

GEORGIA GUARDSMAN



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

Q3 / 2019



Welcome Home 48th

The brigade returns from nine-month deployment

& Agile Spirit 2019

Georgia Guardsmen participate in multinational exercise

PLUS: DISRUPTING CANCER | MILITARY APPRECIATION GAMES | AND SO MUCH MORE

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GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD

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AGILEST





PIRIT 19

STORY BY: SPC. TORI MILLER | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE | GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Georgia Army National Guardsmen with the Monroe-based 178th Military Police Company deployed to the country of Georgia in support of Agile Spirit 19 on July 23, 2019 from Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta, Georgia.

Agile Spirit was a multinational exercise which was cooperatively planned by the Georgia Defense Forces and co-led by the U.S. European Command. It was a culminating training event for European rotational forces.

“The exercise gets many of our young Soldiers out of their comfort zone and into the mindset of a deployment,” said Capt. Charles Follin, company commander, 178th Military Police Company. “This assists in the plan out procedures, maneuvers and accomplishing the mission essential task list.”

Approximately 3,300 military personnel represented 14 countries during AGS. The host nation, Georgia, welcomed their partners for this exercise by hosting dual opening ceremonies at Senaki Air Base and the Vaziani Training Area. The exercise ran from July 27 to Aug. 9, 2019.

AGS is conducted every other year and is part of U.S.

European Command’s Joint Exercise Program. The purpose of the exercise is to increase interoperability among participating nations’ militaries and strengthening regional security cooperation. AGS is on its eighth iteration.

During the opening ceremony at Senaki, Lt. Gen. Vladimer Chachibaia, Chief of Georgian Defense Force and Brig. Gen. Randall Simmons, Commanding General of the Georgia Army National Guard, spoke of the success of Agile Spirit. Chachibaia enthusiastically spoke about the country of Georgia’s continuous support to their partners including their partnership with the state of Georgia through the State Partnership Program.

“The State Partnership Program is one of the greatest achievements from our command,” said Chachibaia. “We have practical support, exchanges, advising and this cooperation will continue as long as our two countries exist.”

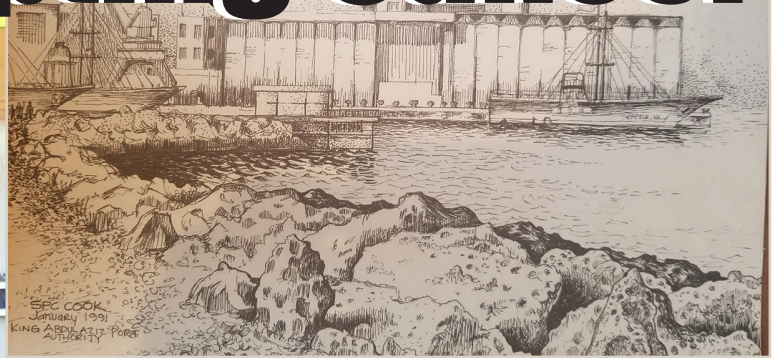
Military personnel participating in AGS conducted live fire, mounted and unmounted training exercises, as well as realistic field training exercises. This exercise prepared personnel on a full spectrum of challenges. Agile Spirit is aimed at improving multinational cooperation and coordination.

“Whether you have trained here before or this is your country’s first Agile Spirit, your presence here demonstrates your country’s resolve to support peace and stability in this region and the world,” said Simmons. “Through tough and realistic live-fire and field training exercises we will prove our collective readiness and lethality as a multinational force.”



PHOTOS BY: SGT 1ST CLASS ROBERT LANNOM, SPC. TORI MILLER & SPC. ISAIAH MATTHEWS

Disrupting Cancer



Master Sergeant Cook was diagnosed with a grade four glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) cancerous tumor and given no more than eighteen months to live.

Today, Cook is using one of the latest advances in the fight against cancer to not only stay alive past this November, but to look at life in a whole new way. The award-winning architectural illustrator and Desert Storm veteran's client roster included country legend Kenny Rogers, investors for the proposed Trump Towers building in Atlanta, and a host of multi-million-dollar project owners from Beijing to Mecca. His current focus however is using old parts from his cancer treating device to – create a new body of art – within his home arts studio in Smyrna, Georgia.

After undergoing a six-hour surgery, radiation, a year's worth of chemotherapy, and an aggressive chemical trial, Cook is using old pieces of a cell-scrambling device to show the similarities between bodies and buildings – how they are created, how they crumble, and how they are restored.

Cook's basement, generously renovated into an arts studio by military and civilian volunteers, houses a lifetime of drawings and is designed to inspire his next chapter of work and life.

Cook was considered artistically gifted from a very early age; however, raised in a small Alabama town, people thought that his tireless focus on drawing, coupled with

profuse stuttering, was a sign of low intelligence. Other than professional renderings, he kept his artistic talent hidden, until now.

With the encouragement of his military commander and his neuro-oncologist, Cook has gone back to fine art as therapy to, "as he says," Jedi-mind-trick cancer. Cancer gave him the courage to not only lean into his gift but to confidently share it with others.

Since the beginning of the year, dozens of people, including a brigadier general from the Pentagon and fellow cancer patients, have visited his studio. Some leave in tears; some, inspired. Almost all leave in awe of his boundless energy and optimism.

Cook wants more people to get busy living no matter how much time they think they have. It took more than fifty years and a military career that took him all around the world to return to his first love, art. He wants others to find their path and start running.

Cook is a member of the 116th Civil Engineer Squadron, 116th Air Control Wing, Georgia Air National Guard.

STORY & PHOTOS COURTESY OF VAL PORTER-COOK & MAJ. PAMELA STAUFFER

221st EMIB Change of Command Ceremony

STORY BY: MAJ. WILLIAM CARRAWAY | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE | GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Burton assumed command of the Georgia Army National Guard's 221st Expeditionary Military Intelligence Battalion from Lt. Col. John Fuchko during a ceremony at Fort Gillem Saturday July 13, 2019. Brigadier General Thomas Blackstock, commander of the Marietta-based 78th Troop Command, presided over the ceremony.

