

NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA



HERITAGE OF OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS DATING BACK TO THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

NEWS

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NEW YORK'S NAVAL GUARD

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Signals From The Flag Bridge



by **RADM Robert A. Rosen**
Commander, New York Naval Militia

Dear Shipmates:

On 8 July 2004 more than 100 persons participated in a farewell retirement luncheon honoring our own CWO5 Pat McCoy, NYNM and his family.

It was a most touching and memorable event; truly a celebration of patriotism, of service, of the New York Naval Militia and of CWO5 Pat McCoy's military life and his family. Some 20 state officials and Flag Officers attended in addition to more than 100 members of our military family in New York and Pat's wife, Jeannie, and many members of his family. The ceremony was presided over by Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Maguire, Jr., the Adjutant General of New York and myself. He was promoted to CWO5 the highest ranking Warrant Officer in our

program. He also received many letters of appreciation and accolades and proclamations from the NY State Senate and Assembly. In addition, General Maguire awarded CWO5 Pat McCoy the NY State Meritorious Service Medal.

Our thanks to all the presenters and to CDR Bill Kraus, NYNM, for his extraordinary effort in arranging the ceremony and the affair.

"Sign on young men, and sail with me. The stature of our homeland is no more than the measures of ourselves. Our job is to keep the torch of freedom burning for all. To this solemn purpose we call on the young, the brave, the strong, and the free. Heed my call. Come to the sea. Come sail with me."

... **John Paul Jones**

On the 10th of February 1957 in Troy, NY, Patrick J. McCoy heard the call. He enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve while a senior in High School and this began his first naval career. He was called to active duty the next year and shortly thereafter went to sea on the U.S.S. Bigelow DD 942. Over the ensuing decades he sailed throughout the world to South America, the Caribbean, West Africa, through the Panama Canal, in many seas – the Atlantic, Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean and many countries – some 25 or more. He participated in the surface Navy for some 15 plus years until he was assigned as Senior Enlisted

Advisor and transferred to NRC Albany. In 1977 he was selected as Command



RADM Rosen, Commander of the New York Naval Militia and Naval Aide to the Governor was the official reviewing officer for a parade in Hyde Park, New York on 3 July 2004. This was the official parade for Dutchess County and more than 5,000 spectators watched some 83 groups from all over New York, Pennsylvania and Connecticut participate in this grand, annual parade in celebration of our Independence. The above photo shows Admiral Rosen on the reviewing stand receiving and returning the salute from the Grand Marshal of the parade.

Master Chief, a position he continued to serve in for 10 years until he retired in 1987 with some 30 years of service to our nation. He also formed the capitol area CPO Organization and served as its



CW05 Patrick J. McCoy

first president and chairman.

This career would have been enough for most men, but Pat had two Navy careers. In 1967 he also joined the New York Naval Militia and he has served continuously since and still serves. In 1987 he was promoted to CWO4 by the late RADM Joe Peck. He was assigned as Director of Automation and Command Administrative Officer. In his NY State position until 30 June 2004 he also served as Administrative Executive and Manager of the NY Naval Militia Program for many years (more than 9). During his vast and extensive careers he has justifiably earned many awards.

On a personal basis, Pat has been a key to the success of the NY Naval Militia. Without him it could not have been done! He was a true solid professional, a strong leader, and a man of integrity, patriotism and honor. All of us knew we could always count on Pat to get it done! And he always was very modest and shy about himself. He always put others ahead of himself and helped train our people. CW05 McCoy is known as a "straight shooter". I and my administrative assistant, Vivian Kretzmer, and our entire staff will miss our daily contacts. He has exemplified the best of the NY Naval Militia and has always responded to every request "above and beyond" the call of duty. Most of all he has been and continues to be a great teacher. A teacher to all of us

about how we should live our lives. He is a successful businessman, a family man, a community leader, a man who has devoted his life to public service, to the defense of our Nation and State, a patriot and a great friend. He helped to bring a vision into reality.

CW05 McCoy's wife, Jeannie, was also honored for her support, encouragement and contribution. Without her efforts the great amount of achievements Pat has made would not have been possible. He has created much for all of us to build upon in the future. He will continue to be an active participant in our Naval Militia Reserve Force and will be available to be called upon when the State is in need.

During his tenure as Director of the New York Naval Militia, within the Division of Military and Naval Affairs, his performance has been exemplary. Some of his many accomplishments are:

- Directed the establishment of the Naval Militia Personnel Data Base, which includes the vital information required for rapid mobilization of key personnel for State Active Duty.
- Maintained effective communications with the Naval Militia Regions, Naval Reserve Centers and Naval Reserve Units. This included personal visits, accompanied by senior officers, to make presentations to all hands, affording the opportunity for explaining the mission and objectives of the Naval Militia.
- Established a harmonious working relationship with the Division of Military and Naval Affairs, resulting in the integration of key NM Personnel into the Joint Operations Center and State Emergency Management Office during emergencies.
- Identified knowledgeable NM personnel to assist DMNA in providing logistic support during State Emergencies, especially during the 9/11 recovery and responses to every major state emergency in the past 5 years which included the TWA Flight 800 disaster, ice storms and snowstorms and the 9/11 tragedy just to mention a few of the important activities.
- Provided strong support for the

publishing of the Naval Militia Newsletter.

- Encouraged the development of formal promotion and retention procedures.
- Provided key support for the planning, development and launch of the New York Military Emergency Boat Service ("NYMEBS").
- Assisted other states and organizations bringing great credit to NY State and its military family.
- Assisted in Homeland Defense issues and the fight against terrorism.

Pat, I am proud to call you our "shipmate". On behalf of the more than 4000 people in the NY Naval Militia, from the Navy Reserve, the Marine Corps Reserve, the Coast Guard Reserve and our veteran volunteer corps, we thank you for all you have done. May you and your family continue to be blessed. We all wish you "happy golfing".

We welcome aboard CW05 McCoy's replacement, Mr. Kevin Ettrich, who is the new Director of Administration for the Naval Militia. He will be at the same number and address in our office in Latham, New York, (518) 786-4583, his email address is kevin.ettrich@ny.ngb.army.mil. Mr. Ettrich is a graduate of SUNY Maritime College at Fort Schuyler, a Lieutenant in the USNR, and has extensive merchant marine experience and credentials. He also holds a M.B.A. degree from Union College, Schenectady, NY. He lives in Saratoga Springs. We look forward to his making an important contribution to the Naval Militia program, its activities, future and history in the years ahead. Please join me in welcoming him aboard and feel free to call him to introduce yourself and to provide assistance to him in his activities.

We must never forget how important the role that all of us as members of the NY State Naval Militia and the entire military force of the State of New York perform. Our State and our Nation really count on us and our professionalism and training and dedication. We must be able to respond immediately to emergencies and all of our activities have to be

relevant to the existing needs. We must never forget that approximately 40% of our Guard and Reserves in NY State have been called up to duty according to recent reports. Many servicemen from New York have made the ultimate sacrifice fighting for the freedom and rights of others in addition to protecting our vital national interests.

The Seabees (Navy Construction Battalion) are a vital part of our Naval Militia Command in New York. In late April some 7 Naval Reserve Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 14, Jacksonville, FL, lost their lives in Iraq in two separate attacks. That unit had been mobilized in February and was a month into deployment when the losses occurred. We must remember each and every one of those individuals and we must always appreciate the extraordinary contribution of the Navy Seabees.

Every year the first full week in May marks New York State's Annual Celebration of Water Week. This year it was held May 2nd through May 8th. It is a celebration of our great natural resources that improve our environment and our community life. We recognize the lakes, streams and beaches that add so much value to the New York way of life. Many of these draw out of state visitors. Our beaches, our fishing, our boating and our sparkling vistas make our state a special place to live and work.

I recently visited the Pentagon and the Office of the Secretary of the Navy in addition to the Chief of Naval Reserve VADM John G. Cotton. Admiral Cotton showed me the new Pentagon wing where his office is located and he called to mind that 184 innocent lives were lost in a single moment at the Pentagon – 184 individuals forever tied together through the horrific events that unfolded on September 11, 2001. The Pentagon has an extraordinarily touching memorial, contemplation and prayer rooms set aside in the new wing.

Our mission continues to grow in prominence, priority and importance due to the appropriate focus on security of our maritime assets and waterways. New York has taken a bigger load as the Staten Island Port grows. More ships, new rail lines are destined for Howland Hook. Staten Island's Howland Hook

Marine Terminal is deep in an expansion mode. The 24-hour operation that loads and unloads ships has purchased four new \$6 million cranes and is updating and expanding its warehouses. Dredging in the harbor is making room for bigger ships, and construction of a rail line is under way. Begun as a Dutch trading post in the 1600s, New York still reaps great economic benefits from its position as one of the nation's most important port cities. Last year, the Port of New York and New Jersey shipped a record \$100 billion worth of cargo, bringing \$20 billion worth of economic impact to the region.

New Maritime Security Measures Begin – while ambitious new maritime security standards aimed at thwarting terrorist attacks recently went into effect at seaports around the world, industry executives and security consultants worry the rules don't go far enough and leave the global shipping system vulnerable to a devastating event that could cripple world trade. The code, officially called the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, requires ports to have official security plans and, in some cases, implement protections like new surveillance cameras and higher fences. Ships also must meet certain standards.

More and more, the NY Military Emergency Boat Service and the NY Naval Militia will play increasing roles of necessity as the nation's commitments worldwide must be maintained and more and more soldiers and sailors are called to active duty from the ready reserves. Accordingly, we have been directing a great amount of effort in training members of the NY Naval Militia to be qualified boat captains and crewmembers of the NY Naval Militia. This training is continuing throughout the State. The first class graduated on 23 May at our Indian Point, NY facility.

The program is managed by the NY Naval Militia reporting to the Office of the Adjutant General that oversees all of the activities. Our thanks to COL David Sheppard, the Deputy Adjutant General who personally helps manage and direct this program and coordinates its activities.

All of us are very proud of the many members of the NY Military Emergency



MEBS Boat during trials

Boat Service commanded by BGEN Bob Wolf, NYNM, the Deputy Commander for Operations of the NY Naval Militia and the Commander of MEBS, Major Bill Lochridge, NYNM.

