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Spring 2013

# guardtimes

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

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# FROM THE LEADERSHIP

**T**he ranks of the New York Army and Air National Guard are filled with Soldiers and Airmen doing excellent work day in and day out.

Some of our members, though, often go above and beyond the call of duty in their service, and it's always good to see those service members recognized.

Five members of the New York Army National Guard—three from Company F, 427th Brigade Support Battalion in Farmingdale and two from the 105th Military Police Company in Buffalo—were recently honored by New York State for the bravery and selfless service they displayed when Hurricane Sandy hit Long Island on the night of October 29, 2012.

Sgt. Kenny Bharose, Sgt. 1st Class Israel Mahadeo and Sgt. Michael Palopoli from the 427th and Sgt. Brandan Voss and Spc. Isaac Wieboldt from the 105th, drove humvees through rising waters and fierce winds alongside first responders, then waded and swam, without regard for their own safety, to help save the lives of at least 28 people.

The Soldiers were part of two separate teams that aided local firefighters and police as the storm came ashore. Between them, the Soldiers helped 28 of their fellow citizens, ranging in age from an infant to an 87-year old woman, escape from their flooded houses in Island Park and Long Beach.

Along with wind and water, the Soldiers dealt with stalled vehicles, downed power lines, and in one case they assisted evacuating residents from a burning building. They also faced the possible threat of electrocution from numerous downed power lines.

The five Soldiers received the New York State Medal of Valor, the state's highest award for

heroism, at a ceremony in the State Capitol in May.

Later this summer, Army National Guard Sgt. Joshua Young, who now serves with the 1108th Ordnance Company as an explosives ordnance disposal technician, will receive the Bronze Star with V device for Valor. The award reflects his heroism while on patrol in Afghanistan in March 2012.

An IED hit the unit he was with and the platoon sergeant was badly injured. Young ignored his own safety and moved under fire to free the wounded NCO from the debris that covered him and then evacuated him to the medevac point.

Members of our New York Air National Guard have also been recognized for their extraordinary performance on and off the battlefield.

Air Guard Staff Sgt. James J. Dougherty, Senior Master Sgt. Erik S. Blom, and Capt. Ronnie S. Maloney, all members of the 106th Rescue Wing at Westhampton Beach received the Jolly Green Association 2012 Rescue Mission of the Year Award this spring. The organization of Air Force rescue veterans honored the New York Airmen for the December 10, 2012 rescue of four coalition Soldiers wounded by an IED in Afghanistan. The three men braved enemy small arms and RPG fire to evacuate the four wounded Soldiers regardless of the risk to themselves.

Closer to home, Sonepith Keovingsamay, a civilian employee at the Eastern Air Defense Sector in Rome was honored by being named the Air National Guard's Outstanding Civilian Manager for Information Dominance for 2012.

EADS also recognized Capt. Brian Freshwater and Master Sgt. Mark Armitage for their outstanding service as well. Freshwater was named Command and Control Warrior of the Year in the officer category and Armitage won the same award in the enlisted category for the Air Force North American Aerospace Defense Command Region.

Air Guard Maj. Michelle Buonome, the Air Guard's personnel officer in Latham, was recently recognized by the Federal Executive Association for her work supporting the Spina Bifida Association. Buonome found time in her busy schedule to coordinate the group's annual Walk and Roll 5k fundraiser for three years in a row, raising over \$15,000 for research during their most recent event.

The New York National Guard's human resources team was also honored by the Federal Executive Association for their effort made to find new positions for 105th Airlift Wing technicians expected to lose their jobs when the wing began flying the C-17.

Our human resource experts put together a team that worked with the Air Guard technicians—holding job fairs, and conducting one-on-one meetings to place people in other jobs. In the end, instead of 250 people displaced by the shift from flying the C-5A to the C-17, only 21 technicians were without a job.

That is tremendous work by our people. And our units too, have been recognized for their accomplishments.

Salute Magazine, a military-oriented publication distributed on military bases—recognized the 204th Engineer Battalion as it's 2012 Unit of the Year because of the



**Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy**

work the Soldiers did responding to Tropical Storms Lee and Irene in 2011. Binghamton Mayor Matt Ryan also recognized the 204th Soldiers for their efforts.

The 109th Logistics Readiness Squadron's Small Air Terminal detachment was recognized for its outstanding work in 2012 with the Air Guard's "Air Reserve Component Air Transportation Activity of the Year" award. During 2012, the 109 Small Air Terminal moved nearly 1,000 short tons of cargo, and approximately 3,000 passengers on air mobility flights.

We have many outstanding Soldiers, Airmen and units in the New York National Guard. And it does make us stand a little taller when others recognize what we already know.



Lt. Col. James Gonyo, commander of the 1-69 Infantry, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony McLean, right, with NY State Medal of Valor recipients Sgt. 1st Class Israel Mahadeo and Sgt. Kenny Bharose. The Soldiers, and three others, received the state's highest award for valor for their response during Hurricane Sandy. On the night of October 29, 2012, Mahadeo, Bharose and Sgt. Michael Palopoli drove, waded and swam through rising water and fierce wind without regard for their own safety as Hurricane Sandy struck Long Island. Courtesy photo.

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Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, COMMANDER IN CHIEF  
Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
Eric Durr, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
Col. Richard Goldenberg, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER  
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FS GABRESKI AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, WESTHAMPTON BEACH - Security Forces members and augmentees with the 106th Rescue Wing's Security Forces Squadron, along with support from student flight, conducts crowd control training at FS Gabreski May 5. Photo by Senior Airman Christopher Muncy.

ON THE COVER: HELMEND PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN - New York Army National Guard Maj. James Pridgen administers the oath of reenlistment to Sgt. Barbara Morgan during a reenlistment ceremony here March 15 for Company F, 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation (Air Ambulance). Morgan and Staff Sgt. Steven Salter reenlisted with the National Guard during their tour. Courtesy photo.

BACK COVER: Looking for an employer interested in hiring members of the New York National Guard? Now there's an App for that! Thanks to a directive from Major General Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York, and the volunteer work of an Army National Guard captain, the New York National Guard's Job Zone web page is now accessible from iPhones, iPads, and iPods by downloading the Job Zone application from iTunes.

## Tuition Aid Available for Soldiers who Seek it

Story by Spc. J.p. Lawrence, 42nd Infantry Division

**If Soldiers want tuition assistance as they go to school, they can find plenty of options.**

There are so many options, in fact, that navigating the acronyms and deadlines and forms of the benefits can be overwhelming-even confusing.

"There's so many programs," said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Landry of the National Guard Education Office in Watervliet, N.Y. "There's a lot of Soldiers who just want to get their college paid for. That's all the Soldier wants, but they're not quite sure how to get it, or how to apply for it."

Every day, Landry and his coworkers answer calls from servicemembers on how to get the most out of their educational benefits. The key is knowing which programs are right for what the servicemember wants.

"It's complicated," said Capt. Ashlee Coye, New York Army National Guard Education Services Officer. "But the good news about it is there's a lot of money out there for Soldiers who want to go to school."

Servicemembers run into problems, Landry said, when they assume their paperwork will just take care of itself. "If you want that money, you're going to have to learn how to use the programs," Landry said.

What Landry tries to do, he explained, is to break each program down step-by-step, into digestible chunks that he compiles in an email and sends to each servicemember. If the servicemembers follow the steps, Landry said, they will maximize their chances of tuition aid success.

When Servicemembers call him with questions, Landry makes sure to look up the caller's information so that he can give more informed advice.

"What our jobs are, and what my job is, particularly, is to understand the benefits of a program as it pertains to what benefits the Soldier," Landry said. "I ask what's the educational goal? I ask what kind of school they want."

That's the first step in the search - knowing what kind of degree one wants, or what kind of time commitment one can make, or knowing if one wants to go to an online school or to a brick and mortar schoolhouse.

These questions and other factors all affect a Soldier's eligibility. So does whether or not a Soldier has been deployed. So does whether or not a Soldier is an officer.

And each program is different in its requirements and deadlines.

If the Soldier has been not deployed, Landry sends them a packet with instructions on the Recruitment Incentive and Retention Program (RIRP), Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) and the Montgomery GI Bills (Chapters 1606 and 1607).

These and other programs are open to Soldiers as they begin drilling, but Soldiers who deployed to Afghanistan or the Persian Gulf are eligible for additional programs. In this case, Landry sends the servicemembers a Post 9/11 GI Bill handout and a Veterans Tuition Awards (VTA) sheet.

"The general rule is you need to apply for everything," Coye said. "A lot of these programs are contingent on funds, and by applying for everything the Soldier strengthens their chances of receiving funding."

Many programs will not duplicate each other, meaning if a Soldier attending SUNY is approved for RIRP, and they also applied for FTA - only one program will be applied to cover the bill.

Coye also stresses keeping all tuition assistance paperwork together, staying aware of all deadlines, and staying in communication with the school - even after all the paperwork has been turned in.

"Follow-up is absolutely important," Landry said.

"I tell Soldiers, I don't mind if you call me 500 times, because that means you care enough to not just let somebody else fill out your applications," Landry said. "You don't need to know all the answers, but you need to send them to us so that we can fill in the blanks."

The NY National Guard Education Office can be reached at (518) 272-6349, at (518) 272-6318, or at [ng.ny.nyarnng.list.education-ny@mail.mil](mailto:ng.ny.nyarnng.list.education-ny@mail.mil). For Airmen with the New York Air National Guard, contact Senior Master Sgt. Jim Reeves at (518) 786-4326. **gt**.

### Military Tuition Aid at a Glance:

#### If a Soldier has not deployed:

##### RIRP

- Must be a NY resident (at least 186 days) attending a school physically in NY
- Pays up to \$2635 a semester (SUNY Tuition) to accredited undergrad schools in NYS
- Must be in good standing with both military and with school
- Must have at least 6 credit hours per semester or 4 credit hours per quarter
- Can only be used for a first undergraduate degree (up to bachelors)

##### FTA

- Pays up to \$4500 per fiscal year
- Can be used for more kinds of degrees than RIRP (Masters, associates, etc.)
- Must remain in good standing with mili-

tary and with school (must have GPA 2.0+)

- Officers must serve additional 4 years in ARNG after using program
- Apply through GoArmyEd.com before class start date or Aug. 28 for fall
- Montgomery GI Bill Chapters 1606 and 1607.

- Chapter 1606 covers Soldiers who have graduated Basic Training and Advanced Individual training.
- Chapter 1607 covers Soldiers who have served under Title 10 orders in a disaster.

#### If a Soldier has deployed:

##### Post-9/11 GI Bill

- 36 months of tuition assistance
- A monthly living stipend and annual stipend
- Ability to transfer benefits
- Tuition assistance is based on days de-

ployed

- Three years active is 100%, but most Guardsmen and reservists qualify for 60% tuition assistance

"I need to let the Soldier know that right off the bat, you're going to be on the hook for 40%, which means we need to formulate a plan," Sgt. 1st Class Robert Landry. The GI Bill is based on remaining balance, NOT total tuition. That means if tuition is \$10,000 and the Soldier receives \$2000 in aid, the GI Bill pays 60% of the \$8000 remaining balance.

##### VTA

- Pays up to \$5,595 a year, full-time or part-time study
- For undergraduate, graduate or vocational
- Must be high school graduate
- Works well with GI Bill, as it is calculated AFTER the GI Bill.

# New York Soldiers Get SHARP on Sexual Assault

Story and photo by Eric Durr, Division of Military and Naval Affairs

LATHAM --New York Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Melissa Guckian is now trained as a change agent.

So is Master Sgt. Pete Towse. And so are 49 other members of the New York Army National Guard, along with eight National Guard leaders from Oklahoma, Connecticut, North Dakota and Minnesota.

The 59 officers and Non-Commissioned officers learned to change their unit culture as part of a two-week, 80 hour program of instruction known as SHARP training for Sexual Harassment/ Assault Response and Prevention held in Latham in mid-May.

"The main goal of this is to train advocates in the units--we call them change agents," said Master Sgt. Richard Cumberbatch, the New York Army National Guard Equal Opportunity NCO. "They are the ones who will go back and help their commanders change the culture of their units."

"There is a certain culture in the military where certain things are accepted, not that they were ever allowed, or they were ever legal or approved of. It is just that some things became more important than others over the years and a certain culture creeps into the unit," Cumberbatch explained.

"Sexual harassment and assault is a serious issue in the military," said Towse, the public affairs NCO for the 42nd Infantry Division. "It is possible though this training that I can change attitudes."

SHARP is the Army's response to the concern that sexual harassment and, much worse, sexual assault are rising issues in the military, Cumberbatch said. The 80-hour training program prepares these officers and NCOs to go back

to their brigades and battalions and implement commander's programs to address both sexual harassment and sexual assault.

"We are basically training them to see what right looks like so when they go back to their units they can look at the stuff that is not in compliance with Army policy and make changes," Cumberbatch said.

The participants learn to do this by using intervention techniques and also by setting an example.

The Army requires SHARP-trained officers and NCOs in each brigade or battalion. New York has decided to place SHARP-trained leaders in companies which are located in isolated armories as well, Cumberbatch said.

The goal for the New York Army Guard is to have 120 SHARP-trained professionals. The total now is 116 but maintaining the level means continually training more people, Cumberbatch said. This is the second time New York has hosted a class as it works to maintain its goal.

Sexual assault is a crime and is defined as "intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent." Obviously this means rape, but it can also mean "aggressive touching" Cumberbatch said.

Sexual harassment is two things. It can be a demand to provide sex for favorable work actions, which most people would clearly see is wrong, Cumberbatch said.

