



PALMETTO

G U A R D

FAMILY MAGAZINE WINTER 2009

ISSUE IV VOL IV





From the Desk of the Adjutant General



Stanhope S. Spears
Major General, SCARNG
The Adjutant General

“You men and women of the Palmetto Guard are the finest example of dedication, integrity, hard work and perserverence.”

-Maj. Gen.
Stanhope Spears

Dear Guard Family,

What an outstanding year 2009 has been. By all of the National Guard’s readiness indicators, our state remains a top-10 “go to” state for the Department of Defense. I could not be more proud of the Soldiers and Airmen of the S.C. Army and Air National Guard. Your continued support in the Global War on Terror says a lot about your devotion to defending freedom and completing the mission at hand.

As you leaf through this special “Year in Review” edition of the magazine, I hope you will take pride in your achievements and in those of your fellow Citizen Soldiers. From successfully assuming the CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives) Consequence Management Response Force (CCMRF), to providing air defense support for the national capital region, to hosting the greatest Air and Ground Expo in our history and numerous other accomplishments, your standards remain above and beyond and I am immensely proud of you.

This time of year is always special in that it provides families time to gather, celebrate and give thanks for all life’s blessings. Dot and I are exceptionally grateful for this tremendous year. As we look ahead to a new year and the 340th birthday of the S.C. National Guard, I see even greater things in our future.

You men and women of the Palmetto Guard are the finest example of dedication, integrity, hard work and perseverance. There is nothing we can’t accomplish, no obstacle we can’t overcome and no objective we can’t conquer. I am confident in all of your abilities to defend and serve this great state and nation.

Congratulations for making 2009 a year that will be recorded in history as one of the greatest years for the S.C. National Guard.

Dot and I extend our deepest appreciation to you and your loved ones as you enjoy the holidays. Be sure to take a moment to remember your fellow Soldiers and Airmen who are deployed and away from their families. Don’t forget to check on your fellow comrades and remain safe as you travel. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year - and may God Bless you all.

Sincerely,

Stanhope S. Spears
Major General, SCARNG
The Adjutant General

Holiday Message from the Command Sgt. Maj.

As 2009 comes to a close and we begin the holiday season, it is appropriate to express our deepest appreciation and admiration to our military members and their families for the sacrifices they make every day. As we enjoy this time of year celebrating with family and friends, we can not forget those who continue to serve overseas, especially our own S.C. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen. We also pause to remember those who paid the ultimate price in defense of freedom. Thank you for all you do for our great nation at home and throughout the world. In this “Year of the NCO,” it is also fitting to recognize our noncommissioned officers (NCOs) for their leadership, professionalism and dedication.

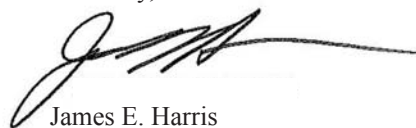
The Year of the NCO paid tribute to the value of our noncommissioned officers. Since there have been armies, there have been distinguished leaders. The S.C. National Guard is no different. The S.C. National Guard’s NCOs have been providing leadership to new military members since 1670. The NCO Creed says the corps is “the backbone of the Army.” Our NCOs support and strengthen our units on a daily basis and without them we would not succeed.

Many NCOs came forth to compete for the S.C. National Guard’s NCO of the Year, with Sgt. Herald Fullerton from 59th Troop Command earning this distinct honor. We are proud of all of our NCOs for all they do to keep things running and assisting our military members and families. The creed also declares, “all Soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my Soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own.” Our NCOs embody that statement and make it their mission. They have made sure the military members under their supervision are not simply trained to the standards, but surpass them. We as NCOs have a duty to ensure all of our Soldiers and Airmen are taken care of no matter the scale of the issue. We are a family of Citizen Soldiers. The NCOs are here to look out for all of their enlisted brothers and sisters.

From the sergeants to the command sergeants major, to the command chiefs, our Palmetto NCOs are leaders, reflecting the highest level of loyalty, duty, respect, self sacrifice, honor, integrity and personal courage in the Palmetto State. They are vigilant in passing on these values to their fellow comrades.

As we begin a new year, I encourage all of you to continue to look out for your battle buddy. Be vigilant and aware of your surroundings and comply with safety procedures wherever you go. Each of you, as proud members of the S.C. Army and Air National Guard, is an invaluable asset to our state and nation. I wish you and your family a very happy holiday season and may God continue to bless our nation as we welcome the challenges of the new year.

Sincerely,



James E. Harris
CSM, SCARNG
State Command Sgt. Maj.



Eddie Harris
Command Sgt. Maj., SCARNG
State Command Sgt. Maj.

“Thank you
for all you do
for our
great nation
at home and
throughout
the world.”

-Command Sgt. Maj.
Eddie Harris



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ON THE COVER

The 2009 Year In Review showcases some of the South Carolina Army and Air National Guard's accomplishments throughout the year.

Cover design by Staff Sgt. Jorge Intriago

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The S.C. Army and Air National Guard held its first Air Ground Expo October 10-11 at McEntire Joint National Guard Base in Eastover. The expo was filled with static displays, aerial shows and a combined arms demonstration that showcased the joint capabilities of the S.C. Army and Air National Guard.

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Part 3: Victory Over Spain to Today

As our state commemorates the bicentennial completion of Ft. Moultrie on Dec. 19, 1809, the "Swamp Fox History" pages of this magazine are proud to showcase South Carolina's epic service at the fort in this final installment of a personified three-part series called "If These Walls Could Talk."

The Palmetto Guard Family Magazine is published 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.



Photo by Sgt. Roberto Di Giovine



Photo by Master Sgt. Marvin R. Preston



Photo by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones



Photo by Maj. Scott Bell



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Boltz

S.C. National Guard News Briefs



Become a fan of the S.C. National Guard on Facebook or follow us on Twitter for news and updates.

S.C. Guard and Rescue Swimmers Combine Training Efforts

Story by Spc. Brad Mincey, 108th Public Affairs Det.

Photo by Sgt. Roberto Di Giovine, Joint Forces Headquarters Public Affairs

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 149th Aviation, General Support Aviation Battalion trained with emergency responders from all over S.C. at Lake Monticello in preparation for possible disasters in the U.S. If someone needs to be rescued, the S.C. National Guard's greatest asset is the UH-60 Black Hawk belonging to the Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (HART).

"We are training for incidents where you can't get to the area by vehicle," said Sgt. Brian Holder, crew chief for the 2nd Battalion, 149th Aviation Regiment.

While the Guard has the aviation capabilities, the S.C. Emergency Response Teams provide the personnel with emergency medical training who can go out on the short-haul rope. This cooperative training brings together multiple assets to perform a vital mission that neither team could do individually.

"While we're not at war, we're always training," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Reynolds, an Instructor/Pilot with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 149th Aviation. "We have a large aviation asset in the S.C. Guard. These assets are well taken care of and its (the UH-60 Black Hawk) performance exceeds anything the search and rescue team needs."



S.C. Army National Guard Supports National Public Lands Day

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

Photos by Sgt. Roberto Di Giovine, Joint Forces Headquarters Public Affairs

In honor of Public Lands Day, the S.C. National Guard worked with Science Club students from Lugoff-Elgin Middle School to improve the environment. The S.C. National Guard Conservation Office received a grant from the Department of Defense Legacy program for pollinator habitats and trail improvements on the Gen. Harry J. Vann Interpretive nature trail segment of the Palmetto Trail on the McCrady Training Center.

"The increased number of pollinators will be the biggest benefit, but having the students work with Guard members gives the students an opportunity to see a variety of career paths available to them," said Tracy Elmore, a sixth grade teacher at Lugoff-Elgin Middle School.

Currently there are 290 miles of trail open. The Fort Jackson Passage covers 15.7 miles of the Palmetto Trail, which is open for hiking and biking.

While the S.C. National Guard is doing a lot to enhance the environment, they are also trying to create more awareness of S.C. public lands.

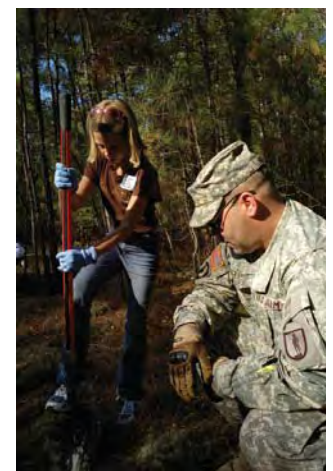
In addition to improving the trail, the S.C. National Guard, along with three other states, will be producing four documentaries about the Guard and the environment.

"The documentaries will be entirely student filmed and edited," said Kristopher Murphy, account executive with LM&O Advertising.

The film will premier at the American Film Institute and be shown on an on-demand documentary channel.

(Top) Staff Sgt. William Nickles from Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 218th Leadership Battalion supervises as a student from the science club at Lugoff-Elgin Middle School digs a hole for a shrub in the new butterfly garden along the Palmetto Trail.

(Bottom) In honor of National Public Lands Day, Pvt. Mustafa Shields from Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 218th Leadership Battalion helps students from Lugoff-Elgin Middle School plant flowers and shrubs along the Palmetto Trail.



2009 Palmetto Best Warrior Team: HOOAH time!

Story and photo by Sgt. Roberto Di Giovine, Joint Forces Headquarters Public Affairs

With the Best Ranger Competition as a model, the 2009 Palmetto Best Warrior Team, in its first year, is an opportunity to challenge S.C. National Guard Soldiers in a 3-day event. The focus of the competition is team-building, mental strength and physical endurance.



The challenge, organized by the 4-118th Infantry Battalion, 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB) took place at McCrady Training Center, December 1-3. Six two-men teams entered the competition and participated in three days of mentally and physically demanding events: Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), 3-Mile Buddy Run (wearing the Army combat uniform, boots and load bearing equipment, while carrying a rifle), 5-Mile Buddy Run (ACU and running shoes), Chin-Ups, and the final 16-Mile Road March (carrying a 45-pound ruck sack).

“This is about team-building. Soldiers work together to accomplish a mission with one goal. There is no room for individuals,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Ceaser Hargrove, 4-118th Command Sgt. Maj., and organizer of the Palmetto Best Warrior Team.