A Unit Citation was awarded from the Board of Commissioners of Pilots to the NY Naval Militia and Patrol Boat Crew Members at a very memorable ceremony on Monday, 26 April 2004. Each member of the crew received a beautifully framed citation and certificate as well as a medal for outstanding team effort and performance of duty under adverse conditions, and for services rendered in the highest traditions of the maritime and Naval service of the State of New York. They have distinguished themselves by rendering assistance to the M/V GEORGIA S on 30 August 2003. Their actions have reflected great credit upon the NY Naval Militia and the New York Army National Guard, whose teamwork and cooperation contributed to the safety of navigation and protection of the environment. Their performance has set an example for others to follow.

(The following was excerpted from the full Citation:)

“On 30 August 2003, the 30,187 deadweight ton, six hundred twenty two foot, self unloading bulk carrier M/V GEORGIA S, while undocking and maneuvering away from the bulk gypsum handling terminal at Buchanan, New York with the assistance of the tug SUSAN McALLISTER, was carried by a strong tidal current into two USCG security zone buoys established in the vicinity of Indian Point, New York. As observed from the New York Naval Militia CUTTER PRIVATEER, one buoy was in danger of becoming

entangled in the rudder and propeller, while the other buoy was running down the port side of the ship towards its stern. A New York Naval Militia security patrol team, embarked on the Patrol Boat P232 and the New York Naval Militia Cutter PRIVATEER, promptly responded to the scene and offered assistance”.

The Citation was awarded to Andrew P. Maess, PO1 (NYNM-USNR); Edward G. Hess, PO1 (NYNM-USNR); Jerome Goldfus, PO3 (NYNM-USNR); Andrew F. Kravak, PO2 (NYNM-USNR); and Luis E. Rivera, PFC (27 BDE, N.Y. Army National Guard); David P. Burke, PO3 (NYNM-USNR).

Our “MEBS” service has been on mission more than 1000 days and has transported more than 30,000 crew and New York Army National Guard personnel on our small boats. An excess of 100,000 hours has been expended in security missions and man-hours for training and preparation. Most recently our important security missions and patrols in close coordination with our homeland defense forces and particularly the Coast Guard have been to escort the Queen Mary II, the HMS Invincible and various search and rescue missions, intercept assignment and special security missions in New York Harbor. We see an ever-increasing role for our NY Military Emergency Boat Service.

Our congratulations go to Governor George E. Pataki, our Commander and Chief on his recent congressional testimony in support of the National Guard, which he delivered this past April in Washington, DC before the House Government Reform Committee. Governor Pataki has called upon New York’s National Guard more than any other governor in State history. The Guard has met every mission asked of them, particularly in times of crisis – the attack on the World Trade Center, eight natural disasters, four plane crashes, eleven crippling blizzards, two major wildfires, a statewide blackout, and today the threat of global terror. “At no other time in America’s history has the National Guard played so critical a role in both the security of our homeland and in our nation’s military objectives overseas than today,” Governor Pataki said. “The notion of the traditional

citizen soldier, training one weekend a month and two weeks a year for a war that might never occur, is a thing of the past. Our troops are actively engaged on the front lines – supporting both our State’s efforts to keep New Yorkers safe at home and our nation’s efforts to combat terror abroad. We need to transform the structure and tasking of the National Guard into a program that fully accounts for the modern Guard’s importance to both fighting war abroad and ensuring public security at home.”

Congratulations go to Brigadier General Stephen Seiter, the new Commander of the NY Army National Guard. He has an extraordinary background of military service and is a Senior Advertising Executive and active in the community. General Seiter has long been a close working partner with the NY Naval Militia. He submitted the following article for our Newsletter, which he thought, would be of interest to our historians:

Some Little Known American Military History – The U.S.S. Constitution (Old Ironsides) as a combat vessel carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was sufficient to last six months of sustained operations at sea. She carried no evaporators (i.e. fresh water distillers!).

However, let it be noted that according to her log, “On July 27, 1798, the U.S.S. Constitution sailed from Boston with a full complement of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum.”

Her mission: “To destroy and harass English shipping.” Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum. Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine.

On 18 November, she set sail for England. In the ensuing days she defeated five British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchantmen, salvaging only the rum aboard each.

By 26 January, her powder and shot were exhausted. Nevertheless,

although unarmed she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. Her landing party captured a whisky distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons of single malt Scotch aboard by dawn. Then she headed home.

The U.S.S. Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February 1799 with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, no rum, no wine, no whisky and 38,600 gallons of stagnant water. **GO NAVY!”**

Our congratulations go to the New York Army Guard infantry patrol who found a U.S. hostage in Iraq. That activity and successful mission received worldwide press and acclaim. They were on patrol on a quiet stretch of road near Balad, Iraq, when a bearded man came running at them, falling and getting back up, waving his shirt and shouting. At first they thought he was an Iraqi, maybe a farmer. But then they heard: “I’m an American! I’m an American POW!” So began the rescue of the hostage who was held captive three weeks after insurgents snatched him from a convoy. His rescuers were a platoon from the New York Army National Guard’s C Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry from Gloversville, NY.

Congratulations to the Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum for another spectacular Fleet Week. It was the 17th Annual Fleet Week. A gala ceremony was held on the Intrepid and attended by many prominent leaders of our nation including The Honorable Tom Ridge, Secretary Department of Homeland Security, The Honorable Charles Gargano, Chairman & CEO Empire State Development Corporation. I consider myself privileged to have been one of the initiators of the Fleet Week program in my capacity as a member of the Board of Directors of The Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum and Liaison Officer to the U.S., Navy in those years.

Congratulations to Admiral John B. Nathman who was recently named vice chief of naval operations.

Congratulations to CWO4 Lu Caldara, NYNM and his group from the Young Marines of New York for their successful participation in the Hyde Park Independence Day Parade.

Congratulations to James W. McMahon, Director of Office of Public Security of the State of NY on the

marriage of his daughter. Director McMahon has long been a friend of the NY Naval Militia. He completed a 37 year career with the NY State Police and in the last 9 years he was the 11th Superintendent in the history of the Division of State Police before assuming his present responsibilities at the Office of Public Security which is the State's homeland security office created by Governor Pataki on October 10, 2001.

Congratulations to all of the members of the U.S.S. Slater for their efforts in preserving destroyer history and making Albany a homeport for that activity. On Saturday, June 19, 2004, a special event took place honoring the Destroyer Escort Historical Museum and other related activities. We are proud to have the Slater in New York and particularly berthed in Albany.

Congratulations and "welcome aboard" to CDR Robert J. Albinder, NYNM who has been selected as Deputy to CAPT Douglas Chin, NYNM. He will be working with CAPT Chin operating Region 1 of the NY Naval Militia. He currently serves as the Officer in Charge of the 4FSSG, 4th Medical Battalion, Surgical CO Bravo out of the NAVRESCEN Bronx, NY. He has spent more than half of his 17 years in the naval service with the Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve either as XO or OIC. He is also a Naval Academy Information Officer.

Congratulations and "welcome aboard" to CDR John Dew who is Region 1's new Intel Officer. CDR Dew is a Naval Academy graduate and currently the President & CEO of Protection Partners Group, LLC, a security consulting firm.

A very special "farewell and thanks" to CAPT Craig E. Bone, USCG, the Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Activities New York, who just retired from that position and will be moving to Hawaii. We worked closely with CAPT Bone and the entire Coast Guard command for many years. We Welcome aboard CAPT Glenn A. Wiltshire, USCG who has relieved CAPT Bone and will now assume the important responsibilities. Rear Admiral David P. Pekoske, USCG, Commander, First Coast Guard District officiated at the ceremony.

The U.S. Coast Guard Activities in

New York is the largest Coast Guard operational field command. They are located in Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island, NY. They are responsible for Coast Guard operational missions from Sandy Hook, NJ through the Port of NY/NJ, and continuing up the Hudson River to the Canadian border on Lake Champlain.

Congratulations, best wishes for "fair winds and following seas" to Senior Chief Christian Weiller who retired in June.

Congratulations to Rear Admiral Christopher McMahon, an administrator at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, who was recently promoted by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta to the rank of Rear Admiral (lower half), U.S. Maritime Service. He currently serves as the head of the academy's Global Maritime and Transportation School, its continuing academic division.

Congratulations to General Goodwin of South Carolina and RADM Shimp of Missouri for the establishment of their Naval Militia programs. Our concept of Naval Militias being activated again in state service is proliferating throughout the nation.

Congratulations and many thanks to VADM Joseph Stewart, USMS who has been an extraordinary supporter of our Naval Militia program and our Military Emergency Boat Service in his advice, guidance, arrangements and hospitality. By allowing us to use certain facilities from time to time, we are well positioned with our large patrol boat to perform the most vital security missions in and around New York City's waterways.

On September 10th the keel ceremony for the amphibious ship New York will be conducted. Navy Secretary Gordon England will be presiding and his wife, Dottie England, is the ship's sponsor.

The Navy Reserve Selected Reserve end strength based upon new plans will be approximately 83,000 and the Navy Reserve Full-Time Support strength will exceed 14,000 according to recent budgets and plans from the U.S. Senate in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005.

It was recently announced that the

NY State Attorney General's Office established a special help line to assist returning soldiers if they have problems returning to private sector jobs. The contact person is Assistant Attorney General Devin Rice (212) 416-8700. The Attorney General's Office intends to vigorously enforce all of the laws to protect our returning soldiers and sailors.

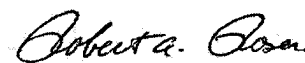
On June 19th, a street in Brooklyn's Bedford Stuyvesant was renamed for Marine Lance Cpl William White, who died while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom March 29, 2003. A poem dedicated to the memory of a young man dressed in Dress Blues and preserved on a cloth scroll hung from the home on the block of Pilling Street where he grew up and was renamed as "Marine Lance Corporal William Wayne White Street".

Our condolences to the Family of Chev. Donald R. Perkins, the Grand Prior IX of the Knights Templar, USA on his recent passing. He was interred in Arlington National Cemetery. The Knights are a military charitable organization.

We would urge that each of our officers learn about the activities of the Militia Association of New York an officer association of the combined military forces of NY State. Its present President is CAPT Mike Collins, NYNM. We hope you will be interested in this important, professional organization on a volunteer basis. For further information, contact CAPT Collins at (212) 902-6032.

