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Spring 2011

guardtimes

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

www.dmna.state.ny.us

FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Since the events of Sept. 11 2001, the National Guard has become an indispensable force for the defense of the United States. Since 9/11, 342,999 Army National Guard Soldiers have been mobilized, while 87,154 Air National Guard members have been placed on federal duty.

In April of this year, 43,772 Citizen Soldiers and 5,669 Citizen Airmen served from Afghanistan to Iraq to the Horn of Africa and other locations around the world. In the next year the New York National Guard will deploy more than 4,500 Soldiers and Airmen in support of overseas contingency operations.

We have the most professional Army and Air National Guard that the nation has ever seen and we are an integral part of both homeland security and taking the fight to our nation's enemies overseas. Here in New York there are plenty of indicators that the New York Army and Air National Guard are indispensable forces for both our state and nation.

The Air Force has picked the 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh to receive C-17 Globemaster III cargo planes to replace the aging C-5s based there. This is a tremendous vote of confidence in both the leadership of the wing and the Airmen who serve with the 105th. The New York Air National Guard's strategic airlift capability will now be relevant and valuable for years to come.

Congressional leadership is pushing for changes in Federal Aviation Administration rules which will allow the 174th Fighter Wing to operate the MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base. This is an incredible vote of confidence in the ability of our force to operate the high-tech aircraft safely and demonstrates the importance this system will continue to have in supporting our troops around the world.

The Air Force recently consolidated the operations of two Air National Guard detach-

ments, operating as part of Washington's air defense national network under the purview of the New York Air National Guard's Eastern Air Defense Sector. We now have New York Air National Guardsmen living and working outside of New York, yet directly responsible to New York leadership. This unique arrangement again represents a vote of confidence by the Air Force leadership in our Air National Guard.

Our Army National Guard is being resourced with the latest equipment and being given missions critical to our nation's security.

The 101st Signal Battalion is training on the Warfighting Information Network-Tactical, a \$100 million system that enables Soldiers and leaders to communicate more effectively. Providing this equipment to our Signal Battalion is an endorsement of our Soldiers ability to master and deploy the latest communications technology.

The 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion is now operating a platoon of RQ-7 Shadow unmanned aerial vehicles. These eyes in the sky will provide our leaders with a valuable tactical reconnaissance capability when the 27th Brigade Combat Team deploys to Afghanistan in 2012.

And the resourcing of the 27th Brigade Combat Team for its Afghan deployment, with a mission of advising and assisting the Afghan National Army in performing combat operations, is also an important endorsement of New York Army National Guard capabilities. Our Soldiers will have a significant mission in a critical theater of operations.

On the home front, New York State leaders have decided to continue to fund Joint Task Force Empire Shield. Our State Active Duty security force in the New York City area has become an integral part of the security mix there; relied upon by all of our civilian agency partners. Governor Andrew Cuomo is now the fourth governor who has decided that the New York National Guard should be an integrated



Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy

part of the security in New York City.

And the New York National Guard has been selected to take the lead in putting together a Homeland Response Force for Federal Emergency Management Agency Region II. We will partner with the National Guard's of New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands in assembling this force. But New York is the lead in pulling this team together which is a powerful vote of confidence in the ability of our Soldiers, Airmen and leaders to deliver.

We provide all this capability, and 16,000-trained Soldiers and Airmen, at a cost much less than it would be to field the same force in Active Duty status. We are not only a capable force; we are also a cost-efficient force. This—in these budget conscious times—is another important reason why the New York Army and Air National Guard are vital forces for our state and nation.

Be proud of what you do. Brag about our force to your friends and neighbors. You are an indispensable force.

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guardtimes

Winter 2011 | Volume 4, Number 1

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, COMMANDER IN CHIEF
Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
Eric Durr, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Lt. Col. Paul Fanning, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
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An air crew from Company F (Air Ambulance), 1st Battalion, 169th General Support Aviation Battalion conduct a live training event during Operation Vibrant Response at Camp Atterbury, Ind. which included an individual being cosmetically made up to represent external bleeding injuries during CBRNE Consequence Management Response Force training at Camp Atterbury on March 17. For more, go to page 16. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade. **gt**

ON THE COVER: CAMP RAMADI, Iraq - Soldiers from the New York Army National Guard's 442nd Military Police Company, based at the Jamaica, Queens Armory, train in stretcher bearing skills on February 16. The company has been assigned to the 4th Advise and Assist Brigade of the 3rd Infantry Division while deployed. The company is expected to return to the United States in early April.

BACK COVER: FORT DRUM - Soldiers of the 101st Signal Battalion train to use state-of-the-art Satellite Transportable Terminals that are a component of the Warfighter Information Network- Tactical (WIN-T) at Fort Drum, March 16. The signal Soldiers will use the system in Afghanistan when they deploy in 2012.

College Scholarship Created For Children of Fallen National Guardsmen



WASHINGTON — The National Guard Educational Foundation (NGEF) announced the creation of a college scholarship fund for children of more than 650 National Guardsmen killed in the war on terrorism.

The DRS Guardian Scholarship Fund, which will be administered by the NGEF and underwritten by DRS Technologies, Inc. of Parsippany, N.J., will provide up to \$6,250 yearly to select students attending a four-year institution or a two-year program at a community college or technical school. First awards will be made in

time for the fall semester this year.

“This program will enable us to give something back to some families who have given so much to us,” said retired Maj. Gen. Gus L. Hargett Jr., president of the NGEF and NGAUS. “In the process, I hope it sends a message to some very special young people, ‘You remain part of the Guard family.’”

“This offering would not be possible without DRS, a company that shares our desires to fulfill the hopes and dreams of the children of our fallen heroes.” Mark Newman, chairman and CEO of DRS Technologies said, “I believe it is our responsibility to help the families of National Guardsmen who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. We created this fund to honor their memories and ensure that their children have an opportunity to receive a quality education.”

The DRS Guardian Scholarship Fund is open to any high

school or college student who is a son or daughter of a Guardsman killed in an operational or training mission in support of operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom or New Dawn.

Applicants must have already been accepted by a nationally or regionally accredited college, university or trade school. A panel created by NGEF will review the applicants and determine recipients based on a combination of academic merit and financial need.

Deadline for applications for the 2011-2012 school year is June 30. Recipients will be notified by Aug. 1.

Funds for the scholarships will be provided by the DRS Charitable Foundation, which has given more than \$5 million to charities, including the USO, Operation Mend and the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund.

Complete details, an application and an explanation of how to contribute to the fund are available at www.drsfoundation.net/guard..

Transfer of Education Benefits for AGRs

The President passed the GI Bill Improvement Act on Jan. 4, 2011. This law makes several changes to the Post 9-11 GI Bill including allowing Title 32 Active Guard and Reserve time to count toward the benefit.

Those with Title 32 AGR time can start using the benefit on or after 1 Oct. 11. However, benefits can be paid retroactively back to August 1, 2009. More guidance from the VA on how retroactive benefits will be handled is pending.

Transferability: Under the Improvement Act, AGRs will also be allowed to transfer benefits to eligible dependents. However, they must meet the same eligibility requirements as M-day Soldiers.

They must be an active drilling member, served at least 6 years in the armed forces and agree to serve 4 years from the date of transfer.

After August 1, 2009 all soldiers will be required to serve 4 additional years regardless of how many years of service.

Children are only eligible dependents up to age 21 or 23 if in school. If a Soldier is eligible for Chapter 33 based solely on AGR time and their child turned 23 after August 1, 2009, there will be an exception to allow transfer. Note: children can only use the benefit up until age 26 per law.

NGB is currently waiting on more guidance from DOD on AGRs transferring. AGR Soldiers can start transferring the benefit through <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB/>. However, all requests will be held in suspension until NGB receives the detailed DOD guidance.

Bank of America 

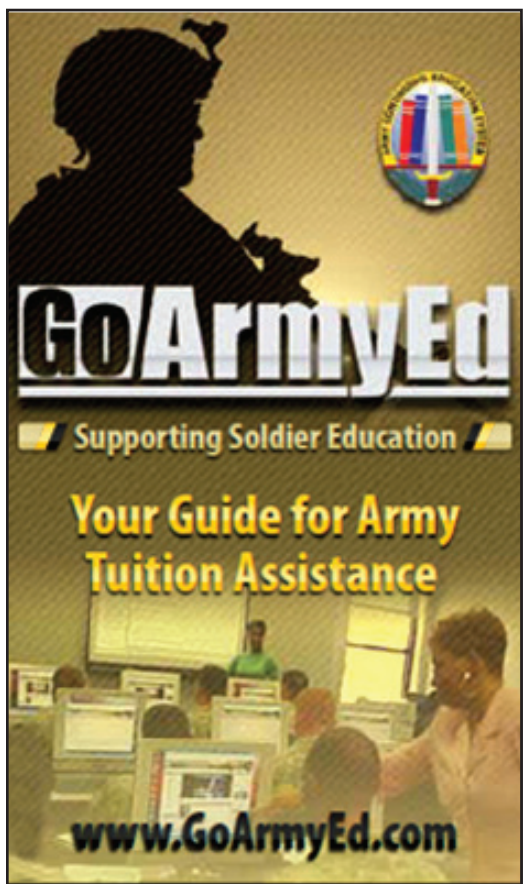
Bank of America Introduces Program to Extend Mortgage Protections for Servicemembers Beyond Active Duty

Unique Program Includes Interest Rate Reductions, Targeted Principal Forgiveness, and Dedicated Mortgage Servicing Team to Assist Military Customers

CALABASAS, Calif. – Bank of America today announced programs for its mortgage customers serving in the United States military, improving key benefits for those on active duty and extending mortgage protections for service members beyond active duty. The newly intro-

duced programs include a principal forgiveness loan modification program for military borrowers behind on their payments when leaving active duty; a reduced 4-percent interest rate on mortgages for customers who are eligible for Service members Civil Relief Act (SCRA)

protection; and a mortgage customer service unit dedicated to servicing military customers. Service members with Bank of America mortgages may reach the dedicated customer service unit at 888.325.5357.



Army Offers Tuition Assistance On-Line Solution For Soldiers

GoArmyEd is the virtual gateway for you to request Tuition Assistance online, anytime for college classroom, distance learning and eArmyU online college courses.

It is a dynamic online portal that automates many of the paper-based processes you historically conducted with your Army Education Counselor.

GoArmyEd is your one-stop location for managing your college education and using your benefits, giving you access to many regionally accredited colleges and universities and over 1,000 available degree plans.

All schools at which Soldiers use their benefits will be required to submit electronic invoices to the Army and post course grades via the GoArmyEd portal.

Payments are made directly to all accredited post-secondary schools that are listed as Letter Of Instruction (LOI) schools. Soldiers may use their benefits at Non-LOI schools that set up their profile

as a non-LOI school. A school may set up its profile at any time but must have completed the process before a Soldier will be approved to use his or her benefits. Schools are therefore encouraged to set up their profile as a Non-LOI school at their earliest convenience.

The Army National Guard will be moving to GoArmyEd for Federal Tuition Assistance, effective Oct. 1, 2011. All Soldiers applying for summer 2011 or fall 2011 will continue to apply through <https://minuteman.ngb.army.mil/benefits> no later than your class start date.

Soldiers can start creating accounts in GoArmyEd starting June 6, 2011. However, these accounts will only be used for courses that start after Oct. 1, 2011.

Active Guard and Reserve Soldiers and mobilized Soldiers that are currently using GoArmyEd will continue to do so. This change will not affect them.

The process for the Recruitment Incentive and Retention Program (RIRP) also known as State Tuition Assistance will remain the same.

The Army National Guard will begin using GoArmyEd in October.

For more information go to GoArmyEd or https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/education/GoArmyEd_School_Instructions.html.

You may also contact New York Army National Guard Education Officer, 1st Lt. Katie McGovern at (518) 272-6349.

Online Career Transition Training Available

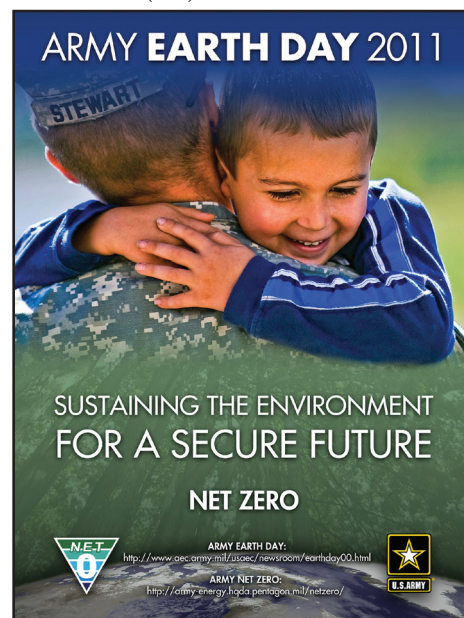
The Department of Defense announced the launch of an online Career Decision Toolkit that will allow service members to self assess transition needs and thoroughly explore an array of transition related subjects such as: career exploration, financial planning for transition, job search success, effective resumes and cover letters, interviewing excellence and negotiating your ideal compensation.

"The toolkit is customized to a service member's own transition needs and assists them in cataloguing their military skills and experience in a way that helps them effectively communicate their skills to prospective employers," said John R. Campbell, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy.

The online toolkit will deliver 24-hour global access to career transition training to service members who are not geographically able to attend Transition Assistance Program (TAP) classes traditionally offered at military installations. The toolkit's online launch also marks the second phase of a major redesign of the Defense Department's main career transition web site and a cornerstone of the transformation of TAP into a blended delivery model that takes advantage of online resources, as well as a virtual classroom settings and platforms to enhance the traditional "brick and mortar" TAP experience that most service members receive.

Originally released in compact disc format last August, the Career Decision Toolkit was developed by the DoD's Office of Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy in collaboration with Departments of Veterans Affairs and Labor to assist separating, demobilizing, retiring and wounded service members, and their families, to effectively navigate their course to civilian employment and educational opportunities.

For more information on the online Career Decision Toolkit, visit <http://www.turbotap.org> or contact Office of Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy at 703-428-7649 or warriorcare@osd.mil.



The IG Corner

Equipment Readiness: Third Line of Operation

By Col. Eric J. Hesse, Command Inspector General

In this latest installment of the Inspector General corner, I will cover the third of four TAG Lines of Operation (LOOs) - equipment readiness.

I am a logistician by training and my first thought is “if it ain’t broke don’t fix it”. I think, often, we over maintain our equipment - an opinion not shared by many of my friends in the maintenance arena.

For instance if we don’t have our vehicles enrolled in the low usage program, we may be conducting as many as six services a year on a vehicle that hasn’t rolled out of the motor pool.

We must all be careful with the taxpayers money.

Dollars we’ve had in the past will not be there in the future. We must take care of the equipment we have and not waste money or resources changing parts rather than diagnosing problems.

I have a friend who is in the battery business and he reminds me and demonstrates often the amount of money we waste on batteries alone each year simply by not using the warranty.

Army equipment is relatively easy to take care of because it comes with an instruction

manual. How well we take care of it is demonstrated when we roll out of the motor pool or head to a range. NBC equipment usually gets a lot of attention that one time a year we head to the NBC chamber.

The condition of your equipment may be the first thing visitors see when they come to an armory. Look in your motor pools or at the equipment sitting around the armory. Do you have trailers with flat tires? Is your equipment faded OD green? Is there rust or does it still have the bumper numbers from the last unit that owned it? Granted we all want the very best and most current equipment, but it is the old equipment and how well it is or is not maintained which gets noticed.

We also need to take a look at how we are recovering our equipment from Soldiers who are put out due to AWOL. If we’ve let them go with their TA-50, that is potentially equipment we cannot buy back.

