

gt

Volume 8, Number 1

Winter 2015

guardtimes

www.dmna.ny.gov

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



FROM THE LEADERSHIP

We enlist Troops, retain Families

When a Soldier or Airman joins the New York National Guard, their family also joins the Guard.

When America went to war in Afghanistan and Iraq, following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, our New York National Guard family programs changed. A program that had too often been neglected became incredibly important as we sent Soldiers and Airmen downrange into harm's way.

Over the course of those wars, family programs and family support became critical to understanding and communicating benefits, entitlements and connectivity between the service member and families.

We now have seven full-time employees supporting the volunteers who run 103 Army National Guard unit Family Readiness Groups. At each of our Air National Guard units there are professionals ensuring the needs of our Air Guard families are addressed.

Currently there are 1,266 volunteers who guarantee our Army and Air National Guard families receive information and assistance as needed.

Since 2004 we have held 19 Family Readiness Group volunteer training events, along with more than 100 one-to-one, or small-group sessions for volunteers conducted over the phone, via the internet or face-to-face for these hard-working volunteers.

Along with the professionals backing up the family readiness volunteers we have access to financial and mental health counselors both on staff and from partnering organizations. And these professionals have access to a wide-range of support services our Guard families can take advantage of.

These include but are not limited to:

Joining Community Forces - at www.joint-servicessupport.org/communityforces/. This

non-profit links local groups across the state and the United States with military families who need assistance.

MilitaryOneSource - which can be reached at www.militaryonesource.mil/ or by calling 1-800-342-9647. This Department of Defense service provides military personnel and their families with a variety of assistance options for everything ranging from tax help to how to help a teenager cope with stress.

Operation Homefront - at www.operation-homefront.net/. This is a private group which provides assistance to service families in need or under stress.

There is also the New York National Guard Family Readiness Council which can provide monetary support to Guard families in crisis at www.nyfrc-inc.org/

Our Army and Air Guard families are also entitled to use military commissaries and the Army and Air Force Exchange just as their active duty counterparts.

Discounts at local stores or attractions made available to active duty military members and their families are most often also available to Guard members and their families.

A big part of our support to families while Guard Soldiers and Airmen went to war has been the development and refinement of our Yellow Ribbon Reintegration program. As the demands on our Soldiers and Airmen have evolved since the program launched in 2008, so has our reintegration effort.

Soldiers, Airmen and family members from units ranging in size from the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to a search and rescue team from the 106th Rescue Wing returning from Afghanistan have taken part in more than 150 total Yellow Ribbon or Hometown Hero events.

We developed and grew these family support



Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy

structures to support an Army and Air National Guard deployed for overseas operations. As our overseas commitments dwindle, we intend to ensure our support for Guard families does not.

Even part-time military life still stresses families in ways most families find challenging.

Husbands and wives, and mothers and fathers can still be called out with little notice to assist in coping with a hurricane or snow storm. Units still go away for weeks at a time for overseas deployment training. Military schools can result in Soldiers and Airmen investing additional time in their part-time military profession instead of spending it with family. Birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, dance lessons, and Little League games still get missed because of military obligations.

There will be times when our families will need support and we are committed to ensuring help is available either internally or we can connect those families with external partners.

Soldiers, Airmen and their families matter.



Live 1-on-1 Help Confidential Worldwide 24/7

Help is just a *Click, Call*
or *Text* away!

Anonymous

For confidential victim assistance visit www.SafeHelpline.org

(877) 995-5247

April is Sexual Assault Awareness month across the Department of the Defense and the country. For more information, visit www.sapr.mil or learn about response measures, visit www.myduty.mil

gt



guardtimes

Winter 2015 | Volume 8, Number 1

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, COMMANDER IN CHIEF
Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
Eric Durr, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Col. Richard Goldenberg, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
Maj. Alvin Phillips, COMMAND INFORMATION OFFICER
Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, NYARNG, EDITOR

About Guard Times

The *Guard Times* is published quarterly using federal funds authorized under provisions of AR 360-1 and AFI 35-101 by the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs and the New York Army and Air National Guard Public Affairs Office.

Views which appear in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force or the National Guard Bureau.

The *Guard Times* has a circulation of 20,000 and is distributed free to members of the New York State Military Forces and employees of the Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

Submissions

Articles, photos and letters are welcome. Please provide article submissions via email saved in Microsoft Word or rich text format (rtf) along with high resolution digital (jpg) photos. Submission deadlines are January 15 (winter issue), April 15 (spring issue), July 15 (summer issue), and October 15 (fall issue). Send your submissions to:

Guard Times
DMNA-MNPA
330 Old Niskayuna Road
Latham, New York 12110-3514
OFFICE (518) 786-4581 FAX (518) 786-4649
or richard.l.goldenberg.mil@mail.mil

Complimentary or Back Issues of the *Guard Times* are available. Contact us at the address above or visit us on the web for current news, photos or to download prior issues at www.dmna.state.ny.us.



www.dmna.ny.gov

gt

This Issue's Highlights:

The Joint Force

- 13 New York Responds to Historic Storm
- 15 Civil Support Team Hones Skills
- 17 Empire Shield Soldiers Hone Shooting Skills
- 18 Homeland Security Regional Response

Army National Guard

- 21 Artillerymen Brave Frigid Temperatures to Train
- 22 Aviators Step Up to CH-47 Foxtrot
- 23 Infantry Soldier Out to Earn Best Ranger Title
- 24 Public Affairs Team tells Story in Japan
- 26 Engineer Soldiers Work on Camp Smith Projects
- 27 New York Soldier Working in Afghanistan
- 30 A WWII Tradition Revived
- 31 Historic 'Harlem Hellfighter' Records now Online

Air National Guard

- 33 109th Conducts Antarctic Support
- 34 Airmen play a key role in Guard Security Task Force
- 38 New York Air National Guard Airmen of the Year for 2015
- 39 EADS Transformation After 20 Years

New York Guard

- 40 New York Guard Recognizes past leader

New York Naval Militia

- 41 Naval Militia Pipes Aboard New Commander

Around the State

- 42 Guard Recognizes Military, Civilian Heroes
- 45 Harlem Hellfighters' Army Renovations Undersay
- 47 Lost Civil War Painting Rediscovered, Readied for Display



A line of military dump trucks belonging to the 152nd Engineer Company assist in snow removal efforts in West Seneca, New York on November 20, 2014 as part of Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's call up of some 780 National Guard members to support response and recovery efforts in Western New York following historic amounts of snowfall. See our story coverage on Page 13. Photo by Maj. Mark Frank, Joint Force Headquarters.

FRONT COVER: Army National Guard Sgt. Erik Mish and Spc. Michael Palizay from Buffalo's 105th Military Police Company provide traffic control in West Seneca, N.Y. November 20, 2014. The Soldiers provided response and recovery efforts in Western New York following historic amounts of snowfall for Operation Lake Effect. The Guard responded again in early January for a second storm in Western New York, dubbed Operation Lake Effect II. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Ray Lloyd, 107th Airlift Wing.

BACK COVER: An HH-60 Pavehawk with the 101st Rescue Squadron, 106th Rescue Wing conducts training around Westhampton Beach on Nov. 25 2014. During this time the air crew tested the aircraft's defensive systems and conducted a simulated rescue of a downed airman. Photo by Senior Airman Christopher S. Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.

Social Network Safety: Protect Your Online Identity

Story courtesy of the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command

QUANTICO, Va. -- As a result of recent world events and a continual effort to protect the force, special agents with the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command's Computer Crime Investigative Unit are strongly recommending that anyone affiliated with the U.S. military, review their social media accounts to make sure they are using the best security settings to protect their online profiles.

Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn are powerful tools that can help bring communities together. However, an individual's online profile can provide cyber criminals with an endless pool of personal information and potential targets to be exploited. As such, it is vital that individuals stay on the alert and be personally responsible for their online presence to protect themselves, their loved ones and the Army.

With that in mind, CID provides the following information to help the greater Army community protect themselves online and significantly reduce the chance of becoming a victim of cyber crime.

Social Networking Safety Tips: THINGS TO KNOW

* The internet does not forget. Once something is posted on a social networking website it can spread quickly, and no amount of effort can delete it. Do not post anything you would be embarrassed to see on the evening news.

* You are not anonymous. Cyber criminals have the capability to gather and exploit both individuals and organizations.

* More isn't always better. Participating in multiple social networking sites significantly increases a person's risk, and affords cyber criminal alternate avenues to strike and gather information.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF:

* Know the terms on social networking websites. Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and other social networking sites frequently change their privacy and user policies. Social networking sites privacy settings default to everyone. This means anyone can view your profile, not just the people you know. Securely configuring one's account will minimize who can see your information.

"The internet does not forget. Once something is posted on a social networking website it can spread quickly, and no amount of effort can delete it. Do not post anything you would be embarrassed to see on the evening news.

"You are not anonymous. Cyber criminals have the capability to gather and exploit both individuals and organizations."

* Safe social networking. Never disclose private information when using social networking websites. Be very selective who you invite or accept invitations from as criminals often use false or spoofed profiles to gain access to personal and private information, such as birthdates, marital status, and photographs. Social media posts that contain personal identifying information (PII), digital photos that contain metadata (i.e., information written into the digital photo file such as who owns it, contact information, location, and internet search terms) can be used against you and your family.

* Click with caution. Always use caution when clicking on links in social networking posts, even from someone you know. Reports of personal social networking accounts being hacked by criminals have increased in recent years. Clicking on a link that appears to be benign in nature may in fact contain embedded malware that can compromise your device. Once compromised, any data on your device can be exploited.

* Hide your profile from search engines. This can be accomplished by going to the social networking site account settings and unchecking the "Public Search Results" box. This will remove your public preview from Google, Bing, and Yahoo search returns.

* Check-out and tag-out. Do not use check-




ins or post your specific location on social media. Also, prevent people from "tagging" you in photos and videos.

* Login No No's. Do not use your social networking site to login to other sites or use the save password, remember me, and keep me logged in options from a public or shared device. Use strong, unique passwords and never use the same password for all online accounts.

* Install/Update your anti-virus/firewall software. Antivirus and firewall software is a must for anyone to safely navigate online. Always keep your security software up to date in order to provide the most complete protection from malicious programs as thousands of new viruses are detected every year. Also, ensure your antivirus software program updates automatically and scans your computer on a recurring schedule.

As a service to the U.S. Army and DOD communities, the Computer Crime Investigative Unit has produced comprehensive how-to guides to safely configure an individual's Facebook and Twitter accounts. Configuration guides for other social networking platforms will be available in the near future.

To download the guide, visit <http://www.cid.army.mil/documents/CCIU/2can/SocialNetworkingSafetyTips.pdf> and select the respective guide at the bottom of page one. 

The Power of the New York State Power of Attorney

By Lt. Col. Adam P. Feller, 106th Rescue Wing



F.S. GABRESKI AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Westhampton -- One of the most common types of documents and powerful tools our New York National Guard Judge Advocates draft for members is the Power of Attorney (POA).

This document enables Guardsmen, dependents or retirees (the principal) to designate another to serve as his or her attorney-in-fact (the agent) for financial transactions and to make binding decisions regarding health and child care when the principal cannot.

For example, Joe, a single-parent deploying Guard member residing in New York State can provide a POA to his sister Jane to serve as his agent to, in his name, purchase a car, sell his home, rent an apartment and sign his tax returns. He can also appoint Jane to become a sort of substitute parent for his child, Donna, thereby giving her the right to make critical decisions regarding Donna's health and education, and to have access to her medical and school records otherwise not releasable to her under state law.

Jane can also serve as Joe's agent in making decisions regarding his medical care should he become mentally incapacitated, including whether to discontinue extraordinary medical life-support measures.

To achieve these ends, our New York National Guard Judge Advocates can draft POAs pursuant to either New York State or federal law. Under federal law, a Judge Advocate can draft a generic POA that does not necessarily meet NY State's POA requirements yet still be legally enforceable in all the states. But the downside to these one-size-fits-all POAs is that third parties in New York to whom it is

presented in order to complete a transaction, or otherwise act as an agent, may not recognize it and thus refuse to honor it.

For example, a bank officer on Long Island may refuse to recognize Jane's federally authorized POA from Joe because the officer has never seen such a document before, and will not take a chance becoming legally liable for any future claim rooted upon it. Instead of Jane arguing with him that the POA is legitimate and must be accepted, the better play is for Joe to obtain from his Judge Advocate a POA drafted in conformity with New York State law.

There are four relevant types of principal-agent POA documents a New York National Guard Judge Advocate can draft that meet New York State requirements. The first is a Durable Power of Attorney, which allows an agent to perform either any financial transaction (a General POA), or a limited type of financial transaction (a Special or Limited POA) on behalf of the principal, even if the principal becomes mentally incompetent or incapacitated after executing the POA.

Though not required, in 2010 New York created a "statutory short form" that contains all the information that must be included in this type of POA to be enforceable. Because it is a standard form, it would be recognizable to our hypothetical bank officer who should have no problem accepting it from Jane. In fact, New York law states that any third party to whom this New York POA is presented is required to accept it or risk being sued in a special court proceeding for enforcement. There is no equivalent federal law for special enforcement of the generic military POAs.

In 2005, a type of New York Power of At-

torney was created that allows a parent to designate another as a person in "parental relation" with that child for up to six months, which can be renewed every six months. With the exception of major surgery, electroconvulsive therapy and discontinuance of life-sustaining medical care, this authorizes the agent to consent to any medical, dental, health, and hospital services for the child for which consent of a parent is required under New York law.

It also authorizes the agent to consent to vaccinations, enroll the child in school, obtain birth certificates for enrollment, receive report cards, consent to class trips, etc. So, if Joe will be deployed when any and all of these events should occur or require action, he can rest easy knowing that Jane is authorized under New York law to tend to them.

Should Joe be deployed for more than six months, all he has to do is sign (in front of a Judge Advocate or other Notary) and send to Jane a new six month parental relation POA, which Joe can revoke at any time. Note that this POA is only good while the designating parent is alive and mentally competent.

Also, as with the POA for financial transactions, this too has picky statutory requirements as to what information needs to be included in it in order to be cognizable to New York education authorities and health care providers. Although there is no prescribed form, your New York National Guard Judge Advocate will know what is required to draft this type of limited POA.

The Health Care Proxy is another type of NY POA that Guardsmen should know about. This document allows the appointed agent to make decisions on behalf of the principal regarding any and all types of health care that the principal could otherwise make for him or herself if not incapacitated. Deciding whether to discontinue medication, tube-feeding, hydration, or mechanical life-support measures are obviously very important considerations for the principal; so too the decision of who will be the trusted agent to carry out these wishes in the event of incapacitation.

Careful deliberation should precede enshrining into an enforceable legal document just

Cont'd on page 7

Inspector General Corner

2015: Shifting Focus

Commentary by Col. Maureen Murphy, Inspector General

The Joint Force Headquarters Inspector General Office worked a total of 420 cases during Fiscal Year 2014: 337 Army National Guard cases and 83 Air National Guard cases, compared to 435 cases in the previous fiscal year.

What do those cases show us in trends? The vast majority of our cases involve assisting members who are experiencing an actual or perceived stalled or improper action, and we remain dedicated to facilitating adjudication and solving problems for members and commanders.

Historically, there is typically an increase in Inspector General issues following reset from periods of conflict, and we anticipate a continued period of rigorous oversight as our focus shifts from operational taskings and overseas deployments to sustainment of home station training.

In New York, our top issues this past year fell in the areas of: 1) personnel actions, such as separations, promotions, transfers; 2) pay issues, including bonuses, basic pay, and Student Loan Repayment Program (ARNG); 3) command actions or command climate concerns, such as abuse of authority allegations, command decisions, and unit Line of Duty actions; 4) misconduct, including Absent Without Leave, harassment, or maltreatment; and 5) medical issues, particularly Medical Evaluation Boards or Line of Duty determinations.

The Inspector General, as a sensor for the commander, helps identify issues like these that impact readiness and warfighting capability, and helps address root causes of problems, as opposed to just symptoms. Additionally, we conduct investigations to resolve allegations of impropriety and provide continuous teaching and training on current Army and Air Force policy and doctrine.

As we reset our force during relatively budget-constrained times, the meticulous and timely execution of personnel, pay, and administrative actions at the unit level remains critically important. The reality of fewer deployments and training opportunities for our Soldiers and Airmen results in training and professional development opportunities which are more selective.

Leaders at all levels should be keeping a close eye on processes and compliance metrics to ensure that overdue evaluations and inefficient handling of administrative issues do not negatively impact our members' opportunities for professional development and career progression. Additionally, all members of our organization need to ensure they know, comply with, and uphold the written standards, regulations, and instructions. Any discriminators in a record indicating failure to meet standards may influence future professional development or even retention decisions.

Command and leadership issues comprised a third of all IG complaints, and throughout our force, there has been a significant increase in complaints regarding the failure of leaders to foster a healthy command climate, treat subordinates with dignity and respect, and obey orders and regulations. The vast majority of our Soldiers and Airmen understand our institutional values and expect their supervisors and commanders to live up to them.

