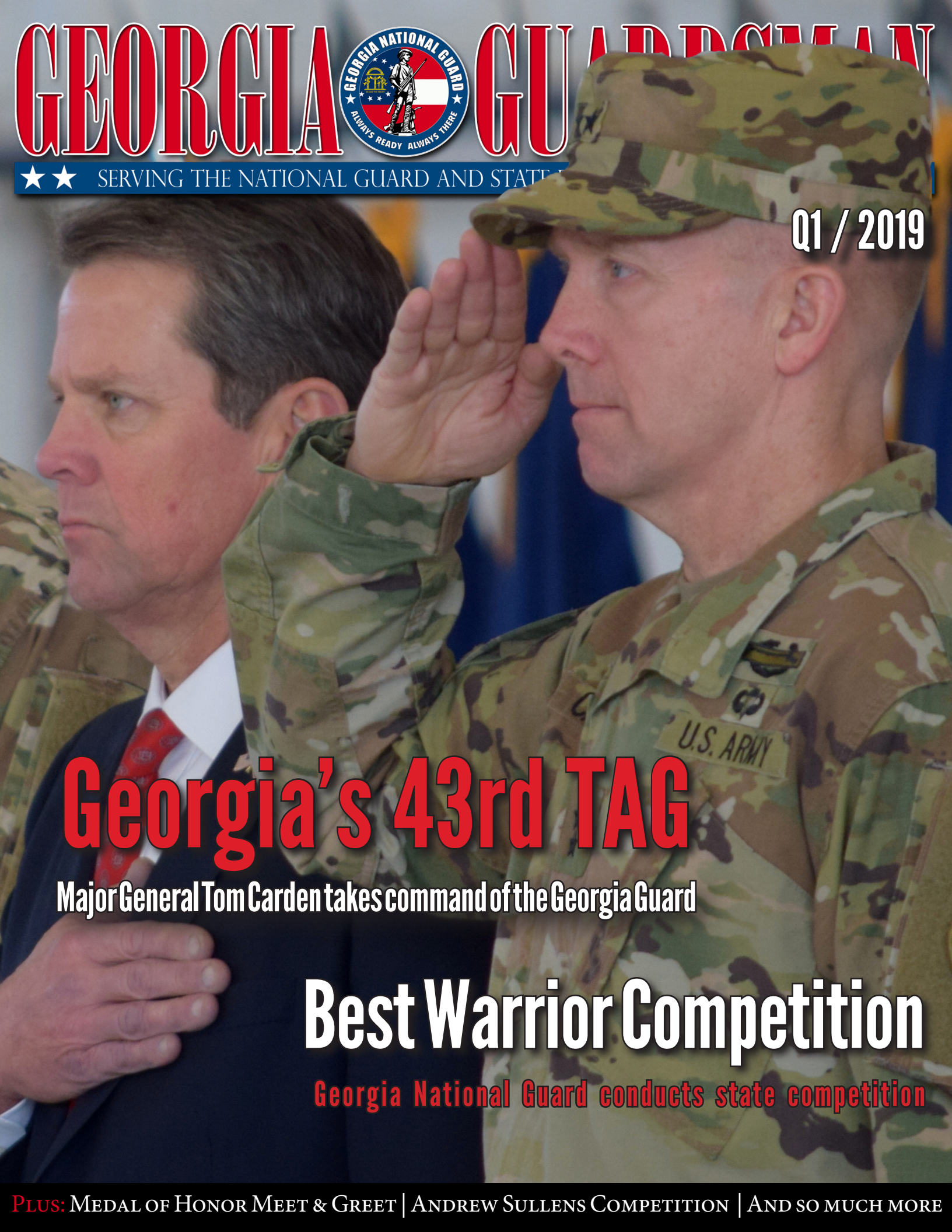
GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

SERVING THE NATIONAL GUARD AND STATE

Q1 / 2019



Georgia's 43rd TAG

Major General Tom Carden takes command of the Georgia Guard

Best Warrior Competition

Georgia National Guard conducts state competition

PLUS: MEDAL OF HONOR MEET & GREET | ANDREW SULLENS COMPETITION | AND SO MUCH MORE

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MEDAL OF HONOR MEET AND GREET

Story by: Sgt. 1st Class R.J. Lannom Jr. | Public Affairs Office | Georgia Army National Guard



The Georgia National Guard Joint Force Headquarters and the U.S. Air Force Reserve 94th Airlift Wing hosted 11 Medal of Honor recipients during a reception at the Clay National Guard Center, Marietta, Ga., Feb. 2, 2019.

The reception, sponsored by the Minneapolis, Minn., based Medal of Honor Twin Cities and the National Football League Foundation, highlights the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation's Character Development Program. The program prompts students, athletes, scouts etc., to think of others first, make good choices and build stronger communities.

"We bring teachers in, and we train [them] to take Medal of Honor character development training into the schools," said Gary L. Littrell, Medal of Honor recipient. "We want to instill into the youth of America the six pillars of character we represent: courage, commitment, sacrifice, patriotism, integrity and citizenship."

Over 200 active-duty, reserve and National Guard personnel welcomed the recipients with a two-minute standing ovation upon their entrance. Brigadier General Randall Simmons, commander of the Ga. ARNG welcomed the MOH recipients to the Clay National Guard Center.

"Gentlemen, thank you for the example you set and for what you have done in the past," said Simmons. "It shows how you represent our formation and the integrity, grit and determination our service has."

When established by President Abraham Lincoln on July 12, 1862, the Medal of Honor became the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force bestowed upon an individual serving in the armed forces of the United States. It is generally presented to its recipient by the President of the United States of America in the name of Congress.

Only 3,504 servicemen have received the Medal of Honor in its 157-year history. In addition, Dr. Mary Walker, a civilian physician, was presented with Medal of Honor for her extraordinary contributions to the treatment of Soldiers during the American Civil War. Currently, there are 72 living recipients of the MOH.

"What a wonderful day, we have national treasures here," said Brig Gen. Richard Kemble, commander, 94th Airlift Wing. "To the recipients of the highest honor our country can bestow to a service member, it's our honor to host this great event."

Photo by: Spc. Tori Miller | Public Affairs Office | Georgia National Guard



By Command Chief Master Sgt. Reginald McPherson
State Command Chief
Georgia Air National Guard

NCO NOTEPAD

Words of wisdom from one to another



After more than 39 years of service with the Georgia Air National Guard (ANG), it is time to say farewell to the military chapter of my life and retire. It has been my pleasure to serve as the State Command Chief for the past four years. During my tenure I have had the opportunity to serve at the highest level of enlisted leadership within the Georgia ANG, and it's been an incredible journey. Words cannot express my true feelings of how blessed I've been in this life. It has allowed me to become acquainted with Airmen and Soldiers from various walks of life throughout the 54 states and territories. You are some of the most amazing people in the world and I wake up each day honored to serve you.

