

# GEORGIA GUARDSMAN



★★ SERVING THE NATIONAL GUARD AND STATE DEFENSE FORCE OF GEORGIA ★★

TO THE FALLEN

**AUGUST 2014**

IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE NAME OF PEACE AND FREEDOM DURING THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM.

WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM

**HONORING  
OUR 42  
FALLEN**

**WE WILL ALWAYS  
REMEMBER**



**PLUS:** 150 YEARS OF GMI LEGACY | 1-111TH GSAB TRAINING | AND SO MUCH MORE

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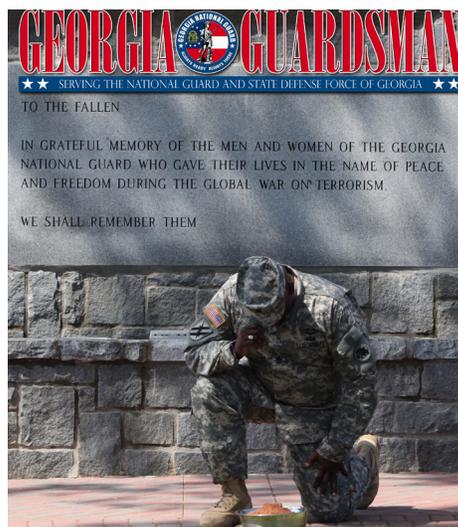
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# GEORGIA GUARDSMAN



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# Riggers Always Sure

BY MAJ. WILL COX  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE | GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

**T**wo things paratroopers do not take for granted: their parachute and the rigger that packed it. According to the Riggers Pledge, riggers are trained from day one to keep a wholehearted respect for their vocation, regarding it as a high profession rather than a day-to-day task.

The 165th Quartermaster Company is a Corps-level asset assigned to the Georgia National Guard that packs and stores parachutes and rigs equipment to provide support for reconnaissance and surveillance operations. The 165th QM conducted joint static jump airborne proficiency training out of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter at Paulding County Airport.

“We conduct airborne operations monthly to maintain proficiency in our craft, which is parachute operations,” said Warrant Officer Candidate Jose Caoili, drop zone safety officer in charge. “We have a requirement to jump every 90 days to be a paratrooper. This is proficiency training, so we will do multiple lifts, multiple passes and multiple jumps today. We are also training our jump masters and drop zone safety officers in their specific tasks so we can get better, perform safer operations and have fun.”

The Rigger’s Pledge ensures a rigger will constantly keep in mind that until men grow wings, their parachutes must be dependable. A rigger will pack every parachute as though they were going to jump with it themselves, and will stand ready to jump with any parachute

which they have certified as properly inspected and packed.

“My riggers jump one of the parachutes they pack, at least quarterly,” said Caoili. “I conduct a 10 percent inspection monthly to ensure the rigger and inspector are packing the parachutes correctly. It must be a zero tolerance environment because people’s lives are on the line.”

“Staff Sgt. Roger Montanez and WOC Coaili are two of the leading experts in the airborne community concerning packing parachutes, and we have them right here in the company,” said Capt. Jason Royal, commander of the 165th QM. “I would trust this parachute rigging shed before I would trust any other parachute, because our guys pack knowing each one of them will come out and jump their handiwork. Our parachute openings are phenomenal, and I believe our openings are better than any other chutes you will see.”

And they’d better be since Royal’s son’s life depends on it too.

“Conducting airborne operations with my son is one of the most rewarding experiences I have had in the military,” said Royal. “I realize that it is a rarity to jump with your own son. It makes every operation more enjoyable, but at the same time it makes me want to be 100% safe because I am not only putting my Soldiers out of the aircraft, I am putting my son out of that aircraft as well. With all of these lives on the line, we need to get it right.”

The Rigger’s Pledge says that a rigger will never sign their name to a parachute inspection or packing certificate unless he has



## CONDUCTING AIRBORNE OPERATIONS WITH MY SON IS ONE OF THE MOST REWARDING EXPERIENCES I HAVE HAD IN THE MILITARY.

personally performed or directly supervised every step and is entirely satisfied with all of the work. A rigger will never let the idea that a piece of work is “good enough,” making them a potential killer through a careless mistake or oversight, for they know there can be no compromise with perfection.

“If a mistake is found during the 10 percent inspection, I will pull out another parachute packed by the same rigger. And if that pack has the same mistake then all of that rigger’s parachutes will be pulled for repacking, and that rigger and inspector will be formally counseled and prohibited from packing chutes until they have been retrained,” said Caoili.

“There are 11 rigger checks in the MC6 parachute, and they pack the parachute in stages. So once a rigger packs the first stage, an inspector comes along and reviews the rigger’s work, then the rigger continues until he is finished with all 11 stages,” said Royal.

An important part of being a rigger is packing the parachute but they get to do a lot more than that.

“We get to do the training people sign up for in the Army,” said Caoili. “Sling loading vehicles, setting up landing zones, jumping out of airplanes and helicopters is all part of the job description for a rigger.”



# PHYSICIAN SERVES AIR GUARD

BY: TECH. SGT. JULIE PARKER 165TH AW | GEORGIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

**T**he Air National Guard (ANG) medical corps fields a health care team comprised of service members dedicating their lives to the service and protection of others. One team member brings global experience to the 116th Air Control Wing mission.

Lieutenant Col. Anna Likos, a part-time staff physician with the 116th Medical Group, also works as the director for the division of disease control and health protection for the Florida Department of Health.

Prior to her work in the Air National Guard, she worked at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer with the Poxvirus Program and held several other CDC positions, including medical epidemiologist in the Influenza Branch, and a medical epidemiologist in the Global AIDS Program Office in both Haiti and Cote d'Ivoire, and in the Field Training Program in Morocco.

After college, Likos joined the Peace Corps and had the opportunity to work in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

She said that experience influenced her desire to work in developing countries as a doctor.

"Dr. Likos' first-hand experience in international medicine, including managing diseases not seen in the U.S. and working with health systems in foreign countries, helps the 116th ACW and the Georgia Air National Guard maintain readiness to deploy anywhere in the world," said Col. Louis Perino, chief of aerospace medicine for the 116 MDG.

There is a great sense of satisfaction in knowing she directly impacts the mission, according to Likos.

"In public health, the focus is on the health of the population as a whole. Here, I get to interact with people and patients one-on-one, and I miss that [in the civilian sector]," she said.

A physician in the Air National Guard since 2000, Likos "joined the military a little later in life than most," she said. She was 50 years old when she joined.

Likos said that her decision to join came

when she attended a conference for the American Medical Surgeons of the United States.

"It was at a time when a lot of data had just come out on osteoporosis and bone densities in women, and I remember going to this one session on neurology and the neurological complications that could be created by the force of an ejection seat on the spine," she said.

Likos said she remembered listening to the discussion and thinking, "Wow; we are going to have more women pilots."