But sexual harassment also occurs "when a person is subjected to offensive, unwanted, and unsolicited comments and behavior of a sexual nature that interferes with that person's work performance or



Retired Army Sgt. Major Nancy Mathis speaks to Soldiers enrolled in SHARPS-- Sexual Harrassment/Assault Response and Prevention-- program training at the Division of Military and Naval Affairs Headquarters May 9. Fifty-nine National Guard NCOs and officers from New York, Connecticut, Oklahoma, North Dakota and Minnesota completed the two-week class. The training gives leaders insight and information to implement programs designed to create a professional workplace. New York currently has 116 SHARP-trained Army Guard advisors.

creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment," according to the Army. Sometimes Soldiers may not realize what they consider workplace banter, meets this criteria, Cumberbatch said.

Half-way through the 80-hour class the key thing she had learned, said Guckian, was the need for intervening at the lowest level.

"They are focusing in the class about not being a bystander," she said.

Guckian, a resiliency and suicide prevention instructor with the 106th Regional Training Institute said that a big part of dealing with sexual harassment in the military workplace is to make people more confident in speaking up about things that make them uncomfortable. What one person considers sexual harassment another individual may not, she said.

The SHARP training the Soldiers received is the same program delivered to Active Component

Soldiers around the world, said retired Army sergeant major Nancy Mathis, a contract instructor for the course. There are differences so she and her fellow instructors do cover those issues, she said.

For example, many Guard Soldiers hold civilian jobs in law enforcement and they bring a hands-on perspective to sexual assault issues, Mathis said.

The dispersed nature of National Guard service, with Soldiers located in small numbers across New York, can make it harder to deal with sexual harassment and sexual assault, Cumberbatch said. The New York SARC works hard to link Soldiers up with civilian providers when necessary, he said.

The bottom line is that even if it is only a part-time job for many Soldiers, the armory is still a workplace, Cumberbatch said.

"When it comes to drill you respect your fellow Soldiers," he emphasized. **gt**

## Safety Corner

# Riding Readiness; Equipment is the key

*Commentary by Sgt. 1st Class Chuck Austin, NYARNG Safety Office*

Summer is almost here and we winter weary riders can't wait for the warm weather and riding season to arrive. Here in New York, we don't have the pleasure of riding year round and our motorcycles stay parked for a several months at a time. This is the perfect time of the year to give your bike a careful pre-season inspection.

The best place to start is with a thorough cleaning, even if you washed your motorcycle before storing it for the winter. This step is especially important if you rode the bike on salted winter roads. That thin layer of salt will hold moisture and create rust.

If your motorcycle has a lot of bodywork, after a good exterior cleaning, it's time to remove as many body panels as you are comfortable doing. This is where a good model-specific shop manual comes in handy. As you remove each panel, clean and dry the interior surface and wax the exterior.

Even if you have a lot of experience working on your bike, it is a good idea to have a digital camera or smart phone handy. Prior to removing components first take a picture of how it looked assembled. This will be helpful later, especially if you do this inspection over several work sessions. You should also have a bright flashlight and an assortment of cleaning products for removing things like road grime, oil and grease. Disposable gloves, eye protection and good ventilation are also highly recommended.

Now that you have exposed the hidden areas of your bike, it's time to start the process of inspection and deep cleaning. It is best to

begin at the front wheel and work your way clockwise around the bike. Use the flashlight to examine each area, looking for traces of fluids, frayed wires, cracked or worn hoses and anything that looks loose. If something looks wrong, first take a picture and make a note. Then clean the area and move on to the next section until you have examined and cleaned the whole bike. Avoid the temptation to fix things as you go.

Once you have completed the cleaning and inspection you have both a very clean motorcycle and a comprehensive list, with pictures, of your motorcycle's maintenance needs. To properly finish this job give all the painted parts of the bike a good waxing. Pay special attention to where body panels meet and may rub each other. Polish the chrome and reassemble your motorcycle. While it might seem like double work to assemble the motorcycle before tending to the maintenance list, experience shows that a trip to the repair shop is often required and loose parts have a way of getting lost. Be certain to only trust your maintenance to a qualified mechanic. An inspection checklist can be found at: <https://safety.army.mil/povtoolbox/AdditionalTools/TCLOCSInspectionSheet/tabid/1798/Default.aspx>.

Motorcycle training for NYARNG members can be found at: <http://dma.ny.gov/safety/?id=cycle>.

More information on motorcycle safety can be found at: <https://safety.army.mil/povmotorcyclesafety/MOTORCYCLE/tabid/365/Default.aspx>. **gt**



## Chaplain's Corner

# Strong Bonds for Strong Relationships, a Stronger Army

*Commentary by Chaplain Candidate 1st Lt. Mark Getman, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation*

As families prepared for Memorial Day weekend getaways, 10 New York Army National Guard families attended a Strong Bonds Family event at the Garden City Hotel on Long Island held May 24-26th .

The participants in the weekend events learned how to implement the curriculum, "the Seven Habits of an Effective Military Family," led by Chaplain (Capt.) Marty Young, 42nd Infantry Division Deputy Chaplain.

One of the habits discussed was "Putting First things First" which helps teach understanding how families and couples ensure that they plan properly for important matters first.

When couples were asked "What is one of the most important things for you to do next

week?" two sergeants from the same unit echoed the same sentiment, "to make sure we spend quality time with our wives and children before leaving for Annual Training."

Strong Bonds is a chaplain-led program for Soldiers and their families which builds relationship resiliency for families, couples, and single Soldiers. It is meant to help all thrive better in the turbulence of the military environment. The Strong Bonds helps support Soldier and Family readiness through relationship education and skills training.

Attendees voluntarily participate in a Strong Bonds offsite retreat format designed to maximize relationship training impact. The retreat or "getaway" provides an emotionally safe and

secure training environment in which to address the effect of military lifestyle stressors.

Strong Bonds events are in various locations throughout the state to ensure that Soldiers and families from every command can attend the retreats which can enrich their relationships. The training is all part of the Army's ongoing efforts to build resiliency in military families.

Strong Bond events are scheduled for July, August and September throughout New York State and can be found on [www.strongbonds.org](http://www.strongbonds.org) under National Guard and listed under Strong Bonds Couples, Families or Single Soldier Events Tab. For further information you can Contact 1st Lt. Mark Getman at [mark.h.getman.mil@mail.mil](mailto:mark.h.getman.mil@mail.mil)

## Inspector General's Corner

# What standards are optional?

*Commentary by Col. Daren Sears, Inspector General*

Does anyone think it's a problem when a Soldier or Airman deems that an Army or Air Force standard does not apply to them? I do, and it's not just because I'm the Inspector General. It's because when you know what the standard is and willfully violate that standard, you take a step toward eating away at the very fabric of our professional military organization. Maybe even worse, you teach others around you that it's okay to pick and choose which standards to follow, and that exacerbates the problem of eating away at the good order and discipline of the organization. Ask yourself if it's a problem. I submit to you that it's a minefield, but it's a minefield that is easily cleared...by you!

Let me give you a few examples of what I've seen in just the last couple of days prior to submitting this article:

Service members riding motorcycles without the required personal protective equipment as outlined in Army and Air Force regulations; Service Members standing around outside with their hands in their pockets and/or with no cover; a service member who failed to provide support to their spouse and children; and a service member who used a government vehicle in an unauthorized manner.

No big deal, right? Small potatoes. Nothing to get excited over. WRONG!

There are a few things that bothered me about these incidents.

First is that I believe each of these members knew the standard and made a conscious decision to blow it off.

Second, is that in a couple of examples, there were other service members around, and no one but me decided to correct the behavior.

Third, it got me thinking that if these members willfully disregarded these simple standards, where do they draw the line? Would they fudge a travel voucher? Would they skip steps in a flying checklist that they deemed worthless or too hard to do? Would they blow off doing required preventative maintenance checks before a mission?

Lastly, it made me a bit angry that these members were willing to put their self-interest above those of the organization. I know people make mistakes from time to time, and that's okay. However, it's a different story when you willfully disregard a standard because you don't like it; think it's stupid; or it's just too hard to do. Then, it isn't a mistake. There's a process to change a standard, and each of the services has one.

Additionally, many standards are clear on who the waiver authority is for deviating from that standard. At the very least, you should articulate a deviation or desire to deviate from a standard to command.

A caution to supervisors and leaders; your people are watching. Be the example. Foster a climate of following standards. Allow mistakes but don't tolerate willful disregard.

A caution to subordinates; you are the future of this great organization, and standards are the foundation of what makes us great. Continue to follow standards, even if you don't like them or its easy not to. Standards are not optional.

Lastly, I want to inform you that the IG Office has brought back the IG Quarterly. Our intent is to provide you with topics and trends from the IG perspective that will help our Soldiers, Airmen, and Civilians and the units of the New York National Guard.



# Military Personnel News: the MILPO Corner

## Education

**GI Bill Changes May Require ARNG Soldiers to Take Action.** Eligible Soldiers intending to transfer Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to a dependent should do so immediately. After August 1, 2013, all Soldiers will incur 4-year service obligations as part of the education benefits transfer process. After more than three years time, since the Post-9/11 GI Bill was implemented, Army National Guard (ARNG) Soldiers and Family members continue to have the opportunity to utilize the benefits of the Post 9/11 GI Bill program. Today, however, Soldiers may be eligible for Chapter 33, Post-9/11 benefits and may be eligible to transfer any portion of those benefits to eligible dependents.

New Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB) requires Soldiers to initiate the request prior to separation. Additionally, a military service obligation is required for those Soldiers desiring to transfer their benefit to an eligible Family member listed in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

A significant change will take place after August 1, 2013. All National Guard Soldiers will be required to obligate themselves to 4-years of service if they desire to transfer any portion of their Post-9/11 GI Bill to dependants. Some Soldiers have the option, however, of committing to a lesser military service obligation if transferring their benefit prior to August 2013 and had between 17 and 20 years of service on August 1, 2009. Therefore, if you intend to transfer your Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to a dependent, it is in your best interest to do it immediately. TEB eligible Soldiers should also be aware that failure to complete and return all required documentation (Service extensions and or Statement of Understanding acknowledging their service commitment) to the GI Bill Support Team before August 2013 will have their TEB request denied and must start the process over. The GI Bill Support Team can be reached at [gibill@ng.army.mil](mailto:gibill@ng.army.mil) or 1-866-GIBILL-1.

Go to the following link for additional information: <https://g1arng.army.pentagon.mil/Pages/DisplayFeaturedNewsItem.aspx?featuredNewsItemID=143>

**Federal Tuition Assistance Reinstated!** The Tuition Assistance (TA) functionality in GoArmyEd was turned back on April 10,

2013. Soldiers are again able to apply for TA for the remainder of FY13 under the rules that governed TA usage prior to the suspension. For questions on FTA or how to use [www.goarmy.com](http://www.goarmy.com) please contact Mr. Frank Julian at [ng.ny.nyarnng.list.education-ny@mail.mil](mailto:ng.ny.nyarnng.list.education-ny@mail.mil) or call 518-270-1555.

## Soldier Readiness

**Post Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA).** PDHRA is a comprehensive health screening process that identifies physical and behavioral health concerns for Soldiers returning from deployment. It is a required screening (by law) for all who have deployed OCONUS for 30 days or more. The screening is conducted 90-180 days post-deployment, and it must be completed regardless of location, upcoming separation (ETS), or retirement within the prescribed 90-180 day window.

There are three components to the PDHRA; Resilience Training, DD Form 2900 (Post Deployment Health Reassessment Form), and discussion with a health care provider.

a. Resilience Training is one of the Army's mandatory training programs and conducted prior to PDHRA event.

b. DD Form 2900 (PDHRA Form) is a questionnaire the Soldier completes to help guide discussion with the health care provider.  
c. The discussion with the health care provider can take place either at an on-site event, a call center event, or via telephone for individuals completing the PDHRA. MNP-Health Services (MNP-HS) coordinates with units to setup PDHRA events, typically during Freedom Salute weekends. For individually mobilized Soldiers, MNP-HS will work directly with the Soldier to complete the PDHRA requirement. If it is determined that a Soldier requires treatment for a condition listed by the PDHRA, then a referral is generated to send the Soldier to their local Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital or clinic for treatment. Soldiers are also entitled to pay and allowances for assessments based on the referral. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. John Collins at 518-272-6446.

## Healthcare

**VA: Military health records will soon be available online.** The medical records of active-duty and veteran military personnel will be available online by the end of the year, Depart-

ment of Veterans Affairs officials say. Online data will include medical history, prescriptions and lab results.

## ARNG Launches Facebook Page to Promote Health and Fitness.

The Army National Guard launched a Facebook page to promote health, wellness and fitness among Soldiers and their Families. The page, which can be found at [www.facebook.com/ARNGHealth](http://www.facebook.com/ARNGHealth), promotes dialogue on a variety of important health topics, including sleep, activity, nutrition, injury prevention and emotional health.

"In order to maintain a ready and resilient force, we depend on Soldiers who are physically, mentally and emotionally fit," said Col. Anne Naclerio, ARNG Chief Surgeon. "The Army National Guard is committed to providing our Soldiers and Families with resources to achieve and maintain high standards, as well as avenues to seek out support when they need it."

