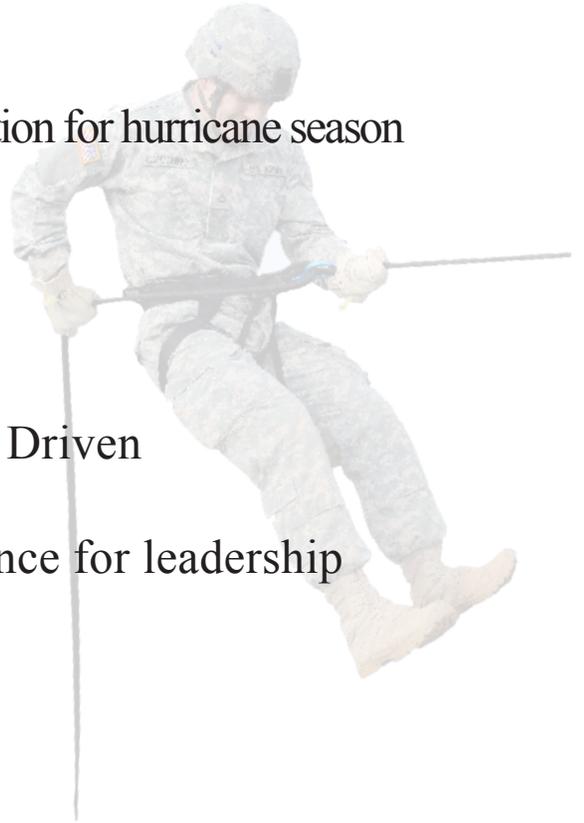


# ALABAMA GUARDSMAN



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### On The Cover

*On June 16th, 2015 a welcoming ceremony was held for Soldiers of the Alabama National Guard as part of Operation Resolute Castle 15 in Cincu, Romania. Soldiers with the 877th Engineer Battalion, 1166th MP Company, 31st Signal Company and other contributing Guard units will work and train with the Romanian Army's 136th Engineer Battalion. This operation is apart of Atlantic Resolve South to offer our continued commitment and support to our NATO allies and partners. (Photo by Spc. Jaccob Hearn).*

## Adjutant General

# State Partnership Program is beneficial in many ways



**Maj. Gen.  
Perry Smith**

As annual training season gets into full swing, I am so proud that we have so many troops supporting our State Partnership Program partner, Romania.

We have large groups from the 117th Air Refueling Wing, 187th Fighter Wing, 1st in the 131st

Cavalry, and the 877th Engineer Battalion who have gone already or are preparing to go to Romania this year, totaling more than 1,000 Soldiers and Airmen.

No other year that I can remember have we had this many troops training in Romania. At a time when recruiting and retention seem to be an uphill battle, what a great tool these trips can be. Not only are we helping our longtime partners, but we are also conducting real world missions, and making a real difference on the world scene where Vladimir

Putin's aggression has created uncertainty throughout much of Europe.

We have been partners with Romania for more than 20 years. In that time, I have had the pleasure of visiting several times. Every time I go, I try to convey what the partnership has meant to the Alabama National Guard. And every time I go, everyone with whom I meet tells me how important our partnership is to Romania and its armed forces.

So, if you get to go on one of **(Please see PARTNERSHIP, page 8)**

## State Command Sergeant Major

# Sergeant Major of the Army: Creating Adaptive Leaders



**Command  
Sgt. Maj.  
Eddie Pike**

The sergeant major of the army, Daniel Dailey, visited Redstone Arsenal, Alabama on May 7th, 2015, and provided service members a unique opportunity to interact with him in a town hall style

presentation. The sergeant major of the army discussed his priorities and new initiatives that will enable the Army and its reserve components to train and react more efficiently and tactically in an ever-changing global environment.

Dailey emphasizes that the Army will place targeted emphasis on developing adaptive leaders for a complex world. In

order to accomplish this, units will continue to train for full-spectrum operations while focusing on core Soldier competencies and military occupational skills.

