in-Chief, on all military matters. Among these issues is defense support to civil authorities and the use of the National Guard in supporting "all hazards" impacting the state of Georgia. I will develop and deliver that advice with the assistance of our senior leaders and the Joint Staff. I will deliver that advice in private as well as in a transparent, public manner whenever requested by Georgia's Commander-in-Chief.

The intent of this article is to provide guidance for, and direction to, the Georgia Department of Defense. One of my many goals is to achieve unity of effort. Through this article, I will begin communicating the organizational and personal priorities for the command. I do not intend to set goals or objectives with this document. The intent is to deliver, in broad terms, my expectations of the organization.

The Ga. DoD mission is the same as it has always been: to provide ready and relevant military forces to the Combatant Commanders; and with the consent of the Governor, provide command, control and capabilities to support Homeland Defense and Defense Support to Civil Authorities.

I envision the organization remaining a strong and growing joint military organization recognized as a leader in strength, readiness, and innovation; an interagency partner and leader; postured for effective response; chosen for new missions and force structure, providing opportunities for members who live the Ga. DoD values to realize their potential through service to the State and Nation.

Our organizational values fall in line with those of our parent military and civil organizations: integrity first, service before self, initiative, teamwork, and continuous improvement.

Defending the homeland remains job one. We must execute this by being ready to respond to any contingency across the entire "All Hazards Spectrum." Supporting the war fight is also an organizational priority. The War on Terror continues to be



ADJUTANT GENERAL SETS LEADERSHIP PRIORITIES FOR GEORGIA GUARD

a generational fight and will continue to be a worldwide battle space, to include our homeland. We must ensure that all Army and Air Force units, and their processes, are fully developed and prepared to support the National Defense Strategy.

However, current and new asymmetrical threats will continue to call for a transformation of war fighters, systems and strategies. Our active duty customers continually adapt to the ever-changing 21st century battlefield. We will continue to assess our operations and transform with these paradigm shifts in order to sustain and improve our products.

Using this philosophy we WILL remain relevant to the force.

My personal priorities for the Ga. DoD aim at keeping the organization a healthy and productive place to work.

Our Airmen,
Soldiers,
civilians

and their families are our number one resource. Their protection and well-being is my top priority. I will remain steadfast in my commitment to take care of all issues affecting our Airmen, Soldiers, civilian employees and their families as well as employers of our Guard family. We will help them realize their full potential and ensure our Members are an integral part of our organization from the first day of enlistment through their years in retirement. Personal and family readiness is vital to the overall readiness of our organization.

I will remain focused on organizational governance issues. We will address the need for a responsible, informed and accountable body which will protect the interest of our stakeholders by promoting legal and ethical behavior, assessing risk against the organization, and addressing public concern. I will lead a transparent organization that upholds the Air and Army Values ensuring everything we do will be in the confines of what is legal, ethical, just and moral.

The Georgia National Guard has

served our nation and state with distinction since the founding of our colony in 1733. Our service includes both wartime and peacetime missions. Our Guardsmen continue to lead the way today in service not only overseas but on the home front as well. While our organization has a strong public image, we must continue to tell our story in our strategic communication with our communities, in our business transactions across the state, and also with our local, state and federal officials. I am committed to telling the incredible story of the faithful and tireless service our members provide to our state and nation.

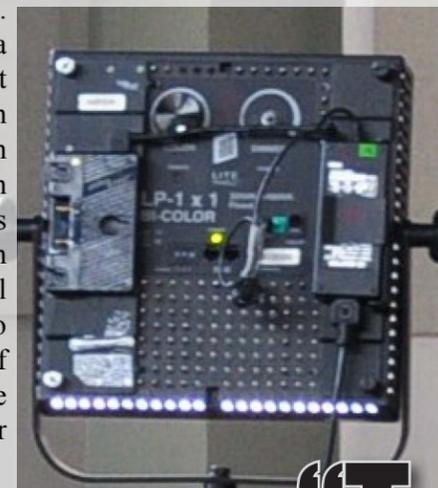
We must be involved in our communities and take steps to improve our community ties with our employers, extended families and our community leaders. We build strength and support from them to remain relevant. We must continue to demonstrate our value to them as one of our priority stakeholders. I will use my position to positively affect our communities and the economy of our state.

