

ALABAMA GUARDSMAN



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On The Cover

MONTGOMERY, Alabama -- Maj. Gen. Charles Gable Speakes to Alabama Guardsmen at the "Final Formation" ceremony at Joint Forces Headquarters here March 21, 2015 (photo by Spc. William Frye).

Adjutant General

March is a reminder that the Alabama Guard is always ready



**Maj. Gen.
Perry Smith**

March came in like a lion with our third winter storm response already this year. Yet, after that, warmer temperatures and calmer times came along. So, I hope, as March winds

die down, that it will go out like a lamb as many families take advantage of Spring break from school to enjoy

vacation and family time together.

I mentioned the winter storm response. Your years of experience, hours upon hours of planning and training, and your dedication to our communities and state, ensured that we were able to respond to the governor's call for assistance with quickness and efficiency, doing what no one else does better. We responded with more than 1,500 man-days in support of Alabama Emergency Management Agency missions and I have gotten several calls and emails from other state agencies since then, telling me how professional our troops were

in that response, and what a comfort it is to know that the Alabama National Guard is always ready and always there to answer the call.

Warmer temperatures are around the corner now, summer is knocking on our door, and hurricane season will soon be upon us. It is only because of our continued planning and training that we can have confidence in our ability to respond to our No. 1 threat – hurricanes. That's why I encourage you to continue to plan realistic, challenging training for your troops and to engage in that training wholeheartedly. (Please see **MARCH**, page 7)

State Command Sergeant Major

Taking Care of Soldiers: A daily commitment



**Command
Sgt. Maj.
Eddie Pike**

Soldiers are the backbone of the Army and the majority of the Army's population. The enlisted Soldier is an irreplaceable asset that the

Army entrusts with a wide array of daily duties, assignments and missions. Many of our Soldiers have deployed, served in different levels of duty, and many have given the ultimate sacrifice while following orders or simply performing their job in aus-

tere environments abroad. The overall commitment of the enlisted Soldier has always been strong in their effort to take care of the mission, task or whatever job they are given.

Leaders at all levels have the responsibility to take care of Soldiers. Taking care of Soldiers means that we must do what is necessary to ensure our service men and women have everything they need to perform the tasks they are given. Leaders must recognize that our citizen Soldiers are people. They are fathers, mothers, daughters and brothers. They have civilian occupations, families and civic responsibilities. The citizen Soldier remains ready

and is always prepared when called upon, and is eager to perform their duty when they know their leadership will provide for them.

From first line leaders all the way to senior officers within a Soldier's unit, all leaders have the responsibility to care for their Soldiers. Caring for Soldiers includes listening, communicating, ensuring their overall health and welfare is suitable and meets standard, providing guidance and counseling as needed and ensuring adequate training and professional development. Leaders must provide information to families when Soldiers deploy, ensuring the family is (Please see **COMMITMENT**, page 7)

Alabama Guard runners strive to be elite

by Spc. William Frye
Staff Writer

BIRMINGHAM -- One by one exhausted but determined runners stream along the final stretch. The crowd cheers loudly, propelling the runners across the finish line. More than 3,000 people have shown up to compete in the 2015 Mercedes full and half marathons held here Feb. 22, 2015. 1st Lt. James Mann of the 20th Special Forces Group pushes himself to finish the half marathon in 16th place. He finishes with a time of 1:19:11. Mann is the fastest local runner.

As a member of the National Guard Bureau All Guard Marathon Team, 1st Lt. Mann spent the day before the race promoting the National Guard. Between the team members, 20 leads were generated to be turned over to recruiters.

"Once you make the team, you become a recruiter at the events you participate in," said Mann. "Not only do you run the race, but you wear the Guard uniform and man the booth."

"These are the kind of people we could use in the Guard," said Mann

referring to the people he meets while competing in marathons.

Mann said the All Guard Marathon Team is a good program to promote physical fitness and retention. "It takes a lot of stamina and resilience to finish one of these races."