"Thank you for being here today as we celebrate the change of command between two fine warrior



leaders," said Blackstock. "I deeply appreciate the steady outstanding leadership you have provided to this battalion and in other assignments."

Burton assumes command following a term as executive officer of the 78th TC. After commissioning as a second lieutenant in 2003 from the Georgia Military Institute's Officer Candidate School, Burton served in a wide variety of positions and deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan. He served previously in the 221st EMIB as its administrative officer. Fuchko will assume Burton's former duties with the Ellenwood-based brigade.

In his remarks following the assumption of command, Burton thanked Fuchko for his support and recognized senior leaders for entrusting him with the command.

"It is my honor to assume command of this battalion," said Burton. "I will not let you down."

Burton noted that his family is very familiar with the 221st. In addition to his experience, Burton explained that his wife Venus Burton had also served as a platoon leader in the 221st.

In recognition of his service as commander of the 221st EMIB, Fuchko received the Meritorious Service Medal from Blackstock who also presented Fuchko's wife Sherie with the Georgia Commendation Medal. Addressing the Black Knights of the 221st MI Battalion for the last time as commander, Fuchko thanked Blackstock for the opportunity of command and praised his Soldiers, family members, commanders and staff.

"I had an incredible group of leaders supported by phenomenal staff," said Fuchko. "I can't tell you the number of times I have heard from leaders both in state and outside who speak highly of what you do."

Fuchko concluded his remarks by introducing the incoming commander to the assembled Soldiers of the 221st EMIB.

"He is a strong confident quiet leader, said Fuchko. "I can't think of a better person to assume command."

Organized in 1998, the 221st EMIB has deployed as a battalion to Iraq in 2003 and 2005. Units and teams from the 221st EMIB have deployed multiple times to Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo. Most recently, Soldiers of the 221st EMIB supported efforts during Operation Inherent Resolve and provided personnel in support of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's deployment to Afghanistan in January 2019.

Professional Development

REVIEWS OF BOOKS THAT TEACH US ABOUT OUR CRAFT

Story by: Maj. William Carraway | Public Affairs Office | Georgia Army National Guard

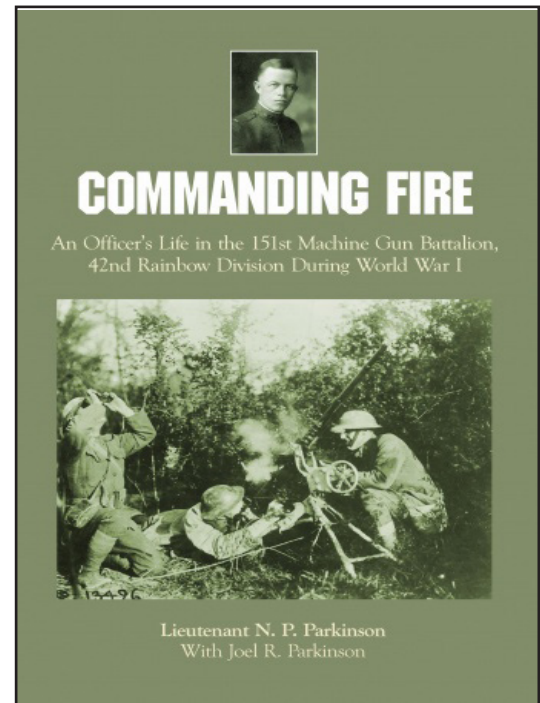
Any given week, I receive requests for recommended reading on various historical subjects. A typical inquiry follows the theme of “what is the best book to read on X.” On the one hand, these inquiries strike me as being akin to asking a doctor what the best food is to lose weight, or asking what single exercise will improve performance on the Army Combat Fitness Test. In reality, there is no one work on any historical subject that will shed the definitive light. Rather, as one pursues historical knowledge, one finds that the more one reads, the more one wants to know.

Regardless, whereas it may be impossible to recommend a single work on subjects of history, I may share an annotated bibliography of sources that have proven useful and relevant to pursuit of knowledge on subjects of history relevant to the Georgia Guard. In this edition, I will offer reading resources pertinent to study of the Georgia Guard in World War I.

Parkinson, N. P., and Parkinson, Joel R. *Commanding Fire: An Officers Life in the 151st Machine Gun Battalion, 42nd Rainbow Division during World War I*. Atglen, PA: Schiffer Pub., 2013.

This work features the World War I correspondence and diary of Pennsylvania National Guard 1st Lt. N. P. Parkinson, Company D, 151st MGB. Parkinson and Company D were attached to the Georgia National Guard companies of the 151st MGB in the spring of 1918 and accompanied the unit through its major actions.

American Battle Monuments Commission. *American Armies and Battlefields in Europe: A History, Guide, and Reference Book*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. G.P.O., 1938. Available online or in print from the Center for Military History, chapter VII of this publication is devoted to American operations on the Vosges Front which encompassed the Luneville and Baccarat sectors in which the Georgia Army National Guard's 151st MGB first entered the trenches. The remaining chapters of the book provide a general overview of World War I for general audiences.



Frazer, Nimrod Thompson. *Send the Alabamians: World War I Fighters in the Rainbow Division*. S.I.: University of Alabama Press, 2014.

This book offers an examination of the actions of the 42nd Division in World War I with particular focus on the Alabama troops of the 167th Infantry Regiment which, with the 168th Infantry Regiment and 151st MGB, formed the 84th Brigade. The 151st MGB supported the 167th in many of its actions, notably at Croix Rouge Farm and operations against the Ourcq River line in July 1918.

Harris, Charles and Sadler, Louis. *The Great Call Up*. Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, Norman Publishing Division, 2015.

This work examines the mobilization of National Guard units to the Mexican Border in 1916 in detail. It is worth observing as one reads about the challenges of equipping, training, mobilizing and demobilizing the National Guard that this was the first large-scale mobilization in the 18 years since the Spanish American War.

165th Air Support Operation Squadron Hurricane Response



“Anyone can use a radio, but having guys who are able to set-up and fix radios of all different frequencies and then operate them in austere conditions is just one of the many things we do best,” said Lt. Col. Timothy Scariano, commander of the 165th Air Support Operations Squadron.

