

ALABAMA GUARDSMAN

Combined
Resolve II



CHANGE OF COMMAND
111TH EOD & 1200TH CSSB

**Alabama Guard
remembers
D-Day**

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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

MOBILE, Ala.- Sgt. Scott Kigerl, tuba and trumpet player in the 151st Army Band, is also the state substance abuse program coordinator. The 151st Army Band Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of 1st Sgt. Roy G. Pope, performed at the annual Blue Star Salute, at Battleship Park, Mobile, Alabama, May 17, 2014. (Photo by John Cotton).

Adjutant General

D-Day Commemoration



Maj. Gen. Perry Smith

was like on that day 70 years

This month marked the 70th anniversary of the D-Day attack, one of the greatest battles of World War II. To help us think about what it

ago, let us look at a portion of President Obama's recent speech to commemorate the events of that day: "If prayer were made of sound, the skies over England that night would have deafened the world. Captains paced their decks. Pilots tapped their gauges. Commanders pored over maps, fully aware that for all the months of meticulous planning, everything could go

wrong -- the winds, the tides, the element of surprise -- and above all, the audacious bet that what waited on the other side of the Channel would compel men not to shrink away, but to charge ahead. Fresh-faced GIs rubbed trinkets, kissed pictures of sweethearts, checked and re-checked their equipment. 'God,' asked one, 'give me guts.' And in the pre-dawn (Please see D-DAY, page 11)

State Command Sergeant Major

Army Strong: Celebrating 239 Years



Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Pike

military department of the federal government under the new Constitution enacted in 1789.

Many decades later, and with the many foresights of Army leaders, the Army has transformed into a highly esteemed and professional organization which takes the

lead in providing the ultimate defense and security for our allies, citizens, and homeland. The Army is a profession and we take pride in preserving the roles and responsibilities within the institution. Officers and enlisted Soldiers alike should share the same standards of excellence that when combined, creates a body of expert military knowledge, skills, professionalism and duty.

The Army continues to develop with new skills, manpower and equipment modernization in order to remain ready and prepared for the threats to our homeland, national security and inter-

ests around the world. As we celebrate the birthday of the United States Army, let us be reminded of the many sacrifices given by the brave men and women who have served and those who continue to serve. It is the responsibility of the individual Soldier to perform according to standard, always striving for personal and professional development and to maintain the highest traditions of military service. With each individual Soldier performing at his or her best, we all become a part of the overall success of our military services and do our part in preserving the Army profession.

Soldiers provide support for Combined Resolve II

by Sgt. Eric Roberts
131st MPAD

MONTGOMERY, Ala. - Throughout the history of the Alabama Army National Guard, its Soldiers have been utilized by the United States and NATO in various combat and training missions at home and abroad.

There is a renewed interest in training missions and the U.S. presence in Europe, and the Alabama Army National Guard is part of that mission, said Sgt. Bethany McMeans of the 131st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, out of Montgomery.

McMeans and four other members of the 131st traveled to the German state of Bavaria, May 14 - June 9, to provide public affairs support to the multinational exercise, Combined Resolve II.

Combined Resolve II is a U.S. Army Europe-led, multinational exercise at the Joint Multinational Training Command's Hohenfels and Grafenwoehr Training Areas, May 15-Jun. 30, 2014. The exercise in-



Eric Roberts/photo

Sgt. 1st Class James L. Brown, 131st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Alabama Army National Guard, conducts an interview as part of Combined Resolve II on June 5, 2014, in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

cludes more than 4,000 participants and trains the U.S. Army's European Rotational Force - the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division - alongside allies and partners from 14 European countries.

"Training with NATO has been an amazing opportunity. I have had the chance to work with multiple nations, which has helped train me to be a better Soldier in my field," said McMeans.

McMeans added that her unit's missions involved providing support with still photography, videography, radio stories and news stories.

"I personally worked with the French, the Aus-

trians and the Croatians on multiple missions throughout our annual training in Germany. Being someone that has never worked with other nations, you often think you are the best. But working with other nations gives you insight on how well-trained and powerful our partners and allies actually are," said McMeans.

Sgt. 1st Class James L. Brown said, as a member of the 131st MPAD, he has been part of several missions to Europe, but will remember Germany over others due to the amount of partners working together.