“At fifty years old, I want to lead the way for the young Soldiers,” said Staff Sgt. Larry Gore, before starting the 16-mile road march.

The top teams at the competition were Team Delta, Sgt. Kevin Kirkpatrick and Spc. James Gobeyn taking first place, second place went to Team HHC 1 of Sgt. Maurice Leonard and Sgt. Royce Mclester, and third place was Team FSC 1, Staff Sgt. Larry Gore and Sgt. Johnny Stevenson.

S.C. National Guard Public Affairs Office Takes Home Awards

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

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

At the National Guard Public Affairs Conference held in October 2009, the S.C. National Guard Public Affairs personnel were the recipient of more awards than any other of the 54 states and territories.

Maj. Scott Bell, the S.C. National Guard Historian garnered third place in the Department of the Army’s Keith L. Ware Awards for his story “South Carolina Guardsman during the Great War.”

Senior Master Sgt. Edward Snyder of the 169th Fighter Wing Public Affairs captured first place in the Video Documentary category and third place in the Air Force Media Contest for his video entry, “The Fight is On.”

Master Sgt. Marvin Preston of the 169th Fighter Wing received third place for Illustrative Photography.

Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Cashion of the 108th Public Affairs Detachment was the recipient of first place in the Best Feature category.

Tech. Sgt. Caycee Cook of the 169th Fighter Wing won second place for Combat Documentation Photography.

Staff Sgt. Jorge Intriago of the 169th Fighter Wing was awarded second place for Art Graphics in Support of a Publication.

Of the five Special Recognition categories, the S.C. Joint Forces captured three first and one second place finish. The three first place awards were in the overall Community Relations program, best overall Special Events, and Plans and Policy for disaster response. A second place finish was in Public Communications in support of domestic operations.

Congratulations to these professionals and all the public affairs personnel in the S.C. National Guard. They have proved the “one team with one fight” joint concept yields outstanding results.



Combatives Back in the Ring for Soldier’s Training

Story by Staff Sgt. Tracci Dorgan, 108th Public Affairs Det.



Maj. Andrew Johnson and Staff Sgt. Timothy Muldrow represented the S.C. Army National Guard when they competed in the National Guard Combatives Tournament on Aug. 29, at Ft. Benning, Ga. The Combatives Program is the Army’s version of the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), but for Soldiers, this type of fighting is a pre-mobilization task.

Johnson came home as the semi-finalist in the 155 lbs Welterweight Division and Muldrow was the winner in the Heavyweight Division. Both Johnson and Muldrow had to compete in three matches before being awarded their titles.

“Everyone has to take this seriously as you never know when this training might save your life. The Army has documented instances from Iraq and Afghanistan where hand to hand combat has decided the outcome of engagements,” said Muldrow.

Johnson will be representing South Carolina at the All Army Combatives Tournament this upcoming year.

If you are interested in representing our state in an upcoming combatives tournament, call Johnson for more information at (803) 360-0756.

The 218th Commissions Painting to Depict their History

Story by Capt. Tim Irvin, 218th MEB Public Affairs Officer

The 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB) has commissioned a painting to capture the unit's long and impressive history. Pamela Patrick White has been commissioned to produce the painting depicting the history of the 218th MEB, the Sumter Guards and the Washington Light Infantry. White has created many military pieces of artwork including the Battle of Camden (pictured).

The painting will consist of four scenes; three in the background and one in the foreground. The background scenes will be of Lt. Frederick W. Selleck planting the Palmetto Banner on the walls of Mexico City, the Sumter Guards firing on Ft. Sumter and then Lt. James C. Dozier's Medal of Honor assault on a German machine-gun nest during World War I. The foreground scene will capture the overall deployment of the 218th to Afghanistan from 2007-2008 as Task Force Phoenix VI.

Nineteen-by-22-inch poster prints will be available for \$95. High-quality, 16-by-22-inch giclee (high resolution reproductions) are available for \$195. The giclee prints will be printed on canvas to look more authentic. Ten full-size, 48-by-36-inch, signed and numbered, giclee prints will be available for \$700. The poster and small giclee prints will not be signed or numbered. For those who preorder, the artist will sign and number the prints at the unveiling of the painting during the S.C. National Guard Convention March 12 - 14, 2010.

For more information contact Maj. Edward Cloyd at (803) 832-0679 or edward.cloyd@us.army.mil. To see more examples of White's work go to www.ppatrickwhite.com.



Falcon Air Meet 2009 ends; Swamp Foxes Victorious in F-16 Competition

Story by Master Sgt. Richard Hodges, 169th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Caycee Cook, 169th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Falcon Air Meet (FAM) 2009 ended and the 169th Fighter Wing was declared the overall winner of the competition, receiving five of the six awards presented. This is the first time since the FAM began in 2006 that an Air National Guard team was selected to represent the U.S. at the competition in Jordan.

"I could not be more proud of what the S.C. Air National Guard accomplished here," said Col. Michael Hudson, commander of the 169th Operations Group at McEntire Joint National Guard Base.

The six award categories announced at the closing ceremonies of the FAM 2009 were:

Large Force Employment – A Flight of F-16s were tasked to drop inert Mark-82 500-pound bombs on a target at a precise time and to upload live Mark-82 bombs and engaged a ground target.

Scramble Launch and Intercept Competition – Pilots and crew chiefs worked together to safely launch an alert aircraft in the fastest time possible and then for the pilot to conduct an intercept mission.

Formation Arrival Award – A four-ship flight of F-16s arrives over a target in a symmetrical formation.

Weapons Load Competition – Two air-to-air missiles were uploaded to an F-16 with the greatest speed, safety and reliability.

Top Overall Maintenance Award – Based on the overall results of the Scramble, Weapons Load and Sortie Generation.

Top Overall Competition Award – As a result of having won four of the five competition categories, the U.S. team was awarded the top overall award and named winner of the 2009 FAM. The awards were presented by His Royal Highness Prince Feisel Bin Al Hussein.

(Top) F-16 Fighter Pilots flying over Jordan from the 169th Fighter Wing at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, and Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Al Azraq, Jordan participated in air re-fueling with a KC-135 from McConnell Air Force Base, Kan. An F16 pilot from the 157th Fighter Squadron at McEntire Joint National Guard Base flies in to connect to the KC-135.

(Bottom) Lt. Col. Scott "Cleetus" Bridgers with the 157th Fighter Squadron, 169th Fighter Wing, runs for his F16 during the Scramble Launch. During the competition, an F16 pilot and two crew chiefs start about 10 meters away from their aircraft and race to get their jet launched as quickly as possible.



National Guard reunion at Newberry Armory

Story by Col. (Ret.) Harvey Shackelford

The S.C. Army National Guard units in Newberry recently held a reunion on Nov. 14. About 175 Soldiers and several spouses attended. Following the reception, where many old acquaintances were renewed, all enjoyed a barbeque meal. Chairman of the reunion committee was Master Sgt. (ret.) Dixon Brooks. Col. (ret.) Jim Lander was the event's master of ceremonies.

The oldest retirees in attendance were Lt. Col. J. C. Lester and Master Sgt. Floyd G. "Pete" Beheler, both 93 years old. They enlisted in the National Guard in 1939 and 1940.

Gamecocks Feature Guardsmen and Aid Wounded Warriors Project

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

In front of a crowd of over 79,000 football fans, the University of South Carolina Gamecocks featured Col. Deane Pennington of the S.C. Air National Guard's 169th Fighter Wing, Command Sgt. Maj. Caesar Hargrove of the S.C. Army National Guard's 4th of the 118th Infantry Battalion and three other veterans including Medal of Honor recipient Col. (Ret.) Charles P. Murray, Jr., during their halftime tribute to South Carolina veterans at Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia on Nov. 14.

During the nationally televised game with the top-ranked Florida Gators, the Gamecocks' grid-iron squad saluted the military by dressing head-to-toe in specially made black and army combat

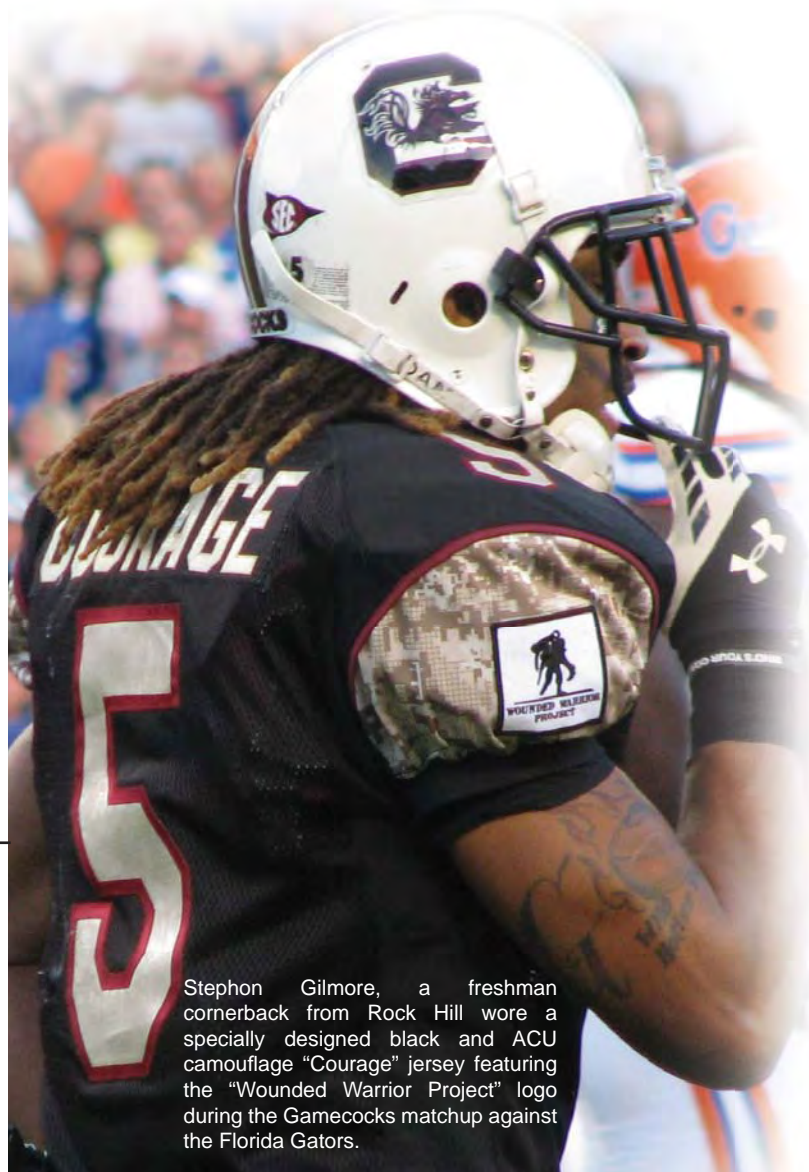
uniform (ACU) camouflage Under Armour uniforms. The core values Duty, Honor, Courage, Commitment, Integrity, Country and Service were inscribed in place of the players' last name on the back of each jersey.

