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



FROM THE LEADERSHIP

We Need You to Stay in the Guard

I am incredibly honored to be appointed by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to serve as the 54th Adjutant General of New York and to serve as the leader of our men and women of the New York Army and Air National Guard, the Naval Militia and New York Guard.

We spend a lot of time thinking about our hardware, the planes, helicopters, trucks, weapons and other equipment we need to do our jobs. However, you are the most important and essential resource we have.

My predecessor, Major General Tony German, always stressed the fact that we are a Guard family, and I intend to continue that emphasis. We have an efficient and effective organization and it is my goal to ensure that each of our service members – both traditional and full-time – and our state and federal civilian employees are treated with dignity and respect. Each one of you is a valued member of our team.

Any adjutant general's success is a result of the hard work and efforts of every one of you – the 19,000 people who serve in New York's Military Forces or work to support them. I cannot accomplish anything without each and every one of you.

I believe our organization is on an upward trajectory and we will continue to build on our prior achievements. From the newest private to the most experienced senior chief, everyone brings a unique work and life experience to our team. It's that diversity of experience, thought, cultural background, and education experience that makes us stronger.

As we move the organization forward, I do have key tenants that I want you to be focused on.

First: we will focus on taking care of our service members, employees and families; because, as I've said before, you are our most important resource.

Second: we will build and sustain the readiness of the New York Army and Air National Guard to fight and win our Nation's wars should we be called to defend our country. We'll need the training and the equipment to serve side-by-side with our active duty counterparts and we must always be ready.

Third: we will always ensure that New York's Military Forces are prepared to rapidly respond when the State's residents are in need and the Governor calls us to action. When our neighbors need us, we will be there, and we will be prepared.

And specifically for the Army National Guard, my number one priority will be retaining our Soldiers.

In this regard, leaders must emphasize the benefits of membership in the Army National Guard. This includes pay, but it's also important to promote other benefits such as money for education, comprehensive health insurance coverage, retirement benefits and even the ability to shop tax free at the Post Exchange.

The New York Army National Guard App, which can be downloaded from Google Play and the Apple App Store, is a good resource for this information. Please encourage your Soldiers to use it. Simply go to the App Store and search for "NY National Guard" and download it for free.

Individual Soldier readiness is my second priority for the New York Army National Guard. This includes medical readiness, duty MOS qualification, physical fitness, and enrolling in the required military leadership schools for Officers and NCOs in a timely manner.

Along with the rest of the Army, the Army National Guard will be moving from the old three-event physical readiness test to the new Army Combat Fitness Test. Leaders at all levels and Soldiers need to start training now. There's a complete training guide on the New York Army National Guard App.

This test will help prepare our men and women for the rigors of combat. Forget the idea of maxing the fitness test simply for promotion points. The new test will gauge how ready a Soldier is for the challenges of combat.

My priorities for the New York Air National Guard are to ensure that every Airman is deployable. Each Airman must be competent and ready to excel in his or her job. This requires both mental and physical readiness to handle a variety of tasks in a combat environment. In addition, we will be working at the national level to ensure that our Wings are equipped with the same equipment as the active duty Air Force.

The New York Naval Militia and the New York Guard will continue to prioritize civil support missions in their training and tailor their forces to support those missions. Congratulations to the Naval Militia on their new landing craft – LC-350.

As we train and prepare for our various missions, it is important to remember the role of the leaders in all our formations.

A leader's job is to prepare Soldiers and Airmen for combat. This means that leaders cannot always be your friend.

Leaders lead – and a major component of leadership is ensuring Soldiers and Airmen are trained and ready and are treated fairly with dignity and respect. The highest responsibility that comes with leadership is the training of our Soldiers and Airmen to prevent unnecessary combat deaths. Leaders have an absolute moral obligation in



Maj. Gen.
Ray Shields

this regard.

As the nation relies more on its National Guard for warfighting duties as well as emergency response, the demands on our time will increase. Generally, at any given time, 10 to 15 percent of our reserve military members are serving on active duty.

You need to be ready for that call. All of us need to be ready for that call.

Soldiers and Airmen must make sure employers are aware of their upcoming training missions. Let your supervisors know when you will be gone. Employers who know what to expect are less likely to object when you serve.

As Adjutant General, I really want to hear from you. You can call me at 518-786-4502 or e-mail me at raymond.f.shields.mil@mail.mil if you have a question or want to share a comment or suggestion.

The Guard Times magazine is a great forum for sharing command messages and stories about our force with each of you. I intend to share this page with other leaders in our force so they can share their perspective with you as well. So watch this space for new ideas, new comments and new perspectives. And, as always, thank you for your service.^{gt}





guardtimes

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Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, COMMANDER IN CHIEF
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Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the Adjutant General, speaks to Soldiers from Detachment 5, Company C of the 2nd Battalion, 245th Aviation Regiment and their families at their farewell ceremony on November 14, 2018 at the Army Aviation Flight Facility in Latham.. The Soldiers are expected to depart for Kuwait by the end of November. Photo by Capt. Jean Kratzer, Guard Times Staff.



FRONT COVER: Command Sgt. Maj. Corey K. Cush, outgoing command sergeant major of the 53rd Troop Command, New York Army National Guard, inspects the noncommissioned officer sword during a change of responsibility ceremony at Camp Smith Training Site, Cortlandt Manor, N.Y., Oct. 14, 2018. The ceremony marked the change of the 53rd Troop Command's senior enlisted advisor from Cush to incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Ciampolillo. Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

BACK COVER: Tech. Sgt. Brandon Quammie, a loadmaster assigned to the 105th Airlift Wing, stands in the doorway of a C-17 Globemaster III at Waterkloof Air Force Base, South Africa during the African Aerospace and Defense Exhibition, Sept. 20, 2018. Quammie is part of a contingent of New York Air and Army Guardsmen who represented their state's military forces during the trade show. Photo by Staff Sgt. Julio A. Olivencia Jr., 105th Airlift Wing. Photo by Staff Sgt. Julio A. Olivencia Jr., 105th Airlift Wing.

FACES of the FORCE

Latina Style Honors Army Guard Officer, El Salvador Immigrant

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

LATHAM, N.Y. -- At age 15, Elsa Canales arrived in the Long Island suburb of Selden from El Salvador.

Her parents and five older siblings left to escape rampant violence in 1999.

Nineteen years later New York Army National Guard Capt. Elsa Canales is an experienced logistics officer and company commander, with a degree from the State University of New York and two deployments to Kuwait.

Latina Style Magazine recognized Canales for her military accomplishments during the magazine's annual National Latina Symposium. Twelve military women were honored.

Canales represented the Army National Guard for the event.

Being part of the event was a terrific experience, Canales said. Not so much because she got an award, but because of the women she got to meet there.

"A lot of time you think that you are a minority, but when you see so many women in a room full of female generals and colonels it gives you hope that one day you can be in those positions," she said.

"She's the second New York Army National Guard officer to be honored by the magazine. In 2017, Col. Isabel Smith, Chief of Staff of the 53rd Troop, command received the award.

Canales entered the Army in 2009 when she was 26.

At Stony Brook she went to a job fair and saw a table set up by National Guard recruiters.

"I started looking at the pictures and I thought, that looks awesome," she remembered. "I went home and started thinking about it and I thought, 'What better way to give back to this country, that gave so much to my family, than to actually join and serve.'"

So Elsa Canales, college student, also became ROTC Cadet Elsa Canales and then 2nd Lt. Elsa Canales when she graduated.

In 2012 she deployed to Kuwait with the 427th Brigade Support Battalion.

Once in Kuwait she was assigned as the executive officer to the forward support company working for the South Carolina National Guard's 4th Battalion, 118th Infantry.

She got back from that Kuwait deployment and then went back overseas in 2013 with the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion.

On that deployment she was an assistant operations officer working in the battalion headquarters.

Since returning from Kuwait she's worked as an operations officer in the joint operations staff in Latham and logistics section of the 42nd Infantry Division and served in the headquarters of the 427th Brigade Support Battalion.

Canales works full time as a civilian employee in the Operations and Training Directorate at the Joint Force Headquarters,

Canales applied to be considered for the Latina Style award because Brig. Gen. John Andonie, the New York Army National Guard's Chief of Staff, told her she should apply.

Andonie said he asked Canales to apply for the award because she is an excellent officer and he thought she would be a great representative.



New York Army National Guard Capt. Elsa Canales, a logistics officer, was recognized by Latina Style Magazine for her military accomplishments during a Sept. 6 award ceremony in Arlington, Va. Courtesy Photo.

"A lot of time you think that you are a minority, but when you see so many women in a room full of female generals and colonels it gives you hope that one day you can be in those positions,"

-- Capt. Elsa Canales, recipient of 2018 Latina Style award

Her first response, Canales said, was to ask her Operations and Training boss, Col. Christopher Panzer, if she could decline Andonie's request. He said no.

The best thing about winning the award, Canales said, was being able to be part of an event with so many women with the shared background of being from a Hispanic background and being in the military.

She's very used to being only one of two or three female officers in a meeting, Canales said. And the fact that she has an accent makes her stand out even more.

"You have to make sure that you make a good first impression," she said.

But being there with all those other successful Latina military women made her realize that "anything is possible," Canales said. **gt**

Physician Assistant Serves to put Soldiers First

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters

WATERVLIET ARSENAL, N.Y. --For New York Army National Guard Physician Assistant Maj. Stephen Carson, service is important.

Now, twelve years after joining the New York Army National Guard's Medical Command, his service extends to Soldiers, communities across New York State and the Army's overseas contingencies.

Carson, who deployed to Afghanistan in 2009-10 and to Kuwait in 2013-14, is one of 30 Physician Assistants authorized for New York Army National Guard battalions and higher commands.

"PA's play a key role in the medical readiness of the New York Army National Guard," said Lt. Col. Luis Garcia, the deputy state surgeon, Garcia said.

"The Army loves PAs," Carson said. "I know of no other environment where a Physician Assistant enjoys such latitude in practice or respect by colleagues. The Army utilizes PAs like physicians and it extends the Army Medical Department's ability to provide excellent care to Soldiers."

What Carson liked most in his assignments was serving alongside junior Soldiers.

"Typically PAs are the first-line provider that Soldiers interact with and as they are assigned at battalion level, they have the ability to influence Soldiers every drill," he said.

Before joining the Army National Guard, Carson had extensive experience in public safety but wanted more.

"I spent many years prior to Physician Assistant school working in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) as a paramedic and continued to do so after graduating," Carson said. "I practiced as a PA in Emergency Medicine and as a member of a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA response) team and deployed to multiple disasters and special security events."

With all these commitments, Carson knew he could do more.

"As corny as it sounds to many outside of (our) military families, I'm a patriot and the sense of obligation to serve my country never lessened," Carson said.

His experience with an Army PA while he

was assisting in the federal response to Hurricane Katrina finally pushed him to join the military, Carson recalled.

"I chose the Guard as I truly feel that the Minuteman tradition- the civilian that sets aside their other responsibilities at a moment's notice when their fellow citizens are in need- is one of the noblest creations of the American "experiment."

As a qualified PA Carson was able to secure a direct commission in 2006.

PAs serve as the first medical provider that Soldiers see, and as the commander's medical advisor, Garcia said.