Success in today's operating environment demands that we continue to adapt to the way we think and do business. While staying focused on customer expectations and demands, I will encourage the organization to "Think Outside the Box" in our business processes

and direction. We will create an environment that encourages innovation and resourcefulness in our daily operations. We will always strive to serve our customers more efficiently and effectively.

I am proud and honored to serve as your Adjutant General.

You have built an organization that is highly respected by our communities, our families, our customers, and our state and national leaders. As we journey into the future, we will meet many obstacles and will face many challenges. If we stay true to our values and stay focused on the priorities I have established, I believe we can accomplish all that is expected of us and sustain the legacy established by those who have served before us.



**"TELL
OUR
STORY"**



Major Gen. Jim Butterworth, the Adjutant General of Georgia, spoke to the media about the economy, unemployment and the resources the Georgia Guard has in place to help Soldiers and their family members. The Adjutant General's comments were part of a larger documentary to be aired by CNN in May concerning the challenges National Guardsmen face on returning from deployments overseas.

THE FALL OF ATLANTA

BEGINS AT FORT HENRY

By Lt. William Carraway
Public Affairs Office
Georgia Department of Defense

Note: 2012 marks the 150th anniversary of the 1862 battles of the American Civil War. Part two of this historic retelling of events recounts the fall of Forts Henry and Donelson and the changing of the tides within the Confederate army.

Recall from the January article on Mill Springs the strategic situation in Kentucky. Two rivers, the Tennessee and the Cumberland, traversed the state north to south and provided high-speed avenues of approach deep into the heart of the Confederacy. Due to Kentucky's declared neutrality, two forts were located on inferior ground just south of the Kentucky/Tennessee border. Fort Henry, an earthen fort, was constructed on the east bank of the Tennessee River and mounted 17 cannons. Approximately 12 miles to the east, Fort Donelson was constructed on the west bank of the Cumberland River. This design allowed the forts to be mutually supporting – an attack against one could be reinforced by forces from the other. While the location of Fort Henry offered unobstructed fields of fire along the river, Fort Henry was located in low, swampy ground that was prone to flooding.



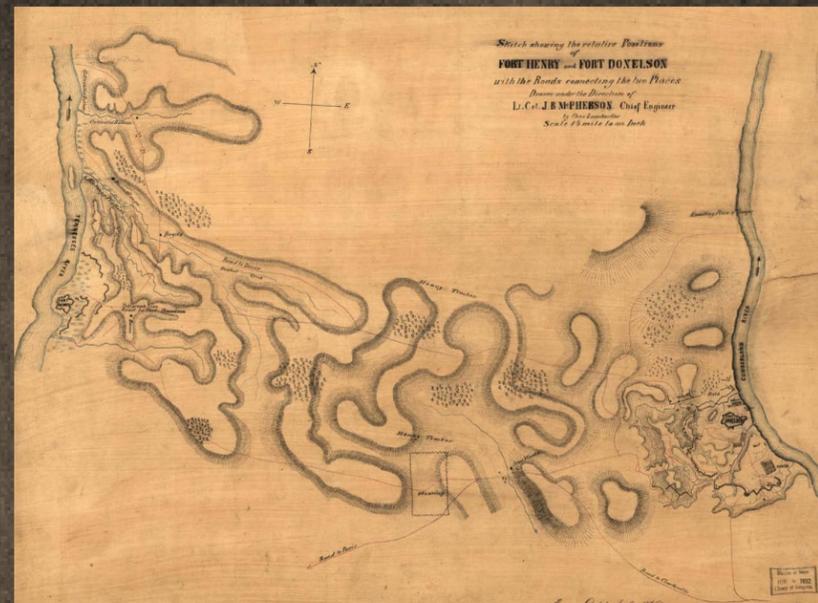
By December 1861, Confederate Brig Gen. Lloyd Tilghman arrived at Fort Henry and assumed command of the 4,000 men present for duty at both forts. Surveying Fort Henry, Tilghman was not pleased. The fort was pentagon shaped with a ten-acre footprint. While the earthen walls of the fort were initially 20 feet high, heavy winter rains had swollen the banks of the Tennessee and much of the fort was underwater by late January, including two guns and the powder magazine. Amazingly, this single flooded fort was the only fortification on the river. The entire Confederate line could be turned by puncturing it at its

weakest point.

