PHOENIX RISING

Georgia State Defense Force

5th Brigade Official Newsletter

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This Month in Phoenix Rising

- Soldier's Leadership Course
- OPFOR Missions
- SARspec II Training
- SARspec Journal

Cover: SGT Baker
Photo: PFC Ted Burzynski

OPFOR

WO1 Laflair, OPFOR mission, Fort Stewart, GA

(Fort Stewart, GA) The Georgia State Defense Force continues to support the Georgia Army National Guard by particiapting in the PTAE missions at Fort Stewart that prepare Georgia Guardsmen for deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom.

To date the State Defense Force has supplied soldiers to perform a variety of missions, from enemy to friendly villagers to suicide bombers and performing ambushes. These misions have haven proven to be monumental in saving the lives of Georgia Guardsmen. Over the course of the last year GSDF members have accumultaed 14,772 volunteer hours and 6,890 Missison hours supporting these misssions and will continue throughout the year and into the next year.

Volunteers are currently needed for these missions. If you are interested in participating in these missions contact your chain of command. In October, 5th Brigade will be conducting a field training exercise at Fort Stewart to qualify GSDF soldiers to participate in these missions.

PROMOTIONS

Daniel C. Williams is promoted to PFC

Glen Uebler is promoted to Sergeant

Amber Kimble is the recent Honor Graduate from IET and promoted to PFC

GSDF Schools South News

SARSPEC II

SGT Baker rappells down the face of a five story building. Photo by PFC Burzynski

(Forsyth, GA) The Georgia heat and rain happily welcomed back the stuents of the Georgia State Defene Forces' Search and Rescue Specialist Training Course (SARspec) for the second training session.

This months training session consisted of both academic and physical testing as well as land navigation, field craft and rappelling. Friday night the students were tested on the academic material on the fundamentals of search and rescue.

Satuday morning students completed the work capacity test, which consisted of covering a distance three miles with a 45lb pack in 45 miniutes, two miles with a 30 lb pack in 30 minutes or 1 mile with no load. Those completing the two and three mile tests qualify for the Search and Rescue tab. The others who did not make the time or carried the light load can still pass the course, but will not be searchers during the missisons, they will act in support roles.

Later that afternoon the students completed the pack test, in which the student's packs were inspected for the required items in the 24-hour Search and Rescue pack.
This was followed up by a land navigation exercise and an exercise in field craft.

The last day of training consisted of the students going through a knot tying class. This months training culminated in rappelling off of a 5 story building.

SOLDIER'S LEADERSHIP COURSE (SLC)

(Jackson, GA) Over the last few months soldiers from the Georgia State Defense Force's 5th Brigade have undergone The Soldiers leadership course (SLC). This course consists of the training necessary to be a competent Non-commissioned officer and leader in the GSDF.

Students have undergone various courses in leadership as well as physical training and drill and ceremony.

The Soldiers Leadership Course is one of the necessary stepping stones in the career developement educational series for Non-commissioned officers wishing to be promoted byond the rank of E5.

Students will graduate on September 26th following a comprehensive Field Training Exercise conducted at GPSTC in Forsyth, GA.

SLC students during classroom instruction at the National Guard Armory in Jackson, GA

PARATI SERVIRE

Colonel Dennis Watts

Interview by PFC Ted Burzynski

Name: Dennis Watts

Rank: Colonel

Where are you from? Dekalb County, Ga.

Where do you live? Athens, Ga.

What do you do in civilian life? Training and Communication Director Local Govt Risk Management Services (safety loss control risk management for cities and counties in Ga)

Prior Service duty/MOS/unit/locations/overseas duty – Commissioned 2LT Infantry Regular Army 1980. Served with Berlin Brigade (West Berlin during the cold war), 24th Infantry Division FSGA, Tradoc Cadet Command Ft Monroe. Va and FORSCOM in Atlanta Ga. Always enjoyed outdoors, climbing, rappelling, hiking. Infantry was good fit. Got to attend and graduate from Airborne School while an ROTC cadet, air assault school, graduated Ranger school, Mortar Platoon Leader Course, French Commando School, and Chemical Biological Warfare officer school, to name a few of the fun ones. As a leader got to command a rifle platoon, mortar platoon, and two companies in the 24th Division. Finished my career in 2000 while assigned to the FORSCOM Safety Augmentee Detachment as a Combat Safety Officer.

