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Volume 4, Number 1

Winter 2011

guardtimes

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

www.dmna.state.ny.us



FROM THE LEADERSHIP

By all accounts this past year has been successful for the New York National Guard.

During 2010, our priorities were to man our force, train our force, equip our force and take care of our families. You, the Soldiers and Airmen of our force, as well as our dedicated civilian staff, have done all of that and have done it well.

The Army National Guard maintained 100 percent strength or better among our units, while bringing on board new state-of-the-art communications equipment and weapon systems like the Javelin. Training on this new equipment, and preparing units for upcoming deployments in 2012 has been a top priority.

And I am happy to report we continue to improve the Army's Yellow Ribbon Program supporting families before, during and after deployments.

On the Air National Guard side, we have also maintained our strength at historic levels; moved forward with the Hometown Heroes program to recognize our Airmen who deployed; successfully transitioned the 174th Fighter Wing from operating F-16s to the MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft and welcomed the 105th Airlift Wing's selection as the Air Force's preferred choice to fly C-17s.

We've also modernized our Air National Guard Bases. The 106th Rescue Wing, for example, opened a new para-rescue facility at their base to support the mission of their Guardian Angels.

This year we will face new challenges, but I know you will all meet them with energy, intelligence and enthusiasm.

Soldiers can look forward to moving into three new readiness facilities this year: a massive Armed Forces Reserve Center in Farmingdale which replaces aging Long Island Armories; the modern Readiness Center nearing completion at Camp Smith and an Armed Forces Reserve Center at Fort Hamilton. This

is part of our continuing effort to move our 21st Century Army National Guard into 21st Century facilities. We owe our Soldiers nothing less.

Throughout 2011 and into 2012 we will be training and mobilizing nearly 3,000 Soldiers for deployment to Afghanistan, Iraq and Guantanamo Bay. Soldiers of the 105th Military Police Company, the 107th Military Police Company, the 101st Signal Battalion and the 3rd Battalion 142nd Aviation Regiment, along with most of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and a number of small detachments, will be preparing their families for a period of separation.

These Soldiers will be well-trained—in the case of the 27th IBCT this includes a rotation at the National Training Center—and equipped with the most modern gear.

We will also take care of families both before, during, and after their loved ones deploy. In the past we focused on working with families during and after the deployment. We are now including more pre-deployment family programs and events to expand our network of support throughout the entire spectrum of the deployment cycle.

Our Air National Guard expects the transition from the C-5 to the C-17 at the 105th Airlift Wing to begin in the fall of 2011 and the 105th Airlift Wing will also transition its Security Force Squadron into a Base Defense Squadron. Each of our wings will continue to deploy Airmen around the world in support of Air Expeditionary Forces and other contingency operations

Air National Guard units continue to maintain strength while conducting strategic and tactical airlift missions worldwide as well as continued support for the National Science Foundation missions in the Arctic and Antarctic by the 109th Airlift Wing. And, of course, the 174th Fighter Wing will continue to conduct MQ-9 missions in theater.

While we move forward to make our important contributions to the war fight, our Guardsmen and women will continue their vital contribution to homeland security.

The 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade continues to meet its obligations as the aviation command and control and aviation element of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosive (CBRNE) Consequence Management Reaction Force or CCMRF. And, the 42nd Infantry Division continues to focus staff leadership towards the Domestic All-Hazards Response Team (DART) mission that puts



Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy

their command group in the forefront of Guard aid to civil authorities planning anywhere in the eastern United States.

Meanwhile, here in New York we will work to transform our own trained and trusted CERFP into the core of the National Guard Homeland Response Force, or HRF. The New York National Guard will provide two key elements of the HRF: the Command and Control element built around the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters and our existing CERFP. The force will be ready to deploy within Federal Emergency Management Agency Region II, along with elements from New Jersey, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, and we must have it fully operationally capable in 2012.

As you can see, 2011 will be filled with opportunities in both our state and federal roles but I know that all of you will rise to the challenge.

Although the rest of the country sometimes forgets it, we are still an Army and Air Force at war. Our men and women will be going into harm's way this year in the defense of our great nation and there is still the potential for an attack on our homeland.

To those of you deploying, the nation is grateful for your dedication and your sacrifice. We are committed to supporting you and your family.

To those of you not deploying in the coming months, I charge you to work hard to support our brothers and sisters heading downrange, and to be ready for whatever happens here at home.

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About Guard Times

The *Guard Times* is published quarterly using federal funds authorized under provisions of AR 360-1 and AFI 35-101 by the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs and the New York Army and Air National Guard Public Affairs Office.

Views which appear in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force or the National Guard Bureau.

The *Guard Times* has a circulation of 20,000 and is distributed free to members of the New York State Military Forces and employees of the Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

Submissions

Articles, photos and letters are welcome. Please provide article submissions via email saved in Microsoft Word or rich text (rtf) format along with high resolution digital (jpg) photos. Submission deadlines are January 15 (winter issue), April 15 (spring issue), July 15 (summer issue), and October 15 (fall issue). Send your submissions to:

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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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NEW YORK - Members of the 827th Engineer Company Family Readiness Group pose at the ABC Entertainment studios in Times Square Oct. 11, 2010 following the airing of a *Good Morning America* broadcast. Approximately 15 family members from the Buffalo, Horseheads and Walton FRG attended the program with VIP tickets, including a unit Flat Stanley Soldier. The families returned to New York City on Jan. 17. Photo courtesy of Erica Haray-Butcher, 827th Engineer FRG.

ON THE COVER: Members from the 105th Maintenance Squadron, of the New York Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Wing and media visitors tour and receive briefings on capabilities of the reconditioned C-5M Super Galaxy Nov. 5, 2010. A ceremony was held here to mark the completion of reconditioning on the C-5M Super Galaxy. The Joint Air Force effort to recondition the interior of the modernized C-5M by the 105th, resulted in a standard pattern that all C-5Ms will follow. Photo by Tech. Sgt. DeNoris A. Mickle

BACK COVER: Staff Sgt. Lewis Swartz from Company A, Recruiting and Retention Command, removes snow at the Bedford Avenue Armory here in Brooklyn after the Nor'easter storm Jan. 12. The snow storm is the second in recent weeks, prompting the mayor's office to declare a snow emergency to expedite the clearing of city streets. Photo by Warrant Officer Ubon Mendie, New York Guard.



President Barack Obama signs the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010, Dec. 22, 2010, in Washington, D.C. Joint Chiefs Chairman Adm. Michael Mullen is at left, Vice President Joe Biden is second from left, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif. is at center behind President Obama. White House photo.

Pentagon Tackles 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Repeal

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama signed the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010 into law here Dec. 22, 2010.

"We are not a nation that says, 'Don't ask, don't tell,'" the president said at the signing ceremony. "We are a nation that says, 'Out of many, we are one.'"

The act repeals Section 654, Title 10, of the United States Code, which barred people who are openly gay, lesbian or bisexual from serving in the U.S. military. The bill's signing, as the president pointed out, begins a process that will culminate in full repeal over the coming months.

The legislation specifies that the repeal will take effect only after Gates, Mullen and Obama certify that new policies and regulations to implement it are "consistent with the standards of military readiness, military effectiveness, unit cohesion and retention of the armed forces," the secretary noted.

"Our goal here is to move as quickly, but as

responsibly, as possible," Gates said. "I see this as a three-step process. The first is to finalize changes in regulations [and] policies [and] get clearer definition on benefits."

The second phase is to prepare training materials for use by personnel specialists, chaplains, commanders and other leaders, and those who are in daily contact with service members, he said.

The third phase, the secretary explained, is the actual training for service members.

"We're trying to get the first two phases of that process done as quickly as possible," he said. "My hope is that it can be done within a matter of a very few weeks, so that we can then move on to what is the real challenge, which is providing training to 2.2 million people."

In the meantime, Gates said it's important that the men and women in uniform understand that, although today's vote means the policy will change, the implementation and certification process will take time.

"In the meantime, the current law and policy will remain in effect," he said.

"Successful implementation will depend upon strong leadership, a clear message and proactive education throughout the force," he said. "With a continued and sustained commitment to core values of leadership, professionalism and respect for all, I am convinced that the U.S. military can successfully accommodate and implement this change, as it has others in history."

"We are a nation that welcomes the service of every patriot," Obama said. "We are a nation that believes all men and women are created equal. Those are the ideals that generations have fought for. Those are the ideals that we uphold today, and now it is my honor to sign this bill into law."

Mullen welcomed legislative over judicial repeal of the law, noting that it "preserves the military's prerogative to implement change in a responsible, deliberate manner."



Shades of Green Offers Disney Parks Program

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. – The Shades of Green—an Armed Forces Recreation Center located on the Walt Disney World Resort— now offers the Disney Parks’ “Let the Memories Begin” program for military personnel, providing special offers on theme park tickets and accommodations.

On Shades of Green, now

through September 28, 2011, active and retired U.S. military personnel (including active and retired members of the United States Coast Guard, National Guard and Reservists) or their spouses can purchase:

Disney 4-Day Military Promotional Tickets with Park Hopper Option for \$138 each, plus tax,
Disney 4-Day Military Promo-

tional Tickets with Water Parks Fun and More Option for \$138 each, plus tax, and/or

Disney 4-Day Military Promotional Tickets with Park Hopper and Water Parks Fun and More Options for \$165 each, plus tax.

Armed Forces Recreation Centers are managed by the Army’s Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command, and offer

resort-style accommodations to eligible military patrons and their families on a sliding scale—making first-class vacations affordable for service members of all ranks.

Eligibility requirements apply. For more information, or to make room reservations, call 407-824-3400. Information is also available online at ShadesofGreen.org or ArmyMWR.com.

Yellow Ribbon Programs Help Families Before Deployment



CALLICOON, N.Y. - Deploying Airmen and their family members participate in a question and answer session led by Brig. Gen. Verle L. Johnston Jr., commander, 105th Airlift Wing during a National Guard Yellow Ribbon Event held at the Villa Roma Resort and Conference Center Nov. 7, 2010.

The Yellow Ribbon Program provides information, services, referrals and proactive outreach programs to service members of the National Guard, Reserves and their families before, during and after a deployment cycle. The program is aimed at preparing National Guard, Reserve members and their families for the deployment, sustaining their families during the deployment and reintegrating the service members with their families, communities and employers at the deployments end or their release from active duty. Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Young, 105th Airlift Wing.

The IG Corner

Family Programs a Critical Line of Operation

By Col. Eric J. Hesse, Command Inspector General

Editor's Note: This is the second in a four-part series addressing the Adjutant General's four Lines of Operation from an IG perspective.

As a refresher, the TAG's priorities for the New York Army National Guard are Soldier Readiness, Family Readiness, Equipment Readiness and Facility Readiness with the output being a "well trained, mission ready relevant Guard force."

The second of these Lines of Operation is Family Readiness. It is nested to the first, Soldier Readiness. I have always been told we enlist the Soldier but reenlist the family. In these challenging times of recurring deployments this continues to be true. If the family is unhappy about how they or their Soldier family member is being treated they aren't coming back.

Family Readiness in the New York Army National Guard (NYARNG) has been a priority for years. However, based on our recent inspection observations, there is still much to be accomplished. There are numerous programs and many people who work daily on improving Family Readiness. Sometimes all we may need is to know where to go.

