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Checkpoint Sri Lanka



New York Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Paul Jaworski, left, coordinates with Sri Lankan mechanized infantry troops on a Indian Army BTR-80 Jun. 26 to establish a checkpoint during "Sama Gamana 2004" in Sri Lanka. The 107th MP Soldiers trained with troops from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and Mongolia in a multinational platoon exercise to learn peacekeeping operations. (Photo by Master Sgt. KC Kelly, 138th MPAD)

Guard Notes

Your Records are Safe Here

The National Archives and Records Administration is not destroying any military records, said Washington officials recently.

The agency is trying to counter an Internet rumor that advised veterans to apply for their Official Military Personnel Files to save them from destruction.

There is no truth to this "urban legend" being perpetuated on the Web. "We heard it about a month ago," said Susan Cooper, the archive's public affairs officer.

The records are stored at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. Officials there said that there has been an uptick in the number of veterans requesting their records. This takes time away from other legitimate requests - such as veterans requesting separation documents or medical records.

"We have a limited number of people to do the work and anything that ramps the requests up this quickly is a big production issue with us," said John Constance, NARA's director of congressional and public affairs.

Archivists are digitizing some records, Cooper said. "We are going to digitize some of them for reference and preservation," she said. "When records are handled frequently, it causes some wear and tear. The idea is to preserve (the records), not destroy them." Officials emphasize that the paper records remain intact.

NARA preserves and protects the files because they are permanently valuable records that document the essential evidence of military service for veterans.

Bottom line: If you receive this sort of e-mail, ignore it. Your military records are safe here.

Enhancement for Educational Benefits Urged

On Aug. 19, the President announced that he wanted to enhance the educational benefits for Reserve component members who have been called to service in support of the Global War on Terrorism. He reaffirmed that commitment on Sept. 14 in his speech before the National Guard Association of the convention in Las Vegas. America is thankful for the service and sacrifice of the National Guard and Reserve forces and their families. Reserve component members must have been called to active duty in support of a contingency operation on or after Sept. 11, 2001. In the case of a National Guard member, he or she would also qualify if called to full-time National Guard duty when authorized by the President or Secretary of Defense for the purpose of responding to a national emergency and supported by federal funds. The period of duty is for 90 consecutive days or more. The monthly benefit level is based on a percent of the benefit level for a member who served three years on active duty as follows: 90 days but less than one year of continuous duty 40-percent (or \$402 for a full time student). One year but less than two years of continuous duty 60-percent (or \$602 for a full time student). Two years or more of continuous duty 80-percent (or \$803 for a full time student). Percentages are applied to other educational programs authorized under Title 38.

Accelerated Officer Candidate School Openings

The Recruiting and Retention office is accepting applications for the next Accelerated Officer Candidate School that will be conducted at Fort McClellan, Ala. from Jan. 15 through Mar. 12, 2005.

Minimum requirements for attendance are: recommended by chain of command; 90 college credits hours or greater, pass Chapter II-Commissioning Physical, possess a GT score of 110 or greater; apply or possess a Secret clearance; meet height and weight standards and pass record APFT; you must have completed the course before your 40th birthday; and be a U.S. citizen.

Interested soldiers should contact their unit chain of command to apply. The recruiting and retention office, in concert with HQ 106th RTI, will conduct in processing for the course at Camp Smith on Nov. 5-7 and Dec. 3-5 (Phase 0). Soldiers must ensure the Recruiting Office receives their applications as soon as possible, but no later than Oct. 15 for pre screening.

Questions regarding the course or application procedures may be addressed to Capt. Thurber, 106th RTI at (914) 788-7341, Maj. Pettit, MNRR, at (518) 786-4967 or Maj. Weaver, MNRR at (518) 786-6825.



*From the desk of
New York State Command Sergeant Major
Robert Van Pelt*

JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Over the past months, there have been changes implemented in the Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES) and Promotion System that affect all enlisted Soldiers. I will try to outline these in the following paragraphs.

The Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC) is no longer required for promotion to Sergeant. The new requirement is when a Soldier is promoted to Sergeant, they must complete PLDC before they are eligible to be considered for Staff Sergeant. What this means is that in order to be on the Staff Sgt. promotion list (STAP) and also to receive a promotion to Staff Sgt., you must be a PLDC graduate. In addition, Soldiers that are promoted to Sgt. still have a PLDC requirement. NGB and NYARNG policy is that a non-mobilized Soldier has 12 months to complete PLDC and a Mobilized Soldier has 24 months upon REFRAD to complete PLDC. Failure to complete PLDC can result in the Soldier being reduced.

Soldiers that are promoted to Staff Sgt. must complete all phases of the Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course (BNCOC) in order to be on the Sgt. 1st Class Promotion List. Once promoted to Staff Sgt., NGB and NYARNG policy is that a non-mobilized Soldier has 12 months to complete Phase I of BNCOC and a mobilized Soldier has 24 months upon REFRAD to complete Phase I. All Soldiers still have the requirement to complete Phase II within 24 months of Phase I completion. Failure to complete all phases of BNCOC in the allotted time frame can result in the Soldier being reduced.

Soldiers that are promoted to Sgt. 1st Class have the requirement to complete the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course (ANCOC) in order to be on the Master Sgt. promotion list. **Phase I of ANCOC has been eliminated.** The only ANCOC requirement is the MOS specific portion. Once promoted to Sgt. 1st Class, NGB and NYARNG policy is that a non-mobilized Soldier has 12 months to complete ANCOC and a mobilized Soldier has 24 months upon REFRAD to complete ANCOC. Failure to complete ANCOC can result in the Soldier being reduced.

The requirement for promotion to Sgt. Maj. / Command Sgt. Maj. has not changed. In order to be promoted to Sgt. Maj. / Command Sgt. Maj. you must be an ANCOC graduate and be enrolled in the United States Army Sergeants' Major Academy (USASMA) before promotion. Failure to complete USASMA for any reason will result in a reduction, and the Soldier cannot be reentered into USASMA.

I hope this has cleared up any misunderstandings Soldiers might have about the changes in the afore mentioned systems.

Dear Guard Times:

My name is Capt. Sean O'Donnell, and I am the 442nd Military Police Company Commander. We are currently assigned to the 716th Military Police Battalion, a part of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). We are currently assigned in Al Hillah, Iraq. Our unit is assigned to conduct law and order operations in the south-central area of Iraq. The 105th Military Police Company is only about an hour away from our base camp. They are conducting route security along Route One.

The 442nd has had outstanding results with our work and we received high marks from the U.S. Marines with which the unit was assigned to during combat operations and the stability and support operations (SASO).

Our company has been awarded the Presidential Unit Citation because of the success of our joint assignment with the Marines.

The one story I have been trying to get out is the unbelievable work that this unit has undertaken since 9-11. We responded as Guardsmen on 9-11 to assist New York City with the call to state active state duty and now with federal active duty for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 442nd MP Company has been the lead unit for the 716th MP Battalion in a mission never before asked by the military to rebuild a civilian police force. The 442nd used its extensive law enforcement knowledge and experience as a resource to pass on to our Iraqi brothers in blue. It was this civilian side of our Guard Soldiers now an active duty that secured a positive bond with the Iraqi Police.

It's a true credit to the 442nd MP Company and all the Soldiers who are here conducting themselves as true professionals and wanting to see freedom grow.

I can't tell you enough how proud I am to be the commander of such awesome Soldiers. Their level of selflessness is truly amazing. These

New Yorkers have been sacrificing for the last 3 years for the great State of New York.

I thank God that he has so far answered my prayers, and we have not had anyone injured too badly. I hope the Lord will keep this unit close to his heart because these Soldiers are doing great things not for themselves, but for the Iraqis trying to understand what freedom has to offer them.

These Soldiers are still willing to go out each and every day into harms' way and make a sacrifice at the alter of freedom because they are U.S. Army Soldiers who live up to the values we as Americans hold so dear.

So enough of my soapbox. What I really want to communicate is the pride I have in these men and women who are willing make such sacrifices. Remember that there are a large number of us that will be answering your 911 call for help when we get back and go to work again. In some ways, these men and women are not really getting out of harms way in Iraq but rather getting a change of scenery.

Capt. Sean O'Donnell
442nd Military Police Company
'Guardians of the Empire'
Al Hillah, Iraq



EDITOR'S NOTE: Capt. Sean O' Donnell is the Commander of the 442nd Military Police Company in Orangeburg, NY, which returned on April after serving in Iraq.

Educating our Children

BUFFALO

By Capt. Michael E. Batt
 Company B, 1-108th Infantry

I visited the Charles Upson Elementary School in Buffalo, NY, this summer. One of the fourth grade teachers is the sister of a NY Army National Guard member. The students—about 80—have been sending letters, pictures, and care packages to our soldiers ever since they deployed. Most of the Soldiers have taken an earnest interest in corresponding to the students on a regular basis and think of them as pen-pals - especially Sgt. Rivera (C Co.), Sgt. Clark and Sgt. Bessey; they write to the students on a pretty regular basis, when they can, and the kids really look forward to it and apparently re-read the letters all the time.

The school principal as well as a board of education member were both there, and they had nothing but compliments for our soldiers and thanks for the fact that our men and women take time to write to them; they said that getting letters from our guys in Iraq really drove home the fact that the war has touched these students and their own community. Most of the letters are about where they're from and their families and such, and stay away from the day-to-day details. The students really have a good understanding that these Soldiers are from their hometown and not from some

far-off military base. When I would say "This is Sgt. Bessey in his Army truck" or "This is Sgt. Clark relaxing in the sun for a few minutes" they would all "oooh" and "aaaah" because they were finally able to put a face to a name.

We played a little Flag Day trivia and they were shocked to learn that Francis Scott Key was born in Elmira, NY. I passed out a few lollipops as prizes and such. They made a flag out of construction paper for

...understanding that these Soldiers are from their hometown(s) and not from some far-off military base.

the unit that said "Happy 229th Birthday, U.S. Army" and I posted it in our orderly room.

I generated a slide show of pictures the 1st Sgt. and myself have been collecting from the Soldiers and previewed it to the teachers and staff. The students were kind of upset at the living conditions, though. I explained that as bad as our soldiers had it, a lot of Iraqis had it much worse for most of their lives, and that's why we were there. I focused a lot on the pictures I had of our guys with Iraqi citizens and kids

to try to put the war in perspective. One of the slides showed Spc. Pietsch with an Iraqi boy and his family, sipping a can of Coke.

One of the girls piped up "Do they really have Coke over there?"

"They didn't for a really long time, but they do now," I answered.

She tilted her head to the side and asked, "Do they have Coke now because of Sgt. Clark and Sgt. Bessey and Sgt. Rivera and all the other soldiers that send us letters?"

"Yes, they do. And soon they will be able to vote and send their kids to school. Eventually they will have the Internet and a lot of things that we have that make our lives better here in America like microwaves and televisions and PlayStations," I said (trying to put it into context).

Then she smiled and said, "Well then I guess its okay they're over there. I think giving them Coke is good. I hope the soldiers don't have to stay there, though. Maybe that little boy can get Coke on his own someday.

For some reason, that really put it into perspective for me.

The kids actually got a letter from Clark that morning. The letter was read to the class, and at the end, everyone clapped and a few of the teachers started wiping their eyes. Sgt. Clark wrote, "Thank you for all the letters, keep them coming, study hard and finish school, and be good for your parents."

I also generated certificates of appreciation from the Company for each student as well as a thank-you memo

Story continued on page 14

Army Guard Honors Soldiers with Freedom Salute

National Guard and Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Lever, Enlisted Advisor, Army National Guard.

The soldier's spouse/significant other received a lapel insignia while soldier's who are considered a center of influence with young people will be given a Future Soldier Footlocker Kit that includes the Daring Eagle board game, Mission Command card game, and Army National Guard trading cards.

The very first Freedom Salute Campaign was in August at the Rochester Armory where members of 427th Support Battalion, Company A, Detachment 1 gathered. The 427th Support Battalion was activated in February 2003 for Operation Iraqi Freedom. They were deployed into theater the following spring with the 719th Transportation Company from New York City. The combined unit was comprised of heavy-tractor truck drivers, assistant operators and maintenance personnel, with the mission of moving material throughout the operational zone. During their tour of duty, the soldiers moved large quantities of supplies, food, fuel, and ammunition and repair parts from Kuwait to forward-deployed units. Members of the 719th and 10th Transportation Detachment were honored in early September.



Spc. Ramone Suarez pins his sleeping son Jeremias while his wife Maria holds him during the Freedom Salute Campaign for the 105th Military Police, Buffalo. (Photo by Master Sgt. Jeannine Mannarino, Guard Times Staff)

The second and third campaign was in two locations for the 27th Rear Area Operations Center, Harlem and Orangeburg. The unit was activated in February 2003 and deployed with soldiers from the Hudson Valley, New York City and the Capital District. During the deployment the 442nd entered Iraq on 19 April 2003. The unit endured numerous engagements with the enemy. The unit provided route security for military convoys on roads from Al Hillah to Ad Diwaniyah and from Ad Diwaniyah to Najaf, Iraq. The unit

entered An Najaf with the 1st Battalion 7th Marines. The 4th Platoon, 442nd MP Company established Iraq's first police academy. Since then, numerous Iraqi police personnel were trained and qualified by members of the 442nd MP Co. They also earned a Distinguished Unit Citation for close support with the Marine Corps. President George Bush saluted the contributions of Sgt. Glenn Carlson from the 442nd during his speech at the 52nd Annual National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC on 5 February.

The fourth and fifth campaign was in two locations; Buffalo and Schenectady, honoring the 105th MP Company, in early September. The 105th MP Company was activated

in February 2003 and deployed with soldiers from Buffalo, Rochester and the Capital District. The unit endured more than 60 engagements with the enemy.

While serving in Iraq, the men and women of the 105th endured more than 60 engagements with the enemy and ensured the safe passage of more than 400,000 coalition vehicles through the assigned Area of Responsibility. The current rate and number of convoys surpassed the famous "Red Ball Express" of World War II — while under the protection of the 105th, less than 1 percent of those convoys came under enemy attack. The unit responded to dozens of military and civilian traffic accidents and requests for assistance. They also coordinated for more than 20 medical evacuations.

The unit confiscated hundreds of illegal weapons, located several weapons and munitions caches, and conducted several humanitarian aid missions such as coordinating the repair of a large irrigation pumping station to aid local farmers. The unit also coordinated for the repair of three local schools, two local medical clinics and established/supervised, the first Iraqi Highway Patrol Station in the country.

While conducting their mission the 105th suffered the loss of two Soldiers, Sergeant Heath McMillin, of Clifton Springs, and Specialist Michael Williams, of Buffalo, whose memory will be honored at Sunday's Freedom Salute.

NFL great Jim Kelly was the guest speaker at the 105th ceremony. Kelly led the Buffalo Bills to the playoffs eight times and the Super Bowl four consecutive years. Kelly was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2002.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion 156th Field Artillery also were honored in early September for their service on active duty in a variety of homeland defense activities in support of the World Trade Center, Operation Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The soldiers provided force protection and deterrence operations at municipal airports, bridges, tunnels, and subways. About 30 Soldiers from the Kingston Armory are activated for Operation Iraqi Freedom and assigned to the 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry, New York Army National Guard.

