

ALABAMA GUARDSMAN



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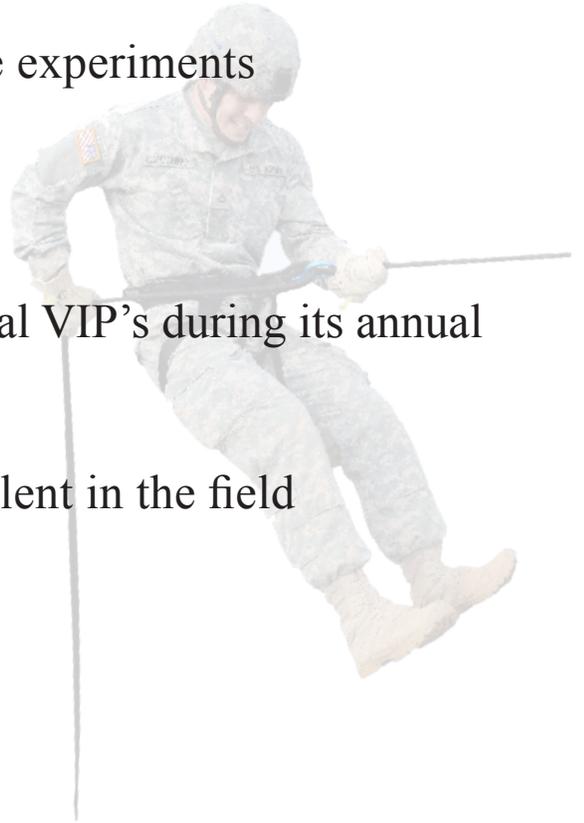
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On The Cover

MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING CENTER, Indiana—Sp. Danielle Beach (left) inspects the seams of Sp. Latesha Buchannan's Level 4 Tyvek chemical suit to ensure there are no broken seals during an exercise on August 4, 2014. Both Soldiers are from the 208th Chemical Company that provided chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) reconnaissance and decontamination support at Vibrant Response 14. (Photo by Christopher Davis).

Adjutant General

Alabama Guard adapts to September drill delay



**Maj. Gen.
Perry Smith**

Last year, October drill was moved because Congress had passed neither a working budget nor a continuing resolution. A resolution was finally passed and we were able to make up our drill periods at other

times during the year. This year, National Guard Bureau had a budget shortfall and all states were asked to return funding to cover this shortfall. Being a team player, Alabama returned our necessary share.

This is why most of your units were asked to move drill to the last weekend this month. This course of action gave time

for Congress to permit NGB to reprogram funds into the personnel account, thus allowing us to drill.

This background that I've given shows you a little of the sausage being made and the hard work that the state-level staff have been doing to make sure our units c drill this month. But, that's our job. The real ugliness of this situation is putting into jeopardy valuable training to Soldiers and expected income to Soldiers and their families.

When this issue first arose, the most troubling part to me was the disruption to the lives of thousands of Soldiers and their families. I am well aware that you had already scheduled time off with your employers that some of you were perhaps to be out of town or had some other important event that now conflicts with your drill schedule. I am also aware that the delay in your drill pay ranges from an inconvenience for some to a serious

problem for others.

I want you to know two things about this issue: 1) that our staff planned and executed our budget very well and worked hard to come up with options that did not entail cancelling drill; and 2) that I am extremely proud of the way that you have handled this change – with professionalism and resolve.

I want to personally apologize to your families for changing your schedule at such a late date, for the delay to your income, and for the uncertainty of this entire situation. I also want to personally thank you and your families for your continued dedication to this state and nation, and for your professionalism in handling these difficult circumstances.

As always, I am proud to be counted among you and to represent you. Lead from the front!

State Command Sergeant Major

Patriotism: Our enduring devotion to America



**Command
Sgt. Maj.
Eddie Pike**

Americans will never forget the tragic events that occurred on September 11th, 2001. This year marks the 13th anniversary of the horrific acts of terror and our country solemnly remembers the men and women

who innocently lost their lives.

September 11th has been congressionally designated as Patriot Day and

is also annually recognized as “National Day of Service and Remembrance.”

The citizens and service members of this great country have an unwavering devotion to America. Patriotism and our dedication to America can be defined in so many ways and we take daily pride in adding value to the core ideals that our beloved country was founded upon.

Americans are patriots and we share the strong bonds of citizenship that display our commitment to justice, freedom and peace. We are also resilient and dedicated to ensuring our homeland and global interests are protected.

