

ALL ABOUT US *A Newsletter for State Employees of the South Carolina Military Department*

Volume 8, No. 1 December / January / February 2006

YOU WANTED TO KNOW



By the time you receive this newsletter the senior leadership of the agency will have met with a House sub-committee on the 2006-2007 budget. A similar meeting with a Senate sub-committee follows shortly thereafter. With few exceptions, the Governor's proposed budget has left the general funds for the South Carolina Military Department pretty much intact. However, his recommendations, or "Purchase Plan," did not include our #1 priority, which was an increase in recurring funds for armory operations. General Spears has repeatedly gone on record for additional funding citing the needs for essential repairs to our aging infrastructure of armories.

It is always a pleasure for me to recognize a member of the DSO staff who has performed in an exceptional manner. I want to single out Budget and Finance's Lynne Amick who identified a lease stipulation that resulted in the agency recovering \$159,000 in utility costs. Well done, Lynne! Please congratulate Lynne when you see her for the fine job she has done and continues to do. It makes me very proud to have a staff that goes beyond its normal scope of work – a staff that takes the initiative.

Upcoming Holidays:

Presidents Day
February 20

Confederate Memorial
Day
May 10

National Memorial Day
May 29

As many of you know, Susan Simmons, our Chief Financial Officer, has left to take a position with the Budget and Control Board's Communications and Information Office. All of us wish her well in her new assignment. I hope to announce a new CFO within the next couple of weeks and ask that you extend a warm welcome to this newest member of the DSO staff. Veterans of the agency can appreciate the great diversity of our operations. A newcomer will certainly need our help and support in order to be successful.

Also, a special thanks to Harold Broadway and his staff at the Crescent Moon Café (McCrary Dining Facility). With the influx of Navy IRRs to Task Force Marshall, the dining facility now feeds between 400 and 500 every day! It is a tremendous task and all being accomplished by a very professional staff of - you guessed it - state employees.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Shuler".

John A. Shuler
Deputy Adjutant General
State Operations

For more information
visit us on the web at
www.scguard.com

FMS #11 AND #12 NOMINATED FOR STATEWIDE UST MANAGEMENT AWARD

By Carl Adams

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) Bureau of Land and Waste Management recently nominated SCARNG FMS 11 in Hartsville and FMS 12 in Florence for their Underground Storage Tank (UST) Environmental Excellence Award. The award recognizes operators of underground storage tanks for proper maintenance, recordkeeping, spill prevention and response readiness. Although the award went to another nominee, TAG-DSO-CFMO-EV complements FMS 11 and 12 for their extraordinary efforts in safe and efficient oversight of UST management.



NEWS FROM THE STATE GUARD

By Frank Whitlock

The State Guard continued to maintain strength and increase community service hours during 2005. In fact, it was the best year it has ever had in terms of active membership and assistance to state and local authorities, giving more than one million dollars of in-kind assistance to the citizens of South Carolina for the second consecutive year.

Additionally, members of the State Guard helped to assemble, pack, and mail more than 800 "care packages" to our South Carolina troops deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. These donations came from schools, state employees, and businesses and organizations throughout the state. We are proud of the patriotism and generosity of all who participated, and glad that we could share in supporting the men and women who are making the greatest sacrifices for all of us.

We look forward to the challenges and opportunities that the new year will bring, and resolve that our efforts and support of the Military Department of South Carolina will continue to be strong, consistent, and professional.

If you are interested in serving your community and state, please contact the State Guard at 551 Granby Lane, Columbia, SC or call 803-806-4238.

