

# Palmetto Guard

FAMILY MAGAZINE, WINTER 2007



YEAR IN REVIEW



STANHOPE S. SPEARS  
MAJOR GENERAL  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

The State of South Carolina  
Military Department



Office of the Adjutant General

1 NATIONAL GUARD ROAD  
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29201-4766

*You Have Reason To Be Proud*

As I stood to salute our S.C. National Guard troops as they marched by the reviewing stand at this year's Veterans Day Parade in Columbia, I couldn't help feeling a tremendous amount of pride for all your accomplishments in the past year. Time and again, my wife, Dot and I have had conversations with our nation's leaders sharing with pride your stories of courage, selflessness, perseverance and incredible sense of duty.

Your accomplishments over the past six years of our nation's Global War on Terrorism is self-evident and I wish all of you could have seen and heard this year's Veterans Day Parade at our State's capitol. Thousands lined the street, waving flags and erupting into applause as our Guardsmen marched or rolled by proudly in their vehicles.

It was a patriotic moment I'll never forget, and reminded me of something I heard soon after graduating from the Palmetto Military Academy. The speaker said "Since this country was founded, each generation of Americans has been summoned to give testimony to its national loyalty. The graves of young Americans who answered the call to service surround the globe. Now the trumpet summons us again...The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it -- and the glow from that fire can truly light the world. And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you -- ask what you can do for your country."

That last line of President John F. Kennedy's speech epitomizes the attitude of our proud next greatest generation of S.C. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen. While we mourn the tragic loss of our Soldiers since 9-11, we also rejoice in the fact, we have Guardsmen like them striving valiantly for a worthy cause -- the preservation of our nation's freedom.

As you travel around our great State with family and friends to spend quality time giving thanks, exchanging gifts and enjoying those things most important to you during this holiday season, please be safe. Each of you is an important member of our S.C. National Guard family. You have reason to be proud! I wish you all a happy, safe holiday season and the very best for a great and prosperous 2008.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stanhope S. Spears".

Stanhope S. Spears  
Major General, SCARNG  
The Adjutant General



*Maj. Gen. Stan Spears, the Adjutant General of S.C. (2nd from the left), and Col. Ron Huff, the SC National Guard Chief of Staff (3rd from the left) salute the Colors as the S.C. National Guard Color Guard marches by the reviewing stand during the City of Columbia's 2007 Veterans Day celebration.*

Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian

# Palmetto Guard

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Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian



*Dave Beckham, "The Voice of the S.C. National Guard" celebrates 50-years of service to the men and women of the S.C. National Guard.*

Photo provided by the 218th enhanced Separate Brigade



*Two fallen S.C. Soldiers from the 218th enhanced Separate Brigade are honored by their friends in Afghanistan.*

Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian



*A S.C. National Guard OH-58 Kiowa pilot with the Governor's Counterdrug Task Force demonstrates how this S.C.-based team is countering the efforts of drug cartels here in S.C.*



## Palmetto Guard Family Magazine

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About the cover: The S.C. National Guard has once again  
proven itself "Always Ready – Always There!" This year's  
award-winning coverage of our S.C. Army National Guard  
in action is artistically depicted in a museum setting in  
recognition of the grand opening of our S.C. Military  
Museum in February.

Cover design by: Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tripp Hutto



**D**uring this Holiday Season we honor our Soldiers for the sacrifices they make while serving our great Nation at home and throughout the world. For the past 337 years, the South Carolina National Guard has preserved liberty for our citizens and our nation's allies. Our Guard has a distinguished heritage predating the birth of the United States. Our Soldiers defended Charles Towne from Spain in 1670. Following our Declaration of Independence, nearly a quarter of the battles fought in the American Revolution would be fought here in South Carolina by our troops. We were the first to raise our standard atop the walls of Mexico City. We fought at Gettysburg and other battlefields across the nation during our nation's tragic Civil War. We were in Cuba, fought through both World Wars and helped liberate the people of Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq. Our Guard Soldiers and Airmen have stood firm against those who would deny basic human dignity to those less fortunate.



Our troops continue to display unrelenting tenacity, steadfast purpose, confidence and heroism on a daily basis, just as they have for over 337 years. No matter the place or time, our forces have and will remain a key to preserving our nation's liberty. Each of our Soldiers is indispensable -- the heart and soul of the S.C. National Guard.

As General Francis Marion -- "The Swamp Fox" -- told his men in the swamps of South Carolina over 200 years ago, "this government, the glory of the earth, has ever been the desire of the wise and good of all nations. For this, the Platos of Greece, the Catos of Rome, the Tells of Switzerland, the Sidneys of England and the Washingtons of America, have sighed and reasoned, have fought and died. In this grand army, gentlemen, we are now enlisted; and are combating under the same banners with those excellent men of the earth." Marion's words were true then, they are true today and they will remain true tomorrow.

Generations of young men and women have joined the ranks of the S.C. National Guard. They are the heirs to a sacred and noble legacy, the belief that "freedom is not free" as they continue to answer the call to arms and serve this country with courage and commitment. They continue to add glory to the shining tradition of South Carolina citizen Soldiers and Airmen.

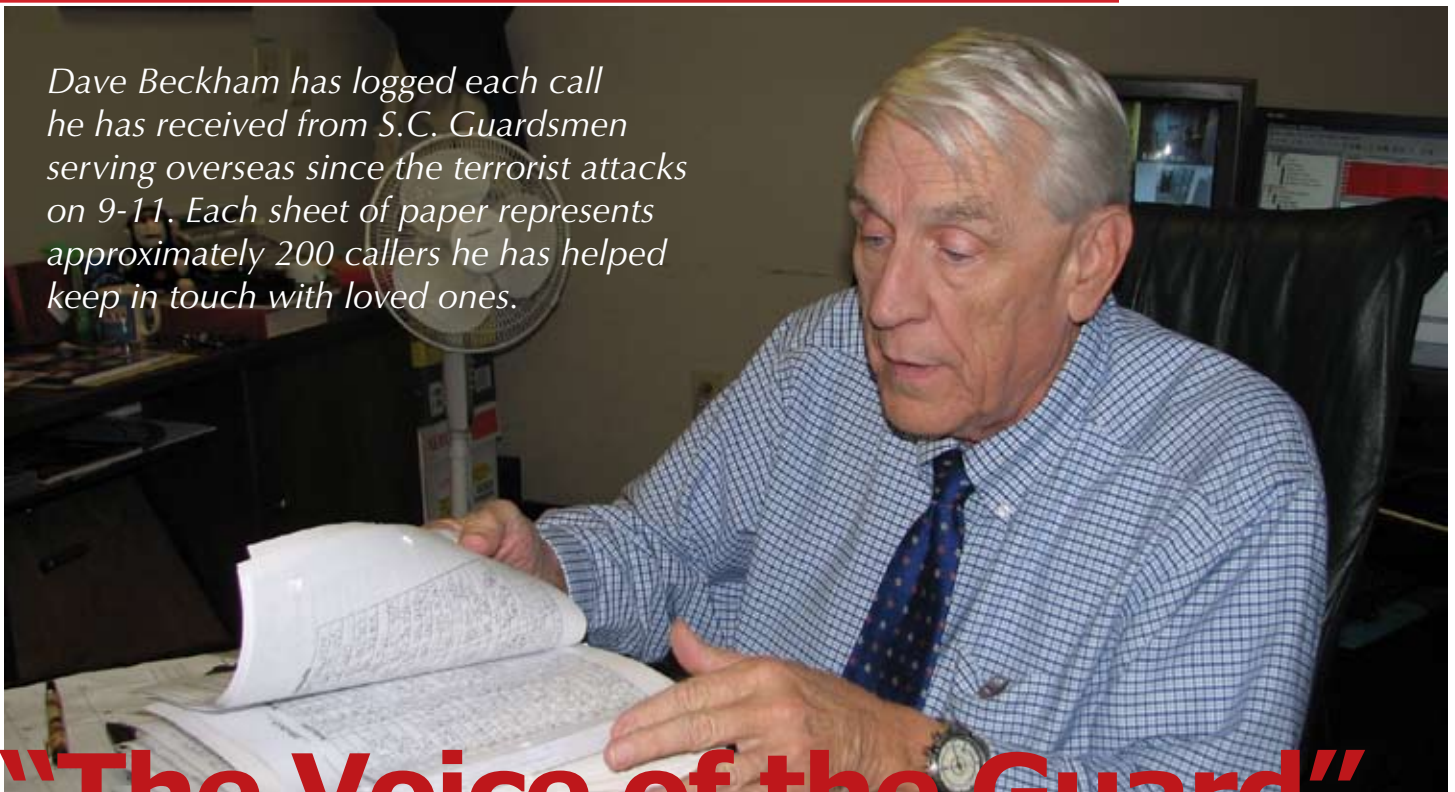
Our troops are warriors, reflecting the highest values and character of the Palmetto State in service to the nation. We pay tribute to the thousands of South Carolina men and women who have served so faithfully during our nation's recent times of danger. Through your sacrifices and those of your families, you have continued to make possible for millions of your fellow citizens to enjoy what Marion called "the desire of the wise and good of all nations" which we all enjoy in the United States today.