As everyone knows, the work and responsibility of the NY Naval Militia is growing and therefore your dedication, volunteerism and efforts are needed and much appreciated. You all should be proud of the great contribution we are making to the State of New York, as a part of the Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

Best wishes for smooth sailing:



RADM Robert A. Rosen, NYNM
Commander
Naval Aide to the Governor

The Chaplains Corner



**By Rabbi William Kloner,
RADM, NYNM**

As National Chaplain for the Navy League of the United States at the 2004 convention in San Diego, I had the opportunity to present a lecture sermon on the critical issue of our era, "Radical Islamic Terrorism: the Democratic Challenge". As the title implies, there is a religious and theological dimension in this crisis that bears analysis.

For those of us in the Militia called to active duty at Ground Zero in response to the 9-11 attack by Islamic Terrorists, the smoking wreckage and smoldering terrain below which lay the immolated remains of our fellow citizens, by the thousands, we experienced viscerally there were enemies in the world eager to slaughter us one and all. So eager, they sacrificed their own lives in the conviction that it was Allah's will that the lives of innocent men, women and children should be extinguished.

Our President and Commander in Chief set upon a three-fold strategy, all in operation at the time of this publication, some of which has attracted contentious debate. First, a program of Homeland Defense had to be organized to protect our country from terrorists, a process in which our Naval Militia craft are involved in the patrol of our greater New York waterways. Secondly, the decision was made not only to deter terrorists within our borders, but to strike out abroad, attacking the source of terrorism in the Middle East. Western allies gave consent and support to the invasion of Afghanistan, a country taken

over by Osama Bin Laden, the mastermind of the Twin Towers disaster. Prior to the invasion, thousands of Jihadists were in Afghanistan training camps preparing for future terrorist mayhem.

Our President's decision to invade Iraq, however, was opposed by our major European allies, especially when the much feared weapons of mass destruction were not found following the coalition victory and the consequent occupation. It bears remembering that the primary concern with the hostility of Saddam Hussein was not an open aggression against the United States with weapons of mass destruction, but that he would gladly have shared the weapons with the terrorists whose asymmetrical capacity for destruction within our borders would be tragically enhanced.

Could there have been any doubt that Saddam, a monstrous murderer of his own people, with and without weapons of mass destruction, would have secretly conspired in the visitation of mass destruction upon the United States, the sole power that exhibited the capacity and the will to foil his megalomaniac scheme to control the strategic oil reserves of the Middle East? His uninhibited invasion of Kuwait would have been followed by his overwhelming military capacity to overrun Saudi Arabia as well. Saddam Hussein's proven programs for the production of weapons of mass destruction and the scientists to deliver the same, would have been a fearsome element in the overall challenge of proliferation, an unacceptable condition feared by the civilized world then, nuclear threats posed by North Korea and Iran today. No small part for the justification of the invasion of Iraq was and is to ban the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The concern with Saddam's Iraq as a key factor threatening the disruption of the region's oil supply and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction did not originate with our present Commander in Chief. In February 1988, it was President Clinton, in his advocacy of regime change in Iraq said, "What if Saddam fails to comply and we fail to act...will

he conclude that he can go right on and rebuild an arsenal of devastating destruction and some day I GUARANTEE YOU he will use this arsenal." Clinton predicted, "In the next century, the community of nations may see more and more of the threat Iraq poses now – a rogue state with Weapons of Mass Destruction, ready to use them or provide them to terrorists...who travel the world among us unnoticed."

It is the third factor in our President's strategy that may well prove to be our nation's most critical decision of the 21st Century in overcoming the looming specter of a worldwide devastation. It is the Herculean attempt to democratize the Middle East, the very core of the feared proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. President Bush often attributes the crisis in the Middle East to the hi-jacking of the Muslim faith. The following brief summary of the perversion of the faith of Islam begs for more extended study. In the 18th Century, in response to the decline of the vast Moslem empire, the Wahabbies in the Arabian desert that is now Saudi Arabia, combined with the Saudis to introduce a fundamentalist form of Islam that has mutated into a tyranny of religion and life at the center of the present crisis.

Whereas Mohammed in the 7th Century tolerated monotheistic religions such as Judaism and Christianity, the current Wahabbi clerics, saturated with the wealth of Saudi oil, have continued to embrace an alteration of Islam that purports to designate all who do not agree with their narrow Koranic interpretation as Infidels. Not only non-Muslims, but all sects of Islam not in step with their puritanical anti-modernist theology, spawning the terrorist culture worldwide through well supported teaching schools called Madrasses.

Whether it is a Saddam Hussein tyranny or a perverted radical Islamic persuasion, both deny the basic freedoms to their people. All tyrannies, whether fascistic or religious are by definition anti-democratic. Starting with Afghanistan and Iraq, the liberation of 55 million people has been accomplished. It is the goal of our President to initiate a

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THE JUDGE ADVOCATE'S FORUM



By RADM J. Robert Lunney, NYNM

On 19 December 2003, President Bush signed into law the Service members' Civil Relief Act (SCRA). This legislation updates and modernizes the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act (SSCRA), by offering broader and more consistent protections for the jobs and financial resources of those who answer America's call, sometimes to the detriment of their careers.

The SCRA expands the application of a service member's right to stay court hearings to include administrative hearings. Criminal matters are still excluded. The former statute referred to "dependents" and provided several protections for them. The SCRA now contains a definition of the term dependent. This includes anyone for whom the service member has provided more than half of his or her support during the 180 days before an application for relief under the SCRA. This is intended to include dependent parents and disabled adult children.

There are several provisions regarding the ability of a court or administrative agency to enter an order staying or delaying proceedings. This new provision makes it clear that a stay request does not constitute an appearance for jurisdictional purposes and does not constitute a waiver of any substantive or procedural defense.

The Act clarifies the rule on the 6 percent interest rate cap on pre-service loans by specifying that interest in excess of 6 percent per year must be forgiven. The absence of such language in the

SSCRA had allowed some lenders to argue that interest in excess of 6 percent is merely deferred.

The SCRA modifies the eviction from a residence protection by barring evictions from premises occupied by service members for which the monthly rent does not exceed \$2400.00 for the year 2003. The Act also provides a formula to calculate the rent ceiling for future years. Using the formula, the 2004 monthly rent ceiling is \$ 2465.00. The SCRA also adds a new provision allowing the termination of automobile leases by service members and their dependents. Pre-service auto leases may be cancelled if the service member receives orders to active duty for a period of 180 days or more.

The SCRA includes a provision that prevents states from increasing the tax bracket of a non-military spouse who earned income in the state by adding in the service member's military income for the limited purpose of determining the nonmilitary spouse's tax bracket. This practice had the effect of increasing the military family's tax burden.

The National Committee for Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a DOD organization that assists reserve personnel (1-800-336-4590). Employment rights may be reviewed at ESGR's website: www.esgr.gov.

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reform of the political order in the Middle East and beyond that will defuse the politics and religion of its destructive totalitarian essence. After all, the freedom which we defend and enjoy is epitomized religiously as inscribed on the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia – from the book of Leviticus, Chapter 25:10; "Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof".

Indeed, Let Freedom Ring!

President Bush has directed executive departments and agencies to grant five days of uncharged administrative leave from civilian duties to federal employees returning from active duty to reserve status.

New Joint Commanders Named

Three Army, Navy and Marine Corps senior officers have been nominated to command joint-service organizations.

Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr. has been named to head Multinational Force Iraq. MNFI, in operation since May 15, "conducts offensive operations to defeat remaining noncompliant forces and neutralize destabilizing influences in Iraq in order to create a secure environment," states that organization's Web site. Casey is currently Army vice chief of staff; his new headquarters is located in Baghdad.

Marine Lt. Gen. James E. Cartwright has been nominated for his fourth star and assignment to head U.S. Strategic Command, with headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. STRATCOM is "responsible for both early warning of, and defense against, missile attack and long-range conventional attacks," according to its official Web site. STRATCOM also deters and defends against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Cartwright is now the Joint Staff director for force structure, resources and assessment.

Navy Vice Adm. Timothy J. Keating is slated for promotion to admiral and nomination to head U.S. Northern Command and the North American Aerospace Defense Command, both at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. NORTHCOM's mission is homeland defense and civil support to "deter, prevent and defeat threats and aggressions aimed at the United States, its territories and interests within the assigned area of responsibility," states the command's Web site. Keating is now the director of the Joint Staff.

Northern and Strategic commands are two of nine unified commands that have geographic or specific-role responsibilities.

All nominations require Senate confirmation.

The Navy has changed the name of the Mess Management Specialist (MS) enlisted rating to Culinary Specialist (CS), saying it better reflects the professional expertise of the holders.

Information From Headquarters

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CWO4 Chuck Marshall, NYNM
<cmarshal@nycap.rr.com>

Administrators -
LT Kevin Ettrich,
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SKCS Adrienne Daniels,
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Telephone contact:
NYNM Office
(518) 786-4585/84/83

**The Newsletter can be
found each quarter on the
NYNM Website at:**

**[www.dmna.state.ny.us/
nynm/nynavmil.html](http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/nynm/nynavmil.html)**

**Click on "News".
(Be sure to check it out!)**

E-mail Address and Voice Mail

RADM Robert A. Rosen, NYNM, our
Commander, is online. His e-mail
addresses are:

RAR@ROSENGMT.COM
or
NYNMI@AOL.COM

In addition, a phone voice-mailbox is
available (24 hrs/day, 7 days/week) at
the office of the Commander, NYNM.
Dial 516-333-2000 and enter 192 when
asked for extension, (or during the day
enter 120), then follow instructions.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR THE USS SLATER DE-766

- ◆ **Tour Guides**
- ◆ **Ticket Takers**
- ◆ **Maintenance**
- ◆ **Administrative**

**Interested personnel should contact
Tim Rizzuto at (518) 431-1943.**

Work is to be done on your own time to
prevent conflict with civilian
employment or Reserve weekend.

Scholarships Available to Military Dependents

The Military Officers Association of
America (MOAA) is giving away
scholarship money to 50 college-bound
or undergraduate students with
individual \$1000 scholarship grants for
the 2004-2005 school year.