## Military Records

### Updated Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) Program Page.

The Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) program page has been recently updated to include additional information. The ABCMR is the highest level of administrative review with the Department of the Army with the mission to correct errors in or remove injustices from Army military records. A detailed description of the roles of the ARNG Personnel Policy Division (ARNG-HRH) and the Army Review Boards Agency (ARBA) is included. The ARBA recently moved physical locations and the new address is listed <http://arba.army.pentagon.mil/>

For more information, please visit the link below. ARNG G1 Gateway Program Page: Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR): <https://g1arng.army.pentagon.mil/Programs/ABCMR/Pages/default.aspx>

## Officer Records

**Officer Evaluation Report (OER) Enhancements.** The Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army recently approved additional changes to the officer evaluation system to better align with current Army leadership doctrine. These changes will more accurately evaluate the performance and potential of Army officers, better inform and equip

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leaders and create a more transparent process for officer assignments and selection. The enhancements are planned for implementation by the end of calendar year 2013. The updates were briefed at our Officer Workshops and an informative article on the upcoming changes is available at the following link: [http://www.army.mil/article/87652/Army\\_changing\\_Officer\\_Evaluation\\_Reports/](http://www.army.mil/article/87652/Army_changing_Officer_Evaluation_Reports/)

## Awards

**Requests for Previously Issued Award Orders, Certificates, and Medal Sets.** Inquiries are received almost daily from current and former members concerning previously issued military awards. The following guidance for present and former members is provided for your use.

a. **Current Members.** When a current NYARNG Soldier identifies the requirement for a replacement medal set or ribbon, he or she should contact their unit/command HR NCO. The medal set or ribbon request will then be forwarded through command channels to MNP-PAR for processing. If the award requested is part of this Headquarters award stock, replacement medals and/or ribbons will be furnished. If the award/ribbon requested is one not normally stocked, like the Legion of Merit or Silver Star, etc., which this headquarters is not authorized to issue, the Soldier will be directed to request it in the same manner as "Veterans" provided in paragraph c, below.

b. **Former NYARNG Soldiers.** Former NYARNG may also request replacement medal sets and ribbons following the above guidance, or may follow the "Veterans" guidance in paragraph c, below.

c. **Veteran Requests.** Veteran's who were former NYARNG members, prior service Army or Army Reserve, may request previously issued orders, certificates, and medal sets, from either the National Personnel Records Center or the Human Resources Command - Kentucky, based upon when the retiree/veteran terminated service.

(1) **Termination of Service prior to October 1, 2002.** Army Retirees and Veterans who have terminated their service prior to October 1, 2002 must submit requests to the National Personnel Records Center. The National Personnel Records Center will verify the awards



to which a veteran is entitled and forward the request along with the records verification to the appropriate service department for issuance of the medals. Mail your request to: National Personnel Records Center, 1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, MO 63138 or request them on line: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/index.html>

(2) **Termination of Service after 1 October 2002.** Army Retirees and Veterans who have terminated their service after October 1, 2002 must submit requests to the Human Resources Command - Fort Knox, Kentucky. The U.S. Army Human Resource Command will verify the awards to which a retiree/veteran is entitled and forward the request with the verification to the appropriate service department for issuance of the medals. Requests submitted to HRC may be submitted via a letter or the SF 180. A link to the form is provided below:

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html>

Requests must include a copy of the veteran's/retiree's separation or discharge paperwork and any other supporting documentation to substantiate request. U.S. Army Human Resources Command, ATTN: AHRC-PDP-A, Dept 480, 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408

## Benefits

**Commissary Rewards Cards Are Now Available.** The Defense Commissary Agency's (DeCA) new Commissary Rewards Card is now available at all commissaries. The card, a joint effort with grocery industry partners to help customers save even more on their commissary

purchases, was made available incrementally in all stores after completion of testing that began Aug. 8, 2012. Customers can access digital coupons and redeem them in any military commissary benefit.

Easy to use. The cards are easy to use. Customers simply pick up their cards in-store, visit DeCA's website to complete registration and load digital coupons to their account. Then, when the card is scanned at the register, the coupons are matched to their purchases and automatically deducted from the balance owed.

**Coupon Policy.** Customers have the option of printing off a list of their coupons before making the trip to the commissary to help them keep track of the savings available to them in the store. New offers will typically be posted online every two to three weeks.

Digital coupons, just like their paper counterparts, have expiration dates and other terms and conditions that must be followed. When a coupon expires, it will disappear from the customer's account.

DeCA's coupon policy limits coupons to one per purchase, so digital coupons cannot be combined with paper coupons or commissary coupons, for the same item. The Commissary Rewards Card is partnering to identify additional rewards, such as targeted savings, alerting customers to promotions, and rewarding consistent shoppers with specific incentives.

For more information about the card, go to the Commissary Rewards Card FAQ page. Help is also available through the customer service hotline at 855-829-6219 or through email at [commissarysupport@inmar.com](mailto:commissarysupport@inmar.com).

# LOOKING FOR FAMILY ACTIVITIES THIS SUMMER?



Free Admission

**1,800+**  
museums

Memorial Day to Labor Day

Blue Star Museums offers free admission to active duty military, including Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, National Guard, and Reserve members, with up to five family members.

**FINE ARTS SCIENCE HISTORY MUSIC FILM CRAFTS TOYS GARDENS ZOOS  
AND MORE**

Text **BLUE** to **411247**  
to join Blue Star Families and receive  
SMS broadcasts about special events,  
news, sweepstakes, and stories written  
by and about military families.

Go to [arts.gov](https://arts.gov)  
for more information.

**#BlueStarMuse**



# NY Museums Support Families

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters

SARATOGA SPRINGS -- Military families preparing for the unofficial start of summer over Memorial Day weekend will receive the added benefit of free membership at more than 1,800 museums across the nation this summer, saluting their service.

Joining the rolls of the Blue Star Museums, with free admission year-round, is the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

The Military Museum has been a free-admission visitor's destination in Saratoga since opening its doors in 2001.

The New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs operates and maintains the Military Museum on the site of a former National Guard armory, displaying a collection of artifacts and information about New York's military veterans of all eras.

The Blue Star Museums initiative is a collaboration between the Department of Defense, Blue Star Families and the National Endowment for the Arts. Museums agree to offer free or discounted admission to all active duty and reserve forces personnel and their families from Memorial Day, May 27 through Labor Day, September 2, 2013.

Each admission is also includes entry for up to five family members.

"Blue Star Museums is a way for the arts community to say 'thank you' to our military families, and forge stronger connections as well," said NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman at the end of the 2012 season.

History museums, children's museums, fine art, science and nature centers are among the variety of participants in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and American Samoa.

Currently, some 20 museums across New York State, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Children's Museum of Manhattan, West Point Museum, Frederick Remington Museum



A collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 1,800 museums across America.

[arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](http://arts.gov/bluestarmuseums)

in Ogdensburg and Rockwell Museum of Western Art in Corning, N.Y., participate in the Blue Star Museum program.

Many museums, like the Military Museum, offer free admission year-round and join the Blue Star Museum effort to salute the troops and welcome them as vacation destinations across New York State this summer.

The New York Military Museum preserves the story, history and records of New York State's military forces and veterans. The collection, housed in a historic armory in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., began in 1863 and includes more than 10,000 artifacts.

The museum also owns the largest collection of state battle flags in the country and the largest collection of Civil War flags in the world. Of the over 1,700 flags in the collection, more than 60% are from the Civil War. The flags date from the War of 1812 through the 1991 Gulf War.

Part of the museum flag collection is also on display at the New York State Capitol. An exhibit of newly conserved Civil War battle flags titled "1862: Red, White and Battered," highlights nine battle flags significant in the second year of the war – when the deadly consequences of the war began to hit home.

"This is a fantastic display and I'm pleased that Governor Cuomo has made room in the Capitol so that visitors there can learn about our military heritage," said Major General Patrick Murphy, the New York State Adjutant General, following the exhibit's opening in September 2012.

The DOD estimates that there are approximately 1 million children who have had at least one parent deployed. This program and partnership with the National Endowment of the Arts offers these families a chance to visit museums this summer when many will have limited resources and limited time to be together.

For other Blue Star Museum destinations around New York or the nation, visit [www.arts.gov/national/bluestarmuseums/](http://www.arts.gov/national/bluestarmuseums/). **gt**

## Army Song Changes

Guard Times Staff

WASHINGTON -- The Army has changed its tune.

Effective May 9, the playing of the official U.S. Army song, "The Army Goes Rolling Along," now includes a short introduction, then a verse followed by the chorus and refrain.

The All Army Activities message, known as an

ALARACT,

directs leaders to ensure that all Soldiers learn the lyrics and stand and sing when the Army song is performed at military ceremonies.



The lyrics of the verse include:  
*March along, sing our song, with the Army of the free.*

*Count the brave, count the true, who have fought to victory.*

*We're the Army and proud of our name!*

*We're the Army and proudly proclaim:*

The familiar chorus and refrain remain the same for Soldiers:

*First to fight for the right,  
And to build the Nation's might,  
And The Army Goes Rolling Along,  
Proud of all we have done,  
Fighting till the battle's won,  
And the Army Goes Rolling Along.*

*Then it's hi! hi! hey!  
The Army's on its way.  
Count off the cadence loud and strong;  
For where'er we go,  
You will always know*

*That The Army Goes Rolling Along.*

The sound files can be downloaded at the Army website at <http://www.nea.gov/national/bluestarmuseums/index2013.php>. **gt**



# THE JOINT FORCE

## New York Flies the COOP

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, New York National Guard, Joint Force Headquarters

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, SCOTIA--More than 50 critical members of the New York National Guard's military and civilian staff tested their ability to work from remote locations if the New York State Division of Military Affairs headquarters building outside Albany becomes unusable.

Known as COOP--short for Continuity of Operations Plan--the exercise is similar to the way a tactical unit sets up a "jump TOC (Tactical Operations Center)" to control missions when the main command post is moving and out of the fight.

In the event of a crisis, about one-third of the headquarters staff of 350, more than 110 personnel, form the Emergency Response Group to physically relocate the New York National Guard headquarters and keep state and federal tasks running. These are personnel whose jobs are considered key to keeping headquarters functions running.

"It is the Emergency Response Group that COOPs," explained Army National Guard Maj. Sean Flynn, the Chief of Current Operations of the New York National Guard Domestic Operations staff. "Most folks would remain at home," he said, referring to the many employees who would telecommute during a temporary relocation of the headquarters.

New York State mandates that all state agencies have a Continuity of Operations Plan.

The Soldiers, Airmen and civilians who move as part of COOP, will ensure that Soldiers and Airmen keep getting paid, supplies keep on being delivered, and the New York National Guard can respond to state and federal emergencies.

New York's military planning for COOP is refined each year to address different scenarios that might restrict access or availability of the Joint Force Headquarters.

"It is easy when we plan and we know we have to do this," said Brig. Gen. Raymond Shields, the Director of the Joint Staff. "Now we have to think about when it is unexpected."

Planning for the unexpected includes rehearsal exercises like this, preparing communications redundancies and staff "go kits" for the Joint Operations Center to rapidly establish



New York Army and Air National Guard officers and NCOs assigned to the Joint Operations Staff work in an ad-hoc Joint Operation Center during a Continuity of Operations (Coop) exercise for the Joint Force Headquarters conducted March 27. Photo by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo, Joint Force Headquarters.

a working command post off-site.

"We have 25 staff agencies spread across four locations, with fifty percent of the Emergency Response Group, or some 56 personnel, reported in," Flynn said. "We are fully functional and our JOC is up and running. Our biggest constraint is connectivity."

Using other military facilities in the Capital Region, various staff agencies remain linked through an expanded network, wireless connections, cellphones or blackberry devices. In the initial hours of COOP, informing the entire military and civilian staff and maintaining essential functions is essential.

Key personnel relocated to Stratton Air National Guard Base outside Schenectady, Watervliet Arsenal in Watervliet, the South Lake Avenue Armory in Troy and the New York State Military History Museum in Saratoga Springs.

Using the State of New York Office of Emergency Management Disaster LAN--website community allows all of the staff directorates to maintain situational awareness from any location with Internet connectivity.

DLAN is an emergency management software system compliant with the National Incident Management System that facilitates communications, liaison, mission taskings, and a common operating picture among multiple

agency partners and state military forces during disasters.

The system provides the Joint Operations Center with a backbone for the state's common operating picture as well as archiving for key software or files for staff functions.

"DLAN has all of our state publications and forms online," said Air National Guard Master Sgt. Shawn Peno, New York's JOC Operations NCO. "That was one of our lessons learned from our last COOP exercise for the joint staff. Now everything we can think of is on DLAN."

"This event was a very good effort," Shields said, "and I'm sure we'd continue to improve our fighting positions here with the staff in the event that the COOP would continue for any length of time. Our next objective is to take this to the next level," Shields said. "We need to think of the next step."

The New York National Guard has planned and rehearsed variations of its COOP plan since 2006 as one of the many state agency COOP plans to ensure the sustainment of government services.

"It's important for us to rehearse and practice what we would do if we no longer had access to our normal work site," Shields said. "Exercising and reviewing our COOP plans helps prepare us for unexpected events." **gt**

ACK 29

## Boston Bombing Increases Guard's NYC Vigilance

*NEW YORK - New York Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Dante Bello, left, and Spc. John Powell, assigned to Company B, Joint Task Force Empire Shield, provide security augmentation at the Grand Central Terminal April 20. The task force received an additional 150 Soldiers from the 42nd Infantry Division to augment security operations alongside law enforcement throughout New York City following the Boston Marathon bombing of April 15. Photo by 1st Lt. Mark H Getman, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation Regiment.*

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# Guard Chief Visits Ground Zero

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters

**NEW YORK – Gen. Frank Grass, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, visited lower Manhattan here March 15 to learn about a growing partnership between the 9/11 Tribute Center and the National Guard.**

Touring the 9/11 Tribute Center on Liberty Street, in the shadows of the former World Trade Center, Grass and New York Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy discussed similar ways that both the Guard and Tribute educate the public about the significance of 9/11 on history.

