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Volume 8, Number 4

Fall 2015

guardtimes

www.dmna.ny.gov

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



FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Highlighting Faces in the Formation

You might notice a difference in your magazine this time around.

We want to showcase not just our organizations, but really focus on those individual Soldiers and Airmen in our formations who make a difference every day.

We talk all the time about our commands, our wings, brigades, squadrons and battalions. Now you'll start to read more about the great work of the many individuals, part time and full time, who ensure that these organizations are ready, equipped, trained and responsive to missions.

The Guard Times has always provided space to highlight award winners, good Samaritans, athletes or innovators before. Starting with this issue, some of those "Faces of the Force" will be the first things you see when you open up your magazine.

There are career NCOs and officers committed not only to our military profession, but achieving remarkable success in civilian careers, personal hobbies or volunteer contributions in their

communities.

There are new recruits that have excelled in their Recruit Sustainment Program as young leaders in their initial entry training, and they are not yet in your formations.

And there are great achievements in our state and federal missions, from disaster response to overseas service in all of our commands.

We want to highlight some of those individual stories for all of us.

These stories reflect on some of the best of our formations and we'll put these members up front as role models for new members, recruits and all who are thinking about extending their service in our force.

And if you know a Soldier or Airmen in your formation that makes your unit great or contributes in a unique way, pass that along to your public affairs team to shine a spotlight on the people that make our formations so successful.



Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy

Signal Soldiers Focus on the Fundamentals



FORT DRUM - Staff Sgt. Glinory Michel of the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion conducts a marksmanship class on a pop-up target range here on August 24, 2015. The battalion's annual two week training event focuses on building both the individual and collective skills of the Soldiers. Photo by Sgt. Jeremy Bratt, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.



guardtimes

Fall 2015 | Volume 8, Number 4

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, COMMANDER IN CHIEF
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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 17,000 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 format (rtf) along with high resolution digital (jpg) photos. Submission deadlines are January 15 (winter issue), April 15 (spring issue), July 15 (summer issue), and October 15 (fall issue). Send your submissions to:

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New York Air National Guard Airmen assigned to the 174th Attack Wing dismantle an F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, Syracuse N.Y., on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015. The aircraft was shipped to New York National Guard Headquarters in Latham, N.Y. where it is now displayed at the front gate. Photo by Tech Sgt. Jeremy Call, 174th Attack Wing.

FRONT COVER: Pvt. Mike Harris, a Tonawanda resident and infantryman with C Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment, prepares to enter the water of Lake Erie during a troop training exercise in Buffalo Sept. 13. Harris, fulfilling the role of one of the teams two scout swimmers, was tasked with swimming to shore in advance of the beachhead and providing security while the rest of the team disembarked. Photo by Spc. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.
BACK COVER: The 109th Fire Department's search and rescue team prepare to lower Staff Sgt. Jennifer Bristol during confined space training for the team at Stratton Air National Guard Base, New York, on Sept. 17. The 12-person search and rescue team trains monthly on various rescue techniques. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt, 109th Airlift Wing.

FACES of the FORCE

New Recruits: Young Soldier Looks Forward to Military Career

By Eric Durr, *Guard Times* Staff

KINGSTON - As far as New York Army National Guard Pvt. William Kristopik is concerned he was born to be a Soldier.

"Every generation of my family has been in the Army, I am pretty sure, since the first Thanksgiving," Kristopik says. "It is almost genetic."

"I have been gung-ho Army, probably since I was seven," the 17-year old Guard recruit said.

His desire to put on an Army uniform as soon as he could brought Kristopik, a resident of Tivoli, to the door of Staff Sgt. Amanda Jaskot, the Army National Guard recruiter in Kingston, the day he turned 17.

He enlisted on his 17th birthday, shipped to basic training, and did very well, Jaskot said.

"He upholds the Soldiers standards; how to be appropriate, how to present himself, how to represent the National Guard," she said. "He believes whole heartedly in wanting to fight for what he loves."

With just a few months in the Army National Guard, Kristopik is already a standout, said Master Sgt. Sean DeAngelo, NCOIC of the Recruit Sustainment Program.

"He looks the part of a Soldier, 100 percent. When he moves from place-to-place he is moving with a purpose," DeAngelo said.

"He's got a 300 PT score. He shares his knowledge willingly with the other Soldiers. He is happy to share his experience, his motivation. You can see his motivation level is high," DeAngelo added.

Kristopik, a senior at Red Hook High School, said he enjoyed everything about Basic Training and is looking forward to Infantry Advanced Individual Training.

"Basic was all sorts of fun," Kristopik joked. "Fort Benning was beautiful in the summer. The camp counselors were real nice. There was a lot of great physical activity, a lot of team work."

Kristopik plays football for Red Hook High, and when he's not hitting the textbooks he said he likes to work out in the gym or be outside. "I have a real big interest in the woods," he added.

Kristopik is slated to join the 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry after completing advanced individual training next summer.

He picked infantry, he explained, because that is what his father did when he was a



Pvt. William Kristopik, tentative 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Prospect

member of the Army National Guard's 26th Infantry Division.

"Not only were my family in the Army, but they were all grunts," Kristopik said. "All ground pounders. It was just what I wanted to do."

"To be quiet honest," he added, "Infantry is complete bad ass. An infantryman is the most bad ass thing you can probably be in the Army."

He joined the Army National Guard, because that allowed him to wear the uniform at 17, Kristopik said. His real goal is to serve as an officer on Active Duty and make a career of the military.

"I believe I do have a lot of leadership," he said.

"I was elected three different times to be platoon guide. I believe I have the qualities to become a good officer, to keep men alive and get the mission done," he added.

He is looking forward to enrolling in the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps program at either Virginia Military Institute or Virginia

Tech and continuing to serve in the Army National Guard while earning his commission.

Meanwhile, Kristopik is working hard to excel during his final year at high school, while also serving as a National Guard Soldier.

It makes him a bit of an oddity around the school, he admitted.

"A lot of people didn't even know you could join the Army at 17," he said. "The majority of my friends congratulated me, but some people are naturally confused as to why somebody would go out and be willing to possibly die for something. That is so unusual to them," he said. **gt**



A Passion for Teaching Combat Life Savers

Story and photos by Sgt. Cesar Leon, 369th Sustainment Brigade

FORT DRUM - When it comes to teaching combat lifesaving skills to her fellow New York Army National Guard Soldiers, 1st Lt. Christine Kalafut is passionate about it.

"I have seen many of these techniques save lives in the hospitals. I work in emergency medicine and I also ride as an emergency medical technician, and I have used almost every one of the techniques taught in CLS as an EMT," said Kalafut, a physician assistant for the 369th Special Troops Battalion.

Kalafut, a resident of Mount Arlington, N.J., spent her annual training tour here Aug. 15-28, teaching a 40-hour Combat Life Saving class to Soldiers of the 369th Sustainment Brigade.

Fellow instructor Sgt. Henry Qindara, an emergency care sergeant in the 369th Special Troops Battalion, is just as convinced that the training he and Kalafut provide pays off.

"I have seen situations where the first responder was a CLS-trained Soldier; they used the skills they learned in the class to manage the person's airway," Qindara said.

These courses are provided to Soldiers regardless of their rank and consist of 40 hours of classroom and practical training.

CLS classes can be taught in any type of environment. There are times where units don't have a classroom available so being flexible is paramount, Kalafut said. "We have taught everywhere, in armories, out in the field and in all sorts of situations," she said.

"Each class has 10-15 Soldiers, depending on the amount of my staff, I can do a class of 25," Kalafut said. "But I try to keep the instructor-student ratio down, so it's more hands on and they actually learn the material and they are doing it correctly," she added.

CLS is a bridge between first aid training given to all Soldiers during basic training and specialized training given to combat medics. The course teaches Soldiers how to help a wounded comrade during what could be the most crucial moments after they are wounded, Kalafut said.

They gain the ability to help fellow Soldiers until medical personnel arrive. Chances of recovery are increased if wounds can be treated quickly, she said.

The CLS course ensures each Soldier is



1st Lt. Christine Kalafut from the 369th Sustainment Brigade oversees Spc. Godfrey Zulueta inserting a nasopharyngeal airway in Sgt. Henry Qindara's nose during a Combat Lifesaver course at Fort Drum, Aug. 18.

proficient in various basic aid techniques.

"I think that the CLS class is extremely important because it can impact Soldiers out in the battlefield," Kalafut said. "It can save a bunch of lives following basic steps."

"The biggest thing I would like them to learn is how to control bleeding, because that is one of the things that cause the most deaths on the battlefield," Kalafut emphasized. "Bleeding and airway are two of the most important topics they can learn in the CLS class."

When CLS-certified Soldiers deploy they are issued a 23-item aid bag to carry with them. Their job is to provide immediate care before a medic gets to the wounded Soldier.


"The possibility of getting a deployment should not be the time to pay attention and listen to what is being taught in the class," Kalafut said. "Soldiers need to pay attention

because it is very important and I stress that a lot when I teach."

One of the goals of the instructors who teach CLS is to change the mentality of the Soldiers, Kalafut said.

CLS has to be one of those courses where each Soldier is actively engaged.

"It's not a check the box type of class," Kalafut said. "It's not a classroom instruction you sit in on and because you have to do it. It's the type of instruction where you are going to understand what you are doing otherwise you are not going to pass the class."

The battlefield is not the only place where Soldiers could find themselves needing to administer first aid. It is a skill that is used anywhere where someone is wounded needing medical assistance, she said. 

AROUND THE STATE

NYC Veterans Day Parade



NEW YORK - Soldiers from the 369th Sustainment Brigade and 42nd Infantry Division Band march in the New York City Veteran's Day Parade in Manhattan on Nov. 11. About 1,000 military members participated in this years event.

This year commemorates the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and 25th anniversary of Operation Desert Shield.

Photo by Capt. Mark Getman, New York Guard.

EADS Team Competes in KIA Road March

Airmen Carry Heavy Load to Raise Awareness for Veteran Food Pantries

by Staff Sgt. Marie Coar, 224th Air Defense Squadron



New York Air National Guard Sr. Airman Frank Alemar, Staff Sgt. Marie Coar, Airman 1st Class Brittany Capron and Staff Sgt. Frank Carrier complete the team challenge portion -- their legs are tied together -- of the KIA Road March Aug. 22. The road march included a 6.2 mile rucksack hike, as well as individual and team obstacles. Below, Capron, at left, and Coar show relief at the finish of the course that raised funds and awareness for veterans. Photos courtesy of Sr. Airman Frank Alemar.



ROME – What started as a call for volunteers from the New York Air National Guard’s 224th Air Defense Group First Sergeant this summer led four members to represent the unit in a 6.2 mile road march August 22 to benefit veterans.

This wasn’t just any ordinary road march for the Eastern Air Defense Sector Airmen. The team carried a combined load of 200 pounds of food and, just to make the deal even sweeter, also hiked in battle uniform as part of the K.I.A. Memorial Road March held in Orchard Park, New York.

Four unit members, including the author, answered the call to meet the challenge head on, anticipating pain and blisters for what each said would be a worthy cause.

Representing EADS and the 224th Air Defense Group were Staff Sgts. Marie Coar and Nick Carrier, Airman 1st Class Brittany Capron and Sr. Airman Frank Alemar.

Not only did the team carry those 200 pounds over six miles up and down hills during the noontime summer heat, there were five challenges along the way; four individual challenges and one team challenge.

The day started with a three-hour drive to the course site in Orchard Park. After registration in the military’s “branch challenge” category, the team divided up the required 200 pounds of food and set off for the challenges of the six mile course.

The team had little knowledge as to what it was in for. The first challenge was taken on by Coar who ran 100 meters through the woods and down a shale creek bed trying to keep her boots dry.

Capron excelled at the second challenge, running up and down a hill the team just walked. Capron made quick work of the task, even though the group had just walked three miles, Capron with 40 pounds on her back.

The third challenge was more endurance and strength focused, with Alemar carrying two buckets back and forth across a field filling a barrel up to the line with water.

Carrying completed, the fourth and final individual challenge, making quick work of pulling a rope with a tractor tire tied to it across a field.

A couple hundred feet from the finish line the team encountered the final challenge, the team challenge. The group was handed three pieces of rope and instructed to run down to the bottom of a very large hill, tie our legs together and get back up the hill as a team.

Waiting at the top of their final challenge were the First Sergeant, Chief Master Sgt. Maureen Dooley, Master Sgt. John Mills, 224th Support Squadron Chief Enlisted Manager and New York Air National Guard Command Chief Richard King to support the team’s finish with full packs for a final run to complete the course.

The group, along with some 300 event participants helped raise over \$15,000 and 14,000 pounds of food for local Veteran Food Pantries and raise awareness for more than 310 New York service members killed in action since September 11, 2001.^{gt}

Counterdrug Hosts Community Anti-Drug Groups

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt, 109th Airlift Wing



Kevin Sabet, Ph.D., co-founder of Project SAM (Smart Approaches to Marijuana), speaks to more than 100 community anti-drug program members during the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment Prevention and Recovery Conference in Glenville on Oct. 28. Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara, 109th Airlift Wing.

SCOTIA – More than 100 members of community anti-drug groups from across New York attended a conference hosted by the New York National Guard's Counterdrug Task Force on Wednesday, Oct. 28 at the Glenville Armed Forces Reserve Center.

"This conference was an opportunity to get the latest drug threats and information out to community based organizations whose main goal is the prevention of drug use and implementing environmental strategies to stop drug abuse in communities," explained New York Army National Guard Capt. Joseph Moeller.

Moeller heads the Civil Operations effort.

The Airmen and Soldiers assigned to Civil Operations work with local community anti-drug groups to help them do their jobs better and more effectively. They provide administrative and planning support.

The 100 participants represented 15 counties in northeastern New York.

"We used to be very isolated in our own field of thought, but we've found that the more we've gotten together to do these conferences we not only share knowledge, but we also come up with incredibly effective environmental

strategies that individually we may not have thought of," said Air National Guard Master Sgt. Candace Stefanik, a civil operations specialist.

"When you meet other people in several different fields all with the same common goal, it's amazing the strategies you can come up with," she added.

Kaitlin Downey, the youth specialist for the Community Coalition for Family Wellness in Saratoga, agreed that everyone collaborating is very beneficial.

"When we all come together, we can be working on the same sort of mission in all of our surrounding counties in a regional way ... to make sure they're getting clear and consistent messages across the board," she said.

"One of the strategies we use is really trying to educate our community but at the same time educate our prevention folks and the people who have boots to the ground, like Counterdrug, to make sure we're all speaking on the same page," said Kristin Sweeter, grant coordinator for Niskayuna Community Action Program.

"It's important for coalitions to give people the information, whether they're parents or

students, and let them do with it as they choose. It's about giving them all of this information, and allowing them to make their own decisions," Sweeter said.

The conference not only brought together coalitions, but also others in the community who are affected in some way by substance abuse, such as judges, lawyers, doctors and prevention treatment specialists. Attendees spent the day in workshops like Incorporating Prevention in the Classroom, Engaging the Addict at all Costs, and Recent Marijuana Research and Trends.

