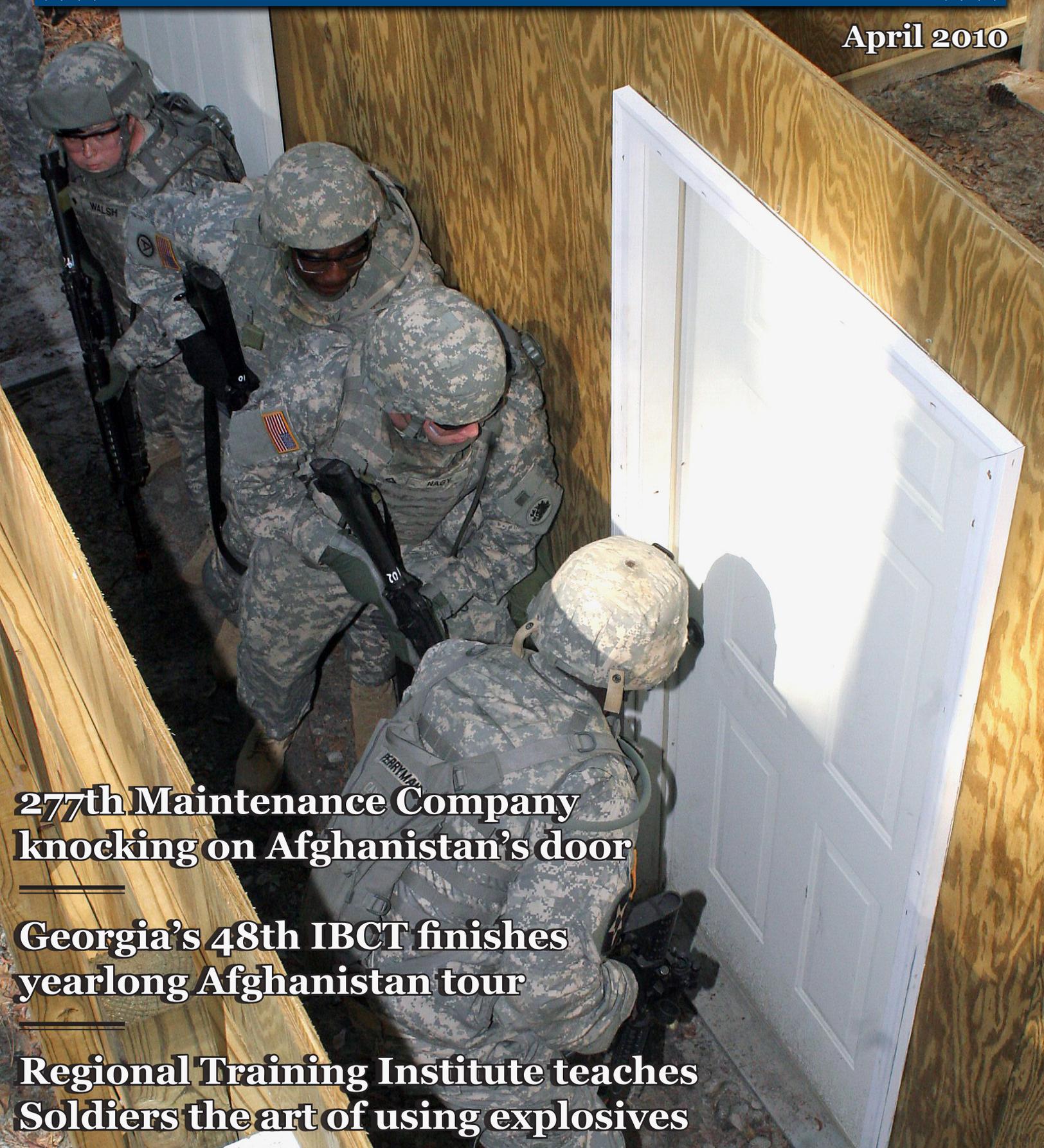


# GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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

April 2010



**277th Maintenance Company  
knocking on Afghanistan's door**

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**Georgia's 48th IBCT finishes  
yearlong Afghanistan tour**

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**Regional Training Institute teaches  
Soldiers the art of using explosives**



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# Staff



## GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD GUARDSMAN

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Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt

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

**Media Relations:**  
Lt. Col. (Ret) Kenneth R. Baldowski

**Managing Editor, Layout & Design:**  
Seth G. Stuck

**Community Relations:**  
Capt. Will Cox

**Contributing National Guard Organizations:**  
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs, Army National Guard Unit Public Affairs representatives, Air National Guard Wing Public Affairs representatives, Georgia State Defense Force

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

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# 277th Maintenance Company knocking on Afghanistan's door



277th Maintenance Company



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

GEORGIA GARRISON TRAINING CENTER, April, 2010 – As more than 3,000 Georgia Soldiers from the 48th Brigade return from their yearlong deployment to Afghanistan, an estimated 120 members of Kennesaw's 277th Maintenance Company are undergoing pre-mobilization training to continue the Georgia National Guard's support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Our mission has us performing 'sustainment

maintenance,' on the wheels, tracks and weapons of units occupying a forward operating base in Afghanistan's Southwest region," said 1st Sgt. Andre Tucker, the 277th's senior enlisted Soldier. Tucker, who lives in Warner Robins, is an aircraft overhaul supervisor for Robins Air Force Base.

Commanded full-time by Capt. Anna Smith of Marietta, the 277th left its armory in mid-March and has been getting its people up to speed on their basic Soldier skills, for about a month. Once completed, the unit will move on to Camp Atterbury, the Indiana National Guard's premier joint maneuver training center, for more in-depth, cultural, country and mission-related instruction.

Smith continued by explaining that she, Tucker and their Soldiers are the "initial foot print" of units moving through the area on their way to other operations – wherever that may be.

Smith added with confidence, "Our folks will be given specific types of equipment to support. We'll give that mission 100 percent of our effort, and more. If the mission changes while we're there, we'll adapt and drive on."

Smith and Tucker brimmed with confidence in their Soldiers' capacity to handle any obstacle.

"As with any deployment, there's always an element of the 'unknown,' but that's a Soldier's life, and our people will continue to do what needs to be done," Smith said. "We've got great Soldiers, and several have been with the unit for a number of years.

"That, combined with the maintenance techniques our new Soldiers are bringing to the unit from their initial schooling, gives us the kind of experience and skills needed to make this deployment a successful one," she said.

As for the training the 277th has received from Col. Ken Vaughn and the staff of the Georgia Garrison Training Center's Pre-Mobilization Training Assistance Element, Smith and Tucker agreed that it has been long and arduous, but "well worth it."

Vaughn watched over his instructors as they rushed the 277th off into the wooded training area the PTAE uses near the garrison's Maintenance and Equipment Training Site. In response to the 'tough training' mentioned by Smith and Tucker, Vaughn chuckled.

"If it seems tough, then we're doing our jobs. They're heading into a very rough environment, and we want them to be as prepared as possible."





# 117th ACS Supporting Operation Enduring Freedom



117th Air Control Squadron



*Story and photos by Lt. Col. Ronald N. Speir  
117th Air Control Squadron  
Georgia Air National Guard*

AFGHANISTAN, April, 2010 – Operations and maintenance personnel from Georgia’s 117th Air Control Squadron comprise over half of the personnel of the 71st Expeditionary Air Control Squadron, working alongside the 603 ACS of Italy’s Aviano Air Base, and coalition personnel from the Royal Air Force and the Royal Australian Air Force. The Georgia Air National Guard’s 117th deployed to theater in February in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and will redeploy in July.

