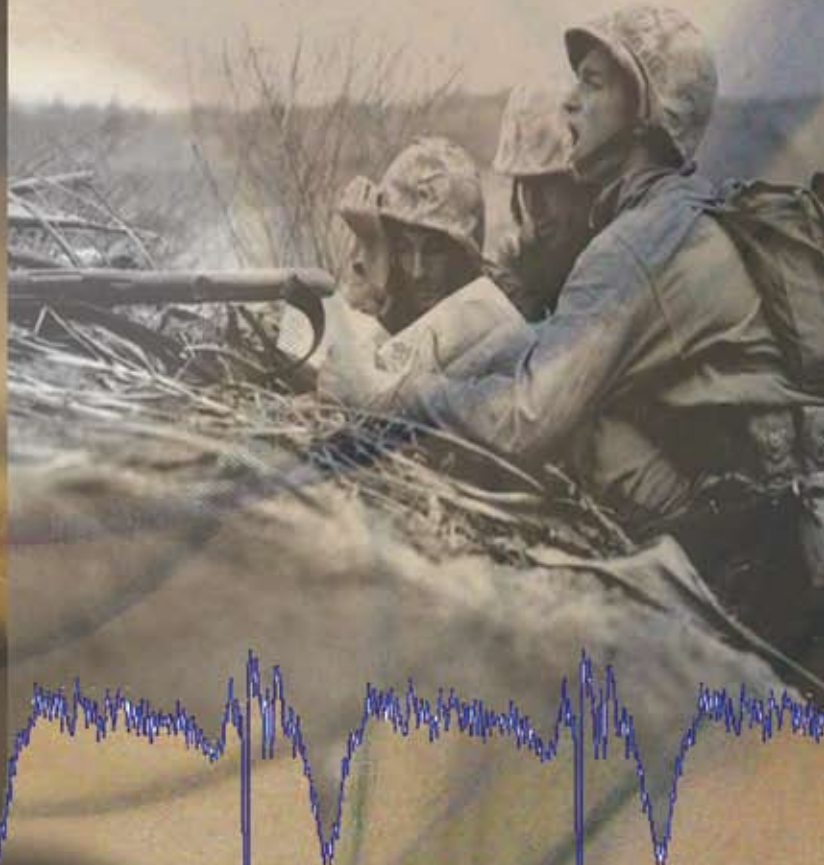


Palmetto Guard

Family Magazine, Fall 2007



TRANSFORMATION

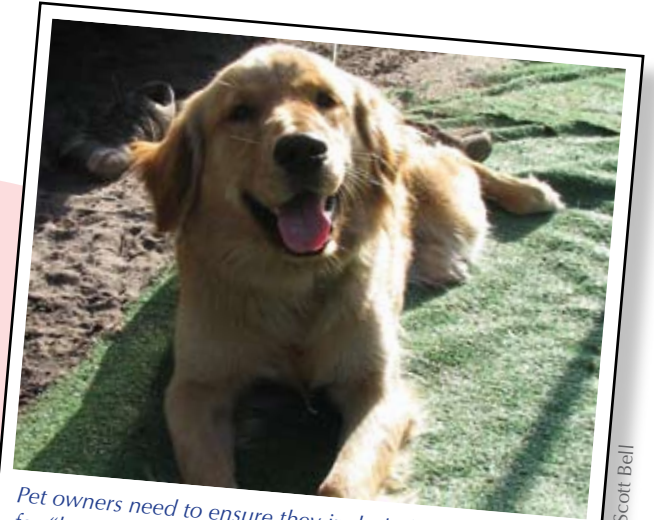
Preparing A Family Emergency Kit:

September through November tends to be the worst part of Hurricane season for the Southeastern United States. In the event of a disaster our Guard family needs to be prepared. We encourage everyone to create a family emergency kit using the guide below.

How do we prepare a family emergency kit?

Create a checklist from the items listed below as well as items that you feel will be necessary for your own 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 (*).

- * 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 one gallon of water each day. Hot environments and intense physical activity can double that 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.*
- * 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
- 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
- Tongue suppressors (2)
- Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- Assorted sizes of safety pins
- Cleansing agent/soap
- Latex gloves (2 pair)
- Sunscreen
- Non-prescription drugs
- Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Antacid (for stomach upset)
- Syrup of Ipecac (use to induce vomiting if advised by the Poison Control Center)
- Laxative
- Tools and Supplies
- Clothing and Bedding
- Special Items - Remember family members with special needs, such as infants and elderly or disabled persons.
- * Important Family Documents You will need to keep these records in a waterproof, portable container. Will, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds Passports, social security cards, immunization records, Bank account numbers, Credit card account numbers and companies, Inventory of valuable household goods, important telephone numbers, Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates).



Pet owners need to ensure they include food and water for "best friends" like Liberty, a Golden Retriever in their family emergency kit.

Photo by Maj. Scott Bell

Additional and more detailed information to better prepare your family for an emergency can be found at the following websites: <http://guard.sc.gov/>, www.scemd.org, www.redcross.org, www.fema.org and guardfamily.org.

Palmetto Guard

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Photo by Maj. Scott Bell



(left to right) Leonard Creswell and Doug Timmerman stand beside one of the many transformations taking place at Clarks Hill Training Center on Strom Thurmond Lake.

Photo provided by 218th Infantry Brigade



Pictures and stories of Soldiers such as Chief Warrant Officer 4 Duane Johnson of the 218th Infantry Brigade in Afghanistan will now be available on the new Public Affairs website. It will keep our Guard family informed during emergencies and up-to-date on current operations.

Photo by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones



(left to right) In honor of her husband's sacrifice, Maj. Gen. Burchstead presents the Medal of Honor Flag to Mrs. Vickie Anderson on behalf of the President of the United States.



Palmetto Guard Family Magazine

<i>Adjutant General</i>	<i>Maj. Gen. Stanhope S. Spears</i>
<i>Deputy Adjutant General</i>	<i>Maj. Gen. Harry B. Burchstead</i>
<i>Chief of Staff</i>	<i>Col. Ron Huff</i>
<i>State Public Affairs Officer</i>	<i>Col. Pete Brooks</i>
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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: The transformation of the S.C. National Guard has been happening since its inception in 1670. This ongoing transformation process is artistically depicted with a comparison of modern Soldiers like Cpl. David Roe of the 2nd of the 263rd Air Defense Artillery Battalion and those who have passed a proud tradition of service onto his generation.

