



gt

Volume 1, Number 4

Fall 2008

guardtimes

Serving the New York Army and Air National Guard, Naval Militia, New York Guard and Families

www.dmna.state.ny.us

PG 6-9 > **Hurricanes Gets New Yorkers Attention**

PG 13 > **Orion In Good with Afghan Community**

PG 22 > **Employers Check Out 107th Airlift Wing**

PG 26 > **106th Rescue Wing PJs Pose**

PG32 > **Governor Picks New Guard Commander**

PG34 > **Naval Militia Keeps Threats to a Minimum**

PG38 > **Operation Purple Camp**

FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Army and Air Guard Strong Across the Force

2008 has been a good year for the New York Military Forces.

Both the New York Army National Guard and the New York Air National Guard have had incredible recruiting success.

Our New York Army National Guard finished the 2008 fiscal year on Oct. 1 with a strength of 10,275, 1.07 percent above the 10,100 strength goal I set for the year and not to far from our fiscal 2008 authorized strength of 10,381. Our recruiters and Soldiers brought in more than 2,000 new Citizen-Soldiers, while our retention rates improved as well, keeping great Non-Commissioned Officers and leaders with invaluable experience in the Guard.

At the same time our Air National Guard was meeting its recruiting goals as well, exceeding its authorized end-strength of 6,048 Citizen Airmen by 36 members. Our Air National Guard Wings and Squadrons are manned and ready to perform their missions.

This past year we've executed both federal and state missions successfully, putting Soldiers and Airmen at the forefront of local disaster response, state homeland security and the nation's war-fight.

As I write this, we have 2,225 members of the Army National Guard deployed to both Afghanistan and Iraq. We've welcomed home another 540. These Soldiers have been the first to benefit from our Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program along with their 380 family members; it is a program that's been working tremendously well.

Not only are we helping families reconnect and provide Soldiers with important and timely information on their veterans' benefits and

assistance, the program has recently expanded to include better screening for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and traumatic brain injury as well.

Our 27th Brigade Combat Team members in Afghanistan are doing well at the complicated and vital mission of training the Afghan National Army and Police while their comrades in Iraq continue to support operations there with logistics and aerial transportation.

Our Air Guard wings continued to rotate Citizen Airmen into and out of both combat theaters, with 332 deployed Airmen as I write. The 174th Fighter Wing completed a successful major deployment of expeditionary forces to Balad, the 109th Airlift Wing deployed aircraft to Afghanistan and continued to support the Antarctic mission, and the Northeast Air Defense Sector deployed security forces to the Central Command area of operations.

Here at home, the newly renamed 107th Airlift Wing is in the process of converting from tanker aircraft to C-130 airlift, and the 174th in Syracuse started their transformation from flying F-16Cs to the Reaper unmanned aerial drone.

On the state mission side, we've reconfigured Joint Task Force Empire Shield—which includes members of the New York Naval Militia and New York Guard—into a more flexible, efficient force. Our Army and Air National Guard tested their ability to respond to hurricanes by deploying personnel and aircraft to the Gulf Coast to respond to Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, and we've improved our domestic operations planning processes. Our Naval Militia forces operate with the U.S. Coast Guard on



Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto

a regular basis and our New York Guard continues to train to supplement our National Guard forces.

As we step off into the new fiscal and training year, I think it's important to see how far we've come over the past year. All of our servicemen and women should take immense satisfaction in the achievements we've made, both as individual units and as a joint force as a whole.

Our Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen are well-trained and experienced in missions both at home and abroad. Leaders at all levels need to work to retain these service members. Put your arms around our newest members, share your experience and skills, and keep them in our ranks.

I'm proud to serve with a committed force. You are the best New York has to offer.

Guard Chaplains Support Our Wounded Warriors

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany -- New York Air National Guard Chaplain (Capt.) Jake Marvel listens to an injured Soldier who is awaiting aeromedical evacuation to a medical facility in the United States from Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Chaplain Marvel is with the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, N.Y. Photo by Master Sgt. Scott Wagers.

gt





guardtimes

Governor David A. Paterson COMMANDER IN CHIEF
Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
Eric Durr DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, NYARNG, EDITOR
Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, NYARNG, EDITOR

About Guard Times

The *Guard Times* is published quarterly using federal funds authorized under provisions of AR 360-1 and AFI 35-101 by the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs and the New York Army and Air National Guard Public Affairs Office.

Views which appear in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force or the National Guard Bureau.

The *Guard Times* has a circulation of 20,000 and is distributed free to members of the New York State Military Forces and employees of the Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

Submissions

Articles, photos and letters are welcome. Please provide article submissions via email saved in Microsoft Word or rich text (rtf) format along with high resolution digital (jpg) photos. Submission deadlines are February 15 (winter issue), April 15 (spring issue), July 15 (summer issue), and November 15 (fall issue). Send your submissions to:

Guard Times
DMNA-MNPA
330 Old Niskayuna Road
Latham, New York 12110-3514
OFFICE (518) 786-4581 FAX (518) 786-4649
or richard.goldenberg@ng.army.mil

Complimentary or Back Issues of the *Guard Times* are available. Contact us at the address above or visit us on the web for current news, photos or to download prior issues at www.dmna.state.ny.us.



gt

www.dmna.state.ny.us

This Issue's Highlights:

The Joint Force

- 6 Guard vs. Gustav
- 8 Ike Strikes, NY Guard is There
- 10 NY Hosts Day-Long SA Conference

Army National Guard

- 13 Partners for an Afghan Future
- 14 Preparing NY Guardsmen for War
- 15 142nd Aviators Get Started in Iraq
- 17 Canadians Cross Border for Competition
- 18 53rd ARFOR Sees Change and Deployment
- 19 42nd Aviation Gets Leadership Change
- 20 Recruiting Goals Met and Exceeded
- 21 "Empire Blizzard" Ready to Chill

Air National Guard

- 22 Employers See New Aircraft, Mission
- 24 Jolly Green Giant Brought Back to Life
- 26 PJs Part of Advertising Campaign
- 27 NY Air Guard Demonstrates Excellence
- 29 20 Years in the Deep Freeze
- 30 174th Prepares for Reaper

New York Guard

- 32 New Leader for All-Volunteer Force

New York Naval Militia

- 34 MEBS Puts Danger at Bay

Guard News Briefs and Photos

- 36 Dale Earnhart, Jr. Tips Hat to NY Guardsmen
- 37 Chaplain Duo Published
- 38 Operation Purple Camp



Staff Sergeant Russell Michels connects a guided bomb unit-12 arming lanyard to a bomb body June 16 at Balad Air Base, Iraq. This lanyard connects into the aircraft to initiate internal components and detonation timing according to the aircraft specifications. Michels is a 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron munitions systems specialist deployed from Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, Syracuse.

Photo by Senior Airman Julianne Showalter

On the cover: New York Army National Guard Capt. and security force commander Joseph Merrill from Binghamton works with an Afghan translator to direct a father seeking medical attention for his son. U.S. Army photo by Lt. Col. Paul Fanning, 27th Brigade Combat Team.

Back cover: Para-rescue Jumpers exit a HC-130 as part of an Advanced Rescue Craft drop exercise conducted at Smith Point County Park, N.Y. The demonstration was part of a recruiting effort meant to promote the 106th Air Rescue Wing at a life guard competition. Photo by Staff Sgt. David J. Murphy.

Chairman Links Family Readiness to Military Readiness

ST. LOUIS, Mo. -- Military commanders agree that troops need good training and good equipment before they deploy. But equally important to preparing servicemembers for war is readying their families, the nation's top military officer said July 21.

"Family readiness is really about military readiness," Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a group of about 1,500 family support volunteers gathered here for a National Guard volunteer workshop.

"[Family support is] tied to having a healthy, dedicated, focused, capable military that can accomplish the mission it needs," Mullen said.

This was Mullen's first visit with an exclusively National Guard family audience, although he has talked with National Guard troops and families as part of his regular town hall meetings around the world. The volunteers represented every state and territory in the United States, and packed a downtown hotel's banquet hall.

Mullen noted the transformation of the military's reserve components from a strategic reserve to an operational force that has taken place since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States.

"What the Guard and the reserves have done since 9/11 ... has made what we are able to do with fighting these two wars possible," Mullen told the crowd. "It would not be possible -- we would not be making the progress we are making in both of these wars -- without the incredible performance of the Guard and Reserve."

But, Mullen conceded, policy makers haven't always given enough attention to programs for families of the National Guard spread out across the nation. While spouses of active-duty

troops typically live on or near military installations, reservists often are spread out in rural areas, many miles from the nearest military installation, and sometimes even from the armories where they report for duty.

Mullen said in an interview after the visit with the group that the audience understood what he was talking about.

"One of the biggest challenges that we have is to -- no kidding -- find out what's actually happening in execution [of policies]," Mullen said.

Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, said the Guard was not fully ready to take care of its families in the wake of the heavy demand for reserve forces after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Programs were in place to take care of families while the units were activated, he said, but the support systems were not properly re-sourced as the Guard transitions from a strategic reserve to an operational reserve. Missing were the programs that would help prepare families as the units were readying for war, and take care of them after the units came home from deployment, he explained.

"When we first started this war, we were not prepared for the full life-cycle support of the Citizen-Soldier and Airman," Blum said in an interview after his opening remarks.

But now, Blum said, programs and policies are in place to take care of families before, during and after deployment.



U.S. Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff presents a leader's challenge coin to New York Army National Guard Spc. Joe Adle from the 27th Brigade Combat Team and Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix in Kandahar, Afghanistan, July 11, 2008. Mullen conducted a six-day tour of the region to visit troops. Members of CJTF Phoenix provided a transportation team to support Mullen during his time in Kandahar. Mullen spoke to the National Guard's Family Workshop on July 21 to express his support to Family Readiness Programs and linked family support directly to unit readiness. Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Chad J. McNeeley.

The admiral said he wants family members to continue to put pressure on military leadership so that discussions continue on key family issues.

"Believe me, we want to get this right," Mullen said.

"There is going to continue to be a battle rhythm which requires us to continue to deploy [the National Guard and Reserves]," Mullen said. "We cannot move forward without the Guard and the Reserve, and we have high expectations to be able to do that in the future."

And while both Mullen and

Blum said that military family programs are now better than they have ever been, both also said that there is still work to be done.

"If we could create family programs for the Guard and reserve commensurate with their sacrifice and their commitment in these two wars ... it would be a home run," Mullen said. "We're not there. But we need to be. They deserve it. It's critical, and we've got to do that, and that's what this is all about."

"It would not be possible -- we would not be making the progress we are making in both of these wars -- without the incredible performance of the Guard and Reserve."

-- Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Winter Driving, Are You Ready?

Safety Tips as Autumn Turns to Winter in New York

JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS, Latham -- Winter driving can be inconvenient, annoying, even infuriating. But you can offset those aggravations and minimize the special risks of winter driving. The main thing is to give yourself plenty of time to get to where you are going.

Visibility is another big hazard of winter driving. In heavy snow, keep your lights on. Stop and clean your windshield and lights if necessary. Get off the road before you get stranded by worsening weather conditions.

Winter is the most difficult driving season. Not only do you have snow and ice to deal with, but there are fewer hours of daylight as well.

Before winter weather arrives, make sure your vehicle is in good condition.

- Make sure you've got good snow tires, and put them on early. Try not to get caught without them in the first snowfall. Never combine radial and non-radial tires on the same vehicle. On front-wheel drive cars, it's best to put snow tires or "all-season" tires on all four wheels, not just the front.

- If you must drive, clear the ice and snow from your vehicle, all windows and windshield wipers. Be sure the windshield washer reservoir is adequately filled with a freeze-resistant cleaning solution.

- Plan Your Route
- Be familiar with the maps/directions to avoid confusion
- Check the weather reports and adjust starting time
- Let others know how you are coming and when you'll arrive
- Always fill the gasoline tank before entering open country, even for a short distance, and stop to fill-up long before the tank begins to run low. Keeping the gas tank as full as possible will minimize condensation, providing the maximum advantage in case of trouble.

- A cellular phone can be very useful to you or another stranded motorist in case of an emergency. Remember; pull off the road to talk on a cellular phone.

Drive slowly. Even if your vehicle has good traction in

ice and snow, other drivers will be traveling cautiously. Don't disrupt the flow of traffic by driving faster than everyone else. Remember how far it takes to bring your car to a stop on dry pavement? In winter conditions, allow at least 3 times that distance to reach a full stop and avoid skidding. This means your safe distance behind the car in front of you should be 3 times as far. And you must begin braking 3 times as far away from the stoplight or corner where you turn.

