

# GUARD



# DETAIL

Fall/Winter 2015

A CHRONICLE OF THE MISSISSIPPI

ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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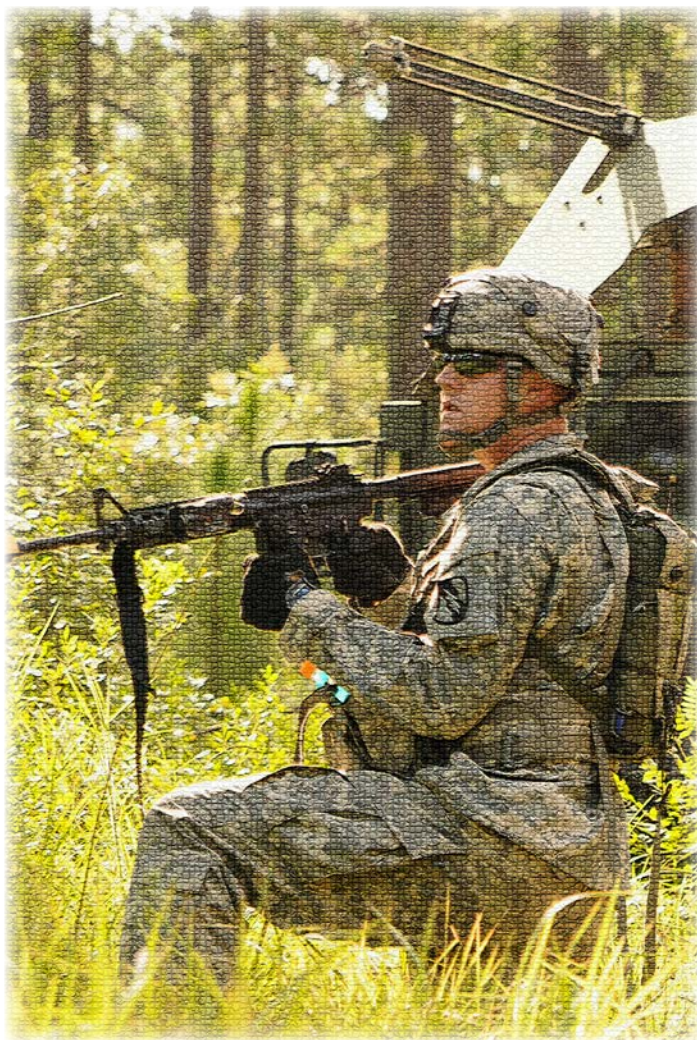
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**ON THE COVER:** U.S. Air Force Airmen from the 321st Contingency Response Squadron from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lake Hurst, N.J., prepare to attach a sling load to a Mississippi Army National Guard Medical Evacuation UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Miss., during Exercise Turbo Distribution on Oct. 29. The U.S. Transportation Command exercise, part of Southern Strike 16, tests the Joint Task Force Port-Opening's ability to deliver and distribute cargo during humanitarian relief operations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Marianne Santos, 1st Combat Camera Squadron/Released)

# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



## WE'RE BACK!

After a year of publishing only online versions of the Guard Detail, our magazine is now back in printed form! As we move forward, the Guard Detail will be printed three times per year. Magnolia Soldiers and Airmen can expect to see a copy in their mailboxes in the spring, summer and fall/winter.

It is an honor to tell the Mississippi National Guard's story. Throughout the year, our Guardsmen work tirelessly to maintain readiness for future state and federal missions. In addition, our state's Soldiers and Airmen stay connected to communities from Corinth to the Coast. The MSNG Public Affairs team is committed to chronicling these activities to showcase our first class organization.

The next year will be an exciting one for our force. The 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team's Multi-echelon Integrated Brigade Training event and the Mississippi Air National Guard's Emerald Warrior exercise are just a few events we're looking forward to covering. Our readers can expect strong imagery, powerful stories and balanced coverage of both our Army and Air Guard.

The Mississippi National Guard is a very large organization with approximately 12,500 Soldiers and Airmen. Our team is even larger when we consider the number of family members, civilian employees, employers and other supporters. Our PA community asks for your assistance with story ideas and with presenting other information beneficial to our team.

Thanks so much for reading,

*Christian Patterson*

Lt. Col. Christian Patterson, APR+M  
Editor-in-Chief

The Guard Detail is the official magazine of the Mississippi National Guard. It is published three times a year with a circulation of 15,000 copies and is distributed online via the Mississippi National Guard web and Facebook pages. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Army, Air Force, Army National Guard, Air National Guard or the Department of Defense.

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# MANEUVERS

**A Mississippi Army National Guard Soldier with the 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, fires a Stinger missile at a drone during a live fire mobilization exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas, at dawn on Oct. 8. Approximately 170 1-204th Soldiers, headquartered in Newton are mobilized to protect and guard the skies and no-fly zones in Washington, D.C. (Mississippi National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Tynes, 102nd Public Affairs Detachment/Released)**

**For more, see Page 10**



**Video of the live fire may be found here.**





# Looking to the Skies



■ Story by Staff Sgt. Scott Tynes  
JFH-MS Public Affairs

Gulfport – Virtually every aircraft in the Air Force arsenal partnered with 71 active and reserve components from every branch of service and more than 23 states for the joint Southern Strike 16 exercise on the Mississippi Gulf Coast during late October and early November.

Southern Strike 16 is a total force, multi-service training exercise hosted by the Mississippi Air National Guard's Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport. It emphasizes air-to-air, air-to-ground and special operations training opportunities.

For more than two weeks, troops trained in counterinsurgency, air supremacy, close air

***Southern Strike 16 is a total force, multi-service training exercise hosted by the Mississippi Air National Guard's Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport. It emphasizes air-to-air, air-to-ground and special operations training opportunities.***

support, en-route casualty care, non-combatant evacuation, humanitarian airlifts and special operations missions, including riverine assaults. The exercise utilized all the locations Mississippi has to offer, including the Joint Forces Training Centers at Camp Shelby and McCain, John C. Stennis Space Center, Key Field in Meridian and others.

“What we've done is we've written a scenario that's ripped from the headlines where we have crises that mirror exactly what's happening in the Middle East, in

Africa and all of Eastern Europe. We're trying to make it so that when a guy goes into combat he really feels prepared,” said Air Force Col. Craig Ziembra, Southern Strike director.

The scenario is based on requests submitted by the participating units to provide tailored, cost effective and realistic training. Therefore, the training received by each unit specifically addresses its needs and is worked into the scenario to complement and further enhance the missions of other participating units.



Video from  
Southern Strike  
16 may be  
found here.



Southern Strike has grown quickly in only four years. When it was first established in 2012, the units involved flew 50 sorties. This year, more than 750 were flown.

“We’ve grown exponentially every year to the point where we are now where I think we have more players, more sorties, more complex scenarios that better replicate what we may face when we go overseas,” said Army Lt. Col. James Haynie of the 185<sup>th</sup> Theater Aviation Brigade.

The exercise also featured several international partners.

“This year is the third time the Mississippi Guard has hosted the Israeli Air Force. This year, though, they brought more people and more planes than ever before and this year was the first time they participated in Southern Strike,” Ziemba said.

“I think Israel’s involvement in Southern Strike represents a cou-

ple of things. One, that we understand and value our relationship with Israel; and we, in the Mississippi National Guard, are doing everything we can to strengthen that partnership. And secondly, I think it shows that Israel is now, in our exercises, fully integrating with the variety of conventional and special operations forces (we have).”

Although the exercise pulls heavily from active duty and reserve components from other states, the Mississippi National Guard is also actively involved.

The Mississippi Air National Guard’s 172<sup>nd</sup> Air Wing and 186<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing provide aircraft and personnel, including key elements like air-to-air refueling. This year’s exercise marked not only the first time that the IAF refueled from a U.S. KC-135, but also the first time it was done at night, Ziemba said. The KC-135 support was from the 186<sup>th</sup> ARW, based at Key Field.

The Mississippi Army National Guard receives key special operations support during Southern Strike. The 185<sup>th</sup> TAB provided helicopter support to Jackson’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 20<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group, as well as special forces operators from the Navy and active duty Army.