Soldiers and leaders within all ranks must embrace lessons learned from existing conflict, train for regionally aligned tactical operations and continue to strengthen partnerships while taking advantage of broadening global opportunities.

Dailey discussed his plan for investing in the individual Soldier, focusing on the demands of the changing war fight and the adjusting expectations of Soldiers here at home. Each Soldier is an investment and the Army must capitalize on the value of each Soldier, individually and collectively. The Army is preparing to adjust educational benefits and expand the number of formal educational opportunities for enlisted Soldiers, ensuring

that Soldiers are capable and confident in their military and professional abilities.

It is important that Soldiers take full responsibility of their careers, doing their best to exceed standards in all areas of competency. As the military continues to downsize, the market for available promotions, new assignments and deployment opportunities will become increasingly competitive.

As the state command sergeant major, I was honored to participate in hosting the sergeant major of the army in our great state of Alabama. Sgt. Maj. of the Army Dailey was impressed with our Soldiers and acknowledged the very important role the National Guard serves regionally and globally. The Alabama National Guard will continue to exceed standards and produce service members that are best fit to serve.

## Alabama Guard conducts exercise in preparation for hurricane season

by Spc. William Frye  
Staff Writer

MONTGOMERY, Alabma -- The Joint Operations Center at the Alabama National Guard Joint Force Headquarters here is alive with activity. Soldiers and Airmen fill every inch of the space. They huddle in groups around computer screens pouring over data and emails from the field. The Alabama National Guard's Domestic Operations Group (DOG) is digging into day four of its annual hurricane exercise (HURREX) 2015.

HURREX 2015 is a week-long hurricane response exercise from June 1 to June 7.

The HURREX simulates a hurricane from landfall until six days after to validate the effectiveness of our systems to provide mission command during hurricane response, said Col. Jim Hawkins, senior domestic operations officer.

"We want to make sure the tools we have in place at the DOG and at the local level are in sync, that's why we take the time every year to focus on hurricane exercises," said Lt. Col. Mike Tomberlin with the DOG. "We have outside contractors come in every year to throw all kinds of situations at us, even things that we probably would never see, just to make sure we can respond to anything."

DOG organizes the exercise to remain prepared for any natural disaster that could occur in Alabama.

"HURREX is a DOG driven exercise," said Tomberlin. "The DOG was formed in April 2011 two weeks before the April 27 tornadoes, the worst natural disaster to ever hit the state. The governor and the adjutant general made the decision to have a standing group of people who are always focused on domestic operations whenever an event happens. The April 27 tornado response was recognized as being so good because we al-



William Frye/photo

*MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Maj. Dewana Butler, and other Soldiers and Airmen, take part in the annual HURREX at Joint Force Headquarters, Alabama National Guard, Montgomery, Alabama, June 4, 2015.*

ready had a group in place working towards things. Domestic response is the single most important mission in the state because we are helping our fellow citizens."

The Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) is in charge of the state's disaster response, but the Guard plays a major supporting role.

"We support civil authorities through tasking from the AEMA" said Hawkins. "The Guard's job in a natural disaster is to fill any gaps that are outside the capabilities of other state agencies. We provide any support state agencies need. We are likely to assist the Alabama Law Enforcement agency with our Military Police as well as support communities with distribution points passing out food, ice and water. We can do search and rescue and power generation using Army generators. There's a whole host of missions we can do."

The Guard plains and trains rigorously in order to remain in a state of readiness.

"We have a very deliberate process to prepare for hurricanes, which are one of the greatest threats our state can face," said Hawkins. "The National Guard is an intricate part of the states response plain and we go through a deliberate process to make sure we are ready all the way from the headquarters down to the individual soldier."

When the rubber meets the road this type of training benefits the citizens of Alabama in tangible and intangible ways.

"In a disaster situation, when you see the National Guard, you start to feel that things are going to get better," said Tomberlin. "We are here to make things better. We serve the citizens. We are citizens ourselves. We care about this state and we see domestic response as one of the most important things we do."

