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FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Communicating our National Guard commitments

The nation and our state and national leaders are asking a lot of our National Guardsmen these days. The catch phrase for the Guard for years has been one weekend a month and two weeks a year. I would ask each one of you, is that true?

The National Guard today requires much more of each of us.

If you're a member of the 69th Infantry, you know it took extra training to get ready for three weeks in Australia for Talisman Sabre.

If you're in the 27th Infantry Brigade headquarters or 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, then you know that a few months ago you were not thinking about a nine-month deployment to Ukraine to train that country's army. But now that is the priority mission.

If you're in the 42nd Infantry Division, then you know that soon you'll be gearing up for extra training time to get ready for Warfighter and a deployment in 2019.

And if you're in the 53rd Troop Command, you were definitely not planning on spending a snowy March day in a Humvee beside Interstate 84 so you could shut down the highway. But you did.

If you are a member of the Air Guard, you know worldwide deployability within 72 hours takes more than one weekend a month and two weeks every summer.

We have the 105th Airlift Wing flying global missions working for Air Mobility Command.

We have the 106th Rescue Wing who showed up for a normal workday and within hours launched an aircraft and pararescue team to save the lives of two civilians who were involved in a ship accident halfway across the Atlantic. You can read the details of this demanding mission on page 24 of this issue of Guard Times.

We have the 107th Attack Wing, who just started flying combat missions from Niagara Falls after spending two years travelling off-

site to fly their wartime missions.

We have the 109th Airlift Wing training and flying missions in Greenland until August and then heading back to Antarctica from October to next March.

We have the 174th Attack Wing training students and flying combat missions every day, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year to keep us all safe.

For a couple of months this summer we had almost 1,000 Guardsmen on duty for flood control along Lake Ontario, or working New York City security with Joint Task Force Empire Shield.

Our Soldiers and Airmen will continue to miss holidays, birthdays, graduations, weddings, family reunions, you name it, we miss it. I wish I could tell you that the pace will slow down, but as long as there is conflict in this world and domestic needs in the state, we will be working.

Being a Guard Soldier is definitely a lot more than a weekend each month and two weeks a year. I appreciate the sacrifices you all make to serve: missed time with family, and friends and kids.

Recently Brig. Gen. Ray Shields, the Army Guard commander, teamed up with Brig. Gen. Steve Ferrari, the commander of the 42nd ID, and Brig. Gen. Mike Natali, commander of the 53rd Troop Command, to write a letter to employers explaining why we are asking you to spend more time training for and being on missions.

It's a good letter and I urge you to share it with your boss. If you have not yet read it, check in with your first-line leader.

Make sure your employer understands why you may need more time off and make sure you give them a heads up way before scheduled training and deployments.

I know there are some units out there where things seem a little bit slow right now, but trust me that is likely to change.

For those who feel like you need to run hard just to stand still, because you're so busy, hang in there. You're doing important work.

If you're a leader I am counting on you to spend time communicating with your troops. I want you to really listen to what they say.

Let them know about upcoming missions and why we are asking more from them. Listen to their concerns. Make sure your troops know what is expected. Listen to their questions and concerns.

What do they need to do their job? How can you help them succeed? Does they need to change MOS or AFSC?

I know it's harder for Army leadership to circulate to armories that are scattered across upstate New York than it is for Air Guard leaders to talk to people all clustered on one base. But I encourage all of you to get out and see the folks that make things happen.

We ask a lot of our Army Guard platoon sergeants and squad leaders. We should make sure that those E-7s, E-6s, and E-5s have our priorities and treat our Soldiers in a way that makes them want to stay in the Guard. Make sure those direct leaders have the information they need to help Soldiers make decisions.

I've also got a special message for all you Army sergeants major and Air Guard chiefs out there.

I've had the opportunity to meet a lot of you since becoming Adjutant General, and you folks are an awesome group. You're professional, dedicated, and experienced. And you can also be very intimidating.

You intimidate me sometimes, so imagine how you come across to a young troop.

Keep that in mind as you're out there mixing it up with the Soldiers and Air-



**Maj. Gen.
Anthony German**

men. We count on you to be our eyes and ears on the ground, but if you're too scary, that young private or airman first class isn't going to honestly open up.

Communication is what makes our teams work, and when a team comes together, they can accomplish extraordinary missions.

Each of you are completing an extraordinary mission each day. It may not seem like it, but we need to be ready to respond at a moment's notice when called. We are all going to be busy. We are going to be asked to do more.

You've all got an important mission to do. And it all matters to the people of this nation that we serve. Thank you for what each one of you do every day.



New Troops Join Ranks

QUEENSBURY, N.Y. -- Pfc. Kyle Lamica shakes hands with his Drill Sergeant during a recruit Battle Handoff Ceremony here May 21. Lamica and 110 other recruits recently completed training and now join their units statewide. Lamica begins his military career with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry in Morrisville, N.Y. Photo by Pfc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.



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Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation assigned to the Army Aviation Support Facility in Latham set up a Bambi Bucket for training near Round Lake, N.Y., May 31, 2017. The annual qualification training prepares crews for wildfires, so they can be qualified to employ the firefighting buckets to extinguish them. Photo by Pfc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.



FRONT COVER: Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard setup barriers of sandbags May 18, 2017 around homes along the Lake Ontario in Kendall, N.Y. when flooding resulted in a May 2 state of emergency. National Guard members have filled nearly one million sandbags. See our story on page 12. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Campbell, 107th Attack Wing.

BACK COVER: Two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation transport two M119A2 Howitzers to a landing zone during an air assault artillery raid at Fort Drum June 9, 2017. The raid, which was conducted in conjunction with Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, involved transporting the howitzers to a landing zone then utilizing them to engage a simulated enemy target. Photo by Sgt. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

'Lost boy' Gives Back to America, Joins Air Guard

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

SCOTIA, N.Y. — Thirty years ago and 6,000 miles away, Airman 1st Class Francis Andrew was a seven-year-old “lost boy.”

Andrew was one of about 20,000 Sudanese children who lost their families during the country’s civil war between ethnic groups and regions, which began in 1983 and lasted until 2005.

Dubbed “lost boys” by refugee workers, Andrew and other children walked from Sudan to Ethiopia, and then on to Kenya in search of safety. In 2001, Andrew, then 21 years old, was among those who made it to the United States and safety.

Since then, he’s gotten a college degree, has a wife and an 11-year old son, along with a good job with Delhaize Group, the company which operates Hannaford and Food Lion supermarkets.

And in 2016, at the age of 36, he joined the New York Air National Guard’s 109th Airlift Wing here.

“There are only a few places in the world that can give you opportunities to thrive, and I am lucky to be in this country,” Andrew said. “I see that as an opportunity to give back.”

Andrew took his first step on U.S. soil only a few weeks after the 9/11 attacks. He and a group of others were en route to a life they had only dreamed of when the attacks occurred.

Andrew said many of the boys were scared, wondering why they could not escape war. As one of the older refugees, Andrew tried to comfort them and told them to stay strong. The group was grounded in Holland for a couple weeks before finally making it to the United States.

Andrew got settled in Ohio, arriving with just a change of clothes.

He soon found a job and also obtained his GED. While in Ohio, Andrew met his wife, Lekeya, who was going to college there but was from the Albany area.

A year later, Andrew moved back to the Albany area with Lekeya where they have been since. He started going to Hudson Valley Community College and obtained his associate’s degree – another goal he never thought he’d have the opportunity to accomplish. He also talks to his mother, who still lives in South Sudan, frequently.

“I worked hard, had a family and bought a house,” he said. “Things I never thought I would have. When I was in the camp, we just lived day by day. If you made it out today, you hoped for tomorrow and then to make it out tomorrow.”

Because of all the opportunities Andrew had once arriving to the United States, he said he wanted to do something to give back to the country that had done so much for him.

“I want to be able to sit down with my son and my grandkids and tell them stories of what I achieved and what I did to get there,” Andrew said. “I don’t like taking things for granted – I try working hard for the things I get.”

Andrew heard about the 109th Airlift Wing and the unit missions to Greenland and Antarctica.

“I saw the mission that we do here, and it caught my attention,” he said. “Being able to go to Antarctica is something that I never would’ve imagined I could do growing up in a refugee camp, and then now seeing these missions I may be able to go on is another milestone for me.”

He also said the Air Force core values were values he held in his



Airman 1st Class Frances Andrew

“There are only a few places in the world that can give you opportunities to thrive, and I am lucky to be in this country. I see that as an opportunity to give back.”

-- Airman 1st Class Frances Andrew, 109th Airlift Wing

heart even before joining, so the Air Force was a perfect fit for him.

Andrew left for basic training in March 2016, and while at school took on a mentorship role for the younger Airmen he encountered.

“I wanted to help them out and motivate them,” he said. “I would support them – I tried to blend in but also tried to help them. I look at things differently – when I see younger Airmen who are upset, I always pull them aside. I don’t like to share my story with too many people, but when it gets to the point that my story can help someone else, I’m always open to sharing it with them.”

Andrew is now assigned to the

109th Airlift Wing’s Command Support Staff, performing administrative duties for wing leadership.

Since joining the 109th, Andrew said it’s a great place to work. From the recruiter who helped him join, Master Sgt. Shawn Keating, to the cadre in his student flight, and the wing leadership, Andrew is thankful for everything.

“It’s a good base - people really get along here,” he said. “Everyone is open, even the leadership. It’s the kind of leadership skills that I want to learn – to have that connection with people. I’m happy to be here, and I’m hoping that my story will help someone out.”

Engineer mentors team to success in TAG Match

Story by Staff Sgt. Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. – For New York Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Michael Kapela, his seventh Adjutant General’s marksmanship competition—known as the “TAG Match” — was more meaningful than his first.

Ten years ago Kapela, who has served in the Guard for 16 years, won a clean sweep of all the events during his first TAG Match as a novice, and he has competed twice at regional National Guard shooting matches and once at the national level.

This year Kapela took top honors in the individual rifle match and was also part of the rifle team that won first place.

Helping the team from his unit, the 152nd Engineer Support Company, earn first place in the rifle marksmanship event is what made this time around special, Kapela said.

Training for the match was an opportunity to teach marksmanship skills while continuing to learn new tips and techniques from other service members, Kapela explained.

He’s not in it for the trophy or the recognition; he’s in it to help the next generation of Soldiers, Kapela added.

“There are 101 theories out there on how to be a great shooter, but not everything will work for you,” Kapela said. “It’s about trying and implementing new tips until you get it right, and that’s what the TAG Match gives you an opportunity to do.”

Kapela has a significant amblyopia (lazy eye) and that would deter most people from pursuing both a hobby and profession that relies heavily on ocular accuracy. But he said it only strengthened his resolve to learn and try even harder.

Kapela said he uses the mantra that his father, a 35-year Army veteran combat engineer,

gave to him when he was eight years old: “If you’re going to show someone what you can do, first you need to show them how to get it done.”

Kapela was one of 68 service members who participated in the 38th Annual “TAG Match” Combat Sustainment Training Exercise here from June 1-4, 2017.

The TAG Match is a 3-day event conducted

Donovan Team Combat Pistol Match.

Each event is named in honor of a past Medal of Honor recipient from New York Army National Guard units.

The matches are a mix of both team and individual timed events that combine three different firing positions, quick movements to varying locations and short sprints, all of which simulate combat scenarios.

Aside from improved marksmanship techniques, one of the benefits to participating in the TAG Match is that everyone from the supporting staff to the competitors gets a chance to network with peers outside of their military branches.

Sgt. Michael Ryan, a Soldier with the New York Army National Guard’s 827th Horizontal Engineer Company, has been a part of the TAG Match support staff in the past and was a competitor this year.

“The best asset that staff and participants come away with is the people,” said Ryan. “There’s Soldiers, Airmen and militia competing together; we’ll end up working together and seeing each other out there when

responding to state active duty missions.”

The collaboration at the TAG Match helps to build relationships among competitors, while the peer instruction and coaching allows Soldiers to hone their craft and bring new knowledge to their units.

“The TAG Match trains Soldiers to first gain individual proficiency and then gauge proficiency in others,” said Maj. Christopher Culpepper, the officer-in-charge of the TAG Match and deputy operations officer of the 53rd Troop Command. “This is an important skill that improves every level of the organization from the individual Soldier to the unit and ultimately the New York National Guard.”

The overall match champion, based on a summary of scoring across all categories, were Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard’s 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry.



