

# Alabama Guardsman

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A publication for the Citizen-Soldiers & Airmen of Alabama



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# Romanian Chief of Defense visits Alabama National Guard

by Brenda Thomas  
Public Affairs Office

The National Guard’s State Partnership Program is a program that pairs developing allied armed forces with a state National Guard for mentoring and training. This federally funded program allows Alabama National Guard personnel to train with their Romanian counterparts.

The Alabama National Guard has been partnered with Romania for almost 20 years. During this time, Alabama Guardsmen have been building a relationship with the Romanians, learning from and teaching each other. For the first time in the history of this partnership, the Romanian Chief of Defense, Lt. Gen. Stefan Danila, came to visit Alabama and see for himself the capabilities of the Alabama National Guard.

Danila visited several key locations in the Alabama Guard. He was accompanied by Romania’s 2nd Infantry Division Commander, Brig. Gen. Nicolae-Ionel Ciuca, and Maj. Lucian Indolean of the Ministry of



Brenda Thomas/photo

*Lt. Gen. Stefan Danila, Romania’s Chief of Defense, alongside Maj. Gen. Perry G. Smith, the Adjutant General of Alabama, and several other visitors meet with Alabama’s Governor Robert Bentley in his office September 19, 2012. The Romanian military delegation visits with the Alabama National Guard as part of the State Partnership Program.*

National Defense- International Affairs.

The visitors received briefings and tours at several unit locations across the state to include the Alabama National Guard Joint Force Headquarters, 117th Air Refueling Wing, the 187th Fighter Wing, the 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne), and the Pre-mobilization Training Assistance Element training site at Fort McClellan Army National Guard Training

Center. They also met with Alabama’s governor, Robert Bentley.

“We are at a point in our partnership where both sides are drawing down from deployments, and both of us need to decide the direction to go to maintain skills and equipment gained during (Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom),” said Lt. Col. Shannon Hancock, State Partnership Program (Please see *VISIT*, page 6)

## Alabama Guardsman

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## On the Cover

*Lt. Gen. Stefan Danila, Romania’s Chief of Defense, presents Maj. Gen. Perry G. Smith, the Adjutant General of Alabama, with a large coin displaying the Romanian seal September 19, 2012. The Romanian military delegation visited with the Alabama National Guard as part of the State Partnership Program (photo by Spc. Brenda Thomas).*

## Adjutant General

# Alabama Guard works to perfect mobilizations



**Maj. Gen.  
Perry Smith**

As you will read in this issue, I recently hosted the Romanian Chief of Defense, which is roughly equivalent to the U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of

Staff. One of our main focuses of discussion was on our mobilization process. He was amazed at the precision of our training and tracking of Soldiers and Airmen preparing for mobilization.

Though I have been familiar with our mobilization process for years, explaining it to the Chief of Defense made me marvel again at the planning, training and attention to detail that goes into our mobilization process. The Alabama National Guard has mobilized more than 18,000 Soldiers and Airmen since 9/11. Sadly, we have lost eight of those while they were deployed. I remember their sacrifices on a regular basis, as I hope that you do. That means, though, that we have mobilized and safely returned thousands and thousands of Alabama Guardsmen who completed their duty in an exceptional manner.

As you know, the war in Iraq is over and operations in Afghanistan are scheduled to slow and conclude in the coming years. For now though, we are still deploying units regularly and we have approximately 1,400 deployed right now.

These deployments require planning, training, sacrifices, leadership and so much more. You have been answering the call and continue to do so. I just want you to know that what you do is seen and appreciated not just by me, but by leaders at National Guard Bureau and the Department of Defense, and now, by leaders across the world. Thanks for all you do. Lead from the front!

## State Command Sergeant Major

# Army community services offers assistance to Guardmembers



**Command Sgt.  
Maj.  
Eddie Pike**

Army Community Services (ACS) at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville offers services that families of deployed Soldiers, as well as the M-Day Soldiers and their families, could benefit from.