This month, as we reflect on signifi-

cant events of our past, we gain even greater strength in knowing that our armed service members are more than capable, ready and willing to protect and defend American interests. Our citizens are also true patriots with an enduring devotion to America.

Each day is a new opportunity for us to continue the efforts of enhancing our communities, strengthening our families and providing support to those in need. As Americans, we are resolute in protecting the freedoms that we enjoy and we all should share the responsibility of living up to the principles that have guided our nation for decades.

31st CBRN Brigade Soldiers carry out live experiments



Frederick Varney/image

FORT McCLELLAN, Ala. -Sgt. Jared Roberts, a chemical non-commissioned officer with the 690th Chemical Company, inspects the bottom of a TVI mass casualty decontamination (MCD) tent during a live exercise held Sept. 16, 2014.

**by Staff Sgt. Frederick Varney
131st MPAD**

FORT McCLELLAN, Ala. - According to the U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Training School based in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., the key to successful mass casualty decontamination (MCD) involves using the fastest approach that will cause the least harm and do the most good for the majority of the people.

In other words, it becomes critical to initiate decontamination as soon as possible to be effective in saving lives, limiting injuries, and reducing the spread of decontamination. First responders must be prepared and

move quickly to transport casualties to decontamination staging areas. Recently, Soldiers with the Alabama National Guard's 31st CBRN Brigade had the unique opportunity of testing and evaluating their own MCD equipment using live experiments held here September 14-20.

"Our unit is testing different MCD systems to determine which components of each system work best and would be the most effective during a real-world MCD incident," said Sgt. Holly Gipson, a chemical non-commissioned officer with the 690th CBRN Company based in Mobile.

Gipson said her area of expertise was the TVI brand commercial de-

contamination tent that is frequently utilized by federal agencies such as FEMA to train and respond to MCD incidents.

"Based on my training experiences, I feel the TVI system is far more reliable and much easier to set up when compared to the Reeves system. Although the military system provides an adequate resource, there are fewer moving parts with the TVI system that enables it to be more effective within the field environment," said Gipson.

According to Herbert Davila, project manager and testing officer with the U.S. Army's Dugway Proving Ground (Please see *CBRN*, page 11)

Snap Shots

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



James L. Brown/photo

MONTGOMERY, Ala. - Maj. Gen. Perry Smith, the adjutant general of Alabama, presents the Bronze Star Medal to First Sergeant Robert Pickett of the 46th Civil Support Team, September 2, 2014. Pickett received the award for his courage under fire in Afghanistan in 2006 while deployed with the 2nd Brigade, 205th Corps Regional Command Advisory Group.



Ken Johnson/photo

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - Capt. Michael Lochte of the 117th Air Refueling Wing works with a Coca Cola employee to plant a tree at Greenwood Park here Sept. 11, 2014. The base environmental office from the 117th Air Refueling Wing, Alabama Air National Guard worked with local businesses to plant trees at the park. The City of Birmingham, the Coca-Cola company and the Botanical Gardens sponsored and participated in the event along with The Alabama Forestry Commission who supplied approximately 15 trees. Birmingham's Mayor William Bell personally thanked everyone for their support in making the event successful.



Tunwa Yee/photo

CHICAGO - (from left to right) Lt. Gen. Stanley Clarke, NGB director of Air National Guard, Col. Gary Kirk, commander of the Alabama Air National Guard 226th Combat Communications Group and Maj. Gen. Donald Dunbar, the adjutant general of Wisconsin and vice chair (Air) of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) board stand for a photo August 25, 2014 after Kirk was presented with an outstanding combat communications unit award for the 226th during the NGAUS annual conference. The unit received the award for excellence in the combat communications field.



Rachel Luxenburg/photo

HARVEST, Ala.- NCOs from the 22nd Recruiting & Retention Battalion pose with former NFL & University of Alabama Quarterback Greg McElroy after speaking to High School Students at Sparkman High School as part of The NFL Player Appearance Program presented by the National Guard, August 26, 2014. Photo (from left to right): Sgt. Nathaniel Letson, Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Matthews, Greg McElroy, Staff Sgt. Daniel Caldwell, & Sgt. Elijah Smith



Shawn Nickel/photo

AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar - Air Force Lt. Col. John Pugh, 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron KC-135 Stratotanker mission commander, conducts a pre-flight mission brief with two crew chiefs from the 340th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit Aug. 29, 2014, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. Pugh credits every successful flight to the hard work of Air Force maintainers who keep the jets flying safe. Pugh is deployed from the 117th Air Refueling Wing, 106th Air Refueling Squadron, Birmingham, Alabama Air National Guard.