According to Likos, the paradigm of women in the military was changing at the time and she wanted to be a part of it.

"I grew up in a time when there was a much more conservative approach to the roles of women in society and the lines were drawn as to what women could and could not do," Likos explained.

She recalled a conversation she had with her father, who was a doctor, when she

was about nine-years old.

"I remember asking him how I could become a doctor," Likos said. "He basically told me that women shouldn't be doctors, but I could be a nurse."

That didn't deter Likos.

"Looking back, I see that I was always stubborn, and although I didn't openly challenge my father, I tip-toed around medicine for years," she said.

Likos studied biology in college and became a laboratory medical technologist.

She said it was at the age of 35, while she was working on a doctorate in immunology, that she thought to herself, "You know what? I'm going to medical school."

Likos graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine in 1995 and completed her internal medicine residency at Yale before finishing a second residency in preventative medicine at Johns Hopkins University.



# REGIONAL DISASTER RESPONDERS ARE READY

BY: STAFF SGT. TRACY J. SMITH | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE | GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Some call it the ‘Doomsday Disneyland.’ A microcosm of modern city and rural landscape purposefully destroyed to give emergency responders realistic insight with hands-on training.

To the Georgia National Guard first and second responders that work alongside the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, (GEMA), it is nothing short of splendid.

“I’ve never seen anything like it,” Senior Airman Myron Saunders says marveling at the upturned school buses and cars.

Saunders is new to the 4th Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team but has worked as a chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear (CBRN) surveyor and responder his entire military career.

‘It’ is the Guardian Center of Georgia, in Perry, founded by Geoff Burkart, a gentleman with a vast background in disaster preparedness who is, like his staff, committed to the training of first responders. The nearly two-year old compound’s focus is ‘Training for Success,’ and a first glance upon entering the gates is validation that this is what they aim to do.

“Before we did our training where we could find the space; parking lots, aircraft hangers and such,” Saunders states. “This gives us a reality check on learning.”

Unloading meters, masks, hoses and calibrating equipment, Saunders and the small team of response professionals are readying for a notional mission that, in real life, could have consequences.

“There is a mountainous checklist series the team has to work through,” explains Nathan Cumiskey, the Guardian Center’s CBRN and explosives director. “After we have set up the disaster scene, we observe and offer feedback based on performance. The lessons learned build a stronger team.”

Cumiskey knows about teamwork. As a former active-duty U.S. Marine, he went from his North Carolina based CBRN unit in the late 90’s to the National Capitol Region as a member of the CBRN

team responsible for the protection of the Secretary of Defense and the Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff after the 2001 New York World Trade Center attacks.

Also observing is Davis Norris a 20-year veteran of the Forsyth Fire Department and a former Georgia National Guard 148th Brigade Support Battalion armorer. His civilian and military background gives him a leg-up during the final after-action discussions. He knows how to speak the language.

“My job is not to interfere with the

reached 89-degrees by mid-morning, and the heavy protective suits and sustainment gear (masks, double boots and gloves, breathing gear) add to the discomfort.

“Nothing about HAZMAT (hazardous materials) is fast,” Norris adds, as he hydrates, never deviating from his observer duties. “Especially without casualties.”

Lumbering as if walking the moon, the three-man survey teams photograph the scene and finalize their work as the noon sun settles high overhead. They move towards the decontamination assembly area for a dust-off and ‘pancake probe,’ a term describing the flat apparatus that is sensitive to radiation traces, discarding any gear that may have made contact.

Decontamination is a vital final step in the CBRN/HAZMAT survey process as signified by the gurney and ambulance looming close by. The closer the team came to the point of origin, the more exposure they risked.

“These are perishable skills,” Sgt. 1st Class Steve Phoenix, 4th WMD-CST platoon sergeant and survey team non-commissioned officer explains. “We never stop going to school and are required to have 2,000-hours of training a year. Moving out of the parking lot helps the team realize the totality of their contributions.”

Notifying command and control that their task as second responders is complete, the team moves to DECON to hose off, hook-up and move out.

The facility offers many readiness opportunities for Georgia emergency responders, and the military, at no charge. It was designed that way to give the assist in the architecture of relationship building.

“Cohesiveness with other agencies is what training sites like this are equipped for,” Maj. Alan Hammonds, 4th WMD-CST commander says. “Our training allows mentorship and creates a synergy with other responders.”



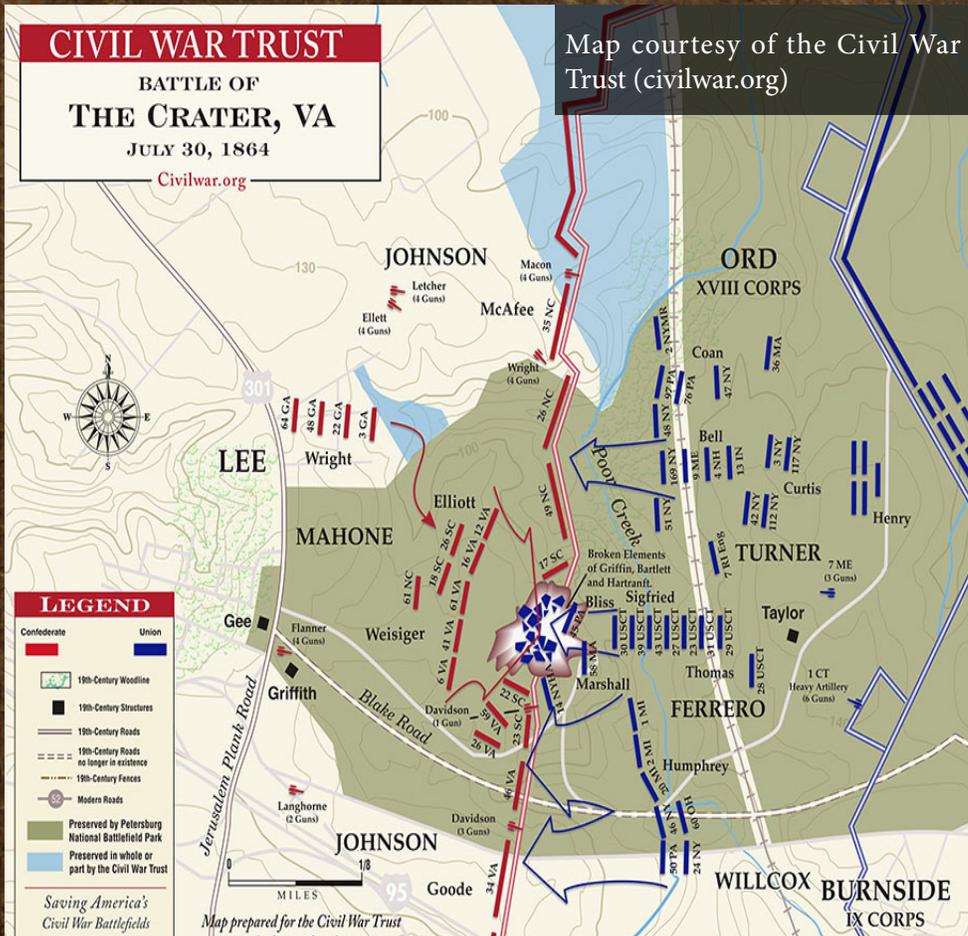
teams process,” Norris explained of his role. “We don’t interject or correct unless safety is compromised then we are duty bound to step in.”