Furthermore, I want to give a heartfelt thanks to everyone at the Joint Force Headquarters in Georgia who allowed me to become a part of your lives, as I consider you all to be my extended family.

As we continue to face significant domestic, global and fiscal challenges, I have no doubt that we will continue meet our nation's call. I have always done my utmost to provide the best support, voice of reason and advocacy for the Georgia Air National Guard. One of the greatest highlights of my tenure as State Command Chief was the deliberate development of our senior enlisted leadership to help ensure that the Georgia ANG is relevant. Second is having served on the Enlisted Field Advisory Council for the ANG. This is a hand-picked appointment working on behalf of the Director of the Air National Guard and the Office of the ANG Command Chief. This council is the GIANT VOICE for change for some 92,000 enlisted members within the ANG, whether it be guidance, policy and procedure or legislature advocacy.

In closing, I have the utmost confidence in our next Georgia ANG State Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Lynda Washington, who will take over the reins within the next couple of weeks. Without a doubt, she will take us to a higher platform of responsiveness, capability and readiness as a force. Our Georgia ANG will continue to be "On Time and On Target" filled with the world greatest Airmen.



ANDREW SULLENS MARKSMANS COMPETITION 2019

Story by: Spc. Tori Miller | Public Affairs Office | Georgia Army National Guard

Participants from the Georgia Army National Guard, Georgia Air National Guard and Georgia State Defense Force competed in the annual Andrew Sullens Marksmanship Competition at Fort Stewart, Ga., between March 11 and 15, 2019.

"It's about Soldiers' readiness," said Sullens. "It's about war-fighting readiness."

The event is named after Georgia Army National Guard veteran, Andrew Sullens, who was wounded in Afghanistan in 2009. Sullens is an advocate for many things that include joint readiness, building strong leadership and rehabilitation of Soldiers.

"The marksmanship community is small," said Sgt. 1st Class Jakob Raven, noncommissioned officer in charge, Georgia National Guard Marksmanship Unit. "The marksmanship unit started about seven years ago. Once we saw the value of the training that we got from competing, what we did was ask to train."

The participants tested diverse combat and marksmanship scenarios that tested their skills with weapons such as the M4 rifle and the M9 pistol. The diverse training scenarios offered participants the opportunity to train on weapons





HIP

systems that they might not typically get to train on.

For the first time in the annual competition, the Georgia State Defense Force had competitors. Staff Sgt. Jon Van Holm, representing the Ga. SDF, was awarded the Governors Twenty Tab during the award ceremony. He was recognized as the first Ga. SDF participant to be tabbed during the Andrew Sullens Marksmanship Competition. Van Holm was one of eight participants to be awarded the Governors Twenty Tab.

After the competition, the top overall team was the Marietta-based 202nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment. Other awards included the top individual pistol marksman, which was presented to Staff Sgt. Ryan Machan, representing the Fort Stewart-based 3rd Infantry Division Main Command Post Operational Detachment, and the top individual rifle marksman, which was awarded to Sgt. Sean Trammel, representing the Marietta-based 202nd EOD.

"Iron sharpens iron," said Sullens. "It's about Soldiers sharpening each other, honing each other and training together."

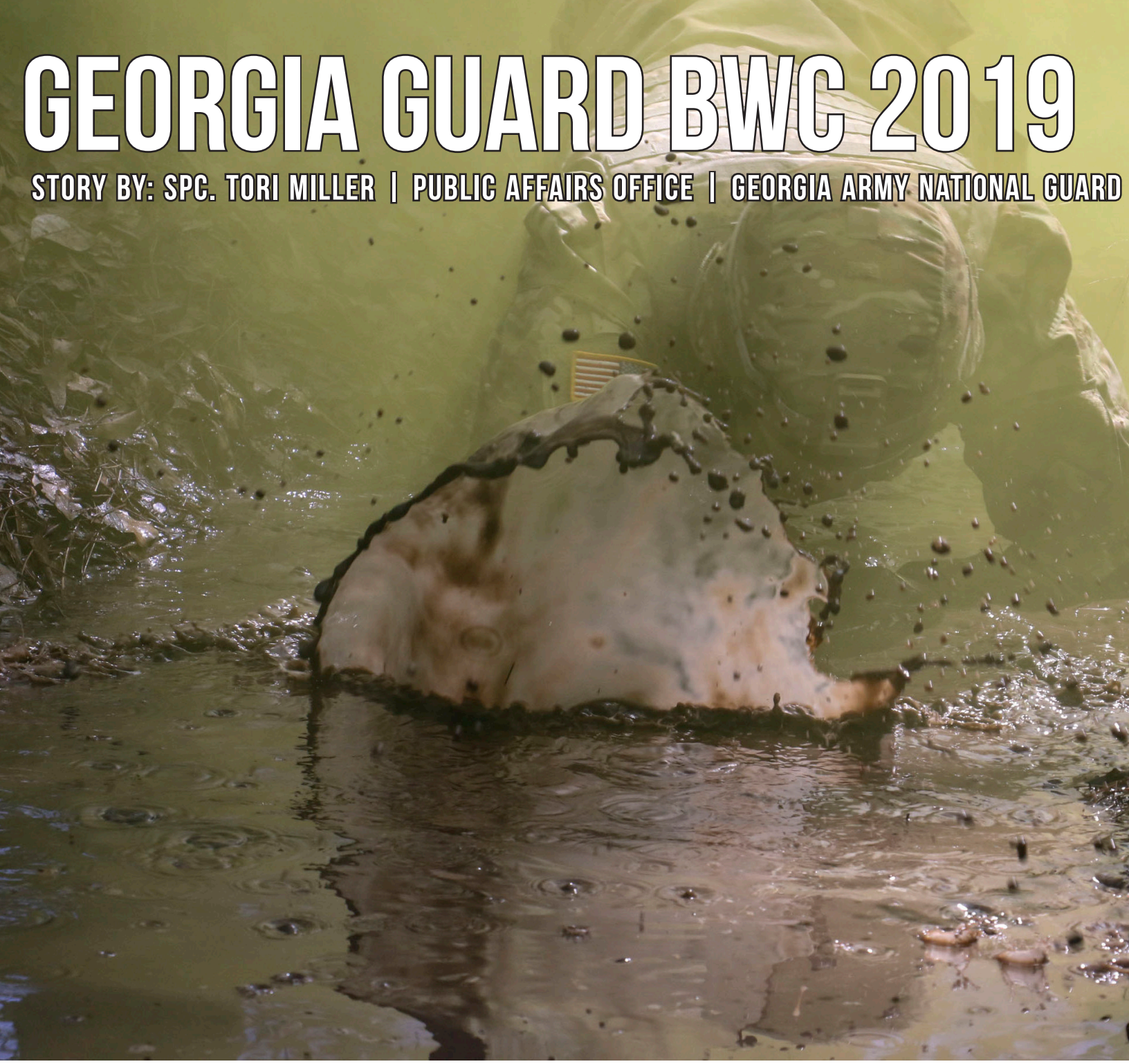






GEORGIA GUARD BWC 2019

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











The Georgia National Guard hosted the state Best Warrior Competition at Fort Stewart, Georgia from March 4-9, 2019.