The National Guard Counterdrug mission is to support the detection, interdiction, disruption, and curtailment of drug trafficking activities and use through the application of military unique skills and resources.

Counterdrug civil operations specialists coach and mentor coalitions using a military approach, which helps groups not only plan but execute the plan they come up with. Civil Operators accomplish this by using military decision making, accessing data and drug trends, and providing self-assessment tools to build coalitions.

Headquarters Named in Honor of Former Commander



SYRACUSE - Ms. Sheila Austin, Ms. Laurie Irwin and Chief Master Sergeant (retired) Lisa Damon cut the ribbon to the 174th Attack Wing Headquarters building. The headquarters building was dedicated to their father, the late Brig. Gen. Curtis J. Irwin in a ceremony held Oct. 4. Photo by Senior Airman Duane Morgan, 174th Attack Wing.

Hometown Heroes Run Raises Funds for Families



COLONIE - More than 150 runners participated in the New York National Guard Family Readiness Council's Home Town Heroes fundraising run at Crossings of Colonie Park here on Sunday, Sept. 20. The not-for-profit raises funds through the race to support members of the New York Army and Air National Guard and their families in times of need. Photo by Eric Durr, Guard Times Staff.

Changing Faces, Changing Flags

Army Guard Welcomes New Commanders Across the Force



Photos, from left to right, New York Army National Guard Col. Joseph Biehler, commander of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team presents the 427th Brigade Support Battalion's colors to Lt. Col. Patrick Clare during his battalion change of command ceremony in Syracuse on September 12. Clare, who previously served as the 427th executive officer, replaced departing commander Lt. Col. Scott Jessop. Photo by Spc. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

New York Army National Guard Lt. Col. Kevin Ferreira receives the guidon from 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade commander Col. Jack James to represent Ferreira's assuming authority as the new commander of the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion at Camp Smith on Oct. 17, 2015. Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Monfletto, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade.

New York Army National Guard Lt. Col. Pete Mehling accepts the colors of the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery from Col. Joseph Biehler, commander of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, during his change-of-command ceremonies at Camp Smith, Oct. 24. The Battalion also conducted a change of responsibility ceremony in which Command Sgt. Major Edwin Garris took on the duties of the 258th's new senior enlisted advisor. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Infantry Division.



SCOTIA-GLENVILLE - Col. James Freehart transfers the unit guidon to Lt. Col. Jason Souza signifying the transfer of command of the 501st Ordnance Battalion (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) during a ceremony, Oct. 17 at the Armed Forces Readiness Center in Scotia-Glenville. Souza last served in the 501st EOD Battalion as the Battalion Operations Officer and the 53rd Troop Command as the Assistant Operations Officer. Photo by Sgt. Maj. Corine Lombardo, Joint Force Headquarters.

New Rainbow Headquarters Battalion Commander



TROY - New York Army National Guard Lt. Col. Mark Frank, a combat veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan receives the colors of his new command of the 42nd Infantry Division's Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion from Maj. Gen. Harry Miller, the 42nd Division Commander, on October 25. The battalion has elements in Troy, Scotia-Glenville, Buffalo, Staten Island and Camp Smith. It includes a headquarters company, an intelligence and sustainment company, operations company, signal company and the 42nd Infantry Division Band. Photo by Lt. Col. Roberta Comerford, 42nd Infantry Division.

2016 Warrant Officer Symposium Coming to You

LATHAM - Find out more about being a Warrant Officer by attending one of four regional WO Symposiums in 2016.

This event brings everyone together in a symposium format to highlight the career opportunities and benefits of serving as a Warrant Officer. The symposium will provide detailed information and a road map for potential WO prospects to follow.

Hear from and speak to recently appointed Warrant Officer Candidates, Warrant Officers that recently graduated from WO Candidate School and senior Warrant Officers.

Hear from Senior Enlisted and Officer Leadership supporting your interest.

Requirements to attend:

- Rank of Spc. or higher.
- Have an Enlisted Military Occupational Skill that builds into a WO/MOS (Reference the Division of Military and Naval Affairs WO Website at: <http://dmna.ny.gov/arnng/ocs/?id=warrant>, and click the WO Quick Guide.
- Concurrence of your unit leadership to attend in a Split Unit Training Status.

Fiscal Year 16 WO Symposium Schedule

Camp Smith, Bldg. 500

Saturday - 9 April

Sunday - 10 April

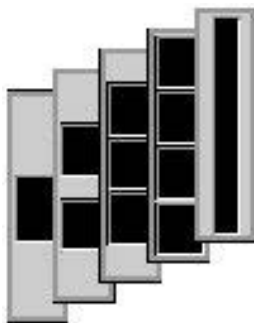
27th Brigade Armory, Syracuse

Saturday - 14 May

Sunday - 15 May

*If you meet the requirements register 30 days prior to event at <https://dmna.ny.gov/wo>

For more information go to the web site or contact the WO Strength Manager in your area or CW2 Douglas B. Sherman, Cell: (518)491-3448 douglas.b.sherman2.mil@mail.mil.



Sgt. Vincent Nichtern, assigned to Company D, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry was approved for appointment as a Warrant Officer Candidate by a Federal Recognition Board this fall on his way to becoming an Aviation Warrant Officer and UH-60 Black Hawk Pilot. Courtesy photo.



Your Life Under Construction

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, *Guard Times Staff*

Photos courtesy of Tamara Gabbard

LATHAM - If you're looking for a construction career, you're in the right place.

Helmets to Hardhats (H2H) connects quality men and women from the Armed Forces with promising building and construction careers. While Helmets to Hardhats does not pay for anything the training is free to the veteran while in the apprenticeship. Also, the military member needs zero prior experience. That is one of the main points to the apprenticeship. The military member needs only a few things to have the chance at a great career while utilizing Helmets to Hardhats. Those things are: served honorably, remain drug free, have a desire to learn and stick to the plan and have transportation.

The free program is designed to help military service members successfully transition back into civilian life by offering them the means to secure a quality career in the construction industry.

Meet Tamara Gabbard.

She is a prior New York National Guardsman, having served with the 42nd



Pvt. Tamara Gabbard in Afghanistan in 2008, serving with the North Carolina Army National Guard's 382nd Public Affairs Detachment.



Tamara Gabbard working at 125th and Broadway in Manhattan, finishing 11th floor curtain wall covers. She is employed with Enclose contractors through the Local 580 Ironworkers Union as a first year apprentice.

Infantry Division headquarters until December, 2013. She deployed to Afghanistan with the North Carolina National Guard in 2008.

"After serving six years in the Army National Guard, I decided to attend school with the help of the GI Bill. The military was great experience for me. Helping me gain discipline and camaraderie. I was a writer and photographer, but there was a part of me that loved building things and I was interested in how things work."

At first, Gabbard learned auto body repair; that led to her decision that welding was what she wanted to specialize in. She started by working on motorcycles and in the process, began teaching herself how to weld.

Helmets to Hardhats


"While I was in welding school I heard about helmets to hard hats. They don't fund anything but they are a portal for Soldiers that are construction trade-efficient and help place them in unions across the country," Gabbard said.

"I filled out an application online and kept in touch with Ms. Kelly at Helmets to Hard hats. Being a female veteran was appealing since they have a female quota to fill within the

construction trades. But they don't just pick anyone. It was a process."

Gabbard and Ornamental Ironworkers Local 580, whose jurisdiction includes the boroughs of New York City, Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, as well as Westchester, Suffolk and Nassau Counties, resonated with Gabbard from an ornamental welding aspect.

"We weld, we build, we design the small things that make a building come together and develop them from blueprints," she said.

"Perhaps, if it weren't for H2H, I would've never had a chance. They were able to set me up for success in an industry I only dreamt about. Through this program I was able to succeed and progress much further than my expectations. Being selected into such an historical trade union makes it so much better. Thousands of people waited for hours for applications and I was chosen due to my service and drive. Its such a great program and it serves as a platform for veterans to be ahead of the game. Gives us a chance to show what we can do when we are out of service and may be struggling to get a job for whatever reason." Gabbard said. 

Division Soldiers Ruck March for Commemoration



POESTENKILL -- Road marches have become popular among the military community as a way of doing something difficult to honor fellow service members and veterans. One such march is the Batann Memorial Death March held annually in New Mexico to commemorate the death of thousands of GI's who died marching through the jungles of the Phillipines only to endure the difficult conditions of prisoner of war camps.

On Sept. 19, more than 50 people attended a 26 mile/13 mile ruck march with 35 pound rucksacks on their backs. The 26 mile march started from the Veterans of Foreign Wars building at 8:30 a.m. and at noon for those who marched the 13 miles.

"This was my second year participating in the Patriot Ruckmarch," said Sgt. Arielle Grober, 42nd Infantry Division. "I did it for a few different reasons; as difficult as it was last year, I met some wonderful people who made it a rewarding experience. I marched because I believe in what it symbolizes. No matter how difficult a situation may be, you can get through it if you push yourself and more than likely once you get to the end you will

look back and think "that wasn't so bad!"

In addition to Grober's participation, Spc. Brenden O'keefe, Sgt. Erica Cruz and Pfc. Tim Van Allen (all pictured) also took the 26 mile march challenge.

Everyone who participated in this event was so supportive of each other, you realize that your battle buddies are right there with you going through the same pain but still smiling and motivating you to get to the finish line. I think it sends a great message to current serving military members and veterans. said Grober.

The annual ruck march is a Heros At Home sponsored event. It is one of 11 New York State funded programs providing peer support to anyone who has served in the military, as well as their families. The Patriot Ruck March is not just for service members and veterans. Anyone looking for a challenge is encouraged to participate. The added benefit honors the military by doing something that our service members have all done - endured physical challenges. Photo by Dave Hyldelund.



Officer and Enlisted Promotions



Specialist Promoted to Sergeant



ABASUMOH, IMA
ACOSTAMARIN, JOSE
BAKER, KEVIN
BARCLAY, BRUCE BATTERY A
BATHILY, BOUBACAR
BIRRIEL, JONATHAN
BITWA, JESSY
BROWN, DREW
BURGOSDAVILA, ABEL
CLEAVLAND, BENJAMIN
COUTURE, RYAN
CRAWFORD, GLENDON
CURRY, TIMOTHY
DEMBELE, SEYDOU
DIAZMORALES, YONATAN
GRASSIA, JOHN
GRAY, JOSEPH
HEROLD, TYLER
HERRERA, KEVIN
HILL, PETER
JACKSON, KEVIN
JOHNSON, DUAN
KARKOSKI, MICHAEL
LAWRENCE, AARON
MABRA, LEON
MAHAPONG, MEL
MARTIN, MARIELLA
MAYNARD, TIMOTHY
MERKLEY, WESLEY
OWENS, JASMINE
QUILES, ERIK
ROSE, TYLER
ROWE, ORLANDO
RYAN, MATTHEW
SHIZUME, MATTHEW
STONE, MICHAEL
TONNE, DILLON
TUTUSKA, DAVID
VELAZQUEZSILVA, JUAN
WALSH, MARK
WATSON, JONATHON
WHITE, ROBERT

187TH SIGNAL COMPANY
HHC 102ND MILITARY POLICE BN
1427TH TRANS CO MED TRK
A 1-258TH FA
CO C 1-69TH INFANTRY
CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY
HHC 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY
BATTERY A 1-258TH FA
CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY
CO A 3-142D AVIATION
CO A 3-142D AVIATION
CO B 2-108TH INFANTRY
CO B 1-69TH INFANTRY
133RD QUARTERMASTER CO
DET 1 719TH TRANS CO
CO A 3-142D AVIATION
HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42D IN DIV
CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY
1569TH TRANSPORTATION CO
CO B 2-108TH INFANTRY
CO D 3-142D AVIATION
107TH MP COMPANY
INTEL & SUST CO 42ND ID
TROOP C 2-101 CAV (RSTA)
B CO (MI)BSTB 27TH IN BDE
CO B 1-69TH INFANTRY
MEDICAL COMMAND
HHC BSTB 27TH IN BDE (BCT)
1156TH ENGR CO VERTICAL
442D MILITARY POLICE CO
42D INFANTRY DIV BAND
CO A 3-142D AVIATION
CO F (FSC INF) 427TH BSB
DIV SIGNAL CO 42ND ID
CO B 1-69TH INFANTRY
204TH ENGINEER DETACHMENT
CO B 3-142D AVIATION
HHC BSTB 27TH IN BDE BCT
CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY
CO B 1-69TH INFANTRY
206TH MILITARY POLICE CO
H & S CO 204 ENGR BN



Sergeant Promoted to Staff Sergeant



ALLEN, LANCE
ANDERSON, PETER
BEAUBRUN, LUCETTE
DENNIS, ROY
ESTARELLAS, GASTON
EYCHNER, TIMOTHY
FELDMAN, ARTEM
HERNANDEZ, JIMMY
JACOBSON, TIMOTHY
JAYNE, JOBANKA
PIETROWSKI, JOHN
PONTARELLI, MARIO
ROSE, NICKOLAS
TRONTI, MARIO
VANROOYEN, MITCHUM

CO B 1-69TH INFANTRY
CO C 101ST SIGNAL BN
369TH SUPPORT OPS DET 1
1569TH TRANSPORTATION CO
1569TH TRANSPORTATION CO
DET 1 OPS CO 42ND ID
BATTERY A 1-258TH FA
BATTERY B 1-258TH FA
HHC BSTB 27TH IN BDE (BCT)
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
HQ 153RD TRP CMD (BDE)
CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY
CO A 642D SUPPORT BN
42D INFANTRY DIV BAND
369TH SUPPORT OPS DET 1



Staff Sergeant Promoted to Sergeant 1st Class



AHMAD, HUSSAIN
AUSTIN, JUSTIN
CHARLES, KENSON
CORNALL, JOSEPH
GENTILE, THEODORE
GRIECO, CHRISTOPHER
KATZMAN, BENJAMAN
MORALES, OWEN
RESSLER, DAVID

145TH MAINTENANCE CO
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
133RD QUARTERMASTER SP CO
HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI)
HHC 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY
DET 1 OPS CO 42ND ID
CO B 2-108TH INFANTRY
CO A RECRUITING & RETENTION
CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB



Sergeant 1st Class Promoted to Master Sergeant



COLON, FRANCISCO
CRISALLI, LEAH
DRAKE, JAIME
HERNANDEZ, BOLIVAR
MALDONADO, JOSE
RICHARDSON, MICHAEL
RICHARDSON, RICHARD
SCHELL, RICHARD
TREMBLAY, ANTHONY

CO B 101ST SIGNAL BN
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
HHD 501ST ORDNANCE BN EOD
HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY
369TH HQ STB DET 2
CO C, RECRUITING & RETENTION
27TH INF (BCT)
CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY



Newly Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant



GREENWALD, JACOB
RICHARDS, KEVIN
RUFF, TIFFANY
STRANGE, NATHAN

TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA)
204TH ENGINEER DETACHMENT
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
827TH ENGR CO HORIZ



