

# PHOENIX RISING

Georgia State Defense Force  
5th Brigade Official Newsletter



Volume 1, Issue 7

Commanding Officer - LTC Michael Worthington

July 2010

## Dream... Believe... Achieve...

(Macon, GA) June 19, 2010. The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Georgia State Defense Force were tasked with the mission of providing security at the Macon City Auditorium in Macon, GA for the 2010 Fort Stewart Youth ChalleNGe Academy Graduation.

The Non-commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) for the mission was SSG John Dill. SSG Dill coordinated all aspects of the mission and to his credit the mission was a great success. During the course of events four attendees suffered from heat exhaustion and were treated by GaSDF medics WO1 Chris Clark and Cpl Matthew Mallete until EMS personnel arrived on scene.

One of the highlights of the mission was the opportunity for GaSDF soldiers to provide additional security for Major General William T. Nesbitt, The Adjutant General for the State of Georgia who attended the event to recognize YCA graduates who had enlisted in the military.

*“The mission of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program is to intervene and reclaim the lives of at-risk youth to produce program graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults.”*



Above: YCA Graduation. Right: PFC Rebekah Uebler gives instructions for the YCA Mission to PVT Kimble. Photos by PFC Ted Burzynski, GaSDF



# LTC Worthington Takes Command of 5th Brigade

2010 brings with it a new commanding officer for the 5th Brigade. LTC Michael Worthington comes to 5th Brigade from Headquarters. He is a former High School principal and is currently the Director of Facilities for the DeKalb County School System.

LTC Worthington's educational credentials consist of both a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in History from the University of South Carolina, a Masters Degree in Education Leadership from Georgia State University followed by a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Georgia State University.

His military career began in 1968, where he attended Basic Training at Fort Gordon and later Officers Candidate School (OCS). He joined the Georgia State Defense Force immediately following September 11, 2001.

## Below is an excerpt from LTC Worthington's command philosophy.

*"I believe that the Force offers the citizens of Georgia a way to serve our state and nation. I have witnessed the Force evolve from a loose structured command into one that earns the praise of all who see us in action. We are all volunteers and as such we control how much we wish to be involved. However, this is what I ask. If you choose to accept a position of authority in the GSDF then you are expected to do the following:*

1. First and Foremost train those in your command to the highest level possible

*"If you fail to train, then you train to fail"*

2. The welfare and well being of your troops come first.... always

3. Lead from the front

4. Develop and train a viable NCO Cadre...NCOs are the backbone of any military

*Organization*

5. Recruit, Recruit, Recruit...we need young blood to continue the legacy

6. If you command, then runs your command.... be accountable and visible

7. Lastly, we didn't join to sit around and tell old stories we joined to make a difference.

*Our mission is to support the Guard and serve the citizens of Georgia and our METL and training is geared to do that. Together we will proudly serve our State, Nation and in doing so our Brigade will become second to none."*

LTC Michael Worthington, Commanding  
5th Brigade  
Georgia State Defense Force



## Running with the Colors

(Atlanta, GA) June 12, 2010. SGT James Wilson of 1st Battalion, 5th Brigade Georgia State Defense Force was among the hundreds of runners who raced through the streets of Atlanta during the 9th annual Army Hooah Race. SGT Wilson ran the 10K race and carried 1st Battalion's colors representing the GaSDF.

The race started at the Georgia International Convention Center in College Park and finished at Fort McPherson. The race was held in honor of the Army's 235th Birthday. This race in particular was significant because it was the last time it would be run due to the closings of Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem.

SGT Wilson also ran in the 2010 Peachtree Road Race with the 1st BN Colors on July 3rd 2010.



SSG Hubbard Morris and WO1 Laflair, GPSTC, Forsyth, GA

## OCS GRADUATION

On Sunday June 13th, 2010, after 6 months of arduous training, two soldiers from the 5th Brigade; William LaFlair of 1st Battalion and Sam McCowan from 2nd Battalion graduated from OCS (Officers Candidate School) at GPSTC in Forsyth, GA. Both of the new officers were pinned as Warrant Officers.

According to WO1 Laflair, "it was a life changing experience as well as a tremendous learning experience". WO1 Laflair will be working on the 1st BN HQ Staff. WO1 McCowan will be going to 2nd BN HQ Staff.

## SARSPEC Physical Testing

(Jackson, GA) June 20, 2010. Soldiers from the 5th Brigade GaSDF conducted SARSPEC physical training at the National Guard Armory in Jackson, GA. The basic physical requirement is to be able to walk 1 mile in 16 minutes or less. Everyone who tested exceeded the standards with a pass rate of 100%. The oldest soldier to complete the test was SSG Lynn Bradley, 1st BN S3 NCO at the age of 64. While the youngest, PVT Josh Bradley age 21 also completed the test with time to spare. SGT Tom Dager of 2nd Battalion took it upon himself to carry 45lbs and do three miles. SGT Dager completed his walk in 41 minutes, 57 seconds.

