

# PALMETTO

G U A R D

FAMILY MAGAZINE SUMMER 2009

ISSUE 11 VOL. IV

FREE

## NORTH MYRTLE BEACH WILDFIRES



Photo by Sgt. Scott D. S.C. National Guard, Private

A UH-60 Black Hawk carries 780 gallons of water in a "Bambi Bucket" toward a wildfire in North Myrtle Beach, S.C., Saturday, April 26, 2009. In total, five S.C. and N.C. Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawks dropped over 904,000 gallons of water during their seven-day mission helping Forestry Commission firefighters battle the blaze.

# BLACK HAWKS REIN-IN WILDFIRE





## From the Desk of The Adjutant General



**Stanhope S. Spears**  
Major General, SCARNG  
The Adjutant General

“Each of you  
is a special  
member  
of our  
Guard family.”

-Maj. Gen.  
Stanhope Spears

I recently had the privilege of being interviewed by some incredibly talented students at Richland Northeast High School in Columbia as part of our state’s “Generations of Heroes” project. I highly recommend it to all of you who have served during wartime. So far, these students have interviewed more than 50 of our Citizen-Soldiers. Many of their stories have been uploaded to the S.C. Educational Television’s Generations of Heroes website ([www.knowitall.org/generations](http://www.knowitall.org/generations)) with more of them scheduled to be uploaded this summer.

There are a lot of good reasons to be interviewed, but perhaps the best one is ensuring teachers, students, historians and writers all across America have the ability to access first-hand accounts of the sacrifices of our military veterans. I haven’t heard of any other state’s attempting to do what we are doing with our Generation of Heroes project. But, then again, South Carolina has always prided itself on its history and efforts to preserve for posterity the stories of sacrifices made to ensure the freedoms we enjoy today. If you would like to participate, please contact our S.C.N.G. Historian at (803) 667-1013.

I also recommend a visit to the S.C. Military Museum, located behind the Bluff Road Armory, the next time you visit Columbia. Many in our state’s leadership frequent this unique asset which tracks our history from 1670 to the present. It is a tremendous resource of information for our Guard family and the general public. In fact, I recently spoke to the Army Museum directors during their visit to our museum and thanked them for their service. As I told them, they are one of the main reasons the sacrifices of our veterans are not forgotten.

As military leaders, it is our responsibility to ensure the service history of our units’ Guardsmen is preserved. Did you know only 12 percent of the Army’s history during the Persian Gulf War was saved? Following our incredible victory in 1991, hundreds of returning Active, Guard and Reserve Soldiers all across America came home to cheering crowds and large parades. Unfortunately, 88 percent of their unit’s records have been lost. This may seem hard to believe, but the loss of these records affects everything from long term care for Soldiers at Veterans Administration hospitals to updating the lineage and honors of our individual units. We must not allow this to happen to our Guard family.

If your unit has served during the Global War on Terrorism, please ensure its records are on file with our S.C.N.G. Historian and the S.C. Military Museum. Additionally, each Guardsman should take their old drill instructors advice from basic training and “never, ever throw any of your service records in the trash.” Our leadership should ensure our troops are properly cared for now and after their military service to our country is complete. This is why I have placed so much emphasis on preserving our unit and personal histories in this edition of the magazine.

Each of you is a special member of our Guard family. Thank you for faithfully serving our state and nation and please remember to have a fun, safe summer 2009.



Maj. Gen. Stanhope S. Spears shares his story about events at the Pentagon the day of the terrorist attacks on 9-11 with Perry McLeod’s oral history class at Richland Northeast High School, Columbia, S.C., Thursday May 14, 2009. (Photo by Maj. Scott Bell)

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.scgard.com/news/magazine.aspx](http://www.scgard.com/news/magazine.aspx).



Maj. Gen Stanhope Spears  
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Brig. Gen. Ron Huff  
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Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Harris  
State Command Sergeant Major

# PALMETTO

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A UH-60 Black Hawk carries 780 gallons of water in a "Bambi Bucket" toward a wildfire in North Myrtle Beach, S.C., Saturday, April 25, 2009. In total, five S.C. and N.C. Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawks dropped over 904,000 gallons of water during their seven-day mission helping Forestry Commission firefighters battle the blaze. (S.C. National Guard Photo by Maj Scott Bell)

Cover design by Staff Sgt. Jorge Intriago

Capt. Randy Lutz, the aircraft commander, and Chief Warrant Officer Eric Ridilla, both from B Company, 1/104th ARB at Ft. Indiantown Gap, Pa., will fly this last AH-64A to its new home with the Pa. Army National Guard. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Edward E. Snyder)

Photo by Master Sgt. Philip Jones  
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# Duty First, Soldiers Always!



Eddie Harris  
State Command Sgt. Maj.  
SCARNG

Anna Perry, Miss South Carolina and Henry Turner, race coordinator of the 13th annual “Pirelli, Big Buck” Grand National Cross Country Race, welcome State Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Harris (right) to the race. Harris served as starter for the pro-motorcross race held in Union, S.C., April 5, 2009. (Photo by Master Sgt. Philip Jones, Joint Forces Headquarters Public Affairs.



## Letter From Leadership

by State Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Harris



As June begins the 2009 summer season, I want to take this opportunity to remind all Palmetto Soldiers to be more vigilant than ever in practicing safety. The summer season should be an enjoyable time of the year, but if we're not careful it can be a very dangerous one as well.

Summertime means many families will be traveling to and from vacations, which means more vehicles on the highways. Earlier this year, it was my privilege to be the guest starter at the Pirelli Big Buck Grand National Cross Country pro motorcycle race in Union, and I remember how those racers practiced safety.

We should do the same when we are on the road. Obey posted speed limits, wear seatbelts, and make sure your vehicle is in safe working condition before operation. Above all, remember that alcohol and driving do not mix. Vehicle accidents kill more Soldiers than anything else.

This time of the year also brings with it hotter temperatures. Ensure that you are drinking plenty of water, on or off duty. Leaders – it is your responsibility to make sure your Soldiers are hydrated. Heat injuries include rash, cramps, exhaustion and stroke. These are easily preventable by drinking water, eating a proper diet and wearing appropriate clothing.

Additionally, water safety is critical during the summer months. Beaches and pools are filled with people looking to cool off from the heat, but remember that drownings are a leading cause of Soldier deaths and are often related to alcohol. When swimming, use the buddy system, swim in well-lit and authorized areas and don't swim after a big meal or excessive use of alcohol.

If you enjoy boating, keep in mind that approximately 90 percent of all fatalities due to boating accidents are caused by drowning where personal flotation devices (PFDs) were not used.

This month also marks the beginning of the 2009 Hurricane season. Our state is one of the most susceptible in the nation to the devastation of a hurricane. I urge all of our Soldiers and Families to have an updated plan in place for possible activation for state active duty and family evacuation.

Once again, with the 101 days of summer now underway, it is our duty as Palmetto Soldiers to practice safety in everything we do. I thank you for your continued service to this state and nation and hope you have an enjoyable, and most importantly safe, summer season.

“I thank you for your continued service to this state and nation.”

- State Command Sgt. Maj.  
Eddie Harris



# S.C. NATIONAL GUARD NEWS BRIEF



Col. Debra Rose, Communications Director for the S.C. National Guard, was inducted into the “Federal 100” on March 24, at their 20th Anniversary celebration.

Each year *Federal Computer Week* magazine recognizes the top 100 information technology innovators in the country for their contributions to the federal information technology market during the past year.

Rose was the only National Guard recipient this year.

Jerry Sims, 49, a 1st Sgt. in the S.C. Army National Guard, was among the 16 castaways on CBS’s “*Survivor: Tocantins -- The Brazilian Highlands*,” which aired this spring.

Sims survived nine days before being voted out at tribal council for an illness.

Sims, a nuclear operations specialist, recently returned from a deployment to Afghanistan with the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

To see more of Jerry’s time on “*Survivor: Tocantins -- The Brazilian Highlands*,” which ended in May, please visit the “*Survivor*” website at: [www.cbs.com/primetime/survivor/](http://www.cbs.com/primetime/survivor/)

Congratulations to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 751st Combat Services Support Battalion, from Eastover, for winning this years small category Army Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME) and Supply Excellence Award (SEA) Programs.