Sergeant Nicholas Brisbay, a military policeman representing the Marietta-based 201st Regional Support Group, was named the winner of the noncommissioned officers, and Spc. Lucas Johnson, a chemical specialist, representing the Marietta-based 201st Regional Support Group, was named the winner of the junior enlisted competitors.

"As junior leaders, I need you to truly lead by example," said Command Sgt. Maj. Roy Marchert, Georgia National Guard Senior Enlisted Adviser. "When you go back to where you are from and start to tell your story about what you did here this week, just remember that all eyes are on you. That is critical."

Twelve competitors from around the state represented four brigades. For the competitors, it means a lot to represent their unit during the state competition. Brisbay and Johnson will represent not only their unit and brigade, but the Georgia National Guard at regional Best Warrior Competition in North Carolina in May 2019.

"It feels amazing to win," said Johnson. "This opportunity is going to help progress in my career, and it means everything."

During the six-day competition, competitors were evaluated on 36 separate events including weapons qualification, military knowledge and physical strengths. Competitors completed a swim test, an Army Physical Fitness Test, weapons qualifications – including a three-gun stress shoot event, weapons disassemble and reassemble and qualifications of the M-4 rifle and M-9 pistol – a military operations on urban terrain course and an initial military training course.

"I have wanted to compete in this competition since I was a private," said Brisbay. "I have learned that a lot of things are not given, but they are earned and if you want something you need to earn it."

During the final days of competition, competitors completed many events including night and day land navigation, modified Army Combat Fitness Test – including hand-release push-ups, dead lift 240 pounds, leg tuck, sled drag and a three-mile run a 12-mile ruck march, call for fire, general knowledge test and a board appearance.

"I have pushed myself farther than I ever have before," said Johnson. "We all worked really hard this entire week."

Competitors motivated one another during the events and pushed themselves to complete the tasks in an expeditious but thorough manner. By the end of the week, competitors had built camaraderie through the difficult tasks that had been presented in the competition.

"There aren't too many folks out there that serve a cause larger than themselves," said Maj. Gen. Thomas Carden, The Adjutant General of Georgia. "For you to come out and compete and lay it all on the line makes you a winner. Thank you to our winners, you took it to the next level."







GA AIR GUARD FEMALE PILOT MAKES HISTORY

Story by: 2nd Lt. Dustin Cole | 116th ACW | Georgia Air National Guard

First Lt. Andrea Lewis, an E-8C Joint STARS aircraft copilot with the 116th Air Control Wing and the first black female pilot in the history of the Georgia Air National Guard, is geared up and set to deploy as the nation celebrates Black History Month.

Lewis comes from a family of aviators. Her father was a 14 year veteran pilot in the Marine Corps who continued his piloting career with 22 years of service to American Airlines. Her mother is a career flight attendant with Delta Airlines based out of Atlanta.

"You could say that aviation and serving others is in my DNA," said Lewis. "It is something I always knew I wanted to be a part of."

Lewis began her career as a traditional reservist with the Air Force Reserves in January 2010 by becoming only the second civilian hired to be an Air Force flight attendant. The flight attendant position is usually reserved for Airmen already in service who have proven their abilities in another career field then selected to retrain into the flight attendant career field. Later in 2010, Lewis' father passed away.

"I have wanted to be a pilot for a very long time," said Lewis. "After my father passed away, I knew it was time for me to take the steps needed to become a pilot and realize my dreams. I know it would have made my father proud."

In 2011, Lewis was hired to serve as a fulltime flight attendant with Delta Airlines, following in her mother's footsteps while continuing to put the pieces in place to achieve her goal of becoming a pilot.

Lewis was accepted by the Georgia ANG, 116th ACW, in 2014 and hired to be a pilot for the E8C Joint STARS aircraft. She attended Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base,Alabama in 2015 before beginning Undergraduate Pilot Training at Vance AFB, Oklahoma.

"When hiring Lt. Lewis, I saw her tenacity and a drive to accomplish her goal," said Col. Ato Crumbly, commander of the 116th Air Control Wing. "She has already made a tremendous impact in our unit and there is no question she will continue to be successful."



Lewis graduated from pilot training April 7, 2017, officially becoming the first black female pilot in the Georgia ANG.

"It is my dream job, one I hoped for and set my sights to accomplish," said Lewis. "When I got my wings I couldn't believe it finally was happening, I said to my mom, 'I finally made it!'"

Lewis plans to use her position not only to serve and defend her country, but also as a platform to motivate children to never give up on their dreams.

"I want to tell people to always keep all options on the table regardless of how unobtainable they may seem," said Lewis. "Never ever let fear or doubt get in the way of accomplishing your mission."



Photos Courtesy Of 116th Air Control Wing

Professional Development

REVIEWS OF BOOKS THAT TEACH US ABOUT OUR CRAFT

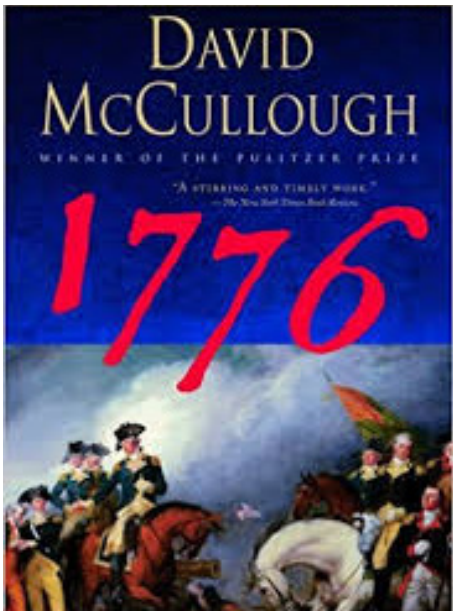
Story by: Maj. William Carraway | Public Affairs Office | Georgia Army National Guard

1776 by Pulitzer Prize winning author David McCullough is the third book to be considered by the Georgia National Guard's Professional Reader's Forum. At just under 300 pages, the book makes for a rapid read while the audio version, narrated by McCullough's voice, instantly recognizable from Ken Burns Civil War series, makes for the perfect accompaniment to a metro commute.

