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



FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Army and Air NCOs can Learn from Each Other

Whether they're running a lanes training exercise at Camp Smith or launching a mission from Gabreski Air National Guard Base, it can be easy for our NCOs to forget that they are part of something bigger than their battalion, squadron, brigade or wing.

Sure, the Army National Guard and Air National Guard are part of the Army and Air Force. That's right on our uniforms.

And that means we have different leadership structures, different cultures, and even different professional languages.

An Army National Guard Soldier says "M-Day" to describe a part-time Soldier while our Air Guard Airman talks about "traditional Guardsman."

Soldiers have Military Occupational Specialties while Airmen talk about their Air Force Specialty Code.

Our NCO rank insignia are different and until recently we even had different combat uniforms.

But whether it says Army or Air Force on your uniform were all part of the entity known as the New York National Guard.

That means we share a history which starts with the Dutch settlers on Manhattan, and includes the militiamen who fought British raiders during the American Revolution and the New York National Guard response to 9/11.

Together, we play an important role in coming to the aid of the people of New York. And we work together more often than you'd think.

Army and Air Guardsmen and women respond when a hurricane threatens Long Island, when the Southern Tier faces flooding, or when a snowstorm hits Western New York.

New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen serve together on Joint Task Force Empire Shield to help protect New York City's vital

transport hubs from attack.

Soldiers and Airmen serve jointly in the New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force.

And New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen serve together in the 2nd and 24th Civil Support Teams, our units trained to identify chemical, radiological, biological and nuclear threats.

Our Air Guard and Army Guard officers work side-by-side in our Joint Forces Headquarters.

In our operations section, for example, an Air National Guard officer serves as the deputy to an Army Guard operations officer. And an Air Guard officer is the inspector general for the New York National Guard, with Army Guard NCOs and officers working for her.

During disaster response missions, standing up joint task force headquarters puts our staffs side by side as well. Army and Air Guard experts often work together jointly for operations, logistics, communications or personnel administration to put forces out on disaster sites.

One of my goals as senior enlisted advisor for the New York National Guard is to develop more jointness in our Army and Air Guard NCO corps. While we may have different service tags on our uniforms, I believe there is a lot we can learn from each other.

Army and Air Guard NCOs face different challenges and responsibilities that contribute to their different cultures.

I grew up in the Air Force culture and it's where I am most comfortable. We have a different way of doing things than the Army may.

But I've learned from fellow NCOs in the Army that the way they do things works too.

Our Army and Air Guard NCOs are going to be called on more and more frequently to work together while responding to state missions. I want us to understand the challenges we each face and the things we can learn from each other.

Everything new that we learn is another tool in our toolbox when it comes time to solving problems.

To help this process I will be holding a joint senior NCO conference later this year. My goal is to get our senior enlisted leaders together to exchange ideas, share common challenges, and determine what the best ways are to make our New York National Guard better.

As senior NCOs we are the problem solvers the officer corps turns to when things need to happen. There are things we can learn from each other, nobody has all the answers. We can put our training and experiences in combat and here at home to work to better serve our state and nation.

We NCOs must own the respon-



Command Chief Master Sgt.
Amy Giaquinto

sibility for making the New York National Guard better and more effective. We must be willing to learn from other NCOS in different units and in different services.

Sergeants make things happen and by working together as Army and Air Guard NCOs, who are all part of the New York National Guard, we can support our leaders, take care of our troops, and serve our neighbors better in 2019. **gt**



New York Army National Guard Spcs. Xavier Dixon (left) and Cody Patenaude, members of the 42nd Infantry Division headquarters, take a break from chainsaw maintenance during debris clearance operations in Rockland County, N.Y. on March 9, 2018. Members of the New York National Guard routinely deploy joint elements during civil support operations, with Air National Guard and Army National Guard deployed alongside New York Guard and Naval Militia members. Photo by Command Sgt. Maj. David Piwowarski, Joint Force Headquarters.

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guardtimes

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Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, COMMANDER IN CHIEF
Maj. Gen. Raymond Shields, THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
Eric Durr, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Col. Richard Goldenberg, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
Capt. Jean Kratzer, COMMAND INFORMATION OFFICER
Sgt. Andrew Valenza, GUARD TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER

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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

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New York Army National Guard Colonel Sondra Smith's son Jacob pins her new rank upon patrol cap as her other son Mason looks on at the Division of Military and Naval Affairs in Latham, N.Y., January 13, 2019. Smith is the Judge Advocate for the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters in Troy. Photo by Sgt. Andrew Winchell, 42nd Infantry Division.



FRONT COVER: Staff Sgt. Daniel London, a Soldier assigned to 4th Finance Detachment, drags a 90-pound sled during an Army Combat Fitness Test grader certification training on the parade field at Camp Smith Training Site, Cortlandt Manor, N.Y., Nov. 29, 2018. Camp Smith was selected as one of several pilot sites to test the new Army Combat Fitness Test and trained 118 Soldiers from eight states and territories over the course of four days. Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.
BACK COVER: 1st Lt. Richard Turner and Master Sgt. Joel Beardsley assigned to the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion, assist each other while navigating the "Jail Break" obstacle at United States Military Academy Leadership Reaction Course at West Point on Dec. 8, 2018. The training was designed so 642nd senior leaders could test their problem solving and decision-making skills while learning how to work better together. Photo by Sgt. Mathew Kratts 642nd Aviation Support Battalion.

Warrant Officer Reinvents his Career to keep Serving

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

LATHAM, N.Y. -- Throughout a military career that began in 1981, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Al Thiem has been reinventing himself.

He was an enlisted Soldier who became an officer. Then he was a tanker who became a helicopter pilot and then a tanker again. And finally he was a lieutenant colonel who became a warrant officer.

Along the way he responded to the ice storm of 1998, the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks, Hurricanes Irene and Sandy and deployed to Iraq. Now he's on active duty with the 173rd Cyber Protection Team at Fort Meade, Maryland.

He just kept on looking for new ways to serve, Thiem said after being promoted to chief warrant officer three in November 2018.

At age 17 in 1981, Thiem joined the Vermont National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 172nd Armor as a chemical operations specialist.

"I was young. I didn't have much money. I needed time between high school and college and I didn't know what I wanted to do," Thiem recalled.

Thiem enlisted, went through basic and chemical school, and entered college a year later. While attending Castleton State College he discovered ROTC and decided to reinvent himself as an officer. He was commissioned in 1985.

Thiem picked armor as his branch, because he was in an armor battalion, but back in chemical school he'd taken a ride in a UH-1 Huey and decided that someday he wanted to be a pilot.

So Thiem interviewed and joined the 186th General Support Aviation Company in Burlington in 1987, went to flight school in 1988 and graduated in 1989.

He served as a helicopter platoon

leader and then air traffic control detachment commander.

But Burlington was 124 miles away from Ballston Spa, where he lived, and the 42nd Division headquarters in Troy was 25 miles away. Thiem interviewed for an assistant operations job at the division and never looked back.

In 1995 he was asked to command a tank company of the 101st Cavalry. He'd already commanded a detachment as a captain, but "the old rule of thumb was you never turn down a command," Thiem said.

So once more he was back in an armor unit.

When an ice storm devastated the North Country in January 1998, Thiem and his tank company were sent to St. Lawrence County to help local governments respond.

Then it was back to the division. Thiem held a number of operations positions and deployed to Iraq in 2005 as the G-3 Air, working in the division main headquarters in one of Saddam Hussein's palaces in Tikrit.

When the 42nd came home, Thiem continued to serve as G3 Air and made lieutenant colonel. He filled a number of staff jobs, including Division Chemical Officer.

Eventually he hit his mandatory retirement date after 28 years of serving as an officer.

But Al Thiem still wanted to keep wearing the uniform.

"I was 49, I looked at myself, and said, 'I still have a lot more to give.' I wasn't ready to give it up. I could still max my PT test," Thiem said.

So he worked with the New York Army Guard's warrant officer recruiter to make the jump from officer to warrant. The Guard needed electronic warfare warrant officers and Thiem figured he could be one.

He didn't have the experience,



Brig. Gen. John Andonie, Chief of Staff for the New York Army National Guard pins Chief Warrant Officer 3 Albert Thiem, Electronic Warfare Officer for the 42nd Infantry Division during his promotion ceremony in Latham, N.Y., November 9, 2018. Photo by Capt. Jean Marie Kratzer, *Guard Times Staff*.

but he had a top secret security clearance along with technical ability and he was willing to go back to school. He completed the Electronic Warfare warrant officer basic course in 2014.

And then Warrant Officer Al Thiem was ready to start his second military career (third if you want to count his enlisted time).

Transitioning from a lieutenant colonel to a warrant officer is not unknown, but it is unusual, according to Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jackie O'Keefe, the New York Army National Guard's Command Chief Warrant Officer.

"During my 34 years of service I've only known of six people who've done it, including Lt. Col. Thiem," she said.

At one time an officer with a branch that would apply directly to a warrant officer field, like aviation or ordnance could easily convert, O'Keefe said. Now, though, officers seeking the transition must demonstrate that they have talents and skills the Army needs.

And unofficially, they have to be able to "park their ego" and go from

a command position to not being in a command position, O'Keefe said.

Her experience, O'Keefe said, is that officers who make the jump, like Thiem, just want to keep serving.

Since he's made that transition to warrant officer status, Thiem served as electronic warfare technician in the 42nd Division (where he has spent 25 years) and in the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

He's been to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, gone through four brigade and division level Warfighter exercises and served as second in command of the New York National Guard Homeland Response Force when the division first had the mission from 2011 thru 2014. Thiem recently completed the Electronic Warfare warrant officer advance course in 2017.

Now he's ready to go to Kuwait with the 42nd Division in 2020 just nine months after returning from his current mobilization.

"In four years I can start collecting my retirement pay," he said. "I'll decide then if I want to defer my retirement a little more." **gt**

Guard Lieutenant Creates Free Map Graphics App

Story by Sgt. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters

ROCHESTER, N.Y. --Need an easy and quick way to turn your operations plan into map graphics? Thanks to Army National Guard 1st Lt. James Pistell, there's an app for that!

Pistell, the executive officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop of the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, has created a free computer application that makes it easy for leaders to create and share operations graphics he dubbed MGRS-Mapper.

Pistell, a Rochester web developer focusing in marketing, said he got the idea for the app while deployed in Ukraine in 2018 with the Joint Military Training Group-Ukraine.

The New York National Guard Soldiers worked with other NATO nation soldiers to help train Ukrainian soldiers and battle staffs.

His unit had been using a website to make operations graphics as they planned contingency operations, or CONOPS, but the website didn't work effectively enough, Pistell said.

"It was really outdated, and even if it could work, the symbols didn't," he said. "I thought I could make a much better version. What made me want to create it was my experience overseas and I wanted to help leaders make CONOPS."

The app combines Google Maps, with a tool to overlay the map with a Military Grid Reference System (MGRS), and a symbol select graphic tool.

App users can select their operations area on Google Maps and overlay the region with a standard MGRS overlay. The app allows the user to build the proper NATO standard graphic symbol, for example a friendly infantry platoon, label it, and then place it on the map.

Users also have the ability to place command and control, maneuver, fire support and other graphics on the overlay.

The overlay can be downloaded and e-mailed to another user, printed out as a handout, or embedded in slides.

Currently users cannot upload their own map into the app, but he is working to change that, Pistell explained.

Pistell said he thinks that the app is easy and accessible for any Soldier to be able to use.

