

GEORGIA GUARDSMAN



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

May 2010



Honoring Our Fallen



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GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD GUARDSMAN

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

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Counterdrug officers gather at a rally point before moving on to their objective – a sparsely wooded area being used by simulated drug dealers for a simulated drug deal.

“DRUG DEALERS
AREN’T JUST
IN THE CITY.”



COUNTERDRUG FORCES TEAM UP FOR WOODLAND TRAINING

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

VOLUNTEER TRAINING SITE – CATOOSA, Ringgold, Ga., May 19, 2010 – More than 20 local, state and federal officers from departments and agencies across Georgia are taking part in the five-day Woodland Training course put on by the Georgia Counterdrug Task Force (GaCDTF) and taught by Georgia Army Guardsmen who make up the task force’s Ground Reconnaissance Teams.

While some of the participating officers are prior military, most are not. This is the first time many have worked together or worked with the task force. Training

includes land navigation, movement as a tactical team, patrol and reconnaissance operations, team development, and the use of cover and concealment.

“We start slow and build up until they’re running their own missions with our people standing by to answer questions,” said one course instructor. Because of the nature of their work, instructors and many of the officers cannot be identified by name or department.

The training’s main emphasis, according to another instructor, is the art of military mission planning. “Many civilian law enforcement agencies use a ‘plan in the van’ mentality because most of the operations they do are short notice,” he explained. “What we do is give them the tools to do that planning – even on the fly – better.”

These joint trainings have allowed GaCDTF, Guard,

state and federal authorities to hone their skills and streamline their interoperability. This highly proficient teamwork was on full display during a successful narcotics seizure made in Georgia’s Rabun County early in April of this year.

Assisted by the GaCDTF, GBI’s Regional Drug Office, Narcotics Criminal Investigation and Suppression (N.C.I.S.) Team, the ATF and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources seized more than 700 marijuana plants. The street value of the plants is estimated at \$3.5 million.

Large amounts of money were also confiscated, along with a stolen Georgia Power electrical transformer used to siphon power from Habersham Electrical Management Company. According to police reports, the transformer was used to supply electrical power to two semi-truck trailers buried in a tunnel 100 feet beneath a utility building. The alleged trafficker was growing and harvesting his illegal crops inside the tunnel trailers.

“Drug dealers aren’t just in the city,” said one of

the officers going through this year’s training. “They’re using the beauty of our rural communities to hide their activities.

“By putting to use what we learn here at the Woodland Training Course, my colleagues and I can make a greater difference in the fight against illegal drugs,” he added.

The Woodland Training Course has been in operation for 13 years. The concept was fostered by now-retired Georgia Army Guard Sgt. Maj., and retired Gordon County Police Chief, Therrell Goswick. Goswick was also a founding member of the counterdrug task force, then known as the Governor’s Strike Force.

While Woodland Training is an annual course, the operational commitments of the Georgia National Guard to the Global War on Terror have sometimes restricted the GaCDTF’s availability to participate. It remains, however, a great example of the service the Guard can provide communities through interagency operations and training.

165TH AIRLIFT WING MEMBERS RETURN FROM HAITI

Airmen from Georgia's 165th Force Sustainment Squadron work to help the Haiti relief effort by loading supplies onto a forklift.

*Story and photo by Lt. Col. David Simons
165th Airlift Wing
Georgia Air National Guard*

SAVANNAH, Ga., May 19, 2010 – Six members of the 165th Airlift Wing returned to Savannah after spending months helping the earthquake relief efforts in Haiti.

While abroad, they served meals to over 400 people every day for four months. The mission was tough, but these airmen were glad to do it.

“It was just life changing because of the things that we saw, and the unity that we had to have, in order to do the job,” said Senior Airman Patricia Gardner of the 165th Airlift Wing.

When disasters like Hurricane Katrina or the Flint River floods strike, most people correctly assume that the normal air assets of the 165th Airlift Wing are deployed in support of relief efforts.

In response to the Haitian earthquake, the 165th AW placed a C-130 aircraft and crew on standby for the relief effort as ordered by the National Guard Bureau. But the true responders from the unit were some of the least profiled individuals of the entire effort – the often overlooked Airmen of the Services Squadron.

This little-known group of men and women are the Airmen who provide meals, accommodations, and (on unfortunate occasions) mortuary services.

As it goes with the Guard, one never knows when they might get called up. For the men and women of the 165th Force Sustainment Squadron, their call came and they shipped out to Haiti in the last week of January. There were nine Citizen-Airmen in total, with the main mission of establishing a food kitchen for the military based at Port Au Prince's international airport, the hub of the relief effort.

The nation of Haiti is a forlorn place, half of an island in the Caribbean Sea. One of the poorest countries in existence, it is also a nation gripped by war, poverty and corruption. The 7.0 magnitude earthquake that hit

Haiti was catastrophic, occurring approximately 16 miles west of Port-au-Prince – Haiti's capital.

The earthquake occurred on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2010. By Jan. 24, at least 52 aftershocks measuring 4.5 or greater had been recorded. An estimated 3,000,000 people were affected by the quake, and the Haitian government reported that an estimated 230,000 were killed, 300,000 injured and 1,000,000 made homeless. They also estimated that 250,000 residences and 30,000 commercial buildings had collapsed or were severely damaged as a result of the quake's savagery.

With the armed services of numerous countries and other aid workers rushing in, the airport was soon teeming with relief workers, cargo and other aid to help relieve the struggling nation.

The 165th FSS quickly established a kitchen and dining area – one of 15 in the burgeoning military sections of the city. In their area, they served more than 300 hot meals at each sitting.

“IT WAS JUST LIFE CHANGING.”

Beyond taking care of Airmen and Soldiers, they were also able to provide surplus food to a local hospital, serving both victims and relief workers.

According to Lt. Col. Jeff Thetford, Commander of the 165th Support Group, the unit was working in an “austere environment” where everyday amenities were non-existent.

“The ‘kitchen’ they operated out of was a tent,” said Thetford. “The meals were prepared in a heat index of more than 100 degrees, without air conditioning. Yet, despite all they had to deal with – including long hours, separation from home, and minimal creature comforts – they maintained a great attitude.”

He added, “Their willingness to serve under such difficult circumstances is a tribute to the kind of folks we have in the 165th and the Georgia Air National Guard. The Mission Support Group leadership team is very proud of what they have accomplished.”



2nd Lt. Tyler Cook observes Spc. Randall McClure digging a trench to install plumbing lines.

876TH ENGINEERS' COMMUNITY SERVICE

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Roy Henry
 Photo by Spc. Bernard Satchell
 124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
 Georgia Army National Guard

KNOX BOY SCOUT CAMP, May 1, 2010 – Soldiers from the main component of Toccoa's 876th Engineer Company and the unit's Detachment 1 are helping the Boy Scouts of America Georgia-Carolina Council bring about improvements to a 500-acre compound on the outskirts of Lincolnton, Ga.

These efforts are part of a community-wide project the 876th's parent headquarters, Augusta's 878th Engineer Battalion, has been working on in cooperation with the camp since 2000.

"It's a win-win situation for everyone," said 1st Lt. Kevin Holley, the 876th commander. "They have the materials and the funding with which to see the project through, and we have the bodies with which to do the work," he explained.

"The camp gets a new amphitheater, a new campsite

pavilion and new primitive living quarters – or 'Fred Sheds' as they are called," explained 2nd Lt. Tyler Cook, who commands the unit's 1st Platoon.

"It's a great opportunity for our Soldiers to hone their engineering skills," he added.

Some of the engineers are digging trenches for water and sewer pipe, setting posts, pouring concrete pad and laying out flags to outline where the living quarters will go. Others are setting silt fencing to keep soil from eroding into the nearby Strom Thurman Reservoir out behind the camp administration building.

Because most of the 876th's Soldiers have civilian jobs or school during the week, the major part of the project will be done during the unit's annual training, June 12 to 26.

Community service is one reason the Soldiers of the 876th are involved in the project to improve the camp, added Cook. The opportunity to give back to those who support Georgia's Citizen-Soldiers – at home and abroad, in times of disaster and peace – is one they simply could not miss.

