

# Palmetto Guard

Family Magazine, Fall 2006



## HURRICANE SEASON

### 2006 Hurricane Predictions

13-16 Tropical Storms  
8-10 Hurricanes  
4-6 Major Hurricanes

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)



### Is Your Family Prepared?





STANHOPE S. SPEARS  
MAJOR GENERAL  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

The State of South Carolina  
Military Department



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

Soldiers and Families  
of the SC Army National Guard

Dear Reader:

July 19 was a sad day for the South Carolina National Guard when we learned of the passing of former Adjutant General Major General Retired T. Eston Marchant. General Marchant was Adjutant General for South Carolina for 16 years — from January 1979 to January 1995 — and maintained a strong presence in our organization until his final days. His leadership, direction and vision pushed the SC National Guard to new heights and are the reason we have the modern, well-trained and equipped organization we have today. His forethought and dedication to the Palmetto State's citizen soldier made it possible for the SC National Guard to become one of the most-respected organizations in the military inventory.

General Marchant devoted his life to the National Guard. His sacrifices and fidelity to the SC Military Department have been a pivotal factor in shaping our organization into what it is today. He was the driving force in making the SC Air National Guard the first National Guard unit to be assigned the F-16 Fighting Falcon in 1983. Under his direction, our Air Guard went on to win the Air Force's highly competitive "Gunsmoke" competition in 1989 and earned it the title of "World Champions."

Also in 1989, he coordinated and deployed more than 7,000 Guardsmen over a one-month period at the governor's request to assist the citizens of South Carolina during Hurricane Hugo. This was the largest state active duty deployment in South Carolina's history.

From the first day Iraq invaded Kuwait pre-Operations Desert Storm, Desert Shield and Provide Comfort, he knew the SC National Guard's involvement was imminent. Within 25 days of the initial invasion, SC Guardsmen were some of the first to be activated and deployed. When the operations began building momentum, it turned out to be the largest deployment of soldiers to date since Vietnam. The Palmetto State's citizen soldiers deployed and returned with the respect of their active duty counterparts largely because of the guidance given under General Marchant.

When I think of Eston Marchant, I think of a phrase Albert Einstein once said: "Try not to become a man of success, but rather a man of value." As a member and leader of more than 17 professional and scientific societies, including Who's Who in the South and Southwest, Who's Who in America, past president of the Richland County Bar Association and past president of the SC Educational Foundation, Eston Marchant embodied this quote. His leadership and values have touched every aspect of our state and nation.

With a lifetime of service to his state and nation, it saddens me to know South Carolina has lost one of its greatest supporters, one of its native sons and one of our most respected family members. He served us honorably with pride and conviction, and we will never forget what you have done for us and where you have led us — and you will remain a part of us forever.

Sincerely,

Stanhope S. Spears  
Major General, SCARNG  
The Adjutant General

# Palmetto Guard

Family Magazine, Fall 2006

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Vol. 1 Issue 2



## Palmetto Guard Family Magazine

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The Palmetto Guard Family Magazine is published quarterly for members of the SC National Guard and their families. This magazine is an unofficial publication authorized under provisions of AR 680-81.

Submissions and correspondence should be addressed to: S.C. National Guard, Palmetto Guard Family Magazine, TAG-PAO-H, 1 National Guard Road, Columbia, SC 29201. All story and photo submissions to the Palmetto Guard Family Magazine should be submitted in a high-resolution digital format.

About the cover:

Cover Design by: CW2 Tripp Hutto

Designed and Published by  
Corporate Communication Solutions,  
216 Stetson Dr, Charlotte, N.C. 28262. 704-374-0341  
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## Letter From Leadership

by Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Harris, State Command Sergeant Major

I'm excited to be part of the new *Palmetto Guard Family Magazine* because it gives me a chance to talk about the great things our Palmetto soldiers have done, are doing now and will do in the future. From deployments to retention to promotions, I'm tremendously proud of the work being accomplished by the outstanding men and women of the South Carolina Army National Guard.

First, I want to express what a great job I think those who have recently deployed are doing and congratulate those who have just returned for making South Carolina extremely proud. From the officers to the enlisted corps and on down through the chain of command, I have the utmost confidence that the deploying units — including the 251st RAOC, the 267th Quartermaster Detachment, the 151st Field Artillery and 263rd ADA — will perform at an extremely high level.

I want to thank the MSCs for their support and hard work here at home. And I wish the best of luck to the 218th Infantry Brigade as it prepares to depart for Afghanistan in 2007. You'll leave as Palmetto soldiers, and you'll return as Palmetto soldiers.

Let me commend our recruiters for their tireless efforts during this fiscal year, as we are about to meet our goal for 2006. However, as hard as they're working and as productive as they've been, they can't do it alone. Recruiting and retention is every soldier's business. If you know someone interested in serving their country, don't be shy to tell them about the outstanding benefits of belonging to the South Carolina Army National Guard.

Keep in mind it's just as critical to retain the soldiers we have now. The Guard invests thousands of dollars in every soldier in order for them to perform at their best. We should always strive to "train to retain."



*Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Harris*

Finally, I want to stress the importance of NCOERs regarding promotions. One of our main objectives is to grow the NCO corps to reflect our diverse and ever-changing communities. The NCOER is key for soldiers to be properly, fairly and objectively evaluated.

Points are awarded based on leaders' comments. If you have a soldier who shines, who goes above the call of duty and who clearly deserves

promotion, don't hesitate to put it in writing. Don't be afraid of the "above center of mass" block. A fair NCOER is now more important than ever.

Again, let me say how proud I am of each soldier belonging to the South Carolina Army National Guard. When you wear the uniform — whether shipping out, returning home or supporting both — you have an important role to play. You are a Palmetto soldier.

# The Legacy of Operation Hugo

By: Capt. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

**O**n July 10, 1990, the late Maj. Gen. T. Eston Marchant, Adjutant General of South Carolina, ordered the publication of the SC National Guard's official "After-Action Report for Operation Hugo."

In his opening comments, the general expressed his hope that the report would "provide some insight on the devastation and magnitude of Hurricane Hugo." He added, "More than that, I hope that should you face a disaster such as this, some of the lessons that we learned will be of benefit to you in your prior planning."

It has been nearly 17 years since Hurricane Hugo, but few of us who lived through it will ever forget the devastation of September 21, 1989. The State newspaper equated the energy released from the most destructive and widespread natural disaster in the known history of South Carolina with the atomic bomb US forces "dropped on Nagasaki" to expedite an end to World War II.

According to Marchant's 1990 report, Hugo, a Category 4 storm with sustained winds of 135 mph and gusts up to 160 mph, left in its wake "26

fatalities, 343 injuries and enough physical damage for the President of the U.S. to declare 52% of the State as Federally Recognized Disaster Areas."

Hugo's aftermath also resulted in



what was then the largest "call-up" in the history of the National Guard for a natural disaster. Marchant wrote, "103 Army National Guard units (92%) with 6,317 soldiers (47% of the total state strength) were ordered to duty for this emergency."

Given Hugo's legacy, the propensity for tropical cyclones to affect our state, the aftermath of the 2005 hurricane season and the public's growing desire for the National Guard to be increasingly available to support civil authorities following a storm, the Palmetto Guard Family Magazine staff is devoting much of this edition to helping our soldiers and their families prepare for the peak months ahead of the 2006 hurricane season.

As Marchant pointed out, "The truly final chapter may never be written on the effects this storm has had on our State," but perhaps Hugo's lasting legacy for our National Guard is one highlighted by the general for contributing to Operation Hugo's success - our Family Readiness Groups. About them, he wrote:

"This is an important asset that can support the activated units and unit member's families that were affected by the hurricane. They organized relief efforts and assisted civilian relief agencies. They can provide morale support to activated troops and their families."

## What You Need To Know

**S**outh Carolina is one of the most vulnerable states in the nation to be affected by hurricanes and tropical storms. Of the state's 46 counties, six have coastlines that border the Atlantic Ocean. These counties have more than 200 miles of general coastline; another 21 inland counties may be directly affected by these storms. Densely populated coastal areas, especially during peak tourist seasons, coupled with the generally low coastal elevations, significantly increase the state's vulnerability. The greatest threat

to life and property associated with hurricanes and tropical storms is storm surge. Other effects include high winds, tornadoes and inland flooding associated with heavy rainfall that usually accompanies these storms.

