

# GEORGIA CIVIL DEFENSESMAN



★ ★ SERVING THE NATIONAL GUARD

June 2012

**4th Civil Support Team**  
hosts joint training event in Marietta

**Honoring our Wounded Warriors**

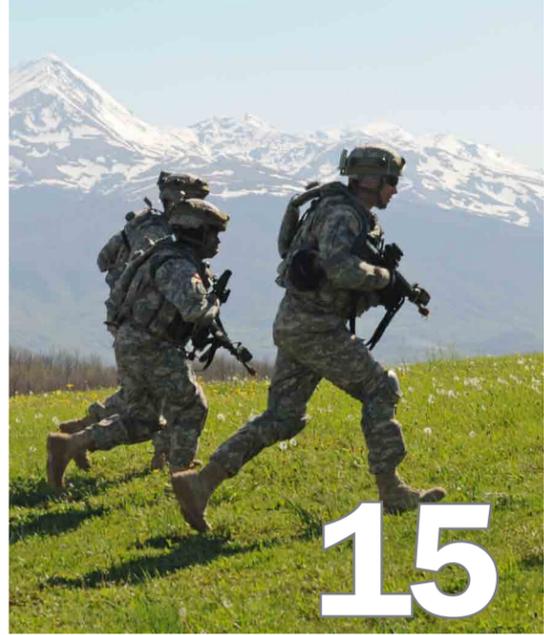
Supporting our disabled vets

**JSTARS**

the U.S. military's "Eyes in the Sky"



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# GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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

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# AMERICAN 'NINJA'

Story By James Sullivan  
Photos by Evan Baines

**T**heir job descriptions seem to epitomize the ordinary: shoe salesmen, gas station managers and accountants. But the toughest competitors on Japan's popular television show "Sasuke"—which is known in the United States as "Ninja Warrior"—are anything but average. They run complex obstacle courses so arduous that, after dozens of biannual competitions and thousands of contestants, the full set of rounds—a four-stage series—has been completed only four times.

Ever since he stumbled upon the show about five years ago, Captain Ryan Stratis of the Georgia National Guard has been thoroughly obsessed. "I was flipping channels one night at Signal School while at Fort Gordon," says Stratis, a 29-year-old Georgia native who works full time for the Guard as a safety officer. "Every night at midnight I had a group of guys watch it with me."

It wasn't long before Stratis began training for the sport, building on his military experience with obstacle courses and ruck runs—"all your typical military-related-type games." Over time, Stratis developed an individualized regimen geared toward the sport, combining a basic body-weight workout with balance, agility, hand-strength exercises and sessions with professional stuntmen, parkour practitioners and other elite athletes.

After consistently improving his performances, he got onto "Sasuke" in Japan for the



first time last year. "Sasuke" first aired in Japan in 1997, with 100 competitors from all backgrounds. Participants are tested for agility (log rolls, Tarzan jumps, rope ladders) and, in later rounds, upper-body strength and stamina (with ominous, self-explanatory obstacles such as the Curtain Cling and the Ultimate Cliffhanger). Last year, Stratis showed remarkable improvement: In tryouts, he was the only person to finish the semifinal course, and in the main event in Japan, he came tantalizingly close to completing the grueling third stage.

Earlier this year, he trained intensely and competed on the U.S. offshoot of the show, "American Ninja Warrior," which is produced by the NBC-owned cable network G4. The program will premiere in mid-May on both networks and will include an episode featuring Stratis. "It's going to be a fun year," he says.

Stratis is grateful that his commanding officer has given him sufficient time off to compete, allowing the athlete to attend events at Venice Beach in Southern California and even as far away as Japan. "I've been real lucky with them allowing me time off to support my interest," he says.

It was Laura Civiello, G4's senior vice president of development, who first brought "Sasuke" to American audiences. Stratis, she says, is a great example of the type of competitor the show is seeking. "He very proudly represents the National Guard," she says. "It made him a little unique,

and we obviously paid attention. Plus, he has such heart. He cares so much about this."

According to Civiello, that happens to a lot of emerging ninja warriors: "It sort of gets into their blood. They become fanatical. They build courses in their backyards. You get these weight-loss stories. Ryan, I think, is more toned than the first time we saw him. They become the all-stars that other newcomers look up to."

A 'ninja' in training

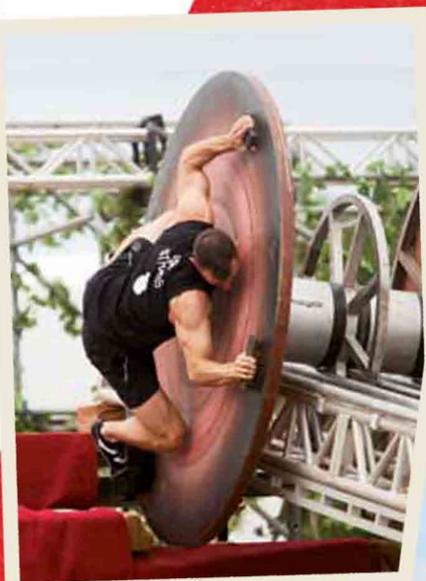
Stratis grew up in Albany, GA, a small town in the southwest corner of the state, about an hour south of Macon. Technically, his family lived outside of town in an unincorporated agricultural area called Putney, population 3,000. "It's not even on the map," he says. "We had to drive into Albany to go to the high school and the mall."

His mother worked on a nearby Marine Corps base, which is where Stratis got his first taste of military life when he ran an obstacle course. He was a high school bookworm who had a typical boyhood fantasy of becoming an astronaut and even thought about studying marine biology. As a self-professed "98-pound weakling," he began working summers on the base during high school, lifeguarding at the pool for the children of military families. Soon he joined the Junior ROTC at his high school.

While working as a lifeguard, he was called on more than once to rescue swimmers struggling to

### SURREAL SPINOFF

"American Ninja Warrior" is an offshoot of "Sasuke," wildly popular athletic challenge program that has aired few times each year since 1997 the Tokyo Broadcasting System. Contestants compete in grueling obstacle courses that test their strength, agility and stamina throughout four stages, all undertaken in a single weekend. The courses are designed to be nearly unbeatable. After establishing an "American Ninja Warrior" competition that has sent groups of Americans to participate in Japan in recent seasons, the G4 network brought the four-stage course stateside as a part of their nationwide to find the next American Ninja Warrior. The event will air on both G4 NBC in mid-May of this year.



For his diet and nutrition, Stratis cuts out all fast foods and soft drinks a few months before tryouts. "I try to avoid those anyway, but I'm guilty when it comes to getting something quick when I'm pressed for time at work." His meals at home are nothing fancy: lots of fruit, protein, yogurt and sandwiches. "I'm no professional athlete when it comes to managing my diet, and this is an area I can definitely improve upon."

Stratis manages to stay around 146 pounds, because lighter is typically better for the obstacles where body weight is a huge factor, such as the Ultimate Cliffhanger, the one he failed last year. Stratis feels a high water intake is also vital for keeping hydrated.



Elizabeth Davidovich, who encourages him to concentrate on intricate cartwheel and jump-rope routines. “You’re moving, jumping and having to use your brain at the same time,” he explains.

After taking a bronze medal in rhythmic gymnastics at the Maccabiah Games in Israel, Davidovich became a film stuntwoman based in Atlanta. She met Stratis on Facebook in discussions about extreme training, and she realized they have a similar work ethic. “Something he wrote demonstrated he was a man of action,” she recalls.

When they started training together, Davidovich could see Stratis’ potential and would use her experience to help him improve his training. Devising unique training methods together for “American Ninja Warrior” has proved to be mutually beneficial—and fun. “He loves the process as much as I do,” she says.

stay afloat. “I had to save probably two or three kids who were out too far in the deep end,” Stratis recalls. On one occasion he pulled an adult man from the water, after watching him take a dare from his buddies despite his obvious lack of confidence and swimming ability.

“It’s definitely a surreal type of feeling to save a life,” he says. “You pretty much just react ... The guy was embarrassed. You’re taught that the person you save might be embarrassed, that they might not even say ‘thank you.’”

Today, Stratis gets plenty of good-natured grief from his peers for the fact that he’s a certified safety officer who spends his free time training for a sport that puts him in one dangerous situation after another. By day, he travels around the state inspecting military job sites, tracking accidents and compiling composite risk management surveys. At night, at around 7:00—when the sticky Georgia air has begun to cool off—he often heads to the gym near his home outside Atlanta.

There, he joins friends with similar workouts—members of the city’s network of professional stunt performers (some of whom have worked on productions including “The Walking Dead” series and the movie X-Men: First Class) and free-running enthusiasts, who practice an expressive form of parkour, the environmental obstacle-course discipline that uses body control to navigate city structures. (Parkour draws its name from *parcours du combattant*, the military obstacle course designed by the French physical educator Georges Hebert.) The stuntmen and free-runners have taught him a lot about jumping, tumbling and knowing how to land.

On occasion, Stratis also trains with world-class gymnast

And the workouts don’t stop when he’s at home. There, he focuses primarily on strength training—grip strength and pull-ups, for instance. Having dropped out in Japan during the Ultimate Cliffhanger challenge—hanging by his fingertips from a series of ledges just a few centimeters wide—it’s one area he has singled out for improvement. Whenever possible, he goes rock climbing at Stone Summit, billed as the biggest climbing gym in the country, which is built inside a gutted former three-story hotel.

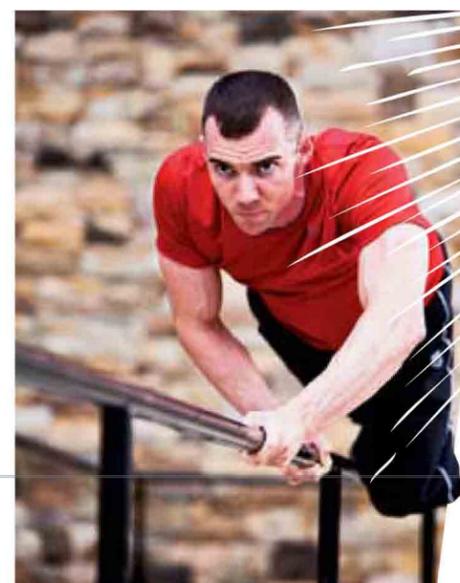
Because he devotes nearly all his free time to his training, his friends call him the Bachelor Ninja. You’d think the girls would be into it, Stratis says with a laugh, “but no, not so much.”

Making the cut

Until recently, getting accepted to compete on “American Ninja Warrior” meant sending the producers a highlight tape of the athletes in action. If selected, the footage was posted online, where fans of the show could vote on potential contestants. Stratis didn’t make the cut his first few years. “I could never get enough votes,” he recalls. “I didn’t do anything eye-catching enough.”

