

Snap Shots...

A look back at some of the recent highlights of the Alabama National Guard.

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Noble Eagle

Homecoming...
C Co. 1/167 Infantry concludes active duty at Redstone Arsenal.

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Training...

Civil support team trains to take on disasters.

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ALABAMA GUARDSMAN

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Defending the nation ...

Answering the call

Timeline: The Alabama guard after Sept. 11

**CONTRIBUTED
Public Affairs Office**

As of Nov. 30, 2002

(Note: For security reasons, some strength figures, exact deployment locations and other facts are not included in this summation.)

Sep. 11, 2001: Terrorists attack World Trade Center and Pentagon. Gov. Don Siegelman orders Alabama Guard to heightened state of alert. Alabama Air Guard's 187th Fighter Wing and 117th Air Refueling Wing begin flying missions in support of North American Aerospace Defense Command in a non-active duty status.

Sep. 14, 2001: President George W. Bush issues proclamation declaring national emergency and orders partial mobilization of up to 50,000 National Guard and other Reservists for up to two years.

Sep. 24, 2001: Alabama Air Guard's 226th Combat Communications Group in Montgomery, activates communication management package and deploys to locations in the continental U.S.

Sep. 26, 2001: Cells from 117th Intelligence Squadron, Birmingham; 232nd Combat Commu-

nications Squadron, Montgomery and 280th Combat Communications Squadron of Dothan activate. 117th provides critical, time sensitive intelligence analysis to DOD agencies. 232nd and 280th provide information technology services in support of command, control, communications and computer operations. Units deploy to countries outside the U.S.

Sep. 27, 2001: President requests Alabama National Guard assist with security at state's commercial airports. Gov. Siegelman orders Alabama Guard to six commercial airports in state.

Sep. 29, 2001: Military Police report to airports in Huntsville, Muscle Shoals, Birmingham, Montgomery, Dothan and Mobile to augment existing airport security personnel.

Sep. 30, 2001: The Alabama Army Guard's 1st Battalion 167th Infantry (Mech) receives alert order for mobilization. Battalion headquarters are in Talladega with units in Childersburg, Valley, Heflin, Pelham and Cullman.

Oct. 4, 2001: 1/167th Infantry receives mobilization order and activates three companies.



Martin Dyson/photo

Members of the 1103rd Corps Support Battalion march into position before their farewell ceremony on Oct. 29. The ceremony was held by the City of Eufaula, the 1103rd's hometown. Approximately 35 members of the unit were activated for the yearlong tour of duty in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

Oct. 5-8, 2001: 1/167th Infantry units undergo Soldier Readiness Processing at Fort McClellan Army National Guard Training Site.

Oct 9, 2001: Company B, 1/167th Infantry, Pelham, departs home station and moves to Anniston Army Depot to provide security.

Oct. 10, 2001: Company C, 1/167th Infantry, Cullman, departs home station for security duty at Redstone Arsenal.

Oct. 11, 2001: Company A, 1/167th Infantry, Valley and Heflin, leaves home station for security duty at Fort Rucker.

(Please see **TIMELINE**, page 12)

ALABAMA GUARDSMAN

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On the Cover

A soldier from the 20th Special Forces Group says good-bye to a loved one before departing for duty in Afghanistan on Sept. 11. While the rest of the country was pausing in remembrance of the first anniversary of 9/11, 30 members of the 20th departed for Afghanistan. The contingent were part of nearly 300 soldiers assigned to the 20th who will take part in Operation Enduring Freedom. Since the initial terror attacks in 2001, more than 500 members of the 20th Group have deployed in support of America's fight against terrorism. Afghanistan is the latest deployment for 20th Group, who have also been deployed in the Balkans, Haiti and Desert Storm. (Photo by Jamie Brown.)

ADJUTANT GENERAL

Bowen 'unretires' to take reins as Adjutant General

by JAMIE BROWN
Senior Editor

Maj. Gen. Mark Bowen began a new chapter in his military history, as he became The Adjutant General for Alabama on Jan. 20, 2003. Bowen returned to the Alabama National Guard after retiring in June 2000 with more than 44 years of military service. His last assignment before his initial retirement was as commanding general of the 167th Logistical Support Command.

Although Bowen was enjoying his retirement, he said that returning to the Alabama Guard as Adjutant General was an honor that he couldn't pass up.

"My first reaction was that I was very humbled," he said. "It is quite an honor to serve as the Adjutant General for a state that has as good a guard as the Alabama National Guard, and people that are as patriotic as the people here are."

During these times of increased deployments and a possible war in Iraq,

Bowen said that he won't make any major changes in the Alabama National Guard, but he will focus on taking care of the troops.

"The thing I'm going to do right now, that we're in a crisis, is make sure that the soldiers we send off to be deployed are trained, and that they have everything they need: individual equipment, unit equipment, whatever they need to make sure they have a successful deployment," Bowen said. "Next, we're going to take care of their families. Then, I'm going to get these soldiers back home. We're going to take care of them, we're going to out-process them, we're going to get them back in their jobs and we're going to get them back in the system."

Bowen also said that recruiting and education would go hand in hand during his tenure as Adjutant General.

"Recruiting wise, we need to recruit people, there is no doubt about it," he



Martin Dyson/photo

Maj. Gen. C. Mark Bowen

said. "I'm going to expect every soldier to recruit. I've been recruiting since the moment I said 'yes.' We're lucky that we live in Alabama, a state where people are very patriotic. We want to educate all the kids. (Please see TAG, page 7)

STATE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

The importance of readiness: preparing for tomorrow, today



Command Sgt.
Major Don Wood

families make are many. They have faced numerous challenges and represented Alabama and our nation in the best possible

I have had the honor, over the past year, of visiting with many of our fellow Alabama Guard men and women as they prepared for deployments. Words can't express how proud I am of all of them. The sacrifices that they and their

way.

We live in a different world now than we did 15 months ago, and the Guard has felt these changes in a big way. But one thing remains the same, and that is the importance of READINESS. In fact, readiness is more important than ever. The days when we could spend a career in the Alabama National Guard and not go further from home than Camp Shelby are gone. Alabama Guard personnel are almost as likely to go to Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Bosnia, Kosovo or Kuwait as they are to Mississippi. It is not uncommon for units to serve year-long deployments, assisting with homeland defense.