In a rear-wheel drive vehicle, you can usually feel a loss of traction or the beginning of a skid. There may be no such warning in a front-wheel drive, however. Front-wheel drives do handle better in ice and snow, but they do not have flawless traction, and skids can occur unexpectedly. Don't let the better feel and handling of a front-wheel drive car cause you to drive faster than you should.

To avoid skids, brake carefully and gently on snow or ice. "Squeeze" your brakes in slow, steady strokes. If your vehicle has anti-lock brakes do not pump the brakes, apply a steady pressure. Allow the wheels to keep rolling. If they start to lock up, ease off the brake pedal. As you slow down, you may also want to shift into a lower gear.

When sleet, freezing rain or snow starts to fall, remember that bridges, ramps, and overpasses are likely to freeze first. Also be aware that slippery spots may still remain after road crews have cleared the highways.

Motorists are reminded that there are many miles of roads and highways to maintain and, under average conditions; some sections of roadway may only receive attention once or twice per day. Drivers need to be alert for changing surface conditions and reduce their speed during the winter months.

Winter driving requires motorists to be extra careful and alert, but the most important tip for winter driving is: Slow down.



Guard Gets After Gustav

New York responds to support needs to Gulf Coast during peak hurricane activity

By Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, *Guard Times Staff*

ALBANY – New York State Governor David A. Paterson directed members of the New York National Guard to assist in the response to the late summer triple threat from Hurricanes Hanna, Gustav and Ike. In late August and early September, helicopters and aircraft carrying dozens of Soldiers and Airmen deployed within 24 hours of their alert to assist the Gulf Coast states as the storms again threatened New Orleans and other Gulf Coast cities.

Air National Guard rescue elements from Long Island's 106th Rescue Wing deployed to support Joint Task Force 129, a combined active Air Force and Air National Guard rescue force that prepared to support civilian rescues following the damaging landfall of Hurricane Gustav west of New Orleans on Sept. 1.



New York State Governor David A. Paterson announces the mobilization and deployment of National Guard forces to assist the Gulf Coast as Hurricane Gustav approaches on August 31. With Governor Paterson are (from left) Michael Balboni, the New York State Deputy Secretary for Public Safety, Brig. Gen. Patrick A. Murphy, Director of the New York National Guard Joint Staff and Mr. John R. Gibb, Director of the New York State Emergency Management Office. Courtesy photo.

Even as aircraft and crews departed Gabreski Airport on Long Island, other Air Guard personnel from the 109th Airlift Wing, the 107th Airlift Wing, the 152nd Area Operations Group

and the Northeastern Air Defense Sector all provided personnel to deploy, based on their specialty skills needed by the responding Gulf Coast states.

“As Hurricane Katrina reminded us three years ago, we can never be too aggressive in our response preparation for natural disasters,” said Governor Paterson in a press conference announcing the deployment on September 28. “New York is fortunate to have some of the most advanced equipment and well-trained personnel, and it is our duty to serve our fellow states. New Yorkers have lived through disaster, and we appreciate the critical importance of Americans working together to help our fellow citizens. My thanks to these brave men and women, some of whom have recently returned from tours of duty, for once again leaving their families to answer their country’s call.”

Governor Paterson deployed two HH-60 Pavehawk helicopters with 14 Airmen from the New York Air National Guard’s 106th



Members of the Army and Air National Guard and personnel from Hard Rock Construction Company of Plaquemine Parish secure heavy sandbags to National Guard Chinooks to fill the levee breach. The New York Army National Guard CH-47 aircrews dropped approximately 175 sandbags to seal the 300 foot breach in the levee. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Meeker.

Rescue Wing from Gabreski Field Air National Guard Base to Alexandria, La. The Pavehawks are a version of the UH-60 helicopter especially modified for long-range search and rescue missions.

In addition to the Pavehawks, Governor Paterson directed three New York Army National Guard CH-47 "Chinook" helicopters and 19 soldiers to be deployed from Rochester the following day to Louisiana to assist in post-Hurricane Gustav recovery operations. The CH-47s are the largest helicopters operated by the Army National Guard.

Hurricane Gustav resulted in a declaration of a State of Emergency in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Texas.

The Louisiana National Guard requested the Army and Air Guard helicopters through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, a national agreement which allows states to easily provide resources and personnel in disaster situations.

"The safety and security of our citizens is this nation's top priority. This responsibility transcends borders, and as we in New York have been helped by states across the nation, so will we extend aid to any state in need. While we hope Hurricane Gustav will not require it, the force of the New York National Guard is ready to respond," said Deputy Secretary for Public Safety Michael Balboni

After the hurricane came ashore the three New York CH-47s moved to Alexandria, Louisiana and conducted missions under the direction of the Louisiana National Guard.

The Governor also directed the New York Army National Guard to send three UH-1 "Huey" Medevac helicopters and 16 Soldiers to Louisiana September 29. These helicopters and crews responded in 2005 to Hurricane Katrina and are equipped with rescue hoists.

In addition to the military forces deployed, an interagency team of New York State disaster management specialists deployed to Hammond, Louisiana to assist Hurricane Gustav-battered parishes. The 24 person team conducted an eight day tour in early September to assist local



A CH-47 Chinook from the New York Army National Guard's Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation from the Rochester hauls sandbags to Plaquemines Parish levee, Sept. 3. The air crews dropped approximately 175 sandbags to seal the 300 foot breach in the levee near Myrtle Grove, La. on Sept. 3. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Meeker.

officials in recovery efforts. Team members are specialists in managing the various aspects of response and recovery including command, operations, planning and logistics.

Chinook heavy lift helicopter air crews immediately went to work moving critical supplies or strengthening levees with sandbags.

Less than a day into operations in Louisiana, a levee protecting a pasture and small communities in the Myrtle Grove area of Plaquemines Parish, La., ruptured during Hurricane Gustav's landfall on Sept. 1. Guardsmen from the Chinook detachment, flying in support of the Louisiana Army National Guard Aviation Task Force Razorback, airlifted and dropped 500-

pound sandbags into the 300-foot breach.

The Guardsmen teamed with Plaquemines Parish emergency operations personnel and workers from Hard Rock Construction Company to secure four sandbags at a time to the bellies of the Chinooks. Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal reported Sept. 4 that the breach was 50-percent filled and further erosion halted after 175 bags were dropped.

The New York response elements for missions following Hurricane Gustav returned to New York even as the threat of Hurricane Hanna moved towards southern Florida and Hurricane Ike drew other National Guard forces to Texas **gt**.

Ike Strikes Texas and the NY National Guard is There

Army and Air Guard members quickly shift focus from Louisiana to Texas in advance of another storm

By Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, Guard Times Staff



New York Air National Guard Aeromedical Evacuation Technicians Master Sergeants James Welch and Jennifer Ray wait by the Texas Air National Guard C-130 aircraft that will load up patients and evacuees from Beaumont, Texas from the path of Hurricane Ike on September 11. More than 15 members of the 109th Airlift Wing's 139th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron deployed to Texas prior to landfall of Hurricane Ike to support the evacuation missions for the National Guard. In the distance two other C-130s can be seen loading evacuees onboard to be flown to safe locations within Texas. Photo by Staff Sgt. Jared Semerad.

ALBANY – With the third large-scale hurricane of the season baring down on the Texas Gulf Coast, New York State Governor David A. Paterson redirected National Guard resources in mid-September to support the State of Texas in advance of Hurricane Ike.

Paterson directed the deployment of 15 aeromedical evacuation personnel from the Scotia-based 109th Airlift Wing to Carswell Air Force Base, Texas just days after the deployment of forces to support the recovery efforts in Louisiana after Hurricane Gustav earlier in the month. The deployment of aeromedical technicians on September 9 assisted evacuation efforts in Texas pre-landfall as Hurricane Ike entered the Gulf of Mexico on its projected path to the Texas Gulf Coast.

In addition, eight communications specialists from the New York Army and Air National Guard prepared to support the Joint Force Headquarters of the Texas National Guard during the state's response to the hurricane. Only after landfall of Hurricane Ike did Texas cancel the need for the communications experts.

In all, about 100 members of the New York National Guard mobilized to support the response to Hurricane Ike or final recovery from Gustav in the Gulf Coast. Approximately 40 members of the Guard, including the Air National Guard's aeromedical evacuation personnel and search and rescue crews were committed to support the State of Texas.

Elements of the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing and their Search

and Rescue Task Force shifted their two HH-60 special operations search and rescue helicopters from operations in Louisiana to Texas and returned to Gabreski Airport at Westhampton Beach after mobilizing for both storms.

The center of Ike approached the Texas coast by late Friday on Sept. 12, but because Ike was a very large tropical cyclone, weather worsened along the coastline long before the center reached the coast. Maximum sustained winds approached 100 mph with higher gusts, making Ike a category two hurricane as it reached the coastline and downgraded to a category one by Saturday, Sept. 13 as the storm moved inland past Galveston and Houston.

"I reached out to Governor Rick Perry and now New York will be part of the response



New York Air National Guard Master Sgt. James Welch, an Aeromedical Evacuation Technician (AET) with the 139th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 109th Airlift Wing from Scotia, helps secure handicapped evacuees during the evacuation of the Texas Gulf Coas in the path of Hurricane Ike on Sept. 11. Photo by Staff Sgt. Josh Green.



Joint Task Force 129 pararescuemen rescue a hurricane victim in Galveston, Texas on Sept. 13 as Hurricane Ike approached the Texas Gulf Coast. Pararescuemen from the New York Air National Guard quickly transitioned from support missions from Hurricane Gustav to the threat of Hurricane Ike. The JTF 129 crews rescued a total of 10 civilians and pets stranded in the Galveston area. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brock Woodward.

effort for our friends in Texas as they look to recover from Hurricane Ike,” said Governor Paterson in a public statement on Sept. 12. “Much as we did when Gustav bore down on Louisiana earlier this month, New York has deployed our Citizen-Soldiers from the New York National Guard to assist another state threatened by the furies of nature. We are fortunate to have well-trained personnel and advanced equipment in New York, and we have an obligation to help our fellow states. We stand ready to provide all possible assistance to help Texas recover from this storm.”

The aeromedical personnel assisted with the



Crew members from the New York Air National Guard’s 106th Rescue Wing prepare to depart in their HH-60 Pavehawk search and rescue helicopter from Francis S. Gabreski Airport, Westhampton Beach, N.Y. Aug. 31 on their way to Louisiana to respond to the Gulf Coast recovery operations following the landfall of Hurricane Gustav.

Joining the Air National Guard rescue effort were three CH-47s Chinook and three UH-1V Huey Medevac helicopters from the Army National Guard flight facility in Rochester. The aviation response elements deployed to assist the Louisiana National Guard in storm recovery. Photo by Master Sgt. Doris E. Libby

mandatory evacuation notices in numerous Texas counties prior to Hurricane Ike’s landfall. Texas assisted with ground and air evacuations in these evacuated areas, including the evacuation of the University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston and medical and non-medical special needs residents who are unable to self-evacuate.

The New York Air National Guard’s 106th

Rescue Wing recovered their two HH-60 search and rescue helicopters from Joint Task Force 129 after Texas officials released the crews after determining no further need for potential rescue.

The 139th aeromedical evacuation personnel returned from supporting Texas on Sept. 15, ending a busy two-week mission cycle. **gt**

South African Partnership Finds Common Ground, Goals with New York Troops

By Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, New York Army National Guard

LATHAM -- Senior leaders from the South African Defense Forces spent a day with their counterparts from the New York National Guard to discuss cooperative efforts towards homeland security and trade here on Thursday, September 4. The day-long conference brings together the two nations as part of the National Guard's State Partnership Program.

"We are proud to host this group of some of South Africa's most distinguished leaders who, collectively, have brought about great positive change in the peace, prosperity and security of their nation," noted New York Governor David Paterson in written remarks to the conference.

Ms. Susan Shabangu, South Africa's Deputy Minister of Safety and Security and Rear Admiral George Mphafi, South Africa's Defense and Military Attaché addressed more than 75 conference attendees to highlight the importance of the Guard's military to military relations with South Africa. The two stressed the importance of cultural understanding as the key element of building stronger and more enduring partnerships between the South African Defense Forces and the New York National Guard.

"To make this partnership sustainable requires a better understanding of our two peoples and cultures," Shabangu said.

As South Africa's Deputy Minister of Safety and Security, Shabangu is comparable to the U.S. Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, responsible for the welfare and security of a South Africa's 44 million residents, nearly half a million square miles of land and some 1,738 miles of coastline.

"One of the biggest challenges our two nations face is terrorism," Shabangu said. "It is not only a threat here (in the U.S.), but a global threat to peace everywhere."

"This conference strengthens our mutual understanding, builds professional relationships, shares best practices and serves as a basis for more dynamic cooperation in the future security issues of mutual interest and concern," said U.S. Ambassador Eric Bost in a letter from Pretoria to the assembled participants.

