

GEORGIA GUARDSMAN



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

September 2012

48TH BRIGADE HITS THE FIELD

for 15-day training exercise in Minnesota

O CANADA!

78th Aviation Troop Command
trains with British Army in Canada

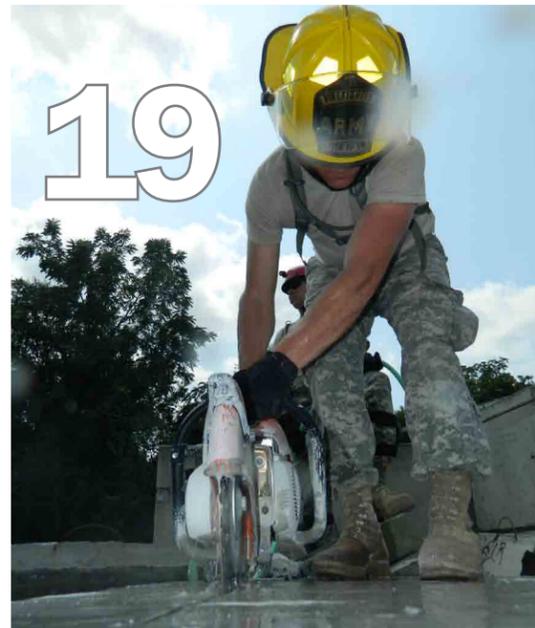
VIGILANT GUARD

78th Homeland Response Force
in homeland security exercise





5



19

GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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

Commander-in-Chief:
Gov. Nathan Deal

Adjutant General of Georgia:
Maj. Gen. Jim Butterworth

State Public Affairs Officer:
Maj. John H. Alderman IV

Managing Editor
Mr. Seth G. Stuck

Operations NCO:
Sgt. 1st Class Roy Henry

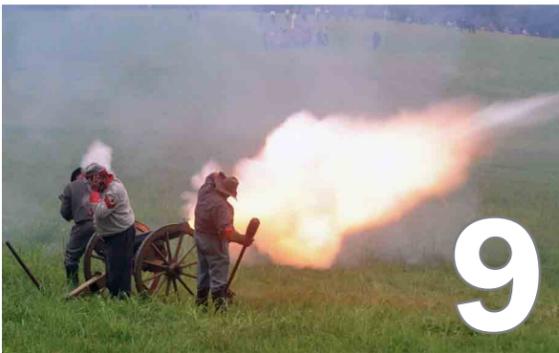
Layout and Design:
Mr. Steven Welch

Contributing Ga. DoD Organizations:
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 116th Air Control Wing Public Affairs Office, 165th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, Army National Guard Unit Public Affairs Representatives, Georgia State Defense Force Public Affairs.

Editorial Inquiry and Submissions:
Seth.G.Stuck@us.army.mil or (678) 569-3663

The Georgia Guardsman is published monthly under the provisions of AR 360-81 and AF 6-1 by the Georgia Department of Defense Public Affairs Office. The views and opinions expressed in the Georgia Guardsman are not necessarily those of the Departments of the Army, Air Force or the Adjutant General of Georgia. The Georgia Guardsman is distributed free-of-charge to members of the Georgia Army and Air National Guard, State Defense Force and other interested persons upon request.

Up-to-the-minute Ga. DoD news and information can be found at www.GeorgiaGuard.com



9



23



13

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Airman tells the Guard story through photography	3
NCO Notepad	4
48th Brigade hits the field for 15-day XTC in Minnesota	5
The bloodiest day: Lee turned back at Sharpsburg	9
Georgia Guard's first information protection technician	11
Hunter gets a new Army National Guard Readiness Center	12
179th MPs earn high marks at PTAE	13
Professional Development Bookshelf	14
Georgia DoD bolsters Community Emergency Response Teams	15
Georgia Guard duo wins annual FLW Soldier fishing tournament	17
National Guard 'storms' Bragg to train civil emergency response	19
Georgia armories continue to serve communities	22
78th Aviation Troop Command works with British Army in Canada	23
Special teenage girl, Guard family daughter achieves goal thanks vets group	27
Around the Guard	29



www.Facebook.com/GeorgiaGuard



feeds.FeedBurner.com/GeorgiaGuard



www.Flickr.com/GaNatlGuard



www.Twitter.com/GeorgiaGuard



www.youtube.com/GeorgiaNationalGuard

GUARD LIFE IS 'PICTURE PERFECT' FOR ONE AIRMAN

Story and photo by Sgt. Latisha R. Riddick
Public Affairs Office
Georgia Department of Defense

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Sept. 5, 2012 – Georgia Air Guard Tech Sgt. Shaleata Johnson has been telling the National Guard story since 1999. Johnson, a member of Savannah's 165 Airlift Wing, holds the Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) 3N072-Public Affairs Specialist. Though dual-qualified as a videographer, her primary duty is that of a photojournalist.

Throughout her 13 years, Johnson has travelled to places like Italy, Germany, Prague, Afghanistan, Romania, and Canada. Here in the U.S., she has done assignments in Puerto Rico, Key West, and Alaska. Among the many subjects she has covered are Coronet Oak, Kabel Fest, Operation Enduring Freedom and, of course, her own unit.

Johnson currently works as a full-time technician in the Information Technology Division here at Joint Forces Headquarters. In that capacity, she provides photography, videography, graphic and audio-visual services, and support to the Georgia Air and Army Guard.

"This is the best job in the military," Johnson said. "Whether you do this as active duty, Guard or Reserve, nowhere else can you experience, first-hand, what others do, and then have the opportunity to tell the public how important those people and their jobs are to the common defense of our nation.

"It's especially rewarding to be able to tell others about the unique skill sets the Guard brings to the accomplishment of a mission – whether it's here at home supporting civil authorities in times of an emergency or supporting the warfight overseas," she added.

To qualify for her job, Johnson had to attend the Defense Information School (DINFOS) at Fort Meade, Md., a joint service school that provides training to Air Force, Army, Marine, Navy, and Coast Guard journalists. Because the Air Force requires its public affairs specialists to be dual-qualified, her training took eight months – four months for the photojournalism portion, and four months for the videography course. Good vision and a voice test were also required for broadcast school.

Her two biggest challenges while attending DINFOS, Johnson says, were being away from home and working on group projects.



"I come from a very close-knit family, so I had never been away from home that long," she explained. "Learning to rely on others to get projects done was sometimes difficult because we were graded as a group, and if one person failed, we all did."

On a more personal note, Johnson says she wears the uniform because she comes from a family that continues to proudly serve Georgia and the country.

"My father started out in the active Air Force, then became an active Army warrant officer flying helicopters."

He then joined the Georgia Army Guard as a vehicle mechanic and was also a full-time technician, working as the JFHQ supply sergeant, Johnson explains. After a two-year deployment in Deming, N.M., supporting Operation Jump Start, he retired from the Army Guard as a staff sergeant.

Among the Johnson family are two brothers serving in the active duty Army, two sisters serving in the Georgia Army Guard, and one sister in the Army Reserve.

"I am proud to be part of 'America's best team, the world's best airlift' [the 165th Airlift Wing]," she said. "I never would have imagined that serving my country in this capacity would be such an honor, and so much fun."

NCO NOTEPAD



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

Recently I had the opportunity to attend the International Senior Enlisted Seminar in Germany. It is a NATO-sponsored professional development seminar where all the U.S. State Partnership Program senior enlisted leaders meet with their European counterparts. The focus of that event was "Beyond Al Qaeda."

It is that forum from which I draw my thoughts for this month's column.

With the 11th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, upon us, we pause to remember the tragic events of that day and the 3,000 lives lost. We now take a look back at the impact that event has had on the NCO Corps and where we as a Corps go from here.

Like almost everyone I know, I can remember that awful event like it was yesterday. I was at Camp Comanche, Bosnia-Herzegovina, at the time, and had no idea of the full impact of what was to come and how our lives would never be the same.

Since that time, the role of an NCO has also changed. As the battlefield became more and more decentralized and complex, NCOs stepped up and took on more leadership duties. This change in roles has become that much clearer for us, I believe, since the terrorist attacks

that toppled the twin towers of the World Trade Center and heavily damaged one section of the Pentagon. Our enemies know they have no hope of surviving a head-to-head battle with our Army, so instead they specialize – as they did on 9/11 – in attacking innocents as well as our fellow service members who work in small teams, run convoys and man isolated outposts.

