

# Palmetto Guard

Family Magazine, Summer 2008



## VIGILANT GUARD 2008



**Welcome Home 218th BCT  
& 132nd MP CO**



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 Epitomize "Always Ready – Always There!"*

Welcome Home 218th Brigade Combat Team and 132nd Military Police Company! I cannot begin to express how proud we in the S.C. National Guard, as well as the citizens of this great state, are of your tremendous successes in Afghanistan and Iraq. You have many accomplishments to be proud of. Not only have you served our great nation during this time of war, exemplifying the words duty, honor and country, but you can also take great pride in the fact you have helped make the independent nations you served in take another step down the road to realizing true freedom and democracy.

My wife Dot and I wish each of you and your families all of the best as you begin to settle back into your lives together. May you enjoy every happiness on the road home during this period of reintegration.

I also congratulate our 3,000 Army and Air Guardsmen from S.C. and FEMA Region IV, who made our hosting of the Vigilant Guard 2008 exercise such a tremendous success in April. This National Guard Bureau sponsored exercise fully tested our capabilities and interoperability with Beaufort County, state, federal and non-governmental organizations who will be the first to respond to an emergency in S.C. or elsewhere in the United States.

As the 101 days of summer begin, I want to encourage each of you to remember the following three words – Safety, Safety and Safety. Many of you will be going on vacations with your families, friends and loved ones this summer, so please remember to take the extra time to re-familiarize yourself with basic first-aid procedures for heat injuries. I also encourage you to make time to develop a family emergency plan. Many families throughout the country have been caught off-guard this spring by tornadoes. As the 2008 hurricane season begins for us, we need to make sure our own family emergency plan is up-to-date and ready to be implemented.

Finally, I commend all of our Guard personnel. You continuously epitomize the National Guard phrase "Always Ready – Always There!" You, the Soldiers and Airmen of the S.C. National Guard are what's best about America. Thank you for your continued service to our state and nation, and please have a wonderful and safe summer season.

Sincerely,

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

Stanhope S. Spears  
Major General, SCARNG  
The Adjutant General

# Palmetto Guard

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



**4** Brig. Gen. Les Eisner, the Deputy Adjutant General of the S.C. National Guard briefs members of the media about the Vigilant Guard 2008, exercise which ran from Monday through Thursday, April 21-24, in Beaufort, S.C.

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



**30** Dale Earnhardt, Jr., driver of the #88 NASCAR Sprint Cup series National Guard/Mt. Dew AMP car visits with S.C. National Guardsmen before the Dodge Challenger 500 in Darlington, S.C. on May 10, 2008.

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



**32** Multi-platinum selling rock-band 3 Doors Down kicked off their fourth stop of their 2008, "It's Not My Time" tour with S.C. National Guard Soldiers from the Charleston area on March 27, at the N. Charleston Performing Arts Center.



## Palmetto Guard Family Magazine

<i>Adjutant General</i>	<i>Maj. Gen. Stanhope S. Spears</i>
<i>Deputy Adjutant General</i>	<i>Brig. Gen. Les Eisner</i>
<i>Chief of Staff</i>	<i>Col. Ron Huff</i>
<i>State Public Affairs Officer</i>	<i>Col. Pete Brooks</i>
<i>Editor in Chief</i>	<i>Maj. Scott Bell</i>
<i>Associate Editor</i>	<i>Maj. Jim St. Clair</i>
<i>Associate Editor</i>	<i>Staff Sgt. Joe Cashion</i>
<i>Graphic Art Director</i>	<i>Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tripp Hutto</i>

### Contributors to "Vigilant Guard"

*Maj. Orson Ward*  
*Capt. Jennifer Phifer*  
*Capt. Jennifer Settlemyer*  
*Master Sgt. Phillip Jones*  
*Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp*  
*Senior Master Sgt. Ed Snyder*  
*Master Sgt. Richard Hodges*  
*Staff Sgt. Dan Heaton*  
*Sgt. Kristi T. Saavedra*  
*Spc. Erica Knight*  
*Spc. Tracey Martin*  
*Spc. Byron Rounds*  
*Staff Sgt. Joyce Quarles*  
*Mr. Benjamin Barrs*

*Contracting Manager*  
*Contributing Statisticians*

*Editorial Inquiries and submissions: Please contact Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian at: [yantse.scott.bell@us.army.mil](mailto:yantse.scott.bell@us.army.mil), (803) 667-1013 (voice), (803) 806-4210 (fax), or by mail at: Palmetto Guard Family Magazine, Attn: TAG-PAO-H, 1 National Guard Rd., Columbia, SC 29201. All photo contributions should be submitted in high-resolution digital format and include a cutline in word format -- identifying from left to right -- the full names, ranks and hometowns of the individuals in the picture.*

*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, and is available in PDF format at our website: <http://guard.sc.gov>.*

*About the cover: Over 3,000 Soldiers from the S.C. National Guard supported by Guard units from throughout the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Region IV worked in coordination with Beaufort County, the S.C. Emergency Management Division, federal and non-governmental organizations during a National Guard Bureau sponsored emergency response exercise called Vigilant Guard 2008 from 21-24 April in Beaufort County, S.C.*

*- Cover photo by Spc. Erica Knight, 108th Public Affairs Detachment*

# Joint Operations Center Successfully Coordinates Vigilant Guard 08

Story by Staff Sgt. Dan Heaton, NGB PARRT Team and Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian

Vigilant Guard 2008 (VG08) was one of the largest disaster-response training exercises in the history of the National Guard. The exercise responded to a major notional earthquake centered in Beaufort County, S.C.

Over three days, April 21-23, more than 3,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from more than a dozen states worked side-by-side with Beaufort County firefighters, police officers, Red Cross volunteers and representatives from numerous other state and federal agencies to rescue people “trapped” under collapsed buildings, clear rubble, airlift injured people to various hospitals and deliver food, water and other emergency supplies to survivors. The Guard even made history by landing a C-130 Hercules cargo plane at the Hilton Head Municipal Airport – which features the nation’s shortest commercial runway – to simulate an emergency evacuation.

All of these activities and more were coordinated through the S.C. National Guard’s Joint Operations Center (JOC) under the watchful eyes of the S.C. National Guard’s Deputy Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Les Eisner, commander of troops for the VG08 exercise, and JOC commander, Col. Ricky Platt and his staff.

“VG08, the 11th such annual exercise designed to test the National Guard’s ability to work with local emergency



Maj. Alvin Harvey (far left) and Staff Sgt. Frank Weir (center), from the South Carolina Director of Military Support (DOMS) unit as well as Spc. Michael McReynolds (right), a journal clerk from the Joint Operations Center (JOC) in Blackstone Virginia, work diligently to control logistics issues. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Edward E. Snyder

responders, set the new gold standard in disaster training,” said Maj. Gen. Steven D. Saunders, director, joint doctrine, training and force development, at National Guard Bureau headquarters. Saunders’ office oversees the development of Vigilant Guard exercises.

While the exercise brought together numerous military and governmental agencies, it also allowed non-governmental agencies to test their plans. Among those participating in the exercise were agencies such as the Salvation Army, the Southern Baptist Convention’s Disaster Relief Team and the American Red Cross. The exercise also had an international flavor. Small military contingents from Denmark, Canada, England and Moldova were invited to observe various parts of the operation.



Members of the JOC constantly monitor all exercise activities during Vigilant Guard 2008 as they would if called upon to assist during an actual national emergency. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Edward E. Snyder

At the conclusion of the exercise, the various involved parties met to review what went right and what needs to be improved, said Brig. Gen. Eisner, commander of troops for Vigilant Guard 2008.

“We will be updating our plans, protocols and procedures based on what we learned so that we are better able to serve the citizens of South Carolina,” Eisner said.



Master Sgt. Troy Wilkerson (left) from Eagle Vision and Sgt. Terry Adams, a topographic/GIS Analyst from the 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command from Anderson, South Carolina, produce an image map of Beaufort County, S.C. Eagle Vision is assigned to the S.C. Air National Guard’s 169th Communications Flight from McEntire Joint National Guard Base in Eastover, S.C. Their role as a commercial satellite antenna mobile ground station is to provide communications, imagery, and data to users from civil engineers and intelligence units. During a time of disaster, Eagle Vision provides satellite imagery to military, federal, and civil authorities. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Edward E. Snyder

# NATIONAL GUARD BRINGS PUBLIC AFFAIRS CAPABILITY TO EXERCISE

Story by Maj. Orson Ward, NGB PARRT Team and Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian

When natural or man-made disasters strike usually the first people to arrive at the incident scene are a city's first-responders—the police, fire and rescue squads—followed by the local media. In a world with continuous 24-hour news coverage it is vital that local, state and federal agencies have the capacity to safely assist the media in obtaining the stories to keep their audiences informed about events occurring at the disaster scene. Doing so also helps government, military and non-governmental organizations develop ever-evolving plans to assist the victims of disasters.



From right to left, Lt. Col. Eric Maxon, Col. Pete Brooks and Master Sgt. Paul Mouilleseaux discuss placement of joint information equipment on April 15. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, NGB PARRT Team

the National Guard Public Affairs Rapid Response Team (PARRT). The team comprised of Army and Air National Guard personnel from all 54 states and territories who are employed in an emergency situation to support the media in a crisis.



From left to right, Nikki Gaskins and Kyle Grainger of WMBF television in Myrtle Beach receive a media embed brief from Manny Pacheco and Lt. Col. Greg Hapgood of the NGB PARRT Team. Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian.

come in as light as one individual with some emergency communications gear or we can assemble a robust team within 12-24 hours who can deploy and set up operations for the duration of the crisis."

The PARRT staged in Beaufort this April to assist the media with the gathering and dissemination of information

about Vigilant Guard. For the first time, here in South Carolina, media were allowed to embed during a Guard exercise and test their news organization's preparedness should a disaster incident ever occur in South Carolina again.

"We're here to facilitate whatever the needs of the press are," said Master Sgt. Paul Mouilleseaux, PARRT operations chief from the National Guard Bureau, Washington, D.C. "When the media calls us someone will have to answer their questions about the simulated or real disasters and help them to get their story told—so the public knows what is going on."

In cases where bridges are destroyed, the National Guard PARRT Team and equipment can be airlifted in modular packages via C-130 aircraft or CH-47 helicopters. The PARRT modular packages include a joint information center (JIC) for the PAO operations staff, a media filing center for the media to disseminate their stories to the public, a media tent where local, state, federal and military leaders can brief the media and a sleeping tent. Once inserted into a disaster ravaged area -- the equipment including its high-tech satellite communications technology -- can be fully operational within a day to begin providing 24-hour communication support for the media.

"Public affairs is an integral part of any natural disaster operations," said Col. Peter J. Brooks, the South Carolina state public affairs officer. "In a real world emergency or disaster we need the media's help in getting the word out, as to where the critical life-saving supplies may be located."

National Guard public affairs assets are provided at the request of the state experiencing a disaster. It is up to the governor and adjutant general of the state to decide what assets they would like to tap into including resources from the National Guard Bureau as well as all other states.

"This whole thing (Vigilant Guard exercise) can be intimidating to the public, but we are here to help them prepare for future emergencies and disasters," added Maxon.



Maj. Gen. Stanhope Spears, the S.C. Adjutant General, visits the Joint Information Center during Vigilant Guard on April 18, in Beaufort County, S.C. During a disaster incident local, state, federal and military leaders utilize the JIC to disseminate information to the media. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, NGB PARRT Team



Danny Atchley, a member of the RIG team from Oklahoma City, explains the design characteristics utilized in the creation of the “Rubble Pile” training site. It is the only one of its kind in the entire southeast. Various training sites like this specially constructed Rubble Pile will become a common learning ground for civilian and military rescue and disaster response teams on training victim extraction from building collapses, natural disaster aftermath, etc. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Edward E. Snyder, S.C. Air National Guard

## Rubble pile creates realistic search and rescue scenarios during Vigilant Guard

Story by Maj. Jim St.Clair, JFHQ Public Affairs and Spc. Erica Knight, 108th Public Affairs Detachment

It's a major disaster: twisted metal, concrete slabs stacked like fallen dominoes, injured victims calling for help. Fortunately, it's all part of a massive emergency preparedness exercise known as Vigilant Guard 2008, hosted by the South Carolina National Guard this past April. Walking up to the exercise venue known as the “Rubble Pile”, you could easily believe you've stepped into the middle of a catastrophe.