Congratulations to the Combined Support Maintenance Shop, from Eastover, for winning this years medium category Army Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME) and Supply Excellence Award (SEA) Programs.

McEntire Joint National Guard Base in Eastover, is home for one of the Department of Defense’s (DoD) Starbase programs.

Starbase is an educational program hosted by the South Carolina Air National Guard, for students in the fifth grade who wish to participate in challenging activities in aviation, science, technology, engineering, math and space exploration.

The goal of Starbase instructors is to allow students the opportunity to get a hands-on experience with technology and learn the importance of teamwork.

For additional information, visit [www.starbasedod.com](http://www.starbasedod.com).

Congratulations to Sgt 1st Class Howard E. Seay, Sgt. 1st Class Guy C. Settle and Sgt. Christopher L. Honeycutt for their recognition as S.C. Honor Guard Centurions during a luncheon held by the S.C. Honor Guard in their honor on May 29.

To become a centurion member of the Honor Guard, Soldiers must have performed 100 funeral details.

The day also marked Sgt. 1st Class Howard D. Seay’s retirement from the S.C. National Guard after 28 years of service. Seay served the last three years of his career with the Honor Guard.

To find out more information about serving on the S.C. Honor Guard team, please contact Sgt. Maj. Ronnie Lee at (803) 667-2129.

On April 7-24, Soldiers of the 178th Engineer Battalion, based in Rock Hill, constructed a new demolition range for combat engineer training at the McCrady Training Center (MTC) in Eastover.

The construction project required members of the 178th to clear top soil, build a “borrow” pit, grade and clear brush and remove stumps over approximately two acres.

The new demolition range will assist the combat engineer course at McCrady and other combat engineer units perform vital demolition training. The site also houses an observation bunker. Combat engineer units may schedule use of the demolition range through Range Operations at the MTC by calling 803-806-2256. Use of the demolition range is free for Army units.

(Submitted by Sgt. 1st Class Mike Thompson, 178th Engineer Battalion).

On Saturday, May 16, 16 individuals were inducted into the South Carolina National Guard Enlisted Hall of Fame. The Enlisted Hall of Fame was established in 1999 to honor Soldiers who have made significant contributions to the S.C. Army National Guard and United States of America.

Soldiers inducted during the ceremony were Staff Sgt. James D. Bullard, Sgt. Stephen C. High, Sgt. Edward O. Philpot, Cpl. Matthew V. Dillon, Spc. Chrystal G. Stout, Sgt. Louis D. Romano, Sgt. Kodi C. Tyler, Sgt. 1st Class William E. Shipman, Command Sgt. Maj. John W. Brown, Command Sgt. Maj. Robert J. Brown, Command Sgt. Maj. Robert W. McClary, Jr., Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Ricks, Command Sgt. Maj. Roy Taylor, Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret) Franklin P. Ward, Command Sgt. Maj. Gail M. Williams and Sgt. Maj. (Ret) Harvelle L. Addy.



Maj. Gen. Stanhope S. Spears, The Adjutant General of South Carolina, presided over the promotion ceremony of Brig. Gen. Glenn Bramhall. Bramhall’s wife, Faith, pinned on his new rank.

Col. Glenn A. Bramhall was promoted to Brig. Gen. at a ceremony held on Wednesday, April 15.

Bramhall received his commission in May, 1979 as an Infantry 2nd Lt. from The Citadel.

He has served on Active duty, in the U.S. Army Reserves and as a Citizen-Soldier in the S.C.N.G.

Bramhall is commander of the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, based in Charleston, S.C.





# 218TH EVOLVES TO ADAPT

*Story by Capt Tim W. Irvin, 218th MEB Public Affairs Officer  
Photos by Master Sgt. Philip Jones and Staff Sgt. Jorge  
Capt. Tim W. Irvin and Spc. ...*

The South Carolina National Guard's 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB) will assume a national consequence management response mission beginning October 1, 2009.

The Department of Defense has created a new force called the Chemical, Biological, Nuclear, Radiological and High Explosive (CBRNE) Consequence Management Response Force, or CCMRF for short.

This new group of Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve units will deploy on the order of the President once they have been requested by a Governor to help support state and local officials with a disaster.

Being part of the new force requires a shift in thinking for Soldiers who are used to taking orders from the Governor. Federally activated Soldiers must remember they work in support of a civilian agency while operating within the United States.

The Pentagon has chosen the 218th MEB, based in Charleston, to control more than a dozen Reserve and National Guard units throughout the country and Puerto Rico to help local authorities during the next several

years.

"This is a great opportunity for the S.C. National Guard. It is an honor to be chosen for such an elite mission," said Maj. Gen. Stanhope Spears, S.C. National Guard Adjutant General.

In preparation for the upcoming CCMRF mission, members of the 218th MEB held a training exercise May 18-21, at Clarks Hill Training Center and in the surrounding cities of McCormick, Plum Branch and Parksville.

Supporting units of the 218th MEB involved in the training included the 4th Battalion, 118th Infantry, 218th Brigade Support Battalion, 151st Signal Battalion and 111th Signal Company.

These units sent almost 500 Soldiers with equipment to work along side local officials to deal with a theoretical disaster.

Named "Operation Palmetto Guardian," the training was an opportunity to find new ways for the S.C. National Guard to help local authorities in the event of an emergency – specifically a man-made disaster.

During the training exercise, Soldiers per-







# ANSWER NEW THREATS ANSWER NEW THREATS

*er and Sgt. Tracci Dorgan, 108th Public Affairs Detachment  
re Intriago, Joint Forces Headquarters Public Affairs,  
Joshua Edwards, 218th MEB*

formed as if they had been ‘federalized’ under presidential authority. Because it was a ‘federal mission,’ the troops did not carry weapons while operating among the civilian populace.

This is in keeping with the federalized military’s domestic rules of engagement and the Posse Comitatus Act, which prevents federal troops from enforcing law on U.S. citizens.

The training consisted of several different scenarios practiced by the 218th MEB and evaluated by the U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM) and U.S. Army North (AR-NORTH).

The main scenario involved a notional nuclear bomb detonation in nearby Greenwood. Soldiers successfully set up check points where civilians could check on the status of family and friends in the nuclear fallout area. Medical aid stations were set up where civilian victims could receive care.

Another scenario was a medical evacuation. A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter flew in to an open field, where a casualty was loaded and then flown off to receive medical care which could not be provided at the medical aid sta-

tion.

Simultaneously, there were traditional state active duty opportunities for the Soldiers to react to simulated burglaries, escaped convicts, car accidents and bus accidents involving elementary school children.

Because of the facilities at the Clarks Hill Training Center and the cooperation of the surrounding communities, the S.C. National Guard was able to successfully carry out a training exercise of this magnitude. The Soldiers were able to practice real-world situations and react to real-world challenges.

Overall, Lt. Col. Ken Rosado, commander of the 4th Battalion, 118th Infantry, said he was very pleased with both the training and response by the community.

“For our first time training on this mission, I thought our Soldiers did a great job,” he said. He feels the community was very supportive of their efforts.

“It truly was neighbors helping neighbors,” said Rosado.







# THE LAST GREY APACHE

Story by Maj. Scott Bell, South Carolina National Guard Historian

Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Edward E. Snyder, 169th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Ever heard of the “Blue Dragons of Death?” It’s the name Iraqis gave the unique grey-colored Apaches of the S.C. Army National Guard’s (SCARNG) 1st of the 151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion (ARB) during the unit’s 2004 deployment into Mosul.

The history of the grey Apaches began as an experiment in 2003, when the U.S. Army began looking at ways to reduce the risk of surface-to-air fire for aviators serving in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

“One of the options the Army pursued was using alternate paint schemes,” said Brig. Gen. Les Eisner, the Deputy Adjutant General of the S.C. National Guard. Eisner, who was serving as 51st Aviation Group commander and S.C. director of aviation safety, at the time, was preparing the 1st of the 151st ARB for an upcoming deployment to Iraq.

Both he and Lt. Col. Ed McKee, commander for the 1st of the 151st ARB, asked the National Guard Bureau and the Apache Program Manager’s permission to paint 14 of their AH-64A Apache aircraft an experimental two-tone grey scheme. They thought the color might blend in better with the sky over Iraq and give their pilots an advantage in battle. Following the plans approval, the aircraft became the first and only Apaches to be contracted and painted the experimental color by the U.S. Navy.