"Due to a PA's education and training, they play a key role in preventive medicine, trauma care, surgical care, health maintenance and behavioral health," Garcia said.

Service in the New York Army National Guard has helped make him a better medical provider, he said.

"My Army service has exposed me to situations and conditions that I would never have experienced in the civilian world," Carson explained.

Carson deployed to Buffalo for the snow emergency in 2007 and again in the Capital Region of New York for the severe flooding from Hurricane Irene in 2011.

Carson served as a battalion PA for engineers providing support to local first responders.

Serving Soldiers is the most important part of his job, he said.

"In an age of a world where seemingly a "what's in it for me" prevails, I get to help those people that not only didn't ask what was in it for them, but offered everything they had for others."

"You are not some abstract concept across town in a hospital, but in the tent next to them. Standing in the rain with them. It's an awesome responsibility," Carson said. **gt**



Maj. Stephen Carson, second from left, is seen with his aeromedical flight crew at Udairi Airfield after a mission during his deployment to Kuwait in 2013-14. Carson, then a captain, served as a Physician's Assistant support of the New York Army National Guard's 642nd Support Battalion, part of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade. Carson worked in the Aviation Medicine Clinic and unit aid station as well as flying with the Air Ambulance Company during medical evacuations missions and training across the theater. From left, Staff Sgt. Michael Ball, Carson, Capt. Brandon Reynolds, and Col. Jack James. Courtesy photo.

Warrant Officer Retirement Leaves Legacy of Leadership

Story and photos by Cpl. Nnaemeka Onyeagwa, 369th Sustainment Brigade

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, N.Y. -- With 21 years of prior Marine service and seven years in the New York Army National Guard, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gerard M. Ford, retired from service Sept. 9, 2018.

For the past seven years Ford had been the 369th Sustainment Brigade's branch chief for Special operations (SPO) in the Sustainment Automation Support Management (SASMO).

Sustainment automation is responsible for making sure that life-sustaining resources, like 'beans and bullets,' make it to the Soldier in a timely manner to keep them ready to support and fight in U.S. military missions and campaigns.

"Chief Ford's experience, dedication, and selfless service is an example of the quality of soldiers within the ranks of the Hellfighters," said Col. Stephen M. Bousquet brigade commander.

Ford's legacy will live on through all of the individuals he has mentored through his 41 years of service, Bousquet said

Ford enlisted in the Marines on March 23, 1977 as a radio operator.

He became a Warrant Office in the Marines as an information systems technician. He signed on to the New York Army National Guard in the same role also as Warrant Officer in September 2011.

"I am blessed to have served with two branches, there are more similarities than you would believe," Ford said.

Sustainment automation operations were the heart and soul of that deployment and Ford was a mentor to any Soldiers who crossed paths with him, Bousquet

said.

"He [Ford] is someone I am modeling my career after," said Sgt. Thomas Lee.

During the deployment Ford pushed him to do better, Lee said. He added that he will miss Ford's near flawlessness when it came to attention to details.

"He was a great leader, and mentor, he was like a father to us," said Spc. Roseyine Velez a unit supply specialist.

Learning to be a good leader has been "the most challenging thing for me in my military career, Ford said.

Leadership, is composed of four parts, Ford explained.

First is working at leadership all the time, everyday, you can never say that I have been here X amount of years and I know what I am doing.

The second key is you don't necessary want to have people doing things because they are under orders, being told to do it. You want them to do it because they understand that they are part of a team, and part of something that becomes their own mission.

The third factor is listening constantly to Soldiers, and letting them speak their minds. Leaders have to show that they are interested.

Building that rapport is difficult, but if you build it they will tell you everything, your strength and your opportunities. You want to make sure not only do your superiors trust you but also your subordinates.

The last thing is being consistent. You can be a good leader but have a terrible temper or if you are consistent people know how to

deal with you, interact with you, and work with you, Ford said.

"Being the leader you want is a process not a destination, a fact we constantly need to remind ourselves," said Ford.

"He has been an outstanding leader, communicator and a support not only to the SPO but to the rest of the Brigade, especially during the deployment," said Lt. Col Shawn Shutts. "I will miss his wisdom and understanding."

"What I will miss the most is the loss of community, the 369th is a family to me, that's going to be making leaving difficult, but it's

"What I will miss the most is the loss of community, the 369th is a family to me, that's going to be making leaving difficult, but it's time for me to retire," Ford said.

"The leadership of the 369th gives me personally a lot of confidence as I leave." **gt**

-- Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gerard Ford



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gerard M. Ford, the retiring chief of the Sustainment Automation Support Management Office, his wife Theresa, and Col. Stephen M. Bousquet, the brigade commander, pose for a picture after Ford received a Meritorious Service Medal during a ceremony at Camp Smith N.Y., Sept. 10, 2018.



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gerard M. Ford, chief of the Sustainment Automation Support Management Office, 369th Sustainment Brigade, New York Army National Guard, and his wife Theresa Ford, pose with immediate family members Christopher Ford, Joseph Ford, Thomas Ford and Maggie Lei, at the end of his retirement ceremony at Camp Smith N.Y., Sept. 10, 2018.

Chaplain Brings Presence to Soldiers, Families

Story by Cpl. Nnaemeka Onyeagwa, 369th Sustainment Brigade

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, N.Y. --The call came through early in the morning of July 21, 2018 for New York Army National Guard Chaplain (Maj.) James Kim. A Soldier had died in an accident during his unit annual training.

Even for traditional Citizen Soldiers, the process of supporting Soldiers, their unit and their family during a time of crisis begins with a unit chaplain.

For Kim, the chaplain for the National Guard's 369th Sustainment Brigade, he knew immediately that he had to notify next-of-kin.

"Gaining the trust of the family from the beginning is key to the long process of doing what we can for the family, emotionally and spiritually," Kim said. "The next step is being there and assisting with what we can offer as a military community."

For Chaplain Kim, that next-of-kin notification was a mission that hit close to home. In September 2012, his brother, U.S. Army Sgt. Joseph Kim, an avionics mechanic serving with the Army National Guard in their home state of California, committed suicide.

Kim and his wife had just moved to New York that summer, leaving behind his brother and anybody else they knew back in California where they had lived almost their entire lives.

The tragedy followed only two months after learning Kim's father had been diagnosed of stage IV stomach cancer.

Having such a rough start in New York, Kim explained that he and his wife relied on faith and their military family. This was a very difficult time for them – especially being far away from familiar faces.

"My experiences helped me bring light and hope to others and to do God's bidding," Kim explained. "Motivation comes from finding strength inside yourself, instead of being broken by events one cannot control."

Chaplain Kim's service in the ministry followed a unique path, but a familiar one.

Originally joining the California Army National Guard in 2001 as a finance Soldier, two years later Kim reclassified as an ammunition specialist for an overseas deployment and achieved the rank of sergeant. But he wanted more, Kim explained.

So after graduating from Officer Candi-

date School in 2006, Kim became a Military Intelligence lieutenant.

Because of his fluency in the Korean language as the child of Korean immigrants, and his time living in Korea, he worked in the Guard's Linguist Intelligence Battalion.

All of these experiences, Kim said, shaped his character as a chaplain.

"It's easier to relate with Soldiers when you been on various sides in the military," he said.

Kim made his commitment to serve his faith in 2009, and became an Army chaplain in September that year. He deployed twice since then as a chaplain for troops overseas.

Three months before his last deployment with the 369th Sustainment Brigade in June 2016, Kim's father succumbed to cancer. He said the thought of staying back crossed his mind, but he was determined to deploy.

"I could not leave my 369th family to go over 10,000 miles from home for nine months without quality spiritual representation," Kim said. "As long as you let God into your life you will be surprised, as long as your heart is in the right place you can achieve."

"Kim was one of the most approachable people on post," said Capt. Seun Ogunkoya, the brigade's branch chief for operational contracting. "Even if you were not religious he ensured you could come to him, that morale was kept high, Soldiers stayed motivated, and we could all do our jobs."

Kim credits this journey in life and his long career in the Army for helping him relate with all Soldiers, of all faiths and all backgrounds.

"Chaplain Kim and his unit ministry were instrumental during 369th deployment, said 1st Sgt. Tracy-Ann Stewart of the brigade's 133rd Composite Supply Company. "His familiar presence helped Soldiers with resilience, teamwork, and bringing that light hearted spirit."



Command Sgt. Maj. David Piwowarski, center, New York Army National Guard senior enlisted advisor and Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony McLean, Command Sgt. Maj. of the 27th Infantry Brigade, left, speak with Chaplain (Maj.) James Kim during vehicle roll-over training at Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn., August 22, 2016. Photo by Sgt. Cesar Leon, 369th Sustainment Brigade.



Chaplain (Maj.) James Kim, delivers an invocation to Soldiers at a predeployment ceremony for the 1569th Transportation Company conducted in Newburgh, N.Y., March 9, 2014. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael OHalloran.

His four years serving with the 369th has given him strong a connection with a lot of Soldiers. When most people see Kim they brighten up; most cannot help but be drawn toward him.

"Now it seems like I know everyone and everyone knows me, and it's all God," Kim said. "I feel very blessed and fortunate to find my home with the historic 369th Harlem Hellfighters."

Editors Note: Since this article was written, Chaplain Kim has been assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters. gt

Warrant Officer takes on Cyber Warfare Challenges

Story and photos by Cpl. Nnaemeka Onyeagwa, 369th Sustainment Brigade

LATHAM, N.Y. – Antonio Prada keeps changing uniforms. He's been a Marine, then an Airman in the Air Force Reserve and then New York Air National Guard.

Now Prada, age 34, is following a new opportunity and is the New York Army National Guard's newest warrant officer in the new field of computer network warfare.

"He is a solid individual," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Douglas Sherman, the New York Army National Guard Warrant Officer strength manager. "He's going to be a real asset in the cyber protection team."

Prada recently completed the 19-week course designed to turn him into a cyber operations technician. He'll slot in one of the tough-to-fill warrant officer slots in the New York and New Jersey Army National Guard's 173rd Cyber Protection Team, Sherman said.

Prada's job will be to lead Soldiers working in the cyber protection field and to plan cyberspace operations.

Of course, Sherman said, it helps that Prada works in the field as a civilian. Prada's civilian acquired skills helped the New York Army National Guard recruit him and move him into the field, Sherman said.

"The school was tough, but that was good," said Prada who works as an information security analyst for Bloomberg LLP.

In his civilian job he deals with computer security in a Windows operating system environment, Prada said. He works with security systems and administration.

The military training helped him learn some new thing he had not known before and develop his existing skills, Prada said. "It was a good learning experience," he emphasized.

Prada, an Astoria, Queens resident, joined the Marines after high school in 2002 and served for five years. He trained as a field radio operator and served in Al Assad, Iraq in 2008 and 2009.

After leaving the Marine Corps, Prada joined the Air Force Reserve's 42nd Combat Communications Squadron at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst so that he could continue to serve while pursuing a civilian career, starting a family and working on a degree in computer information systems.

When the Air Force Reserve closed his unit, Prada transferred to the New York Air National Guard's 213th Engineer Installation Squadron. The squadron is part of the 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh.

