

# The Nexus



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*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.*

## Counterdrug Coordinator (CDC), COL Saddlemire's Words of Wisdom



We are proud to present the first edition of our newsletter. The intent of this newsletter is to inform and educate. Future issues will feature articles and counterdrug (CD) activities from across the state.

I would like to share my thoughts on our commitment and the strategy that we employ to fulfill our important mission.

The New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force (NYNG CDTF) is committed to providing professional and cost-effective CD drug supply reduction and drug demand reduction (DDR) support as requested by local,

state, and federal law enforcement agencies and community based organizations with a CD nexus. The NYNG CDTF provides a wide range of support services, as permitted by law and regulation. Our activities are restricted to support services and demand reduction programs. The NYNG CDTF is committed to providing this support in consonance with Department of Defense guidance to derive the maximum benefit to the state, the Department of Defense, and the nation. The NYNG CDTF does this by providing support to law enforcement and community based organizations within the state.

Prior to 11 September, 2001, drug trafficking, alien smuggling and terrorist activities were normally separate issues. Globalization has dramatically changed the face of these criminal activities. Drug trafficking Organizations (DTOs), Alien Smuggling Organizations (ASOs) and Foreign Terrorists Organizations (FTOs) can now readily exploit advances in technology, finance, communications, and

transportation in pursuit of their illegal endeavors and, in effect, become criminal entrepreneurs. Perhaps the most alarming aspect of this entrepreneurial style of crime is the intricate manner in which these criminal activities are now starting to intermingle, increasing the threat of Narco-Terrorism. The proliferation of illegal drugs is a danger itself, and the proceeds from the sale of drugs provides a ready source for funding for other criminal activities, including most importantly, domestic terrorism. Thirty-nine percent of the US Department of State's current list of designated FTOs has some degree of connection with drug activities.

Because of these new relationships between FTOs, ASOs and DTOs, the NYNG CDTF groups all authorized NYNG CD resources available to support LEAs under the control of the NY CDC. The NYNG CDTF framework allows the NYNG to respond rapidly to LEA requests for military support as they react to transnational threats and illegal drug trafficking/use that threaten NY State.



Interdiction Introduction	2
Seizures FY 08	2
Specialized Equipment	2
Drug Demand Reduction (DDR)	3
Substance Abuse	3
Regional Ops	4
Points of Contact	4

NYNG CDTF Conference, Buffalo, NY

Check us out at- [www.counterdrug.com](http://www.counterdrug.com)

## NY State Threats

NYS contains one of the most expansive and robust interstate highway systems in the world and most of the public and private freight movements within NY cross multiple jurisdictional boundaries, LEAs are unable to control interstate traffic. New York City is the Nation’s leading drug market. The city is the primary distribution hub for Cocaine, Heroin, Marijuana and MDMA trafficking. It is also the bulk distribution center for at least 24 states, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Busiest Port in the US . The NY/Canadian border has 12 border crossings sites and numerous water crossing sites. Counter NarcoTerror-

ist (CNT) information/ intelligence is freely shared and exchanged between all CDTF members having a need-to-know.

**FY08 Seizures: \$62,375,357**

**Cocaine: \$12,222,103**

**Heroin: \$2,461,548**

**Marijuana: \$38,853,828**

**Other Drugs: \$212,302**

**Currency: \$6,751,379**

**Property: \$1,871,269**

**Arrests: 2,384**

**Weapons: 475**

**Vehicles: 69**



## Security & Support OH-58



Counterdrug Aviation Operations (CDAOPS) work under the joint supervision of the State Army Aviation Officer (SAAO) and the Counterdrug Coordinator (CDC). S&S pilots use OH-58 helicopters to perform aerial reconnaissance and observation of suspected illegal drug activity. Law enforcement agents fly onboard the helicopter to provide an aerial vantage point and communication to ground agents during illegal drug investigations. Missions also include marijuana eradication.

Pilots, with a law enforcement agent onboard, fly to locate marijuana growing operations. Ground units are then guided to the marijuana plots to harvest and destroy the plants and reduce the supply.

OH-58 helicopters have been utilized in support of Operation Jump Start and other border patrol initiatives such as Operation Winter Freeze. The pilots use infrared and night vision sensors for spotting

smugglers along the U.S – Mexican border. OH-58 helicopters were also utilized to help the U.S. Border Patrol at the U.S. – Canadian border look for special interest aliens and weapons of mass destruction that might be smuggled into the U.S.

## Mobile Vehicle and Cargo Inspection System (MVACIS)

The MVACIS inspection system provides substantial flexibility to assist with a variety of security missions including contraband interdiction (i.e. narcotics, weapons, and cash). Mobile scanners use gamma rays as opposed to x-rays, allowing lower equipment cost, smaller operating space, higher reliability, availability, and safer operation.



*MVACIS operators perform a scan for a local LEA.*

## Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) Program

DDR Mission-The NY National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Program leverages unique military capabilities to increase awareness, to inspire motivation and to provide leadership and guidance in calling for, and supporting, the commitment of America's youth to be drug-free.

