

# Palmetto Guard



FAMILY MAGAZINE, SUMMER 2007

A soldier in camouflage uniform and helmet, holding a rifle, standing in profile against a sunset background. The soldier is facing left, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a silhouette effect. The background shows a hilly landscape with sparse vegetation.

**OPERATION  
JUMP START**



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

What an exciting time to be a member of the South Carolina National Guard! As you, the soldiers know best, we have a whole lot going on.

Operation Jump Start on the Southwest Border between Arizona and Mexico was a huge success for us. 1,113 Soldiers from seven of our eight Major Subordinate Commands rotated to the border to participate in the mission. The compliments and accolades we received from the Border Patrol are a tribute to every Soldier who deployed in support of the mission. Because of the Soldiers of the S.C. National Guard, Arizona's southern border is harder to cross illegally and the flow of illegal drugs has been slowed.

The "Palmetto Thunder" emergency response exercise was a recent successful test of our emergency response plan. Four hundred soldiers from multiple units across the state participated in this year's State emergency exercise. Reacting to a simulated earthquake, the S.C. National Guard again proved we are poised and ready to respond to whatever the actual emergency may be. The citizens of this state are counting on the Guard to be there when called upon You once again demonstrated -- we will be!

June's Palmetto-CWID (Coalition Warrior Interoperability Demonstration) proved the Signal and communications assets in the S.C. National Guard are among the very best in the world! The 228th Signal Brigade again demonstrated they are the leaders in interoperable communications technology. Lt. Gen. Thomas R. Turner, the commander of Army North visited both "Palmetto Thunder" and Palmetto CWID. He was very impressed with both exercises and told me he could plainly see the quality of the Soldiers and Airmen in the S.C. National Guard. We look forward to working with Army North on future exercises.

Finally, the S.C. National Guard is getting ready to enter a period of Force Structure transition. The next couple of years will be very exciting for us. As some of you may have already experienced, we will be losing some units but fielding new units in their place. The end result for us will be a larger Army Guard and a better mix of units with the specialty skills needed to better respond to domestic emergencies. With your help, the S.C. National Guard will continue to be one of the leading Guard programs in the country. Thank you for serving, and for all that you do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "St Spears".

Stanhope S. Spears  
Major General, SCARNG  
The Adjutant General

# Palmetto Guard

FAMILY MAGAZINE, SUMMER 2007

Summer 2007  
Vol. 2 Issue 1

- 4** Letter From Leadership
- 5** "Ninety Years Later"
- 8** Arizona Wildlife
- 10** 59th Troop Command
- 12** Directorate of Logistics
- 14** 59th Aviation Troop Command
- 16** 151st Field Artillery Brigade
- 17** 218th Infantry Brigade (Enhanced)
- 20** 228th Signal Brigade
- 21** 263rd Army Air & Missile Defense Command
- 22** Swamp Fox History



Photo by: Master Sgt. Phillip Jones

*(L-R): Utilizing their Infrared Optical Device or IROD, Spc. Robin Perry, Spc. Kareem Sellers, Sgt. James Davis and Spc. Preston Atkinson of the 1st of the 163rd Armor assisted the Border Patrol in apprehending 56 illegal aliens in one night near the Sasabe, Ariz. border with Mexico.*



Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell

*(L-R): Sgt. Tommy Mitchell of Lake Murray and Sgt. Roger Emerson of W. Columbia raise the colors over the S.C. National Guard's Directorate of Logistics site at Task Force Arizona in Phoenix.*



Photo by: Sgt. Steve Carwille

*178th Engineers transform rough terrain along the border into patrol roads for the U.S. Border Patrol.*



## Palmetto Guard Family Magazine

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*The Palmetto Guard Family Magazine is published quarterly for members of the S.C. National Guard and their families under the authority of AR 360-1.*

*About the cover: Spc. Preston Atkinson of Myrtle Beach stands atop a 1st of the 163rd Armor Battalion observation point on the Sasabe, Arizona border with Mexico during Operation Jump Start. Photo by: Master Sgt. Phillip Jones*

*Cover design by: CW3 Tripp Hutto*

## "Always Ready – Always There!"

By: Brig. Gen. Lester D. Eisner



The S.C. National Guard continues to personify the credo: "Always Ready – Always There!" During his Operation Jump Start speech at Yuma, Arizona on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006, the President ordered 6,000 Guard troops to the U.S. – Mexico border to serve as the "eyes and ears" of the U.S. Border Patrol for a year.

The leadership of our S.C. National Guard began looking at ways we could have an impact in protecting the homeland without diminishing our ability to quickly respond to a natural or man-made disaster here in South Carolina. Even with the large number of troops (1,600) we would be deploying with the 218th Infantry Brigade in April to Afghanistan, we had little doubt supporting the U.S. Border Patrol's efforts on the Arizona border before the 2007 Hurricane season would be anything but a success.