When he heard about the ability to serve as a warrant officer in an Army National Guard cyber protection team, Prada said it seemed like the next logical step in his military career.

This move gave him the opportunity to put his civilian acquired skills to work for the country, while also learning new skills that make him more effective in his job, Prada explained.

Prada is unique because his Marine Corps background and his civilian skills made it relatively easy to get him into the warrant officer program and into the cyber warfare program, Sherman said.

If Prada had only served in the Air Force Reserve and Air Guard, the Army would have required him to enlist and go through basic training first before going into the warrant officer program, Sherman said. But be-



Warrant Officer 1 Antonio Prada, a member of the New York Army National Guard, poses with his fiancée, Monica, and daughter, Olivia at Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker, Alabama on April 11, 2018. Prada has just completed the school allowing him to earn a warrant as a cyberprotection technician. Prada has civilian acquired skills and is a former member of the Marine Corps, the Air Force Reserve and the New York Air National Guard. Courtesy Photo.

cause he had Marine Corps combat training, Prada could skip that extra step, Sherman explained.

He's looking forward to being a warrant officer in the 173rd, Prada said. It's a challenging job he wants to do.

"You are supposed to be the technical expert in your field," Prada said. "In line with what I was doing in the civilian side, I want to continue serving. I want the next step." 🇺🇸

"You are supposed to be the technical expert in your field. In line with what I was doing in the civilian side, I want to continue serving. I want the next step,"

-- Warrant Officer 1 Antonio Prada, Cyber Operations Technician



Army Guard Chief of Staff Earns Star

LATHAM, N.Y. -- Newly promoted Brigadier General John Andonie and his wife Kathy (left) join Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Amy Giaquinto, the senior enlisted leader of the New York National Guard, in unrolling his general officer flag during at Division of Military and Naval Affairs Headquarters in Latham on Nov. 9, 2018. Andonie currently serves as Chief of Staff for the New York Army National Guard. He will soon become the New York National Guard Director of Joint Staff, responsible for coordinating joint Army and Air National Guard operations. Photo by Capt. Jean Marie Kratzer, Guard Times Staff.



Purple Heart Presented

NEW WINDSOR, N.Y. -- Brig. Gen. Timothy J. LaBarge, Director of the Joint Staff, presents Tech. Sgt. Flavio Martinez with the Purple Heart during a ceremony at the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor here October 14, 2018. Martinez is assigned to the 105th Security Forces Squadron. Photo by Master Sgt. Lee C. Guagenti, 105th Airlift Wing.



New Rainbow Division Senior NCO

TROY, N.Y. -- Maj. Gen. Steven Ferrari, commander of the 42nd Infantry Division, passes the division colors to Command Sgt. Maj. Corey Cush, the new command sergeant major of the 42nd Infantry Division during his change of responsibility ceremony at the division headquarters in Troy, N.Y., Oct. 22, 2018. The ceremony marked the change of the division's senior enlisted advisor from outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Justin Lenz to Cush. Photo by Sgt. Andrew Winchell, 42nd Infantry Division.



Honor Flight for WWII Veterans

ALBANY, N.Y. -- 109th Airlift Wing Chief Master Sgt. Denny Richardson volunteers to escort World War II Marine Corps veteran Bob Towne at the terminal at Albany International Airport October 27, 2018. Towne departed for an Honor Flight to Washington D.C. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. William Gizara, 109th Airlift Wing.

Ray Shields becomes 54th Adjutant General for NY

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

LATHAM, N.Y.— Major General Ray Shields was recognized as the 54th Adjutant General of New York during a ceremony Friday, Oct. 19, at the Joint Force Headquarters.

Shields, a veteran of the war in Afghanistan who has served 35 years in the Army National Guard, replaced Major General Anthony German, an Air National Guard officer, who was named adjutant general in April 2016.

German will serve as a traditional Guard officer in Washington, D.C. before retiring after 35-years of military service at the end of the year.

"Major General Raymond F. Shields, Jr. is an outstanding leader who has distinguished himself in service overseas and played a key role in the New York National Guard's response to weather emergencies across the state and the nation," Governor Cuomo said.

"His wealth of experience and knowledge in military affairs makes him the ideal candidate to lead the nearly 20,000 men and women who serve in our state's military forces and serve the people of New York," Cuomo added.

German, who left the position on Oct. 1, transferred the flag of the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs from himself to Shields in a traditional change-of-command ceremony.

Shields has been serving as Assistant Adjutant General and Commander of the New York

Army National Guard since 2016.

New York Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul presided over the ceremony.

In her remarks she thanked German for his service and said that Cuomo had faith in Shield's ability to take on the job.

"I know you are battle-tested and you are prepared for the challenges," Hochul said.

Hochul also expressed the thanks of state leaders for the service of the members of the New York National Guard and New York's state forces, the Naval Militia and the New York Guard.

"I want to convey the gratitude of 20 million New Yorkers who sleep more soundly at night knowing that you are there to serve," Hochul said.

"Not one minute of your service is taken for granted," she added.

In his remarks German emphasized the importance of family.

Soldiers and Airmen depend on the support of their family to serve, German said. There's also a National Guard family of those who serve together and Guard Airmen and Soldiers need to look out for each other, he emphasized.

Every Soldier, Airman and civilian employee plays a part in the success of the New York National Guard, German said.

"The great part of this job has been meeting each and every one of you," German told the more than 400 service members and guests who attended.

"I am truly honored by the con-



Major General Ray Shields is congratulated by New York Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul following his change of command ceremony at the Joint Force Headquarters in Latham, N.Y. Oct. 19, 2018. Photo by Sgt. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.

fidence that Governor Cuomo has shown in me and I look forward to working with the men and women of the New York National Guard, the Naval Militia and the New York Guard to improve readiness and our ability to provide emergency response when called on by the governor," Shields said.


"Any success that General German or I have had is because of you," Shields told the audience.

Shields, a resident of Saratoga Springs, was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the New York Army National Guard through the Reserve Officers Training Corps program in May of 1983.

He has served in a variety of military positions to include platoon leader, infantry company commander, battalion staff officer,

battalion commander, brigade staff officer, brigade executive officer and deputy commander, brigade chief of staff, New York Army National Guard chief of staff and Director of Joint Staff.

Shields served in Afghanistan in 2008-09 as chief of staff for the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix, a NATO mission led by the 27th Brigade.

During his service Shields has been involved in the New York National Guard response to Superstorm Sandy, several snowstorms, Lake Ontario flood control missions, and response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria in 2017 and the Hurricane Florence and Michael missions. 

"I look forward to working with the men and women of the New York National Guard, the Naval Militia and the New York Guard to improve readiness and our ability to provide emergency response when called on by the governor,"

-- Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, *The Adjutant General*



9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. -- Airmen assigned to the 105th Airlift Wing come together for a 9/11 remembrance ceremony at Stewart Air National Guard Base, Newburgh, N.Y. on Sept. 11, 2018. The Wing has lost five Airmen both to the attacks in New York City and in the ensuing conflict in Afghanistan. Photo by Staff Sgt. Julio A. Olivencia Jr., 105th Airlift Wing.



Past Sergeant Major of the Army Visits LATHAM, N.Y. -- Retired Sgt. Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston speaks to New York Army National Guard noncommissioned officers during an NCO Professional Development Workshop held at the Joint Force Headquarters on Sept. 21, 2018. 80 NCOs attended the two-day course hosted by Command Sgt. Major David Piwowarski. Preston, who currently serves as the Vice President of NCO and Soldier Programs for the Association of the United States Army, was the Army's top NCO from 2004-11. Photo by Eric Durr, Guard Times Staff.



Red Ribbon Week at Joint Force HQ

LATHAM, N.Y. -- Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the Adjutant General, stands with employees and Soldiers at the Joint Force Headquarters October 24, 2018. The 2018 Red Ribbon Week encouraged personnel to wear a red piece of clothing to help raise awareness on the fight against drugs. Photo by Capt. Jean Marie Kratzer, Guard Times Staff.



Captain elected to Congress

AFGHANISTAN -- New York Army National Guard Capt. Max Rose, left, the commander of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry is elected to Congress November 6, 2018. Rose, a Staten Island resident, will represent New York's 11th District in the U.S. House of Representatives. He holds the Purple Heart and a Bronze Star for his past service in Afghanistan. Rose was one of 16 veterans elected to Congress in 2018. Courtesy photo.



427th Brigade Support Soldiers Tackle Cooking Competition

NEWBURGH, N.Y. -- Pvt. Wonnda Coats, a culinary specialist with Company F, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, cooks potatoes during the state-level Philip A. Connelly Cooking Competition at Camp Smith, N.Y., Sept. 8, 2018. The Army competition improves food service operations and awards excellence in food service. Photo by Sgt. Harley Jelis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.



Troops Assist with Donation Meals Packaged for Thanksgiving

NEW YORK -- Members of the New York Guard and the New York Army National Guard assemble Thanksgiving meals for needy families and pack them onto a trailer at the Jacob Javitts Center in New York City on Nov. 19, 2018. The team assembled more than 3,200 meals for distribution at regional centers across the state for needy families. They were joined by Major General Ray Shields, the Adjutant General of New York and members of his command team. Photo by Lt. Donald Ferguson, New York Guard.



27th Division Association Commemorates WWI, Afghan service

ALBANY, N.Y. -- Members of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team gather with veterans and friends of the 27th Division Association to commemorate the 10th anniversary of their service in Afghanistan at ceremonies held at the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs and a reunion dinner in Albany, October 20. The association also noted the centennial of the unit's creation and service in World War I. Photos by retired Lt. Col. Paul Fanning.



NFL Teams Salute NY Troops

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. and EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. -- The Buffalo Bills and New York Jets hosted members of the New York National Guard as part of their annual Salute to Service NFL games.

Above, Charles Clay from the Buffalo Bills greets members of the 107th Attack Wing Players before their game against the Chicago Bears Nov. 4, 2018. The Bills lost to the Bears, 41-9. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Cambell, 107th Attack Wing. At right, members of the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters Color Guard, dressed as World War I Doughboys, presented the national and division colors in pregame ceremonies for the Jets home game against the Bills on Sunday, November 11, Veterans Day. The Bills defeated the Jets 41-10. Photo by Sgt. Andrew Winchell, 42nd Infantry Division.



THE JOINT FORCE

NY Troops Deploy for Hurricane Response

Story by Eric Durr, Guard Times Staff, and Capt. Mike O'Hagan, 106th Rescue Wing

LATHAM, N.Y. -- The New York Army and Air National Guard sent 132 Soldiers and Airmen to assist when Hurricane Florence hit North and South Carolina on Sept. 14, 2018.

The 106th Rescue Wing began mobilizing Airmen from Gabreski Air National Guard Base on Eastern Long Island for deployment on Sept. 12 as the storm built in the Atlantic.

That same day the wing dispatched 16 Airmen with four Zodiac rescue boats deployed by road to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. They were followed by an additional 64 Airmen who flew down to Dover on Sept. 13.

Additional maintenance and other support personnel were added so that the 106th Rescue Wing had 112 Airmen on duty.

The wing deployed two HC-130 search and rescue aircraft and one HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter in addition to the four rescue boats.

