

GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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

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Memorial Day Edition



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

SDF participates in radiological transportation exercise	3
NCO Notepad	4
Georgia Guard to stand up new history unit	5
Georgia Guard appoints first female Command Sergeant Major	7
Adjutant General convenes Strategic Management Board 2012	8
Georgia Guard ADT returns from Logar Province, Afghanistan	9
In Honors and Funeral Detail, details matter	11
Some Gave All 5k	13
Pilots with 1-169 learn take-offs, landings in dusty conditions	14
Air Guard unit honored for Iraq, Afghan service	15
Professional Development Bookshelf	16
Around the Georgia Guard	17



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SDF PARTICIPATES IN RADIOLOGICAL TRANSPORTATION EXERCISE

*Story and photos by SDF Pfc. Lisa Kennedy
Georgia State Defense Force*

WALTON COUNTY, Ga., April 17, 2012– Morgan, Newton and Walton County Emergency Management Agencies (EMAs) recognize their responsibility to protect the public from, and mitigate the consequences of, potential hazards associated with the transportation of transuranic radioactive waste through the Interstate-20 corridor.

After a year of planning, emergency personnel from the three counties, along with other local, state and federal agencies and organizations – including the Georgia State Defense Force’s 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade – successfully demonstrated that they are prepared to respond should an accident of this type occur.

The I-20 corridor is the primary east/west transportation route for radioactive transuranic waste headed for the U.S.

Department of Energy’s Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, N. M. The Georgia Emergency Management Agency, Homeland Security and local governments along the I-75, I-20 and I-285 corridors have emergency response plans outlining specific procedures for handling a hazardous materials transportation accident safely and effectively.

“There is a necessity for a properly integrated response plan in the event of an incident involving this low-level waste,” said Donnie McCullough, Walton County’s EMA

Director. “With this responsibility in mind, the Morgan, Newton and Walton EMAs, in coordination with other local response organizations, have developed policies and procedures to respond to a radioactive transportation incident, and have determined the need to conduct this exercise to test these protocols.”

The full-scale training exercise simulating a multi-vehicle accident involving a shipment of radioactive waste from Savannah River Site, several cars, and a school bus was held April 17 on Hwy 278 in Walton County. Scores of firefighters, police officers and medical personnel took part in the four-hour event.

The primary function of the 3rd Battalion was to act as “exercise facilitators.”

Soldiers manned the registration booth, were posted at critical traffic junctions to ensure scene safety, and communicated with controllers at the actual “accident scene.”

The job of the “controllers” was to ensure that the exercise went according to plan

from beginning to end and that all of the performance objectives were completed and later evaluated for efficacy.

“This was a high-visibility mission with several national, state, county and local agencies working together. GEMA had some really positive comments concerning the GSDF overall, and our performance at WIPPX, specifically. Overall, our people’s performance was outstanding,” stated SDF Capt. Tony Scharringhausen, who acted as a senior controller at the scene.



NCO NOTEPAD



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

For as long as there have been human beings on earth, there has been fascination with history. The objective study of the past leads us to formulate questions that apply to the present. It is therefore vital to challenge and interrogate historical occurrences in order to draw the correct lessons from them, for future guidance.

As the Georgia Army National Guard stands up the 161st Military History Detachment, the new unit will help us better understand the role we at the unit level must play in preserving our institutional history. Every unit historian holds an important and exciting position. They help ensure that the legacy of the unit will be captured, recorded, and preserved. In so doing, we honor the memory and work of our fellow Soldiers and Airmen.

The Georgia National Guard has a long and proud history and has been a major contributor to this nation, in both foreign and domestic capacities. This makes it even more important that we as an Enlisted Corps do our part to preserve the history of our small units and take extra pride in all the Georgia Guard has done and is doing.

A classic example of taking pride in one’s own unit

and its history is ensuring that redeploying members wear the correct former wartime service shoulder sleeve insignia (SSI).

By this, I mean that – if you should be wearing your own SSI – by no means should you replace it with one from another unit. Nothing would make me happier than for each of us to be self-checking. Non-Commissioned Officers should always make an effort to inspire, motivate and set the standard.

Who we are and where we come from as an organization is important to understand as we move toward the future. In order to learn the lessons of the past and to remind ourselves and the public about the role Georgia’s Citizen-Soldiers have played in shaping our state, our nation and the world, we must all be collectors of the things that bring our past to light.

It is fitting that, as our nation celebrates Memorial Day, we recall to memory not just who we’ve lost, but the causes for which they gave their lives. We also need to review historical events to retain the lessons hard-learned by our predecessors.

It is not enough to simply remember who we’ve lost. On Memorial Day, we should remember why we’ve lost them, and on every other day, we should remember how we lost them so as to avoid losing more in the future. For as much as Memorial Day is about loss, our endeavors with history are about the retention of great value.