More recently, however, the producers have worked with a casting department that takes into consideration not only the tapes but also the biographies and backgrounds of each hopeful. Stratis’ Guard service may have helped him get better recognition.

By now, he is well versed in telling his story and describing his personality. “On the casting worksheet, I always say I’m easy-going, I’m fairly likable, and I try not





One of the things Stratis enjoys most about the competition is what makes it unusual in the world of modern sports: Almost invariably, the event ends without a clear-cut “winner.” In essence, participants compete against themselves, trying to surpass their own previous best.

“That’s always been my goal—to perform better than I did last year, not focus on how other people do,” says Stratis, who preferred individual sports such as wrestling and swimming in high school. “If you’re looking at what they can do versus your own skill set, you’re going to throw your game off.”

In that regard, “Sasuke” and “American Ninja Warrior” have fostered a unique camaraderie among the competitors. “There’s a bonding experience,” Stratis says. “You go through a mutual suffering period,” sometimes sharing space in what amounts to a small room. In Japan, despite the language barrier, he found that the players would “talk” with their hands and bodies, helping one another learn new techniques to use in certain challenges.

Though it’s not apparent on the TV program, the “American Ninja Warrior” main event usually takes place within a 24-hour span, making the final two stages—difficult as they are to begin with—that much more stressful, with sleep deprivation often factoring into the mix.

“You start at 9 a.m.,” Stratis says, “and the third stage might be at 1:00 in the morning the next day.” In Japan last year, he communed with some of the so-called Japanese All-Stars—a group of regular contestants who have amassed some of the most impressive records in the history of the event—as they waited for the next round.

“We were dozing off,” he recalls. “It was a funny time.” The lack of sleep and the fact that the game takes place in any weather—all those additional hurdles crank up the epic-ness of it,” he says. “You’re tired, and you’re on a roller coaster of emotions. All that plays into the course.”

Civiello, the network executive, says the idea of an “everyman” is critical to the show. “We have people of all backgrounds. People surprise you.”

Mental discipline is just as important as physical, she adds. A competitor who does well one year often fails badly the next: “They lose focus for one moment, and they go out on a really easy obstacle. The course is unforgiving in that way. The course really is the central character—the bad guy, if you will.”

As a proud member of the Georgia Army National Guard who is deeply committed to the competition he has grown to love, Ryan Stratis is unquestionably one of the good guys.

to rub anybody the wrong way,” he says. “And I’m fairly determined when I have a goal. Everyone has their ups and downs, but I try to stay positive.”

Some devoted fans have grumbled about the role casting has played on the show, with producers looking to tease out the drama among competitors and seeking backstories that will play well on TV. But Stratis says he understands the thinking.

“I don’t mind the show-biz aspect,” he says. “If TV has to fluff it up some, find some crazy characters and whatnot, that’s fine with me. Overall, it’s for entertainment purposes. If it wasn’t for the fans, there would be no show, and I’d be doing this stuff in my backyard.”

He does, however, suggest that the new process can exclude some worthy contenders. He has a few friends who are just as passionate as he is about “American Ninja Warrior” who have been “trying for years,” he says, with no luck.

# NCO NOTEPAD



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

Though it may shock some, there was a time “long, long ago and far, far away,” to coin the phrase, when many of our fellow Americans viewed the National Guard as mainly a “weekend warrior” force. I can even remember when we as Guardsmen thought the same of ourselves. That perception only bred inefficiency, a lack of self-respect, and a lack of pride in who we are, what we do, and why it is necessary that we do it throughout the Guard’s ranks.

A weekend drill, some time with our buddies, and we were done for the month. That was the mindset.

Then came the 9/11 terrorist attacks, which changed life in America in many ways. In our case, it helped usher in new responsibilities for the Army and Air Guard, and greater demands for the unique skills that we as Guardsmen bring to the fight, at home and abroad. That day of days transformed us from a strategic reserve (a force in waiting, not expecting to deploy unless there is a major conflict) into an operational force, one that is fully integrated into the deployment cycle. We are now viewed as Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen, fully capable of taking on any mission we are given and carrying each one out to a successful end.

That “one weekend a month, two weeks during the summer” mentality is long gone from our collective psyche... or at least it should be.

As Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen, but especially as NCOs, let me ask a question. Do our responsibilities to the Soldiers and Airmen we lead, the commanders we serve, and the organization of which we are a part stop at the end of work day, or (as traditional, M-Day Soldiers and Airmen) the minute

we walk out the armory door and return to our civilian jobs?

There are many among us, Army and Air, who would most certainly retort, “No, they don’t! We are NCOs 24/7; 365 days a year.” Yet, there may be some out there who would say, “They most certainly do. After I leave work, I am my own person.” And still others who might respond with, “Look, I belong to the Guard from Midnight Friday to Midnight Sunday, and again whenever I’m on orders. Before drill and after I have a civilian job. I am a civilian. No more; no less.”

Only (maybe) a dozen times in as many years have I ever met an NCO with that attitude, which begs the question: do we not, from time to time, need to be reminded of who we are, why we wear the uniform, and what our responsibilities are, whether we are full-time Soldiers or M-Day?

I’m sure some of us remember when we used the leader’s book to keep track of our Soldiers’ and Airmen’s contact information, which enabled us as NCOs to reach out to our section, squad or platoon at any given time. Did that mean we accepted the position of being leaders who were on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and were responsible for those we led at all times?

I do not think so.

I hate to go back to 9/11, but I feel the tragedy on that day, and the graveness of the situation in which we as a nation found ourselves, brought many things into focus that we as Guardsmen had sort of “hand-waved” and let go in the past. Now, we are truly engaged with our Soldiers and Airmen on all fronts, throughout the month and throughout the year, to ensure their issues are addressed and that they are “always ready, always there, always on target.”

I have, for example, all the major service command sergeants major contact and personal information on speed dial on my blackberry; a long way from the days of the leader’s book, which still plays a valuable role in helping us as NCOs, leaders, Soldiers and Airmen.

Another contributing factor to the National Guard’s success is the fact that we are a hometown organization which genuinely cares about each of its members.

In case there is anyone out there – Soldier, Airmen, NCO, or lower-enlisted – who still just does not get it when it comes to our inherent responsibilities, if there is still any doubt on where our responsibilities to the Soldiers and Airmen we are entrusted to lead begin and end, the Army NCO Creed pretty much says it all at the beginning of its second paragraph. “My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind: accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my Soldiers.”

**TIME FOR A SELF-CHECK, MAYBE? IS IT UPPERMOST IN YOUR MIND? DO YOU NOT THINK IT OUGHT TO BE?**

# IN INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING, GSDF RECRUITS LEARN THERE IS NO TASK TOO BIG... OR TOO SMALL

Story and photos by SDF WO1 Seth G. Stuck  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia State Defense Force

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., June 5, 2012** – The Georgia Department of Defense has many moving parts – too many to name here, but at the component level you have the Georgia Army National Guard, the Georgia Air National Guard and the Georgia State Defense Force. It might come as a surprise to some folks, but noncombatants (state employees and SDF volunteers) make up almost a tenth of the Georgia Department of Defense. Yet, little is really known – even within our own organization – about the GSDF.

From aiding local authorities in search and rescue missions, to providing medical triage assistance to Haiti earthquake refugees flown through Dobbins Air Reserve Base, to assisting the National Guard in everything from CPR certification, pre-mobilization training, and military intelligence training – the volunteers of the State Defense Force quietly go about the business of serving the state and nation without compensation or expectation of reward.

This shared spirit of selfless service isn't just a coincidence, however. It's hammered into each and every GSDF recruit during the organization's Initial Entry Training (IET) program. This fast-paced, three-month program covers everything from basic Army customs, courtesies, drill and ceremony, to first

aid and CPR, to land navigation and search and rescue – essentially taking the “big rocks” of Army basic training and condensing them into six days of learning.

The subject matter may seem extensive, but consider the types of people who volunteer for this undertaking. A third of the GSDF's members are prior-service veterans, and many of the other individuals who sign up have extensive civilian experience in their professional field: doctors, lawyers, communications specialists, police, IT specialists, journalists, teachers ... and the list goes on.

In the GSDF's most recent graduating class, Bravo Class 2012, a geospatial engineer, Pvt. Daniel

Mayer, won the class Outstanding Academic Performance award. A former Army communications NCO, Sgt. Steven Stewart, was honored by his classmates with the class Leadership Award. Also present in the class were several medical personnel who not only passed the course's test on First Aid and CPR with ease, but also helped teach a deeper understanding of the material to their classmates.

This class's wide swath of experience and knowledge serves as a solid example of just how diverse and knowledgeable the members of the GSDF truly are, and that their service is truly selfless.

When asked why they wanted to be in the Georgia State Defense



Force, almost every single member of 16-person Bravo Class 2012 had the same answer as Pvt. Michael Blum.

“I just want to serve my state,” said Blum. “Up until now, being in the Army hasn't been an option for me, so this is the next best thing. I can't imagine a better form of community service. Plus, the camaraderie is pretty cool. That's something I wasn't quite expecting when I signed up, but it might be the reason I end up staying in the SDF for a long time to come.”

Beyond the tested “big rocks,” IET recruits also have to pass five introductory FEMA courses on hazardous materials, emergency preparedness, incident command systems, state disaster management, and emergency operations centers. Other topics taught during the course include knot tying, FEMA markings, guard duty, operational security, and more.

“The reason we teach these guys the Army basics is because we perform our missions, oftentimes, on military installations,” said Staff

Sgt. John Derucki of the GSDF IET Cadre. “If we're on a mission at Fort Stewart, for example, we can't have SDF members wearing jacked up uniforms, or distracting other Soldiers from their mission by not knowing basic protocol. If we're going to support the Guard in the ways that we do, we have to fit in seamlessly with the Guard. If we stuck out, we wouldn't be doing our jobs.”

“We're the real deal,” added newly promoted Staff Sgt. Raymond Slocumb. “We expect the people who graduate our program to have all the basic knowledge and skills necessary to function on a military base. When folks see that SDF patch, we want them to know who we are and what we're capable of. So it's important that we instill a sense of pride and an understanding of the acceptable standards in our recruits.”

As an example of taking pride in everything they do, Derucki points to an anecdote from the recently graduated Bravo Class.

Bravo Class 2012 performs a “grid search” outside of their Initial

Entry Training classroom to help a Georgia Army Guard OCS candidate find his lost wedding ring. “We were just about to go outside and start a land navigation field exercise during our second weekend of training when some Georgia Army Guard OCS cadre came up to us asking for help. Apparently, one of their aspiring officers had lost his wedding ring in the grass while they were doing low-crawls,” Derucki said. “So, we lined our SDF recruits up shoulder-to-shoulder, had them get on their hands and knees, and made them do a grid search, scouring the entire area several times until we found the ring.”