In addition, at Camp Shelby, U.S. Transportation Command’s Exercise Turbo Distribution 16-1 was held in conjunction with Southern Strike 16 and was supported by IAF and MSANG aircraft. Turbo Distribution exercises are designed to integrate Army and Air Force units together into one rapid deployable unit, whose mission is to deploy anywhere in the world within 12 hours to establish sea and air ports of operations for incoming vehicles, equipment, supplies and other cargo. These missions support both strategic and humanitarian efforts.

# Sky doctors from across nation train at Gulf's Southern Strike

■ Story by Tech. Sgt. Ed Staton  
172nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

An integral component of Southern Strike 16 was continuing to progress the tremendous advancements made in the U.S. military's aeromedical evacuation efforts. And although the two-week exercise that concluded Nov. 6 included a vast amount of joint U.S and international forces, it was the Mississippi Air National Guard's 183rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 186<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, 185<sup>th</sup> Theater Aviation Brigade, that helped set the tone for a major exercise component.

Headquartered at the Gulfport Combat Regional Training Center, Southern Strike 16 focused on tactical level, joint training emphasizing many combat scenario operations, search and rescue and en route casualty care. Mississippi personnel impacted many portions of the exercise, but the state's most

lasting impression was on aeromedical evacuation. Those missions task these medical personnel with providing the rapid life-saving capability of extracting wounded U.S. personnel from the battlefield and providing immediate and sustained treatment.

Known as the "golden hour," the current war-time standard is to get wounded troops stabilized and to advanced-level treatment facilities within the first critical 60 minutes of being wounded. This achieved standard has reportedly saved the lives of more than 20,000 American forces since Sept. 11, 2001, and is one the major advances in modern warfare.

"During Southern Strike we have practiced the golden hour concept from battlefield injury to helicopter casevac, to a landing zone where we load the patient on a C-130 where we can fly them to a C-17," said Col Craig Ziemba, Southern Strike 16 director.

"Those crews that ride on those platforms were all here and they all practiced that evolution."

Southern Strike 16 featured more than 1,400 aeromedical currency events with nearly 30 sorties dedicated to allowing aeromedical evacuation teams to receive realistic training while on the aircraft. Participating in the aeromedical component of the exercise were UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and C-17, C-130 and KC-135 aircraft.

With its tremendous size and global airlift ability, the C-17 has served as a workhorse in transferring patients long distances. Common



Kansas Air National Guard Maj. Allison Buel, a flight physician with the 190th Medical Group, practices intubating a full-body CPR mannequin in preparation for simulated transport missions at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center, on Oct. 27. The exercise emphasizes air-to-air, air-to-ground and special operations forces training opportunities. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Marianique Santos/Released)

**See Doctors, Page 26**





Mississippi Air National Guard members with the 255th Air Control Squadron control aerial combat operations in Gulfport as part of Exercise Southern Strike 16 on Oct. 27. The exercise, which is hosted by the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center, emphasizes air-to-air, air-to-ground and special operations forces training opportunities. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Kenneth W. Norman, 1st Combat Camera Squadron/Released)

■ *Story by Staff Sgt. Scott Tynes  
102nd Public Affairs Detachment*

GULFPORT – From a small, darkened room in an Operations Module illuminated only by radar screens, the 255th Air Control Squadron, Mississippi Air National Guard, controls the skies above the Gulf Coast and directs air-to-air combat during Exercise Southern Strike 16.

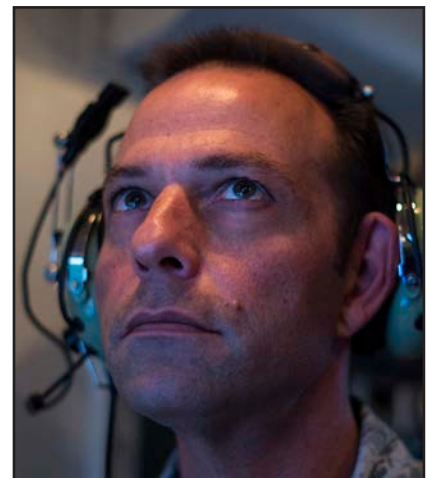
“It’s not very often we get this level of air battles,” said Maj. Zoran Whelan, air-battle manager for the 255th Guard Dogs. “We see it in (simulations), but having live control and interaction is something that can’t be simulated.”

Exercise Southern Strike 16 is a total force, multi-service training exercise hosted by the Mississippi Air National Guard’s Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss., from Oct. 26 through Nov. 6. The exercise emphasizes air-to-air, air-to-ground and special operations forces training opportunities. Parts of the exercise are also held at the Camp Shelby and Camp McCain Joint Forces Training Centers in Hattiesburg and Grenada.

The ACS controls the skies in the operation areas and coordinates with friendly and “enemy” aircraft by identifying threats and alerting pilots through battle management and surveillance.

“We’re seeing what they’re seeing in their cockpits,” said Maj. Blake Hurston, the unit’s director of operations. “The weapons guys are the ones actually talking to the aircraft and giving them tactical directions.”

In addition to radar feeds from the aircraft, the Guard Dogs link with ground-based radar and other sources to mesh together a complete picture of the



**Maj. Zoran Whelan**

**See Guard Dog, Page 20**



A Mississippi Army National Guard Soldier with the 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, fires a Stinger missile at a drone during a night live fire exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas, on Oct. 7. Approximately 170 Soldiers of the 204th, headquartered in Newton, are mobilized to protect and guard the skies and no-fly zones of Washington, D.C. (Mississippi National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Shane Hamann, 102nd Public Affairs Detachment/Released)

# MS Guardsmen to defend Capital

■ Story by Staff Sgt. Shane Hamann  
102nd Public Affairs Detachment

FORT BLISS, Texas – Mississippi Army National Guardsmen with the 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment finalized their pre-deployment training for a nearly year-long rotation in the National Capital Region with a live fire exercise on Oct. 7 and 8.



An AN/TWQ-1 Avenger with the 1-204th ADA fires a Stinger missile at a drone during a live fire exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas on Oct. 7. Approximately 200 Soldiers of the 204th, headquartered in Newton, are mobilized to protect and guard the skies and no-fly zones of Washington, D.C. (Mississippi National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Tynes, 102nd Public Affairs Detachment/Released)

The deploying Guardsmen are comprised of approximately 200 Soldiers from several units around the state and will be defending the nation’s capital from airborne threats.

“The mission is to provide air defense and early warning to the National Capital Region against any air attack, such as the ones that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001,” said Lt. Col. Scott Griffin, commander of 1-204th ADA.

“The live fire exercise gives the Soldiers confidence in the weapons systems,” said Griffin. “We’ve been training for over a year. This is the culminating event.”

The unit trains regularly and maintains their equipment during drills, but only conducts live fire events, launching live missiles, when preparing to deploy.

The live fire serves as the final display of proficiency and ensures that the Soldiers are mentally primed.

“It’s extremely important,” said Maj. Tim Harrelson, the battalion operations officer. “We’re defending the nation’s capital. We’re going to do whatever order is given to us as far as taking down an aircraft. That’s a big feat to ask an 18- or 19-year-old Soldier to do.”

“It’s going to be uncomfortable enough for that Soldier,” said Harrelson. “We don’t want him to hesi-

**See Capital, Page 12**



# Kilts Brothers- in-arms

Sgts. Brett and Brandon Kilts, of Lake, take their sibling bond to the National Capital Region to defend Washington, D.C., from aerial threats. (Mississippi National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Tynes, 102nd Public Affairs Detachment/Released)

■ *Story by Staff Sgt. Scott Tynes  
102nd Public Affairs Detachment*

FORT BLISS, Texas – It’s common for Soldiers to refer to themselves as brothers-in-arms, but two Mississippi Army National Guard sergeants from Lake truly exemplify the term.

Sergeants Brandon and Morgan “Brett” Kilts serve together in Battery B, 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, and are currently deployed with the unit to Washington, D.C. Battery B is located in Forest with the battalion headquarters at Newton.

“It’s a good deployment and mission,” Brandon said. “It’s protecting our nation’s capital.”

Brandon, 28, is easy-going and talkative. Brett, 26, is quiet and more reserved. And yet, they say they are very close with similar interests. At a glance, it is hard to tell who is who.

“We really can’t deny each other,” Brandon said and laughed.

That closeness, they said, helps them cope with some of the difficulties of deployments, such as loneliness and separation from friends and family.

“When you deploy (with your brother), it’s like taking a piece of home with you,” the elder brother said.