The Freedom Salute Campaign will be ongoing for the New York National Guard Soldiers who honor our Nation by working so hard to support the rights for Freedom.



Spc. Ray Lewis 427th Support Battalion proudly displays his awards. (Photo by Spc Dennis Gravelle, JFHQ Public Affairs)



Spc. Lou Cardona (front) and Spc. Eric Hutcheson, 105th Military Police, Buffalo, deep in thought as they cradle their awards in their hands. (Photo by Master Sgt. Jeannine Mannarino, Guard Times Staff)

NEW YORK STATE

By Master Sgt. Jeannine Mannarino
Guard Times Staff

Echoing from the corridors across the New York State armories, hundreds of combat veteran soldiers are taking a moment to reflect on the awards bestowed them during the National Guard Bureau's, Freedom Salute Campaigns.

The Freedom Salute Campaign is one of the largest Army National Guard recognition endeavors in history. The Army National Guard launched the campaign in December 2003, in order to give thanks to soldiers, their spouses, children, and employers who have shown great support during Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

Each eligible soldier receives an encased American flag, a lapel insignia, a commemorative coin (below) and certificate of appreciation from Lt. Col. Roger Schultz, Director, Army



New York National Guard Military Police Train in Sri Lanka

KUKELEGANGA, SRI LANKA

By Master Sgt. KC Kelly
138th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

A remote training site nestled in the steamy mountainous jungle here, 45 citizen-Soldiers of the 105th, 107th and 442nd Military Police Companies, New York National Guard, joined forces with ten other nations for exercise Sama Gamana '04.

On this teardrop-shaped island in the Indian Ocean, just off the southeastern tip of India, the MPs trained this June with soldiers from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and Mongolia in a multinational platoon exercise to learn peacekeeping operations.

Sama Gamana, or "peace walk" in Sinhalese, brought together nearly 270 troops from the five nations, plus advisor/observers of the United Nations Training Assistance Team representing the United States, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Croatia, Uruguay, Ghana, Malaysia, Hungary and Norway.

The U.N. mission-based scenario training included checkpoint operations, patrolling, convoy operations, civil disorder control and improvised explosive device detection and disarming. Each of the five nations provided a platoon of Soldiers and a controller team for each lane.

Capt. Roberta Comerford, commander of the 107th MP Co., Utica, has been preparing for this event for over a year. She assisted in selecting the training site and planning the exercise, created a platoon from three MP companies and designed a team of trainers to teach checkpoint operations. Then she successfully deployed them all overseas. "I've



Sp. James Nessia, 107th Military Police Company, New York Army National Guard, searches a refugee role-player while a Sri Lankan soldier observes, during multinational platoon exercise Sama Gamana '04. The MPs trained in June with troops from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Mongolia, to learn peacekeeping operations. (Photo by Master Sgt. KC Kelly, 138th MPAD)

ready to use force if necessary. "It's hard to turn that off," Comerford said.

English was the standard language for the training. Each platoon had at least one officer fluent in English, who translated between the soldiers, lane trainers and U.N. observers when necessary.

"This is the most amazing thing that we've ever done," said Sp. James Nessia, 107th MP Co. "When you go to Ft. Drum, the trainers are reading out of the same book you are. Here, you learn that there are other ways to do it."

The MPs sweated for nearly three tropical weeks during Sri Lanka's southwest monsoon season, with daytime temperatures in the low nineties and nearly 100-percent humidity.

"During the first week, the platoon went through 12 cases of water a day," said platoon leader 2nd Lt. John A. Vanlaningham, 107th MP Co. That's over a gallon per soldier each day.

But it wasn't all work and no play. When off duty, the Soldiers toured a local tea factory, and had a chance to shop in a nearby village.

Sri Lanka was once called "Ceylon" and is still world renowned for its high quality teas. Each morning during the training, there was a short break for tea. "Sri Lankans are very hospitable," Comerford said. "I'm not used to having tea time during AT."

The Soldiers enjoyed Sri Lankan hospitality, which included traditional meals, often heavily laden with curry and hot pepper. "Spicy, spicy, spicy," Nessia said. "And everything with rice. I think I'll be off rice for a while."

As the militaries of 11 countries were represented at Kukeleganga, there was a multitude of uniforms present. After the exercise's closing ceremonies, many of the Soldiers began trading uniform items for souvenirs. The barracks area quickly became a bustling flea market, as berets, rank insignias, pins and patches were bartered for patrol caps, T-shirts, and even combat boots from far-away lands. The Asian troops were particularly enamored with the American Soldiers' Leatherman and Gerber multi-tools, and Camelbak hydration packs. Some MPs returned home with brown-camouflaged Mongolian "Boonie" hats. Others returned with a coveted "Gurka Kukuri" knife from Nepal.

"It's been really cool learning about the different cultures," said Sp. Sarah Jo Brown, 105th MP Co. "The training was a lot of fun."

"We learned not only the business aspect, but the personal aspect as well," Comerford said. "We have new friends around the world."

Three of the five platoons that trained during Sama Gamana are already slated for U.N. peacekeeping missions. The Sri Lankan platoon is going to Haiti, the Mongolian platoon is going to Iraq, and the Nepalese platoon is going to Burundi.

The citizen-Soldiers from New York certainly stood out among the other troops. Not only were they the only military police involved in the training, they were the only non-active duty soldiers. "The hardest part was explaining the National Guard to them," Nessia said. "Enlistment in the Sri Lankan Army is for 12 years. If you want to re-enlist, it's another eight-year commitment. They didn't understand when I said, 'I'm part-time. I'm going home.'"



Sp. Sarah Jo Brown, 105th MP Co., assists a refugee role-player during multinational platoon exercise "Sama Gamana '04" in Sri Lanka. New York MPs trained with troops from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and Mongolia in June. (Photo by Master Sgt. KC Kelly, 138th MPAD)

NY Airmen Train with South African military



DITHOLO, SOUTH AFRICA—Capt. George Hambach (left), 106th Medical Squadron, and Maj. Charles Killian (right), 106th Rescue Wing, hold up a gift of goodwill received from the South African government during MEDFLAG's closing ceremonies on Jul. 19. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith)

LATHAM

By Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith
Guard Times Staff

Getting the opportunity to train in South Africa seems like a lifetime experience for any guardsman. So when South Africa, New York's partner in the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program, was chosen for European Command's MEDFLAG 2004 exercise, New York's airmen jumped forward to participate. "This was the first time a contingent of NY Air National Guard personnel have joined

the exercise, and it was a great chance to work with our new partners," said Lt. Col. Patrick Roemer, 107th Air Refueling Wing civil engineer commander.

Colonel Roemer and thirty airmen from the 107th Air Refueling Wing, 109th Airlift Wing, 105th Airlift Wing, 106th Rescue Wing and the Northeast Air Defense Sector endured the 20-hour flight to the southern tip of the African continent to team up with active duty airmen from 3rd Air Force. There, the group served alongside their South African counterparts in medical, logistics, civil engineer and command and control teams operating at the Ditholo Training Base and Hoedspruit Air Base north and

east of Pretoria, South Africa.

"This year's exercise was led by 3rd Air Force and was broken into interoperability training, humanitarian and civic assistance and a mass casualty exercise," said Roemer.

MEDFLAG exercises are held at least twice a year in the democratic countries of Africa, deploying a team of doctors, dentists, technicians and support personnel to provide joint medical training and humanitarian assistance.

At the Ditholo training base, airman operated a joint task force command and control center. They provided logistical, medical and public affairs support for MEDFLAG and participated in a humanitarian disaster exercise.

"The public affairs team handled visits from more than 30 media outlets, coordinated news releases from the field and produced three joint newsletters," said Maj. Jody Ankabrandt, 109th Airlift Wing public affairs officer. In addition, the major went on to say that, besides public affairs work, distinguished visitors were escorted, a cultural awareness day was planned and humanitarian assistance was provided to a local orphanage. "We really came together with our South African counterparts to produce some outstanding public affairs work," she said. "What we brought in the form of expertise paled next to the heartfelt experiences we brought home," she said.

New York medical airmen at the Hoedspruit Air Base supported a MEDFLAG first, setting a record number of humanitarian and civic assistance visits when joint forces medical personnel treated more than 6000 villagers at their forward operating clinics. "It was a life changing experience for some of our medics," said Maj. Richard Sloma, New York State

Partnership program coordinator. "Any perceptions they had about the country were changed when they arrived and met the people of South Africa," he said. He explained that medical personnel enjoyed the chance to see the immediate effect their medical efforts had on the South African's lives.

They found a country much like the U.S. and unlike many of the stereotypes seen at home, he said.

...joint forces medical personnel treated over 6000 villagers at their forward operating clinics.

Aside from New York airmen, eight additional air national guardsmen from Rhode Island, Georgia, Delaware and Virginia also supported the exercise and worked seamlessly with medical and logistic personnel. Overall, the majority of the air guard group were medical folks, but valuable support was also provided by information technology, logistics and public affairs/protocol airmen, said Sloma.

Sloma went on to say that future events with South Africa, through the State Partnership Program, are forthcoming and include an air show in September where NY Guard units are scheduled to provide a C-130, KC-135, HH-60 Pave Hawk and an F-16 static display for the Water Kloof Air Base Air show outside Pretoria. Nine other events are scheduled for 2005; so, more air and army national guardsmen will have that lifetime opportunity to build relationships with their South African partners.

Guardmembers Give, Receive hundredfold return

PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

By Maj. Charles Killian
106th Rescue Wing

On Jul. 8, NY Air National Guard members along with MEDFLAG's Combined Joint Task Force Squadron and five military South African police escorts set out on a humanitarian mission to tour the outer limits of Hammanskraal, South Africa in search of an orphanage in need of donations. The coalition forces stationed at Ditholo, South Africa, during MEDFLAG 2004 in July collected their donations.

MEDFLAG exercises are held at least twice a year in the democratic countries of Africa, deploying a team of doctors, dentists, technicians and support personnel to provide joint medical training and humanitarian assistance; thirty NY airmen from the 107th Air Refueling Wing, 109th Airlift Wing, 105th Airlift Wing, 106th Rescue Wing and the Northeast Air Defense Sector participated in this year's exercise.

The group traveled the dusty roads of Ditholo, passing "sheet metal" structures housed by South African inhabitants and viewing future housing projects—identifiable



Maj. Charles Killian (center), 106th Rescue Wing, plays with children outside the Re-Lebille-Kanana orphanage near Pretoria, South Africa on Jul. 8. The major, along with other members of the New York Air National Guard, helped provide food and money to the orphanage during their deployment to the country for the European Command's MEDFLAG 2004 exercise. (Photo courtesy of the 106th Rescue Wing)

Continued on next page

Aircrews test combat, water survival skills

SCOTIA

By Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith
Guard Times Staff

Reading water under a parachute is the last thing you would expect to do at an Adirondack vacation spot, but that's exactly what Maj. Kimberly Terpening confronted over her drill weekend.

"I was a little nervous beforehand, but it wasn't bad once I swam underneath and saw a way through," said Terpening, 139th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

The parachute disentanglement lab was part of her water survival training held on Sacandaga Lake during her August unit training assembly. In the lab, airmen had to swim underneath a parachute from one side to another, navigating their way through the chute's water-soaked nylon fabric while pushing above the waterline for air.



Tech. Sgt. William Pothier (left) pulls Capt. Erik Srokowski (right) onto a twenty-man life raft during the 109th Airlift Wing's water survival training on Scandaga Lake. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith)

"Being trapped underneath a parachute is a life or death situation," said Senior Master Sgt. Denny Richardson, 109th Airlift Wing life support superintendent. "Airmen must react quickly to survive," he said. He explained that parachute canopies fall directly over aircrew members, thus the importance in knowing how to get clear of them while in the water.

Over 80 aircrew members and aeromedical technicians from the 109th Airlift Wing spent their drill weekend in the fields and cool waters of Northville, NY to refresh their combat survival and water survival skills.

The Air National Guard requires all aircrew members and aeromedics to refresh these skills triennially to ensure they remain ready, reliable and relevant.

Airman spent their morning at the Plateau airport where the Wing's life support personnel stationed makeshift training labs under blue-tarp shelters. "Each lab provides approximately thirty minutes of hands-on combat survival instruction," said Tech. Sgt. Shaun Graham, course instructor and noncommissioned officer in charge. He pointed out six stations within the knee-high grass of the combat survival training area; signaling and recovery, map and compass, camouflage and concealment, fire craft, flare training and survival medicine.

The airmen faced a unique challenge at each lab. At the map and compass station, airmen used triangulation, pace counting and the shadow-stick methods to find their position. "You can't always count on using a GPS (global positioning system) alone," said Tech. Sgt. Frank Bryant, instructor. "You have to know how to use a compass and other ways to figure out position," he said. Bryant explained that electronic gadgets like the GPS are very accurate but not always available in an emergency situation.

After a quick lunch, the group moved the training to a narrow section of Sacandaga Lake called Smith's Beach. There, they put on swim gear and spent the afternoon immersed in water survival skills, which included parachute disentanglement and one-man and twenty-man life raft procedures. Five scuba divers monitored the training for safety.

Boarding the twenty-man life rafts required airmen to pull each other out of the water, and many airmen struggled to



Master Sgt. Ron Barnes (left) and Lt. Col. Edward Gadarowski (right), plot coordinates on a topographical map during a map and compass lab at Plateau Airport in Northville. Other combat survival labs included signaling and recovery, camouflage and concealment, fire craft, flare training and survival medicine. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith)

find anchor points on the slippery, orange rubber decks of the rafts. Teamwork proved the best approach to the problem.

"It was great to come out here and work as a team because you learn so much more about each other, and it's just nice to get outside the workshops and learn," said Terpening. The major went on to say that, despite the challenges of holding such field training, instructors and students were well prepared and professional throughout. "The instructors did a lot of work to be ready for us," she said.

The 109AW's CST/WST training pamphlet prepares students for the most realistic training possible; therefore, giving aircrews an opportunity to train in a realistic survival situation. "We refine each class from the previous one," said Graham.

Charity, continued from previous page

by their outhouses. Garbage trapped within the grassy weeds offered a firsthand perspective of the poverty that was clearly present.

Their tour guide/military police escort, Capt. Ditabo, led the airmen to an orphanage called "Re-Lebile-Kanana;" translated "disadvantaged to advantaged." The owner of

Sgt. Major Lindner gave Catherine a hug as a gesture to let her know that ...NY's Airmen, were there to help.

the orphanage was attending a workshop aimed at looking at ways to help other people in need. With Capt. Ditabo doubling as interpreter, the group was able to contact the owner through her children. She immediately left her workshop, taking a taxi to meet with them. It was then that they had the privilege of meeting a woman who closely resembled Mother Teresa, both in physical and spiritual attributes. Her name was Catherine Makhubedu.

A neglected child herself, Catherine suffered the loss of her mother when she was a child and subsequently was raised solely by her father. She told the team that she went to the bank every morning, praying that angels would come and put money into her

account. But on this day, she found only 120 Rand (equivalent to approximately twenty dollars). She added that today she had to turn away the less fortunate, as there was not enough food to go around.