Disasters and emergencies can happen any time and anywhere. When disaster strikes, you may not have much time to respond, so it is important that you and your family are prepared. A hurricane, winter storm, earthquake, flood, tornado or any other disaster could cut off utility

services for days and lead to evacuations, or confine your family to your home for days. By taking the time to develop a family emergency plan and assemble a family emergency kit, you can help keep your family safe and make a bad situation a little more tolerable. The following two pages include suggestions and checklists from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division on how to prepare your family for the worst.



## Preparing for the Worst

Everyone knows the old adage, “Prior planning prevents poor performance.” If you have been in the military for more than a day, you have heard it more times than you care to remember, as it is the cornerstone of most of our training. Prepare ... prepare ... prepare some more!

It is now time for a check on learning and practical application (another popular tagline in the military vocabulary) as we help prepare your family for possible emergencies.

### Your Family Disaster Plan

Contact your local emergency management office to find out:

- (1) What types of disasters are most likely to happen in your area.
- (2) If your community has warning signals or sirens, what they sound like and what you should do when you hear them.
- (3) Ask about animal care after a disaster. Animals may not be allowed inside emergency shelters due to health regulations.
- (4) Find out how you can help people with special needs (if needed) until first responders arrive.

### Complete This Checklist

- Post emergency telephone numbers by phones (fire, police, ambulance, etc.).

- Teach children how and when to call 911 or your local emergency medical services number for emergency help.
- Show each family member how and when to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches. Keep water and gas keys in a central location.
- Check if you have adequate insurance coverage annually and determine if specific types of disasters such as hurricanes are covered or excluded under your policy.
- Teach each family member how to use the fire extinguisher (ABC type), and show them where it's kept.
- Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on each level of your home (especially near bedrooms) and remember to change the batteries twice a year.
- Stock emergency supplies and assemble a disaster supplies kit.
- Take a Red Cross first aid and CPR class.
- Determine the best escape routes from your home and mark them on a diagram in your family emergency kit.
- Find two ways out of each room.
- Identify the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster.

### Family Emergency Kit

It is important to keep enough supplies in your home to meet the needs of your family for at least three days.



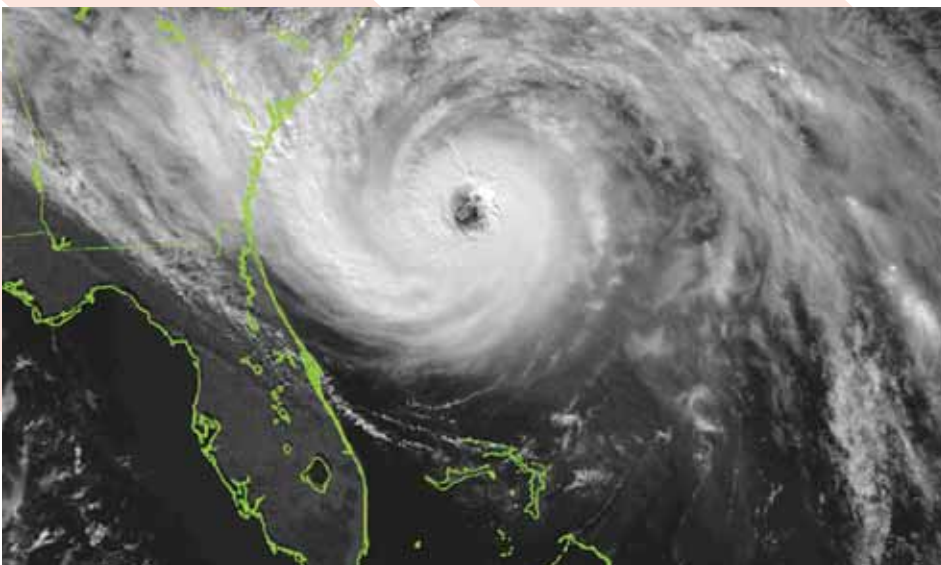
Assemble a family emergency kit with items you may need in an emergency or evacuation. Store these supplies in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers such as suitcases, duffel bags or covered storage containers.

#### To prepare a family emergency kit:

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

### Suggestions and Reminders

- Store your kit in a convenient place known to all family members. Keep a smaller version of the family emergency kit in the trunk of your car.
- Keep items in air-tight plastic bags.
- Change your stored water supply every six months so it stays fresh.
- Rotate your stored food every six months.
- Re-evaluate your kit and family needs at least once a year. Replace batteries, update clothes, etc.





**\*Food** – Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, little preparation or cooking and little or no water. Select food items that are compact and lightweight:

- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables
- Canned juices, milk, soup (if powdered, store extra water)
- Staples – sugar, salt, pepper
- High energy foods – peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix

• Ask your physician or pharmacist about storing prescription medications.

**\*Water** – Store water in plastic containers such as soft drink bottles or plastic milk jugs. Avoid using containers that will break, such as glass bottles. A normally active person needs to drink at least two quarts of water each day. Hot environments and intense physical activity can double this amount. Children, nursing mothers and ill people will need more. Store one gallon of water per person per day (two quarts for drinking, two quarts for food preparation/sanitation)\* Keep at least a three-day supply of water for each person in your household.

- Vitamins
- Foods for infants, elderly persons or persons on special diets
- Comfort/stress foods – cookies, hard candy, sweetened cereals, lollipops, instant coffee, tea bags

**\*First Aid Kit** – Assemble a first aid kit for your home and one for each car.

- Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes
- 2-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)
- 4-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- Triangular bandages (3)
- 2-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
- 3-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Needle
- Moistened towelettes
- Antiseptic
- Thermometer
- Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- Cleansing agent/soap
- Latex gloves (two pairs)
- Sunscreen



- Non-prescription drugs
  - Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
  - Anti-diarrhea medication
  - Antacid
  - Syrup of ipecac
  - Laxative
- \*Tools and Supplies**
- \*Clothing and Bedding**
- \*Special Items** – Remember family members with special needs, such as infants and elderly or disabled persons.
- \*Bank account numbers** – Credit card account numbers and companies.
- \*Inventory of valuable household goods,** important telephone numbers.

**\*Family records** (birth, marriage, death certificates).

Additional and more detailed information to better prepare your family for emergency situations can be found at the following Web sites:

[www.guardfamily.org](http://www.guardfamily.org)

[www.scemd.org](http://www.scemd.org)

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

<http://chps.sam.usace.army.mil>





## Guard Providing Second Chance

by Capt. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

The SC National Guard's Youth Challenge Academy at Will Lou Gray Campus in West Columbia inducted a new cycle of high school-age cadets into the school's five-and-a-half-month program on July 9.

The Youth Challenge Academy's structured, in-residence, military environment provides non-felon SC students with an alternative educational experience designed to help them obtain a GED.

The academy's program is broken down into three cycles and begins with a



Teacher Mary Flynn helps three of her male students with a science problem.

two-week, "boot-camp-like 'Hardcore Challenge' designed to help cadets decide if they want to stay," said Col. Jackie Fogle (Ret.), Director of the Youth Challenge Academy.

"In my opinion, if we can get a young person to graduate here with a GED, good life skills and a work ethic, they will make it out there in society," Fogle added.

Following "Hardcore Challenge," a cadet begins the academic phase of their training. Each student meets with teachers, counselors, cadre and a mentor to lay out a plan for success in helping the cadet achieve what he or she wants to do in life.

"One of the interesting things about Youth Challenge Academy is the fact our kids have to apply to come here. We selectively pick cadets from throughout the state, take them out of the environment they are failing in, instill self-discipline and provide a second chance for each of them to experience true success," Fogle added.



Youth Challenge Academy cadets ensure they have the proper spacing in platoon formation.

On average, 125 cadets graduate from the Will Lou Gray site per cycle, or 250 per year with the academy's expenses paid via a 40/60 cost-share plan between the state and federal governments.