It provided a lot of comfort to them during a deployment to Iraq in 2011, they said, but their mother, Angie Goodwin of Lake, was not thrilled to have

both sons in harm’s way at the same time.

“It was pretty tough on the family, but we made it through,” Brandon said. “She didn’t like it at first, but she does now because she knows we will look out for each other.”



Pfc. Thomas A. Hoey, an Avenger gunner, from Brandon, and Sgt. Brandon L. Kilts, a team chief from Lake, both with 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, load a Stinger ground-to-air missile into an Avenger vehicle platform pod during a pre-deployment live fire exercise Oct. 7 at Fort Bliss, Texas. (Mississippi National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Shane Hamann, 102nd Public Affairs Detachment/Released)



**Sgt. Brett Kilts fires a Stinger ground-to-air missile at a drone during a pre-deployment live fire exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas, on Oct. 8. (Mississippi National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Tynes, 102nd Public Affairs Detachment/Released)**

The Washington, D.C., deployment is Brandon's third and second to the National Capital Region, including the unit's last deployment there in 2008. Brett missed that deployment, so Brandon said he is lookin' forward to showing his brother some of the historical sites when they are not on duty.

Brandon enlisted in 2005 after graduating from Lake High School to take advantage of the educa-

going."

He said he likes the opportunities to visit other states and countries.

"I probably never would have been out of Mississippi if I hadn't joined," Brett said.

Now, he is looking forward to serving with his brother while protecting the skies above the Na-

tional benefits available to Soldiers in the Guard.

"A lot of our buddies from that area all joined," the elder Kilts said.

Brett enlisted in 2006 after graduating from the same school. He admits the stories told by his brother and their friends helped him make his decision.

"I knew I wanted to do something in the Guard, so I joined the local Guard," Brett said. "This is where all of my friends were

## CAPITAL

Continued from Page 10

tate if he's given that order. We want him to feel natural."

The Soldiers already have a natural air about them and seem confident to conduct the mission ahead after recently receiving the Alexander Hamilton Award recognizing the Army National Guard's best air defense artillery battery and having experience in this particular mission already.

The 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment is one of seven National Guard units nationwide that conducts this mission, which is only performed by the National Guard.

The unit concluded the suc-



**An AN/TWQ-1 Avenger with the 1-204th ADA destroys a drone during a live fire exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas, Oct. 7. (Mississippi National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Tynes, 102nd Public Affairs Detachment/Released)**

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**Values are not just words,  
values are what we live by.  
They're about the causes  
that we champion and  
the people we fight for.**

**- Senator John Kerry**



**Loyalty  
Duty  
Respect  
Selfless Service  
Honor  
Integrity  
Personal Courage**



# ACTIVE, GUARD UNITS PART

■ Story by Staff Sgt. Scott Tynes  
102nd Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP SHELBY – More than 4,600 National Guard, Active and Reserve component Soldiers descended on Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center from July 19 to Aug. 18 for an Exportable Combat Training Capability exercise to employ the Army's Total Force concept.

“An XCTC is a brigade field training exercise, which aims to certify platoon proficiency in coordination with First Army. The training exposes Guard Soldiers to combat training center experiences to enhance unit combat readiness,” said Col. Jeffrey Van, commander of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team.

During the exercise, the 155th ABCT encountered tests on their response to ambushes, company hasty attacks, platoon movement to contact, recon missions, vehicle recovery and much more. The event includes a combined arms live fire featuring M1A2 SEPv2 tanks, M2A3/M3A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles and field artillery with fixed and rotary wing air support.

XCTC exercises allow Soldiers and units to strengthen their individual and collective combat readiness, Van said. They also serve as opportunities to “train as you fight.” All Army components work

together toward mission accomplishment in combat environments.

“It has opened the relationship to share techniques, tactics and procedures among the units,” Van said. “The Guard, Reserve and Active have come together as a common element during this exercise.”

Approximately 500 active-duty Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, from Ft. Hood, Texas, lead the Greywolf units participating in the joint XCTC training rotation and includes the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment; 6th Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment; 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment; and 3rd Engineer Battalion. The augmenting units bring more than 300 additional Soldiers to Mississippi. These Active duty Soldiers are serving as opposing forces for the 155th ABCT during the exercise as well as establishing training lanes to teach tactics and procedures learned during their recent National Training Center rotation.

Following the XCTC, the units will complete the Multi-echelon integrated Brigade Training Exercise (MBTE), an exercise that puts a magnifying glass over the companies to evaluate how they operate, at Fort Hood, Texas, next year.

The two field training exercises allow valuable home station training, which gives both units a wide range of diverse training objectives while simultaneously minimizing costs. Upon completion, the units will then head to NTC at Fort Irwin, Calif., which tests the participating units all the way through brigade level.

During the exercise, the 1-12 Cav “Chargers” will be operating within the 155th ABCT as a supporting unit throughout their missions, building the partnership to a point where the units can coexist and work fluidly together.

Observer controllers evaluate both the 155th ABCT and 1-12 CAV as they conduct their missions and complete their training objectives. After everything is



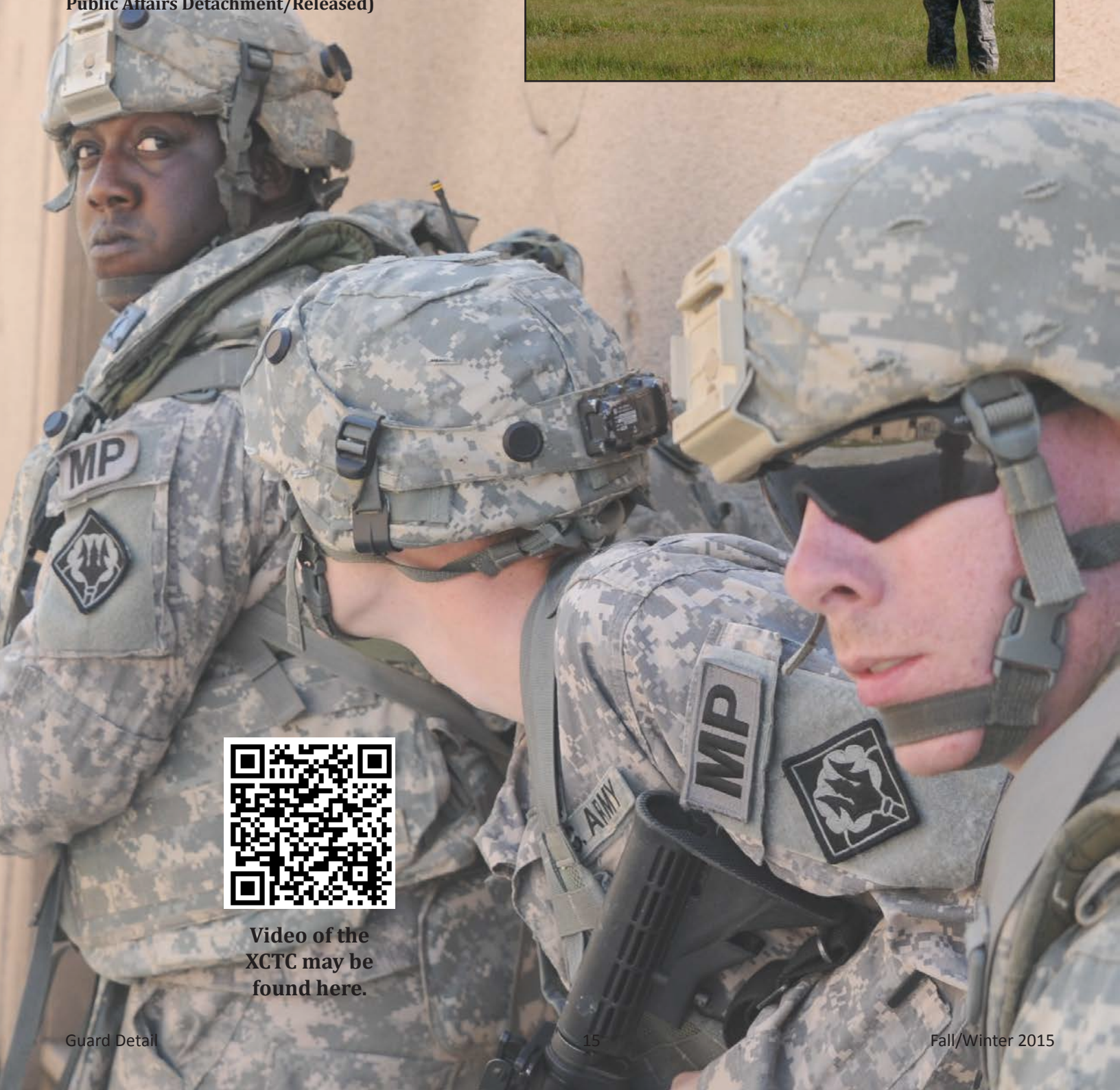
Col. Jeffrey Van



Maj. Gen. Michael Bills (left), 1st Cavalry Division commanding general, shakes hands with Col. Jeffrey Van, commander of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, after visiting the training lanes Aug. 2 at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. Bills spent the day traveling to both the 155th ABCT's and the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd ABCT's tactical operating centers to see the Soldiers train. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Brandon Banzhaf, 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs)