"I've made the application as intuitive as possible," he explained. "If you're looking for infantry you can choose an infantry symbol,



The MGRS-Mapper computer application developed by New York Army National Guard 1st Lt. James Pistell allows users to overlay the military grid reference system on a Google maps image and then create and place tactical and warfighting graphics and symbols on it to be used as an overlay and shared via e-mail. Photo Courtesy.

then choose the size, and click and drag it on the map. You can update the map you can put the overlay on, you can take it off, and you can have a terrain view or satellite."

Pistell, who majored in history at the State University of New York at Brockport, is a self-taught web designer and tech geek.

Already, with little promotion other than a few Facebook ads, Pistell's app has already gotten attention from around the country.

"I got an email from someone from search and rescue in California that asked if I could add more symbols, and an email from a guy in [the Basic Officer Leader Course] that said that their entire class was using it," Pistell said.

At the moment, Pistell does not have any other products in development, but plans to keep expanding on and improving his app.

"There's a lot more that I want to do with that app like implementing more symbols, and being able to send to somebody, I'd like to make it into an app that you can have on your iPad. I have a lot planned for it but that's only a side gig," He said.

The app is free for anyone to use, and contains no advertisements on the website.

The MGRS mapper can be found at <https://mgrs-mapper.com> 



1st Lt. James Pistell, the executive officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry poses by a Ukrainian personnel carrier at the Yavoriv Combat Training Center near Livov, Ukraine on May 17, 2018. Photo Courtesy.

Soldiers Strike a Pose for National Army Museum

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

BROOKLYN, N.Y.— When the National Museum of the United States Army opens to the public outside Washington, D.C. in 2020, six New York Army National Guard Soldiers will be a permanent part of it.

The six men are models for six of 63 life-sized Soldier figures that will bring exhibits in the museum to life.

Studio EIS (pronounced ice), the Brooklyn company that specializes in making exhibit figures, would normally hire actors or professional models as templates for figures, said

Paul Morando, the chief of exhibits for the museum.

But real Soldiers are better, he said.

“Having real Soldiers gives the figures a level of authenticity to the scene,” he said. “They know where their hands should be on the weapons. They know how far apart their feet should be when they are standing. They know how to carry their equipment.”

Actual Soldiers can also share some insights with the people making the figures, Morando added.

The museum is under construction at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. The Army Historical Foundation is leading a \$200 million campaign through private donations. The Army is providing the 84 acre site, constructing roads and infrastructure and interior exhibit elements to transform a building into a museum.

The museum will tell the story of over 240 years of Army history through stories of American Soldiers.

The figures of the six New York National Guard Soldiers – Maj. Robert Freed, Chaplain (Maj.) James Kim, Capt. Kevin Vilardo, 2nd

Lt. Sam Gerdt, Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Morrison, and Sgt. 1st Class Nick Archibald--will populate two exhibits from two different eras.

Vilardo, Gerdt, and Archibald will portray Soldiers landing in Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

The figure modeled by Archibald, an assistant inspector general at the Joint Forces Headquarters, will be climbing down a cargo net slung over the side of a ship into a 36-foot long landing craft known as a “Higgins boat.”

Vilardo, the commander of A Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, was the model for a combat photographer. His figure will be in the boat taking pictures of the action.

Gerdt, a survey section leader in the 24th Civil Support Team, modeled a Soldier standing in the boat gazing toward the beach.

Kim, Morrison and Freed modeled for figures that will be in an Afghanistan exhibit. They will portray Soldiers from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment on patrol in 2014; each Soldier depicting a different responsibility on a typical combat mission.

The figure based on Morrison, the medic for the 24th CST, will be holding an M-4 and getting ready to go in first.

Freed, the executive officer of the 24th CST, modeled a platoon leader talking on the radio.

Kim, the chaplain for the 42nd Division, was the model for a Soldier operating a remote control for a MARCbot, which is used to inspect suspicious objects.

The process of turning a Soldier into a life-sized figure starts by posing the Soldier in the position called for in the tableau and taking lots of photos. This allows the artists to observe how the person looks and record it.

When Archibald showed up at the Studio EIS facility they put him to work climbing a cargo net used to board landing craft during WWII.

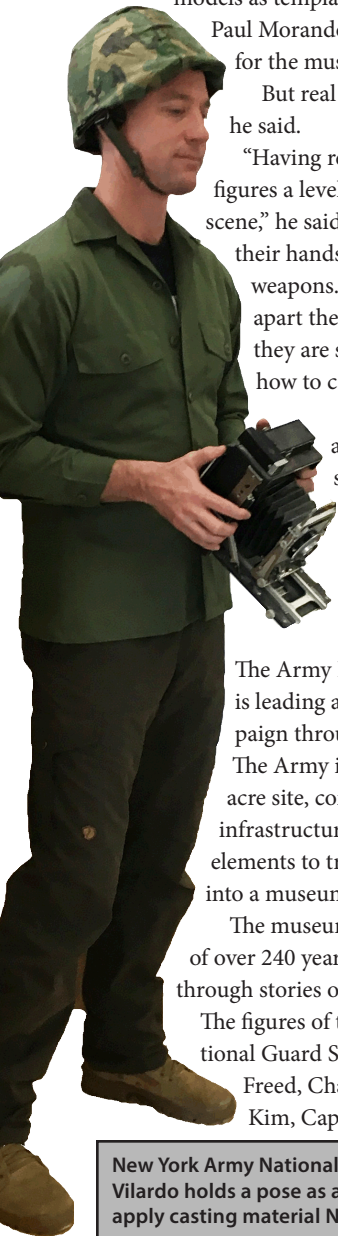
“They were taking pictures of me actually climbing a net with a backpack on and a huge model rifle over my shoulder,” he recalled. “That was uncomfortable because I was actually on a net hanging off this wall.”

The Studio EIS experts take pictures of the model from every angle and take measurements as well, Morando explained.

Vilardo, who posed crammed into a mock landing craft with a camera up to his eyes, said the photography portion of this process was the most unnerving part for him.

“I’m not one to like my picture being taken and to have really close photography of your face and hands was a new experience,” he said.

Next, a



New York Army National Guard Soldiers model for castings in Brooklyn, N.Y. for exhibits at the National Museum of the U.S. Army. At left, Capt. Kevin Vilardo holds a pose as a World War II combat cameraman on Nov. 13, 2018. At center, Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Morrison holds his pose as technicians apply casting material Nov. 5. Above right, Chaplain (Maj.) James Kim poses with a remote control for a robot for his position Nov. 8. Courtesy photos.

“Part of it is an honor to be able to bring people down there and point at the exhibit and say that is actually me there,”

-- Sgt. 1st Class Nick Archibald

They were the last Soldiers to be turned into figures, Morando said.

Next the artists will sculpt sections into a complete figure, dress and accessorize, and paint details on the face and skin; crafting it to humanistic and historical perfection. These life-like Soldier figures will help visitors understand what it looked like on D-Day or during a combat mission in Afghanistan, Morando said.

The New York Soldiers got their chance to be part of the new, state of the art museum because of Justin Batt, the director of the Harbor Defense Museum at Fort Hamilton.

He and Morando had worked together before, Batt said.

Morando needed Soldiers to pose and wanted to use Soldiers from the New York City area to keep down costs. So he turned to Batt to help find ten people.

Batt, in turn, reached out to Freed to ask for help in finding Guard Soldiers.

The museum was looking for Soldiers with certain looks, heights, and in some cases race, Freed said.

For the D-Day scene they needed Soldiers of certain height and weight who would look like Soldiers from the 1940s. The design for the Afghanistan scene included an Asian-American and African-American Soldier, Freed said.

He recruited Kim, a Korean-American, and Morrison as the African-American Soldier. Vilardo, Archibald and Gerdt looked more like an American of the 1940s.

The six New York Guardsmen that Freed recruited were perfect, Batt said. Not only did they look the part but they all have tremendous military records, he added.

Being part of the National Museum of the U.S. Army is an honor, the Soldiers said.

While their names won't be acknowledged on the exhibits, it will be great to know they are part of telling the Army story, they all agreed.

He was impressed to see how much work goes into creating an exhibit and the care museum staff is taking to get it right, Freed said.

“I have a newfound appreciation of the efforts the Army is making to preserve its history,” he added.

“I think it is pretty cool that they would get Soldiers to model as Soldiers,” Archibald said.

“Part of it is an honor to be able to bring people down there and point at the exhibit and say that is actually me there.”

“I feel privileged to have an opportunity to be part of a historic display,” Kim said. “To be immortalized and to be able to share that with generations of my family. It is a once in a life time opportunity.”

“It's extremely cool. I feel honored to do it,” Gerdt said, adding that he was looking forward to taking his newborn daughter to the exhibit.

“It is extremely humbling to know I am going to be part of Army history,” Morrison said. “I already thought I was part of the Army Story. Now I am going to be part of the story the public gets to see.”

Editor's Note: The National Museum of the United States Army is a joint effort between the Army and the non-profit organization, The Army Historical Foundation. The Museum is expected to open in 2020 and admission will be free. www.thenmusa.org



Sgt. 1st Class Nick Archibald displays the cast made of his face at Studio EIS in Brooklyn, N.Y. on Nov. 15. Archibald is one of six New York National Guard Soldiers who served as models to be part of the National Museum of the U.S. Army when it opens in 2020. Courtesy photo.

model of the individual's face is made. A special silicone based material is used for the cast. The model's nostrils are kept clear so they can breathe.

“I had to hold my facial expression for about 15 minutes while they did that,” Gerdt said.

“It was a bit nerve wracking,” Freed recalled. “They pour the silicon liquid over your entire face and you have these two breathing holes. Your hearing is limited. It is a bit jarring.”

The material also warmed up.

“It was like a spa experience,” Kim joked.

The material got so warm that he started sweating, Archibald said. “As they did the upper portion (of his body) I got pretty toasty in there,” he said.

Once their facial casts were done the Studio EIS experts cast the rest of their body. The Soldiers put on tight shorts and stockings with Vaseline smeared over body parts and posed in the positions needed.

Kim was asked to crouch and hold a controller in his hand. When he got up to move his legs were frozen, he said. “It was four hours and a lot of stillness,” Kim said.

The six New York Guardsmen and four other Active Duty Soldiers visited the Brooklyn studio during the first two weeks of November.



Major Robert Freed poses with a mock M-4 and block of wood replicating a radio handset, as photos of his pose are taken at Studio EIS in Brooklyn, N.Y. on Nov. 15. The figure Freed served as a model is of a platoon leader in Afghanistan calling for air support. Courtesy photo.

Retirement Ceremony for Major General German

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

“Our nation, our National Guard, and our community is so much better today because we had a chance to serve with Tony German,”

-- Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice, *Director of the Air National Guard.*

SCOTIA, N.Y. -- The 109th Airlift Wing saluted a former commander Major General Anthony P. German, who also led the New York Army and Air National Guard from 2016 to 2018, during his retirement ceremony at Stratton Air National Guard Base here on Saturday, Feb. 2.

German, an Oneonta resident, served 36 years in the Air Force and the New York Air National Guard. Saturday's ceremony was his last official military duty.

German spent 18 years in the 109th Airlift Wing.

As part of the ceremony German was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and the New York State Meritorious Service Medal.

German was praised for his humility, his dedication to duty, and his genuine concern for the men and women he commanded in his career.

“Our nation, our National Guard, and our community is so much better today because we had a chance to serve with Tony German,” said Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice, the director of the Air National Guard.

German's last job was serving as special assistant to Rice, after he stepped down as Adjutant General in October 2018.

