

Palmetto Guard

FAMILY MAGAZINE, FALL 2008



**Artistry of
the Guard**

The State of South Carolina
Military Department



Office of the Adjutant General

1 NATIONAL GUARD ROAD
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29201-4766

I recently had the honor of presenting Mr. Craig Melvin with The Palmetto Patriot Award for his demonstrated commitment to telling the S.C. National Guard story. Many of you in the Midlands are familiar with his fair and balanced reporting as an anchor here in Columbia with WIS-TV. Craig's been a leader in reporting on all aspects of our Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen, their families and employers throughout our nation's Global War on Terrorism. Even though Craig recently left his anchor position at WIS for a new position in Washington, D.C., he was quick to tell me he will never forget the Soldiers and families of the S.C. National Guard. I feel Craig's sentiment was sincere. Our Citizen-Soldiers are the best this nation has to give and I hope he will continue telling his audiences about the selfless, patriotic character of our Soldiers and Airmen in the National Guard.



Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian

Concerning your selflessness, my wife Dot and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the tremendous outpouring of love, support and prayers you have shared with us following the loss of our son Stan, Jr. to a heart attack. We appreciate your kindness more than you know.

As this year's hurricane season starts to heat up, I hope everyone will take the time to review the Family Emergency Kit information on page four of this magazine. It's been nearly 20 years since a Hurricane Hugo-type event devastated our state, but we must remain vigilant and prepared. At the end of each hurricane season, I always ask our leadership for ways we can better prepare for the next season. Each year, our capabilities improve and each year, we continue to have one of the best disaster preparedness programs in the nation. I wish the same success for each family in the Guard as they review the status of their Family Emergency Kit.

Finally, I want to commend the State Family Readiness Office for their recent post-deployment, reintegration efforts to assist members of the 132nd Military Police Company and the 218th Brigade Combat Team. Since the terrorist attacks on 9-11, you have worked tirelessly to assist our Soldiers and their families. Helping us remain "Always Ready – Always There" is something to be proud of. The S.C. National Guard is the best because it has the best people. Thank you Citizen-Soldiers for continuing to serve our state and nation. Please have a wonderful and safe fall season.

Sincerely,

Stanhope S. Spears
Major General, SCARNG
The Adjutant General

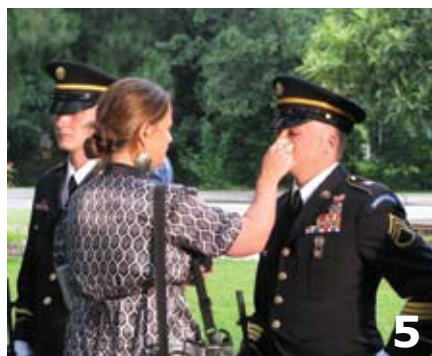
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Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian



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Lindsay Irish, makeup artist for the "Army Wives" TV show powders Staff Sgt. Bobby Wood's nose before the Honor Guard is filmed for episode five of the show's second season on Lifetime.

Photo provided by Lisa Rodgers



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Sgt. 1st Class Prevo Rodgers, a singer, songwriter, musician and Global War on Terrorism veteran has been reaching out to audiences across America sharing his patriotism.

Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian



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Pro-angler Scott Martin, of the National Guard Fishing Team waves to his fans during the \$1 million 2008 FLW Cup at Lake Murray, in August.



Palmetto Guard Family Magazine

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The Palmetto Guard Family Magazine is published quarterly for members of the S.C. National Guard and their families under the authority of AR 360-1, and is available in PDF format at our website: <http://guard.sc.gov>.

About the cover: Cpl. Roberto Di Giovine, a photographer who served with the 218th Brigade Combat Team in Afghanistan last year, captured this "Artistry of the Guard" cover shot while in a remote village in the Tora Bora mountains. As the Soldier and Afghan child meet for the first time, Di Giovine feels he photographed the essence of how the unit's Soldiers felt compassion toward the children of Afghanistan. To see more of his photographic artwork from Afghanistan, please visit his website at: www.robydigiovine.com.

Preparing A Family Emergency Kit:

September through November tends to be the worst part of Hurricane season for the Southeastern United States. In the event of a disaster our Guard family needs to be prepared. We encourage everyone to create a family emergency kit using the guide below.

How do we prepare a family emergency kit?

Create a checklist from the items listed below as well as items that you feel will be necessary for your own personal comfort and safety. Gather the supplies that are listed and store them in one or two watertight easy to store containers. Place the supplies you'd most likely need for an evacuation in an easy-to-carry container. These supplies are listed with an asterisk (*).

- * Water - Store water in plastic containers such as soft drink bottles or plastic milk jugs. Avoid using containers that will break such as glass bottles. A normally active person needs to drink at least one gallon of water each day. Hot environments and intense physical activity can double that amount. Children, nursing mothers and ill people will need more. Store one gallon of water per person per day (two quarts for drinking, two quarts for food preparation/sanitation) * *Keep at least a three-day supply of water for each person in your household.*
- * Food - Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, little preparation or cooking and little or no water. Select food items that are compact and lightweight.
- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables
- Canned juices, milk, soup (if powdered, store extra water)
- Staples--sugar, salt, pepper
- High energy foods--peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail-mix
- Vitamins
- Foods for infants, elderly persons or persons on special diets
- Comfort/stress foods--cookies, hard candy, sweetened cereals, lollipops, instant coffee, tea-bags
- *First Aid Kit - Assemble a first aid kit for your home and one for each car.
- Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes
- 2-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)
- 4-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- Triangular bandages (3)
- 2-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
- 3-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Needle
- Moistened towelettes
- Antiseptic
- Thermometer
- Tongue suppressors (2)
- Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- Assorted sizes of safety pins
- Cleansing agent/soap
- Latex gloves (2 pair)
- Sunscreen
- Non-prescription drugs
- Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Antacid (for stomach upset)
- Syrup of Ipecac (use to induce vomiting if advised by the Poison Control Center)
- Laxative
- Tools and Supplies
- Clothing and Bedding
- Special Items - Remember family members with special needs, such as infants and elderly or disabled persons.
- * Important Family Documents - You will need to keep these records in a waterproof, portable container. Will, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds Passports, social security cards, immunization records, Bank account numbers, Credit card account numbers and companies, Inventory of valuable household goods, important telephone numbers, Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates).



Pet owners need to ensure they include food and water for "best friends" like Maggie, Haley, Belle and Coco in their family emergency kit.

Photo by Laurie Brooks

Additional and more detailed information to better prepare your family for an emergency can be found at the following websites: <http://guard.sc.gov/>, www.scmd.org, www.redcross.org, www.fema.org and guardfamily.org.

Honor Guard Meets HOLLYWOOD

Story and photos by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian

As South Carolinians celebrate "A Century of Filmmaking in the Palmetto State" this year, they can also take pride in the fact S.C. National Guard Soldiers from the state's Honor Guard were featured in the July 6 episode of the highly touted Lifetime Television show "Army Wives."

For more than a year now, the former Charleston Navy Base in North Charleston, S.C. has been home for fictional Ft. Marshall "Army Wives" characters Roxy (Sally Pressman), Claudia Joy (Kim Delaney), Denise (Catherine Bell), Joan (Wendy Davis) and Pamela (Brigid Brannagh). "Off-duty S.C. Guardsmen have been an instrumental part of the show's backdrop here on the set, but the Honor Guard's role during this episode was the most visible part we've played so far," said Lt. Col. Les Carroll, S.C. National Guard advisor to the show.

The S.C. Honor Guard members are highly trained volunteers who undergo rigorous 3rd Army "Old Guard" training standards. Their job is to ensure the families of fallen Soldiers have the opportunity to say goodbye with pride and dignity. "We take a lot of professional pride in everything we do, so performing our mission for 'Army Wives' meant a great deal to us," said Sgt. Maj. Ronald Lee, commander of the Honor Guard. "We hope the viewers of the show will appreciate the extra effort the show's director took to ensure the military funeral she shot was befitting an American hero."

To learn more about the show, please visit: <http://www.mylifetime.com/on-tv/shows/army-wives>



Brian McNamara (center) who plays the commander of the fictional Ft. Marshall on "Army Wives" asks for final directions during a rehearsal with the S.C. Honor Guard.



The "Army Wives" filming crew capture the S.C. Honor Guard in action during a ceremonial volley of fire.



"Army Wives" stars Brigid Brannagh and Catherine Bell pose with members of the S.C. Honor Guard after filming.