James L. Brown/photo

MONTGOMERY, Ala.- Maj. Gen. Perry Smith, the adjutant general of Alabama, stands with retired Staff Sgt. Cory Martin after presenting him with the Purple Heart award, September 24, 2014. Martin received the award for wounds he received in Iraq in 2005 while serving with the 167th Infantry Regiment.



Shannon Hancock/photo

MONTGOMERY, Ala. - Soldiers of the 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion watch during the unit's Freedom Salute ceremony here August 24, 2014. The unit which is located in Eufaula returned on July 16 from a 10-month deployment to Afghanistan.



Shannon Hancock/photo

MONTGOMERY, Ala.- Col. David Koon, battalion commander (right) and Command Sgt. Maj. Martin Tillery, battalion command sergeant major of the 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion address Soldiers of the unit during the 1103rd's Freedom Salute ceremony here August 24, 2014. The unit which is located in Eufaula returned on July 16 from a 10-month deployment to Afghanistan.



Shannon Hancock/photo

MONTGOMERY, Ala.- Col. Jerry Martin, deputy commander of the 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command shakes hands with Staff Sgt. Kim Baker of the 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion during the 1103rd's Freedom Salute ceremony here August 24, 2014. The unit which is located in Eufaula returned on July 16 from a 10-month deployment to Afghanistan.

CCRA hosts 31st CBRN Soldiers and special VIP's during its annual Dining-In

by Staff Sgt. Fredrick Varney
131st MPAD

ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT--- Every year the Chemical Corps Regimental Association's (CCRA) at Fort McClellan works to coordinate a dining-in experience for its Soldiers who have served in the Chemical Corps as well as many other distinguished members and guests.

On Sept. 13th, 2014, the CCRA's Fort McClellan Chapter continued its tradition by hosting an event at the Desoto Pastime Center that included several Soldiers from the 31st Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Brigade, several chemical corps retirees, and special guest VIP's.

Some of the attendees included retired Maj. Gen. Gerald G. Watson, often referred to as "The Father of the Chemical Corps" because of his many contributions to the CCRA and the Chemical Corps. Pearl Harbor survivor retired Sgt. Maj. George Murray was also in attendance as well as the current 31st Chemical Brigade commander Col. Lee Ellis, who served as the keynote speaker for the evening.

"My dad was extremely happy when he found out the Chemical Corps Association wanted him to attend the event as a special guest," said Murray's daughter Michelle Bowden.

Ninety-five year old Murray served 31 years on active duty and was stationed at Fort McClellan twice during his illustrious military career. He and his family settled in the Saks community of Calhoun County after his retirement and have lived there ever since.

"Dad doesn't talk a whole lot about what happened at Pearl Harbor, but I can tell that being in the military meant a great deal to him," said Bowden. I always felt that my daddy was Batman



Fredrick Varney/photo

FORT McCLELLAN, Ala. - Guest speaker Col. Lee Ellis, 31st Chemical Brigade commander, speaks with retired Sgt. Maj. George Murray during the 31st Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Brigade's annual Dining-in held Sep. 13th, 2014 at the Anniston Army Depot. Murray, a Pearl Harbor survivor, was invited to attend the event as a special guest after serving more than 31 years of service.

and I was his Robin and I was always so proud of him when he was wearing his uniform."

During the event, a special toast was given to Watson's wife who passed away January 11, 2014 and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Va. Mrs. Watson or "Carol Ann", as she liked to be referred to, was married to her husband for 57 years.

As Watson stood up on stage for the toast, he reminded the attendees that Carol Ann had a passion for the American Soldier, especially Dragon Soldiers.

In recognition of her leadership as an Army wife, the Secretary of the Army approved a medal named the Carol Ann Watson Award and it is now awarded to spouses in the Chemical Regiment who go above and beyond to the nation and Army families.

Aside from the marriage to Watson, she was also the mother of two sons—Maj. Gen. Bryan Watson, a career Army Engineer, and Darryl Watson, an Atlanta attorney.

The keynote speaker, Col. Lee Ellis, 31st CBRN Brigade commander, also delivered a presentation about the Chemical Corps and thanked all the Soldiers of the 31st CBRN Brigade, retirees and special VIP guests for attending the event.

