

# Alabama Guardsman

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# Military police prosper with partnership

Contributed Story  
231st MP Bn.

The 231st Military Police Battalion has been a busy organization. Three subordinate units have been in the process of deploying to either Iraq or Afghanistan. Remaining units of the battalion trained in preparation for possible future deployments and potential state missions after disasters like hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, forest fires, etc.

Still, the Alabama Army Guard's oldest MP unit recently sent a team of subject matter experts to Romania for a special training mission. The Alabama team included Lt. Col. Jim McGlaughn, commander of the 231st MP Battalion, Maj. Eugene Butler, Capt. Jim Napier, Master Sgt. Donnie Nelson and Staff Sgt. Chad Cook.

The group was known as Team Bama, a take-off on the battalion call sign, and had a cross section of MP experience including operators, combat veterans, instructors and logisticians.



Contributed/Photo

*Soldiers from Romania's 265th Military Police Battalion practice training operations with Alabama Army National Guard Military Police soldiers during a training exercise in Romania. Alabama and Romania are partners in the State Partnership program.*

With the demands of the ongoing Global War on Terror, a mission of this type might seem strange to those not familiar with the Alabama National Guard's partnership with the country of Romania.

Today's Alabama/Romanian partnership is a text-book example of how a state and a host nation closely cooperate for the development of long term personal relationships, training operations and cultural exchange.

During the exercise in Romania, the American team noticed that the Romanian MPs had great respect

for the American Military.

McGlaughn noted the interesting duality of the Country's personality. "Romania is at the center of one of the world's oldest civilizations. However, they are a relatively new and growing democracy."

"We are committed to assisting them with this evolution and ensuring their military has all the support we can provide. Additionally, the Romanians appreciate America and want to be our friends."

(Please see *MPs*, page 6)

## Alabama Guardsman

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## On the Cover

Armed with mock M4 paintball guns, Warrant Officer Candidates Ruben Molina (left) and Alejandro Rodriguez (right) from Puerto Rico maneuver through abandoned buildings in search of a POW while reacting to direct and indirect fire during scenario based training held at the Military Training in Urban Terrain (MOUT) site located at Fort McClellan, Ala. The scenario based course is mandatory training for all candidates enrolled in the Alabama National Guard's Warrant Officer School, Fort McClellan, Ala. The school offers a two week phase three course that is open to all 50 states and four territories. (Photo by Katrina Timmons)

## Adjutant General

## Looking ahead in preparation for 2010



**Maj. Gen.  
Abner C. Blalock**

As we close out FY-2009 and start FY-2010, it is time to reflect on the past and focus on the future. 2009 included the election and inauguration of a new President; the preparation and deployment of

1500 Soldiers and 400 Airmen and the redeployment of 200 Soldiers and 100 Airmen. We also had the continued modernization of Army National Guard equipment and the first steps in the Active Association of the 187th Fighter Wing and the 117 Air Refueling Wing.

The assigned strength of the Alabama National Guard exceeded 100 percent of goal in both services! None of these successes could have been pos-

sible without the men and women of the Alabama Army and Air National Guard! Their welfare, training and development are always my top priority.

As we enter 2010, there are many uncertainties. Congress is determining FY-10 funding and resourcing; the Quadrennial Defense Review will recommend the size of the Defense Department, including the balance of forces in the Active and Reserve Components. Congress is determining the number and types of aircraft required to defend our Nation and protect our Freedom. The National Military Strategy is evolving to link to the National Security Strategy. The Combatant Commanders' strategy in Iraq and Afghanistan is evolving under the watchful eyes of the National Command Authority.

In spite of all this uncertainty, we know the major areas we must focus on in 2010. These areas are outlined in the Strategic Plan and supporting Training Guidance. We will prepare almost 2000

soldiers for deployment in 2011 under the Army Force Generation model, including almost 1,000 soldiers currently sourced for deployment in 2010 or 2011. We will reset the Air Guard from AEF deployments in preparation for the next rotation in FY-11. We will improve policies and processes under the Strategic Plan. We will take our Enlisted, Warrant Officer and Officer development programs to the next level, and improve the services provided to families in our Deployment Cycle Support program. Within our constrained funding limits, we will modernize a few facilities.

While 2010 will yield surprises, I am confident the men and women of the Alabama National Guard will again make the difference between success and failure. I want to thank each of you for your hard work and tell you that you do make a difference regardless of rank or position. I commend each of you for your Service to each other, our State, and our Country! Proud To Serve!