During the past 15 months, our na-

tion has turned to the Alabama National Guard many times. Our units have been able to answer the call, because they made READINESS a priority. They took training seriously. They didn't spend idle time at the armories. They made their mistakes and learned from them, so they would not make the same mistakes when lives were on the line. Now, more than ever, the phrase "Let no man's soul cry out ... 'had I the proper training.'" rings true. It is important that we stay focused, train hard and be prepared. As long as we wear the uniform, we owe that to our country, our fellow soldiers and airmen and ourselves.

(Please see CSM, page 7)

Military Police look forward to challenge of active duty

by **JAMIE BROWN**
Senior Editor

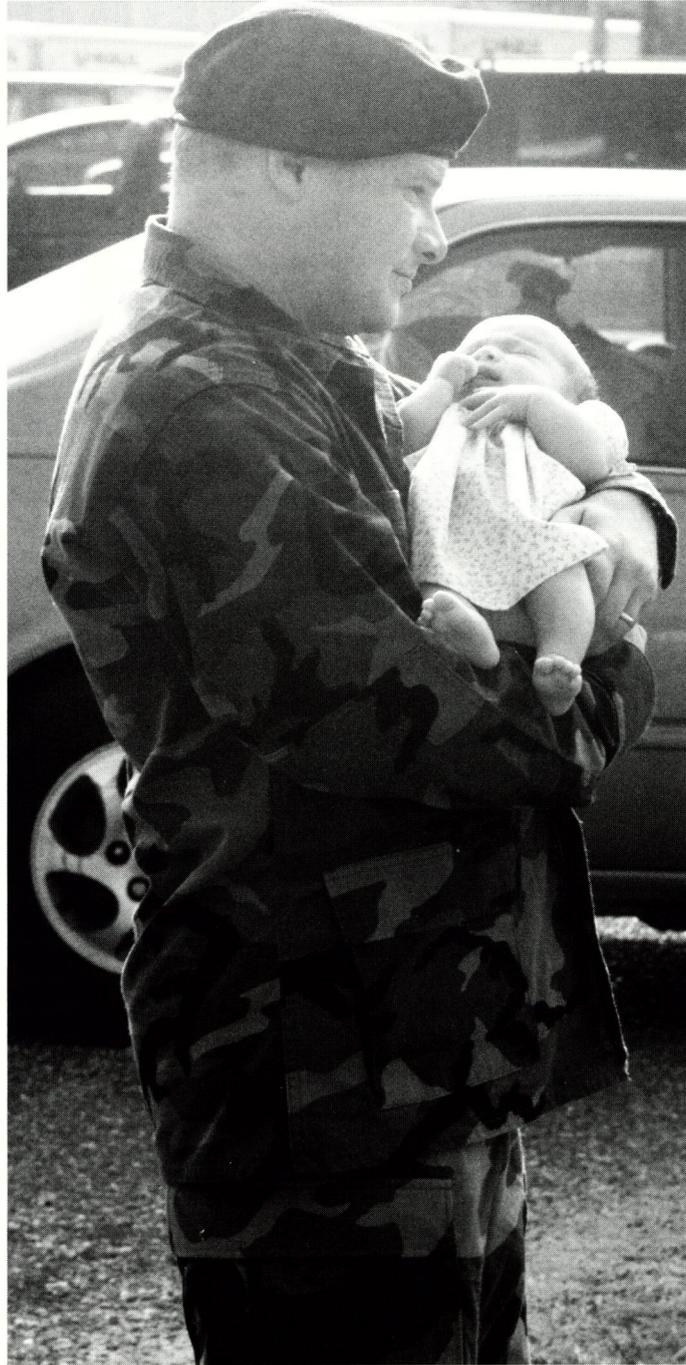
PRATTVILLE- The soldiers stood straight and proud in formation. Their faces showed focus and determination in meeting the challenges of the upcoming year, and successfully completing their mission.

Approximately 160 members of the 217th Military Police Company from this Autauga County municipality were called to active duty to provide Homeland Security support for the nation's war on terrorism. A departure ceremony was held on Sept. 12 at Fort Darrell Wright National Guard Armory.

During the ceremony, members of the 217th and their families were addressed by Brig. Gen. Michael Sumrall, the adjutant general; Prattville Mayor Jim Byard; Maj. Gen. Ronald Stokes, commander, 167th TSC; Col. Joe Harkey, commander, 111th Ordinance Group; Lt. Col. Charles Gailes, commander, 231st MP Battalion and 1st Lt. Gerald Starnes, commander, 217th MP Co.

As soldiers spent their final moments with their families before boarding the buses carrying them to active duty, they faced the reality of being away from home.

"I'm going to miss my family, of course, but I know that what I'm doing, I'm doing for them," said Spc. Kenneth Williams, admin sergeant. "My daughter Emma is seven weeks old today. It's going to be hard leaving her, but I want



Jamie Brown/photo

Spc. Kenneth Williams, 217th Military Police Co., spends some time with his seven-week-old daughter, Emma, shortly before departing with his unit for active duty.

her to have a better world to grow up in."

"There are mixed emotions," said Sgt. Anthony Hatcher, commo ser-

geant. "I'm excited about it, but I'm also a little sad, because I'm leaving my family. Being a soldier, it's what you're ordered to do."

Despite the looming separation from family and friends, the soldiers of the 217th were excited to get the chance to serve their country.

"We're honored that we were selected for this mission, and the unit is ready to complete the mission," Starnes said. "The mission is going to be a challenge, and I'm looking forward to it."

"I have a lot of friends in the Guard, a lot of guys I'm close with, and I'm proud to be serving with them, and to spend the next year with people I trust, and I enjoy being with," Williams said.

"I'm excited and scared," said Sgt. Dennis Thrasher, team leader. "It's one of the things, that being in the military for a number of years, you always plan for the unexpected. When the call came that we were being activated, I was not surprised. We've practiced these things for a number of years, you're always ready, the phone rings, you're prepared to go."

As the soldiers exchanged teary-eyed embraces with their loved ones, and boarded the buses, Hatcher expressed the feelings of unity within the 217th.

"The only way they could get me out of this unit is either with a promotion, or a wheelbarrow," he said. "The 217th is just a great unit. I'm looking forward to returning to active duty, and being a full-time soldier."

Operation Noble Eagle

Infantrymen stay home for Homeland Defense

by JAMIE BROWN
Senior Editor

REDSTONE ARSENAL – It was a bittersweet occasion here as this active Army post said goodbye to the native sons who have been its protector for the past year.

