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'Guard Focus' Launched, page 4



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# *Guard* TIMES

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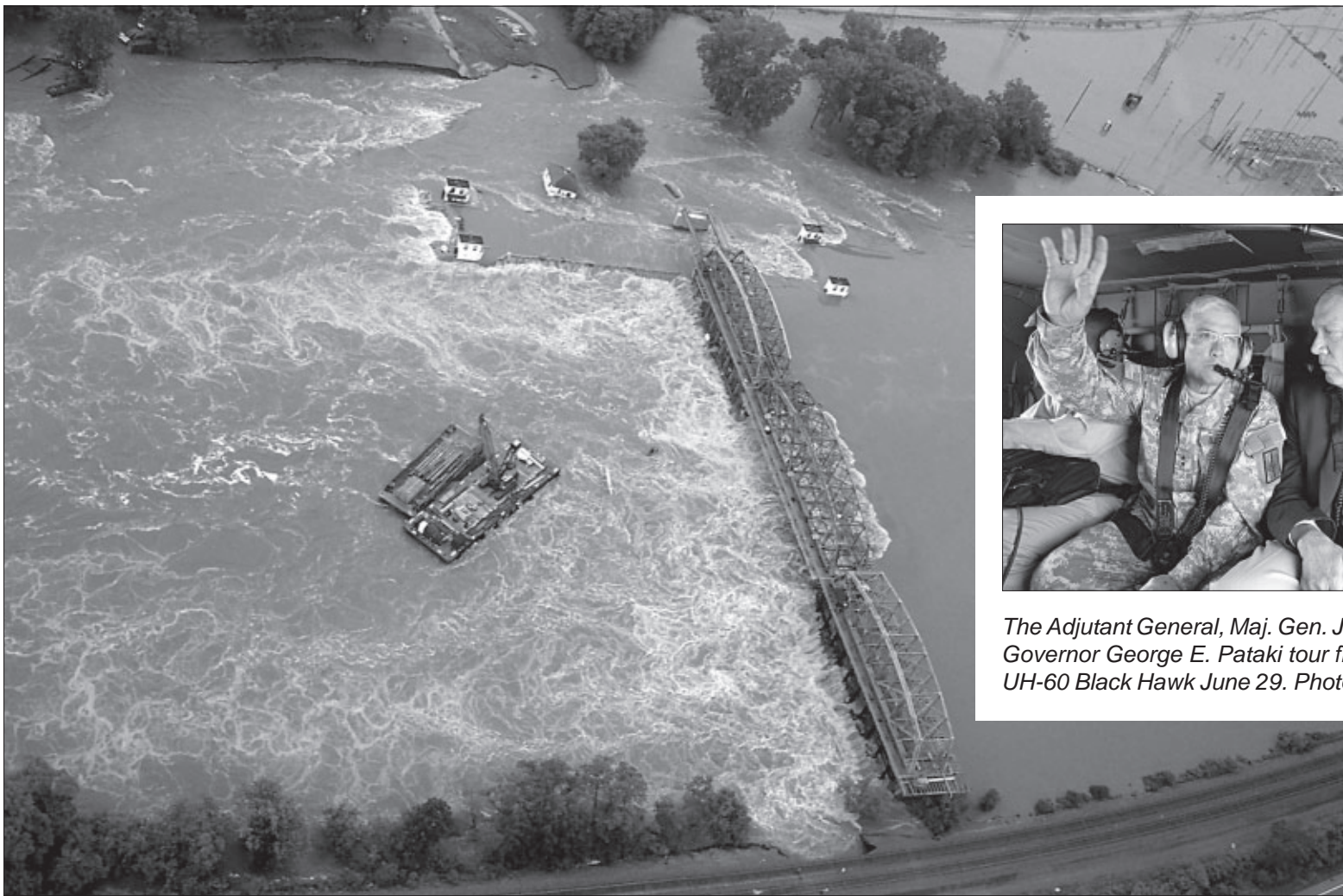
May-June 2006



**Guard members  
hold the line in  
the wake of heavy  
rains & flooding**

Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 204<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion clear flood debris from a bridge in the Town of Walton. Governor George E. Pataki called upon more than 300 Guardsmen and women to State Active Duty for the emergency response mission as New York's Southern Tier was deluged with heavy rainfall and significant flooding. Story on page 12. Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara.





**Under siege:** Flood waters flow around Lock Ten on the Mohawk River east of Amsterdam June 29. Photo by Sgt. Ed Balaban.



*The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto, and Governor George E. Pataki tour flood areas aboard a UH-60 Black Hawk June 29. Photo by Lester Millman.*

## From the leadership



Maj. Gen. **Joseph J. Taluto**  
The Adjutant General

Spring is a time of renewal, and our entire force can feel reenergized with the trends we're setting in May and June. Across the entire New York National Guard we're across the fifty yard line for resetting our force and moving downfield to prepare our Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and N.Y. Guard volunteers for the challenges ahead in local, state and federal missions.

As we complete our welcome home celebrations for returning veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom, we are already looking to leverage their deployment

experience to improve our units. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division headquarters is well underway for its transformation as an Army unit of employment while the 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team and much of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command are completing their reorganizations that required so much Soldier-focus over the past few years.

At the same time we welcome the newest members of our Army and Air National Guard. Recruiting and retention continues to be our primary focus. Manning our force is a building block of our transformation effort to put the right Soldiers and Airmen in the right units with the right skills for the right job.

Incentives for Guardsmen to enlist their friends are now joined by the recognition that our military retirees and veterans can continue to make contributions to the refit and reorganization of our forces. I salute the Army's leadership for offering a \$1,000 bonus for military retirees who refer friends to the National Guard. Recognizing the potential contributions of our Guard retirees in identifying the right Soldiers to join our ranks adds more energy and enthusiasm to our recruiting drive.

I was fortunate to visit two armories this spring to recognize both the reenlistees and new recruits of our force. They represent the experience and maturity that the past five years have given the New York National Guard as well as the potential energy and

enthusiasm for our future missions. These Soldiers show us where we have been and where we are going. I am honored to spend time with them all.

This spring and summer we also witness another kind of resurgence in our New York National Guard. As we launch a public campaign across the state to attract the best new recruits for our force, we also return to one of our most traditional roles: emergency response.

Our Citizen Soldiers in the Army National Guard responded when the flood waters threatened lives, homes and communities of New York's Southern Tier. Working together with emergency responders, thousands of our fellow New Yorkers were rescued from some of the worst flooding in more than a decade.

After the waters receded, our National Guard transitioned quickly to the demanding recovery work, especially in the hardest-hit communities. Whether it was aircrews providing surveys from above or heavy engineers moving debris on the ground, the National Guard was ready and was responsive. The kind of manpower,

resources and skills that we bring to villages, cities and towns across New York State makes us an integral part of every response team.

The lives saved may not be as dramatic as the rescues tallied in our Air Guard's 106<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing on Long Island or provide the care of the 139<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, but the Soldiers who answered the call to action on New York's Southern Tier are as much the hometown heroes this summer as their fellow emergency responders. New Yorkers know that when

crisis comes, their National Guard will be on the scene.

"Boots On the Ground" has a hometown meaning too.

Our New York National Guard has been doing it all this

year – the war fight, providing domestic support to civil authorities, supporting Homeland Security missions and preparing for the Southwest Border mission this summer. Our members can take tremendous pride that our organization is so important overseas and at home. What a tremendous return on investment for the American people when our National Guard achieves so much from only five percent of the country's defense budget! □

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**New Yorkers know that when crisis comes their National Guard will be on the scene.**

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# Hudson Valley-based MP detachment mobilized for Iraq

Departure ceremony held at Poughkeepsie Armory



A Soldier makes his last 'good-byes' before boarding the bus.

By Lt. Col. Paul Fanning  
Guard Times Staff

**POUGHKEEPSIE**—More than 100 family members, friends and civic leaders attended an emotional departure ceremony at the Poughkeepsie Armory June 14 for 40 members of the 727<sup>th</sup> Military Police Detachment, New York Army National Guard, which has been called up for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 727<sup>th</sup> is comprised of military police personnel and support staff and will operate a base or facility police station for law and order operations in its assigned area of responsibility. The unit is deploying to replace a similar unit already in theater.

Leading the ceremony were more than a dozen elementary school students from the Fishkill-Plains School, who sang the national anthem and later delivered rousing renditions of patriotic songs as a tribute to the troops.

Visiting local officials included Dutchess County Executive William Steinhaus, who presented a county flag to the unit to carry with them, State Assemblyman Patrick Manning and County Sheriff Butch Anderson, who urged military families to call upon county officials if they should need assistance. "We owe you," he said.

Manning brought with him a box of cards and letters from students at the Fishkill School. In his address, Manning sought to drive home to the Soldiers that the example they were setting was inspiring the next generation and they had become very important to young people from the community.

"You need to know how much you mean to them, so let me read you a little from some right off the top," he said. "I am very proud of you. You are my hero and your friends are too," read Manning. "And, then there is this, 'I want to be just like you,'" he said reading from a second student's note. "Of course we don't want our sons and daughters to go to war, but sometimes we have to," added Manning. "I can assure

you, none of us politicians ever hear from students who come up to us to say 'we want to be just like you.'"

Following the ceremony, the unit left the Poughkeepsie Armory by bus and reported to Fort Dix, N.J., to conduct post mobilization training before eventually being shipped to theater. As with previous mobilizations, the unit is expected to operate in Iraq for up to one year "boots on the ground."

To date, more than 5400 members of the New York Army National Guard have been called up for federal active duty for Operation Iraqi Freedom since January 2003. Nearly all of these Soldiers have returned. At present less than 100 members are actually serving now in Iraq, including a public affairs and finance detachment.

Previously deployed forces of the New York Army National Guard included two full infantry battalion task forces, the equivalent of four full military police companies, numerous maintenance, transportation and logistical units, personnel and liaison detachments and the Headquarters 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, which was in command of the multi national task force in Tikrit from February to November 2005.

Less than 300 members of the N.Y. Army National Guard are being called up for Operation Iraqi Freedom statewide in the summer of 2006. This includes a medical company, a finance detachment, a personnel services detachment and military police units. None of the units being called up have been previously mobilized for Iraq. Small numbers of volunteers assigned to these units are actually deploying for a second tour.

The New York Army National Guard has entered a "Re Set" period to stabilize its forces statewide and implement ongoing Army Transformation plans for modernization while continuing to support the civil authorities at Grand Central and Penn Stations in New York City and at the state's four nuclear power sites. □



The 727<sup>th</sup> is comprised of military police personnel and support staff. Photos by Sgt. Ed Balaban.



Families wave and hold up signs as the bus departs the Poughkeepsie Army.





**By Gen. Peter Pace**  
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

**WASHINGTON** — To all who wear the uniform: You are in our hearts and our minds during this critical time in our nation's history.

The past year has been an incredible demonstration of your courage and commitment. In places like Iraq, Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa and beyond, your tireless efforts have laid the foundation for democracy for coming generations.

When your country called upon you in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, you answered, swiftly coming to the aid of your fellow Americans. You brought humanitarian relief to the tsunami-ravaged country of Indonesia, and when a massive earthquake struck the country of Pakistan you were there, helping millions left homeless as a harsh winter approached.

You can be proud of your many accomplishments. You are the finest military in the world, loved by your country and feared by your enemies.

Today, thousands of men and women in the military remain in harm's way. From Iraq

## Joint Chiefs Chairman to all branches: Brave patriots have joined for the greater good

to Afghanistan, Colombia to the Philippines, America's fighting force is deployed with our allies around the globe in support of the war on terrorism. We are doing our utmost to prevent terrorists from attacking our homeland again. We are also working with our interagency partners to create a global environment intolerant of violent extremism. We are making progress, but permanent change takes time.

The war on terrorism will be a long and difficult struggle. Knowing they cannot win on the battlefield, the enemy will try to defeat us by eroding public support of the war effort. But if we stand together with ironclad determination we will defeat those who want us to live in perpetual fear. With the support of Congress and America, we will prevail.

How will we define success in the war on terrorism? What will victory ultimately look like? Success in the war on terrorism will mean that around the globe open societies like ours will continue to function without the constant threat of a terrorist attack. Average citizens will face the occasional risk that is impossible to eliminate completely — much like the common risk of crime that we all face every day of our lives — knowing that an isolated attack would be the exception rather than the rule.

Said differently, victory in the war on terrorism will mean that we will live not in fear but with full freedom to pursue our dreams as individuals and as countries.

This month we rightfully pause to honor the extraordinary sacrifices and contributions of the men and women who serve in the armed forces. I am proud to serve along side 2.4 million soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, active, Guard and Reserve, who have chosen to take the oath to defend

our Constitution. Brave patriots from every ethnicity, background and religion have joined together for a greater good.

Moreover, each military member represents another link in a long chain of service that stretches back in time to the founding of this country. We are honored to be part of this American legacy. Whether fighting in the global war on terrorism or supporting humanitarian operations at home or abroad, today's military personnel continue to honor our predecessors by serving America with distinction.

Such service would not be possible without the support of our families. Military spouses are silent heroes. They serve beside those in uniform, selflessly relocating our homes and

assuming new responsibilities at each assignment. They understand long hours, exercises and deployments and give us strength to drive on when duty calls. They stand in the background when those in uniform are front and center receiving public honors.

Today I would like to acknowledge every military spouse for such patient, steadfast service. You serve as much as anyone in uniform, and we deeply appreciate your special contribution. Thank you!

On behalf of the Joint Chiefs, I join all Americans in extending our deepest gratitude to members of the military and to their families. Thank you for your tremendous support to this great nation. □



General Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, thanks the Soldiers deployed at Camp Salerno, Afghanistan, July 28, 2006 for their service to the United States. DoD photo by Staff Sgt. D. Myles Cullen

## GUARD NOTES

### Free wrestling tickets to U.S. Military

A major wrestling entertainment company is offering all U.S. military personnel free tickets to its live events, worldwide, to show its gratitude for military member's service to their country.

Effective immediately, Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and National Guard personnel can claim a free ticket to a "WWE RAW" or "SmackDown" live event in their local area (excludes "WrestleMania") by going to their local arena box office with a military ID the day of the event. Tickets are available the day of the event only while supplies last.

"Armed Forces Entertainment is honored to work with WWE in what could be one of the largest offerings to US Military personnel," said Art Myers, director of Air Force services, who oversees Armed Forces Entertainment. "It truly shows the immense respect and gratitude that WWE and its Superstars have for our Airmen, Marines, Sailors, Soldiers, national guardsman and coast guard."

Armed Forces Entertainment is the lead DoD agency for providing entertainment to US military personnel serving overseas, with priority given to those in contingency operations and remote and isolated locations.

Visit [www.armedforcesentertainment.com](http://www.armedforcesentertainment.com) for more information.

### TRICARE extends purchase option

The TRICARE Reserve Select Open Season begins Aug. 1 for the Selected Reserve for Tier 2 and Tier 3. Every member of the Selected Reserve will now have the option to purchase his or her health coverage from TRICARE.

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 expanded TRS coverage to all qualified members of the Selected Reserve. The "open season" for Tier 2 and Tier 3 Selected Reserve members is Aug. 1 through Nov. 25, 2006.

TRS is the premium-based health coverage offered by the Department of Defense similar to TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra. Last year, coverage (Tier 1) was only available to members of the National Guard and Reserve who served on active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation or after 9/11. But this open season will make it available to all.

Guard members must work with their personnel offices to determine which one of three TRS tiers they qualify for. They must have their eligibility verified by their personnel office. Purchasing TRS coverage is a two-step process. Step 1 is to qualify, Step 2 is the purchase. TRS Reserve Component qualification certification for Tier 2 and Tier 3 started in July and ends Oct. 31, 2006.