Staff Sgt. Michael Kapela, with the 152nd Engineer Support Company waits to fire his M4 carbine during the SGT Henry Johnson Individual Combat Rifle Match as part of the 38th Annual The Adjutant General’s Combat Sustainment Training Exercise (TAG Match) at Camp Smith Training Site, N.Y., June 3, 2017. Kapela took honors in the rifle individual rifle match. Photo by Sgt. Harley Jelis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

by the New York Army National Guard to promote excellence in marksmanship training and offers Soldiers and Airmen the opportunity to test their skills and weapon systems in a battle-focused environment.

Members of the New York Naval Militia and the New York Guard, the state’s volunteer self-defense force, are also invited to participate in the competition.

These skills and techniques are forged during four high-tempo and high-pressure marksmanship events, each designed to test the knowledge of weapon systems and accuracy during battle-like conditions.

The four advanced marksmanship events are the Sgt. Henry Johnson Individual Combat Rifle Match, the Sgt. Reidar Waaler Team Combat Rifle Match, the Sgt. Thomas Baker Individual Combat Pistol Match, and the Lt. Col. William

Veterans Advocate Competes in Best Ranger

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

NEW YORK - At an age when many infantrymen start to think about retirement, New York Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Sean Smith decided to tackle the Army's premier physical and mental challenge instead.

Smith, 40, the mortar platoon sergeant of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, entered and completed the Army's 34th annual Best Ranger Competition, a 62-hour, physically grueling event testing Ranger School graduates' skills and endurance. The average competitor age is 28.

"My first sergeant came to me and he asked

me would I like to compete," Smith recalled. "I jumped at the opportunity. I enjoy testing myself to my limits."

The event is open to all Ranger qualified Soldiers. The 62 hours of events include runs, road marches, map reading, grenade tossing, shooting, the Darby Queen Obstacle course, including swimming and water obstacles. The competitors also carry 60-pound loads for most of the events.

Competitors are matched in two-Ranger teams. The National Guard enters four teams each year and a Guard team won the 2016 event.

The teams know most of the events ahead of time, but there are "mystery events" designed to test the Rangers' ability to deal with the unknown. Winning is based on points --with some events worth more than others--so strategy is involved in the competition as well.

Smith, said 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Command Sgt. Major Arnold Reyes, was asked to enter because he was qualified to meet that challenge.

"He is definitely a stellar NCO. In everything he does he is a true professional," Reyes said.

"He is very quiet, very professional. He is not a boaster, not a 'Hey look at me,' guy, but he goes all out," said 27th Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Ciampollilo.

Smith's first step toward the Best Ranger finish was an Army National Guard assessment of competitors at Fort Benning in November 2016.

So Smith, a veterans advocate in Rochester, and president of ROCoverly Fitness, an alcohol and drug addiction recovery program, started training.

He focused on high intensity strength training, running, and road marching with a heavy load. He also did some swimming, some biking, and "just multiple events and training methods."

"Working two jobs made it hard, so I got it in when I could, probably a couple of days a week," Smith recalled.

The Best Ranger Assessment consisted of 24 hours of non-stop activity.

"They had us do a Ranger PT test (run five miles, two minutes of push-ups and sit-ups and at least six pull-ups). They had us do an equipment run. They had us do an obstacle course. They had us do some Ranger first responder medical tasks," Smith remembered.

There was also climbing, rappelling, land navigation, and a road march.

"It was 30-some miles of walking and running just for the assessment over a 24-hour period," Smith said.

The next leg on Smith's trip to the Best Ranger finish line was a stop at Army Airborne School.

Smith graduated from Ranger School in 2013, but he had never been to jump school. Since there was a chance one of the mystery events could involve parachuting, he needed to get airborne qualified.

Best Ranger Continued on Next Page



Sgt. 1st Class Sean Smith from the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry negotiates the Darby Queen obstacle course during the 34th annual David E. Grange Jr. Best Ranger Competition at Ft. Benning, Ga. on April 9. Photo by Spc. Justin Collins.

Best Ranger Continued

After finishing Airborne School, Smith had a few more weeks with his very patient fiancée in Rochester, Yana Khashper. Then it was back to Fort Benning in mid-January to train until April.

The nine guard Soldiers worked out twice a day and Smith was teamed up with Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Volk, a member of the Texas Army National Guard's 19th Special Forces Group.

"It's really important that you get matched up with the right guy," Smith said. "In our case we were very similar but there were things he was better at and things I was better at."

The partners push each other and motivate each other, Smith said.

"At different points one guy is kinda dragging and the other guy gives him the motivation he needs to push through and make it through

that event," he explained.

The training was hard and tough, and Smith injured his calf muscle three days before the competition kicked off on April 7.

That came back to haunt him, Smith said. "Any event that consisted of running, for me was a little difficult, because I did have a calf injury," he recalled.

"During a five-mile run I got to mile three and my calf felt like it was going to snap. My partner turned to me and he said 'How much further are you going to be able to go on that?' I said, 'I don't know, maybe about five miles,'" Smith remembered.

"It was a real gut check," he said. "You get to a point, it is mind over body really."

The key to making it through the 62 hours of almost continual physical activity--participants

got 40 minutes of sleep the first night and an hour the second night--was to ignore the signals the body sends saying it is time to stop, Smith said.

As one of the oldest competitors, Smith said he felt driven. "I wanted to prove my worth. Prove I deserved to be there," he said.

When the 62 hours wound down at 2 p.m. on April 9, with a final buddy run, Smith and Volk were still going, finishing at 18 out of 21 finishing teams. Fifty-two teams had started the competition.

"You can always be better than what you think you are capable of. Continually test yourself and push yourself." And even more importantly, "your body will do whatever your mind tells you to do. And when you need to lean on your teammate, do that," Smith said. **gt**

Long Road to Graduation Pays Off

Story by Eric Durr, Gaurd Times Staff

ALBANY, N.Y.--Chief Warrant Officer 3 Doug Sherman started his college education in 1979. He finished Saturday, June 3, 2017.

Sherman, age 56, the warrant officer recruiter for the Recruiting and Retention Battalion graduated with a degree in business management and economics from Empire State College.

It took three years of late nights and long weekends to finish what he had started as an 18-year old Marine Corps recruit, Sherman said, but it was worth it.

When he leaves the Army his goal is to teach Junior ROTC, Sherman said. To do that he needs a degree.

So he decided to use the Post 9/11 GI Bill education benefit he'd earned through two Afghanistan deployments--and some federal military education aid-- and get that degree, even though most students working on their four-year degree are under 25.

"I wanted to pursue this opportunity," Sherman said. "My working life will be well into my late 60's."

Sherman started taking college classes at night at the University of South Carolina as a young Marine. The he joined the Army and spent four years in Germany during the 1980s and took classes there.

But when he left the Army, life happened and he didn't pursue college again.

"A lot of life happened in all those spaces. It never seemed to be the right time for me to sit down and focus on my education," Sherman said.

In 2002 he joined the Army Reserve in Florida as an MP and then he went to Afghanistan. He moved to New York, joined the National Guard,

He entered the warrant officer program in 2009 and deployed to Afghanistan again with the 27th Infantry Brigade in 2012.

In 2014 he decided it was time to do something about getting that college degree so he enrolled in Empire State College. The State University of New York school specializes in adult and non-traditional college students.

The school is military friendly



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Douglas Sherman, left, poses along with two other veterans, during his graduation from Empire State College on June 3, 2017 in Albany, N.Y. Sherman graduated after three years of night and weekend classes. Courtesy photo.

and it gave him credit for his warrant officer training course and the basic non-commissioned officer course, as well as other training, Sherman said.

The school is a mix of on-line education, meeting with professors and weekend classes, he said.

He started with 50 credits, but it still took a lot of long hours to do the work of learning college level math and English.

"Towards the very end, there were nights when I was up until midnight," he said. "Finishing my last paper I could barely keep my eyes open, but I kept telling myself the finish line is really close."

In the end, it was all worth it, Sherman said.

"I want to let people know there are opportunities that we should take advantage of," Sherman said.

gt

AROUND THE STATE

MP service paves way for law enforcement career

Story by Staff Sgt. Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. – When Sgt. Joseph Selchick was just a boy, he would always dress up for Halloween as either an Army Soldier or a police officer and pretend to save his neighbors from danger.

Almost two decades later, he now wears both uniforms as a professional Guardsman and Deputy Sheriff doing just that.

Selchick, a nine-year military police officer with the 727th Law & Order Detachment, New York Army National Guard, graduated from the sheriff's academy on June 23, 2017, and is now a Deputy Sheriff with the Rockland County Sheriff's Department.

After waiting four years for the next available civil service exam, Selchick scored a 90 percent in 2012, a grade which would have allowed him to take a position sooner but in a community farther from home. So he waited for the right opportunity to serve locally.

Born and raised in Rockland County, Selchick said he felt obligated to protect those people he's seen and known his entire life.

"There's nothing better than being able to protect your home – where you grew up," Selchick said.

The 20-week long academy, which was staffed by former Marines, Army Rangers, Special Forces and former FBI agents, wasn't as daunting for Selchick as it was for some of the other recruits.

Selchick credits his Army National Guard training with not only feeling more confident when preparing for the academy, but also with the skills and experience needed to excel.

"Seventy-five percent of the academy was shooting, car stops, and cuffing," said Selchick. "I've not only been trained on these tasks, but I've actually done all of them in the Guard; I had a huge advantage."

In 2014, Selchick was participating in his summer Annual Training, conducting law enforcement at West Point Military Academy, when he made three felony arrests. He was awarded a challenge coin by Brig. Gen. Michael Swezey, former commander of the 53rd Troop Command, in recognition of his work.

Despite all of his experience and accolades, there was still plenty of room to learn new techniques.

"My favorite part was being on the range and learning to shoot from different angles...on our backs and even through our legs," said Selchick. "You can never get enough training."

He's not keeping that new training to himself. Selchick was in touch with his unit throughout his time at the academy and has already coordinated a training plan to teach his new skills to other Soldiers.

Taking this new training back to my unit will help make us more effective in domestic and deployed environments, Selchick said.

"My advice to anyone who wants to become a police officer is to join the Guard first," said Selchick. "I know that it's made me a better officer and it will definitely help them, too." **gt**



Army National Guard Sgt. Joseph Selchick, a military police Soldier with the 727th Military Police Law and Order Detachment, applied his military skills and experience to graduate from the Rockland County Police and Public Safety Academy in Pomona, June 23, 2017. Selchick credits his military service for providing a foundation of experience for his success at the academy. Courtesy photo.



Rockland County Sheriff Louis Falco, left, and Chief of Patrol William Barbera, right, congratulate New York Army National Guard Sgt. Joseph Selchick on his completion of the Rockland County Police and Public Safety Academy in Pomona, New York on June 23, 2017.

Stone True: Rededication Honors Rainbow Soldier

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

ALBANY, N.Y. — For 69 years, the gravestone of Army Pfc. Silvio Campanella, killed in France serving in the 42nd Infantry Division during World War II, had the wrong date of his death.

Veterans and current members of the famed “Rainbow Division” gathered at St. Agnes Cemetery here June 14 to correct that date -- changing it from January 31 to January 19, 1945 -- and tell the story of Campanella’s death which had been secret for a generation.

Campanella and the Rainbow were caught up in a vicious defensive battle against a German attack called Operation Nordwind in southern France. It was a companion attack to the famous Battle of the Bulge in Belgium.

Campanella was one of the 42nd Soldiers who tried to stop that attack, although he wasn’t killed in action. He was shot while a prisoner of the German Army.

“What brings us together here is our need to pay a debt of gratitude to an all but forgotten Soldier. We also feel the need to set things right – as right as we can – to honor him,” said retired Army Major Patrick Chaisson, historian for the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation, which provided the new grave marker.

“Well, we are correcting a mistake that was made almost 70 years ago,” Chaisson said.

Joining Chaisson were members of a color guard from the 42nd Division in Troy, along with serving Rainbow members and veterans.

Campanella family members, including his surviving sister, Yolanda Campanella Robilotto, also took part in the event.

Silvio Campanella, born in 1923 in Albany, deployed in December 1944, arriving with the 42nd

Division in the front lines with the division just days before the onslaught on New Year’s Day.

In January 1945 his unit, Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment, was defending a French village called Sessenheim without tanks or artillery support.

It was a close quarter fight of small infantry units. Small pockets of Soldiers found themselves surrounded and overwhelmed.

“Campanella and his fellow G.I.s fought bravely, but their rifles and hand grenades were no match for Nazi tanks,” Chaisson said. “Those tanks began destroying Sessenheim house by house.”

Campanella found himself with 18-20 other Soldiers as German prisoners on January 19, 1945.

“The Germans commenced to move in from all sides. At approximately 11:30, I gave the order to surrender,” wrote Staff Sgt. James Nichols, also from Company A in his previously classified report of September 1945.