The Gamecocks were one of two college football teams in the nation to team up with Under Armour in support of the Wounded Warrior Project, a not-for-profit organization that provides programs and services for injured servicemembers and their families. The team's jerseys and other items from the game were auctioned off afterward to aid in the mission of the Wounded Warriors Project.



(Top) Col. (Ret.) Charles P. Murray Jr., a World War II Medal of Honor recipient, poses with Col. Deane Pennington of the S.C. Air National Guard and Command Sgt. Maj. Caesar Hargrove of the S.C. Army National Guard during the University of South Carolina Gamecock's halftime tribute to South Carolina's veterans.

(Bottom) The Gamecocks offense huddles up as Coach Steve Spurrier (right) prepares for the second-half kickoff.



Stephon Gilmore, a freshman cornerback from Rock Hill wore a specially designed black and ACU camouflage "Courage" jersey featuring the "Wounded Warrior Project" logo during the Gamecocks matchup against the Florida Gators.

Pennington FASTFACTS

- ▶ Flew 50 combat missions in Operation Desert Storm.
- ▶ Led his F-16 fighter squadron in both Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.
- ▶ His unit flew 643 missions and had over 3,800 combat hours without a single loss.
- ▶ Received the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Hargrove FASTFACTS

- ▶ While serving with the 218th Brigade Combat Team in Afghanistan, he led his team through countless direct-fire engagements and defeated or captured over 400 Anti-Coalition Forces.
- ▶ Was hit in the right shoulder with the fin of a rocket propelled grenade, shot in the right shoulder and left leg, but continued protecting his team with an M203 grenade launcher.
- ▶ Received two Bronze Stars, the Army Commendation Medal with Valor and the Purple Heart.

YEAR in PICTURES



Capt. Randy Lutz performs a preflight inspection. Lutz, the aircraft commander, and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Eric Ridilla, both from B-Company, 1st of the 104th Air Reconnaissance Battalion (ARB) at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., flew the last AH-64A to its new home with the Pa. Army National Guard. The 1/151st ARB transitioned to the AH-64D Longbow, the latest model of AH-64 attack helicopters.

Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Edward E. Snyder



A contingency from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) conducted a Ship-to-Shore exercise during the early evening of Feb.12. Their first stop was to off-load Marines for a mock raid at the McCrady Training Center. The aircraft proceeded to McEntire to be refueled by the waiting crew of the KC-130J parked on the McEntire ramp. Once refueled they returned to extract their ground attack force and returned to their ship.

Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Edward E. Snyder

Soldiers of the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, S.C. Army National Guard, gave a "thumbs up" after loading the downed pilot into a UH-60 Black Hawk during the combined arms demonstration at the S.C. National Guard Air Ground Expo 2009, at McEntire Joint National Guard Base on Oct. 10-11.

Photo by Sgt. Roberto Di Giovine







S.C. National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk Crew Chief Warrant Officer Eric Puette, Chief Warrant Officer John Ranson, Staff Sgt. David Shelton and Staff Sgt. Larry Wessinger, empty a Bambi Bucket full of water over the North Myrtle Beach wildfires on Apr. 23. During the day, they dropped over 56,000 gallons of water, concentrating on spot fires. The crew are members of Company A, 2nd of the 149th Aviation Regiment, 59th Aviation Troop Command, from McEntire Joint National Guard Base.

Photo by 1st Lt. Jamie Mulder

(Right) A Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Aviation, General Support Aviation Battalion, and rescuers from fire departments, EMS, and other emergency responders train on rescue missions to form the S.C. National Guard Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (HART).

Photos by Sgt. Roberto Di Gioia



Master Sgt. Jason Curvin, from the 245th Air Traffic Control Squadron, instructs Airman 1st Class Daniel Hesson on radar operations. He was chosen as the 2008 Air National Guard's Air Traffic Controller Trainer of the Year.

Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Edward E. Snyder



Airmen from the S.C. Air National Guard give a missile-loading demonstration for the crowd at the Air Ground Expo 2009 at McEntire Joint National Guard Base. The expo was the first open house on base in ten years.

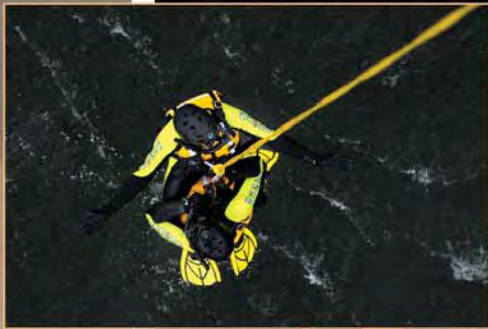
Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Hudson

Smoke fills the air over North Myrtle Beach during the wildfires on April, 23. Crews from the S.C. Army National Guard were in the area and ready to support the Forestry Commission within two hours of notification, and during the day dropped over 56,000 gallons of water on the fires.

Photo by 1st Lt. Jamie Mulder

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(Background) Maj. Adrian Priester, a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot, performs a local area orientation training mission over Lake Murray.

Photo by Sgt. Roberto Di Giovine



S.C. National Guard's Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Harris, Sr., surrounded by four (of the six) S.C. Army National Guard's Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) of The Year: from left to right, Staff Sgt. Bryan T. Floyd, Sgt. David N. McMillen, Staff Sgt. Donnie R. Henderson, and Sgt. Herald Samuel Fullerton. The NCOs of The Year met Harris at The Adjutant General building, on Aug. 20. Recipients not pictured were Sgt. 1st Class Scott Jarman and Staff Sgt. Jonathan Perry.




Photo by Sgt. Roberto Di Giovine

on
air
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er



59th AVIA

Detachment 1, B Company, 2-238 GSAB



The 68 Soldiers of Detachment 1, B-Company, 2-238 General Support Aviation Battalion, S.C. Army National Guard, deployed in 2008 and returned home in November 2009, after going from conception to combat in under 36 months, as a part of the 159th Combat Aviation Brigade's "Task Force Thunder." During their time in Afghanistan, Soldiers from Detachment 1, helped provide continuous, uninterrupted general support, direct support and combat deliberate missions from two Forward Operating Bases (FOB's) covering 64,000 square miles of battle space and one FOB covering 47,000 square miles. B-Company, 2-238th AVN flew over 6,400 airframe hours, totaling over 30,000 individual flight hours during their deployment. The company completed over 375 deliberate air assault missions, many of which were high-level risk from environmental and threat conditions, in order to provide vital support to 86 FOB's which supplied and supported over 150,000 Soldiers within the Coalition Forces in both the Regional Command East and Regional Command Central Area of Operations.

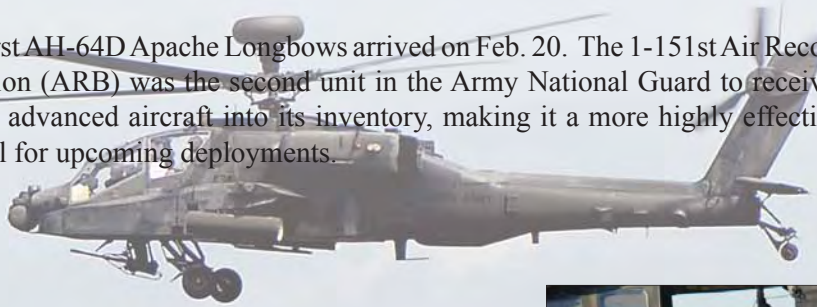
During Operation Enduring Freedom, the 2-238th Soldiers were awarded five Bronze Stars, one Meritorious Service Medal, one Purple Heart, 90 Air Medals (2 for Valor), 20 Army Commendation Medals, 20 Army Achievement Medals and 28 Combat Action Badges during Combat Operations. The company's pilots and crewmembers also received numerous Safety, Boeing Safety, and Boeing Rescue Awards during the year.

tion

Troop Command



The first AH-64D Apache Longbows arrived on Feb. 20. The 1-151st Air Reconnaissance Battalion (ARB) was the second unit in the Army National Guard to receive the new highly advanced aircraft into its inventory, making it a more highly effective, deadly arsenal for upcoming deployments.



In November 2008, 50 Soldiers were trained at McEntire Joint National Guard Base to certify the rigging and inspections of multiple types of sling loads to be carried as external helicopter cargo loads. These individuals will be instrumental assets to the quick movement of equipment and supplies in the tactical environment and in response to natural and man-made disasters



On March 9-13, the State Army Aviation Officer and 2-151 Security & Support Helicopter Battalion (SSHBN) hosted National Guard Bureau's 2nd National SSHBN Conference. The conference was held at the Charleston Place Hotel with a reception at the newly completed Charleston Readiness Center. The conference included numerous working sessions where the state's worked collaboratively to address significant SSHBN issues such as doctrine, Modified Table Of Organization & Equipment (MTOE) changes, UH-72 aircraft fielding, UH-72 mission equipment, Search & Rescue training and operations and Counter Drug mission support.

On Apr. 16 the historic Doolittle Raiders held their 67th reunion in Columbia. It was fitting that the reunion be held here because the group was formed and began their training in Columbia. Four of the surviving nine Raiders were on hand at the reunion including Lt. Col. (Ret) Richard E. Cole who served as Jimmy Doolittle's Copilot. The Jimmy Doolittle Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA) was presented with the opportunity to provide escorts for the event.