2nd Lieutenant Promoted to 1st Lieutenant



BLUE, ERIC
KELLY, PAUL
SCHMITTER, ALBERT
SPOONER, SEAN

HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)
HSC 642D SUPPORT BN
CO A 642D SUPPORT BN
HSC 642D SUPPORT BN



1st Lieutenant Promoted to Captain



BRENNAN, ALEXANDER
CALVO, MATTHEW
CONNOLLY, ADAM
GARCIA, SALVATORE
GIUNTA, CHRISTOPHER
ILLIANO, ANTHONY
LALOR, BRENDAN
LEWIS, DANIEL
LOVE, HOWARD
MINEKIME, JONATHAN
NEABORE, STACEY
RAMIREZ, RAFAEL
RONEY, RICHARD
SINGER, PAUL
TAVARES, JOSHUA

HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI)
HHC 2-108TH INFANTRY
HHC 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY
CO B 3-142D AVIATION
CO A 3-142D AVIATION
DET 1 OPS CO 42ND ID
HHC 2-108TH INFANTRY
HQ & SPT CO 42ND ID
HHC 2-108TH INFANTRY
DIV SIGNAL CO 42ND ID
HHC 3-142D AVIATION
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
1108TH ORDNANCE CO EOD
HHC 427TH BSB
CO E 3-142D AVIATION



Captain Promoted to Major



KING, JOHN
DET 2 OPS CO 42ND ID



Major Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel



FRANK, MARK
JENSEN, CHRISTOPHER
OBRIEN, SEAN

ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
HHD 104TH MILITARY POLICE BN
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY



Lieutenant Colonel Promoted to Colonel

FREEHART, JAMES
HQ 153RD TRP CMD (BDE)





Airman First Class Promoted to Staff Sergeant



BAKER, KRISTINE ELLEN	174 ATTACK WING
BELL, DYLAN H	105 AIRLIFT WING
BRUNO, SAMANTHA JOANN	174 ATTACK WING
BRUNTON, ELIZABETH PIKE	106 RESCUE WING
BYERWALTERS, MICHAEL JOSEPH JR	109 AIRLIFT WING
CEPEDA, ALEJANDRA	106 RESCUE WING
CHURCH, CHRISTOPHER ALLEN	174 ATTACK WING
CLEMENT, PARIS MARIE	109 AIRLIFT WING
DAMORE, ALEX SAMUEL	174 ATTACK WING
FIORIO, ROBERT B JR	105 AIRLIFT WING
FRYE, JEREMEY FRANKLIN	109 AIRLIFT WING
GILLIS, DAVID MICHAEL	109 AIRLIFT WING
JAMES, LAURA ELIZABETH	109 AIRLIFT WING
KORTRIGHT, MICHAEL F	105 AIRLIFT WING
LAXTON, BRIANNE ROSE	106 RESCUE WING
LEE, WILLIAM JEREMIAH	109 AIRLIFT WING
MARK, WILLIAM D	107 AIRLIFT WING
MEEHAN, TRAVIS JAMES	106 RESCUE WING
NUNEZ, CHRISTOPHER F	105 AIRLIFT WING
PANASIUK, MICHELE R	105 AIRLIFT WING
QUILTY, JASON JAMES	106 RESCUE WING
RAPALA, MARK ADAM	105 AIRLIFT WING
RUTHER, JODIE LYNN	109 AIRLIFT WING
SALGADO, JUAN CAMILO	106 RESCUE WING
SCHUMANN, ANDREW CAIRNS II	106 RESCUE WING
SMITH, MICHAEL T	105 AIRLIFT WING
STAULTERS, CAMERON NICHOLAS	109 AIRLIFT WING
WAGENBACH, CAITLYN MARIE	105 AIRLIFT WING
WOLF, KATIE E	105 AIRLIFT WING



Staff Sergeant Promoted to Technical Sergeant



BENDER, IVONNE JESSICA	106 RESCUE WING
BROOKS, DONALD LEON II	106 RESCUE WING
CALLAGHAN, SCOTT MICHAEL	174 ATTACK WING
COLON, JULIO	105 AIRLIFT WING
CRONCE, JAMES EDWARD	109 AIRLIFT WING
CUNNINGHAM, DAVID JAMES	109 AIRLIFT WING
DARBY, NIGEL	105 AIRLIFT WING
DAVIS, SARA	174 ATTACK WING
DOUGHERTY, JAMES	106 RESCUE WING
DUKESSOUTH, MARCHELLA	105 AIRLIFT WING
DURVEE, DARREN	106 RESCUE WING
FULTON, DEVIN	174 ATTACK WING
HAGUE, JOSHUA WILLIAM	109 AIRLIFT WING
HOUSE, KELLEY MARIE	174 ATTACK WING
LUTZ, RYAN P	105 AIRLIFT WING
MARTIN, MICHAEL J III	105 AIRLIFT WING
MCKUNE, MICHAEL	105 AIRLIFT WING
MILLS, JEFFREY GLENN JR	105 AIRLIFT WING
MOLLO, ANDREW	106 RESCUE WING
MONROE, KEVIN W	105 AIRLIFT WING
MORSE, NATHANIEL ROBERT	174 ATTACK WING
MYERS, ADAM WILLIAM	109 AIRLIFT WING
PURDY, ANTONY J	105 AIRLIFT WING
SCANNA, MICHAEL JORDAN	106 RESCUE WING
STEERE, DANIEL JAMES	174 ATTACK WING
SUE CHUEN KEN, ARNOLD A JR	105 AIRLIFT WING
THORN, EVAN JAMES	174 ATTACK WING
TOOKER, THOMAS JAMES	106 RESCUE WING
TSE, SINHO	174 ATTACK WING
VOLLMER, CHARLES FREDERICK IV	174 ATTACK WING



Technical Sergeant Promoted to Master Sergeant



AULETTA, ERIC VINCENT	106 RESCUE WING
CHAPMAN, ERIC MICHAEL	152 OPNS GROUP
DIAZ, ROBERT	105 AIRLIFT WING
FOWLER, BRANDY A	107 AIRLIFT WING
FREDERICK, TODD J	105 AIRLIFT WING
GARRITY, PATRICIA MICHELE	174 ATTACK WING
GOODEVE, ROBERT AARON	174 ATTACK WING
HAND, STEPHEN MICHAEL	174 ATTACK WING
JACKSON, JEANNE CLAIRE	174 ATTACK WING
KISSINGER, BRIAN KEITH	109 AIRLIFT WING
MICHAUD, JOELLE M	105 AIRLIFT WING
MIGHTY, RALSTON P	105 AIRLIFT WING
PERALTA, JOSE D	105 AIRLIFT WING
POWERS, JAN DAVID	106 RESCUE WING
RULISON, BRIAN THOMAS	109 AIRLIFT WING
SAPHARA, WILLIAM DAVID	174 ATTACK WING
SMITH, HENRY RALPH JR	109 AIRLIFT WING
SMITH, JEDEDIAH GORGE	106 RESCUE WING
SPAHN, ROBERT H	107 AIRLIFT WING
SPARKS, PETER TODD JR	106 RESCUE WING
TROPP, PHILIP W	105 AIRLIFT WING
WALSH, SCOTT WILLIAM	106 RESCUE WING
WEATHERBY, KEVIN MICHAEL	109 AIRLIFT WING



Master Sergeant Promoted to Senior Master Sergeant



BANKS, LORRAINE O	105 AIRLIFT WING
HILL, JAMIE LEE	109 AIRLIFT WING
KAMHOLZ, CHRISTOPHER M	107 AIRLIFT WING
RADLEY, FREDERICK W	107 AIRLIFT WING



Senior Master Sergeant Promoted to Chief Master Sergeant



CERNIGLIA, JOSEPH VINCENT	109 AIRLIFT WING
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Newly Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant



HINDES, HALEIGH KATHRYN	109 AIRLIFT WING
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2nd Lieutenant Promoted to 1st Lieutenant



CUTLIP, SHANE RICHARD	174 ATTACK WING
DUNBAR, DANIEL JAMES JR	105 AIRLIFT WING
ORTIZ, JONATHANCHARLES	105 AIRLIFT WING
PERKINS, THOMAS RICHARD JR	174 ATTACK WING



1st Lieutenant Promoted to Captain



ALVES, PAULO EDUARDO XAVIER	105 AIRLIFT WING
CUMMINGS, KRISTEN MARIE	109 AIRLIFT WING



Captain Promoted to Major



FITZGERALD, DENNIS PATRICK III	106 RESCUE WING
HUGHES, JOHN PATRICK	109 AIRLIFT WING
OSTROWSKI, TAMMY MARIE	109 AIRLIFT WING
QUEVILLON, ANDREW JOSEPH	174 ATTACK WING
ROSE, MICHAEL S	105 AIRLIFT WING
STRACK, ERIC M	105 AIRLIFT WING



Major Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel



GERACI, VINCENT T	105 AIRLIFT WING
PANZERA, DAVID ANDREW	109 AIRLIFT WING
PERALA, MATTHEW ALAN	174 ATTACK WING



CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE - New York Army National Guard Spc. Brett Peace of the 369th Sustainment Brigade Headquarters receives his new rank from his brigade commander, Col. David Martinez, during a unit promotion ceremony here Aug. 20. Photo by Sgt. Cesar Leon.

THE JOINT FORCE



Emergency responders transport a "victim," played by a member of the New York Army National Guard to an ambulance during a joint civilian-military emergency drill at the Camp Smith Training Site, June 13. Volunteer firefighters and area emergency medical responders joined New York Army National Guard Soldiers in an emergency response drill designed to test their ability to deal with an incident on the post.

Soldiers, Civilians Test Camp Smith Response Skills

Story and photos by Sgt. Major Corine Lombardo, Joint Force Headquarters



Spc. David Sharbowicz, a member of the 1156th Engineer Company treats a victim role-played by a Marine Reserve member during a joint civilian-military emergency drill at the New York National Guards Camp Smith Training Site near Peekskill on June 13. Volunteer fire fighters and area emergency medical responders joined New York Army National Guard Soldiers in an emergency response drill designed to test their ability to deal with an incident on the post.

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE - Dozens of Camp Smith Training Site personnel and local emergency medical and fire units tested evacuation procedures here June 13.

The rehearsal required emergency responders to remove occupants from a roll-over vehicle accident, assess and treat simulated injuries while in a wooded training area. Once patients were stabilized, they were evacuated by ambulance and helicopter.

According to Lt. Col. Joseph Cetta, Camp Smith Training Site Garrison Commander, the rehearsal had two goals.

The exercise allowed the camp's garrison to test and validate Camp Smith's operating procedures for dealing with an emergency requiring local support. It also provided local responders and Soldiers the chance to become familiar with each others' procedures if they have to work together to save someone's life, Cetta said.

"It worked well and we're very pleased with

the outcome," Cetta said. "The greatest benefit is the chance to interact with the Continental Village Fire Department in this environment before an emergency."

The fire department serves as the "on-call" responder for the 1,600 acre training site.

"Every training opportunity enhances our ability to respond quicker. Bottom line, it helps save lives," said Chief Dan Brophy, head of the department.

"The more we know about the layout of Camp Smith, the quicker we can maneuver around and find a location if there's an actual emergency," Brophy said.

Also having military personnel on site that are Combat Life Saver qualified makes our job easier, Brophy said.

As part of the training scenario Spc. David Sharbowicz, a medic assigned to 1156th Engineer Company came upon the accident scene and was quickly able to secure the site

and determine the level of injuries sustained by the occupants.

"We waited for the EMS to arrive and provided information based on our assessment," Sharbowicz explained.

"Having a CLS already on the scene when we arrive enhances our ability to make quick decisions. It helps tremendously, since they're able to triage a casualty and relay it to the firemen or paramedics when they arrive. It makes things go faster," Brophy said.

Every unit that trains on Camp Smith is required to have a percentage of qualified Soldiers trained in CLS, based on the number of Soldiers training. In any emergency a CLS will be the first on the scene to treat a casualty and assess the situation, explained Cetta.

Also participating in the rehearsal were Cortlandt Regional Paramedics, Peekskill Community Volunteer Ambulance Corps and Life Net of N.Y. Air 2, based in Wallkill. **gt**



New York Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Joshua Spagnola tests a potential hazardous material in a vacant residential building at the Colonie Fire Training Center in Latham, Oct. 20. Members of the 2nd Civil Support Team trained at the center to improve and test their teams ability to rapidly detect and identify chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) hazards and respond to these threats.

2nd Civil Support Team *Suits Up to Team Up*

Story and photos by Sgt. Maj. Corine Lombardo, Joint Force Headquarters

LATHAM - A neighbor had noticed a lot of strange guys in their thirties going in and out of the house next door, along with suspicious looking drums of stuff. So he called the police.

When the local cops showed up they looked through a window and saw what looked like a chemical lab. In fact, it looked like a weapons lab of some kind. They called the New York State Police.

The New York State Police in turn, reached out to the New York National Guard and the 2nd Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (CST) for help in investigating the location.

That was the scenario facing the two dozen members of the 2nd CST on Oct. 20, at the Town of Colonie Fire Training Center, here.

The 2nd CST's Soldiers and Airmen are trained to rapidly detect and identify chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) hazards and let local law enforcement and emergency responders know what they are facing.

The team, based at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, N.Y. trains constantly for their mission, said New York Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Frank McCann, the 2nd CST's training evaluator.

"The Fire (Training) Center is set up with a residential home environment, so it's a great opportunity for our team to practice search techniques and gain a different perspective than our normal training," McCann explained.

Normally the team trains in office or industrial complexes, he said.

The exercise brought together all the different specialty functions and skills of the CST, from hazard detection and identification to hazardous material decontamination

and medical recovery and treatment of team members, explained New York Army National Guard Lt. Col. Andrew Pinckney, 2nd CST commander.

Four of the CST members suited up in hazardous materials protection equipment while the other Soldiers and Airmen provided support.

McCann salted the property with chemical, radiological and biological simulants before the drill so that the team inside the house had to look for the full spectrum of materials.

"We have all aspects of CBRN in play, so this training keeps us up to date on search and identification skills in all areas," McCann explained.

The 2nd CST routinely sends teams to be available to civil authorities and first responders during major events which could be a potential target for attack, such as the NASCAR races at Watkins Glen, the U.S. Open tennis tournament, the opening of the United Nations General Assembly or significant Major League Baseball or National Basketball Association games.

Members of the 2nd CST were among the first to respond to the site of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001 following the terrorist attacks there to monitor for potential hazardous materials.

The 2nd CST is one of two Civil Support Teams manned by full-time members of the New York National Guard. The team is prepared to deploy throughout upstate New York or the northeast as required.

The New York National Guard also maintains the 24th CST based at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn which focuses on operations in the New York City metropolitan area. **gt**



New York Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Joshua Spagnola and Army National Guard Sgt. David Hansen test for the presence of chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear hazardous materials before entering a vacant residential building at the Colonie Fire Training Center in Latham, Oct. 20. The 2st CST members trained to improve and test their team's ability to rapidly detect and identify chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) hazards and respond to these threats.