The 106th was part of a joint rescue task force that included Airmen from the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing and the California Air National Guard's 129th Rescue Wing and members of the Oregon Air National Guard's 125th Special Tactics Squadron.

In one instance, elements from New York, Alaska, and California worked together to rescue 15 people near Lumberton, North Carolina.

The mission, said Capt. Mark Joseloff, a Combat Rescue Officer, was a perfect example of the rescue community working together.

The plan was for two HH-60 Pave Hawk rescue helicopters--one from California carrying Alaska Air National Guard pararescuemen --and one from New York's 106th Rescue Wing to head out to the farm together.

Their destination was a farmhouse along a road. The house was dry but one end of the road was flooded and at the other end was a sink hole with an SUV tipping into it, remembered Staff Sgt. Griffin Elzey.

The HH-60 came to a hover and Elzey and Dush were lowered down to the ground using the HH-60's hoist. Their job was to assess the situation, Joseloff said.

What the two Airmen found was a house full of people, five kids and two sets of parents and grandparents: 14 in all.



Pararescue Airmen Tech Sgt. Ryan Dush and Staff Sgt. Griffin Elzey, members of the 106th Rescue Wing, are lowered out of a HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter during a rescue mission in Lumberton, N.C. Sept. 17, 2018 in this still from a helmet mounted video camera. The two Airmen were descending to make an assessment of how many people were in the house, surrounded by flood waters and the best way to get them out. Photo by Senior Airman Kyle Hagan, 106th Rescue Wing.

While they could have hoisted everybody on board the HH-60 it made more sense to land in an open field and have the people walk there.

There was no drama in this mission, Joseloff said, but that is because the Air Guard Pararescue community works so well together.

"Pararescue is very small in the Air Force. You tend to know each other personally or you are familiar with the name," he said. "Everybody just checks their ego at the door."


The New York Army National Guard got into the act on Sept. 17 when two CH-47 Chinook heavy lift helicopters departed the New York Army National Guard flight facility in Rochester with eight Soldiers for South Carolina. The CH-47s from Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation flew to Joint National Guard Base McEntire in Columbia, South Carolina.

New York also deployed two UH-60 medical evacuation helicopters and ten Soldiers assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 171st General Support Aviation Battalion, on Sept. 16. The aircraft flew to Raleigh, North Carolina to conduct missions in support of the North Carolina National Guard.

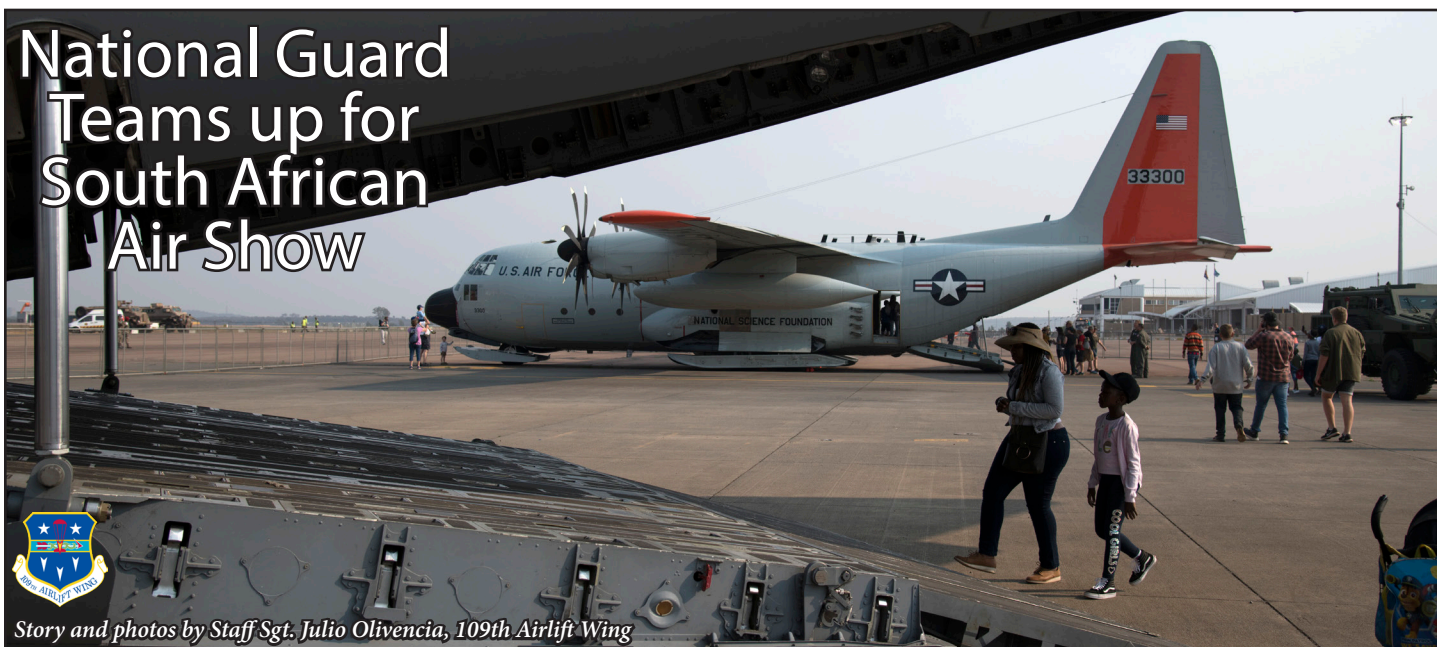
The CH-47s were used to transport critical equipment for the South Carolina, National



Army Staff Sgt. Charles Gabriel, a member of the Company C, 1st Battalion, 171st General Support Aviation Battalion, works with members of the FEMA Search and Rescue Task Force 6 and the Greensboro, N.C. Fire Department to rescue a 78-year-old man from the roof of his home in Rocky Point, N.C. Sept. 18, 2018. The man was hoisted up to a hovering UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during the Hurricane Florence response. Courtesy photo by Nick Holder.

Guard while the UH-60s were used for search operations. 

National Guard Teams up for South African Air Show



Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Julio Olivencia, 109th Airlift Wing

An LC-130 Hercules sits as a static display at Waterkloof Air Force Base, South Africa during the African Aerospace and Defense Exhibition, Sept. 22, 2018. The plane and crew were part of a contingent of New York Air and Army Guardsmen who represented their state during the trade show.

WATERKLOOF Air Force Base, South Africa—Thirty-eight New York Army and Air Guardsmen worked together to represent the United States at the African Aerospace and Defense Exhibition 18 at Waterkloof Air Force Base, South Africa Sept. 19 to Sept. 23

The Guardsmen assigned to the 105th Airlift Wing, 109th Airlift Wing, Company D of the 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, and New York Joint Force Headquarters participated as part of the State Partnership Program between New York and South Africa.

“We’re all ambassadors here and we’re here to leave good impressions about the United States and about the U.S. military,” said Capt. Brian Monga, a pilot assigned to the 105th Airlift Wing.

The goal was to show the South Africans what Americans are like, he explained.

It took roughly 17 hours, with one stop, for Monga and his crew to fly a dozen Soldiers and Airmen along with a palletized RQ-7 Shadow unmanned aerial system in a C-17 Globemaster III.

The Shadow is a small, remote-controlled aircraft that provides aerial surveillance capabilities for U.S. Army brigades.

Sgt. Timothy Strong, a mechanic assigned to the five-Soldier Shadow detachment, said not only was working with the Airmen seamless, but his team felt they fit right in, even during downtime.

“It’s been great,” Strong said. “The crew has been fun and willing to invite us to their activities even though we’re not in the Air Force.”

Capt. Austin Luckenbach, commander of the Shadow detachment, said the movement to South Africa also allowed his Soldiers to see what it’s like if they were to mobilize with their equipment.

“It’s an opportunity to see how you would get around, and how your stuff would get around, when you are preparing for war,” Luckenbach said.

An LC-130 Hercules crew, assigned to the 109th Airlift Wing, took a slightly longer route. The Hercules, smaller than the C-17, took about 38 hours over 4 days to

get to South Africa.

The LC-130 is the only aircraft in the U.S. military which can land on snow and ice using skis, as well as on a conventional runway. The aircraft are normally used to supply research stations in Antarctica and Greenland.

Maj. Christopher Husher, a pilot assigned to the 109th, said the biggest challenge flying for that long is rationing sleep and food.

“Most people want to stay awake on the plane because they want to interact with the crew,” he said.

Once in South Africa, the New Yorkers were on hand with their aircraft to tell locals of their capabilities and take photos with them.

The Americans were a hit, with the tens of thousands of visitors over the course of the 5-day trade show and airshow. A long line formed to see the Americans and interact with them.

Tech. Sgt. Mitchell Lake, a Hercules maintainer assigned to the 109th, had a blast talking with the locals.

“They come to the plane, their eyes light up, they’re happy the



Maj. Christopher Husher, a pilot assigned to the 109th Airlift Wing, speaks with a local at Waterkloof Air Force Base, South Africa during the African Aerospace and Defense Exhibition, Sept. 20, 2018.

Americans are here, they get to interact with us and I think it’s a really good partnership opportunity,” Lake said.

Lt. Adolph Gossman, a helicopter pilot assigned to the South African Air Force, was happy to see Americans at the show.

“We are always glad to see the Americans coming to South Africa because it brings another type of culture,” Gossman said.

“Hopefully when it’s 2020, and we have our 100th celebration, we would like to see more American aircraft and maybe some flying aircraft,” Gossman said. **gt**

New York, South African MPs Train in Pretoria

Story by Maj. Al Phillips, Joint Force Headquarters

PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA -- Forty Military Police Soldiers and Airmen from the New York National Guard and the South Africa National Defence Force (SANDF) exchanged policing, force protection and security experiences here during a two week joint training exchange October 2-13 at the SANDF Military Police Academy.

The exchange also included a Naval Criminal Investigative Service Special Agent from the Naples, Italy Field Office who provided training on crime scene and forensic techniques.

The joint bilateral training is a first for the State Partnership Program between New York and the Republic of South Africa.

The training included courses in hand-to-hand combat skills, counter-terrorism and physical security, weapons retention, operations security, survival and escape techniques, and vehicle stops.

"It has been a great experience on both ends. Being immersed in the culture by interacting directly with the South Africans on a peer to peer basis is definitely a best practice," said New York Army National Guard Master Sgt. Ashvin Thimmaiah, a member of the 106th Regional Training Institute.

"We have all learned so much from each other relating to both doctrine and culture, it's been a truly unique and wonderful exchange," he added.

The training was the first in a series of three planned engagements aimed at strengthening military to military techniques, data sharing and strategies involving policing for natural or man made disasters to share information and exchange ideas on the composition of military policing and legal jurisprudence.

"Learning about the South African culture and experiencing the way South African MPs incorporate military techniques from tradition and environment into their standard operating procedures was very unique but effective," said Master Sgt. Brandon Arroyo, a member of the Air Guard's 105th Base Defense Squadron.

Along with hands-on training, the Americans and South Africans discussed military policing and military law. Subjects included Pre-Apartheid policing in South Africa and the National Guard's activation following riots in Ferguson, Missouri in 2014.

Both American and South African presenters discussed the role of military police officers in these situations, their legal responsibilities and rules of engagement.

