



# Crossed Bayonets

SOUTH CAROLINA  
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

## Black South Carolinians Share a Rich Military Heritage

Story by Maj. William S. McDaniel  
218th MEB, Unit Historian

Black Soldiers have served and defended South Carolina for more than 300 years. They have sweat, bled, and died in defense of their state.

The first permanent English settlement, Charles Town, S.C., was founded in 1670. The Carolina colony was a major focal point in the territorial disputes between England, Spain and France in the New World. These disputes involved not only the colonists but also many of the local Indian tribes. Indian tribes native to South Carolina were not all friendly.

Security of the colonies was a priority to settlers, and security required Soldiers. At first there was little or no concern with arming free blacks or slaves. This changed with the growth of African slavery and the fear of slave revolts.

In 1703, during the start of Queen Anne's War between England, France, Spain, and their Indian allies, the Carolina government offered freedom to any black slave who could kill or capture a hostile Indian. If he were to be wounded in action, he would be given his freedom. This expanded to include the equipping and arming of slaves at regular musters.

Slaves were included in the resistance against the Spanish and French invasion of Charles Town in 1706. It was an unknown black man that ran through the streets of Charles Town giving the alarm that



An original 1863 Harper's Weekly illustration by Thomas Nast, depicts the first use of black troops in combat during the Civil War. The illustration shows some dramatic action, as former slaves take on the role of Soldiers. This was one of the first illustrations showing black men as Soldiers. At the time, there was great resistance against arming free black men.

the enemy had landed on James Island and the Charleston Neck. During the same war, over 1,000 black slaves were armed and on standby to repulse a second French and Spanish invasion.

The Yamasee War (1715-1717) was one of the bloodiest wars against the Indians in North America. The Yamasee and their allies wanted their land, and were unwilling to compromise with the

settlers. Many white settlers were unwilling to leave their homes and families in order to assemble with the militia. Thus black men from South Carolina and Virginia played a major part in this conflict.

After the "Battle of the Ponds" near Goose Creek, S.C. between colonists and Indians, Rev. Le Jau later wrote that "George Chicken, Captain of the Goose-Creek Company, had attacked the Indians

to the North with a group of nearly 70 white men and about 40 negroes and Indians." By all accounts, approximately one-third of the fighting men were black.

The French and Indian War, known as the Anglo-Cherokee War (1758-1761) in South Carolina, saw the participation of black South Carolinians. At the climatic defeat

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## Sgt. 1st Class Gibson Receives a New Coat

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Kimberly D. Calkins  
218th MEB Public Affairs

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Once a Soldier becomes a non-commissioned officer (NCO) promotion is not easy and requires time and dedication to duty. Sometimes, a Soldier must wait for a slot to become available in his or her Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) in order to be promoted. However, there are instances when a position must be filled and there is an NCO of lower rank waiting for the job.

Sgt. 1st Class Clifford D. Gibson, acting first sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB), was frocked on Dec. 14, and received his promotion to first sergeant on Jan. 1

Frocking is a military term for a commissioned or non-commissioned officer, who is selected for promotion, to wear the higher rank prior to actual "date of rank."

The term "frocking" derives from the Department of the Navy when communications

between ships could take several months to arrive, particularly during times of war as far back as the Civil War. A ship would deliver promotion orders for an officer, normally a lieutenant, who wore a long-skirted waistcoat called a frock coat. The newly promoted officer would choose his predecessor and present the midshipman with his



Sgt. 1st Class Clifford D. Gibson, receives his frocking rank of first sergeant, HHC, 218th MEB, Dec. 14. Gibson officially obtains his date of rank on Jan. 1 and has been acting first sergeant since June.

frock coat, the symbol of rank, for the unofficial promotion. By donning the frock coat the midshipman would take the place of the lieutenant, with all privileges and responsibilities without the monetary benefits, hence the term frocking. The recommended officer would remain in his new position until the official promotion from the Department of the Navy arrived by another ship.

Gibson began wearing his "frock coat" June 15, assuming the responsibilities of First Sergeant for several months prior to his official date of rank.

"Sgt. 1st Class Gibson took the initiative and performed exceptionally well prior to his official promotion to first sergeant and continues to lead and mentor Soldiers," said Capt. Robert "Trae" Redmond, the HHC commander, 218th MEB.

Gibson's prior experience as a platoon sergeant and section chief allowed him exposure to other first sergeants, preparing him for his future position. Gibson recalls his role model, 1st Sgt. Joe Lemon, former first sergeant for C Battery, 4th Battalion, 178th Field Artillery.

"1st Sgt. Lemon was very professional, level-headed and sincere with his troops," said Gibson.

As Gibson continues his duty as first sergeant, he looks forward to working with enlisted Soldiers on a broader scale and looking at the whole picture in order to guide Soldiers



# Guardian Six



By Col. Waymon B. Storey  
218th Brigade Commander

Happy New Year to all Soldiers and family members of the 218th MEB. I would first like to start off by congratulating everyone for a successful 2010. The accomplishments of the Brigade were indeed nothing short of outstanding as each of you did a tremendous job of supporting your community, state, and country.

