

**PALMETTO
GUARD**

FAMILY MAGAZINE SPRING 2009

*33 years as
South Carolina
Adjutant General*

*World War I
Medal of Honor
Recipient*

Honoring

"Mr. NATIONAL GUARD"



From the Desk of the Adjutant General



Stanhope S. Spears
Major General, SCARNG
The Adjutant General

“Truly, our
Guard family
is what makes
the S.C.
National
Guard
so special.”

- Maj. Gen.
Stanhope Spears

Military, national and state leaders often ask me “what makes the S.C. National Guard so special?” Usually they ask the question in the context of our superior recruiting and retention rates, maintenance rankings, percentage of Soldiers and Airmen who have served in the Global War on Terrorism, etc. My response always focuses on our families. Truly, our Guard family is what makes the S.C. National Guard so special. This family is made up of Soldiers, Airmen, their families and friends, employers and all of those people who support us.

Every spoke in our Guard family wheel plays a vital role in making this special institution tick. This is why I am especially pleased to recognize the 263 Army Air and Missile Defense Command’s (AAMDC) Family Readiness Group’s (FRG) selection as recipient of the 2008 Department of Defense Reserve Family Readiness Award. The award designates the 263 AAMDC’s FRG as “Best in the Nation” for the entire Army National Guard.

This award comes as no surprise to those who know the difference this FRG has made working behind the scenes in Soldier and family readiness statewide. I am so proud of the volunteers whose dedication to our Guard family has brought this great honor to South Carolina. The dedication, commitment and hard work of many people throughout the AAMDC, including Soldiers, family members, unit commanders, Chaplain team, retired Guard members, extended Guard families, community leaders, and sponsors is exceptional. This award is tangible evidence the 263 AAMDC FRG leads the way across the nation and the Army in setting high standards of readiness excellence.

On this occasion, it also bears mentioning the fact, this FRG is the only FRG in the entire Army National Guard to be recognized twice for demonstrating outstanding family readiness and superior mission readiness. The 263 AAMDC FRG first won the award in 2002. I invite everyone to please join me in congratulating these great members of our Guard family who do so much for all of us. The S.C. National Guard is special because of our Guard family. Thank you families and friends, employers and all of you who support our Soldiers and Airmen as they continue to faithfully serve our state and nation. Please have a wonderful and safe Spring 2009.



Due to bad weather at the time of the award presentation, Brig. Gen. Les Eisner, Deputy Adjutant General of S.C. and U. S. Senator Jim DeMint of S.C. accepted the 2008 Department of Defense Reserve Family Readiness award on behalf of the 263 AAMDC FRG team. Pictured (left to right) are the Honorable Thomas F. Hall, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Senator DeMint, Brig. Gen. Eisner, Lt. Col. Roger Ellison and Sgt. Maj. James Hooten of the 263 AAMDC and retired Vice Adm. Norbert Ryan, president of the Military Officers Association of America. Ryan presented a \$1,000 check for the FRG’s continued work.

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: www.scguard.com/news/magazine.aspx.

PALMETTO GUARD



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Deputy Adjutant General

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State Command Sgt. Maj.

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ON THE COVER On the 50th anniversary of his retirement, this edition of the magazine honors Gen. James C. Dozier, the man known by military and governmental leaders throughout the country as "Mr. National Guard."



The Alamo's seven S.C. Citizen-Soldiers are honored daily by thousands of visitors who pass through The Shrine of Texas liberty. Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian.



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Artist Gives Time and Talent to

Remember

Those Who Gave All

By Spc. Brad Mincey
108th Public Affairs Detachment

Many military personnel have given their lives for the freedoms Americans enjoy every day. Although these service members paid the ultimate price, they are never forgotten by family and friends.

One individual in South Carolina was so moved by these unselfish acts, he answered a "calling" to capture the memories of these heroes in his art.

James Middlebrooks began drawing portraits of fallen Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines in August 2006. His mission began after witnessing the look of devastation on the faces of a family who lost a military loved one in war. He remembers being in his neighborhood and seeing two Marines get out of their car to approach his neighbor's house. He recalls thinking they weren't going there to say "happy birthday."

"I specifically remember them putting on their hats and carrying a brown envelope," he said.

Middlebrooks said when he reached

his home, the Marines were already at his neighbor's door. "I didn't want to be a nosy neighbor, but I couldn't help looking out of my window," he said. He was overwhelmed when he saw the grief and sadness of the family as the Marines told them the tragic news.

He said he sat in his chair and wondered what he could do to help. He asked his wife if they should do the typical Southern thing and bring food. He recalls having an epiphany as he sat in his "lazyboy" chair. He remembers hearing a voice say, "Move that arm and give to them what God gave to you."

To most people, that doesn't sound like a very difficult thing. To Middlebrooks, that was almost an impossible task. After an accident in 2001, he was diagnosed with Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD).

Because of this condition, his arm was swollen and barely moveable. The doctors told him he would never be able to work standing again. He was 47, on numerous

medications and often times in a wheel chair.

"It's been described as 24 hours, seven days a week of labor pains or fourth-stage cancer pain," he added.

Middlebrooks says to his surprise, once he began drawing, many of his symptoms of RSD began to subside. Amazingly, he was able to stop most of his medications and even earned his black belt in Ed Parker's American Kenpo.

"From the day I heard that voice tell me to move my arm, I went from 600 mg of morphine and 16 medications to only three medications," he said. He believes his art started the healing process.

Middlebrooks is presently very involved with RSD recovery. He learned RSD has been prevalent in wounded U.S. military since the Civil War. He said troops can be nicked by a piece of shrapnel and contract this disease.

"It affects the nervous system and has no cure," he said.

"This is just a very small thing that I can do to show my appreciation."

- James Middlebrooks



Sgt. Shawn Hill
Wellford, S.C.



Spc. David Liembach
Taylors, SC.



Spc. Chrystal Stout
Travelers Rest, SC.