When the unit deployed to Iraq in 2004, the grey Apaches garnered a lot of attention upon

arriving in Kuwait. Although they looked like Navy aircraft, they were – of course -- Army aircraft. As they flew their aircraft into Iraq for the first time, the 1st of the 151st aviators didn’t realize they would be the only ones to ever fly grey AH-64s in combat.

Upon the unit’s arrival in Mosul, insurgents controlled several parts of the city and it was a hotbed of enemy activity. The Soldiers were initially supposed to have a two-week train up period. Instead, within 24 hours upon arrival in Iraq, the S.C. aviators were proving the accuracy of their motto -- “Ready to Strike” - - flying combat operations and receiving fire in support of the 1st Stryker Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Light). The aircraft soon earned the nickname “Blue Dragons of Death” because of their stealth-like ability to be on top of the enemy before the insurgency could react adequately.

“The grey Apaches had an immediate and lasting impact and contributed to bringing the situation under control,” said Lt. Col. Ray Davis, the unit’s operations officer. He feels the grey Apaches assisted his unit in accomplishing their mission of keeping Soldiers on the ground out of harms way. “It got to the point Soldiers in the dining facility were coming up to us and thanking us, because they knew the enemy wouldn’t shoot at them if we were overhead,” said Davis.

Of the 14 aircraft originally deployed into



Iraq, all of them sustained some form of surface-to-air fire. One had to be evacuated for repair because they didn’t have the capability of repairing it in-theater. Another was destroyed in an accident. The unit replaced the two grey aircraft with two standard Army green Apaches. In comparing the two paint schemes, Davis feels the grey Apaches gave the unit several advantages but the primary one -- is the fact – their color made it more difficult for insurgents on the ground to see them coming.

The grey Apaches also proved to be easier to repair because the experimental color made the skin temperature about 20-30 degrees cooler than the standard Army green paint scheme. Reports from maintenance personnel in Iraq indicated the 1st of the 151st ARB also had fewer avionics issues with the grey Apaches because the temperature both inside and outside of the aircraft was reduced.

During their deployment, the grey Apaches gained some notoriety. A Japanese model company made 5,000 grey Apache models and included decals of the 1st of the 151st’s signature Palmetto tree for modelers to apply to the engines.

At the end of the unit’s rotation, the Army closed the loop-hole for approving alternative paint-schemes. Future color experiments must now be approved by the Department of the Army. Currently, the S.C. Army National Guard’s 14 grey Apaches remain the only Apaches to ever fly in combat utilizing the experimental two-tone grey scheme.

Since the beginning of this year, most of the grey Apaches have now been sent back to the





remanufacturing plant to be converted to the newer D-models. According to Eisner, they will continue serving the needs of the U.S. Army but will be repainted Army green. Several of the remaining grey Apaches, including the last one S.C. aviators flew (which departed McEntire Joint National Guard Base on March 20), will continue to serve in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard until they are also converted to the newer D-model Apache.

Although the Army may have ended this nostalgic chapter in the history of the experimental grey-colored Apache, it is noteworthy to mention -- the new CH-47F Chinook -- will have an alternative light-tan paint scheme.

“Regardless of ones viewpoint on grey or tan versus green, the grey Apache was a plausible response to the threats of surface to air fire and the means to mitigate it,” said Eisner. He feels all of the “Ready to Strike” Soldiers can be proud of the role they played in the grey Apache’s chapter in SCARNG and U.S. Army aviation history.



# Cultural Awareness Training with Jordanian Military

Story by and photo courtesy of 1st Lt. Anthony Baiocco

**O**n March 26 nearly 90 Soldiers from Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard Units from across the nation gathered in a hangar on Pope Air Force Base in Fayetteville, N.C. waiting to board a plane that would take them overseas.

Unlike the Soldiers in other hangars, waiting to depart to Iraq or Afghanistan, these Soldiers were in civilian attire with effects that gave the impression they were tourists. In fact, these Soldiers were about to head to Jordan for a two-week cultural awareness course at the Peace Operations Training Center (POTC) to prepare for future deployments.

The POTC was established in 1989 because The United Nations saw the need to educate Soldiers on peace operations throughout the world.

Over the years, the operation of the institute has changed to adapt to the needs of the world, but they have kept the same mission: to train Soldiers involved in peace-keeping operations.

The cultural awareness training focuses on many aspects of Arab society and teaches Soldiers how to perform their duties while being aware of the impact they have on the country they are in. Training consists of classes in social and ethical structure, gender roles, tribal and family structure, detail on religious orientation and practices, and overall do’s and don’ts which culminate in four training exercises where the students are able to put their recent-

ly learned knowledge to test while interacting with Jordanian Soldiers who participated as role-players.

Every morning for one hour Soldiers were tutored on basic Arabic conversation and questions. By the end, Soldiers were able to hold their own in simple conversations as well as learning many key phrases that will help while deployed.

In addition to the cultural training, the Soldiers trained in various tactics ranging from searching a building to running a traffic control point. Role-players were used to simulate life-like situations the Soldiers may face during a deployment. Soldiers learned first hand



Jordanian soldiers pose with S.C. Soldiers (from left to right) 1st Lt. Anthony Baiocco, Sgt. 1st Class Fredrick Scruggs, Sgt. 1st Class Scott Titus, Sgt. 1st Class Ernest Wallen, Sgt. 1st Class Richard Hanvey, Staff Sgt. James Madden, Master Sgt. Jonathan Garris, Staff Sgt. Dale Fleming, Sgt. 1st Class Tim Green, 1st Lt. Alan Wooten, Sgt. 1st Class Caison Tyner.

the difficulties of trying to deal with a person who did not speak English, and how the most subtle gesture or statement could be misconstrued as an insult, completely changing the situation at hand.

“This is a great experience for Soldiers who have never deployed. By being exposed to the hardship of working with a different culture, Soldiers will be more comfortable with their counterparts when they get in country,” said Master Sgt. Jonathan Garris of the 51st Rear Operations Command.

*“By being exposed to the hardship of working with a different culture, Soldiers will be more comfortable with their counterparts when they get in country.”*

- Master Sgt. Jonathan Garris



# McCrary EMS

## Answer the Call

Story and photos by Sgt. Tracci Dorgan, 108th Public Affairs Detachment

Working to keep their skills sharp and reaction time fast in order to save lives, the Emergency Medical Station at McCrary Training Center (MTC) conducted a training exercise on May 12.

The exercise consisted of two simulated motor vehicle accidents and involved cooperation among the emergency medical technicians (EMTs), the McCrary Fire Department (FD) and a LifeNet Medical helicopter team.

This event was one of many exercises the McCrary EMS conducts throughout the year to ensure they are prepared for whatever might happen.

Staff Sgt. Thad Miller and Staff Sgt. Stephen Snodgrass, the non-commissioned officers in charge of the McCrary EMTs, coordinate the unit's training.

Miller felt cooperation was critical in order to save the lives of those trapped in the crippled automobiles. "The fire department and the EMTs had to work together to control the situation," said Miller.

First, the fire department had to control the scene and enable the EMT's to get to the victim. To do this, they had to check for flammable fluid leaks and stabilize the vehicles so the EMTs would not be injured by vehicle movement.

Once the vehicles were safe, the EMTs extracted the victims and treated them on scene.

Tyge Watts, a LifeNet paramedic, provided the ever-changing status of the notional victim to the attending EMT which simulated what might happen in a real accident. The mission of South Carolina LifeNet is to provide safe, quality air medical service and patient care to the critically ill and injured.

"I updated the condition of the patients so the EMTs would know if they were treating the victim properly, a more real-world scenario," said Watts.

With the victim safely out of the vehicle, the EMTs loaded him into the ambulance and drove him to the waiting LifeNet helicopter. The crew from LifeNet helped the EMTs load the victim into the helicopter.

"In order to keep our skills at the high levels of expertise expected of us, we must train like this," said Miller. He feels the combined efforts of all involved, made the exercise successful.

Col. Ralph Bailey, McCrary Training Site commander, initiated the EMT program here. Bailey was the impetus behind the purchase of necessary equipment as well as getting Soldiers placed on full-time orders to cover the McCrary area.

