



THE SOUTHERN DRAWL

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AREA III

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Alabama – Florida – Georgia - South Carolina – Tennessee - Puerto Rico - U S Virgin Islands



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The idea is simple.

It's a globe that sits inside your computer. You point and zoom to anyplace on the planet that you want to explore. Satellite images and information about local Guard Upcoming Events or Historical Events zoom into view.

Download Guard Earth for Windows

OR

Download Guard Earth directly from
Google

<http://www.1800goguard.com/guardearth/index.html>

If you have trouble with the above event links,
Be sure Google Earth is first installed on your PC.
Guard Earth currently does not work on the Mac OS.



VISIT THE GUARD AT A SIX FLAGS NEAR YOU

For more than 40 years, Six Flags has given children and adults the freedom to discover captivating settings and thrilling adventures. Its legacy began with a single property in Texas and grew to transform the way families vacation. Six Flags is the world's largest and most diverse regional theme park company delivering fun-filled experiences to visitors at 29 parks.

Six Flags' unique form of entertainment was born in the imagination of Texas oil baron Angus Wynne, the father of the modern-day theme park. Mr. Wynne set out to create a destination that would capture the excitement and wonder of the imagination. With Angus' vision and the support of the Texas community, Six Flags Over Texas opened in 1961.

The first Six Flags park took its name from the six countries whose flags had flown over Texas throughout the state's extraordinary history.

Six Flags Over Texas featured six sections reflecting the spirited cultures of those nations -- and offered guests a vibrant experience straight out of their dreams. Mr. Wynne envisioned theme parks of a grand scale -- bigger than Disneyland -- located in different regions across the country, making them convenient and affordable to families everywhere. Today, Six Flags has made his dream a reality. Six Flags' fun, family environments comprise innovative rides and exciting attractions including live shows, cutting-edge thrill rides, games, kid friendly play areas, land animals, marine mammals, concerts, and special events.

Side by Side We Stand With Pride

AREA III STATE NEWS/INFORMATION

Alabama

Florida

GEORGIA

The December Christmas issue of *The Georgia Town Cryer* expressed thanks to Annual members and Annual Limited (associate) members for renewal of their AEANGGA and EANGUS Auxiliary memberships for the 2007 member year.

The issue also included Georgia legislative information and quotes for the meaning of Christmas and an exploration into the lighter side of Christmas.

South Carolina

TENNESSEE

The Volunteer News (December issue) contained a Christmas greeting from President Ann Story as well as a selection of favorite recipes from members of EANGTN Auxiliary.

Editor Kathy Jackson asks for stories and other newsworthy information to share in future issues.

Many Florida Guard Members Currently deployed this Holiday Season

Nearly 1,000 members of the Florida National Guard are currently deployed in the Global War on Terrorism this holiday season.

Family members seeking the latest dates and times should go to the EagleNet @ AKO home page. In addition to the latest updates related to the homecoming, EagleNet @ AKO also has links to fact sheets with maps, directions, contact information and homecoming guidance.

283rd Earns Outstanding Unit Award

Dobbins ARB, Ga., December 15, 2006 –

The Dobbins-based 283rd Combat Communications Squadron of the Georgia Air National Guard has been awarded the prestigious Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA) acknowledging outstanding accomplishments both in domestic security operations and in the global War on Terror.

The award, presented by the Secretary of the Air Force in December, reflected on unit accomplishments between the dates of January 2004 and August 2006.

The AFOUA is presented only to a small number of Air Force units who distinguish themselves through outstanding achievements clearly above and apart from similar units.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS, BENEFITS UPDATES AND MORE

CNGR Hearings December 15, 2006

The Commission on the National Guard and Reserve conducted hearings this week on Wednesday and Thursday. Speaking on the Third panel of witnesses were Major General R. Martin Umbarger, The Adjutant General of Indiana and Chairman of the Board of NGAUS, Major General Frank Vavala, The Adjutant General of Delaware, and Major General Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General of Oregon. This final panel spoke on behalf of the National Guard and offered its perspective on the empowerment of the National Guard. The Commission asked many questions relating to needed changes in law and policies affecting the National Guard's role and status. MG Umbarger, MG Vavala, and MG Rees provided expert testimony and made recommendations that would ensure the best future for the National Guard and the nation's security.

