

The Nexus

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Spring 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 would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the part you play in supporting the New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. It is important that you all know from the Administrative Staff, Civil Operators, Aviation, Counterdrug Detection Unit, Criminal

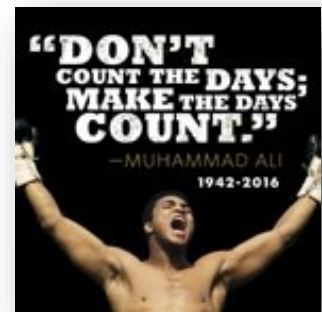
Analyst, Command Staff to the Head Quarters here in Scotia it takes each of you dedicated every day to make a difference. As a NYCDTF member you are representing your Regional Commander, the CDC, TAG and the Governor of New York State. It is a responsibility I know you will handle professionally with the utmost importance! I personally want you to know as the CDC, I think you are doing an incredible job!

Looking back, it has been an amazing 13 years as a New York

Counterdrug Task Force member. As I sit and think of the things I have learned and the message I should push forward to all of you I decided to do a Google search. If you don't know already, Google provides you the answers to everything. I say that in Jest but as I conducted my Google search for an inspiration to share with you, the late Muhammad Ali's name came up along with his famous quotes. The quote that stuck out to me the most was "DON'T COUNT THE DAYS; MAKE THE DAYS COUNT".

I think this is a great quote to provide us inspiration to make a difference every day. As we continue fighting the War

on Drugs it can seem like a never ending cycle and that we can't or won't make a dent or a positive impact. If I was to ask one thing of you today it would be to **START COUNTING THE DAYS YOU HAVE MADE THE DAYS COUNT!**



"WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TODAY TO MAKE IT COUNT?"

~Lt Col Nicholas Dean

THE CSM'S: LISTEN UP!

Greetings NY Counterdrug,

I want to start by congratulating you all on a job well done with our NGB CPE inspection. For those of you that aren't aware, we scored a 97% which was a tie for the highest score so far in FY16. Our finance team scored a 95% which was the highest score thus far within this FY. I know there was some pain and frustration along the way, but I appreciate everyone keeping their heads down and plugging away. Continue to look at

the systems you have in place and find ways to improve when necessary. Again, great job to everyone involved.

We are rapidly approaching Annual Training season. Please ensure your leadership is aware of your dates, as well as the organizations you support. If you hold a leadership position, make sure you are developing a battle hand off with someone that can take the lead in your absence.

The annual conference is around the corner. If you have ideas on training or speakers push them up through your chain of command. We are always looking at ways to improve and make the conference as beneficial as possible.

Congratulations to CPT Diaz, Capt Rinaldi, SSgt Giron, SGT Amer, SGT You, MSgt Carty, MSG Pugh, and MSgt Lansley on your promotions.

An additional congrats and thank you goes out to Colonel Natali. Thank you for leading our program to the levels we are at today.

On behalf of the program, we wish you the best.

Stay safe and keep up the great work!



~CSM Joseph Freyn

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

J1 / J8



Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)

The Basics

It is never too early to begin planning for retirement and life after the military. TSP is the Federal Government and military's version of the 401 (k) which offers options for both Traditional and Roth accounts.

Traditional vs. Roth

The Roth option was introduced to the TSP in 2012 and represented a significant alternative to making contributions to your TSP account. Though the Roth option has been available for over three years, many members remain unaware of the availability of the Roth. Choosing between Traditional and Roth can have a substantial impact on the value of your retirement savings.

Traditional contributions are pre-tax contributions where the contribution is taken out of your paycheck before income is taxed. The money that is contributed to your TSP will grow tax deferred, and you will pay taxes on your contribution and their

earnings upon withdrawal in retirement. The Traditional option appeals to members that wish to lower their current taxable income.

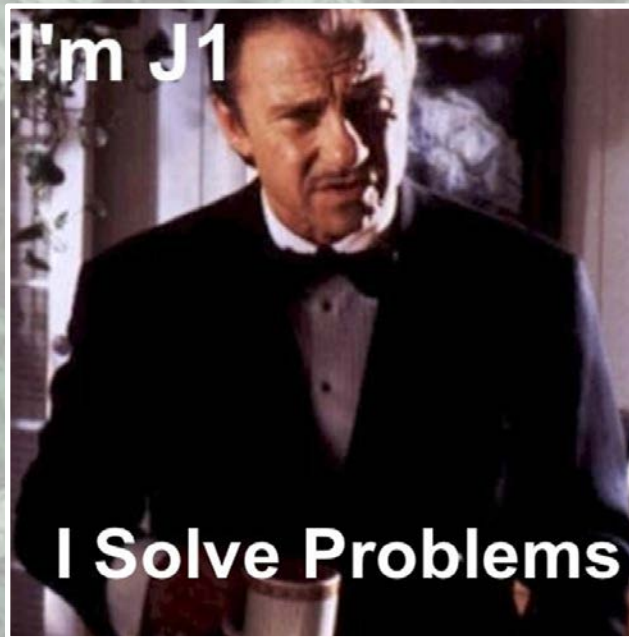
Roth contributions are after-tax contributions where the contribution is taxed during the current tax year. The money that is contributed to your TSP will grow tax-free and you will not pay taxes on contributions or earnings upon retirement

Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) Premium Reimbursement Program

This program applies to all eligible service members enrolled in SGLI and provides reimbursement for premiums that individual service members pay during qualifying periods of service. All members on FTNG Counterdrug orders are eligible to be reimbursed their SGLI premium. Service

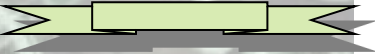
It is recommended that members begin compiling their LES showing the SGLI premium deduction for each month. The J1 office will be publishing more information this summer regarding the reimbursement applications. Reimbursement is typically received in December or early January.