During the previous fiscal year we conducted a special inspection of the Family Programs across the New York Army National Guard. Our top three findings were that few units had an active Family Readiness Group (FRG), family care plans were not being reviewed and a lack of

leader knowledge on Family Programs. The bottom line is that successful Family Programs is an educational process, that I believe has already begun and continues to improve. Our Inspector General staff responsibility will be to get out and follow-up on our inspection.

I had the opportunity to attend a Yellow Ribbon event Jan. 8 in support of deploying Soldiers and Airmen. The event demonstrated to me just how strong the support is to Family Programs. It was a well done event with great support and turnout by family members, Soldiers, Airmen, staff and command representatives. The participants provided briefings and time to meet one-on-one with those in attendance. There is a wealth of knowledge and experience for units to tap in to and I strongly recommend that commanders take advantage of the programs now as you develop and strengthen your own unit FRGs.

Reach out to the Family Programs Office, Family Readiness Group Assistants and Family Readiness Support Assistants to assist in development of your programs. Take the time to ensure you know your responsibilities as a leader for Family Programs, and the Total Army Family as outlined in Army Regulation 600-20, Army Command Policy, as well as the DMNA rules governing the programs.

A little time spent strengthening the Army Family now will pay dividends when it is time to go out the door in the future.

Chaplain's Corner

Free Weekend for Troops Make for Strong Bonds

By Chaplain (Capt.) Andrew Ayres



This is free! No need to get your glasses or adjust the lighting in the room. I can assure you that it is not a typo. That's right, you read it correctly. A weekend getaway, and it's free!

So you may be asking yourself a number of questions like, "What's the catch?" "What must I do to be eligible?" or "What is Strong Bonds?" Strong Bonds is an Army wide program that hosts a number of weekend retreats each year throughout the state. During the weekend you will enjoy a relaxed workshop style atmosphere (civilian attire only) where we invest our time in learning techniques that strengthen relationships with our spouse, children, and other family members.

Aside from learning vital communication skills that will allow relationships to thrive, you

will also begin to understand yourself better as well as your spouse or children.

I believe that this is a key component of navigating the journey of marriage as well as other relationships. Often times we fall into the trap of wanting to change things about those that we love. During the weekend you will discover that there is an alternative to this. Instead of changing, or trying to change, time will be spent understanding that we are each wired differently. When those differences are understood they can be used to build each other up allowing us to have stronger relationships.

We do make sure that you have ample time to spend time with your family during the weekend as well. All of the locations selected for the events this year have their own unique attractions. In March we will be at Cascades Indoor Water Park. The month of April there will be an event at West Point. June will be in

Rochester near the National Museum of Play. Then in July we will be at The Great Escape. These weekends are created not only to have great content, but also to express to you and your family just how valuable you are to the National Guard. A complete list of the weekends can also be found at the Family Programs web page.

Take some time and consider attending a Strong Bonds weekend. They are available for single Soldiers, couples and families. Child-care will be offered at some, but not all of the retreats. Rooms and meals (the only exception is Saturday's "date night") will be paid for upon your arrival. Your travel expenses will be reimbursed by filling out a travel voucher. I invite you to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have about attending one of our retreats. Chaplain Andrew Ayres can be reached at andrew.ayres@us.army.mil or (315) 532 2026 cell, (315) 438-3360 office.

EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIP OF THE ARMED FORCES

Employer Partnership a Powerful Job Search Tool

By Lt. Col. Matt Leonard, Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces

WASHINGTON – Service members have access to job openings with military-friendly employers in various industries across the country through the Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces Program.

The Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces launched its new, state-of-the-art job search portal for Soldiers and their families Nov. 11, 2010.

The portal's tools offer National Guardsmen and Reservists, their families, Wounded Warriors, and veterans increased capabilities when seeking employment opportunities. The portal also vastly improves our Employer Partner's access to skilled candidates.

Through the initiative, Soldiers, Airmen and their family members can gain a competitive advantage over other job hunters. Employer Partners who participate in the program know that service members have undergone rigorous training and may have applicable credentialing and licensing needed to begin work immediately. The leadership abilities and team-building skills you've honed in the military are hard to replicate in the civilian world.

With the new website, job seekers no longer have to re-enter basic personal information every time a search is launched. Instead, the user simply logs in and the system can continue any previous activity. A user may now set-up a personal profile so that he or she is able to save searches, search parameters

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for SEARCH JOBS, CAREER RESOURCES, EMPLOYER PARTNERS, ABOUT, and MY HOME. A user profile for Jonathan Jacobsonstein is visible in the top right corner. The main content area features a 'QUICK JOB SEARCH' section with input fields for keywords and location, and a 'SEARCH' button. Below this is a banner for hiring service members, stating 'HIRE SERVICE MEMBERS WHO ARE PRE-SCREENED & EXPERTLY TRAINED' with a 'JOIN NOW' button. The page is divided into several sections: 'CAREER COUNSELING' with a 'Find Yours Now' link, 'FEATURED COMPANIES' listing logos for INOVA HEALTH SYSTEM, amazon.com, GE, adidas, and SOUTHWEST.COM, and 'QUICK TIPS' with a 'See More' link. At the bottom, there are social media icons for LinkedIn, Twitter, Vimeo, Facebook, and Flickr, along with a footer containing links for FAQ, Refer a Friend, Privacy Statement, Freedom of Information Act, Accessibility, and Site Map.

and individual job announcements within their own "dashboard". By activating the alert option, seekers will be provided with a notification whenever a desired position is posted.

The portal offers other useful features as well. The Resume Builder allows users to create and keep their resume available within the system. Service members have an additional feature available to them: access to the Program Support Manager network for career counseling and resume assistance. The new portal's functionality improvements make the search and

application process much more efficient, saving Service members and other job seekers time.

But the improvements don't stop there. Employers will find the new portal more useful as well. They are now able to enter position vacancies directly into the system and track those jobs, applications and view it through their company dashboard. Employers may also reach in to the system and locate the resumes of qualified candidates who may not have had the chance to apply themselves. So just by posting your resume you may be contacted by one of our military-

friendly employer partners who need your skills.

If you used the old job search engine you should definitely check out the new portal. Although the web link, EmployerPartnership.org is the same, you are now in the driver's seat and this definitely is not your father's Oldsmobile.

Editor's note: The Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces is a no-fee program connecting Service members, their families and veterans with employment opportunities. The program has more than 1,150 military-friendly employer partners across the nation.

Military Personnel News: the MILPO Corner

Soldier Deployment Resource.

The Army National Guard G1 Personnel Gateway has a section of its web site focused on preparing for, serving in, and returning from deployment. Soldiers and personnel administrators can access this resource by visiting the link <https://g1arng.army.pentagon.mil/Families/PreparingforDeployment/Pages/Default.aspx>.

This very comprehensive site includes individual links to detailed guidance concerning how to prepare for deployment; guidance for finding local resources; a “frequently asked questions” area; links to other related sites and points of contact for assistance.

Wounded Warrior Reintegration.

Helping severely wounded Veterans and Servicemember’s recover and reintegrate into their families and communities was the theme of a recent joint Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) two-day conference at the NIH campus in Bethesda, Md.

Participants at the scientific conference shared the latest approaches in research and care focused on polytrauma and related issues such as limb loss, traumatic brain injury, and posttraumatic stress disorder.

For additional information about the VA Research program, visit the VA website at www.research.va.gov. For more information about NIH’s Office of Research on Women’s Health, visit orwh.od.nih.gov. See more Wounded Warrior news on Military.com.

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

Have you ever wondered what happens to your civilian job if your Reserve or Guard unit is called into Active Duty? When you return to the civilian world, will you have to search for a new job? What can you do to ensure you’ll be able to work again?

The following is a summary of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994. The USERRA, significantly updated in 1996 and 1998, provides reemployment protection and other benefits for veterans and employees who perform military service.

Under USERRA, if a military member leaves his civilian job for service in the uniformed services, he is entitled to return to the job, with accrued seniority, provided he meets the law’s eligibility criteria. USERRA applies to voluntary as well as involuntary service, in peacetime as well as wartime, and the law applies to virtually all civilian employers, including the federal government, state and local governments, and private employers, regardless of size.

Reemployment rights extend to persons who have been absent from a position of employment because of “service in the uniformed services.” “Service in the uniformed services” means all duties performed on a voluntary or involuntary basis in a uniformed service, including:

- Active duty (Including Reserve and Guard members who have been called up)
- Active duty for training
- Initial active duty for training Inactive duty training
- Full-time National Guard duty.
- Absence from work for an examination to determine a person’s fitness for any of the above types of duty.
- Funeral honors duty performed by National Guard or reserve members

In order to have reemployment rights following a period of service in the uniformed services, a military member must meet eligibility criteria:

- You must have held a civilian job and:
- You must have informed your employer that you were leaving the job for service in the uniformed services.
- The period of service must not have exceeded five years (certain exceptions apply that may extend the five year period, contact the Department of Labor for assistance).

- You must have been released from service under “honorable conditions.”

- You must have reported back to your civilian employer in a timely manner or have submitted a timely application for reemployment.

VA Lifeline for Troubled Vets.

The New Year can often bring stress, anxiety and depression. As a veteran, family member or caregiver for a veteran, you are never alone; VA professional counselors are just a phone call away at 1-800-273-8255.

There also are online chat capabilities at the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline website. You can call your local VA medical center to speak with the health care team. You also can contact the main social work office of the medical center to get assistance.

Find your local VA medical center at www.va.gov/directory. Do not be afraid to seek help.

Improvements Act for Chapter 33, Post 9-11 GI Bill Now Law.

President Obama signed the “Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010” into law Jan. 4. This law makes several changes to the Post 9-11 GI Bill including allowing Title 32 time to count towards the benefit. No policy has yet been released.

The new law allows Title 32 Active Guard and Reserve service for organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training members of the National Guard to count toward the benefit. ADOS time does NOT count.

The provision also allows National Guard call-ups under section 502(f) of Title 32 to count toward the benefit. ADOS time does NOT count for this provision either.

Effective this August, Basic Allowance for Housing rates will be prorated based on how many credits the Soldier takes and the benefits will set a standardized tuition and fee limit of \$17,500 per academic year.

Beginning in the next fiscal year, October 2011, a reduced Basic Allowance for Housing will be authorized for distance learning and certain benefits will allow Soldiers to use Chapter 33 for non-degree granting programs to include OJT, apprenticeship programs, correspondence courses, and flight training.

Rules on transferability have not changed. In order to transfer Chpt 33 GI Bill, the Soldier must be an active member of the armed forces. Soldiers that gain eligibility for Chapter 33 based on these changes cannot transfer the benefit until October 2011.

For more information on transferability see http://dmna.state.ny.us/education/education.php?page=ben_to_dependents.

Federal Tuition Assistance

All Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) applications must be submitted before a class start date. Soldiers can apply through <https://minuteman.ngb.army.mil/benefits>. The application

requires a Common Access Card to login. Soldiers can have their CAC cards reset at any of the CAC facilities listed on this website <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home>.