# TNER TOGETHER FOR XCTC

Right, Staff Sgt. Thomas Reich, with 1st Battalion, 149th Aviation Regiment, MSARNG, marshals the landing of an AH-64 Apache helicopter at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center on Aug. 3. The Apache helicopters were landing on a Forward Arming and Refueling Point. (Mississippi National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Morgan, 102nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment/Released) Background, Spc. Rodriguez Jenkins, of Jackson, Miss., with the Brandon-based 113th Military Police Company, MSARNG, prepares to breach a room during Military Operations in Urban Terrain training July 31 at CSJFTC. (Mississippi Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Connie Jones, 102nd Public Affairs Detachment/Released)



Video of the  
XCTC may be  
found here.

over, the observers will perform multiple after action reviews that will give input on how the units went about accomplishing their tasks, and provide insight on how to improve.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for both units to operate together in a stressful, yet safe environment; we are mutually building capacity,” said Col. Matthew Van Wagenen, 3rd ABCT commander. “While we cannot predict when we will need to answer our nation’s call to action, exercises like this XCTC help ensure we are ready to work alongside one another as a fully-integrated, effective and lethal force.”



**A Soldier with Company B, 106th Support Battalion, 155th ABCT, MSARNG, reacts to direct fire from U.S. Army Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, with whom they are engaged in a force-on-force event during deliberate recovery training on Aug. 2 at CSJFTC. (Mississippi National Guard photo by Sgt. Connie Jones, 102nd Public Affairs Detachment/Released)**



**Art by Staff Sgt. Willie Young  
155th Armored Brigade Combat Team**



**An M1A2 SepV2 Abrams tank of 2nd Battalion, 198th Armored Regiment, fires at a target downrange during the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team’s Exportable Combat Training Capability exercise at CSJFTC on Aug. 5. (Mississippi National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Morgan, 102nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment/Released)**



# Charlie Med brings hospital to frontlines

■ Story by and photos by Staff Sgt. Scott Tynes  
102nd Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP SHELBY – It's not "M\*A\*S\*H." It's Charlie Med.

Company C, 106th Support Battalion, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, affectionately known by Mississippi Army National Guard Soldiers as Charlie Med, will cure what ails a Soldier to get them back in the fight or stabilize severe injuries for more intensive treatment behind the front lines.

Like "M\*A\*S\*H.," the Charlie Med Soldiers take their jobs seriously, but without the zaniness that made the show about a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital during the Korean Conflict a popular comedy series from 1972 to 1983.

"There are some similarities in that it's supposed to be as far forward as possible, but we're made to move. We can set up in two hours and can start receiving patients," said Maj. Susan Horvath,



Capt. Paul Shamburger, a doctor with Company C, 106th Support Battalion, and Maj. Susan Horvath, company commander, analyze an X-ray of a patient's hand during an Exportable Combat Training Capability exercise at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center on Aug. 1. The exercise was the first time the Crystal Springs-based Mississippi Army National Guard unit had established the X-ray machine in the field.

company commander.

"We support the brigade. We follow them in their maneuvers so everything we have is mobile," the Marshfield, Wis., resident said. "Unlike a hospital where everything is fixed, we will move as the mission dictates. So all of our equipment is smaller, it's lighter and we have a little bit less than what the M\*A\*S\*H. has. There are no operating rooms, no big, huge patient administration section. That comes if we get a forward surgical team."

The addition of a FST, however, changes the scope of operations because it entails more doctors, surgical equipment and augmentations to the recovery area. Those additions make the company less mobile.

"It's a pretty neat concept because we have some of the things you would find in a hospital, but its in mobile form," she said.

The Troop Medical Clinic serves as a bridge between the combat medics embedded with the individual companies and the Combat Support Hospital, a fixed position housed in tents in a rear area with



Soldiers of Company C, 106th Support Battalion, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, unload patients from an ambulance during a mass casualty event as part of an XCTC at Camp Shelby on July 31.

See Hospital, Page 30

# MS supports Earnest Leader

■ Story by Maj. Dennis Bittle  
155th Armored Brigade Combat Team

DAMMAM, Saudi Arabia – Guardsmen from the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team and other Mississippi units traveled to Saudi Arabia in August for a training exercise with Royal Saudi Land Forces.

“We have to focus on the infrastructure. That’s what they are targeting,” said Brig. Gen. Jamal, the acting 17th Brigade commander of the 1st Division, Eastern Area Command of the Royal Saudi Land Forces.

Jamal was pointing out to his staff the pattern of recent insurgent activity within their Area of Operations (AO). This was the subject of the briefing on day three of the Earnest Leader Exercise in Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

Earnest Leader is a training exercise held by the RSLF every other year in Saudi Arabia to train and validate division and brigade level staffs on the Army’s military decision-making process. Many of the theories and procedures are already in place within current doctrine used by the RSLF, but the event, hosted by United States Army Central (USARCENT), focuses on the methods and techniques of how to efficiently apply doctrine during a stressful, life-like training atmosphere.

For the 17th Brigade and other members of the RSLF, this was a valuable training exercise in stability operations and counterinsurgency. For 12 Mississippi Guardsmen, it was an opportunity to influence the tactics, techniques, and procedures that an ally might use against a real threat in the future.

The 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team was offered, and accepted, the role of the training partner for the 17th Brigade. Lt. Col. Martin Fox, the 155th Brigade’s operation officer, organized a group of Mississippians who have various backgrounds and combat experience in war-fighting functions to attend the event. His goal was to relay real-world experience to a partner that is currently defending its borders from anti-government rebels and insurgents.



Mississippi Guardsmen train Royal Saudi Land Forces during Earnest Leader 15 in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, in August. (Courtesy photo)

Earnest Leader 2015 is divided into two main events: the Army’s military decision making process exercise and the command post exercise. During the first full week, Mississippi Soldiers instructed RSLF members on conducting each step of the military decision making process.

The key task for the brigade was to gain control of their AO, implement security measures and begin conducting stability operations. Analysis came very slow at first. It seemed the norm was to take information from division and merely tailor it to the current situation with little analysis involved.

The first task was to help the 17th Brigade understand the request for information process, as well as the important details of analyzing all the aspects of information, infrastructure, and physical environment and operational environment - political, military, economic, and social.

“This is not their style,” said Lt. Col. Bryan Olier, military intelligence officer. “Their military culture doesn’t provide a lot of room for questioning the  
**See Leader, Page 31**



# Villeret blurs lines of military, business

■ Story and photos by 2nd Lt. William Hill  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

JACKSON, Miss. - In a world where international relationships seem as unstable as the stock market, Maj. Amanda D. Villeret, of the Mississippi Air National Guard, is doing her part to ensure stability during these turbulent times. Villeret was recently selected to represent the Mississippi National Guard in the 2015 Leadership Mississippi class sponsored by the Mississippi Economic Council. She was also named one of the Mississippi Business Journal's 50 Leading Business Women for 2015.

Villeret, a native of Greenwood, currently lives in the Jackson area and comes from a strong military background. Her father is a retired captain in the Army National Guard and her father-in-law a retired chief master sergeant in the Air National Guard. She commissioned in 2004 as a logistics readiness officer. She has enjoyed an 18-year career in the Miss. Air National Guard serving in a variety of different positions, from security to logistics. In 2013, she assumed her current position as the State Partnership Program director at the Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson.