Even serving for only a short time in that position, German made a difference in helping the Air National Guard, Rice said.

Major General Kevin Bradley, a New York Air National Guard officer who now serves as the chief of information for the National Guard, said that German “always did his best to meet the mission and take care of his people along the way.”

In his remarks, German joked

that he didn't recognize the man that Bradley and Rice described.

“It's not about what we do at the two star and three star level,” German told the audience, “it's about what you do at the worker level.”

German thanked his family for supporting his service and also emphasized that the 109th Airlift Wing and the National Guard as a whole is like a family.

“With family, with faith and with friends you can do anything,” German said.

“It is an absolute privilege to wear the uniform and it is an absolute privilege to take it off,” he added.

German was commissioned as an Air Force navigator in 1983 through Officer Training School. He spent six years on active duty before joining the New York Air National Guard in 1989.

He served in a number of positions in the 109th Airlift Wing to include standardization evaluation navigator, weapons and tactics officer, chief of current operations, chief of standardization, chief of wing plans and executive support staff officer before commanding the wing.

In 2003-04 German served as the Department of Defense Liaison to the National Science Foundation in Washington D.C. He coordinated military support for National Science Foundation research efforts in the Antarctic and Greenland.

In April 2018, the National Science Foundation recognized German's efforts in that role, and in his jobs at the 109th Airlift Wing in supporting the National Science Foundation by naming a glacier in Antarctica after him in April 2018.



Diana German pins an Air Force retired pin onto the uniform of her husband, Maj. Gen. Anthony German during his retirement ceremony at Stratton Air National Guard Base, Feb. 2, 2019. German, who served as Adjutant General from April 2016 to October 2018, was commander of the 109th Airlift Wing, which is based at Stratton, from 2006 to 2010. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ben German, 109th Airlift Wing.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey Board on Geologic names, German was recognized because he was “instrumental in increasing the efficiency of flight operations in Antarctica, which was critical to completing the South Pole Station Modernization on schedule while also maintaining support of research and numerous other high-level projects.”

In 2010 German was promoted to brigadier general and named Chief of Staff of the New York Air National Guard and served there until 2015.

In 2015 he was promoted to two-star general and named commander of the New York Air National Guard and Assistant Adjutant General and served as assistant adjutant general until April 2016.

He became Adjutant General in April 2016.

German graduated from SUNY Cobleskill with an associate degree

in accounting in 1979 and earned a bachelor of science in business in 1981 from Oneonta State University.

After being commissioned in the Air Force he attended Squadron Officer School and completed the Air Command and Staff College by correspondence. He attended the U.S. Naval War College in Newport Rhode Island and earned a masters in national security and strategic studies in 2002.

He is a master navigator with over 4,900 flying hours.

German also earned the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Aerial Achievement Medal and the Antarctica Service Medal.

German lives in Oneonta with his wife Diana.

They have four children, Josh, Ben, Zach and Bekah. Joshua and Ben are also both members of the New York Air National Guard. **gt**

Questions about Your Bonus Or Student Loan Repayment?

Call 1-877-BONUS-NG (1-877-266-8764). Unanswered calls will be returned within 24 hours.

The Education Services and Incentive Office can also assist with: Federal Tuition Assistance can be used to pay for undergraduate, graduate and certification/licensure courses.

State Tuition Assistance is designed to pay the cost of tuition for first undergraduate degree (Associates or Bachelors) up to SUNY tuition rates per semester.

GI Bill programs provide educational assistance in the form of monthly payments to qualified Service Members enrolled in VA-approved education and training programs.

Improve original ASVAB scores by taking the online iCAT. Contact the Education Services office at ng.ny.nyarnng.list.education-ny@mail.mil for more info.

You can also ask your questions on the New York National Guard app.



Photo illustration with Sgt. Marsha Grant by New Jersey National Guard Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen.

The Military Personnel Corner:

The Integrated Personnel and Pay System - Army (IPPS-A) system is live!

The Pennsylvania Army National Guard went into Limited User Testing for IPPS-A in January 2019 and has been supporting over 500+ users per day.

These are users navigating content and processing personnel transactions within the system as part of their everyday Human Resources operations.

The New York Army National Guard is slated to go live with IPPS-A next year in February 2020. Over the coming months, New York will be watching and planning carefully to ensure that our transition to IPPS-A is smooth as possible and is able to deliver the improved quality of care for all the Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard.

When fully fielded, IPPS-A will provide Soldiers improved online access to their personnel record and the ability to initiate Personnel Action Requests 24 hours a day via IPPS-A's Common Access Card (CAC)-enabled web portal.

DA Photo Requirements Reminder

Officers are reminded that they are required to have a DA Photo once they are promoted to 1st Lt. or Chief Warrant Officer 2 and a minimum of every five years after that.

In addition, the following also require an updated photo: An award of the Army Commendation Medal or above, a new badge, or unit award authorized for permanent wear; or a Branch Change; or a promotion.

Pregnant Officers who are due are exempt until 6 months post partum.

Officers assigned to areas where photographic facilities are not available or conditions prevent them from being photographed are temporarily exempt from DA photo requirements until 90 days after reassignment to an area with photographic facilities.

Army updates Army Military Parental Leave

Army Directive 2019-05, the Army Military Parental Leave Program was updated January 22, 2019.

This directive establishes and consolidates policies, assigns responsibilities, and provides procedures for non-chargeable entitlements for Soldiers in connection with the birth or adoption of a child.

Policies and procedures established in this directive replace previously existing Army leave, pass, permissive temporary duty, and convalescent leave policies related to pregnancy, childbirth, adoption, and parenthood.

Entitlements outlined in this directive are retroactive to 23 December 2016 and found at <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-570347>

NY's Top Honor Guard Soldier

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

LATHAM, N.Y. — Army National Guard Sgt. Joshua Sanzo, a Schenectady resident, has been recognized as one of the top military honor guard members in the country by the Army National Guard.

Sanzo coordinates military funeral services for the New York Army National Guard Honor Guard from the Hudson Valley north to the Canadian border and west to Utica. He has been named Army National Guard Honor Guard Soldier of the Quarter by National Guard Bureau.

The award recognizes both Sanzo's military skills, and his work administering the funeral honors program for October, November and December of 2018.

His element conducted over 900 funerals in 2018.

Sanzo, age 23, joined the New York Army National Guard in 2014 and serves as a military police Soldier.

"To me, personally, the most rewarding thing is to be able to give the veterans the honors they deserve," Sanzo said. "It is us being able to give back to the veterans and giving them their final salute and to lay a fallen brother to rest." **gt**



Sgt. Joshua Sanzo salutes the casket of Victor Frager at the Gerald B. Solomon National Cemetery, Schuylerville, N.Y., June 6, 2018.

AROUND THE STATE

Troops Prepared for Polar Vortex Across NY State



CHEEKTOWAGA, N.Y. - New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo greets members of the 107th Attack Wing at the New York State Department of Transportation garage in Cheektowaga on Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019. The Airmen were part of an Immediate Response Force which was on duty to provide mobility support to the New York State Police as snow and extremely cold temperatures hit Western New York. The New York National Guard placed 188 Soldiers and Airmen on duty Jan. 30 and 31, as extremely cold temperatures and lake effect snow hit the Buffalo and Niagara region and the region between Syracuse and Watertown. Photo courtesy New York State Executive Chamber.



Holiday Support from Army, Air Guard members



Eastern Air Defense Helps Tracks Santa

ROME, N.Y.-- Master Sgt. Shane Reid, front, and Tech. Sgt. Brady King, both of the 224th Air Defense Squadron, train for upcoming Santa tracking operations at the Eastern Air Defense Sector in Rome. A headquarters unit of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), EADS supports the NORAD Santa Tracking operation every year. Photo by Capt. Jason Cole, 224th Air Defense Squadron.



Christmas Eve Road March

GLENS FALLS, N.Y. -- Retired New York Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Arthur Coon, center in red jacket, steps off for the 15th annual Christmas Eve Road March in Glens Falls, N.Y., December 24, 2018. Coon is joined by Mr. Kevin Tucker, at right, and Vermont Army National Guard Spc. James Kassebaum, left, holding the road march banner. Coon has organized the annual event to honor deployed service members since 2004. Photo by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters.



Col. Eric Laughton, commander of the 107th Medical Group, lays a wreath at the grave of President Millard Fillmore during a ceremony honoring him on his birthday at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, N.Y., Jan. 7, 2019. Fillmore was president from 1850-1853.

Western NY Birthday Honors for Former President

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

BUFFALO, N.Y. – With the community gathered in a yearly tradition, the commander of the 107th Medical Group of the 107th Attack Wing honored the nation’s 13th president on his birthday with a wreath laying ceremony at Forest Lawn Cemetery here January 7, 2019.

Col. Eric Laughton, joining representatives of the various organizations started by President Millard Fillmore, laid a wreath at his grave. The 107th has represented the president in honoring Fillmore for more than three decades.

“Excellent tribute to President Fillmore,” said Laughton. “Everyone spent time mentioning

his strong contributions to western New York.”

A Buffalo native born into poverty, Fillmore catapulted himself into the inner workings of the community and was involved in writing the charter that incorporated Buffalo as a city in 1832. He also helped to found such institutions as the Buffalo Historical Society which today includes the Buffalo History Museum and Tiff Nature Preserve, in 1862.

“Though he had little school, he became a successful attorney in the Buffalo area,” Laughton said. “He has the classic story of ‘rags

to riches,’ from poverty to holding the highest office in the nation.”

Fillmore became vice president to Zachary Taylor in 1849 while serving as the first chancellor of the University at Buffalo. Upon the sudden death of President Taylor in 1850, Fillmore was sworn in on July 9 of that year.

Each former president is honored with a wreath at their grave by the current president.

“It was a total honor to represent the office of the president,” Laughton said. “It was a unique experience that I did not take for granted.”

New NCOs Inducted at 105th in Newburgh

Story and photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Lane, 105th Arlift Wing



Members of the 105th Airlift Wing welcome 26 newly promoted staff sergeants at the non-commissioned officer’s induction ceremony at Stewart Air National Guard Base, January 5, 2019.

STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, N.Y. — The 105th Airlift Wing recognized 26 newly promoted staff sergeants during the fifth annual non-commissioned officer’s induction here January 5, 2019.

Airmen from a variety of career fields were among the attendees who watched as the NCOs were addressed with inspirational words from the keynote speaker, Army Sgt. Maj. Kenisha Lamothe, U.S. Army Garrison West Point command sergeant major.

“This ceremony is important to the newly promoted staff sergeants because it formally identifies their transition from Airmen to supervisors,” said

Master Sgt. Crystal Grafer, the master of ceremonies.

The NCOs recited their creed and charge, which highlighted core values such as integrity, loyalty, dedication, devotion to duty, and leadership.

“Those attributes were emphasized in order to remind all NCOs in attendance that they should hold themselves and their subordinates accountable in order to maintain the Air Force’s respected legacy,” Grafer said.

The Airmen represented all parts of the wing, including the Base Defense, Logistics Readiness, Maintenance and Force Support Squadrons, Communication Flight and Medical Group.

THE JOINT FORCE



Master Sgt. Peyton Knippel, assigned to the 174th Attack Wing, prepares a humvee for a snow storm response mission at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, Syracuse, N.Y. on Jan. 18, 2019. The New York National Guard mobilized more than 550 Airmen and Soldiers for possible missions as a major snow storm approached New York. Photo by Tech Sgt. Barbara Olney, 174th Attack Wing.