IT CORNER

By Ron Mitchell

Latest phishing involves fake PayPal E-mail

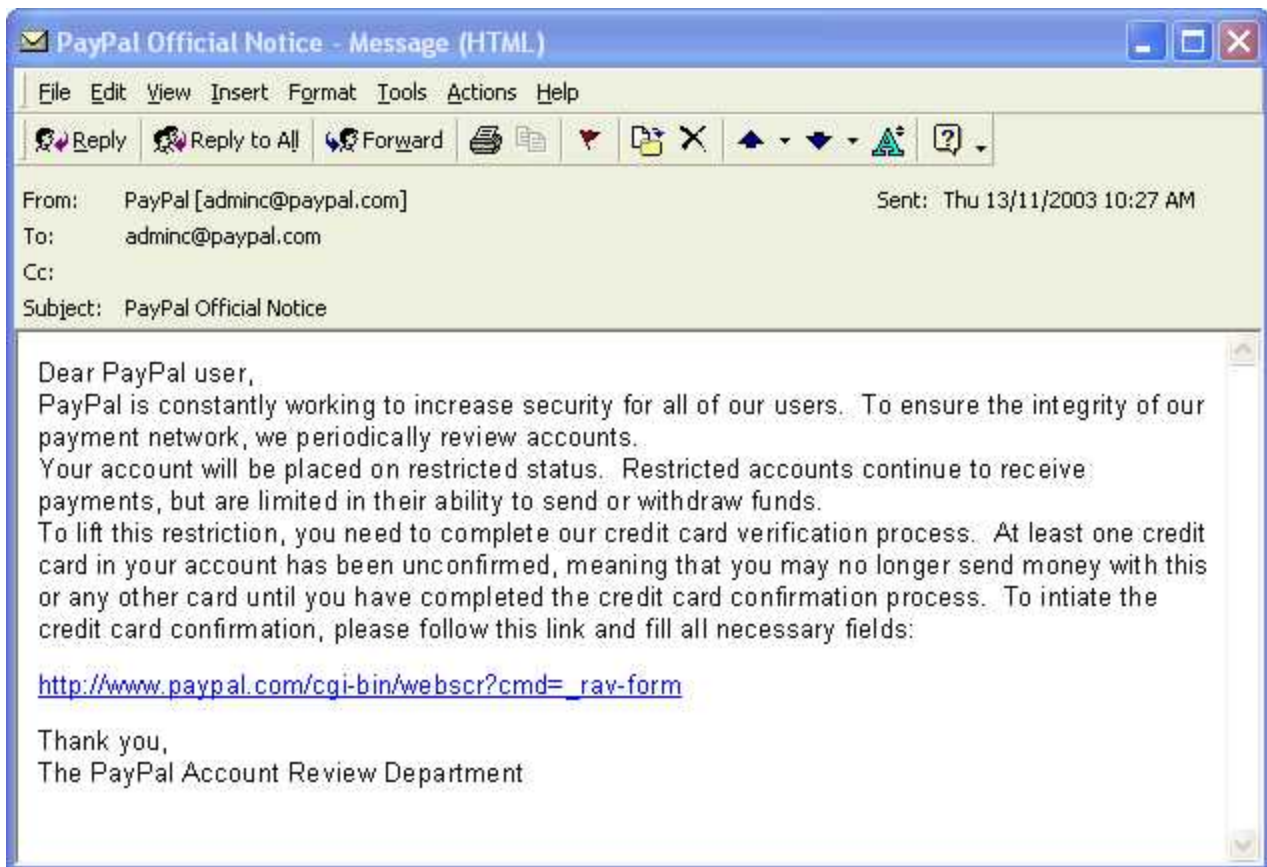
The term 'Phishing' (pronounced 'fishing') is a slang IT word, made up by replacing the letter 'f' with 'ph.' Phishing, is exactly that, fishing for information - usually personal information such as credit card, bank account or social security numbers.

Scammers 'Phish' for your personal information in a variety of ways, but most commonly through fraudulent emails claiming to be from your bank or another institution that already has your personal details, asking you to confirm these details.

Once scammers have 'phished' out your information, they could use it in a number of ways. Your credit card could be used for unauthorized purchases, or your bank account could be cleared out, or they may simply gather the information for an identity theft scam, or sell your information to identity theft rings.

Phishing emails are commonly used in association with a fake web site that looks very similar to a real website from the relevant institution. See below for some examples of these type of emails and web sites. Delete these messages –don't even open them if you receive them. Thanks!

Example of PayPal Phishing Email



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM SECURITY

By Bob Toney

When entering or leaving the TAG building premises during periods of darkness, dim your headlights and turn on your vehicle's interior light so security personnel can properly identify the occupants.