"I was surprised that I was selected as one of the 50 leading business women of Mississippi being that I'm in the military and it was a more business-oriented award," said Villeret. "My job as the State Partnership Program director gives me the opportunity to connect local businesses with our international partners as well as being in charge of multiple budgets, so there is definitely a business aspect to what I do."

The Mississippi Business Journal's annual list



Maj. Amanda Villeret was named one of the Mississippi Business Journal's 50 Leading Business Women for 2015. (Mississippi National Guard photo by 2nd Lt. William Hill, JFH-MS Public Affairs)

highlights women nominated by their peers and selected by a board. The Journal considers these women to be "senior decision-makers ... making a significant impact on the economy of our state." Villeret fits that description by directing the global partnerships of the largest employer in the state, the National Guard. She recently had the opportunity to host Bakhtiyar Gulyamov, the Uzbekistan ambassador, connecting him with local business leaders around the state.

Villeret's experience also led to her selection for the prestigious Leadership Mississippi program held by the Mississippi Economic Council. Leadership Mississippi is a "training program that combines individual study, group sessions and project experience in using leadership skills." It is the second oldest statewide leadership program in the nation. Villeret had to go through another extensive application process before being selected. Participants attend leadership sessions all across the

state throughout the year. Most recently, the class convened in Gulfport for a special session with former Gov. Haley Barbour, also a Leadership Mississippi alum, to discuss the immediate and long-term effects of Hurricane Katrina.

"The military aspect that Maj. Villeret brings to Leadership Mississippi is a huge asset for the program and communities around the state," said Cathy Northington  
**See Villeret, Page 31**

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***Not just as a service member, but as a woman in the military, she brings a unique perspective in representing a specific minority in the Mississippi business community.***

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- Cathy Northington

# Guard Dog

Continued from Page 9

airspace. Data links then direct that information to higher headquarters, where the tactical decisions are made.

“My job is to make sure the air picture is consistent,” said Staff Sgt. Kirkland Hill, an interface control technician (ICT) from Meridian. “It’s similar to an (Information Technology) department at any major corporation with servers and gateways that share information.

“It’s been a good learning experience with an exercise of this magnitude,” he said. “We can get in a lot of training. On the weekend, it’s harder for me to get that time because I have to share that mission time with other ICTs.”

Staff Sgt. Linda Le, a weapons director from Gulfport, said that they typically direct much smaller air-to-air battles during weekend drills.

“It’s maybe four versus four aircraft and right now it’s a lot more than that,” she said. “Each director is controlling about 10 aircraft. If you don’t practice it, you lose it. It’s a little rough the first day or so,

but then you get used to it. We’re doing two to three missions a day and coordination is improving.”

Hurston agreed.

“It’s a very dynamic environment with lots of aircraft and moving parts,” he said.



A Mississippi Air National Guard member from the 255th Air Control Squadron controls aerial combat operations in Gulfport, Miss., as part of Exercise Southern Strike 16 on Oct. 27. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Kenneth W. Norman, 1st Combat Camera Squadron/Released)

# Motorcycle Rules of Engagement

**Rules apply to both on and off duty; on and off the Installation**

## AR 385-10, paragraph 11-9b Motorcycle Training

**+ Prior to operation of any motorcycle, Army and Air National Guard personnel will successfully complete a Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) or MSF based approved motorcycle rider safety course**

**+ Commanders are not authorized to waive or deter the training**

**+ Skills-Riding is a perishable skill with little room for error. Practice, practice, practice. When you think you have it down...practice some**

**more. Join your unit’s mentorship program. Learn from other’s mistakes!**

**+PPE must be worn at all times**



# 1108th Group takes their skills to Sinai

■ Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Amber Simpkins  
1108th Aviation Group

SINAI, Egypt – Two Soldiers from the 1108th Aviation Group Task Force 17, based at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, took on a mission at North Camp, Sinai, Egypt, to assist with a preventative maintenance inspection cycle-1 on a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from July 10 through Aug. 9.

U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Douglas Krol and Staff Sgt. Amber Simpkins provided structure, purpose and direction as augmented members of the phase team for the PMI-1 by reducing waste, enforcing time management and minimizing time-between-tasks, ultimately helping to reduce PMI-1 downtime by almost 75 percent at Aviation Company, Task Force Sinai.

“The support we have received both in Kuwait and here in North Camp from the 1108th AG is proving to be a major force multiplier for the Aviation Company,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Perretta, the Aviation Company production control officer.

The maintenance team on the ground consisted of junior Soldiers with limited experience in this type of maintenance. The Gulfport Guardsmen were able to bring their experience and help implement lessons learned. Wait times were decreased by being proactive, rather than reactive, in preparing for the PMI-1. The team preplanned for potential parts needs by identifying and ordering them early on in the process, decreasing aircraft downtime. Utilizing their skills as the subject matter experts, the 1108th Soldiers were able to assist and train the junior enlisted troops of Task Force Sinai.

“I was intimidated at first,” said Spc. Hunter

Martin, a Black Hawk mechanic. “It turns out they [Krol and Simpkins] were very down to earth, super experienced and treated us like equals. It’s inspirational to see a first sergeant so proficient in his military occupational specialty.”

The process to obtain parts can, at times, take a couple of weeks. They are ordered, shipped and then must clear customs for entry into Egypt. The security situation can also add time to parts acquisition. Soldiers work diligently to keep up the operational readiness rate of the fleet, but at times, operational considerations can slow progress.

“With the previous phases ... I honestly doubted the mere thought of a two-week phase,” said Spc. Michael DeGan. “My doubts were gone, though, once we got started. It was definitely refreshing to know we could accomplish so much with everything going on.”

Krol attributes the successful completion of the PMI-1 in the specified timeline to flawless communication between the team lead, its team members and production control. Through it all, the Soldiers remained motivated and confident in their abilities to complete the task at hand.

Aviation Company, with assistance from the 1108th, overcame the challenge of change in environment and defeated all odds. The unit’s mission to the Sinai showed that with the proper training and oversight any mission can be accomplished by the book and in a safe, efficient and expedient manner. Guidance was the key throughout the entire mission. Aviation Company, Task Force Sinai, is set up for success, and the 1108th will continue to provide necessary support.



First Sgt. Douglas Krol (left), 1108th AG, and Spc. Daniel Burke (right), Aviation Company, Task Force Sinai, re-install the main rotor head on a UH-60 Black Hawk July 27 at North Camp, Sinai, Egypt, during a preventative maintenance inspection cycle.

# World War II vets remember Camp Shelby at reunion



**Robert Morganweck, a veteran of the 65th Infantry Division and resident of New York along with his daughter Melissa Morgenweck, looks at old military gear that he once wore during World War II. Morganweck, veterans and families of the 65th Infantry Division visited Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Sept. 18, for their annual reunion.**

■ *Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Williams  
Camp Shelby Public Affairs*

CAMP SHELBY - Veterans and families of the 65th Infantry Division visited Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center on Sept. 18 for a tour and luncheon.

The division formed at Camp Shelby in 1943 and later served in Europe under the command of Gen. George S. Patton.

"The camp has changed tremendously since we were last here," said Robert Morgenweck, 92, of New York. "They have real buildings here; when we were here we stayed in chicken coops."

"When I was here, we stayed in 13 wooden shacks and they were in bad shape," said Don Tague, of Missouri.

The 65th Division, also known as the "Halberd Division," fought in several combat actions and liberated the Mauthausen concentration camp near Linz, Austria.

At the war's end, the division continued to occupy areas of western Austria where it linked up with a Soviet Army encamped across the Danube River.

"The 65th Division was the last full combat division that trained here at Camp Shelby and deployed to Europe for combat," said Chad Daniels, Mississippi Armed Forces Museum director. "They are the youngest of our World War II divisions so it's

great to have them to come back and they did great things."

Though they disbanded in late 1945, veterans soon formed the 65th Division Association and have continued to hold annual reunions.

"I love coming to these reunions," said Barbara Russell, the daughter Irvin J. Dvorak, of Florida. "It has been wonderful. My dad didn't talk much about his experience and neither did a lot of veterans, but these gentlemen have been so open and filled in a lot of details. They've been able to explain to me, with my father's photo album, exactly what was going on and they really add the historical content to it."

The association is currently in its 62nd year and while there was talk about this being their last reunion, other members said they don't think that would happen.

While on tour, the veterans and family members visited the 65th Infantry Division monument on the grounds of the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center which they dedicated during their 1991 reunion.