Troops Turn Out for Statewide Snow Response

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

LATHAM, N.Y. -- The New York National Guard had nearly 650 Soldiers and Airmen on duty on Saturday, Jan. 19 and Sunday, Jan. 20, as the storm dubbed "Harper" by the Weather Channel hit New York.

With upwards of two feet of snow expected from Saturday to Sunday evening for Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, followed by frigid temperatures, New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo mobilized National Guard members as part of the state's storm preparations.

The governor also directed the New York State Department of Transportation and the Thruway Authority to ban tractor trailers and buses on the entire Thruway system, with the exception of I-95 in Westchester and Bronx counties, and most interstate highways starting midday Saturday and lasting through the storm.

Major General Raymond Shields, the Adjutant General of New York, initially made plans to mobilize 200 Soldiers and Airmen in 20-person immediate response forces located across the state. As taskings from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services came in the number of troops on duty increased to 300, then 450 and finally 640 on Jan. 19.

Fortunately the storm's impact was not as severe as it could have been.

New York City and Long Island saw rain instead of snow and the weather in upstate New York was not as severe as feared.

"It was a vastly different experience in differ-

ent parts of the state. It ranged from 20 inches of snow in some parts of the state to as little as two inches of snow," Cuomo told reporters on the afternoon of Jan. 20.

"We spent days preparing for the incident. We had over 5,000 people who have been deployed. 2,000 pieces of equipment all across the state," Cuomo said. "So it's been a major exercise for government and a major coordination exercise because the state government has worked with county and local governments all across the state."

New York National Guard assets were part of that response and were in position as directed on Saturday as the storm moved into New York.

Each immediate response force team includes 20 Soldiers or Airmen and five Humvees or tactical trucks. The IRFs are capable of providing transportation support to police or other critical personnel, moving key supplies and conducting limited debris clearance.

They were located at the state's five airbases on Long Island, in Newburgh, Scotia, Syracuse and Niagara Falls and at armories in Troy, Binghamton, Farmingdale, Buffalo and Camp Smith in the Hudson Valley.

Two Air National Guard debris clearance teams were ready in Newburgh and Scotia.

Soldiers and Airmen assigned to the immediate responses forces were also stationed at five New York State Police barracks in key locations to provide mobility support to State Troopers.



42nd Infantry Division Headquarters Soldiers prepare vehicles at the Troy armory Jan. 20, 2019 to respond to Winter Storm Harper. Photo by Capt. Jean Marie Kratzer, 42nd Infantry Division.

The Guard also assigned ten Soldiers and three trucks to nine New York State Office of Emergency Management supply locations. Their mission was to be prepared to pack and transport supplies if directed.

Joint Task Force Empire Shield, the New York National Guard security element in New York City also stood up response forces. The task force had 25 vehicles standing by to provide mobility support and also assist in debris removal with chain saw teams.

About 100 Soldiers were assigned to the storm response mission as a contingency.

The Joint Task Force Empire Shield teams were equipped with chain saws so they could conduct more robust debris removal missions.

Trained New York Guard state defense force personnel conducted chain saw training classes for National Guard Soldiers and both Naval Militia and New York Guard personnel provided staff augmentation at various headquarters.

As the storm moved out of New York with no major incidents, the National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were released from duty on the afternoon of Jan. 20, 2019. **gt**



Soldiers assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters' Initial Response Force in Troy, N.Y. clear snow from the armory Jan. 20, 2019 to be prepared to assist local responders during Winter Storm Harper as it passed through New York. The New York National Guard placed some 650 Soldiers and Airmen on duty to provide immediate response forces at locations across the state. Photo by Spc. Trevor Cullen, 42nd Infantry Division.



Spc. Julio Murillo of Delta Company, Joint Task Force Empire Shield, inspects a car on the Verrazano bridge, Staten Island, N.Y., Jan 10, 2019. Murillo and other members of the joint task force were supporting local law enforcement officers with Operation Catch-All, checking vehicles coming onto the bridge.



Spc. Andy Heung, left, and Cpl. Darri Henderson walk through Penn Station in New York City Jan. 14, 2019. Soldiers were patrolling through Penn during a Multi-Agency Super Surge, a mission where multiple law enforcement agencies have a very strong show of Force and work in a collaborative effort to detect, deter and defeat threats.

Soldiers, Airmen Assist NYC Security Missions

Story and photos by Sgt. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters

NEW YORK -- New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen served both above and below ground January 10 and 14 as part of their mission to help law enforcement agencies deter terrorism in New York City.

The Soldiers and Airmen from Joint Task Force-Empire Shield, the National Guard's 700-person New York City security augmentation force, aided New York State Troopers and other law enforcement officers in Operation Catch-All at the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge January 10th.

Then, on the 14th, they took part in a Multi-Agency Super Surge, teaming up with the New York City Police Department, Department of Homeland Security, New York State Police and Amtrak Police underground at Pennsylvania Station in Central Manhattan.

The Multi-Agency Super Surge, known as a MASS, floods critical railroad stations with security personnel as a deterrent. The joint task force Service Members – who serve on state active duty-participate in these on a regular basis.

The Verrazano bridge mission is conducted regularly with members of the New York State Police and the TriBorough Bridge and Tunnel Authority (TBTA).

Nearly 237,000 vehicles cross the bridge every day, said Army National Guard Col. Peter Riley, the task force commander. This means there is a chance one of those 237,000 cars and trucks could have a bomb on board.

As a counter measure, State Police periodically check vehicles. They select the vehicles to examine and the National Guard provides security back up.

“Whenever law enforcement stops a vehicle and inspects it, or if they have a K-9 unit go through, if they have anything suspicious like some explosives, we’re there on overwatch to support them,” Riley explained.

Since September 17–19, 2016, when three bombs exploded and injured 31 people across the city and several unexploded bombs were found, the National Guard task force has worked more closely

with the State Police, Riley said. The Verrazano bridge missions are part of this, he said.

While law enforcement officers searched suspicious looking cars --ones with tinted windows, graffiti or tampered license plates-- Guardsmen kept their eyes open to make sure everyone stayed safe.

Capt. Adam Connolly, the commander of the task force’s Delta Company, said he thought that the bond between the Guardsmen and police has been improving since their integration in January 2016.

“Ever since then, the cohesion built between [the task force] and state entities down here in the city has only increased and improved,” Connolly said.

The MASS on Jan. 14 launched in mid-afternoon at Penn Station.

For the next few hours, more than two dozen Soldiers and Airmen patrolled the station, searching for anything that might be suspicious.

The surges are conducted at least once a month, or around holidays when the possibility of



New York Police Department Officers Tyler Ableism (left) and Mike Schiavone patrol Penn Station in New York City, Jan. 14, 2019. Ableism and Schiavone were on duty for a multi-agency security presence mission.

terrorism is at its highest, Riley explained.

Spc. Sharron Becket said he was glad to be a part of operations like these because of opportunity he has to protect others.

“I do feel like I’m a part of something important,” Becket said. “We hear about officers getting hurt all the time, and for me, if I can be a part of helping an officer stay safe, I’m all for it...I’m aware that there may be some danger to it, but I’m fine with that because I can make sure someone goes home to their family.”

Civil Support Team Trains Local Fire Departments

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

KINGSTON, N.Y. -- The scene was setup like something out of a zombie apocalypse movie.

The setup had a large 150-year-old house in obvious disrepair, unmarked blue trailers with satellite dishes around the perimeter, and people in bright orange HAZMAT suits waving around scanners and speaking in muffled voices.

The Kingston Fire Department HAZMAT Team truck was parked near a blue sedan with a lifeless body in the driver's seat. Moments later several firemen were taken to the hospital exhibiting symptoms of what appeared to be toxic inhalation.

The next call was to the New York National Guard's 2nd Weapons of Mass Destruction- Civil Support Team, or WMD-CST.

That was the exercise scenario given to the Scotia-based 2nd WMD-CST, CST for short, during their training event with the Kingston Fire Department on November 28, 2018.

The CST has 22 full-time Soldiers and Airmen and supports local civil authorities during chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) events throughout the entire state except for Long Island, New York City and Westchester County. That is covered by the 24th CST.

"We're always looking for an opportunity to train with local fire departments," said Lt. Col. Aron Sacchetti, the 2nd CST Commander.

Sacchetti, in command for the past two years, is committed to enhancing the interoper-

ability between military and local agencies during CBRN incidents.

His goal is to train before an event and not meet for the first time when lives are at stake.

Since the CST train with the newest equipment and procedures, local agencies not only get to meet who they'll be working with, but also gain hands-on experience.

According to Staff Sgt. David Hansen, the CST's training non-commissioned officer, a big selling point for local agencies is learning the newest methods for decontamination.

"These events become a 'train-the-trainer' opportunity for smaller agencies that might not have the resources available to send their people across the country every year to learn the newest techniques," Hansen said.


Spc. Sean Murray, a survey team member or 'one of the guys in the orange suits' has only been with the CST four months but can already ap-

preciate the value of varied training scenarios.

"The scenario called for recon on a car that led to an apartment of the bomb maker," Murray said. "We don't usually work with cars during military training and training outside of our comfort zone helps refine our skills; gets us ready for anything that comes at us."

Staff Sgt. Kristin Northrup, a three-year veteran and survey team chief, agreed the ability to adjust on the fly is important to the job, but building the team dynamic between agencies is a critical piece to success.

Northrup noted that the CBRN community is small and the relationships built during training and conferences are key to saving lives.

"I attended an FBI conference on CBRN techniques and ended up responding an actual event a few months later and working with five of the people I met there," Northrup said. "The existing relationship was invaluable." 



Staff Sgt. Kristin Northrup, left, 2nd CST survey team chief, and Spc. Sean Murray, survey team member, move past a first responder vehicle to inspect the contents of a simulated bomb maker vehicle during a hazardous materials exercise in Kingston, N.Y., November 28, 2018.



Top photo: Staff Sgt. Kristin Northrup, left, a survey team chief, and Spc. Sean Murray, a survey team member assigned to the 2nd CST, inspect the contents of a simulated bomb maker's vehicle during a hazardous materials exercise with the City of Kingston Fire Department in Kingston, N.Y., Nov. 28, 2018. Above, Murray undergoes chemical decontamination.

Honors for Missing Korean War Soldier Laid to Rest

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters

SCHUYLERVILLE N.Y.— Sixty-eight years to the day after he was listed as Missing in Action in Korea, New York Army National Guard Soldiers rendered funeral honors for Pfc. John Martin December 2, 2018, as he was laid to rest at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Schuylerville, N.Y.

Martin, age 23 when he was killed, was buried next to his parents with military honors.

Martin was a WWII Marine Corps veteran and a Soldier in the New York Army National Guard before he was killed while fighting with the 7th Infantry Division around Chosin Reservoir in December 1950.

Heavily outnumbered, Soldiers of the 7th Division and Marines of the 1st Marine Division were attacked by thousands of Chinese Soldiers. The fighting was confused and deadly as the Americans fought their way to the Korean coast. 4,894 Soldiers and Marines were listed as missing in action during and after the fighting.

Martin was declared missing in Korea on December 2, 1950.

Martin was among several hundred Soldiers hastily buried, but never identified. After the end of hostilities, those remains were inaccessible to Army investigators.

Throughout those 68 years, however, Martin's family kept his memory and his parents placed a headstone in the family cemetery.

Members of the New York National Guard's Honor Guard were joined by Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the Adjutant General for New York, along with local Soldiers and leaders for the military honors for Martin's final return home.