One of the highlights for the Vigilant Guard exercise was the construction of the Rubble Pile to train search and rescue first responders. Similar to a Hollywood movie set, “the ultimate purpose of having the Rubble Pile is to simulate a large collapsed structure or even a city block that has collapsed,” said Lt. Col. Kenneth Forand, plans officer with the Director of Military Support (DOMS) for the South Carolina National Guard.

The primary contractor responsible for the construction of the Rubble Pile is the Response International Group (RIG) from Oklahoma City. In fact, the inspiration for such a search and rescue training scenario such as the Rubble Pile came directly from the lessons learned after the Oklahoma City bombing in

1995 according to Forand.

“At the Murrah building in Oklahoma City, there were a lot of things missing or lacking with the first responders,” said Mike Shannon, owner of RIG and retired chief of special operations for the Oklahoma City Fire Department. “I wanted to make a difference for the community.” Shannon's company designs and builds rubble piles, such as the one used in Vigilant Guard. His company has been in business for nine years but the experience of some employees covers almost 35 years including some who responded to the Oklahoma City bombing.

One might think by looking at the pile that it's just a random mess. But Forand said that there's a deliberate method used to construct the pile. “You can't see it from the outside. But once you get inside, the maze part of it becomes abundantly clear. The object of the game is to make a three dimensional puzzle. The culverts and the pipes are placed in such a way that it creates a maze of navigable tunnels,” he said.

For safety reasons, “entombed victims” were special mannequins outfitted with computer devices to simulate autonomic responses. Human actors in moulage (make-up) were placed outside the entrances and around the pile to portray victims. Approximately 150 military personnel signed

Robots like this one from iRobot, pictured in the background of a "Rubble Pile" victim's hand, are becoming more commonplace at disaster sites where it is safer for rescuers to send robots with cameras and lights into a collapsed building in search of survivors. This helps rescuers strategically plan how they will remove the debris as quickly as possible to save victims. Photo by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones, S.C. National Guard Public Affairs



up to serve as role players during the exercise.

The Rubble Pile used during the Vigilant Guard exercise took about two weeks to build. The pile is bowl shaped so the RIG team can observe and assist in an emergency situation. All of the tunnels begin on the outside and run to the center of the structure. "What they use is sections of concrete culvert, corrugated tubing and pipes, rebar and slabs of concrete, dirt and all those things that would be part of a collapsed structure," Forand said. Much of the material used was already on the site at Beaufort County's public works facility.

During the exercise, the structure was rebuilt and adjusted every night by RIG to set up for another day of rescue work. "It's a challenge because the structure is dynamic, everything has to be replaced," said Shannon. "If (the structure) is not maintained it can cause a catastrophic collapse."

Safety is always a paramount consideration. The pile has to be set up in such a way as to not cave in and create a real world rescue situation. "That would be bad news if the search and rescue teams ended up having to be rescued," Forand said.

The RIG team builds these piles mainly for the National Guard and other military organizations. "There are 23 structures at Fort Gruber, Okla. that are a mixture of collapse and HAZMAT," said Shannon. He hopes to have another five built there by the end of 2009.

Unlike other exercises however, this Rubble Pile will not disappear after it's all over. "A lot of times what happens in these types of exercises is that a Rubble Pile will be built with the understanding that it will be removed when the exercise is over. This one is somewhat unique in that once the exercise

is over, the pile with remain in place," Forand said.

With Vigilant Guard 2008 complete, Beaufort County will take possession of the pile for local training. National Guard units and civilian agencies

will have an opportunity to use it as well. "It will become a permanent training facility for search and rescue operations," Forand said.



Duane Brock, a K-9 search specialist for the South Carolina Emergency Rescue Task force directs his search dog, Dixie, to find victims in the Rubble Pile at the Vigilant Guard 2008 exercise in Beaufort, S.C. Photo by Spc. Erica Knight, 108th Public Affairs Detachment

### Rubble Pile stats:

- 2,400 tons concrete plus 1,400 tons of dirt for support and foundation
- 100 pieces of concrete pipe
- 111 feet long and 88 feet wide and 18 feet tall
- Cost: \$300,000



## First ever C-130 landing at Hilton Head Airport

A 165th Airlift Wing C-130 Hercules aircraft touches down on the runway at Hilton Head Island Municipal Airport, April 23. The C-130 is the largest airplane to land at the airport which is now certified for military aircraft of that size as a result of the flight. The aircraft landed at the airport as part of an exercise Vigilant Guard scenario in which simulated earthquake victims were evacuated from the island by the C-130 and airlifted to Beaufort, S.C. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, NGB PARRT Team

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

Known as a golfing and vacation resort, Hilton Head Island in South Carolina can accommodate over 100,000 people during the peak of tourist season. However, should a natural disaster such as an earthquake occur, it could leave all of those people without food, water, proper medical attention and a way off the island itself. On April 23, during Vigilant Guard 2008 in Beaufort, S.C., a National Guard C-130 landed at the Hilton Head Island Airport – a first for the nation’s shortest commercial runway – to test the National Guard’s ability to protect and rescue those potentially in harm’s way.

A trio of S.C. National Guard Blackhawk helicopters dropped off simulated injured patients to be evacuated from the island by the C-130. Airport chief of operations Larry Yeager said a primary concern about the C-130 landing was the weight of the aircraft, which was nearly three times that of the runway’s capacity. However, the C-130 landed successfully, picked up the simulated patients and took off again. The pilot, Capt. Brian Zwicker of the 165th Airlift Wing, Georgia Air National Guard, said the landing was essentially -- routine. “The residents and visitors of Hilton Head Island can rest a little easier knowing that if disaster strikes, the National Guard will be there to help,” said Zwicker.



Soldiers of the S.C. National Guard board a C-130 Hercules aircraft that has just landed on the runway at Hilton Head Island Municipal Airport April 23. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, NGB PARRT Team



# Engineers Clear Away Neighborhood Flood Waters

Story by Staff Sgt. Joe Cashion, 108th Public Affairs Detachment  
Photos by Spc. Tracey Martin, 108th Public Affairs Detachment

Among the many problems created in the wake of a devastating earthquake, flooding is one of the most unpredictable. Homes, property, and roadways can all be severely affected if culverts, trenches or ditches are not properly maintained to handle any additional water.

That's where elements of the 122nd Engineer Battalion from Saluda swung into action on April 21, during the Vigilant Guard 2008 exercise in Beaufort.

A team of ten Soldiers, working alongside the Beaufort County Public Works Stormwater Infrastructure, deployed to a residential neighborhood to clear debris and overgrown brush from a trench in order to handle the flood waters.

According to Staff Sgt. Kevin Knowles, non-commissioned officer in charge of the mission, Vigilant Guard is an opportunity to accomplish a real-world mission in a training scenario that directly benefits the public.

"That's what this exercise is for," said Knowles. "To see how well we work together with civilian authorities in order to help the community."

Operating chainsaws and a wood chipper, two teams of engineers worked from opposite ends of the trench to clear away overgrown trees, weeds, vines and trash that built up over the years.

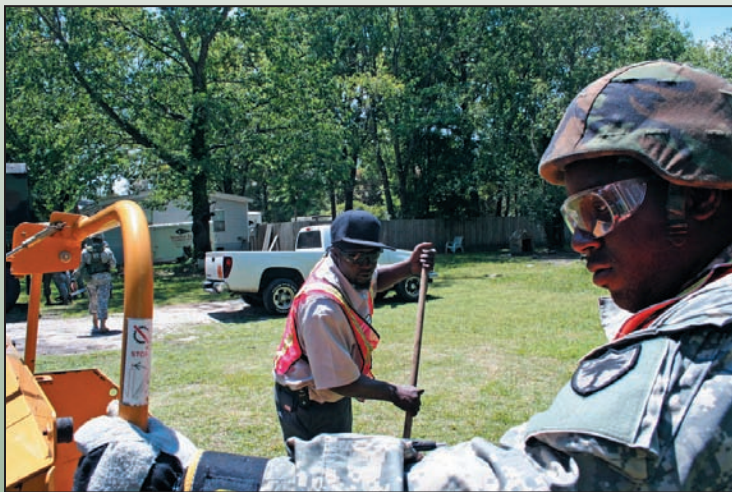
"We received the call after the earthquake hit to come here and clear away a number of areas, with this being one of them," Knowles said. "We needed to give the water somewhere to go other than overflowing the banks."

He said the local population has been supportive of their efforts.

"The community seems very receptive to us so far," he said. "We've had a lot of people thank us for being here and doing what we're doing."

Knowles feels it's important for people to realize that during times of domestic disaster, the National Guard is the first military responder.

"We want to show everyone that the National Guard is not only here for overseas duty, but first and foremost for the community as well."



Pfc. Anthony Hill, a Soldier of Detachment 1 of the 122nd Engineer Battalion (Route Clearance), a South Carolina National Guard unit from Batesburg, and Michael Singleton of the Beaufort County Stormwater Infrastructure work together to clear debris from a creek during a training scenario.



Two Soldiers from Detachment 1, 122nd Engineer Battalion (Route Clearance), a South Carolina National Guard unit from Batesburg, clear debris from a creek that during a training scenario has overflowed the banks in a Beaufort County community during the Vigilant Guard 2008 exercise.

# Guard's 43rd Civil Support Team Assists Local Fire District During Vigilant Guard

Story by Master Sgt. Richard B. Hodges, S.C. Air National Guard Public Affairs  
 Photos by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones, S.C. National Guard Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Paul Laymon, commander of the South Carolina National Guard's 43rd Civil Support Team (CST), received a phone call early April 21, informing him of a potential crisis situation in historic Bluffton, S.C. As a participant in the massive Vigilant Guard 2008 exercise taking place in Beaufort County, Laymon immediately assembled his advance team of six CST first responders and proceeded to the Palmetto Breeze Busing Co., site of the emergency scenario.

The Vigilant Guard exercise call to Laymon came from the S.C. Joint Operations Center. It informed him that Bluffton first responders had responded to a call at a local bus company where two unconscious employees were found and a 'strange smell' was present. Following emergency procedures Bluffton first responders removed the victims and evacuated the area. Then they immediately contacted the S.C. National Guard and requested assistance. Within 30 minutes, Laymon's 43rd CST advanced on-site team was assembled and en-route to Bluffton. Arriving just after 8 a.m., the CST commander met with the incident commander, Fire Chief Barry Turner of the Bluffton Fire District who along with Asst. Chief John Thompson, were on-scene.

As a resource of the S.C. National Guard, the 43rd CST is available upon request to assist local responders throughout the state in potentially hazardous situations that may include nuclear, biological and chemical contingencies.

"We're here to help the incident commander in assessing and responding to the situation," Laymon explained.

The ADVON (Advanced Echelon) team, as well as the whole CST, is here to advise, assist and report to the incident commander so he or she can make informed decisions as to the proper response, according to said Tech. Sgt. Bryan Barnes, 43rd CST medical noncommissioned officer.

"The ADVON team comes in first to make sure it's safe for the rest of the team to come in," said Barnes. "We'll go in and do a quick survey to ensure the hazard is contained and that we're not setting up our footprint in the plume."

Barnes explained that the ADVON team is representative of the entire CST, "We have a commander and deputy commander, a medical NCO and a physician's assistant along with a lab officer (nuclear-medical-science officer), as well as a reconnaissance/survey element."

