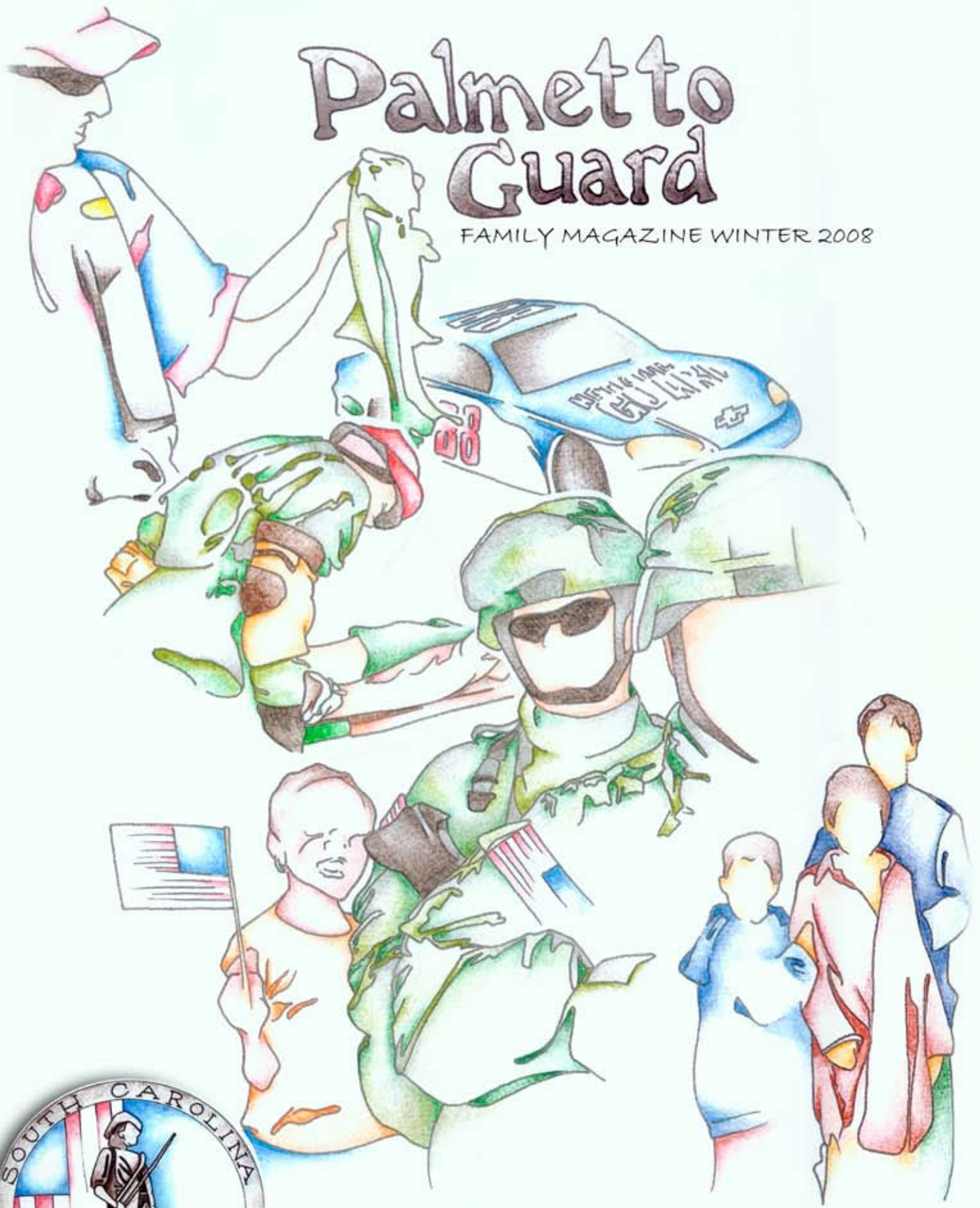


Palmetto Guard

FAMILY MAGAZINE WINTER 2008



year in review.

The State of South Carolina
Military Department



Office of the Adjutant General

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

September 26, 2008 was a very special day for the Soldiers and families of the S.C. National Guard. The Charleston chapter of the Association of the United States Army hosted an Army Community Covenant signing at The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina. Approximately 100 leaders from throughout the Lowcountry came together not only to recognize the tremendous sacrifices of military members and families like yours, but to reassure you that the people of the Lowcountry stand ready to assist you in every way possible. This symbolic and public commitment to the continued support of our Soldiers, families and veterans is something each of us can be thankful for this holiday season. So far, about 50 other communities around the country have done something similar since the community covenant initiative began last year.

Speaking of last year, it's hard to believe 2008 passed by so quickly! What a great year this has been for the S.C. National Guard. Our state continues to receive accolades for the incredible accomplishments of our Soldiers in Afghanistan, Iraq and here at home. I am always proud to hear about what our Guardsmen and their families are doing to help protect and defend our country.

Simple things such as clothing and toy drives are helping our Soldiers aid impoverished children in war-torn areas and giving them hope for the future. Your generosity at home is also greatly appreciated. The state Family Programs Office has been able to assist many needy Guard families this past year because of the fact you are looking out for one another. In this spirit, let me challenge each of you to take the time to call five of your fellow Guardsmen this holiday season and let them know you are thinking of them.

We have something else to be thankful for this year. The Soldiers of the 132nd Military Police Company and 218th Brigade Combat Team will be home with their loved ones this Christmas. However, please remember to keep the Soldiers of A Co, 2nd of the 149th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB) who are in Iraq and B Co, 2nd of the 238th GSAB, who will deploy soon, in your thoughts and prayers along with their families. Thank you for your honorable service, dedication to duty and selfless commitment to our nation during this time of war. May you all have a wonderful and joyous holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stanhope S. Spears".

Stanhope S. Spears
Major General, SCARNG
The Adjutant General



Peter E. Kunkel, Assistant Secretary of the Army poses with Dot and Maj. General Stan Spears following the Lowcountry's Army Community Covenant signing at The Citadel. Sept. 26.

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

Palmetto Guard

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Photo by Cpl. Roberto DiGiovine, S.C. National Guard Photographer



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Our "Year-In-Review" pages are once again filled with historic 2008 events submitted by our major subordinate commands and 169th Fighter Wing.

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



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During Military Appreciation Days at Clemson University and The Citadel, our recruiters helped make both events fun for everyone.

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



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Sea World's "Believe" show is one of many "America Supports You" efforts dedicated to supporting our military families.



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: www.scguard.com/news/magazine.aspx.

About the cover: Artist Kari Mulder drew this special "Year-In-Review" cover of the magazine to highlight key events covered in the Palmetto Guard Family Magazine during 2008. Featured (top to bottom) are the \$1 million FLW Cup fishing tournament, the #88 National Guard Car driven by Dale Earnhardt, Jr., Vigilant Guard 2008 and the Guard's welcome home efforts for the 132nd Military Police Company and 218th Brigade Combat Team.



Brig. Gen. Ronald W. Huff poses with his family following his promotion ceremony. Pictured (left to right) are his daughter-in-law Kathryn, Brig. Gen. Huff, grandson Dylan, son Kelley, son Capt. Dylan Huff, grandson Jack and Carolyn, the general's wife.

Chief of Staff promoted to general in SCARNG

Story by 1st Lt. Jamie Mulder, JFHQ Public Affairs

Photo by Cpl. Roberto DiGiovine

Ronald W. Huff, the full-time chief of staff of the South Carolina National Guard, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general on October 10, 2008.

Brig. Gen. Huff has served in the South Carolina Army National Guard for 37 years. He enlisted in 1971 and served as a noncommissioned officer until he earned

his commission in 1981 through the Palmetto Military Academy.

Huff currently serves as commander of the 59th Troop Command. As the chief of staff, he supervises all major subordinate commands within the South Carolina National Guard and acts as their official channel of communication with the deputy adjutant general and adjutant general.

Huff has held numerous positions within the South Carolina National Guard, to include automotive platoon leader, company

commander, executive officer, battalion commander, director of maintenance and director of logistics.

Huff has earned an associate degree in Automotive Technology from Midlands Technical College and his bachelor of science degree in General Studies from Liberty University. He also holds a graduate degree in Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Huff is married to Carolyn and they have two sons, Dylan and Kelley, a daughter-in-law, Kathryn and two grandsons, Dylan and Jack.

