



NEWS RELEASE

South Carolina National Guard
Office of The Adjutant General
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Major General Stanhope S. Spears
The Adjutant General



August 10, 2007

MEDIA ADVISORY

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Maj. Gen. Stanhope S. Spears, the Adjutant General of South Carolina, announces the 122nd Engineer Battalion will receive the Valorous Unit Award for extraordinary heroism in action when they were deployed west of Baghdad, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom from February 2003 through April 2004. The award will be presented at a ceremony on Saturday, August 11, 2007 at the Airport High School football field beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The 122nd Engineer Battalion will be the first unit to receive the Valorous Unit Award in the history of the South Carolina Army National Guard. The award is given for “extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy of the United States,” and recognizes heroism by a whole unit equal to that for which an individual would receive the Silver Star.

Based in Edgefield with companies and detachments in McCormick, Barnwell, Graniteville, and Batesburg, the unit supported 15 major combat operations, constructed 15 separate bases, destroyed over 2700 tons of enemy ammunition, responded to 750 Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), and oversaw \$35 million in reconstruction efforts.

Also during its 12-month tour of duty, 15 Purple Heart Medals were awarded to soldiers wounded in action, 80 bronze stars, and over 300 Army Commendation Medals.

Media coverage is welcomed and encouraged. Airport High School is located at 1315 Boston Avenue, West Columbia, S.C.

For additional information, please contact Staff Sgt. Joe Cashion in the South Carolina National Guard Public Affairs Office at 803-806-2697.

For additional information about the South Carolina National Guard please visit our Web site at www.scgard.com