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

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FROM THE LEADERSHIP



Brig. Gen. Patrick Murphy

Editor's Note: Governor David A. Paterson named Brig. Gen. Patrick Murphy the Adjutant General for the New York National Guard on February 4.

I am honored to be selected by Gov. David Paterson to serve as the Adjutant General of New York. Major General Joseph Taluto, has been a mentor to me and an outstanding leader. He has set the New York Military Forces up for success.

It is my job to continue that trend.

Our Army Guard forces have come from far below assigned strength to 100 percent strength. Equipment that went to war has been replaced or refurbished. We have developed great programs to look after our families and we have a great capability for domestic emergency response.

The health of our organization is as good as it has been in a long time. My first priority will be to maintain our strength. We have more than 16,000 men and women in the Army and Air National Guard and those numbers are important. We must continually refill our units so that as we deploy overseas we can respond to domestic emergencies.

My second priority will be caring for families. Our Guard families face stress as we deploy Soldiers and Airmen into and out of war zones and face demanding training here. We want to provide support through access to veterans programs, unit family readiness organizations and our Yellow Ribbon program.

Third, our units must have enough equipment. This is vital to train for deployments overseas and for domestic responses for fire, floods, or terrorist attacks.

We have many challenges facing us.

The 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team is expected to deploy to Afghanistan in late 2011 or early 2012 and our Air Guard members will continue to deploy regularly worldwide. We must hone our domestic operations capability, our Naval Militia and New York Guard forces will be called upon in this arena.

The leadership on the fourth floor of the Division of Military and Naval Affairs building has changed, but the men and women of our organization are the same. I will empower the staff and our unit leaders to do their jobs and execute their missions.

I am proud to represent and lead you, the men and women I serve with every day and I am proud to be part of the New York National Guard.

Editor's Note: On February 14, Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto retired after a long and distinguished military career that began with his enlistment as a private and ended with service as a division commander in combat, and Adjutant General of New York.

During his service as Adjutant General the New York Army National Guard grew its force by 2,000 Soldiers and reached authorized strength while sending more than 2,500 Soldiers to Afghanistan and Kuwait. The Air National Guard maintained its strength, rotated units into and out of Iraq and Afghanistan. He transitioned two air wings into completely different missions of airlift and remotely piloted air attack capability.

The state's CERFP—the CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package—trained extensively and was certified as ready and the 24th Civil Support Team was stood up in New York City. Meanwhile, Joint Task Force Empire Shield, our state-duty security force in New York City, changed into a more capable, operational force.

The New York Guard and New York Naval Militia also became more capable, focused forces during Taluto's tenure.

Here are his thoughts on leaving military service:

On October 24, 2009 I celebrated my 44th year in uniform as a New York Army National Guardsman. In February I retired from military service. It has been an honor and a privilege to have served so long with so many outstanding New York citizen Soldiers, past and present. I have wonderful memories of all my years and those people who have had a profound impact on me, not only as a Soldier, but as a person. I will Never Forget.

I have spent my entire adult life pursuing a military career that has been both fulfilling and rewarding. Being a Soldier is something to be proud of and I know I will miss it. Most of all I will miss the camaraderie! What a great feeling, being part of the greatest team on earth, the U.S. military.

As I leave my post as Adjutant General of this great state I can honestly say that I feel a sense of pride in what we have accomplished.

In the nearly four years we, together, have made the military forces of New York better.

That is the bottom line. I know New York's military forces will continue to improve and be the best they can be. They will continue to excel under outstanding New York leadership!

My career has been possible because of my family and service members like you.

Thank you for your loyal and dedicated support these past four years and may God bless you and yours and keep you safe.



Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto

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guardtimes

Fall 2009 | Volume 2, Number 3

Governor David A. Paterson, COMMANDER IN CHIEF
Brig. Gen. Patrick Murphy, THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
Eric Durr, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Lt. Col. Paul Fanning, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, COMMAND INFORMATION
Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, NYARNG, EDITOR

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

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



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Members of the 103rd Rescue Squadron, 101st Rescue Squadron and the 106th Security Forces Squadron worked together during a search and rescue training exercise during a search and rescue training exercise on Nov. 3, 2009 at F.S. Gabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach, New York. The exercise simulated a downed HH-60 helicopter with a four-person crew. It was designed to ensure proficiency in patient treatment while working with supporting aircraft in a tactical environment. Photo by Senior Airman Chris S. Muncy.

ON THE COVER: Soldiers of the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters pose with partners from the Japan Ground Self Defense Force's 7th Tank Division at Hokkaido, Japan in front of a Type 90 Tank, following the Yama Sakura 57 bilateral command post training exercise here Dec. 12. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ray Drumsta, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

BACK COVER: The National Guard # 88 sled tears down the track at the Mount Van Hoevenberg Olympic Sports Complex driven by race car driver Melanie Troxel, with New York Army National Guard Spec. Matthew Powers serving as brakeman. The two were participating in the 5th Annual Lucas Oil Geoff Bodine Bobsled Challenge Presented by Whelen Engineering on Jan. 10. The event raises money for the U.S. Olympic Bobsled Team. Twenty Soldiers from Company B, 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry participated in the race with NASCAR and National Hot Rod Association drivers. Photo by Airman 1st Class Ben German, 109th Airlift Wing.

Chaplains Corner

'You Have Eleven Children! Are They Really All Yours?'

Commentary and photo by Chaplain (Capt.) Doug Brock, 204th Engineer Battalion

The shock and awe of eleven children and curiosity if they are all mine are the two most common reactions regarding our modest family. "Yes," I usually respond, "they are all ours, one at a time, from the same woman, and we are still joyfully married."

Knowing we are slow learners, God was gracious to grow our family slowly enough to give us time to learn how to raise them. Having a big family today is unusual, but it also makes it easy to develop a team spirit and be a ministry team."

In support of both my National Guard chaplaincy and civilian pastorate, my family sees themselves as partners together in service "for God and country." This unity of purpose makes for a 'we, together" kind of family, which contributes to our strong bonds.

"How do you do it? How do you care for so many children? How do you keep them from killing each other?" Actually, the principles for raising a large family are the same as those for keeping a marriage strong: trusting God and putting others first. We start our day with worship, study and prayer. The children participate and ask questions and read aloud as soon as they are able. We talk about what the Lord has done for us and the joy of gratefully serving him by loving each other. Our prayer time is followed by a daily Battle Update Brief of the events of the next several days. Then we scatter to "Carpe Diem Pro Deo" (seize the day for God). Each of the older children has a little kid partner, a "battle buddy" to look after and assist as needed.

And we love each other—with the practical love that puts others first. One of the most important aspects of loving one another is good communication. We foster an interest in hearing one another at least as well



The Brock Family

as we ourselves want to be heard.

One of the tools we have found most helpful to our communication experience came from the Strong Bonds training we received at chaplain school—the same training the New York State chaplaincy offers at Marriage Retreat weekends for our Soldiers and their spouses.

God has demonstrated his love for us, and is our model and motive for loving one another. We are thankful for the family he has given us to love, and also for tools like Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program which he has provided to help us do so.

Inspector General Corner

Standards – Making the hard right choice over the easy wrong

By Col. Eric J Hesse, Command Inspector General

JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS, Latham – Sometimes the easiest standards to enforce are the most difficult to follow. Often times they seem to be the most challenging to figure out. However, when you stick with the regulation you cannot go wrong.

For instance, Army Regulation (AR) 670-1 still says you cannot walk around with your hands in your pockets, yet I see it everyday on the short walk from the parking lot to the Joint Forces Headquarters in Latham and armories across the state. Personally, I liked it better when the Army "rule" was to wear gloves every time you wore a field jacket; it kind of made sense. Also, last time I looked, the black beret was still the standard Army headgear, but as I look around sometimes I am not so sure.

The real point I am trying to make is there

are some standards where we all probably get the "so what" explanation and there are some others that really affect Soldiers' lives. They all should be treated the same, otherwise we can get rid of the regulations.

From an Inspector General perspective, our most significant standard affecting Soldiers lately is that for conditional releases. The standard is 30 days. Our Joint Forces Headquarters, Military Personnel Directorate published policy in an MNP memorandum dated October 29, 2009. The reality is that by the time a Soldiers contacts us they are already months old. Look at your tracking mechanisms and see how your unit is tracking a request for conditional release from start to finish; you might be surprised.

We must all be standard bearers willing to make corrections and enforce the regulations.

Your unit is what you represent it to be; good or bad.

For more information and support from the Command Inspector General office, contact the IG staff at (518) 786-4716 or toll free 1-800-422-9228. Email us at NewYorkIG@us.army.mil.

On AKO: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/534621> or on the Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) agency web site: www.dmna.state.ny.us/ig/ig.php. There is a link on both sites that will allow you to file your request for assistance on site.

We hope this corner will peak your curiosity, facilitate better knowledge of the IG and serve as a resource for Soldiers and families in regards to trends, issues and problem resolution in our force.

Army Guard Leader Returns to Empire State

Guard Times Staff

JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS, Latham - The Adjutant General announced Jan. 21 that Brig. Gen. Renwick L. Payne will return to New York Feb. 1 as an Assistant Adjutant General. Payne will be employed as a Special Assistant for Domestic Operations.

Payne is a long-time New York Army National Guardsman who completed 16 years of service at the National Guard Bureau, most recently as the Army National Guard Chief of Staff.

General Payne enlisted in 1974 and received his commission as a Second Lieutenant of Field Artillery in 1979. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Governors

State University, Illinois.

He previously served in command or staff positions with New York Army National Guard forces in the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 42nd Infantry Division and the 269th Sustainment Brigade. Payne deployed to Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990-1991 with the 369th Transportation Battalion.

He is a 2002 graduate of the Army War College

“Brigadier General Payne, with his many years of experience, will be a great addition to the New York National Guard team,” Taluto said in a written statement announcing the new assignment. **gt**



Brig. Gen. Renwick L. Payne. Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Smith.

Place	Date	Officers	Medals	Killed
Court House, Va.	May 15-18 1864			

New York Military Magazines And Reports Online

By Eric Durr, Guard Times Staff

SARATOGA SPRINGS -- There are now 53,671 more pages of New York National Guard records available online on the New York State Military Museum Web site.

The digital files include 197 issues of the New York National Guardsman Magazine published between 1924 and 1940, and National Guard annual reports from 1858 to 1955.

It's a treasure trove of information available to genealogists, historians and military buffs with the click of a computer mouse.

“I can search across 150 different reports in ten seconds and to do this by hand would take me all day,” said Jim Gandy, the assistant librarian and archivist at the museum.

“Our collection is a tremendous resource and this is an opportunity to broadcast this tremendous resource to the widest possible audience,” said Museum Director Michael Aikey.

“We get 15,000 people through the museum each year, but the Web site is getting several million hits,” Aikey added. “I come from the public library world and the goal is to get as

much information easily available, readily available to the public.”

The Adjutant General's Annual reports contain data on the number of Soldiers and airmen in National Guard units, training exercises, officers' names and units, and expenses.

The National Guardsman Magazine includes professional articles, reports on unit athletic events and social activities, and period advertising. Publication of the National Guardsman was suspended in the fall of 1940 when the entire National Guard was mobilized in response to the German invasion of most of western Europe in the spring of that year.

While the new online documents provide a window to the state's military past that's fascinating to any military history buff, some of the biggest users of the state's records have always been amateur genealogy researchers, Gandy said.

Both the National Guardsman Magazine and the Adjutant General's reports are full of names and dates. This kind of information is valu-

able to people trying to flesh out their family histories and find out exactly what rank Uncle Bill held, Gandy explained.

The demand from amateur genealogists for information is so great that the museum is working on a deal with Ancestry.com, a popular genealogy resource, to make online documents available there, Aikey said.

The collections of the New York State Military Museum date back to 1863 when an officer in the Adjutant General's office was assigned to collect press clippings and other memorabilia about New York regiments serving in the Civil War.

Today New York has one of the outstanding state archives of Civil War material, much of it available on line, as well as the largest collection of unit battle flags in the nation.

The Unit History Project section of the Military Museum web site includes extensive on-line historical information on all New York Civil War military units, as well as in other conflicts. **gt**

Military Personnel News: the MILPO Corner

AKO Web Update for Officers.

MNP-OPM has recently added a managing tool to its web portal called "Potential Company Commander". Its purpose is to give S1s, Battalion and Brigade Commanders the ability to identify potential Company Commanders for their respective units.

This user friendly tool lists 1LTs and CPTs from all three MACOMs and can be sorted by name, branch, unit and indicate whether or not an officer has had company command. Please visit this web portal at: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/doc/19693544>

Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay.

All Army Activities Number 277 2009, announced the implementation of Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay for selected Soldiers. Reserve component service members retained under stop loss, accrued retroactive stop loss special pay while serving on Active Duty in their Stop Loss period, under the provisions of 10 USC 12301(G), 12301(H), 12302.

In addition, Soldiers placed on 12301(D) orders, used to account for time beyond a service members ETS or MSO, are also eligible. The pay must be applied for by the Soldier or survivor through the submission of a claim. Go to <https://www.stoplosspay.army.mil> for application information.

Department of Defense Survivors Guide to Benefits.

This handbook is intended to assist in the difficulty and pain of losing a loved one. It provides a clear explanation of how the Department of Defense will assist a survivor from the first meeting with the Casualty Assistance Officer (CAO) onward.

The handbook covers the planning and details of the funeral or memorial service, continuing through the application and processing of benefits. You must have AKO authorization to access the handbook at the below address.

Visit <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/doc/16370526> for more information.

Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator. The Army has expanded their Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) program to include the 54 states and territories with Army National Guard representatives at every JFHQ. Mr. Michael Batza was selected for the position here in New York.

The SOS Coordinator will work with the CAO's to provide comprehensive care to the surviving families of our fallen heroes. The mission is to embrace and reassure survivors that they are continually linked to the Army family through a unified support program, enabling them to remain an important part of the Army for as long as they desire. All past and present CAOs are encouraged to contact Mr. Batza at 518-270-1541 (office), 917-554-4706 (cell/BB), or email at michael.batza@us.army.mil

Change in Processing Procedure for DD Form 368, Request for Conditional Release.

Soldiers who desire to enlist in a regular or reserve component of another armed force, including the Army, can request release from the NYARNG, by completing a DD Form 368, Request for Conditional Release. In accordance with NGB-ARH guidance, the Military Personnel Office is the approving authority.

A response is required within 30 days of receipt of the DD Form 368. The 30-day window starts when the unit receives the request and ends when the action is returned to the Soldier with a decision.

Reducing Retirement Age Due to Reserve Service Credit.

The Department of Defense Instruction 1215.07, Service Credit for Reserve Retirement, was passed by Congress, effective, Jan. 28, 2008. This bill reduced the age a reservist is eligible to receive retirement pay by three months for each qualifying period of 90 days served on active duty in any fiscal year. No eligible member may receive retired pay prior to age 50.

Qualifying Active Duty: This duty must be performed after Jan. 28, 2008. The law does not provide credit for time served on or before that date.

Involuntary or voluntary active duty in support of a contingency qualifies. There is no requirement that active duty be performed outside the continental United States. Most active duty time qualifies, including training, operational support duties and school tours. It does not matter whether the active duty is paid under active military or reserve personnel appropriation accounts, provided such active duty is performed under Title 10.