TAG building employees are reminded that they are to park in the rear of the building. Parking spaces in the front of the building are reserved for visitors.

DO NOT SPEED in the TAG building complex! Offenders will be cited and a report made to their supervisors for appropriate action.

The speed bumps serve a definite purpose: YOUR SAFETY! Be especially careful when exiting onto 1 National Guard Road from the TAG building. It is very difficult to see on-coming traffic from the west.

HOMELAND DEFENSE TEAM RECEIVES STELLAR REVIEW

By Eli Wishart

On Wednesday, November 30, the South Carolina Commission on National and Community Service gave outstanding ratings to the performance of the SC AmeriCorps Homeland Defense Team.

Commissioners commented after the review that they could not believe the enormous variety of projects that the volunteers are assisting in. From large animal rescue and explosive detection dogs to methamphetamine labs, what a bang for the buck on value. For the price of a relatively small grant, this organization has saved the taxpayer hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The organization is charged with planning for and responding to natural disasters and acts of terrorism and operates under the Adjutant General of South Carolina, Major General Stanhope Spears. Citing the wide expertise and the tremendous cost benefit of the organization, he said that he is "extremely proud that SC AmeriCorps Homeland Defense is a component of the Military Department of South Carolina."

The goal of the all-volunteer organization is to assist state and local emergency management planners in making South Carolina a safer place to live and work. Value is added to other agencies involved in disaster preparedness by assisting in the areas of Public Safety, Public Health and Emergency Preparedness.

STARBASE KIDS DO THE DARNDEST THINGS

By Jim Prater

During a recent STARBASE Swamp Fox academy, instructors were trying to help children make connections between the properties of air experiments they were conducting in the classroom and applications that they might see at home.

Air pressure was the particular study area and after two experiments in the series, one child asked about the home connection. The instructor, being Swamp Fox on the spot, jumped in immediately with the example of the common household plumbing tool, the plunger. He went on to explain how a similar experiment to the classroom example could be done by drilling a small hole in a plunger and conducting a series of experiments. The instructor thinks he remembers adding a caution: Do not try this with a plunger that you would actually use to do what a plunger does, or something to that effect. He really thinks he said that.



Caution or not, the instructor was horrified when he checked his phone messages at home on Saturday and heard a very excited and high pitched little female voice who said: "Mr. Prater, you better tell the boys and girls not to try to use the plunger after the experiment. Their daddy won't like it!"

To paraphrase the great Art Linkletter: Kids Do the Darndest things!

FROM THE RETIREMENT DESK

By Craig Wilkes

The next "Retiree Update Briefing" is scheduled for 8 February 2006 at the Dozier Building located at McCrady Training Center. This briefing is designed to give our military retirees updated information on the "state" of the National Guard and information on other retiree issues.

This year the agenda includes a briefing by the South Carolina Retirement System concerning the state pension. Other topics include: Facility Management, NGASC Issues, Youth Challenge, TRICARE, Federal Technician Update and the SCNG Museum.

After the briefing, lunch will be available at the Dozier Dining Facility for all attendees at a cost of \$6.00 per person.

This event continues to be a special occasion for retirees as they look forward to renewing old acquaintances and the gourmet meal prepared by Harold Broadway and his staff at the "Crescent Moon Café."

2006 TRAINING CALENDAR

By John Wilkinson

Training of managers/supervisors is critical to the long and short term goals of the agency. Attached is a calendar outlining management training to be conducted in 2006. All supervisors and managers should attend the Sexual Harassment, Management Training parts 1&2 as soon as they become supervisors/managers or if they need a refresher in these subjects. All employees are welcome to take any of these training sessions. All employees should be informed of policies/procedures. However, supervisors/managers must take them. All permanent and grant employees should take the Culture for Change training as soon as it is offered after they are hired. All employees who drive a state vehicle must take Driver Training within six months of their initial hire, and once every three years thereafter.

If you have any questions, e-mail me or call me at 806-2570.