I want to take one last opportunity to remind you of just how successful you were during a fast and furious 2010. First and foremost, 1-178th Field Artillery (FA) represented us superbly in its deployment to Afghanistan. We are thankful to have these great warriors home, and will always honor their service. Most importantly, we will cherish the memories of Sgt. 1st Class Robert Fike and Staff Sgt. Bryan Hoover, two Pennsylvania Army National Guard Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving as part of 1-178th FA.

Both 1-118th Combined Arms Battalion and 4-118th Infantry Battalion served as excellent ambassadors of the Brigade, the South Carolina Army National Guard (SCARNG), and the United States Army during their overseas training missions in

Thailand, Japan, and Germany. Our 218th Brigade Support Battalion remained faithful to its motto of "supporting the load" as these fine Soldiers executed one of the largest convoy operations in the history of the SCARNG. Our brigade's separate companies repeatedly demonstrated throughout the year that they host some of the smartest, most technically proficient medical professionals, communicators, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) experts, and public affairs Soldiers. Collectively, we excelled in our (CBRN) Consequence Management Response Force role, as evidenced in your highly successful performance during Vibrant Response 10.2 field exercise at Camp Atterbury, Ind. Finally, while Mother Nature spared us yet again, we stood ready to respond to people of South Carolina if needed.

Every Soldier and family member has played a key part in our success in 2010; however, the challenge continues. Through our efforts in successfully reintegrating recently returned warriors, taking care of families, preparing our units for upcoming deployments, and training aggressively and realistically for possible military/defense support to civilian authorities missions, we will be provided with many opportunities to exceed the high standards we have set for ourselves. I ask you

to keep safety first, focus on securing your property and facilities and be a professional in all that you do. Remember our fellow Soldiers currently in harm's way and those who are recovering in Warrior Transition units. And finally, remember that your fellow Americans are counting on you to be ready to respond; for this we cannot and will not fail them, ever.

Not many can do what you do. Be as proud of yourself as I am to be your Brigade Commander 

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T shirts and cups are \$10.00  
Koozies are \$5.00  
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Contact Maj. Chip Sturgis at 803-832-0590 or [chip.sturgis@us.army.mil](mailto:chip.sturgis@us.army.mil)



## COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR'S CORNER

# Starting Off on the Right Foot



By Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Kirkland  
218th MEB Command Sergeant Major

After many holiday events, family dinners and traveling, it is back to normal life and the beginning of a new year. I would like to begin this New Year by saying thank you to all of you for making this past year a successful one. You have worked extremely hard in 2010, and completed every mission handed to you. It was a busy year, filled with training missions all over the world. The 218th trained in Japan, Thailand and also Germany, all while keeping up with the CCMRF mission here at home. Again, thank you for your hard work.

While 2011 will be a full training year, we must continue to focus on our CCMRF mission, while fulfilling our normal training requirements. Make no mistake about it; it's going to be a busy year. And with all the training this year, I want to remind you of the

importance of safety.

Safety is something that we all take with us and use in our everyday lives, whether it is on-duty or off. It takes common sense, being aware of your surroundings, and having the courage to say something when we see an unsafe act.

During this year we will all do a fair amount of travelling. This means time spent behind the wheel. Driving long distances without the proper amount of sleep can lead to possible impaired judgment or falling asleep at the wheel. Both can lead to tragic consequences. So bottom line, don't do it. Get the adequate amount of sleep required for any long trips on or off duty.

The weather is getting warmer, and with that brings rain and wet roads. There are a few things that you can do to make your travel this spring safer. Give yourself more time to get to where you are going and remember to watch your speed. Ensure that your tires

are properly inflated and are not worn past the manufactures recommended wear out. Replace worn out wipers and ensure your headlights are working properly. Washing your windshield every time you stop for fuel will also help with visibility.

Drinking and driving is never acceptable under any circumstance. If you are going to drink make a plan to have a designated driver or call a taxi. If you do not have the number to a local cab company many establishments will call a taxi for you, all you have to do is ask them.

I want each and every one of you take the time to inspect your vehicle to identify any deficiencies and correct them to prevent an accident that could have been avoided.

Once again thank you for your hard work in 2010. I am looking forward to serving with you all in 2011 

# ONCE MORE!



# 218th MEB Takes the Field

Story by  
Staff Sgt. Kimberly D. Calkins  
218th MEB Public Affairs

CHARLESTON, S.C.— The Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB) recently conducted a Tactical Operations Center Exercise (TOCEX) during drill weekend, Jan. 7 through Jan. 9.

The event was held on the Johnson Hagood Stadium football field of The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina.

This is the first time a training event has been coordinated between the 218th MEB and The Citadel, according to Sgt. Maj. Richard E. Turner, 218th MEB Operations Sergeant Major.

This TOCEX was used to train Soldiers on the setting up and breaking down of the brigade TOC. The internal and external



218th HHC, members erect the tactical operations center on the 50-yard line of the Citadel football field. (Photo by Sgt. Joshua S. Edwards)

communications of the TOC were enhanced as a result of additional tents and two new Command Post Platforms (CPPs). The brigade also added a Digital Topographic Mapping System (DTMS), allowing them to gather geographical data on any location in the world.