If Confederate Gen. Johnston had the advantage of unity of command and disadvantage in numbers, Union Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant was his exact opposite. A mere 12 months earlier, Grant had been a clerk in a tanning shop in Galena, Illinois. Now he commanded 15,000 men and a flotilla of iron-clad warships. Despite his numerically superior army, Grant was caught in a leadership ping-pong between three different military department commanders. Impatient for success following a string of defeats in the east, President Lincoln urged action in the west. Rumors that the Confederate line would soon be reinforced prompted Union leadership to accept Grant's plan to take Fort Henry. Receiving authorization in January, Grant moved decisively. He would move south from his base of operations in Cairo, Ill., with two infantry divisions under command of Brig. Gens. John A. McClernand and Charles F. Smith. The latter had been Grant's superintendent at West Point.

On February 4, 1862, Grant disembarked Smith's division on the west bank of the Tennessee to secure the high ground overlooking Fort Henry. Meanwhile, McClenard's division landed north of Fort Henry with the intent of preventing the escape of the fort's defenders. Observing the landings, Tilghman realized the fort was indefensible, but he was determined to save the bulk of his garrison. With the water now two-feet deep inside the fort, Tilghman evacuated 2,500 men to Fort Donelson while he remained to direct its hopeless defense.

On the morning of February 6, 1862, as Grant's infantry columns marched toward their objectives, the flotilla under command of Flag Officer Andrew Foote steamed within range of Fort Henry's guns. Grant's intent was to



attack the fort simultaneously from the river and overland. Unfortunately, McClernand's column bogged down in the muddy roads. Foote's vessels would face the guns of Fort Henry alone.

At a range of perhaps 1,500 meters, Foote's flagship, the *Cincinnati* opened fire. Observing that the first three shots from the *Cincinnati* fell short, the gunners of the adjacent *USS Essex* adjusted fire, firing air burst and solid shell. Fort Henry swiftly responded. The concussion of cannon fire and the acrid smoke hung in the air as the ironclads, wallowing in the swollen Tennessee closed the distance to 300 yards – point blank range for the cannons of both sides. Presently, Fort Henry's six-inch rifle exploded, killing or maiming its gun crew. Nevertheless, the fort's gunners continued to fire with effect.

The *Cincinnati's* hull rang with the staccato impact of iron shells. More than 30 rounds struck Foote's flagship, wounding him in the process. Meanwhile, the *Essex* had withstood a withering fire herself until a Confederate shell crashed into her boiler. Scalding steam and water erupted into the crew compartments killing or scalding 32 men including the ship's captain. Out of action, the *Essex* drifted helplessly away from the fort as men leapt from her steaming hull. By this time, only four of the fort's guns were in firing condition. Rather than witness further effusion of blood, Tilghman signaled his surrender. Fewer than one hundred



men remained alive in the fort.

The battle had lasted approximately two hours and was a complete Union victory. In exchange for 120 casualties on both sides the Union had obtained a clear route of invasion all the way south to Muscle Shoals, Ala. This was demonstrated promptly as Flag Officer Foote dispatched his three "timber clads" south. This raid burned bridges, captured ships, damaged port facilities and caused general mayhem.

Elevating Brig. Gen. Lew Wallace (author of *Ben Hur*) to division command, Grant marched the twelve miles overland to invest Fort Donelson. After five days fighting and more than 5,000 casualties Grant achieved the "unconditional surrender" of Fort Donelson and its 15,000 defenders. General Grant had captured the first of three armies that would eventually succumb to his terms. With the fall of Forts Henry and Donelson the entire Confederate defensive line in the west collapsed. The capture of Forts Henry and Donelson led directly to the loss of Nashville, the first Confederate capital to be captured.

With Nashville in Union hands, Chattanooga could be established as a base of operations for Sherman's Atlanta campaign. The success of the Atlanta campaign lifted President Lincoln's reelection hopes. It is no small exaggeration, therefore, to imagine that the entire tide of the American Civil War turned on a hastily built fort on a far flung bank of the Tennessee River.