Citizen Preparedness Marches On Disasters readiness training passes 500 sessions

Story and photos by Capt. Mark Getman, New York Guard

GREAT NECK – New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen responding to disasters in their community provided relief to hundreds of thousands of residents in just the past year of storm response missions. They have also participated in a statewide effort to better prepare nearly 50,000 of their neighbors as they mark more than 500 training sessions in their first 20 months of the Citizen Preparedness Corps.

New York Army National Guard Capt. Stephen Totter, a Citizen Preparedness Training Instructor from the Long Island Region, based out of the Farmingdale Reserve Center, led one of the milestone events here October 20 at the Great Neck Social Center for dozens of community residents.

The training event followed the recent near miss of Hurricane Joaquin off eastern Long Island in the first week of October, a reminder of the importance of preparedness. Joaquin had wind speeds of 155 mph October 3, just 2 mph shy of becoming a Category 5 hurricane before heading out into the Atlantic Ocean. The storm caused significant flooding in South Carolina.

The preparedness training, led by the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, gives citizens the knowledge and tools to prepare for emergencies and disasters, to respond accordingly, and recover as quickly as possible.

Working with DHSES and emergency managers to schedule training, Army and Air National Guard service members have led these training events across the state since the program's launch in February 2014.

"The participants are very serious about the training," Totter said. "You can see it in their faces when they are listening to the presentation. We get great questions at the end of each presentation and it keeps us on our toes."

Over 45,000 citizens have been trained to be better prepared for emergencies and disasters.

Emergency preparedness runs hand in hand to the New York National Guard's mission and experience, according to the New York State Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Patrick A. Murphy.

"The men and women of the New York Army and Air National Guard, who have responded to help their fellow New Yorkers during floods, hurricanes, and snow storms, know first-hand the value of being prepared for emergencies," Murphy said. "Our Soldiers and Airmen are proud to be part of Governor Cuomo's effort to help our fellow citizens prepare to cope with disasters and emergencies."

Participants receive a training certificate, a wallet-sized "Z-Card" with emergency preparedness information, and a free Citizen Preparedness Starter Kit at all events sponsored by DHSES. The kit included a first-aid kit, face mask, pocket radio with batteries, food bars, emergency blanket and other key items to help citizens in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.

"The most important part of the presentation is the information being passed out," Totter explained. "Knowledge is power and this information can truly save lives if used correctly. If fact, at the private events (those sponsored by private community groups or businesses), which are spread by word of mouth, we do not give out backpacks, and yet, these now make up the majority of our events in the Long Island region."

The Civilian Preparedness Training Corps continues to hold training sessions throughout the state as it works towards its next 500 sessions.

Word of mouth from past participants is one of the best methods to expand the reach of the disaster preparedness training, especially among civic groups, Totter said.

"At the end of each presentation, we let the participants know that



they can host this event in their area,” Totter said. “Our team has seen amazing results from this method, which now makes up over half of our recruited events. We also do recruiting for these events where we physically go knock on the doors of community members, places of worship, and other neighborhood groups, and ask them to host events.”

Also, we have an amazing event promotion team in Latham at our headquarters.”

Guard members, their families and community members can register for future events in their hometowns by searching at www.nyprepare.gov/aware-prepare/nysprepare/.



New York Army National Guard 1st Lt., Alexandria Wiedenbaum hands out Emergency Go Bags at a Citizen Preparedness Training in Great Neck Oct. 20. The event is part of Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's continuing Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program, which gives citizens the knowledge and tools to prepare for emergencies and disasters. In the background photo, Army National Guard Captain Stephen Totter, provides instruction during the session.

101st Cavalry Troopers Take to the Water

Story and photos by Spc. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade



Sgt. Aaron Lawrence, left, and Spc. Zach Bouley, scouts from C Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment, recon in advance of an inbound Combat Rubber Raiding Craft during training in Buffalo, Sept. 13. During the exercise troopers conducted waterborne operations and practiced covertly deploying to a simulated enemy beachhead.

BUFFALO - Reconnaissance is all about stealth, and sometimes, for C Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, that stealth means crossing open water.

The troop's infantrymen did just that in Lake Erie on Sept. 13, as the Buffalo-based unit tested their ability to insert scouts with the inflatable F470 Combat Rubber Raiding Craft, known as the "Zodiac."

"We've had numerous training on the reconnaissance portions of the mission," said Staff Sgt. Derek Vasquez, a scout team leader with the 101st Cav. "However, today we incorporated the actual insertion portion, along with preparing and crewing the Zodiac."

The small lightweight Zodiac, able to be inflated in just a few minutes, is inherently stealthy, particularly when operated in low-light conditions.

"As a reconnaissance unit we have many ways of inserting into enemy territory," said Vasquez. "If you're trying to do a stealth approach and you have a waterway, a Zodiac is a good way to get a small, 10 person or less team into an area quietly."

Leading up to the open-water training, the unit spent several drills preparing for Zodiac operations.

"In August we did training out at the Erie Community College pool," said 2nd Lt. Blakely Schirtz, the 2nd platoon leader with C Troop. "We did a combat water survival test and took off our uniform blouses and trousers to create flotation devices."

During the training, the unit's Soldiers were divided into teams, and were then given time to practice launching, crewing, and recovering the Zodiac in a real-world open-water environment.

"This is a culminating test of skill," said Vasquez. "I want my team to

have the confidence that if and when we deploy, we will be able to do so with a positive result. I want them to have the confidence that the team can mesh well and perform our duties as a whole."

Vasquez, as the scout team leader, acted as the boat commander and was positioned at the bow of the Zodiac. Through hand signals he relayed his commands to the coxswain at the stern who is tasked with steering and maneuvering the craft.


Getting a Zodiac boat to shore also requires at least two Soldiers that swim ashore in advance of the boats landing or reaching the beachhead.

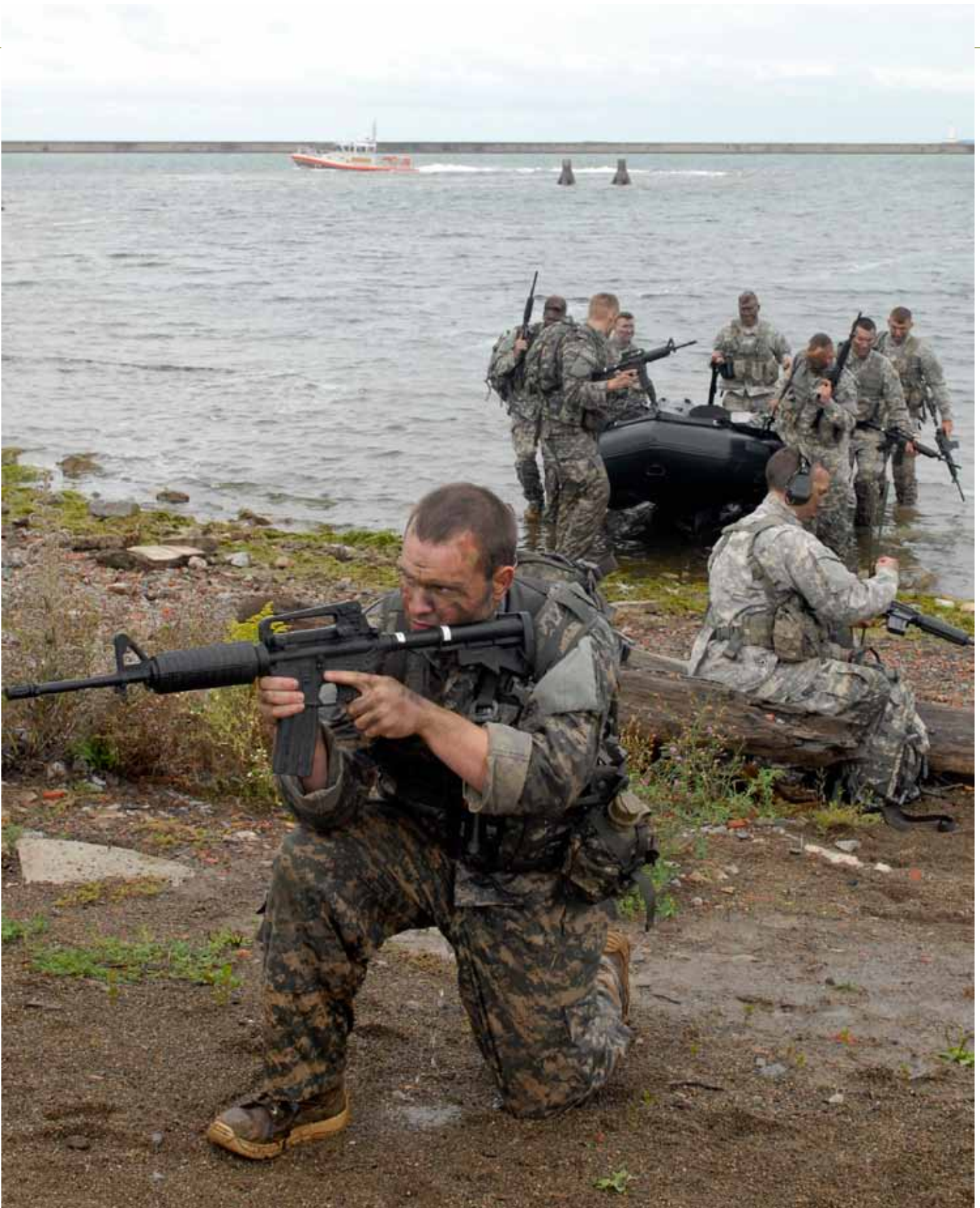
"I was one of the scout swimmers," said Pvt. Mike Harris, an infantryman with C Troop. As one of the two scout swimmers, Harris is tasked with reconnaissance of the beachhead in advance of the Zodiac.

"I hope to keep doing stuff like this," said Harris. "Some of the things you see on TV, you don't expect to do in the real world."

"When you actually do it for real in the field, you realize there are a lot of moving pieces and parts that need to come together to carry out the mission," said Harris.

On-scene to provide support for the training were Coast Guardsmen from Coast Guard Station Buffalo, who stationed a Response Boat offshore to deter civilian boat traffic from the training area and to provide rapid rescue response if needed.

"The Coast Guard was our security during the training mission," said Vasquez. "They cover any type of civilian boat traffic that might come into the bay. They were incredibly pleasant and willing to help by assisting us in any way they could." 



Spc. James Kerr, a Tonawanda, N.Y. resident and infantryman with Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment provides security around an F470 while the rest of his team brings the craft ashore during a training exercise in Buffalo Sept. 13. The training required scout swimmers to swim to shore to locate a landing site and provide security while the rest of the team disembarks.

New York and Massachusetts Irish ‘Shoot it Out’

By Maj. Alvin Phillips, 27th Infantry Brigade

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, Cortlandt Manor — It was rainy. It was cold. But it was a good day on the firing range for members of the New York Army’s 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry and Massachusetts’s 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry.

The two historic Irish-American regiments squared off at Camp Smith Training Site on Oct. 3, for the latest installment of their interstate marksmanship rivalry which got its start in 1936.

Known as the Logan-Duffy Match from the names of the unit commanders during the Spanish-American War -- Brig. Gen. Lawrence Logan of Massachusetts and Brig Gen. Edward Duffy of New York -- the competition has stopped and started over the years, before being revitalized in 2010.

The 69th Infantry Soldiers won the cup in 2014 and repeated their win again this year.

At the end of the day, Operation Sgt. Major Tim Wiwczar from the 69th Infantry announced the final tally and that shooters from the New York Irish battalion scored 2,279 points, while their Massachusetts rivals had scored 2,067.

“The wins are always good you know, but this

is about camaraderie between two great units, friendship and tradition,” said Lt. Col. Sean Flynn, commander of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry.

The 69th Infantry is headquartered at the historic Lexington Avenue armory in New York City, and has companies on Long Island and at Camp Smith as well.

“We have never felt more honored to train and compete than to do so here with the 69th hosting this match,” said Lt. Col. Kenneth Wisniewski, Flynn’s counterpart in the 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry. “Our stories, our history, will only grow stronger,” he added.

The relationship between the National Guard’s 182nd Infantry and 69th Infantry and the origins of the Logan-Duffy Rifle Match began over a 150 years ago during the Civil War.

The annual match would encourage competitive marksmanship with the rifle, the principal weapon of the infantry, and enhance and develop a spirit of camaraderie between the two military organizations of similar background and heritage.

The first match for possession of the trophy

was October 1936 at Camp Curtis Guild in Reading, Mass. The match was won by the 101st Infantry. In 1937 the match was held at Camp Smith and the 69th Infantry emerged as the victor.

In the fall of 1940, both regiments were called to active duty for service during World War II.

The competition was reinstated in 1958, with the 101st returning the trophy to Boston.

The match remained an annual event between the 69th and the 101st until 1996 when the 101st Infantry merged with the 1-182nd Infantry to become the 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry (Mechanized).

Matches were suspended in 2001 due to the events of September 11th, with numerous overseas combat deployments of forces from both units. The annual competition resumed on October 2, 2010.

Sgt. James Pacheco of New Bedford, Massachusetts and a member of the 1st Battalion 182nd Infantry, has been competing in the revitalized competition since 2010.

“A lot has happened since then, but the skills of marksmanship never change,” Pacheco said. Pacheco is ready, though, for his battalion to take home the trophy next year.**gt**



Soldiers from the New York Army National Guards 1-69th Infantry Regiment and the Massachusetts 1-182nd Infantry Regiment compete in the annual Logan-Duffy Rifle Match held at Camp Smith Training Site on Oct. 3. Photo by Sgt. Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

New Senior Enlisted Leader Takes Over



LATHAM -- New York Army National Guard Command Sgt. Major David Piwowski (left) accepts the colors of the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs from Major General Patrick Murphy the Adjutant General of New York during a Change-of-Responsibility ceremony on Friday Oct. 30 in which he took over as the Command Sgt. Major of the New York Army National Guard. Piwowski will now serve as the top enlisted advisor to Murphy on enlisted training, morale and quality of life issues. He replaces Command Sgt. Major Louis Wilson who is retiring after 39 years of service.
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, Guard Times Staff.

Guard Prepared for Hurricane Joaquin Near Miss

By Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters



Soldiers with the 827th Engineer Company remove debris from the Esopus Creek in preparation for Hurricane Joaquin, Oct. 2. Photo by Sgt. Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

LATHAM – After a week of rain, Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard’s 204th Engineer Battalion worked hard clearing debris from select streams, on Oct. 2 to make room for what forecasters feared most: more water, as Hurricane Joaquin moved north.

Although the storm missed New York, 200 engineers were placed on duty because at the time, nobody was sure the storm would head out to sea.

“With the potential threat of flooding, the National Guard is a huge asset since it brings resources to open the creek,” said George Kansas, the commissioner of Public Works for Bethlehem, New York.

The Normanskill Creek runs through the town into the Hudson River.