Our sincere belief that the S.C. National Guard is the best because we have the best Soldiers and Airmen in the country once again proved true. The following numbers tell the story:

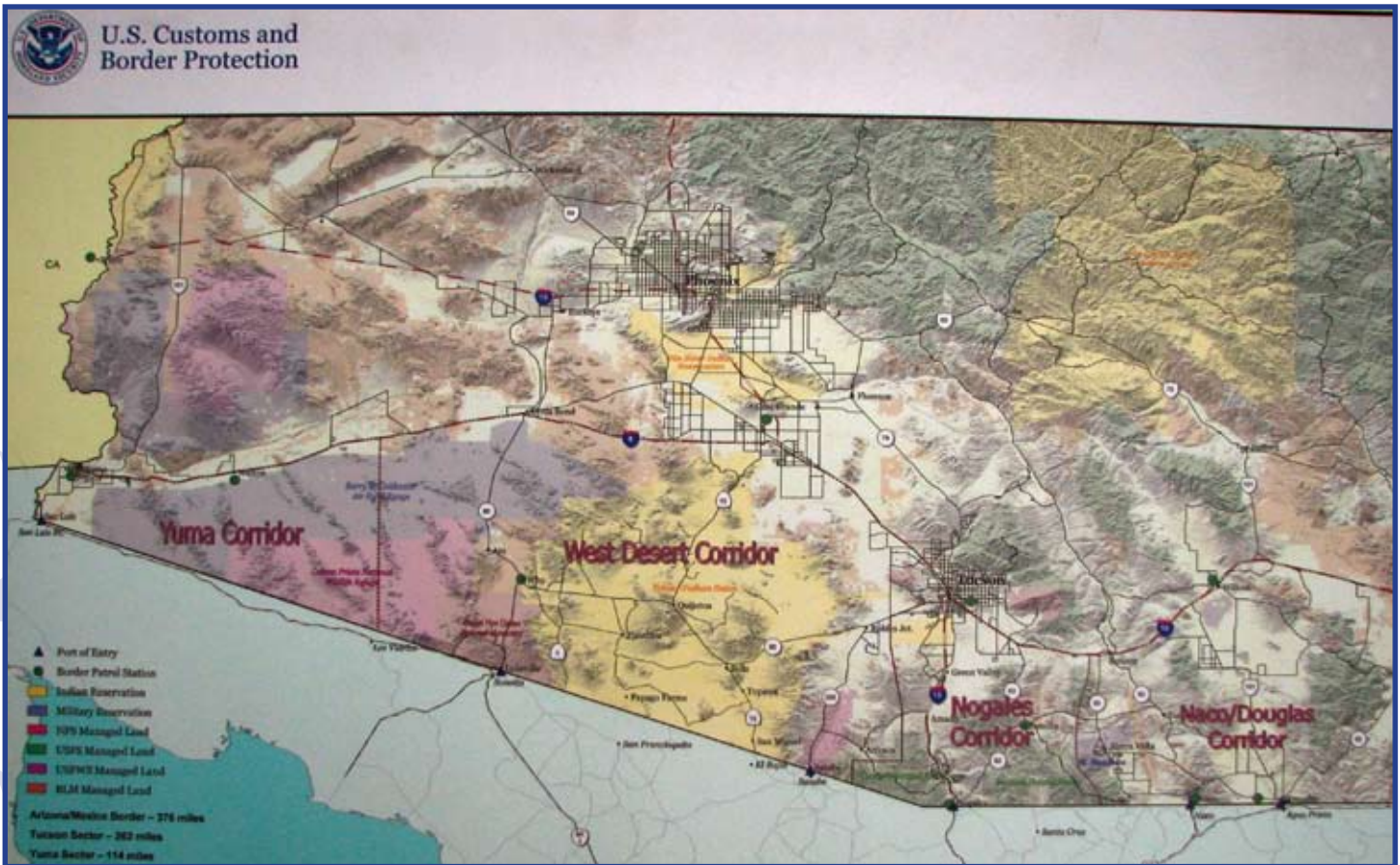
1. In all, our men and women who served on entry identification teams and OH-58 Kiowa teams along the border saved U.S. taxpayers \$40,898,000\* this year by helping the Border Patrol apprehend 1,512 illegal aliens and deter another 347.
2. Our 751<sup>st</sup> maintenance teams arrived in Tucson in late February 2007 to find 305 Border Patrol vehicles at less than 70% fully mission capable, but by the end of their first month in Arizona over 90% were FMC.
3. One-hundred and fifty Engineers from the 122<sup>nd</sup> and 178<sup>th</sup> demonstrated their tremendous engineering skills by transforming deep mountain washes into roads, recycling railroad rails once laid by Andrew Carnegie's workers in 1902 into 1,500 pound vehicle barriers and turning Vietnam-era Landing Mats into human barrier panels.

As you read this special "Operation Jump Start" edition of the Palmetto Guard Family Magazine, I hope you will take notice of the amazing job our support personnel in the Directorate of Logistics provided serving as our S.C. National Guard liaisons to the Arizona Task Force. I also hope you will take note of the great job our public affairs personnel did capturing for posterity this important operation in our Guard history as it happened.

Because of you and your families, the S.C. National Guard can continue to pride itself on always being ready and always being there for any federal or state mission we are assigned. It is an honor to serve with each of you.

Sincerely,  
Lester D. Eisner  
BG, Assistant Adjutant General  
SCARNG

*\*Note: The \$40,898,000 in savings to U.S. taxpayers is based on the number of apprehensions and those turned back by the presence of our S.C. Guardsmen multiplied by \$22,000 as reported by CNNs "Lou Dobbs This Week" on April 8, 2007.*



The S.C. National Guard provided 1,113 Soldiers between February and May 2007 to serve in both the Tucson and Yuma Sectors of the Arizona border with Mexico.