“THOSE WHO CANNOT REMEMBER THE PAST ARE CONDEMNED TO REPEAT IT.”





ADT RETURNS FROM AFGHANISTAN

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

FORT GORDON, Augusta, Ga. April 21, 2012 – Hundreds of cheering family members welcomed 58 Soldiers of the Georgia Army National Guard’s Agribusiness Development Team 1 (ADT-1) home from Logar Province, Afghanistan.

ADT-1 is composed of Soldiers from 48 cities and 33 counties in Georgia and North Carolina. For 12 months, the team worked with Afghan farmers to help improve agricultural practices and provide a better quality of life for the Afghan people. In the course of their deployment, ADT-1 completed 192 ground missions and 92 air missions without a single casualty.

Major Gen. Jim Butterworth, Georgia’s Adjutant General, was present to welcome the Soldiers home.

“It is because of Soldiers like these, families like these, that the Georgia Guard can accomplish its mission,” said Butterworth.

The ADT’s commander, Col. Bill Williams III,

of Grayson, Ga., also praised the Soldiers and family members.

“Standing before you are America’s best,” said Williams. “It is an honor and a privilege to serve with such Soldiers. But our families have also paid the price for freedom.”

Emma Simpson, the six-year old daughter of Master Sgt. Dale Simpson of Grayson, expressed that cost.

“I haven’t had a Dad since he’s been overseas,” said Emma. Master Sgt. Simpson missed Emma’s first day of Kindergarten and other milestones, but the Simpson family remained strong through the separation.

“Knowing that he was doing something good for his country, and that he was coming home, kept us going,” said Simpson’s wife Julie.

Master Sgt. Simpson expressed relief at being home.

“I feel like a ton has been lifted off my shoulders. It’s good to be back with our families, and it’s good to know that we’ve left a legacy behind.”

Other Soldiers echoed the sentiments of legacy and service.

“I’m very proud to be in the Georgia Guard,” beamed Command Sgt. Maj. Randall Parker, of Richmond Hill.



“I love it! I love the family time and the time spent with the Soldiers. Family is very important to the Guard.”

Parker will now have the opportunity to enjoy family time with his twin grandchildren, who were born during the deployment.

For Maj. George McCommon, a Veterinarian from Macon, Ga., the return was bittersweet.

“It’s a bit surreal,” said McCommon. “We had a great time in Afghanistan and we didn’t want to stop. The Afghan people welcomed us, and we helped them foster positive relationship with their government.”

Soldiers spoke of the overwhelming response

they received during the long bus ride from Camp Shelby, Miss., to Fort Gordon.

“Once we hit the Alabama line the Patriot Guard Riders escorted us all the way here,” said Parker. “It was outstanding! We had police escort and the people on the interstate waved at us. Some even got out of their trucks on the side of the road to wave to us.”

The Patriot Riders and Fort Gordon’s Signal Corps Band helped make the return unforgettable, but the best part was reuniting with family members.

“We did our job and did it well,” said Spc. Angel Mendez, an Infantryman from Woodstock, Ga. “We all came back safe, and it is great to be home.”

GEORGIA GUARD APPOINTS FIRST FEMALE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Story by 1st Lt. William Carraway
Media Relations Officer
Georgia Department of Defense

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., May 1, 2012

– Sergeant Major Carmen Morales of Brookhaven, Ga., became the first female in the history of the Georgia Army National Guard to be appointed to the position of command sergeant major. Morales was formally appointed as the Command Sergeant Major of the Georgia Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion during a ceremony attended by distinguished guests and family.



learned English, I learned words like 'honor' and 'duty.' In the Army, I learned the true meaning of these words."

Twenty-three years later, Morales is still in the military.

"I always go back to the fact that I love this job," said Morales. "I love Soldiers and I love being an NCO."

A native of Naranjito, Puerto Rico, Command Sgt. Maj. Morales joined the U.S. Army in 1988. During her 14 years of active Army service, Morales served at Fort Jackson, S.C; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Johnston Atoll; and Alexandria, Va.

After joining the Georgia Guard in 2001, Morales served 11 years as a Recruiting & Retention NCO, Team NCOIC, and First Sergeant in the recruiting and retention battalion. In her years of distinguished service she has earned the Meritorious Service Medal, eight Army Commendation Medals, ten Army Achievement Medals, seven Good Conduct Medals, and several other awards. Additionally, this Warrior has achieved the Drill Sergeant Identification Badge, Basic Airborne Parachutist Badge, Australian Parachutist Badge, and M-16 Rifle Expert Qualification Badge.

When asked how she had ascended so high in the organization, Morales offered the following observations: "Never quit; never make excuses. The sky is your limit, and opportunities are there if you apply yourself. It is ultimately up to you."