Special Full-time Calls to Duty: Full-time National Guard duty served under a call to active service by a governor and authorized by the President or Secretary of Defense, under 32 U.S.C. 502(f) for purposes of responding to either a national emergency declared by the President or a national emergency support by federal funds, also qualifies.

Duty That Does Not Qualify:

- (1) Duty as a member of the Guard, Title 10 U.S.C. 12310
- (2) Duty on annual tour, Title 10 U.S.C. 12301(b), while in a captive status.
- (3) While in a captive status, Title 10.
- (4) Medical treatment, medical evaluation for disability, a medical study, Title 10, U.S.C. 12301(h)
- (5) As a member participating in units, Title U.S.C. 12303
- (6) Under Active-duty agreements, Title 10 U.S.C. 12311
- (7) Disciplinary/courts martial, Title 10, U.S.C. 12315
- (8) Muster duty, Title 10 U.S.C. 12319
- (9) Title 32, AGR service.

Health Benefits: Those eligible for earlier retired pay must still wait until age 60 to receive health benefits.

Deployment Extension Stabilization Pay (DESP).

Post-Stop Loss Mobilization Policy – The Secretary of Defense announced that all components of the Army will phase out the use of Stop Loss in 2009 and 2010. The Army National Guard's (ARNG) primary strategy is to offer additional pay to certain Soldiers whose service obligation is scheduled to come to an end in the middle of a future deployment. This additional pay is called Deployment Extension Stabilization Pay (DESP). The Post-Stop Loss Mobilization Policy addresses how all Soldiers will deploy after the ARNG no longer uses Stop Loss.

NGB-ARH Policy letters and Frequently Asked Questions can be found on the MNP-EPM (Enlisted Personnel) AKO home page at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/8808>.

Emergency GI Bill Payments

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), has authorized checks for up to \$3,000 to

be given to Soldiers/Veterans who have applied for educational benefits and who have not yet received their government payment.

The checks will be distributed to eligible students at VA regional benefits offices. NYS has two regional offices, one in Manhattan and one in Buffalo. For more information, please visit the Veteran Affairs website at www.va.gov.

Post Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA)

PDHRA identifies Soldier physical and behavioral health concerns and provides Soldiers with education on issues such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

All Soldiers who have deployed, are eligible for the PDHRA 90 days post-deployment, with most Soldiers completing the PDHRA 90-180 days after return from combat. It is the most important requirement for each returning Soldier.

The first method is the On-Site PDHRA process involves:

Soldiers view the Battlemind II, Training video on AKO, preferably in small groups, to encourage interaction and discussion. The video focuses on transitioning from combat to home. The training is best given by behavioral health personnel, chaplains, or other personnel (e.g. senior NCOs), who are familiar with behavioral health issues, the referral process, and deployment experience.

Next, each Soldier completes the Soldier's portion of the Post Deployment Health Reassessment, DD Form 2900 on AKO. Each Soldier's responses is voluntary and confidential. Only the completion of Section One on the DD Form 2900 is mandatory. All answers given are privileged information.

Finally, each Soldier engages in a one-on-one interview with a health care provider to complete the DD Form 2900. PDHRA Conducted On-Site, is the preferred method. Teams of Physician Assistants provide a one-on-one interview. These events are normally scheduled during the 90-day reintegration event.

The second method is the on-line or telephone method. If Soldiers are unable to attend their 90-day on-site event, instructions for an online PDHRA can be found by going to the below site. Each Soldier must log in with their AKO username and password: <https://apps>.

[mods.army.mil/mwde/secure/defaultin.asp](https://apps.mil/mods.army.mil/mwde/secure/defaultin.asp).

A third method, if the above link doesn't work, a Soldier can complete the process via phone 1-888-734-7299. You MUST talk to the health care professional, prior to calling this number. Call 518-272-6444 or 518-272-6470 to secure a PIN number to expedite the phone method.

Tri-Care Reserve Select Rate Change.

The Assistant Secretary of Defense has announced the 2010 TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) premium rates. A TRS rate summary is enclosed for your use along with a link to the TRS web site. This program, despite the rate increase, continues to be a worthwhile alternative for Soldier and family health care.

The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs establishes TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) premium rates annually on a calendar year basis. The TRS monthly premium rates for calendar year 2010 are \$49.62 for a Soldier or Airmen, member only, a 4.4% increase over 2009 or \$197.65 for a military family, a 9.9% increase.

TRICARE Dental Program.

The TRICARE Dental Program (TDP), is the ONLY dental plan sponsored by the Department of Defense for the Army National Guard and their families. Under TDP there is a nationwide network of more than 57,000 dentists who participate.

This plan is an affordable and flexible program. It can be enrolled in by mail, on line or by fax. It provides insurance during inactive duty training as well as deployment, with a reduction in premiums during activations.

For details go to www.tricaredentalprogram.com.

Commander and Soldier References.

In order to provide access to a selection of current references on critical personnel and administrative topics, we have placed links on the MNP AKO Web Portal Main Page. There are separate folders concerning retirement, awards and decorations, and a selection of NYARNG Military Personnel Guides concerning a variety of topics. Please go to <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/553732>.



DoD Boosts Quit Tobacco Efforts

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — The Department of Defense is delivering new content and tools to help military men and women make 2010 the year they become tobacco free. The campaign, at www.ucanquit2.org is supporting efforts to ditch the tobacco addiction.

As part of the effort, the website will engage service members and help them stay on track with their tobacco cessations goals.

The site launched a new text message service, called QuitTips, that sends content directly to mobile phones. It offers tobacco cessation advice and updates on smoking and health. Users sign up to receive three texts per week at www.ucanquit2.org/quit-tips/ or texting "UCAN" to 35350 (text messaging rates from carriers may apply).

On the site, military personnel can customize support by registering at My Quit Space, creating a private blog of their experiences, developing a personalized Quit Plan, downloading a Quit Calendar to track milestones, and adding up how much money they'll save using the Quitting Calculator. They can also make their blog public to share with family and friends.

Studies show that people who quit tobacco with friends are 36 percent more likely to succeed. The online tools and social networking can turn a New Year's pledge into an accomplished resolution and a tobacco-free life. **gt**

Battling The Elements of Winter

Tips for Troops to Tackle the Chill of Winter Training

Winter is synonymous with dangerously low temperatures. Add to that, bone-chilling wind and you have tentative occupational hazards for working and training outdoors.

As a military leader, if your training or real-world mission involves being exposed to winter weather day or night, be aware of proper implementation and control measures that can help prevent Soldiers from becoming cold weather casualties.

Clothing

Normally, Soldiers who suffer cold weather injuries are not properly dressed for the occasion. All Soldiers must be issued the full complement of cold weather gear to include insulated boots, gloves and a field jacket liner. Soldiering often requires intense physical exertion, causing body heat to be lost through sweating. Clothing dampened by sweat or environmental elements such as sleet or rain provide no insulation against the cold. Once a Soldier's clothing becomes drenched in sweat, the layers stick together and prohibit warm air from being trapped between them. Clothing should be worn loose and in layers so it can be vented at the neck. Garments that fit too tight restrict circulation and reduce insulation and ventilation in the covered areas.

Nutrition and Hydration

Good nutrition is another preventative measure against cold injuries.

Adequately clothed Soldiers in cold climates don't require more than the usual ration of 3,600 to 4,600 calories per day in a Meal, Ready-to-Eat package or dining facility meal. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and soda are diuretics and increase chances of dehydration. Water is the preferred means of hydrating.

Soldiers should not consume alcohol or use tobacco products just before or during operations. Although alcohol may give a sensation of warmth, it actually decreases the core body temperature and increases the risk of hypothermia.

Proper Training

The potential consequences of command inattention to cold weather training are numerous. When planning cold weather missions, weather forecasts allow for informed mission planning. Soldiers must be trained how to prevent, detect and give first aid for cold weather injuries.

Conclusion

Cold weather is a threat to successful operations. Using these countermeasures enables units to effectively minimize the chance of a cold weather injury and increase the unit's mission success during outdoor winter operations.

Editor's Note: Segments of this article were used courtesy of Knowledge Magazine.



Braving afternoon temperatures near zero degrees, Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade spent the day conducting cold weather weapons familiarization training at the Guilderland Rifle Range, Jan. 9. Soldiers also focused on "zeroing" their individual weapons in unfavorable conditions. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade.

What you do on your own time affects more than you !



Substance Abuse Testing Requirements

Army

Goal of 10% a month

Requirement of 25% a quarter

Air Force

Goal of 5% a month

Requirement of 13% a quarter

Today's citizen Soldiers and Airmen must be prepared at all times to answer the call of duty. Whether called up for a State or Federal mission, all personnel must be well trained, physically fit and mentally alert.

Substance abuse related dependency or misconduct degrades both unit readiness and mission accomplishment. This type of behavior is potentially disastrous to the service member, their family, and public's confidence in the military that is sworn to protect them.

NYNG Substance Abuse Program & Prevention Treatment and Outreach



SSG Tom Ruffing
518-786-3482



SGT Mike Broderick
518-786-3481

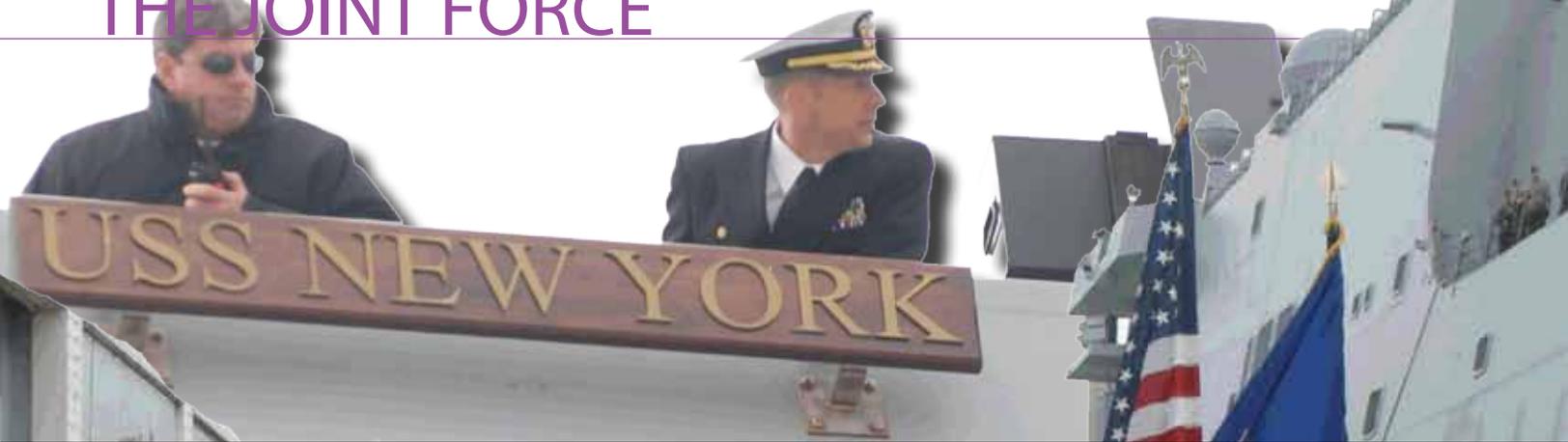


TSgt Jared Semerad
518-786-3459



SGT Gina Olcott
518-786-3452

THE JOINT FORCE



A New Yorker Pulls into Port



Salutes are rendered as a U.S. Naval color guard team from the New York Maritime College perform a pass and review of the colors on the starboard side of the newly arrived USS New York Amphibious Assault Ship during welcome ceremonies on Nov. 2. The event was attended by units from the New York Army and Air National Guards, Naval Militia and New York Guard. Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Young, 105th Airlift Wing.



The USS New York cruising into New York harbor on Nov. 2, 2009. Photo by Senior Airman Johnathon Young, 105th Airlift Wing.

Story by Guard Times Staff

NEW YORK - Members from every component of the New York Military Forces turned out to welcome the USS New York, the Navy's newest amphibious assault ship, to the city that gave the vessel its name.

This ship, whose bow contains steel from the World Trade Center, was welcomed by members of the New York Army and Air National Guard, the New York Naval Militia and the New York Guard.

Brigadier General Paul Genereux, commander of the New York Army National Guard and former commander of the 42nd Infantry Division, presented the ship with a "Never Forget" flag flown by the 42nd Infantry Division in Iraq in 2005. The flag, commissioned by the division, commemorates the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and the deaths that day. Never Forget is the division's motto. The motto of the USS New York is "Strength Forged Through Sacrifice Never Forget." The ship's crest bears a picture of the World Trade Center towers and is in the colors of the NYPD and FDNY emblems.



The USS New York, LPD-21, is the seventh vessel to bear the name of New York City or New York State. The ship is a San Antonio Class

landing platform dock ship designed to support ship to shore operations.

The New York can carry 699 Marines, who can land on enemy held beaches using air cushioned landing craft, expeditionary fighting vehicles (a kind of amphibious armored personnel carrier), helicopters landing on the flight deck, or V-2 Tilt Wing Osprey aircraft. It's constructed so that radar waves bounce off, making it a stealthy ship.

The ship is 684 feet long and 105 feet wide. It is larger than the World War II Battleship USS New York.

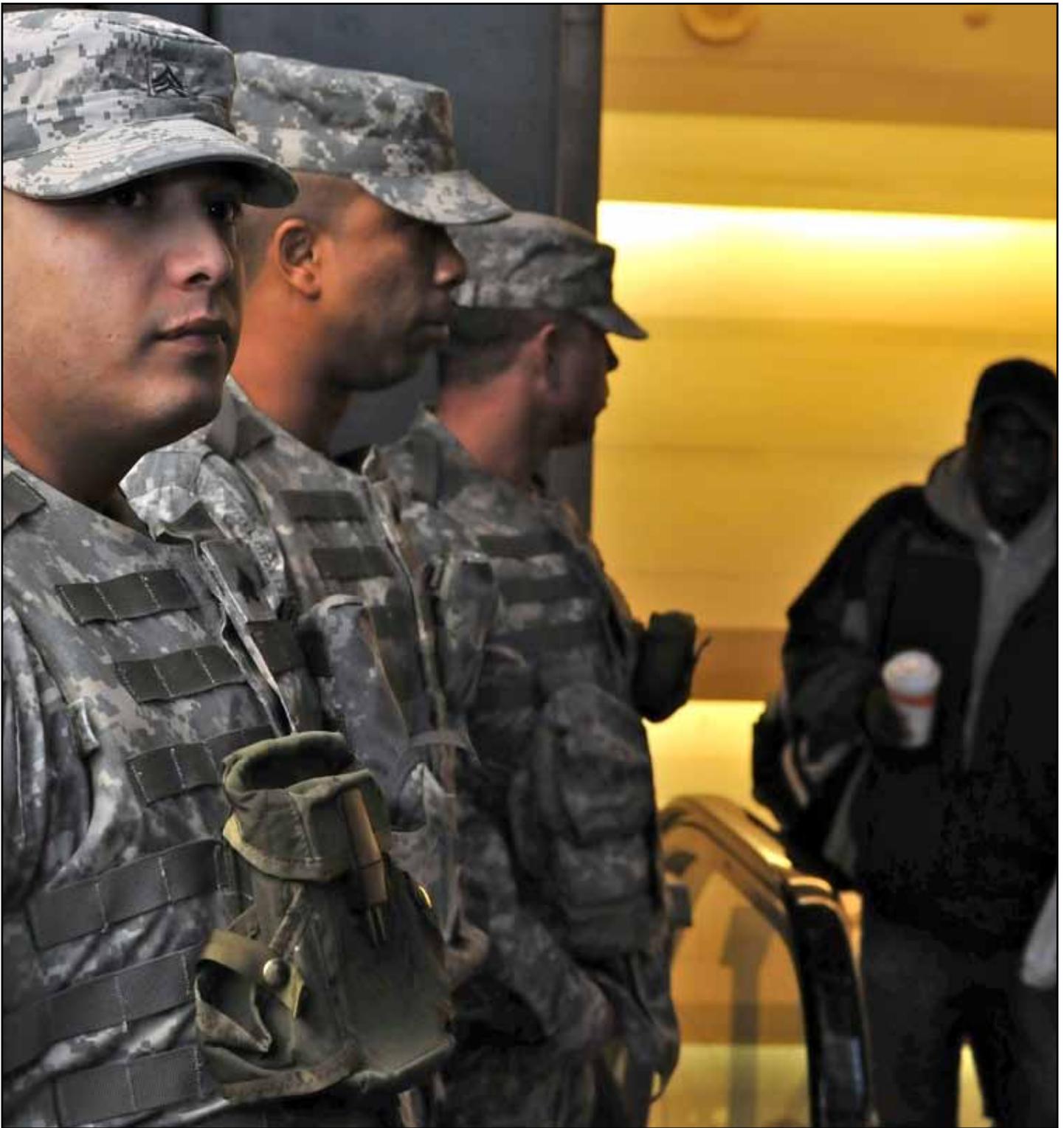
The New York is the first of three LPD class ships that will bear the names of places where the 9/11 attacks occurred. The other two will be the USS Arlington and USS Somerset and both will contain steel from those locations in their construction.