Next month: *Weapon capabilities during the Civil War.*



SEARCH AND RESCUE: AN EVER-PRESENT MISSION FOR GEORGIA STATE DEFENSE FORCE

*Story by SDF Lt. Col. Lan Skalla
Division Chief, Operations Branch
HQ G3 GSDF*

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Feb. 07, 2012 – Search and Rescue, for lost or missing persons, aircraft, vehicles or evidence is an ever-present mission. Most communities do not have properly trained SAR-qualified personnel in numbers large enough to support large-scale SAR missions. SAR is not only a natural fit for the Georgia State Defense Force, but has become a prime mission essential task of the GSDF.

The GSDF began training heavily for SAR duties in 2010 with the introduction of the first SARSPEC II course presented by the 1st Brigade in Toccoa, Ga. This first course was based on the National Association of Search and Rescue (NASAR) manual. Rappelling and a work capacity test adapted from the wildfire service were incorporated into the course. Through course evaluation, it was decided that the NASAR course not only needed modification but that more field work and less classroom time would better suit our training needs.

GSDF created a SAR committee to manage and grow the SAR program within GSDF. The committee consisted of select personnel from operations (G3), and officers and enlisted personnel for each GSDF unit. The GSDF adopted three levels of SAR training. SARSPEC I is basic SAR management and is designed to be presented

in Officer Candidate School, and basic and advanced NCO courses. SARSPEC II, field training (for actual SAR Team Members), is presented through the special training branch of G3. SARSPEC III presents the basics of SAR similar to the GEMA Rescue Specialist course. SARSPEC III is designed to be incorporated into IET for all troops.

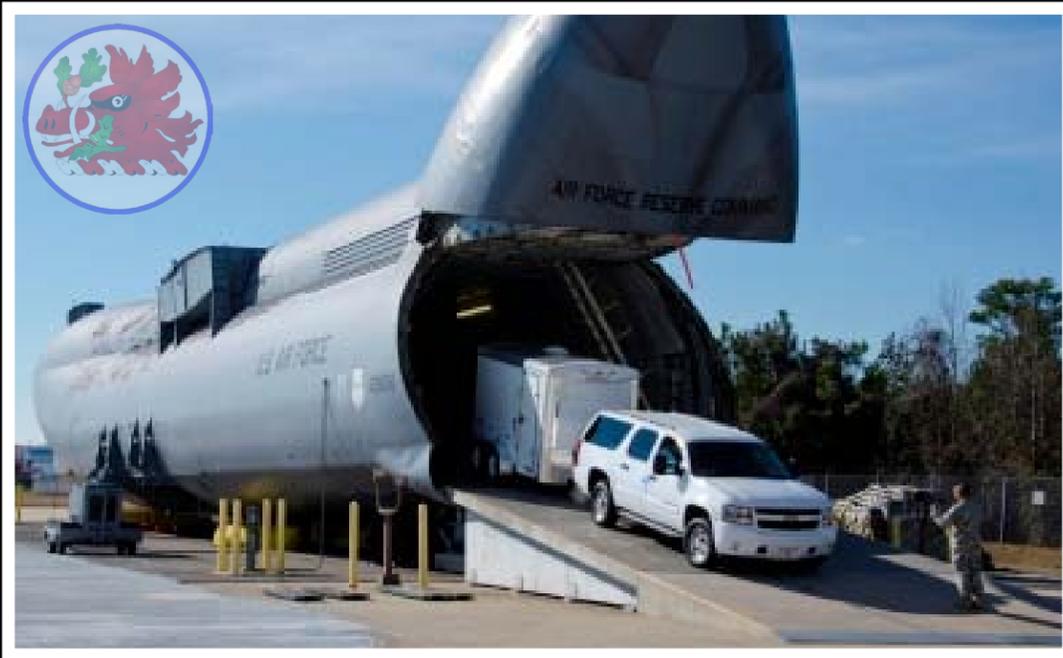
G3 presented the second GSDF SARSPEC II Course in 2010. This course was presented as a field course with limited classroom instruction. As with the first course, SARSPEC II was a huge success but identified a problem. The courses taught by 1st Brigade and G3 differed and there were no established tasks, conditions, or standards by which to train.

As a military unit, the GSDF needed a measurable standard and a course that met the specific needs of the GSDF mission. Trial and error also found that the packing list was not suitable for our military operations.