"While here, we showed them where they were quartered in World War II and how the camp has changed since then," said Daniels. "We showed them the modern things we have here such as the new air field and the maneuver area training equipment site. So they see that somebody is carrying the torch for all they've did in World War II and that it's still going on today."

"The 65th Infantry Division veterans have always been one of the most active division association I ever encountered," said Daniels. "They wanted to have a monument at the home of their division where it was formed in 1943. So in 1991, they put up the very first monument on the museum grounds."

During their luncheon at the All Ranks Club on Camp Shelby, the veterans and family members were greeted by Sgt. Maj. Paul Collier, Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Directorate of Logistics senior enlisted advisor. Collier wore an authentic World War II uniform as worn by the reunion veterans. Lt. Col. Rick Weaver, Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center operations officer, welcomed the veterans back to the base and said Camp Shelby looks forward to hosting the group for many years to come.

# State takes battle to cyberspace

■ *Story and photo courtesy of The Carthaginian*

CARTHAGE - Not all battles are fought on battlefields, and the Leake County School District recently became the first in the state to benefit from help via the Mississippi Army National Guard.

It is a fight to keep the district's computer network safe and 2010 Carthage High School graduate Dennis Harvey returned to his hometown to bolster the district's defenses.

Harvey, a product of Leake County Career and Technical Center's engineering program instructed by Cynthia Blackstock, is a cyber network defense

non-commissioned officer in the Guard and said he is part of a team working to make sure important information networks around the state are safe.

"Pretty much what I do is I conduct computer forensic analysis," said Harvey, who met with LCSD Technology Coordinator Pam Tucker, along with 1st Lt. Julian Slaughter, to begin that process.

Such analysis, Harvey explained, had been provided for important state offices for some time now, but the Guard has partnered with Mississippi State University to do the same for schools.

"One of our most precious assets is our schools and our children," Harvey said. "We will conduct these assessments and work to harden the network."

A complete and total assessment of the district's information systems and networks will identify any possible holes in the protection of district information, Harvey said.

"We're going to come back and conduct security awareness classes, too," Harvey said. This training will include how to keep information safe and how to recognize viruses and corruptions, including how they can jeopardize information."

Slaughter said the program is a complete partnership.

"We will give follow-up support," said Slaughter, a native of Louisiana. "We're not here to tell anyone how to run their network."

"We are here to stand shoulder-to-shoulder, hand-in-hand working to get better together," Slaughter said.

Upgrades will be made where needed and post assessments will be made after updates have been implemented, he said.

Tucker said Harvey, who is currently working towards his masters degree in computer science, wanted to give back to the district, but that is no surprise as she realized his potential years ago.

"We realized his potential when he was here," Tucker said. "He's a go-to kind of guy who takes the bull by the horns."

"This program is a large benefit for the district. I'm very excited about it."

Harvey credited his time at the center with setting him on his current path.

"This is where I was able to get exposed to a lot of different things in the computer world," Harvey said. "You never know where you will be until you get out there and try it."



Carthage native Sgt. Dennis Harvey (right), a cyber network defense officer in the Mississippi Army National Guard, and 1st Lt. Julian Slaughter examine a computer at the Leake County Career and Technical Center.

# Navy veteran swims to honor heroes



Navy combat veteran Chris Ring is swimming the entire length of the Mississippi River in honor of our fallen heroes and their Gold Star Families. Ring made a stop in Vicksburg on Nov. 2 to visit military families and to bring national awareness to the life and character of service members who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

■ *Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Williams  
Camp Shelby Public Affairs*

VICKSBURG, Miss.—A gloomy day couldn't stop a Navy Veteran from attempting to become the first American to swim the length of the Mississippi River.

Chris Ring, a Navy SEAL combat veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, set out to swim the mighty Mississippi to honor fallen heroes and Gold Star Families.

A Gold Star Family is a family who has lost a loved one in war. Whether, it's World War II, Vietnam, Korea, Iraq or Afghanistan, these families receive a pin and flag in honor of their valued family members.

"After serving my country for nearly 10 years, I didn't want to put my service behind me," said Ring.

"I wanted to keep serving in some aspect."

On June 6, Ring began his six month, 2,320-mile swim down the Mississippi River at Lake Itasca in Itasca, Minn. To complete his journey, Ring averages six and a half hours in the water and nearly 16 miles a day. His goal is to reach Mile Marker 0, where the Mississippi River meets the Gulf of Mexico in early December.

"I feel like this is exactly what I'm supposed to be doing right now and it's been so powerful and humbling to be able to take it on," said Ring. "Every opportunity I have to meet a Gold Star Family; that's why I'm out here. Not to set a record or to be the first to do anything. I don't see it as an achievement, just an opportunity to connect with families as well as raise awareness."



Ring is being sponsored by Legacies Alive, a non-profit organization whose mission is to help honor the sacrifice of the nation's fallen heroes and the Gold Star Families they left behind. During his six month journey, Ring and his swim team will meet and connect with Gold Star Families along the way. Their goal is to raise awareness about what a Gold Star symbolizes.

"Here at Legacies Alive, we are proud to be able to raise awareness and to connect with as many Gold Star Families as possible," said Ring. "You guys paid that sacrifice, so everyone should know what that sacrifice is and what the pin and flag means. And we are dedicated to not letting people forget; we are dedicated in keeping their legacy alive."

Gold Star Lapel Buttons are presented to eligible family members as a way to recognize the families of service members who lose their loves while engaged in action against an enemy in combat.

Since 2001, approximately 6,800 service members have died in combat related incidents and training environments to include some native Mississippians and Mississippi National Guard service members.

Donna Bagwell lost her son, Marine LCpl. Mark Lucas Tucker, of Pontotoc, in Iraq in 2005. He was assigned to the 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Force Support Group, III Marine Expeditionary.

"As a mother, we are always afraid that our child will be forgotten," said Bagwell. "And this lets us know that we're not the only ones that remember."

As a member of the Gold Star Families, Bagwell said they find relief to help others who may be going through tough times.

"As a Gold Star Family member, we support each other and we have found through helping others that it helps us heal," she said. "We work to do what we can to help veterans and the Silver Star Families as well."

Leonard Scardino made the five-hour round trip

to meet and visit Ring when he heard what he was doing.

Leonard lost his son, 2nd Lt. Anthony Scardino, last year during a training mission at Ft. Gordon, Ga. Anthony was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, headquartered in Jackson.

"It's been hard this year," said Scardino. "But for this man to take his time to honor us and all veter-

ans, it's a privilege to be here."

"We all have something in common and that's the pain of losing a loved one in the military," said Scardino. "As a Gold Star Family member, we are all one family, helping and supporting each other."

Jennifer Smith, a CFA budget administrator for the Mississippi National Guard, lost her son, Marine Staff Sgt. Jason A. Rogers, of Brandon, who was assigned to 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division.

Smith and a few other supporters came out to cheer on Ring as he made a pit stop to talk to some Gold Star Families.

"It means so much that Chris is doing this in remembrance of all the fallen," she said. "As a Gold Star family member, our biggest fear is that our family member and their sacrifice will be forgotten. Chris is bringing this cause to light and reminding everyone what it means to be a part of a Gold Star Family."

"We never forget. It's the first thing we think of every day," said Smith.

Her son, Staff Sgt. Rogers, was killed in Afghanistan and posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star Medal with Valor device.

"I do feel this is bringing attention to the Gold Star families. Just today, a co-worker came to me and hugged me with tears in his eyes and said, 'I had no idea- I'll always think of you.' That was after watching the CBS Morning News piece on Chris Ring swimming the Mississippi River," said Smith.

"I definitely think Chris has accomplished what he has set out to do," she said.



Jane Cunningham and her husband T.D. share a moment with Ring after throwing petals into the Mississippi River.

# Key Field promotes energy conservation

■ Story by 1st Lt. Sabrina Dalton  
186th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Officer

Key Field Air National Guard Base has implemented an energy conservation competition that began July 1 and runs through Dec. 31. The overall goal is to create a more energy conscious mindset on the base and reduce energy usage by seven percent.

A 4.3 percent base-wide energy reduction has been tracked since the competition began in July. This results in roughly \$7,500 in savings over the four month period.

"It's more money for the Air Force as a whole, but that's also more money for us to do things on base like maintenance projects and improvements," said 1st Lt. Phillip Garrett, 186th Civil Engineering Environmental Manager.

