

Alabama Guardsman

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A publication for the citizen-Soldiers & Airmen of Alabama



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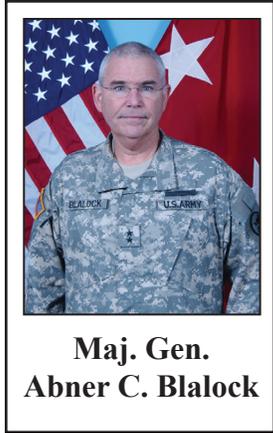
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Adjutant General

Strategic planning important for Alabama Guard



Maj. Gen. Abner C. Blalock

The challenges for our organization continue: a new national strategy in our fight against terrorism; evolving priorities for our limited funding resources; a new environment in

terms of recruiting and retention.

Yet our Soldiers and Airmen continue to overcome and succeed!

Our work on the Alabama National Guard Strategic Plan proceeds along our five lines of operation: Leading the Force, Setting the Force, Manning the Force, Resourcing the Force and Training the Force.

Manning the Force is a series of initiatives that are built on many processes that have been in place within the Alabama National Guard. As we enter a long period of con-

strained resources, it is apparent our existing ways of recruiting and retaining Soldiers and Airmen will not succeed.

We must focus on Quality in every area as we move away from Quantity: Quality Recruits that will succeed during initial entry training; Soldiers and Airmen that are trained in their individual duty skills; Improved Benefits for service members and their families that provide an incentive for continued service.

Alabama must achieve and sustain 100% strength in every unit. With no Force Structure growth over the next seven years, we will be in a competitive environment for existing force structure.

To compete, we must man every unit at 100% strength, and achieve 95% duty skill qualification. Any unit not achieving these quality force metrics will be at risk.

We are improving our manning processes to support this goal: reducing cycle time on promotions, centralizing discharge actions to reduce the time for subsequent promotions and accessions; 100% drug testing to ensure a drug-free force.

The Periodic Health Assessment is an annual event for every

member of the Alabama National Guard that supports not only increased individual readiness, but also supports a healthy lifestyle that will last beyond service to our Country and State.

There are several key benefits for Soldiers, Airmen and families that have been implemented or under consideration by our Congress.

The new GI Bill provides a superb education benefit that is transferrable to family members for those who have been mobilized. Congress will soon vote on providing earlier retirement for mobilization service retroactive to September 11, 2001.

Congress is also considering improving the availability of medical care for members of units that are sourced for deployment up to 180 days prior to mobilization.

Success in Manning the Force will ultimately be determined by the actions of every Soldier and Airman.

Leaders will have to support change and individuals will have to prepare themselves for current and future service. Every Soldier and Airman counts! There are no unimportant positions in our transformed force that is Ready in War and Peace.

Alabama Guardsman

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Adjutant General.....Maj. Gen. Abner Blalock
 Public Affairs Officer.....Lt. Col. Cynthia Bachus
 Senior Editor.....Sgt. 1st Class. Jamie Brown
 Editor.....Staff Sgt. Martin Dyson
 Staff Writer.....Staff Sgt. Katrina Timmons
 Contributing Editor.....Norman Arnold

On the Cover

Mortarman Sgt. Joshua Moore, A Troop, 1-131st Cavalry Squadron, sights a 120mm mortar for a call-for-fire mission during annual training at the Alabama National Guard Training site at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. (Photo by Katrina Timmons)

State Command Sergeant Major

Soldiers control the future of their careers

**Command Sgt. Maj.
Danny Ashley**

As I write this article, the Alabama Army National Guard has over 1400 Soldiers deployed or at the mobilization station training for deployment.

We also have several units which have just completed 21 day Annual Training periods in preparation for pending deployments.

Alabama Soldiers are receiving excellent up to date training at the Alabama National Guard Training Site on Pelham Range. We continue to receive accolades from mobilization stations about how well trained Alabama Soldiers

are when they arrive at the mob site. This speaks volumes about the training that is being conducted here in the state of Alabama.

With all of this excellent training, we still have many Soldiers who are not preparing themselves with continuing their NCOES. I was surprised at the last Enlisted Promotion System board that we conducted to discover the number of E-7's who have not completed ANCOC in order to be eligible for consideration for promotion to E-8. This is a problem at other grade levels as well.

We also have a large number of Soldiers who are not duty MOS qualified and are not enrolled in any type of course to get qualified. DMOSQ is a priority at this time to provide trained and deployable Soldiers to deploying units.

Command Sergeants Major and First Sergeants should continue to

push soldiers to be enrolled and attend NCOES and DMOSQ schools.

It is also imperative that Soldiers conduct a pre-execution checklist before reporting to a school.