Application is via the MOAA
website: <http://www.moaa.org>. Click
on "Educational Aid" on left side of
the opening page, and then follow the
easy instructions for the multipurpose
Scholarship Application. Deadline for
submission is Noon EST March 1,
2004.

Paperwork from the MOAA can be
picked up at the Education Center on
Fort Hamilton, Bldg. 218, 1st Floor,
main area.

The next three *Arleigh* Burke-class
guided missile destroyers will be
named for three naval heroes —
Halsey, Forrest Sherman and
Farragut.

The *Halsey* honors ADM William
F. Halsey, Jr.

The *Forrest Sherman* honors ADM
Forrest Percival Sherman, who was
CNO from November 1949 until his
death in July 1951.

The *Farragut* honors ADM David
Glasgow Farragut, a Union hero in
the Civil War.

NAVAL MILITIA VOLUNTEERS

The Naval Militia Office is always
looking for volunteer support to help out
in the office or in the field. If you are
retired and would like to donate some of
your time, please call the Naval Militia
office at (518) 786-4585/84/83.

EDUCATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

DEADLINES TO REMEMBER

Each year submit applications to Unit
Commanders:

Fall Semester 30 June
Spring Semester 31 Oct

Each year Unit Commander submit
application to DMNA:

Fall Semester 15 Aug
Spring Semester 15 Dec

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- Properly completed DMNA 96-1
(Application). Be sure to include
School Code and all required
signatures.
- Letter of Acceptance/Verification of
enrollment in degree program.
- Proof of application for NYS TAP,
PELL and any other available
financial aid.
- Changes to 621-1 have been made.
All personnel are urged to read the
new 621-1. Copies have been sent
to NRC CO's and I&I staff, com-
mand career counselors and all unit
reps.

POC for this program is:

SKCS Adrienne Daniels 518-786-4583

"From the Field" - Region I News

Kings Point Mess Night

On 16 April 2004, the 14th Annual Mess Night was held at Kings Point College.

CDR Bennet Cohen, NYNM, represented RADM Robert A. Rosen, Commander, NYNM.



Head table, L-R: BG Robert Wolf, NYNM, RADM Craig O. McDonald, guest speaker, CAPT Wally Stevenson, MC, VADM Joseph D. Stewart, President of Kings Point, CAPT John Nash, President, L.I. Chapter NRA, RADM J. Robert Lunney, NYNM



L-R: CAPT Wally Stevenson, MC, RADM Craig O. McDonald, J. Robert Lunney, NYNM

In the 'photo above, RADM McDonald receives a plaque from the NRA L.I. Chapter.

Military.com has launched "America's Military Discounts Center," a free, on-line directory of savings on goods and services available exclusively to members of the Armed Forces, their families, and veterans. The directory is available at <www.military.com/discount>

RADM ROBERT ROSEN ADDRESSES STRATEGIC STUDIES GROUP



At a recent meeting of various state and federal military leaders, RADM Robert A. Rosen, NYNM, updated officers on the tasking of Strategic Studies Group (SSG) XXIII with the "top to bottom" examination of the Naval Force for SEA POWER Z1 and Beyond. An important concept of this Joint Force approach is the transformation and integration of reserve forces, including the state guard and naval militia as force multipliers with increasing responsibilities, especially in the wake of 9/11.

MOLLOY SENDS TWO TO ANNAPOLIS

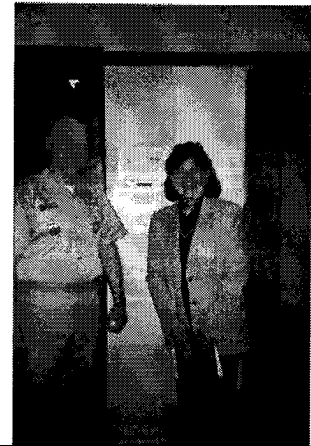


L - R: Mr. Kerry Hughes, Sarah Kuehl, Kristin Connor, Cdr. Chuck Haunss, NYNM

Archbishop Molloy High School Graduates 2004, Sarah Kuehl and Kristin Connor will enter the U.S. Naval Academy this summer. CDR Chuck Haunss, NYNM, as their "Blue

and Gold" Officer for the Academy, assisted the young women through the process, along with their college advisor, Mrs. Kerry Hughes. Another student, Michael London from Thomas Edison H.S., also worked with Haunss and will attend Annapolis this summer. These students initially met Cdr. Haunss either at college nights or congressional academy nights.

ACADEMY NIGHT AT BAYSIDE H.S.



L - R: CDR C. Haunss and 5th Congressional District Aide, Ms. Sue Graff

CDR Chuck Haunss represented the U.S. Naval Academy at a recent Congressional Academy Night at Bayside High School.

NYNM'S NEW 44 FOOTER AT KINGS POINT

On 5 May under the expert seamanship of LT Al Loeffler, and his able crew of NYNM members, our 44 footer participated in exercises on the Long Island Sound. This boat exhibited speed, maneuverability and durability. As part of the Military Emergency Boat Service (MEBS), this boat will be a vital asset in first response situations, in and around New York City and the lower Hudson .

“From the Field” - Region I News (Cont.)



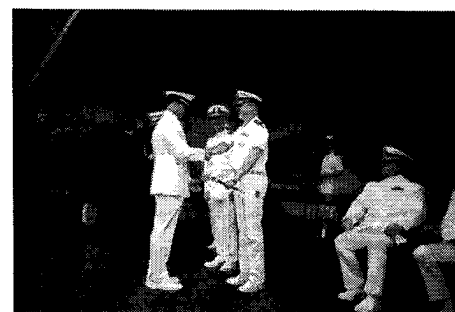
LT Al. Loeffler, NYNM, and Crew aboard the MEBS 44 footer

Memorial Day 2004 USS Intrepid



Korean War Veterans CWO5 Lu Caldara NYNM (left) and Archie Waterman (center) with Sergeant Charles Bishop USMC as part of the Flag Detail holding the 100 ft US Flag during the ceremonies on the USS Intrepid flight deck.

SUNY MARITIME GRADUATION AND COMMISSIONING CEREMONIES



L - R: ENS Nicholas Moore, USNR/MMR and CDR Chuck Haunss, NYNM

On 8 May within the Historic walls of Fort Schuyler’s Maritime College, the class of 2004 received diplomas, and later, in a separate ceremony, newly commissioned officers were sworn in. At the commissioning ceremony CDR Chuck Haunss, NYNM, presented the first NYNM sword to ENS Nicholas Moore, USNR/MMR on behalf of RADM Robert A. Rosen, NYNM, and the Naval Militia.

OLD GUARD INSTALLATION



L - R: CAPT H. Gibbons, CDR C. Haunss and COL John Gargan

Recently at historic Fort Hamilton, the Old Guard of the City of N.Y. installed new officers. Representing the NYNM and RADM Robert A. Rosen, NYNM, were CAPT Hubert Gibbons, NYNM, and CDR Chuck Haunss, NYNM.

NYSMEBS Small Craft Schools

The first graduating class of the New York State Military Emergency Boat Service (NYSMEBS) Small Craft Commanders and Small Craft Trainers was conducted at Indian Point, Buchanan, NY, from 17 May through 23 May 04. In the photo below are:

From Region I NYNM: LT Ryan McCormick, LCDR Brian Fuller, LT Alan Loeffler OIC NYSMEBS Vessel

Training Command, . Maj Bill Lochridge (Commander, NYSMEBS)

From Region II NYNM: SWC Frank Rogers, BM2 Beth Spain, BM1 Eric Schumacher and EOCS Mike Clark.

From Region III NYNM: CWO3 Phil Slominski, BMC Don Grabowski, BM1 Paul Weaver, and BM1 Greg Lowery.

Mornings were spent in classroom training, and the afternoons were spent in "hands-on" operations on two of the 28' patrol boats in the Hudson River. On the third day the class took the patrol boats on a run to New York City Harbor, and to the USCG Station, NY on Staten Island.



PARADE OF SHIPS

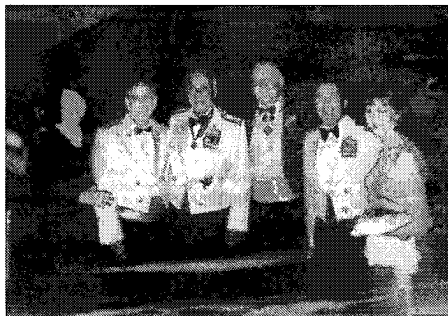


NYNM members view parade of ships from USS Intrepid

American Airlines has invited military men and women under the Iraqi Freedom Rest and Relaxation (R&R) Program to spend time between flights at the company's elegant Admirals Club facilities worldwide.

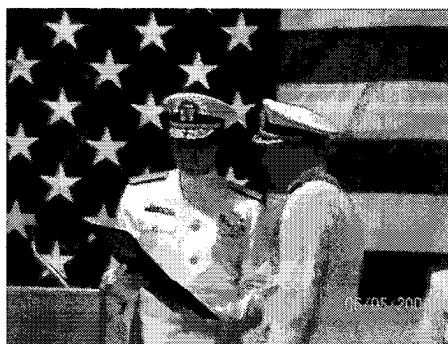
“From the Field” - Region I News (Cont.)

INTREPID FLEET WEEK GALA



L-R: RADM & Mrs. William Kloner, NYNM, RADM Robert A. Rosen, CDR Chuck Haunss, NYNM, CDR & Mrs. Charles Davis, NYNM

COC, NRC Bronx



RADM Frank F. Rennie, (left) Commander Naval Reserve Readiness Command Northeast, presents outgoing CO CDR Michael Merwin with a Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of his leadership, integrity and initiative that have made NRC Bronx the premier reserve center in the nation and its sailor's mission ready for the Global War on Terrorism.

CDR Merwin was relieved as CO of NRC Bronx by CDR Dorothy Jo Reed at a change of command ceremony held on 5 June at NRC Bronx.

(Photo courtesy of LT(jg) James McCue, NR NAVINFO East 102)

It is now possible for veterans and family members of deceased veterans to obtain copies of DD-214's on-line by going to the National Personnel Records Center's Web site.

