

Alabama Guardsman

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Alabama Guard General prepares to face disasters in new role

by Staff Sgt. Sandra Lucas
131st MPAD

Major General Charles H. Gales relinquished command of the 167th Theater Sustainment Command during a ceremony held Sunday, Jan. 8, on Marshall Parade Field at Fort McClellan. Gales was recommended and selected for the position as commander, Contingency Command Post (Task Force 51), U.S. Army North at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Gales' response to several historic disasters, most recently the April 2011 tornados that devastated parts of Alabama provide him with the experience to fulfill the U.S. Army North purpose to 'Protect the American People and Way of Life.' When called to respond to a disaster Task Force 51 will coordinate Department of Defense (DoD) assistance to other Federal Agencies and provide deployable command and control headquarters within the U.S. Northern Command's Area of Responsibility.

"It is important to keep in mind

all disasters are local" said Gales. When an event takes place command and control is the responsibility of the local authorities. If the event or disaster is so large it overwhelms local authority, state assets are called upon.

"We know that the state National Guard, particularly Alabama, is going to respond with a great deal of capability. These states are going to execute emergency management assistance compacts (EMAC) between themselves to get capability that they don't have organically or they don't have enough of," said Gales. Additional airlift and engineering capability are examples of resources that states may require during a disaster response.

"When you get to a large scale response that is when Task Force 51 comes in," said Gales. If the magnitude of a disaster overwhelms a state's capability to obtain the necessary resources a call is made to the federal government. If the Department of Defense is assigned to respond, the assets are provided to the lead federal agency supporting the lead state agency.

Gales takes from his experience in Alabama the importance of the National Guard response to disasters, how to work with local authorities and how to reach the local community. "Getting them on their feet as



Jennifer Montagna/photo

Maj. Gen. Charles H. Gales relinquishes command of the 167th Theater Sustainment Command during a ceremony held Sunday, Jan. 8, at Fort McClellan.

quickly as possible after a disaster so they can return back to their normal lives – that's hard to do," said Gales.

His brief time at the 167th TSC provided valuable insight to the National Response and all that is

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On the Cover

Special Agent Ross Martin with 1156 Military Police Detachment (CID), VBC Baghdad, gives a demonstration on transporting a high profile suspect while deployed with the unit in Iraq in 2011. (Contributed photo).

Adjutant General

Looking forward to the challenges of the new year



**Maj. Gen.
Perry Smith**

Happy New Year, Soldiers and Airmen of the Alabama National Guard. I love this time of year, because it always gives us the possibility of new opportunities.

The President and the Secretary of Defense have laid out a new strategic way ahead, including a lot of monetary and personnel cuts. Because of that, I know

that in some ways 2012 will be a very difficult year. However, I also know that Alabama Guardsmen never fail to rise to a challenge and overcome it.

In the past 10 years, you have been asked to do great things, difficult things, seemingly impossible things in many cases. Yet, you have persevered, you have innovated, you have done what true warriors do – you have adapted and overcome. We may not know all the challenges that lay ahead with strategic shift and fiscal constraints hard upon us; but we can make a resolution now to take whatever comes and

determine to continue to provide trained and ready troops for our state and nation in time of need. I want to thank you for your service and challenge you to challenge yourself during this new year. Let us each be the best Soldier, Airman, NCO or officer that we can be. More than that, let us work hard to be the best person we can be.

I look forward to working with you in 2012 as we continue to be one of the premier National Guard organizations in the Nation. Lead from the front!

State Command Sergeant Major

Technology helps spread commitment to diversity



**Command Sgt.
Maj.
Eddie Pike**

It has been said that the only thing constant is change. With the changing of the calendar from 2011 to 2012, we have an excellent opportunity to re-acquaint ourselves with the values that will guide us through the days and months ahead. It's important

that we affirm our values as a foundation when we deal with rapid and constant change – not only the obvious changes brought about by technology, but also the changing demographics of our nation as a whole. As we navigate

our way through the New Year, these values will give us firm footing in the midst of this rapid pace of change.