The 43rd CST, the only joint Army-Air National Guard unit in the state, is located in West Columbia, S.C., and is made up of 22 full-time National Guard members.

Based on the initial information received, Laymon and the CST ADVON team went to the busing company while the rest of the CST team remained behind at a safe distance of six miles. Later, after Laymon determined that the entire team was needed and the area was safe, they were deployed to the site.

Laymon explained why the unit's main body remains six miles out awaiting his instructions after a reconnaissance, survey or pre-monitoring test of the area is conducted. The unit sweeps the area before bringing in the whole team.

"Safety is paramount," said Laymon. "My job is to make sure the area is safe for troops on the ground."

Three of the reconnaissance element/survey team members, Air Guardsman Master Sgt. Matt Sullivan and Tech. Sgt. Anthony Whigham, along with S.C. Army Guard member Sgt. Edward Edgerton all suited up in full protective gear which included rubber suits, gloves, boots, protective masks and self-contained breathing apparatus prior to conducting their sweep of the area.

One team member drove a modified, military version of the John Deere 'Gator' while the other two monitored the area for contaminants. "The Gator is one of the best tools we have, especially in the South Carolina heat. It saves us a lot of walking and carrying heavy equipment while we're in the protective suits which are very hot," Barnes said.

The Vigilant Guard exercise assists both the Guard's CST as well as local responders in working together as a team in the event of "real world" contingencies in the future.

"This exercise helps prepare us for future events such as natural disasters," said Bluffton Township Fire Chief Barry Turner. "It gives us the opportunity to work with the National Guard and them with us."



Lt. Col. Paul Laymon, S.C. Air National Guard (left), commander of the 43rd Civil Support Team, questions Fire Chief Barry Turner of the Bluffton Township Fire District concerning an exercise scenario during a simulated contingency as part of Vigilant Guard. The 43rd CST, the only joint Army-Air National Guard unit in the state, is located in West Columbia, S.C., and is made up of 22 full-time National Guard members.



Two members of the Recon/Survey element of the South Carolina's 43rd Civil Support Team, conduct an initial sweep of a suspicious area as part of the Vigilant Guard exercise held in the Beaufort, S.C. area Apr. 21.

# 877th Engineer Company Practices High Extraction Techniques

Story by Spc. Erica Knight, 108th Public Affairs Detachment  
Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Edward E. Snyder, S.C. Air National Guard Public Affairs



Spc. Felicia Melville from the 151st Aviation Battalion in South Carolina, rapels from a three story tower. Members of the 877th Engineer Company from Augusta, Georgia receive high-angle extraction rescue techniques at the Burton Township Fire Department in Beaufort County, S.C.



Spc. Nicholas Brown from Recruiting and Retention in the S.C. National Guard is safely lowered to safety.

Standing on top of an 18-foot tower, the Soldiers of the 877th Engineer Company from Augusta, Ga. lowered a woman to safety at the Vigilant Guard 2008 exercise in Beaufort, S.C., April 21 – 24.

A high angle extraction utilizes a tripod with pulleys and ropes to lift and lower victims to safety from damaged buildings. The Response International Group (RIG) from Oklahoma City sets up training sites for the National Guard (such as the one utilized during Vigilant Guard) and local emergency response teams to learn the most effective techniques to meet the varied circumstances.

RIG also evaluates the Soldiers as they go through the course.

“Helping the military is a way I can contribute,” said Andy Lancaster, the exercise controller and president of RIG. “Kids come into class and after a while you can see the light bulb go on.”

During the Vigilant Guard scenario, the engineer team recorded their entry time and entered the structure. As they moved along the tunnels, they called in on the radio every few minutes to update their position. When they encountered trapped victims, the team called back and gave a brief assessment of each victim.

When they were able to move the victims to an area where they could exit the building, the team set up a tripod. The tripod has a pulley in the center to make it easier to move the victims.

The first victim was conscious and walking. One Soldier placed her in a harness while others set up the pulley and attached her. She leaned off the edge of the structure and, with the assistance of a three-person team on the ground, was lowered down. The next victims were “unconscious” or had “severe injuries” and had to be lowered in a basket.

Lancaster mentioned how valuable this kind of training can be to units who must respond to a disaster similar to what the 877th experienced during Vigilant Guard.

“These techniques can be used in an earthquake, hurricane, or tornado,” said Lancaster. “It works for any high-rise building.”

He also praised the engineers for their proficiency during the scenario.

“The team encountered problems and they solved them,” Lancaster said. “There is no text book on this.”



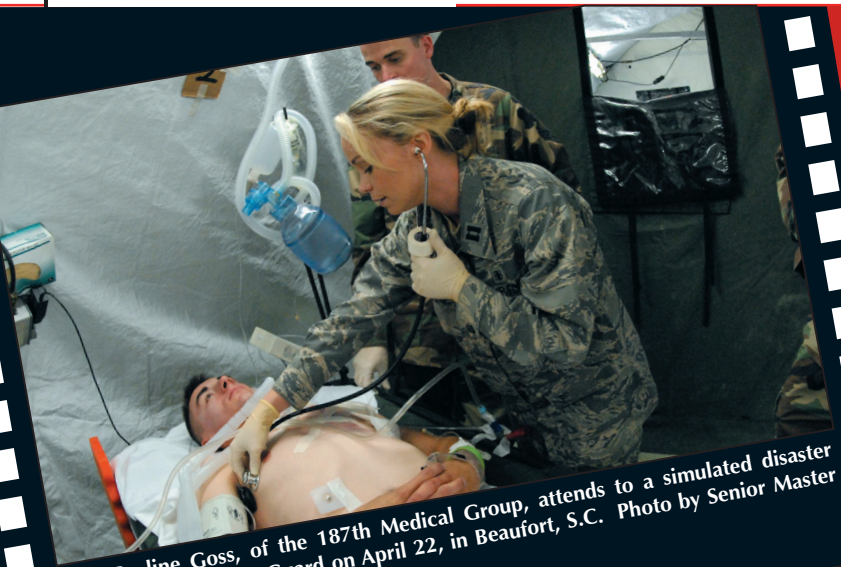
# National Guard And Local Units Engage In Large-Scale Emergency Medicine Exercise

Story by Master Sgt. Richard Hodges,  
S.C. Air Guard Public Affairs

Members of the Air National Guard along with local-area disaster response agencies participated in Vigilant Guard 2008, a National Guard sponsored exercise designed to assess the ability of the National Guard to react to a domestic emergency. The April exercise held in Beaufort tested the Air Guard's Expeditionary Medical Support (EMEDS) capabilities in the triage, treatment and medical air evacuation of 100 'victims.' EMEDS is a modular, scalable, rapid response medical package that can be used in humanitarian relief, wartime contingencies and disaster response operations.

Air Guard medical professionals from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Kansas, Rhode Island, Vermont and South Carolina participated in the mass-casualty exercise.

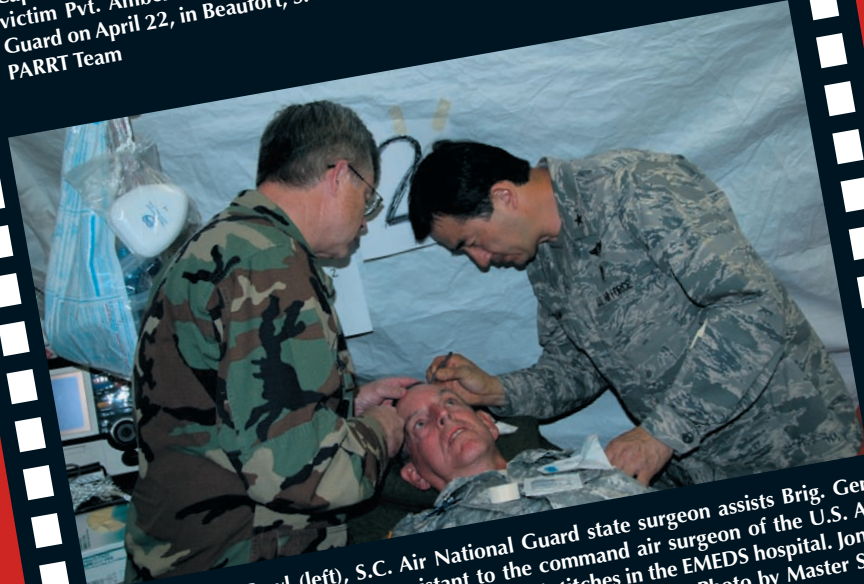
This year's scenario began with a mock 7.3



Capt. Pauline Goss, of the 187th Medical Group, attends to a simulated disaster victim during Vigilant Guard on April 22, in Beaufort, S.C. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, NGB PARRT Team



Capt. Dorrie Staal, of the 188th Medical Group, attends to a simulated disaster victim Pvt. Amber Smith, of the 351st Aviation Support Battalion, during Vigilant Guard on April 22, in Beaufort, S.C. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, NGB PARRT Team



Col. (Dr.) Dana Rawl (left), S.C. Air National Guard state surgeon assists Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Jim Chow (right), Deputy Assistant to the command air surgeon of the U.S. Air Force, in the removal of melanoma removed from his forehead by Chow. Photo by Master Sgt. Richard Hodges, S.C. Air Guard Public Affairs

earthquake centered in Beaufort County. After-effects of the earthquake resulted in more than 50 various exercise-related scenarios at incident site locations throughout the county, including several that involved emergency medicine.

There are four unique EMEDS packages ranging from small portable units with a dozen medical personnel to the largest EMEDS with a staff of 84 able to provide emergency medical care for a population of 3,000-5,000. The EMEDS in the Vigilant Guard exercise was a medium sided EMEDS consisting of 56 medical personnel with an ability to care for up to 3,000 personnel plus ancillary services including laboratory, radiology, pharmacy and dental.

Commenting on the role of Air Guard medical professionals in the EMEDS, Col. (Dr.) Dana Rawl, state air surgeon for South Carolina said, "We're here to respond to simulated civilian casualties in a realistic state-wide mass disaster exercise. We're simulating emergency care, psychiatry, orthopedics, surgery, general and urgent care, and even an OB/GYN case."

The EMEDS facility used in this year's Vigilant Guard exercise has seen service before in Bay St. Louis, Miss., following Hurricane Katrina. It is part of the Kansas Air National Guard medical inventory. The 2007 Air National Guard Medical Service budget included funding for 52 basic EMEDS, one for every state plus Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico.

The exercise scenario in Beaufort consisted of numerous casualties played by dozens of role players, many of whom were South Carolina National Guard members from throughout the state and beyond who were each assigned a certain 'injury.' Medical technicians then expertly performed 'moulage,' makeup applied to simulate exceptionally realistic injuries to include fractures, open wounds and other medical problems.

Actors were briefed by exercise evaluators as to what their symptoms would be and encouraged to act out their symptoms in order to give a realistic presentation to the medical professionals conducting triage.

The victims sustained simulated injuries that ranged from severe anxiety to life-threatening cases requiring airlift evacuation. About two dozen individuals were airlifted by National Guard OH-58 Kiowa and UH-60

Blackhawk helicopters.

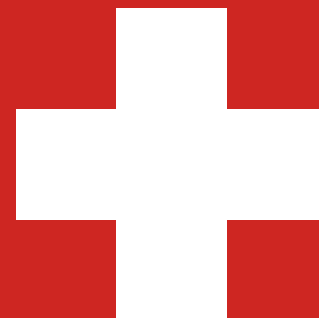
Participants like Master Sgt. Pamela Pilgrim, a medical technician with the Air Guard's 187th Fighter Wing's Medical Group, Montgomery, Alabama learned valuable lessons in teamwork. "It's been a great learning experience with realistic scenarios for a state-wide disaster. It's good that medical technicians from five or six states can come and work together so well as a team," she said. "We're glad to be here." Some two dozen members of the Alabama Air Guard participated in Vigilant Guard 2008.