The first New York in American service was a wooden gunboat built in Whitehall New York that fought in the Battle of Valcour Island on Lake Champlain in September 1776. Benedict Arnold's losing battle there delayed the British invasion of New York for a year.

The Los Angeles Class submarine USS New York City served in the fleet from 1979 to 1997.

The Battleship New York, BB34, was commissioned in 1911, fought through World War I and World War II, and was sunk as a target ship during atomic bomb tests in 1948.

An armored cruiser named New York fought in the Spanish American War, participating in the destruction of the Spanish fleet off Cuba in 1898. **gt**



NEW YORK - New York Army National Guard Soldiers (from left) Sgt. Edgar Rosales, Sgt. Benedict Taylor, and Sgt. Michael Decaprio monitor traffic at a New York City subway station on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. The three Soldiers, all from New York City, are part of the New York National Guard's Joint Task Force Empire Shield, which provides a full-time security presence in New York City. The 200+ Soldier and Airman task force operates at the direction of New York Governor David Paterson and augments police and other civilian security services in the metropolitan area. Photo by Airman Jonathan Young, 105th Airlift Wing.

Land, Sea or Air: Civil Support Team Will be Ready



The New York Department of Transportation's Staten Island Ferry runs between Staten Island and Manhattan with a daily passenger load of about 70,000. Photo courtesy of 24th Civil Support Team.

Guard Times Staff

STATEN ISLAND - Training with the FBI, Secret Service, and on board one of the Staten Island ferries, is preparing Soldiers and Airmen of the 24th Civil Support Team (CST), for the challenges they'll face working in New York City.

The team, which is due to certify in June, will focus on operations in New York City. Civil Support Teams are trained to detect chemical, biological, and radiological agents employed in a terrorist attack, or hazardous materials released in an accident.



Sergeant Fallyn Martis, 24th CST checks a suspicious car for a hazardous material dissemination device during a training drill at the Staten Island Armory on Oct. 29, 2009. Photo courtesy of 24th CST.

The 24th CST has made a practice of working with other agencies in the city, said Lt. Col. Kaarlo J. Hietala, the team commander.

On Oct. 29, the team practiced setting up a Joint Hazardous Assessment Team with members of the 24th working with their counterparts in the Secret Service and the FBI. The Manor Road Armory on Staten Island filled the role of a contaminated building, as the three agencies practiced working together in an exercise that was filmed by National Geographic for a documentary.

On Dec. 1 the team was waterborne during an exercise held on the Staten Island Ferry, John F. Kennedy.

The scenario called for the team, to respond to an incident on the 4,000-passenger ferry, calling for the CST to respond after 100 ferry passengers were taken to emergency rooms on Manhattan and Staten Island complaining about respiratory problems, convulsions, and uncontrollable trembling. The 24th CST, based at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, responded at the request of the New York City Department of Transportation.

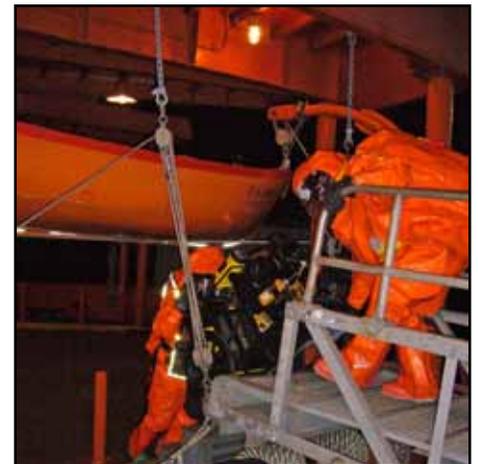
"Working on the ferry was especially challenging. Working in tight spaces made everything the team does tougher," explained Hietala. "There was nothing easy about it. It was tough transporting personnel and personnel protective equipment up and down the gang plank."

One of the five Staten Island ferries that go back and forth between Whitehall St. on Manhattan and the St. George district of Staten

Island was picked for an exercise because it is a potential target for an attack. Hietala explained. More than 70,000 New Yorkers use the ferry every day during the week.

The 24th CST worked with the New York City Department of Transportation as well as the Fire Department of New York on this exercise.

The goal - to ensure that all agencies working in the city, from the Coast Guard to the New York Police Department, understand the capabilities of the 24th CST and what they can contribute, Hietala said. **gt**



Capt. Ron McCarthy and Staff Sgt. Pedro Mancebo don Orange Level A suits and prepare to reconnoiter the John F. Kennedy, a Staten Island Ferry for suspected chemical dispersion devices during training on Dec. 1, 2009. Photo courtesy of 24th CST.



Yama Sakura: Rainbow Division Gets Back to Basics

War Game in Japan Tests Rainbow Soldiers' Skills

Story by Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta, 138th Public Affairs Detachment



Brigadier General Steven Wickstrom (left) and division operations and training officer Lt. Col. Dennis Deeley (right) return from a familiarization ride on a Japanese tank during Yama Sakura 57, the bilateral command post training exercise with members of the Japan Ground Self Defense Forces. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ray Drumsta, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.



Soldiers of the Japan Ground Self Defense Forces' honor guard post national colors of Japan during opening ceremonies of Yama Sakura 57 Dec. 7. Photo by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, 42nd Infantry Division.

CAMP CHITOSE, Hokkaido, Japan - The theater of operations and terrain was new, but the New York Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division war fighters tracked familiar territory for Yama Sakura 57, a bilateral command post training exercise with members of the Japan Ground Self Defense Forces from Dec. 8-13 for full spectrum conflict and training the Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces for their homeland defense mission.

Though engaged in counter-insurgency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, Army Chief of Staff General George Casey identified a need to train units in full spectrum conventional warfare operations, said Lt. Col. Robert Bready, 42nd Infantry Division.

"This training exercise gets us back to using our traditional skills," Bready said. "We have to get back to basics, and this is how we do it."

The exercise involved a notional battle to defend Japanese sovereignty. About 120 Rainbow Division Soldiers deployed to Camp Chitose, located on the northern Japanese Island of Hokkaido, where they provided command and control of simulated 42nd Infantry Division units. In the exercise, the division was part of Team One, a notional task force composed of American Army, Marine and Japan Ground Self-Defense Forces on Hokkaido. In a conventional counter-attack operation involving delaying tactics, engineering obstacles, artillery fires and unit maneuver on narrow valley and coastal roads, the task force intended to draw the enemy in, outflank and destroy them.

"It's a full-spectrum operation," Bready said. "It's a conventional combined arms fight."

While the tactical scenario stands in stark contrast to the division's 2005 Iraqi counter-insurgency operations, the command and control aspect isn't "significantly different," Bready said.

"We have a lot of moving pieces," he said. "But we're still controlling forces on the ground and supporting the troops like we did in Iraq. We're all training in our base skills, which can translate into all these areas."

"This is our profession and our craft," said Brig. Gen. Steven Wickstrom, the 42nd Infantry Division Commander to his assembled staff leaders during a combined arms rehearsal prior to deployment. "We need to do this training to improve our profession and continue to learn."



Major Roger Lance (left) takes notes as Maj. Yoshikawa, 7th Tank Division, Japan Ground Self Defense Forces, reviews his unit scheme of maneuver inside the 42nd Infantry Division command post. Photo by Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

Though these battlefield factors are only notional, the staff really gets involved in the game, which increases the pressure – which is the whole idea, Bready said.

“At times, the intent is to build stress, and force people to think and make decisions,” he said. “It’s training in critical thinking and response.”

These skills can be applied to stability, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations, Bready said. “We’ll be able to respond to a variety of situations.”

The exercise required that the staff coordinate their actions with the division staffs of the 2nd Infantry and 7th Tank Divisions of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Forces.

“About sixty percent of our effort here is just the military-to-military relationships and cultural exchange with our Japanese partners,” Command Sgt. Major John Willsey said. Willsey, from the 42nd Special Troops Battalion, supervises the Soldier care and life support issues for the deployed troops.

“The other forty percent of our effort is the exercise itself,” Willsey noted. “Training with the Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces is an exchange of techniques and lessons learned that make both our forces better at what we do.”

“Training with the Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces is an exchange of techniques and lessons learned that make both our forces better at what we do.”

--Command Sgt. Maj. John Willsey, 42nd Special Troops Battalion

“We built relationships with our Japanese counterparts,” Wickstrom said. “They saw how we operate as a staff. We’ve achieved success and fulfilled my intent for this exercise. It is a rare opportunity that a division headquarters gets an opportunity to do this,” he said.

In addition to its bilateral aspect, the exercise was important because both active and reserve component forces worked together, Bready said.

“You have a National Guard division headquarters working for an active duty corps,” he said. “Because of the operational tempo and the current world situation, the National Guard has

become a key operational component of national defense.” **gt**



A Japanese officer demonstrates martial arts skills as part of the Yama Sakura bilateral command Japanese cultural experience. Photo by Sgt Gerardo De Avila, 124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

Aviation Brigade Bids Farewell to Long-Time Aviator

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade



Time to pass the symbol of command. Colonel Michael Bobeck (left) relinquished his command of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade to incoming commander Col. Mark Stryker on Nov. 9, 2009.

Bobeck accepted a position at National Guard Bureau overseeing the national fleet of fixed wing aircraft. Stryker formerly commanded the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion.

Accepting the Brigade Colors is Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Rentz and the reviewing officer is Brig. Gen. Steven Wickstrom, commander of the 42nd Infantry Division. Photo by Sgt. Ally Andolina, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade.

LATHAM -- As Vigilant Guard 2009 came to a close, so did the career of Col. Michael Bobeck as a New York Army National Guard aviation officer. Bobeck relinquished command of the Latham-based 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB), Headquarters and Headquarters Company Nov. 7, 2009 to Col. Mark Stryker, also a long-time New York Army National Guard aviation officer.

Bobeck, who accepted a position at National Guard Bureau (NGB) to manage the entire fleet of NGB's fixed-wing aircraft which consists mainly of C-12 transport aircraft, took command of the brigade from Col. Mark Burke on September 13, 2008.

Bobeck enlisted as an infantryman with the New York Army National Guard's 174th Infantry Regiment in 1979. From there, he was a commissioned ROTC officer in 1983, going on to active duty in 1984 as an aviation officer.

Through the active duty years, he was assigned with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division and the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment.

In 1997, he returned to the New York Army National Guard, taking

command of Army Aviation Support Facility 2, in Rochester. In 2001, he became the State Army Aviation Officer.

Stryker is the 3rd CAB commander since the Aviation Brigade transformed to a Combat Aviation Brigade during 2007. He enlisted into the Army Reserves in 1981 and quickly went into the ROTC Simultaneous Membership Program getting commissioned as an ordnance officer in 1983. He served with 98th Division, 1209th U.S. Army Garrison Aviation and the 423rd Air Ambulance Detachment whom he deployed to support Operation Desert Storm for 10 months.

In 1995, he transferred to the N.Y. Army National Guard's 142nd Attack Helicopter Battalion. In 2004, he deployed again to support Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 142nd Corps Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Battalion. In 2006, he took command of the 642nd Aviation support Battalion, consequently also having command and control to the 249th Air Ambulance Company and Company B, 126th General Support Aviation Battalion.

Stryker has been employed with the New York State Police as a helicopter pilot since 1986. **gt**

Iraq Aviation Commander Departs 142nd AHB

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade

RONKONKOMA, Long Island - Lieutenant Colonel Albert Ricci left New York to deploy for Operation Iraqi Freedom commanding the New York Army National Guard's 3-142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion (AHB), but soon after reporting for duty in Iraq, the unit took on a brigade-size set of responsibilities with a battalion's resources.

Ricci turned over command of a battle-tested aviation unit to Lt. Col. Mark Slusar during a ceremony held at Army Aviation Support Facility on Long Island Dec. 5, 2009.



Lieutenant Colonel Mark Slusar transfers the 142nd AHB's colors to Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Imbarrato for safe-keeping at the Change-of-Command ceremony, Dec. 5, 2009.

The battalion mobilized in May, 2008 for service in Iraq and deployed with 20 UH-60 Blackhawks from the New York Army National Guard, and picked up an additional 27 Blackhawks and more than 300 additional Soldiers after arriving in Iraq.

"We did it and soon this unit gained the reputation of being very reliable and responsible in supporting the troops of Task Force Jester," Ricci said.

Ricci began his military career on active duty in 1985, attending the Aviation Officer Basic Course, Fort Rucker, Ala. His first assignment was with the 227th Aviation Regiment, 3rd Armor Division and later with the 123rd Avia-

tion Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, Fort Ord, Calif.

He transitioned from active duty to the Inactive Ready Reserve in 1992 and in 1996 joined the New York Army National Guard's 42nd Aviation Brigade. While with the brigade headquarters, he deployed to Iraq in 2004-05. Ricci currently serves as the 42nd CAB's Executive Officer.

Slusar enlisted on active duty in 1985, assigned to the 524th Military Intelligence Battalion and served a tour in Korea before transferring to the 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.

In 1988, he joined the New York Army National Guard's 1st Brigade, 42nd Infantry Division. He entered Officer Candidate School and was commissioned in 1990. He attended Military Intelligence Officer Basic Course, Fort Huachuca, Ariz. and later served with the 2nd Battalion, 142nd Aviation Regiment at Niagara

"Let it be said, let it be done."

--3-142nd Aviation unit slogan in Iraq

Falls. In 1994, he transferred to the 3-142nd and attended flight school as an aviation officer at Fort Rucker, Ala.