*Editor's Note: Our staff will be following cadets enrolled in the Youth Challenge Academy over the next several months to capture its impact for future editions of the Palmetto Guard Family Magazine. For more information about the Youth Challenge Academy, visit [www.scgard.com/](http://www.scgard.com/).*

## Reporting for State Active Duty

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

Category 4 hurricane is approaching the coastline of South Carolina and, with landfall imminent, the governor has ordered SC National Guard units to deploy on State Active Duty (S.A.D.) to the coastline. What can soldiers and their families expect from this point?

For starters, soldiers' civilian jobs are covered during this activation by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act (SSCRA). Generally, the governor will activate entire units and not individual soldiers, but this isn't always the rule.

Next, soldiers' pay during a S.A.D. deployment will arrive by check, not by the usual method of electronic transfer. At a minimum, a soldier will receive two checks - at least one (perhaps more) for time on active duty, including basic assistance for housing (BAH) where applicable, and one travel check for one round trip from their home of record to the unit and back home again.

This is extremely important: If a soldier's mailing address is not correct with their unit, their checks will be delayed. It is a soldier's responsibility to ensure their mailing address is accurate. Checks will be mailed as soon as they're issued, which may or may not run at regular intervals due to the S.A.D. activation.

For activated soldiers, they can expect transportation to and from their deployment areas, hot and cold meals and places to stay in armories all over the state. Soldiers will primarily assist law enforcement officers with traffic control before a hurricane arrives to ensure the safe and orderly evacuation of citizens.

During the storm, units will redeploy to safe areas until it passes and then, in the aftermath, provide security and assistance for recovery operations.

Soldiers are strongly encouraged to prepare their families now with family emergency supply kits. This edition of the

magazine has some ideas and Web sites to assist you in building an emergency plan for your family.

Should family members need to contact their spouses or loved ones on State Active Duty, they will need phone numbers to the unit headquarters prior to the soldier's deployment. The unit can then pass along this information to the soldier.

As we enter the busy months of this hurricane season, soldiers and their families should pay closer than normal attention to the weather and be prepared in the event of a State Active Duty deployment.

For more information and what to expect if called for State Active Duty, contact Willie Wood, State Active Duty coordinator for the South Carolina Army National Guard, at (803) 806-1482.



# PREP Classes Impact Guard Marriages

by Capt. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

The SC National Guard's Family Programs Office held its most recent Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) weekend for 1st Battalion, 178th Field Artillery soldiers at the North Charleston Sheraton. This continues the office's yearlong effort to enhance the marriages of SC National Guard families.

Many of the couples interviewed during the PREP weekend believed they learned communication skills that would have an immediate positive impact on their relationship. One of the couples was Craig and Karen Cribb of Johnsonville, SC. They have been married 19 years and have two children. "I knew some of my fellow soldiers who had problems overseas. You find out quickly if a marriage is strong or not," said Craig, a track mechanic at the Unit Training and Equipment Site. "This is a good program. We have learned some good tools to help us communicate better," Karen added.

Another couple, Darren and Florie Wilson of New Zion, SC, has been married 13 years and have three girls. "I think this program would be helpful both before and after a deployment. You learn a lot of new ways to discuss issues and work them out," Florie said; Darren added, "Being able to talk

about certain issues without getting into an argument about them is a good thing. I wish a lot more people would have come, because if you put the techniques they are teaching you here into use, I think it would be very helpful." Darren was the National State Trooper of the Year in 2004 before deploying with the battalion last year to provide convoy security in Iraq.

Maj. Gen. Stan Spears, Adjutant General of South Carolina, and his wife, "Ms. Dot," were among the guests who visited the soldiers and their spouses during the weekend. The general made several comments recognizing the tremendous impact SC National Guard soldiers like those in the 1st of the 178th have had in the global war on terror and added, "Our spouses are the glue that holds everything together so we can do what we do for our nation and our state."

Teaching the July PREP were Chaplain Steve Shugart, Deputy State Chaplain, and Chaplain Lawrence Dennis, Chaplain for the 218th Infantry Brigade (M). A few of the key topics taught during the weekend included speaker-listener tactics to handle issues and events, understanding the expectations of your spouse and the impact of post-traumatic stress disorder.



Twelve of the couples gather for a group picture before heading home after PREP.

*"Our spouses are the glue that holds everything together so we can do what we do for our Nation and our State."*

Maj. Gen. Stan Spears, the Adjutant General of South Carolina



Chaplain Lawrence Dennis

Horace and Angela Moore



Maj. Gen. Stan Spears



Darren and Florie Wilson



Craig and Karen Cribb



Oscar and Pearlle McClary



Cody and Tabitha Hardison



Dennis and Suzanne Meyer

## Palmetto-CWID Tests SCNG Capabilities

*Tropical Storm Remnants Provide Realism During Demonstration*

*by Capt. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian*



*Major General Stan Spears, the Adjutant General of South Carolina, speaks with members of the city of North Charleston's police department during Palmetto-CWID.*



*(L to R) Earl Copeland from US Congressman Henry Brown's office and Butch Wallace from US Congressman Joe Wilson's office learn about the SC Army National Guard's unique Joint Incident Site Communications Capability from Staff Sgt. Jason Lee, ACU-1000 operator for the SC JISCC Team.*

More than 500 SC National Guard soldiers and airmen began the 2006 hurricane season in June in North Charleston, SC, by participating in a two-week emergency communications demonstration called the Palmetto-Coalition Warrior Interoperability Demonstration, or Palmetto-CWID.

The purpose of Palmetto-CWID was to validate the first responder emergency communications plans of the Department of Homeland Security and US Northern Command.

Since last year's devastating hurricane season, military, state and federal agencies, and industry officials have been working more closely to further develop and test state-of-the-art communications assets that can interoperate with local police, fire and rescue radios in the aftermath of a catastrophic event.

For example, during the Palmetto-CWID tropical storm simulation, local emergency communications assets were damaged by strong winds, requiring local officials to request a temporary fix until their emergency communications systems were restored.

To ensure North Charleston's first responders received the best support possible during the Palmetto-CWID tropical storm scenario, the SC Army National Guard's 228th Signal Brigade collaborated with the SC Communications Information Office, FEMA, the SC Emergency Management Division, Charleston County EMS, 16 industry partners, the Navy's Critical Infrastructure Protection Center, the US Coast Guard and the Air Force Reserve.

Interestingly, the remnants of Tropical Storm Alberto — the first named storm of the 2006 hurricane season — blew through North Charleston on June 13, adding to the realism of this year's Palmetto-CWID tropical storm simulation.

"The arrival of Tropical Storm Alberto this early in the hurricane season sure made our training realistic and helped validate our team-building efforts since last hurricane season," said Major David McNamee, the SC National Guard's



Director of Information Management.

Palmetto-CWID began less than a week after Dr. William Gray and Dr. Phil Klotzbach of Colorado State University's famed Department of Atmospheric Science released their 2006 hurricane predictions. Their report included at least one major (category 3, 4 or 5) hurricane landfall on each of the following coastal areas: 1) entire US coastline — 82% (average for the last century is 52%); 2) US East Coast, including the Florida peninsula — 69% (average for the last century is 31%); 3) Gulf Coast from the Florida panhandle westward to Brownsville — 38% (average for the last century is 30%); and 4) above-average major hurricane landfall risk in the Caribbean.

"At the end of each hurricane season, Maj. Gen. Stan Spears, the Adjutant General of South Carolina, asks the SC



*George Crouch of the SC Communications Information Office explains how state agencies will respond if a local government requests assistance following a natural or man-made disaster.*

National Guard leadership, 'What can we do to help ensure we are better prepared to help our neighbors next year?' We believe Palmetto-CWID helps answer this question and provides reassurance to the people of South Carolina that all levels of their government, the military and industry are working together to better

prepare for future disasters," said Colonel Debra Rose, the SC National Guard's Communications Officer.

Although the First Response Coalition's 2006 report, titled "The Imminent Storm," ranks South Carolina and Florida as the best-prepared hurricane-prone states in interoperable communications, given the 2006 hurricane predictions, SC Adjutant General Stan Spears still isn't taking any chances.

Paraphrasing Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff's speech at the 2006 American Red Cross national convention in May, Spears said, "If there's any lesson we've learned, whether it's looking back on 9/11 or looking back on Katrina, never go at it alone and do it your own way. The answer is — do it together and as a team,' which is what Palmetto-CWID is all about," Spears said.



