

Palmetto Guard



FAMILY MAGAZINE, SPRING 2007

BIGGER BETTER AND MOVING OUT





STANHOPE S. SPEARS
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

The State of South Carolina
Military Department



OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
NATIONAL GUARD ROAD
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29814-4766

Soldiers and Families
of the SC Army National Guard

Dear Reader:

On the heels of our recent grand opening of the S.C. Military Museum here in Columbia, it is fitting the dedication plaque unveiled at this momentous state occasion be published for each of our soldiers and their families. Thank you for your faithful service in defense of freedom.

The S.C. Military Museum Dedication Plaque

Since 1670, when King Charles II gave the Lords Proprietors the power to erect fortifications and provide the means for a common defense of Charles Town, the South Carolina National Guard has protected our homeland from all enemies - foreign and domestic.

The South Carolina National Guard was there at Fort Moultrie on June 28, 1776, inflicting a devastating defeat on the British fleet. Its officers, like Francis Marion - the "Swamp Fox" and Thomas Sumter - the "Gamecock" in our war for independence captured the imagination of a new nation. Our troops stood with Andrew Jackson in the War of 1812 at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. The Palmetto Regiment spearheaded the attack on the heavily fortified Churubusco on the outskirts of Mexico City in 1846. We were there in Confederate service at the "Devil's Kitchen" at Gettysburg in 1863 and so many other bloody battlefields in our nation's tragic Civil War. Our union restored, the Second Regiment of S.C. Volunteer Infantry served in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. In 1918, six of 118th Infantry Regiment soldiers earned the nation's highest honor, the Congressional Medal of Honor, for valor during the regiment's courageous assault that broke the Hindenburg line and led to the Armistice ending the First World War. During WWII, its 178th Field Artillery Battalion had the longest period of continuous combat of any American unit, and was honored with the Croix de Guerre from the French government for its action at Cassino, Italy. Members of our 118th Infantry Regiment stood with Patton and broke Von Runstedt's drive on Mortain helping the "Old Hickory" Division earn the name "Workhorse of the Western Front." In 1991, our 157th Fighter Squadron flew the first combat missions into Kuwait, and a number of our units since have protected this Middle Eastern ally. Following the terrorists attacks on America on September 11, 2001, the S.C. National Guard has stood tall in defending freedom in Afghanistan, Iraq and the U.S. homeland.

Today's soldiers and airmen have been faithful to their heritage defending freedom and are writing new chapters in the storied history of the S.C. National Guard. They know all too well that freedom is not free.

Therefore, on behalf of the grateful citizens of South Carolina, I dedicate this museum to the memory and honor of all the men and women who have served and are serving in the S.C. National Guard on this 6th day of February 2007.

Stanhope S. Spears
Major General, SCARNG
The Adjutant General

Palmetto Guard

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Palmetto Guard Family Magazine

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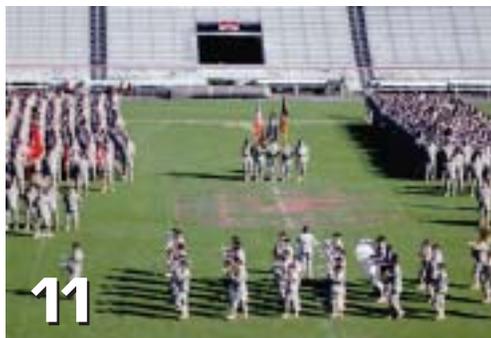
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Medal of Honor recipient Master Sgt. John Baker and 1st Lt. Julian Wilson were two of the 500 military, business and political leaders on hand to help dedicate the S.C. Military Museum.



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SC Army National Guard Band plays at 218th Infantry Brigade Deployment Ceremony. Photo by: Master Sgt. Phillip Jones



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After 90 years, the S.C. National Guard is heading back to the "Wild West" to assist the U.S. Border Patrol in Operation Jump Start.

S.C. MILITARY MUSEUM OPENS ITS DOORS TO THE PUBLIC

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

COLUMBIA, S.C. - In front of a crowd of 500 invited guests attending the grand opening of the new S.C. Military Museum in Columbia Tuesday night, Maj. Gen. Stanhope S. Spears, the S.C. Adjutant General, dedicated the museum in memory and honor of all the men and women who have served in the SC National Guard since 1670.