In 1998, Slusar served as the 3-142nd's full-time personnel (S-1) officer and Headquarters and Headquarters Company Commander. In 2002, he commanded a detachment of 3-142nd that federally deployed under Operation Enduring Freedom/Noble Eagle in support of the NATO Stabilization Force 12 mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In 2006, Slusar was selected as the Joint Domestic Operations (J3-DO) Plans Officer at the Joint Forces Headquarters-N.Y. and as the J3-DO's Deputy Director in 2008. **gt**



Colonel Mark Stryker (center), 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade commander, presents Lt. Col. Albert Ricci with the Meritorious Service Medal at the 142nd Change of Command ceremony Dec. 5, 2009 at Army Aviation Support Facility 1 in Ronkonkoma.

The Award was one of many earned by Ricci during his command of the 142nd while deployed to Iraq.

Guard Speeds to Victory at Lake Placid

Story by Lt. Col. Robert Bullock, New York Air National Guard



LAKE PLACID - The slogan "Army Strong" took on new meaning Jan. 8-10, as twenty members of the New York Army National Guard teamed up with ten of the fastest race car drivers in the world for the 5th Annual Lucas Oil/Geoff Bodine Bobsled Challenge presented by Whelen Engineering.



Specialist Matthew Powers and NHRA Driver Melanie Troxel celebrate their victory at the 5th Annual Bodine Bobsled Challenge on Sunday, Jan. 10. Troxel drove the sled while Power served as the brakeman. Twenty members of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry participated in the event. Photo by Airman 1st Class Ben German, 109th Airlift Wing.

"I decided it was an excellent way to meet NASCAR drivers and go bobsledding, said Spc. Kristopher Fetter. "It shows people some of the excellent opportunities you have when you sign up for the Guard,"

Fetter and members of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, served as brakemen on bobsleds driven by NASCAR and National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) drivers down the Olympic bobsled track here.

The Soldiers helped start the sleds and were then responsible for engaging the brake that

stopped them at the end of the almost one-mile run down the Mt. Van Hoevenberg track.

"It is awesome knowing you can trust these guys to be on their A-game back there," said NASCAR driver Joey Logano, two-time winner of the NASCAR Toyota All-Star Showdown.

"To have someone like that behind you gives you more confidence going down the hill," he added.

Since the New York Army National Guard Soldiers began racing in the Bodine Challenge three years ago the state Recruiting and Retention Command has been using the unique partnership as an opportunity to showcase a different dimension of the Guard.

"It is just another opportunity that a Soldier has to do something that they will never do the rest of their lives," said Command Sgt. Major Robert Van Pelt, the most senior enlisted member of the New York Army National Guard.

While an Olympic venue might not be the most likely place in the world to see Soldiers in ACUs, for former New York Army National Guardsman Bodine the fit was a natural. "We needed someone to ride with these race car drivers and someone said, 'Let's get the military involved.' I said that I used to be a National Guard guy right here in New York and it just went from there," he said.

"They (National Guard Soldiers) do so much for the country and for all of us. I think it is a great tribute to give something back to them," said the first woman driver to participate in the Bodine Challenge, Melanie Troxel. The rookie slider would ultimately emerge as winner of the Bodine Challenge Race. **gt**



Rainbow Division Sent Down Under 42nd Division HQ Staff Trains with Australian Partners

Story by Lt. Col. Patrick Macklin, 42nd Infantry Division Tactical Command Post Number Two

SHOALWATER BAY TRAINING AREA, Australia – The New York Army National Guard’s 42nd Infantry Division Tactical Command Post Number Two (TAC 2) spent part of last summer in the midst of an Australian winter here near the southern tip of the Great Barrier Reef as the Soldiers supported the biannual Joint Training Exercise Talisman Saber, July

of 2009, troops from the 369th Sustainment Brigade deployed to Malaysia for bilateral training.

The Talisman Saber exercise encompassed bilateral joint training with Australian Army, Navy, Marine and Air Forces for the force-on-force exercise. The Tactical Command Post troops, based on Staten Island, N.Y., used the deployment and bilateral training opportunity to hone their military decision making skills and refine the command post’s skills for tactical and operational control of forces in the field. The Soldiers represented all the necessary staff functions to control combat forces, from operations to fires, administration to logistics.

The entire operation involved months of planning between U.S. and Australian forces

TAC 2 contingent and the Australians melded into a single staff, requiring the requisite coordination and obliging the TAC 2 personnel to learn the “Aussie” standard operating procedures and tactics for battle tracking the opposing force for the exercise.

“One of the interesting things about the link-up was how similar our methods were and how easy it was to work together,” said Capt. David Friedner, a military intelligence officer from TAC 2.

One of the first events of the exercise was the orders brief prepared by the 1st Australian Brigade. The New York Army National Guard staff officers and NCOs were impressed by the use of a canvass sand table created by their Australian counterparts. The detailed model helped all players understand the big picture for the operation and was a lesson brought back to the division for future planning.

While participating in twenty-four hour command post operations with 1st Australian Brigade, the TAC 2 troops were also able to experience some key elements of Australian Army field life. The Australian Physical Training officer held a key position at the camp. He was an individual who brought new and innovative physical fitness training programs to keep the program “fun” and interesting throughout the three-week field exercise.

During the battle portion of the training exercise, the bond between staffs of the two countries continued to grow. Soldiers from both sides of the Pacific encouraged learning and professional growth as the two command elements participated in the many battle drills of the exercise.

Battle tracking by the 42nd Division operations and intelligence staff provided situational awareness to the Australian brigade.

One priority of the 1st Australian Brigade Commander was the Information Operations campaign. Elements of Intelligence, Legal, and Fires and Effects staffs worked together to create a combined Information Operations (IO) campaign for the opposing force.

The cooperation between 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters staff from TAC 2 and Australian elements and their resultant success of the IO campaign reflected the overall success of the training event. **gt**



Members of the 42nd Infantry Division Tactical Command Post Number Two from Staten Island, N.Y. display the division’s “Never Forget” flag while down under at Shoalwater Bay, Australia during Talisman Saber. Courtesy photo.

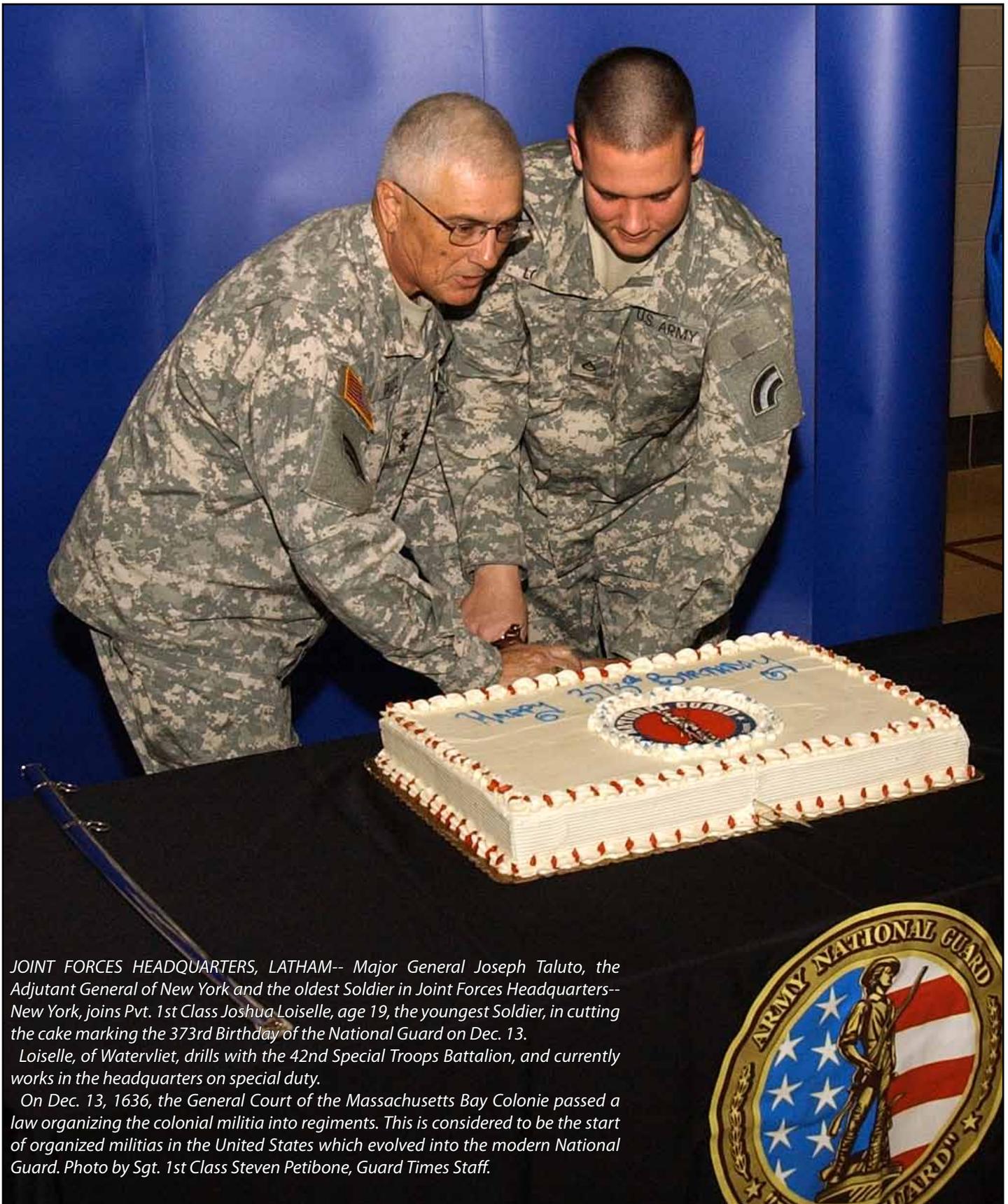
6-25, 2009. It was another high profile deployment of the National Guard’s 42nd Infantry Division in support of U.S. Army Pacific forces in 2009, culminating with the headquarters deployment to Japan for Yama Sakura 57 (see story on page 14).

Earlier in 2009, Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, part of New York’s 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, deployed to Thailand for the Pacific Command’s Cobra Gold overseas training. Also over the summer

to include a planning conference between key staff elements in Los Angeles in May 2009.

Deployment to the Australian military training site in Shoalwater Bay involved a 26 hour journey overseas from New York City. Soldier itineraries took troops from New York through Los Angeles, Sydney, and Brisbane to Rock Hampton, Australia.

Once in Rock Hampton, Australia, TAC 2 moved off into the field and established the command post in partnership with their Australian counterparts. After introductions, the



JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS, LATHAM-- Major General Joseph Taluto, the Adjutant General of New York and the oldest Soldier in Joint Forces Headquarters--New York, joins Pvt. 1st Class Joshua Loiselle, age 19, the youngest Soldier, in cutting the cake marking the 373rd Birthday of the National Guard on Dec. 13.

Loiselle, of Watervliet, drills with the 42nd Special Troops Battalion, and currently works in the headquarters on special duty.

On Dec. 13, 1636, the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colonie passed a law organizing the colonial militia into regiments. This is considered to be the start of organized militias in the United States which evolved into the modern National Guard. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, Guard Times Staff.

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NEW YORK
NATIONAL 
GUARD

Change Over in the 104th MP Battalion

Guard Times Staff

KINGSTON – Kingston native, local businessman and Iraq War veteran, Maj. David Gagnon took command of the 104th Military Police Battalion here on Nov. 14, 2009 replacing Lt. Col. Ronnie Ridner, also an Iraq War veteran. The reviewing officer for the event was Col. Stephanie Dawson, commander of the 369th Sustainment Brigade.

Gagnon enlisted into the New York Army National Guard in 1986, serving with the 1st Battalion, 156th Field Artillery. In 1989, he received an officer's commission through ROTC.

He has served as the Artillery Battery commander, fire direction officer and as Aide De Camp to the commander of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. He also served as the battalion intelligence and operations officer for the 156th Field Artillery.

Ridner has served in the U.S. Army Reserve and New York Army National Guard since 1976. After serving as an enlisted Soldier he obtained a commission through the National Guard's Officer Candidate School in 1983. He spent his

career as an Artillery officer in 1st Battalion 156th Field Artillery holding positions as fire direction officer, battery commander, operations officer and executive officer.

When the 156th Field Artillery transitioned to a Military Police Battalion, he changed branches and was named commander in 2007 prior to the battalion's deployment to Iraq.

Ridner has been a full-time National Guard officer since 1997 and currently serves as the deputy joint operations officer for domestic operations at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Latham.

The battalion headquarters was formed out of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery 1st Battalion, 156th Field Artillery when the New York National Guard reorganized in 2005. The battalion headquarters was responsible for base security at Camp Bucca, a large prisoner of war camp in Southern Iraq during its deployment in 2007-2008. In January of this year the battalion



Colonel Stephanie Dawson, Commander of the 369th Sustainment Brigade, hands the 104th MP Bn. colors to the incoming commander, Maj. David Gagnon, Nov. 14, 2009, at the Kingston Armory. Photo by Spc. Leigh Campbell, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

led a New York National Guard task force to Washington to help provide security and crowd control for the Presidential Inauguration. **gt**



NEW YORK -- Twenty Army National Guard Soldiers from the 53rd Army Liaison Team return home to their headquarters at the Park Avenue Armory in Manhattan Jan. 30 after a ten month tour in Iraq. The members of the 53rd provided specialists to man both U.S. and Iraqi headquarters in Baghdad and also provided members of the U.S. commanders personal security detachment. Photos by Staff Sgt. Thomas Wheeler, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

53rd ARFOR Homecoming Troops Home from Iraq after One Year





Soldiers of the 827th Engineer Company and family members attend the New York Army National Guard's Yellow Ribbon pre-mobilization briefing Dec. 12, 2009 at the Wings of Eagles Discovery Center in Horseheads. The event was one of three pre-mobilization briefings conducted for the 827th deploying to Afghanistan in 2010. Photo by Sgt. First Class Peter Towse, 42nd Infantry Division.

Yellow Ribbon Program Pre-Mobilization Support

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Towse , 42nd Infantry Division Public Affairs

HORSEHEADS - Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 827th Engineer Company and their family members received vital information during a Yellow Ribbon pre-mobilization briefing at the Wings of Eagles Discovery Center on Dec. 12.

The Yellow Ribbon Program gives family members support by providing information and assistance in areas of family and legal counseling, financial education, medical benefits, educational assistance, child care, employer support and a host of other benefits during the unit's deployment.

"We want to provide more comprehensive Soldier and family support before, during and after a mobilization," said Brig. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the Director, Joint Staff New York National Guard. "Mobilization is a continuing cycle and we want families to be aware of all the benefits they are entitled."

Now the Yellow Ribbon Program is being used to prepare Soldiers and family members in advance of a deployment as a way to better support them and possibly address challenges before they become problems.

"I didn't know what to expect today, but it is really nice to know that there are so many

people ready to help us," said Ashley Piper, the wife of Spc. Kevin Piper a heavy equipment operator for the 827th. "We are a very close family and this deployment will be difficult, but I know that we will be strong."

In Buffalo members of the 152nd Engineer Support Company, who will deploy to help round out the 827th, got their own briefing, while Soldiers who drill with the 827th at the Walton Armory were invited to the Oneonta session.

"Today is specially designed to let us know our benefits during our deployment," said Capt. Jeff Miles, commander of the 827th. "The families here today are very appreciative of the Yellow Ribbon Program."

More than 3,200 Soldiers and 1,800 family members have been supported

through Yellow Ribbon events, according to program officials.

