

Palmetto Guard

Family Magazine, Spring 2006



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TO THE
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CHILD





STANHOPE S. SPEARS
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

The State of South Carolina Military Department



OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
1 NATIONAL GUARD ROAD
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29201-4766

Spring 2006

Soldiers and Families
of the S.C. Army National Guard

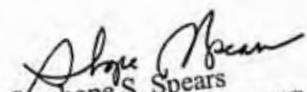
Dear Reader:

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the brand new Palmetto Guard Family Magazine. I'm excited to reintroduce you to the source for news concerning the happenings in our South Carolina Army National Guard.

Over the years, the magazine has taken on many different looks. In the past, it's been a newspaper, magazine and newsletter. What once was recognized as an excellent, informative, award-winning publication unfortunately fell victim to budget cuts several years ago. The new Palmetto Guard Family Magazine will give our soldiers, their families and our entire Military Department an outlet to share their news and stories with each other. If you have an interesting story or news item concerning your unit, please submit it for consideration to be published.

Again, thank you for reading the new Palmetto Guard Family Magazine; I hope you enjoy this issue. I also want to take this opportunity to thank our soldiers and their families who enable South Carolina to have the best National Guard in the country.

Sincerely,


Stanhope S. Spears
Major General, SCARNG
The Adjutant General



Spring 2006
Vol. 1 Issue 1

5 Letter From Leadership

6 Milestones

7 Palmetto Intel

11 Earned Awards

14 Education

20 Speakers Bureau

22 From the Frontlines



12

C-Battery, 3-178 FA BN receives Alexander Hamilton Award



16

Greg Biffle, National Guard-sponsored NEXTEL Cup driver, signs autographs



19

Michael Chertoff, Homeland Security Secretary, and FEMA Director David Paulison, review the SCNG's capabilities



Palmetto Guard Family Magazine

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About the cover: Children of our SC National Guard soldiers learning more about what their moms and dads do.

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GFAP Advisory Board Meets

by CPT Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian



Front row (L to R) Heather Campagna, Michelle Sprouse, Cindy Spafford and LTC Ray McDowell; back row (L to R) CW3 Terry O'Connor, SFC Sprouse, Sherry Marsh, Wanda Johnson and Michelle Canchola.

The GFAP (Guard Family Action Plan) Advisory Board of the SC National Guard recently met at the Congaree Armory near McEntire ANG base to discuss ways to improve quality of life for SC National Guard families.

The GFAP is similar to the Army Family Action Plan (AFAP), which provides a mechanism for all individuals who compose the Army's global force — soldiers (active and reserve components), retirees, DA civilians and family members, including surviving spouses — to identify issues of concern that affect the well-being of Army members. Through this process, issues requiring action are prioritized and assigned to a lead agency for resolution, and an action plan is established to achieve desired change.

Join Us for Youth Camp 2006

by CPT Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

The 2006 SC National Guard Youth Camp will be held July 16-22. This camp is for dependents of Guard soldiers, ages 10-13. We have an exciting week planned, including canoeing, hiking, swimming and much more! The cost is only \$85 for an entire week.

For older youth, we are in need of junior counselors ages 14-17. We will help them strengthen their leadership skills and better prepare them for the future. We are also in need of adult volunteers to fill group leader, counselor and other staff positions.

Please join us for lots of fun and excitement! Call the State Family Programs Office for more information at (803) 806-1641/2908, or toll-free at 1-888-888-1674 and ask for extension 1641.



Pre-Command Course for Spouses

by CPT Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian



(L to R) Tiffany West, Natalie Phillips, Josie Little, Lori Rowe, Pok Case, Anila Atkinson, Laticia McLeod, Ashleigh Shelley, Carolyn Anderson and Angela Gordon.

We had a great time with the spouses who attended last year's "Pre-Command Course for Spouses"! If your spouse is scheduled to attend this year's course, August 18-20, the State Family Programs Office hopes you will consider joining us for a weekend of fun, team building, motivation and learning. For more information, please contact the State Family Programs Office at (803) 806-1641/2908.

Tell Your Story

by MG Harry B. Burchstead Jr., Deputy Adjutant General

"Impress upon the mind of every man, the importance of the cause and what it is they are contending for."

— General George Washington in a message to Continental Army commanders



This publication represents the inaugural issue of the new *Palmetto Guard Family Magazine*. When General George Washington wrote the above quote, our country was in a desperate struggle for independence. More than a quarter of the battles that would be fought in the American Revolution were fought here on South Carolina soil. South Carolina militia commanders like Marion, Sumter and Pickens would become the stuff of legend. Today, the soldiers and airmen of the South Carolina National Guard are doing their part in the global war on terror, as did their militia predecessors in the American Revolution and every major conflict in between.

It is essential that we tell our story and preserve our history — a history of patriotism, sacrifice, valor and great achievement. We have three goals. First, we must provide timely, accurate and consistent information to our troops and their families. Second, we must become more pro-active in engaging the media by using the tools at our disposal. Third, we must do a better job of sharing the accomplishments and sacrifices of our Guard family with the people of South Carolina.

In order to achieve these goals, the South Carolina National Guard has launched the *Palmetto Guard Family Magazine*. Its purpose is to tell the story of what our Guard family in South Carolina has done and is doing — a permanent record commemorating our past, present and future.

Is it worth the time and expense? You bet it is. About two-thirds of our SC National Guard family are now combat veterans. You may also be surprised to learn that the National Guard affected far more air and water rescues of people in the wake of Hurricane Katrina than the rest of the US military — though you would never know it from media accounts.

Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, has observed, "If you're not capturing the history, guess what — we are going to be getting someone else's fractured story of what we did."

Many of you have had quite a few positive comments about the job *GX Magazine* has done covering the "Guard story" on a national level. *GX Magazine* has 250,000 subscribers. Its Editor in Chief, Ed Brown, has found a successful formula — "Keep it about the family ... including the parents, employers, work mates, friends and supporters of the Guard." This will be the philosophy of the *Palmetto Guard Family Magazine*.

How can you support this effort? We need stories. I suppose you don't all have journalism majors in your ranks. In the words of Ed Brown, "Don't worry about being a journalist. Be a storyteller. You're surrounded by amazing people. Just tell their story." He goes on to say that *GX Magazine* is "a friendly news outlet. We don't sit around and make fun of people's writing. It gets in the way of the job."

This is also the philosophy of the staff of the *Palmetto Guard Family Magazine*. They are Defense Information School-trained journalists who can take care of your editorial concerns.