Reference:
<https://dmna.ny.gov/benefits/sgli/>



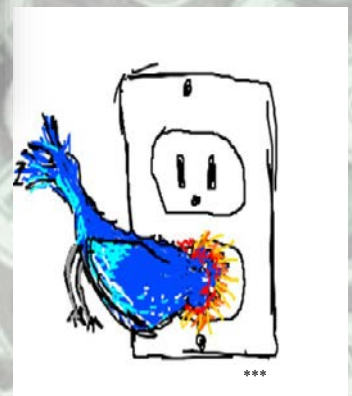
Resources:
<https://www.futureadvisor.com/content/blog/traditional-vs-roth-thrift-savings-plan-tsp-contributions>
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/marybethstorjohann/2015/10/05/tsp-vs-roth-ira-which-is-right/>

members apply for reimbursement by completing an application (**DMNA Form 1-2**) and submitting it along with the required supporting documentation. Supporting documentation includes appropriate individual orders and verification of premiums paid [copy of Leave and Earning Statement(s) (LES)].

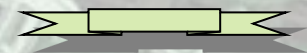


J1 Words of Wisdom

There's a blue canary in the outlet by the light switch with a secret to tell from his electrical well. His primitive ancestry stood on rocky shores and kept the beaches shipwreck free. Though I respect that a lot, I'd be fired if that were my job.



~ Capt Adam Rinaldi



J3 / Civil Operations

As we move into the summer months, our operation tempo will pick up with more aviation, Counterdrug Detection Unit (CDU), criminal analyst, and civil operator missions. It is important to remember to always conduct a deliberate risk assessment for any mission where you leave your office and to have it submitted to operations. If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

In the beginning of April, the New York Counterdrug program went through its Counterdrug Program Evaluation (CPE) which happens typically every 3-4 years. For operations, train-



Inspectors look over regulations during April's CPE.

ing, and aviation we scored a combined 97% which was due to all of the hard work of the operations NCOs, fellow staff, and all of the regions. Thank you for all of your hard work and staying on top of inputting accurate and timely reports into FTSMCS.

In closing, I would like to welcome SSgt Chester to the operations team where he will be assisting TSgt Roberts on all future operations tasks. Also, the Coun-

terdrug annual conference is scheduled for 29AUG-01SEP in Lake Placid, NY. We look forward to seeing you there.



~CPT J. Moeller

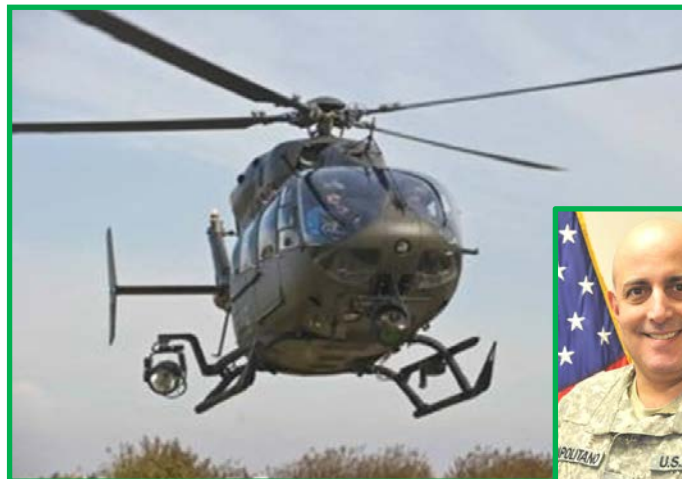
Security & Support / LUH 72a Lakota

CD Aviation support, fixed wing and rotary wing, is an integral part of our overall CD strategy. Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) can request the use of our assets at any time for mission support. Our primary air support missions for them are Marijuana Eradication and Aerial Surveillance. In order for a Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) to fly on board our aircraft, there is mandatory training they must attend. The training topics are addressed in NGB Regulation 500-2 and the training itself must be refreshed annually. They include classes on Recognizing Hazards to Safe Aircraft Operation, Aircrew Coordination Considerations, Internal Aircraft Communications, Aircraft Safety and Emergency Considerations, and Night Flight Considerations. In addition, LEOs shall receive a detailed passenger briefing prior to each flight

and also an in-flight aircraft orientation. Other topics of instruction that aid the LEO to perform as an observer in the aircraft are Aerial Ob-

topics to LEAs interested in using our aircraft for this FY. Workshops were conducted in Binghamton, Newburgh, Syracuse, Niagara, and Alba-

For the Aviation section, May began with NGB conducting the Aviation Policy Course in Latham, NY, with 32 personnel attending from NY and other states.



servation and Reconnaissance techniques. Our CD Aviation section recently conducted some training workshops throughout the state with the purpose of presenting these

ny in recent weeks, and all classroom and ground training were completed by attending LEOs. We have one remaining workshop in Albany set for June 2nd.

The Aviation Policy Course is a mandatory prerequisite before flying any Counterdrug missions as a Pilot in Command in any aircraft. The rest of May has been full of various orientation and scouting missions, and we've also had our Annual Training at Ft. Drum, NY. A total of 18 helicopters deployed to Ft. Drum from NY and 3 other states to conduct a two week joint training there.

~CW2 Phillip Napolitano

Farewell and Godspeed!

April 8th, The Brick Tavern and Grille. COL Michel Natali arrived for lunch the usual way amongst his staff and colleagues, but this time was different. This time was not a usual lunch. This would be his last time as the Counterdrug Coordinator.

