

# GAFC FIRESIDE



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Volume 6 # 1

Feature: Fire Service 5 Year Strategic Plan:  
**Goal 14 – Physical Fitness and Wellness**  
Thomasville Fire Dept. (*setting an example*) page 2



## President's Message

by: **President David Kimbrell**

**ZADROGA**-The Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act was passed by the U.S. Congress. We championed the cause for our brothers and sisters in NY as well as all our public safety allies who are, or will be, subjected to the aftermath of terrorism attacks.

**FIREFIGHTER RECOGNITION**- The annual event at the state capitol this month was extra rewarding. Listening to the remarks made by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Senators, Representatives and other officials were sincere and had a tone of understanding regarding the financial hit the Fire Service and our allied public safety personnel are taking. For those who stated that their doors were open to hear our concerns, one got the feeling they meant it. We're hopeful.

**FIRE SERVICE STRATEGIC PLAN** -The initial work began last month for a new 2011-2016 plan. Research on trends and issues throughout the country is the first activity, with interviews of Fire Service stakeholders to follow (Forestry Service, Fire Marshal's Office, Associations, etc).

The **VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. QUALITY MGMT** pilot course (1st of 3 sessions) was held in Moultrie last month. The first class of 28 attendees gave the session an excellent rating. The Fire Academy-GAFC project is to be held in three GEMA Areas this year.

## 911 Directors Sign Fire Service Unification Pact

From L to R - GSFA Pres. Scott Carter, 911 Directors Pres. Greg Whitaker, 911 Director Sheryl Hobbs (Peach County) and GAFC Pres. David Kimbrell.



Photos from Firefighter Recognition Day 2-2-11  
Left - Honor Guard -Athens-Clarke Co. F & E Serv. (Pipe and Drum Corp. from Valdosta F.D.)

**1. Gov. Deal, 2. Ins.& Safety Fire Comm. Hudgens, 3. Rep. Bearden, Chair, Public Safety & H.L. Security, 4. Lt. Gov. Cagle, 5. Senator Mullis, Public Safety Ex-Officio, 6. Senator Grant, Public Safety.**

**GOAL AREA 14 -TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY GAFC and 1st VP Chief Bryan Croft**

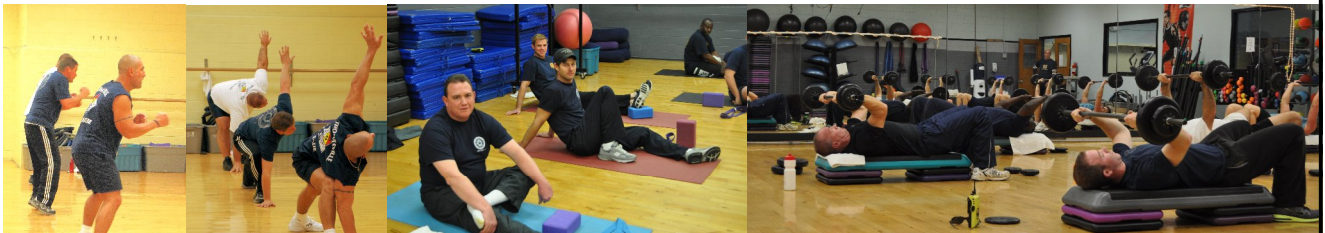
For the Fire Service Strategic Plan to be implemented, initiative needs to be taken by Fire Departments, Chiefs, Association leaders and everyone else in a leadership position. Hall County Fire Service staff led the Spring '09 GAFC Conference attendees on the subject of nutrition; the Marietta Fire Department gave members a demonstration on the Cross Fit exercise method, and now, Thomasville Fire Rescue is being recognized for an aggressive strength building program conducted in cooperation with their local YMCA. Many other fire departments in the state have initiated programs to support Goal 14. We are committed to supporting the 16 Firefighter Life Saving Initiatives. [Everyone Goes Home]. Item 6 addresses physical fitness.

David Kimbrell, President



“We must look at the health of our personnel from an overall risk management perspective. We invest a lot of time and money to make sure we have well-trained, educated Firefighters. It only makes sense to do what we can to improve the overall health of our people so they can perform at the highest level possible for all the citizens we serve. We do not want our personnel to become statistics. “

Bryan Croft, Chief



“The partnership we have with our local YMCA is amazing, and the support from our citizens and from the community is great! This also gives us an opportunity to meet and get to know more of our citizens. Some have even joined us in workouts. We don’t want to see our citizens only when they need us for a fire or medical emergencies or even when they’re having a bad day. This program has helped us stay connected and has strengthened our community relations. “

Tim Connell, Assistant Chief



Thomasville



**HOW TO REPORT YOUR PARTICIPATION-(A STATEWIDE PROJECT OF GAFC)**  
**National Fire Service Seat Belt Pledge Campaign**  
**Instructions on GAFC Home Page: [WWW.GAFC.COM](http://WWW.GAFC.COM)**