1776, as the title suggests, focuses on the key events in the pivotal year of the American Revolution, though McCullough also provides background on events of 1775 such as the Battles for Lexington and Concord as well as the Battle of Bunker Hill in order to establish opening scene for what amounts to a play in three acts. The principle events covered by McCullough range from the Siege of Boston to the Battle of Brooklyn Heights and finally, the Battle of Trenton. Along the way, we are introduced to key leaders on both sides. We see Washington as a man possessed of many of the soft traits of leadership who exhibits the capacity for brilliant strategic insight in one campaign while nearly dooming his army to ruin in another. We see General Sir William Howe, Washington's principle antagonist, as a man capable of moving with purpose against a rebel army he holds largely in contempt, but when he has struck a near fatal blow, he fails to follow up on his success.

A number of dichotomies emerge in 1776, namely that of the professional British Army pitted against a home-grown force of patriots. McCullough explores this dichotomy by focusing on two generals, Nathanael Greene, a 33-year-old Quaker from Rhode Island and Henry Knox, a 25-year-old bookseller from Boston who, despite having no military experience, emerged as two of Washington's most capable officers.

So much time has passed since the American Revolution that there is an almost mythic quality to the events and characters who participated in the struggle. Time has added an air of inevitability to those events and it is easy to lose sight of just how perilous the struggle for American independence was. Instead, the American Revolution and particularly the events of 1776 seem to exist as a fantastic work of fiction with events analogous to the Star Wars Trilogy. In both sagas, the rebels score a fantastic victory against the Empire and are then struck a near fatal blow and scattered before returning for a stunningly improbable victory against all odds.



McCullough's research fleshes out the experience of Soldiers and civilians on both sides of the conflict simultaneously challenging long held beliefs about the war and its central figures. King George III is portrayed sympathetically, and his motivations appear clear and understandable as do those of the loyalists. The American Army is seen not as the caricatured minuteman but as an undisciplined, largely untried collection of individuals possessing a remarkable range of skill and loyalty. Ultimately, 1776 reveals the human dimension of the American Revolution with all its flaws.

"Remember officers and soldiers that you are free men, fighting for the blessings of liberty."
– General George Washington



GEORGIA GUARD WELCOMES 43RD ADJUTANT GENERAL

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

Long-time Georgia Army National Guard Soldier Maj. Gen. Thomas Carden became the 43rd Adjutant General of the Georgia Department of Defense Jan. 26, 2019 during a ceremony at the Clay National Guard Center in Marietta, Ga. Carden, who enlisted as a private in the Ga. ARNG in 1986 was appointed by Gov. Brian Kemp to succeed Maj. Gen Joe Jarrard.

"This solemn occasion represents the passing of the torch from a man of great integrity… to another in whom I have the utmost confidence and respect," said Gov. Kemp.

Major Gen. Tom Carden's career began in the Georgia National Guard in 1986 when he enlisted as an infantry private. Three years later, Carden was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant by the Georgia Military Institute. Since then he has advanced through the ranks and achieved positions of ever-increasing responsibility from company to brigade command as well as senior staff positions. In 2005, Carden deployed to Iraq as the effects coordinator for the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team which is currently deployed in Afghanistan as part of its fourth overseas combat deployment since Sept. 11, 2001.

In January 2015, Carden was selected to command the Georgia Army National Guard and served as Georgia's Assistant Adjutant General-Army, its 14th since the position was created by the passage of the Georgia Military Forces Reorganization Act of 1955. On September 15, 2017, Carden was appointed to serve as deputy commanding general, Multi-National Division, Southeast, headquartered in Bucharest, Romania.

"I am very pleased our military leadership at the national level has recognized what we in Georgia already know, and that is the outstanding abilities of General Tom Carden," said Governor Nathan Deal reacting to Carden's appointment in 2017. "His service to our state and nation has been exemplary and I look forward to seeing his leadership impact our total force as well as that of our NATO allies."

Carden follows the successful tenure of Maj. Gen. Joe Jarrard who departs to serve as deputy commanding general for Army National Guard, U.S. Army Europe.

Photos by: Maj. William Carraway & Spc. Tori Miller | Public Affairs Office | Georgia Army National Guard

Jarrard served as Assistant Adjutant General-Army for the Ga. ARNG from October 2011 to January 2015 when he was sworn in as the 42nd Adjutant General of Georgia

"Major General Joe Jarrard, I commend your years of service as Georgia's Adjutant General," said Kemp. "You have led this command with humility and strength. I would also like to commend Susan for her great service and sacrifice as well."

Symbolizing the change of command, Maj. Gen. Jarrard transferred the Ga. DoD colors to Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, who in turn, entrusted them to Carden.

Speaking before an American flag which spanned the width of the stage, Gov. Kemp praised the efforts of the Ga. DoD under Jarrard's leadership.

"I am humbled by your service," said Kemp. "In the wake of a devastating storm, you are ready to serve. You ensure peace and prosperity for all our citizens… We are forever indebted to you and to those great leaders who lead you."

Jarrard thanked the many distinguished visitors in attendance and recounted contributions made by civic and military leaders to the Ga. DoD. He also recognized the service of the nearly 3,000 Georgia Guard Soldiers and Airmen who are currently mobilized for the war fight and thanked the assembled members of the Ga. DoD.

"While it is bittersweet to leave all of you, Susan and I know you are getting an even better command team," said Jarrard. "(Major General) Tom and Charlene Carden along with Kendall and Kyle are a wonderful family who will make the team even better. They have long been an integral part of the Ga. Guard family and we are so glad to welcome them back."

Jarrard evoked the boars' head symbol of the Ga. DoD in his closing statement.





"The boars head is symbolic of three things: Hospitality… courage and ferocity…," said Jarrard. "When action is necessary, your Georgia Guard acts with ferocity. I will be a Georgia Guardsman for life, and it has been the honor of a lifetime to have served as your adjutant general."

In his remarks, Carden sounded a familiar theme of leadership, describing the Ga. DoD as a leadership factory.