For additional information, members and family members may access TRS fact sheets, frequently asked questions, briefing slides and other educational materials at [www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect). Reginald Saville, [Reginald.saville@ngb.af.mil](mailto:Reginald.saville@ngb.af.mil), at 703-607-2611 can also provide information. □



# Governor launches Statewide 'Guard Focus' Campaign

## New legislation unveiled to bolster National Guard recruitment

By Guard Times Staff

**LEXINGTON AVENUE ARMORY, Manhattan** — Governor George E. Pataki, the State Commander-in-Chief used the Army Birthday to launch a National Guard public information campaign and unveil legislation to support Guard recruiting efforts.

The Governor held a press conference at the Lexington Avenue Armory in Manhattan and led separate “oath of service” ceremonies for new recruits and reenlisting members of the New York Army National Guard. In addition, the Governor introduced his proposal for the Veterans Recruiter Assistance Program (V-RAP), a new incentive plan for veterans who successfully recruit new individuals to join the New York National Guard.

The oath ceremonies marked the official launching of a new statewide “Guard Focus” campaign -- an information program designed to educate New Yorkers about the Guard’s vital mission and about opportunities and benefits of joining the New York Army National Guard.

“At no other time in America’s history have the men and women of the New York National Guard played so critical a role in

both the security of our state and nation than today,” Governor Pataki said. “Even as we face challenges in Homeland Security funding, we must do all we can to ensure that we continue to have a National Guard that is ready to respond to any threat, and our new Veterans Recruiter Assistance Program and statewide Guard Focus campaign, will help us significantly in strengthening our troop levels by promoting the recruitment of new volunteers who will join the ranks of our dedicated citizen soldiers who work everyday to protect our communities and keep New York safe.

“I can think of no better way to commemorate the 231st birthday of our nation’s Army and 229th birthday of our nation’s flag than to encourage New Yorkers to volunteer to serve our State and Nation in the New York National Guard,” the Governor added.

The new Veterans Recruiter Assistance Program (V-RAP) and “Guard Focus” campaign are designed to help maintain the ability of the New York Army and Air National Guard to capably respond to emergencies and defend against terrorism.

The Governor’s legislation creating a new Veterans Recruiter Assistance Program would offer a \$500 incentive bonus,

encouraging veterans to become independent recruiters, sharing their experiences with prospective entrants, helping to attract new volunteers. The program is available to veterans who have served in the active and reserve armed forces of the United States and the New York National Guard.

Through Guard Focus communities across New York are reminded that the Guard is their primary emergency response force when disasters strike and they are urged to help the Guard identify potential applicants and encourage individuals who are interested in joining.

Following the ceremony in New York City, the New York National Guard held another “Guard Focus” event at the Latham headquarters with Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, the Adjutant General June 17. Additional events are planned throughout the summer in communities across the state.

Today’s announcement builds on the Governor’s longstanding record of providing members of the National Guard with additional support. The Governor previously signed into law Patriot Plans I, II, and III -- the first of the kind in the entire nation providing a comprehensive package of benefits and enhanced protections for



New recruits await swearing in to join the New York Army National Guard.

New York’s military personnel and their families.

“We have come through a period of great challenges and achievement, and the New York National Guard has come out on the other side a proven, competent and confident force,” Taluto said. “Throughout his tenure, Governor Pataki has enacted new recruiting incentives and benefits such as tuition assistance, increased pay rates for State Active Duty, and signed into law Patriot Plans I, II and III. The New York National Guard offers job training and experience, the sense of achievement for a job well done, and is an excellent choice for people who want to make a positive difference in their communities and in their country.” □



**The Governor’s legislation creating a new Veterans Recruiter Assistance Program would offer a \$500 incentive bonus, encouraging veterans to become independent recruiters.**

Governor Pataki leads the Oath of Service for 11 new recruits joining the New York Army National Guard at the Lexington Avenue Armory. Photos by Lester Millman.



# Guard combat Vets prove their 'edge' is still sharp

## Infantry company takes on Army Cav unit in Germany

By Lt. Col. Paul Fanning  
Guard Times Staff

**HOHENFELS, GERMANY**—More than 130 New York National Guard infantry troops proved they hadn't lost their combat edge since returning from Iraq last year during a Spring combat exercise at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry built a composite team of their best around the leadership of its Company C by assigning platoons from the other companies and sent the unit overseas in May to challenge the Army's 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Regiment for combat validation training.

The infantry team deployed May 15 and completed the rotation June 10. They were assigned to the Hohenfels make-believe enemy force known as the "OPFOR" to participate in force on force training. While the objective was to provide realistic

combat training to the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry (a unit of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division) the New York team was also expected to practice its own infantry and leadership skills. The New York infantry proved to be extremely effective and earned high praise from Hohenfels leadership.

"I sincerely appreciate the hard work your Soldiers did," wrote Lt. Col. Timothy Delass, commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment to New York's 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion commander. The 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry serves as the center's resident opposing force and Company C was assigned to it for this mission.

"During a battalion-level defense on the second day your Charlie Company was instrumental in establishing and holding blocking positions to protect the flank," he wrote. "They were directly responsible for the destruction of two AH-64 Apaches, four M2 Bradleys and two M1 Abrams, one of which was a troop commander's."

Colonel Delass went on to credit a Charlie Company platoon with critical reconnaissance accomplishments and for success portraying Special Forces teams as a part of the exercise scenario.

"These Soldiers endured the Hohenfels weather while maintaining their tactical prowess allowing them to destroy five vehicles, which included high value targets such as mortar tracks," he wrote. "They did an exceptional job."

The New York troops had praise for their hosts as well and expressed great satisfaction with the total experience. Second Lieutenant James Caggy, a platoon leader with troops from the Batavia and Geneseo armories described his platoon's experience.

"Throughout the field exercise our Soldiers performed with a high enthusiasm and skill," he wrote. Caggy's troops used the Army's Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES), a laser tag simulation system adapted to various weapons. "Using MILES to imitate Russian-made RPG-7s, our Soldiers accounted for eight tracked vehicle kills, a mix of M1A1 Abrams tanks and M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles," he said. "On one

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**"Using MILES to imitate Russian-made RPG-7s, our Soldiers accounted for eight tracked vehicle kills, a mix of M1A1 Abrams tanks and M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles."**

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— 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. James Caggy  
Platoon leader, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry

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2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Soldiers on patrol in a German urban warfare training site. Courtesy photo.

particular recon mission, information gathered by our platoon provided the key intelligence needed to locate enemy positions for a raid planned later that day. Overall, the mission was an excellent chance for us to work hand-in-hand with an active duty unit, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry," wrote Caggy. "Cooperation and mutual respect between our two units allowed us to provide 1<sup>st</sup> Cav with a realistic training exercise that will help them further develop their tactics, techniques and procedures."

The training began in earnest almost from the first moment. On day one, the platoons conducted a seven-kilometer tactical road march to the center's Urban Warfare training site, the City of Kittensee. There the troops established patrol bases from which the squads practiced movement to contact, react to contact and entering and clearing a building and room at the squad. Day two was a refit day and platoons used the time to prepare for the company mission on day three and day four. Later, with each platoon was assigned and attached to 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry companies for the remainder of the rotation.

(See GERMANY, page eight)



A 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Soldier at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany. Courtesy photo.

# Journey 53<sup>rd</sup>



Staff Sgt. Michael Lieber points on a map to Lt. Col. Jassem Ali in verifying the location of a polling center in the province of Diyala, Iraq. Courtesy photo.



Spc. Asheley Wicklow, Sgt. Christopher Hoffman and Spc. Roseanne Addeo at their awards ceremony in Latham. Photo by Sgt. Ed Balaban.

## Liaison team honored for historic contributions in Iraq

By Lt. Col. Paul Fanning  
Guard Times Staff

**CAMP SMITH, CORTLANDT MANOR**—Members of a unique New York Army National Guard unit received honors in April for their significant and historic contributions in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Army Liaison Team is a specialized detachment of about 20 officers and enlisted Soldiers that was deployed last year with the mission of coordinating between various U.S., coalition and Iraqi government staffs at headquarters levels from inside the combat zone. In the process, members of the 53<sup>rd</sup> carried out their mission with great skill and determination. In affect, the unit “led by supporting” and linking, through personal contact, the staffs of U.S. and international forces at the very birth of a new and free Iraqi government. It is a remarkable accomplishment for a unit that barely existed prior to its mobilization.

The 53<sup>rd</sup> was mobilized in December 2004 and returned home in January 2006. Col. Peter Sammarco, who lives and works in New York City, was the unit commander.

“Virtually each and every member of the 53<sup>rd</sup> served in duty positions significantly above their assigned ranks,” Sammarco said. “The enlisted members serving in operational cells were slotted in lieutenant and captain positions. All the

majors assigned to the team including Lt. Col. John Burke were occupying positions previously staffed by a colonel. Despite this, there was no drop in the level of performance. In fact, the 53<sup>rd</sup> steadily increased the accuracy, timeliness and quality of the information and products it developed from all of its assigned areas.”

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Army Liaison Team was established in October 2002, and until the following April was staffed with only three members when it was identified for possible deployment to Iraq. The official mobilization alert came in July and additional personnel were assigned in the following months and an aggressive training program was launched.

According to Sammarco, the fledgling team conducted an additional Annual Training “with high motivation” as the mobilization date approached. Even then the exact mission of the 53<sup>rd</sup> was unclear. The unit focused on the experiences of another liaison team already in Iraq to establish its own training program. Finally in October, the unit was brought to full strength and given a new mobilization date. The unit mobilized and departed Valhalla Armory Nov. 13 for Fort Benning, Ga.

The 53<sup>rd</sup> deployed to Iraq, arriving at the International Zone, Baghdad, Jan. 25, 2005, attached to the XVIII Airborne Corps. Members of the 53<sup>rd</sup> served in three distinct cells: Multi-National Corps-Iraq (MNC-I) Liaison Cells to the Ministry of Defense (MOD), the Iraqi National Joint

**“Virtually each and every member of the 53<sup>rd</sup> served in duty positions significantly above their assigned ranks.”**

—Col. Peter Sammarco  
53<sup>rd</sup> Army Liaison Team

Operations Center (NJOC), and in the Multi-National Force-Iraq, Strategic Operations Center (MNF-ISOC). These assignments came at levels higher than was experienced by previous liaison teams.

According to Sammarco, it may have been the first time that an Army Liaison Team was used in its doctrinal role.

Members of the 53<sup>rd</sup> led the Iraqi NJOC in Baghdad, through the period of the successful Constitution Referendum vote last fall. The NJOC served as the Network Control Station during the voting and provided oversight on all of the provinces throughout Iraq on that historic day. Iraqi personnel and 53<sup>rd</sup> members worked side-by-side providing the Prime Minister of Iraq and Coalition Forces Headquarters with updated information on the security climate, which was the overriding concern as 9 million voters sought to participate safely. The 53<sup>rd</sup> participated in the groundwork to devise the security and communications plan that was then flawlessly executed by Iraqi and U.S. forces at over 6,000 polling centers. Exercises held between July and October produced a seamless team of Iraqi and U.S. personnel.

Members of the 53<sup>rd</sup> kept in constant contact with operations centers in each of Iraq’s 18 provinces through the day. Information was passed up to the NJOC for dissemination, and included details on the stability of polling centers, estimated voter turnout, enemy activity and constant vigilance of the communications network.

(See LIAISON, page eight)





**On parade patrol,** Soldiers of the 427<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion take part in the Cicero Memorial Day Parade May 29. The 427<sup>th</sup> is part of the 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team. A recruiting display was also set up at the end of the parade route. Photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Towse.

## Liaison, from page 7

A large security force comprised of Iraqi Army, police and special commando units kept insurgent activity to a minimum during the voting hours. When the day ended, 53<sup>rd</sup> personnel celebrated a successful day with their Iraqi counterparts and friends.

The 53<sup>rd</sup> also provided liaison officers in the Iraqi Ministry of Defense (similar to the U.S. Department of Defense.) The team had direct and daily contact with General Babakir, the commanding general of the Iraqi Military, and the Minister of Defense, Dr. Sadoun AlDulimie. The team was instrumental in establishing a daily briefing conducted by the Iraqi joint staff to Lt. Gen. Abadi, the deputy commanding general, and General Babakir. This evolved into a full staff briefing for the Minister, his staff and General Babakir, thus enhancing the Iraqi leadership's ability to improve military readiness, preparation and training.

During the national elections, the team's liaison officers worked closely with the Iraqi military to ensure polling sites were secured, Iraqi units were trained and ready and coordination had been made with the Ministry of Interior (Police), as well as the Iraqi Election Commission-Iraq (IECI), and coalition forces.

On March 11, 2005, in a very unusual ceremony Iraqi General Babakir promoted U.S. Maj. John Burke to Lieutenant Colonel. At the time, Burke was a member of the 53<sup>rd</sup> and was attached to the Headquarters XVIII Airborne Corps, and served as the senior corps liaison officer to the Iraqi Ministry of Defense. He served as the "go between" for the U.S. Corps and the Iraqi military, identifying issues and concerns for both organizations and insuring each entity was aware of the ongoing issues. General Babakir is also the Iraqi equivalent of the U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He has been working with coalition forces to rebuild and restructure Iraqi forces to be prepared to fully assume the responsibilities of defending Iraq.



Iraqi Gen. Babakir Shawkat Zebari, chief of staff of the Iraqi Joint Forces, promotes U.S. Maj. John Burke to Lieutenant Colonel in Iraq March 11, 2005. Courtesy photo.

Several team members also worked in the Prime Minister's Situation Room, briefing the National Security Advisor, Dr. Rubiae and the National Security Council on coalition and Iraqi security force operations, plans and developments. The secure movement of the prime minister, his deputies and other senior civilian leadership was coordinated through the team's liaison officers and the Multi-National Force-Iraq, MNFI.

Colonel Sammarco also supervised U.S. liaison officers assigned to the United Nations Assistance Mission-Iraq. This office worked with U.N. agencies as they coordinated with the Iraqis to rebuild the country, economically and politically. The office also coordinated the movement of U.N. senior officials and security forces within the operational area.

"I am extremely proud of these Soldiers," Sammarco said at the unit's Freedom Salute Ceremony at Camp Smith in April 2006. "The 53<sup>rd</sup> was on the cutting edge of liaison operations — performed superbly, served as a model for all Army Liaison Teams to emulate. Members of the 53<sup>rd</sup> have not only set the standard, they have raised it up." □

## Germany, from page 6

The troops did get three days at the end of the rotation to go to Nurnburg, Regensburg, Dachau, The Eagles Nest, Neuschwanstein Castle and Parsburg.

Second Lieutenant Christopher Culpepper with the Morrisonville-based Company B described the event as "a unique opportunity to train as the enemy would fight." Culpepper sees special value in "understanding how the enemy might fight or employ its weapons against U.S. forces. The decentralized OPFOR approach gave opportunities to junior leaders to gain leadership and tactical decision making experience."

Company B's First Sergeant, Arnold Stone, Jr., talked to his Soldiers about the training afterwards and said the troops thought it was very good. He also learned that the Soldiers were also crediting Lieutenant Culpepper's leadership as a contributing factor in mission success. "The first thing he did once everyone was on the ground and ready, was to reestablish the basics and re-enforce the company SOPs. I witnessed two days of operations where Lieutenant Culpepper was maneuvering his platoon. Within 20 minutes of the start of the exercise he requested permission to engage an enemy target. While this was going on he positioned another squad where he thought the command post for the BLUEFOR was. When the squad arrived there, the BLUEFOR command post was in fact in that position and our Bravo squad was able to kill the BLUEFOR executive officer, operations officer and several other senior leaders," he wrote.

"Overall, even though it seemed frustrating at times, the rotation was a great experience and the support received from the reserve component liaison staff and sponsor unit was outstanding," wrote Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jackson Porter, from the 108<sup>th</sup>'s scout. "I highly recommend that units from the New York Army National Guard participate in future rotations."

"The Germany rotation was a great opportunity to hone leadership skills, conduct some back-to-basics Infantry training and build from fire-team to the squad and platoon levels," said 1st Lt. Terry Benson, from the Gloversville-based Company C.