"This is very helpful information for me," said Jessica Raymond, wife of Spc. Robert Raymond. "We did not have this information before, even when my husband was on active duty." Raymond is a heavy equipment operator with the 827th Engineers and has deployed to Kosovo and Afghanistan. **gt**



Crystal Walker shares her experiences with Soldiers and family members of the New York Army National Guard's 827th Engineer Company, Saturday, Dec. 13, 2009 during a Yellow Ribbon pre-mobilization briefing. Photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Abbott, Joint Forces Headquarters-NY

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REGISTRATION: to attend a retreat visit <http://www.dnna.state.ny.us/family/famredi.php> and download a registration form. For further information, please contact Chaplain (Col.) Eric Olsen 518-786-4904 or Theresa Barone-Lopez (518) 786-4904 during regular business hours or e-mail Theresa.Baronelopez@us.army.mil.

Space is limited and registrations are taken on a first come, first serve basis. The deadline is 30 days prior to each retreat.

Dates	Location	Type of Retreat	Day Care/Registration
Mar 19-21 2010	NYC	Marriage	No Open
Mar 26-28 2010	Niagara Falls	Family	Yes Open
Apr 16-18 2010	Lake Placid	Marriage	No Open
Apr 23-25 2010	Glen Cove	Family	Yes Open
May 21-23 2010	TBD	TBD	TBD Open
May 28-30 2010	Glen Cove	Family	Yes Open
June 18-20 2010	TBD	TBD	TBD Open
June 25-27 2010	Lake George	Singles	No Open
July 23-25 2010	TBD	TBD	TBD Open
July 29-31 2010	TBD	TBD	TBD Open
Aug 6-8 2010	Smith College	Singles	No Open
Aug 20-22 2010	TBD	TBD	TBD Open
Aug 27-29 2010	Lake George	Family	Yes Open
Sep 17-19 2010	TBD	TBD	TBD Open
Sep 24-26 2010	Montauk	Marriage	No Open

Officer Leads Company She Once Served In

By Lt. Col. Paul Fanning, *Guard Times Staff*

NEW YORK -- The last time she was in Iraq, Tara Dawe was Spc. Dawe in the New York Army National Guard's 442nd Military Police Company.

When she returns back overseas later this year, as the 442nd deploys a second time, she'll be Captain Dawe, the company commander.

It's just one more stop in a career that includes service in two state National Guards, the Air Force Reserve, a deployment to Bosnia and a full-time civilian career as a New York City beat cop and now detective.

"I have outstanding company commanders assigned in my battalion, but she is the best," said Maj. David Gagnon, commander of the 104th Military Police Battalion. "It's her dedication and experience – she just gets the job done," he said.

Coming back to her old unit as an officer, and now commanding it, has been challenging, Dawe said.

"I will admit it was a difficult transition," she explained. "For so long I followed the direction of my senior NCO's and now I am the one who they are looking at for direction."

"Once I got comfortable in my position then it became easy. I felt I knew many of the strengths of the Soldiers and it helped me plan and delegate better," she said.

"All I want from my Soldiers is their faith that I am a good leader and for them to know that I am putting everything I have into making this unit the best unit possible and that we will be ready to deploy," Dawe said.

The daughter of a retired New York City Police Officer, Dawe joined the Florida Guard at age 17 because she was "intrigued" by the Guard's

domestic disaster role.

"Growing up, we saw how the Guard was used in many ways especially for hurricanes," she said. "I just think seeking responsibility comes with citizenship."

After serving three years in Florida, she returned to New York to follow her dad into the NYPD and also joined the New York Army National Guard as a military policeman

In 1999, Dawe volunteered to fill a vacancy in the 105th MP Company when it deployed to Bosnia on a peacekeeping mission. For seven months she was a humvee gunner doing presence patrols.

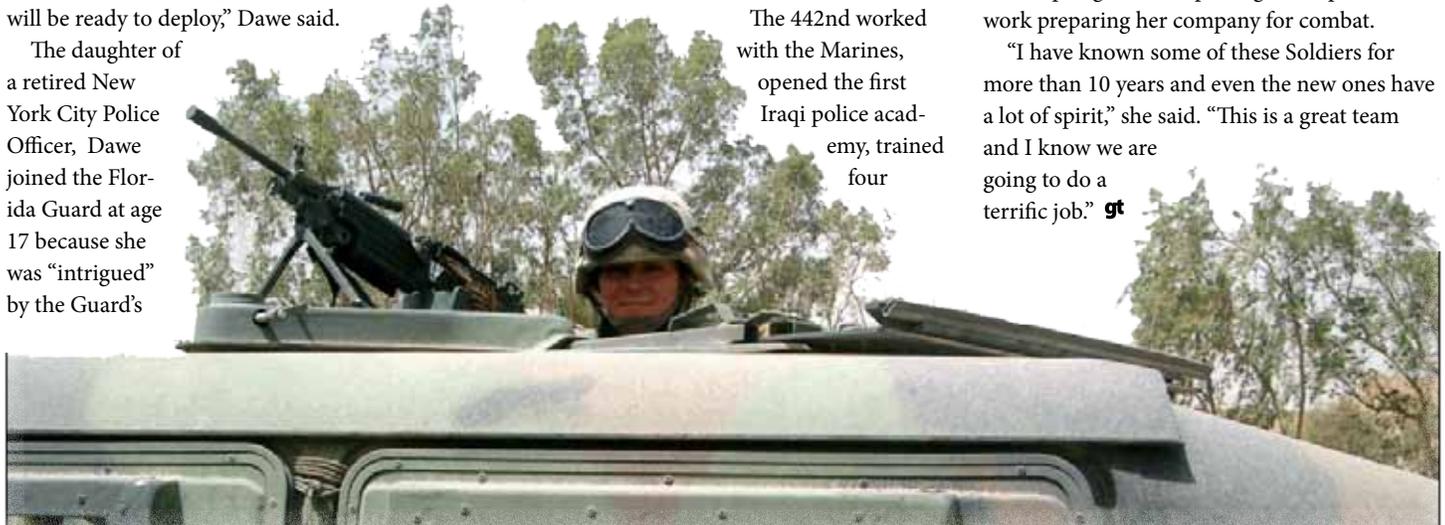
After returning home, she enlisted in the Air Force Reserve to try new things, but then returned to the New York Army National Guard to enter Officer Candidate School.

At the same time she went from being a beat cop in the 63rd Precinct to becoming a detective in the NYPD Warrant Squad.

In February 2003 the 442nd MP Company mobilized for service in Iraq and Dawe deployed with the company.

So in April 2003 Spc. Tara Dawe was in Baghdad, where she would spend the next year.

The 442nd worked with the Marines, opened the first Iraqi police academy, trained four



New York Governor David Paterson (right) presents a military challenge coin to 1st Lt. Tara Dawe, Dec. 5, 2009, during a visit to her company's Yellow Ribbon pre-mobilization meeting. Photo Courtesy New York State Executive Chamber. Below, then-Spc. Dawe trains with the 442nd Military Police Company before deployment to Iraq in 2003. Courtesy photo.

classes of police recruits in Karbala and Najaf, and earned a Presidential Unit Citation before returning to the states in April, 2004.

Two weeks after outprocessing at Fort Dix, Dawe was attending OCS. By Oct. 2005 she was the class Distinguished Honor Graduate and enrolled in her Officer Basic Course.

She returned to the 442nd as a platoon leader and executive officer before taking command in 2008.

Now, with the 442nd tapped to head to Iraq in the spring, Dawe is putting her experience to work preparing her company for combat.

"I have known some of these Soldiers for more than 10 years and even the new ones have a lot of spirit," she said. "This is a great team and I know we are going to do a terrific job." **gt**

Troops Take to the Streets

Guard Supports 90th Anniversary of NYC Veteran's Day Parade

Guard Times Staff



NEW YORK - More than 1,500 Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard took to the streets of New York during what was billed as the largest Veterans Day Parade ever in the city on Nov. 11, 2009.

The first parade was held on Nov. 11, 1919, the 1st anniversary of the end of what was then known as The Great War or The World War. Among the units marching were the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, whose commander Col. William "Wild Bill" Donovan led it along the streets of the city 90 years before.

Other historic units marching included the 369th Sustainment Brigade, the descendent of the 369th Infantry Regiment, known as the Harlem Hellfighters, whose African-American members earned more medals than





any other unit, fighting with the French Army during World War I.

Both units were given exceptions to policy to allow them to count the Veterans Day Parade as a drill, since they normally march in other parades. The 69th leads the St. Patrick's Day Parade each year and the 369th marks its own successes with a parade later in the year.

The 1st Battalion 258th Field Artillery turned out, as did other smaller New York City units and a contingent from the Joint Forces Headquarters in Latham.

Along with the 1,500 members of the New York National Guard, 3,000 other military members marched and about 20,000 people lined the route. It was a good day to be in the military.

"All those in uniform today are given special treatment — with New Yorkers coming up to shake your hand, or buy you a coffee," said Major Lee Vartigian, a veteran of the 27th Brigade Combat Teams tour in Afghanistan. **gt**



The “Senior Rock” at George F. Baker High School is painted to remember the loss of New York Army National Guard 1st Lt. Lou Allen, a former school teacher in Tuxedo Park, N.Y.

At left, Barbara Allen and her sons Trevor, Collin, Sean and Jeremy during a ceremony honoring Allen and his family Jan. 22 at George F. Baker High School, where Allen taught.

Ceremony Celebrates Life of Fallen Guard Officer

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Paul Fanning, Joint Forces Headquarters

TUXEDO PARK, N.Y. – The spirit of the late 1st Lt. Louis Allen poured forth in a ceremony at the school where he taught physics and earth science on Jan. 22.

Mrs. Barbara Allen, staff of the George F. Baker High School in Tuxedo Park and friends put together a special program to celebrate the life and accomplishments of the late Guardsman, husband, father, teacher and friend.

Phil Taylor and his wife Lisa of the American Fallen Soldier Project from Texas returned to New York to present a custom portrait to the Allen family and a copy to the school.

“Your dad was a very special person to us,” said Principal Denis Petrilak speaking to the Allen children, Trevor, Collin, Sean and Jeremy. Petrilak was among the speakers to almost 200 friends, officials, students and Soldiers who once served with Allen at the Newburgh armory.

“He was our best teacher and we miss him very much. Everyday he took good care of all of his students and friends and made us laugh,” he said. “He told us all how very proud he was of each one of you.”

“He was the consummate citizen Soldier – a National Guardsman, a man that was able to weigh family and country and friends,” said comrade Capt. Steve Raiser, a National Guard lawyer who was with Allen in the Headquarters 42nd Infantry Division. “He deployed to Iraq for many reasons – for patriotism, to support his friend who was already there and having some trouble. He went to help,” explained Raiser, “He went over there too for his family.” Raiser went on to explain that Allen calculated a deployment with the 42nd Division would give him more time later with his young family. “That time he did take from his family – they were never far from his mind,” he added.

Friend and brother-in-law Rich Jackson added levity and poignancy when he focused on a phrase that appears on Allen’s gravestone in the nearby Orange County Cemetery: “Lou Rules.”

“I created a list of ‘Lou’s rules’ as a way to come to understand his system of life,” he said. “The benefits of teaching always outweigh the drawbacks, being a good dad is measured by the love of your children and good behavior,

fall in love and let the chips fall where they may, quote every movie like you wrote it, sing every song like you wrote it, treat others like you want to be treated.”

Allen died at age 34 along with his friend and company commander Capt. Philip Esposito in an explosion that led to criminal charges against another Soldier. A murder trial held at Fort Bragg, N.C. in the fall of 2008 ended in acquittal of the accused.

Allen had served in the Guard since Dec. 1997, assigned originally to Company D, 1st Battalion 101st Cavalry.

The American Fallen Soldiers Project is a non-profit charity honoring the memory of fallen military personnel by presenting families with custom portraits of their late loved ones at no cost. Taylor has so far completed and presented more than 65 portraits of fallen service personnel across the nation, including five members of the New York Army National Guard.

For more information regarding the American Fallen Soldier Project go to www.american-fallenSoldiers.com. **gt**

Teaching Criminal Law in Kosovo

Staff Judge Advocate Officer Teaching Deployed Troops

Story by Spc. Joshua Dodds, 116th Public Affairs Detachment and Eric Durr, Public Affairs Director

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo - New York Army National Guard Capt. Elizabeth Ramsey is a logistics officer in the 369th Sustainment Brigade, a Public Defender in New Jersey, and now she's a college professor in Kosovo.

Ramsey, a Manhattan resident who volunteered to deploy here as Trial Defense Service Attorney for Multi-National Task Force East, is teaching a class in Fundamentals of Criminal Law through Central Texas College which is offered at the Laura Bush Education Center. Next semester she'll teach Court Systems and Practice and Legal Aspects of the Law.

"My ultimate career goal is to become a law professor so when I heard that Central Texas College and the University of Maryland needed adjunct instructors I quickly put my application in to get experience," Ramsey explained by e-mail. "I was a teaching assistant in law school, but that is the extent of my teaching experience."

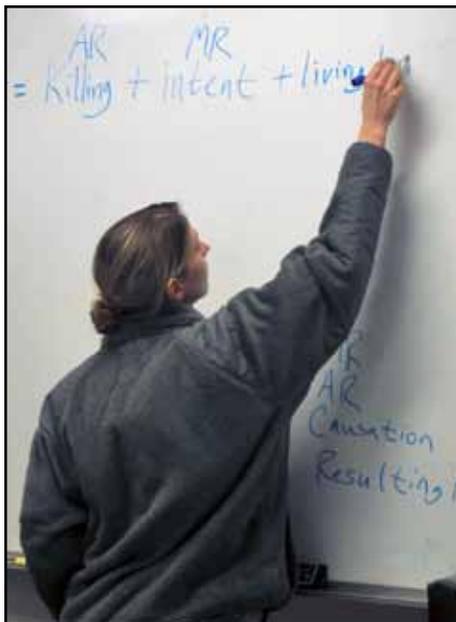
University of Maryland College-Europe and Central Texas College are the two institutions from which Soldiers can take classes during their off time here. Other colleges and universities also are available through on-line distance-learning courses.

The structure and stability of the NATO peace-support mission in Kosovo makes getting an education while deployed a hard option to pass up for U.S. Soldiers stationed here.

At last count, about 400 uniformed men and women in Multi-National Task Force-East were filling classrooms after hours and on weekends, taking full advantage of college-credit opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Ramsey recently put her class of a dozen students to work using their acquired knowledge to the test in a mock court trial on Camp Bondsteel.

New York Army National Guard Capt. Elizabeth Ramsey, a logistics officer in the 369th Sustainment Brigade, leads a lecture as part of the Fundamentals of Criminal Law college class she teaches at the Laura Bush Education Center at Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo. Photo by Spec. Joshua Dodds, 116th Public Affairs Detachment.



New York Army National Guard Capt. Elizabeth Ramsey, of New York City, leads a discussion during a mock trial held as part of the Fundamentals of Criminal Law college class she teaches at the Laura Bush Education Center. Ramsey, a logistics officer in the 369th Sustainment Brigade and a public defender in Elizabeth, N.J., has deployed to Kosovo for a year as part of Multi-National Task Force East. Photo by Spec. Joshua Dodds, 116th Public Affairs Detachment.

"This trial was a good exercise where they showed themselves what they learned in the class, and also to have some fun while getting to know each other better," Ramsey said.

Throughout the course, students participate in more than one trial as members of either the defense or prosecution. The juries are made up of volunteer Soldiers from throughout Camp Bondsteel.