RANK/NAME

Staff Sgt. James T. Lesley

HOMETOWN

Blenheim, S.C.

UNIT

Det. 1 Co. A, 351 Aviation Support
Battalion, Cheraw, S.C.

TALENT

Drawing, painting, sculpture,
photography and graphic design

*To see more of this artist's work, please contact
him at: protus1@bellsouth.net.*



The Creation Song

What happened on Day 1? What happened on Day 1?
Well it was dark. God made the light.
He made the day. He made the night. (Repeat)

What happened on Day 2? What happened on Day 2?
God made the water. God made the sky.
He made fresh air, for you and I. (Repeat)

What happened on Day 3? What happened on Day 3?
God made dry land. God made the seas.
He made the flowers, the plants and trees. (Repeat)

What happened on Day 4? What happened on Day 4?
God made great lights, up in the sky.
The sun and moon, the stars so high. (Repeat)

What happened on Day 5? What happened on Day 5?
God made the birds. God made the fish.
To multiply—that was His wish. (Repeat)

What happened on Day 6? What happened on Day 6?
God made the animals, to roam so free.
And, in His image, made you and me. (Repeat)

What happened on Day 7? What happened on Day 7?
God's work was finished. He did it solely.
And then he rested, and called it holy. (Repeat)

Written by: Melinda M. Mitchell, 13 September 2005

RANK/NAME

Sgt. 1st Class Melinda Mitchell

HOMETOWN

Lexington, S.C.

UNIT

Joint Force Headquarters in
Columbia, S.C.

TALENT

Poetry, songwriter

*To see more of this artist's work, please
contact her at: Melinda.mitchell@us.army.mil*

TEARS STILL FALLING

Horror struck, hatred flew,
 And down came the tears of millions
 Upon the ground.
 Revenge grew, Retaliation came,
 War began, Soldiers died,
 And down came the tears of millions
 Upon the ground.
 Blood is shed, Bodies fall, Families pray,
 And down came the tears of millions
 Upon the ground
 The war will end, Families will be told,
 Years will go by, Memories will return,
 And down will come the tears of millions
 Upon the ground.

RANK/NAME

Sgt. Randall W. Brewster

HOMETOWN

Columbia, S.C.

UNITARNG Honor Guard Program Region II
Trainer (Midlands)**TALENT**

Poetry

*To see more of this artist's work, please contact
 him at: randal.w.brewster@us.army.mil.*

A letter home (from Afghanistan)

As the sun set behind the mountains
 And a cool breeze blows through Afghanistan
 I sit in my Conex apartment
 And dream of the day I'll hold your hand

For more than thirty years there's been trouble
 In this place they call Afghanistan
 But as you look in the eyes of the children
 You know there is hope for this land

I awake to the sound of manmade thunder
 Blackhawks roaring through the night
 I go back to sleep and dream of you
 Until the dawn's early light

As a hush falls over the soldiers
 That gather 'round Patriot Square
 The roll call is met with silence
 From our comrades that are no longer there

In Bagram they gather 'long the roadway
 Somber faces set in stone.
 They salute as the casket goes past them,
 Another soldier has gone home.

A veteran thanks me for my service.
 I hope that he will understand,
 I am proud to take my place beside him
 In the defense of this land.

Some day they'll tell me that I'm done here
 And that I an going home
 I'll head back to home and family
 And I never more shall roam.

RANK/NAME

Lt. Col. Mike O'Neill

HOMETOWN

Summerville, S.C.

UNITDirectorate of Military Support, Joint
Forces Headquarters, S.C.**TALENT**

Songwriting

*To see more of this artist's work, please visit The
 State newspaper website at:
[http://videos.thestate.com/vmix_hosted_apps/
 p_media?id=1864521](http://videos.thestate.com/vmix_hosted_apps/p_media?id=1864521)*



RANK/NAME
Col. Debra Rose

UNIT
J-6 (Communications
Officer) for the S.C.
National Guard

TALENT
Painting

HOMETOWN
Lexington, S.C.

*To see more of this artist's work, please contact
her at: debra.pearson@us.army.mil*



RANK/NAME
Sgt. 1st Class Keith Alumbaugh

UNIT
228th Signal Brigade

HOMETOWN
Greenville, S.C.

TALENT
Web Page Design

To see more of this artist's work, please visit his website at: www.hippodilla.com.

RANK/NAME

Maj. Andrew Johnson

HOMETOWN

Saluda, S.C.

UNIT

263rd AAMDC

TALENT

Poetry

To see more of this artist's work, please contact him at: Andrew.johnson10@us.army.mil.

The Dawn

"We meet again!" Said Dark to Light...
"And my, but you're a welcome sight!
I've spent some time here by myself
I brought that thing they call the Night."

Spoke Light to Dark, "I'd gone away.
Somehow I knew, here you would stay.
And stay you did-but now I've come,
To bring that thing they call the Day."

And if we'd time to chat, then I'd begin,
But if all goes well - we'll meet again."



RANK/NAME

Spc. Randy Lee Bisbee

HOMETOWN

Camden, S.C.

UNIT

1/151st ARB, D Co, Eastover, S.C.

TALENT

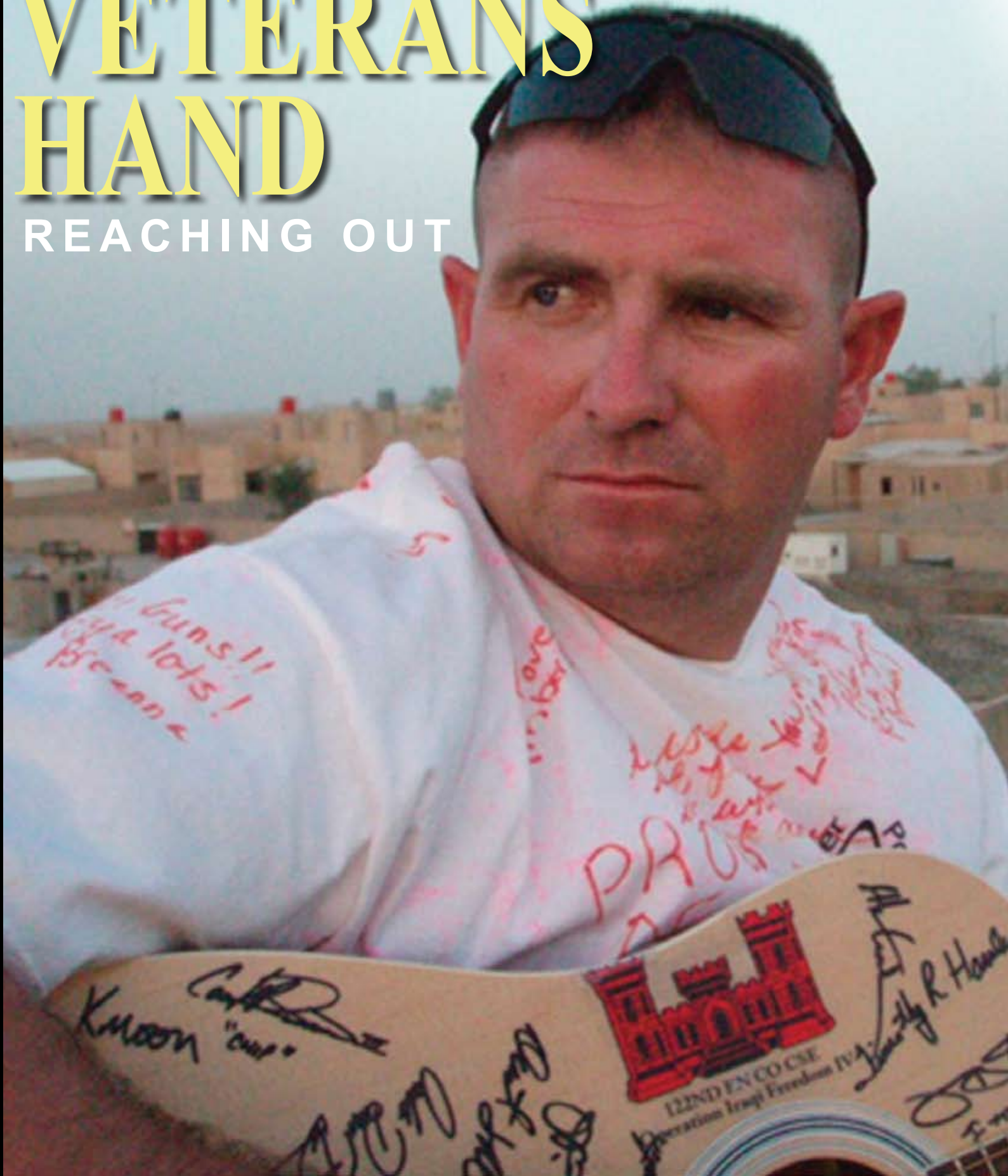
Drawing

To see more of this artist's work, please contact him at: chiefcw1@gmail.com

Artist information compiled by: Maj. Jim St.Clair, JFHQ Public Affairs Officer

VETERANS HAND

REACHING OUT



Story by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian

Little did Sgt. 1st Class Prevo Rodgers, Jr. know when he penned "Veterans Hand," that his song would get picked up by a record label allowing him to reach out to audiences around the country. Rodgers, who spent a year clearing road-side bombs from Samarra to Mosul, Iraq with the S.C. National Guard's 122nd Engineer Company, says the Soldiers he served with in Iraq and previous generations of veterans were the inspiration for his song.