I receive letters weekly concerning Soldiers that are overweight, cannot pass the Army Physical Fitness Test, have not completed the distance learning phase of the school, or who have not completed pre-requisites before reporting to the school.

Many times a Soldier is sent back to the state because of these problems. This falls back to the unit for not ensuring that the Soldier is prepared to attend the school.

Let us all continue to do the best job we can to prepare our soldiers for deployment by ensuring that they receive the best training possible and are well prepared for their future in the Alabama National Guard.

Soldiers treated to moment with family

by **Wayne Cook**
Fort Dix Public Affairs Officer

FORT DIX, NJ - Soldiers from the 217th Military Police Company, were treated to a special moment with family members and their state and local officials during a video teleconference (VTC) at the Public Affairs Office here July 24.

Getting a rare break in pre-deployment training, personnel from the 217th got to spend approximately one hour visiting with their loved ones, albeit long distance via camera and microphone.

The primary location for the event was the state capitol building in Montgomery, with VTC locations in Washington, D.C. and Fort Dix.

Arranged by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) and coordinated with

the Alabama National Guard Public Affairs Office, the event included words of support and encouragement from the Prattville mayor, Honorable Jim Byard, Jr.; the junior U.S. Senator, Senator Jeff Sessions; the representative from the Alabama 2nd Congressional District, Congressman Bobby Bright; and the representative from the Alabama 3rd Congressional District, Congressman Mike Rogers.

"When we deploy our men and women all over to the dangerous parts of the world, I hope you know you have our full support and that of the members of Congress. We couldn't be prouder of what you do," Sessions told the MPs.

Byard told them he is very proud to be one of those guys who claps



Contributed/Photo

Family members of Soldiers from the 217th Military Police Company visit with their loved ones via video teleconference at the state capitol in Montgomery, July 24. The Soldiers appear in the lower left corner of the screen.

as the Soldiers walk by.

"We recognize what you and your families sacrifice. Know that we appreciate you and what you do," Rogers added.

Maj. Gen. A.C. Blalock, Alabama National Guard Adjutant General, **(Please see VTC, page 7)**

Snap Shots

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



Members of the Alabama Army National Guard's 2101st Transportation Co were honored by the First Baptist Church, Shreveport La. during a ceremony in August. The 2101st assisted the church members when their bus overturned on a Mississippi highway in July.

Contributed/photo

Members of the 187th Fighter Wing, depart Dannelly Field en route to Balad Air Base in Iraq.



Contributed/photo



Cpt. Christopher Payne, outgoing commander of the 1165th M.P. Co., displays the shotgun presented to him by the unit, during a change of command ceremony. The shotgun was presented by the unit for a job well done, its engraved with his name, unit, and command time. The unit traditionally presents the outgoing commander with a shotgun, as it represents one of the most valuable tools an M.P. has to use. First Lt. Courtney Pullem took over command of the 1165th earlier in the ceremony.

Jamie "OMH" Henshon/photo

Col. Christopher Morgan receives a bronze star for his accomplishments while serving as the Commander of Afghan Regional Security Integration Command-Kabul, from Task Force Phoenix VIII Commander Brig. Gen. Steven P. Huber at a change of command ceremony. As commander of ARSIC-K Morgan was responsible for building the capacity and capability of the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police. ARSIC-K also provided support to the Afghan Ministry of Defense and its security forces and presidential security, as well as 30 police districts in the Kabul Province. During his tenure as commander Morgan oversaw the building of 10 schools, three clinics and one hospital.

James Sims/photo



Maj. Gen. A.C. Blalock, adjutant general of the Alabama National Guard, greets a member of the 217th M.P. Co. during the unit's deployment ceremony in June. The 217th is mobilizing for Operation Iraqi Freedom, this will be the second extended tour of duty for the unit in the past six years. Once in country the unit will provide M.P. support to coalition forces and conduct police transition team operations to train, mentor and coach Iraqi police forces.

Andrew Richardson/photo



Alabama National Guard welcomes new Deputy IG

by Katrina Timmons
Staff Writer



Minney

Montgomery, Ala. – Lt. Col. Arnetta E. Minney has joined the Inspector General’s staff as deputy IG for the Alabama Army and Air National Guard. In this capacity, she will assist the state IG,

Col. Sheri Tonner, receiving and processing requests for assistance. She

will also assist in directing and conducting inquiries and investigations as directed by the Adjutant General.

“I will function as an extension of the Adjutant General’s eyes, ears, voice and conscience. I am honored to have the privilege to serve the outstanding Soldiers and Airmen of the Alabama National Guard,” Minney explained.

Minney will complete both the Air Force and Army Inspector General’s Courses to complete her qualifications as a deputy IG. She will attend both courses later this summer to obtain a better understanding of her duties and responsibilities

as Deputy IG.

