

# The Georgia Guardsman

Vol. 1, Issue 2

*Serving the National Guard and State Defense Force of Georgia*



**Just in.... Spc. James Bowles selected Region III Soldier of Year!  
(More on Page 19)**

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Want to submit a story for your unit?

All submission for the Georgia Guardsman can be sent to Amanda Kenny at amanda.kenny@ga.ngb.army.mil. Please submit your stories and a word document and JPEG attachments for photos, do not embed photos in the word document.

Online at [www.dod.state.ga.us](http://www.dod.state.ga.us)

The Georgia Guardsman

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**Adjutant General of Georgia**  
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Meet your "Georgia Guardsman" team

We hope you're enjoying the new look of the Georgia Guardsman, and we wanted to help you put faces to names of our team of editors, reporters, photographers, writers and support staff. Our staff consists of federal, state and military personal, many of who work behind the scenes.

If you have stories, or story ideas, you can call or email them to any member of the Georgia Guardsman staff. We welcome your ideas, suggestions and comments.



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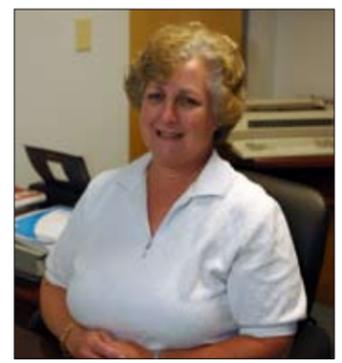
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**... ON TO AFGHANISTAN**

## Governor Perdue honors deploying 48th IBCT Soldiers at Macon City Hall

Story by David Howell and photos by Spc. Mike Perry



*Captain John Avera, commander, Headquarters Company, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, listens with fellow Soldiers as Gov. Sonny Perdue praises them. Members of the 48th will be deploying to Afghanistan later this year in the support of Operation Enduring Freedom.*

“It is somewhere in the governor’s handbook; it says that I’m supposed to show up on occasions like this and inspire you. But I need to be honest with you. I always leave these events having been inspired by you.” With those words, an emotionally charged Gov. Sonny Perdue praised his soldiers, members of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, as they attended a rally held in their honor at city hall in Macon.

The deployment of Headquarters Company, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and Company C, 48th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, completes an intensive training and mobilization campaign that began in October 2007. The two companies will join previously deployed 48th assets, including 1st Squadron, 108th Reconnaissance, Surveillance, and Target Acquisition, and 1st and 2nd battalions of the 121st Infantry as part of Task Force Phoenix in Afghanistan this summer.

The event featured various speakers, including Brig. Gen. Lawrence Dudney, Task Force Phoenix commander; Army Guard commander, Brig. Gen. Maria Britt, 48th IBCT commander Col. Lee Durham and Macon mayor Robert Reihart.

Reihart, a former Vietnam War pilot, expressed his pleasure at being able to say a few words to the Macon-headquartered brigade. “We are grateful for your service.



**Families and friends line the street of downtown Macon to say goodbye to Soldiers of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team as they depart for training at Camp Shelby, Miss. before deploying to Afghanistan.**

We are proud of your service. And we are inspired by your service. We are grateful for your service... we thank you for putting your personal life aside, and for serving our country first... personal safety, family commitments, and business obligations all are being subordinated to your duty by our country. Our appreciation extends also to your families, who are making a sacrifice that we recognize today."

In his remarks, Perdue reflected on the significance of the 48th's actions. "The American Soldier is a symbol of the humanity, and the decency, of this nation. You represent a country that does not seek the expansion of territory, but the will of liberty, and the reach for freedom in all this world."

Headquarters Company, once in country, will establish the central core of the 11,000 strong Task Force Phoenix headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan. It will run brigade operations, and conduct logistical task force operations, alongside the 148th Brigade Support Battalion. The 48th BSTB also will provide "specialty skill sets for running the brigade staff...and to do the mission planning and conducting operations," said Durham.

When Durham stepped to the podium, he had no difficulty thanking veterans and the Macon community for their support. "I thank all the veterans who are here.