Capt. Joshua Mixon, Protocol Officer for Command Group, who also ran the Mercedes Marathon, said events like this can lead to quality individuals joining the Alabama Army National Guard.

Mann said this year's race is particularly special to him because he is able to run it back on home turf. Last year he deployed to Afghanistan. Mann helped orchestrate a shadow Mercedes Marathon in Kandahar. He and nine other Soldiers ran the race there. Now, back home Mann says he is able to participate in the Mercedes along with his children

this year. His children participated in the Mercedes Kids Marathon.

Mann says he is preparing to run the National Guard Marathon in Lincoln, Nebraska along with 9,000 other runners May 3. The Lincoln Marathon serves as the time

trials for the All Guard Marathon Team. "It's an opportunity to be a part of an elite group, said Mann. It's also a chance to work hard and be rewarded. Only the top 40 Guardsmen earn the chance to make the All Guard team.

Mixon said, The Lincoln Marathon is a challenging event that represents the Guards ability to compete at the highest level.

Mann said Capt. Joshua Mixon and Capt. James Hill will also be representing the Alabama National Guard in the Lincoln Marathon.



William Frye/photo

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — 1st Lt. James Mann of the 20th Special Forces Group took part in the Mercedes Half Marathon here Feb. 22, 2015. 1st Lt. Mann was 16th overall out of 3,482 runners completing the half marathon in a time of 1:19:11.



William Frye/photo

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — 1st Lt. James Mann of the 20th Special Forces Group wearing a white jersey prepares to run the Mercedes Half Marathon here Feb. 22, 2015..

Snap Shots

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



Ken Johnsonphoto

PELHAM RANGE, Alabama -- A member of the 117th Air Refueling Wing reacts to a hazard while training here during a Counter CBRN All Hazards Management Response course, CAMR. The four day course provided a custom, comprehensive, hybrid program that allows base first responders and surrounding agencies an opportunity to train and exercise together.



Contributedphoto

Alabama National Guardsmen patrol Alabama interstates during a winter weather storm February 25, 2015. More than 200 Alabama Guardsmen were activated for missions patrolling interstates and other state highways, assisting drivers stuck in the snow and ice.



Contributedphoto

MONTGOMERY, Ala. -- Alabama National Guard veterans were honored at the Alabama Governor's One-Shot Turkey Hunt dinner here, March 17, 2015. The One Shot program provides grants and scholarships relating to forestry and wildlife sciences and strives to showcase Alabama as the ultimate destination for business industry and nature-based tourism. Pictured from left to right are: Sgt. 1st Class Claytie Leonard, Lt. Col. Keith Calhoun, Sgt. Jordan Travis, Col. Terry Travis, First Lady Diane Bentley, Governor Robert Bentley, Sgt. 1st Class Josh Stephens, Sgt. Bill Bernoff and Chief Warrant Officer William Mims.

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Shannon Hancock/photo

PELHAM RANGE Alabama -- Alabama Guardsmen evacuate a casualty as the Alabama CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) conducts a mass casualty exercise here March 9, 2015. The Calhoun County Environmental Management Agency, the Calhoun County Coroner and the Anniston Fire Department also participated in the exercise, which was held March 9-10



Ken Johnson/photo

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama -- The President of The United States, Barack Obama arrives here March 26, 2014. Obama was greeted by Alabama Governor Robert Bentley, Birmingham Mayor William Bell and Col. Robert "Scott" Grant, Vice Commander of the 117th Air Refueling Wing. The President came to Birmingham to visit Lawson State Community College where he gave a speech on economic issues.



Brandi Hyatt/photo

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama -- The 117th Air Refueling Wing hosts Boy Scout Troop 354 from Chelsea, Alabama. Troop leader retired Master Sergeant Steve Bedsole requested the tour to help the scouts earn their Aviation Merit Badge. They have been learning about topics such as aerodynamics and aeronautics. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by: Captain Brandi Hyatt/Released)

(MARCH continued from page 3)

-edly.