"This is truly a historic and memorable day," said Brig. Gen. Joe Jarrard, Commanding General of the Georgia Army National Guard. "Because of our long history, we do not get to observe many firsts, but we do here today."

James Nelson, State Command Sergeant Major for the Georgia Guard, commented on the importance of the occasion.

Command Sgt. Maj. Morales reflected on 23 years in the military.

"Today another barrier for women has toppled," said Nelson. "This appointment represents the changing face, direction, and attitude of the Georgia National Guard. We celebrate the accomplishments of Command Sgt. Maj. Morales, but we also recognize that her work and achievements can inspire others and let them know doors are open for them in the Georgia Guard."

A command sergeant major is the senior enlisted Soldier in Army units of battalion size or larger. In her new position, Morales will advise the battalion commander on matters impacting Soldier training and management of more than 1,400 members of the Georgia Guard to include recruiters, full-time Soldiers, and traditional Guardsmen as well as civilian employees and contractors.

Morales recounted her history with the military following her initial three-year enlistment in 1988.

"I reenlisted in Kuwait," said Morales. "I had not meant to serve more than the initial enlistment, but as I

ADJUTANT GENERAL CONVENES STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT BOARD 2012

Story and photo by Maj. John H Alderman IV
Public Affairs Office
Georgia Department of Defense

HELEN, Ga., April 11, 2012 – Senior leaders of the Georgia Department of Defense held the annual Strategic Management Board this week to review Ga. DoD progress towards strategic goals and make necessary adjustments to long-range plans.

Hosted by Maj. Gen. Jim Butterworth, Adjutant General; attendees included the Ga. Air and Army Guard Commanders, Commanding General of the State Defense Force, the Director of the Joint Staff, the Army Chief of Staff, and select members of the Joint, Air, and Army, and State Defense Force staffs.

"The SMB assembles our key strategic leaders to take a look at where we are so that we can determine how best to get where we're going," said Maj. Gen. Butterworth. "We must be frank about how to leverage our strengths and address our weaknesses."

In addition to updates by senior leaders on strategic goals and objectives, the SMB included briefings by senior leaders of our stakeholder organizations.

The National Guard Bureau Comptroller, Mr. Lou Cabrera, gave a very close and detailed read of issues key to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau and of the future of the Guard. In a frank and wide-ranging discussion, Mr. Cabrera made clear the scale of constrained budgets the Guard is likely to have in the future. Yet, he remained optimistic as well.

"With expected cuts, we are still far above eras of reductions and still above 2002," said Cabrera. "Even

after drastic cuts, we're better than when we started the war."

In a measure of the excellent relationship between the Georgia Guard and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, GEMA Operations Officer, Mr. Charlie Dawson, also attended the SMB. Central to his briefing and the ensuing discussion was the role GEMA expects the Guard to play in any future domestic emergency. "The Guard has a great deal of equipment useful to the State," said Dawson. "But most important are the incredible Guardsmen who want to get things done and serve the people of Georgia."

The SMB provided Maj. Gen. Butterworth the opportunity to provide his vision personally to the



assembled leaders, and to lead discussions on where the organization needs to go, based on input from GEMA, NGB, and other briefers. He also took the opportunity to address the manner in which he expects leaders of the Ga. DOD to treat their personnel. "Everyone is special, and we must treat them that way," said Maj. Gen. Butterworth. "I

think this is one of our keys to success."

Other leaders present at the board were optimistic about the experience and the direction which the organization is headed.

"We're more of a team now than we've ever been since I've been in the Guard," said Ga. Air National Guard Commander, Maj. Gen. Tom Moore.

Command Sgt. Maj. Randy Garrett, senior enlisted leader of the Ga. SDF, was highly complementary of the event and of the assembled leaders. "In my 44 years in uniform, events like this with such a high quality of participants and the importance of the work accomplished make this truly a capstone experience for me."

Civil War Ironclads

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

Captain Ben Penton squinted against the sunlight as it reflected off the rippled surface of the Chattahoochee River some 30 miles south of Columbus, Ga. The air was perfumed with diesel exhaust, and the rumbling groans of hydraulics betrayed the source of the Captain's interest. Along the river bank, bulldozers of the 560th Engineer Battalion worked to clear mud from a massive wooden form.

Penton inspected the object thoughtfully. It was a vessel, wooden framed, and massive. Half of its 220-by-60-foot frame had been excavated from the river mud, and Penton could clearly see that many of the vessel's pine timbers were badly charred. Observing the work of the Guard engineers and civilian excavators, it is doubtful Penton knew that nearly a century earlier Guard and civilian volunteers had been engaged in a far more desperate struggle over control of these very timbers.