Minney was a member of the Alabama Air Guard’s 187th Fighter Wing at Dannelly Field in Montgomery. She recently moved to Alabama from Alaska where she had lived for 15 years. She received her first inspector general experience in drill status with the 176th Wing in Alaska. While serving with the 176th, she also served as Deputy Mission Support Group Commander and Aerial Port Flight Commander.

Lt. Col. Minney is married and has three daughters, Beth, 13, Sophia, 11, and Hannah, 9.

Alabama Guard hires first full-time sexual assault response coordinator

by Katrina Timmons
Staff Writer

Montgomery, Ala. - When one thinks of the many threats a Soldier faces, they usually recognize the threats associated with war: road-side bombs, suicide bombers, rocket propelled grenades, and many others.

Soldiers are constantly training to counter-attack the many threats of war. However, Soldiers are also people too and they face the same threats that are apparent to all individuals everyday.

One such threat to a Soldier’s personal well-being is sexual assault or sexual harassment. Sexual assault is a crime. It is intentional sexual content, characterized by use of force, physical threat, or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent.

The Alabama National Guard recognizes how sexual assault and harassment can destroy lives, destroy morale among comrades, and negatively disrupt a unit’s mission. In an effort to intervene with this crime, the Alabama Guard has hired its first full-time Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), Chief Warrant Officer 2 Rhonda McCrummen.

As the SARC, McCrummen will manage and implement the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program and Domestic Abuse/Violence Program. McCrummen says she hopes to help create a climate where Soldiers will live the Army values. This will in turn reduce incidents while also educating Soldiers on preventive measures. The program will also provide guid-



McCrummen

ance and support Soldiers and their families regarding sexual assault and harassment.

“This year’s prevention campaign is I. A. M., an acronym for Intervene, Act and Motivate,” said McCrummen. “INTERVENE and prevent sexual assault, ACT to do what’s right and not tolerate sexually offensive behavior, and MOTIVATE to keep all soldiers safe.”

(VTC continued from page 3)

addressed his troops and extended his heartfelt thanks for their sacrifices and those of their families.

Doni Ingram, ADECA director, presented Byard with the service banner she had displayed in her home when her husband, a veteran of more than 30 years in the military, departed for duty overseas. She asked him to hang it in the town hall until the Soldiers of the 217th returned home.

The military policemen sat and watched, emotion etched on each face.

"It was hard being a part of this, but it was good to see my family. My little girl is so big. I was glad to be selected to participate in the VTC. Any chance to see my family – I'll take it," said Spc. Adam Hollingsworth, his eyes

(SPP continued from page 9)

headquarters in Clanton, Shelby County Sheriff Chris Curry's office and the state Homeland Security office in Montgomery.

When the partnership program began in 1994, the program included military support operations. Since that time, it has expanded and now includes the exchange of advice and assistance with environmental, industrial, education, agricultural, and information technology issues.

One Alabama project that was born out of compassion in 1995 is still ongoing. During an exercise in Constanta, a large Romanian city, Alabama Guard members were moved to provide assistance to an orphanage they were renovating. The children in the orphanage were all infected with a serious disease.

The Guard members passed a hat that year and made a monetary donation to the orphanage staff to purchase items needed by the children, but could not be obtained on a meager budget. Since that time, support has continued each year since that time with donations from Alabama Guard members being presented to the orphanage staff.

glistening a bit as he watched his daughter take her first steps.

Pfc. Kenneth Nixon visited with his wife Maranda, son Mark Kason, and his in-laws, Chief Warrant Officer Randy and Martha Hickman.

During the visit Nixon's wife accidentally revealed her sweetheart nickname for her husband, instantly causing his face to turn red. He said he would not live that down for the next year. Blushing aside, Nixon said he thought it was pretty cool for the Alabama National Guard to set the VTC up for the troops. He said he was elated to see his son who had just turned one and begun to walk.

One Soldier who sat enraptured by the event and the opportunity to see

his loved ones, shared that he was really impressed by the generosity of those who organized the VTC.

"It meant quite a bit to me. I appreciate everyone that had a hand in putting this together. Its good knowing that people care that much about us Soldiers," Sgt. James Groulx said.

According to Sgt. 1st Class Clark Tarver, the Soldiers that participated were selected based upon two factors: their duty performance and the fact that their family members were not able to attend the unit farewell when they left Alabama.

The Soldiers of the 217th are deploying to Iraq for duty as a Police Training Team.

135th gets new commander



Andrew Richardson photo

Col. (P) Reynold Hoover, incoming commander of the 135th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), hands the unit colors to Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Ridgeway, Command Sergeant Major for the 135th, for safekeeping. 167th Theater Sustainment Command, commander Maj. Gen. Joe Harkey (left) previously had handed the colors to Col. Hoover.