NCOs are often the senior leaders during these types of encounters, and because the Corps is filled with enlisted leaders committed to the Army Values, that make us who we are as Soldiers. The trust and confidence instilled in our NCOs has never been stronger.

So, what is our future role? The U.S. is in a period of continual conflict and transformation that will last, as I see it, for a while longer. Our armed forces will not sustain the pace at which they have been moving without the guidance, support and leadership of the NCO Corps.

Throughout this period, we as NCOs must place fundamental Soldiering at the forefront of everything we do, and that means we must focus on the basics, maintain our core values, and facilitate the transformation as it happens.

Some of our most senior leaders also feel the best way to lead in a period of fast-paced change is to focus on the basics. NCOs do not need to worry about the color of the beret or type of Class A uniform we're all going to wear next year. We need to spend more time ensuring our Soldiers and Airmen know how to properly wear the uniform they have. We set the standards, and it is our job to see that the Soldiers and Airmen we lead meet those standards.

As NCOs, we need to spend more time with our squad and platoon leaders, teaching them the importance of counseling, and communicating with them, and less time on the Internet. Communication means more than just talking to them – or at them; it is also about listening to Soldier and Airman concerns, and doing something to help them solve their problems. In other words, we need to train and mentor, continually.

The core message here is that even in an organization as regimented as the military, things happen that cause roles and responsibilities to change. We have done that, and we have done it well. Right here, right now, we find ourselves at a time where we must remind ourselves of our core values so that we might have a barometer – or a compass, if you will – with which to continue our way forward.

What is next? I, for one, do not know, but what I can tell you is we will "always be ready, always be there, and always be on target."

Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 121 Infantry Regiment, throw a grenade simulator as part of the live-fire platoon attack complete with mortar fire, claymores, and steel on target compliments of 1st Platoon at Camp Ripley, Minn.

48TH BRIGADE HITS THE FIELD FOR 15-DAY XCTC IN MINNESOTA

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

CAMP RIPLEY, Little Falls, Minn., Aug. 26, 2012 – They say the best way to accomplish a big job is to set measurable and defined goals, and that is what the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team is doing here at Camp Ripley in Minnesota to prepare for its possible deployment. The 48th IBCT has four “aim-points” in line with the Army’s Contingency Expeditionary Force (CEF) training strategy to hit and achieve success.

The 48th IBCT is maximizing the time spent in the training area for its nearly 2,000 Soldiers by conducting convoy live fire exercises, dismounted live fire exercises, surveillance training, sniper training, target detection training, movement to contact exercises, convoy security exercises, defense operations exercises, offensive screen training, platoon attack exercises, ambush exercises, anti-armor ambush exercises, route reconnaissance training, area reconnaissance training, 105mm gunnery tables, mortar fire ranges, mass casualty exercises, and consolidated battle drills.

“The 48th IBCT will be the first unit to fully execute the ARNG CEF training strategy, which is designed to invest in readiness through progressive training over time rather than buying readiness just before the unit deploys,” said Lt. Col. Jonathan Beddall, Army National Guard Chief of Collective Training. “Units will get back to the basics, conducting training straight from their Mission Essential Task List as opposed to the theatre-specific training that units have conducted for the last decade.

“Here at this Exportable Combat Training Capability exercise (XCTC), the 48th IBCT will conduct platoon maneuver and live-fire training enhanced by the XCTC program through battlefield instrumentation, battlefield effects, battlefield immersion, and an integrated exercise control team that works for the brigade commander,” Beddall said. “We amass resources from across the Army National Guard to put on an intensive platoon-level training event that states cannot resource internally.”

The 48th IBCT’s first aimpoint was to reset their organic equipment as well as to send their Soldiers to professional development schooling. After achieving their first goal, they focused on individual tasks, vehicle crew, and squad collective training to hit their second aimpoint. This year, the 48th IBCT had two targets in order to achieve aimpoint three through the execution of two unique capstone events.

The first of these took place in early July, when 750 Soldiers of the 48th participated in a Brigade Warfighter Exercise (BWFx) at Fort Stewart, Ga. They trained and validated their battalion and brigade staff proficiency executing the Army’s Unified Land Operations and Decisive Action construct. The BWFx ensured all staff sections could resource, support, and command and control subordinate battalions in accordance with the brigade commander’s intent.

The 48th Brigade set its sights on the second half of aimpoint three by mobilizing nearly 2,000 Soldiers to XCTC exercise 12-04 at Camp Ripley, Minn. Here, the command is training and validating platoon maneuver and live fire proficiency. This 15-day XCTC rotation is the brigade commander's primary means to train and evaluate platoons in preparation for a combat readiness training center rotation, where company-level maneuver and battalion and brigade staff proficiency will be validated to achieve aimpoint four.

"The beauty of fully exercising the training strategy is that it allows the Army National Guard to internally produce trained and ready units pre-mobilization, reducing post-mobilization training time and cost," said Cpt. John Turk, XCTC Deputy Program Manager. "Whether you deploy or not, the Army Guard needs to consistently provide trained and ready units for the available force pool and the Guard's CEF strategy does just this."

One of the main tools in 48th Brigade Commander Col. John King's toolbox to enhance platoon-level maneuver training is the XCTC program. Colonel King says he sees the value in the National Guard Bureau-resourced program and is glad to be chosen to validate the ARNG CEF training strategy.

"I am confident in the plan we have and of the



48th Brigade's ability to execute the Army Guard's CEF training strategy, and I know it will reduce post-mobilization training time and increase boots on the ground time in theater," said King. "In addition to saving taxpayer money, this strategy keeps my formations at a higher level of readiness throughout the training cycle, enabling me to provide combatant commanders with combat-ready platoons and companies when they need them."

The XCTC program provides four areas of support during a rotation to help enhance a brigade commander's training plan.

First, the exercise control team helps a unit accomplish its training objectives through developing training scenarios, synchronizing contractor support, and producing platoon lane operation and safety products.

Once the unit is on ground, the XCTC program provides instrumentation support through videographers, multiple integrated laser engagement system (MILES) gear, as well as sensors that enable engagement simulation, Soldier and vehicle positioning tracking, data collection, and archiving for after action reviews. This provides Soldiers with after-action review feedback synchronized with tactical audio and video, showing platoons why their tactics work or where they went wrong during the engagement.

"XCTC provides the perfect environment with instrumentation, trained observer controllers, and realistic training for commanders to train their troops," said Brig. Gen. Courtney Carr, Special Assistant to the Director of the Army National Guard. "It is a flexible

program complementing the commander's training plan to maximize training objectives."

As a brigade combat team conducts the platoon lane training, the XCTC program sets the stage through battlefield immersion support with Hollywood-quality effects, creating a realistic training environment that replicates the conditions and threats experienced while deployed. Battlefield immersion support typically includes role-players who can be local civilians or cast as non-compliant opposing forces (depending on the situation) – complete with equipment, village sets, props and wardrobes.

Combined with the immersion support, the XCTC program provides battlefield effects support to enhance the realism of the training scenarios. Accurately simulating improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and vehicle-borne IEDs increases training effectiveness as confusion, vulnerability, and uncertainty are faced throughout the training scenario.

"The XCTC has been a big help and provides challenging combat conditions with non-compliant opposing forces intermixed with civilians on the battlefield in a well-planned simulated environment, replicating what the unit will experience while deployed," said Maj. John Hutchinson, 48th IBCT Operations Officer. "This theatre-immersed training is scalable and tailored to our training needs and will come to wherever we want to conduct the training."

"XCTC provides a realistic operating environment in order to transition our focus from counterinsurgency



to unified land operations," said Command Sgt. Maj. Joey Recker, the Brigade's senior enlisted leader. "It was great to challenge and evaluate our Soldiers on their field craft, force-on-force tactics, techniques, and procedures, as well as mounted and dismounted live fires in order to posture ourselves and our formation for success in our ability to execute our METL. 'Send Me!'"

With aimpoint three down, the 48th Brigade sets its sights on the National Training Center and aimpoint four and the successful validation of the ARNG CEF training strategy. As always, the 48th IBCT is ready.