The scenario involved a bomb that, unbeknownst to authorities, spread radiation throughout the atmosphere when it was defused. It is up to the team to detect radiation levels and conduct safety demarcations based on findings.

It is a long and uncomfortable process for the 4th WMD-CST and it is to be meticulously managed in the sweltering south Georgia sun. The temperature has

# THE SADDEST AFFAIR OF THE WAR: THE BATTLE OF THE CRATER

BY CAPT. WILL CARRAWAY | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE | GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



could imagine what was about to happen, or what lay just beneath their feet.

## THE MINE

Four weeks earlier, Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside (whose lustrous whiskers gave us the term sideburns) listened curiously as the colonel of the 48th Pennsylvania presented him with a plan. Colonel Henry Pleasants had been a mining engineer before the war, and many of his men hailed from the coal mine region of Pennsylvania. Pleasants proposed to dig a mineshaft beneath the Confederate trenches, fill a chamber full of gun powder and explode it in order to create a breach for the Federals to exploit. Burnside, the former commanding general of the Army of the Potomac, saw no reason to oppose the plan in principle. Despite the grumblings of Maj. Gen. George Meade, the current commanding general of the Army of the Potomac, Burnside approved Pleasants' plan, and the Pennsylvania miners went to work.

## PLANS FOR A GRAND BREACH

By late July, the intrepid Pennsylvanians had sunk a mineshaft more than 500 feet underground. Their progress, and the endorsement of Burnside prompted Lt. Gen. U.S. Grant to authorize Burnside's attack

## JULY 30, 1864: THE TRENCHES OF PETERSBURG

The pickets of the 26th South Carolina Infantry Regiment swept the ground before them with war-haggard eyes. It had been 45 days since the 26th S.C. and the other regiments of Stephen Elliott's Brigade had entered the trenches of Petersburg. For two years, the Palmetto Soldiers and their fellow Confederates had fought a war of maneuver and had come very close to achieving victory. Now, the war had stagnated to trenches and sieges. In Georgia, Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman was encountering stiff resistance from the stubborn Confederate veterans of the Army of Tennessee.

The 26th South Carolina occupied a part of the Petersburg defenses known as Elliott's Salient – a prominent point in the Confederate line. Defending the salient were the 17th, 18th, 22nd, 23rd and 26th South Carolina with Virginia and Georgia regiments in support. Picket duty at the salient was particularly dangerous duty as the Soldiers here occupied the position in the Confederate line closest to the Federal Army. It was a sharpshooter's battle along the salient, and the fire from both sides compelled men to remain in the trenches.

It was 4:40 a.m. Twilight was upon the sleeping Soldiers. None

plan. Burnside had selected Brig. Gen. Edward Ferrero's division of U.S. Colored Troops to lead the assault. Ferrero's Division rehearsed the planned assault for weeks out of sight of the Confederate lines. According to the battle plan, once the mine had exploded, Ferrero's two brigades would charge forward and around the sides of the crater. A regiment from each brigade was designated to strike off perpendicularly to the crater, clearing trenches and widening the breach. The troops rehearsed on mock trench lines, studied sand tables, and practiced courses of action on contact. Not since the 54th Massachusetts had stormed Fort Wagner in South Carolina had U.S. Colored Troops been selected to lead an assault, and this was to be a division-level attack. The officers and men of Ferrero's Division must have sensed the historic opportunity to, in the words of Frederick Douglas, "Strike the blow... and smite to death the power that would bury the Government and your liberty in the same hopeless grave,"

The enthusiasm of Ferrero and his men was not shared by Meade who doubted the attack would succeed. If the attack failed, as Meade feared it would, northern press might blame him for

using Colored Troops as cannon fodder. Thus, on the eve of the planned attack, Meade ordered Burnside to place Ferrero's Division in the rear of the attacking formation and to instead lead with a white division of his choosing. Burnside protested to Grant, but Grant shared Meade's trepidation. Instead of trained Soldiers who had thoroughly rehearsed the battle plan, Burnside would have to substitute a division of Soldiers who knew nothing of the plan.

Rather than make a decision, Burnside drew his division commanders together and had them draw straws. Fatefully, the shortest straw was drawn by Brig. Gen. James Ledlie, Burnside's least capable commander. To make matters worse, Ledlie failed to brief his brigade commanders on the concept of operation and intent. If that was not enough, when his division did make the assault, Ledlie remained well behind Federal lines. Witnesses would later testify that he was drunk.

#### THE ATTACK BEGINS

At 4:40 on the morning of July 30, Ledlie's division was staged for the attack behind the Federal trenches. Federal sharpshooters continued harassing fire to cover the sounds of the assembling assault force. Two hundred and fifty paces away, the pickets of the 26th S.C. were focused on the enemy pickets. Beneath Elliott's Salient, Soldiers of the 48th Pennsylvania lit the fuse that would detonate the 8,000 pounds of gunpowder assembled in the mineshaft. Moments later the earth erupted under the South Carolina troops. The men of the 26th S.C. were just to the left of the salient when a mountain of earth was launched into the air. Peagram's four-gun artillery battery was destroyed and nearly 300 Confederates were killed outright by the blast or by the effects of flying debris. To the men of the 26th S.C. it seemed that hell had exploded in their faces. Men, caissons and thousand-pound sections of earth rained down on the men of the 26th S.C. as they scrambled for cover. Before them lay a smoldering crater 150 feet long, 50 feet wide and 30 feet deep.

#### INTO THE BREACH

Burnside had achieved his breach, but the effect of the blast was so stunning that it was ten minutes before Ledlie's awed troops were in motion. Instead of moving to the sides of the crater, Ledlie's Division poured into the crater thinking that they would be able to use the shattered terrain as earthworks. This decision stalled the breach attack as thousands of men swarmed into maw of the Crater looking for cover. Finding that they could not scale the walls of the crater, the men were trapped, and subject to the galling fire of the rallying Confederates who had not been killed in the blast. The fire was merciless. Enraged at what they viewed as a breach of the articles of war, Confederates fired muskets until they fouled, then fixed bayonets and hurled the muskets like javelins into the swarming mass of dying humanity. Mortars were hauled to the edge of the crater, their powder charges cut so the rounds barely emerged from the muzzle before tumbling down upon the screaming Federals. The air was choked with dust and smoke, and the bottom of the crater flowed freely with blood.