We have some excellent training planned for this year with several trips to Romania and other overseas training opportunities for many of our troops. As deployments to Afghanistan continue to draw down, we should see more of these overseas training opportunities and I am directing the staff and commanders to take advantage of them and I encourage each Soldier and Airman to work hard and make your state

and unit proud, but also to enjoy yourself and learn about the culture you are visiting when presented with these opportunities. Remember when you go on trips such as this, you are a representative of the Alabama National Guard. You may be the only Guard member that some active duty troops will work with in-depth, and you may be the only American troops that some of our foreign partners will ever meet. Hold yourself to a strict standard and always share your

technical knowledge to enhance the Soldiers and Airmen around you as well as active duty and partner nation troops.

As I've said time and again, I continue to be very proud of you and continue to have great faith in your ability to show why the Guard is such a vital part of our nation's defense structure. Let's get ready for the summer and challenges yet to come. Lead from the front!

(COMMITMENT continued from page 3)

cared for and given adequate resources. As Soldiers return from deployment, many face reintegration circumstances where additional support may be necessary. Injured Soldiers must feel the care and support of their leaders and should not have to wait unreasonably for healthcare and required medical services.

Our goal in the Alabama National Guard is to support our Soldiers in such a way that they want to continue in service to their state and country. This month, I will be discussing "Taking Care of Soldiers" at our annual state conference. I will also attend the "Final Formation" event on 21 March, where MG

Charles L. Gable will issue the oath of re-enlistment to Soldiers who have decided to extend their service commitment. In many years of experience, it is a proven fact that if you take care of your Soldiers, they will take care of you.




Safety First ... Prevention Always!

GET IN GEAR



ALWAYS WEAR THE MANDATORY PPE:

- DOT APPROVED HELMET
- EYE PROTECTION
- LONG PANTS
- LONG SLEEVED SHIRT/JACKET
- FULL FINGERED GLOVES
- OVER THE ANKLE BOOTS/SHOES
- HIGH VISIBILITY GARMENTS – BRIGHT COLOR FOR DAY AND RETRO REFLECTIVE FOR NIGHT



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Alabama National Guard History

Harrison led Alabama Guard during eventful times

by Master Sgt. Bernard Brown
State Historian

Maj. Gen Alfred C. Harrison was the Alabama National Guard Adjutant General during some of the most eventful times in American History. Harrison led the Alabama National Guard in two federalizations during the 1960's. Harrison was designated in each federal mobilization as the commanding general for the Alabama Area Command by the chief of National Guard Bureau in the Pentagon. On Jun 10, 1963 President John F. Kennedy federalized the Alabama National Guard to deploy to the University of Alabama to enforce desegregation. On Mar 20, 1965 President Lyndon B. Johnson federalized the Alabama National Guard troops to supervise the planned civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, activating over 2,000 National Guard members. He graduated from the Command and General Staff

College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1953. Harrison provided leadership for the National Guard in various military assignments in replacement units, during World War II with the South West Pacific 16th replacement Battalion; served as Major with the HH Battery 3116th, Infantry Division Artillery during the Korean War. Harrison was also the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Brigade, 167th Infantry. The 167th infantry is well known for their heritage that dates back to the Civil War. On Jan 15, 1963, Harrison was appointed the adjutant general of Alabama by Gov. John M Patterson. Maj. Gen. Harrison remained in this position from 1963 to 1970, serving under Patterson and Gov. George C. Wallace, making him the longest serving adjutant general in Alabama state history.



Contributed/photo

Maj. Gen. Alfred C. Harrison, the longest serving adjutant general in Alabama state military history.



LINDEN, Alabama – State and local dignitaries pose for a photo at the grand opening ceremony of the Marengo County Business Development Center here Feb. 27, 2015. The new center is the former site of an Alabama National Guard armory. The Alabama Armory Commission sold the building. Pictured from left to right are: Ronnie Davis from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Fred Armstead from the Marengo County Commission, Jim Byard from Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, Kathryn Friday from the Alabama Cooperative Extension Office for Marengo County, Brenda Tuck from Marengo Economic Development Authority, Valerie Day with Senator Jeff Session's office, Brig. Gen. Allen Harrell, deputy commander of the 167th Theater Sustainment Command, Elaine Beech House District 65, John Crawford, Jr. from the Marengo County Commission (contributed photo).