But the entire group would not find their way to a prisoner of war camp. In the midst of the battle, the Germans sought retribution for what they believed was the killing of one of their unit medics.

Sgt. Gerald O’Brien of Company A described what happened in his September 1945 statement:

“I saw a German officer making a lot of threatening gestures and heard him yelling about the shooting of a German medic by Americans. Then the German officer pulled seven more men out of the group and sent them up the street; they went up the street and that is the last I saw of them,” O’Brien recounted.

One of those seven men was Silvio Campanella and his fate was sealed that afternoon when his



Retired New York Army National Guard Maj. Patrick Chaisson gives remarks during the rededication of a WWII headstone for Pfc. Silvio Campanella at the St. Agnes Cemetery in Albany, N.Y. June 14, 2017. Soldiers of the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters provided colors and honors for the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation memorial ceremony. Below, Pfc. Campanella before his deployment to France.

German captor fired on the seven, killing him and five others.

“Several of these dead Soldiers were hastily buried by French civilians in the village of Sessenheim. Their remains were later recovered by the U.S. Army, but ... the Army recorded the date they were found – January 31st – not the actual day they were killed – January 19th,” Chaisson said.

Campanella’s remains were reinterred in Albany in 1948 with the incorrect date.

“That’s the simple explanation, but nothing in life is ever this simple,” Chaisson said.

One Soldier captured with Campanella survived. He was Pvt. George Sotak and he left this account in a letter to fellow veteran Sam Polis in February 1946:

“There was a burst of fire and I found myself flat on the ground. I knew I was hit but wasn’t hurting,” Sotak wrote.

Sotak played dead with wounds to his left shoulder, lung and arm. After dark, he escaped back to

his lines and made a full recovery and report.

With investigators unable to identify the unit or enemy personnel involved, it remained unsolved and unprosecuted after the war.

“George Sotak carried in his heart the memories of that awful day for decades,” Chaisson said.

Sotak’s account was published in 2015, inspiring two daughters of other WWII Rainbow veterans – Suellen McDaniel and Kathy Hemard – to research the incident, and arrange for new headstones, Chaisson said.

“What happened to Campanella and his fellow GI’s at Sessenheim is an atrocity, an obscenity,” Chaisson said. “That is war. Yet there is honor in service. We all can find some connection to this young man, who sacrificed his life for freedom over seventy years ago.”





Army Guard Promotions



Sergeant Promoted to Staff Sergeant



BARNES LAILA
BLAKE PAUL
CABA EDWIN
CHONG ARCHANA
COOLEY CHRISTOPHER
CREECY RICHARD
DIDOMENICO DAVID
DONALDSON ARON
DZHURAYEV ALEXANDER
HENNESSY KENNETH
HIGGINS CRAIG
HINMAN MATTHEW
IGLOPAS DANICABLANCA
LANDERS NICHOLAS
MCLEAN JOSHUA
MERCADO WILFREDO
ODAR LUIS
RIBAR MICHAEL
RUCKER EDWARD
SCISM ROBERTA
SHERMAN JOSHUA
SUSANA JAMES
SWENSON RONALD
WIELAND SETH

DET 1 DIV SIGNAL CO 42ND ID
222D CHEMICAL COMPANY
HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY
CO B 101ST SIGNAL BN
HHC 2-108TH INFANTRY
DET 1 OPS CO 42ND ID
CO B (-) RECRUITING & RETENTION
10TH MOUNTAIN DIV (MCP-OD)
DET 1 DIV SIGNAL CO 42ND ID
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
HQ 153RD TRP CMD (BDE)
DET 2 INTEL & SUST CO 42ND ID
107TH MP COMPANY
INTEL & SUST CO 42ND ID (-)
2ND CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM (WMD)
CO C 101ST SIGNAL BN
CO C 101ST SIGNAL BN
A CO(ENG)BSTB 27TH IN BDE(BCT)
HQ & SPT CO 42ND ID (-)
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)
USA CYBER PROTECTION TEAM 173
HQ & SPT CO 42ND ID (-)
CO B (-) RECRUITING & RETENTION



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 4



KUNZER ROBERT
POLIS STEPHEN
YOUNG THOMAS
DOLSON DOUGLAS

INTEL & SUST CO 42ND ID (-)
CO B 3-142D AVIATION
HHC 369TH SUST BDE
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 5



BOCHENSKI STEPHEN

CO A (-) 642D SUPPORT BN



Newly Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant



POLOKHALO DMYTRO
VISGAUSS RYAN
CARTER ANDREW

INTEL & SUST CO 42ND ID (-)
HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY
HHC 101ST SIGNAL BN



First Lieutenant Promoted to Captain



CORCORAN JAMES
CROSS NATHANIEL
DOYLE MICHAEL
DOYLE TRAVIS
HEINTZ THOMAS
LOVE ZACHARY
MILLMAN JACK
MORYL JOSEPH
PARK MICHAEL
PIPIA TARA
PONCE EDWIN
SAHLSTROM ADAM
SATTELBERG ERIC
THRUSH FOREST
TOSI JOSHUA
WIENENBAUM ALEXANDRIA
YANG YANRONG
AMENDOLA STEVEN

H & S CO 204 ENGR BN
HSC 642D SUPPORT BN
HHB 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY
14TH FINANCE DET
133RD QUARTERMASTER SP CO
CO C (MED) 427TH BSB
27TH INF (BCT)
HQ & SPT CO 42ND ID (-)
HHC 369TH SUST BDE
HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI)
HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI)
HHC 369TH SUST BDE
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
HHC(-) 3-142D AVIATION
HHC 369TH SUST BDE
466TH MEDICAL CO AREA SPT
HHC 369TH SUST BDE
HQ & SPT CO 42ND ID (-)



Captain Promoted to Major



BARNEY GARY
BOJARSKI ADAM
COSSEY JASON
DANNA BRYAN
ELLIOTT AARON
GREEN BETHANY
GREENE JAMES
HARDER JOHN
HOFFMAN BRYAN
HUERTA EMANUEL
JOHANNESSEN THOR
MILES FREDERICK
PASTO TIMOTHY
SQUIRES MICHAEL
TILLISTRAND MICHAEL
YOUNG MARTIN
BENNETT APRIL

HQ & SPT CO 42ND ID (-)
10TH MOUNTAIN DIV (MCP-OD)
466TH MEDICAL CO AREA SPT
MEDICAL COMMAND
HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)
HHC COMBAT AVN BDE
HHC 369TH SUST BDE
HQ 53D TRP CMD
DET 2 OPS CO 42ND ID
DET 1 DIV SIGNAL CO 42ND ID
DET 2 OPS CO 42ND ID
HHC 369TH SUST BDE
DET 1 OPS CO 42ND ID
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
DET 2 OPS CO 42ND ID
HQ & SPT CO 42ND ID (-)
HHC BSTB 27TH IN BDE (-) (BCT)



Major Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel



CLAUS JOSEPH
EHLER SCOTT
HAFNER MICHAEL
MCNITT DAGE
WHALEY JOSEPH
CRONIN CHRISTOPHER

ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
DET 1 NYARNG ELEMENT JFHQ
DET 1 OPS CO 42ND ID
27TH INF (BCT)



Lieutenant Colonel Promoted to Colonel



MULVEY JUDE
MURPHY MICHAEL
PANZER CHRISTOPHER

HQ & SPT CO 42ND ID (-)
HQ & SPT CO 42ND ID (-)
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY



Staff Sergeant Promoted to Sergeant 1st Class



BRENNAN JAMES
CHARD AMANDA
DAVIS ANDREW
DORVEE JEFFREY
GUZMAN MILTON
HARRIS ERICA
HAWKINS CONOR
MANHART ERIN
MANNARA RICHARD
MASCI RICHARD
MCBRIDE TIMOTHY
MICHEL GLINORY
MILLER BENJAMIN
MISNER DANIEL
MOORE JOSEPH
MUNSON JOHN
ORBE KEVIN
PERRY RICHARD
REED DARYL
SUMMERS ROBERT
SZABO SCOTT
VANNESS MICHELE
WESSELS ROBERT
YOU DAVID

CO C (-) RECRUITING & RETENTION
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
OPS CO 42ND ID (-)
CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB
HQ & SPT CO 42ND ID (-)
INTEL & SUST CO 42ND ID (-)
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
HQ 153RD TRP CMD (BDE)
CO C (-) RECRUITING & RETENTION
HHD 104TH MILITARY POLICE BN
DET 2 OPS CO 42ND ID
DET 1 DIV SIGNAL CO 42ND ID
HHC 2-108TH INFANTRY
A CO(ENG)BSTB 27TH IN BDE(BCT)
HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI)
CO C (-) RECRUITING & RETENTION
CO D 1-69TH INFANTRY
DET 1 DIV SIGNAL CO 42ND ID
CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
DET 1 827TH ENGR CO HORIZ
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE (-)
CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB



Sergeant 1st Class Promoted to Master Sergeant



BLASS MICHAEL
COLLITON DAVID
CONNELL ALACIA
ERICKSEN JASON

ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
DET 1 DIV SIGNAL CO 42ND ID
HHC 427TH BSB
HHB 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY



Master Sergeant Promoted to Sergeant Major



FISHER JOSEPH
MACKAY DUNCAN
WATERS ROBERT

HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI)
CO A (-) RECRUITING & RETENTION
DET 1 OPS CO 42ND ID



Newly Commissioned Warrant Officers



RICHICHI JOHN

CO A 3-142D AVIATION



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 3



BURCKHARD RANDY
COKER CHRISTOPHER
COMSTOCK RYAN
DELSIGNORE JOHN
DUKES NAKIA
FERNANDEZ CHRISTOPHER
LYNESS JEFFREY
MUNZ CHRISTOPHER
PAPPERT RICHARD
QUACKENBUSH MATTHIAS
SALVI WILLIAM
SPANTON STEPHANIE
BETRON CLIFTON

ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
HHC 369TH SUST BDE
DET 2 CO A 1-224 AVN S&S BN
CO A 3-142D AVIATION
INTEL & SUST CO 42ND ID (-)
HHC 369TH SUST BDE
HQ 153RD TRP CMD (BDE)
HHC(-) 3-142D AVIATION
HSC 642D SUPPORT BN
CO A 3-142D AVIATION
HHC 369TH SUST BDE
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY

Air Guard Promotions



Staff Sergeant Promoted to Technical Sergeant



ADAMS, CHADERTON R	105 WG
ANDERSON, CONNIE JEAN	109 WG
BLANDINO, ARGELIS MANUEL	106 WG
BORRELLI, MATTHEW JOHN	152 WG
BOVAY, ANTHONY MARK	174 WG
BULGER, SHAWN JEFFREY	174 WG
CATAPANO, DANIEL JOSEPH	106 WG
CORNELL, SCOTT A	105 WG
CRISPELL, RAYMOND EDWARD	105 WG
CRUZ, ANDREW ROBERT	106 WG
FIELD, DREW OWEN	AIR OPS
FITZSIMMONS, JOSEPH A	105 WG
GINALSKI, MICHAEL PATRICK	109 WG
GOODRIDGE, MARCUS M	105 WG
GRILLO, NICHOLAS VINCENT	174 WG
HEALEY, SABRENA LYNN	109 WG
KETCHAKEU, COME NASSER	109 WG
KLEBLEYEV, SERGEY	106 WG
LOCKE, ROBERT MILLARD II	174 WG
MCCONNELL, WILLIAM DOUGLAS	174 WG
MCLENNAN, ELIZABETH KATHLEEN	174 WG
MORGAN, JORDAN ROY	174 WG
PALACIOS, PAOLA ANDREA	106 WG
PALUDI, JOSEPH RONALD	109 WG
QUAMMIE, BRENDON A	105 WG
QUEZADA, MICHAEL	105 WG
REILLY, DEVIN DOUGLAS	109 WG
REITH, BRIAN MICHAEL	109 WG
RENE, JOSEPH MONTAGUE	106 WG
SCHMITT, DANIEL PATRICK	AIR DEFENSE
SEVERS, BRYAN TODD	AIR DEFENSE
STARK, JASON GERHART	109 WG
SULLIVAN, DANIEL SHANE	174 WG
TANDY, TARA COLLEEN	106 WG
TRUSCELLO, LAURENCE ANTHONY	109 WG
VANDERCREEK, MATTHEW L	107 WG
WALTERS, JEFFREY ROBERT JR	107 WG
WESTLUND, NELSSON J	105 WG
WILIAMA, KEONA	105 WG
WILLIS, CHAD MICHAEL	174 WG
WOOD, BARRY CHARLES	106 WG