During this deployment, the Airmen of the 117th have noticed marked advancements in the tools of the trade they are using to complete their mission - a mission which has expanded in both complexity and scope since their 2006 deployment. These changes are all too apparent from just a cursory glance at these Georgia Airmen in action.

The secure Joint Air Request Net radio

crackles with an excited voice, “TIC, IED attack with SAF.” This call for assistance by ground troops in Afghanistan is the first clue for deployed Airmen from the 117th ACS that it is time to act. The acronym speak tells them that there are “troops in contact” from an “improvised explosive device” and “small arms fire.” Air support is needed immediately.

A few seconds later, words start scrolling on computer screens on the operations floor of the 71st EACS, deployed home of the 117 ACS. In secure, secret chat rooms, various command and control agencies coordinate the war in Afghanistan. Information for the TIC is translated off JARN and appears in one specific chat room with tasking for F-15E Strike Eagles to scramble to support the troops under attack. A tiger roar sounds across the computer speakers to alert the crew that a “TIC” situation has occurred.

In an instant, Airmen across the dimly lit ops floor go into action. One makes calls on a UHF radio for the Strike Eagles. Another starts coordinating in the secret chat to send the Strike Eagles to the TIC.

Others input data, controllers issue commands, and the Strike Eagles get their new mission. Within moments, the F-15Es are overhead and the attack quickly ends.

“That is the biggest reason we’re here,” says Lt. Col. Kevin Alwood, commander of 117 ACS and current Director of Operations for 71 EACS. “We facilitate quick air power to support the ground troops.”

“Our focus is to move the tactical assets around theater to accomplish their mission,” says Lt. Col. Alwood. “It’s routine for fighters, tankers and RPAs to take off with their assigned mission, and then be dynamically re-tasked to another mission. It’s our job to make that happens by getting them where they need to be with the air refueling plan to support it.”

Since deploying in February, 117 ACS Airmen have repeated the drill dozens of times per day. “We know that we have friends out there from 165 ASOS, Georgia Army Guard, and 3rd Infantry Division,” notes Lt. Col. Ron Speir, Mission Crew Commander for the 117 ACS. “It makes it much more real knowing you could be helping someone from back home.”

Again, just like in its 2006 deployment to Iraq, the 117 ACS is fighting the war alongside J-STARS from the 116th Air Control Wing. However, this time, in addition to communicating with the J-STARS operations orbiting overhead, Georgia Guardsmen from both units interact on a regular basis on the ground. The units are located across the street from each other, and operations members regularly chat in the DFAC.

The 71 EACS provides 24/7 command and control and air defense for areas in Southwest Asia. All of this is done remotely from a classified location in theater. At the fingertips of the Airmen is an array of the most current technology available. BC3 flat-screen computer displays have replaced antiquated radar scopes. A network of radios scattered around theater are available from computer monitors at each position. Two or three computer screens with secret chat rooms using “mIRC” are used by operators who monitor about a dozen “chat rooms” on each screen.

“The information that flows through this room is amazing,” observes Lt. Col. Speir, his face aglow



with the five computer screens stacked in front of him. “These are things that we couldn’t do 10 years ago. Capabilities and systems have even improved significantly since our 2006 deployment to Iraq.”

The approximately 80 Airmen from the 117 ACS have partnered with roughly 50 active-duty Airmen from the 603 ACS, Aviano Air Base, Italy.

“The ‘Total Force’ concept of today’s Air Force is easily seen during this deployment,” remarks Master Sgt. Keith Edwards, First Sergeant from the 117 ACS, serving as “First Shirt” for USAF and ANG 71 EACS Airmen alike. “With the Active Duty Airmen and the Air National Guard Airmen working together as one, we’re getting the job done right.”

Mission success and job satisfaction remains high throughout the unit. “Even though we are away from our loved ones, morale is still high under the circumstances. We thank our family, friends and employers for their support while we serve our country,” said Master Sgt. Edwards.



# Troop Command top NCO clocks 4,000 flight hours



Command Sgt Maj. Ed Hepler



Story and photos by Master Sgt. John Kinnaman  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, April 14, 2010 – There are certain accomplishments that, when reached, necessarily inspire both respect and awe - like when Hank Aaron hit his 715th home run. Now, 36 years and six days later, Command Sgt Maj. Ed Hepler, 78th Troop Command sergeant major, hit his own record-breaking homer by clocking his 4,000th flying hour as a non-rated crew member.

After crossing the 4,000 hour threshold, Hepler shrugged modestly. “I’m happy, but we still have work to do,” he said.

His boss, Col. Tom Blackstock, commander of

the 78th Troop Command, was not as modest about his top senior enlisted leader’s accomplishment. “We are very fortunate to have his experience, in and out of the helicopter,” he said. “This achievement speaks volumes about what kind of Soldier and leader he is.”

While reaching this kind of milestone is more common among helicopter pilots, it is often quite difficult for crew chiefs to achieve. “Non-rated crew members almost never clock this many hours because they often have to move into maintenance for promotions,” Hepler said.

Hepler’s flying time, like Aaron’s home runs, did not happen overnight. Hepler began his career in 1971 as the crew chief of an UH-1 “Huey” in Vietnam. He served two tours and then took a 13-year break in service.

“Vietnam was most certainly an interesting time in

my life,” Hepler said. “We mostly did air assault and rescue missions back then.”

After working a couple of years in the civilian world, Hepler returned to the military in 1986, joining the Georgia Army National Guard’s Company B, 244th Aviation Battalion, then in Winder. He spent nine years there until the Guard stood up the 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation, in 1995.

In 1999, Hepler became a certified non-rated crew member flight instructor. Since that time, he has instructed Soldiers from both Georgia and Florida.

As he continued flying, his “dash-12’s,” which are logs of each flight, flight hours and crew members, kept piling up.

“Unfortunately, though,” Hepler notes, “I lost a lot of the paperwork from my time in Vietnam - I only found about 250 hours worth of flight records.”

So, unlike Hank Aaron’s home runs, which were recorded through official game records, it is quite possible that Hepler has had more hours than his records indicate.

With those 4,000 flight hours comes an abundance of stories about missions that have left a lasting impression on him. A tour to Iraq with 1-171 Aviation in 2004 as their Command Sgt. Maj. constitutes the most recent deployment in the litany of experiences spanning Hepler’s quarter century of soldiering.

“Just recently,” he recalled, “we had to sling load cars from areas around the state hit by floods this year. I have fought fires, helped in hurricane relief missions, and of course Vietnam had its own interesting rescue missions.”

While flying is part of his job, it is not the only thing he does. “For every hour I fly, there are hours on the ground planning and prepping, and the responsibilities I have toward my Soldiers,” Hepler said. “On the other side of that, is the toll this job takes on the home front. The long hours on duty most definitely cut into time with the family.”

With only one and a half to two years left in his career, Hepler said he will continue to fly as long as the Guard will let him. “I love flying. It is a great job that I thoroughly enjoy.”





# RTI teaches Soldiers the art of using explosives



RTI's new door breaching training

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

GEORGIA GARRISON TRAINING CENTER, Hinesville, April 13, 2010 – Using the latest techniques to come out of Iraq and Afghanistan, Georgia's Regional Training Institute-South is teaching Soldiers the art of using explosives or a shotgun to force their way through barricaded entries.