A Memorial Day to Remember

CAPT Bruce H. Charnov CHC USNR (RET) NYNM

In the midst of the 17th annual Fleet Week, New York City paused to remember and honor the nation's fallen servicemen and women on Memorial Day on board the USS Intrepid. As hundreds of veterans, active duty personnel, tourists and invited guests filled the flight deck for the memorial ceremonies, one would be hard pressed to imagine a more fitting setting. The Intrepid, gallant veteran of the battle for Okinawa in the waning days of WWII, combatant in Vietnam, and witness to the triumphant United States ascent into space, was saved by the vision, dedication, and financial generosity of Zachery Fisher who "spent \$24 million of his own money in order to save the Intrepid from being sent to the scrape yard" in order to make it "a lasting memorial to those who sacrificed their lives for our country, to educate the public, and to inspire our youth."

The ceremonies began with a welcome from Col. Tom Tyrrell, USMC (Ret.) who is executive director and CEO of the Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum and featured patriotic addresses by New York's mayor Michael Bloomberg, Vice Admiral Gary Roughead USN, Commander, US Second Fleet, NATO Striking Fleet Atlantic, and Commander, Naval Forces North Fleet East, but the most stirring address was given by the Hon. Alan G. Hevesi, Comptroller of the State of New York. Speaking without notes, Comptroller Hevesi spoke of the debt owed by all to veterans, a spirited address from the view of the descendant of immigrant parents who had come to America with the dream of a better life – and how that dream was fulfilled beyond their wildest expectations as they watched their son's achievements. Hevesi stressed that this was only possible for him and for

millions of others because of the dedication, service and sacrifice of America's men and women who answered the call to military service.

Visitors were also welcomed by Arnold Fisher, nephew of Zachery Fisher and currently Senior Partner, Fisher Brothers and Chairman of the Intrepid Foundation and Bill White, President of the Intrepid Foundation. Richard T. Santulli, Chairman and CEO of NetJets Inc., and currently serving as Chairman of the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund spoke briefly of the efforts of the fund to provide aid to the survivors of those who are making the ultimate sacrifice as the United States fights the war on terrorism.

The National Colors were presented by a joint armed forces color guard as the National Anthem was played by the Navy Region Band Northeast. An invocation was delivered by RADM William Kloner CHC USNR (Ret) NYNM with a closing benediction provided by LCDR Seth Philips, USN. The memories of those veterans who have come before us was commemorated with the laying of ceremonial wreaths into the Hudson River, the unfurling of a large American flag on the flight deck by the Fleet Week military flag detail joined by veterans, the firing of three volleys by the 77th Regional Support Command Firing Squad and an especially moving rendition of dual taps (taps with an answering bugle) by the Navy Region Band Northeast. The Missing Man Formation flyover was accomplished in bravado fashion by Navy F/A-18's from VFA-15 and necks craned as the missing plane inclined vertically, and in defiance of the laws of gravity, seemed to leap straight up in a display that awed the hushed crowd on the Intrepid's deck.

The mood was somber in remembrance as the holiday crowds paused to reflect on the blessings of freedom and burdens born by others to insure that such will always hallmark America. One hardly noticed that sitting on a barge next to the Intrepid was one of the surviving British Airways Concorde supersonic jet airliners.

"From the Field" - Region III News

REGION III SWEARS IN LARGEST NUMBER OF NEW NYNM MEMBERS IN IT'S HISTORY



Region III had its largest ever swearing in ceremony for New York Naval Militia members on 1 May 2004.

"It is evident that interest in the NYNM has significantly grown since we announced the planned arrival of our first small craft (PB280, due to arrive on 5 May 04 - see separate article in this Newsletter) at morning quarters today", noted RADM Bruce H. Speller, NYNM (Region III Commander).

Shown swearing in our newest members is CDR Wayne Sorrentino, Region III Deputy Commander. "We welcome aboard PNSN Devorah Alexander, EO3 Joseph Brotka, CM3 Robert Darling, SK2 Barbara Fowler, SK3 Sandra Grimmer, EO3 Louis Habig, CE3 Christopher Irwin, ITSN Theodore Jackson, HM3 James Kreutter, DT3 Efrain Lambert, QM2 William McDougal, UTCM Joseph McKee, CE3 Sandra Nalvanko, BU2 William Nielsen, UT3 Aaron Schlenker, and OSSN Gregory Zielinski", remarked CDR Sorrentino, "and are grateful for your interest and welcome your participation in the NYNM."

With this weeks planned arrival of the first of our assigned small craft we will have an increasingly active role in Homeland Security, and other mission support activities as determined by the DMNA."

Region III Receives It's First MEBS Craft



L to R: BMC Grabowski, BMC Barr,
CWO2 Slominski welcoming PB280

On 5 May 2004, PB280 arrived at the US Coast Guard Station, Buffalo, NY. Shown in the accompanying photograph are CWO2 Slominski and BMC Grabowski (Region III MEBS OIC), shaking hands with the Officer-in-Charge of Coast Guard Station Buffalo, BMC Stephen Barr.

On hand for this momentous event were RADM Speller, Region III Commander; CWO4 Harry Rucker and CMC Charles Summers, Region III Equipment Officers; CDR Wayne Sorrentino, Region III Deputy Commander; and CDR Mark Cassidy, Region III Deputy for Operations. Region III will launch its training plan for crew beginning on or about 21 June, when the IP "Train the Trainer" program graduates return for duty in Region III. The OIC, Station Buffalo, has worked closely with Region III staff to insure our craft is maintained in a secure location, and has provided significant assistance in development of future plans for joint training activities with the USCG and local law enforcement agencies.

Congress, Nation Designate Military Appreciation Month

By Gene Harper
American Forces Press Service

Both chambers of the U.S. Congress have adopted a resolution calling for

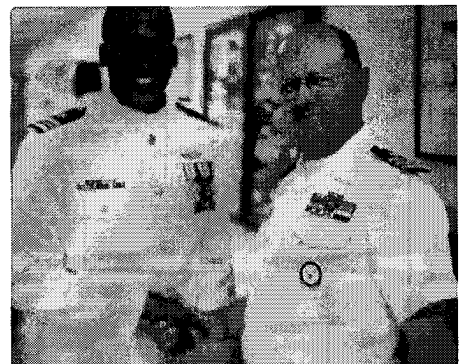
Americans to recognize and honor U.S. service members during May's National Military Appreciation Month. Virginia Rep. Tom Davis, along with 16 cosponsors, introduced Concurrent Resolution No. 328 in the House in November. The Senate agreed to it without amendment and by unanimous consent April 26.

The resolution states that the House, with the Senate concurring, "supports the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month." It also "urges the president to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States, localities, organizations and media to annually observe" the month "with appropriate ceremonies and activities. Finally, the resolution urges the White House Commission on Remembrance to "work to support the goals and objectives" of the month.

The Senate first passed a resolution in 1999 designating National Military Appreciation Month. That declaration summoned U.S. citizens to observe the month "in a symbol of unity, ... to honor the current and former members of the armed forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom and peace."

Traditionally, May has focused on the military in many ways. For example,

(Continued on page 14)



After the Change of Command on 19 June 2004 at Navy Reserve Center, Rochester, new Commanding Officer LCDR Michael P. Cavil met with NYNM Region III Deputy Commander, CDR Wayne Sorrentino.

AWARDS – PROMOTIONS – DECORATIONS

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Walker, Joseph IS1 (2nd Award)
DIAHQ 0797

Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Palumbo, Guy YN1
NR RSU 0428, Amityville
Tannenbaum, Sonny MA1
NR RSU 0428, Amityville

Promotions

Mahoney, John
NR CARGO HDBN8, FT Dix to BMC
Bennick, Richard
NR CARGO HDBN 8, FT Dix to BM1
Boyer, Andrew
NR CARGO HDBN 8, FT Dix to BM1
Siegel, Marshall
NR CARGO HDBN 8, FT Dix to BM1
Tribiano, Jeffery
NR CARGO HDBN 8, FT Dix to LCDR

NEW YORK STATE AWARDS

Recruiting Medal

Chizuk, Stan
MA1 NR NYS PRTS NH 501 Rochester
Cheung, Kit
LCPL H&S CO 2/25 MARDIV, Garden City
Mason, John
MA2 NSA LAMADDALENA, Bronx

Josephthal Awards

Militiaman of the Year (Navy)

BM2 Elizebeth Spain, NRC Albany

Militiaman of the Year (Navy)

HT1 Edward Hess, NRC Albany

Militiaman of the Year (CB)

SWC Frank Rogers, NRC Albany

Retirements

Dworakowski, Joseph CM1
Fediuk, Bohdan CE1
Hughs, James EQCM

Rules of War Remain Vital to U.S. Forces

By David Crary
Associated Press

Though often flouted, even by the proudest of armies, the international rules of war are perhaps more vital to U.S. forces today than when drafted many decades ago, according to military analysts and battle-tested officers. The abuse of Iraqi prisoners by U.S. soldiers — depicted to the world in graphic photographs — has only underscored the importance of training U.S. service members to observe those rules regardless of circumstances, said Col. Patrick Finnegan, who heads the law department at the U.S. Military Academy.

“We try to get the cadets to think about what the rules mean and why we follow them, even when the other side might not,” said Finnegan, a veteran of the first Gulf War.

“Your first responsibility is self-defense, but at the same time we’re trying to do the right thing,” he said. “The more you overreact to a situation, the worse it plays to the Iraqi people and the rest of the world.”

No single document codifies the rules of war. They are a series of international agreements, including the Geneva Conventions drafted after World War II, that stipulate how commanders and soldiers should act during conflicts. Matters addressed include treatment of POWs and endangerment of civilians.

Some politicians and commentators have suggested that the prisoner abuse was no more than hazing, and that outrage should be directed instead at terrorist attacks or the Iraqis who dismembered American contractors.

“What amounts to hazing is not even in the same ballpark as mass murder,” Rep. Steve King wrote recently in the Des Moines Register. Sen. Trent Lott said that if detainees might have information that could save American lives, “I think you should get really rough with them.”

The U.S. military takes the rules seriously enough to require annual instruction in them for every unit, Finnegan said. Exercises might simulate a sudden barrage of rocks thrown by civilian youths, or the appearance of a woman who seems to be pregnant, yet may be concealing a weapon.

Still, some experts suggest the training has not been adequate for some of the National Guard and Reserve units deployed in Iraq — such as the military police company implicated in the abuse at the Abu Ghraib prison.