Brig. Gen. Huff FAST FACTS

- > Received his commission in 1981 through the Palmetto Military Academy.
- > Currently serves as the S.C. National Guard Chief of Staff and commander of the 59th Troop Command.
- > Has a master's degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.
- > Graduate of the Associate Logistics Executive Development Course, Army Logistics Management College
- > Graduate of the Joint Course on Logistics, Army Logistics Management College

S.C. Military Museum More Than Doubling in Size

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

The S.C. Military Museum will be more than doubling in size in 2009. The new facility will add 9,000 sq. ft. to the existing 7,000 sq. ft. of space the museum has occupied since opening in February 2007. Besides preserving the S.C. National Guard's 338 year history, the museum has also become a tremendous educational

outreach asset to schools, educators, historians and others with an interest in S.C. history. The museum is supported primarily through private donations to the S.C. Military History Foundation.

To learn more about the S.C. Military Museum, please visit the website at: www.scguard.com/museum/index.html

Tours can be scheduled by writing the museum at: 1 National Guard Rd., Columbia, S.C. 29201, or calling (803) 806-4440.



Brig. Gen. Les Eisner, Deputy Adjutant General of S.C. and Chairman of the S.C. Military Museum Board, reviews the plans for the museum expansion with Buddy Sturgis, S.C. Military Museum Director and Curator.



The S.C. National Guard JAG Corps meet together for the first time since the terrorist attacks on 9-11.

S.C. Tops States in Number of JAGS

Story by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian, Photo by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones, JFHQ Public Affairs

The S.C. National Guard reached a significant milestone in 2008. For the first time, South Carolina topped all states in the number of Judge Advocate Generals (JAGs) serving. Col. Barry Bernstein, State Judge Advocate for the S.C. National Guard, feels this is a significant achievement given much larger Guard states such as California, New York, Pennsylvania and Texas have ten times the number of available resident attorneys in their states.

"This is a tribute to the South Carolina bar, but mostly the

retention of very dedicated Soldiers that continue to serve in spite of hardships," said Bernstein. Since the terrorist attacks on 9-11, 24 of the state's 27 JAGs have been awarded Global War on Terrorism campaign medals. Some of his new JAGs also bring with them experience from the first Gulf War and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

According to Bernstein, the S.C. JAG Corps held a special meeting in October to celebrate their achievements and service to the state. "It marked the first time since 9-11 that all of our JAG officers were in one place together," said Bernstein. The event also gave the members of his JAG team the opportunity to wish one of their own a safe second tour in Afghanistan.

Busy Year for the

The S.C. Army National Guard's AH-64A Apache aircraft are scheduled to be replaced by the more modern AH-64D Longbow aircraft in February 2009.



Stories and photos provided by the 59th Aviation Troop Command

2008 was an extremely busy year for the 59th Aviation Troop Command. We deployed our UH-60L Blackhawk Company, A Co, 2nd of the 149th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB), to Fort Sill, Okla. in June 2008. There, they trained for two months prior to mobilizing in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They are doing an outstanding job in Iraq right now and we continue to wish them and their families the best.

We also began the process of mobilizing our CH-47D Chinook Detachment, Detachment 1, B Co, 2nd of the 238th GSAB. They moved to Fort Sill in November 2008 and from there will deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Our AH-64A Apache Battalion, 1st of the 151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, began turning in aircraft in preparation for their transition to an AH-64D Longbow battalion. We will see the last AH-64A on our flight line in

April of 2009. The 1st of the 151st and the Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF) will begin receiving the AH-64D Longbow aircraft in February 2009. The fielding and train-up for this new airframe will be a nearly three year process.

Our 351st Aviation Support Battalion (ASB) has had a busy year as well. They were instrumental in the success of the state level Vigilant Guard exercise in April 2008. Their support of sling-load rigging operations, Point of Distribution operations, and overall logistical support was superb. The 351st ASB also played a big role in the mobilization for Hurricane Hanna.

The 2nd of the 151st Security and Support Helicopter Battalion also played a vital role in Vigilant Guard conducting search missions, VIP transport, supply movement flights and command and control. The 2nd of the 151st found out recently that they have been selected as the Aviation Command and

Control element for a KFOR rotation beginning in late 2009.

We have also begun planning for the building of AASF # 2 at the Donaldson Center in Greenville, S.C. It is scheduled to be completed in mid-2011.

Lastly, we said farewell to Col. Tony Barber who accepted a new assignment at the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office and welcomed our new commander, Col. Dale Hall. Best wishes and safe flying from all at the 59th Aviation Troop Command.



The 59th Aviation Troop Command Change-of-Command ceremony.



A UH-60L carries a sling-load during Vigilant Guard 2008.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ronald "The Bone" Edwin Claypool retired from the S.C. National Guard on July 14, 2008, after 42 years of service. His final assignment was serving as the Tactical Operations Officer for the 59th Aviation Troop Command.



59th Aviation Troop Command



Photo by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones, JFHQ Public Affairs

Heroes Save Life

On April 16, 2008, Master Sgt. Kelly Springer departed the Eastover Armory enroute to the TAG Complex to resolve a Soldier pay issue for his unit. While waiting at the stop sign in front of the armory for traffic to clear on Hwy 378, Master Sgt. Springer's automobile was struck in the driver's side door by another vehicle traveling eastbound on Hwy 378 at approximately 60 miles per hour. The impact of the vehicle crushed the driver's side compartment of Springer's small automobile and pushed his car from the roadway.

Soldiers inside the Eastover Armory heard the collision and rushed to the scene of the accident to render assistance. The first three Soldiers on the scene were Capt. Sharon Parker, Sgt. 1st Class Scott Byrd, and Sgt. Mark Massaro. Without hesitation and with complete disregard for their own safety, these Soldiers entered the vehicle that was covered with glass fragments and twisted metal to find it was occupied by Springer. They checked Springer's vital signs and found that he had no pulse and was not breathing. They opened Springer's airway, which allowed him to begin breathing again. Parker then checked again for a

(left to right) Sgt. Mark J. Massaro, Sgt. 1st Class Scotty L. Byrd, Capt. Sharon Z. Parker stand beside Master Sgt. Kelly D. Springer (seated) after receiving their S.C. Medal of Valor Awards on September 3, 2008.

pulse and found that his heart was now beating and continued to stabilize Springer. Byrd and Massaro then focused on stopping Springer's massive blood loss and applied medical compresses to Springer's head and other areas where the bleeding was the worst. Parker then began intravenous therapy to help Springer's body cope with blood loss and to counter the effects of shock.

All three Soldiers remained inside Springer's crushed vehicle providing aid until EMS arrived approximately fifteen minutes later. An EMT technician on scene credited Massaro, Byrd and Parker with saving Springer's life. It took the EMTs and the Eastover Fire Department over ninety minutes to extricate Springer from the wreckage of his vehicle. Springer was then airlifted to Richland Memorial Hospital for further evaluation and emergency treatment. After numerous surgeries, therapy, and rehabilitation Springer -- although confined to a wheelchair -- returned home to his wife and two small children on August 15, 2008. Without the quick responsiveness and expertise of Massaro, Byrd and Parker, this accident would have certainly been fatal for Springer.

New Chapter Begins for “Guardians of the Lowcountry”

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

The “Guardians of the Lowcountry” began a new chapter in their storied history following their Freedom Salute ceremony in Beaufort on October 12. The Soldiers of Troop B, 202nd Cavalry, who recently returned from Afghanistan with the 218th Brigade Combat Team was reorganized and redesignated the 131st Military Police Company, 51st Military Police Battalion.

Few Soldiers in the nation can claim the history of South Carolina’s Guardians of the Lowcountry. The forebears of the Beaufort Volunteer Artillery (fifth oldest U.S. military organization), the Soldiers proudly display battles streamers from the Revolutionary War, Civil War, Operation Noble Eagle and now Operation Enduring Freedom.

In their new Military Police role, the Guardians of the Lowcountry will begin playing a vital part in both the South Carolina and U.S. Homeland Defense emergency response plans.



Photo provided by the 51st MP Battalion

The 51st Military Police Battalion was activated under the command of Lt. Col. Lawrence Miller and Command Sgt. Maj. Carroll Welch in Florence, S.C. on July 12, 2008. Miller accepted the battalion colors from Brig. Gen. Ronald Huff during the ceremony at Florence Memorial Stadium.

178th Engineer Battalion HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2008

Story and graphic provided by the 59th Troop Command

Following an 18-month deployment to support Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, the 178th Engineer Battalion re-deployed to South Carolina in 2008.

Approximately half of the battalion deployed as part of the 218th enhanced Separate Brigade. Soldiers of the 178th Engineer Battalion rose to the occasion and completed the mission.

During the mobilization, a portion of the 178th Engineer Battalion that stayed behind transitioned the battalion from a standard Divisional Mechanized Battalion to a modular Engineer Battalion in order to become a part of today’s Army.