#### TRAGEDY UNFOLDS

Rather than withdraw Ledlie's shattered division, Burnside committed Ferrero's Division. Unable to execute their battle plan due to the reinforced Confederate flanks. The Colored Troops poured into the crater where they became the focus of the fire from Confederates along the line. As they charged forward, Ferrero's men shouted "no quarter to the rebels!" Whether the Confederates

heard this or not, they seemed intent on accepting Ferrero's terms of battle. Where many of Ledlie's men were captured, Ferrero's troops received no quarter and were shot down or bayoneted. Tragically, some of Ferrero's men were killed by Ledlie's Soldiers who feared the repercussions of being captured in the company of U.S. Colored Troops.

Timely reinforcement by Virginians under Brig. Gen. William Mahone and Ambrose Wright's Georgia Brigade recaptured the trench works that Ledlie's men had managed to seize. In the desperate struggle to seal the breach, the 64th Georgia suffered 87 casualties, including Col. John Evans. The flag of the 48th Georgia was pierced by more than 100 bullets. The 2nd Georgia Battalion, forerunner of the Georgia Guard's 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team was present as part of Wright's Brigade, but was not engaged.

Following fierce combat, the Confederates held the high ground surrounding the crater. For hours, Federal troops were slaughtered in the crater or as they attempted to escape. The final ghastly toll found 4,000 Federal Soldiers killed, wounded or captured, a disproportionate number of these among Ferrero's Division. The Confederates suffered less than 1,500 casualties. Not one inch of ground was won for the terrible price paid.

#### AFTERMATH

Burnside was relieved of his command and would never again command troops. Ledlie and Ferrero were censured. Meade escaped blame for his decision to change the order of attack, though he would later face criticism. Grant remarked to Washington that the Crater was "The saddest affair I have witnessed in this war."

While a tactical victory for the Confederates and a stunning embarrassment for the Federal army, the Battle of the Crater did nothing to alter the strategic balance in the east. For the next nine months, the armies would face each other in trenches separated by no-mans-land reminiscent of the First World War.

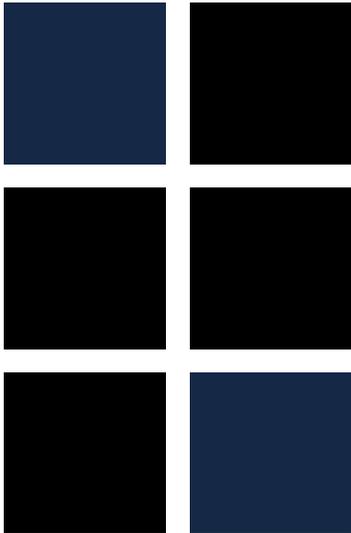




CHIEF MASTER SGT. JOSEPH GREENE  
STATE COMMAND CHIEF  
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

# NCO NOTEPAD

WORDS OF WISDOM  
FROM ONE TO  
ANOTHER



Facing budget constraints a couple of years ago, the Air Force decided to pursue unbalanced personnel and aircraft cuts from the Air National Guard. At the same time, a philosophical question was surfacing that asked why a Governor needs attack aircraft in the state. The heated debate between the Active Duty and Reserve Components drove a National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force.

Fast forward: the Air Force is under new leadership that has abandoned what Dr. Covey of 7 Habits fame called the Win-Lose mentality. As the Army National Guard looks to the future, it asked the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) “to provide an independent analysis of the strategic-level issues facing the Guard.”

The 74-page report released by CSIS titled “Citizen-Soldiers in a Time of Transition,” documents 18 findings and recommendations that directly impact the future role, size and mission of the Army Guard. The report details significant changes confronting the military as major combat operations are projected to end in December 2014 and the fiscal environment becomes “increasingly unpredictable.” The President’s FY 15 budget request has created “a great deal of uncertainty within the Department of Defense.”

The tension between Active Duty Army and the National Guard has risen because much of the conversation is being driven by budget cuts rather than developing a joint-one Army approach to organizational priorities and requirements. The Active Duty Army wants to remove all Apache attack helicopters from the Guard and reduce the number of soldiers from 354,000 to 315,000. The disconnect between Active Duty Army and the National Guard is centered on one philosophical question--with the end of combat operations in Afghanistan, does the Army National Guard remain an operational force or return to the strategic posture of the Cold War? This answer drives all the other answers in determining personnel reduction, Active Duty-Reserve Component mix, training, readiness, equipment dollars and future missions.

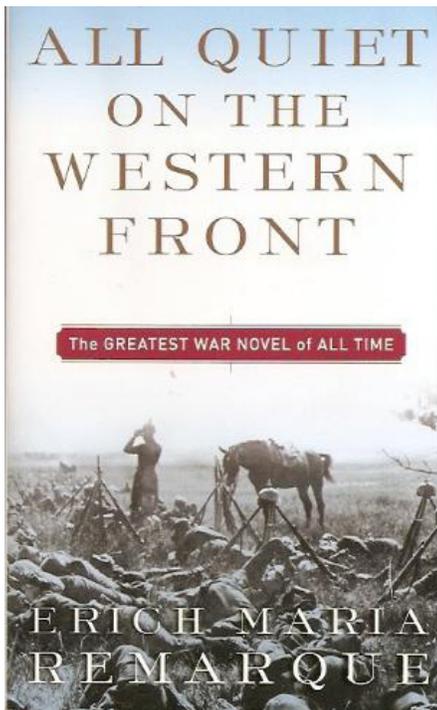
The strategic school of thought argues that the National Guard, both Army and Air, should “return to their more traditional roles in domestic emergencies and as the nation’s strategic reserve for foreign wars.” General Frank Grass, Chief of the National Guard Bureau and member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, testified before Congress that the Guard is “better trained, better equipped and better led than at any time in its 376-year history.” The Guard wants to preserve its current readiness level by remaining an operational force rather than returning to a Cold War paradigm. The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) warns that returning the Guard to a strategic force will cause the National Guard’s “readiness to atrophy.” As the debate continues, that important question has yet to be answered, but any major personnel reductions and equipment transfers have been placed on hold pending the Congressional-mandated National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force publishes its report.

**“The Guard is ‘better trained, better equipped and better led than at any time in its 376-year history.’”**

# Professional Development

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS THAT TEACH US ABOUT OUR CRAFT

BY CAPT. WILLIAM CARRAWAY | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE | GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



When I first read *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Erich Maria Remarque's novel about Soldiers' experiences in World War I, I did not fully appreciate its scope. At the time, *All Quiet on the Western Front* was "that WWI book," just like *The Red Badge of Courage* was "that civil war book." Re-reading the book as a combat veteran, I am struck by how relevant Remarque's writing is for the veteran of the War on Terror. Rather than simply relating events of WWI, *All Quiet on the Western Front* delves into the

psychological impact of war on the generation that experience it most directly.