Position with the GSDF? Currently Assistant Chief of Staff G3 (Operations, Training, Plans, and Schools) for the SDF.

When did you join the GSDF? 2005

Why did you join the GSDF? Heard our great CPT Clark Howard on radio, looked up the organization and decided to join.

Explain the relative importance of the overall mission of the GSDF? Our primary mission of supporting the GA DOD and National/Air Guard is becoming more critical. SDF Soldiers often have skills they need, and our ability to be a multi-functional force makes us even more valuable to support their needs. We are also a critical element in supporting our civilian communities. SDF because we have limited logistics, no pay volunteers, means we can get boots on the ground pretty fast and self sustain for that critical 72 hour time frame when needs are often at their highest.

Explain the importance of SAR training in the GSDF? The Commanding General decided that SDF needed a basic focus that all members can achieve. Sort of a base MOS for all. Using Search and Rescue - in essence the base Military Occupational Specialty for the SDF, ensures along with our other METL requirements that SDF soldiers have a standardized training program common to all. For SAR missions – it means our capability to be alerted and have some boots on ground within a few hours makes us a valuable asset to local communities, GEMA, and Ga DOD.

In your mind – what is the most important skill learned at SARspec?
When you have a will you can achieve anything. SARSPEC II is long, physically challenging, and not everyone will earn the TAB. Those who want it bad enough will. Ranger school was like that for me, I knew the technical tactical part of the course- what I learned was how far I could go and about myself.

Where would you like to see the GSDF in the next 5, 10 years? Would be nice to see job protection enacted (again) for our members at the state legislature. Would also like us to continue our current path as being an equal partner with our brethren at GA DOD and the NG

Any Additional comments you would like to add. The three levels of Search and Rescue Specialist Training SDF has implemented are interrelated. All SDF members thru the SARSPEC III training in IET, The SARSPEC II training for those that volunteer, and SARSPEC I training that will be taught in BNCOC, OCS, etc and then periodically for other members-ensures that SDF has a nationally recognized standard of training in Search and Rescue. Our partners in DOD, and GEMA know what that training is and what our capabilities are. This cannot but help keep GSDF out in front for a disaster that might strike our state. I also want to make sure that we are careful of not creating a cliquish environment divided by those wearing the SAR Tab and those not. Those wearing the tab should be proud (CG is the one who pins all), but should not look on themselves as an elite. We have many members whose skills, abilities, and knowledge far exceed the course content in our SARSPEC program but due to physical limitations will not likely be able to pass the Work Capacity Test. There is a place for all in or SAR program.

Who'll Stop the Rain...
My Sarspec Journal

By PFC Ted Burzynski

Week 2 - Friday 20August2010

Arrived at GPSTC at 1900. SGT Damasche was there to greet us once again. I parked down at the pistol range and humped my two rucksacks and LBV up to the campsite about ¼ mile up the road on the hillside overlooking the mock village.

Dropped my ruck, SSG Bradley made the comment, "there's Burzynski with enough gear for five people." Well, not five just me, and believe it or not I didn't bring everything that I did last time; no sleeping bag, all my SAR pack and tent and sleeping mat. The poncho liner I will leave home next time. No good in the heat, just sticks to you and makes it hotter. Anyway, unloaded my gear, set up my tent. Then we were told to move our tents into a tight formation lined up in squads. Which we did - no big deal.

The next thing I heard was, "PFC Burzynski!" I looked over to the edge of camp and it was Colonel Watts motioning for me to come over there. Colonel Watts runs the school and is a really good guy. I have a lot of respect for him. He has the "real" tab that reads "RANGER". I say no more.

As I got up to him, he puts his arm around my shoulders, like a father or a grandfather would and said, "Ted," at that point I knew what was coming down. I had anticipated some form of retribution for last months article, where I mentioned that Sergeant Major Ryan's class was putting me to sleep.