Technical Sergeant Promoted to Master Sergeant



BORNT, PATRICK ROBERT	109 WG
CARROLL, PAULA LYNN	174 WG
CLEMENTI, SHANNON LEEANN	106 WG
DICHIARA, DANIEL JOSEPH	105 WG
GALLEGOS, TRENA ANGELINA	107 WG
HUSSAR, MICHAEL P	107 WG
JONES, RAMON	105 WG
KING, MORRIS PAUL III	109 WG
LARUE, STEVEN CHARLES	174 WG
MADISON, ROBERT JAMES	109 WG
MCCLOWRY, MARK PATRICK	174 WG
MCDERMOTT, KELLY A	105 WG
MODERACKI, JOZEF M	107 WG
MOYNIHAN, JAMES DOUGLAS	107 WG
PAULDINE, MARK ANDREW	174 WG
PEREZ, ALEX G	105 WG
POTTER, KYLE JEFFREY	174 WG
ROTT, PHILIP J	107 WG
SPADAVECCHIA, JOSEPH ANTHONY	106 WG
STUCKER, SETH LEE	107 WG
TARBY, JAMES ALLEN JR	174 WG
VALENTINE, FELICIA M	109 WG
WOLFE, JACOB ALLEN	174 WG
WU, COREY J	106 WG



Master Sgt. Promoted to Sr. Master Sergeant



BRODY, JAMES JOSEPH	174 WG
COUCH, ELLIS JOSEPH JR	106 WG
FRENCH, TOBY LEE	152 WG
KEMPISTY, JOHN JOSEPH	174 WG
LAROCK, COREY MATTHEW	174 WG
LENT, ERIC JASON D	174 WG
PACE, ASHLEY ANN	174 WG
PANIS, JESSICA MARIE	109 WG
ROOTE, DARLA JEAN	AIR OPS
SUPON, MICHAEL A	107 WG
WINTERS, SALEEM B	107 WG



Sr. Master Sergeant Promoted to Chief Master Sgt.



DEJESUS, VICTOR	105 WG
DEVITO, KAROLYN ANN	109 WG
FRASCIELLO, HELEN MARIAN	174 WG
HARMEYER, CHRISTOPHER JAMES	174 WG
JONES, JOHN ANTHONY	174 WG



Newly Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant



BEAL, DANIEL JOSEPH	174 WG
BRUNO, SAMANTHA JOANN	174 WG
CHAKURMANIAN, NICHOLAS	109 WG
CHATHAM, IVAN RAY	107 WG
DUNCAN, DOUGLAS JONATHAN	106 WG
GERMAN, ZACHARY ANDREW	174 WG
GROSS, JOSEPH B	107 WG
GUAGENTI, JONATHAN P	105 WG
HUGHES, CHRISTOPHER JOHN	107 WG
MADDEN, JONATHAN WILLIAM	109 WG
MCELROY, MATTHEW JOSEPH	107 WG
MORGAN, TIMOTHY MICHAEL	107 WG
MURPHY, BRANDON PETER	106 WG
NAPOLITANO, NICHOLAS ELIA	106 WG
OEHLBECK, JASON	107 WG
PAUL, JACK LENDKY	107 WG
PETERSON, NANCY LYNN	AIR DEFENSE
PIGEON, WALTER ANDREW	174 WG
POLSTER, JORDAN NICOLE	106 WG
ROBITAILLE, LUIS LEE	109 WG



2nd Lieutenant Promoted to 1st Lieutenant



ENGELL, CHANTAL KATHLEEN	174 WG
GARCIA, LUZ L	105 WG
JORDAN, DAMIKA	105 WG
KOWALSKI, CHRISTOPHER J	105 WG
OBRIEN, SEAN WILLIAM	174 WG
RENART, PAUL MICHAEL	106 WG



1st Lieutenant Promoted to Captain



BENJAMIN, PHILIP DOUGLAS	174 WG
COONEY, PATRICK THOMAS	AIR OPS
COOPER HENRY, MAAJO LIN	174 WG
ESTEY, ERIC SHEPHERD	106 WG
HANLEY, MARTIN WILLIAM	107 WG
HUGHES, STUART FRANKLIN	106 WG
JACOBSEN, SALEM KENNETH	109 WG
LYONS, KRISTIE LEE	106 WG
MALDONADO, SETH J	107 WG
PYJAS, JAMES R	105 WG
RANDAZZO, TINA M	107 WG
RINALDI, MATTHEW CARLO	109 WG
VANPATTEN, RICHARD JAMES	109 WG
VANREIL, NATASHA JOANN	105 WG
VINSON, BRITTANY BROWN	106 WG
WALTON, ADAM ROBERT	174 WG



Captain Promoted to Major



BENZA, MATTHEW S	105 WG
FORRESTER, ROBERT M	105 WG
GRAY, MICHAEL A	107 WG
SEGRETI, BENJAMIN G	105 WG
STAHLHUT, MICHAEL THOMAS	106 WG
WETTIG, SEAN MICHAEL	109 WG



Major Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel



CARLSON, JAN R	107 WG
CARRERA, JORGE L	105 WG
DEMASO, LEWIS A	105 WG
PAUTLER, JUSTIN H	107 WG
PICCOLO, MARGARET	106 WG
PULLEN, JEREMY E	105 WG
WEBBER, STEPHEN LAWRENCE	106 WG



Lieutenant Colonel Promoted to Colonel



DONALDSON, ROBERT EDWIN	109 WG
HUTSON, CATHERINE ANNE	174 WG
LUJAN, ANTHONY ANDREW	107 WG
ROHATSCH, LINDA A	105 WG
STALLONE, MARTIN	174 WG
WARNICK, DAVID M	107 WG

THE JOINT FORCE

Troops Hold Back Great Lake with 978,111 Sandbags

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times* staff

LATHAM, N.Y. — Over 440 New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, and members of the Naval Militia and New York Guard filled 978,111 sandbags between May 3 and June 30 as part of the state response to Lake Ontario flooding at the direction of Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo.

That's enough sandbags to cover the distance from New York City to Buffalo if they were laid end-to-end.

The bulk of those employed in the mission have been from the New York Army National Guard, with more 222 Soldiers volunteering to pull sandbag duty during the past month.

The Naval Militia fielded 116 Sailors and Marines to help, while 15 New York Guard members pitched in. Fifty-four Air National Guard Airman took part in the mission.

Working out of central locations in eight counties along Lake Ontario's southern and eastern shores and the St. Lawrence River, members of Joint Task Force Ontario filled an average of 11,721 sandbags per day during the first month of the mission.

Personnel on duty each day ranged from just under 200 to over 300 depending on mission requirements, according to Chief Master Sgt. Shawn Peno, chief enlisted advisor in the New York National Guard joint operations section.

Water levels in Lake Ontario are currently almost three feet higher than last year at this time due to heavy rain and snowfall, according to the Army Corps of Engineers.

The flooding has affected homes, businesses and entire communities and prompted the gov-

ernor to declare a state of emergency on May 2.

"With waters on the Lake Ontario coastline rising to the highest levels in 20 years, we are remaining vigilant and will continue to do everything in our power to assist communities with flooding preparation and response measures," Cuomo said.

The state made available \$7 million in emergency funds for property owners, \$10 million to repair roads, and \$5 million for businesses.

"We have various missions out here, part of the group is filling sandbags and preparing them to be sent out into the field," said Air National Guard Lt. Col. Ken Kieliszek, a health services administrator assigned to the 107th Attack Wing and site commander during a mission at the Kendall Department of Public



New York Army National Guard Soldiers emplace sandbag barriers along the Lake Ontario shoreline in Kendall, N.Y., on May 18 after rising water levels resulted in flooding and a state of emergency declared May 2 by Gov. Andrew Cuomo. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Campbell, 107th Aiatck Wing.



New York Army National Guard Soldiers deploy the Tiger Dam flood control system along the shores of Braddock Bay in the Town of Greece, N.Y. in response to rising waters on Lake Ontario. The system consists of flexible fabric tubes which are connected and filled with water. The tubes replace sandbags as a flood control mechanism. Photo by Sgt. Lucian McCarty, Joint Force Headquarters.

Works. “We have also had teams going out into the field and building break walls.”

The work has been strenuous, yet vital to limiting the amount of damage done by the flooding lake. It is a role that the Airmen of the 107th have fully embraced.

“There’s no complaints and no issues,” said Kieliszek. “They are proud to be here and proud to serve their country and New York State.”

Soldiers also emplaced a high-tech water-dam system known as a Tiger Dam along Braddock Bay in the Town of Greece. The system uses large tubes filled with water to replace many sandbags and can be placed in just over an hour.

Soldiers from the Army National Guard’s 642nd Aviation Support Battalion, the 105th Military Police Company, the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and 427th Forward Support Battalion have supported the mission, along with members of the New York Air National Guard’s 107th Attack Wing and 174th Attack Wing. **gt**



New York Army National Guard 105th Military Police Company Soldiers construct a sandbag barrier to protect property at Sodus Point, N.Y. from flooding due to rising waters on Lake Ontario on May 22. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Belmont, 105th Military Police Company.

Emergency-Response Training in Ardent Sentry 17

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Raymond Drumsta, 42nd Infantry Division

TROY, N.Y. — The New York National Guard tested its emergency-response planning skills in Ardent Sentry 17, a national-level emergency response staff exercise at locations throughout the northeast from April 24-28.

About 80 New York National Guard staff troops took part in the exercise, which was based around a scenario involving a nuclear detonation on the New Jersey side of the Lincoln Tunnel. The personnel manned command posts at 42nd Infantry Division headquarters here and New York National Guard headquarters in Latham, N.Y.

Ardent Sentry is an annual U.S. Northern Command (US NORTHCOM) exercise focused on defense support to civil authorities. Federal, state and local officials, including New York State emergency managers and the New York City Office of Emergency Management, also took part in the exercise. Federal Emergency Management Agency and Army North personnel set up operations centers at New York National Guard headquarters as part of the training exercise.

The New York Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division provided the core of staff personnel for New York's part in Ardent Sentry.

The staff personnel, who would fall under a construct called the "dual-status command" during an actual disaster, used the exercise to practice marshalling simulated forces.

At the top of this construct is the Dual-Status Commander (DSC), a National Guard officer authorized to command both National Guard and federal military forces.

The concept is intended to foster greater cooperation among federal and state assets. The New York National Guard stood up a DSC in 2012 during the response to Superstorm Sandy.

The DSC for the April exercise was Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Timothy LaBarge. An event like the one the exercise scenario was based on would be "the worst day in U.S. history," he said.

"It's going to take the whole of the government, and the whole of society, to address it," stressed LaBarge, who is also the New York Air National Guard chief of staff.

Soldiers and Airmen from Joint Force Headquarters and field units, along with NORTH-



New York Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Michael Giarrusso, a 42nd Infantry Division operations NCO (left), and Staff Sgt. Diahann Adepegba, a division intelligence NCO in-charge, map out a 10-mile radius of a simulated nuclear blast area during Ardent Sentry 17 on April 26.

COM and other personnel, augmented the 42nd Division troops to make up the DSC staff.

"That fills out that brain-trust trying to make sense out of the fog of war accompanying this catastrophe," LaBarge said.

During the exercise, DSC staff continually performed command tasks such as receiving reports, updating and assessing information and using simulated forces to provide a scaled response to the disaster.

"We simply look for a capability and try to resource it from whatever forces we have out there," LaBarge explained. "Everybody is trying to help. The whole purpose of this is to achieve unity of effort."

LaBarge gave the DSC staff high marks. The exercise kicked off with the nuclear detonation, and the staff began generating intelligence and other information products "mere hours after the blast," LaBarge said.

"Information is going to be challenging," LaBarge stressed. "You have to keep asking the same questions to make sure we're all acting from the same information starting-point."

The other big lesson - which speaks to unity of effort, and unity of command, LaBarge stressed, - is "don't be parochial."

"Our job is not to fight for our parochial interests, but to get resources there to save lives and prevent suffering," LaBarge said. **gt**



Army Guard Director Meets Empire Shield

NEW YORK-- Lt. Gen. Timothy Kadavy, the Director of the Army National Guard meets Soldiers assigned to Joint Task Force Empire Shield, a state active duty force providing security at New York City transportation hubs prior to the broadcasting of a segment of the Fox and Friends morning television show on May 21, 2017. Kadavy was outlining his vision for the Army National Guard and also saluted the members of the task force. Courtesy photo.

No Walk in the Park: 2nd CST Trains at Joe Bruno

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Raymond Drumsta, 42nd Infantry Division

TROY, N.Y. — It was another day and another conspicuous venue for members of the New York National Guard's 2nd Civil Support Team (CST) as they trained to track down and identify hazards at Joseph L. Bruno Stadium here on April 12.