PILLOW POWER FOR 110TH CSSB



Story and photo by Spc. Adam Dean
 124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
 Georgia Army National Guard

TIFTON, Ga., May 1, 2010 – Soldiers from Tifton's 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion currently serving in Iraq will soon rest a little easier after receiving a special care package presented to that unit's rear detachment by the Christian Women's Ministry. The non-denominational group of 15 women, hailing from Fitzgerald, Ga., recently hand-stitched 120 pillows and handed them off to Guardsmen during a ceremony at the Tifton armory.

1st Lt. Brantley Lockhart, commander of the rear detachment, explained that the women took the initiative to complete this project using their own resources and sought out the unit once the homemade headrests were finished.

"It's a personal touch. We can say all day here in the States that we appreciate what the Soldiers are doing in the fight. But to send something this personal for each individual to get, that's huge. It's a tremendous morale-booster," he said.

Andrea Thomas, one of five founding members of the ministry, said that one of the ladies got the idea from a report about another group who did the same thing elsewhere, and decided that this was how they wanted to show their support. Thomas said her group has decided to adopt the unit as their own, and they plan to continue to support the deployed troops by sending packages that will include everything from baked goods to personal hygiene items.

"It's an honor and a privilege for us to dedicate these pillows to men and women serving in our military. We want them to know that we love them, and that we have not forgotten them – even though we don't get to see them every day," she said.

The rear detachment presented the women with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the unit during the pillow exchange ceremony.

The 110th CSSB left Georgia in February for pre-mobilization training at Fort Bliss, Texas. After three months there, it deployed to southern Iraq. Its yearlong mission is to act as higher headquarters for multiple companies who will be conducting logistics-based convoy operations throughout the region.

139TH INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON REACHES INITIAL OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY



GEORGIA ANG'S TOP ENLISTED RETIRES AFTER 32 YEARS

Story by Lt. Col. (Ret.) Ken Baldowski
Public Affairs Office
Georgia Department of Defense

FORT GORDON, May 1, 2010 – Major Gen. Scott A. Hammond, Georgia Air National Guard commander, has announced that the 139th Intelligence Squadron headquartered at Fort Gordon has reached Initial Operational Capability. This significant achievement places the two year-old unit on its way toward Full Operational Capability.

The 139th IS, Georgia's newest Air National Guard unit, was officially activated on May 29, 2008, at Fort Gordon, becoming the ninth Air Guard unit in the state and the first new Georgia Air Guard unit in more than 30 years. The designation of IOC indicates the unit is qualified and ready to execute specific missions.

The primary mission of this new unit is to execute cryptologic intelligence operations to satisfy strategic, operations and tactical intelligence requirements of national decision makers, combatant commanders and combat operations. Additionally, the 139th IS has the important state mission of providing a trained and equipped force to assist the citizens of Georgia in times of emergency.



The 44-member squadron is commanded by Lt. Col. Kimberly Chatfield, and the detachment commander is Lt. Col. Troy Lewis. The unit employs 37 traditional and seven full-time Guardsmen. The unit fits the classic associate squadron model of the Air Force by working alongside the 31st Intelligence Squadron at Fort Gordon.

The 139th IS enhances pre-existing intelligence capabilities at Fort Gordon. As home of the U.S. Army Signal Corps, Fort Gordon is the largest communications electronics facility in the world. The Distributed Common Ground Systems (DCGS) for the Air Force also resides at Ft. Gordon.

Originally activated February 1942 as the 139th Signal Radio Intelligence Company with a cadre of 13 intercept and traffic analysis operators, the unit was redesignated as the 2nd Radio Signal Mobile in 1944, and deployed to France with the 9th Air Force a year later.

The unit was later transferred to the Department of the Army, where it operated under the Army Security Agency (ASA) while in Germany. In 1983, the unit was called to duty again during the Cold War to combine with the 6911th Electronic Security Squadron and redesignated as the 402nd Intelligence Squadron. In 2000, the 402nd was deactivated until its recent reactivation as part of the Georgia Air National Guard.

Story by Lt. Col. (Ret.) Ken Baldowski
Public Affairs Office
Georgia Department of Defense



CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, May 1, 2010
Chief Master Sgt. Betty L. G. Morgan, Georgia's State Command Chief for the Georgia Air National Guard, retired at ceremonies today following a career of more than 32 years. The Savannah native was the principal

advisor to the Adjutant General and the Commander, Georgia Air National Guard on all matters pertaining to the more than 2,500 enlisted personnel of the Georgia Air National Guard.

Morgan's career is marked with a number of firsts, for which she is justifiably proud. After enlisting in the Georgia Air National Guard in March 1978 with the 165th Tactical Airlift Group, she was assigned to the 165th Support Squadron as a Personnel Specialist. She later served as the Intelligence Supervisor for the 165th Airlift Wing. She was the first female at the wing to be promoted to Senior Master Sergeant. She was later promoted to Chief Master Sergeant on April 13, 1997, and soon after was selected to become the Wing's Command Chief.

Assigned as the Human Resources Advisor for the Georgia Air National Guard State Headquarters in August 2000, Morgan was selected by the Georgia Air Guard Commander to become the Command Chief.

Morgan is the only African American female to have held these distinguished positions in the Georgia Air National Guard.

Her military decorations and awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, and numerous other commendations.

Major Gen. Hammond, the Georgia Air National Guard commander, often refers to Morgan as a "path-setter." He adds, "Her style as a military leader was all her own, honed no doubt in part from her experiences as a nationally recognized 6th grade school teacher."

"BEING WHERE I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE AT ALL TIMES' WAS MY MOTTO."

Morgan said of her careers, "I have made two great career choices in my life: to become an educator, and to become a Drill Status Guard member. As an educator, it was all about the children, and as a Guard member, it was all about the Airmen. Both roles have the commonality of 'people involvement.' With each career, I have touched more lives than I can count. I have been a mentor, role model, speaker, counselor, listener, and problem solver to many. 'Being where I was supposed to be at all times' was my motto."

Talk with Morgan for just a few minutes, and one finds that her first love is teaching children in the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System, where she has been employed for the last 32 years. Currently an eighth grade English/Language Arts teacher for John W. Hubert Middle School, Morgan has been selected as the Teacher of the Year three times.

Amongst a litany of other outstanding teacher awards, she was also identified as the New Future's Initiative Teacher of the Year twice.

SMITH PROMOTED TO CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, May 25, 2010 – Senior Master Sergeant Marianela “Maria” F. Smith has been selected for promotion to Chief Master Sergeant, the highest rank that can be attained by a Non-Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Air Force.

Smith received a personal notice of the promotion from Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt, Georgia’s Adjutant General. The pinning ceremony will be held Friday, June 4 at 1 p.m. at Savannah’s Combat Readiness Training Center, Bldg. 301, headquartered at the Savannah International Airport.

Smith currently serves as the CRTC’s financial management analyst. A native of the country of Panama, she immigrated to the United States in 1978, officially becoming a U.S. citizen in 1986. A veteran with four decades of service, Smith began her military career by enlisting in the Georgia Air National Guard in 1978.



277TH MAINTENANCE COMPANY DEPLOYS TO AFGHANISTAN

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

MCCOLLUM AIRPORT, Kennesaw Ga., May 2, 2010

The Soldiers of the Georgia Army National Guard’s 277th Maintenance Company were honored for their service during a ceremony marking their departure from Georgia as they prepared to deploy to Afghanistan.

Military, city officials, family and friends joined together to recognize these dedicated Soldiers who left Georgia today for Fort Hood.

In Texas the company will undergo its premobilization training for its anticipated

yearlong deployment.

Mark Mathews, mayor of Kennesaw said, “As part of the community, we realize that our borders are bigger than the city limits, and we appreciate their sacrifice. I am proud of what these brave Soldiers go through in order to protect all of us.”

The 277th Maintenance Company will be leaving their devoted loved ones behind as they head to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



MARIETTA MEDICS COME HOME

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

DOBBINS AIR RESERVE BASE, Marietta, May 25, 2010 –

More than 60 combat medics and support personnel with the Army Guard’s 248th Medical Company have returned home from a yearlong deployment to Iraq.