The exercise established a brigade TOC

footprint of 50 yards wide by 50 yards long, taking up half of the Citadel Bulldogs field. Soldiers who participated in this exercise became more proficient in TOC setup and gained a clearer understanding of TOC operations

# 218th MEB Conducts Visitations with Warrior Transition Units

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Kimberly D. Calkins  
218th MEB Public Affairs

FORT JACKSON, S.C. – Among pine trees and gentle sloping hills, multiple leveled buildings rise as barracks, housing men and women attending basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. Drill Sergeants shout at the sweating men and women as they hurdle over and under wooden obstacles at the physical fitness course. The newly transforming Soldiers form a repetition of physical exertion along the landscape.

However, these are not the only Soldiers who are struggling to overcome hurdles on these

historical training grounds. Obstacles are present for those whose physical and mental well-being is currently challenged by a medical condition. One Soldier, with shrapnel still in his knee from a deployment in Afghanistan, limps along. A Soldier maneuvers in a wheelchair because of a collapsed hip. Others appear physically fit but struggle with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. These are just few of the Soldiers assigned to the Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) at Fort Jackson, S.C.

The 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB), Charleston, S.C., currently has 54 Soldiers assigned to WTUs, not only at Fort Jackson, but also Fort

Stewart, Ga.; Fort Gordon, Ga.; and Fort Bragg, N.C. One Soldier is currently under care at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

The command leaders conduct visits to WTU Soldiers every six weeks and maintains contact by phone and e-mail between visits.

“We want Soldiers to know they are still a part of their units, this brigade,” said Col. Waymon B. Storey, the 218th MEB commander. “While they are assigned to the WTU, we want them to receive successful treatment.”

The command staff enters a small conference room to meet with Soldiers who are available for visitation. They mingle with their WTU Soldiers, breaking the ice, before getting down to the real question-and-answer session.

The goal of the visits are to address issues or follow up on issues Soldiers may have concerning their medical care, said Sgt. LaMar J. Resch, the WTU liaison officer and human resource specialist for the brigade. Additional issues discussed include family care, promotions, awards from deployments and finances, she said.

Storey asks the Soldiers about the care they are receiving, if they have issues at home the chaplain can assist with, or if families are

experiencing financial or emotional difficulties in their absence.

On average, Soldiers are assigned to the WTU for six months. While there, they receive active-duty pay along with family-separation pay if they are stationed outside a 50-mile radius of their home, said Resch.

While most Soldiers are stationed at the nearest WTU to their home of record, the type of medical care needed supersedes the convenience of home.

Each Soldier tells his side of his WTU experience, a few are waiting for their release papers, some waiting for medical answers.

The Soldier’s quality of life is most important, said Storey. We want our Soldiers’ medical conditions addressed with the best care, so they can resume a decent quality of life with their family, said Storey.

One Soldier’s quality of life has been an ongoing battle. Sgt. Timothy L. Hooks, currently assigned to the WTU at Fort Jackson since April 2009, is suffering from a collapsed left hip. He sustained the injury during a deployment in Afghanistan. Because of his condition, Hooks is confined to a wheelchair and has his twin brother, retired Sgt. Tony A. Hooks, appointed as his nonmedical assistant.



Sgt. Timothy L. Hooks (left), and retired Sgt. Tony A. Hooks (right) discuss Timothy’s medical condition with Col. Waymon B. Storey, the 218th MEB commander. Timothy is assigned to the Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Jackson, S.C. and his twin brother, Tony, is his nonmedical assistant.



# SC National Guard Changes Leadership

Story by Maj. Cindi King  
*South Carolina National Guard Public Affairs*

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Stanhope S. Spears, relinquished leadership of the South Carolina National Guard to Maj. Gen. Robert E. Livingston, Jr. in a ceremonial change of command January 9 at the University of South Carolina’s Coliseum. Spears has served as, adjutant general for the past 16 years and is retiring after more than half a century in uniform.

Soldiers and Airmen from the National Guard stood in formation with a massing of colors and representatives from each of the major subordinate commands and units from around the state. More than a thousand Soldiers, Airmen, their friends and family members witnessed this formal military ceremony.

Addressing many of those he commanded for the past 16 years Spears said being the adjutant general was extremely gratifying.

“Being your adjutant general for the last 16 years has been a highlight of my life,” he said. “All of you did your jobs extremely well. As I leave here today, I offer my congratulations to Maj. Gen. Robert Livingston.”

Livingston was officially sworn in as the state’s 27th adjutant general January 12. Unique among his fellow adjutants general, he is the only elected adjutant general in the nation. He was elected in the November statewide election and becomes only the sixth adjutant general since 1926, following Spears and other legendary SCNG leaders, including World War I Medal of Honor recipient Lieutenant General James C. Dozier, who held the post for 33 years.



From left to right, Maj. Gen. Robert E. Livingston, South Carolina Adjutant General, Governor Nikki Haley, and former Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Stanhope Spears, during the change of command ceremony, Columbia, S.C., Jan 9. (Photo by Sgt. Joshua S. Edwards)

During his tenure, Spears led the National Guard through numerous deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq, the Balkans and other hot spots around the world. Under his leadership, the Army and Air National Guard have maintained a renowned reputation as elite combat forces, evidenced by the many combat deployments the National Guard units have completed.