Students attending the Army's Advanced Leadership Course get to do something they could not have done when the course was just the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course: blow things up, or at least open.

This is the first time the state of Georgia has ever taught such a class. "So," said Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Dawson, the ADLC course manager, "this is the first time the course has been held on the new demolition range built by Fort Stewart's Range Control."

The first class to receive this specialized training was made up of NCOs from North and South Carolina, Minnesota, New Jersey, Washington State, Maine, Ohio, Oregon, Kentucky, Indiana, Wyoming and Nevada.

"In wars past, infantry Soldiers had to call for, and then sit and wait on, combat engineers to open the way into a locked building or room," Dawson explained. "That's no longer the case on today's battlefield, because we're giving our students the opportunity to experience first hand how it's done and how to do it right."



There are any number of charges a Soldier can use for breaching a door, window or wall. One of those used by Dawson's students on this day was the Det. Cord Linear Charge taped around the door near the frame, or down the door's middle. The other is what is known as the "block buster," used to blow door locks and knobs right out of the door.

Once charges are set, students move outside the burm while instructors check the charges, and set the fuses for detonation. "This is where they learn what 'right' looks like," said Sgt. 1st Class Eugene Newman, one of Dawson's instructors.

After the charges are set you hear, "Fire in the hole, Fire in the hole, Fire in the hole" *WHAM! WHAM!* On this occasion, this was all followed by the someone in the group shouting, "Outstanding!"

After the area is declared safe, students move back inside the burm to inspect the damage, and then set new charges on the next set of doors - all under the watchful eyes of instructors like Sgt. 1st Class Eugene

Newsome, Staff Sgt. Thomas Eddy and Spc. Justin Isley. All of whom, Dawson confirmed, are "experts in the art of door breaching, and breaching anything else the team needs to get into, for that matter."

"I have to tell you, I'm really glad that someone has gotten around to making this part of the course," said Staff Sgt. Nate Nieman, an infantry squad leader with the North Dakota Army Guard's Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 136th Combined Arms Battalion. "As leaders, and as Soldiers, we need to have the knowledge and the skills to our jobs. This is going to be beneficial because I, as a team leader or squad leader - or even a Soldier at the lowest level - can do what needs to be done without having to coordinate with someone else."

"With this first class having gone through the training, the idea is to take the lessons learned and tweak the instruction," Dawson said later. "Now that it's been proven a valuable and wanted part of Advance Leadership, Urban Breaching is going to be around for quite sometime."





# 48th's Afghanistan deployment officially ends



48th's tour comes to an end



and surprised to see the governor.

"I can't tell you how proud I felt seeing Governor Perdue standing there," said March, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of supply for Macon's Headquarters Company, 48th IBCT. "It's really an honor to have shaken his hand, and receive his 'thanks.'"

Aitkens, an electronic warfare technician with Macon's Company C, 48th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, agreed. "I was a bit overwhelmed standing there, shaking his hand. It's something I'll remember for a long, long time."

"I couldn't be prouder of them," Perdue concluded. "And while we continue to grieve for the eight lost in combat, the wounded and all their families, we're glad to have those who've come home safely back on Georgia soil."

Before putting his Soldiers aboard the buses

that would take them to Fort Stewart's Cottrell Parade Field, where loved ones and friends were waiting to greet them, Durham cited the fact that at least 20 brigade members yet remained in Afghanistan.

The 48th was signed for more than six and a half million dollars in property during its deployment, Durham explained. With that property spread all over Afghanistan, and much of it now handed over to other units, it takes time to make sure everything remains properly accounted for and documented.

The rear detachment, he said, had finished about 98 percent of that work. The 20 Soldiers left to finish the brigade's work, would be coming home in the next six to seven days.

Hurndon concluded by noting that no one from the 48th "remains operational." No one, he emphasized, has been left on the battlefield, engaged in combat.

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

HUNTER ARMY AIR FIELD, Savannah, April 7, 2010 – Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue joined Maj. Gen. Terry Nesbitt, Georgia's Adjutant General, and other senior Guard and state leaders outside Truscott Air Terminal to welcome home Col. Lee Durham, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander, from Afghanistan.

Also receiving the governor's personal greeting were Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Hurndon, the 48th's top enlisted leader, and more than 250 other returning Citizen-Soldiers.

"Governor Perdue is the most involved commander-in-chief I've ever known in my 40 years

of service," Nesbitt said. "He's followed our troops stateside as they've trained for deployment, and he's taken every opportunity to visit our folks in Afghanistan and Iraq."

The 48th IBCT's overall mission in Afghanistan was to train the Afghan Army and Afghan National Security Force to fight the Taliban.

Standing at the bottom of the passenger stairway, Perdue shook every single Soldier's hand. "I couldn't let the moment pass without being here to welcome home one of the last contingents of our Citizen-Soldiers from Afghanistan," Perdue said. "Speaking for all of Georgia, we're glad to have them safely back. They went away to do a job, and they did it. They made us all proud."

Staff Sgt. Jonas March and his wife Spc. Nicole Aitkens of Statesboro said they expected someone to meet them when they got off the plane, but were thrilled





# State Senate honors Georgia's 48th IBCT

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

ATLANTA, April 14, 2010 –The Georgia Legislature today recognized the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team for its excellent work in Afghanistan and mourned the eight Soldiers lost in the war.



Surrounded by state senators Seth Harp (Dist. 29) and John Wiles (Dist. 37) on the left and State Sen. Jack Hill (Dist. 4), Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle and State Sen. John Douglas (Dist. 17) on the right, Col. Lee Durham, who commands Georgia's 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, addressed the State Senate during its morning session at the capitol.

Standing with Durham were Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Hurndon (left), the brigade's senior enlisted leader; Brig. Gen. Maria Britt, Georgia Army Guard commander; and Command Sgt. Maj. James Nelson, Georgia Army Guard command sergeant major.

Douglas read aloud the names and a short biography of the eight Guardsmen who were killed in combat in Afghanistan while their photos flashed by on overhead screens.

"It's been asked often, 'Where do we get these people, and why do we deserve them,'" Douglas said. "I don't know that we can ever answer that question

satisfactorily. They, and their families, have paid the ultimate price, and we honor them here today, as we honor those who've come safely back to us." He then asked the chamber to join him in a moment of silence for those who had fallen and the loved ones they left behind.

Stepping to the podium, Durham thanked the senators for their support of the 48th, its Soldiers and their families. He also asked that they not only remember those who died, but also honor the 49 who were wounded in action.

"We took 3,036 Soldiers with us, and brought 3,028 of them safely home," Durham said. "We ask that you remember them all. Let their families know you will continue to support them and help them when and where they need it."

Hurndon followed Durham, reminding the senate that every Soldier who deployed was a volunteer, and that their selfless service and sacrifice

should never be forgotten.

After leaving the chamber, Durham said, "We're very thankful for the continued support of people like Sen. Douglas and all our public servants, and for the never-ending support that comes from the communities in which our Soldiers live and work."

Georgia's 48th Brigade began mobilizing for its yearlong deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in March 2009. By June of that year, the brigade was in Southern Afghanistan, carrying out its mission of mentoring and training the Afghan Army and Afghan National Security Force. Six months into the deployment, the basic mission hadn't changed, according to Durham, but elements of the 48th found themselves living, working and fighting alongside the soldiers and police they had trained.