Based on the federal budget issues all services are currently working off of Continuing Resolutions (CR) – this impacts FTA funding. Due to this reduction in funding and delay in receiving funds, approvals will be delayed and funding cannot be guaranteed. We highly recommend that Soldiers seek assistance through other programs such as Recruitment Incentive and Retention Program (State TA), NYS Veterans Tuition Assistance Award and/or Chpt 33 Post 9-11 GI Bill if possible. All applications will be processed on first come, first serve basis.

Civilian Education: Soldiers missing High School diplomas should forward them to the Education Services Office immediately. Missing High School diplomas will delay bonus payments and GI Bill benefits. A list of Soldiers missing diplomas can be found at:

<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/535774>

Officer Interstate Transfers.

NGB-ARH Memorandum, dated Nov 25, 2003, provides specific guidance concerning officer transfers. Officers can transfer within states while serving in the Army National Guard, however, they must coordinate this action prior to leaving New York. ONLY the Director of Military Personnel (MILPO) can authorize interstate transfers (IST).

Officers should not leave New York State until the chain of command and MILPO has authorized the interstate transfer. NYARNG Officers cannot transfer to another ARNG unit if they do not meet retention standards, exceed height/weight standards or are within 120 days of mandatory removal date.

Officers who wish to interstate transfer must initiate a DA 4187 for the purpose of seeking reappointment in another state. The DA 4187 must be signed by their commander and forwarded throughout all levels of the chain of command to the Major Command (MACOM) personnel office. The MACOM G1 will forward the Officer's IST request and all supporting documents to the state Office of Personnel Management. OPM will coordinate the 90-Day release memorandum. After the MILPO signs the memorandum, OPM will forward a copy of the the Memo to MACOM G1.

The Officer will have 90 days to find a unit in his/her new state. Once the officer finds a new unit, he or she must send a copy of their appointment order and oath of office to MNP-OPM. OPM cannot separate an officer without these documents. Officers who cannot be located and who have not been appointed in another state will be separated IAW AR 135-91, NGR 635-100, NGR 600-101, and applicable state laws as appropriate.

For more information on this topic please visit the MNP-OPM web page at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/555489>

and our MNP-WIKI page at https://www.kc.army.mil/wiki/Portal:NYARNG_-_MNP_Procedural_Guide/MNP-OPM.

Proper Wear of Soldier Awards and Decorations.

A senior noncommissioned officer, a sergeant major, with the North Carolina Army National Guard will be leaving the service a stripe lighter as a result of an Army National Guard and Army investigation into his wear of unauthorized unit patches, tabs, decorations, and badges. It is a crime punishable by up to one year in prison to falsely claim to have received a medal from the U.S. military that you are not entitled to.

Unfortunately, this recent event is a recurring situation throughout all military services. In this Soldiers' case, he was allowed to retire at a reduced rank. Each Soldier should spend some time reviewing their own iPERMS by visiting <https://ompf.hoffman.army.mil>.

Each Soldier should review their ribbon rack versus the supporting documentation contained within their iPERMS. Soldier's who have a copy of supporting documentation not in his or her iPERMS, may bring a copy to their unit level full time personnel who will coordinate for its addition into iPERMS. Questions should be directed to your unit full time support personnel.

Presidential Honors in Western New York



BUFFALO -- The new commander of the New York Air National Guard's 107th Airlift Wing honored President Millard Fillmore Jan. 7 in a ceremony recognizing the Buffalo resident's 211th birthday.

Col. Jim McCready, commander of the 107th Airlift Wing presented a wreath from the White House during the annual ceremony conducted by the University at Buffalo.

Fillmore, the 13th President of the United States, was a cofounder of the University at Buffalo and the school's first chancellor. The university has conducted a

memorial ceremony annually since 1937.

The United States Military honors former presidents by laying wreaths sent by the current president at their grave sites on the anniversary of their birth.

The New York Army and Air National Guard traditionally conduct the wreath layings at the graves of President Chester A. Arthur in Menands, Albany County; President Martin Van Buren in Kinderhook, Columbia County and Fillmore.

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

South African Reserve Chief Visits New York

State Partnership Program Brings South African Leaders to Learn About Guard Programs

By Eric Durr, Public Affairs Director

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE - Major General Roy Andersen, Chief of South African National Defence Force Reserves, wanted to exchange ideas with another really professional organization; so he brought his staff to visit the New York National Guard.

“We are looking to take away the lessons you have learned, so we do not have to relearn them, so we can do things better, and maybe we can identify a few areas where we think we do it better,” explained Andersen.

The six-officer delegation was particularly interested in learning about the New York National Guard’s family support programs and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program, Andersen said.

“We know these are good and they work,” he explained.

The team—which included a South African vice admiral and general officers from the Air Force and Army Reserve, as well as the South African Military Health Service— a separate branch of the South African military—were also interested in National Guard medical readiness procedures.

The National Guard’s health assessment process is much more proactive than the South African Reserves employ, he said.

The team visited state headquarters on the day a Soldiers Readiness Check was underway for the Joint Force Headquarters Detachment and got a chance to inspect the process. They were very impressed with the mobile dental clinic that was fixing Soldiers problems on the spot, Andersen said.

The South African National Defence Force and the New York National Guard have had a relationship since the two were joined through the National Guard’s State Partnership Program in 2005. The program sets up exchanges between the South African military and the National Guard to foster better understanding through a series of bilateral exchanges.

There is a lot of “energy” in the relationship between the New York National Guard and the South African military, said Major Gen. Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York. As



Air National Guard Master Sgt. Kerri Booth, a loadmaster with the 109th Airlift Wing, explains duties onboard her LC-130 Hercules to members of the South African National Defense Forces Dec. 5, 2010. The South Africans toured the base and unit’s LC-130 ski equipped aircraft. The 109th Airlift Wing supports the National Science Foundation, deploying every year to Antarctica bringing cargo 11,000 miles to the bottom of the world. Pictured are (from left) South African Rear Admiral Earnst Penzhorn, Director of Naval Reserves; Booth; South African Major Gen. Roy Andersen, Chief of Defence Force Reserves; Brig. Gen. Isaac Osborne, Deputy Commander of U.S. Army Africa; and Brig. Gen. Susan Molefe, Director of Defense Reserves. Photo by Senior Airman Ben German, 109th Airlift Wing.

recently as Sept. 2010, New York sent members of the 106th Rescue Wing to train with their South African counterparts.

Bilateral visits are an important part of the relationship process, said Brig. Gen. Isaac Osborne, Deputy Adjutant General of Tennessee and deputy commander of U.S. Army Africa. It gives both parties an opportunity to get to know each other better.

While the New York Army and Air National Guard, with just over 16,000 members, are about the same size as the South African Army, Air Force and Naval reserves, the level of responsibility that Andersen and his team have is much greater, Murphy pointed out.

He and his staff don’t have to deal with the issues of national policy and politics that Andersen must cope with, Murphy explained.

Joining Andersen in the South African delegation were: Brig. Gen. Susan Debbie Molefe,

the Director of Defence Reserves; Rear Admiral Victor Penzhorn, the director of Naval Reserves; Brig. Gen. Tebogo Samuel Madumane, Director of the Air Force Reserves; Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Abel Maminze, Acting Director of the South African Military Health Service Reserves; Chaplain (Col.) Masello Mthopeng, Senior Staff Officer Reserve Force Chaplains and Col. Brian Molefe, Deputy Director of South African Army Reserves.

The three-day visit started Dec. 4, 2010 with briefings of interest to the South Africans: family readiness programs, efforts to keep employers supportive, New York National Guard missions, and reintegration programs.

The team visited Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, N.Y., Dec. 5. The base is home to the 109th Airlift Wing, the only wing in the United States military which flies C-130 equipped with skies to land on snow or ice.



New York Army National Guard Col. Craig Meinking explains Army National Guard health check procedures to South African Maj. Gen. Roy Andersen, Chief of Defense Reserves for the South African National Defense Force. Representatives from the South African National Defense Forces-Reserve Forces visited New York during annual Soldier Readiness Processing Dec. 4, 2010 as part of the State Partnership Program. The program is a National Guard initiative designed to grow relationships, enhance international security and promote the exchange of free ideas in political, military, economic and social realms. Photo by Spc. Mary Hogle, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

On Dec. 6 the South Africans visited the New York National Guard's standing security force in New York City, Joint Task Force Empire Shield. The team inspected the quarters of the 24th Civil Support Team; a unit specially trained to identify chemical, biological and radiological weapons, and also checked in on Soldiers and Airmen providing security at transportation hubs on Manhattan.

The South Africans also learned of the capabilities of New York's Naval Militia which works with the United States Coast Guard in New York Harbor.

Both the New York National Guard and South African National Defense Force Reserves face some similar challenges, Andersen pointed out. Just as New York deploys troops to Iraq and Afghanistan, South African reservists are serving in peacekeeping missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan and Bu-

rundi. South African reservists also do border duty along the nation's border with Zimbabwe to control illegal immigration, just as New York National Guard forces have served along the Mexican border.

There are differences, though. South African reservists must serve two years on active duty, including one complete deployment, before going into reserve status. This can make it tough to recruit, Andersen explained. And many of the South African Reserve members do not have jobs. Finding them civilian work is an important mission for his force, said Andersen, who is chairman of several corporate boards in civilian life.

And the Air Force Reserve includes a special component of members who bring their own aircraft with them when they serve, more like the American Civil Air Patrol than the Air National Guard or Air Force Reserves. **gt**

Recognitions for Top Honor Guard



Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, The Adjutant General, presents Spc. Jared Fatigate with the top Honor Guard Soldier of the Year award at the Joint Force Headquarters Dec. 15, 2010. Photo by Pfc. Jeremy Bratt, Joint Force Headquarters.

