

ALABAMA GUARDSMAN



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On The Cover

An Alabama Air National Guard F-16 Fighting Falcon flies near Campia Turzii, Romania, Oct. 14, 2015. Four F-16 Fighting Falcons and approximately 150 Airmen from the 187th Fighter Wing, Alabama Air National Guard participated in Dacian Viper, a training deployment to Romania designed to increase readiness to conduct combined air operations and to meet future security challenges. Please see story on page 9 (photo by Sgt. Chris Baldwin).

Adjutant General

Being thankful to individuals during the Thanksgiving holiday



**Maj. Gen.
Perry Smith**

During the holiday season, we often talk about thankfulness – and rightfully so. Many, especially around Thanksgiving are thankful to their god worship. I

do not at all want to diminish that thankfulness, but I want to mention something that we might not always

think about – that is being thankful to individuals.

If the traditional Thanksgiving story is founded in some truth, I believe that the pilgrims and the native people were likely thankful to each other for providing food. They were probably thankful to their leaders for good governance and protection. They were probably thankful to their spouses and children for love and support. They were likely thankful to their fellow-laborers for good attitudes and particular talents.

While I would never want to take

away from anyone's religious thankfulness, I think we need to take some time this season to be thankful to others. If you have a great supervisor, let him/her know how you appreciate him/her being flexible with you taking leave for family matters. If you have a great employee, let him know that you appreciate his hard work and dedication. If you have a great spouse, let him or her know that without the support of your family, you could never accomplish your goals. If you have a co-worker who has a particular tal-
(Please see THANKFUL, page 6)

State Command Sergeant Major

A Tribute to veterans, service members and their Families



**Command
Sgt. Maj.
Eddie Pike**

Service members within the Alabama National Guard consistently demonstrate the strength of our nation and the commitment of our

armed forces. In the month of November, we highlight the accomplishments of our military and celebrate the legacies of our veterans. Veterans throughout the state of Alabama are all cherished, honored and respected for their sacrifices, selflessness and service. We

also recommit ourselves to the Warrior Ethos and the Army Values in a continued effort to lead from the front, displaying military discipline, professionalism, courage and resolve to maintain the freedoms that we all are proud of.

The Alabama National Guard has Soldiers and Airmen currently deployed or are preparing for deployments abroad. These service members are always in our thoughts as they endure the challenges of serving in operational missions overseas, providing security and training with international partners. Our Soldiers and Airmen are among the best qualified, highly trained and most resourceful group of military

assets our country can provide. The members of the Alabama National Guard are also highly motivated and eager to perform their duties, always willing to accept their mission and get the job done.

As we celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday, we must remember the sacrifices, faithfulness and dedication of the men and women in uniform and their Families alike. We are grateful for our Families because we know they have the full-time job of providing support and encouragement, even when their beloved service member is away from home, on deployment or in an unsafe environment. We treasure the faithful-
(Please see TRIBUTE, page 6)

Soldier fulfills childhood dream inside of the CH-47 Chinook

by SSG Fredrick Varney
131st MPAD

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. --- Choosing the right career path can be a frightening experience for many young people who are worried about whether or not they have the right attitude or skills to pursue certain career fields.

For Alabama National Guardsman Sgt. Paul Phillips, a unit standardization instructor with Bravo Company, 1-169th Aviation Battalion, that simply has not been the case.

“Back in 1991, I remember going on a field trip with my JROTC high school classmates to Fort McClellan as a cadet and getting my first experience riding in a UH-1 Huey helicopter,” said Phillips. At the time, I thought it was coolest thing ever and from that moment on I was hooked on flying.”

Phillips, a 14 year veteran of the Alabama National Guard, has spent his entire military career working hands-on with the CH-47 Chinook.

The CH-47 Chinook is an advanced multi-mission helicopter that is often used to support troop movements, provide artillery placement, and also resupply the battlefield.

Prior to becoming a full-time military technician with his aviation unit, Phillips, a native of Vincent, Alabama, worked approximately four years as a law enforcement officer.

“I worked for my hometown community of Vincent for a while as a police officer and also the University of Alabama-Birmingham,” said Phillips. It was a good career, but in my heart I knew that I wanted to make flying a full-time career.”

During his career, Phillips said he has been deployed a total of three times to Afghanistan in support of Operation



Fredrick Varney/photo

Sgt. Paul Phillips, a unit standardization instructor with Bravo Company, 1-169 Aviation Battalion, refuels a CH-47 Chinook after a routine flight mission Oct. 17 at the Aviation Support Facility based in Birmingham. Phillips and his crew are testing the new CH-47F model which includes various upgrades inside the cockpit for both the pilots and crew members.