"We have three fundamental missions in the South African Defense Forces," noted Maj. Gen. Keith Mokoape, Chief of Staff for the South African Army Reserve. "First, we protect the integrity of our country. Second, we provide peacekeeping forces in Africa and third, we provide domestic support in times of crisis."

It is the role that the New York National Guard plays in the state's domestic operations that is most interesting to Mokoape.

"It is important for the New York National Guard and the South African Defense Forces to focus on nonmilitary issues in their ongoing partnership," he said.

New York was paired with South Africa as part of the National Guard State Partnership Program in 2003. The program is designed to build military-to-military, military-to-civilian, and civil security cooperation links between participating countries and their National Guard state partner.

Since 2003 New York has conducted eighteen military familiarization exchanges with the South African Military. These included visits to New York by South African Military Police officers and South African Air Force Public Affairs soldiers and medical personnel. New York has sent military chaplains, surgeons, lawyers, aviation personnel and combat infantry weapons experts to South Africa to share their expertise



New York State Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto speaks with Rear Adm. George Mphafi, South African Defense Attaché at the New York National Guard State Partnership Program Conference in Latham on Sept. 4. The senior military leaders discussed future initiatives to partner South African Defense Forces with the New York National Guard. Photo by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg



General Joseph Taluto speaks with Ms. Susan Shabangu, the South Africa Deputy Minister for Safety and Security during the National Guard's State Partnership Conference on September 4. Leaders from the South African Defense Forces and New York National Guard met to discuss emerging opportunities for military to military relations and partnerships with New York's government agencies. Photo by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo.

and training models.

In June 2008, members of the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing worked with the National Sea Rescue Institute of South Africa in Cape Town, the first military to civilian partnership event in the five-year old program.

Most recently, four New York Air National Guard pararescue jumpers visited South Africa in June 2008 to work with the South African National Sea Rescue Institute.

"Our two governments certainly have a growing history of mutual respect and substantive cooperative exchange," Paterson said in his welcome letter from Albany to the group.

The National Guard State Partnership Program was established in 1993 in response to the radically changed political-military situation following the collapse of Communism and the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The program's goals reflect an evolving international affairs mission for the National Guard, to promote security cooperation in support of Homeland Defense and Civil Support Missions.

The State Partners actively participate in a host of security cooperation activities ranging from bilateral familiarization and training-like events, to exercises, fellowship-style internships, and civic leader visits. All activities are coordinated through the Theater Combat-

ant Commanders and the U.S. Ambassadors' country teams, and other agencies as appropriate, to ensure that National Guard support is tailored to meet both U.S. and partner country objectives.

Today, 43 US states, two territories, and the District of Columbia are partner with 51 countries around the world. The New York State partnership with South Africa is one of the leading engagements in sub-Saharan Africa for the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM).

Much like the National Guard State Partnership Program individual nation relationships, AFRICOM also reflects a staff structure that includes significant representation by the Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and other U.S. government agencies involved in Africa. The command incorporates partner nations and humanitarian organizations, from Africa and elsewhere, to work alongside the U.S. staff on common approaches to shared

interests.

The new command was formed in 2007 and is scheduled to become an independent unified command in October of this year.

"I encourage all of our participants to take advantage of opportunities to bring this group together to learn more about the programs," said Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, The Adjutant General of New York. **gt**



New York Army National Guard 1st Lt. Adam Bushey speaks with a conference attendee during the State Partnership Program in Latham, September 4. Photo by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo.

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



Elmira-native Capt. John Shannon, of New York Army National Guard's 27th Brigade Combat Team, meets with the caretaker of the Ud Kheil Girls' School near Kabul, Afghanistan prior to a medical assistance operation on Aug. 7. The Soldiers supported the local Afghan National Army and National Police humanitarian visit from Camp Phoenix.

Partners for Afghanistan's Future – One Village at a Time

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Paul Fanning, CJTF-Phoenix

UD KHIEL VILLAGE, KABUL – More than 1000 residents of Ud Kheil village were treated by Afghan medical staff and received medicine, vitamins and personal items through a joint assistance operation on August 7th.

The project is the latest in a growing partnership between the Afghan community and its closest neighbor – Camp Phoenix in Kabul, home to the New York National Guard's 27th Brigade Combat Team Headquarters and Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix, its coalition allies and area's Afghan national security forces.

The assistance mission was held at the girls' school, a construction project recently completed in the spring. That work is part of the Camp Phoenix ongoing outreach effort and support to the Afghan government and its people.

"We actually requested that Camp Phoenix provide us medicines," said Haji Farid, the village elder and district representative through an interpreter. "That is why the people are happy that U.S. forces are doing this," he said.

"They asked for our assistance and we have been able to provide it," said Cpt. John Shannon from Elmira, N.Y., project coordinator with Task Force Phoenix. "And, the reason we are able to provide it is because we have this great cooperation with the Afghan Army, the police, our British allies and of course our troops are out here doing a fantastic job as well."

On the morning of Aug. 7 a team of security, medical and support staff left Camp Phoenix in an armored convoy and moved the short distance to the village to link up with units of the Afghan National Army, Kabul Military District and Afghan National Police.

Providing additional security at Ud Kheil were members of the 2nd Scottish Regiment, Royal Highland Fusiliers, British Army.

"We worked with the U.S. before at the Ali Khail School, when I first got here in May," said Cpt. Lizzie Winchester, education and training service officer assigned to the 2nd Scots. Her Kabul patrol company conducted mounted surveillance around the site, while Task Force Phoenix security force personnel established an outer cordon. The inner cordon around and inside the school was run by Afghan personnel.

"This one's working really well," she said, adding that she and her team were "enjoying working together once again – supporting each other and the Afghan National Security Forces to make things a bit safer."

"Our security measures are paying off for us today," said Shannon, quick to point out that Afghan units had leading roles. "We are just the outer piece and they are doing the real hard work of making sure that anyone who gets into the clinic to be seen, incidentally by Afghan doctors, are secure," he said.

"We go to the shuras (meetings) to talk to the elders about the health problems of the men, women and children of the community," said Lt. Col. Martin Scott, a nurse from Long Island, from the Camp Phoenix clinic. His team later meets to identify the right combination of supplies needed. At the event, they mentor the Afghan medical staff. "We allow them to take care of their people. We provide the medications and advice on prescribing them," he said.

"The primary thing we need built in our area is a clinic," said Mr. Farid, expressing gratitude that both a boys' and girls' schools have been built. His community has an estimated population of 25 to 30,000 people. "And now we are happy that the U.S. forces will build a clinic in the village for us, and they are already starting to work on it," he added.

"They are doing good things," he said. "Camp Phoenix is our neighbor. When we are meeting and discussing different issues – security and clinic, schools, bridges, ditches... they are the only organization helping us," he explained. "And, when we need to talk about the issues, if we give them a call they invite us, sometimes we invite them because we think they are from our own village. They are part of our own people." **gt**



Above left, an Afghan mother waits for medical screening with her child during a humanitarian assistance mission near Kabul. At right, New York Army National Guard 1st Sgt. James Meltz, a New York State Trooper from the Capital Region near Albany, N.Y. takes his position next to Afghan National Army troops on the outer cordon of a medical assistance operation in Ud Kheil village near Kabul on Aug. 7.

Combat Vets Prepare Guardsmen for War Zone

Story and photos By Pvt. Rachel Sanzo, 42nd Infantry Division



FORT DRUM -- When Maj. Donald McArdle deployed to Iraq with the New York Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division in 2004, he felt that he wasn't really ready for war. The training he'd gone through at Fort Drum left something to be desired, McArdle recalled.

He returned from Iraq 13 months later, but the stress and uncertainty resulting from a lack of preparation before going downrange was something that could have been easily prevented, he said.

Today, McArdle is working to prevent his experience from happening again, and to increase Soldier confidence and morale, as Officer-In-Charge of New York's Pre-Mobilization Training Assistance Element, or PTAE.

PTAEs were conceived by National Guard Bureau in 2007 after Secretary of Defense Thomas Gates issued a new directive limiting Reserve and National Guard Soldier mobilization periods to 12 months. Previously, Soldiers mobilized up to six months prior to deploy-

ment to allow for pre-mobilization training.

For future pre-mobilization training standards, Guard Bureau authorized states to create PTAEs. Guard Bureau funds three command and control positions—a command sergeant major, a lieutenant colonel, and a major—and funds trainers at a ratio of one to each 60 deploying Soldiers during a mobilization cycle.

"New York's PTAE was established last April, and we were one of the first states to get started," said Sgt. Maj. Thomas Rentz, PTAE's Non-Commissioned Officer-In-Charge.

Major General Joseph Taluto, the Adjutant General, believed it was vital to provide top notch instruction for the deploying soldiers of the 27th Brigade Combat Team, Rentz added.

Certifying with the PTAE results in an end state of effective training and a feeling of readiness, McArdle said. McArdle has served as a tactical officer with the 106th Regional Training Institute and led the training efforts for Iraqi Security Forces in Tikrit, Iraq during the 42nd

Division's 2005-2006 deployment.

The PTAE is staffed with dedicated instructors, also known as Observer Controllers/Trainers, who must meet rigorous standards and qualifications to train deploying Soldiers. Currently, the PTAE consists of 10 officers and 32 enlisted OC/Ts.

"Each and every one of our OC/Ts is a combat veteran," said Rentz. "We've all attended the First Army Academy and have been through the Total Army Instruction Training Course, as well as many others, in order to be qualified as instructors. Our people are subject matter experts for the training in New York State."

"We certify, we validate, and we make sure it's done correctly," said Cpl. Nicholas Sbano, a PTAE OC/T.

"We also work as mentors if the Soldiers have questions. We're right there to help them out and work through any problems they may have." Sbano is a member of 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment.



Above, Sergeant 1st Class Hendrick Soethout, a Pre-Mobilization Assistance Element (PTAE) Officer Controller/Trainer, briefs 14th Finance Detachment Soldiers on how to enter and exit a Humvee during combat convoys. The 14th Finance Detachment is scheduled for mobilization for Iraqi Freedom next year. Opposite page, Corporal Nicholas Sbano, a PTAE instructor assists deploying Soldiers in moving through a barbed wire obstacle course on Aug. 8.

“We certify, we validate and we make sure it’s done correctly.”

-- Corporal Nicholas Sbano, PTAE OC/T

The reaction from Soldiers who have completed the training is positive.

“I’ve really enjoyed the training,” said Spc. Leslie Thomas, a Soldier from the 14th Finance unit based in Whitestone. “I really feel like it’s making a difference.”

Training with the PTAE also grants Soldiers a chance to spend less time overseas and more time at home.

“The PTAE reduces the time spent at a post-mobilization site, so that Soldiers are in country, boots on the ground, for a longer period of time,” McArdle said.

Deploying Soldiers receive thorough training from the PTAE in land navigation, combat-ives, urban operations, moving in and around obstacles, and reacting to Improvised Explosive Devices and ambushes.

“It’s the most important job I’ve ever had in the military, period,” said Staff Sgt. David Fields, a PTAE OC/T. “I feel I’m directly responsible for a Soldier coming home alive.” **gt**

Flag Unfurled, 3-142nd Aviation Gets Down to Business

Jesters Take Charge in Iraq

Story and photo by Maj. Fred Evans, 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion



CAMP STRYKER, Iraq – As the colors of the New York Army National Guard’s 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion unfurled for commander Lt. Col. Al Ricci and Command Sgt. Maj. Chris Imbarrato, aircrews and Soldiers from the “Jesters” assumed their combat mission here in Iraq on September 25, 2008. The transfer of authority ceremony marked the culmination of more than a year of battalion training at locations such as Fort Drum, N.Y., Fort Rucker, Ala. and a predeployment training period at Fort Sill, Okla.

During that year of training, the battalion brought together a diverse group of Soldiers from many places including National Guard Citizen-Soldiers from New York, New Jersey, Missouri, Colorado, and Minnesota. The aviation team evolved and matured through a variety of training exercises that began with individual Soldier tasks last year at Fort Drum, multiple battle simulation exercises in the spring and summer of this year, and the three month mobilization and live-fire exercises this past summer at Fort Sill, Okla.

After a brief respite and time to say goodbye to family and friends, the battalion deployed to Kuwait, recovered their aircraft and equipment and moved forward into Iraq to link up with their counterparts, the 3-158th Assault Helicopter Battalion (Stormriders). The departing air crews of the 3-158th were just winding down a 15-month tour in theater.

Following a handoff from the Stormriders, the New York Soldiers took over the maintenance hangars and cockpits as the colors of the 3-142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion were uncased for the first time on foreign soil. The deployment to Iraq marks the first overseas deployment of the unit in its entirety.