"The students were given a scenario and a list of 10 witnesses who they had to interview," Ramsey said.

The students were told that an alleged assault with a deadly weapon occurred, but that the defendant may raise the defense of self-defense at trial.

The prosecutors for the first trial were Spc. James V. Mann, Menifee, Calif., 1-144th Maneuver Task Force, and Master Sgt. Louis Suchon, Mosinee, Wis., Task Force Falcon Medical.

"I am previous law enforcement [official], so it is interesting to see how it works in the court after we arrest someone," Mann said. "I think I put what I learned in class to good use. Captain Ramsey is a great teacher and we learned a lot from her."

Ramsey, whose year-long deployment will end in August, said she's honored to be teaching the Soldiers who take her classes.

"These Soldiers have to balance military duties, staying in touch with family back home, and everyday responsibilities with numerous college courses while deployed," she said.

"I believe it is important not only to encourage them to continue their education, but also important to provide the means for which they can achieve their future career goals," she added. **gt**

Fitness Lifted to a Higher Level

Story by Spc. Melissa Anderson, 42nd Infantry Division



LATHAM -- Underneath Chief Warrant Officer Brian Trudeau's baggy Army Combat Uniform is a muscle-packed body with minimal fat, the result of his hard work as a competitive body-builder.

Trudeau, Property Book Officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Joint Forces Headquarters placed third in two drug-free competitions since he began bodybuilding in 1996.

Trudeau got into bodybuilding when he decided to take his physical fitness to the next level.

"Bodybuilding is achieving the most muscular physique your body is capable of and reducing body fat to a minimal amount," explained Trudeau.

With nearly 20 years of experience in the military, Trudeau knows the importance of physical fitness and began bodybuilding as a way to improve his well-being.

"Bodybuilding makes you eat better and feel a lot healthier and younger," said Trudeau. "I'm 38, and I don't feel it."

The mentality of pushing himself as a body-builder sticks with Trudeau on a daily basis, whether it's lifting more weights or achieving a goal.

"It makes me want to do better every day in everything," said Trudeau. "If I want to lift a heavier weight in life it makes me want to try harder toward my goals."

Trudeau said that building resistance to weight is a lot like building your resistance to push-ups or sit-ups.

"The more you do, the stronger you will get and the better you will get."

Trudeau placed fifth out of 20 competitors in a power-lifting event in 1999. With his two third place wins, he plans to take his success to the next level.

"I'd really like to get first place sometime," Trudeau said. "Placing first in a competition would make me feel like I am striving toward a goal that seemed impossible a few years ago."

So far, Trudeau has maxed his bench press at 405 pounds, his dead-lift at 565 pounds and his squat at 505 pounds.

"I have a video of me dead-lifting 535 pounds," said Trudeau. "I want to be able to look at it when I'm 70 and say 'I did that.'" **gt**

Photo courtesy of Amer Maroun, Athlete Photos



Tuned into G-RAP

Story by Spc. Melissa Anderson, 42nd Infantry Division

NEW YORK -- Sergeant First Class John Wilson, a saxophone player in the 42nd Infantry Division band, is \$46,000 richer and the Army National Guard is 23 Soldiers stronger, thanks to the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program or G-RAP.

G-RAP allows Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard to receive payment for assistance in recruiting.

Wilson joined the New York National Guard in 1981, and after nearly 30 years of military service, including a deployment to Iraq, he believes in being a Soldier. That, he said, makes him a better recruiter.

"When I talk to others about joining the Guard, I'm talking from the heart," Wilson said.

For every recruit who enlists and reports to Basic Training, the Recruiting Assistant (RA) receives \$2,000. RAs can also receive up to \$7,500 for officers, but the exact amount depends on the pathway of the nominee and the needs of the National Guard. There is no limit to how many recruits a Soldier or Airman can assist.

Wilson hopes to use G-RAP this year by recruiting another 20 Soldiers and has a personal goal to put more recruits in the Guard than any other person across the United States.

Wilson said if you're trying to recruit a new Guardsman, you need to believe in what you are saying. He advises not to pressure recruits or give them false hope.

"Tell the truth and let them know there's a chance of deployment," Wilson said.

Wilson admitted by knowing information, such as the different military skills and lengths of schools, you can make recruits more comfortable.

"There are too many misconceptions out there," he said. "Give the facts and tell of your experience. If there's something you don't know, find out and follow up later."

For more information on the program, visit www.guardrecruitingassitant.com. **gt**

69th Infantry Honors Medal of Honor Recipient

Story and Photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin V. Abbott, Joint Forces Headquarters

YOUNTVILLE, Calif. - Growing up, Celia Ruiz, never heard much about her father Alejandro Ruiz's World War II service with the New York Army National Guard's 69th Infantry Regiment.

Her father was always telling the story about how he was accused of stealing a cow—which just happened to be in the back of his truck one day--and given the choice between the Army and jail, she recalled. But her father, who died Nov. 23, 2009, never said much else about his combat experiences in the Pacific during World War II.

"Dad always smiled and had a twinkle in his eye when he told that story. He had a great sense of humor so we have never been sure how true it is," she said. "As far as what happened in Okinawa he never really talked much about it."

What happened on Okinawa, according to Army records, is that on April 28, 1945 Pfc Alejandro Ruiz, a rifleman in the 165th Infantry Regiment (as the 69th was then designated) earned the Medal of Honor.

On Jan. 24-25, Lt. Col. John Andonie, Commander of 1st Battalion 69th Infantry, and Battalion Command Sgt. Major Jorge Vasquez traveled to California to remember Ruiz with a wreath laying ceremony, and to present their respects to his daughter.

The two presented a wreath on behalf of the 69th Infantry Regiment's Veterans' Association at Ruiz' final resting place in conjunction with California's Yountville Veterans Home in Napa Valley where Ruiz spent his final years.

"The Fighting 69th has served in every major conflict since the Civil War, and Master Sgt. Ruiz is an important part of our unit's history," Andonie said, referring to the rank Ruiz held when he retired from the Army.



Lieutenant Colonel John Andonie, (right), and Command Sgt. Maj. Jorge Vasquez meet with Celia Ruiz, the daughter of Pfc. Alejandro Ruiz, the World War II Medal of Honor recipient from the 165th Infantry Regiment, the WWII designation for the New York Army National Guard's 69th Infantry.

Ruiz grabbed a Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) and charged alone into the enemy fire to destroy the bunker. When his weapon malfunctioned, he used it as a club to kill an enemy, went back for another BAR and assaulted the pillbox again. He straddled the enemy position and emptied magazine after magazine on the enemy troops inside.

When he was done, he had killed 12 Japanese, captured two light machine guns, and mortars, destroyed the enemy position, and saved the wounded men in his platoon.

President Harry S. Truman presented him with the Medal of Honor on June 12, 1946.

Today a picture of that event sits outside Vasquez's office in the 69th's Lexington Avenue Armory, in New York. Soldiers entering his office see that image of Ruiz, and know that 69th Infantry Regiment Soldiers can do tremendous things, Vasquez said.

"For these young Soldiers to see a hero like Ruiz, a fellow Hispanic, is very moving. It hits home with them," Vasquez said.

Ruiz, who died at age 86, was buried at the Yountville Veterans Home Dec. 1, 2009, the fourth Medal of Honor recipient interred there.

Standing in the rain on Jan. 25 for the memorial ceremony, Andonie read the poem "Rouge Bouquet" written by 69th Infantry veteran and poet Joyce Kilmer, about the regiment's dead from battle. Kilmer, a scout in the 69th, was killed in World War I.

A bagpiper played "Garry Owen", the regimental song, and a wreath was laid at Ruiz's grave site.

Andonie and Vasquez also met with Celia Ruiz and her husband Dr. Mike Palomino at their home the day before the event.

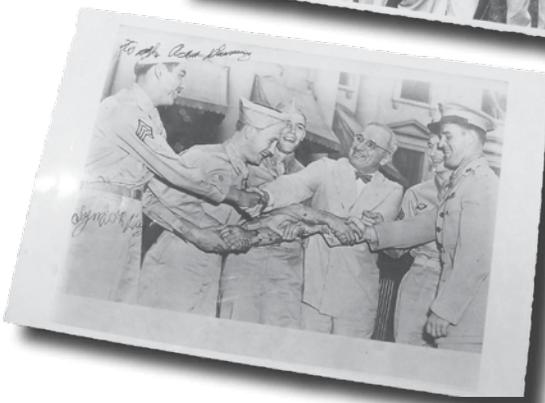
Ruiz and Palomino shared stories about the life of the late Ruiz and gave pictures and a Medal of Honor Society coin for the unit to add to its historical collection.

"Dad served in the Army a long time and with many different units," Celia Ruiz said, "but it was the "Fighting 69th" that he most identified with." **gt**

According to 27th Infantry Division records, Alejandro Ruiz earned his place in the regiment's history when his platoon moved out to clear a Japanese

strong point during the bloody battle for Okinawa that began April 1, 1945.

The platoon was pinned down, with all the men killed or wounded but Ruiz, between an enemy bunker and a ravine.



Unified Effort for Unified Response

Air National Guard Flies Missions for Haiti Relief Efforts

Story by Staff Sgt. Peter Dean, 107th Airlift Wing



The New York Air National Guard's 107th Airlift Wing provided medical transport for injured Haitians that required evacuation. The 107th responded in support of Operation Unified Relief just four days after the 7.0 earthquake ravaged Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Capt. John Michael Fowler, 81st Medical Group, Keesler AFB, Ms., checks a patient during the flight to the U.S. Photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Dean, 107th Airlift Wing.



Members of New York Task Force 1, New York City's FEMA-sponsored urban search and rescue team board a C-17 bound for Haiti early Saturday morning, Jan. 16 at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh. Airmen from the 105th Airlift Wing's Logistic Squadron loaded the team's search and rescue cargo on board two C-17s from the 21st Airlift Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, California. The 80-person team deployed to Haiti and participated in many of the initial rescues of survivors among the collapsed buildings. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael O'Halloran, 105th Airlift Wing.

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION – The devastating 7.0 earthquake that struck the Caribbean nation of Haiti left tens of thousands dead and many hundreds of thousands of people homeless and hungry. Within days, members of the New York Air National Guard were called upon to support the nation's relief efforts.

Aircrews from the 107th Airlift Wing responded within four days of the earthquake, providing aircrews and aircraft to transport critical supplies, equipment and personnel into Port-au-Prince and return evacuees out of Haiti.

Members of 107th Airlift Wing have been working side-by-side with their counter parts from the Air Force Reserves' 914th Airlift Wing. The two wings, co-located at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station in Niagara Falls, have been working together sharing, flying and maintaining the same airframe for more than a year and a half.

Originating out of MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., members of the 107th Airlift Wing employed 10-man aircrews. Running the larger flight crew enabled pilots, navigators, flight engineers and load masters to rotate, sustaining 24-hour continuous operations.

The mission on Feb. 5 transported some of the critically injured to Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., for life saving care. Aircraft load masters Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Obrochta and Senior Airman Laura Kruse meticulously prepared the C-130 for flight while flight engineers Tech. Sgts. Brian Waite and Alan Frankosky checked the mechanical readiness of the craft. If any deficiencies were found crew chief Staff Sgt. Joe Hodkin was on hand to make any necessary repair.

Members of the 45th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron from MacDill, Air Force Base put their expertise to work turning the tail end of the craft into a flying medical transport center. While in flight, two medical teams ran oxygen lines, hung bandage cases and set up monitors ensuring that they were both ready to receive the injured.

Shortly after touchdown in Port-au-Prince, military medical teams transported the injured to the C-130. Once on board the teams got to work ensuring that the patients were fit to travel the five-hour-long flight to Dobbins ARB.

Throughout the flight both teams kept a watchful eye on all patients aboard. Ten in total, two U.S. military that sustained injuries in support of Operation Unified Relief, a mother with her 2-year-old daughter and a young female all of which were able to board the plane under their own power. The remaining five sustained injuries such as limb



Master Sgt. Niki Rozsypal, 45th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron from MacDill AFB, Fla., offers assistance to a mother and her injured daughter during a trip from Haiti to the states. The New York Air National Guard's 107th Airlift Wing provided medical transport for injured Haitians that required evacuation. At right, 107th loadmaster Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Obrochta readies a C-130 for flight. The sergeant volunteered along with other aircrew in support of Operation Unified Relief. Photos by Staff Sgt. Peter Dean, 107th Airlift Wing.

fractures, head wounds and the worst was a double amputee that had lost both legs due to injuries he incurred during the earthquake.

"It feels good," said Master Sgt. Niki Rozsypal of the 45th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. "We made a difference in their lives today, they will get the care that they desperately need," she added.

"Welcome to America," said Senior Airman Kruse to one of the patients upon touchdown at Dobbins Air Reserve Base. "I don't know if she understood what I said, but she did have a smile on her face," she added.

In a late night mission just three days later, the Airmen of the 107th Airlift Wing delivered 18,270 bottles of water to Haiti Feb. 8.

The 107th Airmen were settling in for the night when the call came in, and within minutes all crew members were on the shuttle bus headed for the flight line.

The mission, moving 19,000 pounds of water, would take them from their staging area at MacDill, Air Force Base, Fla., to Homestead Air Reserve Station, Fla., to receive cargo and then into Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Working together loadmasters, crew chiefs and flight engineers removed litter supports,

seats and installed cargo rollers to reconfigure the aircraft.

Upon arrival at Homestead, aerial port members on site transported and loaded the water, already on pallets, bound and secured for the three hour flight on the C-130 aircraft.

Prior to take-off load masters Obrochta and Kruse secured the pallets in place ensuring a safe controllable load.

"Everything needs to be secured for flight," Obrochta said. "If it's not bolted down, it gets strapped down."

At Port-au-Prince International Airport, members of the 107th Airlift Wing can easily see the large scale of the humanitarian operation. Aircraft of all shapes and sizes, from countries around the world are found on the tarmac at any given time.

In addition to the ten members of the 107th, three Airmen from the 174th Fighter Wing at Hancock Field in Syracuse are supporting missions flown by an RC-26 reconnaissance aircraft. The plane provides aerial views of Haiti to give relief experts access to earthquake damage and the status of roads, bridges and other transportation hubs.

Ten members of the New York National

Guard's Joint Task Force Empire Shield, the state's full-time security augmentation force in New York City are helping administer the state's Family Resource Center established at the Bedford Armory in Brooklyn.

"This is a very worthwhile cause," said Staff Sgt. Joe Hodkin, 107th C-130 crew chief. "I'm proud to be able to participate in this operation," he added. **gt**



While on a Haiti relief mission picking up critically injured Haitians, aircrew members from the 107th AW had the honor of meeting former President Bill Clinton Feb. 2. From left to right, Staff Sgt. Brian Waite, C-130 flight engineer, 1st Lt. Joe Neglia, C-130 pilot, President Bill Clinton and Maj. Greg Miller, C-130 pilot. Photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Dean, 107th Airlift Wing.

Training for Inspection

Story by Staff Sgt. David J. Murphy

Photos by Senior Airmen Chris Muncy



F.S. GABRESKI AIRPORT, WEST-HAMPTON BEACH -- Members of the 101st Rescue Squadron, 103rd Rescue Squadron and the 106th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) worked together to conduct a search and rescue exercise here Nov. 3, 2009.

The training was part of the wing's preparations for an upcoming Operational Readiness Exercise, or ORI.