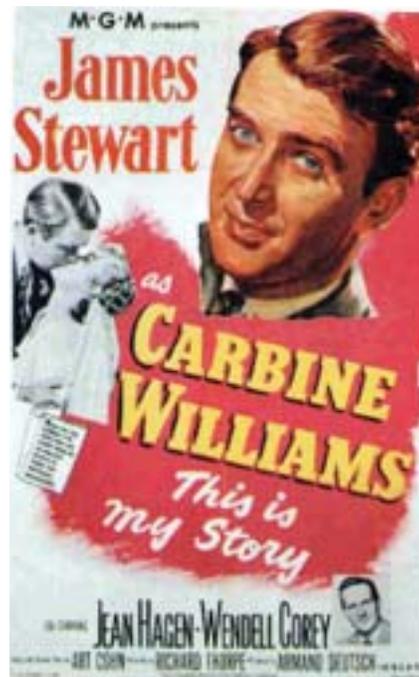
Spears thanked the efforts of many, especially Museum Director Buddy Sturgis, for making the museum a world-class institution. The general also singled out Ross E. Beard of Camden whose extremely valuable and rare artifacts spanning six centuries can be enjoyed throughout the new military museum.

Beard, the new museum's Deputy Curator, has been collecting rare artifacts since the age of 10 when his godfather, the "ace G-man" Melvin Purvis — "The Man Who Got Dillinger" — gave him what would become Beard's first treasured artifact: the Thompson Machine Gun Purvis retrieved from the belongings of public enemy No. 1, John Dillinger in 1934.

Thanks to Beard, among the numerous artifacts now on display at the S.C. Military Museum are Dillinger's "Tommy Gun;" carbine rifles personally manufactured by the famous David Marshall "Carbine" Williams who was portrayed by actor Jimmy Stewart in the 1952 MGM film "Carbine Williams — This Is My Story;" one of two gold gorget's that were made to decorate the uniforms of General Francis Marion and General Thomas Sumter during the American Revolution, as well as other collections from throughout the history of South Carolina.

According to Director Buddy Sturgis, the S.C. Military Museum is focused on educating the public about South Carolina's rich military history — a history of patriotism, sacrifice, valor and great achievement that dates back to 1670.

The S.C. Military Museum is located across from Williams-Brice Stadium behind the Bluff Road Armory at 1225 Bluff Road, Columbia, S.C. 29201. Its normal operating hours are Tuesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sturgis said special group tours can be scheduled by contacting the museum at (803) 806-4440.



▲ A copy of a movie poster of Jimmy Stewart portraying the life of Carbine Williams.



◆ Maj. Gen. Spears dedicates the S.C. Military Museum. L to R: Ross Beard, Buddy Sturgis and Maj. Gen. Stan Spears, S.C. Adjutant General.

▶ During his speech, Sturgis thanked the SC National Guard leadership and his volunteers (pictured) for making the S.C. Military Museum a reality.





◀ “Maj. Jeff Larrabee of Alexandria, VA, the National Guard Bureau historian met Medal of Honor recipient Col. Charles Murray of Lexington at the Museum’s dedication ceremony.”

▶ “Ms. Carolina Marchant, the widow of Lt. Gen. T. Eston Marchant — who served as Adjutant General of S.C. from 1978 to 1994, and Ms. Jennifer Wilson, a reporter with WIS-TV here in Columbia enjoy the evening’s festivities.



◀ Cadets from the S.C. Military Department’s Youth Challenge Academy assisted with the dedication.

▶ The late State Senator Bill Mescher of Pinopolis was among many members of the S.C. Legislature on hand to tour the museum and see the decorative gorget* which belonged to Francis Marion or Thomas Sumter during the American Revolution.

Note: A silver gorget adorned the indigo blue battle flag and either caps of Col. William Moultrie’s men in their valiant defense of Charleston Harbor utilizing a palmetto log fort in 1776. Soon after, Moultrie had a palmetto tree added to his regimental battle flag. Both a gorget and Palmetto tree adorn the South Carolina State flag.



263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command

Story by Maj. Ben Francis, 263rd AAMDC PAO



Col. Dale Ellenburg's retirement party was held February 3, 2007. The party was well attended by family and friends.



The AAMDC annual Christmas party was a smash due to the tremendous work of the Family Readiness Group and Cromer's Food Services, who did the catering for free in support of our soldiers. Senator Lindsey Graham was a featured guest speaker.



Maj. Michael Manucy and his wife Dreama won the Family of the Year award. Congratulations Michael and Dreama!

151 Field Artillery Brigade

From the Brigade Commander: Colonel Jim Griese

In the three months since arriving in Baghdad, the soldiers of HHB (-det.1), 151FA Brigade have been at the very heart of our nation's effort to stabilize the security situation in Iraq. The main war effort is currently focused on Baghdad and our soldiers are deeply involved in this massive undertaking. Members of the 151 FA BDE are working in the headquarters of Multi-National Division-Baghdad (MND-B) where history of the "next greatest generation" is being written everyday.

The largest group of our soldiers work in the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) Cell. This staff section, unique to Operation Iraqi Freedom, is entirely staffed and run by 151 FA BDE soldiers and is responsible for managing efforts to stand-up capable Iraqi Army and National Police forces in and around Baghdad. Another large group of 151 FA BDE soldiers at MND-B work in the Fires and Effects Cell (FEC) and, believe me, they are making a significant difference. Lately, field artillery batteries in the MND-B area have been delivering timely and accurate counter-fire with the effect the bad guys are increasingly thinking twice before they drop mortar rounds. Insurgents firing on CF in the MND-B area of operations now know they will be acquired and engaged...quickly!