Others may ask, the national media doesn't think what we do is important, so why should we bother supporting this?

Again, the *Palmetto Guard Family Magazine* staff feels the same way Brown does. "We believe in what you're doing," he says. "Help us get the good word out by sending us your stories. We can't overcome the negative influence of the national media by sitting and doing nothing."

The fact is that our Guard family in South Carolina has a great story to tell. No story is unimportant! I have heard from soldiers in units that haven't deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan say, "We didn't deploy. All we did is guard an Air Force base after 9/11, and that's not really important." I've also heard members of our Guard family say, "We got activated, went through mobilization training and just sat there waiting for deployment orders that never came. Who really wants to read about that?"

As previously stated, no story is unimportant! Like our South Carolina forefathers, many of whom sacrificed their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to take up arms, train for war and serve in the American Revolution, we, too, are a volunteer force that has taken an oath to defend our nation against all enemies, both foreign and domestic. The fact that approximately two-thirds of our force in South Carolina has served in the global war on terrorism, both here and abroad, is a story in and of itself.

I believe that many of our soldiers, family members, friends, work mates, employers and supporters of the Guard have a story to tell. Whether you went overseas or not, you were willing to answer your nation's call, and each of you is a vital member of our Guard family — and your story needs to be told.

So write and submit stories to the *Palmetto Guard Family Magazine*. Tell the story of what our Guard family in South Carolina has done — and is doing — so we can preserve the history of our Guard family's accomplishments and sacrifices during the global war on terrorism.

Harry B. Burchstead Jr.

Deputy Adjutant General

SC National Guard Chief of Staff Retires

by CPT Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

COL Roy P. Pipkin, Chief of Staff for the SC National Guard, retired in April after 35 years of devoted service to our nation, the Palmetto State and the men and women of the SC National Guard.

Pipkin, who began his career as an enlisted soldier in 1969, graduated from the Palmetto Military Academy and earned his commission in August 1976. During the past 28 years of his career as an officer, he has attended numerous military schools, including the Infantry Officer Basic Course, the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course and the Command & General Staff Course.

During the colonel's retirement ceremony, held in the TAG Building Auditorium, numerous friends and colleagues congratulated him and his family on the event of his retirement. Many shared personal stories, telling how Pipkin has made a career of putting soldiers first.

"What I have enjoyed most about working for the Guard are all the wonderful people who I had the opportunity to serve with during my career, and all the soldiers who I was able to assist with various problems," Pipkin said.

"I have always wanted to make a difference wherever I worked. I am happy to say the SC Army National Guard is in the top 15 of all the states and territories in the nation," he added.

"The hardest part of my job as chief of staff was seeing our soldiers deploy and go in harm's way. However, I am very proud of the way our soldiers have performed during our nation's global war on terrorism. I salute each and every one of them and pray that God will continue to bless them and their families," Pipkin concluded.

The colonel's federal and state decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with five oak

leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the SC Exceptional Service Medal, the SC Meritorious Service Medal, the SC Achievement Ribbon with two oak leaf clusters, the SC Palmetto Service Ribbon, the SC Active State Service with five oak leaf clusters, the Governors Citation and the SC Safety Ribbon with two oak leaf clusters.

Colonel Pipkin is married to Chris. The couple has three children, Alexis, Brian and Ashley, and two grandchildren. Pipkin is a graduate of Liberty University, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in business. Colonel and Mrs. Pipkin reside in Jamestown, where Pipkin serves as the town's mayor.



(L to R) Major General Stanhope Spears, the Adjutant General of South Carolina, pins the Legion of Merit to Colonel Roy Pipkin, retiring SCNG Chief of Staff.



The family of COL Roy P. Pipkin following his retirement ceremony. Front row (L to R) daughter Ashley, daughter Alexa Rogers, granddaughter Sophie, grandson Blake, wife Chris, Candice Condor and son CPT Brian Pipkin. Back row (L to R) COL Pipkin and father James Pipkin.

PREP Helps Strengthen Guard Family Relationships

by CPT Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

Major General Stanhope S. Spears, Adjutant General of South Carolina, announced the successful fielding of the SC Army National Guard's introductory Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP). Fifty soldiers and their spouses were the first graduates of the Guard's PREP class, held in August 2005 at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach.

One couple, Tommy and Diane Day of Aiken, called the PREP weekend "relaxing and stress free!" Tommy, a Sergeant First Class, served with the South Carolina-based 122nd Combat Engineers in Iraq from April 2003 to April 2004. He believes that "PREP gave Diane and I our first real time alone since I got back from Iraq last year. It gave us the time we have needed to communicate with each other." Like her husband, Diane says, "PREP has helped open up the lines of communication in our marriage. This would have been helpful before Tommy's unit deployed and right after they got back."

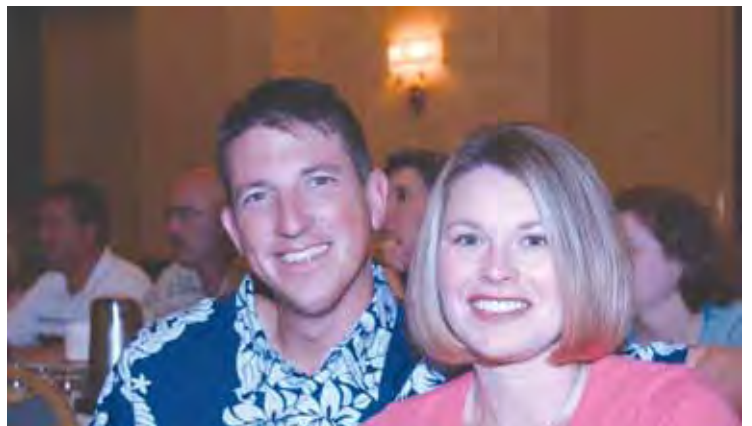


Captain Linda Riedel and Glenn Riedel of Summerville called the PREP weekend "positive and refreshing." Linda, who served as a Platoon Leader with the 114th Signal Company out of Camden, returned from a yearlong deployment to Kuwait and Iraq in May 2004. "It's refreshing to see the Guard now receiving funds to help its soldiers and their spouses. PREP will help build a strong foundation for marriages," Linda says. Glenn adds, "It's great to see the National Guard do this to help our troops' marriages. Outside of the church, there's not a lot of counseling available, but if a man and a woman will take these principles taught here and apply them, it will help them a lot."