“This matters for a couple reasons,” he added. “First, it was a good SAR example of how difficult it can be to find little details – even in a confined search area. That lesson fit right in with our land navigation and SARSPEC training.

“Second, I can tell you, many of those aspiring officers may not have known who the SDF was before we stepped in to help, but they do now. And they'll remember that we're here to help in whatever way possible. They might also remember that they'd been looking in that same area – with metal detectors no less – for over an hour, and we were the ones who ended up crawling on our hands and knees for an hour to find it. Point being, we go the extra mile to add unique value.”

Like the incident of the lost wedding ring, the SDF is often called upon as a force multiplier for the National Guard. Ask anyone with a “Parati Servire” tab on their left shoulder and they'll gladly tell you, no task is too big... or too small for the Georgia State Defense Force.



# KOSOVO: ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS CLEAR ROADBLOCK IN RUDARE

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class James Wagner  
172nd Public Affairs Detachment  
Vermont Army National Guard

**RUDARE, Kosovo, June 1, 2012**— Soldiers from Multi-national Battle Group East, comprised primarily of Army National Guard members, successfully led a roadblock removal operation on the outskirts of this small northern Kosovo town to improve freedom of movement for Kosovo residents.

The roadway, the main artery between the southern portion of Rudare and the nearby city of Mitrovica, was one of nine roadblocks that Kosovo Force officials determined prevented freedom of movement in the region and sought to remove them.

“The operation was a total success, from the conception and planning of the operation to the execution on the ground by the Soldiers in this battle group,” said Army Col. Jeffrey Liethen, commander of MNBG-E and the Wisconsin Army National Guard’s 157th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. “I couldn’t be prouder of the men and women who performed their duties so admirably.”

The operation was conducted in the early morning hours, while most residents of the town were leaving for work. Soldiers from the German and U.S. contingents quickly established vehicle control points and a security

perimeter so the Portuguese-led KFOR Tactical Maneuver Battalion could bring in the heavy equipment required to remove the substantial concrete, gravel and debris barrier.

Soldiers from other MNBG-E contingents arrived in the subsequent hours to provide follow-on security to the area.

U.S. forces on the ground were comprised primarily of Soldiers from the Georgia Army National Guard’s 3rd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment. The unit’s headquarters element developed the course of action used in the operation.

The operation increased in complexity as it involved military members from more than eight different nations executing the mission plan in a coordinated manner from several camps located throughout Kosovo.

Detailed planning and close coordination among all participants ensured the successful removal of the roadblock, said Army Lt. Col. Joseph Lynch, commander of 3-108th.

“Without the close coordination and cooperation of all nations involved, we could not have accomplished what we did,” Lynch said. “We are extremely pleased that all the multi-national units in this operation performed their missions with professionalism and excellence. Furthermore, I continue to be impressed by the level of dedication demonstrated by all the contributing nations.”

# AIR GUARDSMEN WITH 224TH JCSS EMBARK ON HUMANITARIAN MISSION

Story by Ms. Whitney Williams  
Photo by Senior Master Sgt. John Vining  
Joint Enabling Capabilities Command

**SAN DIEGO, May 21, 2012** – Seven members of the Georgia Air National Guard’s 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron aligned with the Joint Communications Support Element, a subordinate command of the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command, embarked May 1 on the USNS Mercy to begin a four-and-a-half month deployment supporting Operation Pacific Partnership 2012.

This annual humanitarian and civic assistance mission, led by U.S. Pacific Fleet, began in 2004 following the devastating tsunami that impacted numerous countries in Southeast Asia.

Operation Pacific Partnership has become the largest mission of its type in the Asia-Pacific region and is conducted in partnership with various host nations, non-governmental organizations and U.S. and international government agencies.

Throughout the duration of Operation Pacific Partnership, the Georgia Air Guard members will be responsible for providing capabilities such as unclassified and classified network access, voice, video and radio communications while on the ship and in the various ports throughout the deployment.

Similar to a land-based hospital, the USNS Mercy is capable of supporting the full range of surgical and medical services which will be employed as part of Operation Pacific Partnership.

Air Force Senior Master Sgt. John Vining, the JCSE lead for the mission, spoke about one example of how JCSE capabilities will assist Operation Pacific Partnership’s medical personnel in pre-screening and X-raying patients onshore before bringing them aboard USNS Mercy for further procedures.

“Previously, there wasn’t a good way to send those images to the ship for evaluation prior to transporting patients,” Vining said. “With JCSE’s capabilities, we’ll be able to extend communications from the shore to the ship and transfer the images in a matter of seconds.”

For JCSE members, the opportunity to expand their communication skill sets in a joint environment while

contributing to the well-being of the host nation residents brings an added level of appreciation for the mission.

“Most of the team has deployed for multiple missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom, but the humanitarian aspect of this operation means a lot to the troops,” Vining said. “Additionally, an extended deployment aboard a ship and working with other branches of service will greatly enhance our expertise.”

JCSE, which has supported similar missions with U.S. Southern Command during Operation Continuing Promise in 2010 and 2011, is looking forward to broadening its knowledge of tactical communications in the unique environment offered by Operation Pacific Passage. Additionally, the seven JCSS members chosen for this mission were extremely pleased to contribute to an operation that promotes good will in the Asia-Pacific region.

The overall objective of Operation Pacific Partnership is to support the host nations in creating and sustaining programs that are viable during emergency relief efforts to ultimately build a secure, stable Pacific region. Navy Capt. Jim Morgan, the Operation Pacific Partnership 2012 mission commander, explains it best in his mission motto, “Preparing in calm to respond in crisis.”

This year, Operation Pacific Partnership will visit Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Cambodia, each for two weeks, to bring medical, dental, veterinary, engineering and environmental assistance and stability to the countries.



# GEORGIA GUARDSMEN IN KOSOVO TAKE FIRST STEP ON ROAD TO BECOMING NCOs

Story filed by the Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense  
Photos by Spc. Joshua Barnett  
Public Affairs Office  
Multinational Brigade East  
Kosovo Force 15

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., June 8, 2012** – Thirty-three Georgia Soldiers, many of them with 3rd Squadron, 108th Cavalry, are among the estimated 80 Army Guardsmen and Reservists to take a major step in the advancement of their enlisted careers by attending and graduating from the Army Warrior Leader Course (WLC) held in April at Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo. These Soldiers, all of whom are halfway through their yearlong deployment to Kosovo as part of the NATO peacekeeping force (KFOR 15) operating in the once war-torn country, briefly stepped away from their normal deployment duties to complete the estimated five-week course.

Serving alongside the 3-108th, which is serving as the liaison mentor team for Multinational Brigade East, are Soldiers with Ellenwood, Georgia's 221st Military Intelligence Battalion.

Among the Georgians to have graduated are Spc. David Knicely, who received his class's leadership award, and Spc. Logan Watson, chosen distinguished honor graduate from among his classmates. Both are scouts with the 3-108th.

"It's a great feeling to be numbered among the Soldiers who completed the course, and an honor to have my fellow Soldiers recognize me with an award for stepping out, and stepping into the leadership role for my class," Knicely said.

"I have to admit, it's a humbling experience to have been selected distinguished honor graduate in my class. There are so many among my group who also deserved to be chosen," Watson said. "At the same time, I'm proud of the honor bestowed upon me, and proud of representing my unit, the Georgia Army Guard, and the state of Georgia in this way."

WLC is the first step in the Army's Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES), providing basic leadership training that allows Soldiers the opportunity to acquire the skills, knowledge and experience needed to

lead small units. The course serves as the foundation for getting to the advanced NCOES courses. Essentially, its purpose is to teach junior Soldiers at the rank of specialist or corporal how to be a noncommissioned officer.

"WLC teaches all the core competencies of how to be a leader, and what the Army needs of its leaders," said Staff Sgt. Sean Scales, an instructor with the Army Reserve's 7th Warrior Training Brigade (WTB) based in Grafenwoehr, Germany. "It teaches not only classroom and garrison leadership, but tactical leadership."

The course, Scales says, is built around an intense field training environment that involves hands-on, performance-oriented training.

"Some among our number hadn't done the kind of training we did in this class since basic or advanced individual training," Knicely explained. "While one generally attends the school to be promoted, it's not the only reason – or at least it shouldn't be the only one."

"Competence and confidence are the real reason for attending the course – here or back in the states," Knicely added. "Armed with those two things, and the skills and knowledge you leave with, you become ready for not just wearing the rank of sergeant, but for being a sergeant."

The course is taught at Camp Bondsteel by Soldiers from the Army Reserve's 7th WTB. Two cycles of the course have been offered so far during this deployment, and the senior leadership hopes to add a third this summer.

By bringing the cadre to Camp Bondsteel, and training National Guard Soldiers who are already on active duty, the Army is able to save a significant amount of money. It also frees up slots for other Soldiers in other places where the course is held, Scales explains.

"It all boils down to money and availability," he said. "With the National Guard and Army Reservists already on orders here, it's a lot easier for the states and the federal government to send a mobile training team to them, instead of having to mobilize a whole bunch of Soldiers at the same time to send them to school; now they can bring the school to them."

According to Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Jarvis, a maintenance supervisor serving as the 157th training NCO, each class held here saves an estimated \$98,000 in pay and allowances for the Soldiers in lieu of activating them for training.

The overall cost savings are even greater now because the newly constructed Warrior Leader Complex computer lab accommodates the WLC students as well as other training courses offered at Camp Bondsteel.

Before, a contract had to be arranged with a commercial satellite internet company to provide a distance-learning environment for courses such as WLC and the officer-level intermediate level education course. Now, Soldiers can tap into the military's existing network on post to provide Internet access to 17 workstations in the computer lab. That translates into tens of thousands of dollars in savings to the Army, potentially allowing for more courses being available at Bondsteel.

Running the course in-theatre does come with its challenges, but Jarvis says hard work and preparation before the WLC cadre arrived made implementation of the course smoother.

"With all the planning and preparation that we did, from getting the buildings where the Soldiers live ready to the prepping of equipment before they arrived, really paved the way for a seamless transition of the training complex to the WLC instructors," he said. "I think it led to a great, successful course."

Perhaps more importantly than the cost savings, offering the course to deployed Soldiers allows them to combine their deployment experience with their WLC training to become more effective leaders.

"Not that I would have balked at having to attend the course once I returned home, but doing it here leaves me time to readjust and concentrate on family when I get back," Watson said. "It also means that I'll be that much more ready for promotion because I've walked away 'being, knowing, and doing' the things a sergeant needs to be doing; and doing them right."