I wish each of you a very safe and happy Holiday season. May God bless each of you and your families, our S.C. National Guard and these United States of America.

Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Harris  
State Sergeant Major



*Dave Beckham has logged each call he has received from S.C. Guardsmen serving overseas since the terrorist attacks on 9-11. Each sheet of paper represents approximately 200 callers he has helped keep in touch with loved ones.*



# **“The Voice of the Guard”**

*Celebrates 50 Years of Service*

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

For many of us who call home from overseas through our Joint Force Headquarters in Columbia, the first thing we hear is a very welcoming baritone voice with a southern drawl on the other end say “afternoon, this is the Military Department of South Carolina, can I help youuuuuu?” Dave Beckham, the man we Soldiers know as “The Voice of the Guard” celebrated 50 years of service to the S.C. Military Department in September.

Beckham, who began his military career in 1957, retired from the military in 1998 when he turned 60, but says when his wife brought home a new vacuum cleaner for his retirement gift, he decided retirement wasn’t for him. In October of that year, he started his new career handling all of the incoming calls for the military department. “I’ve been sitting here in this chair ever since – of course I’ve been thru three or four chairs over the years,” said Beckham.

Soon after beginning his stint as “The Voice of the Guard” in 1998, Beckham says he began to realize the importance of his role in helping the troops serving overseas. The first call for help he ever received was from two young Marines in South Korea who had tried to call their folks through the military switchboard in Beaufort to let them know they had arrived safely. Unable to use their calling cards to call home thru the operator at Beaufort, the two Marines tried calling the S.C. Military Department switchboard and Beckham made sure they got in touch with their families.

Following the terrorist attacks on 9-11, Beckham says a lot of things changed and he became an even stronger advocate for ensuring all of South Carolina’s military installations were prepared to help our troops call their loved ones from overseas. “Each time I transfer one of those calls I think to myself this might be the last time this Soldier talks to his family,” said Beckham. He believes this is the real reason he feels so driven to make sure each call goes through.

When asked about one of the more interesting calls he’s ever had from a S.C. Guardsman in Iraq or Afghanistan, he said the one which stands out in his mind the most was from a young Soldier in one of our Signal units a few months after the invasion of Baghdad. “The boy called me up during an insurgent mortar attack and wanted to talk to his mama,” said Beckham. Not wanting to frighten the boy’s mother, Beckham kept him on the line to encourage him until the mortars stopped coming in. As he prepared to transfer the young man to his mother, Beckham jokingly told the Soldier “how ‘bout don’t tell your mama about the conversation we just had.”

Helping troops like this Soldier communicate with their loved ones is the most rewarding thing Beckham says he’s ever done. “If I can help – I will,” said Beckham. For those of us who are the benefactors of his encouraging words and timely transfers to our families while serving overseas, we all hope “The Voice of the Guard” continues to serve for many years to come.



*Staff Sgt. James D. Bullard from Marion (front row, left) poses for a picture with his Police Mentor Team in Kabul, Afghanistan.*

## In Memoriam:

### *Two S.C. Army National Guard Soldiers lose their lives in Afghanistan*

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

*Photos provided by the 218th enhanced Separate Brigade*

Two of the South Carolina Army National Guard's own made the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan during their deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Sgt. Edward Otis Philpot from Latta died in a vehicle accident on October 23. He was 38 years old and is survived by his wife Stephanie and three daughters. Staff Sgt. James David Bullard from Marion was killed by enemy fire on October 30. He was 28 years old and is survived by his wife Amber and newborn son.

Sgt. Philpot was assigned to the 1st of the 263rd Armor Battalion based in Mullins. While serving with the 218th Brigade Combat Team, Task Force

Phoenix in Kabul, he died when the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) he was riding in rolled over during convoy operations. He was serving as the gunner for his HMMWV when it crashed approximately 20 miles from the Kandahar airfield. His convoy was transporting Soldiers and equipment to a new base in the Uruzgan province. Lt. Col. Steve Wright, 1st of the 263rd Battalion commander said Philpot "was dedicated to the Guard. He volunteered for this mission. He was very detail oriented and spent time preparing for every mission."

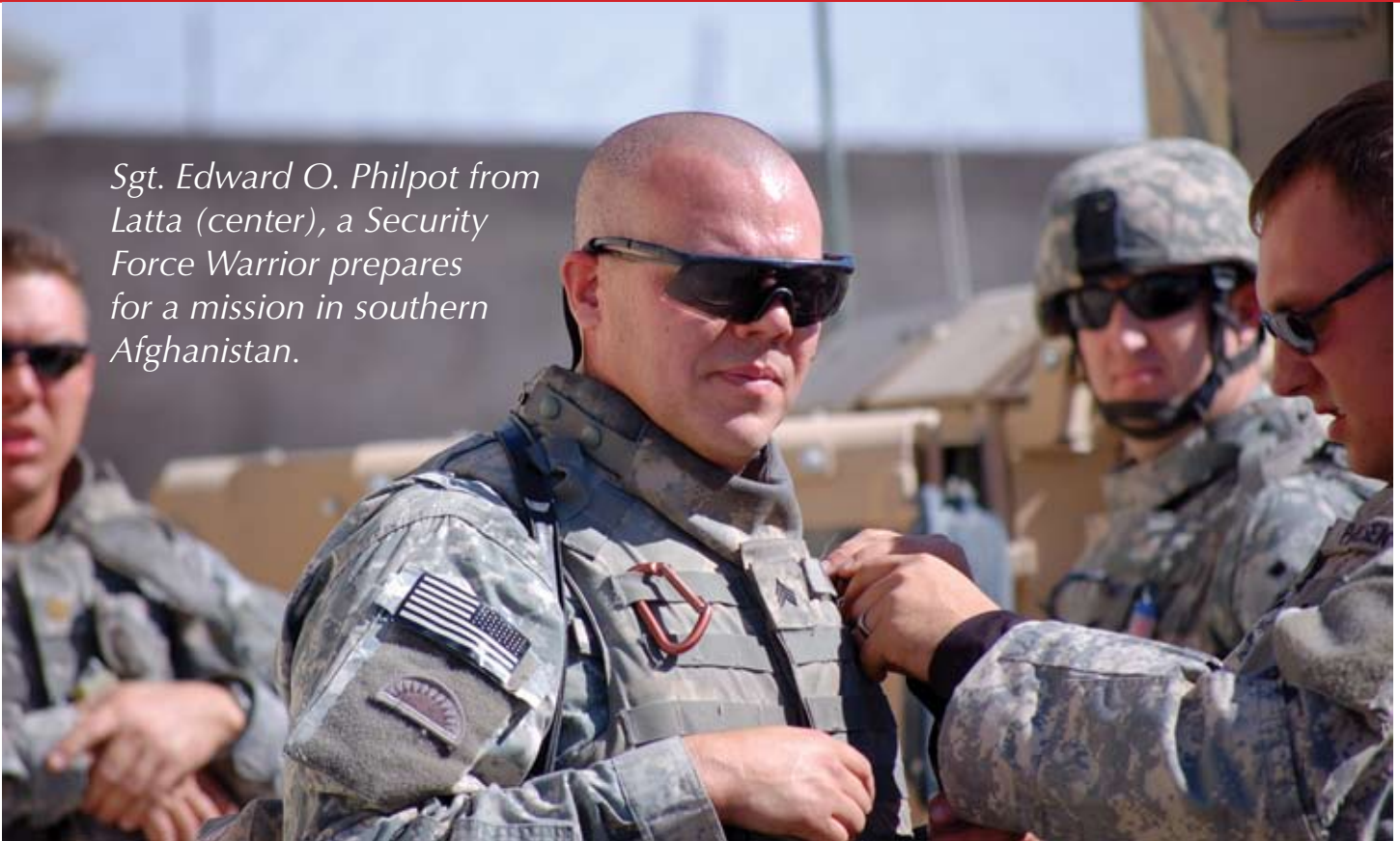
Philpot re-enlisted for six years and earned a promotion to the rank of Sergeant while serving in Afghanistan. While deployed his duties included serving as a Security Force Warrior assigned to the Regional Police Advisory Command-South. Philpot successfully completed over 75 combat missions from Forward Operating Bases throughout dangerous

southern Afghanistan as a HMMWV driver, gunner, and vehicle commander. In addition, he participated in over 150 combat convoy operations in the same sector. Philpot also supported the training of over 500 Afghan National Police by teaching Army Infantry Tactics. The 218th Brigade Combat Team commander, Brig. Gen. Robert Livingston, commented that Philpot "was a friend to all, had a ready smile, talked incessantly of his wife and daughters, and helped anyone without having to be asked." For his exceptional meritorious service, Philpot was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the NATO medal, and the South Carolina Meritorious Service Medal.

