

GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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

2009 AJC AWARDS

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WIN! P.5**

Ready! Aim! Qualify!

**Metter's 265th Regional
Support Group converged
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LEADING BY EXAMPLE

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Crump and Clark Win AJC

Two Georgia Army Guardsmen were awarded the 2009 Atlanta Journal Constitution Army Reserve Achievement Award for outstanding performance during a ceremony Nov. 8.



Georgia National Guard Ground-breaking Ceremony

Members of the Georgia National Guard and the Georgia Assembly break ground on the site of the new Georgia National Guard building on General Lucius D. Clay National Guard Center.



OCS Graduation Class 48

OCS Graduation Class 48, held at the Hyatt hotel in Marietta.



48th IBCT trains at Camp Atterbury

48th IBCT trains at Camp Atterbury, to prepare for their deployment to Afghanistan.

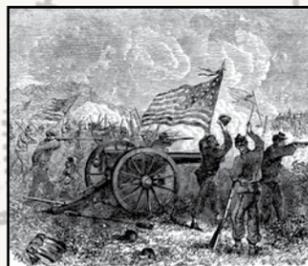
SHERMAN MARCHES ON GEORGIA 1864



General William T. Sherman (right foreground) poses with Union soldiers at Federal Fort No. 2 in Atlanta, 1864. Photograph by George N. Barnard. Courtesy of Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

1864 - General William Tecumseh Sherman's troops left Atlanta mid-month as his forces began the next phase of the Union campaign in Georgia. Before moving out of the Atlanta and surrounding countryside in the 'march to the sea,' he authorized the burning and destruction of structures vital to the Confederacy's war effort. Much of the city was burned as Union soldiers set fire to homes. Sherman had entered Atlanta after Hood's forces evacuated the city on September 1.

1948 - The 560th Engineer Battalion in Columbus had organized six months earlier and by November had two companies which met in the Fine Arts Building at the Fairgrounds. It was commanded by Lt. Col. Ernest W. Higgins. At this time, Georgia Guard members receive pay once every three months.



1955 - Effective 1 November, the 48th Infantry Division, Georgia-Florida National Guard became the 48th Armored Division, Georgia-Florida National Guard, still commanded by Maj. Gen. Joseph Frazer of Hinesville. The new armored division's authorized strength was 7,727, a drop of more than 2,000 from the Infantry Division; however a non-divisional Group of more than 2,000 was also formed during the 1955 reorganization and redesignation of Georgia's Army Guard units. Among the changes: Georgia's two infantry regimental headquarters were redesignated as combat commands. The 122nd Infantry headquarters in Atlanta became Combat Command C and the 121st Infantry headquarters in Macon became Combat Command B.

Mission: To celebrate and support the soldiers and families of the Georgia National Guard. To provide today's National Guard members with information about Georgia's Guardsmen.

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Updated news and information on the Georgia DoD can be viewed at www.gadod.net

Crump, Clark win Atlanta Journal-Constitution Award

Georgia Department of Defense
Public Affairs Office

MARIETTA-Two Georgia Army Guardsmen were awarded the 2009 *Atlanta Journal Constitution* Army Reserve Achievement Award for outstanding performance to the Guard during a ceremony here Nov. 8, 2009.

Army Reservists earning the 2009 AJC Reserve Component Achievement Awards were SGT Patrick K. Elrod, assigned to Headquarters, 3rd Battalion, 323rd Regiment, 2nd Brigade (BCT) and SPC Brittany L. Jornda, 3rd Medical Command (Deployment

SFC Daniel Crump and SGT Brandon Clark earned the honor for outstanding proficiency in several categories including conduct, attendance at drills and annual training, and leadership instructional ability. (The Competition is divided in two categories: Private to Specialist and Sergeant to Sergeant First Class. Both soldiers received their awards from *Atlanta Journal Constitution* Editorial Page Editor Andre Jackson. BG Maria Britt, commander, Georgia Army National Guard, was on hand to congratulate the winners.)



BG Maria Britt (L), SFC Crump, SGT Clark, CSM James Nelson, Jr. following the presentation of the AJC Reserve Component Achievement Awards Nov. 8.