In 2011, the GSDF began working on defined standards for the program and determined a field manual, or training manual, was needed to define training and doctrine. With the completion of this manual and the new standards, GSDF will have a controllable, repeatable training program that will ensure that each SARSPEC II graduate will be trained to the same standards and have the same qualifications.

As of this writing, the GSDF TM350-1SARII manual is near completion and expected to be published by late winter 2012. The first course under the new program is planned for April 2012.

DOCE TRAINING FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE MISSION



Story and photo by 1st Lt. Mike Thompson
78th Homeland Response Force
Georgia Army National Guard

DOBBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Marietta, Ga., Jan. 19, 2012 – The Defense Coordination Element (DCE) for FEMA Region IV practiced loading a C-5 here today as part of its readiness preparation for rapid deployment in emergency response.

The DCE supports an eight-state region and is responsible for deploying and representing the Department of Defense in disaster areas. By providing liaisons to state, local, and other federal agencies, the DCE can validate mission assignments and facilitate resource requests to the Federal Coordinating Officer who will ultimately determine the best military resource for the mission.

The DCE also helps provide command and control of deployed DoD forces.

“We have to be ready to deploy anywhere for disaster response. The missions may take us out of state or to a location that’s too far away to drive, so we’re responsible for disaster response in our nation and territories,” said Smitty Bell, the Logistics

Section Chief for FEMA Region IV. “The DCE is very important because they have a lot of assets and resources that FEMA does not have or cannot contract commercially, particularly in helicopter, engineering, and logistics operations and manpower. So they bring a lot to the table as a joint partnership in disaster response.”

To enhance the DCE’s disaster response capability, the unit chose to practice loading on the C-5 airframe, which was originally property of Lockheed Martin. The Soldiers were instructed on the importance of center of balance, capturing measurements of the equipment, and inspecting the equipment. This training also included instruction on how to guide the vehicle onto the aircraft, as the DCE might not always have access to a C-5.

“This is an opportunity for us to configure our vehicles for a possible air load if we ever needed to do that,” said Col. Barrett Homes, the Defense Coordinating Officer for FEMA Region IV. “This is the first time we have had a chance to air load our equipment, so it is a great opportunity and we are definitely finding out some good lessons learned if we ever need to move by air in the future.”

SOLDIERS GATHER AT 2012 INFANTRY BALL



Story by Capt. Michael Persley
48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
Georgia Army National Guard

MACON MARRIOTT CITY CENTER HOTEL, Macon, Ga., Jan. 14, 2012 – Warriors of all ranks gathered to celebrate camaraderie, friendship, and service at the annual 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Ball.

After the seating of the official party, Sgt. 1st Class Stanley Walker and the 48th IBCT color guard presented the colors and the national anthem was played. Following the invocation, welcoming comments from Col. King, and ceremonial toasts, the 1-118th Field Artillery commander Lt. Col. John Gentry Jr. and Command Sgt. Maj. Bryan Tyler welcomed retired Lt. Col. Charles Davis Jr. who accepted the 48th Brigade Hall of Fame medal on behalf of his late father, retired Maj. Gen. Charles Davis Sr. (who passed June 25, 1998). Davis spoke of the correlation between his life and the Army. He explained that the Army is, and has always been, his family.

“That is why I love the Army so much,” Davis said, “because of the value they put on family. I joined the Army when I was 17 years and 2 days old, but I have been in the Army since I was two years old. I am not

worthy of wearing this. My dad was, though. He worked for the Army National Guard his whole life. He was so proud of the Army, so proud to wear the uniform.”

Brigadier Gen. Joe Jarrard addressed the assembled Warriors and family members. After thanking Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Recker and Col. John King, Jarrard directed his comments to some special guests.

“I would also like to thank the Gold Star families for their sacrifices, and on behalf of the 48th Brigade Combat Team I would like to thank once more our Hall of Fame inductee Maj. Gen. Davis,” Jarrard said. “The 48th Brigade has been in every war, from the Civil War, to World Wars I and II, to Iraq and Afghanistan... I couldn’t ask for more and I couldn’t be more proud.”

With the departure of the official party, the formal portion of the evening concluded. But for many friends, family and comrades, the night would continue with dancing, the telling of war stories, and celebration of what the 48th Brigade is about year-round, day in and day out: family.