Lastly, a piece of equipment we don’t spend enough time maintaining is the individual Soldier. If we look at Soldiers as a system, based on the individual, his weapon, Night Vision Goggles, personal protective equipment, uniform, family and so on you can conclude we aren’t

properly maintaining the system as we should. Every HMMWV has a packet that goes with the vehicle which includes the service records, dash 10, a log book and so forth. What about the packet platoon leaders and platoon sergeants should be keeping on Soldiers? When was the last time they were counseled? Does it include promotion records, PT, weapons qualification and family information? Is there a current Periodic Health Assessment and are there any special considerations to get this Soldier ready for deployment? These are the equipment issues I believe we need to spend more time on getting ready to get out the door. Soldiers are the most important piece of equipment we have as leaders. Resiliency is the big buzz word in the Army these days and I believe if we want resilient Soldiers then all their personal PMCS needs should be taken care of much like a quarterly service on a HMMWV.

In an Army with limited resources we need to do the best we can taking care of the equipment we have whether that is the vehicle or the operator. Let’s keep all our systems in the best shape possible and when it is time to get rid of the M998 for an M1114 let’s do it responsibly.

Chaplain’s Corner

Spring: A Time for New Beginnings

Chaplain (1st Lt.) Chris Antal, Garrison Chaplain, Camp Smith Training Site, Cortlandt Manor

Spring is the time of new beginnings and many religious traditions have ceremonies around this time of year along that theme. Thus, spring was the appropriate time to rededicate the new Spiritual Fitness Center at Camp Smith Training Site. So, on March 15, Chaplains Col. Eric Olsen, Capt. James Collins, Capt. Glen Lightfoot and I hosted more than 20 civilian faith leaders, including a Muslim Imam, a Jewish Rabbi and a number of Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox clergy from throughout New York State to Camp Smith for a rededication ceremony.

With the change of name from “Duffy Chapel” to “Chaplain Duffy Spiritual Fitness Center” comes an expanded and more inclusive mission: to provide religious support to a

religiously diverse military, enhance spiritual fitness and family wellness, and equip Soldiers with the resources for moral leadership and sound ethical decision-making. To that end, the new Spiritual Fitness Center includes – in addition to the existing sanctuary for Jewish and Christian services - a Muslim Prayer Room, a dedicated space for classes in Zen Meditation and Yoga, and a growing Spiritual Fitness and Moral Leadership Library with some of the most current titles in print.

Spring is also the appropriate time for all to assess our own level of spiritual fitness and rededicate ourselves to spiritual disciplines that will help us enhance our spiritual fitness. While the precise definition of “spiritual fitness” is up for some discussion, a good dialogue is under-

way (See <http://www.hooah4health.com/spirit/FHPspirit.htm>.)

All six of the core competencies identified in the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Master Resilience Training I received (self awareness, self regulation, optimism, mental agility, strengths of character, connections) are part of my understanding of spiritual fitness. One way to cultivate these competencies is through the practice of spiritual disciplines like prayer, worship, study, meditation and yoga.

If you are in the area of Camp Smith, check out the Spiritual Fitness Center at Building 82. For information on the hours of operation and most current programs and services email me: chris.j.antal@us.army.mil.

Army Producing Enhanced Stryker with Double-V Hull

WASHINGTON - By this summer, Soldiers in Afghanistan will be riding 150 new Strykers with a double-V hull, or DVH.

The Stryker armored combat vehicles have an improved hull design to protect Soldiers from improvised explosive devices and roadside mines.

The design deflects blasts away from the vehicle and Soldiers inside. The Stryker DVH, with enhanced armor, wider tires and blast-attenuating seats, went from conception to production in less than one year.

The double-V hull design on the new Stryker is a proven technology similar to that found on mine-resistant, ambush-protected, or MRAP vehicles currently being used in Afghanistan.

"The rapid turnaround of the DVH is responsiveness at its best," Col. Robert Schumitz, Stryker Brigade Combat Team Project Management Office, project manager, said. "Soldier survivability is the Army's number-one priority. Once we determined that the DVH effort was an achievable and acceptable risk, we swiftly engaged in executing the robust program."

Engineers at General Dynamics Land Systems conceived of the double-V-hull design and tested it at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

"We wanted to take advantage of the V shape and get the center of the vehicle farther away from the ground to aid survivability," said Mike Cannon, senior vice president of General Dynamics Land Systems.

Vehicles went through live-fire, developmental and operational testing that concentrated on force protection, safety, performance, reliability and durability.

There are 140 Stryker DVH's already in the Army supply chain, and plans are to field a total of 450 vehicles.

"The Stryker program has been continually responsive to evolutionary threats," Schumitz said. "The Stryker DVH is a robust program that has enjoyed the Army's full support to increase Soldier survivability in Operation Enduring Freedom."

Army Commemorative Coins Now Available



ARLINGTON, Va. (March 21, 2011) - Army Historical Foundation and U.S. Mint officials conducted a joint press conference at the Pentagon to announce that three distinct 2011 Army Commemorative Coins are now available to the public.

The Army \$5 gold coin, silver dollar, and clad half-dollar were authorized by Congress in 2008 to celebrate the service's storied history and honor the 30 million American men and women who have worn the Army uniform since 1775.

"Not only are the coins absolutely beautiful. Their symbolic value is certain to resonate with our more than one million currently serving Soldiers and their families and our 11 million surviving Army veterans across the country as sincere public appreciation of their selfless service and personal sacrifices," said Brig. Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, Jr. (U.S. Army-Retired).

Daniel P. Shaver, the U.S. Mint's General Counsel, announced that all three coins can be ordered at www.usmint.gov/catalog or by calling 1-800 USA-MINT. He noted that pricing of the coins includes a surcharge—\$35 for each gold coin, \$10 for each silver coin, and \$5 for each clad coin—which is authorized to be paid to the Army Historical Foundation to help finance the National Museum of the United States Army to be built at Fort Belvoir, Va.

The Museum, set to open in 2015 will be a state-of-the-art facility built to honor America's Soldiers, preserve the history of

America's oldest military service, and educate all Americans about the Army's role in our nation's development.

According to Shaver, themes of the gold, silver, and clad coins are respectfully "Army Service in War," "Modern Army Service," and "Army Service in Peace." The front of the \$5 gold coin features five Soldier figures whose service from colonial times through today symbolizes the Army's continuity of strength and readiness. The coin's reverse includes the U.S. Army emblem and inscription, "This We'll Defend," to represent the unbroken history of the Army's loyalty and commitment to defend the Nation. The front of the Army silver dollar depicts the busts of a male and female Soldier symbolizing the worldwide deployment of the 21st century Army. The back of the coin is impressed with the Great Seal of the United States surrounded by the Army's seven core values. The clad half-dollar represents the Active Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve's contributions during peacetime, to include disaster relief/humanitarian assistance and the Army's pioneering role in early space exploration. The reverse depicts a Continental Soldier, symbolizing the Army as the first military service to defend the country. The 13 stars represent the original colonies.

"These coins signify a remarkable public tribute to every American Soldier who has served our nation in war and in peace," noted Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh. **gt**

Military Personnel News: the MILPO Corner

GUARD AND RESERVE DEPLOYMENT VERSUS JOB SECURITY

One of the biggest stresses of being called up to active duty is wondering whether your job will be waiting for you when you return. What can you do to ensure that you pick up your life smoothly after you serve your country? Remember the following tips:

Know Your Rights: There are many federal and state laws in place to protect you. The single most important is the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). It would be beneficial to familiarize yourself with the provisions of the Act, and to check with selected state veterans offices to see what other benefits and protection you might qualify for.

Avoid Job Conflicts: Don't take your employer's support for granted and be sure to work with him or her to make your transition in and out of the military as smooth as possible.

Use Your Support Services: Be sure to check on the National Committee for Employer Support of The Guard and Reserve (ESGR), which has the goal of assisting both you and your employer. Visit the officer ESGR Website to find resources, guides, and useful services.

PURPLE HEART FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI)

A change in policy is forthcoming, which will provide new guidelines concerning Soldier eligibility for the Purple Heart. This change concerns Soldiers who suffered head wounds and/or concussions during combat. Soldier's who experienced Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) were often excluded from eligibility due to a variety of interpretations of the "concussion" requirement. AR 600-8-22, Military Awards, does have a "concussion" provision, however, evaluations for the award by selected commands, boards, etc. added "local requirements" such as, "must have blood coming out of ears", or must have lost eyesight, or popped an eardrum. These added requirements resulted in many awards not being submitted. The expected change, will involve comprehensive "concussion checklist"

to assist in properly judging qualifying injuries.

UPCOMING IDENTIFICATION CARD CHANGES

As of June 2011, Social Security Numbers (SSN) will no longer be printed on any new ID card. SSN removal will occur in three phases. Your new ID card will have a DoD ID Number entered in place of your SSN. Your DoD ID Number will be used as the Geneva Conventions serial number. If you are eligible for DoD benefits, there will also be a DoD Benefits Number printed on your new ID Card. Frequently Asked Questions concerning this transition are:

Q. Who will get a new ID card?

A. All DoD ID cardholders will get a new ID card with a DoD ID Number in place of their SSN.

Q. When should I go get my new ID card?

A. Current ID cards should not be replaced until your card is within 30 days of its expiration date. If your ID card has an INDEF expiration date, and you would like your SSN removed, contact your nearest RAPIDS ID Card facility for an appointment.

Q. Will my ID be rejected without a visible SSN?

A. Your ID should not be rejected but you may be asked to verbally state your SSN or sponsor's SSN to access benefits.

Q. Will my medical provider use my DoD Benefits Number to process my claims?

A. Until all ID cards are replaced, providers may use either your SSN or DoD benefits number.

Q. Where can I get my new ID card?

A. ID cards are available at over 1,500 RAPIDS ID card centers worldwide. Visit the RAPIDS Site Locator at (www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home) to find a location near you.

Q. What should I bring?

A. Bring two forms of identification. One must be a valid (not expired) federal or state issued photo ID. Visit (www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-9.pdf) for more info.

SERVICE MEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE (SGLI) REIMBURSEMENT

The John Warner National Defense Act for FY07, effective November 1, 2006, required reimbursement of premium deductions for SGLI for service members who were serving in the theater of operations for OEF and OIF. Effective September 1, 2010, reimbursement was also approved for service members serving in Operation New Dawn (OND). This benefit is for deployed service members only. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) has been processing the reimbursement for deployed service members since 2007. This message serves as a reminder that service members may elect to increase SGLI coverage amounts in accordance with message guidance and receive reimbursement for premiums. Go to the link to view details. <https://forums.bcks.army.mil/CommunityBrowser.aspx?id=1334923>

MILITARY EDUCATION FOR PROMOTION CONSIDERATION

Have you completed your military education requirements in order to be promoted to the next rank/ grade? Currently less than fifty percent of all Captains and Majors have completed their military education (MIL-ED).

Please contact your unit administrator or readiness NCO concerning your military education. Captains must complete the Captains Career Course (CCC) in order to be considered educationally qualified for promotion to Major. Majors must complete Intermediate Level Education (ILE) in order to be considered educationally qualified for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel.

UPCOMING DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY OFFICER BOARD SCHEDULE

DA Board Army Promotion List (APL)

Lt. Col. - Col:

If you are a Basic Branch officer with a date of rank for Lt. Col. of September 30, 2005 (and earlier), you will be boarded in the APL Lt. Col. - Col. DA board. This will be held on July 7, 2011. Please contact Capt. Carl J. Jeremie (518)-272-6803 or Maj. Mark P. Frank 518-272-6495

on details concerning this board.

DA Board Army Promotion List (APL) Maj. - Lt. Col:

If you are a Basic Branch officer with a date of rank for Maj. of March 31, 2006 (and earlier), you will be boarded in the APL Maj.-Lt. Col. DA Board. This board will be held on Sept. 8, 2011. Please contact Capt. Carl J. Jeremie (518)-272-6803 or Maj. Mark P. Frank 518-272-6495 on details concerning this board.

FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE

Federal Tuition Assistance applications must be submitted no later than your class start date. Soldiers can apply through: <https://minuteman.ngb.army.mil/benefits>.

The application requires CAC login. Soldiers can have their CAC cards reset at any of the CAC facilities listed on this web site <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home>.

Education Video

The Education Office developed a video presentation to walk Soldiers through the Post 9-11 GI Bill details and transferability instructions. To view the presentation, please visit our website at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/535774> under videos.

MNP is currently working on additional videos and will post them as they become available.

Civilian Education

Soldiers missing High School (HS) diplomas should forward them to the Education Services Office immediately. Missing HS diplomas will delay bonus payments and GI Bill benefits.

A list of Soldiers missing HS diplomas can be found at: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/535774>.

ONLINE ACCESS TO VA HEALTH RECORDS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has announced a new online feature that allows active duty and retired service members to access their electronic health records (EHRs) online. The VA's "Blue Button" Web Portal gives veterans direct access to the agency's MyHealthVet personal health record on any computer, including mobile devices. Blue Button capability allows VA patients to download and also share their health care records with medical providers. For more information, visit: myhealth.va.gov.

To learn more about your state's veteran benefits, visit the Military.com State Veteran's Benefits Directory.

TRICARE CO-PAY FOR ENROLLMENT LIKELY TO INCREASE

Defense Secretary Gates has mentioned that the 2012 Department of Defense budget plan could include a modest increase, possibly \$60.00, in TRICARE fees. If passed by Congress, TRICARE Prime enrollment fees for retiree families would go from \$460 to \$520 per year, and enrollment for single retirees would go from \$230 to \$260 per year. The increases do not apply to active military families and members, or retirees past age 65. It only applies to those enrolled in TRICARE Prime.

NEW PDHRA AKO PAGES LAUNCHED

The Post-Deployment Health Reassessment Program has re-launched its AKO pages to better serve the community. Changes centered around enhancing the user experience, providing clearer instructions on how to participate in and execute the PDHRA, and streamlined data that provides information about the program. The main page is Soldier/DA Civilian-centric with instructions on taking the PDHRA, highlighting the benefits of participating, as well as a link to MEDPROS to initiate the DD Form 2900. Additionally the site contains a commander section which highlights key aspects of this commander's program, including how to schedule the PDHRA and POC's per component and region. View the pages at: <http://googl/nfAFj>. More information is available at the following link on S1NET.

<https://forums.army.mil/communitybrowser.aspx?id=1349145&lang=en-US>.

DEPLOYMENT STABILIZATION PAY

Deployment Extension Stabilization Pay (DESP) is now available for Soldiers who qualify and volunteer to extend in accordance with NGB-ARH Policy Memorandum #10-021, Revised ARNG DESP Implementation Guidance. The intent of this incentive is to encourage Soldiers to voluntarily extend as early as 365 days prior to mobilization, resulting in unit stabilization and cohesive pre-mobilization

training. Qualified Soldiers flagged for APFT or HT/WT may still receive incentive pay with a 06/COL approved extension waiver.

Soldiers with enlistment contracts or service obligations expiring after the mobilization are not eligible for DESP.

Once the initial DESP contract window opens, Soldiers with enlistment contracts or service obligations expiring prior to mobilization, minus 180 days (M-180) are not eligible for DESP.

References: There are two MNP policy memorandums which can be accessed on the MNP AKO Main Page. <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/553732>.

Go to "MNP New Documents" to access both or go to the bottom left side of the page, under "MNP References", and then "MNP Policy Memorandum".

SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES

Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) Coordinators are available to brief NYARNG units about their role in this organization and the services they provide. When the NYARNG loses a Soldier, SOS provides long term care to survivors after the Casualty Assistance Officer (CAO) has finished their duties. Our SOS coordinators have found the transition is often smoother when Soldiers and Commanders are already familiar with the SOS program.

