

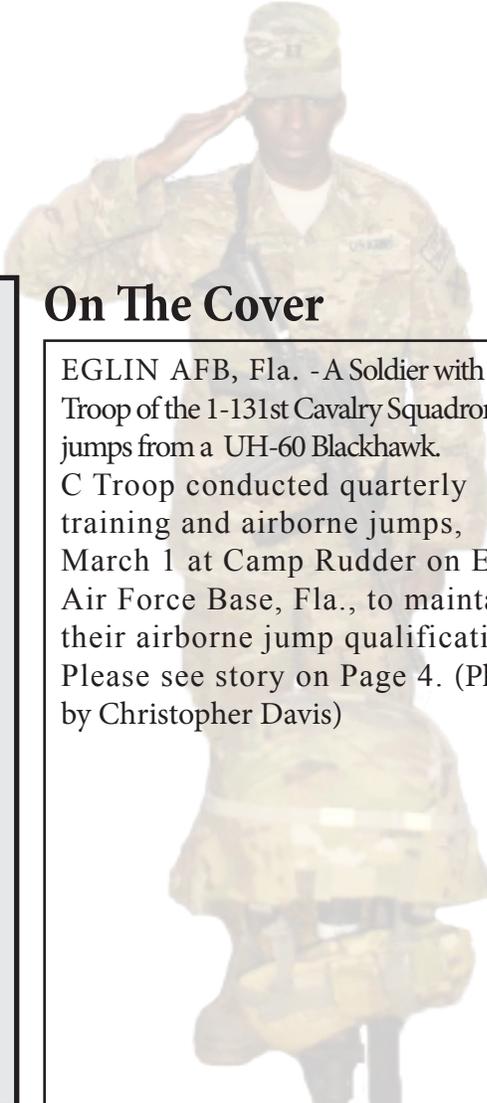
ALABAMA GUARDSMAN

New
Alabama
Code of
Military
Justice

**CAV SOLDIERS JUMP
OUT OF HELICOPTERS
AND INTO TRAINING**

What's Inside

- 3 Adjutant General/State Command Sergeant Major**
- 4 Cav Soldiers jump out of helicopters and into training**
- 5 Snapshots**
- 8 New Alabama Code of Military Justice unveiled**
- 10 Women's History Month**



The Alabama Guardsman is published by the 131st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Alabama Army National Guard. Submissions are encouraged and should be e-mailed to the 131st MPAD, alngpao@mail.mil, (334) 213-7572. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army, the National Guard Bureau or the Alabama National Guard. This publication is electronically published on the Alabama National Guard website.

Adjutant General.....Maj. Gen. Perry Smith
 Public Affairs Branch Chief.....Col. Dennis Butters
 Public Affairs Officer.....Lt. Col. Shannon Hancock
 131st MPAD Commander.....Maj. Andrew J. Richardson
 Senior Editor.....Sgt. 1st Class. Jamie Brown
 Staff Writer.....Sgt. Bethany McMeans
 Staff Writer.....Staff Sgt. Christopher Davis
 Staff Writer.....Sgt. Eric Roberts
 Staff Writer.....Sgt. Brenda Thomas
 Staff Writer.....Spc. William Frye

On The Cover

EGLIN AFB, Fla. - A Soldier with C Troop of the 1-131st Cavalry Squadron jumps from a UH-60 Blackhawk. C Troop conducted quarterly training and airborne jumps, March 1 at Camp Rudder on Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., to maintain their airborne jump qualifications. Please see story on Page 4. (Photo by Christopher Davis)

Adjutant General

Adapting to change is a must in the military



**Maj. Gen.
Perry Smith**

When I joined the Army, we wore what we called fatigues, which were olive drab colored pants and shirt of soft cotton. After a while, we transitioned to the Battle Dress Uniform and

then to the Army Combat Uniform that we now wear. There is talk that in the next couple of years we will transition to yet another uniform.

Each time we changed uniforms, there were many who complained

about one thing or another and wanted to keep the old uniform because it was the one to which they were accustomed and with which they were comfortable. Yet, by and large, the uniform changes have been advancements and have benefited Soldiers.

I mention this to say that the military is always changing. There are several large recent changes and several more on the horizon. We have recently enacted the Alabama Code of Military Justice, giving Alabama National Guard commanders more authority to keep good order and discipline in the ranks; the roles of women are expanding as is reflected in the first female

graduates of the Marine infantry training school and the announcement by the secretary of defense that all positions would be reevaluated on a gender-neutral basis; there are new rules coming to the Army's regulations for appearance and wear of the uniform; and the Department of Defense is planning for budget restrictions in the coming years resulting in cuts to equipment and personnel.