Enduring Freedom.

“When I was in Afghanistan, my unit was going out on missions every night unless extreme weather dictated otherwise,” said Phillips. Our main objectives were to assist with troop movements, hauling cargo from point A to point B, and providing resupply on the battlefield.”

Phillips said all three of his deployments were on board the CH-47 Chinook and he learned a great deal about the difference between training missions stateside and combat missions downrange.

“In the combat zone, it requires much more diligence and situational awareness as you carry out the mission at hand,” said Phillips. Safety is our number one priority regardless of whether it’s a routine stateside mission or downrange.”

Aside from his three overseas deployments, Phillips said he has had the opportunity to perform several other critical missions here at home as well. “Since joining the Alabama Guard, I have had the privilege of assisting California residents and authorities with water buckets missions to control the spread of wildfires there,” said Phillips. I have also assisted with a countless number of relief missions as well.”

Phillips said the CH-47 Chinook plays a vital role in the success of his aviation unit’s mission and capabilities. “Much of what we do with this aircraft is multi-purpose and multi-task oriented,” said Phillips. As a matter of fact, my love for the Chinook is what makes my job enjoyable and that love is also shared among the Soldiers that I work with on a daily basis.”

Snap Shots

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



Contributed/photo

WEAVER, Alabama – Master Sgt. Robert O'Day from the Fort McClellan Army National Guard Training Center demonstrates the wear of military equipment with the help of principal Summer Davis at a Veteran's Day program at Weaver Elementary School here Nov. 10, 2015.



Contributed/photo

MONTGOMERY, Alabama -- Maj. Gen. Perry Smith, the adjutant general of Alabama, speaks to Soldiers as the 22nd Recruiting and Retention Battalion's Warrant Officer Strength Management (WOSM) Team conducted its bi-annual career seminar at Fort George C. Wallace here Oct. 3, 2015. The first event like this was held in June of 2015 and contributed to the WOSM team exceeding mission for FY15. The seminar provided information regarding general and MOS specific requirements, the predetermination process and Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS) options.



Contributed/photo

FORT McCLELLAN, Alabama -- Spc. James Conley, 128th Medical Company, leads the five-mile road march event here at the the 167th Theater Sustainment Command's Soldier/ Noncommissioned officer of the Year competition Nov. 14, 2015. During the competition, held Nov. 13-15, the participants were graded on six events: land navigation, warrior tasks, five-mile road march, weapons skills (disassembly/reassembly), weapons qualification, and a board where the Soldiers were asked about Army history and other Soldier knowledge. Conley was selected as the 167th Soldier of the Year, and Sgt. Jesse Thompson, 128th Medical Company, was selected as the 167th NCO of the Year. They will go on to compete against Soldiers from across the state in the Alabama National Guard Soldier of the Year competition.

6 Alabama Guardsman

Congratulations to the following retiring Alabama Guardsmen:

RETIRED

E7	Arnold, Malcolm	HHC 115th ESB
O5	Clayton, Ralph M.	135 Sustainment Command
E5	Harper, George M. II	Det 1 900 Maintenance Co. (CRC)
E8	Johnson, Charles M. Jr.	Joint Forces Headquarters
E8	Perry, James K.	HHD 231 MP Battalion
CW5	Haggard, James R.	167th TSC
E8	Quinlan, Shaun L.	HHC 20 SF GP (ABN) 1 SF
E7	Silvers, Alan R.	135 Sustainment Command
E7	Tolbert, Andrewnetta K.	Med Det Alabama.

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

(THANKFUL continued from page 3)

-ent that adds to your organization, let her know how grateful you are for that skill. If your child's teacher really goes the extra mile, let him know how thankful you are that he cares for your child's well-being.

Let me practice what I am

preaching here. I want all of you to know how thankful I am for your hard work, loyalty, integrity, and service to our state and nation. It is because of the fine individuals of this organization that we are a great group. Without you – privates through generals -

we could not be ready and available to respond for the citizens of Alabama and the United States. Thanks for being you and I wish you all the happiest of holiday seasons. Be safe and lead from the front!

(TRIBUTE continued from page 3)

faithfulness of our Families and we owe them the same support and encouragement they diligently provide us as we continue to serve in uniform.

