

ALABAMA GUARDSMAN

**SPECIAL EMPHASIS
CULTURAL EVENT**

**145th Chemical,
Biological,
Radiological,
Nuclear
Company
conducts
exercise**

**203rd Military
Police Battalion
at Eglin Air Force Base**



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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.

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On The Cover

Alabama's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, high-yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERF-P) elements conducted training June 22-25, 2014, which included mass casualty evacuation and recovery, decontamination, and medical triage and treatment at the Combined Arms Combat Training Facility, Camp Shelby, Mississippi. For more photos see page 13.
 (Photo by Sgt. Brenda Thomas, Public Affairs Office)

Adjutant General

Ambassadors of the Guard



Maj. Gen. Perry Smith

When I was speaking to someone the other day about my various responsibilities as the adjutant general, the individual with whom I was speaking asked how the Guard was

different from the active duty Army and the Army Reserve. I realized as I spoke to him, much as I had realized many times in the past, that a great deal of the public does not understand the community nature of the National Guard and the value it has, not only economically, but also socially. I discussed with this person the merits of the Guard and how we are both state and federal troops, that we are the

militia discussed in the American Constitution, and the rich history of our force. I also talked about some of the finer details such as funding, cases of federal and state authority, balancing civilian and military life for reserve force service members, and the like. My point in telling you all of this is to highlight that we – you and I – are the ambassadors of the Alabama (See AMBASSADORS page 15)

State Command Sergeant Major

Standards: how excellence is maintained



Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Pike

The Army has an on-going goal of providing its members training opportunities on the importance of serving in the Army as a profession. The Army has conducted formal training programs designed to institutionalize critical components of the Army profession and ethic. The intent of these programs is to encourage facilitated dialogue and action for Soldiers to better understand the Army Profession, to recommit a culture

of dedicated service and to identify the Army ethic and renew a focus on basic standards. All of us who wear the uniform must be able to articulate and display the Army Values and Warrior Ethos; and should adopt these standards as a way of life and live by them daily. Military standards appear in multiple forms, such as Army doctrine, regulation, local standard operating procedures, and written or oral directives given by a Soldier's chain of command. Service members must be familiar with all Army standards and make them a priority in fulfilling them during daily duties or activities.

Every Soldier should desire to meet and exceed established Army standards. For example, a Soldier that is driving a military vehicle must be aware of posted speed limits and should also use professional judgment to drive more slowly and cautiously in residential areas where there might be a greater risk. Another example is for Soldiers to render proper respect to the U.S. flag when outside and while inside a vehicle on base. There are all sorts of military standards (i.e. proper hair length and style, covered tattoos, height and weight, APFT and NCOES requirements, ad- (See STANDARDS page 15)

MULTI-PURPOSED: the 203rd Military Police Battalion



Spc. Nicholas Tosti and Spc. Josiah Toro, both from the 1166th Military Police Company, run a stress fire course at the Alabama Army National Guard training grounds on Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Davis)

**by Staff Sgt. Christopher Davis
Public Affairs Office**

It is hot, the kind of heat where you sweat standing still. That does little to deter the 31B Soldier who is moving down the rifle range as part of a military police support team conducting battle drills and stress shooting.

The 203rd Military Police Battalion conducted their annual training during the last two weeks of June at the Alabama National Guard Training site on the northern range of Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

The battalion was not focused on only one specific task for the duration of the annual training. Battalion leadership used the time to conduct not only training on their five MP functions, but also M-1117 Guardian Armored Support Vehicle driver training and included a real-world law and order operation. To develop esprit-de-corps, the 203rd MP Bat-

talion hosted their first annual MP Challenge among the three MP companies that represent the battalion.

“What makes MPs unique is that we’re a versatile force,” said Spc. Nicholas Tosti of the 1166th Military Police Company. “We’re mostly mounted and trained on a lot of different weapons systems that most military occupational specialties aren’t.”

The 152nd Military Police Company and the 128th Military Police Company rotated between tactical law and order joint operations with Eglin Air Force Base’s Security Force and MP functions training covering maneuver / mobility and area security operations. While one of the companies ran route reconnaissance and convoy security exercises at the Alabama National Guard Training site, the other worked alongside Airmen maintaining checkpoints, entry gates and conducted patrols responding to any emergency.