*US Coast Guardsmen perform a live extraction during Palmetto-CWID to demonstrate how government agencies can now provide live streaming video from an incident site to emergency responders via satellite.*

*Continued on page 12*

Continued from page 11



CISCO Tactical/Mobile Systems engineers explain the capabilities of their secure satellite communications system to Laura Gender of the US Joint Forces Command's Coalition Warrior Interoperability Demonstration Branch/J685.



A Department of Homeland Security FEMA van arrives at Palmetto-CWID to train and interoperate with local, state and military entities.

"Here in North Charleston, the city's first responders have some of the best emergency communications systems in the country, but I'm sure it does help them to know that we'll be there to help out if they ever need us during an event," Spears added.

In an effort to further aid disaster-prone states like South Carolina, the National Guard Bureau recently purchased a limited number of unique emergency communications systems called the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability, or JISCC. The 12-man JISCC Team was first fielded by the SC National Guard following Hurricane Rita last fall.

One of JISCC's unique interoperable features is its ability for first responders to plug into JISCC with their individual radio systems and communicate with all disaster response personnel anywhere at any time, even if they are using different radio systems.



A SC Army National Guard OH-58 RAID helicopter assigned to the SC Counterdrug Task Force flies over the Palmetto-CWID site in North Charleston, SC, providing live streaming video for the tropical storm simulation.



Dan Moon, the man who became known as the "Voice of the Lowcountry" following Hurricane Hugo's devastating assault on the SC coastline in 1989, interviews Col. Debra Rose, the SC National Guard J6 (Communications Officer), concerning Palmetto-CWID.





*Palmetto-CWID's goal of ensuring local, state, federal, military and industry assets could communicate with one another to support local first responders was accomplished through close interaction among its participants.*

*Maj. Dave McNamee, SC National Guard Director of Information Management, shows Raytheon where to set up its satellite communications equipment.*

The SC National Guard received a second JISCC system in June. Like its predecessor, the SC National Guard's 228th Signal Brigade JISCC Team can rapidly deploy to an incident site to provide emergency voice, video and data communications in support of first responders when augmentation is requested to support a state or federal response to a catastrophic event.

"We are thankful that the National Guard Bureau has provided the SC National Guard with two JISCC Teams. Given South Carolina's strategic military, transportation and communications infrastructure, we can quickly deploy our JISCC Teams in response to catastrophic events anywhere, any time," said Brigadier General Tommy Sinclair, commander of the SC National Guard's 228th Signal Brigade.

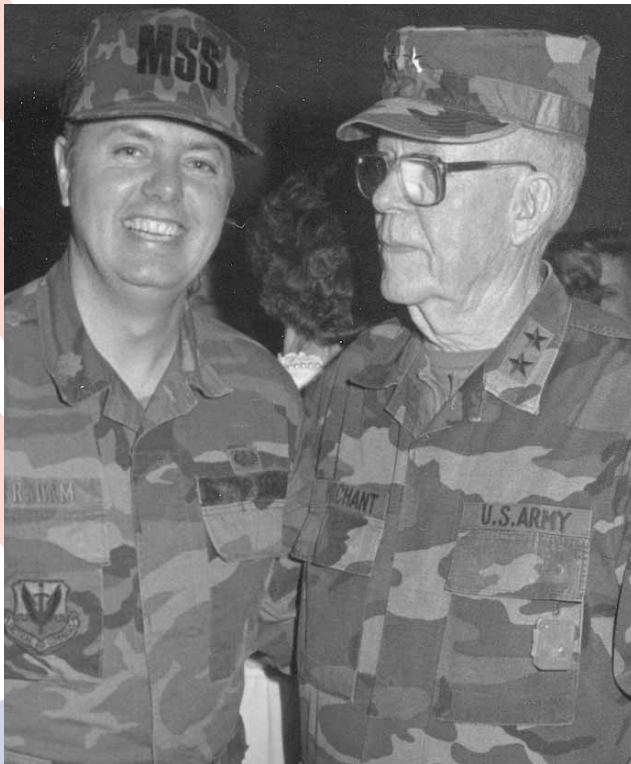
The 2006 Palmetto-Coalition Warrior Interoperability Demonstration stands as one of the largest on-site emergency communications demonstrations to take place in the nation this year. SC National Guard officials plan to host another Palmetto-CWID next June at The Citadel, the military college of South Carolina in Charleston.



*Civilian members of the US Navy's Critical Infrastructure Protection Team work with 228th Signal Brigade Intelligence personnel to ensure critical intelligence is shared between the services.*

# In Honor of Major General T. Eston Marchant

by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tripp Hutto



On January 8, 1995, many South Carolinians honored the outgoing adjutant general, Maj. Gen. T. Eston Marchant Jr., and welcomed the incoming adjutant general, BG Stan Spears, including US Senator Lindsey Graham, who was at the time a Major in the Air Force Reserve and had recently been elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from South Carolina's 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District.

Over the years, history has presented itself to our generation in many forms. The Internet and newer, faster communication platforms have allowed information to flow freely across the world, but the foundation of all we know is history. Why is this important? The simple answer is: History is what we learn from and what everything else is based on.

Why is this significant? It is significant because it is important we remember where we came from and why we are where we are. Unfortunately, these thoughts are most prevalent after someone important to us passes away.

Major General (Retired) T. Eston Marchant, former Adjutant General of South Carolina, is one of those figures in our history who takes us back to where we come from. He is one of the foundations

upon which our current National Guard in South Carolina is built and the platform from which we launched into the modern military force.

General Marchant was Adjutant General of South Carolina for 16 years, from 1979 to 1995. His leadership, direction and vision pushed the South Carolina National Guard forward into the modern, well-trained and equipped organization we have today. His tireless efforts and never-ending care for the Palmetto State's citizen soldier made the SC Army and Air National Guard one of the most-respected organizations in the military inventory.

Prior to Marchant's service to the state as Adjutant General, he practiced law for 30 years in Columbia and served on the board of trustees of the University of South Carolina for 13 years, serving his final eight as chairman. In 1990, he was selected as South Carolinian of the Year.

Marchant enlisted in the SC Army National Guard in January 1939. He enlisted in the US Marine Corps in January 1942, was commissioned as a second lieutenant and rose quickly to the rank of captain. He served during World War II and participated in the New Georgia, Guam and Bougainville campaigns and in two Iwo Jima campaigns as a rifle platoon leader and rifle company commander. In February 1947, Marchant was commissioned in

the SC National Guard, where he made his home for the rest of his career.

Among the many assignments of his distinguished career, in 1968, at the rank of colonel, Marchant became commandant of the Palmetto Military Academy, the SCNG Officer Candidate School. He then assumed command of 2nd Brigade, 30th Infantry Division in 1972 and was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in 1973, serving as assistant division commander of the 30th Infantry Division, and later commanded Troop Command. Marchant was elected Adjutant General during the general election of November 1978, then devoted the remainder of his military career to the state of South Carolina.

General Marchant's achievements are too many to list in a mere short article about his life. He was a devoted husband, father and leader, not only to his family, but also to the state and his extended family in the National Guard. His dedication to his job as Adjutant General led to making the SC Air National Guard the first National Guard unit to be assigned the F-16 Fighting Falcon in 1983. Under his direction, our Air Guard



(L to R) US Senator Strom Thurmond and Maj. Gen. Marchant. In Edgefield, SC, the birthplace of Strom Thurmond, the SC National Guard dedicated and named the Edgefield armory in honor of the senator on October 30, 1994. A member of the US Army's elite 82nd Airborne Division during the Normandy invasion, Thurmond continued his military career after the war in the US Army Reserve, where he retired at the rank of major general. During the ceremony, Marchant called Thurmond "a great supporter of the Guard for many, many years."





*On the heels of the Pentagon praising the SCARNG for achieving the first-ever perfect score on a national composite rating of Army Guard performance in 1988, Maj. Gen. Marchant was pleased to welcome home the SC Air National Guard's F-16 Fighting Falcon "Gunsmoke" Team after the team earned the title of "World Champions."*

went on to win the Air Force's highly competitive "Gunsmoke" competition in 1989, earning it the title of "World Champions."

