

The Nexus

Volume IV, Issue 1

Winter 2016



Our Mission: To provide highly skilled personnel, specialized equipment and facilities as requested by Law Enforcement Agencies and Community Based Organizations in response to a changing drug threat.

THE COLONEL'S CORNER



I want to take this opportunity to say a heart felt thank you for all the hard work and dedication each and every one of you put into the New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. It has been my sincere honor and privilege to serve with you for the last two and a half years. As many of you may know, I will be leaving the CDTF on 8 April and returning to my position at the New York State Intelligence Center with the New York State Police. I will continue to serve as the JFHQ-J2 on the M-Day side of the house.

the intent of highlighting the accomplishments of our organization and its Soldiers and Airmen. All too often we overlook or simply don't hear of the many contributions you make to New York's LEAs and CBOs on a daily basis. This newsletter will serve to tell the CDTF's story and I welcome your input and suggestions to make this an excellent product. Again, it's been my honor to work with you, and thank you for all you do every day not only for our partner agencies, but for the NYNG and the people of our State.

~COL Michel Natali

We are re-instituting our quarterly newsletter, here at the CDTF, with

THE CSM: EYES RIGHT!

Greetings NY Counterdrug, Hope everyone is well. For those who aren't aware, the program has grown at a rapid rate over the last few months. I would like to start out by welcoming all the recent hires to the team. I know it may feel a bit overwhelming and challenging at first, but don't be afraid or hesitate to ask questions. I encourage you to talk to other Analysts or Civil Operators and develop those networks.

There are a lot of great Counterdrug training opportunities available throughout the year. It is great to see so many members taking ad-

vantage of the training that's available. I highly encourage you to capitalize on them if they are going to benefit you and your mission. However, I am going to reiterate the importance of prioritizing and justifying the need for certain training events. Do not allow these training opportunities to interfere with your M-Day schedule or the support you provide to your respective agencies. You are not going to be of much help to them if you are TDY every other week.

Our program is providing invaluable assistance across the state on a daily basis to a great number of agencies. We have members that are

doing some really great work. It is imperative that we capture this. Whether it is through end of month reports, seizure reports, or news releases, it is critical that we share our story and capture your efforts.

We are in the last quarter for evaluations. Make sure you are counseling those members you rate and adhering to the established baseline.

I would like to close by congratulating 1SG Simsick, MSG Marcinkowski, and SFC Wolfe on their retirements. I would also like to recognize SrA Frye, SSgt Williams, SSgt Ng, SPC Wickham, SSgt Arrigo, TSgt Dziamba, SGT Kaloust, and SSgt Bauer for their contributions while with our program. I would also like to wish

SGT Vintonyak and SFC Villalobos a safe and happy return from their deployments. Thank you all for your service and we wish you the best of luck.

Stay safe and keep up the great work!

~CSM Joseph Freyn



Check us out at: <http://dmna.ny.gov/counterdrug/>

Meet the New Adjutant General for New York State



Maj. Gen. Anthony German, the commander of the New York Air National Guard, and the Assistant Adjutant General of New York, has been selected as the 53rd adjutant general of New York by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo. He replaces Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy who will become Director of Plans, Policy, and International Affairs for the National Guard Bureau.

ALBANY, N.Y. - Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced today his selection of Maj. Gen. Anthony German as the 53rd Adjutant General of New York.

German is an Oneonta, New York, resident who currently commands the New York Air National Guard and also serves as Assistant Adjutant General.

German will replace Major General Patrick Murphy, who, after serving as Adjutant General since 2010, will follow-on to serve as Director of Strategy, Plans, Policy, and International Affairs for the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C.

"Gen. Anthony German has a distinguished record as a National Guard leader dedicated to serving our nation and state," Cuomo said. "He brings with him a wealth of experience and

knowledge in military affairs and in his new role will continue his commitment to strengthening the readiness of our military."

"I would like to thank General Patrick Murphy for his many contributions to the New York National Guard," Cuomo continued. "General Murphy has done an exceptional job as adjutant general. He embodies the service and leadership that the National Guard stands for and I wish him the best as he begins an important new challenge."

"I'm honored to be selected by Gov. Cuomo to lead the men and women who serve in our New York National Guard," German said. The current Adjutant General, MG Patrick Murphy, has been an outstanding leader and mentor for our

Soldiers and Airmen, and I look forward to taking on this new responsibility.

"In the past decade, the men and women of the New York Army and Air National Guard have been in combat in Afghanistan, responded to natural disasters here at home, and served around the world, and they have done it all well. I am humbled that the governor has trusted me to lead them," he added.

German was commissioned in the United States Air Force in 1983 as an aircraft navigator and joined the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing in 1989. The 109th Airlift Wing, based at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, flies the LC-130 aircraft, the only ski-equipped aircraft in the U.S. military. The wing provides support to the National Science Foundation's research efforts in Antarctica and Greenland.