“We’re here to perform our mission, flying our aircraft in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom,” Ricci said during the ceremony, “and to get everyone home safe and sound to their loved ones.” **gt**

Run to Remember in Afghanistan

Story and photo by Lt. Col. Paul Fanning, CJTF Phoenix

CAMP BLACKHORSE, KABUL PROVINCE, Afghanistan – More than 50 U.S. and coalition service members conducted a commemorative 5 kilometer run here Sept. 6 to remember the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Participants included members of the New York Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, which responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center in Manhattan and whose members volunteered to serve in Afghanistan as part of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix.

The run at Camp Blackhorse took place the same day as an annual Commemorative Run back on Long Island, New York. The 9-11 Commemorative Run in New York was organized three years ago by a local chapter of the Marine Corps League and includes service members and family members of 9-11 victims.

Camp Blackhorse is co-located with the Afghan National Army's Pol-e-charki base, east of

Kabul. At 9 a.m. the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, along with French soldiers from the base bolted from the starting line in front of the camp and ran a set course through the base.

"Three years ago, a good friend of mine -- Mr. Steve Reilly from the Marine Corps League started this run as a fund raiser to memorialize service members who were killed on 9-11, 2001," said run organizer Sgt. John O'Dougherty, a former Marine from Valley Stream, Long Island and now a 69th Infantry Soldier based in Bayshore.

"The significance of being here at this time and this place – a lot of us lived 9-11 first hand, especially those of us in New York," said O'Dougherty. "We went to far too many funerals afterwards and stood outside, burning candles hoping they would find some people (at the World Trade Center site) that they never found."

"But to come here, where the plot was hatched, where they launched the attack on us



Private 1st Class John Gallup from Saratoga Springs sprints to the finish line carrying the unit guidon for C Troop, 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry for the security force unit serving as part of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix.

to serve here and help the Afghan people get rid of this evil force is a noble cause. It's very important for us, especially us New Yorkers. It brings things full circle," he said. **gt**

Rainbow Soldier Remembers 9-11 promise to School Kids

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo, 42nd Infantry Division

HANCOCK - Nearly seven years later, a retired 42nd Infantry 'Rainbow' Division Soldier kept his promise to say thank you to roughly 35 youngsters who demonstrated concern and ultimately motivated Soldiers during a difficult time.

On Sept. 11, 2008, as part of a school-wide 9-11 Remembrance Day ceremony, retired New York Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Delbert Higgins said thank you and returned

a giant banner sent with care packages to 42nd Division Soldiers to the students who created it.

The 10th grade students from Hancock Central School sent the 3-by-14 foot banner displaying "Keep up the good work" and signed by the then 3rd graders, faculty and other students. The banner was taped to donations sent to Soldiers supporting rescue and recovery efforts at 'Ground Zero' following the World Trade Center terror attacks in 2001.

Higgins, who served a total of 117 days in and around the attack site took notice of the banner and asked to keep it.

"It was a heart felt moment, a deeply moving act of kindness by these children, at a time when one was desperately needed," Higgins said. "I recognized the name of the school and wanted to say thank you in person, so these kids would know their efforts made a difference."

"Having the National Guard bring this banner back is significant. It demonstrates to the students, that their good deed had a monumental impact and how much their efforts meant, said Carol Daddazio, Hancock High School Principal.

"It means a lot that the National Guard brought the banner back. They didn't have to bring it back to us. Instead, they thought enough of us to bring it back," said Thomas Esolen, a sophomore.

"The Hancock Central School will be forever grateful to you for returning the banner, reminding our community of the strength of character of our military personnel, and of the tragic events of September 11, 2001," said Daddazio. **gt**



Tenth grade students from Hancock Central School hold up a banner displaying "Keep up the good work," returned by retired Sgt. 1st Class Delbert Higgins during a school 9-11 Remembrance ceremony.

Canadians Compete for Top Engineer Squad

Story and photo by Sgt. Tom Wheeler, 138th Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE

CORTLANDT MANOR - The Binghamton-based 204th Engineer Battalion recently looked north to the 32nd Combat Engineer Regiment (CER) of the Toronto, Ontario-based Canadian Land Forces for a unique training opportunity held at Camp Smith, Sept. 12-14.

One squad from each company assigned to the 204th Engineers and one squad from the 32nd CER gathered for a "Best Squad Competition" consisting of events that showcased a variety of Soldiers skills ranging from individual and squad physical fitness to land navigation.

"This year's competition is the third annual squad stakes, but a first to include the Canadians," said Lt. Col. Carlton C. Cleveland, commander, 204th Engineer Battalion.

The event began with the arrival of the squads on Friday afternoon and immediately proceeded with a surprise night land navigation course.

Saturday morning kicked off with a modified physical fitness test consisting of two minutes of individual pushups and sit ups and a 1.5 mile squad run that included a react to casualty and buddy carry scenario.

After breakfast the competition continued with weapons tasks, squad weapons qualification, communications tasks and first-aid tasks. The days' events ended with an engineer recon, a task which tests each squad's troop leading procedures in preparation for convoy operations.

"This is not just a competition, it's a training event," said Cleveland. "Even if a Soldier gets a no-go, before they leave that station they will be trained in the task."

"The addition of the Canadian team is a good



Canadian Master Corporal Harry Morrison, 32nd Combat Engineer Regiment, Canadian Land Forces, treats a simulated casualty during the first-aid portion of the 204th Engineer Battalions 2008 Squad Stakes held Sept. 12-14 at Camp Smith.

thing," continued Cleveland. "It's good to see how other forces do things." "In May we sent a squad to participate in a training event with the 32nd and they are reciprocating the exchange this weekend," he added.

"The best training comes from being able to interact with others," added Canadian Forces 2nd Lt. David R. Bulger.

Participants found value in the overall training but singled out one aspect of training as being the best part of the weekends' events.

"I was impressed with the training, and the format [competition] kept things interesting," said Cpl. Brent K. Zapalski, 32nd CER.

"The competition style was great; it not only motivated the Soldiers to do their best but also to focus on the overall performance of their team," added Staff Sgt. Charles Fish, Forward Support Company, 204th Engineer Battalion.

The weekend concluded Sunday with an awards presentation to the best squad of 2008; the Buffalo-based 152nd Engineer Company.

The best squad received the battalions' best squad trophy, battalion coins, impact Army Achievement Medals and engraved combat knives for each squad member. Cleveland said the Canadian team made a strong showing and plan to return for next years Adjutant General Combat Rifle marksmanship matches. **gt**



27th Finance Farewell

WHITESTONE - Major George Wilcha, commander, 27th Finance Management Company, and wife Debra, speak with Master Sgt. Maureen A. Weise, 369th Sustainment Brigade, during a departure ceremony for the 27th Fin. Mgt. Co., Sept. 13.

Photo by Spc. Leigh Campbell
138th Public Affairs Detachment

Guard Supports DEA

Story by Spc. Jimmy Bedgood
42nd Infantry Division

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION, Niagara Falls – New York Army National Guard aviators assisted Drug Enforcement Administration agents during a Marijuana Eradication Aerial Spotter Observer Course here Aug. 20-21.

During the two-day course, roughly 60 Soldiers and local, state and federal law enforcement officials trained on tactics, techniques and procedures to spot marijuana from the air.

Army Guard aviators and counter drug personnel assisted law enforcement in the seizure of more than 135 marijuana plants last year, located on public and private lands in Western N.Y. The estimated street value of the marijuana seized is about \$750,000.00.

“This training course not only provided an opportunity for personnel from several different organizations to work together and learn from each other, but also make a significant effort toward removing marijuana plants from the area,” said Capt. Chris Wisniewski, Judge Advocate General with the 42nd Infantry Division in Buffalo, and 10-year veteran with the Drug Enforcement Administration.

“One single agency alone could not accomplish what we do,” Wisniewski said. “Partnering with each other is the only way to get the job done.” **gt**



Army National Guard aviation and counterdrug personnel train with state, federal and local law enforcement officials, Aug 20-21, in Western New York. Members of the New York Army National Guard's Counter Drug Program, personnel from the 107th Airlift Wing, 914th Air Force Reserve Wing and agents from NYS Office of Homeland Security, NYS Parks Police, Border Patrol, Niagara County Sheriff's Dept., Erie County Sherriff's Dept., Ulster County Sherriff's Dept. and State of Vermont law enforcement participated in the training. Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Girolami.



New York Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Michael Swezey, commander, 53rd Troop Command presents the 53rd Army Liaison Team colors to incoming commander Lt. Col. Gary Machina. The passing of the colors marks the transition of leadership from Col. Glenn Marchi (background) to Lt. Col. Machina. The ceremony was held at the New York Army National Guard Armory on Park Avenue in Manhattan.

53rd ARFOR Changes Command

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Dennis Gravelle, 369th Sustainment Brigade

NEW YORK—The 53rd Army Liaison Team (ALT) held a Change of Command and Passing of the Colors Ceremony at the New York Army National Guard Park Avenue armory on Aug. 1.

Col. Glen Marchi, outgoing commander relinquished control of the 53rd ALT, while Lt. Col. Gary Machina assumed duties as their new commander and prepares the unit for an upcoming deployment to Iraq.

The 53rd Army Liaison Team is a specialized detachment of about 20 officers and enlisted Soldiers that last deployed in 2005 with the mission of coordinating between various U.S., coalition

and Iraqi government staffs at headquarters levels from inside the combat zone. The unit mobilized in December 2004 and demobilized in January 2006.

The unit will be the first formation of the New York Army National Guard to be formally mobilized twice for federal service in the Global War on Terror. The 53rd ALT is scheduled to mobilize and deploy to Iraq in the spring of 2009.

“Today, I know I have been given the ultimate challenge of following in the footsteps of an able and respected officer,” Machina said. “I am delighted with this new command and I assure you I will do everything

in my power to make this change-over a successful one for all of us.”

“I have been given a solemn duty and our journey starts here today,” Machina said. “Our road leads us through Fort Drum, Fort Dix, and ultimately to Baghdad, and with God's grace, back home safely in 2010.”

“Whatever we do or wherever we go, I promise I will give you the leadership you deserve,” he said.

Outgoing commander Marchi congratulated Machina for assuming duties as the ALT's new commander and stated that Machina is an outstanding officer who comes from a family of officers. **gt**



42nd Aviation Units Change Leadership



Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade

ARMY AVIATION SUPPORT FACILITIES, Rochester and Latham - Two New York Army National Guard aviation units underwent Change-of-Command ceremonies in September and October.

In top photo, at left, commander of the 42nd Infantry Division, Brig. Gen. Paul Genereux, passed the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade colors from out-going commander, Col. Mark Burke to in-coming commander, Col. Michael Bobeck at Army Aviation Support Facility #3

on Sept. 13. Colonel Bobeck served as the executive officer of the 1st Bn., 142nd Attack Helicopter Battalion and was selected to command the 1st Bn., 142nd Aviation Intermediate Maintenance (AVIM) Battalion as the battalion was identified for mobilization and deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in January 2004. Colonel Bobeck became the State Army Aviation Officer in January 2001.

In Rochester, another Change-of-Command took place in the 642nd Aviation Support Bat-

talion, at Army Aviation Support Facility #2.

During the ceremony, Col. Bobeck transferred command from out-going 642nd Commander, Lt. Col. Mark Stryker to in-coming Commander, Lt. Col. Scott Norcutt.

Norcutt deployed as the aviation maintenance officer in 2004 with 1st Bn., 142nd Battalion in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His current occupation is the training manager for the Transportation Security Administration at Buffalo International Airport. **gt**

New York Army National Guard Exceeds Recruiting Goal

Story by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, 42nd Infantry Division

LATHAM -- The New York Army National Guard exceeded its 2008 Fiscal Year recruiting goal, enlisting more than 2,000 new Citizen-Soldiers throughout the year and achieving a year-end strength of 10,276

Soldiers across the force, exceeding its end strength goal of 10,100 by 1.75 percent.

Secretary of the Army Pete Geren joined Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto, the Adjutant General, October 1 to mark the end of the Army

National Guard, Army Reserve and Active Army recruiting year with an enlistment ceremony in Times Square.

As part of the ceremony for nine of the Army's newest Soldiers, the New York National Guard welcomed its newest member, Joseph Rios, 19, from the Bronx.

"Everything the Guard offered outdid every branch in benefits," said Joseph Rios.

Rios departed for basic training on October 22 with his brother, Javier, 23, who enlisted earlier this year.

"It's a family tradition for us. We wanted to become something more," said Javier Rios.

The final strength of the New York Army National Guard is now at 98.98 percent manning. This is an unprecedented achievement in the history of the New York Army National Guard.