During their tour of duty, the 248th – under the command of Capt. Otis Coles and assisted by the leadership of 1st Sgt. James Dean, the unit’s senior enlisted Soldier – was assigned to the active Army’s 61st Multi-functional Medical Battalion out of Fort Hood. Coles and his Soldiers operated a troop medical clinic in Balad. They also provided ambulance coverage to civilians and coalition forces operating in the area around the city.

Some of his medics, said Coles, also operated

“outside the wire” at outlying American and coalition installations.

“Our people not only met the current standards of care and customer service in running that clinic, they exceeded everyone’s expectations on many levels,” said Coles, who hails from Chattanooga, Tenn. “It’s a hard responsibility taking people to war, but when you have folks such as these, it makes me proud to be their commander.

“I guess the other big thing about this deployment is the fact that we’ve all come home alive,” he added.

Now that the 248th is home, its members will spend about a week coming off active duty and returning to traditional Guard status. Once that has happened, they have three months to get reacquainted with their families and their civilian employers before once again returning to drill.

The last time the unit deployed was in 2003, also in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



GEORGIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD
116TH AIR CONTROL WING

TAG HOSTS GEORGIA COMMANDER'S SUMMIT

*Story and photo by Pfc. Ashley Fontenot
Public Affairs Office
Georgia Department of Defense*

DOBBINS AIR RESERVE BASE, Marietta, Ga., May 11, 2010
More than 50 representatives from various Georgia emergency response organizations participated in a Commander's Summit today at the Finch Building conference room. This is just the second gathering of its kind in the history of the state.

Major Gen. Terry Nesbitt, Georgia's Adjutant General, remarked, "By gathering all of Georgia's commanders in one place, we hope to streamline discussion, clear up the lines of communication and better define the state-wide chain-of-command relative to certain emergencies. We all want the same thing: for our local, state and regional citizens to be supported in the best way possible. These summits will allow us to facilitate one another's efforts and, hopefully, prevent us from stepping on each other's toes."

Summit participants and guests included members from the Georgia National Guard, GEMA, and

representatives from the state's 13 active duty military installations. The summit provided these organizations the level of interoperability necessary to communicate with and summon both state and local resources – such as search and rescue teams, law enforcement and transportation – for emergency situations.

"Meet and greet" was a key aspect of the day's summit. Each attendee stood to introduce themselves, and to explain their role in the overall emergency management cooperation effort.

Major Gen. Scott Hammond, Georgia Air Guard commander, explained the significance of this practice.

"One of the most important things we can do as senior leaders is to get to know each other before crisis strikes," Hammond said. "Everyone will have enough to do during an emergency. None of us wants to meet and engage each other for the first time under that kind of pressure."

LEARNING LABS GO THE DISTANCE



Active Georgia Guardsmen and civilian employees attend a PRWEB workshop at the Distance Learning Lab located in Macon. The one-day workshop allowed the attendees to train on utilizing the PRWEB for ordering supplies.

GO THE DISTANCE

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

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, May 18, 2010 – In an ever-changing technological world, the Georgia National Guard is keeping stride thanks to five modern technology labs around the state. These computer labs are designed to help Soldiers with a multitude of tasks from distance learning courses, to video conferencing, to squad and platoon-level online training.

“These labs are great tools and I would love for Soldiers and their families to take the full advantage of them,” said Master Sgt. Bob Matthews, the Distance Learning Manager for the Georgia Guard.

The labs have been strategically placed around the state in Dahlonega, Ellenwood, Hinesville, Macon and Marietta. Matthews said that the nature of the labs’ technology allows him to teach a course from one site while students at other sites can simultaneously participate from their own locations.

“I can literally connect with all the labs in the state and teach a computer applications course from wherever I am,” he said.

“This means I can reach more users around the state at one time without anyone having to do any excessive traveling,” he added.

“THESE LABS ARE GREAT TOOLS.”

Labs can be reserved by unit readiness NCOs to conduct mandatory briefing and training for their respective companies. Some of the distance learning classes allow Soldiers to study a foreign language or improve reading and critical thinking skills. But these facilities are not just for Soldiers; Family Readiness Groups can use these labs for furthering their skills in Microsoft, or taking online coursework.

Matthews encourages anyone looking for more information on how to schedule a lab or take a course, to contact him directly. “Anyone can email me at: bob.matthews@ga.ngb.army.mil.

TOP MP RECEIVES MARECHAUSSEE AWARD

Story by Master Sgt. John Kinnaman
Photo by Sgt. Gary Hone
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Georgia Army National Guard

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, May 18, 2010 – One of the highest honors bestowed upon a military policeman is the Marechaussee Award. Despite the award’s scarcity – and precisely because of it – the Georgia Army National Guard’s Command Sgt. Maj. Tony Willis, the 265th Regional Support Group Command sergeant major, was honored Sunday with its conferral.

Each year, Military Police Regimental Association nominees are selected to receive the prestigious Marechaussee Award, which honors exceptional service and dedication to one’s military police regiment. Although his current assignment is not with an MP battalion, Command Sgt. Maj. Tony Willis has served as a military policeman on active duty and with the Georgia Guard for 28 years and he said he continues to use his MP training every day.

“I’m really astounded to be classified with this elite group of MPs,” Willis said. “I dedicate it to the Soldiers I have worked with over the years.”

The Marechaussee Award was created out of tribute to the very first military police corps on June 1, 1778. General George Washington created a special unit of 63 men on horseback called the “Marechaussee Corps.” The term Marechaussee came from the French word “Marcheaux” (Marshow), which were French provost marshal units of the 12th century. The Marechaussee unit was responsible for security, maintaining order while in camp, looking for deserters, enforcing the articles of war, and protecting the rear and flanks of the Continental Army while on the march.

Willis is also the first African-American command sergeant major with Decatur’s 170th Military Police Battalion, and he assisted in standing up the battalion.

For Willis and the 265th RSGC, his decades of leadership will be invaluable in the battalion’s deployment to Afghanistan in 2012.





FUNERAL HONORS TEAM

*Story by Col. Dennis Brown
History Office
Georgia Department of Defense*

ATLANTA, Ga., May, 2010 – The Georgia National Guard Funeral Honors Team is one of the premiere honors teams in the nation. Organized in 2007, the team stands ready to render appropriate honors to all eligible Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines in accordance with Department of Defense policy. The team travels throughout the state of Georgia performing funeral honors as needed, and occasionally crosses state lines to ensure that all Veterans are honored.

Sergeant Major Bryan Hise performs duties as the non-commissioned officer in charge, a role he has maintained since the team's inception. As the original NCOIC, he built the team from concept to reality. He manages everything for the team, including recruitment, training, operational missions, budgeting and equipping.

“There is no excuse for allowing any Veteran to be placed to rest without the appropriate honors,” says Hise.

“If I need to put 20 teams on the road on a given day, then that's what we'll do to make sure all deserving Veterans are honored appropriately. They were there for us, and we will be there for them,” Hise asserts with conviction.

THE LONELY PIPE OF DEATH AMONGST A SYMPHONY OF FLOWERS

By Brig. Gen. Maria L. Britt
Commanding General
Georgia Army National Guard

CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER, May 31, 2010 – Memorial Day is for honoring, remembering and celebrating America's departed Soldiers. Truly, this is a time to set aside the cares of the world and worries of the future – a time to look back in gratefulness and bring briefly to living memory the fallen heroes of our country: the men and women whose service and sacrifice have kept America safe and free.

Distinct from Veterans Day in November, where we celebrate our living veterans – those who have, and still do, place themselves between our loved ones and war's destruction – we reserve Memorial Day as an annual pause to commemorate our honored fallen.

As Oliver Wendell Holmes once observed, "In the full tide of spring, at the height of the symphony of flowers and love and life – there comes a pause, and through the silence we hear the lonely pipe of death."

My own heart is heavy as I remember the 36 Georgia Guardsmen who have lost their lives combating terror on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan over the last five years. And my heavy heart goes out to those 36 families and communities who are still suffering from their loss.

Yet, these brave Citizen-Soldiers – and all of America's fallen – made the conscious choice to serve their state and nation, even though they knew it might cost them their lives.

Certainly, the lives of our 36 fallen Georgia Guardsmen – and the thousands of other men and women who have died to bring stability to the Middle East – were not sacrificed in vain. Though the wars there are not concluded, the people of Afghanistan and Iraq have been jarred loose from under the oppressive thumb of tyrant regimes.