Guard Times Staff

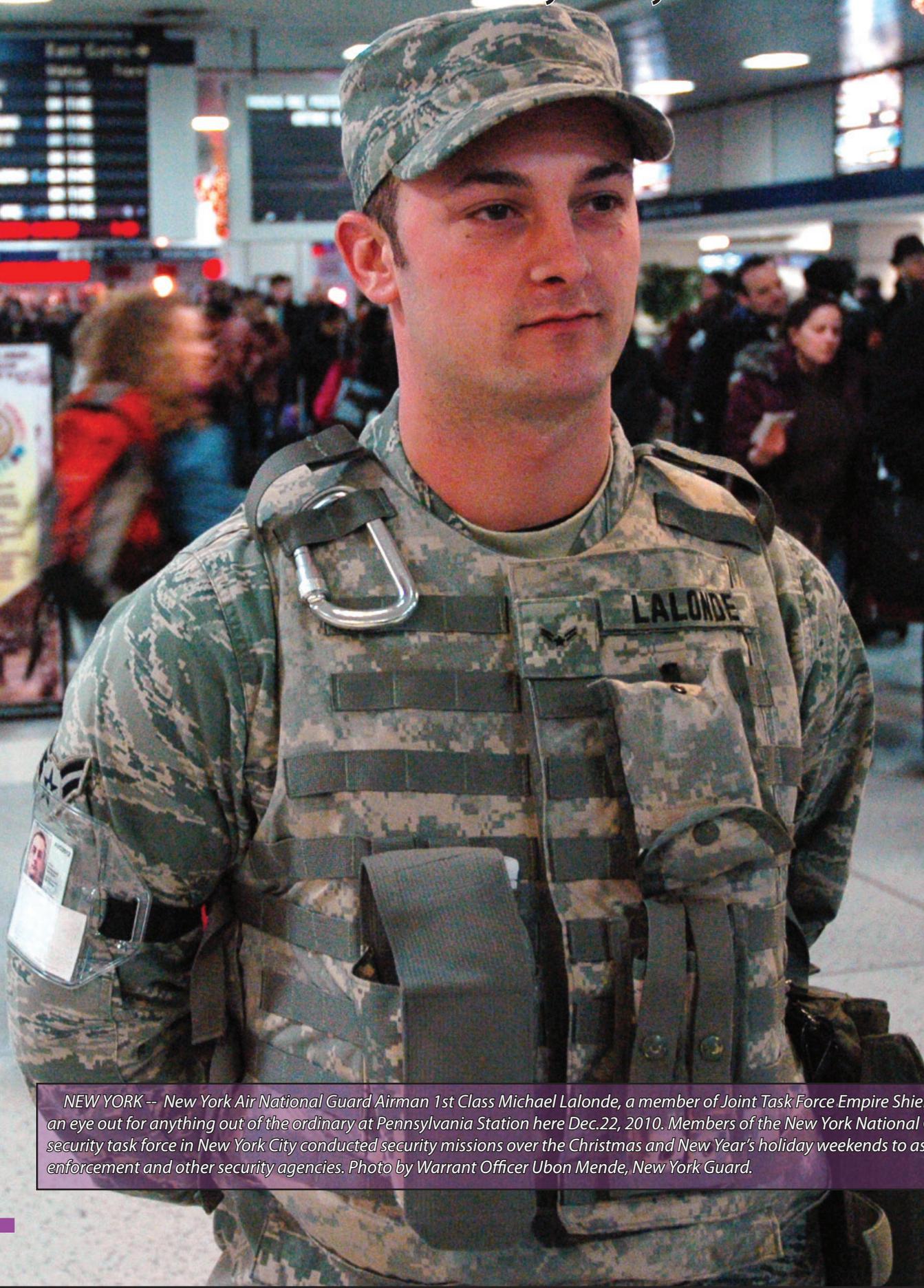
LATHAM -- Major General Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York, presents the Honor Guard of the Year Award to Spc. Jarad Fatigate, a member of the 1569th Transportation Company who lives in Sherman, Conn.

The award, dedicated to the memory of Sgt. David Rostum, an Honor Guard member killed serving in Iraq with the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, requires members to demonstrate proficiency in funeral detail duties, the manual of arms, physical fitness, and pass a board exam on general military funeral procedures.

Honor Guard members from across the state competed for the honor. Specialist Alisha Somma, a member of the 466th Area Support Medical Company from Waterford was the first runner-up while Spc. Robert Jayne, a member of the 204th Engineer Battalion from Maine, N.Y. was second runner-up.

The New York Military Forces Honor Guard provides funeral services at almost 10,000 funerals for eligible veterans annually and a New York Honor Guard Team won first place at this year's National Guard honor guard competition. **gt**

Joint Task Force on Holiday Duty



NEW YORK -- New York Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Michael Lalonde, a member of Joint Task Force Empire Shield, keeps an eye out for anything out of the ordinary at Pennsylvania Station here Dec.22, 2010. Members of the New York National Guard's security task force in New York City conducted security missions over the Christmas and New Year's holiday weekends to assist law enforcement and other security agencies. Photo by Warrant Officer Ubon Mende, New York Guard.

Trees for Troops

Soldiers and Airmen Volunteer to Help Send Holiday Cheer

By Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, 42nd Infantry Division

CHARLTON - Volunteers from the New York National Guard's 42nd Infantry (Rainbow) Division and 105th Airlift Wing helped prepare Christmas trees for shipment to fellow servicemen and women as part of the Trees for Troops campaign in upstate New York.

The 42nd Soldiers joined local tree farmers, veterans and military families at Ellms Tree Farm to load a FedEx delivery truck with more than 100 Christmas trees, bound for Fort Drum, N.Y., and the Army's 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry).

"This year we expect to deliver some 17,000 trees to 54 different military locations," said Chip Ellms, owner of Ellms Family Farm.



Specialist Aaron Hanley of the 42nd Special Troops Battalion in Troy helps load Christmas trees with Bruce Carpenter from River Bend Tree Farm onto a FedEx truck at Ellms Family Farms in Charlton, Dec. 6, 2010. Some half-dozen National Guard Soldiers from the 42nd Infantry Division headquarters volunteered their time to load more than 100 trees destined for military members and their families across the nation and across. Photo by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, 42nd Infantry Division.

"Here in New York, we will collect up some 1,000 trees for shipment, many of them going to Soldiers and their families here in New York State up at Fort Drum," Ellms said.

In that same spirit, Airmen of the 105th donated their time to shipping trees to family members of activated military personnel serving overseas. The Newburgh-based Airmen loaded trees from the Farmside Acres Tree Farm in Cornwall.

For those troops who spent a holiday overseas away from family and loved ones, receiving a Christmas tree is a visible reminder of home.

"It brings a little sadness not being with family and friends, said Sgt. 1st Class Dan Brunner, who spent Christmas in 2006 in Iraq. "So when you get a tree, it's a little something from home."

"In Iraq, there's no green," said Staff Sgt. Myles Beecham. "So when you see something green, it's nice. It makes you think of home."

The volunteers also attached handcrafted tree decorations, including holiday messages for troops and their Families from regional schoolchildren. Messages included "thank you for protecting the USA," and "I hope you all come back soon."

"Trees for Troops" is organized by the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation and FedEx - in cooperation with the National Christmas Tree Association.

FedEx began collecting trees for shipment overseas and across the country on Nov. 15, 2010 with trees reaching Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan for the holiday season.

Ellms receives numerous emails or thank-you notes from troops and families who have received the Christmas trees over the past six years.

"Sometimes it brings a tear to my eye when they describe the emotion they get from a tree," Ellms said. **gt**



New York Air National Guard 1st Sgt. Jasmin Roman of the 105th Logistics Readiness Squadron grabs a tree for shipment as part of the Trees for Troops program at Farmside Acres Tree Farm in Cornwall, N.Y. Dec. 3, 2010. Airmen from the 105th Airlift Wing helped load the trees for shipment. Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Young, 105th Airlift Wing.



Social Media Roundup

Geotags and Location-Based Social Networking

Applications, OPSEC
and protecting unit safety

When Social Networks Reveal your Location

Story courtesy the Department of the Army



WWW.ARMY.MIL
THE OFFICIAL HOMEPAGE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

WASHINGTON -- Your high-tech camera or cell-phone knows where you are, and if you're not careful an enemy or criminal will know that too and use it against you, the Army is warning Soldiers.

Modern gizmos can work with Facebook, Flickr, Picasa Four-square, Gowalla, and other social media sites to make your location public when you send a message or post a photograph to a web site.

In combat, or even at home, this can be dangerous.

A process called "geotagging" embeds geographical information into the "metadata" that accompanies photographs taken with some digital cameras and smartphones that have GPS capabilities. When these photos are posted online,

information on where the picture-taker was can be visible.

The geotagging information also accompanies text messages, or web postings you make using the device. According to Army officials, this is the equivalent of adding a 10-digit grid coordinate to everything you post on the Internet."

"Something as simple as loading a photo of your bunk in Afghanistan ... can bring a mortar right into your area of operation," an Army briefing available online says.

Photos uploaded to public sharing sites such as Flickr and Picasa can be tagged with an exact location, regardless of whether the cameras that took them have GPS functions. For example, a search for "Afghanistan" on one site can

reveal thousands of tagged images that could be useful to opponents.

Army and Air Force operations security gurus are also worried about location-based social networking sites, which allow users to find out where other users are. Some sites offer "rewards" -- or invite businesses or other organizations to offer incentives -- to users who "check in" at various locations.

Other sites provide opportunities to find out where old friends are or meet and make new ones.

Of course, these applications can also tell bad guys where you are or will be.

The dangers, according to Army experts, are that these location-revealing functions allow bad guys to watch your movements and

uncover patterns in your behavior. Tracking your locations can reveal your home or office, where you will be (or not be); and help enemies to determine potential Army targets and classified locations.

Soldiers buying a new smartphone or camera should check the manual carefully to find out whether or not geotagging is built in and how the function can be turned off.

Soldiers should also think carefully before posting information about where they live or work on any social networking web site.

For more information you can check the slide show on the hazards of geotags and social networking sites here: <http://dmna.state.ny.us/members/geotagging.pdf>

Chief: Relationships Vital to Domestic Operations

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. John Orrell, National Guard Bureau

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. -The National Guard's ability to respond to a domestic response depends largely on relationships established prior to an incident, the chief of the National Guard Bureau said Jan. 19 at the 2011 National Guard Bureau Domestic Operations Workshop.

"You establish these relationships in your hometowns, with the first responder communities, with your neighboring states, territories and the district ... and with national level agencies," said Gen. Craig R. McKinley. "It is critical to get to know people before you need to know them. We've made strides and improvements in the past, only after great shocks to our system."

"In the future, we must use the proven methods of exercise and evaluation to strengthen our position, rather than remain in a reaction mode," he said. "Preparing for a weapon of mass destruction is different that preparing for a hurricane. We must use the full power of our planning and preparation skills to be ready."

The National Guard must be as prepared for a domestic response as it is for an overseas war, he said.

"This is what the American public expects and demands of its government."

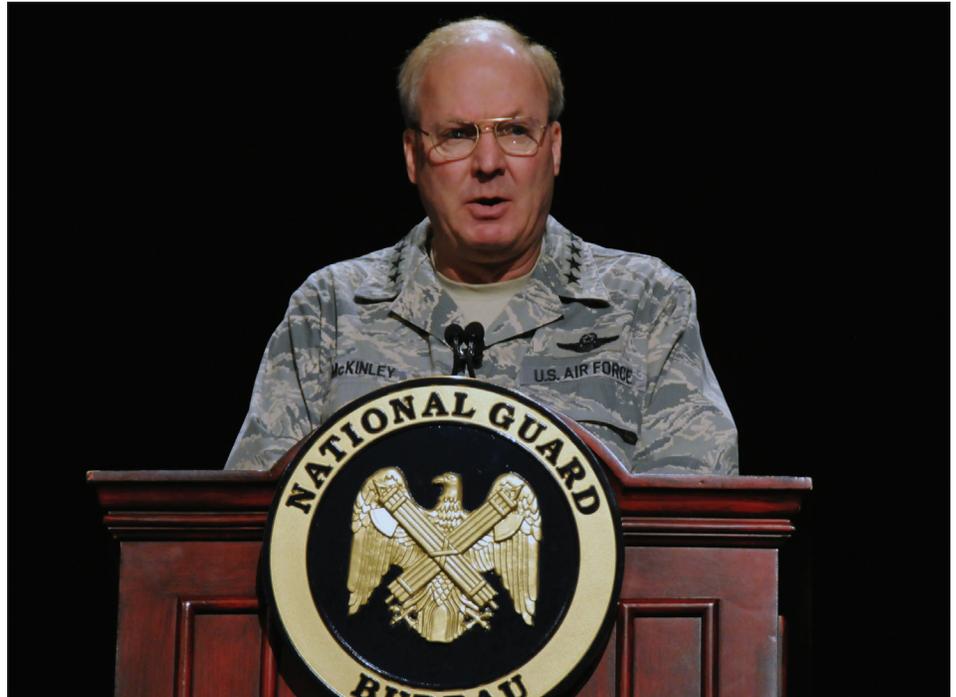
McKinley also laid out the National Guard's future plans for domestic operations.