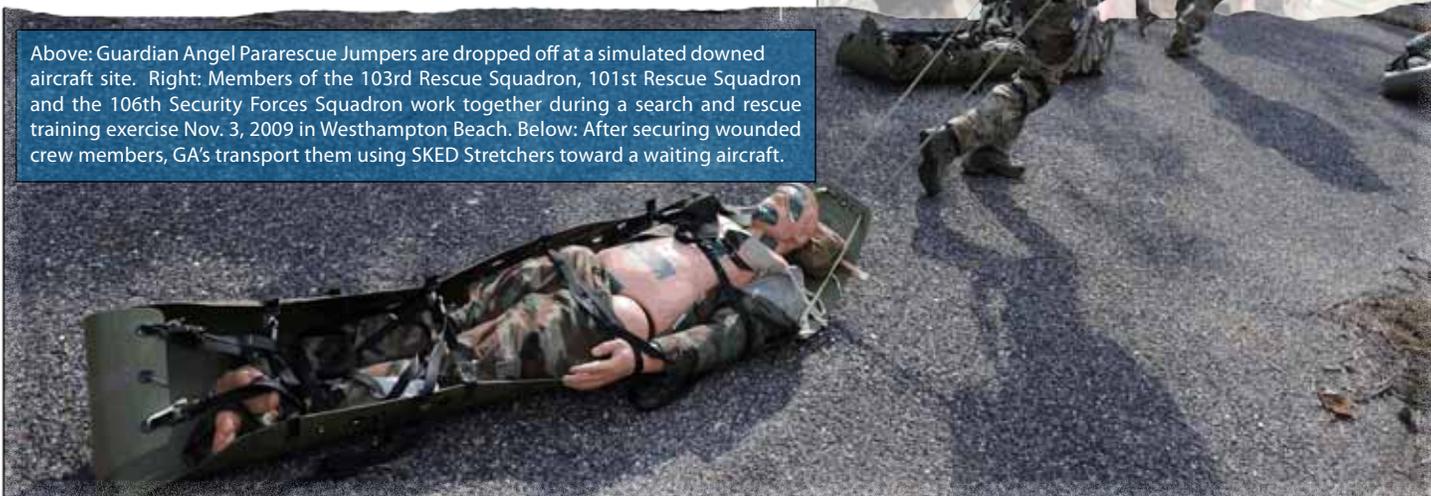
The scenario involved a downed HH-60 with four individuals on board. Three of the individuals played the role of injured personnel while one acted as an ambulatory victim. The Guardian Angels (GAs) deployed to the region and made their way to the simulated downed aircraft while members of the 106th SFS acted as security.

The GAs task was to treat the wounded and get them out of the area. The most critical were transported first while others with less life threatening wounds were transported on a second aircraft.

The main goal of the exercise according to an unnamed GA is to make sure that the GAs are proficient in their skills related to aircraft communication, proper planning, mission planning, patient treatment and movement, as well as maintaining a tactical presence. Although this was just a training exercise, the team made sure to maintain a tactical element while working to be as quiet and as quick as possible. **gt**



Above: Guardian Angel Pararescue Jumpers are dropped off at a simulated downed aircraft site. Right: Members of the 103rd Rescue Squadron, 101st Rescue Squadron and the 106th Security Forces Squadron work together during a search and rescue training exercise Nov. 3, 2009 in Westhampton Beach. Below: After securing wounded crew members, GA's transport them using SKED Stretchers toward a waiting aircraft.



Angels on the Intrepid

Pararescue Personnel on Display in NYC

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. David J. Murphy, 106th Rescue Wing

NEW YORK -- Members of the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing participated in a Veteran's Day event in front of the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in New York City on November 11, 2009.

The display and capabilities demonstration were all part of the city's welcome to the USS New York for the ship's commissioning.

The event included multiple rescue demonstrations featuring the HH-60s from the 101st Rescue Squadron and Guardian Angels from the 103rd Rescue Squadron

based at Gabreski Field in Westhampton Beach, Long Island.

After the event the HH-60s flew over the Veteran's Day parade route (see related coverage on pages 26-27) and then landed on the deck of the USS Intrepid.

Members of the 101st and 103rd Rescue Squadron were on hand for the static display and Veteran's Day demonstration to answer questions from the visitors after the event.

One of the HH-60s remained on the Intrepid until the Sunset Ceremony, where it flew back to the 106th Rescue Wing. **gt**

Photo at left: Kelly Meyer (left), a visitor to the Intrepid tries on some of the Guardian Angel gear assisted by Staff Sgt. Jason W. Cangemi, 103rd Rescue Squadron at a booth set up at the entrance to the USS Intrepid. Photo by Senior Airman Chris S. Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.

Below: After a refreshing dip in the Hudson River, a Guardian Angel is recovered by the 106th Rescue Wing's HH-60 aircrew after a demonstration in front of a crowd of spectators aboard the USS Intrepid. Photo by Staff Sgt. Marcus P. Calliste, 106th Rescue Wing.



Senior Air Force Leader Visits 105th Airlift Wing

Air Mobility Command Meets Airmen at the New York Air National Guard's 'Special Base'

Story and photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Young, 105th Airlift Wing

STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Newburgh - Just a day after Stewart airfield welcomed President Barack Obama for the first time, the newest U.S. Air Force's Air Mobility Commander (AMC) Gen. Raymond E. Johns Jr., visited 105th Airlift Wing Dec 2.

Johns was accompanied by Maj. Gen. Susan Y. Desjardins and Command Chief Master Sgt. David E. Spector. The trio were in the process of touring the U.S. AMC bases so that Johns could meet those serving under his new command.

He was greeted on the flight line by 105th Airlift Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Verle L. Johnston Jr., Chief of Staff Lt. Col. John Chianese and Command Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Rizzo. The group made their way to the headquarters, where Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, The Adjutant General of N.Y., joined them.

Johns was briefed on the wing's mission, capabilities, personnel, and family readiness by Johnston, Col. Matthew Godfrey, the 105th operations commander, Lt. Col. Howard Wagner, maintenance group commander, Lt. Col. Lori Scheuermann, mission support group commander and Jeanne Dion, the family readiness coordinator. Chianese explained to Johns the unique security forces mission the wing conducts with the active Air Force.

Johns expressed his concern over how Airmen and their families were affected by Air Expeditionary Force deployments overseas and employer concerns in regards to the new security mission.

Godfrey explained how operations are keeping quite busy by exceeding mission standards and operating at over 100% in different areas. Godfrey shared examples of the Airmen here, one of which was a mission of 95 flight hours over 13 days. The trip included nine stops and no late take-offs.

Wagner then shared insights about the innovations, capabilities, and extensive maintenance experience the 105th has employed to maintain the C5 fleet. He told Johns about the maintenance group receiving the National Guard Bureau Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award and how the wing made innovations and



Technical Sergeant Richard E. Wixon of the 105th Airlift Wing's Maintenance Group discusses a hydraulics valve seal repair procedure with Air Mobility Commander Gen. Raymond E. Johns Jr., Maj. Gen. Sue Desjardins, and Command Chief Master Sgt. David E. Spector during the senior leader visit to Newburgh on Dec. 2. The seal process was innovated by Wixon, which uses \$2 worth of common materials versus a \$5,000 contracted fix. Johns was visibly impressed with the repair process and thanked Wixon with a Air Mobility Command challenge coin.

processes that save the Air Force and Air Guard a lot of time and money.

Lastly, Lt. Col. Scheuermann briefed Johns on deployments, inspections, domestic support, and base construction projects. The main focus was about all of the Airmen who have deployed or are deploying in the near future.

Once the briefing concluded the group made their way to the maintenance hanger to see some of what has been accomplished. The full time maintenance staff welcomed the four-star general and Johns met some of the Airmen who introduced innovations such as a hydraulics break tester and landing gear sequencing panel tester, both of which have improved the process for inspections and saved the Air Force money. Johns appeared most impressed with Tech. Sgt.

Richard E. Wixon's fix of a hydraulics valve seal. Wixon spent \$2 on common materials to repair something the government was planning on spending \$5,000 to fix.

Lastly, Johns made his way to the maintenance hanger classroom to be quickly briefed on the C5 Galaxy maintenance inspection process. Johns seemed very excited with how the 105th Airlift Wing figured out the inspection process that has allowed aircrafts to spend more time in the air. During the short brief Senior Master Sgt. Robert Pritchard explained that the process allows any given base to do the inspection, which speeds up the process and keeps it consistent for everyone.

"You're not any given base. You're a special base," Johns said. **gt**

Seven Tons of Honor



NEW YORK -Members of the 105th Airlift Wing participated in a ceremony welcoming the USS New York to Pier 88 here Nov. 2. Seven tons of steel from the World Trade Center were used in the ship's construction as a fitting tribute to honor those lost Sept. 11, 2001. Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Young, 105th Airlift Wing.

In Their Own Backyard



STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE - A base attack reconnaissance team of the 105th Airlift Wing's tenant unit, the 213th Engineering Installation Squadron simulates chemical decontamination during an Operational Readiness Inspection of the New York Air National Guard unit here on Nov. 19. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael O'Halloran, 105th Airlift Wing.

Dropping Rangers Off in the Clear Blue Sky

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

FORT BENNING, Ga. -- The 107th Airlift Wing (AW) earned another notch on its belt by providing the Air Wing's first ever airlift for jump training for the Army's 3rd Ranger Battalion.

Aircrews from the 107th left cold, snowy Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve Station Jan. 4 for an unseasonably cold Lawson Airfield at Fort Benning, Ga.

Army Rangers are required to jump four times throughout the year to remain current on their certifications and the 107th helped with that role.

"We have a hard time getting airlift support to fulfill our training requirements," said Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Salley from the 3rd Ranger Battalion.

The 107th has accepted an increasing number of training missions to support other services since the wing reorganized to the airlift mission.

"This is a two way street," said Maj. Greg Miller, a pilot in the 107th. "Both the aircrew and the Rangers receive invaluable training," he added.

Following a briefing by Staff Sgt. Andy Cole, a Master Jumper, in the Ranger Battalion, the aircrew readied the plane while the Rangers readied their gear. "This is a lot different from carrying cargo," said Master Sgt. Robert Albrecht, the aircraft loadmaster. "The aircraft has to be configured to accommodate this mission," he added.

With briefings complete and aircraft ready, it was off to the flight line for the loading of jumpers by Sgt. Mike Bajer, Flight Engineer and Staff Sgt. Tony Reprepare, the Crew Chief.

Ohio Air National Guard Lt. Col. Jon Drieling, a C-130 Navigator on loan for the mission, planned the training route and drop zone.

For an airborne operation, the crew must consider airspeed, wind speed and altitude when calculating the precise opening of the jump window to get the Rangers on target.

Pilot Maj. Greg Miller and Co-Pilot Maj. Pat Neill worked their skills to get the Rangers to their drop zone (DZ) on time and on target. Both are new to the C-130, but have many years of flying experience on various aircraft.

Twenty minutes out from the DZ, load masters get the word to prepare for drop. Master Sgt. Bob Albrecht and Senior Airman Laura Kruse readied the Rangers for the jump.

Ten minutes out, they opened the doors, cold wind rushing throughout the aircraft. Eager jumpers stood ready for the green light. With the green light, the Rangers exit the aircraft in seconds, carrying everything on them but the kitchen sink.

"This is good training," Senior Airman Laura Kruse, 107th AW loadmaster, said. "We learned about this in technical school and now I'm doing it," she said. **gt**



A U.S. Army Ranger jumps from the New York Air National Guard's 107th Airlift Wing C-130 aircraft during jump training at Fort Benning, Ga. The mission was a first for the Air Guard crew and 107th Airlift Wing.



New York Air National Guard Load Master Senior Airman Laura Kruse supervises Army Rangers loading on the 107th Airlift Wing's C-130 aircraft for jump training Jan. 4.



Air Force Master Sgt. Joe Casey (left) explains to Air Force Staff Sgt. Alex Chi and Airman 1st Class Sergey Klebleyev the process for surveying while completing a road improvement project near the U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay airfield, Jan. 26. The Airmen are with the 106th Civil Engineering Squadron of the New York Air National Guard. The 106th is conducting a two-week deployment for training at Guantanamo Bay to assist in ongoing relief efforts for Operation Unified Response.



Air Force Master Sgt. James Vella directs Air Force Tech. Sgt. John Gentile while leveling a piece of land during a road improvement project near the U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay airfield, Jan. 26, 2010. Vella and Gentile are with the 106th Civil Engineering Squadron of the New York Air National Guard.

Civil Engineers Support a Civil Operation

Story and photos by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens, Joint Task Force Guantanamo-Public Affairs

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba – Airmen from the 106th Civil Engineering Squadron of the New York Air National Guard thought they were coming for a traditional two-week training deployment at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, but increased operations at the naval station airfield in support of Operation Unified Response are providing plenty of training opportunities for these guardsmen.

Approximately 40 Airmen arrived at Guantanamo Bay for training in mid-January as part of their routine annual training requirements for the Air National Guard. They worked with engineers from the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron and Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 25, both stationed at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, to perform maintenance projects around the base. This joint environment provides an added benefit for the Guardsmen.

“The value of this experience for my guys is getting to see how to operate in this joint environment,” said Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Vincent Fondacaro.

The 106th brought Airmen with several different specialties, including heavy equipment

operators, electricians and carpenters. Many of these service members also do similar jobs in their civilian careers.

“We have a well-rounded base of individuals who bring a variety of trades to the table,” Fondacaro said.

While deployed at the U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, the Airmen found themselves part of the support flowing into Haiti. Guantanamo Bay serves as a logistics hub for humanitarian assistance flowing into Haiti as part of Task Force 48. Operating from Guantanamo Bay, TF-48 is coordinating air and sea assets in the delivery of immediate life-saving humanitarian assistance to Haiti.

With the increased activity on the leeward side of the naval station, improvements became necessary to accommodate the number of military and civilian personnel, equipment and supplies required for the Haiti relief effort. The Engineers from the 106th were instrumental in making improvements to structures on the leeward side, fixing access roads and clearing debris and helping to expand the runway at the airfield to accommodate the increased number and type of aircraft coming to Guantanamo.

“These missions became a top priority after

the earthquake in Haiti,” said Air Force Lt. Col. Denise Boyer, commander of the 474th. “The 106th jumped through hoops to get the mission accomplished ahead of schedule.”

Operating in an unfamiliar environment presents many challenges, such as knowing who to go to with requests and working with personnel of different services and ranks.

“We try to act like proper guests, but also get the mission done,” Fondacaro said.

Much of the work done by the 106th is noticeable on the area of the base that, under usual circumstances, receives little traffic and attention. Transforming this seldom-used area into a place where relief operations can take place leaves the Airmen with a sense of accomplishment from their efforts.

“I feel like the product we’re leaving behind is adding value to the base,” Fondacaro said. **gt**

“The 106th jumped through hoops to get the mission accomplished ahead of schedule.”

--Lt. Col. Denise Boyer, Commander, 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron

The First Reaper Maintenance Field Training Detachment

Story by Capt. Anthony L. Bucci, 174th Fighter Wing



HANCOCK FIELD AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Syracuse -- The Director of the Air National Guard, the Adjutant General of New York and the 174th Fighter Wing Commander officiated the grand opening of the first MQ-9 Reaper maintenance field training detachment Oct. 2, 2009 in Syracuse.

