# The Nexus

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Volume VIII

Winter 2017

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



Hello Counterdrug Task Force,

I continue to be impressed the more I learn about the organization and the more Task Force members I meet. Your contributions to our communities (either as a criminal analysist working with our LEA partners or as a Civil Operator working with CBOs), are commendable and make a difference in our communities every day.

Following a thorough assessment of the Task Force, our current missions, projected budget and potential future missions, we determined that we could backfill all losses and increase our numbers by over 25 additional members. We are almost completed with the new hires and all recent hires are receiving their required entry level education. This has expanded the number of LEAs we support to over 70 and the number of CBOs to over 90 across the State. Each Region has benefited by the additional hires and has been able to expand into agencies and areas that they deemed as priorities. We believe the increased size of the Task Force is sustainable and will provide a predictable level of support to our partners.

On Thursday, 30 March, we hosted a screening of the movie "Chasing the Dragon" during our Face to Face at the Stratton Air Base. The movie depicts the growing dependency problem. Representatives from the DEA, U.S Attorney's Office and the FBI spoke to us about the movie. Those organizations have been working to distribute the movie to communities and were enthusiastic about partnering with us to distribute the movie to our CBOs. In addition to the Headquarters and Regional Command teams there were many Civil Operators present.

We still have Task Force members who are deployed. Please contact the J1 Office if you need a name and address to send a care package. We wish a safe return to those Soldiers and Airmen and look forward to welcoming you back into the Task Force.

The calendar says spring but the weather does not. Persevere a little longer, it will feel like spring soon!

Thank you for your efforts and keep up the great job!



~COL Carlton Cleveland

#### THE CSM'S LISTEN UP!



Greetings NY Counterdrug,

Over the past few months we have been fortunate to be in a position to grow our program so I'd like to start by welcoming all the new hires. I look forward to meeting you all in the near future and welcome you to the team. We've also had a few of our deployed members come back home safely. Welcome home and happy you're back with us.

Something has come to my attention that I would like to address; asking for help. Please don't be afraid to reach out for assistance. Whether it is someone within your region or in another region, don't hesitate to ask for help when needed. Don't wait until we're all face to face. This goes for

everyone, not just the new hires. We talk about it at the conference each year, yet I still have conversations where someone chose not to ask for assistance when they ran into obstacles. The number of training events that we send our members to each year continues to grow and we have many diverse skill sets and years of experience within our program, sometimes it's just a matter of finding the right person.

In reference to training, make sure you are doing the justifications. Tell the leadership why a particular training event is critical to your mission. I would also like to remind everyone to make sure they are doing their drill and AT days. This is a requirement! I don't want any surprises at the end of the fiscal year. With that being said, it is on you to let your chain of command know if your schedule changes. I know this can happen often, but it is imperative that we communicate.

For those of you still down range, be safe and we look forward to your return.

I wish you all the best. Stay safe and keep up the great work!

~CSM Joseph Freyn

#### J8 Finance Guidance



**New J8 Contact Information** 

OC Newberry – (518)344-3458

MSG Molesky - (518)344-3452

TSgt Blais - (518)344-3437

TSgt Perkins - (518)344-3437

# DTS Hot Corner

IMPORTANT — Please let J8 know immediately if someone in your region does not have a government travel card.

#### Reminders:

- All DTS should be in 5 Business days prior to travel
- Soldiers / Airmen that need their Government Travel Card turned on need to call 3 days prior to travel
- Attach letters of intent or instructions to applicable travel
- Please do not call J8 if you just put your order in and it is not approved yet
- Please contact your regional admin prior to contacting J8 with any issues related to DTS

~OC Duncan Newberry

# Safe Words from the Safety Officer



With warmer weather coming soon and Memorial Day on the horizon, we need to remember to plan ahead and stay safe. The arrival of the spring and summer seasons brings many enjoyable activi-



ties, but those do not come without risk. This is also a time when accidents and mishaps pose a greater risk to service members and their families.

Leaders, stay engaged and know what your Soldiers'

and Airmen's plans entail; there is no way for you to know if you never ask.



Soldiers and Airmen, take ownership of your personal safety and make smart risk assessment decisions while looking out for your buddies. Remain diligent as good Battle Buddies and Wingmen. Safety is really pretty simple — make a plan and always do the right thing.



~CW2 Michelle Hart

## Security & Support / LUH 72a Lakota



Mark your calendars this month as LEA Aviation training will begin and workshops will be held throughout the state. For NE region attention, we will have two training class dates in Latham. We had our first on March 29th, but the second Latham session will be on April 19th. For NE and NYC attention, we will have a training day in Binghamton on April 5th, and Stewart airport on April 6th. Finally, for Western and NE regions, we will have a training class at Niagara airport on April 11th, and at Syracuse airport on April 12th. More details about these training workshops will be disseminated to your Regional POCs and chain of command. In addition to conducting our required Aviation agenda, SGT Vanderwerken will also do a short briefing to all attendees on our CDU program and its capabilities.

Please disseminate these dates and details to any and all of your local agencies that will need to attend. This

training is a yearly requirement and must be conducted every FY, so please make sure that all the agencies know that fact. In other words, if they attended last year's training and want to fly on board this year, they need to attend the training again

Beginning in April, 1Lt Devis Ceci will join our team once again as he did last year. In the month of April, 1LT Ceci will overlap with myself to conduct most of our LEA training and workshops. He will then be on AT at Ft. Drum from

27 April-12 May. Also in

Counterdrug season with him through the end of September. However, Lt Ceci will be getting married in early September and using most of his leave following his wedding. We wish him the best for years to come!!"



RMY NATIONAL GUARD

this year. We will be available to schedule more training on an as needed basis for any LEAs that need it who may not be able to attend these dates.