Cover design by: Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tripp Hutto

Warrant Officer Numbers Increasing

By Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jan Ready



We have many good things going on within the S.C. Army National Guard Warrant Officer Corps. We have pinned 19 new Warrant Officers this fiscal year. We have one more graduating from Fort Rucker in August and 14 from Fort McClellan in September. Our strength has now risen above the 70 percent range.

The Regional Training Institute Warrant Officer Candidate School or RTI WOCS at McCrady Training Center was a huge success this year. The school enabled us to graduate 17 candidates from one class; 14 from the S.C. Army National Guard, two from the N.C. Army National Guard, and one from the Army Reserve. The RTI program was designed to allow soldiers to attend WOCS in a Drill and Annual Training status so less time could be spent away from their full-time employment.

Nominations are being accepted for consideration for induction into the Warrant Officer Hall of Fame. Our next induction ceremony is scheduled for February 2008. If you know a Warrant Officer, active, retired, or deceased, deserving of recognition, I will be glad to send you the criteria and nomination instructions to be used for consideration. Induction

into the Warrant Officer Hall of Fame is a prestigious achievement.

Nominations are also being accepted for the Warrant Officer of the Year Award for junior Warrant Officers in the grade of Warrant Officer 1 and Chief Warrant Officer 2 through August 31, 2007. The junior Warrant Officer selected for this recognition will receive an engraved plaque from the Warrant Officer Advisory Council as well as complimentary attendance for him/her and their spouse to the National Guard Association of South Carolina 2008 Annual Conference.

Anyone interested in becoming a Warrant Officer can contact me at 806-4269; Chief Warrant Officer 5 Lloyd Carter, Warrant Officer Strength Manager at 806-4202; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kevin Bonderer, Warrant Officer Recruiter at 806-2947; or Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brian Gleaton, Warrant Officer Recruiter at 806-2740.

Sincerely,
Jan Ready, SC Army National Guard
Command Chief Warrant Officer 5

Q & A

with the Chief of Staff

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

1. Q: When will the S.C. National Guard Transformation begin?

Answer: It began on September 1. Our staff here at Joint Force Headquarters finished the Palmetto Transition II Operations Order in July. It went out to each of the Major Subordinate Commands in early August and was finalized on August 19.

2. Q: How many units will the Transformation effect?

Answer: Eighty out of 125 S.C. Army National Guard units or about 64 percent will be affected. Lt. Gen. Blum, the National Guard Bureau Chief said last year that the National Guard must change in order to adapt to our changing Homeland Security and Homeland Defense missions. This transformation is the result of new requirements our nation's leaders are asking of the Guard.

3. Q: What effect will the transformation have on our Soldiers?

Answer: Throughout this transformation process we have focused on what is the best interest of our Soldiers and citizens of South Carolina. Some of the Soldiers will have to be reclassified, but along with that we have to look at bonuses and the possibility of conversion bonuses. The transformation will also affect upward mobility in a positive way. There will be many more senior enlisted positions available from Staff Sergeant to Sergeant Major level and we were also able to bring in some additional Lieutenant Colonel commands.

4. Q: How soon will those Soldiers who belong to transforming units begin retraining?

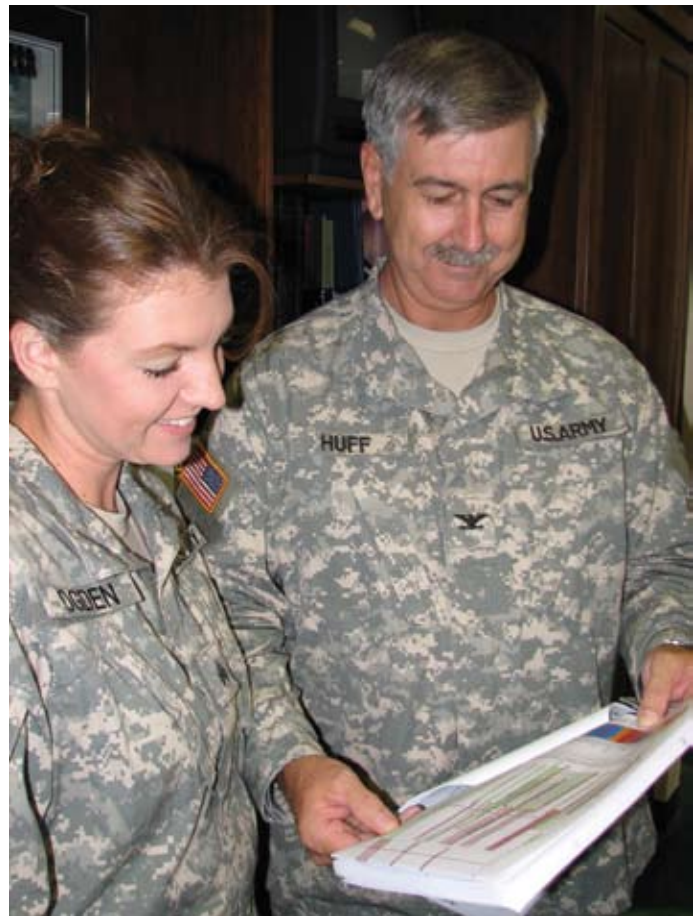
Answer: Some will start on September 1. We have been working closely with the recruiting command the past few months to get an early jump on that and recruit individuals for the new military occupational specialties.

5. Q: How will the transformation benefit the people of South Carolina?

Answer: It will put us in a better posture to respond more quickly to the needs of our citizens. We will be receiving new equipment for our new engineering, transportation and military police units. Our new Quick Reaction Forces will be a tremendous asset here in South Carolina, and will also be very valuable in support of our nation's Homeland Defense mission.

6. Q: When do you expect the transformation process to be complete?

Answer: By August of 2009 most of the transformation process will be complete, but there will be about four units who will conclude their transformations in Fiscal Year 2011. Our transformation is one of the biggest undertakings the S.C. National Guard has tackled since our last one in 1995. There's going to be some changes and some of our legacy units with very proud heritages like the 202nd Cavalry Troop will be transitioning into a military police role, but in the end we have to be synchronized with the needs of our nation's leaders in order to continue receiving support for our Soldiers and South Carolina. The offset will be more technician and active guard and reserve positions which will allow us to bring more S.C. Army National Guard Soldiers on full-time. Any time we can do that – it's a good thing.



