

GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD GUARDSMAN



SERVING THE NATION

DEFENSE FORCE OF GEORGIA



April 2012

Georgia Guard's "Best Warriors"

heading to regional competition

The Guard Works

making jobs available in transportation

Georgia Guard Aviators

receive warm welcome home



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GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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

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GEORGIA HOSTS

5th annual National Guard Combatives Tournament



Fort Benning
March 18, 2012

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

The Georgia Army National Guard Warrior Training Center hosted the 5th annual National Guard Combatives tournament with over 145 Guardsmen, traveling from 20 different states and territories. The top contender again this year was team Minnesota who had six fighters in the championship finals, and two in the consolation finals, to finish first overall with 465 points. Team Missouri was second with 281 points. With the most miles traveled, third place was awarded to Team Guam, with 244 points.



"You take guys who are not necessarily professional fighters or even very experienced, but these are soldiers who take that mentality which they bring to the battlefield, and they are bringing the warrior ethos into the cage," said 1st Lt. Chad Malmberg, Minnesota National Guard combatives coach.

The combatives tournament consisted of standard grappling rounds, intermediate rounds with some striking, and the championship rounds with full kick and fist striking. Even with limited resources and funding, numerous teams found ways to train at their own gyms and travel to the competition.

"The toughest battle was just getting here," said Master Sgt. Allen Blend, Guam National Guard combatives coach. "But the guys persevered, and overall we have placed first, second, and third, so they have done really well."

When Pfc. Aaron Johnson, Indiana Army National Guard, heard of the combatives tournament through a training buddy, he knew he must attend. Johnson won the lightweight class against Spc. Thomas Pfeiffer, Washington Army National Guard. Johnson has competed in nearly every type of fighting tournament, including wrestling, Greco-Roman wrestling, jui-jitsu, and mixed martial arts.

"It's pretty crazy arranging grappling followed by pancrase, and then the final fight on the last day," said Johnson. "It is definitely wear and tear on your body."

Even though teams were competing against each other, Johnson did not have a ring-side coach, and had

to enlist a few team coaches for help. Maj. Andrew Heymann, Georgia Army National Guard, coached for Johnson in the intermediate round and in the finals, Johnson also received help from Guam coaches Master Sgt. Allen Blend and Spc. Kenji Okiyama.

Another fighter, Staff Sgt. Kailey Carlson, Minnesota National Guard, battled in a three-person round-robin for featherweight, starting in the intermediate round.

"I started doing jui-jitsu almost two years ago and then moved to train at the Academy with Greg Nelson," said Carlson. "I typically train with guys, but rarely with someone my own size, so it was a nice experience to fight against guys who were closer to my weight."

Specialist Miles McDonald, Missouri Army National Guard, wrapped up the featherweight tournament with a



rear chokehold submission against Sgt. Terry Hams, Alaska Army National Guard, in the final championship rounds.

The most contested weight class was cruiserweight, at 185 pounds, with 24 Guardsmen competing for the title. Even with head bandaged, Capt. Matthew Jukkala, Minnesota Army National Guard, won cruiserweight by submission against Cadet John Moser, Guam Army National Guard.

"Overall it's a great tournament, and the numbers are growing," said Blend. "So it's just a matter of time before it kicks off to the next level. Thanks to the Warrior Training Center for putting this together."



THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE TOP CONTENDER



GEORGIA'S SHADOW PLATOON COMING HOME

Story by Maj. Will Cox
Photos by CW2 Anthony Brooks
Public Affairs Office
Georgia Army National Guard

AFGHANISTAN, April 15, 2012 – After a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan, Savannah's own Shadow Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) platoon, Detachment 1, Company B, 48th Brigade Support Training Battalion, is gearing up to head home by early summer of 2012. The unit's Soldiers were ordered in April 2011 to mobilize in less than 60 days from their civilian jobs and into their traditional Guard roles for a federal mission supporting ground units in Afghanistan.

"The unit's first stop was Fort Hood, Texas, where it arrived mid-June 2011 and successfully completed all pre-deployment requirements, including intensive flight training and deployment validation during the 45-day event," said CW2 Anthony Brooks.

Georgia's Shadow platoon arrived in Afghanistan by August 1, 2011, supporting day-round UAS operations in southern and eastern Afghanistan, providing the warfighter a valuable reconnaissance asset to enable safer mission accomplishment.

Georgia's Shadow platoon has supported over 8,700

total flight hours while conducting over 1,770 flights during their Operation Enduring Freedom 11-12 deployment. A typical mission includes route clearance, where the UAS looks for improvised explosive devices in order to keep our Soldiers and coalition partners safe while on patrol or when conducting resupply missions.

"The Shadow system is a tactical unmanned aerial system weighing about 400 lbs. with optical and infrared cameras effective over several miles," said Sgt. Eric Sutton, the unit's maintenance lead. The Shadow system is piloted by UAS operators from the Ground Central Control System on base.

"This deployment has given the operators in this unit real-world situations, providing real-time intelligence to Commanders, both on the ground and back on base. The UAS is considered one of the Commander's 'eyes on the battlefield,' and it helps the units we work for do their jobs easier and with added security," said Sgt. Christopher Simmons, Shadow operator and Unit Trainer.

"We appreciate the assistance of the Georgia Army National Guard. For the past eight months, the Georgia contingent has brought critical skills to the table, making it easier and safer for us to do our mission. Through its efforts, the Shadow platoon has been able to provide consistent coverage for the dynamic mission environment," said Capt. Kenneth Hahn, a 5-1 Cavalry Company Commander.



NCO NOTEPAD



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

About a month or so ago, I engaged in a philosophical discussion with one of my colleagues (a senior leader) on the subject of how the military recognizes various ethnic groups that make up the Armed Forces. One question that stemmed out of this discussion was: was it more important that I be personally recognized as the first African-American State Command Sergeant Major in Georgia, or was it more important to be recognized for doing a great job and being a good leader whom all members of the Ga. DoD would wish to emulate – a leader who just happens to fit into a certain ethnic group?