For his part, Livingston has commanded at the company, battalion and brigade levels. A decorated combat commander, Livingston led Soldiers from the 218th Brigade Combat Team through a one-year deployment to Afghanistan. From May 2007 to April 2008, he commanded Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan, providing training teams for the Afghan National Army and Police.

During his remarks, Livingston expressed confidence in those he is about to lead.

“As I look out on this formation, I see great Palmetto Warriors – strong with integrity, mindful of the past and looking to the future,” he said. “If you’re ready, tough times mean opportunities. Knowing what I know about the SCNG and the Military department, we are ready.”

Livingston concluded this historic day with words of support to Governor Nikki Haley.

“Governor, I know these troops, I know the South Carolina Military Department and I assume this responsibility without hesitation or mental reservation,” Livingston said. “I look forward to serving with you in the days to come.”

# 218th BSB Hosts Educational Exposition



Spc. Ryan D. Wiley, a water treatment specialist with A Co., 218th BSB, Walterboro, S.C., demonstrates how to operate a water supply tank container to Col. Waymon B. Storey, the 218th MEB commander, during an internal exposition held by the 218th BSB at Clarks Hill Training Center on Dec. 15, 2010. The battalion held the exposition to provide a multifunctional logistics education opportunity for all the units within the battalion.

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Kimberly D. Calkins  
*218th MEB Public Affairs*

MCORMICK, S.C. – Located on the western edge of South Carolina lies 800 acres of timber owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Adjacent to the shores of Lake Thurmond is a wooded area known as Clarks Hill Training Center, which has provided a training environment for the South Carolina Army National Guard since 1972.

Through the tree line of Clarks Hill, inflatable tan colored tents arose from the ground with hints of military trucks, generators and water bladders highlighting the perimeter. Soldiers milled about the area, moving from one location to another learning about each company’s displayed equipment. The Soldiers, who were from the 218th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), hosted

an internal exposition Dec. 15 to provide a multifunctional logistics education opportunity for all the units within the battalion.

“Our first goal was to show each separate company in the battalion the capabilities of one another,” said Maj. Timothy A. Wood, the executive officer of the 218th BSB. “Secondly, we invited brigade leaders to demonstrate the battalion capabilities within the expo as well as tour the training site.”

As a whole, the 218th BSB is a logistical hub for transportation, supply and maintenance. However, each unit within the battalion is spread across the state and rarely comes together in one location. The exposition allowed the battalion to accomplish this task.

During the expo, many units showcased high tech equipment. Headquartered in Orangeburg, S.C., B Co. displayed its Electronic Repair Shelter and Full Repair



## **BLACK HERITAGE** continued from page 1

of the Cherokee and burning of Echoe Town, N.C. in 1761, there were 81 known black slaves participating in the fighting alongside British Regulars, South Carolina Provincials, and Militia.

The War for Independence (1775-1782) was no stranger to black South Carolinians. Black men fought on both sides of what was truly a civil war. By this time, all thirteen colonies had African slavery as a protected practice. This created an odd position for the "Patriots," in that they faced a common enemy but feared an armed slave insurrection more. Even the English writer Samuel Johnson in 1775 stated, "How is it that we hear the loudest yelps for liberty among the drivers of Negroes?" Even George Washington himself gave much opposition for black recruits by state governments. However, most black Soldiers were integrated into existing units, although there were notable exceptions, such as the "Rhode Island Bucks," a black unit from Rhode Island.

On the other side, many black South Carolina slaves joined up with or followed British units with promises of freedom for loyalty to the British government. After the third attack and fall of Charleston to British forces in 1780, resistance to armed black Soldiers began to change. Open service in the S.C. Militia was not unusual, with it being noted by both British and Patriot observers.

### **WILLIAM BALL**

One Soldier of note, William Ball, was a black cavalryman who served as Col. William Washington's bugler and orderly. During the cavalry pursuit of the shattered British forces following the Battle of Cowpens, S.C. in 1781, Trooper Ball saved the life of Washington at close range with a pistol shot to a British cavalryman. Ball wasn't alone, either. There were 15 known black Soldiers present at the Battle of Cowpens. During the siege of the British fort at Ninety Six, S.C. black South Carolinian Loyalists would slip out through the Patriot siege to get water for all of the defenders inside.

During the War of 1812, blacks saw minor involvement in the campaign against the Creek Indians, but not on the same level as the War for Independence. The fear of slave revolts squelched the idea of arming black men. The failed Denmark Vessey Revolt in Charleston S.C. in 1822, only added fuel to this fear. Even though the planned revolt failed, federal laws were passed that banned states from enlisting black men in the militias.

In the small towns away from Charleston, these laws were often ignored. It was not unusual for the regimental bands of the South Carolina Militia to be composed of black Soldiers. The role of the band was not entertainment, but to communicate instructions through sounds and beats, and to act as litter bearers to evacuate the casualties from the fighting.

On the eve of the Civil War was the 10th S.C. Volunteer Infantry, whose band, while encamped at Georgetown, S.C. was entirely black. One of the marching tunes played by the 10th Regiment Band was the Victorian hymn, "Walk in the Light."

