

# HEADS UP!



E-NEWS FROM THE GEORGIA STATE DEFENSE FORCE

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## Guard's 48<sup>th</sup> BDE gets a sendoff from the GSDF

From mission AAR & HDQ PAO coverage (Nathan Martin, Mario de Carvalho)

On May 13 & 14 members of the GSDF 3<sup>rd</sup> BDE and other GSDF units helped send off the Georgia National Guard's 48<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade before they deployed overseas for a tour of duty in Iraq. GSDF provided crowd and traffic support, media supervision, and VIP escort during formal sendoff ceremonies at Ft. Stewart. "Today's ceremony is not about saying goodbye," said Gov. Sonny Perdue. "It's about celebrating the courage each of you display."



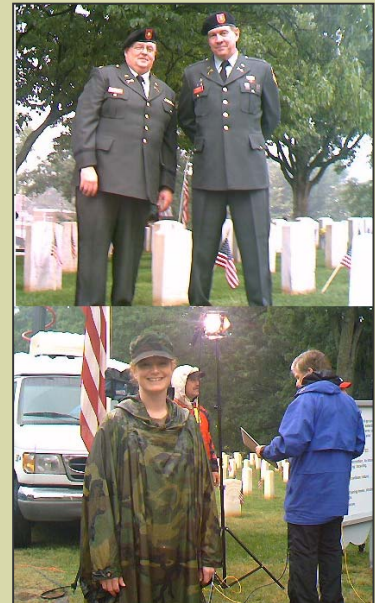
ABOVE: GSDF troopers survey the scene as family members of Guardsmen watch the sendoff ceremonies. BELOW: Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue gets a GSDF welcome at Ft. Stewart.



## GSDF supports Memorial Day Ceremony

By Garry Moon, HDQ PAO

Members of GSDF 1<sup>st</sup> BDE, and MEDDET units participated in Operation Silent Moment on May 30, providing security, traffic control, and medical support for a Memorial Day ceremony at the Marietta National Cemetery. The GSDF's commander, Brig. Gen. Joel Seymour, and his wife Nancy were among the VIPs in attendance, along with Governor Sonny Perdue and U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss. "We are at war today just like



Rain doesn't dampen the spirits of GSDF members during Memorial Day ceremonies at the Marietta National Cemetery.

some of these great men and women were at war decades ago," said Chambliss. "We should not, we cannot and we will not ever forget that."

## 1<sup>st</sup> BDE secures Moving Wall

From mission AAR

The 1<sup>st</sup> BDE provided security for the Vietnam Moving Wall Memorial, a half-size replica of the actual Wall in Washington DC, when it came to the International Horse Park in Conyers from May 2-8. GSDF members also assisted visitors in finding names of fallen soldiers on the Wall.

"It always is amazing to me to see the level of the spirit of volunteerism displayed by the troops of the 1st Brigade," said mission OIC LTC E.H. Hightower. "They give countless hours to the state with very little or no recognition or reward." LTC Hightower noted that a total of 212 man-days were contributed by GSDF volunteers for the mission.

**BACK PAGE: MEDDET under fire in Urban Fury, Air Medical Detachment is 'In Focus'**

# In Focus



## In Focus this month: AMD

The GSDF Air Medical Detachment is a medical support unit activated designed to provide/augment medical services for GSDF forces as well as Georgia Air/Army National Guard units requesting medical assistance. AMD's mission consists of Search & Rescue, Disaster Reconnaissance, Incident Command, CPR instruction/certification, Hurricane Relief and FTX troop medical support. The AMD also provides support to the 165th GAANG Medical Squadron augmenting their medical and nursing staff. AMD is attached to 3rd BDE GSDF Commanded by COL William Price, with whom the AMD often trains. The AMD is a highly capable unit currently comprised of 12 members.

COL Sidney J. Morgan, AMD founder and previous commander, is an actively practicing family physician and prior Air National Guard Flight Surgeon. COL Morgan holds numerous certifications including Advanced Cardiac Life Support, CPR Instructor Certification, and Basic & Advanced Trauma Life Support.

Colonel Leon Curry, a retired family physician is also a prior U.S. Army and Air National Guard Flight Surgeon and former commander of the 165th GAANG TAC Hospital. COL Curry is the Chief of Professional Services for the AMD.

LTC Enrique Fernandez is an actively practicing medical physician specializing in neurology with extensive civil defense and incident command experience.

