

GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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The *Georgia Guardsman*

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www.dod.state.ga.us

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July Events

July 3, 2009

Villa Rica Independence Day Celebration at the Villa Rica Civic Center, Villa Rica.

The 116th Army Band's "Funk Band," will provide a free concert at the Georgia Music Hall of Fame, Macon.

July 4, 2009

BG Maria Britt is the keynote speaker for the Fabulous Fourth Festival at the Georgia International Horse Park, Conyers, Ga., at 5 p.m.

The 116th Army Band will be marching in the parade and 78th Aviation Troop Command will provide a helicopter fly-over of the parade route during the Dunwoody Independence Day Parade, Dunwoody.

For more events visit: http://gadod.net/index.php?option=com_eventlist&view=eventlist&Itemid=105

Social Networking

The Georgia Guardsman is now on:

 Twitter

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A Peachtree in Afghanistan: 2009 Roadrace honors Georgia's fallen Warriors

Story & photos by Sgt. Tracy J. Smith
CJTF IX/48th IBCT PAO

POL-E-CHARKI, Afghanistan, ANA Training Camp Blackhorse – Kevin Jenrette and his wife, Shannon, marked their July 3rd wedding anniversary by making the trek from their home in North Georgia to downtown Atlanta; taking in a show and enjoying each other. The next morning they would awaken, tie on their running shoes and hit the pavement.

“My wife and I have ran (the Atlanta Track Club Peachtree Road race) for the last five years,” Jenrette said in an email dated May 15 to his friend, his ‘brother’, Captain Timothy Tatem, a

signal officer for the 108th Cavalry Regiment, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and Georgia I-T professional.

The tough exterior the Army Ranger and ‘108th Cav’ executive officer typically showed was shattered as Major Jenrette shared this very intimate detail of his personal life with Tatem. A tender side many did not often see.

“(Jenrette) embodied what it

meant to be a (108th Cavalry Regiment) Roughrider,” Tatem said describing his Warrior friend as he adjusted the box on his desk that held Jenrette’s Stetson hat. The brand of felt hat traditionally worn by the pioneer mounted cavalry

that modern Soldiers continue to wear. Part homage to the history and part deference to the motto that begins...’If you ain’t Cav...’

“He was tough, but fair,” Tatem said. “Always looking to do what would motivate his Soldiers.”

The email, albeit personal in nature, was part of the initial planning phases to bring a piece of home to the Georgia Army National Guard Citizen-Soldiers living more than 7,100 miles away. Jenrette was excited that they would be celebrating the independence of America against the backdrop of the Hindu Kush Mountains.

With a new training mission being planned with his Afghan Army charges taking him away from the ‘Roughrider’ base camp Jenrette ended his message, almost tellingly, by saying “I might not be there, but knowing we are having it at Blackhorse does make it, (missing a chance to celebrate with his bride), easier.”

When Jenrette and two other Georgia Warriors, Sergeant Jeffrey Jordon and Sgt. 1st Class John Beale, along with a fellow National Guardsman and mentor-trainer, Major Rocco M. Barnes, of California lost their lives June 4, Tatem pushed on, just as his brave comrades did when they encountered their challenge that day. Their memory would be honored through the strength needed to endure 10-kilometers at 6,500 feet above sea level in Afghanistan. A world away from a Peachtree Road.

At 10:00pm Eastern Standard Time, (July 2nd in Atlanta), while runners in the states rested in preparation for the Independence Day celebration, the small contingent of Warriors, U.S. and NATO, assigned as mentors to the Afghan National Army’s 201st Af-



“Badge of Honor” – A Soldier gives a first glimpse at the ‘bib’ that will be worn by runners, July 3, at Camp Blackhorse in Afghanistan during the 2009 AJC Peachtree Road Race Time Group 11: Afghanistan. The annual 10K event will be celebrated around the world.

ghanistan Corps in Pol-E-Charki, just outside of Kabul, Afghanistan stepped to a heavily fortified entrance at Camp Blackhorse to clock-in as the first to complete the 2009 leg of the Peachtree as Time Group 11.

As an international blend some of the coalition Warriors had never heard of the Peachtree but knew the Soldiers lost. The small camp was perfect for building close acquaintances even with language presenting its own unique challenge.

Corporal Said MeJalad, a French Army transmissions and communications specialist manages English well enough. Of course the French translation for 'y'all' may prove just as formidable as running the 6.2 miles at 6,500 feet above sea level.

MeJalad remembers managing a

'hello' around the camp to the National Guardsmen. As a Soldier he knows that it is not healthy to dwell on certain things because sadness may cause distraction. Instead he focuses on the benefits of the run and the camaraderie that will be reinforced.

