

# Palmetto Guard

FAMILY MAGAZINE. WINTER 2006

**YEAR IN  
REVIEW**





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

Dear Soldiers of the SC National Guard,

This year has been another busy and exciting one for the SC National Guard. No one knows this better than you, the soldiers, airmen, families and friends of the best National Guard program in the country. Just look at a few of the accomplishments that make our program so great:

1. The Department of Defense announced in October that our Air National Guard is on the short list to receive our nation's newest stealth fighters, the F-35A Lightning II.
2. Our Army Guard recently received three of its six CH-47D Chinook helicopters, which will bring 400 new jobs and \$66 million in new federal funds to construct facilities to house our new helicopters and support staff.
3. We were the first state to obtain and field the new Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC), which has the unique capability of providing interoperable satellite communications among first responders, the military and federal emergency agencies.
4. Our Guard is one of 10 "green states" in personnel readiness in the country! We may rank 26th in size, but because of our "green" status, we continue to be a top-five provider of forces per capita in the Global War on Terror. In fact, our 2006 recruiting effort was at 101 percent.
5. The 263rd Army Air & Missile Defense Command is now a key player in our nation's air defense. Its new mission includes participating in the planning for the air defense protection of our nation's critical infrastructure.
6. With a workforce of 12,030, the SC Military Department remains one of the largest employers in the state of South Carolina.
7. We continue to have a major impact in communities around our state, too. Currently, 2,802 first responders have received weapons of mass destruction training from our SC Emergency Management Division.
8. Our governor's Counterdrug Task Force has addressed more than 19,000 youth on the dangers of drug abuse and has participated in seizures of drugs, currency, weapons and vehicles in excess of \$48 million through July 2006.
9. More than 2,000 at-risk youth from South Carolina have earned a second chance upon graduating from our military-style residential program, "Youth ChalleNGe Academy."
10. We have become a leader in acquiring federal funds to provide pre-deployment, deployment and post-deployment training opportunities for our Guard family, including free marriage enhancement weekend seminars called the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP).

With the pending deployment to Afghanistan for the 218th Brigade, our participation on the southwest border mission and additional unit rotations in support of the Global War on Terror, 2007 promises to be an even busier year. During this holiday season, I urge you to spend some quality time with your families and friends and take time for those things that are most important to you. I wish each of you a happy holiday season and the very best for a great and prosperous 2007.

Sincerely,

Stanhope S. Spears  
Major General, SCARNG  
The Adjutant General



# Palmetto Guard

FAMILY MAGAZINE WINTER 2006

Winter 2006  
Vol. 1 Issue 3



## Palmetto Guard Family Magazine

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## Message From the Command Group

by Col. Ronald Huff, Joint Force Headquarters Chief of Staff

I would like to thank the men and women of the South Carolina Army National Guard for the service they have provided to the nation, the state and to the National Guard. This outstanding service is what keeps South Carolina in front of many other states.

My first six months as chief of the joint staff has been exciting and interesting. Each day is a new challenge, and I enjoy working with the units and personnel throughout the state. I have met many outstanding soldiers during the past six months and was privileged to listen to many of the issues and comments they

shared with me. As chief of staff, I do take each problem seriously and find myself getting involved to provide closure to the issues soldiers bring to me. I thank them for their concerns.

In the next few months, we will have more challenges heading our way. The deployment of the 218th Heavy Separate Brigade will be one of the largest deployments this state has seen in many years. This deployment will bring many of the National Guard members closer as we support the deploying men and women of the National Guard and their families. I know the 218th will do an

outstanding job, serve with great pride and pass along Southern hospitality to the Afghanistan army. We wish them well in their endeavors. This is truly a South Carolina Army National Guard deployment, and not just one unit. We are all working together to make this a smooth deployment so they can perform their mission and return home safely. Good luck, and may God bless all members of the 218th HSB.

Welcome home to all the units that have recently returned from a yearlong deployment. As I attended the homecomings throughout the state, it is with great pride that I welcome you home. The stories I have heard and the safe return of the soldiers make me proud to be part of this organization. When you see family members waiting on their loved ones to come home, and the newborn babies that some soldiers haven't seen yet, it is heartwarming and will bring tears to your eyes. The South Carolina Army National Guard is a family organization. This is what keeps us going, and this is what keeps us ready to support our nation and state.

In closing, I thank you again for the service you provide to the South Carolina Army National Guard. I salute you and wish you the best.



Col. Ronald Huff



# 151 Field Artillery Brigade's 2006 Achievements

Story and photos provided by Maj. Scott Cato, 3-178 FA BN Executive Officer

**A**lthough there were not a lot of key events that engaged the units within the 151 FA Bde throughout the year, the year did prove to be one of the most challenging for its soldiers and leaders.