In an effort to support upcoming deployments, our SOS coordinators are available to meet with or brief Rear-D or other unit personnel in establishing a prior working relationship in the event they are called upon. NYARNG SOS Coordinators include:

- Mr. Mike Batza (Albany)
michael.batza@us.army.mil
518-270-1541
- Mr. Dan Arena (Syracuse)
daniel.arena@us.army.mil
315-438-3301
- Mr. Raul Lopez (Camp Smith)
raul.lopez5@us.army.mil
914-788-6580.

The logo consists of the lowercase letters 'gt' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'g' is significantly larger than the 't', and they are positioned closely together.

THE JOINT FORCE

Guardsmen, Civilian First Responders Team Up for Disaster Drill Oriskany Exercise Involved Several Simulated Mass-Casualty Incidents

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Drumsta, Joint Force Headquarters-New York



New York Army National Guard Soldiers Spc. Jessica Garrison (left), Spc. Tryone Desheers (middle) and Spc. Christian Provoncha (right), from the 1156th Engineer Company, lift a mock victim from a crashed bus during a defense support to civil authorities exercise conducted April 2. The exercise involved almost 400 members of the New York Army and Air National Guard and 100 civilian first responders.

NEW YORK STATE TRAINING PREPAREDNESS CENTER, Oriskany - The recesses of the hanger were dark and smoky, but the mission of the Soldiers, Airmen and civilian first responders was clear: to rescue disaster victims from the city and vehicle wreckage as soon as possible.

That was the scene here April 2, as hundreds of New York National Guardsmen, an urban search and rescue team, and local emergency service members joined forces for a three-day civil/military disaster drill.

The exercise scenario, which involved simulated back-to-back disasters resulting in hundreds of civilian casualties, was designed

to test the ability of the Soldiers and Airman to undertake complex tasks in a hazardous environment, while working with other state and local agencies, said Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York.

"We train with our civilian agency colleagues in advance so that we will understand each other's capabilities in an emergency," Murphy explained.

One of those agencies was the Rome Fire Department, and Deputy Chief Thomas Palinski said he was impressed by New York National Guard's array of capabilities.

"They can do everything we can, and way beyond," he said. "Between the state, county, and

military, I didn't realize these resources were available to us, to this extent."

Those capabilities included New York's 2nd Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (CST) and the New York CERFP, short for CBRNE (Chemical, Biological Radiological, Nuclear, high-yield Explosive) Enhanced Response Force Package. The CST is trained to detect hazardous materials, and the CERFP is trained to extract victims from damaged and contaminated areas.

The forces arrived in the area on April 1, on vehicles or aboard a New York Air National Guard C-5A cargo aircraft and then moved on to the training center. An old hanger at the



Above left: James Daley, of New York Task Force 2, (right) teaches Pfc. Shawn Cooper (left) of the 1156th Engineer Company and a member of N.Y.'s National Guard CERFP team how to jackhammer through concrete during a disaster drill on April 2. Right: Pfc. Shagail Smith, of Brooklyn, steadies a tent against the wind being erected during the exercise. The tents are used to decontaminate casualties. Smith belongs to 222nd Chemical Company.

center, built when it was the Oneida County Airport, served as one of the disaster scenes.

According to the scenario, the cascade of disasters began at a packed Rome, N.Y. hotel, where a bomb caused dozens of casualties. Soon after, a tractor-trailer collided with a train of about 70 chemical tank cars near the hotel, causing it to collapse into a neighboring warehouse packed with bulk pesticides, herbicides and insecticides.

With 258 people dead 1,800 more injured and local hospitals filled with casualties, local emergency crews on the scene called for federal assistance. The hanger was equipped with buses and concrete rubble, while smoke and mock victims – their bodies marked by blood-colored makeup to simulate oozing, brutal injuries - added a last touch of ghastly realism to the exercise.

As the hazmat teams from the Utica and Rome Fire Departments entered the hanger to test for contamination, the CERFP guardsmen set up decontamination and medical treatment tents outside. When the hazmat personnel found contamination and victims, they alerted

the guardsmen, who then entered the hanger to work with their civilian counterparts, treat casualties, and evacuate them aboard litters for decontamination and further medical aid.

Spc. Tryone Desheers, a CERFP member from the 1156th Engineer Company, said the smoke and obstacles – such as barriers which forced them to enter a bus through its top hatch to rescue victims within – made for effective, challenging training. The smoke reduced visibility, so rescuers had to move deliberately to maximize safety for themselves and the victims, he explained.

"Your safety is number one," Desheers said. "If you go down, you have to call in more people to help you and the victim." He's looking forward to doing more training at the center in the future, Desheers added.

The exercise exceeded expectations, especially the integration of New York State military forces with local, county and state agencies, said Lt. Col. Matthew Cooper, Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch Chief for the New York

Army National Guard. The support from the training center and personnel there were more than enough to assure the exercise's success, he added.

"From our perspective, we couldn't have done it without the training center," Cooper said. "Knowing the capacity it offers, it should be considered for future exercises as well."

Members of the Albany-based New York Task Force 2, search and rescue team, also taught guardsman how to cut through concrete with electric jackhammers and lift debris from victims using air bags and cribbing.

It was great to work with the guardsmen; and he enjoyed doing hands-on training with them, said James Daley of New York Task Force 2. In the case of real disasters, everyone has to work as a team, he stressed.

"There's no one group that can do everything themselves," said Daley, of Slingerlands. "I think the teamwork part of this is a wonderful thing." **gt**

New York Guard Women Are At Home in The Sky

New York Women Pilots, Aircrew Members Reflect on Inspirations

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Drumsta, Joint Force Headquarters-New York



Spc. Amy Klemm serving aboard a CH-47 Chinook helicopter as a door gunner with the 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment in Afghanistan in 2006. Courtesy Photo.

LATHAM - The women who keep the New York Army and Air National Guard flying found inspiration in the skies and on the ground.

Spc. Amy Klemm, Chief Warrant Officer Michelle Roxby, 2nd Lt. Amy Bonilla, Senior Master Sgt. Terri Santoro and 1st Lt. Amanda Coonradt are among the nearly 2,500 women in the New York Army and Air National Guard, and they routinely take to the skies, logging flying time in Blackhawk helicopters and C-130 Hercules transport planes.

Klemm, Roxby and Bonilla are Soldiers in Company B, 142nd Aviation Assault Helicopter Battalion based in Ronkonkoma; Santoro is a member of the Niagara Falls-based 107th Airlift Wing; and Coonradt is a member of the 109th Airlift Wing, which is based in Scotia, N.Y., at Stratton Air National Guard Base.

"I like to fly and see different things," said Klemm, a Blackhawk crew chief and Mastic, N.Y. resident. "The people in aviation are great people."

Klemm's inspirations were both remote and close to home -- aviator Amelia Earhart and her Vietnam veteran father. While attending junior high, she did a research paper on Earhart, Klemm said.

"She was able to fly an aircraft, and she was the first woman to fly across the country," Klemm said of Earhart.

Klemm's father, who served in the infantry and received the Purple Heart, told her great things about the military and encouraged her to enlist, Klemm said. She joined the New York Army National Guard because she wanted to be close to her family and community, she added.

Three years later Klemm went to war herself,

logging about 500 hours as a CH-47 Chinook helicopter door gunner with the 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, Massachusetts Army National Guard in Afghanistan in 2006. While there, she volunteered to go to Iraq with her own unit. She returned from Afghanistan, and after a month off, deployed with her unit to Iraq.

Woman's History Month validates the role of women in the military and other professions, Klemm said.

Roxby, a Blackhawk pilot-in-command, said she heard the call for Army aviation in 2003, while deployed to Iraq with the New York Army National Guard's 442 Military Police Company. She and other Soldiers lived near a helicopter landing zone in Iraq, she recalled.

"When we were living next to the (landing zone), it re-ignited my interest in aviation," said

Roxby, of Staten Island, N.Y.

Her family also inspired her, Roxby said. She enjoys the variety that aviation offers, she added.

"Every day is different," she said. "As a pilot-in-command, I like mentoring people and bringing out the best in them."

She also enjoys flying, finding herself in what she called "special moments" while behind the controls of the helicopter.

"Sometimes it just hits you and you think, 'wow this is amazing. I'm really lucky I'm able to do this,'" Roxby said.

One of the pilots Roxby mentors is Bonilla, of Queens, N.Y. She initially joined an Army Reserve military police unit in 2007, Bonilla said.

"I knew I wanted to be an officer, but I wanted to get some enlisted experience first," she explained.

Inspired by her parents and professors, Bonilla earned her commission through the St. John's University ROTC program and her aircraft operations degree from Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology. Then came the opportunity to become a Blackhawk pilot, which she said was good timing.

"I felt excited," Bonilla said. "My hard work finally paid off. My dreams were coming true."

Bonilla describes herself as a "new stick" in the unit, said that she focuses on flying while in the air, and only remembers the thrill of it when she's on the ground.

"It's like another day at the office," she said of



1st Lt. Amanda Coonradt of the 109th Airlift Wing at the South Pole supporting the National Science Foundation's South Pole research. Courtesy Photo.



Chief Warrant Officer and Army Aviation Pilot Michelle Roxby. Photo by Lt. Col. Paul Fanning, Joint Force Headquarters-New York

flying a Blackhawk helicopter. "I'm just another Soldier doing my job."

Santoro is an airman whose flying jobs have taken her across the world, America and New York State. Santoro is from Medina, N.Y. and

"You could be having a bad day on the ground, but in the sky, you can clear your mind and relax."

-Senior Master Sgt. Terri Santoro

like Klemms, she was inspired by her father, who was a gunner on a B-52 bomber, and Amelia Earhart.

"She was a go-getter, a female in a man's world," Santoro said of Earhart. "She made it in a man's world." Santoro said she also wanted to follow in her father's footsteps, so she joined the Air Force in 1985. Navigator and pilot positions are held by officers, and she was too short to qualify, Santoro recalled with a laugh.

"I wanted to fly, so I elected to stay enlisted," she said. She served as a boom operator on KC-135 Stratotankers in Plattsburgh and with the 107th Air Refueling Wing until 2008. As a boom operator, she was responsible for controlling the KC-135 and refueling other aircraft, she said.

"When I started in 1985, there wasn't that many female boom operators," Santoro recalled.

When the 107th was converted into an airlift wing, Santoro changed too, and trained to become a loadmaster aboard C-130s. As a loadmaster, she's responsible for any cargo loaded on the C-130, including multiple tons of equipment and military personnel, like airborne

troops, Santoro said. The unit has 20 loadmasters, seven of whom are female, she added.

"We have a lot of females, very sharp individuals," Santoro said.

For her, flying is a stress-reliever, she said.

"You could be having a bad day on the ground, but in the sky, you can clear your mind and relax," Santoro said.

Coonradt, of Troy, joined the 109th Airlift Wing in 2000. Her enlisted job, however, didn't challenge her or give her a sense of accomplishment, Coonradt said. She was inspired to become an aircrew member by unit members and the unit's Antarctica mission.

"I really wanted to be part of the mission myself," she recalled. "It was hard for me to sit on the sidelines and see others explore the world."

With their ski-equipped LC-130s, the 109th Airlift Wing has provided airlift support for the National Science Foundation's South Pole research since 1988. Since 1999, the unit has been the sole provider of this type of airlift to the National Science Foundation and United States Antarctic research efforts, and is the only unit in the United States military equipped with ski landing gear.

She spoke with aircrew members and gravitated toward the navigator position - an officer job which would allow her to fly and engage her interest in geography and

math, Coonradt said. She earned her commission in 2007, and since has traveled to Greenland, Hawaii, New Zealand, American Samoa and air shows all over the country, in addition to Antarctica, she added.

"We're the only unit in the world that does this mission,"

Coonradt said. "I feel fortunate to be part of it." She enjoys the teamwork of the aircrew, who don't treat her differently yet give her respect, she added.

She also enjoys flying.

"It feels great, it's so much fun, it puts a smile on my face," Coonradt said. "I get very disappointed if we don't take off." **gt**



Senior Master Sgt. Terri Santoro, serving with the 107th Airlift Wing. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Ray Lloyd, 107th Airlift Wing

Changing New York's First Responder Command

Story and photos by Warrant Officer Ubon Mendie, New York Guard

FORT HAMILTON – The New York National Guard's 24th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) received a new leader during a change of command ceremony, here on March 9.

Army National Guard Lt. Col. Kaarlo Hietala relinquished command to Maj. Jody Lupo in a ceremony overseen by New York Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Anthony P. German, the New York Air National Guard chief of staff.

"On behalf of Major General Murphy, I am here to commend these men for their service and bring in a new lead to a unit that helps us all sleep at night," German said.

Lupo, an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran and Bronze Star recipient, takes over after serving as the 24th's deputy commander.

Hietala will be moving on to serve with the Directorate of Logistics at state headquarters.

"I am honored to have been selected to command the 24th CST," Lupo said, as he addressed those in attendance. "As the commander of the 24th CST, I promise to uphold the value of mission first, Soldiers and Airmen always." "Maj. Lupo brings great experience to the unit," German added. "I have no doubt he will do well."

Lupo hails from Farmingdale, N.Y. He graduated from the State University of New York at Albany in 1998 where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Biology. Upon graduation he was commissioned a second lieutenant through the Reserve Officers Training Corps in April of 2003. he went on to earn a Master of Arts in the field of Business and Organizational Security Management from Webster University.

The 24th CST serves the New York City metro area. The team is comprised of 22 full time Army and Air National Guard professionals uniquely trained and equipped to respond to possible terrorist attacks or other events where chemical, biological, radiological or high yield explosive agents may have been used. On order, the unit will rapidly mobilize and deploy to communities to work for the civil authorities and civilian agencies to detect the presence of contamination and identify them while also assisting with follow-on support. **gt**



Brig. Gen. Anthony German, Chief of Staff for the Air National Guard, hands the guidon of the 24th Civil Support Team to Maj. Jody Lupo during change of command ceremonies at Fort Hamilton on March 9.



Brig. Gen. Anthony German (center), listens as the order is read that will transfer command of the 24th Civil Support Team from Lt. Col. Kaarlo Hietala (right) to Maj. Jody Lupo during Change of Command ceremonies at Fort Hamilton on March 9.

New Leadership for New York City Security Force

Story and photo by Sgt. Tamara Gabbard, 42nd Infantry Division

NEW YORK - The New York National Guard's Joint Task Force Empire Shield said farewell to Lt. Col. Greg Dreisbach as their commander during a change of command ceremony here at Fort Hamilton April 13.

Maj. Peter Riley, previously assigned to the 53rd Army Liaison Team in New York City, received Dreisbach's position with the exchange of colors.

"I am immensely proud to have been given the opportunity to stand next to you all," said Dreisbach. "Through out my time here with [JTF-ES] I was never in doubt because each of us was doing our part to always be ready for the fight."

Riley served as the Deputy G1 with the 42nd Infantry Division in Tikrit, Iraq, and was a former Headquarters Detachment Commander of the Camp Smith Training Site.

"I'll tell you that this is a great crew [that has been built]," said New York National Guard Director of the Joint Staff Brig. Gen. Renwick Payne.

Riley is currently on a leave of absence with his civilian job with the ADP Retirement Services in Florham Park, N.J. "Together we can be vigilant and protect this country we love so much, I look forward to working with all of you," said Riley. **gt**



NEW YORK - New York Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Renwick Payne, (center) Director of the Joint Staff, passes the guidon of Joint Task Force Empire Shield to Maj. Peter Riley during a change of command ceremony here at Fort Hamilton April 13.



