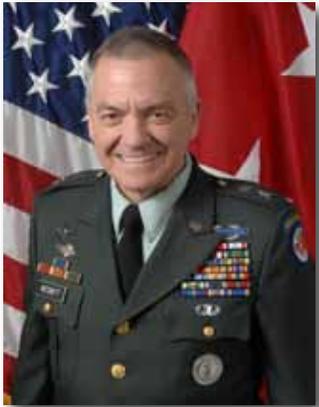




2009 Annual Report Georgia Department of Defense

Georgia Army National Guard - Georgia Air National Guard - Georgia State Defense Force



Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt
The Adjutant General

Several significant milestones were reached in 2009 highlighting the history of the 363-year-old Georgia National Guard and underscoring the readiness, professionalism and capability of our Soldiers, Airmen and State Defense Force volunteers.

A “red letter date” for the Georgia National Guard occurred on September 26, 2009 when the General Lucius D. Clay National Guard Center was officially dedicated in space once held by Naval Air Station Atlanta. More than 100 acres and 100 buildings, hangars and facilities were transferred to the Georgia National Guard as the result of a 2005 BRAC decision to close the 50-year-old Naval Air Station Atlanta. The transfer of the facilities to the Georgia National Guard was enthusiastically encouraged and supported by the City of Marietta, the Cobb County community and the military. By 2012, a new 220,000-square foot National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters will be completed bringing 1,500 military, state and federal employees to the Cobb County military facility.

An equally significant milestone for the year was the yearlong deployment of Georgia’s 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) to Afghanistan in support of the Global War on Terrorism. More than 3,000 citizen-soldiers from communities across the state mobilized for the important mission of training Afghan security and police forces. This is the second recent deployment for the 48th Brigade, which also deployed in 2005 to Iraq.

In all, more than 4,000 Georgia Army and Air National Guardsmen deployed in support of both Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq) in 2009.

Aircraft of the 116th Air Control Wing from Robins AFB continued their decade-long operations in south west Asia, and Savannah’s 165th Airlift Wing returned from five months of deployment flying supplies and personnel into

Iraq and Afghanistan.

Georgia’s all-volunteer Georgia State Defense Force continued to serve Georgia communities in a variety of important community missions. Most notably during the year, the GSDF took a prominent role in helping local law enforcement agencies in searches for missing persons.

Georgia’s Joint Force Headquarters is the state’s conduit for National Guard resources and personnel to help Georgians during times of statewide emergencies. Georgia’s State Partnership Program with the nation of Georgia continued to develop with more than 200 Georgia Guardsmen training with their Georgian counterparts during 2009. Georgia’s highly successful Youth Challenge Academy reached its own milestone during the year by graduating its 10,000th student. Georgia’s Counterdrug activities, in conjunction with local law enforcement, have confiscated more than \$251.7 million in illegal narcotics from Georgia’s streets.

The men and women of today’s Georgia Army and Air National Guard and the Georgia State Defense Force continue the proud heritage established by America’s Minutemen 200 years ago. Today, whether in the mountains of Afghanistan or in the villages of Iraq, Georgia’s Citizen Soldiers are engaged in helping to bring security to a difficult region of the world. Here at home, Georgia’s National Guard is ready to respond with trained personnel and equipment to help fellow Georgians whenever emergencies threaten.

I hope you will enjoy this annual report of our activities for the past year and recognize that the Georgia National Guard is Georgia’s ready, reliable and relevant force: always ready and always there.

Major General Terry Nesbitt
The Adjutant General

INTRODUCTION

We Are the Georgia National Guard	4
Soldier's And Airman's Creeds	6

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Army National Guard	8
Air National Guard	10
State Defense Force	12

HOMELAND SECURITY

Joint Task Force 781st CBRNE	16
4th Civil Support Team	17
Joint Forces Headquarters	18
Counterdrug Task Force	19

HEADQUARTERS

Year In Review	22
Transfer of Facilities	24
New JFHQ Building	26
State Partnership Program	27
Youth Challenge	28
Starbase	29



WE ARE THE GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD

We are sons, fathers, brothers, mothers, sisters and daughters.

We are teachers, police officers, nurses, doctors and neighbors.

We cherish freedom and defend our state and nation from threats both foreign and domestic.

We are the Soldiers and Airmen of the Georgia National Guard.

SERVING ^{THE} COMMUNITY

SOLDIER'S CREED

I am an American Soldier.

I am a Warrior and member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills. I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

AIRMAN'S CREED

I am an American Airman.

I am a warrior.

I have answered my nation's call.

I am an American Airman.

My mission is to fly, fight, and win.

I am faithful to a proud heritage,

A tradition of honor,

And a legacy of valor.

I am an American Airman,

Guardian of freedom and justice,

My nation's sword and shield,

Its sentry and avenger.

I defend my country with my life.

I am an American Airman:

Wingman, Leader, Warrior.

I will never leave an airman behind,

I will never falter.

And I will not fail.





ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

The Georgia Army National Guard consists of more than 11,000 Citizen-Soldiers training in more than 79 hometown armories and facilities across the state. Georgia's Army Guard is the 10th largest in the nation and includes combat, combat support and combat service support units.

Five major commands comprise the Georgia Army National Guard: the 48th Brigade of Macon; 78th Troop Command of Decatur; 560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade from Ellenwood's Fort Gillem; 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade from Columbus; and 78th Aviation Troop Command from Marietta.