Effective leadership communication, including conveying commander's intent and priorities in a professional manner and tone, and provid-

ing open avenues of feedback, remains critically important to fostering a healthy command climate. Our junior members recognize inappropriate language and insensitive or demeaning treatment and, particularly when it occurs in a public setting, are prepared to report it. Often times now, complaints may come from a witness, as opposed to the subject of the treatment, who observes behavior that doesn't conform to our foundational values. Should leaders at any level observe or become aware of incidents, they must act to address and correct infractions on the spot, to ensure subordinates are confident they care about the members of the organization, and value a professional and healthy climate.

Additionally, while all members need to understand the standards, leaders have an inherent responsibility to be most knowledgeable about current regulations and guidance and ensure they are upheld. Failure to know regulations may lead to inconsistencies in policies and procedures and create perceptions of unequal or preferential treatment.

After years of wartime focus, it's time to get back to basics and do things by the book in-garrison. If you have questions or require assistance with current regulations or guidance, be sure to make use of resources available to you, including the Joint Force Headquarters Inspector General Office. **gt**

Guard Honors Eighth President



KINDERHOOK--New York Army National Guard Command Sgt. Major Louis Wilson and Brig. Gen. Ray Shields, director of Joint Staff, salute the grave site of President Martin Van Buren December 5, 2014 after laying a wreath presented by President Barack Obama. The National Guard's headquarters in Latham, presents the presidential wreath at Van Buren's grave site each year on the anniversary of his birth. Photo by Eric Durr, Public Affairs Director.

Safety Corner

Spring into Safety

Please review the following safety tips to help make this Spring a safe one!

Start by taking a few minutes to plan your spring cleaning. Check each room in your house, including the attic and basement. Don't forget the garage, yard and storage shed. Plan to address the following items:

Remove All Hazards

- Damaged or frayed appliance cords, wiring, fuses or breakers
- Piles of rubbish, yard debris and trash
- Remove stacks of paper and magazines; take them to recycling centers
- Check for water leaks, especially near electrical appliances
- Check for proper clearance between heating appliances and combustibles

Store Flammables and Chemicals

- Make sure that gasoline and cleaning fluids are well marked and are out of the reach of children and pets. Store in a cool, dry place outside the home.
- Clean up work areas. Put dangerous tools, adhesives, matches or other such items away and out of any child's reach.
- Inventory home and yard chemicals, paints and poisons. Store them according to

label instructions. Properly dispose of any that are expired or leaking. Do not throw chemicals in the trash or down the drain.

- Ensure that chemicals are kept under lock and key and out of reach of children and pets.

Check Fire and Safety Equipment

- Test and replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. It is recommended that you change these batteries twice a year.
- Check fire extinguishers for proper type, condition and placement.
- Make sure all doors and windows open easily for fast escapes. Make sure your street numbers are posted properly and are visible.
- Check and make sure you have a working flashlight and battery-powered radio in case you lose power.
- Check the first aid kit against the inventory list and replace any missing supplies.

Plan Your Escape

- Review your family's emergency plan, or create one for the first time. Have a meeting with family members to explain what to do and where to go in case of a fire or other emergency.
- Update phone numbers, addresses and contact information, and post an emergency

information page near the phone.

- Make sure you have two ways out of every room and that you have a meeting place outside the house for the whole family.

- Practice the plan. Even the best plan is no good if you don't practice it!



You can do a lot to protect yourself, your family and your property. A little time spent on simple prevention will do a lot to make your house a safer place. By following these quick and simple steps, we can all keep spring activities fun and safe.

Power of Attorney cont'd. from page 5

what those wishes are and who will see to it they are carried out. Before deploying, Joe should seriously think about what kind of care he does or does not wish to receive in the event of temporary or permanent mental incapacitation, and then have a frank talk with Jane about what those wishes are. This way Jane can more reliably honor the letter and spirit of Joe's intentions should the time come for her to act as his agent.

New York State provides a sample Health Care Proxy that includes all the legal requirements for enforcement. Consult with a Judge Advocate for more details.

Lastly, there is the Living Will, which is also recognized in New York State as evidence of health-care wishes. Don't be misled by its name, it has nothing to do with distribution of your property upon death. Rather, it serves as a

legally enforceable directive to anyone (physicians, nurses, friends, and family) regarding end-of-life choices to be followed when there is no hope of recovery.

For example, if Joe is in a permanent coma due to serious brain injuries suffered in a car accident, he may have directed in such a case that hydration continue until death, tube-feeding cease after three weeks, and that he not be resuscitated should his heart or lungs cease to function. A Living Will containing such directives nicely serves in conjunction with a Health Care Proxy allowing Jane to more clearly and confidently determine and assert Joe's wishes with respect to his end-of-life medical care decisions.

These powers of attorney are very effective tools. They help a deployed member complete an expensive financial transaction

while overseas, provide a lawfully recognized care giver for his or her children, and legally direct whether imminent death is preferable to prolonged life-sustaining care if in a permanent vegetative state.

To ensure that these documents are honored in New York, ask your Judge Advocate that they be drafted in accordance with New York law, not just federal law. **gt**





Marking the End of Afghanistan's Combat Mission

Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON -- President Barack Obama and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel each issued statements December 28, 2014 to mark the end of the U.S. combat mission in Afghanistan.

After 13 years of combat operations, Operation Enduring Freedom drew to a close in a ceremony at the International Security and Assistance Force headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan.

"Today's ceremony in Kabul marks a milestone for our country," Obama said. "For more than 13 years, ever since nearly 3,000 innocent lives were taken from us on 9/11, our nation has been at war in Afghanistan. Now, thanks to the extraordinary sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, our combat mission in Afghanistan is ending, and the longest war in American history is coming to a responsible conclusion."

"At the end of this year," Hagel said, "as our Afghan partners assume responsibility for the security of their country, the United States officially concludes Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2015, we begin our follow-on mission -- Operation Freedom's Sentinel -- to help secure and build upon the hard-fought gains of the last 13 years."

Today, though, "we give thanks to our troops and intelligence personnel who have been relentless against the terrorists responsible for 9/11 -- devastating the core al-Qaeda leadership, delivering justice to Osama bin Laden, disrupting terrorist plots and saving countless American lives," the president said.

"We are safer, and our nation is more secure, because of their service," he said. "At the same time, our courageous military and diplomatic personnel in Afghanistan -- along with our NATO allies and coalition partners--have helped the Afghan people reclaim their communities, take the lead for their own security, hold historic elections and complete the first democratic transfer of power in their country's history."


"We honor the profound sacrifices that have made this progress possible," the president said. "We salute every American -- military and civilian, including our dedicated diplomats and development workers -- who have served in Afghanistan, many on multiple tours, just as their families have sacrificed at home."

"Afghanistan remains a dangerous place, and the Afghan people and their security forces continue to make tremendous sacrifices in defense of their country," Obama said. "At the invitation of the Afghan government, and to preserve the gains we have made together, the United States -- along with our allies and partners -- will maintain a limited military presence in Afghanistan."

The United States will pursue two missions in Operation Freedom's Sentinel, Hagel said. "We will work with our allies and partners as part of NATO's Resolute Support mission to continue training, advising and assisting Afghan security forces. And we will continue our counterterrorism mission against the remnants of Al-Qaeda to ensure that Afghanistan is never again used to stage attacks against our homeland."

"Our personnel will continue to face risks, but this reflects the enduring commitment of the United States to the Afghan people and to a united, secure and sovereign Afghanistan that is never again used as a source of attacks against our nation," Obama said.

"These past 13 years have tested our nation and our military," the president said. "But compared to the nearly 180,000 American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan when I took office, we now have fewer than 15,000 in those countries. Some 90 percent of our troops are home."

"Our military remains the finest in the world, and we will remain vigilant against terrorist attacks in defense of the freedoms and values we hold dear. And we enter a new year with new confidence, indebted to our fellow Americans in uniform who keep us safe and free." 

New Allotment Policy

By *Guard Times Staff*

WASHINGTON -- The Department of Defense announced a change to policy Nov. 21, 2014 that will prohibit service members from using new pay allotments to purchase, lease or rent personal property effective Jan. 1, 2015.


The change prohibits service members from authorizing payroll allotments directly to lenders for the purchase of vehicles, appliances, electronics or other consumer items found in predatory lending schemes.

The allotment change follows an inter-agency review conducted in response to a major enforcement action by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

This policy will eliminate an aspect of the allotment system most prone to abuse by unscrupulous lenders that prey on service members. This will significantly improve protections for all service members and their families, while not significantly reducing the flexibility to use allotments for a number of legitimate purposes.

The change will apply only to service members and not to military retirees or DoD civilians.

Additionally, it will not affect existing allotments or prohibit allotments made to savings accounts, support dependents, pay insurance premiums, pay mortgages, pay rents or fund investments.

For further information please see DoD's fact sheet: 

<http://www.defense.gov/pubs/Fact-Sheet-on-New-DoD-Policy-Change-to-Allotment-System.pdf>

Chaplains Corner

Fight, Flight or Friendly?

Chaplain Commentary by Chaplain (Maj.) Jacob Marvel, 109th Airlift Wing

I've been watching the news and feeling a little helpless lately about increased violence in the world. And also, as a chaplain, upset that religion seems to fuel so many battles. Sometimes when cultures and religions meet, there is arguing and conflict, as we often see in the news. Religion can lead us to fight.

I'm also aware that even in my neighborhood families who have moved from the Middle East are sometimes regarded with suspicion or confusion. We aren't arguing with our neighbors, but maybe we tend to avoid talking with them. My grandmother's advice sometimes rings in my ears: "In polite company, don't talk about religion." Spiritual beliefs can be something we flee from talking about with others.

As a chaplain, I don't think that religious differences necessarily lead to conflict; neither do I think they need to be ignored. Rather, if we approach someone who is different with curiosity and respect, we are better neighbors. I think there are other options than "fight or flight"

when we meet someone different.

I have two civilian colleagues who live and work in the Middle East, in communities in which they are the religious minority. They have both shared in the past several weeks how much they value being engaged in conversation and relationship with Muslims.

They tell stories of when they first moved into a different community and felt very much like outsiders. In time, as their neighbors initiated conversations and invited them to community events, they felt less like outsiders.

One man in particular tells of being invited recently to a neighbor's party to celebrate their son's graduation; he was introduced as a "friend." His neighbors and their extended family were curious and respectful about his religious beliefs; different beliefs did not lead to arguments, nor did they need to be ignored. He now feels more genuinely welcome because he and his neighbors share the values of respect and curiosity, even if they don't share the same



"Spiritual beliefs don't need to be reasons for conflict or something to be ignored. They can also be ways to interact with others and deepen relationships with our neighbors.

-- Chaplain (Maj.) Jacob Marvel, 109th Airlift Wing

religion.

I encourage you, as you have opportunity, to consider other people's differences, even their faith differences, as opportunities to be friendly and welcoming. Spiritual beliefs don't need to be reasons for conflict or something to be ignored. They can also be ways to interact with others and deepen relationships with our neighbors. **gt**

Department of Defense Authorizes Service Stars for Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

WASHINGTON -- The Department of Defense announced February 9 that effective immediately, service members are authorized to wear Service Stars on their Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medals (GWOT-EM) to represent deployments in support of approved GWOT operations.

Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Jessica Wright signed a memorandum authorizing the new policy change retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001.

Only one GWOT-EM is awarded for each approved operation. For example, a service member who was awarded the medal for an Operation Enduring Freedom deployment, and is subsequently authorized a second award for an Operation Inherent Resolve deployment would wear a single Service Star on the GWOT-EM to denote both awards.

The five GWOT-EM approved operations are:

Operation	Inclusive Dates
ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF)	Sept. 11, 2001 - TBD
IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF)	Mar 19, 2003 - Aug. 31, 2010
NOMAD SHADOW (ONS)	Nov. 5, 2007 - TBD
NEW DAWN (OND)	Sept. 1, 2010 - Dec. 31, 2011
INHERENT RESOLVE (OIR)	June 15, 2014 - TBD

This policy change does not adjust criteria for award of the Afghanistan Campaign Medal or the Iraq Campaign Medal (ICM).

Full eligibility criteria for the GWOT-EM are contained in Department of Defense Manual 1348.33, Volume 2, Manual of Military Decorations and Awards: DoD Service Awards Campaign, Expeditionary, and Service Medals. Additionally, each military department will prescribe procedures for service members' requests for award of GWOT-EM Service Stars.

The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal is positioned above the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal in precedence, and directly follows the Kosovo Campaign Medal. **gt**



Military Personnel News: The MILPO Corner

Administrative News

New/Revised Publications. Three revised publications are now posted and available on the Army Publishing Directorate for Soldiers at <http://www.apd.army.mil/>:

AR 600-8-19, Enlisted Promotions and Reductions.

DA PAM 600-3, Commissioned Officer Professional Development and Career Management.

DA PAM 670-1, Guide to the Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia.

Soldier Support News

Enlistment Extension Document Corrections. Soldiers with minor errors on their DA Form 4836 (oath of extension of enlistment or reenlistment) that invalidate their re-enlistment contract and/or bonus addendum may request corrections to the New York Army National Guard Personnel Office (G1). Requests may be submitted on DA Form 4187 through their commander. Requests must be signed by the Soldier with the original DA Form 4836, and a CORRECTED DA Form 4836 signed by Soldier's commander. More information can be found on the AKO website at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/535774>.

New Reenlistment Bonus. The bonus structure for reenlistment has increased along with a new two-year extension bonus program, beginning in February 2015. A six-year reenlistment completed within a year from ETS may qualify a Soldier for a \$12,000 extension bonus.

A two-year reenlistment within a year from ETS may qualify a Soldier for a \$4,000 extension bonus.

See your local Recruiting and Retention NCO for more details on how to qualify.

Electronic Leave and Earnings Statement. The Army Financial Management Command reminds troops that beginning this January, a hard copy Leave and Earning Statement (LES) will no longer be mailed to Soldiers. Electronic copies of the LES are available in myPay. Members are strongly encouraged to set up a "view-only" capability in myPay for family members. For further details visit www.dfas.mil.

Retirement Pay. As Soldiers with 20 qualifying years towards retirement approach age 58, they should contact Army Human Resources Command at Fort Knox or the New York Army

National Guard Military Personnel Directorate (Staff Sgt. Leavitt) to apply for retirement pay. Receiving retirement pay is not automatic. You must apply for it at least nine months prior to your 60th birthday.

Soldiers who transferred to the Retired Reserve or IRR should receive a retirement application from HRC as long as your address has not changed from your date of separation. If you have moved, it is your responsibility to notify HRC by phone or in writing of this change.

When you receive your 20 year letter it is imperative that you make an election within 90 days to enroll or decline coverage under the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) Election Certificate. Making no election at all will automatically enroll you for full coverage for your spouse if you are married.

Transition Resources to the Civilian Workforce. Service members may not be aware of the many resources to help them transition into the civilian workforce. The eBenefits website (<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>) is an online portal that combines job boards and professional connection media (i.e. LinkedIn) to assist both veteran job-seekers and employers seeking to hire veterans.

The eBenefits website is accessible to all Reserve & National Guard members, veterans, spouses, and dependents. Establishing a profile will help Soldiers and veterans reduce their reliance on unemployment compensation for ex-Service members (UCX) and help Soldiers, veterans, and family members connect with top-of-the-line resources and opportunities leading to meaningful employment. UCX provides temporary, weekly income to ex-Service members as they look for work, and to ex-Service members employed only part-time.

Reserve & National Guard members without full-time or part-time jobs or are seeking a change will find eBenefits as a useful resource. Some resources include, but not limited to Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), Hero to Hired (H2H), and G.I. Jobs.

New Army Physical Fitness Uniform (APFU) and Black Fleece Cap. Soldier feedback prompted the development of the new APFU. Soldiers' recommendations included modifications to the appearance (color & design), the addition of high-performance fabrics,

and measures to increase comfort and fit (to include female sizing). The new APFU features 32 improvements, all incorporated based on Soldier input.

The APFU is available now at Army Military Clothing Stores (AMCS). Most Army National Guard Soldiers will see the APFU in their clothing issue beginning in the summer of 2015.

The wear-out date for the IPFU is September 2017 and mandatory possession date for new APFU is October 1, 2017.

The new black fleece cap replaces the green fleece cap. The black fleece cap may be worn with new APFU but cannot be worn with IPFU.

Officer Career News

New DA PAM 600-3 Released. The new Commissioned Officer Professional Development and Career Management regulation (DA PAM 600-3) was released December 3, 2014. Highlights to the new regulation include adjustment to requirements for branch transfers; a revised definition of officer broadening assignments; renames Maneuver, Fires, and Effects functional area to Operations and updates for career development models for branch and functional areas.

Officer Personnel Workshops. The Military Personnel Directorate's Officer Personnel Management Branch (MNP-OPM) will conduct six Officer Personnel Workshops in FY15 across several statewide locations. This will be a one-day workshop (2 hours in duration) focusing on educating officers on the promotion system, recent changes to officer policy, and exposure to career tracker.

Officers are encouraged to attend a workshop in their respective region. Workshops will be held on drill weekends in order to maximize attendance. Units that are not drilling on the selected weekend are encouraged to allow their officers to split to attend the workshop. Officers can register for a workshop using the registration survey on the OPM website at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/555489>. Upon unit request personnel will be available to administer DA Photos on site at the workshop.