"The rotation at Hohenfels never would have been as successful as it was without the outstanding support we received not only from the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry but also from the civilian contractors on post," said 2nd Lt. Timothy Pasto from the 108<sup>th</sup>'s Company D." Both of these groups routinely bent over backwards to make our transition into the box, operations within, and finally turn-in as easy and seamless as possible. Everyone in that unit was at the pinnacle of professionalism and showed us great hospitality. Overall it was a great tour and a great experience that allowed our troops to operate in small teams, build junior leaders and get a glimpse at how the enemy fights. Do it again in a minute," he said

Editor's Note: This article was made possible thanks to the support of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry and the officers and NCO who contributed quotes and additional information. □





Spc. Kelly Kenyon from the 466th Medical Company is interviewed by reporter Nan Li from the United Nations Bureau Chief, Chinese News Service.

# Meet the press

## International press focus on New York National Guard

**By Lt. Col. Paul Fanning**  
Guard Times Staff

**WORLD TRADE CENTER SITE, Manhattan**—The New York National Guard hosted more than two dozen foreign news media representatives in New York City early in May for very special interview opportunities that focused on the service of Guard men and women from the opening moments of the Global War on Terror to overseas deployment.

At the request of the U.S. State Department's Foreign Press Center in Manhattan, the New York National Guard arranged to have about 15 members of the Army and Air National Guard on hand at the World Trade Center site and at the State Armory on Lexington Avenue to participate in interviews about their service at home and abroad.

Participating news organizations came from Europe, Asia, South America and the Middle East. Since then, the State Department has dubbed the effort a success based on its tracking of stories that appeared in newspapers, magazines, on the radio and in TV programs in other countries.

"Overseas print and broadcast news stories about the contribution's of America's National Guard at home and abroad will foster America's image overseas and help our relations with other nations," said Andrew P. Strike, Defense

Press Liaison with the U.S. State Department who came from Washington to support the effort. "There are many foreign news media organizations operating in the U.S. at our invitation and the U.S. government seeks to provide opportunities for them to produce accurate reports. The key for them, just like domestic press, is to have access to subjects with important stories to tell. This effort is what we and our visiting foreign news media were looking for," Strike said.

Guard participants came from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, the Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 53<sup>rd</sup> Army Liaison Team and 466<sup>th</sup> Medical Company and the 274<sup>th</sup> Air Support Operations Squadron. A member of the New York National Guard State Family Program Office also participated. Mrs. Shelly Aiken served as the lead volunteer for the Family Readiness Group of company A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry, which was mobilized for Iraq in October 2003 and returned home in January 2005. Mrs. Aiken now runs the Guard's Youth Program.

The New York National Guard and State Department are planning a follow on effort to mark the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Guard members will be invited to participate in another event in August. □



Mrs. Shelly Aiken, State Family Program Youth Coordinator, is interviewed by Nina Vishneva from RTVi Russia.



## PA Soldiers earn combat patch

By Staff Sgt. Brian Speach  
138th MPAD

**MOSUL, Iraq** – The 138th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment received the 172nd Striker Brigade Combat Team's unit patch here May 22 in a small outdoor ceremony held in the shade of a building.

The patch indicates the each Soldier's wartime service in Iraq and is worn on the right shoulder of their Army uniform.

The 138th MPAD deployed here in November 2005 to provide press coverage of the 101st Airborne Division's security missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"This patch, we have earned," said Maj. David Albano, detachment commander. "You should wear it with great pride."

Since the detachment's arrival, Albano said they have worked very hard to excel in their missions, which meant working very close with the 172nd SBCT Soldiers.

The 172nd SBCT is a lead element in northern Iraq. Its missions include conducting search and seizure operations and supporting the Iraqi Army.

"Their coverage allows us to review our missions and improve our skills and capabilities," said Staff Sgt. Melvin Clark, 172nd SBCT. "The photos the 138th MPAD provides gives us the opportunity to show people at home a little of what we do." □



Sergeant 1st Class David Benamati, admin section, 138th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment receives the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat patch on Forward Operating Base Marez, Mosul, Iraq. The 138th MPAD has supported the 172nd SBCT during their deployment. Photo by Spc. Leigh Campbell, 138th MPAD.

## Signal Battalion endeavors in Bosnia

By Tech. Sgt. Renee Kirkland  
Combined Endeavor Public Affairs

**TUZLA, BOSNIA**—Members of the New York Army National Guard deployed to Forward Operating Site Eagle, near Tuzla, Bosnia May 8 to participate in the Combined Endeavor 2006 exercise.

The May 12-25 exercise was conducted at Forward Operating Site Eagle and at the main operating site at Lager Aulerbach, Germany.

Fifteen New York National Guard members of the 101st Signal Battalion Bravo Company, Yonkers, arrived here to play an integral roll.

"Our mission was to test the communications systems and rate them..." said Spc. Ferdinand Montalvo.

Montalvo, a radio maintainer, performed operational tests on the communications equipment of the eight nations participating, here: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Canada, France, Georgia, Italy, Macedonia, Romania and the United States. Combined Endeavor 2006, a U.S. European Command-sponsored, multinational exercise, is the premier 'in-the-spirit-of' Partnership for Peace exercise planned and executed to identify command, control, communications and computer systems interoperability between NATO and Nations' strategic and tactical communications systems.

Thirty-two other nations participated in the exercise and operated out of Lager Aulenbach, Germany.

"We used equipment tested in last year's exercise during Hurricane Katrina relief efforts," said Pvt. Frank DiBattista

All Soldiers received training on testing criteria from members of the Joint Interoperability Test Center, Ariz. Last year, participating nations were successful in real-world ops including earthquake relief efforts in Pakistan, tsunami relief efforts around the Indian Ocean Basin and radio networking in Operation Iraqi Freedom. □

## Counter-terrorism unit hosts Mongolian VIPs in Buffalo

By Staff Sgt. Peter Towse  
Guard Times Staff

**BUFFALO** – In order to gain an understanding of National Guard counter-terrorism agencies' practices and standards, the head of the Mongolian National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mr. Erdenebayar Bavuu and Mongolian Lt. Col. Batjargal Purevdorj, senior officer for the Mongolian Military Intelligence Agency, visited here May 8 to attend the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.

The International Visitor Leadership Program brings foreign participants to the United States each year to meet and confer with their professional counterparts and experience the U.S. firsthand. It emphasizes an increase in mutual understanding between nations through communication at the personal and professional levels.

The briefing here involved an overview of the National Guard's federal and state roles in national and local emergencies.

"We tried to give our Mongolian counterparts an understanding of how we respond to catastrophes across the state and across the country," said Lt. Col. Glen Stagnitta, operations chief, Joint Operations Center, Latham. "The briefing [showed] how the National Guard mobilizes [its] forces during an emergency and how we organize and

respond to disasters."

The Mongolian dignitaries received briefings on all levels and stages of the planning process for response to terrorist attacks, from first-responder planning and training to top level policy planning.

"NEMA works in close cooperation with the Alaskan National Guard in the framework of the State Partnership Program," Mr. Bavuu said. "During our visit, we were introduced to the New York National Guard's State Partnership Program with the Republic of South Africa and gained some very useful ideas and an extensive understanding of U.S. counter-terrorism agencies, practices and standards.

The President of Mongolia proposed the mobilization of the Mongolian armed forces in response to natural disasters during what is called the "Mongolian dzud." The "dzud" refers to a variety of winter conditions that destroys or prevents access for their animals – their livelihood – to grazing. It was reported that more than 2 million animals died as the result of the 2003 dzud where severe snow and extremely low temperatures made access to grazing lands impossible.

Since the dzud of 2003, the Mongolian Law on Disaster Protection was enacted with the goal of training related organizations, services, officials and citizens for disaster prevention, rescue, response and recovery.

The Mongolian military is now involved in delivering humanitarian assistance to disaster-affected herders by opening blocked roads and providing supplies.

"Mongolian soldiers are participating in UN peacekeeping operations in Sierra Lion and in several other countries as observers," Mr. Bavuu said. "This participation gives us the opportunity to be involved in the activities of the international community and to study from the best practices of foreign military services." □



Mr. Erdenebayar Bavuu accepts a state National Guard coin from Lt. Col. Glen Stagnitta. Photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Towse.



# Honor for honor

## New York State's top honor guards recognized

By Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith  
New York National Guard Public Affairs



The New York State Military Forces Honor Guard recognized Spc. Kevin Bridge, center, June 23 as its Honor Guard of the Year for 2006. It also recognized its three regional honor guards of the year: Spc. Demetrius Lopez, left, Northern Region and Spc. Goanergis Vargas, right, Southern Region. Bridge was additionally recognized as the state's Western Region honor guard of the year. Photo by Master Sgt. Corrine Lombardo.

The New York State Military Forces Honor Guard recognized New York Army National Guard Spc. Kevin Bridge June 23 as its Honor Guard of the Year for 2006. It also recognized its three regional honor guards of the year: Spc. Demetrius Lopez, Northern Region and Spc. Goanergis Vargas, Southern Region and Bridge, Western Region.

All three Soldiers were selected from a board held at the Joint Forces Headquarters, Latham.

Honor guard officials say the recognition is made in the memory of honor guard Sgt. David Roustum, NYARNG, 1st Battalion, 108th Infantry, who was killed when his military vehicle was attacked by enemy forces in Baghdad, Iraq, Nov. 20, 2004; Roustum performed more than 200 military funeral honors before being deployed there. Roustum and Bridge worked together on many of those details.

"David exemplified what the honor guard was all about," Bridge said. "It's heartfelt on my end, the award itself, to have my name on the same plaque with David."

Specialist Bridge joined the NYMFHG shortly after serving on the state's 9/11 deployments. He quickly led the NYMFHG's Buffalo office. At the very beginning of the program, the office performed an average of 300 details a year. Today the Buffalo office alone performs more than 1,500 details a year.

Military funeral details can include Full Honors provided to recipients of the Medal of Honor and those who die while on Active Duty: pall bearers, a firing party, a color team, the playing of taps, a flag folding and a flag presentation to next of kin. Honors provided to all veterans with an honorable discharge include the playing of taps, a flag folding and a flag presentation.

"The program is growing," Bridge said. "But the program is nothing without the Soldiers involved. It does not work without their competence and skill ..." Bridge explained that other regional honor guards are just as dedicated to the Honor Guard's professionalism and success.

This year, the NYMFHG included the Honor Guard of the Year program in its standard operating procedures and made its first selections in what will now become a yearly award recognizing the hard work and dedication.

"Honor guards who are highly motivated and maintain an exceptionally high standard of appearance, conduct and aptitude for ceremonial duty are considered," said Mr. Donald Roy, military funeral honors coordinator.

"These three candidates were chosen by their regional coordinators as being Soldiers who exemplify those qualities." Roy added that selections were made from 117 Soldiers who qualified from more than 140 honor guards serving.

Bridge said that honor guard Soldiers go the extra mile on their uniforms and performance because it's what they strive for: the opportunity to perform a perfect ceremony that gives back to the families of veterans and fallen comrades who gave their lives to their country throughout various periods of service.

"To give back to the families and bring closure ... leave positive notes from a negative note ... it's a very good feeling," Bridge said. "And to be honored with the best in the State was great an honor for me." □

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**... recognition is made in the memory of honor guard Sgt. David Roustum, 1st Battalion, 108th Infantry, who was killed ... in Iraq, Nov. 20, 2004**

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Sgt. David Roustum. File photo.

For more information on the State's military honors and to join a detail call Mr. Donald Roy at 518-786-4906.



**In the wake of heavy rains and flooding, Guard members brought skill, experience and equipment to bear in support of the State's recovery efforts.**

# Rapid Response

**By Staff Sgt. Peter Towse**  
Guard Times Staff

**S**oldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 204<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion worked alongside residents here to help bring relief from the catastrophe wrought by the flooding of the town June 28.

New York State Governor George E. Pataki called upon more than 300 Guardsmen and women to State Active Duty for the emergency response mission as New York's Southern Tier was deluged with heavy rainfall and significant flooding.

"We were on duty in the first hour of this disaster," The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto, said during a commander's reconnaissance of New York's southern tier June 29 as the rains moved out of the region. "We were very busy (Wednesday). We're coming to a conclusion on the rescue-evacuation part, and now we're starting to look forward to see what are the next set of mission requirements that might come along where we could be helpful as the community starts to get itself back on its feet."

In New York's Broome County, officials evacuated more than 4,000 residents to the Susquehanna Valley High School in Conklin, but as the river continued to rise the school became surrounded by water, trapping the evacuees. The Pennsylvania Guard responded with five CH-47 Chinook helicopters and coordinated with 204<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Soldiers on the ground to transport more than a thousand evacuees from the high school to a nearby fire station for ground transportation to emergency shelters.

The Citizen Soldier cited for coordinating the aircraft response, Staff Sgt. David Youngs from the 204<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Headquarters and Service Company, received an impact award for his initiative and quick thinking.

"It just made sense to me," Youngs described later from the Walton village emergency operations center. "I saw the aircraft nearby and arranged to get their radio frequencies with call back to battalion (in Binghamton). A quick radio call and we were in business."

Guardsmen and women from Central New York towns such as Horseheads, Binghamton and Walton converged on the town to offer their assistance and support to help those who have lost so much due to the rain's damage.

Timing is everything in such a crisis, and the Soldiers' annual training conducted just two weeks prior to the flooding proved essential to the unit's response.

"Our guys were at their peak for this mission," said Maj. Carlton Cleveland, 204<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Commander.

"Two weeks of training in early June gave our equipment operators and planners plenty of preparation. When the call came in, we hit the ground running."

With water levels not seen in more than 100 years, Main Street in Walton turned into a canal of thick mud and water rising in some places to 5 feet. The rushing waters washed out roads and parking lots, moving cars and the garages they were housed in downstream.

"Everything in my store was floating about the place," said Anna Nochta, a Walton small business owner. "There isn't much that I will be able to save. I don't know what I would have done without the help of [the Engineers]."

Ten years ago the Guard responded to Southern Tier flooding, but local residents say the scope of damage back then doesn't compare.

"We had the Guard out back in '96," said Marty Way, a local resident whose home received extensive water damage.

"But it was nothing like this."

As the waters receded, the National Guard quickly moved away from emergency response and civilian evacuations to provide an assessment of the damage. They worked with local officials and the town's road construction crews using Humvees and Black Hawk

helicopters to quickly move from site to site to determine a course of action to restore the washed out critical areas of roads that stranded some residents from the rest of the town.

Bulldozers, dump trucks, excavators, rollers, graders and pay loaders all played a major role in the cleanup process. Within hours, residents and Soldiers formulated a plan to remove all the waste material threatening critical roads, bridges, key businesses and homes of the town. Assisting emergency responders, the National Guard engineers quickly surveyed damaged roads to ensure access to police, fire and emergency vehicles.

In a matter of hours, residents in communities across the Southern Tier began to rebound with the help of the Guard. Less than 72 hours after the heavy rains, local residents could see the impact of the Guard's response. Garbage was piled on the sidewalks of downtown as engineers moved from house to house, business to business and removed the refuse with heavy equipment making an impossible cleanup seem easy.

The Soldiers on the Southern Tier anticipate staying on the State Active Duty mission for more than two weeks. The troops will continue to provide key engineering assistance to the hardest hit communities.

"We stay until we're told to go home," Taluto said. □

Right: 204<sup>th</sup> Engineers discuss placement of a Army of Walton. Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara.



Spc. James O'Connor from the New York National Guard





dump truck in



Delaware County emergency officials board a 3rd Battalion 142nd Aviation UH-60 Black Hawk to survey flood damage July 2. Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara.



's 204<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion moves debris in an effort to block a corner of a retaining wall that was washed out during the flood in Walton. Photo by Sgt. Ed Balaban.