THE BLOODIEST DAY: LEE TURNED BACK AT SHARPSBURG

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

Four days after Second Manassas, the Army of Northern Virginia, 55,000 strong, crossed the Potomac River into Maryland. General Robert E. Lee hoped to achieve a victory on northern soil and win official recognition of the Confederacy by a foreign power.

On September 9, 1862, Lee drafted General Order 191, which directed the movements of his army. Copies of the order were dispatched to his subordinate commands which were dispersed from Harpers Ferry, W.Va., to Hagerstown, Md.

Major Gen. George McClellan's 75,000-man Army of the Potomac, only recently returned from the Peninsula Campaign, was in characteristically slow pursuit of Lee and his formidable force. President Abraham Lincoln understood that official recognition of the Confederacy would end the conflict as effectively as French intervention ended the American Revolution. He had drafted an executive order designed to free slaves held in the rebellious states with the intent of preventing foreign recognition of the Confederacy. Upon the advice of his cabinet, Lincoln had withheld the order until the Union achieved a victory, lest the proclamation appear to be made out of desperation.

On September 13, 1862, Corporal Barton Mitchell of the 27th Indiana found three cigars wrapped in paper beneath a tree where his regiment had paused to rest. As he enjoyed one of the cigars, the corporal was shocked to discover the paper wrapping was a detailed order of battle for the Army of Northern Virginia. The corporal had discovered a lost copy of Lee's General Order 191, which revealed the exact positions, strengths, and routes of march for his army. The order was brought to McClellan, who exulted at the extraordinary luck. Yet despite procuring crucial intelligence, McClellan failed to act. Perhaps suspecting a trap, McClellan delayed

movement for 18 hours allowing Lee to discover that one of his orders had not been delivered.

Lee resolved to concentrate his forces near Sharpsburg, Md., where he took advantage of defensive terrain. By September 16, 1862, as the first Union divisions approached, Lee had only 18,000 men at Sharpsburg. Jackson's corps was still enroute from Harpers Ferry while Longstreet's corps was still in Hagerstown. Nevertheless, McClellan was convinced that Lee had 100,000 men at his disposal and eschewed the offensive. His delay allowed Longstreet and the bulk of Jackson's men to reach Sharpsburg. Lee positioned Jackson to his north in the vicinity of woods and a small Dunker church fronted by a cornfield. Longstreet was positioned to Lee's right with his line anchoring the southern flank on the Antietam River.

The bloodiest day of the Civil War began at 5:30 a.m. on September 17, 1862. Over the next 12 hours, the Battle of Sharpsburg would proceed in three distinct actions en echelon from North to South.

Farmer Miller's Field of Corn

The Union 1st Corps moved forward at dawn. Their objective was the Dunker Church, near the center of Jackson's line. As the Union troops moved into the cornfield they were immediately engaged. Thirteen artillery batteries concentrated fire on the cornfield as the infantry charged and counter charged, often reaching bayonet range. More than 2,500 casualties occurred in the cornfield that measured 300 yards by 400 yards.

Fighting swirled for control of the Dunker Church but timely reinforcements held the ground for the Confederates. After five hours of fighting, more than 13,000 men had fallen – including all general officers in the Union 1st and 12th Corps.

The Sunken Road

Near the Confederate center, approximately 2,500 Soldiers had taken strong defensive positions in a sunken road. The Union launched a series of assaults against this formidable position at 9:30 a.m. as the action to the north was abating. Four separate assaults were beaten back but eventually the Union was able to enfilade the position



and drive the defenders from the road. Despite the chance to decisively break Lee's line, McClellan failed to exploit his opportunity. The South held the line. By 1:00 p.m., 5,300 men had become casualties without changing the overall strategic position.

Burnside's Bridge

In the final engagement, Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside's 9th Corps assaulted the Southern right flank in an attempt to seize a bridge crossing. The bridge, which would be later remembered as Burnside's Bridge, was guarded by the 2nd and 20th Georgia regiments. Despite overwhelming odds, less than 400 Georgians held the bridge against repeated brigade assaults. Burnside stubbornly wasted men and time attempting to seize a bridge where the water was less than waist deep. The Georgians held Burnside off long enough to prevent envelopment of the flank and allow A. P. Hill's division to arrive with reinforcements.

In the ranks of the 23rd Ohio, which participated in Burnside's attack, were two future presidents: Lt. Col. Rutherford B. Hayes and Sgt. William McKinley.

Aftermath

Sharpsburg ended in a stalemate despite 23,000 casualties, among them Corporal Mitchell who had found General Order 191 four days earlier. One out of every four Union Soldiers and one third of Confederate Soldiers were casualties. The armies held their positions

through September 18. That evening, Lee quietly slipped away. McClellan did not pursue Lee for more than two weeks. Lincoln, enraged, would remove McClellan from command in November 1862. McClellan was replaced by General Burnside, whose luxurious facial hair gave us the term "sideburns."

Despite the inconclusive nature of the battle, Sharpsburg was the closest thing to victory the Union army had achieved in months. Lincoln moved swiftly and announced the emancipation of slaves held in Confederate states. The Emancipation Proclamation had the desired effect. Britain and France remained neutral throughout the war.

Sharpsburg remains an illuminating study of command, both in the effective design of the defense and the ineffective use of concentration and massed effects on the offensive. Though he outnumbered Lee two to one, McClellan committed his forces piecemeal, allowing Lee to shift reinforcements to meet him. Given the opportunity to destroy the Army of Northern Virginia, McClellan demurred, and the best hope of an early end to the war slipped south across the Potomac.

While Lee was in retreat in the East, a Confederate Army was advancing in the West. The next article will examine the Kentucky Campaign and the decisive Battle of Perryville.

WARRANT OFFICER SERVES AS GEORGIA GUARD'S FIRST INFORMATION PROTECTION TECHNICIAN

Story by Major Will Cox
Public Affairs Office
Georgia Department of Defense

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Aug. 14, 2012 – Cyber terrorism is a real and pervasive threat to our state and nation, against which the Army and Air National Guard (here in Georgia and across the country) are actively defending. Leading the charge for the Georgia Army Guard Cyber Defense Team is Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sam Blaney, the organization's first information protection technician (IPT) to graduate from the U.S. Army Cyber College at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Ga.

"We're excited to get this capability into our formation," said Lt. Col. Chris Kemper, Administrative Officer for Ellenwood's 560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade. "Blaney is the link between signal and military intelligence that we need to force us to better integrate our brigade's operations for becoming an even more effective team."

As an information protection technician, Blaney focuses on protecting the 560th's computer network and integrating training with the 25 Military Occupational Skill (MOS) series (Cyber Defense) and 35 MOS series (Cyber Intelligence) personnel. Eventually, he will become a valuable member of the State Computer Network Defense Team, providing advice to commanders and other senior leaders on cyber network defense.

"The Army has incorporated industry standards into the specialty training we [IPTs] receive, giving us the same qualification as our civilian peers," said Blaney. "Being standardized across the Cyber Network Defense community allows for synchronized operations between federal and state agencies as we collaborate on joint

projects. Speaking the same language and training on the same tools as your counterparts builds confidence in the capabilities of partnered organizations."

Information protection technician training lasts six months. It involves more than 1,000 hours of academic training, and includes seven internationally recognized Global Information Assurance Certifications. The course's goal is to build Soldiers who are focused on hunting plausible threat vectors and evidence of adversarial activity in our networks. In doing that, they will coordinate with the intelligence community to gain the most up-to-date classified adversarial tactics, techniques and procedures, and then coordinate for appropriate level computer network defense response actions.

"We detect and defend our networks from cyber attacks every day," Blaney explained. "The threat is out there, it is a credible threat, and we need to protect ourselves from it. I know what we do every day makes the difference in

keeping my Soldiers and senior leaders safe from adversarial players on the internet."

The Army has invested quite a lot in the information protection technician training, Blaney says, and – so far – will ensure IPTs like himself are situated and focused on what will get the Army and the National Guard the greatest return for those training dollars. The

community focus right now is building cyber network defenders, adds Blaney.

"I look forward to educating commanders on the value and benefits of applying cyber network defense to our strategic and tactical networks," he said. "I also look forward to training additional cyber network defenders to stand beside me on this new battlefield."