When running a 24-hour law and order mission with the Eglin Security Force, each MP company broke up their units into two 12 hour rotations. Aside from real-world operations, the two MP companies coordinated training exercises with the Airmen security force involving hostile shooter, building clearing, and hasty traffic control points.

“The Air Force (Airmen) are real knowledgeable,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Lambert of the 128th Military Police Co. “They are really good at what they do, and this is a real world training experience.”

While the 128th ran their law and order mission, the 152nd worked on training on the other MP functions as well as familiarizing the driver from each MP team on the M-1117 ASV and incorpo-

rating the vehicle into squad-level maneuver and mobility operations (MMO) skills. The ASV is a new addition to the MP units of Alabama and is utilized as a new asset to the unit’s MTOE.

MP teams poured over the M-1117 ASVs with their instructors guiding them on the preventive maintenance checks and services (PMCS) items of the vehicle and the different functioning areas of the ASV. After the instructors conducted individual driver training, the M-1117 ASVs configured into a convoy maneuver training to simulate real-world conditions that an MP squad or platoon could be tasked to do down range.

Spc. Chris Gillis, one of the 152nd instructors, describes the M-1117 ASV as a very versatile vehicle in a supporting MMO role, but one that requires great attention to detail as it has more onboard systems than a standard M-1151 Humvee.

As the 203rd’s annual training went into its final week, command elements hosted the battalion’s first annual MP Challenge. This was a series of events focused on warrior skills and MP functions over several days, covering tasks from rifle marksmanship to land navigation to a ruck march. The victors were determined on a combination of scores based on team performance and each individual. The winning



Sgt. Markus Saunders and Pvt. 1st Class. Seth Bayer, both from the 152nd MP Co, set up an Antenna Group OE-254/GRC system to help run a communications relay for MP teams throughout the Alabama Army National Guard training grounds on Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Davis)

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Members of the 128th Military Police Company conducted driving and convoy escort training with the M-1117 Guardian Armored Support Vehicle on the Alabama Army National Guard training grounds at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. (Photo by 1st Lt. Jessica Addison, 203rd MP Bn)

MP team was from the 1166th, including team leader Sgt. Alan Darling, gunner Spc. Josiah Toro and driver Spc. Nicholas Tosti. The 203rd's annual training reflects how many MP Soldiers refer to their MOS, being multi-purpose not only as a singular piece of equipment or weaponry, but as a Soldier being able to function in multiple roles with many flexible skills. "I know I use the analogy that if the 203rd MP Battalion was a college football team, it would be Stanford," said Lt. Col. West Whitmire, the commander of the 203rd. "A smart, tough football team. Smart, tough Soldiers that can excel in readiness, in support of the TAG's readiness goals. All those things that define readiness and help us to maintain force structure but at the same time excel in our METL, Mission Essential Task List, as well."



Sgt. James Gillis, a mechanic with the 152nd Military Police Company, instructs two MPs on the M-1117 Guardian Armored Support Vehicle. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Davis)



Lt. Col. West Whitmire and Command Sgt. Maj. Nathan Deese, the commander and command sergeant major of the 203rd Military Police Battalion, watch an MP team conduct preparations for battle drills training. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Davis)



Pvt. William Weaver of the 128th Military Police Company works alongside Airman 1st Class Klein of the Eglin Air Force Security Force as part of a joint force operation. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Davis)



Sgt. Gary Wood, a mechanic with the 203rd Military Police Battalion, works on an Armored Support Vehicle, making it ready for the 128th Military Police Company to conduct convoy escort training. (Photo by Sgt. Suzanne Schmitz, 1165th MP Co)

Snap Shots

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



Contributed/photo

MONTGOMERY, Ala.- State Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Pike presents the Certificate of Appointment to Command Sgt. Maj. Lisa M. Allen.



Jay Hare/photo

DOTHAN, Ala. - Sgt. Jessica Nelson of the 1151st Vertical Engineer Company hugs her mother, Mary, after returning from serving in Afghanistan at the Dothan Regional Airport, July 1, 2014.