Guard aviators always watching the bad guys

by Andrew Richardson
Staff Writer

“Skid... skid.” That word coming through the flight intercom was the sound that periodically interrupted the constant thumping of the OH-58 Kiowa helicopter’s rotors. With that one word, pilot Chris was telling the co-pilot, Josh, that the list of the helicopter put the skid in the way of the infrared camera providing support to the U.S. Marshals below. Josh corrected the list as the aircraft continued to circle and the mission continued.

This is a normal day for these pilots, part of the Alabama National Guard’s Counterdrug program’s Security and Support (S&S) Detachment. Their mission? To provide local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies with an aviation capability to meet the growing demand for aviation counterdrug operations.

Because of the sensitivity of their missions, Security and Support Soldiers wear only the letters S&S on their uniform name tapes, in place of their last names. They will also be referred to only by first name in this article to protect them from possible targeting by those involved in illegal drug activity that these Soldiers work to eradicate.

The Kiowa provided air cover for U.S. Marshals in Lee County as they detained and searched drug activity suspects. The line of Marshals’ vehicles closed in from three directions as the Kiowa kept watch.

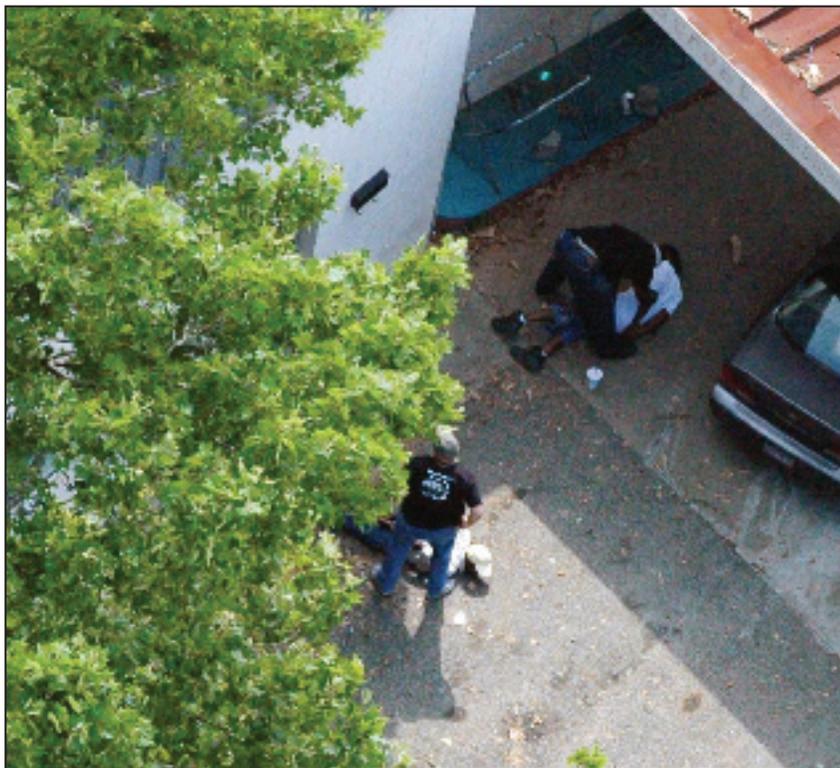
The Marshals moved quickly on-site and detained all the suspects in just a few moments with no incident. The Kiowa crew stands ready to use their 500 foot vantage point and a camera with high zoom and heat-detecting infrared capability to assist the Marshals and other law enforcement in the fight against drugs.

The air cover mission is not

S&S’s only mission. A few days before, Chris flew over northeast Alabama searching for marijuana. That day, corn was all he found. “Sometimes you find something, sometimes you don’t,” he said. However, even if marijuana isn’t found, the mission is still a success. Part of that mission is just being a presence to deter growing and selling marijuana.

“People know what we’re doing. Dealers talk to dealers and growers talk to growers – so, word gets around.”

S&S also provides aerial reconnaissance, aerial photo reconnaissance and vehicle tracking. Not only that, in order to help deter youth from ever get-



Andrew Richardson/photo

U.S. Marshals apprehend drug suspects in Lee County. Photo taken from Alabama National Guard Counterdrug Program’s Kiowa helicopter.

ting involved in drugs, S&S Soldiers go to schools to talk about their missions and the importance of being drug free.

The S&S has a direct impact in communities, says 2nd Lt. Michael Mitchell, Alabama Counterdrug’s special projects officer. “We can provide unique assistance to law enforcement that otherwise wouldn’t be available.” “There is somebody out (on missions) (Please see *Counterdrug*, page 13)

SOUND OFF

DO YOU HAVE AN OPINION ON THE NEW DIGITAL VERSION OF “THE GUARDSMAN”? DO YOU HAVE A STORY IDEA OR WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOUR UNIT FEATURED IN THE NEXT ISSUE?