In Afghanistan, where Georgia's 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team just concluded a yearlong deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, women are now assisting as MPs in the

security measures of a system that, before the war, denied many of them the right to vote, work, go to school or even choose their own partners in marriage.

I am confident that the women of Afghanistan will not take these new freedoms for granted and will rise to the challenge as opportunities are afforded to them. It was only 90 years ago that women in our own nation were allowed to vote and own property, and just 34 years since they were allowed to attend the Service Academies and commission as officers. It often takes decades of unwavering perseverance to completely change a culture, but the Soldiers who have fought so hard in Afghanistan and Iraq can be proud of the spark of change they have wrought.

Our Army and our country have a proud legacy grounded in loyalty, duty, respect, selfless-service, honor, integrity, and personal courage.

During their recent deployment to Afghanistan, the 48th Infantry Brigade lost eight brave Soldiers on the field of battle. These eight heroes absolutely embodied those values and legacy.

When I look at my own three daughters, I am so very grateful for and indebted to Soldiers who have paid the ultimate price for their freedom.

I am proud to be the granddaughter of Italian immigrants who came to this country through Ellis Island in the early 1900s. Despite the perilous journey and the fear of starting in a new land, my grandparents were drawn to this land of freedom and the dream for a better life for their children. My uncles all served as American soldiers in WWII and wore their medals proudly. I cherish their gift to me. It motivates me to be a strong servant leader to my soldiers and this great nation I love.

I suspect the motivations for service are as various as the number of people serving, but I am certain that those who chose to serve are united by their love for liberty.

General Colin Powell once remarked that when you look back at our nation's history, there is a recurring theme: we come not to conquer, but to free nations. Neither Iraq, nor Afghanistan, nor Germany, nor Vietnam, nor Korea, nor Japan, nor the Philippines are represented by a star on our flag.

The only foreign soil we require is that which is needed to bury our fallen Soldiers.

Our fallen knew that freedom must be protected, that – in the absence of fervent defense – freedom is perishable. Because of our Soldiers' service and sacrifice, our great nation has proudly secured liberty for a substantial share of the world's population and defended it for much of the rest.

As John Stewart Mill once poignantly noted, "War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse."

Without the men and women who have died in the service of this great nation, the United States of America – and the beacon of freedom it represents – could have perished from the earth any number of times, and the fortunes of the world would have been left to the wills of tyrants and dictators.

Every time our Soldiers go to war, I am simultaneously saddened by the truism that the future of liberty will demand more gravestones, yet encouraged by the knowledge that America's sons and daughters continue to answer Lady Liberty's call.

So today we remember and pay respect to those who marched before us to secure our freedoms and died in that ultimate service. These heroes believed in a concept greater than themselves, a concept that constitutes their permanent legacy: the prize of freedom.

Vietnam Wall photo by
Jeffrey M. Cook

REMEMBERING GEORGIA'S FALLEN

*Remarks by Lt. Col. Randall Simmons
1st Squadron, 108th Cavalry commander
Delivered at the Georgia State Capitol
Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Roy Henry*

ATLANTA, Ga., May 27, 2010 – Memorial Day is the time for Americans to reconnect with their history and core values by honoring those who gave their lives in defense of our country for the freedoms we cherish.

More than a million American service members have died in the wars and conflicts of our nation since the first colonial Soldiers took up arms in 1775 to fight for independence. Each person who died in those conflicts was a loved one cherished by family and friends. Each was a loss to their community and nation.

To those who died securing peace and freedom, who sacrificed their personal dreams to preserve the hope of our nation – keeping America the land of the free for over two centuries – we owe our thanks and honor. It is important to not only recognize their service, but to respect their devotion to duty and ensure that the purpose for which they fought will never be forgotten.

From the Soldiers who fought bravely during the American Revolution, to the men and women of today's Armed Forces, America's fighting forces have responded bravely to our nation's call to duty. Both on the battlefield and in their assurance of readiness, members of the nation's military remain bound to their

duty. For more than 200 years, America's Armed Forces have remained the surest guarantee that freedom will continue to ring across this land.

Today we pay special tribute to the 17 brave Georgians who made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our country over this past year. These were people we knew, respected, and cared for. There are many who remember vividly as the lives affected by the tragic loss of these service members were husbands or wives, sons or daughters, relatives or friends, co-workers or neighbors – and that their selfless service and sacrifice was made with the assurance that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness required the ultimate service to our nation.

As we reflect on Memorial Day, I encourage you to ask yourself a few fundamental questions.

What is it that inspires and enables ordinary citizens to rise to the challenge of battle, to be willing to make the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in service to their country?

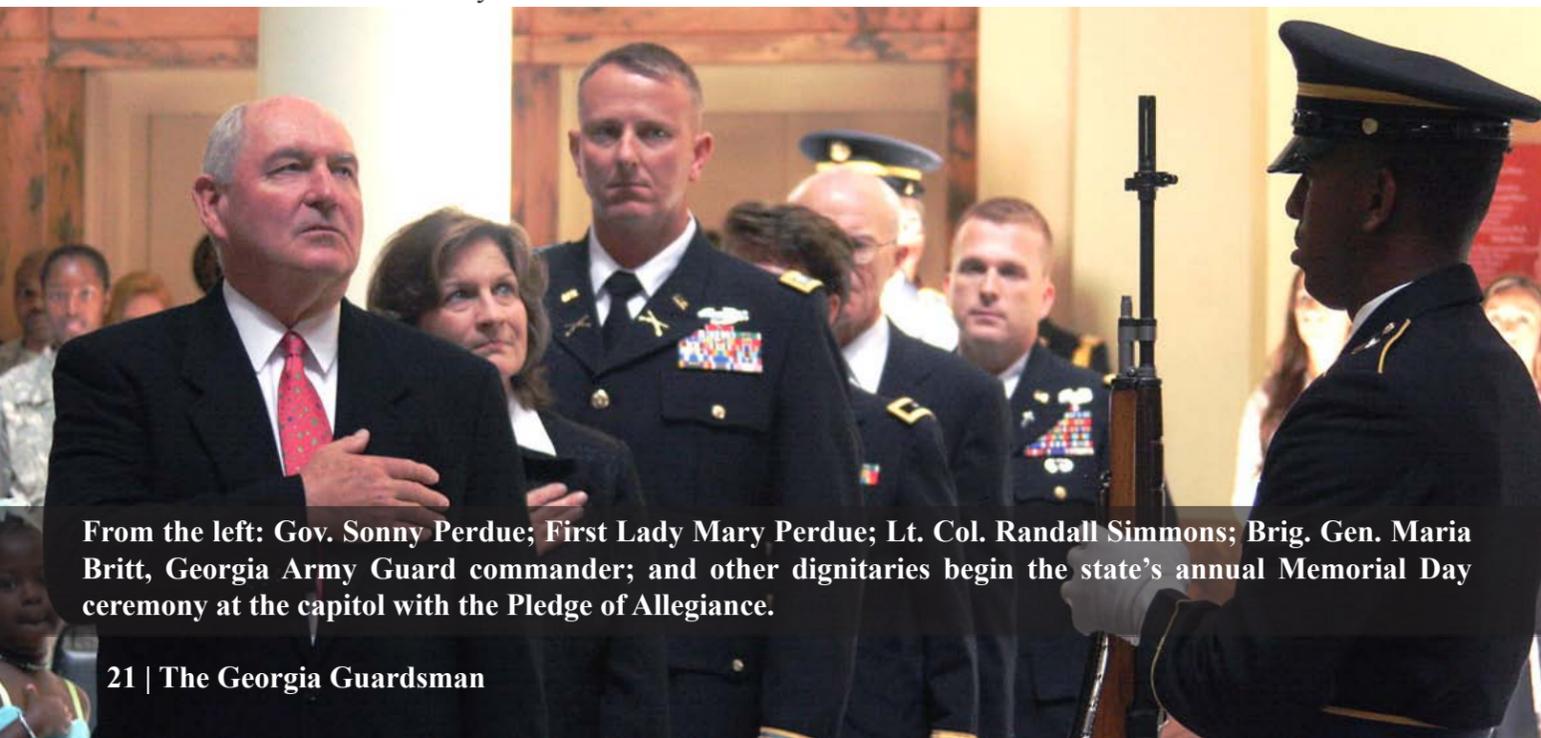
What is it that motivates them to respond and contribute wherever and whenever called upon?

