

PHOENIX RISING

Georgia State Defense Force
5th Brigade Official Newsletter



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Commanding Officer - LTC Michael Worthington

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This Month in Phoenix Rising

- 5th Brigade FTX
- Hawkinsville River Clean Up
- Great Georgia Air Show



Photo: PFC Ted Burzynski

5th Brigade Soldiers Assist in "River Alive" 2010

Story by PFC Ted Burzynski

Photo by PFC Rebekah Uebler

(Hawkinsville, GA) On October 2nd, 2010, The Houston County's Public Works department hosted its first River Alive Clean-Up. Soldiers from the Georgia State Defense Force's 5th Brigade were on site to lend a hand. The clean up kicked off at 9 a.m. and ran until noon.

Teams were separated into groups; some staying on land while others cleaned up on the water. Volunteers picked up debris and anything potentially dangerous to animals and the environment.

"There has been incidents of turtles, for instance, getting trapped in plastic bags, and so what we try to do is pick up all the debris that we can and remove things that would be dangerous to the environment as well as the reptiles and the fish," said Jeff Chandler, coordinator of the event.

The River Alive clean up covered a large area from Houston County to Hawkinsville. River Alive was created in the early 90's to help clean-up river streams, wetlands, and beaches in the state of Georgia.

5th Brigade soldiers on hand for the event were: 1SG Eddie Dumas, LTC Eloy Diaz & Son, CW2 E.S. Holloway, SGT Glen Uebler, CPL Mike Ganas, CPL Ron Jones, PFC Rebekah Uebler, PV2 Ricky Speir, PV1 Walter Thompson

According 1SG Eddie Dumas, "the project was very successful and the beginning of a positive relationship between the 5th Brigade GSDF and the local community.



1SG Eddie Dumas
Photo by PFC Rebekah Uebler

Great Georgia Air Show

PVT Matt Parker on security detail
Photo by PFC Rebekah Uebler



Story by PFC Ted Burzynski

Photos by PFC Rebekah Uebler

(Peachtree City, GA) The Georgia State Defense Force assisted local authorities in providing security, traffic control and medical assistance for the 13th Great Georgia Air Show.

This year's show was produced by the Kiwanis Club of Peachtree City and the Commemorative Air Force (CAF), Dixie Wing which featured military aircraft, civilian aerobatics, historic war birds performing the Battle of Midway and a number of ground activities for both days.

The CAF Dixie Wing showcased its growing collection of vintage World War II and Korean War-era aircraft. The organization, based in Peachtree City, is the Georgia chapter of the Commemorative Air Force, an international non-profit dedicated to restoring and flying vintage American military aircraft.

Georgia State Defense Force Soldiers from all over the State descended upon Falcon Field in Peachtree City to assist not only in security but also to assist in recruiting. According to PFC Rebekah Uebler, "recruiting went very well with a large number of prospective new soldiers for the Georgia State Defense Force.

5th Brigade Field Training Exercise

BY PFC Ted Burzynski

(Ft. Stewart, GA) October 15, 2010, Soldiers from the Georgia State Defense Force's 5th Brigade descended upon the Georgia Guard Training Center (GGTC) to conduct a brigade wide field training exercise.

LTC Michael Worthington was brought in to command the 5th Brigade and since his taking command has successfully raised the standards of the 5th Brigade to make his soldiers the best of the best. The FTX conducted at Fort Stewart was one more in a series of exceptional training events that LTC Worthington has coordinated to accomplish this elevated standard.

The Field Training Exercise was divided into three parts: The HMMWV Egress Awareness Training simulator (HEAT), the (ETS) Electronic Training Simulator, and concluded with participating in one of the Opposing Force (OPFOR) lanes to assist in the training of Georgia National Guard units preparing to deploy for overseas service.

The morning of the 16th of October began with 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions each given a training schedule. The units would each start out in one of the three different training activities and then rotating between the three until all units had completed the scheduled training.



One of the most important training events for the 5th Brigade during the October FTX was the HEAT simulator. SSG Brookings of the Georgia National Guard briefed the soldiers of the Georgia State Defense Force on the HEAT simulator and how to prepare for and properly egress an overturned vehicle.

The HEAT is a mechanical simulation trainer that familiarizes soldiers with the techniques and procedures for egressing a HMMWV that has overturned. It is not a rollover trainer in the sense that it does not replicate the inertial forces experienced by the crew of a HMMWV during a crash. It is a training tool for learning how to safely exit a vehicle and evacuate wounded after the vehicle has overturned. Training in the HEAT progresses from simple scenarios in which all occupants are uninjured to more complex circumstances in which one or more of the occupants are wounded and potentially unconscious.

The HEAT trainer provides soldiers the opportunity to experience vehicle rollover conditions and rehearse and physically execute the steps necessary to survive a vehicle rollover. Conducting this training under controlled conditions afford soldiers the opportunity to gain experience of proper egress procedures, while reinforcing the importance of proper seatbelt/harness utilization, developing awareness of the necessary individual and crew skills needed to execute roll-over procedures, and training tactical perimeter security drills.