"I know it is very good for me because I get to run with my American friends and I have not been training for some time," MeJalad explained. "I run quite often in France and here the mission does not allow much time so this will be very good for me."

Others have a been-there-done-that mentality when it comes to the Peachtree.

Walt W. Hardy is a veteran twice removed. A retired aviation Command Sgt. Major and ANA Senior NCO mentor for the 201st Afghanistan

Corps with the professional contracting firm MPRI, he works alongside the multinational Mentor and Liaison Teams (OMLTs).

The Suffolk, Va. resident has also trekked the AJC Atlanta Peachtree Road Race before and proudly donned his coveted 2006 shirt, celebrating the 48th IBCT's return from Iraq. The Macon Volunteers marched down Peachtree Street after the race celebrating with those from throughout the state who welcomed them back.

It was for this honor he wore his shirt and was elated to celebrate Independence Day, again, with the Warriors from the South he welcomed



"Bring it on!" - Corporal Said MeJalad, a French Army Soldier based at Camp Blackhorse in Afghanistan as a French OMLT, prepares to take on the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team sponsored leg of the 2009 AJC Atlanta Peachtree Road Race Time Group 11.

home three years before. “I was excited to see a new group of high-speed guys and saddened at their loss so soon after arriving,” Hardy said speaking on the races dedication to the four Soldiers that were killed. “What’s most important is that these guys are focused on the camaraderie piece and making sure they bring a bit of home to this environment.”

A thought of home was where 2nd Lt. Michael G. Mallon found himself



“Push it Good!” Spc. Jeremy C. Hickman a Radio and Communications Specialist and 2nd Lt. Michael G. Mallon, a signal officer, both with 108th Cavalry Regiment based in Calhoun, Ga., sprint toward the finish line of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team sponsored leg of the 2009 AJC Atlanta Peachtree Road Race Time Group 11 in Afghanistan.

as he told of the first time he met Major Jenrette. He was a college student when he got a telephone call from the 108th Cav’s executive officer. The major’s booming voice was all business but, the signal officer explained, he knew that this was a true leader who lived the creed of the Georgia Army National Guard: ‘Soldier’s Matter.’

Mallon was assured of that.

“Major Jenrette was the first person I met when I came to the 108th,” the Bostonian explained of his entrée into the Georgia Military’s Officers Corps. “When I first got my orders to come to the unit he made sure I was squared away coordinating my (paperwork) and making sure I had my courses completed before this deployment. Jordan was one of the guys in my shop and he was good! I miss them both very much.”

Mallon paused as if remembering a special detail that he couldn’t share and smiled as he placed his Peachtree Road Race bib number 1056 on his Army P-T shirt. Snapping back to reality he begins to stretch and focus returns. “I’m sure they would be running with us if they could. They are definitely running with us in spirit. I hope I can do them justice and bring one home for the 108th team.”

Mallon lived up to his determination running a very impressive 45 minutes 16 seconds beating out MeJalad by just over 5 minutes. He didn’t win the race, however, coming in minutes behind a Portuguese Army Lt. Col., Paulo Santos, who whipped through the dusty, gravel impaired course at 41 minutes 26 seconds.

What’s war without challenges?

Specialist Steven Dotson of Rome, Ga. took up the challenge of being a force of protection for his country. He and his childhood friend went to the recruiting office and joined September 11, 2006. Five years after the World Trade Center attack.

He and Sgt. Jordan, a rank his friend achieved posthumously, chose that date while still in middle school. They celebrated their birthdays down-range; February for Jordan and April for Dotson.

“Growing up we were always com-

peting,” Dotson recalled of that prepubescent conversation at Model Middle School that brought them both to Afghanistan. “We always had a special bond and got in each other’s way when it came to promotions. (When) we got here we were ready to go out; you know, do what we came to do here and complete this thing. He got to go (on the mission) and I had to stay here. I kind of felt left behind.”

On this race day he is not running the race. He was doing what he vowed to always do for his friend by being a pillar of strength and support to the others who were out there challenging the road and dry air. It concerns him that he didn’t get a chance to go out with Jordan that day. That he was left behind

“Major ‘J’ got him to go out there with him...I guess they didn’t want us both out at the same time. He was trying to get me to go as well but they had to hold me out here,” Dotson gives a surprising laugh at a thought. “We always had the same job and did our weekends at the same armories which we knew was dumb when it came to promotions.”

They were communication professionals for the 108th Cav but deep in their Soldier souls they were scouts; Infantry Warriors. Dotson said his friend would not go out unless he gunning, Soldier-slang for manning the hatch in the vehicle. They both shared that passion for Soldiering.