Without them, I wouldn't be standing here, and many of you wouldn't be standing here, and I take my hat off to you. Many of you didn't get the opportunities that we're getting today... a sendoff, and a return home 'thank you.' And we know that's very important," he said. Durham also spoke on the importance of family support. "We thank the families, and we thank the community. It's so great to look out here and see the signs of pride. The acceptance of our families. Then stretching his arms wide apart, he declared that, "this doesn't just matter for the 48th, we have Air National Guardsman who are deploying constantly. We have other brigades in the Georgia National Guard. All of those families need to be hugged; (they) need to be taken in. They are who we are. They are part of the community, the community is our foundation. It is where we come from and I'm very proud of that."

Durham decided to take a little liberty and share the spotlight with his 48th Headquarters commander, Macon's native son, Capt. John Avera. Avera thanked the band members of his former high school alma mater, Central High School, who along with the Freedom Riders motorcycle group, led the parade from the Georgia Music Hall of Fame to City Hall. After describing the numerous tasks involved in preparing for this mission, he turned to his commander. "Sir, I now tell you. We have completed our pre-mobilization training, and we're ready for our mobilization training. Hooah! And sir, with that, send me, and we'll lean forward, and never quit! Hooah, sir!" With a salute and a handshake, Avera left the podium to a standing ovation.

The units will leave Macon and report to Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center (CAJMTC) in Indiana, to complete deployment training.



**Brigadier Gen. Maria Britt, Army Guard commander, addresses the Soldiers, families and supporters of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team as they prepare to deploy.**

## Globe-trekking Surgeon



*Colonel John David Mullins, an Atlanta plastic surgeon, performs delicate facial surgery on a Filipino toddler. Mullins and his team of doctors and healthcare professionals performed more than one hundred surgical procedures during a recent visit to the Philippines.*

## Air Guard surgeon leads medical team to Philippines

Story by Lt. Col. Ken Baldowski

ATLANTA – Colonel John David Mullins, the state air surgeon for the Georgia Air National Guard, returned in late April from a two-week medical mission to Rojas City in The Philippines. He and his team of 15 surgeons and medical personnel performed surgery on hundreds of men, women and children in this less travelled region of that Pacific island.

“It’s difficult for me to put a price on what we we’re able to accomplish,” admitted Mullins who has organized this mission on five previous occasions.

Rojas City is about 100 miles south of Manila in the Philippines central province. Working out of the Rojas Provincial Hospital, Mullins and his team were able to use the operating facilities available to examine and perform numerous surgical procedures.

“Although the hospital has a surgical staff, what they do not have are surgical specialists, and that’s what we provide,” explained Mullins.

“We’re somewhat like the military, lean and mean,” he said. “We move into a remote area of the country, perform a number of surgeries and surgical procedures, and then redeploy back to Georgia.

“Our reception from the local population is always warm, although we are cautious.” Incidences have been reported of armed insurgents having captured and killed foreign aid workers and island visitors.

This was the fifth trip for the Atlanta healthcare workers who are part of an organization called Georgia Surgical Expeditions, a “not for profit” organization of which Mullins is one of the founders, and its current chairman. Included in the group are general surgeons, OB GYN surgeons, operating room technicians, several anesthesiologists and nurses.

One hundred percent of all outside contributions received by the Georgia Surgical Expedition goes to support the mission, Mullins said. Along



**On his return visit to Rojas City in the Philippines, Col. John David Mullins sees the result of his surgery on a toddler's cleft lip performed two years earlier. Mullins, the state air surgeon, led a team of 15 medical professionals to the island nation in February.**

with paying for their individual airfare, most expenses for the mission are paid for by the participating doctors. However, medical vendors and local Atlanta hospitals often donate supplies for the mission.

An Atlanta plastic surgeon, Mullins performed more than 30 surgical procedures during his trip to Rojas, primarily correcting cleft lips and pallets, but also correcting facial deformities and treating goiters, a debilitating thyroid condition.

Mullins speaks of one particularly meaningful moment during the mission when a young Filipino mother returned to the hospital to proudly show Mullins her five-year-old son on whom Mullins performed cleft pallet surgery two years earlier.

"Because we normally do not return to the same location, we rarely see the results of our work since we see and perform surgery on hundreds of children during each visit. To see this little boy again with a beautiful smile was especially gratifying," said Mullins.