In addition to the FEC and ISF missions, our soldiers serve in other key areas. In the International Zone (IZ), the majority of soldiers working in the Baghdad Joint Coordination Cell (BJCC) are from 151 FA BDE. As the name suggests, BJCC pulls together information on all ISF and Coalition Force operations in Baghdad. The remaining soldiers from the 151 BDE serve in special areas such as Force Protection, Targeting and Intelligence Collection & Analysis.

The bottom line is all 151 FA BDE soldiers are deeply involved in critical missions that are key to the success of our nation's effort to bring peace and stability to this region. The task is extremely difficult and complex, but the hard work, dedication and special skill sets possessed by 151 FA BDE soldiers are bringing something unique and necessary to win this fight.

All 151 FA BDE members, past and present, can be proud of the work being done today by "Gamecock Artillery" soldiers. On the Iraqi front of the global war on terrorism, the 151 FA BDE is making a difference.

Duty above all!

Col. Jim Griese



January 13, 2007. Members of 151st Field Artillery Brigade, Victory Base Camp, Baghdad, Iraq.



Soldiers of the 151st FA BDE salute the colors during the Combat Patch Ceremony.



This grandmother wears combat boots!



FOX Television news celebrity, Bill O'Reilly, flew to Iraq for his chance to meet Sgt. Jimmy Weeks!



Master Sgt. Donald Hampton is ecstatic to find that his stocking is not filled with coal after all!



Sgt. Anthony Taylor stands at attention as MG Fil "pins" on his new rank during the Combat Patch Ceremony.

SCARNG Aviation program undergoes changes

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Mark Dykes, Commander, 2nd Battalion 151st Aviation Battalion

Following the tragic events of 9-11, President George Bush established a National Security Strategy which focused significant emphasis on the security and defense of the United States homeland.

Many South Carolina Army National Guard units have been affected by the on-going transformation. The SCARNG aviation program has seen the activation of two new battalions - the 2nd Battalion, 151st Aviation Regiment (Security and Support) and the 351st Aviation Support Battalion.

The 2-151st is part of a totally new force structure — including new missions, new organizations, and new doctrine — which have never been fielded before.

The unit activated October 1, 2005, at McEntire Joint National Guard Base. As a new unit, its first-year activities focused primarily on attaining outstanding soldiers from across the aviation community, recruiting new soldiers and retention. An aggressive training program was implemented stressing basic soldier skills, job training, drivers training and convoy operations. Their first year of training culminated in September 2006 with a highly successful

unit move to a tactical field site at the McCrady Training Center.

So far this year, training for the 2-151st has been demanding. In February, the unit deployed a robust aviation team (Team Mongrel) to support Operation Jump Start in Arizona. During the first week of the deployment, Team Mongrel flew daily missions and participated in nearly 100 apprehensions and illegal drug seizures. Presently, Team Mongrel is providing critical support to the aviation task force for the mission along the Arizona border.

Operation Jump Start has allowed the 2-151st a unique opportunity to show its ability to mobilize, deploy and perform its real-world mission in difficult desert conditions while providing critical support to the US Border Patrol along a dangerous portion of the Southwest US border.

In March, the battalion conducted its first collective annual training (AT), focusing on mission-essential tasks while working with the SCARNG Emergency Management Division and local civil authorities. Training was based on real-world scenarios that included natural and man-made disaster response operations.

With this level of success, the visibility and pace of training for the 2-151st will only increase in the years to come.



Sgt. 1st Class Teresa Johnson conducts MOSQ (job) training at the tactical field site during training in September 2006



An OH-58 aircraft provides area security during September 2006 operations at the tactical field site



Soldiers of the 2-151st Aviation Battalion receive convoy instructions and safety briefing during September 2006 training

Planes, Trains and Automobiles Needed for the 218th Deployment

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

Photos by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones, Public Affairs NCOIC

COLUMBIA, SC - Deploying the largest number of soldiers since World War II was quite an undertaking for the South Carolina Army National Guard when the 218th enhanced Separate Brigade moved out first to Camp Shelby, MS, then on to Afghanistan in January.

Nearly 2,000 soldiers deployed for the mission and as you would expect, that meant they needed plenty of vehicles not only to reach their destination but to accomplish their varying missions as well.

A total of 285 vehicles were transported for the initial train-up at Camp Shelby; the move from Columbia took several days. "We transported 254 vehicles by train on 73 railcars from the Garners Ferry Spur," said Capt. Denton Smith, SCARNG traffic manager. "The load took more than four days. The train was

loaded by our DOL personnel and the vehicles were secured with chains."