## Palmetto Thunder

**F**or the 3rd Battalion 178th Field Artillery, the year meant getting back to what it does best: Performing as an MLRS Battalion. After successfully completing a deployment to Iraq with a non-standard mission, the battalion and its soldiers were ready and eager to begin training on their crew-level, field artillery-specific tasks. This came with tremendous leadership challenges due to the fact that the battalion had not trained on any FA-specific tasks in more than two years, and a lot of turnover had occurred in the makeup of the launcher crews and in key leadership positions. The history of the battalion held true during these times, as its soldiers and leadership once



On May 1, a MLRS launcher crew from Btry A, 3-178th FA fires the first rocket in more than two years from Firing Point 19 at McCrady Training Center during annual training.

again proved that they had what it took to get the mission accomplished, no matter the obstacles or challenges that stood in the way. By the end of annual training, the battalion was able to qualify its launcher crews and successfully fire 72 rockets downrange, safely into the impact range at McCrady Training Center. The battalion also conducted three unit changes of command throughout the year:

**January 2006, Btry C, 3-178th, Hartsville, SC**

**Incoming Commander:**

Capt. Alvin J. Harvey

**Outgoing Commander:**

The late Capt. Sandor Gordon

**February 2006, HHS 3-178th, Lancaster, SC**

**Incoming Commander:**

Capt. Calvin McGowan

**Outgoing Commander:**

Capt. Elmor D. Brooks

**February 2006, Btry B, 3-178th, Bennettsville, SC**

**Incoming Commander:**

Capt. Richard K. Woods

**Outgoing Commander:**

Capt. Calvin McGowan

## GameCock Artillery

**T**he 151 FA Bde began its year by training for and participating in a War Fighter Exercise (YAMA SAKURA) at Fort Lewis, WA. The brigade and its staff, as always, performed its mission admirably and professionally. The remainder of the year was geared

toward mobilization and a deployment to Iraq. As with many other deploying units, the only thing that remained constant prior to the actual mobilization was change itself! Early in the process, the unit was expected to send approximately 120 soldiers in support of the

mission. However, by the time the mobilization date rolled around, the unit was to send only approximately 40 soldiers. To date, those 40 soldiers are still deployed in Iraq, performing their duties to the best of their abilities in a professional and proud manner.



Family members and friends get a last hug and best wishes for a safe deployment and return home.



Some of the soldiers of the 151 FA Bde wait their turn to go through scheduled training during their mobilization at Fort Sill, OK.



Final formation for soldiers of the 151 FA Bde prior to leaving for their mobilization station at Fort Sill, OK.

# 59<sup>th</sup> Troop Command's Top 10 Stories for 2006

by Maj. Ray Strawbridge, 59th Troop Command Asst. S-1

**1.** During June 2006 the 251st Rear Area Operations Center (RAOC), from West Columbia, SC, mobilized for service in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). This is the unit's second mobilization for OIF.

**2.** During May and June the 266th and 267th Quartermaster Detachments, from Allendale, SC, deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). This is the second deployment for them in OIF.

**3.** During 2006 the 268th Engineer Detachment (Firefighters) has continued on active duty in support of IRR training being conducted at McCrady Training Center. Currently 13 Soldiers remain on duty to provide emergency services for training that is being conducted in training areas and on the compound.

**4.** The 1052d Transportation Company, from Kingstree, SC, participated in Operation Hay Ride from January 31 through February 28. The 1052nd provided transportation support (personnel and equipment) to assist the South Carolina Agriculture Commission in moving 1,024 donated bales of hay from SC to the Gulf Coast region in support of Hurricane Katrina.

**5.** The 133rd Military Police Company, from Florence, S.C. conducted intense Annual Training in August at McCrady Training Center. The unit utilized the Center's innovative Convoy Simulations Trainer, the Call for Fire Simulator (GuardFist), and conducted extensive Improvised Explosive Device training.

**6.** During April Company A, 122 Engineer Battalion, from McCormick, SC and Company B, 122 Engineer Battalion, from Batesburg, SC participated in Task Force Grizzly. Nearly 140 of our SC Army National Guard Engineers from across the state participated in four weeks of fast-paced engineering projects in the California

desert in support of the US Border Patrol. In conjunction with the California National Guard's Task Force Grizzly project, soldiers worked with counterparts from other states to improve roads, erect fences, restore land and construct environmentally friendly drainage structures in the San Diego sector of the US/Mexico border. The San Diego sector stretches 66 miles from the Pacific Ocean to the Imperial Valley County boundary.

**7.** During June Company C, 122 Engineer Battalion, from Graniteville, SC, conducted Innovative Readiness Training in different parts of the state. Company C was tasked to complete multiple projects encompassing four counties and nearly 85 miles from Richland County to Edgefield County. These projects included Key Road Bridge in Edgefield County, Camp Long in Aiken County, and McCrady Training Center in Richland County.

**8.** On September 10 the 742nd Maintenance Company, from Eastover, SC, celebrated its Freedom Salute Ceremony to honor the more than 160 Soldiers of the unit that deployed to West Virginia in 2005 to repair equipment returning from Iraq as part of the National Guard Bureau's Operation Quick Fix.

**9.** During July the 751st Maintenance Battalion, from Eastover, SC, traveled to Camp Dodge, Iowa to conduct Annual Training. Camp Dodge is the home of the National Training Maintenance Center (NMTC). The mission of the NMTC is to train Maintenance Companies and Quartermaster Supply Platoons in a collective training mode so that the unit acquires technical expertise at the company/platoon/individual level.

**10.** On Saturday, June 3, Lexington, SC native 1st Lt. Christopher Rauch, of the 751st Maintenance Battalion, was honored with the Bronze Star and presented the Army Commendation Medal with Valor. 1st Lt. Christopher Rauch received the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device for Valor in honor and recognition of his distinguished actions in Iraq on October 22, 2003. The citation read:

"On this unforgettable day, 1st Lt. Christopher Rauch was performing duty as the convoy commander on a military convoy in the vicinity of Al Fallujah, Iraq. While maneuvering through an intersection his vehicle came under attack by two Improvised Explosive Devices and small arms fire. 1st Lt. Rauch immediately took action to secure and defend his Soldiers, an Iraqi interpreter, and his equipment while at the same time assisting two Soldiers that were wounded in his own vehicle. He distinguished himself by his professionalism, courage, and actions under enemy fire."