Contributed/photo

From left to right; Lt. Col Barry Wharton, incoming squadron commander, 1-131 Cavalry, present; Lt. Col. Dale Murray, outgoing squadron Commander, 1-131 Cavalry, 2011-2014; Col. Mike Mitchell, squadron commander, 1-131 Cavalry, 2008-2011; Col. Jeff Smitherman, battalion commander, 1-131 Armor, 2005-2006; Col. Joe Barnard, battalion commander, 1-131 Armor, 2003-2005; Brig. Gen. Danny Speigner, battalion commander, 1-131 Armor, 2000-2002. Color bearer is Spc. Jacob Clark, and S6 Soldier in the 1-131st. The group assembled for the change of command ceremony, July 13, 2014.

Eagle Vision

by Warrant Officer 1 John Buckley
Contributing writer

What is the result when Air National Guardsman from Hawaii, South Carolina, California and Alabama collaborate on a routine basis? You get the power of space delivered to fellow Guardsman, our sister services and first responders in support of natural disasters and military contingency operations.

Over the last few months, the Air Guardsman from Eagle Vision (EV)-3 (California), EV-4 (South Carolina), EV-5 (Hawaii) and EV-6 (Alabama) have been downlinking imagery and radar products from commercial, space based satellite sources in support of tornado relief, firefighting activities, flooding and hurricane preparations. The Airmen from Eagle Vision units work within what they call the “current news cycle”. If the news is reporting it, the Airmen are standing by, ready to respond. They coordinate with commercial satellite vendors, the National Intelligence Geospatial Agency (NGA), the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and other organizations in order to ensure relevant space-based imagery is available for the affected area.

The unique Eagle Vision Air Guard units are the Department of Defense’s only deployable, commercial imagery ground station. They come self-sustaining as an operational unit with their own satellite antenna, imagery & radar processing equipment and power generation. Currently, the Eagle Vision units

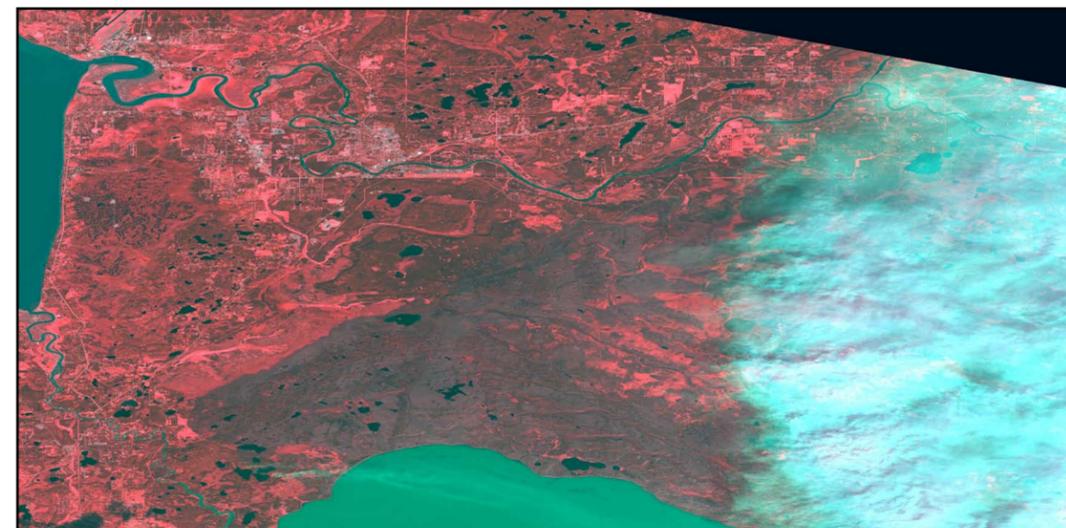


Staff Sgt Kellie Hinkle, Eagle Vision-3, CANG downloading commercial space based products with their newly fielded ground processing unit.

are being fielded with a more capable downlink antenna and improved processing equipment in a self-contained shelter. With a downlink range of more than 2,500 kilometers, these Eagle Vision units can rapidly downlink, multi-spectral imagery (MSI), panchromatic and radar products that are available to federal, state, local and tribal organizations and individuals. A recent example of this support was when EV-3, stationed just north of San Diego, was tasked to provide support to the wildfires threatening the major metropolitan area. The Airmen quickly responded and soon had space-based imagery scenes that were made available to those supporting firefighting operations. A similar request was also made to EV-3 in support of the Funny River fire in Alaska.