Debbie Rivers, a member of the South Carolina "Gold Star Mothers," provided Middlebrooks with a photo album she created of local fallen service members. "Gold Star Mothers" are Mothers who have lost a son or daughter in war. Rivers lost her son, Spc. Harry (Buck) Winkler III, when he was killed in Samarra, Iraq on Nov. 12, 2006

Marine Cpl. David Weimortz, of Irmo, S.C., was the first fallen hero portrait Middlebrook created. Weimortz died Aug. 26, 2006, from injuries sustained while conducting combat operations in Habbaniyah, Iraq. Middlebrooks has since completed 30 additional portraits of other service members.

His work includes portraits of fallen South Carolina National Guardsmen to include David Liembach, Chrystal Stout, James Bullard, Shawn Hill, Patrick Leach, and Andrew Shields. For his dedication to the SCNG, The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Stanhope Spears, presented Middle-

brooks with a Meritorious Service award in December.

"I was overwhelmed and truly honored by the award," Middlebrooks said. He said he remembers how military personnel were treated after returning from Vietnam and wants to make a difference for the families of those who don't return from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

His Christianity plays a large part in why he wants to make these portraits. "I'm Catholic and truly believe I was called to do this," he said. He feels honored that he is able to help and produce something families can cherish. "Through my faith, if I can just let them know I care, that's enough," he said.

Since his almost full recovery from RSD, he has donated much of his medical equipment to those in need who can't afford it. He says if it weren't for his age, he would volunteer to go over to Iraq and Afghanistan. Middlebrooks feels very strongly about supporting the military and has little

patience for those who do not respect this country.

"If people don't support our troops, they should pack their bags and leave," he said.

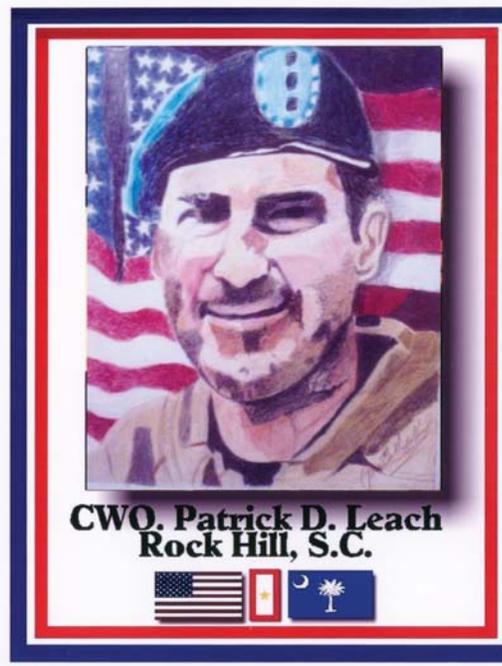
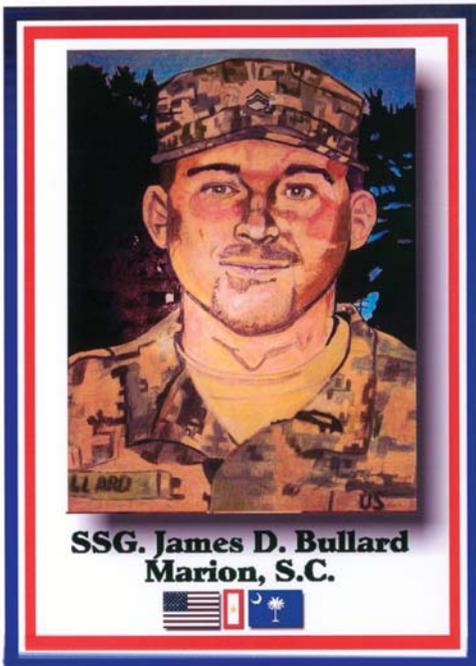
The memorial portraits he draws are created on Bristol board in colored pencils. They are produced 16 x 20 inches in size and are presented to the families framed and matted.

"It's a very time consuming effort to layer the colors," he said.

Initially, he paid for the framing and matting himself. He tries to obtain supplies through auctions and flea markets. Although he recently received some assistance through various organizations, there is always a need for more. "I'm on social security, so I can't do as much as I would like to do," he said.

Middlebrooks truly admires and respects everything those in the military have done and is overwhelmed by their sacrifices.

"This is just a very small thing that I can do to show my appreciation," he said.



Donations to Middlebrooks' fallen heroes portrait program can be made at www.scfallenheroes.com or to the South Carolina Fallen Heroes Frame fund at any Wachovia Bank location.

AVIATION BATTALION RECEIVES *Distinguished Award*

Story by Capt. Cindi King
Joint Forces Headquarters Public Affairs

The 1st Battalion of the 151st Aviation, stationed at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, received the Valorous Unit Award (VUA) at a ceremony conducted Dec 6, 2008.

The unit received the award for playing an integral part of Iraq's first free democratic elections held in Jan. 2005.

The unit, as part of Operation Founding Fathers, responded to several attempts by insurgents to attack polling sites. Their immediate response and presence of aircraft over the city of Mosul served as an effective deterrent to attackers and provided a sense of security to potential voters. Prior to their arrival, it appeared that elections would not take place, as insurgents raided police stations and burned warehouses that held election materials.

The VUA is the second highest unit decoration bestowed upon a U.S. Army unit. It is considered the unit equivalent to an individual receiving the Silver Star.



Lt. Col. Paul Horry places the Valorous Unit streamer on the 1-151st Aviation guidon. Sgt. Shannon Houge assists as Command Sgt. Maj. Woody Sullivan presents the Battalion's Colors.

Headquarters, Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix Receives *Prestigious Award*



Story by Capt. Cindi King
Joint Forces Headquarters Public Affairs

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has awarded the Headquarters, Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) Phoenix VI the highest joint unit award established by the Department of Defense; the Joint Meritorious Unit Award (JMUA).

The Headquarters, CJTF Phoenix VI, which includes members of the Headquarters Company of the 218th Brigade Combat Team (BCT), received the JMUA for their critical role mentoring the Afghan National Police and the Afghan National Army while in Afghanistan. Members of the 218th BCT performed duties in a joint environment with members of the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines.

