

HEADS UP!

E-NEWS FROM THE GEORGIA STATE DEFENSE FORCE

Volume One, Issue Three



ON TARGET

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Adjutant General Poythress Visits GSDF Headquarters

Major General David Poythress visited GSDF Headquarters during the recent Homeland Security Exercise (HLSEX 2003) in July. Georgia's Adjutant General also took time to participate in award and promotional ceremonies, including the presentation of a special medal to a trooper for saving a child during Macon's Cherry Blossom Festival.

Troopers from across the state participated in the HLSEX 2003 from July 7-13, 2003 which involved a response to a terrorism attack in various parts of the state. Over 1000 people from multiple agencies participated in the scenario, and GSDF ran a Tactical Operations Center (TOC) as well as assisting at the EOC at Dobbins Air Force Base. Troops across the state were mobilized to assist in various field brigades. The major terrorist threat was staged and successfully contained.

In June, some 70 GSDF troopers received training in how to operate a TOC at Kennesaw Armory. Troopers from Headquarters, Brigades and Battalion staff received the training coordinated by Colonel V. Scott, G3 for GSDF and were taught the basics of emergency operations, TOC security, communications, and deployment planning.

July 10 saw an increased security threat level and at that time a warning was sent to all GSDF units for possible activation and alert.

The threat level was raised to RED on 11 July as the situational threat level increased. GSDF operated communications between the field and Joint Operations. Every GSDF Brigade was active during the exercise (1,2, 3,4,5 Brigades) as well as the GSDF Support Group and Headquarters staff.

The exercise ran all day Saturday and there were several distinguished visitors in attendance. Included among these was LTC Brent Bankus from the Strategic Studies Institute of the Army War College, who attended the exercise and a special GSDF Survey briefing. Commanding BG Seymour also hosted five members representing Headquarters and 2ndBDG of the Tennessee State Guard.



Maj. Gen. Poythress



Col. Harvey and trooper

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GSDF TROOPS SECURE MEMORIAL DAY EVENT

Crowds gathered at Marietta National Cemetery to pay homage to those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation's freedom. Troopers from GSDF provided site security, crowd assistance and medical support to the ceremonies.

Governor Sonny Perdue attended and Gen. Raymond G. Davis, Korean War recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor was the Guest of Honor and featured speaker. When serving as Lt. Col., Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, Gen. Davis demonstrated extraordinary courage and command during intense fighting in the Hagaru-ri area of Korea, saving numerous severely wounded soldiers and rescuing a beleaguered rifle company from complete annihilation and enabling 2 marine regiments to escape possible destruction. *See following page.*



Gov. Perdue



Gen. Davis escorted to podium.



SDF Troopers await crowds.



Troopers patrol perimeter.



Trooper scanning perimeter.



Medical Team on station.

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Governor Barnes Signs HB303

Governor Roy Barnes signed into law, House Bill 303 with Adjutant General David Poythress and senior GSDF staff officers attending. The bill was passed during the last session of the Georgia General Assembly.

The Bill authorizes Georgia State Defense Force personnel to use state-owned equipment if GaDOD or other state agencies as long as such use does not interfere with the operational or training needs of that agency.



MEMORIAL DAY MARIETTA NATL. CEMETERY

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GSDF troopers looked sharp as they provided security and medical support to crowds attending the Memorial Day services at Marietta National Cemetery. Traffic control, perimeter observation, security and assistance to elderly and physically challenged attendees kept SDF troops busy throughout the day's event.

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PEACHTREE ROAD RACE HAS SDF IN FORCE

GSDF troopers mustered in force in the humid dawn 4 July, deploying to Piedmont Park where the troopers assembled to begin security, crowd control and medical support to the participating runners and spectators.

The cadre looked crisp and professional throughout the event, even though midday temperatures became sweltering contributed to by a high level of humidity. SDF personnel assisted in numerous first aid efforts, including transporting several heat victims via litter to the medical tents.

The reception given to our troops was nothing short of amazing. Runners and spectators alike thanked our troopers repeatedly for our presence at the event. Runner after runner stepped out of procession after the race to thank SDF troopers along the exit route. This included runners from other countries.

SDF Medical Team troops transport an unconscious runner to the medical tents at Piedmont Park during the 4 July Peachtree Road Race. The Peachtree Road Race is the largest marathon race in the world.



More photo coverage of the Peachtree Road Race on page five...

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PEACHTREE ROAD RACE PHOTO ESSAY



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Georgia SDF Conducts National Survey

Pennsylvania NG Lt. Brent Bankus from the Strategic Studies Institute, Army War College visits and gets briefing on survey of other SDFs nationally.

Colonel Bankus has been researching this topic for the Army War College. He has already visited New York and was visiting Georgia's SDF. Several staff members were here from Tennessee's State Defense Force and were also interviewed by Colonel Bankus. "I think there is merit in exploring the SDF concept more thoroughly," he said, "and I will be writing a whole monograph on the topic." Bankus, a serving Pennsylvania National Guard Officer attached to the War College, became interested in the State Defense Force from his grandfather, who was active in the Pennsylvania equivalent militia/defense force in World War II. He had a World War II era SDF manual from the State of Pennsylvania. The briefing was conducted by Lt. Tom Varnedoe and Chief of Staff Col. Mike McGuinn from Georgia's SDF.

SDF Sgt Decorated for valor by Adjutant General Poythress



Georgia State Defense Force Staff Sgt. Joseph Spavone is congratulated by Maj. Gen. David B. Poythress, Georgia's Adjutant General, after having received the Georgia Medal for Valor. Spavone was honored for saving the life of a 19-month-old child 22 March 2003. (Georgia National Guard photo by Sgt. Roy Henry)

U.S. Representatives Joe Wilson and Lincoln Davis Saluted for Introduction of State Defense Force Improvement Act

Washington, DC) - U.S. Freedom Foundation praised the efforts of U.S. Representative and South Carolina Army National Guard Colonel Joe Wilson (R-SC), supported by U.S. Representative and Tennessee State Guard Captain Lincoln Davis (D-TN), in introducing bipartisan legislation which could provide up to 400,000 additional troops specifically for homeland security duties under primary state control, at no cost to the federal budget.

The State Defense Force Improvement Act of 2003 would improve and expand the state reserves to the National Guard, and increase coordination between state defense forces and federal agencies.

This issue of Heads Up was produced by LT1 Jerry Nosin, WO1 Arni Katz, WO1 Ralph McGill Jr., with design and production by Dreamtime Systems. Thanks to Sgt. Roy Henry, Georgia National Guard for his contribution.