Staff Sgt. Bullard was assigned to Company B, 1st of the 263rd Armor Battalion headquartered in Dillon. While serving with the 218th Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Phoenix, he died as a result of enemy fire near Sperwan



*Sgt. Edward O. Philpot from Latta (center), a Security Force Warrior prepares for a mission in southern Afghanistan.*



Ghar in the Panjwayi District. On October 30, Staff Sgt. Bullard was in front of his patrol helping to clear the route when his team was ambushed. Even though he was wounded from the initial blasts of the attack, he regrouped and began to return fire until he was mortally wounded. Bullard's actions neutralized the enemy and saved his fellow team member's lives.

Bullard was the Non Commissioned Officer-in-Charge of a Police Mentor Team for the Regional Police Advisory Command-South. There he served both as a squad leader and mentor. Lt. Col. Steve Wright, 1st of the 263rd Battalion commander said Bullard "was a strong leader, well respected by the leadership and Soldiers alike. He was the glue that held the unit together." As squad leader, he led over 50 dismounted combat patrols and 20 mounted patrols for Command and Staff escorts in central Kabul, all without loss of personnel or equipment. He also served as a vehicle commander on over 100 combat patrols throughout southern Afghanistan. On August 4 while serving as a driver in a convoy, his actions and quick thinking during an ambush enabled the convoy to successfully complete its mission on time with no loss of life. The 218th Brigade Combat Team commander, Brig. Gen. Robert Livingston, said that Bullard "made a significant and

enduring impact on the operations and security for the Nation of Afghanistan." For his exceptional meritorious service, Bullard was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the NATO Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the South Carolina Guardsman's Medal of Valor and the South Carolina Meritorious Service Medal.

Before their untimely deaths, their commander Lt. Col. Wright had recommended both Philpot and Bullard to attend Officer Candidates' School because of their outstanding leadership and dedication. The Adjutant General of South Carolina, Maj. Gen. Stan Spears, remarked that Philpot and Bullard "were both deeply committed to the cause of freedom and this belief led them to serve their state and country with honor and distinction. The South Carolina Army National Guard will sorely miss these two great Americans and we join their families and friends in their mourning and passing."



*Soldiers of the 218th enhanced Separate Brigade erected memorials for Staff Sgt. Bullard and Sgt. Philpot to remember their friends who served with them in Afghanistan.*



# 151 FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE CELEBRATES ITS TOP 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Story and photos provided by Lt. Col. Steve Liebenrood, 151 Field Artillery Brigade Administrative Officer



151st Field Artillery Brigade Soldiers proudly display a flag of the City of Sumter following their Combat Patch ceremony this year.

staffed and run by our unit and was responsible for managing efforts to stand-up capable, Iraqi Army and National Police forces in and around Baghdad. Another large group of our Soldiers at MND-B worked in the Fires and Effects Cell (FEC) and made a significant difference.

In addition to the FEC and ISF missions, our troops served in other key areas. In the International Zone (IZ), the majority of them worked in the Baghdad Joint Coordination Cell (BJCC). As the name suggests, BJCC pulled together information on all ISF and Coalition Force operations in Baghdad. The remaining Soldiers from the 151 BDE served in special areas such as force protection, targeting and intelligence collection and analysis.

## 2. Final Drill for 151st Field Artillery Brigade.

On August 6, 2006, Members of Headquarters Battery, 151st Field Artillery Brigade assembled together as a unit for the last time. The 151st and 3rd of the 178th Field Artillery Battalion are scheduled for deactivation on September 31, 2008.



Headquarters, Headquarters Battery 151st Field Artillery Brigade held their final formation on August 6, 2006

## 3. Combat Patch Ceremony.

On January 12, 2007, the 151 Field Artillery Brigade's contributions to the Global War on Terrorism were recognized in a short ceremony which officially authorized the Soldiers of the 151st to wear the 1st Cavalry Division combat patch. Framed by the flags of the United States of America, the Republic of Iraq, the 1st Cavalry Division, and the 151st Field Artillery Brigade, the Commander of the 1st Cavalry Division, Maj. Gen. Joseph Fil, thanked the members of the 151st FA for their dedication and their significant contributions to the 1st Cavalry Division's mission. He noted that the 151st served in a variety of critical positions within the 1st Cavalry Division Headquarters and "many consider the team to be the backbone of the Division's main effort in Iraq." At the conclusion of his speech, Fil moved through the ranks of the our Soldiers thanking everyone for their service and personally placing the 1st Cavalry Division patch on each Soldier's right, shoulder sleeve.



Flags of the U.S., Iraq, 1st Cavalry Division, and 151st Field Artillery Brigade move into position during Combat Patch ceremony.



**4. 3rd of the 178th Field Artillery Battalion participates in Operation Jump Start.** Ninety-two Soldiers from the battalion participated in Operation Jump Start conducted along the Arizona – Mexico border during their Annual Training, April through May 2007.

**5. 3rd of the 178th Change of Command Ceremony.** The unit had a change of command between outgoing Commander Lt. Col. Willie A. Coleman and Lt. Col. Dwaine Smith on September 15, 2007.

**6. 151st Soldiers promoted in Baghdad.** Several Soldiers were promoted during the Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08 deployment. Those promoted included: Spc. Christopher Hearrell, Sgt. Carlos Glymph, Sgt. Jimmy Weeks, Master Sgt. Kevin Balsler, Sgt. Maj. Jeff Cato, 1st Lt. Alphonsa Gaskins, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brian Cagle and Lt. Col. Darryl Hammond.

**7. Headquarters 151st Field Artillery Brigade Redeploys.** On October 6, 2007, the unit began redeployment operations after a one year tour of duty in Baghdad, Iraq.



*Sgt. Anthony Taylor receives his Sergeant's stripes from 1st Cavalry Division Commander, Maj. Gen. Joseph Fil.*



*Iraqis Celebrate upon hearing news Saddam Hussein had been convicted and sentenced to the death penalty.*



*Members of the 151st Field Artillery Brigade's Iraqi Security Forces Cell participate in weekly Saturday night staff meeting to discuss Detainee Operations, Operations, and Logistics for ISF units in Baghdad. (Pictured left to right are: Command Sgt. Maj. Dorner, Col. Griese, Lt. Col. LaRossa and Lt. Col. Liebenrood)*



*Col. Griese and Command Sgt. Maj. Dorner assist with escort duties for retired General Barry McCaffrey while visiting Fixed Operating Base Justice in March 2007.*

# TOP 10 ACHIEVEMENTS



*A symbol of the Guard's motto "Always Ready – Always There," this S.C. Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter is a superior example of the team effort by mechanics, crew chiefs, pilots and other support personnel at the McEntire Joint National Guard Base to be "Always Ready – Always There!"*

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

## for 59th Aviation Troop Command in 2007.

*List provided by Lt. Col. Tony Barber, 51st Aviation Group Administrative Officer*

- 1. Operation Jump Start** - Deployed members of 2nd Battalion, 151st Aviation and 351st Aviation Support Battalion in support of U.S. Border Patrol mission in Arizona.
- 2. Southern Watch** - Deployed members of 2nd Battalion, 151st Aviation in support of U.S. Customs and U.S. Coast Guard in the Florida Keys. This helped reduce illegal immigration and drug trafficking.
- 3. Gator Hunt 2007** – The 1st Battalion, 151st Aviation conducted Hellfire gunnery at Eglin AFB. The unit fired 48 total missiles during day and night missile shots.
- 4. Palmetto Thunder** – The 351st Aviation Support Battalion and 2nd Battalion, 151st Aviation provided support in the Palmetto State's natural disaster scenario. Second Battalion inserted signal teams and equipment while the 351st established a Point of Distribution (POD) in Jasper County. It was the State's first-ever POD operation.
- 5. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Condition Based Maintenance Center at the University of South Carolina.** This is a joint partnership between the S.C. National Guard, USC and the Aviation Missile Command.
- 6. Florida Forest Fires** - Company A, 2nd of the 149th Aviation supported the Florida National Guard in their forest fire fighting efforts. Over 700,000 gallons of water were dropped by our Blackhawk pilots in Florida.
- 7. The 351st Aviation Support Battalion** – Soldiers from units formerly located in Sumter, Hartsville and Cheraw were combined during 2007 to create the S.C. National Guard's new 351st Aviation Support Battalion. Within one year, their unit strength is already over 90 percent!
- 8. Combat Search and Rescue Operations** – Air Force A-10 and S.C. National Guard UH-60 and AH-64 aircraft conducted combat search and rescue operations in the Camden Nap of the Earth training area.
- 9. Carolina Guardian & Southern Fury** - Joint operations between the Air Force, Marines, British and S.C. National Guard took place during 2007. Utilizing both ground and airborne platforms for day and nighttime missions -- laser operations, Joint Close Air Support and convoy security were successfully accomplished during these exercises.
- 10. Poinsett Live-fire Gunnery** – Our command conducted its first ever live fire gunnery of rockets and 30mm with the combat maneuvering flight at Poinsett Aerial Weapons Range at Shaw AFB.