"In fiscal year 2011, I've promised, on behalf of the adjutants general, with their concurrence, to Secretary (William) Lynn, the deputy secretary of defense, that the Guard will field two Homeland Response Force units," he said.

"We've chosen the states of Ohio and Washington as our first two state programs, to be followed by 10 more in the future, throughout the nation, to respond with the (Federal Emergency Management Agency) regions.

The New York National Guard will provide two key elements of the Homeland Response Force for FEMA Region II: the command and control element built around the Troy-based 42nd Infantry Division; and a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosive (CBRNE) Task Force.

The FEMA Region II includes New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The forces will be operational in 2012.



General Craig R. McKinley, Chief of National Guard Bureau.

"This solidifies the structure that began with teams ... such as our civil support teams, (chemical, biological, radiological/nuclear and high yield explosives response force package) and (consequence management reaction force) teams," McKinley said.

He then committed the National Guard to participate in this year's National-Level Emergency exercise. This year the exercise will focus on a New Madrid Fault earthquake event and will involve eight states and multiple agencies.

McKinley also laid out the National Guard's future plans for joint domestic operations to provide flexibility and readiness.

"In any domestic emergency, it will be incumbent upon all the Reserve components to participate in a seamless manner," he said. "I've made it a priority ... to reach out to the most senior levels within the Department of Defense and our interagency partners, to get the authorities and policy in place that allow all of our forces the operational flexibility to respond effectively."

A good example of this effort is happening at United States Northern Command and North

American Aerospace Defense Command under Navy Admiral James Winnefeld, employing dual-status commanders for both active duty and National Guard forces.

"By participating in this program, we unify the effort of the state and federal forces, under control of the governor, with strong support from our active duty partners," he said.

McKinley added that he will take up the challenge of meeting the American public's expectations.

"Make no mistake; the American public has an expectation of a coordinated and professional response to any and all domestic disasters," he said. "It is incumbent of all of us to rise above that challenge. I believe the status quo is not an option. We need to adapt and change the way we're doing business now.

"I'm asking you now not to just take part in history, but rather, I'm asking you to write history. Our ability to respond to the next event on American soil will be your legacy. I believe if we get it right, we have a chance, not just to make a difference, but to literally save the lives of our fellow Americans." **gt**

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



Cutting into 374 National Guard Years

By Guard Times Staff

Photos by Pfc. Jeremy Bratt, Joint Force Headquarters

LATHAM - A 92-year old World War II veteran, who was wounded on Okinawa and Saipan, and a 19-year old helicopter mechanic waiting for his first deployment, joined forces to cut the birthday cake as the New York National Guard celebrated the 374th birthday of America's Citizen Soldiers on Monday, December 13, 2010.

The annual gathering at New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs headquarters celebrates the National Guard's past, but is also a salute to the men and women, Soldiers, Airmen, and federal and state civilian employees who serve and who support those who serve, said Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York.

"It is truly a team effort, as you can tell from the mix of uniforms and suits," Murphy said.

The National Guard, a force composed mostly of part-time Citizen Soldiers, traces its birthday back to December 13, 1636 when the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony passed a law establishing formal militia companies in the colony. These companies were made up of all adult males older than 16 and were expected to meet and train in military skills regularly.

Traditionally the oldest Soldier and the youngest Soldier present, team up to cut the cake at Guard Birthday events.

In this case, Murphy opted to have the honors of the oldest cake cutter performed by John Sidur, a resident of Loudonville, NY who enlisted in the New York National Guard's 105th Infantry Regiment in July 1940, a month before President Franklin D. Roosevelt federalized the National Guard for one year.

He joined the Guard because the draft was going to be instituted and he figured he could serve for one year and get his military service over and done, instead of waiting to be called up, Sidur explained. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor intervened, though, and Sidur and the rest of the New York National Guard's 27th Division served a total of five years; serving as defenders of Hawaii and then the invaders of Saipan and Okinawa.

"I enjoyed being in the service, even though I got hit twice: once on Okinawa and once on Saipan," Sidur said.

Being asked to be part of the birthday event was a real honor, he said.

"I was glad to be where I was and I am lucky to be here," he added.

Pvt. 1st Class George Wade, of Niskayuna, the youngest Soldier at the cake-cutting, headed for basic training in July 2009, 69 years after John Sidur enlisted in the National Guard. Although he is 19 he looks much younger, Wade admitted. "I've been called baby-faced," he said.

He was honored to be part of the same event with Sidur, and two other World War II Guardsmen-- Spike Mailloux, age 87 and John Trudeau, age 89, who attended the ceremony, Wade said.

"I want to be in their place someday, carrying on their tradition," he said. "I want to deploy. I want to do that to get the experience they've had."

The New York Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division also celebrated the Guard's Birthday with a cake-cutting ceremony, held on Saturday, Dec. 11, 2010 in conjunction with the change of command of

the Division's Headquarters Company.

Pvt. 1st Class Kevin Adams joined the division commander, Brig. Gen. Steven Wickstrom in cutting a Guard Birthday cake during the division's weekend drill at its Troy, N.Y. headquarters.

Division Command Sgt. Major Robert Jenks read the iconic "I am the Guard" to the assembled Soldiers.

"For three centuries the custodian of security and honor, now and forever ... I am the Guard," Jenks read.

In New York the first Citizen-Soldiers were members of the Burgher Guard, organized by the Dutch East Indian Company in 1640 to help protect New Amsterdam from their English neighbors in Massachusetts and Virginia or from hostile natives.

New York gave the country the term National Guard for its militia forces in 1824 when the 7th Regiment of the New York Militia renamed themselves the National Guard to honor the Marquis de Lafayette, a hero of the American Revolutionary War who had commanded a force called the "Guard de National" in the early days of the French Revolution.

Citizen Soldiers of the militia and National Guard have fought in all of America's wars from King Phillips War against Native Americans in the New England Colonies in 1675 to the struggle in Afghanistan today.

Currently more than 500 members of the New York Army and Air National Guard are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan while 250 Soldiers and Airmen are on State Active Duty performing a security mission in New York City, Murphy said. **gt**



(At left) New York Army National Guard Pfc. George Wade, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade, who was the youngest Soldier present at 19-years old, and 92-year old John Sidur, a New York Army National Guard veteran of the World War II Battles of Okinawa and Saipan, cut the National Guard Birthday Cake on Monday, Dec. 13, 2010 during a ceremony at Division of Military and Naval Affairs headquarters. (Above) Sidur gets the first piece of National Guard Birthday Cake from New York National Guard Command Sgt. Major Robert Van Pelt.



A Place at the Top

Story by Eric Durr, Public Affairs Director



Above: Soldiers from the Army Aviation Support Facility in Latham prepare to be hoisted down into a forest clearing Nov. 29, 2010 to place airlifted platform sections at the top of Wakely Mountain. From left are Staff Sgt's. Daniel Nevins and Charles Garretto. Working the pneumatic hoist is Sgt. Justin Wilson. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steve Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade. On opposite page, a UH-60 helicopter lowers a 2,000 pound piece of platform down to waiting Guardsmen and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation workers. Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Aaron Tiechner.

SPECULATOR - Two New York Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters assisted the State Department of Environmental Conservation, Nov. 29, 2010 by airlifting parts of a helipad to the top of Wakely Mountain, deep in the heart of the six million acre Adirondack Park.

The UH-60s, based at the Army Aviation Support Facility near Albany International Airport lifted 2,000 pound, pre-fabricated helipad components to the top of the mountain by sling-loading them under the aircraft.

The mission provided the aviators a chance to train on sling-loading in mountainous terrain, explained Chief Warrant Officer Charles Rodda.

Most of the aviators are members of the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation (Assault Helicopter) and were deployed to Iraq in 2008-09, and others are AASF Guardsmen on full-time status, Rodda said

"After DEC crews cleared the area of debris and overgrowth, all of the reconstruction material was air lifted in by state aviation, but the platform beams were too heavy," said DEC conserva-

tion operations supervisor Ron Andersson. "Asking the National Guard for assistance was our only choice."

The helipad was originally placed to provide access to a radio repeater and fire tower last used by the DEC in 1988.

The new helipad will provide access to a new repeater placed on top of the mountain and allow ease of access for repairs to the fire tower, now a destination for hikers.

The 3,750 foot-high mountain offers views of the Blue Ridge Wilderness Adirondack Park and is 8.2 miles from Blue Mountain Lake. **gt**



Aviation crew members Sgt. 1st Class Steve Rawson (left) and Spc. Miguel Nunez man the sling line at the base of Wakely Mountain guiding the UH-60 helicopter above for a successful pickup of a 2000 pound platform. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade.

Getting a New Aviation Unit off the Ground

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

Photos by Lt. Col. Scott Norcutt, 642nd Aviation Support Battalion

CAMP SHELBY, Miss. – New York Army National Guardsmen from Detachment 1 (UAS), Company B (Military Intelligence), 27th Special Troops Battalion completed some lengthy training here on Dec. 2, 2010. The specialized training was for the acquisition of new equipment; the RQ-7 “Shadow” Tactical Unmanned Aerial System.

After more than a year of getting the unit manned and qualified, the detachment spent approximately two months to receive and train with the new aerial surveillance aircraft.

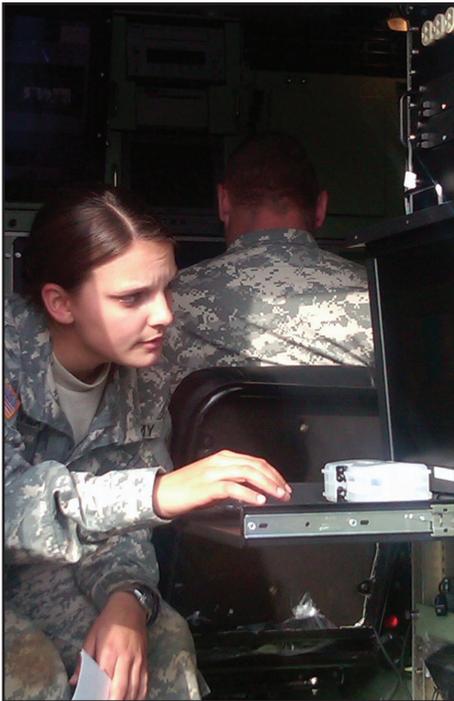
“This unit is ready to support war fighter operations and complete the mission,” said Chief Warrant Officer Ronny Blatchford, the detachment commander.

“The UAS training consisted of classroom, emplacement and displacement, simulator, day/night operations and finally 18-hour training.”

Currently, the unit is about 75 percent trained and at their highest level of readiness. This includes operators, crew chiefs, mission coordinators and technical inspectors. **gt**



Pfc. Timothy Strong from the 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion Military Intelligence Company launched the first New York Army National Guard “Shadow” aircraft in December 2010. After recovering the aircraft, he walks the RQ-7 “Shadow” aircraft from the arresting gear in the background back to the maintenance area for servicing.