“If you put my guys out on Tybee Island after a major hurricane pummels through the area, they would be right at home,” Scariano said.

During natural disasters, such as hurricanes or in some cases even ice storms, tactical air control party and joint terminal attack controllers can provide command and control capabilities that allow them to establish long-haul radio communications with first responders from hard-to-reach areas so the proper resources and medical care can be delivered as quickly as possible.

“We bridge the gap between military and civilian law enforcement communications,” Scariano said. “For example, if we have civilian first responders trying to communicate with a National Guard Black Hawk helicopter to coordinate a medical evacuation, we can band their frequencies with ours to create an effective and functional communication line for everyone involved.”

Scariano, a former F-16 pilot, has over 8 years of experience leading special warfare units like the 165th ASOS and said that the unique skills and abilities of these Airmen are some of the most demanding, and in his opinion, one of the most impactful in the entire U.S. military.

The communication equipment located inside of their Humvees, a Battlefield Airman System of Integrated Communications (BASIC), is capable of operating on multiple frequencies including HF, UHF, VHF, FM and SATCOM radios all while being protected from harsh conditions in an armored vehicle.

“Not only do we have the BASIC suite that provides audio communication capabilities but in some cases we can stream visual data from air-to-ground which involves pilots sending visual imagery to TACPs on the ground to better assist with search and rescue efforts” said Senior Master Sgt. Eric Rideaux, the superintendent for the 165th ASOS.

Special Warfare Airmen, which includes TACPs and JTACs, must complete over two years of physically and mentally demanding training to learn and master all aspects of their career field prior to being sent back to their units to undergo extensive on-the-

job training and finally sent into a real-world scenario with a certified and experienced inspector for their final “check-ride.”

Scariano explained that the attributes of such highly-trained Airmen, along with the resources an ASOS has in the Air National Guard, make the 165th ASOS a very valuable asset for the state of Georgia to call on for natural disaster response.

When activated, 165th ASOS Airmen, even those who are junior enlisted, are placed in positions that carry a heavy amount of responsibility because they report to and advise joint force commanders as the subject-matter experts of all things TACP and JTAC, Scariano said.

“The margin of error in this career field is razor thin,” said Scariano, “There is no room for error and that is why we hold these Airmen to such a high-level of professionalism and set such high expectations.”

“On the domestic operations side of our mission, our skill sets can be applied in a similar ways as downrange, but different at the same time,” Scariano said, “Regardless, our focus is always saving lives and protecting lives and assets on the battlefield or here at home.”

If activated to support national disaster relief efforts, these Airmen would be relied upon to provide functioning communication lines for first responders, but also assist with search and rescue operations, preservation of property, protection of life, public safety, and maintenance of vital public services.

The 165th ASOS has previously played a vital role in search and rescue efforts including the response efforts following Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and after the severe ice storms in northern and eastern Georgia in February of 2014.

The unit continues to participate in annual training exercises to ensure their Airmen remain masters of their trade. This enforces a continued education and job experience so they are always ready to provide top-tier support here at home and overseas.

Despite the Airmen of the 165th ASOS often working behind-the-scenes, due to the high demand for their support overseas, they are well-equipped and ready to serve in domestic operations.

Their skill-set might be the much needed “secret weapon” when it comes to effectively establishing functional communication lines for our first responders at home in response to a natural disaster.

**STORY & PHOTOS BY: STAFF SGT. CAILA ARAHOOD |
165TH AIR LIFT WING | GEORGIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD**



Breaking Language Barriers



STORY BY: SPC. TORI MILLER | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE | GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
PHOTOS BY: SPC. TORI MILLER & SPC. ISAIAH MATTHEWS



Since 2004, Revaz Tchirakadze, or “Ray” as U.S. Soldiers know him, has served as a critical component between the Georgian and U.S. Armed Forces as a military interpreter.

“All of my life I wanted to become a soldier, but unfortunately that didn’t work out,” said Ray. “As an interpreter I am always trying to be a cultural ambassador of my country. In any mission I am in, Soldiers and the Army come first of course, but hospitality is a backbone for Georgian culture as well.”

Ray became an interpreter while a university student in 2004. At the time, the Georgian Defense Force and U.S. Army were conducting joint training and were offering multi-lingual students contract positions as interpreters. Over the next four years, Ray worked full-time as a military interpreter.

“To be selected for this job there is a chain of interviews that the companies conduct,” said Ray. “The interviews and training consist of basic language skills and military knowledge, but it isn’t difficult if you are confident in your knowledge of the language and practice.”

Ray is a native of the country of Georgia and is proficient in Georgian, Russian and English. He believes that the best training he has received has come from his

experiences with the Georgian Defense Force and other military forces that he has had the opportunity to work with.

“Any time I have an opportunity to stand with the Georgian Defense Force and the U.S. Army, I will do it, I will commit to it,” he said.

During the Russian- Georgian conflict of 2008, Ray

worked as an interpreter between U.S. Special Forces and Georgian Special Forces in a joint training exercise in preparation for Georgian deployment to Afghanistan.

“At the end of one of the training days, we all went back to the barracks and in the morning, we

woke up to a war,” said Ray. “It was shocking because our U.S. counterparts and the interpreters woke up and the Georgian Special Forces were gone.”

Ray said, the situation was initially very chaotic for everyone when the war began.

“Being an interpreter during that time helped me a lot, psychologically,” said Ray. “Maybe I wasn’t in a uniform, but at least I could help Georgia with the assistance of the U.S. Soldiers who were here during that time.”

After the resolution of the Russo-Georgian conflict in 2008, Ray left working as an interpreter full-time and began working for a security company in Tbilisi, Georgia. He continues to work as a contracted military interpreter part-time. Companies contact interpreters like Ray and contract them based upon the needs of the military’s trainings and each interpreters experience.

Ray believes that being an interpreter is critical for the Soldiers in conflict because a single word can be the difference between life and death for Georgians or other military forces involved.