Colonel Sarah Henderson, a retired RN, is AMD's Chief of Nursing Services and has over 30 years of Nursing practice in a variety of patient care settings.

CPT Matthew Hamby, an actively practicing chiropractor physician is a recent addition to the AMD and runs a thriving practice in Rincon, Ga.

Senior Master Sergeant Jerry Clark, prior service combat medic in Vietnam is our First Sergeant of the detachment. Senior MSGT Clark wears the prestigious Combat Medic's Badge for valor in combat.

TSGT William C. Lanier (Billy) is a prior service soldier with the 75th Rangers, who has earned the prestigious Ranger tab, Airborne jump wings, Basic Trauma Life Support and the Expert Infantryman's Badge. As the S-3 NCOIC he brings a wealth of experience and expertise as training NCO.

SSG Alice T. Thomas is a Nurse Specialist that works in several venues including Surgical Nurse, Emergency Room Nurse and holds certification in Advanced Cardiac Life Support, CPR Instructor Cert and currently serves on the Cardiac, Stroke and Trauma Teams within her facility.

SSG Anthony Greeson is a board-certified EMT and is currently pursuing EMT-P credentials and currently works within the Memorial Healthcare System. He is CPR Instructor qualified.

SSG Kim Greeson is AMD's administrative NCO and she supports the administrative needs of the unit. She is currently going through IET.

Airman First Class Frank H. Suggs is a field medic with the AMD and is CPR Instructor qualified. He also operates as a communications operator and maintains field radios and AMD comm equipment.

Airman First Class Gregory Herrington is a field medic with the AMD and is CPR Instructor qualified.

The newly appointed unit commander, Capt. Alton D. Suggs, (see photo, right) is a RN who works as a Nursing Supervisor. His experience is in Medical/Surgical and ER & Trauma. He is certified as a CPR Instructor, IET Instructor, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Incident Command, and Disaster Management. He currently serves on the Cardiac, Stroke and Trauma teams of his facility.

The AMD has been activated on several occasions and placed on state activated orders in service of the State of Georgia. One such instance was in medical support of the deploying 158th Squadron (C-130's) during Operation Iraqi Freedom in which soldiers received immunizations and deployment physicals from AMD soldiers en route to the Gulf. AMD continues to seek committed volunteers who wish to provide medical service to their state and country. AMD's website is [www.webspanner.com/users/gsdffamd.index.html](http://www.webspanner.com/users/gsdffamd.index.html)

## MEDDET in the "crossfire" during Urban Fury

From HDQ PAO coverage (Garry Moon Mario de Carvalho), & mission AAR

Elements of the GSDF AMD, 1st BDE MEDDET, and HDQ MEDDET joined with the Atlanta Metro Medical Strike Team and the City of Hapeville SWAT Team on May 15 to conduct Operation Urban Fury, a simulated post-disaster situation in an urban environment. MMST acted as hostile "looters" during the exercise, with GSDF providing medical support to Hapeville SWAT – and SWAT providing law enforcement support for GSDF. MEDDET provided medical and reconnaissance troops in dismounted patrol formation to locate simulated post disaster personnel, set up a forward medical aid station to provide simulated medical triage for "casualties", and set up & operated a helicopter LZ.

**MEDDET medics treat a wounded "looter", while Hapeville SWAT officers move in on other "looters" threatening the MedEvac helicopter landing zone (inset).**



As MEDDET set up the LZ for a landing by a Children's Healthcare helicopter, the "looters" opened fire from the woods. The SWAT team quickly moved in with suppressing fire to protect the GSDF members. Fortunately, both sides were armed with only paintball guns, however MEDDET did have to treat SWAT members for actual (but minor) facial wounds after getting into hand-to-hand combat with MMST "looters". "Participation in this mission supported the strong desire of medical professionals that the GSDF has a relevant role to play in supporting other agencies", said mission OIC CPT Michael Riemann. "SWAT and MMST leaders expressed enthusiasm at the possibility of working with GSDF troops in the future."



**Captain Alton D. Suggs accepts command of the GSDF Air Medical Detachment on May 21 during formal ceremonies at the First United Methodist Church in Sylvania, GA. Armed Forces Day was also commemorated at the ceremony, which was followed by a luncheon.**

*We welcome your comments! Please send letters, story ideas, etc to the Editor:*  
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