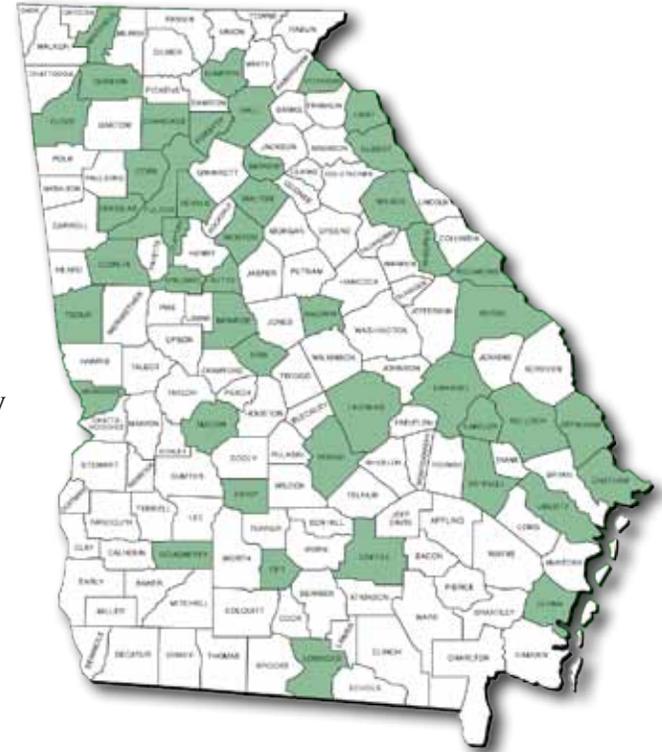
During 2009, Georgia's 48th Brigade Combat Team deployed to Afghanistan in support of the Global War on Terrorism. About 2,400 Soldiers of the Macon-based 48th Brigade are currently deployed overseas to train Afghan security and police forces.

By the end of 2009, the Georgia Army National Guard had deployed more than

3,290 Soldiers in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Since Sept. 11, 2001, every deployable line unit in the Georgia Army National Guard has seen federal service in support of Overseas Contingency Operations, often with multiple rotations.

Serving with the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Afghanistan are the 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Company from Savannah's Hunter Army Airfield and the 810th Engineer Company from Columbus. Company H, 171st Aviation Regiment from Dobbins ARB and the 248th Medical Company from Marietta are currently deployed to Iraq.

Recruiting successes continued in 2009 as the Georgia Army National Guard recruited more than 2,000 new members. Georgia remains among the top three states in the nation for recruiting, which keeps Georgia in a position of strength for increased federal funding, future force structure and full-time manning.



Brig. Gen. Maria Britt
Army Guard Commander



Command Sgt. Maj. James Nelson

11,195 *Army Guardsmen*

3,290 *Total deployed in 2009*

79 *Hometown armories*



Soldiers from Augusta-based 877th Engineer Company use a portable jackhammer to complete a "stitch cut" on a piece of concrete that is blocking the entrance to a simulated casualty.

48th Infantry Brigade

With a current strength of almost 4,000 combat-ready troops, Macon's 48th Brigade is Georgia's largest Army Guard brigade. A newly transformed "Light" Brigade Combat Team, the 48th last deployed to Iraq during 2005-2006 and is currently deployed to Afghanistan through spring of 2010.

78th Troop Command

The 78th Troop Command is composed of medical, transportation and maintenance units, regional support commands, a Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, an Army band and Georgia's Regional Training Institute. Since Sept. 11, 2001, every unit assigned to the 78th has mobilized and deployed in support of Overseas Contingency Operations, serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and various military bases across the United States.

560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade

The 560th (BfSB) is the first battlefield surveillance brigade in the Army National Guard. Its mission is to conduct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations which enable division commanders to precisely focus joint elements of combat power. The 560th includes the 221st Military Intelligence Battalion and the 3rd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron.

The 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

The 648th MEB includes Georgia's CERFP unit (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or High Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package). As the Georgia National Guard's "first responders," the 648th supports a full spectrum of homeland security and emergency response operations to include medical, chemical, engineer and ordinance disposal capabilities.

78th Aviation Troop Command

Units of the Georgia Army National Guard's 1st Aviation Group fly rotary and fixed wing aircraft from flight facilities at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta, Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah and the Winder Municipal Airport. All three aviation units have deployed to the Middle East. The 171st Aviation Battalion (Dobbins ARB), flies UH-60 Black Hawks; Detachment 1, Company F, 131st Aviation (Savannah), flies CH-47 Chinooks; and Company H, 171st Aviation Regiment (Dobbins ARB), flies C-23 Sherpas.

In December, training facilities for the new C-27J tactical airlift aircraft opened at Robins AFB. The "schoolhouse" will be operated by the Georgia Army National Guard, and instructors will be Georgia Guardsmen.



Elberton's 1-214th Field Artillery conduct a live fire demonstration for Fort Gordon's Youth Challenge .



3rd Squadron, 108th Cavalry, the Guard's Long Range Surveillance Unit, trains for insertion and extraction by helicopter with the Georgia State Patrol SWAT team.



48th IBCT Soldiers conduct mounted patrols during pre-mobilization training at Camp Shelby, Miss.



THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD

The ten units and 2,900 Airmen of the Georgia Air National Guard located across Georgia are integral parts of the Georgia National Guard. The Georgia Air Guard deployed forces and equipment throughout 2009 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle, and has participated in numerous exercises both at home and abroad.

The Air Guard is part of Georgia's Joint Forces Headquarters and provides unique skills, capabilities and resources for domestic security and emergency response of the nation and the state of Georgia.

The Georgia Air National Guard is involved in missions ranging from airborne command and control and battlefield surveillance provided by 116th Air Control Wing at Warner Robins, to the robust tactical airlift capability of the 165th Airlift Wing in Savannah.

The Georgia Air National Guard's 283rd

Combat Communications Squadron at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, 202nd Engineering Installation Squadron in Macon, and 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron in Brunswick provide state-of-the-art communications for military operations around the world. The 117th Air Control Squadron provides command and control of aircraft in combat environments.

The 139th Intelligence Squadron in Augusta, the Georgia Air Guard's newest unit, is responsible for the gathering and analysis of intelligence used to conduct operations around the world. Brunswick's 165th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS) provides forward air controllers who deploy with Army brigades to provide close air support coordination for ground forces. Savannah's Combat Readiness Training Center provides state-of-the-art training resources and facilities for units to fine-tune their combat skills.



Maj. Gen. Scott A. Hammond
Air Guard Commander



Command Chief Master Sgt. Betty Morgan

2,900 Air Guardsmen

900 Total deployed in 2009

10 Air Guard units in five counties

One of the nation's busiest training centers, the Savannah CRTTC hosts more than 50 units each year from all military services.

The 530th Air Force Band performs a full schedule of concerts, parades and special events in communities across Georgia and the region. Headquarters, Georgia Air National Guard provides the command and control element of the Georgia Air Guard.

Georgia Air Guardsmen have maintained a constant deployment tempo during 2009 in support of Overseas Contingency Operations.

Georgia's 116th Air Control Wing is the only unit in the Air Force that flies the sophisticated Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System mission. No other aircraft or aircrews in the Air Force have logged as many hours over Iraq and Afghanistan as the 116th ACW. Additionally, the 165th AW provided C-130s, air crew and maintenance personnel for airlift support to forward operating locations throughout Afghanistan. The 224th JCSS, 202nd EIS and 165th ASOS have deployed Airmen around the world to provide communications, com-

mand and control for supported units. The 139th IS supports the war fight through its daily intelligence operations, and the 117th ACS is preparing for its next deployment to Southwest Asia.

Every unit of the Georgia Air National Guard deployed Airmen and equipment to the Middle East on multiple occasions during 2009. This intense operations tempo is not expected to decelerate in the years ahead.



A Georgia Air Guard E-8 Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) lands at Nellis Air Force Base, starting the crew's participation in a multi-national training exercise.



Airmen of the 165th Airlift Wing perform a high-altitude airdrop mission supporting coalition forces and civilian Afghans in a remote village in northern Afghanistan.



Senior Master Sgt. James Swartz explains the E-8C engine repair process to Command Master Sgt. Robert Torres. The E-8C engine repair process increases engine shop throughput by 50 percent, putting additional aircraft on the ramp 22 days per year.



U.S. Air Force Capt. Roger M. Brooks IV, from Marietta, extends a hand of support to an Afghan border police officer of the 6th Kandak, 201st Corps.



GEORGIA STATE DEFENSE FORCE

The Georgia State Defense Force is Georgia's all-volunteer professional uniformed force authorized under the Official Code of Georgia, Title 38, to serve communities alongside the Georgia Army and Air National Guard.

Prior service veterans comprise 40 percent of the force. State Defense Force members act as a force multiplier to the Georgia DOD, capable of immediate response when called upon and assisting with everything from search and rescue missions, to disaster relief efforts, to helping reunite returning Guardsmen home from deployment with their families.

During 2009, GSDF units more than lived up to the organization's motto of "Parati Servire" - Ready to Serve.

Overall, the SDF performed 30 community support missions and a similar number of missions in support of the Georgia Guard. SDF

members dedicated more than 3,800 man days in support of these missions and utilized more than 11,000 training hours. Among the public service activities the GSDF participated in during the past year were: Atlanta's Greek Festival; statewide Memorial Day and Veteran's Day parades and events; Youth Challenge Academy; traffic control and safety at UGA football games; Hurricane exercises; search and rescue operations as called upon by local law enforcement agencies; and numerous support missions for the Georgia National Guard.

As more Georgia National Guardsmen are committed to fighting the Global War on Terrorism, increasing and complex demands fall to the GSDF.

The strong working relationship the GSDF has with the Georgia Department of Defense allows it to remain relevant and ready to serve the State and its citizens, now and long into the future.



Brig. Gen. Jerry Bradford
GSDF Commander



Command Sgt. Maj. Randy Garrett

637 *GSDF Volunteers*

30 *Missions in 2009*

11,000 *Training hours*



State Defense Force Soldiers conduct a search and rescue mission looking for a lost child.



Georgia State Defense Force Soldiers provide a valuable service to the state.



Officers of the Georgia State Defense Force plan for a search and rescue mission in north Georgia.





HOMELAND SECURITY





JOINT TASKFORCE 781st CBRNE

The Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear, and Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) is composed of four elements staffed by 300 personnel from previously established National Guard units. The elements are: search and extraction, decontamination, medical, and command and control. The CERFP command and control team directs the overall activities of the CERFP and coordinates with the state Joint Task Force and the Incident Commander.

