

American Legion Department of Georgia
National Security/Homeland Security Committee
Fall Conference Report

1. Committee convened at 1300hrs, 24 October 2009 at the Marietta, Georgia conference site. Meeting lasted for one hour. Sixty-three (63) persons were in attendance.
2. Topics Discussed included the following:
 - a. National Security Issues from American Legion National Fall 2009 conference National Security Commission/Committee meeting
 - i. Confirmed support for the Global War on Terror (GWOT) extending existing resolution.
 - ii. Confirmed support of military families in these turbulent times.
 - iii. Discussed Absentee Military Voting
 - iv. Continue support of the US Coast Guard in Homeland Security.
 - v. Support the “not” counting of VHA as income for active service members in computations for “affordable” housing”
 - vi. Confirmed support of the “Don’t ask don’t tell policy” as outlined in Resolution 118, 82nd National Convention, Sep 5-7, 2000.
 - b. Pandemic-Swine Flu in the South East USA
 - i. October 2009 shows Swine Flu on critical rise in our region.
 - ii. President declared a national emergency on 23 October 2009
 - iii. Precautions outlined, reporting discussed, refer all questions to Legionnaires County Public Health
 - c. War in Afghanistan
 - i. General Barry McCaffrey outline of critical issues facing the Obama Administration was highlighted and handed out. See: http://www.afa.org/edop/2009/McCaffrey-Challenges_Aug09.pdf
 - ii. Guest Speaker related experience assisting General Chrystal’s assessment of the Afghanistan War and his request for increased troop strength. See: <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/report/2009/090830-afghan-assessment/index.htm> Noted that role of increased Counter Insurgency operations was a continuum of decisions made at least 1.5 years ago. The roles of COIN and Direct Action are not in conflict. But are mutually supporting.
 - d. CERT and Citizen’s Corps support by Legion Posts in Georgia was discussed. Report by Post 77, Conyers, on their CERT training and support for the FALL 2009 Flood Emergency was covered.
 - e. Emergency Management in the American Legion. The new [American Legion booklet for disaster preparation](#) was reviewed. Posts were encouraged to begin disaster planning and integration with their communities. Please see:
 - i. War on Terrorism: Guide to building public awareness. http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/res169booklet_07.pdf

- ii. Disaster Preparedness and Response for Am Legion Posts.
http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/disaster_07.pdf
 - iii. Illegal Immigration Policy.
<http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/illegalimmigration.pdf>
3. Meeting adjourned at 1400hrs. More time for the meeting would have been beneficial. Report submitted to the Department Executive Committee, 1000hrs, 25 October 2009.

Respectfully Submitted,

Larry A. Hoff
Chairman