"It's great to work missions at home in Alabama, but when you're part of an overseas operation, you get a different perspective. Not only do you get to work in and experience locations you wouldn't otherwise, you also get to interact with and meet people from all over the world. It's broadened my military (Please see COMBINED, page 11)



Eric Roberts/photo

Staff Sgt. Martin Dyson of the Alabama National Guard's 131st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment provides public affairs support to the secretary of the Army's visit to Combined Resolve II in Hohenfels, Germany

Unit Ministry Teams attend annual conference

by Staff Sgt. Christopher Davis
Public Affairs Office

FORT MCCLELLAN, Ala. - Unit Ministry Teams from the eight major commands of the Alabama Army National Guard met for their annual conference and training at Patterson Hall on Fort McClellan in June. Each UMT is comprised of a chaplain and chaplain assistant, and a team is assigned to each brigade and each battalion.

"Our primary goal in this conference is to help our UMTs to develop their Mission Essential Task List (METL) and annual training plan," said Col. Henry Beaulieu, senior Army chaplain for the Alabama Army National Guard.

The conference included large group instruction, small group panel discussions and UMTs within a MACOM working on their training plans together. Discussions were not limited to only the chaplains, but chaplain assistants weighed in heavily on their roles in the UMT mission and the services they provide to service members.

The keynote presenter was Col. John Morris, Army National Guard staff chaplain, who reviewed with Alabama's UMTs the na-

ture of religious support by the chaplaincy from the brigade level to the company level.

"What do we deliver? We deliver religious support at the point of need," Morris emphasized to the UMTs. "To whom? Everyone. We take care of all Soldiers. We maintain the most important weapon system on the battlefield, that being the American Soldier."

Morris highlighted the growing need of chaplains to help in two basic ways for service members today. First, provide for the religious support and religious needs of Sol-



Christopher Davis/photo

Col. John Morris, Army National Guard staff chaplain, discusses the roles and attributes of the modern Army chaplain needed among the different levels of command.



Christopher Davis/photo

Major Command chaplains and chaplain assistants break into small groups to discuss methods and actions taken as a Unit Ministry Team in response to different scenarios.

diers. Second, treat everyone with dignity and respect.

These two points have been a focus of Maj. Gen. Donald L. Rutherford, U.S. Army's deputy chief of chaplains, who provided a video presentation during the conference.

"Now there is room in the Army for different moral beliefs, personal views, individual conscience and religious beliefs," said Rutherford. "It is a culture of dignity and respect that we need to promote, one that is expected in our Army values."

Morris worked with the UMTs throughout Friday morning, training by providing potential situations chaplains and their assistants could face over the course of their service. The UMTs broke up into smaller groups and discussed how to handle the scenarios in accordance with Army and National Guard guidelines.

The secondary focus of the conference was UMTs being trained and ready to respond when called

(Please see CONFERENCE, page 11)

Snap Shots

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



Katie Dowd/photo

FORT STEWART, Ga.- The 167th Theater Sustainment Command, Alabama Army National Guard, Fort McClellan, Ala., had a team of more than 60 Soldiers participating in exercise Warfighter 14-5A here from May 12 to 26. Warfighter is a computer-based exercise that provides a simulated war environment in which units can practice their tasks as if they were deployed to a combat environment.



Contributed/photo

HALEYVILLE, Ala. - The 877th Engineer Battalion prepares for deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. They will conduct materiel retrograde operations in support of the United States Central Command Materiel Retrograde Element (CMRE) mission in Afghanistan.



David Arnold/photo

MONTGOMERY, Ala. - Lt. Col. Jim Hawkins, deputy director of military support, was promoted to colonel by Maj. Gen. Perry Smith, Alabama's adjutant general at Joint Force Headquarters, May 29, 2014.

SGT. JEREMY MESSER
TROMBONE/GUITAR
151ST ARMY BAND



SPC. RODNEY BROWN
SAXOPHONE
151ST ARMY BAND



SPC. DANIEL HOLMES
CLARINET/SAXOPHONE
151ST ARMY BAND



The 151st Army Band Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of 1st Sgt. Roy G Pope, performed at the annual Blue Star Salute, at Battleship Park, Mobile, Alabama, May 17 2014. "Army Bands provide music throughout the spectrum of military operations to instill in our soldiers the will to fight and win, foster the support of our citizens, and promote our national interests at home and abroad." - U.S. Army Band mission. (Photos by Staff Sgt. John Cotton, 151st Army Band)

151ST ARMY BAND



“Red Tails” arrive at Bagram

by Staff Sgt. Evelyn Chavez
455th Air Expeditionary Wing

BAGRAM, Afghanistan - A team of Alabama Air National Guard Airmen have arrived at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 100th Fighter Squadron “Red Tails” from the 187th Fighter Wing in Montgomery, Alabama, will provide overwatch and close air support for ground units here.