The CERFP search and extraction element mission is assigned to an Army National Guard Engineering Battalion, the decontamination element mission is assigned to an Army National Guard Chemical Battalion and the medical element mission is assigned to an Air National Guard Medical Group. The security duties are performed by the state National Guard Quick Response Force.

The initial establishment of CERFPs placed at least one in each FEMA Region. The Georgia National Guard has one of the 12 validated CERFPs in the country. An additional five CERFPs have been authorized and funded by Congress, to include full-time manning and equipment.

When an incident occurs within a team's response area, they are alerted through their State Headquarters and mobilized on State Active Duty. If the incident is located within their state, they proceed to the incident if directed to do so by their JFHQ. If the incident is located outside of their state, their State Headquarters coordinate with the receiving state under the terms agreed to in the Emergency Mutual Aid Compact.

Quick Notes:

•Capabilities:

- *Combating WMDs*
- *Countering CBRNE threats*
- *Defeating all types of improvised explosive devices*

•Specialties:

- *Working with Army and other government agencies' WMD/CBRNE analytic staff and operational forces*
- *Providing trained and ready expeditionary CBRNE force packages capable of executing a range of WMD missions*
- *Connecting communications from the field with subject matter experts at headquarters, national level*



Soldiers from Augusta-based 877th Engineer Company use a portable jackhammer to complete a "stitch cut" on a piece of concrete that is blocking the entrance to a "trapped casualty."



Joint Task Force members extract a victim from a simulated disaster during the unit's annual training.



Airmen from the 781st JTF supply communications for the unit while other elements of the unit conduct search and rescue efforts for the victims of a simulated disaster.

4th CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM

The Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD CST) supports civil authorities at a domestic CBRNE incident site with identification and assessment of hazards. It also advises civil authorities and facilitates the arrival of follow-on military forces during emergencies and incidents of WMD terrorism, intentional or unintentional release of CBRN materials, and natural or man-made disasters that result in, or could result in, catastrophic loss of life or property. The WMD CST complements and enhances, but does not duplicate, state CBRNE response capabilities.

The Adjutant General either employs the WMD CST to support the state response under the direction of the governor or to aid another state's response under a supported governor.

The WMD CST is comprised of 22 full-time Army and Air National Guard personnel. The structure of the unit is divided into six sections: command, operations, communications, administration/logistics, medical/analytical and survey.

Each WMD CST deploys, within 3 hours of notification, to an incident site using its organic assigned vehicles, which include a command vehicle, operations trailer, a communications platform called the Unified Command Suite (which provides a broad spectrum of secure communications capabilities), an Analytical Laboratory System vehicle (containing a full suite of analysis equipment to support the characterization of the hazard) and several general-purpose vehicles. The WMD CST can also be moved by air, rail, commercial truck or ship.

Quick Notes:

• **Capabilities:**

- *Identifying hazardous agents and substances*
- *Assessing current and projected consequences*
- *Advising on response measures*
- *Assisting with requests for additional military support*

• **Specialties:**

- *Unique expertise for responding to CBRNE incidents as part of a state's emergency response*



The 4th CST provides a suite of high-technology chemical and radiological detectors to assess incident sites in order to advise civil authorities on proper response measures.



Specialized training and equipment allow the 4th CST to supplement local and state emergency responders during a CBRNE incident. Here these capabilities are demonstrated in a joint exercise.



JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS

The Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) is comprised of the Joint Staff and various headquarters support sections. Whereas the Georgia Army and Air Guard primarily focus on providing forces for overseas military operations, the JFHQ primarily assists with Homeland Security and provides the state with Defense Support to Civil Authority (DSCA).

Under the JFHQ umbrella, the Georgia Department of Defense (GaDOD) maintains liaison with the Georgia Office of Homeland Security (GOHS) and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), along with key emergency and law enforcement officials across the state.

Joint Staff

The Joint Staff provides a community-based response force that offers ready, rapid support in defense of the homeland. It seeks to build the strength of the GaDOD through internal and external partnerships. The Joint Staff also enhances mission performance and strengthens the care provided to GaDOD members and their

families by leveraging community presence, employer support and family care programs. Its auxiliary mission is to transform the GaDOD to meet future and present federal and state response capabilities.

Joint Operations Center

Georgia's Joint Operations Center (JOC), located at Dobbins ARB, serves as GaDOD's principal response and communications center for homeland security, homeland defense and Defense Support to Civil Authority. On a daily basis, the JOC manages time-sensitive requests for information coming from The Adjutant General, the National Guard Bureau and other government agencies. It also assembles and disseminates timely, relevant intelligence and information throughout the Georgia Department of Defense.

Other Missions

The JFHQ also plans and performs a variety of nontraditional missions which capitalize on the unique capabilities and assets of the Georgia

Army and Air National Guard and the State Defense Force. These programs include the Critical Infrastructure Protection Mission Assurance Assessment Program and the Counterdrug Task Force.