# Carnes Receives Purple Heart

*Story by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian  
Photo provided by Fort Bragg Public Affairs Office*

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Clayton S. Carnes, an AH-64A Apache pilot with the 59th Aviation Troop Command was awarded the Purple Heart at a Ft. Bragg, N.C. ceremony in July 2007. He received the medal for injuries he received in combat on December 10, 2004 while his unit was assigned to the Operation Iraqi Freedom theater of operations.

Carnes, a recipient of three Air Medals who flew over 2,000 flight hours while assigned in Iraq was making an attack run on an enemy position in Mosul, Iraq, when a rocket-propelled grenade hit his aircraft damaging it beyond repair. He successfully landed his aircraft and was medically evacuated to Ft. Bragg soon afterward. Over the past two years, Carnes has been recuperating from his injuries at the Womack Army Medical Center located at Ft. Bragg, N.C.



*(standing left to right) Brig. Gen. Les Eisner, commander of the 59th Aviation Troop Command, Col. "Buddy" Scoggins, the State Army Aviation Officer, Lt. Col. Tony Barber, of the 51st Aviation Group and Col. Chris Eaker, the S.C. National Guard's U.S. Property and Fiscal Officer congratulate Carnes (center) upon receiving his Purple Heart.*



# Vaughn Presents Valorous Unit Award to 122nd Engineers



*Soldiers of the 122nd Engineer Battalion form up to receive their Valorous Unit Award.*

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

*Photos by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones, S.C. National Guard Public Affairs Office*



*Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn (left) and Maj. Gen. Harry Burchstead (right) add the Valorous Unit Award to the colors of the S.C. Army National Guard's 122nd Engineer Battalion.*

Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, Director of the Army National Guard, and Maj. Gen. Harry Burchstead, Deputy Adjutant General for the S.C. Army National Guard, presented the Edgefield-based 122nd Engineer Battalion with the Valorous Unit award on August 23, at Airport High School in West Columbia.

The unit received the award for their extraordinary heroism in action with the enemy while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom from February 2003 through April 2004. The degree of heroism required is the same as that which would warrant award of the Silver Star to an individual. The 122nd Engineer Battalion is the first unit from South Carolina to earn the Valorous Unit award since the awards inception on January 12, 1966.





Photo provided by Chief Warrant Officer 5 Charles Johnson, 122nd Engineer Battalion



Photo provided by Chief Warrant Officer 5 Charles Johnson, 122nd Engineer Battalion

Company C of the 122nd Engineer Battalion completed the Key Road Bridge construction project in Edgefield County, SC during Annual Training 2007. The original bridge was constructed in the early 1900's at Georgetown, S.C. and moved to its present location in the 1950s.

In February 2007, Company A of the 122nd Engineer Battalion deployed to Arizona for Operation Jump Start where they completed over two and one half miles of border vehicle barriers and road improvements in support of the U.S. Border Patrol.

## The 1052<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Company

### "You Call, We Haul!"

Photos & cutlines provided by Staff Sgt. E.T. McCrea, 1052nd Transportation Company



Soldiers from the 1052nd Transportation Company headquartered in Kingstree, S.C. prepare a shipment of concrete pipes to be used by the S.C. Department of Natural Resources in their on-going artificial reef project which will greatly enhance the fishing and wildlife habitats of the Palmetto Shore coastline.



(left to right) Sgt. William Staggers, Larry Kester, Randy Swinton, Clavin Linke, Curtis Graham, Robert Ford, Terrance Scott, Clay Matthews, Mike Kirby, Timmy Godwin, Spc. Sean Scott and Staff Sgt. Clifton Elliott, the dean of instruction at Williamsburg Technical College participated in a commemoration ceremony at the college on September 11, to honor the members of the military and first responders who have died while in service to our country since the terrorist attacks in 2001.



# 218th Has Demanding & Exciting Year

*Story and photos provided by Capt. Hardy Paschal, 218th eSB Training Officer*

The 218th enhanced Separate Brigade has had a demanding and exciting year. The brigade has deployed several units to include its headquarters to Afghanistan. In addition, the brigade sent Soldiers from Troop B 202 Cavalry, the 218th Military Intelligence Company, its headquarters company, the 1st of the 118th Infantry Battalion, the 1st of the 263rd Armor Battalion, the 178 Engineer Battalion and the 163rd Support Battalion to the United States' southwest border to operate ground surveillance radars in support of the U.S. Border Patrol. Moreover, the brigade has begun a transformation by adding to its ranks the 1st of the 178th Field Artillery Battalion.

Aside from the brigade's demanding military obligations and deployments, the 218th has balanced its focus on mission readiness with its commitment and dedication to community service, local projects and family support. The 218th has hosted, participated, led and joined numerous community projects and activities throughout the S.C. during the last year. For instance, Soldiers from the 163rd Support Battalion sponsored a county "Feed the Hungry" food distribution program and the NCO Club sponsored a local "Relay for Life" program. The 163rd Support Battalion also participated in Operation Safe Kids, the Hampton County Watermelon Festival Parade, the Yemassee Shrimp Festival, the Estill Fun Day, the Brunson Fun Day and several Soldiers assisted the community with an annual cancer survivors "Relay for Life Walk-A-Thon."

Further, the 218th has made financial contributions to our community through several significant fund raising opportunities and Soldiers have volunteered to help disadvantaged community-based groups in our state. Specifically, 218th Soldiers have assisted the M.O.M.s' Club (an organization that offers financial assistance to disadvantaged single mothers) holding fund raising events at the armory. In addition, a 218th Soldier participated in the annual Multiple Sclerosis 150 Bicycle Ride, which is a 150-mile bicycle ride to assist in the research and treatment of multiple sclerosis. The brigade's Soldiers also assisted with a Disadvantaged Youth Summer Camp and supported a local Boy Scout troop.



*In June, Soldiers from the 218th enhanced Separate Brigade's headquarters company participate in a team building event using carpet squares during a full time staff retreat at Earthshine Mountain Lodge Lake in Toxaway, N.C. The mulch simulated hot melting lava and the Soldiers used carpet squares as a safe stepping area to cross the lava field.*

The 1-263rd Armor Battalion participated in numerous parades and events to support the local community and our deployed service-members. These parades and events included the Golden Leaf Festival and Parade, Foxtrot Festival and Parade, Aynor Hoe-Down Festival and the Dillon, Horry, and Marion counties' Veterans Affairs Veterans' Day parades. The 1-263rd also assisted the Dillon County Chamber of Commerce with making a Christmas DVD to send to deployed Soldiers from the county.

In summary, the 218th has had a number of significant accomplishments this year. The brigade has deployed Soldiers from its ranks, volunteered for community service, raised money for worthy organizations and participated in communities events to honor those who have sacrificed for our country.



*Spc. James Kirk with the 218th enhanced Separate Brigade headquarters is caught "Hanging Around" during a ropes course event at the Clarks Hill Training Site in September. (Photo provided)*



*Spc. Charles Jones of the 218th Military Intelligence Company scans his sector while on deployment in support of Operation Jump Start. Jones conducted surveillance operations from Entry Identification Team site "Three Hills" in April 2007.*



*Sgt. Ari Hensly Sgt. Aaron Bittner, and Staff Sgt. Ben Huckaby of the 218th Military Intelligence Company prepare a ground surveillance radar for operation while in support of Operation Jump Start in April.*





Photo provided by Capt. Hardy Paschal

## 1ST OF THE 178TH FIELD ARTILLERY

*Story by Capt. Hardy Paschal, 218th eSB  
Training Officer*

During 2007, the 1st of the 178th Field Artillery Battalion prepared for its future transformation, all the while remaining true to its mission -- providing accurate, responsive fires in support of maneuver forces. There were many success stories within the battalion this year. However one success stands above the rest, and was firing live rounds for the first time since the unit deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004. During their annual training in August, the battalion safely fired 1,250 155mm rounds of High Explosive (HE), smoke, illumination and white phosphorus from sensor to shooter. The Soldiers also hosted a family day during their training in which over 700 soldiers and their dependents participated.