German commanded the wing from 2006 to 2010. He served as Chief of Staff of the New York Air National Guard from 2010 to 2015 and played a key role in coordinating New York Air Guard participation in the New York National Guard response to Tropical Storms Irene and Lee in 2011 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

German has also served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Reserve Affairs as the Department of Defense Liaison Officer to the National Science Foundation. He recently completed a 30 day assignment as Acting Director of the Air National Guard.

German is a master navigator with over 4,900 flying hours in the C-130 Hercules and other aircraft.

As Adjutant General of New York, German will be responsible for the readiness and training of the 10,300 members of the New York Army National Guard and the 5,600 members of the New York Air National Guard.

The Adjutant General is also responsible for the New York Naval Militia, a force of 2,900 personnel, the bulk of whom are currently serving members of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Reserve who also volunteer to serve on state duty during emergencies.

Another 600 people serve as volunteers in the New York Guard, a state force that assists the National Guard during emergencies.

German holds a degree from SUNY Oneonta and is a graduate of the United States Naval War College and the Senior Reserve Component Officer Course, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Among his awards are the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Aerial Achievement Medal, the Combat Readiness Medal, the Antarctica Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

German lives in Oneonta with his wife Diana. They have four children: Josh, Ben, Zach, and Bekah.

His son, Capt Joshua German, is a pilot in the New York Air National Guard's 174th Attack Wing, and his son SSgt Ben German is a public affairs non-commissioned officer for the 109th Airlift Wing. General German will assume his new duties as "TAG" in April.

Story by Eric Durr

Check us out at: <http://dmna.ny.gov/counterdrug/>

Meet and Greet from the Public Affairs Office

Welcome to the New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force's revamped newsletter, "The Nexus". The goal of this publication is to have a predictable, practical way of keeping CDTF members informed of what is going on around the state as well as allowing outsiders a glimpse of

what we do. Through this bulletin, we will introduce new members to the NYNG CDTF as well as say farewell to departing colleagues. We will discuss important procedures that individuals may not be aware of or remind you of reoccurring tasks that must be completed. There will also be

stories of accomplishments our members have reached individually and collectively as a team, or we might even discuss events conducted within communities and with other organizations. There will also be congratulatory articles on well-deserved achievements and last hoorahs for those who are retiring. We

here at the (newly formed) Public Affairs Office would also like to encourage anyone to feel free to pass along any information, stories, or photos that may be of any interest to others across CDTF through this pamphlet.

~TSgt Stephen J Girolami

J3 / Civil Operations



Captain Joseph J. Moeller, a native of Lake Luzerne, NY, was commissioned as an Armor Officer through ROTC, while also graduating as a distinguished military graduate in 2010 at Norwich University, VT.

Captain Moeller completed the Armor Officer Basic Course and the Army Reconnaissance Course at Ft. Knox, KY. His first assignment was with the 8-1 Cavalry, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA in 2011 where he served as a cavalry scout platoon leader. In the summer of 2011, CPT Moeller attended the Reconnaissance Surveillance Leaders Course at Fort Benning, GA. Upon completion and certification at the National Training Center, he deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Kandahar City, Afghanistan,

in the spring of 2012. Halfway through deployment, CPT Moeller became a Cavalry Troop Executive Officer and began preparing his Troop for redeployment. Following completion of redeployment and Troop reset, CPT Moeller became the Squadron Maintenance Officer. CPT Moeller transitioned from active duty and joined the NYNG in summer 2014 as an Officer Candidate School instructor with the RTI. In spring 2015, he joined the 2-108th and began the transition of taking command.

Captain Moeller's military education includes the Armor Officer Basic Course, Air Assault, Army Reconnaissance Course, Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leaders Course, Tactics Certification Course as well as attending the Reserve Component Maneuver Captain's Career Course.

Captain Moeller's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, and Air Assault Badge.

Captain Moeller resides in Ballston Spa, NY, with his wife Nichole.

Counterdrug Task Force

CPT Moeller was a Civil Operations project officer from August of 2014 until September 2014; he was then brought on in January 2015 as the Civil Operations OIC and became the Operations (J3) OIC in January 2016.

Civil Operations:

Civil Operations is a multifaceted initiative that focuses on drug abuse prevention and community strengthening. Working in conjunction with the NY Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) and Prevention Resource Centers (PRC), Civil Operators provide unique military skills to community based organizations and coach them into finding local solutions to local problems. Civil Operators provide resources to often underfunded organizations with the intent of serving as a force multiplier; some resources include: the military decision making, troop leading procedure process, strategic prevention framework implementation, data sharing enhancement between law enforcement and the coalitions, community assessment to identify the communities root cause issue (using ASCOPE and PMESII-PT), and kaizen self-assessment.

Civil Operations also manages linguist missions. We currently have three dedicated linguists on

the program who speak Russian, French, and Mandarin.