From that thought exercise, the conversation spilled over into the need for diversity in our force and what diversity means in the Armed Forces. I might have simply left the conversation where it ended if it weren't for the subject being such a thought-provoking one. So, I've decided to float the question to you, the Soldiers and Airmen of our organization, here, in my monthly article.

Ours is a multicultural force of people from a variety of backgrounds, representing a myriad of races, religions, colors, creeds, opinions, skills and motivations. No other nation in the world can boast such a diverse population; it is this diversity and the contributions of men and women of

every race, culture, gender and religion that will sustain our nation's character and strength into the future.

While America has seen some challenging times implementing and achieving such diversity, we have, nonetheless, emerged as a nation where anything is possible. As Americans, we share an intrinsic bond stronger than any geographic, demographic, ethnic or cultural loyalty.

With that perspective on diversity in mind, consider the following questions: Should we as senior leaders be more concerned with the diverse opinions and ideas each of us bring to the "one team, one fight," concept, or ought we focus on demographic classifications like who's Black, who's White, who's Hispanic, who's male, who's female?

What is it we as an NCO Corps should be teaching our young Soldiers and junior NCOs about the many different ways diversity presents itself? How and what, in your opinion, should we be teaching them to value? Where should we be placing the emphasis?

These are some of the questions I want us as an organization to ask ourselves as we address the need for diversity in the Force.

Valuing our diversity of opinions, without over-emphasizing our differences as individuals is a challenging subject now and will be for a time to come. One need only look at the mainstream news to see why.

It is not my intent to have all the answers on this subject; no one can really offer that. But I wanted to pose these questions to the organization for consideration and to provide food-for-thought for present and future leaders on diversity in the Armed Forces.

Remember, "Our diversity only strengthens us."



GEORGIA

GUARD

AVIATORS

RECEIVE

WARM

WELCOME

HOME



*Story by 1st Lt William Carraway
Media Relations Officer
Photos by Sgt. Gary Hone
Georgia Department of Defense*

WINDER-BARROW HIGH SCHOOL, Winder, Ga., March 31, 2012 – Fifteen Months after deploying in support of Operation New Dawn, aviators from the Winder-based 185th Air Assault Battalion received a rousing welcome home. The ceremonies commenced as more than 650 motorcyclists of the Patriot Guard roared into Winder-Barrow High School's Harris Stadium. The riders were followed by Fort Benning's precision parachute team, The Silver Knights, who soared into the stadium bearing an 800 square-foot U.S. Flag.

Winder-Barrow High School was instrumental in the planning and execution of the welcome home event, which featured representatives from the Sheriff's department, Winder and Barrow County Police Departments, and Emergency Management Services.

"We have a real sense of community and partnership with the Georgia Guard," said Winder-Barrow JROTC Instructor Maj. Tom Evans. "We teach our cadets and our students to recognize who the real heroes are." Dr. Al Darby, Principal of Winder-Barrow, echoed Evan's sentiment.

"When the 185th departed for Iraq, we painted a yellow ribbon on our stadium to mark their service. Now that they have returned, we want to congratulate the Soldiers and their families on a job well done," he said.

The 185th mobilized from Winder in December 2010 with 43 Soldiers supporting five UH-60 Blackhawks. After pre-mission training at Fort Hood, Texas., the Barrow County Aviators deployed to Iraq, where they flew missions out of Camp Taji. Captain Andrew Bannister, Commander of Charlie Company, recounted the accomplishments of the 185th.

"Our aviators flew over 4,000 mission hours,

carried over 9,000 passengers and delivered more than 150,000 pounds of cargo," said Bannister. "The maintenance detachment worked tirelessly to keep airframes in the air, often working 20-hour days. Our support detachment delivered over 253,000 gallons of fuel."

Distinguished speakers echoed Bannister's words of congratulations to the Soldiers and Families. Dr. Darby; Barrow County Superintendent Dr. Wanda Creel; David Maynard, Mayor of Winder; Col. Robert Barker, Garrison Commander of Fort Gordon; and U.S. Representative Paul Broun offered messages of gratitude to the aviators and family members.

Col. Brock Gaston, Commander of the 78th Aviation Troop Command, recognized the unique relationship the aviators had with the JROTC Program and Barrow County.

"Now that you are home with families and loved ones, continue to build on the relationship you have with the community here," said Gaston.

Brigadier Gen. Joe Jarrard, Commanding General of the Georgia Army National Guard, thanked the people of Winder and Barrow County on behalf of the 14,000 Georgia National Guardsmen for their support.

"We recognize not only the sacrifice the Soldiers make, but also the sacrifice of the families," said Jerrard. "When you come home to a welcome like this, it really makes serving worthwhile. Thank you very much for this very warm welcome home."

Governor Nathan Deal offered a personal message to the 185th and the Soldiers and Airmen of the Georgia National Guard.

"Right now 800 of Georgia's finest are deployed in Afghanistan and Kosovo. For over a decade, the Georgia Guard has sent more than 12,300 service members overseas; thirty nine of those paid the ultimate sacrifice. Today, we pay tribute to them and their families for their sacrifice in the name of liberty. Thank you for your service, thank you for your sacrifice. We are proud of you. Welcome home!"



GEORGIA ARMY GUARD ROLLS OUT EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT WEBSITE

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

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., March 22, 2012 – A new resource for Georgia’s Army Guardsmen has just rolled out, online. The new-and-improved Education, Incentive and Employment Programs Support Center Website aims to help and empower Soldiers in accessing their education benefits and finding a job.

In a memorandum to Citizen-Soldiers across the state, Brig. Gen. Joe Jarrard, Georgia Army Guard Commander, expressed his understanding of the civilian employment shortage within the Georgia Army Guard’s ranks, and announced his plan to set up a consolidated site with which to connect Guardsmen with job opportunities.