Critical Infrastructure Protection Mission Assurance Assessment Program

Working alongside the GOHS and GEMA, the Critical Infrastructure Protection team provides assistance, advice and solutions for securing key facilities, and helps to identify and coordinate resources that might be needed in the event of a natural or man-made emergency. The Critical Infrastructure Protection – Mission Assurance Assessment (CIP-MAA) program focuses on increasing protection of critical assets within the state of Georgia. This team is made up of National Guard Soldiers who have extensive knowledge and training in offensive and assault operations, physical security, structural design, infrastructure interdependencies, cyber security and emergency management.

Operations and Tasks:

- ***Defense Support to Civil Authority (DSCA)***
- ***24/7 Joint Operations Center***
- ***Readiness exercises and hurricane drills***
- ***State Partnership Program***
- ***Counterdrug Task Force***



COUNTERDRUG TASK FORCE

The Georgia National Guard's Counterdrug Task Force is a powerful component in helping to remove illegal drugs and narcotics from Georgia communities. The Counterdrug Task Force is a force multiplier, with more than 60 highly trained Georgia Guardsmen assisting state and local law enforcement agencies in carrying out the war on drugs in Georgia. In 2009, the Counterdrug Task Force supported more than 450 missions, which resulted in seizures of illegal narcotics with a street value of more than \$251.7 million.

A second, equally important, component of the Counterdrug Task Force is the Drug Demand and Reduction program, which provides educational programs to schools and civic organizations on drug awareness and prevention. During 2009, this drug awareness program was presented to a total of more than 73,700 students.



Narcotics valued at over \$251 million have been seized through efforts of the Counterdrug Task Force.



A well-coordinated operation between Counterdrug Task Force members and local law enforcement officials resulted in a major marijuana



The Army National Guard OH-58 Kiowa helicopter is one of the many sophisticated resources available to local law enforcement agencies combat drug production and distribution.



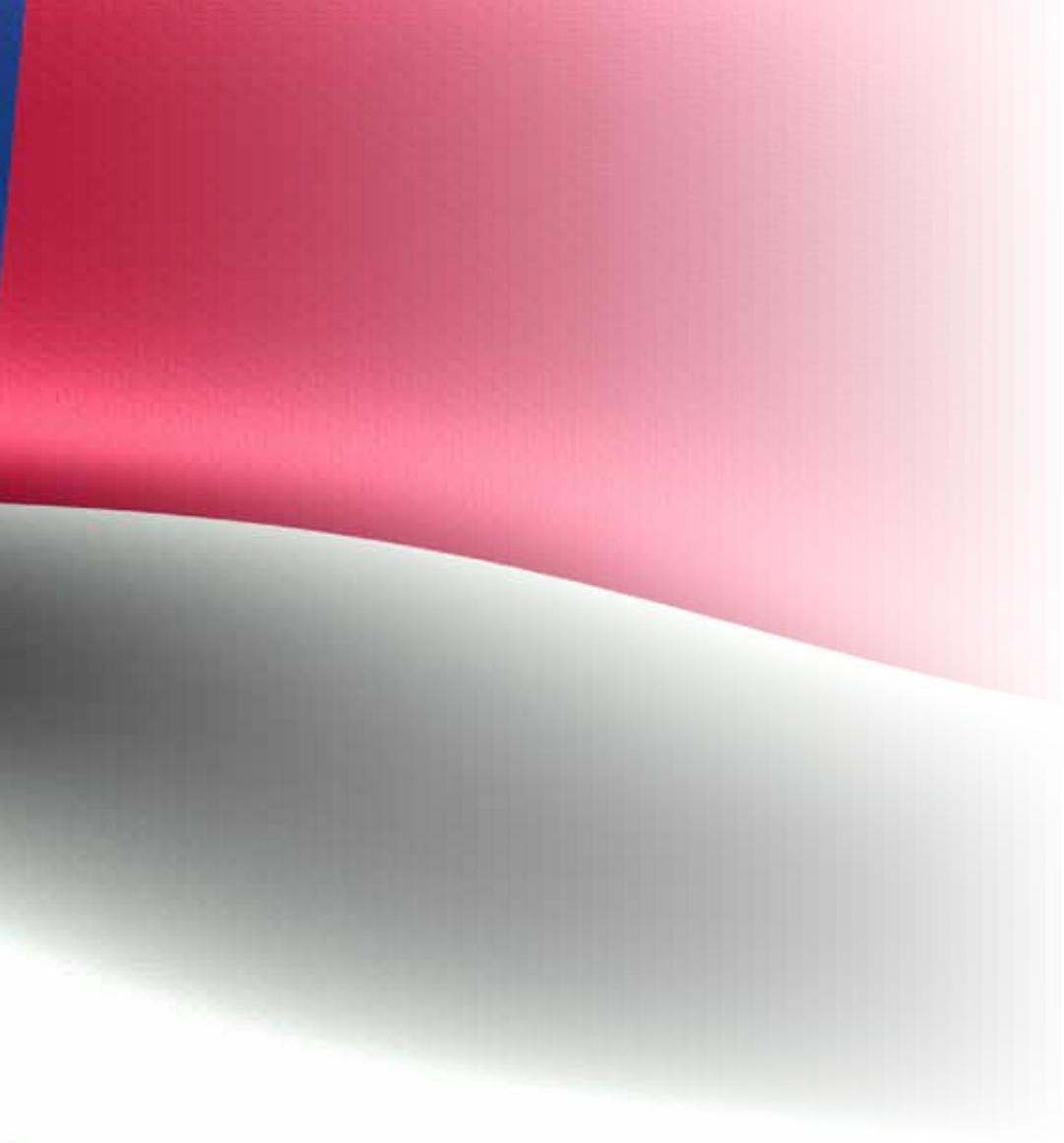
Coordination with civil authorities enhances counterdrug efforts to stop narcotic trafficking.