She explained her program and goals of expanding the present facility to help others. The orphanage's name describes her efforts to "help to take the disadvantaged to be in a position of taking care of others, as well as themselves," she told us. Maj. Charlette

Kilian (RSA) asked Catherine what her immediate needs were. "Food," she quickly, unequivocally replied. After listening to Catherine's heartfelt story and assessing the current state of her dilemma, Sgt. Major Lindner (RSA) and Maj. Kilian (RSA) offered Catherine 300 Rand to be used for the next day's meals.

Catherine's genuine humbleness and deep appreciation for what took place was evident. Her tissue frequently cleared the tears from her eyes and sniffing nose. "I was praying all day, hoping for angels," she explained, "and you are my angels." Sgt. Major Lindner gave Catherine a hug as a gesture to let her know that the MEDFLAG members, including NY's Airmen, were there to help.

Soldiers Honored, memorial Unveiled at Purple Heart Medal Ceremony



LATHAM

By Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith
Guard Times Staff

Four Soldiers from the NY Army National Guard sat on a park bench in the peaceful surroundings of a beech tree grove one sunny August afternoon. The quiet setting seemed in sharp contrast to the explosive combat of Iraq where the Soldiers were wounded several months ago.

As members of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, Staff Sgt. Troy Mechanick, Sgt. James D. MacDonald and Spc. Timothy Durie were wounded during an enemy attack on their convoy on Easter Sunday. The attack claimed the life of friend and fellow Soldier, Pfc. Nathan Brown—Sgt. Christopher M. Paisler, also with the regiment,

was wounded from an enemy mortar attack on his unit's compound.

But on this day, Aug. 6, they received their Purple Heart Medals in a park near the Empire State Plaza. A fleeting moment of gratitude for their combat wounds, which left behind scars and memories they will carry for a lifetime.

"It's a very important award...it's an honor to receive it," said specialist Durie, who suffered shrapnel wounds to his knee and a hearing loss from the Iraqi insurgent attack on Apr. 11. Durie underwent several operations to repair his knee and is recovering. "We just all wanted to come home safe," he said. "It's a medal you don't want to get."

Also on this day, the Soldiers unveiled a memorial dedicated to all New York Purple Heart Medal recipients. Paid for with the courage and sacrifice of many, the national Military Order of the Purple Heart donated it to the state. Inscribed on its red granite face are the words, "My stone is red for the blood they shed"—the memorial will ensure their sacrifices are remembered, silently expressing the gratitude, seen on this day, for generations.

"No military award is more emblematic of the sacrifice...Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines have made to keep our nation free," said Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Maguire, Jr., Adjutant General.

A large crowd of friends and family attended the ceremony, situated on the small lawn that separates the memorial from



Above, Sgt. James D. MacDonald, right, receives the Purple Heart Medal from Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Maguire, Jr., left. Below, Purple Heart Medal recipients stand in front of the unveiled Purple Heart Memorial with Governor George E. Pataki, center, and Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Maguire, Jr., right. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith)



Albany's Madison Avenue. Governor George E. Pataki, U.S. Representative John E. Sweeney, New York State Senator William J. Larkin, Jr., general Maguire, Maj. Gen. Richard S. Colt, U.S. Army Reserve, other New York State officials and members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart joined them.

According to a state spokesman, the Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in the WORLD in present use and is the first American award made available to the common Soldier. General George Washington initially created what he then called a "Badge of Military Merit" on Aug. 7, 1782, during the Revolutionary War.

"The New York Purple Heart Memorial is a...tribute to the thousands of New Yorkers who have selflessly served our state and nation and risked their lives, so that we may live in freedom," said Governor Pataki. He went on to say that the memorial would remind New Yorkers of those who have put their lives on the line. "We always pray that the long list (of recipients) will have no more names," he said.

"It's nice to be back home, but there are still Soldiers over there," said specialist Durie.



**Special
Supplement**

Above, a NY Army National Guard Soldier assists local law enforcement in New York City during the Republican National Convention. (Photos by Spc. Dennis Gravelle, Guard Times Staff)

Guarding the **RNC**

Full coverage of JTF
RNC by the Joint Forces

**A Joint task force
of NY National
Guard, Active
Duty Soldiers,
Sailors, Airmen
and Marines help
protect the
nation's
democratic
process**

Guarding the Convention

NEW YORK

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Fort Hamilton is a small, quiet Army post on the Atlantic shore of Brooklyn that seems to be a long way from the skyscrapers and the nonstop noise of Manhattan. It was at that fort, however, that New York Army National Guard Lt. Col. George De Simone reaffirmed his stand against terrorism during the Republican National Convention.

De Simone is a retired New York Fire Department lieutenant, and helping civil authorities keep the 5,000 delegates and a few hundred thousand demonstrators free from acts of terrorism during the four-day convention was very important to that Army Guard officer.

Between 75 and 100 of his friends, firefighters he knew by their first names, died at the World Trade Center on the dreadful Tuesday of Sept. 11, 2001, De Simone explained.

"That was the worst day of my life," said De Simone who told of how debris from the first tower to be hit was falling around Engine Company 224 in Brooklyn Heights as he opened the firehouse's door to respond to the call that came in six minutes later.

"I saw the second plane hit with my own eyes," he added. "That's the day I got involved with the fight against terrorism."

De Simone retired from the fire department, after more than 25 years, in March 2003, but he is continuing the fight during his 34th year in the Guard.

Every member of the military's Joint Task Force-Republican National Convention, especially the National Guard troops from New York, had essentially the same reason for wanting to help preserve the peace in this city nearly three years after 9-11- when President George W. Bush accepted his party's nomination for a second term. They did not want their city to get hit again.

There were about 2,000 of them on duty during convention week, from Aug. 29 until Sept. 3, guarding bridges, tunnels, train stations and power plants as part of the biggest planned security force that New York has ever mustered.

How big was it? Here's one indication. A record 10,000 New York police officers were reported to be on duty in the Big Apple on Aug. 29 when demonstrators chanted and marched along Seventh Avenue the day before the convention started.

Guard members, meanwhile, demonstrated during the pleasant week that they are ready, willing and able to deter, defend against and defeat terrorist activities; that they are trained and equipped to protect their communities.

All of the military personnel, nearly 1,700 on Title 32 or state active duty status and more than 300 others on Title 10 federal status, served on the same joint task force rather than on two separate forces. Army Guard Col. F. David Sheppard, the New York Guard's deputy adjutant general, was in charge.

That arrangement, endorsed by President Bush and New York Gov. George Pataki, reflects the new way that the military is doing homeland security. It has already been employed this summer during the Group of Eight economic summit in Georgia and the Democratic National Convention in Boston.

"Having one military commander makes it a lot easier for us to deal with the federal, state and local authorities and for them to deal with us," explained Sheppard at the 124-year-old Seventh Regiment Armory on Park Avenue, the task force's headquarters that was strung with miles of blue wire required to run modern computer and communications equipment.

"What makes this different from Georgia and Boston is that we have formed this task force from our available Guard troops who have never worked together before

because so many of our people are already deployed," Sheppard explained.

One outfit, the 101st Signal Battalion from Poughkeepsie, does not officially come into existence until September, it was explained.

The vast majority of National Guard troops and other military personnel took up positions away from the convention-goers and protestors, officials explained, freeing up more police officers to keep the crowds under control.

Guard troops were spread from the eastern end of Long Island to Poughkeepsie, about 60 miles north of the city. To many, it was hard to believe that anything special was going on.

"It's important for us to be seen by the public, to let them know we're helping to preserve the safety of this area," said Army Guard Spc. Johnny Blanco-Rubi, a member of the 101st Signal Battalion who was helping to guard one of the Long Island Railroad's maintenance yards in Brooklyn.

A handful, members of the New York Guard's 2nd Civil Support Team, pulled convention duty at Madison Square Garden and Penn Station, paired up with members of the New York Police Department's Emergency Services Unit to detect and assess harmful agents from any weapons of mass destruction.

On the other hand, you didn't have to travel all that far to spot Guard Soldiers in battle dress uniforms and body armor on duty with police officers at such landmarks as the Triborough Bridge, the Lincoln Tunnel, the Indian Point Power Plant and other critical parts of the infrastructure. "No blue, no green" was the basic idea.

The message was clear. New York was as secure as possible.

Most of the federal troops, including members of all of the active services, brought in dogs trained to sniff out explosives or were explosive experts themselves.

Most of the Guard troops were reinforcements for Task Force Empire Shield, a force of a few hundred troops that has been on duty at such installations as Grand Central Station and Penn Station since the terrorists attacked on 9-11.

That was the base that the joint task force for the Republican convention was built on, explained Army Guard Lt. Col. Michael Leonardo, the smaller task force's fulltime commander.

"Your Guard Soldiers have been great," Edward Gilhooley, an assistant deputy chief for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's 700-member police force, told Brig. Gen. Michael Swezey, who commands the New York Guard's 53rd Troop Command.

"This is by far the largest operation we've ever conducted with the National Guard," added Gilhooley, who commands the MTA's eastern region police force.

Troops, for example, guarded railroad stations and repair yards in Brooklyn and Queens that are critical for the trains to transport an average of 290,000 passengers every workday, Gilhooley said.

"These Soldiers who are on duty at our railroad stations and who are patrolling the perimeters of our maintenance yards make it possible for our officers to do their police work," he said. "We don't have the resources to do everything that the Guard is assisting us with."

Long Island Railroad people did have the means to show their appreciation. Guard Soldiers got water, ice, chairs, shelters from the sun, and other creature comforts.

"People down here need help," said Cpl. Mitchell Wearne, an insurance company supervisor from Buffalo who reported to Fort Hamilton as a radiotelephone operator. "I have always believed that if we need help up in Buffalo, people from here would come to help us. That's what the Guard is all about."



Above, A New York Army National Guard Soldier paid close attention to railroad commuters during his watch at the Jamaica Station in Brooklyn, **below**, while the Republican National Convention was going on in Manhattan. (Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau)

Guard troops were spread from the eastern end of Long Island to Poughkeepsie, about 60 miles north of the city...it was hard to believe that anything special was going on.



2nd Civil Support Team Pairs with NYPD

NEW YORK

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

The cavernous parking garage of a large building on Manhattan's West Side has become a sort of home away from home for one of the National Guard's elite units.

Members of the New York National Guard's 2nd Civil Support Team spent nearly 80 straight days there when the U.S.-led coalition launched Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2003.

Nineteen members of the New York team, along with eight members of similar Guard teams from five other states, were once again based in Manhattan beside the Hudson River as August gave way to September.

They were on duty this time as part of a joint task force for the Republican National Convention, and the commander, Maj. Matt Cooper, was relieved that his team was not any busier than it has been during many other such details since terrorists attacked America three years ago Sept. 11.

The New York team from Scotia, N.Y., was once again ready to do its job of testing a disaster site for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear agents that could create a hazard for other emergency responders should a weapon of mass destruction disrupt the convention at nearby Madison Square Garden.

The people were primed for this National Special Security Event. The blue communications and new mobile laboratory vans were checked out and ready to roll. All systems were ready – just in case.

“We bring our full capabilities because who knows what's going to happen,” said Cooper who was on board when the World Trade Center fell victim to terrorists in hijacked jetliners in 2001.

Cooper, a former Army special operations officer, is one of three remaining members of the original New York Guard team that earned its reputation the hard way by rapidly responding to that catastrophe.

The civil support team members were among more than



A resolute member of the New York National Guard's 2nd Civil Support Team moves out to take up his position with a New York Police Department counterpart for the Republican National Convention in New York City. The team is trained to detect harmful agents from weapons of mass destruction. (Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau)

1,000 National Guard troops that supported a massive security force brought together for the first Republican National Convention ever held in the Big Apple.

The team helped to demonstrate the Guard's resolve to aggressively deter, defend against and defeat terrorist activities.

Team members did not merely wait for something to happen. They were paired up with members of the New York Police Department's Emergency Services Unit, Cooper explained. They were positioned at the Garden, at Penn Station and at the Farley Post Office, the convention's media center.

Those teams were prepared to perform early assessment and detection duties – just in case.

New York Guard officials have acknowledged that this team has spent a lot more time on duty than anyone would have imagined when it was trained and federally certified

before the terrorists attacked.

The 2nd Civil Support Team is one of the cards that New York Gov. George Pataki throws down when he wants to remind the people that he is serious about their security.

“Most of our members have been deployed about 200 days since February 2003,” Cooper explained. “Everyone on this team has been deployed at least three times.”

They have taken their posts for commencement ceremonies at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and during last June's U.S. Golf Open at Shinnecock Hills on western Long Island.

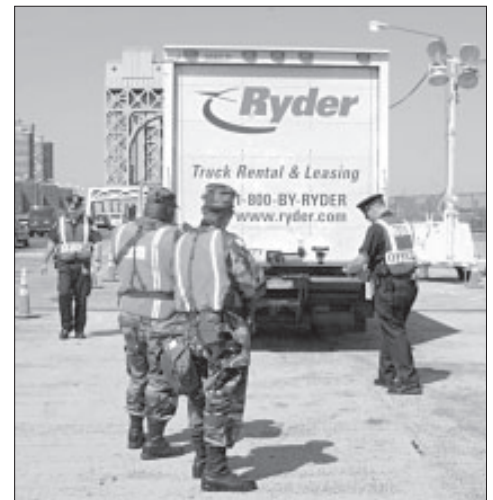
Team members have spent the last two New Years in the city because of the traditional New Years Eve celebration at Times Square. They spent last Christmas there. They have been on duty during two of the last three Fathers Days. They expected to be on duty for a dozen or so days

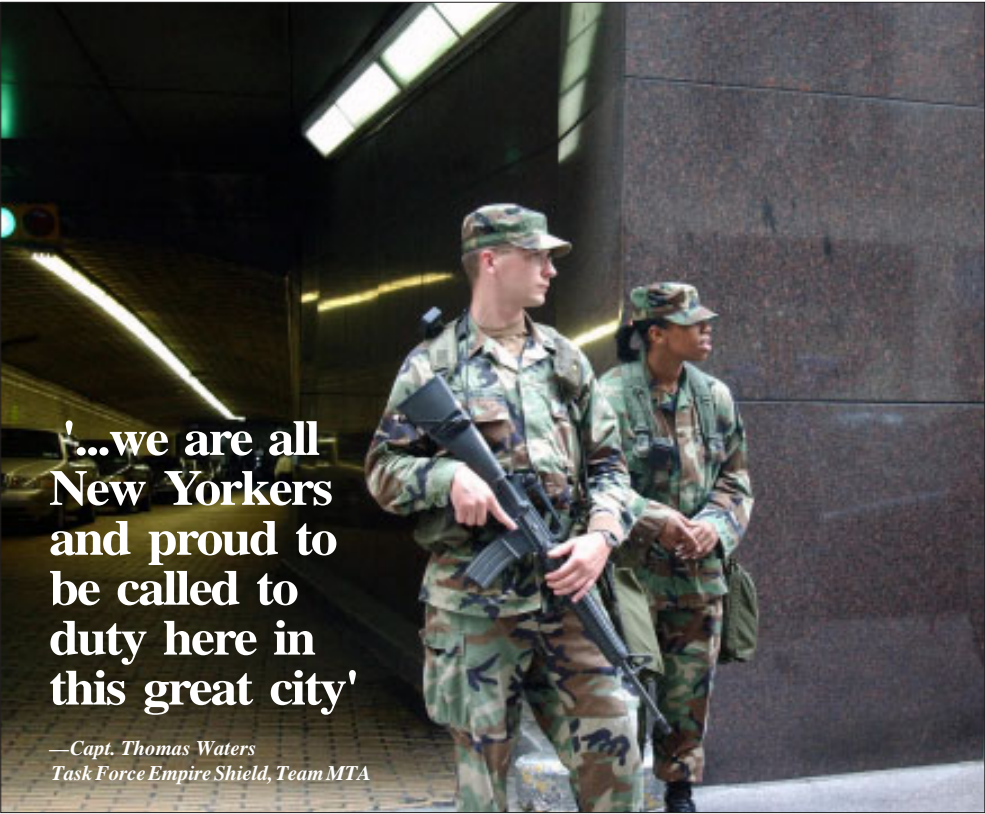
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....National Guard troops...supported a massive security force brought together for the first Republican National Convention...held in the 'Big Apple'

Left, Soldiers stand guard at the Midtown Tunnel in NYC during the Republican National Convention. Right, Soldiers assist law enforcement officers who are checking vehicles for contraband such as explosives and anything out of the ordinary on the Triboro Bridge during the RNC. (Photos by Spc. Dennis Gravelle, Guard Times Staff)





'...we are all New Yorkers and proud to be called to duty here in this great city'

—Capt. Thomas Waters
Task Force Empire Shield, Team MTA

2nd CST, continued from previous page

because of the Republican National Convention. "You have to have a real love for this job or this isn't the operation you want to be a part of. And you find that out real quick," said 1st Sgt. Jason Zeller, the New York team's top enlisted Soldier and another original team member.

