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ALABAMA GUARDSMAN

CERFP conducts
realistic training
in unique locations

GUARDSMEN SOLIDIFY
SKILLS WITH
DISASTER TRAINING

What's Inside

- 3 **Adjutant General/State Command Sergeant Major**
- 4 **Snapshots**
- 5 **CERFP conducts realistic training in unique locations**
- 7 **Guardsmen solidify skills with disaster training**

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

On The Cover

MOBILE, Ala. Members of the Alabama CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Packages (CERFP) attempts to move a role-player victim from a lower deck of the USS. Alabama during a training exercise Jan. 31, 2014.(Photo by Chris Davis))



Adjutant General

The Guard develops personal growth



**Maj. Gen.
Perry Smith**

This month we celebrated what originated as a holiday to celebrate George Washington's birthday, but, to many, has evolved to be Presidents' Day, a day to honor all U.S.

presidents. presidents were members of the militia, the original name of the National Guard. Even if you are not a presidential scholar, you will be familiar with names such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt. All of these served in the militia or National Guard.

The reason I bring this up is not to show how great the National Guard is since so many presidents have been a part of it or to show that the presidents I've mentioned are the best presidents we have had. What I want to do is to encourage you to let your Guard membership help you grow into who you want to be and help you accomplish the goals that will facili-

tate that along the way.

The National Guard offers leadership development, specific skills training, education benefits, financial planning and other family assistance, opportunities to be an integral part of an important team, and so much more. I love that our Soldiers and Airmen are so service-oriented and want to give back to our communities, state and nation; but I don't want you to forget that we can serve you as well to help you reach your personal goals.

Will any of us be president? I don't know. Will any of us be a governor? CEO of a major corporation? Perhaps. Will we be managers, (Please see **GROWTH**, page 7)

State Command Sergeant Major

The Alabama National Guard is built on trust



**Command Sgt.
Maj.
Eddie Pike**

Trust is "assured reliance on the character, ability, strength or truth of someone or something." It is the essence of being an effective Soldier or Airman. Trust is the core intangible needed

Airmen and their leaders; among Soldiers/Airmen, their families, and the Guard; and between the Guard and the public it supports. Ultimately, the public trusts the Guard to provide forces when, where, and how combatant commanders need it.

In battle, Soldiers/Airmen primarily fight for one another, not just for their country or some ideal. Heroism is not the action of naturally brave men and women; it originates in the bonds between Soldiers/Airmen and their commitment to each other. This impels them to overcome fear because they will not let their comrades down. They entrust their lives to the Soldiers/Airmen on their left and right, and focus on doing their duty in

a way that maintains the trust of their comrades. Without this level of trust, there is no cohesion, no ability to stand fast in the worst environments. The level of resilience and cohesion within a unit signifies directly to trust between Soldiers/Airmen in that unit.

Building trust in an organization as diverse as ours begins with developing common values—Army/Air Force values—in each Soldier/Airman. Trust begins as Soldiers and Airmen enter the service and is reinforced throughout their service. The Army/Air Force values become the catalyst to developing the trust between Soldiers/Airmen, and these values instill traits needed not only in war, but for (Please see **TRUST**, page 7)

by the National Guard inside and outside the profession. Our ability to fulfill our strategic roles and discharge our responsibilities to the nation depends upon trust between Soldiers/Airmen; between Soldiers/

Snap Shots

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



Chris Davistphoto

EGLIN A.F.B., Fla. - A Soldier from the 877th Engineer Battalion fires his weapon on a live fire range on Feb. 2, 2014. The live fire range was final stage of the 877th's validation process in preparation for deployment this year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Alabama's Pre-mobilization Training Assistance Element(PTAE) was on-site as instructors and evaluators for the 877th. This live fire range was the final step of a three-week long validation process that began in January at Fort McClellan and Pelham Range. The unit was divided into three convoy maneuver sections that engaged targets from the Humvee turrets while moving. The final part of the range for each section's pass through the range firing line was halting the vehicles to engage targets as individuals with small arms fire. Aside from accuracy, each Humvee team focused on communications as a convoy element and as an individual vehicle team. PTAE instructors noted how each vehicle's team effectively communicated spotting of targets.



Eric Roberts/photo

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. -Spc. Ransy Noble and son Austin look out the window of a CH-47F "Chinook" cargo helicopter at the departure ceremony for Company B of the 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment Feb. 22, 2014. The unit will deploy approximately 70 Alabama National Guard Soldiers to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Company B operates the Army's advanced CH-47F "Chinook" cargo helicopter and will transport U.S. and Coalition forces in support of combat operations across the northern and eastern regions of Afghanistan. The unit will serve there for approximately nine months and its support will be critical to the International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF) mission for turning over responsibility for the country's security to Afghan Forces.