Photo provided by Maj. Jackie Davis, 59th Aviation Troop Command

*Staff Sgt. Randy Crocker of the 1st of the 178th Fire Support Team (FIST) laser-designates a target for a 59th Aviation Troop Command Apache aircraft during range training at Ft. Stewart, Georgia.*

## 178TH ENGINEER BATTALION



*Story and photo provided by  
Capt. Hardy Paschal, 218th  
eSB Training Officer*

The 178th Engineer Battalion deployed to Arizona as part of Task Force Diamondback for Operation Jump Start in April 2007. Some of the battalion's tasks were road improvement along border roads, fabricating and emplacing vehicle barriers, and fabricating and emplacing border fencing to impede the flow of illegal aliens into the United States. Members of the 178th formed for a photo under the unit sign that was welded to a portion of the fence they completed during their rotation.

# Officer Candidate Course earns Army Institute of Excellence Award

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*Story by Sgt. David James and Maj. Tom Boling, 218th Regiment (Leadership)  
Photos provided by Capt. Mike Moyer,  
Range Officer*

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MCCRADY TRAINING CENTER, S.C. – The need for highly qualified officers to lead Soldiers has always been an important aspect of the Army. In the South Carolina Army National Guard, one of the primary avenues for training and commissioning officers is the Officer Candidate School (OCS), part of the 2nd Battalion (OCS), 218th Regiment (Leadership) located at the McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina.

Originally established in 1950 as the Palmetto Military Academy, the OCS program in South Carolina is the third oldest in the country. The mission of the 2nd Battalion (OCS) is to train

candidates to become commissioned officers. The battalion trains officer candidates within Region C, which includes South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Puerto Rico.

In June 2006, the battalion received the prestigious Army Institute of Excellence Award as a result of accreditation visits by evaluators from the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga. The team evaluated all areas of the program to include instructor qualifications, delivery of instruction, assessment of candidates, facilities, field operations, test administration and other significant criteria. Schools not only meeting, but excelling in their programs, are eligible for the Institute of Excellence Award.

Lt. Col. Charles Adams, 2nd Battalion (OCS) Commander, feels the award is an indication of the level of training that goes on within the battalion.



*A new 50-man barracks was one of the additions to McCrady Training Center in 2007.*

*This 3,800 square-foot open bay barracks was constructed at a cost of approximately \$450,000. The barracks provides bed space for 50 Soldiers. Two of three barracks planned for this area have been constructed to date.*





### *Company Headquarters Building*

*A 5,600 square-foot headquarters building was constructed near the main entrance of the training center at a cost of approximately \$700,000. The facility provides office space for the Navy Liaison Section and a computer lab that can seat up to 50 Soldiers/Sailors.*

"It means that we have a schoolhouse on par with any school in the nation," says Adams. While the award is a nice recognition of work that goes on within the battalion, Adams stresses that the bottom line is the candidates.

"Everything going on within the program must focus on producing the best qualified second lieutenants who are well trained and confident in their abilities as leaders for the Army and the Nation," he said.

Col. Dale Hall, 218th Regiment (Leadership) Commander, says of the award, "It is a major feat to not just meet the standard and be fully accredited, but to go above that level. It speaks of the fine history and tradition this unit has for turning out top quality officers."



### *Engagement Skills Training Building*

*A 4,000 square-foot pre-engineered building constructed behind the Miller Battle Simulations Building was constructed at a cost of approximately \$150,000. This facility was divided into two large rooms in order to house fielded simulations equipment including a state of the art Engagement Skills Trainer.*

# 228TH SIGNAL BRIGADE

Photo by: Master Sgt. Phillip Jones, S.C. National Guard Public Affairs Office



*A 228th Signal Brigade Soldier loads equipment aboard a Charleston-based C-17 Globemaster III during Palmetto-CWID 2007.*

*Impacting State and Nation*

Story by Lt. Col. Ronnie Finley, 228th Signal Brigade Administrative Officer

## Top Ten Achievements for 2007:

### 1. Palmetto CWID 2007.

In June 2006, the 228th Signal Brigade conducted its second consecutive Palmetto-Coalition Warrior Interoperability Demonstration exercise in North Charleston, S.C. This year's exercise utilized aircraft from the 437th Airlift Wing from Charleston Air Force Base and helicopters from the S.C. Army National Guard. Overall, the 228th supported over 25 different sites during its two week annual training period.

### 2. Exercise Bright Star.

This year, we deployed 45 Soldiers and 30 pieces of equipment to Egypt for Exercise Bright Star to support the Army Central Command Headquarters. It remains the most realistic communications training event for our Soldiers.

### 3. Satellite Fielding in the 151st Signal Battalion.

The unit was the first National Guard unit to deploy with hi-tech multichannel satellite equipment. Since 2002, they've had satellite equipment which enhances the area communications system. In October, the battalion received more cutting edge equipment in preparation for their conversion to an Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB).

### 4. Activation of Bravo Company, 198th Signal Company.

On September 1, 2007, B-Company was activated in Abbeville, S.C. The unit's parent Headquarters is located in Delaware along with two other companies. The activation marked the second time in this unit's history it resided in S.C. Soldiers from

Alpha Company, 111th Signal Co. in Abbeville will transition into the unit and become part of the Integrated Theater Signal Battalion (ITSB) in Delaware.

### 5. Relocation of Alpha Company, 151st Signal Battalion from Laurens to Greenwood.

In October 2007, the company relocated from its armory in Laurens, S.C. to Greenwood as part of a reorganization of the 151st Signal Battalion. The unit will occupy space in the Greenwood armory where the Headquarters Company for the 111th Signal Battalion currently resides. The 111th Signal Battalion will be reorganized and converted into the 151st Signal Battalion in August 2008. The armory move is only one of several the 228th has planned as part of the Palmetto Transition plan.





Photo provided by 437th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Center: Capt. Linda Riedel, the training officer for the 105th Signal Battalion leads a Prisoner of War ceremony at the Charleston Air Force Base in September.



Photo by: Master Sgt. Phillip Jones, S.C. National Guard Public Affairs Office

Soldiers assigned to the 228th Signal Brigade's Joint Incident Site Communications Capability, or JISCC Team unload their equipment from a S.C. Army National Guard, 2nd of the 151st Aviation Battalion CH-47 Chinook helicopter during Palmetto-CWID 2007.

## 6. Exercise Electric City.

In November, the 228th Signal Brigade conducted a "No Notice" exercise with Anderson County Emergency Operations Center. The exercise was based on a powerful tornado hitting Anderson County late on a Friday night. Early the next morning, the unit was given an order to activate 200 Soldiers from its Belton and Williamston units to respond to the disaster area. One of the objectives of the exercise was to see how rapidly we could get troops on the ground and prepared to help. The exercise was a success as the unit planned, coordinated, and executed all of its assigned missions.

## 7. Parole Board Hearings using Spartanburg Distance Learning site.

In conjunction with the Adjutant General's office, the Spartanburg National Guard Armory, currently manned by the 228th Signal Brigade, is working with the State's Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services to provide a remote site for parole hearings. This allows the Parole Board to hold its weekly hearings via video conference from Columbia and helps victims of violent crime in the Upstate

to participate without having to travel. This option is currently being used at a Low Country site is now available in the Spartanburg area, proving to be a convenient alternative for victims of violent crime.

## 8. Partnership with Greenville Technical College to train Information Systems Operator/Analyst Soldiers.

The 228th Signal Brigade has developed a partnership with Greenville Technical College to help train Soldiers and reclassify prior service Soldiers in the Information Systems Operator/Analyst military occupational specialty, or 25B MOS. Each class has 20 students attending this course during their regular drill, once a month and during a two week Annual Training period.

## 9. German Proficiency Badge competition for 105th Soldiers.

Headquarters Detachment, 105th Signal Battalion has developed a plan to host a "German Proficiency Badge" contest in North Charleston, S.C. These events will take place over the next several months with

the main events kicking off during drill weekend in February. This is an exciting opportunity for our Soldiers to earn a foreign decoration they can wear on their Class A's and to be the "best of the best." Some of the events that will take place are a long road-march, shot-put, nine-millimeter pistol marksmanship, 100-meter dash, and a 200-meter swim.

## 10. Continued support of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT).

The 228th Signal Brigade continued to deploy signal Soldiers in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom during 2007. The Brigade deployed 28 Signal Soldiers in support of the 218th Brigade Combat Team's Afghanistan mission in January. Another unit currently deployed is the 228th Mobile Communication Detachment which has deployed to Desert Shield and Iraq more than any other unit in the S.C. Army National Guard. The 31-man detachment has deployed Soldiers on seven different occasions since 2001.