Women's History Month marks significant contributions

Contributed Article

Throughout the past century, women have played an increasingly important role in the work force and our government. More women are working outside of the home now than ever before. Below is a list of women that have made a stamp on women's history, integrated themselves into society as an important model for positive achievement and paved the way for other women to strive for success. Let us celebrate Women's History month by taking a look at what others have contributed to the history of women across our great United States.

1920: The Women's Bureau of Department of Labor is formed.

August 18, 1920: Tennessee becomes the 36th state to ratify the Amendment. A young state legislator casts the deciding vote after being admonished to do so by his mother.

August 26, 1920: The 19th Amendment is quietly signed into law by Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby, granting women the right to vote. Suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt summarized the effort involved in securing passage of the 19th Amendment:

"To get the word 'male' in effect out of the Constitution cost the women of the country fifty-two years of pauseless campaign... During that time they were forced to conduct fifty-six campaigns of referenda to male voters; 480 campaigns to get Legislatures to submit suffrage amendments to voters; 47 campaigns to get State constitutional conventions to write woman suffrage into state constitutions; 277 campaigns to get State party conventions to include woman suffrage planks in party platforms, and 19 campaigns with 19 successive

Congresses."

1923: Alice Paul proposes the Equal Rights Amendment, which is introduced in Congress every year after.

January 5, 1925: Nellie T. Ross of Wyoming is inaugurated as the first woman governor in the United States.

August 6, 1926: Gertrude Ederle swims the English Channel. She is the first woman to do so, and she breaks all previously held records.

1932: Amelia Earhart makes the first transcontinental nonstop flight by a woman.

March 4, 1933: Frances Perkins is sworn in as Secretary of Labor, as well as the first woman in the U.S. cabinet.

March 6, 1934: Babe Didrikson pitches a full inning for the Philadelphia Athletics (vs. the Brooklyn Dodgers).

1941-1945: Millions of women enter the work force during World War II.

1942: Women's services are established by the military.

May 18, 1953: Jacqueline Cochran becomes the first woman to break the sound barrier.

December 1, 1955: Rosa Parks is arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, sparking the American civil rights movement.

1963: The Equal Pay Act is passed by Congress.

1968: Shirley Chisholm becomes the first black woman elected to the House.

March 22, 1972: The Equal Rights Amendment is passed by Congress and sent to the states for ratification.

1981: Sandra Day O'Connor becomes the first woman seated on the United States Supreme Court.

1983: Sally Ride becomes the first

American woman to ride into space.

1984: Geraldine Ferraro becomes the first woman nominated for vice president by a major party.

1987: The Census Bureau reports that the average woman earns 68 cents for every dollar earned by a man.

1992: A record-breaking number of women are elected to Congress.

1993: Janet Reno becomes the first woman to hold the office of Attorney General of the United States.

1993: The Supreme Court rules that sexual harassment in the workplace is illegal.

1997: Madeleine Albright is sworn in as the first female Secretary of State.

2005: Condoleezza Rice serves as the first female African American Secretary of State.

August, 2008: Alaska Governor Sarah Palin is announced as the vice president nominee on the John McCain ticket in the 2008 presidential election.

2009: Hillary Rodham Clinton becomes the third woman to hold the post of Secretary of State.

2009: The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act is the first bill signed into law by President Obama. The law helps protect those who face pay discrimination and was named for an Alabama woman who complained at the end of her 19-year career that she had been paid less than her male coworkers.

2009: Sonia Sotomayor becomes the third female and first Hispanic Supreme Court Justice.

This timeline was developed from a chronology compiled by Mary Ruthsdotter at the National Women's History Project and a timeline from the March 1993 issue of Scholastic Search.