The 9/11 Tribute Center offers visitors to the World Trade Center site a place where they can connect with people from the September 11th community of victims, survivors and responders. Through walking tours, exhibits and programs, the 9/11 Tribute Center offers a “Person to Person History,” linking visitors who want to understand these historic events with those who experienced them.

Bringing the two groups together was retired Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, chairman of the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation who led a significant part of the New York National Guard’s response at the World Trade Center and went on to lead National Guard forces during a combat deployment to Iraq

as commander of the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters. Taluto retired in 2009 as the Adjutant General of New York.

“A lot of our nation’s blood and treasure went overseas from right here,” Taluto said of the WTC site. “That humanity of hundreds of thousands of Guardsmen who went overseas to fight all started here.”

“This is our Lexington and Concord for this period of time, for this generation,” Taluto said.

The terror attacks here at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 forever changed the way Americans and the world viewed New York City. The same is true for the National Guard, said Jennifer Adams, Chief Executive Officer of the 9/11 Tribute Center.

“Your story is a very positive and unique one,” Adams said. “You helped bring normalcy back to New Yorkers.”

“It’s our job,” Taluto remarked. “That’s what the National Guard does. And by the way, we’ve never left this city since 9/11,” describing the homeland security task force kept on duty in New York City continually since 2001.

In the years and countless deployments that followed, the National Guard emerged as an operational force for the Army and Air



NEW YORK – Gen. Frank Grass, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, tours the 9/11 Memorial in lower Manhattan with following a visit to Tribute WTC here March 15. Grass and Command Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall toured the Tribute Center, 9/11 Memorial Site and new Freedom Tower in lower Manhattan. Photo courtesy of the National Guard Bureau.

Force, providing Airmen and Soldiers for contingency operations that can be traced back to the Guard’s response at ground zero in Manhattan or the skies over the country in the aftermath of 9/11.

“I was the chief of Army National Guard operations on 9/11,” Grass said, “and there’s so much more to the Guard response than that. From the airports to the border missions, 9/11 changed us in the Guard.”

The senior leaders agreed that educating future National Guard members and the public at large is a priority, especially now as a new generation of Guardsmen and women join the ranks.

“It is a difficult topic,” Adams said, “How do you teach 9/11?”

“How can we send off our beautiful men and women off to war and then bring them here and standing next to them are a school group that

knows nothing of 9/11?” Ielpi asked. “We are only scratching the surface with this, with the National Guard.”

One method is the current 9/11 Era Gallery, a permanent exhibit in the National Guard Memorial Museum, operated by the National Guard Education Foundation in Washington. Like the 9/11 Tribute Center, the gallery highlights the National Guard’s transformation since September 11, 2001.

“The Guard is the leading role in this,” said Lee Ielpi, Vice President and founder of the 9/11 Tribute Center. “We have to get recognition, sure, but that’s not the end of it. We need education, and we have a long way to go.”

“Time is passing and telling your story is important,” Adams said. “Your role is unique. You continued your response, not just in the Middle East, but here in New York to

this very day.”

The 9/11 Tribute Center hosts approximately half a million visitors each year, Adams said, while the 9/11 Memorial Site across from Liberty Street sees some five million visitors from across the nation and across the world.

“The National Guard and how you work is something people need to know,” she said.

Grass related the discussion with the his counterpart at the New York Joint Force Headquarters as the National Guard tackled the many homeland security missions for Operation Noble Eagle even as New York maintained a large presence on state active duty in and around lower Manhattan.

Grass said that when he called the New York National Guard with missions, the response was: “This is our state and our city, we got it.” **gt**

# US Central Command Top NCO Praises NY Troops

Story by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo, Joint Force Headquarters

UTICA --“Guard Soldiers and Airmen perform as well as their active duty counterparts, while applying “unique skills” to the fight, U.S. Central Command’s top noncommissioned officer told New York National Guard enlisted leaders here April 20.

“The Guard brings a unique skill set - the dual nature and ability to combine both civilian and military skills doubles your effectiveness,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Grippe.

“You can no longer tell the difference between the active service members and the Guard and Reserve, they have the same impact,” he said.

“I amazes me how Guardsmen and women react at a moments notice and will walk away from their families, their homes and their jobs and immediately mobilize, bring their unique skills to defend our nation and return home as if they never served, this ability to switch on and off demonstrates a level of professionalism unique to the Guard,” Grippe added.

Grippe, who comes from New York, was

the guest of honor at the Enlisted Association of New York National Guard dinner honoring outstanding junior enlisted and noncommissioned officers in the New York Army and Air National Guard.

Grippe also visited the New York National Guard’s 174th Attack Wing and 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Syracuse, N.Y., and the 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry in Utica, N.Y.

“It is truly an honor to be here in the presence of these exceptional enlisted members,” Grippe said. “Over the past 11 years, the New York National Guard has been instrumental in defending our nation and supporting CENTCOM objectives.”

U.S. CENTCOM oversees American military operations in 20 countries stretching from Egypt to Kazakhstan.

New York Army National Guard Soldiers recognized at the dinner were:

- New York’s Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Sgt. 1st Class David Colliton, a network technician assigned to Joint Force

Headquarters, Latham;

- New York’s Soldier of the Year Spec. Rachel Blanchette, a supply parts specialist with Company E, 3rd Battalion 142nd Aviation;

- And Staff Sgt. Jimsey Roberts, readiness NCO for the 719th Transportation Company as Active Guard and Reserve NCO of the Year.

“It’s incredible how these warriors perform under pressure. It’s impressive to see what they are capable of, they are truly the best of the best,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Wicks, New York State Command Sergeant Major.

New York Air National Guard Airmen recognized were:

- Senior Master Sgt. Raymond Herr, Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year assigned to the 174th Attack Wing, Syracuse;

- Master Sgt. Shawn J. Larrabee, 1st Sgt. of the Year assigned to the 107th Airlift Wing, Niagara Falls;

- Staff Sgt. Mark Joseoff, Noncommissioned Officer of the Year from the 106th Rescue Wing, Westhampton Beach;

- Senior Airman Christopher Peterson Airman of the Year from the 106th Rescue Wing;

- Senior Airman Matthias Anderson, Honor Guard program manager of the Year for New York State from the 174th Attack Wing, Syracuse;

- And Senior Airman Donald Anderson, New York’s Honor Guard member of the Year, assigned to the 174th Attack Wing, Syracuse.

“This is a very impressive group of Airmen and based on the competitive nature of the competitions they won, I expect these individuals will go far in their military careers,” said Chief Master Sgt. Richard King, New York Air National Guard State Command Chief.

In his remarks, Grippe urged the enlisted leaders to prepare their Soldiers and Airmen for service in the future, despite plans to withdraw combat forces from Afghanistan.

CENTCOM still has a lot of work to do and the Guard still has a role, Grippe said.

“There will continue to be opportunities for the National Guard to help with power projection and we need to ensure Soldier and family readiness by optimizing strategic coalitions and partners,” he explained. **gt**



U.S. Central Command Army Command Sgt. Maj. Frank A. Grippe congratulates New York Air National Guard Senior Airman Jeremy Miter on his recent completion of Joint Tactical Air Controller (JTAC) training as a member of the 274th Air Support Operations Squadron at Hancock Field in Syracuse, N.Y. April 18. Grippe was at Hancock Field to get an overview of the current operations of the 174th Attack Wing and 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, both located on Hancock Field. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeremy M. Call, 174th Attack Wing.

# New York Shares Disaster Lessons with Israelis

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters



New York National Guard Brig. Gen. Ray Shields, Director of the Joint Staff, and IDF Maj. Zerit Gershkovitch, Director of Public Guidance for the Israeli Home Front Command, listen to NYS Commissioner for DHSES Jerome Hauer during a Hurricane Sandy roundtable discussion. Eight Israeli members of the Home Front Command met with New York National Guard and emergency managers here Jan. 31 to discuss best practices. Photo by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters.

**NEW YORK -- Eight leaders from the Israeli Defense Force learned how the New York National Guard did business during Hurricane Sandy from Guard leaders who oversaw the month-long response operation.**

The IDF delegation met with New York National Guard Brig. Gen. Raymond Shields, the Director of the Joint Staff for the New York National Guard, and Lt. Col. Robert Mitchell, deputy director for New York National Guard domestic operations on Thursday, Jan. 31.

The meeting with the Guard leaders and officials from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, New York City's Office of Emergency Management and the Fire Department of New York City was the culmination of a three-day visit by the IDF officers.

The Israeli delegation, including members of Israel's National Police Force and the IDF's Home Front Command--the Israeli equivalent to the National Guard--were in New York to learn about interagency disaster response and the integration of military and civilian responders.

"The Israeli HFC and the National Guard

have a longstanding relationship that includes the exchange of best practices and lessons learned from both real-world events and training," said IDF Maj. Chezy Deutsch, the Home Front Command liaison officer with the National Guard Bureau.

"While the threats that each country prepares for and deals with may be different, the challenges of a military operating in the civilian arena and working in conjunction with numerous civilian agencies in support of the civilian population are very similar," he said.

Shields described how the New York National Guard's coordinated the large-scale mobilization and deployment of more than 3,500 members of the state's military forces both before and after the storm's landfall.

The response was the state's first-ever employment of the National Guard Emergency Management Assistance Compact, bringing an additional 800 Soldiers from supporting states to assist in the recovery mission, Shields said.

Transportation companies, logistics and power generation units from Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Delaware, and Ohio all provided forces as part of the Joint Task Force Sandy

response force.

The response and recovery from Hurricane Sandy also included some 670 active duty servicemembers who provided unique equipment or skill sets such as water pumping capabilities to the National Guard joint task force dual-status commander, he explained to the Israeli delegation.

Shields noted the importance of planning and exercising National Guard missions to the Israeli officials. Working with agency partners prior to a crisis helps rehearse critical actions and ensures links to local responders are in place before a storm strikes.

"If you can handle the worse-case scenarios, you can handle anything," said Jerome Hauer, New York State Commissioner for the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Disaster management. "It is always easier to gear down than it is to gear up."

Like the National Guard, the Home Front Command was established in 1992 following the Gulf War to better respond with military forces tailored to homeland defense. The Israelis posed questions related to the National Guard's interaction and interoperability with

civil authorities, the challenges of command and control, support to civilian residents and healthcare challenges during disasters.

“The need to develop and share a common operating picture or messaging across a variety of agencies and segments of the population, while dealing with power outages, lack of fuel and other results of the disaster are common challenges that we can help each other bridge,” Deutsch said.

IDF Maj. Zarit Gershkovitch, Director of Public Guidance for Home Front Command said she wanted to know more about how government communicated with people affected by the storm. “With so much reliance on social media, I wondered how the city would communicate,” she said.

Shields discussed the extensive media coverage of storm preparations by city and state officials, which continued well after the storm. Residents without power utilized their cars to charge smart phones to stay informed.

Mitchell also explained the role of National Guard forces, alongside the multitude of first responders providing direct communication in those communities hardest after the storm’s landfall. Guardsmen were available to help direct residents to shelters, supply distribution

sites or local relief agencies.

“Outside of social media, much of the information for people was available right at the firehouses in their communities,” explained FDNY Operations Planning Chief Fred Villani to the group. Those hubs of supply distribution or relief services were also information hubs to disseminate information.

A common theme through all topics discussed with Home Front Command was the need for communication left and right, up and down, using liaisons officers with the multitude of agency partners.

“Emergency management is really about information management,” said Kelly McKinney, the New York City Deputy Commissioner for the city’s Office of Emergency Management.

“We were very impressed by the level of participation in the meeting,” Deutsch said, “as well as the openness and willingness to share and express sometimes differing views, depending on where the person had operated during the response. The members of the delegation each took away a number of lessons, each appropriate for the professional field that they represent.”

Leaders of the National Guard and Israeli Home Front Command have exchanged per-

sonnel for training exercises and other learning opportunities since 2007 to share best practices in disaster recovery or terror response missions. The IDF established a full-time liaison with the National Guard, FEMA and NORTHCOM in 2010.

“This event was the first of its kind in that it brought together key strategic and tactical-level military, governmental, and non-governmental agencies to discuss their immediate response lessons learned with several Israeli emergency response organizations,” said Maj. William Powers from the National Guard Bureau operations staff that oversees training with the IDF.

One of the best takeaways from the discussion, Powers said, is strengthening the ties between the two organizations.

“Any opportunity we have to meet with our state, city and county emergency management partners as well as emergency management planners from other countries is highly beneficial,” Shields said. “The discussion with members of the Israeli Home Front Command proved insightful and thought provoking.”

“The personal relationships that are built can benefit each organization for years to come,” Powers said. **gt**



Members of the Israeli Defense Force Home Front Command, New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services and New York Army National Guard personnel pose for a photo at the conclusion of a visit April 10. The group met in Latham to discuss how the National Guard develops command and communications capabilities and uses them to bridge first responders and other state, and federal agencies. Photo by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo, Joint Force Headquarters.

## 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Leads Annual St. Patty's Day Parade

Story by Spc. J.p. Lawrence, 42nd Infantry Division

NEW YORK -- Once again, troops of the New York Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry marched at the lead of the New York's St. Patrick's Day Parade, just as they have since 1851.

The march up Manhattan's 5th Avenue marked the highlight of a tradition suffused in the history of one of the National Guard's most storied units.

Each Soldier in the 750-person formation marched with the stories of the past — tales of valor in the Civil War, World War I, World War II, and the War on Terror — living on in each tradition kept.