Members of C Co. 1/167th Infantry (Mechanized) Alabama Army National Guard were honored at a farewell ceremony on Sept. 5. Members of C Co., Cullman, guarded the gates of Redstone Arsenal since October 2001. The unit was called up to active duty on Oct. 4, spent several weeks training and arrived at Redstone on Oct. 22 to perform its mission of providing force protection.

“Our main mission has been access/control,” said Capt. Daniel Pugh, commander for C Co. “We also performed perimeter security, and we had a mission to provide a quick reaction force. We’ve been checking people as they’ve come into the gates to make sure that they’re supposed to be here.”

“Most of our job, here on this post, was to check through visitors, and daily traffic coming in and out of the gates, access points, insure that there was a show of force to deter a threat, and to intercept any threat to the post,” said Spc. Marcus Whitlock.

According to Pugh, the unit accomplished its mission. “The guys have been tremendous out there on the gates,” he said. “They’ve basically been ‘public affairs’ guys, and they’ve done a tremendous job of doing the Alabama National Guard a good service out there.”

Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commanding general U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, agreed with Pugh’s assessment of C Company’s performance.



Jamie Brown/photo

Maj. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen, Redstone Arsenal, presents members of C Company, 1/167th Inf. with awards for their year-long service in which they provided security to the active duty installation.

“We here at the Arsenal turned to the Alabama National Guard,” Dodgen said. “Once again the call went forward to the Fourth Alabama, this time not only to defend our way of life, but to defend our very homes and families, not just in our homeland, but in our own state of Alabama. And as always, C Co. 1/167th responded not just with the professionalism that we’ve all come to recognize and expect from months of close interaction, but with an abiding spirit that has shown how proud they are to be our soldiers. Their willingness to answer the call has translated into a sense of pride on the part of everyone on the Arsenal, and in the

surrounding communities of Huntsville, and Madison County to regard them as our own citizen soldiers.”

For the soldier’s of C Co., the farewell ceremony marked the end of a year of sacrifice, a year away from civilian jobs, families and homes. Pugh, for instance, left his wife and day old baby in the hospital when the unit was activated. Dodgen thanked C Co. for those sacrifices its soldiers made.

“To each soldier, we thank you for your sacrifices,” he said. “We thank you for giving up your weekends and holidays with your families. Thank you for your diligence. Thank you for our safekeeping.”

Soldiers, however, did say that serving so close to home had its benefits.

“Because of us getting deployed here, I was actually very fortunate, and got to go home mostly every day, other than duty days here on post,” said Whitlock. “It was just like having

a job in Huntsville, if I were in a civilian status. It was great for me.”

“We’ve been fortunate, being this close to home,” Pugh said. “I live about an hour and half from here in Franklin, Tenn. Usually at least one or two weekends a month, I was able to get home.”

Serving so close to home was also something that the soldiers of C Co. were proud of.

“I’m proud that we got to stay in the states, and serve our purpose as National Guard,” said Whitlock. “We stayed right here in our hometowns, and defended what’s ours.”

Signal Battalion comes in strong during Fort Lewis war games

Editor's Note: The following article first appeared in the Huntsville Times on October 28th (2002) and was provided to the Alabama Guardsman courtesy of The Huntsville Times.

by **SHELBY G. SPIRES**
Times Business Writer

FORT LEWIS, Wash. – It has to be something extraordinary to separate a mother from her four-month-old son. For Capt. Zathlyn Granville Scott, it's duty that calls her away from her son, A.J.

Granville Scott is the headquarters company commander for the Alabama Army National Guard's 142nd Signal Brigade, based in Decatur. The unit has 1,751 troops in Alabama – with 561 of those working out of Huntsville and North Alabama.

Although she took on the role of headquarters company commander only a couple of months ago, Granville Scott has been leading 160 headquarters troops during an important war-training exercise over the past few days.

Without the 142nd, one of the Army's most important fighting units – the 90,000 men and women of I corps – would not be able to talk.

The brigade has been setting up communications equipment over the past month to be used in the complex war games. Using mostly computers, commanders and soldiers from the Army's I corps, or first corps, will be running through what it takes to shoot, move and talk among units over this week.

Adding stress for the war planners and commanders, supplies have to be ordered the proper way, replacements have to be taken to front lines and weapons and equipment have to be repaired.

It's all monitored and dealt with through the radios, telephones and computers set up and managed by the

142nd Signal Brigade.

"It's so highly important what this brigade does. We couldn't do our job without the 142nd," said Lt. Gen. Edward Soriano, I Corps commander.

Soriano said the war couldn't be fought without communications. "We've got to be able to talk to each other," he said.

It took two years to plan, and the mock "war" takes place on a fictitious island named Pacifica, which is based on the island of Luzon in the Philippines.

"That's because we needed a place that had actual maps that we could use," said Brig. Gen. Dallas Fanning, 142nd commander, who's also planning director for the city of Huntsville.

In the war-game scenario, rebel forces are fighting to take over the island, and the Army has committed about 90,000 troops to repel the attackers.

The real Army units of I Corps have only about 5,000 soldiers and a few tents stuffed with computers to wage battle on the enemy. It's mostly simulated fights.

What's real is the stress of doing the job. The brigade was facing supply problems before the exercise began Sunday.

"That's the way it would be for real and that's the way it is now, but we're working to resolve it," said Lt.



Michael Mercier/photo

Soldiers of the 142nd Signal Brigade describe their mission to officials before the start of war games at Fort Lewis, Wash.

Col. Tim Mitchell, one of Fanning's brigade planners and a resident of Huntsville. "We'll have it worked out before this starts."

Brigade planners didn't order enough supplies, but they learned the valuable lessons on a computer screen, not in combat, Mitchell said.

The mock war kicked off late Sunday afternoon. For the balance of the week, it will be 20-hour days, minimum, for the participants.

For Granville Scott, there can be headaches beyond lack of sleep. Some soldiers need their hands held during the exercises. Others just need some gentle reassurance. Most know what to do and get the job done, she said.

"It can be stressful. I take it seriously, but this job is fun," said Granville Scott, who works as a manager at the Fox Army Health Center.

The reality of the outside world can sometimes set in, and with sniper attacks and possible war in Iraq dominating the news lately, fear can be the enemy.