“As these economic times test our dedication to managing civilian and military careers, a family life, and the other stresses on your daily life, please rest assured that we are working hard to help you with your civilian careers,” Jarrard said. “As the state’s headquarters,

we are coordinating with over 180 Georgia businesses, and we’re working to provide education and incentive benefits, as well as employment and career opportunities that are readily available to you as a Soldier.”

Second Lt. Ashley Beard, employment officer and website manager for the Georgia Army Guard’s state education office, is working hard to ensure Jarrard’s vision for a one-stop education and employment center. She describes the website as an ongoing project, updated every day with new job postings, employment training, and career tips for Georgia veterans.

“The great thing about this site’s resources is that they’re targeted specifically to Georgia Guardsmen,” Beard explained. “One of our links, Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces, allows Soldiers to filter job listings based on their military occupational specialty (MOS), while another feature helps them convert their MOS training into college credit. These are valuable tools our Guardsmen are not going to find on any other civilian job site.”

Unlike many military websites, this tool is open to the public and does not require the use of a Command Access Card – CAC – or log in information. Beard said

GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD

EDUCATION, INCENTIVE, & EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS SUPPORT CENTER

PLEASE REMEMBER TO REFRESH THE WEB PAGE BY USING CTRL+F5 PRIOR TO VIEWING FOR MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

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- CEI
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- Submit Grades
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- Guard Incentives
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GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS
1000 Halsey Ave, Bldg 447
Marietta, GA 30060

NGGA-CG

6 February 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL GA ARNG SOLDIERS

SUBJECT: Employment Options

1. On behalf of MG Butterworth and myself, I want to express our thanks for your dedication and resilience to our great nation and the state of Georgia.
2. As these economic times are testing our dedication to managing a civilian and military career, a family life, and the other stresses on your daily life, please rest assured that we are working hard to help you with your civilian careers.
3. As a State HQs, we are coordinating with over 180 businesses from the state of Georgia and working to provide education and incentive benefits, and employment and career opportunities that are readily available to you as a Soldier.
4. One initiative is to develop a single resource to consolidate job opportunities available to



this is especially important for traditional Guardsmen seeking employment because they may not live close to a National Guard facility, and may not have the opportunity to visit one outside of monthly drill.

“Finding a job has to start with education and training,” said Warrant Officer 1 Aline Sutton, operations management chief for Ellenwood-based Company B, 221st Military Intelligence Battalion. “I started using the site because I was interested in applying to graduate school. It’s easy to use, and in no time I’d gathered a lot of information about my Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits.”

Like many of her fellow Guardsmen, Sutton is a dedicated professional looking for ways to enhance her knowledge and training. She has experienced firsthand the difficulties of finding employers who are truly dedicated to hiring Citizen-Soldiers, she said.

“I’ve seen both sides of the coin,” said Sutton. “My last employer was very supportive, and made me feel proud of my affiliation with the Guard. The organization was always willing to help me balance my commitments. However, once I started looking for work outside of the company, things changed.”

Sutton said that although many businesses consider themselves “veteran friendly”, some are not as ready to compromise as others when it comes to hiring actively-serving reservists. Even after emphasizing the strong values and work ethic that come with hiring a Guardsman, she found that several companies remained unwilling to hire her.

“That’s why I think this website is a great initiative,” she said. “The assumption is that if Citizen-Soldiers work with specific Georgia employers to educate them on the benefits of hiring reservists, those same companies will be more committed to hiring Guardsmen.”

Beard and Sutton agree that the next step in getting Georgia Guardsmen to work and providing them with better job opportunities, is educating them on the benefits which the new website offers.

“There is so much free money for education and job training out there that it’s hard to fathom,” said Beard. “Our Soldiers need to further explore that, and I think the perfect way to do so is for them to access the new site regularly.”

FORT PULASKI: RIFLED ARTILLERY ALTERS THE DESIGN OF THE DEFENSE

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

While April 1862 is most associated with the Battle of Shiloh, Tenn., Georgia was host to a battle which would have implications on the Confederacy's defensive strategy for the remainder of the war. This month's article focuses on the Battle of Fort Pulaski and the lessons learned from that engagement.

In 1829, a young engineering officer on his first assignment out of West Point surveyed the construction site for the future Fort Pulaski. The Lieutenant would serve as the superintendent for the first year of construction on Cockspar Island in the middle of the Savannah River. Returning in 1861 to observe the fort's commanding presence overlooking the approaches to the Savannah Harbor, the former Lieutenant, Brig. Gen. Robert E. Lee, pronounced the walls of the fort to be secure against artillery bombardment. At first glance, the 11-foot thick solid masonry walls of the fort, 48 cannon, and garrison of nearly 400 men offered a formidable target for land-based or naval-based siege operations.

Joining Lee in his estimation was the officer tasked with taking the fort. Union Brig. Gen. Thomas Sherman did not believe that conventional smooth-bore artillery would be effective against Ft. Pulaski, but on the advice of his chief engineering officer, Sherman approved a plan of bombardment using rifled artillery. Rifled artillery, as observed in last month's article, offers not only greater accuracy but greater range and impact. The Union plan was simply to move large rifled siege cannons within striking distance of the fort in order to batter the seemingly impregnable walls down. This plan would involve phased efforts including the isolation of barrier islands, securing landing sites, and moving the larger rifled cannon over land within range of Ft. Pulaski.

