



Local father, daughter support Vigilant Guard

BEAUFORT, S.C. - The Vigilant Guard exercise taking place this week in Beaufort County, S.C., reinforces that all incidents are local, and for one local father and his daughter, the exercise has given their family some much cherished time together.

Airman 1st Class Sarah Colwell says she was inspired to join the military because of her father's service in the Marine Corps and the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, D.C. The 22-year old joined the U.S. Air Force three years ago as a military police officer and completed her first tour of

duty in Iraq in September 2007.

Because of her roots to Beaufort, Colwell was asked by her commander, Maj. Shannon Smith of the 75th Security Forces Squadron, Hill Air Force Base, Utah, to represent the Air Force's military police community at Vigilant Guard.

Colwell's father, James who serves as the assistant fire chief for the city of Beaufort says he couldn't be more proud of his daughter and her service to the country during this time of war. "I'm in the evening of my firefighting career serving the citizens of Beaufort -- so to be able to go out

serving with my daughter -- in support of Vigilant Guard means a lot to us and her mother, Brenda, my bride for the past 25 years," said Colwell.

Airman 1st Class Colwell's duties at Hill Air Base prevent her from flying home as often as she and her family would like but she says she is hopeful her next assignment will be at Charleston Air Force Base. "I'm just glad to be home helping serve the people of the town I grew up in," said Colwell.

By Maj. Scott Bell



Father and Daughter serve together in Vigilant Guard

Airman First Class Sarah Colwell, 75th SFS Squadron, Hill AFB, Utah (right) and her father, Asst. fire chief James Colwell of Beaufort.

photo by Maj. Scott Bell

Medical teams airlift victims to local hospitals

BEAUFORT, S.C. – With roads out and bridges down, medical teams rely on helicopters to transport victims to hospitals during the Vigilant Guard 2008 exercise April 21 – 24 in Beaufort, S.C.

The Expeditionary Medical Support team (EMEDS) from the Air National Guard runs the field hospitals when responding to a natural disaster. If a victim needs more treatment than the field hospital can provide they must be airlifted to another treatment center.

“Standard procedure for evacuating victims is to treat the patient and call in an air evacuation,” said Maj. Douglas Genereux from the 143rd Medical Group with the Rhode Island Air National Guard. “The intensive-care patients get prepped with staff being conscious of their injuries. The patients are loaded onto a stretcher and taken out to the loading zone.”

Multiple types of helicopters are used for medical evacuation (MEDEVAC). The most common are UH-60 Blackhawks, CH-47 Chinooks, and UH-1 Hueys. The number of people who are able to be evacuated depends on the type of helicopter.

“During a mass casualty we stay with each patient, maintaining life support, until we can get an available aircraft,” said Genereux.

The field hospital staff is certified every five years and takes an annual class for EMEDS and MEDEVAC.

According to Genereux this is the first time the EMEDS team has deployed to get certified. They were able to have the emergency room up and running in 24 hours.

“Setting up from a dirt lot, then staffing and stocking it in two days – during a natural disaster is huge!

By Spc. Erica Knight



Capt. Pauline Goss, of the 187th Medical Group, attends to a simulated disaster victim during National Guard exercise Vigilant Guard April 22 in Beaufort, S.C. Vigilant Guard is a three-day National Guard-hosted exercise involving a mock 7.3 scale earthquake, in Beaufort County, which began April 21. The exercise is designed to better prepare the National Guard for natural disasters in a cooperative effort with various national, state and local government agencies. (National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp)

NEWS BRIEFS

Al Qaeda No. 2 targets West

Al Qaeda still has plans to target Western countries involved in the Iraq war, Osama bin Laden's chief deputy warns in an audiotape released Tuesday to answer questions posed by followers. Ayman al-Zawahiri, seen in 2006, said in a recent tape that Iran and Hezbollah sought to discredit al Qaeda. The voice in the lengthy file posted on an Islamic Web site could not be immediately confirmed as al Qaeda No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahiri's. But it sounded like past audiotapes from the terror leader, and the posting bore the logo of As-Sahab, al Qaeda's official media arm.

Fallen GI's Dog back home

Bo, a 2-year-old black Labrador and specialized search dog, has good reason to be wagging his tail. Willie Smith fought back tears Friday as he officially received Bo, a military working dog wounded in Iraq. The military working canine officially hung up his war leash at a moving ceremony Friday and retired to the good life in Georgia after being wounded in a roadside bombing that killed his handler in Afghanistan two months ago.

SC teen faces WMD charge

Federal authorities have charged Ryan Schallenberger -- the Chesterfield teen accused to plotting to blow up his high school -- with three federal charges, two dealing with explosives, Acting U.S. Attorney Kevin McDonald said today. If convicted, he could spend the rest of his life in prison, McDonald said.

WEATHER

Wednesday

PARTLY CLOUDY HIGH TEMP 78 F
PRECIP 10% LOW TEMP 60 F

Thursday

MOSTLY SUNNY HIGH TEMP 81 F
PRECIP 10% LOW TEMP 60 F

SAFETY TIP

“Safety - Never Off Duty”

Be especially vigilant when crossing roadways. There's a lot of traffic on Shanklin Road and in the exercise area. As your mother told you, “Look both ways before crossing the street.”