Brig. Gen. Herbert L. Newton, presents 1st Lt. Rauch with his medals.



# 218th Heavy Separate Brigade's Top 10 Achievements of 2006

Story by Sgt. Maj. Tommy Myers, 218th Heavy Separate Brigade  
 Photos by Maj. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

- 1** The 1/178th FA returned home from deployment to Iraq.
- 2** The 218th Heavy Separate Brigade is preparing for its upcoming Afghanistan mission.
- 3** Soldier Readiness Processing is being performed on 2,000-plus personnel to get ready for the Afghanistan mission.
- 4** The 208 members of the Armor Battalion left for training to Camp Shelby, MS, in preparation for their mission in Afghanistan.
- 5** May 5-7, 218th HSB WarFighter.
- 6** On August 26-27, the 218th HSB (163rd Support Battalion) completed a major logistics exercise.
- 7** Annual training was held at three different locations during the same period (Fort Stewart, GA; Camp Blanding, FL; and Fort Knox, KY).
- 8** Eight family briefs have been held in preparation for the upcoming 218th HSB mission to Afghanistan.
- 9** Fifty-two personnel have been hired to work within the 218th HSB units while the brigade is on its mission.
- 10** The Family of the Year for 2005 is Capt. and Mrs. Berry of the Engineer Battalion.



A young 1-263rd soldier tells his little boy, "I'll see you later."



Brig. Gen. Livingston, 218th Heavy Separate Brigade commander, speaks with Chaplain Butler about the men's morale and the upcoming deployment.



Lt. Col. Wright, commander of the 1st of the 263rd, answers questions from Chuck Crumbo of The State newspaper.



1st of the 263rd Armor Battalion soldiers prepare to board the bus for Camp Shelby, MS.



A 1-263rd soldier receives one final hug before boarding the bus.

# 228th Signal Brigade's Top 10 Most Significant Achievements in 2006

Story by Lt. Col. Ronnie Finley, 228th Signal Brigade AO  
 Photos by Maj. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

**1.** Exercise Bright Star, May 2006. From September through November, the 228th Signal Brigade provided communications support to ARCENT headquarters during its biannual joint chiefs of staff exercise, Bright Star. Over 400 soldiers and 80 pieces of equipment deployed to Egypt from all four signal battalions of the 228th Signal Brigade. The exercise covered four 21-day increments, where over 27,000 US and coalition soldiers participated in the exercise.

**2.** Improving strength posture. Over the past 12 months, the 228th Signal Brigade has increased its strength posture by 5 percent. In December 2005, the brigade's strength posture was at 90 percent, and today it



resides at 95 percent.

**3.** Palmetto-CWID 2006. During June 5-16, the 228th Signal Brigade and the JFHQ J6 sponsored an exercise in Charleston, SC, called Palmetto Coalition Warrior Interoperability Demonstration (P-CWID). The exercise included over 600 soldiers, 16 vendors and numerous first responders from the city of North Charleston, Charleston County, the SC Emergency Management Division, the Federal Emergency Management Agency

and the Department of Homeland Security. The purpose of the exercise was to test the communications equipment that resides at the local, state and federal levels to ensure they are interoperable with one another. The exercise proved to be successful, received national recognition at the Department of Army level and was the lead story in the Fall 2006 Guard & Reserve Magazine, which has an approximate readership of 300,000.

**4.** Re-deployment of D/111 Signal Battalion. On November 16, 116 soldiers from Delta Company of the 111th Signal Battalion re-deployed after 12 months in Iraq. D/111 was attached to the 136th Signal Battalion from the Texas National Guard. They provided tactical and commercial communication support to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Speicher in Tikrit.

**5.** Re-deployment of 228th Signal Brigade FWD5. In September, 35 soldiers from the 228th Signal Brigade re-deployed after 12 months in Afghanistan. While deployed, the soldiers of the 228th augmented the strategic and operational staffs of the Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan, the Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan and the Combined Joint Task Force.

Additionally, they conducted countless missions in the direct support of the Embedded Training Team efforts training the Afghan National Army and Police forces. The 288th FWD5 also served in positions of great responsibility to include the CJ6 Deputy Director for the 10th Mountain Division.

**6.** New signal force structure in South Carolina. In October, South Carolina was offered and accepted a new Integrated Tactical Signal Battalion company from the Alabama National Guard. The company is B/198th Signal Company. The company will have 118 soldiers and will activate in September 2007. The company's parent battalion will be located in Delaware.

**7.** Fielding of the JISCC package in South Carolina. In June, South Carolina fielded its second Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) package. The communications package was fielded to C/151st signal company in Williamston, SC. This JISCC will be used to provide disaster communications to both first responders and National Guard JFHQs during disasters.



**8.** The 228th had 52 volunteers to assist the 218th Enhanced Separate Brigade during its Afghanistan deployment. Twelve officers and 13 enlisted soldiers have been selected for the deployment. For some of these soldiers, this will be their second deployment. With this deployment, more than 90 percent of the 228th Signal Brigade has been deployed in support of the GWOT.

**9.** In July, the 228th Signal Brigade helped the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) of Spartanburg at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg. The 228th provided office space, phones and faxes to help the DAV in its mission to support disabled veterans in the Spartanburg area.