As the reintegration and transition stages end, training will increase. The top priority is to get the Soldiers job qualified and then to train as collective force.

New leadership took over in 2008, as Lt. Col. Duane Haimbach accepted command from Lt. Col. Blake Storey and Command Sgt. Maj. William Rouse transferred the command sergeant major mantle to 1st Sgt. (promotable) Joseph Medlin.

Additionally, the 178th partnered with Rolling Thunder to sponsor several events, including “Ride to the Rock” and a benefit barbeque, to raise \$10,000.00 for the Wounded Warrior Project. Over 300 riders took part in the ride, traveling from Blacksburg, S.C., to Chimney Rock, N.C.



751st CSSB Highlights

Story provided by the 59th Troop Command

During 2008, the 751st Maintenance Battalion converted to a Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. In February, a Change of Command Ceremony was held honoring outgoing Commander, Lt. Col. Michael Schulman and welcoming incoming Commander, Lt. Col. Jody Dew. The following month, a Change of Responsibility Ceremony took place with Command Sgt. Maj. Chet Welch succeeding Command Sgt. Maj. Preston Gee.

The 751st began preparation for "The Road to War" this year. Annual training was conducted at Clark's Hill, during which Soldiers were evaluated in over 70 battle drills. Every Soldier attending became combat lifesaver qualified. Profuse training and high morale will aid the 751st in preparing for their upcoming deployment. The 751st will be able to tell their units to "Follow Me" and they'll reply "Lead the Way."

1050th Transportation Battalion Year in Review

Story provided by the 59th Troop Command

A new chapter of the Transportation Corps in the South Carolina National Guard began on January 1, 2008 with the activation of the 1050th Transportation Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Gregory M. Cornell, in Newberry, S.C.

The 1050th Transportation Battalion is a Light/Medium Truck Battalion that can accomplish a wide range of missions.

The Battalion includes the 1052nd Transportation Company in Kingstree, the 1053rd Transportation Company (activated March 1) in Bennettsville and Jefferson, and the 1055th Transportation Company in Laurens.

Throughout the year, the 1052nd Transportation Company, commanded by Capt. Denton Smith, supported missions to include Reef-X, Operation Vigilant Guard, and Annual Training at Bluegrass Army Depot.

During Vigilant Guard, the battalion successfully conducted transportation haul missions throughout the state, operated the transportation bus system in Beaufort County, and provided movement command and control.

For the 12th consecutive year, the S.C. Army National Guard has partnered with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources to donate surplus materials to the Marine Artificial Reef program, a collaborative project known as Reef-X. The S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) successfully deployed 24 armored personnel carriers to the Georgetown and Georgetown near-shore artificial reef sites on Sept. 30. The S.C. Army National Guard cleaned and prepared the armored personnel carriers in Columbia. The 1052 Transportation Company of Kingstree delivered them to the Charleston Naval Base. Soon after, the vehicles were transported by barge to reef sites off the coast of Georgetown.



An armored personnel carrier is pushed into the ocean during Reef-X.

Photo by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones, JFHQ Public Affairs

251st Rear Operations Center

Top Ten

- 1** Inactivated UIC WTCPPA in Jan. 2008.
- 2** Activated UIC WX4PAA in Jan. 2008
- 3** Implemented new MTOE 51613LNG01 effective Sept. 1, 2008 with 49 personnel authorized in March 2008.
- 4** Moved from the Springdale Armory in West Columbia to the Williamston Armory in March 2008.
- 5** Achieved R-1 (highest equipment readiness rating) in July 2008.
- 6** Promoted Master Sgt. Michael Norris to Sgt. Maj. He became the unit's first Sgt. Maj. under the new MTOE for the 251st ROC.
- 7** Implemented new MTOE 51613LNG01 (2009 MTOE) effective Sept. 1, 2009 with 42 personnel authorized on Sept. 19, 2008.
- 8** Achieved R-1 and S-3 (state equipment on hand goal) in Sept. 2008.
- 9** Began information sharing group with Rear Operations Centers across the Army National Guard.
- 10** Began Distributive Battle Simulations training on Military Support to Civilian Authorities (MSCA) Plan.

DUTY ABOVE ALL

Editor's Note: In August, the 151st Field Artillery Brigade cased its colors. As a final tribute to the men and women who served in this major subordinate command, we have included a brief history of the unit so posterity may never forget the brigade's prestigious legacy of "Duty Above All!"

Many of the members of the 151st Field Artillery Brigade can trace their heritage back to family members who lived in the Sumter area and served under General Thomas Sumter during the American Revolution. Others have ancestors who served during the American Civil War. It wasn't until 1877 when the Sumter Light Infantry (Sumter State Arms) was formed that the town of Sumter had its first formally organized military unit.

The unit went through various reorganizations and redesignations over the next twenty-five years. On July 6, 1916, the unit, now designated Company L, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, was mustered into Federal service and reported to Camp Moore, Styx, (Lexington County), South Carolina on July 24, 1916. On August 5, 1916, the unit was ordered to duty at El Paso, Tex. Upon arrival on August 13, 1916, the unit was assigned to the 10th Provisional Division.

The unit returned from Mexican Border service on March 16, 1917, and mustered out of service on March 20, but was mobilized for service in World War I on July 25, 1917, and drafted into Federal service on August 5. Here the unit was converted and redesignated on September 12, 1917, as the 23rd Company, 55th Depot Brigade, an element of the 30th Division. However, on October 1, the company was broken up and personnel transferred to units within the 30th Division. The unit was mustered out of Federal service at Camp Moore, Styx, South Carolina in late April 1919.

Executive Order 8627, dated January 4, 1941, ordered the unit, now designated Headquarters, 3rd Battalion, 178th Field Artillery, to active military service for 12 months

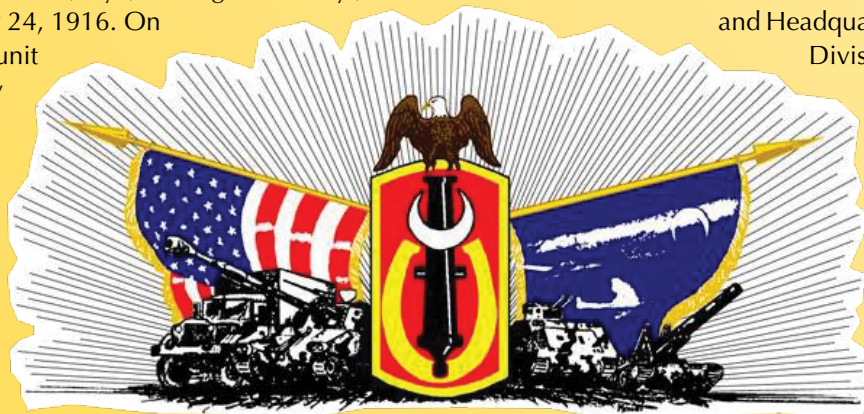
effective January 27, 1941. The unit remained in Federal service throughout World War II and was inactivated November 1, 1945, in Italy. During the war the unit served in combat operations in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy and participated in campaigns for Tunisia, Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, North Apennines, and the Po Valley. The unit was awarded the French Croix-de-Guerre with Silver-Gilt Star for its participation in the Battle of Monte Cassino.

Following World War II, no National Guard unit existed in Sumter until January 30, 1947, with the formation of Battery C, 248th Field Artillery Battalion. On April 1, 1959, the unit was consolidated and designated Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 51st Infantry Division Artillery. In 1963, the

51st Infantry Division was disbanded and the unit was redesignated Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 151st Artillery Group and commanded three field artillery battalions: The 1st Battalion, 178th Artillery, 3rd Battalion, 178th Artillery, and the

4th Battalion, 178th Artillery; all were part of the South Carolina National Guard. On March 1, 1973, the unit's designation was changed from 151st Artillery Group to 151st Field Artillery Group. The unit's designation was changed for the final time on June 8, 1979, when it was redesignated the 151st Field Artillery Brigade.

Outside of state supporting duties for such emergencies as Hurricane Hugo in 1989, the unit did not see Federal service again until select personnel were called to active duty on August 12, 2006, to serve with the 1st Cavalry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08.





151st FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE CREST

The distinctive badge for the 151st Field Artillery Brigade was originally approved on March 12, 1971. The scarlet and gold (yellow) are colors used by Artillery units. The six stars represent the unit's World War II service in Tunisia, Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, North Apennines, and Po Valley. The colors red, white, and green are the national colors of Italy, while the colors green and red with the single gold star allude to the award of the French Croix-de-Guerre with Silver Gilt Star, World War II, for actions at the Battle of Monte Cassino. The gamecock refers to General Thomas Sumter, known by his English adversaries as "The Gamecock of the Revolution" for whom the city and county of Sumter, South Carolina are named. The horseshoe relates to the unit's historical background as a horse-drawn Field Artillery unit and the saltier symbolizes the unit's firepower.



