

# Alabama Guardsman

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# 167th TSC heads north to assist with storm relief

by John Tongret  
167th TSC

Fort McClellan – The majority of Soldiers from the 167th Theater Sustainment Command, who have been supporting the federal Superstorm Sandy disaster response efforts, have returned to Fort McClellan Army National Guard Training Center, Ala. The remaining 167th troops – about five Soldiers finalizing the TSC’s transition – are scheduled to be home soon.

The 167th TSC deployed Soldiers to New York, New Jersey and Delaware Oct. 28, to provide logistical organization support in the wake of Superstorm Sandy, which struck the Northeast region, Oct. 30.

“This was an especially gratifying mission as we were assisting fellow Americans in peril and I couldn’t be prouder of the professionalism and accomplishments of the Soldiers of the 167th TSC,” said Maj. Gen. Reynold Hoover, the 167th’s commanding general.

Within 24 hours of being notified, approximately 50 Soldiers of the 167th TSC prepared to board aircraft or drive specialty vehicles to the impacted area.

During the weeks since the storm, Sol-



John Tongret/photo

*The 167th TSC deputy commander, Brig. Gen. Allen Harrell (left) receives an update on the missions responding to Hurricane Sandy*

diers of the 167th conducted disaster relief operations in support of Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Northern Command, and numerous state and local authorities.

All TSC operations were integrated with those of the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and federal and state agencies as part of the 167th TSC’s mission of conducting operations in support of civilian authorities.

“We were glad that they could go assist,” said Maj. Gen. Perry G. Smith, the Alabama National Guard’s top officer.

“And we’re really glad that they are home in time to spend Thanksgiving with their families,” he continued. “It’s good to have

these hard-working Soldiers home and we continue to pray for those suffering from the terrible effects of Sandy.”

Soldiers from the 167th TSC provided personnel with skills in logistics management and various administrative command and control experience. Soldiers coordinated fueling and water removal operations giving local authorities, relief workers, and utility crews access to neighborhoods in order to reestablish critical infrastructure for the impacted areas.

The 167th TSC is the senior logistics headquarters for the United States Northern Command and U.S. Army North.

## Alabama Guardsman

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## On the Cover

*Soldiers of the Alabama Army National Guard’s 167th Theater Sustainment Command respond to Superstorm Sandy and board a C23 Sherpa aircraft, at the Anniston Aviation airport in support of disaster relief efforts Nov. 3, 2012. (Photo by Spc Bianca Calderon).*

## Adjutant General

### Guardsmen: Warriors for our nation and members of our communities



**Maj. Gen.  
Perry Smith**

As the holiday season quickly approaches, I know that most of us are getting excited about sharing this time with family and friends. I believe that a good support system of family and friends is key

to a happy and resilient life. However, I want to encourage you this holiday season to not just enjoy your family and friends, but to also think of others who might be lonely or who might have some

other need that you can fill.

Part of what makes the National Guard so strong is the proven idea of the Citizen-Soldier and –Airmen. We are warriors for our nation as well as members of the community. I hope that during this season of giving and celebration that we will look around and consider other people and how we might be able to make someone's day a little brighter.

There are many ways we can participate in our communities to make them stronger. We could contribute to a charity – give time or money. We can drop off a bag of groceries to a neighbor or unit member who might be unemployed. We can invite someone with no nearby family to share in our holiday

dinner and activities.

I know that we each have differing beliefs and traditions that we will be celebrating this season. One thing that should be constant for all of us, though, is our concern for others and our communities. I know that in making our communities stronger, we make ourselves as individuals stronger, which makes our organization stronger so that we can be there for our communities when they need us in time of war or disaster. By thinking of someone else this season and reaching out to them, we never know what good may come. I wish you all the happiest of holidays. Lead from the front!

## State Command Sergeant Major

### Change of Responsibility Ceremony helps NCOs pass the torch



**Command Sgt.  
Maj.  
Eddie Pike**

The NCO change of responsibility ceremony is rooted in military history dating back to the 18th century. This ceremony is held when a senior NCO leaves a leadership position and a new NCO takes his place.

The purpose of the ceremony is to render honor to the departing NCO and provide official recognition to the new leader.

The symbol of the NCO position of responsibility is the NCO sword. The Army says that when an NCO is transferred or

retires and a new NCO replaces him, the symbol of the change and the heart of the ceremony is when the sword is passed. As the transfer orders are read, the departing NCO hands the sword to his replacement, who hands it back to the appointed sword bearer.

The symbolism and history of the ceremony illustrates the importance upon which a commander places on the position of the senior NCO in the unit. Whether it is the command sergeant major, first sergeant, or the detachment sergeant, the senior NCO sets the example the Soldiers will follow.

Since the Army's creation by the order of the Continental Congress, the NCO has been integral to every success our Army has achieved. Under the hand of the Army's first inspector general, the duties of the NCO

were standardized and the unique history and traditions of the American NCO were born.

Friedrich von Steuben and his Blue Book, or Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States, as it was officially titled, served as the doctrine for the duties of NCOs for most of the Army's first three decades.