Smith said that not only were trains needed, but trucks were also used to complete to move. "We had to use commercial trucks to move the remaining 31 vehicles," he said.

Considering the magnitude of the mission, everything seemed to proceed efficiently. "The rail loading started on January 3 and was completed January 8," said Smith. The trucks were shipped on January 11 and arrived one day later at Camp Shelby. The train arrived at Shelby two days after that, on January 14.

Finally, it took numerous flights from Columbia Metropolitan Airport to move the soldiers from the Palmetto State to Mississippi, along with others heading to Fort Riley, KS.



A soldier boarding an airplane waves goodbye as the 218th headed out for Camp Shelby, MS in January



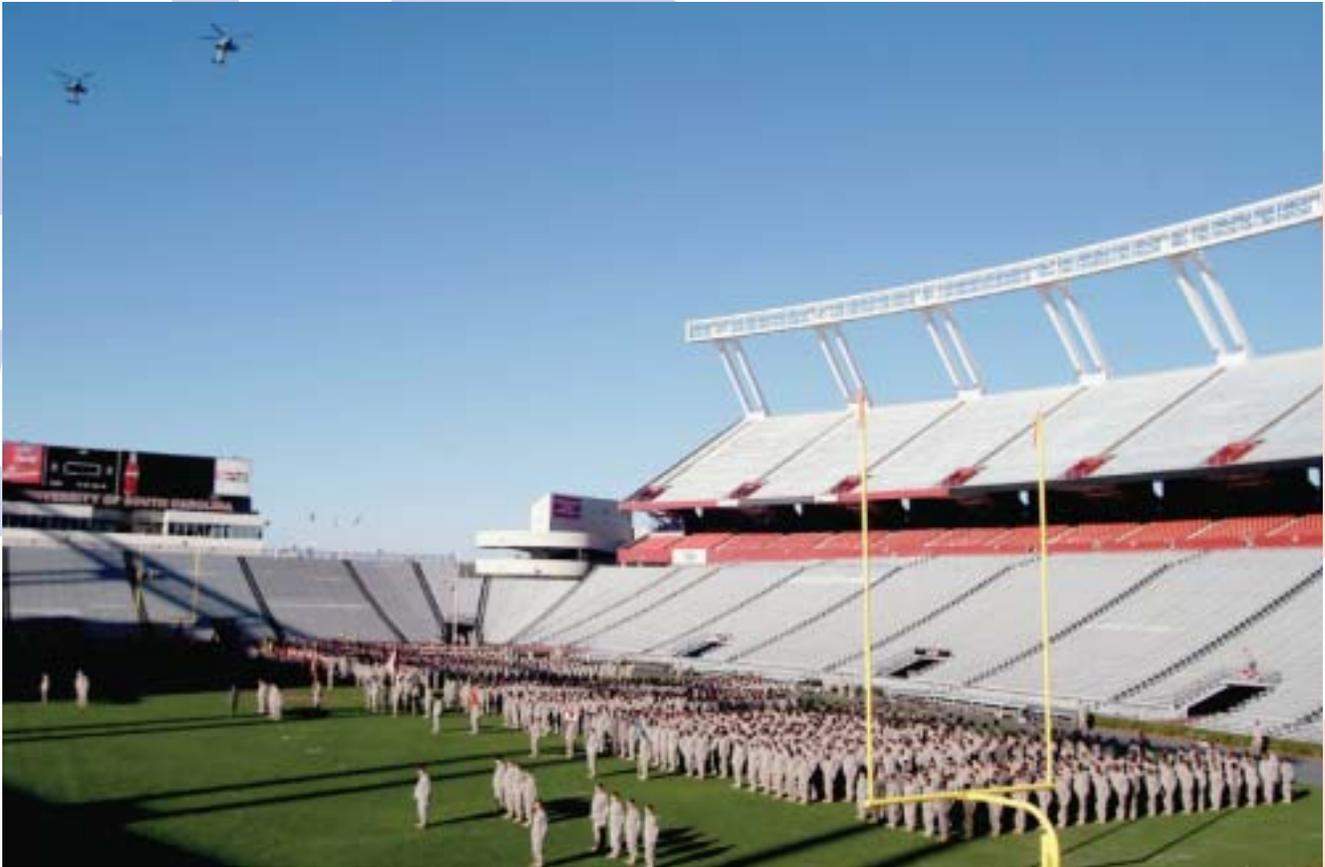
A flatbed truck leaves Columbia en route to Camp Shelby during transportation of more than 280 vehicles for the 218th's deployment to Afghanistan



On January 16, 2007, the General Assembly of South Carolina adopted H. 3222, a Concurrent Resolution to recognize and honor the members of the 218th Heavy Separate Brigade, the largest of the subordinate commands of the South Carolina National Guard, and to wish them well in their year-long deployment to Afghanistan. H. 3222 can be read in full by typing this link into your internet browser: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/bills/3222.htm
Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian



The SC Legislature hosted representatives of the 218th Infantry Brigade at the State Capital in Columbia before the soldiers deployed to Camp Shelby, Miss. to begin training for Afghanistan. Members of the SC Legislature presented a framed copy of the resolution read into the record commemorating the event on the front steps of the State House. Photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian



Apache helicopters from the SC Army National Guard's 151 Aviation Group perform a flyover at Williams-Brice during the finale of the ceremony. Photo by: Pvt. Robert Digiovine



Approximately 10,000 flag-waving fans of the SC Army National Guard were on hand at Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia for the 218th's send-off. Photo by: Master Sgt. Phillip Jones



SC Army National Guard Band plays at 218th Infantry Brigade Deployment Ceremony. Photo by: Master Sgt. Phillip Jones

Stories by Spc. Tracy Young-Robinson, Upstate Public Affairs Rep., 228th Signal Brigade

Movin' Out with Forward 5

On September 11, 2005, the 228th SC HHC Bde TA Forward 5 of Spartanburg, SC, deployed to Afghanistan. Forward 5 is a group of 35 SCNG soldiers, commanded by Col. Lenoid Best. The unit, one of the first of its kind in the state, worked jointly with multiple nations and various branches of service. One of the 35 deployed was Maj. John Rozsnyai. Their mission, he said, "was to build strategic level infrastructure bringing communication capabilities to the government and people of Afghanistan." The wireless bridge of communication works directly to free an oppressed people. Communication creates opportunities to access training, teaching, self-improvement, economic growth and development of a new truth.

Freedom Salute Ceremony

HHC 228 Signal Brigade Forward 5 & 8 were honored on February 3 in the SCARNG Freedom Salute Ceremony in Spartanburg, SC. Mayor William Barnett III expressed his gratitude to the troops for being defenders of freedom. In his travel to the ceremony, the mayor noted that the children he saw playing outside could do so because of the dedicated service of American soldiers. Sgt. Tara Walker, a member of Fwd 5, gracefully sang The National Anthem at the ceremony. While deployed overseas, she also sang at a ceremony attended by President George W. Bush. Many of the soldiers honored Feb. 3, have logged multiple deployments, each time spending more than a year away from their families.



Bigger, Better Equipment

The 228th Signal Brigade, Spartanburg, SC, is the power source for changing the standards of communication stateside and nationwide. Brigade AO, Lt. Col. James Finley, described the new equipment and its capabilities. Included are two satellite terminals, 12 Tac Lanes, 19 HF Radios and JISSC - all of which strengthen and extend the communication and security of data in the Signal Units. The equipment upgrade offers enhanced technology capabilities that are designed to extend to 2015 and beyond. Training is ongoing, as the Brigade stays ever ready to "Move Out."

The New Millennium Guard

The HHC 228 Signal Brigade, based at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, SC, will undergo drastic changes in the near future. The Signal Guard of the future will become a leaner, meaner, fighting entity.

"As the Army goes to modular structure in the future, the 228 Signal Brigade will downsize significantly," says Brigade AO, Lt. Col. James Finley. The 1300 soldiers forming the Signal Brigade today will slim down nearly in half, to about 700 by next year. New equipment requires fewer soldiers to operate and has twice the capabilities.

Selective Service Unit prepares for national emergencies

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

COLUMBIA, SC - A national draft for military service hasn't been used since the Vietnam War, but during a time when our nation continues to fight the War on Terror, the South Carolina Army National Guard's Selective Service System Detachment Two continues to prepare should a national draft arise.

Located in Columbia, the unit's mission is to recruit and train civilian volunteers to man local selective system stand-by draft boards for either military or health care personnel in the event of a national draft. Each board consists of five people who would hear appeals cases for those drafted, such as those who claim hardships or those who are conscientious objectors.

Lt. Col. Steve Wilson, detachment commander, says his unit maximizes the training time it has. "We use weekend drills to recruit and train board members and maintain personal readiness," he said. "Our focus at annual training is to set up group training sessions for new members and refresher or continuation training for those we already have. We also attend annual state workshops and bi-annual regional workshops to sharpen our readiness."

Along with Wilson, the detachment consists of Maj. John Hudgins, Capt. Dan Dickert (currently deployed with the



218th's mission to Afghanistan) and Maj. Mary Franklin, U.S. Air Force Reserve. The state director is Lt. Col. (Ret.) Joe Johnson.

In the event of a draft, Wilson says, the unit would mobilize within 24 hours of the draft declaration and provide a working draft management system capable of providing manpower to the armed services no later than 181 days from the mobilization date.

Parker inducted into Warrant Officer Hall of Fame

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



Maj. Gen. Stan Spears (right), the Adjutant General of South Carolina, presents Chief Warrant Officer (Ret.) Carl Parker his plaque commemorating his induction into the Warrant Officer Hall of Fame as Mr. Parker's wife, Bertha, looks on.