"Every aspect of the day is steeped in tradition which relates to either the Irish Catholic beginnings of the regiment of the history since then," Lt. Col. James Gonyo, commander of the 69th, said.

A gold cross hung on Gonyo's chest as he marched, next to a sprig of boxwood.

A Soldier does not normally wear a religious icon, but this cross was once worn by poet Joyce Kilmer--the author of the poem "Trees"--who died while serving in the 69th in World War I. Today it is handed down from battalion commander to battalion commander.

The sprig of boxwood was worn by all Soldiers of the 69th, as a reminder of the regiment's charge against Confederate lines at the Battle of Fredericksburg during the Civil War. It was their ferocity at Fredericksburg that led to their nickname, coined by Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, "the Fighting 69th."

During an early morning toast — another tradition — Gonyo explained that these stories are taught to young Soldiers as a way of conveying that their history has meaning, something to be proud of, something to live up to.

The unit is no longer a predominately Irish unit, but every member becomes an honorary Irishman. This way, as Father Duffy, a key figure in the unit's history, describes: "They are Irish by adoption, Irish by association, or Irish by conviction."



As Gonyo marched at the front of the parade, he was flanked by the regiment's honorary bag piper, who played the unit's regimental song, "The Garry Owen."

The bagpipes, as well as the two Irish wolfhounds accompanying the Soldiers and the annual mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, were a reflection of the unit's traditional Irish heritage.

Monique Seefried, president of a French foundation that created a memorial for New York National Guardsmen who found in World

War I, remarked that she was incredibly moved by seeing the Soldiers enter the cathedral.

"You see their flag with all the battle ribbons, and that was something that was incredibly moving," Seefried, head of the Croix Rouge Farm Memorial Foundation, said.

Seefried said the parade reminded her of what her French relatives must have felt upon seeing American Soldiers arrive to assist them. "To see the flag enter through the cathedral with the men, and to be seated there and to be



**"The Army is steeped in history, but the 69th is steeped even deeper. The history is all over the walls of the armory."**

*-- Master Sgt. Theodore Speiss, 213th Engineering Installation Squadron, New York Air National Guard*

just part of this mass was an incredible event," she said.

Following mass, the battalion marched to 44th Street and 5th Avenue, the official start of the parade. There, they marched up 5th Avenue to the end of the parade route, where a special subway train picks them up and transports them to the 28th Street Subway station.

One guest marched among them and marveled at the spectacle.

Master Sgt. Theodore Speiss's unit, the 213th

Engineer Installation Squadron, was invited by the 69th to march in the parade as result of working together during the response to Super Storm Sandy.

"The Army is steeped in history, but the 69th is steeped even deeper," said Speiss, whose unit will be deploying to Afghanistan soon. "The history is all over the walls of the armory."

At this point, the battalion's officers lined the front steps of the 100-year old armory as the Soldiers, led by their NCOs, marched through

and into the drill hall, where they ate corned beef and cabbage and hosted Gen. Frank Grass, the chief of the National Guard Bureau.

"I don't know anything like this," Grass said, "the traditions you are connected to, your roots."

By keeping these traditions alive, the spirit of that time is brought into the present, right to the unit's latest deployments to Afghanistan as part of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

"I saw the commanding officer telling the Soldiers the tradition, what they stand for, I saw that that was very good," Seefried, who has a PhD in history, said. "There is no way to ignore the history of the 69th. All the walls are covered with history."

It was a sentiment echoed by Jeanne Eickhoff, another guest of the 69th. Eickhoff, an artist writing a novel about characters that fight in the 69th, walked along the parade route at the invitation of Gonyo to learn more for her book.

"I think it's wonderful that people are keeping the traditions alive," Eickhoff said. "This city really wraps its arms around the unit. They just really love this regiment and the spirit that it embodies. You could just see it in their faces, the pride. The love that people were giving back.

"And that's what I learned today," she said. "The spirit is still alive." **gt**



# Biehler takes Command of 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade

## Task Force Hunter Welcomes New Leader

Story by Eric Durr, Division of Military and Naval Affairs



Maj. Gen. Steven Wickstrom, Commander of the 42nd Infantry Division, passes the colors of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to Lt. Col. Joseph Biehler during the brigade change of command ceremony here at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base April 6. Command of the brigade passed from Col. Geoffrey Slack, who led the brigade since 2009 and deployed with the unit for missions across the Central Command Area of Operations in 2012. Photo by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters.

**HANCOCK AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, SYRACUSE -- Lt. Col. Joseph Biehler, a veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, took command of the New York Army National Guard's 27th Infantry Brigade Team here April 6 in the base main hanger.**

Biehler replaced Col. Geoffrey Slack, who assumed command of the 27th Brigade Combat Team in August 2009. Slack trained and deployed the brigade for operations in Afghanistan and Kuwait in 2011 and 2012.

The flag of the brigade, which was originally organized as a division to fight in World War I, transferred from Slack to Biehler during a traditional change of command ceremony. Representatives of the brigade's five battalions, which are stationed across the state, were present.

Maj. Gen. Steven Wickstrom, the commander of the 42nd Infantry Division and presiding officer at the ceremony, described Biehler as one of the most outstanding leaders in the New York Army National Guard.

Biehler has been tempered in combat in both Iraq and Afghanistan and has proven himself, Wickstrom said.

"We have high expectations of you and I am sure you are going to do an excellent job," Wickstrom said.

Biehler, who was commissioned as a second lieutenant of infantry in May 1987, is a Finance Senior Manager for Rochester's Harris Corpora-

tion in Rochester in civilian life.

Wickstrom praised Slack, the outgoing commander, as being one of the "heroes" of the New York National Guard. Prior to taking command of the 27th Brigade, Slack led the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry in Iraq in 2005.

In his remarks Biehler praised the Soldiers of the brigade, saying they have met the challenges placed before them since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 both at home and overseas.

Biehler's last assignment was as commander of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry. He was the battalion's operations officer during its deployment to Iraq in 2004 and commanded the battalion during its recent deployment to Afghanistan in 2012 as Task Force Iron. The task force mobilized in January 2012 and deployed to Afghanistan where it was responsible for enhancing the capability of the Afghan National Security Forces to secure Highway One in from Herat City to Nimroz Province in western Afghanistan.

Biehler is a graduate of the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Infantry Officer Advanced Course, Combined Arms Staff Service School, Intermediate Level Education, Infantry Pre-Command Course, Airborne School, Air Assault School, and Ranger School.

Biehler has earned Bachelor's of Science degrees in both Accounting and Management from St. John Fisher College in 1987 and is a Finance Senior Manager for Rochester's Harris Corporation in civilian life.

His new position will also bring a promotion to Colonel.

Slack has served in the Active Army and Army National Guard since 1979 when he graduated from Hofstra University. After leaving the Active Army in 1982, where he served in the 1st Infantry Division, Col. Slack served in the Individual Ready Reserve before joining the New York Army National Guard in 1987. As a member of the National Guard he served as an infantry company commander, a headquarters company commander, logistics officer, division staff officer, and operations and executive officer.

He assumed command of the 1st Battalion 69th Infantry, made famous as the "Fighting 69th" in the Civil War and World War I, in 2000. On Sept. 11, 2001 he and his battalion mobilized to respond to the attacks on the World Trade Center and he deployed his men to "Ground Zero" the next day.

In the spring of 2004 the 1-69th Infantry was mobilized to deploy to Iraq as part of the 256th Infantry Brigade from the Louisiana Army National Guard. During that deployment the battalion was tasked with securing the road from the Baghdad International Airport to downtown Baghdad, known to the Army as "Route Irish." At that time the road was known for being the most dangerous stretch of road in Iraq and the 1-69th Infantry effectively shut down the insurgency on that stretch of road.

He retires from military service later this year.<sup>gt</sup>



# Miller to Command Historic 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry

Story by Spc. Rachel Sanzo, 42nd Infantry Division

WEST POINT, NY-- Maj. Gen. Steven N. Wickstrom passed the colors of the 42nd Infantry Division to Brig. Gen. Henry E. Miller on April 13 during a morning ceremony at the United States Military Academy's Trophy Point Amphitheatre.

Wickstrom assumed command of the 42nd ID in May 2009, and led the division in assisting civilian authorities with the devastation resulting from myriad natural disasters over the years, including Hurricanes Irene and Sandy in 2011 and 2012, respectively.

"Maj. Gen. Wickstrom led the Division during one of the most complex and difficult time periods in all of its history," Miller said. "For that, he should be commended."

Wickstrom was commissioned as a second lieutenant upon graduation from the United States Military Academy in 1981, and served primarily with infantry units in both the Active Army and the Army National Guard since then. He retired from military service at the close of April.

"Today I joined the ranks of former 42nd Infantry Division commanders who led and served a wonderful group of Soldiers," Wickstrom said. "It is because of the great work of the Soldiers in this division that I can stand proud in such company and hold my head high. I extend my greatest trust to General Miller to carry on the legacy of this great division."

As former garrison command at Fort Drum, Miller knows a thing or two about taking care of Soldiers. During his time at Fort Drum, he was responsible for the readiness, safety and well being of over 38,000 Soldiers, families and civilian employees. As commander of the 42nd Infantry Division, oversees approximately 20,000 Soldiers assigned to the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in New Jersey, the 86th IBCT in Vermont, the 197th Fires Brigade in New Hampshire, the 26th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade in Massachusetts, and the 27th IBCT, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade and 369th Sustainment Brigade in New York.

"General Miller is incredibly qualified to take over the division," said Maj. Gen. Patrick A. Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York State and reviewing officer for the change of command ceremony. "I look forward to seeing leadership taken into the next phase."

The 42nd was first organized in 1917 and deployed for combat service



Major General Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York State, passes the division colors to Brigadier General Henry E. Miller, the incoming division commander, during the 42nd Infantry (Rainbow) Division change of command ceremony April 13, 2013 at Trophy Point, United States Military Academy, N.Y. Photo by Master Sgt. Peter Towse.

in World War I, World War II and Operation Iraqi Freedom. In addition to participating in the multiple wars fought, the division served integral roles in aiding first responders when the World Trade Center was attacked in 2001, and in aiding civil authorities as they dealt with major natural disasters over the years.

"Not only do I want to keep our division combat ready, but I want to make sure we are fully capable of supporting civilians in our homeland," said Miller. "I'm truly honored, humbled, and appreciative to have been trusted with the task." **gt**



## Aviation Troops Learn the Ropes

*GUILDERLAND -- Sgt. Devin Felton, a geospatial engineer in the Headquarters Company of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade stops short of hitting a fake trip wire while entering a building during a room clearing exercise March 10 at Guilderland Range. The 42nd CAB is preparing for a deployment later in 2013, and coordinated with the Army Reserve to bring drill instructors from Company F, 2/417th Regiment, 4th Brigade, 98th Division to run the unit in pre-mobilization training exercises ranging from identifying and responding to IEDs, reacting to indirect fire, and room clearing. Photo by Spc. Harley Jellis, 42nd Combat Aviation*

# 42<sup>nd</sup> HQ Company Welcomes new Commander

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Peter Towse, 42nd Infantry Division

TROY, N.Y. -- New York Army National Guard 1st Lt. Lauana Dupigny, a Troy resident and a veteran of the Iraq War, took command of the Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters Support Company here March 1, 2013.

"One of the most challenging commands in the Army is the headquarters command," said Lt. Col. Christopher Daniels, the battalion commander. "She has done a tremendous job getting here and my hats off to Lt. Dupigny for her hard work and dedication."

She will replace Cpt. Nathaniel King, a Long Island resident, who will be moving on to the Division operations staff (G3) later this year.

Dupigny enlisted in 1997 and served eleven years as an enlisted Soldier before receiving here commission as a second lieutenant in 2008. Dupigny assumes command of approximately 200 Soldiers.

"Thank you for the opportunity to stand before you today," Dupigny said. "I would not have made it without your unwavering support." **gt**



Lt. Col. Christopher Daniels, the battalion commander, passes the guidon to 1st Lt. Lauana Dupigny as she assumes command of the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters and Support company, New York Army National Guard March 1, 2013 at the Troy armory.

# 222<sup>nd</sup> MP Company Departs for Middle East



GULFPORT, Miss.-- New York Army National Guard Command Sgt. Major Frank Wicks, bids farewell to members of the New York Army National Guard's 222nd Military Police Company April 4 as they board an aircraft to head to their overseas assignment in Qatar where they will perform a security mission at U.S. military installations. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Peter Graf. Above photo at right, the unit boards their charter aircraft for movement overseas. The company, based in Rochester and Hornell, N.Y., mobilized on Feb. 22 for the deployment. Photo by Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Wicks, Joint Force Headquarters.

# Soldiers, NCOs compete for Best Warrior in NY Title

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Wheeler, 138th Public Affairs Detachment

LATHAM -- Sgt. 1st Class David Colliton, a network technician assigned to Joint Force Headquarters, and Spec. Rachel Blanchette, a supply parts specialist with Company E 3rd Battalion 142nd Aviation were named Traditional NCO and Soldier of the Year following a weekend competition here March 23-24.

Staff Sgt. Jimsey Roberts, the Readiness NCO for the 719th Transportation Company was named Active Guard and Reserve NCO of the Year.

They joined 11 other Soldiers and Non-Commissioned Officers, representing the major New York Army National Guard commands, in pitting their skills against one another to win the title of "Best Warrior" during the two-day event.

Each competed in one of three categories; Traditional Soldier of the Year, Traditional NCO of the Year, and Active Guard and Reserve NCO of the Year, with the top Traditional NCO and Soldier going on to represent the

NYARNG in the regional event scheduled for May 14-17 at Camp Smith Training Area, Cortlandt Manor, N.Y. (See our related story on page 27).