Col. Ron Huff, the Chief of Staff for the S.C. Army National Guard and his assistant Sgt. Dena Ogden review the latest copy of the Palmetto Transition II Operations Order which was adopted on September 1, 2007.

Palmetto-CWID Transforming Guard's Emergency Communications Capability

Story by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian
 Photos by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones

For a third straight year at the beginning of hurricane season in June, the S.C. Army National Guard has sponsored an emergency communications exercise called the Palmetto Coalition Warrior Interoperability Demonstration or Palmetto-CWID. Involving nearly 40 different industry, local, state, federal and military organizations from June 2-16, the 2007 Palmetto-CWID exercise included earthquake, hurricane and terrorist disaster event scenarios. Synchronized with the South Carolina Emergency Response Plan, the Palmetto-CWID exercise has resulted in a transformation in the S.C. National Guard's emergency communications capability.

According to Lt. Col. Ronnie Finley, the administrative officer for the 228th Signal Brigade, Palmetto-CWID has resulted in expanded capabilities with military, federal, state and county level emergency operations centers; the identification of different communications challenges each type of disaster creates; the identification and integration of numerous intelligence, satellite and interagency assets which can be made available to future incident site commanders; and the further development of professional relationships within communication communities which are essential to rapidly and effectively responding to a disaster event.

This year's Palmetto-CWID had what Finley called more robust communications capabilities which provided Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP), internet data connections, video teleconferencing, and radio interoperability packages. All of these systems were tied together with other federal, state, county, and local systems including commercial industry partners and showcased to the media of South Carolina for dissemination to the public.



Demonstrating how the S.C. National Guard can provide emergency communications anywhere in South Carolina within a couple of hours time following a disaster event, the 228th Signal Brigade loads their equipment aboard a 437th Airlift Wing C-17 from Charleston A.F.B. at Donaldson Center in Greenville, SC.

The 2007 Palmetto-CWID participants included:		
<p>Military</p> <p>USNORTHCOM USJFCOM NGB/JCCC Coast Guard SCARNG JOC 437 Air Wing 59th TC AVN Bde 228th Sig Bde</p>	<p>228th MCD 151st Sig Bn 105th Sig Bn 108th Sig Bn 111th Sig Bn 43rd Civil Support Team GAARNG (Crisis Comms)</p>	<p>State/Local</p> <p>SC EMD SC-CIO Berkley County EOC Dorchester County EOC Charleston County EOC N Charleston First Responders Beaufort County EOC Jasper County EOC McClellanville EOC Charleston AFB Amateur Radio</p>
		<p>Federal</p> <p>CIPC SEAHAWK Task Force FEMA Region IV MERS</p> <p>Industry Partners</p> <p>L3 Communications Quantum Research pTEREX SpecOps Inc. DataPath Emmen Aerospace Verizon Wireless</p>

Graphic provided by 228th Signal Brigade

An hour after landing at Charleston A.F.B., Brig. Gen. Tommy Sinclair, the commander of the 228th Signal Brigade briefs the Charleston area media on the earthquake, hurricane and terrorist scenarios the unit will be participating in during Palmetto-CWID 2007 in North Charleston.





Soldiers from the S.C. Joint Force Headquarters' Joint Incident Site Communications Capability or JISCC Team set up their equipment outside the North Charleston Emergency Operation Center, or EOC to demonstrate how the S.C. National Guard can provide emergency communications for first responders should local systems be damaged by a disaster event.



Soldiers from the 228th Signal Brigade JISCC Team demonstrate how they can provide emergency communications within a half hour after being inserted into an event area by 2nd of the 151st Aviation Battalion CH-47D Chinook helicopters.



A member of the Department of Defense Eagle Vision Team shows Maj. Gen. Spears, the Adjutant General of S.C. how they can provide real-time satellite surveillance of an event site following a disaster.



228th Signal Brigade Soldiers secure their emergency communications equipment during Palmetto-CWID from Tropical Storm Barry's torrential rains.



One of the many benefits of Palmetto-CWID is the opportunity for S.C. Guardsmen to work with a variety of industry partners, local, state, federal and military officials to establish rapport with those they will be working closely with following a disaster event.

228th Signal Brigade Soldiers role-play the part of a terrorist cell preparing to attack as the North Charleston SWAT team arrives to apprehend them.



The Transformation of Clarks Hill Training Center

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

The 800-plus acre Clarks Hill Training Center on Lake Thurmond near North Augusta has transformed over the past few years and now offers more to our Guard family than field training opportunities. A mile-and-a-half from Plum Branch off of highway 28 and tucked away on a large peninsula with enough bed-space to accommodate 350 people, Clarks Hill is an excellent place for family, educational and business retreats.

In the past year, over 22,000 people have enjoyed Clarks Hill. Its cabins, campground, newly renovated billeting, multipurpose and dining facilities, confidence course, 35-foot repelling tower and numerous other amenities including easy access to Lake Thurmond's 1,200 miles of shoreline, offer something for everyone wanting to get away from the fast-pace of everyday life.



The pristine beach of Clarks Hill is one of the many amenities visitors enjoy.



For families who enjoy camping two of Clarks Hill's five new campers are available along with ten camper sites with hook-ups as shown by Leonard Creswell and Doug Timmerman.



Thanks to new brush hogging equipment Staff Sgt. Mitch Henson of Columbia is able to clear underbrush to allow uninhibited access to a majority of the lake front at Clarks Hill.



A 20-year maintenance veteran at Clarks Hill, Sgt. Willie Callahan ensures all of the equipment including this new cooker operates safely for the facility's customers.



Spc. Corey Vickers of Honea Path prepares the dock for the Adjutant General's Fishing Tournament on September 24, 2007.



With four bedrooms, six beds, two baths, a kitchen, satellite TV, gas logs and maid service each of the four cabins at Clarks Hill are a comfortable, inexpensive get-away.

Those interested in visiting Clarks Hill may do so by contacting the facility office at:

Website:

<http://www.scguard.com/clarks%20hill/>

E-Mail:

clarkshill@sc.ngb.army.mil

Phones: DSN: 583-1957, Com: 864-443-2507

Mail:

Clarks Hill Training Center, 212 Kay Waldrop Way, Plum Branch, SC 29845



Darcy Swann, a five-year veteran at the facility's operations office diligently tracks the number of Soldiers and civilians who utilize Clarks Hill



Outside the new 16-person officer/enlisted quarters, the North Augusta High School band camp practices diligently in the hopes of bettering their fourth place finish in the 2006 State Marching Band Championship.