In my opinion, the answer is values. The proud legacy of our Army – and our country – is grounded in these core values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless-service, honor, integrity, and personal courage.

During our recent deployment to Afghanistan, the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team lost eight brave Soldiers on the field of battle.



Lieutenant Col. Randall Simmons, 1st Squadron, 108th Cavalry commander, addresses dignitaries during the official state Memorial Day ceremony, which honored all of Georgia's Fallen over the past year.



From the left: Gov. Sonny Perdue; First Lady Mary Perdue; Lt. Col. Randall Simmons; Brig. Gen. Maria Britt, Georgia Army Guard commander; and other dignitaries begin the state's annual Memorial Day ceremony at the capitol with the Pledge of Allegiance.

I had the pleasure of knowing several of these fallen Guardsmen, and the honor of commanding four of them. It was truly an honor to lead such fine Soldiers in combat. When I think of these eight heroes, I can easily match them to the Army value for which they were and are best known.

Loyalty means to bear true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, the unit, and other Soldiers. Sergeant Jeffrey Jordan represented a population of our Soldiers that is very special to me. He was a Soldier that joined the Armed Forces after 9/11, during a time of conflict, and knew well that he would be asked to serve in harm's way. He answered the call and always represented himself with honor.

Duty means to fulfill your obligations. Sergeant 1st Class John Beale had no contractual obligation to serve, but in 2005, as a prior service Soldier, he felt a calling and re-enlisted to serve again to complete a mission he believed in and felt compelled to support. He was known as a fiery and passionate leader who always placed the welfare of his troops above his own. He was known by many to be grounded in his religious beliefs and began most days waking early to read the scripture.

Respect means to treat people as they should be treated. Specialist Issac Johnson, Jr., or "Chip" as he was known by his friends, was a great young man with goals and aspirations for the future. He was going somewhere. He was known as a "glass is half full" kind of guy, very positive and upbeat. He gave respect and got it in return from all who served with him.

Selfless-service means to put the welfare of the nation, Army, and subordinates before your own. Sergeant Ray Morales, or "Ray-Ray" as he was often called by his friends, was best known as a team player and a work horse with a great personality, sense of humor, and positive attitude. He often volunteered for additional duty because he was committed to his unit and the mission.

Honor means to live up to all of the Army's values. Staff Sgt. Alex French carried himself in a way that commanded respect and honor. He was known to be a very approachable person, especially by junior Soldiers for whom he was a mentor and role model. He was a very caring Soldier, husband, and father, but was also a fierce warrior, never backing down in front of the enemy.

Integrity means to do what is right, legally and morally. Sergeant Brock Chavers was a model Soldier and quickly earned the respect of those with whom he

worked. He could always be counted on to get the job done, no matter how demanding, and do so with a great attitude and sense of humor. He was a great father and spent most of his free time with his family.

Personal Courage means to face fear, danger, or adversity, whether physical or moral. By all accounts, 1st Sergeant John Blair best represents this Army value. He was a hard-nosed, aggressive, and disciplined leader that always led from the front. His willingness to set the example placed him in the gunner's turret on that fateful day last June. He was a very patriotic leader who was often called upon by his command to serve as a mentor and sounding board. He was always willing to do the hard right over the easy wrong and ALWAYS put the welfare of his Soldiers before his own.

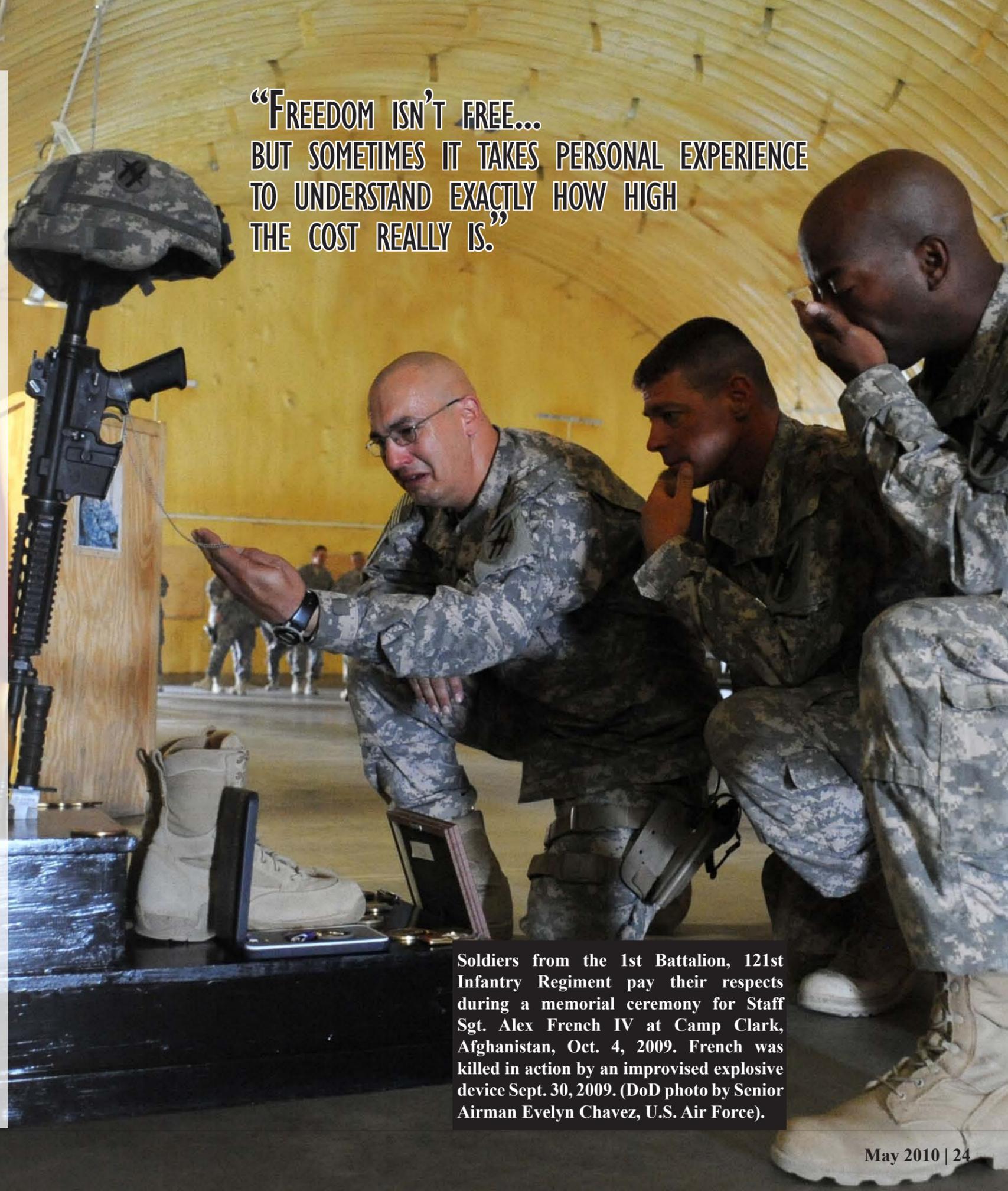
Lastly, I want to mention Maj. Kevin Jenrette. He was the one I knew best. He was a professional Soldier and a friend. Without a doubt he lived his life in service to his family and his country. He lived the Army values on a daily basis and was simply a great human being. He was a model husband, father, and Soldier whose memory will live with us forever. I find myself, when posed with a tough situation, asking "What would Maj. Jenrette do?" He was a dedicated, hard working, and very humble quiet professional. He worked countless hours supporting our Soldiers and never once asked or expected any gratitude in return. His leadership, friendship and counsel are greatly missed.

Over the next few days, as you reflect on our fallen heroes, take a moment to think of another special group of people: our Gold Star families. These people are the family members of those that have been lost in defense of our country.

