

Alabama Guardsman

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Alabama Guard establishes new historical program

Contributed Story

National Guardsmen are more effective when they take pride in military traditions. Military traditions give Soldiers and Airmen the feeling that they are part of something great; they can use the knowledge and experience of those who served before them to match and surpass the achievements of their predecessors. Military traditions, when included in unit history, inspire warriors and give them a feeling of pride in their profession. This feeling is known as esprit de corps. The Alabama National Guard needed to have a systematic plan to establish a statewide historical program that would enable us to write and maintain unit histories, document important lessons learned, and archive accomplishments as well as historical records and property (such as maps, pictures, guidons and campaign streamers).

Recording history enables units to have a sense of stability and continuity during times of frequent changes in force structure and helps to build morale and promote cohesion. It helps to build traditions; traditions without foundation do not last. Traditions enable Servicemembers to show their pride in the accomplishments of their predecessors.



Brenda Thomas/image

Portraits of all of the former Adjutant Generals of Alabama hang at a hallway at the Joint Forces Headquarters building in Montgomery. This is one way that the history of the Alabama National Guard is kept alive.

Recognition of unit accomplishments makes Servicemembers more effective; Soldiers and Airmen need to know their unit's victories, adversities and achievements in both wartime and peacetime. This gives them the feeling that they are a part of the rich traditions of the Alabama National Guard.

For these reasons, leadership established a historical program within the Alabama National Guard. The senior historian will assist in writing a plan of action for setting up a statewide historical program, including guidance for units down to the company/detachment level. This guidance will assist the Alabama National Guard with establishing a network of Alabama National Guard unit historians, and assist unit historians with writing a unit history and an annual history, acquiring and displaying historical collections, and documenting unit deployments. The senior historian will also collect and archive historical documents and historical property (also called artifacts), and determine their historical significance.

In addition, the Senior Historian will write articles for military and civilian magazines and newspapers, draft grant proposals for special historical projects, and produce summaries and narratives for special research projects. The senior historian will use historical materials to conduct public outreach programs at local schools, historical and cultural institutions, and for Alabama National Guard recruiters. The senior historian will also plan and manage the statewide documentation, storage, and preservation plan for historical documentation and artifacts.

The senior historian position was established in September 2012. Master Sgt. Janine Jordan was chosen for this position. Jordan came to us from the 115th Expeditionary Signal Battalion. Her office is located in the Public Affairs section of the Joint Force Headquarters. Jordan can be reached at: (334) 271-7244. You can read her first contribution to the Alabama Guardsman in next month's issue.

Alabama Guardsman

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On the Cover

Members of the 1152nd/1153rd Command and Control, Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Response Element (C2CRE-B) Search and Rescue Team conduct a demonstration of some of their equipment on Pelham Range, February 13, 2013. Members of the team used airbags and cribbing to simulate the lifting, moving, and stabilization of a concrete slab as they might have to do during a structural collapse rescue operation. (Photo by Brenda Thomas).

Adjutant General

In the Alabama Guard everyone is a recruiter



**Maj. Gen.
Perry Smith**

We are still early in the year and our fiscal constraints have gotten tougher while our missions have remained demanding. I will not pretend that

I am not often frustrated by fiscal woes and other issues we face on a daily basis. However, after more than 40 years in the Army, I can still say that joining the mili-

tary was one of the best decisions of my life.

The military has taught me a lot about leadership, camaraderie, duty and service. Not only have I learned a great deal, but the benefits my family and I have received and anticipate receiving in the future are really quite staggering when added up. I can honestly say that I have immensely enjoyed my time in the military.

Do you enjoy being a Soldier or Airman in the Alabama National Guard? If so, have you let your friends and family know about it? You should. You should want to share a good

experience and assist in recruiting friends and family who might be eligible for membership in the Guard.

I am sure that you have known those Soldiers or Airmen who have been poor warriors, never interested in mission or their fellow comrades-in-arms. No one wants to work with that type of person. We need to take the opportunity to help bring people into the Guard who will be quality Soldiers and Airmen. Let's take charge of our own future and the future of our organizations. It behooves us to attract the best **(Please see *RECRUITER*, page 5)**

State Command Sergeant Major

Best Warrior Competition pushes Guardsmen to their limits



**Command Sgt.
Maj.
Eddie Pike**

Ten of the Alabama Army National Guard's finest warriors will converge on Fort McClellan March 25-29 2013. During this week, they will engage in a fast-paced and intense battle

against themselves and each other as participants of the State Army Soldier and Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year Best Warrior Competition (BWC). This competition

brings together five noncommissioned officers and five junior Soldiers from the Alabama Army National Guard's major commands to demonstrate their proficiencies in skills critical to the success of every Soldier.

Best Warrior events include a physical training test, a board appearance, land navigation (both written and hands-on), and a number of tasks deemed essential for survival on the battlefield, such as casualty evaluation, administering first-aid, searching detainees, and weapons marksmanship.

Other events scheduled this year at the state competition include shoot don't shoot and call for fire simulations, a six-mile ruck march, confi-

dence course, Warrior Training Tasks of weapons systems to standard, a written examination, and a stress shoot lane.

The State BWC is coordinated and conducted by the 200th Training Regiment and the Alabama Pre Mobilization Training Assistance Element and is overseen by the state command sergeant major. While Best Warrior is a contest, it is also one of the most extensive and intense training opportunities afforded any Soldier. It will be a high-paced competition that will challenge and surprise the competitors with events they have not seen in previous years.

(Please see *COMPETITION*, page 6)

Snap Shots

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



Brenda Thomas/photo

A member of the 226th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade looks out from a turret during a mounted exercise at Pelham Range, Ala. The 226th conducted its validation training throughout the month of February in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan this spring.