151st FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE PATCH

The shoulder sleeve insignia of the 151st Field Artillery Brigade was approved on December 22, 1978. The scarlet and yellow are the colors used for Artillery. The Revolutionary War period cannon barrel and the horseshoe are historic symbols for Artillery. The horseshoe recognizes the importance of the horse to move the Artillery pieces to and on the battle field. The cannon barrel represents the firepower of Artillery and is also used to reference the Artillery branch in today's United States Army. The crescent was adapted from the state flag and the emblem worn on the hats of South Carolina's Revolutionary War Militia.

An Extremely Active Year for the 218th Regiment (Leadership)

Story and photos provided by the 218th Regiment (Leadership)

This was an extremely active year for the 218th Regiment (Leadership), Regional Training Institute (RTI). Our school has directly supported major changes to the SCARNG force structure as a part of Palmetto Transition and Army Transformation, while itself continuing to undergo significant transformation within the Total Army School System (TASS). We supported and trained 4,544 Soldiers in a widely diverse variety of curriculums including -- Heavy Equipment Operator, Combat Engineer, Officer Candidates, Warrior Leadership, Basic Noncommissioned Officer, First Sergeant, Pre-Command, Combat Lifesaver, Military Police and Motor Transport Operator. The Regiment continued its tradition of outstanding instruction, ensuring that all courses are fully accredited while maintaining its status as the only RTI in the country with three separate units recognized as "Institutions of Excellence". While many of our students are from South Carolina, the new TASS structure has opened the RTI to students from all states across the country, as well as to Soldiers from the Army Reserve and Active Components.

The regiment changed Commanders on May 1, 2008. Col. Mark G. Dykes assumed command from Col. Dale A. Hall. The regiment also changed Command Sergeants Major this year. In January 2008, Command Sgt. Maj. John L. Long assumed the duties of Command Sgt. Maj. Gale M. Williams.



A Student operates a D7F Bulldozer during the 21E10 MOS-T Class 555-08 training. Students gain many hours of experience on four different pieces of Engineer Equipment during the two week course at the McCrady Training Center in South Carolina.

The Regiment has three separate units recognized as "Institutions of Excellence!"



A 2nd Battalion (OCS), 218th Regiment (LDR) Officer Candidate performs one of the numerous Warrior Tasks/Battle Drills during Phase I OCS at the Palmetto Military Academy.



Training at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) Site: Students conduct Fire Team Movement into the Mock City.



Maj. L.J. Saunders, 2nd Battalion (OCS), 218th Regiment (LDR) Company Commander provides advice and counsel to Officer Candidates following Retreat. Officer Candidates are required to become Subject-Matter Experts on all areas of Drill and Ceremony as a part of their intense training to become Second Lieutenants.



2nd Battalion (OCS), 218th Regiment (LDR) Class 60 and staff at annual staff ride, Gettysburg Historical Battleground. This photo was taken at the South Carolina Monument.



The United States Army Sergeants Major Academy recognized 3rd Battalion (NCOES), 218th Regiment (LDR) during the NCO Academy April 2008 accreditation as an "Institute of Excellence", the highest accreditation possible.

1st Battalion (EN) 218th Regiment (Leadership)

1st Battalion (EN), 218th Regiment (LDR) trained a total of 68 students in FY-08 in 21E (Heavy Equipment Operator) MOST and 21B (Combat Engineer) MOST.

2nd Battalion (OCS) 218th Regiment (Leadership)

2nd Battalion (OCS), 218th Regiment (LDR) trained a total of 128 officer candidates during Phase I at McCrady Training Center (South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, Florida and Puerto Rico). Twenty-five candidates attended Phase II & III in South Carolina culminating in the commissioning of 16 second lieutenants.

3rd Battalion (NCOES) 218th Regiment (Leadership)

3rd Battalion (NCOES), 218th Regiment (LDR) trained a total of 4,200 students in FY-08 in the First Sergeants Course, the Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course (PH1), and the Warrior Leaders Course.

4th Battalion (GS) 218th Regiment (Leadership)

4th Battalion (GS), 218th Regiment (LDR) trained a total of 148 students in FY-08 in the Pre-Command Course, Combat Lifesaver Courses, 88M (Motor Transport Operator) MOST Phases I & II and the 31B (Military Police) MOST Phases I&II.

218th has very
Successful 2008



Story and photos provided by the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

1. As part of Operation Enduring Freedom, the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade police mentor teams trained the Afghan police to such a degree that they were able to secure their districts for the first time since U.S. forces began training them. As a result of the 218th's contribution, Maj. Gen. Cone, active duty commander of all Afghan Security Development, ordered all training and mentoring forces to fall under the direction of Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) Phoenix. Gen. McNeil, International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Commander, wanted CJTF Phoenix U.S. representation in all corps and brigades based on our highly successful approach.

2. The 218th helped the Afghan Army

double their size to over 50,000 soldiers. For the first time, Afghan Army units were externally validated to be able to operate independently. The 218th did this while actually increasing force protection over previous levels at CJTF Phoenix and during a period of expansion of Forward Operating Bases (FOB) from 50 to over 200.

3. 218th Soldiers performed many humanitarian operations during their deployment to include providing clothing, school supplies and soccer balls to an orphanage.

4. In April, the 218th units participated in the South Carolina's Vigilant Guard exercise in Beaufort. The 218th successfully deployed 458 personnel who worked out of two FOBs. They provided both logistics support as well as search and rescue teams.

5. In January the redeployment of 218th





Soldiers began with the return of the 1-263rd Armor. While the majority of our Soldiers redeployed home, 114 members of the 218th voluntarily extended in Afghanistan and Iraq.

6. The 1-178th conducted successful annual training at Ft. Stewart in June. They completed tables 13 through 15 without any major accidents or damage to equipment.

7. The redeployed Soldiers of the 218th began their reintegration in July with their 60 day briefs. They finished in November with the final Freedom Salute Ceremonies.

8. The 218th has felt the impact of their deployment through the injuries sustained by many of its Soldiers. Those Soldiers were transferred to Warrior Transition Units at seven different sites. Brig. Gen. Livingston, the 218th Maneuver

Enhancement Brigade commander and Mona Johnson, Family Programs Coordinator for the 218th, worked tirelessly to ensure these Soldiers and their families were adequately taken care of. In September, the 218th hosted "The Wounded Warrior Retreat" at Clarks Hill to thank those families and recovering Soldiers for their sacrifice.

9. While 1,200 members of the S.C. Guard were being reintegrated into the ranks throughout the state, the 218th Brigade was undergoing a major reorganization. Dubbed "Palmetto Transition", the reorganization is a transformation from a Composite Combat Arms Brigade of five battalions and three separate companies into a Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB) comprised of four double "A" battalions and three separate double "A" companies. Two of the AA Companies are

brand new: the 111th Signal Company and the 108th Chemical Company. The 218th inactivated its MI Detachment and transferred the 178th Engineer Battalion to 59th Troop Command along with the 202 Cavalry which transformed into Military Police.

10. In September, the 218th performed a Leaders Call at the McCrady Training Center. Ninety key leaders of the brigade and its subordinate battalions and units attended to learn about the new MEB structure, the brigade commander's vision, and how it will support the State's Military Support to Civilian Authority plan. Each staff section conducted classes and shared guidance and the State conducted demonstrations of their simulations systems.



“The Biggest and the Best” Year Ever for 228th Signal Brigade

Story and photos provided by the 228th Signal Brigade

1. During the Vigilant Guard exercise, the 228th managed the integration of communications assets from various states. The 228th had 41 Soldiers participate in the exercise.



2. The 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion fielded \$43 million worth of Joint Nodal Network (JNN) equipment. The 151st is the second National Guard unit to field the new communications gear. Half of the battalion is currently in JNN training.



3. Maj. John Ramsey and Master Sgt. Terry Boiter spent two weeks training with United Kingdom Signal Soldiers in England and Scotland. The UK / 228th Signal Brigade Communications Exchange Program has been in effect for several years.

4. Ten Soldiers from the 228th Mobile Communications Detachment deployed in September. This is the unit's eighth deployment in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Desert Storm. The unit also deployed five Soldiers to support the 3rd U.S. Army commander's communication team.



5. In August, the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) package was transferred from the 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion to the 228th Signal Brigade Headquarters. The JISCC package will continue to deploy in support of local, state and federal disaster missions.