EASTOVER, SC - Carl B. Parker (Ret.) was inducted into the Warrant Officer Hall of Fame at the South Carolina McCrady Training Center Sunday February 18.

Mr. Parker was born on July 21, 1928 in Lancaster, SC. He enlisted in the South Carolina Army National Guard on April 3, 1947. From July 1947 to 1984, Mr. Parker was employed as a full-time technician for the Guard. His positions included Unit Supply Technician, Battalion Property Book Officer and Federal Examiner.

After he retired as a technician, Mr. Parker served several tours of active duty at the National Guard Center, Camp Robinson, AR. On September 11, 1952, Mr. Parker was appointed the rank of Warrant Officer and achieved the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4 on January 12, 1968.

Chief Warrant Officer (Retired) Parker served his state and nation for more than 43 years with honor and distinction. He retired July 20, 1990.

National Guard Paintball Tournament comes to South Carolina

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

COLUMBIA, SC - Grey clouds filled the sky making the wind icy. The obstacles on the field were spattered with mud. Officials set the timer to six minutes and blew the whistle. Teams scattered for cover as paint began to fly across the field.

This was the scene in February at the University of South Carolina as the Army National Guard continued its series of paintball tournaments at campuses throughout the eastern and southeastern United States to increase its awareness with college students.



Katherine Hodges, 19, a freshman at USC, watches the games after helping her team win by charging up the field to take out the last opposing team member.

“Our purpose in doing this is to get leads and talk to people,” said 1st Lt. Kimberly Spires, the XM 2005 Mobile Events Team leader. “We are always looking for new ways to reach our target market. NASCAR and paintball are some of the popular interests we are trying to bring out.”

Spires said that it’s a good event for leads because there are



Team members watch each other’s back as they hold back the opposing team during an early game of the National Guard Paintball tournament on Saturday, Feb. 17.

recruiters people can talk to and if anyone has a picture taken, they may see something about the guard that interests them when they go to the Web site to pick it up.

The tournaments began Feb. 17 at TriggerTyme Paintball in Columbia. Guard representatives were present on the University of South Carolina campus during the week to generate interest, answer questions and enable students to sign up for the event. The tour will continue at 11 more campuses, ending at the University of Texas at Austin on May 6.

Twenty teams of between seven and 10 members took part. Teams had six minutes to capture the flag in the middle of the field and take it up to their opponent’s gate. The winning team at each tournament receives a prize of \$1,000 and the format of the competition varies at each event.

Katherine Hodges, a USC freshman from Richmond, VA, boldly ran up the field to take out the last member of the opposing team so her teammates could bring the flag to the gate. “I did it because they told me there was only one guy left,” Hodges said. “I had never played before this. I came because a friend asked me and I’ll probably do it again.”

“We do four large events during the year,” said Robert Murphy, owner of TriggerTyme Paintball. “I like working with the military. We do Toys for Tots with the Marines in December and we have a Navy event in March,” he said.

The National Guard has a unique dual mission consisting of both federal and state roles. They are always trying to provide fun and interesting events to capture the interest of potential recruits. These tournaments have been an experiment in using popular activities to reach out to college students.



Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Troy Pharis, a South Carolina Army National Guard recruiter, sends paint downrange during practice before the tournament.

Pistol Team in Puerto Rico

Photo and cutline by Master Sgt. Danny Cameron

The South Carolina National Guard Pistol team showed their skill and marksmanship at the Puerto Rico State championship in February, taking home numerous awards.



Front row (L to R) Sgt. Joseph Sellers (1st in the expert class), Spc. Eric Lawrence, (2nd in the expert class), and Sgt. Nathan Wade (overall match winner). Back row (L to R) Spc. Cory Vickers, (1st in the Marksmanship class), Staff Sgt. Mitch Henson, (2nd in the Master class), Brig. Gen. Roberto Marrero-Corletto (Assistant Adjutant General of Puerto Rico), Master Sgt. Jon Pou, (1st in the Master class), Sgt. James P. Young, (3rd in the expert class).

National Guard Marathon Team competes in Myrtle Beach

Photo and cutline by Master Sgt. Phillip Jones and Sgt. Steve Carwile



MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. - Making their first appearance in South Carolina, the National Guard all-guard Marathon Team competed in the Myrtle Beach Marathon on February 17, and took home a number of awards for their efforts. Maj. Paul Laymon of the 43rd Civil Support Team, pictured first from the left in the second row, helped anchor the five-man "Old Glory" marathon relay team that won top honors in the Men's Masters Category and placed 6th overall. Their time was 2 hours, 43 minutes and 57 seconds for an average leg of 6:16.