Thankfully, the team has not had to respond to a serious incident since 9-11.

"It can get monotonous, but all of this duty has given us a chance to get a really good understanding of the city," Cooper said.

That, officials said, is very important – just in case.

Ft. Hamilton Soldiers Augment NYC

NEW YORK

By Mike Brennan
Fort Hamilton Public Affairs

“With our security needs here in the city, the extra help was appreciated,” said Capt. Thomas Waters of Task Force EmpireShield, Team MTA. “The conventioners and the people of New York City need us.”

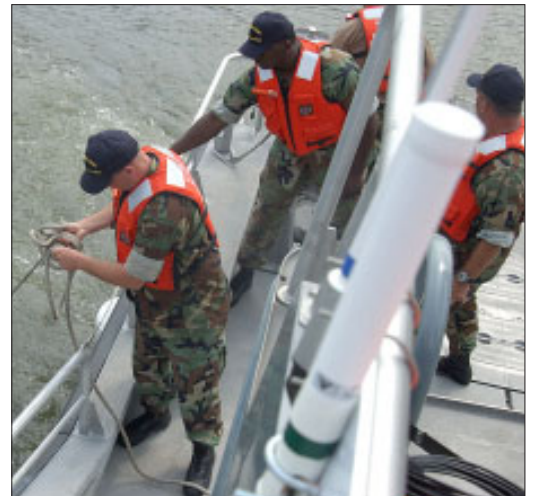
Task Force Empire Shield added the suffix ‘Plus’ as over 1000 New York Army National Guardsmen came to New York City and joined Team MTA in their mission. Many Soldiers make sacrifices to be away from their homes and assist the MTA police with security details in train terminals and other sensitive commutation points. For the Republican National Convention (RNC), these Soldiers headquartered at Fort Hamilton, needed greater numbers to safeguard those key commutation points.

Much like the minutemen of our forefathers, the Guard has risen to the occasion with evolving missions and various challenges designed to safeguard our country from continuing terrorist threats.

“Many of our Soldiers are from the metropolitan area and upstate,” explained Capt. Waters, a New York City police officer from the 67th Precinct currently assigned to Team MTA. “We have a great mission and we are all New Yorkers and very proud to be called to duty here in this great city.”



New York Naval Militia members prepare their vessel for a routine patrol off Staten Island during the Republican National Convention. Each patrol lasted eight hours. (Photos by Spc. Dennis Gravelle)





Left, a flight of four New York Army National Guard Blackhawk helicopters approach the Downtown Manhattan Heliport on the East River after flying over the Manhattan and Brooklyn bridges during an Aug. 29 training exercise in preparation for the Republican National Convention. (Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau)

Right, an Army National Guard Chinook helicopter hovers before landing on an East River heliport in lower Manhattan during an Aug. 29 training exercise in preparation for the Republican National Convention. Brooklyn is in the background. (Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau)



NY helicopter crews Exercise Homeland Security in Manhattan

NEW YORK

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Seven Army National Guard helicopter crews executed a picture-perfect training mission on a sunny afternoon perfect for pictures in lower Manhattan the Sunday before the Republican National Convention was gavelled to order.

The venerable Brooklyn Bridge was the backdrop for the Aug. 29 Joint Task Force-Republican National Convention exercise. It tested the aviators' abilities to land their Blackhawk and Chinook helicopters on an East River heliport near Wall Street at a precise time and then lift off again rapidly.

Several blocks to the north of the so-called "Wall Street Heliport" is the site of the World Trade Center, that melancholy piece of New York City real estate where the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, prompted so many homeland security precautions for the visiting Republicans three

years later.

The Army Guard helicopter drill for the National Special Security Event had serious implications, explained Maj. Lee Ohrnstein. The aviators practiced the procedures for inserting additional troops into the city should they be needed to support civil authorities during the four-day convention, said the New York Army Guard's aviation coordinating officer for the task force.

The exercise demonstrated the Guard's resolve to remain critical to America's homeland defense just as it has since the founding of this country. It supported officials' contentions that "the National Guard has developed enhanced capabilities and diversified readiness that will save American lives."

"It went about as well as we hoped it would," said Ohrnstein who was pleased with how the helicopter crews performed their ballet. "This mission tested the crews' aviation planning process, their in-flight linkup procedures, and their time-on-target executions of plus or minus 30 seconds."

The helicopters came from various locations. They linked up in midair as they were supposed to. They met their

time hacks. They landed and took off as scheduled.

Three CH-47 Chinooks, two from New York and one from Connecticut, came in first after flying over the Manhattan and Brooklyn bridges. They landed and took off just before a flight of four New York UH-60 Blackhawks came over the bridges and repeated the process.

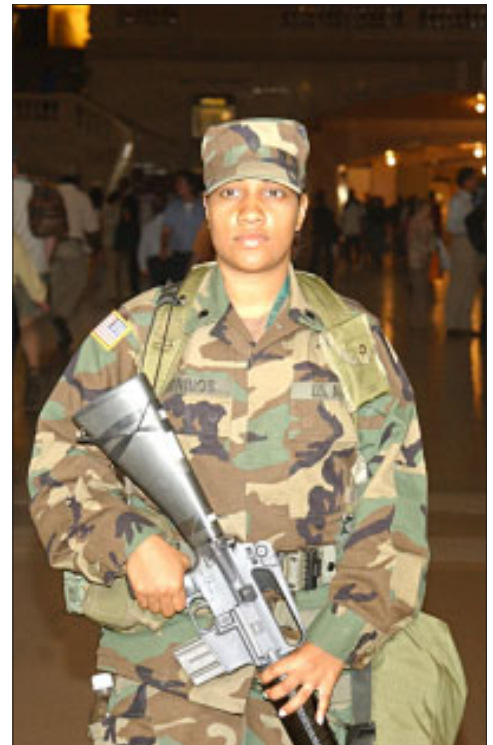
The landings and takeoffs were smooth and precise on the heliport that is surrounded by water and that resembles the deck of an aircraft carrier, except that its does not dip and rise, nor does it steam into a 25-knot wind.

And everything happened quickly enough to lend a new dimension to the expression "New York minute."



The exercise demonstrated the Guard's resolve to remain critical to America's homeland defense ...as it has since the founding of this country.

Left, Chief Master Sgt. Gregory Perricone, right, 106RW, thanks a Coast Guard Petty Officer during the RNC. Right, Spc. Norberto Berrios walks Penn Station assisting terminal security during the RNC. (Photos by Spc. Dennis Gravelle, 138th MPAD)



2-108th Soldiers Train Iraqi National Guard Recruits

FOB O' RYAN, IRAQ

From the 2-108th Infantry Division

Over a three-day period in mid-July, Alpha Company, 2-108th Infantry and Delta Company, 203rd Battalion, Iraqi National Guard took another step towards building an Iraqi Security Force capable of defending their city and country against anti-Iraqi forces.

Embarking on what will truly be a joint training effort, Soldiers from the Alpha Company, Headquarters Platoon and leadership from Delta Company 203rd ING conducted interviews of more than 250 prospective ING recruits at the Hay Al Askari Police Station in Ad Dujayl.

The prospective recruits were chosen from an initial group of over 500 applicants from all over the Salah Ad Din province, and were screened for such things as prior military experience and civilian education.

Additionally, applicants were required to submit two letters of recommendation from religious or civic leaders to be considered.

The interviews started at 8 a.m. on Jul. 14. The prospective recruits lined up outside the police station and waited in an orderly group, one made more orderly by the presence of ING Soldiers. Inside, the committees readied themselves for the interviews while on the roof and outside the wall, the Alpha Company Mortar Section, Fist Section, Snipers and Joint Coordination Cell provided security.

Each committee consisted of one senior U.S. Army NCO, either an ING officer or NCO and an interpreter. Team One consisted of 1st Sgt. Joseph Herald, 1st Sgt. Naef (Delta Company, 203rd ING) and Lt. Col. Adnon (Iraqi Police); team two was Sgt. 1st Class Michael Wright, Capt. Hussein (Commander, Delta Company, 203rd ING) and 2nd Lt. Abbas, with team Three consisting of Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Lattimer, 1st Lt. Qais (Executive Officer, Delta Company, 203rd ING) and Sgt. Abousaid.



Lt. Col. Adnan, center, of the Iraqi National Police, interprets a question for a prospective recruit while 1st Sgt. Naef of the Iraqi National Guard looks on and 1st Sgt. Joseph Herald, Alpha Company, 2-108th Infantry records. (Photo courtesy of the 2-108th Infantry)

As the prospective recruits entered the interview rooms, U.S. and ING leadership asked them a series of questions that had been previously agreed upon. The questions were designed to determine the recruits' reasons for joining the ING, their leadership potential, qualifications and their ability to read and write.

At the end of each interview, each three-man committee graded the interviewee as an A, B, or C. Then each applicant was directed outside to Staff Sgt. Clarke Caporale, the mortar section sergeant, who took their pictures for record. When the first day of interviews wrapped up at 1 p.m., the committees compiled their lists and packed up for the short trip back to Forward Operating Base O'Ryan. By the end of the third day, 277 prospective recruits had been interviewed and 158 had been chosen to go on to the next step in their training, which will begin on Aug. 1 at FOB O'Ryan.

On that date, the recruits report to the FOB where they will begin three weeks of intense training and introduction into the Iraqi National Guard. Their cadre will consist of ten Soldiers from the headquarters platoon of Alpha Company as well as ten ING Soldiers. The ING Soldiers recently completed training with Alpha Company and they are looking forward to returning to the FOB to pass on what they learned to their recruits.

The joint nature of the cadre will serve to show the incoming recruits that the Iraqi National Guard is an Iraqi force that exists to help provide a safe and secure future for all Iraqis, regardless of religion, ethnicity or tribal affiliation.

The Iraqi National Guard Soldiers will serve as assistant instructors for most of the classroom training and as primary instructors for much of the practical exercises and field training. They will also run drill and ceremony

classes, assist in physical fitness training and the day-to-day administration of the training platoons. During a recent meeting between American and Iraqi cadre, their enthusiasm and dedication were obvious as they volunteered to teach whatever classes were available for them and committed to setting the standard in appearance, bearing and skill for all the recruits.

Currently, contractors are working hard to put the finishing touches on the bunkers in which the recruits will live. The Alpha Company executive officer, 1st Lt. Murray is working hard to ensure the logistics of getting uniforms, food, water and training materials and taking care of cadre personnel who are preparing for classes that will cover various basic Soldier skills as well as squad and platoon level tasks. Additionally, lectures by community leaders and military leaders will help to emphasize with the recruits, professionalism, fair and equitable treatment of all people, placing duty before personal gain and personal accountability.

While the cadre from Alpha Company do not count any drill instructors among them, they will draw heavily upon their civilian training and experience as police officers, coaches, instructors and students to work together with their Iraqi counterparts in turning these raw recruits into Soldiers.

It will be their job to separate from the 158 people who passed their interviews, the 88 individuals who will be able to put duty, honor and country before any thoughts of personal gain. It will be up to them to determine who has what it takes to be an Iraqi Soldier in the new Iraq, to imbue in them the warrior ethos and the dedication to duty that has been the trademark of Alpha Company, 2-108th Infantry's tour in Iraq to date.

It is the goal of every cadre Soldier to build Delta Company, 203rd ING into the finest, best-trained ING Company in all of Iraq and leave them as our legacy long after we have returned home to our lives and our families. We will look with pride on the work we have done with our Iraqi brothers-in-arms and know that our time here in Iraq will make a difference for years to come.

Children, continued from Page 3

for the student's families to explain my visit and preclude the eventual concerned questions about what I was doing there and what I said. I also had a certificate for the whole school as well as framed pictures of the two platoons during their deployment, which will all be hung in the trophy case they have set up in their main lobby; It's really something to see. They put every single letter or picture they get from our boys in there. The kids were really shocked to get their own little "Thank You," especially when I told them it was a real military award for everything they've done—that one really brought the house down.

The students asked a lot of questions about Iraq in general terms, and they seemed very surprised to see pictures of what Iraq is really like with our guys standing in the middle of it. They wanted to know why we cut our hair so short, do girls have to cut their hair like the guys do, what they eat, and why the Army makes them wear long sleeves if it's so hot all the time. It was pretty funny, actually. The question most often asked was "When they get back, can you bring

them in to see us in their brown uniforms and those floppy hats?" I will have to make that an alternate drill date next year, I think. That would probably be an event filled with lots of hugs and eager questions and lots of pictures.

I walked out feeling very proud of my soldiers, as well as the great Empire State. It's tough to explain, but I left thinking that our guys would be all right with that kind of support.

I feel a great sense of hope for the future now. I'd have to say that this was one of the more rewarding experiences of my career, so far. Our boys kept the communications going with these kids all on their own and the impact it made on the young ones will stay with them the rest of their lives, I hope.

Yet another example of the character and quality individual that makes up the Mighty 108th!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Capt. Michael E. Batt is the commander of Company B, 1-108th Infantry, Masten Avenue Armory, Buffalo. Two platoons from this unit were activated in January and are currently serving in Iraq.

CERF Team Ready to Respond to every emergency

CAMP SMITH

Story and photos by Spc. Richard Vogt
138th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

On a cool day in July, the CERF team responded to a simulated terrorist attack on a mock political rally. Citizen volunteers rolled on the ground and pretended to suffer from a chemical attack as the team rolled out their decontamination equipment and rushed to save the victims.