Jonathan Wilson/photo

MONTGOMERY, Ala. - Brig. Gen. Paul D. Jacobs, assistant adjutant general for the Alabama Air National Guard, and his family pose with Gov. Robert Bentley at the Capitol Feb. 20, following a ceremony at which Maj. Gen. Perry G. Smith, the Alabama National Guard adjutant general, pinned Jacobs as the Alabama National Guard's newest general officer.

CERFP conducts realistic training in unique locations

by Chris Davis
JFHQ Public Affairs

The single lamp on his blue helmet barely lights the hold underneath turret number three aboard the USS Alabama. He is a member of Alabama's Task Force One of the Urban Search and Rescue Team and is waiting for Team Two Recon Team of Alabama's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package to arrive. "Places everyone," yells the instructor to the four role players and other instructor, "they're coming."

Aside from the helmet lamps, the hold is lighted with two low-wattage incandescent bulbs covering an area the size of a moderate office. The victims take their places to provide a variety of choices for the recon team to decide how to approach and rescue those with the most priority. As everyone gets settled, beams of light play on the World War II era painted hull, as Team Two works its way into the area.

Alabama military and state agencies, along with the National Guard's 45th Tennessee Civil Support Team, conducted emergency response training exercises during the last week of January.

"We're doing this repeatedly with the same agencies working together, building relationships, understanding each other's capabilities," said Lt. Col. Stephen Messer, commander of the Alabama CERFP, "So when it is for real, we do not have to learn each other on that site."

Selected members of Alabama's Task Force One, an urban search and rescue team comprised of firemen from across the state, spent the first three days of the week training the integrated teams of the response force. The training included methods to reach and rescue people in



Chris Davisphoto

MOBILE, Ala. – Members of the Alabama CERFP assist a role-player victim who is trapped under rubble from a collapsed parking structure during a training exercise Feb. 1, 2014.

varying situations, how to handle challenges in communications and techniques to shore-up structures in order to safely access and egress with victims.

Another level of the training focused on medical treatment. Leaders and sections developed a cohesive plan to speedily and accurately process them with identification, decontamination, evaluation and treatment before sending them to local hospitals as the need dictates.

The training culminating over began Jan. 31, as elements of the response teams arrived at the battleship and began setting up.

They moved with deftness and purpose, with no yelling or confusion. As the medical and decontamination teams were setting up their aid stations and decontamination tents, recon and recovery

teams were preparing and conducting briefs.

The combined recon teams of the CERFP and the CST personnel quickly discovered how the battleship's hull and multiple decks create communication complications.

Teams worked their way down the ladders and into the darkened, smaller holds below decks with only their headlamps to help them search for victims.

Recon teams quickly identified hazards and victims to their operations center so the recovery teams knew what equipment to bring for their part of the mission. The side passages and smaller compartments made for a tight squeeze for the CERFP personnel's gear and suits.

"This is a completely different game (Please see CERFP, page 7)

6 Alabama Guardsman

(GROWTH continued from page 3)

skilled workers, parents, partners, and community servants? Yes.

I'll be proud if you become president of the United States; but I already am proud that you are an Alabama National Guard Soldier or Airman, civilian employee or family member, mother or father, great employee or volunteer. All of our leaders, from

(TRUST continued from page 3)

the remainder of their lives.

Trust between Soldiers/Airmen binds individuals into resilient units, but it cannot accomplish missions nor generate high levels of unit effectiveness. That comes from the trust that Soldiers/Airmen have with their leaders. Trust between a superior and a subordinate is the second critical aspect of trust; without it, Soldiers/Airmen will not follow orders except from fear of consequences. Their collective decision to obey orders is the difference between mission accomplishment and failure. This is primarily based on their trust in their

(CERFP continued from page 5)

for us," said Sgt. Phillip Adams of the 440th Chemical Company. "We have never done confined spaces like this on the battleship."

As the recovery teams assisted the walking victims up a couple of decks, they focused on the unconscious or incapacitated victims. This was where the previous days' training with Task Force One was applied. Teams had to learn to adjust to the stairwells and moving personnel using rigs and pulleys, as well as securing and pulling victims up a three deck vertical shaft.