IF SO DROP US A LINE AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK. FEEDBACK AND SUBMISSIONS CAN BE E-MAILED TO “THE GUARDSMAN” AT MARTIN.DYSON@US.ARMY.MIL OR JAMES.LAURENCE .BROWN @ US.ARMY.MIL.

Romanian officials visit with Alabama Guard, other agencies

by Norman Arnold
Contributing Editor

Five Romanian officials spent a busy week in Alabama recently observing emergency situations and how state, county and local officials cope with them. Lt. Gen. Vladimir Secara, head of the Romanian general inspectorate for emergency situations, led the delegation.

The visit was part of the State Partnership Program (SPP) which was created by NATO after the cold war with Russia ended. The SPP paired state Guard organizations with former communist countries in a program intended to establish or normalize relations in a new and positive manner.

Romania, the first Warsaw Pact nation to enter the program, was paired with the Alabama Guard in August 1994. Since then, Alabama and Romanian military personnel have participated in numerous training exercises, activities and assistance visits in both Alabama and Romania.

The highlight of the recent visit by the Romanian personnel was a visit to the Dothan Fire Department. A Dothan Fire Captain, Stephen Messer, is also a major in the Alabama Army Guard. He explained the procedures Dothan firefighters and other local responders used in a number of staged events as the Romanian visitors looked on intently.

"The members of the Romanian delegation were all highly trained, emergency responders," Messer said. "I think expanding the SPP to include firefighters



Contributed/photo

From Left to Right: 1: (Romanian) LTC Marius Dogeanu 2: (Romanian) MAJ Mihai Guta 3: (Romanian) MAJ Mariana Barbu 4: (Romanian) LTG Vladimir Secara 5: (in black tie) Fire Chief Larry Williams 6: (beside Williams) (Romanian) LTC Mugurel Stanov 7: Fire Capt. Stephen Messer 8: (behind Messer) Battalion Chief Pete Webb 9: (Beside Webb) Fire Fighter Jesse Taylor 10: (Beside Taylor) SGT. Mark Metcalfe

and other civilian emergency responders is an excellent idea."

Demonstrations included fire suppression measures followed by the rope rescue of a person trapped on an upper floor. Once the "victim" was secured and safely lowered to the ground, emergency medical technicians determined the person was in cardiac arrest and initiated actions to revive him.

Another simulation involved a patient who had been contaminated by some type of hazardous material. An entrance team in full protective gear entered the area and removed the person and moved him through decontamination procedures.

The Romanian visitors were

provided with a walk-through to get a close-up view of all the equipment that had been used in the demonstrations. Dothan firefighters answered questions about equipment capabilities and uses.

"Exchanges between organizations like the Dothan Fire Department and the Romanian Fire Service are mutually beneficial for both organizations," Messer added. "Continuing the State Partnership Program between Alabama and Romania promises continued dividends for both entities in the future."

Earlier in their week-long visit, the Romanian delegation visited the Alabama Emergency Management

(Please see *SPP*, page 7)

Eventful day at brand new 20th SFG Headquarters

by Norman Arnold
Contributing Editor

Present and past members of the Alabama Army National Guard's 20th Special Forces Group spent a busy Saturday together on July 18. The group went through a change of command ceremony, the rededication of a rock and a 50th birthday party.

The eventful day took part at the 20th Group's new armory that is just being completed at the Air National Guard complex on the north side of Birmingham International Airport.

Lt. Col. (P) Randall Zeegers, assumed command of the group, succeeding Col. Steven Duff.

Zeegers had served as commander of the 20th Group's 1st Battalion which has headquarters in Huntsville.

Duff will be promoted to brigadier general and assigned as deputy commander for Reserve components at the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C. The Special Forces Command commanding general, Brig. Gen. Michael Rypass, was present at the ceremony.

The namesake of the rock was present for the "rededication" ceremony. Col. Ola L. Mize of Gadsden served as active Army advisor to the 20th Special Forces for several years. During the Korean War, then Sgt. Mize was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor while assigned to Company K, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division.



Cynthia Bachus/photo

Retired Col. Tom Boggs (left) of Demopolis, former commander of the 20th Special Forces Group, presents a color photograph of a "rock" to Congressional Medal of Honor Winner, retired Col. Ola L. Mize (right) of Gadsden as retired Maj. Gen. Ivan F. Smith of Clanton looks on. Smith is a former adjutant general of Alabama and also served as commander of the 20th Special Forces Group. Boggs secured the rock that was dedicated in Mize's honor at the former armory of the 20th. The rock was moved and "rededicated" at the unit's new armory.