The CERF team is a multi-state, multi-branch force that includes Army National Guard, Air Guard, New York Militia, and fire fighters all working together to save lives. "You don't know who's state and who's guard," Homeland Defense Director Lt. Col. Don Britton said, admiring the seamless integration of forces.

CER—sounds like "surf"—is a complicated acronym where the 'C' stands for CBRNE, or Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear and Explosive high yield. The ERF of CERF stands for Enhanced Response Force.

And that's just what the team does. It quickly responds to any sort of attack in order to minimize casualties through speed, organization, communication, and teamwork. The



CERF team members check a victim of a yet unknown mock attack for radiological, biological and chemical contamination.

team also has an array of equipment for rescue and decontamination. The team sets up tents for cleaning victims' skin and disposing of contaminated clothing. Valuables are tagged and tracked so they can be returned to the individual once they have been through the decontamination line.

Lt. Col. Robbins, 1st Army, played the role of Incident OIC. He issued the order in the role-play scenario to Maj. Goetchius, the team's OIC. His other task was to evaluate the CERF team.

The team can handle both ambulatory and impaired victims and train for all sorts of incidents. One volunteer pretended that she was holding a baby and would not give up her baby. Team members in full chemical gear patiently advised the woman to let them check her baby.

U.S. Navy Sea Cadet Edward Klapach volunteered to be one of the participants in the simulated attack. The day was cool and the victims would go through the entire simulation, including the "hose down" decontamination. But he was upbeat.

"It doesn't matter," Cadet Klapach said. "We're gonna get wet anyway."

Klapach went on to say that he had volunteered for a

similar drill with the New York City Fire Department. His buddy, Seaman Apprentice Dayne Mosconi also seemed upbeat-before the decontamination. After a cold shower, however, Mosconi's lips were blue and he was shivering.

"It was good," Mosconi said, shivering. He went on to say that everybody was helpful.

The CERF team does not work in isolation. In addition to the team's heterogeneous makeup, they are also prepared to work with EMS, Fire, Police, FBI, and Civil Support professionals, among other first responders.

Oswald Bracero works as a rinsing station on the decontamination line. It can be hot, tiring work in full chemical gear. But he's enthusiastic to help.

"I'm proud to be part of the team," Bracero said.

It gets hot in the decontamination suits, so the team uses the buddy system and a rotation so workers don't become casualties themselves. Chief Warrant Officer Kara Rosenthal works as the safety officer for the CERF team and watched to make sure no one crossed from the "hot zone" into the "cold zone," spreading contaminants. CWO Rosenthal kept up with the flow of personnel and performed her job perfectly, though it's difficult to tell just by watching. From the look of things, the CERF team only works in the "hot zone."



CERF team members transport a victim of a mock chemical attack for medical treatment and decontamination.



A victim of a mock chemical attack undergoes decontamination by CERF team members.

State Flag Returns from Battle

LATHAM

By Master Sgt. Jeannine Mannarino
Guard Times Staff

Immediately prior to the initiation of the ground war in Iraq, an earnest request came into the New York National Guard Public Affairs Office for a New York State flag to be expedited to Col. Joseph Anderson, 2nd Strike Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, Camp New York, Kuwait.

Anderson, a native of Westchester County, had one main purpose for this flag and that was to take it to battle. Shortly after speaking with Anderson, state spokesman, Scott Sandman, immediately brought this request to the Governor's Office. The office honored Anderson's request, and in March 2003, the flag was flying over Camp New York in Kuwait.

The flag was flown in various places starting with the 101st Airborne's first staging area Camp New York and then carried into each area of operations to include Baghdad.

"Colonel Anderson kept in touch with me, and upon returning, Anderson indicated that he would return the flag to New York State," said Sandman. Anderson and Sandman both agreed the flag should be part of the state's battle flag collection.

Three representatives of the 101st Airborne Division, who happened to be native New Yorkers, Sgt. 1st Class Johnny Rosario, Spc. Robert Bodden and Pfc. Frank Molina, presented the flag to Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Maguire, Jr.—the general accepted the flag on behalf of the New York State Military Museum located at the Saratoga Springs Armory.

The flag will be sent to the conservation lab at Peebles Island where the New York State Parks and Recreation division runs a conservation facility.



Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Maguire Jr., Adjutant General, thanks Sgt. 1st Class Johnny Rosario, 101st Airborne Division for bringing home the New York State flag that was brought into battle and flown over Baghdad. Displaying the flag are two fellow soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division, Spc. Robert Bodden, left, and Pfc. Frank Molina, right. (Photo by Master Sgt. Jeannine Mannarino, Guard Times Staff)

Museum Director, Michael Aikey, said "Once this flag is conserved it will be on display." He went on to say that the flag was the latest in the succession of flags donated by New York's servicemen and woman, including the national guard, dating back to the War of 1812.

NYARNGPROMOTIONS**LIEUTENANTCOLONEL**

JOHN J. BOYLE NYARNGELEMENT,JOINT
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ALLEN D. FERRY HHC AVN BDE 42 INDIV
FREDERICK P. WOLL NYARNGELEMENT,JOINT
FORCEHQ

MAJOR

DAVID A. GAGNON HHD 104TH MILITARY
POLICE BN
SERGIO HIDALGO HHD 369TH CORPS SPT BN
MICHAEL A. IMAGNA 108 IN BN 01 HHC FWD 2
DAVID L. WILLIS AV HHC DIV AV BDE FWD
3
ARTHUR E. ZEGERS IV NYARNGELEMENT,JOINT
FORCEHQ

CAPTAIN

RICHARD A. CAIN 108 IN BN 02 AASLT COD
RICHARD D. OBRIEN 108 IN BN 02 AASLT HHC

FIRSTLIEUTENANT

PAUL M. BAILIE CO A, 3-142D AVIATION
NANCY L. BRAATEN 2ND BN 106TH REG (RTB)
NICHOLAS P. CAPUTO III DET 1 COG 137TH
AVIATION
JON C. CLARK COD 1-101ST CAVALRY
JASON J. FALER 53D HQ DET AR LIAISON
(ARFOR)
ERIC R. FRITZ DET 1 COG 137TH
AVIATION
DANIELLE HARRINGTON HHD 342D FWD SPT BN
KONSTANTIN MAKAROV HHD ENGINEER
BDE 42 ID
CHAIM SPILMAN 642 MIBN HHC FWD 3
NATHAN W. THOMPSON COD 1-101ST
CAVALRY

SERGEANTMAJOR

RANDALL D. SWARTZ HQ 53D TRP CMD

MASTERSERGEANT

ALAN C. BODA 108 IN BN 01 AASLT D CO
FWD
CHARLES A. BUNYAN CAMPSMITH TRAINING
SITE
ERNEST RAMOS 14TH FINANCE DET
KEVIN W. RYAN NYARNGELEMENT,JOINT
FORCEHQ

SERGEANTFIRSTCLASS

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SUPPLY BN
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TREVOR M. BOYCE 69 IN BN 01 COB REAR
CHRISTOPHER J. BULLOCK CO C(-) 638 SPT BN
ANDREW J. DONOVAN HQS 106TH REGIMENT
(RTI)
TODD R. EBERT 133 OD CO MAINT
NONDIVDS
JOHN J. GALLO III RECRUITING AND
RETENTION CMD
JOSEPH GONZALEZ CAMPSMITH TRAINING
SITE
MARK A. HACKETT COB 101ST SIGNAL BN
ANDREW J. HAWORTH HHD 104TH MILITARY
POLICE BN
FREDERICK F. HERRINGSHAW HHD 369TH
WATER SUPPLY BN

DENNIS B. LAW 204 EN BN CO A FWD 2
THOMAS R. MCNANEY HHC (-) 27TH IN BDE
EDDY T. MEADOR HHC 27TH AREA
SUPPORT GROUP
ALFRED F. MOSE NYARNGELEMENT,JOINT
FORCEHQ
MICHAEL B. NILSSON JR NYARNG
ELEMENT,JOINT FORCEHQ
MICHAEL L. ROMINE NYARNGELEMENT,JOINT
FORCEHQ
ROBERT L. STOCKWELL HHC 642D MIBATTALION

STAFFSERGEANT

TIMOTHY W. ABEL COC 1-127TH ARMOR
EDNA J. ANDINO 145TH MAINTENANCE CO
THEODORE H. BERTOT HHC (-) 1-108TH INF
PABLO S. BONILLA HHD 27TH FINANCE BN
IRVING L. BOTELLO HHD 206 CORPS SPT BN
MICHAEL J. CAVANAUGH HHC 152D
ENGINEER BN
CHARLTON P. CORNELL 108 IN BN 01 AASLT A CO
FWD
LUIS D. DANDRADE III HHC AVN BDE 42 INDIV
TARA DAWE HQS 106TH REGIMENT
(RTI)
LOUIS G. DELLIPIZZI HQS 106TH REGIMENT
(RTI)
MICHAEL V. DOMENIC HQS 106TH REGIMENT
(RTI)
MICHAEL A. ELLIS COB 1-69TH
INFANTRY (M)
HENRIK L. FERRARO HQS 106TH REGIMENT
(RTI)
JEFFREY L. FIORITO 108 IN BN 01 AASLT A CO
NOEL D. FREDERICKS 2ND CIVIL SUPPORT
TEAM (WMD)
TIMOTHY J. GANGI MEDICAL COMMAND
FRANKIE HERNANDEZ TROOPE 101ST CAVALRY
ARMAND JURADO 69 IN BN 01 HHC REAR
JEFFREY J. KELLEY 108 IN BN 01 AASLT A CO
FWD
DAVID A. KENYON 4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET
JAMEL A. LAWSON COB 101ST SIGNAL BN
ALFRED J. LUTTMAN JR COC 1-105 INF
MERVYN R. MCBURNIE 1569TH
TRANSPORTATION CO
GLENN V. MILLER COA 1-69TH INFANTRY
(M)
JUAN PEREZ HHD 206 CORPS SPT BN
GARY PHILLIPS HHD 369TH CORPS SPT BN
JOHN G. PILC 427TH MAINTENANCE CO
(-)
JOHN N. RUSSO 1156TH ENGR CO (-)
JEFFREY J. SMITH COB 1-69TH
INFANTRY (M)
DAVID C. SOTOMAYOR CAMPSMITH TRAINING
SITE
BRIAN E. SPEACH NYARNGELEMENT,JOINT
FORCEHQ
TROY P. TERRY DET 1 HHC 1-108TH INF
DANIEL P. WILSON COD 1-105 INF

SERGEANT

JUSTIN N. AGARD HSC 642D SUPPORT BN
MICHAEL J. AQUILINA DET 1 COG 137TH
AVIATION
MIGUEL A. AVILAPONCE 1569 TC COMED
TRK FWD
MARVIN T. AYERS JR HHB 1-258TH FIELD
ARTILLERY
SCOTT C. BAILEY TROOPE 101ST CAVALRY
TYSON C. BENSON 204 EN BN CO A FWD 2

LARRY J. BRECKENRIDGE JR 4TH PERSONNEL
SVC DET
GAIL E. BUTLER MEDICAL COMMAND
MARIA I. CHINCUANCO HQ 531ST TRP CMD
DANIEL M. COOTER JR HHC 642D MIBATTALION
TIMOTHY A. DEGROTE 1156TH ENGR CO (-)
KEVIN J. DOUGHERTY 42 HHC HVY DIV FWD 2
JASON M. FARRELL MEDICAL COMMAND
JEANINE E. FINCK HHC 27TH AREA
SUPPORT GROUP
JOEL A. FUNK SR 108 IN BN 02 AASLT CO A
DOMENICO A. GAROFALO 204 EN BN CO A
FWD 2
WENNY HA HSC 642D SUPPORT BN
DAVID R. HALL TROOPE 101ST CAVALRY
ARMANDO C. HERNANDEZ 1569TH
TRANSPORTATION CO
THOMAS J. HEYMAN 249TH MED CO AIR
AMBULANCE (-)
ARTHUR G. HILTON 204 EN BN CO A FWD 2
GEORGE S. JAMES COC 3-142D AVIATION
AARON D. JAMISON 108 IN BN 01 AASLT D CO
FWD
BRETT A. JANES 249TH MED CO AIR
AMBULANCE (-)
ANTONIO P. JENNINGS 442D MILITARY POLICE
CO
ERIC R. JOHNSON DET 1 COG 137TH
AVIATION
TIMOTHY P. LANNING MEDICAL COMMAND
RICHARD LOPEZ 204 EN BN CO A FWD 2
ANTONIO LUGO 1569TH
TRANSPORTATION CO
FABIAN MALDONADO 69 IN BN 01 DET 1 HHC
REAR
CHRISTOPHER E. MANSMAN NYARNG
ELEMENT,JOINT FORCEHQ
JONATHAN T. MOLIK HHC 642D MIBATTALION
THERESA M. MUELLER HHC (-) 3-142D AVIATION
BRIAN A. NETZEL II 249TH MED CO AIR
AMBULANCE (-)
MAXIMILIAN PEREZ HHC AVN BDE 42 INDIV
VIOLET C. PLAZA 1569TH
TRANSPORTATION CO
NICOLE M. PREVOST 4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET
PATRICK K. REILLY HHC (-) 3-142D AVIATION
ROBERT D. REIS III DET 1 COG 137TH
AVIATION
BRIAN P. ROUGEUX 156 FA BN 01 HHS FWD 3
DARREN F. SANDERS 108 IN BN 02 AASLT HHC
FRANK L. SMITH III TROOPE 101ST CAVALRY
SEAN A. SMITH 108 IN BN 01 AASLT A CO
KEVIN J. SWINT COC 3-142D AVIATION
EDWIN A. TIRADO 442D MILITARY POLICE
CO
DAVID J. WILKES HHC 1-105TH INF
JOHN D. WILSON 1569 TC COMED TRK
FWD
TONY L. WILSON COB (-) 642D SUPPORT BN
STEVEN L. WOODRUFF COB (-) 642D SUPPORT BN
ERIK W. YIP NYARNGELEMENT,JOINT
FORCEHQ
LUCIANO YULFO HHD 369TH CORPS SPT BN

SPECIALIST

SALVATORE J. AUTERI COA 1-69TH INFANTRY
DONALD L. BAJOH R JR 108 IN BN 02 AASLT HHC
GERARD BELL 133 OD CO MAINT
NONDIVDS
BRIAN D. BERNZOTT COB 3-142D AVIATION
TIMOTHY J. BISHOP 108 IN BN 01 ANTIARMOR
REARNY



Graduates of the USA Sergeants Major Academy, Ft. Bliss, Texas, stand tall aside New York Army National Guard State Command Sgt. Maj. Robert VanPelt. From left to right are the Command Sgt. Maj. Randy Pound, 369th Water Support Bn., Command Sgt. Maj. Dave Piwowarski, 1-108th Infantry, Sergeant Maj. Dave Phillis, JFHQ-NY; Command Sgt. Maj. Randy Pinkowski, 152nd Engineers Bn. (Courtesy photo)