Another couple, Mitch and Susan Jackson of Lugoff, called the PREP weekend "beneficial and enjoyable." Mitch, Commander of B-Company, 111th Signal Battalion, served a yearlong deployment to Iraq. "The PREP material covered is full of beneficial things we can share with struggling couples. I highly recommend it," he says.

Susan adds, "PREP should be presented to soldiers and their spouses before every deployment. It will help a lot of our Guard families."

The SC National Guard adopted PREP from the active duty component of the Army in hopes of preventing any further rise in the number of divorces among its soldiers. Many Guard members called to active duty in support of the global war on terror now serve up to 18 months away from home.



According to Deputy State Chaplain Steve Shugart, "PREP is all about taking care of our soldiers and their spouses. It is a proven program developed by the University of Denver that teaches our Guard soldiers and their spouses how to handle conflict constructively, maintain and deepen fun and friendship and act on the commitment you have to each other."

'Next Greatest Generation' Project Becomes a Reality

by CPT Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

The purpose of the Next Greatest Generation Project is to document, interpret, disseminate and preserve the global war on terrorism through audiovisual histories of our SC National Guardsmen for present and future Guard members and their families, historians and the American public.

Richland Northeast High School (RNHS), home of the most advanced high school multimedia production facility in the country, is ranked as one of the top "1,000 Best High Schools in America" by *Newsweek Magazine*. Last year, in association with SC's American Legion Post #6, the school completed its award-winning "Greatest Generation Project" documentaries, which recognize the sacrifices of World War II veterans. This year, the SC National Guard History Team has joined the school's effort to preserve the history of what LTG Blum, National Guard Bureau Chief, and other military and political leaders are calling our "Next Greatest Generation" — those who are prosecuting our nation's global war on terrorism.

This program provides a broad historical perspective of the contributions our SC Guardsmen have made during the GWOT. The following is the foundation upon which Perry McCloud and his InfoLink Magnet Program at RNHS are making the SC National Guard's Next Greatest Generation Project a reality:

Operation Noble Eagle (SC National Guard's effort to protect the homeland following the 9-11 terrorist attacks):

1. We are asking the adjutant general, deputy adjutant general and chief of staff during the attacks to provide the "big picture" of our immediate response.
2. We are asking individual commanders and senior non-commissioned officers activated for Noble Eagle to talk about the daunting task of securing our stateside military infrastructure.



Richland Northeast High School students with Medal of Honor recipient COL Charles Murray following their "Greatest Generation" interview.

3. We are asking some of our younger soldiers/airmen to share their experiences of immediately responding to the president's call-up for Noble Eagle.

Operation Enduring Freedom (SCNG Afghanistan effort):

1. We are asking commanders and senior NCOs to provide an overview of their roles during the initial year of our response to the Taliban in Afghanistan.
2. We are asking ARNG soldiers who have helped train the new Afghan Army to share the challenges they have faced in helping develop a capable fighting force to defend the new Afghan democracy.
3. We are asking ARNG soldiers from a variety of military specialties to talk about their specific roles during OEF. For example: S-1 (administration), S-2 (intelligence — declassified info), S-3 (operations), S-4 (logistics), S-5 (civil-military affairs) and S-6 (communications).
4. We are asking our ANG airmen to share their experiences of providing air superiority and close air support in defeating the Taliban regime and ensuing insurgent attacks.

Operation Iraqi Freedom (SCNG Iraq effort):

1. We are asking commanders and senior NCOs to provide an overview of their roles during Operation Iraqi Freedom.
2. We are asking ARNG soldiers who have helped train the new Iraqi Army to share the challenges they have faced in helping develop a capable fighting force to defend the new Iraqi democracy.
3. We are asking ARNG soldiers from a variety of military specialties to talk about their specific roles during OIF. For example: S-1 (administration), S-2 (intelligence — declassified info), S-3 (operations), S-4 (logistics), S-5 (civil-military affairs) and S-6 (communications).
4. We are asking our ANG airmen to share their experiences of providing air superiority and close air support in defeating the Saddam Hussein regime and ensuing insurgent attacks.

For more information, please contact CPT Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian, at (803) 667-1013.



Chief Warrant Officer Tripp Hutto shares his Operation Iraqi Freedom experiences as a Blackhawk Helicopter pilot with the 1-128 "Catfish" Aviation Company.



The Catfish Company flew many dignitaries in Iraq, including Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, in large security formations.



Former SCNG Colonel Joe Wilson while on one of his many congressional visits to Iraq.

Perry McCloud, a history teacher at RNHS, asks CPT Brian Pipkin of the 151 Aviation what it was like flying an Apache over Iraq. McCloud and Dr. Heyward Hornsby of American Legion Post #6 in Columbia began the Greatest Generation project two years ago, and this year invited the SC National Guard to be the focus of their "Next Greatest Generation" Project.



PTSD Seminar Planned for August

by CPT Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

SC National Guard Chaplain LTC Steve Shugart is planning a second Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Seminar this August in Columbia for soldiers who have been exposed to a terrifying event or an ordeal in which grave physical harm occurred or was threatened.

Traumatic events that can trigger PTSD include violent personal assaults, such as rape or mugging, natural or human-caused disasters, accidents or military combat.

"About 30 percent of the men and women who have spent time in war zones experience PTSD," Shugart said. People who have PTSD are people who:

1. Have experienced, witnessed or were confronted with a traumatic event that involved the threat of death or serious injury of themselves or others, and the person responded with intense fear, helplessness or horror.
2. Persistently re-experience the event through intrusive thoughts, dreams, acting or feeling as if the event were



SC National Guard Chaplain LTC Steve Shugart leads a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Seminar.

reoccurring and/or intense distress and psychological reactivity when exposed to cues that symbolize or resemble the event.

3. Avoid stimuli associated with the event and numbing of general responsiveness by:
 - a. Avoiding thoughts, feelings, conversation, activities, places or people associated with the trauma.
 - b. An inability to recall important aspects of the trauma.
 - c. A loss of interest in participating in activities.
 - d. A feeling of detachment from others.
 - e. A restricted range of emotions; often unable to have loving relationships.
 - f. Little hope for the future.
4. Symptoms of increased arousal, such as difficulty sleeping, irritability or angry outbursts, difficulty concentrating and exaggerated startle response.

If you or a family member is interested in participating in a confidential PTSD Seminar this August, contact Sherry Marsh of the State Family Programs Office at (803) 806-1641.