Brenda Thomas/photo

Staff Sgt. Joe Hassell of the 1152nd/1153rd Command and Control, Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Response Element (C2CRE-B) Search and Rescue Team crawls under an elevated, 1,500 pound concrete slab to demonstrate his trust of his team members and their equipment, at a demonstration on Pelham Range, Feb. 13, 2013. The 1152nd/1153rd is a full-time technical rescue team which is trained to perform rescues in a contaminated environment. The unit operates out of the fire station on Pelham Range and trains and maintains its technical rescue equipment on a daily basis in order to be prepared to deploy to respond to a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive (CBRNE) incident as part of the C2CRE-B task force.



James L. Brown/photo

Maj. Gen. Perry Smith, the adjutant general of Alabama, presents Thlopthlocco Tribal Town Elder, Mr. Charles Coleman, a plaque signifying his being named an honorary colonel in the Alabama National Guard. Coleman met with Smith while he was in the state for consultation meetings concerning the protection of Native American graves and historical artifacts.

(RECRUITER continued from page 3)

people to be part of our units. After all, the recruits today are the Soldiers and Airmen standing next to us in the fight tomorrow. We should all consider ourselves recruiters – it is the responsibility of all of us, especially leaders, to do all we can to ensure a good

future for the Alabama Guard.

We should be familiar with education benefits and other incentives currently offered so we can share these things with family and friends who might be interested in joining the Guard. Let us take the opportunity to shape the face of

our organization for the future. Get involved in sharing your story with those around you and bringing quality candidates to the local recruiter for your unit – you will thank yourself for it tomorrow. Lead from the front!

State Safety Office



Free financial counseling now available

Contributed Story

Need Help with Financial Matters?

This announcement is to introduce the State of Alabama's Military Family Life Consultant (MFLC) Personal Financial Counselor, Lisa Gamble. The Department of Defense (DoD) through the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) is providing this contracted, full-time, confidential financial counseling service at no cost to our Guard members. The DoD has recognized the challenges our Guard component faces by being geographically dispersed and not having easy access to resources available on military installations. Gamble works directly with Lt. Col. Leah Compton, JFHQ AL Soldier & Family Support Services and the Joint Family Support Assistance Program (JFSAP) to provide financial counseling services to our state's military personnel and their families. These services are provided at no cost and are strictly private and confidential. There is no reporting and no records are kept.

A list of some of the financial topics, issues, and concerns Lisa can assist with are given below.

Support and Counseling Services available for active duty, Guard, Reserve, and retirees (within 180 days of separation from service):

- Confidential financial consultations for individuals and families
- Referrals to military and community resources



Contributed/photo

Free financial counseling services are now offered to Alabama Guardmembers and their families.

- Support for family members during deployment
- Help with credit management and budgeting
- Support and counseling for Soldiers with security clearance issues
- Training and workshops available for drill weekends, family days, marriage and youth camps, professional development:
- Budgeting and Developing Spending Plans
- Debt and credit card management
- Credit reports and credit scores
- Identity theft
- Retirement planning
- Financial planning: reaching life goals
- Financial readiness for deployment

- Kids and Money: raising financially savvy kids
- Home/auto buying
- Savings and investments

To request Gamble's support for an event, please complete the resource request form at: <http://jfsap.militaryonesource.mil>. Mark "Yes" for JFSAP PFC support. Please provide 30 days advance notice for the request if at all possible for OSD travel and expense approval.

Contact information:

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 JFSAP/MFLC/Personal Financial Counselor
 205-382-0370 (Confidential Cell) • 205-477-5512 (Confidential Fax)
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(COMPETITION continued from page 3)

Best Warrior will test a Soldier's physical and mental limits. The most challenging portion of the BWC is the stress that is placed on the competitors throughout the competition. Each Soldier and NCO is being evaluated and timed constantly, and they must always be ready to react to any situation. The competitors will be sleep-

deprived, worn out, and stressed out, but are expected to be able to react intelligently and professionally at all times. The Soldier and NCO who can do that will be the 2013 Alabama Army National Guard's Best Warriors and will represent the Alabama Army National Guard at the Region III Best Warrior Competition in South Caro-

lina April 28-May 04 2013.

Our Soldiers and NCOs will go into the Best Warrior Competition with their heads held high and they'll leave with their heads held high, saying and knowing they have done their best. Why is that? Because they are Soldiers and NCOs of the Alabama Army National Guard.

6 Years**\$10,000**
365-91 Days**3 Years****\$5,000**
365-91 Days

Your Continued Service Will Be Rewarded

Are you within 365 days of your ETS and have less than 13 years total time in service? You may qualify for an extension bonus up to \$10,000. Do not wait any longer! Find out today if you are eligible to receive an extension bonus for another 3 or 6 year commitment to the Alabama National Guard. Your continued service is important to us! Why not get extra money to continue your service? Today, more than any other, your service is needed and valued. This extra incentive could give you the funds needed to pay off bills, take a vacation with your family, buy a new car or help pay for college.

Take time now to find out if you are eligible and if you're not, what you can do to become eligible before this incentive ends.

- ★ E-7 and below may qualify.
- ★ Must have less than 13 yrs Total Military Service at your current ETS.
- ★ Cannot be flagged for any reason or be coded 9993.
- ★ Must be slotted in your current MOS and cannot be slotted in an excess slot.
- ★ Must extend for 3 or 6 years.
- ★ Cannot be serving on Title 10 or Title 32 ARG or currently serving as Mil Tech.
- ★ Incentive ends 30 Sept 2013

Contact your
Readiness NCO
or Local ARNG
Recruiter Today!

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