By the end of 2007, the emergency response crew had grown to three paramedics and six EMTs. They were equipped to provide basic life support (BLS), but had to rely on Ft. Jack-



Emergency Medical Technicians and Firefighters at McCrary Training Center load a simulated victim into an ambulance during a training exercise held at McCrary on May 12.

son, S.C., Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for advanced life support (ALS) coverage.

In early 2008, McCrary EMTs operated around the clock, seven days a week. The EMTs spent that year improving their skills with continuing education classes, in-service training, training with Ft. Jackson EMS, and responding to emergency situations at McCrary. McCrary achieved ALS status in January 2009.

In addition to the higher medical status, McCrary received all necessary equipment. Each shift is configured to include one paramedic and two EMTs at all times. On April 6, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) certified their ambulance.

The McCrary EMS now operates at full capacity for the protection of all military and state personnel stationed at MTC.

During an emergency medical training exercise at McCrary Training Center on May 12, Emergency Medical Technicians from McCrary, and LifeNet personnel from the Columbia, S.C. area, load a simulated auto accident victim into a LifeNet medical helicopter for immediate evacuation.





# S.C. National Guard conducts Operation “Coastal Watch”

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

The South Carolina National Guard (SCNG) must always be prepared to react to an emergency and in that vein, the SCNG conducted a disaster response training exercise the week of April 13-17 called “Coastal Watch.”

Coastal Watch was a combination disaster response exercise which involved local, state and federal assets mainly located in the Horry County area.

The S.C. National Guard’s 59th Aviation Troop Command conducted annual training as part of this large disaster drill. Of the approximately 90 Soldiers who participated, their missions were as diverse as the exercise itself.

Lt. Col. Thomas Watson, Operations Specialist for the Director of Military Support, oversaw the operation.

“The overall mission was extremely successful,” he said. “The civil authorities were very supportive and thankful for the SCNG support and on more than several occasions, said that they could not have been effective without the aid of the SCNG Soldiers.”

At the beginning of the exercise, Guardsmen supported local law enforcement by manning

traffic control points (TCP) and performing radio checks at each TCP.

They also coordinated the set-up and tear down of the field medical facilities used by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and the Horry County Regional Medical Assistance Team (RMAT).

Additionally, Soldiers played hostages and aggressors for a Special Weapons and Tactics (S.W.A.T.) operation located near Myrtle Beach International Airport.

A SCNG Blackhawk helicopter from 2nd Battalion of the 149th Aviation Regiment headquartered at McEntire Joint National Guard Base flew the S.W.A.T. team into a simulated incident or “hot zone” from the nearby Horry County airport in Conway.

Watson mentioned other missions accomplished by the SCNG during Coastal Watch. “They performed a damage assessment walk-through of three local neighborhoods including Deerfield, Indigo Creek and Blackmoor,” he said. “During the walk-through, they went door-to-door handing out information packets provided by the Horry County Emergency

Management Division.”

Soldiers provided security for the SC DHEC field medical facility and gave critical protection at three of the local hospitals; Conway Hospital, Grand Strand Regional Medical Center and Loris Hospital.

Finally, Soldiers of the 59th Aviation Troop Command provided VIP flights for selected County and State officials and they practiced the use of the “Bambi Bucket” vital to fire suppression missions.

Ironically, the “Bambi Bucket” and fire suppression training would prove critical and extremely successful the following week during the real-world emergency of the Horry County wildfires.

Watson praised the Soldiers who supported Operation Coastal Watch.

“Our Soldiers were very motivated and excited about the missions and performed accordingly,” he said. “I think this validated to the people of S.C. how effective and ready we are to provide valuable services during a disaster.”



The UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from 2nd Battalion, 149th Aviation Regiment, McEntire Joint National Guard Base, lifts off from Horry County Airport taking the Horry County S.W.A.T. team to the incident site near Myrtle Beach International Airport during the Coastal Watch exercise April 16.



# BLACK HAWKS REIN-IN



**R**esponding to the worst wildfire to strike South Carolina in 30 years, S.C. Governor Mark Sanford declared a state of emergency on April 23.

Through a Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), the S.C. Army National Guard (SCARNG) teamed with the N.C. Army National Guard (NCARNG) to quickly respond and save lives and property in North Myrtle Beach.

“Within two-hours of notification, our UH-60 Black Hawk crew was in Myrtle Beach ready to support the Forestry Commission,” said Maj. Jay McElveen, S.C. National Guard Assistant State Army Aviation Officer.

The EMAC system provides the framework for states to share National Guard assets during emergencies. At the time of the fire, most of the SCARNG Black Hawks were overseas. The S.C. EMAC allowed the NCARNG to answer the call. This gave the S.C. Forestry Commission an additional four Black Hawks and crews.

The SCARNG provided a Black Hawk helicopter, its crew and several incident site support personnel including communications experts from the states communications office and Weapons of Mass Destruction Team. Additionally, North Carolina assisted with four Black Hawks and crews from the 1st Aviation Assault Battalion, 131st Aviation Regiment based in Salisbury, N.C.

Maj. Gen. Stanhope S. Spears, The Adjutant General of S.C. commended the efforts of the

neighboring states in fighting the North Myrtle Beach wildfire.

“Working together through a EMAC, these flight crews from the Carolinas teamed up to help the S.C. Forestry Commission to keep this disaster from spreading further. Together, the team minimized the loss of homes and property,” said Spears.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Eric Puette, Chief Warrant Officer 5 John Ranson, Staff Sgt. David Shelton and Staff Sgt. Larry Wessinger, of the S.C. National Guards 2nd of the 149th Aviation Regiment, from McEntire Joint National Guard Base, empty a “Bambi Bucket” filled with water over the North Myrtle Beach wildfires on April 23, 2009.





# REFIRE

Story by Maj. Scott Bell, Capt. Cindi King and 1st Lt. Jamie Mulder

Photos by Maj. Scott Bell and 1st Lt. Jamie Mulder, S.C. National Guard Public Affairs

A Black Hawk carries a “Bambi Bucket” full of water over North Myrtle Beach to control the spread of the wildfire.



According to Scott Hawkins, spokesperson for the S.C. Forestry Commission, the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters “provided an invaluable resource for the firefighting effort.”

“The UH-60 aircrews were able to effectively delay the spread of fires. Their actions saved several houses and communities, and many people are grateful for their actions,”

Hawkins said.

Configured with special fire-fighting equipment known as a “Bambi Bucket,” each Black Hawk is capable of dropping 780 gallons of water at-a-time over a fire.

Hawkins felt not only were the water drops a critical component of geographically focused firefighting tactics, their mere presence in the air fueled feelings of support and morale for the Forestry Commission’s ground crews looking skyward.

“An average fire truck holds about 500 gallons of water, so when we can drop 780 gallons every few minutes on a fire, it makes a big difference,” said Chief Warrant Officer 5 John Ranson, a S.C. Army National Guard Black Hawk pilot, with the 2nd of the 149th Aviation Regiment in Eastover.

Firefighting is one of the most dangerous missions a Black Hawk can perform. It can be compared to lifting the water weight of two cars every 5 minutes and dumping it over a raging fire for hours at a time, with weather conditions changing at a moments notice.

Combined, the five Black Hawks dropped over 904,000 gallons of water, totaling over 93 flight hours.

The mission lasted a total of seven days including deployment and redeployment.

Overall, approximately 19,500 acres of land burned, 76 homes were destroyed, another 89 homes escaped with minor damage, seven homes suffered major damage and eight automobiles were damaged.

A fully-loaded “Bambi Bucket” containing 780 gallons of water and weighing nearly 6,000 pounds is lifted out of a lake by a Black Hawk helicopter during a fire fighting mission near Hwy 31, in North Myrtle Beach.





# NATIONAL GUARDSMEN "ROCK OUT" AT THE GREENVILLE CRAWFISH BOIL FESTIVAL

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

National Guard recruits experienced the glamour of being ‘Roadies for a Day’ at the Greenville Crawfish Boil Festival and National Guard “Rock Out” Concert at the Bi-Lo Center May 15-16.

The festival hosted 12 bands on the National Guard stage and allowed the recruits and local Guard members to get a ‘behind the scenes’ perspective.

