



Crossed Bayonets

218th BSB Ramps Up Readiness Training

Story by Sgt. Brad Mincey
108th Public Affairs
Detachment

NORTH AIR FIELD, SC—Several units began a three-day mission to improve Soldier and unit readiness so they are prepared when called upon to react to an emergency, and to prepare for their annual training mission in July.

Task Force North was reacting to an simulated category-four hurricane that came through South Carolina and devastated several areas. These areas would need food, water and other support after such a disaster. As a unit that is the trained Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive Consequence Management Response Force (CCMRF), the 218th could be called up at a moment's notice.

"This is important

training for us because we are a CCMRF unit," said Capt. Susan Hughes, commander, B Co., 218th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB). "Our operation (during an emergency) includes purifying water, recovery and transportation missions."

May 1, units loaded up and headed out to key areas, including McCrady Training Center near Fort Jackson, McEntire Joint National Guard Base and North Air Field. While Soldiers at McCrady and McEntire performed their tasks, Soldiers at North Air Field were spread out over a large area that included a Tactical Operations Center, Mobile Kitchen Container, mechanical area and living quarters. This is how Soldiers would spend the days and weeks if they were called to assist with an emergency.

"We are operating in



218th Brigade Support Battalion trains at North Air Field for reacting to a hurricane, May 1, 2010. Operations that were utilized were water treatment, fuel handling, and support missions. Pvt. Jimmie Elliott refuels vehicles.

a battalion setup," said Lt. Col. Larry Peebles, Battalion Commander, 218th BSB. "Annually, we support the state during hurricane season. This gets Soldiers' minds in the game of being in the field for at least a 24 - hour period."

For many Soldiers involved, this is an opportunity to go to the field, set up their tents and work areas, and work with their equipment in an

environment other than the office, garage or shop at the armory.

"This is a great way to get Soldiers used to working in a field environment," said Hughes.

When emergencies happen, there are always unexpected problems that arise. But going to the field for training is a great way to find the problems and work through to resolve them.

"This is a great learning

experience," said Pfc. Robert Clark, an Information Specialist for the 218th BSB. "Once everything was set up, we found a few problems, like running out of cable. This is great for finding problems we would have during a mission and resolving them now."

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HHC Medics Teach New Requirements for CLS Certification

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

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Spc. Ryan Kluge, Health Care Specialist for the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB), is an instructor of the Combat Life Saver (CLS) Course at the Charleston Readiness Center. He has been conducting certification and recertification for Soldiers since April 2009. Kluge

is currently instructing the 218th MEB Soldiers with the updated requirements for CLS.

"In theater, Soldiers were so focused on intravenous (IV) therapy fluid that they didn't concentrate on bleeding and other serious injuries," said Kluge. The current changes to the CLS Course include the removal of IV training, shifting the focus to bleeding control, tactical moves and carries. While on active duty in Afghanistan in 2007-2008,

Kluge was a medic and commonly cared for Soldiers with burns and puncture wounds. He agrees with the changes in CLS training.

"The changes are a positive focus on saving lives and assistance instead of on something, like IV's, which is not an immediate need," said Kluge.

CLS is a part of the crucial training Soldiers are completing as they prepare for annual training this July.



Spc. Ryan Kluge, 218th HHC, Health care Specialist, demonstrates the proper use a Structural Aluminum Malleable (SAM) Splint to immobilize skeletal and soft tissue damage on Spc. Matt Sotiropoulos, B co. 4th Battalion 118th Infantry Regiment, Charleston Readiness Center.



Around the Brigade



South Carolina Honor Guard, Region Three, member on the set of ABC/Lifetime television show *Army Wives* during a recent taping Mar. 31, Charleston Waterfront Park, North Charleston, S.C.



"They are the Real Deal"

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

Over 80 members of the South Carolina Army National Guard (SCARNG) have been on the set of the ABC/Lifetime television show *Army Wives* as background extras and drivers of military vehicles. Since 2006 SCARNG troops have provided vehicles and Soldiers to help the producers get an accurate picture of real Soldiers.