These are changing times. We might think some of the changes are good and some changes we might prefer to do without. Whatever the case, as professional Soldiers and Airmen, we need to stay abreast (Please see *CHANGE*, page 9)

State Command Sergeant Major

State's best warrior competition tests Soldiers mettle



**Command Sgt.
Maj.
Eddie Pike**

Fourteen of the Alabama Army National Guard's finest warriors will converge on Fort McClellan March 18-24, 2014. The first week will be a 40-hour Combatives Level I certification.

During week 2, the competitors will engage in a fast-paced and intense battle against themselves, and each other, as participants of the Alabama National Guard Army Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Best Warrior Competition

(BWC).

This competition brings together seven noncommissioned officers and seven junior Soldiers from the Alabama Army National Guard's major commands to demonstrate their proficiency in skills critical to the success of every Soldier.

BWC events include a physical training test, a board appearance, land navigation (both written and hands-on) and a number of tasks deemed essential for survival on the battlefield, such as casualty evaluation, administering first-aid, searching detainees and weapons marksmanship.

Other events scheduled this year at the competition include shoot/don't shoot and call for fire simula-

tions, a six-mile ruck march with 35 pound rucksack and weapon, confidence course, Warrior Training Tasks of weapons systems to standard, a written examination and a stress shoot lane. Also included in this year's competition will be a mystery event that no one will know anything about until the event begins.

The BWC Competition is coordinated, conducted and scored by the 200th Training Regiment and the Alabama Premobilization Training Assistance Element and is overseen by the state command sergeant major. While BWC is a contest, it is also one of the most extensive and intense training opportunities afforded any soldier. It will be a (Please see *WARRIOR*, page 9)

Cav Soldiers jump out of helicopters and into training

by Christopher Davis
Contributing Writer

EGLIN AFB, Fla. -
“Six Minutes!”

The UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter rose from the ground; it had the feet of six cavalry scouts sitting on the edge of it. Sgt. Anthony Painter, C Troop 1-131 Cavalry Squadron, stood in the back of helicopter acting as the jumpmaster for this stick of six team members and giving all the commands for them.

Each team member had an growing view of the Gulf Coast as the Blackhawk gained altitude to its cruising level of 1,500 feet as it approached the dropzone.

C Troop of the 1-131 Cavalry conducted quarterly training and airborne jumps on March 1st at Camp Rudder on Eglin Air Force Base to maintain their airborne jump qualifications.

“C Troop provides the reconnaissance for corps and division level assets,” said Maj. Richard Locke, the operations officer for the 1-131 Cavalry. The information they record from the battlefield is developed by S-2 intelligence, making them the eyes for command.

C Troop is comprised of long range surveillance teams who are inserted several kilometers ahead of the outer line of A and B Troops of the 1-131 Cavalry motorized scouts in a combat environment. Each team has six to eight mem-



Christopher Davis/photo

EGLIN AFB, Fla. -Sgt. Anthony Painter, aircraft jumpmaster 1-131 Cavalry Squadron, C Troop, conducts a final inspection of soldier's gear before the final command to jump is given, March 1, 2014

bers. A long range surveillance team will observe a named area of interest by command for a period of up to four days before being extracted, added Locke.

C Troop conducted two jumps as part of their required training to maintain their jump status.

“They are conducting a Verbally Initiated Release System jump today,” said Sgt. Maj. Ed Stasiak of the 1-131 Cavalry. The jump included Pathfinders coordinating from the dropzone with the inbound UH-60 Blackhawks and jumpmasters onboard communicating the jump time to each LRS team member.

The first half of the day was spent preparing for the two jumps scheduled. Each LRS team packed and inspected their rucks and

weapons bag for the combat jump that night. Afterwards, all the teams assembled in the jump pit and went through their sustained airborne training.

This is known as the Pre-Jump, according to Stasiak, where a jumpmaster leads the entire group of 60 jumpers through several scenarios a jumper can face when exiting the aircraft.

Two hours before the first jump, Soldiers began securing their parachutes in a two-man effort.

“It takes about 10 minutes with a buddy's help,” said Spc. Jeffrey James of C Troop who was working with Sgt. Nick Werner. When both of them completed their checks, a jumpmaster followed up with his own inspection.