MICHAEL J. BORRELLI 108 IN BN 01 CO A DET 1
REARNY
JOSEPH BYRNES HHD 104TH MILITARY
POLICE BN
ANGEL M. CARRASQUILLO 145 ODCO MAINT
FWD
KEVIN G. COLEMAN 156 FA BN 01 HHS FWD 3
EDWARD P. COONS 133 ODCO MAINT
NONDIVDS
ROY C. DAVIS H & S CO 204 ENGR BN
RAY A. DELFI 1569 TC COMED TRK
FWD
ODELLE D. DESPOT CO C(-) 638 SPT BN
AZEM A. DOBRODOLI CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY
(M)
BRENDAN W. DUNFEE MEDICAL COMMAND
KYLE S. ECKERT 108 IN BN 02 AASLT CO B
ETOP T. EKANEM 105TH MP CO
ERIC S. EWALD CO C(-) 1-108TH INF
BRIAN A. FOLEY 53D HQ DET AR LIAISON
(ARFOR)
ERIC P. GEISS 133 ODCO MAINT
NONDIVDS
CHRISTOPHER J. GITTENS HHC 42 IN DIV(-)
CHRISTOPHER M. GRIVAS 442D MILITARY
POLICE CO
SANDRA GUEVARA 133 ODCO MAINT
NONDIVDS
DWAYNE H. HAZZARD JR 108 IN BN 02
AASLT HHC
ALEX J. HEINE 133 ODCO MAINT
NONDIVDS
NIBERLEY N. HUTSON HSC 642D SUPPORT BN
LOOBANS JOLICOEUR HHD 369TH CORPS SPT BN
JOSHUA W. JULIAN DET 2 CO C 1-108TH INF
CARREY A. KLOBUS CO C(-) 638 SPT BN
JOHN P. LEVANDOWSKI DET 2 HHC 27TH IN BDE
BENJAMIN MALDONADO 133 ODCO MAINT
NONDIVDS
WAYNE L. MYHILL DET 2 CO C 1-108TH INF
BRADLEY M. ORR HHC 1-105TH INF
ALCIDES PEREZ 108 IN BN 02 AASLT CO A
DOHROHN I. RABAH TROOPE 101ST CAVALRY
GEORGE M. RAYNOR CO C(-) 638 SPT BN
ARMANI C. REID 133 ODCO MAINT
NONDIVDS
LUIS N. REYES 108 IN BN 02 AASLT HHC
ANTHONY T. RODRIGUEZ HHB 1-258TH
FIELD ARTILLERY

RUBEN D. RODRIGUEZ 133 ODCO MAINT
NONDIVDS
WILLIAM L. ROSE HHD 27TH SUPPLY & SVC
BN
STEVEN A. ROY 108 IN BN 01 CO B FWD 2
MARCUS J. SAINSBURY HHD 104TH MILITARY
POLICE BN
CHRISTOPHER J. SCOTT 108 IN BN 01 CO A REAR
NY
TERRANCE D. SHELHART TROOPE 101ST
CAVALRY
JOHN M. SILVAGNI DET 1 HHC 1-69TH INF(M)
BRANDON C. SILVERNAIL HHC 42 IN DIV(-)
ERIC D. SMITH 108 IN BN 01 CO B FWD 2
MELVIN P. SMITH HHC(-) 1-127TH ARMOR
CARLINGTON F. STEPHENSON 133 ODCO MAINT
NONDIVDS
MARK D. UNGER HHC 3RD BDE 42ND ID(M)
EUGENE A. UNSER JR 108 IN BN 02 AASLT CO B
ELIDO F. VASQUEZ JR CO B 1-105 INF
FREDERICK M. WHITE HHC 42 IN DIV(-)

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

ADESHOLA O. AFOLABI HHC(-) 1-69 INF(M)
AARON C. ALLEN TROOPE 101ST CAVALRY
DEBORAH A. AVOLA 427TH MAINTENANCE CO
(-)
TRISHA L. BIMBER CO B 1-127TH ARMOR
OBA M. CANTINE 258 FA BN 1 BTRY C 155
SP
GABRIEL A. CARDIN TROOPE 101ST CAVALRY
JEREMY D. CIANCIOSI 108 IN BN 01 ANTIARMOR
REARNY
JACK D. COONS 108 IN BN 02 AASLT CO B
DAVID W. COUNTRYMAN CO B(-) 642D
SUPPORT BN
DUSTIN M. CURTIS H & S CO 204 ENGR BN
JOHN P. DELOSH DET 1 427TH
MAINTENANCE CO
STARTASHA M. DILLARD DET 1 CO B 50TH
MAIN SUPPORT BN
SHAUN M. DOANE 108 IN BN 01 ANTIARMOR
REARNY
JEFFREY M. EDSON 108 IN BN 02 AASLT CO A
JOHN J. FERNANDEZ CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY
(M)
CARLOS M. FLORES NY ARNGELEMNT,
JOINT FORCE HQ

STEPHEN R. FOX 108 IN BN 02 AASLT CO B
KYLE J. GAULDIN DET 2 HHC 27TH IN BDE
JACK E. GIBBS CO D 1-105 INF
DARRYL GIBSON CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN
KENNETH J. GRITMAN HHS(-) 1-156 FA
OMAR J. GUADALUPE TROOPE 101ST CAVALRY
WILLIAM M. HOOVER DET 1 CO C 1-108TH INF
BRIAN D. JOY 108 IN BN 01 CO B FWD 2
NICHOLAS P. KAFALAS CO B 3-142D AVIATION
JOSHUA J. KHOKHAR H & S CO 204 ENGR BN
TYRONE KNIPPING 53D HQ DET AR LIAISON
(ARFOR)
THOMAS D. KOVACS 108 IN BN 02 AASLT HHC
ELAINA M. LAZARUS CO C 3-142D AVIATION
JOSIAH M. LOVELESS HSC 642D SUPPORT BN
JEFFREY G. MAGUIRE CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY
(M)
NICHOLAS J. MCELROY 108 IN BN 02 AASLT CO C
DIEGO E. MENENDEZ SERVICE BATTERY 1-
258TH FA
DOMINIQUE M. MEYER MEDICAL COMMAND
MICHAEL A. NEITHARDT CO D 1-101ST
CAVALRY
DANIEL J. PARADIS CO A 1-127TH ARMOR
JOSEPH R. PARKER 108 IN BN 02 AASLT CO C
JACQUES RAPHAEL CO C 1-105 INF
BLAIR REELS TROOPE 101ST CAVALRY
DANIEL J. REYNOLDS HHD 27TH SUPPLY & SVC
BN
JUSTIN A. ROBLEDO 108 IN BN 02 AASLT CO B
DANIEL A. SACCHITELLA 1ST BN 106TH REG
(GS)
BENJAMIN D. SEEGER CO C 3-142D AVIATION
ADRIAN H. SMITH TROOPE 101ST CAVALRY
ERIC F. TASAKOVIC DET 1 107TH MILITARY
POLICE CO
ADAM TIRADO 102D MAINTENANCE CO
STEPHEN E. TSCHIDERER TROOPE 101ST
CAVALRY
ROBERT T. TUTTLE 108 IN BN 01 ANTIARMOR
REARNY
MICHAEL T. WETZEL JR 133 ODCO MAINT REAR
BERT C. WHIDDEN 1ST BN 106TH REG(GS)
MATTHEW M. WHITE JR 108 IN BN 01
ANTIARMOR REARNY
COURTNEY M. WILLIAMSON 2427TH TRANS
COLT/MED TRUCK

PRIVATE 2

GEORGE F. BAHR IV HHC 1-105TH INF
GERALD J. BENBENEK CO B 152D ENGINEER BN
RADHA R. BHRAMDAT 1ST BN 106TH REG(GS)
KYLE W. BRAMAN HHC(-) 27TH IN BDE
JEFFREY P. BULL HHC 152D ENGINEER BN
SHAWN A. BULL CO A 1-127TH ARMOR
AIYSHA T. COLLINS DET 1 HHC 107TH
SUPPORT GROUP
HEATHER M. CONWAY MEDICAL COMMAND
BRIAN C. CRITTON 2ND BN 106TH REG(RTB)
WILSON J. DELGADO HHC 1-101ST CAVALRY
CORA L. EDWARDS H & S CO 204 ENGR BN
SARAH N. GRANT HHC 152D ENGINEER BN
EUGENE G. HARPER 427TH MAINTENANCE CO
(-)
KAGAN M. HELM 427TH MAINTENANCE CO
(-)
LATOYA L. JENKINS H & S CO 204 ENGR BN
BRITT A. JULIUSSEN H & S CO 204 ENGR BN
DOUGLAS I. LAIS 108 IN BN 02 AASLT CO B
DEL V. LOPEZ DET 2 CO C 1-108TH INF
JUSTIN M. LUTHER CO A(-) 427TH SPT BN
JONATHAN MARTINEZ CO D 1-101ST CAVALRY

MARCO A. MARTINEZ	COC 1-105 INF	PEDRO D. QUINONES III	1ST BN 106TH REG (GS)	SERVICE DET	
JEROD J. McDONALD	108 IN BN 02 HHC REAR	ERIC L. RAMOS	HHC (-) 1-69 INF (M)	JEREMY H. SINGER	HHC (-) 27TH IN BDE
IAN N. MERRITT	COD 1-101ST CAVALRY	FRANZ RAVANES	COC 1-69TH INF (M)	LARRY E. SMITH	108 IN BN 01 ANTIARMOR
JOSEPH J. MUNSON	1156TH ENGR CO (-)	CARLOS J. REBERON	145TH MAINTENANCE CO	REARNY	
JAMES P. NEELY	DET 1 HHC 1-69TH INF (M)	EFRAIN RODRIGUEZ	COC 1-105 INF	JESSICA I. WAGNER	4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET
MICHAEL A. NEMIRE JR	108 IN BN 01 ANTIARMOR	JOSEPH C. SANTORO II	2ND BN 106TH REG (RTB)	JAMES L. WALSH	108 IN BN 02 AASLT COD
REARNY		JOHN J. SAVARESE	HHC 1-101ST CAVALRY	MATTHEW YOUSSEF	107TH MP CO (RD)
THOMAS G. PECHLER	TROOPE 101ST CAVALRY	AMMAD A. SIDDIQUE	29TH PERSONNEL	GEOFFREY G. ZAJAC	COB 152D ENGINEER BN

Army Reenlistments

NYARNGELEMEN, JOINT FORCE HQ SGT MATTHEW JOHNSON SPC SCOTT E. WALKER MSG FRANCIS G. YUSKO JR	HSC 642D SUPPORT BN SPC WILLIAM J. CRANDALL	SPC ERIC E. WATSON	DET 1 CO C 204TH EN BN SPC TOMMIE JONES SPC ROBERT M. POLANCO	SPC ROSEMARIE E. SABIK SSG MICHAEL M. STEELE SPC MICHAEL J. URTZ
MEDICAL COMMAND SSG APRIL C. HALL	CO B (-) 642D SUPPORT BN SGT MARK A. THOMAS	133 OD CO MAINT NON DIV SFC JOHN T. FLANAGAN 1 SGLUIS F. MORALES SSG JOSE A. PALOMINO SPC PATRICK PASCAL SPC WILLIAM TOUSSAINT	HHD 104TH MILITARY POLICE BN SPC JOSEPH BYRNES SFC JASON HUPPERT	HHC 1-105TH INF SSG VINCENT J. MAHER
CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE SSG HECTOR BERDECIA	HHC AVN BDE 42 IN DIV PFC SHARON E. KELLNER	145TH MAINTENANCE CO PFC MICHAEL BAEZ SPC JOHN S. CONWAY JR SPC MERY JIMENEZ MSG HENRY B. MACK JR SGT VICTOR I. MUNOZ SPC KANESHA WILSON	1427TH TRANS CO (MDM TRK) SSG BARBARA J. ANDRES	108 IN BN 01 AASLT A CO SSG CHRISTOPHER A. ERRINGTON SGT JOSEPH F. LAGEORGIA
53D HQ DET AR LIAISON (ARFOR) SPC MANUEL A. BRAVO	HHC (-) 3-142D AVIATION SGT SHAUN P. BRADLEY SGT JOSEPH T. MITCHELL	145 OD CO MAINT DS REAR SSG JOSE A. RIVERA	427TH MAINTENANCE CO (-) SPC PHILIP T. APPLEBY SPC BRYAN K. BROOKS SPC PHILLIP R. KAY	108 IN BN 01 AASLT A CO FWD SSG TIM K. REASKA
HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI) SFC THOMAS C. STRAUSS	CO B 3-142D AVIATION SGT RUSSEL W. SCHWARTZ SGT THOMAS TEUFEL	145 OD CO MAINT FWD SPC EDDY A. HIRALDO	DET 1 427TH MAINTENANCE SSG MITTIE B. RICHARDSON	CO C (-) 1-108TH INF SSG ANDREW R. LODGE
1ST BN 106TH REG (GS) SFC ROBIN L. PUGLIESE RECRUITING/RETENTION CMD SGT NEIL W. EGERER SGT EVETTE MERCED SGT MARIECHA G. ROWE	199TH ARMY BAND (-) SFC KENT S. BURCHILL SSG ELIZABETH E. TORRES	105TH MP CO SGT JASON W. HARTNETT SPC DENNIS C. NICHOLS SGT WILLIAM L. ZEUGHARDT JR		
42D INFANTRY DIV BAND (-) SSG RICHARD A. ALEXANDER	1569TH TRANSPORTATION CO SPC GAGNE D. EDWARDS SGT ANTONIO LUGO	107TH MILITARY POLICE CO SGT YVONNE E. COOLEY SSG BRIAN M. DUNN SSG JOHN D. MINER		
HHC (-) 1-69 INF (M) SPC ROBERT B. HARRIS SPC ROBERT G. TICHY	1569 TC COMED TRK FWD SGT MIGUEL A. AVILAPONCE SGT ERNEST BONNER SGT DEVON L. BROWN SGT REGINALD A. BRYANT SPC JUAN CALDERON SGT GILBERT CASTILLO SGT HENRY E. COBB JR SGT JAMES R. DAVIS SSG DAVID C. DEMAIO SPC RUPERT FRANCIS SGT CARLOS A. GORDON PV2 HOOVERNEY A. GUZMAN SGT WAYNE HENDERSON SGT JUDY C. JOHN SGT KENNETH MACK SPC MICHAEL M. MATIAS SPC LEE F. MAZZARELLA SPC MIGUEL A. MELENCIANO SGT JOHNNY L. NELSON SPC MAURICIO R. PAZMINO ORTEGA SGT WALTER A. PINDER III SGT DEBORAH A. SIMON SGT BERNARD C. WALKER	442D MILITARY POLICE CO SGT VINCENT G. FRASER SGT DEBORAH K. HOLLINGER SGT ANTONIO P. JENNINGS SPC WILLIAM RUIZ		
COA 1-69TH INFANTRY (M) SPC RICHARD COLON SPC EUGENE J. HONEY		107TH MP CO (RD) SGT WALTER A. DZIEKOWICZ		
COB 1-69TH INFANTRY (M) SPC PETER N. ATHANS		4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET SGT CHRISTIAN J. SAAVEDRA		
COB 342D FWD SPT BN SSG DAVID W. KIMBRO SGT DWAIN C. LORD JR		COB 152D ENGINEER BN PFC JEREMY M. ROMAN		
DET 1 CO C 342D FWD SPT BN SPC DIAMANTE DEER		H & S CO 204 ENGR BN SPC KEVIN R. SCHMIDT		
HHC 1-101ST CAVALRY SGT CHARLES P. ODOWD		DET 1 CO A 204 ENGR BN SPC ROBERT T. LUDWIG SSG THOMAS K. NAJZION		
COC 1-101ST CAVALRY SGT SCOTT A. WILLSEY	COB 101ST SIGNAL BN SPC ABBE L. PABON SGT MAVERICK SCIARRINO			
COA 1-127TH ARMOR SGT EDWIN RODRIGUEZ				