"They are the 'real deal', and it shows," said Marshall Persinger, Creative Executive Producer for *Army Wives*. Scenes that have been submitted for Emmys and Image awards have all been those scenes with South Carolina Honor Guard in them, said Persinger. Todd Hergott, Military Props and Technical Advisor said, "It completes the look, we don't have to teach Soldiers how to act, they just act normal." *Army Wives* will be wrapping up the filming of their fourth season at the end of the Summer 🇺🇸



Hurricane Readiness

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

During a Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) Drill at the Charleston Readiness Center, Charleston, S.C., Apr. 30, members from the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, State Highway Patrol and other state and local emergency management officials (EMO) rehearsed plans for a potential hurricane that would impact the state of South Carolina.

The ROC drill began with an opening statement from Brig. Gen. Ronald W. Huff, Director, Joint Staff, South Carolina National Guard, welcoming all of the parties present and thanked them for their continued support.

EMO and the South Carolina Army National Guard, reviewed the plans that included evacuation, clean up and re-entry into the areas affected by a hurricane.

The ROC drill also included an aerial survey of evacuation routes by South Carolina State Troopers and EMO 🇺🇸



Lt. Eric Flowers, South Carolina State Trooper, looks out the window of a UH-72A Lakota during an aerial survey of hurricane evacuation routes as part the rehearsal of concept drill at the Charleston Readiness Center, Charleston, S.C. Apr. 30.



South Carolina Soldier of the Year

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

A South Carolina native, Spc. Matthew N. Sotirgolou, B Company, 4th Battalion 118th Infantry Regiment, won the South Carolina Army National Guard (SCARNG) Soldier of the Year March 7, McCrady Training Center, Eastover, S.C. Sotirgolou competed in three other boards before winning the state board. He first won company level then the battalion and brigade level boards. At each level Sotirgolou out shined his peers, allowing him to continue on to the state board. The road to becoming the South Carolina Soldier of the Year starts at the company level with hand-picked Soldiers that have proven themselves in the eyes of their leaders, albeit first line

supervisors, squad leaders or first sergeants. Soldier boards are intended to enhance esprit-de-corps, professionalism and to promote a positive spirit of competitiveness within and among military organizations. The boards also serve as recognition for Soldiers who have outstanding military appearance and general military knowledge. For three days Sotirgolou competed against other Soldiers from the SCARNG in the Army Physical Fitness Test, land navigation and a six-mile long road march with full battle gear. It was not all brawn though. They were also tested mentally in Army general knowledge, land navigation and a dress uniform inspection.

"I expect the next stage to be strict and more difficult," said Sotirgolou. Sotirgolou will compete against a number of other Soldiers at Fort Bragg, N.C. during the regional board in April, for the right to continue on to the Army Soldier of the Year board. "I am proud to have got this far," said Sotirgolou, "I am honored to have won the state Soldier of the Year board and to represent the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade" 🇺🇸





COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR'S CORNER

By CSM Michael Kirkland
218th MEB Command
Sergeant Major

It is a great honor and pleasure to serve as your Command Sergeant Major. The 218th MEB is the finest unit I have had the pleasure of serving with. As senior NCO's and Enlisted Soldiers, working together we are able to accomplish many difficult missions.

We are moving into a very exciting season as we continue to train and prepare for our annual training at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center located near Butlerville, Ind.

Throughout this past year, we have undergone a massive mission transformation when we assumed the CCMRF (CBRNE Consequence Management Response Force) mission. As mission requirements have changed, the 218th has also changed its capabilities. To highlight this transition, we want to redefine our Brigade motto.

As most of you know, we have been using the same brigade motto for many years. The motto we currently use is tied to the 24th Infantry

Division (ID) for which we were attached to in the 1990s. The motto "First to Fight" "Victory" was created by and used to identify that brigade and was held in high esteem by all Soldiers in the 24th ID.

LTC (P) Storey has tasked all of us to create a motto to be exclusively used by the members of the 218th. This motto is for the troops and will be BY the troops. It is an honor for us to establish this new motto that will be heard for future generations to come.