He said, "you and I both know that it wasn't Sergeant Major Ryan's class that was putting you to sleep, it was the other factors, such, as we had just come in the from the field and hot and tired was more the physiology of what was happening than the course." He was absolutely correct. I knew that when I wrote the piece and probably should have stated that more clearly. He explained to me what a "Lincoln letter" was and suggested that maybe next time I use that philosophy. Again, he was absolutely correct. I explained to him that he was right, and "SGM Ryan was not a boring instructor, actually quite the opposite and that I learned a lot from her class, although I may not have written it that way." We spoke on a couple of other issues related to the course and then moved on to the business of the day.

I went back to my tent and fetched my book for the course, got out the topo maps I had printed for the course.

Spent the next hour or so, talking with my fellow soldiers about the course and the last weekend of training. The usual scuttlebutt; who had dropped from the course? Who was late? How much of a load we would be carrying the next day for the work capacity test? Etc. I myself had decided to do 2 miles with 30 lbs. I had been training with 50 lbs and 3 miles, but could not get it under the time limit. As far as I'm concerned, better to safe than sorry, I would stick to the lighter load and shorter distance. At this point, we were halfway through the course and failure of any sort was out of the question. I had not endured this amount of hellish training to be dropped. Plus, I never give up. My father told me as a young boy, "son, never surrender, take no prisoners and give no quarter to the enemy." I have never forgotten that and have carried it with me my whole life.

Our written exam was supposed to start at 2100, but was running a little late, it started around 2120. We were brought into the classroom and told we had 2 hours to complete the exam, then we were to draw chow for the next day and get some sleep.

The exam was 100 questions dealing with all aspects of what we had been studying thus far in the course. It was very comprehensive. I think it touched on everything. I finished in a little over an hour. My friend SGT Tom Dagger finished right ahead of me. I knew he would finish first. Finishing first had its benefits, we got first pick of the MRE's for the next day, which always helps, and it really sucks to get stuck with a vegetable meal. I got beef stew, hell yeah, and one of those breakfast "heater meals" with the powdered eggs and fruit cup

cont.-

SARspec Journal cont.-

Got back up to my tent and got settled in. tomorrow would be a long day, I need the rest, had been up since 0500 and in was now 2300. I sat down, took off my boots and set them in the tent. I set my alarm and used the rooster crowing sound bite because my wife uses it and it always scares the hell out of me when hers goes off at 5 am. I damn sure didn't want to oversleep Saturday.

Laid down where I thought it would be a good spot, but was actually leaning down and had to flip around. I can't sleep laying down hill. However small of an incline, it doesn't work. Got situated and then…Just as any well laid plan than never works neither did that one. Somehow there are always some guys that don't want to sleep, that just want to hang out and shoot the shit until 2 in the morning.

Luckily the rain moved in. and everyone went to bed. As I tried to sleep, the light rain came, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit pat. Didn't sleep well, I never do the first night. The second night I always do, because my body just shuts down and doesn't give me any choice, regardless of the conditions.

Didn't sleep worth a damn, was tossing and turning all night in my sweat. My alarm finally went off at some point during tossing and turning. I maybe slept an hour and a half, two at the most.

Saturday 21AUG

0500 – The rooster crows. Loud and clear. My alarm went off I rolled out, put my boots on, put on fresh deodorant and brushed my teeth. Ready to go! Work capacity test here I come.

…Pit, pat, pit pat, pit pat. The raindrops began. Great...work capacity test in the rain. I rucked up and moved to the pad. Climbed down the muddy hill and dropped my gear in the shelter of the abandoned motel of the mock village. Whoosh! The bottom falls out. Pouring rain that you could barely see through. "Man, this is going to be fun day."

SGT Derucki gets ready for the work capacity test

It was still dark and pouring rain, when we were called in groups of two to weigh our packs for the work capacity test. Chief Garrard and I had discussed earlier in the morning what weight and distance we were going to do. We would both do 2 miles with a 30-pound load.

Chief Garrard and I ran across the pad in the rain to weigh in. We got in, weighed and filled out our paperwork for test. For some reason my pack had shrunk. The night before it weighed a perfect 30 lbs, now it only weighed 27 lbs. I borrowed 4 lbs from chief Garrard and met the weight requirement. Still raining, we ran back across the pad to the shelter of the hotel breezeway. Dropped my gear, had a smoke and watched in amusement as other soldiers came down donning ponchos and wet weather gear…I laughed under my breath and thought to myself, "heat casualties waiting to happen… one day they'll get it. Rain gear is only good in the wintertime, summer time it's just easier to stay wet.