Please coordinate that need with us directly as soon as possible. Lastly, let your LEAs know that we will be available at these workshops to begin scheduling an eradication schedule for July-September.

May, I will begin TDY at school in Ft. Rucker, AL for 12 weeks, and 1LT Ceci will be your Aviation Coordinator and POC during that time period. He will finish up with the LEA workshops, continue scheduling agencies, building an Eradication calendar, and executing our eradication plan. Primary eradication months will be July, August, and September. Upon my return from school in mid-August, I will return to finish up the



~CW2 Phillip Napolitano

#### Operation "Deep Freeze": New York Counterdrug Airmen Migrate South and Back

One of the first things you notice on the way down to McMurdo Station, Ross Island, Antarctica is how incredibly white it is. The landscape is covered in a seemingly, neverending white wash. Over the hundreds of millions of years that the Antarctic continent crept south it has trapped 69% of the Earth's fresh water in its icecap and glaciers. This ice, coupled with the loose ice crystals on top have given the land mass the impression that a New York State nor'easter has blown through. A blizzard so large that it's been covering Antarctica with white since breaking away from the Australian continent a

Flying south to McMurdo Station from Christchurch, New Zealand, the flight path takes travelers over breath taking views of white covered mountains and slow flowing glaciers. \*\*\*

by the Antarctic winds. Even though it "snows", the snow flake, is a very dry crystal. It is impossible to form a "snowball" on Antarctica without adding moisture ourselves.

annual occurrence but for two of the NYNG CDTF members from NE Region, the trip to the "Frozen Continent" would be a different one. This time, the two Master Sergeants were traveling below "The Down Under" to perform "First Ser-

geant" duties. Duties they've only trained to do but haven't put to practice as of yet. Both First Sergeants were met with challenges and situations that called for intelli-

gence, patience, leadership, and common sense. Tasks that a typical day could range from coordinating distinguished guest visits, taking care of personnels' incoming and departing lodging and flight itineraries, attend 109th AW and McMurdo Station (town) meetings, track and coordinate the issues concerning the Antarctica Service Medal (ASM), and take care of the personnel assigned to the 109th AW pertaining to morale and wellbeing. A unique function of being acting 1SG is to be a "tour guide" for Scott's Hut, which is positioned around the bay from McMurdo on Cape Evans (Hut Point or McMurdo Sound). The hut was built by Robert Falcon Scott as a "staging point" for his expedi-

tions of the frozen continent.

Foundation [NSF]) but were not confined to 1SG duties twenty-four seven. They were still able to experience what Ross Island has to offer in way of recreation (which isn't much). From climbing Observation Hill (Ob Hill), a hill



Mt Erebus, the southern most active volcano on the planet, and the highest

point of Ross Island, is almost 23 miles

from McMurdo Station and stands just

over two mile high at 12,448'. \*\*\*

standing 754 feet above and adjacent to McMurdo, traversing the *Pressure Ridge*, where the ice shelf meets the frozen shores of Ross Island which compresses the glacial ice sending fractured ice chunks the size of cars and buildings jaggedly upward, or trekking to *Castle Rock*, a massive rock crag overlooking Mt. Erebus's

Looking down on McMurdo Station from Observation (Ob) Hill. The large 'blue' building in the center of "town" houses the base commissary / gift store, the only ATM, the library, the mess hall, administrative offices and a few dormitory rooms. Hut Point is to the left and the landing for the icebseaker / cargo ship is the large, brown rectangle to the right of the point surrounded by "white".

couple billion years ago. But, make no mistake, the white isn't snow, per-say. Antarctica is the *driest* place on the planet making it the largest *desert* ever. Larger than the Sahara, Arabian, Gobi, and Kalahari deserts (the 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> largest respectively) combined. The Artic desert is the only desert that comes close in size but is still second in comparison. The white is made up of a seemingly infinite amount of ice crystals (snow) that are blown around

The second aspect one will notice about being south, is the cold. In the beginning weeks of the "Operation Deep Freeze" (ODF) Season (late September to mid October), the temperature could be a steady -30\*F on a wind free day.

The third thing you notice; the silence. The deafening silence. If the wind isn't blowing, Antarctica is eerily quiet.

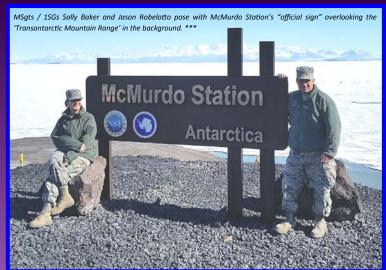
For many personnel of the 109<sup>th</sup> AW, the trek south is an

Both Master
Sergeants Sally
Baker and Jason
Robelotto were
there to support
NY Air Guard
missions (which
in turn, is supporting the National Science

MSgt / 1SG Sally Baker participating in an adventure on her down time to take a tour of the pressure ridge. The ridge is produced by fast moving glacial ice colliding with Ross Island's frozen shore line.

The ridge provides seals and penguins a respite from swimming under the ice with its many exposed water-way openings. \*\*\*

# Operation "Deep Freeze" Continued...



(the southern most active volcano on earth) southern slope. The pedestal so named by Scott in 1901 for its resemblance to a castle stands 1360ft in the air and is 3 miles from McMurdo Station. Other "touristy" things Baker and Robelotto were touring the NSF's facility, where scientific experiments of every nature can be observed, or possibly visit McMurdo's library, three pubs,

the gift store, or even the ice breaker if it's in port down by Scott's Hut. The crème de la crème of activities to do is to catch a flight to the South Pole to the scientific station there.

The "adventure" will not soon be forgotten by these two outstanding NCOs.