In order to institute the motto, Soldiers should submit ideas to their respective chain of command. The motto must be a sentence, phrase, or word as appropriate to its character or use. It should be a short expression of a guiding principle that is related to the 218th MEB.

Each Battalion and separate units within the 218th will submit five recommendations to the Brigade. Submissions need to be emailed to me no later than 1 July 2010. Once I have all the submissions, Brigade will hold a board to select the winning motto.

I look forward to the submissions and implementation of the new motto during annual training.



Lastly, I would like to encourage all Soldiers to be vigilant in the area of safety as we approach the summer months. This is particularly important for motorcyclists, boaters, and swimmers alike. Please refrain from alcohol use and monitor those around you when participating in such activities. Enjoy the Summer and be mindful of your duty as Soldiers.

"Mission first, but Soldiers Always!"

BE STRONG

By Chaplain (LTC) Joel Burke
218th MEB Chaplain

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. - 1 Corinthians 16:13

The Bible teaches us to be strong. The command to "be strong" is an obvious necessity, but how a person gains strength for living is a worthy discussion. Most of us know that the pressures of life are difficult. We need strength for living. We need strength in every area of life. People need to strengthen themselves financially, with marriages and relationship, to overcome additions, to endure stressful deployments, and to maintain their faith. Of course people need strength for living.

The current military pattern for gaining strength is seen in the deployment schedule. National

Guard are deploying once every five years. The time between deployments is the window of opportunity to gain strength. How can this be done?

First, have a plan. Work on your weaknesses. Now is the time for relationship building, financial planning, and spiritual growth. Take a moment to write down a plan to gain strength and then DO IT.

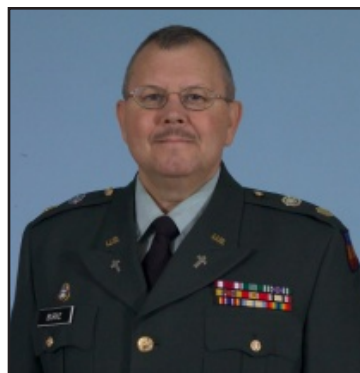
Second, find and use the best resources. For people who are having financial difficulties, take time to consult a financial counselor. People having marital difficulties can enroll in a Strong



Bonds Retreat, or talk to a chaplain or marriage counselor. For people who have a need to strengthen their faith start attending a house of worship regularly and read sacred scriptures and pray.

Third, practice a healthy lifestyle. Do the simple things. Lessen stress. Get exercise. Eat the right foods. Surround yourself with positive people. Practice your faith.

Deployments and everyday stress is difficult for all of us. Work toward being strong so that you will be able to stand up under even the most difficult of situations.



Tell Your Story

June 1 was the official start of the 2010 Hurricane season and the South Carolina National Guard stands ready to meet the challenge. The 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade is also ramping up for the summer Annual Training exercise in Indiana. With all of the training and preparing around the brigade, we are looking for more story ideas and photos from you, the Guardsmen. The 218th MEB Public Affairs Office would like to know what you are doing, is someone being promoted, receiving an award or a special training event?

Your brigade public affairs office is committed to telling your story and getting the news out about all the great things the 218th MEB is doing to insure safety and freedom for the citizens of South Carolina. "Citizens helping citizens."

Please contact Capt. Tim Irvin, BDE PAO, at tim.irvin@us.army.mil or (803)-391-0176.

218th MEB Prepares for 2010 Hurricane Season

Story by Sgt. Brad Mincey

108th Public Affairs Detachment

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. – With the first tropical depression of the season already in the Atlantic, and a possible early start of the 2010 hurricane season, the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB) ramped up its training mission this week at the North Charleston National Guard Armory.

During the exercise, Soldiers prepared for the landfall of Hurricane Zeus. Preparation included moving out to a field environment, setting up tents, antennas and other equipment needed to perform the tasks which would arise after a hurricane passed through. This includes assisting local authorities, setting up food and water points, and assisting the local home and business owners get back to normal life as quickly as possible.

