

gt

Volume 10 Number 1

Winter 2017

guardtimes

www.dmna.ny.gov

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



FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Growing Leaders Leads to New Ideas, a Stronger Force

“The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army, or in an office.”
— Dwight Eisenhower

As we head into the spring there will be leadership changes across the New York National Guard.

Maj. Gen. Harry Miller, the commander of the 42nd Infantry Division, will be moving on to be the Guard assistant at the Defense Intelligence agency and Brig. Gen. Steven Ferrari, a former deputy commander of the division, will assume command.

Col. Joe Biehler, who led the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team through a successful rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana, will move out of brigade command and pin on a star as one of the deputy commanders of the 42nd Infantry Division.

And after many years of leading the 53rd Troop Command — including a stint as dual-status commander during the response to Superstorm Sandy in 2012 — Brig. Gen. Michael Swezey retired in February. Brig. Gen. Michael Natali now has the reins at 53rd Troop Command (see story on page 23).

In the Air National Guard we have new group commanders throughout our force and I anticipate new leadership opportunities for some this summer as well.

Leadership in the military is never static. Officers and non-commissioned officers at every level are moving from one job to another and taking the lessons they've learned in past positions with them. Good leaders are always looking for the next opportunity to lead and share what they have learned.

This infusion of new ideas and new ways of looking at problems and challenges is one of the strengths of our military. One of the phrases I dislike is “we've always done it this way.” As an organization we need to avoid this one. We have some very talented young Soldiers and Airman who are very educated and who we need to listen to avoid the “we've

always done it this way” syndrome.

The flow of new leaders at all levels can help our organizations stay open to new ways of looking at training, operations, or administration.

As Benjamin Franklin once wrote: “If we are all thinking alike, then nobody is thinking.”

Since no leader stays in their job forever, it is up to all of us with a leadership role — the commander, squad leader, staff officer or NCO — to train our replacements. There isn't one of us who is irreplaceable.

Give your subordinates the opportunity to lead.

Give them the issue and let them figure it out. If they don't do it like you would, that's OK. Provide them with feedback. Let them know what worked and what didn't. Give them praise where it is deserved. Especially when it turns out better than how you would have done it. Pass on the lessons you've learned so they can share in that hard-won knowledge. Share your failures. There is not one of us who is perfect.

Encourage all of your folks and help develop them as leaders of Soldiers or of Airmen. Most importantly, allow the people who work for you to lead; they will make mistakes, help them correct it, make sure they learn from it, and move on.

Subordinates who are afraid to take risks or take the initiative because of what the boss might do turn into leaders who are afraid to lead and afraid to encourage innovation in subordinates or teams.

Across the military all of us are both the leader and the led. There's always somebody higher up the leadership pyramid who wants, needs

and deserves your support. Being a good follower helps you become a good leader.

Give your leadership the best you have.

If you have a good idea, speak up. If something needs doing, do it. If somebody needs to take charge, volunteer. **gt**



Maj. Gen.
Anthony German



HAMPTON BAYS, N.Y. — An Airman with the 106th Rescue Wing (RQW) conducts hoist training with the U.S. Coast Guard here on Dec. 22. Photo by Staff Sergeant Christopher S. Muncy, 106th RQW.



guardtimes

Winter 2017

Volume 10, Number 1

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, COMMANDER IN CHIEF
Maj. Gen. Anthony German, THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
Eric Durr, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Col. Richard Goldenberg, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
Master Sgt. Raymond Drumsta, 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.ny.gov



www.dmna.ny.gov

gt

This Issue's Highlights:

Faces of the Force

- 4 Right Place, Right Time: Troops Save Plane-Crash Victim
- 5 Drive On: Soldier Travels 1,000-plus Miles for Drill

Around the State

- 6 Centennial Highlights NY Troops' Role in WWI

The Joint Force

- 10 CST, State Police Combine for Confined Space Training
- 11 New York Troops Aid Civil Authorities at Inauguration
- 12 NY National Guard Troops Best Winter Storm Stella
- 13 NY National Guard Honor Guard: an Ongoing Mission
- 14 Soldiers, Airmen Share Load for Better Preparedness

Army National Guard

- 16 369th SB Continues to Feed the Fight Overseas
- 17 369th SB 'Commo Ball' Boosts Bandwidth, Portability
- 18 NY Army National Guard Troops Train in South Korea
- 19 NY Army National Guard Forms Cyber-Defense Unit
- 20 Infantry Troops Clinch Best Warrior Competition
- 21 Training Simulators Add Up to Real Success for Units
- 22 Female Leaders Recruited for Combat-arms Roles

Air National Guard

- 24 174th ATKW Member Honored for Saving Woman's Life
- 25 107th Attack Wing: New Mission, Continuing History
- 26 106th Rescue Wing Takes Flight to Aid Future Space Flight
- 27 109th AW Wraps Up Year 29 of Antarctic Mission
- 28 Car Talk: 107th Hosts Auto-maintenance Training

New York Guard

- 29 New York Guard Member Recognized for Life-saving Efforts

New York Naval Militia

- 30 New York State Naval Militia Preps for Exercises

Guard Notes

- 31 107th Airlift Wing Honors President Millard Fillmore



Sgt. James Wilson qualifies with an M4 carbine during the New York Army National Guard's Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site on March 30 (see story on page 20). Wilson belongs to C Company, 642nd Aviation Support Battalion. Photo by Sgt. Harley Jelis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment. **To see a Best Warrior Competition video, scan the QR code above.**

FRONT COVER: Spc. Joshua Verderame (left), and Cpl. Mitchell Cooper (right), race to the finish line of an eight-mile ruck march during the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's (IBCT) Best Warrior Competition at Fort Drum, N.Y., on Feb. 12. Cooper was later promoted to sergeant and went on to win the state-wide Best Warrior Competition in April. Photo by Sgt. Alexander Rector, 27th IBCT.

BACK COVER: A 106th Rescue Wing pararescuemen rappels during confined-space rescue training at Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base in Westhampton Beach, N.Y. on Jan. 8. Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher S. Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.

FACES of the FORCE

Right Place, Right Time: Troops Save Plane-Crash Victim

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

WESTHAMPTON BEACH, N.Y. — An ordinary training day became a life-and-death mission for New York Army National Guard aviation Soldiers, who helped a pilot escape a fiery plane crash at Gabreski Airport here on the morning of Feb. 26.

“If it wasn’t for their quick response, and that really heroic action in a burning airplane, we would have three fatalities instead of two,” said Dan Boggs, lead investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board.

The crash took the lives of two people on board. Richard Rosenthal, 61, the pilot and owner of the plane, was evacuated to the hospital in critical condition. He is expected to survive.

New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo also praised the Soldiers’ heroism and quick action.

Rosenthal and the others were practicing landings in Rosenthal’s Ryan Navion F — a single-engine plane, with a four-seat cockpit — when they crashed in a wooded area near the intersection of two runways at 11:45 a.m., according to accident reports.

Around the same time, the air crew from Company B, 3rd Battalion 142nd Aviation — on board a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, call sign “Empire 16,” — were approaching the airport to conduct sling-load training.

They were two miles from the airport when the control tower radioed the Blackhawk pilots, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Joseph McCarthy and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Meghan Polis, and advised them of the crash. The helicopter pilots found the crash site and landed about 200 feet from it.

With the Blackhawk’s fire extinguishers in hand, Warrant Officers Christopher Hansen and Aaron Pacholk, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ronald Ramirez, and Sgt. Yaanique Scott leaped from the helicopter and ran through the trees and brush toward the plane.

“The aircraft was in flames, and (Rosenthal) was trying to get out,” said Pacholk, a resident of Mattituck, N.Y. Rosenthal held up two fingers to indicate that there were two other victims inside, he added.

There was “lots of smoke” coming from the plane and heavy smoke in the cockpit, recalled Scott, who is a New York City firefighter and Brooklyn, N.Y. resident. The back, front and



The troops who took part in the rescue are (from left): Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ronald Ramirez, Sgt. Yaanique Scott, Warrant Officer 1 Aaron Pacholk, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Joseph McCarthy, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Meghan Polis and Spc. Sara Noschese. Not in photo: Warrant Officer 1 Christopher Hansen.

bottom of the plane were on fire, and the flames were getting worse, he added.

Ramirez and Scott attacked the flames with fire extinguishers, the Soldiers recalled. Though Rosenthal was trying to escape via the left side

“As guardsmen, we train for situations like this, and that day everything came together.”

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Joseph McCarthy

of the plane, the wind was blowing smoke and heat toward that side, making it difficult to approach, Scott said.

“I went to the other side of the aircraft and was able to climb up on the wing,” he said.

Ramirez joined Scott and they continued to fight the flames, but the fire extinguishers had no effect, the Soldiers said. Scott and Ramirez handed the extinguishers off to Hansen and Pacholk and focused on saving Rosenthal.

Heat was melting the plastic parts of the canopy, Scott said.

“It was hot, but I didn’t notice,” Scott recalled. “It was cold that day, so I was wearing two sets of flight gloves.”

Placing his gloved hands on the canopy, he slid it back, creating a gap so Rosenthal could escape out the left side of burning plane, he said.

“Then he climbed out on his own,” Scott said.

Ramirez then dashed to the other side of the plane to help Rosenthal.

“I had to fight through the brush to get to him,” said Ramirez, of Farmingdale, N.Y. “He was disoriented.”

Rosenthal was also complaining of pain, broken ribs and a weak ankle, Ramirez said. He put Rosenthal’s left arm over his shoulder and gently walked him away from the burning plane, he explained.

“He was the one who went right up into the smoke and helped (Rosenthal) get away from the aircraft,” Pacholk said.

Hansen, a Lords Valley, Pa. resident, and Pacholk moved brush aside to help Ramirez

Drive On: Soldier Travels 1,000-plus Miles for Drill

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

LATHAM, N.Y. — Before Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Mason drives to drill, he makes sure his car is in good shape.

Mason, a patient-administrative team leader in the New York Army National Guard's Medical Command (MEDCOM), puts about 1,400 miles on his car each drill weekend, driving from Mooresville, North Carolina, where he's lived since 2014. Sometimes he drives to Camp Smith, or two hours further north, to Joint Force Headquarters here.

He does it, Mason said, because he likes his unit and he promised Col. Richard Green, the MEDCOM commander, that he'd stay with the unit after he was sent to school to reclassify as a patient-administrative specialist. That school allowed him to get promoted, he added.

"I know the people (in MEDCOM) and I am comfortable with them," Mason said. "I get along with everybody. I made a commitment to them."

Mason, who used to live in Grand Island N.Y., became one of the New York Army National Guard's long-distance commuters and made the decision to stay with MEDCOM when his employer, a roofing company called Teamcraft, moved from Dunkirk, N.Y. to North Carolina.

Mason has been with the firm for 19 years, and as the corporate safety director for environmental health and safety, he oversees 14 employees.

Mason isn't alone. A quick records check indicates that 444 Soldiers live outside the state: 14 live in Texas, five live in California, two live in Washington, and one lives in Hawaii.

He's representative, though, of Soldiers who are so dedicated they don't mind long-distance commutes.

"Mason is one of my 'go to' NCOs and

walk Rosenthal a safe distance from the smoke and heat, the Soldiers recalled.

The other two victims appeared non-responsive and the fire was getting worse, so he got away from the plane, Scott recalled. He wished they could've saved the other victims, he added.

"The fire spread so fast after that, there was nothing we could do," Pacholk said.

They made Rosenthal as comfortable as



Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Mason drags a simulated casualty during the Best Warrior Competition. Photo by Sgt. Harley Jelis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

always has been," said Col. Richard Green, the MEDCOM commander. "He displays character for all that he has done. We appreciate his dedication."