Marchant led the Palmetto State's citizen soldiers in deployments to Desert Storm/Shield and, because of his leadership, guidance and dedication, the SC National Guard returned with the respect of their active duty counterparts. He also led the largest state active duty call-out in the history of South Carolina during Hurricane Hugo, when 7,000 Guardsmen and women blanketed the coastal areas of our great state to assist our neighbors in crisis.

As a politician and soldier, he was able to push at the national level on many occasions to secure the future of South Carolina's Guard by getting the most modern and up-to-date equipment in the military inventory, such as the AH-64 Apache Helicopter and the UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter. He was instrumental in the modernization of the 218th Heavy Separate Brigade, the largest unit in South Carolina National Guard, and with the formation of the SC State Guard. Under his command, recruiting and retention were at an all-time high.

The current Adjutant General of South Carolina, Major General Stanhope S. Spears, said in an interview about the memory of General Marchant, "Eston

Marchant was not a man of success, but rather a man of value. He was a member and leader of numerous prestigious, professional and scientific societies, including Who's Who in the South and Southwest, Who's Who in America, past president of the Richland County Bar Association, past president of the SC Educational Foundation and past president of the Adjutants General Association of the United States. His legacy is embedded in the history of the Guard, and his life embodies everything a soldier should strive for."

In 1986, retired Col. D. Edward Baxley, then the Chief of Staff for the SC National Guard, was quoted as saying, "From the lowest-ranking Guard members to the top-ranking military officials in South Carolina and the nation, T. Eston Marchant is both known and respected as a premier, professional soldier and person."

General George S. Patton said that to be a successful soldier, you must know history. Within the history of the SC National Guard, there are many historical figures, both past and present, which will read into the future of soldiers for years to come. His memory will be with us always, and his portrait among the leaders of our past will serve as a constant reminder of what the Guard has become. Under his guidance, the foundation was laid, and we will continue to maintain our organization as one of the best in the world — as he would expect us to. He will be remembered as a premier, professional soldier and person and will never be forgotten.

"With over 40 years of service to the state and nation, Eston Marchant has earned his respective rank in the history of South Carolina, the United States and our hearts," said Spears. "Sir, you served us well, and your memory will continue to be our guide. We will move forward with the pride and conviction you served us with. We will never forget you and what you have done for the Guard, and you will remain a part of our family forever."



*Maj. Gen. Marchant speaks at the dedication ceremony of the SC Military Department's T. Eston Marchant Building on November 17, 1989. (Photo captions by Capt. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian. Photos courtesy of the SC Military Museum)*

## Recent SCARNG Deployments

by Staff Sgt. Joe Cashion and Spc. Angel Jefferson, 108th Public Affairs Detachment



Filling out the necessary paperwork at the McCrady Training Center in Eastover on July 9, the 151st Field Artillery from Sumter and the 263rd ADA from Anderson will soon leave to support the global war on terror. (Photo by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones, Public Affairs NCOIC)

Heading out for another tour in the Middle East, 27 soldiers of the 251st Rear Area Operations Center (RAOC) began their deployment to Iraq on July 10 from the Springdale Armory in West Columbia. The unit previously supported the global war on terror and

Operation Iraqi Freedom from February 2003 through April 2004.

While some in the unit are still around from the previous mission, many are making their first trip overseas, including 1st Lt. Latroy Glover. "It's my first time going out, so I don't know what to expect," he said. "But I'm going with a great group, and I'll help support them any way I can."

Sgt. John Elkin is again deploying with the RAOC, but hasn't lost enthusiasm for supporting the effort in Iraq. "We need to be there; we need to be doing this mission," he said. "It's not just about the college money — it's about the missions, too."

Also leaving for Iraq were the 16 members of the 267th Quartermaster Detachment from Allendale. They previously deployed to Iraq in 2003. Both units will mobilize from Camp Shelby, MS.

At the McCrady Training Center in Eastover on July 9, the 151st Field Artillery from Sumter and the 263rd ADA from Anderson began the process of deployment, tentatively scheduled for August. Mobilization officer Lt. Col. Gilbert S. Hogan said the process of preparing the nearly 50 soldiers from both units went well. "We're usually equipped to handle up to 150 soldiers, so handling less than that made things operate more smoothly than usual."

Spc. Jonte Colclough of the 151st FA from Sumter is also making his first deployment. "I'm kind of nervous, but the quicker we can get there, the quicker it will be over," he said. Sgt. 1st Class Robert Perry, also of the 151st FA, expressed confidence in his unit's ability to accomplish the mission. "I feel we have the people to get the job done and — God willing — we'll all make it back safely."



Members of the 267th Quartermaster Detachment (water purification) prepare to leave their armory in Allendale on July 11 and head for the bus on their way to Iraq. This unit is deploying for the second time in support of the global war on terror. (Photo by Capt. Scott Bell, SCARNG Historian)



# South Carolina Guardsmen Take Part in Annual Marathon

by SC Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Joe Cashion, 108th Public Affairs Detachment

With their shoes laced and ready for 26.2 miles of strenuous running, South Carolina Army and Air National guardsmen Maj. Darryl Hammond, Maj. Paul Laymon and Sgt. 1st Class William Thompson all took part as the South Carolina team in the annual Lincoln National Guard Marathon on May 7.

The trio joined more than 200 Army and Air National Guardsmen who participated in hopes of making the National Guard All-Guard Marathon team, which is comprised of the top 40 overall male and 15 female finishers.

Both Hammond (20th overall) and Laymon (26th) qualified for the team, with



(L to R) Maj. Paul Laymon and Maj. Darryl Hammond are on the move during the May 7 Lincoln National Guard marathon in Lincoln, NE. (Photos by the Nebraska National Guard Public Affairs Office)

times of two hours and 54 minutes, and two hours, 55 minutes and 27 seconds, respectively. Thompson completed the run in just over five hours.

Laymon, a former National Guard marathon champion who in 1985 set the SC state marathon record (2:22:17), said he thought he could have done better.

"My last Lincoln race was not nearly my best," he said. "Training for the marathon has gotten harder over the years; life, job and family all take their toll," said Laymon, who serves as deputy commander of the 43rd Chemical Support Team in West Columbia.

Hammond, scheduled to deploy in August as the S-4 for the 151st Field Artillery brigade, said, "Paul and I have made the national team for the last few

years and have traveled to some nice places. Not only do we run, but we also recruit for the National Guard when we go and have gotten some good leads out of it."

While both Laymon and Hammond are experienced marathon runners, they have different ways of preparing for the grueling distance.

"One of the key workouts in preparation for the 2006 Lincoln Marathon was a bimonthly 6- to 8-mile road march with a 40-pound ruck. I found it easier on my legs to run the entire way and, in the process, I built a great deal of endurance and strength," Laymon said.

"Everyone's training regimen is a little different," Hammond said. "Typically, I'll run six days a week, from anywhere between 40 to 70 miles. I try to go long, anywhere from 12 to 24 miles, on Saturdays. Paul does more cycling and swimming than I do."

Thompson, a CH-47 maintenance supervisor at the aviation facility, ran his first-ever marathon and said he enjoyed it. "I really appreciate the Guard for giving



(L to R) Maj. Paul Laymon, Maj. Darryl Hammond and Sgt. 1st Class William Thompson.

me the opportunity to run. "It was an experience — for sure — but I'm looking forward to going back next year and improving my time. The people in Lincoln were fantastic and made us feel at home."

Hammond, who hopes to maintain his rigorous training schedule in Iraq, also mentioned that anyone interested in running on the SC team should contact him or Maj. Laymon. "We're always trying to find more people," Hammond said. "Running is a great way to keep your mind and body in shape."

## Pistol Team Rounds up Awards

Members of the SC Army National Guard pistol team pause with their gun boxes and awards after competing in the midwinter pistol matches over the April 21-23 weekend.

Team members (back row, L to R) Sgt. Chris Price and Sgt. Jody Sellers; (front row, L to R) team captain Staff Sgt. Jim Henson, Sgt. J.P. Young, Sgt. Nathan



Wade and Spc. Eric Lawrence. Their awards included first and second place in the .22 caliber, first place in expert military, second place centerfire, first place centerfire rapid fire and second place in the .45 caliber match.