The test given on Sunday was the minimum standard for everyone in the GaSDF. There are varying levels of difficulty the more involved in Search and Rescue one becomes. The upcoming SARSPEC II course requires soldiers to be able to carry a 25 or 30lb pack for two miles in 30 minutes or less. This is considered the intermediate or moderate heavy load, while the arduous heavy load consists of carrying a 45lb pack 3 miles in 45 minutes.



**CPL Mike Ganas, PFC Ted Burzynski and PFC Rebekah Uebler**

## SARSPEC II TRAINING

SARSPEC II, Fundamentals of Search and Rescue Training. SARSPEC II training is the field and skill component of SAR operations. Training is conducted by approved brigade level schools with instructors who have successfully completed the SARSPEC II Train the Trainer course. Additional Train the Trainer courses may be scheduled as needed by the ACofS G3. Successful completion of this 54-hour course makes the student eligible for awarding of the GSDF Search and Rescue Tab. There is a mandatory physical fitness requirement for SARSPEC II and annual fitness test to maintain certification. SARSPEC II trainers have all the course material needed for running a SARPEC II school. SAR Instructors should request any required assistance for training thru the SAR committee.

Medical support will be onsite during training and at all times when SAR operations are conducted.

GSDF Soldiers who have documentation of prior completion of a Search and Rescue School can request consideration by the Search and Rescue Committee for awarding of the Search and Rescue Tab. The Search and Rescue Committee is chaired by the ACofS G3 and consists of a SARPEC II qualified Officer and NCO from each major subordinate unit. The committee will look at the previous training and certification and make a determination of qualification for the GSDF SAR Tab.

Participation at the SARSPEC II and SARSPEC I level is voluntary. All soldiers will meet requirements of SARSPEC III.

All training and training safety procedures will conform to the requirements in NASAR standards and TC 21-24 and FM 3-97.61

*cont.-*



**CPL Mike Ganas, CPL Glen Uebler and CW4 Orlando Castro**

## SARSPEC II LINE-UP

The line-up of instructors for this years SARSPEC II course is as follows: Major Lan Skalla is the course commander, 1SG Jeff Ulmer is the course NCOIC. The other cadre include: CSM Ryan, 2Lt Doyle, 2LT McNeill, SSG Gillham, SSG Damaschke and 2LT Anderson. Instruction will be both classroom and in the field. Training will cover three weekends: July 16-18, Aug 20-22 and Sept 17-19.



**Major General Willaim T. "Terry" Nesbitt recognizes military enlistees from Class 10-02 at the Youth Challenge Academy graduation at the Macon City Auditorium in Macon, GA, June 19th 2010. Photos by PFC Ted Burzynski, GASDF**



**YCA Color Guard. Macon City Auditorium**

## **SARSPEC II TRAINING cont.-**

SAR Certification: There are three levels of certification

1. SARSPEC III: Soldiers completing the SAR III level training will receive a GSDF 1059 academic qualification report stating they have completed the requirements of SARSPEC III. They will then be awarded a certificate designating them as a SARSPEC III. SARSPEC III soldiers can perform SAR missions, but should be kept in Support role until completion of SARSPEC II.

2. SARSPEC II: Soldiers completing SARSPEC II training and successfully passing the work capacity test will receive a GSDF 1059 stating they are certified as a SARSPEC II. Owing unit will forward copy of the 1059 form to ACofS G3 for approval and verification. G3 will then submit a letter of request to G1 to cut orders awarding the Search and Rescue Tab to the individual. The SARPEC II School will also award a Certificate of Completion showing the soldier is certified as a SARSPEC II. SARSPEC II certified soldiers can participate in SAR missions. Units must annually look at deployment level for each soldier before determining if they are medically or physically capable of performing on mission. SARSPEC II soldiers must pass an annual work capacity test (TC 350-1 Physical Training).

3. SARSPEC I: Soldiers completing SARSPEC I training, and who have completed SARSPEC II training will receive a GSDF 1059 form stating they have completed the requirements as a SAREPEC I leader. SARSPEC I leaders are eligible to lead SAR teams on missions. Soldiers may take SARSPEC I training and be awarded a certificate of completion without having taken SARSPEC II training. Without SARSPEC II certification, however, they cannot lead SAR Teams.

Other Search and Rescue training or certifications will be reviewed by the SAR committee to ensure they meet the strategic and operational goals of GSDF. Such training could include training specialized teams such as K9, high angle technical rescue, swift water, water, and advanced Urban SAR. Major Subordinate Units should not start planning and will not engage in any of the above training without approval by ACof S G3.