Ninety-seven years before Penton's team broke ground, a pharmacist-turned-Confederate Cavalry officer surveyed two bridges through field glasses. These bridges spanned the Chattahoochee River from Columbus, Ga., to Girard (later Phoenix City), Ala. Lieutenant Col. John Pemberton and the few remaining defenders of Columbus, Ga., had been ordered by Maj. Gen. Howell Cobb to hold the bridges and prevent the crossing of Union forces under Maj. Gen. James Wilson.

Already, Pemberton could see the rising dust of the Union cavalry as they bore down from the Alabama side of the river for the bridges and the manufacturing city of Columbus. As his glasses swept the opposite bank, Pemberton spotted the Confederate Ironclad Muscogee. The 220-foot-long ironclad was anchored near the naval construction works.

The ship wallowed in the water, its heavy iron planking lowering two-thirds of the beam nearly to the water line. The portion of the deck Pemberton could see resembled a planked tent floating on the river's surface.

Although originally launched in December 1864, four months later, the Muscogee was still not complete. Not only must the town be prevented from falling into enemy hands, Pemberton thought, but the Muscogee and her sister

ship the Chattahoochee had to be protected as well.

The sharp rattle of carbines from the downstream bridge heralded the beginning of the last major battle of the war. Pemberton observed as the Confederates retreated across the bridge and, realizing that they intended to burn the bridge, the Union forces retreated safely to the opposite bank and massed for assault on the upper bridge. Pemberton ordered his cavalry forward.

Old men and young boys unsheathed sabres and revolvers as they crossed the river. Pemberton commanded what amounted to a home Guard of Soldiers who had been exempted from military service due to age or infirmity but who, under the desperate press of war, had taken up arms. Pemberton himself had served out his initial obligation, however, Columbus was his home. His pharmacy and family were in the city and thoughts of family and home spurred his men who crossed the bridge against hopeless odds.

The result could not have been seriously in question for any of the participants. A mere 3,000 Confederate defense force stood against 13,000 battle-hardened Union cavalry. The defenders had no serious hope of victory. Four days earlier, Gen. Robert E. Lee had surrendered the remnants of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House, Va.

Although it is unlikely that any of the participants were aware, President Lincoln had succumbed to an assassin's bullet the previous day. Regardless, like a gross parody of a Tennyson poem, Pemberton's men crashed into Wilson's Cavalrymen. A sulfurous cloud of gun smoke enveloped the scene obscuring the vision. Slashing sabres glinted in the smoke while revolver and shotgun blasts churned the air.

Although records of the battle are sketchy, events were recalled by witnesses in various remembrances. According to one report, during the confused melee, Pemberton had raised his sabre when he was struck by a bullet. The impact rocked him back in the saddle. Seconds later, he was slashed across the chest and abdomen by a sabre. Gravely wounded, Pemberton was saved by his friend John Carter who, taking his horse's reins in hand, escorted Pemberton

from the fray. Reeling from agony and blood loss, Pemberton sunk low in the saddle. As his eyes focused, he was dimly aware of a great fire from the bank of the Chattahoochee. Dense black creosote-perfumed smoke enveloped him as Carter led him across the bridge. The smoke and flames were billowing from the Muscogee, its decks having been set ablaze to prevent capture by the Union troops. As Pemberton sunk into unconsciousness the Muscogee began to drift, slowly settling beneath the Chattahoochee's waves.