## NINETY YEARS LATER

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

What have Pancho Villa, coyotes (smugglers of humans) and narco-militarists (drug smugglers) all had in common within the past 90 years on America’s southwest border? The answer – a serious dislike for American law and order!

On March 9, 1916, Mexican bandit “Pancho” Villa and 500 soldiers from his Villista army attacked Columbus, New Mexico. President Wilson responded by deploying over 110,000 National Guard Soldiers including South Carolina’s Palmetto Regiment to protect our citizens living on the southwest border.

Ninety years later, the S.C. National Guard was back on the southwest border providing border patrol infrastructure, maintenance, communications and entry identification personnel during Operation Jump Start, or OJS. According to U.S. Border Patrol spokespersons, these efforts allowed more of their agents to focus on curtailing the flow of illegal immigrants, human smugglers and drugs into America along the 1,951 miles of border between Mexico and the states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. Tucson Sector

agent Chris Knab, a spokesman for the U.S. Border Patrol’s Nogales’ station says by 2008, the Border Patrol hopes to have 18,000 agents to help serve on foot, horse, vehicle and aircraft patrols.

According to a CBS News report titled “Mexican Cartels Use Migrants as DEA Decoys,” published while the S.C. National Guard was on duty in Arizona during May 2007, smugglers are carrying billions of dollars worth of drugs along paths once used primarily by migrants. New fences and National Guard troops have helped seal the usual drug routes and vehicle barriers are forcing traffickers to send more drugs north on the backs of cartel foot soldiers.

The report also points out since the National Guard’s arrival the U.S. has seized 20 percent more cocaine and 28 percent more marijuana along the border in the past six months, compared with the same period a year earlier. The National Guard presence is forcing drug smugglers to diversify their business ventures to include human smuggling typically accomplished by “coyotes” for a couple of thousand dollars per person.

Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell



Sixty percent of the citrus imported into the U.S. from Mexico passes through the Nogales Port of Entry in the Tucson Sector. The S.C. National Guard's 3<sup>rd</sup> of the 178<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion manned Entry Identification Team sites along the Nogales border during Operation Jump Start.

During his trip to Yuma, Ariz. on April 9th to celebrate the one-year anniversary of Operation Jump Start, President Bush said "this border should be open to trade and lawful immigration, and shut down to criminals and drug dealers and terrorists and coyotes and smugglers, people who prey on innocent life." He then applauded the National Guard and U.S. Border Patrol for their efforts to make the border safer.

Like our Palmetto Regiment predecessors in 1916-1917, the Soldiers of the S.C. National Guard continue to prove they are ready to preserve law and order by protecting the homeland. This edition of the Palmetto Guard Family Magazine is dedicated to those men and women who keep our borders safe.

### In Memoriam:

Listed below are the names of our S.C. National Guard Soldiers who paid the ultimate price during the 1916-1917 Punitive Expedition:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) Chaplain R.C. Jeter, 1 <sup>st</sup> Regiment, Nov. 30, 1916           | 2) Sgt. Robert E. Gonzales, Machine Gun Co., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry, Dec. 19, 1916 |
| 3) Sgt. John I. Blalock, Co. E, 1 <sup>st</sup> Infantry, Oct. 30, 1916   | 4) Pvt. C. N. Stroman, Co. M, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry, Dec. date unknown, 1916      |
| 5) Pvt. Preston J. Wilson, Co. H, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry, Dec. 19, 1916 |  |

Graphic by: Maj. Scott Bell

Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell



Due to the urbanization and terrain of Nogales, Mexico (right of fence-line pictured) between 200 and 400 illegals are apprehended per day by U.S. Border Patrol agents. The Nogales Border Patrol station remains the most dangerous and active area in the country to work.

Photo by: Master Sgt. Phillip Jones



The old border fence in Nogales is under a constant state of repair as drug cartels and human smugglers cut holes in it regularly with blow torches. Newer reinforced fences built by National Guardsmen are slowly replacing ones like this.

Photo by: Sgt. Steve Carville



Since the National Guard arrived in the Nogales Corridor in 2006, narcotics seizures are up 35 percent ahead of where they were before. The Border Patrol has confiscated 180,000 pounds of marijuana worth \$144 million including these 10-pound bundles of Marijuana which have a street value of \$8,000 each.

Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell



National Guardsmen help staff Border Patrol communications centers like this one in Nogales, Ariz. Utilizing sophisticated communications, sensor and camera surveillance systems to supplement the S.C. National Guard's entry identification team sites and aviation assets, the U.S. Border Patrol is able to put more agents on the border to apprehend illegals and cut off the flow of illegal narcotics into the U.S.

Photo provided by: 351st Aviation Support Group



One of the tools used by S.C. National Guardsmen to spot illegal crossings into the U.S. is the Infrared Optical Device, or IROD. Pictured clearly in the dark of night is a S.C. Soldier on the Yuma, Ariz. - Mexico border.

Photo by: Master Sgt. Phillip Jones



Perhaps the most useful tool in the S.C. National Guard's Operation Jump Start inventory is its OH-58 Kiowa aviation assets. From the air, illegal aliens such as these pictured and drug runners can be easily spotted and called in to Border Patrol agents.

Photo provided by: U.S. Border Patrol



Border Patrol agents escort illegal aliens to a collection point after being spotted by National Guard pilots.

Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell



Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell



Upon apprehension, illegal aliens are processed at Border Patrol stations such as this one in Nogales where they are fingerprinted, identified and given an FBI background check.