The Headquarters, CJTF Phoenix VI worked with the Afghan National Police

“This award is a tribute to the great efforts by the men and women of CJTF Phoenix VI.”

- Brig. Gen. Robert E. Livingston

and reduced their deaths from an average of 300 a month to less than 20. Concurrently, the task force mentored the Afghan National Army to double its size from less than 26,000 to over 52,000 in the field.

“This award is a tribute to the great efforts by the men and women of CJTF Phoenix VI,” said Brig. Gen. Robert E. Livingston, Commander of Headquarters CJTF Phoenix VI during its time of operation.

Only those members of the Armed Forces who were present between May 24, 2007 to April 26, 2008, and were permanently assigned or attached by official orders to the Headquarters, CJTF Phoenix VI are authorized to wear the JMUA ribbon. This award is for the Headquarters only. Service units and individuals assigned to service units in support of this unit are not eligible for this award.

Maj. Gen. Stanhope S. Spears, the Adjutant General of S.C. feels there is little doubt these achievements of the Citizen-Soldiers of South Carolina will be spoken of for a long time. “There is deep admiration for these Soldiers and all the Soldiers of the 218th Brigade Combat Team and all they accomplished,” said Spears.

Marines Assault McCrady Training Center

Story by Sgt. Erica Knight
108th Public Affairs Detachment

Photo by Cpl. Roberto DiGiovine
Joint Forces Headquarters Photographer

A reconnaissance team of ten Marines took up positions around the enemy held Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) site at McCrady Training Center (MTC) in the early evening on Feb. 10. Two days later, a company from the Battalion Landing Team, 3rd Battalion 2nd Marine Regiment, 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, conducted an aerial raid on the town.

"This exercise is meant to simulate a sea based ship-to-shore assault," said Gunnery Sgt. Joe Caspole, Lead Instructor of the Amphibious Raid branch, 2 MEF Special Operations Training, from Camp Lejune, N.C.

In this scenario, three high ranking individuals are meeting. The recon teams relay their observations back to the 'ship' at McEntire Joint National Guard Base. When enough intelligence is collected, four MV-22B Osprey aircraft will transport about 100 Marines to conduct the raid and extract the persons of interest.

U.S. Marines, members of Marines Special Operations Command (MARSOC), 22nd Marines Expeditionary Unit, posing as insurgents during a training exercise at the urban warfare site, McCrady training Center (MTC), Columbia, SC, on February 11, 2009. The training event was part of complex operation involving naval, air, and ground component of the 22nd MEU.

"In this type of training we are conducting a full blown operation," said Caspole. "We have AV-8B Harrier jets watching the objective the entire time and they are reporting to the inbound troops."

Utilizing facilities at the MTC is something this Marine unit is used to because they always go off site for their training.

"Each place presents its own challenges," Caspole said.

Maj. Robert Dingle, SCNG Training site commander, says the experience of going to different places to train is extremely

helpful in the event of the "real thing."

"This is unfamiliar territory for them – like going into theater," said Dingle.

According to Dingle, MTC can support a battalion-sized element. Currently, mechanized and artillery units are the ones who utilize MTC most.

"The way the Marines are conducting this operation, with air and intelligence, is something the National Guard could do more," Dingle said. "We have the units who could train together on a single exercise."



Six Inducted Into Warrant Officer Hall of Fame



The 2009 class (all retired) of the SCNG Warrant Officer Hall of Fame includes front row (from left) CW5 Lem Grant, Mrs. John Floyd (accepting award for CW4 John Floyd, with an extended illness), CW5 Ron Claypool. Back row (from left) includes Frank Holloway Jr. (accepting award for CW4 Frank Holloway Sr, who passed away in 1990), CW5 Glenn Locke and CW4 John Rast.

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones
Joint Forces Headquarters Public Affairs

The South Carolina National Guard (SCNG) Warrant Officer Hall of Fame welcomed six new members in a ceremony at the McCrady Training Center on Feb. 22.

The inductees (all retired) were Chief Warrant (CW) Officer 4 Frank Holloway Sr, CW5 Ronald Claypool, CW4 John Floyd, CW4 John Rast, CW5 Lemuell Grant, CW5 Glenn Locke.

The SCNG Warrant Officer Hall of Fame was founded in 2004 and now includes 12 members.

Warrant Officers are unique in that they possess a high degree of specialization in a particular field. Their extensive professional experience and technical knowledge qualifies them as invaluable role models and mentors for junior officers and non-commissioned officers.

Honoring "Mr. National Guard"

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

Photos and archival data provided by
the S.C. Military Museum

The Early Years:

James Cordie Dozier was born on Feb. 17, 1885, at Galivants Ferry in Horry County, S.C. A descendant in a long line of Palmetto State Citizen-Soldiers who had served from the American Revolution, through the Spanish American War, Dozier began his military career with Company H, 118th Infantry Regiment on Sept. 3, 1904.

In August 1916, Dozier was sent to El Paso, TX with the 118th. There, they joined Brig. Gen. John J. "Blackjack" Pershing's Punitive Expedition to protect U.S. border towns from Mexican Gen. "Pancho" Villa's forces. Company H returned home to S.C. in December, and four months later, on April 16, 1917, was activated for World War I. While training at Camp Sevier (near Greenville), Dozier was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in July and 1st Lt. in Nov. His unit boarded a ship bound for France on May 11, 1918.

World War I:

Between May and September 1918, the 118th trained and moved through the allied lines to become the first American force to face Germany's "impregnable" Hindenburg Line on Sept. 27. Over the next month, the regiment advanced through 18,000 yards of enemy territory, 15,000 yards of which was made while the regiment was in the front line spearheading numerous attacks. It was at Montbrehain on Oct. 8, when Dozier became one of six S.C. National Guardsmen to receive the Medal of Honor.

