



2BN/1BDE

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Silent Moment – A Memorial Day Remembrance

America has never lacked for heroes- those who exemplify honor, duty, courage, and sacrifice. They don't wear capes or have an "S" on their shirts. They are like you and me- hard working Americans who because of some reason or another elected to become "sheepdogs" in a world filled with wolves.

Some have even made the ultimate sacrifice, giving up their tomorrows so we can have today. In a not so surprising statement at the start of the day's service, Brian McNair, President of the NMDA, said "a question was posed to a group of schoolchildren asking them if they knew what Memorial Day was. The first child to raise his hand said 'it's a day the pool opens early'". If this doesn't elicit a cringe, the fact that this child learned this sentiment from an adult should.

A veteran, concerned that those lost at Pearl Harbor would be forgotten, once asked a former 2BN officer to always remember

those Americans lost there. For the past 11 years, 2BN/1BDE has done just that.

Soldiers of 2BN once again volunteered their time on a day where most people sleep in or take a three-day weekend. "This is what the day is all about. Our brothers and sisters are here" said SSG Wingate (1BDE QRT). A rose ceremony began the day at the Pearl Harbor Memorial, keeping the promise made to the veteran made all those years ago.

BG Bradford was one of the speakers this year, preceding this year's keynote speaker MG Jerome Johnson, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4, FORCECOM at Ft. McPherson. MG Johnson reminded those in attendance that freedom is not free and to remember all those who wear the uniform and say a prayer for them this day. He also reminded the crowd that we still have soldiers (including Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard deployed in harm's way.



PVT Michelle Campbell renders honors for the Pearl Harbor veterans.

2LT Wheeler said "this is my 8th Silent Moment Mission. There's no better way to start this day than by being here". The GASDF is involved in at least 3 Memorial Day services across the state and they only last a few hours. Memorial Day 2010, will you volunteer a few hours for those who gave all or just roll over and hit the snooze? You decide.



BG Bradford speaks with Veterans prior to his speech

BUGOUT FTX

2nd BN will be teaming up with our sister unit, 1BN when they host us at the Rome Armory in June. While officially a BDE readiness exercise, the FTX provides the opportunity for the two units to work side-by-side, hopefully to better communication

between the two units. Should a "real-time" situation arise, any problems would have been identified then rather than during the emergency.

This year, the FTX will also focus on material all GASDF soldiers will be tested on during AT 2009. SGT Scruggs will be working with his

counterpart in the 1st to provide lane-training throughout the day. Soldiers will remain the night at the armory and can expect some sort of night-time training. SGT Scruggs promised that while the training will keep the troops busy, he and LT Turner will keep it fun while providing a preview of AT 2009.

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Check the BN site for more info on:

- Bug Out FTX
- Acworth Beach
- SLC
- AT Prep



CPT Skinner stands ready in front of his tent

Meet Chaplain Skinner

With a big smile and a firm handshake, 2BN's newest officer accepted the position as 2nd Battalion's Chaplain. The only BN level chaplain in the GASDF, CPT Skinner rose from the enlisted ranks and served in the "unofficial" role before his application was signed off on.

Still the soldier's soldier, CPT Skinner says his mission is the individual soldier. His or her well-being, spiritual or otherwise is his primary concern. He chose to stay in the field to be closer to the troops and hopefully, so they would

feel more comfortable talking to him. As he says very plainly "I'm here for them".

A Pastor in the "paying world", CPT Skinner's congregation donated a tent and golf cart for his use during missions. Outfitted with GSDF decals and a horn, be sure to wave and who knows, on a hot sunny day he may even have a bottle of cold water ready to hand to you.



CPT Skinner in his "popo mobile"

"I have to follow them. I am their leader."

Alexandre-Auguste Ledru-Rollin

McCoy FEMA Award

Named in honor of former 2BN PFC Adohan McCoy (currently serving with 121st, NAANG), the "McCoy FEMA Award" is awarded to the soldier who completes 25 or more FEMA courses. PFC McCoy created more than a stir with the GASDF S1 Shop when he turned in over 50 completed courses.

The 2BN S1 confirmed he had all of his transcripts and PFC McCoy was recognized

for his dedication to going well above and beyond what was required. He inspired an unofficial competition amongst 2BN troops to either beat or match his feat. Soldiers who complete 25 FEMA Courses have his/her name inscribed on a plaque which hangs in the 2BN Office at the Marietta Armory. So far, 3 others have accepted the challenge with a few more getting close. Are you up to it?



The McCoy FEMA Award

Promotions

The end of May brought some welcome news to some of 2nd BN's soldiers. Prior to the commencement of the Silent Moment Mission, 4 soldiers received promotions.

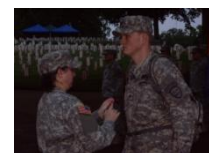
CPL Weeks, CPL Brett, and CPL Wilson were all

promoted to E-5. PVT Jefferson received his promotion to E-3. SGT Weeks is currently serving as Squad Leader, 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, A Company and SGT Brett is the current Team Leader, 1st Squad, 2nd Platoon, A Company. SGT Wilson is currently serving

as a Team Leader, 3rd Squad, 1st Platoon, A Company. PFC Jefferson, the BN Guidon bearer, is currently with 1st Squad, 2nd Platoon, A Company. Congratulations to these soldiers. HOOAH!



Gregory Brett being pinned by MAJ Amie Toole



Travis Weeks promoted to E-5 by BN Commander MAJ Amie Toole

SARSPEC Graduation

As the senior officer for the recent SARSPEC II Course conducted by the 4th BN, Major Amie Toole knew it'd be a challenge to keep up with several seasoned NCOs. Less than a 1/3 of the original class actually passed the course and your Battalion Commander was one of those to earn the right to wear the SARSPEC Tab.

The purpose of the class was not only to train another group of GASDF soldiers,

but to also utilize the skills and training received and pass it along to their parent battalions.

The Commanding General has mandated that all GASDF soldiers attain a SARSPEC III certification and as many soldiers as who are able go on for their SARSPEC II tabs. The core curriculum is currently being reviewed by G-3 and there are high hopes it'll be ready as soon as the start of 2010.

In the interim, individual battalions will continue conducting SAR training (classroom and field exercises) to prepare soldiers for the rigorous course. MAJ Toole told her staff that "they were not kidding. You need to be physically fit to complete this course". At the conclusion on AT 2008, BG Bradford ordered all SDF troops to begin some sort of exercise program. From the feedback received by SARSPEC grads, listen.



MAJ Amie Toole

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When ordered by the Adjutant General, the Georgia State Defense Force provides an organized, trained, disciplined, rapid response uniformed force. Volunteers respond to needs and emergency situations as defined by the Adjutant General or the Governor, and assist local authorities where such missions do not conflict.

The Georgia State Defense Force is a legally constituted element of the Georgia Department of Defense, serving in support of the national and state constitutions under direction of the Governor and the Adjutant General of the State of Georgia.

[United States Code, Title 32, Section 109](#)

For more info about joining 2nd BN, please contact CPL Hintz at mkhintz@aol.com

"Second to None!"



Recruit! Recruit! Recruit!

2nd BN/1st BDE is currently recruiting! BG Bradford has challenged each soldier to bring one new recruit by AT2009. Remember, we're looking for dedicated people who have a strong desire and commitment to serve their fellow citizens. For more information, please contact CPL Morgan Hintz.