Border Conference

SARATOGA SPRINGS - Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, (right) speaks with Canadian Brig. Gen. G.J.P. O'Brien, the Director General of the Canadian Land Reserves and Maj. Gen. Jon Miller, the Deputy Commander of the U.S. Army Reserve Command. The three attended a Canadian / U.S. general officer training session with leaders from the Army National Guard, Army Reserve, U.S. Army North, U.S. Northern Command and the Canadian Land Reserves. The group discussed methods to improve interoperability and joint training opportunities between the two countries. Photo by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, 42nd Infantry Division.

Moving Man and Machine for Disaster Response



Ready to Go—Loadmaster Tech. Sgt. Luis Colon directs crew members from the New York Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Wing as they unload vital equipment to be used by the New York Army and Air National Guard Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and high yield Explosives Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) at Hancock Field in Syracuse on April 1. The equipment was part of an exercise at the State Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany from April 1-3. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeremy M. Call, 174th Fighter Wing.

National Guard Side-by-Side with New York City Responders



PENN STATION - New York Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Kehinde Ayeni, a member of the New York City based Joint Task Force Empire Shield patrols common areas at Penn Station alongside Department of Homeland Security Police Officer John Rapuano and Amtrak Police Officer James Rusbarsky here on April 21. Task Force Empire Shield is the New York State standing task force to augment law enforcement and security operations in New York City. Photo by Warrant Officer Ubon Mendie, New York Guard.

Air Guard Director Speaks With New York Leaders

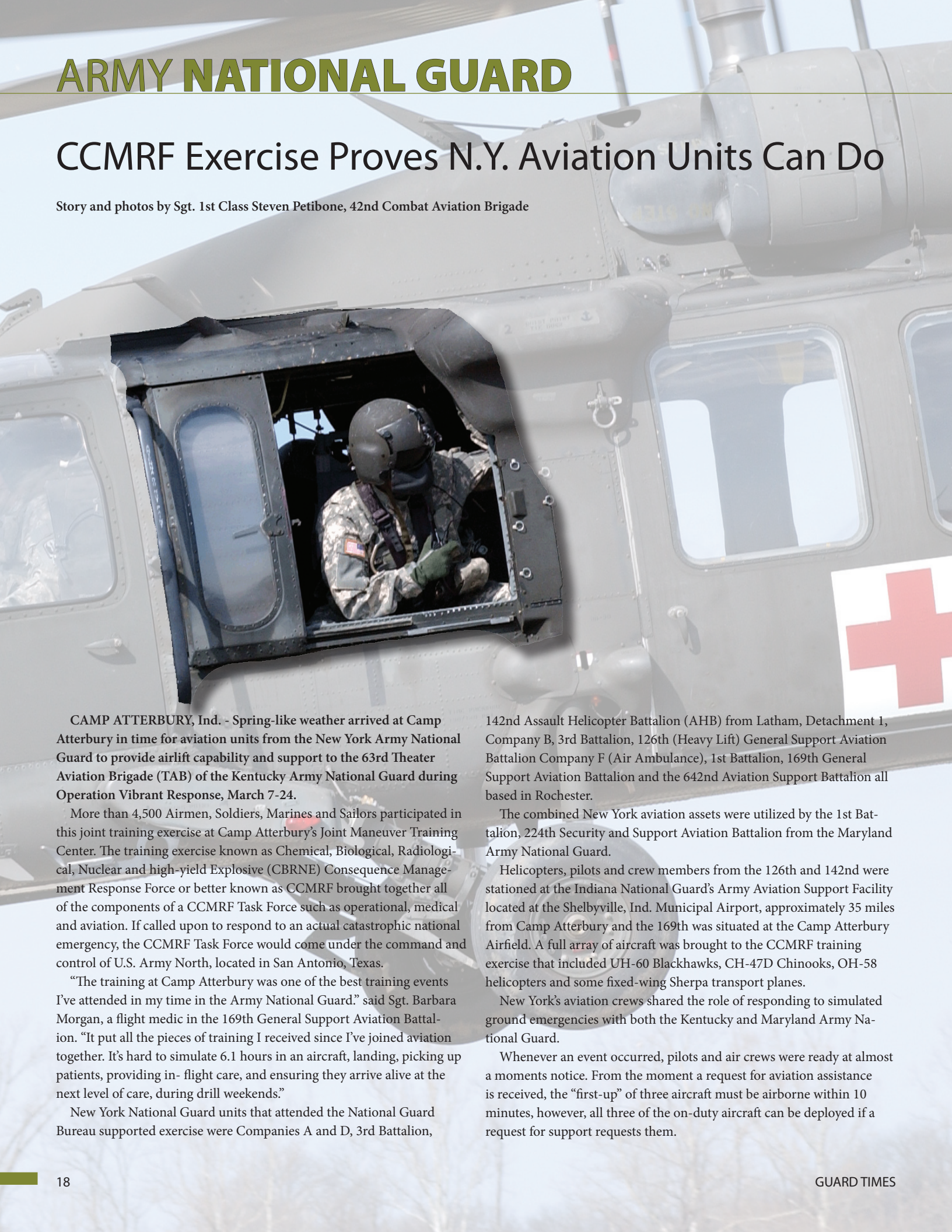


SARATOGA SPRINGS - Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, (right) the Adjutant General for the New York National Guard, thanks Lt. Gen. Harry Wyatt, Director of the Air National Guard, for his remarks during the Adjutant General's professional development weekend here on April 16. The theme of the weekend's discussion with more than 300 National Guard leaders was "New York state's military forces...an Indispensable Force." Wyatt spoke of the National Guard of 2025 and of the adaptability of Airmen and Soldiers meeting the challenges of change. Photo by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, 42nd Infantry Division

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

CCMRF Exercise Proves N.Y. Aviation Units Can Do

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



CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. - Spring-like weather arrived at Camp Atterbury in time for aviation units from the New York Army National Guard to provide airlift capability and support to the 63rd Theater Aviation Brigade (TAB) of the Kentucky Army National Guard during Operation Vibrant Response, March 7-24.

More than 4,500 Airmen, Soldiers, Marines and Sailors participated in this joint training exercise at Camp Atterbury's Joint Maneuver Training Center. The training exercise known as Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive (CBRNE) Consequence Management Response Force or better known as CCMRF brought together all of the components of a CCMRF Task Force such as operational, medical and aviation. If called upon to respond to an actual catastrophic national emergency, the CCMRF Task Force would come under the command and control of U.S. Army North, located in San Antonio, Texas.

"The training at Camp Atterbury was one of the best training events I've attended in my time in the Army National Guard," said Sgt. Barbara Morgan, a flight medic in the 169th General Support Aviation Battalion. "It put all the pieces of training I received since I've joined aviation together. It's hard to simulate 6.1 hours in an aircraft, landing, picking up patients, providing in-flight care, and ensuring they arrive alive at the next level of care, during drill weekends."

New York National Guard units that attended the National Guard Bureau supported exercise were Companies A and D, 3rd Battalion,

142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion (AHB) from Latham, Detachment 1, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th (Heavy Lift) General Support Aviation Battalion Company F (Air Ambulance), 1st Battalion, 169th General Support Aviation Battalion and the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion all based in Rochester.

The combined New York aviation assets were utilized by the 1st Battalion, 224th Security and Support Aviation Battalion from the Maryland Army National Guard.

Helicopters, pilots and crew members from the 126th and 142nd were stationed at the Indiana National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility located at the Shelbyville, Ind. Municipal Airport, approximately 35 miles from Camp Atterbury and the 169th was situated at the Camp Atterbury Airfield. A full array of aircraft was brought to the CCMRF training exercise that included UH-60 Blackhawks, CH-47D Chinooks, OH-58 helicopters and some fixed-wing Sherpa transport planes.

New York's aviation crews shared the role of responding to simulated ground emergencies with both the Kentucky and Maryland Army National Guard.

Whenever an event occurred, pilots and air crews were ready at almost a moments notice. From the moment a request for aviation assistance is received, the "first-up" of three aircraft must be airborne within 10 minutes, however, all three of the on-duty aircraft can be deployed if a request for support requests them.

All military personnel attending Operation Vibrant Response were placed on 12-hour shifts. A designated aircraft would depart Shelbyville or Camp Atterbury with flying coordinates and the specific number of casualties to be airlifted. The mission might take a designated crew from Shelbyville airport and land them at a smaller, near-by airport where Soldiers and Airmen were waiting with a truck load of manikins simulating dead or injured civilians. These manikin casualties were tagged with written injuries describing the location and extent of their injuries, some even cosmetically made up to look injured.

Sometimes the scenario was for an airlift of manikins that had been treated by a medical team at the site and needed to be evacuated to the nearest hospital or the Aeromedical Evacuation Center that the U.S. Air Force established near the airfield at Camp Atterbury. On other occasions, calls were received to airlift an individual cosmetically made up so that Army flight medics could train on attending to the transported injured.

Getting these pieces together across long distances can also be of great value for New York's aviation units that are part of battalions from other states. This was experienced by the 169th shortly after arriving at Camp Atterbury.

"We deployed three of our helicopters with Soldiers down to Camp Atterbury where we hooked with our Company C from the Maryland Army National Guard and quickly merged into one medevac team," said Maj. Thomas Shultz, the commander of the 169th GSAB. "This was the first time we had an opportunity to do this type of cross-unit training."

According to Thomas, the two-unit connection was necessary to conduct 24-hour operations and reconnaissance through out the exercise.

Approximately 400 New York Army National Guard men and women attended the training utilizing 20 of their aircraft. The roles of those 20 aircraft varied among the three aviation units that supported the 63rd TAB.

Detachment 1, Co. B, 3rd Bn., 126th GSAB from Rochester is home for the CH-47D Chinook helicopter. Normally, helicopter and crews concentrate their training efforts to heavy lift or troop transport missions, but coming to Camp Atterbury, they focused on casevac and medevac operations.

(Next Page)

"This training refined our battle drills from receiving a nine-line medevac call to getting to the patient within the "Golden Hour", which is the critical time for getting the patient to the first level of care."

-Maj. Thomas Shultz, Company F (Air Ambulance)



Photo, this page: An air crew from Company F (Air Ambulance), 1st Battalion, 169th General Support Aviation Battalion take part in a training event during Operation Vibrant Response, which included an individual cosmetically made up to represent external bleeding injuries during CBRNE Consequence Management Response Force training at Camp Atterbury, March 17. Extracting the injured from the aircraft are Airmen from the U.S. Air Force's ground medical response teams. Assisting the litter extraction is Sgt. Barbara Morgan and Staff Sgt. Steve Tschiderer from the 169th. Photo, opposite page: Sgt. Barbara Morgan, 169th flight medic, assists getting the aircraft off the landing area on its way to a response call for medical evacuation of cosmetically made up individuals injured in a notional catastrophic event.

Con't from page 17

“A good point of our training at the CCMRF exercise was for our pilots, both experienced and inexperienced, to get training experience talking to air and ground traffic controllers and with other aircraft.” said Capt. Eric Fritz, commander, Det 1, Co. B, 3rd Bn., 126th GSAB. “Being able to airlift litters is something that we don’t have a chance to do very often.”

In the cockpit of the Chinook helicopter during the CCMRF training was Chief Warrant Officer John Hermanson, who was flying his first training mission since graduating with honors from Fort Rucker’s, rotary wing flight school.

“This training is definitely different from routine flying around home station. There is more involvement within the cockpit. There are more things to concentrate on such as other aircraft and unfamiliar landing zones and adapting to changes in mid-mission.”

The CCMRF training at Camp Atterbury is an opportunity for the New York Army National Guard aviation units that were National Guard Bureau-selected to participate in the exercise to confirm the readiness and abilities of those selected units.

“We are learning from what was instructed at the Command Post Exercise conducted at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. prior to the launch of the CCMRF exercise at Camp Atterbury. Now we are taking it from the notional aspect to the physical operations.” said Capt. Alecia Jarvis, commander, Company A, 3rd Bn., 142nd AHB.

According to Jarvis, the 142nd’s role in CCMRF is to be a medium lift asset, transporting troops and internal and external loads and some VIP airlifts. In the case of an extreme emergency or a large number of wounded,



Capt. Eric Fritz, commander, Det. 1, Co. B, 3rd Bn., 126th GSAB briefs his copilot and crew members prior to taking off from Shelbyville Municipal Airport in response to a call to airlift manikin casualties from a nearby airport.



Two medevac Soldiers remove a litter from a CH-47D Chinook helicopter carrying a manikin "patient" that was airlifted from a nearby airfield by Det. 1, Co. B, 3rd Bn., 126th GSAB during aviation support for CCMRF field training exercises at Camp Atterbury on March 16. Each manikin received is tagged with a card listing the injuries so that medics on the ground can apply medical attention. Assisting the medical Soldiers is Sgt. Chris Warr, crew member, 126th GSAB.

the 142nd could also be utilized to transport displaced civilians and any wounded that are ambulatory. Jarvis also pointed out that the helicopters in the 142nd are not set-up the same as a medevac helicopter.

“Maintenance is the non-commissioned officer of aviation... It is the back bone of aviation.” said 1st Lt. Brian Holleran, commander of Company D, which is a maintenance company to support the 142nd.

“Although the weather has prevented us from flying more than expected, it is still necessary to perform on-going inspections while we have the down time.” Holleran said.

In addition to maintenance, flight crews also depend on refuelers to keep the aircraft refilled and ready to fly at a moments notice. Throughout the operation, refuelers from the 142nd, 642nd and 126th were on the job.

“This is a first-time-team here at Vibrant Response.” said Staff Sgt. William Guezlow, safety NCO, 642nd. “We’re working together well, mixing and matching personnel to maximize our training.”

While visiting New York’s aviation Guardsmen, Col. Mark Styker, the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade Commander, said the training offered an ideal field environment.

“The ground logistical units, CH-47 and UH-60 flight crews obtained realistic training

in deployment and operations in a {domestic operations}environment. The overall training exercise was a success for our participating units.” **gt**



Two New York Army National Guard refuelers stationed at Shelbyville Municipal Airport during the CCMRF training exercise refuel one of the 126th’s Chinook helicopters after it returns from emergency responses to evacuate simulated casualties.

827th Engineers Home from Afghanistan

Story and photos by Eric Durr, Public Affairs Director



Spc. Nancy Schwartz, bearing the 827th Engineer guidon in front of Capt. Jeffery Miles are first off the aircraft that brought the 827th Engineer Company to Elmira-Corning Regional Airport on Feb. 16, after serving approximately 10 months in Afghanistan. Greeting Schwartz are Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, State Adjutant General, Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Van Pelt, State Sergeant Major and Brig. Gen. Michael Swezey, commander of the 53rd Troop Command.

ELMIRA-CORNING REGIONAL AIRPORT - About 180 Soldiers from the 827th Engineer Company arrived home to the cheers and whistles of family and friends on Feb. 16, after spending ten months in Afghanistan.

During their deployment the 827th conducted road construction and repair with D7-dozers, scrapers, graders, and general earth moving equipment.

The 827th Engineers served with Task Force Red Dragon and the 1092nd Engineer Battalion. The task force, based at Forward Operating Base Sharana in eastern Afghanistan, provided engineer support at 25 different locations throughout the country. The unit was part of Regional Command East, covering 13 provinces in eastern Afghanistan.

“We were able to complete a full spectrum of operations and combat missions in Eastern Afghanistan while being spread over five or six provinces,” said 827th Commander Capt. Jeffrey Miles. “We did everything from force protection to building check points, road repairs

and recovery missions.”

