



North Carolina National Guard Press Release

For additional information contact:

North Carolina National Guard
Office of Public Affairs
4105 Reedy Creek Road
Raleigh, NC 27607-6410
(919) 664-6242
<http://www.nc.ngb.army.mil>

PRESS RELEASE

TO: News Directors, Editors

FROM: Major Matt Handley
Public Affairs Officer

DATE: June 20, 2008

RE: Dale Earnhardt Jr. Visits NC National Guard

DALE JR. AND TEAM VISITS N.C. NATIONAL GUARD

RALEIGH--- Dale Jr. and the Hendricks Motorsports team saw first hand what the North Carolina National Guard can do at NC National Guard Camp Butner Training Site in Stem, June 18.

During his visit to Camp Butner, Dale Earnhardt Jr., the National Guard NASCAR driver, and the No. 88 team received an orientation flight on UH-60 Blackhawks, weapons familiarization, Bradley Fighting Vehicle familiarization, engagement skills training on convoy and firing simulators, instructions on how to eat a Meal Ready to Eat and unveiled the new National Guard car paint scheme for the July 5 race at Daytona International Speedway.

Dale Jr. and crew were welcomed by North Carolina National Guard's Adjutant General Maj. Gen. William E. Ingram Jr., and were escorted by some of the state's top soldiers.

Silver Star recipients, Chief Warrant Officer James Herring and Sgt. 1st Class Chad Stevens and Soldiers and Airmen of the Year shared first hand North Carolina National Guard experiences with NASCAR's number 88 team while teaching the basic marksmanship with an M107.50 caliber sniper rifle, an M4 carbine, and an M9 semi-automatic pistol, and what driving in a convoy could be like in the Virtual Convoy Operations Trainer.

The Convoy Trainer familiarizes soldiers and airmen with several military vehicles, helps teach basic skills such as keeping the pace and communicating between vehicles and has the ability to stay up to date with current operations and scenarios.

In addition, Dale Jr. and his team took time out to practice their basic marksmanship in the Engagement Skills Trainer. The trainer is used for training soldiers and airmen on squad scenarios, live video shoot, “don’t shoot” scenarios and the standard marksmanship course.

Staff Sgt. Troy Adams, Operations Plan Sergeant, Camp Butner Training Site, said of the trainers, “They are great because they save money without us having to use live rounds and we can go over operational SOP’s (standard operating procedures) without using real vehicles. It allows the commander to see any short falls before actual on the ground training.”

Camp Butner currently has training facilities across 4,800 acres which include 10 live-fire ranges, a medical exam station, an obstacle course, a rappel tower, a land navigation course, a convoy trainer, an improvised explosive device training lane and an engagement skills trainer. They provide training for several military components, state and federal law enforcement agencies and offer community support for eligible agencies.

The training site began serving North Carolina and the Nation as a WWII training facility, housing and training over 50,000 Soldiers. Taken over by the State of North Carolina in 1947, the site became home to the John Umstead Hospital, agricultural research areas and the Camp Butner Training Site.

Before Hendricks Motorsports left Camp Butner, Dale Jr. and his team gave the North Carolina National Guard a racecar hood autographed by the entire team and thanked the North Carolina National Guard for the jobs that they do.