About a dozen members of the 2nd CST participated in the training exercise, which was based on a scenario involving a clandestine laboratory at the stadium with potential weapons of mass destruction. Team members are trained to identify chemical, biological, and radiological agents and advise first-responders on how to deal with them.

Training at the minor-league baseball stadium is right in line with their mission, said the 2nd CST Commander, Lt. Col. Aron Sacchetti.

Unfortunately, terrorists target such places in order to cause many casualties and incite widespread terror, he explained.

"We try to conduct training in public venues where there are likely to be large gatherings of people," he said. "This gives us familiarity with the venue beforehand, and familiarity with security personnel at those places."

According to the training scenario, stadium security personnel who discovered the lab began exhibiting signs of sulfur-mustard agent exposure, Sacchetti said. The team's mission was to identify hazards, then recommend mitigation measures and all other precautions to the local incident commander, he explained.

Driving several specialized vehicles – including the 2nd CST's mobile laboratory, called the Analytical Laboratory System (ALS) -- team members arrived at the stadium and set up communications equipment, hazardous-materials detectors and other gear.

Following initial briefings, 2nd CST members Sgt. Christopher Rodriguez and Staff Sgt. Joshua Spagnola, wearing breathing apparatus and orange hazmat suits, entered the stadium to conduct reconnaissance.

"We know when we're going in, we're facing something hazardous," Sacchetti stressed. "But we're equipped to handle those situations."

After finding the mock laboratory, Rodriguez and Spagnola began the painstaking process of identifying hazardous materials, tagging them with evidence markers, photographing each



New York Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Joshua Spagnola of the 2nd CST uses evidence markers to tag suspected hazardous materials during a training exercise at Joseph L. Bruno Stadium on April 12.

one, photographing the entire scene, categorizing hazards and collecting samples. Stocked with many simulated hazardous materials and other chemical-processing equipment, the mock laboratory was designed to challenge the team members' abilities.

Since their mission also involves evidence collection, the team members' methodical approach also prevents cross-contamination and tainting of evidence, said 2nd CST 1st Sgt. Noel Fredericks, of Schenectady, N.Y.

"This is definitely an attention-to-detail type of job," he said.

Team members work from general to specific, Fredericks said, first determining if a substance is a hazard, then attempting to identify what it is. Sometimes substances might simply be ingredients used in the making of WMDs, called "pre-cursor chemicals," he explained.

"That chemical may be only used to make one thing in the WMD realm," he said.

Samples are then further identified using the mobile laboratory. The ALS can analyze a wide range of chemical warfare agents, toxic industrial materials, toxic industrial chemicals and biological warfare agents.

"By collecting a sample and conducting more testing, we're able to confirm what it is,"

Sacchetti said. Team members completed the mission by 12 p.m., he added.

The 2nd CST conducts collective training about once a month, often with first responders, Sacchetti said.

"We try and incorporate our civilian counterparts as often as possible," he said. **gt**



New York National Guard 2nd Civil Support Team members Sgt. Christopher Rodriguez (left) and Staff Sgt. Joshua Spagnola (right) move toward a mock WMD laboratory during the 2nd CST's training exercise in Troy, N.Y. on April 12, 2017.

Rainbow Division Welcomes New Commander

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters

ALBANY, N.Y. - New York Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Steven Ferrari, a veteran of the Iraq War, took command of the 42nd Infantry Division during a change of command ceremony held at the Empire State Plaza here May 6, 2017.

Ferrari had been serving as Assistant Division Commander for the combat division headquarters since 2011.

“You are the right leader for this organization,” said Brig. Gen. Raymond Shields, commander of the New York Army National Guard, after the transfer of colors. “Your depth of experience and caring leadership style make you supremely qualified to lead the division to new heights of Soldier and unit readiness.”

“What an honor to assume command of the famous 42nd Infantry Division,” Ferrari said. “I pledge my dedication and commitment to ensure that the continued success of this historic division that turns 100 years old on August 13, 2017.”

The 42nd Division was organized out of National Guard units from 26 states as the country generated an Army to fight in World War I. The division’s first chief of staff, then Col. Douglas MacArthur, said the division would stretch across the country “like a rainbow” and the nickname stuck.

The 42nd Division, which included a New York National Guard infantry regiment and first organized outside of New York City at Camp Mills, Long Island, is also conducting its own centennial commemorations in 2017-2019.

The change of command ceremony featured the colors of the battalions and brigades which fall under the 42nd Infantry Division for training purposes.



Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard’s 42nd Infantry Division World War I Color Guard support the division change of command ceremony at the Empire State Plaza in Albany on May 6, 2017. Brig. Gen. Steven Ferrari assumed command of the division headquarters from Maj. Gen. Harry Miller in front of the colors and Soldiers of the 42nd Division’s associated brigades. Photo by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters.

Ferrari replaces Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Harry Miller who moved into an active duty assignment with the Army National Guard. Miller took command of the division in April 2013.

“Thank you for all you have done for the 42nd Infantry Division and the New York Army National Guard,” Shields told Miller in the ceremony.

The 42nd Infantry Division has had a high tempo over the past four years, and Ferrari noted Miller’s “dedicated and superb leadership during his tenure as the 42nd Infantry Division command-

er led to some impressive and truly outstanding accomplishments. You leave this organization with your unique stamp and improved readiness across the board,” Ferrari said.

The ceremony was held on the steps of the New York State Museum that recently opened its latest exhibit, “A Spirit of Sacrifice: New York State in the First World War” which includes artifacts telling the story of the 42nd Infantry Division in the war.^{9t}



Brig. Gen. Steven Ferrari receives the colors of the 42nd Division during his change of command ceremony May 6. Photo by Lt. Col. Roberta Comerford, 42nd Infantry Division.

Orion leadership passes to former 2-108th commander

Guard Times Staff



Brig. Gen. Steven Ferrari presents the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's colors to Col. Christopher Cronin, the new 27th Infantry Brigade Commander during the unit change of command ceremony at Fort Drum May 21. Photo by Sgt. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

FORT DRUM -- Col. Christopher Cronin, a veteran of combat operations in Afghanistan, took command of the New York Army National Guard's 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, headquartered in Syracuse in a ceremony in front of brigade Soldiers on Sunday, May 21.

Cronin, a resident of Victor, N.Y., took command from Col. Joseph Biehler, a veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, who commanded the 27th Brigade Combat Team since 2013.

Both officers are traditional National Guard members and both previously served as battalion commanders of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, headquartered in Utica, N.Y. Cronin was replaced by Lt. Col. Jeffrey Csoka for command of the 2-108th Infantry in Utica. Biehler moves on to serve as the deputy commander of the New York Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters. **gt**

Brigade to Division transition earns promotion; general officer's star

Story by Eric Durr, Guard Times Staff

FORT DRUM, N.Y.-- Joseph Biehler, a veteran of the Iraq and Afghan wars, and Finance Senior Manager for Rochester's Harris Corporation, is now the New York Army National Guard's newest general officer.

Biehler, who joined the Army National Guard as an infantry officer in 1987, was promoted to brigadier general during a ceremony at Fort Drum May 21, 2017.

Biehler had been the commander of the New York Army National Guard's 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team for the past four years.

He will now serve as the assistant division commander for maneuver of the 42nd Infantry Division, based in Troy.

"This is a tremendous

honor," Biehler said following his promotion. "Being a Soldier is such an honor, and I still very much enjoy wearing this uniform."

Biehler's promotion came following a ceremony in which he turned over command of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to Col. Christopher Cronin. Cronin, also a veteran of the Afghan War, previously served as commander of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry.

In his remarks Biehler thanked his wife Sonya for her support over the years, as well as his mother and father and his brothers for their support.

"They are the ones that encouraged me to become a Soldier and an officer," Biehler

said.

He also thanked Maj. Gen. Anthony German, the Adjutant General, and Brig. Gen. Raymond Shields, the assistant adjutant general for the New York Army National Guard, for their confidence in him.

Biehler was commissioned as an infantry officer in May 1987. Prior to his command of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, he was commander of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry.

He was the battalion's operations officer during its deployment to Iraq in 2004 and commanded the battalion during its deployment to Afghanistan in 2012 as Task Force Iron. **gt**



Brig. Gen. Joseph Biehler, the former 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander receives his new rank insignia from his father, John Biehler while being promoted to the rank of brigadier general during his change-of-command ceremony at Fort Drum, N.Y., May 21 2017. Following his tenure with the 27th IBCT, Biehler will now serve as the 42nd Infantry Division's assistant division commander. Photo by Sgt. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Competition is Great Training for New York Snipers

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*



Sgt. David Peters, left, and Staff Sgt. Masami Yamakado, negotiate the course during the first day of the 26th Winston P. Wilson Sniper Championship at Ft. Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center, Ark. on April 22, 2017. Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Jonathan Brizendine.



Staff Sgt. Masami Yamakado wears his homemade "ghillie suit" during the Sniper Championship at Ft. Chaffee, Ark. on April 24, 2017. Photo by Master Sgt. Jonathan Brizendine.

CAMP J.T. ROBINSON, Fort Chaffee, Arkansas -- Being a sniper, according to Sgt. David Peters, is the ultimate challenge for an infantryman.

"You have to know so much information. You have to perfect and master the infantry tasks and you have to perfect and master the sniper tasks as well, said Peters, a sniper team leader in C Troop, 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry. "You have to be very precise."

Peters, along with Staff Sgt. Masami Yamakado, a squad leader in Company C, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, got a chance to test his sniper skills against top-notch competitors from the Army National Guard, Active Army Sniper School, USMC Scout/Sniper School, USMC Reserves and foreign armies April

22-27 at the Winston P. Wilson Sniper Championship.

Held at the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center at Camp J.T. Robinson, Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, the 2017 competition brought together 25 two-man sniper teams from across the U.S. military, along with Canada, Denmark, Italy and Poland.

The two New York Soldiers finished ninth in the competition overall and came in third among the National Guard teams.

Peters estimates he put about a thousand rounds down range during the five-day event.

They would have done better if he had not been a last minute addition to the team, when Peters' original partner had to drop out, Yamakado said.

With Peters living in Hamburg in Western New York, and Yamakado living in Garrison in the Hudson Valley—342 miles away-- it was impossible to get together for training. Instead the two men went to ranges by themselves.

They also hammered out a quick SOP over the phone over the course of a week.

"If we had more face time, more lead time, and more train-up time, I am confident we could have got into the top five and top four," Yamakado said.

"Everything was either all or nothing. We either cleaned it, and got maximum points, or we didn't score because of something we didn't prepare for," he explained.

Yamakado, a former sniper section leader in Charlie Troop who helped train Peters, is school-trained and competed in the 2014 sniper competition. But he hadn't trained as a sniper in two years.

That experience, and their familiarity with each other, eventually

let them work through the rough spots, the two men said.

"We were off to a pretty rough start, but once we started getting into our rhythm we started hitting targets left and right," Peters said.

A spotter and sniper usually need to work together for years to understand each other, said Sgt. 1st Class Brian Tippet, the Charlie Troop readiness NCO.

"They did extremely well, better than we could have hoped for, with no train-up time," he added.

Being a sniper means being expert with five weapons systems. It also means being a bit of a math whiz, since snipers have to calculate ballistic solutions on the fly.

Along with being able to shoot, snipers have to be able to collect battlefield information; knowing the difference, for example, between Russian 120 and 82 millimeter mortars. They've also got to be experts at camouflage and stealth.

The two-man sniper team consists of a shooter – normally the junior Soldier—and a spotter who is the more experienced Soldier.

The shooter concentrates on the target. The spotter maintains situational awareness and works out the ballistic solution-- based on temperature, wind, humidity or rain, distance and bullet trajectory--necessary to hit the target.

Peters was the shooter while Yamakado spotter. The competition tested their abilities with multiple weapons systems, Yamakado said.

"It ran almost like a three-gun event," Yamakado said. "I would run to a building for 50 to 100 yards and engage pistol targets. And then I would go in the building and engage in a room with the M-4 and then go upstairs and shoot the sniper rifle. There were a lot of

Snipers Continued on Next Page

Snipers, Continued

plain, line-infantry oriented tasks.”

“It dragged the snipers out of their comfort zone,” he added.

This was a big change from the 2014 competition, in which 95 percent of the tasks involved the sniper rifle, Yamakado said.

One of the most challenging events, and one the New Yorkers did well at, was the “live-fire stalk.” The teams had to don their camouflage “ghillie suits” and work into a firing position overlooking a target without being seen, both day and night.