Clarks Hill Facilities	# of	Cost Per Item
Cabins	4	\$126.00
Campers	2	\$50.00
Camper Pads/Hook-ups	10	\$8.00
2-man Officer/Enlisted Quarters	8	\$42.00
Main Dining Facility	1	\$55.00
Multi-Purpose Building	1	\$70.00
Classroom	1	\$20.00
Dining Facility (small)	1	\$35.00
32-man Quonset Hut	9	\$25.00
10-man Quonset Hut	3	\$25.00
4-man Quonset Hut	3	\$12.50
Training Area Latrine	1	\$25.00
ROPES Course	1	\$100.00
ROPES Instructor (15 Participants)	1	\$150.00
Repelling Tower	1	\$30.00
Confidence Course	1	\$45.00

Transforming Lives at Youth Challenge Academy

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

The transformation of Youth Challenge candidates into cadets began at Camp Long near Aiken, SC on July 22. The two-week basic training like orientation teaches candidates the basics of working as a team, physical training, drill and ceremonies and preparing for life as a cadet.

Those who graduate from the rigorous two-week candidate program earn the right to wear the Youth Challenge Academy uniform and receive their platoon guidons which they can begin adding achievement streamers too as their platoon succeeds at various tasks. The Youth Challenge Academy's staff believes by that time the cadets have a good foundation to successfully complete the next 20 weeks of their academic, military and life skills training.

"By 'Family Day' on September 14 when the cadets get their first weekend pass with their families everyone associated with the Academy sees a major transformation in these kids lives," said Capt. Lee Anderson, the commander of the Camp Long Youth Challenge Academy. Based on previous Camp Long cadet class successes, Anderson feels by Family Day his cadets are taking a lot of pride in their personal appearance and bearing, confident they can graduate from the program and achieving the personal and academic goals they are setting for themselves.

"We are making a difference in these kids lives. Most of them have grown up being told they will never amount to anything or they're nothing but trouble so our staff takes a lot of pride in transforming them into productive, goal-oriented young men and women," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jerome Covington. Covington feels some of the cadets turn out to be good Soldier material and can march troops better than regular Soldiers.

There have been many cadet success stories since the S.C. Military Department's Youth Challenge Academy began several former cadet Kevin O'Connor of Aiken is one of them. According to him, he was mixed up with the wrong crowd of kids in high school and had decided traditional education was not for him. Wanting to do something positive with his life, he decided to enroll in the Youth Challenge Academy.

"I began seeing a transformation in my life after the first week of the candidate orientation. Youth Challenge took all of the distractions and negative influences out of my life and I decided to do what they taught me," said O'Connor. By the time his family arrived eight weeks later for Family Day he feels his family could see the transformation that was taking place in his life.

"I think my folks might have thought I'd be out partying with the same old crowd when I got home on my first leave after Family Day so I know they must have been surprised



Over 100 candidates to the S.C. Military Department's Youth Challenge Academy matriculated at Clemson University's Learning Institute at Camp Long near Aiken on Sunday, July 22, 2007.



Master Sgt. Jamie Gantt supervises her platoon as they march into class.

when I spent most of my time with them," said O'Connor. An honor graduate from the previous cadet class from Camp Long, O'Connor calls graduation day the happiest day in his life in the past five years. The former honor graduate has since enlisted in the S.C. Army National Guard. He will be attending Army basic training this fall and plans to be enrolled at the University of South Carolina this spring where he will pursue a degree in International Business.

High school aged students interested in obtaining an alternative educational experience at the Youth Challenge Academy may visit the school's website at: <http://www.scguard.com/challenge/>, or call the Admissions Office at: (803) 584-4402.



Sgt. 1st Class James McEachin, a retired Drill Sergeant teaches his platoon of Youth Challenge candidates how to march in formation.



(left to right) Sgt. 1st Class James McEachin and Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Greene form their platoons up around Capt. Lee Anderson, the commander of the Camp Long Youth Challenge Academy and Command Sgt. Maj. Jerome Covington, the program's senior Non-Commissioned Officer.

Website Transforms Public Affairs Outreach In An Emergency

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

Working closely with the S.C. National Guard's Directorate of Information Management office and their webmaster, the Public Affairs Office unveiled a new website on September 1 that will transform our Guard family's community outreach efforts to the people of South Carolina.

The goal of the website is to keep the public up-to-date on current S.C. National Guard operations including any disaster events the Guard may be called upon to support in the future. "In the event of a natural or man-made disaster here in South Carolina our website will serve as a vital 24/7/365 link between our Public Affairs Emergency Response Field Teams and the American public," said Col. Pete Brooks, the Director of Public Affairs and Strategic Communications for the S.C. National Guard.

The website will also be useful to those who want to learn more about the activities of our S.C. National Guardsmen since the terrorist attacks on 9-11. Information, pictures and video from operations such as Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Jump Start and State active duty missions will be showcased.

Past editions of the Palmetto Guard Family Magazine will also be available to be downloaded along with links for Palmetto-CWID, the S.C. National Guard's premier emergency communications exercise; the "Next Greatest Generation" project which will allow students around the world to see and hear documentaries produced by students at Richland Northeast High School of our S.C. Guard Soldiers and Airmen; and links to new and archived stories and pictures of our troops performing their missions.



Since the terrorist attacks on 9-11, the S.C. Army National Guard has deployed 8,558 Soldiers to such places as Iraq where this photo was taken. The new website offers stories, photos and video of our Guard personnel serving in the Global War on Terrorism.



The S.C. National Guard has teamed up with Perry McLeod (center left) and his Richland Northeast High School oral-history students to produce war story documentaries of S.C. National Guard personnel for our "Next Greatest Generation" project. Soldiers such as Lt. Col. Taube Roy (center right) are now featured on-line and are scheduled to be aired via Time-Warner Cable later this fall.



Past editions of the Palmetto Guard Family Magazine will now be available to the public.

<http://guard.sc.gov/>

First S.C. Medal of Honor Flag Ceremony

Story by Maj. Jim St.Clair, S.C. Military Department Public Affairs Officer

Photos by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones



The late Sgt. 1st Class Webster Anderson's picture and Medal of Honor are displayed at the ceremony.