“This job does not tolerate mistakes,” he said. “I’ve been with Georgian units that train for pre-

deployment training for Afghanistan and any mis-interpretation can decide someone’s life. It is critical.”

Ray worked as an interpreter for the public affairs office during Agile Spirit 19, a multi-national exercise held in Georgia. Ray was one of approximately 50 interpreters that were contracted during Agile Spirit 19 to serve at three training areas; Vaziani Training Area, Senaki Air Base and Orpholo Training Area. These interpreters were critical for communication between the 14 countries represented at Agile Spirit 19.

“Having the language barrier and having the interpreters available helped Soldiers from the 178th complete their job,” said Spc. Joshua Santos, Military Policeman with the Monroe-based 178th Military Police Company, Georgia Army National Guard. “Using the interpreters at Agile Spirit has helped prepare our Soldiers and Georgian Soldiers for future missions. It gave everyone the opportunity to understand how to communicate so we could convey our message properly and correctly.”

For Ray, working in the PAO was different than his typical contracted job. He helped Soldiers in the office translate interviews and interactions with other countries’ Soldiers.

Ray stated that he has seen a drastic change in the capabilities of his native country since he began working as an interpreter in 2004.

“No one could’ve dreamed of the capabilities and the support that the U.S. Army has given us,” said Ray. “The machinery that was involved in Agile Spirit 19 was something that we, as Georgians, used to only see in movies and now it’s a reality. This success was not only because of the U.S. support, but the other nations involved in this exercise.”

The country of Georgia and the Georgia National Guard celebrate 25 years in the State Partnership Program this year. For the Georgian Defense Force, this partnership has been critical in their growth and strategic capabilities.

“As a country, the partnership is very essential,” Ray said. “In terms of democracy, freedom, strategies and such, the State Partnership Program is very good.”

“Maybe I wasn’t in a uniform, but at least I could help Georgia with the assistance of the U.S. Soldiers who were here during that time.”



Fallen Soldiers Honored and Remembered in France

STORY BY Maj. William Carraway & PHOTOS COURTESY OF Nathanlie Robillard



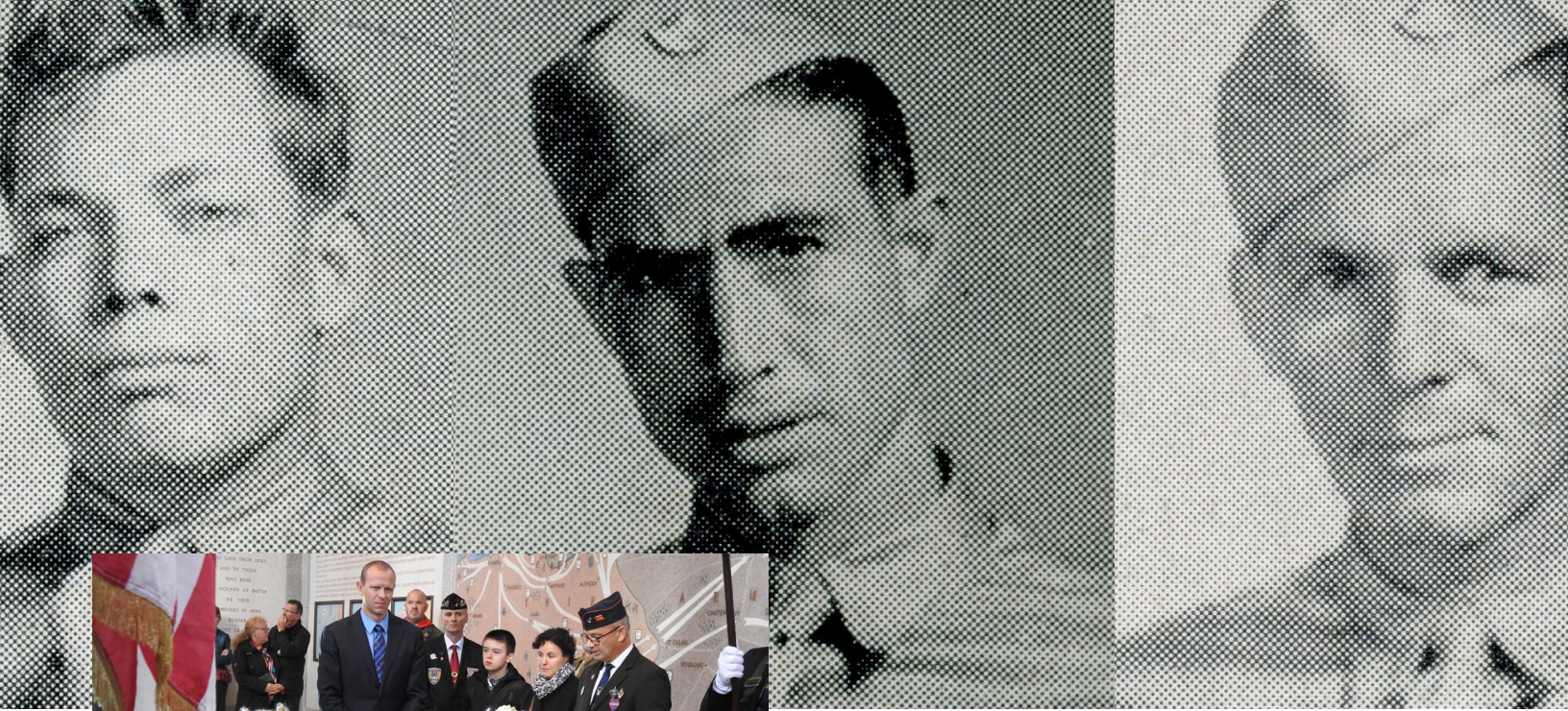
In August 1944, the 121st Infantry Regiment of the Georgia National Guard swept into Brittany, France. By September, the 121st, as part of the 8th Infantry Division, had captured the fortified port city of Brest France and eliminated German resistance on the Crozon Peninsula. Seventy-five years later, during a ceremony at the Brittany American Cemetery in Montjoie St. Martin, French citizens and veterans remembered the fallen Soldiers of the 121st and other American Soldiers who fell during the Normandy and Brittany campaigns.

