

2014 Vol. VIII

ALABAMA GUARDSMAN

**Guard and active
duty plan joint
response to
complex disaster**

**1156th MP
CID CASES
COLORS**



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On The Cover

CAMP McCAIN, Mississippi –Members of a command post node (CPN) Team from A Company, 115th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, Alabama Army National Guard, perform sling load operations with a trailer during annual training here in late July. Units of the 115th conducted training in various locations to include: Camp Grayling, Michigan; Eglin Air Force Base, Florida and Fort McClellan, Alabama with a culminating event at Camp McCain, Mississippi. During its annual training, the 115th ESB stood up multiple Points of Presence (PoP) to provide customers access to the LandWarNet utilizing joint network node (JNN), single shelter switch (SSS) and CPNs across Satellite Transportable Terminals (STT) and High Capacity Line of Site (HCLOS) radios. (Contributed Photo).

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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

Adjutant General

Families are a key component to our strength



**Maj. Gen.
Perry Smith**

This is the time of year when children go back to school and families get back into a regular routine after summer vacations and National Guard annual training. Pretty soon, Labor Day will be here, followed by Thanksgiving, then Christmas

and a brand new year. It won't take long to get lost in everyday life.

Most units hold their family days between September and the end of the year, so most of you have a family day coming up in the near future. I want to encourage you to fully participate in your unit's family day. These gatherings are a good time to build unit cohesion and to learn about many of the benefits available to our service members and their families.

I encourage all of you to take

part in your family readiness group. This will provide a support group for your families that is always helpful, but which plays an especially critical role during deployments.

I also expect commanders at every level to place a priority on family readiness groups and to follow all regulations and policies to ensure group leaders and families have the space, support and access they need to properly assist the families.

As many of you know,
(Please see FAMILIES, page 7)

State Command Sergeant Major

Warrior Ethos: values for every situation



**Command
Sgt. Maj.
Eddie Pike**

The Army and Air Force Values and the Warrior Ethos are the principles of our military profession and a code of ethics that Soldiers and Airmen should strive

to live by. These values and principles have been tested, proven and have successfully withstood the tests of time, culture and social changes that we have seen within our military over the years.

In our ever-changing society, there are increasing

amounts of stress, anxieties and problems that our service members face on a daily basis. Stressors include consecutive deployments, family or personal challenges, financial difficulties, etc.

There are also increased emotional stressors such as post traumatic stress syndrome, severe depression, emotional fatigue or other mental circumstances that might be the result of a service member's environment.

The Alabama National Guard and its members are a resilient force. We take pride in our ability to accomplish missions given to us and we lead from the front. Our ability to overcome adversity can be traced to our core

values and our commitment to overcome obstacles, regardless of the type of obstacle.

Our servicemen and women exceed expectations when accomplishing a military mission that has been tasked to them. During the war fight, our military has seen significant accomplishments due to the resilience of the individual service member; and we have consistently proven our ability to win. Nonetheless, we have an increased number of cases where some of our servicemen and women have difficulty adjusting to stressors in their personal lives, and seemingly have nowhere to turn for help.

The National Guard helps its
(Please see ETHOS, page 7)

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Guard and active duty plan for joint response to complex disaster

by Sgt. Brenda Smith and
Staff Sgt. Sandra Lucas
131st MPAD

Leaders from the Alabama National Guard and Alabama Emergency Management Agency met with potential Title 10 active duty Army, Air Force, Navy and United States Coast Guard Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) partners, and FEMA at Joint Force Headquarters, Montgomery, Alabama, July 24, 2014, to discuss how they would operate together and support each other in the event of a complex disaster.

Members of this workshop discussed potential disaster scenarios that could occur in Alabama and the surrounding region. Each organization detailed the assets it would be able to provide if needed. With disasters like Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Deepwater



Sandra Lucas/image

MONTGOMERY, Ala. - Col. James S. Hawkins Jr., (Director of Military Support) Army National Guard, briefs the total concept of operations for hurricane response during a joint response workshop at Joint Force Headquarters here July 24, 2014.

Horizon oil disaster in 2010, and the deadly tornadoes that swept across our state in 2011, Alabama's Guard and civil authorities are very familiar with disaster operations.

derstand what type of support is out there, what type of support we may need."

The National Guard trains and operates differently from its active duty counterparts. Each organization has different procedures and capabilities, and this workshop allowed them to work through a contracted table top exercise and identify strengths and potential weaknesses in a joint response force. Col. James Hawkins, Director of Military Support Alabama National Guard said, "This was not just a great chance to meet our Title 10 partners but also an opportunity for each of them to meet each other."