43rd CST Training in Myrtle Beach

by SSG Joe Cashion, 108th Public Affairs Detachment NCOIC



Two members of the 43rd Civil Support Team, based in West Columbia, check for contamination in a Sea Mist hotel room in Myrtle Beach during a training exercise, which took place February 14-16. The 22-person team blends soldiers from both the Army and Air National Guard and is the only SC Guard unit that is full-time active Guard and Reserve. The 43rd CST conducted the training with their counterparts from Pennsylvania.

Maples Recognized for Volunteer Service

by CPT Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

Joy Maples was recognized April 14 with a State Service Ribbon and a State Commendation Ribbon for contributing more than 411 hours of volunteer service over the past year to the new SC Military Museum, which is scheduled to open in Columbia this September.

Making the presentation was COL John Shuler (Ret), Deputy Adjutant General for State Operations in Columbia.

"I want to thank Ms. Maples for assisting MAJ Buddy Sturgis, our SC Military Museum Curator, with the federal inspection for artifacts (CSDP) conducted by the US Army Center for Military History. Her tireless assistance has placed our museum on line with all federally recognized museums," Shuler said.



(L to R) John Shuler, Deputy Adjutant General for State Operations, recognizes Joy Maples of Hopkins.

Campbell Recognized for Service to Museum

by CPT Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian



(L to R) John Shuler, Deputy Adjutant General for State Operations, recognizes Retired MSG William Campbell of Columbia.

MSG William Campbell (Ret) was recognized April 14 with a State Achievement Ribbon for contributing more than 302 hours of volunteer service over the past year to the new SC Military Museum, which is scheduled to open in Columbia this September.

Making the presentation was COL John Shuler (Ret), Deputy Adjutant General for State Operations in Columbia.

"I want to thank MSG Campbell for assisting MAJ Buddy Sturgis, our SC Military Museum Curator, with the federal inspection conducted by the US Army Center for Military History. His professionalism and high standard for success are tributes to the SC Military Museum Detachment and the SC Military Department," said Shuler.

Individuals and Business Honored for Contributions

by CPT Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

Two Columbia-area women and a local business were recognized by a SC Army National Guard battalion for their support of the unit's humanitarian efforts in Iraq.

Amber Riddell of Irmo, Roxanne Wilson of Lexington and IAP Worldwide Services of Irmo were recognized by members of the 3rd of the 178th Field Artillery Battalion.

Both Riddell and Wilson volunteered numerous hours of their time last year, receiving, segregating and packaging boxes of donated items from churches and civic groups such as Blue Star Mothers of South Carolina, from school children from nearby Lake Murray Elementary to as far away as Tate's School of Discovery in Tennessee. Once the packages were properly sealed and customs forms completed, Riddell and Wilson transported the items to IAP Worldwide Services — which, at company expense, delivered the items to the 3-178 FA Battalion headquarters near the ancient city of Ur in Iraq.



(L to R) Amber Riddell of Irmo, Roxanne Wilson of Lexington, Doyle McBride of Chapin (IAP founder), Tom Oliver of Columbia (IAP procurement supervisor), Sandy Miller of Irmo (IAP contract administrator) and Kent Kirby of Irmo (IAP director of operations).

Continued on page 23



The 742nd Maintenance Battalion comes home from "Operation Quick Fix."



Blue Star Mothers from around the state welcome our SC National Guard troops.



Following a yearlong deployment to Iraq, the US Army recognized C-Battery, 3-178 FA BN as the best field artillery battalion during its Freedom Salute in Hartsville, SC.



The family of 1LT Clay Middleton welcomes home the B-111th Signal Company.



The family of a 742nd Maintenance Battalion soldier.



Veterans of previous wars show up to welcome our troops home.

Experiences of Our GWOT Medics

by Marguerite L. Knox, LTC

It took a week to remove the wounded from the battlefield after the 1862 Battle of Manassas during the Civil War. Such a delay in assisting wounded soldiers was so unacceptable that afterward, special soldiers were trained to provide care to the wounded and transport them via horse and wagon to the nearest aid station to receive medical assistance. These were the first combat medics and ambulance corps.

The combat medic's capabilities and roles have evolved with every major conflict since the Civil War. Skills and capabilities grew with medical advances, such as the deployment of plasma in World War II and the advent of Huey helicopter evacuations in Vietnam. With Operation Desert Storm, the role and scope of the medic was fully tested with the reality of biological and chemical warfare. Technological developments, such as telemedicine and automated electrical defibrillators, have contributed to the lifesaving advances within trauma medicine, making a consideration for change in the roles and capabilities of present-day medics.

The South Carolina Army National Guard wants to highlight a handful of the medics who have served the emergency medical and acute care needs of our soldiers in various locations around the globe during our nation's global war on terrorism (GWOT).

Two members of the esteemed 122nd Engineers Headquarters Unit have recently shared their experience in Iraq. SPC Len Bryant and SGT Cliff Wilbanks served as medics for Alpha Company and Charlie Company, respectively.

Len Bryant, a medic from Alpha Company, which is located in McCormick, was recently deployed with the 122nd Engineers Headquarters Unit, located in Edgefield. The unit was activated February 9, 2003 and deployed to Alasad, Iraq, in May 2003, returning in April 2004. In the civilian world, Specialist Bryant is a mental health clinic technician for Aiken Regional Hospital.

When asked about his most memorable event in Iraq, Bryant recalled a frightening moment where the emergency team was tasked with a mission to maintain their position on a bridge. Unfortunately, while holding their position, Alpha Company received several mortar rounds that injured two soldiers. Bryant, a recipient of the respected combat medical badge, was the sole medic on-site able to provide emergency care for his fellow soldiers. His voice and facial expressions while being interviewed for this article recalled the stress of his experience, and yet immediately changed to a smile of relief when he said that both of the injured soldiers survived.

SGT Cliff Wilbanks, an educator with Dillon Technical College, reluctantly agreed to discuss some of his experiences from his tour in Iraq. He talked seriously about his mission to support an 18-member medical support team assigned to the 122nd Engineers HQ. SGT Wilbanks said that initially, medical supplies were inadequate for the soldiers but, as communications improved, the 82nd Airborne medical staff freely shared any equipment his soldiers needed.

When asked to describe his most memorable event during his service, Wilbanks expressed sadness when he talked about one of the most dangerous situations the 122nd Engineers encountered. While searching for insurgents and potential IEDs on a convoy with a transportation unit from the state of Washington, he described a situation involving two females who were severely injured, receiving second- and third-degree burns from IEDs.