# Singing Red, White, Blue

USO women serenade the Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> in Freedom Salute ceremony

By Spc. Christopher Connelly  
42nd Infantry Division Public Affairs

**MANHATTAN**—They sang like angels. They were today's version of the Andrews Sisters performing at the Lexington Avenue armory here for a group of New York Army National Guard veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

USO performers joined families and friends May 7 to salute the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, known throughout the Army as the "Fighting 69th" following their return home from Iraq.

In Iraq, the Fighting 69th was an intricate part of Task Force Wolfhound: the battalion task force operating on the most dangerous road in Baghdad: Baghdad Airport road, also known as "Route Irish." The 69th was deployed in Baghdad for nearly one year before returning home in September 2005.

In their salute for that service, the USO's three singers, one



Sgt. Norris J. Johnson is sung to on stage by the USO during the Freedom Salute ceremony. Photos by Sgt. Ed Balaban.

dressed in red, another in white and the third in blue, came on stage in front of the assembled Soldiers and their families for their program of entertainment.

"I really enjoyed the USO girls, especially when they sang the old songs," said Sgt. 1st Class Fernando Gonzalez, Company A. "I remember watching the Andrew Sisters on TV, and they remind me of them."

An 18-year veteran, Gonzalez supervised his company commander's personal security team in Baghdad. Wherever his commander went, he made sure he and his staff were safe.

Gonzalez became part of the performance when one of the USO singers brought him on stage. "I was very embarrassed when I was pulled up and sang to by the one in red," he said.

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**"I really enjoyed the USO girls, especially when they sang the old songs."**

—Sgt. 1st Class Fernando Gonzalez  
Company A, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry.



1st Lt. Brian T. Rathburn holds his daughter.



Staff Sgt. Danny Machiavelo places a Freedom Salute spouse appreciation lapel pin on his wife's jacket.

"I was so embarrassed my ears began to get hot."

"I was told afterwards that my wife could not see from the rear of the room that it was me up in front of the Soldiers, and she remarked to friends that some wife was about to get very upset," Gonzalez said. "I thought that was pretty funny."

The Freedom Salute was a tribute for the Soldiers, with the Guardsmen receiving a collection of items on behalf of the National Guard including a framed American flag, a commemorative coin and a certificate of appreciation. The ceremony was also marked by speeches, formalities and the presentation of Freedom Salute awards to key members of the unit's support network.

But for many, the USO's trio was the favored part of the program.

"I was overjoyed by the USO singers," said Sgt. Norris Johnson, Headquarters Company. "I'm an emotional type of guy, and when they sang the national anthem, I felt awe."

Johnson also had an opportunity to get personal attention from the USO girls.

"The girls pulled me up on the floor, so I just started to dance with them," Johnson said. "It was fun, and everyone loved it."

When told he was going to be deployed to Iraq, Johnson said he was excited but apprehensive. "At my age, I had to worry about keeping up with the younger Soldiers and still do my job," said Johnson, a Vietnam War veteran. "It's been a very long time since I was in a combat zone."

The Iraq war was very different for Johnson than Vietnam. In the Vietnam War, Johnson was a communication specialist, setting up comms behind the lines. In Iraq, alongside his fellow Guardsmen, he was on Route Irish daily.

"It was a totally different role for me this time around," Johnson said.

Like many of his fellow Citizen Soldiers, Johnson's future plans will focus on time spent with his family and returning to his job.

"I put the country in front of my family for two wars, now it's their time," Johnson said. But, at the same time, he signed up to reenlist for another year with his famed "Fighting 69th" family. □



# Celebrate America Day

## Local veterans honored with song and flag

By Staff Sgt. Peter K. Towse  
42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Public Affairs

**MACHIAS**—While the nation continues to recognize the recent contributions of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, members of the New York National Guard helped honor veterans past just before Memorial Day weekend.

Soldiers of the New York State Military Forces Honor Guard took part in the second annual Celebrate America Day event at the Pines Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center here May 21 to honor those that have served.

The event focused on the contributions of the Armed Forces to the nation in an area that is home to many veterans of all the services.

To begin the ceremony, the Pioneer Community Chorus sang patriotic songs and even had those attending join in at

times.

The playing of taps followed a flag folding and firing party by the New York State Military Forces Honor Guard, and five flags were presented to the families of deceased veterans who have never received honors.

“It was very beautiful,” said Cynthia Riethmiller whose husband served in the navy from 1942-1945 and recently passed away. “I was very touched by the ceremony.”

Legislator Gary Felton, the chairman of the senior services committee, also received a flag to honor all those that are in the nursing homes of New York.

“Though today was mostly in honor of veterans in the nursing homes of New York State, it is also in recognition of all veterans,” Felton said. “I am very proud and honored to accept this flag on behalf of our veterans.”

Silence swept over the audience as the flags were passed to family members.

“This was very special to me,” said Loretta Timgue, whose brother, a veteran, passed away in 2005.

Tears and applause followed as the ceremony concluded. □



Soldiers of the New York State Military Forces Honor Guard prepare to fire a 21-gun salute in honor of veterans during the second annual Celebrate America Day May 21 in Machias. Photo by Staff Sgt. Peter K. Towse

## Marathoners announced

By Guard Times Staff

**LATHAM**—You can finish a marathon one step at a time, and if you step lively enough, you may have a chance to represent your state and service on an all Guard marathon team.

The New York National Guard Team recently announced its members for 2006-2007 running season. Two members have also qualified for the National Guard's "All Guard" team.

The 2006 New York National Guard Team Members are: Air Force Maj. Melanie Howard, 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Scotia; Army Chief Warrant Officer Russ Hoyer, Joint Forces Headquarters, Latham; Air Force Master Sgt. Walter Bird, 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Syracuse; Army Staff Sgt. Shaun Lehnert, Joint Forces Headquarters, Latham. Bird and Hoyer qualified for the All Guard team.

On the first Sunday of each May the team competes in the National Guard Marathon Trials, which runs in conjunction with the National Guard/Lincoln Marathon in Lincoln, Neb., scheduled for May 6, 2007.

Every year the team is selected from individuals who have the fastest times run from an official marathon during the 13 months preceding the National Guard/Lincoln Marathon.

The Guard runners compete for both team and individual awards at the National Guard/Lincoln Marathon. The top 40 Guard males and top 15 Guard females qualify for the "All Guard" team.

The team is part of the National Guard Recruiting and Retention Marathon Program. This program expands the ability of the National Guard to enlist and retain quality, physically fit people. □

## Army streamlines service uniforms to one blue Army Service Uniform

By Army News Service

**WASHINGTON** — Army service uniforms will be streamlined to one blue Army Service Uniform, the Army announced today.

“World-class Soldiers deserve a simplified, quality uniform. The blue Army Service Uniform is a traditional uniform that is consistent with the Army’s most honored traditions,” said Sgt. Maj. Of the Army Kenneth O. Preston.

“We have all of these variations of uniforms - green, blue and white,” said Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker. “It makes sense for us to go to one traditional uniform that is really sharp and high quality and which Soldiers will be very proud to wear. And that’s what we’ve done by adopting this blue Army Service Uniform that reflects simplicity, quality, utility and tradition.”

Many Soldiers already own an Army blue uniform (now to be called the Army Service Uniform) and may continue to wear it. Improvements will be made to the fabric and fit. Reduction of the number of uniforms will reduce the burden on Soldiers for purchases and alteration cost.

Introduction in the Army Military Clothing Sales Stores should begin in fourth quarter of fiscal year 2007. Introduction in the Clothing Bag should begin first quarter 2009. The Mandatory Possession Date is expected to be fourth quarter fiscal year 2011.

A wear-out date for the Army Green Class A and White dress uniforms will be determined at a later date.

The consolidation of Army service uniforms is part of a streamlining process. In 2004, the Army reduced the number of battle dress uniforms from three to one when it adopted the Army Combat Uniform in place of the Woodland Green Battle Dress Uniform (winter and summer versions) and the Desert Combat Uniform. That uniform consolidation has been a resounding success in terms of soldier acceptance and reducing the variety of combat uniforms with which they must deal.

Army Blue as a uniform color traces its origins back to the National Blue and was first worn by Soldiers in the Continental Army of 1779.

Besides tradition, the Army Service Uniform reflects utility, simplicity and quality.

In utility, the blue Army Service Uniform provides a basic set of components that allow Soldiers to dress from the lowest end to the highest end of service uniforms with little variation required.

In simplicity, the blue Army Service Uniform eliminates the need for numerous sets of green Class A uniforms, service blue uniforms and, for some, Army white mess uniforms (and tunics, for women). Streamlining various service uniforms into one Army Service Uniform reduces the burden on Soldiers in the same manner that the Army Combat Uniform (ACU) did for the field utility uniform.

In quality, the blue Army Service Uniform is made of a durable material that is suitable for daily use without special care.

Information about the blue Service Uniform and its composition is at [www.army.mil/symbols/uniforms](http://www.army.mil/symbols/uniforms). □



COLONEL KOLB SUSAN E WILLIAMSON CURTIS B	NYARNG ELE JF HQ NYARNG ELE JF HQ	SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ADAMS MANUEL JOSEPH ALLIE ASMAT BURGOS HECTOR IVAN COLLING JEFFREY ALAN HAMILTON TIMOTHY D HICKS BOBBY JAMES IRWIN SHANNON MARIE LANGLEY HEATHER LEE LARREGUI RAYMOND JUAN MAERKL JAMES CHARLES MCKAY JOSEPH A SHERMAN CHARLES R JR ZIZZO TRINETTE	CO D 2-108TH INF 37TH FIN DET CO B 101ST SIG BN R & R CMD 2ND BN 106TH REG (RTB) 642 CS BN HSC REAR 1ST BATTALION 142D AVN NYARNG ELE JF HQ NYARNG ELE JF HQ 204TH ENG DET CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB DET 3 CO E 3-142D AVN R & R CMD	WALSH RICHARD SEAN WILLIAMS KEVIN PAUL YARBROUGH EARL E YOUNGS DAVID ERIC	R & R CMD HHD 501ST ORD BN EOD R & R CMD H & S CO 204 ENGR BN
MAJOR AGRO ANGELO AULD JAMES D DRAJEM BRUCE HAYDUK THOMAS J MCCAULEY KERRY J MURPHY MICHAEL S SEAGLE JAMES C	DET 1 HHC 107TH SPT GP 42D TAC CMD POST TAC 1 27TH INF (BCT) HHC 427 BSB AVN BDE 42D IN DIV NYARNG ELE JF HQ 27TH INF (BCT)	STAFF SERGEANT ANDERSEN JOHN R BERARDINELLI RICHARD M CASTRO RICHARD ELIAS CORDERO LINO DANIELS THOMAS WILBUR GLIDDEN DAVID M INMAN EDWARD S KAALUND SPENCER KELLY PATRICK DAVID LANT ROBERT JOSEPH MADERA JOHNNY MANISCALCO LOUIS R MCCOY DAVID ARDEN MUELLER EDWARD C JR MURRAY CASEAN PINEDA DAVID POOLE ERICA LYNN REPSHER MILTON HARRY JR ROSE KENNETH AARON SCHRAUTH TIMOTHY M SETTLE WILLIAM T STEVENS GARY ALLEN SZABO SCOTT A VENERECE RONALD W	CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE CO C (-) 204TH ENGR BN 42D TAC CMD POST TAC 2 HHC 101ST SIG BN H & S CO 204 ENGR BN NYARNG ELE JFHQ FWD 32 R & R CMD CO A 101ST SIG BN HHC(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS 42D TAC CMD POST TAC 2 DET 1 CO B 1-69TH INF 42D TAC CMD POST TAC 2 R & R CMD H & S CO 204 ENGR BN 2ND BN 106TH REG (RTB) R & R CMD NYARNG ELE JF HQ H & S CO 204 ENGR BN CO B 204 ENGR BN CO B 204 ENGR BN CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB H & S CO 204 ENGR BN CO B 204 ENGR BN DET 2 HHC 42D STB	SERGEANT ANGEL JOHN K ANTHONY SHAUN DEAN APONTE JESSE JR AQUINO CHRISTIAN G BRECHLER BRAD A CANDELARIA DAVID JOE CARDINO MEAGAN P CAREY MELISSA ANN CHAPIN DAVID GEORGE COONS KARIN E ESTARFAA MARY C FARRELL MICHAEL JAMES II FERNANDEZ CHRISTOPHER GONZALEZ LEIDY GRACE GUTIERREZ LARRY RAUL HEATH ALAN JOSEPH KOERS JUSTIN JOHAN LABORDE NANCY LEARY PAMELA SUE LEASURE STEPHEN T MACKLIN JONATHAN D MEJIA LESTER MENDZEF ADAM RICHARD MILLIGAN SCOTT ADAM MISKELL AWALE MOHR AARON BRADT MORALESFEBUS CARLOS E PELLETIER JUSTIN M PRIVITERA CORY M REED JOHN EDWARD JR RIVAS ORLANDO RODRIGUEZGONZALEZ D ROJAS RICARDO DANIEL ROSSIGNOL DANIEL PAUL	DET 1 CO A 204 ENGR BN DET 1 CO C 204TH EN BN CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB 4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET HHC 427 BSB HHC (-) 2-108 INF DET 1 105 MP CO 42D TAC CMD POST TAC 1 466TH MEDICAL CO AREA 42D ID UEX 4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET 466TH MEDICAL CO AREA CO A 101ST SIG BN 4TH FIN DET HHC (-) 2-108 INF CO B 204 ENGR BN DET 1 CO A 2-108TH INF 4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET 466TH MEDICAL CO AREA CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB 4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET 4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB 105TH MP CO CO A 2-108TH INF DET 1 CO A 2-108TH INF 7TH FIN DET DET 1 CO B 3-126TH AVN DET 36 MED DET FWD 204 CO C (-) 1-69TH INF DET 1 CO C 204TH EN BN 1569TH TRANS CO 442D MP CO 4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET
CAPTAIN HWANG SUNG HYUN KILLORAN ERIC JOHN WOODS THOMAS F	HHC 107TH SPT GP (-) 222D MP CO (-) BATTERY B 1-258TH FA				
FIRST LIEUTENANT COLON JASMINE NATASHA CONNOLLY MICHAEL DALE EASTMOND BENJAMIN R FIRES AMY NICOLE KEBLISH STEPHEN N PERRY STEVEN P JR SENICOLA JAMIE L STAUBACH JUSTIN E ZELLER MATTHEW C	DET 1 HHC 107TH SPT GP CO A 3-142D AVN HHC 1-69TH INF NYARNG ELE JF HQ 27TH INF (BCT) 206TH MP CO HHD 104TH MP BN CO C 101ST SIG BN 27TH INF (BCT)				
LIEUTENANT COLONEL MILMORE ROBERT JOSEPH	42D TAC CMD POST TAC 1				
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4 MARTINS MARQUES A	HHC(-) 3-142D AVN				
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3 HAAS ROSENTHAL KARA L	4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET				
MASTER SERGEANT HUGOS ANDREW PAUL	NYARNG ELE JF HQ				

## South African visit focuses on environmental policies

By Maj. Patrick J. Chaisson  
State Partnership Program

**LATHAM**—The New York National Guard's environmental programs received some focused attention in June when a team of South African officers came to tour state natural and cultural resources.

The visit was part of the State Partnership Program, and Lt. Col. Mark Warnecke and the staff of the Camp Smith Training Site hosted it.

Participating from the South African National Defense Forces were RSA Col. S.K. Godschalk and RSA Lt. Col. B. Madikane. Both officers are environmental services staff officers in the South African Ministry of Defense.

The tour provided a broad overview of environmental programs, plans and issues for the South African officers. The RSA team spent five days traveling to Air and Army National Guard facilities across the state examining the state's programs in action.

The visit began with a tour of Stewart Air National Guard Base, Newburgh. There, the South African team reviewed base environmental procedures as well as participated in an exciting session on the C-5 Galaxy simulator.

The next day, at Camp Smith, the team was briefed on the camp's integrated natural

resource management plan, the installation master plan, the post environmental programs and issues, and they discussed wetlands issues, waste management issues and other topics.