Soldiers from the Warrior Leader Course Class 12-151 at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, participate in a situational training exercise, April 26, 2012.

# PREPARING OUR FAMILIES IS ONE OF OUR DUTIES AS GUARDSMEN

By Maj. John Hazel Alderman IV  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense

Would you be prepared if gravity suddenly reversed itself? I know being prepared for emergencies is part of being a good Guardsman, but every time I approach the topic of getting my family ready for emergencies, it seems like I eventually get into such a series of what-ifs that it becomes harder to visualize exactly what I should be doing to prepare. What checklist do I use? What emergencies should we prepare for first? How do we keep spare change from falling out of our pockets if gravity really does reverse?

I've considered where we are as a family, and what we should do immediately to meet basic readiness guidelines – and what we can do continuously to improve that readiness over time. So we're going to follow this plan: assemble basic emergency supplies, confirm some basic emergency plans, and set our family's proper attitude toward preparedness.

GEMA's Ready Georgia site proves a good basic resource for recommended equipment and supplies. Their standard checklist will get you started, and pages provide basics on planning for emergencies. (They also have a nice app that adds functionality like finding shelters.)

Unfortunately, their checklist, like so many I've seen, is necessarily vague and does not cater to peoples' personal needs. To help with this, GEMA shares what members of their organization keep in their personal emergency kits. You can also visit the FEMA site, which adds useful details like types of food to store, and how and when to purify water. Once the GEMA site gets you started, the FEMA site's details help significantly.

While this is a great start to building an emergency kit, I'm concerned with how to transport all this stuff because we have five kids and, well, one day of supply turns out to be a lot. So we added to the list a backpack for each. The younger kids get book bags, which keep them from packing too much to carry. I also stopped by the BX to pick up a few light duty (and therefore cheaper) duffle bags to help transport group supplies.

With some basic supplies gathered, we knew we needed to make some plans as well. The FEMA site includes a great family emergency plan to prompt you for all sorts of things – from rally points, to medicines, to SSNs, to usual hangouts

– to put all on one form and keep with your kit. Perhaps not surprisingly, these government forms tend not to mention plans for family firearms, but clearly one should have a plan for that as well.

All of these plans, and all of this equipment, must take into account that I am a Guardsman and almost certainly will not be available in case of emergencies. That means I won't be there to carry heavy over-packed bags, and will need a way to know the family's plans if they evacuate. Understanding that basic fact and allowing it to permeate our plans is the most important thing about our third point: changing our attitude.

We're a relatively active family and pretty well disciplined. But we know that an emergency will stress both our attitudes and our bodies. So we've started camping more as a family. We continue to hike, and expect our children (everyone three and over) to carry his own weight.

We're practicing simple stuff, too. Like what to do in case of a fire. Where to go if there's a tornado. Where to assemble if a tornado damages several homes in the neighborhood. That sort of thing.

It doesn't even need to be obvious or stressful the first time. While getting ready for a camping trip recently, we gave the kids simple marching orders: "Your backpacks are in the living room. Get your clothes from your rooms, add one water bottle and two granola bars each, zip everything up, and be back in 20 minutes. Big kids help your little brothers. Get back in line here so we can check you before you get into the van."

And it worked. We figured assigning roles (filling water bottles, taking light loads to the van) comes next. Like anything else, I think systems and drills are the secret; so we'll practice accordingly.

So that's how the Alderman family has tried to be more deliberately prepared for emergencies by working on basic equipment, plans, and attitudes. We expect that house-specific checklists are next, as well as methods to keep food stocks rotated, and new tools to help. We'll share more in the next installment as we continue to refine our plans.

The bottom line is that we as Guardsmen have to prepare our families for the zombie apocalypse. Or whatever. Because I know that if I am grabbing my own ready kit to report for duty, but at the same time I'm worried about my family's safety and readiness, it will feel as bad as the zombie apocalypse.

So it's my duty to prepare now.

## SUNSHINE IN STARBASE

Story by Maj. William Cox  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Army National Guard

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., May 23, 2012**– Mrs. Donna Bridges, otherwise known as "Sunshine" to her coworkers and students of STARBASE, received the Georgia State Five Year Faithful Service award from Maj. Gen. Jim Butterworth today in the Joint Force Headquarters. Sunshine is the STARBASE Administrative Assistant scheduling hundreds of students each year to attend their five day program. She also goes out to each school selected and gives the children and teachers an overview of the program of instruction prior to the class.

STARBASE is a partnership between the Georgia National Guard, local school systems, and the community. "The goal of STARBASE is to raise the interest and improve the knowledge and skills in science, aviation, and math of middle school students," said Bridges.

Georgia conducts the program for fifth grade students who come to the Dobbins campus one day a week for five consecutive weeks. Students are accompanied by their classroom teacher and teaching assistant.

Sunshine can be found faithfully at each STARBASE graduation challenging each student to contact her if they ever need any help.

"I want the kids to know that we care and if they ever feel like they can't turn to anyone else they can always turn to me," said Bridges.

## GUARDSMAN GIVES BACK TO COMMUNITY BY VOLUNTEERING WITH BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Story by Maj. William Cox  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Army National Guard

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., May 9, 2012** – Major Jeff Daigle of the Georgia Army National Guard was a Boy Scout as a youth and now serves as an assistant Cub master and Boy Scout troop committee member in Marietta. His 21 years of service in the military solidified his desire to help train young boys to be civic-minded men. "The Boy Scouts of America is a 100-year-old organization that helps boys develop self-esteem and confidence through community service and adventure," said Daigle. "I love volunteering because I get to invest in my sons and other boys while they camp, build rope bridges, rock climb, raft, orienteer, and learn survival skills like building a field expedient fire."

The Boy Scouts of America is one of the largest values-based youth development organizations in the nation. The BSA's program builds character, trains boys to be responsible citizens, and develops personal fitness.

"In general, our society does not teach our children how their actions impact others. BSA gives boys a chance

to lead their peers and experience the impact of their decisions in a small group and controlled setting. These experiences help build responsible, caring, and competent leaders," said Daigle.

The BSA has four programs: Cub Scouts for boys 6-10 years old or grades one through five; Boy Scouts for boys 11-17 years old; and Venturers and Sea Scouts for boys and girls 14-20 years of age.

Scouting programs are designed to meet the six essential needs of children growing up in our society: mentoring, life-long learning, faith traditions, serving others, healthy living, and building character.

"Cub Scouts is adult-led with the boys participating, which then feeds into Boy Scouts which is boy-led with adult participation," said Daigle. "Some boys have no goals, no dreams, and are not challenged. But Scouts puts them in demanding situations and teaches them valuable life skills which culminate with their own service project to help improve their local communities."

If you like adventure, then the BSA might have a program that is right for you. For more information on the BSA, volunteering with the BSA, or finding a troop near you, go to <http://www.scouting.org>.

This story first appeared in *National Guard* magazine, the official publication of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS).

# Eyes in the Sky

A Georgia Air Guard unit uses an aging aircraft to give ground commanders an invaluable perspective on the entire battlefield

By Andrew Waldman

The glass buildings traffic circles and palm trees at the Northrop Grumman facility in Melbourne, Fla., suggest nothing more than a nondescript office park.

But behind the mundane trappings is an interesting tale.

Within the walls of the facility located adjacent to the Melbourne International Airport is the nerve center of the E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System, one of the most important intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) aircraft in the Air Force fleet.



**HIGH VIEW** E-8C Joint STARS aircraft from the 116th Air Control Wing detect, track and classify ground activity all over the battlefield.



**JOINT OPERATION** Georgia Air National Guard and Army crewmembers monitor radar data during an E-8C training mission.

The Joint STARS is a wide-area surveillance system with the ability to collect huge swaths of data in seconds and provide a picture of an entire battlefield. Nothing else like it exists in the Air Force inventory.

At Northrop Grumman, test engineers and developers use a full array of laboratories, including

a full-scale mockup of the E-8C fuselage, to develop, update and test new systems for the aircraft. (The company also holds the contract for total system support.)

About 1,400 employees work at the Melbourne facility, and there's a feeling there that the mission is more than just another contract.

## At a Glance

### E-8C Joint STARS



**Aircraft:** Modified commercial Boeing 707-300

**Engines:** Pratt and Whitney JT3D (X4)

**Maximum Altitude:** 42,000 feet

**Maximum Speed:** 449 - 587 mph (optimum orbit speed)

**Endurance:** 21 hours (with refueling)

**Radar APY-7 Radar with eight modes:** wide-area surveillance, sector search, attack control, target tracking, synthetic aperture radar, high-resolution radar, maritime and dismounted MTI

**Communications:** Secure UHF, VHF and HF radios; secure SATCOM; surveillance and control data link; Joint Tactical Radio System; secure Internet; beyond-line-of-sight SATCOM; and Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below system

**Initial Operating Capability:** 1997

**Year 707 Airframe Entered Air Force Service:** 1956

Source: Air Force

"I think people here really care about this mission," says Frank Finkelstein, a Northrop Grumman flight-test engineer and program director. "Some might think this is a sales pitch, but I don't."

That sentiment is found also at the Georgia Air National Guard's 116th Air Control Wing at Robins Air Force Base near Warner Robins, Ga., about 400 miles from Melbourne. The wing is an active associate unit, meaning the Air Guard "owns" the only E-8Cs in the Air Force fleet and works alongside the active-component's 461st Air Control Wing to operate and maintain the aircraft.

Master Sgt. Joseph M. Kendrick, a supervisor in a tool supply shop at the 116th, exemplifies the enthusiasm for the mission. He spends his own time poring over civilian publications to find solutions to increase efficiency and decrease cost to maintain the aircraft.

Kendrick recently acquired an infrared sensing tester that tracks down electrical shorts in minutes. That task used to take hours with an older tool known as a multimeter.

"We constantly have to fly these things around the world," he says. "It makes a big difference when you can see [a shorted wire in infrared] instead of chasing it down with a multimeter."

This type of ingenuity by the wing and its counterparts at Northrop Grumman has kept the state-of-the-art aircraft flying since it was first fielded in 1995.

But there are other modernization challenges facing the E-8C that could make or break the program in the next several years.

#### EYEING AN EVOLVING THREAT

Like many Air Force airframes, Joint STARS was born in the midst of the Cold War. The Pentagon wanted an airborne radar system that could track Soviet tank columns if they invaded West Germany.

During the late '70s, both the Army and Air Force were working on separate systems to meet this need. In 1982, the Pentagon merged the separate efforts into a joint program.