SSG Judy Dale, a licensed practical nurse for Palmetto Health Richland's Level I Trauma Center Emergency Room, also serves as a medic in the SCARNG. Dale recently returned from Balad, Iraq, which is located approximately 68 kilometers north of Baghdad in what used to be Saddam Hussein's personal medical treatment facility.

When asked to describe her most memorable event during her service, Dale's eyes filled with tears. She had worked 24 hours straight when mortars hit the base's post-exchange (PX), located 75 meters from the hospital. She remembers the day vividly, as the PX hair salon was celebrating its grand opening. Soldiers, excited to be returning home, were standing in line to have hair cuts so they would look their best for their loved ones. Dale recalls a soldier, scheduled to return home the following day, mortally wounded despite the fact that he was wearing his flak jacket. Lacking protective armor to shield his neck, the young soldier bled to death from a laceration to his carotid artery. Dale cried as she described this horrific event that resulted in 20 serious injuries and eight deaths.

SFC Arnold Gadsden is a medic who was attached to the 45th Infantry Brigade of the Oklahoma National Guard, which was stationed in Afghanistan from November 2003 through August 2004.

SFC Gadsden's primary mission was to educate and train Afghans how to quickly evacuate patients from the battlefield, an important factor in any army's success. He instructed the Afghans on the importance of removing injured personnel to an area where their wounds can be properly treated. Gadsden, who taught via an Afghan translator, found it difficult to teach the Afghans about pre-planning and readiness. He stressed that in order to treat patients effectively, casualties must be triaged, treated and stabilized for initial evacuation to a medical treatment facility (MTF) that has treatment and surgical capabilities commensurate with the patient's wounds.

The four combat medics highlighted in this article represent just a small number of the South Carolina Guardsmen who have served our country since 9/11. We're proud of these men and women and hope that you will share your gratitude to those who continue to serve. We all know that freedom isn't free.

Soldiers Returning From Deployments Now Eligible for New Reserve Education Assistance Program 1607

by CPT Denton W. Smith Jr., Education Services Office

Soldiers returning from deployment may now find themselves advancing their career as full-time college students. Soldiers who have been deployed 90 days or more are now eligible for the new Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP). Service members who have not been eligible under the Chapter 1606 benefits may be eligible for 1607 if they have been deployed after September 11, 2001. Basic allowances are determined by the number of days service members are deployed.

Please contact your G.I. Bill manager at (866) 345-8400, option 3, or direct at (803) 806-1560 for more assistance concerning your educational benefits.

Join the SC National Guard Speakers Bureau

by CPT Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

At our nation's second "America Supports You" rally last year, SC National Guard Chaplain Steve Shugart of Manning entertained a crowd of approximately 1,000 people from the Columbia area who had descended on Finlay Park to join the Defense Department's "America Supports You" program.

This year, as more and more of our soldiers return from serving their country in the global war on terrorism, your State Public Affairs Office hopes you will consider becoming part of our Speakers Bureau.

For more information, contact SSG Joe Cashion at (803) 806-1750.



The band played on during the Department of Defense's "American Supports You" rally, held last year in Finlay Park.

Honoring the Swamp Fox

by CPT Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

The SC General Assembly provided this granite tomb to preserve the remains of General Francis Marion, American Revolutionary War hero, at Belle Isle Plantation in rural Berkeley County early last century.

Utilizing guerrilla warfare tactics, Marion and his partisan volunteers kept the war alive during the British occupation of our state, where a quarter of the battles fought during the war were fought in South Carolina.

Marion's elusive disappearances after surprise attacks against superior forces harassed and demoralized the enemy, earning him the nickname "Swamp Fox."

Out of respect for one of America's most famous Revolutionary War heroes, many SC National Guard units still use the image of a swamp fox and the phrase "true and tried" — made famous by William Cullen Bryant's 19th-century poem, "Marion's Men" — in their emblems and logos.



Guard Soldiers Enjoy 2005 Dodge Charger 500 in Darlington

by CPT Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

Greg Biffle, driver of the No. 16 National Guard-sponsored stock car, visited with SC Army National Guard soldiers before defending his 2005 Dodge Charger 500 title at Darlington Raceway on Saturday, May 13.

Biffle and his National Guard-sponsored team finished second in the 2005 NEXTEL Cup Championship standings and hoped to score their first victory of the 2006 season at Darlington.

Before this year's race, MG Stan Spears, Adjutant General of South Carolina, thanked Biffle for his support of our troops and said, "We're rooting for you and, hopefully, we'll bring you some luck."

Later that evening, Biffle, who began the 2006 Dodge Charger 500 from the ninth spot, moved up to first, led the race for 170 of its 367 laps and took the checkered flag for his first victory of the 2006 NEXTEL Cup season.



The SC National Guard's climbing wall remains one of the more popular pre-race events for NASCAR fans who attended the 2006 Dodge Charger 500.



Front row (L to R) SSG Keith Pike, SPC Robin Phillips, SGT Pauline Baxley, SGT James Scarlett, SGT Justin Rankin, SPC Michael Pitmann, SPC Jeremiah Gentry and SPC Travis Kelly. Middle row (L to R) Sergeant Major Gasque, SGT Randal Taylor, PFC Richard Newman, SSG John Loyd, Major General Spears, Greg Biffle, SGT Steven Williams, SGT Wallace Weirick and COL Pete Brooks. Back row (L to R) SSG Tyler Todd, SPC John Tripp, PFC Bobby Overstreet, SGT Vernon Clegg and SPC Daniel Lupson.



(L to R) SFC Bittle and SFC Jackson, two of the SC National Guard's most successful recruiters with a 158-percent and a 131-percent enlistment rate, respectively, administer the Guard Challenge to 9-year-old twins Caiti and Ben Kirkman at Darlington Raceway on May 13.

Kristie Brown of International Speedway Corporation ensures our soldiers who arrived early for their re-enlistment at Darlington Raceway on May 13 have a good lunch.



In front of a sellout crowd at Darlington Raceway on May 13, the No. 16 National Guard-sponsored car driven by Greg Biffle takes the lead on the "Track Too Tough to Tame."

Prior to the Busch race at Darlington Raceway on Friday, May 12, Biffle qualified to start from the ninth position for May 13's Dodge Charger 500.



Admired by the National Guard family for always making time to visit the troops and their families on race day, Greg Biffle signs a ticket for one of his young fans, Brandon Pittman of Gaffney.