Eagle Vision units also have supported military contingency operations worldwide. Examples include deployments to Africa, the Philippines and Bahrain. At these locations, the space-based imagery collected by the Airmen were provided to U.S. and allied military partners for exploitation.

Space-based imagery and radar products bring game-changing products to the support of both natural and man-made disasters.



Funny River Fire imagery available through EVR2EST

Alabama Guard holds Special Emphasis Cultural Event

by Staff Sgt. Sandra Lucas
131st MPAD

The Alabama National Guard celebrated its largest known Special Emphasis Cultural Event at Joint Force Headquarters in Montgomery, July 17. The event included food, presentations and cultural recitals from Asian American/Pacific Islanders, Hispanics and American Indians.

During his opening comments, Brig. Gen. Allen M. Harrell, director of the joint staff, Alabama National Guard said, "This is one event; we look forward to future events representing other cultures."

Capt. Jennifer Poulter, Alabama National Guard's equal employment manager, initiated the event with the assistance of the Special Emphasis Program committee.

"The SEP's objective yesterday was to enhance diversity awareness" said Sgt. 1st Class Anna May, chair of the committee.

"By bringing these groups together for a cultural event, we celebrated as a group the uniqueness of the cultures in fellow Soldiers that we stand beside every day," said May.

Eugene Romano used his expertise as a Latin dance instructor to give a presentation about Latino culture, during which he encouraged the Airmen and Soldiers nearby to participate.

"I like to share culture and where I come from," said Romano. "If (I have) the opportunity to show a little of where I come from - it's really good."



"After the event, I was thinking how important it is for the National Guard, our first responders, to defend what they believe in. They are unified people that serve, defending principals, fighting for more than land; they fight for history, heritage and culture," said Romano.

During the event, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Timothy L. Snider, network manager at Joint Force Headquarters, recognized Chris Blackburn with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

"We grew up together, graduated in 1990," said Blackburn.

When asked if cultural diversity was a matter of interest in his youth, Snider replied, "Of course not. I appreciate cultures a lot more now. We were just friends."

"I appreciate the cultures as I grow older. We see cultures dying out, they're not passed down," said Blackburn. To ensure his heritage is passed on to future generations, Blackburn welcomes the opportunity to educate and serves as the planning and events coordinator with the Calvin McGhee Cultural Authority, which oversees all aspects of cultural education, museum development, use of the Pow Wow Grounds, cultural programs, and related activities and events for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.



Alabama National Guard appreciates all those that participated in the Special Emphasis Cultural Event 2014. D'Road Café for providing cultural tasting dishes; Eugene Romano, Latin Dance demonstration; Charles Coleman, Native American speaker; Maya Salm, cultural dance; Poarch Band of Creek Indians, traditional dance demonstration; Filipino American Association of Montgomery, dance demonstrations; John Fleming and Israel Afangideh, martial arts demonstration; and 117th Air Refueling Wing, 31st Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Brigade for hosting booth activities.





Alabama Army National Guard Substance Abuse Prevention Program

The mission of the Alabama Substance Abuse Prevention (SAP) Program is to increase the readiness and resiliency of Soldiers and Families through:

- **Education and Training-** Provide prevention education and training to Soldiers and command.
- **Early Identification-** Assist in identification of users through drug testing, medical evaluation, screening, investigation, apprehension or self-referral.
- **Risk Reduction-** Compile, analyze, and assess behavioral risks to identify trends and units with high-risk profiles. Provide methods to eliminate or mitigate risks.
- **Deterrence-** Help units initiate smart testing and advise Soldiers of command policies.
- **Screening and Self-Assessment-** Provide screening and self-assessment tools to Soldiers to evaluate their own risk.
- **Rehabilitation-** SAP is not a treatment provider, but helps Soldiers find approved treatment facilities around where they live to ensure successful completion of rehab.
- **Targeted Intervention-** Provide educational and motivational programs which focus on the adverse effects and consequences of alcohol and other drug abuse.