Local first responders, such as 65 members of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office, interacted with the EMEDS team. Col. David Brown, chief of staff of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office said he was very impressed with what he saw and how EMEDS can be expanded to additional beds and space. "I hope we never have to make use of this facility in Beaufort but it's comforting to know that it's available if need be," said Brown.

Other first responders from the local area included the Beaufort County Emergency Medical Service with almost 30 members assisting in the simulated air medical evacuations that took place.

"Our role is to make sure the right number of patients are loaded onto the helicopters and sent to the four hospitals in the area," said Joseph Schaefer, senior crew chief of the Beaufort County EMS. "We have to make sure we don't overload one hospital and the hospitals have the capability to receive air evacuations."

After it was over, many participants and observers concluded that the exercise was very lifelike and useful. "It was a realistic exercise," said Lt. Col. Ed Wakem, EMEDS vice commander from the 143rd Air Wing, Quonset Point, Rhode Island. "There's no mission more fulfilling than helping our fellow citizens during times of crisis and war."



# Medical Teams Airlift Vi



Victims of the 'Rubble Pile' hurry to the UH-60 Blackhawk



A pilot helps a victim of the 'Rubble Pile' to the OH-58 Kiowa to be airlifted to a local hospital during the Vigilant Guard 2008 exercise in Beaufort, S.C.

# Victims To Local Hospitals



to be evacuated to a local hospital during the exercise.

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

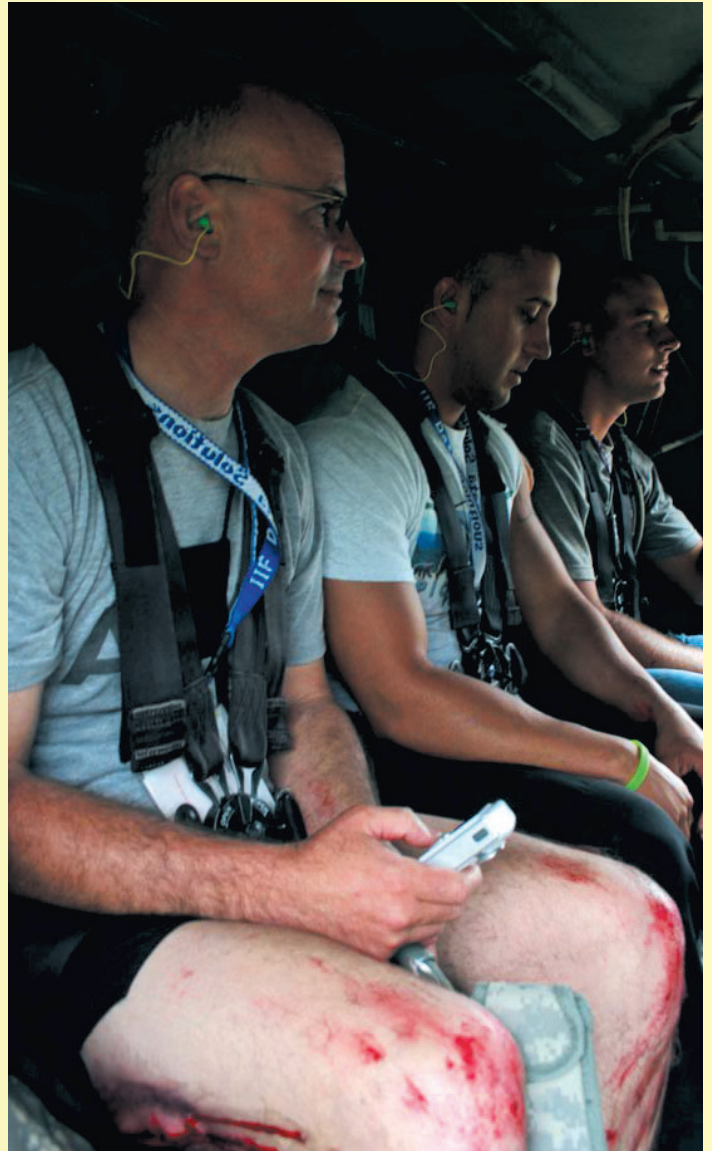
With roads out and bridges down, medical teams rely on helicopters to transport victims to hospitals during Vigilant Guard 2008.

The Emergency Medical Support team (EMEDS) from the Air National Guard runs the field hospitals when responding to a natural disaster. If a victim needs more treatment than the field hospital can provide they must be airlifted to another treatment center.

“Standard procedure for evacuating victims is to treat the patient and call in an air evacuation,” said Maj. Douglas Genereux from the 143rd Medical Group with the Rhode Island Air National Guard. “The intensive-care patients get prepped with staff being knowledgeable of their injuries. The patients are loaded onto a stretcher and taken out to the loading zone.”

Multiple types of helicopters are used for medical evacuation (MEDEVAC). The most common are UH-60 Blackhawks, CH-47 Chinooks, and UH-1 Hueys. The number of people who are able to be evacuated depends on the type of helicopter.

“During a mass casualty we stay with each patient,



Spc. Kenny Woodyard, a recruiter from Recruiting and Retention Command in Columbia, S.C. portrays a ‘Rubble Pile’ victim being air lifted to a hospital during the exercise.

maintaining life support, until we can get an available aircraft,” said Genereux.

The field hospital staff is certified every five years and takes an annual class for EMEDS and MEDEVAC.

According to Genereux this is the first time the EMEDS team has deployed to get certified. They were able to have the emergency room up and running in 24 hours.

“Setting up from a dirt lot, then staffing and stocking it in two days – during a natural disaster is huge!”

# Partnership Active for Vigilant Guard 2008

Story by  
Staff Sgt. Dan Heaton, NGB PARRT Team



Spc. Larry Edwards of the 351st Aviation Support Battalion is preparing a Slingload with cases of water to be moved via a Blackhawk Slingload Operation to be deployed for civilian distribution for the Earthquake scenario. During the scenario, the civilians on St. Helena's Island have been complaining of the water being unclear due to a water main break and it is the National Guard's mission to supply clean water. Photo by Spc. Tracey Martin, 108th Public Affairs Detachment

Federal Emergency Management Agency to such non-governmental but familiar emergency responders as the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

"This lets us test and put into use the long-standing plans we have to respond to an emergency of this scale," said Lee Levesque, public affairs officer for the Lady's Island/St. Helena Fire District. "We want to see what goes right in an emergency like this, but more importantly find areas where we need improvement."

According to Levesque, St. Helena Island and all of Beaufort County is in an area that has potential to be hit with a major weather-related disaster. A major hurricane could hit the area, as Hurricane Hugo did in 1989, or an actual earthquake could rock the region, as happened in 1893. In fact, the 1893 earthquake helped give birth to the Red Cross – the agency's founder, Clara Barton, personally helped lead relief efforts at Penn Center on St. Helena after that temblor.

While Christine Eddings was out running errands April 22, she picked up a case of water. A routine errand perhaps, but on this Tuesday, a South Carolina National Guard Soldier loaded the water into the back of Eddings' car. The water distribution was part of Vigilant Guard 2008.

On day two of the exercise, a Virginia National Guard helicopter ferried two large pallets of bottled water to Penn Center National Historic Landmark District, which serves as a meeting place for many of the residents of St. Helena Island in Beaufort County. S.C. National Guard soldiers on the ground created an emergency supplies distribution center at Penn Center. Further south on the island, a team of soldiers walked along Lands End Drive, clipboards in hand, looking for "earthquake-damaged" homes and people needing help. They called the results in to the Lady's Island/St. Helena Fire District.

"This is important for us," said Walter Mack, interim executive director at Penn Center. "This is the heart of this community and in a disaster, people tend to come here, this is where people meet.

"Working on this project with the National Guard and our local fire department, people see this and know that there is a plan if they need help," Mack said.

In addition to more than 3,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from more than a dozen states, Vigilant Guard brings together fire departments, local police, state troopers and personnel ranging from governmental agencies such as varied as the Army Corps of Engineers and the



“Something could happen, so we are happy to have the National Guard out here practicing for a few days,” said Eddings, who lives near Penn Center.

At Penn Center, all of the water distribution was carried out under the watchful eye of Sgt. 1st Class George Skinner, a member of the S.C. National Guard’s 163rd Support Battalion, based in Varnville. After the water was dropped off by the Virginia National Guard’s UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, Skinner’s team quickly set up six distribution stations, allowing island residents, such as Eddings, to drive up and get the supplies they need to help return to normal life following an actual disaster. For the exercise, only water was supplied at Penn Center, but Skinner said his team could just as easily been handing out emergency food rations and supplies such as tarps and other coverings, if needed.

“Our mission out here is one thing, take care of civilians. Really, take care of our neighbors,” Skinner said.

Three miles away, another Sgt. 1st Class, this one part of the headquarters detachment of the 118th Mechanized Infantry Battalion, based in Mount Pleasant, S.C., was recording the results of a neighborhood assessment mission.

“If the real deal hits, my troops will be able to say, ‘OK, I’ve done this before, I’m ready to go now,’” said Sgt. 1st Class Brad Mitchell, as his squad of 22 soldiers walked through a neighborhood along Land’s End Drive in a simulated door-to-door search mission.

“We’re an extension of the fire department right now,” explained 2nd Lt. John Hatfield of the 118th Mechanized Infantry. “In a situation like this, we’re here to support the civilian first-responders.

Further north on the island, behind the headquarters of the fire department at the Frogmoore International Airport, squads of South Carolina Soldiers from two different units have come together to load supplies and receive supplies from helicopters and to be quickly dispersed by helicopter to locations around the island or elsewhere, as needed, based on reports from the field called in by Skinner, Mitchell or other military or civilian authorities.

Fifty-seven Soldiers from Bravo Company of the 118th, hailing from Guard armories in Gaffney and Union, S.C., were at the airport ready for rapid deployment to areas in need while another 22 Soldiers from A Company of the 351st Aviation Support Battalion from the Hartsville Armory were loading and unloading supplies and equipment as needed – all in coordination with the fire department.

For many of the Soldiers, working in support of the community is actually a morale builder. “We are Citizen-Soldiers,” said Capt. Samone McNeil Chapman, A-Company commander. “Missions like this puts the focus strongly on both sides of that, we are citizens using our skills as Soldiers to help citizens. That’s a mission that we take a great deal of pride in.”

Virginia National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter arrives on St. Helena’s Island bringing drinkable water to survivor victims during the simulated earthquake disaster of Vigilant Guard 2008. Photo by Spc. Tracey Martin, 108th Public Affairs Detachment



# National Guard Assists Local Responders In Port Royal Anti-Terrorism Exercise



**Beaufort County Sheriff's Department SWAT team members board the 'hijacked' ship.  
Photo by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones, S.C. National Guard Public Affairs**

Story by Master Sgt. Richard B. Hodges, S.C. Air National Guard Public Affairs

More than a dozen law enforcement and local-area first responders joined the South Carolina National Guard in a highly realistic maritime anti-terrorism exercise in Port Royal Sound as part of Vigilant Guard, the largest natural disaster preparedness exercise ever conducted by the S.C. National Guard.

The exercise scenario consisted of a terrorist organization hijacking a local ferry boat, "Palmetto Messenger," as a platform for deploying a 'dirty bomb' in the Port Royal harbor. National Guard helicopters, the Beaufort Police Department and the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department observed the 'hijacked' vessel and requested local-area and Guard HAZMAT and Civil Support Team (CST) assistance.

Vigilant Guard tested about 100 local-area law enforcement and first responders with responding to a potential maritime terrorist threat. "We usually respond as a SWAT team to crimes in progress, warrants and stakeouts," said Matt Clancy, Deputy Chief of Police for the City of Beaufort. "We found this exercise to be exceedingly realistic and definitely helpful for our Special Ops and future development."

Area agencies taking part in the exercise included the Beaufort County Sheriff's Dept., Beaufort's police and fire departments, Port Royal Police Dept., Hilton Head Island HAZMAT/COBRA, Beaufort County EMS, Beaufort Marine Rescue Squad and several other organizations.