# Snap Shots

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



Contributed photo

*Alabama Guardsmen from the 117th Air Refueling Wing Civil Engineering Squadron renovate a Romanian medical clinic as part of a Deployment for Training mission in April 2015.*



Contributed photo

*Special Agent Avery Morris, an ALERRT instructor teaches Sgt. 1st Class Michael A. Minton with the 200th Training Regiment, Alabama National Guard, the tactics and techniques of solo officer movements at the Fort McClellan Training Center April 29, 2015. ALERRT, or Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training, is a dynamic course of instruction designed to prepare first responders to isolate, distract, and neutralize an active shooter.*



Katie Dowd/photo

*ASHLAND, Alabama --Lt. Col. Andy Davis, commander, 1200th Command Sustainment Support Battalion and Command Sgt. Maj. Larry White case the unit colors during a deployment ceremony here June 13, 2015. The 1200th will deploy approximately 50 Alabama National Guard Soldiers to Egypt for an ongoing, multinational peacekeeping mission which has monitored the peace and the border between Egypt and Israel since 1979.*

*The 1200th will provide logistics support to the units conducting the observation mission in three sectors along the Egypt-Israel border. Once they reach their assignment, the colors will then be uncased.*



Christopher Davis/photo

**MOBILE, Alabama --** Members of the Buffalo Soldiers reenactment troupe lead those in attendance of the 11th Annual Blue Star Salute to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the national anthem here May 16, 2015. The 151st Army Band of the Alabama's Army National Guard performed the national anthem. Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie W. Pike (left) and Brig. Gen. Danny K. Speigner (right) represented the Alabama's National Guard at the event.



Johnathan Wilson/photo

**REDSTONE ARSENAL, Alabama --** Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey speaks to a group of Soldiers, including more than 60 Alabama Guardsmen during a visit here May 7, 2015.



Contributed/photo

**CARLISLE, Pennsylvania --** Lt. Col. Mike Izzo (left) of the Alabama National Guard and Lt. Col. Christian Dan from Romania work together during their time spent here at the Army War College. Izzo was the sponsor for Dan in his seminar and the two worked together for 10 months to include taking the Joint Warfighting Advanced Studies Program (JWASP) elective together. This is another example of the strong partnership between Alabama and Romania (Please see the Adjutant General column on Page 3).



Jacob Hearn/photo

*On June 16, 2015, a welcoming ceremony was held for Soldiers of the Alabama National Guard as part of Operation Resolute Castle 15 in Cincu, Romania. Soldiers with the 877th Engineer Battalion, 1166th MP Company, 31st Signal Company and other contributing Guard units will work and train with the Romanian Army's 136th Engineer Battalion. This operation is a part of Atlantic Resolve South to offer our continued commitment and support to our NATO allies and partners.*



Shannon Hancock/photo

*PRATTVILLE, Alabama -- Members of the 217th Military Police Company salute during a deployment ceremony here May 9, 2015. The 217th will be deploying to the Middle East in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. The unit will be assisting American troops by conducting customs border clearance.*



Willaim Frye/photo

*Col. Jeffery E. Smitherman speaks at his retirement ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters, Montgomery, Alabama, May 27, 2015. Smitherman's last assignment was as the Alabama Army National Guard's Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations.*

*(PARTNERSHIP continued from page 3)*

these training trips, please realize how important your work is. Remember that you are the only Soldier or Airman from the Alabama National Guard that some people might ever meet – conduct yourself accordingly. Try to teach someone something new and try to learn at least one new thing every day. Also, when you return, tell others about the great experience you had training with other troops and learning about a

different culture.

If you didn't get to go on one of these missions this year, it is likely that an overseas mission is coming your way in the coming year or two. The best thing you can do is be ready when the opportunity arises. That means, making sure all of your schools are current, that you maintain your height-weight standards, and that you pass your physical fitness test.

I look forward to hearing from you as you return from your annual training, whether in Romania or somewhere closer to home.