Rodgers, a 22-year veteran of the S.C. National Guard, says he continuously writes songs based on his life experiences and those of family and friends. Although he always hoped he would one day get picked up by a record label, he says he didn't have a clue "To

the next level. He has two selfless reasons for wanting to do so. First, he would like to be able to perform with the USO for troops serving overseas. He'll need a top 40 song to do so. Second, he wants to create his own production company to reach out and help others realize their goals and talents in music.


Rodgers, who credits his mom for teaching him to play the guitar when he was 14, began performing in front of audiences at the age of 16. Over the years he's played in numerous bars and at festivals in and around South Carolina. Some of his favorite performances include a week-long stop at The Bowery in Myrtle Beach, S.C. where Alabama, one of the most successful bands of all time, got their

“ Life is what you make it
and don't waste a minute ”

The Fallen Records" would do so, soon after hearing "Veterans Hand." "You just can't give up on your dreams," says Rodgers. He feels it takes a lot of sacrifice and risk to follow your heart but in the end, nine times out of ten, it is totally worth it.

His next goal is to audition for the *Nashville Star* television show where he hopes songs like "Veterans Hand" will propel him to

start; Rascals in Augusta, Georgia where he and the Bud Moffet Band opened for Tracy Lawrence; and Tumbleweeds in Anderson, S.C., where he performed with David Allan Coe. "It feels really good to get back to performing," said Rodgers, who feels he received a new perspective on life while he was in Iraq. "Veterans Hand" represents the brotherhood felt by many men and women who have served this Nation proudly. Life is what you make it and don't waste a minute," said Rodgers.



Veterans Hands
Prevo Rodgers, Jr. April 9, 2007

They walk down the street with a loaded gun
No where to hide, no where to run
Not knowing today who's wanting to take your life
Going nights without sleep and days without a bath
Warm water to drink, dried food from a bag
They hold their head up high, and they just drive on

'Cause no matter how cold, hot or dry
They go every day and put their life on the line
They do it for your freedom, they do it for the flag
Next time you think you've had a bad day
Go shake a veterans hand

Well they see the smoke and they feel the blast
Their stomach knots up as you check your men
And Thank God for surviving another roadside bomb
You hear the shot and you see the flash
You hear the thump as your gunner shoots back
Just another day on patrol in a foreign land

****CHORUS****
And some of you know what I'm talking about
Saying a prayer every time you go out
We do it for the freedom, we do it for the flag
Next time you think you've had a bad day
Go shake a Veterans Hand

****Music****

Well I've been there and I know what it's like
To be waken by mortars in the middle of the night
And I've seen all of things I hope I never have to see again
So remember next time that you go out
The choices that you get or things you pick out
It's freedom that you get, 'cause somebody made a stand

****CHORUS***

The next time you think you've had to sacrifice
There's some falling soldiers who paid the ultimate price
And next time you think you've had a bad day
Just remember them

To hear "Veterans Hand" for free, go to:
http://www.sonicbids.com/epk/epk.aspx?epk_id=100094
www.tothefallenrecords.com

JOINT AIRCRAFT MISSION

Helps S.C. Firefighters

Story by Spc. Erica Knight, 108th Public Affairs Detachment and Maj. Jim St.Clair, JFHQ Public Affairs
Photos by: Cpl. Roberto Di Giovine, 108th Public Affairs Detachment

THE South Carolina Army and Air National Guard teamed up during July's drill weekend for a special joint training event. The 122nd Engineer Battalion provided the transportation to move a decommissioned civilian aircraft from the Aiken airport to the S.C. Fire Academy in Columbia.

Air First Companies of Aiken donated a Mitsubishi MU-2, a twin-engine turboprop, to the S.C. Fire Academy so firefighters could train on something as realistic as possible, explained Jim Hamilton, manager of the Columbia-Owens Downtown Airport.

"All of the most valuable parts such as the engines and the propellers have been taken out leaving just the shell," said Hamilton.

S.C. Air National Guard Tech. Sergeants Shannon Mines and Mark Albrecht, mechanics from the 169th Maintenance Squadron at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, were on hand to remove the wings and tail assembly for transport and reassemble the plane when it arrived at the academy.

Once the plane was taken apart it was transported on two "low-boy" trailers provided by the S.C. Army National Guard's 1221st Route Clearance Detachment stationed in Batesburg.



The S.C. Army National Guard's 1221st Route Clearance Detachment arrives at the S.C. Fire Academy from the Columbia-Owens Downtown Airport.

The aircraft was the newest addition to the academy's rubble pile and debris field which already contains a bus, a train, and other aircraft simulators. This plane however, will not be set on fire.

"This is a phenomenal training asset for the academy," said Dan McManus, Assistant State Fire Marshall. "It's an exotic piece that we don't encounter on an everyday basis, but we want to be prepared for any situation."

The plane will be used primarily for search and rescue training. Firefighters will learn how to utilize K-9 units to locate survivors and how to extricate victims. The plane will also be used to teach special rigging.

"This is a heavy lifting situation," said McManus. "Moving concrete is rough and aggressive; the firefighters need to learn how to lift something that is heavy and fragile." The South Carolina Fire Academy is also home to one of two national training programs called Aircraft Fire Rescue Fire Fighting. They will use the aircraft to gain knowledge about how planes work.

At the end of the mission, McManus expressed his gratitude to the South Carolina National Guard for their assistance. "There's no way we could have gotten the plane here from Aiken," he said. "This will be an outstanding training aid for us to use."



Members of the S.C. Army and Air National Guard assist S.C. Fire Academy officials in downloading their latest aircraft training simulator.



Air and Army Guard personnel reattach the wings and tail assembly.



*Story by Lt. Col. Les Carroll,
South Carolina National Guard*

The National Guard has put its handprint all over the world of big-time bass fishing. The Guard was a sponsor for the Forrest Wood Cup, staged last month on the pristine waters of Lake Murray, near Columbia. Not only was the Guard a cup sponsor, but also sponsors a team of top-notch professional anglers, who fished well during the week but wore the National Guard team colors even better. And each day when the tournament leader walked onto the stage for his weigh-in, he carried his fish in the National Guard "leader bag," fishing's version of the Tour de France yellow jersey.

The Guard also sponsored the

World Junior Tournament, which crowned two junior champions. In fact, National Guard presence highlighted the entire four-day event, starting with the first morning before 7 a.m. when the South Carolina Army National Guard presented the colors and South Carolina Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Steven David performed the National Anthem. Moments later, it was time to fish.

The sun peaked over Lake Murray just as the parade of 77 sleek fishing boats eased from the marina, then put the hammer down and raced across the open water at speeds in the neighborhood of 70 miles-per-hour. Within minutes, they had scattered into the dozens of coves and the many creeks that feed the lake. Never, it seemed, had 77 boats disappeared so quickly. Just

after 7 a.m., hooks were in the water.

National Guard-sponsored professional Brent Ehrler landed his first largemouth bass an hour later. It was the start of a good tournament for a spectacular angler, and spearheaded his eventual seventh-place finish. Ehrler, the 2006 Forrest Wood Cup champion, proudly wore the uniform of National Guard Fishing.

"Representing the National Guard has been a great experience this year," Ehrler said. "I love seeing Guardsmen and just saying 'hi' to them and saying 'thank you for your service.' It's great to be a part of that."