Military units assisting in the exercise included the South Carolina and Georgia National Guard's Civil Support Teams who provided chemical, biological, and radiological assistance as requested. "This particular exercise scenario has been very helpful to the 4th CST," said Georgia National Guard Sgt. Randy Boatner, "We do similar work with our local SWAT teams but this was very beneficial for our training."

"The exercise gives us a chance to work with local responders. They learn how to contact us and it gives us the chance to better perfect our skills and support our mission," said Lt. Alan Hammond, deputy commander of the 4th CST, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Georgia.

The local responders appreciated the opportunity to take part in a large-scale anti-terrorism exercise. "The National Guard assisted us greatly. The CST really benefits us because they're the experts we look to for the answers we need in a situation like this," said Capt. Scott Johnson, Beaufort County Sheriff's Dept.'s SWAT team commander. "It allows us to use all the tactics we train for and to work with the incident commander and in a major exercise like this everyone comes together to act as one team."



Members of the 4th Civil Support Team (CST), Dobbins Reserve Air Force Base, Marietta, Georgia, decontaminate members of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department SWAT team following the "dirty bomb" scenario. Photo by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones, S.C. National Guard Public Affairs



William Winn (left), the Director of the Beaufort County Emergency Management Division, Lt. Col. Neal Baxley (center) of the Beaufort County Sheriff's office and Brig. Gen. Les Eisner (right), brief the media, Beaufort County mayors, town administrators and non-governmental organization (NGO) leaders such as the American Red Cross during the Vigilant Guard exercise's mock terrorist threat brief in the PARRT's media tent in Beaufort, on April 22. Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian

# Staying In Touch After Disaster Strikes



Chief Warrant Officer Larry Fuller and Chief Warrant Officer Kenneth Drennon, both members of Joint Forces Headquarters-South Carolina, work to maintain the communications network during Vigilant Guard 2008, April 20, 2008. Photo by Spc. Tracey Martin, 108th Public Affairs Detachment

Story by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian and Staff Sgt. Dan Heaton, NGB PARRT Team

Maintaining reliable communications is a challenge in any disaster. Power may be out, phone lines may be down -- even cell phones may not work. But when disaster strikes and the S.C. National Guard's Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) team are called to the incident scene, emergency communications can be quickly restored.

Col. Debra Rose, who serves the S.C. National Guard as the state's Communications Officer, spearheaded the effort for S.C. to receive the nation's first-ever JISCC package following hurricane Katrina in 2005. In fact her JISCC team was the first to deploy to an incident site on the heels of hurricane Rita soon after Katrina's devastating blow to New Orleans. She says her plan (since obtaining JISCC) has been to be able to provide a communications network to the on-scene commanders within two hours after her team arrives. However, it is often set up in as fast as 25 minutes after the team rolls or flies into a site.

Rose, who has spent much of her career in the Signal career field, says she has been inspired by the motto "key to command" of the 50th Signal Battalion at Ft. Gordon, GA. She believes the most brilliant and decisive visions are ineffective without the ability to communicate them, and her team seeks to ensure when the S.C. National Guard and our state's emergency responders need to communicate, they can. "For the Signal community, Vigilant Guard was a defining testament of our capabilities," said Rose.

*"the most brilliant and decisive visions are ineffective without the ability to communicate them"*

The JFHQ communications team is made up of 11 South Carolina National Guard soldiers and provides internet service, voice over internet protocol (or VOIP) capability and video teleconferencing capability to the National Guard and other local, state and federal authorities who participated in the exercise. One of JISCC's unique interoperable features is its ability for first responders to plug into JISCC with their own individual radio systems and communicate with all disaster response personnel anywhere at anytime even if they are using different radio systems.

According to Rose, at the end of each hurricane season, Maj. Gen. Stan Spears, the Adjutant General of South Carolina asks the S.C. National Guard leadership, "What can we do to help ensure we are better prepared to help our state next year?" She believes Vigilant Guard 2008 helped answer that question. "It provided reassurance to the people of S.C. that all levels of their government, the military, industry and non-governmental organizations are working together to better prepare for future disasters," said Rose

Practicing the communications capability of the National Guard and other agencies is a key component of Vigilant Guard, said Brig. Gen. Les Eisner, the Deputy Adjutant General of the S.C. National Guard and commander of troops for Vigilant Guard 2008.

"The National Guard brings trained personnel from around the country who are able to support a community that has suffered a disaster. Vigilant Guard allows us to test our capability and develop relationships with the local and state agencies we would be working with," Eisner said.

# Soldiers Provide Assistance to Sun City Community

By Spc. Erica Knight, 108th Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers from the 351st Aviation Support Battalion in Hartsville, S.C. distributed water to the Sun City community in Beaufort County during the Vigilant Guard 2008 exercise on April 23.

This exercise was a first for the citizens of this retirement community and it allowed them to be full partners in preparations for any planned disaster drills or emergencies.

"I think it's great that the National Guard is coming here to practice," said Jane Hartsig, a 13-year resident of Sun City. "It really makes me feel secure."

Staff Sgt. Richard Sherman, a section chief from Alpha Company, 351st Aviation Support Battalion said in this scenario we had reports of low water pressure and possible water contamination.

Although the unit is designed for aviation support, in an emergency this is what they would be called to do, explained Sherman.

"We would broadcast the water distribution information on emergency frequencies," Sherman said.

At the distribution point there was a Soldier regulating incoming traffic. There were three stations with multiple Soldiers handing out bottles or cases of water.

Many residents thanked the Soldiers repeatedly as they handed out bottles of water.

Along with securing water for the community during a disaster, over 100 Soldiers from the Gaffney-based C-Company, 218th Brigade Combat Team conducted a search and rescue operation to cover the 6,000 acres of Sun City.

The search and rescue mission served as training to locate victims and determine the extent of the damage.

According to Barry Turner, the chief of the Bluffton Township Fire Department, the Soldiers were given a map of a section of the community. Before the troops moved out they were broken down into two man teams and assigned to prioritized streets.

"The Soldiers report in 30 minute intervals to update the blocks they have searched and the percentage of the area they have completed," said Turner. "They have a questionnaire to assess each house."

On the back of the sheet they mark the house with a slash for damaged and an "X" for not safe. If the house is unsafe the Soldier lists the time, any personal hazards, the number of injured and any casualties.

"During a natural disaster local resources will be taxed and unable to conduct search and rescue operations in densely populated areas," Turner said. "The National Guard provides the man-power necessary to accomplish this mission."

Many in the Sun City community repeatedly thanked the Soldiers for their efforts. "I think it's outstanding they are here and we are very appreciative," said Mari Jo Zibbler, a resident of Sun City.



Spc. Kyle Cummings (left) and Sgt. Roosevelt Hardy (right), from the 218th Brigade Charlie Company 118th Infantry from Gaffney South Carolina, conduct "Door to Door" searches of homes located in Sun City, S.C. in support of Vigilant Guard 2008. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Edward E. Snyder, S.C. Air National Guard Public Affairs



Members assigned to A-Company 351st Aviation Support Battalion from Hartsville South Carolina, distribute water to Sun City residents in support of Vigilant Guard 2008. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Edward E. Snyder, S.C. Air National Guard Public Affairs



Pfc. Sabrina Thomas (center-left), Capt. Samone Chapman (center) and Private 1st Class Mary Sanchez (center-right), assigned to A-Company 351st Aviation Support Battalion from Hartsville South Carolina, distribute water to Sun City residents. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Edward E. Snyder, S.C. Air National Guard Public Affairs



# LOGISTICS KEY TO VIGILANT GUARD SUCCESS

1st Lt. Matt Walters (left) reports to Lt. Col. Chuck Johnson, the Forward Operating Base (FOB) site commander on the progress his Soldiers from 263rd Armor Battalion are making in establishing one of the S.C. National Guard's FOBs for Vigilant Guard in Beaufort, S.C. on April 15. Johnson was promoted to the rank of Colonel during Vigilant Guard. Three Thousand Guardsmen from throughout FEMA Region IV lived in temporary Forward Operating Bases during the exercise.

Story by Maj. Jim St.Clair, JFHQ Public Affairs Officer  
 Photos by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian

The great Chinese military philosopher Sun Tzu once wrote "The line between disorder and order lies in logistics." Twenty-five hundred years later, his words still ring true. Thanks to the hard work, planning, and behind the scenes efforts of the South Carolina National Guard's Logistics team, led by Lt. Col. Michael Schulman, Director of Logistics (DOL) and Lt. Col. William Martin, Logistics Management Officer, Vigilant Guard 2008 was a success. "We were able to do what we were required to do," said Schulman.

There's a lot that goes into supporting all the machines and 'human machines' in an effort on the scale of Vigilant Guard 2008. That's where logistics comes in. Without logistics, all the vehicles and generators would have run out fuel and been useless. Plus the "life support" for all the participants was a critical factor. "Without DOL, how would they have been fed? How would they have been transported? They could

not have lived," Schulman said.

DOL was responsible for feeding and billeting approximately 3,000 troops for the duration of the exercise. Two Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) were set up to house everyone. Martin said 218th Brigade personnel set up the tent cities as well as tents for operational support at the exercise venues. A total of more than 230 tents in all were used. "In addition to the tents, we fed hot meals to our people twice a day plus a meal ready to eat (MRE) at lunchtime. We also provided ice and bottled water," Schulman said.

DOL also took charge of transportation and the fueling for hundreds of vehicles and generators used in the exercise. "DOL had the responsibility of providing all logistical support. It all goes back to coordination," Schulman said.

In fact, coordination was key to the entire operation Schulman went on to say. "Without it, Vigilant Guard would not have been as successful. One considerable achievement was the coordination between DOL and the other Major Subordinate Commands and directorates."

Of course, prior planning was an essential factor as well. "The lesson learned was the planning that went into this thing prior to the exercise. Preparation was key," Martin said.

Should an actual disaster happen in South Carolina, the S.C. National Guard stands ready to step up and lend a hand, something that Vigilant Guard 2008 just proved. "From a DOL standpoint we are ready to do this next week. All the planning was sometimes painful. But the pain paid off," Schulman said. "I feel a lot better about knowing that we could do this for real now. We would just mirror what we did."



Pvt. Joseph Ruffing (left) and Spc. Cole Smothers from the 133rd Military Police Company set up an entry point to the S.C. National Guard's Forward Operating Base (FOB). Their role as military police at their FOB is to ensure the safety and security of military forces living at the FOB during Vigilant Guard.



Spc. Crystal Ramsey (right) assists Spc. Christian Cleveland in tying down the canvas cover of a tent erected to be used as living quarters by S.C. National Guardsmen at a Forward Operating Base (FOB) during Vigilant Guard in Beaufort.



Pfc. Jason Soto, Sgt. Sherwood Curry and Sgt. 1st Class Ralph Deason discuss the evening meal they plan to prepare for the 600 Soldiers they will feed in their team's containerized kitchen twice per day during Vigilant Guard in Beaufort. The three of them combined have over 60 years of service in food preparation.



Staff Sgt. Aaron Brown of Orangeburg, S.C. prepares to issue a tool from his Supply Truck's tool cabinets at a S.C. National Guard Forward Operating Base (FOB) during the Vigilant Guard exercise in Beaufort.

# Convoy Regulations Keep Traffic Moving

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

Making sure a 75 vehicle convoy stays on schedule is a big job, but not too big for the 1052nd Transportation Company from Kingstree, S.C.

They were responsible for maintaining the final checkpoint for all convoys entering the Beaufort area for the Vigilant Guard 2008 exercise, April 21 – 24.

“Being able to work with the local authorities prepares us for the real thing,” said 2nd Lt. Jay Norwood the officer in charge of the 1052nd Transportation Co. “This is part of our community.”

At regular intervals during the trip, the convoy leader radios in their mile marker position.