Remarque's book is told through the eyes of Paul Baumer, a German student turned Soldier who, at age 19, is already a veteran of the Front. Baumer experiences combat and relates it in unflinching detail. What makes the book all the more poignant and relevant for current readers is how adeptly Remarque addresses post-traumatic stress. Remarque takes the reader inside Baumer's head as his thoughts race in reaction to combat. Disconnected thoughts fly in patterns that, although relating events 100 years removed, will be recognizable to those who have experienced them on the contemporary battlefield.

In chapter seven, Paul receives 17 days leave and returns changed to a world that expected him to stay the same. I was reminded of my own experiences on leave and upon returning from deployment to an alien world filled with the 99% of the population who have not served in the Global War on Terror. Paul's sense of isolation is profound and familiar as in this quote:

"I imagined leave would be different from this. Indeed, it

was different a year ago. It is I of course that have changed in the interval. There lies a gulf between that time and today. At that time I still knew nothing about the war... But now I see that I have been crushed without knowing it. I find I do not belong here anymore, it is a foreign world."

Knowledge of the psychological impact of combat has advanced considerably since the First World War. Remarque's book is a reminder that what returning warriors of the Global War on Terror experience is not a new phenomenon. But where Remarque's characters were left to their own to resolve their psychological devastation, today's veterans have resources such as the Army's Comprehensive Fitness Program which recognizes the pillar of mental and emotional health as key to the total health picture. 1-800 One-Source is available for veterans in crisis, and Soldiers receive regular resiliency training to focus on building the core competency of connection. No one need feel left behind, crushed in a foreign world.

*All Quiet on the Western Front* captures the connections felt by comrades in arms, the loss felt in returning home, and the cost born by a nation's warriors. It lets us know that we are not the first warriors to experience disconnection and loss. Ironically, the isolation one may feel as a warrior actually connects one with generations who have gone before.

**“**This book is to be neither an accusation nor a confession, and least of all an adventure, for death is not an adventure to those who stand face to face with it. It will try simply to tell of a generation of men who, even though they may have escaped shells, were destroyed by the war.**”**

# WHEN A PATIENT IS YOUR MISSION



BY MAJ. WILL COX | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE | GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

**W**hen a patient is your mission, training is never conducted to just “check a block”. Soldiers of the Georgia Army National Guard’s aero medical evacuation unit train to be always ready, knowing medics only get one chance when a life is on the line.

Detachment 1, Charlie Company, 1-111th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB), stationed at Clay National Guard Center in Marietta Ga., flies UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters designed for aero medical evacuation with an external hoist capable of lifting 600lbs. In a recent training scenario they used an immobilizing device to protect the patient during a hoist mission.

“When we do live hoist training it is not a check the block type of event,” said Staff Sgt. Travis Vanzo, flight instructor for Det.1, C/1-111th GSAB. “Training ensures safety. If you do it right the first time and you continue to practice, it becomes a habit. Then you are less likely to make those mistakes during a real world event.”

This training used a compact, lightweight transport system, called a sked, used to drag, carry, or even air-evacuate casualties out of remote and dangerous situations. When the patient is packaged with a backboard the stretcher becomes rigid providing protection to keep the patient safe during the extraction.

“A lot of the guys get a heightened sense of what is going on while they are being hoisted up to the helicopter,” said Vanzo. “Anytime MEDEVAC launches the situation is serious, whether

it is life and death or the person is just in a lot of pain, we are focused on getting that patient to the right level of care. And yes it is always an adrenaline rush.”

Soldiers are trained to load patients on a sked to be hoisted horizontally or vertically by a helicopter if the pickup site is too confined for the aircraft to land.

“It is important to conduct realistic training like this,” said Vanzo. “Just like I was trained how to do it right, I am training up the next generation to pass on our lessons learned so someone can fill my shoes when I am gone.”

Safety is always built into aviation training through risk assessments and supervision. Staff Sgt. P. David Palmer, Safety Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge, Det. 1, C/1-11th GSAB was on site supervising the hooking up of the sked from the ground.

“We train as we fight because there is no substitute for realistic training like being pushed around by the rotor wash of helicopter 40 ft above you,” said Palmer. “I am there to ensure the patient and medic are hooked up correctly. And if needed, I show the medic how to do it right so that through training it becomes muscle memory out there on a mission.”

“Bottom line, when patients are your mission there is no ‘just good enough,’” said Palmer. “We only have one shot with a spinal injury, so there is very little room for error. The more advance training you have the more critical patients you see. And when the MEDEVAC is called out people are hurt. We train so we will be ready.”



# REMEMBERING THE FALLEN 42

BY STAFF SGT. TRACY J. SMITH PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE | GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



**I**t began with bowed heads in the small chapel sanctuary at Clay National Guard Center, which will be forever vigilant over the Freedom Calls Memorial Wall honoring 42 fallen Soldiers of the Georgia National Guard.

Raising their heads and donning their ruck sacks, a cadre of dedicated Soldiers began a two-day, 42-mile road march from the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton to the amphitheater-like knoll and memorial wall that was formally dedicated on August 7th. The memorial honors the 42 Georgia Guardsmen who have lost their lives in service during the Global War on Terror.

The precursor to the official ceremony was a form of dedication in itself. Each marcher carried a vial, inscribed with the individual name of a fallen Warrior, containing Georgia red-clay soil collected from the cemetery where many Georgia veterans have been laid to rest.

A solemn roll call was recited during the 42-mile trek. For each mile marker reached, the lead marcher called out the name of one of the fallen.

“Sergeant 1st Class Christopher R. Willoughby!” 1st Sgt. Jason D. York called for the young man who, in 2003, was the first to give his life. York deployed with the Long Range Surveillance, unit of Company H, 121st Infantry, and though Willoughby’s voice was not heard that night, the accompanying marchers repeated the call in unison and continued on to the next mile calling each name until 7:40 am, August 7, when the first boot touched the first brick of the memorial, and the last name was called.

“Sergeant 1st Class Edgar N. Roberts, Jr.!” York again called out. Only the marchers, still determined and exhausted, offered a unified recant met with silence.

The marchers’ silhouettes reflected against the memorial wall

Sgt. Elaine Smith, one of the marchers, was drawn to the images reflected by the sun as well as those etched into the granite stone markers. As the Headquarters and Headquarters Company food service non-commissioned officer for 148th Brigade Support Battalion, she works closely with Sgt. 1st Class Minnie Chavers, the widow of Sgt. Brock H. Chavers, Sr. who was killed in action in July 6, 2009. A small prayer falls from the lips of Smith for her friend and Chaver's husband.

Adjusting her feet Smith felt the sting of those miles, but was resolute in her gratitude to complete her journey of remembrance.

"Blisters are a small price to pay," Smith said grimacing with thoughtfulness. "Because for each step I took, it was for those who can no longer march. We are taking a moment to remember."

A moment of solemnity that took two-years to map and navigate.

Each mile marched brought the Georgia National Guard community one step closer to the celebration of lives and sacrifices that Georgia State Defense Force (GSDF) Judge Advocate General Major Steve Knezo described as a humbling opportunity.