Crump, of Joint Force Headquarters-Georgia, has his finger on the pulse of many activities, one of them being the state logistical liaison between the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and the Georgia National Guard. Crump was nominated for his penchant for taking on new responsibilities. In his position as liaison with GEMA, Crump completed more than 10 national incident management system courses. He was also credited with assisting in the creation of the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan. Crump also works with the Inspector General inspection team.

Clark, of Company A, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry received his award based on his command's recognition of "his attention to detail and ability to get the job done." He is the unit training NCO for the rear detachment of Company A, a position usually reserved for a staff sergeant. The award cites the Operation Iraqi Freedom combat veteran as a Soldier who "understands the value in training to standard, and his experiences are extremely valuable while working with new Soldiers in expressing the seriousness of his job."

Support). Britt congratulated the Soldiers, and told the audience why events of this nature were so important.

"It is so fitting to honor them today, because today is just three days before Veterans' Day, Nov 11th." And that is a key day, when we celebrate and honor living veterans, as opposed to Memorial Day, when we honor our fallen heroes.

"So it's key today that we are honoring our veterans." Britt added "Those who have served in the past and those who still continue to serve in uniform today."

To qualify for the AJC award, Soldiers must attend at least 95 percent of their scheduled drill assemblies, attend annual training, be duty Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) qualified, qualify sharpshooter, or higher, on their individual assigned weapon, and have no disciplinary actions during the nominating period.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Guard plays host to Cobb 'commanders'

By SFC Class Roy Henry
Georgia Department Of Defense Public Affairs Office

MARIETTA, Nov. 10, 2009 – Guardsmen at General Lucius D. Clay National Guard Center and Dobbins Air Reserve Base, played host recently to members of the Cobb County Honorary Commanders Class of 2009.

This is the second time the two organizations have gotten together since the Guard's move to the former Naval Air Station (NAS) Atlanta last year. As a Cobb County Chamber of Commerce program, The Honorary Commanders have been visiting the Guard and Reserves for at least a decade branch to become more familiar with each.

During their day-long tour, the group of 22 area businessmen and community leaders received briefings about the Army and Air Guard's role – at home and abroad – and had the opportunity to meet, and talk, with Soldiers and Airmen.

"Thank you for what you do every day in supporting our organization, our Guardsmen and the military as a whole," MG Terry Nesbitt, Georgia's Adjutant General told the group during their morning briefings. Nesbitt, along with Maj Gen Scott Hammond, commander, Georgia Air National Guard; BG Maria Britt, commanding general, Georgia Army Guard; and COL Mike Scholes, Georgia Guard director of operations they spoke with the group about the Guard's capabilities, its mission, vision and core values.

Staff members also discussed current and future operations and community support missions.

"I, we, applaud you for taking the time to be here, and for showing interest in who we are and what we do," Britt told the group. "Thanks to all of you, and everyone else who, 'gets it.'"

Once the briefings ended at Guard Headquarters, the honorary commanders boarded a bus and visited the 4th Civil Support Team and Georgia's Counterdrug Task Force.

Later they received presentations on the Air Guard's StarBase Program, which focuses on elementary students, primarily fifth graders. The goal of this program at Dobbins and at Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, is to motivate students to explore science, technology, engineering and math as they continue their education through "hands-on, mind-on" activities.

The group also received information on the Guard's Youth ChalleNGe (YCA) Program. With a campus at Augusta's Fort Gordon and Hinesville's Fort Stewart, YCA's 22-week curriculum targets Georgia's at-risk teens, age 16 to 18, through a program that teaches



Honorary commanders receive a briefing from Bill Wells (foreground), director of Starbase, the Air National Guard's camp that provides children a means to discover science and aeronautics. (National Guard photo by SPC Michael Perry)

them such things as academics, life-coping skills and responsible citizenship. It helps them achieve their high school equivalency degree.

Victoria Turkey, director of marketing and corporate relations for Prime Power Services Inc., in Austell, said she and many among her group learned much about the Guard during their visit.

"All of us [Honorary Commanders] are pro-military, and as much as every service member serves our state and our nation, we serve them," said Turkey, a retired Marine Corps gunnery sergeant. "And as we support the service member, we also support his, or her family members.

"The more we know, , about the military, the better we can assist them all whenever they need us," she added.