One of their missions is in supporting translation of Kansas University's Community Tool Box, an online resource that contains over 7,000 pages of practical information for community assessment, strategic planning, evaluation, and sustainability. The Community Tool Box is currently used by over five million users in 230 countries. Our linguists support this mission by translating the documents in order to reach a broader audience and make prevention assets more available worldwide. CDTF linguists also provide direct support to law enforcement agencies by translating material and assisting them with cultural understanding associated with the specific language.

A major need state wide has been prescription pill drop boxes. We have identified over 20 counties in New York with no prescription pill drop boxes, and many other counties have two or fewer drop boxes. Governor Cuomo and NYNG CDTF have identified prescription drug usage as one of the highest threats to New York. With the lead of Civil Operations, a mission is underway to get prescription pill drop boxes in every county and get help communities dispose of them properly to keep these drugs out of the hands of people who are looking to abuse them.

Check us out at: <http://dmna.ny.gov/counterdrug/>

Civil Ops Drop Box Program



TSgt Michael Crouse, an Aero-medical Evacuation Technician with the 139th AES since 2007, was a full-time member of 109AW Base Honor Guard from 2009-2014 and still serves as Cadre for the 109th Airlift Wing Student Flight. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Business, Management, and Economics.

TSgt Crouse is the state NCOIC for the Prescription Drug Drop Box Program within the NYNG CDTF. The program is designed to collect and dispose of expired and unused prescription medications anonymously and safely, decreasing the chances and likelihood of drugs being abused and trafficked in our communities. Prescription drug abuse is the second biggest narcotic problem facing our communities behind heroin.

Our Civil Operators are a key component working with local Law Enforcement Agencies and coalitions throughout the state, implementing, and coordinating this mission. The initial goal is to have a minimum of one drop box in every county and a more accessible number of drop boxes for counties who presently have them.

~ TSgt Michael Crouse



MSgt Jessica Ramirez and TSgt Michael Crouse stand by a Prescription Drug Drop Box (similar to receptacles CDTF will help facilitate placement throughout NY state), located in the lobby of the New York State Police Troop G Headquarters, in Latham New York on 15 March, 2016.



An example of the many boxes that are being distributed across the state through the Prescription Drug Drop Box Program. The goal is to have a minimum of one box in every county by 2 September 2016.



Counter Drug Detection Unit (CDU)



MSgt Jason S. Robelotto serves as the noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) of the Counterdrug Detection Unit (CDU) for the New York Counterdrug Task Force. The CDU is a three person unit that is comprised of a multitude of counterdrug detection assets that are available to assist law enforcement agencies. MSgt Robelotto enlisted in the New York Air National Guard, 109th Airlift Wing in 2003 and was assigned to the Aero-medical Evacuation Squadron, Medical Materiel's section until 2015.

He is currently the 109th Medical Group First Sergeant.

MSgt Robelotto grew up in Sand Lake, New York and has been a police officer since 2000; he is employed by the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Office as a patrol sergeant and a general topics instructor, defensive tactics instructor, and a certified K-9 handler. MSgt Robelotto is also a volunteer firefighter with the Averill Park Sand Lake Fire Department.

MSgt Robelotto's education includes an Associate Degree in Applied Science from Hudson Valley Community College, a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Columbia Southern University, and a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Columbia Southern University.

SPC Andrew Long is a member of the CDU Team and has been in the New York Army National Guard since August of 2012 as a 92Y

(Unit Supply Specialist) for Echo Company 427 BSB. SPC Long joined the Counterdrug Task Force in July of 2014 working in the J4 section and then transitioned to the CDU team in August of 2015. In his new role, SPC Long assists in the tracking of all illicit detection equipment for the program and operation of the Rapiscan.

SGT Robert Vanderwerken enlisted in the Army National Guard as an 88M (Truck Driver) in April of 2009. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2012 while

assigned to E 427 BSB. SGT Vanderwerken was hired to work with the New York Counterdrug Task Force (NYCDTF) as a Rapiscan GaRDS-Mobile operator in March 2015. As part of the newly formed CDU team, he tracks all of the illicit detection equipment utilized by members of the NYNG CDTF, as well as maintaining and operating the GaRDS-Mobile.

~MSgt J. Robelotto



Check us out at: <http://dmna.ny.gov/counterdrug/>

J1 / J8

J1/J8 Helpful Information

CPE Requirements - Army personnel who are on orders for the entire FY16 are required to complete two APFT's during the fiscal year.

Awards and Decorations - Recognize our personnel for the great things that they do while working with CD. Call J1 if you have any questions on the process of completing an AAM, ARCOM, AFAM, or AFCM.

Promotions - If you have an upcoming promotion, don't forget to tell your chain of command so they can inform J1. We track this for budget planning purposes. Let us know as soon as you know that you will be promoted.

