

ALABAMA GUARDSMAN



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On The Cover

FORT McCLELLAN–The outgoing commander of the 167th Theater Sustainment Command, Maj. Gen. Reynold Hoover, receives the colors as incoming commander, Brig. Gen. Allen Harrell, looks on during a change of command ceremony here Oct. 4, 2014. Hoover commanded the 167th from November 2011 and his next assignment will be with the National Guard Bureau in Washington D.C. Harrell was thankful for the new opportunity. “I want to thank General Hoover for his commitment to the 167th TSC and I am honored to be the next incoming commander,” he said. (Photo by Fredrick Varney).

Adjutant General

Ethics play an important role in the Guard

**Maj. Gen.
Perry Smith**

Every year we get an ethics brief at drill. It's generally mixed in amongst several other briefings that we receive, many of them revolving around our

conduct. Our ethics brief is given by an attorney who has studied ethics academically and who is qualified to instruct on such matters.

While I am very appreciative of our judge advocates and the work they do, let me state emphatically that concern for ethics

is not just for attorneys. Ethics are for you and me and every Soldier, Airman and employee of the Alabama National Guard.

One definition of ethics is "the moral fitness of a decision, course of action, etc." In other words, doing the right thing or making the right decision. This takes personal integrity. We must do the right thing in difficult situations; make the hard decisions, especially when dealing with government resources and time.

Too many times lately I have heard of people in the military – and specifically in the National Guard – across the nation taking advantage of their position of authority to improperly influence someone or some situation for personal gain. As I was telling a

young person recently, you can work somewhere flawlessly for 20 years, build a stellar reputation, and still throw it all away with one quickly made, poor decision.

Ethics, integrity, truth – these types of things are not tools we employ at the proper time; they are principles which shape everything we do. As Albert Schweitzer once wrote, "Truth has no special time of its own. Its hour is now – always."

We say we are Always Ready, Always There. We need to be Always Ethical, Always Fair.

Don't dismiss this year's ethics briefing as just one more presentation to endure – take to heart what it means to be an ethical
(Please see **ETHICS**, page 7)

State Command Sergeant Major

The oath of enlistment: our solemn promise

**Command
Sgt. Maj.
Eddie Pike**

Ever since the birth of the Armed Forces, all members of the United States military have one thing in common: They all were sworn into the military services by reciting an

oath of enlistment. The first oath, created during the establishment of the Continental Army was voted in

effect on June 14, 1775. The first oath was later revised under the Constitution and was approved by Congress on September 29, 1789, and applied to all officers and non-commissioned officers entering military service within the United States. Over the years, minor changes have been made to the oath of enlistment, and a separate oath created for military officers, but the original purpose and goal of the oath remains the same today.

The oath that is used today became effective in 1962, under the Title 10 Amendment and reads as

follows:

I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."

While legally required for all individuals entering (or re-entering)
(Please see **OATH**, page 7)

SARC encourages leaders to foster a culture of respect

by Staff Sgt. Fredrick Varney
131st MPAD

MONTGOMERY--- The mission of the Alabama National Guard's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program is to create an environment free from sexual harassment and sexual assault as well as to treat all victims with dignity and respect.

Sexual assault is a problem in both the state of Alabama and in the military. According to the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center 1,978 rapes were reported in Alabama in 2013. This number includes male victims and victims of other types of sexual assault offenses. According to the Department of Defense annual report on sexual assault in the military for fiscal year 2013, the Department of Defense received 5,061 reports of alleged sexual assault involving one or more service members as either the victim or alleged subject (suspect) – a 50 percent increase over the 3,374 reports received in 2012.

In his sexual assault prevention and response program policy, Maj. Gen. Perry Smith, the adjutant general of Alabama, addresses his guidance in facing this problem.

"I expect every leader – officer and non-commissioned officer, commander, Soldier and Airman to create and promote a positive command climate in which the victim has the confidence in their chain of command to report these crimes immediately. Sexual assault victims will be treated with the utmost dignity and fairness, while maintaining respect for their privacy."

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) Warrant Officer Robert Ryals oversees the Alabama Guard's SHARP program by responding to



Contributed/image

The mission of the Alabama National Guard's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program is to create an environment free from sexual harassment and sexual assaults as well as to treat all victims with dignity and respect.

accusations of sexual assault and sexual harassment.

The SARC/SHARP Specialist's role is very important when it comes to ensuring that victims of sexual assault receive appropriate and responsive care. They serve as the single point of contact to coordinate sexual assault victim care.

Ryals said there are no innocent bystanders when it comes to improving sexual assault prevention and response in the Alabama Guard.

"When we all take personal responsibility to intervene at the earliest signs of inappropriate behavior, our Army will defeat this enemy," he said.

All Soldiers should receive SHARP Unit Refresher Training (URT) annually. The training is comprised of two distinct parts, which includes three hours of face-to-face training in a classroom environment and an online training course

available through the Army Learning Management System (ALMS).

Ryals said that it was important to understand that sexual assault and sexual harassment are not the same, although they are related to each other.

"Sexual harassment is a form of gender discrimination that involves unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual assault refers specifically to rape, forcible sodomy (oral or anal sex), and other unwanted sexual contact that is aggravated, abusive, or wrongful or attempts to commit these acts. Sexual assault must involve physical contact. While sexual harassment can involve physical contact, it can also refer to verbal or other forms of gender discrimination of a sexual nature," said Ryals.