Col Watts, BG Bradford, WO1 Laflair, Maj Skalla

The rain finally stopped, but it put us nearly two hours behind schedule. We formed up and moved out to the staging area for the work capacity test. Major Skalla and SGM Ryan outlined the course for us and briefed us on the rules and turn around points. Just about the time we were stepping off, Brigadier General Bradford drove up.

The general gave us a few words of encouragement. Then the test began. We were divided into two groups. Since Chief Garrard and I were battle buddies, he would go first and I would time him. ...And they're off.

First one back around was 1SG Ulmer. He was hauling ass. 1SG Ulmer was doing three miles. He ended up doing the course in 37 minutes and some change. I think I heard the course record was 36 minutes. Chief Garrard made it around in 28:48, very good. When everyone as finally done with the first set. The second group lined up, myself included. Time was called and off we went. After my first mile, the wet socks started doing a cheese grater on

cont.-

SARspec students cool off after the work capacity test

SARspec Journal cont.-

the tops of my toes. It was really hurting, but there was no way I was stopping, it slowed me down a little. Every step, step after step…pain. I got back around for the second mile. The finish line was in sight, it didn't matter how much it hurt, just have to keep going, 100 more meters, 50 more meters, there's the finish line. LTC Worthington was cheering me on. I made it. 29 minutes and 30 seconds. 30 seconds under the wire, I wish it had been better, but less than thirty will get me the tab. Hell yeah. I dropped my pack and drank some water, cooled off a bit.

While we were waiting for the rest to finish the test now was the opportune time to check my feet, my toes were on fire, I knew I was long past blisters. I went over to SGT Uebler and Warrant Officer Clark; I sat down, fired up a smoke and began to peel my boots off.

Ooh, it stings. Left boot off and the bright bloody toes of my stood out like a red flag in the morning mist. Damn it, man! I have a long way to go on these feet and I did not need to become a casualty. Right boot, bloody sock again. Damn. I dressed them both and put my boots back on. When we went back to camp, I re-dressed them again and put on some dry socks. My feet felt much better. DRY FEET! ALWAYS! It was only 1000 – long day ahead. We had some chow and relaxed for a few minutes before the next class started.

Our first class for the day was a brief lecture on the legal considerations involved in search and rescue. Major Prim was supposed to give the class, but was unable to attend. So, in his absence Captain Hatchew gave the class.

We broke for lunch. We went back to camp and had some chow. This weekend we seemed to have more time to eat. So, naturally I think I ate more. Last month I lost five pounds, this month probably gained five, eating a lot more. I guess I needed the energy.

Our next course of business was a refresher land navigation course given in the classroom. We went through a brief power point on the basics and then moved to a series of Maps of Fort Stewart where we were each given various coordinates on the maps and told to find what landmark was at that grid location. We all did fairly easily. Land nav and terrain orientation has always been easy or me, as an Assistant Scout Master I used to teach orienteering to boy scouts.

SARspec students find grid coordinates during map exercise

Next was the pack test. We were dismissed briefly to go round up all our gear, and then we formed up on the pad and marched about a quarter mile down the road to the shooting ranges. First and second platoons were split up and put on each side of the range.

SSG Gillham is the TAC NCO for 1st Platoon and responsible for testing us. We all laid out our ponchos and started taking out the contents of our 24-hour SAR pack. My SAR equipment is split up between my LBV and my pack. I hung my vest on the fence, sat my pack down next to it. Pulled out my packing list and laid it out in order. Everything was there, as expected… I've been putting this pack together for the last year just for this test.

Once we all had our gear out. SSG Gillham went down the list calling everything off in order. As he got to each item, we held it up for inspection. SSG Gillham had a list for everyone and marked who didn't have a particular item. Not me, I'd be damned to come this far and leave something behind… PASSED!