# 263<sup>RD</sup> HAS BUSY 2007



Incoming commander Maj. Gen. Herbert L. Newton (right) reviews the troops during the 263rd Army and Air Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) change of command ceremony on November 3, 2007, in Anderson. Joining Newton were (from left) Maj. Gen. Stanhope Spears, the Adjutant General of South Carolina, Col. Lynn Fisher, and outgoing 263rd AAMDC commander Maj. Gen. Harry B. Burchstead, Jr. Newton officially began his duties on September 30, 2007, and previously commanded the 59th Troop Command in West Columbia as well as the 218th enhanced Separate Brigade in Newberry. (Photo and cutline information by Spc. Cathy Ayre, 108th Public Affairs Detachment)

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*Story provided by Lt. Col.  
Glen Skawski, 263rd AAMDC  
Administrative Officer*

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The 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, or 263rd AAMDC had a busy 2007. In November of 2006, the unit assumed the role as supporting command to U.S. Army North for Homeland Defense Army Air Defense. We executed Exercise Crossbow in December of 2006 at Dobbins Air Force Base to train the newly developed Deployable Homeland Air and Cruise Missile Defense (DHACM-D) teams.

The 2nd of the 263rd Air Defense Artillery Avenger Battalion returned home from successfully executing the National Capital Region Integrated Air Defense System (NCR-IADS) mission at the end of 2006.

The new year brought on more opportunities to serve. Colonel William Driggers mobilized Task Force Citadel as the command and control element in support of the National Capital Region Integrated Air Defense mission under Operation Noble Eagle. A number of Soldiers from the 263rd AAMDC and 2nd of the 263rd Air Defense Artillery

Battalion volunteered and mobilized with the 218<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. While many Soldiers were leaving to serve our great nation, we were thankful to have Lt. Col. Raleigh Jones, Sgt. 1st Class John Ramsey, Staff Sgt. Joseph Cuyar, Staff Sgt. Robert Parrish and Staff Sgt. Steven Keith return safely from supporting the mission in Afghanistan.

The 263rd AAMDC continued on with its new mission by participating in the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) exercise ARDENT SENTRY in May of 2007. In August, the



unit executed Exercise America's Shield at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida which had a two fold mission: train DHACM-D teams, and prepare the next Air Defense National Guard battalion for the NCR-IADS mission. Participants in the exercise included Soldiers from the Georgia Air Guard, 1st Air Force, Florida Army National Guard, and 2nd of the 263rd Air Defense Artillery Battalion.

The year culminated in September with the execution of the Mission Rehearsal Exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas, where the 263rd AAMDC trained and certified the Florida Army National Guard's 1st of the 265th Air Defense Artillery Battalion to execute the NCR-IADS mission.

We thank the 263rd families, friends and the Family Readiness Group for their never ending support.

*"Palmetto Pride" in front of the 263rd AAMDC Joint Air Defense Operations Center at Dobbins Air Force Base in Georgia during Exercise Crossbow.*



*Soldiers from the 263rd AAMDC prepare to convoy from Anderson, South Carolina to Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida during Exercise America's Shield.*



*Chief Warrant Officer 5 Glenn Locke (left) and Sgt. Maj. Harold McCord (right) serving lunch to Soldiers of the 263rd AAMDC during Exercise Crossbow at Dobbins Air Force Base in Georgia.*

# Engineers compete in 'Sapper Stakes'



Soldiers begin the five mile run at the Sapper Challenge at Clarks Hill Training Center on Sept. 22.



2nd Lt Kyle Collins, Charlie Company, disassembles and reassembles the M249 Assault Rifle.

Story and photos by Spc. Erica Knight and Spc. Tracey Martin, 108th Public Affairs Detachment, SCARNG

CLARKS HILL, S.C. – Eight two-person teams of Combat Engineers from the South Carolina Army National Guard's 178th Engineer Battalion competed in "Best Sapper Competition" at the Clarks Hill Training Center on September 22.

Webster's Dictionary defines a 'Sapper' as "a military engineer who does field fortification work and lays, detects and disarms mines."

The competition was established to determine the top two soldiers in order to fill Sapper Leader's Course slots for the unit.

"This is the first year that this event has been held, to avoid randomly choosing people to fill slots for the 30-day school," said Sgt. 1st Class Scott Leland, competition coordinator, Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

The soldiers were tested on land navigation, weapons assembly, demolition procedures, medical tasks and knot-tying. They were also challenged with an Army Physical Fitness Test, a five-mile run and a six-mile 40-pound rucksack march.

"I think they get the idea that this is a typical day at Sapper school," said Leland.

The winners of the individual competition were Pvt. Eric Sparkes, Charlie Company and Spc. Jesse Parker, Alpha Company. Spc. James Oliver, Charlie Company and 2nd Lt. Paul Reed, Alpha Company placed third and fourth and will be alternates.

The team winners were Pfc. Steven Winburn and Sparkes from Charlie Company. They received backpacks embroidered with the competition logo, Army Commendation Medals and a Gerber Multi-tool engraved with their names. The second place team was 2nd Lt. Kyle Collins and Oliver from Charlie Company. They received Army Achievement Medals and a Gerber Multi-tool. Placing third was Alpha Company's Reed and Sgt. Patrick Milne of Charlie Company, who received an engraved Gerber plaque. Parker and Oliver received Army Achievement Medals for being the only two soldiers to complete all of the events.



Capt. Marty Hanks awards Spc. James Oliver and 2nd Lt. Kyle Collins Army Achievement Medals for 2nd place.



# Medics play valuable role on battlefield

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

Photos by Spc. Tracey Martin 108th Public Affairs Detachment and Spc. Erica Knight

CLARKS HILL, S.C. – With the sun burning down on the open field, the only shade is under a small tent crowded with people sharing chairs and sitting on the ground. Medics prepare emergency packs, hanging the intravenous fluids from the edge of the tent.

As Soldiers returned from the five-mile run, medics offered water, cookies and IV's for those who needed more fluids. They kept reminding soldiers to consume parts of their Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) to maintain energy levels. Some of the medics even took a Humvee to follow Soldiers and treat any emergencies.

Medics have been vital to the care of soldiers on the battlefield for centuries. Medics retrieve wounded from battlefields, perform medical procedures in high stress combat situations and are just as important during training events.

During the Sapper Competition at Clarks Hill Training center September 21-23, the six medics from the 178th Engineer Battalion were responsible for the welfare of the Soldiers under these extreme training conditions.

"Heat was the biggest battle," said Staff Sgt. Jeffery Piner, the medical non commissioned officer in charge, Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

Piner added there was one ambulance designated as the trail vehicle for all of the physical events. The number of medics on hand at the event was based on the number of Soldiers taking part and the level of risk.

As the sun started getting lower on the horizon, the staff had to determine if it was safe to continue with the scheduled events.

"The confidence course was cancelled because it posed an increased risk based on the number of Soldiers who had sustained injuries during the day," said Piner.

During the competition, Soldiers were graded on their ability to treat head and chest wounds, severe bleeding from an extremity, shock, and evaluate a casualty. These are common tasks for soldiers to know. The medics graded the medical task module so that they could assess the soldiers more accurately.

The medics in this unit come from various military backgrounds but they all have a desire to help their fellow Soldiers.

Spc. Bobby Maciariello, a medic with Charlie Company, has been with the unit since September 2006 and had just returned from medic school in July 2007. Prior to joining the engineers, he spent nine years in the Infantry.

"I wanted to do something different for the military," said Maciariello. "I'm certified as a medic in the civilian world and a fireman by trade."



Staff Sgt. Jeffery Piner (right) helps an injured soldier limp away from the medical tent



Pvt. Kiana Summerset (right) checks Spc. James Oliver for blisters after the six-mile roadmarch

Piner worked in Emergency Medical Services as a civilian. "I wanted that to carry over into the military," said Piner. "I enjoyed emergency medicine and helping people."

He started as a flight medic and prior to joining the Engineer battalion, he was a medic for a Special Forces unit. This was his third drill with the engineers.

"He has really stepped up our medical training," said Sgt. 1st Class Scott Leland, the non commissioned officer in charge of Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

"Medics are the most important element in the Army. We have the opportunity to keep Soldiers healthy," Piner said. "I can't think of anything I'd rather do than help other Soldiers. That's why it's the best job."

## WWE AND COLONIAL CENTER TAG-TEAM

# To Help Guard Soldiers

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

COLUMBIA, S.C. – World Wrestling Entertainment and the University of South Carolina Colonial Center tag-teamed here in Columbia on August 22 at the WWE SmackDown to thank S.C. National Guard Soldiers and their families for their service and collect donations to send to the nearly 2,000 Guardsmen from S.C. serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Long known for their tremendous support of American troops serving overseas including numerous trips by the wrestlers to Iraq and Afghanistan to perform for them, the WWE provided free tickets to members of the S.C. National Guard and their families with the help of the Colonial Center staff. “It’s the least we can do for these troops and their families who sacrifice so much for us,” said the “Nature Boy” Ric Flair, a 16-time World Champion wrestler with the WWE. “These Soldiers and their families hold a special place in our hearts. We’re honored to help them out as often as we can,” said Kim Curnutt, the marketing manager for the Colonial Center.