While four National Guard-sponsored Cup qualifiers worked the lake, the other team members worked the crowds. At the team base camp in the Columbia

Hooking the Big One!



Photo by Maj. Scott Bell

Seventy-seven of the best bass-fishing anglers in the nation qualified to compete for the sport's ultimate prize -- the 2008 \$1 million Forrest L. Wood (FLW) Cup. The National Guard Fishing Team qualified two anglers and two co-anglers this year. Brent Ehrler (pictured) hooked 26 pounds of fish the first two days of the competition propelling him into third place and qualifying him to compete with the top 10 anglers on the final two days of the competition. Ehrler, who won the 2006 FLW Cup, weighed in 13 pounds, 3 ounces of fish during the final two days, finishing seventh and netting \$40,000 in earnings.



Photo by Maj. Scott Bell

Lt. Gen. Clyde A. Vaughn, Army National Guard Director (right) smiles as Chris Rose from the "Best Damn Sports Show Period" waves at four S.C. Army National Guard Apache gunships outside the Columbia Metropolitan Complex during the \$1 million FLW Cup competition.

To learn more about the 2008 FLW Cup, please visit the National Guard Bureau website at: <http://www.ngb.army.mil/>

Convention Center, Guard-sponsored anglers signed autographs, posed for photographs, talked fishing and service, all the while assisting Guard recruiters and leaders in telling the National Guard story.

Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, Director of the Army National Guard, called the National Guard and FLW a strong partnership.

"We're all about service," the general said. "What we like about fishing is the discipline, the drug-free environment, and service to the nation. Those are the things FLW does so extremely well, and everybody out here represents that, and that's the same thing we ask of our soldiers."

Just like wearing the military uniform of the National Guard, wearing the uniform of National Guard Fishing draws attention.

On Day 2, National Guard professional Scott Martin even took the time to chat up the locals while fishing along the private docks on the Lexington bank of Lake Murray. He stood in his boat with his bright yellow "National Guard" team shirt glistening against the water. A whole family came to the shoreline, cameras in hand, to check out the action. The sleek National Guard boat caught their eye.

"I like your boat," a young lady

called out to Martin.

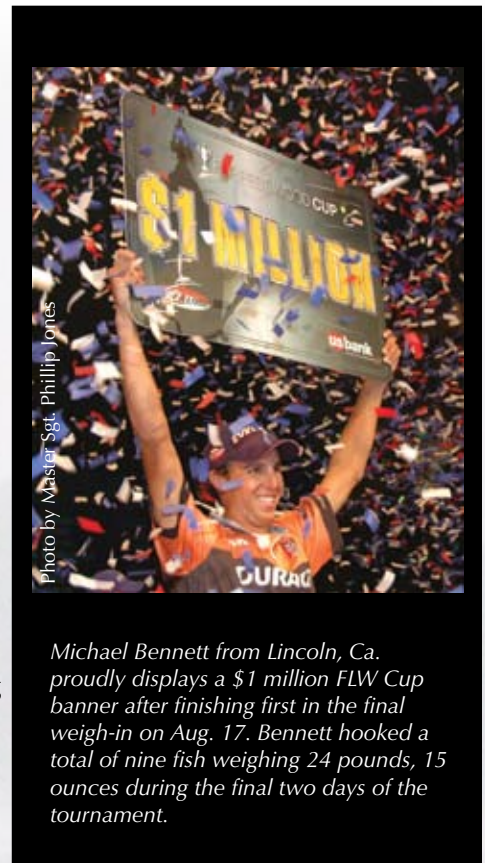
"We're pulling for you," said another lady.

"I appreciate that," he replied cordially, still casting his line inches from the bank where they stood. "Maybe I can land you a big bass to take a picture of."

The fish don't always cooperate, but eventually, the pros find them. The pro that found the biggest catch was 24-year-old Michael Bennett, who took home the million-dollar check after the final day weigh-in.

Staff Sgt. Steven David, a recruiter for the South Carolina Air National Guard, performed the National Anthem five times during the four-day event. One perk that came with that was a meet-and-greet with hosts of the Fox Sports banner "The Best Damn Sports Show Period." David, a Detroit native, especially enjoyed meeting show host John Salley, who played on several NBA-title-winning Detroit Pistons teams.

"It was an awesome experience for me," David said. "It was an honor to sing the National Anthem and represent the Guard at such a huge event. It was something I'll never forget, and hope to get the opportunity to do it again. I got a lot of positive feedback and some recruiting leads too."



Michael Bennett from Lincoln, Ca. proudly displays a \$1 million FLW Cup banner after finishing first in the final weigh-in on Aug. 17. Bennett hooked a total of nine fish weighing 24 pounds, 15 ounces during the final two days of the tournament.

Photo by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones



Photo by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones



Photo by Maj. Scott Bell



Photo by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones

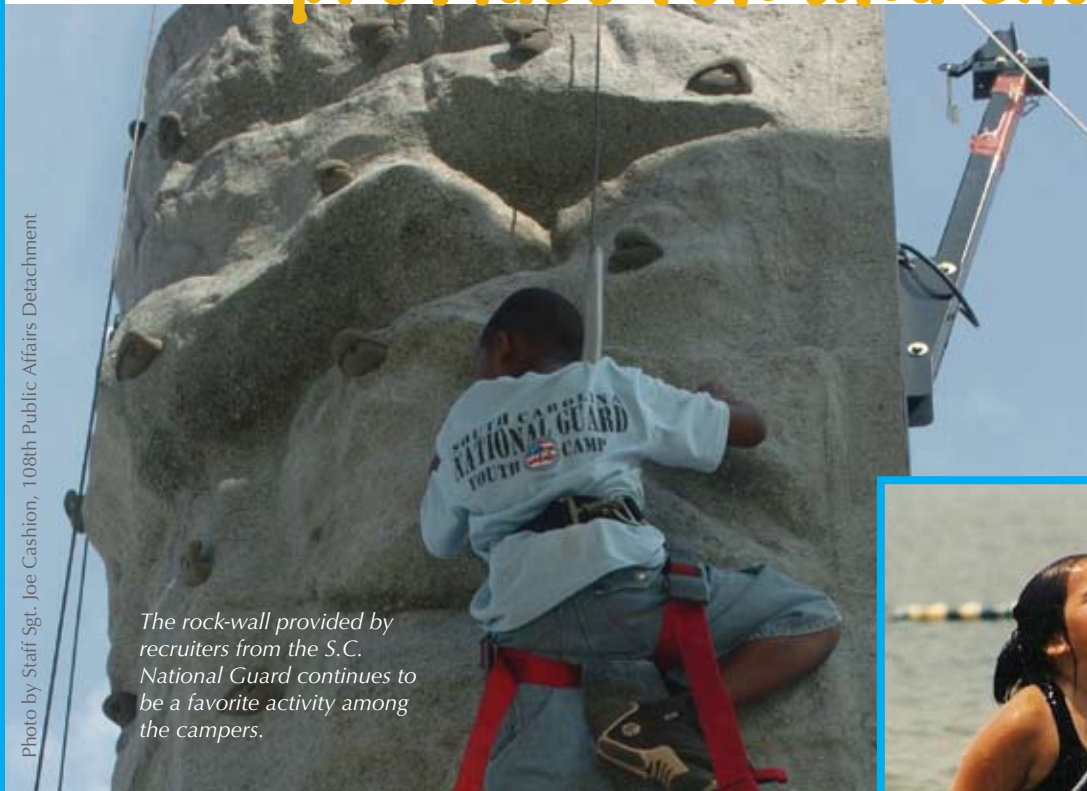
Former "American Idol" contestant Staff Sgt. Steven David of the S.C. Air National Guard awes the \$1 million FLW Cup crowd at the Colonial Center with an inspirational performance of the National Anthem prior to a weigh-in.

The family of Spc. Derrick Scurry receives the National Guard Bureau's Patriot Family Award in recognition of their commitment to Scurry's continued service to our nation during a time of war. Scurry served with the 218th Brigade Combat Team in Afghanistan the past year and volunteered for six additional months to assist the brigade's replacements.