“There are roughly 40-50 homes and a waste water treatment facility that could be impacted if this area floods so having the National Guard Soldiers help getting this done as quick as possible is a huge benefit,” Kansas said.

Down in the Catskills, New York Department of Environmental Maintenance Assistant Brian

Perez, also thought the decision by New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo to allow the National Guard and his agency to clear streams ahead of the potential storm was a good one.

National Guard engineers from the 204th’s 827th Engineer Company worked with Perez to clear debris from Esopus Creek near Shandanken, New York.

“This is the first time we’re out here before the storm,” Perez said. “Preventative maintenance will help reduce the impact on the community.”

“We’re pulling trees and debris from the creek and pushing it back on land.”

“This is the last stop for debris before it hits, and potentially knocks out, local bridges and roads,” Perez added.

“We’re giving people time to escape floods and giving hope that they’re being taken care of,” said Spc. Dakota Nelson, a heavy equipment operator in the 204th Engineer Battalion’s 827th Engineer Company.

Cuomo called out New York Army National Guard troops to clear rain-soaked streams in

upstate New York and prepared to call up more troops as part of statewide storm preparations for the impact of Joaquin.

After a week of heavy rains, the potential wind damage and rainfall from the hurricane raised concerns in the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, so Army National Guard engineers were called in as other National Guard forces prepared for the storm’s arrival.

Although Joaquin was anticipated to remain offshore and not hit the coast, the 204th Engineer Soldiers went to work.

“We’ve helped in the past with cleanup and this is very proactive. We’re taking care of the problem before it has a chance to destroy people’s home, property and memories,” said 2nd Lt. Emily Ruegger, a platoon leader in the 204th Engineer’s 827th Engineer Company.

The work is tricky, though, the engineer Soldiers said.

“It’s dangerous removing debris; logs are like a puzzle – when you move one piece others can move as well,” explained Nelson, as he prepared



to clear debris from Esopus Creek.

Other teams worked on streams near Ilion, New York, in the Mohawk Valley near Herkimer.

The New York National Guard was prepared to deploy up to 3,000 troops if Hurricane Joaquin made landfall.

State officials monitored the storm on October 2, and prepared for the worst.

“As Hurricane Joaquin makes its way up the East Coast, New York is in a much better position than we have ever been before - but when it comes to Mother Nature, you can never be too prepared,” Cuomo said.

Commands across the state coordinated their efforts to have Soldiers and Airmen ready to move before Joaquin would make landfall anywhere in the state.

Soldiers of the 53rd Digital Liaison Detachment, a headquarters staff augmentation force, provided operations, administration and logistics experts to supplement the New York City Emergency Management Office, providing liaison and staff depth to emergency managers.

The difficulty for National Guard forces in hurricane response is knowing where the storm will go and when to bring in forces. With Hurricane Joaquin still four days away in the Caribbean, storm tracks varied between landfall in the Carolinas to arriving on Long Island or out to sea, said Air National Guard Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Peno, the knowledge manager for the New York Joint Operations Center.

“Part of the challenge with this storm is trying to determine when the turn to the north would begin,” Peno, an Air Force meteorologist, explained. “That would be a major factor to consider when looking at the Bermuda high, the stalled front, the jet stream, and other factors.”

Just as the threat of a major hurricane in New York grabbed the attention of emergency managers and state leaders, the storm track moved out to sea, sparing New York and Long Island from the gale force winds, heavy rains and local flooding of the early fall storm.

Although the relief of the storm’s movement

away from New York City was welcome by military planners, the actions of the New York National Guard helped validate and further refine response plans for the future.

“Our preparations were a great exercise of our plan,” said Brig. Gen. Raymond Shields, director of the Joint Staff, in an email to the force following notification that the New York City Office of Emergency Management was ending operations by Oct. 3.

The important role for the Guard with the storm moving out to sea will be refining response plans, Shields explained.

“We want to develop checklists for key activities. Rather than relying on lengthy CONPLAN [contingency plan] documents or institutional memory we will be developing check lists which will make future responses even better,” Shields said. **gt**

****Contributing: Sgt. Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment; Sgt. Maj. Corine Lombardo, Joint Force Headquarters; and Eric Durr, Guard Times Staff.**

Maintenance Keeps 'em Flying



ROCHESTER - Soldiers of Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade conduct an inspection of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during a regular drill day in Rochester, Sept. 12. Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade.



Cooks Keep Sustainers Fed

FORT DRUM - New York Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Royce Brown prepares breakfast during the 369th Sustainment Brigade's annual training here, August 21. The battalion's annual training focused on both individual and collective skills of the Soldiers, preparing them for a unit mobilization in 2016. Below, Soldiers move through the breakfast line and at bottom, Sgt. 1st Class Chukwuma Enebuzor stocks breakfast cereals for troops. Photos by Sgt. Cesar Leon, 369th Sustainment Brigade.



Artillerymen Salute State Command Sergeant Major

Maj. Alvin Phillips, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

FORT DRUM -- Boom. Boom! BOOM!
That's the sound of artillery and it never gets old for retired Command Sgt. Maj. Louis Wilson.

Wilson, a Rochester resident, and the former top enlisted Soldier in the New York National Guard, pulled the lanyard on a cannon for the last time on July 24 as he visited the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery and 27th Infantry Brigade here.

Wilson, who concluded more than 39 years of service this fall started his career in the field artillery. He sent a round downrange from an M117 howitzer as his fellow artillerymen watched and applauded.

They presented the shell casing from that final round to him during his retirement dinner.

"I could think of no better way for the state command sergeant major to mark his last field training exercise than to do so with the 27th Infantry Brigade and the 258th," said 27th Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Tom Ciampolillo. "When he first started, he was with the horse stables," Ciampolillo joked with a chuckle.

"We really wanted the state command sergeant major to have a proper send off and one that was meaningful and lived up to what is means to be an artilleryman," Ciampolillo added.

"It is always great to have the command sergeant major visit you on the firing line and a great honor to have him visit my section and shoot his last artillery round before retirement,"



New York State Command Sgt. Maj. Louis Wilson, center, with members of the 258th Field Artillery after his visit at Fort Drum July 24. Photo by Maj. Al Phillips, 27th Infantry Brigade.

said Staff Sgt. Carmello Reyes, the gun chief from 2nd Platoon Battery B.

"I hope it brings him and the men of this battery good memories in the years to come," he added.

Wilson, spent more than 27 years with the 1st Battalion, 209th Field Artillery, and 1st Battalion, 156 Field Artillery up to battalion levels. Both units deactivated during reorganization, but Wilson continued his career.

After leaving the artillery he served as a command sergeant major for the 42nd Engineer Brigade in Iraq in 2005, and the 53rd Troop Command during state responses to Hurricanes Irene and Lee in 2011 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

But his first love has always been the big guns, Wilson said

"It's been fun being back on the lines with the guys and this makes my upcoming retirement bitter-sweet," he added. **gt**

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AIR NATIONAL GUARD



Airman Samuel Prescott, a pararescue jumper assigned to the New York Air National Guard's 103rd Rescue Squadron, an element of the 106th Rescue Wing, monitors a patient during a training exercise conducted at F.S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base at Westhampton Beach on Aug. 25. The drill was conducted to help evaluate a casualty monitoring system being developed as part of the Air Force BATMAN program, which aims to put useful, wearable technology in the hands of Air Force war fighters.

PJ's Testing BATMAN System for Researchers

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Christopher Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing

WESTHAMPTON BEACH- Air Force pararescue jumpers may soon turn to BATMAN for help in dealing with casualties, thanks to medical technology to be used by Airmen of the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing.

BATMAN, short for "Battlefield Air Targeting Man-Aided kNowledge" is a system of wearable computer technology that includes sensors that allow a pararescue Airman, also known as a guardian angel, to monitor blood pressure, heart rate, and pulse of several casualties simultaneously.

Members of the 106th Rescue Wing, tested the medical system during a two-day exercise held at Francis. S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base in August.

BATMAN constitutes an entire system with many different capabilities for different missions being developed by the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), headquartered at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The goal, according to the Air Force, is to develop wearable technologies which help special operations Airmen do their jobs better.

Components of the system being tested

include wrist-mounted smart phones which allow Airmen to monitor systems, lights embedded into gloves, smaller spotlights for air traffic controllers, and heads-up displays in helmet goggles.

The systems the 106th Rescue Wing tested are designed to help pararescue Airmen treat more casualties more efficiently.

"This is a unique tool that can allow us to monitor up to five patients at once on a single electronic device," said Lt. Col. Stephen Rush, an air force flight surgeon with the 106th Rescue Wing. "This increases our capabilities and effectiveness in a mass-casualty incident."

"So [BATMAN] is a point of injury, mass-casualty, collection-tool that allows guardian angels to monitor multiple patients simultaneously as well as wirelessly," said Dr. Gregory Burnett, an evaluator with the research lab. "It allows them to have better trauma care as well as better survivability for any [casualties] that they may treat during a mission."

The wrist-computer mount is compatible with multiple mobile devices that are capable of running software developed to help leaders

monitor the health of their troops by streaming heart rates, blood-oxygen levels and other vital signs collected from body sensors.

"Overall I had a good experience with it," said Staff Sgt. Ronald Raymond, who trained with the system. "I would like to spend more time training with it, but my initial impression was that it was a good piece of equipment to use."

The researchers asked the 103rd Rescue Squadron members to test out the system because they have real world experience," explained 1st Lt. Max Gabreski, an AFRL staffer.

"We're having them run through some of our stuff to tell us what they like and don't like," he added.

While Gabreski was at the base to work, he also shares a unique connection with 106th Rescue Wing.

"It's great to be back at this base," Gabreski said. "It was named after my grandfather and I came here as a kid without ever being able to see this side of it. Now, being able to come back and work here is a really awesome experience."

Col. Francis S. Gabreski was the top ranking American fighter pilot in World War II, shooting down 28 German planes. He then went on to become a jet ace in the Korean War and finished his career in 1967 after commanding the 52nd Fighter Wing at the base which was named for him.

"BATMAN is a program that helps find innovative technologies for our operators," ranging from those in the kill chain such as joint terminal attack controllers (JTACs) to those in the life chain such as pararescue jumpers (PJs), Lt. Anthony Eastin, a behavioral scientist with the program team, said during a recent interview.

The advanced technology program, established in 2003 after a fratricide in Afghanistan, has led to a whole series of new technologies being used by airmen on the battlefield. The wrist-mount was added to the BATMAN kit after the AFRL spoke with rescue and battlefield Airmen, who preferred using smart phones rather than small, chest-mounted laptops. **gt**



Pararescue Jumpers and Combat Rescue Officers with the 103rd Rescue Squadron, 106th Rescue Wing conduct mass casualty training with the Battlefield Air Targeting Man-Aided Knowledge System (BATMAN) at F.S. Gabreski Air National Guard on Aug. 25.



An MQ-9 sits on a tarmac awaiting the next mission piloted by the 107th Airlift Wing. Courtesy photo.

Airlift Wing Completes First Combat MQ-9 Mission as a Team

By Senior Master Sgt. Raymond Lloyd, 107th Airlift Wing

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION- For the first time, an MQ-9 Reaper Combat Air Patrol was remotely piloted solely by members of the 107th Airlift Wing when a team deployed to Ellsworth Air Force Base in September.

Twenty-three members of the 107th Operations Group deployed to the South Dakota base to complete the three-day mission, as facilities at Niagara are under construction.

The MQ-9, a Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) has an aircrew that consists of a pilot, sensor operator and a mission intelligence coordinator. They flew in support of a Contingency Operation in which 107th members owned the full Command and Control, mission execution and reporting responsibilities. Men and women from the 107th filled all critical roles, successfully flying three Air Tasking Order cycles.

The 107th was given the MQ-9 mission in April 2014. Now, over a year in transition, many Airmen have cross-trained into new career fields. They are providing manpower and applying their specialized training. For now, the MQ-9 aircrew travel to bases across the US that have the facilities to remotely fly the RPA. They are providing air support for coalition forces overseas and engaging the enemy. The MQ-9 is in high demand in the Area of Responsibility (AOR) in southwest Asia.

"We are sixteen months into our three-year conversation and now doing combat operations," said Colonel Robert Kilgore, 107th Airlift Wing Commander. "It's a team effort here at Niagara and we all have a big part in the missions," he said.

The MQ-9 Reaper is an armed, multi-mission, medium-altitude, long-endurance remotely piloted aircraft that is employed primarily as an intelligence-collection asset and secondarily against dynamic execution targets. Given its significant loiter time, wide range of sensors, multi-mode communications suite, and precision weapons, it provides a unique capability to perform strike, coordination, and reconnaissance against high-value, fleeting and time-sensitive targets.

"With the MQ-9 we have flown over 2,000 hours in this past fiscal year. In comparison, with the C-130 mission we averaged 1,400 hours per year and we have only been in this mission since 2014," said Kilgore.


"This was a seamless integration with the Ellsworth AFB Operations Group. Thanks to the teamwork of the 107th, we were able to deploy, execute and redeploy 23 folks to support the RPA enterprise. Everyone hit the ground running, supporting coalition forces with zero degradation to mission execution, an outstanding effort from our Airmen," said Lt. Col. Gary Charlton, 107th Operations Group

Commander.

"The deployment to Ellsworth furthered our relationship with them and was a great team building mission for Airmen," said Charlton.

Back in Niagara Falls, work began in September on the Operations Building which is in the first phase of construction, to be completed in 2017. Then the 107th will be 'initial mission capable,' ready to conduct combat missions from Niagara Falls.

The 107th has a long history of being mission ready to perform operations. Members of the 107th have deployed in support of many world contingencies and operations such as Strong Resolve, Uphold Democracy, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In addition to its federal mission, the 107th, Airlift Wing has a state mission to provide equipment and personnel as directed by the Governor and the Division of Military and Naval Affairs. The unit responded to Hurricane Irene in 2010 and again to Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

Most recently, the unit activated personnel to support Operation Lake Effect when the western region of New York State was hit with more than 7 feet of snow, the unit deployed its assets and conducted domestic operations to help the area and mitigate the hardships to local communities. Other state operations the unit supports include Operation Jump Start and Operation Empire Shield. 

Airmen, Aircraft Depart for 'Deep Freeze'

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt, 109th Airlift Wing



Lt. Col. Seth Barrows, who was the 139th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron deployed commander upon arrival at McMurdo Station, Antarctica, talks with the media Oct. 16, about Operation Deep Freeze. An LC-130 "Skibird" and air crew with the 109th Airlift Wing departed Oct. 16, 2015, from Stratton Air National Guard Base. Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara, 109th Airlift Wing.

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Scotia – The takeoff of the New York Air National Guard's LC-130 ski-equipped aircraft here Oct. 16 marked the official start of the 109th Airlift Wing's 28th season of support to science research at the South Pole.

By the end of the month, Airmen and aircraft with the 109th Airlift Wing were in place at McMurdo Station, Antarctica, participating in Operation Deep Freeze, the military component of the U.S. Antarctic Program, managed by the National Science Foundation.