AIR CONTROLLERS TO JOIN 48TH IBCT IN AFGHANISTAN

Georgia Department of Defense
Public Affairs Office

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Nov. 13, 2009 – Twelve Georgia Air National Guard Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACs) leave this month to join Macon's 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Afghanistan. The Airmen, who are assigned to Brunswick's 165th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS), have seen action in Iraq and Afghanistan throughout the eight-year Global War on Terror. "Although our controllers have experienced multiple rotations to the region," said Capt Roger Brooks, commander of the deploying teams of controllers, "this will be the largest group of JTACs to deploy to Afghanistan."

The ASOS teams received orders earlier in the month to deploy, and are now conducting preliminary training at Townsend Bombing Range in South Georgia. Following two days off with their families for Thanksgiving, the Air Guardsmen will deploy at the end of the month.

When the South Georgia air controllers put "boots on the ground," it'll be just about the time the first snows cover the Afghan mountains. Unit members will be issued cold weather gear to protect them from weather that fluctuates from moderate to extremely cold temperatures within hours. The



Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACs) from Brunswick's 165th ASOS conduct training in support of their mission to provide air strike capability to units like Macon's 48th IBCT.

group expects to return home in mid-March, said Brooks.

When they reach Afghan soil, Four three-man teams will be assigned to each battalion of the 48th, said Brooks. Once they're settled in, the JTAC controllers will begin providing forward air support for those units.

"We're usually positioned in the lead elements of the advancing infantry, ready to direct punishing air strikes on insurgent strongholds clustered in the hills, valleys and caves throughout the country," the captain explained.

The teams will have several combat strike aircraft to select from for close air support missions including A-10 Thunderbolts, F-16 Falcons, AC-130 gunships, Navy EA-6

Prowlers, Marine Corps Harrier jump jets, and Navy and Marine Corps F-18 Hornets, he continued. Also available to them will be an assortment of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) already controlling Afghan airspace.



GUARDSMEN RE-ENACT 'BAND OF BROTHERS' MARCH TO ATLANTA

Story by David Howell and Lt Col (ret) Ken Baldowski
Photos by David Howell
Georgia Department of Defense
Public Affairs Office

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta –

It was an event not for the faint-hearted. Thirteen Soldiers from Atlanta's 3rd Squadron, 108th Cavalry –the Guard's long range surveillance unit– carrying 35-pound backpacks and M4 carbine "training rifles," marched out of the Toccoa National Guard Armory, Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009, headed for Atlanta.

They did it, not for the praise and public recognition, but to pay tribute to the Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, who made the 118-mile trek 67 years earlier in December 1942.

While most of the marchers were members of Georgia's version of Army Rangers, others among the group were from the Fort Gillem-based 221st Military Intelligence Battalion.



PVT Clay Thrope and other members of Atlanta's 3rd Squadron, 108th Cavalry –the Guard's long range surveillance unit– carrying 35-pound backpacks and M4 carbine "training rifles," marched in the Veterans day parade.

"We wanted to carry on the legacy of our World War II predecessors and to honor all the men and women who have served our nation in uniform," said 1LT John D. Ubriaco, who commanded the small, but enthusiastic group. "At the same time, it's our way of honoring the airborne legacy." When he's not taking up challenges such as this, Ubriaco serves as 3rd Squadron's executive officer.

These intrepid Army Guardsmen who began their estimated 101-mile journey from Toccoa in the early morning hours, were determined to set an estimated 33-miles per day pace. Out of the 13 who started the march, nine arrived two days later in Atlanta to join the city's annual Veteran's Day Parade on Saturday, Nov. 7.

When the march ended, it was estimated to have lasted more than 75 hours and 15 minutes. Bracketed by two of 3rd Squadron's Humvees, the Soldiers tried to maintain stoic looks, but failed as well-wishers cheered them. As they reached Atlanta's Five Points area, the group was greeted by crowds of cheering civilians and news media who'd lined the streets in anticipation of their arrival.

As the marchers moved along their route, cars slowed, people stared and military veterans cheered loudly as the Soldiers struggled up mountains and walked through small North Georgia communities. Along the way, the group passed the COL Robert F. Sink Memorial Trail up Currahee Mountain, named for 506th regimental commander, and the memorial marking the original location of Camp Toccoa –now an industrial park– where the 506th and Easy Company of "Band of Brothers" fame originated.