The Adjutant General, Major General Anthony German, along with Brigadier General Shields, Colonels Andonie, Center, and Mitchell, and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Wold, joined officers and enlisted

members—ranging in ranks from Airmen First Class to Sergeant Major and representing the New York City, North East and Head Quarters Regions—joined to honor COL Natali and his wife Barbara. Everyone wanted to celebrate with a proper, albeit humble, send off and “fare-thee-well” in a way Col Natali would appreciate. Good food, good people, good memories! (... and lots of pizza)

The Counterdrug Task

Force’s Coordinator was welcomed in October of 2013, and his tenure be marked with admiration and respect from everyone he encountered. A quiet demeanor that remained

undeniably in charge, COL Natali chose to mentor and lead with a humbleness which allowed his subordinates to flourish. He knew how to direct troops and airmen so they could lead themselves to greater effectiveness and knew how to inspire and lend a



“down-to-earth” ear when needed.

Colonel Michel Natali is a solid leader and good man who will be missed from the program, but even when not serving here, he will continue to serve the State and community. COL Natali will continue his obligation as a traditional guardsman as he returns fulltime to his civilian career with the New York State Police. Working in cooperation alongside NYS Troopers, the CDTF can be sure it hasn’t seen the last of COL Michel Natali.

In the words of MSgt Marlene Frankovic “Time may go by, But the time spent with you, with your mentorship and guidance will last a life time. You are a great leader and it has been a pleasure to work with you. You will be greatly missed.”

~TSgt Stephen J Girolami



ABOVE: Mrs. Barbara Natali listens to her husband, COL Michel Natali, as he gives a speech on how honored and grateful he is for having been the CDC for New York’s CDTF.



ABOVE: MSgt Marlene Frankovic hands COL Michel Natali an engraved clock in appreciation for his service and mentorship as the CDTF CDC over the past three and a half years.

TOP RIGHT CORNER: New York State’s Adjutant General, MG Anthony German, pins the Meritorious Service Medal on Col Natali’s ACU lapel at his farewell luncheon on 8 April, 2016.

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

Farewell and Godspeed!

MSG Cindy Marcinkowski joined and served with the U.S. Army National Guard in 1992 before coming on board with the Counterdrug program in 1996 as a Criminal Analyst for the NYNG. Her role has been working primarily with the Greater Rochester Area Narcotics Enforcement Team (GRANET).

MSG Marcinkowski's determination, organization and attention to detail led to positions of increasing responsibility, culminating as the Western Region Criminal Analyst Team Leader, a position she held for the better part of her 20 year career with the Counterdrug Task Force. MSG Marcinkowski's astute analytical abilities and operational support to numerous law enforcement agencies resulted in

the seizure of over 80 million dollars of illicit drugs, bulk currency, weapons, vehicles and property. In addition, her expertise, specifically her toll analysis, contributed to over 600 arrests.

MSG Marcinkowski has spent time away from her family on three deployments during her career. Those deployments took her to Afghanistan in '08-'09 and Kuwait twice in 2013!

The Master Sergeant will receive an ARCOM for her service upon retirement as she transitions to her new career with Bankers Life where she will sell different types of insurance.



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Above: MSG Cindy Marcinkowski is presented with a Counterdrug plaque of appreciation by Western Region Commander 1LT Philip Diaz during her retirement luncheon on 6 May. Right: SSG Jeramy Baldwin created the image of MSG Marcinkowski with her horse using a collage of smaller images and gave it to her as a parting gift for her years of service and comradery. Top: The smile that greeted everyone indiscriminately, MSG Marcinkowski's demeanor and professionalism will surely be missed from the CDTF program as she takes on her new life as a US Army Retiree.



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~TSgt Stephen J Girolami

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

Counter Drug Detection Unit (CDU)

The past few months have been very busy for the Counterdrug Detection Unit (CDU) to say the least. Late nights, over-nights, and weekends have seen the unit performing probation and Rapiscan GaRDS Mobile missions from one end of the state to the other, with briefings in-between. The briefings focus on providing law enforcement agencies (LEA) with information pertaining to available CDU and Counterdrug Task Force (CDTF) resources. Increased LEA requests have left the three-person squad running non-stop. In addition to the CDU's current resources, future resources include a Cellebrite, which is leveraged for mobile phone forensics, and a Mini Z, which is a handheld imaging system. With these added resources on the way, the CDU will be able to provide LEAs with

increased resource availability, along with welcomed increase in missions.

According to MSgt Jason Robelotto, the ion scanner probation missions have quickly proven to be valuable and provide a positive impact in assisting probation departments. The missions are cost effective for the CDTF and also easily coordinated between the CDU and LEA. The CDU can perform as many scans as the LEA requires for each particular mission. If a positive scan result of a probationer is obtained, the LEA can then determine the extent of their interview, conduct a urinalysis test, and home visit if deemed necessary.

One example of how effective the ion scanner (Itemiser 3 Enhanced, Sabre 4000) mission has become follows in the preceding reading from a story board submitted by MSgt



Above: The Orange County Sheriffs wait to see the reading on a swab that was ran through the glove compartment of the Sport Utility Vehicle in question. The CDU will process the swab through the Sabre 4000 which in turn, will detect any minute, narcotic substances or explosives (ex. TNT). On this occasion, the ion scanner picked up a trace amount of cocaine.

Robelotto and the CDU: One spring morning, the Counterdrug Detection Unit conducted a mission with a County Probation Department that shall remain nameless. The LEA requested to use Counterdrug CDU's ion scanners for their day reporting probationers.

Just under 200 scans were conducted to with over 20 positive results! Results varied from cocaine (the majority), to heroine, methamphetamine, and THC. There was also a positive reading for the explosive, TNT. The positive results were then used by the LEA to further their investigative interviews. Stemming from the positive ion scanner results, Law Enforcement Officers (LEO) can conduct home visits of a probationer which could lead to an arrest and the seizing of illegal properties.