Please remember Mrs. Shannon Jenrette and children Cory, Brody, and Megan...all under 10 years of age. Think of the sacrifice they have endured and will continue to live with as a result of the untimely loss of Maj. Jenrette. Think of Crystal Beale, the brave spouse of Sergeant 1st Class John Beale and their two children. Think of Lacy Jordan, the spouse of Sergeant Jeffrey Jordan, who is barely 20 years of age and left with a year-old son. Sergeant Ray Morales also left a spouse and two daughters, and had an especially close-knit relationship with his parents and siblings.

These are just a few heartbreaking examples of the high cost of freedom. People often say "freedom isn't free" and they are correct, but sometimes it takes personal experience to understand exactly how high the cost really is.

"FREEDOM ISN'T FREE... BUT SOMETIMES IT TAKES PERSONAL EXPERIENCE TO UNDERSTAND EXACTLY HOW HIGH THE COST REALLY IS."



Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment pay their respects during a memorial ceremony for Staff Sgt. Alex French IV at Camp Clark, Afghanistan, Oct. 4, 2009. French was killed in action by an improvised explosive device Sept. 30, 2009. (DoD photo by Senior Airman Evelyn Chavez, U.S. Air Force).



117th ACS and Air National Guard augmentees pose with the 379th AEW Grand Slam Award belt. The outstanding work of the radar maintenance team in keeping the vital TPS-75 running contributed to the unit receiving the award, which is given to the best unit in the wing each month.

117TH ACS...

for their singular accomplishments by the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing and Operations Group.

Master Sgt. Andrew Pierce of Savannah and his team solved several data link integration issues arising midway through the deployment and, as a result, received the Commander's Coin from Col. David Bén and the 379th AEW for being the team of the month.

Master Sgt. Rommel Beck of Guyton excelled by leading radar maintainers to keep the 71st EACS TPS-75 radar operational 24/7 in an unforgiving desert environment. He was recognized as the Senior NCO of the month.

Tech Sgt. Floyd Leach of Statesboro not only received the unit's "Hard Charger" award for outstanding efforts to keep vital command and control radios maintained and operational, but he also finished in second place in the two-month long base-wide "Biggest Loser" competition that judged contestants based on percentage of weight lost – like the TV show.

Lieutenant Col. Kevin Alwood, commander of the 117th Air Control Squadron, assumed command of the 71st EACS this month from Lt. Col. Matthew Smith, 603rd ACS commander. Alwood is scheduled to maintain his command from May 12 until July 15, when he will hand-off the responsibility to the 606th ACS, Spangdahlem AFB, Germany.

Savannah's 117th ACS is slated to redeploy in early July with Lt. Col. Alwood remaining as commander of the 71st EACS through the transition to the 109th ACS (Utah Air National Guard) and the 606th ACS.



McMAKIN NAMED 2010 REGION III NCO OF THE YEAR

McMakin was selected from a field of 10 highly qualified Soldiers representing as many states and territories. Soldiers were tested on their prowess in physical fitness, warrior skills, land navigation, marksmanship and knowledge of military programs. He now looks to the NGB round of the competition.

EXEMPLARY SERVICE FROM 117TH ACS IN SUPPORT OF OEF

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

AFGHANISTAN, May, 2010 – The 117th Air Control Squadron of the Georgia Air National Guard has had plenty to boast about during its five-month deployment to Southwest Asia. Unit members have garnered several significant accomplishments and reached important milestones in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Savannah Air Guard unit is partnered with the 603rd ACS from Aviano Air Force Base, Italy, along with personnel from Britain's Royal Air Force, and Royal Australian Air Force. The combined force of the

units that comprise the 71st Expeditionary Air Control Squadron totals more than 130 personnel.

The 71st EACS recently earned the "Grand Slam Award," recognizing the squadron's contribution to the wing's overall mission. The "Grand Slam Award" is given to honor outstanding teamwork and accomplishments from units within the diverse multinational military team.

Not only have Georgia's operations personnel excelled at providing command and control for the air war over Afghanistan, but the maintenance team also continues to ensure that the high-tech communications equipment is performing flawlessly and is 100 percent operational in the austere desert environment.

In addition to overall unit accomplishments, individual members of 117th ACS have been recognized



COL. JESSE SIMMONS, JR. RECEIVES BRONZE STAR

Colonel Jesse Simmons, Jr., commander of the 165th Airlift Wing, Georgia Air National Guard, recently received the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement while serving as Deputy Commander in Afghanistan at Bagram Airfield from May to September of 2009. The citation that accompanied the medal states that Col. Simmons personified "exemplary leadership, personal endeavor, and devotion to duty" in a position of much responsibility that "reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force."

During this particular tour in Afghanistan, Simmons supervised an Operations Group consisting of nine squadrons and two flights and orchestrated the efforts of more than 800 Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen. The Group Simmons supervised provided air support, electronic attack, combat search and rescue, combat airlift and airdrop and aeromedical evacuation throughout Afghanistan and Southwest Asia.



PART 3 OF A 4 PART SERIES ON GEORGIA MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

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

GARDEN CITY, May 14, 2010 – The National Guard’s role in the country’s homeland security mission has grown significantly since the Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center first began providing pilots, aircrews and aircraft maintenance personnel a place to train in 1942. That much is evident by the more than 600 Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, and Sailors who came to Savannah’s CRTC on May 17 for Ardent Sentry 2010.

Ardent Sentry is a North American Aerospace Defense Command deployable integrated air defense system exercise. For more than a week, Guardsmen from Georgia and South Carolina will join hundreds of other skilled service men and women from across the country as they descend upon the area to test the capabilities of the Continental U.S. NORAD forces in protecting a city like Savannah against “asymmetrical threats” – threats from the air against its citizenry.

This is not the first time the center has opened its gates to such a significant national event, explained Lt. Col. Kirk Simmons, the training center’s Operations Group commander. The events the CRTC has supported include the 2004 G8 Summit, exercise Atlantic Thunder, the Southern and Southwest Air and Range Council conference, and the Aerial Port University’s cargo loading and unloading course.

The Savannah CRTC is one of four such Air Guard field training sites in the country – the other three are in Wisconsin, Michigan and Mississippi. The CRTC’s motto: “Our customers are our business.”

“It’s who we are as an organization, and as an installation,” said Simmons.

Every year, Simmons added, the CRTC’s flight line plays host to squadrons and wings from across the country that come to hold their Operational Readiness Exercises and Operational Readiness Inspections.

As the training center has grown over the years, so has its mission and ability to provide utility for others besides traditional pilots and aircrews. Out on the southwestern edge of the Savannah International Airport, this small but important Georgia Air National

Guard installation has been a major part of the Savannah area and community for more than 68 years.

Occupying an estimated 186 acres of the Air Guard’s Travis Air Field, the CRTC was originally an active duty air field – when B-24 Liberator bombers occupied the air space. The center first opened its grounds and facilities in late 1953 for use by other service branches, both active and Reserve.

Now, the CRTC’s growth in size, services and importance reflects the integral role the National Guard has come to play in the nation’s Homeland Security efforts and interoperability.

“From the very beginning, we’ve done everything possible to help those who come here to ‘train as they fight,’ to make the training as realistic as possible. And not just for the Air Force, but for the Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard as well,” said Simmons.

In 2009, recalled Simmons, the training center supported about 226 units and the training of an estimated 217,900 personnel. In 2008, the CRTC played host to 224 visiting units and helped train nearly 239,000 service members.

The question some may have is, “How does the surrounding community feel about all that military activity?” One might expect that the constant noise of military aircraft overhead and continuous stream of military personnel to and from the training center might cause friction between the surrounding communities and the center.

According to Col. Todd A. Freeseemann, the CRTC commander, the community offers unwavering support for his installation, its personnel and the service members who come to the training center. That support comes full circle, he said, as CRTC personnel give back to their communities in hundreds of ways.

“With Hunter Army Airfield here, Fort Stewart just up the road in Hinesville and our own 165th Airlift Wing here at Travis, there’s no better relationship than the one we have with the citizenry here,” Freeseemann said. “Our civilian communities are all great supporters of the military, Department of Defense and law enforcement, and we are theirs. We enjoy our rapport with them, the local government and the airport governing council that’s second to none – I believe – in the country.”



