

HEADS UP!

E-NEWS FROM THE GEORGIA STATE DEFENSE FORCE

Volume One, Issue One



ON TARGET



TROOPER SPOTLIGHT

Some members of the First Brigade think Major Daniel Rado came to Georgia along with General Sherman, but the Long Island, New York veteran came under his own power much later.

Currently functioning as 1st Brigade liaison to the Emergency Operations Center at Dobbins, Major Rado has been involved in most every area of SDF operations in his over 17 years of service with the Georgia SDF.

A war veteran with many captivating tales to share, and salesman in civilian life, he also used to fence (foil, saber) and has made many contribution in his years of service. Major Rado has been involved with search and rescue, security, and has seen the mission of the SDF expand. "We are the backup to the Georgia National Guard, we are called upon any time they need us in a variety of areas, from manning facilities to providing medical assistance, for disaster relief to emergencies."

Working Memorial Day parades the Cherry Blossom Festival in Macon, he has also worked lost and found at Fort Stewart. Rado has been involved with first aid and medical missions, search and rescue, evacuations, securing airports, and scheduling training with the National Guard.

Although he's been in Georgia for many years, and active with the defense force since 1985, he still gets people giving him grief for his New York Accent. Married and with a colorful military past, Major Rado lives the motto of unselfish service in action. He is a valuable member of the first brigade's team, and exemplifies the best traditions of the force.

His wit, warmth, and humor as well as his expertise mark him as a model for SDF service. A tip of the hat to Major Daniel Rado, one of the reasons that First Brigade GSDF is ready for any contingency.

SDF First Brigade Training

First Brigade of the Georgia State Defense Force held its training session February 8 at SDF Headquarters in Atlanta. Amidst heightened national threat conditions, and escalating international tensions, brigade members had to pass through additional security at the Department of Defense complex. The increased sense of force protection underscored the importance of the day's training.

Continued next page...

Lt. Col. Crowe



NEXT PAGE...

HEADS UP!



PAGE FOUR

STAYING ALIVE

An innovative medical profiling system for the State Defense Force is being piloted by the troopers of the First Brigade State Defense Force (SDF). Consisting of some baseline medical tests, the profiles allow medical staff to classify SDF personnel into one of three duty classifications.

"Duty Level 1" means there are no medical limitations, overall good shape and able to meet any mission requirements within the SDF. Personnel falling into this classification are also height/weight proportionate according SDF guidelines in the Manual. "Duty Level 2" staff are cleared for most normal duty assignments, but may have some medical conditions precluding them from doing "aggressive" or very physically demanding tasks. Staff with "Duty Level 3" profiles have some medical limitations and are available for non-physically demanding duties.

The ten members of the First Brigade Medical Detachment, under the direction of newly-promoted Lt. Col. Robert Crowe, profile each trooper based on the following:

1. Medical baseline assessments to include blood pressure, vital signs, height, weight, body fat and body type
2. Medical history - by member account
3. Family medical history - by member account
4. Lifestyle health analysis

Formed in February 2002 to serve the members of the State Defense Force, the medical detachment mission is to provide medical training and medical care (first aid, emergencies and life threatening injuries). The medical detachment is detailed on field exercises and for emergencies, but also has a mission to provide preventive health and health improvement programs. Colonel Kim, the SDF Command Surgeon, has stated that "the 1st Brigade Medical Detachment has set the mark for what a medical detachment should be". Colonel Kim also went on to remark that the training of this detachment is "excellent" and they are "well qualified to meet the objectives as set forth for any mission".

The First Brigade has been the designated pilot group for this program, and is well underway in profiling brigade staff. "Although we have identified some personnel with hypertension or other serious medical conditions" stated Colonel Crowe, "I am overall pleased with the high number of staff falling into the first 2 duty levels".

The profiling of staff is confidential and voluntary, and medical limitations when addressed can be reviewed at a later date.

We hope you have enjoyed this first issue of "Heads Up."

Contributors were:

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SGT. J. Garcia, photography

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SDF Secret WMD Chili Ingredient Spied

Lightning-fast reactions enabled WO1 Arni Katz to capture two unidentified SDF troopers adding "Octane Boost" to the pot of chili served during the February drill.

HEADS UP!

PAGE THREE



FAMDET UNIT SUPPORTS DEPLOYMENT



The FAMDET detachment of GSDF were on duty 8 & 9 February 2003 to offer support and assistance to the families of the 277th Maintenance and 161ST Medical BN Units Deployment at the Marietta National Guard Armory.

Sgt. Ann Deitrich gathers the flags after the FAMDET unit saluted the passing convoy from the bridge at Windy Hill Rd. and I75.



Next page....

161ST Medical BN Unit in formation, Marietta Armory

HEADS UP!



PAGE TWO

SDF First Brigade Training



Col. West

From page one...

"We train to be ready for any contingency that may happen," stated Colonel C. J. West, Brigade Commander. "By doing this we prepare ourselves for any mission, from disaster relief to family support to assisting state and local agencies after a terrorist attack."

"In light of recent events, here at home and abroad," he continued, "we have increased our training and awareness level so we will remain ready for whatever mission we may be handed."

In addition to the training sessions held throughout the day, honors were also paid to 3 SDF members at the February Drill.

During first formation 2nd Lt. J. Mike Hayden of the brigade's 3rd Battalion was honored for his participation in the annual Peachtree City Air Show. There were a sudden storm blowing up at the Peachtree City event and SDF members had to rush to hurry fans and aircraft into shelters.

Promoted to the rank of Captain was 1st Lieutenant Bob Anderson, executive officer of the 2nd Battalion. Brigade Commander West stated the Anderson's promotion was the first post-September 11, 2001 advancement of a 1st Lieutenant within the SDF ranks.

Also promoted was Major Kenneth Crowe, former 2nd Battalion Executive Officer, who is currently commanding the medical detachment at the First Brigade. Crowe was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

First Brigades Command Sergeant Major Bob Jones put the troops through their paces in nippy February weather, the sharp wind echoing CSM Jones' crisp commands. After lunch the Brigade returned to formation for a full dress inspection by Colonel West. The commander stopped during the inspection and talked with each soldier. He offered a frank assessment of each trooper's uniform and demeanor as he inspected the ranks, and paused to ask them about their service with SDF.

The morale of the Brigade was high and was evidenced when talking to many of the brigade members. Many drive long distances monthly to participate, and their stories underscored their commitment to the SDF.



Lt. Col. Crowe receiving promotion.



1st Bde. in frigid formation.

WMD CHILI?

See the story page four...

NEXT PAGE...