On the first day of the festival, the recruits received badges to allow them access to the National Guard tent and reserved viewing area. They were also given the schedule for

the next day. For the rest of the evening, the recruits watched the bands and talked to recruiters about what the Guard had to offer.

“This is a new program partnered with the National Guard,” said Todd Coder, a festival roadie with Red Mountain Entertainment. “It allows the recruits to have access to a large event and a get hands on experience. It also gives the National Guard a significant on-site presence.”

The recruits began their roadie training under wet conditions, but the prospect of standing on the festival stage and seeing first-hand all the activities going on seemed to brighten their day.

On stage, the recruits listened to David Baran, the Production/Stage Manager from ProShow Systems, discuss the different areas on the sides of the stage where all the preparation takes place.

After experiencing the outdoor stage, the recruits toured the backstage area of the Bi-Lo Center with Whitney Smith, the Bi-Lo Center Production Assistant for the tour.

“They are getting an overview of the music busi-

ness with a focus on festivals,” said Coder. “In this case they are learning about the additional work that goes into building an outdoor festival from the ground up.”

During breaks in the roadie curriculum, various recruiters and Guard members spoke about the benefits of joining the National Guard.

“This festival is a good opportunity for South Carolina to get our message out,” said 1st Sgt. Charles Rochelle, the first sergeant for Team 8 in Recruiting and Retention Command. “The roadie program gives us a whole day to present benefits and have one-on-one time with the recruits.”

During the two-day concert, many bands thanked the military and the National Guard specifically. Bands, such as “Saving Abel” and “3 Doors Down,” dedicated songs to service members at home and overseas.

“Saving Abel” wrote the song “18 Days” about military personnel home on leave from a deployment. “3 Doors Down” wrote the first National Guard inspired single, “Citizen Soldier.” During their set, they dedicated the song “When I’m Gone” to the military.

The Crawfish Boil Festival started 23 years ago in Birmingham, Ala. Since then, it has spread to many cities across the southeast to include this year’s event in Greenville.



(Clockwise from top) 3 Doors Down lead singer, Brad Arnold, performs the National Guard themed song “Citizen Soldier” at the Crawfish Boil Festival and National Guard Rockout.

Recruiters and other Guard members throw t-shirts and hats to the crowd during the Crawfish Boil Festival and National Guard Rockout May 16 in Greenville.

David Baran (right), the Production and Stage manager from ProShow Systems, explains the inner workings of the backstage set-up to National Guard recruits and their recruiters prior to the show on May 16.





# New Military Police School Opens at McCrady Training Center

Story by Sgt. David James, 218th Regiment (Leadership) Public Affairs Office

For those Soldiers who may be considering a career move to become a Military Policeman (MP), the South Carolina National Guard offers an intense four week course at the McCrady Training Center which will qualify them to hold the 31B Military Occupational Specialty.

The course consists of two phases with each phase lasting two weeks.

“The Soldiers go straight from Phase I to Phase II,” says Staff Sgt. Thomas Simmons, an MP course instructor who is a member of the 4th Battalion (General Studies), 218th Regiment (Leadership), the unit responsible for conducting the training.

This training is intense and rigorous.

“We have four weeks to cover what takes

ten weeks in Advanced Individual Training,” says Simmons.

On most days, the students are up at 4:30 a.m. and the training day often runs to 7 p.m. or later.

The course involves Enemy Prisoner of War (EPW) processing, Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) site training, and mine clearing. Soldiers also spend several days on various weapons ranges training with the 9 millimeter pistol, the Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW), and MARK-19 automatic grenade launcher.

Additionally, the Soldiers conduct a Field Training Exercise (FTX) as part of the course requirements.

Each class consists of approximately 20 to 25

Soldiers who are mostly from South Carolina, but other states are welcome as well. Many of the Soldiers are trained Scouts who are seeking to get re-classified as Military Police.

While the course is fairly new to the school, Simmons feels the staff has stepped up to the challenge and performed to the high standards expected of the 218th Regiment (Leadership).

Following site visits by evaluators from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and Fort McClellan, Ala., the 4th Battalion was nominated for the Army Institute of Excellence Award.

In the end, Simmons says his greatest reward is in knowing that he has done his best to send the new MP’s out with the knowledge and skills to assist, protect, and defend the citizens of South Carolina and this nation.

## A Hidden Gem: Clarks Hill Training Center

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

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

The South Carolina National Guard frequently utilizes the Clarks Hill Training Center (CHTC) near McCormick, S.C. for military exercises and physical training, but the facility is used for much more than that.

CHTC is nestled on approximately 800 acres of Corps of Engineer property located on the shores of Lake Thurmond.

Team building is a major part of National Guard training. CHTC supports this effort with various “Challenge Courses.” There is a ropes course and rappelling tower as well as a 14-event confidence course.

In addition to training, Clarks Hill also makes for a great and inexpensive destination for a weekend or a week-long family vaca-

tion.

There are many affordable options for housing including four log cabins that were added to the grounds in 2007. Each of these new lodgings has four bedrooms and two bathrooms as well as a kitchen, living room with satellite television and laundry room. Dorm-style rooms, campers and camp sites are also available at a reasonable price.

Groups are also welcome and supported at the CHTC. A multi-purpose building is available for meetings or conferences.

For family recreation, there is plenty to do at CHTC. A softball diamond and volleyball court is centrally located. If a quiet day on the lake is more appealing, visitors are welcome

to bring a kayak, canoe or boat and navigate some of the 1,200 miles of shoreline along Lake Thurmond. Fishing is allowed with either a South Carolina or Georgia fishing license.

All active or retired military with valid identification and civilian employees of the South Carolina Military Department are authorized to use the CHTC recreationally. Reservations are confirmed 30 days or more in advance, with a waiting list for any requests inside of 30 days.

For more information on the CHTC, contact Keith Creswell or Darcy Swann at (864) 443-2507 or email [clarkshill@sc.ngb.army.mil](mailto:clarkshill@sc.ngb.army.mil).



# S.C. Military Museum Kicks-Off

## Community Outreach

Story and photos by Capt. Cindi King, Joint Forces Headquarters Public Affairs

The S.C. Military Museum is dedicating its third year to promoting a Community Outreach Program, inviting schools, scouting organizations and senior centers to enrich their appreciation of S.C. military history.

The S.C. Military Museum, located behind the Bluff Road Armory kicked-off its Community Outreach Program by inviting fourth grade students and teachers from St. Joseph Catholic School. The program includes a guided tour of the museum and participation in a fact-finding scavenger hunt, a group photo, gift shop visit and dining tables at the Bluff Road Armory.

Lindsay Kessler's fourth grade students studied the Southeast region of the United States in Social Studies. "Visiting the museum is a great way to stimulate their interest in this subject," said Kessler.

Forty-two students, along with three teachers and numerous parent chaperones joined in the scavenger hunt activity, as Buddy Sturgis, museum director/curator and five other museum volunteers assisted.

The learning activity included four pages of questions about displays ranging from S.C. Medal of Honor recipients to weapons displays and the S.C. National Guard's involvement in wars from the American Revolution to today's Global War on Terrorism.

"I am amazed how the equipment and uniforms have changed over the years for Soldiers," said Joseph Degenhart, a fourth grade student. "The gear Soldiers carry today looks so huge and heavy."

Degenhart said it was fun looking for the answers on the scavenger hunt with his friend Robert King. The learning activity became a competition for many

students, as each tried to be first to find answers throughout the museum.

"We had another group of young people visit the museum last week," said Sturgis, who is always pleased to hear children tell him stories about their family members who have served. Sturgis believes the museum helps children identify with the equipment and uniforms of generations past.

"The museum was so cool. I loved everything about it," said Carolyn Leoffler, a fourth grader who worked on the scavenger hunt with a fellow classmate.

The teachers said the students were so excited about the museum and agreed the visit was a tremendous success. They commented on how they would recommend the museum to other schools because it covers history children can relate to, inspiring many to share stories about family members and their military service.

Bernadette McFarland, a fourth grade teacher, was touched to see one of her students donate his gift shop money to the museum, saying he wanted the museum to stay open for his grandfather.

Equally moving for Sturgis was when a

young boy spent all he had to buy a retirement medal for his grandfather.

Sturgis feels his conviction for sharing S.C. military history grows even stronger when he sees children recognize the sacrifice of our military. "It reminds me of the importance of our job to honor and preserve our military legacy," said Sturgis.