Soon after returning from their second Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment, members of S.C. Army National Guard's UH-60 Black Hawk Unit, Company A, 2-149th Aviation were eager for a new challenge. Teamed with civilian fire and rescue personnel, they formed the S.C. Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (HART). After several weeks of planning, training began at the S.C. Fire Academy with academics and ground training. On Oct. 17, the members of the Urban Search and Rescue Team arrived at McEntire Joint National Guard Base to complete the flight portion of the training which was conducted on dry land as well as over and in water. This training included multiple aircrews and multiple rescuers to build a large pool of trained personnel in the event of an emergency.



51st MP Battalion

We led the way in providing dedicated and unwavering support to the following community events: an active partnership with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3181 in Florence, where we supported an annual event to feed the returning troops from deployments. We also supported the annual Marine Corps League parade, and the American Soldier tribute exhibit at the Florence Civic center. Additionally, our 132nd Military Police Company supported the McEntire Joint National Guard Base Air and Ground Show, the 131st Military Police Company supported the Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station Air show and our units supported the dedication of the Florence Veterans Park.

131st MP Company

The 131st Military Police Company had the unique experience this year of transforming from the 202 Cavalry unit to a Military Police unit. Many Soldiers were sent to Military Police school at the McCrady Training Center (MTC). We also received transfers to the unit from the 132nd and the 133rd M.P. companies. Those who wished to stay Cavalry/Armor were thanked for their service and transferred to other units. It was a difficult patch ceremony in October 2008, transferring from the 218th Infantry Brigade patch to the 59th Troop Command patch. However, knowledge did not leave with the patch; it transferred to those Soldiers who volunteered to change occupational specialties to continue serving the South Carolina National Guard as military policeman.





A young family member waves the American flag at the 174th Mobility Augmentation Company deployment ceremony in Wellford, S.C. on Nov.7.

Photo by Sgt. Roberto Di Giovine



132nd MP Company

The unit conducted mandatory training throughout the year which featured several highlights. The unit's Christmas Party was spearheaded by Mrs. Lasonde, our Family Readiness Group Leader. Applebee's catered the meal for the troops and their families. The troops and their families truly enjoyed themselves after being away from home the prior Christmas. The unit also conducted an annual blood drive at the armory as our community service for the year. We were able to collect 28 pints of blood during our drive. The American Red Cross was pleased with our collection and looks forward to working with us in the future.

133rd MP Company

The 133rd Military Police Company had the unique opportunity to support Jackal Stone 2009, a Joint Combined Special Operations Exercise held in Croatia during the month of September. The exercise took place in various locations throughout Croatia, and included special operations forces from all of the U.S. branches of the military, as well as nine additional partner nations. The nations included the United States and the host nation of Croatia, as well as Poland, Hungary, Ukraine, Romania, Sweden, Macedonia, Lithuania, and Albania. The main objective of the exercise was to enhance the capabilities and interoperability among the participating special operations forces. In doing this, they hoped to build mutual respect while sharing doctrinal concepts, training concepts and various tactics, techniques and procedures.

A Soldier from the 1222nd Engineer Co. from Ft. Mill, S.C. hugs his son prior to the deployment ceremony at the American Legion Post 34 in Rock Hill, S.C. on Nov. 7.

Photo by Sgt. Erica Knight



LEADERSHIP

Lead, Follow, or get out of the way...

“Lead, Follow, or get out of the way...” It is the universal cry of officers across the country. It is the deepest desire of the Soldiers we lead and it is the last powerful challenge the Palmetto Military Academy leaves ringing in the ears of newly commissioned second lieutenants.

The Palmetto Military Academy (PMA) is one of the most challenging courses offered at the 218th Leadership Regiment. PMA is a three-phased, rigorous training program that prepares Soldiers to become officers.

PMA is the first phase of the more intensive Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC) that consists of BOLC I, which is the commissioning source phase, and BOLC II B which is extensive field training and the officer’s specific branch course.

South Carolina offers both a traditional 18-month program and an accelerated officer candidate school (OCS) program that runs twice a year. The OCS program has continued to develop in accordance with the Army School System and evolve with federal and state directives.

In keeping with these strict guidelines for training and development, the 2nd Battalion (OCS) earned the prestigious “Institution of Excellence” award in 2004 and the “Learning Institution of Excellence” award in 2009.

Soldiers attending PMA are guaranteed a challenging and exceptional training experience. The PMA cadre are fully-credentialed instructors and TAC Officers and NCOs are from the ranks of the S.C. Army National Guard (SCARNG). They take their jobs seriously, fully knowing the candidates they train will be the officers leading Soldiers in combat in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Given today’s contemporary operating environment and the evolving mission

of the SCARNG, candidates are tested physically, mentally and emotionally in preparation for leadership challenges as officers. As a newly offered incentive this year, several graduates of PMA attended Air Assault School. 2nd Lt. John Seigler and 2nd Lt. Clyde Woods proudly represented the SCARNG at the Warrior Training Center’s Air Assault Course at Ft. Benning, Ga. This additional training enabled them to implement the leadership lessons learned at PMA.

In addition to physical training and classroom instruction, PMA generates great camaraderie among candidates. In April 2009, Class 60 improved on two time honored traditions at PMA by conducting the first out-of-state Dining-In at the Gettysburg National Battlefield. Each year, PMA conducts a staff ride to the Gettysburg battlefield to teach candidates the art and history of leadership. This staff ride enables candidates to fully comprehend academic concepts with practical application on the famous battlefield. Candidates research historical figures and tactical maneuvers in order to brief key events of the three-day battle.

This year, Class 60 culminated the staff ride with their Class Dining-In. This was a milestone for the Candidates as they were frocked with “senior” status and enjoyed friendship and fellowship after a long weekend of hard work, steeped in tradition.

The common denominator between PMA cadre and candidates is leadership. It is the rare characteristic driving them to forever be the best they can be. PMA calls upon Soldiers across the state to take this leadership challenge.

For additional information regarding the Palmetto Military Academy commissioning programs (OCS and WOCS) please contact Master Sgt. Fran Walters at (803) 806-2351.



WITHOUT NCOS, WE WOULDN'T SURVIVE

3rd Battalion (NCOES), 218th Regiment (Leadership) conducted 14 iterations of the Warrior Leader Course, 14 iterations of Basic Non-commissioned Officer Course (BNCOC) and 14 iterations of the First Sergeants Course for a throughput of 3,206 trained Soldiers in various military basic noncommissioned officer, warrior and leadership skills in 2009.

4th Battalion (General Studies), 218th Regiment (Leadership) conducted six iterations of Army Basic Instructor Course (ABIC), six iterations of Small Group Instructor Training Course (SGITC), 51 iterations of the Combat Lifesaver Course, one iteration of the Pre-Command Course, two iterations of 31B (Military Police) Phase I & II Military Operational Specialty (MOS) and one iteration of 88M (Motor Transport Operator) for a total throughput of 1628 trained Soldiers in various military occupational skills, command skills and MOS-T in 2009.

PRO PATRIA VIGILANS

5th Battalion (Signal), 218th Regiment (Leadership) conducted one iteration of 25B10 Phases I, III and V MOS-T (Information Systems Operator - Analyst) training 24 Soldiers in the most advanced information technology curriculum available for entry level Soldiers in 2009, all-the-while preparing to teach 25U10 Phases I and II in the up-coming year. Soldiers completed a course in topics ranging from PC repair and network security to installing, maintaining and troubleshooting today's most advanced information system platforms.

Phase V 25B MOS-T consisted of lessons targeted at the tactical signal Soldier with emphasis on Army Battle Command Systems platforms including Force XXI System (TIMS) as-well-as a final field training exercise (FTX) consisting of a practical and real world evaluation of all the skills learned during the previous 11 weeks.

ESSAYONS!

1st Battalion (Engineer), 218th Regiment (Leadership) conducted one iteration of 21E10 Phase II MOS-T (Heavy Equipment Operator), training 10 Soldiers and four iterations of 21E10 Phase III MOS-T (Heavy Equipment Operator), training 34 Soldiers. This provided the Soldiers with many hours of experience on six different pieces of Engineer Equipment; (FLU 419 Small Emplacement Excavator (SEE), 230 LCR Hydraulic Excavator (HYEX), MW24C Scoop Loader, D7 Full Tracked DSL Bull Dozer, 621B Scrapper and the HS 814F Compactor. The battalion conducted one iteration of 21B10 MOS-T (Combat Engineer) training 25 Soldiers for a total throughput of 69 trained MOS-T Engineer Soldiers in 2009.

FOLLOW ME

The Palmetto Military Academy (PMA), 2nd Battalion (OCS/WOCS), 218th Regiment (Leadership) conducted one iteration of officer candidate school (OCS) Phase I, and one iteration of Phase II OCS and one iteration of WOCS Phase I and II during 2009. OCS graduated and commissioned 12 candidates to 2nd Lt. and Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS) commissioned seven Warrant Officers with two Warrant Officers deferring their commission to a later date.

In August 2009, TRADOC awarded 2nd Battalion (OCS) with the prestigious recognition as "Learning Institution of Excellence" for the second time (2006, 2009) following an arduous six month accreditation process involving detailed inspections at all five subordinate officer candidate companies geographically dispersed across the region.



The 218th Regiment conducted an annual staff ride to the Cowpens Battlefield in Cowpens, S.C. as part of the regiment team building and professional development process in April 2009.

(L-R Front) Sgt. Aaron Aidoo, Staff Sgt. Anthony L. Taylor, Pfc. Christina Barnett, Maj. Jackie Gantt, Lt. Col. Daniel West, Spc. Larry Millstead, Jr., Sgt. David James, (L-R Back) Staff Sgt. Jonathan Cunningham, Capt. Steven Hyder, Pvt. Mustafa Shields, Spc. Yolando Washington, Maj. William Brown, Staff Sgt. John Fuller, Command Sgt. Maj. John Long, Sgt. 1st Class William Giles, Command Sgt. Maj. Robert McClary, Jr., 1st Sgt. Tracy Knapp, 1st Sgt. Jimmy Murray, Jr. and Col. Mark Dykes.



Department of Army sponsored a visit through National Guard Bureau of the Botswana Defense Force Delegation to the 218th Regiment. As a part of their visit they were given a briefing on the 218th Regiment's mission and operations, and a tour of the facilities, primarily focused on the 3rd Battalion (NCOES) activities.