Following FBI clearance, Mexicans who are not wanted by U.S. authorities for prosecution are transported back to ports of entry such as this one in Nogales, Ariz. and sent back to Mexico. Fifteen percent of those crossing the border from Mexico are classified as "Other than Mexican" and are transported back to their home countries.

## The Landscape of the Arizona Desert



Photo by: Cpt. Denton W. Smith, Jr

*Ajo National State Park, Arizona.*



Photo by: Cpt. Denton W. Smith, Jr

*Flowering Cactus.*



Photo by: Cpt. Denton W. Smith, Jr

*Catalina State Park stream bed.*



Photo by: Cpt. Denton W. Smith, Jr

*Catalina State Park, Arizona.*



Photo by: Cpt. Denton W. Smith, Jr

*Bridge spanning across route alternate 89 in the Sedona State Park, Arizona.*



## The Beauty of the Arizona Desert

Photo by: Cpt. Denton W. Smith, Jr



*A family of Big Horn Sheep watch cautiously while their three day old plays on the rugged rocks in Arizona Sonora State Park, Arizona.*

Photo by: Cpt. Denton W. Smith, Jr



*Female mule deer crosses route 209 south just north of Mormon Lake, Arizona.*

Photo by: Master Sgt. Phillip Jones



*A Cactus Wren builds its nest in a Saguaro cactus.*

Photo by: Master Sgt. Phillip Jones



*A Roadrunner stays alert for predators.*

Photo by: Master Sgt. Phillip Jones



*A Hummingbird keeps its eggs warm.*

## The Dangers of the Arizona Desert

Photo by: Master Sgt. Phillip Jones



*A Wolf looks for its breakfast.*

Photo by: Master Sgt. Phillip Jones



*A Mountain Lion waits for the opportune moment to attack.*

Photo by: Master Sgt. Phillip Jones



*A Coyote scampers away after being discovered.*



Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell

(L-R) Utilizing a wrecker boom, Spc. Christopher Robinson of Cayce raises an engine out of a Border Patrol vehicle for Sgt. David Pearson and Sgt. Omar Benjamin of Columbia.



Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell

(L-R): Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Peter House, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Janee' Collier and Pvt. James Reaves are interviewed by Jennifer Wilson of WIS-TV in Columbia via satellite with WIS' sister station KOLD-TV in Tucson, Ariz.



Photo by: Master Sgt. Phillip Jones

(L-R) Master Sgt. Johnny Nichols, the Non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the "Operation Jump Start" Tucson Sector maintenance facility, praises the 751<sup>st</sup> Maintenance Battalion during a command visit by Maj. Gen. Stanhope S. Spears. When the unit arrived in February, the fleet of 305 Border Patrol vehicles were 63 percent fully-mission-capable, or FMC. The vehicles were 92 percent FMC when the unit left in March.



Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell

(L-R): Electronics technicians Staff Sgt. Wayne Rogers, Spc. Larry Hill and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Fred Beauchemin install a "4-Eyes" remote camera system atop a Sky Tower near Sasabe, Ariz. The "4-Eyes" system has telescopic and infrared capabilities which allow Soldiers from distant locations to monitor the illegal aliens as they cross the U.S. border from Mexico.

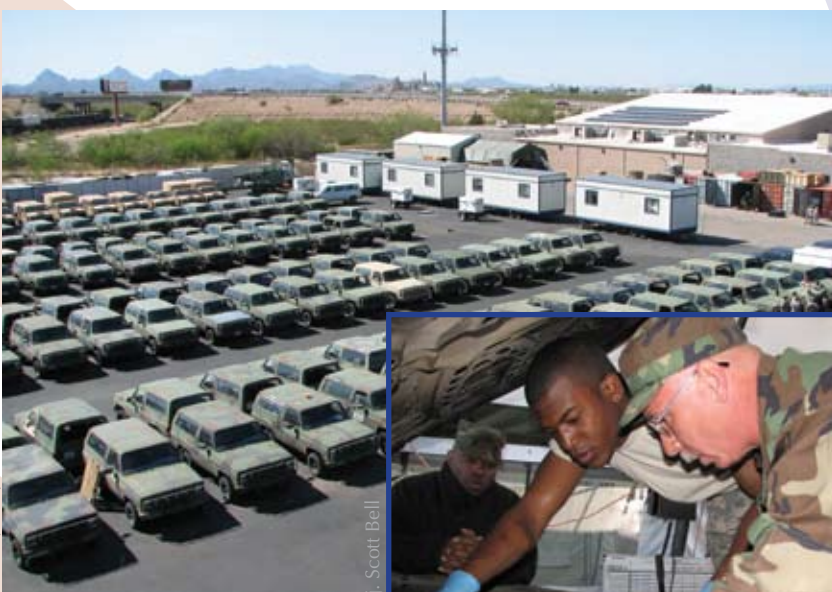


Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell

S.C. Army National Guard maintenance personnel made these Border Patrol vehicles fully-mission-capable, or FMC while working out of tents and trailers at the Arizona National Guard's Valencia armory in Tucson.



Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell

(L-R): Spc. Isaiah Stewart and Staff Sgt. Gerald Egan perform services on a Border Patrol vehicle.