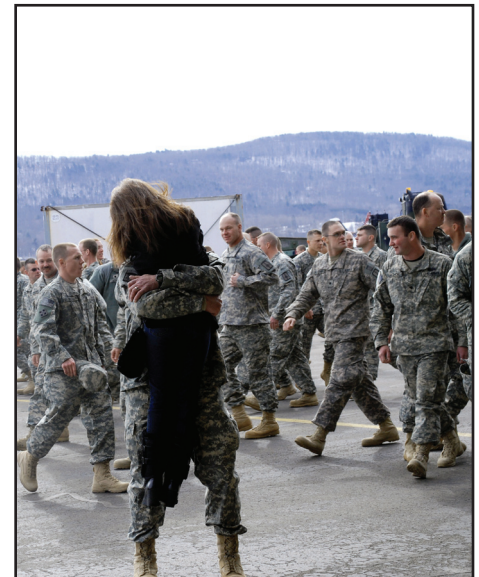
The unit took part in a number of combined arms operations with maneuver units from the 101st Airborne Division; pushing into known Taliban strongholds.

The Soldiers worked on projects at 45 different sites, conducting approximately 120 combat movements in eastern Afghanistan.

Nearly half of the unit received recognition for combat service, including 70 recipients of the Combat Action Badge, two Purple Hearts and seven awardees of the Bronze Star Medal.

The 827th Engineer Company received additional Soldiers for their deployment from Headquarters Company of the 204th Engineer Battalion located in Binghamton, and the 152nd Engineer Company located in Buffalo.

“I’m glad to say that the whole unit came back alive.” Miles said in a media interview at the Sikorsky Military Aircraft hanger here. “It’s the one promise that we made to the families last year. Its a blank check that’s sometimes a little nerve-racking to uphold, but we did it and I’m proud to say we’re all back. **gt**



Sgt. 1st Class Robert Ralston, maintenance platoon sergeant, receives a long awaited hug from his wife after deploying with the 827th for the past 10 months.

Command Change at the 369th Sustainment Brigade...



NEW YORK-- New York Army National Guard Col. Reginald Sanders (left) accepts the colors of the 369th Sustainment Brigade during Change of Command Ceremonies on Sunday, April 10 at the Harlem Armory. Sanders, a North Country resident who also oversees the National Guard's Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site at Fort Drum, replaces Col. Stephanie Dawson who will now serve as deputy commander of the 53rd Troop Command. Photo by Staff Sgt. Dennis Gravelle, 369th Sustainment Brigade

...and the 204th Engineer Battalion...



BINGHAMTON - New York Army National Guard Lt. Col. James Freehart, (left) a veteran of Afghanistan, receives the unit colors from Lt. Col. Jim Pabis, commander of the 153rd Troop Command, to take command of the 204th Engineer Battalion on March 5. Freehart replaces Maj. Andrew Hutz who has been serving as commander.

The battalion headquarters company and forward support companies are based at the Binghamton Armory. The battalion has subordinate companies in Kingston in the Hudson Valley, Walton, Horseheads and Buffalo. Photo by Staff Sgt. Thomas Wheeler, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

...and 153rd Troop Command



BUFFALO--New York Army National Guard Lt. Col. Jim Pabis (left) receives the colors of the 153rd Troop Command from Command Sgt. Major Joy O'Neil during a Change of Command Ceremony held at the Connecticut Street Armory on April 2.

Pabis takes over from Col. Reginald Sanders who is taking command of the 369th Sustainment Brigade in New York City. Photo by Pfc. Jeremy Bratt, Joint Force Headquarters-New York

Farewell for Buffalo-Based Military Police Soldiers



NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION - One hundred and ten Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 105th Military Police Company and almost 700 guests and well-wishers listen as Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York, addresses the MP Soldiers who are deploying to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn during a deployment ceremony here on March 9. The Buffalo-based Military Police Company deployed to Iraq in 2003 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Photo by Lt. Col. Paul Fanning, Joint Force Headquarters-New York

Partnering with Iraqi Policewomen



FORWARD OPERATING BASE UNION, Baghdad - New York Army National Guard Lt. Col. Isabel Smith (left) and Lt. Col. Deborah Foley (center) stand with female members of the Iraqi National Police following a lunch meeting here.

The women were among the first graduating female class of the Iraqi Police Academy and took a trip to the United States to observe the role women play in American police forces.

The Iraqi women are, from left, Lt. Media Jassim, Lt. Noor Al Rubaye, Lt. Israa Kamil Fakhir and Lt. Israa Al Rubaye.

Smith is serving as an advisor to the Iraqi Ministry of Interior while Foley, a Massachusetts State Police Officer, is working with the Iraqi Army. Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Isabel Smith

Ice to Meet You!

Soldiers of the 69th Train With Canadian Allies in Winter Warfare Exercise

Story by Spc. J. P. Lawrence, 42nd Infantry Division



A Canadian Army Reservist demonstrates how to climb out of a frozen lake and exit the water after falling through the ice during winter warfare training. Photo by Cpl. Laviolette, Canadian Army Reserves.

GOGOMA, Ontario - New York Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Wiwczar stood on a frozen lake gazing at the hole cut into the two-foot thick ice. Snow, four to five feet of it, surrounded him on all sides, and the temperature of the winter air hovered well below freezing.

As he jumped in, Wiwczar could only think: This is going to be cold.

Splash! Wiwczar emerged from underwater, his wet suit, buoyant and snug, bringing him to the surface where he floated until he could catch hold of the icy ledge and pull himself out. With his instructor's approval, he left the icy water to join his fellow Soldiers.

"It wasn't as bad as I thought it was going to be," Wiwczar, a Riverhead resident, recalled.

Practicing getting out of icy water was just one of the exercises Wiwczar and eight other

New York Army National Guard Soldiers from the 1st Battalion 69th Infantry--most from New York City-- learned in the ice and snow of Canada.

The New Yorkers were part of Operation Wolf Pack Endeavour 2011, a winter warfare training exercise run by the 33rd Canadian Brigade Group of the Canadian Army Reserve from March 7 to 21.

"Their whole theory is that you have to survive in the climate before you can fight," Wiwczar said.

Giving Soldiers a chance to train with another army is always a good thing, said Capt. Jeffrey Csoka, the operations officer for the 1-69th.

"The bottom line is that Soldiers, at some point in the future, could be deployed, and there's a good chance they'll be deployed with

Canadians," Csoka said. "Anytime you can expose Soldiers to other armies, it's a valuable thing."

The Americans were split into teams and placed within an element from Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa, a Canadian Army Reserve battalion.

"Inviting our Army National Guard counterparts to participate in Exercise Wolf Pack Endeavour offered both training audiences a unique experience," said Canadian Capt. Amber Bineau, Public Affairs Officer for the 33rd Brigade Group.

"It allowed the New York Army National Guard an opportunity to train in a cold and austere northern environment, while affording us the opportunity to share our winter warfare skillsets with our U.S. military neighbors," she said.

After four days in the classroom, the Soldiers packed their bags for their trip 600 miles north into the Canadian wilderness. In Gogama the Soldiers moved into Arctic tents. For Spc. Marcin Pawezka, an infantryman with Company B of the 1-69th, working in teams to set up 10-man pentagonal tents was something entirely new -- as were drills on tearing down and packing the tents small enough to fit on top of a toboggan.

Wherever they went their toboggans went.

Like a dog sled with Soldiers replacing dogs, the sleds were pulled by two Soldiers on snowshoes: one pulling in front, and one Soldier guiding ahead.



Spc. Marcin Pawezka sets a rabbit snare as Spc. Thomas Nichol森 observes. Both Soldiers are from Company B, 1st Bn., 69th Inf. Regt. during winter warfare exercise in Canada March 7 to 21, that included Soldiers from both the American and Canadian armed forces. Photo courtesy of Canadian Army Reserves.

In the toboggan was everything the Soldiers couldn't fit in their packs: the tent, spikes, and various tools: axes, an ice-saw, two small sledgehammers, and the stove, lamp, fuel and water cans.

"At the beginning, we didn't carry too much," said Pawezka. "Just the assault pack to the campsite."

"But when we moved out, we had to bring everything. Your rucksack, your assault pack, your vest, Kevlar, weapon. And you move to another spot, and you set it up again," he added.

The constant moving was tough in the mix of forest and snow covered hills, Pawezka recalled.

"You're talking about four, five feet of snow, and you're snowshoeing with 60, 80 pounds on your back, and the weight collapses the snow -- it's pretty tough."

While temperatures at times dipped to double-digit negatives, the weather overall was more temperate, sometimes even rainy, and the Soldiers had to adapt.

"Part of the issue is when you're exerting, you have to dress down, you have to take off a couple layers," said Wiwczar. "And then, you have to dry out before it gets cold, or you'll get chilled to the bone."

The guts of the winter survival training came from members of the Canadian Rangers, a volunteer force formed in 1947 to keep an eye on the Canadian Arctic. Made up mainly of Inuit and Native Canadians, the rangers are experts on surviving in the north.

The Rangers conducted training on how to use and maintain a chain saw; how to make fire without using matches or lighters; how to use smoke signals; how to build an improvised shelter; how to snow-

mobile; and how to get out of a frozen lake.

The Soldiers even learned how to cook and catch food in the winter environment.

One Soldier, Pfc. Joe Delancey from Brooklyn, even caught a rabbit during snare training. That rabbit became dinner that night: a respite from the daily Army rations. But Wiwczar said any food is good after a day in the cold -- even moose, served one night by the



New York Army National Guard Spc. Masami Yamakado shares a meal with Canadian Army Reservists during winter warfare training in Canada. Photo by Cpl. Jackson Yee, Canadian Army Reserves.

Rangers.

"We had to get it fast though, because stuff would get cold in no time," Wiwczar said.

Also Participating in the training were: Sgt. Peter Chan, Bronx; Spc. Mamasi Yamakado, Manhattan; Sgt. Jose Cruz, Manhattan; Staff Sgt. Jairo Aquino, Bronx; Spc. Thomas Nicolson, Wantagh and Spc. Tajua Wiwczar, Riverhead.

"I had never trained with foreign forces before, but I was struck with the similarities between the ways that we operate, more than the differences. We operate very, very similarly," said Wiwczar. "They bent over backwards in order to make us feel at home." **gt**



Canadian soldiers and New York Army National Guardsmen are on the move during winter warfare and survival training conducted in Gogama, Ontario in March. Nine members of the 1st Battalion 69th Infantry took part in the training exercise. Photo by Cpl. Lavolette, Canadian Army Reserves.

Shadow Detachment Ensures Security From Above

Aviation Unit Maiden Flight Training

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Drumsta, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team



New York Army National Guard Soldiers Pvt. Toby Smith (left), Pfc. Timothy Strong (middle) and Sgt. Edward Joy (right) move a Shadow RQ-7 unmanned reconnaissance aircraft to its launcher at Wheeler Sack Airfield on Fort Drum, April 15. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Drumsta, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

FORT DRUM - The 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team will have a hawk's eye view of the battlefield thanks to the Soldiers who operate the brigade's Shadow RQ-7 unmanned reconnaissance aircraft.

More than a dozen Soldiers of the brigade, which is deploying to Afghanistan in 2012, flew the aircraft from Fort Drum's Wheeler Sack

Airfield on April 15 and 16. The Soldiers, who belong to the brigade's Detachment 1, Company B, Special Troops Battalion, flew four training missions during a brigade command-post exercise. It was the first time the detachment flew the aircraft at Fort Drum.

The training completed the Rochester-based detachment's new equipment fielding, giving Soldiers experience in launching the aircraft, flying it, operating the aircraft's cameras, communicating with the brigade command post and recovering the aircraft. The Shadow enables the brigade to instantaneously see things they couldn't see otherwise, creating a 3-dimensional picture of the battlefield, said Staff Sgt. Nathan Edwards, the detachment's standardization instructor-operator.

"We are the commander's eye in the sky," said Edwards, who is from Livonia, N.Y.

The Shadow can fly to heights of 15,000 feet, use its infrared camera system to see minute details on the ground and gather intelligence for the brigade. That intelligence helps improve security for friendly forces and civilians," Edwards said.

Over-watching troops to keep them safe is one of the exciting aspects of operating

the Shadow, said Shadow-operator Sgt. Kyle Benedict, of Syracuse. The Soldiers who operate the Shadow must stay abreast of the latest intelligence and recognize suspicious activities in order to transmit accurate information to the brigade, he added.

"The Shadow's infrared camera is sensitive enough to discern the temperature difference of freshly turned earth, a sign of new digging, which could indicate the emplacement of IEDs," Benedict said.

The Shadow can also relay radio transmissions between units on the ground. Soldiers fly the Shadow and operate its cameras with computers and radios housed in specially-designed military vehicles, said Staff Sgt. Todd Berardicurti, the detachment's maintenance supervisor, who has 15 years of experience in Army Aviation and served as a crew chief on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter.

Berardicurti was impressed by the Shadow's capabilities, including the fact that Soldiers operate it by remote-control. "You can go into an area and help guys on the ground without putting more Soldiers at risk," he said. **gt**



New York Army National Guard Sgt. Rocco Church performs a preflight safety inspection on the Shadow RQ-7 unmanned reconnaissance aircraft at Wheeler Sack Airfield on Fort Drum, April 15. Photo by Master Sgt. Peter Towse, 42nd Infantry Division



Welcome Home for 442nd MP Company

NEW YORK CITY - Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 442nd Military Police Company stand in formation April 8, at the Harlem Armory here during a ceremony welcoming them home from a 10-month deployment in Iraq. The unit arrived at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. on April 2 and were bused to the Harlem Armory to be reunited with families following out processing. Photo by Lt. Col. Paul Fanning, Joint Force Headquarters-New York

St. Patrick's Day In Iraq



BASRA, Iraq - Members of the New York Army National Guard's 501st Ordnance Battalion (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) get together with members of the Texas Army National Guard's 36th Division to celebrate St. Patrick's Day at Contingency Operating Base Basra. The New York Soldiers celebrated St. Patrick's Day in Iraq while their colleagues in the 1st Battalion 69th Infantry marched in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City.

The 501st is serving as the headquarters for Task Force Troy-South, with a mission of clearing improvised explosive devices from critical routes and infrastructure. Photo by Lt. Col. Rob Mitchell, 501st Ordnance Battalion (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)

'Fighting' 69th Leads 250th St. Pat's Day Parade





NEW YORK CITY--With the Chrysler Building in the background, the Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 1st Battalion 69th Infantry marches down Lexington Avenue as they return from the 250th New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. The "Fighting 69th" traditionally leads the parade each year following a special Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. This year marks the 160th time the unit has lead the Parade which begins when the commander of the 69th Infantry responds "The 69th is always ready" when the head of the parade asks if he is ready to go.

Rainbow Division Commander Receives Second Star



TROY - New York Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Steven N. Wickstrom (left) the commander of the 42nd Infantry Division, receives the promotion order after receiving his promotion to the rank of Major General by Maj. Gen. Patrick

Murphy, the New York State Adjutant General.

Wickstrom was joined by his wife Collette and son Brock, during a promotion ceremony here Feb. 12. Wickstrom has commanded the division since the spring of 2009.

Wickstrom was promoted in front of about 200 Soldiers of the 42nd Division Headquarters, leaders of the division's aligned-for-training brigades and directors of the Joint Force Headquarters staff of the New York National Guard.



Fort Hamilton Honors New York City Soldier



BROOKLYN - Members of the family of New York Army National Guard Sgt. Deon Taylor dedicate the baseball field at Fort Hamilton in his honor on May 2. Taylor was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2008. Taylor was as a NYPD officer. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery. From left, Col. Michael Gould, garrison commander of Fort Hamilton, Pamela Taylor, mother, Officer Damarr McBean, Taylor's brother, Darue Taylor, his son, Leon Taylor, his father and Family Morale Welfare and Recreation Director Sarah Johnson. In the background are Lt. Col. Michael Hoblin, commander of the 258th Field Artillery and NYPD Brooklyn Narcotics Deputy Inspector Frank Cangiarella. Photo by NYG WO 1 Ubon Mendie.