On January 18th, 2012, National Guard Bureau hosted its' first ever Virtual Diversity Conference online. These two concepts combined – virtuality and diversity – provide us with a great example for reaffirming our commitment to our overall value of diversity by taking advantage of some new technologies that allow for much more participation in this important event.

We've heard the term before, but what does diversity really mean? In the National Guard, diversity is officially defined as "a cultural climate which allows people to maximize their potential by embracing and promoting each other's holistic characteristics." Put another

way, diversity is successful teamwork in action. Diversity is recognizing that all of us are smarter than any of us. Diversity is embracing the fact that each and every National Guard Airman and Soldier brings with them their unique value, worth, significance and usefulness. Diversity isn't just another policy. When diversity is honestly pursued, it can make ordinary organizations exceptional by allowing our Soldiers and Airmen the opportunity to contribute up to their maximum potential. When our Airmen and Soldiers succeed, the Alabama National Guard succeeds.

It's easy to understand why we want to spread the message of diversity as far and wide as possible. To spread the word, conferences can be a great way to learn and put out
(Please see *Diversity*, page 5)

Snap Shots

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



Brenda Thomas/image

A soldier from the 1165th Military Police Company out of Fairhope is welcomed home on Dec. 23, 2011. Approximately 170 soldiers from the 1165th came home in time for the holidays. The 1165th spent 11 months deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan and returned to hundreds of people waiting to welcome them home.



Jennifer Montagna/photo

Brig. Gen. Reynold N. Hoover, new commander of the 167th Theater Sustainment Command, receives the unit colors from Maj. Gen. Perry G. Smith, the Adjutant General of Alabama. Brig. Gen. Hoover took command of the 167th at a ceremony in Fort McClellan, Ala. on Jan. 8, 2012.



Contributed/photo

Lt. Col. Jim Hawkins from DOMS (Directorate of Military Support) stands with a group of international officers from the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) in the ALNG Joint Operations Center. The WHINSEC officers visited Alabama recently to receive a briefing on how the National Guard conducts defense support to civil authorities.

Champions in diversity bring about positive change

by Chief Master Sgt. Dave Peterson
Human Resource Advisor

Winning a championship delivers an awesome sense of pride and satisfaction. Being a champion means you worked hard, sacrificed, focused, and took advantage of opportunities to achieve a level of success highly regarded by others who value your area of expertise. Like the ads about college students that say, "Most of us will go pro in something other than sports," most champions and heroes of human history are in other arenas besides sports as well.

Who comes to mind when you think of military champions or champions in human kindness, creativity, or inventiveness? There are champions in the fields of music, academics, science, entertainment, and so many other areas. What about champions in diversity? Some names and stories come readily to mind, some have holidays, biographies, and monuments in tribute to their great contributions. Are you familiar with Richard Pimentel whose story is featured in the movie, "Music Within?" He returned from Vietnam with severe hearing impairment, and saw firsthand

how a friend with more severe disabilities was treated as sub-human, even being denied access to restaurants so as not to disturb the more "normal" patrons dining out. Working on behalf of the disabled he helped champion legislation acknowledging their value and allowing for their needs.

Other champions of diversity who have been featured in recent movies include William Wilberforce and Nelson Mandela. Wilberforce wrote, "So enormous, so dreadful... did the (slave) trade's wickedness appear that my own mind was completely made up for abolition. Let the consequences be what they would: I from this time determined that I would never rest until I had effected its abolition." His struggle and achievement is effectively captured in the movie, "Amazing Grace." Mandela endured decades of unjust imprisonment in South Africa and consistently refused to compromise his political position to obtain his freedom. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 as a potent symbol of resistance in the anti-apartheid movement. "Invictus" is the movie that gives a good look at his heroic efforts to champion freedom and justice in that part of the world.