ABOVE: Courtesy
photo of Ob Hill taken
from Hut Point's
vantage point \*\*\*

RIGHT: MSgt / 1SG Robelotto taking a moment to have some fun at McMurdo Station after he found a trike that suited him better than the bicycles built for grownups. \*\*\*

\*\*\*ALL PHOTOS
PROVIDED BY MSgts
BAKER and ROBEOTTO unless alread







Earth's magnetic field constantly shifting to and fro. \*

ABOVE: Courtesy photo of an LC-130 using its skis to land on the ice runway with Mt Discovery in the background. \*\*\*

LEFT: Christmas party at McMurdo for the members of the 109th AW is an annual event. The ODF Season normally runs from October to March, encompassing the major holidays of Thanksgiving, Christmas



#### **News Around the Regions**

#### **Deployed Counterdrug Members Update**

Several NYNG CDTF members are still deployed to various locations around the world and with their busy schedules, it is difficult to receive word on how they're doing.. TSgt Stephanie Perkins, SSgt Sarah Ledger, SGT Carissa Lombardo, SGT Pamela Palmer, and SPC Kyle Gbaya are all still serving overseas with Perkins, Ledger, and Palmer coming home this Spring and Lombardo and Gbaya should be coming home in August.

A new member has also been deployed this past winter. On 21 January, TSgt Joshua Myers left his position as Western Region's Administration NCO to serve as a Flight-line Firefighter in Kuwait. Upon arrival, his credentials were "once-overed" and he was placed in the role of "Chief-2" due to his experiences. Myers relayed the base he's stationed at is very busy with two major runways, two taxiways, five aprons and aircraft from multi-

CDTF member) and two sons, Brogan (5) and Keagan (3) will be missing him for the next six months.

Turning back to our already deployed; SGT Pam Palmer recently mentioned that she didn't have much "to report" other than the fact she's already half-way through her deployment. She's doing well as a Behavioral Health Assessments NCO for soldiers in the 369th Brigade by taking care of their behavioral needs and / or concerns. She has been traveling all over the region with her job status but due to it's sensitivity, cannot share details. On her off time, SGT Palmer has been site seeing when time permits and has been participating in many 5k runs. She did however, fall on one of the runs resulting in a torn meniscus. Her spirits are high and

when physical therapy is complete, she plans on running more races. SGT Palmer did have a one and let them know that she appreciates them.

SGT Carissa Lombardo was very thankful for the CD PAO "checking in" but was quick to note that she really isn't missing home to the point of misery. She does miss however, the city and the ability to for "go drink" but admits otherwise. she's



RIGHT: TSgt Josh Myers posing in front of an Oshkosh Stryker 3000. This particular fire fighting vehicle holds about 1000 scillons of water and is one of seven that TSgt Myers is in charge of. \*\*\*

BELOW: TSgt Myers stands with two Polish fighter jet pilots after a joint training mission Myers' unit did with their aircraft. Where TSgt Myers is stationed, the fire unit provides Airport Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) for Joint US Forces' aircraft as well as ARFF for Joint National aircraft from Poland, Kuwait, and Italy. \*\*\*

ple nations' and US Branches' coming through. The call volume is more than he originally expected and there are many "trouble alarms" and EMS calls

to deal with as well. At home,

his wife Yvonne (a former NYNG

message for home; "I really miss everyone at Counterdrug and of course my family too. I hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy this winter." She also wanted to "say hello" to everygetting
through one
day at a time.
Like SGT Palmer, SGT Lombardo also has
stories that
can not be
discussed so
those stories
will have to

wait for when she returns to the States. SGT Lombardo did share that she was "coined" for job excellence as an E-5 in an NCOIC position (which is usually an E-7 or 8's position in other sections within the Brigade) and manag-

ing the intelligence team, which tracks intel on 15 different countries. SGT Lombardo also mentioned how she was really looking forward to "skipping" a winter this year but unfortunately, where she's stationed at the moment, has had a few inches of snow. Nights' temperatures fall to the teens and during the day will only reach the low thirties. SGT Lombardo exclaims, "It's Freakin' Cold!" over these facts.

No news on SPC Kyle Gbaya, he was sent to a different theater area from Lombardo and has not checked in.

#### **News Around the Regions**

#### **CDU Services for LEAs Still in Question**

31 January, 2017, New Windsor, NY –The NYNG CDTF Counterdrug Detection Unit (CDU) was on site to assist in a vehicle search at the New Windsor FBI's secured building at Stewart AFB near Newburgh, NY.

The help, expertise and professionalism, was immensely appreciated as stressed by the site's Supervisory Senior Resident Agent, Filipe Orengo. Agent Orengo was very pleased to see the CDU team but was shocked to hear that

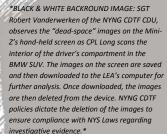
interiors, fenders, and tires were all targeted to make sure that nothing else was found other than what was discovered by LEAs earlier that week. Even the baby booster-seat was scanned. Nothing more was found by the scanner but two areas on the SUV produced questionable images. The CDU team investigated those areas further with a snake camera that's kept in the inventory. Nothing came of the this method either in this particular mission but FBI Agent Seamus Clark reported that the perpetrator had been caught with enough cocaine and heroin to put him away for at least ten years (with a maximum of up to 25 years).

While on point, the CDU was able to clarify a question FBI Director Orengo had regarding CDU assistance. It was believed that the FBI needed a representative from a local LEA to be present in order to utilize the NYNG CDTF and more specifically, the CDU. The soldiers (and this airman) were dumbfounded by the question and misunderstanding. SGT Vanderwerken quickly assured the senior agent that there was no need for an LEA to be there as a witness. With that cleared up, the CDU packed up and left for Schenectady after many handshakes of gratitude and compliments to what they had accomplished.