Post 9-11 GI Bill (Ref: <https://news.clearancejobs.com/2016/02/29/post-911-gi-bill-change-could-affect-dependent-education-benefits/>)

Legislative changes currently being discussed on the Hill could change the rules allowing service members to transfer Post -9/11 GI Bill educational benefits to immediate family member(s).

Transfer Eligibility - Right now, basic transfer-of-education benefits (TEB) eligibility covers active duty service members, both officer and enlisted, who have served at least six years since September 10, 2001, and who agree to serve an additional four years. Certain Selected Reservists also have some eligibility under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Go to the VA's website to read about all of the eligibility criteria.

Early on, one of the proposed House of Representative changes to the New GI Bill would have lengthened the time served from six years to ten before a

transfer request could be submitted. The follow-on commitment would have changed from four years down to two. However, in the final bill approved by the House, that change was thrown out and left at six and four years, respectively.

The Changes - The change that did make it through the House and is causing quite a stir, was cutting the Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) for a child using transferred Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits in half. Under the current rule, a dependent child receives full authorized MHA based on the zip code of the school, the number of credits taken and tier percentage; the MHA is paid at the E-5-with-dependents pay rate.

Another provision approved in the bill is a grandfather clause that allows education benefits transferred up to 180 days after the implementation date of the changes, will be paid (or continued to be paid) at the full authorized rate and will not be reduced by half. What does this mean for service members eligible to make a transfer of benefits and have not yet done so: Sooner rather than later is recommended to take advantage of this clause.

Transfer at least one month to each child and one or more months to your spouse while you are still serving. Then you have the flexibility to move benefits around by revoking and reallocating as needed even after retiring. However, if a dependent has never received benefits, they can't be a recipient after you retire. Keep your options open by making a transfer to each family member now, if eligible to use the transfer benefit option. For service members not having yet served six years by the 180-day after implementation date, their dependents are not covered by the grandfather

clause and will be paid at the reduced rate.

The Senate has yet to address the House-approved bill, but the sense is that the bill will pass "as-is" and the President will sign it. This could be the tip of the iceberg for more changes in the future.

Applying For TEB - If eligible to make a transfer request, go to the milConnect website and follow the directions. A Common Access Card (CAC), a DFAS PIN or a DoD Self-Service User ID is required to enter the transfer application area. After approved, each family member receiving benefits will have to request a Certificate of Eligibility when ready to use the benefit.

Travel Tip of the Month - Always check-in to your flight before going to the airport. This allows you some time to call the J1 and CTO to get things straightened out if there are any issues with your flight.

DTS Tip of the Month - Army lodging reservations are now going through DTS. Unless you have a valid exception, you should be booking your lodging through DTS.



The J1 Section would like to welcome two new members, SrA Jenna "DoubleBacon" Berger and SGT Pamela Palmer. SrA Berger and SGT Palmer will be assisting with accountability, DTS and CPE preparation.

Lastly, **J1 Words of Wisdom:** None of us are getting out of this thing alive!

~ *1st Lt Adam Rinaldi*

Honorable Mentions

As of March 21, four NYNG CDTF Civil Operators made it to NGB's Top Ten as the most productive Civil Operators in the nation.

According to FTSMCS, SSG Justin Chernogorec of Western Region, MSgt Jessica Ramirez and MSgt Dean Lansley of North East Region, and SSG Kwang You of New York City Region were all identified in NGB's top ten.

Personnel productivity is calculated through updates into FTSMCS with their job logs. Missions range from supporting / organizing civilian anti-drug coalitions in local communities to acting as liaisons between those said coalitions and the LEAs. They also share information between different coalitions in the area so they may learn from each other. These Civil Operators also perform interviews to assess which drugs, as well as acquiring perspectives from key individuals on how these identified drugs are effecting specific communities.

Congratulations to these individuals for their hard work and dedication!

Compliance Team



CW2 Hart spent most of her adolescence traveling back and forth between Montana and Louisiana until she graduated from high school in 1994.

Ms. Hart enlisted in the Montana Army National Guard in 1993. Two years later, in 1995, she transitioned to the active U.S. Army and was stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington where she spent the next three years of her life as a PLL/TAMMS (Prescribed Load List / The Army Maintenance Management System) clerk.

Shortly after the end of her enlistment in the Regular Army, CW2 Hart joined the Washington Army National Guard where she briefly held a federal technician supply position before transferring to the New York Army National Guard.

While in New York, Ms. Hart was again assigned to a motor pool as the PLL/TAMMS clerk for 3/142nd Aviation. While in 3/142 AVN she traveled to Fort Polk, Louisiana for a Joint Readiness Training Center rotation as well as to Nicaragua for a humanitarian mis-

sion. In 2005, after re-classing as a 92Y, the chief briefly held an assignment in the unit supply section of 3/142nd. She was then transferred to the Joint Force Headquarters USP&FO warehouse.