HUNTER GETS A NEW ARMY NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER

Story and Photos by Ms. Nancy Gould
Hunter Army Airfield

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., July 31, 2012 – About 200 Guardsmen, spouses, children and military and civilian community members gathered inside the new Georgia Army National Guard (GA ARNG) Readiness Center at Hunter Army Airfield for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and the 78th Aviation Troop Command's blessing of the fleet ceremony for six CH-47F Chinooks helicopters, July 31.

The \$8 million, 30,000 square-foot Readiness Center will provide the 160 Georgia National Guardsmen, Aviators and Soldiers who train there each month a spacious, state-of-the-art building to conduct training, and provide administrative, logistical and operational needs in support of their flight and maintenance missions. The construction

took 14 months to complete and features a 1500 square-foot maintenance bay, hazardous storage area and 109 parking spots within the lot with a separate motor pool for military equipment.

"These Soldiers now have a place that holds all their equipment, a place to train, and finally, a place to call home," said Maj. Barry Simmons, the Readiness Center commander. "The new Readiness Center will support Soldier readiness and training. It will also provide life support for our federal wartime mission and our state mission with tasks such as hurricane, flood and wildfire relief."

According to Simmons, three additional guard units will occupy the building—1st Battalion, 169th Combat Aviation Brigade Detachment for CH-47F Chinooks; 935th Aviation Support Maintenance Battalion Detachment; and in 2013, 1st Battalion, 169th Combat Aviation Brigade MEDEVAC Detachment for UH-60 Blackhawks.

The Logistic Services International team will conduct training for the new CH-47F model Chinook for the remaining National Guard Chinook units that will be

fielding the new model of the aircraft, also based out of the Readiness Center, said Simmons.

The Readiness Center completes the second component of the Georgia National Guard Aviation Support Facility; the first component, a \$16 million, 86,000 square-foot GA ARNG hanger, Aviation Support Facility 3, was built on the airfield apron in 2008 to support aviation operations.

The units have had multiple deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, providing direct heavy lift combat support and combat aerial surveillance. After returning from OEF 4 and 5, they deployed to support Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma. In 2007, they provided aerial water drops while fighting the Georgia wildfires in the Okefenokee Swamp. In 2008, they deployed to Louisiana and Texas and provided aerial relief in the aftermath of hurricanes Ike and Gustav. During OEF 09-10, they flew more than 3,500 combat hours without incident.



For their excellence, the Boeing Company awarded Detachment Company B, 1st Battalion, 169th Combat Aviation Brigade a 20,000 CH-47 Flight Hour Award for their service from 1992 to 2011.

When U.S. Representative Jack Kingston, from

Georgia's 1st Congressional District, took the podium at the ceremony, he praised the Georgia Guardsmen for their commitment to their mission, their courage and their willingness to take risks. He said that throughout history it was risk-taking that made entrepreneurs successful in building helicopters and successful in their careers. He encouraged Soldiers and military leaders to keep up their cutting-edge aviation skills and their valuable service to this nation. The congressman asked the group to not get discouraged with upcoming budget cuts, troop reductions, and the negative fiscal environment in which they serve.

"Keep doing what's right for this nation," said Kingston. "We'll get through this because we're the United States of America."

179TH MPs EARN HIGH MARKS AT PTAE

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

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Sept. 10, 2012 – The Georgia National Guard’s 179th Military Police Company completed its pre-mobilization training Aug. 19, receiving high marks at the Georgia Garrison Training Center near Fort Stewart in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan.

“Never has there been a company this size come down here and perform better than this unit did,” said Col. Michael Scholes, the 78th Homeland Response Force commander. “98.5 percent of the tasks were green, and that is just a phenomenal feat.”

The Pre-mobilization Training Assistance Element’s (PTAE) 21-day course on warrior tasks and battle drills teaches Soldiers teamwork and leadership. Part of the course provides a sense of realism by incorporating key leader engagement in a village with livestock and civilians that erupts into a paintball shootout with “insurgents,” artillery simulators, and smoke grenades.

Since 2007, the PTAE has worked to ensure units going into harm’s way have the basic Soldier skills necessary for taking on the challenges of operating in a combat environment. As part of a practical exercise, PTAE trainees move through a village – complete with livestock, civilians and “insurgents” – similar to what they will find in Iraq or Afghanistan. As the teams conduct patrols, enemy combatants (role-played by members of the Georgia State Defense Force) often accost them to help give the Soldiers as realistic a training experience as possible.

The Georgia State Defense Force provides volunteers to act as opposing forces and villagers, which helps the Georgia National Guard focus on training its deploying Soldiers.

Georgia’s PTAE course provides training in urban operations and battle drills essential to Soldiers who are deploying. Deploying units must pass a variety of pre-mobilization tasks, to include nine-line medical evacuation, weapon qualifications, land navigation, and first aid before arriving at their mobilization, and the PTAE course helps complete these requirements. The majority of trainers are combat veterans who can bring real-world experiences

into the scenarios and training. The Soldiers from the 179th MP company will deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as security forces.

Speaking to family, friends and Soldiers at the hail and farewell ceremony Aug. 26 at Fort Stewart, Lt. Col. Wallace Steinbrecher, 170th Military Police Battalion Commander, said, “There will never, ever be a war won without you. Wars are only won by putting hard-fighting, tactically proficient troops on top of the enemy, and you are the troops to do that.”

Also speaking at the hail and farewell ceremony, Brig. Gen. Joe Jarrard, commander of the Georgia Army National Guard, said, “If families need anything during the deployment, please see your family readiness representative. We are committed to making the deployment as easy on you as possible.”

For more information on the Georgia Guard family support programs, visit the family programs Facebook page at [Facebook.com/GeorgiaGuardFamilyProgram](https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaGuardFamilyProgram) or check out GeorgiaGuardFamilyProgram.org.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOOKSHELF:

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

THAT TEACH US ABOUT OUR CRAFT

By Sgt. 1st Class Gerard Brown
Public Affairs Office
Georgia Department of Defense

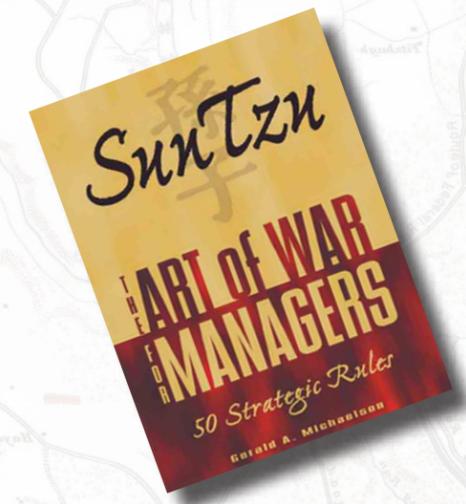
Gerald A. Michelson’s book *The Art of War for Managers* translates 50 strategic rules from the original writing of the well-known and often-studied Sun Tzu’s *The Art of War* into an easy-to-read, step-by-step method for managing. The original *Art of War* was written by Sun Tzu, who was a Chinese military general as well as a strategist and tactician.

The Art of War for Managers takes direct quotes from Sun Tzu’s work and offers a modern day translation and relevance of the quote, followed by comments from senior executives on how these lessons can and have been used in real-world situations.

“Know the enemy and know yourself, and you can fight 100 battles with no danger of defeat”

As you read through the book, the quotes at first glance may seem a pretty easy, standard form of thinking, but the book makes you dig deeper. Being able to analyze and know yourself and your team goes beyond knowing what your material capabilities may or may not be.

Do you know the emotional and mental limits of yourself and your troops as well as those of the enemy? Can you assess your team or subordinate and know where they excel



and where they fall short?

In fact, the real magic of this book lies in its simplicity. The rules and observations Sun Tzu shares are widely applicable, and have proven useful to military professionals all over the world.

Though the original writing was done more than 2,500 years ago, the author understands how those concepts from long ago can still be applied to modern day dilemmas.

One major issue I have with some books is that they give you a recommendation, but no real demonstration on how “I,” the reader, can apply it. This generally leaves me, the reader, trying to apply what I read on my own – which, in the absence of real context, can sometimes be like trying to put a round peg into a square hole.

This book is different in that it gives you the practical application of a recommendation, making it easier to comprehend and user-friendly.

The book contains 13 chapters focusing on different strategies and ways to apply them to business and personal use. Michelson focuses on more than just military strategies; he also touches on how to lead people and deal with conflict.