ABOVE: CPL Long scans the driver side door of the confiscated SUV with the Mini-Z scanner. Ensuring nothing was missed during the LEA search of the vehicle earlier in the week, CPL Long makes sustained sweeps with the scanning device that then shows a printable image on the hand held screen. The Mini-Z scanning system is a scanner that is accompanied by a hand-held screen.

At the end of the day, an issue still needs to be addressed. With this particular mission, it just goes to show how the NYNG CDTF's services, FREE SERVICES, are still unknown to some agencies throughout the State. It is imperative that the NYNG CDTF make their sure that organizations know what it has to offer them.





ABOVE: SGT Robert Vanderwerken and CPL Andrew Long utilize the snake camero on the hatch of an impounded SUV on the cold January morning, searching for contraband that may have been overlooked during an earlier search by New Windsor, NY LEAs.

BELOW: SGT Vanderwerken scans the rear tire of the vehicle in question with the Mini-Z



the RAPID Scan vehicle did not make the trip. SGT Robert Vanderwerken, the CDU NCOIC, explained how the RAPID Scan truck is no longer in service and the Mini-Z would be the scanner used that day. As explained by SGT Vanderwerken, "it's the wave of the future".

Outside, SGT Vanderwerken and CPL Andrew Long scanned the impounded BMW SUV thoroughly. Sweeping passes were made with the Mini-Z over every aspect of the vehicle. Foot wells, seat backs, center console, dash board, ceiling, door

#### **News Around the Regions**

#### **Operation "Sticker Shock"**

1 February, Pine Bush, NY -The NYNG CDTF, NYC Region was supporting an awareness event along with The Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Council of Orange County, volunteers, and seven local pizzerias in the small town of Pine Bush, NY, 17 miles (as the crow flies) east of Newburgh. The initiative was to place one thousand "Sticker Shock" stickers on one thousand pizza boxes set to be filled by orders on Super Bowl Sunday. The idea was to place these stickers on outgoing pies to create awareness of

drug and alcohol horrors and hopefully start a converbetween sation adults and their teens. The sticker, with a pizza pie "graph" chart, indicates that 84% of Orange County 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade

students do not use marijuana and displays the Greater Pine Bush Partnership's vision statement to build a safe and healthy community for all.



ABOVE: NYNG CDTF NYC member, SPC Julio Fernandez looks on as a Pine Bush teenaged volunteer places "Sticker Shock" stickers on pizza boxes that were distributed on this past Super Bowl Sunday. A member of The Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Council of Orange County, MaryAlice Presto was also in attendance to help and answer questions, \*

ABOVE LEFT: The Sticker Shock sticker that was placed on one thousand pizzeria pizza boxes from SEVEN participating Pine Bush, NY pizzerias. \*\*\*

#### NARCAN Data System

NYNG CDTF NYC Region members CPL Julio Fernandez and SSgt Luis Giron conducted a presentation to nurses and staff at St. Luke's Hospital in downtown Newburgh. They explained the new NARCAN Overdose Reporting Data System will give first responders the opportunity to instantaneously upload vital information to the connected network that can then be accessed immediately by any authorized Police Department, Hospital, EMS personnel, and Coalitions sharing the information about an overdose victim.



The information can then be used to calculate and / or triangulate distribution areas and help figure out drug trafficking trends or dealer's general location. Especially if bad heroin batches are sold.

St Luke's Hospital is the pilot facility

to use the program and will partner with another hospital in Orange County, NY to test the "instant information". The information

collected is for data only, the hospital is not judging anyone. They're main goal is to save overdosed lives and to help prevent others from "OD-ing" as well.

CPL

Overdose

# **News Around the Regions**

# Prescription Drug Drop Boxes Keep Spreading Across the State.

The Prescription Drug Drop Box Program continues to spread across the state! In Rockville Center, Long Island, the FIRST NYNG CDTF sponsored drop box on Long Island was unveiled. Members of the NYC Region were on hand for this momentous occasion. There are other boxes on the island but this is CDTF's first. With the help of Rockville Center's Detective Nicholas Deluca, the word is sure to spread to the other police departments in the region.

On the opposite side of the state, Orchard Park (near Buffalo) also received a Prescription Drug Drop Box. The Orchard Park Police department has a shiny new drop box in the lobby of the police station. Two members of the Counterdrug Task Force Western Region



were present for the unveiling. The Orchard Park PD was also very appreciative of the CDTF's coordination, hard work, and professionalism when it came to the acquisition of the drop box. The word is spreading in that area as well.

ABOVE: NYNG CDTF NYC Region members (I to r): CPL Sean Cassidy, SrA Gabriel Manzueta, SSgt Carissa Siry, and SSG Windollyn Patino stand with Ruthanne McCormack, the Project Coordinator for the Rockville Center Coalition for Youth, Rockville Center Police Detective, Nicholas Deluca, Rockville Center's Mayor, Fran Murray, and Police Commissioner, Charles Gennario all pose with the newly unveiled Prescription Drug Drop Box in the lobby of the Rockville Center Police Department. Det. Nick Deluca was quoted saying, "I'm gaing to spread the word to the all the towns in the area. This is such a great program for our communities."





LEFT: NYNG CDTF Western Region members:
SSG Justin Chernagorec and 1SG Lamont Pugh
stand with Orchard Park Police Officer, Kristen
Mazur and Orchard Park Police Chief, Mark
Pacholec in the lobby of the Orchard Park Police
Department lobby where the Prescription Drug
Drop Box is permanently stationed.