In 2002, CW2 Hart was hired as an administrative clerk for the NYNG CDTF. Two years later, she switched over to the logistics section before becoming the Army property manager. She remained the property manager until her promotion to head the logistics section. After this promotion, Ms. Hart decided to change directions with her career and went from the enlisted ranks and completed Warrant Officer Candidate School in 2009. This allowed for growth within Counterdrug to become the logistics officer. As the logistics officer, Ms. Hart was responsible for accountability of Army, Air Force, and New York State property and all purchasing within Counterdrug as well the maintenance of the equipment to include the vehicle fleet.

CW2 Hart was briefly slotted within Joint Force Headquarters to the Surface Maintenance Team. As part of this team she traveled throughout New York State to the various Field Maintenance Shops and various units to review maintenance records, help the various shops to prepare for inspections, and prepare excess equipment for turn in.

Ms. Hart is currently living in Duanesburg, NY with her family and is assigned to the 133rd Quartermaster Company, Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, NY as of Jan 2016.

I would like to introduce you

Compliance Team

to the Compliance team, which currently consists of SGM Roland Wells and myself, CW2 Michelle Hart. This newly created section has been tasked with keeping Counterdrug compliant. So what does that mean exactly? It means we will be assisting in many different areas of Counterdrug to ensure the Task Force is streamlining processes in order to meet the standards for the many policies, procedures, and responsibilities that govern us.

One of the first things we will be working on is training requirements for our members, based on position and rank. This will entail ensuring our members have on the job training necessary before they are sent out to conferences and additional training opportunities. We will be working with the J2 and Civil Ops to ensure we are sending members to training appropriate to their level of understanding and position held.

The compliance team will continually be reviewing and clarifying CD policies, processes, and SOPs. We will be assisting in the preparation of the upcoming April 2016 Counterdrug Program Evaluation (CPE) as well as working on processes to ensure we are continually compliant throughout the year and not just shortly before inspections.

As with anything new, this will be a learning process for all of us. Please feel free to ask our team questions and try to support us as we find our way through these tasks.

~CW2 Michelle Hart

MILITARY FUN FACTS

30 of the 43 Presidents served in the Army, 24 during time of war, two earned the rank of 5-star General (Washington and Eisenhower) and one earned the Medal of Honor (T. Roosevelt)

Under 28 percent of Americans between the ages of 17-23 are qualified for military service, that's only about 1-in-4.

The U.S. Air Force was part of the Army until 1946. It was called the Army Air Corp.

Only one President (James Buchanan) served as an enlisted man in the military and did not go on to become an officer.

The U.S. Army was in charge of exploring and mapping America. The Lewis and Clark Expedition was an all Army affair. Army officers were the first Americans to see such landmarks as Pike's Peak and the Grand Canyon.

The Air Force's F-117 fighter uses aerodynamics discovered during research into how bumblebees fly.

A-10 Warthogs have been highly effective in current close-combat support roles, most recently in Syria: multiple congressmen and other leaders are fighting against the proposed 2022 retirement date until a suitable close-air-support replacement can be found.

Gen. Daniel Allyn, Army vice chief of staff, told congress that The Army must make greater use of the National Guard and Reserves to take pressure off the active component. (26 February 2016)

Security & Support / LUH 72a Lakota



The CDTF Aviation component is composed of fixed wing and rotary wing assets available at state and national levels. NY State rotary wing assets include two (2) UH-72 Lakota helicopters stationed at the Latham Army Aviation Support Facility located at the Albany International Airport. UH-60 helicopters are also available to the CD Task Force on a case by case basis from this same location.

NY State no longer houses any fixed wing assets, specifically RC-26 airplanes, but the RC-26 is available and can still be requested through NGB and other nearby locations out of state.

NYNG CDTF's Aviation section includes full-time pilots, crew chiefs, mechanics, and support. Common missions for Aviation CD support are observation, reconnaissance, vehicle/fugitive tracking, command and control, law enforcement officer training, and, most importantly, cannabis suppression and eradication. The UH-72 Lakota Helicopters' capabilities include a complete Night Vision capable aircraft, a recordable Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) and day-time cameras, video downlink and moving map systems, and law enforcement compatible Wulfsberg C-5000 radios.

Although it is my first year here, I have extensive Military and Law Enforcement experience.