Each building's energy use is monitored and compared to its previous year's usage to determine a percentage of energy unit increase or decrease.

"We had the hottest summer on record, and have used about the same amount of power as last year," Garrett said. "With summer temperatures being so hot this year, we feel like had we not done this then there would have been a drastic increase in energy usage."

To encourage participation, energy conservation guidelines were disseminated base wide.

## Doctors

Continued from Page 8

routes were from Iraq and Afghanistan to Germany and from Germany to the United States.

The Jackson-based 172nd Airlift Wing possesses nine C-17 aircraft and it's 183rd AES has earned a tremendous track record through their extensive air evacuation missions flown during Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. While participating in Southern Strike 16, 183rd AES personnel were able to share insights from their large number of deployments with other units than ranged from West Virginia, Texas and beyond.

"The 183rd AES is known worldwide for our people and our training," said Lt. Col. Teri Dawn Neely. "We're offering our expertise and training to other Air Force, Reserve and National Guard units."

"The value of the exercise was immeasurable," Neely said. "It allowed us to train for domestic operations to include hurricanes and other natural disasters."



The Aerospace Ground Equipment shop, including Master Sgt. Walter Boswell, Senior Master Sgt. Ronnie McDaniel, Tech. Sgt. Dustin Hoffer and Staff Sgt. Danly Whittington, was recognized as the winner of the Kilowatt Crackdown for the first quarter.

"Some of the biggest energy savers are powering down things when not in use and cutting off lights. We've even had some buildings combining offices during the week, so they can completely shut down offices," Garrett said.

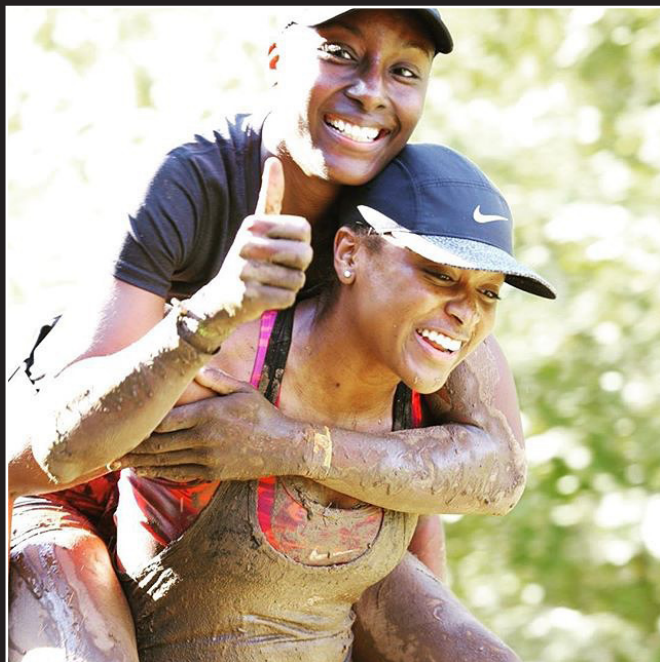
Winners of the competition are announced monthly and plaques are awarded to quarterly winners during a luncheon. The overall winner will be announced in January. The Aerospace Ground Equipment (AGE) shop was recognized as the winner for the first quarter.

"The key is that it was a group effort. The whole shop bought in on it. It wasn't anything that any one person did to conserve energy. We all did little things, and it was a team effort," said Senior Master Sgt. Ronnie McDaniel, AGE shop supervisor.



A U.S. Air Force Critical Care Air Transport Team practices securing a tube in preparation for simulated transport missions at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center during Exercise Southern Strike 16 on Oct. 27. The CCATT is made up of U.S. Air Force Guard, Reserve and active duty Airmen. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Marianne Santos, 1st Combat Camera Squadron/Released)

# Health & Fitness



## Jones, Marbory compete in Tough Mudder Dallas

Sgt. Dedra Jones (top), Mississippi National Guard Joint Force Headquarters, and 2nd Lt. Shavon Marbory, Charlie Company, 106th Brigade Support Battalion, participate in the Tough Mudder Dallas obstacle course Oct. 3-4. The event is a team-oriented 10-12 mile obstacle course designed to test physical strength and mental grit. Tough Mudder puts camaraderie over finish rankings and is not a timed race but a team challenge that allows participants to experience exhilarating, yet safe, world-class obstacles they won't find anywhere else. "You come with your team but every person on the course becomes your teammate," said Jones. "If it doesn't make you uncomfortable, it isn't challenging enough!" (Photo Courtesy of Sgt. Dedra Jones)

## MS Guardsmen up to Coosa River Challenge

Members of the Mississippi National Guard participate in the Coosa River Challenge in Wetumpka, Ala., on Oct. 3. The challenge consists of a number of physically demanding events including a 5k run, mountain biking, and kayaking with different Crossfit workouts interspersed along the route. Completing the course takes an average 5-7 hours. "Participating in these events is a fun and challenging way to help us stay in shape," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Tommy Smith (pictured second from the right), the MSNG warrant officer strength manager. "It is also a way to get mentally stronger as you prepare for, and persevere through, these tough courses." (Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. David Martian)



## Army 10-Miler challenges 22 MS Army Guardsmen

Twenty-two Soldiers of the Mississippi Army National Guard, including Maj. Gen. Augustus L. Collins, the adjutant general of Mississippi (center, standing), participate in the Army Ten-Miler (ATM) at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 11. Now in its 31st year, the ATM is held each October in Washington, DC. All race proceeds benefit Soldier MWR programs. The mission of the ATM is to promote the Army, build esprit de corps, support Army fitness goals, and enhance community relations.

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## MS medics provide UN lifesaving training overseas

Members of the Mississippi Army National Guard's 5th Medical Training Battalion, 154th Regional Training Institute, lead the Medical First Responder Course in Bangladesh and Indonesia in June. This medical training mission is a United Nations program sponsored by the Global Peacekeeping Operations Initiative for nations providing troops for the UN, as part of their pre-deployment training. The training includes basic lifesaving tasks such as CPR, applying a tourniquet, splinting and bandaging, and other first aid training. In coordination with the United States Pacific Command, this medical training mission is vital for peacekeeping operation success. (Photo Courtesy of Lt. Col. Dean Adkins)



## CSM Conley visits Camp Shelby

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 198th Armored Regiment listen as Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley, command sergeant major of the Army National Guard, talks about why he joined the National Guard during a visit at the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center on Aug. 15. Conley's primary reason for the visit was to witness the 2-198 in training and receive the Soldiers' feedback about collective training and the life of being a Soldier. (Mississippi National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Williams, Camp Shelby Public Affairs)

# Hospital

Continued from Page 17

all the amenities of a civilian hospital.

"It's not new, but a TMC is unique to only a few brigades in the nation," Horvath said. "Most (major subordinate commands) do not have a Charlie Med. It's got to be part of a larger brigade combat team and usually a combined arms team. They have battalion aid stations with a doctor or (physician assistant) and some medical personnel, but they won't have the same type of ancillary care. And that's what makes us different. It's the fact that we have that (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) component and the fact that we have a lab, dental and X-ray. We're one of the few in the country. It makes us very unique and very resilient."

Charlie Med is able to demonstrate that special capability during an Exportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) exercise at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center this month.

"This is the first time we've set up a functional X-ray and lab here in the field," Horvath said. "It's

about the quality of a portable X-ray in a hospital, so we can do anything from a chest X-ray, to fingers, ankles, or hands. That will help us diagnose and let us know if we need to send someone up (to a better equipped facility) or hold onto them."

The capability to make that determination in the field has "reduced a great number of our medical evacuations to a higher level of care" and saved taxpayers a significant amount of money, Horvath said.

"It helps us from using the resources outside that would cost us a lot of money. It's very expensive to send a Soldier to a

hospital. So anything we can take care of out here, we do," said Cadet Rachel Daene, of Vicksburg, a treatment center team leader.

During the XCTC, those Soldiers include not only members of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, but also active-duty Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, an element of the Fort Hood-based 1st Cavalry Division and Reserve components. In total, more than 4,600 Soldiers are partnering with Mississippi Guardsmen for the brigade field-training exercise, which will test the 155th's ability to perform platoon movements, company attacks, response to ambushes, and more.