Course Content:

Driver Training

This is the 4/8 hour AAA approved mandatory driver training for all AG employees who drive any State owned vehicle. It consists mostly of videotape presentations on how to drive defensively and how to see ahead to avoid accidents. There is a short test at the end of the presentation. See State Vehicle Safety Policy-Driver Safety Policy-SHRO Policies and Procedures on the Public Drive.

Sexual Harassment

This is a half day lecture/powerpoint program that outlines what sexual harassment is, how to prevent it, and what to do if you are the victim of it. All managers/supervisors are required to attend this class as soon as practical when they become supervisors. All employees are encouraged to attend. See Sexual Harassment and other Behaviors-SHRO Policies and Procedures on the Public Drive.

Management Part One

This is a half day lecture/powerpoint program that covers the Employee Performance Evaluation System (EPES), Progressive Discipline and the State Grievance System. It defines what each of these is and how they apply to the management of employees. Cases are examined and the class learns from each other. All managers/supervisors are required to attend this class as soon as practical when they become supervisors. All employees are encouraged to attend. See SHRO Policies and Procedures on the Public Drive.

Management Part Two

This is a half-day lecture/powerpoint program that covers the Interviewing and Selection, Employee Orientation, and Leave and Attendance. It defines what each of these is and how they apply to the management of employees. Cases are examined and the class learns from each other. All managers/supervisors are required to attend this class as soon as practical when they become supervisors. All employees are encouraged to attend. See SHRO Policies and Procedures on the Public Drive.

Culture for Change

This is a two-day program, which examines the culture of work in the Adjutant General's office. The mission of the agency is discussed. Paradigms and change dynamics are examined. Discussions take place on how to improve our work habits and office culture. Leadership is discussed and evaluations of work processes are evaluated. Personal growth as well as workplace improvement/development is emphasized.

February

February 16, Thursday. Management Part #1, 9AM-12 Noon, auditorium, 1st floor TAG building

March

March 2, Thursday. Management Part #2, 9AM-12 Noon, auditorium, 1st floor TAG building

March 22 & 23, Wed. & Thur. Culture for Change, 9AM-4PM, EMD Conference Room, Fish Hatchery Road, West Columbia

March 30, Thursday. Driver Training, 9AM-4PM, large conference room, 3rd floor TAG building

April

April 13, Thursday. Sexual Harassment. 9AM-12 Noon, auditorium, 1st floor TAG building

May

May 4, Thursday. Driver Training, 9AM-4PM, large conference room, 3rd floor TAG building

May 18, Thursday. Management Part #1, 9AM-12 Noon, auditorium, 1st floor TAG building

June

June 8, Thursday. Management Part #2, 9AM-12 Noon, auditorium, 1st floor TAG building

June 29, Thursday. Driver Training, 9AM-4PM, large conference room, 3rd floor TAG building

July

July 13, Thursday. Sexual Harassment. 9AM-12 Noon, auditorium, 1st floor TAG building

August

August 3, Thursday. Driver Training, 9AM-4PM, large conference room, 3rd floor TAG building

August 24, Thursday. Management Part #1, 9AM-12 Noon, auditorium, 1st floor TAG building

September

September 7, Thursday. Management Part #2, 9AM-12 Noon, auditorium, 1st floor TAG building

September 13&14, Wed. & Thur. Culture for Change, 9AM-4PM, EMD Conference Room, Fish Hatchery Road, West Columbia

September 28, Thursday. Driver Training, 9AM-4PM, large conference room, 3rd floor TAG building

October

October 26, Thursday. Sexual Harassment. 9AM-12 Noon, auditorium, 1st floor TAG building

November

November 2, Driver Training, 9AM-4PM, large conference room, 3rd floor TAG building

November 16, Management Part #1, 9AM-12 Noon, auditorium, 1st floor TAG building

December

December 7, Thursday. Management Part #2, 9AM-12 Noon, auditorium, 1st floor TAG building

December 14, Driver Training, 9AM-4PM, large conference room, 3rd floor TAG building

EVACUEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

By John Legare

Since September, staff members from the Emergency Management Division have been working closely with local and federal officials to meet the needs of evacuees from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The primary focus of the Evacuee Assistance Centers has been to assist evacuees in registering with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to receive disaster assistance and transition evacuees from temporary housing in hotels and motels into apartments and homes.