"The mission actually begins long before the doctors depart," Mullins said. Thousands of pounds of surgical equipment and medicines are shipped several months before the medical team arrives. Once the supplies arrive by ship on the docks in Manila, they are immediately secured to prevent theft, and their possible sale on the black market.

"Most of what we do, we do quietly without much fanfare," he said.

There are many medical teams that do similar humanitarian work around the world," Mullins said. "For example, doctors of our 165th Airlift Wing deployed to a remote area of Peru several years ago to care for people who rarely, if ever, see a doctor. We do much the same, but on a smaller scale."

"Admittedly, the most difficult part of this mission is in our preparation to leave our Atlanta practices," Mullins explained. "This is when our Atlanta office staffs load us up (with patients) weeks in advance of the trip, and the pace continues for many weeks following our return."

### A look at what happened in 1971:

Brigadier General Charlie F. Camp, Assistant Adjutant General, Georgia Army National Guard, received the non-combatant Army Meritorious Service Medal making him the first Georgia National Guardsman to be awarded the medal. Major General Ernest Vandiver, Adjutant General, praised Camp noting "he is the most dedicated and loyal Guardsman I have ever known". Camp was cited specifically for his outstanding administrative ability and his many contributions over the years to the National Guard and National defense efforts.

Camp enlisted as a private in 1930 in Machine Gun Troop, 108th Calvary, GANG and was deployed with his unit, then part of the 101st Separate Coast Artillery Battalion, GANG, to Port Moresby, New Guinea during World War II. After the war and release from active duty, he served as Assistant Adjutant General of Georgia until the military laws of Georgia were revised, at which time he was appointed Assistant Adjutant General for Army. He next served as Adjutant General for eighteen months with the federally recognized rank of Major General. He was reappointed in 1959 as Assistant Adjutant General for Army and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1973.

This same year S. Ernest Vandiver was appointed as Adjutant General. This was Vandiver's second appointment as TAG, his first coming in 1948. During his first term as Adjutant General, Vandiver, organized the Civil Defense Division and moved forward with a first-time armory building program in the state. He was also on the Legislative Committee of the National Guard Association of the United States.

In 1952 Vandiver became the youngest federally recognized Major General in the Air National Guard of the United States.

Prior to his 1971, appointment as adjutant general, he had been lieutenant governor and governor. As governor he was at the forefront in addressing National Guard affairs and staunchly opposed strength reductions in the Army National Guard.

In late winter 1971, Maj. Gen. Joel B. Paris III, a World War II fighter ace and former commander of the Georgia Air National Guard's 128th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, was appointed adjutant general for Georgia, replacing Vandiver who retired.

The S. Ernest Vandiver Trophy, honoring the most outstanding individual in the Georgia National Guard, was established and presented to Chief Warrant Officer Lynn C. Johnston of the 122nd Support Center. CWO Johnston was presented the trophy at the Decatur armory by Vandiver, who established and presented it as a gift to the Georgia National Guard.

*Compiled by Gail Parnell  
Command Historian*

## Air Guardsmen clean blighted area of Savannah



A member of the 117th Air Control Squadron does a final walk through of the yard from which he and other 117th volunteers finished removing trash during Operation Clean Sweep. (Contributed photo)

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Byron King

**SAVANNAH** – Airmen from the Hunter Army Airfield-based 117th Air Control Squadron chipped in and helped clean up a local neighborhood during Operation Clean Sweep, April, 25, 2009.

“It was great to be able to give something back to the community,” said Master Sgt. Austin Blessard, a weapons director for the 117th. “Especially exciting to us was the fact that the project provided residents there a much cleaner environment in which to live and grow up.”

Operation Clean Sweep is an ongoing, citywide effort to brighten up Savannah neighborhoods. The eight

Guardsmen who participated were among the more than 150 volunteers who cleaned the streets, alley ways, yards, abandoned buildings and common areas around 53rd Street on the city’s east side.

According to officials who oversaw the cleanup, that area encompasses 16 blocks of what used to be base housing military personnel assigned to Hunter.

This is the second time members of the 117th have participated in a community service project this year. Unit officials are looking to schedule a third such event for later in 2009.

