

GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

★★ SERVING THE NATION GUARD AND DEFENSE



PLUS: 201ST RSG CHANGE OF COMMAND | NEW BRIGADIER GENERAL | AND SO MUCH MORE

CONTRIBUTING DOD ORGANIZATIONS

124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 116th Air Control Wing Public Affairs Office, 165th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, Army National Guard Unit Public Affairs Representatives, Air National Guard Wing Public Affairs Representatives, Georgia State Defense Force Public Affairs.



Editorial Staff

MANAGING EDITOR

DESIREE BAMBA

CONTRIBUTORS

MARIA BALDERAS
MAJ. WILLIAM CARRAWAY
SGT. CHRISTOPHE CHIN
TIFFANY IRENE COULIBALY
MAJ. CHARLES EMMONS
STAFF SGT. AMY KING

SFC. R.J. LANNOM JR.
PFC. ISAIAH MATTHEWS
SPC. TORI MILLER
MAJ. PAMELA STAUFFER
SGT. JORDAN TRENT
MAJ. ROBERT WALKER
LTC. PATRICK WATSON
CAPT. BRYANT WINE

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GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
GOV. BRIAN KEMP

ADJUTANT GENERAL
MAJ. GEN. TOM CARDEN

STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
LT. COL. PATRICK WATSON

STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
MAJ. CHARLES EMMONS

OPERATIONS NCO
1ST SGT. GERARD BROWN

COVID-19 TIPS TO #SLOWTHESPREAD



WASH YOUR HANDS!

Wash your hands thoroughly (at least 20 seconds) and often. It is important to wash up to your forearms and under your nails.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

COVID-19 can be spread by close person-to-person contact. Maintain distance from other in public spaces by at least 6ft. when possible. Avoid gatherings of groups larger than 10 people.



STAY HOME IF SICK

If you feel sick, it is important to stay home. Do not return to work or gather socially until you are fever-free and have been cleared by a medical professional.

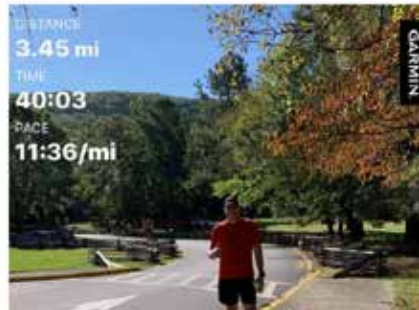
WATCH WHAT YOU TOUCH

Out in the community, COVID-19 can survive up to nine days on certain surfaces. It is important to not touch your face, eyes, nose, mouth, etc. after touching other surfaces.



2020 AOKM 5K ROAD RACE

STORY BY: SPC. TORI MILLER | 124TH MPAD | GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



The Georgia National Guard Family Support Foundation, the official support organization of the Georgia National Guard, hosted its 9th annual Assault on Kennesaw Mountain 5k run from Sept. 15 – Oct. 31, 2020. Over the span of 43 days, Georgia Guardsmen, their families and friends across the world promoted good health and raised awareness of the Georgia National Guard Family Support Foundation.

“COVID-19 created unplanned challenges for many of our serving Georgia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen,” said U.S. Army Master Sgt. Meara Brown, Race Director of the Assault on Kennesaw Mountain 5k. “Conducting the race in some way shape or form was vital to not only honoring our Soldiers, but to also generate some much needed funding for the Family Support Foundation in order for them to continue to provide much needed financial support to those in need.”

This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the race was conducted as a virtual “shadow run,” where participants ran at a location of their choosing on a day and time that fit their schedule. The participants tracked their race routes through a fitness phone app that displayed distance, time and even elevation change. Participants posted their results on social media through the hashtag, #AoKM2020RunWhereYouAre.

“I ran in Oceanside, California,” said 1st Lt. Kimberly Hand of the Fort Gillem-based Bravo Company, 221st Expeditionary Military Intelligence Battalion. “It was nice to be a part of something that helps so many Georgia Guard families, even from so far away. I’m happy that this event still happened, and I could participate and take the opportunity to remember our fallen Soldiers.”