"I am honored, humbled and completely fired up to be here today," said Carden. "As I look across the room, I see mentors who go back decades. Men and women who serve a cause larger than themselves. I am inspired and honored to be in the same room with you."

Carden praised the work of Maj. Gen. Joe Jarrard and noted that he had set a high mark of performance for him to follow.

"Most of you know that with Major General Jarrard and Susan Jarrard we got two for the price of one," said Carden. Thank you for setting the example of servant leadership."

Carden concluded his remarks by sharing his three priorities: people, people and people.

"I have learned over the past 33 years in uniform that if we take care of our Soldiers, Airmen their families and employers they will absolutely crush the mission," said Carden. "We will provide ready forces to the governor when our neighbors are in need. We will also provide the president with capable, physically fit and lethal combat formations on the ground and in the air ready to fight and win America's wars."

The Chaplain's Corner

By: Chaplain Maj. Andrew Parker | 201st RSG Chaplain Commander |Ga Army National Guard



Spring is in the air. As the temperature warms and the sun sets later in the day, there is a feast for the senses. An array of colors burst from blooming trees and smells fill the atmosphere as flowers bud. The cool morning air fades into brilliant sunlight by mid-day and the jacket is returned to the coat rack. This portion of the calendar brings energy and life to those searching for renewal.

Just as nature celebrates the spring season, many also find hopeful renewal in holidays. Resurrection Day, Passover week, and Easter celebrations with family are a few valuable traditions that mark this season. Common in all these celebrations is the idea of hope.

The modern concept of hope is simply a desire for something of value or a wishful belief. In contrast, a more traditional understanding of hope is one of certainty and confidence in the future. Those who have hope are able to see beyond circumstances and remain resilient during periods of darkness. Martin Luther King Jr. declared "we must accept finite disappointments, but never lose infinite hope."



The spring season is a wonderful time to renew hope in the future. For some that may be considering what you have dreamed of doing. What is on your bucket list? Ask yourself, what have I always hoped to do or where have I dreamed of going? Next, create a plan to make it happen. Keep dreaming! Dreams inspire us to move forward, develop, grow and encourage others.

For others a renewed hope may mean rediscovering their faith community. Have you drifted away from your faith? Routines of life can cause us to lose connection with our values. Difficult circumstances can also distract us from traditions that we have held dear. Use this season of renewal to reengage those crucial relationships that provide sustaining hope.

Hope is a confidence in the future. Dream big. Enjoy life. Walk in the inspiration of those relationships that strengthen you and invest in others. Hope that resides in your heart can be passed along to others. Rejoice in hope!

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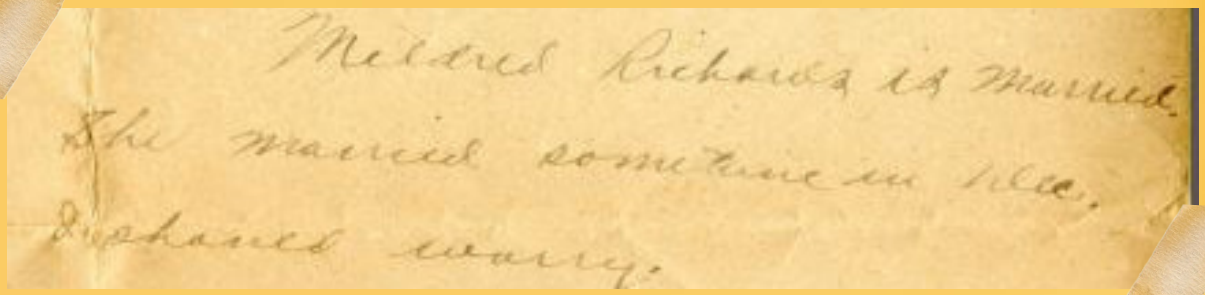
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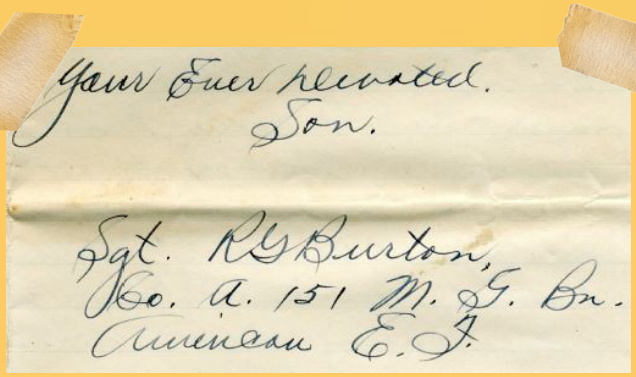
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BLAST FROM THE PAST: WORLD WAR I

STORY BY: MAJ. WILLIAM CARRAWAY | MILITARY HISTORIAN | 161ST MILITARY HISTORY DETACHMENT

ROBERT GOBER BURTON





PHOTOS COURTESY OF GA. GUARD HISTORY ARCHIVES

OCCUPATION DUTY, JANUARY-MARCH 1919

Editor's Note: This article is a condensed summation of three chapters of the Georgia Guard History Blog. For more historic letters, images and original research visit the blog at www.georgiaguardhistory.com

January 1919: "I belonged to the Rainbow Division."

As the New Year approached, the Soldiers of the 151st Machine Gun Battalion settled in for what they hoped would not be a long occupation duty in Kripp and Bad Bodendorf, Germany. The men were lodged among the civilian population and were thoroughly briefed on expectations of military courtesy.

While acclimatizing himself to his new surroundings, Sgt. Robert Gober Burton learned from correspondence that his parents had wired the house for electricity, prompting him to express anticipation of returning home to have a reading lamp in his old room.

As the terror and maneuver of combat duty transitioned to the static routine of occupation, Burton's letters reflected the Soldiers ruminations over all they had experienced in combat and of how they would adjust to life back home. Anxious families back home awaited updates expecting "the boys" to come home now that the war was over. Burton grew testy when his mother expressed exasperation over the delay in mail.

"I am with a fighting outfit and we don't hang around the base parts and the cable offices. Where we are, there are no cable offices. If there were, I would have answered your cable. But don't worry about me mother dear for I am fine now."

The last days of December 1918 were chilly with light snow falling on the Rhine. The days were short with darkness falling at 4:00 pm. To keep the Soldiers occupied and to keep thoughts from wandering homeward non-commissioned officers presided over drill and ceremony. Soldiers rotated through guard mount and various details. The men received new clothing issue and, at long last, leave was granted for up to seven days. The Soldiers were able to venture about Bad Bodendorf or visit the YMCA for coffee and writing material to pass the time. Burton availed himself of the writing material to increase his rate of correspondence home.