The instructors from Task Force One only provided correction if they saw a potential unsafe act to encourage team leaders and members to think the situation through. This developed the confi-

team leader up to major general, should support those with whom we are charged with leading as they press toward self-improvement and upward mobility, both in the military and in their civilian life.

Thanks for all that you do and keep pushing to do and to be what you want. In the meantime, I think the

leaders. Accordingly, our doctrine emphasizes building trust up and down the chain of command. Superiors trust subordinates and empower them to accomplish missions within their intent. Subordinates trust superiors to give them the freedom to execute the commander's intent and support their decisions.

The military is among the institutions held in highest confidence by Americans. Without the trust and confidence of the citizens, we could not maintain an all-volunteer force. Without the trust and confidence of the President, Congress and

dence and thought process that will help them as they respond to emergencies in the future.

"It's really most of the stuff we'll see when we are working together," said Scott Carmichael, a medical specialist with Task Force One. "It's nice for them to see what our capabilities are, and also we'll be able to see what their capabilities are."

On Feb. 1 the training moved to the Mobile Fire Academy site. The scenario was a collapsed parking structure and victims trapped in the rubble. The instructors tested a new set of skills on the recon and recovery teams.

Teams removed rubble with a mobile crane and shored-up structures to allow ease of safe access and used cutting and

words of Missouri National Guard Captain Harry S. Truman are applicable to how we discharge our current duties: "I want to tell you this, too, fellows. Right now, I'm where I want to be – in command of this battery. I'd rather be here than president of the United States." Lead from the front!

our Governor's, we could not maintain the readiness required to fight and win.

Soldiers and Airmen swear an oath to the Constitution, and do so freely, without compulsion or reservation to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Americans place special trust and confidence in Soldiers and Airmen to serve the nation before all considerations. In return, Soldiers and Airmen ask that their fellow citizens remember their sacrifice, not with tangible rewards, but with respect and appreciation for having done their duty.

spreading equipment to get victims out of wrecked vehicles. Medical teams had to setup their stations in different layouts and adjust to different terrain conditions.

Soldiers and Airmen both commented that the training was some of the best they had received. Several said they look forward to working as a group again in the future, especially with Task Force One.

"The more we train together, the more efficient we'll be in a real world scenario," said Capt. Eric Creel of Task Force One.

"Having that mix (multiple units and agencies), we are not saying we cooperated, but that we actually integrated and worked together," said Messer.

Guardsmen solidify skills with disaster training

by Eric Roberts
131st MPAD

After a week of record snowfall in Alabama, Soldiers donned their protective gear at Pelham Range Feb. 1 and 2 for reconnaissance and mass casualty decontamination training in support of the Command and Control Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Response Element - B (C2CRE-B) mission.

“Mentally you have to look at the training as practice for the real event,” said Spc. Tyea Johnson of the 208th CBRN Company, from Springville. “The real scenario will always be different from practice, but we feel comfortable with each other, and feel we can master any scenario.”

“We have to train to depend on the first responders and each other,” said Pfc. Angelica Wallace of the 208th CBRN Company.

Wallace added that your attitude is key to being ready in the face of a disaster.

“We are continuously trained in our C2CRE-B mission in addition to our regular duties,” said 2nd Lt. Jason Popham.

Popham said the training makes him and the other soldiers more aware of threats and offers numerous variables to prepare the Guard for its homeland mission.

“What we do is take care of people, relief in disaster. Today’s scenario is an earthquake and possible contami-



Eric Roberts/Photo

PELHAM RANGE, Ala. - Members of the 31st Chemical Brigade CBRN put on protective gear in preparation for reconnaissance and mass casualty decontamination training Feb. 2.

nate leak. Our mission is just not for a terrorist attack, it is about people in need, and that is what the Guard does best,” said Popham.

“We are a small part of a larger process,” said Capt. Micheal Johnson.

Johnson says what makes the Guard unique is the fact that it will support and augment the local and state authorities already in place.

“Everything we do supports someone else in a disaster relief scenario,” added Popham.

Sgt. Jason Joiner said the mission called for his team to gather samples to test for contaminants for law enforcement, which is a common vari-

able in the Guard’s disaster relief.

How is that possible to achieve success in such a challenging mission?

“You’ve got to be pretty flexible, of course,” said Sgt. Earnest Acoff. “And that is why I am still here.”

“Because the mission requires so much training, we are in a better category of mission capability,” said Joiner.

Wallace says training is 100 percent essential in the Guard regardless of what part of the mission with which a unit is tasked.

“You play how you practice,” said Johnson. “Preparation is key.”