During the course of the competition, this year's competitors first had to successfully pass a diagnostic physical fitness test, then negotiate several hands on tasks ranging from maintaining an M249 machine gun to evaluating a simulated battlefield casualty and then finished up with an appearance in dress uniform before a panel of three Sergeants Major where they were subjected to questions covering a range of topics that include military history, customs and courtesies, Army policies, field manuals, and regulations.

"It feels great to win at this level and I'm really proud to not only have competed here but also to have won. It feels really good," said Colliton, a native of Amsterdam, N.Y.

"I was looking for that next challenge so I signed up," added Colliton. "I just got back from a

deployment and wanted to keep charging forward."

Colliton also added that he looks forward to representing the state at the next level and has hopes he will do the same at the national competition.

Blanchette, who works full-time as the Long Island coordinator for the New York Military Forces Honor Guard, echoed Colliton's excitement in winning. The key to getting that winning place is hard work, she added.

"Study, study, study, a lot of studying," said Blanchette. "My Readiness NCO encouraged me to go as far as I could and my squad leader helped me out a lot with the performance tasks."

Roberts, also gave a little advice for future competitors.

"If you are going to do it, give it a 100%" said Roberts, a native of Newark, N.J. "Don't just go through the motions. It's a very prestigious opportunity that only a few get, so be proud of it."

"Be motivated, be hungry, and really want it. Come here to win," added Colliton.

"You are representing your organization at a high level and by doing so you not only put yourself on the map but also your brigade, your battalion, and your unit," said Roberts.

"Everybody over the next few months will be talking about the NCO from the 369th that won AGR of the Year," he added.

New York State Command Sergeant Major Frank Wicks praised the NCOs who ran the competition as well as the competitors. He has high hopes for the future of the NYARNG's program, and high hopes for this year's regional event, Wicks said.

"I think it was a fantastic competition," said Wicks. "I think the candidates were well qualified and that the brigade's sent the right people to the competition. They all did a great job," he added.

"I want to continue to model it after the regional competition because that's really going to help set our Soldiers up for success," Wicks said. **gt**





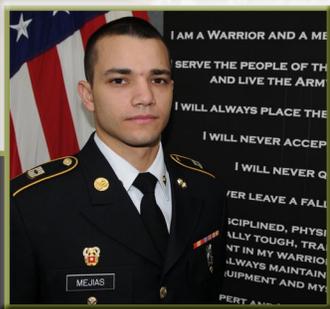
**Traditional NCO of the Year**



**AGR NCO of the Year**



**Soldier of the Year**



# STT Freedom Salute for Soldier Home from OEF



NEW YORK – (Above Left) New York Army National Guard Lt. Col. Brian DeReamer, right, presents Yellow Ribbon recognition items to Soldiers of the 174th Stability Transition Team during their Freedom Salute ceremony March 16 at Fort Hamilton to recognize the achievements of the team and support of their families. The team deployed to Afghanistan in 2012. Soldiers also received their deployment awards, including the Afghan Campaign Medal and ISAF NATO Medal for their service in one of eight teams that operated across Afghanistan, providing training and mentoring to Afghan security forces. (Above Right) Col. David Sheridan speaks with his Soldiers of the 174th Stability Transition Team during their Freedom Salute.

# Army Guard Advisors Train Afghan Forces



AFGHANISTAN -- New York Army National Guard Soldiers, left, from the Security Forces Advisory Team gather during a break in weapons training on their Combat Outpost April 9. The team is working with Afghan forces and is expected to redeploy back to New York in the fall. Courtesy photo.



AFGHANISTAN -- Capt. Dennis Tierney conducts marksmanship training on his Combat Outpost April 9. Tierney is part of the Security Forces Advisory Team working with Afghan forces. Courtesy photo.

# NY's Best Compete to be Best Warrior in NE Region

Story and photos by Spc. Harley Jelis, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLANDT MANOR -- Sgt. Anthony R. Sturgis from Maine and Spc. Ethyn Caputo of New Hampshire were named the 2013 top enlisted Army National Guard Non-Commissioned Officer (sergeant, or NCO) and Soldier of the Year, respectively, for the northeastern states following a two-day competition here.

The New York Army National Guard and New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs hosted the Northeast Region Best Warrior competition at Camp Smith May 15-17.

Sixteen Soldiers from Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New York and New Jersey all participated with their top Soldier and NCO for the competition that challenged the Soldiers' physical fitness, military knowledge, endurance, marksmanship, and land navigation skills.

Sturgis and Caputo now go on to compete against other Army Guard Soldiers to decide the best NCO and Soldier in the entire Army National Guard in a final competition against representatives of the Active Army and the United States Army Reserve later this year.

Spc. Rachel Blanchette, an aviation automated logistical specialist assigned to E Co., 3-142nd Attack Helicopter Battalion, and Sgt. First Class David Colliton, a battlefield communications sergeant with Joint Force Headquarters, represented New York as the Soldiers of the Year and NCO of the Year.

Blanchette, who works as a National Guard Honor Guard coordinator, while going to St. Joseph's College, had to sacrifice a lot of her personal time to prepare for the competition, which took place during her final exam week.

But, she said, she doesn't regret it.

*"I learned a lot more than a Guardsman can be expected to learn. I'm definitely a better Soldier for it; it's going to make me a better NCO some day,"*

*-- Spc. Rachel Blanchette, New York Army National Guard 2013 Soldier of the Year*



Spc. Rachel Blanchette, an automated logistical specialist from Company E, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation drags a simulated casualty during the M-16 Range Shoot portion of the National Guard Northeast Region Best Warrior Competition. Blanchette represented New York as the 2013 Soldier of the Year.

*"I learned a lot more than a Guardsman can be expected to learn. I'm definitely a better Soldier for it; it's going to make me a better NCO some day,"* Blanchette said. *"It's definitely a good experience that, although difficult, I would recommend everybody to shoot for."*

Colliton, too, said the chance to compete was worth it.

The three day event included timed day and night land navigation courses, a 10 kilometer road march with ruck sacks up and down the hills of Camp Smith, and an M-16 stress shoot. For that event the soldiers had to dragging a Skedco litter full of sandbags and carrying a five-gallon water jug across a field before engaging targets.

The Soldiers were also tested on a surprise skill which included rappelling down a 40-foot tower and their ability to assembly an M249 Squad Automatic Weapon out of a bucket of parts, which also included excess weapons pieces. **gt**



Sgt. 1st Class David Colliton, a battlefield communications NCO with Joint Force Headquarters rapels off the tower during his warrior task evaluations at Camp Smith during the Best Warrior Competition. Colliton represented New York as the 2013 NCO of the Year.



**U.S. ARMY**

# I.A.M. STRONG<sup>SM</sup>

**INTERVENE** ★ **ACT** ★ **MOTIVATE**

## Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Prevention

### **INTERVENE**

When I recognize a threat to my fellow Soldiers, I will have the personal courage to **INTERVENE** and prevent Sexual Assault. I will condemn acts of Sexual Harassment. I will not abide obscene gestures, language or behavior. I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I will **INTERVENE**.

### **ACT**

You are my brother, my sister, my fellow Soldier. It is my duty to stand up for you, no matter the time or place. I will take **ACTION**. I will do what's right. I will prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault. I will not tolerate sexually offensive behavior. I will **ACT**.

### **MOTIVATE**

We are American Soldiers, **MOTIVATED** to keep our fellow Soldiers safe. It is our mission to prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault. We will denounce sexual misconduct. As Soldiers, we are all **MOTIVATED** to take action. We are strongest...together.

VTNO/2008

[www.preventsexualassault.army.mil](http://www.preventsexualassault.army.mil)

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# Central Africa Exercise Planning starts now for 369<sup>th</sup> Harlem Hellfighters to Return to Africa for Central Accord 2014

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo, Joint Force Headquarters

VICENZA, Italy--The road to Central Africa for 70 members of the New York Army National Guard's 369th Sustainment Brigade in 2014, began here in Italy in April.

Col. Reginald Sanders, the commander of the brigade, and four of his key leaders came to Vicenza to share lessons learned from the unit's participation in Exercise Central Accord 13 in Cameroon, as part of the preparation for participation in Exercise Central Accord 14.

The Guard Soldiers joined with 11 officers from eight partner nations and organizations to share lessons learned at a conference conducted by the U.S. Army Africa.

"This is an opportunity to look at what we accomplished earlier this year and improve on the processes we used," said Jerry Madden, U.S. Army Africa planning officer for Central Accord 14.

Central Accord 14 will build on the specialized skills shared in areas of command and control, logistics movement and medical evacuation, both on the ground and in the air and strengthen the international relationships and partnerships that developed throughout Central Accord 13.

During Central Accord 13, in February 2013, the 369th sent a team to conduct reception and staging operations for the participating nations.

The Soldiers will have a significant role in the 2014 exercise because of their specialized skills and success working in Africa, Sanders said.

The unit's prior experience in Mali and Cameroon --369th Soldiers deployed to Mali 2012-- and their proven ability to move, supply and maintain troops in austere regions around the world is also key, he added.

"We bring unique qualifications and expertise in sustainment operations to the U.S. Army Africa team in Central Africa," Sanders said.

"Our focus as we move into the exercise is learning our partner nations' culture and processes and how these impact how they conduct operations," Sanders explained. "This knowledge allows us to quickly form effective teams and increase working relations with our nation partners."



New York Army National Guard Col. Reginald Sanders (right), commander of the 369th Sustainment Brigade, joins Dr. Jeannot Essono Engueng (center) from the Military Forces of Central Africa, and Col. Frederick Ndjonkep, a member of the Military Operations Command of Cameroon during an exercise planning conference in Vicenza, Italy in February. The 369th Sustainment Brigade has previously participated in exercises in Mali and will deploy about 70 Soldiers next year back to Cameroon for Shared Accord 2014.

The 369th plans to send 70 Soldiers to Cameroon next year to participate in the exercise training alongside African military forces.

The Soldiers will train alongside Cameroon and partner nations' to receive, stage, move and supply roughly a thousand military personnel from several countries expected to train in Central Africa for three weeks in early 2014.

Countries participating in the workshop included Cameroon, Congo, Chad, Gabon, Nigeria, Burundi and Brazil. Cameroon will once again host Central Accord.

U.S. Army Africa will use this as an opportunity to share expertise and experience of all participating forces, from the command to individual Soldier level.

"It's important to begin the planning process early to identify how each nation operates in the areas of logistics, communications and operational command and control at both the tactical and strategic levels," Madden said.

"Because each country's military works

differently, identifying these aspects early will help bridge gaps between all partner nations and address these issues prior to the exercise," Madden added.

The 369th Sustainment Brigade, headquartered in Harlem, New York City, traces its history back to the 369th Infantry Regiment, an African-American unit which fought in World War I. The regiment earned more French Croix de Guerre medals than any other American unit and became known as the "Harlem Hellfighters." **gt**

**"We bring unique qualifications and expertise in sustainment operations to the U.S. Army Africa team in Central Africa,"**

-- Col. Reginald Sanders, Commander, 369th Sustainment Brigade

# CH-47s, Aircrews return to Rochester

*Guard Times Staff*

ROCHESTER -- Five CH-47 Chinook heavy lift helicopters arrived at Rochester International Airport, April 22, followed two weeks later, by the unit's 60 Soldiers who demobilized at Fort Hood, Texas.

The aircraft arrived on board an Air Force C-17 and two C5s. The helicopters replace Chinooks the detachment originally took to Afghanistan as those are refurbished.

The CH-47 helicopter is capable of hauling more than 30 Soldiers and 28,000 pounds of cargo. The helicopter and its aircrews have proven invaluable in Afghanistan where the dual engines and rotors allow it to function well in high mountains.

"The delivery of these CH-47 Chinooks to Rochester is good news for the New York Army National Guard," said Major General Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York. "These aircraft are incredibly capable and can be invaluable in responding to emergencies here at home as well as in a combat zone."

The Soldiers of Company B's Detachment 1-the other half of the company is part of the Maryland Army National Guard-last deployed to Afghanistan in 2007 and 2008. The company was recognized as the Army National Guard aviation unit of the year for 2008 by the Army Aviation Association of America for the company's accomplishments in Afghanistan, including participating in the largest air assault operation in that country since 2002. **gt**



New York Army National Guard Sgt. John Stormm, a member of Detachment 1 Company B 3rd Battalion 126th Aviation receives the Purple Heart and the Air Medal from Lt. Col. Mike Higginbotham, Task Force Knighthawk Commander during award ceremonies in Kandahar, Afghanistan April 18. Stormm received a bullet wound during a resupply mission in Afghanistan. Photo by 1st Lt. Ben Postle.



Members of the New York Army National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility from Rochester greet Soldiers from Detachment 1, Company B, 3rd Battalion 126th Aviation as they arrive back from overseas at Fort Hood, Texas, May 4. The aircrews and maintenance personnel demobilized and returned home to New York in mid-May. Courtesy photo.



New York Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to Rochester's Detachment 1, Company B, 3rd Battalion 126th Aviation (Heavy Lift) load CH-47 helicopters onto a C-5 Galaxy in Kandahar, Afghanistan as they prepare to return home following their nine-month deployment on April 20. The helicopters arrived at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Rochester on April 22 and the Soldiers returned home through Fort Hood in early May. Photo by 1st Lt. Benjamin Postle.