This deployment is very unique, according to 1st Lt. Samuel Kniskern, 100th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron intelligence officer-in-charge, as it is not typi-



Evelyn Chavez/photo

A U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon assigned from 100th Fighter Squadron, 187th Fighter Wing Montgomery, Ala., arrives at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, April 27, 2014. The guard unit recently replaced the 93rd Fighter Squadron from Homestead Air Reserve Station, Fla. and 301st Fighter Squadron from Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, Texas for the latest deployment rotation

cal for the Air Guard to complete a six-month rotation with one specific unit. In the Guard, deployments are normally distributed amongst one or two units for three to four months at a time.



Evelyn Chavez/photo

U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons assigned from 100th Fighter Squadron, 187th Fighter Wing Montgomery, Ala. arrive at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan April 27, 2014. The guard unit recently replaced the 93rd Fighter Squadron from Homestead Air Reserve Station, Fla. and 301st Fighter Squadron from Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, Texas for the latest deployment rotation

“It is different in that normally we will have a smaller number of people deploy with active duty augmentees,” said Kniskern. Despite being in a deployment rotation longer than normal, the fighter squadron’s support of contingency operations is nothing new.

The unit’s history is well-known as they were one of the original Tuskegee Airmen squadrons during World War II. They deployed to Italy as bomber escorts in late 1943, supported the Cold War and continued making their mark during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2009. This will be the ninth combat deployment for the 187th Fighter Wing since Operation Desert Storm.

“It means a lot to be part of history. The Red Tails marker is something we are really proud of,” said 1st Lt. Jeffrey Witt, a pilot with the 100th.

“The squadron flew with (Please see **RED TAILS**, page 14)

Change of Command

Passing the Colors

Col. Brian Barrontine assumed command of the 111th Ordnance Group (EOD) from Col. Rita Casey during a change of command ceremony June 7. Casey, a native of Cullman, Alabama, commanded the 111th for three years. Prior to that she served as the deputy commander/chief of staff, Combined Joint Task Force, Baghdad, Iraq.

“I have had the pleasure of seeing the National Guard EOD community grow from the five 9-man EOD detachments to what it is today,” said Casey. Casey was the first female in the National Guard to complete the EOD program of instruction.



Katie Dowd/photo



Jeremy Raines/photo



Lt. Col. Andy Davis of Pelham, Alabama, assumed command of the 1200th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) from Col. Tanya Rodgers during a change of command ceremony June 8, in Ashland, Alabama. (Photos by Sgt. Katie Dowd, 167th Troop Sustainment Command)



Berman Museum Commemorates D-Day 70th Anniversary

by Elizabeth Lowder
Anniston Star

Reprinted with permission.

ANNISTON, Ala. - Nearly 200 members of the community attended the service at the Berman Museum marking the 70th anniversary of the day Allied troops invaded the beaches of Normandy, France, to break through German army defenses.

Brig. Gen. Charles L. Gable of the Alabama National Guard, spoke and gave thanks to veterans. "I just want to say hat's off to the community, I've been absolutely astonished and amazed of what they've pulled together here."

He pointed out two important factors of the service, "OK, number one, to give honor to these people. These men and women that have served us and sacrificed for us," said Gable.

"But also, I think the second great thing about what we're doing here today is that we're teaching our young people something. We're teaching them how to honor and how to recognize people who made sacrifices on their behalf," he said.

(D-DAY continued from page 3)

hours, planes rumbled down runways; gliders and paratroopers slipped through the sky; giant screws began to turn on an armada that looked like more ships than sea. And more than 150,000 souls set off towards this tiny sliver of sand upon which hung more than the fate of a war, but rather the course of human history."

It is easy to think of the brave men that day as being the wise, elderly, grandfather-types that the survivors are today. However, those men were young, mostly under 25 years old, and relatively inexperienced in life. It was not their wisdom that gave them

courage and victory that day, it was their American fighting spirit, their dedication to American ideals and freedom, and their trust in their training.