Work hard to ensure that Alabama remains a top organization within the National Guard. I am, as always, so proud to be a part of the Alabama National Guard because of each of you who honorably wear the uniform. Lead from the front!

*FORT McCLELLAN, Alabama –Capt. Jason Odom from Alabama, a platoon trainer with Class 60 at the Alabama Military Academy inspects Officer Candidate Laura Nygren's pull-ups during recent training here. Nygren is a Guardsman from Louisiana who is enrolled in the Summer Accelerated Officer Candidate School here. The Summer Accelerated OCS Class 60 started on June 13, 2015 with 115 candidates and will run for 57 straight days. Thirteen states are represented in the class. (contributed photo).*



*Capt. Shannon Metcalf was selected as the Air National Guard Association of Alabama (NGAAL) Company Grade Officer of the Year. Metcalf serves as the Unit Voting Program Manager for the 226th Combat Communications Group, the 232nd Combat Communications Squadron and has assisted the 280th Special Operations Communications Squadron with setting their program up. She has volunteered to mentor newly appointed cyber operations officer candidates at the Academy of Military Science on Maxwell Air Force Base. (contributed photo).*

# National Guard Partnerships – Solution Driven

by Staff Sgt. Sandra Lucas  
131st MPAD

While military planners wrestle with a potential \$500 billion cut to the defense budget, Eric Gerritson, master planner, future operations, Alabama National Guard, is cutting through red-tape and policy hurdles.

Gerritson and his team are known for looking ahead and planning for the future. Yet, today is the future; and, in this world of fiscal constraints, they are working to increase the maximum effective range of each dollar.

When the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency needed space throughout Alabama, Gerritson looked beyond his fence and proposed a solution – a partnership.

“There is so much goodness in this story,” said Gerritson.

“They had a need for space in the west central end of Division B since their headquarters was in Dothan. We provide availability with six administrative offices, access to a gym, lockers, showers, drill hall, conference room, classroom(s) and kitchen,” Gerritson wrote in an email.

Division B includes the work of both Dothan and Troy offices. Barber, Pike, Chrenshaw and Butler counties were worked from Dothan before the partnership in Troy.

The result for the ALEA partnership in Troy is an estimated ten year savings of \$76,000. The other partnership, in Decatur, Alabama, is an estimated return on investment over 35-years of \$24,539 per year, or \$858,860.

“This is a cost saving measure; we (ALEA) didn't have to build a building. It is outstanding,” said Trooper Kevin Cook, with ALEA.



William Frye/photo

*Staff Sgt. Justin Mack, 1st Battalion 117th Field Artillery (right) stands with Alabama state trooper Sgt. Thad Chandler in front of the Alabama National Guard Armory in Troy.*

For the National Guard, co-locating with partners like ALEA will assist in crisis response. Although policies prohibit the organizations from sharing all information, when a crisis hits, the coordination will be aided by close proximity.

"Being with the National Guard will help during natural disasters. It helps with communications, logistics and planning. When faced with disaster response, we can walk next door and begin the logistical planning; this enhances the communications," said Cook.

Gerritson's program is a component of a Pentagon initiative called the Armory Partnership Program. In addition to senior leadership totaling up the program, Cook, who is also an Alabama Air National Guardsman, hopes this type of exciting partnership continues.

"I see the benefits for all the citizens of Alabama," said Cook.

Alabamians are most familiar with the disaster response of the National Guard, the business of the Guard is lesser known.

"The potential of the National Guard remains untapped," said Brig. Gen. Danny Speigner, assistant adjutant general, Alabama National Guard.

The economic impact is impressive. The Alabama National Guard, in fiscal year 2014, provided a dramatic impact in excess of \$1 billion in economic stimulus.

Further, 87 percent of the state employees' salaries at the National Guard Headquarters are federally reimbursed to the state.

"We are one of the top five businesses in Alabama," said Speigner.

Solution driven, good investment – that makes good business sense. Hooah!