The collaborative effort be-

tween the CDU and County Probation Departments, LEA and LEO, demonstrate without question, the positive impact that New York's Counterdrug Task Force has on combatting the use and sale of narcotics.

The CDU is continuously looking for ways to assist LEAs with their effort to combat narcotic activities.

Another aspect of the CDU is the Rapiscan GaRDS Mobile, which still has its place but is no longer the main focal point for the CDU. It is still a valuable resource and tool for LEA but one of, now many CDU resources. MSgt Robelotto says, "The Rapiscan GaRDS Mobile is an effective resource available to LEA in relation to being able to make certain that a motor vehicle is free of narcotics or contraband after LEA have conducted an



Above: From inside the Rapiscan GaRDS Mobile. SGT Robert Vanderwerken and AIC Jeremy Frye examine and scrutinize the scanned images of a suspected vehicle confiscated by the Orange County Sheriff's Department. The X-ray images help determine whether or not hidden materials are stowed away in the obscure cavities of the automobile to support on-going investigations. This particular mission found an anomaly within the center console region of the car just above the transmission. The CDU left before the Sheriff's inspected the car any further.

CDU

initial search. It provides a viable 'second' look." The ion scanner probation mission is a welcomed addition to not only the capabilities of the CDU but the CDTF. The mission assists probation departments with their investigations relating to probationers contact and or use of narcotics along with aiding in the seizure of narcotics.

~TSgt Stephen J Girolami / MSgt Jason Robelotto

Right: SGT Robert Vanderwerken explains how the Sabre 4000 ion scanner works to Albany County Probation Officers at the Albany County Lock Up in Downtown Albany, NY. Thirty-one officers attended the presentation and were highly attentive and eager with questions. They were enthusiastic about the swabbing down process and extremely interested in the Cellebrite concept.



Background Top: The Sabre 4000 Ion Scanner showing its positive reading for cocaine. Although just a trace amount, it will be added to the data already compiled to this individual case.

Background Bottom: SGT Vanderwerken and AIC Frye guide the impounded automobile onto ramps in order to better scan the vehicle with the Rapiscan GaRDS Mobile.



Top Left: 453x 2mg Xanax pills having a street value of approximately \$2,265.00 was found in the residence of a probation violator.



Bottom Left: Cannabis Concentrate (Shatter) was found in the residence of a probation violator.

News Around the Regions

Orange County Police Departments' Chiefs Unite in Prescription Medication Drop Box Reception

5 May, 2016, Newburgh Air Port Police Academy, Newburgh, New York~ Police Chief William Worden, the President of the Police Association of Orange County, introduced New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force members to fourteen out of thirty-one police chiefs representing nearly half of the police departments in Orange County. Their goal was to explain how civil operators in their area were able to assist LEAs and help in civilian anti-drug coalition organization. Also in attendance, down from Schenectady and CDTF's HQ, members were able to clarify to the police chiefs how the "Prescription Medication Drop Box" services worked and to explain different avenues to attain boxes for their communities.

SGT Carissa Lombardo and her Civil Operations Team, consisting of SrA Luis Giron and SPC Julio Fernandez (the CDTF team that operates in the "Mid-Hudson" portion of the

NYC Region), as well as MSgt Lynette Tangredi and TSgt Michael Crouse of NYNG CDTF HQ, were the team members that met the Police Chiefs. The Chiefs represented Police departments from Port Jervis, both the village and town of Chester, Walden, both the town and city of Newburgh, Cornwall, Highland Falls, Wallkill, New Windsor, Washington-

ville, Greenwood Lake, Montgomery, and Mt. Hope.

After the successful meeting, *all* of the police chiefs were highly interested in the Drop Box Program which resulted with 5 departments ordering their boxes and several more starting the process.

~TSgt Stephen J Girolami



ABOVE: TSgt Michael Crouse explains some key points on the Prescription Medication Drop Box Program and shares the cost benefits to take advantage of this privilege.



Left: Police Chief William Worden introduces the CDTF members to the rest of the police chiefs from Orange County on 5May 2016 at the Newburgh Police Academy.

ARMY FUN FACTS

The United States Army is older than the country it serves. The Army was formed on 14 June, 1775 as the "Colonial Army". The United States of America didn't officially become a sovereign country until just over a year later on 4 July, 1776.

The U.S. Army owns so much land within the continental United States and its territories abroad that, if all this territory was consolidated, it would be larger than the states of Massachusetts and Hawaii combined. In total, it equals out to 15 million acres or 24,000 square miles (6 to one, 1/2 dozen to another).

If the U.S. Army were a city, it would be the tenth largest city in the United States. With a population just over one million soldiers (combining all three components: active, reserves, and National Guard) it would fall in behind Dallas, Texas (9th place).

Along with being the tenth largest city, the U.S. Army is also the second largest employer in the country. With 2.2 million personnel on its payroll, only Walmart employs more people. Its safe to say, though, that the Army treats its people significantly better.

A quarter of the U.S. Army's population holds the rank of "SPECIALIST".

Between training and actual missions, being the second largest employer and the tenth largest city that spans over 24,000 square miles, the Army burns through over one billion gallons of fuel annually.

News Around the Regions

Prescription Medication Drop Box Program Comes to Fruition

Spear headed by Sgt Robert Doss of the New Windsor Police Department, the Prescription Medication Drop

County then sat down with members of CDTF NYC and HQ to explain the logistics of acquiring drop boxes.

County Legislator Tom Fagione, Executive Director Valarie Maginsky, and Project Coordinator Lindsay Carroll all

chief also mentioned the free service, how the box is located in City Hall, which is open 24 hours, but away from the police department to encourage use; he hopes it's used by people from the Tri-State area (NY, NJ, PA) for both legal and illegal narcotics.