Sophisticated aerial imaging facilitates the prevention of illegal narcotic production.



IN GOD WE TRUST



HEADQUARTERS



GEORGIA GUARD YEAR IN REVIEW



JANUARY 2009
Soldiers of the 278th Military Police Company returned from Iraq Dec. 25, 2008. After spending four days with loved ones, they returned to Fort Gordon for demobilization training.



FEBRUARY 2009
Guardsmen and their families were invited to witness this historic All-Guard matchup of Army Guard VS Air Guard, and to remain for an exciting Hawks game with halftime activities that recognized each unit scheduled for deployment in 2009.



MARCH 2009
Major Gen. Scott Hammond, Georgia Air National Guard Commander, participated in a joint close air support mission with joint operational elements of the Georgia Army and Air National Guard. The 48th IBCT Warfighters demonstrated capabilities at a live-fire exercise at Fort Polk, La.

APRIL 2009
Soldiers of the 48th IBCT deployed to Afghanistan as part of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix with the mission to mentor the Afghanistan Army and National Police.



MAY 2009
The 171st Aviation invited employers to "Operation Boss Lift" to show them what Guardsmen do when not working in their civilian capacity.

JUNE 2009
Following a year-long Afghanistan deployment, members of the ETT team were reunited with their families.



JUNE 2009
The Marietta-based 248th Medical Company deployed to Afghanistan.



JANUARY 2009
The sound of applause was the first thing more than 75 students from Cobb County schools heard as they entered the Wal-Mart store on the East-West Connector. The students were all kindergarten through fifth grade children, and the trip to Wal-Mart meant a bright and merry new year, thanks to several Georgia Guardsmen.



FEBRUARY 2009
A Georgia native joined the ranks of many firsts this last year, when Joseph M. Wells was selected as the first African-American general officer in the history of the Georgia National Guard.



APRIL 2009
Major Gen. Terry Nesbitt, Georgia's Adjutant General, made an aerial assessment of flooding along the Flint River between Albany and Bainbridge in South Georgia.

MAY 2009
Soldiers of Newnan's 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry simulated insurgent scenarios during pre-mobilization training at Camp Shelby, Miss.





JULY 2009
Cadet Diah C. Nelson of College Park moved into the Georgia Guard's YCA history books as the 6,000th graduate.



JULY 2009
Twenty-six members of Savannah's 165th Security Forces Squadron deployed to Saudi Arabia.



AUGUST 2009
The Georgia Army National Guard's most senior enlisted position changed hands as James Nelson Jr. succeeded Neil Russell as the Army Command Sergeant Major.



AUGUST 2009
A C-130H of Savannah's 165th Airlift Wing arrived at Savannah International Airport, bringing to a close a five-month deployment to Afghanistan.



SEPTEMBER 2009
For their work, the men and women of the 165th Airlift Wing Fire Department were awarded the Air National Guard Fire Chiefs Association Fire Department of the Year Award.



SEPTEMBER 2009
Georgia Guard Launches new website at www.gadod.net.



OCTOBER 2009
Ground breaking of new Joint Forces Headquarters building on Gen. Lucius D. Clay National Guard Center.



OCTOBER 2009
Naval Air Station Atlanta transferred to the Georgia National Guard and was re-named the Gen. Lucius D. Clay National Guard Center.



NOVEMBER 2009
Guardsmen from Brunswick's 165th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS) deployed to Afghanistan.



NOVEMBER 2009
Soldiers from Atlanta's 3rd Squadron, 108th Cavalry, marched from the Toccoa National Guard Armory to Atlanta to re-enact the 'Band of Brothers' march.



DECEMBER 2009
Georgia Guard received The C-27J Joint Cargo Aircraft Schoolhouse.



DECEMBER 2009
Marietta's 124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment supported an annual joint exercise involving the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and U.S. Army personnel.



TRANSFER OF FACILITIES

In a ceremony marking the beginning of a new era in Cobb County’s long and storied relationship with the military, the Georgia Department of Defense took official ownership of Naval Air Station Atlanta Sept. 26, 2009.

More than 600 local, state and federal officials – to include U.S. Rep. Phil Gingrey, members of the Georgia Army and Air National Guard, Navy Rear Adm. Tim Alexander, and other Navy and Marine uniformed and civilian personnel —attended.

“Through an ending there’s also a beginning,” said Maj. Gen. Terry Nesbitt, Georgia’s Adjutant General, during the ceremony in what used to be the air station’s Hangar No. 1. “The end of one voyage can mean a new expedition to undertake.

“We’re truly fortunate to take this facility with us the Georgia DOD ‘navigates the future,’” he added.

What has been the home of Naval and Ma-

rine aviation in Cobb County since 1943, now becomes a full-time National Guard post. The casing of the Navy colors, the posting of the Georgia Department of Defense flag and the formal transfer of property to Nesbitt by Navy Capt. Charles L. Mingonet, Jr., NAS-Atlanta commander, marked the end of the Navy and Marine Corps’ presence.