Location, Dates/Times and Area Units

Cp Smith, Bldg 500, Auditorium

April 11 / 1900-2100 42ID HQ

Cp Smith, Bldg 500, Auditorium

April 18 / 0900-1100 53TC/369th

Latham, Classroom 204-205

May 16 / 0900-1100 42 CAB

Syracuse, Thompson Rd Armory

June 6 / 0900-1100 27th BCT

Buffalo, Connecticut St. DLC

June 13 / 0900-1100 153 TC

Latham, Classroom 204-205

Sep 12 / 0900-1100 JFHQ

For more assistance, contact Capt. Katie McGovern, OPM Branch Chief, at katie.a.mcgovern.mil@mail.mil or (518) 272-6493.

Officer Personnel Actions System (oPAM).

The Military Personnel Directorate released a new program February 1 called the Officer Personnel Actions (oPAM) System. The purpose of this program is to enhance officer personnel management efficiency and transparency.

oPAM now serves as the official NYARNG database of record to track officer personnel actions. All federal recognition actions will be submitted through oPAM, packets will no longer be accepted through email. With the release oPAM, officers can now complete various actions at the battalion level that were previously only done at the state level. Officers can now handle the following actions: updating Form 11s, tracking command/assignment credit and tracking federal recognition actions.

For more information, please contact your unit/battalion personnel office.

ARNG Career Center. The Army National Guard Career Tracker serves as a one-stop shop for officers to review their records. Officers can access their ORB, iPERMs record and Soldier data. Soldier data includes the current status of any FEDREC actions in process. The system also allows officers to run queries on authorized positions throughout the state. Officers can access the site at: <https://arngg1.ngb.army.mil/SelfService/CareerCenter/Home.aspx>

Unmasking of Army Officer Evaluation Reports. Effective immediately, all lieutenant and Warrant Officer One officer evaluation reports will no longer be masked, in accordance with Army Directive 2015-11. This July, Army Human Resources Command will move all previously masked OERs from restricted folders in iPERMS to the performance folder. Selection boards that convene on or after July 1, 2015 will be able to review the previously masked OERs.

Healthcare News

Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR), Polio, and Varicella Vaccine Requirements.

All uniformed service members will receive or have documentation of immunity for MMR, varicella, and polio vaccines in accordance to guidance from the Army Medical Command and Army Regulation 40-562.

The intent is to protect all Army personnel from MMR, varicella, and polio, and for all Soldiers to update their routine adult immunization profile in the next 12 months.

TRICARE Cost Change. With the new year came some changes to costs of TRICARE. TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) premiums have changed to \$50.75 per month for an individual service member and \$205.62 for a service member and their dependents. In addition, there were changes to prescription costs. Prescriptions received through the mail order pharmacy or from retail networks have seen a slight increase to the co-payment, while prescriptions received from a Military Treatment Facility continue to have a \$0 co-payment. For specific co-payment increases, please refer to the TRICARE website at <http://www.tricare.mil/pharmacycosts>. For more information visit <http://www.tricare.mil/TRS> or for assistance enrolling in TRS, please contact 518-272-6469.

Veterans Administration Choice Card.

President Obama signed into law the Veteran's Access, Choice, and Accountability Act (VACAA) in 2014. In order to improve VA's ability to deliver high quality health care to veterans, section 101 for the VACAA requires VA to expand the options for eligible veterans to elect to use non-VA health care for a period up to three years, based either on the distance the veteran lives from a VA facility, or if he or she is experiencing wait times beyond the 30-day standard. Visit <http://www.va.gov/opa/choice-act/> for more information.

Education News

GI Bill Chapter 1606 and 1607 Change.

The Department of Veterans Affairs no longer pays GI Bill Chapter 1606 and 1607 to Soldiers receiving Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) for the same course. Soldiers who received payments for past classes will not be affected by this change; however, Soldiers enrolling for future courses can no longer use FTA and GI

Bill (Chapters 1606 and 1607) for the same course IAW DODI 1322.25. More information can be found at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/535774>.

Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR, Chapter 1606). DoD Instruction 1322.17 issued on January 15, 2015 outlines key changes to the Montgomery GI Bill for Selected Reserve service.

It is no longer a requirement to have a High School Diploma or equivalent PRIOR to IADT completion in order to establish eligibility for Chapter 1606.

Soldiers may contract for a MGIB-SR Kicker if they have basic benefits under Chapters 1606, 30 or 33.

Soldiers who deploy when they are in their initial six-year enlistment CAN NO LONGER concurrently earn qualifying time for Chapter 1606 and Chapter 33. Concurrent qualification for Chapter 1606 and Chapter 1607 is unaffected.

Entitlements will terminate if a Soldier receives a Dedicated Guard ROTC scholarship (Title 10 USC, Sec 2107). Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) Scholarships (Title 10 USC, Sec 2107a) are unaffected.

Kickers are suspended if the Soldier voluntarily leaves the contracted position during the initial enlistment. The Kicker can be restored when the Soldier returns to the ARNG either to the contracted position or to another position that is listed as a critical skill or critical unit.

NGB Education Services Soldier Newsletter. The Army National Guard Education Services Branch Education Services Newsletter for Soldiers provides updated education changes and policies. It is available on the G1 Personnel Gateway at the following link: <https://gkoapps.ng.mil/Announcements/ViewAttachment.aspx?aid=b928ea7a-02f4-43fe-af5c-a2a9693e221d>

Structured Self Development Level 2 (SSD-2). The Advanced Leaders Course Common Core (ALC CC) has been replaced by SSD-2. All promotion-eligible sergeants will be considered and placed on the promotion list but must complete SSD level 2 before being selected and promoted to staff sergeant against a valid promotion vacancy.

THE JOINT FORCE



New York Army National Guard Soldiers from Company A, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, based in Rochester, assist in snow removal from the roof of the Absolutcare assisted living senior care center in Orchard Park on November 22, 2014. The 42 Soldiers, commanded by Capt. David Myones from South Ozone Park, were joined by an additional dozen volunteer members of the New York Guard state defense force. The force was called to duty by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to help with recovery efforts in Western New York following historic amounts of snowfall in late November 2014. Myones' company also had Soldiers conduct logistics support fueling missions and supporting the joint task force mission command. Within four days of call-up, the New York National Guard had deployed more than 780 Soldiers, Airmen, Naval Militia and New York Guard members to assist Erie County and the City of Buffalo in restoring essential services as part of Operation Lake Effect. Photo by Lt. Luke Udell, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

New York Responds to Historic Storm

More than 780 troops help Western New York dig out from seven feet of snow

By Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters

BUFFALO -- More than 780 New York Guard Soldiers and Airmen assisted residents and authorities in Buffalo and other parts of Erie County after a record storm dumped up to 7 feet of snow in the region in November 2014.

Some 600 troops were assigned directly to the task force working in the Buffalo area for Operation Lake Effect. They removed snow, manned traffic control points, helped transport medical personnel and patients, and delivered meals. They also sandbagged houses, as the threat of flooding remained in some areas once the storm passed and temperatures warmed.

The storm swept across Lake Erie on Nov. 17, creating bands of snowfall familiar to Western New York residents but dramatic in its rate of accumulation. Although Buffalo airport, outside the heaviest band, received less than 4 inches initially, West Seneca received 4 feet in the first 24 hours. The storm forced the state to close the New York State Thruway, Interstate 90, from Rochester all the way west to the Pennsylvania state line. Some 100 cars were reported stranded along that 140 miles highway. Overall, the storm left more than a dozen people dead.

"We are deploying the National Guard to ramp up efforts to keep western New York residents safe and to assist storm recovery efforts in any way possible," New York Gov.

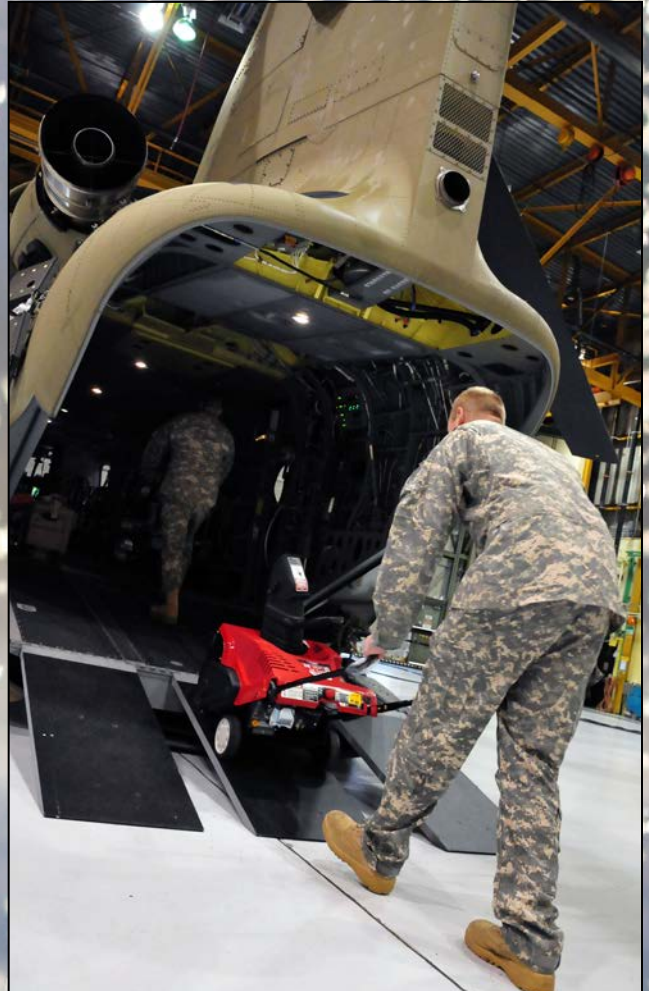
Andrew Cuomo said early in the response.

More than 240 Soldiers and Airmen were initially called by Cuomo. That response included Soldiers and equipment of the 152nd Engineer Company in Buffalo and the 827th Engineer Company from Horseheads. The troops deployed front end loaders, Bobcats, and dump trucks to assist in snow removal operations beginning Nov. 18 in support of Erie County Emergency Management.

More than a dozen support missions were completed for the city and county in the first 36 hours of response, clearing snow from roofs of buildings at risk, transporting nurses to key medical facilities to ensure continued service, removing snow from entrances to homes of the disabled, assisting in the recovery of stranded motorists, providing traffic control to law enforcement to keep vehicles

from closed roads and highways, and assisting in the large-scale clearance of vast amounts of snow to create access for first responders.

The task force was led by Lt. Col. Jim Freehart and the 153rd Troop Command Headquarters, a Buffalo-based Army National Guard unit. Additional staffing for the joint task force came from nearby Niagara Falls in the New York Air National Guard headquarters of the 107th Airlift Wing.



Staff Sgt.'s Jeff Lentz and Brian Tenace, members of Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation (Heavy Lift), gets snowblowers ready to transport to Buffalo aboard a CH-47 helicopter on November 20, 2014. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Infantry Division.



107th Security Forces Airman 1st Class Michael Maio from Niagara Falls N.Y. stands ready to deploy into the affected areas in Western New York. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Ray Lloyd, 107th Airlift Wing.

Elements of the 152nd Engineer Company, the 827th Engineer Company, the 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry, and the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion along with Airmen from the 174th Attack Wing also took part in the mission.

That initial force grew to a peak of just under 800 Airmen and Soldiers, and members of the New York Naval Militia and New York Guard, the state defense force, on duty over the Nov. 22-23 weekend.

Soldiers were housed in armories and facilities at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

Cont'd on Pg. 16



Emergency Managers with the 106th Rescue Wing observe a joint operational exercise with the NY Army National Guard's 24th Civil Support Team (CST) on Oct. 27. The exercise was conducted at the New Highway Pump Station in East Farmingdale, testing existing response protocols to intruder events and identified and correct any existing weaknesses in station security. Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher S. Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.

Civil Support Team Hones Skills at Water Supply Site

Story by Eric Durr, Public Affairs Director

EAST FARMINGDALE — October 27 started like any other Monday in this Long Island town. But then a local business owner noticed unusual vehicle traffic around the Suffolk County Water Authority pumping station here and called the authority.

When the water authority team showed up and opened the building door they were overcome by fumes. Suffolk County officials called for the New York National Guard's 24th Civil Support Team to find out what hazards might be within the pumping station.

That was the scenario facing members of the New York National Guard's Brooklyn-based weapons of mass destruction civil support teams, known as CSTs, during a recent training exercise. Headquartered at Fort Hamilton, the Army's New York City military post, the 24th CST is one of two manned by members of the New York Army and Air National Guard.

National Guard CSTs are trained to identify the presence of chemical, biological, or radiological agents and then provide advice on the hazard and how to manage it to civil authorities and first responders.

Every state and territory has at least one 22-member CST. New York is one of the few states with two. The 2nd CST is based at Stratton Air National Guard Base near Albany—and responded to the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center—and the 24th CST is in New York City and focuses on missions in the New York metro area since it was first certified in 2010.

The training scenario required CST members to negotiate a maze of pipe-filled spaces in the two story building while wearing their bulky personal protective equipment, determine whether or not the water supply was being contaminated and with what agent, and then decontaminate themselves, said Maj. Benjamin Genthner, the team commander.

Clues left for the CST survey team members to find included a discarded atropine injector—used to treat nerve agent exposure—a dead suspect wearing his own personal protective gear, a plastic Pelican case bearing a Cyrillic alphabet label indicating a nerve agent was inside, and a test strip.

They collected important items and took

photos and videos as well.

Being a member of a CST means being both a detective and a bit of an athlete, explained Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Saul Rodriguez.

CST members are trained to recognize indicators and clues that provide a tip-off to the type of contaminant or agent that may be present, Rodriguez said.

"We take a lot of training classes that teach us how to recognize certain procedures and certain processes," he explained.

The job is an athletic one because it takes a lot of stamina to carry a re-breather on your back, while wearing a hooded Level A orange protective suit, Rodriguez added. The suit can get very hot depending on the weather.

The re-breather, which resembles scuba-diving equipment, provides up to four hours of air supply by scrubbing the carbon dioxide out of the wearer's breath and recycling the air.

There's a special challenge in picking up evidence found at the scene, said Sgt. Kevin Molligan, Rodriguez's partner during the exercise.

CST members wear four layers of gloves when fully suited up. Learning to handle equip-

ment or other items takes a lot of "time and training", Molligan explained.

The exercise was a good one because of the experience it gave him in learning to maneuver through a basement-like setting, Molligan said. It was a good opportunity to learn to use equipment more proficiently, he added.

While Molligan and Rodriguez were doing the work inside the contaminated facility, the rest of his team also benefitted from the training exercise, Genthner said. They had to help Molligan and Rodriguez suit up and decontaminate, as well as process a sample of the agent using the mobile analytical laboratory system (ALS), he said.

The team's analytical laboratory system can analyze unknown chemical and biological agents. It enables his team to provide local officials and responders with advice on how to best protect the public and those exposed., Genthner said. **gt**



Emergency Managers with the 106th Rescue Wing observe a joint operational exercise with the New York Army National Guard's 24th Civil Support Team on October 27, 2014. The CST training exercise was conducted at the New Highway Pump Station in East Farmingdale, testing existing response protocols to intruder events and identified and corrected any existing weaknesses in the station's physical security. Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher S. Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.

Winter Storm, cont'd from Pg. 13

Soldiers and Airmen assigned to the joint task force conducted 8,405 man-hours of snow removal—including removing snow from the roofs of nursing homes, ran 59 traffic control points, conducted 55 medical transport missions, placed 5,200 sandbags to prevent flooding, cleared 700 fire hydrants, and delivered 200 meals to people unable to leave their homes and running low on food.

A unique Guard mission included positioning Humvees equipped with military radios with local volunteer fire departments tasked to provide rescue boats in case flooding resulted in the need for fast water rescue. The Guard Soldiers were assigned to accompany the firefighters on any missions in order to provide communications support.

Two high-capacity Osh Kosh runway snow blowers from the 174th Attack Wing in Syracuse were also deployed to help clear major roadways.

More than 190 pieces of rolling stock were used for the mission including: 42 dump trucks, 13 loaders, 77 Humvees, 13 tractor trailers for long haul supply missions, 20 Bobcat-type loaders, two bull dozers, 24 LMTVs, fuelers, a wrecker, and a bus.

The New York National Guard also deployed a Joint Incident Site Communications Capability, or JISCC, to the region to assist in communications.

The engineering units were in action right away on Nov. 18, assisting the New York State Police and the New York State Thruway Authority in freeing a stranded bus carrying the Niagara University women's basketball team players, coaches and relatives.