The Alabama National Guard's director of joint staff, Brig. Gen. Allen Harrell, believes preparedness is the most valuable asset to possess. "What if we do have that big event?" he asked. "It may be years from now, or it may be two weeks from now. What we want to do is be sure we un-

"We in the military are trained to go, go, go," said Harrell. "We have to realize we are in support of civil authorities and we can't just jump in there and take (Please see **RESPONSE**, page 7)



Sandra Lucas/photo

MONTGOMERY, Ala. - Mr. Jeff Byard, executive operations officer, Alabama Emergency Management Agency; Col. Jan Apo, defense coordinating officer FEMA Region IV; and Brig. Gen. Allen M. Harrell, director, joint staff, Alabama National Guard, discuss disaster response after a joint response workshop at Joint Force Headquarters here July 24, 2014.

Snap Shots

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



Contributed/photo

FORT McCLELLAN, Ala.- A Soldier from the 135th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) reacts to an obstacle here on Aug. 6, 2014. Soldiers from the 135th maneuvered through difficult obstacles at a leadership reaction course. The primary purpose of the course is to improve Soldiers' leadership abilities through self-evaluation and observation while boosting morale.



Contributed/photo

CAMP McCAIN, Miss. - Sgt. Andrew Stone, Joint Network Node (JNN) team chief of B Company, 115th Expeditionary Signal Battalion works on troubleshooting a Single Shelter Switch (SSS) AN/TTC-56.



Guy Jackson/photo

PELHAM RANGE, Ala. - Brig. Gen. Allen Harrell talks with (from left to right) Capt. Brian Eberhardt, 1st Lt. Michael Howard and Capt. Minerva Harwell during a site visit to the 161st Multifunctional Medical Battalion during Vibrant Response 14, Aug. 1, 2014.



Brenda Thomas/photo

MONTGOMERY, Ala.- Alabama governor Robert Bentley pins a second star on Maj. Gen. Charles L. Gable during his promotion ceremony Aug. 7, 2014, at the state Capitol here as Maj. Gen. Perry Smith, the adjutant general, watches.



Shannon Hancock/photo

MONTGOMERY, Ala.- Maj. Brian Thomas poses with his family after his retirement ceremony here, Aug. 15, 2014. He retired from the Alabama National Guard after 26 years of service.



Shannon Hancock/photo

MONTGOMERY, Ala.- Spc. Christopher Graves, 111th Ordnance Group, wears a bomb or blast suit of armor at Buckmasters Expo recruiting booth here, Aug. 15, 2014. Personnel from 22nd Recruiting and Retention Battalion, 20th Special Forces and 111th Ordnance Group manned a booth at the Buckmasters Expo over the weekend.

(FAMILIES continued from page 3)

family is very important to me, and I believe strong families are key to good morale and the general welfare of our organization. I hope all of our service members are making sure their family members know about the services available; ser-

(ETHOS continued from page 3)

own, just as we help our neighbors when fulfilling our dual missions. It is the duty of all Guardsmen to assist one another by listening, providing support and ensuring that we encourage and motivate one another during times of diffi-

(RESPONSE continued from page 4)

charge and do what we want. We do have to work together and have to share information to get the job done.”

Col. Jan Apo, the defense coordinating officer for FEMA Region 4, shared the capabilities of FEMA in the region. She explained that during a major disaster there is no time to waste when responding and providing aid to citizens. Building a good relationship with your partners before the disaster occurs is the best way to

ences such as our family readiness groups, marriage seminars, and child and youth programs.

When our family support groups are strong, they help make our families strong. When our families are strong, our Soldiers and Airmen are

culty.

The Warrior Ethos is simple and we can all remind each other of our duty to live up to these values in order to maintain an operational force with service members who are mentally motivated and ready

strong. I want to express my thanks for all of the family readiness group volunteers who do so much for our families and our organization. Lead from the front!

to serve at a moment's notice:

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

ensure no time is lost during an actual crisis.

“Alabama does a real good job with their planning and the rigor of the planning,” Apo said. “So when it comes time to execute, they don't waste a lot of time.”

The members plan to continue meeting annually to ensure the state and federal response force is ready for any major crisis. Throughout the year, the Alabama Guard and its state part-

ner organizations meet for rehearsal of concept (ROC) and hurricane exercise (HURREX) drills to maintain proficiency in their plans.

“In the last 13 years, I have never seen the Guard and active duty be closer together in terms of abilities and capabilities,” said Apo. “We've really worked through a lot of the challenges we had and I hope that we will continue to use that relationship and build on it.”