McCrary hosts combat training program

Story and photos by Maj. Jim St. Clair, SCMD Public Affairs Officer

Over the past two years, an innovative program at the McCrary Training Center has been training soldiers and sailors to be combat ready when they deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan as individual augmentees. Every two weeks, a class of approximately 200 students cycles through a combat survival course to become proficient with various small arms and to react to ambushes. Maj. Robert Dingle, Operations Officer and Range Officer at McCrary, estimates over 5000 soldiers and sailors have completed the course.

The course, Familiarization of Army Weapons and Tactics, is designed to teach sailors basic combat skills and provide a refresher for soldiers. "They get basic training on convoy operations and operations in urban assault, reaction to ambushes and so on. The assumption is they might be with an Army unit that gets ambushed and at least they'll know how they're supposed to react," Dingle explained.

While the augmentees who show up at McCrary arrive from all over the country, most of them come from the eastern part of the United States. At present, 70 percent of the personnel being trained come from the active duty Navy with the rest being Army IRR.

Lt. Col. Joe Huggins, Commander of Training Battalion Task Force Marshall, said the feedback he's received from the augmentees has been overwhelming positive. "We are literally providing the best training there is out there for this fight. We've heard from people that have been to other places like Fort Bliss and Fort Benning who have come through here and said what we've got is a lot better than those places." The training is also constantly updated to reflect the latest lessons learned from the theatre of operations, Huggins said.

Dingle has been impressed with the gung-ho attitude of the Navy personnel. "As far as going through the training, particularly the Navy personnel, they've been outstanding. They're all working hard at it. They realize they will be somewhere in a couple weeks where someone may be shooting at them. I'll tell you, the concept of 'One Team, One Fight' works here because it has to."

At the end of two weeks of rigorous study and work, the augmentees deploy to a combat zone fully confident in their warfighting skills. The training program at McCrary has a high graduation rate, well over 90 percent Dingle said.



Maj. Dingle poses in front of one of the cargo containers at the MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain) site at McCrary. "This is the Fort Jackson mission you've heard about. It's being conducted at a National Guard training site using National Guard training areas and ranges," said Dingle. "In a way, this is a Total Force complex. This is a mission the Army is doing for the Navy by an Army Reserve Training Battalion at a National Guard training site."



MOUT Site (Military Operations in Urban Terrain) at McCrary serves as an urban assault course for the IRR students. The site, constructed out of used military cargo containers, simulates an Iraqi village. The soldiers practice clearing buildings, sweeping for snipers and proving cover until they are proficient enough to do it for real overseas.



Task Force Marshall Headquarters at McCrady. "In the true spirit of jointness, Task Force Marshall was tasked to train Navy personnel in 2005," according to Maj. Dingle. "Last year, we added the Navy component to our mission out here. We started rotating Navy personnel also to be individual augmentees to Army units."



US Navy personnel receive and inspect their weapons during the small arms issue phase of the Familiarization of Army Weapons and Tactics training course at McCrady. "Basically what they teach them is basic combat skills," said Maj. Robert Dingle. "For instance, the vast majority of the Navy personnel have never fired an M-16. So they go through the standard skills of getting familiar with the weapons systems from the M-16 to the Mark 19s and the M-2 machine gun."

"Human Weapons Maintenance" changes for Soldiers

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

The days of getting a complete physical every five years are no more. With the implementation of the Department of Defense's Periodic Health Assessment (PHA) program, soldiers can now expect to be screened annually to ensure they are fully medically ready.



Lt. Col. Karen Hatfield

While the US Air Force and the South Carolina Air National Guard have been doing PHAs for a number of years now, the Department of Defense will be going to the PHA process for all the services starting this year, according to Lt. Col. Karen Hatfield, Deputy State Surgeon for the South Carolina Army National Guard.

"Starting in FY 2008, MSCs will coordinate with the AOs to assign SCARNG soldiers different months to have their PHA accomplished. It will be part of their training schedule. We like to call it Human Weapons Maintenance," Hatfield said. "Just like their weapons qualification, they'll be scheduled for their PHA during an Individual Medical Readiness Exercise (IMRE)."

During PHAs, soldiers take their medical records folder around to various medical stations (such as vision, phlebotomy, EKG and others) to be checked out and screened according to their age and gender. They will then meet with a physician for counseling to complete the process. Individualized counseling will be tailored to the soldier's risk factors and concerns.

Having a current PHA will now be one part of being worldwide qualified for deployment, that is to say fully medically ready, said Hatfield. In addition to the PHA, soldiers must have an up-to-date immunization record, and a current dental exam. Finally, soldiers cannot have a nondeployable profile, nor have a limited duty profile.

The “Wild West”

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



The “Wild West” is a phrase in the American lexicon conjuring up scenes of Tombstone, Arizona and the OK Corral. According to Tombstone residents, Wyatt Earp first met the Clanton-McLaury gang here in the Crystal Palace Saloon in 1879, while his friend “Doc” Holliday sipped on Old Overholt whiskey and Wyatt watched over his 8 percent interest in the Palace’s “Wheel of Fortune.”