U.S. Navy Capt. Steven Morgenfeld and South African National Defense Force Provost Marshal General, Rear Admiral Mokgadi Maphoto both emphasized the importance of learning from each other during the exchange.

"We look forward to what should prove to be a valuable exchange of shared experiences and best practices, as well as tactics used to maintain order, discipline and safety. We have as much to learn from you as we have to share with you," Morgenfeld said.

"The exposure of the military policeman and their American counterpart is an eye opener and this exchange will only enhance the experience of all," Maphoto added.

Learning to work together is incredibly valuable, said Army National Guard Sgt. Anthony Vignone, a Military Police Investigator in New York's 727th Military Police Law and Order Detachment.



Master Sgt. Luis Barsallo, a certified hand-to-hand tactics instructor, demonstrates a move to members of the South African National Defense Forces during an exchange visit October 10, 2018. Photo by Staff Sgt. Christine Ross, 206th Military Police Company.

NCIS Forensic Consultant, Special Agent David Reid spent two days conducting classes on forensic analysis. His training consisted of trace evidence collection techniques to process crime scenes, physical evidence handling and how to procure and maintain forensic equipment.

"I found the training to be more advanced with a focus on the outside world with emphasis on daily combat readiness, whereas, previous training has been deployment centric," said South African Sgt. Cecely Louw, who is assigned to the Southern Military Police Regional Headquarters Cape Town.

"The capabilities the U.S. made available in training, experience and exposure is mutually beneficial and will continue to expand over the coming years," said South African Lt. Col. Jamie Bisschoff, Training Commander for the SANDF Military Police School.



A New York Army National Guard Soldier takes part in an exchange program at the South African National Defense Forces Military Police School during an exchange visit Oct. 10-11, 2018. Twelve New York Army National Guard experts took part in the exchange alongside Air National Guard Security Force members and South African Military Police personnel. Photo by Staff Sgt. Christine Ross, 206th Military Police Company.

NYC Hosts South African Defense Partners

Story and photo by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters

NEW YORK -- South African National Defense Force and Department of Defense officials locked down plans for joint U.S./South African military training in 2019 November 6-8, 2018 at Fort Hamilton.

The meeting was hosted by the New York National Guard which has been a partner with the Republic of South Africa since 2003 through the National Guard's State Partnership Program.

"2019 marks 25 years for South Africa as a democratic country," said Nick Sandall, Chief Director of South African Defense Policy and co-chair of the event. "For nearly as long, we have been a partner with the United States, and our commitment remains strong and steadfast."

"Twenty-two years ago we began this strategic partnership, a long and enduring partnership, through good times and bad, though I would say mostly good," Sandall said. "This meeting is one of the anchors of that engagement."

Three dozen leaders from the U.S. and South Africa attended the three day gathering held at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn.

"The South Africa and U.S. partnership is an enduring one," said Michelle Lenihan, Acting Deputy Secretary for the Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs.

"Our gathering creates better understanding, but more importantly builds concrete actions for the way ahead," Lenihan said.

The U.S. - South Africa Defense Committee is how the two militaries jointly manage their defense relationship. The meeting allows military planners from both nations to plan bilateral initiatives that translate to training exercises

in the coming year.

In addition to hosting, New York Army National Guard Maj. Al Phillips, the Guard's bilateral affairs officer serving in Pretoria, South Africa, led a joint operations work group to identify opportunities in the coming year and gather consensus.

The goal of the bilateral engagement is to offer unique training opportunities for the National Guard while deepening the relationships and understanding of both partner nations' militaries, Phillips said.

"The more we talk, the more we understand each other," said South African Maj. Gen. T.C. Mokhosi, co-chair of the event and Joint Operations Officer for the South African Defense Forces. "And the more we understand, the more we can be engaged. This is an opportunity that opens so many doors."

The State Partnership Program for the New York National Guard with South Africa is a means to an end, explained Don Get, the U.S. Africa Command Deputy Director (J5) for Security and Cooperation, and American co-chair of the meeting.

The program is guided by State Department foreign policy goals, and supports combatant commander security cooperation objectives. National Guard engagements with South Africa increase American influence and contribute to the regional security interests in Africa, he said.

Marking its 15th year of partnership, the New York National Guard is the oldest partnership on the African continent, Get noted.

"There's so much more continuity in the National Guard that strengthens the program," Get said. "They have more contacts



New York Army National Guard Maj. Al Phillips, right, bilateral affairs officer for the State Partnership Program, discusses training opportunities with South African Maj. Gen. T.C. Mokhosi, left, and Col. C.N. Mhatu from the South African Defense Force Joint Operations Headquarters. The group met November 6-8, 2018 at Fort Hamilton, N.Y. to plan military exchange opportunities for the coming year.

with our partners than our active component could ever hope to achieve."

For example, two months prior to the Bilateral Defense Committee meeting, the New York National Guard participated in the Africa Aerospace and Defense Expo at Waterkloof Air Base with a C-17A Globemaster III, LC-130 Hercules Skibird, and an MQ-7 Shadow remotely piloted aircraft.

New York has been a partner in the biennial Defense Expo since the partnership began, with elements on display for the past sixteen years. In those eight expositions, New York Airmen and Soldiers met with South African military peers and provided community members with their first impressions of Americans during the shows.


New York Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Timothy LaBarge, the Director of the Joint Staff and New York's co-chair for the event, remarked that these exchanges leave a lasting impression on Soldiers

and Airmen.

LaBarge told the group that for the most recent airshow in Pretoria, one New York Airman went the extra mile to attend.

"A loadmaster who had participated in the 2016 event wanted so badly to attend, that even though other crewmembers were selected for the mission to share the opportunity, he purchased his own airline ticket, flew to Johannesburg, traveled to Pretoria, put on his flight suit and spent three days with our crew at the airshow. All on his own dime."

"I think that's a great metaphor for how New York views our commitment to this partnership," he said.

The agreement for 2019 will see key engagements for Military Police forces, fire support, medical providers, logistics planners and chaplaincy staff representatives, as well as a capabilities presentation of Air National Guard rescue forces from the 106th Rescue Wing. 

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



Soldiers of the 145th Maintenance Company explain their mission, equipment and career paths with the public during a Guard Experience recruiting event on Staten Island September 9, 2018. At right, Spc. Joel Acevedo, a radio and communications security repairer puts together radio parts for attendees to test during the event. Above left, Sgt. Cled Harris, a small arms and artillery repairer shares information on military opportunities with his son Tyquan Cled Harris, an attendee at the recruiting event.

Guard Experience Event Lifts Veil on Guard Life

Story and photos by Cpl. Nnaemeka Onyeagwa, 369th Sustainment Brigade

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.— Potential Soldiers got a chance to learn about the life in the New York Army National Guard during a Guard Experience event held by the 145th Maintenance Company here at the unit armory Sept. 9.

The aim of the Guard Experience event was to give civilians and potential prospects an opportunity to experience firsthand career field of maintenance Soldiers, learning about the Soldiers' equipment and current opportunities in the New York Army National Guard, said Sgt. Corye Douglas, a 369th Sustainment Brigade career counselor who helped organize the event.

The event was held during a unit training weekend. This allowed unit Soldiers to be in the middle of training with their equipment and explain their jobs and responsibilities, Douglas said.

It also gave other Soldiers not assigned to the unit a chance to come and learn about opportunities in the unit while the company was training.

Equipment displayed for the public reflected the theme of

shoot, move and communicate for the Army National Guard. These included:

--Medium Tactical Vehicle cargo trucks with armor protection kits and armored rear troop carrier compartments.

--Single-Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System, a combat-net radio for secure tactical communications.

--Company weapons such as the M249 light machine gun, M4 carbine, and M203 grenade launcher.

The Guard Experience for both fellow Soldiers and the public was a natural choice, Douglas said. There's no retention without recruitment, he explained.

New York Army National Guard Sgt. Cled Harris, a small arms and artillery repairer with 19 years of service with the 145th Maintenance Company, attended the Guard Experience with his son Tyquan.

Tyquan Harris is already in the process of joining the Army National Guard, and the event

gave him a better experience of life in a Guard unit for him to be better informed, the older Harris said. This kind of event would have been good for him, he added.

"When I joined, guidance and counseling on military career paths was not available then," Cled Harris said.

"The Army was the best thing that happened to me. It gave me opportunities that I would never have growing up in Harlem," he said.

"I want opportunities for me and my family," Tyquan Harris said. "My father, grandfather and sister have all served. I want to continue that lineage."

The retention benefit of the event focused on the career paths for Soldiers in the unit and in the region.

"When I was recruited, they did not really tell me much, they just gave me my contract to sign," said Fabian Estrada Reyes, a former member of the unit who came to finalize a new reenlistment contract.


The Guard Experience helps explain what Soldiers do in the National Guard and what new Soldiers and their families might expect, Reyes said.

"This is good way to get people steady and calm their nerves before maybe signing an enlistment contract," Reyes said.

This is the first time the unit has done this type of event, Douglas explained. The goal was to encourage Soldiers to invite their civilian coworkers, associates and friends to give them a taste of what they do on training weekends.

The event allows Soldiers themselves to talk about the benefits their service has given them in their personal life, Douglas said.

The Army helped him with structure and discipline in school, he said, without which he would not have been able to finish college.

"I have been in the Guard this long because it has been fulfilling," Douglas said. "I think most people should get to experience it." 

Hellfighter Soldiers Back Home in Harlem

Story and photo by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters

NEW YORK -- After four years and nearly \$60 Million in renovations, the Harlem Hellfighters have returned home.

Soldiers of the 369th Sustainment Brigade Headquarters and 369th Special Troops Battalion returned to their armory on 5th Avenue in Harlem November 10, 2018.

“Today is a great day for the Harlem Hellfighters,” said Col. Steve Bousquet, the 369th Sustainment Brigade Commander. “We now have a home to come back to.”

The units occupied the building just in time to participate in New York City commemorations of the centennial of the armistice that ended World War One. Seven hundred members of the brigade marched in the New York City Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11.

The Guard unit traces its lineage back to Harlem as the 369th Infantry Regiment, and before that the 15th New York Infantry.

The massive building was originally built in the 1920s and 30s. After more than 80 years, it was time for renovations, said Col. Scott Cleaveland, the Construction and Facilities Management Officer.

Work began in 2014 to upgrade the facility to modern standards.

During the project, the 369th Sustainment Brigade mobilized, deployed for contingency operations in Kuwait and returned home to temporarily continue training at nearby Camp Smith while work finished in Harlem.

During renovations, facility managers encountered challenges in asbestos removal, uneven floor levels discovered during demolition and water infiltration from exterior walls that all required

new emphasis, Cleaveland said.

Although the Soldiers have moved back in, more work remains to be done in the building’s basement and a few other areas.

The old heat radiators and window-mounted air conditioning systems were replaced with a modern system. Locker rooms and 60 bathrooms, once scattered around the structure, were centralized for Soldiers on each floor. Across the building, upgrades provided energy efficient lighting and sprinklers for fire response.

“As you walk through the halls today you see the effort of the state and National Guard Bureau to do what’s right,” Bousquet said.