Eyes and Ears of an Infantry Battalion

Upstate New York Infantrymen Train for Afghan Deployment

Story by Master Sgt. Peter Towse, 42nd Infantry Division

Spc. Thomas Rinaldi and Spc. Edward Hernandez, snipers with the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, pose with their weapons during training at the New York State Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany, N.Y. on March 18.

The New York State Preparedness Training Center (SPTC), located at the former Oneida County Airport in Oneida County, is managed and operated by the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. The center includes 723 acres, an educational and administration building (the former airport terminal), hangars and runways which have been transformed into a centralized training facility for New York State agency and local first responders from all disciplines.

Photo by Maj. Roberta Comerford, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.



ORISKANY - They walk for miles, sometimes days, in advance of other troops, silently snaking through the terrain to find the enemy.

These Soldiers are the four-man sniper teams of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry's scout platoon, which is deploying to Afghanistan in 2012 with the 108th as part of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. To prepare for the deployment, the platoon of Guardsmen rode UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters to the New York State Preparedness Training Center here on March 18.

Once off the helicopters, the snipers broke off from the scouts, trudged through the snow and mud, slipped into the woods, found a high, dry spot, donned their camouflage sniper suits and began quietly practicing their skills: target acquisition, reconnaissance and surveillance.

As they would in war, the snipers used high-powered scopes to observe an area of interest and targets. In wartime, the tactical situation dictates whether the snipers will destroy or merely observe their targets. Their main mission is to gather intelligence and their weapons range from their rifles to their radios, according to sniper team leader Spc. Mark Dorsey, who is also a police sniper and trains SWAT teams. If they observe the enemy planting an improvised explosive device, they alert the scouts by radio so a clearing team can remove it, according to Dorsey.

"In some cases, the radio is a bigger tool than the gun," he stressed.

At their concealed position, the four snipers split into pairs to divide up the work. One pair pulls security, guarding the other pair as they watch the target using a tripod-mounted scope and a rifle-mounted scope - "one guy on top of the weapon and one guy on glass," as Dorsey puts it.

From their concealed location, the snipers also study the area to the front of their position and sketch it, including the locations of enemy personnel, their equipment, telephone poles, trees and buildings -- right down to doorways and windows.

"We are always looking for targets, whether stationary or moving and we update our sketch," Dorsey said. "We stay in a hidden position for as long as possible. Our job is to not be seen." **gt**



A 108th Infantry Regiment four-man sniper team loads their equipment onto a waiting UH-60 piloted by Army Aviation Support Facility 3 from Latham. Photo by Master Sgt. Peter Towse, 42nd Infantry Division.

101st Trains on \$100 Million WIN-T Equipment

Story by Spc. Trisha Pinczes, 138th Public Affairs Detachment
Photos by Spc Mary Hogle, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

FORT DRUM - Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's Yonkers-based 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion recently conducted Warfighter Information Network-Tactical training, also known as WIN-T, at the Fort Drum Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES).

"WIN-T is the primary state of the art, satellite based, communication equipment used by units and commanders on the battlefield," said Lt. Col. Greg W. Dreisbach, Battalion Commander, 101st Signal Battalion, NYARNG.

"The equipment provides that secure and non-secure voice, internet, and data communication link that units require in order to communicate with one another throughout the battlespace," added Dreisbach.

With more than \$100 million worth of brand new WIN-T equipment, the 101st Soldiers receive in depth, hands-on training on equipment that the unit will use during its scheduled 2012 deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"With a change of equipment, we are essentially starting from scratch," said Spc. Nathan Marshall, a signal Soldier with the 101st.

"We have to learn how to set up the equipment, process the information, and fix any problems we encounter," added Marshall.

WIN-T training at the Fort Drum MATES is comprised of two parts, one-third classroom and more importantly, two-thirds hands-on instruction.

"The hands-on training is what we get excited about," Marshall said. "It's very encouraging being motivated to practice what we will do overseas," he added.

When the 101st deploys next year, they will most likely find themselves separated into individual communication centers throughout their assigned battlespace. It is this possibility that makes the reality-based, hands on training they are receiving here at MATES all the more important.

"The Soldiers train on all of the equipment using live satellite access," said Capt. Justin Staubach, a systems engineer assigned to the 101st Signal Battalion. "Using the equipment as we will in the field is essential to preparing



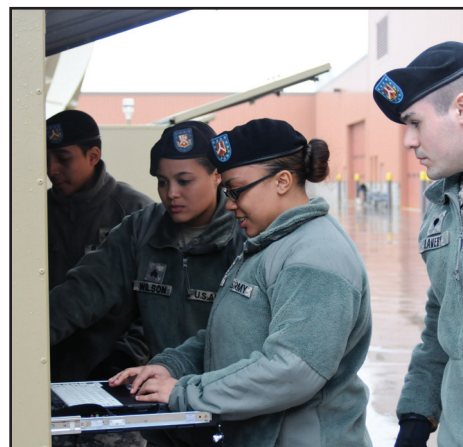
Soldiers from the 101st train to use state of the art Satellite Transportable Terminals at Fort Drum, March 16. The 101st is participating in the Warfighter Information Network- Tactical (WIN-T) program, which will prepare them to set up, operate and maintain the new communications equipment in a deployed environment.

for the deployment. Once they are in the field, they might not have someone there to help them out," he added.

The realistic training concept at the Fort Drum MATES facility allows the Soldiers to also train and communicate with all the components of WIN-T.

"Seeing the systems work together gives them the actual experience of what they will do in the field," said Staff Sgt. Tyrene Lesane, the Readiness Non-Commissioned Officer for the 101st Signal Battalion.

"We see the big picture of what we are really doing out there; our communications is what help keep Soldiers on the ground safe," added Lesane. **gt**



From near left: Sgt. Jasmine Wilson, Co. B, Pfc. Natasha Garcia, HHC, and Spc. John Lavery, Co. B. make configurations to one of the Satellite Transportable Terminals to operate over Ku-Band satellite frequencies.

Army Guard Recruit Training



QUEENSBURY--New York Army National Guard recruits assigned to the Recruit Sustainment Program get a mission brief from Sgt. Raymond Fiederer, a member of Company C 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry, prior to heading out on a training exercise on Saturday, March 12 at the Readiness Center here. The new Soldiers were conducting training on moving as part of a fire team using Air Soft simulated weapons. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Arthur Coon, New York Army National Guard Recruiting Command

Experimental Cannon Returns to Watervliet Arsenal



Command Post of the Future



LATHAM - New York Army National Guard Spc. Christina Sammons and Staff Sgt. Eduardo Ortiz, from Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade get some hints from Daniel Aldrich, a field system engineer for General Dynamics on the best way to use the Army Command Post of the Future (CPOF) system.

The use of 3-D mapping gives the user the ability to operate the CPOF in a tactical operations center environment by creating and displaying and playing out different battlefield scenarios.

According to Aldrich, the 3-D mapping benefits aviation to a large extent because of the availability of 3-D aerial graphics. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade

WATERVLIET - Soldiers from the New York Army National Guard's 1427 Transportation Company work with employees of the Watervliet Arsenal to unload an experimental cannon at the Arsenal's museum on Wednesday, April 13. The one-of-a-kind light weight 155 millimeter howitzer had been designed by the Arsenal as part of a 1995 crash program to put a lighter-weight towed weapon in troop's hands. The gun never went into production but the prototype has been stored in Vermont where the National Guard Soldiers picked it up for transport to the Arsenal. Photo by Staff Sgt. Thomas Wheeler, 138th Public Affairs Detachment

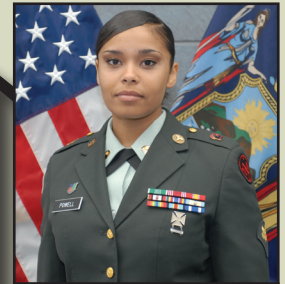


Sgt. Shawn Chapple
107th Military Police Co.



The 2011 Warrior Competition

From left: Traditional NCO of the Year, Sgt. Shawn Chapple, AGR NCO of the Year, Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Cleveland, Traditional Soldier of the Year, Spc. Desiree E. Powell and AGR Soldier of the Year, Spc. Michael Gondek.



Spc. Desiree E. Powell
427th Brigade Support Bn.



Staff Sgt. Jorge H. Lopez
53rd Troop Command



Staff Sgt. Sean F. Early
1427th Transportation Co.

Story by Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Wicks, 53rd Troop Command

LATHAM - The New York Army National Guard's 2011 Best Warrior Competition was held here March 25-27.

Thirteen winners of their brigade level competitions reported on March 25 and began the competition early Saturday morning performing an Army Physical Fitness Test and weigh-in. In the afternoon, participating Soldiers were administered a written test to assess their breadth and depth of knowledge on multiple military subjects. Additionally, they also had to complete eight Warrior Tasks to the standard, which included a map reading exercise.

After completing these tasks, Non Commissioned Officers were scored on reciting the NCO Creed and Soldiers ranked Specialist and below were scored on their recitation of the Soldier's Creed.

The competition culminated on Sunday with each competitor appearing before the Soldier board consisting of the State Command Sergeants Major and Command Sergeant Majors from each of New York's major commands.

Each year I am amazed at the

knowledge that the competitors at the New York Army National Guard's Best Warrior Competition exhibit as they tackle each event. Although we only select one winner in each category, as far as I am concerned, they are all winners. I know that all these Soldiers and NCO's will continue to grow and become our Enlisted Leaders of the future, and I know they will do well.

Spc. Desiree E. Powell, Co. C, 427th Bde. Support Bn. and Sgt. Shawn Chapple, 107th Military Police Company were selected to advance to the 1st Region Best Warrior competition held May 10-13 at Camp Smith. However, Powell was not able to attend and was replaced by the alternate selectee, Spc. Joshua McLean, 1427th Transportation Co. Staff Sgt. Derek Vasquez, 101st Cavalry was chosen as the second alternate.

Chapple finished in 1st place in the regional NCO competition.

The National Guard's 1st Region is composed of the following states: Conn., Mass., Maine, N.Y. N.H., R.I., Vt., and N.J. **gt**



Staff Sgt. Derrick Vasquez
101st Cavalry



Staff Sgt. Stephen Cleveland
108th Infantry Regiment



Staff Sgt. Kang C. Sin
53rd Troop Command



Sgt. Yi-Gin Huang
42nd Combat Avn. Bde



Spc. Harley Jelis
42nd Combat Avn. Bde.



Spc. Michael Gondek
642nd Avn. Support Bn.



Spc. Joshua McLean
1427th Transportation Co.



Spc. Dale O. Bonner
106th Regional Trng. Inst.



Pfc. Sebastian Rothwyn
719th Transportation Co.

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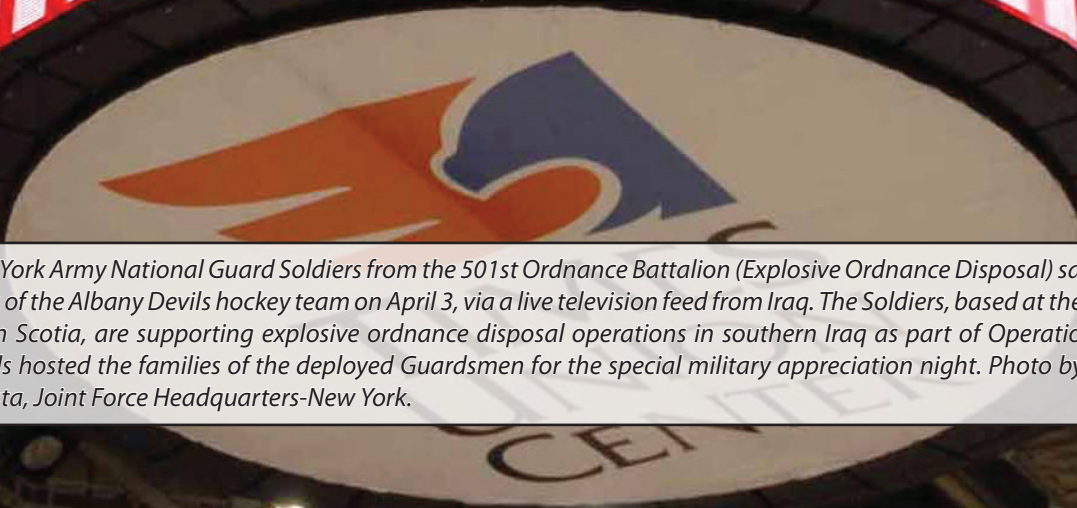
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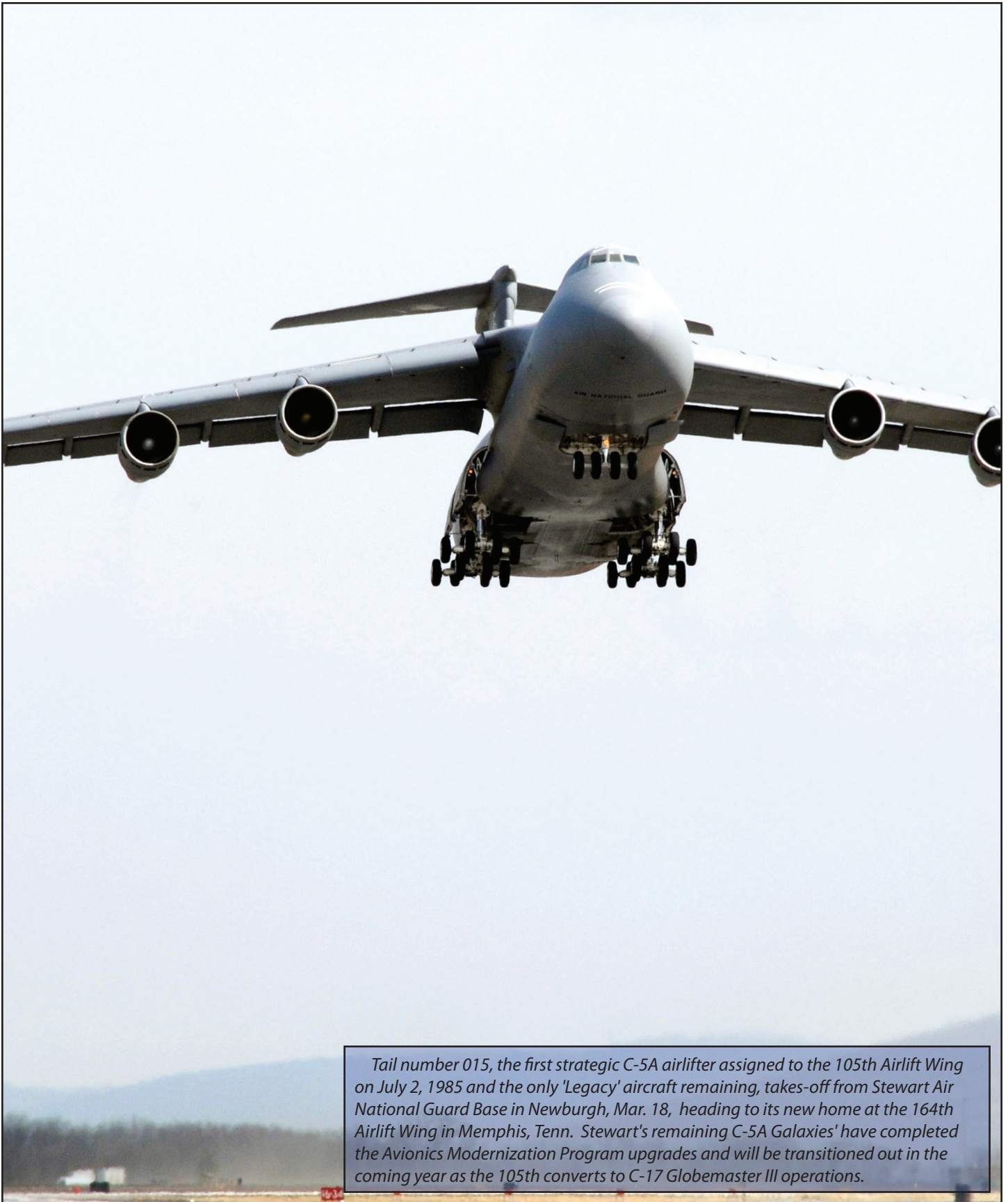
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INTERMITTER



ALBANY--New York Army National Guard Soldiers from the 501st Ordnance Battalion (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) say hello to their families and fans of the Albany Devils hockey team on April 3, via a live television feed from Iraq. The Soldiers, based at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Scotia, are supporting explosive ordnance disposal operations in southern Iraq as part of Operation New Dawn. The Albany Devils hosted the families of the deployed Guardsmen for the special military appreciation night. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Drumsta, Joint Force Headquarters-New York.