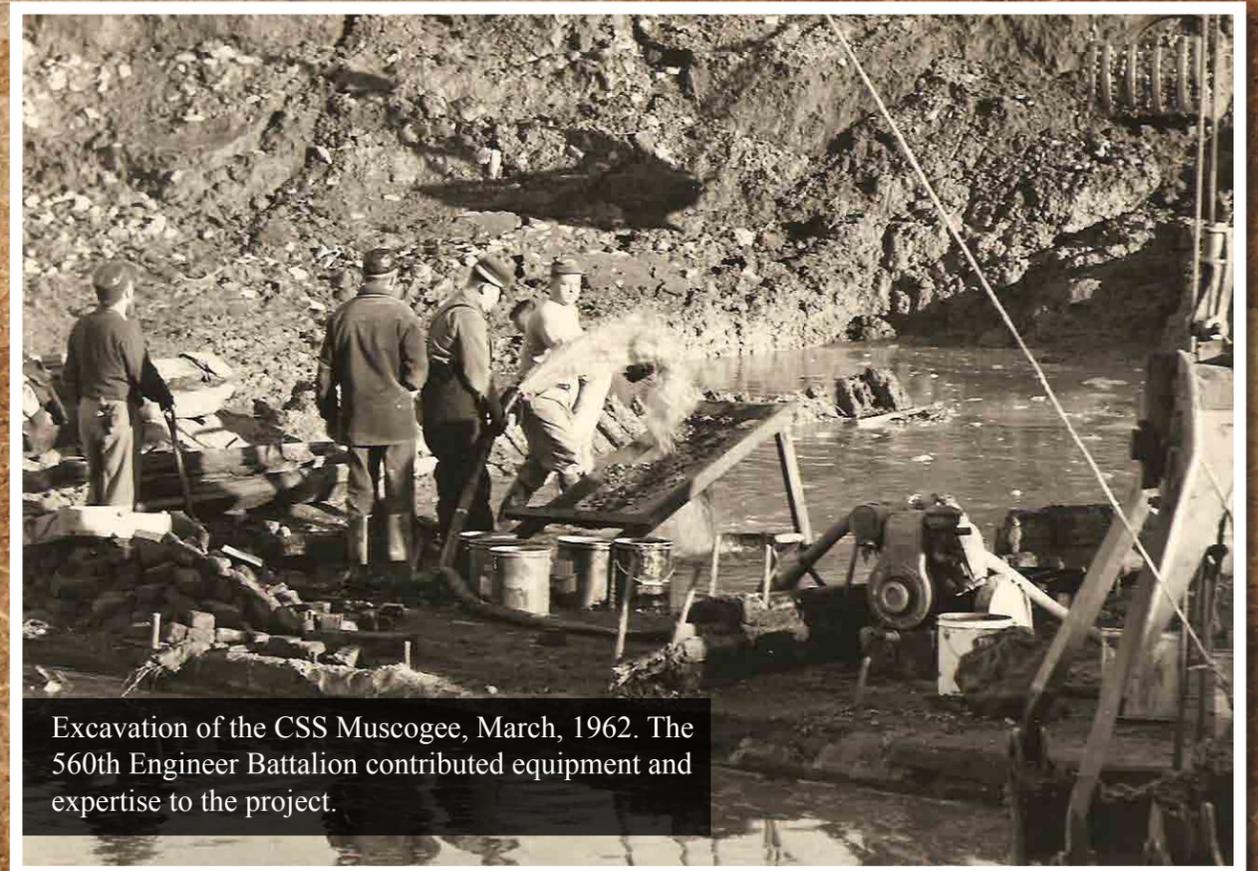
The Muscogee lay undisturbed for nearly a century before the Georgia National Guard raised her from the muddy waters of the Chattahoochee River. Captain Penton's Engineers hauled the 200-ton hulk to the future site of the Civil War Naval Museum in Columbus. Governor Earnest Vandiver, who had previously served as the 29th Adjutant General of Georgia, earmarked \$25,000 for a museum to house the Muscogee. The Muscogee is now a centerpiece of the Civil War Naval Museum located at 1002 Victory Drive in Columbus, Ga.

Pemberton survived his horrible wound, but like many Veterans of his time, he later became addicted to pain killers. Resuming his antebellum chemistry studies, Pemberton applied himself to crafting a pain reliever to

ease his morphine addiction. After experimentation with kola nuts and coca leaves, Pemberton developed French Wine Coca. In 1886 he would alter the formula and rename his beverage Coca Cola. He died two years later, mere weeks after the establishment of the Coca Cola Corporation. Pemberton's legacy can be experienced in full at the World of Coca Cola exhibit in Atlanta. Admission is free to military ID holders.

As for Captain Penton, while his whereabouts could not be determined by press time, his unit, the Headquarters and Service Company of the 560th Engineer Battalion, became part of the 110th Combat Service Support Battalion in 1966. Elements of today's 110th CSSB have deployed multiple times in support of overseas contingency operations.

Analysis of history can bring unexpected connections to light. The Georgia National Guard has an unbroken connection with the history of the Nation's defense. Throughout history, the Georgia Guard's commitment to community has surfaced in surprising ways. Quiet, everyday actions – like those of Cpt. Penton's engineers, a mentor team in Afghanistan, or yesterday's elementary school career day – connect and reconnect the National Guard with its history.



Excavation of the CSS Muscogee, March, 1962. The 560th Engineer Battalion contributed equipment and expertise to the project.

IN HONORS AND FUNERAL DETAIL, DETAILS MATTER

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

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., May 15, 2012 – Out on the floor of Ellenwood’s Oglethorpe Armory, Soldiers assigned to the Georgia Army National Guard’s Honors and Funeral Detail practice – for the fifth time in an hour – removing an American flag from its position atop a casket. They then fold it with care and precision.

On the other side of the massive hall, eight of their comrades – bearing M-14 rifles – practice what they will need to do while firing a volley in recognition of a fallen service member. While all that is going on out on the drill hall floor, other members of the detail are busy making sure shoes, shirts, ties and dress uniforms are clean, pressed and ready to go – that nothing is left to chance, that everyone will make the right movement and do the right thing at the appropriate time.