GEORGIA GUARD'S NEWEST CITIZEN-SOLDIER



*Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class James Wagner
Vermont National Guard*

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo, Feb. 02, 2012 – Georgia Guardsmen of the 3rd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, 560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade assigned to Kosovo Force 15 gathered at a citizenship ceremony for a fellow Citizen-Soldier. Staff Sgt. Roderico Mondaca, 36, of Euharlee, Ga., was administered the oath of allegiance by Pamela Hutchings of the Department of Homeland Security U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. Colonel Jeffrey J. Liethen, Commander Multi-National Battle Group-East spoke at the ceremony and congratulated Staff Sgt. Mondaca.

With the words, “I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic,” Army Staff Sgt. Rodrigo Mondaca, assigned to 3rd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, formalized what Mondaca has been

proving through his actions the past 13 years as a member of the Army National Guard.

“This nation of immigrants is what makes America the strongest nation on the planet,” Liethen said. “Now you can serve our country Sergeant, but really, now you are serving your country.”

It’s been a long and winding road to U.S. citizenship for Mondaca, who moved to the U.S. from Chile in 1983. His mother, who was originally from the Easter Islands, brought the seven-year-old a year before being joined by his father, a captain in the Chilean Marine Corps.

Mondaca eventually made his way to Euharlee, Ga., where he has lived the past 10 years with his wife and four children.

The payoff is that he is now a citizen of the United States, officially a member of the country he has been serving for more than a decade. With the process complete, he had time to reflect on the importance of that fact.

“Citizenship is something a lot of people take for granted,” Mondaca said. “If you were from a third-world

country, you could appreciate it - it’s a big deal.”

His new citizenship confers him some tangible benefits, not the least of which is the right to vote for elected officials like the president or to travel abroad freely. As a military member, Mondaca said it opens doors - he can now get a security clearance, which is only available to U.S. citizens.

“It feels good,” Staff Sgt. Mondaca said. “There are a lot of things I could not do – vote, travel outside the country, things of that nature... It opens a lot of doors.”

Only individuals born in the U.S. are automatically awarded citizenship, and becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen is a time-consuming process that normally takes about two years to complete.

As a member of the U.S. military, Mondaca had to meet citizenship pre-requisites and submit the application forms himself. If he were a member of the active duty forces, Mondaca said, the staff judge advocate office would have done all the paperwork for him; but as a member of the Guard, he had to submit and track it all personally.

It’s a process he has wanted to do for years, but never completed until recently. It takes a lot of paperwork, he said, and every time he would start the process something would come up that would prevent him from continuing.

After the required paperwork has been submitted and approved, would-be citizens must take a written English and civics test and conduct an interview with someone

from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Services) which falls under the Department of Homeland Security.

The test itself would stump many who are Americans by birth, such as: “In what year was the Constitution written?” or “Who elects the President of the United States?” (“1787” and “electoral college,” respectively).

According to Pamela Hutchings, the USCIS official who administered the naturalization oath, nearly 65,000 military members have become U.S. citizens since 2001. The agency granted citizenship to 11,146 service members in fiscal year 2010, the highest number in any year since 1955.

It’s a Congressional mandate the oath must be administered within six months of final approval, making it a requirement she travel from her headquarters in Austria, but she considers it an honor and a pleasure when she can swear in a new U.S. citizen. And although his wife and children couldn’t be here for the ceremony, she said, his peers were on hand to help him celebrate the occasion.

Staff Sgt. Mondaca is a member of the 3-108th Long Range Surveillance. The unit is presently serving a 12-month tour in Kosovo.

“Even though your first family isn’t here,” she said as she looked out at the large crowd of Georgia Guard Soldiers in attendance, “your second family is out here in force.”

91 JULIET: CHEMICAL EQUIPMENT REPAIR SPECIALIST

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

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Jan. 27, 2012 – When Sgt. Jose Castro joined the Puerto Rico National Guard in 1995, he chose 91 Juliet (chemical equipment repairer) as the Military Occupational Specialty for his career.

Sergeant Castro's desire to join the National Guard began at an early age. Having always wanted to serve, he took advantage of an opportunity that arose in Puerto Rico. In 2000, Castro moved to Georgia and now continues his career as a 91J with the 138th Chemical Company.