(Photo and caption by SC Army National Guard Master Sgt. Phillip Jones)

## South Carolina National Guard Conducts Joint Training

by Col. Pete Brooks, SC National Guard Director of Public Affairs and Strategic Communications

**S**C National Guard senior leaders and staff assembled at the Adjutant General's Headquarters in June to receive special training and briefings related to the purpose, function and composition of the newly organized Joint Staff. More than 50 Army and Air Guard officers and NCOs now comprise the Joint Staff Headquarters, whose mission will be to provide command and control of all National Guard forces as directed by state or federal authorities.

"Providing support, saving lives and reducing suffering is what the South Carolina National Guard is all about. This new Joint Staff structure will help the Guard better accomplish whatever mission we're called on to perform," said Major

General Stan Spears, Adjutant General of South Carolina.

June's training immediately followed the South Carolina Emergency Management Division's state hurricane exercise, in which the SC National Guard played a key role. Coincidentally, the SC Army National Guard was tasked to respond to a real-world "emergency" during the exercise by providing two Blackhawk helicopters for firefighting support at a chemical fire in Fort Mill.

As part of the special training, the Joint Staff covered such topics as command relationships, command center operations and emergency planning.

"As we enter another hurricane season, this joint training and organization will

better enable the SC National Guard to respond quickly and seamlessly to any emergency," said Colonel Ron Huff, Chief of the Joint Staff.

After spending the morning in briefings at the Adjutant General's Headquarters, the Joint Staff boarded two buses and proceeded to the EMD facility in West Columbia. There they received tours and briefings on the new fully functioning Joint Operations Center and the 43rd Civil Support Team. The CST is tasked to support civil authorities at a chemical, biological or radiological incident. Part of the CST tour included a mock detection exercise of an unknown chemical agent.

## McCrary Training Center Gets a Facelift

by Capt. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

**T**he SC National Guard's McCrary Training Center in Eastover, SC, recently received a facelift as the finishing touches of its new main gate were completed.



Staff Sgt. David Vinson, a 28-year veteran of the SC Army National Guard's 1st of the 118th Infantry, is one of the soldiers responsible for manning the new main gate at McCrary Training Center.

## HHD 105th Signal Battalion Trains at Fort Gordon

by Capt. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

**T**he North Charleston-based 105th Signal Battalion performed its annual training at Fort Gordon, GA, in June, focusing on force protection and convoy operations.

The unit also conducted lane evaluations, signal transformation classes, an FTX and a joint exercise with the 551st Signal Battalion that culminated in various capstone events.



105th soldiers receive a safety brief in the field prior to live fire exercises.



105th soldiers provide force protection during convoy operations training.



1st Lieut. Michelle Roberts, a 218th MI soldier attached to the 105th, practices her repelling skills during A.T.



## Life on the Frontlines

by Sgt. 1st Class Verlan Evans

Life on the relay point is full of anxiety and anticipation. As a leader, questions flood my mind, including "Is our perimeter defense sound enough to protect us against attack?" "Will the RP meet brigade, battalion and battery standards on the inspection?" and "Will I ever make it to R&R?"

I also have such thoughts as coming to realize it would be monotonous to try to run 2 miles in a compound that's a fifth of the size of a running track back home;

counting the days until we go home; counting how many days we have been in this country; wondering how long it will be until the next log/pac, birthday, anniversary, baby due date, presidential election and/or payday and wondering when our flight date out will be.

As a soldier, I have many thoughts, including: doubting if most Americans realize the sacrifices we are making for this country, but pledging to remain true to our flag; trying to be entertained by any

available means from "Hadji" satellite TV or by reading a good book to fill up my off-duty time; trying to avoid eating MREs at all costs; and keeping my faith in God and our unit, knowing that our families are waiting for us with open arms to come back home and that by the time we leave here, we will have restored hope for the Iraqi people.

*Editor's Note: Our "Life on the Frontlines" section is dedicated to recording the historical accounts of soldiers who have served on the frontlines of the global war on terrorism. Sgt. 1st Class Verlan Evans (second row, far right), the Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge of Radio-Relay Point #12, wrote this piece while serving in Iraq on October 28, 2004. He and his men served with the 3rd of the 178th Field Artillery Battalion along the main supply route between Kuwait and Baghdad. All personal accounts of service during the GWOT are appreciated, and will be used (space permitting) in future editions of the Palmetto Guard Family Magazine.*



## Spears Testifies at US Senate Hearing

by Capt. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

Major General Stan Spears, the Adjutant General of South Carolina, testified before the US Senate's Commerce, Science and Transportation Disaster Prevention & Prediction Subcommittee on May 24, 2006 concerning effective emergency response strategies for the 2006 hurricane season.

Spears joined Max Mayfield, Director of the National Hurricane Center, who testified on the increased degree of accuracy in hurricane predictions in the United States, and Ben Spraggins, Director of Harrison County, Missouri's Emergency Management and Homeland Security office, who addressed local emergency preparations planning.

"One of the key lessons learned (from Katrina) involves command-and-control

issues. Military support to civil authorities is just that — state and local authorities are in charge. The military is there to support, not take charge," Spears said.

"The challenge is to ensure unity of effort among federal, state and local agencies, along with non-government and private voluntary organizations, such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army".

"Unity of effort requires the ability to communicate in a timely, effective manner — horizontally and vertically — to develop a common operating picture among all agencies".

"In my opinion, the National Guard can be a key enabler to ensuring unity of effort. We can bring communications equipment to multiple incident sites that enable first responders to communicate

with each other over disparate radio systems. This equipment allows all systems to intercommunicate," added Spears, referring to the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability, or JISCC, which was first fielded by the SC National Guard in the fall of 2005.

The Adjutant General also mentioned the National Guard's significant capabilities to support civil authorities via security forces, engineers, transportation, logistical support, and rural search and rescue.

"Are our soldiers and airmen ready? You bet! One of the major reasons young people join the National Guard is to be there in times of emergencies that affect their neighbors, friends and families," Spears said in his closing comments.

## Apache Unit Goes 'Gator Hunting' in Florida

by SC Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Joe Cashion, 108th Public Affairs Detachment



Preparing to fire on the range, an AH-64 Apache comes in to load rockets, 30mm rounds and Hellfire missiles at Eglin Air Force Base, FL.

**H**unting for alligators, particularly in the swamps and rivers of northwest Florida, is a risky proposition. Risky it is, unless your weapons of choice include 30-millimeter cannons, Hydra rockets and Hellfire missiles.

During the final two weeks of April, 107 soldiers-aviators of 1st Battalion 151st Aviation, based at McEntire Joint National Guard Station, traveled to their usual destination of Eglin Air Force Base, FL, to perform annual training, otherwise known as "Gator Hunt." Gator Hunt is a two-week exercise designed for pilots and gunners to help them hone their skills and maintain battle readiness with the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter.

The unique name of "Gator Hunt" originated in the late 1980s, according to Lt. Col. Paul Horry, commander of 1-151 Aviation. "Because of the location here in Florida and obviously because this state is known for having an abundance of alligators, the nickname for our annual training became 'Gator Hunt' and has stuck with us ever since."

First introduced in 1984, the Apache attack helicopter has developed into one of the Army's deadliest weapons on the battlefield, typically equipped with one 30-millimeter cannon, eight Hellfire missiles and 38 Hydra rockets.



Apache ground crew members work quickly at loading the 30mm machine guns while the pilots and gunners prepare for their mission.



With all armament ready to go, the Apache takes off and heads to the range for its mission.

The firing range at Eglin provides the best environment for Apache gunnery, Horry said. "Down here, they have the best range facilities we can use, particularly for Hellfire gunnery." And though the Hellfire missile has a maximum effective range of nearly eight kilometers, the maximum range was about four kilometers for Gator Hunt.

Horry also said that staging from a different location on the base helped the training run more efficiently. "This year, we were allowed to operate from Duke Field, rather than Eglin main. It helped to have the advance and core groups here early. Once the main group arrived, things went superbly."

If you thought that firing all the Apache's high-tech weaponry would be exciting for the gunners, you would probably be correct, Horry said.