The run honors the 43 fallen Georgia Army National Guard Soldiers that have perished during the Global War on Terrorism from 2001 to the present. Proceeds from the race go to the Georgia National Guard Family Support Foundation, a self-funded 501(c)3

organization. The Foundation’s primary mission is to provide financial relief assistance during times of unexpected emergencies and hardships to current member of the Georgia National Guard and full-time federal/state civilian employees of the Georgia Department of Defense living in the state of Georgia. Not only does the event promote healthy lifestyle habits of the Georgia National Guard, it also sustains an organization that assists service member resiliently bounce back from hardship.

“We are projecting to have a record year this year,” said Harriet Morgan, Program Manager for the Georgia National Guard Family Support Foundation. “With critical community events such as this one, along with help from individual and corporate contributions, the foundation has been able to approve over 3500 applications for Guardsmen and their families which amounts to \$3 million in support and emergency relief funds.”

When registration closed on Oct. 31, the Georgia National Guard Family Support Foundation had registered 419 participants for this year’s race. The race participants came from 22 states and three countries including, Germany, Afghanistan and the country of Georgia. Distinguished participants included: Maj. Gen. Tom Carden, the Adjutant General of Georgia; Maj. Gen. Joe Jarrard, deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Europe; Maj. Gen. Randall Simmons, the previous commanding general of the Georgia Army National Guard; and Brig. Gen. Dwayne Wilson, the current commanding general of the Georgia Army National Guard. Capt. Drew Silva and 1st Sgt. Andrew Keene played key roles in registering runners and providing race shirts, bibs and medals.

“We have decided that the virtual event was such a success, that next year, we will have an in-person event, as well as the virtual event,” said Brown. “There is nothing like running up Kennesaw Mountain, though. The photographs of our Fallen 43 are posted along the route to give you encouragement as you make your way. They are always with us.”

GA DOD CELEBRATES 384TH NATIONAL GUARD BIRTHDAY WITH AWARDS

STORY BY: SPC. ISAAH MATTHEWS | 124TH MPAD | GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

The Georgia Department of Defense observed the National Guard's 384th birthday during a ceremony on Dec. 10, 2020, at Clay National Guard Center, Marietta, Georgia.

At the same event, the Ga. DoD recognized several organizations and individuals for their service during 2020, notably the Georgia Army National Guard for receiving the Director's Award in Excellence for Integrated Management Systems (IMS) Operations.

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Thomas Carden, The Adjutant General of Georgia, presided over the ceremony conducted virtually through Facebook Live to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

"2020 taught us a lesson about our capability, and about not wrapping yourselves with what you have but to build what the crisis demands," said Carden. "This organization built what the crisis demanded and we deployed what the crisis demanded. We've lost a lot during this pandemic, but today is evidence that we refuse to sacrifice our culture."

The National Guard is the oldest branch of the United States military. The National Guard formed on Dec. 13, 1636, in Massachusetts from militia consisting of local farmers and townsmen. Today, the National Guard consists of over 450,000 Soldiers and Airmen located in 50 states, 3 territories and the District of Columbia. They have the capability and capacity and to respond wherever or whenever they're needed by their governors and even the federal government.

The Ga. DoD held an organizational awards ceremony at the same birthday celebration in recognition for performance throughout 2020.

"We want to put on display what our Soldiers, Airmen, and civilian employees do every day to bend the odds of fighting and winning its wars and fighting to alleviate suffering on the home front," Carden said.

On Oct. 30, 2020, Lt. Gen. Jon Jensen, director of the Army National Guard, selected the Georgia Army National Guard as the recipient of the Director's Award in Excellence for IMS Operations for fiscal year 2020. IMS supports the military service in their efforts to implement industry standards and modern business management practices. The award recognizes the Georgia Army National Guard for their senior leaders' commitments to lead efforts in improving the organization, for sustainability, innovation and business practices improvements, and for



having extremely positive, recognizable reputation as an organization that can influence the environment at hand and produce results.