AIR NATIONAL GUARD



Tail number 015, the first strategic C-5A airlifter assigned to the 105th Airlift Wing on July 2, 1985 and the only 'Legacy' aircraft remaining, takes-off from Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, Mar. 18, heading to its new home at the 164th Airlift Wing in Memphis, Tenn. Stewart's remaining C-5A Galaxies' have completed the Avionics Modernization Program upgrades and will be transitioned out in the coming year as the 105th converts to C-17 Globemaster III operations.

First In, First Out!

First C-5A Received by the 105th Airlift Wing is the First to Fly to a New Home

Story by Guard Times Staff

Photos by Tech Sgt. Michael O'Halloran, 105th Airlift Wing

STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Newburgh - The New York Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Wing said goodbye to one of its 12 C-5A Galaxy aircraft March 18 as the wing began the process of converting to C-17 Globemaster III cargo planes.

The 105th Airlift Wing has operated C-5As at Stewart Air National Guard Base since July 1985.

The wing has been selected to replace the C-5As with more modern C-17s starting in July of this year. The wing will have replaced all the C-5As by May 2012.

The plane that left, tail number 015, was the first C-5A aircraft assigned to the 105th. It is the only aircraft operated by the wing that has not been through the C-5A avionics modernization program. This makes it what is known as a "legacy" plane.

Tail number 015 was picked up by a crew from the Tennessee Air National Guard who flew the plane to its new home with the 164th Airlift Wing in Memphis.

More than 1,300 full-time and traditional part-time Air National Guardmembers are assigned to the 105th Airlift Wing at the base.

Air Force officials announced the final basing decision on March 10.

The 105th will also receive training and test equipment this summer and continue training maintenance and aircrews until all eight C-17s are in place by May 2012.

"The decision ensures that our Air National Guard will be equipped with the most modern airlifter available, allowing the 105th Airlift Wing to play a key role in our nation's defense for years to come," said Major General Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York.

"The members of the 105th Airlift Wing are extremely excited about our selection to base C-17s here at Stewart," said Air Force Brig. Gen. Verle L. Johnston Jr., commander of the 105th Airlift Wing. "This is a tribute to the demonstrated skill, dedication and technical ability of our Airmen and women."

The C-17 is the newest, most flexible cargo aircraft to enter the airlift force. It is capable of rapid strategic delivery of troops and all types of cargo to main operating bases or directly to forward bases in the deployment area. The C-17's performance improves the ability of the total airlift system to fulfill the worldwide air mobility requirements of the United States.

Stewart's C-17 unit is scheduled to reach initial operating capability by December 2013. **gt**



Airman from the Tennessee Air National Guard review flight plans prior to the launch of C-5A Tail Number 015 from Stewart Air National Guard Base.



Then Gov. Mario Cuomo inspects C-5A Tail Number 015 in July 1985 when the aircraft first arrived at the base. Archive photo.

Long Island Airmen in the Deep Snow



PITTSBURGH, N.H. - Para rescue "Guardian Angles" from the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing practice transporting an injured victim through deep snow during snow rescue training conducted with local volunteer firemen here on, Feb. 4.

Members of the 103rd Rescue Squadron are trained to extract air crew downed behind enemy lines and conduct rescue operations in all terrain and weather situations. Eight Airmen participated in the unique training opportunity, which also involved snowmobile operations training. Photo by Claire Lynch, courtesy Colebrook News and Sentinel, N.H.

Commanders on Ice

MCMURDO BASE, Antarctica--Major General Patrick Murphy (left), the Adjutant General of New York, and Brig. Gen. Scott West, the Vice Commander of the 13th Air Force, discuss the characteristics of the 109th Airlift Wings LC-130 nose ski with Lt. Col. Mark Sakadolsky, a pilot with the 109th at McMurdo Station, Antarctica on Feb. 1. Murphy visited the Antarctic to get a first-hand look at the vital mission the Schenectady-based 109th handles each year when it flies supplies and people around the continent in support of National Science Foundation missions. Every component of the Amundsen-Scott Station the United States maintains at the bottom of the world was flown in by a New York Air National Guard aircraft. Photo by Major Jonathan Hammond, USAF, Joint Task Force -Support Forces Antarctica





NEWBURGH - Airman 1st Class James Segretti, describes operating powered winches to support cargo loads onto C-5A Galaxy strategic airlifters to Brig. Gen. Daniel Bader, commander, Air National Guard/Air Force Reserve Command Test Center during a tour of the 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart Air National Guard Base on March 7.

Bader is responsible for planning, coordinating, and conducting operational test and evaluation and tactics development and evaluation for mature weapons systems as directed by Air Combat Command, Air Mobility Command and Air Force Special Operations Command. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael O'Halloran, 105th Airlift Wing.



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Mission Minded in Austere Conditions



STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE - A February snowstorm paralyzing much of the nation doesn't deter the operations tempo at the 105th Airlift Wing. Members of the Stewart military community de-ice a C-5 Galaxy and clear snow from the flight line in preparation to launch a mission. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael O'Halloran.



Senator Eyes 174th

U.S. Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand (N.Y.) and U.S. Air Force Col. Kevin W. Bradley, 174th Fighter Wing Commander, speak with reporters after Senator Gillibrand's tour of Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, Syracuse on March 25. The media event took place at the base's Field Training Detachment, which is the school house responsible for all MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft maintenance training for the U.S. Air Force. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ricky J. Best, 174th Fighter Wing.

New Commander for 174th Maintenance



The 174th Fighter Wing Maintenance Group Commander, Col. John M. Balbierer hands the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Commander's guidon to the incoming Commander Maj. Tim T. Martin. Martin succeeds Lt. Col. Catherine A. Hutson as the 174th's Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Commander. Hutson has been elevated to the 174th Maintenance Group Deputy Commander. Photo by Staff Sgt. James N. Faso II, 174th Fighter Wing.

New Home for the Range



NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION-- Dignitaries from across Western New York joined Col. Mark Murphy, Commander of the 914th Airlit Wing; Col. Jame McCready, Commander of the 107th Airlift Wing; Major General James Kwiatkowski, Commander of the New York Air National Guard; and Rep. Louis Slaughter gather to break ground for a new Small Arms Range slated to be built at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

The range is expected to be completed in early 2012. It will 28,300 square foot, fully

enclosed facility and will house 21 firing lanes.

Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station is home to the 107th Airlift Wing of the New York Air National Guard and the 914th Airlift Wing of the United States Air Force Reserve. The base also houses an Armed Forces Reserve Center where Headquarters Troop of the New York Army National Guard's 101st Cavalry is located. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Ray Lloyd, 107th Airlift Wing.

Clean and Green Team at EADS



ROME -Ten Air National Guardsmen from the Eastern Air Defense Sector in Rome, N.Y. ignored the rain on Saturday, April 23, and cleaned a local highway in support of the sector's Clean and Green initiative. Pictured from left to right, are Technical Sgt. Rob Kryczkowski, Airman 1st Class Billy Young, Staff Sgt. Shane Hastings, Staff Sgt. Derek Miceli, Staff Sgt. Eric Lewis, Airman 1st Class Marie Coar, Technical Sgt. John Coar and Staff Sgt. Tom Caracane. Not pictured were Staff Sgt. Jean Warner and Airman 1st Class Kaytlin Jones. Photo by Timothy Jones, Eastern Air Defense Sector

Pros and Amateurs Face off in Hockey Fund Raiser

Event raised \$5,000 for 107th Airlift Wing and 914th Airlift Wing Family Readiness Groups

Story by Capt. Elaine Nowack, 107th Airlift Wing



Members of the 107th Airlift Wing and 914th Airlift Wing pose with the Buffalo Sabres Alumni prior to a fund-raiser game on April 10 at Niagara University. Photo by Tech Sgt. Justin Huett, 107th Airlift Wing.

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY—Four hundred spectators packed Dwyer Arena here Sunday, April 10 to watch former Buffalo Sabre hockey icons like Richard Dunn, Darryl Shannon and Andrew Peters face off against a team from Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

The game between the one-time pros and the members of the New York Air National Guard's 107th Airlift Wing and the Air Force Reserve's 914th Airlift Wing, is an annual event that raises funds for the Family Readiness Groups for both wings.

"We have built a true partnership with the Sabres Alumni," said Jeanne Goetze, 107th Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager.

Niagara University's Circle K Club and Buffalo Stars Junior Hockey also lent their resources to make this event happen.

"It was great working together with other community organizations to make this a successful event," Goetze said.

The event - won by the former Sabre's nine to three- raised \$5,000 for the Niagara Falls military families.

Master Sgt. Brian Schurr of the 107th Airlift Wing was one of the lucky members of Team Niagara who got the opportunity to play against some of his childhood hockey heroes.

"The alumni were more than giving of their time. They made sure to sign every autograph and they went out of their way to talk to the players and families," Schurr added.

The money will help pay for events and functions that ease the burden placed on families while their family member is deployed and events that promote overall morale throughout the base. A summer kids camp is planned as well as a spouse and volunteer appreciation dinner, which some of the funds from this event will support.

The idea for the fundraising event came from Karen Karamanoukian, Executive Vice President of the Vein Treatment Center.

Karamanoukian approached the base with the idea of a fundraiser to help local Airmen.

The alumni were treated to a chicken barbecue, a tour of a hangar and the opportunity to sit at the helm of a C-130. Pilots and loadmasters were on hand to answer any questions. In turn, the alumni offered members and their families' autographs and posed for photos.

Events such as these make the association between the 107th and the 914th stronger. In April of 2008, in response to the BRAC decision of 2005, the 107th Air Refueling Wing converted from a refueling mission to its cur-

rent mission as an airlift wing. The 107th works with and shares the same C-130 airframes as its counterparts, the Air Force Reserves 914th. "This was a great event for all involved. There was seamless teamwork between the 107th and 914th. It's another fine example of our partnership," said Col. James McCready, 107th Airlift Wing Commander. "We can't thank the Sabres Alumni Association and Karen Karamanoukian enough for all of their support." **gt**



Col. Jim McCready, commander, 107th Airlift Wing starts off the Buffalo Sabres Alumni against Niagara Falls Air Reserves Station's "Team Niagara" game on April 10. Sabres Danny Gare faces off with Air Force Reserve John Rettig. Air Force Photo by Tech Sgt. Justin Huett, 107th Airlift Wing.

New York Guard Hero Saves a Life

Story and photo by Warrant Officer Ubon A. Mendie



QUEENS – A New York Guard Soldier bravely sprang in to action, saving the life of a baby after a two-car crash near his home in Cambria Heights, April 3.

Pfc. Russell Simplicie, of the 14th Brigade in Whitestone, responded to

the accident after he heard the deafening collision.

“I heard a loud screech then boom, while I was raking my lawn,” Simplicie said. “I started to walk toward the sound and that’s when I realized what was going on.”

Five passengers were in a green van which was left pinned to a tree. Two boys, aged 10 and 12 were unhurt in the crash, but their parents and young sibling were injured and in need of immediate assistance.

That is when Simplicie jumped into action.

Disregarding the broken glass and other debris, Simplicie, with the assistance of other good Samaritans, was able to get the rear van door open, just wide enough for him to crawl inside and rescue the crying child.

“I felt this adrenaline rush and just ran in there and grabbed her,” Simplicie said. “A neighbor gave me a white towel to wrap her in, and I handed her to my wife. Then I went back in to help the parents.”

Both parents were sitting in the front of the vehicle, they were conscious after the crash, but they were bleeding heavily from the impact with the windshield.

Both the driver and passenger looked dazed and were not moving.

Simplicie knew that one of the most important parts of his response was to keep the victims calm until they were taken to the hospital.

“I’m just glad that I was able to be there when a family needed me,” said Simplicie, who waited with the family until first responders arrived. “I didn’t do anything special, just what I would expect anyone else to.” **gt**

New York Guard Honors Their Fallen

Story and photo by Warrant Officer Ubon Mendie, New York Guard

SLEEPY HOLLOW CEMETERY – The New York Guard’s First Provisional Regiment Memorial Service was held on May 1 to honor the memory of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect New York.

Continuing a 93-year tradition, troops gathered at the memorial stone for 32 members of the New York Guard’s original 1st Provisional Regiment who died during the Spanish influenza pandemic in 1918. The New York Guardsmen replaced the National Guard’s 27th Division in state service, following their overseas deployment in World War I.

“We gather at this site to recognize those who gave their lives to insure our sovereignty” said Sleepy Hollow Mayor Kenneth Wray. “Our presence is a show of support to those serving presently, and those of the past.”

The New York Guard was activated to protect the New York water system from sabotage by German agents. While on patrol guarding the

state’s water supply, 32 volunteers contracted the influenza virus, which eventually took their lives. To mark their sacrifice a boulder from Bonticou Crag in Ulster County’s Shawangunk Mountains, lay in memoriam – a small piece from the vast area of the aqueduct they protected.

This year’s ceremony began with an opening precession by the 89th New York Guard Band, followed by two wreaths laid by representatives of both the NYG and the Veterans Corps of Artillery, an honorary military group. Words of reflection were offered by Mayor Wray and Lt. Col. David Warager the commanding officer of the 56th Brigade.

Following all remarks, 3 rounds of volleys were fired by the 56th Brigade honor guard, while reflecting volunteers and civilians saluted the New York heroes.

More than 8,000 New Yorkers, from all walks of life, served in the 1st Provisional Regiment,

the original New York Guard unit. Forty died while performing homeland defense duty. Thirty-two of the deaths were attributed to complications from Spanish influenza. **gt**



Members of the New York Guard band perform at the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery during the 93rd Annual Remembrance Ceremony for the First Provisional Regiment on May 1.

Jamaica Armory Soldiers Assist WWII Guard Vet

Story and photo by Warrant Officer Ubon Mendie, New York Guard

QUEENS – Soldiers at the Jamaica Armory helped close a chapter for a decorated WWII veteran, after he summoned their help, in April.

Barnet Schulman reached out to the Soldiers as he walked in to the armory on 168th Street requesting assistance in receiving an old award from the New York Guard, the states all volunteer military force.

“I Barnet Schulman enlisted in the New York State Guard on March 24, 1943,” said the letter he carried in hand to the armory. I was a member of E Company, Fifth Regiment, located on 1122 Franklin Ave, Bronx, N.Y.”

He explained he left the New York Guard, enlisting in the Army to support the conflict in WWII. Other than his discharge documents for the New York Guard, he had nothing tangible to mark his service, and wanted to see the situ-

ation rectified.

“To show my service, I am requesting the New York State Guard Ribbon/Medal,” Schulman appealed. “It will make me very happy, and I will be able to sleep at night.”

Sgt. 1st Class Victor Lopez, the Company G readiness non-commissioned-officer-in-charge and his staff made it a priority to get the job done.