"The service was unique in its own way," said New York Army National Guard Spc. Emanuel

Negron an Honor Guard member. "The family can finally have closure. I have been a part of many modified full honors and by far this one hit home."

The seven Soldiers in the detail provided modified full military honors for the burial of Pfc. Martin, with pall bearers in the cemetery, a bugler sounding Taps and a firing detail.

The experience of bringing home a Korean War Soldier made the experience unforgettable, said 2nd Lt. Lasheri Mayes, Honor Guard Officer in Charge.

"Receiving Pfc. Martin during the honorable transfer of remains made this service unique for me, since this is such a rare occurrence," Mayes said.

Shields presented the folded flag from Martin's coffin to the family.

"There's something about being out on the field and seeing the family get true closure," Negron said. "There is no better feeling in the world than this."

Martin enlisted in April 1950, and deployed as a medic with the Army's 32nd Infantry Regiment.

"He was wounded trying to help other wounded Soldiers and he died there," said Tamaris Dolton, John Martin's niece. "It is a complete and total relief to know that he did do good; he didn't die in vain."

Martin's name did not appear on any prisoner of war lists, and no returning prisoners of war reported that he had been captured. Based on this information, he was declared deceased as of Dec. 31, 1951. In 1956, his remains were declared non-recoverable.

"Grandma never stopped talking about him," Dolton said. "She died in 1973, and until then, she just waited."



Soldiers in the Honor Guard fold the U.S. Flag during a funeral service for Pfc. John Martin in Schuylerville, N.Y., Dec. 2, 2018. Martin had gone missing in action during the Korean War at the battle of Chosin Reservoir. His family received his body after 68 years as listed missing. Photo by Sgt. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.

In September 2001, during the military's 25th Joint Recovery Operation, a burial site at the Chosin Reservoir, in the vicinity where Martin fought, was excavated.

His remains were recovered and brought to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) laboratory for identification.

To identify Martin's remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used DNA analysis, anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence.

His remains were confirmed on September 24, 2018.

Martin's parents, two sisters, three brothers and two nephews have already passed away. Surviving family now includes five nieces and five nephews; as well as 20 grandnieces and grandnephews, including the latest Martin family member to serve in uniform: his great-grandnephew, Airman Schuyler Dolton.

Dolton served as the casualty escort, bringing his great-granduncle home to family and friends.

"It's like a dream come true for



Maj. Gen. Raymond Shields, the Adjutant General of New York, presents the U.S. Flag to Tamaris Dolton, niece of Korean War casualty Pfc. John Martin in Schuylerville, N.Y., Dec. 2, 2018. Photo by Sgt. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.

all of us," Dolton said. "I will never forget this as long as I shall live."

"I still cannot believe what an honor it is to be a part of the honor guard," Negron said. "It is services like these that remind me why I serve and why I stand for the flag. It is always an honor to serve those who served," he said. **gt**



Left, 1st Lt. Paul Kelly and 1st Lt. Jessica Persoon, both assigned to the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion, work together to negotiate the “river crossing” obstacle at the United States Military Academy Leadership Reaction Course at West Point, N.Y. on Dec. 8 2018. At right, officers and noncommissioned officers work together on the “river crossing” obstacle. The training was designed so 642nd senior leaders could test their problem solving and decision-making skills while learning how to work better together.

Soldiers Test Problem-Solving Skills

Story and photos by Sgt. Mathew Kratts, 642nd Aviation Support Battalion

WEST POINT, N.Y.— Sixteen Officers and NCOs from the New York National Guard’s 642nd Aviation Support Battalion spent their December drill weekend honing teamwork and problem solving skills at the United States Military Academy’s Leadership Reaction Course.

The goal according to Lt. Col. Shawn Hatch, the battalion’s commander, was to get to know his battalion staff and leadership while also practicing skills to lead high performing teams.

“Coming in as the new BC (Battalion Commander), I wanted a way to get to know my commanders and staff, develop a team and camaraderie between all individuals, and have a venue to teach and reinforce some leadership skills,” Hatch said.

The leadership reaction course, which is located behind the Thayer Hotel West Point, consists of 5 obstacles with a scenario, a designated leader and a time limit of 14 minutes to accomplish the mission.

The group was broken up into 2 teams of 8 which comprised of 642nd company commanders, first sergeants and battalion staff members.

Hatch, in civilian life a representative for a local ministry at West Point and his wife, Marie Lou Hatch (a West Point Alumnus) coordinated

and oversaw the exercise.

Each obstacle required the team to get from point A to point B but differed on how to accomplish the mission.

Three of the obstacles required planks that were used to get the team across a raging river or to deliver ammo cans to a depleted platoon. Some of the planks were different sizes which required the designated leader to plan and adjust as team members were climbing across.

“It definitely exceeded my expectations,” said Master Sgt. Joel Beardsley, the 642nd battalion operations NCO.

Beardsley recognized that each obstacle was unique. “Just because you try and complete an obstacle one way, doesn’t mean you try to solve it the same way on a similar obstacle,” he said.

One of the harder obstacles involved climbing over a wall during a “jail break” in which the scenario required noise discipline. Hatch would even freeze the team in mid-air as a “guard” walked by and required only whispering to communicate the plan.

According to 1st Lt. Jessica Persoon, the battalion safety officer, the most challenging part was leading her peers.

“This is the first time being in a leadership position in front of some of my peers, so it’s natural to fear looking incompetent,” she said

At the start of each obstacle the team would appoint a new leader to develop a plan and execute.

Persoon said the course overall was fun and had some teachable moments.

“On the last obstacle the goal was to get everyone across and we ended up taking an ammo can with us when we weren’t supposed to, so that was a good teaching point, make sure you actually understand the commander’s intent...so take the time and pay attention to details,” she explained

Once the 14 minutes were up at each exercise Hatch and his wife would conduct an after action review (AAR).

“The whole exercise’s success was demonstrated by the discussion and learning that occurred during and after the AAR’s,” Hatch said.

Hatch said the best moments were watching the light bulb come on when the team worked through the obstacle.

“I could see the teams develop in the short time we were on the obstacles. It is a great feeling to see the ‘light come on’ when a leadership theory becomes practical and applicable through the exercise,” he said. **gt**

Cavalry Troops get a Lift from Rochester CH-47s

Story and photos by Tech Sgt. Ryan Campbell, 107th Attack Wing

YOUNGSTOWN, N.Y.— Two CH-47 Chinook aircrews of the New York Army National Guard gave a lift to troopers from a Buffalo-based cavalry squadron during cold-weather training at the National Guard training site in Youngstown, N.Y., Jan. 12, 2019.

The helicopters assigned to Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, flew in for infiltration and exfiltration with Charlie Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment. It was a chance for both units to perfect skills ahead of larger scale training in the future.

“The main reason for the training was to support C Troop Soldiers on air assault operations in preparation for annual training,” said Chief Warrant Officer Two Aaron Taylor, a CH-47 pilot. “The mission was a success, fire teams got several rotations of exfil, and that led directly into their situational training exercise lanes.”

For the aviation units, there is great value in working with the wide variety of units of the Army National Guard. Each type of unit will have specific uses for aviation that pilots need to be ready for, Taylor said.

“Each unit carries a different objective to the table,” said Taylor. “Whether it is dropping infantry and scouts into forward areas, sling loading an M777 howitzer and their crews to their fire bases, or transporting support personnel around the battlefield.”

One of the objectives for C Troop was to take advantage of the western New York weather to conduct cold weather training. With temperatures approaching single digits, there was a bitter chill on land and air.

“Today we are conducting cold weather training and getting to practice aerial reconnaissance,” said Sgt. Joshua Aponte, an assistant team leader in C Troop. “It’s the first time we’ve been able to do it in the winter which is phenomenal for our job because we usually never get to come out to the field when there’s snow.”

Weather conditions also posed unique challenges to the pilots and crew of the Chinooks.

“One condition encountered during the mission was whiteout conditions in the landing zone,” said Taylor. “It makes the pilots rely on cockpit instruments to land instead of visually looking outside.”

It isn’t very often that we get to train with Chinooks, Aponte said. Commanders said that



Soldiers assigned to Charlie Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, from Buffalo, N.Y. rush to load a CH-47 Chinook helicopter from Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation based in Rochester during training at the National Guard training site in Youngstown, N.Y., Jan. 12, 2019.

would change and already this early in the year we are flying, Aponte said.

Getting unique training like this is monumental in building Soldier confidence that they are developing into the best infantrymen possible, even as traditional Guardsmen, he said.

“It means everything to me,” Aponte said. “Especially being National Guard, where people don’t think you get to do this type of training.”

With this new experience for some, pilots and crew chiefs ensured Soldiers had the knowledge needed to be successful. Many were flying for the first time, but got the hang of it.

“They were extremely informative,” said Aponte. “As soon as we were able to talk to them they asked who had never flown before and told them exactly what they were going to do and went into great detail about emergencies, so when you went on there you had a warm and fuzzy, even if it was your first time.”

Before the day ended, it fulfilled many hopes for the troopers for what they wanted out of their military service. You can see the affect it has on the younger Solders, Aponte said.

“They loved it, one of my newer guys said



A CH-47 Chinook flown by Chief Warrant Officers Two C.J. Scott and Fred Wilder makes an approach for landing during tactical training with the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry comes at the National Guard's Youngstown Training Site, Jan. 12, 2019.

this was one of his goals when he joined the Army Guard,” Aponte said. “It makes you want to come to drill. We have a guy whose contract is about to end, and he said he might reenlist because of this.”

For the aircrews, the training increases their experience as a crew. And it is also a chance to train with old friends, Taylor said.

“It’s good to train with the squadron I originate from,” Taylor added. “Seeing it as a non-commissioned officer, and now as a pilot allowed me to help improve my old comrades to stay ready for the fight.” **gt**

Chinooks During Winter Training in Western NY



A CH-47 Chinook assigned to Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation, from Rochester, N.Y., and flown by Chief Warrant Officer Three John Hermanson and Chief Warrant Officer Two Aaron Taylor off-loads Soldiers assigned to Charlie Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment from Buffalo, N.Y. during air assault training at the Youngstown, N.Y., training site Jan. 12, 2019.

"One of my newer guys said this was one of his goals when he joined the Army Guard. It makes you want to come to drill."

- Sgt. Joshua Aponte, C Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry



Soldiers assigned to Charlie Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment, provide security for a CH-47 Chinook assigned to Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, after landing at the National Guard training site at Youngstown, N.Y., Jan. 12, 2019. The 126th provided infiltration and exfiltration support to C Troop during their cold-weather training exercises.

Signal Battalion Trains with Partners in Egypt

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

LATHAM, N.Y. -- Eleven Soldiers from the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion provided real-world signal communications for U.S. Forces in support of Operation Bright Star 2018 at Mohamed Naguib Military Base near Alexandria, Egypt, from Sept. 8-20, 2018.

The Guardsmen, who deployed to Kuwait in May 2018 and returned in February 2019, joined nearly 800 U.S. military service members and seven partner nations for an exercise designed to enhance regional security and cooperation, and promote interoperability in irregular warfare scenarios.

Alongside the U.S., participating forces came from Greece, Jordan, Italy, France, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom and United Arab Emirates.

"Providing signal support to Bright Star 18 was a tremendous opportunity for the 101 Expeditionary Signal Battalion to be part of U.S. CENTCOM's efforts at building and maintaining regional alliances," said Lt. Col. Ian Seagriff, the 101st Signal Battalion Commander.