## 10 Alabama Guardsman

Congratulations to the following retiring Alabama Guardsmen:

**RETIRED**

E9	Allen William E. Jr.	20th SF Battalion 01 Co. A
E7	Bishop, Roger L.	Joint Forces Headquarters
O4	Campbell, Dwight K.	Joint Forces Headquarters
O6	Cotney, Donald S.	Joint Forces Headquarters
E5	Dillard Anthony J.	135 Sustainment Command
E6	Ford, Leon	1670 Trans Co. (Det. 1)
E8	Gautney, Robert W.	HHC 226 ME Brigade
E6	Higginbotham, Joel R.	Det 1 168 Engineer Co.
E7	Kent, Louis A.	HHC 877 EN Battalion
E7	Lambrecht Michael W.	128th MP Co. (CBT SPT)
E7	McCoy, Donald W.	167th Theater Sustainment Command
CW3	McCullough, Josiah T.	Joint Forces Headquarters
E8	McKay, William C	HHC 20th SF GP (ABN) 1 SF
E6	McNeill William H. II	HHC 226th ME Brigade
O5	Payne, Winfred P.	1103 CSSB
O4	Phillips, Pamela T.	Joint Forces Headquarters
E8	Pierce, Kenneth H.	217th MP Co (Rear)
E7	Shareef, David A.	Group Special Troops Company
E8	Sims, Jackie L.	2025 Trans Co.
E6	Smith, Larry T.	151st Army Band
O4	Smitherman, Amanda H.	31ST Chemical Brigade
O6	Smitherman Jeffery E.	Joint Forces Headquarters
E7	Thompson Katie M.	HHC 731 Combat Sustain Support Battalion
O6	Thornton, Mark R.	167TH Theater Sustainment Command
E8	Welch, Mikki, T.	440th Theater Opening Element
CW4	Wex, Nancy R.	Training Center Fort McClellan
E6	Wilson, Lawanda R.	135th Sustainment Command

*Editors note: The names of retired Alabama Guardsmen are provided by MACOMs*

# Alabama Guard Captain develops a science for leadership

by Staff Sgt. Christopher Davis  
Contributing Writer

Capt. Allison Burke never struggled with science in school. It was always a subject that she just naturally understood.

Burke is the incoming commander of the Headquarters Detachment (HHD) for the 31st Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Brigade. This assignment will be a two-year duty assignment that will allow her to utilize her science background and one that she hopes will help her to transition to a CBRN training post at a Washington, D.C. lab.

Burke is a graduate from Grambling State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. As a civilian, she works as a researcher at the Army Aeromedical Research Lab at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

Her biggest influence to join the military and become an officer was her father, a career Marine non commissioned officer. Her dad encouraged her to seek higher achievements and suggested that being an officer could help her further her education goals as well. But it was the women of her family who instilled Burke's strong sense of science and work ethics. Her mom, a registered nurse at the local civilian hospital, encouraged her to pursue a degree in science.

Burke worked with the 31st CBRN Brigade at Vibrant Response 15, a CBRN exercise held yearly at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. She worked as the CBRN officer for the brigade and provided critical information that helped the commander and operations officer decide proper courses of



Christopher Davis/photo

*TUSCALOOSA, Alabama --Capt. Allison Burke works with Staff Sgt. Ozzie Pugh, Master Sgt. Bruce Reeves and Capt. Rickeisha Robinson on the 31st HHD unit strength maintenance. As the incoming commander, Burke is responsible to accounting unit strength numbers.*

actions for mission assignments.

Members of the 31st CBRN noted her expertise at a command post training exercise at Camp McCain, Mississippi, when she analyzed a partial piece of information. Her analysis and recommendation for the exercise saved first responder lives in the simulation. She accomplished this without access to the computerized information channels and received the tidbits of information from a workgroup.

The exercise liaison officials said they were planning to make the simulation harder on the 31st CBRN but were impressed with Burke's quick recognition and aversion of a potentially catastrophic simulated disaster.

Burke's work at Vibrant Response 15 was also praised.