“I knew the state would help, it was just a matter of sending the correct information,” Lopez added. “All of us listened and wanted to help, and I’m glad we got it done.”

After compiling all the documents necessary for Schulman’s request, the Soldiers forwarded the package to Headquarters New York Guard in Latham. What came back was a dream come true for Shulman.

“It is with great honor that the New York Guard can present you with the New York Guard Service Ribbon and Certificate for your honorable service to the New York Guard.” stated the letter addressed to Schulman from the New York Guard administrative officer Gregory Schwartz.

Along with the award were pictures of the 5th Regiment, where he served, giving Schulman a permanent keepsake of his past.

“I would like to thank Sgt. 1st Class Lopez, Staff Sgt. Pierre, Staff Sgt. Vargas, Sgt. Grisales and Spc. Teczynska.” Schulman said. “I don’t know how [you all did it], I have been trying for over 60 years to get this ribbon. I thank you with all my heart.” **gt**



World War II veteran Barnet Schulman, who served with the New York Guard before joining the Army, stands with New York Army National Guard Soldiers based at the Jamaica Armory who helped him receive a certificate documenting his service in New York’s homeland security force in 1943. Photo courtesy of Estelle Schulman.

New York Naval Militia

Deputy Commander Supports Naval Sea Cadets 2nd Annual Ball



WEST POINT - Rear Adm. John Ingram, Deputy Commander of the New York Naval Militia attended the 2nd Annual U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NCSS) Ball given by the Hudson Valley/Training Ship Wire units at the West Point Club, West Point, N.Y. on April 9.

Ingram attended as the key note speaker and to show his support for this worthwhile youth organization. The Sea Cadets Program is for young men and women ages 10-17 who are interested in developing their skills in leadership, basic seamanship, courage, self reliance, military discipline and are committed to being drug and gang free.

While cadet units are organized along military lines, their main purpose is to foster good citizenship and an interest and appreciation of our nation's sea services: the Navy, Marine Corps,

Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine.

The New York Naval Militia has been sponsoring the Sea Cadet units in upstate New York, to include Newburgh, Albany and Saratoga for more than 10 years.

From left: Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Metchick, Associate Regional Director, Ingram, Lt. Cmdr. Katharine Keller, Commanding Officer of the Hudson Valley Squadron/Training Ship Wire Sea Cadets, Chief Warrant Officer Dennis McCoy, N.Y. Naval Militia and Lt. Cmdr. Kenneth Kaskoun, Associate Regional Director. Photo courtesy of New York Naval Militia.

Keeping Afloat with Maritime Procedures

Story by Guard Times Staff



Petty Officer First Class Steve Gauci (Whitehall), and Chief Petty Officer Wayne Hurlburt (North Granville) onboard Patrol Boat 221 at Lake George, on May 2 along with 30 other law enforcement officers from across the state, the two Naval Militiamen were participating in the week-long Marine Patrol Vessel Operator Course, sponsored by The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Bureau of Marine Services. Courtesy photo.

LAKE GEORGE - Members of New York's Naval Militia and approximately 30 law enforcement officials throughout New York participated in a Marine Patrol Vessel Operator Course offered by The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Bureau of Marine Services.

New York conducts these courses each spring on Lake George. It was the first time that members of the Naval Militia's Military Emergency Boat Service participated.

Culinary Specialist Chief Petty Officer Wayne Hurlburt and Port Security Specialist First Class Petty Officer Steve Gauci represented the Naval Militia. Other participants were from the State Police, Park Police, county sheriffs and local municipalities.

"We were the only non-law enforcement agency in attendance," said Cmdr. Donald McKnight, New York State Military Emergency Boat Service, "This course goes a long way towards developing awareness of the naval militia with the various law enforcement agencies."

The course is a professional, structured one-week boat operator course aimed at professionalizing and standardizing the duties of a marine patrol officer with respect to operating a law enforcement vessel. This course included training in vessel handling and maneuvering, seamanship, towing operations, search and rescue, charting, use of marine electronics and more.

"The scope of training was very beneficial," Hurlburt said. "It greatly enhanced our seamanship abilities regardless of weather conditions and allowed me to sharpen those skills."

While not mandatory, it is a definite positive training event for us. McKnight went on to say.

Certain law enforcement aspects of the course did not apply to the Naval Militia, however, since they have the ability to augment law enforcement by providing a maritime platform, many of the techniques that were taught in the course might be useful.

Information Technologies First Class Petty Officer Aldershoff went to Lake George to help recover the boat, which is currently being kept at the South Lake Ave, Armory in Troy. **gt**



Petty Officer First Class Garrett Aldershoff and Petty Officer First Class Steve Gauci inspect the motor on PB 221 prior to operations on Lake George, May 6. Courtesy photo.

GUARD NEWS BRIEFS AND PHOTOS

Newest Readiness Center Opened



CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE- Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General (left); Rep. Nan Hayworth, from the 19th District, Elizabeth Glazer, New York State Deputy Secretary of Public Safety; Brig. Gen. Michael Swezey, commander of the 53rd Troop Command and Donald Bennett, Jr., Deputy Mayor of Peekskill, cut the ribbon dedicating the new Camp Smith Readiness Center, April 21.

The \$30 million Center will serve as home for approximately 350 National Guard Soldiers assigned to Headquarters, 53rd Troop Command; Company C, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry; the 42nd Infantry Division Band; the 727th Military Police Detachment and elements of the 1156th Engineer Company, as well as an Army National Guard recruiting office. Photo by Staff Sgt. Thomas Wheeler, 138th Public Affairs Detachment

Partners in Care



CAMP SMITH - New York Army National Guard chaplains joined with area clergy and faith leaders at Camp Smith Training Site on March 15 to launch the new "Partners in Care" initiative between the Army chaplaincy and local faith communities and to dedicate the newly renovated Chaplain "Father" Duffy Spiritual Fitness Center. In this photo they joined together in a prayer for the safety for those serving in the armed forces and for all victims of violence. Photo courtesy of Noel Dawes

109th Airmen Meet the Press



STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE - Airman 1st Class Dan James, a loadmaster from the 109th Airlift Wing answers questions from Capitol Region media about the return of the units LC-130 aircraft from earthquake torn New Zealand.

James recalled the feeling of being in an earthquake and described the powerful sensation and sounds that he experienced that day. The 109th deploys each year to Antarctica in support of Operation DEEP FREEZE and uses Christchurch, New Zealand as a location to launch aircraft to and from McMurdo Station. Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara, 109th Airlift Wing

New York Citizen Soldiers Answered the Call 150 Years Ago

By Eric Durr, Guard Times Staff



The Thomas Nast painting "The Departure of the Seventh Regiment to the War" depicts the frenzy that gripped New York City when the unit departed. (Courtesy New York State Military Museum)

Over 150 years ago New Yorkers went to war to save the Union and preserve the United States as the long-simmering dispute over slavery that separated north and south turned into a shooting war.

More than half-a million New Yorkers enlisted in the Army and the Navy and 53,114 died.

The New York Militia, which would shortly be named the New York National Guard, was in the forefront of that fight.

New York had a militia force of 19,189 Soldiers, commanded by 36 general officers organized into 77 regiments, 28 brigades and eight divisions. The New York militia was larger than the United States Army.

On April 16, 1861 the New York Legislature called for mobilizing 11 regiments and 7,334 Soldiers as a first increment in answering Lincoln's call for 13,208 troops from New York.

The Seventh Regiment, known as the "Silk Stocking Regiment" and composed of Soldiers from socially prominent New York City families, was fully equipped and manned, as was the

5th Regiment. In contrast, the 69th Infantry Regiment, composed mainly of working class Irish immigrants, had only 380 uniforms for its more than 1,000 Soldiers.

Even the Seventh Regiment was lacking equipment and 31 Wall Street businessmen chipped in \$100 each to help buy equipment. The New York Stock Exchange kicked in another \$1,000.

The Seventh Regiment was the first unit to leave New York, heading out on April 19 for the ferry to Jersey City as New Yorkers turned out to cheer. Each man was directed to have his gray fatigue uniform, sky-blue greatcoat, and knapsack with one rolled blanket. Each Soldier carried suitable underwear, an extra pair of ankle boots, mess utensils, waist belt and cap pouch.

One-by-one, other units-- Varians Light Artillery Battery; the Sixth Regiment (the Governor's Guards); the 71st Regiment; the Eighth Regiment (the Washington Greys); the 13th Regiment and the 69th Regiment; the Fifth Regiment; and the 28th Regiment-left New York City for Washington. Upstate the 25th

Regiment left Albany and the 74th Regiment departed Buffalo in answer to the call for troops for 90 days.

The lineage of some of these regiments is carried by today's New York Army National Guard Units. The 53rd Army Liaison Team traces its history to the Seventh Regiment, while the 1st Battalion 258th Field Artillery is the successor to the Eighth Regiment.

The 69th Regiment survives today as the 1st Battalion 69th Infantry.

These Citizens Soldiers would provide the initial defense of the federal capital from a Confederate attack and eventually see combat at the First Battle of Bull Run.

Throughout the period of the Civil War Sesquicentennial observance, the Division of Military and Naval Affairs will produce articles about New York's Civil War experience researched by the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs. You can learn more about the role of New Yorkers in the Civil War by going to the Division of Military and Naval Affairs Website and clicking on the button labeled "New York's Civil War Time Line." **gt**

Troops Read to Children

By Guard Times Staff



NEW YORK – Soldiers from the 133rd Quartermaster Supply Company based in Brooklyn volunteered their time to read to approximately 100 children here at the Brooklyn Public Library March 4. Spc. Cindy Josiah, left, and Pfc. William Wells read children's books such as "Ferdinand the Bull" and "Noodle" to two separate groups of schoolchildren and their teachers at the library.

The event was part of the "Read Across America" program which encourages children to read while celebrating the March 2, birthday of Theodore Seuss Geisel, widely recognized as "Dr. Seuss."

New York City units from the National Guard supported events at local libraries for the past three years.

"The library staff was delighted with the two Soldiers and how much they got into the readings," said Chief Warrant Officer Lashana Taylor from the 133rd Quartermaster Company. "They were able to draw the children in with their voices which kept them up and interested."

"The teachers were glad that the librarian chose Soldiers, so that their children could see another side of Soldiers in the military, besides what they see on TV," Taylor said.

*Photo courtesy of Sarah Tilevitz, Librarian, Kensington Library, Brooklyn.

Youth Workshop Builds Togetherness

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo, Joint Force Headquarters

SARATOGA SPRINGS - Developing key leaders and stronger family readiness groups was the focus for over 180 New York National Guard family volunteers and military personnel here, April 15-17.

"A large part of the weekend is getting to meet other volunteers and learning from their experiences," said Sgt. First Class Frank White, military point of contact for the 501st Explosive Ordnance Detachment.

At the 2011 New York National Guard Family and Youth Training Workshop participants received information briefings and discussed family program and readiness group roles and responsibilities, communication techniques, fundraising, event planning and identifying and using available resources.

"The weekend training was designed to help establish and facilitate ongoing communication, involvement, support and recognition between National Guard Families and the National Guard in a partnership that promotes the best in both," said Andrew DePalo, the New York National Guard Family Programs Director.

"This is done through education, outreach services and partnerships by leveraging resources, training and constantly capitalizing on new capabilities, concepts and technological advances," DePalo added.

Since 2007, the New York National Guard Family Programs has developed a vast network of trained volunteers working with Active and Reserve Components; government agencies; employers; veteran and volunteer service organizations, and private businesses to support New York military service members and their families.

While adult volunteers focused on helping families cope with the stresses of military life and deployments, nearly 80 children, ages 6-18, shared a weekend of leadership and team building of their own.

"The Youth program provides support and skills training in leadership, mentoring and resource coordination that reflect the unique needs of military youth," said Colleen Casey, New York National Guard Child & Youth Coordinator.

"The 4-H focuses on science, engineering, and technology, healthy living, and citizenship which is a perfect fit for what we try to instill in our National Guard youth," Casey said.

The 4-H is affiliated with the Youth Program to provide resources to help dependents cope.

"It's great to have all these kids come together, because they realize they are not alone, there are a lot of kids dealing with the same issues or circumstances, whether one parent or another is deployed or just returned," Casey said. **gt**



Greg Stevens (right), 4-H Community Educator for Saratoga County helps Dokota Mattern, age 8 from Lockport, NY build a bluebird house during a natural resource lab as part of the NY National Guard Family and Youth Training Workshop, April 16.

Long Standing State CSM Retires

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Drumsta, Joint Force Headquarters- NY



The last draftee Soldier on active duty, United States Army Material Command Sgt. Major Jeffery Mellinger (left), presents a United States Flag to outgoing New York State Command Sgt. Major Robert Van Pelt during his retirement dinner on May 6. Mellinger was drafted into the Army in 1972. He and Van Pelt, also a draftee, were in the same class in the Sergeants Major Academy. Van Pelt retired from the New York Army National Guard after serving as New York State Command Sergeant Major for ten years. Van Pelt, a veteran of the Vietnam War served in the Active Army, Army Reserve and New York Army National Guard for 42 years. Photo by Spc Jeremy Bratt, Joint Force Headquarters.

LATHAM - Though he's retired after serving more than four decades in the Army, former New York state Command Sgt. Major Robert Van Pelt plans to continue to take care of soldiers.

"Soon my military service will end," Van Pelt said at an emotional transfer-of-responsibility ceremony held at **Joint Force Headquarters**, May 6. "But my service to the military will go on forever."

Van Pelt, who served more than a decade as the state command sergeant major, said he plans to work on Soldiers' behalf via the numerous veteran and military service organizations he's involved in.

In addition to being dedicated, honest, ethical and hardworking, Van Pelt is committed to the state and the nation, said Maj. Gen. Patrick

Murphy, Adjutant General for the State of New York.

"You have been an awesome Soldier," Murphy said of Van Pelt. "You are an American Soldier. I could not have asked for a better partner to start out my tenure in this position."

Van Pelt is being replaced by Command Sgt. Major Frank Wicks, who assumed his duties on May 9.

Van Pelt's service began in 1969, when he was drafted into the Army. During Basic Training he re-enlisted so he could choose a military skill and joined the Signal Corps. He served in Vietnam and Italy before leaving Active Duty in 1971.

In October 1974 he joined the 187th Signal Brigade of the New York Army National Guard. He served briefly in the Tennessee Army

National Guard, worked his way up through the ranks in various New York Army National Guard units and was appointed state command sergeant major in June 2001.

"If somebody would've told me that, in 1971, when I got off the plane from Vietnam in Fort Dix, that I'd be doing this 41, 42 years later, I would've had them committed," Van Pelt joked after the ceremony.

Through his Army service, he's visited all 50 states, two territories and 17 foreign countries.

"I think the Army did more for me than I did for the Army," he said. "It gave me an opportunity to expand my horizons."

Though sometimes choked up during his farewell speech, Van Pelt joked his way through as he recounted the events of his career. The terrorist attacks of 9-11 "shook us to our core," Van Pelt said, after asking the audience of Soldiers, civilians and others to observe a moment of silence for fallen service members.

"Never in my life did I think I would be sending Soldiers downrange to fight a war," Van Pelt said, "I will tell you as a Vietnam veteran, I am so proud of the way in which we now recognize our veterans and their families. America has gotten it right, and though some may not agree with the war, our Soldiers are treated with respect. I have always said, you don't have to glorify the war, but glorify the warrior."

Wicks is the fifth state command sergeant major, Van Pelt noted, and he has complete faith that he'll build on his predecessors' programs and deliver the outstanding NCO leadership Soldiers deserve.

"Frank, you're making it easy for me to leave," Van Pelt said to Wicks in his farewell speech. "I've come to know, respect and appreciate your values." **gt**