Overall the Evacuee Assistance Program in South Carolina has been a successful operation, with positive comments about the program being made by government officials, non-profit organizations and most importantly our guests from the Gulf Coast. Working with issues that have never been addressed has been a challenge to the Division. Many valuable lessons have been learned from this process however, and could be applied to a large-scale disaster should it strike South Carolina.

Under the current federal program, evacuees should be moved into a form of temporary housing other than a hotel by Feb. 7 unless they have individual approval from FEMA. Currently there are roughly 3,600 heads of household registered with FEMA seeking shelter in South Carolina. Of those about 100 families are still calling hotels their temporary home.

Once the majority of evacuees have finished the housing transition, the fixed Evacuee Assistance Centers in Charleston, Columbia and Greenville will close. Assistance will still be available to evacuees through the Evacuee Assistance Hotline 1-800-590-6395 and the Mobile Evacuee Assistance Center that will be traveling to areas not located near one of the fixed centers until March 15.

Upstate Ice Storm Update

Representatives from the Emergency Management Division, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and seven Upstate counties conducted a joint preliminary damage assessment on Dec. 27 and 28. The assessment was conducted to determine if damages from the ice storm that struck the area Dec. 15, 2005 might warrant a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

After conducting windshield tours of the region and reviewing records from local agencies, it was estimated that nearly \$9.6 million would be required to clean up debris, replace infrastructure owned by electric co-operatives and pay overtime costs to local responders.

On December 30, Governor Sanford sent a letter to President Bush requesting a Presidential Disaster Declaration since damage estimates indicated that the state threshold for federal assistance had been exceeded by nearly \$5 million. Should President Bush approve Governor Sanford's request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration, a field office will be opened in the Upstate to assist local officials in applying for partial federal reimbursement for qualified expenses resulting from the storm.

Annual Hurricane/Emergency Management Workshop Scheduled for March 27-29

The annual Hurricane/Emergency Management Workshop will be held March 27-29 at the Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Once again there will be an emphasis on training as well as

our informative general sessions.

The Emergency Management Fair on the final day of the workshop will offer an opportunity for participants to learn about various assets and programs available in the state in a small group environment. Participants will be offered hands on experience at several of the displays, along with question and answer sessions with presenters.

For more information and on-line hotel reservations for the 2006 Hurricane/Emergency Management Workshop, please visit the Division website www.scmd.org.

NEWS FROM BUDGET AND FINANCE



Deputy Adjutant General State Operations John Shuler presents a certificate and pin to Budget and Finance's Shirley Shealy for more than 20 years of service with the state.

John Shuler, the DSO, presents Lynne Amick of Budget and Finance with a certificate recognizing her five years of state service.



GROWTH CONTINUES AT CAMP LONG

By Teddy Call

Class 8 of the South Carolina Youth Challenge Academy at Camp Long graduated on Saturday, December 17, 2005. The graduation was a special event for the 64 young people who had completed the rigorous 22-week residential portion of the program. MG Stanhope S. Spears, The Adjutant General, was on hand to welcome parents and guests as well as hand out diplomas to the excited graduates. "These young people represent a bright future for our state and country," General Spears remarked. Twenty-five GED's were earned during the class.

Several graduates received awards including a very surprised cadet Howard Ketter, the Outstanding Graduate for Class Eight. Cadet Ketter also received an award for his achievements in the classroom. In addition to the awards handed out by the Academy's Director five graduates received scholarships to further their education. The scholarships ranged from \$500 to \$1,000 dollars. Scholarships were provided by the National Guard Association of South Carolina and The South Carolina Youth Challenge Foundation. The graduation speaker was Mrs. Kathryn Wade, Aiken Field Representative for Congressman Gresham Barrett. Mrs. Wade gave a tremendous speech and related how making the right or wrong choices affect a person's life.