## 751<sup>st</sup> Maintenance Battalion Statistical Snapshot

# of Soldiers deployed	Work Site:	Activity:	# Man-Hours:
144	Tucson	539 Services (Scheduled & Unscheduled)	Total: 6,259

Graphic by: Maj. Scott Bell



Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell

(L-R): Spc. Joe Howard of Aiken and Pfc. Brandon Corley of Newberry place a "Key" between two links of a vehicle barrier they are helping build along the Mexico border in Sasabe, Ariz. Each 25-feet of vehicle barrier weighs approximately 1,500 lbs.



Photo by: Master Sgt. Phillip Jones

This vehicle barrier fence built by the 122<sup>nd</sup> Engineers is an effective way to prevent Mexican drug cartels from driving their shipments into the U.S. along remote, desert areas of the border.



Photo by: Master Sgt. Phillip Jones

The 122<sup>nd</sup> Engineers vehicle barrier fabrication yard near Sasabe, Arizona was a very active location as recycled railroad rails used in the 19<sup>th</sup> century were cut into main-beams, cross-beams and keys; then assembled, transported and placed into position by 122<sup>nd</sup> Soldiers along the U.S. - Mexico border.

## 122<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Battalion Statistical Snapshot

# of Soldiers deployed to Tucson Sector: 92

Work Site:	Activity:	# Man-Hours:
Sasabe	161 vehicle barriers fabricated & installed	2,500
San-Miguel	2,575 meters of border road completed	2,600
	480 meters of border road prepared	
	123 vehicle barriers fabricated and installed	
Menager's Dam	528 Bollards installed	1,650
	2,000 meters of border road improved	
	700 meters of border road prepared	
		<b>Total: 6,750</b>

Graphic by: Maj. Scott Bell

# USPFO officers coordinate the “big picture” for Jump Start

By Maj. Jim St. Clair, SCMD Public Affairs Officer

Sending over a thousand personnel and tons of equipment to the other side of the country for Operation Jump Start was no small feat. It required a lot of planning and coordination to pull off smoothly. Project Officer Lt. Col. Todd Shealy and Assistant Project Officer Maj. Allen McLeod were tasked with managing all the logistical and personnel requirements to support this vital deployment. Fortunately for the S.C. National Guard, these two officers from USPFO made it all look easy.

“Our job was really on the front end to coordinate and set up everything that South Carolina was going to support and coordinate with the Arizona staff prior to the set up of the missions,” said Shealy. “Of course, we set up travel to and from and handled any situation as they arose during the operation. In a nutshell, that was the big picture of what we did.”

Both officers made numerous trips to Arizona on a rotational basis. Shealy spent about four weeks there while McLeod spent nearly three months on the ground.

As the Assistant Project Officer, McLeod’s function was to serve as the primary representative of the South Carolina proponent for Operation Jump Start, Joint Task Force Arizona. Having one person on the ground for the duration of the mission provides continuity to meet the needs of our units should something come up. “I remember on a few occasions,



Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell

Command Sgt. Maj. James Gunter addresses his men at the S.C. National Guard container yard in Phoenix, Ariz.

we were able to address some issues before they got out of hand,” said McLeod.

Along with coordinating the movement of over 1,100 Soldiers, completing their IPR’s (In Process Reviews) so everything flows smoothly, Shealy said one of their main responsibilities was battle-tracking. Battle-tracking is a snapshot of the entire operation to include which units are deployed, what missions they are performing and how they are getting to and from Arizona. This was a collaborative effort between the Project Officers and the South Carolina Joint Operations Center who reported to the SCNG Chief of Staff, Col. Ron Huff, on a weekly basis.

According to McLeod, one noteworthy achievement during OJS was that none of South Carolina’s equipment was damaged or lost, primarily due to the vigilance of SC National Guard Soldiers. “The Soldiers really took it seriously and participated the best they could,” said McLeod. “As a general rule, when the Soldiers jump in there

Function	9 Feb – 2 Mar	28 Feb – 20 Mar	18 Mar – 7 Apr	7 Apr – 27 Apr
Maintenance Support	751 <sup>st</sup> Maintenance Battalion (48 Soldiers)	751 <sup>st</sup> Maintenance Battalion (48 Soldiers)	751 <sup>st</sup> Maintenance Battalion (48 Soldiers)	163 <sup>rd</sup> Forward Support Battalion (26 Soldiers)
Entry Identification Team Sites		2 <sup>nd</sup> of the 263 <sup>rd</sup> Air Defense Artillery Battalion (92 Soldiers)	1 <sup>st</sup> of the 118 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion (97 Soldiers) 1 <sup>st</sup> of the 263 <sup>rd</sup> Armor Battalion (46 Soldiers) 202 Cavalry Troop (10 Soldiers) 218 <sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Co. (15 Soldiers) 218 <sup>th</sup> Headquarters Company (54 Soldiers)	3 <sup>rd</sup> of the 178 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion (82 Soldiers) 111 <sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion (210 Soldiers) 351 <sup>st</sup> Aviation Support Battalion (84 Soldiers)
	Task Force Diamondback (Engineer)	122 <sup>nd</sup> Engineer Battalion (92 Soldiers)		178 <sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (58 Soldiers)
Task Force Raven (Aviation)	2 <sup>nd</sup> of the 151 <sup>st</sup> Aviation Battalion (33 Soldiers)			5 Feb – 1 May
Directorate of Logistics & Public Affairs Support	S.C. Joint Task Force Headquarters (26 Soldiers)			4 Feb – 16 May

Operation Jump Start deployment timeline for the S.C. National Guard

Graphic by: Maj. Scott Bell

Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell



Sgt. 1st Class Ed Lovelace shows Maj. Jim St. Clair, a public affairs officer with the S.C. National Guard Public Affairs Office where to sign for his body armor.

Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell



Sgt. Maj. Bobby Allen types up a manning report for the Arizona National Guard's Task Force Phoenix headquarters.

and get behind the mission, it's impressive. Command and control with the units was very good."

South Carolina's hard work and dedication didn't go unnoticed by our counterparts in the Arizona National Guard either. "Arizona mentioned to us how impressed they were with the South Carolina Guard. We were one of the largest contingent states in numbers of personnel sent," said Shealy. "They were very pleased with our work ethic and how we handled ourselves coming in and how easy it was for them to process us. The biggest note was that all the pieces came together and worked for this common mission, including every MSC in this organization."

Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell



Maj. Allen McLeod (far right) visits Sgt. Michael Woodacre (left) and the other 178th Combat Engineers in Sonoita, Ariz. to ensure they have everything needed to accomplish their mission.

## Directorate of Logistics OJS Statistical Snapshot:

# of SC Guard members transported from/to S.C.: 1,113

# of items issued to S.C. Soldiers/units: 4,648

Total dollars spent in local economy: \$251,334.99

# processed for Line-Of-Duty: 40

# of Red Cross messages processed: 12

Graphic by: Maj. Scott Bell



Photo by: Capt. Denton Smith

Chaplain Stan Cruse of the 59<sup>th</sup> Troop Command (center) provides a short devotion from Isaiah 40:31 to Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Kelly Springer of Lexington, Sgt. Tony Bare of Columbia, Master Sgt. Lonnie Griffin of Lexington, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Terrence Powell of Lexington and Sgt. George Freeman of West Columbia at the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 151st Aviation Security and Support Battalion's Task Force Raven flight facility.



Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell

(L-R): Sgt. Tony Bare reviews a pre-flight checklist for the OH-58 Kiowa with CW3 Jeff Weaver of Hartsville outside the Task Force Raven headquarters at the Silver Bell Army Heliport in Marana, Ariz.

## 2nd of the 151st Aviation Security and Support Battalion Statistical Snapshot

# of Soldiers deployed to cover both the Tucson & Yuma Sectors: 33

# of Apprehensions: 1,000

Pounds of Marijuana Seized: 2,500 (Street Value: \$2,000,000)

# Flight Hours: 300

Estimated Savings to U.S. Taxpayers (Apprehensions/Turned Back): \$22,000,000

Graphic by: Maj. Scott Bell



Photo by: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Eric Seymore

(L-R): CW5 Eric Seymore (far right) poses with U.S. Border Patrol agents (who can't be identified for security reasons) following a drug bust the Chief and his son 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Eric Seymore assisted with near Ajo, Ariz. Chief Seymore and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Seymore are the only father-son team to fly together during Operation Jump Start.



Photo by: Capt. Dentin Smith

(L-R): Spc. Will Fersner of Lancaster a medic attached to the 351<sup>st</sup> Aviation Support Battalion tends to Staff Sgt. Calvin Collins of Lexington while on border patrol in Yuma, Ariz.



Photo by: Capt. Dentin Smith

(L-R): 351<sup>st</sup> Aviation Support Battalion Soldiers Spc. Charles "Ronnie" Shorter of Sumter, Sgt. James Jachs of Sumter and Spc. Mike Powell of Columbia observe activity along the Colorado River at observation point one where the borders of Yuma, Ariz., California and Mexico meet.

## 351st Aviation Support Group Statistical Snapshot

# of Soldiers deployed to Yuma Sector: 84

# of Illegal Aliens Observed: 57

# of Apprehensions: 22

# of Illegals Turned Back: 28

Estimated Savings to U.S. Taxpayers (Apprehensions/Turned Back): \$1,100,000



Photo by: Capt. Dentin Smith

(L-R): 351<sup>st</sup> Aviation Support Battalion Soldiers, Sgt. 1st Class Richard Cook of Cayce, Sgt. Major James Pierson of Sumter and Capt. Pete Nelson of Beaufort discuss their observation plan for the border points on the Yuma, Ariz. border with Mexico.

Graphic by: Maj. Scott Bell



Photo by: Capt. Denton Smith

(L-R): Master Sgt. Randall Smith and Master Sgt. Robert Lee provide a safety brief at the beginning of Staff Sgt. Thomas Williams, Sgt. Colin Pressley, Spc. Daniel Laney and Staff Sgt. Timothy Inman's 24-hour shift at observation point # 111 near Nogales, Ariz.



Photo by: Capt. Denton Smith

(L-R): From observation point #131, Sgt. Charles Black, Sgt. 1st Class Lee Burch, Spc. Chad Ratlitte and Spc. James McLaughlin monitor the progress of eight illegals who crossed the border during daylight near the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the 178<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion's position in Nogales, Ariz.

## 3-178 Field Artillery Battalion Statistical Snapshot

# of Soldiers deployed to Tucson Sector: 82

# of Illegal Aliens Observed: 110

# of Apprehensions: 30

# of Illegals Turned Back: 51

Estimated Savings to U.S. Taxpayers (Apprehensions/Turned Back):  
\$1,782,000

Graphic by: Maj. Scott Bell



Photo by: Capt. Denton Smith

(L-R): Sgt. Michael Cunningham, Staff Sgt. James Roof, Sgt. Dearce Gooini, Sgt. Joshua Farmer and Sgt. Greg Bishop observe the Mexican border from site #112 while in contact with the U.S. Border Patrol and observation point # 131.