The South Carolina National Guard participated in a unique event in July when it designed and conducted a special ceremony to pay tribute to a Medal of Honor recipient from Winnsboro. Maj. Gen. Harry B. Burchstead, the Deputy Adjutant General of South Carolina, presented the newly created Congressional Medal of Honor flag on behalf of the President of the United States to Mrs. Vickie Anderson, widow of Sgt. 1st Class (Retired) Webster Anderson. Sgt. 1st Class Anderson received the Medal of Honor for his "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity" during the battle of Tam Ky' in Vietnam in October 1967.

The Medal of Honor Flag was authorized by Congress in 2002 and in accordance with a Congressional mandate the Medal of Honor Flag shall be presented to the primary next of kin if the recipient is deceased. Sgt. 1st Class Anderson died in 2003 and is buried in Blackjack Baptist Church cemetery in Winnsboro. Consequently, his widow was designated to receive his flag.

Earlier this year, the Department of the Army's Casualty and Memorial Affairs Office asked the S.C. National Guard to arrange an appropriate ceremony for the presentation of the Medal of Honor Flag to Mrs. Anderson. Project officer Lt. Col. Blake Cromer, Assistant Chief of Staff, wanted to make the event a first class production. Therefore, he assembled a diverse team of Soldiers who worked diligently for three months to design the best ceremony possible.

In a solemn ceremony at Winnsboro's Fortune Springs Park, Maj. Gen. Burchstead presented the flag to Mrs. Anderson with the participation of the S.C. Army National Guard's Honor Guard and the 246th Army National Guard Band. In attendance were Anderson's children and family as well as three other Medal of Honor recipients from South Carolina. Col. Charles Murray, Jr., Master Sgt. John Baker, Jr. and Chief Petty Officer Michael Thornton received their flags at a ceremony aboard the *U.S.S. Constitution* in Boston last fall. After the event, Mrs. Anderson said that she was very pleased and grateful to the S.C. National Guard.



Bandmaster Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jessie Morlan leads South Carolina's 246th Army National Guard Band during the ceremony.



The SC Army National Guard's Honor Guard unfurls and folds the Medal of Honor Flag during the ceremony.



(From left to right) Maj. Gen. Burchstead poses with Mrs. Vickie Anderson and Medal of Honor recipients Master Sgt. John Baker, Jr., Chief Petty Officer Michael Thornton, and Col. Charles Murray, Jr.

Charleston Firefighters Honored

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



Sgt. Maj. Ronnie Lee (center) supervises the passing of the State and Federal colors from S.C. Army National Guard Honor Guard members Spc. Amanda Pirog and Staff Sgt. Jay Stroud to Senior Agent Jack Proffitt and Special Agent Joey Peeples of S.C. Governor Mark Sanford's security detail.

Following the tragic deaths of nine City of Charleston firefighters on Monday, June 18, 2007, South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford asked the S.C. Army National Guard to prepare State and Federal flags for him to present to the families of each of the firefighters.

Spc. Amanda Pirog and Staff Sgt. Jay Stroud were selected by Sgt. Maj. Ronnie Lee of the S.C. Army National Guard Honor Guard Team to ensure precisely folded State and Federal flags were prepared for the Governor.

In a ceremony held in the lobby of the S.C. Military Department's T. Eston Marchant building in Columbia on Thursday, June 21 the Soldiers solemnly passed the flags to Senior Agent Jack Proffitt and Special Agent Joey Peeples.

The following day, the Governor presented the flags to the families during a memorial service held at the North Charleston Coliseum where more than 10,000 people gathered to honor the nine heroes. In attendance were representatives from over 700 U.S. and Canadian fire departments.

Cavalry Soldier Receives Purple Heart

Story by Staff Sgt. Joe Cashion and Spc. Erica Knight, 108th Public Affairs Detachment
Photo by Spc. Erica Knight



Sgt. David Lance (left) is presented with a Purple Heart by Maj. Gen. Stan Spears (right) in Beaufort on August 5, 2007. Lance was wounded in action in Afghanistan on May 22, 2007.

Sgt. David Lance of Troop B, 202 Cavalry in Beaufort was awarded the Purple Heart by Maj. Gen. Stanhope S. Spears, the Adjutant General of South Carolina for wounds sustained in combat while serving in Afghanistan at a ceremony held at the Beaufort Armory on August 5, 2007.

Lance voluntarily deployed with the 218th Infantry Brigade's Advance Team to Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan, in December 2006. On May 22, 2007, Sgt. Lance and his convoy were en route to Forward Operating Base Kardez when they were attacked by an insurgent. The subsequent explosion seriously injured Sgt. Lance's right hand which required his return stateside for medical rehabilitation.

Thanking Troop B's Family Readiness Group for hosting the ceremony, Lance noted that the unit has been very helpful during his recovery. "The support my family and I have gotten from the them since I've been back has been great," he said.

Guard Chaplains Needed

Story by Maj. Jim St. Clair, S.C. Military Department Public Affairs Officer

"Perhaps you are called for a time such as this." This quote from the book of Esther in the Old Testament sums up Deputy State Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steve Shugart's vision for recruiting local pastors to be South Carolina National Guard chaplains. His idea is to spark interest among Soldiers that their pastor may be the perfect candidate for the chaplaincy. "Someone may have a pastor who fits the mold of Army ministry," he said. Shugart explained that Soldiers are good at recruiting friends and family members for traditional military occupational specialties like infantry or aviation. But their next chaplain could be as close as their hometown church. "I don't know if Soldiers have grasped the fact that they could invite a clergyperson to join the Guard," Shugart said.

Chaplains are commissioned officers and perform many roles in today's National Guard. To Soldiers, a chaplain could be a counselor, a friend, an advisor, or an encourager. These roles fulfill a chaplain's primary responsibility of caring for the spiritual well-being of Soldiers and their families. As spiritual leaders, chaplains can be Ministers, Priests, or Rabbis and perform the same religious ceremonies as they would in their civilian capacity. Although you may see them on the battlefield, chaplains are classified as non-combatants and do not carry weapons.

On a typical drill weekend, chaplains face many challenging ministry opportunities, most of which would not normally be found in a typical parish ministry. A chaplain could find himself talking with Soldiers over lunch, counseling a grieving family through the deployment process, advising a commander on moral issues, or running a two-miler with a platoon. Or, he could be leading a worship service in a chapel or out of the back of a High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle in the field.

