

# Martin...continued from Page 1A



**U.S. Soldiers march by Freedom Plaza along Pennsylvania Avenue during the 58th Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 20. More than 5,000 military members from across all branches of the armed forces of the United States, including Reserve and National Guard components, provided ceremonial support and Defense Support of Civil Authorities during the inaugural period. DoD Photo/U.S. Army Sgt. Kalie Jones**

guards, and we'll practice marching in the 9-by-9s, which is nine people long and nine people wide," said Martin. "This past Sunday morning (Jan. 15), we were up at 2 a.m. We left base, went to Downtown D.C. and actually went through the inaugural parade."

Seaman Martin said that the big dress rehearsal before the actual day was a sight to behold, as more than 5,000 members of the U.S. Armed Forces participated during the inaugural period.

Following the inauguration of President Donald Trump last Friday, Martin served in the inaugural parade as part of the Navy Color Guard. He performed in the marching element during the parade, and presented the Navy colors at an inaugural ball afterward.

"I think the inauguration shows that we can all come together and work as a team, that as the armed forces we can come together and still have a peaceful changeover like we've had for the past 200 or

so years," said Martin.

The *North Georgia News* spoke with Seaman Martin just prior to the inauguration, though Martin did say that what he was looking forward to most was attending one of the formal dances after the parade.

"I'm looking forward to the inaugural ball – that'll be pretty fun," said Martin.

Seaman Martin wished to say that he was thankful for all the support he receives back home in Blairsville.

# Weather...continued from Page 1A



**The storm spotting class was well attended, hosted by Union County Fire Department Station No. 1. Photo/Lily Avery**

eyes out in the communities," said Nadler. "It's important to have people who can actually see what's going on. We don't have enough radars and weather stations, and satellites can only show so much of what's happening out in the state. Having civilians who provide information allows for us at the station to see the full picture of what's going on."

"We do these classes because we want to make sure that people know what to report and how to report. We really do rely on people who are out in the communities. For example, letting us know during winter weather how much snow you got, where you got it and how the roads are. It's all valuable information."

Nadler first began the course by describing the difference between various storm clouds and what they can indicate, such as a wall cloud, shelf cloud and a funnel cloud. According to Nadler, a wall cloud can sometimes be an indicator of a tornado, as well as a funnel cloud. A shelf cloud, on the other hand, is less likely to be associated with tornados and generally points to a thunderstorm.

While many may not associate Georgia with tornados, Nadler urged those present to be mindful of the clouds seen and to contact the National Weather Service in Atlanta promptly if anything seems suspicious due to an increase in tornados over the last 20 years.

Although Tornado Alley is a well-known name for the middle to eastern region of the country that receives many tornados during the winter and spring months, the southeast has an alley of its own now, Dixie Alley.

"This is a newer defined area of the southeastern region



**Union County Fire Chief David Dyer**

for tornados and severe weather called Dixie Alley," said Nadler. "Over the last 10 to 15 years, there have been a lot of tornados over the southeast, including the April of 2011 outbreak that will go down in history as one of the largest tornado outbreaks to ever hit the country."

"The thing that makes this area unique is that the number of tornados that can cause a number of fatalities have increased over the last 10 years in this part of the country. It's important to recognize that you are close to an area that is prone to tornados."

According to Nadler, there have been a lot of recent research efforts and studies that have been executed in the area in recent years to better understand why the southeast has become a tornado hub.

However, unlike the research performed in the Tornado Alley region of the country, terrain is difficult to maneuver around because of the higher elevation and decreased line of sight.

"Typically, we see about 26 tornados hit across the state of Georgia in a year," said Nadler. "Last year, the state was a little below that with only 18 tornados. Throughout the year, in Georgia alone, tornados can occur at any time, although the number does drop off during June, July and August because of the change of wind direction."

Nadler continued to explain how, while Union County may not be affected by tornados frequently, citizens still need to be aware of the possibility and share any alarming cloud activity with the National Weather Service.

To call in severe weather spotting, log on to the National Weather Service website at [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) and follow the link to SKYWARN storm spotters to relay information.

The *North Georgia News* offers its sincerest condolences for the residents who lost their lives in severe storms over the weekend in neighboring Georgia counties to the south.