"In the XCTC, we will take on patients almost as if we were in the battle," Horvath said. "That means almost all of the patients should be coming through Charlie Med, because very few of them would be required to be evacuated straight to (a hospital)."

Charlie Med has seen its share of typical training injuries, such as heat casualties and twisted ankles, but it excels in providing ancillary services a Soldier would normally only see in a standard hospital.

The unit holds a sick call in the morning and evening as well as receiving patients trickling in throughout the day that have more immediate injuries.

"This really gets us ready. We have to set this up. We have to be capable of running this on a daily basis. And we have to be willing and able to treat a multitude of injuries and illnesses," said Spc. Alexander Garvey, of Petal, a combat medic.

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***This is the first time we've set up a functional X-ray and lab here in the field ... we can do anything from a chest X-ray, to fingers, ankles, or hands.***

---

- Maj. Susan Horvath



**Cadet Rachel Daene, of Vicksburg, a treatment center team leader with Company C, 106th Support Battalion, collects information on a patient at the Troop Medical Clinic during an Exportable Combat Training Capability exercise at Camp Shelby on Aug. 1. (Mississippi National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Tynes, 102nd Public Affairs Detachment/Released)**

## Villeret

Continued from Page 19

Northington, vice president of programs and administration for the state Chamber of Commerce and director of Leadership Mississippi. "Not just as a service member, but as a woman in the military, she brings a unique perspective in representing a specific minority in the Mississippi business community."

The recognition Villeret has received continues to show the multi-discipline areas that service members have developed since 9/11. Guard members are better

equipped to transition back to their civilian jobs after deployments because of the unprecedented interconnectedness of business and defense.

"These awards are a measuring stick for performance that a service member would not typically get," said Villeret. "But it is a great way for the private sector to validate or affirm the work that is going on in the Guard and how both sectors complement each other."



Maj. Amanda Villeret

## Leader

Continued from Page 18

higher command's order. It's going to take some time to explain to them the way we operate and why we do the things we do."

Through heavy use of Army linguists, the Mississippi Army National Guard team was able to make some headway. The 17th Brigade submitted three requests for information to higher and conducted a mission analysis briefing to the brigade commander, including a detailed analysis of the AO. Brig. Gen. Jamal seemed to be pleased with the work so far.

During the 17th Brigade's course of action development, the Mississippi team noticed an apparent lack of collaboration among the various staff groups. It was noted that this was more to do with their military culture and not their inability to solve the problem. As the Mississippi team worked to help staff sections learn to cross-talk, the 17th Brigade began sharing information more freely, which led to better planned courses of action.

As time went on, between the 155th ABCT and the 17th Brigade, both were very familiar with one another. A war-gaming demonstration was presented by the Mississippi team, displaying the action-reaction-counteraction events that normally take place during a course of action analysis session. This interaction brought to light some of the issues that can arise during the development of any plan, especially in stability and counterinsurgency operations.

The first few hours of the command post exercise revealed the RSLF way of conducting business during an operation. After a round of events and significant activities, the 17th Brigade staff was clearly focused on reacting to each incident as it occurred.

"They have two main issues to address here," said Fox. "The first is the idea of a common operating picture. The other problem I see is the lack of clearly defined future and current operations."

By the end of the second day of the command post exercise, the commander and his staff were analyzing events and the environment with the aid of a true common operating picture. The 17th Brigade identified key insurgent patterns. They also implemented a handful of new ideas introduced to them by the Mississippi National Guard team.

Through the brigade commander's guidance and staff analysis, they recognized that proactive protection of economic infrastructure would strike the enemy at its center of gravity. Through the use of heavy patrols, traffic control points and local security, the 17th Brigade staff was able to successfully conduct its mission of maintaining stability and securing their AO.

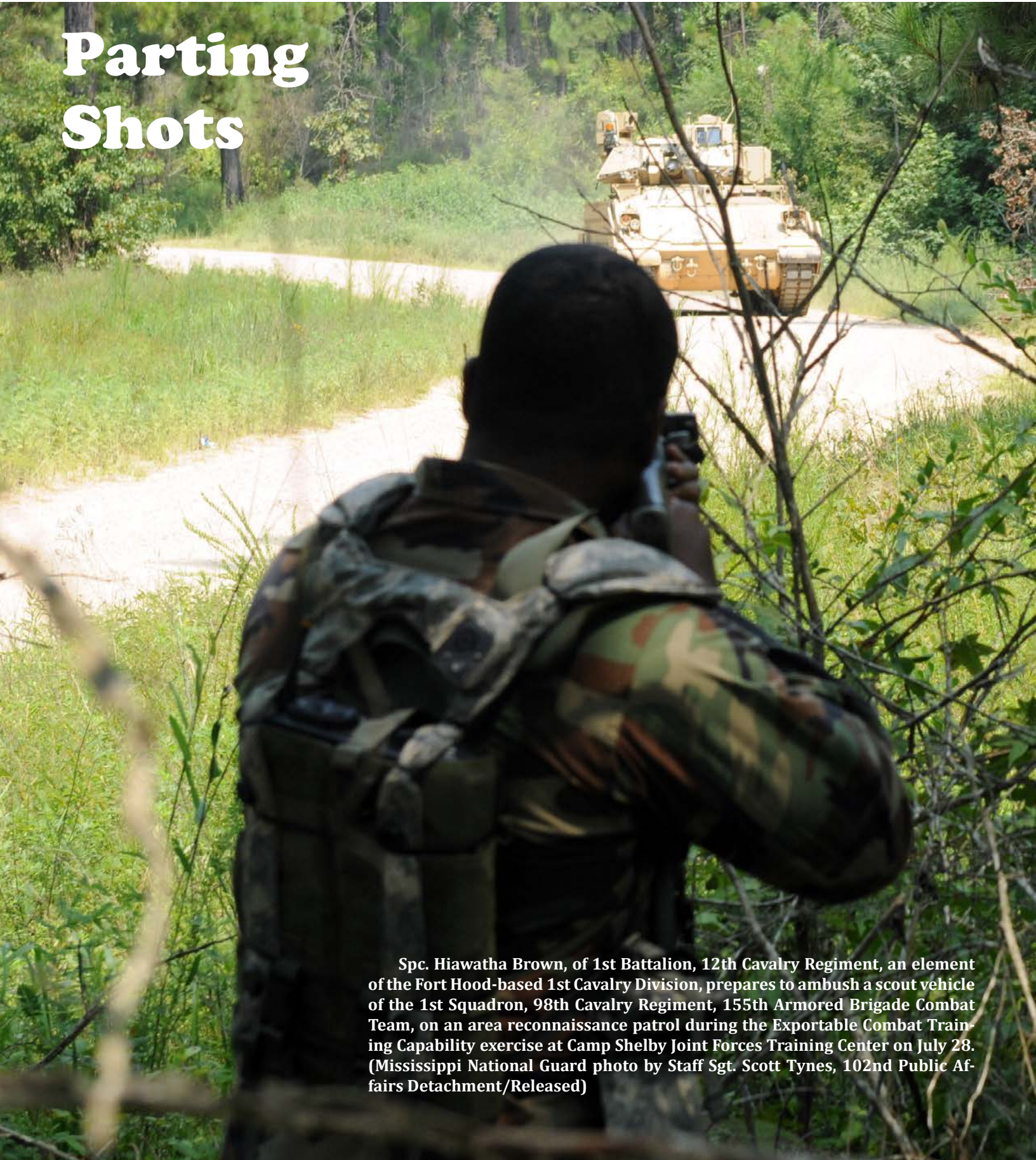
Not everything ran smoothly, but progress was made throughout the training exercise and new techniques and procedures were introduced.

"Not too many units would welcome much change to the way they do business," said Fox. "So it's encouraging to see [the Saudis] acceptance to our suggestions."

For the 17th Brigade and the RSLF, Earnest Leader 2015 was another step forward toward developing key leaders for real world challenges. For the 155th ABCT and the Mississippi Army National Guard, it was yet another historic milestone and a lesson in preparation and execution.

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# Parting Shots



**Spc. Hiawatha Brown, of 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, an element of the Fort Hood-based 1st Cavalry Division, prepares to ambush a scout vehicle of the 1st Squadron, 98th Cavalry Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, on an area reconnaissance patrol during the Exportable Combat Training Capability exercise at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center on July 28. (Mississippi National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Tynes, 102nd Public Affairs Detachment/Released)**