

ALABAMA GUARDSMAN



National Guard
celebrates
377th birthday

128TH MP CO
135TH ESC
RETURN HOME

3 Resilience and safety during the holiday season

Message from the Adjutant General

3 Holidays are a time to celebrate the Guard and family

Message from the State Command Sergeant Major

4 Snapshots

Alabama National Guard Highlights

6 A look back at the National Guard's birthday

Guard celebrates 377th birthday

8 Job Fair Fliers

Still Serving Veterans, Opelika
Hiring our Heroes, Montgomery
CivilianJobs.com, Ft. Benning

On The Cover

CAMP SHELBY, Miss. - Smoke fills the air after the 1343rd CBRN CO (Mech Smoke) one of only two Smoke Companies left in the United States Army arsenal conducted its first obscuration (smoke) operation since fielding the system in late 2012. The 1343rd Commanded by Capt. Thomas Baker has four smoke platoons capable of supporting four brigade size elements and below. During a recent MUTA 8 IDT training, and despite rain and cold, the unit conducted eight obscuration missions, track drivers training, track vehicle recovery and mission critical resupply using more than 3000 gallons of fog oil and 2500 gallons of fuel. This training is just the beginning as the unit will conduct much more field time preparing for rotations to NTC in 2015. The 1343rd CBRN Co would like to the 781st Transportation Company for transporting the track vehicles to and from Camp Shelby, the ALNG G3 for providing funds to complete this training and the 151 CBRN BN and 31st CBRN BDE for assisting the unit in its endeavor.(Photo by Spc. William Frye, 131st MPAD).

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 Officer.....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.....Sgt. Eric Roberts
Staff Writer.....Sgt. Brenda Thomas
Staff Writer.....Spc. Jonathan Wood
Staff Writer.....Spc. William Frye

Adjutant General

Resilience and safety during the holiday season



**Maj. Gen.
Perry Smith**

This December, we celebrate the National Guard's 377th birthday. Also, this month, most will celebrate Christmas and prepare for the New Year. Most units have conducted their family day activities and

many of you have enjoyed workplace holiday parties.

December is always a very busy month, but don't forget to take the time and spend it with your family and friends. Building and maintaining those close relationships make you who you

are. I've encouraged all commanders and supervisors to have a liberal leave policy during this season to make it easier for all Alabama National Guardsmen to spend time with their loved ones.

Unfortunately, this is a time of year when many people become depressed because relationships in their family are not what they would like them to be, or for other reasons. The holiday season is a time when we need to monitor our fellow Guardsmen, family members, and friends. We need to be aware of and detect the signs that someone is depressed or is considering harming himself or herself.

I am so thankful that in recent years, we have greatly expanded our Soldier and Family Support section in the Alabama National Guard and are providing more services to our Guards-

men. I encourage all Alabama Guard members to take advantage of these services, whether it's family counseling, financial services, survivor outreach, or whatever is most needed to help you be resilient. You can find a listing of those services later in this issue.

This is also a time of year when many are travelling. Please be sure to go through safety checks on your vehicles and use safety rules for travel, such as only driving when well-rested.

I wish all Alabama National Guard Soldiers, Airmen, civilians and family members a very happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous new year. Let us remember to do all we can to ensure that everyone is back at drill in January and ready to make 2014 a great year for the Alabama National Guard. Lead from the front!

State Command Sergeant Major

Holidays are a time to celebrate the Guard and family



**Command Sgt.
Maj.
Eddie Pike**

This month we celebrate the 377th birthday of the National Guard. We should all be proud of the long, distinguished history of this special organization. Citizen Soldiers have an esteemed place in the history of our country. They have answered the

call time after time to serve their fellow countrymen at home and abroad. One of the reasons that the National Guard has been around for 377 years is because of its ability to adapt to changing times. Over the past 13 years the National Guard has shouldered much of the load as our

country has fought in two wars. Historic numbers of Guardsmen have deployed multiple times. Guardsmen have served in every arena and at every level during this time. Our country's military has relied heavily on the National Guard and the Guard has risen to that challenge.

Over the course of the coming years, the mission of the Guard is certain to change, and I am confident that the Guard will adapt to meet whatever challenges come its way. I am confident in that fact, because I am confident in you, my fellow Guardsmen. I have stood in awe of your bravery, ingenuity and work ethic. I have yet to see a challenge that you couldn't meet. I consider the Alabama National Guard to be a family and I'm proud to be in that family with you.

Speaking of family, we are

approaching the holiday season and the celebration of Christmas and the new year. I encourage each of you to enjoy time with your family. Your families have made and continue to make many sacrifices to support your service in the Alabama National Guard. Many of you have been deployed during the holidays, so you know how precious this time with family is.