In January the program's senior staff traveled to Charleston, SC for the Annual National Guard Youth Challenge Program Workshop. The conference was opened and closed by a color guard comprised of graduates from the program. MG Spears and the Deputy Adjutant General State Operations, John A. Shuler, were also on hand for the opening ceremony that included Stedman Graham, an author and nationally known speaker on youth. The staff worked with peers from the other 29 programs

and participated in break-out sessions geared to improve program areas during the three-day conference. The conference concluded with an annual awards banquet sponsored by the Washington D.C. USO. The Camp Long program received the award for The Most Progressive Program for 2005.



On January 15, the program began its ninth class with 114 young people. If you are interested in becoming a mentor for one of the youth enrolled in the program please call 803-584-4402 or check out our new website at www.ngycp.org/state/scc1

YOUTH CHALLENGE COLUMBIA

By Ric Favati

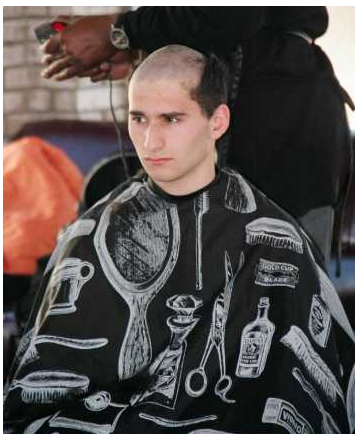
Our 16th class here in Columbia started on 8 January. Special thanks to 15 members of the State Guard under the leadership of LTC Hill, who assisted with the in-processing activities. It would have been impossible to complete the first day without their outstanding support. Their attitude and professional courtesy always give parents and cadets a good first impression of South Carolina's Military Department and the academy.

This class started with 141 cadets, all of whom will work to develop life-style improvements and educational achievement. Although the ultimate goal of enhancing their ability to succeed in life is the major objective, it is hoped that more than 50% will receive their GED on campus before graduation in June.

This year the Youth Challenge National Conference was held in Charleston, 4-7 January. Major General Spears gave the opening remarks and our own Rene Littell formally opened the event by singing the National Anthem. Currently there are thirty programs in twenty-six states. The Aiken program received first place in the 'most progressive' category above all other academies, which is a real testimony to Lt Call's leadership and his great staff. The Columbia program received the first place award for 'physical fitness,' a tribute to the 'hard-core' direction of 1SG John Marsh and his superb cadre. Marsh's attitude has always been: "If I can do PT everyone else can too."

The Youth Programs of the National Guard are fortunate to have an outstanding Advisory and Foundation Board. Their support has contributed to much of the success of one of the South Carolina National Guard's most important missions, educating the youth of our state. Because of this support, every college-bound Challenge graduate is given a \$500.00 college scholarship.

Youth Challenge changes lives but without volunteers the program would not succeed. Today, we need mentors for young men and women. Anyone who is interested in making a difference in a young person's life, please contact Frank Wise, 896-6446.



Just a little off the top



CSM Kirk says: "This is the way it's gonna be."

CONSTRUCTION MATTERS

By Mike Young

The Facility's Management Office has made it through another end-of-year frenzy and has several new projects awarded and beginning construction during the next quarter of 2005. In addition, we have some projects nearing completion. The following are a few of the ongoing projects being managed by the Facilities Management Office.

On-Going Construction:

Citadel Marksmanship Center

Construction is complete on the joint use marksmanship center constructed at the Citadel. If you have ever been to the Citadel, the architectural style of the Marksmanship Center will follow that of their existing buildings, as shown in the photo. Company A, 1-118 Infantry Battalion will utilize the facility on the Guard's behalf.



Figure 1 - Marksmanship Center

DOIM Relocation

Work is approximately 75% complete with relocation of the staff scheduled for April. Once, DOIM has relocated, expansion of the Joint Operation Center (JOC) will commence.

New Construction:

McCrary Training Center

McCrary Training Center is abuzz with new construction, as three projects are ongoing at this time.

New Gate Entrance

Construction has started on the new gate entrance to McCrady Training Center. The new entrance is being constructed just to the west of the existing entrance and will not impact access to the training center. The new entrance will include a guard house, vehicle and truck entrance lanes with overhead lighting, exit lane, security bollards and new fence.