2006 Charleston AFB Air Expo

by CPT Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

The three soldiers who supported the SC National Guard's Recruiting and Retention program while attending the Charleston Air Expo seemed to have had one of the biggest military display crowds.

"People might not know what we do, but they get to see and feel what a tank is," said PFC Stromeyer, who lives in Little River and has served in the Guard for seven months.

"This is a fun environment for us to get to work in. We get to see and deal with everyday people here who really want to learn more about what we do and how the equipment works," said SGT Williams, a 15-year Guard veteran from Sumter who serves as an AGR soldier.

"When you add in the recruiting factor of reaching over 100,000 people at a single event, you have to admit it's a great opportunity for the Guard to let them see and feel for themselves the strength of this equipment," said SSG Brown, a 19-year Guard veteran from Mullins.



(L to R) PFC Joseph Stromeyer, SGT Johnny Williams Jr. and SSG Kenwick Brown, all from HHC of the 1st of the 263rd Armor, with children of all ages drawn to their M1A1 Abrams Tank at the Charleston AFB Air Expo, held April 8, 2006.

'Strength for Service'

by CPT Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

"Strength for Service to God & Country" was first published in 1942 shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor. More than 720,000 copies were distributed to American soldiers between World War II and the Korean War.

The volume was forgotten by all but a few veterans from the Greatest Generation, such as Eugene Hunsberger of southern California, who used it for his grandson's Boy Scout troop.

Shortly following 9/11, Hunsberger's 13-year-old grandson, Evan, asked if it would be a good idea to re-publish the book and send to America's newest generation of fighting men and women. Hunsberger told his grandson, "That's a great idea," and this thought has spread across the country.

"This book was written for wartime, and one of the things that most motivated me to get behind this effort was a devotion I read in it that was written way back in 1942 for September 11," said L.W. Smith, a Strength for Service task force campaign coordinator. "The title, 'Chosen to Suffer,' got my attention, but the following words inspired me: 'In these days the great cause of liberty is again choosing people to suffer for its sake.' The book then asks the question, 'Shall we who are chosen be found worthy?'"

"As an American, I appreciate the sacrifices our soldiers are making to protect our liberty and prove our worthiness. Voluntarily supporting this campaign to support our troops is the least I can do to say 'Thanks,'" Smith added.

The 400-page edition contains 365 devotions written by leading Protestant ministers in 1942, along with 40 additional contributions from women, Roman Catholic clergy, African-American and other ethnic leaders and leaders of other faith groups.

Smith, who resides in Columbia, has been instrumental in ensuring each deploying soldier from the SC National Guard who wants a copy of "Strength for Service" from their chaplain receives one.



L.W. Smith, a volunteer "Strength for Service" task force campaign coordinator for the United Methodist Men, has a heart for SC National Guard soldiers and has helped provide more than 200,000 copies of the re-published devotional book "Strength for Service" since the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

JISCC Team Demonstrates its Capabilities to Chertoff, Paulison

by CPT Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

The SC National Guard's Joint Incident Site Communications Capability Team demonstrated its unique communications interoperability to Michael Chertoff, Homeland Security Secretary, and FEMA Director David Paulison on May 4 at the Federal Regional Center in Thomasville, GA.

The Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) Team was deployed for the first time following Hurricane Rita last fall. Weather prognosticators are predicting that 2006 will be one of the worst hurricane seasons ever for the East Coast; of interest to Chertoff and Paulison is the JISCC Team's ability to provide enhanced emergency communications and satellite connectivity in austere and extreme conditions for extended periods of time.

"If an existing communications infrastructure fails following a natural or manmade disaster, local, state and federal emergency responders can call on us to provide a quick fix so they can continue interacting with emergency response agencies anywhere in the world," said David McNamee, the SC National Guard's Director of Information Management and JISCC Team Leader.

The multi-agency interoperability demonstration at the Federal Regional Center in Thomasville highlighted an enhanced post-Katrina capacity so that local, state and federal agencies could better communicate with one another.

"We are committed to fully integrating FEMA with other Department of Homeland Security operations by June 1. We are about 85-percent there right now," said Chertoff in response to a reporter's question about FEMA's preparedness for the 2006 hurricane season, which begins June 1.

In support of this effort, the SC National Guard's J6, JISCC Team and



Brigadier General Tommy Sinclair, 228th Signal Brigade Commander (center), explains the impact JISCC can have this year to Chertoff and Paulison.

228th Signal Brigade plan to assist National Guard Bureau and US Northern Command in hosting the Palmetto-Coalition Warrior Interoperability Demonstration (CWID) at the former Navy Base in North Charleston this June.

During the two-week Palmetto-CWID demonstration that begins June 5, agencies will simulate a Hurricane Hugo-like storm and earthquake disaster, and then demonstrate how local, state and federal agencies can now better communicate with one another following a disaster.

"The lessons learned from this exercise will serve to further the ability of the communications assets within South Carolina to respond to communication failures here and in other disaster-prone states," said COL Debra Rose, the SC National Guard's J6.

The first of its kind, the SCARNG JISCC Team will continue to prepare for and assist emergency responders answering any threat to our state and nation.

For more information, visit the Palmetto-CWID Web site at www.scguard.com/PalmettoCWID/.

Major Dave McNamee (right) shows Michael Chertoff, Homeland Security Secretary, and FEMA Director David Paulison a 45-second video of JISCC's unique capabilities.



Is Your Family Prepared?

by COL Pete Brooks, SC National Guard State Public Affairs Officer

The SC Emergency Management Division (EMD) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have quite a few excellent resources available to families to help them prepare for any man-made or natural disaster.

As the EMD Web site points out:

“Disasters and emergency situations can happen any time and anywhere. When disaster strikes, you may not have much time to respond, so it is important that you and your family are prepared. A hurricane, winter storm, earthquake, flood, tornado or any other disaster could cut off utility services for days and lead to evacuations, or confine your family to your home for days. By taking the time to develop a family emergency plan and assemble a family emergency kit, you can help keep your family safe and make a bad situation a little more tolerable.”

The 2006 hurricane season begins June 1, and forecasters are predicting it may be one of the most devastating seasons ever for the East Coast of the United States. The adjutant general encourages each of our soldiers and their family members and friends to take the time now to ensure your family is prepared.