There are many services ACS has that can be utilized by anyone with an ID card, according to a representative I spoke to. She said they don't have as many active duty soldiers on Redstone as they used to, so they are

reaching out to the Guard and Reserve communities. The website is: [http://www.redstonemwr.com/family/army\\_community\\_service/](http://www.redstonemwr.com/family/army_community_service/). The links to the various departments of the Army Community Service are located on the website.

The Financial Readiness department can assist a Soldier in preparing detailed budgets for the future, which is especially helpful to Soldiers who are about to get married, have a child, or relocate. For those experiencing or who anticipate financial difficulties, they offer counseling and several publications to help get the situation corrected. If you and/or your family are considering making a major financial decision or purchase, they might be able to offer some guidance. They can also advise

you on basic investments and investigate complaints against local businesses. The phone number for The Financial Readiness department is: (256) 842-8542.

Army Community Service (ACS) has an emergency fund (Army Emergency Relief) in the event that families of either active duty or deployed (Title 10) National Guard get into a financial bind. They could help with utility bills, food, rent, emergency transportation and vehicle repair, funeral expenses, medical/dental expenses, or personal needs when pay is delayed or stolen. It isn't available for the M-Day Soldier while s/he is on IDT or in but can assist ARNG Soldiers on continuous active duty for more than 30 days and their dependents **(Please see SERVICES, page 6)**

# Snap Shots

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



Contributed/photo

*Maj. Gen. Perry Smith, the adjutant general, looks at an aircraft during a recent trip to Romania as part of the State Partnership program.*



Brenda Thomas/photo

*Members of the 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) exit a training building known as a "shoot house" after breaching and clearing all rooms inside. Instructors observe from the catwalk above to assess the Soldier's performance during qualification training at Fort McClellan, September 21, 2012.*



Bianca Calderon/photo

*Command Sgt. Major Terry White, sword bearer; Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Weems, out-going Command Sergeant Major; Maj. Gen. Reynold Hoover, 167th TSC Commander; Command Sgt. Maj. Bill Jones, incoming Command Sergeant Major participate in the 167th TSC Change of Responsibility Ceremony between out-going CSM Larry Weems and incoming Command Sergeant Major Bill Jones, September 8, 2012.*



Brenda Thomas/photo

*Members of the 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) take cover behind cinder block barriers near a door before it is blown with a charge. These Soldiers conduct breaching operations as part of their qualification training at Fort McClellan, September 21, 2012.*



Bianca Celderon/photo

*Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Weems (right) relinquishes the command sergeant major position with the 167th TSC September 8, 2012. Maj. Gen. Reynold Hoover (left) had his second star pinned on by Maj. Gen. Perry Smith, the adjutant general, at a ceremony later that day.*



Brenda Thomas/photo

*Maj. Gen. Perry G. Smith, Alabama's Adjutant General, asks Sgt. Terrance Leige, a 46th Civil Support Team Survey Team Member, a few questions about the gear the CST used during the Vigilant Guard exercise at Fort Bragg August 29, 2012.*



**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

**Contact The Safety Office For Upcoming Classes.**



The Alabama National Guard Safety Office provides Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) Training for all motorcycle riding members at no cost to the soldier. It is a regulatory requirement to have completed the Basic Rider Course (BRC) to ride a motorcycle. The Expert Rider Course (ERC) is also required and available for soldiers that have completed the BRC. These classes are available at 7 different locations throughout the state. The class schedule is available at the following links:

<https://www.montevallo.edu/atsc/Motorcycle/courseschedule.shtm>

<https://guard.al.ngb.army.mil/Home/SAFETY/State%20Safety%20Training%20Events/State%20Safety%20Training%20Events.pdf>

**(VISIT from page 2)**

Director. “The Romanians are very interested in exploring how to start a National Guard or Reserve force to reduce their military costs.”