Two years later on October 26, 1881, the Wild West town of Tombstone erupted in gunfire when the Earp brothers with Doc at their side ended the “Cowboy Curse” at the OK Corral.

While arguably America’s most famous gunfight in history, the shoot-out at the OK Corral was not the last. Many fights afterward, one 35 years later — on March 9, 1916 at around 4 a.m. in the Wild West border town of Columbus, New Mexico — especially captured the imagination of many throughout the world. The Columbus gunfight was significant because it was the first foreign invasion of American soil since 1812.

There, about 300 residents along with the F, H and K Troops of the 13th Cavalry were attacked by 500 Villistas Mexicans who had pledged themselves to Mexican General Francisco “Pancho” Villa. During the gunfight, 18 Americans died including 10 civilians, along with 200 Villistas.

The War Department responded swiftly the next day in carrying out President Wilson’s directive “that an armed force be sent into Mexico with the sole object of capturing Villa and

preventing any further raids by his bands”. Upon invitation from Mexican president Venustiano Carranza, Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing crossed the Mexican border with 15,000 soldiers on March 15, 1916, known as the Punitive Expedition. Unbelievably, after inviting American troops into Mexico to pursue Villa, Carranza publicly protested the entry of American soldiers and called on the people of Mexico to stand behind him in confronting the Americans. Following the Carranza betrayal, Wilson ordered the National Guard’s 110,526 soldiers and another 28,033 active troops to the U.S. – Mexico border to help protect American citizens.

Although Pershing chased Villa for 11 months without capturing him, he was successful in neutralizing many of the Villistas forces while simultaneously training, arming and outfitting his Punitive Expedition forces to ensure American troops, including all 4,000 soldiers of the South Carolina Army National Guard, were prepared for World War I.

Like the Palmetto State soldiers who served under Pershing in the Wild West 90 years ago, 2,000 of our S.C. National Guard soldiers and airmen representing numerous units from around the state will begin doing their part to protect America’s border.

Over the next three months, S.C. National Guardsmen — while on annual training in support of “Operation Jump Start” — will provide a myriad of services along the Vast Tucson and Yuma Sectors of the U.S. – Mexico border aiding US Border Patrol agents in apprehending illegal aliens and narcotics.

“For every soldier who rotates in to support our border patrol infrastructure, maintenance, communications and border observation points, it allows us to station another badge down on the border,” said Capt. Chris Knab, a Border Patrol spokesman.

Note: Due to the large number of troops and diverse services our S.C. Guardsmen will be providing the US Border Patrol over the next three months, the staff of the Palmetto Guard Family Magazine will provide a special summer 2007 edition of the magazine called: “In Support of Operation Jump Start.”

Important Facts from the 1916-1917 Punitive Expedition

- 1) Birth of the U.S. Army Air Corps
- 2) Birth of U.S. Army Truck Transport
- 3) Last Campaign of the U.S. Horse Cavalry
- 4) Villa’s Strengths:
 - a) A prototype of an armored motor vehicle far in advance of anything owned by the U.S. Army was being developed by Pancho Villa.
 - b) He already owned four military airplanes and had developed the world’s first rolling airdrome which would allow him to launch an aircraft by train.
 - c) Villa also had mounted cannons in armored rail cars.



The current Pine Ridge Armory near Columbia, S.C. is located on what was known as Camp Styx in 1916. The 118th Infantry Regiment staged its 1916 move to El-Paso for the Border mission from here.



The Palmetto Regiment waits its turn in the Chow Line at Camp Styx before shipping out.



The Palmetto Regiment arrives by train to El-Paso, TX to begin their border mission.



The Palmetto Regiment rides through the town of El-Paso, TX to protect the US Border with Mexico.



The regiments Field Artillery Caisson units move into their fire positions on the border.



How the Palmetto Regiment lived.



A typical Observation Point manned by South Carolina soldiers in 1916-1917.



Mounted Cavalry rides out on patrol along the border.

DEDICATED TO THE MILITARY SPOUSE

I am proud to be wed to one who defends
freedom and peace.

*My challenges are many and I pray for
your love and guidance to meet them*

My national flag represents freedom.
Let me never forget, or take for
granted, the hope it
shows to the
world. Bless
those who have
made sacrifices
for freedom. As I enter
gateway to a military community,
guide me to reach out to others and keep
it a wholesome place.

My wedding ring represents eternity and never
ending love. Let me celebrate all of the joys of
our togetherness and find comfort in them
during times of separation. I pray also we
are spared the ultimate sacrifice of duty to
country. Thank you God for daily being with us as
we live in the Army.

***Taken from "Prayer of the Army Spouse" ***



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for
position
only