



ALABAMA GUARDSMAN

What's Inside

3 Adjutant General & State Command Sergeant Major

New year brings new challenges and opportunities & Career progression: the Soldiers responsibility

4 NCO marks milestone by completing drill sergeant school

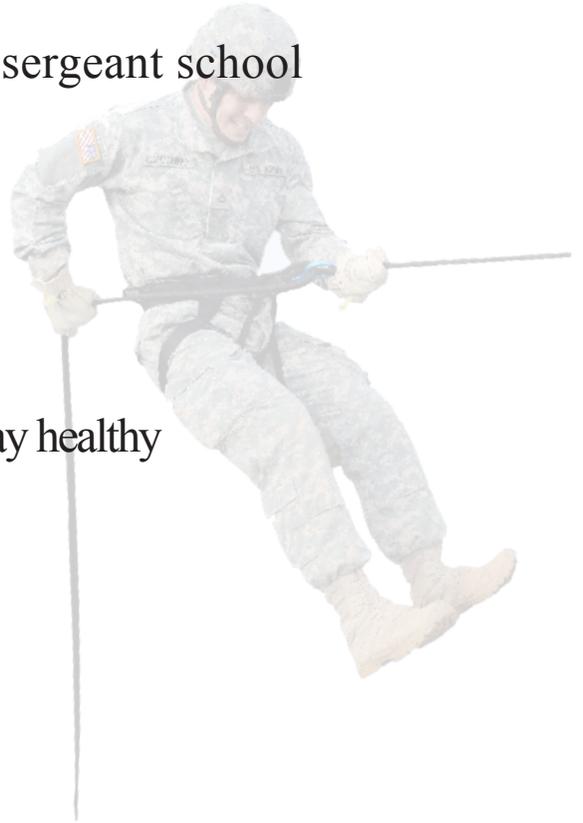
5-6 SnapShots

Highlights from around the Alabama Guard

7 Retired

Retiring Alabama Guardsmen

8 Medical detachment helps the Alabama Guard stay healthy



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On The Cover

Air National Guard 117th Force Support Squadron color Guard members Tech. Sgt. David Woods, Staff Sgt. Chad Carroll, Senior Master Sgt. Darryl V. Johnson and Senior Airman James York support the inauguration of Governor Robert J. Bentley at he State Capital in Montgomery, Alabama on Jan. 19, 2015. (photo by Spc. William Frye)

Adjutant General

New year brings new challenges and opportunities



**Maj. Gen.
Perry Smith**

Happy New Year to the Soldiers and Airmen of the Alabama National Guard! We have rolled through the first month of the calendar year 2015, the start of a new era in the

National Guard where for the first time in more than 12 years, we have less than 100 deployed Soldiers and

Airmen. I am very proud of everyone's dedication to service and performance over this time period.

We find new challenges for our organization in 2015: a new level of terrorism, evolving priorities for our limited funding resources and a new environment in terms of recruiting and retention. These challenges will require all of us to be at our best if we are to continue our high standard of being a premiere organization that is ready in war and peace to serve our nation, state and communities in time of need.

Perpetual optimism is a force

multiplier so put your best foot and attitude forward in 2015 as we face these new challenges. Colin Powell said, "Remember that leadership for all levels is about solving problems. The day Soldiers and Airmen stop bringing you their problems is the day you stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership."

I challenge you to be the best leader you can possibly be and I look forward to working with you in 2015. Lead from the front!

State Command Sergeant Major

Career progression: the Soldier's responsibility



**Command
Sgt. Maj.
Eddie Pike**

The month of January signifies a new year with many new beginnings, resolutions and many personal and professional goals. This is an opportunity for Soldiers to recommit themselves to their roles and du-

ties, and to also set new goals for career progression. Each year, promotion boards are held and Soldiers are promoted based upon their eligibility, qualifications, leadership skills and merit. For years, the Army has used established guidelines, regulations and eligibility requirements that can be used in creating a very attainable career plan for all Soldiers.

While there are established resources available to help Soldiers guide their careers, it is ultimately the Soldier's responsibility to ensure that they are doing all things necessary to progress to the next level. Soldiers should desire upward mobility within their military careers. This includes the desire to be promoted to the next rank, the willingness to perform and exceed the expectations of their leaders, and be willing to accept positions of increased responsibility.

Enlisted Soldiers should seek career guidance from their command, including their first sergeant and qualified first line leaders. Likewise, senior noncommissioned officers (master sergeants, first sergeants, etc.) should counsel their Soldiers regarding all requirements necessary for them to be considered for promotion. Soldiers should also seek opportunities for lateral cross-training and be able to

perform an array of duties that increase their skills and technical expertise. Enlisted Soldiers are required to complete their respective levels of structured self development and all pertinent courses within the Noncommissioned Officer Education System. These educational requirements are opportunities for career advancement and promotions; and should be considered a part of the Soldier's duty to have them completed in a timely manner.

I am always pleased to see enlisted Soldiers who have an established career progression plan, completed their educational requirements and who continuously prepare themselves for the next level of military service. As the state Command Sergeant Major, I encourage all Soldiers to seek growth and professional development opportunities within the Alabama National Guard.