(Please see *JUMP*, page 9)

Snap Shots

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



Shannon Hancock/photo

FORT McCLELLAN, Ala. - Maj. Gen. Perry G. Smith, Alabama's adjutant general, presents the Legion of Merit to Col. Charles Keith during a change of command ceremony here March 8, 2014, as Keith's wife Leigh Ann watches. Keith retired after 37 years of service in the Alabama National Guard. Col. William Griswold took over as the garrison commander of Fort McClellan during the ceremony. Keith also retired from his job as director of the Fort McClellan Army National Guard Training Center. He is succeeded in that role by Col. Curtis Faulk.



Jamie Brown/photo

TUSKEGEE, Ala. - Members of the Alabama National Guard were honored for their work for diversity at the Department of Defense Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity's 2014 National African American History Month Celebration on Feb. 27, 2014. Pictured from left to right are Army Capt. Darold Carson, honoree from the 1-131 Aviation Battalion out of Hope Hull, Air Force Lt. Col. R. J. Smith, honoree from the 117th Air Refueling Wing out of Montgomery, Air Force Col. Cliff James wing commander of the 117th Air Refueling Wing and Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Shawanda DeV Vaughn honoree from the 117th Air Refueling Wing.



Brenda Thomas/photo

ANNISTON, Ala. - Maj. Gen. Perry G. Smith, Alabama's adjutant general, donated a Vietnam-era rifle to the Berman Museum Jan. 25, 2014. He was accompanied by Joe Fitzgerald, North Alabama's civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army, and together they toured the museum with David Ford, the museum's manager. Oil paintings, jade sculptures, Remington bronzes, ancient and modern weapons, photos, clothing, hands-on displays and lifelike dioramas fill the galleries. The tour concluded in the World War II exhibit, where Maj. Gen. Smith and Mr. Fitzgerald presented Mr. Ford with the rifle on behalf of the Alabama National Guard.



Christopher Davis/photo

EGLIN AFB, Fla. -Sgt. Anthony Painter, aircraft jumpmaster, looks for the timing points on the drop zone from the side door of the UH-60 Blackhawk during the night jump for the timing points on the drop zone, March 1, 2014.



Christopher Davis/photo

EGLIN AFB, Fla. -Pfc. John Stringfellow conducts sustained airborne training with fellow Soldiers from a mock platform similar to that of a UH-60 Blackhawk, March 1, 2014.



Christopher Davis/photo

EGLIN AFB, Fla. -A UH-60 Blackhawk flies over the drop zone, with each of the six personnel of a Long Range Surveillance Team jumping clear of the aircraft, March 1, 2014.



Christopher Davis/photo

EGLIN AFB, Fla. - A jumpmaster assists Pfc. John Stringfellow (right) in preparing for a night jump by conducting an inspection on his gear, March 1, 2014.



Christopher Davis/photo

EGLIN AFB, Fla. - Members of C Troop of the 1-131st Cavalry Squadron wait for their stick of jumpers to be called to the tarmac to board the UH-60 Blackhawks, March 1, 2014. The red helmet denotes a Soldier's first time to jump with C Troop.



Christopher Davis/photo

EGLIN AFB, Fla. - A Soldier performs buddy checks and inspections of another Soldier's rig before the jumpmaster conducts his own inspection, March 1, 2014.

New Alabama Code of Military Justice unveiled

by **Bethany McMeans**
131st MPAD

Soldiers and Airmen of the Alabama National Guard now have a new legal authority that they must answer to on and off duty. The Alabama Code of Military Justice has been passed by the legislature and the governor and the Adjutant General of Alabama signed all required documents which has allowed the ACMJ to be in full effect.

“The ACMJ was put together with a lot of different features and considerations designed to be fair to Soldiers and Airmen and useful to commanders,” said Col. Terry F. Moorer, military judge for the Alabama National Guard Judge Advocate General Corps.

“Having the ACMJ is awesome because the Soldiers now know there are consequences for their actions,” said 1st Sgt. Adarain A. Salaam, Joint Forces Headquarters first sergeant. “We need it because it creates structure; and where there is structure, there is more productivity.

“The ACMJ is a powerful tool for commanders and military leaders,” said Sgt. Johnathan E. Wilson, human resources non-commissioned officer, Joint Forces Headquarters. “Having a legal methodology in place to enforce military consequences is for the professional benefit of our service members.”

The ACMJ is a version of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and allows the prosecution of all members of the Alabama National Guard for crimes up to a year imprisonment in punishment. The ACMJ was formed because, subsequent to 9/11, the National Guard shifted into an operational force and didn't have an effective means to discipline besides discharging individuals from the service. The ACMJ bridges the gap between the service members who are in a civilian status and a military status, said Moorer.