Work also included the discovery of artifacts of the Hellfighters’ past, he said. The regiment fought with distinction in France during World War I, mobilized and served in the Pacific during World War II and had elements deployed for the liberation of Kuwait during the Persian Gulf War.

After the armory was emptied by the unit and demolition could begin, there was a discovery of old artifacts and even antique weapons in spaces that had not been accessed for years, Cleaveland explained. Working in tandem with the New York State Military History Museum, these rare finds were collected, documented and archived for possible future historical display.

Including historians and preservationists in the construction work helped preserve the historic importance of the armory for future Soldiers, Cleaveland explained.

Renovating an 80-year-old structure required extra care to preserve the historical nature of



Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the Adjutant General for New York presents challenge coins for excellence in recent training to Soldiers of the 369th Sustainment Brigade Headquarters Company, from left, Sgt. Marisa Santiago, Spc. Kevin Roncancio and Pfc. Folusho Adeyemo. Soldiers of the 369th Sustainment Brigade Headquarters marked their return to their Harlem Armory after a four-year renovation project November 10.

the architecture and its unique part in telling the story of the Harlem Hellfighters to a new generation of Soldiers, Cleaveland said.

“Special care was taken to preserve the historic aspects of the building to include the terrazzo floors, African-inspired wall tile and stair rails,” Cleaveland said. “Of special historical significance was the 3rd floor command suite, the 1st floor conference room, Soldier classrooms, and the lobby and entrance foyer.”

The project is an investment in the units that will call Harlem home and give Soldiers a first-class building to work from, said New York State Adjutant General and commander of the New York Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Ray Shields.

“I want to welcome you to the brand new building, \$60 Million of your tax dollars at work to give



An example of the historic architecture preserved for the Soldiers of the 369th Sustainment Brigade during renovations include columns adorned with rattlesnakes or the regimental distinctive unit insignia, linking back to the 369th Infantry of WWI. The all-black regiment was known as the “Black Rattlers” in 1917.

you a new home,” Shields said to assembled Soldiers of the 369th Sustainment Brigade Headquarters during their first drill assembly back in the Harlem Armory.

“The most important thing to remember is that this \$60 Million investment in this armory is really an investment in you, our Soldiers,” Shields said. **gt**

“Today is a great day for the Harlem Hellfighters. We now have a home to come back to.”

- Col. Steve Bousquet, 369th Sustainment Brigade Commander.

27th Brigade Reflags 152nd Engineer Battalion

Story and photo by Sgt. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters

FORT DRUM, N.Y.— The New York Army National Guard's 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion turned into the 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion during a reflagging ceremony held here on Saturday, October 20.

The ceremony marked the end of a transition that began two years ago, according to Lt. Col. April Bennet, the battalion commander.

The change means more engineer support for the New York Army National Guard's 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and results in a more lethal and mobile brigade, Bennet explained.

The ceremony began with the 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion flag being marched to the front of the battalion formation. The chaplain delivered an invocation and the history of the 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion (BSTB) was read.

Then Bennet and battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Czarnecki stepped forward to furl the colors of the 27th BSTB and unfurl the flag of the 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB).

The 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion was born in 2007 when the 27th Infantry Brigade (Light) was reorganized into a brigade combat team as part of the Army's modular organization. The special troops battalion provided a home for the brigade combat support elements: a signal company, an intelligence company, an engineer company, and other specialized assets.

The 27th Infantry Brigade had been one of the National Guard's 15 enhanced brigades that were designed to mobilize and deploy earlier than other units.

The reorganization designated the 27th as an element of the 42nd Infantry Division.

Experience with the brigade combat team structure revealed that more engineer elements were needed and the Army decided to add an additional engineer company to the special troops battalion and restructure it, according to Bennet.

A 152nd Engineer Battalion served as part of the New York Army National Guard from 1946 until 2007. At that time

it had been part of the 42nd Infantry Division's Engineer Brigade of three engineer battalions.

The reflagging ceremony was a way to mark the history of the 27th BSTB, Czarnecki said. The battalion served in Afghanistan when the 27th Brigade deployed there in 2008 and 2009 and responded to emergencies here in New York, he said.

This history will be carried on by the 152nd BEB, the sergeant major added.

The changes in organization results in the engineers of Alpha Company in the former special troops battalion now being joined by a Bravo Company, Bennet said.

This means more engineers and more equipment to provide engineer coordination for combined arms maneuver, obstacle construction, and digging positions for brigade Soldiers and equipment, she said.

Alpha Company fields two combat engineer—or Sapper— platoons and an engineer support platoon which provides general engineering support, Bennet said.

Bravo Company fields a combat engineer platoon, an engineer support platoon and a route clearance platoon which is equipped with the Buffalo, a wheeled mine resistant ambush protected (MRAP) armored vehicle.

The restructured battalion also has a forward support company dedicated to keeping its engineer and other elements supplied, Bennett said.

Another change, which is also very important, is that the battalion's headquarters company has been beefed up to allow better planning and command of engineer missions, Bennett said. This provides more capability to the brigade commander, she said.

In the past, the New York Army National Guard's engineer units have been based in central New York. The 152nd BEB's Bravo Company will be headquartered at the Lexington Avenue Armory in New York City.

This will allow engineers to be recruited in New York City and provide a domestic response capability there, Bennett said. **gt**



Lt. Col. April Bennett, the 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion Commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Czarnecki, the battalion senior enlisted Soldier, uncase the colors of the battalion during a reflagging ceremony at Fort Drum, N.Y., on Oct. 20, 2018. Bennett and Czarnecki unfurled the new unit flag, marking the change in the unit from the 27th Special Troops Battalion to the much larger organization.

Aviation Troops deploy for Hurricane Response

Guard Times Staff

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Four New York Army National Guard helicopters and 25 Soldiers constituted the New York National Guard's contribution to the Hurricane Michael recovery efforts after the category four hurricane crashed into the Florida panhandle on Oct. 10, 2018.

Eleven Soldiers and two CH-47 Chinooks assigned to Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation deployed from the Rochester Flight Facility on October 11 for Tallahassee, Florida. The Chinooks arrived October 12 and plugged into an aviation task force built around Florida's 1st Battalion, 111th Aviation.

Fourteen additional Soldiers and two UH-60s from the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation deployed to Florida on October 12 and arrived October 13. One of the UH-60s deployed from the Latham flight facility, while the other came from Ronkonkoma on Long Island.

As the storm approached Florida, National Guard Bureau called on New York to mobilize a team from the 106th Rescue Wing to provide search and rescue if necessary. The wing had 75 Airmen ready to go with one CH-130 search and rescue aircraft, one HH-60 Pave Hawk rescue helicopter and two rescue boats and crews. But after the hurricane came ashore, their deployment was canceled because there was no need for additional search and rescue assets in the area.

The CH-47 crews began conducting their missions after arriving in Tallahassee, according to Major Eric Fritz, the officer in charge.

"We knew it was going to be bad so I'm glad we left within 24 hours of getting the mission, because once we hit the ground, no more

than 20 minutes later we were in the air again on our first mission," said Staff Sgt. Carmel Aruck, one of the company platoon sergeants.

"The hardest part was seeing the houses destroyed and people's belongings thrown everywhere. You'd see kids toys laying out by the shore line, mobile homes crushed by trees. That's someone's home, someone's life," Aruck added.

The initial effort was inserting first response search and rescue teams to areas inaccessible by road to help look for people in need.

On October 12 the New Yorkers delivered a 12-person search and rescue team and all-terrain vehicles to a location in Florida's Wakulla County. After the team conducted their rescue mission, the New York CH-47s picked them up and returned them to base.

The next day the CH-47 team delivered another team to Alligator Point, a barrier island off Apalachicola Bay, Fritz said. The helicopter landed on the beach to deliver the team because there were no other suitable landing zones.

The two helicopters also delivered supplies to Mexico Beach and Apalachicola Airport.

By October 14 roads were reopened, so there were no new mission requests for the CH-47s, Fritz said. The two heavy lift CH-47s transported 31,240 pounds of cargo during their brief support missions.

"We were the main form of transportation for supplies till the roads opened up," said Sgt. 1st Class Brian Tenace, a flight engineer. "I wish we could have stayed longer. If we had to do it again we would, we love doing these kinds of missions."



A CH-47 Chinook crewmember from the New York Army National Guard's Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation assists with the offload of rescue personnel and vehicles October 13 near Alligator Point, a barrier island off Apalachicola Bay, Florida following the impact of Hurricane Michael. Courtesy photo.

The UH-60s Black Hawks were used for a variety of transport missions while based at Tallahassee airport. When not on missions, the Soldiers bedded down in a hangar on site.

On October 15 one of the New York UH-60s joined two Florida Army National Guard helicopters in transporting Florida Governor Rick Scott and his party on a survey mission during the visit of President Donald Trump to the hurricane zone.

The UH-60 team also provided transport support to Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Brock Long, moved other personnel and transported radios needed by response personnel.

Along with Army aviation assets the New York National Guard also deployed five Airmen assigned to the Eastern Air Defense Sector's 224th Air Defense Group to Florida to assist in air traffic control. The Airmen were assigned to support the 601st Air Operations Center in managing military air traffic in the region.

As roads continued to reopen, there were fewer air missions for



CH-47 Chinook helicopters from Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation offload a search and rescue team and all-terrain vehicles to a location in Florida's Wakulla County October 12. Courtesy photo.

the New York helicopters. The CH-47s departed the region on Oct. 15 and arrived back at home station on Oct. 17. The UH-60s left a day later and closed on their home station locations by Oct. 18.

"The Soldiers were like a well-oiled machine, executing every mission flawlessly and adapting to an ever changing situation," he said.

Editor's Note: Sgt. Matthew Kratts, a member of the 642nd Maintenance Battalion contributed to this story. gt

Netflix Series Highlights Rainbow Division Soldier

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters

TROY, N.Y. - Current and former members of the New York Army National Guard's Troy-based 42nd Infantry Division can be seen on episodes of the new "docuseries" "Medal of Honor," now streaming on Netflix.

The series tells the stories of eight Medal of Honor recipients.

The 42nd Infantry Division members are featured on the episode about Master Sgt. Vito Bertoldo, a member of the division during World War II.

Bertoldo received the Medal of Honor for his heroism in Hattan, France on Jan. 9 and 10, 1945.

One of Medal of Honor's executive producers is Robert Zemickis, the director of the Back to the Future movies as well as Forest Gump.

The TV show uses actors recreating the incidents as well as interviews to tell the stories of the Medal of Honor recipients.

The producers interviewed retired Major General Joseph Taluto, the commander of the 42nd Infantry Division in Iraq in 2005 and a former Adjutant General of New York; Lt. Col. Sean Flynn, who currently serves as the 42nd Infantry Division Operations Officer; and Sgt. Major Corine Lombardo, a former 42nd Infantry Division Public Affairs Chief who is currently on duty with the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C.

The three were interviewed about Bertoldo's heroism and what that story tells Soldiers today.

Vito Bertoldo was a cook in the mess section of Alpha Company of the 2nd Battalion, 242nd Infantry Regiment of the 42nd Infantry

Division. He was originally classified as 4-F and exempt from the draft for his eyesight, but Bertoldo insisted on enlisting in the Army.