6. Brig. Gen. Gregory Batts took command of the 228th Signal Brigade in a ceremony held on July 13th. Brig. Gen. Thomas Sinclair was the 228th Commander for six years before his retirement. Upon completion of the ceremony, the 108th, 105th and 111th Signal Battalions cased their colors for the final time.



7. The 108th, 105th and 111th Signal Battalions were inactivated in a ceremony held August 31st. Over 400 Soldiers and two- thousand pieces of equipment were transferred to other units in the brigade and throughout the state.

8. The Greenville Technical College partnership with the 228th expanded with the addition of a duty Military Occupational Specialty Qualified program designed to train information system analysts. The two-month course saves an estimated \$70,000 per student compared to the cost of the 17-week resident course at Fort Gordon. In 2008, 13 Soldiers from the 228th were MOS qualified at Greenville Tech.

9. A partnership with Aiken Technical College was initiated by the Facilities Maintenance Office, which entails a relocation of a detachment of B Company, 198th Integrated Tactical Signal Battalion who currently reside in Abbeville, S.C. This relocation will allow the brigade and recruiters more access to the Aiken area recruiting market.

10. Thirty-seven Soldiers from the 228th returned home from Afghanistan with the 218th Brigade Combat Team, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. All were assigned to Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix, with the mission of training and mentoring the Afghan National Security Forces.

BY THE NUMBERS

1. Managed communications integration during VG08.
2. Fielded \$43 million of Joint Nodal Network equipment.
3. Two Soldiers trained with United Kingdom Signal Soldiers.
4. Fifteen Soldiers deployed in September.
5. JISCC was transferred to Brigade Headquarters.
6. Brig. Gen. Tommy Sinclair retires after six years in command.
7. 105th, 108th and 111th case colors.
8. Greenville Technical College partnership expanded.
9. Aiken Technical College initiated.
10. Thirty-seven Soldiers from the 228th returned home from Afghanistan.



Maj. Gen. Herbert L. Newton, 263rd AAMDC Commander (right) discusses issues with Mister John Buckley at Exercise America's Shield in Gulfport, Miss.



Maj. Donnie Garrison (right), 263d AAMDC Tactical Director, works side by side with his Air Force counterpart during Virtual Flag 08-04 in Anderson S.C.



Van Mullinax, 263d AAMDC Command Sgt. Maj. assists in Tactical Operations Center set-up at Exercise America's Shield '08 in Gulfport, Miss.



Another Robust Training Year for the 263rd AAMDC



Story and photos provided by the 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command

The 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) had a robust 2008 training year. In October 2007, the unit participated in Vigilant Shield '08, a national level exercise. In November, the unit conducted the Culminating Training Event (CTE) for Task Force (TF) Gator, comprised of Fla. National Guard Soldiers rotating to the National Capital Region (NCR). In December, key staff participated in the Defense of

the Homeland Multi-Agency exercise which was successful in preparing the unit for interagency coordination in the event of a deployment within the U.S.

The new year began with coordination events: National Level Exercise '09, Exercise America Shield and the CTE main planning conferences. These key events were vital in preparing the 1-204 Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Battalion,

Miss. Army National Guard, for lead up to their deployment in support of the NCR Integrated Air Defense (IAD) mission under Operation Noble Eagle (ONE).

We were thankful to have Maj. Timothy Canchola, Sgt. Maj. Andy Bolt, Master Sgt. Michael Hoskins, Sgt. 1st Class David Cartee, Sgt. 1st Class David Dilworth, Staff Sgt. Michael Binninger,

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Hunter, Spc. Jeremy Bell, Spc. Wayne Kelley, Spc. Jon Middleton and Spc. Seth Hungiville return safely from their mission in Afghanistan. Capt. Dominick Martin mobilized with Ohio for another NCR-IADS rotation.

The 263rd AAMDC continued on with its mission by conducting the NCR Operational Readiness Evaluation, which evaluates all facets of NCR-IADS operations. The team, led by Lt. Col. Bill Brown, has conducted these evaluations since the 263rd AAMDC took the mission. Refinements in operations will ensure compliance in executing the ONE rules of engagement no-default mission.

The 2-263 had a busy year participating in Palmetto Coast, part of the Vigilant Guard Exercise, as well as executing a home station annual training to conduct Avenger and Sentinel Table training. In May, Lt. Col. Vernon Baldwin passed command to Lt. Col. Raleigh Jones. Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion/2-263rd moved from its armory into the 263rd AAMDC facility. They also formed a new maintenance unit, led by Capt. John Roe and 1st Sgt. James Johnson.

Exercise America Shield was conducted in Gulfport, Miss., to prepare the 1-204, the next Air Defense National Guard battalion rotating in, for the CTE. In July, the unit executed the Joint Air Defense of the Homeland table-top exercise which develops the tactics, techniques and procedures for a homeland defense deployment. The 263rd AAMDC also participated in the North American Aerospace Defense Command exercise, Ardent Sentry.

Full-time Soldiers participated in Earthshine, in Toxaway, N.C. in August. This event was designed to promote team building and enhance the unit full-time staff with seminars including policy writing, human resource directives and counseling training.



Sgt. Maj. James Hooten, Col. Fred Suhr and Lt. Col. Roger Drumm discuss issues during the 263rd AAMDC dining-in at the Hilton Garden Inn, Anderson, S.C.

The year culminated in August with the execution of Virtual Flag. This simulated Distributed Mission Operation was sponsored by First Air Force and included participation of the 164th ADA Brigade, Fla. National Guard. This simulation enhances Air Force ability to exercise key personnel and pilots without the expense of aircraft participation.

The Family Readiness Group provided great support to families of mobilized Soldiers as well as executing a wonderful Christmas dinner. Maj. Gen. Herbert L. Newton, Commander, would like to thank the 263rd families, friends and the FRG for their never ending support.



HARD WORK IS PAYING OFF FOR AIR GUARD



Story by Maj. Jim St. Clair, JFHQ Public Affairs, Photos by Cpl. Roberto DiGiovine, JFHQ Photographer

The South Carolina Air National Guard (SCANG) just completed a year-long effort culminating in its second Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) at McEntire Joint National Guard Base in two years.

Last year at this time, the Air Guard earned an “Excellent” rating from the Air Combat Command Inspector General (IG) for its Phase I ORI, which evaluated the SCANG’s ability to mobilize from a peacetime posture to a wartime posture. This month, the IG will evaluate the SCANG’s ability to meet their wartime tasking during the Phase II ORI.

The Air Guard has been preparing for the ORI all year with a series of Operational Readiness Exercises (ORE). The last dress rehearsal for the ORI was held in October at McEntire. Over a two-day period, McEntire was transformed into a forward operating base known as “Base X”. To further complicate matters, Base X was divided into several sectors. Each sector could have completely different threat levels to deal with.

During the ORE, SCANG Airmen practiced responding to simulated missile attacks, terrorist attacks, and

chemical warfare attacks all while simultaneously launching and recovering sortie after sortie of F-16s. One of the major graded categories the IG will be focusing on is the ability to survive and operate, or ATSO. ATSO refers to the ability of an installation to protect, sustain, or restore its mission capability across a spectrum of conditions including attack and contamination. For example, during a simulated gas attack, Airmen are expected to don their gas masks and Military Oriented Protective Posture gear within nine seconds. After the attack is over, Airmen are expected to find and report all unexploded ordinance.

In an address to the SCANG after October’s ORE, Col. Scott Williams, the 169th Fighter Wing Commander, commented that the Air Guard has momentum going into December’s ORI. He felt the Air Guard performed well under a very complex and challenging chemical warfare environment.

“It went on for two days, and you didn’t give up. Everybody is doing their part. Your hard work is paying off,” Williams said.



Clemson University Army ROTC cadets salute during Taps after a wreath was placed next to the boots and rifle display to honor fallen Soldiers during halftime ceremonies.



CLEMSON

SHOWS SUPPORT FOR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

Story and photos by Sgt. Erica Knight, 108th Public Affairs Detachment



Clemson University's Company C-4 Pershing Rifles perform at the pep rally before the Clemson vs. The Citadel Military Appreciation game on Sept. 6, 2008.

CLEMSON, S.C. – Autumn is a time to head back to school, cooler weather, and football. But every year Clemson University uses this time to honor its military heritage. From its early beginnings as a military academy here in the Palmetto State, 470 Clemson students have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country since World War I.

On September 6, Clemson University hosted The Citadel during its Military Appreciation Day, where many alumni currently serving in the military and veterans from both schools were honored during a special half-time ceremony.