Champions are needed in your part of the world to bring about positive change, intervene on behalf of those who are in desperate need, and inspire the best out of others in our human family. Some of you have been seen in that role when you showed up to help after the devastating tornado disasters earlier this year, or you've been an unseen hero in a way only a few know about because of selfless service. Consider the ways you could have a powerful impact in promoting diversity initiatives that enable others to enjoy the benefits of inclusion, engagement, and full expression of their talents and abilities. The Tuskegee Airmen prepared themselves to high standards of performance, and when given the opportunity by someone willing to look past meaningless differences, they proved equal to a formidable task and saved many lives. Be willing to give others in your workplace and in your community the chance they need to showcase their talents, and be personally ready to shine when your opportunity comes along. Check out the movie released this weekend, "Red Tails," and be inspired by the message of these champions, "courage has no color."

(Diversity continued from page 3)

information. But conferences can be very expensive – not only in travel costs but also in time spent away from our normal duties. It is well known that in this time of budget reductions and financial shortfalls, we are looking for creative ways to limit costs. This is where the idea of the virtual conference comes in. By hosting this conference on-line, with speakers presenting through

(Gailles continued from page 2)

elements in a disaster response. "You have to do it right," said Gailles.

Gailles understands the rigors of balancing roles. He spent more than 30 years in law enforcement and retired as the Chief of Police at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. "I love the fact we are the greatest army the

streaming video, interactive chat room sessions, facebook-like message board postings and electronic hosting of files and information, hundreds of Soldiers, Airmen and civilians were made aware, informed and updated with the latest in diversity awareness and training – all without leaving their desks. This is an important model that I am sure we will be seeing much more of.

world has ever seen, the National Guard is part of that," said Gailles. "Yet, when the governor turns around we will respond to the citizens of Alabama, to me there is no higher calling." When asked about serving in Texas Gailles replied, "I may not be a Guardsman serving in Alabama but I will always be an Alabama

In spite of the changes that surround us, the value that our Airmen and Soldiers bring to our National Guard will never change. Our National Guard will only be as good as our service men and women who keep it going. Continuously improving our National Guard is our goal, diversity is one of the best ways to achieve that goal – along with a little bit of electronic, internet help.

Guardsman."

Task Force 51 was established July 21, 2009 at the Rudder Army Reserve Center in San Antonio. The commander of Task Force 51 is a U.S. Army North headquarters staff position.

CID unit is a rare asset for Alabama National Guard

by Sgt. Bethany McMeans
131st MPAD

CLANTON, Ala. – Each unit in the Alabama National Guard serves an important part in supporting missions and ensuring things get done. There are only six Criminal Investigative Division (CID) units in the National Guard throughout the whole country and Alabama has one of those units. From March 2010 till March 2011, the 1156th Military Police Detachment (CID), deployed and used their training and experience throughout Kuwait and Iraq.

“It is wonderful that the Alabama National Guard has its own CID because it is a rare asset,” said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Mansfield, Detachment Sgt of 1156th CID.

The primary mission of CID is to investigate felony crimes with an Army interest. Some of these felonies include sexual assaults, deaths, thefts and drugs. CID work as military police at time where none are present and also provide security service details when important persons are traveling, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 William C. Montgomery, Operations Officer for 1156th MP Det (CID).

“We work to help victims,” said Montgomery. “CID Special Agents (SA) have a better chance to procure physical evidence if a crime is immediately reported but whenever a victim decides to come forward, whether it is immediate or years later, we will work that case,” said Montgomery. Even if the crime is solved years later, a perpetrator, if in the National Guard, can be put back into an active duty status for prosecution.

“When it’s [a crime] reported, we’re going to work the case to the best of our abilities,” said Montgomery. Transportation is quickly arranged so the SA can get to the crime scene to begin investigating before any evidence can be lost. Unfortu-



Kyle Looney/photo

Special Agent Ross Martin 1156 Mp Det (CID), prepares to cast a boot impression at a crime scene, during unit training.

nately, a crime scene can be at a different camp than where the CID unit is, so it is of the utmost importance that the SA takes all of the equipment they need to process a crime scene, said Montgomery.