## State Command Sergeant Major

## L-D-R-S-H-I-P: An acronym to live by



**Command Sgt. Maj.  
Danny Ashley**

The army is one of the premier organizations for the use of acronyms. We use acronyms so frequently that we have glossaries in our publications telling us the meaning or definition

of the acronym. Many of our service branches use the same acronym, but with a different meaning.

Some of the more frequently used acronyms that I hear on a daily basis are BOG-boots on the ground, FOB-forward operating base, KIR-key indicator report, and of course we need a dictionary to understand all of the acronyms associated with our technology world. TUSA, IT, RCAS, IP, IA, are just a few of the abbreviations that we hear daily.

As we progressed in our military careers we learned catchy phrases or abbreviations to help us remember important information. We all know that "Sergeants Majors Eat Sugar Cookies" helps us remember the (5) paragraph operations order-Situation, Mission, Enemy, Signal and Command. We also know that ACE cards that we carry on our person mean Ask-Care-Escort relating to a soldier in need of immediate

help in our suicide intervention plan.

One that we should all know and adhere to on a daily basis both in the military, and as citizens is the acronym L-D-R-S-H-I-P. This is the acronym for Army Values: Loyalty-Duty-Respect-Selfless service-Honor-Integrity- Personal Courage.

These are attributes that we should have in our personal lives as well as our military lives. We should also instill these same values in our children.

These are attributes that not only make us better soldiers, but also better parents, neighbors and citizens. NCO's and senior leaders should strive each day to live up to the Army Values and work to instill these values in our young soldiers.

# Snap Shots

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



*Members of the Alabama National Guard's Joint Family Support Assistance Program are pictured with Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority sisters from Montgomery area colleges. The sorority donated two large boxes of school supplies to the Alabama National Guard as a part of a community service project.*

Katrina Timmons/photo

*The 877th Engineering Combat Battalion was awarded their 168th Brigade Combat Patches on 10 September 2009. Soldiers may receive their combat patches from the first higher command with a general officer after spending one day in a combat zone. The 877th Engineering Combat Battalion started sending troops to Afghanistan in March 2008, with the remainder of the battalion joining them in June 2008. .*



Contributed/photo



Katrina Timmons/photo

*2nd Lt. Robert S. Tubberville (kneeling facing away) and 2nd Lt. Umut Ural (standing over soldier) assist 2nd Lt. Michael A. Merring to complete close to 100 push-ups while members of the Spur Ride Cadre, Staff Sgt. Eddie Johnson (far left) and Staff Sgt. John J. Carden (far right) observe. Tubberville, Ural and Merring are all participating in the 1-131st Cavalry Squadron's Spur Ride. Each Shave-Tail, troops without their spurs, must successfully complete the ride in order to earn their spurs. At the beginning of the ride, each Shave-Tail was asked to empty the contents of their rucksacks to ensure all their gear is accounted for. Missing items cost the Shave-Tails 25 pushups. Each Shave-Tail had their share of push-ups to do. Some more than others.*

*Chief Warrant Officer 5 Paul Parker, president of the "Rising Eagles" Warrant Officer Chapter in Alabama and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Tommy Gilbert, state command Chief Warrant Officer, present newly commissioned Warrant Officer 1 Mickey Dickerson of Atlanta, Ga. with a decorative saber donated by the "Rising Eagles" Warrant Officer Chapter. A saber is awarded to the Alabama Army National Guard Warrant Officer Candidate School's Distinguished Honor Graduate. Dickerson is the first female candidate to ever receive a top leadership award here. She received both the Distinguished Honor Graduate Award and the Leadership Award. The Leadership Award recipient is chosen by the class.*

Katrina Timmons/photo



# In Iraq 2025th hauls heavy load in a hurry

by Gregory Wilson  
Canadian Forces

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq — Alabama Guardsmen from the 2025th Heavy Equipment Transportation Company, based in Jacksonville, Ala., transported over 100 Strykers for the 25th Infantry Division from Aug. 29 to Sept. 5.

The Strykers were moved from Warhorse to Joint Base Balad. This move was part of the first phase in consolidation of forces to major bases within Iraq. The mission required almost all the personnel and vehicles from the unit.

The transportation Soldiers faced many obstacles during their one-week mission. The unit had to cross the Tigris River on a temporary bridge. The bridge allowed only one foot between the railing and the truck tires.