#### **News Around the Regions**

#### Lieutenant Governor of New York State Addresses a Rochester CASAS Breakfast



24 March, 2017- Rochester, NY, Mr. Robert Kent, General Counsel for the NYS Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) and New York State's Lieutenant Governor, Kathy Hochul, who also happens to be Cochair for the New York State Heroin Task Force (NYSHTF), were present for the Consortium of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (CASAS) Region II; Critical Issues Lt Symposium. Gov. Hochul was the keynote speaker for the gathering. The Lt. Gov. touched on topics such as heroin and fentanyl of today are the equivalent to crack cocaine in 80's, standing up and acting against drugs and hopelessness, challenging gateway substances, to name a few. Lt

Gov. Hochul likened todays trials and tribulations to the "Whack-a-Mole" game from the late 70's to early 80's arcades of yesteryear. "Cigarettes are down but vaping is up, crack is down but then heroin popped up again", the Lt Gov. explained, "It's a cyclical pattern and we need to remain diligent if we're to successfully combat these issues." Lt Gov. Hochul went on to explain how part of the problem is 'prescribed' pain killers by physicians and dentists, the very people who spent many years in schools so they can help people. Now, they are inadvertently and accidently creating 'junkies' due to pharmaceutical companies pushing for profits. Lt Gov. Hochul continued speaking on the education

of the communities on these matters. Parents should say "no" to prescribed opioids. She carried on to discuss the issue with treating addicts. "Treat them NY State's Governor, Andrew Cuomo. She also vowed to keep up the support to the coalitions and organizations involved with the 'War on Drugs'.



immediately", the Lt Gov. explained, "you don't wait to treat heart attack victims, why on Earth would you wait on addicts?".

Lt Gov. Hochul went on to encourage and support the congregation by relaying the support and appreciation of herself and that of LT Gov. Hochul ended by closing with the following statement: "You are appreciated for giving hope and walking the talk. The Governor and I will be there when ever you need us! Thank you for everything you do and keep up the good work."

#### **News Around the Regions**

#### Criminal Analysts' "Boot Camp" and Awards for the Deserved

#### Back to Boot Camp!

For a week in March, the CDTF was training eleven new Criminal Analysts at Camp Smith, NY. The new hires attending the Boot Camp

were introduced to the very basics of what it takes to be a Criminal Analyst as well as being introduced to some of the CDTF staff and the CDC, COL Carton Cleveland. The class was facilitated by 1LT



Darren Hagan, 1SG Shaun Butcher, and MSgt Bryan McCarthy.

Welcome Aboard Everyone!



BELOW: NYNG CDTF CDC, COL Carlton Cleveland listens to SGT Malican as he introduces himself with a small background history. COL Cleveland made the trip from Schenectady to Camp Smith to personally introduce himself to the group as well as give discuss the CDTF's mission.



Awards are given to those individuals who have gone above and beyond their described jobs, the ones who took the extra step or walked *another* mile to ensure the mission is correctly completed.

On March 30th, two CDTF

members were recognized for their efforts and hard work. MSgt Bryan McCarthy was presented a crystal plaque in appreciation for undertaking the chief instructor of the Criminal Analysts' Boot Camp. SrA Jennatte Berger was also honored with an Air Force

Achievement Medal for her diligent endeavor to review over 175 personnel files covering three fiscal years. She tracked inactive duty and annual training reimbursements ensuring CDTF personnel were in compliance. SrA Berger's attention

to detail and reporting made it possible for the NYNG CDTF to receive just over a million dollars reimbursement.

# Job Well Done to Both of You!!





# **News Around the Regions**

#### **NY STATE First Sergeant of the Year!**

11 January, The NYNG CDTF has a member that made the grade and is being recognized for her accomplishments as a First Sergeant with her "guard unit", the 109th Airlift Wing.

MSgt Lynette M. Tangredi was nominated for and received the distinguished title of "First Sgt of the Year" for the year 2017. MSgt Tangredi, of the Northeast Region, is a First Sergeant with the 109th Airlift Wing's Security Forces Squadron and was nominated for the honor for her contributions to the Security Forces community. The "Shirt" is an accomplished and seasoned NCO with a world of knowledge and experience to offer any unit she's assigned to.

Tangredi, a 20-year Air Force veteran, said being a first sergeant was always something she wanted to do. "When I was active duty, the first sergeant was the one person I remembered who was always the point of contact -- always helping, always reassuring, and they just left an impression on me," she said. "I just knew that I wanted to do that one day." "Everybody always said it's the best job in the military,

and they're right," she exclaimed. "I absolutely love it - it's amazing being able to go to Greenland and Antarctica and to just see a completely different aspect of the way the Wing works. It's an extremely rewarding job." When Tangredi was selected as the Wing First Sergeant of the Year and then the State's she said she was surprised and humbled. "To think that there's so many amazing first sergeants on this base and across the State-just being at that level of competition was very humbling."

The First Sgt is a reflection of what the US Air Force, NY Air National Guard, and the NYNG Counterdrug Task Force emulate on a daily basis. MSgt Tangredi's contributions to the CDTF, the State of NY, the US Air Force and the United States are very much appreciated and she is an inspiration to all. When you see her, please congratulate her on this prestigious honor.

Congratulations
MSgt / First Sgt
Tangredi and
Thank You for Your
Service!





TOP: MSgt / First Sgt Lynette Tangredi's official First Sgt of the Year Photograph. \*\*\*

ABOVE LEFT: "Shirt" Tangredi at a promotion ceremony at Latham HQ.

ABOVE RIGHT: MSgt Tangredi last August at the NYNG CDTF annual Conference.

\*\*\*Excerpts of this article were provided for by MSgt Catharine Schmidt of the 109th Airlift Wing's Public Affairs Office.\*\*\*

# **News Around the Regions**

"Shirts" Participate in Annual Maltz Challenge '17



The annual Maltz Challenge, held all over the State is a physical fitness challenge in honor of the late MSgt Michael Maltz, of Mineola, NY, who was killed during a rescue mission of two small Afghani children on 23 March, 2003.

