



# GaRRT and Food Defense Response for SUPERBOWL LIII

## Background

- The Super Bowl is considered a SEAR 1 event, the highest level of a Special Event Assessment Rating. Here in Georgia, numerous agencies at the federal, state and local level prepared for Super Bowl LIII to come to Atlanta in Feb. 2019. More than 1 million people were estimated to have traveled in to attend various entertainment/events during the 10-day time period leading up to Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 3.
- At the Georgia Department of Agriculture, food protection professionals were trained over several months in preparation for the food defense response—both internal agency trainings and external training with other regulatory partners and food industry representatives. The main focus for the GDA was on food defense, and the GDA's role was primarily for food sample collections of on-site operations within the Super Bowl LIII footprint.
- Georgia's Food & Feed Rapid Response Team (GA RRT) went into full-activation for the Super Bowl, using the framework of incident command (under the National Incident Management System). In advance of the event, GDA put forth significant efforts for logistical planning and preparation, including the implementation of new procedures for sampling hot food items. Manufactured food inspectors also collected advanced surveillance samples from 11 food processors in Georgia who were planning to supply food for the Super Bowl. During the event's 10-day operational period, food samples were collected by GDA inspectors from food vendors, tested for both microbial and chemical analysis. The inspection team included people who rotated out, with some staff participating in several ongoing response efforts both inside the event footprint, at the Georgia State Operations Center (SOC), and the operational basecamp at GDA Headquarters in Atlanta. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Food Safety & Inspection Service (USDA FSIS) were also part of the team conducting sampling operations and food defense outreach.

## After Action Review

- Planning is great. Relationships are everything.
- Touring sites in advance assisted with supply, planning, logistical needs and assisted with complaint investigations.
- Labs were able to expand on the types of items that they tested.
- Dry runs of facilities and meeting people in advance gave a comfort factor and assisted with meeting objectives.
- Having a script assisted with telling inspectors what to expect and say while in the field.
- In a high-volume crowd, 3+ people on strike team is a best practice to protect the pulled samples.
- More training needs to occur on the difference between "food defense" and "food safety".
- Safety Briefings were excellent; situational awareness and daily reminders were important.
- Hit target sample goal. (The total number of samples pulled was impacted by the Government shutdown.)
- Great job by the Logistics Section planning routes around road closures and 1-way streets.

## Considerations for Future Events

- **WHAT IF...** there had been a winter storm and we needed to store or hold samples?
- **WHAT HAPPENS...** if there is a power outage (or certain components not working over weekends/late hours – such as elevators and heat). While it's hard to consider all variables, it's important to walk through as many potential situations as possible beforehand
- **ALSO CONSIDER...** how you can back-fill positions on the ICS organization chart (important to have more than one person trained for each position within the structure). While it's hard to consider all variables, it's important to walk through as many potential situations as possible beforehand
- **TRAINING...** while it's hard to consider all variables, it's important to walk through as many potential situations as possible beforehand.

## Sampling

### Sampling Hot Food



Sampling hot held food or food that was just prepared for consumption (at a hot temperature) was not done prior to the Super Bowl by GDA staff and there were not existing procedures in place for hot sampling. Fulton County Board of Health focused on food safety and other environmental health operations. While there were no issues for cold food items, it was going to be a challenge for hot items. A hot food sampling protocol was established and validated during Super Bowl LIII. GDA was able to make a plan to ensure it would work for our needs; attempting to conduct target & random sampling, with consistent temperature control to create that "snapshot" of what a customer would consume.

### Time Clock



Time was a factor that connects the dots between sampling the food and getting the samples to the lab for testing. To create a better bacteriological picture of the sample (the truest snapshot), GDA planned for a 3.5 hour window. The clock began when the first hot sample was pulled. The samples were placed in coolers, with cooling mediums and a temperature control but those cooling mediums were not sufficient to properly store those samples. It was more crucial to get these samples back to the labs where samples could be properly stored or begin testing in a proper amount of time.

### Logistics



Logistics was responsible for creating courier assignments, practicing the travel routes, getting to and from locations via couriers, then testing here at GDA HQ (micro) or GDA Tifton Lab (chemical), handling on-site questions. Logistics was also in charge of existing inventory, gathering supplies for sampling and prep. Logistical Operations requires detailed planning in advance. Our Food Defense Unified Commander participated at the Atlanta Police Department Logistical Planning meetings, which helped provide the bigger picture and informed IMT of logistical requirements.

## Planning

### Operations Briefing



- Throughout the event, the GA RRT drafted incident action plans (IAPs) for each day's objectives and assignments. The Daily IMT Operational Briefing began at 10:30AM; report-outs included updates from the State Operation Center (SOC), public information and safety officer. This event tested capabilities within the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN), GDA lab collaboration with the FDA Southern Food & Feed Lab, and the USDA FSIS lab. GA RRT also supported updates to the WebEOC framework for food sampling, laboratory, investigations, embargoes, and other regulatory actions that may be taken during a large-scale event, such as a Super Bowl.

### Sampling Strike Team Assignment Chart



- Strike Team consisted of one lead inspector and 2+ additional inspectors. Scheduling was created for the full 10 – day Super Bowl Week. Inspectors were assigned to either Centennial Olympic Park, one of Georgia State University's dining halls, or the Georgia World Congress Center. Responders began sampling operations directly after the daily Operational Briefing at the 3 locations: Centennial Olympic Park, Mercedes Benz Stadium & Georgia State University.

### Sampling Training at District Office

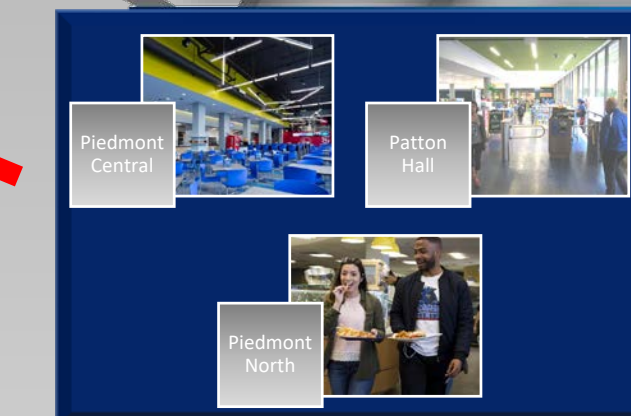


- Intensive training sessions were conducted in Jan. 2019 at the Atlanta Forest Park District Office for the GDA RRT members, where team members prepared for the 10-day period. An overall Super Bowl LIII briefing run through was conducted, as well as sampling demos and hands-on practice performed by all attendees. Previous collaborative training was also conducted in Dec. 2018 with various agencies from within the Unified Command at U.S. Foods in preparation of the hands on training.

## Centennial Olympic Park



## GA Dept. of Ag

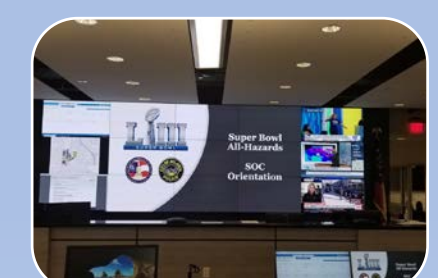


## First Responder Dining Sites

## State Operations Center



All Hazard Incident Command



SOC Operations



USDA FSIS (IMT Ops at Atlanta Federal Center)

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