ANG SECURITY FORCES PROTECT ARDENT SENTRY PARTICIPANTS

Staff Sgt. Josh Hartzell and Senior Airman Vanessa Garcia from the 165th Security Forces Squadron provide perimeter security for the Avengers on an off-site location. The Avenger played an instrumental part during the four-day Ardent Sentry '10 exercise (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Anika Williams.)

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

SAVANNAH COMBAT READINESS TRAINING CENTER, Ga. May 18, 2010 – While more than 250 participants of Exercise Ardent Sentry '10 are in Savannah honing their skills to protect American citizens against threats from the air, Airmen of the Georgia Air Guard's 165th Security Forces Squadron were busy protecting them on the ground.

The SFS is part of the 165th Airlift Wing in Savannah, and much of what the unit does for an exercise like this – patrolling the flight line and property occupied by the wing and training center – remains the same as any other day. What is different is the heightened sense of awareness that comes with an exercise like Ardent Sentry, said Lt. Roy Fountain, the unit's operations officer.

“Not only are we paying even more attention to who, or what, is on the flight line or on post, we have the Joint Air Defense Command-Mobile to monitor those events,” he explained. “Our folks are also tasked with patrolling the Avenger and Sentinel radar sites and checking on their crews.

“Each piece of the security mission has its own distinct challenges,” Lieutenant Fountain added. “But our folks are certainly up to the job.”

Sergeant Andrew Bryant is team chief for ‘Talon 1,’ an Avenger missile battery belonging to the South Carolina Army Guard's 263rd Army Air Missile Defense Command. He and his Soldiers occupy one of several tactical sites that make up the air defense ring around the Savannah metro area.

“This isn't the first time my crew and I have worked with Air Force or Air Guard security forces, and I can tell you – it's a good feeling to know they're around and on top of things,” he said.

TAPPING THE WELL OF HISTORY AT KENNESAW MOUNTAIN

Photos and story by 2nd Lt. Kenneth Peebles
221st Military Intelligence Battalion
Georgia Army National Guard

KENNESAW, Ga., April 11, 2010—The Soldiers of Charlie Company, 221st Military Intelligence Battalion, had the opportunity to conduct a staff ride at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield, just outside of Atlanta. Excursions like these offer an opportunity to look at military operations of the past and take lessons away that can apply to current operations and missions.

Even though the battle of Kennesaw Mountain occurred almost 150 years ago, many of the factors that contributed to the outcome of that battle are just as relevant today.

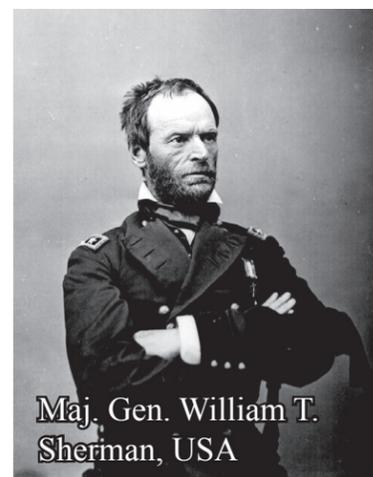
By taking a tour of the area, listening to briefings given by fellow Soldiers, and conducting a detailed battle analysis, the unit was able to extract lessons that will, in the long run, allow its members to become

better Soldiers, leaders and intelligence professionals.

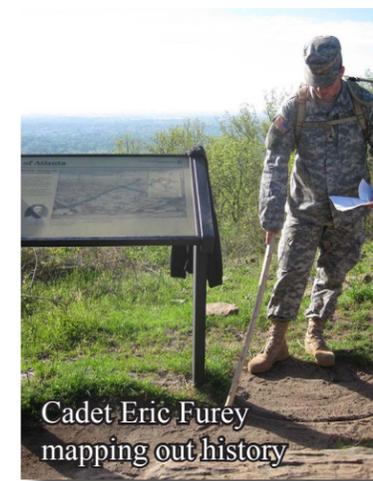
The Battle of Kennesaw Mountain was a part of the Atlanta campaign of the Civil War and occurred on June 27, 1864. The mountain was considered by Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, who was leading roughly 100,000 Union soldiers at that time, to be the last obstacle standing in the way of overtaking Atlanta, one of the South's last industrial and transportation hubs.

Facing a Confederate force of over 50,000 Soldiers who were heavily dug in, the Union troops ultimately failed to take the mountain via frontal assault. Although conventional wisdom suggests that General Sherman could have simply gone around the mountain, several factors including weather, maneuverability, and logistics forced him to stay, fight and – ultimately – suffer a tactical defeat.

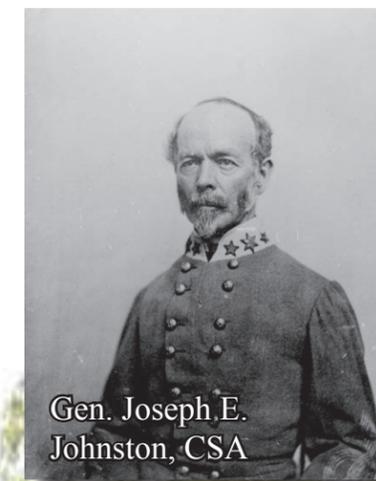
As the MI Soldiers studied the battle and observed the battlefield firsthand, it became easier for them to make connections between obstacles faced by



Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, USA



Cadet Eric Furey mapping out history



Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, CSA

those Civil War Soldiers and some modern-day challenges facing today's Armed Forces. These intelligence professionals specialize in tackling similar challenges and considerations to help commanders make the best decisions possible.

The company commander, Capt. John M. Fuchko, III, said, "By conducting staff rides at this site and others like it, we become better prepared to make the tough decisions that lie ahead. By learning from the past, we can increase our understanding of warfare and make better decisions in the future that will save lives and win the fight."



Charlie Company Commander, Capt. John M. Fuchko, III, shows his Soldiers the lay of the land and Atlanta in the distance.

THE DUBLIN GUARDS

THE SOUTHEAST'S FIRST NATIONAL GUARD UNIT



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

KENNESAW, Ga., April 11, 2010 – The first local military company founded in the Southeast region after the Civil War was the Dublin Guards. The Dublin Guards were organized as a part of the 4th Regiment of the Georgia Volunteers in 1890. The earliest available information on the unit dates back to February of 1894.

The Dublin Guards – then designated as Company A, Second Infantry Regiment, Georgia State Troops – served as an active unit during the Spanish-American War. The Laurens unit drilled once a week in the auditorium located on the upper floor of the Leitch Stubbs building, which was then located at the southwestern corner of West Jackson Street and South Jefferson Street.

In the fall of 1904, a new company was organized under the name of “The Laurens Volunteers.” The company was composed of 61 men who met to drill at the City Hall and, later, the Leitch Stubbs building. By the beginning of 1906, the unit’s name had been changed to “The Dublin Rifles,” and it became part of a loosely organized Georgia National Guard.

The Dublin Rifles were soon after redesignated as Company K of the 2nd Georgia Infantry. By the end of 1907, the unit and other Georgia companies like it were

decommissioned as a result of the peace and prosperity of the times.

With Woodrow Wilson’s declaration of war on Germany in the spring of 1917, the call went out once again to organize home guards. The mission of the local guards was to backfill for the National Guard units that were deploying to Europe.

In the late spring of 1919, the company moved into new quarters on the third floor of the Burch Building on the northwest corner of South Jefferson Street and West Madison Street. The company was later decommissioned during that same summer and replaced by an official National Guard unit.

The “Dublin Guards” then became officially reorganized into the first federally recognized National Guard company in the southeastern United States. The company was designated as Company A of the First Battalion, Georgia National Guard.

In 1921, the Georgia National Guard reorganized again and the unit then became known as Company K of the 122nd Infantry. At the same time, Headquarters Company of the Regiment was formed with its command located in Dublin.

Three years later, the designation was modified to Company K of the 121st Infantry. The Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the regiment were established in Dublin in 1921.

AROUND THE GEORGIA GUARD

COL. HOFFMAN LEAVES GEORGIA GUARD

Major Gen. Terry Nesbitt (left), Georgia's Adjutant General, presents Col. Joe Hoffman with the National Guard Eagle Award during an informal farewell ceremony on the eve of Hoffman's transfer to the active Army's Schoefield Barracks, on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. Hoffman, who has spent 22 of his 30-year military career as an Army Guardsman, is moving on to become the new U.S. Army Pacific Command provost marshal and "top cop" for all the Pacific Rim.