The challenge, started by MSgt Maltz's brothers, is a physical fitness circuit to keep the memory of their brother alive. The challenge for participants will push their bodies to the limits. MSgt Maltz was an avid athlete and made sure his subordinates took physical fitness seriously.

The program is comprised of a series of exercises that will force the willing to dig deep and find gusto they may not have known they had.

The course is made up of two 400m runs, 100m fireman's carry, 50 pull ups, dips, and knees-to-elbows, 100 push ups, and 100 sit ups!

This year's NYNG CDTF participants consisted of three First Sgts! MSgt Sally Baker and MSgt Jason Robelotto (freshly back from their trips to Antarctica in support of Operation Deep Freeze) as well as MSgt Lynette

Tangredi. MSgt Baker was the only "repeat" participant from last year and was full of smiles as she prepared mentally to take on the challenge. MSgts Robelotto and Tangredi were hoping to honor the fallen with their first attempt at the challenge.

The three NCOs were also joined by other members from different agencies in NY as they too, wanted to honor





ABOVE: MSgt Michael Maltz in a pre-2003 photograph.\*\*\*

LEFT: "Shirts" Sally Baker, Jason Robelotto, and Lynette Tangredi, all from NYNG CDTF NE Region participated in the physical fitness event in memory of the fallen hero, MSgt Michael Maltz.

BELOW: The participants from several different NY agencies pose before the beginning of the challenge. This year brought in a lager crowd than the previous year.

Michael Maltz. Those agencies consisted of the NYS Police, Saratoga Police, Border Patrol, the FBI, DEA Albany, Albany and Rensselaer County Sherriff's Departments, the CIA and civilians who wanted to show their respect.



# **News Around the Regions**

Promotions to be Celebrated...

#### Congratulations 1LT Darren Hagan..... FINALLY!!!

26 January, 2017 - It was a chilly morning the NYNG CDTF HQ went into full "Continuity of Operations (COOP) mode. The abrupt mission notification had HQ members scatter. to different areas of the capitol region in order to maintain propercommunication lines with other units.

Most members were sent to NY Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) HQ in Latham. Upon their arrival, however, the contingency, climbed aboard a waiting UH-60 Blackhawk to relocate to an alternate location.

Roughly ten minuets into the flight, NYNG CDTF CDC, COL Carlton Cleveland (who was on headset) addressed the flight and explained the nature of the mission. The "true" intension was not to travel to Oneonta to conduct a COOP mission but to honor a member with a long-overdue recognition. Sitting to the COL's

left, 2LT Darren Hagan was about to be stripped of his "Butter Bar" and promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant! Due to Federal Recognition Process holdups, LT Hagan has been waiting for his upgrade for quite some time.

COL Cleveland spoke about LT Hagan's character as he slapped the Velcro "Black Bar" to his chest. The COL mentioned how it was his honor to be the one to promote an individual that he has much admiration for. 1LT Hagan's dedication to duty, professionalism, and vigor for life are all great attributes to have as a newly promoted senior lieutenant as well as a member of the US Army and the NYNG Counterdrug Task Force. There is no doubt the LT will go far in his military career.

**Congratulations LT!** 

Stay "ARMY STRONG"!!





TOP: NYNG CDTF CDC, COL Carlton Cleveland, rips off 2LT Darren Hagan's "Butter Bar" during an "Alternative Fact COOP Mission" flight

ABOVE: COL Cleveland places the Velcro Black Bar on the newly promoted 1LT Hagan's uniform and slaps it into place to ensure it won't fall off.

#### Congratulations 2nd Lt Joshua Speziale!

The man known to the NYNG CDTF a man that lives by the Air Force's as SrA Speziale or just "Spez" (or "Speez") is no longer. Since 10 March, 2017, Joshua Speziale will be from that day forward be referred to as 2nd Lt Speziale! The Lieutenant was selected for a communications position with the 105th Air Wing stationed at Stewart ANGB in Newburg.

Lt Speziale had always known since attending the 109th AW's Student Flight Program (Stratton ANGB, Scotia, NY) in 2011 he would someday become an officer. After serving a few years in the enlisted ranks to gain experience; and with patience and timing, he has achieved what he set his sites on. The newly commissioned 2nd Lt is

Core Values and it is clearly evident with how he conducts daily business and treats everyone he meets with dignity and respect.

His character is one of the first things one will notice about the Lt upon meeting him for the first time. His respectfulness and willingness to lend a hand though, should not be mistaken as weakness. Under his docile demeanor lies the determination to succeed in all that he does and his track record reflects this. Courtesy, classiness, and well spoken dialog shows of a man who is intelligent and confident and that will conduct business with decency and decorum to all.

2nd Lieuten Joshua Speziale has his "Butter Bars" pinned on by his family (from I to r) father Thomas, daughters Ruth and Eden (in his arms), son Luke, wife lamie (who is expecting heir fourth child), and mother Joan Speziale.\*\*\* Congratulations Sir! AIM HIGH! Silver, Commander of the 105th light, 105th AW delivers the Officer's Lt Speziale during the commissioning on 10 March, 2017,\*

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#### News Around the Regions

#### ...and a Retirement to be Commended!

After nearly 30 years his country and state, Sergeant Major Roland E. Wells will finally be hanging up his uniform and unlacing his combat boots for a final time. Three decades after a long and fruitful career in the military, the SGM is retiring.