Alabama has one Alcohol and Drug Control Officer (ADCO), Tony Migliore, and three Prevention Coordinators (PC), Mike Garner, Kenya Coachman, and NaTresa Franklin who support the SAP program. The ADCO coordinates all substance abuse and risk reduction activities, assists commanders in identifying and referring Soldiers with known or possible substance abuse issues, and monitors and evaluates referral, separation and completion rates. The PCs provide Units with prevention training and administer the Unit Risk Inventory to all Units.

Additionally, the ADCO and PCs serve as subject matter experts for the SAP program and Army Regulation 600-85, and act as a resource for Soldiers and command with any questions and concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact any member of the SAP program team for more information.

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Search & Extraction

The premier response force for defense support to civilian authorities for the state of Alabama is called the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, high-yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERF-P); a Department of Defense and Homeland Security directive aimed at building up homeland defense with National Guard resources. Alabama's CBRNE elements conducted training June 22-25, 2014, which included mass casualty evacuation and recovery, decontamination, and medical triage and treatment at the Combined Arms Combat Training Facility, Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

(Photos by Sgt. Brenda Thomas, Public Affairs Office)

FSC, 877th Engineer Battalion

Afghanistan – Eighty-six Soldiers of the Forward Support Company (FSC), 877th Engineer Battalion deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom May 31, 2014.

Upon arrival in Afghanistan, Soldiers from the company completed additional training on counter-improvised explosive devices, fire warden responsibilities, counter radio controlled electronic warfare, and common remotely operated weapon station.

In addition, Soldiers attended briefs on legal, medical and safety concerns. FSC, 877th Engineer Battalion Soldiers also participated in right and left seat with the FSC 133rd Engineer Battalion.

This was done to familiarize Soldiers of FSC, 877th Engineer Battalion with the area they would soon take over from FSC, 133rd Engineer Battalion.

This training is vital to ensure there is no lapse in support from the change over. The training also assisted the incoming Soldiers in becoming comfortable with the area in which they will be operating.

- SSG Elizabeth Ward



Republished from the Forward Support Company, 877th Engineer June 2014 newsletter

(AMBASSADORS continued from page 3)

Guard. We are the ones who can ensure that the public knows the value and training proficiency of the National Guard. If our friends, families, co-workers, and neighbors do not understand the unique history and role of the Guard, it is likely the rest of the country will not. If the nation does not understand the significance and importance of the National Guard – the

militia – then the future of the Guard becomes more uncertain.

I encourage each of you to take every opportunity to speak about your Guard experiences and share your knowledge with friends, family, and others as you can. Now, I don't expect you to corner your friends at every party and use a talking points sheet to explain the history

of the Guard. But, I think it would be good for all of us to remember that we are ambassadors and that we are part of the oldest military force in the nation, one which has fought in every major conflict and war of this country. We, National Guardsmen, are the historic guardians of our country, let us guard our future as well. Lead from the front!

(STANDARDS continued from page 3)

ments, addressing senior officers, etc.) and all standards must be the daily expectation of all Soldiers. It is also the responsibility of all leaders, both NCOs and officers alike to enforce military standards.

Many Soldiers understand that meeting the standard is expected, but there are those who desire to exceed expectations and pursue

excellence as a way of life. These motivated individuals are our standard-bearers, strategically focused on setting the example, leading by example and enforcing standards. These Soldiers are leaders because they coach, mentor and discipline subordinates and create future leaders.

Military standards go

hand-in-hand with discipline, attitude and the desire to do the right thing, even when no one is looking. The Alabama National Guard is a strong organization, because we have Soldiers who are standard-bearers, willing to step up to new roles of responsibility and ensure that our military standards are not in any way diminished.