Two down, Work capacity test and pack test. Couple more to go. I'm pretty sure I passed the written exam, but no confirmation as of yet, so I'm not counting it. We still have the knot test as well.

We rucked up and marched back to camp. cont.-

SARspec Journal cont.-

Next up was Lt Doyle; she gave us part two of last months lecture on SAR safety. Damn these power points are getting old… give me some fieldwork. What a balance, either in the field in full kit, sweating half to death or sitting in a semi-air conditioned classroom falling asleep, bored and exhausted. Don't get me wrong I appreciate the rest in between fieldwork. Probably designed that way… bring em up, bring em down, up, down, up, down. Sound familiar?

Next was our evening field exercise, land nav and field craft. We were loaded up into trucks and taken out of camp down the road a few miles. We unloaded, and staged on the bank on the side of the road waiting for everyone to get on point.

We formed up and marched down the road. Our first task was to start a fire with only what we carried in our pack, no lighters. We staged ourselves going up and down the road and were directed to build a fire out of what we could find nearby. I got some dried sticks, leaves and pine straw. Made a little teepee, put some dryer lint in the center, pulled out my waterproof matches and lit the lint, it caught the leaves and then with a little airflow, I had fire. SSG Gillham came by and said to put it out. I was done.

Next to me was PVT Saltkill, she was having a little trouble, she couldn't get the waterproof matches to work, and she had made them herself and used too much wax. She was forced to pull out the magnesium strip and start some shavings. It worked.

There were others building fires entirely too big for the exercise, but eventually everyone got it. It was kind of tough considering most of the brush was damp. But, I guess outside of training you can never expect the conditions to be ideal, more than likely the conditions will be most un-ideal, and unforgiving. We marched back up the road to where we started and were formed into three and four man groups for the land navigation and field craft exercise.

My team was myself, SGT Dagger and PFC Rollins. We were given an azimuth, I shot it, then we decided to let Rollins shoot the azimuth and I would count pace. We shot it and I could see the orange plate tacked to the tree straight ahead. We had to go around a fence; I counted pace and moved to the tree. As we got to the tree LTC Worthington and CSM Parameter joined out team. SSG Gillham was our observer. The goal of the exercise was to get to the waypoint and have the correct distance. They gave us an azimuth but no distance, they wanted the distance from us when we got there. Well, I counted 90 meters, my pace count is 60. SSG Gillham said that was incorrect. I asked by how much, he said the correct distance was 140 or 60 something. There was no way. We had not traveled more than 100 meters. I could see the starting point and there was no way that was one and a half football fields in distance. At that point, CSM Parmenter took the compass and all three of us counted pace, leapfrogging across the woods. Every waypoint was off by 40 to 60 meters. We found them all. *cont.-*

Below: SARspec students waiting for their next field assignment

SARspec students ruck march

The "Taj-Majal" by Rollins, Dager & Burzynski

Our next task was to set up a hasty shelter on the edge of the woods with what we had in our packs. We decided to set up one large shelter combining all our ponchos and tarps. I got out the 550 cord, Rollins and Dager both got out tarps, we strung one up in the tree and secured it to the ground with a nearby tree stump, laid another on the ground underneath, staged our gear underneath, we had room for 5 or 6. Good, easy shelter. Now that camp set up, we had chow, we all sat around in the grass outside our shelter, ate, shot the shit and relaxed…night fell.

As we were settling in for the night they came around and said, "Pack it up and move out, mission accomplished. We cut it down, loaded up and moved out to the far tree line. Loaded up in trucks. I was with SGT Prah and PFC Rollins, seemed to take forever to move out. But we finally did. As we drove off, the other teams were still coming in. I made the comment that "I guess its good to be first in – then we're first out."

We were dropped back at camp, reloaded on the water and headed to the tents. Long day. Long hot day, but for some reason it didn't seem as "ball-bustin hot' as last month, we're getting used to it. I had probably consumed several gallons of water at that point. We settled in, de-bloused. I had a smoke, set my gear aside for tomorrow. Got out a snack.