Mason joined the Army in 1980 and served on active-duty until 1990. He served in the 101st Air Assault Division, with 3rd Armored Division in Germany back when there was a Soviet Union, and spent two years working at the Army Academy of Health Sciences.

When he got out, he got a job, got married, had kids, and got busy. But he said he always missed the Army. So in 2008, when his children were older and his life was more stable, he joined the New York Army National Guard.

In 2009 and 2010, he deployed to the Sinai Desert as a member of the Multinational Force

and Observers that monitors the peace between Egypt and Israel. He's also proud of his service in responding to Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

Mason praised his civilian boss, TeamCraft owner Robert Farrell, for supporting him in his military career. Without that support it would be more difficult to serve, Mason said.

In late March and early April, Mason competed in the Best Warrior competition (see related story, page 20). At age 55, Mason competed against much younger NCOs.

"Mason is the oldest Best Warrior participant that I am aware of," said Master Sgt. Joseph Fisher, the operations NCO for the 106th Regional Training Institute, who ran the JFHQ Best Warrior competition. **gt**

possible and waited for the rescue crew from Gabreski Air National Guard Base, which is adjacent to the airport, to arrive, Ramirez said.

Gabreski Airport Manager Anthony Ceglio described the Soldiers, first responders and others involved in the rescue and recovery effort as "true heroes." James Vosswinkel, Rosenthal's doctor, said Rosenthal's family was "happy and grateful" to the troops and first responders for

helping Rosenthal out of "such a devastating crash."

"We were in the right place, at the right time, with the right crew, said McCarthy, of Orangeburg, N.Y. "As guardsmen, we train for situations like this, and that day everything came together." **gt**

AROUND THE STATE

Centennial Highlights NY Troops' Role in WWI

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters



The 27th Regiment ("O'Ryan's Traveling Circus") moving through a village somewhere on the Western Front during WWI.

LATHAM, N.Y. — Starting this year and through 2019, the New York Army National Guard will join the Army in marking the 100th anniversary of America's intervention in World War I.

After remaining neutral for three years, the United States entered World War I against Germany and the Central Powers on April 6, 1917.

President Woodrow Wilson called it "the War to End All Wars" and by the time it ended on Nov. 11, 1918, there were four million Americans in uniform — including women — and two million were serving in the American Expeditionary Force in France.

The war made the U.S. Army what it is today, according to the Army Center for Military History. The Active Army and National Guard Divisions that fight our wars today, as well as the Army Reserve commands, trace their history back to the World War I divisions.

President Woodrow Wilson called up the entire National Guard to expand the Army for service in France.

New York National Guard Soldiers, some of whom had just returned from security duty on the Mexican Border (see Guard Times story, Spring 2016), were mobilized for war on July

12th, 1917.

Most of them would see service with the 27th Infantry Division — the New York Division — but some, including members of the 69th Infantry, were combined with units from across the country to create the 42nd Infantry Division.

The 15th New York Infantry (Colored) would become famous as the 369th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed the "Harlem Hell Fighters."

"The eyes of all the world will be upon you," said President Woodrow Wilson in a letter to troops heading to France in 1917, "because you are in some special sense the soldiers of freedom."

Thousands of other New Yorkers followed, either as volunteers or conscripts for the National Army.

Some 400,475 New Yorkers served in the U.S. military during World War I. They made up 10 percent of the total force, and the largest number from any state in the U.S.

Eighteen New Yorkers would receive the Medal of Honor for actions in the war, including eight members of the New York National Guard, and 6,621 New Yorkers gave their lives.

New York provided some renowned person-

alities to the war effort: including song writer Irving Berlin, actor Humphrey Bogart, 69th Infantry Regiment Chaplain Father Francis Duffy, former President Teddy Roosevelt's sons Archie, Ted, and Quentin, and 69th Infantry commander William "Wild Bill" Donovan — who went to create the Office of Strategic Services in World War II.

"New York's pride is in the pride of things done," Governor Charles Whitman said on April 6, 1918 as the American Expeditionary Force went into combat in large numbers in France. "In every war in which this country has engaged, she has shown a spirit of sacrifice that has made her preeminent among the States. In this war, New York has outdone her own history."

The war was also fought on the home front. New Yorkers made munitions, built ships, volunteered in the Red Cross and YMCA, bought Liberty Bonds, and conserved food and fuel for the war effort.

The governor created the New York Guard to protect against saboteurs. This wasn't an empty threat, since German agents had blown up a munitions plant in New Jersey.

Events around the state, across the country and overseas will commemorate the contribu-



Soldiers of the 369th Infantry Regiment on the road near Maffrecourt, France, May 5, 1918.

tion of the American Expeditionary Forces and the battlefield achievements of the 27th Division, the 42nd Rainbow Division and the 369th Infantry Regiment.

The national World War I Centennial Com-

mission, along with similar organizations in New York State and New York City, will foster events to honor the service of troops a century ago.

On Nov. 29, 2016, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo


signed a bill creating the New York State World War I 100th Anniversary Commission.

“As we approach the centennial anniversary of America’s entry into World War One, there is no more fitting way to honor and remember these heroes than teaching the present generations about their actions,” said New York State Sen. Jack Martins, who sponsored the bill.

The 369th Infantry Regiment spent over six months in combat, longer than most units, and fought with distinction at Chateau-Thierry and Belleau Wood — under French command — at a time when American forces remained segregated.

New York City’s “Fighting 69th” — redesignated the 165th Infantry — fought with the 42nd Infantry Division in the summer of 1918.

The 42nd stopped the German advance on Paris in the Second Battle of the Marne in July, 1918 and then went on the offensive at St. Mihiel in September and fought in the Argonne right up to the armistice.

The 27th Division — one of only three divisions formed entirely from a single state’s National Guard — included 28,000 National Guard Soldiers. The 27th fought under British command during the Somme offensive in September 1918 and broke the vaunted Hindenburg Line, a series of German defensive strong point. 



Company D, 165th Infantry coming from trenches on a camouflaged road in Benemenil, France in March, 1918.



Army Guard Promotions



Promoted to Sergeant



AGUIRRE GASTON
ALLEN JASON
AU CALVIN
BLOUNT CHRISTINA
DEMARCO JONATHAN
GABAY DAVID
GEORGE KENNY
HEALE CURTIS
JACOB ANTHONY
KINGSLEY JAMES
KWITOWSKI JOSHUA
LUCEROROSTOCKI DIOSCIELO
MATHEWSON IAN
MESSING MATTHEW
MEZABARAHONA JOSE
MITCHELL JACOB
MITRI DILLON
NEIL CHEVELLE
QUACKENBUSH FOSTER
RENKEMA BRANDON
STOVER CODY
THOMPSON CLIFTON
TORIBIOGARCIA BRIAN
VOAK CRYSTAL
WANG HARRISON
ZITO NICHOLAS
ZULUETA GODFREY

HHC(-) 3-142D AVIATION
DET 1 CO B 3-126TH AVIATION
HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY
27TH INF (BCT)
CO D 1-69TH INFANTRY
B CO (MI)BSTB 27TH IN BDE (-)
DET 1 CO A 642D SUPPORT BN
HSC 642D SUPPORT BN
CO D 2-108TH INFANTRY
HHC 2-108TH INFANTRY
HHC BSTB 27TH IN BDE (-) (BCT)
CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB
B CO (MI)BSTB 27TH IN BDE (-)
HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)
HQ 53D TRP CMD
827TH ENGR CO(-) HORIZ
CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB
145TH MAINTENANCE CO
TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA)
HHC 2-108TH INFANTRY
152ND ENGINEER SUPPORT CO
DET 1 HHC BSTB 27TH IN BDE BCT
107TH MP COMPANY
CO C (MED) 427TH BSB
HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY
CO B 1-69TH INFANTRY
719 TRANS CO (-) (MDM TRK CGO)



Newly Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant



AJIBOYE OLUSHOLA
CAMPANY ANDREW
JORDAN JOSEPH
MARTIN VINCENT
POLOKHALO DMYTRO
ROHDE SEAN
THIEBAUD JENNIFER
WANGDI DORJEE

4TH FINANCE DET
827TH ENGR CO(-) HORIZ
HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42D IN DIV
133RD QUARTERMASTER SP CO
INTEL & SUST CO 42ND ID (-)
HHC 2-108TH INFANTRY
CO E (-) 3-142D AVIATION
107TH MP COMPANY



2nd Lieutenant Promoted to 1st Lieutenant



APPELLO DENNIS
BEYNARS KOSTYANTYN
CAMPBELL TIFFANY
HETMAN STEPHEN
IRIZARRY KAROLYN
MCKINNON AMOS
PETRELLIMACKAY GIOVANNI
SORIANO JULIO
SPINKS DANA
ZAKRIS BRANDON
BILLINGS LAWONDA

37TH FINANCE DET
HQ 27TH FINANCE MGMT BN
H & S CO 204 ENGR BN
DET 1 827TH ENGR CO HORIZ
222D CHEMICAL COMPANY
C CO(SIG)BSTB 27TH IN BDE(BCT)
HHB 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY
CO C 101ST SIGNAL BN
CO B 3-142D AVIATION
CO C (-) 1-171ST AVI REG
222D CHEMICAL COMPANY



First Lieutenant Promoted to Captain



BROWN WILLIAM
CHARLES RON
CLAUDIO POPI
DAVIS MICHAEL
FANTAUZZI MICHAEL
FELICIANO ALEXANDRA
GIGLIO MARK
JONES BRENDAN
KERR STEVEN
LANDER CHRISTOPHER
LUCAS SEAN
MACKEY WILLIAM
MAGINN SCOTT
MENNEN ETHAN
METSGER ERIK
METZLER KYLE
NGO THAI BAO
NOWAK MATTHEW
PONTON DAVID
SCOLLANTE ANTHONY
SHUART PATRICK
SHUPP ERIC
SPENCER JOSHUA
STAUFENBERG ERIC
VOLK ROBERT
WINKLER PATRICK

DET 1 OPS CO 42ND ID
CO F (FSC INF) 427TH BSB
CO C 642D SUPPORT BN
HHC 2-108TH INFANTRY
27TH INF (BCT)
DET 2 INTEL & SUST CO 42ND ID
CO C (MED) 427TH BSB
CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB
HHB 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY
HHC 427TH BSB
HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)
HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI)
HHC 427TH BSB
27TH INF (BCT)
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
HHD 104TH MILITARY POLICE BN
466TH MEDICAL CO AREA SUPPORT
HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42D IN DIV
HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42D IN DIV
HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42D IN DIV
27TH INF (BCT)
OPS CO 42ND ID (-)
HHC 369TH SUST BDE
HHC 2-108TH INFANTRY



Captain Promoted to Major



CRUDDEN ROBERT
SINOPOLI SARA

HHD 501ST ORDNANCE BN EOD
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY



Major Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel



GARCIA LUIS
HYER BRIAN
KRUG JOSHUA

MEDICAL COMMAND
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
DET 1 DIV SIGNAL CO 42ND ID



Lieutenant Colonel Promoted to Colonel



BILENKER ARTHUR
RILEY PETER
WERNIS ELIZABETH

MEDICAL COMMAND
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42D IN DIV



Sergeant Promoted to Staff Sergeant



CONTINI DANIEL
DAVIS MICHAEL
HOLMES KATRINA

CO A 101ST SIGNAL BN
138TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DET
CO A (-) 642D SUPPORT BN



Staff Sergeant Promoted to Sergeant 1st Class



BLACKIE JEREMY
BRUNICK KEVIN
PAGANNOEL
ROSEN LEAH
SMIETANA STEPHEN

HHD 501ST ORDNANCE BN EOD
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
HHD RECRUITING & RETENTION BN
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
152ND ENGINEER SUPPORT CO