**10.** The 678th supported "Debi's Kids" Toys for Tots on November 24. The unit held various fundraisers this year to earn money to purchase toys. The 678th purchased over \$1,000 worth of toys and delivered them to the Tanger Outlet Wal-Mart store in North Charleston.



## 678th Engineers Help 'Debi's Kids'

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

What started as an idea 13 years ago to help needy kids during the holidays has flourished into a growing goodwill campaign. Among the participants are Debi Chard, a local CBS news anchor in Charleston, SC, the Salvation Army, Wal-Mart stores from the Lowcountry and other organizations, such as the SC Army National Guard's 678th Engineer Detachment in Summerville, SC.

"Debi's Kids" provides new toys and new clothing for thousands of children ages 12 and under, in addition to Thanksgiving assistance to families who have no other resources for the holidays.

A day after her Thanksgiving Day wedding and moved by the efforts of the soldiers and their families, Debi Chard, the namesake of "Debi's Kids," did a live news shot of the soldiers and their donation outside the Center Point Wal-Mart store in North Charleston, SC.

"Thank you for what you guys do. I see what you do overseas and efforts like this here at home, and I just want to say that although you sometimes might not all get the verbal thanks for what you do, it truly, truly is a heartfelt thank you," Chard said.

This was the first year the 678th's Family Readiness Group (FRG) raised money to support "Debi's Kids." By hosting a car show and obtaining sponsorships from the East Coast Draggers Truck Club, 360 Motorsports, The Showzone, Boyd Furniture and Mr. K's Piggly Wiggly, the unit's FRG raised more than \$1,000 for Debi's Kids.

"We plan to double our efforts in 2007. In fact, we have already raised \$1,400 toward next year's donation to 'Debi's Kids,'" said Sgt. Jeff Stout, the soldier credited for initiating their "Debi's Kids" campaign.

A motivating factor for many of the soldiers was the community support their detachment received from the Lowcountry during its six-month deployment to Afghanistan on September 11, 2002.

"We saw a lot of poverty over there in Afghanistan. Most kids under the age of 15 had never seen a light bulb before we got there. Because our community supported us, we were able to help those kids over there. This is our way of saying thanks and to make sure kids here never have to live like kids over there," said Sgt. Mike Williams.

Members and friends of the 678th Engineer Detachment's Family Readiness Group were interviewed by Debi Chard of Live 5 News outside Wal-Mart, where they donated more than \$1,000 worth of new toys to needy kids in the Charleston, SC, viewing area the day after Thanksgiving.



Soldiers (L to R) Standing are Sgt. 1st Class Jim Boyd, Staff Sgt. Alfred Sterrill, Spc. Matt Beach and Sgt. Jeff Stout; kneeling are Sgt. Mike Williams, Sgt. Bill English and Sgt. Stephanie Graham.  
Civilians (L to R) Debi Chard, Ronnie Seprish, Jerry Seprish, Jason Conley and Carol Stout.



# Guard BBQ Team Wins

Photos provided by Larry Widekind

The SC National Guard's BBQ Team took first place in the "We Salute Division" of the Carolina Q Cup's statewide BBQ cookoff in Columbia, SC, on October 7.

Col. Debra Rose, Col. Pete Brooks, Maj. Dave McNamee and Maj. Scott Bell were members of this year's SC National Guard BBQ Team.



Maj. Gen. Stan Spears, SC Adjutant General, gives the Guard team's barbecue a taste test before it is presented to the judges.



Laurie Brooks helps her husband, Col. Brooks, dish out barbecue to passers-by following the judging.



Maj. Dave McNamee pulls the Boston butts off the cooker so that Col. Debra Rose can begin preparing for the competition.



Hugh Weathers, SC Commissioner of Agriculture, was on hand to give the SC National Guard BBQ Team its first-place trophy. (L to R) Maj. Scott Bell, Col. Debra Rose, Col. Pete Brooks and Hugh Weathers.



# PMA Graduates Class 57

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

**T**wenty-five newly commissioned 2nd lieutenants added their names to the list of graduates from the SC Army National Guard's Palmetto Military Academy (PMA) on August 19.

The graduation ceremony began and ended with an entertaining performance by the SC Army National Guard Band.



Class 57 honor graduate Bryan Moo-suk Suhr, the honor graduate of Class 57, addresses his classmates during their graduation.

Class 57 honor graduate Bryan Moo-suk Suhr gave a stirring, patriotic speech highlighting the Army values in front of his classmates, family members and friends and our Army Guard's leadership.

One of the highlights of the graduation event was the induction of Col. Debra Rose into the Palmetto Military Academy's Hall of Fame. She became the first female graduate of PMA to receive the honor.

Class 57 graduates include Eddie Lamar Cook Jr., Carmen Causey Dorn, Nathaniel Hilliard Jr., James Michael Honour Jr., Thomas Jamaine Johnson,

Rufus Franklin Marye, Philander Ken McDomick Sr., Wylie Bernard Mickle, Justin Clark Montgomery, Kelvin Tyrone Muhammad, Philip Kurt Preuss, Steven Patrick Seigler, Aniello Gino Sita, Bryan Moo-suk Suhr, Ginger Daniell Tate, Adam Terrell Williams, Javier Ernesto Yudice, Jeffrey Wayne Blankenship, Christy Alane Kullman, Benjamin Sanford Marcengil, Ricky Patrick

Padgett, II, Jay Harrison Sirmon, Tracey Marie Jackson, Paul James Reed and Michael Kenneth Todd.