SGM Wells' tenure in the armed forces began in April of 1989 when he heard the call and enlisted in the US Army as a medical specialist. His first four years were a quick whirlwind as he ascended the enlisted ladder from Private E1 (PVT) to the Jr Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) rank of Sergeant (SGT). As a SGT, SGM Wells joined the New York Counterdrug Task Force in 1998. Within the CDTF, he has worn many different hats as he conducted business in the J3, 4, 6 and Compliance shops of HQ in Schenectady. Through his CDTF years, the SGM climbed the rank structure from SGT to SGM , Command Sergeant Major (CSM), and back to SGM. In June of 2005, then SSG Wells was promoted to Sergeant First Class (SFC) and named Platoon Sergeant of the HHT 2-101 Calvary in Buffalo then promoted again, two years later, and named First Sergeant (1SG) of the 222nd Chemical Company stationed in Brooklyn. SGM Wells continued to shine as a Senior NCO and through his meticulous, attention to detail, professionalism, and his honest approach to life that he achieved one of his personal goals and was promoted to Sergeant Major in another two short years, September 2009. His assignment as SGM embodied the Chief Medical NCO in Troy with Headquarters of the 42nd Infantry Division (ID). Another personal goal was achieved in April of 2011 when SGM Wells earned his

"wreath" and was laterally pro-Major of the 369th Sustainment Brigade in NYC. Finally, from 2014 until now, he was repositioned as the SGM of the 42nd ID again. Over the years, SGM Wells maintained a phenomenal work ethic his rank and serve his communities for nearly 30 years. He was also able to deploy for over a year to Iraq, earn two Meritorious Service Medals, obtain a Master's degree in Health Sciences , and, most importantly, maintain a successful family life with his wife Amy and answered explained, "there was a 'bittersweet' feeling that over-came me. I've been with my husband since the age of 18 and the life path he chose was a path I had to choose as well. I chose it willingly, so now, our family is also retiring from the service. I started my internal, and sometimes emotional countdown of all the 'lasts' we've had already The last military Christmas party, the last time I'll see him put his

moted to Command Sergeant and exhibited the drive to attain their two daughters Brianna and When questions were posed to Mrs. Amy Wells to how she feels about this milestone, she with enthusiasm. "When my husband began his retirement process", Mrs. Wells



uniform on, the last time I have a week off to myself when he was away for a CDTF conference, and so on." She continued, "Our daughters too, Brianna and Alexis also share in my sentiments. They also believe that leaving the profession he's had for such a long time will difficult. Acquiring and working on a new career will keep him busy."

Mrs. Wells further more mentioned that she does not have any expectations but did hint at an

ocean front piece of property dream.

In the end, Mrs. Wells just wants her husband, SGM Roland Wells, to know how honored and proud she is to be his wife and she wants him to enjoy this moment, feel honorable, and to know that she will always love him.

CONGRATULATIONS Sergeant Major!!

Fare Thee Well and God Speed!!



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## **News Around the Regions**

# NYNG CDTF HQ Hosted Annual "Open House"

Just before the holiday mentioned. The NY State Freyn were also present. season comes to fruition, for the past few years, NYNG CDTF HQ has attended as well as Chief thrown an annual "Open Warrant Officer 5 Robert House" to bring people together and enjoy an afternoon eating, networking, making introductions, and making merry COL with collogues. This past Open House did not disappoint with any of the fore

Adjutant General, Major **General Anthony German** Wold (Ret), and NYNG Command Sergeant Ma-Piwowarski. NYNG Coordinator Robert Mitchell, CDTF CDC COL Carlton Cleveland, Lt Col Nicholas

Laughs, conversations, and the consumption of Italian fare made this party enjoyable for all.



NYC Region Commander, LTC Daniel Harris.

LEFT: MAJ M. McLoughlin and CW2 P. Napolitano



ABOVE LEFT: SSG James Peck of CDTF HQ, chitchats with MSgt Marlene Frankovic during the festivities.

LEFT: NYNG J3 Coordinator, COL Robert Mitchell partakes in the food spread consisting tomato pie, baked ziti, hot and garlic wings, vegetables, chips and dips. Italian bread and submarine sandwiches were also consumed by merry makers. There wa<mark>s a</mark> desert table a<mark>s well.</mark>

RIGHT: 1SG Lamont Pugh of NYNG CDTF Western Region, jokes with NYNG CSM David Piwowarski before the catered fare was served.



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

## **News Around the Regions**



#### **News Around the Regions**

#### The NYNG CDTF Wedding Celebrations Page!

Congratulations to SGT Brittany Smead of CDTF Western Region who celebrated her marriage a few months ago. In fact, her marriage to Jeffry (yes, that is how spell his name) Ruso was August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016, and yes, two

days before travelling to Lake Placid for the NYNG CDTF's annual conference.

Now that's dedication!

Her husband, CPT Jeffry Ruso, is an Intel Officer with the Army Reserves serving out of Fort Dix, NJ. The couple met while at a two week course in Albany for a SHARP victim advocate class in 2013. Two years later on 30 September, 2015, CPT Ruso proposed to SGT Smead. They were married eleven months afterwards in Ithaca, NY.





Congratulations to CDTF NYC Region's SSgt Carissa Cantone who was married this past September.

On September 23rd, SSgt Cantone officially became SSgt Siry when she married TSgt Joseph Siry, an electrician for HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters and HC-130 Hercules aircraft of the 106th Rescue Wing based out of Westhampton Beach, NY.

The couple met and started dating in 2014 and were

engaged a year later. Upon returning from a four month deployment to Djibouti, Africa, TSgt Siry proposed to Carissa on the flight line after exiting the plane.

The couple was wed the following year at 'The Watermill' venue in Smithtown, NY.

One more congratulatory salutation must go out to NYNG CDTF HQ's SSgt Sean Chester and his wife Kim (Willet). Married on the 17th of February, 2016. This whirlwind romance reads like something straight out of a Rom-Com movie. They met in October 2015, started dating in November of the same year, became engaged on 12 February

member, SSgt Carissa

with her after a deployment

upon reuniting

ruary, 2016 and married five days later, yes you read that correctly. And if any of you know Sean Chester, a man who lives by the seat of his pants, he lives to have fun, laugh and bring joy to anyone he's near, then you know this story is *NOT* unlike him. This is exactly like him. Now, a year later, you will read on the next page to see how the Chester's lives continue to be a cause for

husband at their recep-

celebration. A funny side note, Mrs. Chester recollects about the courtship the couple had. "At first, it was very hard to get close to Sean because he was oblivious to my attraction to him. But then when we finally did start dating, it was just three months later that we decided to marry. You just know when you know and it was meant to be."