On Oct. 8, at five in the morning, G Company was ordered "over the top." The unit advanced approximately one mile before its commander was wounded and Dozier, who had already been shot in the shoulder by a sniper, assumed command. Soon after, the Germans sent out half a dozen machine gun crews in advance of their line. According to Dozier, one was particularly well advanced.

"We could see men from my company and men of the other companies on our right and left falling from machine gun fire."

Locating the source of trouble, Dozier signaled his company to lie down and seek as much concealment as possible. He then ordered a machine gun crew to fire just over the heads of the German gunners so they couldn't look over the top of the pit in which they were concealed. He and Pvt. Callie Smith advanced on the left flank of the machine gunners until they were within 20 yards of the enemy.

Around 8:30 a.m. he signaled his machine gun crew to quit firing and dashed upon the Germans in the hole.

"One of the machine gunners was about to get me with his revolver when Callie Smith downed him," said Dozier.

The two knocked out the entire squad of seven machine

gunners in this advanced position. Dozier continued leading his men for the next two and a half hours until all the machine gun nests had been silenced and G Company's objective had been taken. He and the unit also captured approximately 470 prisoners. At this point, the "Great War" was over for Dozier. He spent the next three months in hospitals recuperating from his wound. On Jan. 21, 1919, Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Force, pinned the Medal of Honor to Dozier's chest.

Citizen-Soldier Returns Home:

When the 118th returned to Camp Jackson (now Ft. Jackson) from overseas, the U.S. government was gearing up for a "Victory Liberty Loan Campaign" to raise \$4.5 billion in war bonds to pay off the nation's debt from World War I. Dozier's achievement on Oct. 8, was selected by the government as one of the 12 most remarkable exploits during the war. He and 11 other Medal of Honor recipients spent three weeks touring the country helping to raise \$5.2 billion (approx. \$63 billion today) in bond subscriptions.

After completing this mission, Dozier returned to civilian life. He also continued his courtship with Winthrop College student Tallulah Little, whom he had corresponded with throughout the war. In a scrapbook she kept of Dozier during and after the war are endearing telegrams he sent her while separated. One of them relates to an upcoming banquet the students of Winthrop hosted in honor of the homecoming of our Soldiers. In the telegram Dozier wrote "Miss Lula Little, I'm coming Tuesday. My place at the banquet is with you. It is fine to be back home. Love, Jim." The two were married the following June in Laurens.

Dozier Honors a Friend:

Dozier rejoined the S.C. National Guard on December 1, 1920, to organize the "Frank Roach Guards," of Rock Hill in honor of Roach, a fellow Rock Hill Soldier from Company H who lost his life at Flanders Field.

On Sept. 1, 1921, Dozier was promoted to Major and assigned to command 3rd Battalion of the 118th Infantry Regiment. On Jan. 1, 1923, he was appointed secretary of the State Board of Welfare which he held until the unexpected death of Adjutant General Robert E. Craig. On Jan. 22, 1926, Maj.



Fifty years ago on Jan. 19, 1959, Maj. Gen. James Cordie Dozier retired as the longest serving Adjutant General in the history of our state. Known throughout military circles as "Mr. National Guard," Dozier knew and served during the terms of five U.S. Presidents (Coolidge, Hoover, Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower) and 12 S.C. Governors.

Dozier was appointed The Adjutant General (TAG) by Governor Thomas C. McLeod to fill the unexpired term of Craig. At the time, Guard strength consisted of 2,104 officers and men. The Guard had two armories, one in Columbia, the other in Beaufort. The annual budget was \$118,812.00.

Dozier's 33 Years as S.C. TAG:

Shortly after becoming TAG, Dozier was asked by the War Department to take over custody of Camp Jackson which had been abandoned by the Army on Apr. 25, 1922. He is credited for helping to preserve the Camp and growing it between the World Wars and during the Great Depression (1929-1939). Dozier Hall at Ft. Jackson was dedicated in his honor on May 15, 1998, by Maj. Gen. Stanhope S. Spears, S.C. TAG and Maj. Gen. John A. Fan Alstyne, a past commander of Ft. Jackson.

In 1928, Camp Jackson was chosen as a training center for the 30th "Old Hickory" Division. Following the stock market crash the next year, non-farming jobs became scarce across the state. Dozier was determined to help the unemployed by seeking Works Progress Administration (WPA) funding for Camp Jackson and construction of armories and other Guard facilities throughout S.C. Although it would take another four years to receive WPA funds for new armories, \$86,656.00 was allocated for Dozier's new construction and maintenance projects at Camp Jackson and repairs at Ft. Moultrie's Guard facilities.

In 1936, the Guard dedicated 23 new armories and received funding for seven more at a cost of \$494,759.00.

"These new buildings constructed around the state is indicative, not only of civic pride, but of an increased interest in our National Guard," wrote Dozier.

Because Dozier's efforts to help S.C. communities were

successful, the WPA awarded money in 1938 to construct five additional armories and gave another \$154,980 to make general improvements and repairs at Camp Jackson. This put the camp in what Dozier called "first-class condition" for the more than 8,000 Guard Soldiers from the 30th Division who used the camp each year. These improvements proved tremendously beneficial when the Army's 6th Division reactivated Camp Jackson following Hitler's successful Blitzkrieg into Poland in Nov. 1939.

In Sept. 1940, the winds of war were again blowing across the nation and the 118th was activated. Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, all 3,671 Guardsmen were activated for World War II. In order to ensure key logistical installations throughout the state continued to be protected, the S.C. Legislature adopted Act No. 54, on March 21, 1941, establishing the S.C. Defense Force to serve in the absence of the Guard. Dozier immediately organized State Guard units in 80 towns, a strength of 6,000 men.

After World War II, the National Guard had to be completely reorganized. In Dec. 1946, the process began and Dozier became an advocate for General George C. Marshall's plan for the post-war National Guard. Marshall believed a bigger, more powerful, well funded National Guard would help deter future aggression by

America's enemies.