(L-R Front) 1st Sgt. Roger Murray, Botswana soldiers, Lt. Col. Charles Oye, Director Of Military Institutions, Brig. Gen. T. M. Paledi, Botswana Defense Force Chief of Staff, Col. Mark Dykes, Regiment Commander, 1st Sgt. Lynn Bostic (L-R Back) 1st Sgt. William Hyder, Jr., General's Aide and Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Watson.

218th MANEUVER ENHANCEMENT BRIGADE



Photo by Capt. Tim Irvin

1-178th Field Artillery Battalion Prepares for Deployment

The Swamp Foxes of the 1-178th Field Artillery Battalion will deploy to Afghanistan in early 2010. Over four hundred and fifty S.C. Army National Guardsmen (SCARNG) plus more than two hundred more Guardsmen from Pennsylvania and Guam will accomplish two critical missions. The first will be to provide security forces to thirteen Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT's). Our Soldiers will secure these Army, Air Force and Navy teams as they provide crucial infrastructure development for the people of Afghanistan. Their second mission will be Counter Insurgency Operations in the Laghman Province North East of Kabul. These operations will include coordinating social, economic, political, as well as

military support.

The 1-178 FA Battalion last deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005.

Charleston Readiness Center Dedication

The new Charleston Readiness Center was dedicated on Aug. 2. The massive building is the new home and headquarters of the 218th MEB and is located on Hagood Ave. near The Citadel. The Adjutant General dedicated the building to the Washington Light Infantry and Sumter Guards, which are the foundation of the S.C. Army National Guard in the Low Country.

The Charleston Readiness Center is a magnificent six-story, 134,000 square-foot facility, which occupies one of the highest elevations in Charleston. Its state-of-the-art construction makes it the only facility of its type in the entire United States.

"We are very grateful to have such an impressive new home for the 218th. With the addition of the new CCMRF mission and this wonderful new facility, I'm confident the 218th will continue to do great things," said Brig. Gen. Glenn A. Bramhall, commander of the 218th.



Photo by Sgt. Roberto Di Giovine



April 2009 | MEB
Transformation
Complete

March 2009 | 4-118 Infantry
Ft. Hood,
108 Chemical
S. Korea

May 2009 | 4-118 Infantry
Annual Training

June 2009 | 111th Signal
Validation

January 2009

April 2009 | 1-118 Infantry
Annual Training

June 2009 | Operation Red
Dragon, Wis.

June 2009 | 1-178 Field
Annual Tr



Photo by Spc. Joshua Edwards



218th MEB Takes On New Mission

The Department of Defense has developed two CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives) Consequence Management Response Force (CCMRF) units to react to catastrophic incidents. The 218th MEB will be the lead unit on the ground when CCMRF 10.2 is deployed.

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

The 218th MEB assumed command of the CCMRF 10.2 mission Oct. 1. and has been tasked with the mission for the next few years. The CCMRF units deploy on order of the Secretary of Defense, once requested by a governor, to support responding federal, state and local agencies.

The 218th MEB deploys on order of the President, once requested by a governor, to help support state and local officials with a disaster, man-made or otherwise. The Department of Defense chose the 218th MEB to control numerous Reserve and National Guard units throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

218th MEB Gets Millions of Dollars in New Equipment

The 218th MEB received \$5 million in new communication equipment and tent systems to make the unit more efficient if and when they are needed to respond to a CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives) event. In the event of a CBRNE emergency the 218th MEB will be able to generate its own power, track subordinate units down to the individual vehicle using global positioning systems (GPS) and directly communicate with civilian authorities.

The 218th integrated the new systems with current equipment during a communication exercise at the North Charleston Armory on Oct. 19-21.




“We’ve had training on this equipment, but this is the first time we’ve brought it all together and made it work,” said Capt. James Dangerfield, brigade automation officer. “All of these systems together give the field commander a common operating picture.”

“We are there to help the civilian population,” said Dangerfield. “Having these new capabilities, we are able to better assist the local community.”

“This training has helped create a connection between the old and new equipment,” said Sgt. Maj. Rick Turner, brigade operations Sgt. Maj. “It moves the 218th MEB into the digitized Army.”



Photo by Capt. Tim Irvin

August 2009	Charleston Readiness Center Dedication	September 2009	CCMRF 10.2 Conference	October 2009	S.C. Air Ground Expo 2009		January 2010	 4-118 Infantry, Cobra Gold '10, Thailand
August 2009	Brigade Vibrant Response CPX, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.	October 2009	Assumes CCMRF 10.2 Mission	October 2009	1-178 Field Artillery Pre-Mobilization Training	February 2010	 1-118 Infantry, Operation North Wind, Japan	

228TH SIGNAL

2009 Inauguration

In February, the 228th Signal Brigade soldiers, along with the 228th Mobile Communication Detachment and the 151st Signal Battalion traveled to Washington, D.C. to support the National Guard Bureau (NGB) J-6 for the 2009 Presidential inauguration. The brigade was one of eighteen Joint Incident Site Communication Capability (JISCC) teams supporting communications operations for the inauguration ceremony. While deployed, they successfully conducted 24-hour support operations for the NGB J-6 and NGB Joint Operations Center. With 1.2 million people attending this event, the magnitude of coordinating communications, from a logistics stand point, was a daunting task. Their contribution to the success of this event was truly outstanding. In recognition of their efforts each soldier on the team received a service ribbon from NGB as well as a coin from the NGB three-star General.



WIN-T Training

The 228th Signal Brigade and the 151st Signal Battalion deployed to Ft. Stewart, GA in July to conduct a brigade Field Training Exercise (FTX) using the Army's latest communication equipment, the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T). The exercise was a collaborative pre-mobilization training effort, designed to validate both Soldiers and equipment for mobilization. The exercise marked the first time in five years that the entire 228th Signal Brigade and all subordinate units deployed to one location for a training event. The 151st Signal Battalion is one of six Expeditionary Signal Battalions in the National Guard and only the second Signal Battalion to field the WIN-T equipment. The cost of the Signal Battalion new WIN-T equipment is estimated to be over 72 million dollars.

Supporting 1st Responders

In October 2009, the Anderson County mobile command center hosted a multi-county first responder exercise in Anderson S.C. This exercise included participation from multiple county rescue and communications units from Anderson, Greenwood, Oconee, Clemson, the Red Cross as well as soldiers in the 228th Signal Brigade. The exercise worked to integrate the communications capabilities between the counties first responders and soldiers to improve their ability to respond in the event of a natural disaster. During this exercise each element conducted interoperability testing using an array of civilian communications equipment. The exercise proved that the equipment was interoperable, but corporation and coordination prior to an emergency response is an absolute necessity if civilian-military organizations expect unity of effort in the event of a natural disaster.

151 Signal Battalion Prepares For Second Deployment

In preparation for its second mobilization, the 151st Signal Battalion began training and validation on the Army's 32 Warrior Tasks and 12 Battle Drills commonly known as (32/12-WTBD). The battalion began the training and validation in July 2009 and should complete their validation in March 2010. This deployment will mark the second time the 151st Signal Battalion will deploy in the Global War On Terror. Since the unit's first deployment in 2003, they have transitioned to a new force structure, which increased the assigned strength by 85 personnel and fielded the Army's new communications equipment. Just like the first deployment, when the 151st was the first National Guard Signal Battalion to be sent to Operation Iraqi Freedom, this deployment signifies the first time a National Guard Signal Battalion will deploy to Operation Enduring Freedom.



Exercise Bright Star

In 2009 the 228th deployed two communications teams (20 people) to Egypt in support of exercise Bright Star. When Bright Star first began in the summer of 1980, it was an annual, single service bilateral ground maneuver event involving ground forces from only the US & Egypt. It has since evolved into a biannual multi forces event involving 10-15 nations. Exercise Bright Star has helped foster International relations in Cairo, Egypt, Cairo West Air Base (CPX) and Mubarak Military City (MMC); where Bright Star originated. The exercise begins with an amphibious assault by the Marines and culminates with multinational service members participating in an airborne jump called a “friendship jump.”

Final Rotation for the 228th Mobile Communication Detachment (MCD)



In August 2008, five Soldiers from the 228th MCD were sent overseas to support the 3rd Army and Army Central Headquarters in Kuwait. The purpose of their mission was to maintain communications operations for Lt. Gen. Lovelace, commander of 3rd Army. Their 24-hour operation duties included traveling in theater to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kenya, Jordan and Afghanistan; working to keep phones operating and arranging radio teleconference capabilities for the commander. Normally one or two team members accompany Lovelace on troop visits around theater. The Soldiers have met numerous dignitaries during their final deployment in support of the 3rd Army operations including Gen. George Casey and the president of Kenya. Since Desert Storm, the unit has deployed eight times.

228th Rolls the DICE

The 228th Signal Brigade, in collaboration with personnel from Joint Force Headquarters (JTFQ) J-6 and 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, supported the Defense Information Communication Exercise (DICE) at the Mt. Pleasant Armory in Charleston, S.C. Participants included FEMA, American Red Cross, Northern Command and multiple sheriff's offices. One purpose of the exercise was to demonstrate the capabilities of the S.C. National Guard's Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC), which allows first responders access to satellite communications during a disaster. The 228th supplied internet and phone operations for the tactical operations center and integrated tactical communications into a seamless network. All attendees worked in one location using video teleconferences to communicate with the S.C.-Joint Operations Center (JOC) and Northern Command (NORTHCOM).

AFCEA/SCRA

In February 2009, the 228th Signal Brigade South Carolina Regimental Association (SCRA) chapter hosted a barbeque supper in Greenville, SC. The event included a social and membership drive to collect annual dues and elect new chapter members. Guest speakers were Col. Jurinko, the National Guard liaison for the Signal Regiment and Brig. Gen. Batts, the 228th Signal Brigade commander. The annual event has not been conducted the past few years due to inactivations and mobilizations. Both officers and enlisted Soldiers enjoyed the food and fellowship with the senior leaders from the brigade and regiment. The barbeque was a huge success. Membership jumped roughly 400-500%, from 5-10 members to 50 members.