Once they were on target they fired a blank round. An evaluator would approach the area to spot the team. Not being spotted added points.

To keep the competitors honest – by ensuring they were actually in the designated area — the evaluator would hold up a placard. The snipers had to be close enough to call in the number on the card to the score keepers.

Then the team would engage the target and get scored on whether or not the right targeting information was “dialed in” on the weapon.

The event was challenging because it was an event that Peters had not trained for.

What’s more, Yamakado’s ghillie suit was in a shipping container heading for Australia, where the 101st Cavalry will train this summer, because he wasn’t planning to be at the competition.

“I showed up at the stalk as the only guy without a ghillie suit. So I put a bungee cord around my waist and stuck in some branches and rolled with it,” he said.

Another unique event was the chance to engage targets from a hovering UH-60 helicopter.

Peters balanced his weapon on a safety strap and had one minute to fire ten rounds at targets 500 and 600 meters from the aircraft.

Peters, said Yamakado, was one of the few who actually hit a target firing from the helicopter.

While the event was a competition, both Peters and Yamakado said they learned new techniques and tactics from the other competitors every day -- lessons they’ll pass on to New York Army National Guard snipers.

“I think we changed the SOP several times, just looking at how other teams do things,” Yamakado said. “The school house does a very good job at making it one part match and one part training event.” **gt**

Last Landing for Career Aviator

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*



A UH-60 Blackhawk piloted by Chief Warrant Officer 5 Charles Rodda lands at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Latham, N.Y., June 22, saluted by Albany International Airport fire trucks spraying an arc of water over the helicopter. Photo by Pfc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.

LATHAM, N.Y.—In the summer of 1985, Warrant Officer Charles “Chuck” Rodda took off for the first time as an Army helicopter pilot at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

On June 22, 2017, 31-years and 5,788 hours of flying time later, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Rodda made his last landing here.

Rodda was saluted by family, friends and colleagues as he made his “final flight” as an Army Aviator, ending a 31-year flying career and 35-year career in the National Guard.

A nephew, New York Army National Guard Spec. Bill Edwards, served as crew chief on the flight. It was their first and last time flying together, Rodda joked.

Another nephew, Air Force Airman Jarr Mazza, based at Dover Air Force Base, also joined him on the flight.

“To be perfectly honest it’s a bittersweet type of thing,” Rodda said. “I love what I do. I love wearing the uniform,” he added.

“One would be hard pressed to find anyone in the New York Army Guard aviation community that has not learned something from him,” said Col. Mark Slusar, State Aviation Officer.

Rodda, 52, enlisted at age 17 in 1982 as a medic. After a few years he wanted a change of pace. So he applied for pilot training and reported to Fort Rucker in June 1985.

He graduated a year later in 1986 and first flew the UH-1M, a gunship version of the venerable UH-1 “Huey” helicopter that looked like something out of a Vietnam War movie.

With unit reorganizations, Rodda later flew the AH-1 Cobra attack helicopter, UH-60 Blackhawk and UH-72 Lakota aircraft as well.

He was part of nearly every New York

National Guard aviation disaster response, including Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in 2011 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012. He also deployed several times to the Southwest Border operating out of Texas and Arizona.

He deployed to Honduras in 1998, Nicaragua in 2002 and back to Honduras again in 2006 before a combat tour in Iraq with the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation in 2009.

He’s served as the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade and state aviation safety officer, and as the state standardization instructor pilot.

While putting aside his Army uniform, Rodda will keep on flying. He’s got a job lined up as a corporate pilot flying helicopters in New York and the northeast.

While still flying, he will miss the passengers he has now, Rodda said.

“I love flying the UH-60 and flying the U.S. Army infantry. The best thing that America has to offer is the U.S. Army infantry and it’s been an honor,” he said. **gt**



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Rodda greets well wishers following his final flight June 22. Photo by Pfc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.

Harlem Hellfighters Redeploy

New York Soldiers Return from Kuwait deployment

Story by Sgt. Jeremy Bratt, 369th Sustainment Brigade

CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT -- Some 250 New York Army National Guard Soldiers successfully completed their overseas mission in Kuwait and returned back in New York after 10 months.

The Soldiers are part of the 369th Sustainment Brigade and were responsible for logistics support of American forces throughout the Middle East from November, 2016 until late June.

The 369th oversaw sustainment operations in nine countries throughout the Middle East, in support of allied and coalition forces and also combat operations against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

“The Hell Fighters have lived up to their call sign and then some. They have been through one of the toughest missions given to a sustainment brigade,” said Col. Stephen M. Bousquet, brigade commander, during the unit’s transfer of authority ceremony on June 26 in Kuwait.

“They sustained the forces throughout the Middle East in nine countries and at 20 different locations, providing support to joint U.S. and Coalition forces. Their work ethic was unmatched and their dedication was unparalleled,” he said.

The Soldiers returned to locations across New York from Fort Hood, Texas, where they were out processing on July 8-9. The unit was mobilized on Sept. 7, 2016.

The 369th Sustainment Brigade is nicknamed the Harlem Hell Fighters and carries the lineage of the African-American 369th Infantry Regiment which fought with distinction in World War I.

The 369th Sustainment Brigade was originally organized as the 15th Regiment of the New York National Guard in 1915 as a unit for African American Soldiers in a segregated Army. When the 15th New York was



Col. Stephen M. Bousquet, 369th Sustainment Brigade Commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Mclean, senior enlisted advisor, case the brigade colors during the transfer of authority at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, June 26, 2017. The 369th relinquished command of operations to the 371st Sustainment Brigade from the Ohio National Guard. Photo by Sgt. Jeremy Bratt, 369th Sustainment Brigade.

federalized in 1917 and sent to France the unit was renumbered as the 369th Infantry Regiment.

The organization celebrates its centennial service in WWI this year. **gt**

Aircrews train for Summer fire fighting season

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



New York Army National Guard aircrew from the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation prepare to fill a Bambi Bucket with water from Round Lake, N.Y., May 31, 2017. The aviators were conducting a slow pick-up in order to fill their bucket with as much water as possible.

ROUND LAKE, N.Y. -- Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation conducted water bucket training to better prepare for the summer wildfire season here May 31.

The 560-gallon buckets are hung underneath the helicopter, filled with water by dipping them in a lake or stream, and then discharged over a forest or wild fire.

Water bucket training is done to prepare aviators to assist local fire departments in controlling forest fires and wild fires. Each summer selected crews train on the system to prepare for an emergency call.

Flying with almost two tons of water hanging underneath the he-

licopter requires practice because it changes the flying characteristics of the aircraft, explained 1st Lt. Forrest Thrush, and instructor pilot and assistant operations office.

The load oscillates as the helicopter flies and the pilot has to compensate, Thrush explained.

Each crew consists of four people. Two pilots and two crew chiefs. One crew chief controls the water bucket, and the other assists.

“We met the objective, at least for our aircraft and our crew. We got everyone trained, we got our initial qualification done so I’d call that a success.” Said 1st Lt. Forrest Thrush. **gt**



New York Army National Guard Sgt. Yaanique Scott salutes New York Air National Guard Maj. Gen. Anthony German, the Adjutant General, as he presents the Medal of Valor—New York’s highest military award for heroism to four New York Army National Guard Soldiers who successfully rescued the pilot of a plane which crashed and burned at Gabreski Airport on Feb. 26, during a ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Ronkonkoma on Sunday, June 4. The award of Medals of Valor to four Soldiers recognize those who braved the flaming wreckage of a private plane to rescue pilot Richard Rosenthal and the award of the Conspicuous Service Medal is for the three Soldiers who supported the rescue by landing the helicopter near the aircraft.

Army Aviation Soldiers awarded for Rescue

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

RONKONKOMA, N.Y. — Four New York Army National Guard Soldiers who rescued a pilot from a burning plane received New York’s highest medal for heroism during a June 4 ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility at MacArthur Airport.

The members of the Company B, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation Regiment were presented the New York State Medal of Valor by Maj. Gen. Anthony German, the Adjutant General.

On Feb. 26, the four crewmembers -- Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ronald Ramirez, and Warrant Officers Christopher Hansen and Aaron Pacholk and Sgt. Yaanique Scott— exited a UH-60 helicopter and raced to a single engine plane that had crashed in the woods by Gabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach, N.Y.

They managed to pull pilot Richard Rosenthal, 61, out of the aircraft as it burned. Unfortunately a passenger and a flight instructor lost their lives in the crash.

Three other Soldiers received the State Conspicuous Service Medal for their quick actions in landing the helicopter and aiding in the rescue.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Joseph McCarthy, the aircraft commander; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Meghan Polis, the co-pilot; and Spc. Sarah Noschese received that award.

“It is from the bottom of my heart that I do say thank you,” Rosenthal, said at the ceremony. “It has given me a very new perspective on being able to say I am glad to be here. Thank you ever so much.”

New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo also praised the Soldiers.

“These brave New Yorkers went above and beyond the call of duty and embody the very best of the New York National Guard,” Cuomo said. “I commend the entire crew for their quick actions and I am proud to see these exemplary servicemen and women receive this very deserving honor.”

The seven Soldiers were flying to Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base in Westhampton Beach when the pilots were notified that a plane which had been performing practice landings at the civilian airfield could not be seen and was not responding to radio calls. The flight crew immediately began a search and discovered the downed private aircraft in a nearby wooded area.

After landing their helicopter approximately 200 feet away from the downed aircraft, which was already engulfed in flames, four members of the crew approached the burning aircraft and were able to rescue one of the three individuals aboard the plane, Richard Rosenthal.



Richard Rosenthal speaks with Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ronald Ramirez to express his gratitude for his actions following Rosenthal’s Feb. 26 plane crash near Gabreski Airport.

Unfortunately, efforts to rescue the remaining two passengers were unsuccessful.

“We should be reminded that nothing we do is routine,” German said. “Every day can mean life or death. Their selfless and heroic efforts saved a life and we are proud to recognize their efforts.”

“We just expected to go out and do training and ended up saving someone’s life,” Hansen said. “It’s a proud moment. We had a great crew that accomplished something special for Mr. Rosenthal.”

The accident remains under investigation. **gt**

Artillery, Aviation team up for Combined Training

Story by Eric Durr and Pfc. Andrew Valenza, Guard Times Staff



FORT DRUM – It was hard to tell which was louder: the boom from the cannons or the roar of the downdraft from helicopter rotors, as New York Army National Guard artillery and aviation Soldiers teamed up for air assault artillery raid training here June 8-9.

The training scenario called for the artillerymen of the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery to be airlifted forward with their cannons and ammunition by the UH-60s of the 3rd Battalion 142nd Aviation. Once back on the ground the artilleryman would fire on a critical target, call in the helicopters, hook their guns back up and be airlifted back out.

This field artillery air assault is a critical task for his battalion which provides fire support for the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, said Lt. Col. Peter Mehling, the commander of the

258th Field Artillery.

“It gives the maneuver commander the ability to strike a high value target using speed, surprise and precision that is beyond the normal range of his indirect fire assets,” Mehling explained.

The air assault artillery raid is an integral part of the howitzer firing requirements his Soldiers need to conduct annually, he added.

This year the battalion’s Alpha Battery, based in New Windsor, N.Y., fielded four M119A2 howitzers to conduct live fire training as part of the air assault drill, while Bravo Battery, located in the Bronx, had two gun crews go through the exercise in a dry fire status.

The mission kicked off as the Blackhawks airlifted in an advance party which had 20 minutes to secure the area and mark gun locations.

While this was going on, the rest of the battery’s Soldiers were preparing the M119A2s howitzers for sling-loading under the UH-60s and then hooking them up to the hovering helicopters.

Flying with 2.3 tons of cannon hanging underneath a helicopter is tricky, so it’s always good for his aircrews to get a chance to practice the task, said Lt. Col. Kevin Ferreira, the commander of the 142nd Aviation.

“With an external load the handling capabilities and the flight characteristics of the aircraft change a little bit so, it’s a thought process...it’s a good decision making process for all the air crews that are participating,” he explained.

Two Soldiers from the 258th stood on each cannon as the Blackhawks came in over top of them. The downdraft from a helicopter can



Artillery raid photos, clockwise from top left: Pfc. Michael Natole, a cannon crewmember assigned to Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 258th Artillery Regiment, stands watch during the battery's June 9 air assault artillery raid at Fort Drum. During the raid four of the battery's howitzers were transported to the landing zone and subsequently engaged a simulated enemy target. A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter from the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation transports an M119A2 howitzer during the June 9 raid. Above, Alpha Battery Soldiers prepare to attach their 105mm M119A2 Howitzer to a UH-60 Blackhawk for the air assault artillery raid. Far left, battery cannon crewmembers conduct the artillery raid. Photos by Sgt. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

range from 70 to 115 miles per hour, so it was a challenge for the Soldiers to hook on correctly as dirt and dust flew around them.