During the pre-game festivities, the South Carolina National Guard (SCNG) supported the event with a recruiting display featuring vehicles and a rock-climbing wall out on Bowman field.

The SCNG also designed the coin used in the pre-game coin toss. The coin has 62 stars in honor of the 62 Soldiers from S.C. killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Prior to the game many fans stopped to speak with cadets, veterans and other service members attending the game.

"This game is a great show of support for the men and women in uniform and the continued support for what they are doing," said Master Sgt. Richard Hundley, the senior military instructor for Clemson University's Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC).

After the football teams retreated to their locker rooms at intermission, all of the veterans and current service

members from both schools entered the field and filled the west endzone.

The flag for each branch of service was presented at the front of the formation and raised during the playing of their song. Families of fallen Soldiers from South Carolina were introduced and recognized.

At the other end of the field, seven Clemson Army ROTC cadets saluted while "Taps" was played during the placement of wreaths in front of the boots and helmets signifying the fallen Soldiers. The Clemson University Company C-4 Pershing Rifles conducted a 21-gun salute.

Just before the teams returned to the field, Charles Murray, a Medal of Honor recipient from World War II, was honored for his service.

"This half-time ceremony showed respect for everyone in the military," said Cadet 1st Lt. Deshawn Smith, Clemson Army ROTC. "It was a way to let Soldiers know we haven't forgotten them."

Hundley said when he first started working with the Clemson Army ROTC program he was surprised how much support the program got from the National Guard.

"The program gets a lot of cadets through the National Guard," said Hundley. Smith added, "The ROTC program gets better every year."

Although this memorial ceremony centered on a football game, the outcome of the game was not the focus of the day. Taking the time to remember those who served, past and present, and those who gave their lives was the common bond shared by all fans.

Editor's Note: Colleges throughout S.C. host Military Appreciation Days in honor of our veterans. We plan to highlight similar events at other schools in the future.

THE CITADEL

Shows its Appreciation to the Military

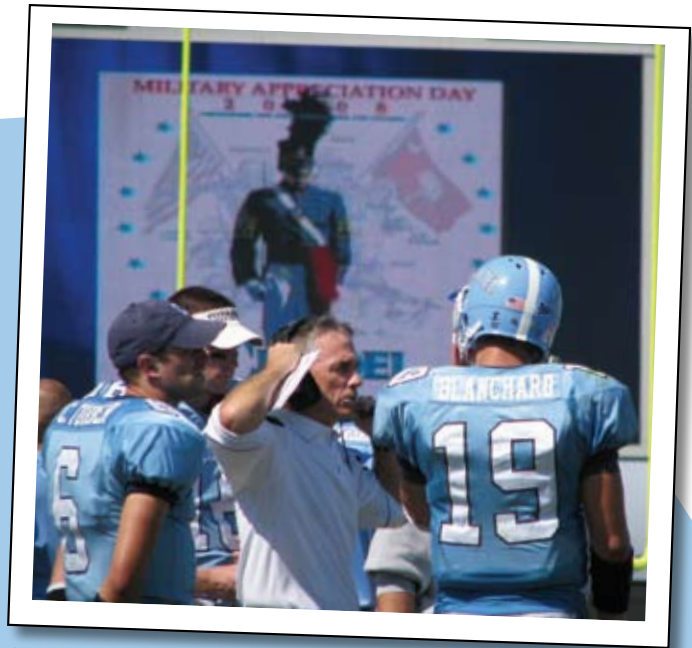
*Story and photos by Maj. Scott Bell,
S.C. National Guard Historian*

The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, came into existence in 1842 (in large measure) because of the leadership of the Washington Light Infantry (WLI), one of the state's oldest S.C. National Guard units. Since the first cadets received the keys to the WLI's armory gates on Marion Square in downtown Charleston, The Citadel has had a close relationship with the military. At the time, the Corps of Cadets not only guarded the City of Charleston's arms, ammunition and powder for its defense, they also received a college education during a time few could afford one.

Over the past 166 years, the S.C. National Guard, WLI and The Citadel have continued working closely for the benefit of all South Carolinians and the nation. In fact, a large number of active cadets and Citadel alumni (who are or have been members of the Guard) have been called upon to serve in our nation's wars including the current Global War on Terrorism. On Sept. 27, The Citadel showed its appreciation for the tremendous sacrifices of our men and women in uniform during a special Military Appreciation Day.

Military members and their families received discounted tickets to The Citadel vs. Western Carolina football game. During the playing of the National Anthem, U.S. Navy F-18 Hornets flew over Johnson-Hagood Stadium. Prior to kickoff, Citadel grads aboard the USS *Iwo Jima*, stationed in the Persian Gulf, performed the official coin toss to determine who would receive the ball. The patriotic spirit of the day was then followed by the U.S. Army's Golden Knights Parachute Jump Team dropping in at mid-field to deliver the game ball.

Andre Roberts, an All-American wide receiver in the Football Championship Subdivision runs after making his 10th catch of the day for 135 yards. Roberts is a finalist for the Walter Payton Award which will be announced on Dec. 18.



Kevin Higgins, Citadel Head Football Coach discusses the next play with Quarterback Bart Blanchard during The Citadel's 34-14 victory over Western Carolina on Military Appreciation Day.



A member of the U.S. Army's Golden Knights lands mid-field with the Game Ball.



HERE'S TO THE HEROES



Anheuser-Busch welcomes our military and their families.



Shamu salutes America's heroes during the "Believe" show.

HERE'S TO THE HEROES

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

Since the terrorist attacks on 9-11, numerous organizations around the United States have generously supported our military heroes and their families. Anheuser-Busch companies such as Sea World are one of the many who have teamed with the Department of Defense's "America Supports You" campaign to communicate support for our military. In fact, throughout Sea World in Orlando, "Here's to the Heroes" signs welcome our troops and their loved ones.

So far, over 3.2 million members of the military and their families have enjoyed free admission to Anheuser-Busch theme parks. Given single-day

admission prices of \$69.95 for adults and \$59.95 for children, Sea World is helping to make it easier for military families to afford a very fun, entertaining and inspirational vacation.

"It's inspirational to all of us to meet these military families and know a hero has just come home from a deployment and can spend quality time here with the family," said Dan Brown, Executive Vice-President and General Manager of Busch Entertainment Corporation's (BEC) three flagship parks based in Orlando -- SeaWorld, Discovery Cove and Aquatica.

He calls the opportunity to meet these special guests very heartwarming. "It's

"It's inspirational to all of us to meet these military families and know a hero has just come home."

— Dan Brown

an honor for us and we're truly humbled by what you folks in the military do for us to keep us free," said Brown.

While a Sea World show like "Clyde and Seamore Take Pirate Island" is hysterical and the Broadway-like theatrical spectacular "Blue Horizons" is entertaining, Brown considers the inspirational "Here's to the Heroes" salute during the killer whale show "Believe" to be the most touching. Dedicated to our Armed Forces and their families, Brown says the park regularly receives the greatest letters from their guests following Believe.

"During the show, we ask all of our veterans to stand and be recognized," said Brown. He feels the overwhelming response from the thousands in each crowd is a wonderful acknowledgement to those who have given it all for our freedom. "We appreciate what you do, what you do for us and the freedom that we have," said Brown.



Sea lions Clyde and Seamore keep the crowd laughing throughout their show.



Enthusiastic dolphins prepare to mystify the crowd during an incredible acrobatic routine at Blue Horizons.

To learn more about "Here's to the Heroes," please visit: www.herosalute.com/

To learn more about "America Supports You," please visit: www.americasupportsyou.mil/

"Next Greatest Generation"

PROJECT FEATURED AT AASLH

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

The S.C. National Guard's "Next Greatest Generation" project made history in September becoming the first National Guard historical effort to be featured at an American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) session. AASLH is the only comprehensive national organization dedicated to state and local history.

The Next Greatest Generation project began three years ago when the S.C. National Guard, American Legion Post #6 in Columbia and Perry McLeod from Richland Northeast High School's oral history program teamed up. Their goal -- to gather oral histories and artifacts of S.C. Guardsmen now -- while memories and memorabilia of their Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) service can be easily preserved.

McLeod's students interview GWOT veterans, scan artifacts, digitally capture the information and produce Next Greatest Generation documentaries. Many S.C. Guardsmen are now featured on S.C. Educational Television's "Generations of Heroes."

Andrea Thorpe, the curriculum coordinator for Generations of Heroes feels the effort is a great way for students to learn more about American history. "We all learn from stories so putting these student-produced documentaries out on the world-wide web helps others who may not have access to first-hand sources," said Thorpe. She also feels the Next Greatest Generation project helps ensure students with an interest in history, documentary production and journalism have a way to develop their talents. "The next Steven Ambrose, Ken Burns or Walter Cronkite might already have their work on Generations of Heroes," said Thorpe.