(Please see *SIGNAL*, page 7)

(TAG, continued from page 3)

One reason I want to educate children is because we have a lot of kids who can't make high enough scores to get in the Guard. That's a crime. We have young kids who want to join the Guard and they can't score high enough, who would make great soldiers, but somewhere we lacked in the educational system. So whatever we

can do, education wise, we'll do."

As he looked towards the future and his upcoming days as Alabama's Adjutant General, Bowen had a message for all the members of the Alabama National Guard, and their families.

"You go do your job," he said. "We're going to provide you with what you need. We're going to take care of

your family, whatever the needs are. And I want to say this to the families, I've been there. I've sent my children off to war, and I know it's very trying, but hang in there, we're going to get through this. We've got to do it, because it's the right thing to do. We are family. You are not alone."

(CSM, continued from page 3)

READINESS can be the difference between a successful mission and a catastrophe.

The ascension of our soldiers should be another priority. We need to assist our soldiers in reaching their full potential. Even our youngest soldiers should be afforded opportunities for leadership. We can't put a soldier into an NCO slot, and then expect him or her to become a leader overnight. We have to prepare our soldiers for that moment, from the minute they take the oath.

This includes setting the right example. Our younger soldiers see everything we do: how we train, how we treat our fellow Guardmembers and our attitude. We determine the future of The Alabama National Guard, now, by how we train and treat our junior enlisted soldiers. They are the leaders of tomorrow. They are our replacements. We must start preparing them today.

We, as the Alabama National Guard, face many challenges in months and years ahead. How we prepare for the challenges,

RIGHT NOW, can determine our success or failure. I am confident that you will make Alabama and The United States of America proud. I am proud of each and every one of you.

As always, remember we must "CARE."

C – be Competent

A – maintain a positive Attitude

R – stay Ready

E – be Enthusiastic

(SIGNAL, continued from page 6)

But having a threat looming is just part of being in uniform, Granville Scott said.

"You always have to stay focused. You never know when you will be asked to go somewhere and do something."

The brigade uses a variety of special equipment to provide communications, from regular radio signals to high-speed computer networks and satellite communications to equipment similar to common cell phones.

The common denominator is that while other units may play at war during an exercise, the 142nd always performs the same jobs.

"It doesn't matter if it's a hurricane or some other peacetime mission," Fanning said. "Our wartime mission and peacetime missions are the same. We do the same job either way."

Setting up computers and tele-

phones is the same whether an enemy is shooting at you or a natural disaster has just torn through a community, he said.

The units take high tech gear placed in Army Humvees and turn them into sophisticated, secure computer and communications networks.

Putting it into perspective, in case of a disaster, the brigade could connect every city hall, police and fire department in the state with phone service in less than 48 hours.

To hear Staff Sgt. Anthony Pollard of Mobile explain the setup, it's more like a modern phone company for the Army, with Fanning's outfit highly skilled telephone operators and technicians.

"It's just like the operator on 'The Andy Griffith Show' except it's all digital," Pollard said. "Nobody has to plug

in the lines; that's all done by computers."

Exercises like the one Fanning and his troops are part of don't come without a price. Almost 1,000 men and women have left their families and jobs for almost three weeks. That can be rough on loved ones and employers, Mitchell said.

The perception back home sometimes is that National Guard members play for an extended period, Mitchell said.

"I think the one thing people should understand is this is no vacation," said Mitchell, who works for Boeing as a missile defense engineer. "We do it because we like it, but it's not fun and games here."

Snap shots

A look back at some of the recent highlights in the Alabama National Guard.



Jamie Brown/photo

After a short but productive history the 1994th Personnel Detachment was inactivated on Sept. 14. The detachment first came into service in the National Guard in October of 1993 under the direction of the 1146th Personnel Services Battalion and provided personnel service support to both the Alabama National Guard and units participating in JROTC 1997, Roving Sands 1999, and Silver Scimitar 2001. The remaining members of the detachment will be reassigned to similar units within the Alabama National Guard.



Staff Sgt. Cortney Cephas and Sgt. 1st Class W who lost their lives during the Sept. 11 terror Alabama State Capital to pay tribute to those wreath was laid next to the New York, Virginia attacks. Governor Don Siegelman and State Ad, 11 Alabama natives who died during the attack flown in their memory over the Capital Buildi



Jamie Brown/photo

Sgt. 1st Class David Simpson, 151st Army Band, plays taps at the 9/11 ceremony at the State Capital.



Staff Sgt. Donna Johns reads to students at Head Element of Alabama's State Area Command went to the school to about careers in the military.



Jamie Brown/photo

William Andrews salute a wreath in honor of military members who lost their lives during the attacks. Nearly 500 people gathered on the lawns of the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery during the ceremony and presented Pennsylvania State Flags in remembrance of the three fallen soldiers. General Mike Sumrall also honored the memories of the fallen by presenting family members with State Flags that had been used by the fallen.



Martin Dyson/photo

Capt. Chris Murphy (center) and First Sgt. Bill Jones of Bravo Co. 1/167th Infantry Regiment, await the presentation of the honorary game flag, during a pre-game ceremony before the Alabama, Ole Miss game on Oct. 19th. The 167th recently completed a yearlong deployment in support of Operation Noble Eagle, and were honored by the University for their service.



Michael P. McCord/photo

Col. Danny K. Speigner took command of the 31st Armor Brigade from outgoing Commander Brigadier General Gary A. Quick during a ceremony on Oct. 15.



Martin Dyson/photo

at a school, Nov. 20, during career week. Nearly 30 members of the 131st MPAD visited the students in grades K through 6, and talk to them about military careers.



Robert Horton/photo

Thirty members of the 20th Special Forces Group depart from Montgomery for Afghanistan on Sept. 11. These soldiers were part of nearly 300 assigned to the 20th who will take part in Operation Enduring Freedom.

(TIMELINE, continued from page 2)

Oct. 12, 2001: Selected members of the 31st Chemical Brigade complete airport security training program at Fort McClellan Army National Guard Training Site.

Oct. 14, 2001: 31st Chemical Brigade personnel report to state's six commercial airports to relieve MPs on security duty.

Oct. 15, 2001: The 117th Air Refueling Wing, Birmingham, receives mobilization order activating a portion of the unit.

Oct. 17, 2001: 117th receives deployment order for movement of personnel and aircraft in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Oct. 18, 2001: The 131st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Montgomery, is mobilized in support of Operation JOINT GUARDIAN.