Just over a month later, the fruits of everyone's efforts have come to light. New Windsor Police Department had an unveiling

spoke words of praise and gratitude for the hard work of everyone involved to get the project up and running. The town even went so far as to have an actual "unveiling" of the PMDB in the

~TSgt Stephen J Girolami



Box Program has spread like wildfire through Orange County, NY. When Sgt Doss caught wind of the program and its benefits for the community, not to mention its fantastic price tag, he knew he couldn't keep this secret. Sgt Doss brought it to the attention of Police Chief William Worden of the Port Jervis Police Department who, in turn, brought together or informed the other 30 police chiefs of Orange

on June 6th, and the Town of Cornwall had theirs the next day on June 7th. Highland Falls, Town of Warwick, Greenwood Lake Village, and the Village of Mt. Hope all followed suit. Port Jervis held their unveiling on June 13th with much pomp and circumstance. Very proud of their PMDB and what it means for the community, Mayo Kelly Decker was present (but didn't speak),

hallway where the box is stationed. Police Chief William Worden also expressed admiration and praise to everyone who helped support the task. He also talked about the dangers of old prescription drugs and why its important to keep the drugs out of landfills, the watershed, and bathroom cabinets. Burglaries could be kept at a minimum, and having fewer drugs around just might save some lives. The

Left: Town of Cornwall, Police Chief Todd Hazard and Town Supervisor Dick Randazzo pose with CDTF HQ and NYC members: TSgt Michael Crouse, SrA Luis Giron, and SPC Julio Fernandez 7 June.

Center: The PMDB unveiled at the New Windsor City Hall on June 6th, was featured in both The Sentinel and The Orange County Post publications.

Above: After the unveiling: Police Chief Worden, Project coordinator Lindsay Carroll, Community Volunteer Jack Austin, and Executive Director Valarie Maginsky pose with CDTF NYC and HQ members: SSG Windolyn Patino, SPC Julio Fernandez, SGT Carissa Lombardo, SrA Luis Giron, and TSgt Michael Crouse, June 13th.

New Jersey CDTF Visits NYNG CDTF HQ

13 June, NYNG CDTF HQ had a contingency from New Jersey's Counterdrug Task Force to begin mentoring aspiring civil operators on how to reorganize their Civil Operations (CO) Program from the aging and obsolete Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) program. SSG David You from NYC Region was the

primary instructor, and MSgt Lynette Tangredi was available to assist.

SSG Kube, SGT Duran, SGT Knoeller, SPC Williams, and PFC Wisniewski (NJ CDTF) arrived early in the morning to hear CO topics



Top: Group photograph of the NJ crew up for the training given by SSG You and MSgt Tangredi.

Bottom: SSG David You briefs the NJ CDTF members on Civil Operations Business Practices.

such as: Civil Operations Mission, the National Guard CO Specialist Objective, required training, OASAS / PRC, Civil Operations specialists, unique military tools, measures of

performance (MOP) and measures of effectiveness (MOE), unique mission initiatives, and linguists. Command structure and task organization was also discussed.

All the topics were covered for in an attempt to help our sister state get their plan in order so they make a smooth transition from DDR to CO.

News Around the Regions

Congratulations are in Order! Promotions, Graduations, Births and Engagements.

Congratulations to newly promoted CPT Philip Diaz! An officer and gentleman who has worked hard for excellence in every step of life let alone his career.

A very capable officer, CPT Diaz's thirst for knowledge and sense of adventure is undeniable. A graduate of Niagara University, with a BA in history, CPT Diaz graduated *Cum Laude* while also emerging as a Distinguished Military

Graduate for his ROTC program. He made the Commandant's list for the US Infantry's BOLC and Ranger school in the same year and easily completed both Airborne and Air Assault schools. Two tours as a Plt Ldr in Afghanistan would next test CPT Diaz's mettle but the challenge of Battalion Assistant and then XO at Ft Richardson, AK, would be the biggest test of this highly motivated soldier's career. When the time

to come home was upon him, Buffalo's son Philip Diaz, returned and joined the New York National Guard and the CDTF. He is currently the Battalion Asst., S3, 27th BSTB, 27th IBCT, in Buffalo, NY as well Commander of CDTF Western Region.

At his promotion ceremony, CPT Diaz was accompanied by his wife Crystal, his son Carter, and his father, Retired US Army Engineer,

Major Abner Diaz. Lt Col Barcomb, Commander of the 27th BSTB pinned CPT Diaz's captain bars to his chest.



Congratulations to newly promoted Capt Adam Rinaldi! The "J1 man with a plan" started his career in the enlisted ranks, working his way up to TSgt in the Air National Guard before deciding to work for his commission.

On Saturday the 11 June, Capt Rinaldi was

"pinned" by his unit commander, Capt Melissa Forsyth, of the 174th Attack Wing. His parents, Cheryl and David Rinaldi, and his wife and son Melissa and Vincent (Vinny) were also in attendance to witness Capt Rinaldi's achievement.

According to Capt Rinaldi,

his son Vinny, who is four, stole the show. After the ceremony, in front of the entire wing staff, he exclaimed, "Can I tell you something?! My grandma and grandpa make loud noises with me, and I really like them!"

Now that's a way to end a military affair!

Congratulations to the newly selected Executive Officer of the NYC Region, 1LT Alexander Saxby.

Before joining the CDTF on 25 May of this year, 1LT Saxby started his military career in 2003 by enlisting in the Marines the day after graduating high school (The Canandaigua Academy in Canandaigua NY). He deployed twice as a rifleman with the B/1st BN 8th Marines between '03 to '07, once to Fallujah and once

with the 24th MEU. In 2007, after his four year enlistment was complete, 1LT Saxby ETS-ed from the Marines and joined the Army National Guard as a helicopter mechanic for about a year and a half before deciding to get his commission. In 2010, 1LT Saxby achieved the rank of 2LT as well as earned a BA in Political Science from SUNY Albany. In the NYARNG, he has held the title of Plt Ldr for C/2-

108IN, Mortar Plt Ldr, HHC/2-108IN, and Company Commander B/2-108IN.