The Georgia Air National Guard's 116th Air Control Wing and 165th Airlift Wing both received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The 165th Airlift Wing also received the Curtis N. "Rusty" Metcalf Trophy, an award presented to airlift and refueling units who demonstrate the highest standards of mission accomplishment. In addition, the Georgia Air Dominance Center received the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award. This award recognizes the achievements and accomplishments of various Air Force activities and organizations that perform functions normally conducted by numbered Air Force wings, groups and squadrons.

The Ga. DoD also presented the Georgia Distinguished Unit Ribbon to the Georgia State Defense Force. The Georgia State Defense Force is an all-volunteer force that provided the state of Georgia with humanitarian services support for the COVID-19 defense support to civil authorities missions from March 16th through July 17th, 2020. This was the longest continuous call-up in the history of the Georgia State Defense Force.

During the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, National Guard service members distributed 890 Million masks, gloves, gowns and other personal protective equipment. They packaged, served and delivered 367 million meals. Guard members also tested or screened 10.5 million citizens for COVID-19.

The operational National Guard is an integral part of the joint force and plays a vital role in every aspect of U.S. national security and defense. National Guard service members have supported more than 1.1 million overseas deployments since Sept. 11, 2020, and over 120,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were engaged worldwide in 2020.

"Your National Guard has forces physically deployed in six out of six geographic combatant commands around the world," said Carden. "Your National guard is more globally engaged today than at any point in the history of the National Guard."



SOCIAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

The Georgia National Guard Social Media and coverage of the

GA National Guard @GeorgiaGuard · Apr 6
Soldiers from the 1177th Transportation Company help to ensure Georgians in need are fed during #COVID19 by supporting the @ACFB. #YourGaGuard #SharedPurpose



8 101 294

Georgia National Guard

"Expanding #COVID19 testing is an important step in flattening the curve. Please help us get this new information to those that need a test. The Georgia National Guard is now partnering with the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency and the Georgia Department of Public Health to increase sample collection and testing." - The Adjutant General of Georgia, Major General Thomas Carden Jr. #SharedPurpose #SharedValues #SharedVictory #GeorgiaStrong

Division of Public Health
160 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 1500
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
404.657.3442
dph.ga.gov

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 13, 2020

CONTACT:
Nancy Nydam
(404) 657-3442

Expanded Testing For COVID-19 in Georgia
Revised Testing Criteria and Increased Number of Test Sites

Atlanta – The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is increasing the number of specimen collection sites statewide for COVID-19 testing, and is revising the current testing criteria to accommodate more testing of Georgia residents.

Effective immediately, **all asymptomatic individuals** will be eligible for COVID-19 testing. Health care workers, first responders, law enforcement and long-term care facility residents and staff will still be prioritized for testing regardless of whether they are or are not symptomatic.

Referrals are still required. However, there are now **two ways** to be referred to a DPH specimen collection site:

Local Health Department
Individuals who meet COVID-19 testing criteria may now be referred to DPH specimen collection sites by contacting their local health department. They will be screened by appropriate health department staff and referred to the closest, most convenient specimen collection site. Contact information for local health departments can be found on the DPH homepage at <https://dph.georgia.gov/>, under COVID-19 in Georgia.

Health Care Provider Referral
Health care providers and/or physicians can and should continue to refer patients for COVID-19 testing.

People should **not** arrive unannounced or without a scheduled appointment at a specimen collection site, hospital, emergency room or other health care facility. **Only individuals who have been evaluated by public health or a health care provider and assigned a PUI # number will be referred to these drive-thru sites.**

Together we can stop further spread of COVID-19 in our state and save lives.

Stay home – The Governor has issued a [shelter-in-place Executive Order](#) that should be observed by all residents and visitors.

Practice social distancing – keep at least 6 feet between yourself and other people.

GA National Guard @GeorgiaGuard · Apr 8
Our Georgia National Guard Infection Control Teams continue their mission every day and night helping to protect our most vulnerable population in the fight with #COVID19.
#InThisTogether #YourGaGuard



TAGofGA @TAGofGA · Apr 11
Our Governor & our citizens appreciate the @GeorgiaGuard. I know that residents in nursing homes across our state are safer because of your hard work & sacrifice. What you are doing today for your neighbors is a crystal clear representation of our organizational values!