For further information, please visit the SCEMD and FEMA Web sites (listed below), and/or stop by your city/county emergency preparedness center(s) to pick up literature on how your family can be prepared.

www.scmd.org/Prepare/family_kit.htm

www.fema.gov/plan/index.shtm

Developing Family Readiness Groups in South Carolina

by Michelle Canchola, 263rd AAMDC FRG

On Saturday, April 1, Michelle Canchola from the 263 AAMDC Family Readiness Group presented a three-hour seminar titled “Family Readiness Group: A Combat Multiplier” to Family Readiness Groups (FRGs) from around the state in Columbia. The event included classes on:

- FRG training, tools, resources and solutions
- Soldier/family care — soldiers and families ready
- Growing FRG — member involvement, unit outcomes
- Preparing for deployment
- Newsletters and other communications
- Fund raising
- Networking

“I hope anyone who is interested in developing a successful Family Readiness Group in their unit will make the time to attend one of Ms. Canchola’s seminars. She provides a dynamic, patriotic and insightful presentation that reveals her heart for soldiers and their families,” said Sherry Marsh, Deputy State Family Programs Director.

Pilot Shares Experiences with Students

by CPT Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

Captain Brian Pipkin of Jamestown, an AH-64B Apache helicopter pilot with the SC Army National Guard, spoke to middle and high school students at St. John's Christian Academy in Moncks Corner on February 17 about the one-year tour of duty he completed in Iraq.

During the 45-minute conversation Pipkin had with the students, he was asked numerous questions about Iraq and the highlights of his tour there.

"The hairiest moment I had in Iraq was on a close air support mission, flying 150 feet off the deck at 120 miles per hour when, all of a sudden, my aircraft was hit about 12 times, along with Chief Austin Norris, who took a round in his forearm," said Pipkin in response to a student's question.

"Ever since then, the guys in the unit have joked about how I set an all-new Apache air-speed record, flying the chief back to base within three minutes so he could get medical attention," he added.

"The picture you see here is of Chief Norris and me at the end of our tour in Iraq. It's my favorite picture because after he was hit, the chief was aeromedically evacuated home for treatment. When he was all healed up, he returned to Iraq last April and, on our last flight out of Iraq before heading home to South Carolina, we had this photo made," said Pipkin.

"Probably the biggest highlight of my time there was being present for the first Iraqi elections in January 2005. Women now have more power because they have the right to vote," he added.

Some of the other highlights Pipkin mentioned included seeing civil-military affairs projects, such as roads, schools, water projects and power plants, being built.

"Our nation is really blessed, and it's great to see you kids here sending shoes and coats to our SC National Guard soldiers so we can help the kids over there," Pipkin said.

When asked about the lack of national media coverage of humanitari-

an efforts by American soldiers, Pipkin responded, "They are kind of selective about what they cover. They will talk about the nine killed, but you won't hear a thing about the new school American soldiers built today so 200 more kids can get an education.

"Regardless, I'm a big supporter of our commander in chief. What we are doing over there is good for the people we are trying to help and good for America," he added.

"I felt an obligation to be over there and would go back," said Pipkin in response to a student's question concerning his willingness to return to Iraq.

"In closing, please continue to keep our soldiers in your thoughts and prayers. Thanks for supporting them," he concluded.

Pipkin is the son of Colonel and Mrs. Roy Pipkin of Jamestown. He is an AH64B Apache Longbow pilot and serves as B-Company Commander for the 151 Aviation Group, SC Army National Guard.



Capt Brian Pipkin shares his story of serving in Iraq in 2005.



Capt. Pipkin hands out "Support Our Troops" bracelets to SICA students.

For more information about the SC National Guard Speakers Bureau, see page 15

SCARNG Hosts Five-State Drill Competition

by SSG Brent D. Cobb

History was made last fall when more than 30 of the most talented Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) teams competed for the opportunity to participate in the National Championship in Daytona, FL, this spring.

The assembly marked the first time that all four JROTC service branches competed for a prize of this nature. Members of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine drill teams from across a five-state area converged on Greenville to compete in this event.

A goal of this event is to give JROTC branches another avenue through which they can showcase their skills. It will also make more people aware of JROTC programs. The SC Army National Guard was the host military branch.

SSG Brent D. Cobb, one of the event's founders, said, "The idea came from a desire to offer a drill competition between local and Upstate South Carolina teams. The event then grew to a five-state region because of the support of our gracious sponsors and from the local community."

The governor of South Carolina has proclaimed the date of the event "Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps Day" to "encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the many positive benefits JROTC programs provide for our students."

SSG Cobb said, "The Junior Reserve Training Corps program is designed to teach high school students the value of citizenship, leadership, service to the community, personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment, while instilling in them self-esteem, teamwork and self-discipline. Its focus is reflected in its mission statement: 'To motivate young people to be better citizens.' It prepares high school students for responsible leadership roles while making them aware of their rights, responsibilities and privileges as American citizens. The program is a stimulus for promoting graduation from high school and provides instruction and rewarding opportunities that will benefit the student, community and



Members of the Spring Valley High School JROTC from Columbia celebrate their win of the first annual Southeastern Drill Championship.

nation. We hope that this event promoted these same ideals."

The Southeastern Drill Championship staff selected a quote from a distinguished field commander: "Accept the challenges so that you can feel the exhilaration of victory." The cadets embarked upon a challenge to prove their abilities and professionalism on the drill field, demonstrated by precision drill and ceremony and coupled with a willingness to compete against all service branches. Spring Valley High School from Columbia, coached by Chief Langston, was the overall winner of the event and crowned grand champion of the first annual Southeastern Drill Championship.

Recruiters from several colleges were also on-site; the schools represented included Clemson University, Virginia Tech, Georgia Tech, Gardner-Webb, Embry Riddle, the University of South Carolina Upstate, Virginia Military Institute, Georgia Military Institute, Wofford College, the University of South Carolina and The Citadel.

The competition was open to the public and had a generous turnout for its first year. Admission was an international phone card or \$2 per vehicle. The additional money raised is being used to purchase phone cards for service men and women overseas.

US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld sent a letter to all participants congratulating them on being part of this special event. He wrote, "As young people, you carry the future of our great nation on your shoulders. The leadership skills you are developing through the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps will serve you well."

The Boy Scouts of America, led by Life Scout Isaac Elder, participated in the "Shadow a Soldier Day." The program was designed to give one Boy Scout the opportunity to manage more than 100 Boy Scouts from Troop 715 of the South Border Blue Ridge Council and develop leadership skills. This project was taken on by Elder and will be his Eagle Scout project. MG (Ret) Stanhope S. Spears, Adjutant General of South Carolina, presented Elder with a letter of commendation on a job well-done for his efforts with this event. "The program was a success and will continue to be used at this event," Cobb said.