“The vast majority of our Army is doing good job, but we’re incredibly stretched, and that can result in mistakes,” said retired Col. Robert Maginnis, a military analyst who was chief of the Army Infantry School’s leadership and ethics training branch.

The abuse scandal “has been a major embarrassment for all of us,” Maginnis said. “To take someone unarmed and then humiliate and abuse them, it’s a mockery — some of our reservists haven’t really caught on to that ethos.”

Michael Peters, who served as in Army officer in Vietnam, Panama and the Gulf before becoming executive vice president of the Council on Foreign Relations, said there are practical reasons for treating enemy prisoners properly.

“You’d hope to be treated the same way if you were captured,” he said.

Human Rights Watch, the U.S.-based group that monitors a wide range of abuses worldwide, gave mixed grades to American forces for rules-of-war compliance during the first phases of the Iraq war.

The air campaign was commended for inflicting relatively light civilian casualties; ground troops earned praise and criticism.

(Continued on page 14)

NEWS ARTICLES

The following articles have been excerpted from various newspapers, magazines, wire services, and electronic bulletin boards to help keep you current on issues. If you find articles in your local area that you would like to see published in our next NYNM News, forward them to the editor: Henry E. Plimack, RADM, NYNM by E-mail to <HEPlimack@CS.com> or snail mail, 32 Melton Drive East, Rockville Centre, NY 11570-3255.

All submissions must be received via E-mail or on floppy disk. Photographs should contain proper identification for all personnel depicted.

Editor's note: Seeking to include YOUR favorite website in our Newsletter? E-mail me the URL and I will include ALL military and/or related sites in our next edition of the NYNM News.

(Continued from page 13)

"We saw some fine examples of heroism by soldiers and Marines, holding fire and putting themselves in danger when the Iraqis were using human shields," said Marc Garlasco, a Human Rights Watch military analyst. "But there also was use of ground-launched cluster munitions that killed a lot of civilians unnecessarily."

Garlasco said the ongoing anti-occupation insurgency, much of it waged in cities, has prolonged the challenge of minimizing civilian casualties.

"The U.S. military makes a good faith effort," he said. "But the problem is you're asking soldiers and Marines to do a job that's not part of their mandate. It's not easy to flip from being a killer to a peacekeeper."

David Phillips, a conflict-prevention specialist with the Council on Foreign Relations, said Iraq provided a vivid example of how military missions have evolved.

"The Powell doctrine always was the use of overwhelming force, annihilating the adversary," Phillips said. "But now we have to think about nation-building

and transforming adversarial forces into peacekeeping partners."

The U.S. military's historical record regarding the rules of war is generally considered good, albeit marred by horrific atrocities such as the My Lai massacre in Vietnam. Phillips noted that German troops at the close of World War II sought to surrender to American soldiers in expectation of better treatment than they would get from the Russians.

"It's imperative — particularly right now, after Sept. 11 — that we don't just win the battle itself," Phillips said. "We have to win the hearts and minds."

(Continued from page 12)

Public Service Recognition Week, celebrated the first full Monday through Sunday in May since 1985, recognizes the roles of public servants, including the military, at local, state, regional and federal levels. As a part of PSRW, communities across America showcase military equipment and service members from U.S. installations. The largest PSRW event takes place on Washington's National Mall, where more than 100 federal agencies, including the military services, put their activities, people and equipment on public display. This year's mall event is May 6-9.

Armed Forces Day, created in 1949, is an annual event held on the third Saturday in May, with activities at U.S. military bases around the world. This year's celebration occurs May 15.

Coast Guard To Begin International Port Security Visits

The U.S. Coast Guard has announced the establishment of an International Port Security Program that will help the United States and its maritime trading partners better protect the global shipping industry by facilitating the implementation of security improvements in ports around the

world. The Coast Guard plans to begin the program with visits to countries this summer and fall.

"Shipping is a global industry and the economy of nearly every nation relies on overseas trade," said Adm. Thomas H. Collins, commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard. "By helping other nations evaluate security measures in their ports, we can help to ensure the safety and security of the global maritime transportation system."

Under this effort, the Coast Guard and the host nations will work jointly to evaluate the countries' overall compliance with the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, an international agreement signed in December 2002 that will enter into full force on July 1. In addition, the Coast Guard will provide assistance with interpretation of the international code, as it has already done through discussions with representatives from over 50 nations.

The Coast Guard is working very closely with Customs and Border Protection to ensure that this program, the Container Security Initiative and other programs are developed and executed in harmony.

Key elements of the International Port Security Program include:

- A traveling team that will visit approximately 45 countries each year
- International Port Security Liaison Officers that will be stationed around the world to share information on best practices and to provide assistance to the traveling team.

The traveling team and liaison officers will:

- Meet with appropriate national authorities to discuss the nation's maritime security regime and its interpretation and implementation of the international code.
- Jointly visit representative ports within the country to view implementation
- Jointly verify with the host nation the effectiveness of the country's approval process for port facility and vessel security assessments and plans required under the international code.
- Provide technical assistance as

NEWS ARTICLES (CONT.)

necessary to assist countries with compliance

- Share information about best practices, both from within the country and around the world

The Coast Guard will use the information gained from these visits to improve our own security practices and to determine if additional security precautions will be required for vessels arriving in the United States from other countries.

Vessels that make port calls at countries that are not participants or that are not in compliance with the requirements of the international code could be delayed when attempting to enter a U.S. port as a result of additional enforcement actions.

The enforcement actions could include:

- Boarding the vessel at sea prior to entry into port

- Controlling the vessel's movement with armed escorts

- Conducting a comprehensive security inspection at the dock or at sea
- Denying entry into U.S. waters

These measures will remain in place until the country demonstrates compliance.

The Coast Guard invites officials from other nations for reciprocal visits to the United States and select ports to observe the Coast Guard's procedures for implementing the international code.

This program is part of efforts within the Department of Homeland Security to develop and enhance international partnerships in order to create a more secure global shipping community, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Container Security Initiative (CSI).

CSI and this new Coast Guard program will complement each other. Under CSI, CBP has stationed officers in 18 major foreign ports, and is working side-by-side with foreign customs authorities to identify and target cargo containers that could present a potential risk for terrorism. The foreign customs authorities then inspect those containers for possible terrorist weapons before the containers are placed on ships bound for the United States. CBP officers observe

these inspections. The International Port Security Program will focus on improving the security of the vessels and port facilities that transport, stow, and handle cargo and people, including CSI containers.

Marine Corps Commandant Tells Stories of Respect, Heroism

By Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

There was such a hush in the hotel ballroom that one could hear a pin drop in a haystack as Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Michael W. Hagee told short stories of how Marines are respected around the world and of three heroes from the battlefields of Iraq.

Speaking to the audience at the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation's 10th Annual Invitational Gala in Atlantic City in mid-June, Hagee said a recent Gallup poll indicated that the American people recognize what the nation's servicemen and women are doing today. "They stood right at the top of the profession most admired by the American people," Hagee noted. "For those of us wearing the uniform today, that's quite a responsibility that we have to carry on."

That, Hagee said, reminded him of another story having to do with the Battle of Belleau Wood in June 1918, which is a touchstone for Marines. "Marines marching from Paris toward Belleau Wood stopped the Germans about 45 kilometers from Paris in about a two-week battle that occurred in that small forest," the general noted.

"What most Marines don't know (is that) something else occurred there almost 70 years later," Hagee said. "The battlefield looks today just like it did in June of 1918. During rainstorms, quite often, relics come up from that battle. In the mid-'80s, a Marine came up out of the ground and he was to be buried at the American cemetery," the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery south of the village of Belleau, France.

Hagee said about 70 Marines attended the burial. "But what wasn't expected was that more than 400 Frenchmen came to the interment," he said. "They came for one reason – to honor the United States Marine who had given his life in defense of their country. That's the reputation that we have; not only here in the United States, but throughout the world."

When he was in France for the 60th anniversary of D-Day, Hagee said, Frenchmen came up and, even though they didn't speak English, they got their point across: "We thank you very much for what you do, what you have done for our country and what you are doing for the world today."

The general then asked all the active duty Marines at the gala to stand up and be recognized, which resulted in thunderous applause from the audience. He then told heartwarming stories about individual Marines who represent all active duty Marines and those who have gone before.

His first story was about the heroism of then-1st Lt. Brian Chontosh, who was recently promoted to captain.

While serving as a platoon commander in an armored Humvee with a .50-caliber machine gun mounted on top in Iraq, Chontosh was caught in an ambush. His platoon came under heavy enemy fire from AK-47 assault rifles, machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars. An RPG struck one of his Humvees, killing one Marine and wounding another.

"He was in the kill zone of the ambush," Hagee noted. "He saw the only way out was to drive right toward a .50-caliber machine gun. So he told his driver to attack that machine gun emplacement. The driver drove straight at it, and the machine gunner up top at point-blank range took out the Iraqi machine gun emplacement."

"He was still receiving fire, so he saw a trench line on his left and told his driver to go into the trench line," Hagee continued. "The good news is they got to the trench line. The bad news is it was an Iraqi trench line."

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NEW YORK AREA ASSOCIATION NEWS

Note: For more detailed information, we suggest that you contact any Web site that may be listed for the following organizations.