"She did a fantastic job, event though she had no prior experience

with 31st CBRN task force operations," said Capt. Randall T. Baker, the supply officer-in-charge for 31st CBRN during Vibrant Response 15. "She performed exceptionally well and shown she was a true asset to the task force operations team.

Burke is a meticulous and detailed note taker who describes herself as neurotic. If it is not perfect, she will write the notes over again in her notebook until it is acceptable.

Those who have worked with her may have noticed that she uses a pink notebook, one that resembles the standard Federal Supply Reserve notebook that most senior enlisted and officers utilize.

"I welcome my camouflage and getting dirty," said Burke. "But I still like to be a little girly when I can."

She likes things that are different  
(Please see *SCIENCE*, page 13)

**SAFETY ALERT**

**NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU**  
111 SOUTH GEORGE MASON DRIVE  
ARLINGTON VA 22204-1373

**MAY 27 2015**

ARNG-ZA

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL STATES

SUBJECT: Indiscipline: The Hidden Enemy

**INDISCIPLINE KILLS!**

1. To date, FY 15 has been a tragic year for the Army National Guard with 109 accidents and 67 fatalities. Indiscipline attributed to 65 of the 109 total accidents (60 percent) and 40 of the 67 fatalities (60 percent). Indiscipline: A conscious decision to deviate from what is right or the established standard. This is unacceptable.
2. Our profession is inherently dangerous and we must refocus. Leaders must proactively avoid and mitigate unnecessary risk throughout the mission process; from briefing through final mission approval and execution. We must place a premium on sound judgment when selecting and assigning Soldiers to mission tasks. Situational awareness, strict attention to detail, crew coordination, team communication, and adherence to safe standards are critical to keeping Soldiers safe and alive.
3. Attention to detail, discipline, and moral courage could have prevented most of the fatal accidents. Leadership is key to preventing indiscipline. All Soldiers are responsible for the safe execution of our profession.
4. We must be relentless, regarding the safety of our personnel and equipment. I need your vigilance to keep our teammates alive and ready. We must compel immediate change to Stop the Loss!

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TIMOTHY J. KADAVY  
Lieutenant General, GS  
Director, Army National Guard

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**SAFETY ALERT**

*(SCIENCE continued from page 11)*

different and not conforming to the normal. She can put her spin on something that is minor and makes it unique about her

"We are in a business where everybody is supposed to do the same thing with one set of rules and guidelines," said Burke. "So if you have a niche that is specific to you, it is your way to stand out."

Burke believes being unique helps her to be more approachable as a leader, whom Soldiers

can trust to bring their personal and professional development issues.

At an early age, Burke learned what it means to take care of others, while her dad was deployed and her mom worked full-time. She took care of her younger brothers, making sure their needs were met whether it was dinner, baths or homework.

Burke said that her new assignment will make her a more responsible and organized leader

and more in-tune with Soldiers' needs.

Maj. Brad Priest, 31st CBRN future operations officer-in-charge, said the future of the 31st HHD, with Burke in command, looks bright.

"Her experience is going to lend itself extremely well as the incoming HHD commander," he said. "She is a very intelligent officer and is very caring for the well-being of soldiers."

## Operational Camouflage Pattern Army Combat Uniforms available July 1



### Operational Camouflage Pattern Army Combat Uniform (ACU)

- Soldiers are authorized to wear the Operational Camouflage Pattern ACU starting 1 July 2015. Sales will begin July 2015. Centralized issue for incoming Soldiers will begin January 2016 (2QFY16). Mandatory possession date is 1 October 2019.
- Soldiers are authorized to wear the sand or the Tan 499 T-shirt, sand or Tan 499 belt, and tan or Coyote Brown boots during the transition period which ends 30 SEP 2019.
- Tan 499 T-shirt color: Available starting July 2015.
- Tan 499 belt color: Available starting July 2015.
- Coyote Brown boot color: Available starting August 2015.



**NOTE: Soldiers may only wear OEF-CP headgear with the OEF-CP Flame Resistant Army Combat Uniform and Operational Camouflage Pattern headgear with the Operational Camouflage Pattern Army Combat Uniform.**