On third day, at Fort Drum, the team was guided by the post's cultural resources program manager, Laurie Rush, and following a tour of the newly-opened NYARNG MATES site and the post Hazardous Materials Management Center, Rush led the group through Fort Drum's historic LeRay Mansion (1807) as an example of the Army's adaptive use policy of maintaining historic properties on military installations.

The South Africans concluded their visit with trips to Latham, Saratoga Springs and Kingston.

In Latham, Ms. Nancy Todd, State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, briefed the team on the state's historic armories. The team then visited the state military museum in Saratoga as an example of state's reuse of historic buildings. The team also observed an archeological dig at the Kingston Armory.

The South African are making plans for improvements to their programs. Additional trips to South Africa, by state environmental experts, are being discussed. □



Dr. Laurie Rush explains to RSA Lt. Col. B. Madikane and RSA Col. S.K. Godschalk the Sterlingville Crossroads historic site during their visit to Fort Drum. Photo by Maj. Pat Chaisson.



RUNION KAYLA IRENE SPECIALIST BLANCORUBI JOHNNY CAMP TORELL DOUGLAS CAPUTO ANTHONY JOHN CASIANO CHRISTOPHER S CLARK JUSTIN N CLERK HARRY WILBUR CONTALDI MICHAEL CARL DANTES YVON WENER DELANEY LEANNE MARIE EPPRECHT EDWARD B FRAGOSO IVAN GALL ORIN NKOSI JR GUEVARA MILTON H HASENEY JOHN JENSEN HOPKINS THOMAS B LOWERY JAYSON M MCCANN CHRISTOPHER K MECCARIELLO KEVIN L MELENDEZ JOSE LUIS MITCHELL DANIEL JAMES PECHLER THOMAS GERALD PIERSON DEANNA MARIE RIEGGER WILLIAM JOHN JR RUTLEY SHONDRELL L STASSI JOHN JAMES SURACE JOSEPH PAUL TORRES ORLANDO TUCKER DASHAUN W WAITE TAMMY ZHAO RICHARD FOLGER	DET 1 105 MP CO  CO A 101ST SIG BN 14TH FIN DET 727TH MP DET L & O DET 1 CO A 204 ENGR BN 727TH MP DET L & O 7TH FIN DET CO C (-) 1-69TH INF DET 1 CO C 204TH EN BN HHC (-) BSTB 27TH IN BDE DET 1 CO B 2-108TH INF 7TH FIN DET 7TH FIN DET CO D 1-69TH INF CO A 101ST SIG BN CO A(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS HHD 104TH MP BN CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB CO D 3-142D AVN TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA) HHC AVN BDE 42D IN DIV CO D 1-69TH INF CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB 204TH ENG DET TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA) CO B 101ST SIG BN 133RD MAINT CO CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB 37TH FIN DET	DIAPIA JACKELINE DIBATTISTA FRANK DAVID DONAHUE JASON C DOUGHERTY RONALD R EASTWOOD GUY F EDWARDS ISSIAC D FRICK JONATHAN B GATES JOSHUA RICHARD L GUSTAVSSON PHILLIP J HAYES BRIAN HENDEL JEFFREY A HUETTINGER JOSEPH J JENKINS VERONICA L KEMP GREGORY M KENNEDY TIFFANY R LEAVY SEAN MICHAEL LONDONO CARLOS LOVEJOY SEAN PATRICK MALDONADO ROBERTO D MCCOWN DUANE MCGOVERN JOSEPH O II MCLAUGHLIN PHILIP J MILLER DOMINICK A MOORE RANDY M MOSES DWAYNE C MUNYAN BENJAMIN E NOLAN SEAN PATRICK OTCHERE DERRICK K PERKINS RICHARD A PICKETT ANN MARIE PREISCH BRANDON M QUINONES UNIQUE C RIVAS RONALD RIVERA FELIX HUMBERTO RODRIGUEZ NICHOLAS N ROSARIO EDGAR NOEL SANCHEZ SAMANTHA SAND MELISSA J SANTANA REBECCA LYNN SANTANA WILSON A JR SCHULTZ CHRISTOPHER R SHAVALIER BRIAN JAMES SHINE SAITH JARAM SITNIK JAMES EDGAR SYED SUHAIL AHMAD VILLAFANE JOSE ANTONIO WIWCZAR DANIEL B ZOOK RYAN P	CO B 101ST SIG BN CO B 101ST SIG BN 466TH MED CO AREA SPT HHC 1-69TH INF CO B 101ST SIG BN H & S CO 204 ENGR BN HHC 427 BSB HHC (-) BSTB 27TH IN BDE DET 1 CO A 204 ENGR BN 442D MP CO DET 1 105 MP CO HHD 104TH MP BN HHD 501ST ORD BN EOD 642 CS BN HSC REAR 466TH MED CO AREA SPT CO A 2-108TH INF 7TH FIN DET REAR DET 1 133RD MAINT CO HHD 27TH FIN BN CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB CO C (-) 204TH ENGR BN 42D ID UEX 442D MP CO TROOP C 2-101 CAV (RSTA) 102 MAINT CO CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB 442D MP CO BATTERY B 1-258TH FA 102 MAINT CO BSTB 27TH IN BDE(BCT) DET 1 CO C 204TH EN BN 145TH MAINT CO CO A 1-69TH INF 719 TRANS CO (MDM TRK) 187TH ENG CO DUMP TRUCK 7TH FIN DET H & S CO 204 ENGR BN CO B 101ST SIG BN DET 1 107TH MP CO HHC 1-69TH INF TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA) TROOP C 2-101 CAV (RSTA) HHC BSTB 27TH IN BDE BCT TROOP C 2-101 CAV (RSTA) CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB CO B (-) 1-69TH INF H & S CO 204 ENGR BN	PRIVATE 2 ALLEN JOSEPH EDWARD BAEZ PEDRO III BECKER WADE DANIEL BDE BCT BELFON KEVON R BELLARD JOHN ROBERT BITTINGER ROBERT M BRITTON MITCHELL B CARPENTER DANIEL P CUMMINGS MICHAEL O DARGAN THOMAS DECIRCE JOSHUA TRAVIS DIAZ JONATHAN ERNESTO DORING JEFFREY MICHAEL DOST EDMOND HAROLD III DUNCAN REID ALAN FLAHERTY WILLIAM A GILES GINA HAMM GLENN DAVID JR HERNANDEZ JASMIN N HOLCOMB JOSEPH H INGRAM STEVIE D JR KREUTINGER WILLIAM C LAUER MARK SINNOTT MACHADO JESSICA ISIS NIEVES GABRIEL OCHOA YESENIA MAYTE OKELLY JASON TYRONE ORMINSKI JUSTIN ROBERT PADGETT BUDDY ALAN PLANTE RAYMOND S RAJCZAK JOSEPH SHANE ROBINSON TONY A RODRIQUEZGONZALO J II RODRIGUEZ HERMAN RODRIGUEZ JONATHAN J SANTIAGO JUAN JR SHEARER MATTHEW K SINGH DERICK RAJESH SUTFIN JEREMY PAUL TRAVERS THOMAS V ULLRICH JAMES S WEEKES TEKARA NIKITA WOOD ROBERT JOSEPH ZOLLO MICHAEL S	DET 1 CO B 2-108TH INF CO B (-) 1-69TH INF DET 1 HHC BSTB 27TH IN CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB DET 1 CO C 2-108TH INF 727TH MP DET L AND O REAR DET 2 CO B 2-108TH INF CO C (-) 2-108TH INF DET 1 CO B 3-126TH AVN CO F (FSC INF) 427TH BSB 204TH ENG DET 133RD MAINT CO CO D 3-142D AVN CO B (-) 1-69TH INF 1156TH ENG CO DET 1 CO A 204 ENGR BN 133RD QM SUPPLY CO 206TH MP CO CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB CO F (FSC INF) 427TH BSB CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB HHC BSTB 27TH IN BDE BCT CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB DET 1 CO C 204TH EN BN 133RD MAINT CO CO A 1-69TH INF 206TH MP CO CO B 204 ENGR BN 107TH MP CO (-) 642 CS BN HSC REAR CO C (-) 2-108TH INF CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB CO B(-) 642D SPT BN 442D MP CO HHC 101ST SIG BN CO C 101ST SIG BN CO D 1-69TH INF 222D MP CO (FWD) CO B (-) 2-108TH INF DET 1 CO B 2-108TH INF 133RD QM SUPPLY CO CO C 101ST SIG BN CO B (-) 1-69TH INF
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## Army Reenlistments

102 MAINT CO SGT GATES KEVIN B SFC GREENE BILLY JOSEPH SFC KNOWLTON RANDY LEE SSG LACROIX LEOPOLD SGT LLOYD PETER MATTHEW SGT MARTIN DAVID RANDALL SPC MCINTOSH DONALD DAVID SFC MILLER TREVIS ALLEN SPC MUNGER LUCAS JOHN SFC PIETROSKI RICHARD JOHN SGT REBB EDMUND JAMES SSG RENO RONNIE LAVERN SPC SPENCE KENDRIC MONTE	SGT BORRERO GRACE SGT CANNON GERALD JOSEPH SGT CRAWLEY RUSSELL EMMITT SSG GEORGE DAVID ALLEN SGT GREENE EAROL GLENFORD SGT HERNANDEZ CHARLES ANTHON JR SPC JACKSON MICHAEL LEROY SGT MARTINEZCOLON JOSE A SPC OJEDA CHARLIE SFC RAMADHIN LUTCHMAN B SPC WYNNE WILLIS ALEXANDER	SPC BIRTWELL JOHN MARVIN SSG BRIGGMAN JOHN J SPC CLARK GARY MICHAEL SGT COLLALTO ANITA SPC FAIRBANKS SCOTT A SGT FLYNN DENNIS JOSEPH JR SPC FRALICK STEVEN GRANT SFC HEBELER HOWARD LEROY PFC HENNING KEITH ISG JONES HAROLD IV SPC MCKANE CHRISTOPHER DOUGLAS SGT MINER JACOB ANDREW SPC MURRAY CHRISTOPHER ANTHONY SPC PRATT THOMAS FRANK SSG QUINTANA GUILLERMO SPC ROY STEVEN ANTHONY PFC SHAY NICHOLAS JOHN GLEASON SPC SIDE CLIFFORD LAWRENCE JR SSG SMITH ALAN R SGT VILLAMARZO ANDRES GARCIA SGT WALTERS JEFFREY RICHARD	SPC HERBIG BRIAN DAVID SPC LONG ROBERT DANIEL SPC MCGARRIGLE KENNETH ROBERT SPC MOSES ANTHONY D SPC OLIVER JAMES PETER SPC SALMON BRYAN JACOB SGT STEVENS SHANE MONROE SPC TAFT JUSTIN TYLER SGT TROCCIA PAUL MICHAEL SPC WALKER WENDY ANN
107TH MILITARY POLICE CO (-) SPC HENDERSON MILES JACOB SSG JANDZIO BECKI JO SPC ZUHLKE JEFFREY WILLIAM	14TH FINANCE DET SPC FEUER MATTHEW RICHARD JUAN SPC MOISE DIANA SGT SWANSON ANNA THERESA SGT WALDON VIRGINIA	222D MILITARY POLICE CO (FWD) SSG ARWOOD RICHARD RAY SPC BARBER ROBERT MICHAEL SPC BARNER FRANK EARL IV SSG BENNETT BRIAN JOHN SPC BENNETT STEVEN CRAIG SGT BREWSTER DANIEL LEE SPC CARMODY CHRISTOPHER JAMES SPC CLARK MATTHEW WILLIAM SPC COOGAN DANIEL SCOTT SPC DAVIDSON PETER LOREN SFC DREW ALAN DALE SSG EVELAND MARC JOSEPH SPC GOLDSBERRY BRANDON JOHN PV2 HALL ATHENA MARIE	249TH MED CO AIR AMBULANCE (-) SSG GAINER JON PETER
1156TH ENGR CO PORT OPENING SPC CRAIG CLAYTON JOHN SPC WYCKOFF MICAH CLAY	1569TH TRANSPORTATION CO SGT DAVIS JAMES RAPHAEL SPC FERNANDEZ ALWEN ENRIQUE JR SPC KAINA MARA MAHEALANI SSG LOVELL KENNETH CEIL SGT LUGO ANTONIO SGT MATIAS MICHAEL MARTIN SGT SELBY JOSEPH ANTHONY SSG WALKER BERNARD CARLTON	272D MP DET BDE LIAISON SFC HOUSE THOMAS R SR	27TH INF (BCT) SGT BARTEL CLINT JEFFREY SGT COBURN ROBERT ALAN SPC LYNCH EVAN FRANCIS SPC ZARIAN VAROOSH
133RD MAINTENANCE CO SSG BREAKENRIDGE DONALD ALEXAND SGT CRUICKSHANK URIAH JAMES SGT HAYDAK DOUGLAS MARTIN	187TH ENGINEER CO DUMP TRUCK PFC BIENAS ERIK MICHAEL	29TH PERSONNEL SERVICE DET SPC TOFTHAGEN SUZANNE MARIE SPC WRIGHT RACHEL LYNN	2ND BN 106TH REG (RTB) SFC MODICA JOSEPH GERALD SFC RICE EDWARD E
133RD QUARTERMASTER SUPPLY CO	206TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY	37TH FINANCE DET SFC ALLIE ASMAT	42D ID UEX SGT COONS KARIN ELIZABETH SGMEWING JOSEPH FRANK
SGT ESQUILIN RAYMOND SSG NIEVES RAYMOND SPC ORMSBY JOSEPH SGT ROBERTS CLARENCE W	SGT HAMMOND DAVID LEE SGT MONTESANO JAMES EDWIN SGT SCHMIDT ERICH KEITH		
145TH MAINTENANCE CO SSG ACOSTA RAMON	222D MILITARY POLICE CO (-)		



SGT FANCHER KELLY LYNN  
SSG THOMPSON ROBERT THOMAS  
SSG TOWSE PETER KENNETH

42D INFANTRY DIV BAND (-)  
SGT ESPINAL LUIS RAMON  
SGT TRONTI MARIO  
SGT WEVERS ANTHONY JOSEPH JR

42D TAC CMD POST TAC 1  
MSG CAVANAUGH JOSEPH JAMES  
MSG YOHN WILLIAM E  
1SG RAIMONDI PAUL A

442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
SPC BARAHONAGOMEZ CARLOS ALBERT  
SPC HUNTER KIM LESTOR  
SFC MENDEZ ALFREDO  
SGT MEYER ADAM SCOTT  
SPC MEYERS GREGORY VINCENT  
SPC MORGAN KEITH CUTHBERT  
SPC NUNEZ CESAR DE JESUS  
SFC SMITH HERBERT

466TH MEDICAL CO AREA SUPPORT  
SGT CHAPIN DAVID GEORGE  
SPC DISALVO JAMES ROBERT  
1SG ERNST WILLIAM ROBERT  
SGT FRIAS ANA VIRGINIA  
SGT GARDNER JAMIE LYNN  
SPC HANLEY KIMBERLY MARIE  
SGT LORD JEFFREY DAVID  
SGT OQUENDO MANUEL ALBERTO JR  
SPC PASALACQUA EDWARD III  
SGT WALTER EVERETT JOSEPH  
SGT WUNDERS JAMES ROBERT

4TH FINANCE DET  
SGT COMER STEPHEN EDWARD JR  
SPC MCNEELEY JOHN R

4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET  
SPC BARTEE CHERIE LAQUITTA  
SPC BRODEN MICHAEL CORY  
SGT CUSTODIO GERARDO ANDRADA  
SGT DONALDSON ARON JAMES  
PFC DRESSER SABRINA LEA  
PFC EDICK SARA ANN  
SGT ESTARFAA MARY CATHERINE  
SPC HARVEY JENNIFER EMILY  
SSG HOLLINGER DEBORAH KAY  
SPC HUTCHINS MICHAEL KATRELL  
SPC LABORDE NAIDA  
SGT LABORDE NANCY  
SGT MACKLIN JONATHAN DAEMAR  
SSG NOBLE VICKI LYNN  
SGT RAINEY JOHNATHAN MICHAEL  
SGT ROSSIGNOL DANIEL PAUL  
SPC VASQUEZ ELIDO FRANCISCO JR  
SPC WHITNEY ARNOLD JAMES