Setting the example

NCO marks milestone by completing drill sergeant school



Jamie Brown/photo

MONTGOMERY, Ala. -Staff Sgt. Tenika Bryant addresses her fellow recruiters after being awarded the Command Sergeant Major Leadership Award at the 22nd Recruiting and Retention Battalion's award ceremony here Dec. 14, 2014.

by Staff Sgt. Fredrick Varney 131st MPAD

BIRMINGHAM--- Well-spoken, knowledgeable and highly professional are all attributes that could be used to accurately describe the first impression of Staff Sgt. Tenika D. Bryant, an Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) Soldier assigned to the 22nd Recruiting and Retention Battalion.

Put another way, Bryant simply displays the Army Values in such a positive manner that Soldiers are willing to follow her lead.

On September 24th, 2014, Bryant, completed the Army Drill Sergeant

School to become the first female AGR Soldier to achieve this distinction in the Alabama National Guard.

"I am very humbled and honored to be the first AGR female to graduate from the Drill Sergeant. Academy," said Bryant.

Bryant currently works full-time as an AGR recruiter in Birmingham, and is also assigned as a drill sergeant for the Recruitment Sustainment Program, Detachment 5, based in Homewood, during IDT drill weekends.

Drill sergeants serve an important role in the Army because they are responsible for molding and training the future leaders of our nation's mili-

tary. In many respects, drill sergeants are considered to be "the best of the best".

"Seventeen years ago when I was in basic training, I remember looking at my drill sergeants and wanting to be like that someday," said Bryant.

Bryant said the hardest part of Drill Sergeant School was being away from her 14-year-old daughter Aja, 13-year-old son David and 8-year-old son Jeremiah.

As a single mother of three children, she was forced to rely heavily on family members as well as a couple of nannies to get through the **(Please see BRYANT, page 7)**

Snap Shots

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



Willaim Frye/photo

MONTGOMERY, Ala. --- Maj. Gen. Perry G. Smith, the adjutant general of the Alabama National Guard, and Gen. Frank J. Grass, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, sit down for a one-on-one discussion at Joint Force Headquarters here, Jan. 9, 2015



Contributed/photo

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. -- Pictured from left to right: are Senior MasterSgt Eric Calvert (Eagle Vision 6 NCOIC), Brig Gen Paul Jacobs (AL-ATAG (Air)), Lt Gen William Etter (1st AF Commander, Mr. James "Snake" Clark, Director, AF/A2I, ISR Innovations), and Col Gary Kirk (226 CCG Commander). The 226th Combat Communications Group hosted Etter as he visited the unit's Eagle Vision 6 satellite imagery site here, January 9th. He was accompanied by Brig. Gen. Paul Jacobs (AL-ATAG (Air)), and Mr. James "Snake" Clark, SES, Director AF/A2I, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Innovations. Etter is the Commander, Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region - 1st Air Force (Air Forces Northern), Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida. His command comprises four direct reporting units, 10 aligned Air National Guard units, and a large number of active air defense alert sites--including aircraft, air defense artillery, and up to 15,000 active duty, National Guard, Air Force Reserve and civilian personnel. He received a briefing on the capabilities of the Eagle Vision program and what the system can provide to the North American Aerospace Defense Command Region.



Contributed/photo

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. -- Col. Dennis Butters passes the unit colors to Command Sgt. Maj. Lisa Allen as he assumes command of the 279th Army Field Support Brigade at a ceremony here Jan. 11, 2015.



William Frye/photo

MONTGOMERY, Ala.-The 151st Army National Guard band performs during the inauguration of Governor Robert J. Bentley at the State Capital in Montgomery, Alabama on Jan. 20, 2015



Shannon Hancock/photo

MONTGOMERY, Ala. ---Lt. Col. Jamie Benton (left) Congratulates newly promoted Chief Warrant Officer 4 Denise Richardson, personnel services warrant officer, for Joint Force Headquarters at a ceremony here Jan. 10, 2015



Shannon Hancock/photo

BUCHAREST, Romania --- Maj. Gen. Perry Smith, the adjutant general of Alabama, meets with Lieutenant General Nicolae-Ionel Ciuca, Chief of the Romanian General Staff at the Romania ministry of defense here Jan. 7, 2015.

Congratulations to the following retiring Alabama Guardsmen:

| | | |
|----|--------------------|---|
| E5 | Burcham, Howard | Co. B 115th Expeditionary Signal Battalion |
| E8 | Burdette, John | HQ, 2101 Transportation Co. |
| E5 | Edwards, Roshanna | HQ, 111 Ordnance Group (EOD) |
| E5 | Frye, Celesta | Battery B 1st Battalion 117th Field Artillery |
| E6 | Jolly, James | Co. A, 1st Battalion 167th Infantry (IBCT) |
| W4 | Malone, David | NGB Multi-Media Center ALARNG |
| E8 | Moore, Richard Jr. | HQ 200 Regiment (LDR) |
| E7 | Richardson, Wesley | ALARNG Recruiting and Retention |
| E7 | Valerio, Michael | HHC 731 Combat Sustain Support Battalion |
| E7 | Watson, Angela | Joint Forces Headquarters |

Editors note: The names of retired Alabama Guardsmen are provided by MACOMs

(BRYANT continued from page 4)

the training successfully.