"I sincerely believe that if we had given our security its proper attention, the Axis nations would not have started the war," said Dozier.

A good portion of the reorganization and rebuilding Dozier undertook in 1946, included the development of the S.C. Air National Guard. The Guard received 25 P-51s, one C-47 and four AT-26s at Congaree Air Base (McEntire Joint National Guard Base). By the following July, 94 of the new 116 authorized Army Guard units were also organized. The number of personnel authorizations continued to increase and by 1950, there were 12,683 S.C. Soldiers and Airmen serving.

In 1951, Dozier's 25-year effort to acquire appropriations from the S.C. Legislature for new armory construction came to fruition. The state provided \$350,000 under an agreement with the federal government which provided 75 percent of the cost of building the armories. As a result, 14 new armories were built. In 1957, funding for 10 additional armories and the renovation of eight old ones was also approved.

By the time of Dozier's retirement fifty years ago on Jan. 19, 1959, he had received numerous awards and accolades from leaders across the nation.

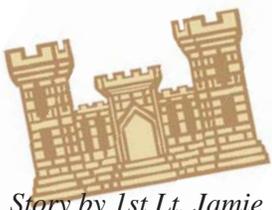
The S.C. National Guard's budget had grown from \$118,812.00 (1926), to \$6,230,159.62 (1959). During a time when

armory utilities, maintenance and operation were a much smaller portion of the Guard's budget, "Mr. National Guard" had accomplished -- what was considered at the time -- the greatest and most permanent achievement ever accomplished during the term of office of any Adjutant General, the construction of permanent armories throughout the state.

Appropriately, the name Dozier will forever be synonymous with the S.C. National Guard.



1st Lt. James C. Dozier (bottom left) poses with fellow 118th Infantry officers on the way home from Europe.



Engineers Move Textile Artifacts for S.C. State Museum

Story by 1st Lt. Jamie Mulder, JFHQ Public Affairs and Sgt. Erica Knight, 108th Public Affairs Detachment
Photos by Sgt. Erica Knight

The 124th Engineer Battalion from Saluda, S.C. provided assistance to the S.C. State Museum Feb. 7, by moving old textile pieces from a warehouse in downtown Columbia to the museum.

“Unfortunately, due to budget cuts we are having to give up this storage facility,” said Michelle Baker, Chief Registrar for the S.C. State Museum. “We don’t have anything big enough to handle these artifacts.”

The museum has stored these additional pieces in the warehouse for the past 25 years. The Engineers were able to load and transport the textile antiques for the museum.

“The state has a project and we have the equipment,” said 2nd Lt. Anthony Baiocco, Platoon Leader in the 124th Engineer Battalion. “It gives us time on the ground, we get experience and practice. This is a great opportunity to teach the younger guys in the unit.”

“If the Guard had not been able to help we would have been in a real bind,” said Fritz Hamer, Chief Curator of Cultural History at the S.C. State Museum. “This assistance helped us save untold man hours in work and at least \$1,500 in equipment rental costs for one day. Without this help

we would have been forced to use funds so desperately needed for other activities.”

The National Guard has a continuing relationship with multiple state agencies. There are always units that need training opportunities and there are state agencies like the museum that need some kind of assistance.

“Usually we move dirt or help with roads, but museum items, this is the first time we’ve done something like this,” said Sgt. Christopher Thrailkill, a Heavy Equipment Operator for the 124th Engineer Battalion.

The museum is very interested in the preservation of these artifacts explained Baker. There may not be enough space for all of them at this museum though. If that is the case, some would be sent to other museums Baker further explained.



Sgt. Samuel Heller (right) assists Spc. Wayne Watkins, a crane operator with the 124th Engineer Battalion from Saluda, S.C., to prepare the crane for use.

“The museum staff is very pleased with the assistance we received. The unit that moved these significant pieces of S.C. history did it with great care and in an efficient manner. We couldn’t have asked for better assistance,” said Hamer.

“These items are important because once they are gone, no one would know about them,” said Baker. “We really appreciate the Guard’s help.”

Sgt. James Molinski operates the crane while Sgt. Wayne Watkins guides him as they move an 1860s textile loom to a flatbed truck.



Newberry College Baseball Team

“learns the ropes” With the S.C. National Guard

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

Clear skies and cold temperatures greeted the Newberry College baseball team as they gathered at the McCrady Training Center Jan. 16-17 2009, for “military familiarization training.”

Over the course of a day-and-a-half, the team took part in many military-style activities, highlighted by climbing and walking an elevated ropes course, rappelling down a tower, competing in the Army Physical Fitness Test (A.P.F.T), all culminating in the Leadership Reaction Course.

Overseeing the event were South Carolina National Guard recruiters who didn't shy away from dropping the players for push-ups or flutter kicks when their effort wasn't deemed good enough.

Staff Sgt. Scott Johnson, the non-commissioned officer in charge and planner of the event, said they wanted to provide the players a military experience that would force team members to rely upon each other and to show them the potential benefits of being a National Guardsman.

“What we essentially came up with was a mini-boot camp,” he said. “The 45 players

were divided into five teams and were assigned the most inexperienced person to lead their respective teams.”

Johnson said the training was designed to show how military principles coincide with their goals in baseball. The event also gave the recruiters a chance to show the impact the Guard can have on their lives through financial assistance that athletic scholarships may not provide.

Newberry coach Bob Rikeman said he wanted the training to build a trust among teammates they can rely upon on the baseball diamond.

“I believe in teamwork and what better way to build a team than to go through this training,” said Rikeman. “I really

“I believe in teamwork and what better way to build a team than to go through this training.”

- Bob Rikeman, Newberry College Baseball Coach

1st Lt. Lawrence Carrigan, S.C. Guardsman and Assistant Professor of Military Science at Newberry, helped to coordinate and manage the event.

“We wanted to put together a schedule of events to help build team cohesiveness – to become one,” Carrigan said.