Another important aspect of the Next Greatest Generation project is the careful preservation of artifacts Guardsmen donate from their personal GWOT collections. Both the S.C. Military Museum and the S.C. Confederate Relic Room and Museum's "Write from the Front" exhibit



Brig. Gen. Robert E. Livingston, Jr., commander of the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade answers a student's question during a "Next Greatest Generation" project interview.

proactively gather, preserve and have on display GWOT items from S.C. Guardsmen in their museums. Items such as pictures, postcards, letters, flags, and uniforms help tell a story of what daily life for a deployed Soldier was like.

Buddy Sturgis, the S.C. Military Museum Director/Curator believes years from now when the nation's history of the GWOT is written, South Carolina's Guardsmen will be mentioned often. "No other state has agencies collaborating like ours to ensure the history of our GWOT veterans is preserved," said Sturgis.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT:

The "Next Greatest Generation" project, please contact the S.C. National Guard Historian at: (803) 667-1013.

Generations of Heroes: www.knowitall.org/generations/

S.C. Military Museum: www.scguard.com/museum/index.html

Write from the Front: www.wftf.sc.gov/

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER, NO ONE SOLDIER STANDS ALONE



(left to right) Brig. Gen. Barry Coln, Brig. Gen. Robert Livingston, Jr., Maj. Gen. Laurie Newton, Maj. Gen. Stanhope Spears, Brig. Gen. Les Eisner and Brig. Gen. John Motley

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

In remembrance of those who have taken their lives during the Global War on Terrorism, the S.C. National Guard's highest ranking leaders stood shoulder to shoulder in September at The Adjutant General building in Columbia to declare war on suicide.

South Carolina's senior leadership pledged themselves to train and support our Guardsmen to strengthen them as warriors physically, mentally and spiritually. During the emotive ceremony, each general officer lit a candle in memory of a Soldier and signed the "No One Soldier Stands Alone" covenant.

"Each Guardsman needs to know he or she is important to us," said Maj. Gen. Stanhope S. Spears, The Adjutant General. Spears feels it's important for every Soldier and Airmen to look out for one another. "We are a family and when one member of our family is in pain -- for whatever reason -- we need to make sure we are there to lift them up," said Spears.

Editor's Note: If you or someone you know may be contemplating suicide, please call the state Family Programs Office toll free at 800-317-5553.

We Will Never *Leave a Family Behind*

Story provided by the State Family Programs Office

With ongoing deployments for units in the South Carolina National Guard during this holiday season, Family Programs can anticipate staying busy supporting Soldiers' and their families well into 2009 and beyond.

To meet these needs, Family Programs has undergone changes in leadership, staffing, and services offered. Lt. Col. Clarence Bowser assumed the reins as the Family Programs Director in June 2008. Prior to this assignment, he was deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Bowser says he feels comfortable in his new role. "As Family Programs Director I see my position as a calling," he said. "My heart and soul will be in every facet of this position."

“ My heart and soul will be in every facet of this position ”

— Lt. Col. Clarence Bowser

With a staff of 22 in offices at the Bluff Road Armory and the 2nd floor of The Adjutant General's complex, the Family Programs office now has a Military One Source representative, Child and Youth Consultant, Military Family Life Consultant, and soon will have a Behavioral Health Consultant.

Additionally, Family Programs is also responsible for Tri-care, Post Deployment Health Re-assessments, Medical Hold, Yellow Ribbon (the 60 day Re-integration process for deployed Soldiers and families), numer-



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



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

ous Family Assistance Centers across South Carolina, Suicide Prevention and Sexual Assault, the State Youth Program, as well as the training and establishment of unit Family Readiness Groups (FRG's).

Bowser says one of the big things that happened this year is the reduction in Tri-care costs. "We're really encouraged by this. During this Holiday season, many of our Soldiers and their families are experiencing financial difficulties, which makes this season quite stressful," Bowser says. "If I or my staff can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will never leave a family behind."

Soldiers and family members who require any personal or family counseling (financial, behavioral or otherwise) are encouraged to contact the family Programs office toll-free at 800-317-5553.

COMBAT RELATED STRESS REACTIONS: WHAT MILITARY FAMILIES NEED TO KNOW

National Center for PTSD, 2006

Service members act in response to experiences in a war zone in many different ways. One reaction that a service member may have after returning home from a deployment is being distressed or “keyed up.” Some may continue to reminisce about events that took place in a combat situation, while others actually reenact combat scenarios. These common experiences are known as Combat Stress Reactions, or Acute Stress Reactions. Common reactions include:

- Jumpy and easily startled
- Nightmares or flashbacks
- Difficulty sleeping
- Excessive drinking, smoking, or drug use
- Feeling nervous, helpless, or fearful
- Not trusting others, being over controlling, having lots of conflicts

Combat stress reactions may create problems in relationships, between family members or friends, issues in the workplace, or difficulty managing finances. If the service member’s experiences continue to be persistent or problematic, it may become post traumatic stress disorder or PTSD.

FAMILY MAINTENANCE SUGGESTIONS

- Become educated about PTSD and suicide prevention.
- Take time to listen to all family members and show them that you care.
- Spend time with other people who aren’t depressed. Coping is easier with support from caring others, including extended family, friends, church, or other community groups. Join or develop a support group.
- Take care of yourself. Family members frequently devote themselves totally to those they are concerned for, and in the process, neglect their own needs. Watch your diet, exercise, and get plenty of rest. Take time to do things that feel good to you.
- Try to maintain family routines, such as dinner together, church, or sport activities.
- Wait until you are feeling better before doing things you find difficult or unpleasant.



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>> NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS REMOVE PIECES OF TRESTLE FROM WATEREE RIVER



Guardsmen assist S.C. DNR with trestle removal from Wateree River

administrative coordination,” said Representative Laurie Slade Funderburk. “More has been accomplished today than has been accomplished since the trestle collapsed in the river.”

The mission of the National Guard, the S.C. DNR and the Kershaw County Soil and Water Conservation District was to perform a test pull against the steel bridge structure to see what could be done. The mission succeeded when two of the steel I-beams were pulled loose from the under water structure.

Story and photo by 1st Lt. Jamie Mulder, S.C. National Guard Public Affairs

CAMDEN, S.C. – A S.C. National Guard unit helped the city of Camden Saturday, October 4, 2008, by pulling pieces of a downed trestle out of the Wateree River near Old River Road.

“The trestle is a hazard for boaters, canoeists, kayakers or anyone else who wants to use that part of the Wateree,” says Jackie Heuermann, S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Program Coordinator.

The 124th Engineers from Saluda attached a military wrecker to the downed trestle and pulled for hours to try to remove the bridge that collapsed during a flood in July 1916.

“Today’s effort is the result of months of team building and

>> SALUDA UNIT HELPS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Soldiers from the 124th Engineer Company wait for trucks to be loaded so they can transport the dirt to Oak Pointe Elementary School

Story and photo by 1st Lt. Jamie Mulder, S.C. National Guard Public Affairs

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Soldiers from the 124th Engineering Company, of Saluda, S.C., transported dirt to Oak Pointe Elementary School October 4th and 5th.

Community service projects like this one give National Guard Soldiers the chance to train on mission essential tasks in innovative ways, breaking up the repetitive training and offering real-world scenarios, said Capt. William Matheny, Jr., 124th Engineer Company Commander.

“The area will be used as a play area for the students,” said James Stephens, Oak Pointe Elementary School Principle. “If we are able to complete the project 100 percent, a regulation soccer field rated for ten year olds will be the final product.”

The Soldiers moved 56 loads of dirt, about 840 cubic yards, over the weekend.

>> OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK



(left to right) Chief Warrant Officer Patrese Foster, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steve Shugart, Barbara Richburg and Sgt. Shawna Collier.

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

Soldiers and supporters gathered for the “Out of the Darkness” suicide prevention walk in Charleston on November 16. The walk is sponsored annually by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention in cities all across America. The S.C. National Guard has lost six Soldiers to suicide since 9-11. Recently, the S.C. National Guard formed a Suicide Prevention Team made up of Soldiers from across the state to help fellow Soldiers learn more about how they can help prevent suicide. For more information, please contact the state Family programs office toll-free at 800-317-5553.

>> ROUGHNECKS CAPTURE FORT JACKSON BASKETBALL TITLE

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

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Using an up-tempo offense and pressure defense, the South Carolina National Guard “Roughnecks” basketball team captured the Fort Jackson Summer League title on September 18, 2008, at Coleman Gymnasium on the post.