The New York Army National Guard is authorized a strength of 10,440 for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

"We're at the point now where our force is quickly approaching 100 percent strength," Taluto said, "and I fully expect that we will pass through that mark as we welcome more and more great New Yorkers into the force."

Other successes in the force during the year include the reenlistment of approximately three quarters of career Citizen-Soldiers. Reenlistments for National Guard careers were 72 percent as some 774 Non-Commissioned Officers made the choice to stay in the New York National Guard. **gt**



Private Joseph Rios, 19, at right, poses with his brother Javier, 23 prior to his oath of enlistment in Times Square on October 1. Joseph Rios joined eight other Soldiers for the Army's milestone ceremony to mark the achievement of Army recruiting goals for the 2008 fiscal year. Photo by Spc. Errol Cadet.

New York City Soldier Killed in Afghan Accident

Story by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo, 42nd Infantry Division



Major General Joseph Taluto, the Adjutant General of New York presents an American flag to Mrs. Stephanie von Zerneck and her three children, during the internment of her husband, Specialist Jason von Zerneck (at left) at Maple Grove Cemetery, Kew Gardens, Queens, N.Y. on October 11. Left photo courtesy of the 27th Brigade. Right photo by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo.

NEW YORK – New York Army National Guard Specialist Jason von Zerneck, 33, assigned to B Troop, 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry (Reconnaissance, Surveillance, and Target Acquisition) based in Jamestown was killed in Qara Bagh Karze, Afghanistan October 2 when his vehicle rolled over during a logistical convoy.

Von Zerneck, an infantryman who joined the Army National Guard in the winter of 2006, was interned at the Maple Grove Cemetery with full military honors in his hometown of Kew Gardens, Queens, October 11. Spc. von Zerneck is survived by his wife, Stephanie, three children, and his father and mother, both of Manhattan.

"All members of the New York National Guard mourn the loss of this Soldier who died defending his country and seeking to help the people of Afghanistan," said Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, the Adjutant General of New York and

Commander of the New York National Guard.

Von Zerneck was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion 69th Infantry, headquartered at the Lexington Avenue Armory in New York City, prior to mobilization for the 27th Brigade Combat Team mission in Afghanistan.

New York Governor David A. Paterson ordered flags across the state be flown at half mast in honor of Spc. von Zerneck on Oct. 14.

His awards include the Bronze Star Medal (awarded Posthumously) the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Overseas Service Medal, the Armed Forces Service Medal, the NATO Medal, and the Combat Infantryman Badge, the New York State Medal for Merit (awarded Posthumously) and the New York State Aid to Civil Authorities Medal. He was promoted to specialist posthumously. **gt**

'Empire Blizzard' Finishes OEF Tour With Freedom Salute

Story by Staff Sgt. Kevin Abbott, Joint Forces Headquarters

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade

ROCHESTER - Soldiers from Detachment 1, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation from the New York Army National Guard were honored Saturday, October 4 during a National Guard Bureau Freedom Salute Ceremony at the Patriot Way Armory and Aviation Support Facility #2.

The Soldiers federally mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom on May 27, 2007. They conducted about 90 days of mobilization training at Fort Carson, Colo. before deploying to Afghanistan on Sept. 2, 2007.

The unit served nine months under the command and control of the 82nd Airborne. During that time the 126th provided aerial movement of more than 16,000 troops to every region in Afghanistan, 5.8 million pounds of mail, equipment and supplies internally and another 1.3 million pounds of equipment externally.

The unit returned to their Rochester home station May 31, 2008 after out-processing from active duty at Fort Dix, N.J.

The Freedom Salute Ceremony is held for units that return from federal activation to recognize the Soldiers in their home station for their sacrifice and patriotism.

Guest speakers included Brig. Gen. Paul Genereux, commander of the 42nd Infantry Division who pointed out that the 126th Aviation performed above and beyond the call of duty by successfully completing their missions in some of the harshest and roughest terrain in the world. 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade commander, Col. Michael Bobeck also congratulated the 126th on successful completion of their mission and returning the unit safely to New York.

Master of ceremonies Capt. Christopher Gagliardo, called forward the sixty one Soldiers that he deployed with to be recognized at the ceremony attended by family members and community supporters. Twelve Soldiers from the unit received special recognition for their second deployment.

In addition to the re-deployed Soldiers, two civilians were recognized for their contributions. Diana Smalley, spouse of Sgt. 1st Class Robert Bruce Smalley, received recognition as

the Distinguished Center of Influence.

Angie Snyder, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Roger Shane Snyder, was recognized as the Outstanding Center of Influence. **gt**

Company B Commander, Capt. Christopher Gagliardo displays a special poster presented to him and the 126th Aviation by a representative from the Boeing Corporation for their service in Afghanistan.



The new commander of the 642nd, Lt. Col. Scott Norcutt, presents National Guard plaques in special recognition of 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation's support of the 82nd Airborne Division while serving on active duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan in 2007.

You Can't Buy Tickets for This Ride

Employers Visit 107th Airlift Wing to See New Aircraft, Mission

Story by Sr. Airman Peter Dean, 107th Airlift Wing

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION –Members of the New York Air National Guard's 107th Airlift Wing opened their hangar doors August 8 to community employers to share the experience of military service. More than 175 civilian employers met with Airmen and experienced the military lifestyle for a day with Airmen and C-130 aircraft in this first joint effort with the 914th Air Force Reserve Airlift Wing.

"This is an experience of a life time," said Jordan Evans, manager for the area U-Haul rental company.

Each year the 107th Airlift Wing sets a day aside to give thanks to the area's civilian employers for the sacrifices they make in support of the Guard and Reserve. Without their stolid support, members of the Guard and Reserve would not be able to function as they should and commit the time needed to sustain the missions of the 107th and 914th Airlift Wings. This was the first year that the 107th and the 914th worked together, along with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) to ensure that the bosses were treated to a day they would not soon forget.

"I look forward to this each year," said Sandy Silverberg, Attorney from the law firm of Silverberg, Mcgoory, Sellers and Silverberg. "Last year I watched as a fighter jet was refueled," he said, referring to the 2007 Bosslift mission when the 107th was an air refueling wing and flew KC-135s. Silverberg attended last years bosses' day and flew on a refueling mission.

Throughout the morning, while enjoying coffee and donuts donated by Tim Hortons, employers interacted with Guardsmen and Reservists who demonstrated proper wear of chemical warfare gear, C-130 engine maintenance and life support demonstrations.

Employers also had the opportunity to safely handle weapon displays such as the M249 machine gun, M4 semi-automatic rifle and M203 grenade launcher. A C-130 crew on hand answered questions and familiarized employers with the layout and the specifications of the C-130 prior to their flight briefing.

During the flight briefing, employers were given safety rules and flight paths. Employers were also addressed by both commanders, Col. Patrick Ginavan, 107th AW and Col. Reinhard Schmidt, 914th AW.

"This is a unique opportunity for our Guardsmen to show their employers our new mission," said Ginavan.

The 107th converted from KC-135s to C-130s earlier this spring. 107th Guardsmen will retrain on the new air frame, its operations and maintenance with some schools lasting as long as nine months. Along with the conversion to the C-130s, the 107th AW and the 914th AW will now be associated and working together as one.

"This is the first opportunity for us to demonstrate to our members' employers the new association and the building of Team Niagara for a strong future," said Schmidt.

After the briefing the employers moved out to waiting C-130s where they received their final briefing from Sr. Airman Tiffany Seager, one of

the loadmasters who control the rear of the C-130 aircraft.

After only a few minutes of flight, the loadmasters went to the rear of the aircraft, donned their helmets and tethered themselves in. The loud screeching of hydraulics filled the aircraft as the employers looked at each other in anticipation; they knew what was going to happen next.

As light filled the rear of the cargo area, the rear ramp door opened giving the employers a birds-eye view of Niagara Falls. The pilots flew the C-130 to many local attractions such as the Bills Stadium, the Niagara River and Marine Land.

"You should charge for this," exclaimed Evans during the aircraft flyby of Niagara Falls.

The aircraft orientation ride, however, doesn't require a ticket purchase. It is part of the education and support programs to area employers on behalf of both airlift wings.

Evans manages a U-Haul shop with only six employees and says he feels the crunch when his employee, Staff Sgt. Jason Sinclair is called upon for deployment.

"Supporting him is the least we can do. He's serving our country," Evans said. "When he deploys, his job will be waiting for him." **gt**



A C-130 gives a bird's eye view of Niagara Falls for military employers from both the New York Air National Guard's 107th Airlift Wing and the Air Force Reserve's 914th Airlift Wing. The employers participated in an exclusive event designed just for them August 8 sponsored by the Western New York Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). Employers received a taste of the Guard/Reserve mission through demonstration, displays and also received an orientation flight aboard the wings' shared C-130 aircraft. The 107th converted earlier this year from its prior aerial refueling mission. Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Brundage.



An Airman demonstrates the correct way to fire the M-203 Grenade Launcher to an employer during the Boss Day conducted by the New York Air Guard's 107th Airlift Wing and the Air Force Reserve's 914th Airlift Wing on Aug. 8. Civilian bosses were able to experience first hand a C-130 Airlift mission and had the opportunity to try on chemical warfare gear and handle unloaded weapons.

Rescue Wing Restores Jolly Green Giant

Story by Master Sgt. Michael Riccardi, 106th Rescue Wing

WESTHAMPTON BEACH - A piece of the history for the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing came back to life Sept. 6 with the help of 24 volunteers who restored a Sikorsky HH-3E Jolly Green Giant. The restored helicopter was unveiled during an awards ceremony here at Gabreski Airport and will eventually find its way to the front entrance to the 106th where it will proudly symbolize the Search and Rescue role that the 106th has had for more than 33 years.

Volunteers donated their own time working evenings and weekends in a helicopter pod on Francis S. Gabreski Airport, home to the New York Air National Guard wing.

"It brings back a lot of memories working on an aircraft that I haven't been in or worked on in a long time," said retired Senior Master Sgt. Carl Schottenhamel, project manager for the HH-3E's restoration.

The 106th used HH-3E helicopters until the early 1990s before transitioning to the HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter, which it still uses today for its search and rescue mission.

"The 106th can trace its lineage back to 1908," said Col. Michael F. Canders, command-



Volunteers from the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing work to restore an HH-3E Jolly Green Giant earlier this year for a static display outside F.S. Gabreski Airport at Westhampton Beach. Courtesy photo.

er of the 106th Rescue Wing, "and throughout our history we have had several different missions." "The Jolly Green Giant will represent

the Search and Rescue mission that all of our members help contribute to on a daily basis," he added.

The restored Jolly Green Giant will replace a F-102 Delta Dagger which is currently at the 106th's front entrance. The F-102 was actually flown by the 106th when it was a fighter wing and will be retired to another location on the base.

During the restoration process Tech. Sgt. James J. Vlachich, a machinist with the 106th, had to manufacture the horizontal stabilizer support strut which he replicated from the Coast Guard's version of the HH-3, the HH-3F Pelican.

Another one of the difficulties encountered by Schottenhamel and his volunteer restoration crew was attaching the rotor blades to the rotor head. Schottenhamel explained that he needed 50 particular bolts, whereas the Air Force only had 32 of the bolts remaining in its inventory. He and his volunteer crew were willing to take on these difficult tasks to help finish the helicopter that will symbolize the Search and Rescue mission performed by the 106th Rescue Wing.



The finished product of volunteer efforts to restore an HH-3E Jolly Green Giant is unveiled at F.S. Gabreski Airport at Westhampton Beach, N.Y. The 106th Rescue Wing included the roll out as part of the unit open house weekend on Sept. 6. Photo by Sr. Airman Christopher S. Muncy.



Aircrews from the New York Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Wing from Newburgh, N.Y. lend the heavy lift support to deliver a Vietnam War era HH-3E Jolly Green Giant search and rescue helicopter to F.S. Gabreski Airport on August 2. Volunteers from the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing restored the aircraft for a roll out at the 106th Rescue Wing base on September 6. Courtesy photo.

"It helps having an aircraft that people are familiar with, who have actually performed maintenance and flown in this type of aircraft," said Schottenhamel.

Some of the volunteers, who are both retired and active members of the 106th, have performed maintenance and flown on HH-3E Jolly Green Giants. Other volunteers are historical aircraft enthusiasts from the surrounding area.

Schottenhamel himself is no stranger to the aviation world. His interest was sparked during his youth when he would watch aircraft flying in and out of Idlewild Airport, N.Y. now known as John F. Kennedy Airport. He graduated from Aviation High School, Long Island City, N.Y. in 1968 where he earned his Airframe and Powerplant license. He has served with the 106th for 38 years, retiring in 2007.

Retired Lt. Col. Ron Wokoun, former 106th Maintenance Group Commander, has done extensive research into 66-13290, the tail number of the helicopter being restored, and is working to confirm other historical data which will include the various locations that the HH-3E has been to and missions it was a part of.