With its deployment at an end, the brigade began coming home in late March.

# City of Kennesaw pays tribute to Guardsmen



Story by Sgt Jerry De Avila  
Photo by Spc. Adam Dean  
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment Georgia Army National Guard

KENNESAW MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL, Kennesaw Ga., April 17, 2010 – Kennesaw hosted a "Salute to the Military" night, as part of the city's Big Shanty Festival, and featured a performance by the 24-man Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon. Along with the Marines, the combined marching bands of Kennesaw Mountain and North Cobb High School performed to a packed stadium of civilian and military personnel.

The night's event was highlighted by an award ceremony honoring four Georgia Guardsmen for meritorious service during their deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. The Soldiers are members of Calhoun's 1st squadron, 108th Calvary, an element of Georgia's 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

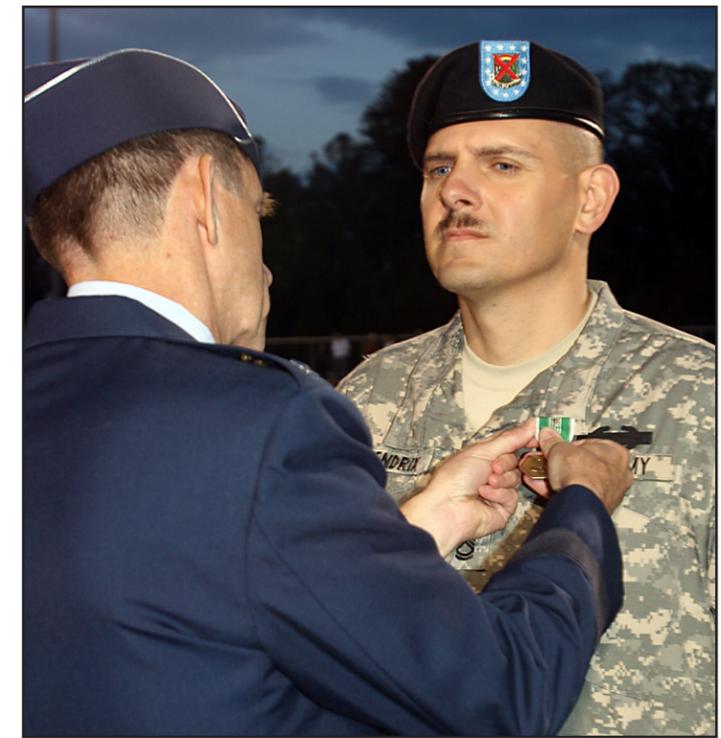
Major Gen. Scott Hammond, Georgia Air Guard commander, presented awards to Sergeants GianFranco Medina and David Buckner, Staff Sgt. William Wood and Sgt. 1st Class Harley Hendrix.

The Army Commendation Medal went to Medina for his technical expertise and commitment to the accomplishment of his mission. He is a resident of Cobb County, and serves as a police officer in civilian life.

Buckner received the Meritorious Service Medal for the bravery and personal courage he displayed in combat while attached to Joint Task Force-82.

The Bronze Star Medal was presented to Wood for his exceptional service during his deployment in 2009. According to the citation, he contributed to his unit with "professionalism and ability to accomplish mission objectives."

Hendrix received multiple awards during the ceremony. Among them, the Army Commendation Medal with the "V" device for valor, and the Bronze Star for his courage and commitment to the unit's



mission in the face of the enemy. He was also awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received during combat.

While serving in Afghanistan, Hendrix came under enemy fire while trying to rescue a wounded Afghan Soldier. He had his unit lay down suppressive fire to keep the enemy at bay, and then entered the "kill zone" to pull the Soldier back to safety. Then, he provided first aid to the wounded man while waiting for a MEDEVAC flight to arrive.

"I was just doing my job," said Hendrix. "I didn't think such a big fuss would be made over this."

Also attending the event were several Georgia Army Guard recruiters and several newly enlisted Soldiers.

"I hope that this will inspire younger Soldiers to stay in - and young civilians to join - the military," said Hendrix after noticing the group of new recruits watching him.

This is not the first time Georgia's Citizen-Soldiers have been honored. In February, seven other Guardsmen from the 48th Brigade were recognized for their service during the Iraq and Afghanistan war.



# Fly-Fishing for Veterans 'hooks' area anglers



Second annual Georgia Fly-Fishing for Veterans



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

ATLANTA, April 10, 2010 – More than 100 Georgia veterans and family members, including those from the Georgia National Guard and Georgia State Defense Force, joined 120 volunteers on the banks of the Chattahoochee River for the second annual Georgia Fly-Fishing for Veterans at Paces Mill Park.

Many of these veterans have suffered wounds or injuries while supporting operations Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom. Some came from as far away as the Wounded Warrior Transition Battalion at Columbus Fort Benning. Many attendees, like Brig. Gen. Jerry

Bradford, Georgia State Defense Force commander, know all too well the pain veterans suffer during and after combat. Bradford, himself, had to be medevaced out of Vietnam during his second tour due to severe wounds; so events like these hit close to home.

Bradford, who served two tours in Vietnam – once with Army Special Forces and once as an adviser with the Military Advisory Command-Vietnam (MAC-V) – is a longtime salt and freshwater bait-casting angler. This was his first time with a fly rod.

“I believe that events like this are important to our communities because they give the people in those communities the opportunity to show their appreciation for the sacrifices made by our young service men and women - a tangible opportunity that they don’t often get. More importantly,” Bradford added, “events like this let our soldiers know that they are not only

appreciated, but that they are also not forgotten. For many, it also gives them a chance to be introduced to something that could have a life-long impact, and it affords them a distraction from the challenges they now have to face.”

After making a couple of casts, and nearly catching a brown trout, Bradford said he can understand why it is an addictive sport.

“Something like this takes practice and it takes patience,” Bradford said. “For those warriors returning from combat, whether their injuries were physical or psychological, fly-fishing gives them something on which to refocus their energies and occupy their minds – something other than their situations.”

In a later conversation, Bradford reiterated that today’s event is not just for Georgia’s veterans. “It’s also for Georgia’s citizens,” Bradford said. “Especially those who’ve taken the time to come to Paces Mill to share the love of their sport with those

who have done so much, for so many. It gives the public one more way of thanking veterans for what they’ve done for their communities, their state and for their nation.”

Retired Air Force Col. and former A-10 Thunderbolt pilot Bill Rial is one of those citizens who made it a point of being here for just that reason.

“As a citizen, and a person who loves fishing – especially this kind of fishing – I can think of no better way to show those in and out of uniform how much we appreciate what they do and have done,” Rial said with a smile. “As a veteran, I can imagine what many of these folks go through, clinically, in trying to get better and get their lives back to some kind of normalcy. But getting out of the hospital environment – in my opinion – has got to be doing them a world of good,” he concluded.

That much seemed evident by the fact that almost no one wanted to leave the waters of the Chattahoochee after their first couple of casts.





# Georgia's Townsend Range serves all branches



Townsend Bombing Range



## PART 2 OF A 4 PART SERIES ON GEORGIA MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

*Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Harold "J.R." Lewis  
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
Georgia Army National Guard*

LUDOWICI, Ga., March 26, 2010 – Out near this sleepy South Georgia town sits an estimated 5,000 acres of open land surrounded by timberline where things go “boom” in a big way.