Bright Star 2018, a biennial exercise which first took place in 1980, builds on the strategic security relationship between Egypt and the United States, which plays a leading role in counterterrorism, regional security, and efforts to combat the spread of extremism.

According to CENTCOM, the exercise included a Theater Amphibious Combat Rehearsal, a coastal patrol boat missile and gunnery exercises, as well as command post and field training exercises.

The trainings were aimed at exchanging experience and coordination between the forces participating in the exercises, standardizing concepts and improving skills of participants, as well as developing methods of operations and training on counterterrorism and non-traditional warfare.

"I enjoyed working with the Egyptian forces and other allied nations along with broadening my knowledge on the equipment," said Spc. Leighann Soto, a SNAP (SIPPR NIPPR Access Point) Team Operator with the battalion.

"My experience was absolutely amazing," Leighann said.

Along with the benefits of interoperability, it also gave junior Soldiers and leaders an opportunity to hone various skills developed over the last 18 months leading to deployment, noted Seagriff.

"We stayed flexible, overcame obstacles in the dynamic environment, and completed the mission successfully," said Capt. Elissa Ho, a signal team officer in charge with the 101st Signal Battalion.

In addition to the benefits of tactical training in a joint environment, Soldiers also gained exposure to other cultures and visited world heritage sites.

"Along the way, we were able to immerse ourselves in Egyptian culture and food, and at the end of the mission, we were rewarded with the chance to see the Great Pyramids of Giza and tour Alexandria," Ho said. **gt**



101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion Soldiers Sgt. Abel Burgos-Davila, left, and Spc. Terence Cheung work to assemble the pedestal for an Army secure and nonsecure access point communications terminal at Mohammed Naguib Military Base, Egypt in support of Operation Bright Star Sept. 3, 2018. Photo by Sr. Airman Amanda Stanford, U.S. Air Force.



Members of the 101st Signal Battalion Bright Star Team in Egypt. From left, Staff Sgt. Justin Wolcott, Spc. Terence Cheung, Spc. Shaquille Daley, Sgt. Abel Burgos-Davila, Spc. Leigh Ann Soto, Sgt. Deshawn Thomas and Capt. Elissa Ho pose in front of their communications access point terminal while deployed to Mohammed Naguib Military Base, Egypt on Sept. 3, 2018. Photo by Sr. Airman Amanda Stanford, U.S. Air Force.

Medevac Soldiers head to Afghanistan

Story and photos by Sgt. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Forty-six New York Soldiers began 2019 by saying goodbye to family members, as they left for a 10-month deployment to Afghanistan on January 2.

At a farewell ceremony held at the unit flight facility in Rochester, the Soldiers from Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 171st General Support Aviation Battalion heard from their division and battalion leadership before departing for mobilization training at Fort Bliss, Texas.

The casualty evacuation unit will train at Fort Bliss for a month before heading to Afghanistan. Once in Afghanistan, they will provide casualty evacuation to American and coalition forces.

Brig. Gen. Joseph Biehler, the 42nd Infantry Division Deputy Commander for Operations, thanked the Soldiers for their sacrifice. He also thanked the Soldier's families for the sacrifices they make while their Soldier deploys.

He promised that the New York National Guard would be there to support their families while the Soldiers were gone.

The Wednesday, Jan. 2, ceremony was the last chance for the Soldiers and their families to be together before the deployment. Three helicopters and their crews left the Army Aviation Support Facility Thursday morning, Jan. 3, for Fort Bliss. The rest of the Soldiers departed later.

The unit is flying UH-60 medical evacuation helicopters which are already on the ground in Afghanistan.

In 2012-13, another 43 members of the unit deployed to Afghanistan. Working alongside members of the Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, and Missouri Army National Guard, the Soldiers conducted 471 missions and transported 527 personnel in Helmand Province, then known as Company F, 1st Battalion, 169th General Support Aviation Battalion.

Earlier this year, the unit deployed two helicopters and crews to the Carolinas in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence in September 2018.

Maj. Jeffrey Kneer, the company commander, said he thought the deployment would affect every Soldier differently depending on their family situation.


"Once you have children, and have more responsibilities...it affects everybody differently,"



Soldiers of Charlie Company of 1st Battalion, 171st General Support Aviation stand in formation during their Yellow Ribbon Departure Ceremony, Rochester, N.Y., Jan. 2, 2019.

Kneer said.

Sgt. First Class Stephen Tschiderer, a flight medic who has previously deployed, was saying goodbye to his two sons. Despite this, he said he was proud and ready to deploy again because he would be assisting other Soldiers.

"...on people's worst day, it's our best day," Tschiderer said. "We need to go out and do it so they can come home to their friends and family." 

"...on people's worst day, it's our best day,"

-- Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Tschiderer, flight medic, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 171st General Support Aviation (MEDEVAC)



Two UH-60A/L Black Hawk helicopters depart from Biggs Army Airfield in route to a medical evaluation exercise, Fort Bliss, Texas, Feb. 1, 2019. National Guard aviation units from Wyoming, Mississippi, New Jersey and New York have been training for three weeks, evaluated by Soldiers of 1st Armored Division and First Army Division West. Photo by Sgt. Christopher Hernandez, 210th Regional Support Group, U.S. Army Reserve.

Artillery Troops Honor WWII Vet

Story by Sgt. Richard Mayfield, New York Guard

NEW WINDSOR, N.Y. – Members of the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery honored one of their own from World War II during the annual St. Barbara's Ball here Dec. 7, 2018.

94-year-old former Army Pfc. Charles A. Brown, an Olean, N.Y. resident, who served in the 258th Field Artillery in Europe in 1944 and 1945, was honored with the Military Order of St. Barbara during the dinner.

The Ancient Order of St. Barbara is presented to Soldiers who have served in the field of artillery and represent those values of dignity and self-sacrifice that St. Barbara demonstrated even unto death, explained Lt. Col. Marc Lindemann, commander of the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery.

St. Barbara has been the patron saint of artillery since the middle ages.

The battalion gathers annually to present the Order of St. Barbara to those Soldiers who have contributed most to the Field Artillery career field in the New York Army National Guard.

Brown said it was an honor and privilege to be reunited with Soldiers from his battalion after 74 years.

"Receiving this award at the St. Barbara's Ball, I felt like a king at the White House and the men and women of the 258th are sharp and professional," Brown said. "I will remember this night always."

When Brown served in the 258th Field Artillery, the battalion was equipped with self-propelled 155mm howitzers. It was one of only five such units in the entire theater.

"The speed, accuracy and devastating power of American Artillery won confidence and admiration from the troops it supported and inspired fear and respect in their enemy," wrote General Dwight D. Eisenhower on the impact of artillery in the war.

For the battalion, the presentation to Pfc. Charlie Brown was the centerpiece of the evening, Lindemann said.

"Members of the Ancient Order stand above their brethren of the Honorable Order in terms of conspicuous lifetime service on behalf of the United States Army or Marine Corps Field Artillery. The men and women of the New York National Guard salute Private First Class Brown and congratulate him on this outstanding

honor," he said during the award presentation.

Brown was drafted into military service after graduating high school in 1943. Following his basic training at Fort Bragg, N.C., Brown qualified as a cannon crew-member and assigned to the 1st Battalion, 258 Field Artillery. He deployed in early 1944 aboard the RMS Queen Mary to Scotland for the coming invasion of Europe.

Brown and the regiment landed on Utah Beach in Normandy on July 1-2, 1944, moving to their first battle positions near Saint Comedumont. The following day, Brown, assigned to the battalion fire direction center, recorded the



Lt. Col. Marc Lindemann and Command Sgt. Maj. Edwin Garris, commander and command sergeant major of the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, present the Military Order of St. Barbara, the patron saint of Field Artillery, to Army Pfc. Charles A. Brown, in New Windsor, N.Y., December 7, 2018. Brown served in the 258th Field Artillery during WWII. Photo by Capt. Mark Getman, New York Guard.



Lt. Col. Peter Mehling, former commander of the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, congratulates 94-year-old World War II veteran Pfc. Charles A. Brown during the battalion annual St. Barbara Award dinner in New Windsor, N.Y., December 7, 2018. Photo by Capt. Mark Getman, New York Guard.

first fire mission of the war for the 258th Field Artillery.

Brown fought through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. His last day of combat was May 4th, 1945 outside Magdeburg, approximately 150 kilometers southwest of Berlin.

In 302 days of combat, Brown and the rest of the 258th Field Artillery had fought in four

countries, crossed nine rivers, destroyed 34 German pillboxes, and fired a total of 33,902 rounds.

Brown's contributions to the accomplishments of the 258th Field Artillery continued this year with his participation in the fielding of new guns for the battalion, the 155 mm towed howitzer, the M777A2.

Brown joined the battalion during annual training in May 2018 at Fort Drum, N.Y., to pull a lanyard on the first round of the new howitzer for the battalion.

"They made me feel like I was still a part of the outfit," Brown said of the experience. "Receiving the invitation to fire the first shell from the new howitzer at Fort Drum was a very proud moment for me."

"Pfc. Brown continues to be a credit to the U.S. Army, the Field Artillery community and the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment," Lindemann said. "The Ancient order of Saint Barbara is the highest honor that an artilleryman can achieve. This was very well deserved."

The battalion also presented the medal to eight additional Soldiers, recognizing their service in field artillery. They were: Capt. Steven Kerr, Command Sgt. Maj. Edwin Garris, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Robert Taylor, 1st Sgt. Jason Ericksen, Sgts. 1st Class Jamar Griffin and James Reynoso, and Staff Sgts. Edwin Caba and Michael Malave.**gt**

NY Soldiers Prepare for Army Combat Fitness Test

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

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, N.Y., — One hundred and eighteen National Guard Soldiers from eight states tried out the Army's new Army Combat Fitness Test during a four-day training session at Camp Smith November 26-29, 2018.

The training was hosted by the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation, selected to conduct pilot fitness tests during the 2019 federal fiscal year.

The goal of the training was twofold, according to Staff Sgt. Jessica Smiley, a National Guard Bureau liaison from the Center for Initial Military Training.

First, the units will conduct the ACFT three times this fiscal year to track Soldier progress and compare overall scoring with the proposed grading.

Second, the units will train and certify graders who can go back to their formations and train other Soldiers to administer the ACFT.

The Camp Smith session was designed to produce certified graders for Army National Guard units. Soldiers from New York, Rhode

Island, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, Ohio and Kansas participated.

Smiley's job for the next year is to work with Mobile Training Teams (MTT) as they field test the ACFT at pilot National Guard units across the country.

Camp Smith was Smiley's third site-visit.

So far, she said, all the initial resistance to changes in the test turns to acceptance after four days of briefings and hands-on training.

"Soldiers are more receptive after going through the training," Smiley said. "When they understand the 'why,' they quickly transition from scared to ready."

The National Guard Soldiers react the same way as active Soldiers do when they learn more about the new fitness tests, said Staff Sgt. Matthew Rondo, an active duty Soldier who is part of the mobile training team. He's already worked with three active duty installations.

"I love being a part of making a positive change in the views of Soldiers," Rondo said. "Once we help them see the purpose of the test and their ability to complete it they start having fun."

The Army's fitness test is an annual requirement for Soldiers. The new tests goes from three events in the current Army Physical Fitness Test to six events in the ACFT.