“Every day, every hour, even up to one hour after they arrive at the funeral site, our folks are practicing, refining and

retouching what they do and the way they look,” said Sgt. Maj. Bryan Hise, the detail’s senior enlisted leader. “Everyone, from the Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine who paid the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefield, to any other veteran – whether that person was retired or served only for a time – deserves our very best. And we will give nothing less in honoring them.”

On any given day of the week, Hise and his Soldiers are either providing special full honors for those killed in action, a medal of honor recipient, a general officer, or sergeants major; full honors for a deceased military retiree or service member not killed in action; or veterans honors for a deceased veteran.

“Believe me,” said Hise, “not a day – except maybe Christmas – goes by when our folks are not out on the road going somewhere, providing honors to someone.”

The number of times the honors teams have provided services speaks volumes about the Soldiers who man those teams, he adds.

Since its inception as a full-time operation in 2008, the Honors and Funeral Detail has conducted more than 9,000 military funerals, Hise explained while watching his Soldiers get ready in anticipation for the 15 funerals they would be doing this particular



day at various locations around the state.

Other figures Hise provided show the detail conducted more than 2,700 funerals last year. This year, the detail has conducted an estimated 1,619 funerals to date, and expects to hit the 10,000 mark in September.

“All that doesn’t even take into account the 33 color guard and ceremonial events in which our Soldiers have participated so far this year, or the six speaking engagements and information briefs members of our group have done,” Hise said. “What places our services in such high demand for families, installation casualty assistance centers, and others is the quality of our Soldiers.”

Being part of the Honors and Funeral Detail is not just something someone decides to do, Hise explains. One has to be chosen for it, and must have the drive and dedication to commit oneself to a higher standard as a Soldier.

“Everything we do, every move we make, is in the public eye,” he said. “The way we conduct ourselves – before, during and after a ceremony or speaking event – says volumes, not just about us, but about the Georgia National Guard and the dignity and honor we show those who came before us.”

There is neither room for mistakes nor acceptance of disrespect allowed for themselves, the organization or anyone else, Hise says. Once an act is committed, there is no taking it back. Whatever the transgression may be, no matter how minor, it is most often the one thing remembered – regardless of the good that was done in the past.

“Perfection, some say, is a state of mind, something to strive for, but is never really achieved. However, in this business, perfect is what we want to be... in every form and fashion of the word,” Hise said.

Staff Sgt. Chris Canaday, who has served eight years

with the Guard, is also a parachute rigger with the Marietta-based 165th Quartermaster Company. He says he finds that the work he does as a rigger – the need for perfection, because there is no taking it back when a chute does not work – correlates well with being part of the Honors and Funeral Detail.

“As a rigger, I understand that need for everything to be right the first time,” Canaday said. “It’s the same here, which is why we nitpick each other – respectfully, of course – when one of us makes a mistake or something’s not right with a uniform.”

Precision and professionalism are everything every single time the Honors and Funeral Detail pays homage to a service member, Canaday says.

“We are our own biggest critics, but because of that, we constantly improve on what we do,” Canaday added. “It’s because of this that people have often mistaken us for the Honors and Funeral Team that’s part of the Old Guard [the unit that guards the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery]. We’re proud of that fact, because not only does that reflect on us as a unit, and as individual Soldiers, but it also reflects well on the organization with which we serve, the Georgia Army Guard.”



NEARLY 800 PEOPLE IN AFGHANISTAN AND LULA, GA., RUN IN MEMORIAM OF FALLEN GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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

CAMP PHOENIX, Afghanistan, May 12, 2012 – Soldiers of the Georgia Army National Guard's 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Task Force Hydra, hosted a shadow of the Lula, Ga., "Some Gave All 5K," at Camp Phoenix, Afghanistan, on Saturday.

Like the Georgia race, the Kabul race was held to pay tribute to Maj. Kevin Jenrette and to honor other fallen Soldiers from Georgia. Lula has also dedicated a city park in Jenrette's memory. Major Jenrette was a Georgia Army National Guard Soldier and one of three National Guardsmen killed by an Improvised Explosive Device near Kapisa, Afghanistan, June 4, 2009.

Over 200 U.S. troops, coalition forces, and civilians participated in the Kabul race, which took place at 6:30 a.m. local time. Task Force Hydra Soldiers from other Kabul camps also made the trip to participate.

In Lula, – where the proceeds were donated to the Georgia National Guard Family Support Foundation – the race drew about 600 participants, according to organizer

Shannon Jenrette, Jenrette's wife.

Many of the participants, at both races, had served alongside Jenrette at some point during their careers.

"Kevin was an exemplary leader and friend," said Lt. Col. Michael O. Hulsey, the Task Force Hydra civil operations officer and a classmate and fraternity brother of Jenrette at North Georgia College. "He had a great sense of humor but was all business when it came to his duties as a Soldier."

The shadow run was planned by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation team and Chaplain Lt. Col. Michael W. Summers, who said a prayer for the fallen Soldiers and those currently serving before starting the race.