At the last checkpoint the convoys are led off the highway to a lot where they can refuel and take a break from driving. Once the convoy is stopped they check the timeline to see if they are on schedule. If the convoy is early, they will be held until their scheduled time. When they are released to the operations area they are escorted by two Military Police vehicles.

“We are the movement control team; all the convoys come through here,” said 1st Sgt. Doug Alexander, first sergeant for the brand new 1055th Transportation Co. from Laurens, S.C. “There were eight convoys on Sunday totaling about 200 vehicles.”

“On the first day of the exercise the convoys ranged from 15 to 78 vehicles,” said Norwood. The convoys could have come from an hour away or up to six hours away.

“Our main concern was traffic,” said Alexander. The purpose of the convoy schedule is to keep multiple, large convoys from clogging up road ways.

Once the convoys arrived at their designated Forward Operating Base (FOB) for the exercise, they were then refueled at the FOB so the vehicles were prepared to carry out their next mission.

At the end of the exercise, the 1052nd Transportation Co. had a similar checkpoint system in place to assist in returning the convoys to their hometown.



Pfc. Brandon Alston, a refueler from the 1st Battalion, 263rd Cavalry Regiment Reconnaissance Surveillance and Target Acquisition (RSTA) in Mullins S.C., keeps a record of the amount of fuel pumped into each convoy vehicle. S.C. National Guard convoys stop at an assembly point near Beaufort, after a long journey down I-95 to Exit 33. Here they will refuel, rest and have a bite to eat before rolling into their assigned areas throughout Beaufort County. Hundreds of South Carolina National Guard vehicles made their journey down Interstate 95 to Beaufort. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Edward E. Snyder, S.C. Air National Guard Public Affairs

Hundreds of S.C. National Guard vehicles made their way down Interstate 95 at the Beaufort Exit #33. Guard personnel from all over the states of South Carolina and North Carolina convoyed to participate in the Vigilant Guard 2008 exercise in Beaufort County. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Edward E. Snyder, S.C. Air National Guard Public Affairs



Soldiers like Cpl. Brandon Mosley (left) and Spc. Kelvin Rivers from the 1st of the 263rd Armor Battalion help establish the S.C. National Guard's Forward Operating Base (FOB) for Vigilant Guard in Beaufort. Their fuel team helped provide the energy necessary to keep generators, kitchen units and logistics resources operating. Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian







A CH-47 "Chinook" helicopter from the Georgia National Guard off-loads emergency medical personnel in response to the Vigilant Guard 2008 exercise. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Edward E. Snyder, S.C. Air National Guard Public Affairs

## 2nd Battalion, 151st Aviation Leads the Pack in Security and Support

Story by Cpt. Jennifer L. Phifer, 2-151st Aviation Public Affairs

Members of S.C. National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 151st Aviation anxiously geared up on April 14, for the kick-off of this year's full-spectrum exercise, Vigilant Guard. This exercise provided an opportunity for 285 Soldiers from 2-151 Security and Support Helicopter Battalion's companies and detachments from South Carolina, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida to train together for the first time.

This year's Vigilant Guard exercise was the first time ever any Security and Support Battalion participated in a collective training event. Operating a command element at McEntire Joint National Guard Base and also forward operations in Walterboro, SC made for a unique challenge in logistics and air operations management. The challenge was eagerly accepted by 2nd Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Robert T. Bradsher. He said the learning curve was very steep for the staff. "We came away from the exercise better prepared to provide military support to civil authorities as well as the citizens of South Carolina and our nation during times of natural or man-made disasters," said Bradsher.



An aircraft from the S.C. National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 151st Aviation flies over the S.C. National Guard's Forward Operating Base in Beaufort, enroute back to the Joint Operations Center to pick up aeromedical evacuation patients. Aircraft from the unit provided tremendous logistical, medical and public affairs support to the media throughout the Vigilant Guard exercise. Photo by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones, S.C. National Guard Public Affairs

## Church Helps Soldiers During The 2008 Vigilant Guard Exercise

Story by Spc. Byron Rounds, 108th Public Affairs Detachment  
 Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David Lipp, NGB PARRT Team

Col. Gordon Johnson of Columbia, S.C., had the large responsibility of caring for Soldiers and Airmen's needs at the North Carolina Forward Operating Base (FOB) during the Vigilant Guard 2008 exercise held in Beaufort County.

His responsibilities included everything from feeding, showering and ensuring the safety of National Guard members during this historic exercise. Additional support and comfort came when Swansea First Baptist Church of the South Carolina Baptist Convention donated a portable shower and washer dryer trailer for the week-long exercise.

Although the National Guard provided showers and portable bath rooms for guard members the additional donation was quite helpful. The trailer has five showers, three washers, and three dryers and was built by Hamp Redmond and Johnny King, two members of Swansea First Baptist Church.

"The vision came from working with hurricane Katrina victims in Pascagoula, Mississippi rebuilding demolished homes," said Redmond, who saw the need for future help during emergencies.

The additional showers helped relieve the big rush of approximately 800 Guard members in the FOB to shower in the mornings and evenings. The washers are considered a luxury for Guard members while in the field and are useful in saving time and money during this exercise.

"We are just so thankful for the support and generosity from our community," said Lt. Rainer Cooke, FOB officer in charge. "It is amazing."

Johnny King said the ladies of the church got together to provide various colored laundry bags, washing detergent, hair dryers, and Bibles.

"We didn't want our Guard members to have to pay for this," said King.

Terry Wilder, pastor of Swansea First Baptist, said part of his mission is to take the trailer where ever there is a need.

"This is just another way of doing God's work," said Wilder. "This is a great example of community working together to respond to a natural disaster."



Hamp Redmond of the Swansea First Baptist Church, Swansea, S.C. demonstrates features of a portable shower and laundry trailer to 2nd Lt. Rainer Cooke, the National Guard officer in charge of forward operating base showers, during National Guard exercise Vigilant Guard, April 20, in Beaufort, S.C. The use of the shower and laundry trailer for Soldiers and Airmen during Vigilant Guard has been donated by the church volunteers for the duration of the exercise.

## Soldiers From Denmark Observe VIGILANT GUARD 2008

Story by Staff Sgt. Dan Heaton, NGB PARRT Team  
 Photo by Spc. Tracey Martin, 108th Public Affairs Detachment

After serving with South Carolina Guardsmen in Afghanistan, 40 soldiers from the Army of Denmark spent two weeks in Beaufort County, S.C., observing the Vigilant Guard exercise.

"Our commander and the officers from South Carolina built a friendship while we were in Afghanistan together and they invited us to come to the state," said Staff Sgt. Christian Ravn, a soldier from Copenhagen, Denmark.

The 218th Enhanced Separate Brigade from the S.C. National Guard returned to the state earlier this year after serving for approximately a year in Afghanistan in support of the Global War on Terror.

While in South Carolina, the Danish soldiers observed National Guard operations during Vigilant Guard 2008. "This is a great opportunity to work with some of our international partners," said Brig. Gen. Les Eisner, Deputy Adjutant General of S.C. "We had the opportunity to serve alongside them in support of the Global War on Terror and now they get a chance to see how we posture and prepare for some of the Guard's domestic responsibilities."

Participating in a disaster response exercise is familiar training for Denmark soldiers, said Pfc. Martin Paaske, who also lives in Copenhagen.

"All soldiers in Denmark learn rescue training and firefighting skills," he said. "It is an important part of what the Army does in our country."

The Danish soldiers are assigned to a signal battalion and said they were particular interested in observing how the National Guard establishes and maintains communications systems during an emergency.



Pvt. Rene Andersen, a soldier in the Denmark Army, packs his gear during Vigilant Guard 2008, a disaster response training exercise based in Beaufort County, S.C. on April 18, 2008.



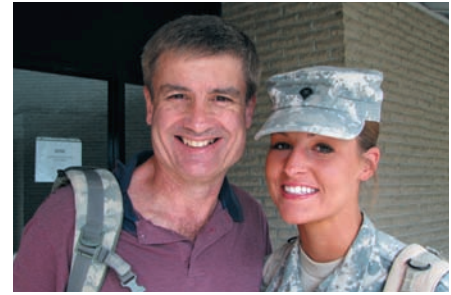
U.S. Congressman Joe Wilson (right), of the 2nd S.C. Congressional District addresses members of the S.C. media at the Vigilant Guard exercise's first press conference. During Vigilant Guard, 21 distinguished visitors such as Wilson and S.C. State Senator Catherine Ceips of District 46 (left), came through the Joint Visitors Bureau at the Beaufort Readiness Center before visiting Guardsmen, military, government and civic leaders in support of Vigilant Guard. Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian



Joe Farmer (left) of the S.C. Emergency Management Division and John Shuler, the Deputy Adjutant General of State Operations for the S.C. Military Department speak with Debbie Szpanka (right) the Director of the American Red Cross' Palmetto Chapter about the efforts her Red Cross personnel undertook during Vigilant Guard 2008. Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian

# Welcom

## 218th Brigade Combat Team &



### 218th Brigade Combat Team Notables:

#### *Afghan National Army (ANA)*

- Increased Army structure by 35 percent
- Increased by 19 kandaks (battalions) and the Kabul Security Kandak
- Went from 68 winter locations to over 240 for the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF)
- Engaged the Anti-Government Forces throughout the winter for the first time
- For the first time, the ANA is leading missions from planning through execution and sustaining in all Corps areas
- Army will validate several kandaks and up to two brigades as independent by spring 2008
- A year ago 30 units were able to take the lead, now over 50 have this capability
- Almost doubled the ANA strength at the regional level from 26,000 to more than 45,000

#### *Afghan National Police (ANP)*

- For the first time, we mentored the Police at the district level (tripling mentor requirement with no additional resources). Many Police Mentoring Teams (PMT) are living in the district centers providing 24/7 mentor coverage for the Police
- Instituted Focused District Development where we trained an entire district at a regional training center (RTC) and created district centers of excellence
- Instituted training surge by creating 15 mini-local training centers to train and mentor Policemen
- Within one year will train over 24,000 policemen

#### *Humanitarian Assistance*

- Completed \$12 million in Commander's Emergency Response Programs through the ANSF
- Distributed over 300 tons of critically needed food, clothing and emergency supplies through the ANSF
- Conducted over 200 medical assistance missions with the ANSF



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

# Home

## 132nd Military Police Company!



### 132nd Military Police Company Notables:

- Provided world-class military police training for the Iraqi police force.
- Completed over 1,117 combat support missions.
- Performed 662 combined patrols with the Iraqi police and coalition forces.

### Awards

- 3 Purple Hearts
- 56 Combat Action Badges (CAB)
- 154 Army Commendation Medals (ARCOM)



# FANS RACE TO SEE

# Earnhardt



The S.C. National Guard venue entrance had approximately 7,000 people walk through its gates. Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian



Sgt. Kimberly Dixon helps an Earnhardt fan climb into a National Guard photo display. Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian

Story by Spc. Erica Knight, 108th Public Affairs Detachment and Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian

Tapping into the popularity of NASCAR's fan favorite, Dale Earnhardt Jr., the National Guard Bureau (NGB) brought the driver of the National Guard #88 car to talk with Soldiers and their families prior to the Dodge Challenger 500, on May 10 at the Darlington International Raceway in Darlington, S.C.

According to Staff Sgt. Jeffery Bogaards, the trackside non-commissioned officer-in-charge for NGB, it is a scene often repeated during the NASCAR Nextel Cup season.

"NGB goes to about 30 races across the country every season," said Bogaards. He feels this whole program is all about getting the National Guard name out there. "We have a variety of guests from school principals to unit members and their families. We want to ensure that they have the time of their lives," said Bogaards.

For his part, Earnhardt has embraced his new Rick Hendrick Racing team and truly enjoys his visits with National Guard Soldiers and their families.

"It's great to see the fans and that helps me get psyched up before each race," said Earnhardt, driver of the #88 National Guard /Amp car.

Bogaards also explained that it has been very exciting bringing in a big name driver to the National Guard Team.