Stories have it that Sink came across a *Reader's Digest* story about a Japanese Army unit that had broken the world record for marching (about 100 miles in only a few days). Believing his men, including those

of Easy Company, could do better, Sink ordered 2nd Battalion to march the 118 miles south to Atlanta. SPC Jason P. Cormier of Macon, and a business administration major at Georgia Military College, took part in this year's march. He called the event "one the most grueling things I've done."

For several of the Soldiers, this was their second time testing their mental and physical endurance. The last time 3rd Squadron, 108th CAV formerly Company H, 121st Infantry re-enacted the march was in 2008.

Previous re-enactments were conducted in 2002 and 2005. World events and deployments, though, in 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2007 kept the Guardsmen from the march.

"It's a real gut check," said SPC David Rushing of Norcross who was forced to drop out last year about 10 miles from finishing. "Anyone who's done this before will tell you, you've got to be prepared, physically and mentally, to see this through to the end."

Even for the most physically fit, the 100-mile odyssey was a challenge. "You had lots of pain, swollen feet and aching ankles, but all endured," said PVT Clay Thorpe, a second time walker from 3rd Squadron. "Everyone gave their all to making it."

Keeping a 33-mile-a-day pace, the Soldiers stopped often for rest, rehydrate and to check their feet, said SFC Shane McCray. Their first night was spent at the Lula Train Depot. The next day, they journeyed past the Falcon training complex near Suwannee and into Buford, in Gwinnett County. After a welcomed night of rest at the Holiday Inn Express, the group continued on through Duluth and later into DeKalb County where they rested at Sierra Suites off Peachtree Industrial Boulevard. On Saturday morning, the Guardsmen stopped briefly at Atlanta's Oglethorpe University, and then marched the last six miles along Peachtree Street to join the Veterans Day parade.

Besides Ubriaco, McCray, Cormier, Rushing and Thorpe, the group included CPT Russell McKelvey, 1Lt Craig Keller, specialists Johnathan C Hitchcock, Robert B Bass, Daniel Lehman and privates Timothy A. Cape and Timothy J. Place. Also accompanying the marchers were CPL Nicolas A. Brown and PFC Glen N. Strella.



Camp Toccoa Monument out side the city.