56TH PERSONNEL SER BN  
SSG EVANS ROBERT G  
MSG TILLMAN CHARLES D

642 CS BN HSC REAR  
SPC BOOKER GEORGE ROBERT

719 TRANS CO (MDM TRK CGO)  
SSG ESCOTTO CHRISTIAN  
SGT HECTOR THOMAS ELVIS  
SPC MONTALVO JERRY  
SSG PAULINO TOMAS F

727TH MP DET L AND O REAR  
PFC FOX TODD BERNARD  
SSG HAMILTON GOEFFREY RICHARD

727TH MP DET LAW AND ORDER  
SGT DUTCHER DOUGLAS ALLEN  
SFC GARAND GARY MATTHEW  
SGT GORDON ROBERT ANTHONY  
SPC HOFFMAN MICHAEL ERIC  
SGT KRIZ JOHN MICHAEL  
SGT MCCONVILLE CINDY MARILYN  
SGT MCKINNEY JAMES ARTHUR  
SPC MOYER CHARLES SCOTT  
SPC MURRAY DANIEL STEVEN

7TH FINANCE DET  
SGT BRANFORD NANDI LATOYA Y  
SPC FRAGOSO IVAN  
SFC MERCADO JOSE JR  
SPC RODRIGUEZ JOSEPH ALBERT  
SPC SMITH KIMBERLY REBECCA

A CO(ENG)BSTB 27TH IN BDE(BCT) SSG  
MILLER GLENN VAN  
SPC REYNOLDS JOHN V  
SGT SCHNEIDER DAVID D  
SPC SMITH KEVIN TIMOTHY  
SPC WELLS JEFFREY

B CO(MI)BSTB 27TH IN BDE (BCT)  
SSG MANSIL GILBERT WAYNE  
SFC SARGENT ROBERT WILLIAM  
SSG SCHILLAWSKI BENJAMIN JAMES

BATTERY A 1-258TH FA  
SPC KOVALIK MICHAEL IV

BATTERY B 1-258TH FA  
SFC DELANNOY ALEXANDER  
SPC MALAVE BENJAMIN  
SFC MOSS CURTIS LAMONTE

C CO(SIG)BSTB 27TH IN BDE(BCT) SSG  
DOLSON DAVID LAWRENCE  
SGT GARRITY JAMES RICHARD  
SPC KING WILLIAM FRANCIS  
SPC POLOVNUK JERRY  
SFC STABLER RONALD PAUL

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE  
SSG DAVIES THOMAS FRANCIS  
SSG SOTOMAYOR DAVID C

CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB  
SPC DENICOLA KEVIN SCOTT  
SGT DOWD EDWARD ROBERT  
SGT LANTRY DANIEL ALLEN  
SSG MONETTE THOMAS A  
SSG ROBINSON KAREN MARIE  
SPC RUTLEY SHONDRILL LAJAIUNE  
SGT SEELEY WAYNE GREGOR  
SGT WHEATON CHRISTOPHER ALAN

CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
PFC MCMAHON GEORGE PATRICK

CO A 101ST SIGNAL BN  
SPC CULLEN ROY MICHAEL JR  
SSG KAALUND SPENCER

CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY  
SPC GAUDIO ROBERT ALAN

CO A 3-142D AVIATION  
SGT HUGHES TIMOTHY ALAN

CO A(-) 204 ENGR BN  
SSG BULL THADDEUS RAYMON  
SPC HARDER ROBERT BURNETTE IV  
SGT ROSEN MICHAEL ANDREW  
SPC THOMPSON PETER JACOB

CO A(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS BN  
SGT BATTIGE HENRY JOSEPH  
SGT SCOTT HAROLD JAY

CO B (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY  
SPC SCAPPATICCIO JOHN JR

CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB  
SPC SHELEY MICHAEL ROBERT

CO B 101ST SIGNAL BN  
SSG FORD RICHARD EUGENE  
SFC KNOX BARRY W

CO B 204 ENGR BN  
SGT MCCARTHY PATRICK EDWARD IV  
SPC OCONNOR JAMES MICHAEL  
SPC STARKWEATHER BRYAN JAMES  
SPC STONE ROGER LEE

CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
SGT BROGLIE JAMES CARL

SFC CLARKE FABIO ADOLFO  
SPC COTTON KELLEY JAMEL  
SGT GONZALEZ ROBERT  
SSG HERNANDEZ ANDY E  
SSG MARCH DIANE L  
SSG PETITFRERE SURVINS  
SGT PIERRE RICHARD MICHAEL  
SSG RUTHERFORD JOHN LLOYD  
SPC SULLIVAN EVE LOUISE  
SPC TAYLOR ROSEMARY D  
SGT TIRADO BRIAN MATTHEW

CO C (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY  
SSG BAIDOOS SAMUEL SAMMS  
SPC CECKANOWICZ DARREN JUSTIN  
SSG DELGADO RUBEN  
SGT GRIMBALL RICARDO GILBERTO  
SPC PELAK MATTHEW RICHARD

CO C (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY  
SPC PASIEKA BRYAN MARTIN

CO C (-) 204TH ENGR BN  
SSG BERARDINELLI RICHARD MICHAEL  
SSG PADILLA MARCO ANTONIO  
SSG SANCHEZ MAXIMO N  
SPC STANDFORD KARLAN JOSEPH

CO C (MED) 427TH BSB  
SGT REICHARD EDWARD JOHN

CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB  
PFC ALBI JULIUS SYLVESTER JR  
SSG BARBER THAD LOUIS  
SGT ESPINAR SHERWIN ARCELUZ  
SGT GARDNER JADA YVONNE  
SGT KLEPFER STEVEN WALTER  
SPC MILLER JOHN KENNETH  
SPC MUNIZ DAVID  
SGT PIKAS BOHDAN JASON  
SPC REDDECLIFF JASON THOMAS  
SSG RIVERA JAVIER RICARDO

CO D 1-69TH INFANTRY  
SPC ADRIAN JORGE IBRAIN  
SGT JOHNSON NORRIS J  
SGT QUINN LONNY ADAM

CO D 2-108TH INFANTRY  
SSG DUNN BRIAN MANSFIELD  
SPC WEBER JAMES WALTER JR

CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
SGT BRASSARD GEANA DAVISON  
SFC HARWOOD CHARLES A  
SSG PUGLIESE THOMAS FRANK  
SGT REED DAVID J  
SPC RILEY DAVID EDWARD  
SGT TANGORRE BRIAN ROBERT

CO E 3-142D AVIATION  
SGT HABER GERALD FRANCIS

CO F (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
SGT CEVALLOS GOMEZ ALEX RODRIGO  
SGT GARCIA JOSE RAMIRO  
SSG HAYES WILLIAM R  
SSG HUNT JESSE O  
SSG MAHADEO ISRAEL  
SPC NELSON ZABAR KEVIN  
SGT BHOLA BRUCE  
SGT CAHOLO ORLANDO  
SGT DABICHAN MAHENDRANAOUTH D  
MSG OQUENDO MANUEL ALBERTO  
SGT TETTEH EDWIN A

DET 1 105 MP CO  
SGT BARRETT JEREMY HUTTON  
SSG MCDONNELL MICHAEL C III

DET 1 107TH MILITARY POLICE CO  
SGT ROSADO RODNEY

DET 1 133RD MAINT CO  
SGT NEWTON WINSTON WESLEY

DET 1 222D MILITARY POLICE CO  
SPC FLEMING CHRISTOPHER JAMES  
SSG HERNANDEZ STEVE ANTHONY  
PFC REMICK STEPHEN JASON

DET 1 CO A 1-224 AVN S&S BN  
SSG VANDELUYSTER JAMES W JR

DET 1 CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY  
SPC BURNS PHILLIP WAYNE

## Company commanders attend leadership course

By Sgt. Ed Balaban  
Guard Times Staff

**LATHAM**—Thirty-two officers ranging from Warrant Officer through Captain were in attendance for the first phase of a new two-phase company commander's course in Catskill in June.

"This course was developed by the direction of Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto, who felt a need for company-level junior officers informed of his priorities regarding Soldier retention, troop leadership and other command responsibilities," said facilitator Lt. Col. Brian DeReamer, 106th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, Camp Smith.

Brig. Gen. Michael Swezey, commanding general, New York Army National Guard, opened the weekend session and stated the course objectives, which reflected Taluto's priorities.

During Phase 1, instructional presentations focused on strength management, training management, logistics and equipment accountability.

Phase two was scheduled for July in Glens Falls. It concentrated on pre-, during- and post-deployment and mobilization issues that impact Soldiers and their families. Other areas included force structure, unit status reporting, and safety and risk management. Highlights of this phase included a briefing from Lt. Col. Mark Warnecke who offered his perspective as a battalion commander who deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The class also scheduled a visit to the state military museum in Saratoga Springs.

The course culminated with a semiformal dinner with spouses at which Taluto was guest speaker. □



DET 1 CO A 204 ENGR BN  
SSG BROCCOLO MICHAEL

DET 1 CO B 2-108TH INFANTRY  
SSG BEAUDIN DAVID ROGER

DET 1 CO B 3-126TH AVIATION  
SGT AQUILINA MICHAEL JOHN  
SGT FUHRY STEVEN RICHARD

DET 1 CO C 1-69TH INFANTRY  
SPC MAHER JAMES PATRICK  
SGT NIELSEN ROBERT THEODORE  
SGT WEISS ERIC FRANCIS

DET 1 CO C 2-108TH INFANTRY  
SSG SHEA BRIAN STEVEN  
SPC SLATTERY MICHAEL BRYAN

DET 1 HHC 107TH SUPPORT GROUP  
SPC DANTZLER DOMINICK E  
SPC DMEZA TONIA MICHELE  
SPC GREENE MARTHA  
MSG LONG JOHNNIE L  
SPC OLIVO ANDRE  
SSG VARGAS MARTIN B  
SGT WRIGHT JOHN WILLIAM

DET 1 HHC 2-108TH INFANTRY  
SGT JOHNSON JOHN CHARLES  
SPC SNYDER JAMES KENNETH JR  
SSG SUMINGUIT ROBERT DEAN

DET 1 HHC 42D STB  
SPC LEWIS ROBERT EUGENE

DET 1 HHC BSTB 27TH IN BDE BCT  
SGT DUERR KENNETH WILLIAM  
SFC FINNIE DAVID LEE

DET 2 CO A 42D STB  
SPC COELLO DAVID TOMAS  
SSG MALDONADO JOSE ANTONIO

DET 2 HHC 42D STB  
SFC BELL ARTHUR R  
SPC CANDELARIO MICHAEL ANGELO  
SSG MILLHEISER JAMES CHARLES  
SSG NARVAEZ REYNALDO  
SGT PERALTA SAMUEL ENRIQUE

DET 3 CO E 3-142D AVIATION  
SFC BOWMAN MAUREEN EDNA

H & S CO 204 ENGR BN  
SSG DANIELS THOMAS WILBUR  
SGT KNISELY NEVA LOUISE  
SGT RAUB SCOTT JENNIFER REBECCA  
PFC RAYMOND THOMAS MICKEL  
SPC THOMPSON ROBERT DAVID

HHC 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY  
SPC RAMOS ANDRE MODESTO JR  
SPC WESTON DAMON ANTHONY

HHC (-) 2-108 INFANTRY  
SPC BRONISZEWSKI LEE DAVID  
SSG LOY JAMES WARREN  
CPL SHAKERLEY NATHAN MICHAEL  
SPC WRIGHT MICHAEL LYNN

HHC (-) BSTB 27TH IN BDE (BCT)  
SFC ALJOE GARY L  
SGT CODY WILLIAM FREDERICK  
SPC DELANEY LEANNE MARIE  
SSG DEROUCHE RENEE JEAN  
SSG HENDERSON JOHN JEFFREY  
SPC RIOS ARAMIS TIO  
SGT WOODWORTH RORY SINCLAIR

HHC 1-101ST CAVALRY  
SPC DECAMPS RAYMOND ARMANDO

HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY  
SSG BATES GARY  
SPC CHURCH THOMAS C  
SSG HERBST JONATHAN PAUL  
SPC JURADO ARMAND

SGT MALDONADO FABIAN  
SGT VANORMER WILLIAM T

HHC 101ST SIGNAL BN  
SPC CANO ERICA H  
SSG MORALES MARIA  
SSG RACHO JOYCE WONG  
SPC RAMOS MIGUEL A JR  
SFC RAMRATTAN CHUNILAL  
SSG VONBARTHELD ERIC JAMES

HHC 427 BSB  
CSM GILL ROBERT M

HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42D IN DIV  
SSG REID JOHN MARK ANTONIO  
SSG SMITH MICHAEL JOSEPH

HHC(-) 3-142D AVIATION  
SGT CONYERS VINCENT CURTIS  
SFC FAJARDOGUEVARA ALLAN ENRIQU  
SPC FAULKNER JAMES MICHAEL CHIRI  
SGT RACE BRYAN WILLIAM  
SSG WEDERMAN EDDIE FRANCIS

HHC(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS BN  
SFC BELL LINDSEY GARY  
SGT PLATT ALICE FRIEDA  
SSG POUNDS JAMES LEE TODD

HHD 104TH MILITARY POLICE BN  
SFC HAWORTH ANDREW JASON  
MSG POLACCO CHARLES J  
SPC SQUIER LEONARD KNIGHT IV  
SPC TOMASINO TONI

HHD 206 CORPS SPT BN  
SFC CERTA LAWRENCE BENJAMIN

HHD 27TH FINANCE BN  
SPC FERNANDEZ ROBERTO III

HHD 369TH CORPS SPT BN  
SPC FIGUEROA RICHARD

HHD ENGINEER BDE 42 ID  
SSG AIELLO MAURICE  
SGT HARRIS ROGER MACHARVEY JR

HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
SPC MCANN DAVID HAROLD JR  
CSM PIWOWARSKI DAVID ANTHONY  
SFC RUSSO JOHN LAWRENCE

HQ 53D TRP CMD  
SGT GUZMAN JANET JOAN  
SSG SWEENEY THOMAS PATRICK

HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI)  
SPC GONZALEZ ALEXANDER

HSC 642D SUPPORT BN  
MSG KUNZER ROBERT JOHN  
SSG ONEAL CYNTHIA L

MEDICAL COMMAND  
SPC CAMACHO GEORGE

NYARNG ELEMENT JFHQ FWD 14  
SGT LEARNIHAN JAMES MICHAEL

NYARNG ELEMENT JFHQ FWD 16  
SSG LAUTENSCHLAGER ERIC JOHN

NYARNG ELEMENT JFHQ FWD 19  
SSG GRODNICK WILLIAM FRANCIS  
SSG JENSEN CHARLES VICTOR  
SFC MIEREK VINCENT RICHARD

NYARNG ELEMENT JFHQ FWD 24  
SPC DONOVAN PATRICK JOSEPH

NYARNG ELEMENT JFHQ FWD 32  
SSG GLIDDEN DAVID MAURICE

NYARNG ELEMENT JFHQ FWD 46  
SGT SANTIAGO FELIX

NYARNG ELEMENT JOINT FORCE HQ

SGM BRUNK PAUL J  
SPC FOBARE CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL  
MSG HARTZEL MICHAEL JON  
MSG HUGOS ANDREW PAUL  
SGT LEWIS LESLEY A  
SSG POOLE ERICA LYNN  
SSG SANTANA JAVIER ALOMAR

RECRUITING AND RETENTION CMD  
SGT MORALES ANTHONY

TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
SGT ROBINSON DERRICK  
SPC WEBSTER DAVID ELWOOD

TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
1SG MARSH REX E  
SGT REBOY MARK WILLIAM

TROOP C 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
SGT CROSS JONATHAN MILLER  
SPC KIM JONG IHL  
PFC MARTH CHRISTOPHER ALOIS JR  
SSG POSTLE BENJAMIN JOHN  
SPC STEPHENS JOSEPH  
SPC THOMS CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL  
SGT TRUNZO FREDRIC MORLEY JR



**Memorializing those who served**, Staff Sgt. Al Moon, Stratton Honor Guard, plays taps at the New York State office campus in Albany on Memorial Day as part of a ceremony honoring New York's veterans. The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto, was the guest speaker at the event. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith.