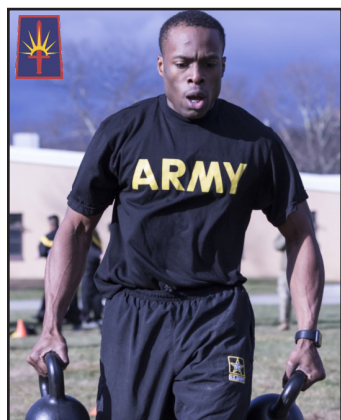
The six events are Strength Deadlift; Standing Power Throw; Hand-raised Push-ups; 250-meter Sprint, Drag and Carry; Leg Tuck and a Two-mile Run.

The events are designed to test areas of physicality that are important in combat scenarios.

1st Sgt. Glenn Waldinger, the senior non-commissioned officer for



Sgt. Nicholas Zito, assigned to B Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, drags a 90-pound sled during Army Combat Fitness Test grader certification at Camp Smith, N.Y., Nov. 29, 2018.



Staff Sgt. Daniel London, a Soldier assigned to 4th Finance Detachment, carries 40-pound kettle bells during Army Combat Fitness Test grader certification training at Camp Smith, N.Y., Nov. 29, 2018.

E Company, 3-142nd, was one of the participants in the test and was surprised with the level of intensity each event required to complete.

After completing the events, Waldinger said he was most excited to realize the diagnostic nature this test will have on the physical readiness of his Soldiers.

"It'll find your weak areas, exploit them, and force you to fix them," Waldinger said.

Staff Sgt. Victor Smith, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 133rd Quartermaster Company, typically earns the highest fitness scores in his unit and agreed the new test heightens a Soldier's understanding of their strengths and weaknesses.

"I do routine workouts all the time at the gym," Smith said. "This test is showing me my weak areas

and where I need to start training differently to be effective."

The holistic nature of the ACFT is one of the biggest changes and training techniques and equipment was a concern for most Soldiers, according to Rondo.

His advice to everyone is to start training now. There are alternate trainings in the back of FM 7-22 and you don't need a gym membership to get ready.

Command Sgt. Maj. David Piwowski, the New York Army National Guard's senior enlisted advisor, observed the training and attempted several events himself.

"After seeing this, I'm even more convinced that this is achievable for our Soldiers and will help make us a better force," Piwowski said.

gt



Hell Fighters return to NYC with Heroes Welcome

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

NEW YORK -- The African-American Soldiers of the New York National Guard's 15th Infantry Regiment didn't get a parade when they left for World War I in 1917.

There were New York City parades for the Guardsmen of the 27th Division, the newly formed 42nd Division and the draftee Soldiers of the 77th Division.

But when the commander of the 15th Infantry asked to march with the 42nd – nicknamed the Rainbow Division—he was reportedly told that “black is not a color of the rainbow” as part of the no.

But on Feb 17, 1919, when those 2,900 Soldiers came home as the “Harlem Hell Fighters” of the 369th Infantry Regiment; New York City residents, both white and black, packed the streets as they paraded up Fifth Avenue.

“Fifth Avenue Cheers Negro Veterans”, said the headline in the New York Times.

Descending headlines announced “Men of 369th back from fields of valor acclaimed by thousands. Fine show of discipline. Harlem mad with joy over the return of its own. ‘Black Death’ hailed as conquering hero.”

“Theirs is the finest of records,” the New York Tribune wrote in its coverage. “The entire regiment was awarded the Croix de Guerre. Under fire for 191 days they never lost a prisoner or a foot of ground.”

For that day, Soldiers the French nicknamed “Men of Bronze” were heroes in their hometown.

In the early 20th Century black Americans could not join the New York National Guard. There were African American regiments in the Army, but none in New York.

In 1916 New York's Governor authorized the creation of the 15th New York Infantry to be manned by African-Americans — with



Above, Sgt. Henry Johnson waves to well-wishers during the 369th Infantry Regiment parade in New York City on February 17, 1919 to welcome the unit home. Johnson was the first American to win the French military's highest honor during WWI. At right, residents cram sidewalks, roofs and fire escapes to see the 369th Infantry Regiment march up Fifth Avenue. Opposite page, the color guard of the 369th parades up Fifth Ave. The Soldiers marched seven miles through Manhattan to Harlem. National Archives photos.



mostly white officers— and headquartered in Harlem.

When the National Guard went to war in 1917 so did the 15th New York. But when the unit showed up in Spartanburg, South Carolina to train, the Soldiers met discrimination at every turn.

To get his men out of South Carolina the commander, Col. William Hayward, pushed for his unit to go to France as soon as possible. So in December 1917, before most American Soldiers, the Harlem men were in France.

At first they unloaded supply ships.

But the French Army needed soldiers and the U.S. Army was ambivalent about black troops. So the 15th New York, now renamed the 369th Infantry, was sent to fight under French command.

In March 1918 the 369th was in combat. The American commander, General John J. Pershing restricted press reports on Soldiers and units under his command, but the French Army did not.

When Privates Henry Johnson and Needham Roberts won the

French Croix de Guerre for fighting off a German patrol it was big news in the States. A country hungry for war news and American heroes discovered the 369th.

When they returned to Hoboken, New Jersey on Feb. 10, 1919, the Mayor's Committee of Welcome began planning the party.

On Monday, Feb. 17, the Soldiers traveled by ferry from Long Island to East 34th Street.

They marched up Fifth Avenue and passed a reviewing stand that included Governor Al Smith at Sixtieth Street. The official parade route covered seven miles from 23rd Street to 145th Street and Lennox Avenue in Harlem.

“The negro soldiers were astonished at the hundreds of thousands who turned out to see them and New Yorkers, in their turn, were mightily impressed by the magnificent appearance of these fighting men,” the New York Times reported.

“Swinging up the avenue, keeping a step spring with the swagger of men proud of themselves and

their organization, their rows of bayonets glancing in the sun, dull-painted steel basins on their heads, they made a spectacle that might justify pity for the Germans and explain why the Boches gave them the title of the “Blutdurstig schwarze manner” or “Bloodthirsty Black men,” the Times wrote.

Sgt. Henry Johnson rode in a car because he had a “silver plate in his foot” as a result of wounds.

“He stood up in the car and clutched a great bouquet of lilies an admirer had handed him,” the Tribune wrote about Johnson. “Waving this offering in one hand and his overseas hat in the other, the ebony hero's way up Fifth Avenue was a veritable triumph.”

When the 369th reached Harlem the welcome grew even louder, the New York Sun reported.

“I saw the allied parade in Paris and thought that was about the biggest thing that had ever happened, but this had it stopped,” Lt. James Reese Europe, commander of the 369th Band, told the New York Sun as the party ran down. **gt**



Senior Airman Blaine Moore, a joint terminal attack controller assigned to the 274th Air Support Operations Squadron, 107th Attack Wing, New York Air National Guard, uses a Type 163 laser to observe targets as he prepares to call in air strikes from A-10 Thunderbolt IIs from the 124th Fighter Wing, Idaho Air National Guard, during live-fire training scenarios at Fort Drum, N.Y., Sept. 20, 2018.

274th Air Support Operations Partners with Idaho A-10s

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

FORT DRUM, N.Y. — More than 12 Airmen assigned to the 274th Air Support Operations Squadron, New York Air National Guard, called in live fire from A-10 Thunderbolt IIs during training scenarios at Ft. Drum, Sept. 18-20, 2018.

To meet training requirements, the 124th Fighter Wing, Gowen Field Air National Guard Base, Idaho, provided four of the aircraft for the joint terminal attack controllers (JTACs) to train with.

JTACs serve as the air to ground liaison for providing effective close air support on the battlefield.

With the A-10 Thunderbolt 30mm rotary cannons, white phosphorus rockets and 500 pound bombs at their disposal, the JTACs coordinated several attacks on stationary targets.

“We were controlling close air support, we had A-10s overhead,” said Senior Airman Blaine Moore, a JTAC assigned to the 274th ASOS. “We were being a liaison on the ground to coordinate with the pilots so they could deliver close air support on enemy targets.”

The targets may not have been truly enemies, but to train as they fight is essential for keeping their skills sharp. On a battlefield, it is a JTAC that is going to ensure that air support delivers the desired results.

“This type of training is extremely important for us because it’s hands on training,” said Moore. “It’s what we’re actually going to be doing downrange so that when the time comes and we have to save and protect friendly ground forces, we can coordinate and provide these ordinances in a safe manner.”

Playing such a vital role on the battlefield, the Airman of the 274th ASOS spend countless days perfecting these skills. Success for them is measured in their ability to save and protect others.

“Our role is extremely crucial in a down-range environment,” said Moore. “Without us on the ground to liaison with the assets in the air and the ground commander, there is not necessarily a connection between the two.”

A JTAC is specially trained to be able to

communicate with the various aircraft of the U.S. military that provide air support. They plan and coordinate missions to have ground targets engaged, and then control the aircraft to execute the mission. U.S. and coalition forces can utilize JTACs in ways that can drastically change the face of a battle.

“Any chance we get, we take full advantage of it and take our training to next level,” said Moore, describing the opportunity to train with live fire from aircraft. “We were in full scenario the entire time utilizing every piece of equipment that we possibly could, that we don’t get to use outside of a firing range.”

The week of training at Ft. Drum ended as a success with all training goals achieved. For the Airmen of the 274th ASOS, the job may not be easy but it is exactly how they want to serve their country.

“It feels awesome, it’s a lot of hard work but it’s very rewarding,” said Moore. **gt**



Airmen assigned to the 274th Air Support Operations Squadron, 107th Attack Wing, observe A-10 Thunderbolt IIs from the 124th Fighter Wing, Idaho Air National Guard, conduct a show of force during live-fire training scenarios at Fort Drum, N.Y., Sept. 20, 2018.



Top photo, an A-10 Thunderbolt from the 124th Fighter Wing, Idaho Air National Guard, attack targets called in by Airmen assigned to the 274th Air Support Operations Squadron at Fort Drum September 19. At center, Lt. Dillon Meegan, an air liaison officer, and 1st Lt. William Boddy, a joint terminal attack controller assigned to the 274th Air Support Operations Squadron, observe live-fire training. Above, Airman 1st Class Eric Hansen, a joint terminal attack controller prepares to call in an air strike from an A-10 during live-fire training at Fort Drum, N.Y., Sept. 19, 2018.

105th Blood Drive Highlights those Saved

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Julio Olivencia, 105th Airlift Wing



Airmen assigned to the 105th Airlift Wing marked the final blood drive of the year with a visit from a local blood recipient at Stewart Air National Guard Base Dec. 7, 2018. Airmen from across the base lined up to donate and meet with 13-year-old Isabella Munoz

STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, N.Y. -- Airmen assigned to the 105th Airlift Wing marked the final blood drive of 2018 with a visit from a local blood recipient at Stewart Air National Guard Base December 7, 2018.

Airmen from across the base lined up to donate and meet with 13-year-old Isabella Munoz. Donated blood kept Munoz alive when she had to undergo a series of heart surgeries earlier last year.

Chief Master Sgt. Mark Cozzupoli, the command chief of the 105th Airlift Wing, said he wants to put a face to donations to show Airmen that their donations really matter.

"It means so much more to us to be able to donate blood, give that gift of life, but the fact that we know most of our donations are going to people that are in our community, in our local area, it's doubly important to us to give back," Cozzupoli said.

Munoz received more than a dozen blood transfusions this year after having open-heart surgery in January and again in March when she received a heart transplant.

Munoz's mother, Kristin Munoz, spent 83 days in the hospital with her daughter during

this time.

She saw first hand the importance of donated blood while she was there. When a split-second decision had to be made for a child, the doctors and staff were able to act quickly because of the supply of blood at the hospital.

