

HEADS UP!

E-NEWS FROM THE GEORGIA STATE DEFENSE FORCE

Volume One, Issue Four



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GEN. SEYMOUR ELECTED

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GSDF TROOPS SHINE IN ER2003

A scenario of chaos reigned in late September as Georgia's 2003 Emergency Response Exercise played out at Dobbins ARB.

SDF personnel were key participants in providing medical support to over 50 volunteer victims of a simulated terrorist attack near a government laboratory containing Biological Level 4 hazardous materials.

The exercise began as a suicide bomber blew himself up near an area college. Almost simultaneously a plane carrying 85 passengers was hijacked after taking off from Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. Using the smoke from the suicide bombing as a navigational target, the plane crashed on campus near the Level 4 laboratory.

Local area emergency response teams, Guard and Reserve units as well as 85 members of SDF were deployed to deal with the situation.

The exercise completed a week-long Homeland Security Summit and training exercise for federal, state and local agencies concerned with homeland security.

The homeland security summit (<http://www.securitysummit.org>) is a non-profit organization and this is the 2nd year it was conducted.



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SDF Commander Seymour To Lead State Guard Assoc.

Brigadier General Joel Seymour, Commander of the Georgia State Defense Force, was installed Saturday, October 25, 2003 as President of the State Guard Association of the United States (SGAUS). The ceremony was held during the SGAUS Convention October 23-25 at the Westin Hotel in Atlanta.

Seymour, who succeeds Colonel Willard Hill of Charleston, South Carolina, has more than 39 years service with the Georgia National Guard. He held a variety of distinguished posts including Acting Chief of Staff.

A native of Elberton, Georgia, General Seymour graduated from the University of Georgia with a BBA and a Master's in Public Administration. The General is also the Assistant Administrator of Human Resources at the Southeastern Power Association, and has more than 45 years of federal service.



Gen. Seymour

Catoosa Sees SDF Action

Georgia State Defense Force troops were in high gear this fall. Immediately after completing the major homeland security exercise in late September with ER2003, 180 SDF troops deployed for Annual Training at the National Guard Training Facility in Catoosa, Georgia.

This year, Annual Training North was held under the Command of HQs SDF, Brigadier General Joel Seymour and G3 Colonel Vernon Scott. GSDF Headquarters, HDQs Support Group, Medical Units, and the 90 troopers of the 1st Brigade participated bringing the total attendance to 180.

Troops participated in a variety of medical triage, helicopter landing zone and evacuation training, Compass and Land Navigation Course, Radio Communication, and Search and Rescue Training.

CNN Radio was also in Catoosa to interview key GSDF personnel and several soldiers who were attending from Tennessee State Defense Force. The interviews compiled by CNN reporter Ed McCarthy were later broadcast on CNN Radio.



SSG Christopher Barret checks navigational information with units in the field during Northern AT in Catoosa, GA.

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SDF Assists Critical Meeting

The Georgia State Defense Force assisted in a major strategic planning meeting for the Georgia Department of Defense on October 24 and 25, 2003. LTC Jean Specht, Director of Organizational Development for the National Guard coordinated the two-day meeting at Dobbins ARB in Marietta, Georgia.

Senior staff from all branches of the Army and Air Guard, as well as Joint Operations and GSDF staff participated in the meeting. Participants reviewed a variety of data and assessments, and updated their key strategic and operational objectives. The interchange among the various branches of the Georgia Department of Defense was valuable. Adjutant General David Poythress was pleased with the attendance and participation.

GaSDF staff participants included BG Joel Seymour, COL Mike McGuinn, CSM Peter Bardoul, and COL Dick Lockert. Assisting as facilitators to the various groups were LTC Tom Varnedoe, 1LT Jani McGee and 1LT Jerry Nosin. CPT Lilia Caughlin also assisted with conference logistics.



Colonel Jim Driscoll, Director of Communications for the Georgia Department of Defense Joint Staff during the facilitation portion of the Strategic Management Board Meeting held at Dobbins ARB.



LTC Jean Specht, who heads up Organizational Development for the Georgia Dept. of Defense.

TAPS

LTC Fred Tinkle, 48, died Saturday 29 November, 2003, at Memorial Health University Medical Center in Savannah. Col. Tinkle served GaSDF for 13 years and had prior service with VA State Defense Force. Col. Tinkle was the S3, 3rd Bde. He received the GA Commendation Medal for service during the evacuation of Savannah during Hurricane Floyd in 1993. Also awarded the GaSDF Distinguished Service Award, Col. Tinkle was instrumental in establishing the liaison between SDF and the 165th Air Lift Wing. He served in the United States Army Harbor Craft Service from 1975-1979. At the time of his death he was licensed by the United States Coast Guard as Ship Master and Tugboat Operator.

Sgt Clifford James, 66, died 30 November, 2003, after a brief battle with lung cancer. A 20+ years of military service Sgt James retired 1 July 1996, however he continued his service with SDF. Clifford was ordered to duty during Operation Desert Storm in 1990. He completed the Army Maintenance Management System Course and served in the GaANG, Organizational Maintenance Shop Number One. He was awarded the Army Achievement Medal and Certificate of Meritorious Achievement.

GaSDF officers and enlisted personnel offer their salutes and condolences to the families and friends of our fallen comrades. We give thanks for their service to our nation, state and community.

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SDF TROOPS TEST TOP SECRET PULSE CANNON

Elite members of SDF's "Black Ops" unit test fire the "Big Chicken" Variegated Pulse Cannon at a secret SDF firing range. The "Big Chicken" uses an advanced oscillating gibblish, co-developed by Texas Instruments and Venus Askew, who discovered her fried chicken recipe would reach critical mass if left unattended at room temperature.

The DOD is considering a test deployment in Afghanistan after further development.

Watch this space for further developments.



Capture of Saddam in Question?

Persistent rumors that Jerry Garcia of The Grateful Dead was the man captured in Tikrit by the 4th Infantry Division have been successfully disproven by testimony of the remaining members of the Grateful Dead rock band as well as scientific testing.

"That is definitely not Jerry Garcia," declared an unnamed DOD spokesperson. "That Saddam guy is the worst guitar player I have ever heard!"

Latest reports now have Saddam claiming he is really John Lennon. Eye-witness reports agree he plays a respectable version of "Imagine."

Yoko Ono has been flown to Iraq for a test recording session.

This issue of Heads Up was produced by LT1 Jerry Nosin, WO1 Arni Katz and WO1 Tom Johnson. Page four contains satirical information and any connection with persons living or dead is purely coincidental and for entertainment purposes only.