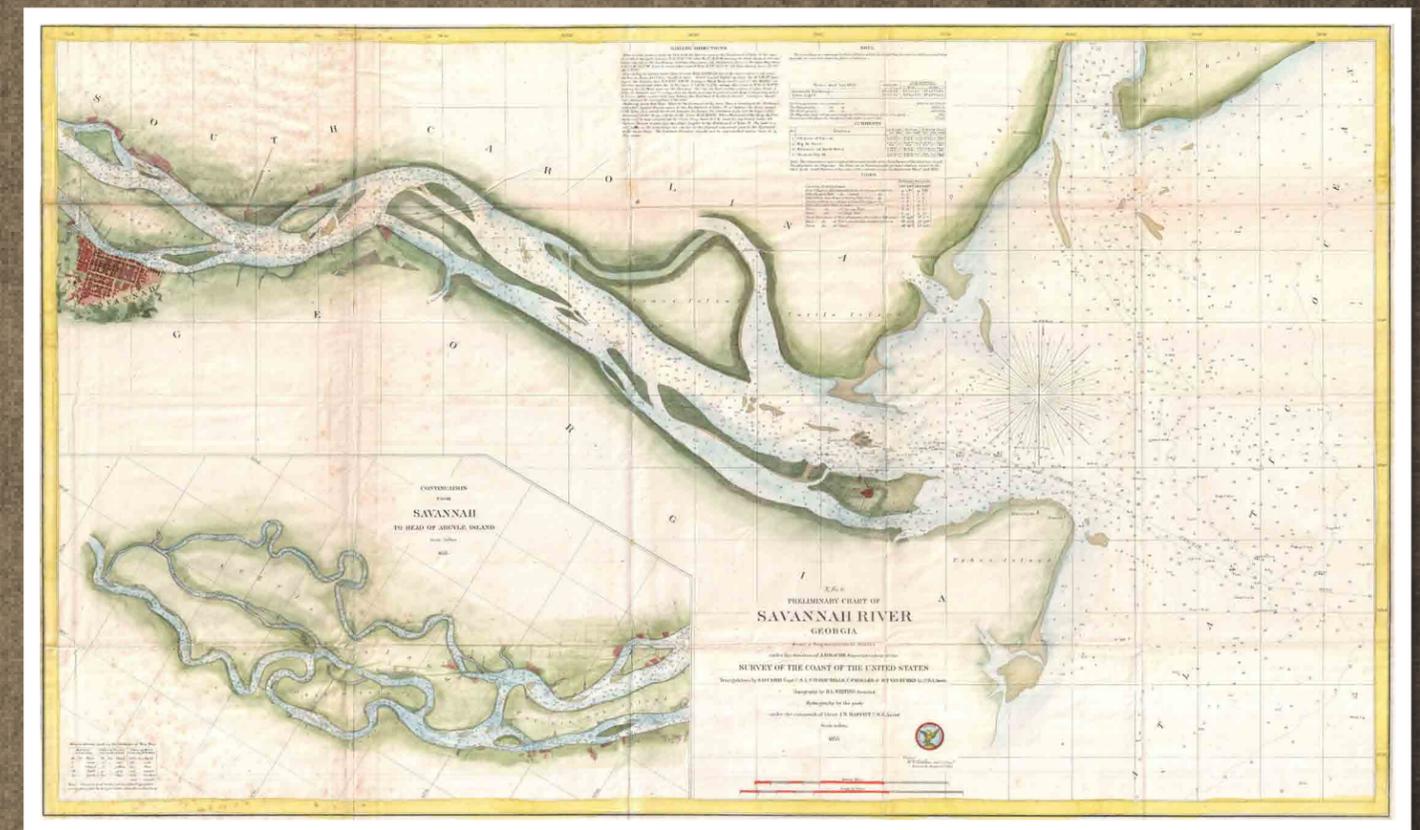
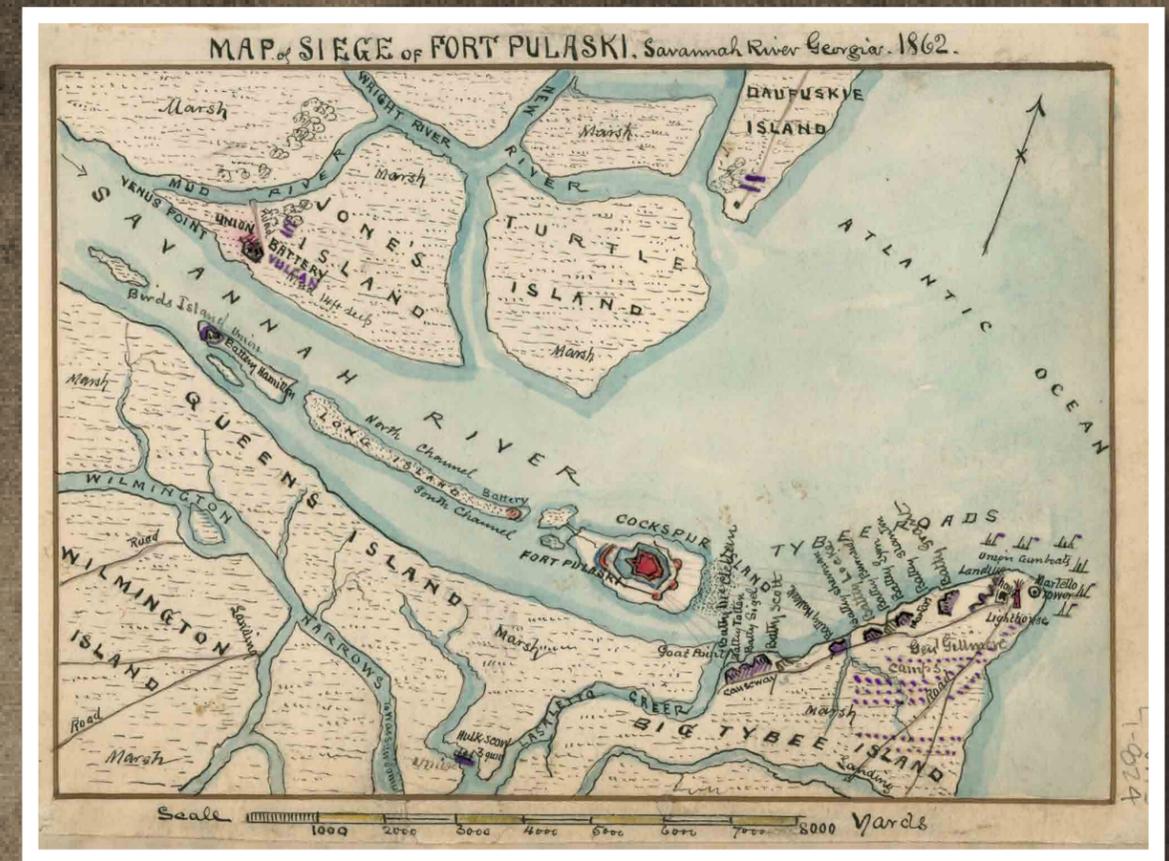
By November 1861, the Union had affected a naval