New York Air National Guard Lt. Col. Seth Barrows was part of the first aircrew to leave and was the 139th Expeditionary Airlift

Squadron deployed commander upon arrival. Barrows said as the deployed commander he must ensure planes, people and weather are all good to ensure a safe, successful mission.

"The weather is the biggest challenge so you watch that weather very closely, and from there you do your mission," said Lt. Col. Christian Sander, 109th Operations Group commander.

Throughout the season, which runs through February, a total of seven LC-130 ski-equipped aircraft and about 500 Airmen are expected to deploy, with 330 missions planned. About 120 Airmen will be deployed on the ice at any one time.

The unique capabilities of the ski-equipped LC-130 aircraft


make it the only one of its kind in the U.S. military, able to land on snow and ice. The primary mission of the 109th is to provide airlift within Antarctica, flying to various remote locations from McMurdo Station. Crews will transport scientists, support, fuel, supplies, medical supplies and more throughout the season.

This year, the IcePod missions are expected to increase from the previous season. The IcePod is an externally mounted electronics pod that provides an integrated ice imaging system that measures in detail both the ice surface and the ice bed.

"This season is seeing the maturation of the Common Science Support Pod with 18 IcePod missions planned

compared to three missions last season," said Lt. Col. Blair Herdrick, 139th Airlift Squadron's Antarctic Operations chief. "IcePod is a project by Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University in New York. The IcePod project utilizes the Common Science Support Pod to house a variety of instruments to measure changes in the Antarctic ice sheet."

The IcePod missions were flown for the first time in Antarctica last season, and was deemed one of the biggest successes of the year.

The 109th AW has been supporting South Pole research since 1988. Since 1999, the unit has been the sole provider of this type of airlift to the NSF and U.S. Antarctic research efforts. 



Fire Fighters Conduct Large-Scale Disaster Training

SYRACUSE - Fire fighters from Hancock Field Air National Guard Base respond to a simulated aircraft crash as part of a large scale, Major Accident Response Exercise (MARE) held at Syracuse Hancock Internal Airport, Aug. 8. The joint training is done tri-annually to keep the 174th prepared just in case of an airport emergency and to test their ability to work with the airport's emergency operation center. The emergency training included components from the 174th Attack Wing, airlines, air traffic controllers, engineers, the Transportation Security Administration, local police, and firefighters. Photo by Senior Airman Duane Morgan, 174th Attack Wing.



Going *Green* at Gabreski

By Tech. Sgt. Monica Dalberg, 106th Rescue Wing



Staff Sgts. Edwin Laporte and Hector Gomez, members of the 106th Civil Engineering Squadron, 106th Rescue Wing install a solar panel at F.S. Gabreski Air National Guard airport Sept. 8. The solar panels program is part of a larger plan to reduce energy usage and save money by investing in renewable energy sources on base. Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.

WESTHAMPTON BEACH -Even after the sun sets, it continues to brighten the night at the 106th Rescue Wing, here, with newly installed solar-powered lights in and around F.S. Gabreski National Guard Base.

The 106th Rescue Wing Civil Engineering Squadron (CE) took on a do-it-yourself project this summer to replace antiquated lighting that will result in a savings of an estimated \$5,000 in annual electricity, according to CE, while providing brighter lighting, security and safety.

After a complete overhaul of the base electrical network in 2012, moving overhead wiring underground, poles with streetlights were no longer in place. Base workers soon recognized the need for lighting in critical areas. Airman 1st Class Owen Murphy, an electrician of the Civil Engineering Squadron, was assigned to research lighting options compliant with Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC 3-530-01).

He looked to the Internet to shed light on the issue and found more efficient alternatives that save money and conserve energy.

Chief Master Sgt. Vincent Fondacaro, of

the Civil Engineering Squadron, assessed the purchase cost to be \$41,000.

Installation of the purchase would have been an additional \$25,000 if the work had been done by outside contractors, according to Fondacaro. Instead, squadron members, with their backgrounds in electrical and heavy machinery work, were able to install the equipment for less than \$2,000.

“We can do anything with the right equipment and the right people on the job,” said Master Sgt. John Gentile, a member of the Civil Engineering Squadron.

The squadron replaced old electrical light poles interconnected by overhead power lines with solar-powered light poles. The new poles are individually self-sufficient, and require new battery packs about every five years, according to Gentile. He estimates the poles also provide four times more light.

In addition to solar light poles, Civil Engineering found options to save money and energy in other areas around the installation.

Wall packs, powerful light fixtures installed on building exteriors, now use light-emitting

diode (LEDs) lamps in place of high-intensity discharge (HID) lamps.

The HID lamp must be repeatedly replaced over time, more frequently than the LED.

The vehicle maintenance bay and aerospace ground equipment bays here also replaced lighting for 24 high bay fixtures. High bay lighting is designed for use in warehouses, hangars, and other large indoor areas.

The LEDs translate to 2 and 1/2 times more lifespan per bulb; at one-third the cost; and four times more light output, according to the manufacturer.

The initial work was finished in just under two months, in time for October, Energy Action Month.

Murphy said he was pleased with the joint effort amongst all members of his squadron, both civilian and military.

“It’s nice to be part of a conservation project,” Murphy said. “Money isn’t just saved in the short-term - money is saved in the long-term because the lights last so long. It’s money that can be put to better use instead of just burning it.”

Airmen, Families Attend First 'White Ribbon' Event

Story and photo Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt, 109th Airlift Wing

SCOTIA - As the 109th Airlift Wing prepared to launch its 28th season supporting Operation Deep Freeze in Antarctica, the Airman and Family Readiness Programs office held the first-ever White Ribbon event for Airmen and their families, offering information on benefits and services available to them while their loved one is away.

The White Ribbon is very similar to the Yellow Ribbon events offered to those affected by contingency deployments. The White Ribbon is unique to the 109th AW because of their annual deployments to McMurdo Station, Antarctica.

"I thought it was very important to pull together some kind of event where families could come, they could get information, they could get resources, and they could get hooked up with these resources," said Colleen Casey, 109th Airman and Family Readiness Program manager.

Casey said when she took the position here earlier in the year, she learned about the 109th's unique mission and wanted to put something together to let the Airmen and families affected by Operation Deep Freeze (ODF) each year know what resources were available to them.


Multiple vendors were at the event, providing information on what resources they could provide. Vendors included the New York State Child and Youth Program and Teen Council, the American Red Cross, Military One Source, Blue Star Mothers of America, Saratoga Warhorse as well as on-base resources such as the Chaplain Corps, Director of

Psychological Health and the all-volunteer 109th Family Matters Group.

"I feel like this is going to be great for my wife because it gives her a little bit more information of when I'm gone what different outlets she might have," said Staff Sgt. James Comstock, 109th Logistics Readiness Squadron customer service representative. This will be his third ODF deployment.

"I think this program is great, and I'm glad that they're offering it" said Jenna Herdrick, whose husband has deployed to Antarctica for multiple years. "I think it's going to benefit me by knowing the services (offered)."

Casey said the event was a success and is planning to offer this each year before the ODF season begins.

"We're having a great turnout - I'm so excited to see all the Airmen (and) families here," she said. 



Amy Nevells, New York's Military One Source consultant, talks with a 109th Airlift Wing Airman about services available to him and his family during the first-ever White Ribbon event at Stratton Air National Guard Base on Oct. 3, prior to the 109th's deployment in support of Operation Deep Freeze.

Rescue Wing Pride and Heritage Park Opens



WESTHAMPTON BEACH - Retired Col. Robert Landsiedel prepares to cut the ribbon to open the new Pride and Heritage Park at F.S. Gabreski Air National Guard Sept. 12. The park features aircraft models connected to the 106th Rescue Wing, including an HC-130, HH-60 and F-102 Delta Dagger (flown by the 106th Fighter Interceptor Wing at Suffolk County Air Force Base until 1975.) The 106th Alumni Association helped raise funds for this project by selling personalized bricks, which line the sidewalk leading to the park. Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher S Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.

Air Guard Command Chief Takes Last Jump

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher S Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing

WESTHAMPTON BEACH - The Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard completed his last jump and spoke with members of the 106th Rescue Wing during a three-day visit in September.

Chief Master Sgt. James W. Hotaling began his visit with an on-base tour and jump with the 102nd Rescue Squadron and 103rd Rescue Squadron, and ended his third day with enlisted personnel in a pair of town-hall meetings to discuss important issues Airmen face in the Guard.

During his time with the wing, Hotaling emphasized the evolving responsibilities of the Air National Guard.

"Let me explain something to all of you," he said, "the Guard that you joined [prior to 9/11] no longer exists. Prior to 9/11, we were a strategic reserve; but that's not today's Air Guard. The new reality is we are now an operational reserve of the Air Force. Things have changed."

Hotaling was thankful for the opportunity to conduct his final jump from a military aircraft one last time before his retirement after nearly 28 years of service. "Yesterday I did a jump

[with the 102nd Rescue Squadron and 103rd Rescue Squadron] here, and a big thanks to everyone who made that happen," Hotaling said. This was something that I really wanted to do and I will be forever thankful to everyone here."

During the lunch with selected junior Airmen, Hotaling spoke with Airman 1st Class Kelly Barnes, a distinguished honor graduate from the Air Force's Fire Protection Academy and the first female member of the 106th Rescue Wing Fire Department. Barnes was presented with the Chief's coin, one of only two Airmen to be coined during his visit, recognizing her for her outstanding performance in tech school and at the 106th Rescue Wing.

"It's a great honor [to be coined,]" Barnes said "It makes me want to keep working hard and to keep excelling. It's not just a random coin that you put somewhere and say 'oh, I got it.' You try to live up to it."



Joint Search and Rescue Training Exercise

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



Tech. Sgt. Adam Myers, 109th Fire Department urban search and rescue team leader from Stratton Air National Guard Base, completes high angle training during a joint search and rescue training exercise Oct. 21 at Camp Smith, with the 106th Rescue Wing from Long Island. The 109th team, the lead within the New York Air National Guard, is currently the only self-sufficient fully capable mobile unit in the Air National Guard.

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE - Firefighters from three New York Air National Guard wings pooled their talents and equipment for three days of joint training here Oct. 20-22.

Airmen from the 106th Rescue Wing based in Westhampton Beach, the 105th Airlift Wing from Newburgh, and the 109th Airlift Wing, located in Scotia, conducted search and rescue training together at the New York National Guard's training site near Peekskill.

"The (team) members were able to share their valuable skill-sets with each other, and worked together as an integrated team, which made this training opportunity reach far beyond ordinary expectations," said Lt. Col. Robert Donaldson, 109th Civil Engineer Squadron commander.

The 109th Airlift Wing Fire Department's urban search and rescue (USAR) team, the lead USAR in New York, organized the training.

"This exercise was a proof of concept for

our USAR mission set," Donaldson said. "The collaboration efforts among the 109th, 106th and 105th AW USAR teams helped streamline our existing convoy capabilities and also helped refine our high angle rescue tactics, techniques and procedures."

At Camp Smith, the Airmen completed high angle rescue training, as well as breaching and breaking training.

High angle is defined as a very steep environment, such as a building or a cliff face, in which a person is primarily supported by a rope system.

"Breaching and breaking is like if a building were to collapse, we would cut through the concrete using different methods," explained Master Sgt. Brian Kissinger, the 109th Fire Department assistant chief of operations.


Along with the rescue training, three Airmen from the 109th Vehicle Maintenance Flight who convoyed down with the firefighters, trained

the 106th on skid steer operation. The skid steers are part of the debris clearance package the 109th AW obtained earlier in the year.

"A lot of my guys haven't had training on the debris clearance kits that all the units have," said Senior Master Sgt. James Nizza, 106th Fire Department chief. "(The 109th) brought their (skid steer) and now we're getting all of my guys certified on it."

Camp Smith proved to be the ideal location for the units to come together as it is the central location between Scotia near Albany and Westhampton Beach on Long Island.

Newburgh, where the 105th Airlift Wing flies C-17s from Stewart Air National Guard Base, is just up the Hudson River from Camp Smith.

The facility also has the environment the teams needed to complete the training they wouldn't be able to get at home station, including the cliff they used for the high angle training. 



Before the start of their monthly training on September 12th, members of the New York Guard Headquarters, 244th Medical Command, 56th Brigade and 12th Regimental Training Institute paid tribute to honor and remember the nearly 3,000 men and women lost on September 11, 2001. The remembrance was held at Camp Smith Training Site and included former New York Army National Guard Soldiers who were part of the response and recovery missions.

14 Years Later, New York Guard Remembers 9/11

Story by Colonel Glenn Marchi, 12th Regimental Training Institute, NY Guard
Photo by Captain Mark Getman, NY Guard

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLANDT MANOR – Members of the New York Guard paid tribute to honor and remember the nearly 3,000 men and women lost on September 11, 2001.

A 9/11 “Never Forget” flag was presented by Col. Glenn Marchi, Commander of the 12th Regimental Training Institute, a former New York Army National Guard officer and responder to the World Trade Center attack. He received the flag from the 42nd Infantry Division commander in 2004 when he deployed to Iraq as the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion Commander.

“It was a day that has dramatically changed America forever,” said New York Guard commander Brig. Gen. Stephen Bucaria. “The New York Guard served with honor and distinction in conducting essential emergency response tasks for the State of New York.”

Fourteen years ago, the New York Guard


mobilized immediately after the attacks on the World Trade Center on 9/11. Then-governor George Pataki activated more than 400 NY Guard members who served in support of what was called Operation Trade Center.

Volunteers from the 88th Brigade augmented the Army National Guard Soldiers in and around ground zero in lower Manhattan while members of the 14th Brigade, 56th Brigade, 10th Brigade and 65th Brigade deployed to operate warehouses in Poughkeepsie, Thiells, Camp Smith, and Long Island for the relief supplies pouring into New York to support recovery operations.

New York Guard members also deployed as



New York Guard Col. Glenn Marchi, Commander of the 12th RTI, presents a “Never Forget” 9/11 remembrance flag to New York Guard Commander Brig. Gen. Stephen Bucaria at a unit commemoration ceremony at Camp Smith Sept. 12. Marchi was among the first National Guard responders to the World Trade Center attack in 2001.

force protection teams to secure critical sites and armories, serving from 9/11 well into 2002 as the National Guard organized a standing security task force in New York City known today as Joint Task Force Empire Shield. 

New York Guard Volunteers Lend Legal Aid



STEWART NATIONAL GUARD AIR BASE, Newburgh — More than 10 volunteers of the New York Guard's 56th Brigade helped provide legal services July 24 to Airmen of the New York Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Wing here during a unit Yellow Ribbon event to better prepare Airmen and their families for deployment.

Led by Maj. Steven Hartov, legal officers Capt. Brian Kanner and Frederick Marasco, together with 1st Lt. Robert Ellis, Jr. and 2nd Lt. Joseph Dempsey provided legal counsel, prepared wills and powers of attorney, and briefed members on their legal rights as deploying military members. In addition to legal support, New York Guard Chaplains provided other services and chaplaincy support.