The Roughnecks took home the trophy with a 56-46 win over the 69th Swampfoxes from McEntire Joint National Guard Base, completing a 12-4 season. Sgt. Lorenzo Brooks scored 13 points, while Sgt. Shawn Swilley chipped in with 12 to lead the Roughnecks to victory.

Staff Sgt. Rodney Brown, coach of the Roughnecks, said hard work paid off for the team.

“We ran full-court pressure and traps all season to get the guys in tip-top condition,” said Brown. “I had confidence in our ability to compete with the Army teams.”

In addition to Brooks and Swilley, team members include Spc. Kendrick Gilliam, Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Webb, Sgt. 1st Class Rick Sanders, Staff Sgt. Gregory Guion, Staff Sgt. George Pressley, Staff Sgt. Darren Pressley, Spc. Thomas Gunter, Pfc. Corjamine Richardson, Sgt. Terrance Robinson, Spc. Ivan Willock and Sgt. Johnathon Smith.

Brig. Gen. Les Eisner congratulated the team at the TAG complex on September 23, 2008.

“It’s been an honor to coach this team,” added Brown. “We all came together as a team and achieved our goal of winning the title.”



Brig. Gen. Les Eisner (center right) holds the trophy with Staff Sgt. Rodney Brown (center left), who coached the South Carolina National Guard “Roughnecks” to the Fort Jackson Summer League basketball championship on September 18, 2008. Team members pictured are (from left) Spc. Kendrick Gilliam, Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Webb, Sgt. Lorenzo Brooks and Sgt. 1st Class Rick Sanders. Team members not pictured include Staff Sgt. Gregory Guion, Staff Sgt. George Pressley, Staff Sgt. Darren Pressley, Spc. Thomas Gunter, Pfc. Corjamine Richardson, Sgt. Terrence Robinson, Spc. Ivan Willock, Sgt. Shawn Swilley, and Sgt. Johnathon Smith.

>> GUARD LEADER BATTLES IN ARMY’S “TOP FIGHTER”

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

EASTOVER, S.C. – When he assumed command last summer of 2nd Battalion, Officer Candidate School (OCS) company at Eastover, little did Maj. Andrew Johnson know how much of a “fight” it would be.

Tasked with teaching the active Army program called “Combatives” – hand-to-hand combat – Johnson charged full speed ahead.

“At first I hated it,” Johnson said. “But I quickly realized it was for me.”

Johnson lost nearly 40 pounds while learning and training at Fort Jackson. He was eventually asked to join the post’s combatives team and fight at the Army’s “Top Fighter” competition October 4-5, at Ft. Benning, Ga.

Johnson fought at the 155-pound weight class during the competition. Though he didn’t win, he said he learned from the experience and stressed how combatives is a valuable skill to know.

“Soldiers in all components need this kind of training,” he said. “I’ve been in 20 years and it’s some of the best Army training I’ve ever seen.”



Maj. Andrew Johnson (left, in gray shirt) trains with a partner for the Army’s “Top Fighter” combatives competition which took place October 4-5 2008, at Ft. Benning, Ga. Johnson lost nearly 40 pounds in preparation for the competition.

S.C. Guardsmen during the

“Great War” -Part IV

Armistice to Home

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 final installment of our four-part series called “S.C. Guardsmen during the ‘Great War.’”

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



Beginning on November 17, members of the 118th Infantry Regiment began entraining in Corbie for LeMans, France.

A PIECE OF HISTORY

“On September 29, the Division broke through both the Hindenburg and the LeCatelet-Nauroy lines capturing Bellicourt and Nauroy Brancourt, Premont, Busigny, St. Benin, St. Souplet and Escaufort, LaHale Meneresse and Vaux-Andigny are names which will live in the memories of those who fought in the 30th Division. But its especial glory will always be the honor you won by breaking the Hindenburg Line on September 29. Such a record is one which we are all proud.”
Letter of Commendation from General John J. Pershing, American Expeditionary Forces Commander-in-Chief, Memorandum 34, February 19, 1919. ”



Six days after the signing of the armistice, the proud Citizen-Soldiers of the Palmetto Regiment began entraining at Corbie for LeMans, France. Here, they would be billeted until the last of the 118th Regiment’s Soldiers sailed for home on March 18, 1919. Interestingly, Elmer Murphy and Robert Thomas, who wrote a book, “The Thirtieth Division in the World War,” describe a poignant moment between two Palmetto Guardsmen during this four-month period. In setting up the story, they describe how many of the officers had endeared themselves to their men during their trial by fire and many now wore a watch or a ring purchased in town by their men.

The occurrence they highlight took place in Company E of the 118th Infantry. “A collection was taken, a watch purchased, and presented to Captain Richard A. Fulp. On the first pay day after the presentation, one of Captain Fulp’s men, a young private, approached him, came to salute with a smart click of the heels, and said, ‘Cap’n, I was dead broke when they took up the collection for your watch, but I want a share in it, so here’s two bits on it.’” Murphy and Thomas write that Fulp, deeply touched at the incident, assured the loyal Soldier of his appreciation and gratitude for the sentiment displayed. According to the authors, “the money was not accepted, for the officer knew full well, how little money the men usually had and how many wants it must satisfy.”

In February the “let’s go home” mantra had prevailed and the 118th Infantry Regiment began boarding trains in LeMans for St. Nazaire, their port of embarkation. Beginning on March 6, the first units of the 118th began the long-awaited trip home to Charleston. Companies L and M, the last two 118th units remaining in France, sailed for home on March 18. Upon arrival, they received a well-deserved heroes “welcome home” to Charleston



Debarking at the Port Terminals, Charleston, S. C.

Members of the 118th Infantry Regiment disembark the Pocahontas at the port of Charleston in South Carolina.

on March 28. Although the Soldiers wanted to be demobilized, authors Murphy and Thomas write “their people were not to be denied.” For nearly a week, all across the state of South Carolina, the regiment paraded before cheering crowds waving banners in appreciation of all they had achieved during the war to end all wars. Finally, on April 5, South Carolina’s 118th Infantry Regiment was demobilized at Camp Jackson in Columbia.

Like Soldiers throughout history, once victory was achieved on November 11, 1918, South Carolina’s warriors wanted nothing more than a quick trip home. They had been tried in the crucible of war and found wanting for nothing. From their ranks came

six Medal of Honor recipients from the most decorated regiment (118th Infantry) in the most decorated American division (30th “Old Hickory” Infantry). Between the time the boys from Carolina and Tennessee landed in May 1918, and Germany’s surrender six months later, the Guardsmen had accomplished what their allies had only dreamed of, victory after victory upon victory!

Putting their victories in better perspective, from the breaking of Germany’s “impregnable” Hindenburg Line system in September to the devastating blow they dealt Germany’s Saxon Marine Division in Molain on October 17, it was the equivalent of other great American victories up to that time. Victories such as Moultrie at Ft. Sullivan, Washington at Yorktown, Jackson at New Orleans, the Palmetto Regiment at Mexico City, Lee at Chancellorsville, Grant at Vicksburg and Roosevelt’s Rough Riders at San Juan Hill.

Although victorious in war, the 118th Infantry Regiment’s Citizen-Soldiers were front-line ambassadors of the truism freedom is not free. Of the nearly 4,000 men the S.C. National Guard sent to France, a little more than 2,000 of them served with the 118th. Of these, 329 enlisted men and 14 officers paid the ultimate price for freedom. At the time of the Armistice, bodies of American Soldiers rested in over 2,000 American burial places in Europe. By 1922, most of the dead of the Thirtieth Division had been permanently transferred for internment to the Somme Cemetery at Bony, France, and Flanders Field at Waregem, Belgium. To this day, the following poem about Flanders Field is often recited at Memorial Day ceremonies across the nation. It holds especial significance to the people of South Carolina.

IN FLANDERS FIELD

*In Flanders fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
in Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; Be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
in Flanders fields.*

— Lt. Col. John McCrae, M.D.



Poppies grow among the graves of those buried on Flanders Field. It was due to the poem “In Flanders Field” that Miss Moina Michael originated the Flanders Memorial Poppy which has raised millions of dollars for veterans and their families.

Extra-Extra

Read all about it!

In the Spring edition of the Palmetto Guard Family Magazine, you'll learn more about S.C. National Guard's first Air & Ground Show scheduled for September 2009!



Attention S.C. National Guard Families:

Due to unforeseen FY09 cuts to the Information Management Services budget, future editions of this magazine will be available at your Soldier's armory. Online copies can be viewed at: www.scguard.com/news/magazine.aspx



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