"This race reinforces that if something does happen to Soldiers, they are always remembered," said Summers.

Colonel Andy Hall, 648th MEB commander, also spoke to the participants before the race started, telling the history of the race and thanking everyone there for participating.

Male and female overall winners were awarded with certificates. In Afghanistan, Army 1st Lt. Edwin Kain from the 1st Battalion, 143 Infantry Regiment, and Army Spc. Blanca Lopez from the 756th Transportation Company ended up taking home top prizes for their respective races.



ARMY GUARD PILOTS WITH 1-169 LEARN TAKE-OFFS, LANDINGS IN DUSTY CONDITIONS

Story and photo by Capt. Richard Barker
25th Combat Aviation Brigade
United States Army

CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan, May 4, 2012 – For members of Company C, 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment, a medical evacuation unit comprised of Guard units from Georgia, Maryland and Tennessee, landing and taking off in the sandy environment of Afghanistan could be a challenge.

Known as "dust landings" and "dust take-offs," a MEDEVAC pilot's visibility is drastically reduced when the down-wash of his UH-60 Black Hawk blows loose sand into the air, forming a cloud that can make evacuations difficult and dangerous for the crew.

"Dust landings are one of the most dangerous things we have to do during MEDEVAC missions, so we are spending extra time training on that before they assume the mission," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Joseph Roland, the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade standardizations instructor pilot.

Roland travelled to Camp Dwyer to conduct training with Company C, 1-169th, so that pilots would be

comfortable with these difficult landings and take-offs before they assumed their mission in mid-April.

MEDEVAC units with UH-60s have some of the fastest response times on the globe, from the time they receive a call to when they deliver the wounded personnel to the nearest medical facility, and maintain a one-hour standard to accomplish this task – often referred to as the golden hour.

"The unit is a good group, from all walks of life, both young and old, but one thing they have in common is they are all motivated to be here," Roland said.

Some of the Guard members have worked in these conditions before, and agreed that the training was very helpful and appreciated.

"I served with the 25th CAB in Iraq," said Army Sgt. Dezuan Giovanni, a Tennessee Army National Guard member with the unit. "They have always given us good support and this time the 25th CAB has been very interactive with us from the top down."

Company C, 1-169th, is currently providing MEDEVAC support across Afghanistan's Regional Command - Southwest.

AIR GUARD UNIT HONORED FOR IRAQ, AFGHAN SERVICE



Story by Capt. Ray Pawlik
Photo by Staff Sgt. Noel Velez
Georgia Air National Guard

COMBAT READINESS TRAINING CENTER, Savannah, April 14, 2012 – The Georgia Air Guard’s Brunswick-based 165th Air Support Operation Squadron (ASOS) received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA) at a ceremony held here today for its service to ground commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Pictured here, Maj. Gen. Jim Butterworth (left), Georgia’s Adjutant General, presents Lt. Col. Timothy King, the 165th ASOS commander, with the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award ribbon and plaque. Later in the ceremony, King attached the ribbon, or streamer as it is also known, to the unit’s guidon.

King and his Airmen were presented the award for supporting Aerospace Expeditionary Force combat operations and major combat exercises throughout the world during operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom from Aug. 9, 2009, through Aug. 2, 2011. The 165th ASOS also received the

Meritorious Unit Award for its exceptionally meritorious service from June 20, 2005, to Jan. 17, 2006.

The Outstanding Unit Award was first created by the Air Force in 1954. It is presented as a ribbon to any active duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard command that performs exceptionally well; accomplishes specific acts of outstanding achievement; excels in combat operations against an armed enemy of the United States; or conducts with distinction military operations involving conflict with, or exposure to, a hostile action by any opposing foreign force.

The “V” (valor) device is authorized when awarded for combat or combat support service.

Multiple awards of the AFOUA are denoted by oak leaf clusters on the award ribbon.

The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award ranks directly below the Meritorious Unit Award and above the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award in the precedence of Air Force awards and decorations.

It is considered a personal award for Airmen who were assigned or attached to the unit during the period for which it was awarded, and may be worn whether or not they continue as members of the organization.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOOKSHELF:

REVIEWS OF BOOKS THAT TEACH US ABOUT OUR CRAFT

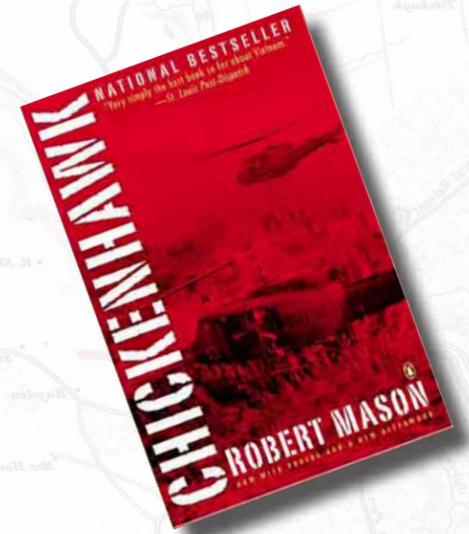
By Maj. William Cox
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Being an Army Aviator who flew the UH-1 in flight school, and who has flown combat MEDEVAC missions, I was drawn to Robert Mason’s *Chickenhawk*, a visceral account of his yearlong deployment to Vietnam.