Like any other “general” book on management, *The Art of War for Managers* tries to make sense of the many unique – yet somehow common – problems we face as leaders, only Michelson gets a little extra help from one of the greatest military strategists of all time.

“Build a sound organization structure,” “coordinate momentum and timing,” and “know your battlefield” are all sound suggestions on either the battlefield or the boardroom. Considering how to apply them can make us better at both.

The Art of War for Managers serves as a good reference to all ranks in the military because, at one time or another, you will be called upon to lead and manage Soldiers and/or Airmen of various rank.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BOLSTERS COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS

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

CHEROKEE COUNTY, Ga., Aug. 9, 2012 – Beyond having commanded Ellenwood’s 221st Military Intelligence Battalion, Georgia Army Guard Lt. Col. Raquel Durden also serves Cherokee County through its Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The CERT program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area, and then trains them in basic disaster response skills.

“Having lived in 25 different countries, and constantly moving around as part of a dual military family, I am glad to give back and serve the community in which I reside now. It’s important to me that I be able to do that, just like so many neighbors have helped serve me in the past,” said Durden, who works as a full-time projects officer for the Guard’s Operations and Training Office. “My training as a Soldier compliments what we are learning through CERT, and I know the certification gives confidence to my neighbors that I and other CERT-qualified members are trained and ready to help in an emergency.”

According to its website, CERT training was made available nationally by FEMA in 1993. The program is used in more than 28 states across the country. Training usually takes place one night each week over a seven-week period. Topics covered include disaster preparedness, disaster fire suppression, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue operations, disaster psychology and team organization. All that culminates in a disaster simulation where trainees are evaluated on how well they use skills they have acquired.

CERT member training should be used to assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

The CERT website reports that, “CERT is about

readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. It is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations during which citizens will be initially on their own, and their actions can make a difference.” Through training, citizens can manage utilities and put out small fires by treating the three killers of disaster-related injuries by opening airways, controlling bleeding and treating for shock. There are many ways to serve, whether by registering volunteers, assisting with triage, directing traffic/people/logistics or even by conducting light search and rescue.

Certified CERT team members can also provide basic medical aid, search for and rescue victims safely, and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective during any given situation.

According to Durden, “CERT members are not just put on the shelf for major events either.”

“The Cherokee CERT team – for example – was called out in the past few months to conduct a search and rescue mission for a missing child. Teams are available to local law enforcement, providing ready and trained responders wanting to help their neighbor,” Durden said.

For Georgia Army and Air Guardsmen involved in the CERT program – or for those who want to be – participation provides them yet another venue with which to give something back to their communities and their families, she adds.

“Guardsmen who take part in the CERT program will build relationships in their community with first responders – relationships that help the Georgia National Guard accomplish its homeland security mission, and give those local first responders a ‘citizen force’ that’s capable of taking care of community needs during times of crisis until emergency services arrive,” said Durden.

The Georgia State Defense Force (GSDF) has also long encouraged its members to be involved with their local County CERT teams – not only for the valuable training such membership provides, but also for the



mutual visibility between the local EMA directors and the SDF, says Brig. Gen. Jerry Bradford, the GSDF Commanding General.

“There is no conflict of interest in this arrangement,” added Bradford. “SDF members do not participate in CERT in any SDF capacity. Furthermore, in the event of a local disaster requiring the help of local CERT teams, it is assumed by the SDF that any members in that disaster area are not deployable assets anyway. Those individuals will

be assumed to be working locally to survive and help their family and neighbors to survive and recover.”

Today, it is estimated that over half of the GSDF membership is involved in CERT. Leading by example, the GSDF Commanding General, himself, is a serving member of the Gwinnett County CERT program.

Anyone interested in learning more about the CERT program or wanting to find a CERT program in which to get involved, can visit www.citizencorps.gov/cert.



GEORGIA GUARDSMEN REEL IN THE BIG PRIZE AT FLW FISHING TOURNAMENT

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

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Aug. 14, 2012 – Two Georgia Army Guardsmen – one from South Georgia, the other from East Georgia – used their combined years of experience, and a few tips from the pro angler who was with them, to take the top slot in this year’s FLW Soldier Appreciation Fishing Tournament this past Sunday.

Sergeant Danny Ashley, with Savannah’s 179th Military Police Company, and Sgt. David Boatright, with Augusta’s 279th MP Company – both part of Decatur’s 170th Military Police Battalion, 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade – finished first among a field of 18 teams by catching three fish that came in at a total weight of 6 pounds, 7 ounces.

Their first place win was announced that afternoon at Duluth’s Gwinnett Center in front of more than 1,000 FLW fans who had come to watch the weigh-in that

would determine which of the 10 pros who made the final cut would walk away with the \$500,000 purse and the coveted Forrest Wood Cup trophy.

Ashley, who lives in the town of Rentz near Dublin, said he has fished the FLW saltwater circuit in years past.

“You know what they say,” offered Ashley as he and Boatright held their first place plaques proudly for everyone to see, “‘a bad day of fishing is better than a great day at the office.’ And, in this case, there’s nothing better than having been part of one of this tournament, fishing with Sgt. Boatright and our pro, Micah Frasier, and coming out on top.”

Boatright, who hails from Snellville, agreed, saying that he has been fishing since he was a child. Though he can recall some good days out on the water, none can compare to stepping up on the stage and being named number one among his fellow anglers, he said.

“At the same time – and I know Sergeant Ashley agrees with me – it’s as much of an honor to represent the Georgia National Guard as it was fun for us to have participated,” Boatright said. “What a terrific

opportunity it is to have spent time doing the thing I love and talking with the fans about who we are, what we do, and why we do it as Citizen-Soldiers.”

Soldier appreciation tournaments are one-day events held in conjunction with scheduled FLW professional bass competitions. This year’s event happened on the fourth and final day of this year’s Forrest Wood Cup, held on northeastern most point of Lake Lanier. The field usually consists of as many as 20 Soldiers, with participants being paired with an FLW pro, getting to experience what that pro does when he or she competes.

The excitement began building around the early morning take-off ceremony, this time from the boat launch at Laurel Park near Gainesville. That was followed by a long day on the lake trying to beat out fellow anglers for that top spot on the leader’s board. In the case of the Guardsmen, time out on the water was about half that of the pros. They then went on to do the on-stage weigh-in program, and then experience what it is like to hear their names called as the winning team.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Cory Stigen, who previously served with the Minnesota Army Guard, is FLW’s military relations specialist.

“Within two days of the announcement being put out by 1st Sgt. Robert Callahan, the Joint Forces Headquarters’ top enlisted leader, all slots for the competition were filled,” Stigen explained. “You can’t overlook the fact that this group, like all those who’ve competed before them, comes (no matter what the weather), fishes [the limit being three to even make the weigh-in], and has a great time.”

“Besides that,” Stigen added, “they get to do something probably none of their buddies have ever done: ‘drop a line’ alongside a real pro.”

In a competition such as this, those who did not take the top spot seemed to find out that this is where the old adage “if you’re not first, your last,” really is true.

Sunday afternoon’s weigh-in began with Sgt. Maj. Bryan Hise and teammate Staff Sgt. Clay Ragsdale, both with the Georgia Army Guard’s Honors and Funeral Detail, coming in first with a weight of 6 lb, 2 oz, only to be edged out later by Ashley and Boatright.

“The water was good, and our pro [Brett Hite of the FLW’s National Guard Team] taught me and Sgt. Ragsdale some really good techniques that caught us some good fish,” Hise said.