“Alabama's partnership with Romania is critical as that country moves from an all active force

to an active/reserve structure that provides a robust military capability while conserving resources,” said Brig. Gen. Allen Harrell, Director of the Joint Staff, Alabama National Guard. “The relationship is fruitful for Alabama as well, providing an

ongoing opportunity for our soldiers and airmen to work with those of an allied nation and preserve the skills needed to succeed in multinational operations.”

**(SERVICES from page 3)**

(Title 10, USC), Soldiers retired from active duty for longevity or physical disability, and their dependents, ARNG Soldiers who retired at age 60 and their dependents, and surviving spouses and orphans of soldiers who died while on active duty or after they retired. Assistance could come in the form of an interest-free loan (which may need to be paid before your service member comes off of his/her deployment), a grant (an outright gift

of funds) if repayment of loan will cause undue hardship, or part loan and part grant. A family member of an ARNG soldier would need to take the following documents with you to the appointment: Power of Attorney, Military ID card, and substantiating documents (car repair estimate, rental agreement, utility bill, etc.).

These are only some of the services available at your Army Community Services office on Redstone

Arsenal. Location; contact information and hours of operation are: Building 3338 Redeye Rd., Redstone Arsenal, AL. Phone: (256) 876-5397. Hours of Operation are: Mon – Fri: 7:00 am – 4:30 pm. Saturday and Sunday: closed. Army Emergency Relief can be reached after duty hours, on weekends and during holidays by calling 1-877-272-7337.

The next two pages contain the strategic imperatives for the National Guard from the Director of the Army National Guard, Lt. Gen. William E. Ingram, Jr.:

## ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

### OUR STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

#### 1. Preserve the Operational Army National Guard

- Maintain a balanced force structure across the ARNG with 8 Division Headquarters, 8 Combat Aviation Brigades, 28 Brigade Combat Teams and 2 Special Forces Groups as the core formations
- Ensure ARNG force structure mirrors that of the active Army
- Man the force with no less than 350,200 programmed end strength, with a corresponding Force Structure Allowance
- Continue predictable rotational deployments that enable us to maintain the proficiency we have gained over the past decade
- Provide the level of full-time support and military construction critical to maintaining the baseline levels of readiness
- Resource the operational ARNG in the Army's base budget as the most cost-effective force

#### 2. Generate Ready Units and Soldiers

- Recruit and retain quality Soldiers
- Develop transformational, adaptive leaders
- Recommit to the basics of personnel readiness through focusing on improvement of Unit Status Report metrics and Unit Manning Roster management
- Resource ARNG training to meet readiness goals, to include regular, live and constructive Combat Training Center rotations
- Continue to field, sustain and train on modernized equipment

#### 3. Partner with Combatant Commanders to provide relevant, ready forces capable of performing unified land operations worldwide

- Maintain proficiency across the spectrum of decisive action missions
- Provide forces capable of building partnership capacity supporting

ALWAYS READY



ALWAYS THERE

## STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

Combatant Commander campaign plans for regional and global stability

- Remain capable, accessible, innovative and agile to support joint, interagency or multinational environments
- Expand the ARNG's role in emerging missions — such as cyber efforts — to assist with future global demand
- Identify and advance civilian expertise as a key multiplier that the ARNG provides Combatant Commanders

#### 4. Provide the nation's force of choice for domestic operations

- Produce rapidly employable forces for Governors and Northern Command in support of homeland missions
- Maintain a geographically distributed, community-based presence in each state, territory and the District of Columbia
- Sustain our critical dual-use equipment at a minimum of 80 percent on-hand and ready

#### 5. Enhance the ARNG's core strengths, character and culture

- Sustain the trust of our Soldiers, families, employers and communities by living and emulating the Army Values
- Foster positive environments that are free from abuse, harassment and discrimination
- Develop resilient Soldiers and families through a wide array of resourced, accessible and effective programs built upon the five pillars of Comprehensive Soldier Fitness
- Embrace the diversity of our Soldiers and organization as a reflection of the fabric of communities across our states, territories and the District of Columbia
- Sustain our strong and historical reputation of being good stewards of resources, good neighbors and trusted leaders within our communities

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