"Every driver is different and generates different interest," he said. "Casey Mears was a great representative for the National Guard. With a driver (Earnhardt Jr.) who is recognizable to non-NASCAR fans, we can focus our efforts more on how to use



The #88 National Guard NASCAR pit crew and driver, Dale Earnhardt Jr., gather around the car before the start of the Dodge 500 at Darlington Raceway in South Carolina on May 10. Photo by Spc. Erica Knight, 108th Public Affairs Detachment

# *Hendrick* AT DARLINGTON

this to benefit the National Guard."

Prior to the green flag on race night, Earnhardt opened up a bit to fans at the pre-race meeting and let them get to know the person behind the wheel.

One Guardsman told Earnhardt about being at his father's final race in Daytona seven years ago, mentioned that personal courage is one of the Army values and asked him about the personal courage it must have taken for him to climb back into a race car the week after his father's death on the last turn of the last lap of the Daytona 500. Earnhardt said after it happened he didn't really want to race, but he felt if he sat at home he'd drive himself crazy. He felt it was difficult all year with all of the tributes, but he learned a lot. "I don't know if I've been able to help anybody that's had a similar situation, but a lot of folks who have been through something like that helped me," said Earnhardt.

When asked about what he likes to do in his spare time, Earnhardt said he enjoyed building computers for his friends because it is a real challenge. He also enjoys playing computer games and is often called upon by gaming companies to test and give input on games they introduce. "I play the Tiger Woods video game because I can't play golf in real life," said Earnhardt.

He also shared a few laughs with the Soldiers and families and told a few stories, giving those present a treat before watching him race that evening. A ten-year-old received the biggest laugh from NASCAR's favorite driver when he asked 'were you ever a Boy Scout?' Earnhardt liked the question so much he had his

Rick Hendrick assistant give the boy his #88 hat following his departing comments to the Soldiers and their families.

"In these times, there is a lot of pride to be working with the military," Earnhardt said. "It really puts things in perspective and makes you appreciate what you have."



Dale Earnhardt, Jr., who started second on the poll at Darlington behind Greg Biffle takes the lead several laps into the race. Earnhardt finished fourth in the Dodge Challenger 500. (Photo by Spc. Erica Knight, 108th Public Affairs Detachment)



Sgt. Herman Vanderhorst welcomes visitors to climb into one of the several static vehicles the Guard had on display. Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian



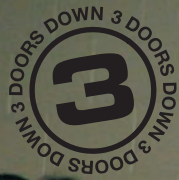
Sgt. Travis Brown (left) and Spc. Anthony Smith (who recently recruited both of his children into the S.C. National Guard), photograph Earnhardt fans next to his #88 car display. Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian

### **Recruiters Corner:**

"The Darlington Race is always a big weekend for us. It gives us a lot of exposure. The marketing department of the National Guard Bureau along with Sgt. 1st Class Don Sornson from our marketing department have done an outstanding job of putting the National Guard at the forefront of the biggest sport in the U.S. Having Dale Earnhardt, Jr. as our driver, gives us the most popular driver, in the biggest sport." Comments from Sgt. Maj. Brad Ware of the S.C. National Guard Recruiting and Retention Command.

### **Darlington Raceway Event Recruiting Statistics:**

Recruiters involved: 17 • Guard volunteers: 32 • Visitors to the National Guard venue: Approximately 7,000



Members of 3 Doors Down pose for a picture with their S.C. National Guard "Citizen-Soldier" fans.  
 1st row (left to right): Sgt. 1st Class Kris Alvey of Mt. Pleasant, Spc. Nathan Gobles of N. Charleston, Pfc. Desiree Garza of Goose Creek and Preston Bell of Moncks Corner  
 2nd row: Staff Sgt. Heather Garza of Goose Creek, Todd Harrell and Matt Roberts of 3 Doors Down, 1st Sgt. Holly Whalen of Mt. Pleasant and Staff Sgt. Jeremy Bassano of Mt. Pleasant  
 3rd row: Spc. Ryan Kohlhepp of N. Charleston and 3 Doors Down band members Brad Arnold, Chris Henderson and Greg Upchurch

# 3 DOORS DOWN

## Visit Citizen-Soldiers

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

Inspired by Guardsmen fighting in the Global War on Terrorism and Citizen-Soldiers from around the country who answered the cries for help from their home-state of Mississippi following the devastating 2005 hurricane season, the multi-platinum-selling 3 Doors Down rock band wrote a tribute song called "Citizen-Soldier." It's the first single from their new album "It's Not My Time" which was released in late May 2008.

With nearly 1,800 Citizen-Soldiers from South Carolina returning from Iraq and Afghanistan in May and 3,000 more participating in the National Guard Bureau's national emergency exercise called Vigilant Guard in Beaufort, S.C., 3 Doors Down lead vocalist Brad Arnold told South Carolina's Citizen-Soldiers "God Bless you guys for everything you do."  
 As S.C. Soldiers filed past 3 Doors Down band-members Greg Upchurch, Brad Arnold, Chris Henderson,

Matt Roberts and Todd Harrell, they thanked the band for Citizen-Soldier\* and what it has meant to them. "It's an inspirational song that gets to the heart of what it means to be a Soldier in the National Guard," said Staff Sgt. Heather Garza, a recruiter from Goose Creek, S.C.

The song's opening lyrics "beyond the boundary of your city's light – stand the heroes waiting for your cries. So many times you did not bring this on yourself – when that moment finally comes, I'll be there to help" are what Garza feels is special about the National Guard. "For the past 338 years of the S.C. National Guard's history, we've prided ourselves on always being ready to help our neighbors and our country when it's needed the most," said Garza.  
 Arnold, who wrote the lyrics for Citizen-Soldier feels the band couldn't be more proud of the song. Following pictures with S.C. Guardsmen, Arnold said "we're glad to support our Citizen-Soldiers, and we'll do it till the day we die." Given the thunderous applause for the song later during the concert, it seemed to the Soldiers, the fans of 3 Doors Down felt the same way.

**\* Note: to view the Citizen-Soldier video, please visit <http://www.1800goguard.com/movie/index2.php>**



# FROM COTTON MILL COUNTRY TO WWII to , BUD MOORE EARNS WALL OF HONOR SPOT

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

When most people around the country hear the city named Spartanburg, S.C. they automatically think about Milliken & Company, one of the largest, privately owned textile companies in the world. What they probably don't realize is the fact Spartanburg is home not only to Milliken, but three of NASCAR's greats as well – Bud Moore, Cotton Owen and David Pearson.

On March 27, all were on hand at one of their favorite lunch destinations, the Peach Blossom Diner in Spartanburg to enjoy lunch, talk about NASCAR and congratulate Moore on his latest honor. Moore was inducted onto the S.C. Military Museum's Wall of Honor in Columbia by the museum's foundation board for distinguishing himself as a citizen of S.C. while in the military and after.

Moore, who enlisted in the Army in August 1943, was assigned to Company D, 359th Regiment. His unit was attached to the 4th Infantry Division as part of the first wave of American Soldiers to hit Utah Beach at Normandy on "D-Day" June 6, 1944. "The first time I ever went swimming in the ocean was the day I jumped off that landing craft in water up to my neck with a full pack," said Moore.

Several months later during the "Battle of the Bulge," Moore would receive his first Bronze Star Medal for capturing four German officers and 15 enlisted men who were using a hill-top farmhouse to fire on his company. "My commander got annoyed by 'em and sent me and a driver up in a jeep to take care of it," said Moore. When Moore, who was on the jeep's machine-gun and the driver got to the top of the hill, Moore raised a sign of truce. He then told the driver, who could speak German, to go in there and tell the Germans if they didn't surrender, he was going to call in enough artillery to wipe the whole farm off the face of the map. Minutes later, the Germans came out of the farm house with their hands behind their heads. Moore then turned them over to the military police and reported back to his commander. "The funny thing is when I reported back to the boss, he asked me what took me so long," said Moore.

Moore would fight on through World War II going nine months and 14 days before receiving his first Purple Heart. Four Purple Hearts and another Bronze Star later he was on his way home to Spartanburg following Nazi Germany's surrender to the Allies. Like the majority of America's "Greatest Generation" of World War II veterans, Moore returned home and settled back into civilian life. Atypical was the fact a couple of years later he and his friend Cotton Owen would go on to help found NASCAR under the leadership of Bill France, Sr. Interestingly, Moore and Owen both hired NASCAR great and fellow Spartanburg buddy David "Silver Fox" Pearson to drive for them during their careers as NASCAR owners. Pearson won a NASCAR championship for Owen in 1966, and would go on to become the second all-time winningest driver in NASCAR history taking 105 checkered flags.

Moore also fielded cars for other NASCAR legends such as Joe Weatherly, "Fireball" Roberts, Bobby Allison, Buddy Baker, Cale Yarborough, Darrell Waltrip, Dale Earnhardt and Ricky Rudd. He retired from NASCAR following the Daytona 500 race in 2000. Out of 959 races his 43 drivers started, Moore garnered two NASCAR championships, 63 victories, 43 starting pole positions, 298 top 5 finishes and 463 top 10 finishes.



NASCAR greats David Pearson, Bud Moore and Cotton Owen pose with Buddy Sturgis, the S.C. Military Museum Director following Moore's induction onto the S.C. Military Museum's Wall of Honor.



# PISTOL TEAM TAKES 1ST PLACE!

The S.C. National Guard Pistol Team took first place honors for the second year in a row at the Puerto Rico Regional Championships, held at Camp Santiago Puerto Rico.

Sgt. 1st Class Mitch Henson took first place in the overall champion category while Sgt. Nathan Wade won second overall. Another S.C. Guardsman, Sgt. Jody Sellers finished fourth. Sgt. Eric Lawrence won in the Expert class.



**TEAM MEMBERS (left to right):**

- 1st Row:** Sgt. 1st Class Mitch Henson, Sgt. Nathan Wade, Staff Sgt. Al Ott  
**2nd Row:** Sgt. Chris Price, Spc. Corey Vickers, Cpl. Rene Wilson, Sgt. Jody Sellers, Sgt. Eric Lawrence and Sgt. Mark Bratcher

## New Montgomery GI Bill for Soldiers Who Have Deployed Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) – Chapter 1607

Story by Capt. Jennifer Settlemeier

**REAP** was established as a part of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005. It is a Department of Defense education benefit program designed to provide educational assistance to members of the Reserve components called or ordered to active duty in response to a war or national emergency (contingency operation) as declared by the President or Congress. This program makes certain reservists who were activated for at

least 90 days after September 11, 2001 either eligible for education benefits or eligible for increased benefits.

The educational assistance allowance payable under REAP is a percentage of the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty rate based on the number of continuous days served on active duty. Persons released before 90 days for a disability receive the 40% rate. The current full-time rate in the table below is the rate for full-time institutional training under REAP.

POC is Sgt. Larry Coleman, SCARNG GI Bill Manager, at 866-345-8400 or [larry.l.coleman1@us.army.mil](mailto:larry.l.coleman1@us.army.mil). You can also visit the VA's website: <http://www.seamlesstransition.va.gov/>

Member Serves	% of 3 Yr Rate	Monthly Full-Time Rate as of Oct 2007
90 days but less than 1 yr	40%	\$440.40
1 year but less than 2 yrs	60%	\$660.60
2 or more continuous yrs	80%	\$880.80

# WARRANT OFFICER HALL OF FAME

EASTOVER, S.C. – The South Carolina Army National Guard inducted four Soldiers into the Warrant Officer Hall of Fame during ceremonies at the McCrady Training Center in Eastover. The inductees (from left to right) were Chief Warrant Officer 5 (CW5) (R) J.B. Jolly, posthumously CW4 Patrick Leach (whose widow, Elizabeth Leach, accepted the award), CW5 (R) Elliott Powell and CW5 James Carter. Leach died on December 9, 2004, in Mosul, Iraq while in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This was the third induction to the Warrant Officer Hall of Fame since 2004. Picture and cutline information by Spc. Erica Knight, 108th Public Affairs Detachment



## Significant Promotion First In Unit's History

Story and photo by Sgt. Kristi T. Saavedra, 263rd AAMDC Public Affairs

After 29 years of hard work and dedication to the Army, Sue Gettig, a logistics sergeant major with the 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC), was promoted to the logistics (G4) command sergeant major position of the 263rd AAMDC, at a ceremony May 3, 2008.