Dec 31, 1918
My dearest Mother,

You see I am writing quite often now as we are stationary and don't have so awful much to do. I write every time that I think of it. As you see by the heading, we are still in Kripp and we are enjoying ourselves very much.

There are reports and they come from good sources that we will leave here on Jan 10 on our way home. I surely do hope that we do. As rule, I am rather skeptical about rumors, but the officers are talking it and from the records and things they are taking up it looks as if we are about to sail. Oh boy, won't that be great business.

I appreciate everyone's good wishes and I certainly do thank them for it. But Uncle Sam won't consent so will have to make the best of it.

I don't care anything about parading in Washington. There is only one place in the U.S. that I want to parade in and that is Monroe. I don't doubt tho that we will parade quite a bit when we come over. We have about forgotten all the parade soldiering that we knew. We know the other kind now.

Tomorrow is New Years and we are going to have fresh pork for dinner. We bought three nice little shoats and are going to have them for dinner tomorrow. You see we are faring quite well.

Well mother dear, am always looking for a long letter from you.

Your ever devoted
Son

One week later, writing in response to a letter received from home, Burton expresses his pride in being a member of the 42nd Division and his contempt for reports of hardship in Germany.

Kripp Germany
January 5, 1919
My dearest Mater,

I haven't heard from you I about a week or so but will write just the same. I am getting along fine. As you will notice, we are still at Kripp. The place is not so large, but it is quite a nice place. I am still living in the same house and like it just as much as ever.

Rumors are flying fast now to the effect that we are soon to return to the U.S. the latest dope is that we are to

be decorated by the French and given a pin that we can wear when we are discharged. I doubt if there is any truth in it tho so don't believe too much of it. Take it with salt. But I do think that it won't be long before we are home.

The Germans don't seem to mind our being here anymore than they did at first. We are being well fed and have good places to sleep so all that we have to worry about is going home.

I want to take some schooling when I get home, but I will be a little too old to commence again where I left off, so I think that I shall take some kind of a special course. What do you think about it? Is that a good idea or not?

There is one thing that I will always have to be proud of and that is that I belonged to the Rainbow Division. It is a great outfit. I believe that it will go down in American History as the greatest of American Divisions. I am proud to belong to it and justly so.

Listen mater, when they tell you Germany is starving for food don't believe it for she is not. The people look slick and well fed and they dress as nice as the people at home do. I haven't seen anyone suffering for food yet and I have been in Germany for a month. We came into Germany on Dec 3. Everywhere I have been the people seem to have plenty. There is not as much of course as prewar days but no one is starving. The restaurants of Coblentz and Cologne are running full blast and there is no limit to what you can buy. So don't be fooled when you are told that Germany is starving.

Burton closes his Jan. 5, 1919 letter with a bit of branch rivalry inspired humor at the expense of the aviation. After learning that the sons of one of his former neighbors in Monroe were aspiring aviators, Burton chided them with a song sung to the tune of the popular bawdy British tune Mademoiselle from Armentières:

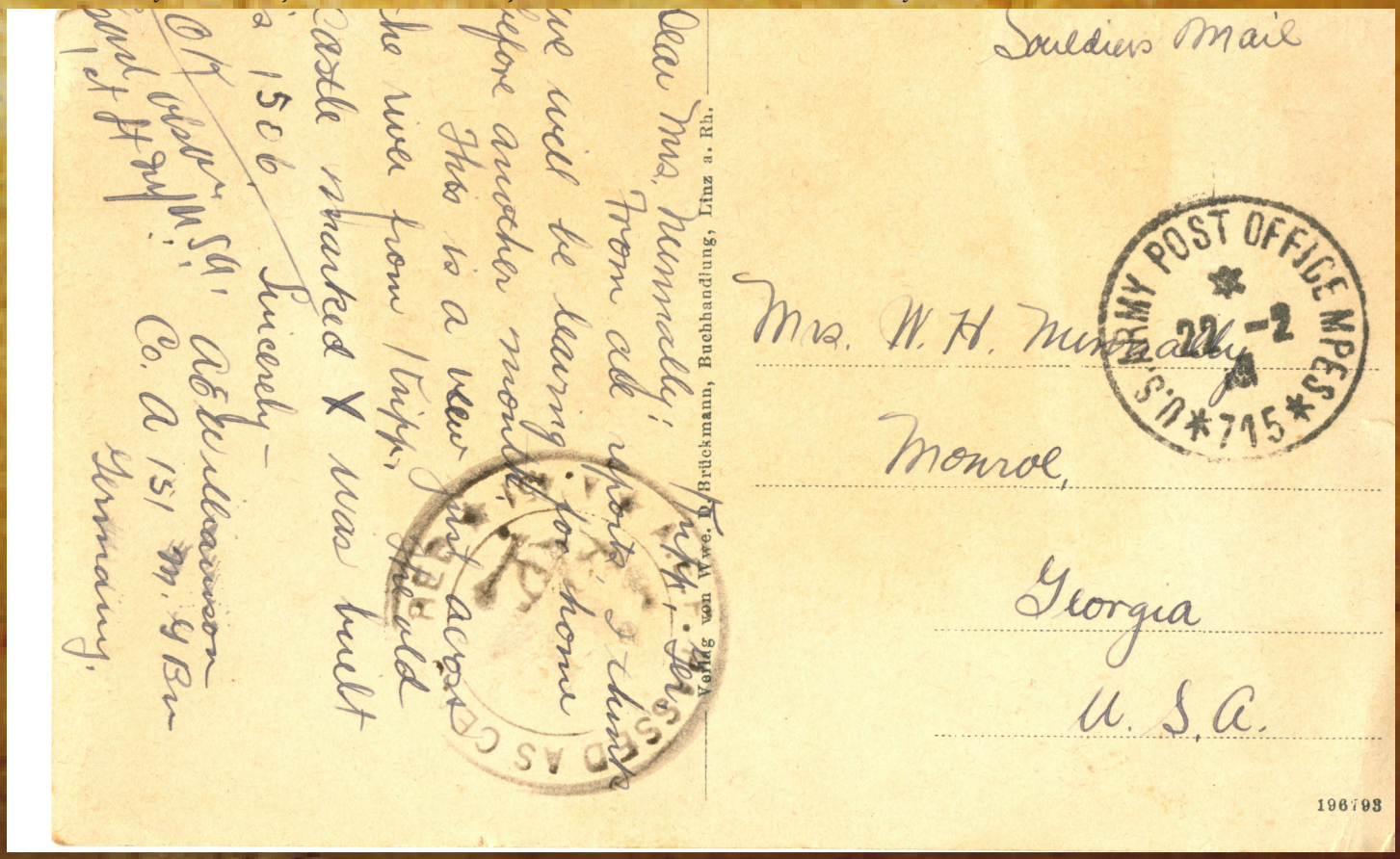
"I appreciate Mrs. Nowell's interest in me, but I wonder why her boys didn't come earlier to help win the war. They think that they are getting into a bomb proof job when they get in aviation, but they haven't seen what I have seen of the aviators. It will be entirely different from what they think. I am not the least bit envious of them nor am I jealous. I wouldn't take worlds for my experience as a machine gunner, but I think that the next war will find me in the service of supplies. We have a little song that we sing about the aviators. It goes like this:

The aviators so nice and fine
Parley Vous
The aviators so nice and fine
Parley Vous
The aviators so nice and fine they won the war behind our line
Hinkey Dinkey Parley Vous
But I know who won the war: The Doughboys.