“We have a duty to remember,” said Jean Francois Pellouais, master of ceremonies who has arranged tributes to the fallen since 2011. “I take part and organize these tributes

to promote the duty of memory so that these young men do not return to the shadow of history.”

Citizens and representatives of eleven veteran and civic associations gathered in the Chapel of the Brittany American Cemetery on a rainy Sunday morning for the commemoration ceremony. Inside the chapel, flanked by color bearers of French patriotic associations, were the images of fallen servicemembers. Among those honored were Pfc. Elbert B. Griffin, Pvt. John T. Taggart, and Pfc. William P. Grey of the 121st Infantry Regiment who fell in Brittany.

Pellouais opened the ceremony with introductory comments before reading a poem that had been provided for the occasion by Yuri Beckers of



Holland. The poem, titled “We Must Remember,” was written in tribute to the 9th Infantry Division Soldiers and all those who reside at the Brittany American Cemetery.

Among those participating in the wreath laying ceremony was Capt. Dan Nichols of the Georgia Army National Guard. Nichols was attending school in the United Kingdom when he learned of the commemoration.

“To be a part of the ceremony was an honor, said Nichols. “This is my second time witnessing the gratitude of the French people for the American sacrifice in World War II, and it is genuine.”

A solemn procession of citizens came forward following the wreath-laying to place roses in remembrance of the nearly 5,000 fallen and missing American Soldiers who are memorialized in the 28-acre Cemetery. Among those was five-year old Violette who joined Nichols in the laying of a rose. Following a moment of silence, the somber notes of Taps filled the chapel as the French associations’ colors dipped in salute.

The ceremony continued on the cemetery grounds as the citizens placed roses on the graves of fallen service members. In addition to rendering honors to the fallen Soldiers of the 121st Infantry, the ceremony attendees observed the placement of a rose and minute of silence

at the graves of MC1 Richard Neil Johnson, Pvt. Charles P. Rock, Pfc. Roland Vanderkerkove and Pvt. Harvey E. Hyllested. The final visit was to the grave of an unknown American Soldier, where honors were rendered on behalf of all of the fallen.

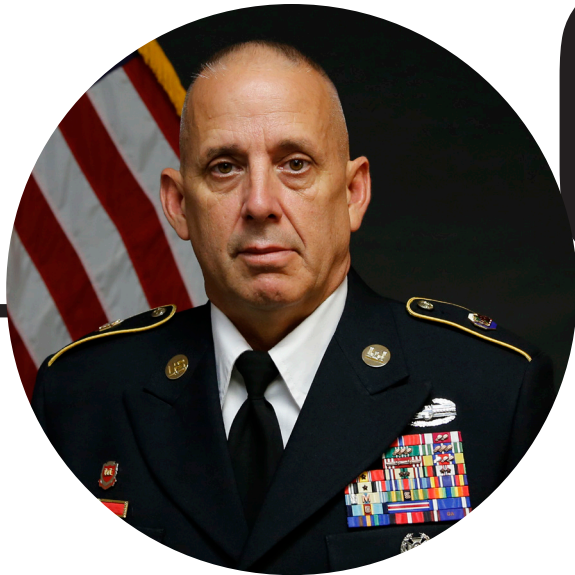
The ceremony concluded with words of thanks from Pellouais to David W. Bedford, superintendent of the Brittany American Cemetery in which Pellouais offered final words of gratitude and “a last gesture of Franco-American friendship towards these young soldiers who are resting for the eternity for one word: ‘Freedom.’”

Nichols summed up his experience at the memorial with an expression of gratitude to those who had arranged the ceremony and invited him to attend.

“There are no requirements, or quid pro quo for the French veterans and citizens who perform these memorials,” observed Nichols. “They ask for nothing, and quite often no Americans are present. Yet they do them anyway. Their children and grandchildren do them. It is out a sense of honor that they remember the sacrifice of our Soldiers, and it was an honor for me to share this moment with them.”

Pellouais had a special message for the members of the Georgia National Guard.

“I wish to say that the French, young or old, humble and respectful, are bearers of your story,” said Pellouais. “We evoke the sacrifice of the soldiers of the National Guard of Georgia whose blood has mingled, like thousands of other GI’s, with the soil of our land to give liberty to our parents, to France but especially to the whole world. Long live the Franco-American friendship that has united our two countries since Lafayette.”



QA & NCO

What do you think is the most desirable quality about joining Georgia Army National Guard for the younger generation? What unique qualities do Georgia Army National Guardsmen bring to the fight?

The Georgia Army National Guard has so much to offer our young Soldiers, most importantly I would say it's the benefits. Educational benefits for our Guardsmen are amazing, Soldiers can go to college at no cost. The National Guard offers Tricare Reserve Select, which is a health insurance created for Guardsmen. Tricare Reserve Select is as good as any other health insurance on the civilian market and normally cost half as much.

A Soldier in the Georgia Army National Guard has a different civilian career than their Army career which allows them to see things differently and fresh every drill weekend. This helps to bring another level of knowledge and perspective to the fight.

What goals do you have for the Georgia Army National Guard?

The Georgia Army National Guard is already an incredible organization. I want to continue the great success it has had and ensure that I shape things now that will affect the future of the Georgia Army Guard. We never know what the future missions hold, but I want to plan for now and years down the road so that the Georgia Army National Guard is ready for whatever it may face.

What goals do you have for yourself while serving as the senior enlisted leader of the Georgia Army National Guard?

My goal to always stay in tune with the current force and our Soldiers. When making decisions, I have to think how it will affect down to the lowest ranking Soldier in our formation. Each Soldier joined the Army National Guard for a different reason. It is really important to me that each Soldier gets the opportunity to fulfill their dreams in the Georgia Army National Guard. Soldiers should enjoy coming to drill and, if they don't, it is my goal to figure out why and how I can change that.

As the Georgia Army National Guard senior enlisted leader, how best can our NCOs prepare for the future of the Georgia Army National Guard?