Many pastors find the chaplaincy appealing because of the ministry opportunities that are found outside of a local parish ministry. At the same time, by serving in the National Guard, pastors can minister to men and women in their own communities. "I've been so lucky to be a minister in the Army," Shugart said. "But it's not for everybody though."

A team from the S.C. Carolina National Guard recently visited several colleges and seminaries in the state to recruit chaplains. Right now, chaplain strength in the S.C. Army National Guard is less than 50 percent, and in some states the numbers are even lower. With continuing missions on both a local and national level, there is a greater need now than ever for chaplains.

The National Guard is offering incentives for chaplains to serve. Chaplain candidates are eligible for tuition assistance, as well as a loan forgiveness program for up to \$20,000 in student loans. Newly accessed chaplains can also receive a \$10,000 bonus upon completion of the Chaplain Officer Course, at Ft. Jackson in Columbia, S.C.

Requirements for becoming a chaplain include being under the age of 42 (waivers granted for prior service), have a denominational endorsement, and be enrolled or graduated from an accredited, Department of Defense approved seminary. Most of the major seminaries in the state of South Carolina are accredited and approved for chaplaincy ministry. In addition, many are also enrolling in Department of Defense approved online seminary programs, such as Liberty University.

Perhaps you, your pastor, or someone you know might be interested in the National Guard chaplaincy. If so, please contact Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steve Shugart 803-667-2057 or Chaplain (Capt.) Brian Wire at 803-806-1659. Also, check out the National Guard Chaplaincy website at www.1800goguard.com/clergy.

Photo by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steve Shugart



(left to right) Standing beside the S.C. Army National Guard's Chaplain recruiting table at the Lutheran Seminary in Columbia are Jerry Vaughn, the business manager for the seminary, Chaplain Page Brooks, the Rev. Dr. Marcus Miller, president of the seminary, and Maj. Gen. Harry B. Burchstead, the Deputy Adjutant General of South Carolina.

Catfish Company Helps Extinguish Florida Wildfires

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

Photo by Maj. Scott Bell



“Catfish Company” Blackhawk helicopters like this one flown by Chief Warrant Officers Lester Furr and Tripp Hutto helped drop over one million gallons of water on the Florida wildfires in April-May 2007.

As wildfires spread across the state of Florida in April and May, the South Carolina Army National Guard swung into action by deploying UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and crews to help fight the blazes from the air.

Members of “Catfish Company” – Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 149th Aviation joined a multi-state effort to help save homes, businesses, and in some cases entire communities.

“As the fires spread, we had to call in more assets to help us and we really appreciated South Carolina’s help in that regard,” said Maj. Ben Bradley, Air operations officer for the Florida National Guard’s 111th Aviation battalion. “It was gratifying to know we could count on other states like South Carolina for their assistance,” he said.

Equipped with 700-gallon water buckets, known as “Bambi buckets”, the Blackhawks could quickly maneuver over fires and put them out.

“It could take us as little as 30 seconds to fill up the bucket and resume flying over the fires depending on how far we are from our water source,” said Staff Sgt. Bob McConnell, an Alpha Company crew chief.

Working with other states went well according to McConnell. “We got along just fine. Everything seemed to operate smoothly and we got the job done,” he said.

In all, Catfish Company mobilized 18 soldiers for State Active duty, flew over 125 total hours for all of their missions, and dropped nearly one million gallons of water on the fires.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jimmy Martin



S.C. Governor Mark Sanford receives a brief on the S.C. Army National Guard’s role in our State’s drug interdiction efforts from Lt. Col. Gordon Johnson and Command Sgt. Maj. Billy Hardin of the Counterdrug Task Force.



Apache Firing – An Apache fires a Hellfire Missile towards its target during Gator Hunt

Apache Unit Conducts Annual Gator Hunt Training

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

Photos by Sgt. Casey Knight, 108th Public Affairs Detachment

Embarking on their annual trek to Florida to conduct four days of annual training in April, the mission for the 1st Battalion, 151st Apache Attack Helicopter Aviation Unit was Gator Hunt. They have been running Operation Gator Hunt for over 10 years.

During the exercise, crews practiced attack missions which are their primary use in combat. The AH-64 Apache can carry up to four pods of 19 rockets or four pods of four hellfire missiles.

For this mission, a team of two Apache's carried missiles out to the range to attack various targets. Four teams were ready to go at a time, one on the range, one on standby, one at ammo, and one fueling.

The only Apache unit in South Carolina, the 1st of the 151st or 1-151 can provide attack and air support for ground troops. They are also one of a kind in the Army. Instead of being olive drab green, they are gray. "Before we left for Iraq, Lt. Col. Edward McKee wanted them painted," said Sgt. Donald Cooley, an aviation operation specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company. "It was something unique as a unit and it helped camouflage our aircraft in the sky," said Cooley.

The unit was in Iraq from October 2004 until October 2005. They took 14 aircraft for the deployment. "Our mission in Iraq was to support the 25th Infantry Division as attack helicopters. Then, after six months, we moved into central Iraq to support the 18th Aviation Brigade," said

Cooley. Their daily missions included convoy escorts and a Quick Reaction Force against mortar attacks.

A 10-year veteran of Gator Hunt, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brett McLean an Apache pilot for the 1-151 considers Gator Hunt the best training because it's the only place other than combat where the Soldiers can shoot live missiles. McLean who has been with the unit about 14 years started out as a crew chief then went to flight school in 2002. He had two deployments for Southern Watch in 1999 and went to Iraq in 2004. "It's what I always wanted to do. Helicopters are more fun," said McLean.

Sgt. Andrew Goza, an aviation operation specialist with the 1-151 believes Gator Hunt offers the best training opportunity because of the coordination between flight crews and infantry units. "Pilots navigate ground troops and provide close air support. It's good for both units," said Goza.

Col. Paul Horry, commander of the 1-151 believes the training at Gator Hunt 2007 went very well. "We had a few maintenance snags, but it's been a great exercise. There were no incidents or accidents. That was our primary focus, getting everyone home safe," said Horry. During his 17 years piloting Kiowas, Hueys and Apaches, Horry considers the Soldiers his favorite part of the unit. "They are proficient, dedicated, have pride, and are committed to what they do. They make sure everything works so we can fly," said Horry.



