

HEADS UP!



E-NEWS FROM THE GEORGIA STATE DEFENSE FORCE

MAY 2005 ~ PUBLISHED BY GSDF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE ~ WWW.GASDF.COM

5BDE supports anthrax mock drill

By Pamela Conley, 5BDE UPAR

"On, April 2, 2005, local authorities alerted the residences of Forsyth, Georgia of an Anthrax Bio-terror attack, of unknown origin. Immediately, panic erupted. Citizens were unaware of what to do and/or where to go..."

This could be the headline on any given day, but, due to the careful planning of state and local authorities, Monroe County is one step closer to having a well thought-out plan for dealing with such disasters.

On April 2 a Mock Exercise was set up under the guidance of state and local government agencies, in conjunction with the 5BDE of the Georgia State Defense Force, the Monroe County Sheriff's Department, Monroe County Health Department, American Red Cross, CDC, NCHD-Environmental Health of Houston County, the local 4-H and many other volunteers, as well as the media and role players.

The four-hour exercise consisted of "victims" reporting to a medical facility and being diagnosed for treatment or further evaluation.

Monroe Co. Sheriff's Deputy Jarred Duncan said, "It is outstanding that all the groups and agencies worked well together. We don't see that very much. Bio-Terrorism is real life and small towns need to prepare."

GSDF's State Command Sergeant Major Bardoul also praised the exercise, saying the drill "helps us to learn in a controlled environment."

The coordinator of the exercise, Mrs. Janet Freeman, Monroe Co. EMA Director, commented on the professionalism and military decorum displayed by the GSDF troopers. She referred to the GSDF as their "partners in community service", praising it as an organization that will always be there to help the citizens of Georgia.

The 5BDE, known as "The Ravens", is under the command of COL Dick Lockert.

GSDF in counter-terrorism exercise



GSDF members participate in Air MedEvac training at Operation Castle Keep.

From mission AARs & media reports

Members of the GSDF 1BDE, Support Group, and MED DET participated in a joint counter-terrorism exercise at Buford Dam on March 5, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Georgia Army National Guard, the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department, the Gwinnett County Police, the Georgia State Patrol, and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, as well as observers from other state and federal agencies.

GSDF members served as OPFOR during the 12-hour exercise. Specific details about this part of the mission cannot be publicized so that tactics and strategies will not be compromised, but it can be said that GSDF "terrorists" were able to successfully penetrate security in areas guarded by law enforcement.

Members of GSDF MED DET were also on hand to conduct helicopter LZ operations training and Air MedEvac training under the supervision of GSDF Command Surgeon COL John Harvey.

The LZ training supported UH-1H and Bell Jet Rangers deployed by the Georgia State Patrol and included inspection and clearance of the landing zone, establishment of safety perimeters, set up night landing aid strobe devices, etc. MedEvac training included directing a casualty extraction team, landing of helos, movement of extraction teams in and litter removal of casualties.

"This was a successful drill that helped all of the agencies involved fine-tune their roles in case of a true incident," said Mark Williams, chief ranger with the Army Corps of Engineers.

In Focus



In Focus this month: 1BDE MED DET

The mission of 1BDE MED DET is to provide medical support for GSDF soldiers when on state approved missions. MED DET may also provide emergency care to civilians within the limits of individual medical/legal scopes of practice. The unit currently has 12 members.

The XO is MAJ Ellen O'Keefe, a licensed physical therapist, professor of physical therapy, and former Army Medic prior to completing her undergraduate physical therapy degree and becoming a commissioned regular army officer. She has been the XO during her entire 2 years with the GSDF.

The S3/Operations and Training Officer is CPT Wesley Powell. CPT Powell was a former Blackhawk helicopter pilot when on active duty and upon his discharge achieved national registration for EMT-I, EMT-P. CPT Powell is a certified Flight Paramedic and has advanced certifications in Cardiac (ACLS) and Trauma (ATLS) training.

1LT Bob Surrusco serves as S1-Administrative Officer for 1BDE MED DET. 1LT Surrusco is a former Army medic and has certification in Basic Life Support, Basic Trauma Life Support. The unit S4 is 1LT Steve Brown, who is a licensed mental health therapist and counselor. He also is a nationally registered EMT-I and is completing his EMT-P paramedic program.

WO1 Tom Liles is the Asst. S3/Training Officer. He is a Firefighter/Paramedic and Chief Instructor for the Douglas County Fire Department. He has advanced certifications in HAZMAT, ATLS, ACLS, & Incident Command. MR Liles is currently serving in Iraq and will return to GSDF in JUN of 2005. After serving in Iraq MR Liles will be providing MED DET with some of latest treatment protocols being used in that combat theater.

Rounding out the 1BDE MED DET are an NCO corps of EMT-I nationally registered members, and an administrative enlisted staff who are all CPR and ARC/AHA first aid certified.

The unit commander is LTC Bob Crowe, a Registered Nurse with advanced degrees. LTC Crowe's experience is Emergency and Trauma, ICU and OR. He holds advanced certifications as a Certified Emergency Services Nurse, Certified Flight Nurse, Trauma Nurse Clinically Certified (TNCC), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Advanced Trauma Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support. Currently he works in the Emory Healthcare System and is on the Cardiac, Stroke and Trauma Teams. LTC Crowe was active duty Air Force, and a combat qualified medic.

GSDF troopers become "Mountain Warriors"

From mission AAR

Members of the GSDF 1BDE, including MEDDET, Boars Head Detachment and FAMSEC, joined 500 North Georgia College cadets and about 100 Army Reservists & Army National Guardsmen in the Camp Merrill Army Ranger training area for a joint field exercise called Operation Mountain Warrior. The two-day exercise included training in mock SAR operations that emphasized the application of map reading, LandNav, and medical treatment. The mission was especially notable in that the GSDF MED DET was given command and control of all medical assets, **marking the first time that a GSDF unit has been given the CON over Army Reserve & Guard units.**

"SDF MEDICAL is now battlefield tested," said LTC Bob Crowe, 1BE MED DET Commander. "I want to thank all who gave so much in the cold, snow and mud, who never complained, and who took care of every situation."

GSDF praised by legislators

By Garry Moon, HDQ PAO

On Feb. 26 the GSDF, in conjunction with the Georgia DoD, held a formal Officers Dining Out event at the 1818 Club in Duluth, Ga. Honorees at the event included U.S. Rep. Lynn Westmoreland, State Sen. John Douglas, and State Rep. Steve Davis.



CPT Clark Howard and wife Lane enjoy the Dining Out event.

"On behalf of the Governor of Georgia and the State Senate we express our appreciation for the sacrifices you make," Sen. Douglas said. Westmoreland and Davis also offered their thanks. "It is astonishing to me that there are people who put forth this much dedication and hard work, for no money at all," Davis said. Westmoreland recalled his surprise when he first learned that GSDF volunteers "actually pay for their own uniforms, equipment and travel."

CPT Clark Howard, a noted consumer advocate and member of the GSDF HDQ PAO, presented each of the legislators with engraved plaques of appreciation recognizing their continuing support of the GSDF.

We welcome your comments! Please send letters, story ideas, etc to the Editor:
garry.moon@travelinc.com