blockade in Savannah and begun the investment of the city. Over the coming months, the Union forces would land on the islands surrounding Ft. Pulaski, build roads, and haul massive siege cannons through swamp and thorn-twisted wood. More than 200 men were required to move each cannon. By April 1862, Tybee Island bristled with 36 Union cannon.

On April 10, Maj Gen. David Hunter, newly appointed Union commander, demanded the surrender of Ft. Pulaski. Col. Charles Olmstead, in command of Pulaski returned that he had come to defend the fort, not to surrender it. At 8:00 in the morning, federal guns initiated fire on Ft. Pulaski. The bombardment went on all day with fire massed on the southeastern wall of the fort. By sunset, the southeast wall had been breached by concentrated, rifled cannon fire. Firing resumed the next day and Union cannons managed to enlarge the breach and send explosive shells rolling into the fort's interior. With shells landing dangerously close to the fort's powder magazine, Col. Olmstead realized the situation was hopeless and surrendered the fort. The colors were struck at 2:30 p.m.

The surrender of Ft. Pulaski sent shock waves North and South and forced the Confederacy to rethink its coastal defense strategy. Rather than contest the barrier islands, the Confederates built networks of inland defensive positions designed to remove Union attackers from their naval heavy fire and transportation assets. The architect of this revised design was the commander of the Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida: Robert E. Lee. Lee's revised defensive strategy would be tested in June at the Battle of Secessionville, SC.

Next month: Gun Boats, Guardsmen, Coca Cola, and the Guard mission who linked them all



DECISIVENESS IN COIN OPERATIONS: A PERSPECTIVE FROM A COUNTER INSURGENCY INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Terry Tucker, author of Counterinsurgency Methods & The Global War on Terror, and former instructor at the US COIN academy in Kabul, examines the role of conventional operations in a counter-insurgency (COIN) environment. This month, we asked Dr. Tucker:

What is the decisive point in counterinsurgency and can conventional operations be decisive in a COIN environment?

Dr. Tucker: I don't want to be cliché, but regrettably I need to be. The Human Terrain is what is decisive. Everything we do must work across security, governance, and economics to begin to achieve that decisiveness.

Everything that we do in stability operations, COIN, or security cooperation should strive to achieve support from the Human Terrain. In COIN, it is an accumulation of many small successes which run in packs across multiple lines of operation that can make the outcome decisive on a political, economic, and social level. It is decisive when the locals support your integrated actions.

Decisiveness in COIN begins with information operations. To borrow from Texas University, our information operations (IO) mantra should be: "Come early, stay late, be loud." I will caveat this with "very often" and "in cultural context." There will be significant debate over what I am about to say, but, all operations planning must first proceed with an IO message. In other words, create the message and messages you want to signal to the population; make sure that message matches the cultural narrative and then plan your actions to match the IO. The operational and strategic decisiveness comes from an accumulation of these kinds of "wins."

Think in terms of business development, like when they bring in the Program/Operations guys to match the message, scope of work, and metrics before you present it to the customer. In every case, the tools you use will be different. Business, like conflict, has a toolkit of many tools. Sometimes it requires a hostile takeover, sometimes it's a subtle erosion of market share through a superior product and service, sometimes it comes from a very solid

relationship and leadership, or from the recommendation of a trusted friend or associate. In COIN you are employing the same techniques with the same varying degrees of separation, trying to gain "market share", but that market share is Human Terrain and everything does not require a hammer. The tool box of available hard and soft tools should be tailored to each unique operating environment and mission. Disproportionate effect will come from harnessing the social-cultural elements to your plans and operations, primarily through continuous messaging and Information operations. I can achieve tactical disproportionate effect quite easily with a high-value target (HVT), it takes an accumulation of narratives and counter-narratives which match my actions into IO/MISO to gain this across your lines of operations.

Successfully targeting an HVT with the host nation and your coalition partners, with no collateral damage, can be decisive tactically, operationally and strategically. In this example, it is decisive because it deprives the insurgents of its operational commanders and is a surprise. Insurgent commanders become fearful of when, where, and how to travel, and it also takes time to groom new insurgent leadership. It disrupts insurgent tactical operations.



THE GUARD WORKS: JOBS IN TRANSPORTATION

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

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., March 22, 2012 – Nearly 13,000 truck-driving jobs will be created in the next four years with an average pay of \$18.81 per hour, according to a Jan. 8, 2012, article in the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*. Military veterans and Guardsmen are well suited for careers in the expanding field of transportation.

"Military experience makes (Guardsmen) very good candidates for driver positions," said Brad Barber, Director of the Conyers-based Georgia Driving Academy. "The hardest problem for military drivers is deciding who they will go to work for."

For those Soldiers considering a career in transportation, the first challenge is obtaining a commercial driver's license. According to the Georgia Department of Driver Services, a commercial driver's license is required to operate vehicles weighing more than 13 tons, carry more than 15 persons, or require hazardous material placards. The minimum age for a commercial driver's license is 18, however, drivers aged 18-21 cannot drive commercial vehicles out of state.