Leading by example with integrity and a real desire to help develop Soldiers is the cornerstone of being an NCO or the "backbone" of the Army. Being an NCO cannot be taken lightly and continuing education at all levels is a must. To thrive now and in the future our NCOs have to be trusted to lead our Soldiers, while making corrections and decisions in an ever-changing environment. A lot of which is taught at our military schools which makes it pivotal for our NCOs to complete their levels of military schools. The future of the Georgia National Guard is fundamental and fit.

Who has influenced you most throughout your career? What do you attribute to your success as a senior leader?

I truly believe my wife is the one who really influenced me from the very beginning of my career in the National Guard. Though she has never served as a Soldier, she has supported every decision I have made. I feel as though she truly serves beside me. Our family members not only help us grown personally, they have a great ability to help make us who we are in the military.

Professionally, I have had the opportunity to work with a range of dynamic leaders, both commissioned and noncommissioned officers. Each led me differently but with one thing in common: they set me up for success throughout my career.

NOTEPAD



What goals do you have for the enlisted force in the Georgia Air National Guard?

The more unified we are, the stronger we are, so I'd like to see that amongst all Georgia Air National Guard units. Also, I'll continue to promote education and professional development of the enlisted corps, and focus on producing competitive Airmen to lead the Air National Guard into the future at the unit, state and national levels.

What unique qualities do Georgia National Guardsmen bring to the fight?

Air National Guardsmen look at issues and solve problems from a different perspective than Active Duty Airmen. Members of the National Guard often serve and have a thriving civilian career at the same time which brings ingenuity and diversity of thought to the team. It allows them to adapt very well to the rapidly changing environment.

What are your day-to-day tasks as the Command Chief of the Georgia Air National Guard?

On regular day, I provide input and oversight on enlisted matters that cross the desk of the commanding general and the director of staff, but just like most of us, things come up spur of the moment that require me to shift focus. It comes down to balancing on-demand tasks with what is on the general's calendar that requires my input. More specifically, I handle anything pertaining to enlisted promotions, recognition programs, manpower changes, such as the technician to Active Guard Reserve transition, status of discipline, tour approval, and policies and procedures requiring higher-level review. I also frequently deal with force management for the 116th Air Control Wing, the 165th Airlift Wing, the Air Dominance Center, and our six associated units.

What do you think is the most desirable quality about joining the Georgia Air National Guard for the younger generation?

Looking at the data as to why the younger generation join the Air or Army National Guard, it's the ability to tailor their military experience. Yes, we have a standard requirement to deploy and serve the state, but with many helpful programs like Georgia's Service Cancelable Loan program, anyone who serves can get their college tuition paid. So you can earn a degree and use what you have learned at school to enhance your job and visa versa. On a related note, another great benefit of joining is that members who have deployed receive education benefits under the Post 9-11 GI Bill that they can use or transfer to their spouse and/or children.

How can enlisted members best prepare to meet the challenges of the future in the Georgia Air National Guard?

The best approach to successfully overcoming the challenges of the future, for the most part, is the same as years past. Set personal and professional goals but maintain flexibility so that you can take advantage of opportunities that come your way. However, we are not serving in the same Air Guard that I joined 29 years ago in the sense that the mission and requirements of the Air Guard have significantly ramped up. I think they will continue to increase because the National Guard is no longer a "Ready Reserve" force. Airmen in the National Guard and Reserves are functioning at the "tip of the spear" in many cases. Our Airmen in Georgia are providing an increasingly important and unique capability to the American military machine with a diverse reservoir of knowledge and experience. That special talent is being brought to bear in the fight to secure democracy across the globe.



Georgia Guard Unit Makes History with a Unique Mission

The Georgia Army National Guard's 161st Military History Detachment (MHD) completed a nine-month deployment to document history as it happened in the Atlantic Resolve mission.

Atlantic Resolve brings U.S. units to Europe to build readiness, increase interoperability and enhance the bond between ally and partner militaries through multinational training.

The team of three Soldiers from the 78th Troop Command in Marietta spent the better part of the year throughout Europe working on behalf of the U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH) and U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR). They returned home Oct. 17.

The team was strategically assembled several months before mobilizing, with Georgia Guard leadership hand-selecting two enlisted public affairs professionals and an officer with a strong background in history. To prepare, they trained during drill weekends and attended the Military History Detachment course in Fort Dix, New Jersey.

"We had ample opportunity to learn about each other, identify strengths and weaknesses, and to rehearse some aspects of our mission," said Capt. Bryant

Wine, the officer in charge of the 161st MHD during the deployment. "By the time the deployment started, we were already gelled as a team and devoted our attention to the mission at hand."

The primary mission was to document modern history as it happened, including the recording of 305 oral history interviews with service members supporting Atlantic Resolve. The interview subjects ranged from junior enlisted Soldiers at the platoon level through senior leaders in command of battalions and brigades in the theater.

"We conducted a lot of interviews with people that make decisions at the strategic level," said Staff Sgt. Amy King, the senior noncommissioned officer of the detachment.

The team collected interviews in Germany and forward-deployed to nine locations in Poland and the country of Georgia. Members archived more than 50 gigabytes of documents, photos, operations orders and other materials into the massive digital archive at CMH.

While in the country of Georgia, the detachment reunited with fellow Georgia Guard members during the Agile Spirit exercise, which marked the 25th anniversary of the State Partnership Program between



the state and country of Georgia.

“My favorite interview was Mamuka Gogiditze, the Georgian military historian,” said King. “I had no idea what he was saying before his words were translated, but so much communication is nonverbal.”

The 161st Military History Detachment is one of seven National Guard MHDs in the program. There are 38 MHDs, most of them comprised of Army Reserve units.

“The MHDs are the historical tip of the spear, so to speak, as they collect the operational data for the U.S. Army,” said Col. Craig Mix, the CMH chief of military programs.

The 161st MHD was the second history detachment to cover the Atlantic Resolve mission. Some of the detachment’s challenges came from arriving as a small, unknown unit consisting of a company grade officer and two noncommissioned officers and having to integrate into a theater-level organization commanded by a three-star general.