### **CONFEDERATE SERVICE**

The Civil War saw service of black South Carolinians on the Confederate side serving on an individual and unit level. However, the majority of pension records and eyewitness accounts suggest a heavy emphasis on combat support roles as the laws still forbade black combat Soldiers. Historians generally disagree on the total numbers. Dr. Lewis Steiner, chief inspector of the U.S. Army Sanitation Commission, wrote an eyewitness account of Jackson's Army Group in Frederick, Md. of which Gregg's S.C. brigade was a part, "over 3,000 Negroes must be included in this number. Most of the Negroes had arms, rifles, muskets, sabres, bowie knives, dirks, etc. . . and manifestly an integral portion of the Southern Confederate Army."

One example was Pvt. Henry "Dad" Brown,



**Sgt. 1st Class Webster Anderson of Winnsboro, S.C. received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his courage during an attack by North Vietnamese, during the Vietnam War. (Courtesy photo)**

a free black man from Camden, who volunteered for the Mexican War, Civil War and the Spanish American War. As a drummer it was his role to communicate commands to the formations of troops on the battlefield. Henry Brown was a free man, who earned his living as a brick mason. He moved to Darlington, and during the Civil War he volunteered and served with 1st S.C.(Gregg's), 8th S.C., and 21st S.C. Volunteer Infantries. He not only served as a musician, but took his turn on sentry duty and as a cook. During reconstruction, he was coroner of Darlington County, but resigned his post in protest to what he perceived to be corruption. He remained loyal to the Darlington Guards, although segregation laws of the late 1800's amazingly would not let him be a "legal and official" member. Brown continued to muster and drill with the unit, regardless. Upon his death in 1907, it was estimated that nearly 12,000 mourners, both black and white, paid their respects. His unit, the Darlington Guards, provided guard, pallbearers and fired volleys over his grave.

### **UNION SERVICE**

The Union service of black South Carolinians was no small matter from 1862 to 1876. The Union utilized the captured port of Beaufort and its large slave population to beef up the numbers of Soldiers. Although at first there was much resistance to the idea from Union leadership, due to the usual racial prejudices and the "bad press" of what appeared to be starting a slave uprising in the Confederate territories. The first two Infantry regiments raised were 1st and 2nd S.C. Infantry, later redesignated as "U.S. Colored Troops." Several Union Infantry regiments and an artillery battery were raised, and by 1865, 5,000 former slaves from the Beaufort area were members of the U.S. Army.

One famous black Union Soldier, Sgt. William H. Carney, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions during the second assault on Fort Wagner on Morris Island, S.C. July, 18, 1863. As the Union colors were shot down and were being left behind as the unit withdrew under withering fire, Sgt. Carney went back and retrieved the colors, stating afterwards, "Boys, the old colors never did touch the ground."

Another famous black South Carolinian, Robert Smalls, was a slave who worked as a steamship crewman. At 3:00 a.m. May, 13, 1862, he and eight black crewmen, with women and children, escaped with the steamship "Planter" with four cannon to the Federal blockade outside the harbor. Smalls became a pilot of steamships for the U.S. Navy and after the war, he became a S.C. Representative, S.C. Senator, and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. During

consideration of a bill to reduce and restructure the United States Army, Smalls introduced an amendment that "Hereafter in the enlistment of men in the Army . . . no distinction whatsoever shall be made on account of race or color." The amendment was not considered by Congress.

### **THE GREAT WAR**

World War I saw the expansion of the Army of the United States at such a rapid pace, that black Soldiers were an important part of the war effort. The 371st Infantry Regiment, made up of mostly black South Carolinians, was raised and trained at Fort Jackson, S.C. This regiment was assigned to the French Army upon arrival in France during April 1918. They were reissued French weapons and equipment, and proved to be an incredibly lethal unit. In the final offensive of the war during September 1918, the 371st had sustained over 1,000 casualties, captured many German prisoners and much equipment, and shot down three German aircraft with rifle and machine gun fire.

The most famous Soldier of this regiment, Cpl. Freddie Stowers of Sandy Springs, S.C., was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for leading an attack against dug in German machine guns that had faked surrendering and destroyed half of Company C. He led the attack through heavy machine gun fire and into multiple trenches, destroying the enemy, but was killed in the fighting. Stowers award was finally given in 1991 by President George Bush to his two surviving sisters.

### **WORLD WAR II**

The Second World War continued the service started almost seventy years earlier with segregated units. During the horror of the Second World War, black Soldiers served in combat arms units, combat support and service support in the European-African-Middle Eastern theatre and the Pacific theatre. Black tank destroyer units in Europe were among some of the best elements of Citizen Soldiers defeating a resilient and resourceful enemy. African-American Infantry units took the fight to the Japanese in the Pacific theatre, helping to set the rising sun of the Japanese Empire. Of particular note is the 92nd Infantry Division, an almost entirely black unit.