Governor Brian P. Kemp @GovKemp · Apr 11
@GeorgiaGuard members are actively working to protect our most vulnerable population. So grateful for their service! #COVID19 #gapol
bit.ly/2wvjzdo



MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

Media Spotlight reflects the importance of the COVID-19 response.



Georgia National Guard

Georgia Army National Guardsmen with the Marietta-based, 78th Troop Command, is supporting Atlanta Public Schools (APS) in the distribution of 62,000 breakfast and lunch meals to students during #COVID19.
#InThisTogether #GeorgiaStrong



Georgia National Guard...

Georgia National Guard parachute riggers from the 165th Quartermaster Company answered the call to a mission that required their unique skill set to create masks for Guard Soldiers and Airmen activated to respond to the statewide #COVID19 mission.

Uploaded on 04/10/2020 · View Permalink · Copy Video ID



TAGofGA @TAGofGA · 4/15/20
Expanding #COVID19 testing is an important step in #FlatteningTheCurve. Please help us get this new information to those that need a test. The @GeorgiaGuard is now partnering with @GeorgiaEMA and @GaDPH to increase sample collection & testing.
#SharedPurpose #GeorgiaStrong



GA GUARD WELCOMES NEWEST GENERAL OFFICER

STORY BY: SPC. ISAIAH MATTHEWS | 124TH MPAD | GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



U.S. Air Force Colonel Konata Ato “Deuce” Crumbly, director of the joint staff, Georgia National Guard, was promoted to brigadier general at the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robbins, Georgia, Nov. 12, 2020. U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Tom Carden, The Adjutant General of Georgia, presided over the ceremony conducted virtually with only a small gathering of close family and friends in attendance.

Crumbly becomes the first Georgia Air National Guard brigadier general to serve as the director of the joint staff for the Georgia National Guard.

“We’ve asked Deuce to do some of our most challenging jobs,” said Carden. “He served in combat in the United States Army and in the United States Air Force, and that’s fairly rare these days.”

Hailing from Fort Valley, Georgia, Crumbly commissioned as an Army aviation officer in 1996 through Florida A&M University’s Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He graduated from flight school at Fort Rucker, Alabama, in 1998 as an Army UH-60 A/L Blackhawk pilot. During Crumbly’s tenure as an Army aviation officer, he participated in NATO’s intervention of Yugoslavia during Operation Allied Force in 1999 and the initial invasion of Iraq with the 3rd Infantry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. Crumbly joined the Georgia Air National Guard as an E-8C Joint STARS pilot in 2004.

During the ceremony, Crumbly discussed the important life and leadership moments he learned from his father, mother and wife. He also thanked his “extended” family of Soldiers and Airmen from active duty and the Georgia National Guard for how they developed him as a leader. Then he discussed the impact the Georgia National Guard has made on the state and country, especially during 2020.

“I hope I gave you some insight on how involved the Georgia Guard has been and some of the leadership lessons I’ve learned along the way,” said Crumbly. “To my wife and children, thank you and I love you. Thank you for putting up with my absences, late

nights and early mornings.”