For many, the day marks a bittersweet moment. Mingonet said, “It’s sweet because we stand at the end of more than six decades of proud, professional service to this community, this state and to the nation by the Sailors, Marines and civilian personnel.

“The bitterness comes in the fact that we now must end that service here, leave behind the friends we’ve made here during that time and continue our service elsewhere,” he said.

If a person’s wealth is measured by their friends, Mingonet added, “I am a very, very wealthy man.”



The old Naval Air Station sign was replaced with one that reflects the new name of the base shortly after the ceremony ended.



Relatives of the late Gen. Lucius D. Clay pose with an architect’s rendering of the Joint Forces Headquarters future home.



Maj. Gen. Terry Nesbitt speaks during the transfer of facilities.



U.S. Navy sailors stand at parade rest during the transfer of facilities.

With this change of ownership comes a new name. A sign proclaiming the installation as the “Gen Lucius D. Clay National Guard Center” has gone up over the base’s George McMillan Street entrance, just off Atlanta Road.

Clay, an Air Force officer and Cobb County native, is best known for his heroic planning and organizational skills while serving as Germany’s military governor after World War II. He is also remembered for what is considered a defining moment in the Cold War, by ordering the Berlin Airlift that carried food and fuel for nearly a year past the Soviet blockade and into West Berlin.

Members of Clay’s family, among them former State Sen. Chuck Clay, the late general’s grandson, were present for the ceremony.

About General Clay, Nesbitt said, “His is the legacy of a great man, a true patriot. And by choosing to name this facility for him we continue that legacy and truly honor his memory.”

While this was the disestablishment of NAS- Atlanta, Georgia DoD, Army and Air Guardsmen have had a presence here since

Nov. 2007, with the move of the Office of the Adjutant General – and the Army and Air command staffs – from offices at the South Atlanta state complex on Confederate Avenue, and from Ellenwood’s Oglethorpe Armory.

The transfer of facilities is part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program. While most closures are “painful” for the communities around those bases affected by BRAC, the closing of NAS-Atlanta was considered, in its own way, a good thing.

“The Georgia National Guard already had been studying how to consolidate our headquarters in a North Atlanta location,” Nesbitt said. “Now, as we complete the transition in the next few months, the number of full-time Guardsmen and civilian personnel will continue to increase, and a new headquarters building will be built.”



Maj. Gen. Terry Nesbitt and Command Sgt. Maj. James Nelson uncase the state’s colors to complete the transfer of facilities ceremony.



A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter flies by while visitors for the transfer of facilities look on during the ceremony.



The Commander of Naval Air Station Atlanta cases the Navy colors symbolizing the transfer of facilities to the Georgia National Guard.



Maj. Gen. Terry Nesbitt is “piped aboard” Naval Air Station Atlanta as the ceremony starts.

NEW JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

A \$29 million Joint Forces Headquarters building will serve as the Georgia Guard's new headquarters campus situated on more than 100 acres of land, which was part of the historical exchange of property from NAS-Atlanta.

The ground breaking ceremony for the new headquarters building occurred shortly after Maj. Gen. Terry Nesbitt, Georgia's Adjutant General, officially unfurled the National Guard flag over the newly named General Lucius D. Clay National Guard Center on September 26, 2009.

"This is an exciting moment for the Georgia National Guard, as we take the first steps in the realization of a dream," said Nesbitt. The new headquarters will be a one-of-a-kind military headquarters using state-of-the-art construction techniques and high-tech features.

Nesbitt noted that the construction will total more than 220,500 square feet, stretching more than 565 feet along the southwest corner of the base. The three-story structure will incorporate a 7,228 square foot assembly area and more than 9,500 square feet of IT support space. Another unique feature of the building will be the more than 3,000 square feet of acoustically designed rehearsal space for the 116th Band. A full

kitchen, capable of serving three meals a day for 500 Soldiers, is also planned.

"We are particularly excited by the building's LEED certification by the U.S. Green Building Council," says Maj. Flint Tyler, program manager. LEED is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED gives building owners and operators the tools they need to have an immediate and measurable impact on their buildings' performance. The LEED certification promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

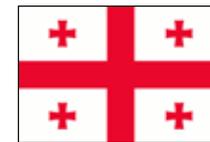
The building contractor is New South Construction Company of Atlanta, and the building designer is the Facilities Group. Funding for the building is a combination of state and federal funds, as part of the 2009 military construction budget, with approximately 10 percent matching state funds. The building is expected to be completed in Jan. 2012.



Architect's rendering of the Joint Forces Headquarters that is to be built on Gen. Lucius D. Clay National Guard Center.



STATE PARTNERSHIP



The Georgia to Georgia State Partnership Program focuses on four themes: development of Georgia's emergency management preparation and response; the transformation the Georgian military with emphasis on coalition interoperability and NATO integration; transformation of the Georgian Army Aviation operations, maintenance and logistics; and the growth of sustainable agricultural industries in the country.

On the heels of a short but significant conflict between the countries of Georgia and Russia in 2008, there was a need to stop and reassess goals and efforts to ensure that the program met the needs of both partners.

During this time, several planned personnel changes occurred, not the least of which was the replacement of the U.S. Ambassador to Georgia, the Georgia National Guard's Bilateral Affairs Officer and the State Partnership Program Director.

In 2009, the partnership focused on helping Georgians identify and find their own solutions to the challenges they face today. The future of the partnership will be based on continuing to build relationships, friends, allies and partners.