## 165th Airmen deploy to Afghanistan

Story by Karla Reddite, WTOC-TV in Savannah, and Lt. Col. Ken Baldowski

**SAVANNAH, GA (WTOC)** – Airmen of the 165th Airlift Wing took off early on the morning of April 28, 2009, from Travis Field in Savannah heading to Afghanistan.

As families and friends gathered to say goodbye, it was a bittersweet farewell for many Airmen deploying again after multiple deployments.

Families and friends wished a fond farewell to local aircrews, operations and maintenance personnel of the 165th Airlift Wing including the family of Staff Sgt. Richard Tabanic. He says even after eight deployments, “it’s still tough.”

“As many rotations as we’ve been in, it’s difficult,” said Tabanic. “Every time it’s difficult that we leave. It’s hard on the families.”



As children played or simply got in a final few hugs, other Guardsmen stood ready to salute those who were deploying.

Two C-130s sat nearby, ready to carry this group to Afghanistan in support of The Global War on Terrorism.

“The mission is multi-faceted actually, we have air delivery as well as ground delivery, air, land delivery within theatre, as well as support troops, airmen on the ground with maintenance administrative,” explained wing commander Col. Hank Smart. “And also we have a senior command structure going on over there.”

While specifics cannot be given for this particular mission, one thing is for sure, that while this separation from loved ones is always difficult, these Guardsmen know they have a job to do and they are ready to take on the task and complete it.

And their wing commander believes they will.

“I am so proud of these folks,” said Smart. “Unbelievable what they do.”

And as they took flight, Tabanic left a message for his family. “Stay strong so they can continue to take care of each other,” he said.

And that is surely the message families and friends are sending to them.

Afghanistan is the first stop. After that, they will head on to an undisclosed location to continue the fight against The War on Terror.



*Avid motorcycle riders take a 40 mile ride in support of the Top Gun Ride for the National Guard Family Support Foundation.*

## Top Gun Ride brings together bikers for Foundation support

Story by Harriett Morgan, Georgia National Guard Family Support Foundation

**MARIETTA** - Hundreds of bikers rallied in Cobb County, Saturday, April 25, 2009, in support of the 7th Annual Top Gun Ride for Children. This is the third consecutive year the Top Gun Ride for Children has selected the Georgia National Guard Family Support Foundation as the organization to benefit from the annual motorcycle rally. The ride is sponsored by The Center for Children and Young Adults in Marietta.

The 7th Annual Top Gun Ride for Children departed from Hooters restaurant in Kennesaw at 4:30 p.m. following remarks by Brig. Gen. Maria Britt, Georgia Army Guard commander, who thanked the crowd of more than 700 who had gathered to support for the event. Britt, whose husband, Col. Tim Britt, also a motorcyclist and deployed to Afghanistan, told the enthusiastic crowd that she and her husband would be joining them at next year's rally.

Led by the Cobb County Police motorcycle unit, hundreds of highly polished and customized motorcycles turned heads along Cobb's roadways. Riding in columns that stretched nearly four miles, the bikers ended their 40-mile cavalcade by motoring down the 10,000-foot Dobbins Air Reserve Base runway.

Resting in the shade of Hangar No.1, the riders enjoyed music and refreshments provided by various vendors. Guests also toured a Georgia Army Guard Black Hawk helicopter that was on static display.

Dr. Les Cole, director of The Center for Children and Young Adults, spoke about the center and the programs for children in its care. Mike Worley, vice president of Georgia Power Company and a board member of the Family Support Foundation, spoke about the assistance that the annual Top Gun Ride has provided for the foundation over the past three years.

The Georgia National Guard Family Support Foundation provides statewide emergency relief assistance to Guardsmen and their families and depends on private and public donations to do its work.



*Soldiers from the 221st Military Intelligence Battalion march 22 miles from Marietta to Dallas along the Silver Comet Trail. (Contributed photo)*

## March motivates Gillem Guardsmen

For 22.1 long miles, from Marietta to Dallas, members of Headquarters Company, 221st Military Intelligence Battalion, dug deep, faced adversity and put their blood, sweat and tears into accomplishing their mission along Georgia's Silver Comet Trail. "Slow is smooth and smooth is fast," was their motto during what's been billed as their inaugural 22.1 mile march, carrying full backpacks.