Setting goals for the future, Dustin Gardner, son of sergeant Catherine E. Gardner, NY Recruiting and Retention Battalion, receives a certificate and check from NY Guard Enlisted Association Treasure, Master Sgt. Dean Motta, HHD JFHQ on Jul. 28 for the NY Guard Education Award. Dustin plans to use the funds to help pursue a degree in science and math at Schenectady County Community College. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith, Guard Times Staff)

COLONEL

VAUGHAN, TIMOTHY G NEW YORK ANGHQ
 DORSEY, CHARLESS 174 MAINTENANCE GP
 OWENS, THOMAS J II 174 OPERATIONS GP

LEUTENANT COLONEL

VIRKLER, GREGORY S 109 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ
 BEJIAN, TIMOTHY C 174 FIGHTER WG
 LARSON, KURTR 174 OPERATIONS GP

MAJOR

WALSH, MICHAEL E 101 RESCUESQ
 LUBEY, RICHARD D 138 FIGHTERSQ
 DAEFFLER, DOUGLASS 274 AIR SUPT OPNS SQ
 SINGLEMAN, ANNT NORTHEAST AIR DEF SQ

CHIEF MASTERSERGEANT

HALEY, PATRICIA I 106 LOGISTICS READINES SQ
 KING, TAMMY D 109 MAINTENANCE OPS FT

SENIOR MASTERSERGEANT

ANDREINE, JAMES A 109 MAINTENANCE OPS FT
 KENEFICK, JOHN J 174 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ
 BURROWS, JERRY D 174 LOGISTICS READINES SQ
 YOUNGS, RUSSELL J 174 MEDICAL SQ
 LEPORE, VINCENT F JR 105 MAINTENANCE SQ
 COLLERAN, MARKE 106 COMMUNICATIONS FT

MASTERSERGEANT

ADISSI, AL J 105 AERIAL PORT SQ
 GOLEMESKI, EDWARD J JR 105 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ
 HALL, MONICAL 105 AIRLIFT WG
 LEPORE, THOMAS A 105 CIVIL ENGINEERS SQ
 SCHWABEDISSEN, RICHARD K 105 CIVIL ENGINEERS SQ
 ELDER, JAMES F 105 LOGISTICS READINES SQ
 MIRENDA, ROBERT J JR 105 MAINTENANCE GP
 PESCHEL, ROGERS 105 MAINTENANCE SQ
 HESTER, LEVERNE 105 MAINTENANCE SQ
 SMITH, REBECCA M 105 OPERATIONS SUPPORT FT
 MOSHER, BRIAN A 103 RESCUE SQ
 WEIR, GLYN B 103 RESCUE SQ
 NIZZA, JAMES S 106 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ
 MURPHY, TIMOTHY J 106 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ
 FOY, DOUGLASS 106 MEDICAL SQ
 REYCROFT, HOLLY C 106 RESCUE WG
 SCHURR, BRIAN E 107 CIVIL ENGINEERS SQ
 MARSHALL, BRUCER 107 CIVIL ENGINEERS SQ
 TRAXLER, NANCY K 107 MAINTENANCE SQ
 VOIGT, PETER T 107 SERVICES FT
 RUEDA, RICHARD T 109 AIRLIFT WG
 HASKELL, PATRICK J 109 MEDICAL SQ
 SHAKESHAFT, JOHN C SR 139 AEROMEDEVAC SQ
 PREECE, GLEN 139 AIRLIFT SQ
 HOLMES, DOUGLAS A 152 AIR OPERATIONS GP
 ASHLEY, RICHARDE 174 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ
 KITE, ROBERT J 174 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ
 SHELLEY, TOBIAS J 174 CIVIL ENGINEERS SQ
 RYAN, THOMAS R 174 MAINTENANCE SQ
 MULDOON, PATRICK M 174 MAINTENANCE SQ
 MURPHY, MICHAEL D NEAD SCTY FORC FT FT
 HALL, DAVID A NORTHEAST AIR DEF SQ
 SVALLAND, GUNNARE NORTHEAST AIR DEF SQ

TECHNICAL SERGEANT

WEEKS, SHAWNA J 105 AERIAL PORT SQ
 MCFADDEN, ELIZABETH A 105 AERIAL PORT SQ
 HAVELL, DOUGLAS K JR 105 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ
 SURERUS, DONALDS 105 AIRLIFT WG
 ROGERS, BRENT A 105 MEDICAL SQ

COHEN, ERIC D 106 CIVIL ENGINEERS SQ
 JACK, ELLIS A 106 CIVIL ENGINEERS SQ
 BELLOWS, WILLIAM G 106 COMMUNICATIONS FT
 STEHL, THOMAS J 106 COMMUNICATIONS FT
 PANCHO, MICKEY O 106 LOGISTICS READINES SQ
 MURBACK, WILLIAM J 106 MAINTENANCE SQ
 POZGAY, CURTE 106 SECURITY FORCESS SQ
 COSENTINO, FRANK A 106 SERVICES FT
 WEAVER, VICKIL 107 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ
 MAHONEY, JENNIFER L 107 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ
 GIVAN, JOHNS 107 MAINTENANCE SQ
 MELI, REBECCA F 107 MEDICAL SQ
 BLEWITT, MICHAEL E 109 AIRLIFT WG
 RAYNER, EARL M JR 109 AIRLIFT WG
 FORD, CHRISTINE E 109 COMMUNICATIONS FT
 MELLETT, SCOTTE 109 LOGISTICS READINES SQ
 MANWARREN, ROSS S JR 109 MISSION SUPPORT FT
 GRANT, TYRONE 109 MISSION SUPPORT FT
 HART, PATRICK 109 SECURITY FORCESS SQ
 SCHREIBER, SCOTT J 174 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ
 JONES, JOHN A 174 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ
 ALTON, GUY M 174 LOGISTICS READINES SQ
 MORROW, ALAN S 174 LOGISTICS READINES SQ
 CALL, JOSEPH M II 174 MISSION SUPPORT FT
 GAMBRELL, BRIAN K 174 SECURITY FORCESS SQ
 TROCH, JAMES N 174 SECURITY FORCESS SQ
 COOK, DAVID S 274 AIR SUPT OPNS SQ
 COLEMAN, MARK A NORTHEAST AIR DEF SQ

STAFF SERGEANT

COLTON, JOHNS 105 AERIAL PORT SQ
 RAAP, ROBERT S JR 105 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ
 HURLEY, CHRISTOPHER R 105 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ
 MIESES, DAGOBERTO A 105 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ
 PURDY, SHANON M 105 AIRLIFT WG
 MCCLAIN, GIANNIL 105 AIRLIFT WG
 BEHRENS, MANDY C 105 LOGISTICS READINES SQ
 MISTRANGELO, RAYMOND J 105 MAINTENANCE SQ
 LEE, SUSAN A 105 MEDICAL SQ
 GOMEZ, HECTORE 106 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ
 PERAS, ROBERT M 106 LOGISTICS READINES SQ
 RUSSITANO, MARK A 106 MAINTENANCE SQ
 CONSTE, DONALD J 106 SECURITY FORCESS SQ
 HARVEY, ADAM DAVID 107 LOGISTICS READINES SQ
 TIRONE, STEPHENS 107 MAINTENANCE SQ
 VAROS, JUAN B III 107 MAINTENANCE SQ
 HANER, AMANDA N 107 SECURITY FORCESS SQ
 CHANDLER, CHARLES D 109 AERIAL PORT FT
 BYERWALTERS, MICHAEL J 109 AERIAL PORT FT
 BABIARZ, JASON P 109 AERIAL PORT FT
 ALDI, GREGORY M 109 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ
 HANUS, BRYAN C 109 MAINTENANCE OPS FT
 KABLAN, JOSEPH E 109 MEDICAL SQ
 FAULKNER, ANDREW M 109 STUDENT FT
 BYRON, JETHRO 139 AIRLIFT SQ
 POMERLEAU, MITCHELL W 174 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ
 SMITH, GARY R 174 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ
 MOADE, THOMAS W SR 174 LOGISTICS READINES SQ

SENIOR AIRMAN

FRIEDLANDER, JAMES R 105 CIVIL ENGINEERS SQ
 HALL, CHRISTOPHER M 105 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ
 SITKO, JAIME M 105 CIVIL ENGINEERS SQ
 JOHNSON, JONAH S 105 LOGISTICS READINES SQ
 DEPATTO, NICHOLAS L 105 MAINTENANCE SQ
 RIVAS, NINO 105 MAINTENANCE SQ
 ARNOUTS, JONATHAN E 105 MAINTENANCE SQ
 OSTLIE, MELISSA A 105 MISSION SUPPORT FT

ALLEN, LOUIS V 105 STUDENT FT
 RIOS, JULIO CESAR 137 AIRLIFT SQ
 SMITH, ERICA M 106 MISSION SUPPORT FT
 TAMBERINO, ANTHONY T 106 STUDENT FT
 ATKINSON, JOHN T 107 COMMUNICATIONS FT
 GILDNER, BRAD R 107 COMMUNICATIONS FT
 MESSINA, ANDREA NP 107 LOGISTICS READINESS SQ
 BIGELOW, ADAM J 107 MAINTENANCE SQ
 BASHER, RICHARD J 107 MAINTENANCE SQ
 RODGERS, THOMAS J 107 SECURITY FORCESS SQ
 JORDAN, LARRY D JR 107 SECURITY FORCESS SQ
 TANNER, RONALD C JR 107 STUDENT FT
 BREWER, DREW J 109 MAINTENANCE SQ
 CALDON, SETH D 109 MAINTENANCE SQ
 DUNN, ANDREW J 109 MAINTENANCE SQ
 STARK, MICHAEL J 109 SECURITY FORCESS SQ
 ALBALADEJO, GUSTAVO R 109 STUDENT FT
 TAYLOR, MICHAEL A 174 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ
 HERNANDEZ, RYAN J 174 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ
 SCUDERI, ANTHONY M 174 CIVIL ENGINEERS SQ
 DAMON, JOSHUA D 174 CIVIL ENGINEERS SQ
 DANGELO, ELIT 174 CIVIL ENGINEERS SQ
 ZIMMERMAN, MICHAEL E 174 MAINTENANCE SQ
 DAMORE, GERARD L 174 SECURITY FORCESS SQ

AIRMAN FIRST CLASS

CAMPBELL, PAUL W 105 STUDENT FT
 BARTLEY, JASON C 105 STUDENT FT
 LIN, ENOCH H 105 STUDENT FT
 KORTRIGHT, MICHAEL F 105 STUDENT FT
 VASQUEZ, JAIME T 105 STUDENT FT
 CERUTTI, BENJAMIN R 105 STUDENT FT
 JOBSON, COLBY A 105 STUDENT FT
 ROSA, CARMEN L 105 STUDENT FT
 HINES, ROBYNS 105 STUDENT FT
 GIOIA, PETER M 105 STUDENT FT
 ASHLEY, JOSHUA P 105 STUDENT FT
 TORRES, CHRISTOPHERE 105 STUDENT FT
 HORAN, PATRICK T 105 STUDENT FT
 REAGAN III, EARLE 105 STUDENT FT
 ROBERTS, INDIA JANIQUE 106 MAINTENANCE OPS FT
 VANDERCREEK, ANDREW G 106 STUDENT FT
 HAWKES, PAUL F JR 106 STUDENT FT
 DESENA, DENISE 106 STUDENT FT
 JOHNSON, FRANCIS M III 107 STUDENT FT
 LEY, MEGAN L 107 STUDENT FT
 CENTNER, HANNAHL 107 STUDENT FT
 TORRES, MIGUEL A JR 109 STUDENT FT
 STANHOPE, BRANDY L 109 STUDENT FT
 ARMSTRONG, BRADLEY C 109 STUDENT FT
 WOLF, RYANA 109 STUDENT FT
 VALLSDELOSREYES, JENNIFERA 109 STUDENT FT
 HENDERSON, JEREMIAHP 109 STUDENT FT
 KRANZE, DEREK NORMAN 174 LOGISTICS READINESS SQ
 DIMEIS, KYLEE 174 STUDENT FT
 IOZZO, ERIC J 174 STUDENT FT
 WINNIE, MATTHEW L 174 STUDENT FT
 CULLIPHER, TIMOTHY C JR 174 STUDENT FT
 MACDONALD, JAMES D III 174 STUDENT FT
 CALLIHAN, JOSIAHE 174 STUDENT FT
 HULLSIEK, JONATHAN C 174 STUDENT FT

AIRMAN

COX, PRESTON J 174 STUDENT FT

AIRMAN BASIC

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 BAYLOR, JASON R 107 STUDENT FT
 IGNECIA, MICHAELS 109 STUDENT FT

NY Naval Militia Awarded Unit Citation

LATHAM, NY

By Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith
 Guard Times Staff

A feeling of safety on New York's lakes, rivers and shorelines could quickly turn into danger if not for the state's Naval Militia. The Naval Militia came into existence in the late 19th century, and it proves its value to the state and its citizens every day—in fact, they were recently awarded a citation.

The men and women of the New York Naval Militia were cited by the Board of Commissioners of Pilots Apr. 20 for their efforts while assisting a ship near the Bulk Gypsum Handling Terminal in Buchanan, NY.

Two Naval Militia crews successfully freed the bulk cargo ship M/V GEORGIA S from a buoy entanglement.

According to the citation, on Aug. 30, 2003, the self-unloading bulk carrier M/V GEORGIA S, a six hundred twenty-two foot long vessel, was undocking and maneuvering away from the Bulk Gypsum Handling Terminal in Buchanan, NY, with the assistance of the SUSAN MCALLISTER, a tug.

Unexpectedly, the ship was carried by a strong tidal current into two U.S. Coast Guard security zone buoys near Indian Point. The crew on the militia's cutter, PRIVATEER, responded to the scene and found one buoy was in danger of becoming entangled in the ship's rudder and propeller, while the other buoy was running down the port side of the ship toward its stern. Also on watch, a militia security patrol team quickly embarked on Patrol Boat P232 and, along with the PRIVATEER, took quick action to save the ship from damage.

Assistance from the New York Naval Militia patrol boats was essential—the tug's bow was too high to clear the overhang of the M/V GEORGIA S stern.

**Assistance from the
 ...patrol boats was
 essential; the tug's
 bow was too high to
 clear the overhang of
 the GEORGIA S stern.**

Right, the New York Naval Militia heads across the harbor in NYC during the recent Republican National Convention. (Photo by Spc. Dennis Gravelle, 138th MPAD)



After the M/V GEORGIA S and the SUSAN MCALLISTER anchored, the New York Naval Militia patrol boat P-232 maneuvered to rig and secure lines on the buoys so that they could be pulled away from contact with the ship's hull and prevent further fouling with, and damage to, the ship's propeller and rudder.