The restored HH-3E was built in 1966 and saw service throughout the world, including Southeast Asia during the Vietnam conflict.

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Dennis M. Richardson, former member of the 106th Rescue Wing and Air Force Cross recipient, flew many missions in the Jolly Green Giant helicopter over Vietnam and may have flown several missions in the actual helicopter being restored. Maintenance records indicate that 66-13290 was in service at the same time with the unit

that Richardson served with in Vietnam.

After over 25 years of service, the helicopter was decommissioned to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. on March 18, 1991. The helicopter was recovered from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and delivered to the 106th by a C-5A Galaxy transport aircraft from the New York Air National Guard 105th Airlift Wing. **gt**

"It brings back a lot of memories working on an aircraft that I haven't been in or worked on in a long time,"

Sr. Master Sgt. (Retired) Carl Schottenhamel, HH-3E restoration project manager



PJs Pose During Training for Recruiting Calendar

CALVERTON, N.Y. -- Master Sgt. Robert Trubia, photographs Pararescuemen while they fire on the firing range in Calverton, N.Y. A team from Air Guard Advertising came down to the 106th Rescue Wing on September 25, 2008, to take photos of the Pararescue Jumpers as part of a nationwide ad campaign for the Air National Guard. The team is made up of Air National Guard photographer Master Sgt. Robert Trubia, his assistant, videographer Tech Sgt. Don Luby, and their Producer and Studio Manager Venessa Scrivano. Master Sgt. Trubia and Tech Sgt. Luby are from the 158th Fighter Wing located in Vermont and have already traveled to many different units in the Air National Guard and plan to visit many more as part of an overarching advertising campaign. At top right, A pararescueman pauses during M4 weapons training. At top right, Master Sgt. Trubie photographs Maj. John McElroy for the recruiting campaign. The first use of these photographs will be for a 2009 calendar. Photos by Staff Sgt. David J. Murphy.

NY Air National Guard Units Accept National Awards

Capital Region's 109th Airlift Wing Receives Top Flying Unit Award for 2007; Long Island Rescue Wing Receives Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque

Story by Staff Sgt. Catherine Schmidt, 109th Airlift Wing and Capt. Alexander Spencer, 106th Rescue Wing

LATHAM -- The men and women of the New York Air National Guard received top honors from the National Guard Association this year with two top unit awards for achievement on September 22.

Members of the 109th Airlift Wing again demonstrated their excellence in serving their nation and the world as the unit was named the recipient of the 2007 Spaatz Trophy during the National Guard Association of the U.S. annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, Director of the Air National Guard, presented the trophy to Col. Anthony German, 109th Airlift Wing Commander during the awards ceremony.

This award was adopted by the Association in 1967. It had been presented by the National Guard Bureau from 1949 until 1967, to recognize the most outstanding squadron in each existing Air Guard Wing. The award, named in honor of a former Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, General Carl S. Spaatz, is today presented to the overall outstanding flying unit in the Air National Guard.

Selection of the winner is based on overall combat readiness during the reporting year and the unit's performance with respect to all other Air Guard flying units.

Established in 1959 and first awarded in 1960, these plaques recognize outstanding Air National Guard flying units. During the award period the unit deployed more than 450 personnel in support of Operation Deep Freeze and 179 other wing personnel in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, Joint Forge, Phoenix Raven, Coronet Oak and Jump Start. The unit also deployed 57 personnel supporting domestic operations that protect the critical infrastructure of New York State from the constant threat of natural disasters or homeland security threats.

The unit completed 32 years of ski missions mishap-free while flying in the world's most unforgiving flying environment. The unit has never had a C-130 Class-A mishap in well over 1,000,000 hours of C-130 flight.



The New York Air National Guard crew of Yankee 02 from the 106th Rescue Wing receives the Air Force Association Earl T. Ricks award in Washington, September 15. From left, Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, Capt. Mary O. Jennings, Senior Master Sgt. James F. McAlevey, Staff Sgt. Matthew J. Infante, Master Sgt. Thor F. Rasmussen, and Major Curtis T. Green and Air Force Association Chairman Robert E. Largent. Photo courtesy of Senior Master Sgt. James F. McAlevey.

A Class-A mishap is defined as one where there is loss of life or injury resulting in permanent total disability, destruction of an aircraft, or property damage/loss exceeding \$1 million.

"This Wing continues to provide extraordinary service to this state and to this great nation," said Col. Anthony German, 109th Airlift Wing Commander. "I am proud of our Airmen for continuing to excel in the performance of their duties, whether it is here at home, in Antarctica, Greenland or in hostile lands supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom."

"This award reflects the dedication given by all to make the 109th Airlift Wing the best in the world," said German.

In addition to the accolades for the 109th Airlift Wing, the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing from Westhampton Beach received the National Guard's Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque at the same event. Only four other Air National Guard flying units were honored with the Flying Unit Plaque.

Established in 1959 and first awarded in 1960, the plaque recognizes outstanding Air National Guard flying units. Selection of the winner is based on overall combat readiness



and the units' performance with respect to all other Air National Guard flying units.

Members of the Rescue Wing's 101st Expeditionary Rescue Squadron also received the Air Force Association's 2008 Earl T. Ricks Award in Washington on September 15.

Major Curtis T. Green, Capt. Mary O. Jennings, Senior Master Sgt. James F. McAlevey, Master Sgt. Thor F. Rasmussen and Staff Sgt. Matthew J. Infante received the award for outstanding airmanship for Operation Enduring Freedom. The HH-60G Pavehawk crew flew 35 successful combat sorties, responsible for saving 32 U.S., Coalition and Afghan lives.

The Earl T. Ricks award was established in 1954 in honor of Maj. Gen. Earl T. Ricks who served as Chief of the Air Force Division, National Guard Bureau. **gt**

109th Airlift Wing celebrates 60 years with Hangar Dance

By Staff Sgt. Catharine Schmidt, 109th Airlift Wing

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Scotia -- About 800 Airmen and guests filled Hangar 8 to celebrate the 109th Airlift Wing's 60th Anniversary on Oct. 4.

The night started with a quick video about the wing being the recent recipient of the Spaatz Trophy, an award recognizing the 109th Airlift Wing as the Air National Guard's most outstanding flying unit for 2007.

Also on screen was Lt. Matt Ruper who spoke about his time serving during World War II; he flew the wing's first aircraft, the P-47 Thunderbolt.

Various restaurants provided buffet-style meals, and entertainment included The Swing Docs and the Liberty Belles.

Airmen and guests dressed up in military uniforms, suits and cocktail dresses that represented eras dating back to the late 1940s all the way through 2008.

World War II vintage aircraft (the P-47, B-17, B-24 and B-25) were lined up outside the hangar next to the wing's LC-130 Hercules. Guests were able to go on the flightline to see the planes up close.

"It was a great time," said Master Sgt. Christine Wood. "To see how the hangar was set up really brought to life the wing's heritage."

"The whole set up was great as was the organization that went into the event," said Master Sgt. Joseph Archambeault. "The static displays of the old aircraft were also great to see. My wife and I had a really nice time."

"Best ever," "Best I have ever been too," and "Best military function ever," were just some of the comments Col. Timothy LaBarge said he heard throughout the night.

"I am glad everyone was having a good time and that they were witnessing the results of teamwork in action," said Colonel LaBarge, 109th AW vice commander and chairman of the 60th Anniversary planning committee. "This anniversary celebration was the result of months of planning, fundraising, negotiating and coordinating by a dedicated team of 109th members in conjunction with some of our community and civilian leaders. The exceptional finished product was evidence of what can be accomplished when you pool your

talents, resources, energies and ideas and focus it toward an end goal."

"The night was obviously a huge success," said Capt. Matt Sala, from the planning committee. "The company grade officers were proud to help support the event."

Colonel LaBarge agreed that the night was a true success.

"We wanted to celebrate our 60 years of tradition and history, set the tone for our next 60 years and simply thank all of the 109th unit members, past and present, for all that we have collectively achieved. If we did that in some small way than I think we can call the night a success." **gt**

At right, New York Army National Guard Maj. Patrick Chaisson stands alongside the uniform of his father, Master Sgt. Thomas Chaisson, an Airman with the 109th Airlift Wing from 1957 to 1987 during the wing's 60th anniversary celebration in Scotia on Oct. 4. Courtesy photo.



Capt. Ernest Lancto, dressed in an Army Air Corps uniform as part of the 60 year anniversary of the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing, poses with the Liberty Belles at the 109th Airlift Wing's 60th Anniversary Hangar Dance on Oct. 4. The Liberty Belles are a USO-style group and performed at the event. Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara/



Staff Sgt. Les Gould taxis in an LC-130 at Willie Field in Antarctica during the 2007/08 Operation Deep Freeze season. He is a crew chief with the 109th Airlift Wing at Stratton Air National Guard Base, N.Y. The wing begins operations this fall for its 20th year of support to the National Science Foundation and research at the South Pole. Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Girolami.

Another Year on the Ice for 109th Airlift Wing

Operation Deep Freeze 2009 Kicks Off 20th Year at the South Pole

Story by Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt, 109th Airlift Wing

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Scotia -- The 109th Airlift Wing began its 20th year of Operation Deep Freeze supporting the National Science Foundation in Antarctica with its first flight of the season on Oct. 27.

Two LC-130 Hercules, ski-equipped aircraft, took off on Oct. 27, followed by two more LC-130s and a C-5 Galaxy from the 105th Air Wing at Stewart Air National Guard Base on Oct. 28.

The aircraft carried maintenance equipment, such as engines and propellers. Crews will spend a few days in New Zealand setting up their base of operations and then head down to McMurdo Station in Antarctica to get things going there, said Tech. Sgt. Joe Axe, a loadmaster with the 139th Airlift Squadron who works in the Antarctic Operations Office.

"Once we're established in Antarctica, the first mission we'll do is to open the South Pole," Sergeant Axe said. "We'll take about 50 people. That first day will be about three or four trips just to get the South Pole going."

This season, financial challenges have lessened the missions required for the unit.

"This season we're doing about two-thirds of what we usually do; we're only doing five (sorties) a day vs. eight," Sergeant Axe said. "I'm hoping to get somewhere around 8 million pounds of cargo moved at a minimum. Our best season was 14 million."

Another change this season has to do with the new 8-bladed props. That aircraft will be going to Antarctica as part of a test program. Once tests are done, and everything checks out OK, the aircraft will be added to the rotation.

"We're hoping the tests go well and get done fast and it can be proven that the aircraft is more fuel-efficient," Sergeant Axe said. "During the testing phase, it will be flying its own separate missions taking a little bit of cargo and increasing that each time."

Crews have been preparing for this season even before last season was finished. Feedback is gathered and sent up the chain so improvements can be made for the next season.

"As we enter our 20th year supporting Operation Deep Freeze the one constant in an ever-changing environment is the attitude of our Airmen and their dedication to completing the mission," said Col. Anthony German, 109th Airlift Wing Commander. "The work ethic required to be successful in the environments we work in is the defining characteristic that led us to being selected as the best flying unit in the Air National Guard. Each season has its own challenges, and this season the challenge will be financial in nature. We will fly less missions, deploy less people and consolidate jobs in a number of areas, but in the end we will continue to serve the National Science Foundation in the same professional manner they are accustomed to. I look forward to the upcoming season with great confidence in all of our Airmen to make this yet another successful season."

The Scotia-based 109th AW has provided airlift support to the National Science Foundation's South Pole research program since 1988. In 1999, the unit assumed command of the entire Operation Deep Freeze mission from the U.S. Navy. **gt**

Out with the Old: 174th Begins Farewells for F-16s

Fighters Take Off in a Flash as Wing Begins Transformation

By 2nd Lt. Greta Lewis, 174th Fighter Wing



The first New York Air National Guard F-16 fighter jets depart from Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, Syracuse, N.Y. Two F-16 fighter jets left Hancock Field, and will find a new home at Edwards Air Force Base, California. This signifies the 174th Fighter Wing's transition to the MQ-9 Reaper mission. Photo by Tech Sgt. Jeremy Call.

HANCOCK FIELD AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Syracuse -- The 174th Fighter Wing said goodbye to two F-16 fighter jets as they left here October 14 to go off to their new home at Edwards Air Force Base, California.

Vice Wing Commander, Col. Charles S. Dorsey said, "It is a bittersweet day for the 174th Fighter Wing. We are sad to see the first departures of the F-16 fighter jets that we have loved flying for the past 19 years, but are excited to open a new chapter of combat aviation with the coming MQ-9 Reaper mission."