As we think about that day, the plan, and the battle, we view it through the lenses of historical glasses. We see the victory and the larger victory that it led to. However, things did not go exactly as planned that day. The attack proceeded much slower than expected, many paratroopers landed kilometers away from the intended landing zone, and coordination of effort was nearly impossible.

The attack was a suc-

cess, however. It was an audacious – if not perfect – plan, courageously and violently executed. The Soldiers that day knew the plan and did not let the unexpected obstacles deter them from their mission.

We should remember the men who fought that day, who put their lives on the line. We should also learn some lessons from their actions. Let us do as they did and show audacity in planning and action, show courage in execution, and always show dedication to mission and to the ideals that make our nation great. Lead from the front!



Maj. Steve Overby/photo

Brig. Gen. Gable, Alabama's assistant adjutant general, addressed the audience of veterans and local community members at the Berman Museum's service commemorating the 70th anniversary of D-Day. "The success of D-Day is a credit to the planning, secrecy, and fortitude of the servicemen. It was not a glorious day, but more importantly it was a victorious day. The National Guard was a vital part of D-Day, just as it is in the global conflicts and local disasters today"



by Staff Sgt. Brigitte N. Brantley
407th Air Expeditionary Group

Paratroopers from various countries load onto a Royal Jordanian Air Force C-130 Hercules in preparation for a friendship jump June 2, 2014, during exercise Eager Lion at an air base in Jordan. One of the objectives of Eager Lion is to ensure partner nations have the ability to operate together when called upon by to meet common challenges. This event helped strengthen the military-to-military relationship between special operations forces of some of the more than 20 partner nations participating in the annual multinational exercise.

Alabama National Guard supports Romania as part of Combined Resolve II

by Sgt. Eric Roberts
131st MPAD

HOHENFELS, Germany - Capt. Josh Rager, commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 167th Infantry Regiment, stands peering out onto the wildflower soaked fields of Hohenfels, Germany. In his line of sight is more than the postcard material that is the German state of Bavaria. Just behind the tree line he observes the culmination more than 20 years of effort of the Alabama Army National Guard.

Just inside the tree line, soldiers of the Romanian army wait, dressed in camouflage from head to toe, ready to take on whatever threat is thrown their way.

This is a moment of culmination and pride for the Alabama National Guardsman. The State Partnership Program, that started in 1993 between Romania and Alabama, has tasted victory many times: from Romania becoming a NATO member in 2004, to a member of the European Union in 2007, but for Rager, the "sight of soldiers and equipment" is what the partnership is all about.

"This is important; man this is something," said Rager.

He, along with 1st Lt. David Ryan, commander of D Company, 1st Battalion, 167th Infantry Regiment, out of Sylacauga, Alabama, and Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Causey, A Company, 1st Battalion, 167th Infantry, have come to Germany to advise and assist the Romanian army with its role in Combined Resolve II.

Combined Resolve II is a U.S. Army Europe-led, multinational exercise at the Joint Multinational Training Com-



Contributed/photo

1st Lt. David Ryan, D Company Commander, 1st Battalion, 167th Infantry Regiment, advises a Romanian soldier on battle tactics as part of Combined Resolve II at Hohenfels. Combined Resolve II is a U.S. Army Europe-directed multinational exercise at the Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels Training Areas, including more than 4,000 participants from 15 allied and partner countries. The exercise features the European Rotational Force, a combined arms battalion of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, the U.S. Army's Regionally-Aligned rotational brigade combat team, that supports the U.S. European Command for training and contingency missions.

mand's Hohenfels and Grafenwoehr Training Areas, May 15-June 30, 2014. The exercise includes more than 4,000 participants and will train the U.S. Army's European Rotational Force - the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division - alongside allies and partners from 14 European countries.

Rager, Ryan and Causey watched proudly as the Romanian army took command of Task Force Greva which included the Army Reserve 364th Sapper Engineers from Dodge City, Kansas, and elements of the 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, of the California Army National Guard, and 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry out of Hohenfels, Germany.

"For a lack of a better term, this is the Alabama's baby," said Rager, a resident of Phenix City, Alabama, and a Columbus, Georgia, policeman. "We are here continuing to foster our relationship with the Romanians."

Ryan said that this "unique oppor-

tunity" was once-in-a-lifetime, but that, as a father of one with another on the way, there was some sacrifice involved with the trip.

"This seems to be harder on my wife than my deployment," said Ryan.