Cherish and make the most of this time with your family and thank them for all they do to support you. And during this special time of year let us all pause and say a prayer for and give thanks to the members of our Alabama National Guard family who are currently serving overseas. I wish each and every one of you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Snapshots

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



Contributed/photo

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. - A Soldier from the 128th Military Police Company out of Athens is welcomed by a loved one during a welcome home ceremony, Nov. 16. The 128th returned after more than 10 months on active duty supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.



Michael Yohannes/photo

1st Lieutenant James Mann (right), of the 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, competes in the annual Polish Independence 10-Kilometer Race held at Forward Operating Base Ghazni, Afghanistan on November 11th, 2013. Mann is also the first Alabama Guardsman to make the 2013-14 All-Guard Marathon Team. Mann finished the race in second place with a time of 40 minutes and four seconds. Only five U.S. Soldiers and more than 100 Polish soldiers participated in the event which marks the anniversary of the date that Poland gained its independence from the Soviet Union in 1918.



Daniel Crocetti/photo

MOBILE, Ala. - Spc. Joshua Sullivan, a Soldier in the 127th Area Support Medical Command, helps organize some of the Toys for Tots donations brought to Fort Whiting.



Ken Johnson/photo

Approximately 240 Soldiers of the 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command returned home from deployment to Kuwait as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. During their deployment, the Soldiers of the 135th commanded logistics operations in 10 countries.



Brenda Thomas/photo

The 22nd Recruiting and Retention Battalion organized a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps drill competition in Daleville, Ala. Cody Mullins, a senior at Enterprise High School, was one of the many competitors from six participating schools, that took the drill pad during the competition.



Contributed/photo

CAMP SHELBY, Miss. - Smoke fills the air after the 1343rd Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) Co. (Mech Smoke) conducts a obscuration (smoke) operation during training.

A look back at the National Guard's birthday



Contributed/photo

The First Muster in spring 1637; this took place after the December 13, 1636 Massachusetts General Court declaration established three regiments within the colony to defend against enemy attack and preserve settlements, established in the English militia tradition.

by **Bill Boehm**
National Guard Bureau

The National Guard as the organized militia of the United States was born in Boston, Mass., on December 13, 1636. On that day, the Mass. General Court declared that the colony's existing militia companies were to be organized into three regiments: the North, South, and East regiments. Four Army National Guard units are descended from these original regiments, and are the oldest units in the United States military. They are the 101st Engineer Battalion, the 101st Field Artillery Regiment, the 181st Infantry Regiment, and the 182nd Infantry Regiment.

Citizen-Soldiers assembled for military training on the Salem common in spring 1637 at the "First Muster" of a militia regiment. This event is commemorated by the Massachusetts National Guard every first Saturday in April. It is a harbinger of the spring throughout the Commonwealth and New England, alongside Patriots Day on April 15.

Living amidst a rugged landscape, and with the specter of disease and poor sanitation rampant, the populace of the Massachusetts Bay Colony realized their salvation lay in unity. Maintaining one common defense and emphasizing a shared purpose to survive proved most critical. Once the colonists fulfilled that initial basic

set of needs, they could then make the settlements thrive beyond the provision of essential wants.

England then offered no additional protections. Self-sufficiency proved instrumental. At this time in the early 17th century, other European nations could not be relied upon for any sort of protection since they pursued their own colonial aims elsewhere in North America.

Colony leaders taught the latest military tactics. Men in the regiments exercised per instructions and practiced to ensure proficiency in case some peril intervened. The nearby Pequot Indian tribe became the first threat in 1638, as they raided settlements in both Massachusetts and Connecticut.

The effectiveness of militia training enabled the settlements to withstand these incursions. Self-defense established a measure of confidence to small villages. This common goal of stability, bonded through regular preparedness training, enabled colonists to provide defense to their own communities.

From those simple beginnings, the militia system grew among the other colonies along the East Coast. Continually functioning militias in Virginia, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maryland, and Rhode Island used their own local customs to defend their populations. Such expansion typified the rise of the original 13 colonies as a force with which the British crown had to reckon, as political and social conflict prompted the Declaration of Independence in July 1776. By then, it was not just the threat of native populations that occupied militias, but also the threat of standing forces that exacted a range of hardships toward a population once wholly loyal to the Crown. By the 19th Century, militias remained a local fixture. The term "National Guard" came to replace "militia," first prompted as a tribute to the Marquis de Lafayette's 1825 visit to the United States. Lafayette, General George Washington's trusted confidante, belonged to the "Garde Nacional" in France, and as the nation grew, states assembled militias or defense forces that became known as National Guards, each representing the states and territories.