On any given day, area residents can hear what sounds like the crack of thunder, even in a cloudless sky, coming from large metal birds of prey overhead.

Just ask any McIntosh County resident, and they will most likely tell you in a nonchalant way, “Oh, that’s just the boys over at the Townsend Bomb Range

chewin’ up the dirt again.”

“You gotta love this stuff,” said Master Sgt. David Calloway, an air traffic controller, from behind the console of Townsend Range’s control tower. “There’s no feeling like helping these pilots hone their aerial combat skills – it just heightens the senses!”

On this particular day, there were a collection of Air Force A-10 Thunderbolts and Marine F/A-18 Hornets dumping simulated bombs and sending thousands of rounds of ammunition into Townsend’s targets as pilots tested their combat skills during a late-afternoon aerial gunnery exercise.

Everything from conventional bull’s-eye targets, to surface-to-air missile sites, to command post sites and moving targets felt the bite of bombs and the sting of 20mm ammo.

Townsend, a true tribute to the “interoperability” of U.S. military services, allows pilots from all service

branches to train here. “In addition to Airmen from the active and Reserve Air Force, Marine Corps, and Air Guard,” said Lt. Col. Kirk Simmons, operations group commander for the Georgia Air Guard’s Combat Readiness Training Center in Savannah, “active and Reserve Army and Navy pilots also use this range regularly.

“Townsend’s operating environment is unique that way,” Simmons explained.

The Marines at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, in South Carolina, own the range property. But a coalition between the air station and the Georgia Air Guard – through the CRTC – operates the facilities and directs more than 3,000 training flights a year, according to the website GlobalSecurity.org.

The Navy originally owned the range, during the same time it operated Naval Air Station Glynco in Brunswick, up until 1972 when the air station closed. The Marines, the website states, reopened Townsend in 1982.

“It’s not too confusing, once you understand who does what, and the history behind the range,” Simmons said. “We and the Marines have a great relationship, and that’s a win-win situation for everyone – whether they’re on the ground or in the air.”

Simmons added that Townsend provides an

abundance of specialized training options for each service.

“For the active Air Force and the Guard, for example, we have JTAC’s (Joint Terminal Attack Controllers) come through almost daily,” he said. “This is one of the only places where they can come and open a digital playbook that gives them intense, realistic and applicable training – a great exercise, both for the man on the ground calling the air strike and for the pilot who’s making the ‘run.’”

Townsend also provides an advanced scoring system for aircraft gunnery and simulated urban targets that allow ground troops and pilots to experience scenarios similar to situations they may encounter during combat.

“We’ve moved into the digital age and so have our warfighters,” Simmons concluded. “Because we have the technology and the capability to provide it, the JTACS and the pilots they train with are that much more prepared for today’s real-world missions.”

A unit will participate in two to three operational readiness exercises prior to receiving their operational readiness inspection, whereupon they can receive a “thumbs-up” to deploy for combat operations. Townsend conducts the pilot testing portions of the OREs and ORIs.



# Atlanta motorcyclists support Georgia Guard families

Story by 1st Sgt. John Kinnaman  
Photos by Sgt. Richard Holdridge  
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
Georgia Army National Guard

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, Marietta, Ga., April 17, 2010 – Approximately 350 motorcycle riders from around the Atlanta area participated in the eighth annual Top Gun Ride for Children today, some of the proceeds from which help support the Georgia National Guard Family Support Foundation.

The ride began at Hooters in Kennesaw and ended at the General Lucius D. Clay National Guard Center in Marietta. Brian Newsome, co-chair of the event, said the ride has grown every year.

“We started out eight years ago with eight riders,” he said. “Now we have over 300 riders participating.”

Major Gen. Scott Hammond, commander of the Georgia Air National Guard, kicked off the ride by honoring the riders.

“This event shows all in the Georgia Guard how

much our communities support us,” he said. “You are allowing the Soldiers to focus on their mission abroad by helping their families back home.”

“We understand the mission of the Family Support Group,” Newsome added. “We love supporting their mission and helping out.”

The ride kicked-off under a cloudy sky, as the convoy of motorcycles left the Hooters parking lot. The one-hour ride weaved through the city streets of Kennesaw and into Marietta without having to stop for traffic, thanks to the escort provided by the Cobb County Motorcycle Police.

Upon entering the Clay National Guard Center, the group of motorcyclists parked near Hanger-1 off Halsey Avenue, where they were greeted by a cheering crowd of volunteers and service members.

“The Georgia Family Support Group receives one third of the proceeds each year from this event,” Hammond Said.

To date, the Georgia National Guard Family Support Foundation reports \$27,000 in support from the Top Gun Ride. The Foundation has provided \$1.2 million in emergency relief to more than 1,350 military families.



# Georgia Guardsmen pound the pavement for charity



Private 1st Class Justin Stephens, an infantryman with Cordele’s Company C, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry, is followed by a group of runners at the first turn on the initial mile of the 5K portion of the second annual Fallen Heroes of Georgia Memorial 5K, 10k and 1K Run/Walk.

Stephens, who is from Cumming, studies business management at Dahlonega’s North Georgia College and State University. He’s also a member of the school’s Corps of Cadets working toward a commission as an active duty second lieutenant.

Stephens is one of the more than 1,000 military and civilian runners, walkers and support personnel to participate in this year’s event at Lake Lanier Resort in Buford.

The first memorial run and walk was held last March at Reunion Golf and Country Club in Braselton. Funds raised during the event go to Operation One Voice, which helps the families of the fallen with whatever their needs may be, said race organizer and Operation One Voice board member Stephen Durling.

The Georgia National Guard’s own Sgt. Latoya Tucker (in black warm-up suit), of Joint Force Headquarters, participated in the 31st Annual Sickle Cell Road Race. Tucker, whose son has sickle cell, is joined with her boss Lt. Col. Mark Powers (in army PT uniform). “Leading is not only talking the talk,” he said, “but in this case, it’s literally walking the Walk.”

The race includes a 7k road race, a 4k walk, and team competitions. With over a thousand participants, the event has become a community institution and is widely anticipated in the Spring of each year. The race is sponsored by the Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) Soldier Network to raise awareness and provide funding for sickle cell research.

Photos by Master Sgt. John Kinnaman  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense





# Special events in May



## SOME GAVE ALL 5K FREEDOM RUN: MAY 8, 2010

The "Some Gave All" 5k/One Mile Freedom Run and Tot Trot will be held on May 8 at 1700 in Lula, Ga. in honor of Maj. Kevin Jenrette, who was killed in action June 4, 2009 in Afghanistan. All proceeds will go to the Georgia Army National Guard Family Support Foundation.

Register online at [www.georgiarunner.com](http://www.georgiarunner.com)

## WELCOME HOME HEROES 48TH BRIGADE



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND PROTECTING OUR FREEDOM.**

## NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PATRIOTISM - 48TH BRIGADE APPRECIATION DAY: MAY 31

The National Museum of Patriotism is celebrating Memorial Day with a welcome home party for the 48th Brigade. All Active military gets in free, and 11-Alive will be sponsoring the families admissions. Join us on Memorial day 2010!

All visitors are welcome and receive 50% off admission rates. Adults are \$7.50, seniors \$6.00, students are \$5.00, and children under 7 and all active military are always free.