After the high-ropes course and rappelling tower were completed on day one, the pace slowed down long enough for the team to order 28 large pizzas (which disappeared in 20 minutes). The team also listened to the Newberry R.O.T.C. representative talk about the benefits of



Sgt. Christopher Blacks (right) closely watches a Newberry College baseball player navigate the High Ropes Course at the McCrady Training Center during the team's Military Familiarization Course on January 16, 2009.

thinking in the military, followed by a showing of the movie, “We Were Soldiers.”

During the night, each player pulled fire guard duty in their barracks. On day two, the A.P.F.T. was held on one of the coldest Eastover mornings in years.

“The players were very motivated despite the temperature and certainly have an appreciation of the fitness standards Guardsmen have to maintain,” said Johnson.

The final major event was the Leadership Reaction Course, which Johnson said showed the players' character.

“This course is designed to force planning, leadership and a sense of accomplishment,” Johnson said. “This is definitely where the teams built their cohesiveness.”

Once the training concluded, some of the outstanding players were honored with awards and then all were treated to a delicious meal ready-to-eat (MRE) before boarding the bus home. Several players expressed interest in the National Guard and R.O.T.C. programs.

For his part, Rikeman said the training was a great success.

“We got so much out of this,” he said. “Because my family has a strong military background, I'm a big supporter of the military. I'm anxious to do this again next year.”



Sgt. 1st Class Eric McIntosh (right) instructs a Newberry College baseball player how to rappel down the tower.

State Family Programs Office *more important* Than Ever

Story provided by the State Family Programs Office

Photo by Cpl. Roberto DiGiovine
JFHQ Photographer

The S.C. National Guard (SCNG) ranks among the top 10 states deploying in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Now more than ever, Soldiers and Airmen need to be aware of the services the Family Programs Office (FPO) offers.

"We are doing all we can to help the Soldiers and their families across South Carolina. We want to make sure they are aware that our services are out there and they're free," said Lt. Col. Clarence Bowser, State Family Programs Director.

The FPO sent representatives as part of the Suicide Prevention Team to the 2009 Department of Defense/Veterans Administration Annual Suicide Prevention Conference held in January. The conference theme was "Building Community Connections" to emphasize the urgency of civilian, military and government organizations working together to end suicide.

To assist the SCNG in meeting this goal, FPO recently added Mr. Jeffrey N. Rose, a Licensed Marriage Family Therapist, to their staff. His position will support the SCNG Psychological Health Program and

assist with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as well as other psychological and behavioral needs.

"The knowledge he brings will be a tremendous asset for Soldiers and Airman as they make the sometimes difficult adjustment after long deployments and time away from family members," said Bowser.

Rose said one of his first goals is to develop a mental health support network close to each of the state's National Guard locations. He believes the ability for a service member to seek assistance is more effective if it's close to home.

"It's a big adjustment when Soldiers come home for both the service member and

the family," said Rose.

As a 20 year veteran and combat veteran himself from Desert Storm, Rose feels he knows first hand how fathers and mothers who return from deployments need to renegotiate how they fit into the picture at home.

"Many times returning Soldiers and Airmen feel left out after being away. The family, including the children, may need our services to help everyone readjust," said Rose.

Bowser said the FPO's "Strong Bonds" and the annual "Youth Camp" are key programs to help family members stay involved and feel a part of the National Guard team.

"When there are strong families, there will surely be strong Soldiers and Airmen in the units," said Bowser.

If you have any questions about the Family Programs Office, please contact them toll free at 1-800-317-5553.

"When there are strong families, there will surely be strong Soldiers and Airmen in the units."

- Lt. Col. Clarence Bowser

Mark Your Calendars!

Youth Camp

Date: Jul. 26-Aug. 1, 2009

Who: This Camp is for S.C. National Guard family members ages 10-13.

Jr. Counselors begin July 24 for ages 14-18.

Details will be in the Summer Edition of the Palmetto Guard Family Magazine.

The 2009 National Defense Authorization Act has *reduced the monthly premiums* for TRICARE Reserve Select

Single Member monthly premiums have been reduced from \$81 to \$47.51.

Member-and-family monthly premiums have been reduced from \$253 to \$180.17.

Detailed information about TRICARE and eligibility for TRS can be found at www.tricare.mil/reserve.



State Family Programs Office Staff
(From left to right, front row) Sgt. Karis Truitt, Sherry Marsh, Lt. Col. Clarence Bowser, Sgt. Jacinda Washington and Mike Bower
(From left to right, back row) Tina L. Brown, Jeffrey Rose, Staff Sgt. Ryan West, Jason Marsh, Alan Wooten, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Magwood, Spc. Ashley Durant and Terry O'Connor.

Strong Bonds

Story Provided by the State Family Programs Office

The State Family Programs Office (FPO) is planning its Marriage Enrichment Seminar called "Strong Bonds" for Apr. 24-26, 2009. The event will be held in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

"This has become one of our most successful programs," said Sherry Marsh, Family Assistant Coordinator Supervisor.

Marsh said they usually try to hold these seminars quarterly. The retreats are primarily organized to help couples after a service members returns from being deployed.

"We have received wonderful comments from attendees about the course," said Marsh.

The "Strong Bonds" weekend retreat starts Friday evening and concludes Sunday afternoon. "Retreat attendees range

from newlyweds to couples who have been married for 25 years or longer," said Marsh. The State Chaplains and FPO pay for the hotel rooms and most meals for couples.

The FPO has conducted 20 marriage retreats and has held them in Greenville, Charleston, Hilton Head Island and Myrtle Beach, with over 1,000 couples in attendance.

"The overall purpose of the retreat is to increase a married couple's knowledge of skills necessary to keep their marriage intact," said Marsh.

If you would like additional information or want to register to attend "Strong Bonds," please visit www.strongbonds.org or www.guardfamily.org. Once official dates, times and locations of events are confirmed, they are posted to these web sites.