First Sgt. John D. Blair answered the call and led the charge June 20, 2009 in Madozayi, Afghanistan while serving as a vehicle gunner. He lost his life during fierce fighting that day.

Showing the same courage, his widow Donna placed a bouquet of yellow roses at the base of the memorial and lovingly affixed a single yellow rose on Blair's granite etching.

When asked if the ceremony reminded her of the sadness, Blair explained what being at the memorial meant to her and others.

"I miss my husband every day, but being here is therapy," Mrs. Blair clarified. "This memorial is therapy and allows other people to feel you and feel the presence of those we loved and lost."

When conceptualized in 2011, the idea was not well received by family members of those killed.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. James Nelson Jr. was the state's senior enlisted advisor at the time, and he discussed the idea with the former Adjutant General, now-retired Maj. Gen. William Nesbitt.

Although the Georgia National Guard was not directly involved with the fund raising efforts, a partnership was established with the



"This gathering is not only to pay respect to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice," Knezo said. "It is the least we can do for their families who said goodbye not knowing if they would hug their loved ones again."

Melissa Dodson, the widow of Sgt. Philip Dodson, who was killed in 2005 during combat operations in Iraq, stood next to her husband's wall etching. Smiling, she reflected on the happy times she shared with her husband.

"We have three grandchildren now," Mrs. Dodson said, proudly showing pictures on her mobile phone. "One of the boy's looks and acts just like his grandpa and he is my reminder that Phil is never far from me."

Macon's Volunteer Brigade, The Fighting 48th, were again called upon in 2009 to deploy to Afghanistan.

Freedom Calls Memorial foundation as the families became more receptive to the project.

Their stamp of approval was the validation needed to sound off for support in 2012.

"Not allowing these brave Soldiers to be forgotten may have been the piece that helped our families want to be involved," Nelson said.

Nelson was the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Command Sgt. Major during their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2005-2006. His resolve was fueled not by his position but in remembering each of the fallen and having served in combat with more than half of them.

He doesn't talk about being in the hospital with them as they left their life of Soldiering or being there as they left for more intensive

care at military hospitals far outside of the reach of combat.

The man stood before hundreds gathered and fought back tears as he reminded them all why they were there. They gathered under a mighty oak to celebrate life and for the dedication of the memorial.

During the reading of each Soldier's name, details were shared; their age, the number of children and immediate family left behind followed by the combat location and date they were taken from us.

"It was Taylor's first birthday," mentioned Lacy Jordan, the young wife of Sgt. Jeffrey W. Jordan who was killed in Afghanistan in June of 2009. Now six-years old, young Taylor has his father's flaxen hair and purposeful stare. He plucks a flower from the landscape and places it on his father's etching to surprise his mother.

Smiling her approval, as only a mother can, she continued with her thought while repositioning her wedding band.

"My husband told me not to worry when he left." Mrs. Jordan

continued. "He reminded me that he was trained for whatever may happen so it didn't surprise me that he ran in the direction of the fighting. Now I can bring my son here and share those memories of Jeff's bravery and let this be a place for us."

Following reading of the names, vials of sacred soil that had been carefully carried for 42 miles were reverently poured into a bowl symbolically joining their memories.

When the ceremony finished, pictures were taken, hugs were exchanged and promises to call were given as the community goes back to work. Much work remains to complete the memorial and the Freedom Calls Memorial Foundation will continue to build the wall on the base of honor led by the Georgia Guard's fallen 42.

Work that began on paper as an idea to pledge remembrance will now sustain that promise through the vigilance of the Georgia National Guard family to create a tranquil place of reflection.



# GMI'S LEGACY LIVES ON

BY DESIREE BAMBA | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE | GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



**T**he Georgia National Guard's 122nd Regional Training Institute held an Officer Candidate School graduation for Class 53 to celebrate the nine newly-commissioned second lieutenants at the Hilton Conference Center that stands on the grounds of the Georgia Military Institute's original campus. During the ceremony, they commemorated the 150th anniversary of the institute's role during the Civil War.

The Georgia Military Institute was founded in 1851 by Col. Arnoldus Brumby. In the first year, seven students attended, and by the third year the number of cadets had grown to 180. In the years leading up to the Civil War, the GMI participated in drills in order to show their military expertise, allowing the legacy of the school to spread throughout the state and country.

In 1861, the GMI lifestyle was interrupted and the cadets quickly became instructors, teaching the multitudes that joined to fight for the Confederacy.

"One hundred and fifty years ago, a body of young Soldiers anxiously awaited their future military careers, much like today's Officer Candidate School class, historian Michael Shaffer said. "The cadets racing the halls of the Georgia Military Institute in 1861, certainly possessed a yearning to join the brave."

After cadets were sent to fight in Resaca on May 14, 1864, the GMI buildings, which at the time were being used as hospitals for the Confederate Army, were destroyed by Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman's troops after the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain.

"The building destroyed, the library and apparatus all burned, the ground and academy building only remain," Shaffer said quoting a former GMI cadet, who had tried to reopen the institute. "But, there are clusters around the spot, memories dear to all Georgians. The name, the character, the reputation of the GMI is dear to us, and we would perpetuate this school of instruction upon ground hallowed by memories of the past."

The institute was not rebuilt until 1961 when Maj. Gen. George Hearn, the Adjutant General State of Georgia rededicated GMI as an officer training school in Forsyth. Georgia Military Institute has subsequently been located in Milledgeville in 1969 and in Macon in 1986. The school finally moved back to Marietta and the Clay National Guard Center in July 2008.

During the ceremony nine Kennesaw Mountain students dressed in uniforms typical of Confederate Soldiers to honor the institute's history. One wore a uniform similar to what cadets of the GMI would have worn

Graduates of the current GMI, including the newly graduated OCS class 53, are among us ranging from newly commissioned platoon leaders to the highest levels of Georgia Army National Guard command and staff. Some came from the enlisted ranks and now lead from the front as knowledgeable, battle-proven tacticians who have been instrumental in the evolution of our Georgia National Guard as it stands today. These leaders continue to carry on the heritage of the Georgia Military Institute.

# GEORGIA'S GUARDSMEN AT THE READY

BY: STAFF SGT. TRACY J. SMITH | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE |  
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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**T**he responsibilities to our country, when wearing the uniform of the United States Armed Forces, compounds when serving our reserve forces as Citizen-Soldiers. Many in the Georgia National Guard are public safety professionals and consciously promise to take on a dual purpose in the Georgia Department of Defense.

“But you have those Citizen-Soldiers who are not in public safety or physically intense civilian jobs,” added the Georgia Department of Defense’s Senior Enlisted Advisor, State Command Chief Joseph Greene. “Life can interfere subconsciously when you factor in school, work, children and the time it takes to nurture those relationships that are, in reality, support elements for our (National) Guard responsibilities when our citizens – or the nation – needs us.”

With the paring down of our forces the interferences can smear the paint, if you will, in the big picture of maintaining a ready military force and career.