The National Guard Bureau, the Georgia National Guard, and representatives from the transportation industry have had a history of collaborating to make earning a commercial driver's license easier for Veterans. May 2009, the Army National Guard launched the "Drive the Guard" program. The intent of Drive the Guard was to provide Army Guard members with the opportunity to attend an approved truck driving school within their state and receive a commercial driver's license.

Drive the Guard was a pilot program designed to increase interest in transportation careers and to facilitate licensing of veterans. The program succeeded in raising awareness of the value of Veteran drivers to the transportation industry. While the Drive the Guard program is no longer active, its legacy lives on in the partnerships developed between the Guard, driving schools, and transportation companies.

Of particular interest for Guardsmen are opportunities to use their tuition assistance and GI benefits for commercial driver's license training. The Georgia Driving Academy offers commercial driving training in Conyers and Columbus. Since 1995, GDA has provided a 3-week instructional program, designed to prepare prospective commercial drivers. GDA offers job placement assistance as part of the first week of instruction.

"Students complete employment applications in the first week," Said Barber. "Most students receive a response within one-to-two days and get an employment offer contingent upon graduation." As of publication, 64 Guardsmen have trained with GDA, and five Guardsmen are currently in the program.

Three trucking companies offer professional truck driver incentive programs which target military veterans: Schneider, TMC, and Werner Enterprises. These companies recruit GDA graduates.

"Transport employers love the military," Barber said. "Companies are willing to work with Soldiers. Most Guardsmen have their schedule one year ahead and can present it to dispatchers to clear their schedule."

Barber believes transportation to be a field in which the Guardsman can enjoy potential for growth and mobility.

"Transportation is universal," said Barber. "Wherever you go, there will be transportation jobs. It is one of the easiest career fields to move with."



DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT STAFF DOUBLES UP ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

Story by Maj. Will Cox
Photos by Philip Bowden
Public Affairs Office
Georgia Army National Guard

PEACHTREE CITY, Ga., April 12, 2012 – Colonel Brent Bracewell’s love of flying and desire to serve goes well beyond his 25 years of service in the United States Army and the Georgia Army National Guard as a pilot and the current Georgia National Guard Director of the Joint Staff. He also finds time to volunteer with the Civil Air Patrol’s Peachtree City-Falcon Field Composite Squadron, GA-116, as a Character Development Instructor.

“A Character Development Instructor is the Civil Air Patrol’s version of a Chaplain. I teach a one-hour class each month on moral leadership and character development to the cadets,” said Col. Bracewell. “Having grown up in the Army, I use the seven Army Values and four Warrior Ethos to guide discussions each month.”

Bracewell first chose to volunteer with the CAP because of his daughters. He wanted to volunteer in an organization that any child could join.

“I think children like the CAP because it provides structure, discipline, and leadership development. If a child wants to join the military, the CAP is a great place to learn basic military culture and structure prior to joining the service or going to a military academy,” said Bracewell.

“I love volunteering with the CAP because it allows me to be a first-line leader again. I think our senior leaders, both officer and enlisted, would enjoy volunteering with the CAP because they can influence and impact cadet formations at the name tag level and help cadets learn

valuable life lessons. However, the CAP also has a need for volunteers to participate in their adult-only programs which focus on emergency services such as search and rescue that save over 100 lives a year across the country,” Bracewell said.

The Civil Air Patrol is the civilian counterpart to the United States Air Force and has been helping serve our community and protect our country since December 1, 1941. The CAP is a non-profit volunteer organization with an aviation-minded membership that performs three congressionally assigned key missions: emergency services, aerospace education, and cadet programs for teenage youth.

The CAP may be best known for its role in search and

rescue operations. The CAP fleet and members also help move leaders and medical supplies in support of humanitarian aid and disaster relief operations. The CAP affiliation with the Air Force makes it a perfect partner in exercise support, and it continues to expand its support to local communities through counterdrug operations support as “eyes in the sky.”

The 16-step CAP cadet program challenges cadets mentally and

physically to develop into a confident civic-minded adult through aerospace education, physical fitness, leadership challenges, and moral leadership training.

“If you think children today don’t have the right stuff, you don’t hang out with the kids that I hang out with. We sent two kids to West Point last year and just recently went to Florida to watch one of our CAP alumni launch into space on a Space Shuttle,” said Bracewell.



GUARD TRUCK DRIVER LOVES WHAT HE DOES

Story by Desiree Bamba
Public Affairs Office
Georgia Department of Defense

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., April 6, 2012 – In 2008, Sgt. Troy Wadford – an 88 Mike2O (Motor Transport Operator-Level 2) joined the Georgia Army National Guard after a 23-year break in service as a Marine weapons specialist.

When he came to the Guard, Wadford – who serves with Thomasville’s 1230th Transportation Company, 78th Homeland Response Force – continued to carry his Marine specialty. Shortly before deploying to Afghanistan with Macon’s 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, he and his fellow gunners were required to renew their tactical vehicle driver’s license.

“I got to tell you, I am glad the unit required me to get my license,” Wadford explained, “As much as I may have liked what I did as a Marine, driving any rig, large or small is something I found I really love to do.”

Because of his previous service as a Marine, Wadford was not required to attend the Army’s Advance Individual Training for his job skill, but the education and training for this MOS usually includes seven weeks of training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

As an 88 Mike, and a mid-level leader, some of Wadford’s tasks include supervising and providing technical guidance to other Soldiers so they become more proficient in their Military Occupational Skill (MOS), organizing and often times leading convoys, dispatching vehicles, and verifying vehicle logbooks.

There are a number of skills necessary to be able to be an efficient tactical vehicle driver, Wadford said. These include, but are not limited to, having good depth perception, good hand-eye coordination, knowing about load planning and knowing the equipment inside out.