Apache Overhead – An AH-64 Apache attack helicopter positions itself to begin firing downrange during Operation Gator Hunt in April 2007 at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida

NASCAR and The National Guard – A Winning Combination

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

Photo by Maj. Scott Bell



Casey Mears qualified fifth in his #24 Busch Series National Guard car with the 218th Infantry Brigade paint scheme at Darlington on May 11, 2007. Mears would go on to finish in the 9th position later that evening.

NASCAR may not appeal to everyone initially but the cheering crowds and the blur of speeding cars becomes addictive. For the last four years, the National Guard has tapped into this excitement by sponsoring a car in both the Nextel and Busch series circuits. This year one of the two cars the National Guard sponsors, both driven by Casey Mears, is a little more personal.

“It’s a good way to recruit and it’s good for public relations. We get a lot of exposure,” said Sgt. Maj. Brad Ware, the sergeant major for Region North of the Recruiting and Retention Command for the South Carolina Army National Guard. The NASCAR program is usually used for re-enlistment and recruiting purposes, Ware said. Now, he says, they’ve added the Freedom Salute as a way to honor soldiers.

At certain races near a deployed or deploying unit, the Busch series number 24 car driven by Mears has been transformed into a tribute to that unit, said Sgt. Frank Golon, a National Guard NASCAR team member with the National Guard Bureau.

“The car is repainted in the unit’s colors and decorated with their emblems and logos,” Golon said. This year’s paint scheme honored the 218th Infantry Brigade which deployed with 1,600 Soldiers to Afghanistan in April.

In Mears’ next race at the Coca-Cola 600 over Memorial Day weekend at the Lowe’s Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C., he drove the Nextel Cup number 25 car to his first win in that series.

The car was painted in an ACU pattern with the names of the 426 Army National Guard soldiers killed in the Global War on Terror painted on the deck lid.

Appropriately the car was named “American Heroes.”

Photo by Maj. Scott Bell



(left to right) Staff Sgt. Brent Cobb, Sgt. Travis Peacock, Staff Sgt. Matthew Brock, Sgt. Brandon Bright and Sgt Richard Murphy serve as the Color Guard during the opening ceremonies of the Diamond Hill Plywood 200 at Darlington.

Photo by Maj. Scott Bell



One of the most popular activities during race weekend at Darlington continues to be the S.C. Army National Guard's climbing wall.

Photo by Maj. Scott Bell



A new edition to this year's Darlington Raceway weekend for enlisted Soldiers from the S.C. Army National Guard was a visit to the National Guard Bureau's recruitment and retention recreation vehicle in the infield at Darlington. Many of the Soldiers had the opportunity to meet Casey Mears and enjoy the race under the umbrellas from atop the RV.

Photo by Maj. Scott Bell



Casey Mears thanks Sgt. Clayton Spinks of Lancaster for his service in Iraq.

Photo by Maj. Scott Bell



(left to right) Capt. Trent Player and Sgt. 1st Class David Chandler from the S.C. Army National Guard's 43rd Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team pass by the S.C. Army National Guard climbing wall while on duty during race weekend at Darlington.

Band Coined in Key West

Photo by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones



Rear Admiral Joseph L. Nimmich personally "coined" each member of South Carolina's 246th Army National Guard Band after their performance on May 4 in which he was installed as the commander of the Joint Interagency Task Force-South, or JIATF-South in Key West, Florida. The band has been performing this function for JIATF-South the past several years and when asked why S.C. is selected over any other band, the Admiral responded "When we request ya'll, we know what we're getting!"

YOUTH CAMP 2007

Story by Sgt. Steve Carwile, 108th Public Affairs Detachment

Photos by Sgt. Steve Carwile, Spc. Tracey Martin and Spc. Byron Rounds

The S.C. National Guard conducted its 12th annual Youth Camp July 15 – 21 at the McCrady Training Center in Eastover.

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

With over 120 campers and 60 support staff in attendance this year, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Terry O'Connor, the S.C. Army National Guard's Family Programs Assistant called the camp the largest ever. The family-like atmosphere of Youth Camp may be the reason the camp continues to grow.

"The families of these children, many of whom are deployed, need to have the peace of mind that their son or daughter is not only having a great time with other children their same age but also are in a safe environment," said O'Connor.

South Carolina is one of the few states to conduct an inexpensive, week-long camp for children of National Guard members. If the past is any indicator, South Carolina will remain at the forefront of providing our youth with a meaningful and fun summer experience.



Mild Military Training



Campers posing with the M1A1 Abrams Tank



Water rafting.



GPS Training

FAMILY FOCUS

Story and photo by Sgt. Steve Carwile, 108th Public Affairs Detachment



Morgan Dangerfield (left), with her mother Captain Shelly Dangerfield at Weston Lake during Youth Camp 2007

As was the case again this year, Youth Camp has not existed in South Carolina without someone from the Dangerfield family participating in one capacity or the other. Capt. Shelly Dangerfield, or “Miss Shelly,” as she is affectionately known by her platoon members, began helping with the camp when her oldest son, Austin, now 22, was a 10-year-old camper.

Brother Forrest and sister Morgan soon followed Austin. In fact, Morgan was helping “Miss Shelly” before she was old enough to be a camper.

Dangerfield remembers, “Because Morgan was too young to attend in the beginning, she would follow me and my husband around while we handled our platoons. The campers loved it and they made her the platoon mascot.”

She also mentioned, “I would teach Morgan commands to give the campers, and they really enjoyed taking commands from her.”

Morgan was a camper from ages 10 through 13 and is now a 15-year-old junior counselor. Because of the Dangerfield family’s involvement in Youth Camp, as well as their other Guard duties, they didn’t have time for a family vacation this year, so the Youth Camp was their “family vacation.”

If someone asks Miss Shelly why she keeps coming back year after year, her answer is, “I love my campers, all of them. I want them to leave camp with a sense of pride and accomplishment. If I have or can make a difference in even one child’s life, then I’ll know that I’ve done my part.”

Mrs. S.C. Contestant Emphasizes Youth Camp

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

Captain Jennifer Settlemyer has served in many positions during her career in the S.C. National Guard, but the one she will probably be most remembered for is her untiring devotion to the children of the S.C. National Guard Youth Camp each year. A positive, patriotic role model for young people, Settlemyer, or “Mrs. Prosperity” showcased the Guard’s Youth Camp as her community service project at the Mrs. South Carolina pageant held at the Newberry Opera House in June.