The National Guard is committed to reducing future substance abuse by reinforcing the drug-free commitment of America's youth through cognitive, social skills, and emotional development

The National Guard DDR mission supports efforts led by community based organizations that are designed to provide rewards and incentives, alternative activities (countering) and environmental strategies to help our nation's youth make the commitment to be drug-free.



*TSgt Candace Stefanik secures safety equipment before a student climbs the NYNG CDTF's Adirondack Challenge*



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## Substance Abuse

Today's citizen Soldiers and Airmen must be prepared at all times to answer the call of duty. Whether called for a State or Federal mission, all personnel must be well trained, physically fit and mentally alert. Substance abuse related dependency or misconduct degrades both unit readiness and mission accomplishment. This type of behavior is potentially disastrous to the member, their family, and the public's confidence in the military that is sworn to protect them.

The NYNG CDTF is responsible for ensuring a safe work environment for all members. Substance abuse is preventable and treatable, and as such, the presence of substance-impaired personnel will not be tolerated.

The Chief of National Guard Bureau (NGB) recently revised the Drug Testing Policy, increasing the minimum drug testing rates. All States are required to conduct random drug testing each month with a goal of ten percent (10%) for ARNG and five percent (5%) for ANG of unit available assigned strength. Quarterly requirements are now 25% testing for ARNG and 13% for ANG.

### Prevention, Treatment & Outreach (PTO) Program

The PTO establishes a culture of responsible choices, compatible with core National Guard values, through the use of Substance Abuse Prevention and Awareness training and support. Provides up to date information on drug and alcohol trends affecting military communities.

The PTO provides the community a resource for drug and alcohol information. Provides alcohol and other drug abuse prevention products to Military communities. Provides training materials and resources for commanders and UPLs to utilize in training and educating the unit about alcohol and other drugs.

### HELPFUL RESOURCES

[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)

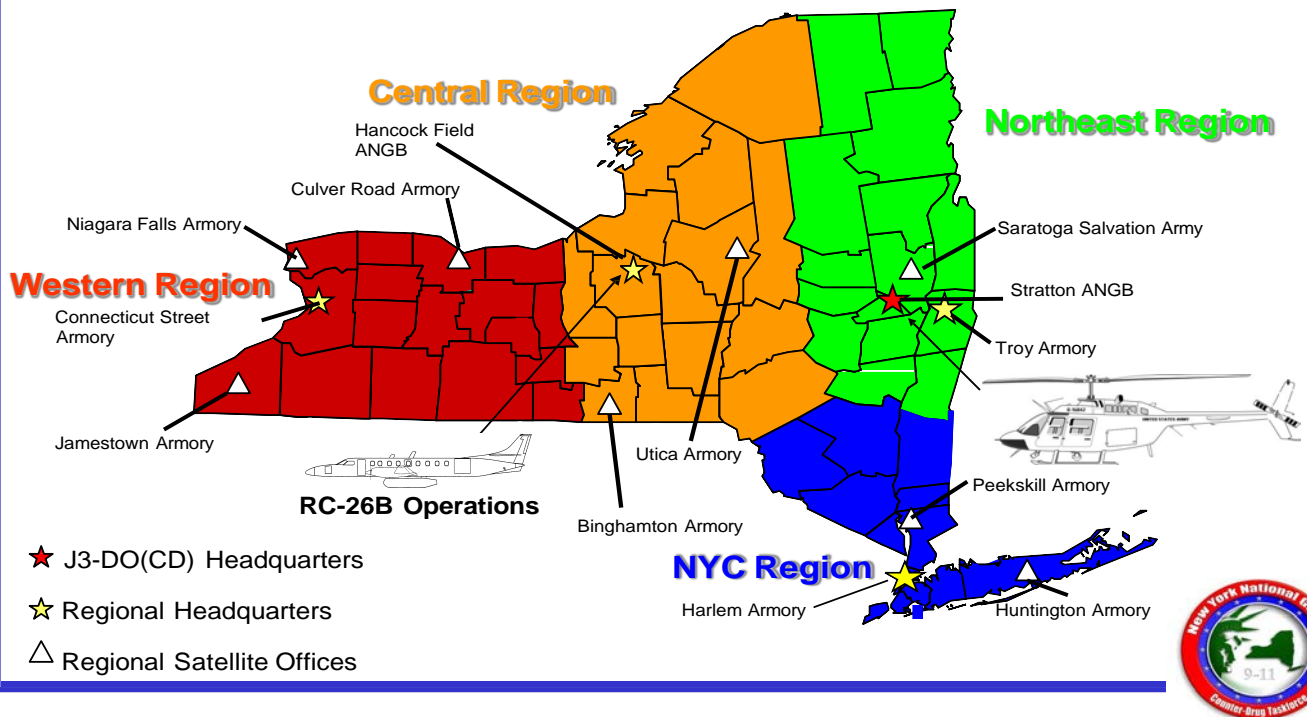
[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

[www.vetcenter.com](http://www.vetcenter.com)

[www.alcoholics-anonymous.com](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.com)

[www.secularrecovery.com](http://www.secularrecovery.com)

# NYCD Regional Operations



## Contact us at:

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\*\*\*\*\*All photos taken by SSgt Stephen Girolami