HOPE HULL Ala.- Soldiers from Romania, Alabama's partner country in the State Partnership Program visited the state during a development of range operations conducted Aug. 4-8, 2014. They visited Fort McClellan Training Site and Eglin Training Site to gather knowledge and information to make a master plan for their own Cincu Training Range in Romania. Pictured from left to right are: Maj. David Simmons, range OIC, Fort McClellan; Maj. Mihel-Dora Ciuta, Range Fire Officer, Cincu Range Facility; Staff Sgt. Chris Tuten, Directorate Of Military Support; 1st Lt. Jake Blocker escort officer; Plt. Adj Adrian Mateescu, NCOIC Cincu Range Facility; Lt. Col. Cristian Ionescu, Land Forces Headquarters Range Officer.

Do what has to be done, 1156th MP CID cases colors

by Staff Sgt. Sandra Lucas
131st MPAD

CLANTON, AL - The Alabama Army National Guard's 1156th Military Police Detachment, Criminal Investigation Division, 231st Military Police Battalion cased its colors during a ceremony, July 19, 2014 at its armory here.

The retirement of the colors signals the formal end of the 1156th as a military unit.

The Army National Guard Force Management Division, in compliance with Headquarters Department of the Army, conducted analysis of the overall readiness and mission requirements for CID capabilities. According to a memorandum from the Force Management Division of the National Guard Bureau "there is an absence of Title 32 demand for CID capabilities and, consequently, resourcing such structure does not correspond with Army Reserve National Guard (ARNG) dual-use objectives." Title 32 refers to the portion of the U.S. Code which deals with the National Guard, as opposed to Title 10 which deals with the active duty Army.

With a long standing history in the Army and the National Guard, Soldiers carry out the CID motto "Do what has to be done."

"The purpose of the CID is to be sure our Soldiers do what they should do," said Lt. Col. James Lake, commander of the 231st Military Police Battalion. "CID is way more specialized than the normal MP; these are unbiased professionals, highly skilled professionals."

The first concern of the 1156th commander is the assurance that his team would have a place to continue serving.



Sandra Lucas/photo

CLANTON, Ala. - Soldiers of the 1156th Military Police Detachment stand in formation during a ceremony in which the unit cased its colors here, July 19, 2014.

"This is a great new opportunity. I am pleased that everyone is continuing in the CID profession. Soldiers were offered retraining; however, it was not necessary," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 William Montgomery, commander of the 1156th.

The youngest and one of the newest members of the unit, Sgt. Keilan T. Lord, was once assigned to the 151st Army Band where he played the saxophone. He joined the unit two and a half years ago.

"This is a different task and I came for the training," said Lord. "I was told the unit was likely going to close, I wanted to do this anyway." Lord is also an investigative game warden with the Alabama Department of Conservation.

Most of the unit will transfer from the National Guard to the Army Reserves as members of the 378th Military Po-

lice Detachment (CID) in Louisville, Kentucky. Some will drive in excess of five hours to train with their new unit.

"We can't recruit this talent off the street; many are experienced in law enforcement, and it is a lengthy process to get military occupation specialty (MOS) qualified," said Montgomery. "I appreciate the dedication, loyalty and hard work of these Soldiers. We have received great feedback from the commanders we have supported over the years. I am proud of them."

All six of the National Guard CID detachments will retire their colors this fiscal year: the 121st out of the District of Columbia; the 170th out of Sacramento, California; the 698th out of Huntsville, Texas; the 1149th out of Austin, Texas; and the 4175th out of Fulton, Missouri.

The history of the 1156th Military Police Criminal Investigation

The 1156th received federal recognition November 1, 1973. Composed of highly trained criminal investigators the unit has provided investigative support for all major commands located within the state of Alabama for more than four decades. Special agents assigned to the unit are tasked with investigating felony-level crimes with an Army nexus, and providing timely and through investigative support to commanders. Besides the initial CID Special Agent course, unit members also attend numerous advanced criminal investigative training courses through the United States Army Military Police School including protective service training, advanced crime scene investigative techniques, and child abuse prevention and investigation.

During the mid to late 1990s the unit was often discussed as a possible target for deactivation. Instead, after the events of 9/11, the unit was called to active federal service under Operation Noble Eagle, with duty primarily in the area of the District of Columbia. The 1156th provided protective to numerous key leaders within

the Department of Defense including then Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

In 2010, the unit was again called to active federal service with duty in Southwest Asia under Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. The 1156th, along with two active Army component units,

combined to form the 11th Military Police Battalion (CID). Unit members provided investigative support to unit commanders located throughout Iraq and Kuwait. The 1156th was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for its service.