National Guard on NPR

On Tuesday, December 12th NPR featured a newscast on *Talk of the Nation* that focused on the future of the National Guard. Guests on the segment included:

- Brigadier General Stewart Rodeheaver, Deputy Commanding General, First Army, Fort Gillem Georgia; Recently commanded the 48th Brigade Combat Team of the Georgia Army National Guard.
- Major General Michael Davidson, Former Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for National Guard Matters.
- Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.
- Senator Saxby Chambliss, Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

To hear the Senators response to the questions raised visit:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=6614496>

Ban on Disrupting Military Funerals

S 4042, a bill that prohibits disruptions of funerals of members or former members of the Armed Forces, cleared Congress on December 9. The bill, sponsored by Senator Richard Durbin, makes it a criminal misdemeanor to intentionally make a noise or diversion at a funeral or within 150 feet of such a service punishable by a fine or up to one year in jail. The measure was in response to protests at funerals by members of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas. Westboro members believe that U.S. troops are being killed in Iraq as divine retribution for the U.S.'s tolerance of homosexuality.

New Army Slogan Ad Campaign

The Army adopted a new service slogan and launched their public advertisement program November 9, 2006. "**Army Strong**" vice an "Army of One" (which was unveiled in 2001), will represent the truth about today's American Soldier. They are strong and choose to make a difference in their lives, their families, their communities and their nation.

LEGISLATIVE News, Benefits, Updates and more (continued)



AGAUS President's Testimony

Major General Roger Lempke, Adjutants General Association of the United States (AGAUS) president was unable to testify at Commission on the National Guard and Reserves hearings last week. MG Francis Vavala, AGAUS Vice President and the Adjutant General of Delaware, testified on behalf of Maj. Gen. Lempke and presented his written statement which clearly supported proposals included in House and Senate bills to empower the National Guard.

To read Maj. Gen. Lempke's complete statement and the statements from MG R. Martin Umbarger and MG Raymond F. Rees, visit the NGAUS homepage and click on CNGR found on the right hand side.

www.ngaus.org

Task Force on Mental Health

The DoD Task Force on Mental Health is a congressionally mandated Federal Advisory Committee which has been directed to make an assessment of and recommendations on the mental health services provided by the Department of Defense to members of the Armed Forces and their families. The Task Force met on Dec. 20 to listen to statements from the public including a large number of organizations.

Emily Breitbach of the NGAUS legislative staff attended the meeting.

There are currently two resolutions passed at the 128th NGAUS General Conference relating to mental health issues; Joint emergency resolutions A-ER-4 and A-ER- 8.

Robert M. Gates Sworn In as New Defense Secretary

Robert M. Gates was sworn in as the nation's 22nd secretary of defense in a ceremony at the Pentagon Monday.

After President Bush introduced Mr. Gates as "an experienced and thoughtful leader," Vice President Richard B. Cheney administered the oath of office.

He was officially sworn in at the White House earlier Monday in a private event.

"It is an honor to have the opportunity to work with the people in this department—dedicated professionals whose overriding priority is the defense of our nation," Mr. Gates said upon taking the oath at the Pentagon.

The Defense Department is carrying on many different activities, all of which are important, but the most pressing concern is the situation in Iraq, he said.

Since being confirmed by the Senate, Gates has participated in National Security Council meetings on Iraq, received a number of Pentagon briefings, and discussed the situation and way forward in Iraq with the president.

Everyone wants to find a way to bring America's troops home, Mr. Gates said, but the United States cannot afford to fail in the Middle East.

"Failure in Iraq at this juncture would be a calamity that would haunt our nation, impair our credibility, and endanger Americans for decades to come," he said.

Two days after the ceremony, Mr. Gates went to Iraq with Gen. Peter Pace, Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, to meet with troops, generals and Iraqi leaders to assess the situation on the ground.

The new Defense Secretary is no stranger to Iraq and U.S. commanders there.

National Guard Birthday

The Oldest Component of the Armed Forces
of the United States



December 13, 1636



When the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony ordered the organization of the colony's separate militia companies into three regiments on this date, the National Guard was born.

Designated as the North, East and South regiments today their descendents are:

North: 181st and 182nd Infantry;
East: 101st Engineer Battalion;
South: 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery,
Massachusetts Army National Guard.

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**THANKS FOR YOUR TIME,
AREA III !**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dianne", enclosed in a thin yellow rectangular border.