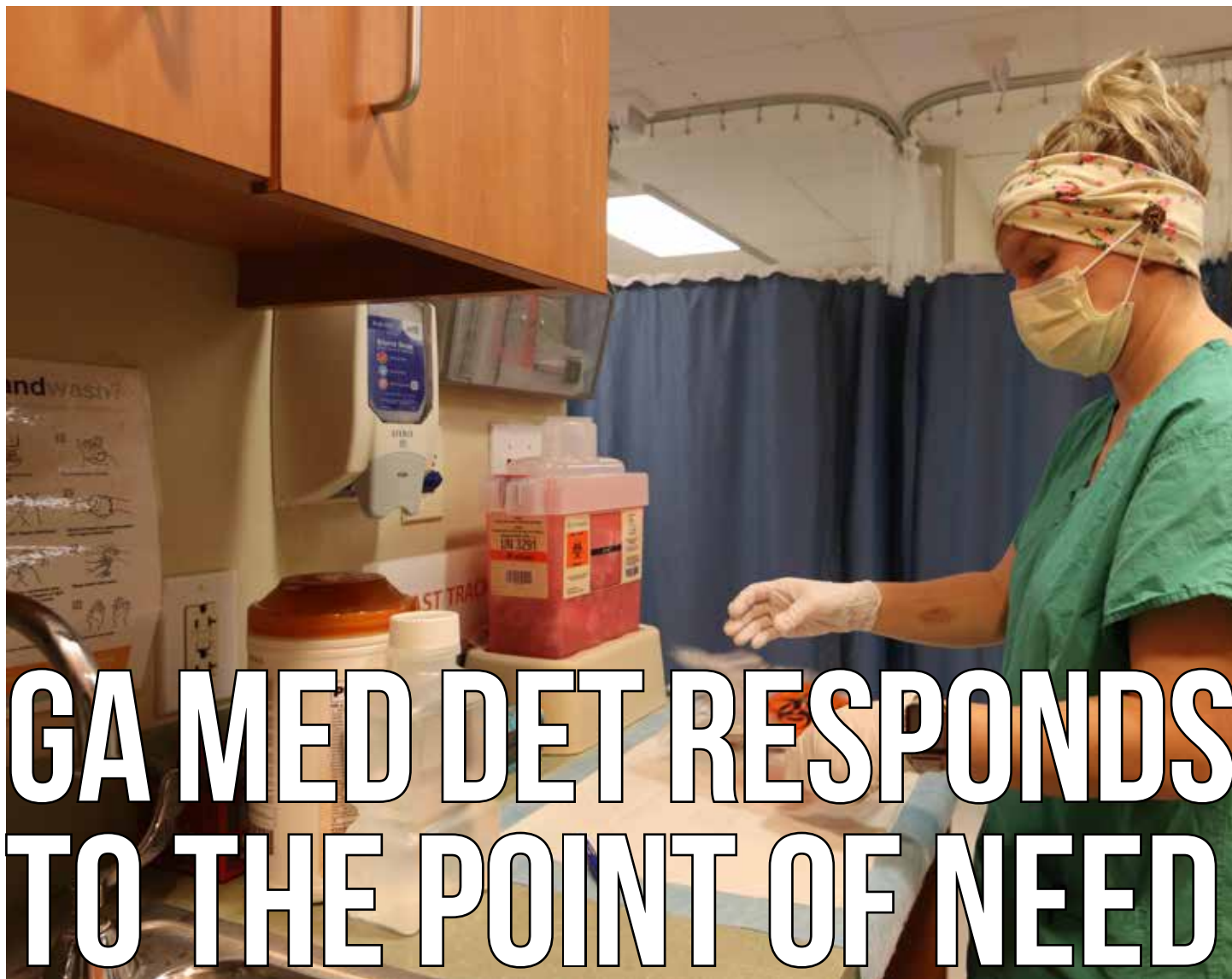
Crumbly’s previous positions within the Georgia Air National Guard of increased responsibility include assistant flight commander of the 128th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, flight commander of the 128th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, commander of the 12th Expeditionary Airborne Air Control Squadron and commander of the 128th Airborne Command and Control Squadron. Most recently, Crumbly served as the wing commander of the 116th Air Control Wing, followed by the director of operations of the Georgia Air National Guard. He has flown combat missions in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom and missions in support of U.S. Africa Command. He has logged more than 3,500 flying hours to include over 1,300 combat hours.

During the ceremony, Crumbly’s family pinned his new rank to his uniform and Carden presented Crumbly with the Legion of Merit.

Crumbly’s other awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Air Medal with oak leaf cluster, Combat Readiness Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with two ‘M’ Devices, Georgia Special Operations Ribbon, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Army Overseas Service Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service, Army Service Ribbon, Air Force Training Ribbon, and the Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border, and the NATO Medal.

“Deuce has set the bar high because he has always been picked for the hard jobs because he was and is the best of the best,” said Carden. “He is living proof that we can enable every person from every walk of life to climb as high as their desire and talent will allow.”