When his unit came under attack near Surang-ni, Korea, Mize moved to a listening post while under heavy fire to rescue a comrade who had been wounded. He continued to move about the battle and was blown down three different times by artillery or grenade blasts.

He rallied his platoon and moved from man to man, distributing ammunition and shouting words of encouragement. Mize noted a friendly machine gun outpost was about to be overrun and fought his way to the position, killing 10 of enemy soldiers and dispersing the rest.

To honor Mize's valorous service in Korea, Retired Col. Tom Boggs, commander of the 20th SF Group at the time, secured a suitable rock and had a plate affixed dedicating the rock in Mize's honor.

With the 20th SF Group's move to the new joint-service armory, pres-

ent-day members of the units moved the rock from its original location to the new armory. Mize, told those present, "Don't let anybody tell you that the Citizen-Soldier doesn't carry the United States right now."

The third special event of the day was the celebration of the first Special Forces unit coming to the Alabama Army National Guard in 1959. Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Henry Cobb was commander of the first SF unit in the state. He later served as commander of the 20th Group and was present for the program. He served as Adjutant General of the Alabama National Guard before retiring.

Members of 20th Special Forces Group Society met with current unit members to reminisce and swap war stories. The 20th Group has its headquarters and one battalion in Alabama. Florida and Mississippi also have full battalions with units in six other states.

The entire 20th Special Forces was mobilized for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990-91 and moved to Fort Bragg, N.C. However, because of the short duration of the armed conflict, the unit did not deploy overseas.

In 2002, the entire 20th SF Group was activated again and made history when they deployed to Afghanistan. It marked the first time a National Guard or Reserve Special Forces Group had ever gone into a combat zone as a command headquarters.

ESGR recognizes employers who've gone 'above and beyond'

by Katrina Timmons
Staff Writer

For more than 370 years, National Guard members have been answering the nation's call to duty. Today, the reserve forces comprise 48 percent of our military's total force. Each time these brave men and women are called to active duty, they leave a gap, not only in the lives of their family and friends, but also with their employers.

Recognizing the sacrifices employers face when their Guard and Reserve employees are called to active duty, the Department of Defense established the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). The ESGR provides free education, consultation and, if necessary, mediation to employers of Guard and Reserve members.

"Our goal is to support American employers (as they) share their employees with the Nation to ensure our national security," said Ret. Brig. Gen. Russell Summerlin, Alabama ESGR state chair, during Alabama's District 2 luncheon held in early August.

During the luncheon, several Alabama employers received the Alabama ESGR Above and Beyond award which recognizes employers who have gone above and beyond for providing support to their military employees.

The Alabama Department of Human Resources, Auburn University Montgomery, the City of Enterprise, the City of Prattville, Costco Wholesale, Faulkner University, Golden Corral, Hyundai, Rheem Manufacturing Company, Russell Construction, and Utility Trailer Manufacturing, Inc. were all recipients of this prestigious award.

The mayor of Montgomery, Todd Strange, personally thanked members of the ESGR state committee and the distinguished employers at the luncheon, "I



Katrina Timmons/photo

Military Education Coordinator Ben Young accepts the ESGR Above and Beyond award for Faulkner University from Alabama ESGR State Chair Ret. Brig. Gen. Russell Summerlin at an ESGR District 2 luncheon held in Montgomery in early August at the Golden Corral restaurant. Faulkner was given the award for the university's outstanding support it offers to the armed forces.

realize it is a sacrifice being an employer and having Guardsmen and reservists as employees, but it's a price worth paying

so that we can have a standing Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard to defend our country."

Engineers receive Meritorious Unit Commendation

Members of the 200th Engineer Battalion, explosive hazards coordination cell stand as their names are called to receive the Meritorious Unit Commendation Award, during a recent ceremony at Fort McClellan.



Cynthia Bachus/photo

46th CST at home on land or on the water

by Katrina Timmons
Staff Writer

Mobile, Ala. - Since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 (9-11), local, state and federal agencies have broadened their training exercises to depict various scenarios that are an increasing threat to the U.S. democracy and its way of life.

Terrorist groups continue to upgrade and modify their weapons and methods while continuously searching for new and unexpected targets.

In recent news, pirates of Somalia hijacked the Maersk Alabama, an American cargo supertanker loaded with \$100 million dollars worth of oil. The commander of the ship, Richard Phillips, surrendered himself to the pirates in order to save the lives of his crewmembers.

In light of such attacks, it is imperative to implement measures that counter these groups and their threats.

Soldiers with the Alabama National Guard's 46th Civil Support Team (CST) recently worked such a threat scenario with the 41st CST from Kentucky, the 43rd CST from South Carolina, the Alabama National Guard's Aviation Security and Support Detachment, the U.S. Coast Guard out of Mobile, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The scenario revolved, which fulfilled two National Guard Bureau (NGB) training requirements, around a relief-in-place and maritime operations exercise held in Mobile.