Key Numbers for Warriors and Families

If you are a wounded, ill or injured Warrior:
1-800-342-9647

If you are experiencing domestic violence:
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

If you have experienced sexual assault:
1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

If you are thinking of suicide:
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

If you have any questions about psychological health and traumatic brain injury:
1-866-966-1020

Key Websites for Warriors and Families

Information on facilities, services, and benefits:
www.woundedwarriorresourcecenter.com

Directory of medical and non-medical resources:
www.nationalresourcedirectory.org

Information on the Defense Centers of Excellence:
www.dcoe.health.mil

Service-specific information and resources:
www.militaryonesource.com

Information and resources for after-deployment concerns:
www.afterdeployment.org

In Celebration of African American History Month



U.S. Air Force Photo by Master Sgt. Marvin Preston

Following the African-American History Celebration Feb. 22 at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, guest speakers Cory Adams and Lt. Gen (Ret.) Daniel James extend congratulations. Adams, of Boykin Electric Inc., is a businessman recognized as a "top 20 under 40" business owner in the Midlands. James, a combat veteran, was former Director of the Air National Guard and Adjutant General for Texas.

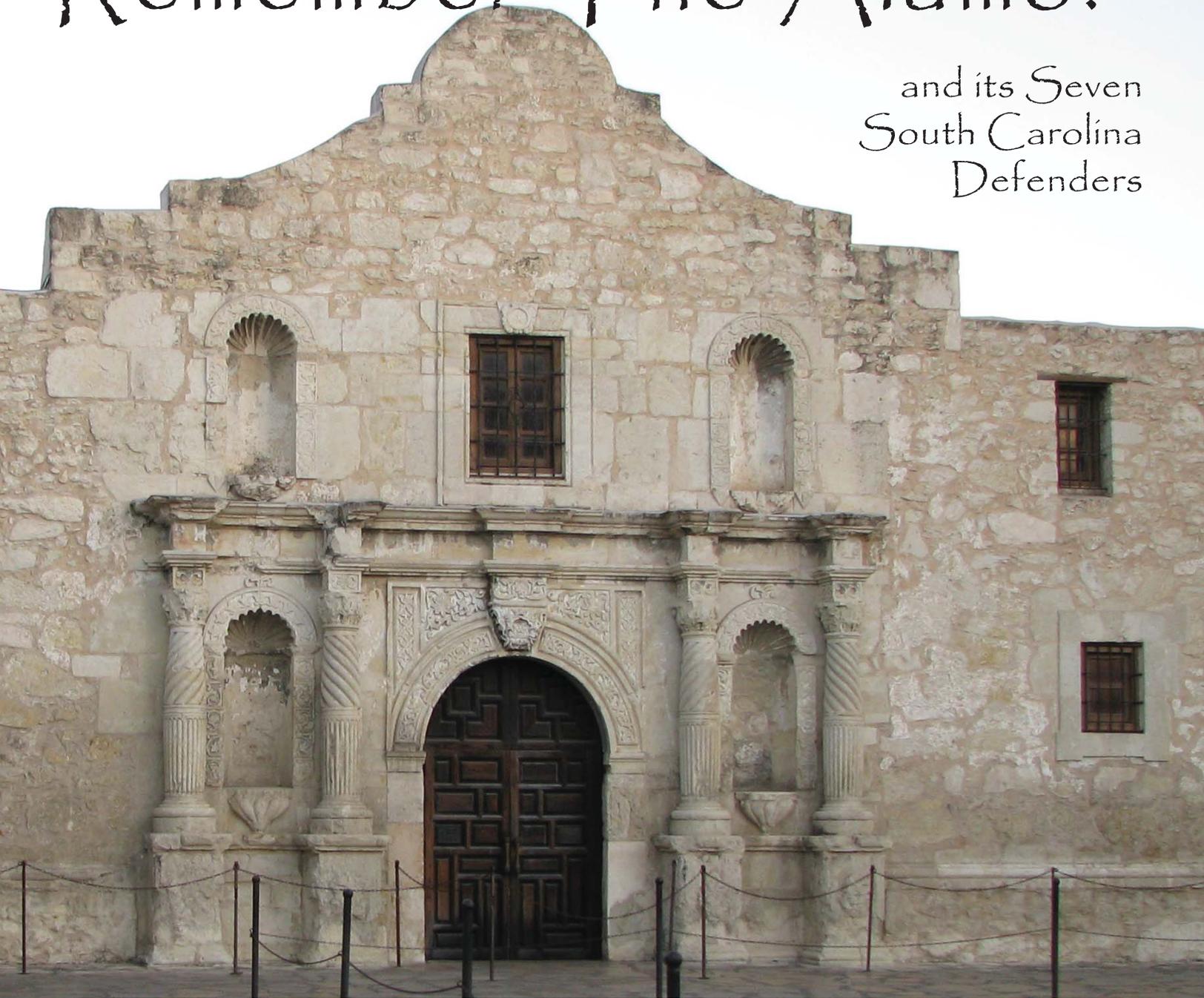


U.S. Army Photo by Cpl. Roberto Di Giovine

Mrs. Judi Gatson speaks in front of approximately ninety National Guard Soldiers at the National Guard armory located on Bluff Rd., Columbia, S.C., on February 19, 2009. Gatson, anchorwoman for WIS-TV, was the guest speaker at "The Quest for Black Citizenship in America," an event organized by the Black History Month program's committee.

“Remember The Alamo!”

and its Seven
South Carolina
Defenders



Name	Unit	Did you know?
2nd Lt. James Butler Bonham	Special Messenger for Travis	Bonham was expelled from University of South Carolina in 1824 for leading a student protest against poor food?
Pvt. Lemuel Crawford	Capt. Carey's Artillery Battery	Crawford reenlisted in the militia just days before the battle of The Alamo?
Pvt. George Neggan	Gonzales Ranging Company	Neggan was a member of the Gonzales relief force which arrived at The Alamo on Mar. 1?
Pvt. Edward Nelson	Capt. Baker's Company	Nelson joined the militia at Bexar (San Antonio) on Nov. 11, 1835?
Pvt. George Nelson	Capt. Blazeby's Infantry Company	George is the older brother of Edward? They were one of two sets of siblings who defended The Alamo.
1st Lt. Cleveland Kinloch Simmons	Capt. Forsyth's Cavalry Company	Simmons and fellow Alamo defender R.W. Ballentine landed in TX aboard the schooner Santiago in Jan. 1836?
Lt. Col. William Barret Travis	Alamo garrison Commander	Travis had been a lawyer, newspaperman and teacher?