“Prior to the ACMJ, commanders were



Contributed/image

The Alabama Code of Military Justice recently went into affect. The ACMJ bridges the gap between the servicemembers who are in a civilian status and a military status.

able to take administrative actions such as counseling or pursuing a reduction,” said Col. W. Terry Travis, staff judge advocate for Joint Forces Headquarters.

An example where the ACMJ could apply would be if an officer ordered a sergeant to straighten up a supply room on drill weekend but the sergeant did not accomplish the task because he or she did not feel like doing it. With the ACMJ in effect, the facts in this example would be a violation of the ACMJ, said Travis.

“As a general rule, the ACMJ is designed to address military offenses,” said Travis. “For example, the offense of willfully disobeying a commissioned officer is not an offense in the civilian world, but it is on the military side.

A service member cannot be charged for the same offense in both the civilian and military system, said Travis. Should an offense happen, such as an assault, the military must reach out into the civilian jurisdiction to see if they want to pursue the case. If the civilian authorities pick up the case, the military cannot.

“Anybody in the Alabama National

Guard is subject to the code at all times and all places,” said Travis.

If an offense is committed outside of the duty day, the ACMJ can still apply if there is a military nexus, meaning the offense has to be a result of a military connection, said Travis.

The ACMJ was a product of a committee that consisted of both civilian individuals and military members ranging from the Alabama JAG Corps all the way to the Judge Advocate General office at National Guard Bureau, said Moorer.

“I think the ACMJ will be very effective and very fair,” said Moorer. “We have to be able to do the job the public expects from the National Guard and can't do that without an effective disciplinary tool.”

The Alabama National Guard judge advocates have been conducting training on the ACMJ to all service members and to the commanders and leadership specifically. If a unit has not received the ACMJ training, please contact the judge advocate for your major command.

(CHANGE continued from page 3)

of coming changes and meet them head on. We need to read professional military-related websites and magazines, stay up to date on regulations and policies, and adapt as necessary while embracing the challenges that may come.

Uniforms come and go; equip-

ment is developed, put into use and retired; but the Guardsman of today is the same Citizen-Soldier of 1636 – a fierce fighter and part of the community. The Army and Air Force core values do not change. We are still expected to have integrity, loyalty and the rest of our

values. That doesn't change. So, next time you hear of another change, remember that we change for a reason – maybe it's good and maybe it's bad, but we are professionals and we will adapt and will remain true to our values. Lead from the front!

(WARRIOR continued from page 3)

high-paced high-speed competition that will challenge and surprise the competitors with events they haven't seen in previous years.

BWC will test a Soldier's physical and mental limits. The most challenging portion of the BWC is the stress that is placed on the competitors throughout the competition. Each Soldier and non-commissioned officer is being evaluated and timed constantly

and they must always be ready to react to any situation. The competitors will be sleep-deprived, worn out and stressed out, but are expected to be able to react intelligently and professionally at all times. The Soldier and non-commissioned officer who can do that will be the 2014 Alabama Army National Guard's Best Warriors and will represent the Alabama Army National Guard at the Region III Best Warrior Competi-

tion in Camp Blanding, Fla April 13-18 2014.

These 14 Soldiers and non-commissioned officers will go into the BWC with their heads held high and they'll leave with their heads held high, saying and knowing they have done their best. Why is that? Because they are Soldiers and non-commissioned officers of the Alabama Army National Guard.

(JUMP continued from page 4)

"Now, we wait," said James as he and the rest of the teams sat, rested and even cracked a few jokes.

The jumpmaster onboard locks each team member into the harness rig when they load the Blackhawk. The time from liftoff to the actual jump lasted barely more than six minutes for each flight. As practiced that morning, the jumpmaster ran through each command while onboard, with the LRS team repeating his commands.

"The mission these Soldiers do

requires the best and that is why we do it," said Lt. Col. Dale Murray, squadron commanding officer of the 1-131. "Airborne attracts some of the highest caliber soldiers in Alabama and the U.S."

Upon completion of their first jump, the LRS teams reassemble in the martialing area and prep for their next jump, a night jump well after the sun has gone down.

This was a combat jump for each team member with ruck and weapon attached to their harness to be released upon judgment to the approximation of distance to

the ground."

After the second jump, LRS team members assembled on the edge of the drop zone in the pitch black. Each team leader took accountability and checked on each person's gear and any injury issues.

"The view is better at night seeing the lights and cities you cannot see during the daytime," said Spc. Steven Collins. "The ground comes up a lot faster though."

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

*Celebrating Women of
Character,
Courage,
and*



Jolisa Lu

Jowet Yellen



Tommy Duckworth



Caroline Kennedy



VADM Michelle Howard

Commitment