The first series of rollover events consisted of a 25 degree rollover followed by a 30 degree rollover and then a 180 and a 360 ending with the vehicle coming to a stop upside down and the troops having to extricate themselves from the vehicle and provide security while the other soldiers recovered from the overturned vehicle.

Engagement Skills Trainer (EST)

The Second phase of the Field Training Exercise consisted of GSDF Soldiers training on the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST). This remarkable simulator allows soldiers to test their marksmanship skills using the M16A2 and the M4 rifles as well as the M240B and the M2 machine guns.

The EST is an interactive combat simulator. Using the EST, Soldiers encounter virtual combat engagements and receive instant feedback from the computer on every shot fired, without the costs or safety risks of firing real ammunition. It tells you everything. The computer calculates time, space and distance to the second. On every shot fired, there's feedback.

As real-life combat scenarios played out a screen before them, the GSDF Soldiers' reactions were collected and analyzed by the computer for review. Depending on what the Soldiers do or don't do, the computer adjusts the scenario. Soldiers using the EST are not limited to firing only M-4s or M-16s. The facility has versions of virtually every weapon system used by the Army.

Each round that the weapons fire at the screen is actually a laser beam that is tracked and analyzed by the EST computer. If the round hits one of the enemy fighters on the screen, the computer adjusts the scenario to show that he has been wounded or killed.

The Windows-based system is capable of immediately diagnosing a shooter's problems by showing the movements of the barrel two seconds before and after impact, making it easier for the instructor to give the Soldier guidance. Once the Soldiers have mastered BRM, the EST can be used for squad tactics training.

When a Soldier fires one of the 11 weapons programmed into the system, an air compressor hidden behind the scenes provides them with recoil that simulates that particular weapon while a studio sound system creates realistic firing sounds and explosions, if applicable.

The instructor-operator station, which is the nerve center for the system, allows the instructor to choose from three modes: marksmanship, collective tasks and a shoot-don't-shoot scenario. The marksmanship and collective tasks modes operate on a computer-generated image program and focus on a variety of shooting skills. The shoot-don't-shoot mode was designed for military police and teaches the judgmental use of force through video-based scenarios.



Pre-mobilization Training Assistance Element (PTAE)

The third and final event was participating as opposing force soldiers during PTAE training for the Georgia National Guard. GSDF soldiers took on the role of the OPFOR for this training.

Prior to the maneuver beginning National Guard Soldiers instructed GSDF personnel on the proper methods for disassembling, cleaning and reassembling the M16A2 rifle. Several GSDF soldiers competed against the instructors in a timed event taking the weapon down and putting it back together. The average time was in the 2-minute range, while the instructors were in the 1-minute range. US Army standards dictate the soldier be able to take it apart in 2 minutes and put it back together in another 2 minutes and an unlimited time on testing the functions. A 2-minute time for GSDF soldiers is exceptional without a doubt.

After the weapons drills were completed, GSDF soldiers were divided into teams with the OPFOR personnel and given their mission briefings for the upcoming drill. Needless to say the training mission was a success.

The importance of this mission lies in saving lives. By Georgia National Guard personnel undergoing the PTAE training it better prepares them for what awaits them down range. Since the GSDF has been functioning in this training role the Georgia National Guard has suffered zero casualties in their missions down range.

Sunday morning following chow, the brigade was moved down to the training ranges and walked through the various PTAE lanes which included but were not limited to building clearing, route movement and security as well as entry point security.



Other News

Visit the *NEW 5th Brigade website* at:

<http://www.wix.com/5thbrigade/g sdf>

View the *Georgia State Defense Force's photo stream* at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/g sdf/>

Digital downloads of the PHOENIX RISING may also be obtained through the Georgia Dept of Defense website.

<http://gadod.net/index.php/news/phoenix-rising>

PLEASE NOTE: There is now a current google calendar on the 5th Brigade website that is updated regularly and that you can link to and download to your own personal calendar.

Send all ad submissions and editorial comments to:

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THIS MONTH IN GEORGIA HISTORY

In November 1732 the Anne set sail from England, carrying James Oglethorpe and Georgia's first colonists, and in 1790 a charter was granted to Congregation Mickve Israel, the oldest Jewish congregation in the South. The final cession of Creek Indian land in Georgia was signed in 1827, and the Okefenokee Campaign of the Second Seminole War began in November 1838.

The last ship to bring slaves from Africa to Georgia, the Wanderer, arrived at Jekyll Island in 1858. During the Civil War, the Battle of Ringgold Gap took place in November 1863, and Union general William T. Sherman set fire to Atlanta on November 15, 1864, before embarking on his destructive March to the Sea. In 1865 Captain Henry Wirz, the commander of Andersonville Prison, became the only person executed for war crimes during the Civil War. The Georgia division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy formed in 1895.

In 1808 the first steamboat appeared on the Savannah River. The headgates of the Augusta Canal were opened for the first time in November 1846, and the Columbus canal was completed one year later. In 1884 construction began on the new capitol building in Atlanta, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta opened in 1914.