"It was an amazing feeling," Rene Polka, the director of women's basketball, told reporters



Naval Militia members help fill sandbags to aid in the preparations for possible flooding in the areas affected by the massive amounts of snowfall in Western New York in mid November 2014. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Ray Lloyd, 107th Airlift Wing.

after the rescue. "It was dark when we first became trapped early Tuesday, but when the sun came up we saw how bad it was. Then it literally did not stop snowing all day, so we thought we might have been trapped for a lot longer." **gt**

Winter Storms Bring out Guard in NYC

By Eric Durr, Public Affairs Director



Soldiers with Joint Task Force Empire Shield work with Fire Department-NY Emergency medical technicians during Snowstorm Juno, Jan. 26. The storm, believed to be one of the most powerful in recent history, managed to shut down all New York City airports, subways and other forms of public transit. The Soldiers were on hand to provide support to first responders in case of a major emergency. Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher S. Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.

NEW YORK- Operation Juno, the New York National Guard response to the snowstorm that struck the northeast from Jan. 26 to 28, involved 446 men and women over four days.

Hudson Valley, Gov. Mario M. Cuomo ordered the New York National Guard to mobilize initial response forces – five humvees and 20 Airmen

There were 391 Guard Soldiers and Airman on state active duty, while the others supported the mission as technicians or Active Guard and Reserve Soldiers.

On Sunday Jan. 25, with meteorologists predicting a record-breaking storm on Long Island, New York City and the

or Soldiers ready to operate around the clock—on Monday.

The initial force of 260 Soldiers and Airmen on duty grew to 350 on Monday and then 390 on Tuesday as the mission request increased.

Engineer Soldiers from the 204th Engineer Battalion, including Soldiers from Buffalo's 152nd Engineer Company, convoyed downstate with front-end loaders, dump trucks and small skid-steer vehicles to move snow.

Initial response forces from the 105th Airlift Wing, the 106th Airlift Wing, the 369th Sustainment Brigade and the 1st Battalion 69th Infantry provided mobility support to the New York State Police and other agencies or stood by for other missions.

In New York City, National Guard Soldiers positioned 25 Humvees and six high-axle trucks at fire stations across the five boroughs of the city in order to support emergency medical technicians. Soldiers from the 145th Maintenance Company on Staten Island positioned the vehicles. Then Soldiers from Joint Task Force Empire Shield stood by to drive EMTS if streets became choked with snow.

National Guard tractor trailers were on hand

Cont'd on Pg. 19



A rotation of New York's Joint Task Force-Empire Shield Soldiers fire at Camp Smith's 9mm pistol range on October 23, 2014. The Soldiers practice their shooting skills quarterly with police-style Glocks rather than the Army issued M-9.

Empire Shield Soldiers Hone Shooting Skills

Story and photo by Maj. Al Phillips, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, Peekskill -- Guard Soldiers and Airmen newly assigned to Joint Task Force Empire Shield, the National Guard security augmentation force in New York City, qualified on their side arms at Camp Smith Training Site last fall, bringing the number of National Guard troops assigned to security duties in New York City up to nearly 500.

The increase in members of Joint Task Force Empire Shield is part of new security measures announced by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo Sept. 19, 2014 to better protect against potential terror attacks.

"The threat of the Islamic State, or any terror organization, is not isolated to Iraq, and New York City has always been a top target for extremists and terrorists wishing to disrupt our lives," Governor Cuomo said. "Increasing the number of New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen augmenting police agencies in New York City is a prudent step to protect New Yorkers."

The latest increment of additional Citizen

Soldiers and Airmen are preparing for duty at the National Guard's Camp Smith Training Site near Peekskill and at JTFES' Headquarters at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn. The new members of the force will serve primarily at New York City's transportation hubs.

All Joint Task Force Empire Shield Soldiers and Airmen, many of whom are veterans of Afghanistan or Iraq deployments, undergo certification and training to ensure they are qualified to serve alongside law enforcement.

Soldiers and Airmen joining the force must have a letter of recommendation from his or her chain of command, pass a criminal background check, and are interviewed in person as part of the application process.


Soldiers and Airmen must also meet all military appearance standards and Army or Air Force physical fitness standards.

Soldiers and Airmen joining the task force get special instruction on how to interact with the public and conduct security missions in New York City in support of law enforcement. These include classes on weapons retention

procedures, rules on the use of force, safety briefings, and communications techniques.

Soldiers and Airmen serving on the task force carry 9mm Glock pistols similar to those used by police in New York City instead of the 9mm Beretta M-9 pistol or M-4 carbine issued to military personnel. The new members of Joint Task Force Empire Shield train on the ranges at Camp Smith to qualify with the Glock pistol.

Joint Task Force Empire Shield is headquartered at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn. It is comprised of a headquarters element and three maneuver companies. The three companies conduct missions on a rotating basis.

Joint Task Force Empire Shield supports the New York Police Department, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Department, the Metropolitan Transit Authority Police Department, the New York City Office of Emergency Management and the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Service among other agencies. 

Regional Response Force - This is Just a Test

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters

CHEEKTOWAGA -- More than 375 New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen sharpened their skills responding to chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear hazards during training at the Erie County Emergency Services Training and Operations Center Nov. 12-16 as part of a regional disaster response force.

Near freezing November winds and snow flurries did little to hinder the hundreds of Guardsmen who donned hazardous material suits in a simulated chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) environment, to work through the challenges of the training site's rubble pile and operate a decontamination line and medical triage site.

The organization, known as a National Guard Homeland Response Force (HRF), exercised its ability to alert, mobilize and deploy to an incident site in support of civil first-responders dealing with a CBRN disaster.

Led by the command and staff of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, based in Syracuse, the task force includes specially trained Soldiers and Airmen prepared to don protective gear and rescue victims of a CBRN event, provide them with decontamination and medical triage for evacuation into the civilian medical system.

"This is our first collective training event of the year since our validation exercise in the spring," noted Capt. Justin Simon, commander of the CBRN task force Search and Extraction element, Company A of the 427th Brigade Support Battalion based in Rochester. "We'll have another opportunity to train collectively again next spring."

Centered around the CBRN task force, the training included simulated response efforts at the Cheektowaga Emergency Training Center, led by the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry (Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition), a mission command element from the 27th Infantry Brigade Headquarters based away from the simulated hazard site at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Center and a supporting joint task force headquarters in support from the state armory in Buffalo led by the 153rd Troop Command Headquarters.

"My goal specifically is to conduct more



New York Air National Guard Maj. Sharon Westbrook and Tech. Sgt. Karina Munoz talk to an exercise victim about his injuries during Homeland Response Force Training at the Erie County Fire Training Academy in Cheektowaga. The exercise tested the New York National Guardsmen and local first responders ability to respond to mass chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear homeland incidents. Photo by Master Sgt. Cheran Cambridge, 106th Rescue Wing.

ropes training in our search and extraction teams," said Simon, from Syracuse.

The collective training brings together all aspects of saving lives, but the critical first step is with the engineers on the Search and Extraction team, said Sgt. 1st Class Justin Kaier of Lockport.

"It's about getting in there, getting them out and getting them through decon as quickly as we can," Kaier said.

Each component of the HRF and its largest component, the CBRN task force, train separately throughout the year on their individual jobs, explained Maj. Joseph Merrill of Binghamton and executive officer of the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry and the CBRN task force.

The benefit of a full-scale exercise like the one at Cheektowaga, Merrill said, is putting all the pieces together and working out the wrinkles of command, communication and logistics of the diverse missions in a very demanding CBRN environment.

"The exercise is about getting ready to perform this mission and save lives, in case this ever happens for real," said Capt. Thomas Beach, the CBRN task force communications officer with the Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry based at Niagara Falls.


"The scenario is a chemical spill bringing us to the scene and we have to respond," Beach, a Buffalo resident, said in describing the exercise.

The cold weather has its own unique demands on the team, explained Merrill. While military personnel wearing hazmat suits drew some benefit of the colder temperatures while in the protected suits that often limit their operation on warmer days, members of the team putting up and operating the decontamination line and medical triage worked in very cold conditions to establish power, water and tentage for the teams.

"It's supposed to be inconvenient," Kaier said. "That's how it (training) works."

The Homeland Response Force for FEMA Region II is one of ten units established by the Department of Defense to assist state officials and local first responders in dealing with chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) attacks and incidents across the United States.

The 10 HRFs align with Federal Emergency Management Agency regions to allow for closer and more familiar contact with civilian responders. The National Guard forces also provide a greater responsiveness to local authorities due to their closer geographical locations.

The training in Erie County included representatives of the Erie County Emergency Management Agency to better prepare first responders and incident commanders in understanding the National Guard capabilities of HRF elements. 

Citizen Preparedness Marks One Year of Training

If you shelter in place

- Check on your neighbors
- Maintain communication and information flow from authorities.
- Generators and space heaters must be properly ventilated.
- Review generator and heater safety recommendations
- Have a functioning carbon monoxide alarm



ROCHESTER -- New York National Guard troops of the Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program began 2015 performing the mission they started the year before – training fellow citizens to be ready in the event of a disaster. As of the end of February 2015, Soldiers and Airmen of the program have held about 240 training events statewide and given over 30,000 citizens the knowledge and tools to prepare for emergencies and disasters, respond accordingly, and recover as quickly as possible to pre-disaster conditions. The program, which Gov. Andrew Cuomo launched in early February 2014, was designed by the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES). The program covers a broad range of emergency-preparedness topics, like developing a family emergency plan, stocking up on emergency supplies, and registering for NY-Alert, the free statewide emergency alert system. New York Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Joseph Hernon (above) teaches the preparedness class at the Aquinas Institute of Rochester. Hernon, of Fayetteville, N.Y., belongs to the 174th Attack Wing. Photo by Master Sgt. Raymond Drumsta, 42nd Infantry Division.

NYC Winter Storm, Cont'd from Pg. 16



Members of the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing dig their way into the office at F.S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base here after Winter Storm Juno January 27th. Photo by Master Sgt. Cheran Cambridge, 106th Rescue Wing.

on Long Island to assist in moving state emergency supplies if requested.

A total of 97 pieces of equipment, to include 75 high-axle trucks and Humvees were dedicated to mission.

At F.S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base in Westhampton, 106th Rescue Wing para-rescue airmen prepared snowmobiles for use if necessary.

Based on the weather forecasts of high winds and heavy snow the governor declared a state of emergency and banned travel on major roadways Monday night. The New York City and regional transit systems also were shut down.

Conditions were better than expected on Tuesday morning and National Guard troops began winding down missions.

Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and Air National Guard HH-60 Pave Hawk rescue helicop-

ters were also ready on standby.

In a Jan. 27 press conference in Lindenhurst, the governor praised National Guardsmen for their response to his call.

“The National Guard, I cannot begin to tell you how extraordinary they are,” Cuomo said. “They have been great time-and-time again.” **gt**



Scan here to view video of Guard Forces for Storm Duty.

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



New York Army National Guard Sgt. Stephen Anderson, a gunner with Battery A of the New York Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment pulls on a hand spike to lower the trails of the howitzer so the other crew members can remove the tire and spin the tube into position on Jan. 10.



Artillerymen Brave Frigid Temperatures to Train

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

FORT DIX, N.J. - Scathing winds cut across open, frozen fields and turned temperatures in the mid-teens into something that felt closer to zero as some 300 Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery conducted dry-fire exercises.

The field exercise was the culmination of months of training for the annual certification of the battalion's 16 M119 howitzer crews over the frigid Jan. 9-11 training weekend.

Seventy fire-support Soldiers from the 27th Infantry Brigades maneuver battalions and other units also participated in the training weekend. Training on the Light Counter Mortar Radar and Q-36 counter battery radar system, used to direct fire against enemy mortar and artillery weapons, also took place.

The cold weather meant Soldiers had to adapt but they kept training anyway, said Maj. Brendan Gendron the 1-258th's operations officer.

"Battle rhythms (were) adjusted based on Soldier exposure," Gendron said. "Our ultimate concern is the health and safety of every Soldier from the field grades to the gun lines."

These adjustments and provisions included everything from using alternate oils and lubricants, considerations for gun powder and tube temperatures, wearing cold weather gear, to providing hot beverages and a warming tent.

Gendron also ensured that each battery followed the 15-30 standard; 15 minutes on the field followed by 30 in the warming tent.

Over the course of the very cold weekend, the need to rotate Soldiers in and out of warming tents meant there wasn't enough time to conduct live fire operations, said Lt. Col. Dave Feeley, the battalion commander. The battalion will conduct that training in May, Feeley said.

The training at Fort Dix, though, set the battalion up for success later, Feeley said.

"Everything becomes a challenge in this weather, you just have to embrace it," said Sgt. Sean Durst, a gunner with Battery A.

In his six years with the 1-258th he's learned that preparing and rehearsing every step of the certification process in the preceding months is essential for success, since slight deviations can turn into major disruptions, Durst explained.

Sgt. Danny Pena, a gunner who has spent five years with Bravo Battery, 1-258th FA, added that not only knowing your role, but knowing the role of everyone on your team is crucial.

They watch each other in their battery as well as the other batteries on the line, and are ready to help when it's needed, he said.

"We ensure everything from the smallest tool to the biggest piece of equipment is ready. We do spot checks and eye-on checks, from gun to gun and down the line," Pena said.

Team building and the ability to anticipate each other's actions and movements is essential to a functional artillery unit, Pena added.

To gain this unique ability, they spend as much time together as possible. Every drill and annual training they're together from sunup to sundown, he emphasized.

"Sections are always together," Pena said. "We're like a small family, and that's how we like it."

"The cold weather meant Soldiers had to adapt, but they kept training anyway"

-- Maj. Brendan Gendron, operations officer

While the battalion was able to certify the gun crews on the dry-fire requirement, the severe, cold weather stopped them just short for live firing certification.

However, the extreme weather provided a valuable opportunity for cold weather training that might not have been otherwise available, Gendron said. The battalion was able to have its gun lines and Q36 Radar support fully set up, operational and mission ready in adverse conditions, he said. **gt**



Spc. Jessy Bitwa and Spc. Deshawn Thomas (kneeling) use the bore-sight telescope that is mounted on the AN/TPQ-36 antenna to accurately detect and locate weapons, to align the antenna. The far stake is emplaced at a minimum distance of 100 meters (more than 250 meters preferred) in front of the radar antenna.



Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery emplace their howitzers in sub-zero temperatures on the ranges at Fort Dix, N.J., to complete their annual Table 5 and Table 6 certifications, January 10.

Aviators Step Up to CH-47 Foxtrot

Story by Eric Durr, Public Affairs Director

Photos by Capt. Brendan Flansburg, 126th General Support Battalion

ROCHESTER -- New York Army National Guard aviators here are now operating the Army's latest version of the venerable Chinook dual rotor helicopter: the CH-47F.

"For the Soldiers it is a very big deal because of all the enhanced capabilities which the aircraft provides above and beyond the 'Delta model,'" said Capt. Brendan Flansburg, commander of Detachment 1, Company B, 3rd Battalion 126th Aviation, referring to the CH-47D company Soldiers flew during two deployments to Afghanistan.

Members of Flansburg's company spent two months at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Ga. learning to fly the new aircraft. The final flight of three CH-47Fs arrived at the Rochester Army Aviation Support Facility on Oct. 29. Two other aircraft had arrived in single ship flights earlier.

This latest version of the Chinook--the Army's heavy lift workhorse helicopter since the Vietnam War--represents lessons learned in Afghanistan, said Major Eric Fritz, 42nd Infantry Division aviation officer, resident of Webster, and a veteran CH-47 pilot.

In Afghanistan the CH-47D was indispensable because the twin-rotor helicopter could operate in mountain altitudes too high for the UH-60 Blackhawk and deliver up to 30 troops and thousands of pounds of cargo.

The CH-47F has been engineered to include improvements designed to make the helicopter more reliable and keep it flying longer. The newest version of the helicopter contains new avionics, a redesigned ramp and rear rotor pylon, and incorporates new countermeasures against ground to air missiles.

The fuselage has been redesigned to make it more rugged and corrosion resistant. The new version CH-47 is also designed for easier shipment in the fuselage of a C-5 or C-17 cargo plane. Externally the CH-47F looks like a CH-47D, except for new paint designed to make the



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Christopher Scott prepares to take-off in a CH-47F in Savannah, Ga. on Oct. 16 prior to a night flight. Scott and other members of Detachment 1, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th General Support Aviation Battalion, are training here on the latest model of the venerable CH-47 Chinook helicopters which the Rochester-based unit flies.

helicopter harder to spot.

The big changes are inside the cockpit, said Flansburg, a Delanson, N.Y. resident. The upgraded avionics systems, known as the Common Avionics Architecture System of digital displays and readouts known collectively as a "glass cockpit" provides information in a more user friendly system that allows pilots to manage the mission more effectively, Flansburg said.

That digital display system was originally only on the 'G' model CH-47s used by Special Operations forces, Flansburg said. But it has proven to be so useful that now it is incorporated on the Chinooks flown by all CH-47 units, he said.

The CH-47F also incorporates an autopilot system that makes it easier for the pilot to fly the aircraft, hover and land in snow or dust when visibility is low, he added.

These changes reduce pilot fatigue.

The company was recognized for excellence by the Army Aviation Association of American in 2008 for their service in Afghanistan during the 2007/2008 deployment.

In January 2009 the unit's Chinook aviators conducted a two-week flight training program for Canadian Force CH-47D pilots after

Canada bought CH-47s to supply their troops in Afghanistan.