American Legion (Post #694)
POC: Dennis Golden 631-424-7169
or D8260@aol.com

American Legion (Post #754)
Meetings conducted at NY Athletic Club, New York, NY
POC: Mary Humphrey 212-247-5100 ext 7300

American Legion (Post #719)
POC: William Farrel 718-352-4524

American Legion
Web: www.legion.org
Looking for reunion information? Check other site www.vets.org

Army and Navy Union
Founded in 1886, the oldest veterans' organization in America. ALL Individuals who have ever served Honorably in the armed forces of the United States, or who are still serving Honorably in uniform, are eligible for membership, provided they obligate themselves.
Web: www.armynavy.net

Association of the United States Army (AUSA)
GNV-Statue of Liberty Chapter
346 Broadway-room 805, New York, NY 10013. Nonprofit Organization that helps support and provides aid for soldiers, marines and their families.
POC: MG(R) Robert R. Rose, E-mail: robert.r.rose@us.army.mil

Association of Naval Services Officers (ANSO)
An association of Hispanic Officers in the uniformed naval services. ANSO is sanctioned by SECNAV and SECDEF
Web: users.erols.com/anso/indexold.htm

Catholic War Veterans
POC: Thomas A. Bolan 212-682-8184/
(fax) 212-682-9380
Web: www.cwv.org/

Chief Warrant Officers Association (CWOA)
POC: 202-267-0661
Web:
www.cwoauscg.org/

Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association (CG CPOA)
POC: YNCM Scaramastro (703) 941-0395 or e-mail: CGCPOA@Aol.com
Web: www.uscgcpoa.org/

Federal Law Enforcement Foundation Inc.
Established in 1989 to assist families of federal agents killed or disabled in the line of duty. POC: 212-642-4620
Web: www.federallawenforcement.com/

Fisher House @ Stratton Medical Center, Albany
POC: Vicki or Ralph Folger
518-439-1824

Fort Hamilton Community Club (FHCC)
POC: 718-630-4930
Web: www.hamilton.army.mil?fhcc.html

Fort Montgomery Battle Site Assoc.
Box 376, Ft Montgomery, NY 10922
POC: Mrs. Stella Bailey 914-446-0400
or Mrs. Doris Lent 914-446-2270

Fort Totten Military Officers Club
POC: Mr. Perotta 516-889-8714

International Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA)
POC: 800-494-2762
Web: goatlocker.exis.net/icpoa/index.html

INTREPID Sea-Air-Space Museum
INTREPID Museum, 46th Street and 12th Avenue, NY 10036
POC: Public Relations 212-245-0072
Web: www.intrepidmuseum.org

Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA)
Interested in Security Affairs? Check out their web site<<http://www.jinsa.org>>
POC: JINSA, 1717 K Street, Suite 800, Washington DC, 20006, 202-833-0020

Web: www.jinsa.org/

Jewish War Veterans (JWV)
POC: 212-349-6640 or travel desk 800-228-1516. Web: <www.jwv.org>

Marine Corps League
POC: Lu Caldara 914-941-2118
e-mail LLC1@westchestergov.com
Web: www.mcleague.org/

Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, Inc.
POC: MaryLou Amarosa 212-997-0100

Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA)
Located at Kings Point, NY, USMMA is offering Selected Reservist training.
POC: Joshua Dery 516-773-5567 or e-mail deryj@usmma.edu
Web: www.usmma.edu/gmats

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
Formerly The Retired Officers Association (TROA) POC: 800-444-2326
Web: www.moaa.org/

The Military Order of World Wars (MOWW)
POC: 703-683-4911

Militia Association of New York (MANY)
POC: Howard Haider 718-815-0505
or manyed@juno.com
Web: www.m-a-n-y.org/

369th Historical Society @ Militia Association of New York (MANY)
POC: 718-793-6812

National Guard Association (NGAUS)
Web: www.ngaus.org

National Association of Fleet Tug Sailors
Organized to perpetuate and memorialize the tugs, salvage and tug-type ships and those who served in them in the naval and military services of the United States of America.
Web: www.nafts.com

NEW YORK AREA ASSOCIATION NEWS (Cont.)

National Maritime Historical Society
5 John Walsh Blvd., Peekskill, NY
POC: Patrick J. Garvey 914-737-7878
or exdir@seahistory.org
Web: www.seahistory.org/

National Museum of Naval Aviation
Located aboard NAS Pensacola,
Pensacola, FL.
Web: naval.aviation.museum/home.html

Naval Institute (USNI) and USNI Press
Check out their publication listings at
Web: www.usni.org

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)
POC: G. Wallmark 703-426-9643 or
bsdn@ndw.navy.mil
Check out new NERA Comm Center on
their website
POC: HQ 703-534-1329/800-776-9020
Web: <www.nera.org/nera>
NYC NERA POC: Manny Ratner
516-334-3670, e-mail
manglo001@earthlink.net

Naval Militia Association, Inc. (NMA)
POC: 516-333-2000 ext 130

Naval Order of the United States (NOUS)
POC: LT Adelaar, 212-582-7368

Naval Reserve Association (NRA)
POC: Captain Gibbons, NYNM 631-
277-1404
POC: 703-548-5800
Web: www.navy-reserve.org

Naval Reserve Forces (NRF)
Web: reserves.navy.mil
Reserve career opportunity info through
Reserve Personnel Management (NPC-
9) Web: www.persnet.navy.mil/pers9/
index.htm

Naval War College
Web: www.nwc.navy.mil

Navy Exchange
Web: www.navy-nex.com

Navy League of the United States (NLUS), New York Council
POC: 212-399-4440/(Fax)212-399-4405
c/o INTREPID Sea-Air-Space Museum,
One Intrepid Square, Pier 86, NY, NY
10036

Navy Club of Lake Ontario
21 Clinton St., Brockport, NY 14420
585-637-6110
Web: www.navetsusa.com/1812.html

Navy League of the United States (NLUS)
POC: Navy League offices 703-528-
1775
Web: navyleague.org

Navy Lodge
For reservations 1-800-NAVY-INN
Web: www.navy-lodge.com

Navy SEABEE Veterans of America
Veteran SEABEE's and USMC
SEABEE advisors invited/contact:
Navy SEABEE Veterans of America, PO
Box 1077, West Seneca, NY, 14224

Navy Veterans of the USA
PO Box 259
Brockport, NY 14420
716 766-5013
Web: www.navetusa.com

New York Guard (NYG)
POC: COL Michael Stenzel 518-786-
4970 or
michael.stenzel@ny.ngb.army.mil or
BG Sidney Baumgarten 212-432-2428,
sidbaumgarten@aol.com, liaison to
NYNM
Web: www.dmna.state.ny.us/nyg/
nyg.html

New York Guard Association, Inc.
POC: BG Pierre David Lax
Phone: 1-888-NYGUARD(694-8273)
Email: nyguardassociation@yahoo.com

New York Institute of Technology (NYIT)
POC: Sharon Conklyn 516-348-3078/
(FAX) 516-348-0327
Web: www.nyit.edu/

Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)
Serving all of the Armed Services and
their families.
Web: www.ncoausa.org

Old Guard of the City of New York
POC: 212 724-9268

Project Liberty Ship
Project Liberty Ship Chairperson,
POC: Helen Bentley, PO Box 25846
Hightstown Station, Baltimore,
Maryland 21224 (PH) 410-661-1550
Web: www.liberty-ship.com/

Reserve Enlisted Association (REA)
POC: Lani Burnett
lburnett@reaus.org or 202-646-7758
Web: www.reaus.org

Reserve Officers Association (ROA)
POC: Ms Grace White, 202-479-2200
Web: www.roa.org

Respect for Law Alliance (RFLA)
POC: Arthur Gerwin, 212-486-0543

Sampson WW-2 Navy Museum
Sampson State Park, Romulus, New
York (no admission charge)
POC: 315-585-6392/800-357-1814

Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (SMOTJ)
POC: Captain Liam Murphy, NYNM
914-231-1683 or WJMWPNY@aol.com
(COL Wayne McGrath)

Soldiers', Sailors', Marines and Airmen's Club
Rates for Reservists at this Lexington
Avenue address in Manhattan (located
between 36th and 37th Street) are from
\$25-\$35/night, tax free.
Reservations: 800-678-8443
Web: www.ssmclub.org

State University of New York Maritime College (SUNY)
POC: 718-409-7278
Web: www.sunymaritime.edu/

T*A*P*S

NEW YORK AREA ASSOCIATION NEWS (Cont.)

Organization for survivors of Military personnel

Web: www.taps.org

US Navy Association (USNA)

POC: LCDR William R. Seidenstein,
USNR (Ofc) 718-250-2703, (H) 516-489-9847

USMC Combat Correspondents Association

POC: GYSGT M. Reynolds 516-793-2715, semperfi@nassau.cv.net
Web: www.usmccca.org/

United States Navy Public Affairs Alumni Association (USNPAAA)

e-mail: <jnemer@erols.com>
Web: www.usnpaa.org/

United Services Organization (USO)

POC: USO 212-448-0455/e-mail: usonyc16@aol.com
GEN Douglas MacArthur Memorial Center, 283 Lexington Ave., Suite A, NY, NY 212-448-0496
Web: www.uso.org/

United War Veterans Council of New York County

212-693-1476
Web: www.uwvc.crosshairs.net

USS Slater (DE 766) Museum

Last surviving DE of WWII
Hours Thur-Sun 1100-1600/Closed
10/31-3/31, POB 1926, Albany, NY 12201-1926
518-431-1943
Web: www.dmna.state.ny.us/slater

Veterans Bedside Network (Veterans Hospital Radio and TV Guild)

POC: Wallace Green 914-699-6069

West Point Club

USMA Club at West Point
POC: Armand DiPoalo 914-938-5120
Fax 914-446-0749
Web: www.usma.edu/dcfa

(Continued from page 15)

"This lieutenant got out of his vehicle with an M-16 in one hand and a 9 mm

pistol in the other hand, and he started working his way down the trench line," Hagee continued. "He ran out of ammunition. He picked up an AK-47 and continued working down the trench line. He ran out of ammunition again. He picked up another AK-47 and continued working down the trench line. He reached the end of the trench line and there was an Iraqi machine gun emplacement sitting up on the top. He picked up an Iraqi RPG and took out that machine gun emplacement.

"He didn't get a scratch – not one scratch," Hagee noted. "I had the honor and pleasure of awarding this nation's second highest award for bravery – the Navy Cross – about three weeks ago. When I gave it to him and thanked him for his service and what he'd done, he said, 'Sir, I was doing it for my Marines, to take care of my Marines.'"

Hagee then told of the heroism of Marine Cpl. Jason L. Dunham, who wasn't so lucky. About three weeks ago, the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda, Md., asked Hagee to come to the hospital to pin a Purple Heart on Dunham in the presence of the corporal's parents.

"It had to be done right away because they were afraid he was going to die," Hagee noted.

When the commandant arrived at Dunham's bedside, the corporal wasn't conscious. "I was able to pin the Purple Heart on him, and he passed away about 45 minutes later," Hagee said.

He said all Dunham's parents could talk about was how he felt about the Marine Corps and how he loved and respected the Marine Corps. "They have a 15-year-old son who wants to join the Marine Corps," the general said. "And they're going to support him."