Signal Moves to Aiken College

In an effort to aid recruitment, B-Company, 198th Signal Battalion is scheduled to relocate to Aiken Technical College at the end of fiscal year 2010. The move will improve college student awareness of military bonuses and provide prior-service Soldiers from the Fort Gordon area with a local S.C. National Guard option for continuing their service. Having the unit at the college will provide a means for college students in the National Guard to access both N.G. and college networks in one location. A detachment is currently drilling at the college with plans to move the entire unit there in Jan 2011.



263rd Army Air & Missile

Top 10

Unit Accomplishments of 2009

1. Successfully conducted the first-ever proof of operational concept for the Deployable Integrated Air Defense System (D-IADS) exercise during Amalgam Dart 09. Highlights from the event included east-coast to west-coast deployment integration of Navy and Air Force surveillance and air defense platforms. Interagency coordination/liason involved over 30 agencies. The deployment and architecture build met all appropriate standards.

2. Task Force Palmetto completed its deployment to the National Capital

Region's (NCR) Joint Air Defense Operations Center in Washington, D.C. where it served as the command and control element for the ground-based portion of the NCR's Integrated Air Defense system (NCR-IADS).

3. 263rd AAMDC's Family Readiness Program was recognized by the Department of Defense with the Reserve Family Readiness Award. This organization is the only Guard unit to receive the award twice.

4. The 263rd AAMDC supervised implementation of the Homeland Defense-Integrated Air Defense System (HLD-IADS) mission 12-17, which funded Army air defense missions and training within the North American Air Defense Command/Northern Command (NORAD/NORTHCOM) areas of operations.

5. In April, Maj. Gen. Herbert Newton served as the director for the rotational NCR-IADS exercise for 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery (ADA), Florida Army National Guard. All Battalion



Missile Defense Command

personnel received training certification, including mission crews and staff.

6. Maj. Gen. Herbert Newton successfully directed the execution of Exercise America Shield resulting in the pre-mobilization train-up for 3rd Battalion, 265th ADA, Miss. Army National Guard in preparation for the NCR-IADS mission.

7. The unit was responsible for the development of the Army portion of the first-ever Continental NORAD Region (CONR) Area Air Defense Plan.

8. Supervised implementation and oversight of the HLD-IADS mission POM 10-15, which has an operating budget of \$38 million annually. The unit also validated POM 12-17 requirements for HLD-IADS.

9. The Anderson Readiness Center was purchased by the S.C. National Guard as the permanent home for both the 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command and headquarters for the 2nd of the 263rd ADA . In addition, the Clemson United States Reserve Center was purchased as the

home for Maintenance Detachment, 2nd of the 263rd ADA and will eventually be the home for C-Battery, 2nd of the 263rd ADA.

10. Provided command and control support for of the 1st U.S. Army during an exercise called Task Force Phoenix in September 09. The exercise created a viable process for certifying ADA crews for U.S. defense. The event successfully duplicated the execution environment found in Washington, D.C.





SOUTH CAROLINA A

For the South Carolina Air National Guard's (SCANG) legendary keeping with the unit's motto of Semper Primus (or Always First).

Throughout the year, McEntire's Honor Guard participated in the Canada World Cup Rugby Competition, the National Guard A

January

Members of the 169th Security Forces Squadron deploy to Kyrgyzstan for six months.

February

McEntire serves as a pivotal refueling stop during a 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit ship-to-shore exercise.

Master Sgt. Jason Curvin, 245th Air Traffic Control Squadron, is chosen as 2008 Air National Guard Air Traffic Control Trainer of the Year.

Staff Sgt. Sandra Trull, 245th Air Traffic Control Squadron, is chosen as 2009 Air National Guard Air Traffic Controller of the Year.

During a Hurricane Response Conference, McEntire demonstrates its airlift and reconnaissance capabilities in the confined airspace in and around Myrtle Beach.

March

The SCANG christens its much-anticipated storefront recruiting station in northeast Columbia's Village at Sandhills shopping center.

Key West Air Craft Exercise.

April

Col. Grady Patterson III becomes SCANG Chief of Staff, succeeding Brig. Gen. John Motley.

Col. Calvin Elam assumes command of the 169th Mission Support Group from Col. Janet Noble.

Lt. Col. Mark Hall assumes command of the 169th Communications Flight from Lt. Col. Kim Joye.

Lt. Col. Scott Bridgers assumes command of the 169th Maintenance Squadron from Lt. Col. Allen Stewart.

Lt. Col. Allen Stewart assumes command of the 169th Logistics Readiness Squadron from Lt. Col. Benjamin Lovejoy.

Maj. Sharilyn Askins assumes command of the 169th Maintenance Operations Flight.

Chief Master Sgt. Mark Morrell succeeds Chief Master Sgt. James Edwards as Headquarters SCANG Command Chief.

Chief Master Sgt. Zane Wall succeeds Chief Master Sgt. Terry Wingard as 169th Fighter Wing Command Chief.

Twenty-six South Carolina high schools compete in the base's annual Top Gun drill competition.

McEntire hosts the initial beddown and training of the Marine Special Operations Command.

Army Rangers conduct a "night drop" exercise at McEntire.

May

National Guard Bureau Senior Enlisted Leader Command Sgt. Maj. David Hudson visits McEntire.

Chief Master Sgt. Richard A. Smith, Command Chief Master Sgt. to the Director of the Air National Guard Bureau, conducts a townhall meeting at McEntire.

South Carolina Lt. Governor Andre Bauer meets with SCANG leaders.

June

Staff Headquarters A7, A8, A9 visit. The previous year's "excellent" Operational Readiness Inspection rating and future missions are resulting in increased visibility for the installation.

July

Brig. Gen. John Motley and Col. Janet Noble retire.

Ten-day Red Flag combat skills training exercise in Alaska.

AIR NATIONAL GUARD



ldary Swamp Foxes, 2009 was a year of validation and growth, and in (t), it was another year of historic, precedent-shattering accomplishments.

numerous high profile events sponsored by ESPN, NASCAR, the USA Association and the NFL's Carolina Panthers.

August

Lt. Col. Danny "Lips" Palubeckis completes his "fini-flight," and Lt. Col. "Badger" Nedrow assumes command of Detachment 1, 20th Operations Group.

September

Capt. Bryan Studebaker assumes command for the 169th Security Forces Squadron from Lt. Col. Charles Wesley.

With the inactivation of the 169th Mission Support Flight and the redesignation of the 169th Services Flight, the 169th Force Support Squadron is activated (combining personnel from both units). Lt. Col. Rita Whitmire assumes command of the new squadron.

In preparation for the base's first Air Ground Expo, numerous Major Accident Response Exercises take place. Members of the SCANG, the S.C. Army National Guard and various civilian responders train for potential mishaps (with assistance from local Boy Scouts simulating civilian injuries).

October

An F-16 static display debuts at the main entrance to the base, dedicated in memory of Brig. Gen. Bernie McEntire and Tech. Sgt. Troy White.

McEntire hosts South Carolina's first Air and Ground Expo, combining and demonstrating the skills and equipment of the state's Air and Army Guard units throughout a weekend-long spectacle (before a crowd of more than 50,000 guests).

The 245th Air Traffic Control Squadron earns an overall "excellent" rating during a week-long Operational Readiness Inspection.

The Air Force announces that McEntire is one of 11 bases being considered for initial basing of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, the next generation fighter jet.

November

More than 100 members of the 169th Fighter Wing deployed to Jordan for the Falcon Air Meet (FAM) 2009, where they represented the Air Force's Central Command in the international F-16 competition. The first Air Guard unit ever to compete in the FAM, McEntire's Swamp Foxes were declared its overall winner, receiving five of the six awards presented. (a U.S. first!)

(Background) Ramp and flight operations by Jordan, Belgium, and South Carolina Air National Guard pilots and maintenance crews in preparation for Falcon Air Meet 2009. The South Carolina Air National Guard, home of the Swamp Foxes, took part in "Falcon Air Meet 2009," a multi-national F-16 competition. The goal of the Falcon Air Meet is to train and work through friendly competition between the air forces of the U.S., Middle East and other F-16 users from around the world. In this year's meet, F-16 units from Belgium, Jordan and the U.S. competed in the areas of F-16 maintenance and operations centered around Lockheed Martin's F-16 Fighting Falcon. The meet was inspired by Prince Feisal Bin Al Hussein and first organized in 2006. A main goal of the competition is the improvement of the relationship of Jordan with its partners and the promotion of stability in the region.

AIR GROUND

EXPO '09

Story by Staff Sgt. Tracci Dorgan and Sgt. Erica Knight, 108th Public Affairs Detachment





Pilots from the 169th Fighter Wing “Swamp Foxes” kept the skies roaring and ground shaking as they conducted demonstrations with their F-16s for the crowds of thousands at the Air Ground Expo 2009. (Photo by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones)

The S.C. National Guard opened its doors on Oct. 10-11 to host an Air Ground Expo at McEntire Joint National Guard Base in Eastover, S.C. The event was unique, in that it was the first time an event was organized to showcase the equipment and personnel of both the S.C. Army and Air National Guard.

“It was the best show I’ve ever seen,” said John Rogers, an Air Ground Expo visitor. “The way the ground forces and the helicopters were shown in action along with the F-16’s was amazing.” Rogers raved about the Combined Arms Demonstration (CAD), when the Air and Army forces worked together to simulate a downed pilot extraction with overhead coverage from F-16s and Apache Longbows. A Black Hawk landed to rescue the pilot while Abrams tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles rolled in to provide ground cover. The armored vehicles laid suppressive fire as infantry Soldiers dismounted the Bradleys and provided security for the pilot.

As a finale, all CAD participants came forward at crowd center. To the audience’s surprise, two F-16s came screaming overhead, which signaled the ignition of pyrotechnics. Against a backdrop of explosions and flames, the announcer proudly introduced the members of the S.C. National Guard, bringing thunderous

applause and cheers from the crowd.

Thomas Peel, a 30-year veteran and retired 1st Sgt. from Fort Jackson, came to the show both days. “I was here for the last air show 10 years ago. I would come every year if McEntire had one. It’s just great to see everyone here, celebrating freedom, coming together to support our troops.”

The Expo showcased over 100 displays, including static military vehicles and aircraft where visitors could meet and talk to Soldiers and Airmen who operate the equipment. The Expo also welcomed the Celebrate Freedom Foundation, who provided living history displays from past wars as well as scout dogs and Special Forces. The Air Force Honor Drill team also performed an amazing precision demonstration with rifles and fixed bayonets.