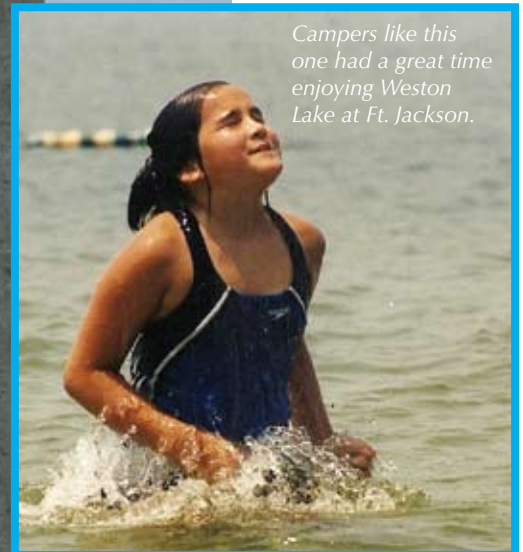
National Guard Junior World Champions Lowell Turner III (left) of Bradford, R.I. and Kyle Raymer (right) of Brandenburg, Ky. proudly display their trophies after two days of competition on Lake Monticello. Turner won the 11-14 age division and Raymer won the 15-18 age division. Both received a \$5,000 scholarship from the National Guard.

National Guard Youth Camp provides fun and excitement

Photo by Staff Sgt. Joe Cashion, 108th Public Affairs Detachment



The rock-wall provided by recruiters from the S.C. National Guard continues to be a favorite activity among the campers.



Campers like this one had a great time enjoying Weston Lake at Ft. Jackson.

Photo by Shannon Marsh, S.C. Family Programs Office

Story by Staff Sgt. Joe Cashion, 108th Public Affairs Detachment

EASTOVER, S.C. – More than 100 children of South Carolina National Guard Soldiers and Airmen took part in the 2008 edition of Youth Camp, August 1-9, 2008, at the McCrady Training Center.

The children, ages 10-13, participated in activities such as canoeing, swimming, rock-climbing and many others during a fun-filled week in a mild military setting.

Maj. Gen. Stanhope Spears, the Adjutant General, says that many of the children have been through a difficult time in the past few years as their parents have deployed in support of the Global War on Terror.

“I admire these youngsters because it hasn’t been easy for many of them,” Spears said. “And I am proud of all of them because they truly represent that while the mission comes first, strong families will always be the backbone of the South Carolina National Guard.”



Maj. Gen. Stanhope S. Spears, the Adjutant General of S.C. (fourth row, far right), welcomes the campers and staff to the S.C. Military Museum.

Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian

STATE FAMILY PROGRAMS OFFICE

Helping Soldiers Reintegrate

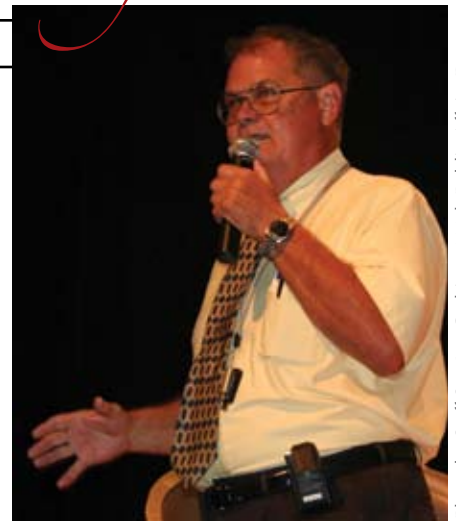
Story by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian

THE State Family Programs office has always prided itself in taking care of Soldiers and their families before, during and after deployments. Their latest efforts include a 60-day Reintegration Training program for the 132nd Military Police Company and 218th Brigade Combat Team; a Peer-Support Team and a Suicide Prevention Team.

Soldiers and families participating in the 60-day Reintegration Training spend a day at a comfortable location near their armory learning about transitioning from combat to home. They participate in break-out sessions geared to assist specific groups of Soldiers. Single and divorced Soldiers attend workshops during the day learning about how to cope with certain issues specific to them. Married Soldiers and spouses attend a "Making Marriage Work after Deployment" workshop to help them work through reintegration issues. Soldiers with children all attend a "Parenting/Reconnecting with Your Children after Deployment" workshop that teaches them skills in developing closer relationships. All of the workshops are taught by professional counselors and S.C. National Guard chaplains.

Each of the Soldiers and their family members have the opportunity throughout the day to visit Military Service Provider stations; Federal, State and County Service Provider booths and Veteran Service Organization booths where they can obtain counseling and guidance on a host of personal, legal, financial and veteran issues. "Our goal here is to make sure each of our Soldiers and their families get the support and help they need to help them successfully reintegrate into family life, their jobs and their community," said Lt. Col. (Ret.) Terry O'Connor, who heads the Reintegration Training for the State Family Programs office.

Other new programs such as the Peer-Support Team and Suicide Prevention Team are geared to assist individual Soldiers with personal issues which might develop as a Soldier reintegrates. "The Adjutant General wants to make sure when Soldiers need help, there's another Soldier there to help them," says Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steve Shugart, a full-time Chaplain for the National Guard. Both programs are supported by Soldier volunteers from around the state who attend training programs that teach them how to provide requested support from their fellow Soldiers. Based on anonymous questionnaires each Soldier fills out during Reintegration Training, Shugart believes nearly every Soldier has some sort of issue they need help working through. "It's our hope they all know we are here to help. We're just a phone call away," says Shugart.



Lt. Col. (Ret.) Terry O'Connor leads a 60-day Reintegration Training program at Florence-Darlington Technical College on July 26.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Joe Cashion, 108th Public Affairs Det.

Editor's Note: If you need help, please call the State Family Programs office at (803) 667-2059.



Soldiers and spouses listen attentively to a "Transitioning from Combat to Home" presentation from Lt. Col. Clarence Bowzer, Director of the State Family Programs Office on August 2. Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian.



Members of the S.C. National Guard Peer-Support Team gather around Chaplain Steve Shugart (kneeling-left) as he shares a humorous moment about his last deployment. Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian.



Groups such as the Low Country chapter of the American Red Cross are one of many organizations supporting returning Soldiers and their families during 60-day Reintegration Training. Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian.



GUARD DEDICATES RANGE

AFTER AVIATION *Hero*

Brig. Gen. Les Eisner, the Deputy Adjutant General of S.C. leads a standing ovation of spectators in congratulating Lt. Col. (Ret.) Wesley F. Walker and his wife Lt. Col. (Ret.) Kathie Walker during the unveiling of the 1st Lt. Wesley F. Walker range sign which was erected at Ft. Jackson on July 18.

Story and photos by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian

Nearly every S.C. Citizen-Soldier has conducted small-arms training at Ft. Jackson's Range 14. The next time our troops visit the range, they will find the name

of one of their own adorning the range's sign. On July 18, the range was dedicated after Lt. Col. Wesley F. Walker, the second highest decorated Soldier to retire from the S.C. National Guard. Walker, a Vietnam OH-6A Light

Observation Helicopter pilot received the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest award for valor, for his actions on a voluntary rescue mission behind enemy lines north of Quang Tri City, Republic of Vietnam, on July 11, 1972.



The Wesley F. Walker Range on Ft. Jackson.

Lieutenant Walker was serving as the wingman of a scout team on an emergency rescue mission when he and his team leader were engaged by extremely intense small arms, automatic weapons, 23 mm and 37 mm anti-aircraft fires and heat-seeking missiles. In

spite of intensity and ferocity of the hostile fire, he continued his flight, constantly returning fire for fire with deadly accuracy covering his team leader and assisting him in the search and recovery of a downed American

helicopter crew. Walker was responsible for the rescue of five American air crewmen and one Vietnamese marine, all of whom were severely burned or wounded. Walker prevented their certain capture or death at the hands of the enemy.

Farewell to Brig. Gen. Thomas Sinclair

Story by Capt. Katherine Lunn, 228th Signal Brigade Public Affairs

A pair of orange rocking chairs, symbols of both Clemson University and the U.S. Army Signal Corps, gave an emotional afternoon of commemoration a special touch as the 228th Signal Brigade bid a fond, informal farewell to their commanding general of seven years.

The ceremony for Brig. Gen. Thomas Sinclair and his family was held at the 228th Signal Brigade Readiness Center Saturday, July 12. The curtain came down on nearly four decades of toil, training and leadership before an audience of close family and friends. Sinclair and his wife received official plaudits as well as gifts from the heart, including two rocking chairs adorned with Clemson University tiger paws and the crossed semaphores of the Signal Corps. Sinclair was awarded numerous awards including the Bronze Order of Mercury from the Signal Corps Regimental Association, a prestigious award given to select individuals who have demonstrated the high standards of integrity, moral character, professional competence, and selflessness.