Complicating the mission further, the 2025th Transportation

*(MPs continued from page 2)*

During the recent exercise, the Romanian Military Police, including soldiers from Romania's 265th MP Battalion, went through a complex exercise using the crawl, walk, run training method. The event included squad live fire, crowd control operations, military operations in urban terrain (MOUT), and personal security of a VIP.

After each iteration, Team Bama personnel would conduct an After Action Review (AAR) with the Romanian command group. In cases

Co. was converted to a HET unit just prior to their Iraq mobilization. The average driver had less than 100 hours of driving time on the HET. After seven days of transporting the Strykers to their new home, the 2025th totaled nearly 350 hours of driving time, 19,400 miles, and hauled a total of 3,114 tons of cargo.

"They have proven to be very versatile and determined to prove themselves as ca-

where the Romanian techniques varied from American doctrine, tactics, techniques and procedures, the differences were explained and discussed. During the ensuing iterations, the Alabama Team noticed the Romanians would adopt the AAR comments and incorporate these changes immediately and directly into the training scenarios.

The Romanian command group anticipated a long-term relationship with the American military in the Global War On Terror and wanted to ensure that their procedures were



contributed/photo

**A Soldier with the Alabama National Guard's 2025th Heavy Equipment Transportation Company performs maintenance on a vehicle.**

pable drives," said Maj. Earnest Hearn, commander, 2025th Heavy Equipment Transportation Co. "I could not have asked for a better company of Soldiers."

similar if troops from the two nations worked closely together in a theatre of combat. The Bama Soldiers remarked that the most impressive thing about the event was the quality of Romania soldiers.

Recently, the Romanians MPs have had as many as six individual troop deployments to all corners of the globe. McLaughn gave the Romanians high marks. "These warriors are tough and battle hardened, we would be proud to serve with the Romanians anywhere and anytime," he said.

*Open up and say ahhh...*

# Checking up on the Guard's check ups

by Clyde Smith  
Staff Writer

It's been said that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. That is the prevailing thought behind the Preventive Health Assessment (PHA). Det. 5 (Med. Det.) STARC, has been providing Guard Members with PHAs since March of 2008.

"The purpose of the assessment is to closely monitor the health status of the Alabama National Guard members with the purpose of providing preventive health care, treatment and testing if best," stated Major Brad Benton, Alabama National Guard deputy state surgeon.

"The PHA is done every 12 months, no later than 15 months," said Benton. "It basically is a snap-shot of our Soldier's current health so we can identify if they are deployable. If the assessment identifies that they are non-deployable we try to get them with a case manager to get those issues resolved."

In September the Medical Detachment provided PHAs to Guard Members at Joint Force Headquarters where, according to Benton, they completed more than 70 assessments a day over a weekend including walk-ins for the seasonal flu shots.

Benton and his team members were also working along with the Alabama Department of Public Health to facilitate the H1N1 vaccines when they become available in the near future.

"We want to encourage and inform our Soldiers of making healthy lifestyle choices by means of educating them on tobacco and alcohol abuse, stress management, weight management and proper nutrition," added Benton.



Clyde Smith/photo

**X-ray Tech Sue Hill prepares Lt. Col. Paul Zanglin, Command Group XO, JFHQ, for his bite wing x-rays, which checks for cavities, during his annual physical health assessment.**

Benton believes that in conjunction with thorough exams, his team is helping soldiers to identify and create sensible plans to manage their health and occupational risks.

"The health assessment is a great way to keep track of how the Soldiers are maintaining their health conditions," said Dr. James Tennyson, an Alabama dentist who performed the annual dental exams.

"We look for decay, gum disease and we rate each case based on the required treatment needed. If a Soldier is given a class one then there aren't really any issues which need to be resolved immediately. Now if they are given anything above a class three then we have to make sure they get the treatment needed in order to get them up deployable status."

Tennyson also wants Soldiers and their units to be informed regarding a program called the Reserve Health

Readiness Program which is designed to increase service member's readiness through the provision of medical and dental services – preferably dental treatment.

The program is being sponsored by the Department of Defense and Force Health Protection team.

"I totally agree with everything the Alabama National Guard is doing here and I think it is an excellent way for everyone to stay abreast and accountable for their health," said Sue Hill, a radiology technician working at the assessment

"This is an example of the quality of service our Alabama National Guard has," added Hill. "No other employer is going to make sure you have your vision and dental exams along with your immunization shots each and every year. This is a true sign of caring for your people."