Sergeant 1st Class Promoted to Master Sergeant



ALAVA MARIO
LAWS JEFFREY
PLANTAMURA CHARLES

719 TRANS CO (-) (MDM TRK CGO)
10TH MOUNTAIN DIV (MCP-OD)
OPS CO 42ND ID (-)



Master Sergeant Promoted to Sergeant Major



DARNELL GARY
PALOMINO JOSE
VIANA MARIA

INTEL & SUST CO 42ND ID (-)
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
HQ 53D TRP CMD

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 3



DIGESO MICHELE
MOLIK JONATHON

ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
INTEL & SUST CO 42ND ID (-)

BILENKER ARTHUR
RILEY PETER
WERNIS ELIZABETH

MEDICAL COMMAND
ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42D IN DIV



Air Guard Promotions



Staff Sergeant Promoted to Technical Sergeant



ALGARIN, EDDIE CARLOS	105 WG
ARRIGO, CHRISTOPHER MARIO	106 WG
BARTLEY, BRIAN THOMAS	107 WG
BOGART, STEPHEN SCOTT JR	109 WG
BOURQUIN, JEREMY NEAL	109 WG
BOYLE, CATLIN DOUGLAS	109 WG
BRENNAN, LOGAN MICHAEL	109 WG
BRISCOE, TYLER GARTH	109 WG
BUDINGER, HAROLD ROBERT	174 WG
BUTRAGO, CARLOS ANDRES	106 WG
BYRNS, ERIN JENNIFER	109 WG
CARR, ERIN LAWLER	174 WG
CHATHAM, IVAN RAY	107 WG
CLANCY, MATTHEW PATRICK	109 WG
DEMING, BRANDON DANA	109 WG
DUNHAM, JONATHAN M	105 WG
ENDERS, GABRIEL JACK	109 WG
FARR, HEATHER A	107 WG
GATTA, BRETT MATTHEW	109 WG
GRIESE, SHANNON DOUGLAS	174 WG
GRIMM, HEATHER J	107 WG
HALEY, KELLY CHRISTINE	174 WG
JULIANO, ZACHARY R	105 WG
KNOTT, MICHAEL SEAN	109 WG
LAKE, MITCHELL EVAN	109 WG
MARCH, DENNIS WILLIAM	106 WG
MASON, BRANDON JAMES	107 WG
MAZURA, JONATHAN EDWARD	106 WG
MCCART, JOLENE MARIE	107 WG
MELO, LUIS C	105 WG
OCONNOR, CHRISTOPHER SEAN	174 WG
PERERA, RASANGA B	105 WG
PILCHER, WILLIAM DAVID	107 WG
PITTMAN, CHRISTIAN I	107 WG
PROSPER, JOSUE	105 WG
RENDAL SESTOSO, ELISHA JAIRUS	106 WG
ROBERTSON, ANDRE M	105 WG
ROSS, ANDREW JOSEPH	AIR DEFENSE
RYON, ROBERT STEVEN	174 WG
SCHNEIDER, CARL RALPH	174 WG
SCHUMACHER, CASEY LYNN	174 WG
SPAULDING, BRIANNA L	105 WG
TATOR, BRIANNA MARIE	109 WG
TOWLE, ROWLAND HERBERT III	174 WG
VALENCIA, ANDRES	107 WG
VERBITZKI, ANDREW WILLIAM	105 WG
VERDEJO, ANIBAL	AIR DEFENSE
WINTENBURG, MATTHEW H	105 WG
WISNOWSKI, ADAM RICHARD	107 WG
BARBER, KEITH RYAN	AIR DEFENSE

COHAN, JOSEPH B	105 WG
COUSINEAU, MICHAEL DAVID	109 WG
GRAHAM, REBECCA LEIGH	109 WG
HAMMAREN, CHRISTIAN M	105 WG
MASSON, CATHERINE AIMEE	AIR DEFENSE
MASTROIANNI, AMBER JUNE	HQ NEW YORK ANG
MCAFFEE, MARK CHRISTOPHE	AIR DEFENSE
PREVENDOSKI, MARK	109 WG
PRITCHARD, BRIAN LINDSEY	109 WG
SCHWANDT, KRISTOPHER L	105 WG



Sr. Master Sergeant Promoted to Chief Master Sgt.



ZIEGELBAUER, DAVID K	ANGRC
BURROWS, JERRY DANIEL	174 WG
COOPER, JASON ROBERT	106 WG
DIRESTA, ROBERT J	105 WG
HARTUNG, WILLIAM FREDRICK	174 WG
MULLER, ERIC DAVID	107 WG
PENO, SHAWN PETER	HQ NEW YORK ANG
PINGITORE, MICHAEL ANTHONY	109 WG
SCHMITT, PHILIP ROBERT	106 WG



Newly Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant



SIMONS WECKERLE, JENNIFER LYNN	106 WG
CEDERSTROM, JARED LUKE	109 WG
CONLEY, JOSHUA MICHAEL	174 WG
COOPER, CAMERON BRECKINRID	174 WG
CULLISON, JASON NATHANIEL	105 WG
GIOIA, PETER M	109 WG
HAYDUK, STACEY LYNN	105 WG
MESSER, SARAH K	107 WG
RODRIGUEZ, JONATHAN MICHAEL	107 WG
SO, JERRY	174 WG
STUTZMAN, KYLE FARRELL	107 WG



2nd Lieutenant Promoted to 1st Lieutenant



THOMPSON, JESSE J	107 WG
BAGWELL, CALEB REDMOND	109 WG
BOSER, JOHN M	107 WG
DIGIACOMO, SALVATORE DOMINICK	105 WG
DITRO, JASON FRANCIS	174 WG
HINDES, HALEIGH KATHRYN	109 WG
HOPKINS, SHAWN WILLIAM	174 WG
KILKENNY, JAMAL COURTNEY	106 WG



Technical Sergeant Promoted to Master Sergeant



DIAZ, JASON MICHAEL	106 WG
DIETER, MICHAEL R	107 WG
FACCILONGA, SEAN A	ENG INSTLN
FIORILLO, RALPH BENJAMIN II	109 WG
GAGNE, JAMES ROLAND	109 WG
GORDON, ALEXANDER MELVILLE	109 WG
GORMAN, JAMES DAVID	109 WG
HEIMBUECHER, JAMES J	ENG INSTLN
IASNIK, JULIAN	174 WG
KLEIN, JERRY LOUIS	106 WG
KURG, ROBERT W	105 WG
MAHAN, ELIZABETH HOWARD	109 WG
MARTINI, STELLA M	105 WG
NAPARTY, JEREMY CHARLES	109 WG
PALMER, DAVID STARR	174 WG
PIGEON, WALTER ANDREW	174 WG
REEVES, DARRYL R II	ENG INSTLN
RUDE, SHANE MICHAEL	AIR DEFENSE
SHORT, KENNETH R	105 WG
SITTERLY, RANDY KANZOG	174 WG
STANBRO, JEREMY JOHN	AIR DEFENSE
STONE, ERIC MARSHALL	AIR DEFENSE
SULLIVAN, KRISTOPHER GEORGE	106 WG



1st Lieutenant Promoted to Captain



SENEY, MICHAEL ROBERT	AIR OPS
ALGIER, JESSICA ROSE	109 WG
HAVEMAN, JOSHUA DUANE	109 WG
MONGA, BRIAN JOSEPH	105 WG



Captain Promoted to Major



ORTIZ, JOSE ORLANDO	AIR DEFENSE
HAM, DIA N	109 WG



Major Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel



LAWHON, KEVIN DALE	106 WG
CALDON, JOSHUA NEWMAN	109 WG
SCAGLIONE, GIUSEPPE ANTONIO	106 WG
SCHIRALDI, MICHAEL TIMOTHY	106 WG



Master Sgt. Promoted to Sr. Master Sergeant



ARBOUR, RONALD PAUL JR	AIR OPS
CASHEL, DANIEL JOHN	174 WG



Lieutenant Colonel Promoted to Colonel



WEINLEIN, SHARON MARIE	109 WG
ARAL, ISAMETTIN A	106 WG
BARTCZAK, DAVID JOHN	AIR DEFENSE
CHARLTON, GARY ROBERT II	107 WG
EOUTE, DOUGLAS C JR	107 WG
HARRON, SCOTT DAVID	AIR OPS
ZAUTNER, JANICE MARIE	109 WG

THE JOINT FORCE

CST, State Police Combine for Confined Space Training

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

WATERVLIET, N.Y. — Members of the New York National Guard's 2nd Civil Support Team (CST) shared their expertise in working in tight, cramped places with New York State Police investigators during several days of training that kicked off Jan. 31 at the Army's Watervliet Arsenal here.

Over several days in a classroom and one of the arsenal's factory buildings, CST troops trained New York State Police Contaminated Crime Scene Emergency Response Team (CCSERT) members how to safely enter confined spaces.

The 2nd CST, which is based at Stratton Air National Guard Base, is trained to identify chemical, biological, and radiological agents and advise first-responders on how to deal with these materials.

"We work in concert with each other," said Capt. Christopher Giebel, the team operations officer. "Their job is to get the evidence, our job is to get the samples."

The team is also trained to perform this mission in all kinds of areas, including confined spaces such as grain silos, sewer systems, tunnels, old mine shafts and collapsed buildings, team members explained.

The New York State troopers asked for training in confined area missions because of an incident that occurred in August 2016, said Technical Sgt. Robert Grace, the New York State Police CCSERT coordinator.

Members of CCSERT were called upon to investigate a methamphetamine lab that was discovered in a long sewer tunnel that ran under a Walmart parking lot in Amherst, N.Y., Grace recalled. Confined Space Awareness is part of their Mission Essential Task List, he said, and methamphetamine labs are an explosive, fire and contamination hazard.



Staff Sgt. Joshua Spagnola of the 2nd CST (right) guides New York State Police CCSERT member Investigator Brian Kenney (left) as he descends via a complex rope system during confined-space search-and-rescue training at the Watervliet Arsenal.

"Because of that lab, I wanted to make sure all the teams got some training in Confined Space Awareness," Grace said. "For some of our members, it's the first time doing any type of rope-rescue."

Most of that training took place in a vertical shaft at the arsenal, and involved teaching the CCSERT members how to set up and use a tripod and complex system of ropes and pulleys to enter a confined space.

To simulate a confined space, the CST and CCSERT members used a vertical shaft and steel platforms that are built into it. The CST troops and CCSERT members assembled the tripod and rope system over an opening in the top platform, then the CCSERT members donned safety harnesses and took turns being lowered and raised in and out of the simulated confined space.

The rope system is integral to confined-space rescues, said Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Willit, the 2nd CST reconnaissance NCO, and a Voorheesville, N.Y., resident. It gives rescuers what's known as a "mechanical advantage" or leverage, he explained.

Every turn of the rope through a pulley multiplies that leverage, reducing the amount of effort needed to pull weight, Willit said. Without the rope system, confined space rescues would be "almost impossible," he stressed.

Spc. Joshua Slish, a 2nd CST member and resident of Colonie, N.Y., said he had fun conducting the training with the CCSERT members.


"This is something I enjoy, very hands on," he said. "It gets you out of the classroom."

Sharing skills and techniques also builds interoper-

ability and understanding between agencies, Willit and Slish said. Among the agencies, for example, there are many different standard operating procedures for confined-space search-and-rescue, he explained.

"None of them are wrong, they're just a different way of accomplishing the mission," he said. "It's just a matter of getting everyone on the same page. At the end of the day, we all want to accomplish the mission."

In the following weeks, the 2nd CST trained about a half-dozen groups of CCSERT members in the Syracuse and Buffalo areas, Giebel said.

"It promotes continuity with the two agencies," Giebel said. "It's a good relationship-builder." 

New York Troops Aid Civil Authorities at Inauguration

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than 300 New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from across the state assisted in security and traffic control for the 58th Presidential Inaugural ceremony here on Jan. 20.