Editor's Note: We express our deepest gratitude to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Col. (Ret.) David Stewart, The Alamo's Director and historian John Richardson for helping preserve for posterity the memories of The Alamo's seven S.C. Citizen-Soldiers

Only a few times in history have small groups of doomed lovers of freedom captured the world's imagination. By placing the value of liberty above the value of their own lives, these immortal heroes have come to epitomize the universal truism: "freedom is not free." In ancient times, Leonidas and his 300 Spartans at Thermopylae were the quintessential example of such undaunted courage. Today, we "Remember The Alamo!"

Before dawn on March 6, 1836, less than 200 freedom-loving men faced down a tyrant's army more than 10 times their number.

Like Leonidas, who knew his fight with Xerxes' would be his last, South Carolina's William Barrett Travis (commander of The Alamo) also knew his battle with General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna's would be his last.

"I have answered the demand with a cannon shot and our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of liberty, of patriotism and everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid with all dispatch . . . If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a Soldier who never forgets what is due to his honor and that of his country.

VICTORY OR DEATH!"

Excerpts of a letter to General Sam Houston on Feb 24, by Lt. Col. William B. Travis describing his response to Santa Anna's surrender demands on Feb 23.

Thirteen days before, on Feb. 23, he led his garrison out of San Antonio de Bexar and into The Alamo hoping help would come. After all, precedent for victory here had already been established.

Over a month prior and 600 yards away, S.C. men like Lemuel Crawford and brothers George and Edward Nelson helped defeat the Mexicans in brutal house-to-house fighting.

Disturbed by the defeat, Santa Anna sac-

rificed common sense logistics to move his army as quickly as possible from Mexico City to retake San Antonio. Now, with Mexican bugles sounding Duguello (no quarter to the defenders) and approximately 2,500 men from Santa Anna's 5,000 man army storming The Alamo from all four sides, the best Travis could hope for was taking as many of them with him as possible.

Travis and his fellow defenders were prepared for this moment. Sadly, their only hope for relief had come on March 1. George Neggan of S.C. and 31 other volunteers from Gonzales crawled several hundred yards through a creekbed surrounded by Mexican troops brining this glimmer of hope.

Knowing their representatives at Texas' Constitutional Convention were working diligently on a Declaration of Independence from Mexico brought comfort, but their final hope (gaining a few hundred more defenders) was dashed on March 3. On this day, James Bonham of S.C. had risked life and limb to ride valourously through the Mexican siege lines and a hail of gunfire to bring Travis the fateful news of no relief.

Travis and Soldiers like Cleveland Kinloch Simmons of S.C. busied themselves the next day making final defensive preparations and on the night before the final battle, Travis called all of his men together.

While gathering in Alamo plaza, Travis collected his emotions and in ancient Leonidas-like fashion lay out for his men their final options.

They could surrender, try to escape or die for their country. According to non-combatant survivors of The Alamo, Travis then drew his sword and with the point traced a line across the sand saying "those who will stay here and die

with me cross the line."

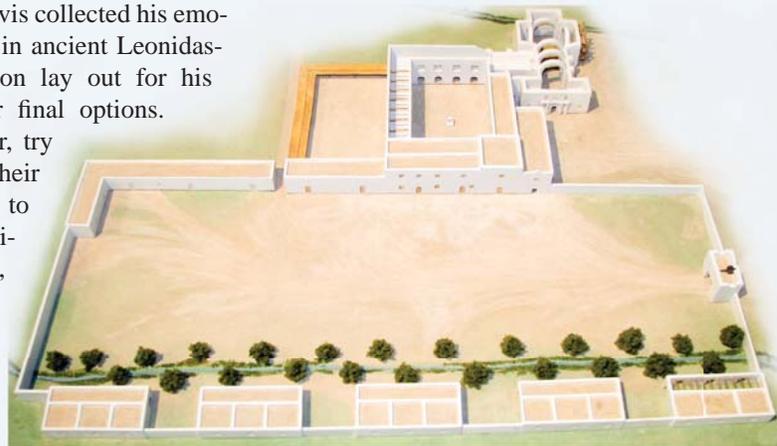
Every man but one made the decision to stay.

The next morning, following the second wave of attacks on the north wall, Travis fell. Soon after, the Mexican army was pouring in through this battered position and by 9:30 a.m. the battle for The Alamo was over.

No one knows the exact number of defenders who fell on March 6. Santa Anna had the bodies of the heroes burned following the battle, but most estimates put the number around 189. What we do know, according to Santa Anna's personal secretary, is the Mexican army lost 1,544 killed and almost one thousand more wounded. Santa Anna called it a "victory" but in response, one of his senior commander's was reportedly heard to say "one more victory like this and we are finished."

Today, more than 2 ½ million visitors from around the world visit The Alamo, the Shrine of Texas Liberty. They come to be inspired by this universal symbol of freedom. They come to walk the ground made hallow by patriot blood from South Carolina and around the world. They come to read the prophetic words in Travis' letters. Words like "shrine" which at the time meant "a box containing the relics of venerated people" and "victory or death!"

It's doubtful Leonidas and his 300 Spartans believed fate would enshrine their memories immemorial. Similarly, who among Travis' men could have believed 173 years after a final stand in their shrine, visitors to The Alamo would still whisper their names?



Modeler's rendition of the original five-acre Alamo site.

2008 Guard and Reserve Military Handbook



This handbook, written for National Guard and Reserve Soldiers, includes a variety of information about military pay, benefits and education. To request or download a copy of any the handbooks, go to - www.militaryhandbooks.com and submit your request.