Col. Deb Rose, the S.C. National Guard's communications officer, presented the general with a lighthouse scene she painted herself. She reminisced about their friendship, which began when she was an officer candidate and Sinclair was a tactical instructor at the Palmetto Military Academy. Describing him as a Soldier's Soldier, she also recalled a more recent event at Fort Stewart, Ga., where they showcased the capabilities of the state Joint Incident Site Communications Capability. "When that event was over, it would have been very easy for General Sinclair to have gone back to the parking lot with the other VIPs," said Rose. "Instead, he rolled up his sleeves and went to work -- helping his Soldiers -- tear down and pack up equipment. That's the kind of man he is," said Rose.

Capt. Amanda Kane also presented Sinclair with an encased American Flag she flew in honor of the Sinclair family on Sept. 11, 2007 at Camp Phoenix while deployed with the 218th Brigade Combat Team. Kane feels the Sinclair Family treated everyone in the National Guard like part of their family. "A Soldier came up to me and said that no matter what time of day it was -- even if it was 5:00 in the morning -- they could count on Sinclair to be there at their unit to see the Soldiers off on their deployment, and to wish them luck."

During the informal ceremony, 228th Brigade deputy commander Lt. Col. Ronnie Finley asked Sinclair to autograph the "you it" football, a tradition Finley started as a way of recognizing the passing of leadership from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander. In a symbolic gesture, Sinclair then handed the football off to Col. (P) Gregory Batts, the brigade's new commander.

Sinclair began his active military service in 1969 as an infantry officer. He subsequently served in numerous command positions before becoming the 228th Signal Brigade commander on June 26, 2001. Sinclair's retirement from the S.C. Army National Guard was effective June 30. Sinclair is currently retired from his civilian job as well. He plans to spend his retirement enjoying his family, his wife Kathie of many years, children Tommy, Kelly, and Libby, and their six (soon to be seven) grandchildren: Grant, Blake, Maggie, McCain, Carter, and Allie, at their home in Union, S.C.



Brig. Gen. Tommy Sinclair (left) prepares to hand off the "you it" football.



Brig. Gen. Tommy Sinclair hands off the "you it" football to Col. (P) Gregory Batts, the 228th Signal Brigade's new commander.



Kathie (left) and Brig. Gen. Tommy Sinclair (right) pose with three of their six grandchildren during his informal farewell ceremony.



>> **LAYMON QUALIFIES AGAIN FOR ALL-GUARD MARATHON TEAM**



Story by Staff Sgt. Joe Cashion, 108th Public Affairs Detachment

LINCOLN, Neb. – For the fifth time in five attempts, South Carolina Air National Guardsman Lt. Col. Paul Laymon qualified for the National Guard All-Guard Marathon Team at the Lincoln – National Guard Marathon on May 4, 2008.

Laymon, commander of the 43rd Civil Support Team in West Columbia, finished 19th overall among the Men’s qualifiers with a time of 2:59:11. Laymon actually won the event in 1994 with a time of 2:29, his fastest ever. He says keeping a high-state of physical fitness is very important to him.

“Running and competing in multisport endurance events for over 35 years continues to be my passion and keeps me grounded,” he says. “I am currently training for the 2008 Masters Cross-Country championships to be held this fall as well as a Half Ironman here in South Carolina.”

The All-Guard Marathon team trains and competes in running events all over the nation.

>> **S.C. PISTOL TEAM FINISHES THIRD AT THE 49TH INTER-SERVICE MATCH**



Story by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian

The S.C. National Guard Pistol Team took home third place in the 22 caliber pistol match representing the National Guard in June during the nation’s 49th Inter-service Pistol match at Ft. Benning, Ga. South Carolina’s Pistol Team beat teams from the Marine Corps, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard before losing to two active duty Army teams. S.C. Pistol Team members include: Sgt. 1st Class Mitch Henson of Columbia, Staff Sgt. Nathan Wade of Greer, Sgt. Joseph Sellers of Sanford, N.C., Sgt. Christopher Price of Greenwood, Sgt. Eric Lawrence of Greenwood, Sgt. Corey Vickers of Honea Path and Cpl. Rene Wilson of Columbia.

>> GUARD RECEIVES LEGIONNAIRES' DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Story and photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian

The South Carolina National Guard was awarded the S.C. American Legion's distinguished public service of the year award on Friday, June 27 during the Legionnaires' state convention held at the Columbia Convention Center.

The award recognized the tremendous contributions Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen have made since the terrorists attacks on 9-11. Receiving the award for the S.C. National Guard was Brig Gen. (Ret.) John A. Shuler, Deputy Adjutant General of State Operations for the S.C. Military Department. Shuler thanked John Dellinger, Department Commander of the S.C. American Legion, on behalf of all S.C. Guardsmen.

To date, more than 8,800 Guardsmen have been called to serve in the Global War on Terrorism. While they have served proudly in such places as Iraq and Afghanistan, they also have been actively serving here in the homeland supporting a variety of homeland defense missions and responding to natural disasters.



(left to right) Brig Gen. (Ret.) John A. Shuler, Deputy Adjutant General of State Operations for the S.C. Military Department receives the South Carolina American Legion's Distinguished Public Service of the Year award on behalf of the S.C. National Guard from John Dellinger, Department Commander of the S.C. American Legion in Columbia, S.C.

>> KANE RECEIVES LEGIONNAIRES' S.C. WOMAN VETERAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Story and photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian

Capt. Amanda Kane (left), received the South Carolina American Legion Woman Veteran of the Year award from Anne Cash, Past President Parley Chairman (right) in Columbia, S.C. during the Legion's state convention at the Columbia Convention Center on June 27. Kane, a full-time Soldier with the S.C. National Guard, recently returned from a one-year tour in Afghanistan with the 218th Brigade Combat Team.





>> S.C. UNITS WIN BIG AT CLEA COMPETITION

Story by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian

Two S.C. National Guard units won top honors at the U.S. Army Chief of Staff's Combined Logistics Excellence Awards (CLEA) ceremony held in Alexandria, Va. on June 3. The 751st Maintenance Battalion took home the gold for the National Guard in the Logistics (Small) Category. Our Plans, Operations and Training Office won the silver for the National Guard in the deployment excellence category. The CLEA competition capitalizes on best practices and outstanding accomplishments of Army units' logistics functions. As units improve logistics readiness in supply, maintenance and deployment, the CLEA provides recognition for their efforts. The awards are given in 30 categories to active duty, Reserve and National Guard units.



Photo provided by Capt. Dylan Huff

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Martin Jennings, Spc. Nicolas Clark, Sgt. Terrance Robinson and Capt. Dylan Huff pose for a picture following their first-place finish following their unit's recognition at the CLEA Awards.



Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian

1st Row (left to right): Staff Sgt. Roger Cooper, Maj. Marion Bulwinkle, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jean Abrahamsen, Sgt. Tampa Crawford and Warrant Officer Candidate Amanda Day
2nd Row (left to right): Sgt. 1st Class Wayne Burton, Lt. Col. Scott Hogan, Sgt. Dixie Clegg, Sgt. Maj. James Jackson and Lt. Col. Todd Shealy.



>> REEF-X MAKES BIG SPLASH

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones, S.C. National Guard Public Affairs

Members of the Kingstree-based 1052nd Transportation Company unloaded old S.C. National Guard armored personnel carriers (APCs) at the Charleston Naval Base in June to be loaded on barges and dumped on an existing S.C. Department of Natural Resources artificial reef project off the Georgetown, S.C. coast. Eight trucks, hauling two APCs at a time, delivered 24 APCs along with several loads of container frames to the base for the reef exercise.



>> MONCKS CORNER CELEBRATES OUR SOLDIERS

Story and photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian

On the heels of their year-long deployment to Afghanistan, Soldiers of A-Company were welcomed home by the Town of Moncks Corner at a Flag Day event called "Moncks Corner Celebrates Our Soldiers." The Veterans of Foreign Wars -- Post 9509, of Moncks Corner, hosted the June 14 dinner event at no cost to the Soldiers and their spouses. Following the dinner, Capt. Brandon Pitcher (left), commander of A-Company thanked Pat Pruitt (center, president of the ladies auxiliary) and Bill Pruitt (right, post commander) for Post 9509's support of A-Company Soldiers and their families during the past year.