Northrop Grumman won the contract to design and develop the Joint STARS aircraft. By the time the first aircraft was delivered in 1995, the Berlin Wall had fallen and the Soviet Union had broken apart, but the need for an unblinking eye in the sky remained.

Built on the Boeing 707 airframe, the E-8C is one of the most sophisticated ground-radar systems on the planet. With an average crew of 21 operators, including 17 to 19 airmen and two to four soldiers, Joint STARS can collect wide-area surveillance, track targets and produce imagery using synthetic aperture radar (SAR).

Using a full suite of communications functions ranging from secure telephones to the joint tactical radio system, aircrews are capable of performing command-and-control functions while collecting data.

But the aircraft's main attraction has always been its ability to identify and track ground targets. The 24-foot radar, housed in a canoe-shaped fairing hanging from the belly of the plane, can survey an area about the size of the state of Florida with only a couple well-aimed sweeps.

The wide area of surveillance is a valuable asset to ground commanders, says Finkelstein.

"That's what this system does better than [anything] else," he says. "It gives you an instantaneous battle picture."

The collected data is displayed on a map as dots, which represent nearly every moving object on the ground, from a Marine Humvee to a Taliban truck.

This unique picture of the battlefield is in high demand. Members of the 116th and 461st have deployed continuously since 9/11. In Iraq, E-8Cs flew more than 80,000 hours.

Recently, the wings supported the NATO mission in Libya to help the Libyan opposition fighters oust Moammar Gadhafi.

Col. James K. Edenfield, the 116th's vice commander, said the Libya mission displayed the full capabilities of Joint STARS. The aircraft provided both a big picture for command and control

The 116th's 17 aging aircraft were rebuilt from the bones out when they were fit for Joint STARS. Finkelstein says the 707 is one of the most robust aircraft designs ever created. Boeing, he adds, purposely over-engineered the aircraft.

"They have been around for 50 years and they will be around for another 50 years," he says.

But the aircraft's engines are notoriously underpowered and inefficient. Each time an E-8C launches, it must immediately climb to altitude and take on fuel from a tanker, says Lt. Col. Chris Dunlap, the 116th Operations Support Squadron's director of operations.

The airframe also doesn't have modern avionics, he says, but the wing has experienced pilots to take advantage of the aircraft's proven reliability.

"Are we a C-130J? No," Dunlap says, referring to the updated cargo aircraft. "Do we have cool heads-up

***"Do we have cool heads-up displays and night-vision goggles and all the latest and greatest? No. But we have been able to keep up with the requirements."***

— Lt. Col. Chris Dunlap

Director of Operations, 116th Operations Support Squadron

and the specific intelligence needed on objects moving on the ground.

Lt. Col. Thomas Grabowski, the commander of the 116th Operations Support Squadron, says this dual role is the greatest strength of the aircraft. The analysts, sensor operators and radio operators in the rear of the aircraft simultaneously perform both roles.

"Because we do two missions ... depending what phase of the conflict you are in dictates what the 21 people on the jet are doing," he says.

Quoting an old advertising slogan, he adds, "We are both a candy and a breath mint."

#### OLD AIRCRAFT, NEW TECHNOLOGY

The can-do spirit of the 116th is evident every day on the flight line, where maintenance personnel fight an uphill battle against the ravages of time.

displays and night-vision goggles and all the latest and greatest? No. We have the old stuff. But we have been able to keep up with the requirements ... worldwide so we can still get ourselves to the fight and do our jobs."

Upgrading engines has been an on-and-off battle for several years. In 2008, Northrop Grumman received a contract to begin engineering and testing Pratt and Whitney JT8D-219 engines. The engines are more efficient and require significantly less maintenance than the aircraft's original powerplants.

A year later, the Defense Department gave the go-ahead for production. But the Air Force stalled. Today, the test engines are proven, but there is no immediate plan to re-engine the E-8C fleet.



**MONITORING BELOW** Maj. Michael Mras, a member of the 116th Air Control Wing, checks ground activity captured by sensors on the E-8C Joint STARS aircraft.

The planes, however, are still performing well, according to Col. Michael J. Gaspar, the commander of the 116th Maintenance Group. He says his team is dedicated to keeping the old engines running. In fact, one of his airmen recently carried a part from Georgia to a base in Greece to repair a stalled aircraft.

“Engines have been performing better lately,” he says. “We meet the mission, obviously. If the money was there, or if there was a magic wand, if we could get new engines, it would make everything a whole lot easier.”

To further complicate matters, one of the 116th’s operational aircraft suffered a mishap three years ago while deployed and has been sitting unrepaired on a ramp overseas ever since. The Air Force decided not to repair the aircraft and cut it from the unit’s inventory in its fiscal 2013 budget request.

Also, the unit’s training aircraft exceeded the threshold cost for repair during depot maintenance and isn’t expected to be repaired.

But even as the fleet shrinks, the electronics and ISR technology in the remaining aircraft continues to be upgraded. An ongoing improvement to the radar allows the aircraft to more accurately collect data on maritime targets. Radar resolution has also been increased.

The improvements continue to be

dictated by the needs of the war fighters. Ground moving-target indication data has only been available to ground commanders for about 20 years, but ground forces constantly demand JSTARS services, says Grabowski.

The data provides a wide area of visibility, and with augmentation from other ISR platforms with narrower range, the GMTI data becomes an invaluable way to figure out where to “zero in” smaller ISR platforms like unmanned aerial vehicles.

One thing is for sure: ground commanders can’t get enough of the data.

“JSTARS plays a key role in helping commanders focus UAV sensors in priority areas with its wide-area surveillance capabilities,” retired Lt. Gen. Ronald L. Watts, a former 1st Infantry Division and VII Corps commander,

wrote in an editorial for Army Magazine in January.

Despite the demand and recent upgrades, the future of Joint STARS is unknown. While the 116th and its counterparts in the 461st continue to make the plane relevant in the current fight, Air Force and Army partners aren’t certain how to proceed with the aircraft.

Proposals have been floating for years on new ways to accomplish the GMTI mission. A smaller platform is a popular idea in the Air Force, while cutting back on the Army personnel in the program is another. But nothing has changed recently.

Dale Burton, a Northrop Grumman senior vice president in charge of Joint STARS, says the aircraft’s ability to communicate is one of its main selling points in today’s environment where communication on smaller or unmanned aircraft is not as consistent.

“Until the military [communication] gets reliable in the battle space, you are going to need good line-of-sight communication,” he says. “You are going to need people to control the situation from high ground.”

Joint STARS aircraft are scheduled to fly well into the next decade. But even as the youngest member of the Air Force’s 707-based ISR platforms—the last E-8C was delivered to Georgia in 2005—Air Force officials don’t seem to know how to treat the aircraft.

Grabowski says that because the aircraft is capable of both command and control and ISR, there is confusion about where it falls on the organizational chart.

“That’s one of things that hurts us,” says Grabowski. “One of the challenges with having a dual- role platform . . . is it becomes somewhat of a funding challenge.”

*Waldman can be reached at: andrew.waldman@ngaus.org or at (202) 408-5892.*

### NGAUS Action

**NGAUS has long been a proponent of modernizing the 116th Air Control Wing’s E-8C aircraft. It was association action in 2009 that led Congress to blunt an Air Force attempt to pull funding for Joint STARS re-engining in the fiscal 2010 budget. The Air Force has since conducted, but has not released, an Analysis of Alternatives on the E-8C. NGAUS also was instrumental in getting language inserted into the fiscal 2012 defense authorization act that requires the Air Force to conduct an audit on funds appropriated thus far to Joint STARS re-engining.**

# SAFETY TRAINING REDUCES ACCIDENTS, INCREASES READINESS, PROMOTES SOLDIER SAFETY

*Story and photos by Spc. Steven Bennett  
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
Georgia Army National Guard*

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., June 7, 2012** – The Georgia Army National Guard conducted a week of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training in a series of 10-hour training events.

“Our primary purpose is to familiarize leaders with hazards and educate them on the procedures for dealing with safety issues,” said Lt. Col. Steven Ballew, Safety Director of the Georgia Army National Guard.

The OSHA training is part of the “On Target: ZERO preventable accidents” safety philosophy of Brig. Gen. Joe Jarrard, Assistant Adjutant General - Georgia Army National Guard. Jarrard, who commands more than 11,000 Georgia Guardsmen, set forth his safety philosophy in an official memorandum addressed to every Soldier and employee of the Georgia Army National Guard.

The 10-hour OSHA course fulfills Jarrard’s intent to integrate safety into the culture and every aspect of command. Full-time leaders are the intended audience of the 10-hour OSHA Course, and typical classes include commanders and first sergeants, supervisors, technician and civilian employees as well as contractors. The 10-hour course covers two days of instruction into safety and risk management topics. Classes include OSHA regulations, electrical safety, fire prevention, composite risk management, and hazard identification and abatement.

As a culminating exercise, students participate in a virtual Armory simulation exercise where they conduct a simulated facility inspection and are required to identify hazardous work situations and propose abatement strategies. During the simulated inspection, students are presented with photographs that document hazards and OSHA violations observed during previous armory inspections.

“This class helps us build on past success,” said Ballew. “We listened to the feedback from previous classes and created this tool as a way to develop every Soldier as a safety-sensor.”

Ballew and his fellow trainers have more than 30 years of experience in safety management and training. More than

2,500 Soldiers and civilian employees have been trained by the Safety Office, and more than 1,500 hazards have been identified and abated in the past five-years.

From 2009-2011 the Ga. Dept. of Defense realized a savings of \$452,755 in reduced workers compensation costs alone. Ballew attributes these savings to increased safety awareness and engaged leadership at all levels of the organization.

Ballew plans to reach every Soldier with the commander’s safety philosophy and to stress the importance of safety in protecting readiness and preserving combat power. The feedback from Ballew’s students suggests that message is resonating.

“Everyone should take this course,” said Sgt. Crystal Allen, a student in the class. “This course helps keep Soldiers safe at work or in the community.”



# GEORGIA'S BEST WARRIOR COMPETITORS

## EARN RESPECT OF FELLOW GUARDSMEN

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

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., May 30, 2012** – Though they are not moving on to the next level of competition, the Georgia Army Guardsmen who participated in the Region III Best Warrior Competition held earlier in the month will always be winners in the hearts of their fellow Soldiers, said Georgia's most senior noncommissioned officer, Command Sgt. Maj. James Nelson.

“Our warriors were in the hunt from day one, and each remained truly competitive throughout the entire competition,” said Nelson, the Georgia Army Guard command sergeant major and the Georgia National Guard's senior enlisted advisor. “Not only did they win the respect of their fellow competitors as well as accolades from the event staff, by the time the competition ended, they continued to win the respect and admiration of their fellow Georgians. They truly, as we say, ‘left it all on the field.’”