Soldiers of Company B also carried priority supplies during the New York National Guard response to Superstorm Sandy in 2012 and to Tropical Storms Lee and Irene in 2011. **gt**



A CH-47F model Chinook helicopter sits on the tarmac in Savannah, Ga. on Oct. 20. This latest model of the battle-tested heavy lift helicopter landed at the Rochester-based Detachment 1, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation facility on Oct. 29, 2014.

Infantry Soldier Out to Earn Best Ranger Title

By Eric Durr, Public Affairs Detachment

LEEDS -- In 2013, Sgt. Thomas Carpenter, the supply sergeant for Company C, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry qualified as a Ranger.

In 2015, the two-tour Afghan veteran from Holland Patent, N.Y., is hoping he'll be one of six Army National Guardsmen competing to be the best Ranger in the Army.

"It has always been a dream of mine," Carpenter said. "It has always been at the top of the challenges, a super high goal and I always set my expectations high."

Carpenter was one of 12 Army National Guard Soldiers who took part in a Best Ranger Competition Assessment and Selection event conducted by the Army National Guard's Warrior Training Center at Fort Benning, Ga. in November.

He came out of the day-long assessment on Nov. 20 as one of nine Army National Guard officers and noncommissioned officers, finishing eighth on the qualification list, vying to be one of six Soldiers competing in three Army National Guard two-man teams when the annual best Ranger event kicks off on April 10, 2015.

In January, Carpenter and the other eight Soldiers report back to Fort Benning to begin training as a group for the competition. If he can't make one of the three primary teams he hopes to be on the Army Guard's backup team, Carpenter said.

The Best Ranger Competition is a 60-hour non-stop event designed to challenge the fitness and skills of the toughest Soldiers. Events the two-man teams are faced with can include a 20 mile march, a 4.7 mile rucksack run, tests of rifle and pistol marksmanship, climbing, weapons assembly and disassembly, swimming, obstacle course,

and a bayonet course.

Competitors are required to be airborne qualified. Carpenter is not, but if selected for the team, he'll be sent to airborne school.

The 12 potential Best Ranger competitors were tested on their ability to run five miles, pump out push-ups, sit-ups and chin-ups, conduct a six-mile equipment run, go through a 12-mile foot march, pass through a tower assault course, an obstacle course, and pass day and night land navigation courses, as well as stay alert for briefings. The assessment lasted 11 and a half hours.

"That felt good," Carpenter said, but it also shows that he has a lot of work to do if he is going to be one of six National Guard Soldiers competing in April. "I thought I was prepared and it was an eye-opener," he said.

For example, one of the competitors, Captain Robert Killian from Colorado, ran his five miles in under 30 minutes, and all of the others are extreme athletes.

"It was just a little taste of what is to come," Carpenter said, "I have a whole lot of work cut out for me. Half the other dudes have actually competed before. They know what to expect and how to prepare."

Fortunately his wife Corinne, who has been with him through his combat deployments with the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry and the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, is very supportive and ready for him to be gone for another three months as he trains up, Carpenter said.

He also appreciates the battalion leadership allowing him to leave his job at the Leeds Armory for three months to follow his dream

of competing in the Best Ranger event,


Carpenter credits his former platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Richard Richardson – now an operations NCO on the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team staff—with pushing him to go to Ranger School and then compete in the Best Ranger Competition.

Richardson competed in 1999 and he talked up the program a lot while they were serving in the 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry Scout Platoon, Carpenter said.

Just competing in the Best Ranger competition was a "huge experience" that made him a better Soldier and NCO, Richardson said. Carpenter, who served as his driver in Afghanistan, is the kind of young Soldier who can handle that experience and benefit from it, Richardson said.

Carpenter is also the kind of young non-commissioned officer who will benefit from the experience and make sure he passes that knowledge onto other Soldiers, said Sgt. Major Robert Marshall, the operations NCO and acting command sergeant major for the 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry.

"I get very frustrated with Soldiers and leaders who go to Air Assault School or another specialist course and they never teach a class," Marshall said. "It is not about the individual's achievement it is about the organizational growth based on that individual achievement," he added.

During the 2nd Battalion, 108th's 2012 deployment to Afghanistan, Carpenter took part in a pre-Ranger School program the battalion developed. This positioned him to go to Ranger School in June 2013, Marshall said. 



Sgt. Thomas Carpenter (left) a member of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry takes a break with 28th Infantry Division Command Sgt. Maj. Chris Kepner during competition to identify candidates for the three, two-man Army National Guard Best Ranger Teams on Nov. 20 2014 at Fort Benning Ga. Carpenter is one of nine National Guard Soldiers competing for a final spot on the teams that will participate in the April 2015 Best Ranger event. Photo by Command Sgt. Maj. David Piwowski, 42nd Infantry Division.



New York Army National Guard broadcast journalist Sgt. Jeremy Bratt (right), a member of the 138th Public Affairs Detachment, joins 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team public affairs noncommissioned officer Sgt. Kingston Dillard, and a Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force interpreter to interview a Japanese service member Oct. 21, 2014 during Orient Shield 14. Photo by Spc. Frank Cagnina, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

Public Affairs Team Tells the Story in Japan

Story by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo, Joint Force Headquarters

CAMP HIGASHI-CHITOSE, Japan – Four New York Army National Guard Public Affairs Soldiers plugged into a joint public affairs effort here to collect stories, photos and video from a joint U.S.-Japan exercise that kicked off Oct. 27 and ran through Nov. 7.

The New York public affairs element consisted of three members of the 138th Public Affairs Detachment and a representative from Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs.

Along with the New Yorkers, the Orient Shield public affairs team included Army Soldiers from U.S. Army Japan and the 2nd Infantry Division; an Air Force Armed Forces News (AFN) Broadcaster stationed in Japan, and a Navy AFN journalist based in Guam said Lt. Col. Kevin Toner, U.S. Army Japan Public Affairs Officer.

Orient Shield 14 tested the ability of Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force members and American Soldiers from the 2nd Infantry Division at Joint Base Lewis –McChord, Washington to work together as a team.

The public affairs team focused on highlighting the partnership and collaboration between the two forces as they conducted a series of combined light infantry, squad-level training events that included urban assault, building clearing and medical evacuation, to name a few.

The exercise culminated with troops working side-by-side in a scenario-based tactical field training exercise that included an air assault mission.

Collectively, the entire public affairs team produced 19 news articles, and a dozen broadcast pieces reaching more than 300 news and social media sites detailing the accomplishments of the U.S. Army and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force.

According to Toner, the mix of public affairs professionals from all branches meant better storytelling.

Although the team shares common training, their experiences in their respective forces brought different perspectives, he explained.

“Everyone learned new techniques and

approaches to telling the Soldier story,” Toner said.

The New York public affairs team enjoyed working side-by-side with their JGSDF public affairs counterparts creating a 50-page electronic magazine for roughly 1,500 U.S. and JGSDF exercise participants, said Sgt. Jeremy Bratt, the team videographer.

“It was an amazing experience being able to work with our Japanese counterparts,” said New York Army National Guard photojournalist Spc. Frank Cagnina. “It took us a couple of days to figure out how to communicate and with the help of an interpreter we were very successful.”

“The experience the New York team brought both in print and broadcast capability was more than able to tackle the complexity and challenges of covering an exercise like this,” said Capt. Kenneth Coleman, Public Affairs officer for the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

“The amount of work they accomplished and the quality in which they did it was significant,” he added. **gt**

Blackhawk Loadout for Puerto Rico Trip



RONKONKOMA - Members of the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation Battalion load their UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter onto a C-17 Galaxy at the Ronkonkoma Flight Facility Dec. 9, 2014.

One hundred eighty New York Army National Guard Soldiers conducted a three-day training exercise in Puerto Rico for their drill training Dec. 11-13, 2014.

About 150 New York Army National Guard Soldiers from the Manhattan-based 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry left for Puerto Rico from Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey.

They joined 30 Soldiers from the New York Army National Guard's Company B, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation, based at Ronkonkoma, who loaded three UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters

on a New York Air National Guard C-17 from Newburgh's 105th Airlift Wing and flew to Puerto Rico on Dec. 9.

The Soldiers conducted tactical training at the Puerto Rico Army National Guard's Camp Santiago Training Facility. The training focused on defense and offensive operations, integrated with air assault tactics employed the helicopters of the 3-142nd Aviation.

The Camp Santiago facility was used because the weather offers a better training climate in December and it allows the troops to practice moving and fighting in a tropical environment. Conducting training in Puerto Rico also allows the Soldiers to practice the logistical skills needed to deploy troops overseas.

Photo by Maj. Christopher Spencer.

Engineer Soldiers Work on Camp Smith Projects

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



“By using troop labor, we provided engineer training opportunities, reduced our initial cost, and dedicated the savings to create better facilities for Soldiers.”

-- Frank Wicks, Director of Facilities Management and Engineering

pieces," he said. They also had to dig out the towers' bases, which were made of eight feet of concrete, he added.

The engineers also improved Building 503, the home of New York Army National Guard Medical Command, along with other units. The building is used for medial readiness week-ends by units from across the state.

Poor drainage had caused water to “pond” in front of Building 503. That meant a lake in warm weather and slick ice in cold, obstructing traffic, Warnecke explained.

To fix the problem, the engineers installed curtain drains near the downspouts of the gutters. Then they ran 100 feet of underground pipe from drains to the existing storm drain system, Warnecke said.

The engineers also installed a side walk from Building 503 to a concrete pad where medical readiness trailers are parked during medical check weekends.

“Especially when we’re doing winter Medical Readiness Weekends here, it’s nice to have that sidewalk clear and going straight to the trailers from the building for them,” Warnecke said.

The engineers also found time to tear down the old Camp Smith grandstand at the parade field, which was originally scheduled for demolition later this year.

“We removed the seats first, then collapsed the roof,” Kelly said.

The ideal troop-labor project, Warnecke explained, is one that benefits the state and gives the engineers training.

“Every nickel or dime that we can save with troop-labor projects can go toward other projects that we have to accomplish throughout the state,” Warnecke said. 🇺🇸

Making way for the construction of a new maintenance facility, New York Army National Guard engineers dismantle one of three rappel towers at the Camp Smith Training Site in late October 2014. The mission was one of several troop-labor projects that the Soldiers accomplished in the first week of their two-week annual training period. The Soldiers, who belong to the 1156th Engineer Company and the 204th Engineer Battalion, also installed better drainage, constructed sidewalks and dismantled an aging set of grandstands, along with other tasks.

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, Cortlandt -- Leveraging their engineer skills and enthusiasm, New York Army National Guard Soldiers improved facilities, learned new skills and created a fiscal win for the state in October.

The 1156th Engineer Company and 204th Engineer Battalion troops installed sidewalks, improved drainage, dismantled rappel towers and completed other projects as part of their annual training.

These troop-labor projects saved the New York National Guard between \$250,000 and \$300,000 and paved the way for more improvements, according to Frank Wicks, Director of Facilities Management and Engineering and Camp Smith Post Director Mark Warnecke.

“By using troop labor, we provided engineer training opportunities, reduced our initial cost, and dedicated the savings to create better facilities for Soldiers,” Wicks said.

The engineers used the week to practice using their new Hydraulic, Electric, Pneumatic, Petroleum Operated Equipment (HEPPOE) system – a kit which contains jackhammers, pneumatic picket pounders, hydraulic chain saws and other gear, said 1156th Engineer Company Commander Capt. Patrick Kelly, of Glenville.

“We used the HEPPOE on virtually everything,” he recalled. “We’ve been trying to use it for a long time. Now we have at least 20 people trained on it.”

Taking down the rappel towers was a key project, Wicks said.

The towers literally stood in the way of the construction of a new Combined Support Maintenance Shop.

Using 22-ton cranes, safety harnesses and HEPPOE chainsaws, the engineers deconstructed the towers, Kelley said.

“We had to take it down in segments and

New York Soldier Working In Afghanistan

By Sgt. 1st Class Chris Bridson, 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - New York Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Richard Perc played a key role for the 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, from Fort Hood Texas, moving equipment out of Afghanistan in January.

Perc, a member of the 1569th Transportation Company who was attached to the 4th RSSB, had to train Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Special Troops Battalion, on how to drive and operate the various military vehicles in order to safely transport explosive ordnance from the ammunition supply point on Bagram Airfield (BAF), to the detonation site located outside of the base's perimeter.

At BAF, Soldiers from the 4th RSSB joined forces with a Convoy Escort Team from the 950th Engineer Clearance Company, Wisconsin National Guard, and civilian explosive ordnance disposal and ammunition technicians from the Joint Munitions Disposal-Afghanistan team to safely disposed of approximately 6,000 pounds of out-of-date explosives.

"We are here to demilitarize approximately 6,000 pounds of code H (out-of-date or unserviceable) ammunition," Perc said. "It's safer to

blow the ammunition up than to let it fall into the hands of the enemy or try to ship it home and risk it detonating in transit," he added.

In order to carry out the DEMIL mission, "They have me training the guys on the various vehicles because I'm an 88M (motor transport operator), and I'm probably the most qualified person for the job," Perc said. "I've trained 10-12 Soldiers on the M1088 w/M871 trailer and the M1075 Palletized Load System, in order to safely transport all munitions."

The Wrangler Soldiers picked up their pre-loaded vehicles from the ammunition supply point in the early hours and drove to the entry control point where they waited for the 950th ECC and the EOD techs before heading out to the detonation site.

Once at the site, a perimeter security was quickly set up and the Wrangler Soldiers assisted the Joint Munitions Disposal techs unload the munitions ready for demolition.

Ken Barnett, a disposal safety specialist with JMD-A, was responsible for overseeing the demolishing operations to ensure that everything went smoothly, all safety guidelines were followed and that nobody - U.S. Military, civilian contractor or local national - were injured in

the process.

"In order to destroy these excess or unsafe munitions, our guys spend about eight-10 days to build these boxes and then schedule with the security teams to come out here and safely destruct them," Barnett said. "We have everything here from .50-cal small arms that can't be burned in an incinerator, artillery rounds, mortars and even rockets."

Barnett said that one of the main reasons his team conducts DEMIL operations is to ensure that munitions like these don't fall into enemy hands, which stops them from potentially being used against coalition forces in the future.

"We usually come out about every two weeks to blow munitions like these," Barnett said. "That gives us enough time to build these boxes and then arrange for the security teams and transportation."

As the ordnance was set in place and prepared for demolition, the 950th ECC continued to provide perimeter security to not only keep the Soldiers and EOD techs safe, but to also ensure the safety of the ever-growing group of spectators that had gathered from the local village, ready to come in and police up all the scrap metal.

"The villagers here come out and collect the scrap metal of the shots, which in turn is their income," Barnett said. "They collect the scrap and use it for things like engine parts because it is still good quality metal and can be melted down."

As the U.S. footprint in Afghanistan continues to shrink and current bases are handed over to the Afghan Army, safely downsizing and retrograding equipment, Soldiers and munitions out of the country will continue to be a key element of Operation Resolute Support. **gt**

It's safer to blow the ammunition up than to let it fall into the hands of the enemy or try to ship it home and risk it detonating in transit."

-- Staff Sgt. Richard Perc



New York Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Richard Perc, a motor transport operator, attached to the 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade from Fort Hood, Texas, monitors munitions download during a demilitarize operation near Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 10.

Rochester Soldiers Train Alongside First Responders



WEST MONROE -- Sgt. Nick Hamilton, a crew chief for Company F, 1st Battalion, 169th General Support Aviation Battalion, 'Jigsaw Dustoff', uses a Halligan Bar to gain access to the engine compartment while conducting familiarization training with the West Monroe Fire Department on Nov. 15, 2014. The National Guardsmen also demonstrated air evacuation techniques by securing a person to a SKED for medical air lifts. The 169th Air Ambulance Company flies UH-60 helicopters configured to carry wounded Soldiers from the battlefield to a Combat Surgical Hospital or other treatment facility. This is known as a "dustoff" in military slang. Photo courtesy of West Monroe Fire Department.

Transportation Turnover



QUEENSBURY - New York Army National Guard Lt. Col. Andrew Caliendo hands the colors of command for the 1427th Transportation Company to 1st Lt. Mark Singiser during a unit change of command ceremony January 11. Singiser, from Albany, assumed command from Capt. Michael Manss during the ceremony. Manss, of Guilderland, led the unit since May 2012. The 1427th Transportation Company is equipped to carry military equipment long distances on Army tractor-trailer rigs. Courtesy photo.

MOBILE DEVICE SECURITY

“that the possession of great power necessarily implies great responsibility”

(Thomas C. Hansard, ed (1817). Parliamentary Debates

Today’s mobile devices possess ever increasing processing power, and they are commonly used as a means of planning and organizing our work and private lives. Such access and dependence on mobile devices opens us to multiple risks to our sensitive data and privacy.

Take proper measures to lower your risks while enjoying your smartphones, tablets, etc.

<https://informationassurance.us.army.mil>

42nd Combat Aviation Brigade Welcomes New Commander



LATHAM -- New York Army National Guard Lt. Col. Jack James accepts the colors of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade from Major General Harry Miller, commander of the 42nd Infantry Division, during change-of-command ceremonies at the Army Aviation Support Facility here November 15, 2014. James replaces Col. Al Ricci who is retiring. James most recently led the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion during the unit's deployment to Kuwait in 2013-14. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Infantry Division.