They were part of a force of 7,500 National Guard members from 44 states who augmented the District of Columbia National Guard in performing crowd management and traffic control missions in support of civil authorities. A total of 13,000 active-duty military and National Guard members supported the Presidential Inaugural.

The 314 Army and Air National Guard members left from armories and Air National Guard bases across the state — from Farmingdale to Buffalo — on chartered buses Jan. 18 and returned on Jan. 21.

New York also sent two Air National Guard public affairs Airmen from the 109th Airlift Wing, and a mobile kitchen trailer.

The troops were housed at FedEx Field, the home of the Washington Redskins NFL football team.

The New Yorkers conducted their missions on the north side of the District of Columbia known as “foggy bottom,” said Lt. Col. Dan Makay, commander of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, who led the New York task force. The New Yorkers were working about half a mile from the White House.

The Soldiers and Airmen manned 26 checkpoints in the area, Makay said. New Yorkers were also in charge of checkpoints manned by personnel from Delaware, Virginia, and Puerto Rico.

The troops were among 3,500 National Guard members sworn in as special officers of the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department on Jan. 19. This allowed them to act on behalf of the police department.

The New Yorkers worked a 12-hour shift on Jan. 20 as Donald Trump became the 45th



New York Army National Guard troops man a traffic-control point during the presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 20. Photo by Col. Dan Makay.

President of the United States, Makay said. During that long day some of the Soldiers came face-to-face with demonstrators protesting against the new president.

Soldiers did a good job in de-escalating potentially violent situations and handing them over to the police, according to Makay.

In one instance, Soldiers from the 42nd Infantry Division and 53rd Troop Command were met with a hostile crowd that became violent, he said. The Soldiers kept their heads and kept everybody out of harm’s way while police took charge, he added.

What impressed him the most, Makay said, was the ability of Soldiers and Airmen from different units and different parts of the state to come together quickly and “execute with professionalism and pride.”

This wasn’t the first time New York National

Guard members assisted at a presidential inauguration.

Two hundred New York National Guard troops provided security support during the 2009 Presidential Inauguration, and 50 troops provided security support during the 2013 Presidential Inauguration.

Military support for the Presidential Inaugural by National Guard members dates back to 1798, when Gen. George Washington began his inaugural journey from Mount Vernon, Va. to New York City, which was then the nation’s capital. Local militias joined the procession as it passed through towns along the way.

After Washington arrived, a presidential escort made up of regular Army troops, New York militia units and Revolutionary War veterans accompanied him to Federal Hall for the presidential oath. **gt**

NY National Guard Troops Best Winter Storm Stella

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

LATHAM, N.Y. — Nearly 1,450 New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen responded to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s call to help the state weather what was dubbed “Winter Storm Stella” March 13 to 18.

These troops put more than 15,000 miles on 180 vehicles in communities across New York, providing traffic control, patrolling with police, aiding distressed motorists and moving snow.

On Long Island, troops prepared to close off the Long Island Expressway if necessary, and in New York City, Joint Task Force Empire Shield members prepared to conduct mobility-support missions.

When it became clear that the heaviest snow had hit central New York — particularly Oneida and Broome counties — troops from other regions shifted their efforts, and the New York Army National Guard called up Soldiers from the 827th Engineer Company, which is based in Horseheads, N.Y.

In Utica, members of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry patrolled snow-covered roads to identify abandoned cars, and helped 35

stranded motorists get to shelter. Other Soldiers and Airmen cleared snow from fire hydrants.

In the Binghamton area, the 827th Engineers helped the village of Deposit, N.Y. clear heavy snowfall, earning the thanks of residents and Deposit Mayor Robert Rynearson, Jr.

“The National Guard has been crucial because in our municipality, we just don’t have the manpower, we don’t have the actual vehicles to haul the snow out and we don’t have the machinery that we need to do it,” Rynearson said during a news interview. “I don’t know where we’d be without them.”

The engineers then went on to clear snow from SUNY Binghamton parking lots, allowing the university to re-open after four days of cancelled classes.

Cuomo praised the New York National Guard during his travels across the state.

“I can’t say enough about the National Guard,” he said. “They have been fantastic, in every storm, every emergency. And you know, the National Guard, they leave their home, their families are very often in the same circum-

stances as the families they’re trying to help. So it really is the essence of public service.”

The 53rd Troop Command activated more than 450 Soldiers for the storm. These troops used vehicles to provide transportation for first responders through deep snow to augment local and state police traffic-control activities.

The storm dumped over two feet of snow in some areas of the Hudson Valley — making travel dangerous, challenging and nearly impossible, even for first responders.

“We train for this, and we’re always up for the challenge,” said Sgt. Nicholas Flaz, of C Company, 101st Signal Battalion.

The Soldiers endured frigid temperatures, overcame perilous driving conditions and stayed awake and alert for long hours for several days.

“It’s about doing something different, it’s about the adventure,” said Pfc. Nevor Yard, of A Company, 101st Signal Battalion. “We’re out here preventing accidents, helping people and saving lives.” **gt**



827th Engineer Company troops clear snow from the streets of Deposit, N.Y. as part of the New York National Guard’s response to Winter Storm Stella. Photo by New York State Command Sgt. Major David Piwowarski.

NY National Guard Honor Guard: an Ongoing Mission

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

LATHAM, N.Y. — The New York Army National Guard Honor Guard conducted 10,278 military funerals for families across New York in 2016, and the New York Air National Guard performed funeral services 1,967 times for Air Force veterans that same year.

Since 2000, federal law has mandated that any military veteran who didn't receive a dishonorable discharge from the armed forces is eligible for military honors at his or her funeral. The ceremony must include the playing of Taps, the folding of the United States flag, and presentation of the flag to the veteran's survivors. Because of the demand for funeral services, the Army authorizes the use of an electronic bugle. The Soldier raises a bugle to his lips and pushes a button and an electronic device plays Taps.

The detail's size varies from two service members to nine or more personnel for deceased service members who retired from the military after a full career, or received medals for valor. At least one of the honor guard members must belong to the service the deceased service member had served in.

In most cases the honor guard provide just a two-member detail for funerals. The Army National Guard provided services with nine-member honor guard's 44 times in 2016.

The New York Army National Guard has 31 Soldiers serving full-time on funeral honors details, with another 117 Soldiers who volunteer to perform funeral honors on a part-time basis when needed.

New York Army National Guard Soldiers go through a week-long training process to become fully certified in providing military funerals.

The New York Army National Guard conducts about 98 percent of military funeral details for Army veterans within the state, said Sgt. 1st Class Edwin Dominguez, the honor guard non-commissioned officer in charge.

The New York Army National Guard honor guard operates from nine locations across New York.

The 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum conducts military funerals within 50 miles of the post. The U.S. Army Reserve's 99th Army Reserve Command and the United States



Spc. Ramon Rodriguez (right) salutes the casket of Army veteran Osborne Haynes during funeral services for Haynes at Evergreen Memorial Park in Schenectady on Dec. 20. Haynes served in the U.S. Army from 1966-68. Photo By Sgt. Maj. Corine Lombardo.


Military Academy at West Point also perform military funerals when requested by the Army casualty assistance center at Joint Base Maguire-Dix-Lakehurst.

For Spc. Ramon Rodriguez, a Saratoga, N.Y. resident, serving on the New York Army National Guard's Honor Guard is a family affair. His father, Ramon Rodriguez IV, also serves on the team, and they've sometimes conducted funerals together.

"Honor is a value that was instilled in me by my father and it's a privilege to be here to honor our veterans," he said.

Working out of the Honor Guard's Latham, N.Y. office, Rodriguez coordinates funeral services north to the Canadian border and west to Herkimer County in the Mohawk Valley.

The job is rewarding, said Spec. Nathaniel Cross, a Glens Falls, N.Y. resident who is an honor guard trainer and bugler.

"The services we provide are part of the last memories families have of burying a loved one," Cross said. "It is so important that what we do is done with dignity and respect. We have one shot to do it right, which is why we strive to exceed the standards." 

Soldiers, Airmen Share Load for Better Preparedness

Story by Guard Times Staff

NEWBURGH, N.Y. — New York Army National Guard Military Police Soldiers honed their deployment skills when they teamed up with 105th Airlift Wing members to load their vehicles onto C-17s at Stewart Air National Guard Base here Dec. 3 to 4.

The Soldiers of the 206th Military Police (MP) Company, which is based in Latham, N.Y., are part of the Homeland Response Force (HRF) made up of New York and New Jersey

National Guard members. The Soldiers and Airmen of the HRF can enter damaged or destroyed buildings to save victims, decontaminate them if a chemical, biological or radiological weapon was used, and provide immediate medical care.

The Soldiers of the 206th MP Company provide the search and extraction team that goes into destroyed buildings to save victims.

“Our Soldiers can’t do their job if we can’t get

there with our equipment,” said Sgt. Michael Alan Nadeau, a HRF Search and Extraction team member. “This was a great chance to work side-by-side and learn techniques from the loadmasters.”

Getting there quickly may involve moving the HRF’s trucks and trailers by air, so Nadeau and other 206th MP Company Soldiers spent the weekend learning what’s required to put an Army National Guard truck on an Air National



HRF vehicles operated by the 206th MP Company are guided onto a 105th Airlift Wing C-17 Globemaster III during joint air-load training at Stewart Air National Guard Base on Dec. 3. Photo by Staff Sgt. Casey Harris, 206th MP Company.

Guard plane.

The MPs practiced loading both their tactical vehicles and HRF vehicles onto a C-17. The training also benefitted the Airmen of the 105th, said Tech Sgt. Walter Allen, the wing operations group training non-commissioned officer.

The wing recently implemented a new training program known as Base Deployable Asset Training Initiative, which requires Airmen to work with the wing air transport squadron to

prepare equipment for airlift.

Working with the 206th MP Company to deploy their equipment fit right in with this training initiative, Allen said.

“The 105th Operations Group, alongside the 105th Logistic Readiness Squadron, jumped at the opportunity to help train the 206th Military Police Company,” Allen said. “We find that it’s most beneficial when the user is familiar with all aspects of their cargo to include weight and balance, flight requirements, and loading

procedures.

The Soldiers and Airmen worked together to conduct joint inspections of military trucks and Humvees. The vehicle dimensions and gross weight were used to determine the center of balance of the vehicles when loading the C-17 Globemaster III.

“It was a great learning experience, especially prepping the vehicles and using (vehicle) air load ramps,” Nadeau said. **gt**



369th SB Continues to Feed the Fight Overseas

Story and photo by Sgt. Jeremy Bratt, 369th Sustainment Brigade

CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT — True to their name, the New York Army National Guard's 369th Sustainment Brigade (SB) has conducted over a dozen ongoing operations in nearly a dozen countries all across the U.S. Army's Central Command area of operations since deploying here last Autumn, and is continuing to accomplish what's been described as "the most difficult sustainment mission" in the Army.

As of February, the approximately 250 Soldiers of the brigade — nicknamed the "Harlem Hell Fighters" — have processed more than 2,000 personnel actions, completed over 3,000 help desk tickets, produced more than 1,900 orders, conducted over 2,400 ground and air movements, while responsible for more than 10,000 pieces of equipment worth over \$225 million.

"I'm impressed by the knowledge and the drive of our junior Soldiers," said Col. Stephen Bousquet, the 369th SB commander. "The type, the amount, and the complexity that our junior enlisted Soldiers and our junior officers complete on a daily basis is astounding. The fact that they do it with such professionalism and skill is impressive. We've met every challenge thus far that's come our way. We need to double down on our efforts as we continue to move into some of the most challenging logistical aspects of our rotation to date."

The main effort of the 369th SB lies in its support operations section. They're responsible for moving various commodities (informally referred to as the "three Bs:" beans, bullets, and bandages) and personnel throughout the region in support of coalition operations.