Sergeant 1st Class David Krempa and Spc. Carl Westbrook are among the Citizen-Soldiers from the eight states and two territories that make up Region III to have competed May 7 - 10 for the titles of NCO and Soldier of the year at the Mississippi Army Guard's Camp McCain outside the town of Elliott.

Krempa, who drills with the 78th Homeland Response Force, is a full-time instructor here at Clay with the 122nd Regional Training Institute's Military Intelligence Academy. He is also the noncommissioned officer-in charge of the Military Intelligence Specialist Advanced Leadership Course. Although he gave a great effort during the competition, a Mississippi Guardsman won the opportunity to move on to represent Region III at the national level, according to the Camp McCain Public Affairs Office.

“Every one of us knew what the stakes were, and we all came to compete. There was no letup by the competitors the entire time; everyone wanted the win just as much

as the guy next to him,” Krempa said. “Throughout the week, the leader board constantly changed, which added to the excitement. We all knew that a few good finishes any where throughout the week could completely flip-flop the standings. As much as I wish it were me going on to the next level, I certainly wish the NCO who is going all the luck in the world.”

Westbrook, as readers may recall, 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.

According to Camp McCain Public Affairs, a South Carolina Soldier will be representing Region III at the national level.

“No matter how hard you train and study, you realize the road is going to be rougher,” Westbrook said. “I have to say that the competition at the regional competition is – as it should be – more challenging. But by the time it was over, we were cheering each other on. Like Sgt. 1st Class Krempa, I know the Soldier who took Soldier of the Year is going to give it his best when he competes nationally.”

Despite their love of the competition and the opportunity to represent the Georgia Army Guard at the local, state and regional levels, Krempa and Westbrook agreed that they now turn their attention to helping others seek the same opportunity.

“I would love another shot at it, but as a senior NCO who's been there, I feel it's now my responsibility to mentor and train the Soldiers under me to succeed in next year's competition and surpass what I was able to accomplish,” Krempa said.

“If the opportunity to compete presents itself again, I would definitely take full advantage of it,” Westbrook added. “But I also would like to coach those among my fellow Soldiers who want their chance at being known as ‘best warrior.’ What greater way to show pride in what I've accomplished, who I am, and what I do as a Guardsman, than to help others do the same?”

Photos by Maj. Christian Patterson  
Joint Forces Headquarters Public Affairs Office  
Mississippi Army National Guard



# THE BATTLE OF SECESSIONVILLE:

## DEFENSE IN DEPTH AND A FAILURE OF RECONNAISSANCE

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

In June 1862, Charleston, S.C., was a prime target, both symbolically and strategically. With Forts Sumter, Moultrie, and others guarding the water approach, the Union Army would have to negotiate a network of Confederate earthworks if they were to attempt to seize Charleston by land.

Major Gen. David Hunter, a 35-year veteran, had served in the Second Seminole War and the Mexican-American War. Emboldened by his success at Ft. Pulaski, where rifled cannons had overwhelmed the fort's masonry structure, Hunter landed two Union divisions on the southern tip of James Island south of Charleston. Hunter planned to move north, flank the harbor defenses, and sever the railroad west of Charleston, the town's sole remaining supply line. If successful, the Union would have a base of operations to launch strikes into the heart of the Confederacy.

In response to Hunter's landing, Confederate Maj. Gen. John Pemberton dispatched reinforcements to James Island and ordered the construction of a network of earthen fortifications. One of the fortifications was an "M" shaped fort guarding the approaches to the town of Secessionville. The fort's shape provided converging fields of fire. With its flanks anchored by marsh, an attacking force would be gradually telescoped into the fort's kill zone. Col. Thomas Lamar commanded the 500-man garrison which bristled with artillery pieces.

Despite light resistance to his June 2 landing, Hunter was convinced that he was outnumbered and surrounded. On June 10, his trepidation was justified by the 47th Georgia Infantry, which engaged his forces in a sharp skirmish near his encampments. Hunter departed for his headquarters at Hilton Head to analyze the invasion plans and seek reinforcements. He left Brig. Gen. Henry Benham in charge, telling him to make no attempt to advance on Charleston or to attack the Confederates

until reinforced.

Despite his orders, Benham resolved to make a reconnaissance-in-force on the morning of June 16. He planned a pre-dawn frontal assault in which he would send the 8th Michigan forward at the double-quick to gain the walls of the fort and fix the enemy long enough for his following regiments to overwhelm the fort.

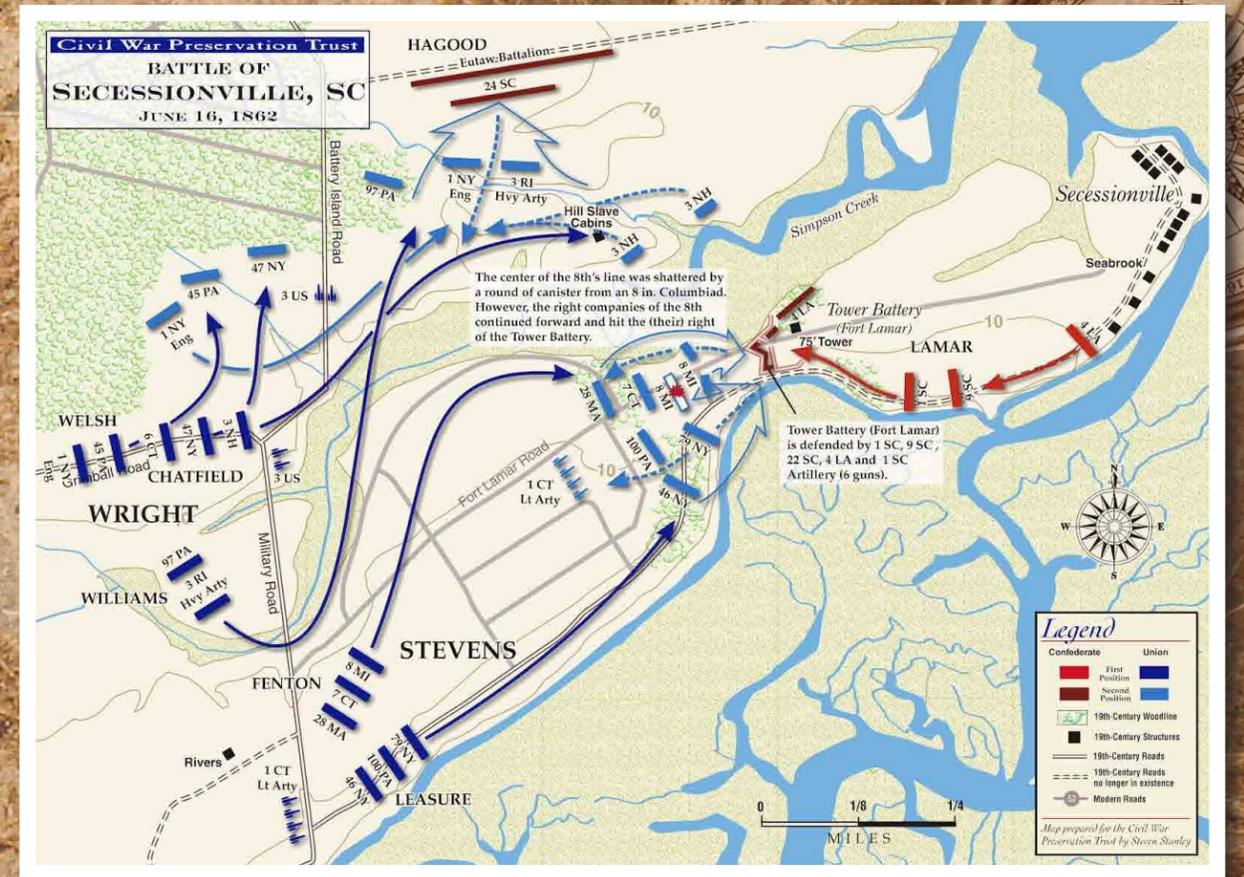
Despite poor terrain and darkness, Union forces moved silently until lead elements of the 8th Michigan overran a Confederate picket post one mile south of the fort. The pickets got off two shots that wounded five union troops.

Sentinels in the fort heard the shots and awoke the garrison. From the parapet, Col. Lamar could see Union forces massed a half mile away and a smaller formation of Union Infantry sprinting for the fort. Lamar ordered the recall of the 9th South Carolina battalion from their Secessionville camp. With the elements of the 1st South Carolina Battalion and 150 artillerymen present in the fort, Lamar was outnumbered six to one.

Lamar's cannons opened fire on the 8th Michigan from a distance of perhaps 200 yards. The Union center was devastated with grapeshot and canister. Confederate gunners dispatched their artillery pieces with great effect but the Union attackers continued forward. The 8th Michigan crested the walls and poured into the fort. As hand-to-hand combat raged, the 9th South Carolina Battalion arrived at the fort and charged the attackers with fixed bayonets. The Michiganders were driven from the fort where they and the follow-on regiments were subjected to withering converging fire. Confederate Infantry pinned the lead regiments to the fort walls while artillerymen kept reinforcements at bay.

Those Federals who were able fell back to the protection of hedgerows. Benham reformed his lines and launched two more unsuccessful frontal assaults and a flanking attack before ordering a withdrawal from the field.

In the brief but violent action, the Federals suffered nearly 700 casualties while Confederates sustained approximately 200.



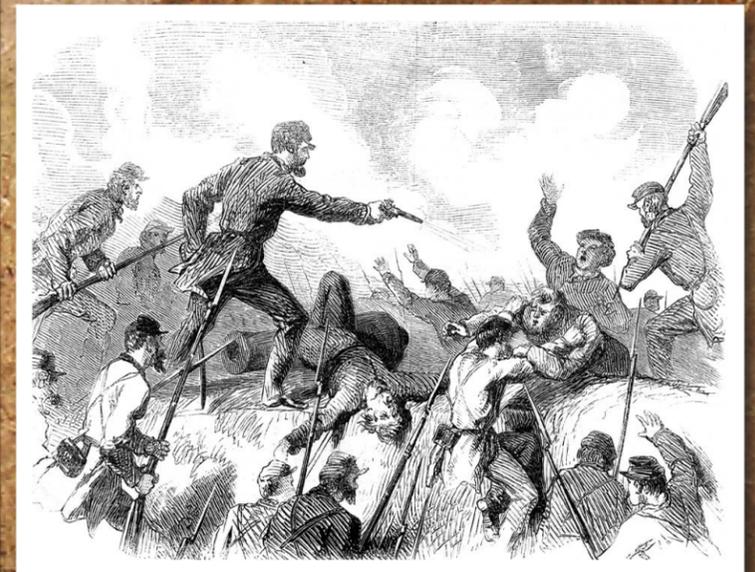
\*Map provided by Civil War Preservation Trust

For his insubordination, Benham was relieved of command. Hunter would largely escape blame and would achieve larger notice after the war as president of the military commission that tried the Lincoln assassination conspirators.

