

HEADS UP!



E-NEWS FROM THE GEORGIA STATE DEFENSE FORCE

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

GSDF Support Group members honored in awards ceremony

By Roger Shaddick IT Platoon, Support Group UPAR



Support Group members stand proud during award & change of command ceremonies on July 9th.

At the July Drill several members of the State Defense Force Support Group were honored for their contributions to the force. Among those decorated were CW2 Tim Wimberley and SFC Ian Hunter who received the

Georgia SDF Commendation Ribbon for performing meritoriously following an automobile accident on 1-16 after the November Annual Training at Ft. Stewart.

The Georgia SDF Achievement Ribbon First Class With Bronze Palm was awarded to 1LT William E. Pamplin, 2LT Mac McElroy, and 2LT Daniel Branham. 1 LT Pamplin single-handedly rebuilt the GSDF website, working over 80 hours on the project outside of drill days, from April-June 2004, while 2LT McElroy's hands-on efforts, leadership of the team and great enthusiasm were critical to the success of the Building 8 infrastructure project. 2LT Branham tirelessly devoted his time and experience to ensure the success of the mission and the safety of the GSDF troops and the general public during the Silent Moment Memorial Day Ceremonies mission at the Marietta Cemetery.

Honored with two decorations – the Military Readiness Ribbon and the Achievement Ribbon Third Class was MAJ William McShane, who has served with distinction and honor for two years and has always answered the call to duty without absence. The Unit Commander's Award Ribbon with Gold Frame was presented to 2LT Christopher Huber and SSG William Tello for their leadership in the intensive JEOC/SOC activations for the G8 Summit.

In addition, there was a change of command ceremony for the SOC/JEOC: 1LT Jay Naegele assumed command from 1LT Paul Nattis.

Batons and pepper spray fly at CRTC training

By Pamela M. Conley, 5BDE UPAR

On July 14 and 21 GSDF troops from across the state assisted 142 Army, Air National Guard and Marine reservists from around the country in the Military's Inter-Service Less than Lethal Instructor Course 05-MTT-04. The Mission was conducted at the Combat Readiness Training Center, Savannah International Airport. GSDF personnel supported the Guard with their training by acting as assistant instructors and/or aids. Round Robin training techniques were used with the use of OC (Oleoresin Capsicum) or Pepper Spray, batons and safety equipment.

The mission was to initiate crowd control, takedown techniques and handcuffing. Decontamination procedures, using water and fans, were also demonstrated. 1LT Michael Kent, an officer with the GSDF JAG Corps thought the mission a tremendous success and physically challenging. He was impressed with the troops when with their eyes still stinging from the pepper spray, came to him and personally thanked him for being there to assist in their training. He also said that if the mission had not been such a challenge, it would not have been as much fun!

The training on 21 July – with a heat index predicted to be 106-110 degrees – presented a challenge for the Trainees and the 35 GSDF troops who attended. The mission was to prevent an unruly crowd from reaching their intended destination. The training was physically strenuous and challenging to all involved. GSDF troops did break through the line at one point, then, retreated. SGT Broward Peoples of the 5TH BDE commented on the training: "I feel we completed our objective of breaking through their line, we should have taught them to expect the unexpected." PFC Prysock of the 3RD BN 5TH BDE added: "GSDF personnel integrated with the instructor staff and students, and was an important part of the training."



Georgia reservists and GSDF troops brave the sweltering Savannah heat to participate in non-lethal weapons training at the Combat Readiness Training Center.

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In Focus

In Focus this month: Georgia's 48th BCT

By Garry Moon, GSDF HDQ PAO

Normally this section is dedicated to profiling GSDF personnel or units, but as you have probably seen in the news, the Georgia Army National Guard 48th Brigade Combat Team has been hit by three different enemy attacks in the past two weeks, suffering a number of fatalities and serious injuries. The 48th BCT is the largest combat unit of the Georgia National Guard to deploy since World War II. The brigade has already lost 12 soldiers since it arrived in Iraq in early June for a year-long deployment. Most of the BCT is stationed at Camp Striker.

This week Gov. Sonny Perdue announced he would lead a prayer vigil at the state Capitol on 18 AUG to honor the fallen soldiers of the 48th BCT, and would ask the entire state to participate in a moment of silence. MG David Poythress, Georgia's Adjutant General, said, "The National Guard in Georgia and every state is a family. More than any other organization, our people live together, they work together, they play together in the same community — they train together, they grow up together. And we have had deaths in our family. Those deaths have been felt keenly and profoundly throughout our organization."

"They're performing their duties admirably," Poythress continued. "They have not backed up an inch."

The 48th BCT has set up a Blog for soldiers to share their experiences with friends and family back home. The URL for the Blog is:

<http://48thbrigade.blogspot.com>

Please stop by the 48th's Blog and offer a few words of support for the troops and comfort for their families.

Gov. Sonny Perdue and Adjutant General MG David Poythress express heartfelt condolences for the 48th BCT's losses at the State Capitol on August 4th.

Photo: Associated Press



5th Brigade makes rainy 'Days' better in Grantville

By Pamela M. Conley, 5BDE UPAR

Saturday, June 11, started out as a rainy day in Grantville, Georgia. Fiercer weather was expected by the Georgia State Defense Force's 5 BDE, but, that didn't dampen the spirits of the 25 soldiers present at this Grantville Days Celebration.



GSDF troopers lend a helping hand during the Grantville Days Celebration in June.

The City of Grantville with the help of PFC David West made available to the GSDF Grantville's City Hall, where the Command Post was set up, with PVT Prysock at the radio. Additionally, City Hall was provided as lodging for the GSDF troops.

The OIC of the mission was CW2 Garrard. The streets within the City of Grantville were closed and NCOIC Carr assigned posts around the city for traffic control and security in conjunction with the Grantville Police Department's Chief Jerry Ramos, Officer Carla Queary, Officer Chad Conley, the K-9 Unit with, Trigger the Drug Dog present, and the Coweta County Fire Department – Station 11.

A MED DET unit was established and manned by LTC Moeller and GSDF troops, our troops responded to two non-life threatening civilian emergencies. There was also a GSDF recruiting booth all decked out and manned by 1LT Alexander and CSM Moore.

The festival also had a parade on Saturday and some of the attendees were the New Life Baptist Church, AWANA Club Members, the Grantville City Police, Coweta County Fire Department – Station 11 and our very own PFC Soroka and his Ducee-and-a-half truck with several GASDF troops as riders.

The 5BDE, known as, "The Ravens", is under the command of COL Lockert. Also in present for the Mission were Executive Officers: MAJ Watson, MAJ Lorenzo Combs-3 BN Commander, CSM Huffstickler and CPT Calhoun-1BN.



MED DET staff share a light moment during their work at the Grantville Days Celebration.

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