Mason’s story takes you with him and the rest of the “Preachers” of B/229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, to their musty, mildewed tents and into his shot-up cockpit, while flying over Vietnam. He nonchalantly weaves basic rotary wing tactics, techniques, and procedures into the storyline, teaching readers while captivating them with this very human experience.

The first chapter made me laugh as he recounted his first few months at flight school. While it is uniquely his story, it is also ubiquitous with every helicopter pilot’s experience at flight school.

“A week before I was to graduate Anderson, my instructor pilot cut the power as I cruised towards the stage field. I bottomed the pitch immediately, turned into the wind [everything that flies lands into the wind - it reduces ground speed at touchdown] and glided down in autorotation... I was concentrating on doing the maneuver by the numbers. I noticed Anderson shaking his head forlornly, out of the corner of my eye. My feeling of pride and competence turned to stark terror. I saw the power line. I turned abruptly away from them but I was now very low, heading for a stand of trees. Anderson kept shaking



his head sadly [saying] ‘I’ve got it.’”

Mason then sails to Vietnam where his instruction really begins with his mentors who had flown combat missions in gliders during WWII, and had been fighters in Korea. He learns that flight school taught him just enough to be dangerous, and the Pilot-In-Command who sits next to him is his primary instructor until he becomes a PIC himself.

In addition to detailing his air-assault missions, the story is intensely personal concerning his thoughts and experiences in combat. Most Soldiers will find a sentence which puts into words their own experience: “We stared like tourists at the people we had come to save.” Soldiers cannot help but be drawn into the conversations and absurd situations Mason and his crew members experience both in the air and on the ground in between missions.

Whether the “Preachers” are verbally abusing the “Operation Twins” that never leave the compound on a combat mission, or are talking about ladies, the reader realizes that Mason’s crewmembers are archetypes that somehow end up on every Soldier’s deployment.

While the book keeps you at the edge of your seat, reliving his intensely personal and raw experiences, it does not prepare you for his downward spiral of troubled dreams and sleepless nights. While Mason does survive Vietnam, he is not able to leave Vietnam behind. Back in the States, he becomes an instructor pilot but is soon grounded. He gets out of the Army, and his life continues to take tragic turns until he finds himself in jail in 1983, just before this book is published. The reader is left wishing Mason had Mental Health services like the service has today, ready to help Soldiers deal with the stress of combat.

AROUND THE GEORGIA GUARD



CNN VISITS J-STARS AT ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE

Reynolds Wolf, CNN correspondent (center), interviews flightcrew members aboard an E-8C Joint STARS at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., March 27, 2012. J-STARS was one of several units the news organization visited during a tour of Robins Air Force Base.



MEDIA OPERATIONS CENTER TRAINING

Private 1st Class Allan Hayes of the Georgia State Defense Force delivers a message to Sgt. Gary Hone during media operations center training. The joint exercise combined the efforts of Georgia Army National Guardsmen and the State Defense Force in a mock hurricane response exercise. The Media Operations Center fielded simulated calls from media representatives, conducted preparation of subject matter experts, and facilitated press briefings on hurricane recovery operations.

GUARD, BRAVES HOST STATE PARTNERSHIP DELEGATION

Soldiers with the Georgia Guard's State Partnership Program, along with the Gwinnett Braves, the triple-A affiliate of the Atlanta Braves, give a group of military and government officials from the country of Georgia the opportunity to experience the American pastime during the Georgians' recent visit here.



LOCAL UNIT HOSTS COMMUNITY EVENT

The Thomasville Military Family Assistance Center, operated by family assistance specialist Melissa Dalton, hosts the Thomas County Family Connection Collaborative meeting on March 20, 2012, at the Georgia Army Guard's 1230th Transportation Company armory.



877TH ENGINEERING COMPANY A PART OF CNN DOCUMENTARY

Specialist Josh Corriher, 877th Engineering Company, speaks to CNN camera crews on location at the unit armory. This final day of filming culminates more than six months of cooperation between the Georgia National Guard and CNN. The documentary, narrated by Army Veteran and motivational speaker J. R. Martinez, focuses on the unique challenges facing Guardsmen returning from overseas deployments.



1-169th Aviation Regiment
trains in dusty conditions

GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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