The National Guard still holds true in upholding the

unique characteristics that enabled its success from the bleak Massachusetts frontier of the mid-17th century. Advances in transportation, communication, disease mitigation and other changes have made readiness and preparation central to a common defense. This in turn has prompted the institution of high standards of professionalism and diverse proficiency, which evolved over three centuries working in communities across the United States.

The National Guard of today consists of Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen that provide protection from natural disaster and other hazards, who train regularly to sharpen readiness skills in the name of benefitting their local communities. It has also developed into an active, ready force deploying to faraway countries to protect the national interests of the United States abroad. That unique dual-status posture remains constant.

But the Guard's core remains that of a community institution, whose primary concern is to provide ready and trained forces for times of crisis. One recent example of this took place on April 15, 2013 in Boston, when soldiers from the Massachusetts National Guard answered the call to action when two bombs detonated near the finish line of the Boston Marathon that afternoon. Guard members present at the road race immediately responded those people impacted at the scene of the bombing. They provided aid to wounded spectators, and also lent necessary assistance to all branches of law enforcement in the bombing's

aftermath along with their brethren from New York and Rhode Island. The Guard serves as an unbroken chain of service to community, state, and the United States of America, a light of assurance in the wake of traumatic events.

In September 2013, the united effort of National Guards from neighboring Wyoming and Utah helped steady the state of Colorado from some of its worst flooding in recorded history. In an ironic twist, this weather event occurred months after devastating wildfires stripped bare the forest landscapes of the Centennial State. Certainly, the presence of the Oklahoma National Guard exemplified the hallmark of neighbors helping neighbors around Moore, Oklahoma, after a catastrophic tornado touched down on May 20, 2013. Amid tragedy, local National Guard men and women provided a needed ray of hope.

These contemporary examples utilized sophisticated equipment, operated by men and women trained at the highest levels by polished instructors. Yet the principles of responding to peril remain consistent. Those simply assembled regiments enabled the Massachusetts Bay Colony to meet the challenges lying beyond the boundaries of their familiar communities. Just as those forces existed for those pioneer settlers, the forces that exist beyond the observable horizon still persist today. And as one country, we must be on watch for this presence.

In turning 377 years young, America's National Guard is always ready... always there.



2013 Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event – Montgomery AL
 Multiplex at the Cramton Bowl
 1022 Madison Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104
 Thursday, January 30, 2014

HIRING FAIR: 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP: 9:00 a.m.

This event is being conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, and partnership with the Greater Montgomery Chamber, the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), the Alabama Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, The American Legion, AL DOL, NBC News, and other local partners.

<p>EMPLOYERS</p> <p>Must register for FREE at HOH.Greatjob.net</p>	<p>JOB SEEKERS</p> <p>Register for FREE at HOH.Greatjob.net to guarantee admission. Walk-ins welcome but space not guaranteed.</p>
--	---

A workshop for veterans and other military job seekers that focuses on resume writing, tips for successfully navigating hiring fairs, military skill translation, and interviewing will start at 9:00 a.m. To register for the Hiring Our Heroes Employment Workshop, visit hohworks.eventbrite.com/

For registration questions, please contact us at hiringourheroes@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5807.



HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG



is the official online partner for Hiring Our Heroes | Find Hiring Our Heroes online:





Job Fair

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2014
9:00AM - 2:00PM

OPELIKA DOWNTOWN EVENT CENTER
614 N. RAILROAD AVENUE
OPELIKA, AL 36801

RESERVE YOUR BOOTH NOW!

BOOTH (8'x8') \$50
ELECTRICAL OUTLET \$20

BOOTH INCLUDES 6' TABLE, 2 CHAIRS, & LIGHT LUNCH

ACCESS SKILLED VETERANS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

- ✓ DEMONSTRATED LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE
- ✓ ACUTE SAFETY AWARENESS
- ✓ PRODUCTIVE
- ✓ TEAMWORK & COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- ✓ ATTENTION TO DETAILS
- ✓ AND MORE!

CONTACT:

CHARLES LIVINGS
(334) 759-0274

CLIVINGS@STILLSERVINGVETERANS.ORG

LIMITED BOOTHS AVAILABLE! ACT NOW!





JOB FAIR

Sponsored by Fort Benning ACAP Center

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

The Benning Club

Morrison Ave., Bldg 128

Fort. Benning, GA 31905

Job Fair Information: (678) 819-4153

Open to all transitioning military, veterans, and military family members. All military and prior military may pre-register online at www.CivilianJobs.com and be matched with companies based on your career and geographic preferences.



Need more information?
Visit www.CivilianJobs.com or
Call 1-678-819-4153