Spc. Katelyn Avila in the Ground Control Station prepares the UAS system for another mission launch.



Spc. Rocco Church (right) and Sgt. Edward Joy prepare the RQ-7 unmanned aerial system “Shadow” aircraft for launch under the watchful eye of a civilian trainer.



Photo above: Flight medic Sgt. Barbara Morgan receives a medical status report about a simulated patient awaiting airlift from Livonia volunteer ambulance personnel during training with the Lakeville Volunteer Fire Dept. Nov. 6, 2010. New York Army National Guardsmen were also used as patients for the training. At left: the New York Army National Guard's medical evacuation UH-60A helicopter arrives at a landing zone prepared by the firefighters.

Air Ambulance Training Benefits Local Firefighters

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Hal Fellows, Company F (Air Ambulance)

ROCHESTER - New York Army National Guard Aviation Soldiers from Company F, 1st Battalion, 169th General Support Aviation Battalion based in Rochester and their recently acquired UH-60A Blackhawk helicopters created a joint training exercise Nov. 6, 2010 together with the Lakeville Volunteer Fire Department.

Company F was reorganized October 2009 from 249th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) who turned in their UH-1 "Huey"

helicopters for six UH-60A Blackhawks last July.

This unit has not had the opportunity since responding to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 to work with civil authorities on this scale, said platoon leader Capt. James Pridgen.

In October, 2010, Company F assumed the mission as a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRNE) Consequence Management Response Force or CCMRF for this fiscal year.

The mission requires working with civil authorities in the event of a terrorist event or natural disaster.

It was necessary that new flight crew members get training in landing UH-60s at designated landing zones setup by the local fire department, Pridgen said. Most fire departments are utilized to coordinate landing zones for medical helicopters responding to a major emergency where victims need rapid transport to a trauma

hospital, in the shortest time possible.

Other training objectives gained from this joint exercise were interfacing flight crews with emergency responders, and acclimating emergency responders with military medical evacuation helicopters.

Pridgen went on to say that the worst time to learn how to interface with each other is at a time of real need as in natural disasters such as Katrina. **gt**

Chinook Change of Command



ROCHESTER - New York Army National Guard Capt. Eric Fritz took command of New York's heavy lift helicopter from Capt. Christopher Gagliardo Nov. 6, 2010 during a change of command ceremony at the Patriot Way Armory here.

Gagliardo led Detachment 1, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th General Support Aviation Battalion for the past four years, which included a deployment to Afghanistan.

The unit also won the Army Aviation Association of America Unit of the Year award for the 126th's success during Operation Enduring Freedom 07-09.

Gagliardo led the unit to Afghanistan in 2007-08, flying in the most demanding conditions in the world and returning all Soldiers home safely. The 126th Aviation is headquartered in Maryland. Photo courtesy of 126th General Support Aviation Battalion.

Military Skills Put to the Test in South Africa

By Eric Durr, Public Affairs Director

Photos Courtesy of South African Defense Force



New York Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Troy Mechanick (Foreground) and Sgt. 1st Class Miguel Orabona, members of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry from Hudson Falls, prepare to engage targets at 25 meters with the South African Z88 pistol. Mechanick, Orabona and three other members of the 2-108th Infantry represented the United States Army at the South African National Military Skills Competition held at Potchefstroom Military Base Nov. 8-13.

POTCHEFSTROOM MILITARY BASE, South Africa - The weather was hot; the weapons were different; and there was little time to practice.

But five New York Army National Guard Soldiers had the time of their life and placed fifth out of 22 teams during the South African Reserve Force Council Military Skills Competition 2010 at Potchefstroom Military Base Nov. 8-13.

The Soldiers, all members of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry headquartered in Gloversville, represented the United States at the annual South African event, known as "Milcomp." The event combines athletic ability with basic military skills over a three day period.

"The great thing about it was we were able to do a military exchange program with the South African Army and see how the South Africans operate and see similarities between Soldiers," said Sgt. 1st Class Troy Mechanick, a resident of Hudson Falls and the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the team.

Accompanying Mechanick were Sgt. 1st Class Miguel Orabona from Ballston Lake; Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Dorvee from Queensbury; Sgt. David Hansen, from Melrose and Pvt. 1st Class Michael Ellsworth, also from Hudson Falls.

The South African trip was the first time out of the United States for Ellsworth, who has not yet deployed on a mission. The other Soldiers are all veterans of contingency operations in Iraq or Afghanistan.

New York National Guardsmen regularly visit South Africa as part of the Guard's State Partnership Program, which pairs a state's National Guard with a developing nation's military. New York has been partnered with the South Africa National Defense Force since 2005.

After arriving in the South African summer ("It was 90 degrees at 9 a.m.," Mechanick said) from a cool fall in upstate New York, the Guards-



Sgt. 1st Class Miguel Orabona from Ballston Lake, hikes himself up out of a swimming pool to surmount an obstacle during the water obstacle event at the South African National Military Skills Competition held Nov. 8-13, 2010.



Pvt. 1st Class Michael Ellsworth, from Hudson Falls, negotiates the inclined plane obstacle while competing in the South African National Military Stakes Competition held Nov. 8-13. Ellsworth is a member of Co. C, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, based in Gloversville.

men had a day to practice before launching into the competition, which involved shooting, negotiating obstacles, and running.

For the shooting competition, the Americans were issued the unfamiliar South African R4 rifle, a 5.56mm assault rifle based on the Israeli Galil, which operates like an AK-47. Each team member fired 30 rounds in different positions at 100 meter targets.

The top four scores provided the team score. "The R4 is a good weapon that is not very different from the M-4 American Soldiers use," Mechanick said. "We practiced the fundamentals of marksmanship and we scored very high on it."

The weapon used in the pistol shooting competition, the South African Z88, is a South African copy of the M-9 Berett. Soldiers fired 30 rounds, but this time at 25 meter targets.

Day two of the event included a grenade throwing competition. Soldiers were scored on accuracy and distance. The Americans did well at the grenade throw, Mechanick said.

Dorvee impressed his South African hosts by heaving a grenade 79 meters, 15 meters farther than the closest South African and four meters less than the world record, Mechanick said.

They did less well in the land obstacle course. The 20-obstacle South African course rewards agility and balance, while American obstacle courses require brute strength to negotiate, he explained.

The final event, an eight-kilometer run, was tough on the New Yorkers, Mechanick said. The American Soldiers were not used to running that much and it was very, very hot.

There was also time for the Soldiers to get to know their hosts better. The Americans attended a South African barbecue, known as a braai with some veteran South African NCOs, and there was always time to joke around.

"A Soldier is a Soldier everywhere," Mechanick said. The trip was a great chance to "represent the United States and New York State and to let them see what a typical United States Soldier is like." **gt**

Iraq Veterans Swap 69th Infantry Colors

Story and photo by Spc. J. Princeville Lawrence, 42nd Infantry Division

NEW YORK – Inside the historic 69th Infantry Regiment’s Lexington Avenue armory in Manhattan, another commander took his place as commander of this unit, as 90 Soldiers and well-wishers packed the drill floor to view the change of command from Lt. Col. John Andonie to Maj. James C. Gonyo II on Nov. 20, 2010.

Andonie, who took command of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, November, 2008 moves on to a new assignment at the New York National Guard’s Joint Force Headquarters as deputy director of operations and training.

“The last two years have been an incredible ride for me,” Andonie said. “I don’t think there’s any assignment out there that compares to being commander of the 69th.”

“(Lieutenant) Colonel Andonie really took a lot of pride in the history we have here,” said Capt. Brandon Gendron, Company D, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, commander. “Colonel Andonie, a West Point graduate, really wanted to know, and got to know, the history of this regiment. It was very important that we all understood it as well.”

As incoming commander, Gonyo said he realized that he has his work cut out for him. Gendron, a native of Brooklyn, noted the numerous highlights of the unit’s past: its beginning as an immigrant troop, its battles in the Civil War, both World Wars and the current War on Terror. In addition, the unit boasts seven Medal of Honor winners and monuments in multiple countries.

Gonyo brings with him a Bronze Star and 19 years of military experience, including stints as commander of the New York National Guard’s Counterdrug Task Force and tactical officer for the New York Army National Guard’s Officer Candidate School.

Gonyo enlisted in 1991 and received his commission in 1995 through the Officer Candidate School program at Fort Benning, Ga.

Gonyo has served in a variety of leadership, command and staff assignments, including rifle team leader, detachment commander, rifle company commander, battalion air operations officer, deputy logistician for the 53rd Troop Command, Valhalla, battalion executive officer,



Colonel Geoffrey Slack (right), commander, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team transfers from one hand to another, command of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment officially going from Lt. Col. John Andonie to Maj. James C. Gonyo II (left) in a ceremony in Manhattan, Nov. 20.

deputy logistics officer and acting brigade operations officer.

He deployed to Iraq and served in Baghdad with the 53rd Army Forces Liaison Team in 2009. While there, Gonyo served as a strategic planner with the Multi-National Forces Iraq Combined Joint Operations Directorate. He worked as an action officer to develop Iraq’s National Border Security Strategy.

“I think that my leadership style was forged as a private and as a specialist,” Gonyo, who also served in the Marine Corps, said. “It was instilled in me from an early age that leadership and excellence was expected.”

“I’m very demanding,” Gonyo said. “And I’m very demanding of what I expect from my Soldiers. My expectation of them is to be like a championship team. And I know that I cannot do that without our families’ involvement, and I know we cannot do that without our external support systems.

“(Lieutenant) Colonel Andonie really took a lot of pride in the history we have here,”

-- Capt. Brandon Gendron, Company D, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry

“So for the Soldiers that I will lead, I think that they can expect that I want to give them some thing to brag about every Monday morning after they’ve spent the weekend with us,” Gonyo said, “because if they’ve been away from their family and away from their job, I want them to know that it was worth their while.” **gt**

Queensbury Soldiers Train New Leaders



QUEENSBURY - Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadet Tracy Pauquette, leads cadets from the State University of New York Adirondack Community College on a simulated security patrol at the New York Army National Guard Soldier Readiness Center in Queensbury on Oct. 23, 2010.

Six Army National Guard Soldiers from the Glens Falls area volunteered their time to support the cadet training, acting as squad leaders or infantrymen for the officers-in-training.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Arthur Coon, Recruiting and Retention Command.



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140A- Command and Control	14J, S
890A- Ammunition	89B, D
913A- Armament Systems	45B, G, K
923A- Petroleum Systems	92F, L, W
948B- Electronic Systems	94D, E, F, H, K, L, R, V, W, Y, Z, 39B

Signal Corps

250N- Network Management	25F, P, Q, S, W
251A- Information Systems	25B
254A- Signal Systems	25U

Military Intelligence

<u>WO MOS</u>	<u>Enlisted MOS</u>
350F- All Source Intelligence	35F, N
350G- Imagery Intelligence	35G, H
351L- Counterintelligence	35L
351M- Human Intel Collection	35M
352N- Traffic Analysis Tech	35N
353T- Intel & Electronic Warfare	35T

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922A- Food Service	92G, 68M

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1108th Ordnance Company Reaches Reintegration

By Spc. Mary Hogle, 138th Public Affairs Detachment

SARATOGA SPRINGS - The New York National Guards 1108th Explosives Ordnance Disposal Company participated in the first phase of the Guard's Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program Saturday, Jan. 22 at the Inn at Saratoga. Soldiers assigned to the EOD Co., attended the event designed to help them with reintegration after serving 10 months in Kuwait.