Currently, 1LT Saxby resides in Vermont with his wife Michelle and their two sons, Daniel and Michael, where he works as a Vermont State Trooper. On his "spare time", he is working on his M.A. in Management from American Public University System.

Please welcome him when you see him.



News Around the Regions

Pathfinders: First In– Last Out!

The mission of modern Pathfinder Soldiers is to navigate dismounted, establish and operate a day / night helicopter landing zones (LZs), parachute drop zones (DZs), computerized air release system (CARP) DZs, ground marked release system (GRMS) DZs, and Army verbally initiated release system (VIRS) DZs, conduct sling load operations, provide air traffic control (ATC) and navigational assistance to rotary wing (RW) and fixed wing (FW) operations.

Pathfinder outfits became necessary in WWII when British and US Infantry units needed guidance regarding where to drop airborne troops and, later in the war, land soldier filled gliders.

The first use in combat was 13 September 1943 during combat jumps into Italy. WWII-era Pathfinders are most remembered for their heroic jump into Normandy during the invasion of 1944 on June 6th, when they led the way for Allied forces into Europe. They were employed throughout Southern France, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany in the course of Allied airborne

operations until the end of the war in Europe. They were also used in the Pacific theater during the liberation of the Philippines.

The Vietnam War saw the largest use of Pathfinders due to developments in helicopter insertion and resupply (which were pioneered by the 11th Air Assault Division).

From the late 1980s through 1990, the Army started disbanding its pathfinder units in the belief those skills could be learned by regular troops attending Air Assault School and by individuals within the unit who were pathfinder qualified. Operations during the Panama invasion and the Gulf War showed that Pathfinders were an important factor in successful airborne operations, and the Army needed more of them.

The pathfinder units today still live by the motto of "First In - Last Out" and proudly wear the Pathfinder Torch.

The Pathfinder's distinctive winged torch symbol comes

from ancient Greece where runners opened up the Olympic Games, bearing the Olympic Torch. The Pathfinder torch signifies the pathfinder's function to "Light the Way" for airborne forces following behind. The red backing worn on the original Pathfinder Badge was changed to black in 1964 to signify night operations. Pathfinders wear the full-color winged torch on their Army Service Uniforms (ASUs) and a subdued version on their Army Combat Uniforms (ACUs).

The school itself is a grueling two weeks of intense classes that challenge the individuals' ability to think fast and calculate formulas on the run. Math and "attention to detail" are the two most important skills one will need to get through the course according to SPC Andrew Long, one of this year's CDTF Pathfinder Badge recipients.

When asked about the school, CDTF's other

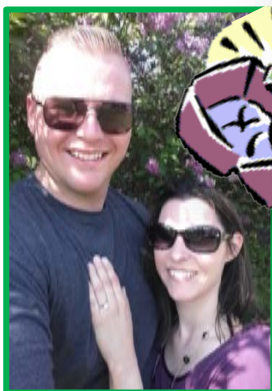
recipient, SSG Daryl Reed, was quoted as saying, "it was hard, really hard. It was all class room and very little field-work". SPC Long agreed, "It was insanely hard, the most stressful two weeks of my adult life. The schooling was so focused on giving us so much information in so little time that we weren't allowed to do PT. We still had only 28 members graduate out of 46."

Well congratulations gentlemen, you have made it! Well done, FIRST IN - LAST OUT!

Below: SSG Daryl Reed (l) of NYNG CDTF NYC Region and SPC Andrew Long (r) of NYNG CGTF HQ successfully completed the two week US Army Pathfinder School at Camp Rilea in Oregon. Both men agreed the course was mentally exhausting but well worth the experience and now proudly wear the distinctive winged torch to "Light the Way" for airborne units that follow behind.



Announcements:



Congratulations are in store for *SGT Justin Borst*. He announced his engagement to his, now fiancé, Cindy Wishart and are planning their wedding for September 2017.

Also planning future nuptials is *SSG Dennis Sincebaugh* who got engaged in February.

Both CDTF members are from Western Region.

TWO New Members!

Theodore Justin Kupinski arrived a week late on May 9th, son of HQ's 1LT Alisa Kupinski. Baby is great and both parents are sleep deprived but doing fine.

Arabella Andrea Courtney was born on Sunday May 22, daughter of NYC's TSgt Holly Niro. Arabella was 6lbs 11 ounces and 19.5 inches and is healthy and strong. Welcome to the world!



News Around the Regions

Operation Pandora's Box

Lt Derrick Harris from CNET Syracuse requested SSG Hahn Nguyen from NE Region attend a press conference on 11 April in uniform to represent the CDTF's participation in the Joint Operations investigations involving the illegal use of the US Postal Service. The conference was held at the New York State Police Head Quarters Troop D in Oneida, NY April 11th.

SSG Hanh Nguyen is assigned to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) office in Syracuse. She was invited alongside representatives from CNET-Syracuse, DEA, HIS, Border Patrol, and Syracuse PD.

SSG Nguyen played a very multi-faceted part in this

operation. She learned how to target potential carrier parcels and request search warrants from the US Attorney's Office. With these skills, she helped with the planning of this interdiction operation and created reports beginning March 1st from the Internal National Inspection Service Analytics. She also helped organize the material processed on a daily basis, helped clear database searches and postal database inquires, supported investigators and inspector who were writing search warrants, and even helped K-9 operations with their alerts (they had three K-9 handlers a day). While managing those many tasks, she also wrote notes for every parcel opened so it could be logged into evidence then created an Excel spread sheet and responded to emails coming from the Postal Mas-

ter from surrounding post offices who were on high alert and would explain their operation to CNET and to two other high officials when they visited.