GA MED DET RESPONDS TO THE POINT OF NEED

STORY BY: SPC. ISAIAH MATTHEWS | 124TH MPAD | GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Each year, thousands of Georgia Army National Guard Soldiers receive medical care from the Marietta-based Georgia Medical Detachment, 78th Troop Command, Georgia Army National Guard.

The Georgia Medical Detachment, or MED DET, is responsible for maintaining the Georgia Army National Guard's health and wellness. This year though, the MED DET assisted civilians and service members alike. During this unprecedented time of responding to a global pandemic, the MED DET undertook a new approach to ensure the safety of civilians and Georgia Guardsmen.

"We were the first medical detachment in conjunction with our medical Air Force counterparts to establish medical support teams," said Maj. Gregory Hawley, commander of the Georgia Medical Detachment. "We had teams in place to provide support however the hospitals needed."

To ensure the force's safety, the MED DET released guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Guard Bureau about force health protection measures. The detachment disseminated the information to the medical support companies and company commanders throughout the Georgia Army National Guard. These recommendations and cautions allowed Soldiers and Airmen to understand the virus better and mitigate the risk of exposure.

As public health's growing needs changed throughout the year, the MED DET adjusted its focus. During the beginning and the height of COVID-19, the detachment joined forces with the Georgia Air National Guard to respond to the public's need. Joint force medical teams deployed to the three hospitals in Georgia with high COVID-19 rates, which were Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, and Floyd Medical Center in Rome.

While responding to the public health crisis, the Georgia Medical Detachment widened its focus by preparing for the upcoming flu season. The detachment instilled new precautions this year to mitigate the spread of the flu while continuing the fight against COVID-19.

"We've made sure we incorporated the COVID-19 social distancing practices with the flu," said Hawley. "Getting the flu shot won't stop you from getting COVID-19, but it will keep your immune system healthy, and that will help you fight the virus."

The Georgia Medical Detachment's mission has always been to promote and protect the health of the Georgia Army National Guard force. However, the fight against COVID-19 has demonstrated the detachment's ability to build greater response capability and to alleviate suffering, no matter if the point of need is civilian or military.



201ST RSG WELCOMES NEW BRIGADE COMMANDER

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

Colonel Alexander McLemore relinquished command of the Georgia Army National Guard's Marietta-based 201st Regional Support Group, during a ceremony at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Dec. 6, 2020. The 201st, one of ten National Guard units assigned a homeland response force, has been actively engaged throughout the year supporting coronavirus response missions and augmenting law enforcement operations following civil unrest.

McLemore's command of the 201st follows three decades of military service. Within months of graduating from the Georgia Military Institute in August 2000, McLemore deployed to Bosnia with the 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment. In 2003, he again mobilized overseas with the 3rd Army. Returning in 2004, McLemore began a long association with logistics and the 148th Brigade Support Battalion where he served as logistics officer during the unit's deployment to Iraq in 2005. McLemore then served as commander of the Jackson-based Company B. In 2014, McLemore deployed with the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to Afghanistan where he served as the garrison commander of Camp Phoenix. Returning to the United States, McLemore commanded the 148th Brigade Support Battalion before being selected to serve as the director of logistics for the Ga. ARNG. McLemore commanded the rear detachment of the 201st RSG during the brigade's rotation to Iraq from 2018 to 2019 and assumed command of the 201st RSG shortly after its return to the US.

In his remarks during the ceremony, Brig. Gen. Dwayne Wilson, commander of the Ga. ARNG, observed that the 201st RSG was exceptionally busy during McLemore's tenure in command. The 170th Military Police Battalion deployed personnel and equipment to the country of Georgia for exercise Agile Spirit in July 2019 while the 248th Medical Company deployed for overseas contingency operations the following November. Soldiers of the 201st were among the first assigned to COVID-19 response operations in March 2020. The unit is credited with developing and standardizing the Infection Control Team concept. Through the rest of 2020, the 201st, as Task Force Hazard conducted infection control team missions and supported mobile and site testing while preparing for hurricane response during the most active Atlantic hurricane season in history. The 201st mobilized personnel and equipment in support of law enforcement operations following civil unrest in Atlanta on May 29 and has had personnel in support of public safety operations since.