“If it rolls, we drive it,” Wadford says, “Our goal is getting what’s needed where it needs to be, and on time, so that units can conduct their mission – whatever it may be – in the most efficient way possible.”

As a part of his job, Sgt. Wadford helps complete Soldiers training.

“I thoroughly enjoy my job,” Sgt. Wadford says, “I have the benefit of seeing and helping junior Soldiers learn what is required for them to do and see them doing their job well.”

Wadford said the 88Mike MOS is great if someone is not sure of what they want to do in the Guard, or just simply gets as big a kick as he does out of driving the heavy rigs.

“It is a great job that allows one to drive different types of vehicles and to learn how to take care of the vehicles they operate,” Wadford states. “With the 88 Mike MOS, one is able to acquire a civilian job as a heavy or light truck driver, become a dispatcher for a trucking company or possibly a transportation supervisor or manager.

As Wadford continues his career as a Citizen-Soldier, he plans to also continue increased his knowledge about trucks, transport operations and the like. At some point, he said, he also has plans to start his own line haul company.

(Editor’s note: Photos for this story were provided by the 1230th Transportation Company)



REGIONAL COMPETITION NEXT STEP FOR GUARD 'BEST WARRIORS'

*Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Roy Henry
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Georgia Army National Guard*

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., March 23, 2012 – After three days of tough and intense in-state rivalry, two Georgia Army Guardsmen – one from Athens, the other from Atlanta – have been selected from among 12 Soldiers and noncommissioned officers to represent Georgia at this year's Region III Soldier and NCO of the Year Best Warrior competition.

Region III takes place May 7-11, 2012, in Mississippi. When this happens, Spc. Carlton G. Westbrook and Sgt. 1st Class David Krempa will compete against fellow Army Guardsmen from the eight other states and territories, including Kentucky, Tennessee, the Carolinas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, for a place in the national competition later this year.

"Getting here, getting to compete at the next level is by no means an easy feat," stated Command Sgt. Maj. James Nelson, the Georgia Army Guard's most senior enlisted leader. Nelson himself competed for, and won, the title of NCO of the Year back in 1985.

"As much as we praise Specialist Westbrook and Sergeant First Class Krempa for their outstanding performances, we also applaud the strength, stamina and spirit of those with whom they competed," Nelson added. "Although there can only be one noncommissioned officer 'Best Warrior,' each and every one of the competitors should be very proud of how well they did this week. They are all winners."

Among the events used to assess each competitor's physical endurance and basic Soldiers skills are the Army Physical Fitness Test, weapons familiarization and marksmanship, detainee searches, the ability to call for medical evacuation, and the ability to apply first aid measures to an injured comrade. A Soldier's map-reading and land navigation skills, as well as how long it takes them to complete a six-mile march carrying a fully loaded backpack are also evaluated. New this

year at the state level competition was Combatives, the personal fighting program used by the Army to teach Soldiers to incapacitate an attacker.

Westbrook is a truck driver with Winder's Company E, 148th Brigade Support Battalion, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Company E provides logistical support to 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry, also headquartered in Winder, Ga. As a civilian, he works as a land surveyor for Williams and Associates in Athens.

"The competition and the events were intense, especially during Combatives and the ruck march," Westbrook said. "Every Soldier I competed against was just as tough and intense and as determined as I was to win. Yet, we all walked away better, I believe, for the experience, as individuals and as Soldiers."

Krempa is a full-time instructor at Clay with the 122nd Regional Training Institute's Military Intelligence Academy. He has also picked up the job of noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the Military Intelligence Specialist Advanced Leadership Course. As proud as he is to represent the institute and the unit he drills with, Marietta's 78th Homeland Response Force, he is even prouder to be representing them and Georgia at Region III.

"I hope others see and feel the excitement I have as I go on to Region III," Krempa said. "I'm ready to show that Specialist Westbrook and I are going to train hard and compete hard to win the right to go on to the national level and, eventually, the all-Army competition."

Brigadier Gen. Joe Jarrard, Georgia Army Guard Commander, was among those praising Westbrook and Krempa's performances over the past three days, and celebrate all the Guardsmen who tried for this year's Soldier and NCO Best Warrior title.

"Each of them has shown us all that Georgia Guardsmen have what it takes to be called 'Citizen-Soldier,'" Jarrard said. "You truly are our best of the best, and I hope you take what you have learned during this competition back to your Soldiers and share with them what that means to you, to them, and to our organization."



AFGHANS AND TASK FORCE HYDRA

PARTNER FOR EDUCATION

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

KABUL, Afghanistan, Apr. 15, 2012 – Soldiers of the 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Task Force Hydra, alongside Afghan National Army (ANA) Officials, participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for a school renovation in a neighboring community of Camp Black Horse and the Afghan Training Center here Saturday.

The Pol-e Charki project is to both renovate the school and install a well which will provide drinkable water for the thousands of students the school serves.

Task Force Hydra is active throughout Kabul as the Kabul Base Cluster Command working with Kabul's political leaders, religious leaders, police and ANA to provide humanitarian assistance and funding for projects that both provide better quality of life and employ local Afghan workers. This groundbreaking represented the beginning of a partnership between the Pol-e Charki community, the ANA and the TF Hydra Team at Camp Black Horse.

Saturday's ceremony was well attended by both the students and their families. Task Force Hydra Commander, Col. Andy Hall was present to participate by shoveling some of the first ground that will be the future location of the admin building.

"Those are the faces of our future," Hall said referring to the children who were present at the ceremony. "I expect quality work to be done here."

The ground breaking was also an opportunity for the teams to distribute over 500 bags of school supplies collected by Operation Outreach, a soldier-run humanitarian organization, for the school's head master to share with the students. Daniels, Hall and Quadem Sha personally handed out the supplies to students who were present.