36-Man BEQ

WASTREN of Aiken, SC has initiated construction in the "Hole" area for a new BEQ. The new BEQ is located adjacent to the existing Dining Facility (Bldg 3505) and will be of similar architecture.

BEQ/BOQ at Varn Lake

Construction has begun on a 1,050 sf cabin (BEQ/BOQ) at Varn Lake. The new BEQ/BOQ will be able to house up to 4 individuals with two rooms available for two people each. The new BEQ/BOQ will have a nice view of Varn Lake and should be completed by the end of April.

Family Matters:

Jeff Wachowski has returned to action in the Environmental Section, and Jeff Nelson has returned to the states, but remains at Fort Bragg under going physical rehabilitation for the broken arm he received while serving in Iraq. Jeff is scheduled to return to work the end of February. Andrew Batten has also completed his service in Iraq just before Christmas and is also scheduled to returned to work in February. We are thankful for the service of these men and are truly thankful for their safe return.

NEWS FROM STATE HUMAN RESOURCES

By Robert Faulk

State Human Resources Office Policies:

All updates (i.e. additions, deletions, and changes) to State Human Resources policies and procedures will be made and posted on the public access drive at P:\SHRO Policies and Procedures. Please review these policies periodically.

Also for additional information regarding specific South Carolina Human Resources Regulations visit www.ohr.sc.gov

Featured SHRO Policy:

State Internet and Electronic Messaging Use

POLICY

It is the policy of the Office of the Adjutant General, State Operations, to provide Internet access and electronic messaging to all employees, whenever possible. The State Operations Information Technology department does not regularly monitor the content of electronic communications; however, the content of electronic communications may be monitored and the usage of electronic communications systems may be monitored to support the operation, maintenance, auditing, security and investigative activities. Users should structure their electronic communications in recognition of the fact that the State Operations Information Technology department may from time to time examine the content of electronic communications.

PROCEDURE

Employees of the Office of the Adjutant General, are provided internet/intranet privileges and like computer systems and networks, are intended for business purposes. Use of the internet/intranet is subject to monitoring for security and/or network management and employees may further be subject to limitations on their use of such resources.

Users shall:

- (1) Protect their USER identification and password for unauthorized use.
- (2) Assume responsibility for any billable charges associated with network use unless, appropriate authorization has been obtained.

Users shall not:

- (1) Upload, download or otherwise transmit commercial software or any copyrighted materials belonging to parties outside of S.C. Military Department or to the S.C. Military Department itself.

(2) Visit Internet sites that contain illegal, obscene, or hateful content, which is objectionable and inappropriate for the workplace.

(3) Send or receive material that is obscene or defamatory or that is intended to annoy, harass or intimidate another person.

(4) Disable Symantec Antivirus. Personal computers are configured to automatically scan any material downloaded from the Internet website and new messages.

The Military Department of South Carolina cannot guarantee that electronic communications will be private. Employees should be aware that electronic communications could, depending on the technology, forwarded, intercepted, printed, and stored by others. Furthermore, others can access electronic communications in accordance with this policy.

Birthday Wishes

The Office of the Adjutant General would like to wish a belated Happy Birthday to all of our employees who celebrated a birthday in January. We would also like to wish our employees that will be celebrating a birthday in February and March a Happy Birthday.

New Hires: (as of 10/1/05)

Danell Blankenship
 Donnell Brantley
 Larry Brown
 Mark Chambers
 Teresa Clawson
 Virginia Crocker
 James Freeman
 Alexander Gibbes
 Nakeya Hall
 James Harrelson
 Derek Hunter
 Trent Jackson
 Marcy Link
 Tamera McKnight
 Michael McMasters
 Lenworth McPherson
 Geraldine Metz
 Dena Ogden
 Mackenzie Peffley
 Demorian Priestester
 Rene Rast
 Damien Rend
 William Rickenbaker
 Leon Truax
 Donald Weeks
 Kerry Winger

McCrary Billeting
 Columbia YC
 McEntire Fire
 EMD
 FMO Envir
 EMD
 Bldg/Grnds Sect
 EMD
 Columbia YC
 McEntire O & M
 McEntire Fire
 McEntire O & M
 Columbia YC
 Columbia YC
 EMD
 Columbia YC
 McCrary Dine
 TAG Admin
 FMO
 Force
 Bldg/Grnds Sect
 EMD
 Bldg/Grnds Sect
 McEntire O & M
 McEntire Secur
 McCrary Dine