## **SARSPEC II JOURNAL**

In the coming months I will be documenting my journey through SARSPEC II Training with the GaSDF through photos and journals. This will be a multi-part series covering each stage of the training. *WARNING - this will be written through the eyes of a student, so the perspectives given in this series will be very real. STAY TUNED. PFC Ted Burzynski.*

# Special Troops Company

The 3rd Battalion, 5th Brigade GaSDF is Headquartered in Statesboro, GA and its area of operations consists of Appling, Bulloch, Bryan, Burke, Camden, Candler, Chatham, Columbia, Effingham, Emanuel, Evans, Glynn, Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Jenkins, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Montgomery, Richmond, Screven, Tattnall, Toombs, Truetlen and Wayne counties in west central Georgia. The Commanding Officer is Captain John Morgan.

The Special Troops Company of the Georgia Garrison Training Center is consists of soldiers from Alpha and Bravo Companies of 3rd BN, 5th BDE of the Georgia State Defense Force (GSDF). The mission of Special Troops Company is to provide professional support to the soldiers of GGTC where deemed necessary by the Garrison Commander and Staff.

The Special Troops Battalion run an ongoing mission that is conducted the first weekend of every month. These soldiers support their counterparts in the Georgia Army National Guard with a variety of skills ranging from construction and IT to security.



Georgia State Defense Force Operations Center, Fort Stewart, GA



From left to right  
SGT Vic Dawdry  
PV2 Charles Henry  
PV2 John Adkins  
SFC Ron Schmid  
SFC Dan Kimball  
1LT(P) Mark Waters  
SGT William White  
PFC Tom Collins  
PV2 Tammy Sawyer



Special Troops Company, GGTC, Fort Stewart, GA



LT Waters presents an award to PVT Sawyer

## THIS MONTH IN GEORGIA HISTORY

This month in Georgia history marks the anniversary of the Battle of Bloody Marsh, a skirmish between English and Spanish forces on St. Simons Island in 1742.

During the Revolutionary War, Georgians George Walton, Lyman Hall, and Button Gwinnett signed the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on July 4, 1776. Following their defeat in the war, the British army left Savannah on July 11, 1782.

The Georgia Military Institute opened in Marietta in July 1851 and remained open through the end of the Civil War. In 1873 Thomasville native Henry O. Flipper enrolled in the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, later becoming the first black to graduate from that institution.

During the Civil War the Battle of Atlanta took place on July 22, 1864. That same month Union general William T. Sherman ordered approximately 400 mill workers, mostly women, in Roswell to be arrested as traitors and shipped with their children as prisoners to the North.



## The Transformation

The July edition of Phoenix Rising is a transformational edition. The Phoenix Rising has grown and with it the 5th Brigade Public Affairs Office. Going forward The Phoenix Rising will be the news voice of the 5th Brigade. In addition a 5th Brigade website is in the works and will up and running by the end of summer 2010.

The 5th Brigade Public Affairs Office is currently accepting candidates to serve as Unit Public Affairs Representatives within their respective Battalions. We need multiple personnel (at least two or three) from each Battalion in order to cover all the bases and not overload one soldier. This work requires time and dedication, far more than one drill a month. Please keep this in mind; covering the unit's activities as a journalist, photographer or videographer requires a great deal of pre-planning and travel. Please note that being a good photographer and writer or having the desire to be so are only base to start from. HQ PAO as well as GA DoD PAO will provide additional training in journalism, photography and videography (travel will be required).

If you are interested in becoming a Public Affairs Representative for your unit contact PFC Burzynski via email @ [ted.burzynski@gasdf.com](mailto:ted.burzynski@gasdf.com).

### Drill / Mission Calendar

**July** IET: 9-11 July, GPSTC, Forsyth, GA  
**Parade:** 10 July, Jackson, GA  
**1st BN Drill:** 16-18 July, Columbus, GA  
 IET: 9-11 July, GPSTC, Forsyth, GA  
 IET: 16-18 July, GPSTC, Forsyth, GA  
**SARSPEC II:** 16-18 July, GPSTC, Forsyth, GA

**August** IET: 6-8 August, GPSTC, Forsyth, GA  
 SLC: 13-15 August, Jackson, GA  
**SARSPEC II:** 20-22 July, GPSTC, Forsyth, GA  
 SLC: 27-29 August, Jackson, GA  
**BOLC:**

**September:**  
**SARSPEC II:** 17-19 Sept., GPSTC, Forsyth, GA  
 SLC: 10-12 Sept., GPSTC, Forsyth, GA  
 SLC: 24-26 Sept., GPSTC, Jackson, GA  
**BOLC:**

**October:**  
 SLC: 1-3 Oct, GPSTC, Forsyth, GA  
**Family Appreciation Day** - 16 Oct. TBA

**November:**  
 AT: 5-7 Nov, Fort Stewart, GA