“These Yellow Ribbon operations are a great way for the New York Guard to provide much needed assistance to Soldiers deploying to some dangerous places,” Dempsey said. “Worrying about legal problems facing you or your family back home needlessly adds to the stress of overseas deployments and takes focus away from the job at hand. We work to put Soldier's minds at ease so they can focus on the mission.” Photo by 2nd Lt. Anthony Dempsey.

New York Naval Militia



Members of the Whitehall (N.Y.) Detachment of the New York Naval Militia's Military Emergency Boat Service receive the Naval Militia's Josephthal Trophy for outstanding service from Rear Admiral Ten Eyck "Trip" Powell, (at podium) the commander of the New York Naval Militia during a ceremony at Whitehall's Skenesborough Museum on Sept. 5. Inset photo, members deploy Patrol Boat 220 from Whitehall. The Josephthal Trophy, named after a former Naval Militia commander, recognizes outstanding New York Naval Militia units and individuals.

Whitehall Detachment Wins Naval Militia Honors

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

Photos by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Arthur Nolan, *New York Naval Militia*

WHITEHALL -- Seven members of the New York Naval Militia's Military Emergency Boat Service (MEBS) based in Whitehall, were recognized as the Naval Militia's most outstanding unit in 2015, during a Sept. 5 ceremony here.

The Whitehall MEBS Detachment was awarded the Naval Militia's Josephthal Trophy by Rear Admiral Ten Eyck "Trip" Powell during a ceremony at the Skenesborough Museum.

The Josephthal Trophy, named for Rear Admiral Louis Josephthal, who commanded the Naval Militia from 1925 to 1929, and who bequeathed \$10,000 in his will to set up a trophy fund, has been awarded to outstanding members of the Naval Militia since 1929.

The award, Powell said, recognizes excellence in the Naval Militia. Josephthal, who enlisted in the Naval Militia as a seaman in 1891, soon

after it was organized, was a captain in the Navy Reserve and worked his way up to command the New York Naval Militia.

The Whitehall MEBS Detachment was recognized for their hard work in training and in supporting the Coast Guard, local sheriff offices, and Border Patrol on Lake Champlain, Powell said.

The detachment, which operates a boat based in Whitehall, operates throughout the length of the lake and also on the Champlain Canal, which joins Lake Champlain in Whitehall.

"They cover a huge geographic area," Powell said. "They train all over the lake. They have assisted the Border Patrol and the local sheriff's departments and they even rescued a young woman in distress," Powell said.

The detachment members have also become part of the community, developing relationships

with the American Legion post, and the Skenesborough Museum, which tells the story of Whitehall's early history, Powell said.

Whitehall was originally named Skenesborough, after the local landowner. After he sided with the British Crown during the Revolutionary War the town changed its name.

Whitehall claims to be the birthplace of the U.S. Navy because a fleet of gunboats which fought the British for control of Lake Champlain in October 1776 under the command of Benedict Arnold, was built there.

The winner of the Josephthal trophy is determined by a board of Naval Militia officers.

The members recognized on Sept 5 are:


- Chief Petty Officer Wayne Hurlburt, the detachment non-commissioned officer in charge, from Granville;
- Petty Officer Donald Hart, from Whitehall;
- Petty Officer Steve Gauci from Whitehall;
- Petty Officer Robert Hill, from Petersburg;
- Petty Officer Calvin Cumm, from Essex;
- Petty Officer Robert Morisseau, from

Albany;

- and Petty Officer Garrett Aldershoff, from Scotia.

Most of the 3,000 members of the Naval Militia are also members of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserve who volunteer to perform state missions during security or weather emergencies.

Members of the Naval Militia use their federal military training to help the state of New York in times of need. Five percent of the members are retired military members who serve in state mission status only.

The Naval Militia operates a fleet of nine patrol boats which can support federal, state, and local agencies. Naval Militia members also serve in other capacities when required ranging from truck drivers to construction workers to nuclear power experts. 



Members of the Whitehall Detachment of the New York Naval Militia's Military Emergency Boat Service prepare to deploy Patrol Boat 220 after receiving Naval Militia's Josephthal Trophy on Sept. 5.

Army Emergency Relief Gives Troops Direct Access

Story by J.D. Leipold, Army News Service

WASHINGTON -- Army Emergency Relief, or AER, has just made it easier for junior Soldiers to request interest-free loans and grants.

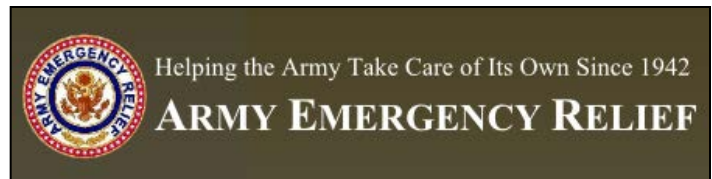
Effective Sept. 9, many junior Soldiers will be able to apply for emergency financial assistance without involving their chain of command. The impact will be felt for members of the National Guard and Reserve mobilized onto active duty as well.

The new policy pertains to privates through corporals and specialists, who have completed Initial Entry Training and have a minimum of 12 months service or have completed Advanced Individual Training - whichever comes first. They will no longer be required to request an AER loan or grant by going through their chain of command.

Charles Durr, who serves as assistance chief for AER, said the change was brought on because AER feels that first year of service is essential in establishing trust between leaders and a service member, and it's a kind of integration period where good financial fitness is being developed.

Another reason for the policy shift is because AER has seen about a 35 percent decline over the last six years in the number of active-duty Soldiers seeking assistance, Durr said.

During calendar year 2014, AER had 35,000 requests for assistance and



disbursed nearly \$46 million to help active-duty Soldiers set up homes, repair autos and take care of expenditures that were unforeseen, he said.

"We attributed the decline in asking for help to what was an intimidating, time-consuming process in that Soldiers would have to go to the squad leader, the squad leader to the platoon sergeant, the platoon sergeant to the first sergeant and so on," Durr said. "We think our Soldiers deserve to be afforded a streamlined process for resolving any of their short-term financial issues."

Durr said that no-interest loan requests and grants were down for fear of a perceived stigma that's associated with asking for help and being labeled as "bad Soldiers" because they had financial issues. Some Soldiers felt their need for financial help would threaten future promotion or that they might lose their security clearances.

It's been an incremental change over time, Durr said. Beginning in 2013, senior NCOs and in 2014 sergeants were granted direct access.

Ways in which AER has assisted Soldiers and their Families in the past include initial deposits for utilities needed for establishing a new household, Durr said.

AER is a complement to the New York National Guard's Family Readiness Council, which provides financial grants to support traditional Guard families experiencing financial hardships. Applications for financial support through the Family Readiness Council have always been separate from the service member's chain of command.^{gt}

Pinning New Lieutenants



CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. - Newly commissioned New York Army National Guard Second Lieutenant Joseph Bologna receives his rank and commission as an officer from family after successfully completing New York's Officer Candidate School here Aug. 15. Bologna is an infantry officer from Valley Cottage, New York. Seven new lieutenants reported to their assigned units. Photo by Sgt. Harley Jelis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.



Dear Service Member,
Do you have a fantastic civilian employer for whom you are grateful? Show your thankfulness by nominating them for the 2016 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is the U.S. government's highest award for large, small and public organizations (not individuals, e.g. a supervisor, manager, etc.) which provide outstanding support of their Guard and Reserve employees. The nomination form takes about 10-15 minutes to complete. Nomination season ends Dec. 31, 2015.

Nominate your employer now at FreedomAward.mil. Direct questions to OSD.ESGR-PA@mail.mil. For more information, please visit us at ESGR.mil. Thank you for your continued service to our nation!

Respectfully,
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)

Black Socks Now PT Authorized

Army News Service



Black socks are now authorized for wear with both the Improved Physical Fitness Uniform (black and gold) and the traditional gray Army Physical Fitness Uniform. Both uniforms are shown here as Soldiers participate in an Army Birthday Run on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

WASHINGTON -- Effective immediately, black or white socks can be worn with either the gray-black APFT uniform or the new gold and black uniform.

Like white socks, the black socks must be plain with no logos. The socks can be calf-length or ankle-length, but must at least cover the entire ankle bone, said Sgt. Maj. Eva M. Commons, Army uniform policy sergeant maj. with G-1.

The new policy comes as a result of Soldiers requesting the change over the last several months, Commons said.

"The senior Army leaders will go out to various installations and receive questions from the field," Commons said. "...Of those brought back was the request to be authorized to wear black socks."


The Army staff then examined the request, she said. The black sock question was also placed into a uniform item survey completed in August by 18,588 Soldiers. Almost 67 percent of respondents, or 12,408 said that black socks should be authorized.

Since the black socks will be optional, there was no production requirement, no cost associated, and the logistical aspect was minimal, so this change was able to go through an abbreviated board process, Commons said, but added that all of the steps of the Uniform Board process were still completed before the change was considered by the Army chief of staff.

The new guidance is outlined in an Exception to Policy memorandum signed

by Lt. Gen. James McConville, Army G-1, Nov. 5. That memo will serve as the authorization for Soldiers to wear black PT socks until DA Pam 670-1 is updated in a few months, Commons said.

Another change will be the elimination of all reference to the dress green Army Service Uniform. Sept. 30 was the wear-out date for the greens, she explained. All Soldiers should now have blue ASUs.

Other items in the uniform survey must go before the Uniform Board at Department of the Army before they can be implemented, Commons said. The survey included questions about a wind-proof blue Eisenhower jacket, a single-style "campaign hat" for all drill sergeants, and a single-style ASU cap for all Soldiers. 

Rainbow Remembered



GARDEN CITY - New York Army National Guard Maj. Ian Seagriff, center, and Staff Sgt. Justin Wolcott present a memorial wreath on behalf of the New York Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division at the World War I Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial here, Nov. 10 to honor the service of past 42nd Infantry Division Soldiers for Veterans Day. Similar wreaths were placed at division memorials at West Point, Fort Dix and Fort Drum. Photo by Capt. Mark Getman, New York Guard.


Guard Times Correction

(**EDITOR'S NOTE) The story "Army wins back TAG Match Honors" featured in the summer 2015 edition of Guard Times Magazine was incorrect.

The team from the 107th Security Forces Squadron actually won the competition, not the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry team as the article reported.

According to Staff Sgt. Connor Hawkins, the state training NCO in the Operations and Training Directorate, the scoring system used the day of the match considered only team match scores in determining the top winner. Instead, Hawkins explained, the team scores and individual scores should have been combined.

The final adjusted results put the 107th Security Forces Squadron team in first place with 1,965 points, while the team from the 1st Battalion 69th Infantry had 1,946 points.

The story which ran in the Guard Times was written before the score change was made. We regret the error. 



Helping Military Families through the Holidays and Every Day

Submitted by Give an Hour

The holiday season is upon us. For many, it is a time to be with family and friends—a time to give thanks for what we have, whom we have, and the future we see ahead. Likewise, anyone who has known the pain of depression, loss of a loved one or the distress of anxiety is aware of how difficult this time of year can be.

Guard members and loved ones whose lives are unsettled or unstable, those who are facing a crisis or dealing with a significant loss, those who are unemployed or homeless—they may not experience the same joy of the season. Indeed, the images that bombard us during this time of year remind those who struggle of what they don't have and what they have lost. If you find yourself experiencing uncomfortable feelings during this holiday season Give an Hour is here to support you at no cost.

If you find yourself experiencing stress this holiday season, here are a few tips to help:

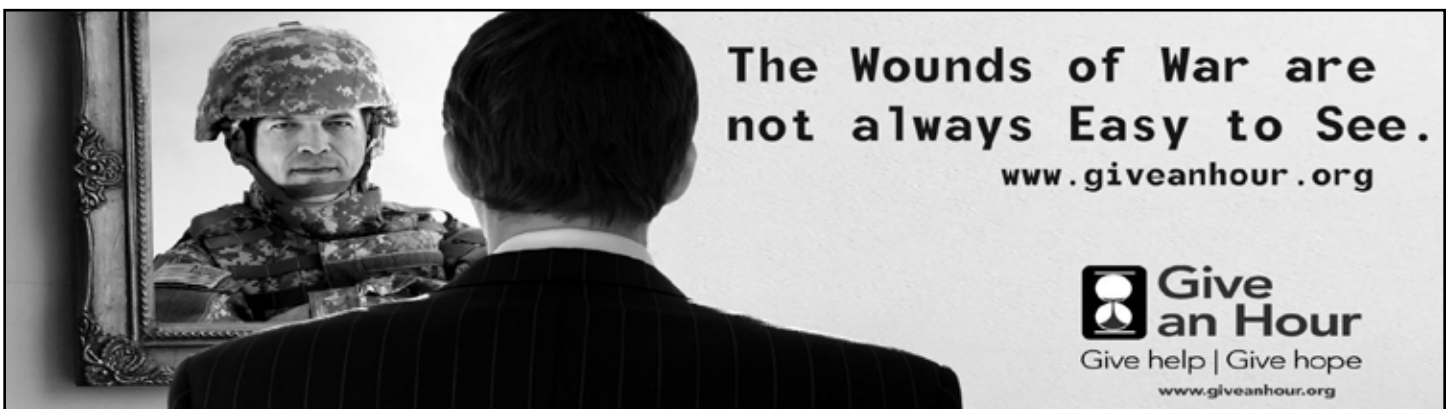
- Ask for help from family and friends—they want to be there for you—and be specific about your needs (e.g., Can you watch the baby while I do some holiday shopping? I've got so much on my plate, can you help me wrap presents?) It's OK to depend on your close family, friends, and other loved ones to help you. We all need help sometimes.
- Be firm with your limits. If you can't muster the time, energy, or money to travel to visit relatives, say so; if you can't organize this year's

bake sale at the school, say so.

- Look for opportunities to help others in need. The act of giving improves our mood and can lift our spirits.
- Avoid financial stress by avoiding the temptation to spend beyond your means, and instead focus on "gifts from the heart" (photo albums, written messages, and homemade items).

Beginning in 2013, The Army National Guard partnered with Give an Hour to ensure that quality mental health care services are available when and where they are needed. Give an Hour is dedicated to providing free and confidential mental health services to military personnel and their families in all 50 states. This free resource is available to members of the Guard and their loved ones, for as long as help is needed. Anyone affected by their loved one's service is eligible to receive help through Give an Hour, including parents, siblings, and unmarried partners. If you or someone is struggling during this holiday season – or at any time of the year – contact Give an Hour at www.giveanhour.org to connect with a counselor who can help.

If you are experiencing crisis or know someone who is, call 911 or the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 (and press 1 to talk to someone immediately). Don't wait. Get help today. **gt**



Inspector General Corner

Taking your case to the IG

Commentary by Col. Matthew McConnell, Inspector General, Joint Force Headquarters

As the new Inspector General for the New York National Guard I look forward to being part of this great, professional team serving the people of New York and the United States.

My last assignment was Deputy Commander of the 37th Training Group, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, and I am a career Security Forces Officer. While new to the Inspector General business, it is a distinct honor to be named to this position and I look forward to supporting the Soldiers, Airmen, and commanders of the New York National Guard.