In addition to receiving free tickets to the WWE SmackDown last night, the S.C. National Guard also received hundreds of donations in Colonial Center collection bins from those attending the event. The Guard’s Family Readiness Groups plan to send the items to their Soldiers serving overseas. “The WWE and the Colonial Center have just been great! Our Soldiers and their families can’t thank them enough for their generosity,” said Mona Johnson, the 111th Signal Battalion Family Readiness Group coordinator.



*Ric Flair (right) of the WWE thanks Sherry Marsh (left), the S.C. National Guard’s Family Readiness Assistant and Staff Sgt. Sabrina Todd for their service to our nation and troops serving overseas.*



*(left to right) Mona Johnson, the mother of a Soldier in the 111th Signal Battalion meets with Kim Curnett, the Colonial Center marketing manager before the WWE SmackDown event on Tuesday night.*



*After thanking these S.C. National Guard Soldiers and their family members for their service, a WWE fan drops some Gatorade into a Colonial Center bin.*





Mr. Dan Donohue (far left), the National Guard Bureau's Public Affairs and Strategic Communications Director presents the Future Operations Award to the S.C. National Guard Public Affairs Office for their "Operation Jump Start" coverage. Pictured to the right of Donohue are Master Sgt. Phillip Jones, S.C. National Guard Public Affairs non commissioned officer in charge, Maj. Jim St.Clair, S.C. Air National Guard Headquarters Public Affairs Officer, Col. Pete Brooks, S.C. National Guard Public Affairs and Strategic Communications Director, Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian and Staff Sgt. Joe Cashion, 108th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment non commissioned officer in charge.

## S.C. PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE *wins national award*

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

Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Ed Snyder, 169th Fighter Wing Multimedia Manager

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The South Carolina National Guard Joint Task Force Headquarters Public Affairs Office received the 2007 Future Operations Award at the Public Affairs Training Workshop on October 24 in Anchorage, Alaska.

The office was nominated for their accomplishments during the S. C. National Guard's support of Operation Jump Start along the 376-mile Southwest border between Arizona and Mexico from February 4 through May 16, 2007.

Four Soldiers and one Airman deployed as public affairs support to the over one thousand S.C. guardsmen. The public affairs staff took five thousand photographs and conducted 400 interviews, which resulted in 200 stories being released to hometown newspapers' throughout South Carolina.

The team also captured two hours of video and made it possible for WIS-TV to conduct a satellite interview with three members of the 751st Maintenance Battalion, which was broadcast throughout most of South Carolina.

The result of their effort was the "Operation Jump Start" edition of the Palmetto Guard Family Magazine. This special summer edition provided an account of the S.C. National Guard's mission and accomplishments during their deployment to OJS.

"The office had to create a website dedicated to the S.C. National Guard Public Affairs so we can accommodate those wishing to print copies of the magazine, obtain photographs of our soldiers and stay up-to-date on S.C. National Guard operations," said Col. Pete Brooks, S.C. National Guard Public Affairs and Strategic Communications Director.

This is the second year in a row the S.C. National Guard Public Affairs Office has been recognized for excellence by the National Guard Bureau.



Warrant Officer Candidate Jennifer O'Neal, Staff Sgt. Kevin Shuler and L3 Contractor Scott Sullivan perform a final pre-flight check of a Counterdrug Aviation Element OH-58 Kiowa helicopter.



Staff Sgt. Havee Morones, an OH-58 crew-chief, prepares a Counterdrug Aviation Element pilot for takeoff.

# Counterdrug Program is Total Team Effort

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

For nearly 20 years the S.C. National Guard has been helping officers from the Drug Enforcement Agency, the State Law Enforcement Division and the Federal Bureau of Investigation by providing Soldiers to serve in traditional support roles. By carrying out aerial observation and supply-and-demand reduction programs, it allows law enforcement to focus on apprehension.

Due to the tight operational security required to combat narco-terrorism here in the United States, the S.C. National Guard's participation in the Governor's Counterdrug Task Force is perhaps one of the least known efforts our Guardsmen are involved in. However, their impact across the state and nation is evident by the fact they have helped law enforcement confiscate more than \$22 million worth of drugs and educate 25,516 people on the dangers of drug use.

OH-58 Kiowa pilots, who cannot be identified for security reasons, regularly assist law enforcement with covert surveillance of suspected drug traffickers, identifying drug fields and providing high-tech airborne communications links. This greatly expands law enforcement's capabilities to effectively manage well-coordinated apprehension efforts.

Utilizing the OH-58s thermal imaging and forward looking infrared capability, streaming video and advanced communications systems, the Counterdrug Aviation Element, or CAE of the S.C. National Guard continues to be an integral team member in the Governor's Counterdrug Task Force effort. According to the pilot's who perform this vital CAE mission the unit's capabilities will be vastly enhanced when they begin fielding the new UH-72A Lakota helicopter sometime within the next two years.





A helicopter assigned to the Counterdrug Aviation Element waits to be cleared by the McEntire Joint National Guard Base tower for takeoff.

## COUNTERDRUG UPDATE FY 07

### 1. TOTAL NUMBER OF COUNTER-DRUG PERSONNEL: 37

### 2. 2007 Drug Supply Reduction Statistics:

Cocaine: 272.0026 lbs. (Estimated value \$1,736,895.31)

Crack/Cocaine: 109.674 lbs. (Estimated value \$374,116.82)

Methamphetamine: 55.74444 lbs. (Estimated value \$1,340,393.03)

Ecstasy: 2,630.00 lbs (Estimated value \$15,810.00)

Marijuana-cultivated: 17,314.119 plants (Estimated value \$188,666.90)

Marijuana-processed: 2,504.644 lbs. (Estimated value \$4,248,081.95)

Currency Seized: \$8,921,467.63

Property: 52,455.00 (Estimated \$ 4,346,869.00)

Weapons: 676 (Estimated value \$50,135.00)

Vehicles: 60 (Estimated value \$1,328,939.00)

Arrests: 2049

Flying Hour Program: 605.2 hours

### Significant Activity:

\* Current total seizure for all missions in 2007 equals:

\$ 22,551,374.64

**3. 2007 Drug Education Statistics:** During 2007, 25,516 people in South Carolina have received drug demand reduction information from the Counterdrug Task Force.



Soldiers like Sgt. Brent Timms (left) and Master Sgt. Mickey Deering from the S.C. National Guard teach supply-and-demand reduction educational programs throughout South Carolina.



The S.C. Army National Guard recruiting team posed for their first group picture at Clarks Hill Training Site in October. This group photo will be used on recruiting posters in 2008.

## Recruiters Have Successful 2007

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

Photo by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones, S.C. National Guard Public Affairs Office



The 2007 recruiting year proved to be another great success story for the S.C. National Guard. Our recruiters began the year with an end strength mission goal of 9,200 Soldiers, but finished the year with 9,476! During 2007, they enlisted over 2,000 Soldiers into the S.C. National Guard. Additionally, they currently have over 1,100 new Soldiers enrolled in the S.C. National Guard Recruit Sustainment Program, or RSP. The RSP helps prepare incoming Soldiers for Basic Training, Advanced Individual Training and traditional Guard service with their gaining unit.

## Are you **Red** for the Post Deployment Health Reassessment?

Is your AKO stoplight **Red** for My Medical Readiness? Is AKO telling you that you are due to complete your Post Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA)? Want to know how to fix this?

The PDHRA seeks to identify proactively potential health issues before they become chronic conditions. The PDHRA provides education, screening, assessment and access to care for a wide variety of questions and concerns that Soldiers may have about their health after they return from deployment. **Soldiers who redeployed from a combat zone more than 90 days ago are eligible for the PDHRA.**

**Just follow these simple directions:**

### **Option 1: Begin PDHRA online and complete it over the phone.**

You may complete the PDHRA online through AKO by going to <https://apps.mods.army.mil/mwde/secure/AKOForms.asp> and logging in with your AKO username and password. You must then call 1-888-PDHRA-99 to discuss your responses with a healthcare provider.

### **Option 2: Complete PDHRA entirely over the phone.**

If you do not have access to a computer or AKO, you may call 1-888-PDHRA-99 and complete the entire assessment over the phone.

### **Questions?**

Visit <http://www.virtualarmory.com/mobiledeploy/PDHRA> for more information.