### **KOREA & VIETNAM**

The Korean War (1951-53) saw the first real racial integration of Army units within combat arms and combat support formations. It was during the cold, vicious fighting during this war where two black Soldiers receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The Vietnam conflict saw African Americans serve in many roles. The Army continued with the policy of racial integration, developing mature units that focused more on the team and less on the makeup of the people in it. Sgt. 1st Class Webster Anderson of Winnsboro, S.C. received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his courage during an attack by North Vietnamese army regulars against his battery's defensive position. He single handily jumped on top of a sandbag parapet and returned rifle and directed cannon fire to repulse the enemy. After being severely wounded in the legs by a Vietnamese grenade, Anderson propped himself up on sandbags and continued to direct fires.

Black South Carolinians have a tremendous military heritage, and continue to give of their lives and blood in defense of the Constitution. The sacrifices made by our Soldier ancestors should not be forgotten, and should serve as a reminder that we did not get to where we are today solely on our own merit 

*Crossed Bayonets is an authorized publication for members of the SCARNG. Contents of Crossed Bayonets are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense and Department of the Army or the SCARNG. All editorial content of the Crossed Bayonets newsletter is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the 218th MEB Public Affairs Officer.*

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# A 41-Year Long Journey Comes to an End

Story by  
Sgt. Joshua S. Edwards  
218th MEB Public Affairs

From the jungles of Vietnam to the mountains of Afghanistan, one Soldier's career has spanned over four decades. Master Sgt. Johnny Bethel, food services specialist, 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB), South Carolina Army National Guard (SCARNG), and a native of Columbia, S.C., has finally hung up his uniform for the last time.



Photo by Sgt. Joshua S. Edwards

During his retirement luncheon, Master Sgt. Johnny Bethel holds a Vietnam era mess kit that was made into an award for his 40 plus years of service.

Bethel retired Nov. 30, after having served nearly 41 years of military service.

"If you have asked me 40 years ago, I would never have thought I would still be here today," said Bethel.

Bethel began his service July 15, 1969, completing basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. and later completed Infantry school at Fort Lewis, Wash.

In December 1969, Bethel was deployed to the Republic of Vietnam to begin his year-long tour of duty, where he was awarded a Bronze Star with Valor, while serving as a M-60 machine gunner with D Co., 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade, 11th Infantry Division.

According to the citation; on the day of March 2, 1970, the company, while on a combat patrol, came under attack by a larger enemy force. During the initial contact, part of the company sustained several severe casualties and became pinned down in an exposed area. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Bethel quickly maneuvered across the open terrain to a strategic position and began placing intense volumes of suppressive fire on the insurgents. Ignoring the danger involved, he repeatedly exposed himself to the concentration of hostile fire, enabling trapped comrades to move to a more tenable position. Through his timely and courageous actions, Bethel was instrumental in thwarting the hostile assault.

Bethel also received the Purple Heart that day after being wounded when an enemy rocket impacted near his position and he was struck in the neck by shrapnel.

After being discharged from active duty Bethel did not end his service there, he continued to serve by enlisting in the Army Reserves in 1976, where he served with 1st Battalion, 321st Regiment, 108th Infantry Division in Columbia, S.C.

Bethel joined the SCARNG in 1985, where

he served for the remainder of his career with 218th MEB, as the brigade food service non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC).

"I remember the first time I saw Johnny. The first I thing noticed was that he wore a right sleeve patch (combat patch), and at that time you didn't see a lot of them, but I knew he was someone I could learn a lot from," said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Kirkland, 218th MEB, Command Sergeant Major.



Master Sgt. Johnny Bethel, during the Vietnam War. (Courtesy photo)

"Over the past 25 years Bethel has overseen the feeding of nearly 550,000 Guardsmen, since coming to the 218th," said Master Sgt. Charles "Steve" Steele, 218th MEB, Food Service NCOIC, "He takes a lot of pride

in making sure everything is right."

"Bethel has always been someone that can get things done," said Maj. Curtiss Robinson, Logistics Officer, 218th MEB, during Bethel's retirement luncheon, "He just has a way of doing things his way."

In 2007, Bethel deployed to Afghanistan. His mission was to train Afghan soldiers in cooking and sanitation methods, but the mission changed and so did his duties. For the length of the deployment he oversaw and facilitated Soldiers leaving and returning from their mid-tour rest and relaxation.

"Seeing Johnny was a good thing because that meant you were going home, but seeing Johnny again was a bad thing, because that also meant you were back," jokingly said Col. Waymon B. Storey, 218th MEB Brigade commander.

Not only did Bethel serve his country for over 40 years, he continues to serve his community by working for the Department of Corrections for the last 25 years, delivering supplies to correction facilities across the state.

"I am going to miss my family," said Bethel, "The Army has always been my family away from home" 

## WTU continued from page 3

"Tony takes me to appointments, cooks my meals, helps me with personal needs," said Hooks.

Timothy Hooks, however, is no stranger to the WTU. He has been in the system since January 2009, first at Fort Stewart.

"I had spinal surgery and surgery in both hips while at Fort Stewart," said Hooks, who is currently attending physical therapy and orthopedic therapy at Fort Jackson until he has his left hip replacement surgery.

"The longer it takes to have surgery, the longer I'm in a wheelchair," said Hooks. "I'm ready for the surgery so I can get back to a better quality of life."

Once Hooks has recovered from surgery and physical therapy, he will receive a medical discharge and retire after 20 years of service page 6

from the South Carolina Army National Guard.