Following his command of the 201st, McLemore will serve as the United States Property and Fiscal Officer for the Ga. DoD. During his remarks at the ceremony, McLemore praised the Soldiers, NCOs and officers of the 201st RSG, recognizing them for their efforts during the historic response to the coronavirus outbreak.

"For everything this unit has accomplished, it was the effort of the individual Soldier that was the most amazing," said McLemore. "It is what all of you did that defined our collective success."

The incoming commander of the 201st, Col. Shane Strickland, is no stranger to its homeland response force mission. A 1997 graduate of GMI, Strickland began his commissioned service with the 1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery Regiment and commanded Battery B in Thomson, Ga. Following a deployment to Afghanistan with an embedded training team, Strickland served as operations officer of the Fort Benning-based 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. Next, he commanded the 4th Civil Support Team where he led hundreds of real-world response missions before a tenure as deputy commander of the 201st. After assignments to Joint Force Headquarters and the Pentagon, Strickland was appointed chief information officer for the Ga. ARNG. During the COVID-19 response, Strickland served as the CIO for the Ga. DOD Coronavirus Joint Task Force overseeing innovative information sharing with state agencies involved in the coordinated coronavirus response.

With more than 1,200 Citizen Soldiers and Airmen assigned, The mission of the 201st RSG is to provide trained and ready troops to support overseas contingency operations and to man, train and equip a homeland response force to assist civil authorities in saving lives.

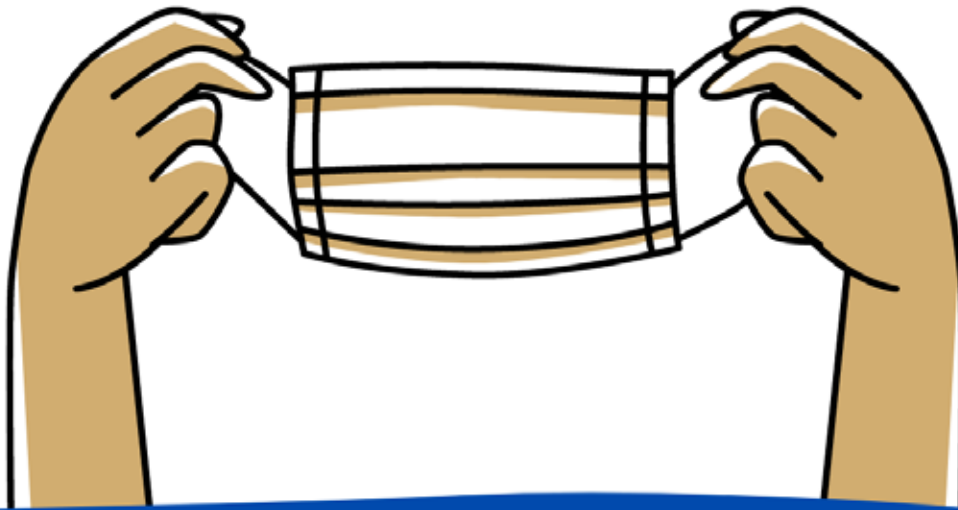




Georgia National Guard #MaskUp



How to safely wear your mask per DOD guidelines



Per DOD regulation set by the office of the Secretary of Defense in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control, Soldiers, Airmen, civilian employees and dependents are required to wear face coverings when in uniform or on post when social distancing of 6-feet or more cannot be maintained or inside military facilities.

Face masks should not have printed lettering, brand logos, or profane/derogatory imagery. All face masks should be functional, clean and maintain compliance with DOD regulation. When worn, masks should cover mouth and nose.

Cloth facemasks must be a solid color of either...