# Keeping "eyes" on the border

Story by Staff Sgt. Joe Cashion, 108<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment NCOIC

Photo by Sgt. Tommy Mitchell



Keeping a watchful eye on the border, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Noemi Tassios, a team officer-in-charge assigned to the 218<sup>th</sup> M.I. Company, monitors the border crossing area near Sasabe, Ariz., during Operation Jump Start on April 12, 2007.

With watchful eyes, using state of the art equipment, and from observation points high above the Arizona desert, the 218<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Company based in North Charleston, S.C. spent their Operation Jump Start rotation in April keeping a "sharp eye" on those who would enter the United States illegally.

"Our mission was to detect and report undocumented aliens (UDAs) to the Border Patrol so they could pick them up," said Sgt. Elvin McNeill, human intelligence (HUMINT) non-commissioned officer in charge for the unit.

During their rotation, unit soldiers operated in two seven soldier teams working 48-hour shifts each from the high hills near the border town of Sasabe. According to

McNeill, the moment the unit arrived they literally got right to work.

"Our team was the first to report UDAs as we were simply coming up here to drop off supplies," he said. "We called in and the Border Patrol picked them up."

Utilizing binoculars and an infrared imaging device made the unit's job easier with locating UDAs.

McNeill stressed helping to stop illegal activity wasn't the only goal in mind for the 218<sup>th</sup> M.I. "Sometimes they (UDAs) don't plan right, they don't bring enough water and there have been many who have perished trying to get across here," he said. "I feel we not only provided security for the country we also conducted the humanitarian mission as well."

## 218th Separate Brigade (Enhanced) Statistical Snapshot

# of Brigade Soldiers deployed: 350

### Entry Identification Team Statistical Snapshot

# of Illegal Aliens Observed: 1,003	(Yuma Sector: 167/Tucson Sector: 836)
# of Apprehensions: 335	(Yuma Sector: 90/Tucson Sector: 245)
# of Illegals Turned Back: 143	(Yuma Sector: 25/Tucson Sector: 118)
Estimated Savings to U.S. Taxpayers (Apprehensions/Turned Back): \$10,516,000	

### Combat Engineer Statistical Snapshot

<u>Work Site:</u>	<u>Activity:</u>	<u># Man-Hours:</u>
Douglas	113 human barrier upper panels installed	2,100
	149 human barrier lower panels installed	
	428 human barrier underpinning installed	
Naco	2,692 vehicle barrier rail components cut/moved	500
	167 vehicle barrier sections positioned and welded	
Sonoita	966 meters of vehicle barriers installed	
	1,610 meters of vehicle barriers installed	
	6,437 meters of border road improved	

**Total: 5,200**

### Maintenance/Transportation Statistical Snapshot

<u>Work Site:</u>	<u>Activity:</u>	<u># Man-Hours:</u>
Tucson	Services (Scheduled & Unscheduled)	Total: 4,006
Tucson	88M (Transportation) movement of OJS Equip.	(4,600 Miles)

Graphic by: Maj. Scott Bell

## 218TH INFANTRY BRIGADE (ENHANCED)

Photo by: Maj/ter Sgt. Phillip Jones



(L-R): Nearly a mile above sea level, the 178<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion begins moving a hill to create a flat road in a treacherous wash along the border fence separating the U.S. and Mexico.

Photo by: Maj/ter Sgt. Phillip Jones



(L-R): Pfc. Jonathan Robeson of Spartanburg (center) cuts recycled railroad rails for use in constructing cross-beams for transportable vehicle barriers as Maj. Gen. Spears (left) and Capt. Simon Stricklen of Welford (right) observe.

Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell



(L-R): Spc. Thomas Robinson of Anderson and Staff Sgt. Raymond Smith cut rails for vehicle barrier support beams along the U.S. – Mexico border.

Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell



(L-R): Sgt. Jodi Cox of Landrum watches Brig. Gen. Laurie Newton of Conway spot weld a cross beam of a vehicle barrier to its support beam along the Mexican border.

Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell



(L-R): Spc. Sherice McClain of Rock Hill moves the landing mats with a crane.

Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell



(L-R): Pfc. Laquibas Swearinger of Rock Hill reaches for a piece of landing mat as Pvt. Evan Stewart of Rock Hill guides it to him.

Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell



(L-R) Spc. John White of Lexington, Spc. James Penderhill of Rock Hill, Spc. Antwan Hemphill of Rock Hill and Spc. Tim Worthy of Rock Hill guide the landing mat into place.

Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell



(L-R): Spc. Chris McQueen of Ft. Mill and Pfc. James Miller of Rock Hill weld a landing mat into place.

# 228TH SIGNAL BRIGADE

Photo by: Capt. Denton Smith



Brig. Gen. Tommy Sinclair, the 228<sup>th</sup> Signal Brigade commander (center with binoculars) visits with (L-R) Staff Sgt. Jimmy Scoggins, Lt. Col. Joe Leatherman, Staff Sgt. Micheal Purdy and Spc. Macquaris Jones at a 111<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion forward observation point on the Sasabe, Ariz. border with Mexico.

Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell



"Spotters" on a hilltop near the Sasabe Port of Entry watch S.C. National Guard Soldiers as they perform their mission.

Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell



While Brig. Gen. Sinclair and the men of the 111<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion keep watch on the border, other Soldiers located at the Sasabe Port of Entry use the "4-Eyes" Sky Towers to monitor "Spotters" a couple of hundred yards away. Using binoculars and radios from hilltops in Mexico, "Spotters" coordinate movements of drugs and aliens into the United States.

Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell



A Border Patrol vehicle passes a "4-Eyes" Sky Tower near the Sasabe Port of Entry.

Graphic by: Maj. Scott Bell

## 111th Signal Battalion Statistical Snapshot

# of Soldiers deployed to Tucson Sector: 210

# of Illegal Aliens Observed: 668

# of Apprehensions: 23

# of Illegals Turned Back: 12

Estimated Savings to U.S. Taxpayers (Apprehensions/Turned Back): \$770,000



Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class David Whitfield briefs the locations of the 263<sup>rd</sup> Air Defense Artillery Battalion's entry identification team sites.



Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell

(L-R): A sandstorm with sustained winds of 50-plus miles-per-hour greeted Maj. Gen. Harry Burchstead, the commander of the 263<sup>rd</sup> Army Air and Missile Defense Command during his command visit with the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 263<sup>rd</sup> Air Defense Artillery Battalion. (L-R) Staff Sgt. Bibb tells Maj. Gen. Burchstead and Command Sgt. Maj. Timmerman where the majority of the illegal aliens attempt to cross his team's EIT # 12 site. Also pictured are Bibb's teammates: Pfc. Wesley Bennett, Cpl. David Roe and Spc. Jonathan Dollarson.



Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell

(L-R): Spc. Jonathan Dollarson and Cpl. David Roe use an Infrared Optical Device, or IROD to identify illegal aliens as they attempt to cross the U.S. – Mexico border near their EIT #12 site. On this particular night, the Team called in 12 illegals to the Border Patrol which responded within minutes with tracking, vehicle and helicopter assets to apprehend the illegals.

## 2nd of the 263rd Air Defense Artillery Battalion Statistical Snapshot

# of Soldiers deployed to Yuma Sector: 92

# of Illegal Aliens Observed: 253

# of Apprehensions: 102

# of Illegals Turned Back: 113

Estimated Savings to U.S. Taxpayers (Apprehensions/Turned Back): \$4,730,000

Graphic by: Maj. Scott Bell

# THEN & NOW

## 1916-1917 Punitive Expedition



*The Palmetto Regiment rides through the town of El-Paso, Texas to protect the U.S. Border with Mexico.\**



*How the Palmetto Soldiers billeted.\**



*S.C. Guardsmen wait in line for chow.\**



*The equipment our Soldiers had to protect American citizens living along the border.\**

## 2006-2007 Operation Jump Start



*The Palmetto Regiment rides through the town of Yuma, Arizona to protect the U.S. Border with Mexico.*



*How the Palmetto Soldiers billeted.*



*S.C. Guardsmen don't need to wait for chow anymore.*



*The equipment our Soldiers had to protect American citizens living along the border.*

Photo provided by: 1st of the 118th Infantry Battalion

Photo by: Sgt. Steve Carville

Photo provided by: 1st of the 118th Infantry Battalion

Photo by: Master Sgt. Phillip Jones

# THEN ...

## THE 1916-1917 PUNITIVE EXPEDITION



*S.C. Guardsmen working on 4-man observation point teams each carried a .30 caliber bolt-action, magazine-fed M1903 Springfield Rifle during the Mexican border mission.*

*Following "Pancho" Villa's March 9, 1916 attack on Columbus, New Mexico these Palmetto Regiment Soldiers were part of a 110,526-strong National Guard force sent to the border to assist 43,033 active duty troops under the command of General John J. Pershing to capture Villa and prevent any further raids by his Villista forces.\**

# NOW ...

## THE 2006-2007 OPERATION JUMP START

*S.C. Guardsmen working on 4-man observation point teams each carried a lightweight, air-cooled, gas-operated, magazine fed M16A2 5.56mm rifle during the Operation Jump Start, or OJS Mexican border mission.*



Photo by: Maj. Scott Bell

*(L-R) Command Sgt. Maj. Van Mullinax and Lt. Col. Vernon Baldwin of the 263rd Air Defense Artillery Battalion visit the observation point #18 team of Spc. Tony Ozolins, Sgt. Jason Potter, Sgt. Danny Hendrix and Staff Sgt. Brian Swaney. Originally, 2,000 S.C. Guard Soldiers were planned for during OJS, but only 1,113 troops were needed.*

*\* Note: All historical photos from 1916-1917 were provided by the S.C. Military Museum.*

*Dedicated to the men and women  
who keep our borders safe!*



Photo by: Capt. Dentin Smith

*(Pictured L-R): 3rd of the 178th  
Field Artillery Battalion Soldiers  
Spc. Ronnie Marcus of Kershaw,  
Sgt. Ronald Collins of Rock Hill,  
Staff Sgt. Willie Richardson of  
Sumter, Sgt. Anthony Bishop of  
Monroe, NC and Pvt. Joshua  
Running of Sumter observe illegal  
aliens attempting to use the rough  
terrain of Nogales, Arizona to mask  
their entry into the United States.*



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