After Soldiers are released from WTU, they receive an additional six months of medical care, and then they can apply for Veterans Administration benefits, said Resch.

"The biggest struggle for WTU Soldiers is their ability to adapt to an environment that is counter to their unit's specific mission," said Storey. "It's hard for them to focus on treatment, therapy and quality of life; they are not used to focusing on themselves."

Two and half hours have passed since the beginning of the WTU meeting. Issues have been laid on the table and brought to the command's attention. The issues will continue to be dealt with as Soldiers overcome their medical obstacles, until all of the 218th MEB Soldiers come home 

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# HHC Soldiers Receive Awards and Promotions During January Drill

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Kimberly D. Calkins  
218th MEB Public Affairs



Lt. Col. Jeffrey A. Jones, Executive Officer, 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, pins an Army Achievement Medal on Maj. Curtiss H. Robinson, Logistics Management Officer for the brigade, Jan. 8. Robinson received the award for his meritorious service while serving as the Deputy Brigade Logistics officer during validation training in North Charleston, S.C.

CHARLESTON, S.C. – Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB), ended January drill weekend with several awards and one promotion ceremony Jan. 8.

The Army Achievement Medal (AAM) was awarded to three Soldiers.

The first AAM was presented to Maj. Curtiss H. Robinson, logistics management officer, for his meritorious service while serving as the deputy brigade logistics officer during validation training in North Charleston, S.C.

Spc. Brandy Anderson, a food service specialist, received an AAM for her exceptional achievement during Operation Cobra Gold 2010 in Thailand. Her dedication contributed to the success of the 1118th Forward Support Company's mission.

Spc. Marquis T. Benton, intelligence analyst, was awarded an AAM for his efforts during the annual training event, Vibrant Response 10.2, held at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center near North Vernon, Ind. in July.

“During Vibrant Response 10.2, Spc. Benton received his first exposure to TOC operations, showing tremendous enthusiasm and energy

in his skill set,” said Master Sgt. Timothy T. Griffith, intelligence non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC), 218th MEB. “Spc. Benton performed shift change meetings and challenged himself by conducting the meetings by memory, not using notes, always striving to exceed expectations of the task.”

Other awards included a certificate of achievement to Sgt. Jonathan L. Bridgeman, a 218th MEB operations sergeant, for his assistance to the brigade history program.

After the awards were received, Pvt. Joshua R. Blackwell, an administrative clerk for the personnel section, was promoted to private first class.

“He is a good, young Soldier who is deserving of this promotion,” said Sgt. 1st Class Annette R. Smith, the personnel NCOIC, 218th MEB.

After a round of applause for the promoted and award recipients, the drill day came to an end 

## BSB continued from page 4

System. Both systems are fully mobile, giving the company the ability to repair electronics and other maintenance issues anywhere it is needed.

Other maintenance equipment on display included the M984A1 wrecker. The vehicle can be used as a wrecker or a crane capable of lifting 10,000 pound objects and comes fully loaded with adaptors for different vehicles.

While B Co. was demonstrating its lifting abilities with a wrecker, the food service specialists from the 1118th Forward Support Co., located in Summerville, S.C., provided an operational display of the Containerized Kitchen Trailer. They supplied a hot meal of baked chicken, mashed potatoes and mixed vegetables for the 117 Soldiers who participated in the expo.

Not only was a hot meal provided but also clean drinking water from A Co., 218th BSB, from Walterboro, S.C. The company transported a Tactical Water Purification System, with capabilities to make 1,500 gallons per hour of purified water from such sources as Lake Thurmond.

“This is our first time setting up in cold weather,” said Staff Sgt. James E. Washington, a A Co. water section sergeant from.

To ensure the battalion had enough water, A Co. supplied a water supply tank container, referred to as the “hippo” by Soldiers. Spc. Ryan D. Wiley, a water treatment specialist from A Co., demonstrated how to operate the “hippo” to Col. Waymon B. Storey, the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade commander. This modern water tank has a heater to keep the 2,000 gallons

of water from freezing.

“A lot of people don’t understand what the 218th BSB brings to the operational picture,” said Storey. “The expo was a good comprehensive display of their capabilities.”

The final factor in the logistical education for the 218th BSB was communications. The 1052nd Transportation Co., from Kingstree, S.C., used tactical vehicles and the latest version of the Movement Tracking System to locate vehicles on the road. The 1052nd would then communicate with the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, who were stationed in the Tactical Operations Center (TOC) at the training center.

Personnel in the TOC combined several different communication systems to provide a Battle Command Sustainment Support System. The system allowed the command staff to have visibility of the locations of equipment and receive logistical reports from all units, while knowing the combat power of the 218th BSB.

“Overall, the impact of the training gave all of the participating units a common operational picture of logistics,” said Wood.

After the Soldiers visited all the displays and participated in cross training and educating their peers, the training day ended. The next two days concluded the expo as the Soldiers continued logistics training and began packing the equipment in preparation for the return to their units and the next mission 

# January Soldier of the Month

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Kimberly D. Calkins  
218th MEB Public Affairs

CHARLESTON, S.C. – Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, is proud to announce Sgt. Janet R. Collins, signal support specialist, as “Soldier of the Month” for January.