White



Black



Coyote
Brown



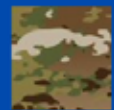
Tan



Sage
Green



Olive
Green



OCP

Guardsmen are permitted to use the following face coverings

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ✓ N95 Face Masks | ✓ Reusable Cloth Masks |
| ✓ Surgical Masks | ✓ Sponge Masks |
| ✓ DOD Issued Neck Gaiters | ✓ Sponge Mask with Filter |

For More Information, Please Visit <https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/campaigns/covid19/Pages/FaceCoverings.aspx>



GUARDSMEN GRADUATE FROM GRADY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN COURSE

STORY BY: SPC. ISAIAH MATTHEWS | 124TH MPAD | GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

U.S. Army Soldiers and U.S. Air Force Airmen of the Georgia National Guard graduated from Grady Memorial Hospital Education Center's Emergency Medical Services' Advanced Emergency Medical Technician Program on December 16, 2020, Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Georgia National Guard partnered with Grady Memorial Hospital's Emergency Medical Services to advance knowledge and skillset amongst Army and Air medical personnel. The 10-week course covers pharmacology, pathophysiology, skills dealing with pediatric and geriatric patients, among other topics. After the completion of the course, the Soldiers and Airmen receive an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) certification.

"We realize that the Army and Air Force has a lot of knowledge dealing with trauma patients, and they fall short with medical," said Keith Blalock, the interim program director at Grady Memorial Hospital Education Center's Emergency Medical Services. "So, we try to provide more information and knowledge to bring them up to the AEMT scope of practice."

Typically held twice a year, this course was the only one taught in 2020 due to the COVID-19 public health crisis.

During the long, challenging course, service members motivated one another and assisted each other in their studies to eventually see graduation day together. U.S. Army Spc. Rachel Novotny, a combat medic with the Winder-based Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment, received a leadership award for her actions during the course.

The National Guard Bureau began the initiative in 2017 through the Chief Surgeon's Office to train more medics with AEMT certifications.

The program bolsters the Guardsmen's knowledge base and provides training to make them more proficient in their career field. The course makes the medics better professional military leaders and skilled technicians in their craft.

After graduating from the AEMT course, service members become eligible to attend a course at Grady Memorial Hospital to earn a paramedic certification, the highest attainable EMT certification.

The AEMT certification makes the Guardsmen more competitive in the civilian job market. Grady Memorial Hospital even hires some of the service members they personally train and certify through the partnership with the Georgia National Guard.

U.S. Army Spc. Vanessa Young, a combat medic with the Winder-based Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment, completed Grady Memorial Hospital's AEMT course in 2019 and is currently completing the paramedic course.

"This program has opened many new doors for me, from being hired at Grady Memorial Hospital as an AEMT to starting their paramedic program," said Young. "There isn't a better way for medics to prepare themselves to move forward. It truly prepares me for success in both my civilian and military career."

AROUND THE GEORGIA GUARD



JOINT RETIREMENT CEREMONY

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Reginald Cobb (second from left), Georgia Army National Guard, retired during a joint retirement ceremony held at the Clay National Guard Center, Marietta, Ga., on December 12, 2020 after 20 years of service. U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Konata Crumbly (far left), presiding officer of the ceremony, presented Cobb's daughters Certificates of Appreciation for their support of the organization.



RECRUITING TRAINING

Recruiters with the Georgia Army National Guard Recruiting (GAARNG) and Retention Battalion conducted a virtual engagement with the Georgian National Guard (GNG) Recruiters from our state partner. This engagement provides the mandatory training to successfully recruit future Soldiers and establishes a level of understanding between peers.



CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Military Family Support Branch packed gifts for the Christmas Assistance Program, which ensures our Soldiers and Airmen enjoy the Christmas they deserve.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Georgia State Defense Force Soldiers provide support for National Wreaths Across America, Georgia National Cemetery, Canton, Ga., Dec. 18, 2020.



GEORGIA SDF CHANGE OF COMMAND

Georgia State Defense Force (GSDF) Soldiers stand in formation during a change of command ceremony, where outgoing GSDF Commander Brig. Gen. Thomas H. Blackstock Jr. transfers command to Brig. Gen. Mark D. Gelhardt Sr.





GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

Public Affairs Office
Georgia Department of Defense
1000 Halsey Ave. Bldg. 447
Marietta, Ga. 30060