LTC James T. Lamb, one of the instructors at JL Mann Academy, said, "Our mission is different from the college-level ROTCs. The college programs are designed to generate officers for the armed services. At our level, our mission is to create better citizens."

American Legion Post #3 presented the colors, and Ron Sluder played "Taps" to close out the ceremony.

MG (Ret) James E. Livingston was the guest speaker and distinguished guest for the event. He is a Medal of Honor recipient and received the award during one of his three tours in Vietnam with the US Marine Corps. "The young people need to take on more leadership roles to develop themselves to be tomorrow's mayors, generals and distinguished citizens and we, the communities, need to support them in the endeavors they pursue," he said.

The Southeastern Drill Championship is an annual event held in Greenville. The next competition is scheduled to be held this October.

SCNG Battalion Assists Family

by SSG Johnny Grant

“We had gone to CP13 to meet our convoy when a family pulled up beside us. The father got out of the car with his son. The boy had towel over his head that covered his upper body. He had bad burns and abrasions on his face, neck, chest, stomach, arms and hands. His father asked if we would help him.

“Sgt. Edwards looked at the boy’s wounds, and I called our convoy to see if they had a medic with them. They responded that they didn’t, so I called Trade Center South, and they called the medics at Navistar. Trade Center South (TCS) advised us that the medics would look at the child if we could escort them to the border. I told the child’s father to stay at RP13, and that we would get some help for his son. We then linked up with our convoy (C Battery 3/178fa) and went to the medical facility at Navistar. We were escorting the medics to the border when I heard Crusader 1 (2/147) calling TCS that they were at CP13 with the injured child and his parents. I called Crusader 1 and told him that we were on the way to the border with the medics; he said that he would escort the family to the border.

“We arrived shortly before they did. Crusader 1 had taken the child from his family and driven him across the border. The medic took a look at the injured child, Johar, and said that he needed to take Johar back to Navistar to treat him. We then escorted the medics back to Navistar.

“Sgt. Edwards and I stayed with Johar while he was being treated. It was a touching experience, listening to him whimpering while he was being attended to. It had to be a scary experience for him, to be there alone in a room filled with strangers. We spent a good part of the day with him while he was being treated. After the doctor had finished, Johar was put back in the ambulance, which we escorted to the border. We then put Johar in one of our vehicles and drove him back over the border to his family. The interpreter explained to Johar’s family how to use the medicine the doctor had prescribed. He told them to follow the convoy to CP13, and from there Sgt. Edwards and I would follow them to their house so we could check on Johar.

“We carried water so Johar could wash his wounds over the next few weeks.

Our MNF, the British, provided a gunship so we could check on him. The family was appreciative of our help. The first time Johar came outside his home to greet us was rewarding. He has since made a complete recovery.”



Johar before and after his medical treatment, due in part to the efforts of the SCNG.

Families Helping Families

by CPT Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

Most Americans will never hear the name “Catto” mentioned on the evening news or in a national newspaper, but the *Palmetto Guard Family Magazine* is dedicated to bringing you stories about the unsung heroes of the SC National Guard who have and are making a difference in the lives of others in South Carolina, around the nation and around the world.

Phillip Catto

Concerned by the fact that many young children in a nearby Afghan village did not have the shoes or coats to survive another harsh winter, SFC Phillip Catto, a veteran of Vietnam, the Gulf War, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, sent an e-mail to his friends and family in South Carolina, asking for their assistance.

Many of them immediately responded, including students from St. John’s Christian Academy in Moncks Corner. The school sent several large boxes filled with coats and shoes to Catto, who serves with the 53rd Infantry Brigade Training Assistance Group.

“Thanks to the kids back in Moncks Corner, a lot of these kids we have helped here in Afghanistan will live to see another winter,” he said.



SFC Phillip Catto helps dress a young Afghan child.



Front row (far R to L) Kathy Oliver, leader of SJCA’s Iraq/Afghanistan humanitarian efforts; Rhoda Boyd, SJCA principal; Capt. Brian Pipkin of the 151 Aviation Group; Miss Candice Conder; and Ms. Chris Pipkin, the captain’s mother, with students in front of seven large and three medium-size boxes filled with donated coats, boots and gloves and bound for the children of Afghan soldiers the SC National Guard is training in Afghanistan.

SC Military Museum to Open

by CPT Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

The SC Military Museum, located in Columbia, is scheduled to open its doors to the public for the first time this September. Many numerous and unique artifacts dating from the global war on terrorism to the American Revolution will be on display, and the museum's child-friendly interactive learning system will enable students of all ages to research information about the important role the SC National Guard has played throughout American history.



Buddy Sturgis, curator of the SC Military Museum, hands MG Spears the actual "cane gun" used by CPT Peter Mason of Her Majesty's Secret Service. Ian Fleming based his 007 character — James Bond — on Mason's exploits.

Continued from page 11

As a result of efforts like this, the 3-178 FA BN's "Old Backpacks 4 Iraq" campaign resulted in the distribution of 2,000 school backpacks and a ton of school supplies to students in the battalion's area of operations, which stretched along the main supply route from the border of Kuwait to Camp St. Michaels near Baghdad. The battalion's "Toys & Clothes for Iraqi Tots" campaign resulted in the distribution of several thousand toys and articles of clothing to more than 1,000 children last holiday season.

The soldiers thanked those they called their "hometown heroes" for the humanitarian support they received during their one-year tour in Iraq. They credited Riddell, Wilson and IAP for their efforts to enhance the battalion's ability to affect Iraq's future — the children of Iraq.

SFC Shipman and Wife Receive Seven-Day Vacation

by SSG Joe Cashion, 108th Public Affairs Detachment NCOIC

SC Army National Guardsman SFC William Shipman and his wife, Lib (right and second from right), with Tom and Gayle Oates (center) and recently retired Lt. Col. Ray McDowell, former State Family Programs Director (left), after the couple donated a free seven-day vacation to the Shipmans at Marriott's Ocean Watch Villas in Myrtle Beach on January 26. Shipman was the first SC Guardsman to receive the Purple Heart during the global war on terror for wounds suffered in Afghanistan. The Oates family from Greenwood Lake, NY, has reserved multiple weeks at the Ocean Watch Villas during the upcoming summer season to honor select military members.





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