(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Roy Henry.)



INTERNATIONAL AVIATION SYMPOSIUM

Georgia Army Guard Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tim Rikard, aviation maintenance supervisor for 171st Aviation, 78th Aviation Troop Command, explains how the Army and the Guard electronically keep records and order supplies for their aircraft. Those listening are Middle East and Southwest Asia pilots, maintenance officers and maintenance chiefs. Among the countries represented by the group were Lebanon, Jordan, Bahrain, Kyrgyzstan, Egypt, Pakistan and Oman.

(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Roy Henry.)



GOVERNOR HONORS FALLEN

Veterans and families of Georgia's Fallen listen to Gov. Sonny Perdue praise 26 fallen service members, including eight from Macon's 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, for their courage, commitment and self-sacrifice. Perdue addressed the group during the official state Memorial Day ceremony, which honored all of Georgia's Fallen over the past year.

(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Roy Henry.)



CASS HIGH JROTC SUPPORTS 108TH CAV

Cass JROTC cadets present a \$500 check to Maj. Gen. Nesbitt, Georgia's Adjutant General, for the 108th Cavalry Fallen Hero Memorial. The Cass JROTC cadets were able to raise the funds with the support of Wal-Mart in Cartersville. The students collected donations from shoppers throughout the month of May.

FIRST ENLISTMENTS SWORN IN AT NEW OGLETHORPE ARMORY ENLISTMENT SUITE

Sergeant Terry L. Robertson (left) and Pfc. Alicia R. English (right) have their oaths administered by Lt. Col. Anthony Abbott, Commander of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion. They are the first two enlistments sworn in at the new Enlistment Suite located at the Oglethorpe Armory in Ellenwood just outside Fort Gillem. All Georgia Army National Guard Soldiers will now take their oaths in this new facility, which is designed to be more personal and family-friendly than its predecessor.



116TH ACW SENDS FIRST GA ANG TEAM TO MOUNTAIN MAN MEMORIAL MARCH

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Charles R. Van Hoy
116 Air Control Wing
Georgia Air National Guard

GATLINBURG, Tenn., April 18, 2010 – The 116th Air Control Wing became the first ever Georgia Air National Guard unit to send a team to the Mountain Man Memorial March, held in Gatlinburg, Tenn., to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in combat.

The MMM is a yearly event, this being its third year, and it is sponsored by the University of Tennessee's ROTC program and the U.S. Army ROTC. Participants can compete in several events: the 6.5, 13.1 or 26.2 mile marches, and each march has both a light and heavy category. The heavy category requires duty uniform, ATSO gear and a 35-pound rucksack with two canteens.

Each heavy category, full-course team sponsored a Gold Star Soldier who was killed in action. Each team carried a photo, bio and Gold Star flag of their sponsored KIA Soldier, Sailor, Marine or Airman. At the completion of the ruck march, the photo, bio and flag (signed by each team member) was presented as a token to the Gold Star mother.

The 116th ACW team sponsored Capt. Dixon L. Walters, who was shot down (with the other members of his AC-130 crew) over Kuwait Jan. 31, 1991.

The 116th team checked in at the course at 7:00 a.m.; the march started at 9:00 a.m. with several hundred participants. Most participants were ROTC and JROTC. There was also a USMC Team, two teams from McGhee-Tyson ANG Base (tankers and security forces) and several U.S. Army teams. This was the first year that a Georgia Air National Guard team participated, and they completed the march in 10 hours and 48 minutes.



From left to right: Staff Sgt. Matt Wight, Airman 1st Class Kurt Van Hoy, Tech Sgt. Jay Messer, Staff Sgt. Ben Johnson and Master Sgt. Jonathon Crosier

MARATHON GUARDSMEN REPRESENT GEORGIA WELL IN NEBRASKA

Story and photo by Lt. Col. Jeff Olive
Georgia Army National Guard

LINCOLN, Neb., May 2, 2010 – Four Georgia Army Guardsmen and three Georgia Guard Airmen traveled to Nebraska for a special mission that would challenge their physical and mental limitations. This particular mission, the Lincoln National Guard Marathon, is a qualifying race for the All-Guard Marathon team.

Each state Guard brings anywhere from one to five or more runners to compete, but only the top 25 males and 15 females make the All-Guard Marathon team, which will travel throughout the next year to various marathons to compete and promote the Guard.

This year, more Guardsmen participated than ever before – up from 163 last year to 265 this year. The race itself had over 1,100 runners in total. Each runner had trained many grueling months for the event, in their own way, on their own time, through all types of conditions, in varying locations. In the case of Georgia's participating Guardsmen, they found time to train no matter where they were – whether that be the mountains of northern Georgia or a forward operating base in Afghanistan.

All this training aimed at accomplishing something less than one percent of Americans have ever managed to do: complete a marathon.

Of those 265 competing Guardsmen, Georgia's seven runners all finished the grueling 26.2 miles on an unusually hot day. Georgia's top finisher and team captain, Lt. Col. Jeff Olive, finished in two hours and 52 minutes, putting him in second place for his age group. His performance was solid enough to secure him a position with the All-Guard team for the fifth time.

1st Sgt. Devika Hull put forward her personal best marathon performance, finishing in three hours and fifty-eight minutes and taking third for her age group among Guard runners. Despite finishing nine minutes faster than her personal best time, she just missed the cut this year for the All-Guard team.

Cadet Teale Marchette, running his first ever marathon, finished in three hours and 16 minutes, just missing the All-Guard team cut as well, but taking home third place for his age group among other participating guard runners.

1st Lt. Mike Mallon, just home from Afghanistan in March, ran a 3:30 to complete his third marathon appearance.

The three Air Guard participants ran well also. Captain Randy Reid finished in 4:27, Master Sgt. Timothy Brown finished in 4:38, and Master Sgt. Rickey Dickens crossed the finish line in 4:58.

Overall, the event was quite a success for both the Georgia Army and Air National Guard and the National Guard as a whole. If you are interested in participating next year, please contact Lt. Col. Jeff Olive at jeffrey.olive@us.army.mil or 678-462-9031 with your name, age, and a recent half marathon or marathon time.



Left to right: Lt. Col. Jeff Olive, Capt. Randy Reid, 1st Sgt. Devika Hull and 1st Lt. Mike Mallon

DoD

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Friday, 28 May 2010

DoD STARBASE is a premier education program, sponsored and operated by the Georgia National Guard.

Hosted here on Dobbins by the Services Division.

Children of DoD Civilian, Active, Reserves, and Guard are encouraged to participate in this challenging and educational program. DoD STARBASE offers a positive approach to creating excitement and interest in science, technology, engineering and math. The students will interact with military personnel to explore careers and make connections with the "REAL WORLD." The program provides students with a stimulating experience during their week long activities that will last for a lifetime.

Tuition includes all activities, breakfast, lunch, snacks and commemorative T-Shirt.

Contact Dobbins Services

to register your child

678-655-5041 or visit us at Bldg. 727



IN RECOGNITION OF STATE EMPLOYEES



As public employees, the significant work you do often goes unrecognized by those whom you serve and the general public. The fact that you chose a career in the public sector speaks to your commitment to state government and to the community. Your dedication, selfless acts, and the daily sacrifices you make in service to others have not gone unnoticed by me.

I applaud you for a job well done and encourage all Georgians to join me in celebrating and recognizing each of you and your contributions. To that end, I have proclaimed the week of May 5, 2010 as State Employees Recognition Day in Georgia. Together, we are building a better educated, healthier, safer, and more customer friendly Georgia.

During these times of limited resources, you continue to strive to make the citizens of Georgia and their needs the most important issues of your workday. For all that you do, I thank and commend you.

The state of Georgia continues to move toward becoming the best-managed state in the nation, and continues to recruit and maintain the best and brightest leaders and employees. Your reputation for innovation, loyalty, customer service, efficiency, and dedication has contributed to the positive sentiments expressed by the customers you serve.

I am proud to be in service to this great state with each of you.

Keep up the excellent work!

Sonny Perdue



GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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