The lifelong resident of Trussville, Alabama, and University of Alabama at Birmingham graduate added that, "The culture of Germany and just the time spent with the Romanians... I wish more soldiers of the Alabama National Guard had more opportunities to experience something like this."

Causey called the partnership that started in 1993 a "growing bond," as he peered through his Army issued binoculars from a foxhole.

"From ground level of their infantry, to how the Romanian soldiers think and work, the Romanians have impressed me. They have exceeded my expectations of their command and performance professionally, tactically and interoperably," said

(Please see **ROMANIA**, page 13)

(ROMANIA continued from page 12)

Causey.

A veteran of multiple deployments, Causey still is a sucker for the ways of an infantryman from anywhere in the world.

"We observe and learn, picking up and adding to our toolbox and hopefully they (Romanians) will as well," said Causey.

"This is beneficial for both sides,"

said Romanian Maj. Robert Stanciuc. "Every single multinational experience is unique."

"There is a difference in equipment, but we have improvised," added Stanciuc.

"You come here on your American high horse," said Rager. "We have all the funding and equipment, but their improvi-

sation as soldiers and as a force is impressive."

"If you look at the Romanian soldiers, they are foreign to us, but if you look even closer, you see the friendship. This is an opportunity and a partnership you can only get in the Alabama National Guard. Being a soldier is universal," said Rager.

(COMBINED continued from page 4)

career in many ways," said Brown.

Lt. Col. Brian Carlin, Public Affairs officer, Joint Multinational Training Command, Grafenwoehr, Germany, said that, in the midst of Combined Resolve II, the 131st MPAD played a large role in "telling the story" of the "sons and daughters of America."

(CONFERENCE continued from page 5)

to deploy downrange. Morris and Beaulieu challenged chaplains and chaplain assistants to be ready for "the home game and the away game." Each UMT's readiness will help them succeed in handling any situation and providing necessary support on all levels of command.

Chaplain assistants were acknowledged as vital to the UMTs success and were an active part of the conference in preparation for future training and readiness.

(RED TAILS continued from page 8)

We are proud to continue the heritage with this deployment," said Witt.

From pilots in the air to the Airmen on the ground, Witt believes that the 100th Fighter Squadron will carry on the privileged tradition.

"We have been around a long time and have successfully deployed

"Public Affairs is telling the story of all the great work that American service members are doing everyday around the world," said Carlin.

"Public Affairs is still relevant. We live in a media intensive environment; we display what the U.S., NATO and partner nations are doing. Without Public Affairs, the world

won't understand what great work is being done."

"Public Affairs is more than just taking pictures," says McMeans.

With multiple experiences and products to show, McMeans added that this was a trip she would never forget.

"We are the eyes and ears on the lower level," said Sgt. Jessica Catlin, 231st Military Police Battalion chaplain assistant. She said a chaplain assistant works with potentially more Soldiers on a daily basis downrange or during annual training whether in the barracks, MWR and dining facilities.

In an everchanging Army, Alabama's chaplaincy is preparing with the National Guard's motto of "always ready, always there."

"Soldiers have specific religious needs, and honestly, the Chaplain Corps is the only component in the military that can deal with those needs. Further with regard to relational issues, we are losing some of our mental health professionals," said Beaulieu. "So rather than having less to do, we are going to have even more to do in the near future; we are always the go-to people in regards to helping soldiers."

and accomplished the mission. We expect nothing less this time," said Witt.

While this is the squadron's first deployment to Afghanistan and the first for several of the squadron's Airmen, they are ready to contribute to the mission.

"I think morale is pretty high. Everyone realizes it is a six-month deployment, and we are all digging in together ... with the short time here, we have met, if not exceeded expectations set forth by the previous squadron," said Kniskern.

