



Georgia State Defense Force

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2BN/1BDE of GSDF Conducts FTX with Henry County EMA

Atlanta Motor Speedway was scene of joint training for GSDF and Henry County

MARIETTA, Ga., June 20, 2011 – Officers and enlisted personnel of 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade of the Georgia State Defense Force (GSDF) attended a field training exercise (FTX) organized by the Henry County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) at the Atlanta Motor Speedway on Saturday, June 18, 2011. A total of 64 troops from 2nd Battalion joined personnel from the EMA, Henry County Sheriff's Department, Police Department, and dog handlers with the Georgia Piedmont Region K-9 Search and Rescue Team. Scenarios included missing person incidents, calls for aeromedical evacuation, and other eventualities that can – and do – occur when upwards of 120,000 people gather at the vast complex on race days.

“This was a great stress test of our command and control capabilities, communications, and individual soldier,” said Cpt. Michael Kent, commander of 2nd Battalion. “And it was a prime opportunity to show Henry County what our unit is capable of. We’re definitely looking forward to furthering our relationship with Henry County.”

“The exercise went very well,” said Don Ash, director of Emergency Management for Henry County. “The individual commands and stakeholders gelled well. From our perspective, this is a great investment to partner with the GSDF. They will be a great addition to our emergency management team. I would encourage everyone to look to the GSDF both as a potential asset and, for our citizens, as a way of serving your local community.”

The Georgia State Defense Force is an all-volunteer, military branch of the Georgia Department of Defense, which is a state agency, and serves alongside the Georgia National Guard. Constituted under state and federal law and directed by Georgia’s governor and adjutant general, the mission of the GSDF is to provide an organized, trained, disciplined, rapid response volunteer force to assist state and local government agencies and civil relief organizations during emergencies to ensure the welfare and safety of the citizens of Georgia.

For more information about the Georgia State Defense Force or to request an interview, please contact 2nd Lt. Timothy Wheeler at 404-644-1844 or timothy.wheeler@gasdf.us. For those interested in volunteering, please contact Cpl. Bobby Haygood at 404.384.0282 or bobby.haygood@second2none.us.