After the assignment with the 11th individ-



ual Soldiers deployed multiple times to Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, and throughout the continental United States.

On July 19, 2014, by permanent order, the 1156th deactivated.



Snap Shots

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. – Col. Alan Cranford, the outgoing commander of the The 1169th Contingency Contracting Battalion, passes the battalion colors to incoming commander Lt. Col. Chris Johnson during a change of command ceremony here, July 27, 2014.

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Congratulations to the following retiring Alabama Guardsmen:

RETIRED

E8	Pike Charles Donald	122nd Troop Support Command
O6	Zeegers Randall Minor	Joint Forces Headquarters
O3	Ledwick Mickey Lee	HHC 1-167 Infantry Battalion
E5	Banks Jeffery Dean	778 Maint Co (-Det 1) (SMC)
O3	Hennigan David Lee	Group Support Co 20 SF GP
E5	Bowens Steve William	1208 QM Co
E5	Steele Paul Kevin	781 Trans Co (-Det 1)
E5	Linder Joseph Larry Jr.	Co B 1st Bn 131 Avn
E6	Cargill Jerome Fernell	1208 QM Co
E6	Huffman Motel	1208 QM Co
E8	Sleeper Norman Volker	122nd Troop Support Command
O3	Baylis Robert Warren	HHD 231 MP Bn
O6	Thrower Jeffery Eugene	HHC 226 ME Brigade
W4	Nagel Hartmut	CO B (-) 1-169 Avn Reg Rear
E9	Saruse Ricky Nelson	31st Chemical Brigade
E6	Lumpkin Roger Daniel Jr	ALARNG R & R
E7	Colburn William Clark	135 Sustainment Command
E5	Bennett Marvin Gaye	128 MP Co. (CBT SPT)
E8	McGee Louie Verlon Jr.	226 ME HQ MEB REAR
E7	Nall Sidney Louis	Co. A 115th ESB
E6	Smith Charles Terry	Det 1 208th Chemical Company
E4	Wilson Robert Glen	HHC 877 EN BN REAR DET
E7	New William Alexander	HQ 200 REGIMENT (LDR)
E4	Morgan Forrest Jr.	900 Maint Co. (-DET 1) (CRC)
E7	Carter Phillip Tracy	HHC 20 SF GP (ABN) 1 SF
W2	Stavis Mark Anthony	142NndBFSB
W4	Head Laverne Eugene	Det 5 Opn Spt Airlift Cmd
O6	McDill Kathleen Graham	Joint Forces Headquarters
O5	Walker Rachel Clay	Joint Forces Headquarters
O5	Medley Nicky Gene	135 Sustainment Command
E6	Kelly Teddy Lee	HHC 731 Combat Sustain Spt Bn
W5	Boillat Phillip Dale	Joint Forces Headquarters
E6	Salters Ronnie Ray	Joint Forces Headquarters
E6	Stabler A J	HHD 145 Chemical Battalion



NEWS RELEASE

DEOMI RELEASES 2014 WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY POSTER

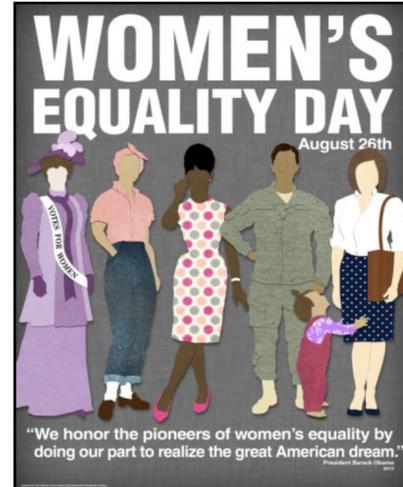
July 17, 2014
Release No. 14-07-11

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – In observance of Women's Equality Day, celebrated each year on August 26, the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) announces the availability of original poster artwork available for download from www.deomi.org.

Please note that you may download this hi-resolution image file by clicking the "download" link below the thumbnail image for this poster on the website and take it to your preferred printing facility for display in your organization or use during your special observance programs. All DEOMI special observance poster images are hi resolution and may be used to print posters up to 30 X 40 inches. DEOMI does not have the capability to print posters and mail them out to customers upon request.