"This is a great opportunity for us to learn from other agencies and to display what the CST is capable of doing," said 46th CST Commander, Lt. Col. Rick Pelham.

The scenario, Operation Flying Dutchman, was drafted and monitored by U.S. Army North Command's Civil Support Readiness Group-East. The scenario overview stated that an international terrorist group boarded and seized

control of the cruise liner, the State of Maine, which was heading to dry-dock for renovations and repairs.

After losing contact with the cruise liner, the U.S. Coast Guard located the missing ship approximately two miles from U.S. Coast Guard Sector Mobile. The Coast Guard personnel were fired upon as they approached the ship to investigate.

The FBI had been monitoring correspondence from a domestic group with links to international terrorist over the past year. The FBI reported the group bragging about their acquisition of precursor for chemical warfare groups. These included small arms, bomb making materials, and radioactive isotopes.

With such information, the FBI immediately alerted the 46th CST, an FBI special weapons and tactics team (SWAT), and U.S. Coast Guard Strike team of the hostile situation at the State of Maine.

The 46th's objectives were to conduct ship boarding operations safely and define standards, to establish ship boarding tactics, techniques and procedures, to build a working relationship with the U.S. Coast Guard Strike team, and to conduct deliberate relief-in-place operations safely and define standards.

Pelham said he was very pleased with the outcome of the training. "We've conducted exercises on the U.S.S. Alabama, so our guys were prepared to navigate such difficult spaces," explained Pelham.

That evening the 46th was relieved by Kentucky's 41st CST. Pelham says this was the first time for the 46th to work with the Kentucky team. "Our



Katrina Timmons/photo

A Soldier with the Alabama National Guard's 46th CST scans a doorway of the State of Maine for a positive reading of any chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high yield explosive contaminates during a scenario-based exercise.

goal is to work with as many teams in our sector as possible," said Pelham. The Kentucky team was later relieved by South Carolina's 43rd CST.

According to Lennox Campbell, division chief for the Civil Support Readiness Group-East, the exercise was designed to enhance better working relations with other agencies, to develop tactics, techniques and procedures for ship board or maritime operations, and to successfully conduct relief-in-place operations.

Campbell has been training with the 46th for seven years. "The 46th is very professional," said Campbell. "They take their job very seriously."

Vietnam veteran reenlists in Iraq

by Natalie Mercedes-Williams
16th Sustainment Brigade

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE
MAREZ-EAST, Iraq — Sgt. 1st Class
Hershel L. Mayfield, a native of Tallassee,
Ala., has been serving in the Army for 39
years; 37 of which were with the 158th
Maintenance Company.

Mayfield decided that it was time
to re-enlist again into the Guard and con-
tinue to serve his country.

“Everything I do today is done
with the next generation in mind, and how
I can influence them to do the same for
their nation,” said Mayfield.

Mayfield joined the Guard,
reclassing as a light-wheel vehicle me-
chanic, with a desire to continue serving
his country as a Soldier. He thanked his
wife of 30 years, Sheila, and his children
Hershel Mayfield III (deceased) and
Amber Lynn Tounton, for supporting him
throughout his military career.

(S&S continued from page 8)

every week with counterdrug aviation,”
added Chris.

Mitchell said that S&S works with many
different agencies, providing several
different services and capabilities day
or night, seven days a week and can
be activated to assist with less than 24
hours notice.

Mitchell says S&S doesn’t want
any publicity or recognition, that it is
the law enforcement personnel on the
ground who do most of the work. How-
ever, it is clear that the mission of law
enforcement is made a lot easier, and
often made possible only with the help
of S&S.

“By assisting various law en-
forcement agencies in completing their
missions, we are helping to improve the
overall security of not only Alabama,
but also the nation,” said Mitchell.

“It is a
way of life and
they’ve learned
to live in it,”
said Mayfield.
His family has
dealt with his
absence due to
three deploy-
ments and nu-
merous training
events.

“I
joined the
military because
the base was
adjacent to my
home, and in
order to have freedom, someone has to do
the job,” said Mayfield. “It also provided
me with benefits that no other civilian job
has.”