Well mother dearest I must be in a bad humor tonight so had better close.

Your ever-devoted son.
Sgt. R. G. Burton
Co. A. 151 M.G.Bn
American E.F.

February 1919: "We Do a Little Drilling, Not Enough To Hurt."





February brought little change of duty. Burton observed that "we do a little drilling, not enough to hurt, and the rest of the time we twiddle our thumbs."

Burton reported rumors that they would soon depart noting the presence of inspecting officers was a sure sign that they would be on the move. He hedged his bets though suggesting to his mother that they would likely not return home before April. With time on his hands, Burton took to writing post cards and sending home pictures of his comrades.

February 4, 1919
My dearest Mater,
I am enclosing another piece for my scrap book. It is a picture of our supply sergeant. In later years it will come in handy and I will recall it and the stories with pleasure. I am also enclosing a picture of our first sergeant (top kicker). This will be great to look at also as he is one good fellow.
As ever,
Your devoted son,
Gober

In February, Burton received tragic news from home. His brother Frank, who he idolized and who had suggested that he would come home "loaded down with glory" had succumbed to Spanish flu December 19, 1918. Burton struggled with the news. He had not seen Frank for nearly two years and had written about going into business with his brother upon returning to the states.

Perhaps fueled by his brother's death, Burton's February correspondence reflected a growing angst about being called a hero. Whereas in the early days of the Mexican Border expedition, Burton wrote to Frank and his mother of his hopes of receiving medals and marching in a parade, nearly three years later he was far more reticent to accept the accolades of service as noted in his letter of February 5, 1919:

What I don't see tho is why we should be praised so much. How about the mothers who gave up their sons and the fathers who upheld the government and bought Liberty Bonds and W. S. S. and the whole family who cut their rations in order that we might have white bread and sugar in our coffee? Couldn't we eat war bread the same as they did? We were undergoing a few hardships it is true, but the whole course of their life was changed while ours – well, we are young and ours has never been set.

Rather than a welcome home parade, Burton wrote that he and Sgt. Ed Williamson had frequently discussed their desire to come home at night to avoid attention and to be treated "as if we had only been down to Atlanta for the weekend," and expressed fear that "if people keep telling us that we have done something great we will finally believe that we have knowing all the time that we haven't."

To relieve his mind from the monotony of occupation duty and the fresh pain of Frank's death, Burton availed himself of the opportunity to travel with Williamson. His letter of February 10, 1919 described his ramblings.

Kripp, Germany
Sunday, February 10, 1919
My dearest mother,
As I wrote you about going on a long trip up the Rhine, will tell you about it. The weather was cold, but I enjoyed it a whole lot. We went up the river to Coblenz and back. The country on each side of the Rhine is very pretty. High steep hills with a castle atop of one every now and then. Between the hills are level plains that are very rich and produce lots of potatoes and wheat. The sides of the hills are also cultivated only there are vineyards instead of potatoes and wheat. You have heard of Rhine wine, well here is where it is made, and it surely is good for I have drunk some of it. At Coblenz we saw a great statue that the Kaiser had erected of himself. It is a gigantic thing. A man standing at the horse's feet (he is mounted) looks like a comparison of a man and a house. I also saw the bridge of boats at Coblenz. All in all, I enjoyed the trip.
Frank's passing away is rather tough. I had plans of he and I working together when I returned. But God doeth all things well.
I had a letter from Miss Bessie day before yesterday. It came in the same mail as yours. She wanted to know what kind of reception we wanted when we came home. I told her that I was going to try to get home at night and that I was going to get off on the dark side of the train and I hoped that no one would see me going home. Mother dear, I am not even going to write or wire you when I am coming. I don't want anyone to know when I get there. When we land in the U.S. I am going to wire you the good news. You can look for me any time after two weeks after I wire you. It will take all of that long to get mustered out and discharged. I am not going absent without leave for I

will have to stay in the Army that much longer. We may be issued passes home if we are. I am coming home.

This is about all that I know this time. Give all my love and best.

Your ever devoted,
Gober

March 1919: "That hero stuff may be good for a while, but it doesn't get you anywhere in the long run."

On May 17, 1917 while stationed with Company H, 2nd Georgia Infantry Regiment in Jacksonville, Florida, Burton, then a corporal, wrote home to tell his family about a new girl he had met at church. Mildred was the daughter of a Methodist preacher and Burton wrote home glowingly about her. She wrote to Gober after his company was withdrawn to Macon and visited his family in Monroe after he had deployed to France with the 151st Machine Gun Battalion. Nearly one year later, the two were sharing letters at a rate of at least one per week. Gober wrote to his mother on April 18, 1918 expressing concern that Mildred would marry before he could return home:

If the war marriages keep up, we boys over here won't stand any show when we do return. But if that is the way they feel about it we should worry. Just so Mildred hasn't married yet, but I am expecting that every day. I live in hope that she won't.

In September 1918, Burton learned that Mildred had moved to Baltimore. Shortly thereafter Mildred's letters stopped coming. Busy as he was, Burton himself had little time to write.

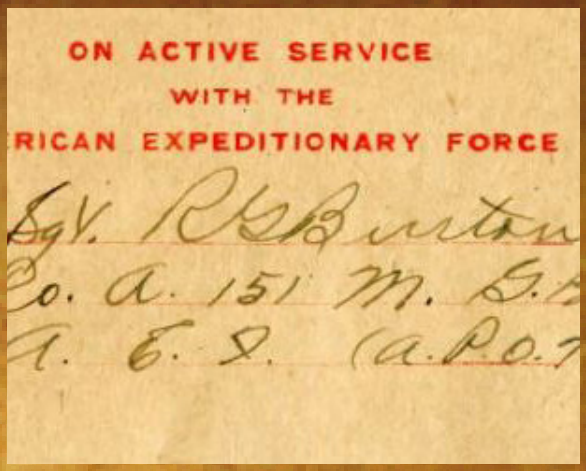
In a terse letter of March 2, 1919, Burton mention's Mildred's name for the last time.