Company support teams were set up every three miles along the trail to encourage them, and to provide medical attention and rations throughout the day.

Among the 22 Soldiers who hit the trail were Capt. Feby George; 1st Sgt. Jason York; officer candidates Paul Bloomer and Latrese Bookhard; Staff Sgt. Tracy Godwin, Cpl. Donald Cooper, specialists Savol Curry, Roderick Jackson, Reginald Ramos, Andra Robinson, Jerod Rozier, Anzeya Shropshire, Benjamin Sutton, Shanna Tabbs, Dionte Westbrook; Pfc. Martéal Davis and chaplain candidate 1st Lt. Bellamy. Four of the 22 left the march because of injuries sustained along the way.

"The power of positive thinking is the key...and the first obstacle of any mis-

sion is your mind,” said York, the battalion’s senior enlisted Soldier.

York gave the initial kick off speech, making sure his soldiers were ready for the challenge that lay ahead. He reminded everyone that there are still non-believers within the 221st’s parent command –the 560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade– watching Headquarters Company’s progress.

No one seemed to believe the unit would have the highest physical training average within the 221st. Many also didn’t believe Headquarters Company could pull off a successful Warrior Challenge, he told his Soldiers.

“Most, in fact, didn’t believe unit members could win the battalion NCO and Soldier of the Year Competition, but they did. Many have also said the unit couldn’t get any Air Assault School slots, promote Soldiers underwater in 30-degree weather, do a change of command ceremony in a lake, win the recent Purple Pig 5-mile run or award every Soldier who’s promoted to sergeant an NCO sword,” York said. “They said Headquarters would never be the most motivated company in the battalion. And to anyone who’s made such statements, I say ‘DONE!’”

To those same non-believers, who didn’t think Headquarters 221st wouldn’t get any volunteers to do the march, he pointed out on a brisk Saturday morning in April, 22 unit members stepped up and stepped out, confident that they could accomplish any mission given them. Several Soldiers may have wanted to give up, York said, but, with the help of their comrades, every member of the unit pushed on and completed the challenges they met along the way.

As the event ended, many of York’s Soldiers sprinted the last 200 meters. They were greeted at the finish by the roaring applause and cheers from supporters as they crossed the line.

With the Silver Comet Trail march behind them, members of Headquarters Company, 221st MI headed home, more motivated about who they are and what they do as Soldiers, and as Georgia Guardsmen.



**A 221st Military Intelligence Battalion Soldier walks along the Silver Comet trail with 21 of his fellow Guardsman as part of the unit’s voluntary ruck march.**



**A Soldier high-fives a fellow Guardsman as she sprints toward the finish line. Several Soldiers who did not march, lined the trail to encourage the marchers.**

Story by Sandra Bruce, state personnel director

## New program focuses upon employee goals, competencies

ATLANTA - A new performance management program for state employees debuts in the Georgia Department of Defense this July. Employee appraisals that once focused only on job responsibilities are now expanded to include an employee’s professional goals and competencies.

The employee’s individual involvement and development, again is an important component of the new process. An added benefit to the program is that the old paper forms are a thing of the past. It now utilizes PeopleSoft “ePerformance,” a web-based technology with all documents being routed between individuals by email and it’s accessible to the State Personnel Office.

“An individual’s goals and objectives will be linked to agency goals, objectives and strategic plans, and will enable employees to better understand how their jobs fit into the overall operation of the agency,” explained Sandra Bruce, state personnel director.

A five-point rating scale identifies levels of performance, and enables the Georgia DoD to better identify high performing and high potential employees. Employees will be actively involved in the planning and evaluation process, and they will have the capability to access the program, along with their managers.

“Behavioral competencies, goals and individual development plans are the key aspects of the ePerformance program,” said Bruce. State employees will be rated upon five competencies - customer service, teamwork and cooperation, results orientation, judgment and decision making, and accountability. Additionally, supervisors will be evaluated on personal leadership competencies of talent management and transformers of government.