The Joint Force Headquarters Inspector General's Office is comprised of Soldiers and Airmen available to assist service members in resolving issues and to be the eyes and ears of the commander. However, before coming to our office Soldiers and Airmen should give their chain the opportunity to resolve issues or concerns they have.

During the 2015 federal fiscal year, the Joint Forces Headquarters Inspector General Office worked a total of 339 cases: 296 Army National Guard cases, and 43 Air National Guard cases, compared to 420 cases in FY14 - a 19% overall reduction.

Cases often involve providing assistance to members in situations where a process broke down resulting in an actual or perceived stalled or improper action, and the Inspector General can often help members and commanders identify process or procedural problems and resolve issues.

Approximately 75% of the issues brought forward pertained to personnel issues like promotions, transfers, discharges, reductions in grade, evaluations, and pay issues such as bonus and Student Loan Repayment Program questions.

There has been a spike in transfer and conditional release request issues in recent months, and many are complicated by the fact that the Soldier or Airman has made decisions or taken actions before their request was made or approved. Requests for transfer and conditional release are approved on a case by case basis based upon the circumstances of the request and the impact on mission execution.

Members should not assume they will be approved and are discouraged from taking action such as relocating based upon the assumption that they will be approved. Moreover, a typical request could be expected to take two to three drill periods to be approved or disapproved based upon the coordination process.

With respect to pay issues, last year we successfully assisted numerous Soldiers and Airmen but these cases do take a significant amount of time to resolve and require complete documentation which often times only the member can provide.

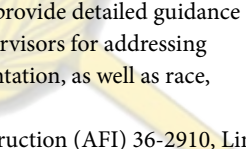
However, a significant number of issues raised by Soldiers and Airmen last year pertained to much broader issues of command climate or hostile work environment, favoritism and restriction.

These types of allegation often affect numerous service members: those who have been or are perceived to have been negatively affected and members alleged to have perpetrated the offense as well as others who were aware of them.

Investigations can take months to complete and in the most serious cases requiring the Department of Defense IG approval years to resolve, sometimes putting careers and lives on pause. All personnel – commanders, officers and NCOs, down to the lowest ranking Soldier or Airman in the organization need to be attuned to negative impacts and be courageous enough to bring these issues forward. The quicker a problem is identified, the more readily it can be resolved before it negatively impacts service members and the organization.

On a policy note, the Secretary of the Army issued Directive No. 2015-39 on October 14 adding sexual orientation to the service's military Equal Opportunity Program. Directive No. 2015-40 followed on October 30 implementing procedures for civilian employee anti-harassment policy.

From the release: "Together the directives provide detailed guidance to Soldiers, employees, commanders and supervisors for addressing unlawful discrimination based on sexual orientation, as well as race, color, national origin, religion or sex."

In addition, a new version of Air Force Instruction (AFI) 36-2910, Line of Duty (LOD) Determination, Medical Continuation (MEDCON), and Incapacitation (INCAP) Pay was published on October 8. The AFI was substantially revised and is applicable to the Air National Guard. 

Welcoming New Warrants



LATHAM - The New York Army National Guard's most current Warrant Officer Candidates appointed at the Federal Recognition Board at the Joint Force Headquarters in September 2015.

Warrant Officer Candidates from Left to Right, are former Staff Sgt. Brian Gardner, Automotive Maintenance career field; former Sgt. 1st Class Jason Sellars, Electronic Systems Maintenance career field and former Staff Sgt. Andrew Silver, in the Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle career field.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, Guard Times Staff.

Connecticut Street Armory in the Sandstone Hall of Fame

By Eric Durr, *Guard Times* Staff



The Connecticut Street Armory at 174 Connecticut Street, was recently recognized by the Sandstone Hall of Fame in Medina, N.Y. Courtesy photo.

BUFFALO - The New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs, Connecticut Street Armory is now in the Hall of Fame: the Sandstone Hall of Fame, to be specific.

The massive 116 year-old building was recognized by the Medina Sandstone Society during an Oct. 22 ceremony in which it's photograph and a short history was added to the Hall of Fame located in the Medina, N.Y. town hall.

The group is dedicated to noting the importance of the local sandstone in the architectural history of the region.

Like most monumental 19th Century buildings in western New York and Buffalo, the armory, which occupies 4.87 acres on Buffalo's west side, was constructed of a specific type of sandstone which was discovered in Orleans County during the 1820s as the Erie Canal was being built.

"It was a very popular building material because of its strength and beauty," explained Donald Colquhoun, one of the Medina Sandstone Society trustees. "At one time there

were over thirty quarries here in Orleans County," he added.

Taking its name from the village of Medina which was in the heart of the quarry area, the sandstone was durable, came in shades ranging from white, to red, to brown, to pink, and was fireproof.

"It last literally forever," Colquhoun said. "In buildings that were built 150 years ago the sandstone looks the same."

In the days prior to steel framed, concrete structures, Medina sandstone was the go-to material for large scale construction, Colquhoun said. The famous "Million Dollar Staircase" in the New York State Capital is constructed of Medina Sandstone and blocks were shipped across the country. There is even Medina Sandstone incorporated into work in Buckingham Palace in London, Colquhoun said.

So when the New York National Guard's 74th Regiment began building its massive new home in 1897, it was only natural that the building designer, Williams Lansing, who was a captain

in the 74th Regiment, decided to use sandstone from the nearby quarries around Medina.

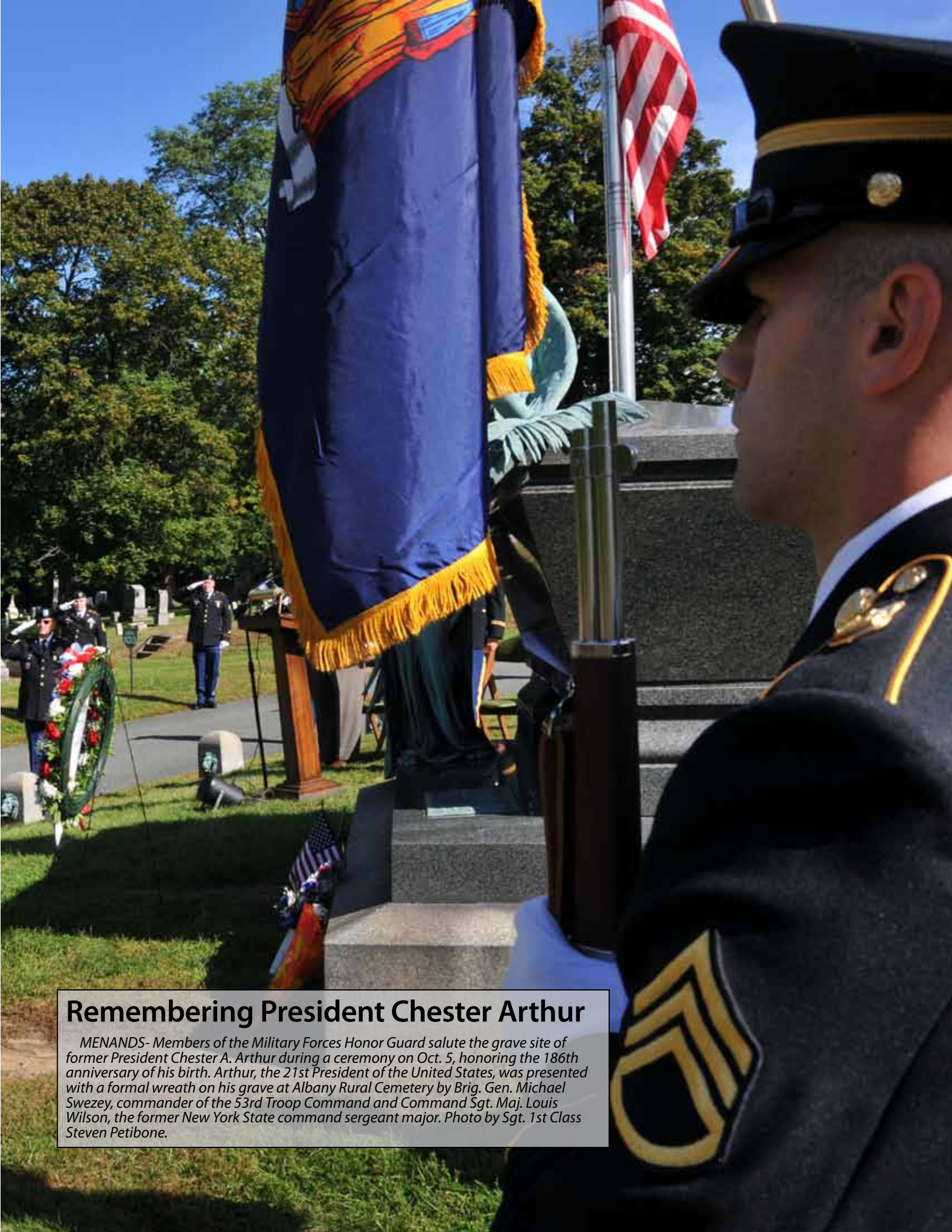
The initial cost of the building was too high. The state was willing to pay \$400,000 for the armory and the low bid was \$600,000 for a Medina Sandstone building.

But Lansing didn't want to build the armory of brick, so he modified the design to get the contractor to come in under budget.

The Medina sandstone is an amazing building material, said Joe Murray, the regional superintendent for the state armories in western New York. The stone in the Connecticut Street Armory looks just as good today as it did when the structure was completed in 1899, he said. **gt**

"It is a castle that is incredibly kept up by DMNA. It is a showplace of the community, of an era when things were outstanding in the 1880s and 1890s."

--Joe Murray, the regional superintendent for the state armories in western New York



Remembering President Chester Arthur

MENANDS- Members of the Military Forces Honor Guard salute the grave site of former President Chester A. Arthur during a ceremony on Oct. 5, honoring the 186th anniversary of his birth. Arthur, the 21st President of the United States, was presented with a formal wreath on his grave at Albany Rural Cemetery by Brig. Gen. Michael Swezey, commander of the 53rd Troop Command and Command Sgt. Maj. Louis Wilson, the former New York State command sergeant major. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone.

Local Citizens Show Their Appreciation

Submitted by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Christopher Krupa



AUBURN - Joseph DeMaio Jr. of Auburn, has a deep appreciation for Soldiers and veterans. He drew inspiration from a poem by an acquaintance, Carol Anne Wood, also known as Platoon Nana, of Syracuse, and created a patriotic flag with her words of "Red, White, & You." The entire piece took over a month to create by hand, and weighs in excess of 80 pounds. DeMaio has loaned the piece so it may be appreciated by all Soldiers and veterans.

"It's purpose is to show all service members who view it, past, present, and future, the deep respect and gratitude the American people have for them", said DeMaio. The flag and poem are on display at the New York State Armory in Auburn. Platoon Nana's talent may be found at www.platoonnana.com . Courtesy photo.



STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER
 IT'S A PHRASE THAT WE'VE ALL HEARD
 THE IMAGES WE CONJURE
 FROM A GANG OF SIMPLE WORDS
 I SEE THE STRIPES OF RED AND WHITE
 THE STARS SET OFF BY BLUE
 "OLD GLORY" WAVING IN THE BREEZE
 BUT MOSTLY I SEE YOU
 I SEE OUR FATHERS AND OUR SONS
 OUR DAUGHTERS STANDING TALL
 I SEE OUR BRAVEST AND OUR BEST
 THOSE WE LOVE MOST OF ALL
 EACH DAY ILL RAISE OUR PRECIOUS FLAG
 WITH REVERENCE ALL ANEW
 ILL SEE HER SYMBOLS AND HER COLORS BUT
 MOSTLY... ILL SEE YOU

Historic Renovated Tank Now a Museum Piece

Story and photo by Sgt. Maj. Corine Lombardo



Spc. Jonathon Bishop, Company B, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, attaches a clevis fastener on a refurbished World War II-era M4A3 Sherman tank on permanent display at the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs, Sept. 15. National Guard Soldiers working full time at the Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site at Fort Drum, spent the past 22 months refurbishing and repainting the tank in their spare time.

SARATOGA SPRINGS - What began as a task during his spare time turned into a history lesson for Spc. Jonathon Bishop.

Bishop is a full-time machinist and mechanic at the New York's Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site, or MATES, at Fort Drum.

For the last 22 months, he and his teammates refurbished and repainted a World War II-era M4A3 Sherman tank destined for display at the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga.

"We're used to working on contemporary military equipment and vehicles so working on this project has been really cool and gave me a chance to learn a lot about the history of the tank while doing something different," said Bishop, a resident of Lowville.

The Sherman was the standard American tank of World War II. While not as well armed and armored as its German opponents, the tank was fast, reliable and tens of thousands were built.

The tank was stored behind the museum for about 10 years, awaiting restoration and placement. The project included welding broken parts as well as stripping and painting the tank.

The tank was returned to the museum on Sept. 15 and now sits on a parking pad outside as a permanent public display.

"I'm glad it's finally back, it should increase visibility and draw folks to the museum," said Courtney Burns, the museum's director. "It looks spectacular; the extra items they added really add to the authenticity of the showpiece. They went well above our expectations," Burns said.

The extra items refer to the tank's basic inventory issue, or BII for short, which includes a mounted .50-caliber machine gun, ammunition boxes, axes and other tools.

The really interesting part of the project was scouring Fort Drum's ranges for the hulks

of old armored vehicles, which now serve as targets in the impact area, said Chief Warrant Officer Robin Steele, a MATES employee who supervised the project.

"We found old pieces on range targets at Fort Drum, in warehouses and in some cases fabricated the parts we needed," said Steele, who serves in Company B, 427th Brigade Support Battalion.

"It's a really good feeling to see this project completed, I would pass by this tank every morning in Carthage before the armory closed and it was moved to the museum. We picked it up two years ago and to finally see it completed and on display is a really good feeling. It's great to know that so many people will be able to enjoy it," Steele added.

The M4A3 "Sherman" tank was formerly a display piece at the New York State Armory in Carthage, New York, prior to the armory closure. The tank sat outside the armory for approximately 20 years.


"This piece has an iconic relationship with the Guard and is part of a larger effort to place historically appropriate vehicles and equipment at armories around the state that connect with a unit's history," Burns said.

New York National Guardsmen served in vehicles like this in Europe during World War II and later on when they trained at Fort Drum in the 1940s and '50s, Burns said.

The tank is painted with the "bumper numbers" of a tank in A Company of the New York National Guard's 191st Tank Battalion which fought in battles at Salerno and Anzio in Italy in 1943 and in southern France in 1944.

The New York State Military Museum is responsible for the historical exhibits and artifacts at New York's 41 Army National Guard armories.

These artifacts and displays, which include historic armored vehicles once used by the Guard, connect current Army National Guard Soldiers with those who served in the past.

"These restoration projects provide a unique maintenance training task for our Soldiers and help place historic vehicles on display at other military locations in New York, it's a win-win," Steele explained. 



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