On board the UH-60s, crew chiefs sitting in the doorway of the helicopters helped guide the pilots in to hook onto the guns.

The 142nd Aviation is a good unit to work with for this training, said Capt. Eric Emerling, the Alpha Battery commander.

"They're very user friendly," he said. "We keep in contact with them on the radio and they've been very adaptive if we have an issue on the ground. They're willing to work with us, give us more time or adapt as we need it so it's pretty good."

Next stop was the landing zone where the advance party had prepared a location for all four guns in the section.

When all guns were in place each howitzer fired four rounds on the target.

The M119A2 can fire a 105 millimeter shell filled with 4.6 pounds of high explosive, 8.6 miles downrange. A seven-member gun crew can fire three rounds a minute.

Along with exercising the gun crews, the air assault exercise is important because it gives the battalion Soldiers who are air assault qualified a chance to use the skills they learned in the Air Assault Course, Mehling said. These Soldiers don't often get a chance to use this training, so anytime they can it is a plus.

"The success of this training was largely due to the knowledge, experience, and leadership of these personnel," he emphasized.

The air assault artillery raid is also the kind of training his Soldiers love to do, Mehling said.

"Executing challenging training, with rigorously evaluated standards is the reason many cite when they re-enlist," Mehling said.

Overall the mission went well, Mehling said. Both batteries met the standards of the raid and the standards for the field artillery firing tables. They inserted their howitzers, computed accurate firing date, delivered the rounds on target and exfiltrated people and guns within the time standards.

"The fire mission itself went very well," Emerling said. "We got word that there were good effects on the target from the observers."

"In the field artillery it is very easy to measure success," Mehling said, "either you hit the target or you don't." **gt**

106th Airmen leap into dark Atlantic night to save lives

Story by Capt. Michael O'Hagan, 106th Rescue Wing

THE ATLANTIC OCEAN -- Gusts of wind hurled into the cabin and around the Airmen inside, as the rear ramp of the HC-130 search and rescue aircraft opened to the darkness of the Atlantic Ocean below on the night of April 24.

Members of the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing were preparing to jump into the sea less than 1,400 feet beneath them.

The low altitude jump was uncustomary, but necessary, because of a low cloud ceiling - and because two badly burned seamen were clinging to life aboard the ship Tamar on the ocean below.

Two sailors had already died on the vessel, a 623-foot long Slovenian-owned bulk cargo carrier, but the remaining injured men were in dire need of immediate medical treatment.

So seven members of the wing's 103rd Rescue Squadron jumped.

"This was definitely one of our most difficult missions, recalled Major Edward "Sean" Boughal, a combat rescue officer. "There were definitely periods where things could have gone south really fast."

On May 21st, Boughal and the other members of the wing who jumped that night, along with the aircrew who got them there, were recognized for their heroism by Slovenian President Borat Pahor.

Pahor presented the men with his country's Medal for Merit in the Military Field during a visit to the United Nations in New York City.

The explosion and fire on the Tamar had been a major news story in Slovenian, Pahor said.

His mother, the president recalled, asked him if there was any hope for the injured crewmen. Pahor said he had replied, "Listen, if anybody, our American friends will do the job."

For the Airmen of the 106th Rescue Wing at Gabreski Air National Guard Base, April 24, 2017 started as another routine day.

103rd Rescue Squadron members Senior Airman Michael Hartman, Staff Sgt. Bryan Dalere, and Master Sgt. Jed Smith were training on confined space rescues at the Fire Department New York Training Academy. Tech. Sgt. Jordan St. Clair, another member of the 103rd, was on the range getting some "trigger time."

Onboard the Tamar, heading from Baltimore to Gibraltar with a cargo of coal, an explosion occurred in a forward storeroom where four sailors were working. One sailor died almost immediately and three were badly burned.

Shortly before 7 a.m. the captain of the Marshall Islands-flagged vessel sent a distress call that was eventually routed to the U.S. Coast Guard's Boston Rescue Coordination Center for action.

Coast Guard officials looked at the available emergency assets: the 106th Rescue Wing, or a Canadian Coast Guard Cutter several hours away from the Tamar with limited medical capability.

Boughal and St. Clair started putting together the team that would jump into the Atlantic and board the Tamar.

While they worked, Hartman, Dalere and Smith got a police escort from the Fire Training Academy on Randall's Island back to Westhampton Beach. Senior Master Sgt. Erik Blom, Maj. Martin Viera, and Tech Sgt. Joseph Piccoli rounded out the team from the 103rd Rescue Squadron.

Major Jeffrey Cannet had been preparing to pilot his HC-130 search and rescue aircraft crew out for a training mission that day. Now, he and his crew, along with aircraft maintainers -- crew chiefs Staff Sgt. Michael Cruz and Senior Airman Hopeton Gordon -- changed gears quickly and got ready for a long-range rescue mission out to a dot in the Atlantic Ocean and back, recalled Cannet.

For the men on his crew, there was a sense of purpose knowing they were the only hope, Cannet said.

Five hours after take-off, the navigators, Lt. Col. Christopher Adam and Maj. Kevin Lawhon's calculations proved correct as the HC-130 broke through the clouds to find the Tamar right where they estimated it to be.

Now it was time for the pararescuemen and combat rescue officers. A second sailor had since died onboard the Tamar, and the remaining two seamen had hours left to live if nothing was done, Boughal remembered.

The HC-130 crew dropped two Zodiac boats into the water.



An airman from Esquadra 751, the Portuguese Air Force search and rescue organization, accompanies a litter carrying one of the injured Tamar crewman off the ship onto a hovering Merlin helicopter April 27, in the Atlantic Ocean after he and another badly burned sailor had been treated by members of the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing for the past three days. Video still by Senior Master Sgt. Erik Blom.



New York Air National Guard Airmen from the 106th Rescue Wing prepare to jump from an HC-130 search and rescue plane 1,300 miles east into the North Atlantic on April 24, 2017 as they go to the aid of two badly burned crewman on board the Slovenian-owned ship the Tamar. Two sailors had already died from a fire on board the ship which prompted the dispatch of the 106th Rescue Wing aircraft. Courtesy photo.

The pararescuemen and combat rescue officers, wearing dry suits, followed their boats out the back of the HC-130. Each man was wearing a flashing beacon along with red and green “chem” lights to mark their direction and location to avoid canopy collisions in the night sky.

“I definitely found a moment to pray. I (wondered), did I kiss my wife and son goodbye enough?” Viera said. “I was like, God, if this is my time to go, I guess this is it. But please, I would really like to make an impact on these people’s lives.”

The first team of four jumped about three seconds apart and then the second team of three the same.

“Collisions can be potentially fatal at that altitude,” Boughal said. “There were a couple of moments where I was thinking, ‘Where are my guys?’ because it was so dark.”

There was no time to be scared, St. Clair recalled. There was not a lot of time to get ready for hitting the water so he focused on the task at hand.

Dalere took charge of boarding the Tamar and St. Clair organized the crew to use a crane on the stern of the ship to hoist supplies aboard.

Hartman and Smith, who was the primary medic for the mission, a traditional Guard Airman and physician assistant in civilian life, headed for the patients.

The injured crewmen were in different cabins

and Smith had them moved together to create a makeshift ICU to treat them more efficiently.

The team needed to balance the available resources to treat the patients as it would be two days before they could get close enough to the Azores for an airlift from the Portuguese Search and Rescue Force, Smith said.

“When we got there we found the crewmen badly burned on their face, arms, legs and hands. The initial report was that they were conscious, talking and were mobile,” St. Clair said. “But we knew the end state. Their lives were absolutely at risk.”

The Slovenian sailor could talk a little bit and he let the Airmen know it was getting harder for him to breathe, Dalere said. The team decided it was time to secure his airway.

A tube was inserted through the sailor’s airway and he was placed on a ventilator to help keep him alive, according to Dalere.

The Airmen then took turns watching over their patients in shifts. They performed wound debridement, a procedure in which dead tissue is removed that may inhibit the healing process. They performed escharotomies, a procedure in which incisions are made on badly burned tissue to establish blood circulation and reduce pressure on the wounds.

Several hours later, the Filipino sailor’s airway became compromised but was too swollen to allow a tube to pass. The pararescuemen had

to cut a slit in the man’s throat, a procedure known as a cricothyrotomy, to pass a tube allowing him to breathe, according to St. Clair.

The medical mission extended into a third day before the vessel was close enough to the Azores for a helicopter to reach the Tamar.

The patients were prepared to be airlifted onboard the Merlin helicopter from the Portuguese Air Force’s search and rescue organization, Esquadra 751.

Viera, Smith and Hartman were hoisted up to the Portuguese helicopter along with the two patients so they could ensure continuity of care. The Portuguese flight doctor decided the best option was to allow the team to continue treatment after spending 36 hours with these two men, Viera said.

Nearly three hours later, the Merlin helicopter touched down in the Azores. At that point, Viera recalled, the realization dawned on him that after three days he was no longer responsible for the two injured sailors.

The ability to execute this complex mission was a testament to the training the 106th Rescue Wing does, said Col. Michael Bank, the wing commander.

“We are able to employ highly skilled, trained and diverse Airmen to accomplish a very complex rescue operation because we train to those high standards every day. I’m proud of the job they did,” Bank said. **gt**

Air Force Amanda takes to the skies

Adventures in Antarctica children's book gives Air Guard perspective

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

"Her mighty 109th Airlift Wing provides support for Science Exploration. Flying gives her adventure and pride serving her glorious Nation. Air Force Amanda is a Navigator in the 'Skibird', the Air Force's coolest plane! Her navigation skills help fly through dangerous and challenging terrain."

- Air Force Amanda: Adventure in Antarctica

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Scotia, N.Y. – Air Force Amanda – the storybook character version of Major Amanda Coonradt of the 109th Airlift Wing – came to life in December 2015 while Coonradt was supporting science research in Antarctica.

Her daughter, Amelia, was just 7 months old, and Coonradt wanted to explain to her why her mom was 9,500 miles away from Grafton, New York, where Amelia was.

So she decided to write a book to not only make her feel closer to her daughter back home but to also help other children understand why the mission that took their parents to the other side of the world was so important.

"I made it a goal of mine during my quiet time while I was on the ice and missing her," Coonradt explained.

"I'd go to the library or write in my room and try to get inspired to get the ball rolling. I wrote about three-quarters of it while I was on the ice that year," she said.

Now Coonradt, a navigator for the LC-130 "Skibird" planes the 109th flies to the Antarctic, the Arctic and Greenland, is sharing the adventure of Air Force Amanda with children everywhere through "Air Force Amanda: Adventure in Antarctica."

She envisions the self-published book as the first in a series.

"Since I had Amelia, I'm always on the lookout for books about military parents or a military female parent who deploys or does exciting things," Coonradt said.

"I had a hard time finding that. I don't really see a lot of very specific mission-orientated books especially with female flyers. That's when I decided I really want to get this out there," she said. "I thought it might benefit my military brothers and sisters who do this mission year after year. And sometimes it's hard to explain what they're doing when they deploy."



Maj. Amanda Coonradt, an LC-130 "Skibird" navigator, recently self-published a children's book, "Air Force Amanda: Adventure in Antarctica." Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin German, 109th Airlift Wing.

Along with being a navigator, Coonradt holds a bachelor's degree in childhood education and a master's degree in education and literacy. Her goal when she first enlisted with the 109th in 2000 was to obtain her bachelor's degree and become a teacher.

As she got more exposure to the military, she found an interest in flying and her priorities changed; her new goal was to become a navigator. She got her commission in 2007.

In April of 2015, Coonradt and her husband, Russ, had their daughter, Amelia.

Coonradt began writing the book while she was deployed to Antarctica in December of 2015 – her first time deployed to the ice since her daughter was born.

"I knew (deploying) was going to be a huge hardship, but it was something that Russ and I talked about even before we tried for children - that this was going to be part of our lifestyle," she said.

The book discusses the history, science, animals and landscape of Antarctica from the perspective of a female LC-130 navigator.

"I want to educate and empower! I have joined my love for education and my profession as an Air Force aviator"

-- Maj. Amanda Coonradt

Coonradt needed to find someone who would bring her words to life through illustration. Through online research, she was able to find Julio Rodriguez. She sent pictures of herself, the aircraft and other images to help him illustrate her story.

The next step was to get the book published.