One of the highlights was the Army’s Golden Knights Parachute Team, celebrating their 50th anniversary, who kicked-off the Expo with an American flag “jump” as the S.C. National Guards 246th Army band played the National Anthem. The Knights later performed a full show for the spectators.

The skies overhead kept the crowd in awe, as the Viper East F-16 Demonstration Team, Heritage Flight, John Klatt Air National Guard Demo team and Army Aviation Heritage Foundation’s (AAHF)

‘Sky Soldiers’ demonstrated their amazing aerobatic skills throughout the afternoon.

“This Expo was our way of saying thank you to the community for their support over the years,” said Col. Scott Williams, commander of the 169th Fighter Wing. “With deployments and on-going missions, we believed it was time to step back and say thank you to the citizens of our state by providing an awesome show.”

It was also a day to celebrate the future of the Guard, as the Air National Guard conducted a swearing in ceremony for 17 new recruits during the Expo.

“I couldn’t be happier with the outcome,” said Williams. “When you put together something of this magnitude, you never know until the last minute how it’s going to turn out.”

“We have attended dozens of air shows over the past several years and the show that McEntire put on was the best we have ever attended,” said Barry Bumgardner, who came to the show from Rutherfordton, N.C. “We’ve seen both the Blue Angels and the Thunderbirds time and time again, but the combined arms demo was simply amazing.”

“Our Air Ground Expo, with over 50,000 visitors was a ‘grand slam’ with outstanding work by all,” said Williams.

A C-17 Globemaster III, proudly displays the Air Force flag, American Flag, and the S.C. state flag while parked on the runway during the Air Ground Expo 2009.

Photo by Tech Sgt. Caycee Cook



A S.C. Army National Guard crew chief looks on during the UH-60 Black Hawk bambi-bucket demonstration for over 50,000 visitors to the Expo, where they viewed various demonstrations with Army and Air Force aircraft.

Photo by Master Sgt. Marvin Preston

Staff Sgt. Justin Sprankle from the 246th U. S. Army Band of Columbia, S.C. plays his guitar during one of the band's performances during the Air Ground Expo 2009 at McEntire Joint National Guard Base.

Photo by Master Sgt. Pelham Myers





A S.C. Army National Guard AH-64 Apache Longbow lands during the Combined Arms Demonstration at the Air Ground Expo 2009. The Apache belongs to the 59th Aviation Troop Command, S.C. Army National Guard.

Photo by Sgt. Roberto Di Giovine



A Soldier dismounts and secures the perimeter during the combined arms demonstration finale at the conclusion of the Air Ground Expo.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Tracci Dorgan

After their performance, The United States Air Force drill team takes time to pose with children who watched the show, Oct. 10.

Photo by Tech Sgt. Caycee Cook



MARRIAGE & SINGLES RETREAT

MYRTLE BEACH SC



Over 200 S.C. National Guard Soldiers, Airmen and spouses participated in a marriage and singles retreat at the Marriott Beach Resort and Spa at Grand Dunes in Myrtle Beach on Sept. 18-21. The fun and informative program was conducted to assist military personnel who are in a relationship or intend to be in one sometime in the future. The program focuses on and assists them in enhancing their skills to face the challenges of military life as a couple and family. For further information on the program, please contact Sherry Marsh with Family Programs at (803) 806-1641.

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



An Anniversary We'll Never Forget

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

There's one anniversary 250 South Carolinians will never forget. On the first Saturday in November, Honor Flight South Carolina celebrated its first anniversary by transporting 150 of our state's "Greatest Generation" to Washington, D.C. to see their World War II memorial at no cost to the veterans.

Honor Flight South Carolina is a non-profit organization of volunteers, who do all they can to ensure every remaining member of South Carolina's World War II generation gets to see their memorial. Volunteer administrators, doctors, nurses and guardians travel with the veterans to ensure each veteran is properly cared and accounted for throughout the trip. Fundraising efforts by the organization's members helps to ensure none of the trip is paid for by a Greatest Generation veteran.

"Sadly, many who went on the first Honor Flight with us last year are no longer with us today," said Perry McLeod, a Richland Northeast High School history teacher who volunteers to serve as Honor Flight S.C.'s photographer. McLeod, like so many family members of World War II veterans, believes it's important to make sure each veteran who wants to see the memorial -- which wasn't completed until 2004 -- gets to.

"Guardians, make Honor Flight missions possible," said McLeod. Many World War II veterans are now in their nineties so having S.C. National Guard Soldiers serve as Guardians, helps to ensure Greatest Generation veterans have the assistance they need during the long mission day.



A typical mission day starts at 5:30 a.m. when the veterans arrive at the airport. Greeters meet them at the front door to check them in and assign them to a Red, White or Blue team. From there, they are greeted all the way to the terminal gate by a color guard, and patriotic

well-wishers. When they land at Reagan International Airport, the veterans are given a dignitary's welcome by the Fire Department's tanker trucks. For most, this is their first visit to our nation's capitol.

Tearfully, the majority of these hardened heroes of World War II emerge into the terminal area overcome by the emotion of hundreds awaiting them, cheering and joyfully proclaiming "Welcome Home Hero -- Welcome Home!" As they board their busses, the Patriot Guard Riders welcome them and prepare to escort them to the World War II memorial.

With motorcycle engines roaring and flags flying crisply in the fall breeze, the Patriot Guard Riders maneuver the convoy through Washington, D.C. as precisely as a presidential motorcade. Upon arriving at the World War II memorial, each of the Honor Flight veterans is greeted by Congressman Joe Wilson and Congressman Gresham Barrett of South Carolina.

Following photographs at their memorial, the veterans take a bus tour of Washington

Capt. Chris Neeley of the S.C. National Guard and guardian for the Honorable Thomas Rhoad of Bamberg pose for a photo at the World War II Memorial. Rhoad, who retired from the S.C. General Assembly four years ago after 24 years of service was a Navy torpedo man on the CV-25 *Coratan* in the North Atlantic during World War II.



Honor Flight veterans from Columbia begin forming up for a photo in front of the S.C. portion of the World War II memorial.

before visiting the Korean, Vietnam, Iwo Jima and Air Force memorials. Some, like William Baker of Greeleyville proudly recall what it was like watching that first American flag being raised over Mount Suribachi at Iwo Jima. Others can't speak as they slowly run their fingers over a loved one's name at the Vietnam War memorial.

Their next stop is Arlington Cemetery to view the "Changing of the Guard" at the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier." From there, it's back to Reagan International where a "Swing" dance team entertains and dances with every Honor Flight veteran who wants to dance. Most do! Time has aged them but the youthful exuberance of surviving a war and the promise of a good life ahead seems to still shine in the eyes of every veteran there.

Many great South Carolinians share so many great stories about their time in World War II that the flight home to Columbia seems just as quick as the flight to Washington, D.C. The emotion of the day crescendoes as hundreds greet our state's World War II heroes home. Truly, Honor Flight South Carolina's first anniversary mission is a success and one 250 South Carolinians will never forget.

For more information about volunteering as an Honor Flight South Carolina Guardian, please visit their website at www.honorflightsc.com/.

Spouse Pre-Command Course



The Office of Family Programs sponsored an informative and fun filled weekend in August 2009 for spouses of service members enrolled in the Pre-Command Course in the S.C. Army



National Guard. Lt. Col. Clarence Bowser, State Family Programs Director, Sgt. Jacinda Washington, Ashley Durant and Sherry Marsh assisted with the three day event, which is held once a year.

The course is designed to better prepare spouses for their role as commanders spouses. During the course, they visited military sites such as the McCrady Training Center, McEntire Joint National Guard Base and the TAG building (Office of the Adjutant General). The tours allowed the spouses to gain a better understanding of the operations and functions of their spouse's

work areas. During the course, they also met with Brig. Gen. Ronald Huff, the Chief of Staff. Huff expressed his deep appreciation for their roles and shared how the support of his own wife contributed to and enhanced his career as an officer in the Army National Guard.

Many attendees said the course really made them more aware of the time and responsibility involved in their spouses command positions. Having conducted over five of these courses, Marsh said the members always have a blast. One of the highlights was when they had the opportunity to shoot the .50 caliber simulator.

"They were having such a good time," said Marsh. "They didn't want to give it up."

Spencer Wins 10K at Fort Gordon



Elisabeth Spencer, from the State Human Resources Office, was the overall Female Champion at the annual Ft. Gordon Ordnance Corps Association's (FGOCA) 10K Run fund raiser with a time of 44 minutes, seven seconds on Nov. 7.

A portion of the money raised from FGOCA race entrance fees goes to support the Ft. Gordon Christmas House, which provides presents to needy Soldiers and their families at Christmas.

Spencer is the wife of Pfc. Christian Spencer, a 742nd Maintenance Battalion Soldier.

The Agribusiness Development Team (ADT) is a concept previously used in Central America by the Army National Guard for about 20 years. It is divided into 3 phases: assessment, operations and disengagement. The ADT from South Carolina National Guard is comprised of about 65 soldiers under the command of Col. Dunn and Command Sgt. Maj. Bennett. The role of the Soldiers is to teach Afghans how to improve their farming techniques since about 75 percent of them rely on farming for their income. The team's goal is to improve relations with the people of Afghanistan and to boost their agriculture-dependent economy.



If These Walls Could Talk

Part 3: Victory Over Spain to Today

Story by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian
Archival photographs courtesy of the National Park Service at Ft. Moultrie

Editor's Note: As our state commemorates the bicentennial completion of Ft. Moultrie on Dec. 19, 1809, the "Swamp Fox History" pages of this magazine are proud to showcase South Carolina's epic service at the fort in this final installment of a personified three-part series called "If These Walls Could Talk."

Hey ya'll! Welcome back to Ft. Moultrie. Thanks for coming by to celebrate the 200th anniversary of my completion on Dec. 19, 1809. What a great year 2009 has been. I've had so many friends from the S.C. National Guard down here visiting, I thought ya'll were bringing me out of retirement. Just kidding! But, you have to admit, the Guard and I did spend a lot of time together between the American Revolution and World War II.