Congratulations to the following retiring Alabama Guardsmen:



E5	HANNAH LAKEESHA ANWANN	DET 1 166 ENGINEER COMPANY
E5	WALKER JAMES ROBERT JR	DET 1 166 ENGINEER COMPANY
O3	GRUWELL PHILIP SHANE	1307 ENGR DETACHMENT (EHCC)
E5	HUSSAR CHAD WILLIAM	31ST SIGNAL COMPANY (CSB)
E7	STANBERRY JOSEPH JR	31ST SIGNAL COMPANY (CSB)
E4	GRAY CURTIS MACK	CO A 711TH BSB
E6	NORMAN ERICK DWAYNE	CO A 711TH BSB
E6	NORMAN VINCENT DEMAREST	CO A 711TH BSB
E6	ROBERTS JAMES MICHAEL	CO A 711TH BSB
E7	CLEMMONS JAMES DELBERT	CO B (-) 711TH BSB
E7	MORGAN JOHN WALTER	HHD 711 BRIGADE SUPPORT BN
E5	REED BRUCE ELLIOT	HHD 711 BRIGADE SUPPORT BN
E5	RUTHERFORD CHRISTOPHER WAYNE	HHD 711 BRIGADE SUPPORT BN
E6	EVANS MICHAEL AUSTIN	226 ME HQ MEB REAR
E8	SCIABARRASI JEFFERY ALAN	226 ME HQ MEB REAR
E6	WAYBRIGHT RONALD DAVID JR	226 ME HQ MEB REAR
W4	SAWYER BRADLEY TODD	CO B 1ST BN 131 AVN
E7	BURNS JOSEPH LEVON	CO E 1ST BN 131 AVN
W4	GALZERANO THEODOR MARTIN	DET 1 A CO 1-114TH AVN S&S BN
E7	LEE JAMES ANDREW	DET 1 A CO 1-114TH AVN S&S BN
E5	EAVES JULIUS BRIAN	1208 QM CO
E7	HAYNES CHARLES RANDY	1208 QM CO
E5	MCNEALEY SONYA JEAN	1208 QM CO
E5	RICHARDSON JULIUS MARVIN	1208 QM CO
E6	WILEY TONY	1208 QM CO
E8	PFEFFER CHARLES FRANK	DET 2 GROUP SPT CO 20 SF GP

by Master Sgt. Janine Jordan
 Senior Historian, Public Affairs

Installment two of "The Background and History of the Alabama National Guard" (published in the September 2013 Alabama Guardsman magazine) explained that The Militia Act of 1903 officially transformed the state militia into the National Guard.



Alabama National Guardsmen of the 3rd Infantry Regiment stationed at Camp Taft, in Chickamauga Park, Georgia, in 1908.1 Courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama Reprinted with permission

Correspondence, special orders and files on hand in the Alabama Department of Archives and History indicate that between 1912 and 1916, the Alabama National Guard consisted of one infantry brigade, which comprised the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Regiments, a battalion of field artillery, consisting of Batteries A and C, one first field company [which consisted of tradesmen such as bricklayers, carpenters, painters, plumbers, as well as surveyors and draftsmen], one signal corps, and three sanitation companies.”² There was also an adjutant general, inspector general, judge advocate general, quartermaster, medical department, and an ordnance department. The strength of the Guard consisted of approximately 160 officers and 3,000 enlisted men.

Headquarters of the 1st Alabama Infantry were located at Troy. Headquarters of the 2nd Alabama Infantry and of the 4th Alabama Infantry were located at Montgomery. Headquarters of the 1st Battalion, Field Artillery were located at Birmingham.

The various and individual units of the Guard were located at many strategic places throughout the state. North Alabama had units in Alabama City, Bessemer, Birmingham, Gadsden, Oxford, Pell City, Tuscaloosa, and Florence. Central Alabama had units in Eufaula, Fort Deposit, Luverne, New Decatur, Opelika, Alexander City, Tallassee, and Montgomery. South Alabama had units in Abbeville, Andalusia, Bay Minette, Brewton, Castleberry, Dothan, Enterprise, Florala, Mobile, Ozark, Samson, and Slocomb. In each infantry regiment there was a band; these bands were located in Mobile, Ozark, and Opelika.

National Defense Act of 1916

Towards the end of 1916, the 1st Alabama Cavalry was organized. This was the first organization made in

Alabama under the National Defense Act of 1916.* Col. Robert E. Steiner and Lt. Col. Bibb Graves were the two senior officers of the 1st Alabama Cavalry. Col. Steiner later succeeded to the command of the 1st Alabama Brigade, and Col. Graves became commanding officer of this regiment. The troops of the 1st Alabama Cavalry were located in Montgomery, Birmingham, Albertville, Jasper, Tuscaloosa, Greenville, Dothan, Elba, Selma, Centerville, Talladega, and Mobile.