>> GAFFNEY'S PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS HONORED AT PEACH FESTIVAL

Story by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian

Gaffney residents honored three of South Carolina's bravest on June 21, during the town's annual Peach Festival. Three Purple Heart recipients, Spc. Tony Beason, Staff Sgt. Greg Burton and Staff Sgt. Jeff Crosby of the 218th Brigade Combat Team were presented their medals by their brigade commander, Brig. Gen. Robert Livingston. The Soldiers, who recently returned from a year-long deployment to Afghanistan, said they were grateful that the town held this special "Honoring Those Who Served" event for them.



U.S. Congressman John Spratt watches as Brig. Gen. Robert Livingston, commander of the 218th BCT pins the Purple Heart medal on Spc. Tony Beason, Staff Sgt. Greg Burton and Staff Sgt. Jeff Crosby.

Photo provided by William Cash

S.C. Guardsmen during the

“Great War” -Part III

Editor’s Note: As South Carolina commemorates the 90th anniversary of its “Great War” veterans this year, the “Swamp Fox History” pages of this magazine are proud to showcase the third installment (Fall 1918) of our four-part series called “S.C. Guardsmen during the ‘Great War.’”

*Story and photos by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian
118th Infantry archival data courtesy of The S.C. Military Museum*



Wide belts of strong German wire protected the entire Hindenburg Line system.

A PIECE OF HISTORY

“It is therefore with pride that the 118th Infantry claims the honor of having been the first American Regiment to face the Hun in his position of security...this regiment not only repulsed all attacks delivered against it, but made a substantial advance in the face of machine gun opposition from this so-called impregnable system,” Col. Orrin R. Wolfe, 118th Infantry Regiment Commander, “Operations of the Hindenburg Line, General Orders No. 22, October 4, 1918.”



From late August until midnight of September 23, S.C. Army National Guard units moved closer to the front lines of Germany’s Hindenburg Line system. When they relieved the 1st Australian Division in the Gouy-Naroy Sector on the 23rd, they were facing the strongest part of the Hindenburg Line. The Australians had suffered such severe casualties at that sector -- a single company of our 118th Regiment was -- in reality, relieving an entire Australian Battalion. By the night of the 26th, the Palmetto Regiment, under the command of Col. Orrin R. Wolfe, was dug in and prepared to straighten a crescent-shaped 1,200-yard portion of their 3,750-yard front. Preceded by a 10-minute artillery barrage on September 27, the First and Third Battalions of the 118th advanced this portion of the line several hundred yards. During this engagement, the S.C. Army National Guard’s 118th Infantry Regiment became the first American regiment to deliver a successful attack against the “impregnable” Hindenburg Line system.

The following morning, a two-day allied artillery barrage of high-explosive and shrapnel began impacting the German lines. Company D, which had suffered the most in the previous day’s battle taking the leftmost portion of the 1st Battalion, 118th Infantry regiment line, was again ordered to attack. This time, the American 27th Division was ordered to assist with the attack from D-Company’s left. With the 27th unable to mount a successful attack, D-Company advanced as far as Malakoff Woods under enfilading machine gun fire before having to fall back to their line. During the day, the Germans mounted several attacks all along the 118th Infantry Regiment’s line attempting to retake what they had lost a day previous. None



The mouth of the Hindenburg Tunnel on the Canal de St. Quentin. The ruins of Bellicourt can be seen in the background.

were more vicious or costly than their attempt to outflank D-Company. The unit lost three Soldiers during the fight and numerous wounded before Companies E and F from 2nd Battalion were called in to support.

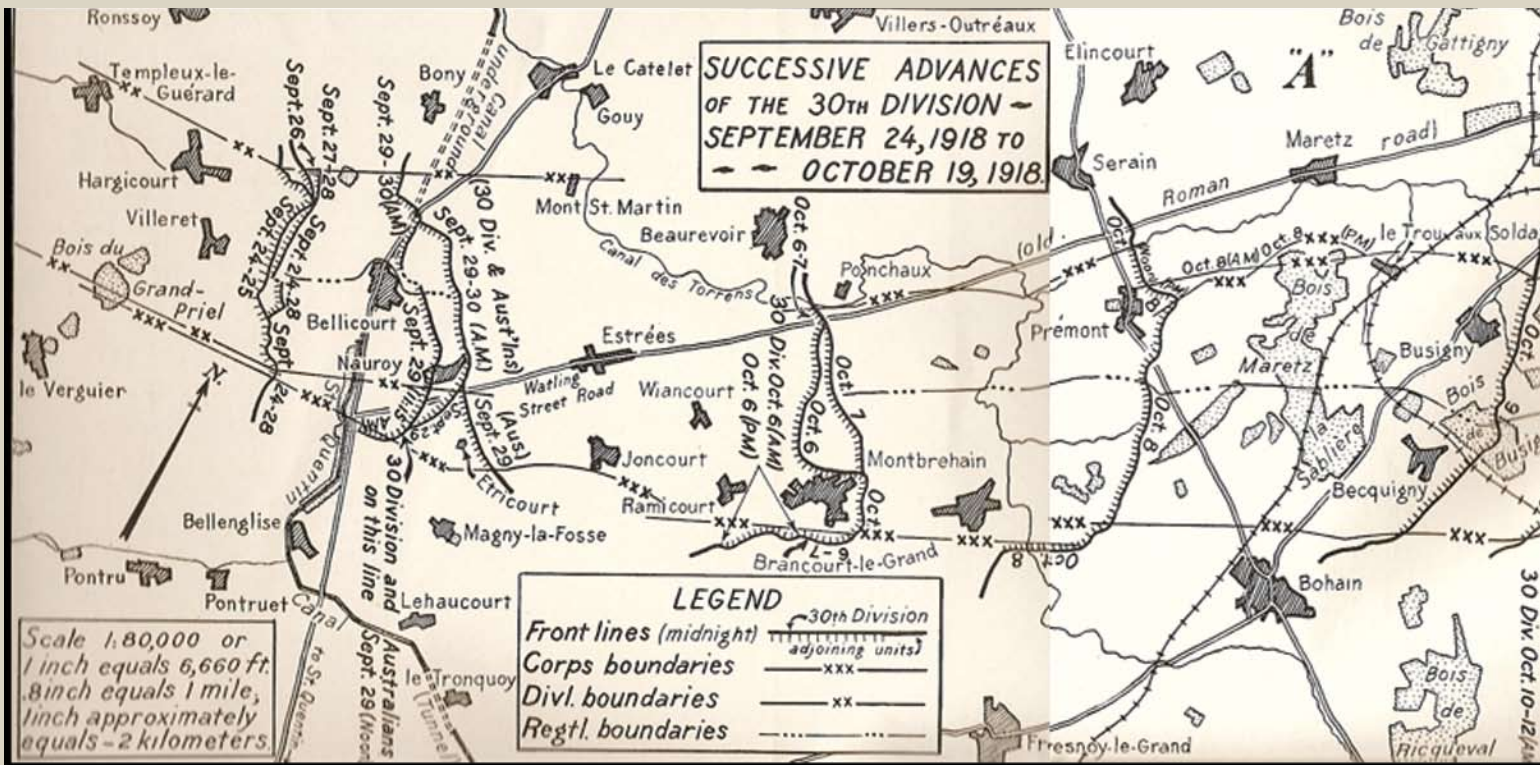
By the night of September 28, the 118th Infantry Regiment had lost 33 Soldiers during America's first, successful foray against the impenetrable Hindenburg Line system. The unit was then relieved by the 120th Infantry Regiment and placed in Divisional Reserve to support the 119th and 120th Infantry Regiments during the September 29 attack to take the St. Quentin Canal and break the Hindenburg Line. Under heavy fog and extremely poor visibility, the units began fighting forward at 5:30 a.m. Historian Elmer A. Murphy described the ensuing fight this way: "Never in the history of mankind, has there been such a coordinated concentration of instruments to deal death and destruction effected by nation against nation, and it is nothing short of miraculous that any human being was able to survive the wall of shot and shell that eventful September day." The 119th Infantry was the first to break the Hindenburg Line about 7:30 a.m. The 120th Infantry captured Bellicourt by 9:30 a.m. Capt. L.C. McFadden's 2nd Battalion of the 118th Infantry supported the 2nd of the 119th Infantry in closing up a 1,000 yard gap on the 27th Division's right flank by leading his battalion into the main Hindenburg trench approximately 1,500 yards north of Bellicourt. At daylight on September 30, the Hampton Guards (F-Company) under the command of 1st Lt. George J. Read were ordered to take a section of the Catelet-Nauroy line 600 yards to the front. Read and his men quickly took the objective while under heavy enemy artillery and machine gun fire. Sadly, Read, who was one



A view of the battlefield over which the 30th Division fought in the drive through the Hindenburg Line. The cliff in the distance was fortified with hundred of machine guns.

of 10, 118th Infantry Regiment officers killed-in-action during the war, was killed by enemy artillery four days later while reconnoitering 2nd Battalion battle positions near Montbrehain.