The 2nd Battalion (OCS), 218th Regiment (Leadership) trains and evaluates candidates in the fundamentals of leadership and basic military skills to commission reserve officers in the US Army, National Guard and Army Reserve.



During the event, Col. Debra Rose, the SC Army National Guard's J-6 (Communications Officer), became the first female inducted into the PMA Hall of Fame. Rose, an Active Guard and Reserve officer who graduated from PMA in 1983, has held numerous leadership positions in the SC Army National Guard. Lt. Col. Charles Adams, the PMA commander, presented the honor to Rose.



South Carolina's 246th Army National Guard Band performs for the PMA graduation audience.



Class 57 graduates listen to Brig. Gen. Robert Livingston's keynote address.





## 122nd Combat Support Engineers Come Home

Photos by Maj. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian



The buses arrive, bringing soldiers home to their families.



State Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Harris welcomes home the 122nd Engineers.



Members of the American Legion greet family members arriving at the 122nd welcome home ceremony.



The 122nd Engineers form up for their welcome home ceremony.



Reunited families happily embrace one another.



The tremendous crowd at the 122nd welcome home ceremony rush onto the floor to see their soldiers.



## 2nd Battalion, 263rd ADA Returns Home

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

After spending nearly 15 months on homeland security duty in and around Washington, DC, in support of Operation Noble Eagle, the 2nd Battalion, 263rd Air Defense Artillery based in Anderson, SC, re-deployed to their home station November 30.

Approximately 180 soldiers were greeted by family, well-wishers and local officials as they successfully returned from

a mission that began August 4, 2005. Maj. Gen. Harry B. Burchstead Jr., 263rd AAMDC commander, told the unit he was "proud of their efforts, and particularly proud of their safety record during the deployment."

Following a brief welcome home ceremony and reception, the soldiers were released to spend much-deserved time with their families and friends.



Family and friends of the 2nd Battalion, 263rd ADA cheer when they see the buses pull into the Armory parking lot.



Members of the Seneca High School JROTC hold a sign welcoming home the returning soldiers.



Sgt. Jason Flowers greets his wife Bobbie Jo and daughter Nina upon returning from support of Operation Noble Eagle.



Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 263rd ADA triumphantly march into the Armory upon their return November 30.



# 1st of the 263rd Armor Battalion Mobilized

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

At a sunrise formation on October 18, hundreds of family members, friends and members of the media gathered outside Marion Armory to wish 208 soldiers from the 1st of the 263rd Armor Battalion a fond farewell upon the unit's departure for Camp Shelby, MS.

The 1st of the 263rd will be performing security forces training at Camp Shelby for the advance team mission of the 218th Heavy Separate Brigade's embarkation to Afghanistan in 2007. It will mark the single largest deployment of SC Army National Guard troops since World War II.



Families of 1st of the 263rd soldiers crowd the buses as their soldiers depart.



Members of the 1/263rd Armor Battalion form up at sunrise.



News crews from throughout South Carolina interview soldiers and their families.

The proud family of Sgt. Dow gives him another hug.



Spc. Russell and his family embrace one another.



Chaplain Roy Butler prays for the battalion's soldiers and their families.



Sgt. 1st Class Werring says goodbye to his family before boarding the bus.



Bulbs flash throughout the morning as family members take photographs of their soldiers.



## Recent Aviation School Graduate Deploys to Iraq

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

**T**alk about being thrown right out of the frying pan and into the fire.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Frank Campagna, an Apache gunner with B Company, 1st Battalion, 151st Aviation based at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, had just finished months of intensive attack helicopter training at Fort Rucker, AL, before returning with his wife to their home at Pawleys Island. Then, the phone rang.

"The moving van had just pulled out of the yard early in the morning after we got back, and I received a call, just like that," said Campagna. "Our unit was headed to Iraq. I had about five days to get things in order before leaving again."

In April, Campagna's unit conducted its annual training – nicknamed "Gator Hunt" – at Eglin Air Force Base, FL. Campagna spoke of his quick turnaround to Iraq.

"It was a unique experience for me because I deployed right out of flight school," he said. "I came home and mobilized immediately. It was a steep learning curve for me."

Before deploying to Iraq, Campagna spent nearly a year-and-a-half training concurrently, first at warrant officer school, then flight school and, finally, Apache training before deploying to the Middle East in October 2004.

Of the Iraq mission, Campagna said one of his greatest rewards was being able to see the Iraqi people vote in free elections for the first time in many years.

"It was neat to see how seriously the Iraqi people took voting," he said. "In some areas, they would be in line to vote, and insurgents would appear and start shooting. They would quickly run for cover and, once the insurgents were run off or taken care of, the voters would get right back in line. They literally risked their lives to vote in free elections."

Another highlight of the mission for Campagna was the knowledge of how much soldiers on the ground

appreciated the air support Apaches were able to provide. "You could tell in their voices how much better those soldiers on the ground felt when we were there to support them," he said. "Being able to protect those guys on the ground was really what it was all about."

Campagna believes that jumping straight out of training into a real-world deployment was an advantage for him. "It was a good experience for me to put all the skills I learned to use that quickly," he said. "And I had a great company to work with."