Departures: (as of 10/1/05)

Shelvin Boykin
 Carole Bryant
 Scott Burtch
 Eric Bush
 Chandra Byrd
 George Campell
 Phillip Coe
 Scott Cranmer
 Brent Davis
 Anthony Ford
 Edmund Fralick
 Angela Gary
 McDonald Hamilton
 Pamela Hawkins
 Lisa Heintz
 Larry Heyward
 Jessica Holland
 Vera Jackson
 Darral Lane
 Amanda Londo
 Corey Meaux
 Ernest Reed
 Gene Rish
 Susan Simmons
 Edith Simuel
 Ina Smart
 Alfred Smith
 Fonte Stone
 Everette Taylor
 Sean Taylor
 Melinda Williams

FMO-Envir
 McCrary Dine
 TAG DOIM
 Camp Long YC
 Columbia YC
 FMO-Envir
 Columbia YC
 Columbia YC
 McEntire Fire
 Dist Lrn
 RM
 Columbia YC
 Camp Long YC
 EMD
 FMO
 Camp Long YC
 FMO-Envir
 Columbia YC
 Columbia YC
 EMD
 EMD
 McCrary Billeting
 Bldg/Grnds Sect
 RM
 McCrary Billeting
 Columbia YC
 Bldg/Grnds Sect
 Columbia YC
 FMO-Envir
 McCrary Envir
 Columbia YC

PARTNERSHIP BOOSTS VIDEO CONFERENCING

By Steve Thomas

The video conferencing arm of The Distributed Training and Technology Project has become a powerful tool for operational communications over 2005. Modernization of video conferencing and computer classroom equipment has produced a much more robust communications platform and systems have been expanded with the installation of a video bridge that will support audio and video conferencing between multiple users.

This new technology has paved the way for increased video conferencing during 2005 with the majority of use resulting from staff briefs, command and control functions and employee training. In fact, the USPFO's Fiscal Accounting staff accounted for almost 80% of the program's training usage and space is already being reserved for the upcoming year. Linda Collins, USPFO, is quick to point out the interactive qualities of video training and recognizes the cost savings and safety benefits to employees. Linda noted:

"Why would I place a staff member on the road at a cost to the government and jeopardize his or her safety when I can accomplish the same amount of training in a minimum of 2 hours on-site?"

This same mind-set has resulted in the formulation of a partnership between the Adjutant General's Office of State Operations and the state Pardon, Probation and Parole Board. Discussions initiated in early 2005 between Steve Thomas, State Operations DL Manager and officials of the State Probation, Pardon and Parole resulted in a news conference in January, 2006 attended by the Adjutant General, Director of State Operations and Pardon and Parole Director along with at least three Charleston news affiliates. This program utilizes video conferencing assets at Pardon and Parole's Columbia site and the National Guard's North Charleston video suite to allow parole hearings in Columbia to be viewed remotely by victims in Charleston. Through the use of video conferencing victims can participate in hearings remotely with minimal travel and provide input as they see fit. The success of this program is already being realized with victims' participation in 3 of 5 weeks during the month of January. This program is also unique in that Pardon and Parole assists in the funding of the program by paying for connectivity charges. More programs are in the offering.

Should you determine that your program may benefit from video conferencing services you can contact Steve Thomas as 803.806.2104 or steve.thomas@sc.ngb.army.mil and discuss how video conferencing may save your program time and money.

Newsletter Staff

Editor—Carson Raichle

Layout and Design—Shawn Zimmerman

Advisor—Jack Pierce

Reporters:

Franklin Wise—Youth ChalleNge West Columbia; Frank Whitlock—State Guard; Mike Young—FMO; John Legare—EMD; Robert Faulk—SHRO; Craig Wilkes—Retirement; Teddy Call—Youth Challenge Aiken; Eli Wishart—AmeriCorps; Jim Prater—Starbase