# Finance Soldiers Return Overseas

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

NEW YORK -- New York Army National Guard leaders, families and friends of the 27th Financial Management Company gathered at the American Legion Post 131 in Whitestone here May 10 to farewell 27 Soldiers for duties in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The mobilization of the 27th Finance, the second overseas callup for the unit in the past five years, supports commanders overseas with financial service support for U.S. and multinational forces with pay, travel services, fund disbursements, contract payments and accounting, commercial vendor services and the automation and internal controls to account for U.S. funds of overseas contingency operations.

"I thank these brave Soldiers for their immeasurable dedication and commitment," Governor Cuomo said in a statement. "The long periods away from home can be difficult for Soldiers and their families but they understand the role of protecting our freedom. Do your duty, make us proud, and come home safe and sound."

Assistant Deputy Secretary for Public Safety Mary Kavaney, represented the governor at the farewell event.

"It certainly is true that families don't enlist,



New York Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, The Adjutant General congratulates Spc. Maurisa Massiah prior to her mobilization ceremony for active duty supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.



The "Liberty Bells" of the NYC USO speak with Soldiers following their mobilization ceremony. 27 members of the New York Army National Guard's 27th Finance Company said goodbye to friends and family at the unit mobilization ceremony at the American Legion Post 131 in Whitestone on Friday, May 10 as the Soldiers prepare to leave for a deployment overseas. The Soldiers will conduct predeployment training at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in N.J. and are expected to redeploy home in the spring of 2014.

but they endure deployments," Kavaney said to the assembled Soldiers and their families. "I admire what you are about to embark upon and I thank you for your sacrifice for other New Yorkers, others in our country and for your self-sacrifice."

The unit will conduct predeployment training at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst before serving overseas as the senior financial headquarters for two other finance detachments.

"I know that your leadership team is well trained and that you are ready to go," Murphy said. "Our finance units are among the most deployed units, even though you are not large in numbers, you are critical to the mission."

The unit, while preparing for the this mobilization for the past year, also served locally after the state callup of forces following Hurricane Sandy. Members of the finance company assisted the state payroll processing for some 4,500 Soldiers and Airmen performing state active duty.

"This team did outstanding work during Sandy," said Col. Reginald Sanders, the commander of the 369th Sustainment Brigade. "You

made a difference."

The company last deployed in 2008-09, providing mission support in Kuwait and Iraq. Several of the company's NCOs served on that deployment, providing leadership experience for the unit's current deployment.

Lt. Col. Dan Harris, battalion commander of the 369th Support Battalion, addressed the unit leadership, Capt. Erica Poole and First Sgt. Eric Wimberly, encouraging them to focus not on the financial work ahead, but the command responsibilities of the company.

"Lead them," Harris said. "Command this company and make decisions. They are yours and this is yours to do."

"To the Soldiers, you are ready," he continued. "You are set and ready to do this mission."

The company expects to train for approximately 45 days in New Jersey before deployment and should return home in one year.

"Thank you for the love and support," said Capt. Erica Poole, the unit commander to the group of families, supporters and military leaders. "We can't do our mission without you."**gt**

## 106th Security Forces train for Disturbance Control

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters

Photo by Senior Airman Christopher Muncy

F.S. GABRESKI AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, WESTHAMPTON BEACH - More than two dozen Airmen of the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing faced off during a training exercise here May 5 to sharpen the skills of the wing's security forces and adapt new equipment to better protect the unit at home and overseas.

This year the National Guard Bureau provided the wing's security forces squadron with new disturbance control kits, providing Airmen with a centrally stored and ready location for items required to protect Airmen facing the difficulties of civil crowds.

The kit includes police shields, helmets with visors, shin and limb protection and batons for protection of the security forces, along with lighting, megaphones, portable obstacles and generators for self-sustained power.

The training focused on addressing crowd control situations with precise dispersal techniques to avoid making difficult situations much worse.

The goal was to get to the trouble and handle any hooligans before they can incite a bigger situation out of a larger group, explained Master Sgt. Fosse, an instructor for the training.

The security force personnel also trained on the tactical movement techniques, learning lessons from Tech. Sgt. Eric Auletta, a combat veteran from Afghanistan who shared his experiences with mounted and foot security patrols that are a large part of the security force mission.

"My instructors focus on the valuable experience of our well trained, security forces, combat veterans," said Master Sgt. Eric Fosse of the 106th Security Force Squadron, an organizer of the training. "I ask them to input recently experienced tactical events. We take from the experienced and share that information to train the less experienced folks. It's a formula for continued success."

The security forces focused their training on theories of crowd control, team formations, leadership and then tried out their training in several realistic scenarios, involving volunteers from the wing's student flight. The student flight portrayed the role of agitators or protestors at the installation, testing the security forces in their use of crowd control.

These members provided the realism the training needed to maximize the training potential, explained Fosse.

"They were a rather intimidating bunch," Fosse said. The student flight



protestors shouted at the security force members and attempted to physically block the security teams from moving about.

“Without them, this training would not have achieved the desired impact of realism,” Fosse said.

The security force teams practiced rescuing an Airman that had been pulled into the unruly crowd and clearing an area, using movement techniques and tactical formations.

Training was comprised of formation movement in a well synchronized and authoritative posture, ensuring the safety of the lone Airman pulled into the crowd and deterring further escalation.

“If the team leader can control a well-organized team of Security Forces in a synchronized mass movement, the psychological effect that can take on a disorderly crowd can serve two fold,” Fosse said. “It allows the leader to maintain strict control and be able to command several different formations and alter the team’s tempo of movement by use of a loud and firm cadence. It also sends a distinct message to any unruly protestors that this may not be the outcome they actually had desired when looking at a well formed team of trained police professionals.”

“This is one core task of domestic operations,” said Senior Master Sgt. James Storan from the 106th Security Forces Squadron. “Under the Constitution, each state is responsible for protecting life and property within its boundaries. For military installations, the preservation of law and order is the responsibility of the installation commander and military law enforcement authorities.”

The training is an annual requirement for security force members, Storan said, and helps prepare the security force teams for their full spectrum of missions.

“This builds on heightened awareness of an Airman’s surroundings,” Storan said, and “helps with situational awareness and hands on of how crowds may react.”

“Regardless of the nature of disturbances, security forces members are taught to display fair and impartial treatment during all contacts with the civilian population and any other participants in any civil disturbance,” Storan said. “In all cases, personnel are taught to adhere to the principle of minimum force as outlined in Air Force Instruction 31-117, Arming and Use of Force by Air Force Personnel.” 9†

# Col. Governour Citizen Soldier Award

Story by Senior Airman Duane Morgan, 174th Attack Wing



New York Air National Guard Commander Maj. Gen. Verle L. Johnston (right) presents Lt. Col. Edward W. Cook, 174th Attack Wing Logistics Readiness Squadron Commander, with the Colonel Governour Morris Citizen Soldier Award at Hancock Field, Syracuse NY on 3 March 2013. The award is presented annually to a member of the New York State Organized Militia who has distinguished himself through outstanding support to the New York National Guard and his local community. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Justin Huett, 174th Attack Wing.

**HANCOCK FIELD AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, SYRACUSE**  
-- Maj. Gen. Verle L. Johnston, New York Air National Guard Commander, presented Lt. Col. Edward W. Cook Jr. with the Gouverneur Morris Citizen Soldier Award here on March 3.

Cook is the commander of the 174th Attack Wing Logistics Readiness Squadron.

The Colonel Governour Morris Citizen Soldier Award is presented annually to a member of the New York State Organized Militia who has distinguished him or herself through outstanding support to the New York National Guard, his or her local community or the state of New York.

"It's extremely important that we're involved in our community," said Johnston. "And more so than the things Ed has done militarily, is the example he's been to all of us with his involvement in the community."

Cook has been active for many years in the Salvation Army, Leadership Greater Syracuse and the CNY Political Leadership Institute. He is also a defensive driving instructor, soccer coach and volunteer firefighter.

Additionally, Cook has deployed seven times to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Southern Watch, Operation Enduring Freedom

and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He most recently served as the Director of Logistics at the combined forces special operations component command in Afghanistan from August 2011- February 2012. For his service he was awarded the Joint Service Accommodation Medal and the Bronze Star Medal.

"When you're involved in your community, you strengthen your community, you strengthen your families and you strengthen individuals" said Johnston. "I just want to thank Ed for being a great example to us."

Johnston also took time to talk to the members of Hancock Field about the federal government's sequestration process and how it would affect the members in the future. "Even though we are in a situation, things will somehow get resolved," said Johnston. "We hope this will have minimal impacts on the folks here at Hancock."

Finally, Johnston spoke about the good work that all the units at Hancock Field are going. "You guys are great. You are making a difference in the lives of American troops every single day. Keep up the good work," said Johnston. "We're proud of you at state headquarters." **gt**



## Rescue Rehearsals

*WESTHAMPTON BEACH - New York Air National Guard Pararescue Jumpers with the 102nd Rescue Squadron simulate recovering a downed F-16 pilot during training at FS Gabreski Air National Guard Base here March 25th. The Airman are part of the 106th Rescue Wing. Photo by Senior Airman Christopher Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.*

# 109<sup>th</sup> AW completes 25th Deep Freeze Season

Story and photo by Senior Master Sgt. Ray Lloyd, 107th Airlift Wing



Civilian personnel work side by side with military members from the 109th Airlift Wing at McMurdo Station, Antarctica on December 15th 2012, as they load cargo onto an LC-130 Skibird bound for remote camps. Photo by Sr. Airman Ben German, 109th Airlift Wing.

*“It’s some of the most challenging flying I’ve ever experienced and every flight is unique,”*

*--Maj. Joseph J. DeConno, LC-130 navigator and operations chief, 109th Airlift Wing*



109th Airlift Wing members pose for a photo at the unit’s sign in celebration of the unit’s 25th year flying missions to Antarctica in support of Operation DEEP FREEZE at Stratton Air National Guard Base on March 21. Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara, 109th Airlift Wing.

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, SCOTIA -- Members of the New York Air National Guard’s 109th Airlift Wing returned to Schenectady County Airport March 22 after a long trip back from Antarctica. The unit’s redeployment marks the 25th anniversary of Antarctic operations for the 109th Airlift Wing.

The 109th Airlift Wing made its first trip to Antarctica in January 1988, supporting the Navy mission at the time. The wing made its first full year of Antarctic operations in 1989. Since then, the 109th completed 25 seasons of flying in one of the harshest environments in the world with an accomplished safety record, resulting in no fatalities or excessive aircraft damage. While operating in this hazardous region, the wing completed a ten-year average of more than 3,000 flying hours each season, more than most Air Force units complete in a year.

Antarctic operations for the 109th have evolved over the years. In 1988 the unit deployed two aircraft, assisting the Navy who had supported the South Pole mission since 1969. The Navy transferred that mission to the Air Force in 1989 and since that time the 109th Airlift Wing has been responsible for all the heavy airlift on the continent.

“We started out doing just pole missions with the Navy handling the camp lifts,” said Senior Master Sgt. Mike Messineo, a flight engineer who served on the first mission in 1988. “All the crew used to be together in one room in bunk beds. We called it the ant farm.”

Flight operations in Antarctica are conducted in support of the U.S. Antarctic Program, managed by the National Science Foundation. NSF coordinates all U.S. research on the southernmost continent and aboard vessels in the Southern Ocean. The agency is also responsible for providing the logistical support required for that research.

“When we go out to the deep field there are always challenges,” said Maj. Joseph J. DeConno, an LC-130 navigator and chief of current operations. “A great deal of hard work goes into planning and executing every

Capt. Brian Freshwater  
Command and Control  
Warrior of the Year  
(Officer Category)



Master Sgt. Mark  
Armitage  
Command and Control  
Warrior of the Year  
(Enlisted Category)

## Air Force Recognizes EADS Airmen as top Warriors

Story and photo by Tim Jones, Eastern Air Defense Sector

ROME -- Two New York Air National Guardsmen from the Eastern Air Defense Sector have won First Air Force Warrior of the Year awards.

Capt. Brian Freshwater of Poland was named Command and Control (C2) Warrior of the Year in the officer category and Master Sgt. Mark Armitage of Holland Patent was the enlisted C2 winner. The awards are administered by

the Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region (CONR)-First Air Force, headquartered at Tyndall AFB, Fla. The program recognized individual winners in six different categories.

“Being named the best in your field in an organization as large as 1st Air Force is an impressive accomplishment and I congratulate Capt. Freshwater and Master Sgt.

Armitage on their achievement,” said Col. Dawne L. Deskins, EADS Commander. “Having two of the six individual award winners come from EADS is also a great accomplishment for the unit and is a reflection of the professionalism and dedication of the entire staff.”

The Eastern Air Defense Sector is headquartered at Griffiss Business and Technology Park in Rome. Staffed by active-duty New

York Air National Guardsmen and a Canadian Forces detachment, the unit supports the North American Aerospace Defense Command’s (NORAD) integrated warning and attack assessment missions and the U.S. Northern Command’s (US-NORTHCOM) homeland defense mission. EADS directs a variety of assets to defend one million square miles of land and sea. **gt**

### 109th Completes 25 seasons of Support to South Pole, continued from preceding page

deep field mission but it pays off knowing we are supporting the NSF with new discoveries all over the continent! It’s some of the most challenging flying I’ve ever experienced and every flight is unique,” he said.

The 109th has played an integral part establishing the remote camps, often the first aircraft and personnel to ever arrive in that part of the continent. Over 25 years, the 109th Airlift Wing helped establish more than 100 remote sites for exploration and research. This year, 14 sites were active, including South Pole Station. Sustainment of these remote locations requires the capability of the heavy airlift aircraft to provide enough fuel, equipment and supplies to keep researchers able to conduct their work. All of the camps and the South Pole Station require ski take-offs and landings and many have ungroomed surfaces, supportable only by the skibirds of the 109th Airlift Wing.