“Yeah, Brett did a great job of putting us in areas with some great structure, and helped us really enjoy the day. But in the end, we got edged out by the five extra ounces of Sgt. Ashley and Sgt. Boatright’s fish,”

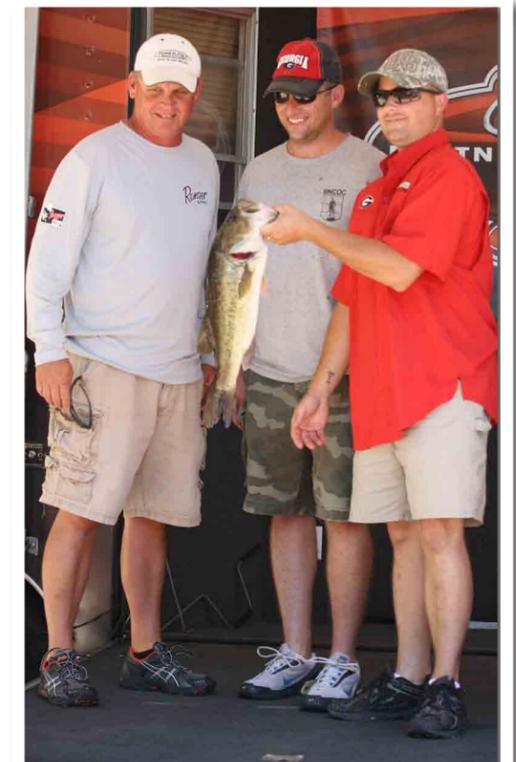
Ragsdale added. “Would have liked to have been the team standing on that stage at the end of the day, but the pair who did win are great Soldiers who – like all those who competed today – represent our organization well, no matter what they do.”

In the end, the team of 1st Sgt. Phillip Banzohf and Sgt. Eric Baucon took third with three fish weighing in at 5 lb, 7 oz. Fourth place went to Sgt. 1st Class Jason Holcomb and Staff Sgt. Robert Pasley with a weight of 5 lb, 6 oz, followed in fifth place by retired Army Guard Lt. Col. Reginald Neal’s team with a weight of 3 lb, 10 oz.

Neal and his teammate Sgt. Chad Battles tied with the team of staff sergeants Adam Gilbeau and Darrell Shelnut for sixth place, with fish that weighed in at 1 lb, 9 oz. The number eight spot was taken by Callahan and retired Army Guard Chief Warrant Officer 5 Paul Huber, with a weight of 1 lb, 7 oz.

The teams of Capt. James Limbaugh and Vince McDowell, and Command Sgt. Maj. Ed Andrews, took ninth and tenth place respectively.

“While there can only ever be one winner, one winning team, I believe we all came away winners having learned some valuable tips from some of the best on the pro fishing circuit,” said Holcomb, senior NCO for JFHQ Supply. “We’ve also walked away leaving FLW fans with a greater sense of who we are as Soldiers.”



BEING VIGILANT KEEPS NATIONAL GUARD AHEAD OF ANY STORM



Story by Sgt. Denise Durbin-Carlton
 Photos by Sgt. Denis Durbin-Carlton, Sgt. 1st Class Roy Henry
 124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
 Georgia Army National Guard

FAYETVILLE, N.C., Aug. 30, 2012 – As Hurricane Isaac pounded the Gulf Coast, then traveled inland, inundating much of the country’s central-northern and southeastern regions with continuous rain and flooding, Soldiers and Airmen from the North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama Army and Air Guards gathered here at Fort Bragg – home to the 82nd Airborne Division and Army Special Operations – to participate in a joint Defense Support to Civil Authority (DSCA) training exercise called Vigilant Guard 2012, hosted by the North Carolina Guard.

“Simply put, Vigilant Guard is an annual homeland security exercise that helps us communicate, coordinate and

validate our abilities while working with our emergency partners and other local and state agencies,” said Lt. Col. Robert Lee Ezzell, Joint Force Headquarters coordinator of exercises and plans for North Carolina.

This exercise, incorporating military-civilian organizations and operations, is important, Ezzell says, because it enhances the preparedness of the National Guard in performing state roles and responsibilities associated with homeland defense and DSCA missions. An estimated 2,000 service members participated in the exercise, and several local, state, regional, federal organizations took part as well.

“What makes this exercise unique is that the additional Guard units involved are from other states,” said Col. Michael L. Scholes, Sr., who commands Georgia’s 78th Homeland Response Force (HRF). “North Carolina’s National Guard invited us, a brigade unit within the Georgia Army Guard,

to participate in this year’s exercise, enabling us to work together as a team for the Southeastern region.”

The HRF’s primary mission, he added, was command and control of the units participating in the exercise. This is also its mission when Army and Air Guard units are called upon to assist civil authorities during a real emergency.

Vigilant Guard participation is vital to all of the states involved, according to Maj. Gen. Perry Smith, Alabama’s Adjutant General. As a national exercise, it allows each state to take the necessary steps to ensure a more secure domestic posture within their own borders through intense, continuous training, he says.

The Guard is the lead military organization for homeland defense, “because of what our Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen bring to the table through their military training and their civilian expertise – be it law enforcement, firefighting, emergency medical response or civil engineering. That makes us the right answer to the problems our states and communities face in a time of crisis.”

The relentless pounding Hurricane Isaac has recently given the country’s Gulf region, Smith says, has proven this, just as it did when Hurricanes Katrina and Irene devastated the area in 2005.

As an annual exercise, Vigilant Guard is sponsored by U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), in coordination with National Guard Bureau (NGB) in Washington, as a means for promoting efficiency between National Guard leaders and senior civilian leaders at the local, state, regional and federal level in the event a homeland emergency occurs.

“Since 2001, we have redefined the role of the National Guard – especially with our participation nationwide in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, and later during Operation New Dawn during the drawdown of forces from Iraq,” added Ezzell. “Our role as an organization changed again in 2011 when we redefined the relationship of the National Guard in the total force structure – through the elevation of the

director for the National Guard Bureau becoming a full member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.”

Vigilant Guard allows military and civilian first responders, acting together upon a variety of emergency scenarios designed to represent both natural and manmade crises, to strengthen their working relationships across the board at the local, state and federal levels. In this way, says Smith, there is constant evaluation and improvement of communication, logistic, medical, and special technical and operational response capabilities coordination.

“The opportunity Vigilant Guard provides us [Alabama] to work with the other states and first responders throughout FEMA Region IV is immeasurable,” Smith said. “As we interact, our Soldiers, Airmen, planners and commanders – along with our civilian partners – see what we each do, how we do it and how we can exchange ideas that better serve the end state: getting relief to the civilian population drastically affected by the crisis that has displaced the normalcy of their lives.”



While planners planned and observers watched and evaluated, Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen from across the country seemed to put every ounce of energy they had into treating the scenarios used for this year’s Vigilant Guard as the real thing. Each event included everything from an explosion

outside a local stadium, to the dropping of a highway overpass on a school bus and neighborhood, to the disruption of power and communications, to the release airborne contaminants. All of which were caused by a domestic terrorist group bent on “forcing the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Middle Land, the establishment of a new world regime, and the overthrow of those who refuse to support that regime.”

Throughout the two days that units from North Carolina and Tennessee, along with Georgia’s Joint Task Force 781-CBRNE and Alabama’s 690th CERF-P, occupied Bragg’s Urban Operations Training Site, the work was fast and intense, while the cries for “help”

and the screams of pain from civilian role-players in the surrounding area seemed all too real.

“I mean, how else would you – would any of us – play it?” asked Staff Sgt. Tony Pasley, a medic with the Kentucky Air Guard’s 123rd Medical Group, 123rd Airlift Wing.

During this year’s training, Pasley worked alongside combat medics from the Georgia Army Guard’s 248th Medical Company. His job was to perform first line triage on the injured coming out of JTF 781’s decontamination line and to decide where they should go for further care by medics from the Georgia Air Guard’s 165th and 116th medical groups, and the New Hampshire Air Guard’s 157th Medical Group.

“The role-players, especially, have taken their job of expressing the emotions and actions of actual victims to heart,” Pasley said while watching 248th medics move the latest patient to a nearby treatment tent.

During the past two-day’s training, Alabama’s 46th and Tennessee’s 45th Civil Support Teams conducted survey operations among the buildings that occupied the urban operations training site to identify possible contaminants or potential explosive devices. Engineers with Alabama’s 690th and those with Georgia’s 877th Engineer Companies, during their prospective shifts, moved in to find the “dead and wounded,” and to remove them to a nearby safe zone for processing.

For the Soldiers of the 877th, their participation in Vigilant Guard would later see them put the search and extraction skills they already have – along with new or improved techniques they may have picked up from Alabama – to the test on the estimated 10,000 square-foot rubble pile that is part of the Raleigh Fire Training Center. Unlike Bragg’s urban training site, the Raleigh rubble pile called for the Augusta-based engineers to work their way on to, into and through the mountain of demolished steel and concrete to bring out the “living and the dead.” The scenario of the day then called on the Guardsmen to move those victims to a place where they could be treated and sent on their way for more intensive care, or moved to a location where their remains could be decontaminated, documented and sent on to more dignified surroundings.