Moving so much materiel and so many personnel can often be demanding — but it's a challenge the support operations section troops are ready to meet, said that Lt. Col. Shawn Shutts, the 369th SB support operations officer.

"We have been challenged every day by some of the missions we've been given, and I think that we've been working really hard to get stuff to the folks who need it, in both Iraq and Kuwait and throughout the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility," said Shutts.

While they've experienced "some bumps



Master Sgt. Edgar Ponce, 369th SB, guides Spc. Agnes Torres as she drives a Rough Terrain Container Handler (RTCH) at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait on Nov. 12.

and bruises along the way," they've made things happen and worked very hard to establish their reputation as a team who people can go to when they want something done, Shutts said.

"We will continue to be busy, we will continue to be engaged supporting the fight in Iraq and other places," he said. "We will continue to maintain the same high level of readiness and operational tempo we've had thus far."

The 369th Special Troops Battalion (STB) also deployed with the brigade. The STB is responsible for mission command of 18 units at over 30 locations in ten countries in order to provide life support to the brigade as a whole.

Lt. Col. Seth Morgulas, commander of the 369th STB, said he is proud of the battalion's ability to remain flexible and rapidly respond to the evolving and emerging support require-

ments of its customers.

"The 369th Special Troops Battalion continues to amaze me with its exceptionally high level of professionalism and dedication to mission accomplishment," said Morgulas.

While the STB is responsible for the brigade as a whole, the 369th Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) is responsible for overseeing the training and life support of Soldiers who are assigned to both the brigade and battalion headquarters. Capt. Odelle Despot, commander of the 369th HHC, says he believes the deployment has been going very well so far.

"The Soldiers are highly motivated, dedicated, and enthusiastic about their respective jobs since being deployed and arriving in Kuwait," said Despot. "Soldiers are utilizing their downtime to further their civilian and military

education while also working on their physical fitness.”

Performing these missions overseas has given the brigade valuable insight as to how to better conduct state civil-support missions back home in the case of a natural disaster or other state emergency.

“We’ve developed processes, and we have come together collectively as a team so we understand that it takes a team, not just an

individual, to get things done,” Shutts said. “The operations and the mission analysis that we do day-in and day-out, and the operations process that we execute will help us execute those missions that we need to do to support the citizens of New York when we get back home,” he said.

The brigade’s overseas missions are directly tied to its state-preparedness missions, Bousquet said.

“Primarily because everyone is functioning

in a role and skillset that would be utilized back in New York State in the event of some sort of natural disaster, or a call-up by the governor,” he said. “Everything from the challenges of moving commodities here, in some regards, applies back in New York State. Everything from moving fuel, to moving rations, to moving personnel. We would face the same challenges back in New York State as we do here.” **gt**

369th SB ‘Commo Ball’ Boosts Bandwidth, Portability

Story and photo by Sgt. Jeremy Bratt, 369th Sustainment Brigade

CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT — While it may resemble a giant beach ball, the inflatable Ground Antenna Transmit and Receive (GATR) ball is actually the Army’s latest piece of satellite communications equipment — and 369th Sustainment Brigade (SB) signal troops got a chance to train on it here in January.

The technology is so new that the 369th Sustainment Brigade’s GATR ball has a serial number in the single digits.

Designed to be lighter and more compact than traditional, rigid satellite dishes, the GATR ball can be broken down into just a few cases and hand carried anywhere in the world. The self-contained system can then be inflated and set up in less than two hours, ready to provide a variety of communication services.

“The portability of the GATR system is its key feature,” explained Sgt. 1st Class Brian Horne, the information assurance supervisor for the 369th SB. “It can be set up and operated by a crew of three just about anywhere.”

The mobile nature of the system is not the GATR ball’s only advantage. The system also provides a larger bandwidth capacity, compared to comparable older systems. With more bandwidth, operators can send more data.

The signal Soldiers received classroom training on topics like the electromagnetic spectrum and signal polarization, and hands-on instruction involving assembling and disassembling the system.

Sgt. Moises Orta-Castillo, a multichannel transmission systems operator/maintainer for the 369th SB, said the system is simple to use. He also praised its capabilities.

“The GATR Ball is capable of more data transfer in a smaller package compared to the traditional satellite systems,” he said.



Signal Soldiers of the 369th SB practice aligning a Ground Antenna Transmit Receive (GATR) Ball at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait on Jan. 10.

The availability of an advanced, highly mobile, easy-to-use communication system like the GATR ball allows sustainment units to rapidly deploy forces to new locations in order to supply supported forward elements.

With effective voice and data communication, commanders can remain in contact with their subordinate elements or units when they are geographically separated from the main command post.

“For the sustainment community, this means

that there will only be a small lag time between when supported units become aware of a requirement and when the supporting units can begin satisfying that requirement,” said Maj. John McBride, the signal officer of the 369th SB.

The bottom line, according to McBride, is that the system will help sustainers meet demands sooner than if they were relying on traditional communication assets. **gt**

NY Army National Guard Troops Train in South Korea

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

NEAR DONGDUCHEON, SOUTH KOREA — The morning is calm at Camp Casey and Camp Red Cloud, military installations 15 miles south of the Demilitarized Military Zone that divides North and South Korea.

But inside the camps' simulation centers in March, things weren't so calm for 40 troops of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT). That's because they were rehearsing for war in Key Resolve, an annual command-post exercise (CPX) involving U.S. and South Korean armed forces.

The war game made 27th IBCT battalion staff officers and NCOs part of the U.S. Army's 2nd Infantry Division. Key Resolve is held in conjunction with Foal Eagle, a field-training exercise for U.S. and Korean forces.

The CPX scenario starts with growing friction between the North Korea, South Korea and the international community. Military staffs in Key Resolve rehearsed the deployment, reception, staging and integration of allied military troops in support of U.S. Forces in Korea, alongside their Republic of Korea (ROK) armed forces partners.

The ability to deploy and rapidly integrate with U.S. and Korean forces was a huge success, according to Lt. Col. Jamey Barcomb, the commander of the 27th IBCT command-post element, known as Task Force Hunter. The CPX also gave Task Force Hunter troops a chance to learn about Korea's rich history and culture first-hand, he added.

"I was impressed with the professionalism of both the 2nd Infantry Division Soldiers and our Republic of Korea Army partners, and will leave the peninsula with a greater appreciation for the capabilities and commitment of the combined division to this enduring security mission," he said.

Participation in Key Resolve demonstrates the readiness and capability of the 27th IBCT to project power overseas, Barcomb explained. From the beginning, he told his Soldiers that they were deployed and training for two main reasons: they were invited guests, and having completed the Joint readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana in 2016, they were ready to serve anywhere the Army needed them.

This training also highlighted the Army National Guard's importance as part of the Total Army, with Guardsmen serving alongside active-duty counterparts from the 2nd Infantry Division and the ROK Army, Barcomb said. The brigade role-played a full infantry brigade staff for battlefield reporting, command and control, and information management.

"Seeing how the ROK soldiers operate with 2nd Infantry Division and then our element integrating in that culture, weighing limita-



Maj. Seonghoon Hwang, ROK armed forces operations planner (left), and Lt. Col. Jamey Barcomb, 27th IBCT, discuss 27th IBCT troops' support of Operation Key Resolve at Camp Casey on March 15.

tions and different communication styles other than verbal presented not only the sense of the conflict at hand but the tactical approach," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Wilcox, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

"(It was) absolutely excellent having members of the New York Army National Guard here to plan and refine how we will operate on the battlefield to exploit the enemy and ultimately achieve victory," said Maj. Seonghoon Hwang, a Korean army operations planner. **gt**

NY Army National Guard Aviation, MP Troops Continue to Deploy

CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. — Sgt. Jaime Burgos, 727th Military Police Law and Order Detachment, poses with his family members during the unit's farewell ceremony at Camp Smith Training Site here on March 26. Burgos was one of 22 Detachment troops who traveled to Fort Bliss, Texas for training before deploying to Afghanistan later this year.

The Military Police Detachment provides specially trained staff and Soldiers to operate law-enforcement operations in a deployed environment. This is the unit's third deployment to Afghanistan.

Members of the 727th Military Police Detachment last deployed to Afghanistan in 2011, where 42 Soldiers provided law-enforcement support on U.S. and coalition bases. They returned home from that mission in November, 2012.

The 727th Military Police Detachment troops also deployed to Iraq in 2006, where they operated the Camp Victory military police station and provost marshal's office, and supported other Multi-National Corps missions.

In January, 20 Soldiers of Detachment 1, Company B, 3rd Battalion 126th General Support Aviation Battalion left Rochester for pre-deployment training at Fort Hood, Texas. They're now conducting operations in Afghanistan. Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment. **gt**





NY Army National Guard Forms Cyber-Defense Unit

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

LATHAM, N.Y. — The New York Army National Guard is looking for a few good computer gurus for Cyber Protection Team 173, a joint New York and New Jersey Army National Guard unit focused on assisting with and improving the cyber defense of New York and New Jersey.

Maj. Steven Perry, the team commander, said they're seeking highly-qualified troops who want to take on new challenges.

"We're looking for Soldiers with great computer skills, dedicated to learning more and who have the time to invest in an extensive training program," he said.

The 39-member unit was formally recognized at the end of January. It will be one of ten created by the Army National Guard to defend U.S. computer networks against unauthorized intrusions such as snooping into files, exploiting data, or inserting malware. Unit members will also learn to think like hackers so they can help computers defend against cyber incidents.

The unit is headquartered in Latham with elements in both New York and New Jersey.

So far, the unit has two full-time administra-

tors — Soldiers who served with active cyber-protection teams (CPTs) — and 20 traditional Soldiers who were selected based on civilian-acquired skills or potential for success, said Brig. Gen. Raymond Shields, the commander of the New York Army National Guard.

Some of these Soldiers are already working on cyber-protection with New York's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES). In this role, the current CPT members partner with DHSES to conduct computer network vulnerability assessments on New York's critical infrastructure.

The team will be divided into five cyber squads, each led by a captain or major. There will be three warrant officer positions and three enlisted Soldier positions — from staff sergeant to sergeant first class — per squad.

Joining the team will take initiative and effort on the Soldier's part. Training to be a cyber warrior will be challenging, according to Perry.

"All personnel will have to go through an assessment and selections process before being considered for the team," he said. "During the process, Soldiers will be assessed for their

general and technical cyber knowledge, as well as interview with a panel of leaders."

Soldiers must also have top-secret security clearances, meet the minimum Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test requirements, and complete an intensive training program to join the team, Perry said.

For enlisted Soldiers, the intensive training program starts with a nine-month training cycle to obtain the 17C cyber operations specialist military occupational specialty, Perry said. Then Soldiers may be required to take additional schools to refine their skills in specific areas of cyber protection, and on-the-job training will also be a critical part of the Soldier-development process, he added.

Because of the skills needed and the training time required to qualify, Soldiers who join the team at lower NCO and warrant grades will be able to get promoted into higher ranks.

For more information and to start the application process, go to this page on the Division of Military and Naval Affairs website: <http://dmna.ny.gov/jobs/?id=cpt\9t>

Infantry Troops Clinch Best Warrior Competition

Story by Spc. Jonathan Pietrantonio, 138th Public Affairs Detachment

CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. — Nine New York Army National Guard Soldiers endured grueling days of shooting, land navigation, swimming, and first aid, topped off with a 12-mile forced march during New York's Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site here from March 29 to April 2.

At the end, two infantrymen — Sgt. Mitchell Stogel of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion 69th Infantry, and Sgt. Mitchell Cooper, of Delta Company, 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry — were named best NCO and best enlisted Soldier.