Also in attendance at the press conference was NE Commander, MAJ Matthew McLoughlin and NE colleague SGT Richard Reynolds who supported USPIS's case through updating totals every night from CNET-Syracuse.

Integral support to the operation, but unable to attend, were SSG Ray Adepegba and SFC Joshua Stickle. Both SSG Adapegba and SFC Stickle assisted at USPIS for some CLEAR, Google searches, and internal PMN database searches from Troy, NY.

The success of this domestic



Above: The confiscated contraband.

operation resulted in 22 arrests. It also yielded the seizure of the following contraband and assets; 73.5lbs of MJ, two pounds of hash oil, 306 g mushrooms, 980x Xanax pills, 3.4 oz MDMA, 2.2 oz cocaine, 0.9 g crack cocaine, 20 gr heroin, 93 LSD hits, 0.25 kg of synthetic drugs, five firearms, one Mercedes Benz vehicle, and \$158,000 in bulk cash.

Internationally, HSI intercepted 8,340 illegally imported pharmaceutical pills (to include narcotic painkillers and steroids) and 4 kilos of synthetic drugs.

~TSgt Stephen J Girolami



SSG Hahn Nguyen and CDTF Northeast Region Commander MAJ Matthew McLoughlin stand with Law Enforcement Representatives at the press conference on 11 April. SSG Nguyen was personally requested to attend the conference by the Syracuse area LEAs so they could demonstrate their gratitude for her support and dedication to their programs and procedures.

News Around the Region

Memorial Day Grand Marshal

May 25th, Scotia, NY

One of COL Natali's final directives (half seriously, half jokingly), before his five year leave of absence from the NY State Police was up, was to, then newly promoted Lt Col Nicholas Dean, and soon-to-be CDTF CDC, to act as Grand Marshall for the Memorial Day Parade held in Scotia, NY. Lt Col Dean was up for this very prestige honor, made sure his dress blues were in order, and verified his customs and courtesies. He took this task seriously knowing he was going to be in the public eye.

At 1730, the evening was still a muggy 85°F. The new CDTF CDC arrived with his wife, Deborah, and climbed into the back a light blue convertible Ford Mustang GT with a white magnetic

sign. The red letters on the sign read "Grand Marshall". Funny, there was an even larger, sponsor sign below it in blue letters. Ready to give the crowd that had gathered a gander at his pageant wave he had practiced the night before, Lt Col Dean was having fun with the honor bestowed upon him, but he remained very aware of what this holiday is truly about.

Sadly, these days, Memorial Day and Memorial Day Weekend are the "unofficial" start to the Sumer Season in the views of retailers and many citizens. A great number of people have forgotten the meaning of this holiday, its true meaning. If one was to observe any given Facebook page, for instance, there would be many "thank you for your service" to veterans and military personnel still

serving. Now, even though this is generally a good thing, Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those who have died in while in uniform. Died while protecting our rites to live our lives as a free people.

So, although Lt Col Dean smiled and waved his little wave, as did other military personnel who attended and participated in the parade, we were all very aware of why we were there. Who we were there for. We were representatives of our fallen comrades from every era who died while serving this country and had helped shape this nation into what it is today.



Above: The Deans on the Grand Stand enjoying various participants as they march by.

Below: Members of the CDTF along with the 109th Airlift Wing and their families march down Main St., Scotia, NY.



Above: Mrs. and Lt Col Dean wave to onlookers as they drive by on their way to the Grand Stand.

Right: SrA Joshua Speziale of HQ walks along the parade route while pulling his children Luke and Eden.

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

News Around the Region

Memorial Day Remembrances

May 26th, State Head Quarters, Latham NY.

Although May 25th was spent in relative joy and happiness with family and friends at either back yard barbeques or at the previously mentioned Scotia Memorial Day Parade, the morning of May 26th witnessed a gathering of different emotion. An emotion on a somber note.

At the Department of Military and Naval Affairs in Latham, NY, a ceremony was held in honor for those "brothers and sisters in arms" we lost in the past year (from Memorial Day '15 to Memorial Day '16).

The service began with a melodically played rendition of "Amazing Grace" on the bag-pipes to open to an acknowledgement from State CSM David Piwowski. The State's Command Sergeant Major welcomed and thanked those gathered for their attendance and introduced The Adjunct General, Major General Anthony German, who spoke on behalf of the fallen. MG German gave the podium over to COL Richard Goldenberg who blessed the observance. The State CSM took to the podium once again to read the 17 names of our honored fallen,

Brian Baron
BRIAN BARON

Linda Bennett
LINDA BENNETT

Louis Bonacasa
LOUIS BONACASA

Phillip Cruise
PHILLIP CRUISE

Brendan DeCarlo
BRENDAN DECARLO

Wade Dewey
WADE DEWEY

Peter Farron
PETER FARRON

James Fleischhauer
JAMES FLEISCHHAUER

Egberongbe Gbolahan
EGBERONGBE GBOLAHAN

Daniel Gibson
DANIEL GIBSON

Joseph Lemm
JOSEPH LEMM

Michael Mattice
MICHAEL MATTICE

Philip O'Connor
PHILIP O'CONNOR

Jordan Osgood
JORDAN OSGOOD
They died for liberty - they died for us. They made free, under the flag they rendered stainless.

Moses Shin
MOSES SHIN
Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll
Civil War

Joseph Tandy
JOSEPH TANDY

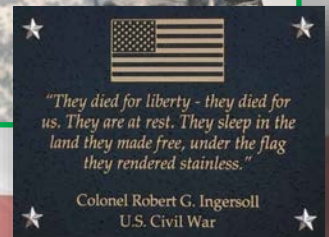
Joshua Zalabowski
JOSHUA ZALABOWSKI



Above: TAG MG Anthony German addresses the gathering for the Memorial Day Ceremony on the morning of 26 May 2016.