The takeoff of these two jets is the first significant step towards the 174th Fighter Wing's change-over to the new MQ-9 Reaper mission (see related story on opposite page). The Reaper is an unmanned aerial vehicle, capable of gathering intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

The 174th Fighter Wing deployed F-16C fighter jets to Southwest Asia for combat operations in June of this year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

More recently, the Wing deployed more than 190 personnel as part of an aviation package. The full 174th aviation package included support personnel and aircraft as part of the Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) cycle 3-4.

The 174th was formed on October 28, 1947 as the 138th Fighter Squadron. The 138th was the first post-World War II Air National Guard flying unit in New York State. The unit flew P-47D Thunderbolts and was based at the former Army Air Force facilities at Hancock Field. **gt**

Grand Finale for Fighter Pilot's Final Flight

HANCOCK FIELD AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Syracuse -- Lt. Col. Tim Lunderman is sprayed with the firehose after completing his final F-16 flight Sept. 29. Recently, Lunderman commanded the flight detachment from the wing when Airmen and aircraft from the 174th Fighter Wing deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom earlier this year. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Call.





Contractors refuel a MQ-9 Reaper at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., June 19. The Reaper is scheduled to begin fielding at the New York Air National Guard's 174th Fighter Wing in 2009. Photo by Lance Cheung.

In with the New: 174th Makes Preparations for Reaper

Story by Sr. Airman Kevin K. Dean, 174th Fighter Wing

HANCOCK FIELD AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Syracuse. -- Members of the 174th Fighter Wing here are now preparing for a major change: the conversion from the F-16 Fighting Falcon to the MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aerial vehicle.

The 174th Fighter Wing is the first Air National Guard unit in the country to be converting to the MQ-9 Reaper.

The unit is making the transition starting this fall and is expected to continue over the next few years. Wing Commander, Col. Kevin W. Bradley says the unit is focusing on three main efforts:

1. Safely fly, fix and support the F-16 mission.
2. Prepare, deploy, support and reintegrate personnel.
3. Stand-up the MQ-9 Field Training Detachment and the first of three MQ-9 Combat Air Patrols.

The MQ-9 Reaper is a medium-to-high altitude, long-endurance unmanned aircraft

system that has a wing span of 66 feet and is capable of flying approximately 230 miles per hour. The 174th Fighter Wing here will operate the aircraft remotely from the base while the aircraft will be in-flight elsewhere in support of Air Force missions worldwide.

The base has experienced many aircraft conversions since the unit's inception in 1947 and expects a smooth transition. The Reaper represents the fifth aircraft conversion for the 174th Fighter Wing and the base is anticipating many construction projects over the next year in support of the conversion.

Congressman Jim Walsh announced on September 24, 2008 that the FY 2009 budget for Defense, Homeland Security, Military Construction, and Veterans Affairs functions includes funding for department of defense related projects that include \$10.4 million for projects at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base.

One of the construction projects is preparing

for MQ-9 Reaper maintenance training with standing up a world class field training detachment by converting one of the existing base buildings. "The field training detachment is going to be the place to come for maintenance for the MQ-9," said the director of the conversion office, Chief Master Sergeant Judy L. Van Wie.

The maintenance training facility will train Active Duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, and foreign allies. The base will also be updating the Civil Engineering building, Communications building, Operations Group building and the dining facility.

The buildings won't be the only changes to the base as the unit members adjust to the new requirements. Chief Master Sergeant Judy Van Wie says, "People have some decisions about whether or not to retrain." As the unit converts from the F-16 Fighting Falcon, unit members directly affected by the change have many options, some of which are to retrain, change units or retire. **gt**

Governor Paterson Names New Commander for NY Guard

Retired General Returns to Lead All-Volunteer, State Recognized Militia

Guard Times Staff

ALBANY -- Governor David A. Paterson announced the appointment of retired New York Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Fergal I. Foley to the post of Commander, New York Guard, effective on October 1st.

“General Foley has almost three decades of service to New York and our nation, making him an excellent choice to serve as the new Commander of the New York Guard,” Governor Paterson said.



The New York Guard welcomes its newest commander, Brig. Gen. Fergal Foley, pictured above, on October 1st. Foley is a retired commander from the New York Army National Guard. Courtesy photo.

“His commitment to continued service to New York State allows me the honor to appoint him to this position, which I do with great pride on behalf of all New Yorkers, both civilian and in the armed

services.”

The Adjutant General of the State of New York, Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto, said, “Brigadier General Foley has agreed to again wear the uniform and serve the people of New York State. Not only does Foley possess all the right qualifications to lead the volunteer members of the New York Guard, he brings the experiences of National Guard command responsibilities during domestic operations to meet the many challenges that face our New York Guard Force. The members of the New York Guard and our entire military family welcome Ferg back into the service of our great state.”

Brigadier General Foley enlisted in the Active Army at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in June 1975, was commissioned an officer in May 1980, and retired from military service with the rank of Colonel on September 30, 2006. Upon retirement from the New York Army National Guard, Foley was placed on the New York State Retired list at the rank of Brigadier General.

In September 2004, he was assigned as the Deputy Commander of the New York Army National Guard’s Joint Task Force in support of the Republican National Convention in New York City. He also served as Deputy Commander of the National Guard response forces during the September 2003 New York City Blackout, the National Guard’s response to the World Trade Center terror attacks of September 2001 and the Guard’s recovery efforts following Hurricane Floyd in 1999.

Foley commanded the Army National Guard’s 107th Corps

Support Group (CSG) in New York City from 2002 until 2005. Prior to that command, he served in numerous leadership and staff positions from company through brigade level, including company command, assistant operations officer, signal officer, battalion command, and deputy command positions. His last assignment was Facility Manager at the New York National Guard’s Camp Smith Training Site.

Foley’s awards include the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal and the Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon.

In his civilian career, Foley is the Chief Operating Officer for American Defense Systems in Hicksville, N.Y.

Foley assumes command from Maj. Gen. Michael Van Patten, who served as commander of the New York Guard since September 2006.

The New York Guard is one of 26 State Defense Forces authorized under federal law. It’s mission focus is to provide aide to civil authorities and homeland security. The motto of the New York Guard is “Fully Trained and Ready to Respond.”

It is different from the New York National Guard in that members cannot be called into federal service, always work for the governor of New York, do not deploy overseas, and normally do

“The members of the New York Guard and our entire military family welcome Ferg back into the service of our great state.”

-- Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto, The Adjutant General

not get paid.

The 750 members of the New York Guard, total strength is authorized at 1,100, perform missions within New York. Members of the New York Guard can be older than members of the National Guard and do not have to meet the same physical fitness standards.

They serve on a volunteer basis and are paid only when ordered onto State Active Duty. Members of the New York Guard do not carry weapons, and their current mission is to augment the New York National Guard. Many New York Guard members have prior military experience but that is not a requirement.

New York Guard members are trained in Search and Rescue techniques, chemical decontamination, and they also operate a high-frequency radio network that can be used for emergency communications. Doctors and lawyers who belong to the New York Guard assist in the mobilization and demobilization of New York Army National Guard Soldiers heading for combat zones. New York Guard engineers also assist National Guard engineers in their projects. These have included constructing buildings used for urban combat training, and upgrading ranges. **gt**



**\$10K Bonus
&
\$350 MGIB Kicker**



Become an Officer

ATRRS INFO: FY09; School Code: 1006 Course: OCS; Class: 001

FY09 NGB Winter Accelerated OCS Course

**OCS Phase 0, In processing: 22-23 Nov 08 & 13-14 Dec 08 at
Camp Smith Training Site, Cortlandt Manor, NY**

**NGB Winter Accelerated OCS (Phase I-III):
23 Jan 09 thru 22 Mar 09 at Fort McClellan, AL**

- Minimum 90 College Credit for NGB Accelerated OCS Enrollment
- Must be a US Citizen
- Must Obtain Letter of Recommendation from Commander
- Must pass Chapter II Physical Exam (prior to Phase I)
- Minimum 110 GT Score (Re-testing available)
- **NEW!** Must be 18-**41** years of Age (Must be commissioned before **42th** B-day)
- Must be able to obtain a Secret Clearance
- Must Pass APFT in accordance with AR 350-1



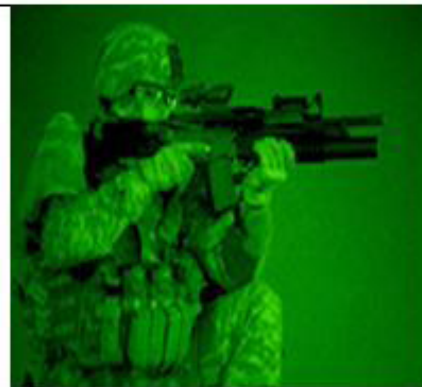
**OCS enrollment package at:
<http://dmna.state.ny.us/amg/ocs/ocs.php?id=ocs2>**

Recruiting & Retention Command-NY POC:

MAJ Lawrence Weaver, OSM (518) 330-6030 Albany/Eastern, NY Area
lawrence.weaver@us.army.mil

CPT Brian Hyer, OSM (315) 559-0231 Syracuse/Western NY Area
brian.hyer@us.army.mil

CPT Dale Thurber, OSM (518) 312-5444 New York City/Long Island Area
dale.thurber@us.army.mil



NY Naval Militia Readies to Secure NYC Waters Patrol Boats, Sailors and Marines Support Maritime Homeland Security Exercise

Story by Lt. Col. Eric Durr, N.Y. National Guard

Photos by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, N.Y. National Guard

The saboteurs fixed limpet mines to the sides of both the USS Intrepid, the historic aircraft carrier/museum ship in New York harbor, and a cargo ship. They expected to cause panic, and disrupt traffic into and out of the third-busiest port in the United States.

But a side-scanning CodaOctopus sonar, mounted on a New York Naval Militia patrol boat, detected both mines quickly, and the militia members called in New York Police Department Divers to remove them before they detonated. Now a Coast Guard controlled blimp had spotted a suspicious boat entering the exclusion zone, and the control center quickly routed another Naval Militia Boat onto that contact. Simultaneously, a Civil Air Patrol plane spots a van that could be loaded with dynamite, moving onto a pier at the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

NEAR FORT SCHUYLER, Frogs Neck - Multiple threats like these kept 25 members of the New York Naval Militia—one of New York's two state defense forces – busy training during a three-day port security exercise conducted by the State University of New York Maritime College in New York City August 4-6.

The New York Naval Militia members provided the command and control cell, as well as deploying three patrol boats during the exercise. The training brought together security agencies including the United States Coast Guard, Civil Air Patrol, the New York City Police Department, and private contractors seeking to demonstrate equipment.

“We could do it without the Naval Militia, but it would not be as robust,” said Dr. Larry Howard, a SUNY Maritime professor and exercise director.

The college provides degrees in maritime and transportation related fields.

Dubbed Trojan Horse, to remind commanders and port security officials that they have to look beyond the obvious, the annual exercise allows maritime security professionals

to comply with the Maritime Transportation Act of 2002, Howard said. That law mandates regular exercises for maritime facility operators.

For the Naval Militia, a 2,900 member force of Naval, Marine and Coast Guard reservists who also volunteer for New York state missions, the Trojan Horse exercise provided a chance to exercise at all levels in conjunction with other maritime security agencies, said Naval Militia Captain Robert Pouch, the deputy commander for operations.

“If we have an emergency in the state of New York, we don't want to meet our mutual aid partners on the day the problem occurs,” Pouch said.

New York Police Department Lt. John Harkins, a dive team leader, concurred. “You practice the way you're gonna play, so you play the way you practice,” Harkins said.

“You get to work with different professionals and you get to work with different equipment,” said Naval Militia coxswain Sean Mesmer.

For the three-day exercise, a Naval Militia command team established a command post in the SUNY Maritime Boat House, located on Long Island Sound beneath the Throgs Neck Bridge at Fort Schuyler. From here, Pouch and his team directed Coast Guard boats, Naval Militia vessels, and New York Police Department craft as they responded to security emergencies. A Coast Guard tethered blimp provided an aerial view of the operations area through a live video downlink, as did Civil Air Patrol aircraft.

The Naval Militia command team had a chance to show what they could do and build trust with their partners, Pouch said.

Naval Militia members have plenty of relevant military and civilian experience they bring to missions, said Naval Militia Commander Maj. Gen. Robert Wolf, a retired Marine.

In civilian life, for example, Pouch is Executive Director of the Board of Commissioners of Pilots of the State of New York. “I've spent

my whole life in maritime shipping,” he said.

Wolf is an administrator at SUNY Maritime and his Marine Corps experience in operational planning, and his connections with maritime security professionals, helped energize the exercises, said Howard.

Trojan Horse also gave the Naval Militia's Military Emergency Boat Service (MEBS), which operates 12 patrol boats of varying sizes, an opportunity to exercise the skills of coxswains and crews, said Naval Militia Commander Don McKnight, MEBS Officer-In-Charge.