Mildred Richards is married. She married sometime in December. I should worry.

Burton would not write home for ten days. When he did write again, he had a new girl and wrote excitedly about the prospect of returning to civilian life.

Kripp Germany
March 12, 1919
My dearest mama,

I haven't written in several days because I must couldn't get up a writing mood. Sometimes I feel like writing and then I don't. I feel like it this afternoon.



I received a couple of letters from the U.S. today but none from you. One was from John and the other from a girl in Macon. I didn't get one from you.

John's letter was real interesting and I enjoyed it very much. He tells me I can take my time and give all the jobs a once over before I decide to take one. I feel tho as if I don't want to spend too much time loafing. That hero stuff may be good for a while, but it doesn't get you anywhere in the long run. I want to get started.

I am anxious to begin civilian life all over again. I expect to marry someday, and I want to be well fixed. I am giving the time now grudgingly. I should be getting started in something else. I don't know a thing but Soldiering and that isn't much of an occupation.

I want to tell all my people about the part I have played in the war and that is about all. The war is over, and we whipped the Dutch so why talk about it? Then too, it brings lots of experiences that I had rather not talk about for some of the boys "went west." The men that have been killed from this war are quite a few and their names are spoken reverently among the men. They are the heroes.

Our captain has been promoted to a major and he told me this morning that we left Kripp about April 1st for home. That sounds mighty good as it is the 12th now.

I have been thinking of going on a pass to France, but I don't think I shall now as it looks too much like we are



going home.

I will write again real soon. I won't wait so long any more. Am expecting a long letter soon.

Your ever devt
Son

On March 16, 1919, the long rumored and anticipated inspection of the 42nd Division was conducted preparatory to the unit's impending departure. Burton recorded the details in a three-page letter home.

Kripp Germany
March 16, 1919
Mater Dearest,

I have some news to write tonight so will drop you a line. Besides, it is Sunday night and I am due to write a letter to you.

The news is: Gen. Pershing inspected us today. All is well. We have been shining and polishing and scrubbing in readiness for him today. And so today was the big day. Our Co. A was commented on by the commander in chief as being very nice. Coming as it does from the C in C it is quite a big thing.

He usually inspects a division just before they leave for home and I think that we will soon be on our way. The 165th Inf. of this Div. begins to move on the first of April and the rest of us will follow quickly.

But to get back to the inspection, after we passed in review for the Gen. he made us a speech. He thanked us for what we had done since we have been over here and for the big part we played.

Imagine if you can, 15 or 20 thousand soldiers massed closely together and so quiet that you could have heard a pin drop. I suppose that it is the first time that they had been still in quite a while. Pershing may be going to run for President and this one of his campaign speeches. I don't know.

To see a whole division lined up is quite a sight. 30,000 men all dressed the same and in step is quite inspiring.

Forty-four men from the division were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross today and the Gen. decorated them.

I was up to the Y tonight and saw a moving picture show. Enjoyed it very much.

We begin to turn in our equipment tomorrow and about the 5th of April we entrain for Antwerp and from Antwerp we embark for home. It is more than likely that we will be home by the 1st of May and out of the Army by the 15th.

I won't write you any war tales but will save them all and tell them to you when I get home. Don't you think that it will be better than writing them?

I am as usual well and O.K.

Will write again soon.
Your ever devoted
Son



Burton's prediction on movement appeared to be coming true in the closing days of March 1919. Burton shared his thoughts on homecoming with his aunt in a neatly typed letter of March 28.

Kripp Germany
March 28, 1919
My dear Auntie,

Your letter came tonight, and I was certainly glad to receive it. It kinder added good things to good things for we are going to come home right away. This is not rumor this time for we have already received orders to move to the port and make up all rolls and things that we will need in the US. We are busy now making up the passenger lists and packing the equipment and in general getting ready for the long trip home. It sounds almost too good to be true, but I think that it is not a rumor this time.

I am beginning to feel a little old to see all the young ones growing up in such a hurry. The people that were almost babies when I left home are almost grown up people now. I suppose that I forgot that the rest of the world was moving also, but I can't see any change in myself and those around me or I see them every day and it is not so noticeable. And besides that, they all wear the same kind of clothing and the most of them have the same habits.

We have been over here so long that I have even forgotten how the U.S. looks. I will feel funny to go into a store where the people speak English and you can buy as much of anything as you want. Where you can actually buy a package of cigarettes if you want to. There is no limit to the amount of chocolate that you can buy. Whew, won't those be great days?

This is just a short note to say that I received your letter all OK and was glad to get it. I hope to see you soon.

Your ever Devt. Nephew,
Gober

Around the Georgia Guard



INTRODUCTION TO ARTILLERY

Major William Carraway, commander of the Georgia Army National Guard's 161st Military History Detachment, describes artillery actions during the opening phase of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain during a staff ride for the Georgia Military Institute's Officer Candidate School 58 on March 1, 2019.



INAUGURATION

Governor Brian Kemp and Major Gen. Joe Jarrard, Georgia's Adjutant General review a formation of Georgia State Patrol Officers and Soldiers, Airmen and Ga, State Defense Force Volunteers at Liberty Plaza in Atlanta Jan. 14, 2019.



JOINT TRAINING AT DOBBINS

The Georgia Army National Guard 111th Medevac and US Air Force 94th Air Reserve Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (EVAC) participate in a joint training exercise at Clay National Guard Center and Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Marietta, Ga., March 3, 2019. The training was the pooling of resources to be better prepared to respond in the event of an actual emergency.

NATIONAL GUARD DAY AT THE CAPTIOL

Georgia National Guardsmen gathered to celebrate National Guard Day at the Capitol at the Georgia State Capitol, Atlanta on March 28, 2019. Major General Thomas Carden, 43rd Adjutant General of Georgia, recognized service men and women from the Georgia Army National Guard, Georgia Air National Guard and Georgia State Defense Force on the House and Senate floors during the event.



RETIREMENT

Colonel Jeffrey Dickerson receives the Oglethorpe Distinguished Service Medal from Maj. Gen. Tom Carden, Georgia's Adjutant General following a retirement ceremony honoring Dickerson's 35 years of military service.





GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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