As the State Command Sergeant Major, I am proud to serve and lead the men and

women of the Alabama Army National Guard. I am most proud of the Soldiers and Airmen within our ranks and I am consistently impressed by their mission accomplishments, professionalism, courage and willingness to serve whenever asked or required. It

is the training, motivation and commitment of the members within the Alabama National Guard that makes us among the strongest and most capable military organizations within the United States of America.

History

The Alabama National Guard in France during World War I

by Bernard Brown
State Historian

The Alabama National Guard played a vital role in France fighting against the Germans during World War I. In August 1917, there were several Alabama National Guard units federalized and mobilized to Europe. The 1st and 2nd Alabama Infantry Regiments, totaling 1,348 Soldiers, were sent to the 31st Infantry (Dixie) Division. While, the 4th Alabama Infantry Regiment, 3,677 Soldiers, consolidated and changed their name to the 167th Infantry Regiment, falling directly under the 42nd (Rainbow) Division (Olliff 2008).

The Thirty-First Division was to remain at Camp Wheeler, Georgia, while the 42nd Division units deployed to France.

The 167th Infantry Regiment was led by Col. William Preston Screws, who was a former active duty officer in the regular Army (Olliff 2008). The 42nd Division was the third of several United States Army Divisions to reach France. At the time that the 167th arrived in France, the allies were having difficulty making gains against the Germans (Foundation 2011). In February 1918, the 167th was integrated with French units to support the Lunéville sector of Lorraine France. On June 21, 1918, the entire 42nd Division was strategically placed in



Contributed/image

167th Infantry in a Rifle Pit at Saint-Mihiel in France

Champagne-Marne, France, to help the French save Paris in a series of important battles. On July 15, 1918, the 167th (Alabama) Infantry Regiment, along with their French allies the 109th French Regiment, help stopped an assault by the Germans to takeover Champagne in an operation called the Peace Offensive (Foundation 2011).

On July 26, 1918, the 167th sustained large casualties during the battle at Croix Farm. The 167th had more than 1,000 Soldiers wounded and 162 killed in the battle. However, the determination by both the 167th Regiment and their sister regiment, the 168th Regiment (Iowa), pushed the Germans back six miles east of the Croix Farms area (Foundation 2011).

There were times the 167th had to serve on the front lines of the battlefield without re-

lief for more than a 110 days in France. The 167th's brave men displayed many acts of valor in the battles that took place in France. Notably, one Alabamian was the recipient of the Medal of Honor: Corporal Sidney Manning of Company G, 167th Infantry Regiment.

Corporal Manning was in charge of a rifle squad during a morning attack by the Germans on July 28, 1918 (Cooke 1994). Corporal Manning took the initiative to take charge of the entire platoon after his platoon leader and platoon sergeant were killed. During the attack, Manning led 35 Soldiers over a hill crest and took control over a German strong point that dominated the Ourcq Valley. Manning's push to control the valley resulted in him receiving multiple wounds and leaving (Please see HISTORY, page 9)

187 Fighter Wing Airmen, F-16s return from Romania

by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Baldwin
187FW Public Affairs

MONTGOMERY REGIONAL AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Ala., -- 187th Fighter Wing F-16s, approximately 150 Airmen and nearly 40 tons of support equipment from the 187th Fighter Wing Airmen have returned from a training mission in Campia Turzii, Romania. As part of the deployment, the U.S. and Romanian air forces worked together to enhance interoperability and increase readiness in the event of combined air operations.

The 187th Fighter Wing, 100th Fighter Squadron, flew the F-16 alongside the Romanians' 71st Air Base's MiG-21 Lancer fighter aircraft to further strengthen relations and build on both nations' joint capabilities to ensure a stronger partnership.

"We are always thrilled to capitalize on every opportunity to work with our NATO allies," said Col. Len Borowoski, operations group commander at the 187th Fighter Wing. "These training missions produce big dividends for the U.S. and Romanian pilots and go a long way in strengthening the strategic NATO partnership with Romania.

The Alabama National Guard has partnered with Romania since 1993 as part of the State Partnership Program, which pairs Guard units with different nations to improve both military and civil understanding and cooperation. Romania subsequently became a member country of NATO in 2004.