Mayfield re-enlisted to serve for
another two years while deployed in sup-



Natalie Mercedes-Williams/photo

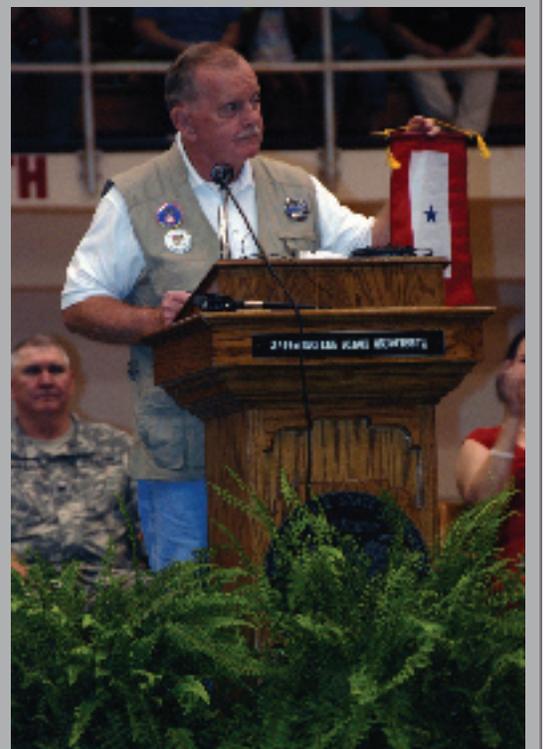
Cpt. Irvin Morris (left) presents Sgt. 1st Class Hershel Mayfield, 158th Maintenance Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, with a certificate of re-enlistment at Contingency Operating Site Marez-East, Iraq.

port of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Mayfield
thanked everyone at his re-enlistment in
front of company headquarters at Marez-
East for attending.

During his time in the military he
deployed to Vietnam in 1969, Kosovo in
1996, and most recently to Iraq, in 2008.

Blue Star Salute Foundation representative and retired Army Lt. Col. Robert G. Nivens displays a BSSF flag to the Soldiers and family members of the 2025th Transportation Company, Jacksonville, Ala. during a deployment ceremony. The BSSF presents each Soldier with such a flag. The star in the center of the flag represents a member of the family is currently deployed to war. The 2025th is no stranger to sacrifice – this is the unit’s second activation in our global war on terror. The unit was first mobilized in 2003 providing support for both Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

Katrina Timmons/photo



Dare we say: this annual training was ‘En Fuego’

by Katrina Timmons
Staff Writer

Montgomery, Ala. – Soldiers with two of the Alabama Army National Guard’s newest units really felt the heat earlier in late April while attending their first ever annual training (AT) period.

The 1152nd and 1153rd Engineer Detachments (Firefighting) were added to the Alabama’s force structure last fall. Both are located at the Fort McClellan National Guard Training Center in Anniston.

“We had one main goal for this AT period,” said Staff Sgt. Mike Bailey of Anniston. “That was to obtain Aircraft Rescue Firefighter certification.” This certification is a mandatory requirement before becoming a Department of Defense firefighter. Firefighters must also obtain Driver-Pump Operator certification.

The Soldiers of the 1152nd and the 1153rd were able to obtain these DoD certifications with the assistance of personnel from Maxwell Air Force Base here. Maxwell has facilities that allow



Cynthia Bachus/photo

A controlled live-fire from a mock up C-130 aircraft blazes through the air while Alabama Army National Guard firefighters stand-by to assess the situation and extinguish the fire.

firefighters to respond to a simulated crash or other type accident and distinguish a controlled live-fire on a mock up of a C-130 aircraft.

“The training is scenario based,” said Sgt. Joe Hassell of Childersburg, Ala. “With each scenario, we must successfully pump water from our firefighting truck, extinguish the fire, and provide a safe rescue area for both victims of the fire and other emergency personnel.”

Other scenarios the unit covered during the AT included structural equipment fires, wild-land fires, interior burn and rescue missions and access and egress procedures for Black Hawk helicopters.

“We are now authorized to execute Rescue Air Mobile Supply or RAMS training,” said Spc. Todd Williams of Jacksonville. “This training is a part of our newly updated critical task list.” RAMS training allows firefighters to prepare for a real-world mission in the global war on terrorism.

A RAMS scenario might involve an improvised explosive device (IED) at-

tack on a convoy which causes a fire. The firefighters would load the proper equipment in a helicopter, board the helicopter themselves and fly into the attack zone and extinguish the fire.

Our fire trucks are equipped to support all these missions,” said Hassell. “The truck carries 1,000 gallons of water and has a 200 horse power motor that pumps 250 gallons of water per minute. This multi-purpose vehicle gives us the ability to ‘pump and roll.’

The training the unit members undergo is unique and so is their uniforms, especially their helmets. “We wear different colored helmets for a reason,” said Williams. “The white helmet is worn by station chiefs, the red helmets are worn by lead firefighters, and the black helmets are worn by driver operators and regular firefighters,” explained Williams.

Each soldier who wears the firefighter uniform is a first-line responder. Some are qualified as combat life savers and combat medics. This makes for a well rounded team.



Katrina Timmons/photo

Sgt. Joe Hassell, pumps water from a M1142 Fire Fighting Truck, during the 1152nd and 1153rds AT at Dannelly Field.