*CW2 Frank Campagna stands next to an AH-64 attack helicopter (Apache) similar to the one he used during training and again in Iraq from October 2004 through October 2005.*

## SC Guard Joint Operation Center Comes On Line

Story and photos by Maj. Jim St. Clair, SCMD Public Affairs Officer

The South Carolina National Guard's Joint Operations Center has a new home in the basement of the Emergency Management Division headquarters in Pine Ridge. Since July, approximately \$200,000 has been spent to create a state-of-the-art facility that will provide command and control during any emergency or natural disaster.

The JOC was previously based in the Office of the Adjutant General on Bluff Road in Columbia. Lt. Col. Ed McInnis, the Deputy Director of the Directorate of Military Support, said the lack of space there hindered their ability to function and operate. But now the Joint Staff has an ideal facility to fully execute the JOC's mission. "Since we've moved over here with EMD, it's certainly enhanced and improved our communications with them. It also gives us a great work space," McInnis said.

The Joint Staff literally had to hit the ground running when they stood up the new JOC at the beginning of hurricane season. Col. Ricky Platt, Director of DOMS, said the new JOC has seen a flurry of activity since its debut. "We've gone from TAG's directive in June to basic initialization in July and August. We had a good practice in September during Tropical Storm Ernesto before getting in all the equipment and fully set up last month."

The JOC is equipped with 20 computer stations in a horseshoe configuration facing three main plasma TV screens. The stations correspond to the Joint Staff who work in the JOC including Personnel, Intelligence, Operations, Logistics and Communications. Getting all those computers networked and configured required a total team effort according to Platt. "Our M-Day personnel have really been our heroes," he said. "Without their help getting everything set up and running, we would not be fully operational."

Thanks to a lot of planning and hard work, the new JOC stands ready to respond to any contingency. And the new facility has so far garnered rave reviews from its users. "It's so convenient to have everything here under one roof. It's really the way to do things," Platt said.



From left to right, Capt. Trent Player, Lt. Col. Ed McInnis, Capt. Michelle Story, and Maj. Guy Alexander respond to an exercise input during the November JOC exercise. "This weekend, we're running an exercise where we're standing up the JOC. We've got all new equipment, new automation, new displays, etc. It's a pretty significant event from the standpoint of making the electrons flowing the way you need to, connectivity with the telephones, the faxes, etc.," McInnis said.



Lt. Col. Ed McInnis gives instructions to the Joint Operations Center staff during their November JOC exercise. Every one of the J Staff sections is represented, including J1 Personnel, J2 Intel, J3 Operations, J4 Logistics and J6 Communications. Army Guard, Air Guard and active duty liaison officers are also present. "It's truly a 'purple' operation," said McInnis.





Chief Warrant Officer Julia Anderson goes over personnel issues in the Joint Operations Center during the November JOC exercise. Three large display screens behind her track critical information such as mission status, personnel status and logistics status.



Generals Eisner (seated left) and Sinclair (seated right) participate in a video teleconference during the November JOC exercise. The generals are speaking to the 228th Signal Brigade downrange.

## Pipkin Honored on DoD Web Site

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

On November 8, Capt. Brian J. Pipkin of Jamestown, SC, an Apache pilot with the SC Army National Guard, was featured on the US Department of Defense Web site in the "Heroes in the War on Terror" section.

Capt. Pipkin was deployed from October 2004 to October 2005 to help support missions in Iraq. In December 2004, Pipkin was serving as the gunner in an Apache helicopter, when his aircraft was hit by armor-piercing rounds fired by insurgents. His pilot was hit in the arm, leading Pipkin to take over the controls and fly the helicopter back to the supporting hospital. After his pilot was admitted to the hospital, Pipkin called in coalition artillery on the machine gun nest, eliminating the position and the threat. During his deployment, Pipkin flew more than 200 hours, providing air cover and serving as a quick reaction force to insurgent attacks.

The "Heroes in the War on Terror" Web site highlights those men and women who have gone above and beyond in the global war on terror. To view this Department of Defense posting, go to [www.defenselink.mil/home/dodupdate/hero/200610/2006-11-08.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/home/dodupdate/hero/200610/2006-11-08.html).

If you would like to nominate a "Hero in the War on Terror," please contact Col. Pete Brooks at the S.C. National Guard Public Affairs Office by phone at: (803) 806-4327



*Capt. Brian J. Pipkin, his fiancée' Candice Conder and a student from St. John's Christian Academy in Moncks Corner, S.C. following a welcome home event held at the school.*

## HEROES In the War on Terror

Each week the Defense Dept. highlights the military men and women who have gone above and beyond in the global war on terror.



## Fallen SC Hero Honored

by Maj. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

On November 3, the 26th Brigade Support Battalion of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA, named their motor pool in memory of Spc. Dustin A. Yancey, son of Sgt. 1st Class Tim Yancey of the SC Army National Guard.

During the formal dedication ceremony, Yancey was remembered as a soldier who heroically and courageously served as a member of an elite group responsible for providing security to the Spartan Brigade's convoys through the streets of Baghdad, Iraq.

Specialist Yancey made the ultimate sacrifice November 4, 2005 when an

improvised explosive device was detonated near his convoy. For his bravery and devotion to duty, Yancey was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart.

Specialist Yancey is survived by his father, Sgt.

1st Class Tim Yancey, his mother and two siblings.