Oct. 21, 2001: 131st MPAD departs home station for duty station in Kosovo. 167th Theater Support Command (-) of Birmingham receives alert order.

Oct. 26, 2001: 167th TSC (-) mobilizes approximately 60 personnel at home station.

Oct. 28, 2001: 167th TSC (-) departs home station to provide logistical support to the newly formed Joint Forces Command at Fort Monroe, Va.

Nov. 1, 2001: Gov. Siegelman appoints Maj. Gen. Mike Sumrall as Director of Homeland Security and signs an executive order establishing the Alabama Homeland Defense Council. The council is composed of city, county and state law enforcement and governmental officials.

Nov. 2, 2001: 20th Special Forces Group activates 12 soldiers in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Nov. 9, 2001: President Bush authorizes 25 percent increase in National Guard airport security details over the holiday period.

Nov. 10, 2001: Alabama National Guard increases airport security by 25 percent at state's six commercial airports.

Dec. 20, 2001: 20th SF Group activates 12 additional troops from Alabama and Florida in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Jan. 3, 2002: 1st Battalion, 20th SF Group mobilizes approximately 80 more troops in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Jan. 4, 2002: 167th TSC (-) activates 10 more personnel in support of U.S. Army Forces

Command headquarters in Atlanta.

Jan. 6, 2002: Forty additional troops activated from 1st Battalion 167th Infantry in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

Jan. 31, 2002: Company A, 1/20th SF Group in Auburn activates 10 personnel in support of Enduring Freedom.

Feb. 1, 2002: 167th TSC (-) activates additional 40 personnel to support Operation Enduring Freedom. Detachment 1, 200th Materiel Management Center mobilizes 12 personnel who deploy to Germany in support of Enduring Freedom.

May 7, 2002: 20th SF Group activates another 200 troops to support current operations.

May 8, 2002: 1/167th Infantry activates another 80 troops to support Operation Noble Eagle.

May 10, 2002: Airport Security mission ends. 131st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment returns home after seven months in Kosovo.

Jul. 15, 2002: 1002nd Engineer Detachment, New Brockton, mobilizes to support Task Force Eagle in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Jul. 21, 2002: 1002nd Engineer Detachment departs home station for Bosnia.

Aug. 4, 2002: The 1st Battalion 131st Armor activates approximately 300 members from Ozark, Ashford, Florala, Samson, Centre and Hartford. Their mission is to provide homeland security and force protection in the continental U.S.

Aug. 5, 2002: The 20th Special Forces Group activates some 330 personnel from Huntsville, Auburn, Birmingham and a company in Springfield, Mass. The entire 20th SF Group is now mobilized. Personnel from the 167th TSC (-) re-deploy to home station from Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Aug. 9, 2002: Units of the 1/131st Armor report to Camp Shelby, Miss. for follow-on training.

Aug. 17, 2002: 1st Battalion, 20th SF Group departs home station for additional training at Fort Dix, NJ

Aug. 19, 2002: Approximately 240 personnel from Troop E, 31st Cavalry, Sylacauga and Calera, Detachment 1, Company B, 31st Support Battalion, Oxford, and 1/131st Armor receive mobilization orders. 1/131st Armor per-

sonnel activated on Aug 4, 2002, begin providing security at Redstone Arsenal, Anniston Army Depot and Fort Rucker. They replace 1/167th Infantry personnel who had been serving at these locations since October 2001.

Aug. 21, 2002: 20th SF Group advance party departs home station for duty in foreign country.

Aug. 22, 2002: 217th Military Police Company, Prattville, receives mobilization order.

Sep. 3, 2002: Troop E, 31st Cavalry, Det. 1, Co. B, 31st Support Bn, and additional 1/131st Armor personnel activate and depart home stations three days later.

Sep. 9, 2002: 217th Military Police Company in Prattville activates approximately 130 soldiers.

Sep. 11, 2002: A special 9-11 Commemorative Service hosted by Gov. Siegelman is conducted at the State Capitol. A large number of military personnel and civilian supporters attend the program. An additional 80 20th SF Group personnel deploy to a foreign country.

Sep. 12, 2002: 217th Military Police Company depart home station and deploy to Fort Stewart and Fort Benning, Ga. to provide security.

Sep. 14, 2002: The final contingent of 20th SF Group personnel leave from Maxwell AFB. Their destination – Afghanistan. This marks the first time a Reserve Component Special Forces unit has deployed to a war zone. Alabama's 20th SF Group is now conducting all Special Forces Operations in that country.

Sep. 18, 2002: The 1103rd Corps Support Battalion from Eufaula receives mobilization orders for approximately 30 personnel. The deploy to Fort Bragg, NC

Sep. 29, 2002: Some 30 personnel from the 167th TSC (-) in Birmingham return home after providing support to the Joint Forces Command at Fort Monroe, Va.

Nov. 30, 2002: 441st Ordnance Battalion (EOD) from Huntsville mobilizes approximately 30 personnel in support of Operation Noble Eagle. They deploy to Fort Lewis, Wash.

Editor's Note: Due to publication deadlines and constraints, events that took place after Nov. 2002 will appear in the Spring 2003 edition.

Chaplain retires after 32 years of serving the troops

by MICHAEL P.
McCORD
Press NCOIC

Retirement ceremonies were held recently for the Alabama Army National Guard's, Chief of Chaplains, Col. William David McGowin, Jr. at Fort George C. Wallace armory in Montgomery.

Speaking to members of STARC in his last drill weekend, and after more than 32 years of ministering to the troops, McGowin stood behind the pulpit for his final Guard sermon. With his family and the Adjutant General(former), Maj. Gen. Mike Sumrall in attendance, McGowin reflected on his personal relationships with his ministry and the soldiers he serves.

After the service, McGowin was presented with a host of awards. Sumrall pinned on the Legion of Merit for the chaplain's 32 years of service to Alabama guardmembers. Among his many awards and decorations are the Meritorious Service Medal with one bronze oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with one bronze oak leaf cluster, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with one silver and two bronze oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal, with one gold hourglass, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training ribbon with numeral 4, Distinguished



Michael P. McCord/photo

Col. William David McGowin, Jr. is congratulated by Maj. Gen. Mike Sumrall, Adjutant General(former), after giving his last sermon as the Chief of Chaplains. McGowin retired after a 32 year career of ministering to soldiers in the Alabama Guard.