Cooper competed in the enlisted category because he was a specialist when selected to compete by the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, said New York State Command Sgt. Maj. David Piwowarski.

The Soldier category is open to privates through specialists, with corporals through sergeants first class competing at the NCO level.

Participants were selected by the New York Army National Guard's major commands.

The competition tests Soldiers' physical stamina through two physical fitness tests, day and night land navigation courses, qualifying on the M4 carbine and M9 pistol, and graded Soldier tasks. A major event is the live-fire stress shoot, which tests Soldiers' ability to consistently fire three different weapons under stressful conditions.

Competitors are required to drag a 180-pound sled — used to simulate a wounded Soldier — for 100 meters, where they're given instructions, handed ammunition and told to begin.

"The competition is tough and demanding," Piwowarski said. "It's designed to test Soldiers physically and mentally." Each day of the competition tests Soldiers with a range of events that assess their physical limits and their ability to cope with stressful situations while demon-

strating their Soldier skills, he explained.

Cooper and Stogel agreed.

"The competition pushes you to your limits, everyone wants to win and that attitude is contagious," Stogel said. It was challenging, but also a lot of fun, he added.

"The tasks are relevant and some more physically straining than others, but fun overall," Cooper said. "I think any Soldier can learn a lot from this competition, it builds confidence and requires you to learn a lot of relevant and useful information. Soldiers need to really focus on their physical fitness, practice fundamentals of marksmanship and master their basic Soldiering skills if they decide to compete."

Stogel and Cooper will compete against the best warriors from Vermont, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine and New Hampshire at the Northeast Region One Best Warrior Competition at Fort Dix, New Jersey in April. **9**



Sgt. Mitchell Stogel (left) and Sgt. Mitchell Cooper (right) complete the 12-mile road march during the Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site on April 1. Photos by Spc. Jonathan Pietrantonio and Sgt. Maj. Corine Lombardo.

Training Simulators Add Up to Real Success for Units

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

LATHAM, N.Y. — New York Army National Guard training simulators are a time and cost-effective way for units to achieve individual and collective training requirements, according to New York State Operations Sgt. Maj. Matthew Gutzwiller and Leon Jackson, the senior TADSS instructor for New York State.

That acronym — which stands for Training Aids, Devices, Simulators and Simulations — covers the full range of training simulators that Army units, including New York Army National Guard units, have at their disposal. In New York State, simulators are widely available, and can be used for everything from individual weapons training to call-for-fire.

All units have individual and collective training requirements, Gutzwiller said.

“In order to achieve those training standards, units can utilize TADSS, or training simulators,” he said.

Along with giving individual Soldiers more practice and hands-on experience with weapons systems, simulators allow teams and crews to identify and address issues before going to the firing range, he explained.

“It’s also a financial benefit to the Army, using simulators to work through these issues, rather than using live rounds,” Gutzwiller said.

The New York Army National Guard has dozens of these simulators that are available throughout the year, Jackson stressed.

“They’re getting little to no usage,” said Jackson, who is also a sergeant first class in the New York Army National Guard’s 27th Finance Company. “New York State, as a whole, doesn’t use them enough. They’re just waiting for Soldiers to use them.”

Some simulators are portable, and units can draw them from Fort Dix, Fort Drum, Camp Smith Training Site, or other facilities, Jackson explained. Other non-portable simulators are located at these facilities or armories, and units can reserve time on them, he added.

Facilities personnel need very little lead time to sign out portable simulators like the Unstabilized Gunnery Trainer Individual (UGT-I) or the Laser Marksmanship Training System (LMTS), Jackson said.

“Just show up, and they’ll be glad to sign it out,” he said.

While units should try to schedule non-portable simulators, like the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST 2000) or the Virtual Convoy Operations Trainer (VCOT), three months in advance, that may improve as well, Jackson said.

“We’re going to try to reduce the time needed to book facilities,” he said, adding that they want to reduce it to 10 days lead time. Meanwhile, he encouraged units to think of booking simulator time the same way they see reserving barracks for Soldiers.

Using simulators saves time, he stressed. For example, the LMTS, the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST 2000) and the Fire Arms Training System (FATS) hone Soldiers’ skills for range qualification and reduces the failure rate, he explained.

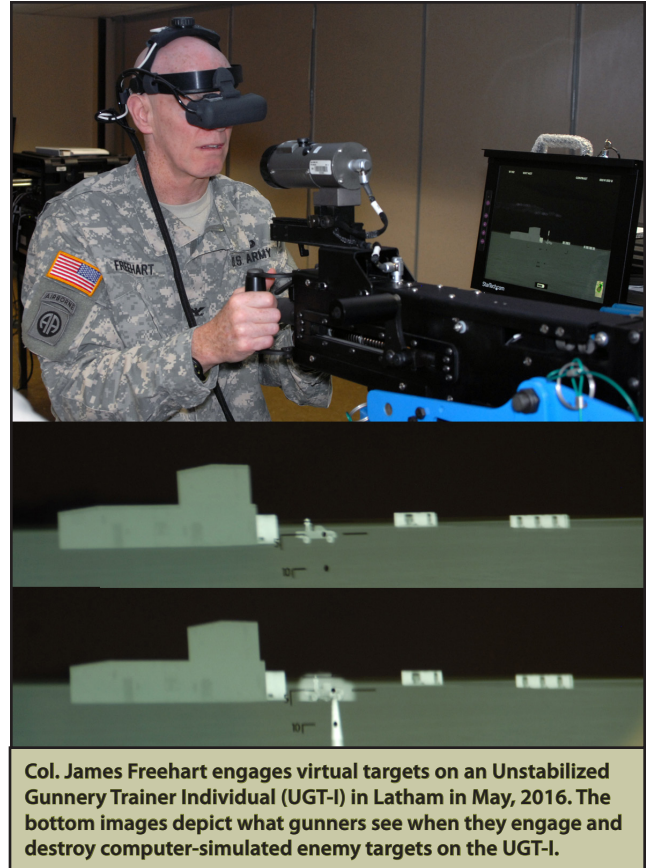
“They’ll all walk off the range with 100 percent ‘GOs,’” he said. “That’s proven.”

The LMTS, also known as the “beam-hit” system, is portable, Jackson explained. Used for the crawl and walk phases of M16 rifle, M9 pistol, M4 carbine and M249 Squad Automatic Weapon training, the LMTS identifies poor marksmanship habits such as improper breathing, trigger pull and sight picture, he added.

“This system is designed as a (Primary Marksmanship Instruction) tool,” he said. “Soldiers can correct themselves right there.” Soldiers can also use the LMTS to zero their Close Combat Optics (CCOs) and Advanced Combat Optical Gunsights (ACOGs), he added.

Though the EST 2000 and the FATS are used in the run phase of marksmanship training, they can also be used for squad-level collective training, Jackson said. Squads face a screen of simulated approaching targets, and engage them with lasers mounted on their individual and crew-served weapons, he explained.

“They all have to collectively control their



Col. James Freehart engages virtual targets on an Unstabilized Gunnery Trainer Individual (UGT-I) in Latham in May, 2016. The bottom images depict what gunners see when they engage and destroy computer-simulated enemy targets on the UGT-I.

rate of fire and engage targets,” he said. “They have to shout commands at each other.”

Simulators can also be used to train leaders, Gutzwiller noted.

“It puts your leaders in a position where they have to make decisions, and where they can be mentored constructively,” he explained.

A Gulf War and Bosnia veteran, Gutzwiller has served in various duty positions over three decades, to include operations non-commissioned officer from battalion level through division level.

Training simulators, Gutzwiller stressed, are nothing new. While troops have been using the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES) for years, simulators, nonetheless, have come a long way, said.

“I wish there had been some of these simulators back then, before the Gulf War,” he said.

To learn more about available simulators, contact Jackson at (917) 291-0320, or via email at LJackson@ottrainingsolutions.com. **gt**

Female Leaders Recruited for Combat-arms Roles

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters



LATHAM, N.Y. — The New York Army National Guard is looking for female leaders, officers and non-commissioned officers who are ready to become infantrymen.

Since 2016, the Army has opened 138,000 positions to women in infantry, armor, field artillery and special forces branches that were previously only open to men. More than 300 women moved into those career fields.

The change means more positions are open to women in certain New York Army National Guard units (see box on next page). Gender integration is already underway in the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery.

“The Army’s decision to open infantry and armor branch positions to females across the force removes the final barrier to complete gender integration,” said Brig. Gen. Ray Shields, New York Army National Guard Commander, in a note to the force in December 2016.

This means more career paths in combat arms — 1,169 enlisted infantry and cavalry slots and 443 NCO and officer positions — for a larger pool of Soldiers and leaders, Shields said.

“Having female Soldiers in combat arms increases the pool of available recruits to fill our ranks in a time when an increasingly small population of Americans qualify to serve in the military, stressed New York State Command Sgt. Maj. David Piwowarski. “We need them.”

Gender integration means higher readiness for units, not lesser, Piwowarski explained.

“One of the first steps to readiness and being ready for war is having a unit that is completely full of qualified, fit and trained Soldiers, regardless of their gender,” he emphasized.

However, the Army directed that two female leaders must be assigned to any unit before it can enlist infantry or armor female Soldiers, Shields said.

“Many women in the New York Army National Guard possess the requisites to succeed in infantry and cavalry units,” said Lt. Col. Diane Armbruster, an Iraq War veteran and commander of the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion. “Integrating them into combat positions is a positive step towards showcasing their talent and ability.”

The change also means women in the New York Army National Guard can choose from all branches and to select what is right for them, she said.

Though reclassification means female officers and NCOs will have to prove their physical and mental toughness, recent results show that the right Soldier can and will excel, according to the Army. Initial Army data of fully-integrated combat arms training at Fort Benning, Georgia — where infantry and armor courses are held — show no significant difference between male and female student performance.

“The female attrition rate is lower or the same as men,” Lt. Gen. Hugh Van Roosen, the Army deputy personnel officer, noted in a December 2016 Army News Blog. “These are women who are physically fit and absolutely prepared for this.”

Those who score in the highest physical category in the Army’s new Occupational Physical Assessment Test (OPAT) can join combat arms. The test features gender-neutral tasks — like the standing long jump, dead lift, interval

run and a seated power throw — to measure strength needed for tasks like loading ammunition. Those who score in the highest physical category can join combat arms.

Armbruster stresses preparation for the challenges of the combat arms.

“First, I would say that the physical demands of infantry and cavalry are obviously harder for all genders,” Armbruster said. “Ensure you understand the specific requirements for these combat assignments, and that you are physically and mentally prepared to meet them.”

2nd Lt. Lasher Mayes, who will attend Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course later in 2017, was one of the first officers of her rank to volunteer for a combat-arms leader assignment.

To ensure success, Mayes has developed her own plan, which includes rigorous physical-fitness training and professional development to learn small-unit infantry tactics in her current unit, Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry. Her chain-of-command and fellow Soldiers support her, Mayes said.

“It is great to come back in from a ruck march in the morning and see (27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team) Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Ciampolillo asking me how far I went and telling me to push farther next time,” she said.

Mayes has devoted herself to physical

Open Units, Reclassification Contacts:

The following units now have positions open to women: 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry; 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry; 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry; 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery.

Soldiers who want to reclassify into the infantry or cavalry career fields should first contact their chain of command, and then contact Capt. Katie McGovern at katie.a.mcgovern.mil@mail.mil, (518) 272-6493 for officer accessions or Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Colling at jeffrey.a.colling.mil@mail.mil, (518) 272-6361 for NCOs.

training — including ruck marches, running, weight-lifting, and yoga — to meet or exceed the demands of the infantry school.

“I know that once I arrive at basic, people are going to be watching me, watching everything I do, and I want to be ready,” she said.