“Everything we do here, every time we do a training exercise like Vigilant Guard – as teams, as units and as states – gives us one more opportunity to get it right so we don’t get it wrong when the real thing happens,” said Sgt. 1st Class Ivey, senior enlisted leader for the 877th’s 3rd Platoon. “The camaraderie we build with our counterparts from the other states only serves to push us

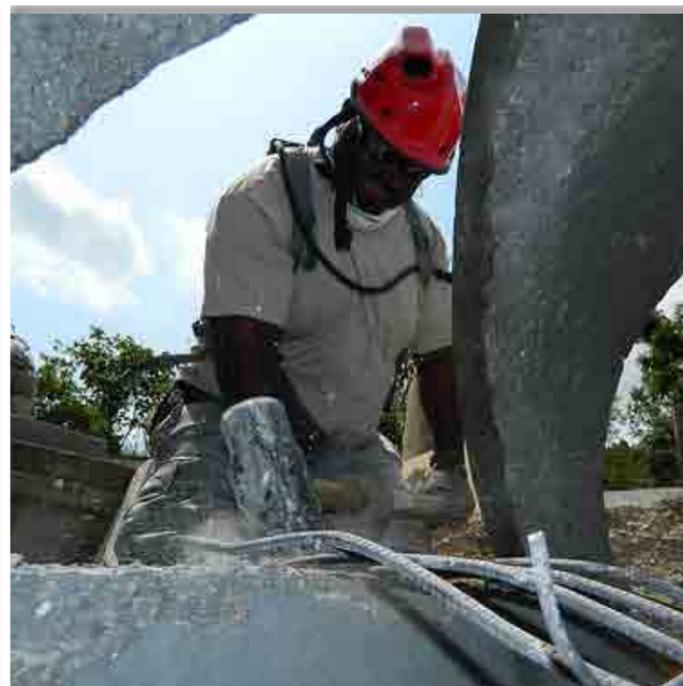
all to be better – as individuals and as teams – than we already are at the job we do.”

In the overall scheme of things, it seemed there is no end to the way those participating in Vigilant Guard 2012 continue to use lessons learned from past training and apply them to the process of becoming better than they already are at the science of homeland operations and defense support to civil authority.

“As a Citizen-Soldier, I find this exercise to be extremely beneficial, especially for those working in emergency response positions, because it allows them, it allows us, to see things from both sides — as a civilian and as a Soldier or Airman out there helping bring relief and security to a devastated community,” said Staff Sgt. William Vestal of Rockingham, N.C.’s, 881st Engineer Support Company.

In times of crisis, he and fellow Guardsmen are called upon as North Carolina’s Guard Quick Reaction Force to respond to those first calls by civil authorities to assist with security operations.

“The alliances built here between the Guard and civil authorities, create a stronger support element for the Southeastern region,” Vestal said. “We – the Army and Air Guard – are the premier, primary force with the knowledge and skills needed to keep the peace and return some sense of normalcy to our communities after a crisis occurs.”



GEORGIA ARMORIES CONTINUE TO SERVE COMMUNITIES



*Story by 1st Lt. William Carraway
Photo by Maj. John Alderman
Public Affairs Office
Georgia Department of Defense*

SANDERSVILLE, Ga., Aug. 3, 2012 – The Children of Washington County received a gift courtesy of the Georgia National Guard as the former National Guard Armory property was transferred to the City of Sandersville to serve as the new Boys & Girls Club.

“This is a great opportunity for the city of Sandersville,” said Mayor Jimmy Andrews during the dedication ceremony. Major Gen. Jim Butterworth, Georgia’s Adjutant General, officially transferred ownership of the armory to the City at the ceremony attended by Rep. Mack Jackson, Sen. Miriam Paris, Sandersville City Council members, and members of the Boys & Girls Club of Washington County.

The Georgia National Guard has a long tradition in Sandersville. For decades, the armory was the home of engineers from the 878th Engineer Battalion. In 2004, Alpha Company of the 878th Engineer Battalion deployed to Afghanistan. Upon its return, the unit was assigned to Augusta. While the armory continued in use for a time as a recruiting office, it became clear the city and county would have bigger plans for the former Georgia Army National Guard property.

The new Boys & Girls Club building measures approximately 15,000 square feet. The facility will feature

a dedicated game room, education center, gym, and center for teenagers. More than 100 children of Washington County will be able to use the new club when it opens on August 20.

The Sandersville armory is the second such Guard facility to be transferred for local community use in as many months. On July 14, the Marvin Griffin Armory was officially transferred to the City of Bainbridge and now serves as the headquarters of the city’s Public Safety Department.

“The Georgia Guard passes the torch to you,” said 1st Lt. Derek Ellyson to the members of the Bainbridge Public Safety Department. Ellyson serves as the executive officer of the 1230th Transportation Company, the Georgia Guard unit that had most recently occupied the Bainbridge Armory.

By consolidating units and constructing new facilities such as the new Joint Headquarters Building, the Georgia National Guard has realized greater efficiency and economy. As a result, the Guard has actively engaged community leaders to transfer underutilized properties. In this way, the Guard is able to continue to serve the community. It is a win-win scenario that 1st Lt. Ellyson described at the transfer ceremony for the Marvin Griffin Armory.

“Here in Bainbridge, we enjoyed such wonderful support everywhere we went,” said Ellyson. “We are excited when we can give back, and I think this is a fitting way to give back to the City of Bainbridge for everything they have given us.”

The Georgia Guard will transfer ownership of its armory in Montezuma, Ga., later this month. The city of Montezuma will also convert its armory to a new Boys & Girls Club.

CANADIAN FORCES BASE SUFFIELD, Alberta, Canada, Sept. 16, 2012 – A Georgia Army National Guard (ARNG) Aviation Task Force (AVN TF) composed of four Blackhawk helicopters and crewmembers from Company C, 1-185th Aviation Battalion (AVN BN) and Company A, 1-171st General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB) flew to Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Suffield to help train a British Army Battle Group (BG) before the BG deploys to Afghanistan in a few months. The Georgia AVN TF was tasked to conduct air assault and casualty evacuation (CAEVAC) operations during the joint coalition training scenarios while flying over the prairies of Alberta Canada.

The British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) is the British Army's premier training unit located at CFB Suffield, tasked with providing training and training support to the Field Army, and other Force Elements as directed, in order to prepare Battle Groups, or other field elements as required, for operations.

National Guard Bureau knew that BATUS was looking to incorporate U.S. aviation lift assets into their training and coordinated for Georgia's ARNG aviation assets to support this joint coalition training opportunity.

"It has been very easy integrating Georgia's aviation assets into the British Army Training plan," said Maj. Robin Melling, Commander of the British Army Aviation support unit at CFB Suffield. "Having Georgia's Aviation Task Force support here has added a unique joint aviation lift capability to this rotation that other BATUS rotations simply have not had. Joint training opportunities are the way of the future. We need to train as we fight."

C/1-185th AVN BN and A/1-171st GSAB flew 15 hours cross-country just to get to CFB Suffield. Then they conducted dust landings, nap of the earth training missions, and CAEVAC training in support of BATUS training scenarios – all for their annual training this year.

"This is good training for the British Mechanized Infantry Battle Group, said Lt. Col. John Boyer, Georgia AVN TF commander. "When they get to Afghanistan or are supporting other joint coalition operations, they conduct operations on Blackhawks and other U.S. aircraft. We fight together, so training together only makes sense. Knowing how to operate safely in and around helicopters makes coalition operations more efficient and effective. This training is great for my guys too. You don't get to plan a 15-hour cross country flight



78TH AVIATION TROOP COMMAND WORKS WITH BRITISH ARMY DURING JOINT TRAINING IN CANADA

and cross-border operations every annual training period."

"We try to put BGs in a complex environment where our troops encounter civilians, insurgents and near-peer adversaries over a 28-day training cycle," said Col. Jim Landon, BATUS commander. "Training at Suffield is advantageous to the British Army for a few reasons. First, the space allows us a lot of flexibility to conduct multiple live fire operations at once. In fact, we can have up to four Battle Groups conducting live fires in the training area at one time. All of our other training areas around the world

could fit into the military training area here at CFB Suffield. Second, the British Army has been here since World War II, and the relationship developed over 40 years with Canada and the local community is quite good, also contributing to our freedom of maneuver due to the trust developed between our two countries."