# JONES & HOGEYE

## Serve as Grand Marshals

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

Photo provided by the Bamberg Downtown Association



Master Sgt. Phillip Jones and his entertainment buddy Pvt. Hogeye served as the Grand Marshals for the town of Bamberg's grand re-opening parade of its newly revitalized Main Street on October 27.

Jones and Hogeye performed following the parade and helped judge the town's annual Halloween Costume Contest for the children of Bamberg.

## S.C. Guard's 246th Army Band Has Stellar Year

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

Photo by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones, S.C. National Guard Public Affairs Office



The S.C. National Guard's 246th Army Band had another stellar year of performances throughout the southeastern United States during 2007. The band members continue a proud tradition of service which was first recognized nationally by General John J. "Blackjack" Pershing in 1916. The band was one of several Palmetto units serving with Pershing during the Mexican Border campaign following "Pancho" Villa's infamous raid on Columbus, New Mexico.

Like their predecessors, today's band members continue to provide music throughout the full spectrum of military operations, instill in our Soldiers the will to fight and win, foster the support of our citizens and promote our national interests at home and abroad.

### Highlights from the 246th Army Band schedule in 2007:

**January** – Performed for the deployment ceremony of the 218th Combat Brigade Team at Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, S.C.

**March** – Performed for the National Guard Association Conference at Myrtle Beach, S.C.

**April** – Traveled to Camp Shelby, Miss., to perform for the 218th Combat Brigade Team departure ceremony.

**May** – Traveled to Key West, Fla., to perform for the Joint Inter-Agency

Task Force – South (JIATF-S) Change of Command Ceremony.

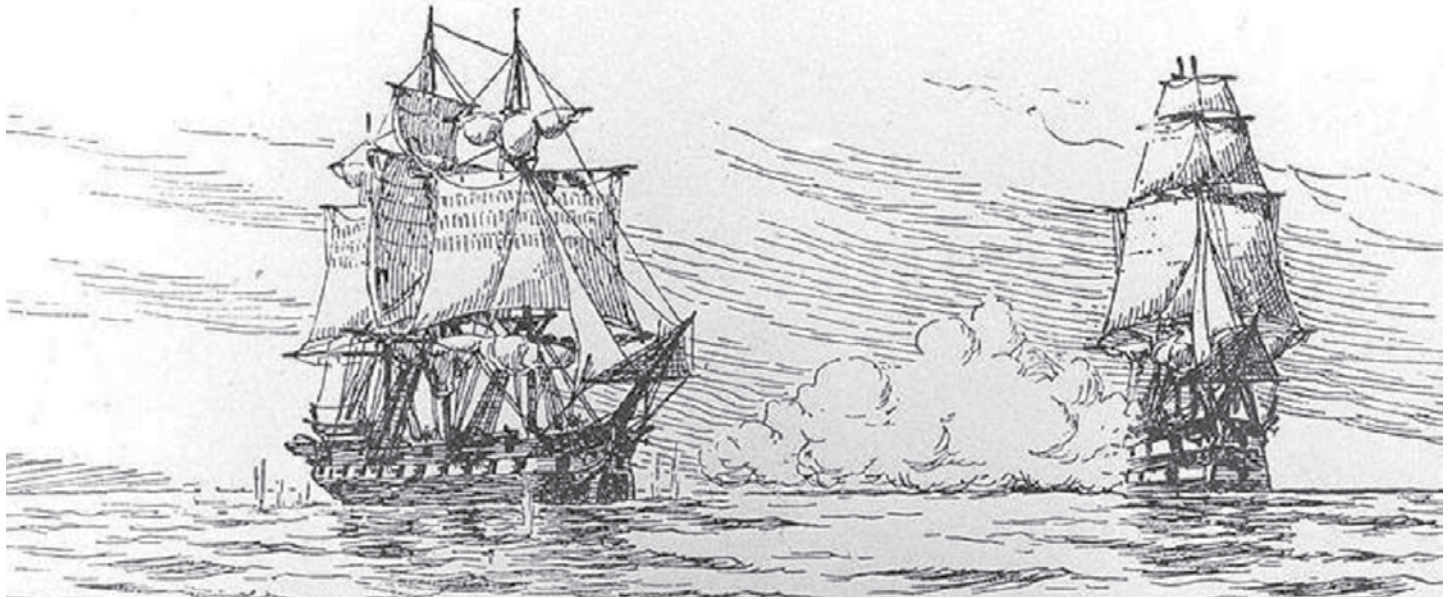
**May** – Performed a joint concert with the 282nd Army Band, Ft. Jackson and the 434th Army Band, Ft. Gordon at the Koger Center for the Arts in Columbia, S.C.

**July** – Performed annual training at Ft. Gordon, Ga., replacing the post band in all their normal performances including the Ft. Gordon commanding general's change of command ceremony while

they took block leave.

**July** – Performed during South Carolina's first Medal of Honor Flag ceremony for the family of Sgt. 1st Class Webster Anderson who received the Medal of Honor while serving in Vietnam in October 1967.

**August** – Performed for the Palmetto Military Academy graduation ceremony at McCrady Training Center in Leesburg, S.C.



The HMS Leopard fires upon the USS Chesapeake\* on June 22, 1807 sparking American cries for war with Great Britain. \*Note: The Chesapeake was the first of six capital ships built to defend the U.S. Her sister ship, the USS Constitution "Old Ironsides" is the only one of these historic ships still afloat.

# *“Remember The Leopard!”*

## THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE WLI

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

On June 22, 1807, the British warship HMS “Leopard” attacked and boarded the American frigate USS “Chesapeake” off the coast of Norfolk, Virginia sparking the Chesapeake-Leopard Affair and raising tensions between the two countries that can be seen as one of the events leading up to the War of 1812.

During the unprovoked attack on June 22 the British killed or wounded 21 men and captured four alleged British deserters. Of the four sailors taken off the Chesapeake, three were U.S.-born who had “deserted” after being impressed into the British Royal Navy. One “deserter” was hanged and three imprisoned in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The American public was outraged with

the incident and as President Thomas Jefferson noted: “Never since the battle of Lexington have I seen this country in such a state of exasperation.” Given the fact nearly a quarter of the battles fought during the American Revolution occurred here in South Carolina and Charlestonians had been subjected to perhaps the harshest of British occupations, it was little wonder the citizens of Charleston feared another British invasion of Charleston.

A month later on the July 22, the first formal meeting of the “Washington Light Infantry” took place at the Robinson’s Hotel in Charleston. There, at the age of 25, William Lowndes was unanimously elected Captain of this new company of militia, and “Remember the Leopard” became the company’s rallying cry. A strip of leopard skin has decorated the WLI dress uniform ever since denoting the company’s lineage.

Ironically, the preparations the WLI made for another fight here in Charleston were not needed as the British fleet bypassed the Palmetto State in their 1812 attempt to reclaim American soil. However, other wars with the Seminole Indians, Mexico, the Union Army, the German Kaiser and Hitler lay ahead for the Washington Light Infantry.

*A leopard skin adorns the relic room of the WLI headquarters in honor of the unit’s rallying cry “Remember the Leopard!”*





The gate to the Washington Light Infantry headquarters in Charleston, S.C. is adorned with the dates of the six major wars the unit has prepared for/participated in throughout the past 200 years of its existence. In January the WLI was commended for its 200 years of service to the State of South Carolina by the S.C. Legislature. See: [http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117\\_2007-2008/bills/319.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/bills/319.htm)



The Citadel – The Military College of South Carolina was located at Marion Square in Charleston, S.C. The original building was completed in 1829, and used as an arsenal and guard house by the Washington Light Infantry before members of the unit assisted with the founding of the school in 1842. The old Citadel is now an Embassy Suites hotel, but an exchanging of the keys ceremony and Grand Parade with the WLI and The Citadel's Corps of Cadets still occurs at Marion Square each year on George Washington's birthday to commemorate their historic relationship.

One of the handful of battle flag's preserved from the American Revolution is the Eutaw Flag Colonel William Washington, a cousin of George Washington carried on his campaigns here in South Carolina. On April 19, 1827, the Colonel's widow, Jane Elliot Washington of Sandy Hill, S.C. gave her husband's battle flag to the Washington Light Infantry.



The relic room of the WLI is adorned with many mementos of the unit's prestigious military history including its B-Company, 1st of the 118th Infantry guidon and colors which remained with the unit when it was decommissioned from military service in July 1967.



*Lucas McFadden receives help putting on "Swamp Foxes" flight gear from former S.C. Air National Guard Command Chief Danny Sightler and Buddy Sturgis, the S.C. Military Museum Director. In celebration of the second anniversary of his WIS-TV "Live with Lucas" show, McFadden asked his viewers in October to vote on-line for what they most wanted to see in November. Our S.C. Military Museum received the 2nd most votes!*

Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, SC National Guard Historian



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