Service Medal of Alabama, Veterans Service Medal of Alabama with two bronze oak leaf clusters, and the Faithful Service Medal of Alabama with one silver and two bronze Saint Andrews Crosses.

With more than three decades of ministering to the men and women of our military, along with pasturing churches in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi, McGowin remembered back on his career.

"I started my career with the 150th Transportation Company, (U.S. Army Reserve) and spent one A.T. (annual training) with them," he said. "After that I came into the Alabama Guard with the 109th. I stayed with them 16 years. On one particular FTX, (field training exercise) which was being graded by the 1st Army, I had 21

worship services in one day. It was a real experience. It was a tactical environment and it was really a 72-hour exercise. Because of the tactical that's where we went to little groups, (worship service) and that was just a great experience. Seeing the men and knowing the need of their worship experience and their own religious relationships and then of course, the counseling, was a great experience," he said.

Growing up in the Republic of Panama gave McGowin an opportunity later in his career with the Alabama Guard. A bilinguist, McGowin, as a member of the 109th was invited by his commander to go to Panama to help

set up camp for "Operation Blazing Trails", a humanitarian exercise and road building project involving hundreds of Alabama citizen-soldiers in 1985. Years later, as a member of the 167th COSCOM, he was asked to return to Panama during the withdrawal of military personnel and the transition and control of facilities to the Republic of Panama government.

Col. Sid Leak III has been promoted to the Chief of Chaplains and now serves in that capacity. McGowin has served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Hanceville, Alabama, for the past 15 years.

Married 37 years to the former Judy McGriff, they have one son, David, daughter-in-law Deneta and grandson Matthew.

Fort McClellan hosts potential officers from 25 states

by Capt. ANTHONY CLOUD
ALNG Training Center

The state of Alabama played host to soldiers from 25 states during Phase III of Officer Candidate School (OCS). The training was conducted July 20 through Aug. 4 at the Fort McClellan, Ala. Army National Guard Training Center.

The training included 389 Candidates from 25 different states: Ala, Ark., District of Columbia, Del., Ga., Ill., Ind., La., Ky., Mass., Md., Mich., Miss., Mo., N.C., N.Y., Okla., Ohio, Pa., S.C., Tenn., Texas, Va., Vt., W.Va.

Training consisted of Leadership Reaction Course, Tactical Exercise Without Troops (TEWT), squad sized lanes and platoon sized lanes, concluding with a company attack. Candidates were evaluated on the eight troop leading procedures. The battalion commander for the training was Lt. Col. Ralph Goodson and the Operations N.C.O. was Master Sgt. Mike Lee.



Anthony Cloud/photo

Officer candidates participate in lanes training at the Fort McClellan Army National Guard Training Center.

Things to do before you tell it to your Inspector General ...

Contributed Story Inspector General's Office

Be sure you have a problem, not just a peeve.

(Are the cooks turning out lousy chow or was it just one bad meal)

Give your chain of command a chance to solve the problem.

(Many problems must be addressed to the chain of command for resolution anyway).

If IG assistance is needed, contact your local IG first.

(IG's at higher commands will normally refer the case to the local IG for action)

Be honest and don't provide misleading information.

(IGs will discover the truth quickly in most cases and there are penalties for knowingly providing false information)

Keep in mind that IGs are not policy makers.

(If a policy is flawed you can submit proposed change on a DA Form 2028)

Keep in mind that IGs can only recommend, not order a resolution.

(Only Commanders can order; the role of the IG is to advise the Commander)

Remember IGs can only resolve a case on the basis of fact.

(Your claim that a supervisor has violated the rules doesn't make it fact. A claim

must be supported with evidence)

Don't expect instant action on your request... Be patient.

(Investigations take time, and IGs tend to have heavy workloads)

Be prepared to take "No" for the answer.

(In any case "Yes" or "No", the IG will explain why)

To complain without fear of reprisal is the right of any Soldier, Civilian, or Family Member seeking IG help. After all, problem solving is one of the IG's primary mission.

Contact the IG at: 334-271-7245 or toll free: 1-866-456-2764, PIN #7245

We're in the Army now: Good Hope High a hotbed of servicemen

Editor's Note: The following article first appeared in the Cullman Times on December 5th (2002) and was provided to the Alabama Guardsman courtesy of The Cullman Times.

by **JOSEPH GOODMAN**
The Cullman Times

Good Hope – In a time of heightened patriotism, Good Hope High is singing the Star-Spangled Banner louder than anyone.

Get this, Good Hope has seen 16 current or former students join the Alabama Army National Guard ... in the last year. There aren't even that many guys on the Raiders basketball team.



Joseph Goodman/photo

David Colvard

The source of the Army pipeline started with the football team and is quickly branching out across the school and community. Good Hope graduates Kyle Hollis and Jamie Nunn took a trip Wednesday to Nashville for the required enlistment aptitude test and physical.

Here's the list of current or soon-to-be servicemen: Hollis, Nunn, Josh Bates, Alan Scott, Michael Green, Daniel Speegle, Jessie Smith, Jason Smith, Stephen Johnson, J.P. Parker, Adam Armstrong, Colby Junkin, Chris Colvard, Michael Castleberry, Kris Griffin and Adam Manning.

The majority of the hometown soldiers serve together in C-Battery,

1-203 Air Defense Artillery Unit located in Hartselle. A few others joined outfits in Decatur, Oneonta and Cullman.

The civilian translation for C-Battery, 1-203 ADA is simple. The GIs operate Patriot Missiles. Patriots are the defense missiles, which received fame during Desert Storm for protecting U.S. soldiers and Israeli cities from Iraqi missile attacks. Iraq shot SCUD missiles and the Patriots intercepted them.

The translation for: Why in the name of camouflage and spit-shined boots have 16 Good Hope students signed the dotted line in the last year? That answer is simple too: Sgt. David Colvard. Colvard is a football coach who doubles as a National Guard recruiter.

Colvard – his oldest son, Chris, reports to boot camp this summer-sells kids on the idea of job training, college money and civil duty. Sgt. J.P. Steven also recruits students at Good Hope.