“We experienced a lot of growing pains, having to learn on the fly,” said Wine. “Our mission was relatively new to the theater and we were Guardsmen working with mostly active-duty Soldiers.”

While the learning curve was steep, the detachment succeeded by building relationships, establishing new processes and educating leaders about the importance of the history collection mission. Wine found that overcoming the adversity was the most rewarding aspect of the detachment’s mission.

“Seeing the personal growth of myself and the other Soldiers of the detachment ... we all had to rise to the mission itself and these newfound responsibilities,” said Wine.

Before the deployment, Wine taught full-time as a

history teacher at Johns Creek High School in Fulton County, Ga.

“As a teacher, I instruct students about methods of writing history,” said Wine. “Through this deployment, I was actively part of the historical process. As a result, I can return to the classroom with real-life examples to articulate the concepts I teach.”

The Soldiers of the 161st MHD now return to their civilian lives and continue to drill as traditional Georgia Guard members. The unit will likely be called upon again to deploy and collect historic data for another theater-level command.

“The fact that we now have experienced Soldiers which we didn’t have before this mission is definitely going to make the next mission more successful and easier to accomplish,” said Wine. “It may not be the same individuals that go on deployment, but we have people that can explain how to do the mission so the next deployment will be even more successful.”

The efforts of the team were recognized in late September when the Soldiers were awarded Army Commendation Medals by senior leaders of USAREUR.

“We are really proud of the outstanding work the MHD accomplished in support of the USAREUR mission,” said Maj. Gen. Joe Jarrard, USAREUR deputy commanding general for Army National Guard, and former adjutant general of the Georgia National Guard. “Their accomplishments will benefit our organization and the Army in telling our story for years to come.”

**STORY BY: MAJ. CHARLES EMMONS | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE | GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
PHOTOS COURTESY OF 161 MILITARY HISTORY DETACHMENT**



190TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY INACTIVATION

The Kennesaw-based 190th Military Police Company was inactivated during a ceremony at the Kennesaw Armory on Sept. 17, 2019.

“It feels like a part of the family is leaving the Georgia National Guard,” said Command Sgt. Maj. James Scott, Command Sgt. Maj. of the 170th Military Police Battalion. “When there were only two MP companies in the state, the 190th and the 178th, the 190th was the closest to Atlanta and would get called upon more often than not.”

The 190th MP Company was originally organized in March 1924 in Atlanta as Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion and Company C, 200th Infantry Regiment. Throughout their time in the Georgia National Guard, the 190th MP Company has been headquartered in multiple locations, until landing in Kennesaw in 1997.

In September 1990, the 190th MP Company mobilized to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in support of Operation



Desert Shield/Storm. Guardsmen provided security support and served as a quick reaction force until their return in April 1991. The company also mobilized to Afghanistan in January 2010, providing security and support at Bagram Air Base. The unit has provided support during hurricane recovery missions such as Katrina, Matthew, Irma and Michael.

“The military police motto is to serve, protect and defend,” said Lt. Col. Copeland Rowell, battalion commander of the 170th Military Police Battalion. “It is apparent through the 190th MP Company’s historic lineage, that they have done just that.”

In 2019 the 190th MP Company celebrated 95 years of selfless service and dedication to the Georgia National Guard.

“The history of the 190th MP Company will live on through the people that are here today, and the alumna in the Georgia Army National Guard,” said Scott. “I will keep the guidon for safe keeping, until such time that it can be reconstituted.”

**STORY & PHOTOS BY: SPC. TORI MILLER |
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE | GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD**



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THE HOME TEARS



PHOTOS BY: SGT. JORDAN TRENT & SGT. SHYE WILBORN



Return of the 48th Infantry Brigade Com

The last major movement of Soldiers from the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Georgia Army National Guard returned home Thursday, September 26th 2019, at Hunter Army Airfield Savannah, Georgia, following a 9-month long deployment to Afghanistan; the fourth deployment the Brigade has completed since September 11th, 2001.

The 48th IBCT deployed in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel and NATO Operation Resolute Support to train, advise, assist, accompany and enable their Afghan partners to develop a lasting security force in the region. The 48th also provided attached-infantry support to special operations units across the country and conducted base security.

"I'm personally tremendously proud of them, but the message I want to share with the families and the Soldiers

is that they should be proud of themselves," said Col. Matthew Smith, Commander of the 48th IBCT. "The reason I say that is because of the maturity of our Soldiers, their proficiency at their tasks, the additional skillsets they have, and the judgment they bring as a result of their maturity, we have a great organization."

Families watched from the bleachers as their Soldiers walked across Cottrell Field at Fort Stewart, Georgia during their welcome home ceremony following the Soldiers' return.

"Coming back home, taking a breath of fresh air and seeing green after so long seeing the desert is really nice," said Spc. Justin Johnson, an indirect-fire infantryman assigned to Co. C, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment. "Feeling safe, not having to worry about alarms going off or anything is a good feeling."



Combat Team

Johnson was originally assigned to the 1st Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, but volunteered to transfer to 1st Battalion while they continued the mission in Afghanistan after his unit redeployed in July.

“I feel like I am a much more capable Soldier than I was before,” said Johnson. “I know now what life is like on a deployment, so I can train people when I go back to my home unit. I feel like the opportunities I had to train and the schools I could go to during pre-mob really prepared me to be a better Soldier.”

Johnson says he looks forward to reintegrating with his family and returning to school.

“The experience that Soldiers got really rounded out our training,” said Sgt. Jake Tornow, a cavalry scout and personal security officer for 48th IBCB Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew Marks. “It wasn’t a simulated exercise. It was actually applying these Soldier skills.”

Tornow said his long-term goals include going to professional schools such as Pathfinder and Air Assault as he pursues a career as a Warrant Officer and branches into Aviation in the future.

“My short term goal is to reintegrate,” said Tornow. “It’s now been almost 2 years of really investing in the Georgia Guard and it’s time to invest back into my family. When I left my daughter was just over 3-months, now she’s walking and talking and waving and saying words. So it’s going to be a learning process reintegrating.”