Romania's Oct. 2013 purchase of 12 Lockheed Martin F-16 fighters from Portugal will allow Romania to operate NATO-compatible aircraft. The purchase also includes the train-



Matthew Bruch/photo

Alabama Air National Guard F-16 Fighting Falcons descend into Campia Turzii, Romania, Oct. 13, 2015, after flying from Montgomery, Alabama. Four F-16 Fighting Falcons and approximately 150 Airmen from the 187th Fighter Wing, Alabama Air National Guard participated in Dacian Viper, a training deployment to Romania designed to increase readiness to conduct combined air operations and to meet future security challenges.

ing of pilots and technicians, to be undertaken partly in the U.S. The first aircraft is scheduled for delivery in 2016, with all 12 to be handed over by 2017, to equip a single squadron.

"This is an exciting time to be working with the Romanian Air Force and we look forward to training with these pilots when their F-16s are delivered," said Lt. Col. Doyle Pompa.

Pompa commands the active duty squadron of pilots assigned to the base and was responsible for coordinating every aspect of this training mission.

"Although there were some logistical challenges leaving Montgomery because we had to plan around Hurricane Joaquin, the professionalism and proficiency of our total force team was evident. As expected, we made the necessary adjustments and safely and efficiently accomplished the mission. And by the time we landed in Romania, it was business as usual."

Once in Romania, the wing's 100th Fighter Squadron participated in training flights to enhance interoperability with NATO allies. This exercise began with common flight and training activities. The aerial missions also allowed for an exchange of experience on tactics, techniques, and procedures for basic fighter maneuvers, air combat maneuvers, intelligence, tactical command, and cross-service logistics support.

As the exercise progressed, the training became more integrated and complex. The final days of the exercise focused on combined air operations, in which U.S. forces partnered with Romania pilots to exercise common air operations procedures.

During the exercise, 100th Fighter Squadron pilots were allowed to fly in the back seat of the MiG-21s and Romanian fighter pilots were allowed to fly in the back seat of the F-16s. (Please see F16s, page 9)

(HISTORY continued from page 7)

only seven Soldiers standing to fight. This did not stop Corporal Manning's drive; he continued to direct the remaining Soldiers return to the G Company fighting position by providing covering fire. After this battle, Corporal Manning would be the first in the 167th Regiment to receive the Medal of Honor.

The 167th went on to fight several more successful battles that helped the French Army stop the Germans from advancing into France.

On May 7, 1919, the 167th Infantry Regiment returned to Alabama after being discharged from Camp Shelby, Mississippi (Olliff 2008). The Alabama National Guard began to consolidate many of their units under the National defense act of 1920. The National Defense Act gave the orders to reorganize the 167th, making them a part of 31st (Dixie) Division (Olliff 2008).



Contributed/photo

The return of the 167th Regiment from World War I in Montgomery Alabama

Reference

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(F16s continued from page 8)

"From a maintenance aspect, this was a great opportunity to share our philosophy and standards for keeping our jets in optimal condition and assist the Romanian Air Force in their transition to the F-16," said Lt. Col. Adrian Meyer.

Meyer, the maintenance squadron commander, led the largest supporting element of personnel required to accompany the jets to Romania.

"The entire maintenance team, both at home station and deployed, performed flawlessly and achieved a 97.8 percent "code 1" rate," Meyer also noted.

A "code 1" rating identifies an aircraft as having no deficiencies and allows the aircraft to resume flight, ultimately shortening the overall maintenance turn time of the aircraft.

Another highlight of the exercise was the visit of multiple distinguished visi-

tors during an open house event.

Deputy Secretary General of NATO, U.S. Ambassador Alexander Vershbow and U.S. Ambassador to Romania, Hans Klemm attended the event along with several Romanian distinguished visitors, including Romania's Minister of Defense.

"Exercises like this one embody the transatlantic bond that exists between Europe and North America and the commitment of the NATO alliance to uphold the security and the integrity of all NATO allies," said Ambassador Alexander Vershbow, who traveled from Belgium to support the event.

Romania's Minister of Defense, Mircea Duşa and the U.S. Ambassador to Romania flew orientation flights in the back seat of a pair of F-16s just prior to making remarks to the Romanian media attending the open house.

Following Ambassador Klemm's backseat flight, he commented, "The American pilot can teach you a great deal about the F-16," said Ambassador Hans Klemm. "We plan to teach you everything we know about this fighting platform so that when we deploy together, the United States and Romania, there is little to no difference between our capabilities.

Col. Len Borowski, summed up the deployment, "Overall, this was a very productive mission, every deployment experience is an opportunity to increase our warfighting capacity. It's always rewarding to successfully accomplish the mission and get everyone back home safely. In the meantime, we'll take the time to regenerate, professionally and personally, and prepare for what's next."