27th Brigade Honors Outstanding Volunteer



SYRACUSE - New York Army National Guard Col. Joseph Biehler, commander of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team presents the Order of St. Maurice, October 18, 2014 to Mackenzie Waterston for her outstanding service to the Infantry Branch while serving as an intern with the New York State Military Museum.

Ms. Waterston conducted field research and excavations to assist in the recovery of MIA remains of WWII casualties of the battle of Saipan.

With Waterston for the presentation at the 27th Division Association ceremony are Col. John Andonie, Operations Officer of the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters and Division Command Sergeant Major David Piwowarski. Photo by Lt. Col. Roberta Comerford, 42nd Infantry Division.



Retired Col. Geoff Slack, who commanded the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry in Iraq in 2004-05 and Lt. Col. Sean Flynn, the current commander, speak at the annual Makin Day Dinner in New York City Nov. 13, 2014, commemorating the 69th Infantry's role in World War II.

A WWII Tradition Revived

Story and photo by Maj. Al Phillips - 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

NEW YORK -- For the first time since 1947, a World War II veteran has not attended the annual Makin Day Dinner hosted by members and veterans of the 1st Battalion, 69th Regiment to honor that Pacific battle.

"This is the first year in which we have no World War II members in attendance and you can't help but wonder how much longer will any of our World War II heroes be around," said Lt. Col. Sean M. Flynn, commander of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry.

This, Flynn said, marks the passing of one generation of 69th Infantry history to the next.

The dinner, held to commemorate the battalion's landing on Makin Island on Nov. 20, 1943, is the 69th Infantry's second most prominent affair following the unit's participation in the annual New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade.

It featured an unvarying menu of meatballs, sausage, pork and beefsteak that mirrors the meal fed to 69th Soldiers before they hit the Japanese-held beach, prepared by members of the 69th Regiment Veterans Association.

Retired Col. Geoff Slack, who commanded the battalion 10 years ago in Iraq and the former 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Commander, told diners in his kenote remarks

that Makin Day now matters more than ever for the 69th Infantry.

As a young captain attending his first Makin Day Dinner, Slack said, he noticed the quiet nature of the World War I veterans who attended the dinner then, compared with the World War II veterans and their boisterous tales of charging onto Saipan. They were the true legends, and he, like so many other young Soldiers wanted so badly to be a part of that team, Slack said.

The men and women who served in Iraq and Afghanistan have created their own legends but there will always be something unique about those World War One and Two veterans, Slack said.

"We were not comrades in the mystical way that the world war veterans were," he emphasized.

Slack recalled a relationship he built with a quiet veteran: Anthony (Tony) Daddato, an optometrist who saw battle during World War II. Slack and Tony Daddato became friends and shared thoughts about men and battle.

It was to Tony Daddato that he confided in before leading the 69th Infantry to Iraq ten years ago, Slack remembered. He talked with

Daddato about what battle was like and what death was like.

And it was Tony Daddato he turned to after returning from Iraq without 19 of his men, Slack said. Daddato intercepted him at the 2006 Makin Dinner as he was getting ready to go upstairs for a drink, Slack recalled. He told me I didn't need another drink, he told me we needed to talk instead, Slack said.

He talked with Daddato about November 2004, when he lost men. It was a month he wished did not exist, Slack said. He talked to Daddato about the casualties and how the toll of their absence impacted all and Daddato understood, Slack added.

He needed that conversation and insight from a veteran of a past war to help him deal with his war, Slack said.

The Soldiers of today's 69th Infantry need to be ready to be that sounding board for the Soldiers yet to come, Slack said, because the regiment will be called again.

"Don't shrink away from being someone else's Tony Daddato because another fight is coming," Slack said. **gt**

Historic 'Harlem Hellfighter' Records now Online

By Eric Durr, Public Affairs Director

SARATOGA SPRINGS - Armanie Rallis, a box-maker from St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, living at 2229 5th Avenue, was 20 when he joined Battery G of the 369th Coast Artillery Regiment in October 1939.

Garvey James, a 35-year old post office clerk who served with the 548th Engineer Service Battalion - cutting firewood for American Soldiers in France after World War I ended - re-enlisted in the 369th Infantry in May 1924. But the Jamaica native apparently decided he was tired of part-time military service; in January 1927 he was dropped from the rolls for "deser-tion." He stopped showing up for training.

These stories, and 2,593 more about mem-bers of New York's historic 369th Infantry Regiment - recently featured in the Max Brooks graphic novel "The Harlem Hellfighters" - are now available online.

The 369th Infantry - originally formed as the 15th regiment of the New York National Guard - was one of the few black regiments that saw combat during World War I. The segregated United States Army didn't want the African-American Soldiers, but the French did, and the men of the 369th earned a regimental Croix de Guerre from the French government and hundreds of individual medals during 191 days in the front lines.

When the Soldiers came home from France, the 369th once again became part of the New York National Guard and information about Soldiers' service in the 369th - first as infantrymen and then as coast artillerymen after reorganization - was recorded on a regimental personnel card.

New York State Military Museum staffers found more than 10,000 of these cards, dating from 1921 to 1949, as they were going through old records maintained at the New York National Guard's Harlem Armory, now the home of the 369th Sustainment Brigade, said Jim Gandy, the museum's librarian.

Thanks to assistance from New York's 3R's library councils - a nonprofit that works with libraries to improve library services - and a network of Military Museum volunteers, 2,596 of the cards have been scanned, the information was organized on a spreadsheet and uploaded to the New York State Heritage Digital Collec-

USE FOR ENLISTMENTS AS FOLLOWS:-									
FOR 3 YRS. IN					FOR 1 YR. IN				
1938					1942				
1942					1936				
1940					1940				
Day, James O.					Guide No.				
(1) NAME (Print full name, LAST NAME-FIRST)									
(2) ADDRESS (House Number & Street) 75 - Monmouth Ave (City) New York (State) N.Y.									
(3) Re-Enlisted Jun. 5th, 1938 for (3) (4) Yrs. In Company "B", H. By Daniel N. Bailey (Name of Officer)									
(4) OCCUPATION		AGE		WHERE BORN		HEIGHT		COLOR OF	
Chauffeur		33		Columbia S.C.		5 5		Brown Black Col.	
(5) Prior Service (See instructions for form) Enl Cpl "D" 369th Inf., Jun 5/35 to Jun 4/38									
(6) Prior N.C.O. Grades, R.S.O. dated 19, R.S.O. dated 19, W.C.F.? 19, W.C.F.? 19									
(7) Appointed, Reduced, Transferred, Appointed, Reduced, Transferred, Appointed, Reduced, Transferred, Appointed, Reduced, Transferred									
To Service Co Date 1/1/34 P.P. 3 R.S.O. 8									
To Private 1st class Date 7/1/40 P.P. 1 R.S.O. C.O.#7									
To Specialist 8th class Date 8/24/40 P.P. 2 R.S.O. C.O.#1									
To purpose of reunion for another year period Date Date P.P. R.S.O.									
(8) Commissioned Rank Date P.P. S.O. A.G.O. N.Y.									
(9) Discharge Hon. Date 12/4/40 Authority Par. 1, S.O. 283 a. N.O. N.Y.									

The New York National Guard regimental personnel card for Sgt. Arthur Curtis, a member of the 369th Infantry Regiment. This is an example of one of the 2,596 New York National Guard regimental personnel cards containing information on 369th Infantry Regiment Soldiers who enlisted or re-enlisted in the 369th - later the 369th Coast Artillery - between 1921 and 1949. The cards are being scanned and the information digitized on data bases and posted on the New York Heritage Digital Collection and will also be posted on the New York State Military Museum website

tions Website (<http://www.nyheritage.org>). The goal is to make these materials, and those from other libraries and museums available to people around the state and eventually around the country, said Susan D'Entremont, digital project manager for the Capital District Library Council.

The information on the personnel cards included age, address, place of birth, civilian job, prior military service, height, hair color, eye color, enlistment or re-enlistment dates, the name of the officer who enlisted or re-enlisted the Soldier and information on promotions, reductions in rank and the number of recruits the Soldier brought into the National Guard.

There was also space to put in information about disciplinary actions or awards. In later versions of the cards, there is space for weapons qualification information.

This is invaluable information for people researching family histories and genealogists, Gandy said.

While it's easy to scan in the cards, the real work comes in recording the digital information, or metadata, which allows computer users to search online, Gandy said.

To do that time-consuming necessary work, Gandy turned to a group of volunteers who have helped with other digitizing projects the museum has conducted, including a complete online listing of 20,000 New York National Guard members mobilized in October 1940 as World War II loomed.

One of those volunteers is Greta Hamilton, a retired Air Force Major and director of the Marion National Cemetery in Marion, Ill.

She first became aware of the New York Military Museum in 2007 when she was working on a master's degree, living in Missouri and researching the 369th Infantry. As an African-American veteran herself, Hamilton said she felt an affinity for the 369th, and when she learned that Gandy was looking for help in museum projects, she volunteered.

Gandy emails her and the other volunteers the scanned images of the cards and she and the other volunteers type the data from the cards into spreadsheets, Hamilton said. When the spreadsheet is done she sends it back.

Getting this metadata recorded is essential to making digital archives work, D'Entremont said. **gt**



106th Survivability Equipment Checks

WESTHAMPTON BEACH -- An HH-60 Pavahawk helicopter assigned to the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing conducts a aircraft survivability equipment check off the coast of Long Island during training on Nov. 25, 2014. The defensive system helps protect from anti-aircraft measures. Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.

109th Conducts Antarctic Support

Guard Times staff



Secretary of the Air Force, Deborah Lee James, greets 109th Airlift Wing members Airman 1st Class Wyatt Peters and Lt. Col. Kurt Bedore in Antarctica on January 25, 2015. Both Airmen were supporting transportation operations in Antarctica as part of Operation Deep Freeze. The first of seven deployed LC-130s returned to Stratton Air National Guard base on Feb. 24, with Airmen and planes returning into March. Courtesy photo.

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE -- Airmen of the 109th Airlift Wing flew 241 missions, transported 3,132 people and moved 4,594,900 pounds of cargo and fuel around Antarctica during their 27th season supporting science research there.

The wing deployed 575 Airmen and seven LC-130 Skibird aircraft to the southern continent between Oct. 17, 2014, when the first "Skibird" left Stratton Air National Guard Base and Feb. 24, 2015, when Airmen and aircraft began returning home.

The wing, which flies the only ski-equipped aircraft in the U.S. military, is an integral part of Operation Deep Freeze, the military support to the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Program. About 120 Airmen were deployed to the ice at any one time,

The LC-130 aircraft can land on snow and ice. The primary mission of the 109th is to provide airlift within Antarctica, flying to various remote locations from McMurdo Station.

"We transport scientists, support personnel, fuel, supplies, medical supplies - basically anything we can fit on the back of the plane," said Maj. Steve Cousineau, 139th Airlift Squadron navigator.

"People would ask, rightfully, what are the research efforts there," said Maj. David Panzera. "It's not just climate, which some people think that's all they do. It's not. They do volcanology - the study of volcanoes - that's right next to us called Mt. Arabis. They do glaciology, plate tectonics; they study the stars and other sciences are just amazing, especially sea life at the edges of the continent because nothing can live in the interior."

Along with their primary mission of transporting people and supplies, crews also flew IcePod missions this year.

"IcePod focuses on the development of an integrated ice imaging

system that can measure in detail both the ice surface and the ice bed, helping in the understanding of why ice sheets are changing at such a rapid rate," said Lt. Col. Blair Herdrick, chief of Antarctic Operations at the 109th.

Two aircraft were outfitted with an Airborne Data Collection System (ADCS) for testing.

"The integrated Iridium-based communication and position reporting system will improve in-flight communications for mission reporting, weather updates and air traffic control instructions. It will also dramatically improve search and rescue response," Herdrick said.

Planning is a huge role everyone plays in making the mission work, said Lt. Col. Martha Wadsworth, 139th Airlift Squadron commander.

"We need to make sure we have the right manpower and equipment to survive in the austere environment," she said.

The biggest challenge for not only the Airmen, but also the aircraft in Antarctica, has always been the weather.

"The planes have to get acclimated to the (environment)," said Lt. Col. Chris Sander, aircraft commander. "But we're constantly watching the weather."

The other challenge Airmen face is leaving their families behind. "Being away from the family is always tough - that never gets easy," Cousineau said. "But once we're there, we're a big family."

"I've been going twice a year for 20 years," he said. "It's like being part of a team. We practice all year to do this. It's a good job, and it's rewarding. We're making a contribution to science."

The 109th has been supporting South Pole research since 1988. Since 1999, the wing has been the sole provider of this type of airlift. **gt**

Airmen Play a Key Role in Guard Security Task Force

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Christopher Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing



New York Air National Guard Airmen, including over forty from the 106th Rescue Wing, alongside Army National Guard Soldiers, patrol areas around New York City, including JFK Airport, Pennsylvania Station, and the World Trade Center.

NEW YORK - New Yorkers greeting 2015 were protected by New York National Guard members—including Airmen from the 106th Rescue Wing -- on duty in train stations and airports as part of Joint Task Force Empire Shield.

Army and Air Guard members have been on duty in New York City since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Today Soldiers and Airmen assigned to Joint Task Force Empire Shield augment law enforcement agencies in Penn Station, the Port Authority Trans-Hudson (PATH) train terminal, Grand Central Station, John F. Kennedy International Airport, and LaGuardia Airport, to name a few.

About a third of the Airmen serving on the task force come from the 106th Rescue Wing, said Master Sgt. Kenneth Hines, a 106th member and the Task Force 1st Sgt.

While the task force runs like an Army National Guard unit, 106th Rescue Wing members are in both junior and senior enlisted positions. Captains Peter Papandrea and Mark Wilborn, both members of the 106th, serve as task force

company commanders.

"The 106th Rescue Wing brings a lot of diversity to the Task Force," Wilborn said.

"We bring expertise, and a different way of looking at things...it's useful to have a different outlook on how to accomplish the mission," he added.

Making the transition from an Air Force structure to an Army one initially took some getting used to, Hines said.

"It was definitely different. The way the Task Force is set up is like an infantry battalion, broken up into companies and platoons and squads," Hines explained.

"For new Airmen coming onto the mission, it can be quite challenging changing over to that kind of a hyper-regimented environment."

"But we come from a lot of different backgrounds, from communications to civil engineering, to admin and security forces. It didn't take long for the our Airmen to integrate," he added.

Wilborn, who was himself a Soldier before joining the Air Force, agreed.

"Learning the [Army] culture and language, it's a whole different way of doing business. For most Airmen who haven't worked with the Army before, it can be challenging," Wilborn said.

In his opinion, though, this isn't a bad thing.

"I think it's a great opportunity to get new Airmen out there, experiencing what it's like to work with other services.

The military is definitely going joint in many ways, so this is a great chance to spend some time interacting with another branch," Wilborn added.

Additional Guard elements often work with Empire Shield for larger events.

The New York National Guard's 24th Civil Support Team, for example, a unit that is specially trained to detect chemical, biological and radiological agents, was on duty in Manhattan to support the New York Police Department on New Year's Eve.

This specialized team has partnered with

Cont'd on next page

Airmen Play Key Security Roles



New York National Guard service members with Joint Task Force Empire Shield clear their weapons before leaving for their assigned duty locations throughout the city.

the New York Police Department for counter-terrorism support operations since the unit's formation in 2010.

A typical day may include a morning formation, briefings, and team assignments.

Various teams are issued weapons, don body armor and move out to assigned locations.

During a shift, members may conduct roving patrols, interact with the public (often posing for pictures with tourists and locals) and liaise with the New York Police Department.

Not every day is routine.

Recently, Air National Guard Staff Sergeant Elisha Rendal and Senior Airman Carlos Guija saved the life of a New Yorker with a heart condition who collapsed at Penn Station. Sergeant Rendal and Airman Guija attended to the victim, performing CPR until first responders were able to arrive on scene and take over. Because of their actions, the victim survived.

"I love it," Airman First Class Lilia Garcia said about the task force assignment.