MAJOR		TECHNICAL SERGEANT		CRYAN, STEPHAN J II 107TH AIR REFUELING WING	
BRANKER, MARC D	106TH RESCUE WING	DICOLA, ROBERT J	105TH AIRLIFT WING	PAFK, NEIL L	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
CAPTAIN		PALERMO, THOMAS C	105TH AIRLIFT WING	MATTHEWS, JONATH	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
SILENO, KATHLEEN P	105TH AIRLIFT WING	TORA, JOHN W	105TH AIRLIFT WING	BAYLOR, JASON R	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
RATTIGAN, MICHAEL D	105TH AIRLIFT WING	RIVERA, DANIEL	105TH AIRLIFT WING	WIGDORSKI, BRIAN M	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
SHERRIFF, BRYONS	107TH AIR REFUELING WING	TYLER, GREG G M	105TH AIRLIFT WING	KELLEY, BRIAN R	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
LOVE, DEAN	109TH AIRLIFT WING	BERLANGA, FRANK	105TH AIRLIFT WING	ROY, WILLIAMS	109TH AIRLIFT WING
LANCASTER, AARON B	109TH AIRLIFT WING	WEBB, JAMES K	105TH AIRLIFT WING	PALMATIER, COREY J	109TH AIRLIFT WING
FIRST LIEUTENANT		FORCE, ROBERT	106TH RESCUE WING	HENDERSON, JEREMIA	109TH AIRLIFT WING
DILLON, NOEL T	105TH AIRLIFT WING	CASSIDY, EDWARD F	106TH RESCUE WING	NEWTON, ANNA J	109TH AIRLIFT WING
PIFER, RAYMOND J	105TH AIRLIFT WING	STUCKO, KEVIN D	106TH RESCUE WING	MITER, JUSTIN T	109TH AIRLIFT WING
WOLFE, JUSTIN P	106TH RESCUE WING	FREY, DANIEL J	107TH AIR REFUELING WING	IGNECIA, MICHAELS	109TH AIRLIFT WING
BIEGANSKI, ELAINE J	107TH AIR REFUELING WING	HUFF, KEVIN L	107TH AIR REFUELING WING	WALLACE, MICHAEL	109TH AIRLIFT WING
ROTHER, JEANNINE M	109TH AIRLIFT WING	HILTY, MICHAEL J	107TH AIR REFUELING WING	CARLEY, JOSHUA T	174TH FIGHTER WING
BENNION, BONNIE	174TH FIGHTER WING	MIHALKO, GREG M	109TH AIRLIFT WING	COTY, JENNIFER L	174TH FIGHTER WING
SECOND LIEUTENANT		ZESEWITZ, PAULE	109TH AIRLIFT WING	SLIGH, KIARA C	174TH FIGHTER WING
MAGUIRE, THOMAS M	105TH AIRLIFT WING	SANCHEZ, ALAN D J	174TH FIGHTER WING	AIRMAN FIRST CLASS	
FORRESTER, ROBERT M	105TH AIRLIFT WING	MULA, DONNA M	174TH FIGHTER WING	BOYD, TAALIB R	105TH AIRLIFT WING
KEEGAN, TIMOTHY M	105TH AIRLIFT WING	IVERSON, VICTOR N	174TH FIGHTER WING	STEWART, DENNIS S	105TH AIRLIFT WING
BULGER, ERIK L	106TH RESCUE WING	STAFF SERGEANT		REEVES, BRYAN A	105TH AIRLIFT WING
COMPETELLO, JOSEPH	106TH RESCUE WING	RAHILLY, WILLIAM J	105TH AIRLIFT WING	RIVERA, MIGUEL A JR	105TH AIRLIFT WING
CALDON, MELISSA A	109TH AIRLIFT WING	DEVINKO, ELIZABETH	105TH AIRLIFT WING	BURGOA, PAMELA J	105TH AIRLIFT WING
GLICK, DANIELE	109TH AIRLIFT WING	CORNELL, SCOTT A	105TH AIRLIFT WING	GOODRIDGE, MARCUS	105TH AIRLIFT WING
CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT		ROE, MICHAEL S	105TH AIRLIFT WING	KERR, KIRLON K	105TH AIRLIFT WING
KING, RICHARD	107TH AIR REFUELING WING	DAGNILLI, NICHOLAS	105TH AIRLIFT WING	SMITH, BRIAN D	106TH RESCUE WING
SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT		KILEY, DANIEL G	105TH AIRLIFT WING	JOSELOFF, MARK C	106TH RESCUE WING
WARE, DUANE H	105TH AIRLIFT WING	VERNON, TONICA T	105TH AIRLIFT WING	GINAVAN, CHARLES P	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
LAHL, JOHN A	105TH AIRLIFT WING	ORTIZ, JAMES M	105TH AIRLIFT WING	KRUSE, LAURA A	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
PRITCHARD, DAVID M	105TH AIRLIFT WING	KOENIG, ROBERTE	106TH RESCUE WING	BARD, TRAVIS R	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
MCDERMOTT, PETER P	105TH AIRLIFT WING	BUSCHOR, JOHN L JR	106TH RESCUE WING	SCHMIDT, JESSER	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
HAFF, WALTER C	105TH AIRLIFT WING	STOWE, DOUGLAS S	107TH AIR REFUELING WING	HOWE, ADAM N	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
HUPPERT GRASSIE	106TH RESCUE WING	SMITH, KRISTEN R	107TH AIR REFUELING WING	ROSINSKI, TRISTEN C	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
BANCROFT, JOHN R	106TH RESCUE WING	KIERA, JEREMY T	107TH AIR REFUELING WING	FLATEAU, NATHANAE	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
ROOKE, GARY P	109TH AIRLIFT WING	ODONNELL, ROBERT	107TH AIR REFUELING WING	MCCARTHY, DENNIS A	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
GRAY, SHAD M	109TH AIRLIFT WING	LITTLE, SCOTT G	107TH AIR REFUELING WING	HORNING, STEPHEN D	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
MURRAY, ROSEMARIE	174TH FIGHTER WING	STEGNER, KRYSTALOR	107TH AIR REFUELING WING	ARGY, ROBERT P	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
MASTER SERGEANT		PETERS, JASON D	107TH AIR REFUELING WING	KIBLER, CHELSEY H	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
HASTINGS, RONALD S	105TH AIRLIFT WING	BARKER, SARAH M	107TH AIR REFUELING WING	HOYT, REBECCA J	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
CARMODY, KIM	105TH AIRLIFT WING	CHAMBERLAIN, REBEC	107TH AIR REFUELING WING	ROWSWELL, ALAN R	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
GILMORE, SCOTT S	105TH AIRLIFT WING	NASCA, CAROL A	107TH AIR REFUELING WING	KINGSBURY, SANDRA	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
GEARY, ROBERT W JR	105TH AIRLIFT WING	FRANKOSKY, ALAN S	107TH AIR REFUELING WING	SCHOENLE, GERALYN J	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
BUTLER, THOMAS A	106TH RESCUE WING	BOILLOT, CODY J	107TH AIR REFUELING WING	GRECO, COURTNEY K	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
BELSON, GERALD J JR	106TH RESCUE WING	SMITH, LEONARD J	109TH AIRLIFT WING	PFEIFER, CYDNEY E	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
TRUMBULL, DALER	109TH AIRLIFT WING	RAYMOND, ADAM C	109TH AIRLIFT WING	CARDULLO, FELICITY L	109TH AIRLIFT WING
VENDETTI, JAMES A	109TH AIRLIFT WING	JOHNSON, ERIC JAMES	109TH AIRLIFT WING	HIGHTOWER, JOSHUA	109TH AIRLIFT WING
PALMER, AMY E	109TH AIRLIFT WING	RENNE, JENNIFER L	174TH FIGHTER WING	KASKO, ANTHONY C	109TH AIRLIFT WING
MCCABE, DANIEL M	109TH AIRLIFT WING	PRIETTI, SCOTT J	174TH FIGHTER WING	KEEGAN, DANIEL W	109TH AIRLIFT WING
DUMOND, JOHN W	109TH AIRLIFT WING	MARCELLUS, LEVONA A	174TH FIGHTER WING	LANE, MEGAN	109TH AIRLIFT WING
EUSTIS, KELLY G	109TH AIRLIFT WING	HANNI, ANDREW D	174TH FIGHTER WING	BEYER, JUSTIN T	109TH AIRLIFT WING
LAW, WARREN J	109TH AIRLIFT WING	BRITTON, MICHAEL JR	174TH FIGHTER WING	ENGELHARDT, BRIAN P	109TH AIRLIFT WING
HILL, JAMIEL	109TH AIRLIFT WING	USHER, THARANNA B	174TH FIGHTER WING	GATTA, BRETT M	109TH AIRLIFT WING
GRAHAM, SHAUN H	109TH AIRLIFT WING	MORSE, RICHARDE	174TH FIGHTER WING	QUACKENBUSH, JOSE P	174TH FIGHTER WING
DETREVILLE, TABITHA	174TH FIGHTER WING	ROCKHILL, FRANCES	174TH FIGHTER WING	CARRASQUILLO, JONA	174TH FIGHTER WING
SHARKEY, LYLE D JR	174TH FIGHTER WING	SENIOR AIRMAN		KITTELSON, TIMOTHY	174TH FIGHTER WING
HUGHES, TERRY A	174TH FIGHTER WING	JANES, CRAIG W	105TH AIRLIFT WING	WELLS, JASON M	174TH FIGHTER WING
REED, THOMAS JR	174TH FIGHTER WING	TAUBER, KENNETH M	105TH AIRLIFT WING	RYCZAK, ERIC M	174TH FIGHTER WING
GIUFFRIDA, CHRIS	174TH FIGHTER WING	LOFARO, ANTHONY J	105TH AIRLIFT WING	BOGART, GABRIEL J	174TH FIGHTER WING
		BARKYOU MB, MARK	106TH RESCUE WING	AIRMAN BASIC	
		STRINGFELLOW, JOSHU	106TH RESCUE WING	NASCA, MARC R	107TH AIR REFUELING WING
		RICH, ADAM L	106TH RESCUE WING	HILL, TONY M II	174TH FIGHTER WING
		MCBURNEY, ELVIN J	107TH AIR REFUELING WING		
		KWIATKOWSKI, LAUR	107TH AIR REFUELING WING		



# Out for the big game

Air Guard marksman shoots with 'All Guard' International Combat Team in South Africa

By Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith  
Guard Times Staff

It was in Africa that he first pulled a trigger in national competition with the All Guard International Combat Team, but getting to the continent was a journey much longer than the 18-hour flight that brought him there.

From his youth, Tech. Sgt. William S. Bednarowski started “plinking” targets never knowing he was aiming for something bigger than backyard branches and cans. But over the years he gained the respect, skill and talent that a professional marksman and their weapon emulate.

Bednarowski is reserved about his marksmanship life-style. If you asked his opinion on the nation’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, you wouldn’t get a political speech. More than likely he would give you a strong look that would leave no doubts about his constitutional opinions. He may also tell you that good marksmanship should be every citizen’s responsibility.

After all, he’s a New York State Hunters Safety Education Instructor.

The accumulation of these things, and much more, bought

Bednarowski to the 32nd Combat Rifle Championship in Bloemfontein, South Africa in June. It was his first international shootout with a nine-man team he had competed with in the U.S. three times prior. The South African championships included more than 300 marksmen. You might call it a “Best of the Best” of the world’s shooters.

There, Bednarowski and his M16A4 rifle placed 11th, and he was awarded the Army Achievement Medal for his efforts. The All Guard Team – the only U.S. military team competing – won the overall team event. All its shooters finished in the top 30, and five shooters placed in the top ten. “The coach and officer in charge are real good at developing the team,” Bednarowski said. “They are [also] very good at getting the best out of me.”

The All Guard Combat Team represents the National Guard Bureau as a collective shooting group from Army and Air Guard units across the nation. In competition, they shoot the M9 pistol and M16A4 rifle. Other “All Guard” marksmanship teams include a pistol team, rifle team and sniper team. The teams compete in regional and national championships and hold an annual

international exchange program with allied nations including South Africa.

“The South African team was phenomenal, we did not lack for anything,” Bednarowski said. The South Africans also took him out for bigger game: a two-day hunting trip at a game preserve. He shot well there, too, and claimed three Impala and a Springbok from the preserve.

Bednarowski started competing militarily when he joined the 109th Airlift Wing’s shooting team in 2000. He set his goals high, and there were several shooters on the team that helped him achieve them including Master Sgt. Terry Potter, a distinguished rifleman.

A major discern for military marksmen are the Distinguished Rifleman and Pistol titles, which are awarded to Soldiers and Airmen on a point system. Military members are authorized to wear up to three levels of the distinguished badge on their uniform. Currently, only thirteen Army Soldiers are triple distinguished rifle and pistol plus

international marksmen.

Bednarowski wears the Distinguished Rifleman badge and was awarded the Chief of the National Guard Bureau Badge – called the “Chief’s 50” – in national competition.

“My goal was to beat sergeant Potter because he was the guy to beat,” Bednarowski said.

“We don’t hide secrets ... we help each other ... push each other, and the whole team benefits.” He also credits his success to the support he receives from the Wing’s Communications and Navigation shop; the shop allots him time from his full time job to compete.

With South Africa behind him, Bednarowski has little time to reflect on his accomplishments. He must train constantly to keep his ranking. “Marksmanship is a perishable skill,” he said.

Bednarowski competes next at the Region 1 Marksmanship Advisory Council Championships at Ft. Devens, Mass., in September. In November, the top four shooters from April’s state Adjutant General Combat Match will represent the New York National Guard at the national Winston P. Wilson competition at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Little Rock, Ark. This year, there are no longer separate rifle and pistol disciplines, and Bednarowski is rounding out his training to compensate.