Speaking of those great times here on beautiful Sullivan's Island, let me pick up where I left off during your last visit. Soon after the Spanish-American War, our President William McKinley was assassinated. Sadly, he was the last of our Civil War veterans to serve as president. Vice President Teddy Roosevelt – the old "Rough Rider" himself – then became our nation's youngest president at age 42. Well, Teddy, who had received a Medal of Honor during the Spanish-American War, believed in speaking softly and carrying a big stick!

Needless to say, it wasn't long before I went through another growth spurt. The

Army purchased all the land south of the Sullivan's Island light house, as well as smaller pieces of land up to Breach Inlet, to build artillery batteries and other structures. Breach Inlet, you recall, is where 200 of our brave Guardsmen helped Col. Thompson repel 2,500 redcoats on June 28, 1776.

Anyway, I was so big folks started calling me the Ft. Moultrie Military Reservation. To help my Soldiers, their families and all the folks who were building summer cottages on the island to get around easier, the S.C. General Assembly allowed a company to build a street car system here

on Sullivan's Island in 1903. Want to know another secret? Those "Station" markers you saw all along the road as you drove down here are all that's left of the old street car system.

Besides the sounds of progress from all the new construction here and that funky new street car's bell, things were relatively peaceful here until April 1917. That's when Congress was forced to declare war on Germany. Five companies of the S.C. National Guard quickly mobilized to man my positions and an antisubmarine net was placed across Charleston Harbor to keep out German U-boats. Life was about to get real scary.

While we worried about German U-boats and what they might do to our shipping here in Charleston, we also had to worry about a new threat from the air. Ever since Orville and Wilbur Wright flew their first *Flyer* – now called an "airplane" -- a few hundred miles north of here in 1903, German engineers had been working hard to develop their own. They must have done a good job of it 'cause when we went to war, my Soldiers spent a lot of time installing anti-aircraft guns. You wouldn't



Before the Grace Memorial Bridge was constructed connecting Charleston to Mt. Pleasant, Soldiers and their families went to Charleston and back via small sailing vessels such as this.

Task

Defense Act. From then on, my Guard buddies in the Coastal Artillery had the money they needed to come visit more often. They'd practice firing my big guns from Batteries Jasper, Logan, Capron and Butler at targets thousands of yards out to sea. What was really cool is when they'd fire my mortars at Capron and Butler. It would literally shake the island like an earthquake. To keep the ladies of the island happy, we wisely learned to warn them before each practice. It gave them time to open all their windows and take the china off the shelves. After all, we didn't want any windows and fine china getting shattered!

know it today but by the end of the "Great War," there were 3,000 Soldiers serving with me here on the island.

Things quieted down a lot after the Allies and Germany signed the armistice on Nov. 11, 1918. I can't begin to tell you how proud all of us here in Charleston were when the *U.S.S. Pocahontas* sailed by me on March 28, 1919, into the harbor carrying our S.C. National Guard's 118th Infantry Regiment. Charlestonians turned out by the thousands to meet the ship at the dock to welcome our S.C. heroes home. Despite the joy we all felt, we couldn't help but feel sadness for the families of the 329 enlisted men and 14 officers from the unit who didn't make the trip home. They, like so many S.C. Guardsmen before them, had paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

In 1920, Congress did something we all applauded. They passed the National

Over the next 20 years, I became a big training base. Not only were S.C. National Guard Soldiers training with me but young men from the Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps, Citizens Military Training Camps and Civilian Conservation Corps were training here as well.

By the way, did you know America once had five-star generals and admirals? There's only been nine of 'em and the first one was my boss in 1933. George Marshall was a Colonel when he came here in June of that year. By the time he moved on to his next job in October, I'd had another facelift and all of us here knew he was going places. Where, we weren't sure, but after the Japanese killed over 2,000 Americans at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, Marshall became a household name.

Four days later, Germany declared war on the United States. As Chief of Staff of the



Left to right: Hon. Olin D. Johnson, Governor of S.C., Gen. (Ret.) Charles P. Summerall, Brig. Gen. James C. Dozier, The Adjutant General of S.C., Col. Charles A. Dravo, Ft. Moultrie Post Commander and Lt. Col. Claud C. Smith, 263rd Coast Artillery Commander review a parade of S.C. National Guard Soldiers on July 30, 1936.

Army, my old boss, would direct our war effort to defeat both Japan's imperial forces and Nazi Germany. Fortunately, Marshall had planned ahead. The S.C. National Guard's 500-strong, 263rd Coast Artillery



"Probably the most important mission of the Regular Army is to provide the knowledge, the expert personnel and the installations for training the Citizen-Soldier upon whom, in my view, the future peace of the world largely depends."

Gen. George C. Marshall
Chief of Staff of the Army

(Biennial Report to the
Secretary of War, 1944-1945)



S.C. National Guard Coastal Artillery Soldiers practice firing one of four 10-inch rifles mounted on disappearing carriages. When fired, the rifles recoiled behind Battery Jasper's walls at Ft. Moultrie.



The 263rd Coastal Artillery (Harbor Defense) headquarters at Ft. Moultrie during World War II.

(Harbor Defense) had been stationed here since January 1941, mounting searchlights and manning my harbor defenses. A month after Germany declared war on us, the Nazis torpedoed several ships off the coast of North Carolina and every seacoast fortification remained on high alert for the remainder of the war.

Now's a good time to tell you another secret. Looking back, it's really kind of a

like the "Steel City" in Pennsylvania would melt down scrap and send new steel to the "Arsenal of Democracy" in Michigan to make airplanes and tanks. It just so happened my 263rd brothers from Beaufort had two ancient, four-pounder Napoleon brass cannons sitting out in front of their office here. In fact, those boys loved those cannons so much, they had small copies of them put on their coat of arms.

Well, one day some folks decided the 263rd needed to send those shiny cannons off to get melted down. What those folks didn't know is that some Beaufort boys lost those cannons the night before the Civil War battle of Bay Point. It took until 1881, for the Beaufort unit to get their most prized possessions home again. Well, guess what? They decided they weren't gonna lose 'em again!

The night before the cannons were to be sent off, I watched some of my Beaufort buddies sneak out of the barracks, hop into a flatbed truck, drive over to their headquarters, pick up those two cannons and drive off. Before reveille was sounded the next morning, those boys had taken an unauthorized pass,

driven to Beaufort, hidden the cannons in someone's barn and gotten back here to their barracks before sunrise! After the war, I heard both cannons just reappeared

Our Reverie
In the hush of the night
I feel your strong arms
Holding me tight,
The bugle blows in the distance
With your lips on mine we listen
As the beautiful notes of "lights out"
Fade - and all is quiet,
You whisper so tenderly
As the moon light enfolds thee
In your eyes
I can see
All the love you have for me,
With the lost notes of the bugle
You're no longer a Soldier
But my man - honey,
As from salute
Your hand falls
And caresses me,
Yes, darling - the hush of the evening
Is our reverie.

An anonymous World War II poem found in a Soldier's scrapbook at Ft. Moultrie.

outside the old Beaufort Armory one morning.

Another interesting thing happened here during the war. You may not believe it but the first time women were officially recognized for serving in the U.S. military wasn't until after the start of World War II. Can you guess where some of those first Women's Army Corps (WACs) members served? Yep, right here with me. Gosh, those WACs sure were pretty and they smelled a whole lot better than my 263rd buddies!

As the war progressed, I got two 12-inch rifles, 90-mm antiaircraft guns and some of our country's most state-of-the-art communications and harbor defense equipment. It was installed in that camouflaged building over there on my



A 263rd Soldier wearing the Coat of Arms on his World War II dress uniform with Ft. Sumter in the background.

funny tale to tell. As your grandparents will tell you, at the outbreak of the war, there was a nationwide effort to collect scrap metal to send to our steel industry. Places



During World War II, 263rd Coast Artillery (Harbor Defense) Soldiers such as Cpl. Arthur L. Quick of Battery B, were required to carry "Pass Cards" if they were leaving Ft. Moultrie Military Reservation. Typically, Soldiers were granted pass on Wednesday's from 1 p.m. until 11:59 p.m. On weekends, they normally had pass from noon on Saturday until 11:59 p.m. on Sunday.



A Woman's Army Corps unit parades at Ft. Moultrie during World War II.



The 263rd's G-Company in formation preparing for guard mount during World War II.

northwest bastion. The Navy called their portion the Harbor Entrance Control Post. The 263rd called their part of the building a Harbor Defense Command Post.

Even with all this new equipment, by the time we'd won World War II, my friends were asking me what my plans would be after the war. As you may recall from your two previous visits, my job has always been to protect Charleston and its harbor from an attack by sea. I really thought about sticking around but I knew with the support of our

Navy, American troopers could land on any beachhead, take it and keep it. I also knew our air forces could destroy enemy targets above or below the ocean. Knowing my city would be safe from here-on-out made my decision to retire an easy one. To be honest, I needed the rest!

After 171 years of service, a lot of people ask me if I miss it. In some ways I do but the great thing about being retired is more people get to visit me now. Fact is, while I was serving, I had a lot of dangerous, explosive stuff here. Folks couldn't enjoy me the way they do today. What's really neat is how many families moved into my old post housing, buildings and bunkers all up and down the beach. The Fort Moultrie Military Reservation is gone but thanks to

my National Park Service (NPS) rangers, S.C. National Guard and the folks living on Sullivan's Island, the memories of those who served here with me will live on.

Well my friends, thanks again for visiting. You made this 200th anniversary of my completion a very special year for me. Thanks for letting me share some awesome memories of the great Citizen-Soldiers who served with me. As you have heard – from the old fort's mouth – so to speak, the S.C. National Guard has been like family to me since the American Revolution. And oh, by the way, don't let my Ranger Rick Hatcher know, but if you ever need me, I'm "Always Ready—Always There" to fight beside you!



1st Sgt. Herold Brown, Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 263rd Coast Artillery (Harbor Defense) mans our nation's state-of-the-art Harbor Defense Command Post during World War II.

The Army lowered Ft. Moultrie's flag for the last time in 1947. In 1960, S.C. transferred custody of the historic fort to the National Park Service. To schedule a staff ride for your unit to Ft. Moultrie, please contact Maj Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian at (803) 667-1013.



A 263rd Soldier photographs his wife at Ft. Moultrie during World War II.





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