"You get to be out in the public with so many different people. You get to see how the public appreciates you; people come out of the blue to say thank you," Garcia said. **gt**

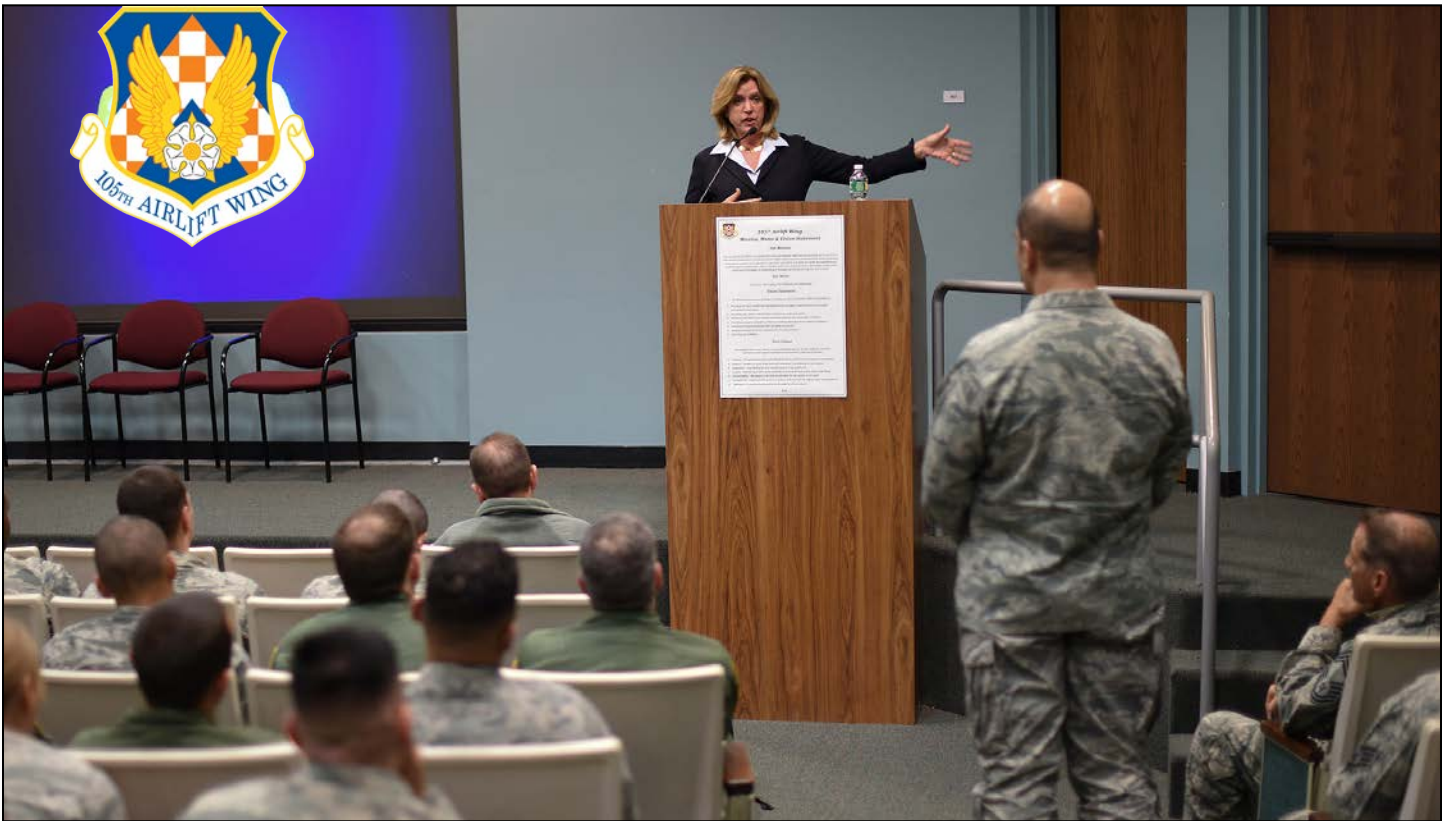
Joint Search and Rescue Training



WARREN GROVE, N.J. -- Members of the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing conduct simulated rescues of downed pilots at the Warren Grove Gunnery Range here January 23. As part of this exercise, two 106th personnel acted as a pair of downed pilots in a hostile area. The Airmen worked jointly with Pennsylvania Army National Guard AH-64 Attack helicopters from the 1st Battalion, 104th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, shown at bottom right. The attack helicopter crews provided aerial cover during the Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) training exercise. Above, a member of the wing gives the ready signal during the exercise while below right, members of the 101st and 103rd Rescue Squadrons conduct land navigation to the downed pilot. Photos by Staff Sgt. Christopher S Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.

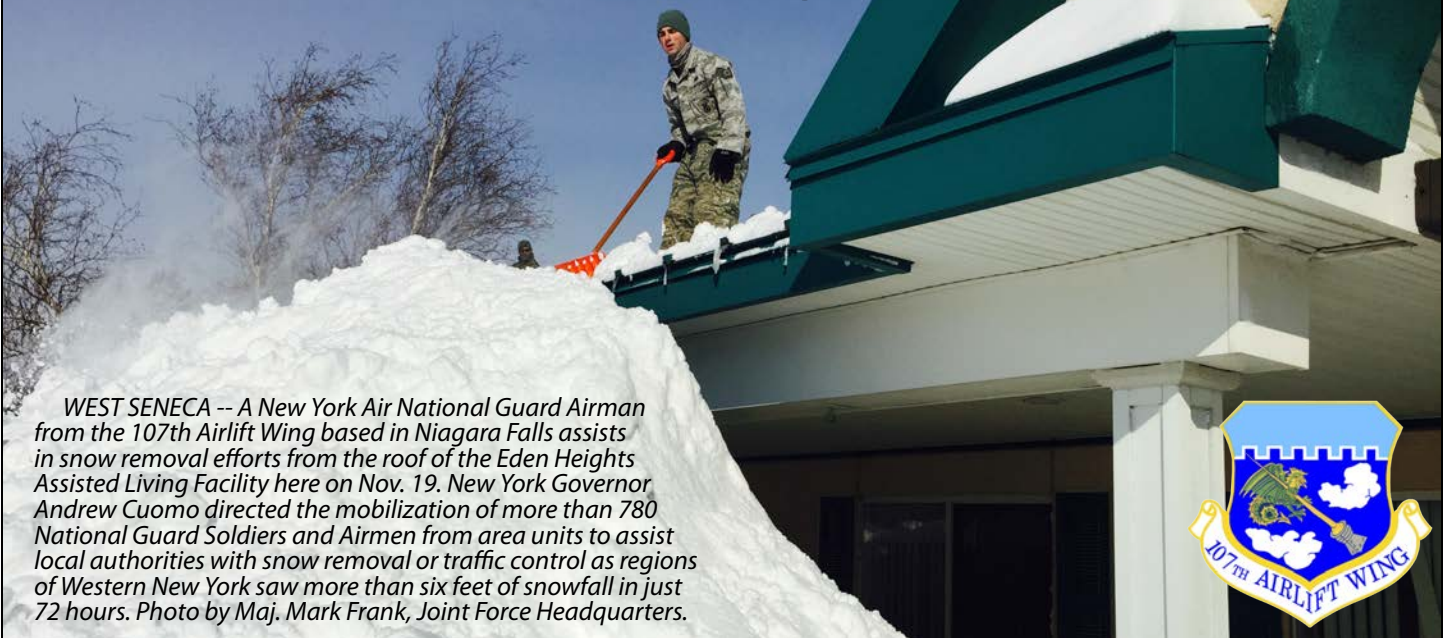


Air Force Secretary Visits 105th Airlift Wing



STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Newburgh --Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James addresses Captain Patrick Cordova the 105th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Officer, during a question and answer session while visiting Stewart Air National Guard Base on Nov. 1. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lee Guagenti, 105th Airlift Wing.

Air Guard Helps Western N.Y. Dig Out



WEST SENECA -- A New York Air National Guard Airman from the 107th Airlift Wing based in Niagara Falls assists in snow removal efforts from the roof of the Eden Heights Assisted Living Facility here on Nov. 19. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo directed the mobilization of more than 780 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from area units to assist local authorities with snow removal or traffic control as regions of Western New York saw more than six feet of snowfall in just 72 hours. Photo by Maj. Mark Frank, Joint Force Headquarters.

Honoring Tuskegee Airmen at Gabreski



WESTHAMPTON BEACH - Senior Master Sergeant Lindsay Cunningham and 106th Rescue Wing Commander Col. Thomas Owens pose for a portrait with Tuskegee Airman William Joseph Johnson, February 7. Cadet Johnson, born in North Carolina, moved to Glen Cove in 1929. In 1941, Johnson passed his flying exam and received his training in Tuskegee, Alabama. After the war, Johnson went to work at Gruman, retiring in 1990. The 106th Rescue Wing celebrated Black History month during the February drill weekend with a series of guest speakers, videos and performers. Photo by Staff Sergeant Christopher S Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.



Air Guard Marathon Man in Antarctic

MCMURDO STATION, Antarctica-- Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Peck, a member of the 109th Airlift Wing, runs the annual McMurdo Marathon in Antarctica Jan. 11, 2015. He and Master Sgt. Michael Lazzari, also of the 109th, ran the 26.2-mile course -- a feat few in the world can say they've accomplished. The wing completed its 27th season for Operation Deep Freeze this winter. Courtesy photo.



Master Sgt. Amy Taylor



Master Sgt. Michael Lazzari



Master Sgt. Eric Lent



Staff Sgt. Douglas Kechijian



Staff Sgt. Richard Burns



Senior Airman James Comstock

New York Air National Guard Airmen of the Year

Guard Times Staff

LATHAM -- Two Airmen from the 109th Airlift Wing, two Airmen from the Eastern Air Defense Sector, and one each from the 174th Attack Wing and 106th Rescue Wing have been named New York Air National Guard Airmen of the Year for 2015.

The six Airmen were selected by a panel of senior enlisted leaders from the best airman at each of the five wings and the Eastern Air Defense Sector.

The two winners assigned to the 109th Airlift Wing—Senior Airman James Comstock, and Master Sgt. Michael Lazzari—were selected as Airman of the Year and First Sergeant of the Year, respectively.

Lazzari, a Schenectady native who has nearly 19 years of total military service including a five-year active duty tour, joined the 109th Airlift Wing's Fire Department in 2007. In 2012, he became the first sergeant for the 109th Mission Support Group. In the last year, Lazzari has supported both Operation Raven Dew in Greenland and Operation Deep Freeze in Antarctica as the unit's deployed first sergeant.

Comstock, a Guelderland native, joined the wing in 2008. He is currently a customer support representative with the 109th Logistics Readiness Squadron. Comstock received the John L. Levitow award while attending Airman Leadership School this past year and is also the current president of the 109th First Six Council. The council represents the junior enlisted of the wing. With the council, he has participated in many community events throughout the year, and also coordinated the wing's first Adopt-A-Highway project.

The two awardees from the Eastern Air Defense Sector are Master Sgt. Amy Taylor and Staff Sgt. Richard Burns.

Taylor was selected as Outstanding Senior Noncommissioned Officer, while Burns was

recognized as Honor Guard Program Manager.

Taylor, who serves as noncommissioned officer in charge of quality assurance, was recognized for her management of 14 personnel and the computer networks they maintain. Taylor, a Rome resident who has served in the Air Guard since 1996, has been instrumental in developing and delivering EADS first-ever Professional Development Course for junior enlisted members. Taylor oversaw the unit's transition from digital personal data assistants to I-phones and conducted a rigorous cyber asset evaluation, which ensured EADS operated in compliance with Air Force guidance. Taylor was recently elected President of EADS Top 3, a leadership group composed of the unit's Senior Noncommissioned Officers.

Burns, who is a radio frequency transmission craftsman, dedicated hundreds of hours of personal time to planning, scheduling and training EADS Honor Guard. A Tonawanda resident, Burns participated in 38 Honor Guard details and planned or arranged an additional 57 events. He also increased the number of qualified EADS personnel to 30. Burns also developed a local outreach plan, meeting with area funeral directors to increase their knowledge and awareness of EADS Honor Guard and its funeral support capabilities.

Staff Sgt. Douglas Kechijian, a pararescue Airman assigned to the 106th Rescue Wing, was named Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

A 2002 graduate of Brown University from Manhasset, Kechijian joined the 106th Rescue wing shortly after graduating. He is a veteran of deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq and the Horn of Africa and also holds a Masters of Arts in Exercise Physiology and a Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree from Columbia University. He is a traditional Guard Airman who works as

Director of Rehabilitation at Peak Performance Physical Therapy in New York.

Master Sgt. Eric Lent, a member of the 174th Attack Wing, was recognized as New York Air National Guard Honor Guard Member of the Year.

Lent, a Syracuse resident, has served on the base Honor Guard since 2011. He is a graduate of Cicero-North Syracuse High School, and holds a bachelor's degree in general studies from Columbia College. He joined the New York Air National Guard in 1998 and has served in a variety of maintenance and operations positions at the wing and is currently a flight chief, responsible for 14 Airmen.

There are just under 6,000 members of the New York Air National Guard who serve in five flying wings -- the 105th Airlift Wing in Newburgh, the 106th Rescue Wing at Westhampton Beach, the 107th Airlift Wing at Niagara Falls, the 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, the 174th Attack Wing in Syracuse and the Eastern Air Defense Sector in Rome. The New York Air National Guard is the largest Air National Guard in the United States. **gt**



EADS Transformation After 20 Years

Story and photo by Tim Jones, EADS

ROME - The New York Air National Guard marked a milestone in December 2014 of guarding American skies with the North American Aerospace Defense Command, Air Defense Sector mission for 20 years.

Air National Guard members assumed primary responsibility for manning what was then the Northeast Air Defense Sector in December 1994. Since that time, the Sector has been staffed predominately by New York Guardsmen, along with a Royal Canadian Air Force detachment, liaison personnel from the Air Force, Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Federal Aviation Administration, as well as a small cadre of civilian personnel. For 20 years, EADS has truly been a total force unit.

The 20th anniversary milestone provides an opportunity for EADS to reflect on its proud heritage – deterring aggression throughout the Cold War and taking on new missions and threats posed in this century as the traditional focus of watching for threats from outside the continental United States became an inward look at threats within American skies after 9/11.

It's also an opportunity to raise awareness in the local community about the Sector's unique bi-national and state-federal nature. The unit is manned primarily by New York Guardsmen, performing a 24/7 federal air defense sector mission, in support of the bi-national North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD).

Another important milestone for EADS occurred in January. The Northeast Air Defense Squadron was the Air National Guard unit that provided the bulk of the Sector's manpower since 1994. All members within EADS were assigned to this Guard unit, commanded by Col. Wade Dewey.

EADS was re-designated as the 224th Air Defense Group on January 10, now comprised of two subordinate elements, the 224th Air Defense Squadron and the 224th Support Squadron.

Col. Wade Dewey will continue in his dual role as the Title 32 commander of EADS, now as the 224th Air Defense Group Commander.


Air Guard members formerly with the EADS Operations Directorate are now assigned to the 224th Air Defense Squadron, commanded



Maj. Gen. Verle Johnston, commander of the New York Air National Guard, hands the guidon of the newly-activated 224th Air Defense Group to Col. Wade Dewey Jan. 10, 2015, in Rome, N.Y. Dewey, the Title 32 commander at the Eastern Air Defense Sector in Rome, assumed command of the newly-activated 224th Air Defense Group during the unit activation ceremony.

by Col. Wendel Smith. Airmen in the Support Directorate now serve in the 224th Support Squadron, commanded by Col. Emil Filkorn.

The move was a seamless administrative change, since all personnel and the new units still serve as part of the Eastern Air Defense Sector. But the change provides better understanding of the role of the Air National Guard personnel in the air defense of the nation.

The organizational change also affected EADS counterparts at the Western Air Defense Sector, whose Guard forces now belong to the 225th Air Defense Group (Washington Air National Guard). This mirrors the 101st Air Operations Group (Florida Air National Guard) which was activated in 2009 to staff the 601st Air Operations Center at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. 

New York Guard

New York Guard Lends Voices to Spiritual Fitness



CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, Cortlandt Manor – Members of the New York Guard's unit ministry team partnered with the 53rd Troop Command for a joint Prayer Breakfast at the Chaplain Duffy Chapel and Spiritual Fitness Center, January 31.

The event brought together Soldiers and Chaplains of all faiths and denominations to discuss Spiritual Readiness and Soldier resiliency.

Above, New York Guard Command Chaplain (Maj.) Sean Gardner speaks about Spiritual Fitness. New York Guard Capt. Mark Getman, above right, a New York Guard Public Affairs Officer and ordained rabbi, presented a Hebrew Scripture reading.

The focus of the gathering, led by more than a half dozen military chaplains and lay leaders, emphasized the important role of Spiritual Readiness as part of Soldier resiliency and overall Comprehensive Soldier Fitness in the New Year.

The prayer breakfast also welcomed the East Ward Missionary Baptist Church Choir to the program.
Courtesy photos.

Recognizing WWII Achievement of Past Guard Leader



WEST POINT – Retired New York Guard Maj. Gen. George Liebner receives the French Jubilee of Liberty Medal from New York Guard Commander Brig. Gen. Stephen Bucaria and NY Naval Militia Commander Admiral Ten Eyck "Trip" Powell III during a holiday gathering Dec. 6. The French Jubilee of Liberty Medal is awarded to WWII veterans by the French government to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1994 (D-Day). The medal was first awarded in June 1994 to American servicemen for their participation in the Battle of Normandy and are presented to veterans who served in Normandy from June 6 to August 31, 1944. Liebner went on to serve in the New York Guard for some 30 years of volunteer service, commanding the New York Guard from 1994-1999. Photo by Capt. Mark Getman, New York Guard.

Naval Militia Pipes Aboard New Commander

Story and photos by Eric Durr, Public Affairs Director

NEW YORK - New York Naval Militia Rear Admiral Ten Eyck "Trip" Powell, III, a resident of Coeymans, took command of the 2,500-member New York Naval Militia from Naval Militia Major General Robert Wolf during a traditional change of command ceremony at the State University of New York Maritime College here on Saturday, Dec. 6.