An example of the capability of the LC-130 skirbird is the South Pole Station. Completed in 2008, nearly all of the construction material

needed to build the station was carried in by the 109th. To complete the station, the wing flew more than 925 flights transporting more than 24 million pounds of cargo.

During the 2012-13 Antarctic season the 109th completed 310 missions. The wing’s Airmen flew 2,219 hours and transported 6.4 million pounds of cargo and fuel: the equivalent of moving 428 adult male African elephants.

The wing also airlifted 3,602 passengers to Antarctica and around the frozen continent. An unprecedented wind storm buried the primary landing field near McMurdo Station on December 7, 2012 and a dark layer of mineral dust caused roads and the airfield to deteriorate. Conditions became unstable for the wheeled aircraft that normally support the station, such as the U.S. Air Force C-17 or the Australian Antarctic Program’s Airbus A-319. All transportation to and from the continent was left in the hands of the 109th Airlift Wing for the next seven weeks.

“We always encounter obstacles during the challenging Deep Freeze season, but this year’s

were significant because of the unusual natural event that cut off the continent from normal support,” said Pacific Air Force Maj. Gen. Russell J. Hardy, Director of Operations, Plans, Requirement and Programs. “The LC-130s stepped up, proving that military support to the U.S. Antarctic program is vital.”

The 109th Airlift Wing deployed six ski-equipped LC-130 aircraft to Antarctica in late October 2012, the start of the summer season at the South Pole. Crews fly from the Sea Ice Runway or Pegasus Field airstrips.

“I am continually impressed with the professionalism and performance of the members of the 109th,” said Maj. Blair Herdick, LC-130 navigator and chief of Antarctic operations at the wing. “This year was a particularly challenging year for us due to the number of deep field open snow camps, weather, supporting an increased number of flights between Christchurch and McMurdo and the deteriorated conditions of Pegasus Field. We overcame all of these challenges and had another successful year.” **gt**

# Lt. Gen. Stanley Appointed DANG

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class ~~Jon Soucy~~, National Guard Bureau



JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. -- Air Force Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III assumed the duties as director of the Air National Guard in a ceremony here March 22 at the Air National Guard Readiness Center.

Clarke took over as director from Air Force Lt. Gen. Harry "Bud" Wyatt, who retired.

A command pilot with more than 4000 hours—including more than 100 combat hours—in the A-10 Thunderbolt II and F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft, Clarke assumed his current position after serving as commander of 1st Air Force and Continental U.S. North America Aerospace Defense Command.

"The opportunity to watch (Clarke) at 1st Air Force was tremendous for me to learn

his great capabilities," said Army Gen. Frank Grass, chief, National Guard Bureau, during the ceremony.

And because of his background, Clarke was uniquely positioned to take on the duties of director, said Grass.

"An Alabama Air Guardsman who served as the assistant adjutant general for air, an A-10 and F-16 pilot who commanded a squadron, wing and expeditionary wing, all of that prepared him for this job and to represent everyone in this building and all those in the Air National Guard," said Grass.

And Clarke has been busy as he settles into his new role.

"There's a lot to learn," said Clarke. "But, I've

hit the ground running and am drinking from the fire hose."

However, he said his new role is a humbling one.

"This is quite an honor and I am humbled at the opportunity to serve," said Clarke.

"I've arrived in a time of budget turmoil and uncertainty, but I view this as a time of opportunity as well," he said,

"My commitment to the (Airmen) and the adjutants general is clear," he said. "We will do everything within our authority to ensure our Airmen have clear policies, equipment, training and resources to accomplish assigned missions. We remain community based, team oriented and experienced." **gt**

## Firefighters Feel the Burn

*WESTHAMPTON BEACH - Air Force Firefighters with the 106th Rescue Wing train with civilian firefighters to remove simulated victims from a burning aircraft at FS Gabreski Air National Guard Base here April 2. The Airmen are assigned to the 106th Civil Engineering Squadron. Kellogg University provided the mock aircraft, which burned propane at an estimated 1,200 degrees. Photo by Senior Airman Christopher Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.*



# New York Guard



# NY Mets honor NYG at Citi Field

*NEW YORK -- Members of the New York Guard, New York's volunteer state defense force, took part in the New York Mets Major League Baseball Opening Day Ceremonies at Citi Field on April 1. The team recognized organizations which responded to Hurricane Sandy last year. Members of the New York Guard worked at a Citi Field logistics site during the response to Hurricane Sandy. The New York Guard members inventoried and organized relief supplies which were being stored at Citi Field before being distributed to locations across the city. Photo courtesy of the New York Guard.*



# New York Naval Militia

## Naval Militia Qualifies Crews for Duty



PEEKSKILL -- Members of the New York Naval Militia's Military Emergency Boat Service (MEBS) spent the weekend of April 20-21 honing their boat operations skills on the Hudson River off Cortlandt, N.Y.

The Naval Militia operates nine boats which operate in conjunction with local law enforcement and the United States Coast Guard to conduct security missions in New York's waters.

The training weekend brought boat crew members from central and western New



*York together to train.*

*At upper and lower left PB (patrol boat) 230 prepares to get underway after Marine Corps and Navy Reserve members of the New York Naval Militia rehearse pre-operations checks.*

*At upper right, Petty Officer Victor Santiago drives PB 220 onto a trailer at Georges Island, near Cortlandt.*

*At lower right, PB280 is recovered onto its trailer. Photos courtesy of the New York Naval Militia.*

## New York Recognizes Vietnam Veterans

*Guard Times Staff*





## Guard Joins City Officials in 50th Anniversary Remembrance

**NEW YORK** – New York City and New York National Guard Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator Raul Lopez helped recognize the service and sacrifice of Vietnam War Veterans here March 23 during the Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day. This year's annual ceremony, marking the 50th anniversary of the war, was hosted by the United War Veterans Council held at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Plaza.

The ceremony recognized veterans of the past, servicemembers in the present, and those killed in action or have since passed away from all branches and countries who served in Vietnam, along with Gold Star Families.

Joining with the Lopez and other military members, veterans, Gold Star Families, and guests were cadets of the Fordham University Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). The cadets presented the colors followed with the 319th Statue of Liberty U.S. Army Band playing the National Anthem.

The memorial ceremony continued with a reading of names to remember all 1,741 service members from New York City who died in service in Vietnam and continuing with the reading of the 91 names of service members who died in either Afghanistan or Iraq.

A theme for the event included the "welcome home" of America's Vietnam Veterans, with remarks by Medal of Honor recipient Paul Bucha. Bucha is a West Point graduate who served in Vietnam as a captain commanding an infantry company in 1967. His award recognizes his distinguished valor leading his company against a battalion-size force of the North Vietnamese Army.

Other guests included retired Lieutenant General Claude M. Kicklighter, now the director of the Department of Defense Office of Commemorations leading the effort for the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War and John Rowan, National President of Vietnam Veterans of America. Other commemoration events are planned across New York State as the nation remembers the 50th Anniversary of Vietnam.

# Combatives Camp held at Camp Smith

Story and photos by Spc. J.p. Lawrence, 42nd Infantry Division

**CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, Cortland Manor -- They train fighters at Camp Smith.**

New York National Guard Soldiers grapple with each other on the padded red, blue and black mat. Staff Sgt. Abismael Gonzalez, an instructor with 2nd Battalion, 106th Regional Training Institute, watches them intently as the

Soldiers methodically repeat each step of each move.

It's graduation day for the nine Soldiers at the five-day Army Skill Level 1 Combatives Course in Camp Smith, the New York National Guard's training facility near Peekskill, NY.

Gonzalez is looking for confidence, for the ability to teach others, for the lessons that the mat teachers, whether the Soldiers wins or loses a bout.

These Soldiers will go back to their unit to teach others the skills they've learned, and he wants to ensure they have it right.

The Army's combatives program, a hybrid creation, was formed from the basics of Brazilian jiu-jitsu ground fighting, with the throws and takedowns of judo and wrestling, and the strikes of boxing and muay thai.

The 21st Century Army National Guard may fight with tanks, armored fighting vehicles, missiles, and helicopters, but experience in Afghanistan and Iraq has shown that Soldiers still need to know how to defeat an enemy in hand-to-hand combat or control an angry civilian without using a weapon.

Sgt. 1st Class Eduardo Hernandez another instructor, said he has seen Camp Smith's combatives program grow significantly.

The focus of his instruction is staying humble, learning how to fight and then learning

how to bring that knowledge to others, he said.

"Leave your ego at the door," Hernandez said. "Come willing to learn, come humble, and when you graduate, bring that training back to your unit."

Four of the Soldiers are here at Camp Smith because their battalion senior noncommissioned officer wanted to have trained instructors for his unit.

For 1st Sgt. Thomas C. Strauss, a former infantryman and a Skill Level 2 Combatives graduate, learning to fight hand-to-hand builds a Soldier's confidence and courage and teaches the Army's core beliefs. "It builds confidence, it makes you feel proud, it builds up their warrior spirit," Strauss said. "You're going to know how to survive. When you're attacked, you're not going to run, you're going to know how to react."

Of the four Soldiers Strauss picked for combatives training, one was a sergeant, two were specialists and one was a private -- and only one of them had any prior martial arts experience. Because of this, the first day, one Soldier said, was rough.

Whenever a Soldier made a mistake, the class had to do burpees, a pushup with a jump, as punishment.

"We had to do a lot of burpees the first day," said Pfc.

Eric Monk, a Schenectady, N.Y. resident and a power generator equipment repairer with the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters Support Company.

For the class leader, Spc. Steven Smith, an automated logistics Soldier with the 42nd Infantry Division's Headquarters Support Company, the class was a chance to train with fellow Soldiers in a subject he really enjoys.

"There was huge progression, from first coming in, not knowing anything, not knowing any terms, how to properly stand, how to do anything, and now coming in and still retaining knowledge and being able to fine tune it and plug away and be done," Smith said.

Smith, who has done 14 years of martial arts, said fighting and hand-to-hand combat is a fun outlet for his aggressive personality.

"I'm a small person, I'm about 5'5", I weigh in anywhere's from 140 to 145, and I like the fact that with the amount of knowledge and technique that I have, I can fend off and easily fight off someone that's two weight classes above me," Smith said.

This is the best part about learning Army combatives, Strauss said: learning that winning on the mat has not dependent on size, but on skill.

Strauss hopes to send more of his Soldiers to a combatives course, and he wants each Soldier who graduates the course to teach more and more Soldiers at each drill.

Hernandez hopes to expand the program so more Soldiers at a time can train and learn the lesson of the mat -- the discipline, the courage and the confidence it breeds.

"I believe that everyone should do combatives," Hernandez said, "male or female, any skill set, not just combat arms -- cooks, engineers, quartermaster, truck drivers -- everyone should be taught combatives." **gt**



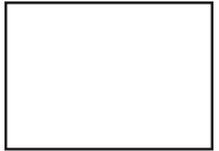
# Long Island Blackhawks Sent Packing for Rebuild



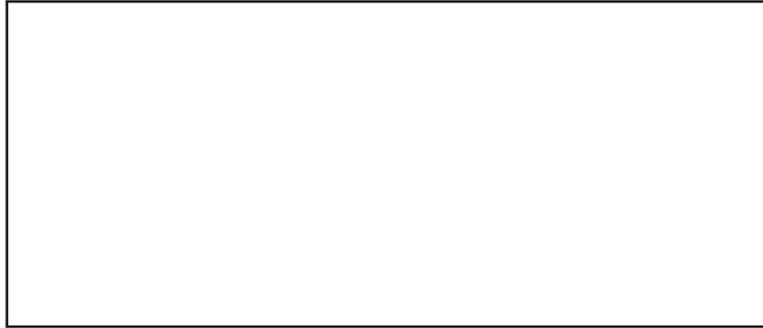
*RONKONKOMA-- New York Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to Army Aviation Support Facility #1 here work together with Airmen from the 105th Airlift Wing to load a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter on board a New York Air National Guard C-17 as the helicopter is shipped away for depot maintenance at the Theater Aviation Maintenance and Sustainment Group in Groton Connecticut at the on April 26. Photos by Chief Warrant Officer Richard Siracusano, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation.*



# Looking for Employers interested in Hiring Members of our New York National Guard?



## There's an App for that!



Thanks to the volunteer work of an Army National Guard captain, the New York National Guard's Job Zone is now accessible from smart phone devices by downloading the Job Zone application from iTunes.

These devices are the way most young New York Army National Guard Soldiers access information, said Andrew DePalo, a retired Sgt. Maj. who heads up the New York National Guard's Family Programs Office.

"If we want to try to lower their unemployment rates we need to get this into the field where the kids are going to use this stuff," he said.

Retired Sgts. Major Robert Van Pelt and John Willsey created the New York National Guard Job Zone web page, with the help of Division of Military and Naval Affairs webmaster Bill Albrecht, as a way for National Guard Soldiers, Airmen and their family members to find job opportuni-

ties. They continually update the site with job openings from employers across New York. The website also provides access to information on full-time military jobs offered by the New York National Guard.

It's a good page, DePalo said, but for people who use their smart phone for Internet browsing and the web, it is not as accessible.

The new app fixes that.

But creating an App was harder than expected. Fortunately Capt. Alexander Prezioso, the Assistant Personnel Officer for the 53rd Troop Command, and an amateur computer programmer was willing to try.

"I do websites and stuff like that for fun on the side," Prezioso said.

"When it comes down to it, it is just taking care of the service members and their families," he said after finishing the app in May.

# NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD



# JOB ZONE