**Museum Hours:**  
Tuesday-Saturday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Sunday: 1 - 5 p.m.

The museum is free. No admission fees.

Tours run 1.5 to 2 hours.

Museum website provides planning information: <http://www.scgard.com/museum/index.html>

Call at least 2 weeks in advance to ensure special accommodations can be arranged.

Please contact Museum Director Buddy Sturgis at (803)806-4440 or [sturgiseg@tag.scmd.state.sc.us](mailto:sturgiseg@tag.scmd.state.sc.us)



(Clockwise from top) Robert King and Joseph Degenhart, fourth graders at St. Joseph Catholic School learn about weapons during their visit to the S.C. Military Museum.

Brig. Gen. John Motley, the assistant adjutant general for air, takes time to talk to a student while visiting the S.C. Military Museum.

Mike Lott, assistant curator for the S.C. Military Museum assists a fourth grade student on a fact-finding scavenger hunt.





# Honor Guard *presents colors*

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

Information Provided by Capt. Heather Leite, 169th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Capt. Heather Leite, Master Sgt. David Hutter, 2nd Lt. Michael Adams and Staff Sgt. Derek Hunter made up the four-man squad of the 169th Fighter Wing Base Honor Guard who presented colors at the Daughters of the American Revolution Banquet on April 6.

The Base Honor Guard is a volunteer only unit. The 169th Base Honor Guard officially began in 1999.

"You can't serve in the Honor Guard without a love for the country, flag and freedoms we have," said Hutter.

Their primary mission is to provide honorable services at funerals which include pallbearers, firing party, bugler, chaplains and colors team. Support is also provided for

different base and community events with color teams, POW/MIA ceremonies, flag folds and more. In true National Guard form, details also support state functions.

"I tell my team members I expect them to stand a little taller, walk with honor and be seen as the Honor Guard even from a distance," said Hutter.

"We are there not to be recognized but to recognize," said Leite.



2nd Lt. Michael Adams, Master Sgt. David Hutter, Staff Sgt. Derek Hunter and Capt. Heather Leite present the colors at The Daughters of the American Revolution formal banquet, April 3, 2009 in Columbia, S.C.

For more information on The South Carolina Air National Guard Honor Guard, please contact the McEntire Joint National Guard Base Public Affairs Office at (803)647-8208.

## McEntire Joint National Guard Base Hosts JROTC Top Gun Competition

Story by Sgt. Tracci Dorgan, 108th Public Affairs Detachment

Photos by Staff Sgt. Jorge Intriago, Joint Forces Headquarters Public Affairs

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) cadets from 26 high schools around South Carolina competed in the 17th annual "Top Gun Drill Meet" held at McEntire Joint National Guard Base in Eastover on April 25.

This all-day event was hosted by the S.C.

A JROTC cadet from Orangeburg Wilkinson High School competes in the annual "Top Gun Drill Meet" at McEntire Joint National Guard Base.

Air National Guard Recruiting and Retention Office.

The meet consisted of 12 drill and ceremony events performed by the JROTC cadets. Judges were volunteers from Air National Guard, active-duty Army, the State Guard and many civilians from the Columbia area.

To close the long day of competition, Brig. Gen. John M. Motley Jr., the assistant adjutant general for air, S.C. National Guard, proudly presented awards to the top schools in each event.

Spring Valley High School came in first place and won the Governor's Trophy for having the highest overall score in all events. Southside High School took second place, Airport High School placed



A JROTC cadet from Fort Mill High School is being inspected for dress appearance by members of the Army and Air National Guard.

third and Orangeburg-Wilkinson took fourth place.

"I'm impressed every year with the quality of the kids and the dedication of each unit that comes out here to compete," said Motley, following the event.

**"I think it's important, for high school students to get involved in something in addition to academics whether it's sports, band, service clubs, ROTC, or some other extra-curricular activity?"**

- Brig. Gen. John M. Motley





# FLAG DAMAGED ON 9- FLIES OVER 50 MISSIONS IN IRAQ

Story by Capt. Cindi King, Joint Forces Headquarters Public Affairs  
Photos provided by Col. Edwin C. Morehead



Defending freedom is patriotic and honorable, but most service members accept this as their duty. Many with inspirational stories rarely speak openly. Often, history is only revealed through their pictures and mementos.

One picture in the office of Col. Edwin C. Morehead, the Senior Army Advisor for the S.C. Army National Guard (SCARNG), shows an aviator holding an American flag in front of an AH-64 Apache helicopter. On a table nearby, there's a picture of an Army aviator cradling an infant. At first glance, it appears the pilots are one in the same. However, one picture is 1st Lt. Edwin Morehead holding his newborn son Chad Morehead in 1980.

The other picture is Capt. Chad Morehead now serving in Iraq. Col. Morehead said the flag his son is holding has deep personal significance to his family.

"The flag survived the crash of Flight 77 into the Pentagon," said Col. Morehead. "At the time, I had an office on the 3rd floor, D-

ring, 4th corridor, about 30 feet from where the building collapsed."

Col. Morehead, a native of Westminster, S.C., began his military career in 1971. He received the flag from his brother, who was one of five brothers serving in the Army at the same time. Col. Morehead said he always displayed the flag in his offices, including at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

"I witnessed countless acts of heroism by hundreds of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and civilians, who without hesitation, tried to save their comrades on 9-11," said Col. Morehead.

After the attacks, Col. Morehead was able to make his way back to the south side of the Pentagon to what remained of his office. It was difficult, but he was able to salvage a few mementos, including his flag.

"My son Chad was a junior in the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) at Clemson University during the terrorists' attacks," said Col. Morehead. "It was six hours before I could call my wife and Chad to let them know I was O.K."

After displaying the flag on his final duty assignment supporting the SCARNG, Col. Morehead decided it was time to pass the flag to his son, who was entering the Army as a helicopter pilot.

In Sept. 2005, Col. Morehead presented the flag to the younger Morehead as a graduation gift from Flight School.

"I knew about the history of my father's flag



Col. Edwin Morehead as a 1st Lt. holding his newborn son Chad in 1980.

and the fact he had it at the Pentagon on Sept. 11," said Capt. Morehead. "I was really surprised when he gave it to me."

Capt. Morehead deployed to Iraq in Oct. 2008 and later told his father the flag has been on every mission he's flown.

"It means a lot to me being in a military family," said Capt. Morehead, assigned to the 10th Mountain Division, 1st of the 10th Aviation Attack Battalion, at Camp Speicher in Iraq. "I've had this flag with me on over 50 missions, with over 150 flying hours."

"I was pleased knowing Chad felt strongly enough about the flag to take it with him while he flew," said Col. Morehead.

In Mar. 2009, during a two week leave, Capt. Morehead brought the flag home. It was getting brittle and he wanted it preserved during his final six months of deployment.

"We'll be happy when Chad's home safe," said Col. Morehead. "We'll protect the flag while he's away and look forward to returning it to him so he can carry on the tradition."



Capt. Chad Morehead deployed to Iraq in Oct. 2008 holds the flag that survived the terrorists' attacks on the Pentagon.

*Inscribed on the flag stand Col. Morehead gave to his son with the Pentagon flag reads:*

**“From 1971 to 2005 this flag has flown where I have served, across America and abroad, to include West Germany, Korea, and Somalia. Having survived the September 11, 2001 attack on the Pentagon, the South Carolina National Guard carried this flag to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. I now pass these National Colors on to you and trust that they will protect you as you serve our country.**

**Love, Dad”**



# Sesame Street Helping Military Families

## “Talk, Listen and Connect”

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

What do award-winning singer and actress Queen Latifah, Grammy Award-winning singer John Mayer, and PBS’s beloved Elmo have in common? A touching, half-hour special dedicated to helping children learn to “Talk, Listen and Connect” with their service members who return home with injuries and heroically struggle to find a “new normal.”

“Coming Home: Military Families Cope With Change” is the latest in Sesame Street’s Talk, Listen and Connect series. This latest effort aired on PBS during primetime on April 1, in conjunction with the start of the “Month of the Military Child.” On March 24, S.C. National Guard families were treated to a special premiere viewing of the show held at S.C. ETV studios in Columbia. Sponsored by the Greater Columbia Marine Foundation, Guard families had the opportunity to meet ETV personalities and enjoy a free dinner prior to the premiere.