"The armed forces always got my attention," Castro said. "At that moment in time I needed a different feel for the work, and it seemed like a good time to join the Guard."

Castro, who lives in Bartow County, says he thought the job sounded interesting. Originally, he was offered three different MOS opportunities, and ended up choosing 91J because of the experience he would gain working with the many types of equipment.

"I love my job because I'm always learning new things and doing something different," Castro said. "There is such a wide variety of equipment with which to work."

Castro received training at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. It was during this 13-week training that he learned how to fix, maintain and operate the equipment with which he would be working.

"I took extra classes to help me understand the equipment as much as possible," Castro said. "By educating myself about what I was working with, I helped ensure a safe and easy transition into my career with the Guard."

He admits his work can be intense at times due to the nature of the equipment and the importance of its role in properly decontaminating and protecting his environment.

Normally, Castro's MOS has four or more people working together in a unit, but at the moment he is currently working on his own. While he enjoys his work, he hopes to one day become a warrant officer, a goal he says stems from his desire to continue learning as much as possible and grow in the Guard.

"I always take any opportunity to advance in my career and learn more every day," Castro stated.

Along with the on-the-job training he received, his career with the 138th has also taught him how to adjust his civilian life to the situational changes that accompany a career with the Guard.

"I learned how to manage these different types of situations, and by multitasking I am able to complete my job duties and handle any situation effectively," Castro said.

Castro likes to tell people who are interested in his work to keep an open mind about what they are doing, and grow as much as possible.

"Educating oneself as often as one can is a great way to continue growing, both at work and in the civilian world," Castro said. "My job is a real benefit to myself as well as others, and I take pride in knowing my work helps with the overall mission of the Guard."



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOOKSHELF:

REVIEWS OF BOOKS THAT TEACH US ABOUT OUR CRAFT

By Lt. William Carraway
Media Relations Officer
Georgia Department of Defense

A book entitled *The 60 Second Leader* probably doesn't suggest in-depth analysis of the subtleties of leadership; however, what the book concedes in brevity it makes up for with bibliography. Composed of 30 short chapters, the book offers brief summaries of leadership lessons augmented by real-world anecdotes. Rather than "just another management cliff notes book," this work whets the appetite for further study. Each chapter provides sources for further reading. Thus, the book offers the reader the opportunity to conduct further study.

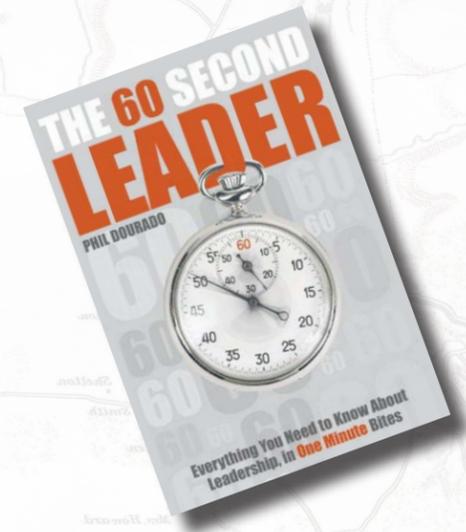
Don't like a particular lesson? Forget it. All you've lost is a minute. But find something you really appreciate and the author invites you to read further from a laundry list of tomes on leadership, economics, and behavioral science.

Of particular relevance was the lesson that recounted Gen. Colin Powell's observation of the effects of

The 60-second PhD in leadership:

1. Make a list of all things done to you that you abhorred.
2. DON'T DO THEM TO OTHERS. EVER.
3. Make another list of things done to you that you loved.
4. DO THEM TO OTHERS ALWAYS.

– Dee Hock



leadership on gunnery practice. The Army was interested in determining the optimal number of shells to fire to maintain proficiency.

In a study, one tank battalion was given the maximum amount of practice rounds while another received fewer rounds and more time in the simulator. The units were then tested on the firing range to determine which training

**"TAKE CARE OF SOLDIERS AND
THEY WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU."**

-- COMMAND SGT. MAJ. PHILLIP STRINGFIELD

approach was more effective.