“Priming that canvas is where the physical readiness annual training (PRAT) program can play a big part,” says Sgt. 1st Class Bryan D. Neal, training non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the Georgia National Guard’s pre-mobilization training assistance element (PTAE) and PRAT chief trainer. “The goal is to get our E-4s and E-5s back in the fight reinforcing leadership skills, physical readiness and

prepping them for the military school that will propel them professionally.”

Physical Readiness Annual Training (PRAT) is an extended arm of Georgia’s PTAE, and is only currently conducted in, the state of Georgia. In its fledgling stages the PRAT was more classroom intensive, but as the needs of our military shifted, the focus expanded to outside-the-box training; running form, nutritional training, aquatic survival skills and common warrior tasks such as combat lifesaver, urban operations and leadership development.

“We have bankrolled about \$40,000 annually into the basic maintenance of our junior enlisted Soldier,” Neal continued. “It is not a justification for placing them in this program but it is justification for giving them an added tool to help our Warriors be the best that they can be and continue to contribute to the growth of our National Guard.”

With budget concerns at the forefront of the reshaping of our military force structure, it was unquestionable that the PRAT be fiscally sound.

To get a return on investment, units are allowed to send candidates under annual training funding. This is budgeted money allocated once a year for the 14-day or traditional two week period designed to assist in honing the military occupational skills (MOS) of those serving in Georgia’s Department of Defense. The annual training facilitates continuity and working cohesiveness domestically and

internationally.

When Spc. Katie Summers, a Georgia National Guard combat veteran and medical records specialist, returned from Afghanistan in 2010, she reconnected with her family in a big way.

“I became a mom!” Summers says with a huge smile on her face at the thought of her son, Memphis. “He was unexpected but so welcomed. What I didn’t expect was the mommy weight.”

The smile disappears, slightly, as she thinks about what she calls ‘the struggle.’

Her toddler, now three-years old, along with bouts of illness, side-swiped her military plans for promotion.

“The (48th) Brigade had a huge push to get us prepared for promotion schools before leaving Afghanistan,” the 28-year-old McDonough, Georgia native recalled. “That meant more PT (physical training) and doing on-line pre-course work.”

Slated for Warrior Leadership School mere months after returning from combat she became pregnant before her report date. Her parent unit promised to reschedule but the next hurdle to overcome was getting back into physical shape.

“When you work, have a little one, family and community commitments, it is too easy to let some things go,” said Summers.

After struggling to do it on her own Summers refused to give up and, with the assistance of her unit, was introduced to PRAT and asked to be scheduled for the

course. Since completing the course in July she continues to apply the principles of health and wellness (she has lost 15-lbs) and regained confidence in her ability to lead.

Now, along with the usual mommy musings, you see postings of her progress.

Each day she will share motivational quotes along with weekly pictures of her progress, running times and her meals. For the entire week!

“Eating healthy is going to fuel your engine,” said Spc. Veronika Lopez, a B Co, 48th Brigade Special Troops Battalion intelligence systems maintainer. “I’m in the Army’s Geek Squad,” Lopez pointed out.

Lopez is also responsible for teaching the running form seminars and for coaching course participants in fitness and military urban operations readiness.

“This isn’t basic training. We have all earned the right to wear the uniform and sometimes we just need reminders to get back on track.”

Taking ownership of your health and career is also a component taught throughout the two-week course.

Sergeant 1st Class Steven J. Johnson, the PRAT assistant training NCO from Vidalia, Ga., says the cadre has the easy job. “We are here to keep the truck out of the ditch,” is his analogy. “These guys are the vehicles and all we’re doing is steering.”

During a visit by the National Guard Bureau’s Senior Enlisted Advisor, Command Master Chief Mitchell Brush, was able to see the course’s capability first hand and came away more than impressed.

“This is evidence of how much more than 39-days a year our National Guard is,” Brush said. “Being an asset to the community is our mission whether it is a

mudslide in Washington State, tornadoes in Georgia or assistance in Haiti, readiness is what keeps us capable.”

He would like to see more programs like the PRAT throughout the National Guard with a training landscape that mirrors our military.

Georgia Air National Guard Senior Airman Adam D. Clark, a 139th Intelligence Squadron interrogator, is the first to blur the lines of what was a strictly Army program.

Clark is almost unnoticeable during PT, except for his Air Force training kit, and leadership improvement courses with his fellow classmates though he admits that wasn’t the case when he arrived at Fort Stewart, Ga.

“The first day or two I think it was more of a shock to the other members of the team that I was here,” Clark said of the gob-smacked looks he was given. “At the end of the day we are all part of the United States military. They are not treating me any differently and I’m not getting any special attention.”

Brush said it is an ideal scenario to walk down the halls of the Pentagon and not see uniform but recognize expertise.

Reinforcing skills that are translatable are what make the program a success and Sgt. 1st Class Neal says their challenge is ensuring they give each participant what they need to grow professionally.

“We had to do a bit of research to prepare for our first Air Force (National Guardsman) student but we know what the basic requirements are for his branch and a healthy lifestyle is the same no matter what your branch of service is.”

With a blended landscape, the enemy makes no delineations and that point

alone makes the principle applicable to the battlefield.

“When it comes to being deployed, we are all one,” Sgt. Karen Williams, B Co. 348th Brigade Support Battalion, 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade warehouse professional from Hinesville said. She is also a PRAT participant and is working to push her PT score to 270 points of a possible 300. “When it is all said and done, we work together to get the job done and when it is time to finalize the mission it is only one team.”

She and Clark are working together learning the basics of water survival training. For Williams, it is a first foray and she is very appreciative of the support from Clark.

“It’s a brotherhood,” Clark chimes in. “To be accepted makes me feel confident I can accomplish anything. To know that when I walk up to my fellow service member, and they see me as an equal, it proves we don’t have to look at each other as blue and green anymore its all GREEN to go!”

To see beyond the uniform and lose the perception of individualized military specialty may not be the goal of the PRAT but it is making the concept of being a ready capable force an individual responsibility.

“Training is what can define or destroy an organization,” Georgia Army National Guard Command Sgt. Major Phillip Stringfield states. “To be a ready force we must be capable and efficient. As a part of the oldest protective force in our Nation. We can’t just meet the standard but must prepare ourselves to exceed standards and seamlessly infuse our training and sacrifice into the mission alongside any force.”



So, what exactly is the Georgia Guard Family Program? How can they help Georgia Guardsmen and their families? What do they offer? Many may be quite surprised to find out there are quite a few resources the Family program has to help Guardsmen. Therefore, here is a guide to what the Georgia Guard Family Program has to offer.

### Mission Statement

To serve as a delivery point of information, communication and support of national, state and community resources to warfighters and their families in a global environment.

Let us venture down this road to resources about the family program by beginning with what their mission is.