Lieutenant General Harry Wyatt, III, Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, Col. Kevin W. Bradley spoke today at an official ribbon cutting ceremony here at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base before cutting the ribbon and officially ushering in the newest chapter in the wing's rich history.

"The leadership of the 174th Fighter Wing and the New York Air National Guard had the vision of bringing this mission to New York", said Lt. Gen. Harry Wyatt, III, Director of the Air National Guard.

"Now you have to execute the mission you have been given and I have great confidence that the instructors of this new Field Training Detachment (FTD) and the men and women of the 174th Fighter Wing will do exactly that", Wyatt said.

The 174th is the headquarters of the MQ-9 Reaper maintenance FTD; this is the only facility in the Air Force, both active and reserve components, dedicated to training MQ-9 Reaper maintenance personnel.

"The 174th Fighter Wing has a distinguished legacy of flying aircraft since 1947", said Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, The Adjutant General.

"So as we think about the 174th Fighter Wing's future flying unmanned aircraft we know that they will add to the great legacy of this unit", Taluto said.

This facility will offer courses about the

maintenance of the MQ-9 to include: Introduction to the Reaper, Aircraft Mechanic training, Aircraft Technician training, Ground Control Station Maintenance training and Weapons training.

"Behind me sits the MQ-9 Reaper Field Training Detachment, a world-class facility, I find it incredible that we have crafted a school-house and 12 qualified instructors in a little over 12 months", said Col Kevin W. Bradley, 174th Fighter Wing Commander.

Construction began on the 24th of September 2008 to convert the former Aerospace Ground Equipment facility to the Field Training Detachment with the project being completed on May 30th this year.

The facility was renovated at a cost of \$739,000, saving taxpayers about 3.3 million dollars from constructing a new building. **gt**



The distinguished guests at the 174th Fighter Wing, Hancock Field Air National Guard Base cut the ribbon and officially open the only MQ-9 Reaper Maintenance Field Training Detachment for the U.S. Air Force, Reserve and Air National Guard. (From left) Brig. Gen. James Kwiatowski, Assemblyman Al Stirpe, Sen. Dave Valesky, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Robert A. Knauff, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Paul Schemp, Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Curtis Irwin, Congressman Dan Maffei, Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Thomas P. Maguire, Col. Anthony B. Basile, Col. Kevin W. Bradley, Assemblyman Will Barclay, Chief Master Sgt. Muncy, Chief Master Sgt. Hardy Pierce, Chief Master Sgt. David Heckman. Photo by Staff Sgt. James N. Faso II, 174th Fighter Wing.



New York Air National Guard Lt. Col. Mike displays the MQ-9 Reaper Remotely Piloted Aircraft control for local media at Hancock Field in Syracuse, NY on Dec. 17, 2009. The media were invited to observe MQ-9 operations at the 174th Fighter Wing.

174th Fighter Wing Hosts Media Day

Story by Capt. Anthony Bucci, 174th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

HANCOCK FIELD AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Syracuse -- Local media got an update on the 174th Fighter Wing's transition from flying F-16s to flying MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted vehicles on Dec. 17, 2009.

Colonel Kevin W. Bradley, 174th commander, hosted the event, which started with an updated mission brief, then was followed by the opportunity for questions and answers.

"The men and women of the 174th are extremely proud of the fine heritage of this unit and they are equally excited about operating this cutting-edge technology," said Bradley.

Afterwards, media members were brought to the MQ-9 Maintenance Field Training Detachment (FTD) to conduct interviews with a pilot, sensor operator and an intelligence officer.

"I am extremely proud to be doing this mission and supporting those American and Coalition forces on the ground," said Staff Sgt. Alex, 174th Sensor Operator. Alex served with the U.S. Army, prior to joining the 174th giving him an added sense of job satisfaction because of the support he can give to his brothers-in-

arms on the ground. It is this sense of connection to those on the ground that rings through on how important their job is.

"With the ability of this aircraft to loiter over an area for 10 to 14 hours we have the ability to create a great overall picture for those American and Coalition Forces on the ground," said Capt. Chris, 174th Intelligence Officer.

Immediately following the FTD session the media were escorted to the flight line to see the MQ-9 up-close and have the opportunity to see the aircraft power up its engine.

"What we do is simple, 95 percent Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance and 100 percent support to those American and Coalition forces on the ground," said Lt. Col. Mike, 174th pilot. **gt**



174th Fighter Wing Commander, Col. Kevin W. Bradley, explains operations of the MQ-9 Reaper Remotely Piloted Aircraft at Hancock Field on Dec. 17, 2009. The media were invited to observe MQ-9 operations at the 174th Fighter Wing. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeremy M. Call.



Lieutenant Colonel David Warager, commander of the 56th Brigade, applies his civilian legal skills to the military mission of providing a Marine from the 49th Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron with a power of attorney and a will during a Legal Service Operation at Stewart Air Base in Newburgh.

New York Guard Civil Affairs Members Aid U.S. Marines

Story and photo by Sgt. Christopher Ferraro, 56th Brigade

NEWBURGH - In times of trouble, the nation typically turns to the Marines for help but when the Marines need legal action they turn to the New York Guard.

The 5th Civil Affairs Judge Advocate General Regiment (JAG) of the New York Guard's 56th Brigade, responded on short notice Dec. 5 to Stewart Air Base to conduct a Legal Services Operation (LSO) for the Marines of the 49th Marine Aviation Logistics (MAL) Squadron.

Serving as a "legal rapid response" force, the 5th Civil Affairs augmented the MAL Squadron's readiness processing.

Arriving in the early hours of the morning, the unit's lawyers-

in-uniform set up legal services stations with laptops, printers and pens; all the gear necessary to carry out the mission.

The team of New York Guard officers, commanded by Maj. John Mangialardi, also included enlisted personnel deputized for the day as paralegals.

For Spc. Joseph Ranallo, 56th Brigade, who also serves on the Chemical Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package team, the opportunity to assist with administrative work was a break from working the decontamination line, but the pride in helping troops was the same.

"This is great. The Marines

need us, and we're there for them," Mangialardi said.

Over the course of the day the 5th Civil Affairs JAGs and support personnel executed powers of attorney and wills for dozens of Marines.

Normally, to conduct an LSO of this type, out of state Navy JAGs would be brought in. By utilizing the professionals in the New York Guard, the mission was accomplished without straining JAG operations elsewhere.

Such missions are typical for the 5th Civil Affairs Regt. which is comprised of trial and civil attorneys, computer and clerical specialists as well as mental health professionals and even a chaplain.

Over the past two years the JAG and support personnel of the 5th Civil Affairs Regiment have performed support missions for the New York Guard, New York Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve units across the state. **gt**

"This is great. The Marines need us, and we're there for them,"

-- Maj. John Mangialardi, 5th Civil Affairs Regiment Judge Advocate General

Remembering Those Missing from Our Formations

WEST POINT, N.Y. - New York Guard Staff Sgt. Louis Amigrone stands in formation with four other Honor Guard members during the presentation of a POW/MIA missing man ceremony at the New York Guard and Naval Militia's Holiday Gala at the United States Military Academy, Dec. 5.

During the honorary formation, the five cover bearers furnished the head gear of the United States Marine Corps, Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard, representing men from each branch who were not in attendance.

The Gala is an annual event held to promote camaraderie and fellowship among the state's service members from the New York Guard, the New York Naval Militia, Division of Military and Naval Affairs, and the Office of Homeland Security, during the holiday season. Photo by Pfc. Ubon Mendie, New York Guard Headquarters.



New York Guard's World War II Three-Star Commander

By Col. Michael Stenzel, New York Guard Headquarters

JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS, LATHAM -- Did you know that the New York Guard had a former U.S. Army three star general as it's commander from 1943 to 1947? He was Lt. Gen. Hugh A. Drum. The active duty post near Watertown, N.Y. bears his name.

When the U.S. Army Chief of Staff General Malin Craig retired in 1939, Drum was passed over in favor of General George Marshall. Despite this disappointment, he received a promotion to Lieutenant General in August, 1939.

With the onset of World War II, Drum assumed command of the Eastern Defense Command, responsible for domestic defenses along the Atlantic seaboard. Hoping to be the "General Pershing" of the next great war, he was disappointed with an offer from

Secretary of War Henry Stimson to go to what he perceived to be a low-profile assignment in China. After being passed over for that mission he was relegated to home duty assignments until his mandatory retirement in 1943.

As a retired active duty officer, Drum was offered and accepted command of the New York Guard (NYG) in 1943.

In 1946 and 1947 he oversaw the conversion of the New York Guard into the federally authorized New York Army National Guard as the unit mobilized for service in World War II returned home to New York.

In this capacity, during the transition, he was commander of both the NYG and the "new" NY Army National Guard. He made all the command assignments for the newly organized 27th and 42nd Infantry Divisions. **gt**

Naval Militia Salutes the USS New York



NEW YORK -- Members of the New York Naval Militia march past the USS New York, the latest addition to the United States Navy, during a ceremony welcoming the amphibious assault ship to New York on Monday, Nov. 2. The ship was constructed with steel from the World Trade Center in its bow to memorialize the New Yorkers killed on Sept. 11, 2001. Members of the Naval Militia and the New York Army and Air National Guard were among those participating in the ceremonies.

Sailor Recognized for Dedication, Promoted for Potential

SYRACUSE - Petty Officer Michael Porter (left) receives congratulations from New York Naval Militia Command Master Chief Robert Clark at the Naval Operational Support Center.

Porter was promoted to Machinist Mate Chief Petty Officer in the New York Naval Militia on Feb. 11, after completing Chief Petty Officer Indoctrination, a traditional rite of the sea services, prior to his promotion.

Porter is a member of the New York State Military Emergency Boat Service. He participated in numerous operations and exercises, including Indian Point security patrols, Exercise Trojan Horse at SUNY Maritime College, the Hudson River Quadricentennial. He served in the United States Navy and Navy Reserve, earning the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist insignia, and retired in September 2000. In civilian life, he is an Electrical Supervisor on the Utica Section of the New York State Canal Corporation. Photo by David Tucker.



Naval Militia Presents Flag of Heroes in NYC

Guard Times Staff

NEW YORK – The New York Naval Militia presented the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Medical Center with the Flag of Heroes in Manhattan Oct. 16 in appreciation of the hospital's leading role in caring for emergency responders. The flag's stars and stripes feature the names of the 415 emergency services personnel who died during the terrorist attack of Sept. 11, 2001.

Rear Admiral John Ingram, Deputy Commander of the New York Naval Militia presented the flag and praised Mount Sinai for its selfless service. He lauded the extraordinary quality of Mount Sinai's medical care and in particular their emergency medical team and medical response to the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 as well as their follow up care and treatment to the 25,000 people in their World Trade Center Program Data and Coordination Center.

"We are deeply honored to be able to service the heroes of 9-11," said Capt. Philip J. Landrigan, M.D., of the New York Naval Militia and the Ethel H. Wise Professor and Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine at Mount

Sinai. "We have been able to do this work because we had a strong team trained and ready at the time of the attack. Preparation and training are everything"

Landrigan is also the Interim Director of the World Trade Center Data and Coordination Center. He served in the U.S. Public Health Service and U.S. Navy Reserve for 41 years. The New York Naval Militia Commander, Maj. Gen. Robert L. Wolf appointed Landrigan Surgeon General of the New York Naval Militia in the fall of 2009.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr. Dennis S. Charney, the Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean of Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs of The Mount Sinai Medical Center, remarked upon Mount Sinai's longstanding history of caring and treating those who go in harm's way and of its reputation for being a leader in occupational and environmental medicine.

"We had people trained and in place who were able immediately to help those who helped save our city," Charney said. "Words cannot express how deeply honored we are to



Members of the New York Naval Militia present the Flag of Heroes to the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Medical Center Oct. 16, 2009. The flag was given in recognition of Mount Sinai's leadership role in caring for first responders. From left are Rear Admiral John Ingram, Dr. Jacqueline Moline, Capt. Phillip Landrigan and Dr. Dennis Charney. Courtesy photo.

receive the Flag of Heroes today in recognition of our work in caring for the brave men and women who served this nation after the attack on the World Trade Center." **gt**

Sailors Efforts Keep Boat Service in Working Order and in the Water



CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLANDT MANOR -- Boatsman Mate Second Class James Belfiore performs mandatory 300-hour engine inspections on the Naval Militia's 28 foot small boat and 30 foot patrol boat outside of Building 70 here at the Naval Militia Military Emergency Boat Service maintenance and storage yard on Feb. 8. Photos by Senior Chief Petty Officer Frank Rodgers, N.Y. Naval Militia.

Donating An Orange County Chopper



STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Newburgh - Jason Pohl from the television series "Orange County Choppers," points out design elements on a motorcycle made especially for Gladiator Garageworks. Paul Teutel Sr. from the Garageworks program looks on with Staff Sgt. Jonathan Ramos and members of the 105th Airlift Wing Security Forces Squadron during videotaping for the episode. Gladiator Garage conducts a garage makeover for Ramos in the Jan. 21 episode, and in return O.C.C. builds a custom chopper for the Gladiator Company. The show airs on the The Learning Channel network. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael O'Halloran, 105th Airlift Wing.

An Explosive Ordinance Visit before Mobilization

GLENVILLE--Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 1108th Ordnance Company (EOD) speak with Brig. Gen. Michael Swezey, commander of the 53rd Troop Command, during their farewell ceremony Dec. 8, 2009 at the Glenville Armed Forces Reserve Center.

The Soldiers, who completed a year of training dealing with Improvised Explosive Devices, mines, and unexploded ordnance, now go to Fort Lewis, Wash. for post mobilization training and will deploy to Iraq for approximately 10 months in 2010. "It's a chance to do the job we were trained to do," said 1st Lt. Jeffrey Fiorito, commander, 1108th EOD Company. "We were trained in the full spectrum of operations," he added. Photo by Staff Sgt. Tom Wheeler, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.





Road March for the Troops

QUEENSBURY - Private First Class Matthew Jones (left) and Pfc. Seth Wieland, lead New York Army National Guard Soldiers and civilians on a 3.8 mile hike that began and ended at the Queensbury Readiness Center on Christmas Eve morning. This is the 6th time that area Soldiers, veterans and families conducted the march. Courtesy photo.

Angels in the Rafters



NASSAU COLISEUM, Uniondale - Guardian Angels from the 106th Rescue Wing prepare to descend to the ice behind an American flag during Military Appreciation Night pre-game ceremonies between the New York Islanders and Atlanta Thrashers Nov. 7, 2009. Photo by Mike Stobe, NHLI via Getty Images.



Newest Warrant Officers

FORT RUCKER, Ala. -- The New York National Guard's newest Warrant Officers pose after graduation and pinning from the Warrant Officer Candidate Course here on October 28, 2009. Pictured from left are: Warrant Officers Elton Caruth, William Salvi, Chief Warrant Officer Harry McDonough Warrant Officer Strength Manager, Kenneth Rathbun and Tia Grier. Photo by Kathy Rathbun.



Helping Out City In a Surge

NEW YORK -- Sergeant First Class David Peeler from Company B, Joint Task Forces Empire Shield assists New York's Mass Transit Authority Police Officer Bailey at Penn Station checking passenger tickets in the waiting area Feb. 4 during Operation Empire Guardian Operations, a Multiple Agency Security Surge exercise that places enhanced security measures in varying locations in the city. Photo by 1st Lt. Mark Getman, 258th Field Artillery Battalion.