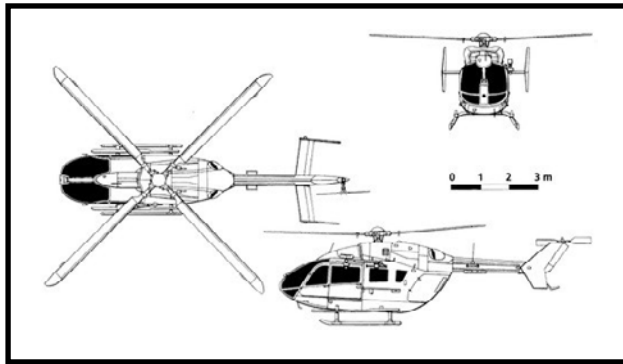
On the military side, CW2 Napolitano attended the US Army Rotary Wing flight school in 1988 and spent almost 10 years on Active duty and the last 17 years of aviation experience in the Reserve component, both USAR and NYARNG. Over his 27 year Aviation career, so far, he logged over 6,500 helicopter flight hours in 15 different variants of helicopters. On the

Law Enforcement side, CW2 Napolitano recently retired as a Sergeant with the New York State Police (NYSP) with 21 years of service. While with the NYSP, he was a NYSP trooper assigned to Uniform Road Patrol Operations and a Sergeant assigned as a supervisor in the field. Additionally, he served on the NYSP Aviation unit at the Albany International Airport for 14 years as a helicopter pilot, unit safety officer, and Chief Pilot for operations.

~CW2 Phillip Napolitano



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Lakota Specs:

- Crew: 1 or 2 pilots
- Capacity: 9 troops or 2 stretchers and medical crew
- Length: 42 ft 7 in (13.03 m)
- Rotor diameter: 36 ft 1 in (11.0 m)
- Height: 11 ft 9 in (3.45 m)
- Empty weight: 3,951 lb (1,792 kg)
- Max. takeoff weight: 7,903 lb (3,585 kg)
- Power plant: 2 × Turbomeca Arriel 1E2 turboshafts, 738 shp (551 kW) each
- Maximum speed: 145 knots (167 mph) Cruise speed: 133 knots (153 mph)
- Range: 370 nmi (426 mi, 685 km)
- Rate of climb: 1,600 ft/min (8.13 m/s)
- Service ceiling: 13,181 ft (4,018 m)

UH-72A Standard Configuration

- Cockpit**
 - Glass Cockpit
 - Wide Field of View
 - LCD Displays
 - 3 Axis Autopilot
- Performance**
 - Low-noise Rotor Blades
 - Twin Engine Reliability
 - Speed up to 268 km/h
 - Endurance up to 3.2 hours
- Capacity**
 - 1167 lbs Payload Load (High, Hot)
 - HOGE with Gross Weight 7,760 lbs
- Communications**
 - ARC-231
 - Interagency VHF/UHF Communications
 - Cabin Intercom System
- Navigation**
 - IFR/VFR
 - Night Vision Goggles
 - Mode S Transponder
 - GPS
 - Radar Altimeter
- Cabin**
 - Unobstructed Cabin / Cargo Flat Floor
 - 6 Energy-Absorbing Seats
 - Passenger and Cargo Capability
- Other**
 - Selected units will get Engine Inlet Barrier Filter (EIBF)

Check us out at: <http://dmna.ny.gov/counterdrug/>

News Around the Area

Nicholas Dean promoted to Lieutenant Colonel

The following article was posted Wednesday March 02, 2016 by TSgt Catherine Schmidt, 109th Airlift Wing and was distributed through DMNA, DVIDS, The Albany Times Union, and The Schenectady Gazette.

Glenville resident Nicholas Dean, who has nearly 20 years of military service, has been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the New York Air National Guard.

Lt Col Dean, who serves as both the Director of Complaint Resolution with the 109th Airlift Wing's Inspector General Office, and the Executive Officer of the New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, was promoted during a ceremony on 26 February 2016 at Stratton Air National Guard Base.

Lt Col Dean enlisted in the New York Air National Guard in 1996 as a member of the 109th Airlift Wing and has remained with the unit ever since.

He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant through the Academy of Military Sciences in 1999.

Lt Col Dean has served as a personnel officer, logistics officers, services flight commander, force support operations officer and force support squadron commander. In September 2001, he was activated and sent to augment security and support missions at the World Trade site.

Lt Col Dean received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration through Nyack College in 1996.

He currently resides in Glenville with his wife, Deborah, and sons, Nicholas and Johnathan.



Family members, Dr. John and Deborah Schummer, "pin" newly promoted Lt Col. Nicholas Dean during a promotion ceremony Feb. 26, 2016.



Lt Col Nicholas Dean with his wife, Deborah, and his sons: Nicholas and Johnathan.

1SG Simsick Retires from the U.S. Army and the New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force



1SG Simsick after receiving his Minute Man Statuette in honor of his retirement.

At his retirement party in down-town Buffalo, N.Y., 1SG Mark Simsick explained that when he first joined the military in 1989, he had every intention of joining the guard after active service so he could one day hold a "Minute Man" statue at his retirement. To him, it showed his commitment to not only to Country, but to State and more importantly, to his community.

After 25 years of honorable service with the U.S. Army, the U.S. Army National Guard, and the NYNG CDTF, the Minute Man statue is the least the CDTF can give the 1SG to show its appreciation for his guidance, expertise, and pro-

fessionalism. Thank you and good luck! HOO-ah!



Shadow box made by MSG Cindy Marcinkowski, presented to 1SG Mark Simsick in his honor.