More Information: <http://bit.ly/9j78Xh>

# NCO Net connects enlisted leaders

*Story by Master Sgt. John Kinnaman  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense*

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, April 24, 2010 – One of the most difficult tasks non-commissioned officers have in the Army is finding time to communicate with other NCOs outside their unit to share knowledge and compare experiences. Thus, the NCO Network was created.

"It was born from a concept by Command Sgt. Maj. (ret.) Dan Elder and his bulletin boards," said Joe Pearson, chief of the NCO Network.

The NCO network is not new, in fact, it has been around for many years. It has been known as the Squad Leader and the NCO Team.

"In 2005, we converted it from the NCO Team to the NCO Net," Pearson said.

Redesigned and easier to use, the NCO Net is supported by two retired non-commissioned officers who work long hours supporting the web-based tool for NCOs. Joe Pearson, a retired active duty Sgt. Maj., and Paul Nagel, a retired active duty Sgt. 1st Class, are the NCO Net facilitators.

"I have a personal commitment that no soldier will have to wait more than 24 hours to get a response," Pearson said. With more than 37,000 members, NCO Net keeps both men pretty busy.

"I check it on weekends, while at my son's games... it's like a second marriage for me," Nagel said.

One of the features the NCO Net offers is a discussion forum. A soldier can post a question in the forum and get replies from other soldiers around the world. "It works great!" Nagel Said. "Members are asking questions and getting responses very quickly."

The questions can range from advice in dealing with counseling statements, to asking about current developments in training. If the NCO is a Sgt. 1st Class or Sgt. Maj., they can join private forums geared specifically to their ranks. Nagel also sends out a weekly e-mail to members with a digest of the hottest topics on the site.

"Thursday is our busiest day because of the newsletter we send out," he said. "NCOs read the newsletter and then login to post comments on forums."

In addition to the forums, members can post documents to the website. "We have a lot of content on the website," Nagel said. "We're always working to try and make it easier to find information on the site."

The NCO Net is not just for active duty Soldiers. "Our biggest targets are Guard and Reserve NCOs," Pearson said. "They have more access to the internet and can search more freely."

An additional tool Pearson and Nagel are working on is a Non Commissioned Officer Development Program.

"We are trying to develop NCODP classes via the internet," Pearson said. "If a unit wanted us to teach a class, we could do this at their armory as long as they have internet, a projector and some speakers."

The NCO Net is a powerful tool available for free to all NCOs. "It's a virtual Leaders Book," Nagel said.

"This site can give one NCO access to thousands of other NCOs for the purpose of sharing knowledge and information," Pearson added.

For the super net savvy NCOs, NCO Net also has a presence on Facebook and Twitter. For more information on the NCO Net, go to: <https://nconet.bcks.army.mil> or become a fan on Facebook.



## GNGFSF GOLF CHARITY OUTING: MAY 24, 2010

Please join us for the GNGFSF Charity Golf Outing to assist the Georgia National Guard Family Support Foundation in their effort to support those who put their lives on the line to protect our freedoms Monday, May 24, at 1300 (shotgun start) at the Lane Creek Golf Club in Bishop, Ga.

For more information: <http://www.gngfsfcharitygolf.com>



# Georgia's 121st Infantry in The Battle of Hürtgen Forest



The Battle of Hürtgen Forest



*Story by Scott Thompson  
President of the Laurens County Historical Society*

As the weather began to turn cold in Autumn of 1944, the divisions of the First Army were slowly, but steadily, moving toward their goal to capture the German capital of Berlin. But the German forces were not going to give up easily. An area with some of the most unyielding enemy resistance was centered around where the countries of Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany joined. The 121st Infantry Regiment, Georgia National Guard, which was mobilized in September of 1940 at the beginning of World War II (before any official U.S. involvement in the war), was assigned to the 8th Infantry Division of the First U.S. Army, under the command of General Courtney Hodges (for whom the old Perry, Ga. Armory is named), a native of Houston County, Ga.

The regiment, originally made up of Georgians, was enlarged to include men from all over the country. Company K of the 121st and HQ Co., 3rd Battalion were headquartered in Dublin. Some Laurens county Guardsmen served in other companies of the regiment. By 1944, most of the original members were serving in other army units.

At midnight on the morning of Nov. 20, 1944, the order came for an attack on the towns of Hürtgen, Kleinau and the Brandenburg-Bergstein Ridge. The

8th division was assigned to relieve the 28th division, which had been engaged in bitter fighting for two months. American generals believed that one more sustained push would break the German lines.

When the attack began on the morning of Nov. 21, the 121st, with Col. John R. Jeter in command, was moving northward from Luxembourg. The 1st Battalion was assigned to take the woods South and West of Hürtgen. The 2nd Battalion would be on the left flank in the Hürtgen Forest West of the town. The 3rd battalion, including Companies I, K, L, and M, was sent toward the woods South of town in open trucks through a cold rain. Maj. Wesley Hogan's troops halted their ride near the Weisser Weh Valley southwest of Germeter and began a long and arduous march.

When the Germans saw movement, they directed mortar fire in its direction. By now, the rain had turned to sleet. The sleet would soon turn to snow. The 2nd Battalion was in a "pickle."

Fortunately, Co. K had a little time to rest. The 3rd battalion moved into a position on level ground near the Wilde Saw minefield. Anti personnel and anti-tank mines posed extreme hazards for the infantry, and American tanks and vehicles. Co. I was able to move the closest to the German lines before Thanksgiving day on the 23rd of November. At the end of the day, the 3rd Battalion had made the most progress of any of the units.

In a move that dumbfounded some, the Soldiers of the 121st were pulled back from their positions for Thanksgiving to divulge in a cold and soggy turkey dinner. By this time, General Hodges had become furious with Maj. Gen. Donald Stroh for the 8th Division's lack of progress.

On Friday, the 3rd Battalion made a push up the Germeter to Hürtgen Road and the adjoining woods. The tanks of the 70th Tank Battalion suffered heavy losses and were forced to withdrawal. Major Hogan ordered Co. K to attack without armor protection. The mines were becoming deadlier.

Twelve engineers were killed or wounded along with 30 riflemen. When a second attack failed to succeed, Hogan removed the company commander at 1820 hours. During that night, the engineers set out to remove mines from the road and its shoulders.

Nearly as fast as they could remove the mines, German Soldiers placed new ones to thwart the American advance. By the end of the 4th day of the battle, casualties in the 121st stood at 50 killed and 600 wounded. They were still three miles from the Roer River, while Hürtgen remained under German control.

In a move of desperation, an attack on Hürtgen was ordered on Nov. 25. The CCR, 5th Armored Division moved through the positions of the 3rd Battalion.

Their were serious concerns that the 3rd Battalion could not keep up with the tanks due to mines and wet ground conditions. German forces were firing on U.S. tanks as soon as they got on the road. When the attack stalled, Col. Jeter was relieved by Col. Thomas Cross.

On the morning of the 26th, the 1st and 2nd Battalions moved toward Hürtgen. General Stroh was also relieved of his command. Stroh, who had lost his son in battle several weeks before, was the highest ranking American officer to lose his job in the Hürtgen



Forest campaign. Brigadier General Walter Weaver took over command of the Division.

Sergeant Ira T. Garnto was head of intelligence in HQ Co. 2nd Battalion. Garnto remembered: "The trees, mostly pine trees, were in bad shape, all split and splintered. I remember sleeping sitting up some nights.