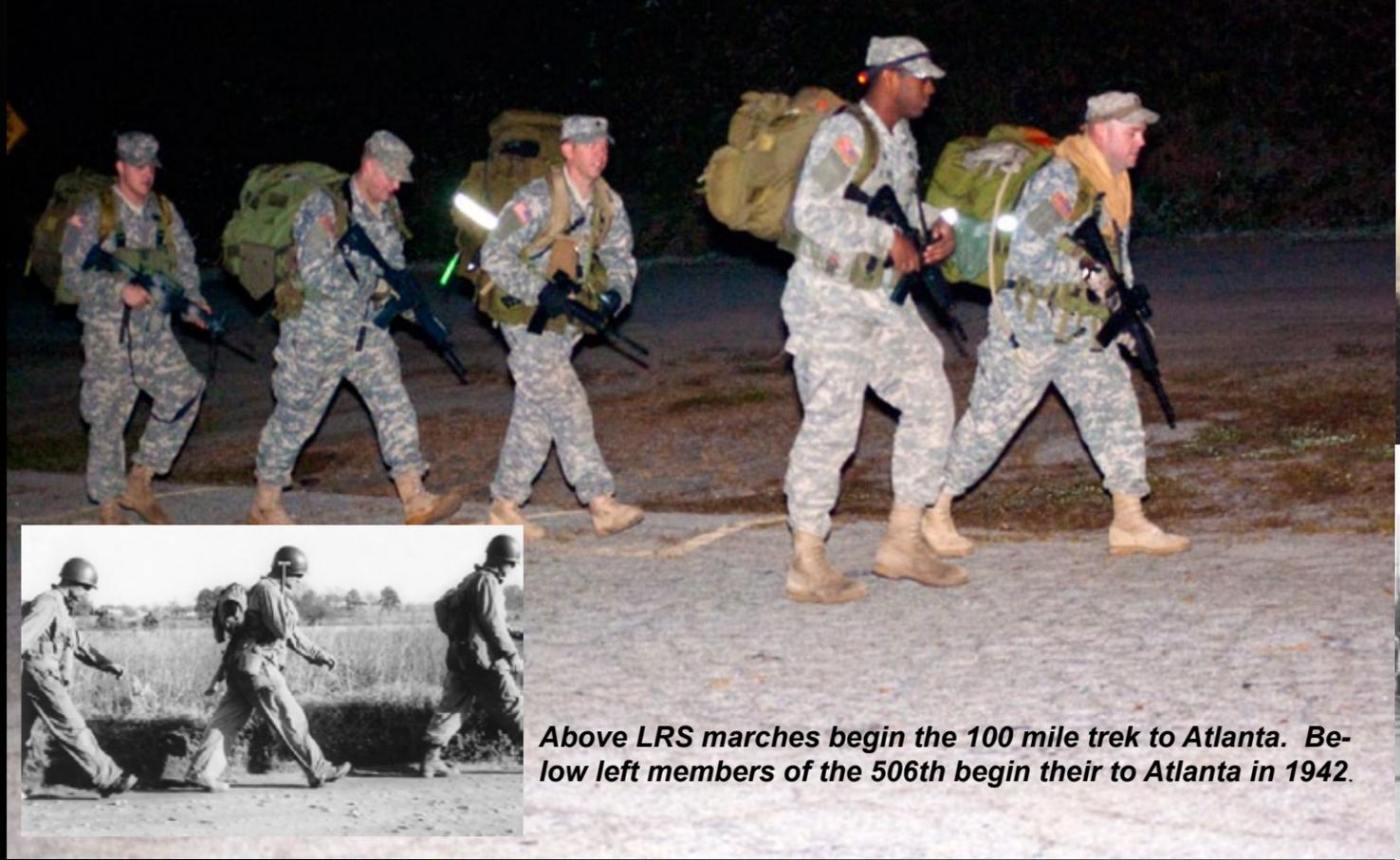




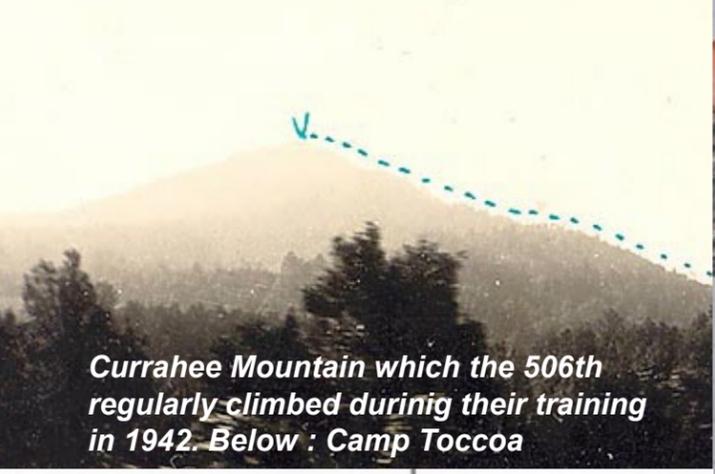
Left Members of the 506th Parachute Regiment arrive in Atlanta in 1942 Above the LRS marchers arrive in Atlanta 2009.



Left Group photo of Marchers from 1942 and 2009. Below: LT. Keller prepares for 2009 march.



Above LRS marches begin the 100 mile trek to Atlanta. Below left members of the 506th begin their to Atlanta in 1942.



Currahee Mountain which the 506th regularly climbed during their training in 1942. Below : Camp Toccoa





Guard helps honor fellow veterans

Uniforms and instruments glisten in the sun as members of the Air Guard's 530th Air Force Band, stationed at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta, prepare to move down Peachtree Street near the Central Library at Margaret Mitchell square with the rest of the parade's participants. The 530th was selected the best band in the Veterans Day Parade. (Georgia National Guard photos by David Howell)

ON PATROL

Guard helps honor fellow veterans

Here, a Humvee belonging to the Army Guard Recruiting and Retention Division turns heads down the parade route.



READY!!

AIM!!

QUALIFY!!



Georgia Guardsmen hone their shooting skills

Story and photos by SGT Jerry De Avila 124th MPAD Georgia Army National Guard



FORT BENNING, Columbus – More than 240 Georgia Army National Guardsmen from units belonging to Metter’s 265th Regional Support Group (RSG) converged on a firing range here to improve their skills as riflemen during annual weapons qualification Nov. 6, to 8, 2009.