We could see the lightening popping in the distance, couldn't tell if it was coming our way. I checked the radar on my droid and it looked like it was moving northeast from us. I got in my tent, stripped down to my shorts, got my dry, clean uniform out for the next day, set my alarm and tried to go to sleep, it was hot, same as usual toss and turn, pool of sweat, hot, my little "Improved Combat Shelter" doesn't breath well with the rain-fly on. So, I unzipped my mosquito net to let some air in. There was a nice light breeze blowing, it felt good.

It wasn't much longer before the old familiar pit, pat, pit pat, pit pat on the tent. The rain was coming in. I zipped up my netting to keep the rain out. As I tossed and turned the rain got louder and heavier and so did I the thunder and lightening, just as I was finally falling asleep, thunder cracked right on top of our camp, boom, boom, boom, all over the place, all of a sudden we were right in the middle of it. All hell was breaking loose. It was "natures artillery barrage." I was nice and dry and staying out right where I was. Somewhere around 1am it quit raining.

Not long after that SSG Gillham came up to camp and told everyone get out and grab their sleeping gear and move down the hill to the village and find a spot in one of the building to sleep in. There was another big storm moving in that was even bigger than the first.

cont.-

SARspec Journal cont.-

So, I got dressed, got my sleeping mat, flashlight and canteen and went to the hotel. Found a room on the top floor that was unoccupied put down my gear and went out side to have a smoke. SFC Langley was set up on a cot right outside my room, we talked briefly and I went in to get some sleep. So much for the required six hours of sleep. Ha, should've known better. Hell, I did, I guess it was wishful thinking to think we would actually get some sleep. I slept for about two hours and it was time to get up again. The storm never came…

I went up to my tent to change and get my gear for the day. Got to my gear and everything including my fresh, clean uniform was soaking wet. I should have left it in the waterproof bag. With my socks and underwear, but I wanted to be able to grab it quick that morning, so I set it next to my pack under the rain fly. However, it had rained so hard that the water flowed under my tent and soaked all my gear from underneath. Won't do that again…

We drew a heater meal breakfast from the trailer and went and ate the powdered egg breakfast. It was nasty.

We had 15 minutes to be in class. I took down my tent and packed up my wet gear and moved it to the hotel. Everyone else was going to let theirs dry and get it later. Not me, if I had a spare minute I was using it. The gear could dry later that after noon when I got home.

Our first class for the day was on knot tying. We brought all our ropes to the classroom and separated into groups. SSG Gillham took one group and SSG Damasche took my group. We went through all the knots that are required for the course. I had all of them down but will still practive... again, failure is not an option.

At some point during the knot class my stomach started turning upside down – those damn powdered eggs..ugh. I told SSG Gillham my stomach was upset and I may not do the rappelling tower. I really wanted to do the tower, I had not done it in twenty years and missed it. It's a blast.

WO1 Laflair assists SGT Prah on rappelling tower

SARspec Cadre discuss the days training operations

Now that the knot-tying portion was done, we had a small break. I hit the bathroom and got a smoke. When I returned Matt Parker told me we were ordered to take down camp and we would be driving our personal vehicles to the rappelling tower. Since my gear was already packed I walked to the parking lot, got in the truck and drove back to hotel area.

I loaded up the truck, had a smoke and waited. Chris Clark came down the hill and I gave him a ride to get his truck. He congratulated me on getting my time on the work capacity test and qualifying for my SAR tab. He didn't make his time, but would re-test next month. I really hope he gets it. When I got back, SSG Gillham called me over and told me to get the rest of Captain Hatchew's gear out of the building and bring it to the trailer. At some point that morning he became very ill and was hospitalized, not sure what happened, but it seemed pretty serious, I hope he made it.

cont.-

We convoyed out to the tower, unloaded and walked across the field to the staging area.The cadre were already on and around the tower. We tied on our rappelling seats and lined up. We had brought our helmets, but the cadre decided that if you fell from 5 stories it wouldn't help you. We lined up and the first ten went up the tower, me included. We went off the tower one by one, everyone did very well. I did it once and decided the day would end quicker if I didn't go again and just let the line get shorter. I was ready to get home and sleep. I may have gotten 4 or 5 hours sleep all weekend.