# **News Around the Regions**

#### 3 Boys and a Little Lady!

Congratulations are to be made to NYC Region's two new members to the Counterdrug Family.

Please congratulate SGT Haoyi You and SGT Holden Davenport on the births of their baby boys.

SGT Holden Davenport's wife, Ann Katrin Kohnle, gave birth to their baby boy, Xavier Jesse, on 24 January, 2017 at 1041hrs. He weighed 8lbs 6oz. Both mom and baby are doing well.

Nathan H You was born at 1408hrs on 5 January, 2017. He weighed in at 8lb 8oz. SGT You, his wife Xin, and baby Nathan are all doing fine.

Congratulations to Mrs and SGT Daven port and Mrs and SGT You to the new additions to their families.

~SSG Judith Watt



HQ has a new addition to their ranks as well!

ABOVE: Xavier Jesse Davenport

wrapped up like a little package, after his birth on 24 January.\*\*\*

BELOW: Axton Grey Chester sleeps

after his delivery on 28 February.

SSgt Sean Chester's son, Axton Grey, was born on 28 February after a long labor. Born at 7lbs 6oz, both Axton and his mother, Kim, are doing fine if not a little tired.

Lastly, but certainly not least, SSG Ray Adepegba and his wife Diahann welcome their beautiful baby daughter, Janelle Folassade Adepegba, born on 19 November, 2016, at 9.3lbs. Everyone is healthy and doing well!

Congratulations to everyone and Welcome to the world kids!

BELOW: Jenelle Folassade Adepegba, baby daughter of SSG Ray Adepegba was born last year on 19 November. \*\*\*

WOKE UP THIS

# **News Around the Regions**

# 2017 New Comers' Brief at CDTF Headquarters

11 April, NYNG CDTF HQ hosted this fiscal year's Newcomers' Brief to twenty new hires. Their 'walks of life' and ranks differ immensely. From an Air Force SrA to an Army LTC, these 20 new members decided to step up and go above and beyond their duty to State and Country so they can now make a difference in their communities. The brief started at 0830hrs and was facilitated by HQ's 1LT Alisa Kupinski, TSgt Michael Crouse, and SSgt Sean Chester. NY NG CDTF J3 OIC, MAJ Matthew McLoughlin, and the Task Force's senior enlisted representative / Criminal Analyst DEA Syracuse, CSM Joseph Freyn, conducted



the lectures. The senior leaders went through numerous slides informing the gathering of the rules and regulations CDTF adhere to as well as policies and procedures that gov-

ern day-to-day operations. The NYNG CDTF CDC, COL Carlton Cleveland called in from State HQ to give his encouragement and to reinforce what MAJ McLoughlin and CSM Freyn already made

known. The COL also conveyed how pleased he is knowing that the new members are the 'crème da le crème' after a lengthy and thorough interview process. He advised the new personnel to strive and become 'Masters of the Craft' and then emphasized to create and maintain relations with LEAs, coalitions, and most importantly, their new collogues. Before hanging up, the Commander also specified on sexual assault and suicide awareness.



# WELCOME EVERYONE and GOOD LUCK!

IMAGES: MAJ Mathew McLoughlin (above) of NYNG CDTF HQ J3 and CSM Joseph Freyn (left) of NYNG CDTF NE Region address, inform, and inspire the new wave of soldiers and airmen who have sought employment with NYNG CDTF. The new members, already serving their State and Country and wanting to do more for their communities have answered the call, vet again.

#### **SARC Page\*\*\***

Capt Ashley Fitzgibbon is the <u>Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for New York State</u>. 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 (snow) or shine, with the phone number listed below. If you need help, do not hesitate to call. She will be your voice!



# 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 /(518)339-7586



JFHQ VAC Ms. Chassidy Ryals (518)786-4734

BDE VA Information: BN VA Information:

#### 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 RESONSE TEAM!

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



# Contact us at:

Headquarters - COL Carlton Cleveland 518-344-3480 (Scotia) carlton.c.cleveland.mil@mail.mil	Civil Operations Administrator - CPT Alexander Saxby 518-344-3478 (Scotia) alexander.b.saxby.mil@mail.mil
Western Region - CPT Phillip Diaz	Lead Criminal Analyst - 1LT Darren Hagan
716-888-5790 (Buffalo)	201-602-8537 (Scotia)
phillip.m.diaz.mil@mail.mil	darren.j.hagan.mil@mail.mil
Northeast Region - Capt Adam Rinaldi 518-365-7978 (Saratoga) adam.d.rinaldi.mil@mail.mil	J-1 / J-8 ~ 1LT Alisa Kupinski / OC Duncan Newberry 347-671-5211 -(Scotia)- 518-344-3458 alisa.kupinski.mil@mail.mil / duncan.r.newberry.mil@mail.mil
New York City - LTC Daniel Harris	Compliance / Safety - CW2 Michelle Hart
646-424-5525 / 646-660-2123 (Manhattan)	518-344-3454 (Scotia)
daniel.e.harris3.mil@mail.mil	michelle.l.hart33.mil@mail.mil
Aviation / LUH 72 - CW2 Phillip Napolitano	CDU - SSG Robert Vanderwerken
518-786-4385 (Scotia)	518-857-2394 (Scotia)
phillip.j.napolitano.mil@mail.mil	robert.e.vanderwerken.mil@mail.mil