Above: State CSM Piwowski reads the names of the fallen as OL Goldenberg and members of the congregation look on.



Above: the plaque on the Fallen Memorial Statue at DMNA in Latham, NY

so we may hear them yet never forget. The service concluded with a tear jerking version of "Taps" on the bugle. The group was dismissed with an eerie hush.

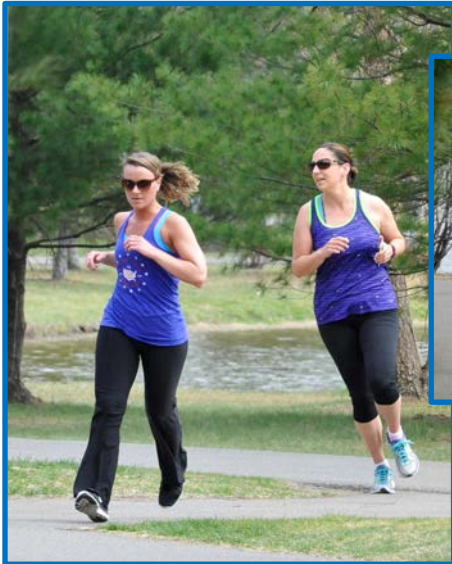
To quote President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, "for those who made the ultimate sacrifice, we are forever thankful."

~TSgt Stephen J Girolami

Center: the New York Military Forces Memorial Statue at DMNA in Latham, NY and the list of members who have made the ultimate sacrifice this past year May '15- '16.

News Around the Regions

New York National Guard Sexual Assault Awareness 1.5 Mile Run / Walk.



Left: SSgt S. Ledger and TSgt K. Squillo round the corner of the trail on the track during the SAAPR Event.

Above: MSgt P. Donohue runs by the pond at the Crossings in Colonie.

Right: MSgt J. Babiarz digs in for the final stretch.



22 April 2016, The Crossings of Colonie Park, Colonie, N.Y.

Participants from both the Headquarters and the North East Region volunteered and joined Joint Force members (military and civilian) from DMNA at the park in solidarity to raise awareness about the ever growing epidemic that is sexual assault in our society and within our ranks. Headed up by the State SARC, Capt Ashley Fitzgibbon, over two dozen attendees were at the event to show their support. Among those participants from Counterdrug were SGT Pamela Palmer, SSG James Peck, and MSgt Jason Babiarz from CDTF HQ and SSgt Sarah (Led-Jah!) Ledger, TSgt Kristina Squillo, and TSgt Patrick Donohue from the NE Region.

Capt Fitzgibbon personally extended her gratitude towards the Counterdrug members for their support and participation.

~TSgt Stephen J Girolami

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 (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

Anonymous
support for sexual assault survivors in the military.
safehelpline.org | 877-995-5247

JFHQ SARC
Capt Ashley FitzGibbon
(518)786-4733

NYS Hotline for Sexual Assault
1.800.942.6906

SARC 24/7
Cell Phone Number
518.925.8108

VA 24/7
Cell Phone Number
518.935.8606

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...

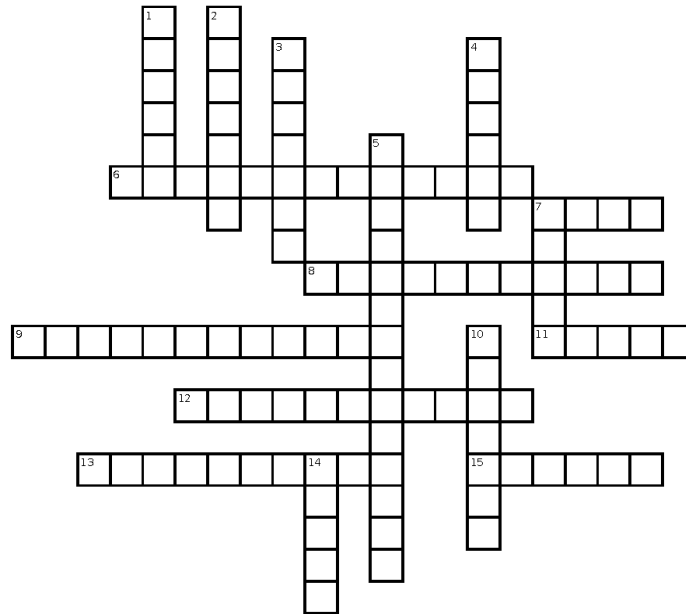
without a law enforcement investigation or Command involvement.

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

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

Fun Page : Military History / Counterdrug Crossword Puzzle

Crossword Puzzle



Down:

1. Town CDTF HQ is located in
2. Teddy Roosevelt was sworn in in this city on September 14, 1901.
3. Marched through the South to Savannah, GA during the Civil War
4. Rotary winged aircraft replacing OH-58
5. Path Finders' motto
7. Famed USAF jet fighter that fought in MiG Alley
10. Only fighter aircraft to be used by three different military branches simultaneously (Vietnam Era)
14. First country Path Finders made combat jumps into

Across:

6. Washington's first victory of the Revolutionary War took place here (NYC)
7. Missile used against Coalition Forces during Operation Desert Storm
8. victorious Native American warrior at the Battle of Little Bighorn
9. Operation _____, the largest airborne operation in history, delivering over 34,500 men.
11. Issued as official rank emblem in 1832
12. The last Monday of May
13. Most populous rank in Army
15. Gulf of _____ incident, 1964 incident where N. Vietnamese gunboats fired upon US destroyers

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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