"Once a year we have a great opportunity to come together and celebrate the accomplishments of the Chemical Corps. I am very pleased by all the hard work the CCRA has put into this dinner and I appreciate all the Soldiers, retirees, and special guests that were able to attend tonight," said Ellis.

208th Chemical Company showcases talent in the field



Christopher Davis/photo

MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING CENTER, Indiana - The 208th Chemical Company rolls into the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, Indiana, to conduct reconnaissance and decontamination missions as part of Vibrant Response 14, a joint-force exercise to a simulated disaster.

by Staff Sgt. Christopher Davis Contributing Writer

MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING CENTER, Indiana - The chemical Soldiers lined up beside their tactical vehicles holding signature red bags containing a breathing system, Tyvek chemical suit and helmet. Military commanders and civilian first responders discussed a plan of action for the scene of destruction before them.

The 208th Chemical Company from Fort Payne, Alabama, participated in Vibrant Response (VR) 14, a simulated nuclear incident in Indiana. Vibrant Response 14 was a joint-force exercise with more than 5,700 personnel from military units, civilian emergency management agencies, and federal assistance teams under the direction of Army North.

The 208th joined chemical and medical units from Michigan in order to set up a multi-lane Massive Casualty Decontamination (MCD) area. Depending on mission requirements, each unit committed personnel and equipment for reconnaissance, casualty collection or medical treatment.

“I always find it interesting when two different units with two different SOPs can come together and do the mission,” said Pvt. 1st Class William Sulcher, a CBRN specialist and tech escort in the 208th. “We can learn from them. That is probably my favorite thing about collaborating with different units.”

From one day to the next of VR 14, Soldiers of the 208th handled reconnaissance and decontamination missions. They determined the level of contaminants and assessed medical needs of displaced civilians found

across the area of simulated destruction.

For a decontamination mission, the 208th established two MCD lanes to handle the displaced civilians: one for ambulatory persons and the other for the non-ambulatory. Each lane had five stations to properly decontaminate the civilians passing through.

At their peak proficiency to Army CBRN standards, the 208th can handle 40 ambulatory civilians an hour and 20 non-ambulatory an hour in the respective lanes. At full capability, the 208th can decontaminate up to 720 civilians in their initial 12-hour window using both lanes.

“Typically, it takes us about three hours to setup,” said Sgt. 1st Class Shaun Cade, the MCD non-commissioned officer-in-charge. “The 208th (Please see *208th*, page 10)

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can sustain 12 hours of operations before needing logistic resupply support.

The overall goal was to insure all displaced civilians were provided immediate treatment and cleared before movement to the next level of medical care.

Medics monitored their personnel's vitals and water loss to determine safety and mission continuity. The efforts of maintenance support insured the waste water was properly contained, and coordinated with logistics to remove all contaminated items from the site.

“One thing about the guys from Alabama, they are resilient in bringing their A-game here,” said Capt. Michael Johnson, commander of the 208th. “They represent the state well, the brigade well, the battalion well, their unit well, and themselves as



Christopher Davis/photo

MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING CENTER, Indiana - Cpt. Michael Johnson, commander of the 208th Chemical Company, briefs Maj. Gen. Burton Francisco, commander of Task Force 46, on decontamination operations.

Soldiers.”

Upon completion of the day's mission, Soldiers of the 208th would breakdown the site and repack the vehicles and containers in preparation

for the next day. After putting the familiar red equipment bags away, they found rest before rolling out the next morning as the sun rose over the cornfields of Indiana.



Christopher Davis/photo

MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING CENTER, Indiana - Soldiers from the 208th Chemical Company's reconnaissance element use their equipment to test for contaminants inside of a structure before a search-and-rescue team can begin extraction operations. Spc. Donald Bulford (left) uses a Multi-Rae Pro biological hazard detector; Spc. Angelica Wallace (center) uses a chemical agent detector paper swab, and Spc. Stephanie Smith operates a ANVDR2 radiation detector.

Congratulations to the following retiring Alabama Guardsmen:

RETIRED

E8	Harris Michael Wayne	Joint Forces Headquarters
E6	Kelly Teddy Lee	HHC 731 Combat Sustainment Spt. Bn.
E6	Salters Ronnie Ray	Joint Forces Headquarters

(CBRN continued from page 4)

based in Utah, an important part of these live experiments has been providing Soldiers with the necessary training aids to effectively decontaminate casualties.