Firing a total of more than 16,000 rounds of M16 rifle ammunition and 200 rounds of 9mm pistol ammunition, Soldiers totalling about 70 percent qualified with their weapons. Those who didn’t qualify will receive remedial training back at their home stations, and then re-qualify with the 265th when it conducts its own weapons qualifications in May 2010.

The transportation and maintenance units that comprise the RSG include the 1148th Heavy Transportation Company, also from Metter; the 1177th Transportation Company from LaGrange; the 1230th Transportation Company based in Bainbridge; and Columbus’ 82nd Maintenance Company and 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB).

LTC April Asher, the 265th’s operations and training officer, said this is the first time the RSG and its elements have conducted weapons qualification together. Asher, a 22-year Georgia Army Guard veteran, is the Guard’s full-time deputy personnel officer.

“This was a great opportunity for our commander, COL Craig McGalliard, and his staff to bring together our subordinate units, most of which have had weapons training as individual elements but never in conjunction with the main headquarters,” Asher said.

“It’s not only helped our Guardsmen get in some great, and necessary, weapons training, it also allowed the colonel to share his command philosophy with his Soldiers on a more personal level,” she added.

Another advantage to the weekend was that it prepared these troops for possible deployment, and the chance to enhance their transportation skills – something they most certainly would be doing at home or abroad.

As the weekend progressed, all the units in the 265th had specific tasks assigned to them.

A member of the 1148th Transportation Company takes aim at a target on the M16 rifle zero range during weapons qualification.



The 82nd, for example, had to qualify, and it assisted with range operations.

1SG James Sites, the company’s senior enlisted Soldier, said he’s proud of how well his unit did. Sites, who lives in Hinesville, is a full-time military technician with the Guard at Fort Stewart.

“Personally speaking, my Soldiers did an outstanding job. Not only did they have to qualify, but they also managed three of the weapon ranges,” Sites explained. He added that he felt the overall mission they were given was a great success. “Our unit worked well with the others, and we feel we’re more than up to the task of providing great support to anyone who needs us,” he said proudly.

SSG Marcus Wise, materials controller for the 82nd, was responsible for Preliminary Marksmanship Instruction (PMI) at the range. “My job is to make sure the soldiers understand how to properly sight, and safely fire their weapon to ensure their success in qualifying,” Wise said.

Many members of the 265th said they felt that this weekend helped them achieve a greater level of communication with each other, as well as see what they needed to improve as individual Soldiers.

SSG Wade Taylor, from La Grange’s 1177th, said this was his fourth time qualifying with his unit. But, like many of his fellow Guardsmen, it was his first with the 265th and the other units. Taylor, a reinforcing steel operation manger from Lawrenceville, has more than 17 years with the National Guard, 14 of those in the Virginia Army Guard.

“I doubt you can find anyone who’d tell you this wasn’t great training,” Taylor said.

While she watched several Soldiers come off the firing line, Asher said she’s confident the main objectives set out by McGalliard and his staff for this three-day training period were met many times over.

“Getting people here, getting them on the range and getting as many as we did qualified with their individual weapons are reasons for saying, ‘Mission Accomplished.’” she added.

With the training weekend over, the next step is getting these Citizen-Soldiers back to their families and their civilian jobs. Asher said she had no doubts that would be accomplished with the same success as the first-ever combined weapons qualifications for the 265th and its subordinate units.



SSG Marcus Wise, range safety NCO for the 82nd Maintenance Company, signals to Soldiers who have just fired their rifles to move down range and check the “shot groups” on their targets.

RANGE SAFETY TIPS

1. Don’t Aim Weapon at any thing that you do not intend to Kill! Loaded or Unloaded.
2. Keep your finger out of the trigger housing until you are ready to shoot.
3. Be aware of your target and back-stop.
4. When handed a weapon, CLEAR IT, no matter what has been done to the weapon prior!
5. Everyone is a Safety Officer!

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

LaGrange NCO teaches others the art of 'hitting the target'

Story and photo by Sgt. Richard Holdridge 124th MPAD, Georgia Army National Guard

FORT BENNING, Columbus – Georgia Army National Guard SGT Robert Byrd seems to be the epitome of what a Non Commissioned Officer is about; someone who leads by example and through proper instruction.

Byrd, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of training for LaGrange's 1177th Transportation Company, and his unit participated in annual weapons qualification NOV 6 to 8, 2009. The 1177th is one of five units belonging to Metter's 265th Rear Support Group (RSG) that expended more than 16,000 rounds of M16 and 200 rounds of 9mm pistol ammunition over the weekend.