The artist's inspiration for this year's poster

"The figures incorporate color and texture depicting fashion styles of various time periods, including the suffrage movement, WWII, the 1960s, and lastly, contemporary military and civilian. [These images] create a visual timeline of women from the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920 to modern day," said DEOMI Illustrator Mr. Peter Hemmer, in describing this year's Women's Equality Day poster.



What is Women's Equality Day?

In 1971, the U.S. Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day" at the request of Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY). The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution granting women the right to vote. This was the culmination of a massive and peaceful civil rights movement by women that had its formal beginnings in 1848 at the world's first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York.

The observance of Women's Equality Day not only commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment, but also calls attention to women's continuing efforts toward full equality. Workplaces, libraries, organizations, and public facilities now participate with Women's Equality Day programs, displays, video showings, or other activities.

For more information, visit the National Women's History Project at:
<http://www.nwhp.org/resourcecenter/equalityday.php>

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Service member honors his Alabama child support supervisor with DoD's Patriot Award

By Kim Danek, Writer/Editor
OCSE

If this were a normal “civilian” day, Drew Hill would be working in the Child Support Office of the Lee County Department of Human Resources (DHS) in Opelika, AL. However, today, and for the next several months, he is Capt. James “Drew” Hill, Commander, Forward Support Company, 877TH Engineer Battalion of the Alabama Army National Guard—and he is stationed in Afghanistan.

When Reservists or Guardsmen deploy, they often leave a void in a civilian job. That’s the case with Lee County DHS. “Our state does not have the necessary resources to backfill those positions and thus creates a greater workload on those left behind,” wrote Capt. Hill in a recent email to OCSE.

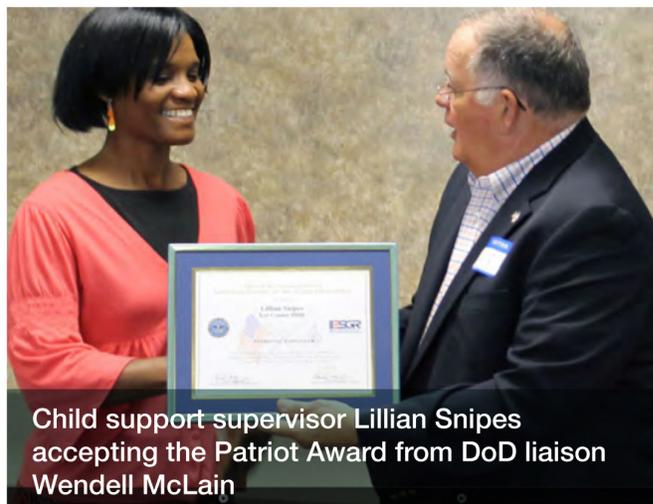
Hill’s supervisor before his deployment, Lillian Snipes, is the DHS child support unit supervisor. Hill said Snipes gave him time to take care of military business before he left, made sure others in the office were trained on his tasks, and redistributed his workload to herself and others in the office. Hill felt she was instrumental in helping him prepare himself, his family, and his unit for deployment. “As a supervisor in the military I know of the difficulties and burdens that come with that responsibility and was very appreciative of the respect and flexibility that Mrs. Snipes displayed.”

Snipes said, “Drew is a person who is easy to work with. Once he told me everything he needed to do, we just made it happen. He’s a good coworker so the others didn’t hesitate to help him out as well.”

Hill wanted to make sure Snipes knew how much her support meant to him, so he nominated her for an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) “Patriot Award.” According to the ESGR website, the Department of Defense established the support program in 1972 “to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee’s military commitment.” The Patriot Award gives service members a way to recognize an individual civilian supervisor who has been instrumental in helping them prepare for deployments.



Captain James “Drew” Hill with his wife, Tammie



Child support supervisor Lillian Snipes accepting the Patriot Award from DoD liaison Wendell McLain

“Just like in the military we like to recognize outstanding soldiers for their achievements by presenting coins or awards,” said Hill. “Through ESGR Patriot Award, I found the opportunity to recognize Mrs. Snipes for her continual support of me prior to and during my deployment and wanted to take the opportunity to do so.”

Snipes did not feel like what she or the office did was a big deal. “When he first told us about his deployment, we knew it would be difficult, but we knew that he needed to be able to get his head around the deployment and everything,” she said. “I wanted to make sure that we minimized his stress. We would have done that for any employee.”

The day Snipes received the award from Wendell McLain, a liaison from the Alabama State ESGR office, she was dumbfounded. “I am thrilled. I hadn’t heard about it until he got here. I am very appreciative.”

The office has sent Capt. Hill a care package and hopes to keep in close touch while he is gone, which they believe will be until April 2015.