The 9th South Carolina Battalion Soldiers would fight from Mississippi to Virginia where they would again face the 8th Michigan at the trenches of Petersburg. Fewer than 80 of the 1,000 men would remain to surrender at Appomattox in 1865.

The 47th Georgia would defend her home state at Chickamauga and Kennesaw Mountain. A remnant of the 47th would surrender at Durham, N.C., April 26, 1865.

The Battle of Secessionville was the largest land battle fought in South Carolina. Had the Union taken the fort, they would have had an open water route bypassing Ft. Sumter and rendered the Confederate defenses on James Island untenable. Had Charleston fallen, the war might have ended two years earlier, and Georgia might have been spared the effects of Sherman's March to the Sea.



# 117TH ACS SUCCESSFULLY OPERATES ON REDUCED VEHICLE FOOTPRINT

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Delano  
165th Airlift Wing  
Georgia Air National Guard

**AMELIA ISLAND AIRPORT, Fla., April 21, 2012** – Since Sept. 11, 2001, members of the 117th Air Control Squadron, Georgia Air National Guard, have provided surveillance and control for the skies over the Southeastern United States, the Nation’s Capitol, and Iraq. Using radar, computers and electronics to access military satellites, operations personnel analyze and interrogate aircraft in their airspace.

During their annual field training at Amelia Island Airport, Fla., the 117th ACS cut its transportation footprint in half by reducing the number of convoy vehicles and palletizing a large portion of its equipment. This is the first field deployment off of a main base for a U.S. Air Force or Air National Guard Air Control Squadron using the new concept.

“Looking at this new deployment concept on paper,



we had doubts, but after getting it to the field, we feel a lot better about the ability to project our mission set to the field,” said Lt. Col. Vic Long, 117th Air Control Squadron Commander.

In the past, movement of an Air Control Squadron required the use of more than 40 C-17 Globemaster III aircraft. By reducing the number of convoy vehicles, the equipment footprint is reduced to close to 20 C-17s, which gives more flexibility to the Air Force by requiring less aircraft and using standardized pallets for transport.

“This field deployment has provided valuable experience and training for our many young Airmen as well as those of us who have been around for awhile,” said Senior Master Sgt. Bobby Tice, network branch chief.

This new way of doing business mostly affects the setup of the Air Battle Execution site, which consists of the main command and control center, where controllers communicate with pilots, use the deployed radar data, coordinate with airborne command aircraft, and control allied forces. For previous field training, convoy vehicles were left attached to the equipment vans, allowing rapid movement but also requiring a larger footprint at the site.

The challenge for the 117th ACS during its training was to quickly position rolling equipment using two trucks and one forklift to move pallets.

“It’s important for the Air Force to be able to get us to the fight quickly, and this new configuration allows just that,” said Maj. Dale Nunnelley, chief of maintenance.

The deployment proved to be more successful than just demonstrating a new logistical concept. The communications team achieved 100% installation of the planned communications circuit including Defense Switched Network access, Non-Classified Internet Protocol Router Network, and Secure Internet Protocol Router Network from a Navy base.

Additionally, operations personnel were certified to operate from the field by a U.S. Navy Air Traffic Control agency known as “Sealord” and controlled Florida Air National Guard F-15s.

# 36BRAVO: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TECHNICIAN

Story by Desiree Bamba  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., May 9, 2012** – When Staff Sgt. Maurika Flores joined the Army Reserve in 1999, she worked as a finance Soldier. Later, when Flores joined the National Guard in 2005, she knew she wanted to continue to help people with any issues regarding their finances. In 2006, Flores moved to Georgia where she is now a 36Bravo (Financial Management Technician).

As a 36Bravo, Flores performs duties such as (but not limited to) budgeting, disbursing, and accounting for government funds; payment for travel and commercial vendor services; pay support of Soldiers and foreign national employees; receiving and reviewing contracts, invoices and reports; and internal control operations.

The customer service aspect of the job was what attracted Flores to the position, which she says also requires patience when something does not work out right away.

“Customer service is probably the most important part of this job,” Flores said. “I like getting to help others, and to do so requires a good attitude and lots of patience when dealing with Guard members.”

Along with the customer service aspect, Flores says being a 36Bravo requires the ability to complete in-depth research, a skill she uses often when she is tasked with auditing pay or inputting data.

Flores went to Advance Individual Training for eight weeks at Fort Jackson, S.C. There, she says she learned

about the different pay accounts and orders, how to prepare and maintain financial reports and budgets, as well as how to input transactions.

“I have always been interested in finance and how pay is entered,” Flores said. “I like knowing that I am helping Soldiers receive their pay as well as helping with any other financial issues they may face.”

Flores tells people who are interested in this Military Occupational Skill that it is a great job “if you like helping people and seeing how different situations can affect payroll.” She also tells them that it can be challenging, and that the research can be very labor-intensive and the job is not time-constricted. Flores works long, sometimes unusual hours in order to get the job done.

“The hours may not be ideal, but I love my job,” Flores explains. “Knowing the Soldiers are happy makes all the work and time worth it.”

Flores hopes to one day take the training she’s garnered through her position and go to Officer Candidate School, and continue her career as an officer in the Guard.

“I love what I do, and I am happy with the choice I made to be a 36Bravo,” Flores said. “If I could go back, I would do everything again the same way.”

**Editor’s note:** For those currently considering a civilian career in finance, the Edward Jones Forces program provides certain new financial advisors – including those transitioning from military service – a comprehensive training and on-boarding program to help ensure a successful start in a career helping individual investors reach their financial goals. No prior financial services experience is necessary – the program is designed specifically for people who do not have a financial services background but possess the skills and competencies they look for at Edward Jones.



# WHEN HONORING MILITARY FAMILIES, CONSIDER IMPACT OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Column by Col. Bruce Chick  
Commander, 122nd Regional Training Institute  
Georgia Army National Guard



The National Guard continues to serve the nation as an operational force in the War on Terror – going well beyond the legacy role of a strategic reserve.

Since 9/11, the Georgia National Guard has deployed more than 12,300 Soldiers and 2,618 Airmen overseas, representing 107% of the

Georgia Guard's current force strength.

The 15,000 men and women of the Georgia National Guard are proud to have played an instrumental role in our nation's defense, and remain ever indebted to the sacrifices made by fellow Guardsmen who have fallen in the line of duty protecting freedom.

After a decade of war, we are a nation indebted to the families who have stood behind and supported our Soldiers and Airmen. It's often said that we in the military could not do what we do without the support of our families, and that is true.

But sometimes I wonder if most people truly understand the role our families play in motivating us to serve in the first place. I've lost count of the number of Soldiers who've told me they serve to protect their wife, or their son, or their daughter.

Enough simply cannot be said about the singular sacrifices our families make.

You may have seen the recent CNN documentary on the subject of Soldier unemployment featuring Soldiers from our own 877th Engineering Company, who just returned from a yearlong deployment in Afghanistan with a 50% unemployment rate.

Organizationally, I can say the Georgia Department

of Defense – through the leadership of our Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Jim Butterworth – is turning over every stone to find employment for our Guardsmen.

In addition to doing everything we can to help connect these Guardsmen with employers, the Georgia Guard is also putting a lot of effort into helping military spouses seek and find gainful employment. Our family services department has even built a website for just that purpose.

But, in both efforts, the support of employers and community leaders has been and will remain crucial in making as many employment opportunities available to our Guardsmen and their spouses as possible.

Not only does the employment rate of our veterans say something profound about who we are as a society, but keeping that rate low also eases the potential burden unemployed veterans might otherwise create for our nation, state and local communities.

So the prerogative here isn't just a moral one, it's a logical one.

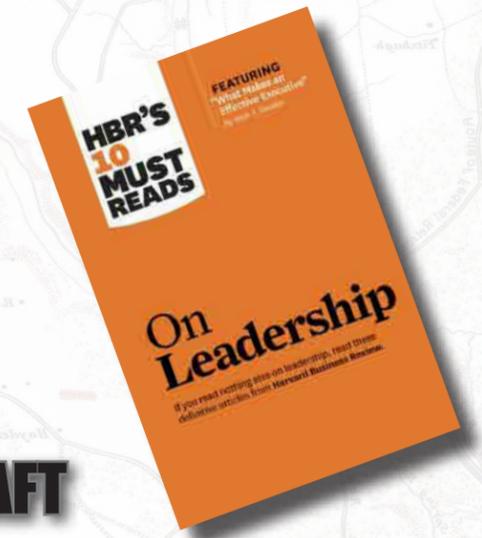


Scan here for more information on the Family Assistance Program



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOOKSHELF:

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS THAT TEACH US ABOUT OUR CRAFT



By Maj. John H. Alderman IV  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense

Of the thousands of books and articles written about leadership and management each year, those produced by Harvard Business Review stand out for the quality and expertise associated with the brand. Each volume in this new series collects 10 such articles on a particular subject – Strategy, Change Management, Managing Yourself – and in that sense is the best of what HBR has to offer. This volume *On Leadership* is excellent for military leaders looking to consider new ideas and better understand old ones.

Selected from the last 20 years or so of HBR, writers include Peter F. Drucker, author of *The Effective Executive* and other enduring leaders in the field. The articles range from analytical to practical to scholarly to self-help in style; all benefit from HBR's cogent editing and their insistence on lucid prose.

The book's layout aids accessibility as well as retention. Articles include sidebar "Idea in Brief" and "Idea in Practice" sections as well as short case studies. The Idea in Brief summarizes main ideas and makes it easy to prioritize reading. The Idea in Practice adds depth and applies these basic ideas.

Each of the articles is just the right size. Coleman is famous for his development of "emotional intelligence" and while I find the idea attractive, I'm disinclined to read hundreds of pages about it. So his article in *On Leadership* explores the idea well enough for me and allows me both to apply it and to decide if I want to read

more later.

Understanding this is actually pretty important to personal development and the idea of an anthology in the first place.

There are so many books on leadership published because there are so many different situations, so many maps to success. How can we hope to localize those ideas and apply them in our lives? Immersion in a long book steeps us in a relatively small number of ideas and aids internalization. Conversely, an anthology like this one broadens development and aids in experimentation with new ideas.

For example, Rooke and Torbert posit seven "action logic" models of leadership. What happens when you try to put your co-workers into these models? Where do you place yourself? Are any opportunities or threats revealed?