*Spc. Dustin A. Yancey atop his gun truck while serving in Iraq.*



## Chinooks Join Army Guard Air Fleet

Story by Col. Pete Brooks, SC National Guard Public Affairs Officer

Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

On October 30, the SC Army National Guard and Boeing Company hosted a roll-out ceremony for the new CH-47 Chinook helicopters now stationed at McEntire Joint National Guard Base.

The CH-47 is a large, two-rotor lift helicopter that will enhance the SC National Guard's response capabilities should they be needed to respond to a natural or man-made disaster in the state or in surrounding states. The CH-47 joins a fleet of AH-64 Apache, UH-60 Black Hawk, OH-58A Kiowa and C-26 aircraft serving the SC Army Guard.



*Maj. Gen. Stan Spears, Adjutant General of South Carolina, introduces the new CH-47 Chinook helicopter to the crowd that turned out at McEntire for the roll-out ceremony.*

## Guard Exceeds Recruiting Goals in FY 2006

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

Capitalizing on the hard work of recruiters, along with a strong sense of duty, the South Carolina Army National Guard enjoyed tremendous success enlisting new soldiers during the recently completed fiscal year.

As the fiscal year began in October, the goal was to have a strength level of 9,000 Army guardsmen by September 30. When it ended, the numbers showed 9,111 soldiers were enlisted in the Guard. "We had a lot of recruiters working very hard this year," said Lt. Col. Joseph Hancock, Director of Recruiting and Retention for the SCARNG.

Hancock said a key factor for the increase was community involvement. "We did a great job this year of becoming embedded in the schools and surrounding

communities," he added. "In fact, we were involved in the high schools more this year than ever before."

More than 100 recruiters worked statewide in an effort to keep Guard numbers at a high level, with the focus primarily on bringing in new soldiers, along with "re-recruiting" those who have previously served. "We wanted to bring in a ratio of 75 percent non-prior service individuals (new recruits) to 25 percent prior-service soldiers, and we were very close to those figures," Hancock said.

As soldiers' enlistments end every year, it's critical to offset these losses with gains, which Hancock said is exactly what happened. "We had a net gain this year of 356 soldiers, which is great for us," he added. "Our battalion career

counselors did an outstanding job of helping us retain soldiers who might have otherwise left the Guard."

Hancock mentioned that the dual mission of service to state and country was probably the main factor in the increased numbers. "I saw many people who showed a willingness to serve, a sense of duty to the state and country," he said.

With last year's accomplishments behind them, Hancock is looking for even better recruiting success in the future. "Obviously it was a banner year, as we had tremendous support from the highest levels of leadership," he said. "We're hoping to improve upon that success in the coming year."

## SCARNG Donates Personnel Carriers to Become Part of Artificial Reefs

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones, SCARNG Public Affairs Office



The SC Army National Guard recently donated more than three dozen M-113 army personnel carriers to the Department of Natural Resources with a ceremony marking the occasion, held October 17 in North Myrtle Beach, SC. The vehicles were taken offshore and dropped within the boundaries of the Jim Caudle Memorial Reef and the Little River Offshore Reef in the Atlantic Ocean. They will greatly enhance the fishing and wildlife habitats of the Palmetto Shore coastline.

## Critical Incident Training Having an Impact

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

Lt. Col. Steve Shugart, the SC Army National Guard's Deputy State Chaplain, offered a second Critical Incident Training Seminar in August at McCrady Training Center in Leesburg, SC, for soldiers who have received the combat action badge in the Global War on Terror.

He expanded the August seminar to include first sergeants and spouses of soldiers who have been involved in a wartime critical incident. According to Shugart, about 30 percent of the men and women who have spent time in war zones experience some sort of post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD.

Because PTSD usually surfaces several months after a soldier returns home, Shugart believes it is important to make sure spouses and unit leaders know what the symptoms are

so they can help ensure soldiers who need help can receive it.

"My job is taking care of soldiers," said Bobby Norris, the first sergeant for the Headquarters Battery of the 3rd of the 178th Field Artillery Battalion. "That was my job while we were in Iraq, and it's my job now to make sure a soldier has someone to open up with when they are having a problem," said Norris. "We sure don't want to take a chance of losing somebody because we didn't take the time or make the effort to be

there for a soldier when he needs the help," said Norris.

"If we can get this information out to every unit in South Carolina and let the soldiers and their families know that this program is available to them free of charge, I believe it will have a tremendous impact in their lives," said Staff Sgt. Charles Boone, a critical incident peer who attended the first



First Sgt. Bobby Norris and Chaplain Steve Shugart pray for the soldiers and family members in attendance at the Critical Incident Training Seminar.

Critical Incident Training offered by the Army Guard earlier in the year.

Boone's wife, Wilma, believes the program will help Guard spouses better understand what their soldier went through and how they can help them deal with issues if and when they come up.

Anyone interested in participating in a confidential Critical Incident Training Seminar should contact Sherry Marsh of the State Family Programs Office at 803-806-1641.



Staff Sgt. Charles and Wilma Boone.



## SC Honor Guard Expanding

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

The SC Army National Guard Military Burial and Honors Program was recently expanded by the National Guard Bureau with the long-term goal of eventually providing all military burial ceremonies in South Carolina with Army Guard personnel.

The SC Honor Guard is implementing a training program developed by the "Old Guard," 3rd Infantry that was adopted by the National Guard Bureau to provide standardized training throughout the nation.

SC Honor Guard teams have supported more than 200 military

funerals between September and November utilizing the "Old Guard" standards.