"I wasn't sure how to be published – so I started digging deeper," she said. After a lot of online research, she discovered the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and was able to find the tools and resources needed to self-publish her book.

Coonradt self-published the book through Create Space, an Amazon company, and released it June 10. She has plans for an "Air Force Amanda" adventure series.

"I want to educate and empower! I have joined my love for education and my profession as an Air Force aviator by bringing to life 'Air Force Amanda's' adventure series," she said.

"I might go into a little bit more detail about what the navigator really does on the airplane, with plotting and mission planning and fuel planning," Coonradt said.

"I absolutely wrote this for Amelia and any future children we may have. If it's not successful, that's fine. The success for me is that I've completed this goal, and I have this for her."

"This was my first try and there were definitely some lessons learned. I'd like to do one about New Zealand, Greenland, United States – something fun, I don't really know yet," Coonradt said. "We'll see where my imagination goes and what I'm able to do."

"Thank you for flying with Air Force Amanda today. You too can find pride and adventure in your own special way! Adventure can be found through the world, anywhere. It's up to you to reach for the stars. Try it, it's a dare!" - Air Force Amanda: Adventure in Antarctica



109th Airlift Wing Turns Attention to the North

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

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Scotia, N.Y. – The 109th Airlift Wing’s annual support for National Science Foundation research in Greenland got underway this spring as wing members delivered 177 tons of cargo and 2,000 gallons of fuel during the first three-week rotation of the season in late April and early May.

The second rotation of three LC-130 ski-equipped aircraft and 80 airmen departed May 15.

Airmen and aircraft will rotate between the town of Kangerlussuaq (Kanger-loose-a-wack), the wing’s operations base while in Greenland, and Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, N.Y., four more times between now and the end of August.

The Airmen and aircraft transport fuel, cargo and passengers to and from the various science camps throughout Greenland during the summer months.

The wing’s Greenland missions also serve as

training for the support the unit provides for the National Science Foundation’s Antarctic Program when it is winter in New York and summer in Antarctica.

Along with the unit’s routine supply missions, this rotation also included 25 Airmen who took part in Arctic survival training at Raven Camp better known as “Kool Skool”. Airmen spent three days in the field learning survival skills, including how to build a shelter and use only the items immediately available to them to survive in the Arctic.

The 109th deploys at various times between April and August for Greenland. Each year, about six rotations consisting of two to four aircraft and up to 80 Airmen each, go for anywhere from six to 14 days at a time depending on the needs of the National Science Foundation.

Each year the 109th flies more than 800 hours during the Greenland support season;

while transporting about 2.1 million pounds of cargo, 49,000 pounds of fuel, and 1,790 passengers.

The Greenland season will come to a close in August; however, there’s not much downtime for those supporting the mission.

The Greenland planning conference for 2018 will be held in October, around the same time Airmen and aircraft begin shifting to support Antarctic operations as part of Operation Deep Freeze, the U.S. Department of Defense’s support to Antarctic science programs.^{gt}



An LC-130 “Skibird” from the 109th Airlift Wing lands at Camp Raven, Greenland, on June 28, 2016 for last year’s mission support. Crews with the 109th use Camp Raven as a training site for landing the ski-equipped LC-130s on snow and ice. Three LC-130 aircraft and 80 Airmen from the wing began rotations for the 2017 Greenland season this spring. Airmen and aircraft for the 109th Airlift Wing stage out of Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, during the summer months, supplying fuel and supplies and transporting passengers in and out of various National Science Foundation camps throughout the entire season and also train for the Operation Deep Freeze mission in Antarctica. The unique capabilities of the ski-equipped LC-130 aircraft make it the only one of its kind in the U.S. military, able to land on snow and ice. Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin German, 109th Airlift Wing.

New York Guard Marks 100 years of Service

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times* Staff

LATHAM, N.Y. — In the summer of 1917, as the New York National Guard mobilized to head “over there” to France to fight World War I, New York Governor Charles S. Whitman was looking for armed men to fight on the home front over here.

That need to replace National Guard Soldiers who had been protecting railroad bridges, water lines, and canals resulted in the creation of the New York Guard, the state’s volunteer self-defense force on August 3, 1917.

One hundred years later, the New York Guard is still part of New York’s Military Forces, augmenting the National Guard with trained manpower. New York Guard members assist with logistics, communications, and command post operations during New York State emergencies.

As the United States built up an Army to fight the Central Powers, the entire New York National Guard mobilized in the summer of 1917 and was sent to training camps. The last National Guard troops still in state service were federalized on August 5, 1917.

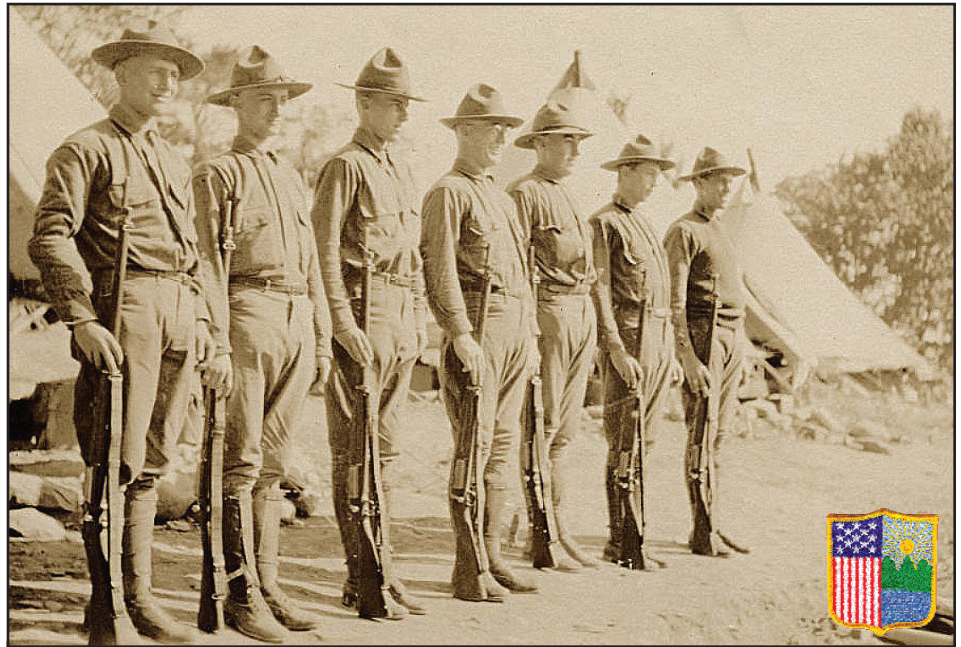
Prior to that, National Guard troops had been pulling guard duty on key infrastructure since February, 1917.

It wasn’t just paranoia. German agents blew up a munitions depot on the New Jersey side of New York Harbor in 1916. One Guardsman on duty on a railroad bridge in Waterford, N.Y. in April, 1917 reported being shot at. To replace these National Guard troops Congress authorized the states to utilize their ability to raise militias to serve as state troops.

According to Barry Stentford, author of the book “America’s Home Guard”, the definitive work on state defense forces, New York’s leaders had always been particularly concerned about needing a state military force.

Because New York was a heavily industrialized state, with large immigrant and poor populations, state officials always wanted a military force around to suppress riots or violent strikes, he writes. New York moved quickly to create a force of 10,000 men to replace the National Guard.

By October 1917, Adjutant General Charles H. Sherrill recruited 10,600 men. Because all able-bodied men between 18 and 45 had to register for the draft, the New York Guard con-



New York Guard members mount Guard near New Paltz, N.Y. in 1918. Photo courtesy of the Haviland-Heidgard Historical Collection.

sisted of 17-year olds seeking some experience before they became eligible for the draft, and men over 45.

The New York Guard was responsible for patrolling 95 miles of aqueduct, 500 miles of state canals, and key railroad bridges.

Initially the force manned guard posts with members doing two-week stints. But that took men away from work and business, which hurt the war effort, Sherrill told the *New York Times*.

Sherrill recruited a force of 2,000 men who did duty full time, divided into two provisional regiments. Those Soldiers were paid \$1.25 a day and the state was spending \$150,000 per month on the costs.

Army Brig. Gen. Eli D. Hoyle, the commander of the Army’s Eastern Department, praised New York Guard members for “quality and patriotic spirit” in performing their “important and onerous duties.”

The *New York Times* also praised the New York Guard members. “Protection of the aqueducts and bridges, armories and public buildings and effective co-operation with the Federal Government in its military preparations are essential,” the *Times* wrote on Oct. 7, 1917.

Throughout the war, men who were too

young for the Army, or couldn’t meet Army standards, volunteered for service in the 1st and 2nd Provisional Regiments, while older men joined the part-time units.

By the end of 1918 there were 22,000 New Yorkers serving in New York Guard units ranging from 44 men in Company G of the 5th Battalion in Massena, to 1,065 in the 23rd Regiment in Brooklyn.

However, Adjutant General Charles W. Berry, wrote in his annual report in 1919, no more than 5,000 troops could have been fielded. “At no time was the New York Guard properly armed, uniformed and equipped,” he wrote.

For those pulling Guard duty in remote places, like the aqueduct system near New Paltz in Ulster County, the duty could be cold and boring but also fun.

In letters now held by the Haviland-Heidgerd Historical Collection, 17-year old New York Guard Pvt. Merville Harrington wrote home to his family in Greene, N.Y. about his new duty station in High Falls, living with five other Guard members in a little house near “Shaft 5” on the aqueduct and what great duty it was.

Photos preserved in the collection, taken by Sgt. Thomas Burke, show the men riding in a buddy’s car and playing with their dogs.





New York Guard Col. Raymond Mechmann speaks during a ceremony honoring 40 members of the state defense force who died on duty during World War I while guarding New York's infrastructure at the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y on May 7, 2017. Most of those Guardsmen, whose names are on the memorial shown here, fell victim to the influenza pandemic which swept the world in 1918. The New York Guard marks 100 years of service this summer. Courtesy photo.

But security duties in the homeland could still turn deadly.

Thirty-two members of the New York Guard based in the Hudson Valley died in the influenza epidemic that swept the United States and the world in 1918, including 17-year old Merville Harrington. The New York Guard rendered valu-

able service in guarding public utilities, preserving order and in many other ways," Berry wrote in 1919. "Its members are entitled to the highest commendation for the patriotic manner in which they performed- the important duties thrust upon them," he said. **gt**



NY Guard, then to now

The New York Guard continues its 100-year tradition of service to New York as the organization commemorates its creation in 1917 this summer. At top left, Capt. Christopher Dunbar and Warrant Officer Humza Bashir of the 244th Medical Group conduct a CPR and first aid certification course for New York Guard service members April 22, 2017 at Camp Smith. While the class was a refresher for some, it was essential that New York Guard NCOs and officers practice life-saving skills in preparation for reporting to Annual Training later this summer. Above, New York Guard members load sandbags on board a truck for transport to a flood sites near Lake Ontario on June 12 2017. Almost 40 New York Guard members have been part of Operation Lake Ontario. The state defense force members served alongside New York Military Forces to help local governments and residents cope with high waters along Lake Ontarios shores. Courtesy photos.

New York Naval Militia

On sea and land, Naval Militia lends support



GREECE, N.Y. -- New York Naval Militia Patrol Boat 280 heads out onto Lake Ontario on a presence patrol here July 2, 2017. Two boats and crews were dispatched to make pleasure boaters aware that they should reduce speeds in areas adjacent to the shore line to prevent flooding. See our related story on page 12. Photo by Chief Petty Officer Richard Stacy, New York Naval Militia.



ALONG LAKE ONTARIO, N.Y. -- New York Naval Militia Petty Officer Alaina Visconte a Rochester resident and Petty Officer Matthew MacDowell also of Rochester prepare to head out onto Lake Ontario on board New York Naval Militia Patrol Boat 280 in Greece N.Y. on July 2 2017. The boat was operating off areas affected by Lake Ontario flooding in order to slow down private boats in no wake zones. The mission is designed to prevent speeding along flooded lake front during the 4th of July holiday period. At right, a New York Naval Militia Sailor fills sandbags in Sodus Point, N.Y. on May 20. The Naval Militia members were among more than 200 New York Army and Air National Guard members who prepared sandbags to prevent flooding due to high water in Lake Ontario. Courtesy photo.



SODUS POINT, N.Y. -- Above, New York Naval Militia Sailors and Marines conduct sandbag operations at Sodus Point, N.Y. on May 31, 2017. Below, members help fill sandbags in Sodus Point on May 20. Members of the New York National Guard produced nearly one million sandbags to help contain rising waters on Lake Ontario since May 3. Photo by Lt. Joe Painter, New York Naval Militia.