"Absolutely — it's the highlight for an attack aviator. It's fun to be able to come down here and train on what we have to do," he added. "This is what it's all about — to be able to fire those weapons and destroy targets."



After loading the 30mm guns, Hydra rockets are loaded for firing. An Apache can hold 19 rockets on each side of the aircraft, for a total of 38. (Photos by Master Sgt. Philip Jones)

## Soldiers and Political Activity

by Capt. Alan Wilson, Staff Judge Advocate, STARC

**I**t's election time again, and it is important for all soldiers to exercise their civic duty; however, National Guardsmen need to know what they can and cannot do when supporting political candidates, parties and issues.

The bottom line is this. Members of the National Guard can do anything that a regular citizen can do when participating in a political activity so long as they are not in uniform, currently on

duty or acting as a representative of the National Guard or armed forces.

Soldiers may not use their official authority or influence to interfere with an election, affect the course or outcome of an election, solicit votes for a particular candidate or issue, or require or solicit political donations from others. (AR 600-20)

For more information on this subject, consult AR 600-20 • 7 June 2006 (Para 5-3).



## Education Lottery Presents Check to the NGASC

Story and photo by SC Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Joe Cashion, 108th Public Affairs Detachment



Spc. Vonnetta Brown prepares to speak to the media at the Education Lottery headquarters on June 2. To her right are Staff Sgt. Christopher Riddle (left) and Senior Airman Richard Garin (right).

The South Carolina Education Lottery presented a college scholarship check in the amount of \$4,310 to the National Guard Association of South Carolina scholarship fund during a ceremony held at lottery headquarters June 2.

Attendees included Maj. Gen. Stanhope S. Spears, Adjutant General of South Carolina, and Cindy Watson, executive director of the National Guard Association of South Carolina.

SC Army National Guardsman Spc. Vonnetta Brown, a member of Bravo

Company, 151 Signal Battalion, along with Air National Guardsmen Staff Sgt. Christopher Riddle and Senior Airman Richard Garin, both of the 169th Fighter Wing at McEntire Joint Guard Station, were present and spoke with media covering the event.

Brown is attending Limestone College and majoring in elementary education. Riddle is taking classes through Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, while Garin is a student at the University of South Carolina.

## 2,500 More 'Strength for Service' Books Delivered

by Capt. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

L. W. Smith, a volunteer "Strength for Service" coordinator with United Methodist Men in Columbia, delivered 2,500 additional "Strength for Service" books in July for SC National Guard chaplains to give our deploying soldiers.

Smith, who has helped provide more than 200,000 copies of the 400-page, World War II-era devotional books to soldiers since 9/11, told SC Adjutant General Stan Spears, "I appreciate the sacrifices our Guard soldiers are making to protect our way of life."

Chaplain Steve Shugart, a Methodist minister and Deputy State Chaplain, said, "All 2,500 books will be given to soldiers from the 218th Infantry Brigade, 151 Field Artillery Brigade, RAOC and Allendale-based Water Purification units, who have been mobilized to serve in our nation's global war on terror."

CW5 Don Shumpert (Ret) of the SC National Guard's State Family Readiness Office added, "The 'Strength for Service' books mean a lot to our soldiers, and at a production cost of \$7 per book, it says a lot about the dedication United Methodist Men have in support of our Guard troops."



## Guard Credit Union Helping Deployed Soldiers

On July 25, the SC National Guard Credit Union shipped eight boxes of items collected last month during the state's Credit Union Association meeting to deployed SC Army National Guard soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. (Photo by Capt. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian)



The Adjutant General thanks L.W. Smith for his dedicated support of our SC National Guard soldiers. (L to R) Don Shumpert, Maj. Gen. Stan Spears, L.W. Smith and Chaplain Steve Shugart.



# 2006 Youth Camp

by Sgt. Steve Carwile



Sgt. 1st Class John Peavy, Youth Camp 2006 1st Sgt., leads his campers in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. (Photo and cutline by Capt. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian)

The SC National Guard conducted its 11th annual Youth Camp, July 13-22, at McCrady Training Center, a SC National Guard site located at Fort Jackson.

Youth Camp is designed to provide the children of SC Army and Air National Guardsmen a week of fun-filled activities and educational experiences in a mild military atmosphere. These youth are 10 to 13 years old and come from all areas of





our state. Many are National Guard children, but some are children sponsored by Guardsmen.

During Youth Camp week, these children stay on-site and are grouped into platoons by age. Some activities they experience include swimming at Weston Lake, which is located at Fort Jackson, nature hikes, bowling, arts and crafts, canoe rides down the Saluda River and a visit to an animal farm to see a variety of domestic animals.

This year, 100 children attended camp. Lt. Col. Gordon Johnson, SC National Guard Family Program Director, said, "Youth Camp week is just a small way of giving back to Guardsmen for their many sacrifices they have made in service to our state and nation; many are or have been deployed overseas."

The SC National Guard is the fifth most-deployed state in the nation.

If you would like more information about SC National Guard Youth Camp, please call Lt. Col. Johnson at (803) 667-1432 or e-mail him at [gordon.johnsonjr@usarmy.mil](mailto:gordon.johnsonjr@usarmy.mil).



## Soldier in Focus



*Spc. Dixie Clegg (far right) marches the Jets around as WIS-TV makes its second annual visit to report on the positive impact the SC National Guard Youth Camp is having. Spc. Clegg has been coming to Youth Camp since it began in 1995, and said her favorite thing then was marching. Clegg credits her experiences at Youth Camp for influencing her decision to enlist in the SC National Guard five years ago. She recently completed her biology degree at Francis Marion University and is planning to apply to PMA. (Photo and caption by Capt. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian)*

## Guardisman Earns South Carolina's Second-Highest Award

Story and photo by SC Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Joe Cashion, 108th Public Affairs Detachment

Staff Sgt. Brent Cobb, a recruiter with the Recruiting and Retention command, was presented with the Order of the Silver Crescent during ceremonies held at the Fountain Inn Armory on May 6. Cobb earned the award for his numerous contributions of volunteerism and his initiative to start outreach programs within his community.

"I feel overwhelmed and humbled to have received this award," he said. "Quite frankly, I didn't know it existed, but obviously I'm excited about receiving it."

The Order of the Silver Crescent is the second highest award that can be

presented to an individual by the state of South Carolina. There to present Cobb the award was House District 27 Representative Garry Smith.

Cobb said he owed a great deal of credit to his wife, Amanda, for showing him how volunteering can affect the lives of others. "As a teacher, she's been involved in mentoring students and at-risk youth," he said. "You can really see the difference of how taking interest in someone else's life can make. We've organized a number of community service events, and we try to be involved as much as we can."

Cobb serves as the R&R non-commissioned officer for 1st Battalion, 118th Infantry in Fountain Inn.

Staff Sgt. Brent Cobb holds the Order of the Silver Crescent, an award he earned and was presented with during ceremonies at the Fountain Inn Armory on May 6. The Order of the Silver Crescent is the second highest award presented by the state of South Carolina.



## Guard Heroes Earn Soldier's Medal

by Capt. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

Staff Sgt. Toby Wiggers and Pfc. Joshua Blizzard recently received the Soldier's Medal for Heroism for risking their lives to save passengers from a burning MC-130 "Talon" at Qayyarah West Airfield, Iraq, on December 29, 2004.

The two maintenance soldiers from the SC Army National Guard's Task Force 1-151st Aviation were preparing their helicopters for an uncontrolled launch from Q-West Airfield when they heard an inbound aircraft break apart after landing.

According to reports, the MC-130 hit an excavated portion of the former MIG-21 airfield that was under repair. The impact of the "Talon" striking the 5-foot-deep, 40-foot-wide and 30-foot-long crater at 100 knots ripped the nose and left-side landing gear from their mounts. The entire underbelly of the aircraft was ripped away, from the nose gear aft to the left side main landing gear.

Simultaneously, the left outside engine made contact with the ground, breaking the left wing off the aircraft.

Pooling fuel covered Wiggers' and Blizzard's feet as they began searching for survivors in the burning wreckage of the MC-130. Together, these South Carolina heroes risked their lives pulling injured soldiers out of the wreckage to safety.