The program was created to help Soldiers and their family members cope with the stress of returning to civilian life after deployment and to reintegrate troops with families, employers and the community. Some of the stress that Soldiers deal with, both during and after the deployment, can stem from financial, mental health, physical health and marital issues, among others.

"The purpose is to take the Soldier who is just coming out of the combat environment, who may not have a job anymore, who may have financial difficulties, who may have family difficulties, this is the place to hook him up with people who can help him," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Horner, the readiness NCO for the 1108th. "Even if he doesn't have problems, it exposes him to people like the VFW, (Veteran of Foreign Wars) the department of labor and people he may not of thought about who can help him in some way." One of the ideas behind the Yellow Ribbon Program is simply to get Soldiers talking. By putting them in an environment that is non-threatening, non-military and conducive to discussion, both Soldiers and family members have a chance to share experiences and talk openly with each other as well as counselors who can provide assistance.

"It's like anything else," said Stephanie Duell, senior family readiness support assistant for New York National Guard's Family Readiness Programs. "If you bring it to them, or to me, I'm more apt to reach out for help."

While returning home from an overseas mission didn't always mean being met by as much support the 1108th received from the Yellow Ribbon program, it has become an important and valuable resource to both the Soldiers and their families. More than 3,000 members of the New York Army National Guard have participated in the program since 2008.

"This is a big thing for the Army and the Soldiers themselves," said Staff Sgt. Wayne Brown, a team leader with the 1108th from Atlanta who volunteered for the deployment. "Before, we never had this much assistance in getting back. We would just get one or two briefings to say here, these are your benefits; this is what you can do and if you need help, go here. That was it. This time they are really taking a step forward in doing a 30-day, 60-day and a 90-day program to make sure that the Soldiers are getting the information and using the information as it's supposed to be used."

Throughout the deployment the 1108th performed the supervision of EOD response teams, EOD emergency response missions, demolition operations, support missions for visiting dignitaries, including two for the vice president, and personnel recovery missions. The unit also gave munitions safety classes to American service members and contractors and oversaw the safe destruction of over 150,000 tons of explosive materials. **gt**



Sgt. 1st Class Michael Horner, a member of the 1108th Ordnance Company (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) is all smiles greeting his family after returning from Operation New Dawn in Kuwait. Ten of the thirteen 1108th Soldiers returned to their Glenville armory on Dec. 4, 2010 following a 10-month deployment to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Photo by Staff Sgt. Dennis Gravelle, 369th Sustainment Brigade.



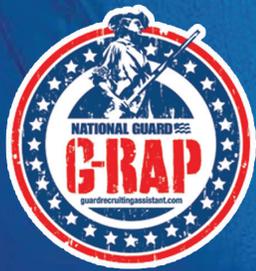
Sgt. Mark Smith (right) of the 1108th Ordnance Company speaks with Staff Sgt. Franklin E. Davis from the Glenville recruiting station during the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program in Saratoga Springs, Jan. 21. Photo by Mary Hogle, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

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Short Pole in Long Tent for 27th Infantry Brigade



FORT DRUM – New York Army National Guard Spc. Jason Beckwith, 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion helps erect a command post tent for the Headquarters of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry during training here Nov. 1, 2010.

The Soldiers fielded the new Standardized Integrated Command Post System for the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. The brigade received 22 new command post tents, along with the supporting equipment such as additional generators, communication systems and computer servers necessary to operate a command post.

Soldiers conducted multiple training events to set up the new command tents, install and operate radio and satellite communications systems, establish power grids and integrate the Army Battle Command Systems into the tactical operations centers.

The training concluded with command post training for the staffs of various brigade units from Nov. 12-19, 2010.

Photo by Capt. Robert Romano, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.



Left: Private Daiamy Osorio of New York City and a member of the 204th Engineer Battalion Mess Section, takes a break while preparing vegetables at Camp Smith, November 13, 2010. The 204th's Mess Section was competing in the Connelly Cup Culinary Competition. Bottom right: Specialist John Stanley of Elmira Heights and a cook with the 204th Engineers helps serve up a traditional Turkey dinner with all the trimmings Nov. 13, 2010, during a training weekend at Camp Smith. The 204th's Mess Section competed in the Connelly Cup Culinary Competition. The U.S. Army's annual Philip A. Connelly Awards encourage excellence in food service, with emphasis on preparation, taste, nutrition, service and teamwork. Photos by Pfc. Jeremy Bratt, Joint Force Headquarters.

Crunch Time For Cooks Connelly Competition

By Staff Sgt. Dennis Gravelle, 369th Sustainment Brigade

CAMP SMITH - It took time, determination and teamwork in the Mobile Kitchen Trailer to put together a holiday meal November 13th at Camp Smith, but the cooks of 204th Engineer Battalion, Forward Support Company had the temperature under control.

The Battalion is in its final cook off of the Philip A. Connelly awards program for excellence in Army food service, and now leave it up to the three judges to determine if they are the best in the National Guard.

"The best thing I can say right now with all the teams involved at this level is that they are operating at the highest standards," said Michael P. Pizzuto, judge for the Connelly competition. "We look at everything from the forms required by the military for authorization, the training involved, how to operate equipment, safety, and if the entire field site is in compli-

ance with field site operations." The Connelly program was established in March 1968 to recognize excellence in Army food service and is named for the late Philip A. Connelly, former President of the International Food Service Executives Association (IFSEA) and was responsible for obtaining IFSEA's sponsorship with the Army.

The objective of the awards program includes improving professionalism of food service personnel in order to provide the best quality product and service to military members, and to provide recognition for excellence in the preparation and service of food in Army dining facilities, and during field kitchen operations.

"The Connelly competition is where we come out to a field setting and what we do is cook our food in an MKT, and our whole goal is to feed Soldiers in the field," said Ashley R. Biase. "We are cooking for about 96 Soldiers



and we have about four and a half hours to prepare our holiday meal."

Awards for winning the competition include scholarships to a prestigious culinary school, trophy bowls and plaques awarded at a prestigious ceremony, attendance at IFSEA's annual awards ceremony, and recognition throughout the Army for significant accomplishments.

The cooks of the 204th made it

to the final cook off by winning the regional competition in June which was held in Binghamton.

"Winners will not be announced until January, but I definitely think we have a good chance to win," said Chad J. Clark, commander, 204th Eng. Bn. "These Soldiers did a great job during the regional competition against three other states, they are highly motivated, and I hope we are at the awards ceremony in April." **gt**

Guardsmen Prevent Hunger Close to Home

Story and Photo by Spc. Jimmy Allen Bedgood, 42nd Infantry Division



Specialist Alex Gonzalez is recognized by Sgt. Kevin Lang during a formation in front of Buffalo's City Hall following the Heroes' March Against Hunger.

BUFFALO – Soldiers from the New York Army National Guard's 105th Military Police Company here fought a battle against hometown hunger during the fifth annual Heroes' March Against Hunger Dec. 4.

One Guardsman in particular was vigilant about this mission because last year at this time he was confronted with the harsh reality of disparity he sought to eradicate.

The company presented Spc. Alex Gonzalez special recognition for his extra efforts to support the cause long after Soldiers concluded their march of more than 11-miles from the Williamsville Town Hall to Buffalo City Hall.

"Gonzalez goes above and beyond collecting in his neighborhood," said Sgt. Kevin Lang, a fellow Soldier in the company and founder of the Heroes' March.

Gonzalez went door to door passing out a combined total of over 400 flyers and letters and collected food from his neighbors. He was motivated in part, he said, after Lang and other members of the 105th MP Company helped him last year during the holidays when he fell upon hard times.

"My son was hospitalized last year at this time," Gonzalez said. "Members of the unit came to the hospital and asked me if I needed anything."

His commitment to the Hunger March intensified after receiving the support of his unit during a difficult time, Gonzalez said.

"I don't think people should suffer during the holidays," he said. "This was my way of giving back."

The potential for wintry weather would not stop the Soldiers' plan to go on with the march.

More than eight inches of snow fell at Buffalo Airport in the hours before the march, with some two to three feet of lake effect snow falling south of Buffalo.

Buffalo received national attention when motorists were stranded on the New York State Thruway for some 12 hours when a four-mile stretch of highway was closed due to those lake effect snows on Dec. 2.

"The morale was so high. We knew we were going to do it, regardless of the weather," Lang said. "Anytime they [the Soldiers] can get out and do something like this they get fired-up."

For the morning of the march, the Western New York skies cleared, winds were low and the temperature hovered near 20 degrees. But the 105th showed no signs of slowing down along their route of march until they reached their destination.

"Once we got moving, the motivation from the event helped keep us warm," Lang said.

The nearly 650 pounds of food collected by the 105th MP Company was donated to the Western New York Food Bank to benefit families in the area during the holiday season.

Supporters of the Heroes' March included the Wegman's Grocery Stores, the Vietnam Veterans/Legacy Veterans and the Buffalo area Recruiting and Retention Command. **gt**

Recruits Take First Step Towards First Assignment

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Arthur Coon, Recruiting and Retention Command



Staff Sergeant Adam Barber (kneeling), a member of Recruiting and Retention Command, shows members of the New York Army National Guard's Recruit Sustainment Program the proper way to move through and around obstacles during training Nov. 6, 2010 as Recruit Josh Ziter (right) covers him. Evaluating the event in the background is Sgt. 1st Class Jason Vest.

GLOVERSVILLE - According to Recruit Sustainment Program enlistee, Pvt. Tyler Mckinney who was at his first drill after enlisting, "Drill was the most amazing thing that I experienced and can't wait to experience again". Mckinney made his remarks after spending 2 days learning how to "Enter and Clear a Room" at the Gloversville armory.

The Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP) has come a long way since it was known as GRIT (Guard Recruit in Transition). There are major differences, such as the addition of Drill Sergeants as cadre and there are subtle changes like combat veterans of the Recruiting and Retention Non-Commissioned Officer's using their experience to teach the young Soldiers.

The RSP Soldiers are taught classes from the Soldier Training Readiness Modules (STRM) modules. The STRM was part of a training redesign that allows individual RSP commands the flexibility to tailor training to their current needs. The classes are separated into phases, depending on where a Soldier is in the training pipeline. Classes include; History of the Guard, Drill and Ceremony, Move as a Member of a Squad and React to Ambush.

At the Gloversville armory during the January drill, the Soldiers were being taught how to "Enter and Clear a Room". Typical of all RSP drills, Saturday morning began with the Drill Sergeant's conducting the Physical Training Assessment (1 minute of push-ups, 1 minute of sit-ups and a 1 mile run). Physical training is followed by personal hygiene and lunch. The afternoon began training on the room clearing which culminated in an air-soft "battle" on Sunday. The instructors, Staff Sgt. Adam Barber and Sgt. Peter Bridge were deployed as infantrymen.