Byrd explained that he provides his Soldiers Primary Marksman-ship Instruction (PMI) in such a manner that they are properly prepared to sight, fire and qualify with their M16 rifles. Engaging targets with their individual weapon is a skill that all Soldiers must know how to do, and the place to learn that is during training, not on the battlefield.

"Out here on the range, or even back at the armory is the place for mistakes to be made," he added. "Not out where your life and the lives of those around you depend on your ability to hit what you aim at."



"As an NCO, we try to build Soldiers confidence – in themselves and their equipment – and their knowledge of basic soldier skills so they can the riflemen we and the senior leadership expect them to be."

SGT Robert Byrd

"My method is to teach the Army standard, but also to give individual instruction where it's needed," Byrd went on, while working with one of his troops. "They have to have confidence in me and in what I show them if they're going to be confidence on the range, or against a foe."

As group of Guardsmen listened, Byrd went over the fundamentals of breathing and trigger squeeze, and then corrected problems he saw by conducting the "dime drill."

This method helps with the steadiness of the weapon. If the Soldier jerks the rifle when he pulls the trigger, the dime falls off. The object, though, is to steady the weapon and gently squeeze the trigger to keep the dime on the barrel.

"Being out here, we [the NCO Corps] set the foundation for the soldiers," Byrd said. "As an NCO's, we try to build Soldiers confidence – in themselves and their equipment – and their knowledge of basic soldier skills so they can the riflemen we and the senior leadership expect them to be."

Byrd said that, marksmanship is the first step in a long process to get soldiers to be ready for combat. Overall, Guardsmen who don't fire their weapon that often lose those basic fundamentals. His job as an NCO is to build them up and help them so that they can apply those skills when they get on the range.

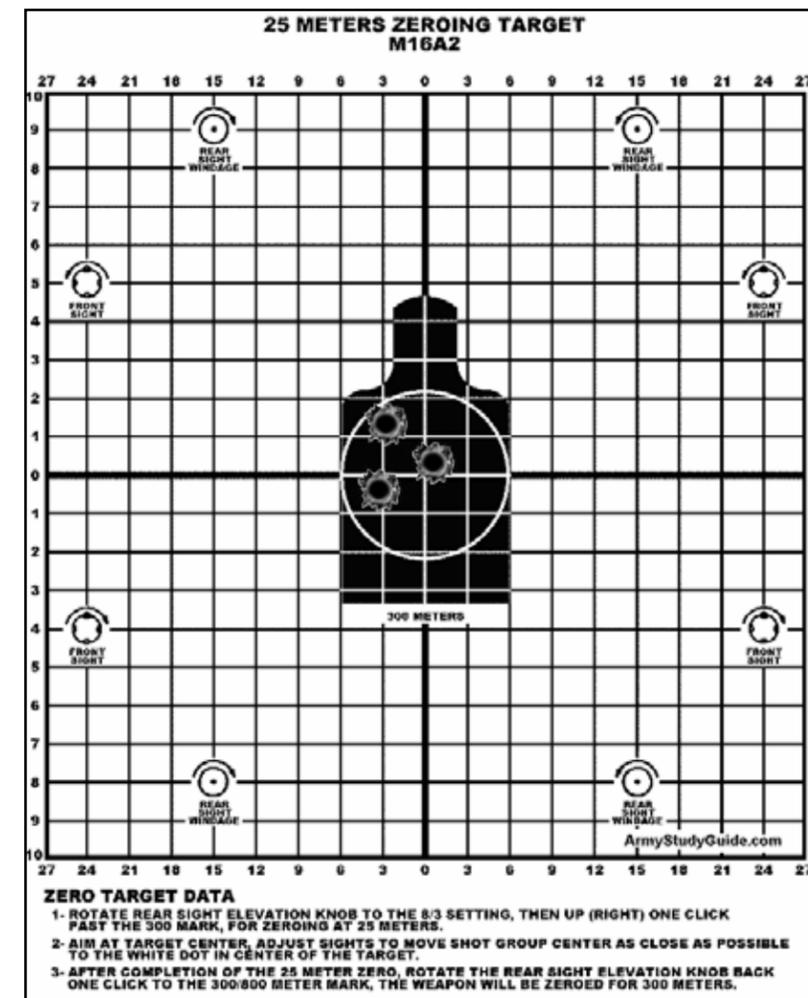
SGT Robert Byrd, 82nd Transportation Company training NCO.