Working the other direction, Kotter helped me codify past observations. I've been a fan of decentralization since my Cavalry days, and always thought that situation builds good leaders. But why? Kotter observes that good leaders tend to have had demanding jobs early in their careers – and decentralized organizations tend to create just this situation.

*HBR's 10 Must Reads: On Leadership* contains dozens of examples of leaders in action applying these various leadership theories, yet there's no overabundance of prophetic declarations about leadership or its requirements.

It proves an immediately approachable book full of good sense by trusted authors who see leadership as a mosaic of factors – making this anthology a mosaic of mosaics, in a way. A great and informative read.

# 4TH CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM HOSTS JOINT TRAINING IN MARIETTA

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

## CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., June 6, 2012

– The Cobb County Safety Village is normally a site for children to receive fire and police safety instruction, but the Georgia National Guard’s 4th Civil Support Team (CST) took safety to the next level today by hosting a hazardous materials exercise for first responders. The exercise utilized the village’s eight-acre site to help capture an accurate performance of interagency capabilities in response to a hazardous materials or chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and/or explosive (CBRNE) incident.

“The Safety Village here in Cobb County is outstanding,” said Lt. Col Rick Pelham, who commands Alabama’s 46th CST. “It’s perfect for training.”

Participants included Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services, Cobb County Public Health, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Alabama National Guard 46th CST, South Carolina National Guard 43rd CST, and Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Local fire, law enforcement and CST personnel formed hazardous incident teams to conduct hazard sweeps using multiple detection and identification technologies. All teams had to deal with a variety of scenarios from bad smells to suspicious packages, which challenged their knowledge base and skill level to



force their members to react and communicate.

“This exercise mimics a normal event where we would be in a ‘standby mission’ for a ceremony or big event for the community, and we are monitoring to make

sure nothing goes wrong,” said Lt. Col. Chris Hyman, the 43rd CST commander.

But just as the hazardous incident teams settled into their roles, facilitators for the training dropped a flash bang grenade, transforming the scenario into a criminal incident with an explosion. First responders on the scene now had to address injuries and re-evaluate the situation.

“The joint training is vital,” said Erik Wojtkun, FBI supervisory special agent. “The FBI is not a first responder. We assist state and local first responders with resources, and we practice like this all the time, which makes us a better team.”

Medical first responders practiced treatment for CBRNE injuries and, with the assistance of MetroAtlanta Ambulance Service, delivered the patients to Kennestone Hospital in Marietta. CST physician assistants discussed with medical personnel how those patients would be received and cared for by the hospital.

“It’s a very good exercise in getting down to the details the CSTs need to establish those relationships with other agencies,” said Lt. Col. Keith Calhoun, Alabama National Guard State Training Officer.

This premier training for the 4th CST comes from its constant outreach to the community and its partnerships with area first responders. In April, the 4th CST conducted joint training with the Georgia Search and Rescue (GSAR) Region VI team and the Cherokee County Fire Department’s Hazardous Materials Team.

“The exercise took place at the Center for National Response located near Charleston, W. Va., which provides cost-effective, state-of-the-art consequence management and counterterrorism-based training to military and civilian agencies across the country,” said Maj. Shane Strickland, the 4th CST commander.

“We have had the opportunity to train with the 4th CST in the past, and one of the biggest advantages to doing this is having faces you recognize and knowing the resources available,” said Chuck Carter, Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services battalion chief. “Pooling our resources together makes for a seamless integration, where we could hopefully handle any kind of event.”



# CARING FOR GEORGIA'S WOUNDED WARRIORS DOESN'T STOP AT THE WTU

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

**CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., June 12, 2012** – Whether a Citizen-Soldier of the Georgia Army Guard is wounded in combat or comes home suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, the organization's concern for his or her care – and of their family – does not stop once they reach the Warrior Transition Unit, or even after they get discharged, if that be the case, says Col. Mark London, director of the Guard's Joint Family Services.

The Wounded Warrior Program (WWP) is for those who have been deployed, and have some type of physical or mental injury. That injury may not be combat-related, but is nonetheless something sustained while on active duty. Those Georgia Guardsmen who are injured are returned to the States and placed in a Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Fort Stewart in Hinesville or Fort Benning in Columbus.

Today, there are 173 Soldiers at those WTUs, London says. There have been an estimated 365 released from the WWP

since 2009. While the majority of Georgia's Wounded Warriors are here at home, there are some at WTUs in other states, but that number is small, he adds.

"Although the Soldier is on active duty, and his needs are being met by the WTU staffs, the Georgia Guard remains committed to monitoring its own and making sure they're being taken care of," London said. "Tasked with doing that is 1st Sgt. Teddy R. Gribbins, the senior enlisted leader for the Army Guard Casualty Assistance Office."

Gribbins, the WTU manager, says his job is to track and report on each wounded warrior, no matter where they are being treated – in state or out. That tracking, he says, covers everything from administrative and medical issues and



issues involving Line of Duty reports, just to name a few.

"As program manager, it's my job to go wherever our wounded warriors are, talk with them, and help them with whatever needs they have," Gribbins said. "I then report those issues, progress on the resolution of those issues and, basically, the overall status of our warriors to key leaders, like Brig. Gen. Joe Jarrard."

Once a Soldier is released from a WTU, one of two things happen, London says. That person either returns to duty – with his, or her, unit, or some place else within the Army Guard – or they are discharged because their injury or illness precludes them from continuing to serve. Should the latter be the case, "The care and concern the Georgia Army Guard shows for its warriors does not stop at the door with a handshake, goodbyes and good luck," he said.

"Our concern for the Soldiers continues on via the efforts of retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Darrell Partee and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Thomas, our Transition Assistant advisors," London said. "Through them, our fellow Soldiers have contact with Veterans Affairs and Tricare, and any community service that's available to help them – and their families, by the way – to make the move from military life to civilian."

"Being retired Citizen-Soldiers ourselves," Thomas said, "there's nothing, absolutely nothing, we're not willing to do to help a fellow

Guardsman or their family.

"Family is what it's all about, and just because a warrior has left the service doesn't mean that's where the care and concern for his and his family's well-being ends," Thomas added. "Once a Soldier, always a Soldier. And what better way to honor an injured comrade than to make sure he or she knows you, the organization, and the state continue to care about them even after they're no longer wearing the uniform?"

Partee's office is in Macon, Ga., while Thomas works out of Jackson. Contact information for Partee is (404) 803-3149; [www.facebook.com/ParteeTAA](http://www.facebook.com/ParteeTAA); or [darell.partee@us.army.mil](mailto:darell.partee@us.army.mil). Thomas is available at (678) 656-4115; [www.facebook.com/ThomasTAA](http://www.facebook.com/ThomasTAA) or [marvin.thomas@us.army.mil](mailto:marvin.thomas@us.army.mil).

# GEORGIA'S 48TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM: A COMMUNITY PARTNER

Story and photo by Maj. William Cox  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Army National Guard

**MACON, Ga., April 19, 2012** – Colonel John King and his 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) hosted the Macon Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor of Macon, and Senator Saxby Chambliss's office for lunch and an overview of the 48th IBCT's previous accomplishments and current mission and capabilities. All were brought together as part of a routine effort to deepen and build upon existing relationships between the community partners.

"These meetings are of strategic value for local governments and their local National Guard units to establish relationships and open lines of communication that better prepare each for a local emergency," said Lt. Col. Matt Smith, Deputy Commander of the 48th IBCT. "It also serves as an opportunity to inform and educate our local community concerning who we are and what we do, in addition to giving us a platform to promote our well-trained and highly skilled servicemen and women."

When in Afghanistan, many of the 48th IBCT Soldiers went into villages to build relationships with the local leadership in order to develop a partner in the country's fight for freedom and democracy.

"These events have a third-order affect by training junior officers here at home to build successful relationships with their local city leadership in support of our state mission. It prepares them for our Federal mission in countries like Afghanistan where they will be tasked with creating successful community partnerships under extreme conditions," said Smith.

Smith adds that Georgia's 48th IBCT Citizen-Soldiers are training one weekend a month and two weeks a year gaining leadership skills, specialty training and experience to prepare for the next overseas deployment or to respond to the next local disaster. All of their leadership and specialty skill training not only improves military capabilities, but Georgia's Citizen-Soldiers can then take this training back to their jobs for the benefit of their employer as well.

"Any time we sit down with the 48th IBCT, we get a better understanding of what they do and the depth and breadth of specialty skills it takes to accomplish their demanding mission. It was fantastic meeting their finance specialists, emergency medical technicians, and Information technology specialists in addition to the brave infantry men of the Fighting 48th," said Mr. Walt Miller, Chairman of the Military Affairs Division of the Macon Chamber of Commerce. "I already have Chamber Members telling me we need to come back again next year with more members. We look forward to a successful and enduring relationship with the 48th IBCT."



# AROUND THE GEORGIA GUARD



## 48TH BRIGADE FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE

Corporal Morban and Spc. Potter of 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion of the 121st Infantry Regiment watch their sectors in the objective rally point while platoon leadership plan for an attack April 13, 2012, at Fort Gordon, Georgia.



## 165TH ASOS SUPPORTS MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD'S STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM WITH LATVIA

A Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) Team from the 165 Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS), Georgia Air National Guard, conducted a Close Air Support demonstration at Graying Air Gunnery Range, Mich. The demonstration was performed in support of the Michigan Guard's State Partnership Program with Latvia. The Latvian Minister of Defense, Artis Pabriks, and TACP Commander, Major Svencs, were present.

## 648TH MANEUVER ENHANCEMENT BRIGADE IN KABUL

Members of Task Force Hydra take a break between missions to have religious service with Chaplain Lt. Col. Michael W. Summers. The movement team stays busy moving Task Force Hydra personnel all over Kabul, so they don't always have the time to attend services during regular hours.



## 1-118TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT TRAINS

Soldiers with Savannah's 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery Regiment, fire 105mm Rocket Assisted Projectile (RAP) rounds during a live-fire training exercise here at Fort Stewart. The exercise aimed to help the artillerymen hone their MOS skill set with the 105MM RAP's extended range and lethality.



## GEORGIA GUARD AWARDED BY ACOE

Assistant Adjutant General - Ga. Army National Guard, Brig. Gen. Joe Jarrard; Ga. Army National Guard Chief of Staff Col. Alan Dent; and Ga. DoD Director of Strategic Management Larry Deaton accept the Army Communities of Excellence 2nd Place (Gold Category) award at the ACOE Summit in St. Louis.



**3-108th Cavalry**  
helps remove roadblock in Kosovo

**GEORGIA**  **GUARDSMAN**

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