The commandant told of how Dunham, a 22-year-old squad leader, was engaged in close combat with an enemy combatant in Iraq when an enemy hand grenade threatened the safety of Dunham and his fellow Marines. Dunham reportedly jumped on the grenade, shielding the blast using his helmet and himself, and was

severely wounded.

"He was thinking of only one thing: the Marines in his squad," Hagee said. Dunham was a member of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment.

Hagee's last story was about another 22-year-old squad leader, Cpl. Timothy C. Tardif, who was suffering from grenade fragment wounds and had been evacuated to Germany, but found a way back to the battlefields of Iraq.

"He was in a platoon that was in a very fierce firefight, and he was able to lead his squad across an open road into a village to secure the right flank of the village," Hagee said. "The good news is they made it across. The bad news is they were in a hand grenade-throwing contest.

The battle continued for a couple of hours. Tardif was seriously wounded by shrapnel, but he refused to be evacuated, the general said. "They were successful and secured the village," Hagee noted. "But as they were pulling out of the village, Corporal Tardif passed out because of loss of blood."

Tardif was evacuated to the Army's Regional Medical Center at Landstuhl, Germany, where most of the wounded servicemen and women go before returning to the United States.

"Somehow, Corporal Tardif convinced the doctors that he need to be checked out of the hospital," Hagee said. "The doctor checked him out, and Corporal Tardif got ahold of a corpsman and borrowed a utility uniform. Then he went to the Air Force base and talked his way onto an aircraft to go back to Iraq."

Hagee said this was in April 2003, and Tardif stayed in Iraq until September, when his squad returned home. Pointing out that Tardif is married, the general said the corporal called his wife from Germany and told her, "Honey, I could come home right now, but I'm a Marine. And I have responsibilities. I'm a squad leader and my Marines need me. And I'm going to go back."

"That's the type of young Marine that we have in the Marine Corps today," Hagee said. "It's also the type of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Coast Guardsmen we have in all of our services today. It's the type of young Americans we have in all

of our armed forces today."

He then told foundation members, "Your support of them means much more than you realize."

The foundation, formed in 1995 by former Marines and law enforcement personnel, awards scholarship bonds to help finance the education of children who lost parents in the line of duty. Scholarships are now given to various federal law enforcement agencies, and also apply to eligible children of members of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. The foundation raised more than \$11 million last year. In addition, the foundation provided scholarship aid to the children whose parents were killed in the Oklahoma City bombing, Sept. 11, 2001, Pentagon attack and the February 2003 space shuttle Columbia disaster. The foundation also decided last year to include children of coalition partners in Iraq and Afghanistan, including Great Britain, Poland and Australia.

All donations go toward the assistance of children. No administrative costs of any type are charged to the foundation. Membership is free.

IDENTITY THEFT HELP

A new Federal Trade Commission publication, "ID Theft: When Bad Things Happen to Your Good Name," gives important hints on how to guard your personal data from identity thieves. The publication points out that skilled identity thieves have proven highly adept over the last several years. It explains how they use low- and high-tech methods to gain access to personal data such as Social Security numbers and credit card account information. The publication is available online at <www.consumer.gov/idtheft>.

Veterans Affairs Reaches Out to Newest Combat Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs is expanding its efforts to reach veterans of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to ensure they are aware of

benefits they have earned. VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi is sending a personal letter to more than 150,000 veterans of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom who have recently separated from the military to thank them for their service and to remind them of their eligibility for VA health care and other benefits.

"I want these men and women to know that we are grateful for their service to our country," Principi said. "Those who served in Afghanistan, Iraq and other places around the world have risked their lives to make America more secure. One of the ways the nation shows its gratitude is by ensuring veterans receive the benefits they deserve."

Principi's letter includes brochures and links to the department's Web pages that contain more details about VA benefits, including an opportunity to apply for benefits online.

As Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom veterans continue to leave the active-duty military, VA expects to mail about 10,000 letters each month. The first letters were sent May 10.

VA also regularly mails information packets to all service members separating from the military to remind them of eligibility for basic VA benefits, such as VA-guaranteed home loans and education benefits. In addition, there are provisions in these programs for reservists and National Guard members.

The additional outreach to those recently deployed to combat theaters alerts them to special eligibility that increases their access to health care for two years after separation from the military for illnesses and injuries that may be the result of military service. For those medical problems, VA waives copayments for inpatient and outpatient care. VA focuses special attention on those with service-related disabilities, officials said. The department's goal is a seamless transition from military to VA services, with claims for financial benefits receiving expedited processing.

For the seriously wounded, VA has counselors working at the bedsides of patients in military hospitals with the largest numbers of casualties to begin

benefit applications before they leave the military. VA social service personnel work at these military facilities to plan health care coordination as service members move from military to VA care. This helps ensure a smooth transition to a VA hospital or clinic near the veteran's intended residence for continuity of medical care, officials said.

In partnership with state and local government benefits counselors and veterans service organization representatives, VA annually briefs about 200,000 service members around the world before discharge to help prepare them for civilian transition and VA benefits. The department operates benefits offices at 133 military installations to help service members with conditions arising during service prepare to begin receiving VA compensation promptly after discharge.

"VA has learned many lessons since the Gulf War in 1991 and other conflicts, which will ensure that this newest generation of war veterans receives the health care and assistance they deserve when they return to civilian life," Principi said.

Reserve, Guard Can Seek Reimbursement of Medical, Dental Claims

National Guard and reserve members who paid their medical and dental bills and saved their receipts may now seek reimbursement from Tricare, officials of the military health care system announced July 23. Officials said the system will begin processing medical and dental claims for Guard and Reserve members who meet certain eligibility requirements.

Only guardsmen and reservists issued "delayed-effective-date active-duty orders" for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation, and their families, may be eligible to have medical claims reimbursed.

And according to Tricare, only those medical expenses incurred during the military member's "early eligibility" period -- up to 60 days prior to reporting to active duty -- from Nov. 6, 2003, to the present are eligible for reimbursement.

This temporary entitlement is part of the Defense Department's 2004 Temporary Reserve Health Benefit Program, which sought to enhance benefits for Guard and reserve members called to active duty.

Normally, under Tricare guidelines, Reserve and Guard members cannot be enrolled into Tricare until they reach their final duty location. The temporary entitlement gives them access upon receipt of activation orders, up to 60 days in advance.

Last year, President Bush signed legislation authorizing three new temporary provisions for guardsmen and reservists and their families that provided enhanced access to for a limited time during contingency activation. The provisions were made retroactive to Nov. 6, 2003.

A second provision temporarily extended eligibility for Tricare benefits to 180 days for those guardsmen and reservists who separated from active duty status during the period Nov. 6, 2003, through Dec. 31, 2004.

The third provision extends Tricare medical benefits to reserve-component sponsors and family members who are either unemployed or employed but not eligible for employer-provided health coverage.

All temporary provisions will end on Dec. 31, 2004.

However, the measure did include three provisions for permanent health benefits: making benefit counselors available for Guard and Reserve members in each Tricare region, authorizing medical and dental screening and care for members alerted for mobilization, and providing Tricare eligibility for reserve officers pending orders to active duty following commissioning.

Guardsmen, reservists and their family members must be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System and be Tricare eligible to qualify for the temporary benefit.

In order to apply for reimbursement, eligible members must submit a Tricare (CHAMPUS) claim form, a copy of their itemized bill, an explanation of benefits, and proof of payment (if the bill was already paid) to their regional Tricare claims processor.

Claims processing instructions and a downloadable Tricare claims form, DD Form 2642, are available at local Tricare service centers or from Tricare regional contractors, or may be downloaded from the Tricare Web site.

Operation Blue to Green

Navy personnel officials are working side by side with their counterparts in the Army on a program designed to facilitate the transfer of qualified naval officers and Sailors to active duty in the Army.

The new program, called Operation Blue to Green, could offer financial bonuses and will include four weeks of extra training for those with skill sets most needed by the Army.

"Lots of details still need to be worked out," said Cmdr. Carl Murphy, the Navy's Blue to Green coordinator. "We see this as a very good option for someone separating from the Navy but still interested in continuing to serve the country on active duty."

The Navy has already provided Army personnel officials the names and work addresses of some 8,000 Sailors with plans to separate over the next year. Information flow, stressed Murphy, will be key to the program's success.

"We think Operation Blue to Green shows great promise, and we are working hard to support it," he said. "That means making sure both the Army and our separating Sailors have enough information about each other to make good decisions. As with any major career move, the individual is in the driver's seat."

The Army is especially interested in Sailors with skills that translate easily to Army jobs, including cryptology, fire control, air traffic control and mechanics. A complete list of Navy ratings and Navy Enlisted Classification codes that are of interest to the Army is available on the Operation Blue to Green Web site at www.goarmy.com/btg/index.htm#benefits.

Under current policy, an enlisted Sailor interested in applying for the program must first be discharged from

the Navy before reentering active service in the Army. Officers will be able to transition without broken service under existing rules for inter-service transfer.

Applicants in pay grades E-1 through E-4 will retain the same rank, as will officers. Second class petty officers will have their pay grade eligibility determined by the Army's Human Resources Command.

Other requirements of the program include:

- Must be physically fit
- Must meet Army height and weight standards
- Eight-year service obligation still applies
- Minimum term of service is three years
- Must have approved DD Form 368

Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel are also being encouraged to apply.

NEW TAX RELIEF ACT ASSISTS SERVICE MEMBERS AND FAMILIES

Legislation signed by President Bush increases the death gratuity payment to \$12,000 and provides that the full payment is tax-free.

"That portion of the Military Family Tax Relief of 2003 is retroactive to 10 Sept. 2001, to provide for service members who died in the terrorist attacks the following day and in the ongoing Global War on Terror," said Army LCOL Janet Fenton, Director, Armed Forces Tax Council. "If you are killed on active duty, regardless of whether you're in theater, or in a training accident, or die from disease, your family receives \$12,000 death gratuity that is not taxed," she added. "And that's a big change."

In addition, any future increases to the death gratuity will remain tax-free. "The death gratuity has been \$6,000 since 1991, with half of it being taxed," said the Director. "It just didn't seem to be fair for the military family who was left grieving for their service member to get hit with a tax bill," she added.