He doesn’t talk about what is running through his mind. Perhaps he ponders what he could have been done differently. Maybe it is simply the pause we sometimes take to appreciate memories of a friend.



“Raising the colors with pride” Portuguese Army Lt. Col. Paulo Santos, a senior officer mentor with the Camp Blackhorse Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT), raises the top finisher award banner during the awards ceremony of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team sponsored leg of the 2009 AJC Atlanta Peachtree Road Race Time Group 11 in Afghanistan July 3. The presentation from Capt. Timothy Tatem and race director, Master Sgt. Carl P. Allen (uniform, center) was designed to give the Soldiers at the training facility a taste of home.

“He was an excellent Soldier and he would do anything for anybody – it didn’t matter. He was all about completing the mission and if he didn’t know how to do it he would learn how.”

That day the four Warriors memorialized in a run celebrated at home taught them all a valuable lesson: Celebrate each other by being strong!

Soldiers, leaders hone skills

Intell unit trains hard, displays 'can do attitude'



Dust blurs the image of two Company C members—one playing a possible enemy fighter, the other the Soldier detaining him—in a simulated village.



A member of Company C puts "boots on the ground" after having made it safely down a Fort Gordon rappelling tower. The Soldier behind him is what's known in the sport as the "belay man." He's responsible for keeping the rappeler straight on his way down.

Story and photos provided by Company C, 221st Military Intelligence Battalion

FORT GORDON, AUGUSTA, June 2009 – When Ellenwood's Company C, 221st Military Intelligence Battalion, conducts annual training, it spends those two weeks not only honing its "intel" gathering skills, but also learning new skills and staying qualified on its weapons systems.

"Which is as it should be," said CPT. John Fuchko III, the unit's commander. "Our Soldiers not only 'meet the standard,' but they stepped-up and stepped-out in training new leaders and building esprit de corps among the company.

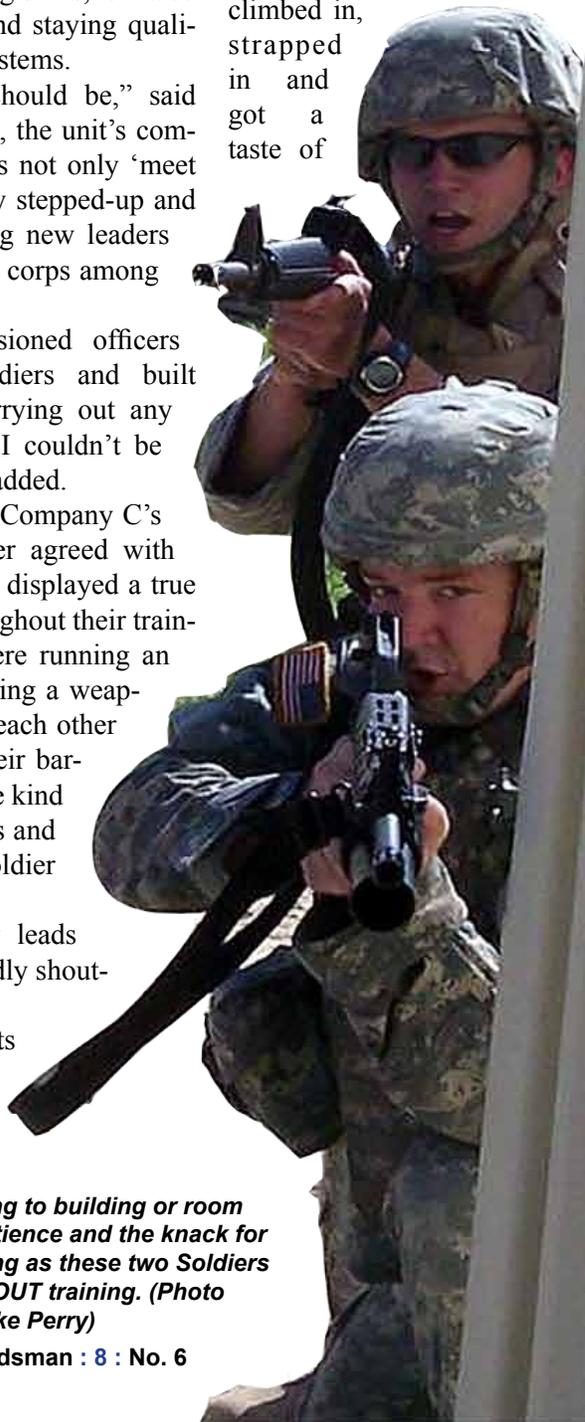
"Our non-commissioned officers developed their Soldiers and built teams capable of carrying out any mission given them. I couldn't be prouder of them," he added.