“It was very hard for me when I had to miss my daughter Aja’s 14th birthday during the Drill Sergeant School,” said Bryant.

According to Bryant, the Drill Sgt. School was the hardest school she has completed in the military.

“The Drill Sgt. Course requires a great deal of physical toughness, strong academic retention, as well as dealing with the mental and emotional tolls of the course,” she said.

Bryant has also managed to earn a Bachelor’s degree in Human Resource Management and a Master’s degree in Business Administration during her time in

service, which is a credit to her personal character and commitment to strive for success. These qualities have made an impression on the Soldiers that Bryant serves with.

“Drill Sergeant Bryant was chosen over her peers to attend U.S. Army Drill Sergeant due to her dedication to mission success, and her deep concern for Soldiers beginning at the lowest level,” said Master Sgt. Casey Shiver, the NCOIC for Recruiting and Retention Team 5. “She has the desire to ensure that each Soldier is taught ‘what right looks like’, and gives these Soldiers an example to follow. She truly makes a positive impact on those who serve with her, and those

young Soldiers who are being trained by her. She is not only a model NCO for the Alabama Army National Guard, but for the entire Army itself. I consider it an honor and privilege to serve with Drill Sergeant Bryant.”

But Bryant isn’t resting on her accomplishments, she is focused on what she wants to pass on to the Soldiers under her watch.

“As I move forward in my career as drill sergeant, I want my Soldiers to know that I expect things to be done right the first time,” said Bryant. “I also want my Soldiers to step up and learn the things that are going to keep them sharp in garrison as well as on the battlefield.”

Medical detachment helps the Alabama Guard stay healthy

by Sgt. Eric Roberts
131st MPAD

The Alabama Army National Guard was recognized by Lt. Gen. Frank J. Grass, National Guard Bureau Chief January 9, 2015, for obtaining the highest average of Soldier's Medical Readiness over the past six years of all 54 states and territories.

"Medical Readiness is so important. We need soldiers who are fit for duty in order to deploy into combat or in support," said Maj. Phillip S. Farris, Medical Detachment Commander.

For Farris, a 26 year veteran of the Army who spent many years as a Special Forces field medic, the Soldiers of the Medical Detachment are what make it special.

"I have seen the most ordinary people do the most extraordinary things," said Farris. "I will brag on these soldiers. Most of these soldiers were former grunts. We strive to be a core of professionals. These soldiers are one of the most educated groups in the Army."

For Farris and his soldiers, keeping soldiers fit for their mission is their top priority.

Sgt. Johnathan Debeaux said one of the key components of the Medical Detachment's mission is to provide Periodic Health Assessments once a year.

On Saturday, Jan. 10, 2015, the Medical Detachment saw 10% of the force for their annual PHA.

"PHAs are important because they are an indicator of a soldier's health," said Maj. Jason Wells.

Wells said that PHAs are the key to keep medical readiness high.

Farris added that these events spearhead the larger Medical Readiness process.

According to Farris, soldiers typically have their hearing, vision, blood pres-



Eric Roberts/photo

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Spc. Sherry Griffin, Medical Detachment, works at the vaccination station as part of Periodic Health Assessments here Jan. 10, 2014. The Medical Detachment saw more than 10% of the Alabama Army National Guard's Soldiers for the PHAs which are performed on a yearly basis.

sure, teeth among other things checked to ensure they are "mission capable."

"The health of the soldier is paramount in a soldier's mission," said Sgt. Johnathan Debeaux.

"During PHA events I often will do eye exams, blood draws and cholesterol checks. This is what I love to do. I am not only a medic in the Alabama National Guard but also in the civilian world."

Farris added that the success of the Alabama National Guard Medical Readiness is due to the State Surgeon Col. John McGuinness and State Deputy Surgeon Lt. Col. Roger Benton's leadership.

"We have to prepare for our successors, if we want success to continue," said Farris.

Farris acknowledges that his soldiers' mission is just one part of ensuring soldiers are mission ready.

"Medical readiness is just one part of the health of a soldier," Farris added.

Farris added that Soldiers need to maintain a "healthy sense of self awareness."

"We are all complex individuals, and we have to keep up certain elements or columns of our lives," Farris said. "Our faith, our family, career, mental health and physical health need to be addressed and assessed."

Farris said as a commander, but mostly as a soldier it is important to tend to all the "Columns of life." Being part of the Medical Detachment gives him that opportunity.

For Farris his command and plan for continued success with the Medical Detachment is simple.

"I love to put on the uniform and serve other soldiers," said Farris.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY



Remember!
Celebrate!
Act!

A Day ON
NOT
A Day OFF



JANUARY 19, 2015



- ✓ Community Outreach
- ✓ Blood Drive
- Support Youth Program
- ✓ Food Drive
- Support Clothing Donation Drive

Volunteer Meeting TODAY!