Lt. Col. Bradley Tanksley/photos

The 279th Army Field Support Brigade, located in Huntsville, Alabama, conducted a change of responsibility ceremony between Command Sgt. Maj. John Hagler (outgoing) and Command Sgt. Maj. Lisa Allen (incoming) 22 June 2014. Hagler passes a sword to Col. Alan Cranford, who then passes the sword to Allen to signify the change of responsibility.

226th MEB welcomes new commander

by Staff Sgt. Sandra Lucas
131st MPAD

Col. Sylvester Cannon relinquished command of the Alabama National Guard's 226th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade headquartered in Mobile, Alabama, to Col. Thomas M. Vickers Jr.

"It has been a tremendous honor to lead this great organization for the past three years," said Cannon. "The Soldiers of the 226 MEB have made me successful, as I know they will make Col. Vickers successful during his command."

Vickers is familiar with the 226th MEB, where he was assigned as the deputy commander from December 2010 through 2011. He was last assigned to the 135th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), out of Birmingham, as the chief of staff.

Both Cannon and Vickers were recently deployed in similar missions. While deployed to Kuwait with the 135th ESC, Vickers managed and supervised logistics operations and contractors operating in the region. Cannon deployed to Afghanistan with the 226th where he supervised contract management, logistics and security in the Kabul Base Cluster.

"This is the next command that I wanted due to the quality of people in the organization and the importance of that headquarters mission in support of DSCA (Defense Support of Civil Authorities)



Contributed/photo

Members of the 226th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade salute during the playing of the National Anthem at the change of command ceremony.

operations," said Vickers. "It is an honor to be given this opportunity and I look forward to the chance to be part of such a fantastic unit."

In addition to his recent Kuwait deployment, Vickers deployed to Iraq in 2007 - 2008. His military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with one oak leaf, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaves, the Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaves and the Combat Action Badge. Vickers was commissioned a second lieutenant from the Officer Candidate School, Fort Benning, Georgia, as an Engineer Officer in August 1988. He served on active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. He joined the Alabama Army National Guard in April 1986, and has

served in multiple assignments including multiple commands at company, battalion, and brigade levels. He was promoted to colonel in February 2012.



Contributed/photo

Brig. Gen. Charles Gable, Alabama's assistant adjutant general, passes the 226th flag to Col. Vickers, symbolizing his acquisition of command.

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AUGUST
Antiterrorism Awareness Month

BY THE ADJUTANT GENERAL ALABAMA NATIONAL GUARD

A PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the vitality of the Alabama National Guard depends on how safe we keep our homes, neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and communities;

Whereas, terrorist acts create fear and destroy our trust in others and in civic institutions, threatening the community's health, prosperity, and quality of life;

Whereas, people of all ages must be made aware of what they can do to prevent themselves and their families, neighbors, and coworkers from being harmed by terrorists;

Whereas, people of all ages must be made aware of the dangers of terrorist activities and how they can protect themselves from becoming victims of terrorism;

Whereas, the personal injury, financial loss, and impact to communities from terrorists' attacks are intolerable and require investment from the whole community;

Whereas, preventing and defeating terrorism includes community protection and security, we must go beyond these to promote self-awareness and self-protection to make Army communities safer for all ages and to develop positive opportunities and a bright future for young people;

Whereas, adults must invest time and resources to understand and support effective antiterrorism prevention, deterrence, detection, and defense; adults must also engage our youth to ensure they adopt a proactive mindset of personal protection;

Whereas, effective antiterrorism plans and programs succeed because of partnerships with law enforcement, security, other government agencies, civic groups, schools, faith communities, businesses, and individuals as they help to raise community awareness and responsibility and instill pride and sustained vigilance;

Now, therefore, I MAJOR GENERAL Perry G. Smith, the Adjutant General of the Alabama National Guard, do hereby proclaim August 2014 as Antiterrorism Awareness Month for the Alabama National Guard and urge all employees of this organization, your families, employers and supporters to invest in the power of prevention and work together to make the State of Alabama a safer, stronger, more caring community.

PERRY G. SMITH
MAJOR GENERAL, ALARNG
Adjutant General