The invitation for leaders is open across the force, even though some military jobs might seem more applicable to transfer into the infantry or cavalry field, Piwowarski said. There are similarities between Military Occupational Specialties like military police and the combat arms, he explained.


“But I have been on combat foot patrols with medics and on mounted patrols with logisticians, including females, who can hold their own on a road march or behind a machine gun,” he said.

Armbruster said her advice for future infantry or cavalry leaders is the same for all of her Soldiers.

“Lead by example and adhere to the Army Values in everything you do,” she said. “Be confident, not cocky. Show respect for all and seek guidance and advice from superiors as well as subordinates.”

For women who want to reclassify into infantry or cavalry combat arms, it still comes down to leadership, Piwowarski explained.

“Whatever gender you are, as a career infantryman, if you re-class, your squad or platoon depends on your leadership,” he said. “Leaders go the extra mile in preparation for training and missions, and they put in extra time in taking care of their Soldiers. Expect to work harder than those that you lead.”


“I was a little hesitant when I was first asked about the opportunity to re-class infantry,” Mayes said. “But when I learned that having leaders first was the key to allow new recruits in, that pretty much did it for me. I figure I’m doing this as much for them as for myself.” 

Iraq Veteran Takes Reins of 53rd Troop Command



CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. — Iraq veteran and long-time New York Army National Guard member Michel Natali took command of 53rd Troop Command and was promoted to brigadier general in separate ceremonies here over the winter. Natali assumed command from Brig. Gen. Michael Swezey, who retired after 36 years of service in the Army, Army Reserve and New York Army National Guard.

LEFT PHOTO: Col. Michel A. Natali (right) accepts the 53rd Troop Command guidon from New York Army National Guard Commander Brig. Gen. Raymond Shields (left), signifying Natali’s assumption of command on Dec. 3.

RIGHT PHOTO: Newly-promoted Brig. Gen. Michel Natali reaffirms the oath of the commissioned officer with Brig. Gen. Raymond Shields during his promotion ceremony on March 18. Photos by Sgt. Harley Jelis. 

174th ATKW Member Honored for Saving Woman's Life

Story by Staff Sgt. Duane Morgan, 174th Attack Wing

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Lunch turned into lifesaving for New York Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Christina Watson on April 21, 2016, when she stepped in to save the life of a woman suffering from a drug overdose in a Mattydale, N.Y. diner.

Watson, a member of the 174th Attack Wing (ATKW) based at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, was honored for her actions by the American Red Cross of Central New York, during the organization's Real Heroes Breakfast at Syracuse's Oncenter on Dec. 7.

The annual breakfast honors individuals who've made a difference in their community. Watson, a North Syracuse resident, was one of 23 people honored at the event, which recognized medical personnel, police officers, fire fighters, and local residents.

The incident Watson was recognized for took place around 11 a.m. as she and a friend arrived at Dee's Diner for lunch.

"Shortly after we sat down to order, a young woman in her twenties got up to use the restroom," Watson recalled. "While in the restroom, she had fallen and hit the door to the restroom stall, causing the door to pop open. The owner of the restaurant noticed the woman on the floor and immediately began screaming."

The restaurant owner yelled for someone to call for an ambulance because there was blood everywhere. Watson's friend told the owner that Watson was an Emergency Medical Technician and could provide assistance.

"When I got to the door of the restroom, I saw an unconscious female with two hypodermic needles stuck in her left arm," Watson said. "As a result of her fall, she split the back of her head open, which is where all the blood came from, and she wasn't breathing at all. I had the person that I was with support her neck, we put a towel behind her head to try to stop the bleeding, and I began chest compressions."

Within a few minutes the Hinsdale Fire Department, Onondaga County Sheriff's and the North Area Volunteer Ambulance Corps arrived to take over.

Watson credited her military training for her quick response, as well as training she received from Rural Metro Medical Services, the Syracuse area local area ambulance service.

"I am very grateful for the intestinal fortitude that the military has given me and the chance to be influenced by great leaders," Watson said.

Watson said she can't take all the credit for what she did that day.



Tech Sgt. Christina Watson poses with the medal the Red Cross awarded her for saving a woman's life. Photo courtesy of the American Red Cross.

"There is a list of people that I've met in my life that helped me be prepared for a situation like that," Watson said. "Had it not been for those people, I wouldn't have been able to respond the way that I did. I believe that they deserve some of the credit too." **gt**

Stressing Teamwork, Vet Assumes 106th Rescue Wing's Top Enlisted Post

WESTHAMPTON BEACH, N.Y. — Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Hewson (right) receives the 106th Rescue Wing guidon from Wing Commander Col. Michael Bank, making him the wing's top enlisted leader during ceremonies at Gabreski Air National Guard Base here on Dec. 3. Hewson, of Oakdale, N.Y., is a veteran of the war in Afghanistan, a trained pararescue Airman, and serves as a Suffolk County Police Officer in civilian life.

As command chief master sergeant for the 106th Rescue Wing, Hewson will serve as senior enlisted advisor to the wing commander on issues affecting enlisted Airmen and their families.

"I cannot think of a better example to guide, mentor, and lead the 106th enlisted force," Bank said during the induction ceremony. "(He) serves a nation, a state, and a community and is the very definition of the National Guard citizen-Airman. His wealth of experience will serve this wing and its airmen well today, and into the future."

"Nothing we do is ever done by one person, it's always done with a team concept," Hewson remarked at the ceremony. "You have to rely on everybody to do their part, to be a follower, to be a leader, to participate." Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing. **gt**



107th Attack Wing: New Mission, Continuing History

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Campbell, 107th Attack Wing

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. — In its continuing transition to flying the MQ-9 Reaper remotely-piloted aircraft, the New York Air National Guard's 107th Airlift Wing is now the 107th Attack Wing.

The 107th's re-designation as an attack wing (ATKW) became official on March 15, and the unit announced the re-designation during a ceremony at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station here on March 21. The unit flew its last C-130H mission in September, 2014.

"From our beginnings in 1946 as a fighter group, we have changed missions and names many times over the past 70 years," said Col. Robert G. Kilgore, 107th ATKW commander. "All of these names have been significant in representing the contributions we make to our nation's defense."

Those contributions include flying combat missions during WWII, the Vietnam conflict and the War on Terror.

"Our legacy has already been established over the years, having gone from fighters to interceptors to air refueling and airlift," said Kilgore. "We are a group of proud Americans continuing that legacy."

Many 107th Airmen have been actively engaged in the MQ-9 since the airlift mission ended.

There are pilots here who have been flying the MQ-9 for almost three years, Kilgore stressed. The 107th has embraced the newest cutting-edge technology and is proud to add this new chapter to its legacy, he added.

The 107th Maintenance Group and its squadrons was officially deactivated the same day.

"As a former maintenance group commander it is sad to see that element go away," said Kilgore. "I hope someday we can get aircraft stationed here again and dust those flags off."

The hope is that the 107th ATKW can someday gain a launch and recovery element, where Airmen can train on launching and landing the MQ-9. Though the maintenance group was deactivated, the 107th gained the 274th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS) and the 222nd Command and Control Squadron (CACS) in 2016. These squadrons give the unit greater capabilities.

The 274th ASOS has joint-terminal attack controllers, who can direct close-air support for U.S. forces and our allies. The 222nd CACS provides support for space operations under the National Reconnaissance Office.

Five years ago, the wing's manning was reduced to zero, which meant it would have shut down unless it was assigned a new mission.

"This event today, in my mind, is all about perseverance and resilience," said Brig. Gen. Timothy LaBarge, chief of staff of the New York Air National Guard. "Now five years later, here we are redesignating this wing as an attack wing, and again, it is a testament of the perseverance of everyone in this particular wing." **gt**



Col. Robert G. Kilgore, commander of the newly-redesignated 107th Attack Wing, speaks during the wing's re-designation ceremony at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station on March 21. Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster (center) and Brig. Gen. Timothy LaBarge, chief of staff of the New York Air National Guard (right), also attended the ceremony.

106th Rescue Wing Takes Flight to Aid Future Space Flight

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

MARINE BASE HAWAII — Airmen of the 106th Rescue Wing teamed up with the Hawaii Air National Guard's 204th Airlift Squadron to test rescue-support equipment for NASA's Orion spacecraft here Feb. 27 to March 10.

After parachuting into the Pacific Ocean from Hawaii Air National Guard C-17s, pararescuemen from the 106th Rescue Wing practiced deploying and working with NASA's rescue gear in the water. The gear was configured on rescue boats that the Airmen dropped from C-17s.

"That's the major objective," said Brent Maney, a former Air Force pararescueman who now works with the Human Space Flight Support Office. "How do we get that stuff into that boat and make it fly out of the plane and land on the target appropriately?"

Each team included pararescuemen and combat rescue officers of the 106th Rescue Wing's 103rd Rescue Squadron, as well as pararescuemen of 88th Test and Evaluation Squadron, which tests and develops rescue systems and equipment.

The New York and Hawaii Air National Guard conducted nine jumps to test the equipment, which included NASA's 350-pound, prototype "front porch" — an inflatable platform that attaches to the capsule to provide a stable area where astronauts can receive medical attention, if necessary.

The pararescuemen jumped with two boats that they call "hard duck" because they're dropped inflated and fully loaded with rescue gear and motors.

Since spacecraft may need to come down in areas inaccessible to Navy divers and ships, NASA needed to test the ability of the equipment to be dropped from a plane during a "contingency" rescue, said Tim Goddard, the NASA Neutral Buoyancy Lab flight lead, who designed the equipment.

"The PJs (pararescue jumpers) drop these boats all the time, but they haven't dropped these boats with this equipment in them," Maney said. "So they've got to figure out how this large front porch fits into that boat along with all the gear the guys normally carry on a rescue mission."

During an actual mission, the pararescue-



106th Rescue Wing pararescuemen and combat rescue officers parachute into the Pacific to test new spacecraft recovery techniques on March 7. Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.

men and the C-17 crew would work together to drop the team near the floating Orion crew module, which looks like a larger version of the gum-dropped shaped Apollo capsule. For these missions, the Airmen aimed at a float made up of Crew Module Uprighting System flotation bags. When the Orion crew module splashes down, five of these airbags — which look like beach balls — inflate to keep the capsule upright.

To make the target easier to find, a Jetski circled the target floats. After coming down, the Airmen manned their boats, approached the target and inflated and deployed the front porch. Goddard and Maney observed and evaluated each mission.

"The key thing I am looking to get from this operation, from the New York Air National Guard, is their expertise in rescue in an open-water environment," Goddard said. "NASA doesn't currently have a lot of that expertise."

He wanted the pararescuemen to work with the prototype equipment so he can take their suggestions and incorporate them into the gear's final design, he explained.

"So when they get the real hardware, on the actual day, it's the hardware they've helped develop, they've tested and they've practiced on," Goddard said.

Air Force pararescue teams could also aid Boeing and the SpaceX company, which are developing their own space vehicles. The hope is that the equipment tested in Hawaii could be used to support those space vehicles as well, said Maj. Christopher Slauson, the chief of the Human Space Flight Support Office's commercial crew division.

"What we're doing right now is building-blocks not only for commercial crews, but for any human spaceflight program that requires worldwide contingency rescue," he said. **gt**

109th AW Wraps Up Year 29 of Antarctic Mission

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

SCOTIA, N.Y. — After spending five months moving 2,500 people around a frozen wasteland and transporting a sick moon-walking retired astronaut-- the Airmen of the 109th Airlift Wing (AW) finished their 29th of year supporting research in Antarctica.

The final two LC-130s and 40 Airmen who supported the mission, which runs from October to March -- the Antarctic summer months-- returned to Stratton Air National Guard Base here on March 1.

The wing sent six LC-130s and about 500 Airmen spent five months to McMurdo Station, Antarctica, in support of United States Antarctic research efforts.