Similar to U.S. Combined Training Centers, BATUS offers an austere environment with a well-developed training support infrastructure combined with an increasingly realistic replication of the contemporary

operating environment, infused with a complex enemy and complex objectives. BATUS also offers video and 2D after-action reviews to help BGs reinforce what they did right in the training scenario or help identify weaknesses to better prepare a BG for combat. BG Soldiers conduct maneuver exercises over a 28-day period, perfecting their field craft while training for contingency operations in both Afghanistan or near-peer force-on-force operations.

"Aviation adds so much, not just for the troops on the ground but for the Higher Command's staff who have to



plan and coordinate the use of these assets into their overall plan,” said Landon. “Joint training with coalition partners is very important when preparing for coalition contingency operations. Understanding how to work with the United States military and how the U.S. military operates is a priority for the British Army.”

Georgia has UH-60A/L Blackhawks, UH-60M MEDEVAC Blackhawks, CH-47F Chinooks, and LUH-72 Lakota helicopters to support combatant commanders abroad or to assist the governor of Georgia in support of domestic operations.

“We look forward to opportunities to train with our allies during our annual training periods. The ability to conduct joint training with our NATO partners is vital to the success of our current and future operations,” said Col. Brock Gaston, commander of Georgia’s 78th Aviation Troop Command. “It gives us a chance to train our mission

tasks with a coalition partner. It exercises our staff’s ability to coordinate complex logistic operations such as moving equipment and personnel thousands of miles. And of course it gives the crews a chance to hone their aviation skills. In the future, we hope to provide task-force-level support with the addition of UH-60M MEDEVAC and CH-47 aircraft from Georgia supporting Joint Training at BATUS.”

“Georgia Army National Guard Soldiers want to train in complex and challenging environments. Providing opportunities to train with our allies gives my aviators the unique challenge to plan and conduct aviation operations in an environment they have never seen before,” added Gaston. “Unique experiences like this are great for retention and morale. I am proud of our Soldiers and pleased to provide demanding training opportunities that will pay dividends as we prepare for the next contingency operation.”

A British Army Gazelle helicopter sits in the foreground with a Georgia Army National Guard Blackhawk Helicopter in the background surrounded by British Army troops as they conduct training on Air Assault and CASEVAC operations.



SPECIAL TEENAGE GIRL, GUARD FAMILY DAUGHTER ACHIEVES GOAL THANKS TO LOCAL VETERANS GROUP

Story filed by Public Affairs Office
Georgia Department of Defense
Photos by Kimberly Garrett
Georgia Army Guard Family Assistance Center

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., Aug. 27, 2012 – The 16-year-old daughter of a Northwest Georgia Army Guard family has lived with multiple birth defects since infancy but can now do the one thing she has always wanted to do – ride a bicycle like any other teenager – thanks to the good will and community spirit of a Duluth-based veterans group.

Ashleigh is one of three children belonging to Sgt. 1st Class Charles and Sharon Coleman. Sergeant Coleman,

who has been a Guardsman since October 2000 and has nearly 16 years of service, is the noncommissioned officer in-charge of unit readiness for Winder's Company E, 148th Brigade Support Battalion, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. He and his fellow Soldiers provide logistical support to elements of 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry, during operations here at home and overseas.

All her life, the high school freshman struggled with her condition, and worked with speech, occupational and physical therapy specialists who helped her gain the fine and gross motor skills necessary to function independently.

Over the past several years, Ashleigh has managed to meet all the goals her doctors set for her with one exception: riding a bicycle.

Therefore, while most teens her age are wishing for

a new car and passing their driver's test, Ashleigh's only wish – and that of her parents – has been to achieve the one thing that would give her the semblance of independence she has fought to achieve for so long.

"I may not be able to do many of the things that someone my age can do, but I'm not about to just give up and give in to my fate," Ashleigh said. "I'm living my life to the best of my ability, and it's never been my nature to just 'let things happen.'"

"One of the biggest things she has always wanted to do is ride with the family to an ice cream store during family vacations," said her father. "Getting on a bike of her own and pedaling right alongside her brothers would certainly be part of the victory she seeks over her circumstances. Her physical condition being what it is, it's just not been

possible for her to ride a regular bike. And as much as she's wanted that chance, her mom and I have wanted it for her that much more."

Hearing about her dilemma, Kimberley M. Garrett, the Guard Family Assistance Center Manager in Lawrenceville, set out to make Ashleigh's 16th birthday extra special. Garrett, an auxiliary member of Duluth's American Legion Post 251, contacted the post membership and asked for their help.

"That child [Ashleigh] is an inspiration to everyone she meets," Garrett said. "She studies and works hard, and is a constant source of support to her father in his work as a Citizen-Soldier. Helping Ashleigh achieve her goal was not only the right thing to do, but more importantly, the right way of showing her that she and her dreams matter to everyone around her."

After hearing what it was Garrett wanted, the post membership immediately took up the quest to find the kind of bike Ashleigh would need to make her goal a reality. The one they found – a three-wheeler – arrived on Wed., Aug. 9, shortly after her birthday. Post member Jack Theilman, Garrett says, dedicated himself to putting it together.

Theilman's task complete, the Coleman family was asked to come to the Post 251 for a secret surprise for Ashleigh. When the Coleman family arrived at the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary – along with Garrett – presented Ashleigh with her new bike.

"Ashleigh was totally ecstatic, and then broke into tears when the membership rolled out the bike and brought it to her," Colman said.

"I was so overwhelmed by her happiness, and at the fact that people we had never known would reach out and do something like this for a child none of them knew until this day," Coleman said, recalling the moment. "The words, 'thank you' were certainly said, over and over again, but I doubt that words can ever express the appreciation I, my wife, our children – and especially Ashleigh – have in our hearts for what they have done."

"How could I not cry?" Ashleigh asked. "Here, finally, was my opportunity to continue to prove that no matter what a person's situation, they can achieve goals, and in my case, be a teenager in my own right. It's the small victories that really mean a lot, and what Kimberly and the rest did for me adds one more victory to the list of things I hope to continue to achieve."

AROUND THE GEORGIA GUARD



DEPLOYED SOLDIERS WITH 3-108TH CALVARY TAKE COMBATIVES TO NEXT LEVEL

U.S. Soldiers from Multinational Battle Group East (MNBG E) participated in the Tactical Combatives Course at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, Aug. 6-17, 2012.



GUARDSMEN WITH THE 560TH BFSB GO TO PARIS, FRANCE

Georgia National Guard's 560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade sent 7 Guardsmen to Paris to support the Office of Defense Cooperation of the U.S. Embassy for Eurosatory 2012. The seven Georgia Guardsmen were assigned as escort officers and as a project officer during the event.



648TH MEB TRAINS AFGHAN SECURITY FORCES

The 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, "Task Force Hydra," a National Guard unit out of Columbus, Ga., conducted a combined exercise with members of the Afghan Uniformed Police, the Crises Response Team, and the Quick Reaction Force at one of the police districts in Kabul. Training focused on how to maneuver, react, and extract. Over 300 Afghan National Security Forces and about approximately 45 Coalition Forces participated in the event. In attendance was Task Force Commander Col. Andy Hall and International Security Assistance Forces Operations Officer, Major Gen. Lawrence D. Nicholson, to observe the exercise.

SOLDIERS WITH THE 648TH MEB KEEP THEIR MARKSMANSHIP SKILLS SHARP

Soldiers with the 648th MEB currently deployed to Afghanistan recently made a visit to the range to ensure that all Soldiers remain ready and qualified on their individual weapons. Here Capt. Marie Herbolt fires her 9mm pistol for qualification with range supervision by Spc. Cody Brown.



BRING ON THE RAIN!

Soldiers with the 3-108th Cavalry, Georgia Army National Guard, participate in a Warrior Leaders Course Field Training Exercise.



**48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
Trains at Camp Ripley in Minnesota**



Public Affairs Office
Georgia Department of Defense
1000 Halsey Ave. Bldg. 447
Marietta, Ga. 30060