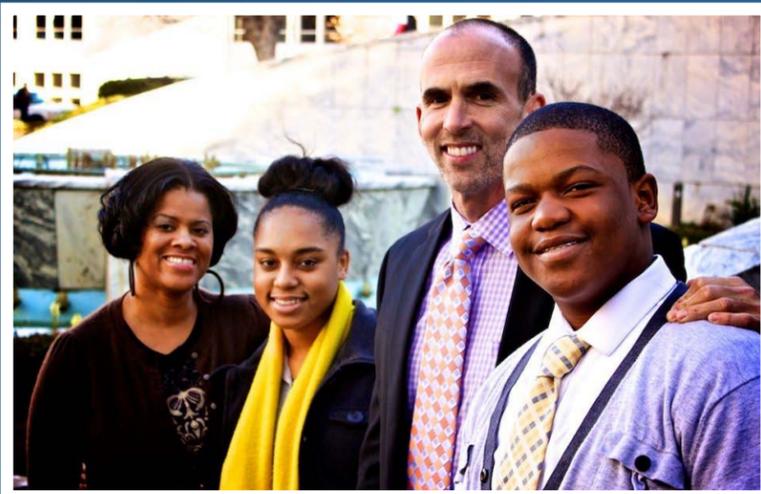
The surprising result: Neither training strategy was more effective. The units that fired the best were the ones with the best commanders. It was the commander who was able to maximize the unit's performance regardless of the circumstances.

Powell concluded, "Leadership is the art of accomplishing more than the science of management says is possible."

The book also shares the suggestion that all leadership is autobiographical and that great leaders must do three things: Tell a compelling story about themselves, tell a compelling story about the organization and its mission, and make people feel that they are part of that story.

At just 194 pages, the *60 Second Leader* is a breeze to read in short manageable sections. The book is available free on the AKO Library.

AROUND THE GEORGIA GUARD



GEORGIA GUARDSMAN A 2012 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta announced its 2012 Big Sister of the Year to be Sgt. Maj. Robinette Pryor. Pryor, along with Big Brother of the Year Alan Cosby, were selected out of 3,300 Bigs and 40 qualified submissions. They will go on to represent the Metro Atlanta agency in a statewide, then nationwide search for Big Brothers Big Sisters National Big of the Year

9TH AIR FORCE COMMANDER VISITS JOINT STARS

Major Gen. Lawrence Wells, 9th Air Force commander, right, and his wife Kathy Wells, talk with E-8 Joint STARS crewmembers, Staff Sgt. Brian Bosworth, left, and Capt. Zachary Tews during a visit to Robins Air Force Base, Ga., Jan. 17, 2012. Wells toured the jet during a two-day trip to JSTARS for an orientation of the 461st Air Control Wing. This was Wells' first visit since the activation of the 461st ACW.



648TH MANEUVER ENHANCEMENT BRIGADE ARRIVES IN KABUL

The Georgia Army National Guard's Task Force Hydra, 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade out of Fort Benning, Ga., arrived safely in Kabul, Afghanistan on Jan. 19, 2012, to begin its mission. The 648th left Fort Hood, Texas on Jan. 16, 2012, after more than 30 days of training and validation by the 120th Infantry Brigade to begin its nine-month deployment in Kabul.

1-171ST AVIATION RETURNS FROM IRAQ

StaffSgt. Ricardo Hamer, a member of the 1-171st General Support Aviation Battalion, receives a hug at the unit's homecoming ceremony at the Clay National Guard Center in Marietta. Hamer, a human resources NCO, spent a year in Taji, Iraq, in support of Operation New Dawn.



GUARD HOSTS CLAIMS MANAGEMENT COURSE

The Georgia National Guard's new Joint Force Headquarters building and the Construction and Facilities Management Office played host to Soldiers, Airmen and civilians attending the National Guard Bureau Contract Officer Technical Representative and Claims Management Course.



COMMANDING GENERAL OF FIRST ARMY VISITS

Lieutenant Gen. Mick Bednarek, Commanding General of First Army, addresses senior Army and Air leaders of the Georgia National Guard in a leaders conference hosted by Maj. Gen. Jim Butterworth, Georgia's Adjutant General. General Bednarek discussed strategic changes to First Army and new ways it will support the Army Force Generation cycle; the future of virtual and constructive training systems; and the need for individuals to take responsibility for their own professional development.



Adjutant General
unveils strategic vision for Ga. DoD

GEORGIA  **GUARDSMAN**

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