"I served in the headquarters 2nd battalion under the command of Lt. Col. Henry B. Kunzig. I was in the forward Command Post with Col. Kunzig. He wanted a messenger from each company and wanted someone in charge of the messengers. I took four messengers from each of the four companies in our battalion and went back to Col. Kunzig's bunker and remained there with him.

"I was walking into the Town of Hürtgen after it was captured. I had just come into the edge of town and was standing by a German tank in front of the first building on the left. I was waiting on my next orders when I heard an artillery round coming in. It hit the tank with a strange thud, but it didn't explode. I was lucky. It started snowing after a few days, but the snow was much better than the sloppy mud. The slop was worse than the snow. It slowed us down. Many of our casualties came from frostbite. The tanks had no way to go in the mud in the forest. I guess we just outlasted them."

On Nov. 27, the final attack on the town of Hürtgen began. The 1st and 2nd Battalions led the assault. Co. K followed Co. I toward Hill 54. From that vantage point, mortar men pummeled the town of Hürtgen, which eventually fell.

After nearly three months of fighting, the attempt to take the Hürtgen Forest ended. It is criticized by some to have been one of the biggest waste of men during the European Campaign. The V Corps casualties were 25 percent – 4,000 out of 16,000 ended up killed, wounded, or missing in action.

Despite the questions raised about the military advisability of the attack, the men of the 121st and they Laurens County guardsmen kept on fighting until they could not fight any more. In the early days of December the 8th Division supported the taking of Kleinhau and the Brandenburg-Bergstein Ridge. One officer of the 121st remarked, "The men are physically exhausted.



The Battle of Hürtgen Forest



# High-tech simulators tune aviators' war skills



The spirit and will to fight are there, but the ability to continue is gone. These men have been fighting without rest or sleep for four days, and last night were forced to lie unprotected from the weather in an open field. In some instances, men were forced to discard their overcoats because they lacked the strength to wear them. These men are shivering with cold, and their hands are so numb that they have to help one another on with their equipment.”

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, on behalf of Pres. Harry S. Truman, recognized the men of the 121st Infantry with a presidential Unit Citation, which read in part:

***“The 121st Infantry and attached units are cited for extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of duty in action from 21 to 28 November 1944. During this period they made a relentless and determined drive to overcome bitter opposition in the Hürtgen Forest and the capture of the town of Hürtgen. The bloody and bitterly contested advance, which taxed individual fortitude and stamina to the limit, represented the major offensive effort of the 8th Infantry Division and V Corps in effecting a breakthrough in this heavily defended sector. Despite its high casualty rate, the 121st displayed extremely courageous fighting qualities in attack a strongly fortified enemy.”***

The men of the 121st gave up their Thanksgiving 55 years ago. They dreamed of being at home - eating mamma’s turkey and dressing and taking in the traditional Dublin High School football game that morning. But, there was a job to do, in the face of insurmountable odds, and it took Georgia’s 121st to do it.

*Story and photo by Master Sgt. John Kinnaman  
Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense*

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, April 24, 2010 – The opportunity to fly as a squadron is rarely feasible during normal drill weekends. However, the Aviation Combined Arms Tactical Trainer is providing that unique and valuable training to the pilots of Company A, 1st battalion, 171st Aviation. As Company A prepares for its deployment later this year, its training this weekend will help provide the critical skills needed to be successful during its mission.

“This is a combat multiplier for us,” said Capt. Sam Roberts, Company A’s commander, “because the AVACTT allows my pilots to refine their skills as a team.”

The AVACTT is a flight simulation trainer housed in two mobile semi trailers. Its concept is very simple, Roberts explained. “We can put all 12 of our pilots in the simulators at one time and fly as a squadron,” he said.

The simulator has six flight simulation booths used for several types of aircraft. From Black Hawk helicopters to Cobra gunships, the simulator can train pilots on any number of tasks.

“We can train on scenarios that we would not normally be able to do stateside,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Allen Key, the unit’s standardization instructor pilot. “We can throw different scenarios at the pilots and see how they respond.”

The AVACTT comes with a high-tech control room called the Battle Master Control Room, which links all six simulators together. Two civilian systems technicians help commanders train their pilots.

“The simulator is great because the map overlays on the system resemble real terrain maps of Iraq and Afghanistan,” Roberts said. “Some of my pilots who’ve been deployed recognize the terrain from their previous tours of duty.”

In addition to the map overlays, the technicians can add or delete features like civilians on the battlefield, insurgents along the road with rocket launchers or sling load operations.

“We can even set up the scenarios for anything from dawn and dusk operations, to operations during rain storms, to night ops, and the list goes on,” Key said.

With Company A’s forthcoming deployment this fall, the use of the AVACTT is a great opportunity to train.

“It provides some of our seasoned aviators the chance to refresh their skills on scenarios they have not seen in a while,” Roberts said. “It also provides our younger aviators with some great training on being the flight lead, without actually being overseas.”

Throughout the drill weekend, the pilots will work

on air assault, downed aircraft procedures and hitting landing zones that have been compromised.

“These are all scenarios we cannot simulate in a real aircraft.” Keys said.

“This is a great opportunity to train dangerous skills in a safe environment,” Roberts concluded.