“My pistol skills have to be up to snuff as well,” Bednarowski said. “The difference between first and second place can be a bullet.” □

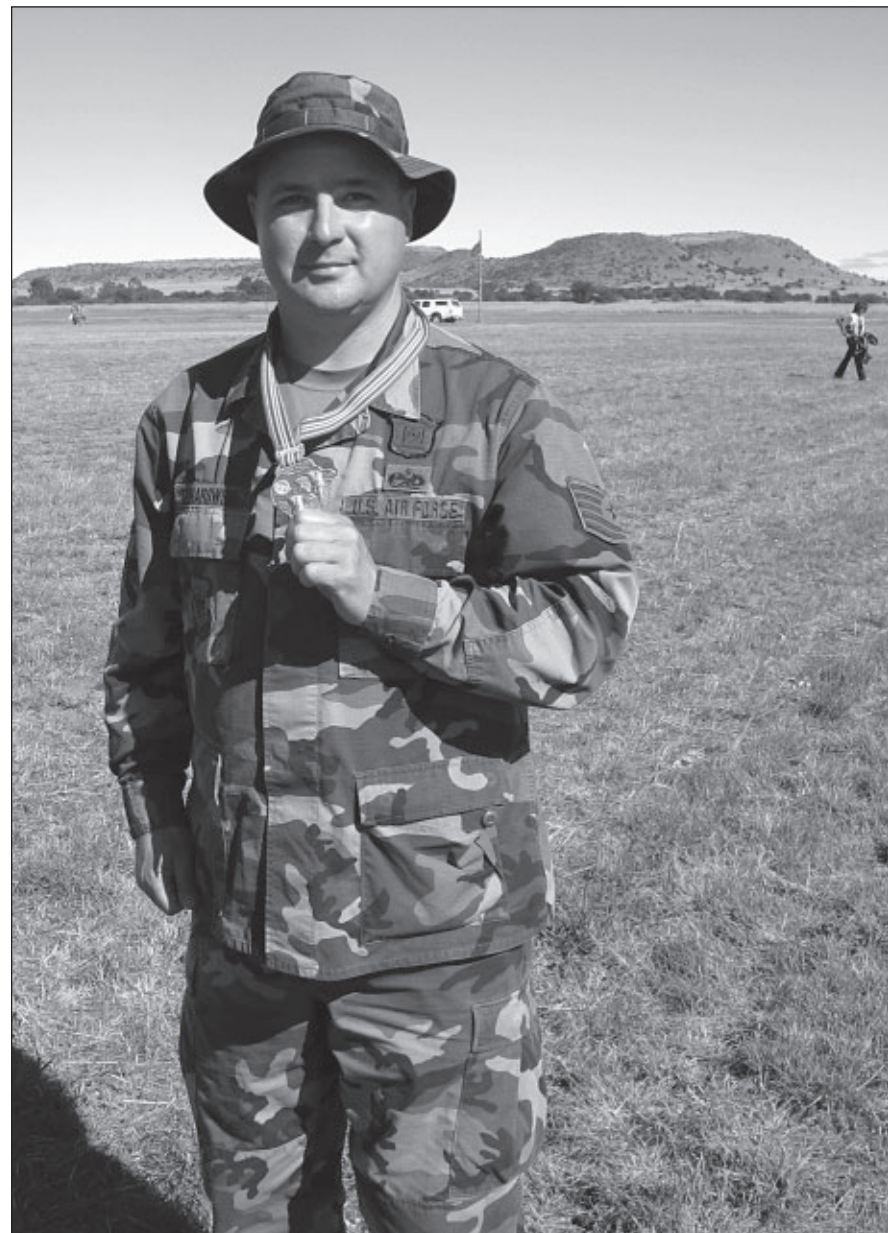
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**“The difference between first and second place can be a bullet.”**

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— Tech. Sgt. William S. Bednarowski  
Distinguished Rifleman

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Tech. Sgt. William S. Bednarowski in Africa with the medal he earned. Courtesy photos.



Bednarowski on an African game preserve with a Springbok.



# Side-by-Side

## To train a budding nation's new military, N.Y.'s Orion Brigade embeds a team of its best infantry Soldiers

By Capt. Rich Wiest

27<sup>th</sup> BCT Embedded Training Team

**AFGHANISTAN**— When the 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team, Embedded Training Team deployed to Afghanistan in May 2006 it was expected that the 15-man team would train and live with the Afghan National Army in an effort to help create Afghanistan's first professional army in 20 years. In reality, the team has found itself literally practicing on the battlefield what it had been teaching in the classroom.

"Our mission is to act as trainers and advisors to the Afghan army," said 1st Sgt. Troy Steward of Buffalo, the ranking noncommissioned officer on the team. "We're not over here to lead the ANA into the battle. Yet, because of the unexpected combat situations, we often find ourselves in combat side-by-side with the Afghans."

The road to Afghanistan started Feb. 27 when the team was mobilized for active duty at the 27<sup>th</sup> BCT headquarters, Syracuse. After several days of home-station mobilization, the team flew to Camp Shelby, Miss. where they were to train up and be part of the 41<sup>st</sup> BCT from Oregon. During the 90-day train-up cycle, an urgent request came from National Guard Bureau to get two ETT teams into theatre, ASAP. Due to the team's experience and level of professionalism, and a recommendation of the 41<sup>st</sup> colonel in charge of the team, the team was selected to expedite its training cycle and deploy early. At this point, the team along with another state team was removed from the Task Force Phoenix 5.0 Rotation of the 41<sup>st</sup> BCT and renamed Rotation 4.75. First U.S. Army, NGB and U.S. Army Forces Command were able to shave a month off of the training cycle and deploy the team over 30 days earlier than the rest of the 41<sup>st</sup> BCT.

Many of the individual stories talked about in this article had already happened well before the 41<sup>st</sup> was completely in place and in command of the ETT mission.

"The ability to take 15 guys from across the state, many of which had never met before, train them and deploy them early continues to demonstrate the experience and professional contribution New York can make to the Global War on Terrorism," Steward said.

Steward, a veteran from the first Iraq war, found himself exactly in a side-by-side situation in early July. He and Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Spanton, Jr., Rochester and Capt. Dale Thurber, Corning, were called out to help their ANA counterparts repulse a Taliban element that had attacked an Afghan police station in the middle of the night.

"Our Afghan unit was called out to stop an attack on an Afghan police station," Thurber said. "By the time we showed up there were shot-up buildings, bombed out vehicles and a lot of worried Afghan police."



Soldiers of the 27th Brigade Combat Team, Embedded Training Team. Courtesy Photo.

Some 27<sup>th</sup> BCT Soldiers had not even arrived to their assigned duty stations in Afghanistan when they were introduced to the country's volatility. Two 27<sup>th</sup> BCT soldiers, Maj. Carl Doerner and Capt. Richard Wiest, Rochester, were on their way to their duty assignments in the eastern Afghan town of Sharana when their convoy was hit with an improvised explosive device.

"We were riding along outside of a small Afghan town when I heard a loud explosion and felt the HMMMV shudder," Doerner said. "When I looked in the mirror I saw a ball of flame behind me and a truck going into a ditch."

"Ironically, some of the guys we were replacing were telling us how calm and quiet the area was," Wiest said. "Within a month of us arriving we not only had an IED attack but our base came under mortar, rocket and machine gun fire. It was a wake-up call about the bad guys in the area and how important it was to be proficient in our tasks and basic combat skills."

The base attack was an example of what force the enemy could muster. The base was attacked with mortars, rockets and small-arms fire for over 35 minutes from four different directions. But Soldiers were lost in the attack, and the enemy was eventually beaten back.

"I was amazed to see how calm and professional our Soldiers remained during the attack," said Maj. Ron Malachowski. "Our actions are reflective of the training throughout the years we have all had."

1st Lt. Scott Rolfe discovered the importance of training firsthand when he was called upon to administer first aid to a Special Forces Soldier who had been shot. The soldier survived.

Even common soldier tasks like driving a HUMVEE take

on a whole new meaning in Afghanistan. For one thing, these are not your everyday HUMVEEs. These are 6-ton-plus armored "beasts" that drive differently, feel differently and can take a lot more abuse than a normal HUMVEE can. However, Sgt. 1st Class Nick Contompasis, Schenectady, was driving one where Afghan and Coalition forces raided an enemy weapons cache, handling the HUMVEE took on a whole new meaning.

As the forces were leaving the site they were ambushed by RPGs and small-arms fire. Contompasis had to maneuver the extremely heavy vehicle over rocks and through a trail that "looked like only goats could navigate." He did this while his gunner, up top, was engaging enemy forces with a Mark-19 Automatic Grenade Launcher. As rounds pinged off the vehicle and buzzed by, Contompasis said he "knew this is what he trained for" and knew he "could get his vehicle and soldiers out of the area safely."

Yet for all of the hazards of their duties, the team is glad to be in Afghanistan and sees its efforts as well as the efforts of the hundreds of other New York citizen Soldiers here, as making a difference.

"For a lot of us who live and were raised in New York, this mission has great significance,"

Doerner said. "This is where terrorists trained and where Al Qaeda organized to commit those terrible acts on 9/11. This is more than a mission to us. This is personal."

NOTE: The other team members include Capt. Roger Lance and Staff Sgt. David Glidden of Buffalo, Sgt. 1st Class George Rooney, Jr., of Rochester, Staff Sgt. Paul Latham and Capt. Ben Tupper of Syracuse, Capt. Dennis Knowles of Corning and Sgt. 1st Class Peter Hansen of Ithaca. □

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**"This is more than a mission to us. This is personal."**

—Maj. Carl Doerner  
27<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team

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# Family Offices provide valuable Guard services

The State Family Programs Office (SFPO) facilitates training for contractors and volunteers to ensure their level of knowledge is consistent and conducive to administer appropriate levels of valuable services to the military families of New York State.

The SFPO is also tasked with budgetary, policy and procedure as well as administrative duties to appropriately oversee all aspects of the New York National Guard Family Programs. It is the SFPO duty and responsibility to ensure that the successful delivery of services are employed in the most efficient and effective manner, so that the service member's families obtain the fullest support through out their service members career.

NYNG Family Program Office-MNFP  
330 Old Niskayuna Rd. Latham, NY 12110  
Director - Beverly Keating  
Direct Line (518) 786-4525  
Fax Line (518) 786-6075  
Toll Free (877) 715-7817  
Email: beverly.keating@ny.ngb.army.mil

## The New York State National Guard Youth Program

The Youth Program is designed to implement support and training to New York State military youths. Its programs offer training to various community base organizations, to include community schools, which also explore the unique issues specifically related to military youth.

The Youth Program considers the implementation of skills training in leadership, mentoring, and resource coordination will ensure that the program, and the services provided, reflect the unique needs of all military children.

NY STATE YOUTH COORDINATOR  
Shelly Aiken  
Camp Smith, Bldg 501  
Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567  
Office: (914) 788-7405  
Cell: (518) 727-6028  
Email: shelly.m.aiken@ny.ngb.army.mil

## New York National Guard Family Readiness Assistant (FRA)

The core function of a FRA is to work with Family Readiness Groups (FRGs), Military Point of Contacts (MPOC), Rear Detachment Commanders (RDC) (during deployment), and volunteers to provide training and hands-on assistance for establishing and maintaining an effective Family Readiness system within units and commands.

The FRA coordinates all aspects of the family readiness triad: Family Readiness Groups, Rear Detachment Command and Family Assistance Centers.

NYNG-FRA  
Stephanie Duell  
DMNA - MNFP  
330 Old Niskayuna Road, Latham, NY 12110  
Office: (518) 786-4774  
Cell: (518) 222-9372  
Fax: (518) 786-6075  
Email: stephanie.duell@ny.ngb.army.mil

## Military Family Assistance Centers (MFAC), Wing Family Assistance Centers (WFAC)

When Military Service members are at basic training, annual training, drills, or are away serving their State or Country, the staff of the New York National Guard's Family Assistance Centers are ready to help families on the home front.

Located in seven New York locations, MFAC'S and WFAC'S are easy-to-reach, one-stop shops for information and assistance.

The Center staff put service members and their families in touch with personnel or programs that meet their individual needs. Their locations are:

KINGSTON REGION  
Diane Weeks  
NYS Armory, 25 Kiersted Ave., Kingston, NY 12401  
Office: (845) 331-1560 (ext. 32)  
Fax: (845) 339-6024  
Email: diane.weeks@ny.ngb.army.mil



- Family Programs Office
- Military Family Assistance Centers
- Wing Family Program Coordinators
- Youth Program Coordinator

LATHAM REGION  
Dyette (Dee) Putnam  
NYS Armory, JFHQ, 330 Old Niskayuna Rd, Latham, NY 12110  
Office: (518) 786-4656  
Fax: (518) 786-6075  
Email: dyette.putnam@ny.ngb.army.mil

NEW YORK CITY REGION  
Mildred Acabeo-Ramos  
NYS Armory, 2366 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., New York, NY 10037-1097  
Office: (917) 507-8706  
Fax: (917) 507-8707  
Email: mildred.acabeo-ramos@ny.ngb.army.mil

ROCHESTER REGION  
Jeanne Clark  
NYS Armory, 42 Patriot Way, Rochester, NY 14624-5136  
Office: (585) 783-5310  
Fax: (585) 783-5308  
Email: jeanna.clark@ny.ngb.army.mil

UTICA REGION  
Kimberly Alvord  
NYS Armory Rome, 1110 Blackriver Blvd., Rome, NY 13440  
(315) 339-8526 (ext. 19)  
Email: kimberly.alvord@ny.ngb.army.mil

NEWBURGH REGION  
Jeanne Dion  
105th Airlift Wing  
Stewart Intl. Airport, One Militia Way, Newburgh, NY 12550-5042  
Office: (845) 563-2062  
Email: jeanne.dion@nystew.ang.af.mil

WESTHAMPTON REGION  
Lisa D'Agostino  
106<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing, 150 Riverhead Rd., Westhampton Beach, NY 11978-1201  
Office: (631) 723-7133  
Email: lisa.dagostino@nysuff.ang.af.mil

NIAGARA FALLS REGION  
Carole Adamczyk  
107<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, 9910 Blewett Ave., Niagara Falls, NY 14304  
Office: (716) 236-3411  
Email: carole.adamczyk@nyniag.ang.af.mil

SCOTIA REGION  
Joanna Pritchard  
109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, 1 Air National Guard Road, Scotia, NY 12302-9752  
Office: (518) 344-2357  
Email: joanna.pritchard@nyscot.ang.af.mil

SYRACUSE REGION  
Terri Scanlin  
174<sup>th</sup> FW  
6001 E. Molloy Rd., Syracuse, NY 13211-7099  
Office: (315) 233-2577  
Email: terri.scanlin@nysyra.ang.af.mil





A color guard posts the colors during a May 7 Freedom Salute in Northport, Long Island.  
Photo by Maj. Richard Goldenberg.

# Rainbow Soldiers welcomed back to Long Island

By Maj. Richard Goldenberg  
Headquarters, 42nd Infantry Division

**NORTHPORT** – For some 200 Citizen Soldiers of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Band and 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry, a Freedom Salute ceremony held on Sunday, May 7 felt more like a community celebration of the National Guard.

Instead of welcoming home the Soldiers at unit armories, the Town of Huntington and numerous community organizations hosted the Soldiers and their families at the Crab Meadow Beach where the town sponsored a family barbecue for the troops.

“This is an opportunity to thank these courageous young men and women for their service to our country and their families for their sacrifices,” said Town Supervisor Frank Petrone in his remarks as Master of Ceremonies.

The Soldiers from Long Island’s Companies B, C and F from the “Fighting 69<sup>th</sup>” deployed to Iraq in October 2004 and initially came under the command of the Army’s First Cavalry Division. The Third Infantry Division later replaced the First Cavalry Division headquarters as Task Force Baghdad. The Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> was based at Camp Liberty in Baghdad, one of the most dangerous areas inside the Sunni Triangle.

Task Force Wolfhound troops captured numerous weapons

caches, helped train new Iraqi army soldiers, provided medical, logistical and civil support to Iraqi villages, schools, mosques and families, and worked closely with Iraqi police and military officials as they were being prepared to take on increased responsibilities for the defense and security of their government.

Soldiers in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Band were based at Forward Operating Base Danger in Tikrit, about 90 miles north of Baghdad and provided the division with augmentation to the base security forces as well as tremendous morale, welfare and recreation support to the 23,000 Soldiers across Task Force Liberty. Members of the band also routinely provided musical support to Iraqi army and police functions and ceremonies.

The Freedom Salute is part of the National Guard’s program to recognize members of the Army National Guard for service during Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. It provides a formal and visible recognition of the Citizen Soldiers and gives thanks to their spouses, children, and employers for the support they have shown.

“In these days, the term ‘hero’ is thrown around too easily,” said Congressman Steve Israel, the Long Island representative. “But this was a day for us to recognize our true heroes — the men and women who volunteered to put their lives on the line to protect our freedoms.” □

## About Guard Times

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Kent Kisselbrack, Director of Public Affairs  
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Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith, NYANG, Assistant Editor

Articles, photos and letters are welcome. Please provide article submissions on a computer disk with a hard print out and a name and telephone number for a point of contact. We prefer stories saved in Microsoft Word or ASCII text. Submission deadlines are February 15, April 15, June 15, August 15, October 15 and December 15. Send submissions to:

**Guard Times**  
**DMNA-MNPA**  
**330 Old Niskayuna Road**  
**Latham, New York 12110-2224**  
**(518) 786-4581 FAX (518) 786-4649**  
**or**  
**richard.goldenberg@ny.ngb.army.mil**

## 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.*