In 1916, two special medical units, Alabama Field Hospital No. 1 and Alabama Ambulance Company No. 1, were organized at Birmingham. During the period prior to the Mexican Border Service and World War I, The Alabama National Guard was engaged principally in field training. Many units and detachments were ordered by the Governor to quell disorders and riots. Their duty was to maintain order, prevent mob violence, protect lives and property, and coordinate with civilian agencies.³ Many units were activated by the state during and after natural disasters such as tropical storms, floods and tornadoes. Soldiers handed out tents for use as temporary shelters, “policed affected areas, and protected property.”⁴ Regular Army instructors were detailed to the state of Alabama for the purpose of training and instruction. There were one or more for each branch. These instructors were vital factors in the progress and development of the Alabama National Guard.

Mexican Border Service

On June 18, 1916, Secretary of War Newton D. Baker wired Governor Charles Henderson of Alabama as follows: This telegram was designated as the "President's Call" (National Guard Historical Annual, 1938).

"Having in view the possibility of further aggression upon the territory of the United States from Mexico and the necessity for the proper protection of that frontier, the President has thought proper to exercise the authority vested in him by the Constitution and Laws and call out the Organized Militia and the National Guard necessary for that purpose. I am in consequence instructed by the President to call into the service of the United States forthwith through you the following units of the Organized Militia and the National Guard of the State of Alabama which the President directs shall be assembled at the State Mobilization Camp at Montgomery for muster into the Service of the United States of America: One Brigade of three Regiments of Infantry, Two Batteries of Field Artillery, One Signal Corps Company" (National Guard Historical Annual, 1938).

The mobilization of troops at Vandiver Park in Montgomery began in late June 1916, immediately following the President's Call. On July 1, 1916, the adjutant general of Alabama wired the War Department that all organizations of the Alabama National Guard had been called into the service of the United States. By September 30, 1916, 182 officers and 3,194 enlisted men were participating in active training at the mobilization camp.

On October 28, 1916, the first contingent of Alabama forces, comprised of 1st Brigade Headquarters, 1st Company, Signal Corps, Field Hospital No. 1, and Ambulance Company No. 1, reached Nogales, Arizona. As soon as sufficient rail cars became available, the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Infantry Regiments, and Batteries A and C, 1st Alabama Artillery loaded the cars and the train headed toward the border. The soldiers carried with them 10 days of rations for men and their horses. Batteries A and C were stationed at Douglas, Arizona. All other units were stationed at Nogales. The 1st Cavalry, Alabama National Guard, moved toward the border by rail (Fort Sam Houston) on December 8, 1916. This regiment remained at San Antonio for the duration of the border service.

In March 1917, the Alabama troops on Mexican Border Service were recalled to the mobilization camp at Montgomery. The troops looked forward to returning to their homes and to their civilian occupations. This was not to be, with the exception of Batteries A and C of the 1st Alabama Field Artillery, which were mustered out of the service. The others were assigned to guarding railroad bridges, docks, and other important structures throughout the state. The 1st Alabama Infantry had headquarters at Mobile; the 2nd and 4th had headquarters at Birmingham and Montgomery, respectively; and the 1st Alabama Cavalry maintained headquarters at Anniston. From these headquarters, patrols or details were sent out and were stationed at important and strategic places. This duty ended on July 5, 1917, and the troops were recalled to Montgomery. The soldiers marched home. The 1st Infantry marched from Mobile, the 2nd Infantry from Birmingham, and the 1st Cavalry from Anniston.⁵

*The National Defense Act Amendments of 1920, enacted June 4, 1920, amended the National Defense Act to, among other things, put the National Guard on the general staff and reorganize the divisions. The National Defense Act Amendments of 1933, enacted June 15, 1933, and the National Guard Mobilization Act, amended the National Defense Act to (among other things) make the National Guard a permanent component of the Army.

Next installment: Participation of the Alabama National Guard in World War I.

1 Photo from the Digital Collection of The Alabama Department of Archives and History

2 Information in this article was taken from the National Guard Historical Annual from 1938 (Retrieved 02/03/2013 11:04 am from: <http://www.ngef.org/index.asp?bid=70>; National Guard Educational Foundation, Washington, DC)

3 Ibid

4Alabama Humanities Foundation (Retrieved 06/19/2014 at 9:51 am from: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-1042>

5 National Guard Historical Annual from 1938 (Retrieved 02/03/2013 11:04 am from: <http://www.ngef.org/index.asp?bid=70>; National Guard Educational Foundation, Washington, DC)