“Mobility is one of the biggest differences in a deployment and being here in the states,” said Montgomery. “You also have to make sure you have all you need.” The equipment taken on a helicopter is usually a couple of large boxes that contain anything the agent might need in order to thoroughly and effectively process crime scenes. The reason for taking everything is because the convenience of transportation and readily available equipment is not present overseas as it is here in the States.

“It’s a 24-hour job and it’s hard to sleep,” said Sgt. Jesse Echols, Special Agent for 1156th MP Det (CID). “It is a very rewarding career field and you get great experience by working with other agencies such as the Federal Bureau of

Investigations and other federal agencies.”

“I think we are as good if not better than any federal law enforcement agency on crime scene investigation and interviewing,” said Mansfield. “The unit is full of detectives and people who know how to investigate.”

A majority of the Guardsmen who are in CID were prior active duty CID agents or work as civilian police, detectives, and investigators. Experience such as this allows these Guardsmen to provide high quality work effectively while in a deployed environment. The unit is continuously looking for more high quality people to add to their ranks. High quality includes Guardmembers who maintain the high standards of honesty, truthfulness and integrity, said Montgomery.

Anyone interested in joining the CID unit should contact Special Agent Ross Martin at 205-755-1440 or at ross.a.martin@us.army.mil.

151st Army Band makes its mark with music

by Bethany McMeans
131st MPAD

MONTGOMERY, Ala. - It was a bright morning and the grass was still covered with the morning dew. Chairs and music stands were arranged in a u-shape around a music stand where the conductor shuffled through his sheet music.

“Everybody start gathering around this way. We need everyone seated with marching band instruments in hand,” the conductor calmly stated. The Guardsmembers began moving towards their seats and preparing to play.

The sound of tuning instruments, soft murmuring, and laughter filled the area. These sounds were that of Soldiers of the 151st Army Band who were ready to practice and perform at a change of command ceremony.

“Our mission is to provide welfare and morale for the troops,” said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Ammons, Readiness Non-Commissioned Officer and trombone player for the 151st. “Everybody likes music and that’s what we do.”

“We do a lot of support functions, such as change of command ceremonies,” said Sgt. Garrett Vance, tenor saxophone of the 151st.

The band plays at various ceremonies such as the unveiling of new aircraft and change of commands as well as playing at military centered events like Veterans Day programs. Additionally, trumpet players have the honor of performing Taps at events and even military funerals.

“It’s (Taps) an honor to play but very unnerving at the same time,”



Bethany McMeans/photo

The 151st Army Band trumpet line practices before a change of command ceremony on November 5, 2011. The 151st plays at several events including various ceremonies and programs. The 151st Army Band’s mission is to provide welfare and morale for the troops.

said Spc. Abner Flores, trumpet for 151st. “It is the last military honors that a soldier receives at a military funeral. There is a lot of pressure but it’s such an honor.”

“We also help with recruitment since we show another image of the Army,” said Vance. “Playing at so many different functions helps to accomplish this, but the unit also has different groups within the band, for example, we also have a jazz band,” he added.

The band is a controlled military occupational specialty (MOS) so Guardsmembers have to audition in order to be a part of the unit, said Flores. He added, people in the band have to maintain their skill level and improve or else they can be re-

classified into another MOS.

The Soldiers who make up the band bring a wide array of different backgrounds to the add flavor to their unit, said Vance. The 151st, as a whole, is like a brotherhood with great camaraderie and connection, he added.

Even though the 151st Army Band helps to build morale and keep spirits up, the members are soldiers and know what their first and foremost mission is if the need arises.

“Of course, we are soldiers first,” Vance concluded. “So if we have to pick up a weapon to fight in support of the mission, then we put down our instruments and we fight as soldiers are trained to do.”