On October 1, 2006, the SC Military Funeral Honors Program received funding to place three soldiers on active duty special pay (ADSW) to assist with the adoption of the "Old Guard" training program and recruit potential honor guard soldiers. The program will establish three to four regions within the state with at least one ADSW soldier in each region to assist with training workshops, recruiting in the area and conducting military funerals.

There are several incentives being offered to selected honor guard personnel. One includes the issue of a ceremonial dress blue uniform and alterations at no cost to the soldier. For each funeral conducted, traditional soldiers receive base pay for their grade and a retirement point. For soldiers who participate on a frequent basis, a travel uniform is available.

The Military Funeral Honors Program plans to conduct honor guard recruiting and training efforts throughout the state for



*Spc. Chris Honeycutt prepares the flag for inspection.*

soldiers interested in honoring those who served.

Retired Col. Berry Gambrell, Military Funeral Honors Coordinator, and Sgt. Maj. Ronnie Lee, Operations Sergeant Major for the Military Funeral Honors Program, can be reached at 803-806-4311 or 803-667-2129.



*The firing party prepares for a three-round volley.*



*(L to R) SC Honor Guard team members Spc. Ken Ross, Sgt. 1st Class David Tidwell, Spc. Chris Honeycutt, Chaplain Steve Shugart, Sgt. Maj. Ronnie Lee, Sgt. Leslie Harley, Spc. Larry Welch and Pvt. Zachary Fitzgerald prepare to fold the flag.*

## SC Military Museum Grand Opening Dedication

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

The SC Military Museum is scheduled to hold a grand opening dedication on February 6, 2007 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the museum, located behind the Bluff Road National Guard Armory at 1225 Bluff Road in Columbia, SC.

The event is sponsored by the SC Military Museum's History Foundation Board and will mark the official opening of the museum to the public.

"A lot of people outside of our Guard family here in SC don't realize the incredible military history of our SC Army and Air National Guard," said Buddy Sturgis, who serves as the director and curator of the museum. "For example, few realize that the 263rd Air Defense Artillery had its genesis in the Beaufort Volunteer Artillery organized prior to the American Revolution," said Sturgis.

"We hope our SC Military Museum will be one of the places teachers from around the state will want to visit when they bring their students to Columbia to learn more about South Carolina's military history," he added.

The mission of the SC Military Museum is to identify, collect, research and preserve historically significant properties and maintain them as usable resources for scholars and other interested individuals.

The SC Military Museum will attempt to instill and maintain visitors' interest, savor our military heritage, further community relations and enhance esprit de corps among the men and women serving in the SC National Guard and civilian work force. It will also provide educational services to include programs, classes, exhibits, audiovisual and publications for the military and civilian populations.

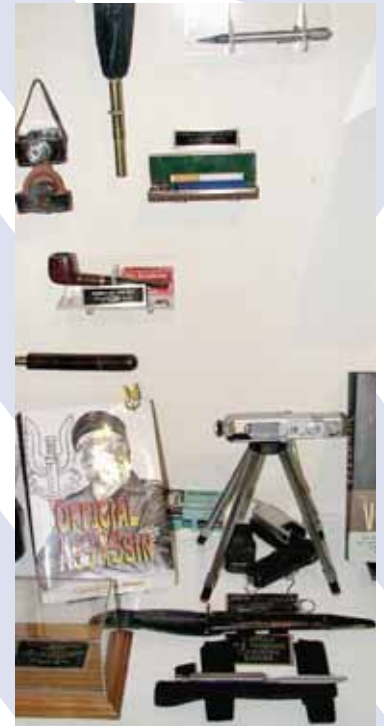
For further information on the SC Military Museum or to schedule a tour, visit the museum's Web site at [www.scguard.com/museum/default.aspx](http://www.scguard.com/museum/default.aspx), or contact the museum at 803-806-4440.



(L to R) Maj. Gen. Stan Spears, Mr. John Green and Buddy Sturgis with SC Representative Dan Cooper as he presents Mr. Green of the SC Military Museum's History Foundation Board with a \$100,000 Museum Foundation Grant to help preserve the history of the SC National Guard.



Joy Maples, a longtime volunteer at the museum, shows Rep. Cooper the awards his father earned in World War II while serving with the SC Army National Guard.



The SC Military Museum is home to some unique artifacts, including items donated by Capt. Peter Mason, on whom Ian Fleming based his "James Bond" novels.





Danny Sightler, a retired Command Chief Master Sgt. for the SC Air National Guard's 169th Fighter Wing, prepares Staff Sgt. Jerome Lemon's place on the "Wall of Honor" at the SC Military Museum. Lemon was the first SC Army National Guard soldier to be killed in action in the Global War on Terrorism on October 27, 2004.



Work on the Air National Guard wing of the SC Military Museum is nearing completion.



The museum's master modeler, retired Master Sgt. Bill Campbell, is hard at work on an Army National Guard helicopter.



Bill Cliett and Bill Maddox, retired Chief Master Sergeants from the SC Air National Guard, cut some framing for the 169th Fighter Wing display.



Buddy Sturgis, the museum's curator, holds a photograph taken of the 2nd SC Infantry when the "Palmetto Regiment" was sent to El Paso, TX, by President Wilson in 1916 following Pacho Villa's invasion of our southern border with Mexico.



The "Carbine" Williams display of the SC Military Museum nears completion.



**Dedicated to all our fallen soldiers**



South Carolina Army National Guard  
Attn: Public Affairs Office  
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position  
only