The award, which was established by Capt. Robert “Trae” Redmond, HHC commander, is given to Soldiers based on the criteria of performance during drill to include initiative, attitude and dedication to duty. Non-commissioned officers nominate Soldiers and then vote on the final recipient.

“Sgt. Collins worked continuously Friday and Saturday in areas where she was trained and untrained, never had a bad attitude, and was always willing to help out within her section and other sections as well,” said Sgt. Maj. Richard E. Turner, brigade operations sergeant major, 218th MEB. “She had a ‘can do’ attitude 100 percent of the time.”

Collins received the award for going above and beyond the call of duty while preparing for the TOCEX, which took place during drill weekend, Jan. 7 - 9 



Sgt. Janet R. Collins, a signal support specialist, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, attaches a cover to a command post platform during the Tactical Operations Center Exercise (TOCEX) Jan. 7 through Jan. 9. Collins received the “Soldier of the Month” award for her dedication to duty during the TOCEX.



# 218th MEB Holds Soldier of the Year Board

Story by Sgt. Erica Knight  
108th Public Affairs Detachment

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB) held its annual Soldier of the Year and Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year boards on Jan. 8 at McCrady Training Center.

“Everyone performed admirably and professionally,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Kirkland, 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade Command Sergeant Major. “I hate to have to pick just two.”

Staff Sgt. James Washington, A Company, 218th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), won the 218th MEB NCO of the Year board and Sgt. Brett Kinsey, C Company, 4-118th Infantry, is the 218th MEB NCO of the Year Runner-up. Spc. Nathan Otto, C Company, 4-118th Infantry, won the 218th MEB Soldier of the Year board and Spc. Brian Taylor, 251st Area Support Medical Company, is the 218th MEB Soldier of the Year Runner-up.

“Going to the board is an experience and it motivates Soldiers,” said Kinsey. “It gives Soldiers in the brigade something to look forward to.”

Soldiers receive points based on their appearance, how they report to the board, how confident they are in reporting, and how they respond to questions during the board. Each board member asks the Soldiers a question then each board member gives points based on the accuracy of the answer. All questions are obtained from the Army Study Guide.



From left to right, Staff Sgt. James Washington, Spc. Brian Taylor, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Kirkland, Sgt. Brett Kinsey, Spc. Nathan Otto. (Courtesy photo)

“It felt good to be nominated by my peers at the company level to appear before the board,” said Washington. “I’m ecstatic to have made it this far and look forward to the opportunity to compete against others at the next level.”

Soldiers are nominated to compete at the company level board. Then each company sends one Soldier to the battalion board, if the unit has one, then on to the brigade competition.

“I took away a better understanding of the level of preparation that it takes to be successful as a soldier,” said Otto.

“We had a great turn out this year,” Kirkland said. “We’d like to see every Soldier strive to be selected.”

The State board will be held in February



By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Joel Burke  
218th MEB Chaplain

## The Case for Doing Good



The Bible says, “Now listen, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’ Why, do you not even know what will happen tomorrow? What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.’ ... ‘Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins.’” (James 3:13-15, 17, NIV).

We all have seen people doing good deeds. We describe a person who does good or acts good as a person who takes the high road, does the good thing, or makes a positive difference. The Bible gives positive examples of people who DO good things in life. One such example is the Good Samaritan. This story is found in Luke 10:25-37. The Jews despised the Samaritans. The Jewish people considered Samaritans unclean and would avoid them at all costs. Jesus tells a story of a Jewish man who travelled to Jericho. He was attacked by thieves and left for dead. Two

fellow Jews, one a priest and one a Levite, passed his by and did not help him. But the Samaritan, who was hated by the Jews, helped the man with a generous amount of help. He healed his wounds, paid for him a place to stay and took care of him. The Samaritan DID a good thing. Jesus said as he concluded this parable, “Go and do likewise.” (Luke 10:37, NIV)

Most of us know what doing good looks like. God would have us to do what we know is good as we relate to each other.

James then gives us three things that help us establish the case for doing good. First, we should do good deeds because life is short. We are all given a brief span of years to do the good things we were created to do. The length of one’s life is not as important as the quality of that life. A life spent in selfish pursuits, will result in a life full of disappointments. In the end of life no one says, I wish I had made more money. The legacy we leave is not in dollars and cents but in what we have done to make the world and others better.

Secondly, doing good things is the will of God. James reminds us to caveat all our planning with an acknowledgement that God is in control and his will prevails. That conviction will cause us to stop and think about life differently. We will realize the blessings of life truly come from God and seeking to do his will is the goal.

Third, failing to do what we know is good is sin. Of course, all of us should seek to avoid sin.

Often we think of sin as what we do, and there is truth in that. James, however, reminds that we can sin by not doing the good we know we should do. Doing good things is a standard of living we all should embrace.

Too many people think that good living is not doing things. People say, “I don’t drink, cheat on my spouse, lie, steal and so forth. I must be good.” When in reality that does not necessarily make you good, it just means you have not engaged in some bad behavior. To truly be good we must go beyond simply not engaging in bad behavior. We must add to that doing good things. Think about what you should be doing with your opportunities and do the good you can. You will find that this will enhance your life and the lives of all you touch

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