By the Civil War, NCOs assumed the duties of carrying the flags and regimental colors. In 1840, the Army introduced the distinctive model 1840 NCO sword as an effort to give the NCO added prestige. The sword itself was carried into battle by NCOs through the 1900s. Though no longer issued equipment, the sword remains a visual reminder of the power, strength and fidelity of the position it represents.

(Please see CEREMONY, page 5)

# Snap Shots

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



Contributed/photo

*Brig. Gen. Donald Tatum, commanding general, 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Birmingham, Ala., welcomes leaders from the 1st Theater Sustainment Command, Fort Bragg, N.C., and the 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Coraopolis, Pa., to the Theater Academic Seminar at Fort McClellan, Ala., Oct. 29. This seminar brings leaders from the sustainment commands together to discuss logistical operations as the 135th prepares to replace the 316th in Kuwait next year. This will be the second time the 135th has deployed in the current war.*



Contributed/photo

*Bravo Company commander, Capt. Erin Daher, left, with Bravo 1st Sgt. Stephen Prior, center, and former Bravo Company commander, Capt. Scott Widner, right, stand after a change of command ceremony at Camp Eggers in Kabul, Afghanistan October 29. Daher took command of Bravo Company 1/167th Infantry. He replaced Capt. Widner, who has commanded Bravo Company for more than three years as the unit trained, mobilized and deployed to Afghanistan.*



Contributed/photo

*An Alabama Guardsman gets a "high five" from a student at the Eufaula Primary School. Soldiers from the 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion from Eufaula and the 1670th Transportation Company (Medium Cargo Truck) from Clayton recently performed morning car door opening duty and read to the children from the school.*

# Alabama Guardsman receives prestigious counterdrug award

by Sgt. Brenda Thomas  
Public Affairs Office

Staff Sergeant Randell Dodd received the 2012 Director's Award for the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) Army National Guard Prevention, Treatment and Outreach (PTO) Prevention Coordinator of the year. He is the first person to receive this award. In the past, the ASAP has recognized Prevention Coordinators from the active Army, but has now chosen a Guardsman for the first time. Dodd helped identify and analyze high risk factors among Alabama's Soldiers and Airmen. He also helped develop new prevention training and outreach initiatives to help service members in need of guidance or treatment.

"This award was a great surprise to me," said Dodd. "I have been in the PTO program for about three years and have seen many National Guardsmen change their lives and career path for the better. Knowing that the efforts that I put into each service member's individual needs and what the PTO program did for them means so much more to me. This is what drives me each day to try to find new ways and new ideas to better fulfill the needs of our service members that might have taken that wrong path. I am truly honored to represent such a great program not just for the great state of Alabama but for the National Guard as well."

The ASAP oversees the Military, Drug Free Workplace and Department of Transportation biochemical (drug) testing  
**(CEREMONY from page 3)**

When used as part of a change of responsibility ceremony, the sword reminds the Soldiers of the unit that the senior NCO is responsible for good order and discipline among the troops. It also reminds the senior NCO of the responsibility to take care for the troops.

In the past several months, I have had

programs. Their mission is to strengthen the fitness and effectiveness of the Army's workforce and enhance combat readiness. They provide guidance to each state on drug testing, prevention education, and support on various substance abuse issues.

The Prevention Treatment Outreach program was introduced to the National Guard in 2007. PTO's mission is to provide prevention training, treatment resources to military members and outreach to military families in an effort to increase military discipline, individual performance, and combat readiness.

"The PTO program has a great impact on the National Guard in many areas," said Dodd. "One being that since 9/11 the guard has taken on a large responsibility in our nation's efforts to fight terrorism. This has caused all of our guardsmen to deal with issues that may never have come into their lives before 9/11. PTO helps identify these issues and provides ways to control them and hope fully keep the service members in the combat ready state."

"Staff Sgt. Dodd has proved himself as one the National Guard's most prominent

the pleasure of attending and being a part of change of responsibility ceremonies in our Alabama Army National Guard units. The change of responsibility ceremony is NCO oriented and mirrors the change of command ceremony of our officers, as the NCO support channel mirrors the chain of command. Both of these ceremonies can be



Brenda Thomas/photo

*Staff Sgt. Randell Dodd, Prevention Treatment and Outreach Program Coordinator, Alabama National Guard Counterdrug Program, receives the 2012 Director's Award for the Prevention Coordinator of the Year from Lt. Col. Shaun Bailey, Chief of the Drug Testing Branch at the Army Center for Substance Abuse.*

Prevention Coordinators in the Prevention, Treatment and Outreach Program," said Lt. Col. James Heartsill, Alabama National Guard Counterdrug Coordinator. "[His] proactive work has made our PTO program a success and made a direct impact on reducing our overall positive test results."

relevantly simple to full-blown ceremonies with all the pomp and circumstance of military ceremonies. It is during this ceremony that I present the new command sergeant major his or her Certificate of Appointment to Command Sergeant Major in the United States Army.