Freedom is not free and Citizen-Soldiers from both Carolinas and Tennessee had paid the price accomplishing what many thought impossible – breaking and keeping the Hindenburg Line! South Carolina's 2nd Battalion alone had suffered 111 wounded, 5 killed during the previous day's fight. Miraculously, the 30th Infantry Division had accomplished an incredible feat along the strongest point of the "impregnable" Hindenburg Line System. The men had advanced over 3,000 yards across a front of 3,750 yards. Ominously, one of the German officers captured that day said in despair "all is lost – there is nothing between you and the Rhine." Despite the joy these men must have felt following their great victory, there was little



This map documents the advances of the 118th Infantry Regiment from their attack on the “impenetrable” Hinderburg Line system through the “Battle of La Selle River.”

time for celebration. The “Battle of Montbrehain” (see section “A” of map) lay ahead.

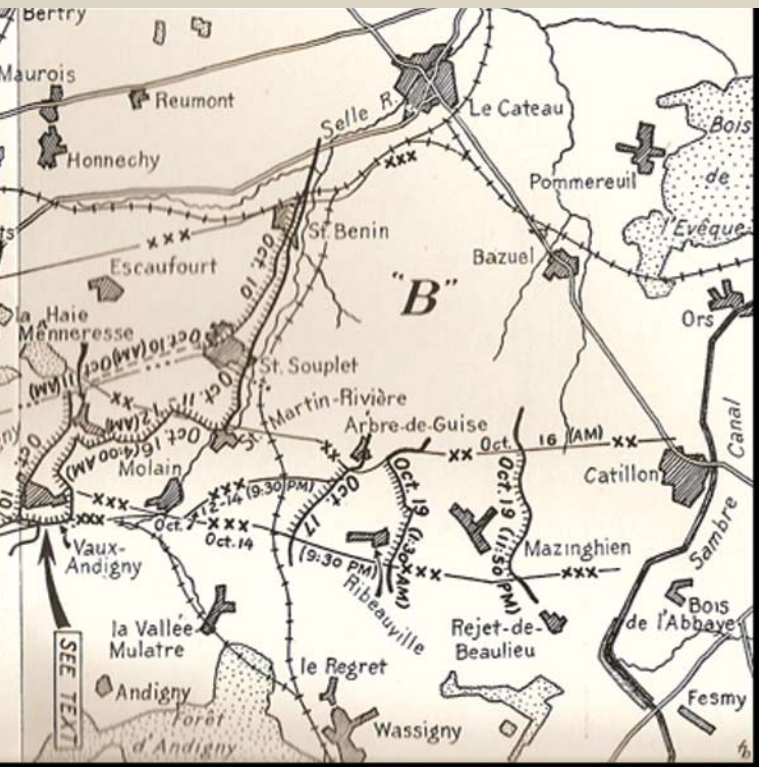
On the night of October 5, the 118th relieved the 2nd Australian Division’s defensive flank near Montbrehain. This front extended some 7,300 yards in length. From October 6-12, the Palmetto Regiment fought in the Battle of Montbrehain. It was during this period, five of our six S.C. National Guard Medal of Honor recipients would receive our nation’s highest honor for valor (for details on their achievements, please see “S.C. Guardsmen during



The S.C. National Guard’s 118th Infantry Regiment passes through Brancourt Le Grande on October 11, following their relief by the 27th American Division at Vaux-Andigny.

the Great War, Part 1,” in the Spring 2008 edition of the Palmetto Guard Family Magazine at: <http://guard.sc.gov/>). There were several attacks conducted on October 6 and 7, to straighten and strengthen the line for a major offensive on October 8. The attack began promptly at 5:10 a.m. The Regiment’s 2nd and 3rd Battalion began a driving thrust forward with 1st Battalion in reserve and the 117th Infantry Regiment at its left. They advanced a distance of 5,800 yards capturing Brancourt, 16 German Officers and 750 enlisted men by 1:30 p.m. The regiments stopped to allow the British 25th Division on the left flank and British 6th Division on the right flank to catch up. By October 9, it was obvious to Gen. John J. “Blackjack” Pershing’s forces that the Germans were fighting a rearguard action. The 118th was moving so quickly that a detachment from 2nd Battalion surprised some 300 German bicycle troops attempting to mount and ride away that the Germans dropped their bikes and ran for their lines. By October 10, the 118th occupied the western limits of Vaux-Andigny. During the night, the Old Hickory Division was relieved by the 27th American Division. This allowed time for the artillery to catch up and begin the final phase (engagements occurring on and after October 17) of the 30th Infantry Division’s World War I operations known as the “Battle of La Selle River,” (see section “B” of map).

By October 15, allied artillery was in place to assist with the assault across the La Selle River. Here, natural terrain and German damming operations would give them the advantage in all but one place – a very narrow, 1,000 yard point -- directly in front of the American line where



Men of the 118th Infantry Regiment march forward in the streets of St. Martin Riviere, France.



German prisoners-of-war are marched back behind the lines for processing.

the river could easily be crossed. Still, steep slopes on either side of the river rose some 200 feet above its banks and German light artillery and machine guns held the high ground. On the 15th, while scouting German positions near the narrow point our 118th and the 117th would cross two days later, the S.C. National Guard's sixth Medal of Honor recipient valorously attacked enemy positions to protect his platoon from artillery and machine gun fire. Later that night, the 118th and 117th returned to the identical positions the 27th Division relieved them of on October 10. At 8:00 a.m. the next morning, an allied artillery barrage opened up on German targets across from the proposed allied crossing. Around 4:00 a.m. on October 17, in very dense fog, the 118th's units began moving into position. Third Battalion would lead the attack, followed by 2nd Battalion with 1st Battalion's C and D Companies in reserve to support the 3rd regiment. Their objective would be the heights across the river and the high ground east of L'Arbre de Guise overlooking Ribeaupville. The 117th would attack Molain and join the 118th overlooking Ribeaupville. At 5:20 a.m., the 118th and 117th charged across the narrow 1,000 yard river crossing. According to historians, some of the best soldiers left in Germany were there waiting for them. The German Saxon Marine Division in Molain was among them fighting to the bitter end giving no thought to surrender. Fortunately for the 117th, the dense fog had disoriented advance units of the 118th's 3rd Battalion. These 3rd Battalion units met the 117th in Molain, captured the village and helped

to quickly hand it over to the British. Overall, the mission dealt a tremendously devastating blow to the Germans who had held out hope they could stop the allied invasion at the river. By day's end the 118th had advanced 4,000 yards on a 1,000 yard front.

The next day, the 120th Infantry Regiment relieved the 118th on the front line. The regiment's 1st Battalion provided flank protection for the 60th Infantry Brigade until October 20. From 5-20 October, the unit had penetrated a distance of 18,000 yards of enemy territory, 15,000 yards of which was made while the regiment was in the front line. The Citizen-Soldiers of the S.C. National Guard had played their part in "the war to end all wars," and on October 20, the whole regiment marched to Montbrehain for some much needed rest. A few weeks later at the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, Germany signed the armistice ending World War I.

Be watching for your
edition of the 2008
Palmetto Guard
Family Magazine's
"Year-In-Review" this
December!

In December, we will be highlighting the tremendous accomplishments of the S.C. National Guard during 2008. We'll also be concluding our four-part historical series on the highly decorated Palmetto Regiment during World War I. From the signing of the armistice on November 11, 1918 to their triumphant return home to South Carolina, you'll learn why General John J. Pershing called their achievement something "which is scarcely to be equaled in American history."



Encamped at Le Mans, France awaiting transport home, several 118th Infantry Regiment officers pose for a photographer.

Front row (left to right): Maj. W. L. Gillespie, Lt. Col. W. F. L. Hartigan, Col. P. K. McCully, Maj. C. C. Wyche and Maj. W. D. Workman

Back row (left to right): Capt. R. T. Brown, Capt. F. M. Mack, Lt. Col. Davis Walley and Capt. W. F. Murray



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