The Soldier's Medal is the ninth-highest award presented by the US Army and was first authorized by Congress on July 2, 1926 to recognize soldiers for distinctive acts of heroism.

## SC National Guard Announces Essay Contest Winner

by Ms. Janet King

Career Training Concepts Inc. and the South Carolina Army National Guard are pleased to announce the winner of the Career Direction Scholarship Essay contest. Savannah Osborne of Goose Creek High School won the contest for her essay, titled "Guarding America — Why the National Guard's Role is Important to Me."

A key statement in Osborne's essay reads: "When you walk into school saying what you want to say, wearing what you want to wear, just know that you are here doing those things because

people love you enough to fight for you and this country. You should just be so proud of that."

Osborne, who plans to attend college, says the Career Direction program presented by Staff Sgt. David Revell helped her understand what she really wants to do with her life.

Staff Sgt. Revell presented a \$1,000 check to Osborne during the Goose Creek High School awards program on May 18.

In the past 17 years, 3 million students have explored their career and education goals through the Career Direction

program. This program is sponsored by the Army National Guard, whose local representative conducts the career guidance

workshop for students in the 11th and 12th grades. More information is available online at [www.careertrain.com](http://www.careertrain.com).





# The Fiercest and Costliest Revolutionary War Battle

Story and photos by Capt. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

School-age students of American history learn many good things about our nation's American Revolution. They learn about a commander-in-chief who was nicknamed "Bulletproof George Washington." They learn about Valley Forge; the sacrifices of our founding fathers who pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor; and the great battles of Bunker Hill, Cowpens, King's Mountain and, of course, Yorktown.

Many of our children also know that a quarter of the battles fought in the American Revolution were fought right here in South Carolina. Do they know where the fiercest and costliest battle of the American Revolution was fought?

The answer can be found in a small rural town in Berkeley County, SC, now known as Eutawville. During the life of



The battleground of Eutaw Springs is located on Highway 6 in Eutawville, SC.

Brigadier General Francis Marion, the town was called Eutaw Springs and, four miles south of there, the "Swamp Fox" built his first home on Pond Bluff Plantation in 1773.

Today, a small historical marker on the edge of Lake Moultrie, which now covers the battlefield, marks the spot where the fiercest and costliest battle of the American Revolution was fought.

The marker tells the story of how a third of British Colonel Alexander Stuart's 2,300-man Army and a third of General Nathaniel Greene's Southern Army became casualties in the last major

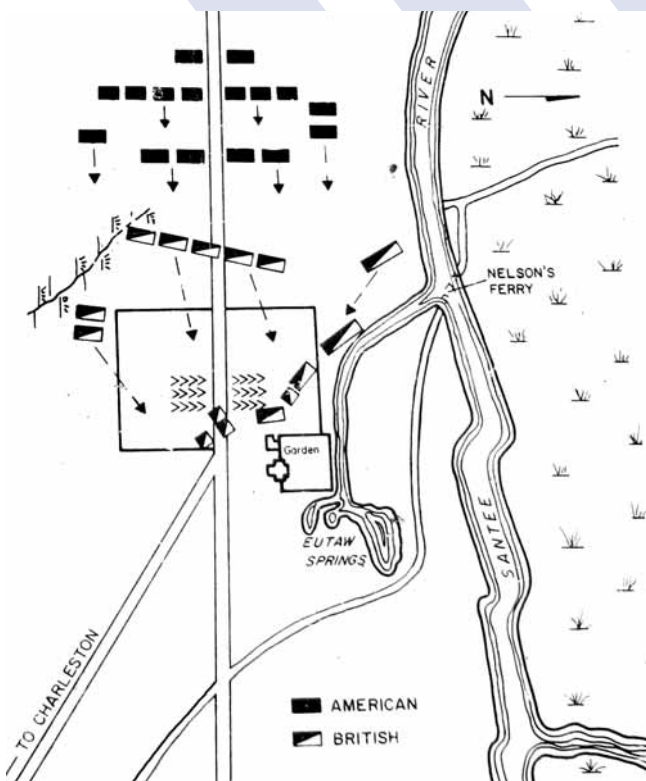
Revolutionary battle in South Carolina on September 8, 1781.

What the marker fails to mention is the key role the "Swamp Fox" played that fateful day. However, in his book, "Swamp Fox: The Life and Campaigns of General Francis Marion," noted American Revolutionary biographer, the late Dr. Robert D. Bass, gives credit where credit is due.

Bass writes that Marion's Men "attacked with impetuosity. Both the British and the Continentals were astonished to see these militiamen, steady, unfaltering, advancing like veterans into the enemy's hottest fire." The Swamp Fox's "militia fired seventeen rounds," an incredible feat at the time given the weapons of their day.

Impressed, General Greene reported to Congress, "The fire redoubled; our officers behaved with the greatest bravery and the militia gained much honor by their firmness."

Bass adds "at the peak of his career, in his greatest battle, commanding the largest contingent of troops in his life, he had seen the men he trained fight like professionals. His coolness and bravery had animated them."



The lines of battle as depicted before Lake Moultrie was built last century.

# SCARNG Hurricane Preparedness Rock Drill

Story and photos by Capt. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

The SC National Guard's Joint Task Force Staff held a Consolidated Task Force Rock Drill in Columbia in July to rehearse its specific emergency plan roles in preparation for and response to a catastrophic hurricane hitting the coast of South Carolina.

The Rock Drill began with Col. (P) Les Eisner, the SC Army National Guard's Assistant Adjutant General, thanking attendees for their "efforts over the past several months to help ensure we are as prepared as possible to assist our fellow South Carolinians should a catastrophic hurricane strike our coastline."

*Col. Rickie Platt, Director of Military Services, answers questions about the specific roles various agencies will play in the event of a hurricane.*



*The Joint Staff rehearses its specific roles for the Rock Drill.*



## Planning & Preparation... Critical

by Col. (P) Lester D. Eisner, SC National Guard Assistant Adjutant General - Army

The devastation and suffering caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita have vividly reminded us of the importance of preparation during this hurricane season. The spectrum of preparation runs from organizational readiness to individual and family readiness. The South Carolina National Guard — its units, soldiers and families — need to be prepared during this hurricane season.

The Adjutant General's staff, with specific guidance from Maj. Gen. Spears, has reviewed the lessons from last year's busy hurricane season and incorporated this updated information into a robust plan to support our state and region in the event of another natural disaster. Our SCNG units have provided important input on equipment and personnel readiness into the

development of this Military Support to Civilian Authorities (MSCA). The SCNG plan has been closely coordinated with other South Carolina state agencies and local counties to ensure we are ready to support South Carolina in the event we experience a devastating natural disaster.

The SCNG has tested its plan, most recently during a daylong rehearsal (rock drill) with all SCNG participants and with our state partners, such as the EMD, SLED, DNR and the Highway Patrol. We tested our SCNG communications capability to support the SCNG and state and county assets during a demanding weeklong exercise in Charleston (CWID). Our units are reporting monthly their readiness levels to ensure we are equipped to execute our plan. We are further refining our

plans based on these practice events and updated information.

It is equally important that, in addition to our unit preparation, our soldiers and their families are ready for a natural disaster. Our soldiers need to establish a personal or family checklist of items they need to accomplish to be prepared during a natural disaster. This planning and preparation is critical if SCNG soldiers are called upon to serve during a natural disaster while their family remains at home or in a shelter.

The South Carolina National Guard is ready to support the people of South Carolina and the region during a natural disaster. The key to our success will continue to be leader, unit, soldier and family planning and preparation. Our leaders, soldiers and airmen are up to the task.



Col. (P) Les Eisner describes the importance of this year's Consolidated Task Force Rock Drill. (Photo and caption by Capt. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian)

# Dedicated to the memory of Major General T. Eston Marchant



*The late Maj. Gen. T. Eston Marchant Jr. (front row, second from right) is shown here at age 38 when, as a Major in the SC Army National Guard, he served on the 51st Infantry Division's operations staff.*

## In the Next Edition of ***Palmetto Guard Family Magazine:***

- *McCrary training site hosts IRR Training*
- *EMD named one of the best in the nation*
- *218th Infantry Brigade (M) prepares for deployment*



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