Some of the other guys and I went and found a shady spot / smoking area across the lot from the tower. He hung out and as the day went on, our group got bigger and the other smaller. When everyone was done, we were called to formation and given a quick hot wash on the weekend's activities by Major Skalla and Colonel Watts. We were dismissed and I was off to the truck and home.

Phase II of SARSPEC II complete... HOOAH!

Above: GSDF Soldiers prepare for rappelling exercise
Background: SGT Tom Dager rappells off of the 5-story building

RECENT IET GRADUATES

PFC Amber Nicole Kimble

Private Kimble was born and raised in Columbus, GA. She is a landscaper at Chattahoochee Gardens. Pvt. Kimble has earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree. PFC Kimble was the Honor Graduate in her IET Class. She joined the GSDF because "I love the state of Georgia and its citizens. I also believe that the continual training and classes are invaluable to help others in times of crisis as well as preparation for any future personal goals."

PVT Hillary Hardison

Private Hardison hails from Lagrange, Georgia. She was born in Heidelberg, Germany, the daughter of an Army officer. She has lived all over the United States and has made Georgia her home. He has earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Cincinnati and is currently a risk management specialist at Wheelabrator in LaGrange, Georgia.

PVT Chistina Paul

Private Paul was born and raised in the Atlanta area. She earned a degree in Biology and English. From there she attended Medical Technology school at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta. She has worked at several jobs from Medical Technology to Physician's Assistant at the Med. College of Ga. When she retired from the rat race, she decided to become a private pilot. As a private pilot she has flown missions for Angel Flight. "I wanted another volunteer activity to replace Angel Flight. The military has always held a fascination for me and GSDF has given me an opportunity to see what it's like."

GSDF Band Recruiting

The Georgia State Defense Force Band is currently recruiting members. If you are interested injoining the 105th GSDF Band please go to: http://www.gasdf.com/band/recruiting.htm for more information.

The 105th GSDF Band at the Fabulous 4th Festival at the Georgia International Horse Park in Conyers,GA. Photo by HQ PAO

THIS MONTH IN GEORGIA HISTORY

In 1736 Yamacraw Indian chief Tomochichi, with the help of Benjamin Ingham, a friend of John and Charles Wesley, secured a school at Irene, outside Savannah.

During the Revolutionary War (1775-83), Lieutenant Colonel Elijah Clarke, with 600 men who had taken an oath of allegiance to the king of England, attacked Augusta on September 14, 1780. The Battle of Chickamauga, the largest battle ever fought in Georgia, occurred on September 18-20, 1863, during the Civil War (1861-65). The following year, on September 1, 1864, the Confederate army was forced out of Atlanta, and the mayor surrendered the city to Union soldiers the next day.

On September 25, 1918, during World War I (1917-18), approximately 130 soldiers from Fort Screven died onboard the Otranto, which sank en route to England.

In 1918 Camp Benning (later Fort Benning) opened in Columbus. On September 1, 1941, the official groundbreaking ceremony for Robins Air Force Base occurred in Warner Robins.

GSDF Canned Food Drive

This month we will start collecting canned or non-perishable foods for the Georgia State Defense Force canned food drive. This food drive will benefit familiy members of deployed Georgia Guardsmen. This fevent will also be a competition among GSDF units to see which unit can collect the most food. The collection point will be HQ at Confederate avenue. As supplies build, we will distribute the food prior to Thanksgiving and Christmas. We encourage all units to particiapte in this noteworthy cause.

Other News

You can view the Georgia State Defnse Force's photo stream at: http://www.flickr.com/photos/gsdf/
Also look for the GSDF at http://www.statedefenseforce.com

Drill / Mission Calendar

September:

OPFOR: 7-12 Sept., Fort Stewart, GA
SARSPEC II: 17-19 Sept., GPSTC, Forsyth, GA
SLC: 10-12 Sept., GPSTC, Forsyth, GA
OPFOR: 24-29 Sept., Fort Stewart, GA
SLC: 24-26Sept., GPSTC, Forsyth, GA
1st Bn Drill: 24-26 Sept., GPSTC, Forsyth, GA

October:

OPFOR: 10-16 Oct., Fort Stewart, GA
FTX: 16-17 Oct, Fort Stewart, GA

November:

AT: 5-7 Nov, Fort Stewart, GA