In January 1945 the division's three infantry regiments were deployed to France and assigned to defend part of the Allied line in the Alsace region of France.

A German offensive called Operation Nordwind hit the area being defended by the 242nd Infantry Regiment.

In Hattan, the battalion headquarters was forced to evacuate. Bertoldo volunteered to hold off the advancing German Panzer Grenadiers.

Bertoldo manned a machine gun and drove back repeated German attacks for almost two days.

"On the close approach of enemy soldiers he left the protection of the building he defended and set up his gun in the street, there to remain for almost 12 hours driving back attacks while in full view of his adversaries and exposed to 88-millimeter, machine gun and small arms fire," his Medal of Honor citation says.

Bertoldo killed at least 40 of the enemy and wounded many more.

"All I did was try to protect some other American Soldiers from being killed," Bertoldo would tell newspapers back home. "At no time did I have in mind that I was trying to win something."

"From cook to a one-man defense against an oncoming enemy, it's a story of courage under fire but even more, the warrior spirit of the American Soldier," Taluto said.



Lt. Col. Sean Flynn speaks with interviewers during filming of the "Medal of Honor" Netflix documentary series June 5, 2017 in Los Angeles, Calif. The series highlights stories of America's Medal of Honor recipients on Flynn, a combat veteran of the War in Iraq, is the operations officer of the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters and spoke about the WWII exploits of Army Master Sgt. Vito Bertoldo. Courtesy photo.

"It was Bertoldo's devotion to duty and his fellow Soldiers that leaves a lasting impression," Taluto said. "He stood his ground time after time and made a difference."

Bertoldo's story is inspiring for any Soldier, Lombardo said.

"The lesson passed on to Soldiers today is that every Soldier, regardless of your military skill, is a Soldier first," Lombardo said. "Bertoldo was an unassuming man who volunteered as a cook and ended up becoming a hero."

"He relied on his basic training and survival instincts to overcome and defeat insurmountable odds," she said.

"As a senior Army NCO it was



U.S. President Harry S. Truman presents the Medal of Honor to U.S. Army Master Sergeant Vito Bertoldo at a White House ceremony December 18, 1945. Courtesy photo.

an honor to be part of a program that told this Soldier's story," Lombardo said. **gt**

Exchange Program Takes Officer to New Heights

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters



1st Lt. Christian Larrabee, right, displays the United Kingdom colors at the conclusion of his Military Exchange Program training tour with British Army 2nd Lt. Max George, assigned to the Fifth Royal Regiment of Fusiliers following the Triglav Star 2018 multinational training exercise at the NATO Multinational Centre of Excellence for Mountain Warfare in the Julian Alps of Slovenia. Courtesy photo.



1st Lt. Christian Larrabee, left, and British Army Cpl. Tom Shannon, assigned to the Fifth Royal Regiment of Fusiliers assault an enemy bunker during training in the company final attack Sept. 19, 2018, atop the Možic and Slatnik mountain range in Slovenia. Larrabee led portions of the British infantry unit as part of the Military Reserve Exchange Program. Photo by Massimo Bovo.

LATHAM, N.Y., — 1st Lt. Christian Larrabee normally leads an infantry platoon in Bravo Company in 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry. His training frequently takes him to Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn., or Fort Drum, N.Y.

But in September, Larrabee spent two weeks leading a platoon of the British Army's Fifth Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in a training exercise in the mountains of Slovenia, thanks to the National Guard's Military Exchange Program.

The experience was invaluable, Larrabee said.

He got to see part of world and make new friends while seeing firsthand how other NATO allies fight, Larrabee said.

"I learned what tactics and kits work best in different environments and for different units and I was also able to contribute valuable insight from U.S. Army doctrine and test those tactics while in command of a British platoon," he said.

The Military Exchange Program places National Guard Soldiers in units from America's allied partners, including the German Army, the British Army Reserve, the Danish Home Guard and Estonian Army.

In return, these nations deploy military members to participate in a host unit two-week annual training back in New York.

Soldiers selected must be deployable, not on a temporary profile, be able to participate in field exercises and be compliant with Army physical fitness and medical deployment standards.

"Historically two to five Soldiers are selected by a combined Office of the Secretary of Defense, National Guard Bureau and NATO committee after being vetted and prioritized by New York," said Sgt. 1st Class Paul Mulligan, who manages the program for the Operations and Training Branch. Larrabee's experience from September 10-21, 2018 highlights the program's benefits; placing American Soldiers with allied partners, in this case for challenging mountain warfare training.

Larrabee applied in the fall of 2017 and was selected to join the Fusiliers, a part of the British Army Reserve, during their annual training in Slovenia.

"Admittedly at the time, I could only tell you that Slovenia was in Eastern Europe. I didn't know their language, weather, terrain or much else for that matter," Larrabee said.

His exchange with the Fusiliers supported the multinational training exercise Triglav Star 2018.

Unlike the training areas back in New York, the training in the Julian Alps for Triglav Star was part of the NATO Multinational Centre of Excellence for Mountain Warfare.

"It was immediately apparent that the Julian Alps were going to provide an interesting and challenging training environment for the two weeks to follow," Larrabee said.

Larrabee led a platoon of Fusiliers through various training lanes, culminating with an attack across the high alpine mountains.

The exchange program provided opportunities to train at the squad, platoon and even company level.

"I was able to command a platoon of U.K. soldiers on a successful platoon attack comprised of four in-depth enemy positions over rugged terrain," Larrabee said. "It was enlightening to learn how the U.K. Army fights and draw similarities with our own U.S. tactics. I was able to both benefit from their techniques and provide them with useful solutions from our doctrine."


Units taking part came from the Slovenian armed forces, U.S. and British forces, he said.

"It was a grueling climb to the top and a complex fight across the mountain ridgeline scattered with pill boxes and trench systems," he said. "Simulated casualties were extracted via helicopter rescue and provided an added touch of realism to the exercise."

The training is an opportunity every junior leader should seek out, whether officer or NCO, Larrabee said.

"There are very few opportunities in the Army Guard that afford the experience and benefits of the Military Exchange Program," he said. "It gives young leaders the opportunity to develop critical skills in mission planning and execution alongside our allied partners. You get to see the world and meet incredible people."

"Be ready to have fun, but be ready to be challenged. This experience will test communication skills, leadership style, and the mental and physical stamina of a leader," Larrabee said.

Soldiers with inquiries about the program can contact Sgt. 1st Class Mulligan, the Operations and Training Branch NCOIC at (518) 786-6070 or paul.a.mulligan.mil@mail.mil. 

Medical Readiness is Military Readiness

Story and Photos by Capt. Jean Marie Kratzer, Guard Times Staff

ALBANY, N.Y. --Medical readiness is military readiness, the National Guard's top surgeon told 200 New York Army National Guard medical and behavioral health personnel who attended a workshop in Albany, Sept. 13-14.

"In our units we must sustain medical readiness, if our Soldiers are not ready we cannot deploy them, emphasis on medical readiness is more important than ever," said Col. Michael Pelzner, the National Guard Bureau Surgeon General.

"We have to be ready to meet tomorrow's fight," Pelzner emphasized.

Pelzner was one of several guest speakers who presented at the two-day meeting held at Stratton Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

The workshop, organized by the New York Army National Guard Medical Command, was intended for military and civilian personnel who encounter service members' medical and behavioral health concerns.

"It's a challenge to get people together from all across the state. But this conference is a great opportunity for guidance and networking," explained Lt. Col. Luis Garcia, New York Army National Guard Deputy State Surgeon.

"Our goal was to encompass all medical personnel to receive beneficial lectures to expand their knowledge in the medical field," he added.

The Medical Command personnel throughout New York have the primary mission of building medical readiness in order to support the force and to provide medically ready Soldiers to fulfill the New York Army National Guard's mission, Garcia said.

The conference provided a

venue for collaborative discussion and education on key topics involved in resolving medical issues, Garcia said.

Discussion included best practices, working with recruiting and retention and the roles of medical assets in domestic operations, Garcia said.

The opportunity to speak to medical providers will better enable Army National Guard medicine to prepare for future challenges in support of the Army and the Joint Force, he added.

Col. Richard Green, the commander of the state Medical Command, told conference attendees that each one of them played an important part in caring for Soldiers.

"It's our confidence and care that allows us to do what we do as medical professionals," Green said.

Col. Matthew Liepke, New York Army National Guard State Surgeon, told the attendees that there was more to this conference than just the speakers.

"This is your conference we need to teach each other by our years of experience, your patience here will allow you to learn more and spend the time to learn and

"In our units, we must sustain medical readiness. If our Soldiers are not ready, we cannot deploy them. Emphasis on medical readiness is more important than ever. We have to be ready to meet tomorrow's fight."


--Col. Michael Pelzner, National Guard Bureau Surgeon General



Col. Michael Pelzner, National Guard Bureau Surgeon General, speaks at the 3rd Annual New York Army National Guard Medical Department and Behavioral Health Workshop at the Stratton Veterans Administration Medical Center in Albany on September 13, 2018.

learn from each other," Liepke said.

"I had a great experience at the two-day conference, it's been very informative and a great networking experience especially those

giving presentations and leaving us their personal contacts for the future," said Pfc. Jazmin Anthony, a 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation combat medic. 



New York National Guard Soldiers attend the 3rd Annual AMEDD and Behavioral Health Workshop at Stratton Veterans Administration Medical Center in Albany on September 13, 2018.

Leadership Changes Across the Army Guard



258th Field Artillery Change of Command

Col. Christopher Cronin, 27th Infantry Brigade Commander, passes the colors of the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery to Lt. Col. Eric Lindemann during his change of command at Fort Drum, N.Y. October 28, 2018. Lindemann, a Long Island resident with 15 years of military service in the field artillery, replaced Lt. Col. Peter Mehling, who led the battalion since 2015. Courtesy photo.



427th Brigade Support Battalion New Leader

Lt. Col. Shawn Shutts, left, receives the 427th Brigade Support Battalion colors from Col. Christopher Cronin, commander of the 27th Infantry Brigade at Fort Drum, N.Y., Oct. 20, 2018. Shutts is the new Commander of the 427th, formally held by Lt. Col. Patrick Clare. Photo by Spc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.



106th RTI Welcomes New Commander

Col. Diane M. Armbruster, incoming commander of the 106th Regional Training Institute (RTI), returns the unit's colors to Command Sgt. Maj. Marc Maynard, the unit's senior enlisted advisor, during her change of command ceremony at Camp Smith, N.Y., September 9, 2018. During the ceremony, Col. David A. Gagnon relinquished command of the 106th RTI, to Col. Armbruster, the former commander of the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion. Photo by Spc. Amouris Coss, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.



53rd Troop Command Transfer of Authority

53rd Troop Command Commander Brig. Gen. Michel Natali passes the noncommissioned officers sword to Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Ciampolillo, incoming command sergeant major of the Troop Command during his change of responsibility at Camp Smith Oct. 14, 2018. Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

Army Guard Readiness and Remembrances



Rainbow Remembrance

Staff Sgt. Colin Stewart, readiness NCO for Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, presents a memorial wreath at the 42nd Division Monument in Garden City, N.Y., November 8, 2018. The monument is located at the former Camp Mills, where the division was organized for WWI. Photo by Capt. Mark Getman, New York Guard.