Check us out at: <http://dmna.ny.gov/counterdrug/>

News Around the Area

NE and HQ CDTF Members Honor a Fallen Hero

MSgt Michael Maltz was killed in an accident during a rescue mission of two children in Afghanistan on March 23, 2003.

MSgt Mike Maltz was born in Mineola on Long Island, NY, on 19 September 1960. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force after graduating high school 1978. In December of 1985 he was reassigned to the 1827th Electronics Installation Squadron, Kelly AFB, TX. It was during this period that he was recognized as "one of the finest" by his Commander for this extreme dedication and tireless work ethic. Mike cross-trained into Para-rescue in December of 1985. He successfully completed the demanding PJ indoctrination Course, Army Special Forces Underwater Combat Divers Course, Army Airborne Parachute Course, Air Force Survival School, and the Para-rescue Recovery Specialist Course. Mike was awarded his maroon beret and selected as the class Honor Graduate for his superb leadership qualities and academic excellence.

From December 1985 through November 1989, Mike was assigned to the 55th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron and the 1730th Para-rescue Squadron, Eglin Air Force Base, FL. Mike participated in mountain rescue training in Dahlenega, GA and Project Denali. His physical ability led to his selection to represent the unit of the March 1989 summit climb of Mt. McKinley. Additionally, he was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal for outstanding achievement near Addis Ababa for search and subsequent recovery of Congressman Mickey Leland and delegation involved in an aircraft crash while on a humanitarian mission to Ethiopia.

From November 1989 thru March 1991, Mike was assigned to the 1730th Para-rescue Squadron and 71st Rescue Squadron, Elmendorf AFB, AK. There, he received yet another Air Force Commendation Medal for the rescue of two German climbers stranded at 20,000 ft on Mt McKinley, suffering from severe hypothermia and cerebral edema. His solid leadership was instrumental in the squadron receiving, "most improved Para-rescue facility in Rescue" from Headquarters, Air Rescue Service.

From March 1991 to March 1994, Mike volunteered for duties as a Para rescue Instructor at Lackland AFB, TX. He received the coveted Aerospace Achievement Award and graduated the Air Training Command NCO Academy as a Distinguished Graduate. At the US Army Master Fitness Trainer School at Ft Hood, TX he received the Honor Graduate award for best academic /physical record and attained the highest PT point total. He was also recognized as the facilities "best communicator and instructor."

From March 1994 to March 1998, Mike was assigned to the 41st Rescue Squadron, Patrick AFB, FL. Here, he was selected as the Air Combat Command HC-130P Para rescue man of the Year and received the coveted 1st Fighter Wing Warrior Award: for his superlative efforts. He was credited with saving two Spanish civilians severely injured while skiing. Mike deployed to Saudi Arabia on three separate occasions, totaling more than 8 months in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH. Additionally, he was overall Team Leader for 10 successful deployments supporting National Aeronautics Space Administration space shuttle contingency operations.



From March 1997 to March 2001, Mike was assigned to the 41 Rescue Squadron, Moody AFB, Georgia. It was there that Mike refined his functional areas to perfection resulting in error-free findings during the ACC Unit Compliance Inspection. On 21 March 2001, he was assigned to the newly re-activated 38th Rescue Squadron, Moody AFB, GA. Here, Mike was handpicked as the first Joint Search and Rescue Center Para-rescue representative in Southwest Asia and performed superbly as an advocate for combat rescue operations. While deployed, he was primary jumpmaster and instructor on 25 critical upgrade training flights and provided emergency medical treatment during a car accident

near the coalition compound, successfully treating two OSI agents and two Saudi nationals.

He was survived by his sons Kyle and Cody; his father, John Maltz; his sister, Terri M. Strippoli; and his brothers Derek and Richard Maltz.

Master Sergeant Maltz's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal (with 1 device), Air Force Commendation Medal (2 devices), Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor (3 devices), Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Combat Readiness Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal (7 devices), national Defense Service Medal (1 device), Humanitarian Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon (1 device), Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon (1 device), Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (1 device), and the Air Force Training Ribbon.

*Article taken from Mike Maltz Challenge Web Site



Members of NE and HQ CDTF at 518 Athlete Gym in Saratoga strike a pose before their circuit for the "Maltz Challenge" held on March 11th. The physical challenge circuit in honor of the late MSgt Mike Maltz consisted of various exercises that would test any athlete's physical prowess. Two 400m runs, 100m fireman's carry, 50 pull ups, dips, and knees-to-elbows, 100 push ups, and 100 sit ups. The event also drew members from the NYS Police, Saratoga Police, Border Patrol, FBI, DEA Albany, and the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Departments to participate.