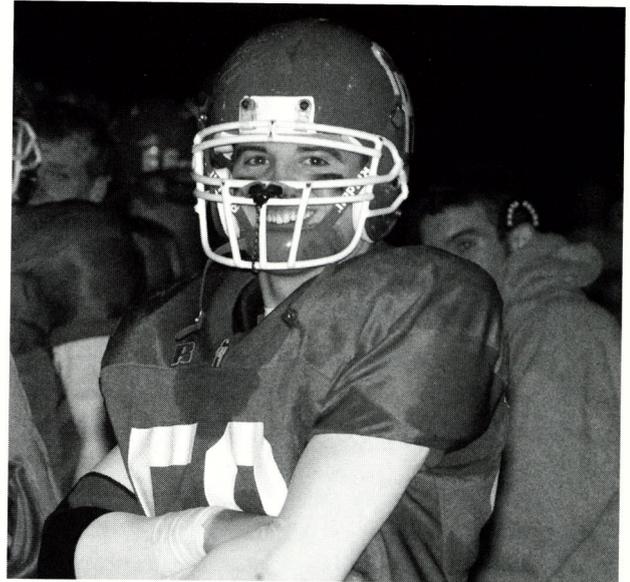
"I'm a firm believer we've been able to reach so many kids, because they know us and they trust us," Colvard said. "They're looking forward to getting job training and money for college."

Chris Colvard plays football and baseball for the Raiders. He and Junkin, also a football player, recently signed up for the National Guard.

Colvard says he's wanted to join the service ever since, he remembers, seeing his dad in uniform.

"It's something I've always wanted to do," Chris said. "I'm going to be a petroleum specialist."

Sounds neat. Hey Chris, does that mean you get to gas up trucks all



Amanda Shavers/photo

Good Hope senior football player Chris Colvard is joining the Alabama Army National Guard. Colvard is one of 16 former and current Good Hope students to join the Guard in the last year.

day? "Something like that," he said.

Whenever Colvard ends up doing one weekend out of every month, he's glad he joined the service now. The 18-year-old son of a recruiter says he has a sneaking suspicion Selective Service might reintroduce the draft soon.

"If we go to war they've got to get the numbers up somehow," he said. "I'd rather pick what I'm going to do than let someone else pick it for me."

Despite the specter of war in the Middle East, Good Hope is pumping out new recruits faster than an M-16 set on automatic.

So far, none of Good Hope's 16 have been called to active duty yet. Active duty usually lasts a year.

"Any kind of service is hard to sell with everything going on right now, but with the guard being a homeland security part of the service, it's been easier," Sgt. Colvard said.

Alabama Guard civil support team trains to take on disasters

by JAMES RAMIREZ
Fort Leonardwood Public Affairs

FORT LEONARDWOOD, Mo. - The principal at Pence Elementary School notified local authorities on Sept. 27 that children there were experiencing unusual breathing problems, suffering from chills, headaches and heavy sweating. He also informed them that a suspicious package had been found near the school that day.

A civil support team composed of soldiers and airmen was called in to investigate the package, which was suspected of being a weapon of mass destruction.

Although that scene was just a training scenario, it is the real-life job of the Montgomery, Ala., 46th National Guard Civil Support Team to react and respond to incidents where weapons of mass destruction are involved.

"Our mission is to advise, assist and facilitate the incident commander, which could be a fire chief or FBI agent," said Maj. Mathew Haley, 46th CST commander.

For seven weeks the 46th CST trained here to respond to various threats of mass destruction.

"The type of training we had here was more conducive for a better training environment for my team," said Haley.

For five weeks, team members learned in a classroom about emergency assessment and detection and how to work with hazardous materials. The final two weeks were dedicated to hands-on collective training on everything they had learned.

"Regardless of rank we all do the same type of training, so every one of us can perform our job quickly and efficiently," said Spc. Allen McClain, 46th CST survey team member.

One part of McClain's job is to do a reconnaissance of the hazardous area, he said.

"There's a lot of responsibility on you while going down lanes doing reconnaissance," said McClain. "Your team is counting on you to take care of them, while taking care of yourself, to assure everyone makes it out of the hazardous area OK, while at the same time accomplishing the mission."

One hazard team members have to avoid

is dehydration and resulting heat stroke from wearing their protective gear.

"It can get up to 120 degrees in the training suits and even hotter in the actual suit we wear for missions," said Army Sgt. Cliff Kirkwood, another survey team member.

Because of the sweltering heat of the suits, team members keep cool by wearing shorts, T-shirts and cooling vests equipped with pouches of ice under the protective equipment. Most important, they make sure they're well-hydrated before putting on the suits. Once "encapsulated," they have no way to quench their thirst, said Kirkwood.

Just as there are four different levels of protection when wearing Army protective gear, the CST suits also have four different levels. At Level A, the highest state of protection, the suit is completely sealed from head to toe and the wearer has an air tank with a protective mask inside the suit.

At Level B, the wearer wears unsealed gloves with no head protection, though the protective mask is still worn. At Level C, team members take off their protective masks and wear simple respirators.

At Level D, they wear regular clothes.

When the soldiers return from a reconnaissance mission, all their gear goes through a stringent decontamination process. To assure their equipment is decontaminated it is thoroughly swept by chemical, biological and radiation detectors.

While suited, teams have a communication device to relay information among themselves and with the survey team leader, who collects the data to relay to the incident commander. Helping to relay communications between the teams and outside sources, if needed,



James Ramirez/photo

Tech. Sgt. Michelle Baverkemper helps Spc. Allen McClain suit up to Level A.

are the unified command sweepers.

"Our mission is to provide communications for a suspected WMD scene," said Tech Sgt. Gary Brown, communications chief.

Working inside a "mobile furnished satellite communications vehicle," a team of three to four has access to the Internet and to radio communications and satellite telephones, said Brown.

All of these different teams working together form a group that is called in to take care of natural disasters, NBC attacks and other hazardous events to save and protect lives.

"Teams like ours are called in to take care of incidents like at Ground Zero or the Olympic games," said Brown. "We are a self-contained unit that can take care of any disaster."

Guardsman says goodbye after 33 years of service

by Steven Dillard
62nd Troop Command

Alabama Army National Guard colonel and Greenville resident James P. Sewell ended an illustrious military career that spanned more than 33 years by retiring from the Alabama Army National Guard. A ceremony to honor his career and accomplishments was held on Oct. 5, at the Governors House Hotel in Montgomery.

Maj. Gen. Edwin H. Wright, Commander of 62nd Troop Command awarded Sewell the Distinguished Service Medal of Alabama, the State's highest peacetime award, for inexhaustible meritorious service to the Alabama Army National Guard in defense of the nation.