During the special, Queen Latifah shared

a personal story about her military father’s struggle with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and how he was able to help others since. Elmo talks, listens and connects with the children of injured war veterans and their families and John Mayer performs a tribute song called “Say.”

“As America’s public broadcaster, PBS is proud to bring resources and tools to families that help them navigate their way through life,” said John F. Wilson, Chief TV Programming Executive, PBS. Wilson said these stories of courage and strength from military moms and dads will not only help reach and support families facing similar challenges, but also illustrate to all Americans the extraordinary sacrifices these military families make everyday.

To view Sesame Street’s Talk, Listen and Connect series please visit their website at: [www.sesameworkshop.org/initiatives/emotion/mission](http://www.sesameworkshop.org/initiatives/emotion/mission).



talk,  
listen,  
connect™

Deployments  
Homecomings  
Changes



## Colonel Buddy Heading to Afghanistan

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

Photo by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones, Joint Forces Headquarters Public Affairs

Other than his Army Combat Uniform (ACU), “Colonel Buddy” doesn’t look like a typical Soldier, but soon, he’ll be serving as mascot for the S.C. Army National Guard’s new Agricultural Team. The team, scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan later this year, will assist farmers wishing to improve their food production methods.

Col. Buddy, who was named by Carol Davis, the founder of Operation Military Stress

Relief Doll, will be part of the Agriculture Team’s effort to reach out to children of the farmers the team will be helping. Following his mission, Col. Buddy will become a permanent part of the Operation Enduring Freedom display Buddy Sturgis, the S.C. Military Museum Director/Curator is incorporating into the museum’s new expansion effort which began in February.

“There are a lot of good things our Soldiers continue to do for the people in Afghanistan and Iraq and Col. Buddy will help tell the story of their humanitarian efforts,” said Sturgis.

Davis, who began making dolls like Col. Buddy five years ago for deploying Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, calls her effort the most rewarding thing she’s done since raising her family. Each month, her team of 400 volunteers from throughout South Carolina, make 750 to 1,000 dolls for deploying military personnel.

“It may seem odd to

those outside of the military to see our tough Soldiers carrying dolls off to war, but we get emails from them telling us they use the dolls in pictures they send to their kids about people they meet and places they’ve seen while deployed,” said Davis.

As someone who grew up during the Vietnam War era, Davis was determined to make sure today’s Soldiers aren’t treated the same way many of our Vietnam veterans were.

“Making dolls like Col. Buddy is one way people throughout S.C. have been able to express their love for our young, brave American fighting men and women,” said Davis.

The Operation Military Stress Relief Doll volunteers make dolls primarily from donated materials. According to Davis, their biggest expense is postage to send the dolls overseas or for specialty dolls for Soldiers who have a favorite ball team.

Davis hopes every deploying service member who wants a doll, or unit wishing to have a Col. Buddy-like mascot, will contact the volunteer organization at [www.militarystressreliefdolls.com](http://www.militarystressreliefdolls.com).

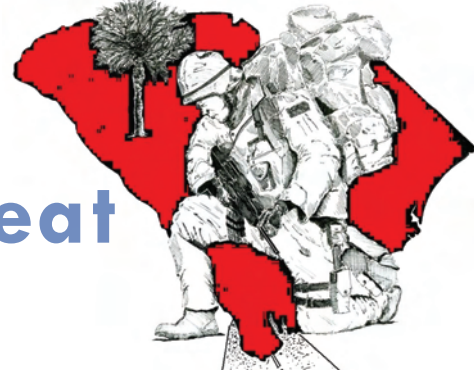
“It’s a privilege for us to do this for our military,” said Davis.



Pat Tipton (left) and Carol Davis (right) present Col. Michael Dunn, Commander of the Agricultural Team, with Col. Buddy who will serve as the team’s mascot during their pending deployment to Afghanistan.



# State Family Programs Hosts First Joint Marriage and Singles Retreat



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



Fifty-two S.C. Army and Air National Guard couples participated in the first-ever joint marriage retreat held at the Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach from April 24-26. The retreat, which is free-of-charge, helps Guard couples who have returned from deployment learn relationship enhancement techniques. The program is proven to extend the length of a marriage by five years if the couple completes the entire weekend together.



Thirty-eight single S.C. Army and Air National Guard personnel participated in the first-ever joint singles retreat held at the Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach from April 24-26. The retreat, which is free of charge, helps single Guard members learn relationship enhancement techniques which assist them in their personal lives. To enroll in the next retreat, please contact Sherry Marsh at (803) 806-1641.

*Mark Your Calendars!*

## Youth Camp

**Date:** Jul. 26-Aug. 1, 2009

**Who:** This Camp is for S.C. National Guard family members ages 10-13.

Jr. Counselors begin July 24 for ages 14-18.

To obtain an application please contact the State Family Programs Office toll free at 1-800-317-5553



(Left) Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steve Shugart teaches married couples about the static and dynamic risk factors each married couple must deal with during their marriage. Using humor and being honest about his own marriage, Shugart is able to open the lines of communication between struggling couples and enhance the marriages of all those who attend.



(Above) Chaplain (Capt.) Josh White and Ruthie, his daughter, lead the music for the Sunday morning chapel service held during the S.C. National Guard's first-ever joint marriage and single retreat.



On Monday, June 1, at the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce, leaders representing S.C. government agencies, the military and various private entities came together to express their commitment to support our S.C. veterans and their families. The covenant promises to reduce barriers for treatment for veterans and their families and ensure statewide access for mental health and substance abuse services by building up a coordinated provider network. Their effort will also include a public information program to inform citizens of S.C. of the needs of veterans and their families.



# Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors

Story and photos provided by The S.C. National Guard Family Programs Office

The South Carolina Family Programs sponsored six South Carolina families of fallen Soldiers to attend the National Tragedy Assistance Programs for Survivors (TAPS) seminar.

TAPS provides peer-based support, crisis care, casualty casework assistance, as well as grief and trauma resources. This seminar consists of workshops such as Helping Children Cope, Did My Loved One Suffer, The Other Side of Grief, and much more.

TAPS also provided "Good Grief Camp for Young Survivors" to family members 19 years old and under. The attendees were provided coping mechanisms and tactics to help deal with grief.

Special events provided for the families included The Marine Corps Evening Parade with Silent Drill Team, a Concert at the Capitol, and the Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

TAPS families were given reserved seating at the Memorial Day service and witnessed the moving Memorial Day Address given by President Barack Obama.

The Family Programs staff was able to witness first hand how these families cope and sort through their pain.

"I personally gained a new appreciation for the TAPs organization. You could not help but to get caught up in the emotion, as families shared their stories of their loved ones and the kids as well," said Lt. Col. Clarence Bowser, Director of the State Family Programs Office (FPO).

The S.C. National Guard was one of only two states to take the opportunity of sponsoring families to attend the event.

"Not only did the Chairman

of the Joint Chiefs of Staff thank us, but the founder of TAPS, Bonnie Carroll did as well," said Bowser.

Carroll said it is their desire to pay homage to those who made the ultimate sacrifice by ensuring they never forget families or their sacrifices.

The families met new friends, some found new support groups and many were just happy to meet families who have had similar experiences. For more information about TAPS, please contact FPO at 1-800-317-5553.

*"This venue gave them a chance to know that it is OK to hurt, cry, and still miss their loved ones who paid the ultimate sacrifice. I am in awe of their strength and courage."*

-Lt. Col. Clarence Bowser

*"TAPS has helped me become a better person because I opened up to kids that went through the same thing that I went through. At the program, the kids learned how other kids went through the tragedy and what they did to make things better."*

Zakees Baker, 15 years old

*"TAPS is always a lot of fun and being around families that feel the same unique pain of losing a loved one in the military is the best, because for a whole weekend you can relate with everybody and be yourself."*

Cynthia Buck, 16 years old

*"We are a family that grows more every year. This is a safe place for us where we know we are not alone. It has helped me in more ways that I can express in words and I would recommend TAPS to any grieving individual."*

Haley Buck, 18 years old





# If These



Editors note: As our state commemorates the bicentennial of the completion of Ft. Moultrie on Dec. 19, 1809, the “Swamp Fox History” pages of this magazine will showcase South Carolina’s epic service at the fort in a personified three-part series called “If These Walls Could Talk.”