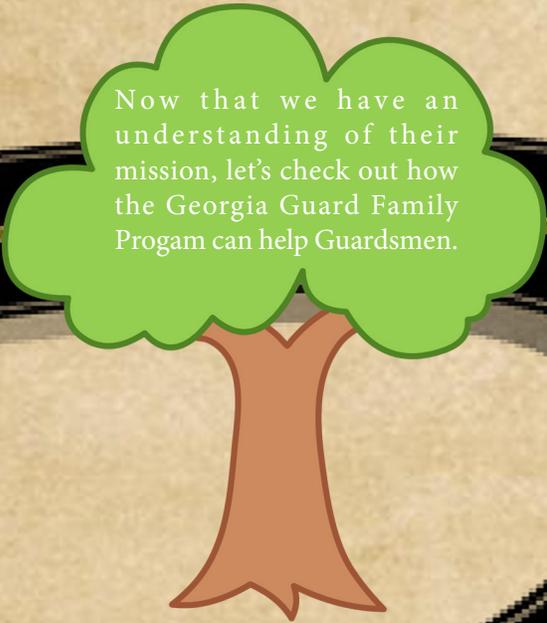
As we continue our journey, let's explore the various sub-programs of the Georgia Guard Family Program.

### Various Georgia

- Hero 2 Hire
- ESGR
- State Youth Program
- Chaplain
- Ga National Guard Family

# Road Map to Resources

BY DESIREE BAMBA | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



Now that we have an understanding of their mission, let's check out how the Georgia Guard Family Program can help Guardsmen.

**FRSA & FAS**  
 Family Readiness Support Assistants:  
 enables service members/families so they are entitled, informed, educated, assisted and made ready for the unique demands of military life before, during and after deployment  
 Family Assistance Specialists  
 provide resources, referrals, programs and services available within state to military, federal, state and local civilian support to military family members

**Guard Family Programs**

Support	- Military
Foundation	OneSource
Youth	- TAA
Challenge	- Yello Ribbon
Academy	Program
Each State	- SAPR
ARBASE	

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**Contact Info**

# AROUND THE GEORGIA GUARD



## WOUNDED HERO RUN

First Sgt. Jason York ran in the Wounded Hero Run in full combat gear to advertise next month's Assault on Kennesaw Mountain 5k Run, a fundraiser to benefit the Freedom Calls Memorial Foundation Memorial Wall.

## STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

This year the Georgia National Guard celebrates 20 years of close ties with the country of Georgia as part of The National Guard's State Partnership Program. Both organizations have proven their commitment to strengthening foreign relations through military training and cooperation.





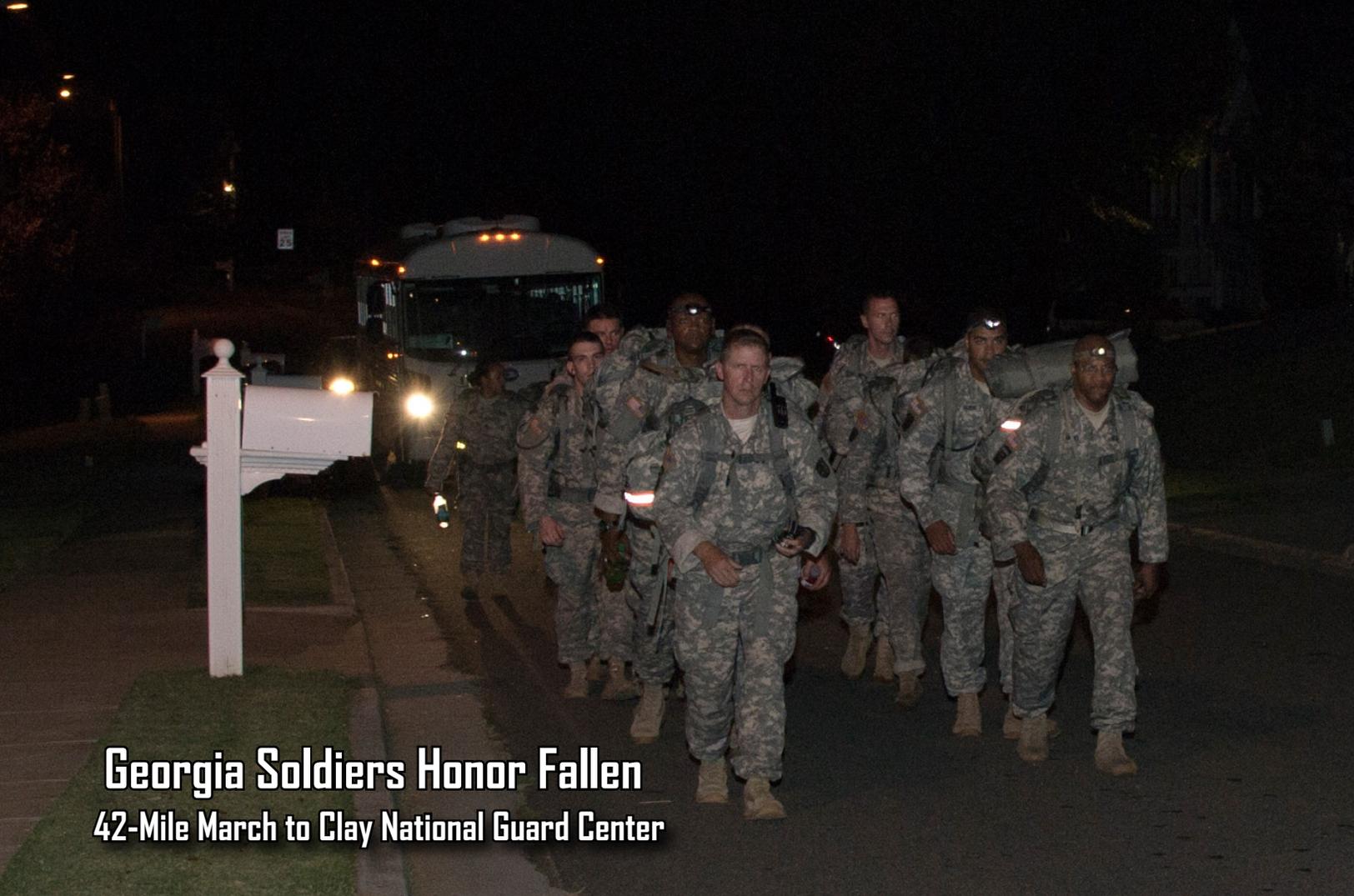
## **FAMILY READINESS CONFERENCE**

Georgia National Guard family readiness volunteers learn various self-defense techniques during a seminar at the Georgia Guard's 2014 Family Readiness Conference.

## **SENATOR CHAMBLISS VISITS CLAY**

Taking a final run around the bases, Sen. Saxby Chambliss, (R-GA) gives an initial farewell visit to the men and women of the Georgia National Guard in Marietta.





## Georgia Soldiers Honor Fallen 42-Mile March to Clay National Guard Center

# GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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