Wright lauded Sewell for his outstanding military career and service as the Training Officer for Headquarters, 62nd Troop Command, Montgomery. Wright commented that "Sewell is a tough, standards oriented officer who succeeded with every assigned position in the Alabama Army National Guard." Wright also highlighted that Sewell's mission oriented style of leadership was greatly admired by all soldiers assigned to the command.

Col. James L. Patterson, Chief of Staff, 62nd Troop Command, said "Sewell has

served the Alabama Army National Guard Artillery community with great distinction. His stewardship, mentoring, and leadership has provided all artillery units with a superior training standards advantage."

Sewell began his military career in the Reserve Officers Training Cadet Program while attending Auburn University at Auburn. He earned distinguished military student and military graduate honors in receiving his commission as a Second Lieutenant in 1970.

After attending the Field Artillery basic course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, he served on active duty with the 6th Battalion, 10th Field Artillery in Bamberg, Germany. During his tenure of service, he served as Fire Direction Officer, Executive Officer and Battery Commander through 1973.

Sewell remained in the United States Army Reserve until October 1978, when he joined the Alabama Army National Guard. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 117th Field Artillery, Andalusia, in the position of Fire Support Officer. He later served in several positions in the Battalion, including Battalion Commander, 1st Battalion, 117th Field Artillery, Andalusia, from October 1990 through August 1993.

In September 1993, Sewell was assigned

to Directorate Of Readiness, Montgomery, as an Army Training Evaluation Program Director where he served until his selection for



Steven Dillard/photo

Sewell

Field Artillery Team Chief at Headquarters, 62nd Troop Command, Montgomery. In July 1996, he was promoted to Colonel and served as Staff Administrative Officer, Plans, Operations and Training Officer, and Plans, Operations and Military Support Officer, Headquarters State Army Readiness Command before moving to his last assignment as Training Officer, Headquarters, 62nd Troop Command.

Sewell is a 1965 graduate of Banks High School in Birmingham. He also received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1969 from Auburn University. He is owner of Sewell Logging Company in Greenville.

Sewell and his wife, Emily, have two children, Shelley and Sarah.

(LAST ROUND, continued from page 16)

the final shot was launched and the smoke cleared, the members of the 2/117th began to look toward the future of the unit, and moving to the MLRS.

"I'm looking forward to it, and I know, just like with these machines here, we're going to be able to execute with those, just like we have with these here," said Rhodes.

"I'm extremely excited about moving to the MLRS," Bittner said. "We have enough tube-artillery to support close maneuver elements, right now in the active component, most of the artillery is still in reserve, but the MLRS will give us a much greater capability to influence a deep attack, and support maneuver elements at longer ranges. It's much more lethal.

It's an area weapon. It will affect us the same way we were all affected when they came out with computers and they said 'you're going to have to sit down and do this, don't be scared of it. March on. It's a challenge.' We've done it before. This battalion has changed from air defense to tube artillery, and now we're going to be MLRS."

According to Bittner, the transition to MLRS will take course over a three-year period.

"We'll start off by first uploading and changing the MOSs of our soldiers, and training our soldiers to transition to MLRS," he said. "The new soldiers that are coming in will go off to school to learn MLRS. We'll have new equip-

ment training. A lot of that will be done with distance learning sites. We'll come here to Camp Shelby to learn about the hardware and the software, put our hands on it, and transition into section operations, and then into platoon operations, and then we'll go into battery and battalion."

As the day ended and the teary eyes dried, the 2/117's proud history gave way to a bright future. One old soldier, Staff Sgt. (Ret) Winston Perdue tried to put things in perspective.

"If we don't change, we stand still," he said. "And there is no such thing as standing still in this world."

Shot Out ...

Red legs focus on future after firing final round

by **JAMIE BROWN**
Senior Editor

CAMP SHELBY, Miss. - Members of the 2nd Battalion, 117th Field Artillery paused for a moment to look back, before jumping headfirst into a new and exciting future. The unit held a Final Round Ceremony here on June 22, to celebrate the firing of the final round of artillery in the state of Alabama. Artillery units will be making the move from the M109A5, 155mm, Self-Propelled Howitzer to the M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System.

To prepare for the final shot ceremony a competition was held to see which firing battery in the battalion would have the honor of launching the final round. The soldiers of A battery won the prize.

"From day one this team has been doing just what they're supposed to do, by the book," said Spec. Marvin Rhodes, a fire direction specialist with A battery. "They've exemplified the team spirit, and they executed everything like they were supposed to. There was a direct fire competition held yesterday between all three companies and this particular team here did an outstanding



Jamie Brown/photo

Smoke fills the sky as the final round is shot.

job. It's really indescribable, because these guys have only been doing this for less than five or

six years, whereas the other two companies have been doing this all the time. So to have these guys come in and execute as well as they did with such short training, is a plus."

Before firing the last round, the battalion had to pick someone to pull the lanyard (a rope that releases the round). Two soldiers, Sgt. 1st Class Tomlin Hayward, gunnery sergeant, B battery and Pvt. Justin Flowers, cannoneer, got the call. Hayward has been in the unit the longest with 36 years and Flowers has been in the shortest amount of time with two years.

"I've been in the Guard for 36 and a half years, so it's an honor to me," Hayward said. "A lot of thoughts will pass by of a lot of good people that I've come in contact with over the years and of a few friends that I've lost through the years, that have gone on."

"I haven't been in field artillery all that long, but it's going to be an honor for me to actually get to fire this last round," said Flowers.

Current and former members of the unit mingled and reminisced before the ceremony, and some posed for pictures with the final round. For many of them, the day was bittersweet.

"I've been here 24 years, it gets you a little sad, but it's good to change," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Lewis, Chief of Firing Battery B. "My guys, when they got through firing a little while ago, I shook everybody's hand and told them 'that was



Jamie Brown/photo

Pvt. Justin Flowers, left, and Sgt. 1st Class Tomlin Hayward pull the lanyard on the final round of artillery shot by the Alabama Army National Guard.

the last round you're going to shoot, and it's special."

The moment was also bittersweet for the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Bill Bittner.

"This is extremely important to me," he said. "I've got a lot of history with the second ... I would start getting teary eyed if I talked about it."

After the final lanyard was pulled, (Please see *LAST ROUND*, page 15)

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