ISG Pedro Lopez, Company C's senior enlisted Soldier agreed with his boss. "Our people displayed a true 'can-do' attitude throughout their training. Whether they were running an obstacle course, working a weapons range or helping each other move into or clear their barracks, they showed the kind of ambition, eagerness and confidence every Soldier should have.

"Charlie Company leads the way," Lopez proudly shouted.

Among the events Company C conducted during an-

nual training was vehicle roll-over safety. Using the Army's Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer (Heat) – built to resemble the body of a Humvee, complete with an enclosed gunner's position—unit members climbed in, strapped in and got a taste of



Movement from building to building or room to room takes time, patience and the knack for being ready for anything as these two Soldiers demonstrate during MOUT training. (Photo Illustration by Spc. Mike Perry)

what it's like to be inside one that's turned over onto its top.

Roll-overs are something the Army –active, Guard and Reserve– has been training its people to survive for several years now. Soldiers are taught how to react goes “inverted,” and then safely, but quickly, extract themselves and their comrades from the vehicle.

Other Soldier tasks Company C worked on during its annual training included Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) –going from building to building, and room to room in a mock town, as they clear it of “enemy fighters”– rappelling and weapons qualification.

“Firing the 9-mm [semiautomatic pistol] was quite an experience,” said SPC Amber Jackson, a human intelligence (HUMINT) collection team member.

“While I do carry, and qualify, with the M16 rifle, firing the ‘nine mil,’ gives me the ability to handle that weapon with confidence should I ever have to use it,” added Jackson.

As part of the 221st, Fort Gillem based Company C is a human intelligence (HUMINT) collection unit. It and the 221st are elements of Georgia’s 560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (BFSB). Over the past few years, Company C and the 221st have deployed in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.



As does any Soldier, members of Company C must know how to provide first aid, including starting intravenous fluids, for their comrades.

Immersion in Taiwan

During the month of June, Charlie Company, 221st MI BN, coordinated with the U.S. Army Pacific Command, USARPAC, to send a soldier for language immersion training. This coordination was made possible through the joint effort of the 221st MI BN and 560th BFSB staff and with the support of the J-3. The purpose of the training was language refresher for a DLI graduate in the language of Mandarin Chinese. The soldier, SPC Crystal Navarro, was first sent to USARPAC in Ft. Shafter, HI, and afterwards to Taipei, Taiwan for a combined period of three weeks.

The first week of training was conducted at Ft. Shafter, HI. During this week SPC Navarro was briefed on



the mission's goals and objectives, as well as the customs and courtesies of

Taiwan. The second and third week of training was spent working with USARPAC, the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), and the Army in Taiwan. USARPAC went to attend the Taiwan Mid-Planning Conference to discuss and plan a five-year list of events to achieve the goals set out by Taiwan.

During this trip, SPC Navarro was afforded the opportunity to continuously speak her target language. She was placed as a working linguist, where she studied how linguists translated quickly between one language to the next, and was able to practice her own skill

with the language. There she was also able to study the dialectal differences between Mandarin spoken in Taiwan versus Mandarin spoken in mainland China.

Overall, the trip not only furthered the soldier's language abilities but it contributed to knowledge of international relations. Working closely with high ranking officers, she was able to view how the United States maintains relations with other countries. It provided first-hand practice for rapport building, skills essential for an MI soldier.

Guard History

Chickamauga Park, Catoosa County, July 1-21, 1910. Two soldiers of Troop A, Georgia National Guard Training Camp, Chickamauga Park.; Left to right: Sgt. Appleton, Troop D, 11th U.S. Ca. Instructor Troop A, Georgia National Guard while in camp. Acting 1st Sergeant J. B. Martin, Jr. Troop A, Georgia National Guard.--from field notes

1900 – “For the first time the State has furnished the men with uniforms” (1900 Adjutant Generals Report). Enlisted men or their company organizations owned the uniforms in the respective commands until 1900. A change occurred following the 1898 Spanish-American War due to the fact that Georgia state troops wore their uniforms into federal service, creating a company loss and a lack of uniforms for the company. In the AG's report, it was noted that the enlisted men would now be clothed for the next four or five years.

1933 – Company H, 122d Infantry, GaNG won their regimental athletic banner. The competition was under the guidance of 1LT Ernest A. Nealy, regimental

athletic officer with other regimental officers in charge of the individual sports. There were eight events: tennis; golf; boxing with four weight divisions, lightweight, welterweight, light heavy weight and heavyweight; wrestling; swimming to include free style, breaststroke, backstroke and relays; track and field; tug-of-war; baseball.