The buoy was freed, but not without the quick actions of the crew. Operating along the 30,187 ton M/V GEORGIA S, in adverse sea, tide and wind conditions that could have easily damaged the small fiberglass patrol boat underneath the stern, the crew of the P-232 boat was able to attach a line to the buoy and transfer it to the SUSAN MCALLISTER. Then, they immediately went to the bow of the ship and retrieved towlines, which were passed over to the tug; however, before the M/V GEORGIA S could get fully underway, the crew went to the Port quarter of the M/V GEORGIA S and pulled the other buoy away before it could become fouled on the propeller and rudder. The M/V GEORGIA S was then able to get under way and proceed to sea safely.

The militia crews went home that day with personal pride in their work, not to mention some harrowing 'sailor stories' to tell. But their efforts did not go unnoticed.

The NY Board of Commissioners of Pilots heard about the event, and its members, unanimously awarded a Unit Citation to the New York Naval Militia and its Indian Point Patrol Boat crew members for their outstanding team effort and performance of duty under adverse conditions, and for services rendered in the highest

traditions of the maritime and Naval service. The citation included that the crew distinguished themselves by rendering assistance to the M/V GEORGIA S.

"Their actions contributed to the safety of navigation and protection of the environment in NY," wrote the board's director, Robert H. Pouch.

Individual awards were given to crew members, photo, from left, BM1 Andrew Maess, SH3 David Burke, UT2 Andrew Krivak, HT1 Edward Hess and EN3 Jerome Goldfus. (File photo)



69th Mortar Soldiers Ready for Iraq

FT. IRWIN, CALIF.

Story by Sgt. Rachel Brune
361ST Press Camp Headquarters

The temperature in the desert has reached triple digits by mid-morning as members of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Mortar Platoon man the perimeter of Forward Operating Base (FOB) Denver at NTC.

After three-and-a-half months of training at Fort Hood, Texas, these New York Army National Guard Soldiers are at NTC for additional training and evaluation before deploying to Iraq.

The platoon's mission is twofold, according to Staff Sgt. Fernando Gonzalez, section sergeant, 69th Infantry. The platoon provides perimeter security for the FOB and alternate tactical operations in case the headquarters' tactical operations center (TOC) is disabled.

In addition, Soldiers mount mortars on their modified M-113A2 Armored Personnel Carriers (APC's) that assists with the 69th's perimeter support operations by providing indirect fire.

"There's not much we can see, but when they call us, our guns are laid in (for indirect fire support)," said Sgt. Gonzalez.

The Soldiers are at NTC to train to combat readiness for their mission in Iraq. More than half the troops of the platoon are new to the unit, according to Gonzalez.

"Training is where we put it all together on the same sheet of paper," said Sgt. Gonzalez.

"My guys are a great team," stated 1st Lt. Rafael Munoz, platoon leader, 69th Infantry. "They look out for each other and look out for me."

Seated atop an APC behind a 50-caliber gun, Cpl. Efrain Diaz, sketches out a sector of fire as he keeps an eye out for any approaching vehicles, especially a blue van that has been harassing the perimeter.

Diaz, who is on his first deployment, works as an antique promoter in his civilian career.



Above, a Soldier with the 69th Infantry Mortar Platoon figures an area for mortar fire. **Below**, a Soldier with the 69th Infantry Mortar Platoon fires a mortar round at the calculated position.

"I kind of expected (the deployment) to come, said Diaz, "I was ready for it."

The scenario rules of engagement call for the security teams to fire when fired upon by opposing forces, or OPFOR.

"The minute they do, we let them have it," said Diaz.

The platoon is made up of several four-person squads,

Their mission is to survey points in a specific area set up by the scout squad as indirect fire coordinates.

Using principles of trigonometry, basic surveying skills and a tool called an aiming circle, the troops can accurately determine where they need to point the big guns.

While two Soldiers perform the needed observations and calculations, their fellow troops maintain a 360 degree

Using principles of trigonometry, basic surveying skills and a tool called an aiming circle, the troops can accurately determine where they need to point the big guns.



which consist of a track commander, driver, gunner and assistant gunner, according to Spc. Rashon Thompson, indirect fire infantryman, from the Bronx, N.Y.

Thompson, who as a civilian works in music and fashion marketing and advertising, originally joined the Guard for money for college. Now, he spends his time watching and waiting for the call for indirect fire support.

The coordinates for fire support come from a scout squad in the field, which sends them up to the fire direction center, or FDC. The FDC then sends those coordinates to the mortar squad.

In the APC, the team will load the rounds and fire them at the desired location.

"We're ready, we're just waiting for the word," said Thompson. He added that "We can pretty much take a zip code out."

Even with hearing protection, the sound is "a little deafening," and each time the round is fired, "the whole track rocks," said Thompson.

Later in the afternoon, the temperature is still desert-hot as two squads from the mortar platoon head out of the FOB.

perimeter of security in the field.

Part of training at NTC involves after action reviews, or AARs, at each step of the process.

"Our main mission is to train - to make all the mistakes here, not in theater," said Munoz, who works as a civilian for New York Police Department narcotics in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Troops rest in the shade of an APC as Munoz leads them through what they did right, wrong and what can be improved from a previous mission. Training guidance comes from these AARS, from the NTC observer/controllers and from Soldiers returning from deployments overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The training is where morale and teamwork come together, said Munoz. He wants to walk away proficient in movement and reacting to contact, confident that his troops will be able to do the right thing.

The mortar platoon Soldiers feel two obligations - to their families and to the Army, said Munoz. A lot of the troops don't speak of patriotism - they show it in their actions.

As Gonzalez put it that they "We're anxious to get over there, do the job and come back."



Serving summer lunches to hungry children, 109th Airlift Wing Life Support Squadron's Tech. Sgt. William Hanrahan provides food through the USDA program administered by Schenectady, NY's Inner City Ministry. With the help of Air National Guard volunteers, children under the age of 18 were able to receive a free lunch. "We worked at two different locations on two separate weeks," said participant and organizer, NY Air National Guard Master Sgt. Amy Davis. She added that over 15 volunteers from the 109th Airlift Wing served between 175-200 children a day. (Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara)

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New Yorkers Treat Iraqi civilians

FORWARD OPERATING BASE O' RYAN, IRAQ

By Col. Russell Zelman
2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry

A family approached the front gate at Forward Operating Base (FOB) O' Ryan on Aug. 30 with their 16 year old daughter who sustained severe burns while cooking in their home—their propane stove exploded rendering this young woman severely burned with second and third-degree burns of her chest, abdomen, back and both arms.

She initially sought care at a local hospital, was given first aid and was turned down for further care due to non-availability of beds. Her name is Suad Hussein Ali. This girl was in extreme discomfort and was in desperate need of assistance.

Ali was evaluated and treated her at the forward aide station, a designed medical treatment room to safely stabilize civilian trauma here.

The well equipped and experienced task force of the 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry Medical Platoon continues to find challenges in treating and caring for Iraqi civilians at FOB O'Ryan.

The platoon has more medical experience and equipment than a typical U.S. Army battalion medical platoon. It has senior physicians and physician assistants with family medicine and surgical backgrounds. Additional, their medics are civilian registered nurses, have burn care experience, are EMTs and work in civilian hospital emergency rooms and



Left to right, Staff Sergeant Patrick Clark, Patient Suad Hussein Ali, Medic Sergeant Jeffrey Hulett, Physician's Assistant Captain Michael Dollard at the Task Force 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry Forward Aid Station, Iraq. (Photo courtesy of the 2-108th Infantry)

operating rooms.

This diversity enables them to provide complicated burn wound management, thereby stabilizing this young Iraqi woman so that she had a chance of survival. Her burns were skillfully treated with the burn and wound care standards of U.S. medicine. She was under great pain and discomfort and was given powerful pain medicine to relieve her suffering. The Battalion Surgeon, Col. Russell Zelman, and Lt. Col. Paul Mabry and a local Doctor, Miriam Othman, all worked together calling local hospitals in hope of transferring her for further burn care, but there were no beds available.

The family returned to FOB O'Ryan over the next few days where she received further pain control, surgical debriement and wound care. The patient started to

respond to the care and her appetite improved. She drank and ate well for the first time in days. She was able to walk short distances. Her vital signs were stable. The patient and her family were very thankful for Soldier's care and understanding.

Meanwhile, Iraqi physician, Dr. Miriam Othman, uncovered an open bed in a Baghdad hospital. The patient made a transfer and is now in Baghdad under the care of competent and caring Iraqi physicians thanks to the medical care received at Task Force 2-108.

This case typifies the continuous challenges that the coalition forces see in this area of operations. The real good news story is that the Coalition Forces can work together to improve the medical care and management of Iraqi civilians.

Young 69th Medics Get real-world training

FORT IRWIN, CALIF.

By Sgt. Rachel Burne
361st Press Camp Headquarters

A training scenario took on the characteristics of a real-world mission for New York National Guard medics when two Soldiers were injured during convoy operations at the National Training Center here.

Evacuation Four, a medic team from the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Medic Platoon, was traveling in a convoy with the battalion's mortar platoon when the vehicles stopped, after a call came on the radio for medical assistance, according to Pfc. Daniel J. Silberstein, medic, of Queens, N.Y.

As soon as Pfc. Silberstein and fellow medic, Pfc. Gerald A. Mariscal, of the Bronx arrived, they quickly determined one Soldier had suffered facial trauma, and another possible spinal compromise.

The medics stabilized the injured Soldiers and began treating secondary wounds, while their other convoy members called for helicopter medical evacuation, according to Silberstein. "We got him in the bird and got him out of there," said Silberstein.

"We have to be ready, no matter what," said Spc. Wilfredo Cordova II, Evacuation Four track commander. Spc. Cordova, from Staten Island, has been training with his team in preparation for the unit's deployment to Iraq.

"This was my first real patient," said Silberstein, who only recently graduated from advanced individual training (AIT) four months ago. As a civilian, Silberstein is a student at Queens College in New York.

Mariscal, who works as a hospital investigator for Lincoln Hospital in New York City, is also a recent addition to the unit, having graduated AIT last summer. This is their first deployment.

The evacuation teams operate out of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry aid station at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Denver. The aid station is a small emergency room that provides first line medical care to more than 700 Soldiers at the FOB, according to Capt. Daniel Dudziak, medical platoon physician assistant, from Springville, N.Y.

In addition to providing acute trauma care the station provides routine sick call and basic injury care. It is designed to stabilize patients and care for them for up to 12 hours, according to Dudziak.

The station provides real-world care for injuries such as sprains, strains, lacerations and routine illnesses to about 25 to 30 patients per day, in addition to the simulated casualties, which include gunshot and shrapnel wounds.

"The training here is excellent," said Dudziak. The numbers of Soldiers seeking care have actually been low, according to Dudziak, who attributes that to proactive preventive medicine measures that encourage proper hydration and nutrition.

"This is the perfect environment," said Cordova, as he rested with his team in the shade of their armored personnel carrier with a large red cross painted on the side. "It's teamwork – we have to work together," said Cordova. As the troops watched, another evacuation team left on a call, and Evacuation Four moved one spot up the ready list.

Rainbow Preps for final Validation

FORT DRUM

Story by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo
42nd Infantry Division

For Soldier's of the 42nd Infantry Division and supporting units participating in the Mobilization Readiness Exercise for MRX, the cool air and fall foliage of Ft. Drum is a part of the past. The focus over the past week has been Iraq, March 2005. In the training scenario it's hot, dusty and the new Iraqi government is in place. The priority for Task Force Liberty is ensuring peace and prosperity remains a constant for the Iraqi people.

The MRX took place at Ft. Drum's Battle Simulation Center where hundreds of senior and retired Army leaders came together, as observer trainers, to test and oversee the Division staff. Every training scenario was designed to challenge Division leaders' abilities to gather information, plan and execute mission orders and stress the command and control systems of the units. It also simulated the computer and communications technologies that the Task Force will use in Iraq and culminated the predeployment mobilization training.

"What we try to do in the MRX is replicate the battle conditions in Iraq," said retired General Jay Hendrix, former FORSCOM Commander, "from there, the Division leadership will fight that fight for a brief period of time."

Each unit and staff section worked through their respective tasks and focused on dealing with and adapting to hundreds of incidents and scenarios that the task force expects to encounter while in Iraq. Everything from roadside bombs and supply issues to building schools and repairing water and sanitation facilities which will enable the emerging democratic government of Iraq to thrive and prosper.

The training exercise is doing more than preparing Soldiers for deployment. It's linking up counterparts, putting faces to names and building relationships that will allow Soldiers to function quicker and easier once they begin operations. The MRX brought together Soldiers from Rainbow units; the Idaho Army National Guard's 116th Brigade Combat Team; the Tennessee Army National Guard's 278th Regimental Combat Team and the Army's 1st and 3rd Brigade Combat Teams from the Fort Stewart, Georgia-based 3rd Infantry Division, the basic make up of the division task force of more than 18,000 Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve elements which will be the Army's third rotation for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"It really breaks down the National Guard, Reserve and active duty barriers," said Col. Mark McKnight, 1st Brigade Combat Team Commander, 3rd Infantry Division. "We're all one division here at this exercise, just like we'll be one division when we get to Iraq."

"This is an opportunity to build relationships before we go, said Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, Commander of the 42nd Infantry Division. "The team is full, this is the best representation and the best training event yet. We're now able to get a good benchmark of where we're at," said Taluto.

Rainbow Division base units mobilizing for Operation Iraqi Freedom consist of the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters, the Aviation and Engineer Brigade Headquarters, the Division Artillery Headquarters, the Division Support Command Headquarters, the 1st Battalion, 150th General Aviation Support Battalion, the 50th Main Support Battalion, the 642nd Division Aviation Support Battalion, the 250th Signal Battalion, the 642nd Military Intelligence Battalion, the 42nd Military Police Company, the 272nd Chemical Company, the 42nd Division Band, Battery E (Target Acquisition) of the 101st Field Artillery, the 42nd Rear Operations Cell and the 173rd Long Range Surveillance Detachment.

Following the completion of unit training this fall, the Rainbow Division Task Force will deploy to the Central Command area of operations in sequence. This phased deployment allows Soldiers to conduct their training, reception of equipment and onward movement into Iraq for a relief in place with the Army's 1st Infantry Division early next year.



Soldiers from various units within Task Force Liberty develop strong working relationships during the Mobilization Readiness Exercise at Ft. Drum, NY (Photo by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo, 42nd Infantry Division)

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Guard Times Address Changes

Changed your address recently?

Is the Guard Times still coming to an old address?

If so, it may be time to check with your unit administrator. Chances are, the old address is still listed at the unit.

Computerized shipping labels are produced for Guard Times at state headquarters from the electronic data base. This information is updated through periodic submissions from the field. The unit, SIDPERS, the Personnel Services Branch and military pay all need to have a document supplied by the soldier to change the home address.

Before writing us at the Guard Times about your address change, start with your unit. It takes about two months before the change hits the system, but, guess what! The Guard Times comes out every two months. So if you have verified the unit has the correct information and the Guard Times still came to the old address, be patient. The next issue should come to the new address.

Reminder. It is the soldier's responsibility to submit address changes in a prompt manner.

Complimentary or Back Issues

Complimentary or back issues of the Guard Times are available. Contact us at the address above.