This training is also great for evaluating equipment needs and assessing weak areas that may include transportation, communication or other aspects that National Guard forces will need in assisting the hurricane-ravaged communities.



A inside view of the new Army Battle Command System (ABCS).

Guardisman Brings Hope to Those with Limited Mobility



Story by Sgt. Brad Mincey
108th Public Affairs
Detachment

CHAPIN, S.C. — James, a 63-year-old Chapin resident, is getting some of his mobility and independence back. After having three strokes in less than a year, James can only get around with help from a wheel chair and family members, who must help him up the steps and through a narrow doorway to get in and out of his home. All this changed Wednesday.

Insurance doesn't pay for handicapped-accessible modifications to a home. But thanks to Emmanu Wheel, a non-profit organization started by a S.C. National Guardsman and sponsored by Lexington Church of Christ, many are receiving these much needed modifications. Emmanu Wheel provides wheelchair ramps and home modifications to wheelchair-bound individuals who cannot afford the labor or material for these types of modifications to their homes.

"As a physician's assistant (PA), and knowing my church supports community service, I knew there was a need for this," said Lt.

Col. Jeff Kerby, a PA in the S.C. National Guard. "If you have a person who is all of a sudden in the hospital and can't walk, when they return home, they need to maintain that quality of life."

One person who Emmanu Wheel helped was homebound for three weeks prior to the construction of a ramp. Now, that person's mobility has dramatically improved and they can get out of the house and move around.

"Sometimes, just building a ramp isn't enough," said Kerby. "Take for example, the house we're working on today. The door opens one way and we have to not only build a ramp, but build out the deck as well to accommodate the door."

Emmanu Wheel also widens doors and lowers sinks, door knobs and cabinets. All of these things make a tremendous difference in improving the lives of those who now have to make the adjustment to living in a wheelchair.

"This is really going to change things for my dad," said Darbie, James' daughter, who moved into the home last October to help take care of her parents. "He is pretty much stuck in the house because it is hard for us to get him in and out without a ramp."

Like many of his generation, her



Lt. Col. Jeff Kerby, a physician's assistant in the S.C. National Guard, removes an old deck to make way for a new wheel chair ramp, May 28, Chapin, S.C.

father is very independent. It is difficult for him to have to depend on others to assist him.

"This is going to make such a big difference," said Darbie. "I hope that this will not only make life easier for him so he can be more independent, but eventually improve his health as well."

Kerby has been involved with community service and helping others for decades. He has served as a missionary to South America, worked with the youth of his church and served his country in the military for 26 years.

"I feel like God has called me to this ministry," said Kerby. "God arranged the whole thing," said Kerby. "The doors just opened

quickly.

In three weeks we were able to accept donations. God has also put a lot of people in my life who know what to do."

The organization's immediate goal is to collect enough donations to build one ramp per month. The only cost is the material because the labor is free. It takes many hours to build the ramps and make the adjustments necessary for the wheelchair-bound individuals.

To contribute to EmmanuWheel, donations can be sent to 566 Rawl Road, Lexington, SC, 29072. Or for more information on how you can help, contact Kerby at 803-730-8042.

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"We have had some issues with communications," said Hughes, "but we are working through these issues. This is a good way to find out what problems and issues we would have in real-world scenarios and fix them before we are called upon for a real problem."

"We're taking our time, going through our tasks and finding issues," said Peebles.

Another way this training is different is under a CCMRF mission, the 218th's task would be quite different than what they normally do. In the past, their missions have been traditional military operations.

"This is a totally different mission for us," said Staff Sgt. Irvin Capers, Co. B, 218th BSB. "During this mission, we are supporting civilians rather than performing tactical missions"



Army photo by Sgt. Joshua S. Edwards

Top Shot

Pfc. Rachel Clark, HHC 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, shot 34 out 40 targets to have the best M-16 qualification at McCrady Training Center, during the March drill weekend.

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PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE BRIGADE