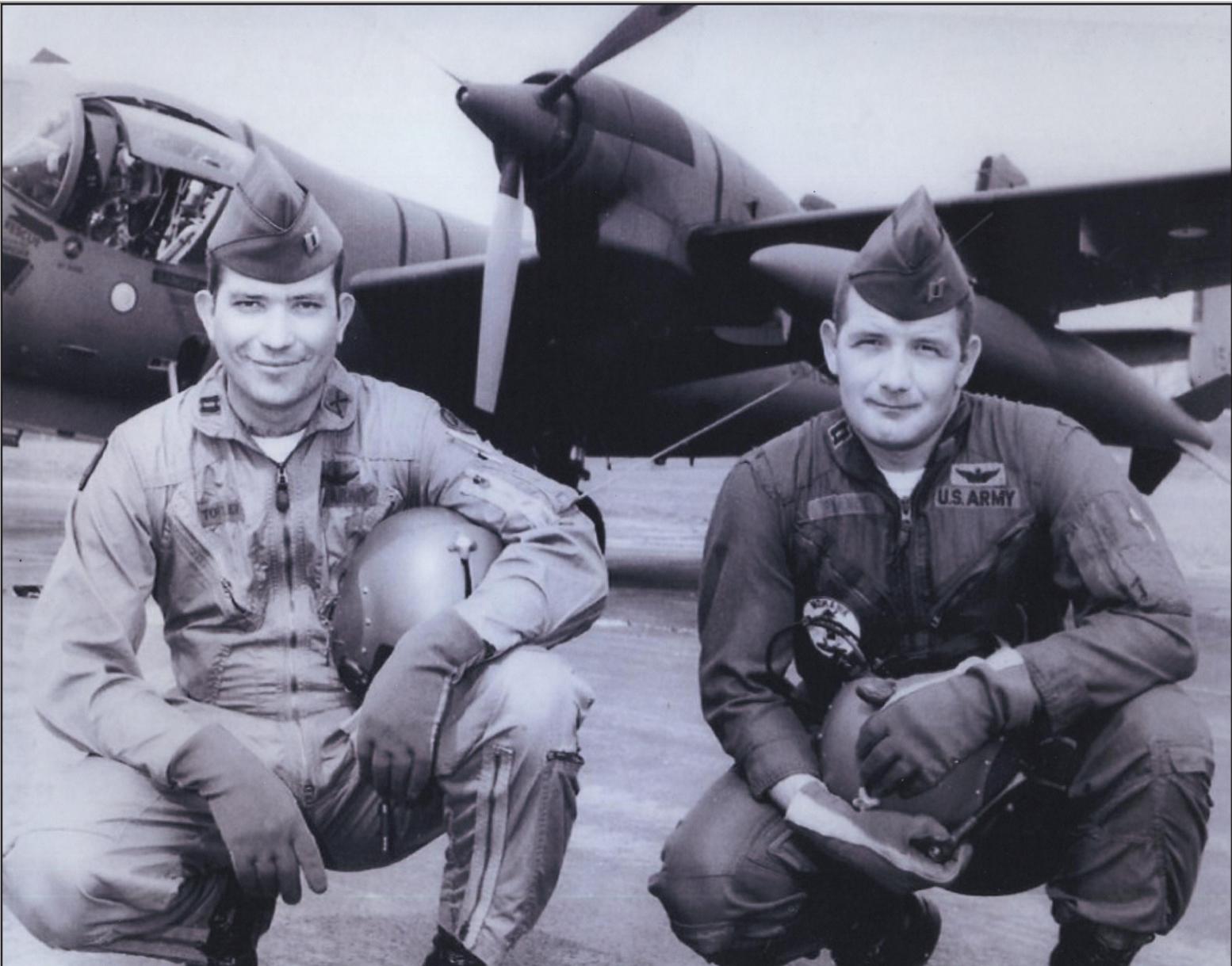




# Georgia National Guard OV-1 Mohawk Reunion



Mohawk reunion



*Story by Col. Dennis Brown and Seth G. Stuck  
Joint Force Headquarters  
Georgia National Guard*

WINDER, March 16, 2010 – Ninety-one current and former crewmembers and other interested personnel gathered from all over the United States at the Army Aviation Support Facility here in Winder to visit and reminisce about flying the OV-1 Mohawk Aerial Surveillance Airplane.

“We had an outstanding turnout,” said Lt. Col. (ret.) Fred Christian, the event organizer.

“This is quite a tribute and testament to the aircraft, crewmembers and other interested personnel to have such a level of turnout each year for this event,” said Col. Brent Bracewell, State Aviation Officer and Director for the Georgia Army National Guard. “We are happy to support and be a part of such a distinguished legacy and history of our aviation program,” Bracewell added.

This annual event follows a smaller January gathering which commemorated the 40th anniversary of the Mohawks’ delivery to the Georgia National Guard. The first two Mohawks were flown to the Georgia Army National Guard by Capt. John H. Towler and Capt. K.B. Pearce on Jan. 28, 1970.

At the time of the Mohawks’ delivery, it was considered a highly sophisticated aircraft. Costing \$1.5 million, the two-place aircraft was used extensively in Vietnam. It was packed with electronic and infrared devices to facilitate detection of enemy forces under all weather conditions.

Pearce and Towler were also present for this event. Colonel Bruce Chick, who flew the last Mohawk for the Georgia National Guard to Savannah, Ga., was also in attendance.

This annual gathering typically includes lunch, photographs, impromptu speeches by various members, and – sometimes – an actual Mohawk is even flown to the site for static display purposes. This year, there was also a display table with hundreds of photographs, model aircraft, patches and other memorabilia recognizing the OV-1’s unique place in Army Aviation history.

The Mohawk remains the only Army aircraft with an ejection seat. It is also certified for single pilot instrument meteorological conditions flight, and it is fully aerobatic. The Army used the fixed-wing aircraft to move cargo and passengers and for intelligence gathering.



Brigadier Gen. (ret.) Mike Seely, former Georgia Army National Guard Commander and Mohawk Battalion Commander, spoke of the legacy of the aircraft and its prominent role in history. He asked the attendees to observe a moment of silence in recognition of the National Guard crewmembers who lost their lives over the years in various incidents involving the often controversial aircraft.

Over the course of the Mohawk’s military existence, there were over 30 peacetime accidents after the Vietnam War whereupon 33 people were killed – including 11 Georgia Guardsmen. Only 28 such planes were lost to the enemy in Southeast Asia. The severity and frequency of the plane’s peacetime accidents lead some of its critics to dub it the “Widowmaker.”

The Army responded to calls to ground the Mohawk fleet in the late 80s by citing that nearly 60 percent of the accidents could be attributed to pilot error, but then later conceded that the Mohawk crashed more frequently for unknown reasons than did any other Army aircraft. Consequently, the Georgia National Guard grounded the Mohawk February, 1992.

However checked the aircraft’s past, its former pilots and crew remain as a testament to the undeniable importance of its role in history; and the ties which bind these former Mohawk crewmembers together are evident each April, when they gather to reflect on their legacy.





# Around the Georgia Guard



## COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WELCOME HOME HUG

*HUNTER ARMY AIR FIELD, Savannah, April 17, 2010 – Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Hurndon (left), the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team’s command sergeant major, receives a big welcome home hug from Gov. Sonny Perdue shortly before the state’s commander-in-chief left Truscott Air Terminal for the flight back to Atlanta. Behind them, laughing at their antics, is Maj. Gen. Terry Nesbitt, Georgia’s Adjutant General.*



## 151ST AVIATION ENGAGED BY COMBAT LIFESAVER COURSE

*CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, April 21, 2010 – Georgia Army Guard Sgt. Mike Berry, a medic with Marietta’s Detachment 1, Charlie Company, first of the 111th General Support Aviation Battalion, shows members of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 151st Aviation Security and Support Helicopter Battalion how to insert an oral airway device into an unconscious patient during a combat lifesaver course. The three-day course is being held during Charlie Company’s two-week annual training. More than 17 soldiers are participating in the course.*



## GEORGIA ARMY GUARD PILOTS TEST THEIR WATER SURVIVAL SKILLS

*CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, April 14, 2010 – Georgia Army National Guard OH-58 Kiowa pilots, with Marietta’s 2nd Battalion, 151st Aviation Security and Support Regiment, test their water survival skills during their pre-qualification swim test. The dead man float is designed to test a pilot’s ability to stay afloat in full flight gear, using minimum effort. A participant must reserve his energy by floating face-down in water and only raising his head from the water to take a breath.*



## COUNTRY OF GEORGIA AND PEACH STATE CONTINUE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

*GEORGIA, April 2010 – Georgia’s Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. William (Terry) Nesbitt, visited the country of Georgia for his annual senior leader engagement. This event is the capstone of the annual planning cycle which began in January. During this visit, General Nesbitt met with the U.S. Ambassador to Georgia, John R. Bass, and his country team to discuss the country campaign plan and reaffirm the Georgia National Guard’s support for the country of Georgia through the State Partnership Program.*

## OPERATING THE HEAT

*CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, April 14, 2010 – Georgia Army Guard Sgt. David Tiggs, a master driver with Marietta’s Company C, 2 Battalion, 151st Aviation Support and Security Regiment, operates the HEAT – Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer – during his unit’s annual training.*

*The simulator is designed to rotate 360 degrees. It can simulate a Humvee rolling over on its side or flipping over onto its top. The four-person crew inside must find a way to escape the overturned vehicle, which is sometimes difficult.*





# GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

C/O Public Affairs Office  
Georgia Department of Defense  
1000 Halsey Ave. Bldg. 2  
Marietta, Ga. 30060

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