Wolf, a retired Marine Corp officer, has led the New York Naval Militia since 2007.

"New York's volunteer naval force has served our state time and again in responding to emergencies like Superstorm Sandy, and I am pleased to announce that Rear Admiral Powell will be continuing this legacy as the groups next commander," said New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in a statement. "The Naval Militia is integral to our efforts to prepare New York State for the natural disasters and emergencies in the future, and I am confident that they will continue to play a vital role in keeping our communities safe."

Powell was commissioned as an ensign in the Navy in 1978 and served as a naval flight officer, flying in the S-3A Viking Carrier anti-submarine aircraft and serving aboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower. He also served at Navy Recruiting District Albany before moving to the Navy Reserve in 1986.

While serving in the Navy Reserve Powell also volunteered to serve with the New York Naval Militia. His assignments have included Assistant Chief of Staff and Commander of the Naval Militia's Northern Command.

The New York Naval Militia is a state military force whose membership consists mainly of Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserve members who also enlist jointly in the New York force and agree to perform state missions at the direction of the governor. A small number of Naval Militia members are retired Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel who serve only in the Naval Militia.

Naval Militia members put the skills they have learned as members of the Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard to work for New Yorkers performing state disaster response missions. The Naval Militia fields a fleet of nine patrol boats which support local law enforcement as well as the Coast Guard and Border Patrol. 🇺🇸



Rear Admiral Ten Eyck "Trip" Powell receives the colors of the New York Naval Militia from Major General Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York, signifying his assumption of command in a change of command ceremony Dec. 6, 2014.



Major General Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York presents the New York State Meritorious Service Medal to outgoing New York Naval Militia Commander Major General Robert Wolf, during the change of command ceremony Dec. 6, 2014.

National Guard Recognizes Civilian, Military Heroism

Story by Maj. Al Phillips, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team



Col. Joseph Biehler, commander of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, presents Sgt. John Tirinato with the New York State Conspicuous Service Award October 18, 2014. Tirinato assisted in the rescue efforts of New York Army National Guard Capt. Timothy Neild from a fiery auto accident on December 9, 2013. Photo by Spc. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

SYRACUSE -- A New York Army National Guard Soldier and six civilians-- including one Canadian citizen-- received the New York State Conspicuous Service Medal in a ceremony Oct. 18 at the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team headquarters.

The seven are being recognized for their heroism in rescuing New York Army National Guard Capt. Timothy Neild from a fiery vehicle crash on December 9, 2013 on the New York State Thruway.

The recipients were:

- Sergeant John Tirinato, of Castleton;
- Thomas Buckle of Syracuse;
- Kevin Harrigan of Syracuse;
- Sherry Kline of Syracuse,

- Joseph Krywalski of Liverpool;
- Dr. Christopher Sewell of Woodbridge, Conn.
- and Kevin Shier of Toronto, Ontario.

The award is normally presented to members of the New York Army and Air National Guard but any civilian who renders service to New York's military forces are eligible to receive it as well.

The New York State Conspicuous Service Medal

The Conspicuous Service Medal may be awarded to any individual who shall have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service in a capacity of great responsibility.



The service can be performed while in an active status by a member of the New York State Organized Militia, by a civilian in support of the New York State Organized Militia, or to other individuals who have provided support to the New York State Organized Militia and deemed appropriate by The Adjutant General.

The Soldiers Medal

The award is presented to members of the United States Army who engage in an act of heroism not involved in conflict with an enemy.

New York Army National Capt. Timothy Neild, a





Col. Joseph Biehler, commander of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, presents Sherry Kline with a New York State Conspicuous Service Medal on October 18, 2014 at Brigade headquarters in Syracuse. Kline and six other civilians received the distinguished state award after assisting in the rescue efforts of New York Army National Guard Capt. Timothy Neild from a fiery auto accident on December 9, 2013. Photo by Spc. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

veteran of the war in Afghanistan, was on his way to training at the Thompson Road Armory, at Hancock Field, on Dec. 9, 2013 when his pickup swerved off the Thruway in the Town of DeWitt and collided with a bridge. As his truck burst into flames, a small group of motorists pulled over and tried to help. Neild, age 33 from Duaneburg, was pinned in the truck. The door was jammed.

One of the rescuers was Sgt. 1st Class Ray Presley of the National Guard, a truck driver who stopped to lend a hand - and had no idea, until he ran to the scene that the man trapped in the vehicle was his captain.

Presley was awarded the Soldiers Medal for his actions this past spring. Presley was assisted by the seven individuals being awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal on Oct. 18.

The rescuers freed Neild and dragged him away. About 30 seconds later, the interior of the truck burst into flames. A short time later, it exploded.

Neild had internal injuries, two broken legs and slammed his head in the collision. He did not regain consciousness for about two weeks. He has spent the remaining time in rehabilitation in the Albany Capitol region. **gt**

Retired Senior NCO Receives Commerce Award

Guard Times Staff

LATHAM -- Retired New York Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Van Pelt, a Malta resident who currently works helping New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen find jobs, was a finalist for a top award by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

Van Pelt was one of four people considered for an award honoring their work in helping veterans find employment by the Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Hiring our Heroes program.

The winner of the Col. Michael Endres Leadership Award for Individual Excellence in Veteran Employment was Frank Bisignano, chairman and CEO of First Data Corporation.

The two other nominees-- Derek Blake, vice president of Marketing and Military Programs, La Quinta Inns and Suites and Chris Phillips, military recruiter for PNC Bank—also represented major corporations.

The award recognizes an individual who has gone above and beyond to make a difference in employment opportunities for veterans, transitioning service members, and spouses, according to Hiring our Heroes spokesman Bryan Goettel.

"These are employers and individuals that have not only led their companies to hire the skilled men and women who have served our country, but have encouraged their peers to develop veteran and military spouse hiring initiatives and best practices," said Eric Eversole, a vice president at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and executive director of Hiring Our Heroes.

"They are true leaders who have demonstrated both professional and personal dedication toward improving the lives of America's veterans and military spouses."

The awards were presented Nov. 12 during a dinner in Washington, D.C.

A veteran of the Vietnam War, Van Pelt



Retired New York Army National Guard Command Sgt. Major Robert Van Pelt, a Malta resident who currently works helping New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen find jobs, was a 2014 finalist for an award by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Courtesy photo.

served in the Army and the Army National Guard before retiring as the command sergeant major of the New York National Guard in 2011.

Since retiring, Van Pelt has headed the New York National Guard Employment Initiative. He works with Guard members to help them improve their chances for employment and also works with employers.

One of his initiatives has been an online directory of employers who are offering jobs for Guard Soldiers and veterans, the New York National Guard Job Zone. (<http://dmna.ny.gov/jobs/>)

Van Pelt has also been very involved with the Hiring our Heroes effort, working alongside program administrators when the New York National Guard hosted veterans hiring events. The Hiring our Heroes program is a national U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation effort to link up employers with veterans, military spouses and National Guard and Reserve members looking for work. **gt**

Final Flight for Guard Aviation Leader



LATHAM -- New York Army National Guard Col. Al Ricci greets his daughters following his final flight as a military pilot on Oct. 27, 2014 at the Army Aviation Support Facility here. Ricci, a veteran of the Iraq War retired after 30 years. His final service was as the commander of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade, which included a ten-month deployment to Kuwait. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Infantry Division.

National Guard Celebrates Birthday



LATHAM--New York Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Louis Wilson--the senior enlisted person present-- and New York Air National Guard Airman enlistee James McPartlin, who joined the National Guard in September, cut the National Guard birthday cake during 378th Guard birthday celebrations at New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs headquarters in Latham, Dec. 15, 2014. They are watched by Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sgt. Amy Giaquinto, Command Chief for the 109th Airlift Wing, at left and Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, at right. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Infantry Division.

Harlem Armory Upgrade Gets Underway

Story and photo by Sgt. J. p. Lawrence, 42nd Infantry Division

New York - The New York National Guard's Harlem Armory, which looks like a castle on the banks of the East River, is getting a \$42 million upgrade over the next two years.

Built to house the historic 369th Infantry—the African-American infantry unit which distinguished itself in France in World War I—the 80 year old Art Deco building is in need of repairs. In some places paint is peeling from water damaged ceilings and windows are cracked.

The building is now the home of the 369th Sustainment Brigade, which traces its lineage to the original "Harlem Hell Fighters."

Ongoing renovations will update the building while maintaining its historic character, said Lt. Col. Scott Cleaveland, the Division of Naval and Military Affairs facilities project officer overseeing the renovations.

"This project adds modern offices, classrooms, dining areas, and all the things we would see in an active duty installation while maintaining the building's historical elements," Cleaveland said.

The massive red brick building, built in two parts in the early 1920s and 1930—the drill shed first and then the administrative areas—will be updated to modern standards.

The 60 bathrooms and locker rooms, which sporadically worked, will

be placed in centralized locations on each floor.

The old system of cast iron radiators for heat, and air conditioners in the windows, will be replaced by a modern heating, ventilation and cooling system. The dining facility, with its painted concrete floor, will now have a new tile floor, a new range hood, and space for a serving line.

The building will have sprinklers in case of fires and a more energy-efficient lighting system. Walls will be demolished for an open-office layout that encourages collaboration.

Despite these changes, renovations will preserve the Art Deco armory's historic nature, said Lt. Col. James C. Gonyo II, Deputy Brigade Commander of the 369th Sustainment Brigade.

"I think from the unit perspective, the importance of preserving the building would be to display the history of the unit, building the esprit de corps," Gonyo said. "It gives us a reflection back into the past. It makes Soldiers aware and proud of the patch that they're wearing."

The 369th became famous during World War I—when its Soldiers received 171 medals for valor—and fought in World War II, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Since then, Soldiers from the 369th Sustainment Brigade have been involved in joint exercises in Africa and responded to state

emergencies.

During Superstorm Sandy in October and November 2012, the 369th Sustainment Brigade played a key role in delivering relief supplies across New York City.

Renovations will make the armory more adaptable in future missions, Cleaveland said.

The building will receive a simulated firing range, a new telecommunications system, and two generators placed on the rooftop.

"During Hurricane Sandy, the armory flooded a bit," Cleaveland said.

"There were times when the power went off. Did the building function? Yes, but once we're done with the project it will be able to function at a higher level because of the generators."

The facility is now mostly empty, save for construction crews, as Soldiers in the 369th have moved to temporary headquarters at Camp Smith, New York.

When they return, they will arrive to a modern armory, said Marcus Lafond, a civilian project manager assisting the NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

"The idea is to get the facility into the next century," Lafond said. "It will be a healthier place to work. The most important thing is it's being updated and modernized, so it's a more pleasant, efficient and productive space for Soldiers to work in." **gt**



Distance Learning Centers Provide Added Value

By Eric Durr, Public Affairs Director

LATHAM -- The eight distance learning centers across the state aren't just for units, individual Soldiers can use them too, according to Maj. Lynn Currier, information support technology branch chief for the New York Army National Guard.

Soldiers who don't have access to the Internet or a computer in their home, that can read a Common Access Card (CAC), can go to one of the distance learning centers to take required on-line classes, check their personnel file, or update records, she said.

"Even a Soldier who is going to Excelsior College on-line, and the computer at their house is shot, they can come in and work on those classes," Currier said.

Currier and her staff of three based at New York National Guard headquarters in Latham, coordinate for access to the eight Distance Learning Center sites across the state. There are two facilities at Camp Smith, one at state headquarters, one at the 42nd Infantry Division headquarters in Troy, as well as the Binghamton, Buffalo (Connecticut St), Lexington Avenue (Manhattan) and Syracuse readiness centers.

The centers are located where large numbers of Guard members live, Currier said.

Along with providing access to the Internet and CAC accessible computers, the centers can be used to conduct video conferences. This enables far flung units access to leadership meetings without traveling prohibitive distances, Currier said.

The centers can also be used for unit training. This is especially useful when the planned instruction requires access to computers for all Soldiers taking a class, Currier explained.

Although the centers are located where they can serve the bulk of the New York Army

National Guard's 10,500 members, it can still be tough for Soldiers in rural areas to get access to Guard technology, Currier admitted.

To fix that, the National Guard plans to convert many fixed-site classrooms with field portable distance learning setups within two or three years. The new classroom setup incorporates all the basic features that Guardsmen are familiar with -- computers, Internet access, and video conferencing capabilities.

This mobile facility would be available to relocate to remote armories for video conferences, training sessions, or unit personnel workshops when Soldiers need computer access, Currier explained.

During its deployment to Kuwait last year the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade used a basic version of this mobile classroom, and made extensive use of it, Currier said.

Along with handling the distance learning center system, Currier's team also takes the official Department of the Army photos which Soldiers at grade E-6 and above need to get promoted.

Soldiers can schedule appointments at the headquarters in Latham and her team is now making regular unit visits to get the photographs taken, Currier said. 📷



Distance Learning Center in Latham, N.Y.

Glens Falls Annual Road March Passes 10th Year



GLENS FALLS -- New York Army National Guard volunteers of the 11th Annual Christmas Eve Roadmarch participate in the 3.3 mile walk through Glens Falls, N.Y. on December 24. Carrying the banner this year are retired Sgt. 1st Class Arthur Coon, at right, the event organizer and U.S. Military Academy cadet Mitchell Valenza. The march commemorated the deployment of local National Guard Citizen Soldiers to Iraq when first held back in 2004 and now honors military members of all services and all eras. More than 600 participants are estimated to have marched through Glens Falls, most carrying images of uniformed loved ones who are serving or have served. Photo by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters.



Lost Civil War Painting Rediscovered and Ready for Display

By Eric Durr, Public Affairs Director

SARATOGA SPRINGS -- A painting by a famous military artist that was lost in plain sight in 1959 was found by the staff of the New York State Military Museum in 2010.

Now, according to museum director Courtney Burns, the challenge is to find a place where the public can view the 12-foot long, five-foot high “Battle of Resaca” painting once again.

The massive painting by James Walker depicts a May 13-14, 1864 battle fought by Major General William Tecumseh Sherman during his advance on Atlanta. The painting originally hung in the armory of the New York National Guard’s 12th Regiment on Columbus Avenue in New York City.

The painting was probably commissioned by Major General Daniel Butterfield, who had served as the commander of the New York State Militia’s 12th Regiment at the start of the Civil War and remained active in veterans groups following the Civil War, Burns said. The painting appears to illustrate a moment in the battle at which the XII Corps, which included Butterfield’s 3rd Division, enters the fight.

Walker, who was born in England but grew up in Albany, became famous after he painted “the Battle of Chapultepec” for the U.S. Capitol. Walker also painted “The Battle of Lookout Mountain” for Butterfield’s friend Major General Joseph Hooker.

Butterfield—who is widely credited with helping his brigade bugler compose the bugle call “Taps” in 1862—was an enthusiastic col-

lector of art. He bought many paintings and sculptures for the 12th Regiment Armory when it was built in 1886-87, Burns said.

The painting was famous enough that a lithograph print of it was made and sold to collectors to raise money for a memorial to Civil War Soldiers, Burns said.

In 1958, the New York National Guard moved out of the armory. The building was demolished to make way for the Lincoln Center arts complex.

The painting was rolled up and sent to the Brooklyn Navy Yard—then a federal facility—for storage along with other art works, Burns said.

The man in charge of the New York National Guard’s historical collections then, Frederick P. Todd, who is famous as an expert on Civil War-era military uniforms, had a “tight relationship” with the United States Military Academy museum. He had the painting shipped there for safe-keeping and potential display, Burns said.

The painting—somehow mislabeled as “The Battle of Gettysburg” was stuck on the back shelves of the West Point Museum until the 1970s.

At that point the Military Academy historians realized the painting belonged to New York and they didn’t really want it.

“They sent it back to us,” Burns said. “They said, ‘Hey we got your painting of Gettysburg here and do you want it back?’”

In 2010, the Military Museum finally had a

reason to start looking at its Civil War related holdings and some money to restore them.

The museum hoped to put together a Civil War exhibit to mark the 150th anniversary of the conflict, and so some artifacts were earmarked for restoration. Among them was the “Gettysburg” painting from the 12th Regiment Armory.

It was sent to a painting conservator in Williamstown, Mass. to be cleaned and restored.

When the picture was finally opened they realized it clearly wasn’t a Gettysburg painting, Burns said. A little records sleuthing revealed that it was the Resaca painting not seen since the armory had been demolished.

The plan had been to incorporate the painting into the museum’s Civil War exhibit, which opened in July 2013, but it was just too big, Burns said.

Now, he said, the trick is to find the space in the relatively small museum to show the painting. He’s got another large painting he would like to show at some point—a mural depicting Benedict Arnold at the Battle of Saratoga that once hung in a Troy hotel—and other paintings also compete for space.

The museum holds two other Walker paintings: one depicting the 12th Regiment on parade and another showing Soldiers of the 7th Regiment, New York State Militia, reading letters from home during the Civil War. Ideally he would like to hold a show featuring all three paintings, Burns said. **gt**