Although she didn’t win the Mrs. South Carolina pageant this year, Settlemyer did bring a lot of attention to the S.C. National Guard Youth Camp – an inexpensive, week-long summer program for children of the National Guard. “Many of these children’s parents have been or are currently deployed,” said Settlemyer. She feels that sometimes the children of deployed soldiers are overlooked and Youth Camp gives them a chance to talk about and share their feelings about their parent’s deployment. Settlemyer plans to be a contestant in next year’s Mrs. South Carolina pageant and continue her effort to help the children of our Guard family.



Photo by Master Sgt. Brent Settlemyer

Captain Jennifer Settlemyer the commander of Headquarters Detachment at the 218th Regiment (Leadership) headquarters competed in the Mrs. South Carolina Pageant, a preliminary event for the Mrs. America Pageant.

“True & Tried” WWII Soldier Honored on 100th Birthday

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

The century-long life of Col. Hugh F. Knight of Sumter was celebrated on August 3, 2007 by family, friends, civic and military leaders at a Sumter Kiwanis Club meeting held at the Sunset Country Club in Sumter.

A World War II hero with the S.C. Army National Guard’s 178th Field Artillery Battalion, Knight served as the battalion’s Operations Officer through much of the North African and Italian Campaigns. Except for several weeks of service as the acting battalion commander after his commander was wounded in action and evacuated from Italy, the colonel managed the unit’s daily expert “precision of fires.” Because of their accuracy, Knight’s beloved 178th Field Artillery Battalion was often called upon for the toughest missions supporting General Mark W. Clark’s 5th Army forces. In fact, the 178th Field Artillery Battalion had an unsurpassed 630 days of combat including 249 consecutive days in the line while serving in the European Theater of Operations.

From the battalion’s initial baptism to fire in North Africa during the Tunisian Campaign -- to firing the first allied artillery rounds during the invasion of Europe -- to the unconditional surrender of German forces in Italy following the Po Valley Campaign on May 8, 1945, Knight’s battalion fired 155,142 rounds from their towed 155 mm howitzers. They also occupied 89 different firing positions throughout Tunisia, Sicily and Italy. For their actions at the breaching of the Gustav Line on July 27, 1944, General A. Juin, the Corps Commander of the French expeditionary force awarded the battalion the prestigious Croix De Guerre with Vermillion Star.

The following year, Knight and his men celebrated Victory in Europe Day when the German surrender was signed in Berlin on May 8, 1945. Besides Unit Commendations, members of Knight’s battalion received 3 Legion’s of Merit, 1 Distinguished Flying Cross, 23 Silver Stars, 6 Air Medals, 1 Soldiers Medal, 52 Bronze Stars and 116 Purple Hearts. Sadly, 15 of the nearly 800 men who served with the 178th Field Artillery Battalion paid the ultimate price during the war to liberate Europe. In honor of these men a phrase from the “Song of Marion’s Men” written by William Cullen Bryant was included in the official history of the unit following the war. It reads “For Marion’s Men were ‘True and Tried,’ we’ll ne’er forget how they fought and died.”

There are currently eight living members of Knight’s unit in Sumter and four of them were able to attend his 100th birthday celebration. All in their 80’s, Archie “Red” Rodgers, Monroe Brown, Clarence Huggins and George Chappel have fond memories of serving with Col. Knight and meeting two of World War II’s most famous Generals – Clark and “Old Blood and Guts” Patton. They all felt that Knight treated his men right and each talked about the brotherhood they have shared through the years.



(left to right) During Col. Hugh Knight’s 100th birthday celebration Maj. Gen. Harry Burchstead, the Deputy Adjutant General of South Carolina presented Knight with two awards. The first was the Palmetto Cross which is the highest military award a S.C. Army National Guard Soldier can receive from the S.C. Military Department. The second was the award of The Ancient Order of Saint Barbara which is the most prestigious honor that can be bestowed upon a field artilleryman.

“As a self-proclaimed city boy, Col. Knight convinced me to join the Guard back in 1933 when he told me the unit was converting from mule drawn caissons to howitzers towed by ton-and-a-half trucks,” said Rodgers. “You can’t beat him as far as being a colonel in Artillery,” said Brown. “I think the reason we all worked so well together over there is because most of us grew up together. We new who could do this or that the best and we depended on each other,” said Huggins. “Col. Knight knew artillery and what each of us could do. Our accuracy was so good we could drop rounds into the windows of buildings occupied by the Germans from eight miles away,” said Chappel.

A keen, humble, humorous man with a great love for his church, family and Soldiers, Knight has spent the

past 47 years since his 1960 retirement from the military serving in civic leadership positions and helping thousands of fourth graders through his enthusiastic participation in Sumter’s “My Community & Me” program. While thanking the crowd who had gathered to celebrate the first century of his life, Knight concluded his remarks by saying “You can’t beat the American fighting man!”

“For Marion’s Men were ‘True and Tried,’ we’ll ne’er forget how they fought and died.”



Pictured are five of the eight remaining members of Col. Hugh Knight’s unit. They include: (left to right) Knight, Archie “Red” Rodgers, Monroe Brown, Clarence Huggins and George Chappel.

The 178th Field Artillery Battalion’s major movements during WWII:

- Ordered to active duty by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on: Jan. 27, 1941
- Trained at Ft. Bragg, Camp Blanding, Indiantown Gap Military Reservation and training sites in southern England: Feb. 1941 – Nov. 1942
- Departed Liverpool England for N. Africa Campaigns on Nov. 27, 1942
- Landed on Onan, Algeria on Dec. 5, 1942
- Arrived in El Guettar, Algeria on Mar. 27, 1943
- Arrived in Tunis, Tunisia on Jul. 7, 1943
- Landed on Gela, Sicily on Jul. 18, 1943
- Arrived in Messina, Sicily on Sep. 3, 1943
- Landed on Salerno, Italy on Sep. 22, 1943
- Arrived in Cecina, Italy on July 27, 1944
- Arrived in Po River Valley on Apr. 5, 1945
- Germany surrenders on May 8, 1945



In July, Buddy Sturgis (far right) welcomed the S.C. National Guard Youth Camp to the S.C. Military Museum here in Columbia to see exhibits which show the transformation of the S.C. National Guard since 1670.

Photo by Maj. Scott Bell



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