The regimental commander was COL Thomas Alexander and the athletic banner was given to the winner with the most accrued points “BY OOTER OF KURNEL ALEXANDER”.

* the above information is from the 122nd Regiment's 1933 yearbook.

August, 1951 – Ration pay for National Guardsmen drilling eight hours or more a day was one of the components of the appropriations bill passed by Congress. Among other provisions in the law passed then were medical and hospital treatment of Guardsmen who suffered injury or disease in the line of duty and attendance of Guardsmen at military service schools. Also, though some of the requested funding amount was cut, the National Guard received all of the monies asked for the construction of new armories and the expansion of others.



Georgia engineers in Guyana for humanitarian operation

Story by SFC Roy Henry
Georgia National Guard
Public Affairs Office

ATLANTA, July 17, 2009 – As members of the Georgia Army Guard, Soldiers of Augusta's 878th Engineer Battalion pride themselves in giving a hand to the citizens of their state, as well as extending it to those who need help in places far from home.

In this case the Guardsmen, who not only come from the unit headquarters on Milledge Road, but also the battalion's 876th Engineer Company in Toccoa and Hartwell, and its 175th Engineer Company at Fort Stewart in Hinesville, are among the more than 650 Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen participating in Operation New Horizons for their annual training. For the next 75 days, they are living, and working, in and around Georgetown, Guyana's capital city on the country's northeast coast.

New Horizons is the U.S. Southern Command's ongoing humanitarian effort to help developing countries across Central and South America and the Caribbean build schools, community centers and medical clinics, dig wells and provide medical care for a host country's people. There are two major construction projects going on right now.

The building of a new clinic in la Penitence, a suburb of Georgetown, belongs to the 878th.

"This unit saw the destruction of war during Operation Iraqi Freedom," said LTC David Silver, the 878th commander. "This time, we're putting our talents to work in a humanitarian endeavor.

"As a man once said, 'I hope being good at the one [making war], makes me better at the other,' and we know we can do the warfighter thing. But we're

also good at the other, and our people are excited about enhancing someone else's quality of life," Silver added.

So far, one rotation, which left June 25, 2009, has returned and another took its place on July 15. A third –and final rotation– will replace the second some time in early August.

A "duration party," handling equipment and material needs, as well as incoming and outgoing personnel for the 878th, was on the ground before the first rotation of masons, carpenters and electricians arrived. It will remain in-country until the project is complete.

"My husband, SGT Jeremy Webb, is with that group," said PFC Christina Webb. The Webbs, who live in Columbia, S.C., are electricians with the 876th Engineers. "While our training serves us well for the warfighter mission, its missions like this [New Horizons] that really gives us a chance to spotlight who we are as Citizen-Soldiers."

The unit's first rotation began putting up the walls of the 30-foot by 90-foot structure. Silver noted that the concrete pad on which the clinic will stand had been poured by. Photos taken by Joint Task Force Guyana Public Affairs show that work was done by local contractors.

The next group, which just arrived in Georgetown, finishes the outer walls, and then starts on the roof and interior walls [to include electrical wiring], said CSM Lynnward Hall, the 878th's command sergeant major.

That third, and final, rotation picks it up from there and completes the building.

Since the clinic is "turn-key" project, the keys to the building will be handed over to Guyanese representatives during a ceremony scheduled for

Guyana Quick Facts

Is in Northern South America

Borders the North Atlantic Ocean
Lies between the countries of Suriname and Venezuela

Is slightly smaller than the state of Idaho

Was a Dutch colony in the 17th Century, and then a British possession from the mid 1800s until 1966 when it won its independence from Britain

Saw the abolition of slavery and the importation of indentured servants from India to work the country's sugar plantations.

Counts bauxite, gold, diamonds, hardwood timber, shrimp and fish among its natural resources

The Guyanese people (a population of about 772,298) speak English, Amerindian dialects, Creole, Caribbean Hindustani (a dialect of Hindi) and Urdu

Has a defense force (the GDF), formed in November 1965 out of what was the British Guyana Volunteer Force, Special Service Unit and British Guiana Police Force, and that it accepts enlistees from among the civilian population.

mid September.

“That’s gonna be a great day,” said SPC Lionel Palmer. A heavy equipment operator with the 175th Engineers, Palmer is from Savannah. “There’s nothing better, in this case, than having someone benefit from the fruits of your labor.”

(Photos for this story were provided by Joint Task Force Guyana Public Affairs)