Quick Notes:

- *The Georgia National Guard has had a State Partnership with the nation of Georgia since 1995*
- *The Partnership focuses are:*
 - *Developing emergency management preparation and response*
 - *Transforming of Georgian Military and Aviation operations*
 - *Growing indigenous agricultural industries*
 - *Identifying and finding Georgian solutions to nation's challenges*



A Georgian Soldier learns the basics of CPR during the a combat life-saving course conducted by the Georgia National Guard.



Maj. Gen Terry Nesbitt, Georgia's Adjutant General, meets with a Georgian Army official.



Military exchanges educate soldiers from both countries on weapons and tactics.

YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

High school dropout rates in Georgia are among the highest in the nation. To help address this staggering statistic, the Georgia National Guard operates the Youth Challenge Academy to give Georgia teens a second chance to succeed by providing academic and life-style training, leading to a GED or high school diploma. Georgia was among the original states that piloted this voluntary program. Today, the National Guard-sponsored YCA programs are located in 29 states.

Georgia operates two YCA campuses, the original campus located at Fort Stewart and a second campus located at Fort Gordon, near Augusta. To date, more than 10,000 formerly “at risk” youth have graduated from YCA, making Georgia’s program one of the most successful in the nation.

The 22-week training at Fort Stewart and Fort Gordon campuses is divided into three phases: pre-challenge, residential and post-residential phase.

Residential life at the YCA campus is modeled after that of recruits going through Army basic training. Military structure creates a strictly enforced, disciplined environment. In addition to learning military customs and courtesies, each cadet platoon is trained in traditional drill and ceremony and military leadership, transforming a group of individuals into a cohesive team. As training progresses, cadets focus on improving

physical fitness, learning first aid and CPR, survival techniques, climbing and repelling.

Academic training for the YCA cadet begins with GED preparation classes. Cadets work individually through a self-paced program which allows on-campus teachers to provide one-on-one instruction to students needing extra help. Those who qualify may enroll in college-level courses offered by a local college or technical institute. All college courses are transferable.

Life skills focus on subjects that prepare cadets for meeting their adult obligations. Each cadet receives instruction in community service and citizenship, finances, health and hygiene, family planning and stress management. Cadets also take advantage of work skills that help them gain and maintain meaningful employment after they complete YCA. Cadets receive instruction on writing resumes, completing job applications and participating in the interview process. They also have opportunities to “shadow” professionals in their fields of interest.



A Soldier from the 214th Field Artillery explains how being in the guard has made him a better citizen.

Quick Notes:

- **Two-week pre-challenge phase**
- **20-week residential challenge phase**
- **12-month post-residential-phase.**
- **Over 70% of YCA graduates are former high school dropouts**
- **17% have joined the military**
- **Each YCA graduate who earns a GED is presented a \$500 HOPE Scholarship voucher**

STARBASE

STARBASE serves students and teachers by providing exciting hands-on learning experiences and combining personal development with team-building and enrichment in science, math and technology. The vision is to teach students the strategies needed to achieve their dreams and become responsible members of society.

STARBASE, a program for youth ages six through 18, aims at improving math and science skills. The program starts at the elementary school level in order to attract and prepare students at an early age for careers in engineering and other science-related fields of study.

The program principally exposes at-risk children and their teachers to real-world applications of math and science, through experiential learning, simulations and experiments in aviation and

space-related fields. The program also addresses drug use prevention, health, self-esteem and life skills within a math- and science-based program.

Support systems and extended-care networks are provided for students as the program tracks their improvement in the curriculum areas. Parents are encouraged to become positively involved in their children's learning process.

Schools with a high proportion of economically and educationally disadvantaged students apply and are selected by state and local selection committees.

From 2002-2008 only students from Cobb County and Marietta City Schools were served; but in 2009, STARBASE began serving Atlanta Public Schools and Home Schools Groups.

Quick Notes:

- *In 2009, Peach State STARBASE served over 800 5th graders.*
- *June 29 – July 2, Lockheed Martin Mach I Camp was held for 4th-6th grade students of the parents who work at Lockheed.*
- *July 6 – July 9, Lockheed Martin Mach II Camp was held. The age group was 6th – 9th grade.*
- *July 13 – July 16, STARBASE held the first Dobbins Camp for students whose parents are affiliated with the Air Force Reserves.*



A Student learns the basics of flight while attending classes at Dobbins Air Reserve base.



Students at Dobbins Air Reserve Base build liquid-propelled bottle rockets during a STARBASE camp in 2009.



Children try their aviation skills at the Dobbins Air Reserve Base STARBASE.





Maj. Kevin Jenrette
02 Sept. 1971 - 04 June 2009



Sgt. Brock Chavers
18 July 1983 - 06 July 2009



Sgt. Issac Johnson Jr.
08 Dec. 1984 - 06 July 2009



Staff Sgt. Alex French
14 Nov. 1977 - 30 Sept. 2009

FALLEN WARRIORS



Sgt. 1st Class John C. Beale
11 Feb. 1970 - 04 June 2009



48th INFANTRY BRIGADE OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 2009



Sgt. Jeffery Jordan
15 Feb. 1988 - 04 June 2009



First Sgt. John Blair
09 Oct. 1970 - 20 June 2009



Sgt. Raymundo Morales
03 Apr 1975 - 21 Jul 2009





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