“The ‘goals’ element allows managers and employees to work together in establishing specific measurable goals for

the evaluation period,” she said. These directly relate to job responsibilities and support the strategic objectives of the agency as a whole.

Individual development plans are a required part of the ePerformance program, and will help employees in developing critical competencies and skills for their current jobs and future opportunities.

Assisting Bruce in implementing ePerformance within the Georgia DoD is Donna Allen, assistant personnel director, and Carolyn Cox, senior human resources coordinator.

Hands-on training and personal assistance soon will be available as managers and employees become acquainted with the new system,” said Bruce. She invites managers who are willing to be “guinea pigs” for this new training to attend a pilot course on Tuesday, June 23, at Oglethorpe Armory. Additional training classes are

scheduled in Atlanta, Augusta, Macon, Hinesville, and Savannah throughout July.

Supervisors of state employees will be required to attend the three-hour instruction which outlines the planning and evaluation components of the web-based system. Follow-up training for the evaluation, ratings and approval components will be conducted in 2010.

Please contact Sandra Bruce at 678-569-6022 or [sandra.bruce@ga.ngb.army.mil](mailto:sandra.bruce@ga.ngb.army.mil) to ensure you are on her “supervisors” email list. Doing so will ensure you receive the latest updates on the conversion and the specific training schedule for Ga DoD employees.

General information about ePerformance, including a User Productivity Kit link that allows you to preview the system, can be found at <http://www.spa.ga.gov/employees/eperformance.asp>



**Sandra Bruce, (left) state personnel director, and Carolyn Cox, senior human relations coordinator, review the online performance management system which will go into effect in July. (contributed photo)**

### Senator Douglas Visits with Troops at Shelby



Georgia State Sen. John Douglas, Veteran, Military and Homeland Security Committee chairman, recently visited with Soldiers of the 108th RSTA training at Camp Shelby, Miss. The senator met with (left to right) 1st Lt. Justin Thompson of Calhoun, 1st Lt. Robert Morris of Bremen and Capt. Nate Stone of Monticello. Douglas and the three officers are all alumni of North Georgia College and State University in Dahlonega.

### Aircraft presented to STARBASE



STARBASE instructor, Jim Jackson (left) accepts a hand-built radio-controlled Cessna model aircraft from former Georgia Air National Guardsman and retired Lockheed employee Howard Klemmetsen of Austell. The model aircraft, with a wing span of over four feet, will be added to the program's extensive collection of aviation exhibits, models and videogames. Jackson indicated that STARBASE will use the aircraft to help teach principles of aviation and flight. STARBASE is a DoD funded academy at Dobbins ARB and serves 5th and 6th grade students from Cobb County, Marietta and the Atlanta School System, as well as homeschoolers from Cobb County.

## PROMOTIONS AND CHANGES OF COMMAND

Congratulations to new Colonels:

Colonel Michael Scholes is the J-3 of Joint Force Headquarters

Colonel Tom Carden is the G-1 of Joint Force Headquarters

Colonel Michael Gaspar, Commander, 116th Maintenance Group

Lieutenant Col. William Lipko, Detachment Commander, 202nd EIS

Change of Command:

Lieutenant Col. Michael Rumsey, formerly commander of the 116th Air Control Wing Communications Squadron assumed the position of Chief of Staff of the 116th Air Control Wing

(Notices of individual Promotions and Changes of Command and calendar events are taken from notices received via the GA DOD internet. If you know of omissions, or have news of promotions, command changes, please advise Amanda Kenny at [Amanda.Kenny@ga.ngb.army.mil](mailto:Amanda.Kenny@ga.ngb.army.mil).)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Saturday, May 9, 2009 – 2nd Annual Fishing Rodeo, 8 miles North of Gray, Ga.
- Friday May 15, 2009 - Armed Forces Day softball game, Fort McPherson Baseball Field
- Friday, June 5, 2009 - 1st Annual 139th Intel Squadron Golf Tournament, Bartram Trail Golf Course, Augusta, GA
- June 12-14 – Annual NGAGA Convention, Jekyll Island, GA
- July 4 – Fabulous 4th Festival, City and Horse Park, Conyers, GA (Brig. Gen. Britt, guest speaker)
- August 14-16 – 2009 Family Readiness Conference, Renaissance Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta

## AVAILABLE VIDEOS

All video are available at the links below:

- [1st Battalion, 121st Infantry Family Day in Winder, Ga.](#)
- [848th Engineer Company Freedom Salute Ceremony in Garden City, Ga.](#)
- [48th ICBT sendoff in Macon with Gov Sonny Perdue](#)
- [Air vs Army Guard Basketball Challenge at Phillips Arena](#)

### 'Dutch' McLendon

MACON – Retired Brig. Gen. James M. "Dutch" McLendon, deputy commander of Macon's 48th Infantry Brigade during the 1970s died April 14, 2009. He was 86.

Born Sept. 2, 1922, to Reverend and Mrs. A. C. McLendon, General McLendon joined the Georgia Army National Guard as a private, with Service Company, 121st Infantry, in March 1940. He trained with the unit

until transferring to the Army Air Corps in 1943 where after training he served as a radio operator on a B-25 bomber in the Pacific. He flew 19 combat missions. In 1948, McLendon earned a commission, and rose to the rank of brigadier general before his retiring following 39 years of service, in 1978.

McLendon is survived by his wife of 63 years, Dot (Bazemore) McLendon; and sons, Jim (Jean) McLendon, Larry (Carolyn) McLendon, daughter Lisa McLendon of Macon; three grandchildren, Jim (LeAnn) McLendon of Sandy Springs, Megan McLendon and Mallory McLendon of Valdosta; three great-grandchildren, Grant, John Owen, Oliver McLendon; several nieces and nephews; and two sisters-in-law, Anne Bazemore and Mary McLendon.

### Bowles Selected Regional III Soldier of the Year, Vankampen takes 2nd Place as NCO of Year

GREENVILLE, Ky. - Specialist James Bowles, Georgia's Soldier of the Year has been selected as the Soldier of the Year for Region III at competition held at the Kentucky Regional Training Center over the past week.

Also, Staff Sgt. Heather Vankampen competed for the NCO of the Year in Kentucky and took 2nd place in the competition.

Both Guardsman are part of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and are deploying to Afghanistan. Read about their selection as Georgia Soldier and NCO of the Year in the February "First Friday" and on the Army Guard portal.

The Georgia Guardsman will have a story on their Regional selections in the May 15 issue.



Pictured in a portrait circa 1970s, then McLendon signs off on personnel forms as deputy commander of the 48th Infantry Brigade.

## MEDICAL CORNER

### Preparing for 'swine flu'

Health care professionals of the Georgia Army National Guard Medical Command, along with those in other Guard organizations, continue to monitor reports from various health organizations regarding the H1N1 flu outbreak, according to Col. Charlotte J. Warren, Ph.D., deputy commander of Medical Command.

In addition, medical command professionals are encouraging Soldiers and Airmen and their families to continue using healthy habits to avoid the spread of illness, especially:

- Avoiding close contact with people who are or appear sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your arm.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use alcohol-based anti-bacterial hand sanitizers.
- Keep your work areas clean and sanitary.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

Agency staff are being encouraged to take extra steps to keep buildings clean and sanitary.

Medical Command officials encourage Soldiers and Airmen and their families to stay informed about the H1N1 flu outbreak and continue to monitor CDC website (<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>) for further updates.

As of April 30, more than 100 cases of H1N1 have been confirmed in the United States.

The Department of Defense reported only one case as of April 30, that being a Marine at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twenty-Nine Palms, Calif. According to the Marine Corps Commandant, Gen. James T. Conway, the marine was quarantined to his barracks."

### New GI Bill Benefits Dependents

Though the road was long and hard, the efforts and advocacy of the Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) have resulted in a major victory for Soldiers and their families.

The creation of the Post 9/11 GI Bill was driven by AFAP Issues No. 497, 385 and 525. It becomes a reality Aug. 1, 2009, and will offer all Soldiers with six years of service the opportunity to transfer unused Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to their dependents.

With this new bill, what started as an enlistment incentive has grown to become a retention tool in the all volunteer Army. The ability to provide for the family by transferring benefits to spouses and children becomes a powerful retention incentive. For more [click here](#).