Gettig, a native of Girard, Ohio, is the first female to achieve the rank of command sergeant major with the 263rd AAMDC. "It impacts in a positive manner, giving females in this command and throughout the state a great role model," said Sgt. Maj. Charles M. Lewis, an operations sergeant major with the unit.

Gettig, a member of the Women in Military Service to America memorial, enlisted in the Womens Army Corp (WAC) in January 1973. She is one of few women still serving that entered the military through WAC. She attended basic training at Fort McClellan, Ala., the only place where females trained at the time. "I went through basic training in a dress," said Gettig. "Females weren't issued fatigues."

With a military past of major accomplishments, Gettig said joining WAC is the one she is most proud of, the time that she always goes back too. "The training was more intense because there weren't as many females in the military back then."

"It makes me feel proud to know that I've done well enough throughout the years that they would look at me to be the first, that they would allow me to be the first," said Gettig.



Maj. Gen. Laurie Newton (left), commander of the 263rd AAMDC congratulates Gettig on her promotion to command sergeant major.

# 105th Signal Battalion *Cases Colors*



Brig. Gen. Tommy Sinclair (right) oversees the casing of the 105th Signal Battalion's colors during the unit's leave the force ceremony.



The S.C. National Guard's 246th Army Band marches in formation while performing at the 105th Signal Battalion leave the force ceremony.

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Story and photos by  
Master Sgt. Phillip Jones,  
S.C. National Guard Public Affairs

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**B**rig. Gen. Tommy Sinclair, the commander of the S.C. National Guard's 228th Signal Brigade presided over the casing of the colors for the 105th Signal Battalion as it leaves the Army force structure in North Charleston, S.C. on May 8, 2008.

The units' personnel will be assigned to other units within the 228th Signal Brigade as part of the Army's transformation of the S.C. National Guard which began on

September 1, 2007. The transformation process, which will affect approximately 64 percent of S.C. National Guard units, is the result of new requirements requested by our nation's leaders and is expected to end sometime during fiscal year 2011.

Headquarters company of the 105th Signal Battalion marches together for the last time under the 105th colors.



## The “Next Greatest Generation” Project Completes Second Year!

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

Three years ago, the S.C. National Guard teamed up with Perry McLeod, a national award-winning history teacher at Richland Northeast High School in Columbia, to begin developing the "Next Greatest Generation" project. After two school years of filming, his students have produced over 30 oral history documentaries featuring S.C. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, who have served in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). The S.C. Military Department has also provided over 20 other speakers from various wars in the past century to help educate S.C. students about the personal side of war.



(left to right) After watching a student-produced documentary of S.C. Guardsman Capt. Alan Wilson at the S.C. Council for the Social Studies conference in Myrtle Beach, teachers Diane Sherbane and daughter Kortney listen as Perry McLeod, a Time Warner Cable Teacher of the Year from Richland Northeast High School in Columbia, S.C. and Buddy Sturgis of the S.C. Military Museum talk about "The Next Greatest Generation" project.

Recently, permission was obtained by the National Guard Bureau for the students to use the song "Citizen-Soldiers" by 3 Doors Down as the introduction to their documentaries of our Soldiers stories of duty, honor, selfless service and sacrifice. These documentaries will be available to view online at our public affairs website (<http://guard.sc.gov/>) and the S.C. ETV knowitall.org website called "Generations of Heroes" this summer. Visitors to the S.C. Military Department will soon be able to view the documentaries at the Next Greatest Generation kiosk which is scheduled to be added by the S.C. Military Museum to the entrance foyer this June.

Soldiers interested in participating in the Next Greatest Generation project should contact the command historian at: [Yantse.scott.bell@us.army.mil](mailto:Yantse.scott.bell@us.army.mil).

## S.C. Guardsmen during the

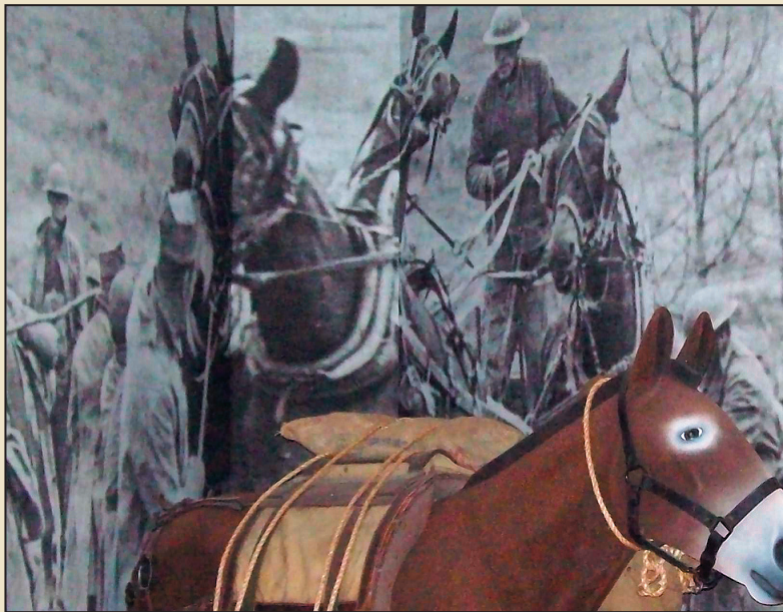
# “Great War” -Part II

**Editor’s Note:** As South Carolina commemorates the 90th anniversary of its “Great War” veterans this year, the “Swamp Fox History” pages of this magazine are proud to showcase the second installment (Summer 1918) of our four-part series called “S.C. Guardsmen during the ‘Great War.’”

Story and photos by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian  
118th Infantry archival data courtesy of The S.C. Military Museum

Ninety years ago, in May 1918, S.C. Army National Guard units began establishing their headquarters in France along with the rest of their “Old Hickory” 30th Infantry Division brethren from North Carolina and Tennessee. These highly trained men had been well armed and outfitted by then Brig. Gen. John J. “Blackjack” Pershing during the Mexican Border mission (1916-1917) to neutralize Pancho Villa’s forces along the U.S. – Mexico border.

Having spent a mere handful of weeks at home between their tour on the Mexican border, which formally ended on March 21, America’s entry into World War I in April, and the federal order mobilizing the entire 4,000-strong S.C. National Guard on July 25, 1917, South Carolina’s Citizen-Soldiers were arguably the best prepared for war they had been since 1898 while serving in Cuba. In fact, many of South Carolina’s 118th Infantry Regiment units such as Spartanburg-based Company F (Hampton Guards), had been “called out” to do guard duty on railroad bridges and other sites of strategic importance



As this life-size mule mannequin at the Transportation Museum demonstrates, actual horsepower was still a primary means of transporting personnel, materiel, munitions, artillery pieces, etc., to the front lines of battle during World War I. The Mexican-Border mission in 1916-1917, may have spelled the end of the U.S. Horse Cavalry and the birth of the U.S. Army Truck Transport, but horse/mule-drawn wagon trains would continue to prove their worth throughout World War I.



With the assistance of Warren Clark (background), a descendant of an “Old Hickory,” 30th Infantry Division artilleryman, Ryan Young (right), a World War I re-enactor with Company F, 318th Infantry shows a young man how American Soldiers properly fit their M2 gas masks during World War I.

around the state on April 11, six days before America’s declaration of war on Germany.

For the next year, our S.C. Guardsmen would protect the state; train for war at such places as Camp Jackson in Columbia and Camp Sevier in Greenville; board trains for Camp Mills, N.Y.; and then in May 1918, load up their men and equipment on ships bound for France. From the port of embarkation in New York to the port of debarkation in France, the process of traveling across the Atlantic normally took our S.C. Soldiers approximately three weeks to accomplish. For most of us today, a three-week all-expenses paid cruise across the Atlantic sounds like a great thing. Unfortunately, our S.C. Citizen-Soldiers crossed the Atlantic during World War I in over-crowded ships, were served what they described as chow so bad it made them sick to smell it and forced to wear life jackets throughout the crossing because of the tremendous threat German submarines imposed.

When most of our Soldiers landed in France in late May or early June 1918, they were more than ready to march from ports such as Le Havre, France to American Rest Camps on the outskirts of French cities. Normally our troops would spend a day at such camps before boarding a train, 40 men to a boxcar, bound for such places as Camp de Coetquidan, home of the American Artillery in France. There, units such as our 105th Ammunition Train would train from June 24 to August 22, before heading to the front to support General Pershing’s American expeditionary forces in Europe. On average, our Soldiers would travel by train for two days before arriving at their destinations

“ We are in this war to win, and the probability is that our entering this war is going to be the deciding factor, and that the burden of success is going to rest upon the United States. ”

— Maj. Gen. John J. Pershing, National Geographic Magazine, May 1917



Vincent Petty (second from right), a World War I re-enactor with Company F, 318th Infantry, 80th Division of the American Expeditionary Forces explains the dangers poison gas posed for Allied forces during World War I, and how the gas alarm he's holding helped to save a lot of lives. American Soldiers moved forward often during World War I. As this encampment at the "Military Through the Ages" event (held annually in March at the Jamestown Settlement in Virginia) displays, American Soldiers could pick up and move at a moment's notice.

near the front. Once there, they would detrain all of their equipment and caisson unit livestock and rest until dark. Troop movements were forbidden during daylight hours on the front due to frequent enemy aerial reconnaissance.

Other S.C. units such as the "Hampton Guards" would see action sooner. A month after arriving in Calais, France, the unit was inspected by General Pershing on June 30, and ordered to the front. On the morning of July 4, they crossed the Belgium border with most of the 118th Infantry (leading the 30th Division). Interestingly, our 118th Infantry holds the honor of being the first American Regiment to enter what American Soldiers called this "little country of wreck and ruin." On July 24, Company F was occupying trenches in front of the city of Ypres with other units of the 118th Infantry without British assistance.

By August 21, 1918, the entire 118th Infantry was once again assembled together -- just outside the city of Poperinghe -- for the first time since leaving New York harbor in May. Here, they would be in division reserve for units on the front line and make their final preparations to accomplish Pershing's September goal of breaking the strongest positions of the famous "impenetrable" Hindenberg trench system -- the key obstacle protecting the German army -- which was preventing a decisive Allied rout of German forces in Europe.



"Liberty Trucks" such as this one on display at the U.S. Army Transportation Museum on Ft. Eustis, Virginia were a new concept in warfare logistics at the outbreak of World War I. The truck's mobility, endurance and speed caught the attention of Army logisticians because it far exceeded the capabilities of horse/mule-drawn wagons. The first 5-ton Liberty prototype was completed in October 1917. By war's end, 554 Liberty Trucks were overseas supporting wagon trains of supplies to Allied forces facing down Germany.

# *Calling All S.C. National Guard Artists!*

If you are in the S.C. National Guard and have an artistic talent such as songwriting, painting, poetry, woodworking, quilt-making, fishing lure designing, etc. we'd like to hear about it. The staff of the Palmetto Guard Family Magazine will feature "Artistry of the Guard" in the fall edition of the magazine and would like to showcase your work. You can reach us by calling Sgt. 1st Class Kathy Elkins at (803) 806-2908. Be sure to tell her you're interested in being in the next magazine, what your talent is and how we can contact you. Please let us know of your interest by July 1, so we have plenty of time to visit all of our Guard artists across South Carolina.



S.C. Army National Guard  
1 National Guard Road  
Attn: Public Affairs Office  
Columbia, S.C. 29201

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*Got a story idea for the magazine?  
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