“Initially, our team begins with a pre-scan of the Soldiers preparing to be decontaminated to make sure there are no false positives that could be caused as a result of colognes and perfumes.

After pre-scan, we then move the Soldiers to the Reeves system tent or TVI tent to apply the chemicals to their skin,” said Davila.

Davila said the Chemical Test Division uses both Glo Germ and the insect repellent OFF to evaluate whether or not the Soldiers are getting decontaminated after coming through the high-volume and low pressure showers inside

Soldiers from the 31st CBRN Brigade also monitored the performance of the decontamination systems and conducted maintenance as needed.

“When we first arrived on site, the first thing our Soldiers did was set up the equipment to make sure everything was functioning properly,” said Spc. Jonita Watkins, a chemical specialist with the 690th CBRN Company. “Over the last few days, we have been running through several training scenarios and figuring out what works best in terms of the decontamination equipment.”

Watkins said the live experiments helped provide her unit with some valuable hands-on training and also improved their overall unit cohesion.

“I am very proud of the motivation, professionalism and expertise that have been displayed by the Soldiers participating in this training exercise,” she said.

“As a result of this experiment, we will be much better prepared to meet the challenges ahead and also understand what decontamination equipment is best suited for responding to a CBRN incident.”



Fredrick Varney/photo

FORT McCLELLAN Ala. - Spc. Lakhendra Jones, a chemical specialist with the 208th Chemical Company, performs maintenance on a mass casualty decontamination (MCD) tent during training held Sept. 16, 2014.

of the tents. “The Glo Germ Kit contains a bottle of liquid, a bottle of powder, and an ultra-violet black light. The liquid and the powder contain the plastic simulated germs, and the light illuminates them to test whether or not the Soldiers have managed to decontaminate the casualties properly,” added Davila.

Aside from the decontamination experiments,

National Hispanic Heritage Month

SEP 15—OCT 15, 2014

HISPANICS: *A Legacy of* HISTORY *a Present of* ACTION *and a Future of* SUCCESS



Created for DEOMI by Robert Brown & Pete Hemmer

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

During National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15) we recognize the contributions made and the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrate their heritage and culture.

Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service. They have enhanced and shaped our national character with centuries-old traditions that reflect the multiethnic and multicultural customs of their community.

Hispanic Heritage Month, whose

roots go back to 1968, begins each year on September 15, the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico, Chile and Belize also celebrate their independence days during this period and Columbus Day (Día de la Raza) is October 12.

The term Hispanic or Latino, refers to Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. On the 2010 Census form, people of Spanish, Hispanic and/or Latino origin could identify themselves as Mexican,

Mexican American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or "another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin."

According to this Census, 50.5 million people or 16% of the population are of Hispanic or Latino origin.

This represents a significant increase from 2000, which registered the Hispanic population at 35.3 million or 13% of the total U.S. population.

Please share in this special annual tribute by learning and celebrating the generations of Hispanic Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society.

October 23-31 is National Red Ribbon Week!

What is Red Ribbon Week?

Red Ribbon Week is a national campaign that promotes the prevention of substance abuse. The Red Ribbon mobilizes communities to educate youth and encourage participation in drug prevention activities. It is the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the nation, reaching millions during Red Ribbon Week (October 23rd-October 31st) each year. Every year, students across the country submit potential taglines and logos for consideration. This year's theme, "Love Yourself, Be Drug Free" was submitted by a 7th grade student from New York.



How did Red Ribbon start?

Following the murder of DEA Agent Enrique Camarena by drug traffickers in Mexico City, angered parents and youth in communities across the country began wearing Red Ribbons as a symbol of their commitment to raise awareness of the destruction drug use can cause. The National Federation of Parents (NFP) organized the first Nationwide Red Ribbon Campaign and in 1988, NFP sponsored the first National Red Ribbon Celebration.

What will the Army National Guard do?

In order to maintain combat readiness, it is imperative that Army Soldiers and their Families remain drug free. The Army participates annually in the Red Ribbon campaign in support of substance abuse prevention. For this year's Red Ribbon Week, the Army National Guard will adopt the campaign theme: "Love Yourself, Be Drug Free" into its own prevention activities for October.

Support substance abuse prevention in your community!

Contact your State ARNG Alcohol and Drug Control Officer or Prevention Coordinator for more information.



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