"As an NCO, my job is 'taking care of Soldiers, and that includes making sure they get the right instruction, whether it's from me or from someone else'" Byrd said. "They rely on me, and other NCOs, to set the foundation, to as we say 'lead from the front.' If I, we, as an NCO Corps fail to do that we fail them as leaders and as fellow Soldiers."

Byrd has been a member of the Georgia Army Guard for two years. His overall military service spans a 14-year period that includes a three-year tour of duty in Germany and a deployment with the active Army's 24th Infantry Division during Operation Desert Shield/ Desert Storm in 1991.

And it's on those past experiences that he relies when teaching his fellow Guardsmen the fundamentals necessary for sighting, firing and qualifying with their weapons.

"Teach here, or lose them –or someone else– out there where it really matters," Byrd said while watching a group of Soldiers he'd just run through PMI head for the range. "Hopefully what I've just taught them will get them qualifying scores. The rest is up to them."



Commissary approved for Dobbins community



From Armed Forces Press Service



WASHINGTON, Nov. 13, 2009 – Marietta's Dobbins Air Reserve Base (ARB) has received approval from the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to build a military commissary on the base. The decision will give military personnel in metro Atlanta a commissary to shop at when the ones at nearby Fort Gillem and Fort McPherson close within two years.

U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., and U.S. Rep. Phil Gingrey, R-Ga., have been working for more than a year to try to ensure a seamless transition between the closure of existing commissaries serving metro Atlanta and construction of the new commissary.

"This is fantastic news for Dobbins as well as for the thousands of military personnel and veterans in the metro Atlanta area," said Isakson, a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. "I'm extremely pleased the Department of Defense has given final approval of the commissary at Dobbins and I will now work with my colleagues to ensure Dobbins receives the necessary funding for the commissary."

"This approval is welcome news for the thousands of military personnel, their families and veterans in the metro Atlanta area, and it has been a long time coming," said Gingrey. "This was the final step in a five-step process of getting the application for the commissary approved. I applaud the Department of Defense for recognizing that those men and women who have served our country so honorably should not be left without convenient access to these critical facilities. I look forward to continuing to work to make this become a reality."

"This new commissary will provide a much-needed service for our military men and women in the Atlanta area," said Chambliss, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. "I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure Dobbins receives the funding to move forward with this project."

On March 31, the Defense Commissary Agency's Commissary Operating Board agreed to recommend approval of a commissary at Dobbins to the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, who ultimately made the final decision on the facility.

Fort Gillem and Fort McPherson in Atlanta, as well as the Naval Supply School in Athens, are scheduled to close in 2011. At that time, Fort Benning, located two hours southwest of Atlanta, will be the closest commissary serving metro Atlanta's military population.

Isakson, Chambliss and Gingrey believe it is critical to maintain a convenient commissary for the metro Atlanta military community, and Dobbins Air Reserve Base meets all the requirements outlined by the Department of Defense to build and maintain a commissary.



When the commissaries at Fort McPherson (pictured above) and Fort Gillem close then metro Atlanta's military community will be left without a commissary. The building of a new Commissary solves the problem. (Georgia National Guard file photo)

GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD GUARDSMAN

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

Log on and get all the up to date information on the Soliders and Airman of the Georgia National Guard!

The screenshot shows the Georgia Guardsman website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for Home, Photo Gallery, Videos, Publications, Contacts, Security Disclaimer, and Web Links. The main content area features several news articles with images and headlines, such as "Guardsmen to re-enact march to Atlanta by 'Band of Brothers'", "COL (P) Timothy Britt was promoted to Brigadier General", "Local Afghans weigh-in on presidential elections", "Beans and Bullets Teaching Afghans a new way to manage supplies issues", and "French Soliders learning combat life-saving skills". There is also a "Georgia Guard History" section. On the right side, there are "TOP HEADLINES" and a "PODCAST: GEORGIA GUARDSMAN" section. At the bottom, there are three login portals: "GKO GUARD KNOWLEDGE ONLINE", "GEORGIA GUARD SPORTRAL", and "AKO ARMY ONLINE".

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