The day before the SUNY Maritime exercise kicked off, MEBS put ten boats in the water in the Hudson River near West Point to practice security techniques and formations. This was the first time the New York patrol boat fleet exercised as a unit, McKnight said.

MEBS crews also received experience operating around New York's busy harbors and many bridges. There was also a chance to certify more crewmen on PB 440, the Naval Militia's high-tech patrol boat that routinely operates with the Coast Guard in New York harbor.

Participation in the Trojan Horse exercise also has a deterrent value, Wolf said.

“The more we do this ahead of an incident, the better we are able to prevent it by showing we have boats and blue lights in the water,” he said.

In addition to New York harbor, the state has 127 miles of Atlantic coastline, 454 miles of freshwater coast line along Lakes Erie and Ontario and the St. Lawrence and Niagara Rivers, 145 miles of Lake Champlain waterfront, the five Finger Lakes, and the Hudson, Mohawk, Susquehanna and Delaware River systems.

This massive amount of water necessitates having a state maritime force, said State Sen. Vincent Liebell, chairman of the State Senate Homeland Security Committee. It would be foolish not to plan for security operations in this environment, he added. **gt**



New York Naval Militia Emergency Boat Service Patrol Boat 301 moves alongside the SUNY Maritime College training vessel Empire State during the Operation Trojan Horse homeland security training exercise August 6. The Operation Trojan Horse three-day exercise involved multiple city and state homeland security and law enforcement agencies in a maritime response exercise. Patrol Boat 201 employed underwater radar in support of NYPD Scuba personnel in a training scenario to identify, disarm and remove shipping mines in New York City waters.



New York Naval Militia members provide command and control for the operations of three Military Emergency Boat Service patrol craft during the Naval Militia support to Operation Trojan Horse at the SUNY Maritime College near Fort Schuyler in Throggs Neck, New York City, August 6. From left, Cpl. Tom Tartaglia, Lt. Cdr. Nick Valhos and Cpl. Kimberly McDonough provide communications support to the command post alongside Lt. Col. Bill Lochridge (foreground), operations chief for the training exercise.



New York Naval Militia Petty Officer Thomas McMahon operates the state's Military Emergency Boat Service Patrol Boat 440 along the waterways of New York City August 6 alongside Cmdr. Don McKnight during the SUNY Maritime College Operation Trojan Horse security training exercise. Operation Trojan Horse involved multiple city and state homeland security and law enforcement agencies in a maritime response exercise.

GUARD NEWS BRIEFS AND PHOTOS



Guardsmen Get NASCAR Top Treatment at the Glen

WATKINS GLEN - More than two dozen New York Army National Guard Soldiers received special treatment from National Guard car driver Dale Earnhart, Jr. here for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series on August 10. Above, the New York National Guard's senior enlisted Soldier, Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Van Pelt, presents the #88 Guard Car driver with a challenge coin. Soldiers from across the state met with Earnhart prior to the Sunday race thanks to the efforts and coordination of the state's Recruiting and Retention Command. Earnhart finished 19th overall in the NASCAR race. Courtesy photo.



'Marching Down the Avenue'

GENESEO -- Captain John H. Shannon III leads Company A, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, home Oct. 2. The Soldiers returned from a year long deployment to Afghanistan to a flag lined Main Street and an anxious cheering crowd of family members, friends and supporters. The Soldiers parked their buses at the end of Main Street and marched the last half mile to their armory and family reunions. Soldiers from Co. A were among approximately 200 New York Army National Guard Soldiers returning home to armories in Geneseo, Gloversville, Morrisonville and Camp Smith. Photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Abbott.

Air Guardsman Moment of Fox News Fame



BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan - Captain Timothy Martin, a member of the 174th Fighter Wing as the installation deployment officer, meets with retired Army Colonel Oliver North on Aug. 28. Martin coordinated North's air movements throughout the area of operations while filming "A Forgotten War" as part of his War Stories series for Fox News. Martin is deployed to Camp Vance at Bagram Air Base as the Director of Movement Control Cell, CJSOTF-A. Courtesy photo.

National Guard Notes Start of Court-Martial

Guard Times Staff

LATHAM - The Army began court-martial proceedings this October in the case of the United States vs. Staff Sgt. Alberto B. Martinez at Fort Bragg, N. C. Court proceedings began Oct. 6 with opening statements Oct. 22.

Martinez is a former member of the New York Army National Guard charged with killing his commander and another officer on June 7, 2005.

Approximately 70 current and former members of the New York Army National Guard may be called as witnesses by both the defense and the prosecution. These Soldiers will travel to and from Fort Bragg as required. **gt**

Orion Troops in Afghanistan Meet Rainbow Division Leader

CAMP PHOENIX, KABUL, Afghanistan --The commanding general of the Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division visited troops here Sept. 25-26. Brigadier General Paul Genereux (at left) met with members of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, which falls under the oversight of the 42nd Division for training and re-sourcing back in New York. Genereux was accompanied by 42nd Division Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Fearnside for his visit to Camp Phoenix, Camp Blackhorse and Camp Alamo. "I am very proud of all of you," said Genereux. "You are doing a terrific job and the work you are doing here to train the Afghan National Army and Police is vital." "Keep your focus. Stay safe. You have been given a tough mission but you are doing it. We are proud of you. Keep up the good work," he said. Photo by Lt. Col. Paul Fanning.



Guard's Newest Authors

Guard Times Staff

JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS, Latham - Two members of the New York National Guard Chaplaincy are also accomplished authors. Chaplain (Col.) Allen D. Ferry and Chaplain Candidate (Capt.) Jim Collins both recently wrote books about faith.



New York Army National Guard Chaplain (Col.) Allen D. Ferry (right) and Chaplain Candidate (Capt.) Jim Collins are published authors in addition to their support to the troops. Photo by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg.

Chaplain Ferry, promoted to colonel in early October, wrote "A Man and His Country" while deployed with the 42nd Infantry Division in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005. His book is a Bible study promoting the responsibilities of citizenship, including military service. It is available through Regular Baptist Press, Schaumburg, Illinois (www.rbpstore.com). Chaplain Ferry has been the Joint Forces Chaplain since 2006 and retires this year from military service.

Chaplain Candidate Collins penned "The Mass as Sacrifice" as a theological reflection on the sacrificial elements of the Catholic Mass (available at www.stpauls.us). Collins is currently an ordained priest in the Bronx waiting his endorsement for the chaplaincy and service with the National Guard. He is attached to the 42nd Infantry as a chaplain candidate. **gt**



Fighter Wing Fireman Leave Mark in Iraq

BALAD, Iraq -- 174th Fighter Wing firefighters pose for a snapshot from Iraq. Pictured are Fire Chief, Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Chrissley, Master Sgt. James Brody, Tech. Sgt. Spencer Slayton, Tech. Sgt. Donald Edgar, Staff Sgt. Roman Lopez, Airman 1st Class Jams Bak, Staff Sgt. Ronald Wareham and Tech. Sgt. Robert Lent. The firefighters deployed as part of the Air Expeditionary Forces in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from May through September. Courtesy photo.

COMMENTARY:

Operation Purple Camp

By Rachael Sparacino, age 11

This summer I went to Purple Camp at Pioneer Camp & Retreat Center in Angola, New York. There I met kids whose parents are serving in the U.S. military; some are deployed with my dad. It was fun to meet other kids who have parents in the military.

We all learned what our parents do in the military. I found out that I'm not the only one going through a parent's deployment. I learned a lot and did so many things and at the same time built friendships with children who have a military parent or parents. There was the wall of honor, where we talked about our deployed parent and placed their picture up on the wall of honor which was hung in the Dining Hall.

Some of the things I did were: orienteering, canoeing, and crafting. I learned how to use a compass and find my way around the campgrounds. I had the opportunity to go out in the lake in a canoe, I learned that you must be alert when out on a canoe because the water can change. I slept out in a tent one night and the next morning ate MRE's for breakfast. We also did crafts where we made candles and a frame.

Every morning we gathered around the flag post and raised the American flag and each morning we were told a fact about the flag, it was really interesting. We also had visitors come to speak to us: one was an Air Force Chaplain, and then there were four Coast Guardsmen, they told us about their jobs. At camp, we saw two trucks and a helicopter.

We did a top ten list. We came up with the top ten best things and the top ten worst things about being a military kid. We learned about trusting your partner by doing trust exercises.

I had a great time at Camp Purple and was glad I had the opportunity to attend Camp. Operation Purple is really an awesome program!

Editor's Note: This summer, Operation Purple Camps hosted campers at 62 locations and 27 states nationwide, supporting 10,000 children of deployed active-duty Soldiers and members of the National Guard and Army Reserve. The national program — named for the color the military uses to signify inclusion of all branches of service — started with 10 camps and 1,000 children in 2004.

The National Military Family Association (NMFA) selected the Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center in Angola, N.Y. to host a popular Operation Purple Summer Camp from June 22-27 and July 27 through August 1 this summer.

NMFA developed this free summer camp program in response to the need for increased support for

**Operation Purple**

*A program of the National Military Family Association
military children, especially those whose parents are or will be deployed.
Operation Purple Camps teach children skills for dealing with their feelings
and provide the chance to share in some carefree fun with other military
youth. gt*

Family Day Fun for Fighter Wing



HANCOCK FIELD, Syracuse -- Lieutenant Colonel Catherine Hudson of the 174th Fighter Wing, helps her daughter, Grace, with her shoes to climb into the bouncing bin. The activity was part of the New York Air National Guard's 174th Fighter Wing Family Day here on Sept. 7. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ricky Best.

The Spirit To Serve

Story by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Eric Olsen, 42nd Infantry Division

NEW YORK --Members of the New York Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry joined city government and spiritual leaders here on October 16 to mark the rededication of Duffy Square in Manhattan. Duffy Square is a memorial to the famous Father Patrick Duffy of the "Fighting 69th," the Army's famous 69th Infantry.

Father Duffy provided spiritual leadership for his Rainbow Division troops and is remembered for his selfless dedication and moral strength in a time of great conflict and pain. The "Great War," as World War I was called before they started numbering them, brought with it great sacrifice by New York Soldiers on the fields of France. Thousands of American Soldiers are buried where they fell in foreign lands; laid to rest by chaplains who cared for the living, comforted the dying and honored the dead.

The Chaplain Corps still serves Soldiers in the same dedicated tradition that it has held for over 233 years and is captured in the service and life of Father Duffy. The spirit of caring is a calling of faith with an understanding of the world as it was created to be and finds men and women working hard to make the changes necessary to bring it there.

The only reason a chaplain serves on the battlefield is to care for Soldiers in the most difficult of times. It is in combat that the soul is truly tested and Soldiers enter the valley of the shadow of death. Conflict troubles the soul and can leave Soldiers empty or lost, unable to return to the lives they previously had. Chaplains, especially National Guard chaplains, from the time of Father Duffy up until today help guide Soldiers home from the horror and the pain and difficulties of deployment. The spiritual journey is not a quick study but a life long pursuit for the betterment of the soul and the individual.

This fall also brought with it another Chaplain milestone for the New York National Guard that continues this same tradition. Chaplain (Col.) Allen Doug Ferry retired as the Joint Forces Chaplain after 21 years of



Chaplains (Col.) Allen Ferry (left) and (Lt. Col.) Eric Olsen stand before Father Francis Duffy's statue in Times Square. The City of New York rededicated Father Duffy Square in Manhattan for the famous chaplain of the Army National Guard's 69th Infantry Regiment on Oct. 16. Courtesy photo.



Chaplain (Col.) Allen Doug Ferry receives the Army's Legion of Merit for his 21 years of service to the spiritual needs of members of the New York National Guard during the state's Chaplaincy retreat in Greenwich, N.Y. on September 17. Chaplain Ferry received his promotion to colonel at the Joint Force Headquarters on October 14. Photo by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg.

service with the Army National Guard. During his tenure, Chaplain Ferry assisted thousands of Soldiers both in combat and at home, helping them navigate difficult times with wisdom.

By providing a moral compass, Chaplain Ferry has led many to a deeper understanding of self, their calling and their faith. He established a new standard for the Chaplain Corps which will assure that the traditions of caring and service exemplified by Father Duffy's service with the "Fighting 69th" continues with all our joint force units here in New York.

The role of Chaplain and its importance is time tested and when fully understood, revered. The Citizen Soldier is a person of great resolve, great industry, great sacrifice and great faith. It is these qualities that make America what it remains today a nation of destiny and the continual beacon of hope.

Editor's Note: Chaplain Olsen from the 42nd Infantry Division succeeds Chaplain Ferry as the new Joint Forces Headquarters New York State Chaplain. gt.