**H**ey ya’ll! Welcome to Ft. Moultrie! I live here on beautiful Sullivan’s Island, S.C. On Dec. 19, 2009, my friends in South Carolina will be celebrating the bicentennial of my completion. Of course, for a fort born in February 1776, I had already witnessed some very exciting events way before I was ever completed.

My life began during a tumultuous time in S.C. Until 1774, most South Carolinians had enjoyed a happy co-existence with Great Britain. In fact, nine of the 10 wealthiest businessmen in the American colonies lived in S.C. However, when King George III levied higher taxes to help pay off his war debts, a cry went out “taxation without representation is tyranny!” In response, the first Continental Congress, made up of great men from S.C. and the other 12 American colonies, met. After the King rejected their Declaration of Colonial Rights in May 1775, our S.C. General Assembly felt an obligation to ensure our people were protected.

To accomplish this, they established a Committee of Safety. Soon after, this committee ordered its Citizen-Soldiers to act. On Sept.

15, 1775, Charleston residents awoke to find Ft. Johnson, across the harbor from me, under colonial control. An indigo blue flag with the word “Liberty” inscribed in the center of a silver-colored gorget sewn onto the top left-hand corner replaced the British flag. With the raising of the “Liberty Flag” South Carolina had committed herself to the American Revolution.

For the next several months, S.C. patriots strengthened fortifications around Charleston Harbor in anticipation of a British assault to regain control of Charleston. Because they considered my strategic position the key to Charleston Harbor, officers such as Capt. Peter Horry arrived in February 1776, to begin my construction. Shortly thereafter, he said I was looking like an “immense pen, 500 feet long and 16 feet wide, filled with sand to stop the shot.” With my delivery date coming sooner than expected, they didn’t have time to ship in standard fort building materials. Instead, they used palmetto trees which grow in abundance around here. It’s a good thing too ‘cause when Col. William Moultrie arrived here in March, he didn’t think much of my growth spurt! His boss Maj. Gen. Charles Lee, the Ameri-

can commander in the south was even less impressed when he got here June 8. He considered me a trap and “slaughter pen,” whatever that meant! I knew better. Little did they realize, the palmetto logs they built me with would end up being my best defense.

The day for me to prove my worthiness as a fort came on June 28, 1776. By then, I was square in shape with a bastion at each angle. Although only two sides of my wall were completed, they were strong. They consisted of two parallel rows spaced 16 feet apart filled with sand. My merlons were 16 ft. thick, filled with sand and rose 10 ft. above cannon platforms supported by brick pillars. In other words, I was built to keep my Soldiers safe.

I’ll never forget June 28. Around 9:30 in the morning, I could see British Commodore Peter Parker and his squadron of 11 ships sailing toward me from Morris Island. I could also hear the musket and cannon fire echoing from what we now call the Isle of Palms as Britain’s Maj. Gen. Henry Clinton aided by Lord Charles Cornwallis and 2,500 redcoat soldiers and marines attempted to cross Breach Inlet (between the Isle of Palms and Sullivan’s Island) on my left. Col. William Thompson’s



# These Walls Could Talk

## Part 1: America's First Decisive Victory in the South

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

Continental and a couple hundred of our S.C. militia, aided by a strong current, kept beating Clinton's forces back.

It's fortunate they were able to because my commander, Col. Moultrie and Capt. Francis Marion, who came to be known as "The Swamp Fox," had their hands full facing down Parker's 270 guns with only 31 cannons and a mere 10,000 pounds of gunpowder. At the beginning of the battle, I could hear Moultrie telling his men "make every shot count" and they did! Holes were soon visible in every ship within range, especially Parker's largest ships, the *Bristol* and the *Experiment*. The artillerymen firing from my platforms were not only very accurate, they were also very smart. Oftentimes, they would fire red hot cannonballs at the British! Several times, we thought the *Bristol* and *Experiment* might catch fire. I could barely see through all the smoke.

Although we only had enough shot and gunpowder to fire at the British once every 10 minutes or so, they had no such shortage. They fired at me for nine-and-a-half hours but my soft, spongy palmetto logs absorbed the impact every time. Fact is, about the only time I got nervous was when both the *Bristol* and *Experiment* swung broadside at me once and fired all their cannons simultaneously. It was a lucky volley. Shook me to my foundations but I held true.

Have you ever heard of Sgt. William Jasper? I saw the phrase "courage under fire" personified by him this day. What a hero! The Liberty Flag's mast was shot in two by a cannonball right about the time the British lost a frigate attempting to outflank us. Leaping down from his position, Jasper retrieved the flag under a hail of British cannon fire and was pulled back over the wall to the cheers of everyone here. Col. Moultrie brought him a makeshift staff. I was so proud. Jasper attached the flag and mounting the parapet shouted,

"Don't let us fight without a flag!"

The day ended well for the patriot cause. Despite the pounding, we lost only 12 men and won America's first decisive southern victory in the American Revolution. Parker lost 70 sailors and another 130 wounded. Every person on the quarterdeck of Parker's *Bristol*, the flagship of the fleet, was killed or wounded, including Parker who had his britches torn off, and backside laid bare by shrapnel. Boy, was that a "full moon!" By nightfall, Parker broke off the attack, picked up Clinton's forces and sailed back north.

As you can imagine, patriots throughout S.C. and all around the new nation, were mighty proud of what we accomplished here June 28. Until then, I was known simply as the log fort on Sullivan's Island. Soon after, the leaders in S.C. gave me Col. Moultrie's last name. I was finally "somebody." What an honor! Every time I hear my name -- Ft. Moultrie -- spoken, my walls swell with pride remembering a great man who inspired over 400 patriots to risk all on a hot June day in the pursuit of freedom. A year later, the citizens of Charleston



Lizzie Taylor (left) and Joy Sasnett, students at Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, are taught the history of the symbols of the South Carolina flag by Buddy Sturgis, the Director of the S.C. Military Museum.

started hosting annual commemorations on the anniversary of the triumph here. Years later, the S.C. General Assembly honored me again. Each time you look at the S.C. flag, you'll see symbols of this great American victory. The palmetto tree represents my defenders resilience against the tyranny of Britain. The silver crescent depicts the accoutrement worn on the ether caps of Moultrie's men which also flew on the Liberty Flag. The indigo blue color of the flag is also representative of the uniform color of my defenders, who used indigo -- one of South Carolina's big cash crops at the time -- to dye their uniforms.

Yep! As I mentioned at the beginning of



John Blake White gave his *The Battle of Fort Moultrie* to the U.S. Senate in 1901 so "the sons may know how their fathers fought to secure the precious boon of liberty." Col. William Moultrie and Capt. Francis Marion are featured in the center right foreground.

my story, by the time I was completed 200 years ago in December 1809, I had already witnessed some very exciting events. As thrilling as the American Revolution was, wait 'til you hear about all the rest of the wars I've been a part of. After all, I'm the only unit of the National Park System where the entire 171-year history of American seacoast defense (1776-1947) can be traced. Wait until next time, I've only just begun to reveal my secrets!





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Henry E. (Gene) Kodama, State Forester

May 28, 2009

SC National Guard  
Director, Public Affairs  
COL Peter J Brooks  
1 National Guard Road  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Colonel Brooks:

We would like to express our appreciation on behalf of the South Carolina Forestry Commission and the Forestry Commission's Incident Management Team. The SC National Guard did not hesitate to provide some critical support to us during the Highway 31 Fire. This historic fire fight called on the skills, services, and strength of individuals and groups from all over. In particular, the Guard's tactical assistance was matched by the sheer moral support our men and women felt when they saw your personnel on the scene.

We hope there will never be another fire of this magnitude in South Carolina. However, it is reassuring to know that if there is, the South Carolina National Guard will be there working side-by-side with the SC Forestry Commission.

Please contact us if we can ever be of any assistance.

Gene Kodama,  
State Forester

Mike Bozzo  
Incident Commander,  
SCFC IMT

Our mission is to protect and develop the forest resources of South Carolina.

# AIR GROUND



MCENTIRE JOINT NATIONAL GUARD BASE  
OCTOBER 10-11, 2009

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