"You would watch them run out and they would have access to the blood that was needed in seconds, in minutes, and that saved a lot of kids lives on that floor," Kristin said.

"When it's your own kid that needs that blood, it changes your perspective," She added Tech. Sgt. Sheila Fleming, a regular blood donor, had her own experience with blood donations when her own child required them. She said it was good for Airmen to see the impact they can have on another person's life through donations.

"I think it helps a lot [to see the blood recipient]," Fleming said. "It's an eye-opener.

Munoz was grateful to the men and women of the 105th and stressed that the donations are important. **gt**



Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the Adjutant General for New York, visited the 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart Air National Guard Base December 19, 2018. Shields spoke to Airmen emphasizing his priorities of manning, individual readiness and availability to conduct civil support operations.

TAG Visits Newburgh Airmen

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Julio Olivencia, 105th Airlift Wing

STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, N.Y. — Maj. Gen. Raymond Shields, the 54th Adjutant General for the State of New York, visited Airmen assigned to the 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart Air National Guard Base, New York Dec. 19, 2018.

Shields said he wanted to talk with Airmen and see where he could help them overcome challenges.

"I already had a pretty good understanding of what goes on at the air wings," Shields said. "I'm coming out as the new adjutant general just to meet Airmen and to hear about the issues that they're facing"

Looking toward the future, Shields emphasized his three priorities of manning, readiness and availability to conduct civil support operations. He would like manning to be over 100 percent, have units focus on their readiness to support federal missions and be prepared to be called on for homeland response.

He said the New York Air National Guard and the 105th plays a big role in that response.

"The Air National Guard is a critical component of the New York military forces and a very large response capability when we have civil support response operations in support of the governor and during domestic operations," Shields said.

Shields toured the base with wing leadership, meeting with Airmen along the way and presenting some with coins.

This was Shields' first official visit since he took command October. 1, 2018. **gt**



Spouses of 106th Rescue Wing members exit a C-130P/N King aircraft during a spouse flight at the 106th Rescue Wing in Westhampton Beach, N.Y., Sept. 8, 2018. The spouse flights were a part of the wing's Family Day festivities.

106th Rescue Wing 'Spouse Flight' Takes Off

Story and photos by Airman 1st Class Dan Farrell, 106th Rescue Wing

FRANCIS S. GABRESKI AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Westhampton Beach, N.Y. --The 106th Rescue Wing added Spouse Flights to its annual Family Day festivities at Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base on Sept. 8, 2018.

The wing allowed Guardsmen to invite their spouses to take flights over Long Island aboard an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter or an HC-130P/N King aircraft.

The Spouse Flight was the first in several years, according to Maj. Matthew Forbes, a pilot assigned to the 101st Rescue Squadron, who helped coordinate the event. Wing Commander Col. Michael W. Bank prioritized spouse flights to show families what their military members help accomplish every day.

"Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force sent out a Notice to Airmen titled 'Expectations of a Successful Command Team.' The four main points they wrote about were mission, culture, family and fun," said wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Hewson. "Our command team's spouse flight initiative give us the opportunity to bring families to our wing and give them a firsthand experience of what our

Airmen do every day."

Tech. Sgt. Daniel J. Catapano, an electronic warfare systems specialist, loved having his wife experience what he does on a day to day basis.

"I think this is the most amazing thing this base has done in a while for families," Catapano said, "to show them what we do in the most coolest way possible."

Catapano's wife, Kim, an elementary school teacher, had the opportunity to fly on the Pave Hawk helicopter.

"It was a really great experience," said Mrs. Catapano. "My husband talks about working on them all the time, so getting the firsthand experience to see what he does everyday was a really cool opportunity."

While the Airmen and their spouses were thankful for the chance for family members to get a taste of the military experience, wing leaders said they appreciate the professionalism and dedication of the Airmen and the unwavering support families give them.

"Spouse Flight is a great way to say thank you to the families that allow us to have their husbands and wives go and serve the military in dangerous places," said Lt. Col. Thomas Keane,



Kim Catapano, an elementary school teacher and spouse of 106th Rescue Wing Tech. Sgt. Daniel J. Catapano, steps into an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter during a Spouse Flight at the 106th Rescue Wing in Westhampton Beach, N.Y., Sept. 8, 2018. The Spouse Flights were part of the wing's Family Day festivities.

Operations Group deputy commander. "It's a much deserved thank you." **gt**

End of an Era for C5 Refurbishment at 105th Airlift



The 105th Airlift Wing holds a C-5M Super Galaxy closeout ceremony at Stewart Air National Guard Base, Nov. 1, 2018. The Wing refurbished 49 of 52 jets which will extend their capabilities into the 2040s. Photo by Staff Sgt. Julio A. Olivencia Jr., 105th Airlift Wing.

Story courtesy of Jennifer-Leigh Oprihory, Air Force Magazine

STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, N.Y. — Lockheed Martin delivered its 52nd and final C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft to the Air Force in August, marking the end of a multi-year modernization process that transformed C-5 Galaxy aircraft into state-of-the-art strategic lift assets with operational lifespans slated to stretch into the 2040s.

But even after Lockheed handed them off to the Air Force, the workhorses still had a ways to go before they were fit to carry troops and cargo.

That's where the New York Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Wing stepped in.

The reinvented aircraft boasted improved range, payload weight, and fuel efficiency while reducing dependence on tankers and possessing the capability to carry "100 percent of DOD air-certified cargo," according to the company.

Despite Lockheed's engineering improvements, the aircrafts' interiors still needed some work.

"You know, the big Air Force is spending millions and millions of dollars—new engines, avionics upgrades, all that kind of stuff—but then, at the end of the day, it looked like something that would be ... on a used-car lot," said Capt. Paul Gonzalez, the program's officer-in-charge.

While they were "mechanically in fantastic shape," the Super Galaxies "were kind of suffering in multiple areas throughout the aircraft" including—but not limited to—the flight deck and cargo compartment, he explained. Gonzalez compared the average aircraft they received to work on to "an old city bus," saying his team's job was to make these aircraft look worthy of the funds poured into modernizing them in the first place.

Gonzalez said the team proverbially tore each aircraft's interior "down to the studs," then repainted, recleaned, and reassembled it. In addition to making over (and, in some cases, replacing) each aircraft's interior panels, the team overhauled tables, spiffed up crew and passenger seating, and applied decals, according to a PowerPoint presentation about the process that was shared with Air Force Magazine.

But the work wasn't purely aesthetic. In addition to manufacturing replacement aircraft panels in-house because they were no longer on the commercial market, the team's tasking included the removal and reapplication of non-skid material to the aircrafts' cargo area and ramps for the sake of safety.

All-in-all, each aircraft took 40 days to refurbish.

Refurbishment team members said the en-

deavor was all about "pride of ownership." But Master Sgt. Sara Pastorello, the wing's public affairs superintendent, said the aesthetic overhaul was about more than making the aircraft look expensive. It was also about giving Airmen the confidence to trust the aircraft from a structural-integrity perspective.

"Even if you have the brand-new interior of a house, if the outside's falling apart, you're still not gonna feel comfortable in that house," she said.

2018 marked the conclusion of the eight-year program. In total, the Stewart team refurbished 49 of the 52 modernized Super Galaxies, shrunk its maintainer-team size from 50 to 30 through efficiency- and effectiveness-driven procedural tweaks and customer communication, and saved the Air Force \$45.5 million in costs.

105th Airlift Wing Commander Col. Denise Donnell said the wing has already attempted "a soft-sell, so to speak" of its aircraft-refurbishment capabilities to Air Mobility Command in the past, explaining that it's "very open to whatever possibilities might be out there if the Air Force has the need for C-17 refurbishment in the future."

"We're up for the challenge," she said. "Bring it on." **gt**

New York Guard

New York Guard Gets New Look

By Eric Durr, Guard Times Staff

LATHAM, N.Y. -- The New York Guard, the state self-defense force, is getting a new look.

Beginning in March 2019 members of the New York Guard will be wearing the same Operational Camouflage Pattern uniform that members of the New York Army and Air National Guard wear.

The change is being made because the digital pattern Army Camouflage Uniform is no longer being manufactured and is harder to find, explained New York Guard Col. Ed Keyrouze, the New York Guard's chief of staff.

This means that as the ACU uniforms wear out they cannot be easily replaced, Keyrouze said. It also means that when New York Guard members need to be issued uniform items for cold and wet weather, they cannot be found, he added.

Converting to the current pattern uniform alleviates these issues, he said.

Because New York Guard members are a state force they wear the New York State flag where a Soldier or Sailor wears the American

flag. They wear the New York Guard patch where the unit patch is worn.

New York Guard members wear a black patrol cap with gold rank for enlisted members and silver rank for officers. The rank structure mirrors that of the Army.

New York guard members will wear black name and service tapes with silver lettering.

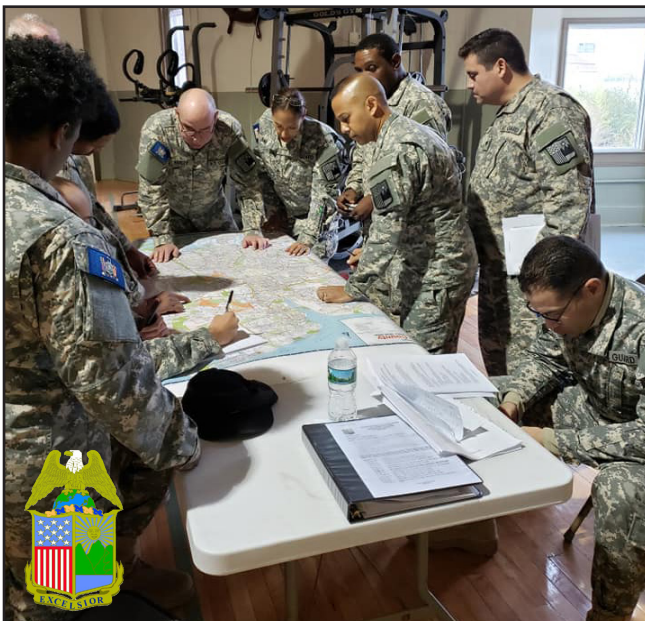
New York Guard members train as volunteers and are paid only when they report for State Active Duty. They do not deploy outside of New York. The organization traces its history back to 1917 when the New York Guard was created to replace the New York National Guard when those Soldiers went to France during World War I.

New York Guard members buy their own uniforms, except for items issued for special duty.

New York Guard members will be able to wear the current ACU-style uniform for up to three years as the OCP uniform is phased in, Keyrouze said. **gt**



The latest iteration of the New York Guard uniform is similar to the uniform worn by the Army and Air National Guard with black and silver name tape. New York Guard members wear a New York State flag on their sleeve instead of the American flag. Courtesy image.



Tactical Operations Center Training

NEW YORK -- The 88th Area Command conducted a consolidated drill at the Whitestone Armory in Queens, N.Y., November 10, 2018. During drill, members of the headquarters staff, 14th Detachment and 15th Detachment received Tactical Operations Center training. Photo by Spc. Staff Sgt. Diana Sapeg, New York Guard.

Change of Command in Queens



NEW YORK -- The New York Guard's 14th Detachment welcomed its new commander following training at the Whitestone Armory in Queens November 18th, 2018. 1st Lt. Raymond Gallagher, at left, prepares to receive the unit colors as he assumes command from 1st Lt. Steele Arbeeny, center right. Arbeeny goes on to serve as the Signal Officer for the 88th Area Command. Photo by Sgt. Edward Shevlin, New York Guard