Hellfighters March in NYC Parade

Soldiers of the 369th Sustainment Brigade march in New York City's Veterans Day parade November 11, 2018, marking the centennial of service of their 369th Infantry Regiment, known as the Harlem Hellfighters. Photo by Capt. Mark Getman, New York Guard.



27th Brigade Best Warriors Compete

Staff Sgt. Martin Couzins, assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, searches for points on a land navigation course, Fort Drum, N.Y., Nov. 3, 2018. Couzins was competing in the 27th Infantry Brigade Best Warrior Competition. Photo by Sgt. Andrew Valenza.



Soldiers Train for Active Shooter

Soldiers assigned to Joint Task Force Empire Shield train for active shooter response on October 3, 2018 at John F. Kennedy International Airport in Brooklyn, N.Y. Photo by Capt. Mark Getman, New York Guard.

Celebrations and Death marked the Last Day of WWI

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. --The last American Soldier to die in World War I—and the last Soldier of any of the warring powers to die during the war—was a member of the 313th Infantry Regiment, made up of draftee Soldiers from Baltimore.

No one really knows what possessed Sgt. Henry Gunther to charge a German outpost near Chaumont-devant-Damvillers at 10:59 a.m. on the morning on November 11, 1918.

The fighting was to end at 11 a.m.

Gunther ignored the orders to stop. The Germans fired back and killed him.

That day Gunther was joined in death by other Soldiers—about 320 Americans -- including 56 New Yorkers, according to the roster of World War I casualties maintained by the New York State Military Museum.

Although the Armistice had been signed at 5:10, American commander John J. Pershing told his generals to keep the pressure on until 11 a.m.

So Corporal Francis P. Bergen, a member of Company H, 9th Infantry Regiment, part of the 2nd Division, who lived at 18981 Daly Ave. in New York City was killed in action. So was 2nd Lt. Alfred Fawcner from Brooklyn, killed while leading a platoon of Company I, 321st Infantry of the 81st Division.

Also killed in action was 2nd Lt. Ernest Holden, a New York City resident and platoon leader in Company A of the 369th Infantry, the Harlem Hellfighters.

Corporal Bryan Chamberlain, a member of the New York National Guard's Company E, 105th Infantry from Schenectady, had been wounded as the 27th Division attacked German positions. He died of his wounds on Nov. 11.

Another death recorded on Nov. 11, was that of Pvt. George Leonardi who lived at 326 East 61st Street in New York. Leonardi was assigned to the Army's 114th Spruce Squadron in Joyce, Washington.

During World War I spruce lumber, a light and strong wood, was a strategic material. Spruce was used to make airplanes. So the Army set up logging camps manned by 10,000 Soldiers to harvest the vital wood.

Leonardi died of pneumonia; a result of the influenza pandemic which swept the globe in



Soldiers of the New York National Guard's 27th Division celebrate the end of World War I following the Armistice of November 11, 1918. According to Major General John O'Ryan, the division commander, this photo and others like it were staged in the days following the signing of the document that ended combat in the World War. Archive photo by the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

1918.

Also dead of influenza and pneumonia on Nov. 11, 1918 was Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute student and Soldier Pvt. Percy T. Keator.

Keator, from Tillison, N. Y., was one of 550 students at RPI enrolled in the Student Army Training Corps.

News of the Armistice came to New Yorkers back home when they woke.

In New York City workers on night shifts saw the posters that went up outside newspaper offices —announcing the end of the war and began celebrating.

In Syracuse, the Syracuse Herald reported that “Rome never howled as Syracuse did” following a celebration that included a two mile parade.

For most New York Soldiers in France, though, the last day of World War I was not remarkable, according to contemporary accounts.

Major General John O'Ryan only realized of the armistice when two Australian Soldiers on horseback rode past.

“Each carried a French flag and called out to the “Yanks” whom they passed, ‘Why the hell don't you celebrate? Don't you know the armistice is signed,”he wrote.

But the news “caused not a ripple of excitement in Corbie,” he wrote. “There were no cheers and there was no excitement of any sort.”

While there are official Army photographs of 27th Division Soldiers celebrating the armistice, those were staged days afterword by the photographers, according to O'Ryan.

New York National Guard Soldiers of the 42nd Division's 165th Infantry—formerly the 69th New York—heard reports of an armistice but did not trust them, the regimental chaplain Father Francis Duffy wrote in his diary.

Not until Nov. 13 when they marched into a village they had tried unsuccessfully to take from the Germans five weeks before did the Guardsmen get the official word of the end of the war. Then they set off rockets used for signaling in combat as a way to celebrate and lit bonfires, Duffy wrote. **gt**



A ski-equipped LC-130 Hercules cargo plane flown by the 109th Airlift Wing of the New York Air National Guard, lands at Williams Field in Antarctica on November 9. This was the first LC-130 flight of the Antarctic research season and officially opened the newly relocated airfield. Photo by Mike Lucibella, National Science Foundation.

109th Commences Annual Support in Antarctica

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

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, N.Y. -- Five hundred Airmen and 6 LC-130 Hercules assigned to the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing began their annual mission at McMurdo Station, Antarctica the second week in October in support of the 31st season of Operation Deep Freeze.

Operation Deep Freeze is the logistical support mission that the U.S. military provides to the National Science Foundation-managed U.S. Antarctic Program.

Led by Pacific Air Forces, the Joint Task Force-Support Forces Antarctica provides military support to the United States Antarctic Program comprised of active duty, National Guard and Reserve personnel from the U.S. Air Force, Coast Guard, Navy and Army.

The task force works closely with other Antarctic programs to best support National Science Foundation research teams and partnered entities in accomplishing their

joint goals in the safest and most efficient way possible.

The 109th Airlift Wing has supported the National Science Foundation's South Pole research since 1988. The annual season is Sept. 1 through July 31.

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. A foundational mission of the 109th Airlift Wing 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. Maintenance personnel will endure working outside with limited facilities to keep the aircraft mission ready.

During the deployment, the wing expects to fly more than 1,800 flying hours conducting approximately 240 missions with around 120

Airmen deployed on the ice at any one given time.

"Antarctica is the coldest, windiest, most inhospitable continent on the globe, and each Antarctic season features changes in planned LC-130 landing sites, and therefore each season and individual mission demands careful planning and coordination," said Lt. Col. William Carraher, 139th Airlift Squadron commander.

"Our aircrews, maintainers and support personnel are well trained and ready to support this vital mission despite the austere environment," Carraher said.

During the 2017-18 season, crews from the 109th completed 179 missions within Antarctica. They flew 2,300 researchers and support staff plus 2.7 million pounds of cargo and 135,000 gallons of fuel to research stations across the continent. **gt**

Col. Gary Charlton Takes Command of 107th

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Campbell, 107th Attack Wing

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION, N.Y. --New York Air National Guard Col. Gary Charlton II, a Skaneateles resident, took command of the 107th Attack Wing during a ceremony at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station on Saturday, Nov. 17, 2018.

Charlton, who formerly served as wing vice commander, replaced Col. Robert Kilgore, as leader of more than 700 Airmen after four years in command. Charlton joined the wing in 2015 as commander of the 107th Operations Group after a career in the 174th Attack Wing in Syracuse.

"My family and I cannot be happier, and so humbled, to have been entrusted with this great honor and responsibility of being the 107th's next wing commander," Charlton said.

Charlton joined the wing during a period of transition. After flying the C-130 Hercules for several years, the wing began conversion to the MQ-9 remotely piloted aircraft in 2014.


Under Kilgore's leadership, the 107th returned to its roots, Charlton told wing members during the ceremony.

"We are once again a combat unit, an attack wing, an operational ready reserve, engaging in daily combat operations while also building the 21st century Airman as we prepare to send our warfighters into harm's way over the coming year," Charlton said.

"Members of the 107th, your patriotism, volunteerism and dedication to something larger than yourself, is what empowers this wing to take the fight to the enemy," said Charlton.

Charlton enlisted in the Air National Guard in 1990 becoming a fuel systems technician.

He is a senior pilot with more than 2,700 flying hours, including four combat deployments flying over 100 F-16C Fighting Falcon combat missions in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Charlton deployed as an enlisted Airman for Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Northern Watch on two separate occasions. 



Col. Gary Charlton, incoming wing commander of the 107th Attack Wing, takes the wing colors from Maj. Gen. Raymond Shields, the Adjutant General, during a change of command ceremony at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y., Nov. 17, 2018. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Campbell, 107th Attack Wing.



Airmen assigned to the 107th Attack Wing stand in a wing formation during a change of command ceremony at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y., Nov. 17, 2018. Col. Gary Charlton, the wing vice commander, took command from Col. Robert Kilgore. Photo by Airman Daniel Meade, 107th Attack Wing

Air Guard has Marathon Support



PATCHOGUE, N.Y. -- Rebecca Briggs, seen second from right, wife of fallen New York Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Dashan Briggs, shows her support to runners from the 106th Rescue Wing marathon relay team at the finish line at the Suffolk County Marathon on October 28, 2019. Briggs placed medals on 106th Rescue Wing race finishers. Courtesy photo.

New York Guard



NY Guard Annual Training

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. -- Two hundred and fifty members of the New York Guard conducted their annual training here September 22-29. New York Guard training operations normally include construction operations, communication exercises, medical and legal support of deploying military units, Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration exercises, and other logistical and administrative activities. Photos clockwise from above: New York Guard volunteers conduct hands on training with a skidsteer. Additional tasks focused on disaster response functions such as chainsaw and generator operations. Top right, Brig. Gen. David Warager, Commander of the New York Guard, attends an operations briefing for the senior staff Sept. 28, 2018. At center, New York Guard Sgt, Russell Simplice of the 88th Area Command conducts chainsaw maintenance and learns chainsaw operations. At bottom, Sgt. Donna Pickering, part of the 88th Area Command, tracks training in the operations center, Photos by Capt. Mark Getman, New York Guard Headquarters.



NYG Chief of Staff Promoted to Colonel

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. -- The New York Guard Chief of Staff, Ed Keyrouze, received a promotion to the rank of colonel from Brig. Gen. David Warager, the New York Guard commander, during the week-long annual training for the volunteers of the state defense force here September 26, 2018. Keyrouze serves as the full time Administrator in Latham, N.Y. at the Joint Force Headquarters. Photo by Capt. Mark Getman, New York National Guard.



New York Naval Militia



Naval Militia Conducts LC-350 Sea Trials in NYC Harbor

NEW YORK -- The Naval Militia's LC-350, the service's newly acquired landing craft made by Munson, cruises the waters of New York Harbor on August 15, 2018. Clockwise photos from top: Patrol Boat PB-440 escorts the new landing craft during the sea trials. Bottom right, LC-350 is capable of rapidly delivering personnel and equipment both in the East River and Hudson River around Manhattan. Bottom left, New York Naval Militia Commander Rear Admiral Timothy Zakriski, right, observes the training of the new vessel. The New York Naval Militia is testing the new craft in waterways it will operate for future missions. The new boat provides the ability to deliver personnel and supplies to shorelines. Photos by Cmdr. Don McKnight, New York Naval Militia.



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