During the five month deployment the 109th AW completed more than 150 missions within Antarctica.

They flew 2,550 researchers and support staff plus about 3 million pounds of cargo and 2 million pounds of fuel to research stations across the continent in support of the National Science Foundation (NSF). The mission is part of Operation Deep Freeze, the military component of the U.S. Antarctic Program.

The unique capabilities of the ski-equipped LC-130 aircraft make it the only one of its kind in the U.S. military, able to land on snow and ice.

“As we end our 29th season supporting Operation Deep Freeze, I am thankful to our

outstanding Airmen who deploy year after year to the other side of the Earth to perform operations on the Antarctic continent, one of the harshest and most unforgiving environments on the planet,” said Col. Alan Ross, the 109th AW vice commander, who also served as the unit’s deployed commander in Antarctica in January.

“They, along with our Airmen at home, not only support the conduct of science in this unique environment, but also support the strategic interests of the United States by helping maintain an active and influential presence in the Antarctic,” Ross said.

Along with the routine missions, the wing hit the spotlight in early December 2016 when retired astronaut Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin, the second man to walk on the moon, became ill while visiting the South Pole station. A wing LC-130 flew the 86-year old from the South Pole to McMurdo Station so he could be transported to New Zealand, where he recovered.

The wing also played host to a number of military visitors who were getting a look at the military’s Antarctic support mission.

Visitors included Army Lt. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, the National Guard Bureau vice chief; Air Force Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice, the Air National Guard director and Air Force Lt. Gen. Samuel Cox, the 18th Air Force commander.

“These senior officers were exposed to many

elements of our round-the-clock operations in theatre,” Ross said.

The military visitors learned how the LC-130s conduct missions to the South Pole Station and 11 other sites, carrying people and key equipment; they learned about the ice-breaking operations conducted by the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Polar Star; and how the Navy’s Cargo Handling Battalion One and New Zealand Defense Force personnel unload ships carrying heavy supplies to McMurdo station.

They also visited the maintenance and operations centers run by Air Force personnel, Ross said.

“These distinguished visitor engagements are significant in that our senior military officers, who set policies and priorities, gain a greater understanding of the realities and challenges of operating in this environment and, therefore, will be better equipped to make informed decisions concerning the future of this operation,” Ross explained.

The 109th AW began supporting the NSF’s Antarctic research in 1988. Since 1999, the 109th has been the sole provider of this type of airlift to U.S. Antarctic research efforts.

The 109th AW also flies missions to Greenland in the summer months to support the NSF research on the Greenland ice cap, and supports Canadian Forces military operations in the High Arctic. **gt**



An LC-130 “Skibird” of the 109th AW lands at Camp Raven, Greenland in June 2016. The 109th AW Airmen used aircraft like this to support the National Science Foundation research mission in Antarctica during the 2016-2017 season. Photo courtesy of 109th AW.

Car Talk: 107th Hosts Auto-maintenance Training

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Campbell, 107th Attack Wing

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. — More than 20 Airmen attended training given by General Motors and AC Delco regional instructors, hosted by the 107th Logistics Readiness Squadron (LRS), at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station here Feb. 22 to 23.

Airmen from Air National Guard units from several states attended the two-day original equipment manufacturer training, learning the latest in GM-specific diagnostic procedures and seeing the latest in diesel-engine technology.

With continuous advancements in technology, it becomes important for the Airmen that maintain their unit's fleet of vehicles to further their skills.

"It is critical," said Peter Adornetto, a Chevrolet commercial/wholesale parts representative. "We're living in the age of technology and as we look at a 2017 model compared to a vehicle 30 years ago where it's degree of complexity was maybe spark plugs, points and a condenser, to what's on a vehicle today where its reputed there is probably more newer technology than on a space shuttle."

The Airmen received hands-on training with the latest procedures and resources from GM.

"We've had basic electrical training to get everyone up to speed on the electronics of the vehicles," said Tech Sgt. Michael Bajer, a heavy-equipment mechanic with the 107th LRS. "We covered voltage drops, went over the communication systems and the controller area network bus on the vehicles."

Part of the training saw the Airmen get the opportunity to work with a 2017 Silverado,

allowing them to work with the latest developments in diesel engines.

"We also covered the function, theory and how things work on the new diesel exhaust fluid systems that are being added to the diesel vehicles," said Bajer. "Along with the theory, operation and scan-tool information on the new diesel engines and the new diesel particulate filters."

Gaining these new skills will help reduce the amount of time vehicles spend in maintenance, and increase the ability to properly diagnose

Northern climates tend to be hard on these sensitive components, making this training even more valuable to those that regularly encounter the problems it causes.

"One of the biggest things that's going to help us is the electrical," said Airman 1st Class Hayden Shoup, a technician from Detachment 1 of the 200th Red Horse Squadron, Mansfield, Ohio. "Where I'm from, wires just don't last very long so the electrical side of vehicles is typically the first to fail."

Technical school may not have been too long

ago for these Airmen, but they know much advancement can be made in the automotive world, and keeping up on it can make their jobs easier.

"They will come out with one vehicle and in six months come out with a vehicle that has completely different systems," said Moulton-Childs. "Vehicles are basically the same, it's how they get it to work is different and if you don't



Airmen use the latest General Motors and AC Delco resources to hone their ability to diagnose and repair vehicles at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station on Feb. 22.

and make repairs correctly the first time, said Bajer.

Some of the Air National Guard's newest Airmen have been sent to learn from these experts and bring back the valuable knowledge to their units.

"It's been very useful, I learned a lot of stuff I didn't know about GM vehicles," said Airman 1st Class Tea Moulton-Childs, a mechanic from the 102nd Intelligence Wing, Otis Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts. "I learned how to check wires and diagnose certain electrical malfunctions, things I would have been unsure of before coming here."

know what you're doing you can go at repairs the wrong way."

Having the training brought specifically to the Airmen allows them to relate more of what they're learning to what they might encounter at their units.

"With the training brought on base it makes it easier because we are training on vehicles we are actually working on," said Bajer. "We can get a better understanding of the vehicles we have and the instructors can tailor their instruction to our needs instead of going over information on systems we don't have." **gt**

New York Guard Member Recognized for Life-saving Efforts

Story by Spc. Richard Mayfield, New York Guard

CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. — A New York Guard member has been lauded for helping save the lives of some auto-accident victims in Somers, N.Y. in 2014.

For his heroic actions during that incident, Warrant Officer 1 Paul Green, of Somers, received the New York State Medal for Meritorious Service in a ceremony here on Dec. 3. Green, who is a licensed practical nurse assigned to the New York Guard's 244th Medical Clinic, is also a volunteer member of the Somers Fire Department.

Green was acting in that capacity on June 11, 2014, when he and others responded to the scene of the accident. Green assessed the situation and immediately began rendering assistance to the passengers.

Smoke was emanating from multiple points of the car and the passengers had sustained serious injuries. Green stabilized the first passenger and removed him from the car to prevent further injury.

Green found another victim who was in respiratory distress and non-responsive. He and his fellow firefighter Kevin McDonald log-rolled the victim on her side, and Green performed several fingers sweeps to remove large blood clots from the victim's airway.

These procedures enabled the victim to breathe normally, and allowed her to be transferred to Westchester Emergency Medical Services. Somers



Warrant Officer 1 Paul Green (right) salutes New York Guard Acting Commander Col. George DeSimone (left), after receiving the York State Medal for Meritorious Service. Photo by Capt. Mark Getman, New York Guard.

Fire Department Capt. Jonathan Mackey, the incident commander, said that all accident victims are alive today in part due to Green's efforts.

Green credited his training as a nurse, emergency medical technician, firefighter and New York Guard member for giving him the skills necessary to assist those in harm's way.

"You need to train as if someone's life depends on it, because it will," he stressed. **gt**

New York Guard Unveils Recruiting Badge for Qualified Members

CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. — New York Guard members pose for a photo after receiving the New York Guard recruiting badge here in November. This new badge is designed to recognize New York Guard members who volunteer to find qualified applicants to become members of the New York Guard. The awardees are, from left to right: Staff Sgt. John W. Shmotolocha, Staff Sgt. Edward Simpson, and Col. David Warager.

Simpson, of the New York Guard Recruiting, Retention and Public Affairs Directorate helped design the badge, and Warager, the commander of the New York Guard Recruiting Retention and Public Affairs Directorate, ultimately approved it. As with the Army National Guard, the badge depicts the Minute Man flanked by the New York State coat-of-arms and the New York Guard crest (see inset).

New York Guard members can be authorized to wear the badge on a temporary or permanent basis. Photo by Spc. Zach Perkins, New York Guard. **gt**



New York Naval Militia


New York State Naval Militia Preps for Exercises



New York Naval Militia (NYSNM) personnel move a boat from the U.S. Guard Station in Bayonne New Jersey to Catskill, N.Y. in order to replace a boat under repair this past February.

This year, the NYSNM will be conducting Exercise Western Horizon 2017, a new exercise, in addition to their annual Rapid Gunwale exercise on the lower Hudson River.

Exercise Western Horizon 2017 will take place on and around Seneca Lake, using NYSNM members based in the western part of the state.

The exercise scenario involves a simulated accident during a civilian boat race. The exercise will test NYSNM communication, force structure, response, search and civil-support capabilities. Photos courtesy of the New York Naval Militia. 



107th Airlift Wing Honors President Millard Fillmore

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Campbell, 107th Airlift Wing

BUFFALO, N.Y. — On the bitter winter morning of Jan. 6, the 107th Airlift Wing honored Millard Fillmore, the nation's 13th president, with a wreath-laying ceremony at his grave at Forest Lawn Cemetery here.

Col. Gary R. Charlton, the wing vice commander, laid the wreath on behalf of President Barack Obama in front of dignitaries and admirers of President Millard Fillmore. The ceremony, which is in its 52nd year, is held by the University at Buffalo to mark the western New York native's birthday.

"It's a great honor to be asked to participate in any event acting on behalf of the president of the United States," Charlton said. Fillmore was one of the founders of the University at Buffalo and its first chancellor, a position he held while he was serving as vice president in 1849, and president from 1850 to 1853. In 1862, he helped found the Buffalo Historical Society, which today includes the Buffalo History Museum and Tift Nature Preserve.

When the Civil War broke out, Fillmore was the commander of the Union Continentals, a militia made up of men from upstate New York. They were dedicated to defending Buffalo from an attack by the Confederacy, which never occurred. Fillmore remained active with them after the war, and participated in guarding President Abraham Lincoln's funeral train when

it came through Buffalo.

Fillmore's many endeavors and actions were felt across the world.

"President Fillmore furthered the rising trade with Japan and clashed with the French over Napoleon III's attempt to annex Hawaii, and with the French and the British over the attempt of Narciso Lopez to invade Cuba," Charlton said.

Fillmore was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1828, served one term, and was elected a representative in 1832. He served in Congress until 1843. Though his run for governor was unsuccessful, he was elected comptroller in 1848.

When Zachary Taylor was elected president in 1849, Fillmore joined him as his vice president. Taylor died the following year and Fillmore became president. Unable to secure the Whig Party nomination for the 1852 election, Fillmore left the White House, returned

to Buffalo and served the community until his death in 1874.

Fillmore formed one of the most prestigious law firms in the area, which still exists today as Hodgson Russ, LLP, said Charlton. The University at Buffalo has also gone on to be the largest school in the New York state university system, he added. **9t**



Col. Gary R. Charlton lays a wreath at the grave of President Millard Fillmore.

Fighting Legacy on Parade in New York City

Members of the 69th Regimental Headquarters accompany troops of the New York Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry — "Fighting 69th" — as they lead the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade up 5th Avenue on March 17. The Army National Guard battalion, with its unique Irish heritage, has led the city parade for 166 years. Photo by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters. **9t**