News Around the Area

Meet Our Rescue Heroes Literacy Night

The Boulevard Elementary School, part of the Gloversville Enlarged School District, held a “Meet Our Rescue Heroes Literacy Night” on Thursday, 24 February 2016. Emergency personnel - including a police officer, a firefighter, a nurse, and a National Guardsman - read books to students, explained their jobs, and answered questions about their work. Gloversville Community Educator Stephanie Cook said one of the main goals of the event was to make students feel com-

fortable interacting with emergency responders.

SGT Robert Lyons, a member of the NYNG CDTF North-East Region, attended the event to read to students in an effort to help familiarize children with area service-members. The idea was to show that there are men and women in uniform within their communities, other than just police or fire-fighters.



TSgt Dziamba Receives Safety Award Before His Send-off to the NYS Troopers



Col Shawn Clouthier, Stratton ANGB Commander, presents TSgt Nicholas Dziamba with the Individual Safety Award for his outstanding achievements as the Safety Officer for the NYNG CDTF on March 21.

On Monday, March 21st, TSgt Nicholas Dziamba was presented an Individual Safety Award by Stratton ANGB Commander, Col Shawn Clouthier for tasks and contributions outstanding. The abridged version of TSgt Dziamba’s award reads as follows: ‘TSgt Nicholas Dziamba single handedly took over the CDTF Safety Program updating the safety SOP and getting it reviewed and / or signed off by

the Wing, DMNA, and the CDTF commander. Additionally, he would schedule quarterly Counterdrug Safety Council meetings ensuring the management, education, and ultimately, the safety of over 135 Airmen and Soldiers across New York State.

He started a safety log identifying and tracking safety hazards and deficiencies ensuring they are corrected in a timely manner. Furthermore, TSgt Dziamba developed a training program to ensure 100% of the personnel

are trained and educated on the hazards while operating or being a passenger in or on a POV, motorcycle, ATV, snowmobile, or watercraft.

Lastly, TSgt Dziamba developed, reviewed, and rehearsed the required pre-accident plan. He implanted exercises forcing the Counterdrug Aviation and Counterdrug Detection Unit as well as the CDTF Regions to physically respond with phone calls, e-mails, and the required documentation to mock accidents and injury scenarios greatly enhancing the knowledge and management of real injuries and accidents.’

TSgt Dziamba’s organizational skills and safety experience will benefit him greatly when takes on his new chapter to his life. This past Easter, Nick Dziamba transitioned from a U.S. Air Force Technical Sergeant to New York State Recruit Trooper, on his way to becoming a New York State Police Officer. He reported to New York State Police Headquarters Troop G, located in Latham, NY, after Easter dinner with his family and friends (at his favorite restaurant Buco deBeppo).

When asked if this was a life long goal, TSgt Dziamba smartly answered, “No, I think it’s just a natural progression. Its not like I was a kid and said that I wanted to be a cop my whole life. I mean I joined the military,” he added, “and then I got a job with Security Forces here on base, it kinda’ set me up to go this way. I became interested in the State Troopers and when the opportunity presented itself I took a chance. And there you have it.”

TSgt Dziamba, two final things from us: Be safe and thank you for not giving me that speeding ticket (in advance)!




April is Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month

APRIL is not only Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month but it also kicks off the Joint Force Head Quarters SARC Team’s program “Awareness 365” according to Maj Melissa Cucchi of the 109th Airlift Wing’s SARC Office at Stratton ANGB. Maj Cucchi stated. “There are events throughout the month of April, across the State, to raise awareness and to meet and get to know your local SAPR members. You can,” Cucchi says, “download the DOD Safe Help Line app as an additional resource. The goal is to get the word out about the program, so that people know they have a voice.”

Capt Ashley Fitzgibbon is the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for New York State. Her office is located at the Joint Force Head Quarters in Latham, NY and she can be reached at any time, day or night, rain or shine, with the phone number listed on the inserted flyer (right). If you need help, do not hesitate to call. She will be your voice!




Maj Melissa Cucchi
Stratton ANGB SARC




New York National Guard

Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program



JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS - NY
 Sexual Assault Response Coordinator
 24 / 7 Sexual Assault Helpline
518.339.7586



JFHQ SARC
 Capt Ashley FitzGibbon
 (518)786-4733

UNRESTRICTED REPORTING
 Allows a service member who was sexually assaulted to report the assault and receive support, advocacy, medical treatment, and counseling...

with a law enforcement investigation and Command involvement.

RESTRICTED REPORTING
 Allows a service member who was sexually assaulted to **confidentially** report the assault and receive support, advocacy, medical treatment, and counseling...

without a law enforcement investigation or Command involvement.

EITHER WAY - FIRST TALK WITH YOUR SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM!

DoD Safe Helpline 877.995.5247 / safehelpline.org
 24 / 7 Secure. Worldwide. Confidential



J3-CD HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL OFFICES



Western Region
Connecticut Street Armory

Headquarters
Stratton ANGB

Northeast Region
AFRC, Glenville



LUH-72 Operations
AASF#3. Latham

NYC Region
Lexington Armory



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