(Please see SARC, page 6)

Snap Shots

A look at some of the recent highlights from the Alabama National Guard



Jacob Hearn/photo

DECATUR, Ala. - Brig. Gen. Danny Speigner presents Col. Joe Barnard Jr. with the Legion of Merit during a change of command and retirement ceremony here Oct. 5, 2014. Col. Terry Grisham assumed command of the 142nd Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, taking over for Barnard, who retired after more than 30 years of service



Johnathan Wilson/photo

MOBILE, Ala. - Outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. George Love (right) and incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Mitchell stand in preparation for the passing of the colors during a change of responsibility ceremony for the 711th Brigade Support Battalion here Sept. 27, 2014.



Johnathan Wilson/photo

MONTGOMERY - Joshua Bryar Crockett (middle) stands with his uncle, Maj. Bryan Pike (left) and his grandfather, State Command Sergeant Major Eddie Pike (right), after his oath of enlistment here Oct. 3, 2014.

6 Alabama Guardsman

Congratulations to the following retiring Alabama Guardsmen:

RETIRED

O5	Reed, Susan	Medical Detachment-Alabama
E9	Cooper, Mitchell	31st CBRN Brigade
E9	Love, George	711th Brigade Support Battalion
E9	Kinder, Clark	135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command
E8	Freese, Steven	203rd MP Battalion
E7	Moore, Vicky	Training Center Fort Rucker
E6	Turner, Morgan	HHC 711th Brigade Support Battalion
E6	Perdue, Willie	781 Transportation Company (Det 1)
E5	Twyman, Belinda	1208th Quartermaster Co.

(SARC continued from page 4)

Soldiers who believe they are being sexually harassed have the option of filing either an informal or formal complaint. Informal complaints of sexual harassment typically involve less severe incidents that can be resolved by the individual, with the help of another, and/or by the unit commander. Formal complaints of sexual harassment are generally handled through the EEO complaint process.

In cases where a Soldier believes he or she may have been a victim of sexual assault, it is very important for them to understand the differences between restricted and unrestricted reports.

Sexual assault victims who want to confidentially disclose a sexual assault without triggering an official investigation can contact a SARC/SHARP specialist, VA/SHARP specialist, or a healthcare provider by filing a

restricted report.

“Soldiers have protected communications in the Army when talking to SARC, UVA’s, and medical personnel,” said Ryals. “However, keep in mind that speaking to a chaplain does constitute an official report.” Unrestricted reporting is an option for victims of sexual assault who desire medical treatment, counseling, legal assistance, SARC/SHARP specialist and VA/SHARP specialist assistance, and an official investigation of the crime.

Ryals said the SARC/SHARP office relies on its victim advocates and leaders at the unit level because they play a crucial role in effectively implementing a successful program.

“Leaders at all levels must emphasize the importance of mentorship and bystander intervention,” said Ryals. “Leaders

must also demand that Soldiers respect each other both sexually and professionally. It is important for leaders to create a culture of respect by mentoring new Soldiers and also being bold enough to address incidents that misrepresent who we are.”

Some Soldiers, such as Staff Sgt. Johnathan Wilson a human resources non-commissioned officer with Joint Forces Headquarters, are happy with the steps the Alabama National Guard is taking to prevent sexual assault.

“Sexual assault at any level is a very serious issue and should not be tolerated,” he said. “The Alabama National Guard is family and we should always treat each other with dignity and respect. I am proud that the Guard is proactively trying to prevent all aspects of sexual harassment or assault.”

(ETHICS continued from page 3)

person. Dishonesty, abuse, ill-gain and the like have no place in leaders and no place in the Alabama National Guard. I expect commanders to set the tone, senior noncommissioned officers to enforce the rules and standards, and every Sol-

dier and Airman to be an example to those around him/her.

As members of the military, we enjoy a certain level of respect – even prestige – among the American public. Remember, as you go through every facet of your life, that you are

an American Soldier or Airman, remember that you are a member of the community, you are part of this society and of humanity. Do the right thing. Lead from the front!

(OATH continued from page 3)

the armed forces, the oath of enlistment is more than a tradition or formality. It is a solemn pledge and a promise to protect the values, freedoms, and ideals that continue to make America strong.

This month, I had the distinguished honor to witness my grandson take the oath of

enlistment into the Alabama Army National Guard. The oath was administered by my son, Maj. Bryan Pike. This month also marks my 43rd anniversary of taking the oath of enlistment. I am honored to be a part of three generations of Alabama Guardsmen serving at the same time.

Soldiers who have enlisted, work tirelessly, and serve faithfully come from all walks of life and have different experiences; but we all share an oath, our promise, to bear true faith and allegiance and to protect our country and Constitution.

Do you have 18 years or more in the Army National Guard and working toward receiving a 20-year letter?

Are you still in the Army National Guard and approaching age 58 or older?

Are you Retired from the Army National Guard, have you reached age 58 or older and will be filing for retirement pay?

If your answer is yes to one or more of these questions, YOU need to attend this briefing!!

This is an informational briefing presented by the Retirement Service Branch. The Retirement Briefing educates the Soldier and spouse on how to prepare for retirement. The retirement process begins with receiving the 20 year letter and through filing the retirement pay application whenever the time comes. This briefing occurs several times and at several locations throughout the state. **Spouses are always welcomed.**

Where: DET 1-158th Support Maintenance CO
1101 GEN Chappie James Avenue
Tuskegee, Alabama 36801

When: 1 November 2014 @ 0900
or
2 November 2014 @ 0900

Briefings last approximately 3 hours and a representative will be available for questions afterwards. All personnel administrative clerks are encouraged to attend this briefing.

Please call if you plan to attend or if you want to know when/where other briefings will be held.

POC: SFC Hails, Fredrick (334)-274-4330