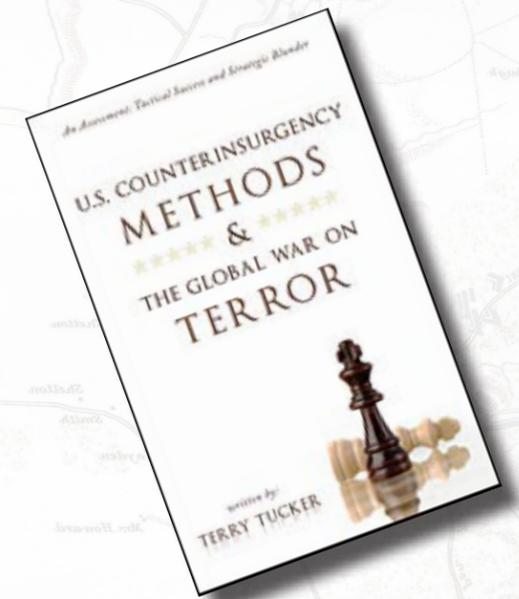
In addition to providing a new school admin building, remodeling of the main classroom building and the well, the project will employ 60 local Afghans.

This school is the site of one of the nine current humanitarian projects that Task Force Hydra is currently overseeing.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOOKSHELF:

REVIEWS OF BOOKS THAT TEACH US ABOUT OUR CRAFT



By 1st Lt. William Carraway
Public Affairs Officer
Georgia Department of Defense

The 48th IBCT deployed for Operation Enduring Freedom in 2009. In May 2009, in the course of 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry's introductory briefings in Kabul, we were introduced to Dr. Terry Tucker, Operations Training and Management Mentor for the Afghan National Army.

Dr. Tucker provided guidance on counter insurgency (COIN) and methods for working with the Afghan population, forces, and non-government organizations. Dr. Tucker has collected many of his observations of COIN techniques in his book *Counterinsurgency Methods & the Global War on Terror*.

It is no exaggeration to say that this book, and Dr. Tucker's subsequent visits to Kunduz, helped shape the success of our (Delta Company, 2-121) mission in Afghanistan.

"We still have not made the most important shift of all – the mental shift from conventional operations to counter insurgency."

Dr. Terry Tucker served 24 years in the Infantry, Armor, and Cavalry. Retiring as a Sergeant Major, he

served as an instructor and advisor to the U.S. Army, Royal Saudi Land Forces, and the Afghan National Army. By the time 2-121 arrived in Kabul, Dr. Tucker was in his fifth year of instructing at the Kabul-based Counter Insurgency Academy.

His experience in the Army and his time on the ground in Afghanistan informs the pages of his book with a language and perspective that will be instantly familiar to one who has participated in COIN.

For those unfamiliar with COIN doctrine, Dr. Tucker breaks down the subject with understandable metaphors and allusions to the business world.

One example is his treatment of the human terrain element, which he compares to market share. Dr. Tucker notes that there are multiple methods used by companies to achieve market share, many of which occur simultaneously. COIN and conventional operations must also be synchronized.

Dr. Tucker notes that the Army is in a state of change with regard to how best to execute COIN operations. The Army's transformation to meet the asymmetrical post-9-11 threat has not been a smooth journey, nor is that journey complete.

For one thing, Dr. Tucker notes that Army Doctrine has been slow to process and implement the changes. To examine the state of COIN doctrine, Dr. Tucker explores the history of doctrine development from World War II to present day. He also examines the role of decisive operations in terms of mass vs. precision. Where "Shock and Awe" was a means to achieve a decisive end in the conventional battlefield, the challenge in the COIN environment is to balance conventional with psychological effects to achieve disproportionate effects.

AROUND THE GEORGIA GUARD



11 ALIVE HOSTS “HIRING OUR HEROES” EVENT

Colonel Mark London and Command Sgt. Maj. Phillip Stringfield, Director and Command Sergeant Major of Georgia National Guard Soldier and Family Services, live chat with Veterans during a “Hiring our Heroes” event hosted by WXIA 11 Alive. More than 450 Veterans participated in the live session which featured employers as well as service providers.



648TH MEB REACHES OUT TO AFGHAN CHILDREN

Sergeant Amanda Neil, a member of the Task Force Hydra Staff Judge Advocate team, gives candy to girls at a local school on a recent visit with the civil affairs team. The school is the site of one of seven current humanitarian projects Task Force Hydra is currently overseeing.

ISRAELI DELIGATION VISITS JFHQ, MEETS WITH GEORGIA GUARD LEADERSHIP

Major Gen. Jim Butterworth, Georgia’s Adjutant General (center) and Brig. Gen. Joe Jarrard, Georgia Army Guard Commander (right), sit down with Consul General Opher Aviran, Consul General of Israel to the South Eastern United States, and other Israeli government officials in a cooperative exchange of ideas during a recent visit by the Israeli delegation to the Ga. DoD’s new Joint Force Headquarters Building.



GEORGIA GUARD SUPPORTS SOUTHWEST BORDER MISSION

Georgia’s own Charlie Company, 2-151 Aviation Security and Support Battalion, has elements deployed in support of the U.S. Southwest border. Charlie Company is part of a multi-layered effort targeting illicit networks that traffic people, drugs, illegal weapons and money. Using the new LUH-72 Lakota airframe, the unit serves as the “eyes in the sky” for border patrol operations spotting border violations.



648TH MEB MEETS FIRST FEMALE GENERAL IN AFGHAN ARMY

Female Guardsmen with the 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade gather around the Afghan National Army’s first female general during a meet-and-greet at Camp Phoenix. Brigadier Gen. Khatol Mohammadzai has been in the Afghan military for almost 30 years. She used the meeting as an opportunity to explain to her Georgian counterparts how she helped pave the way for other females in the Afghan military.



Fifth Annual Combatives Tournament

GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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