ASSOCIATED UNITS PROGRAM

The 48th IBCB was selected for the Associated Units Program and has been partnered with the 3rd Infantry Division, headquartered at Fort Stewart, Georgia, since 2016. This was the first deployment the 48th Brigade has

completed under this partnership. The Associated Units Program partners active duty units with reserve component units to train together and ultimately build readiness and lethality across the force.

“The support we’ve received is fantastic under the AUP,” said Smith. “Had it not been for AUP, we would have mobilized out of Fort Bliss, McGregor Missile Range to be exact, with no weekends off or any of the other positives, whereas here, initially with Maj. Gen. Quintas’ team now Maj. Gen. Aguto’s team, we get treated like a regular (Brigade Combat Team) from the Army.”

Smith said, the 3rd Infantry Division holds the 48th IBCB to the same standards as the other brigades and has afforded the 48th with the positive aspects of being partnered with an active-duty division as well.

“There have been endless benefits to AUP from an individual Soldier standpoint and to our organization,” said Smith.

DEMOBILIZATION & REINTEGRATION

The 48th IBCB will continue to demobilize in Georgia through the end of 2019. Units will attend Yellow Ribbon events to learn about the reintegration process and programs Soldiers can use as they navigate coming home after serving on a combat-deployment overseas.

“I want everybody to be healthy mentally, emotionally and physically,” said Smith. “I want them to get the full treatment that they’ve earned and not rush it or cheat the process during demob. In terms of reintegration, I want them to realize that it’s a mission just like anything else and you have to be deliberate about it. You have to be diligent with it.”

The experiences the 48th Brigade gets from pre-mobilization, deployment, demobilization and reintegration makes it a more lethal formation and a more survivable formation, said Smith.

“We’ve been very lucky this deployment, but of course we make our own luck by doing good pre-combat checks, doing rehearsals and having good leaders” said Smith. “There were moments that were hair-raising, but I knew we had good leaders in place so it all turned out ok. I think the 48th Brigade is a combat multiplier for the nation because the Army knows that if they call us we were going to do a good job. It’s something to be proud of.”

STORY & PHOTO BY: SGT. JORDAN TRENT | 48th IBCB | GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Georgia State V. West Point Military Appreciation Game

STORY & PHOTOS BY: SPC. ISAAH MATTHEWS | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE | GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



The Meet Your Army Initiative arrived in Atlanta to support and foster a relationship with the public and the Georgia Army National Guard. The initiative began in 2017 in conjunction with local community leaders and Army personnel, the course of action was derived across 22 cities to engage the public in an effort to construct positive and fruitful relationships with the public and gain public support.

In accordance with the initiative, the Georgia State University versus Army West Point football game, at Georgia State Stadium, provided a prime opportunity to increase public exposure and Army presence. The event was filled with static displays and interactive activities that assisted in building and maintaining public relations. Atlanta has a large National Guard presence with armories and units positioned in the metro area.

During the halftime show, Georgia Army National Guardsmen and active duty Soldiers took the oath of enlistment to begin their careers in the military in front of hundreds of fans. The future Soldiers stood in a mass formation with their right arms raised awaiting to recite the oath. They were sworn in by Maj. Gen. Diana Holland, commanding general of U.S. Army Engineering Southern Command. Over 50 future Soldiers stood at attention and took the oath during the halftime show.



Georgia Southern V. Coastal Carolina Military Appreciation Game

**STORY & PHOTOS BY: SPC. TORI MILLER | PUBLIC AFFAIRS
OFFICE | GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD**



Georgia Southern University hosted their annual military appreciation game in partnership with the Georgia National Guard at Allen E. Paulson Stadium on Oct. 19, 2019.

Soldiers of the Georgia Southern Detachment and the Georgia Southern ROTC program participated in select ceremonies and activities before, during and after the game. Brigadier General Randall Simmons, Commanding General of the Georgia Army National Guard attended a contracting ceremony. This ceremony featured future active duty Soldiers and Georgia Guardsmen taking their oath of office. This ceremony also featured recruiting from other branches of the military.

Georgia Southern University played an exciting, rain-soaked game versus Coastal Carolina. Brig. Gen. Simmons and Brig. Gen. Thomas Grabowski, Assistant Adjutant General – Air Guard, met with Soldiers, Airmen and Cadets during the football game. Guardsmen passed out Georgia National Guard memorabilia and took pictures with fans and mascots. With every touch down, Georgia Guardsmen fired the canon in celebration. Georgia Southern won in a nail-biting overtime.



AROUND THE GEORGIA GUARD



HURRICANE DORIAN RESPONSE

Georgia National Guardsman, Maj. Gen. Thomas Carden, the Adjutant General of the Georgia Department of Defense and Maj. Gen. John King, commander of Task Force-51, Army North's contingency command post welcomes Army Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) commanding general, to Clay National Guard Center, Marietta, GA during preparations for Hurricane Dorian in Georgia.



PROMOTION

Georgia Army National Guardsman Brig. Gen. John Gentry, commander of the Ellenwood-based 78th Troop Command, takes his oath of office from The Adjutant General of Georgia Maj. Gen. Thomas Carden, during his promotion ceremony at the Clay National Guard Center, Marietta, Ga., Sept. 8, 2019.



AGILE SPIRIT 19

United States Air Force Master Sgt. Joseph Woelrle, 37th Airlift Squadron, based out of Ramstein Air Base, Germany, assist on aircraft in preflight checks after off loading equipment in the country of Georgia. U.S. presence in Europe assures allied and partnered nations support in global operations.

CREW OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to the 128th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, 116th Air Control Wing, Georgia Air National Guard, Combat Crew 8 for taking home the Airborne Battle Management Crew of the Year award at the Air Force Association's Air, Space & Cyberspace Conference.



POMPOC 2019

U.S. Army Soldiers, National guardsmen, and civilians from the Program Executive office Soldier from around the United States, demonstrate the new RA-1 Advanced Ram-Air Parachute System during the last day of the Georgia Army National Guard Parachute Operations Mishap Preventative Orientation Course (POMPOC) 2019, May 2, 2019, at MidCoast Regional Airport at Wright Army Airfield, Fort Stewart; Hinesville, Georgia





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