"After spending a year in Baghdad conducting many raids in 2005", said Barber, "It's amazing how these young RSP privates perform as a fire team. They bring a lot of energy and motivation to the training because they understand this training is a great opportunity to learn from Soldiers who have carried out many missions in theater". **gt**



1st Sgt. Joseph A. Martel of the 206th Military Police Company conducts a Battle Handoff ceremony with Pfc. Timothy Smith during a Recruit Sustainment Program drill weekend, Nov. 6, 2010 at the Gloversville armory.



Kentucky National Guard aviators Capt. Cliff Flanagan, 63rd Theatre Aviation Brigade, and Chief Warrant Officer Gustavo Grande, of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 147 Aviation Regiment, pre-flight a New York National Guard CH-47D Chinook during training conducted in Rochester, Nov. 18, 2010.

Innovative Aviation Training for Homeland Security Forces

Kentucky and New York Cooperate for Air Crew Training, Currency

Story and photo courtesy of the Kentucky Army National Guard

ROCHESTER -- A unique training partnership between two states here at the New York Army National Guard Aviation Support Facility allowed Kentucky Army National Guard aviators to keep up their skills Nov. 29, 2010 and support a crucial homeland security mission.

The Kentucky Army National Guard currently does not have CH-47 Chinook helicopters on hand for training. So in order to maintain individual currency and skills, qualified pilots Capt. Cliff Flanagan, Capt. Stephen D. Martin and Chief Warrant Officer Gustavo Grande all began flying with Detachment 1, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment on a bi-monthly basis.

"This partnership is giving me the opportunity to fly Chinooks again," said Grande, who along with Martin, is assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment. "I feel I'm very fortunate to be able to train with my fellow aviators in New York and to also do something I enjoy."

The aircrews either travel to Rochester or the New York aviators conduct their own training and fly a Chinook to Kentucky for the pilot training.

The Kentucky aviators work with their New York counterparts to conduct troop and equipment transport as well as sling load operations. The combined training keeps all participants proficient in their aviation skills and builds a positive working relationship between the two states.

The training flights are in support of homeland security missions for a Chemical, Biological, Radiological or High-Yield Explosive Consequence Management Response Force, called CCMRF. The homeland security mission is part of Joint Task Force Civil Support supporting U.S. Northern Command.

In the event of a large-scale weapons of mass destruction incident, Kentucky's 63rd Theater Aviation Brigade has the responsibility to command and control aviation forces in an affected area. The New York National Guard's Chinooks and aircrews would provide first line lift support working directly under the 63rd Aviation Brigade.

"It feels great to accomplish a job working alongside different states in order to keep the country safe," said Flanagan, who is assigned to the 63rd TAB. "We're doing everything we can to prepare for an event that we hope never happens." **gt**

Posthumous Award for Fallen Artillery Soldier

Story and photo by 1st Lt. Mark Getman, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery

NEW YORK -- Soldiers from the New York Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery in Jamaica recognized the contributions and sudden loss of Sgt. Dayana Portela here with the Saint Barbara Order of the Field Artillery Dec. 11, 2010.

Portela posthumously received the Saint Barbara award after passing away suddenly from a rare form of cancer at the age of 27 on Oct. 26, 2010.

Lt. Col. Michael Hoblin, commander of the artillery battalion, presented the award to Marisol

DeJesus, Portela's mother, in front of unit Soldiers, friends and family.

Portela distinguished herself as a Supply Clerk and Armorer assigned to Company G, 427th Forward Support Battalion in support of the field artillery battalion.

She demonstrated exemplary performance of duties by completing over 15



Sgt. Dayana Portela

Gone too soon
A guardian light
of joy, determination
and kindness
spread to all
yet gone too soon.

-- A farewell from Company C, Joint Task Force Empire Shield, Capt. Al Phillips, Company Commander



Lt. Col. Michael Hoblin (left), commander of the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery presents the Saint Barbara Order of the Field Artillery to Marisol DeJesus, mother of Sgt. Dayana Portela.

lateral transfers, moving over one million dollars worth of equipment, relaying and recording all logistical operations vital to the success of the unit, Hoblin said.

Portela also served on state active duty with Company C, Joint Task Force Empire Shield, the New

York National Guard's standing security task force in New York City.

The 258th Field Artillery family assistance center in the unit armory was also dedicated in Portela's honor during the award presentation. **gt**

'Fighting 69th' Bagpiper a Fount of Tradition

By Spc. J. Princeville Lawrence, 42nd Infantry Division

NEW YORK – Clear. Simple. Piercing. The sound of the bagpipe is unmistakable. It's also a familiar sound for the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 69th Regiment: the sound of Joe Brady, the regimental pipe major, playing the Garryowen.

"I do a lot of bagpiping, but one of my favorite roles is to be pipe major for the regiment. It's steeped in tradition there, and I really think I'm contributing to some of the long-standing traditions, whether that be the St. Patrick's Day Parade, or a change of command ceremony, or a dinner."

Brady has been working with the regiment for more than 22 years, playing the 69th's regimental tune, the Garryowen, an ancient tune befitting the instrument. "It's an ancient instrument," Brady said of the bagpipe. "It's one tube, one column, with holes in it, and by covering up those holes I can make nine notes."

Brady said he has seen a lot of weddings and funerals over his years, and he's seen a lot of change of command ceremonies too. "I've had the pleasure of working with so many commanding officers," Brady said. "And I've maintained relationships with most of them."

Brady, however, insists the privilege is his. "I just want to honor the troops," he said, "and I'm fortunate that I'm able to contribute. My playing at the 69th makes me feel good." **gt**



Joe Brady, regimental pipe major for the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, plays at the change-of-command ceremony. Brady has played bagpipe for the regiment for 22 years at parades, ceremonies, and dinners.

WWII Rainbow Veteran Donates Hitler's Silverware

Collection Donated to Virginia Holocaust Museum

Story and photo by Maj. Benjamin Tupper, 42nd Infantry Division

OCEAN CITY, N.J. - Staff Sgt. James "Pete" Pettus had a surprise for those in attendance at the reunion of the Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation, recently held in Ocean City, N.J. He stood before the assembled Soldiers, both past and present members of the 42nd Infantry Division and presented a small wooden display box.

In the display box was a piece of World War II history that Pettus himself had liberated from the Nazis over 65 years ago.

Pettus, who served as the squad leader of 1st Squad, 2nd Platoon, Company K, 232nd Regiment of the 42nd Infantry Division, related the story of how he got the items in his display box.

His squad was assigned to locate and guard a structure known as the Brown Haus in Munich on April 30, 1945. The building was believed to contain intelligence items such as maps, reports and documents. When his squad arrived at the Brown Haus, however, the Rainbow Division troops found nothing except a bombed-out structure flattened by Allied planes.

"We found the Brown Haus, but it had been leveled by bombings. The foundation remained, but that was all," Pettus said. It wasn't long before one of his Soldiers discovered an underground basement and after entering, the Soldiers found, as Pettus recalled, "an elaborate underground Nazi Headquarters containing a treasure trove of items, most of which were unharmed by the bombing."

Pettus and his squad remained at the Brown Haus for over a week and explored the headquarters regularly. He eventually stumbled onto the historic items in his display box, a set of Adolf Hitler silverware. Urns, goblets, cream and sugar bowls and fine china had been left by fleeing Nazi officials, and now it was in the possession of Pettus' 1st squad.

"The china plates were for formal Nazi dinner parties. But we had no plates, so we would eat our meals on the china, then toss them like Frisbees and watch them shatter into pieces," Pettus said. Such was the disdain for Nazism that American Soldiers were using fine Nazi china ware as disposable plates.



World War II veteran Staff Sgt. James "Pete" Pettus displays silverware retrieved from Hitler's Brown House in Munich in April, 1945.

Pettus said he recognized the value of the Adolf Hitler silverware items, but being a light infantryman who had to carry everything he needed, he didn't have the room to pack up these historic liberated items. He had grown

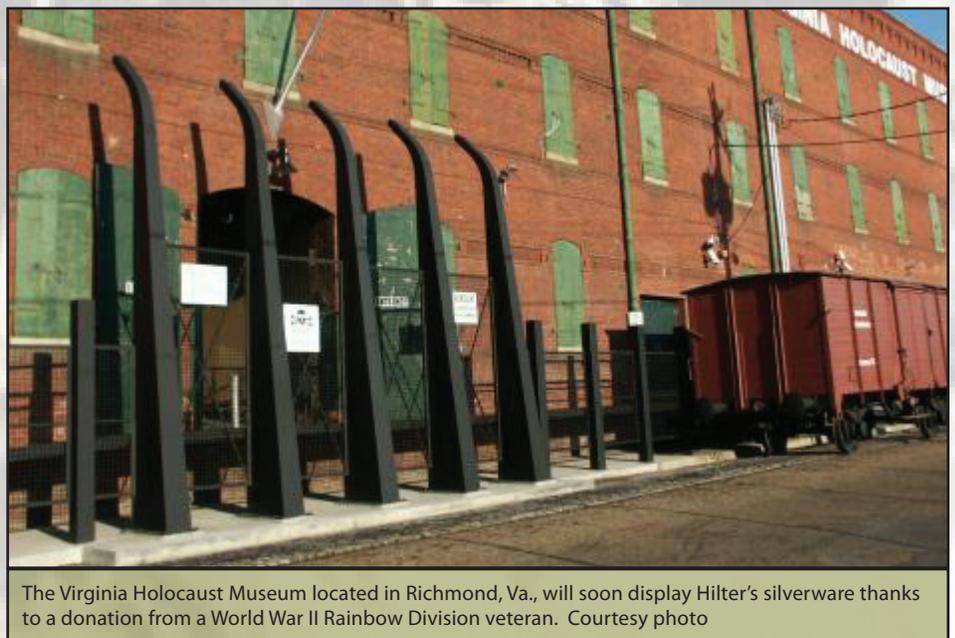
accustomed to leaving behind war trophies simply for a lack of space to carry them.

After about a week at the Brown Haus, an officer showed up and took immediate personal interest in the silverware. Without warning, this officer began to take all the Hitler silverware items as his own personal war trophies. Pettus realized he probably should make an effort to keep a few of the silverware items, and he secured eight pieces of the silverware before the American officer could take them all.

Over the decades, Pettus pondered what should be done with his eight Adolf Hitler silverware items. At first he felt inclined to pass it onto his son. "I knew my son would give it to his son, and so on, but eventually these historic items would get lost, so I decided to donate them to a museum instead," Pettus said.

Pettus drove to Va. and completed his mission Oct. 15, 2010 that started more than 65 years ago. Pettus hand delivered the display box containing the Adolf Hitler silverware to the Richmond Holocaust Museum, where it will be put on display for future generations to see and reflect upon.

The Virginia Holocaust Museum offers visitors an interactive look at the Holocaust. **gt**



The Virginia Holocaust Museum located in Richmond, Va., will soon display Hitler's silverware thanks to a donation from a World War II Rainbow Division veteran. Courtesy photo



An LC-130 ski-equipped cargo plane prepares to disembark from Antarctica. The New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing flies the Antarctic missions during the 16 week Antarctic season. Courtesy photo.

Antarctic Airlift Season Begins

109th Airlift Wing Slated to Transport About 12 Million Pounds of Cargo

By Master Sgt. Willie Gizara, 109th Airlift Wing

SCOTIA - The New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing kicked off its annual support for the National Science Foundation in Antarctica as the first ski-equipped LC-130 headed south Oct. 15, 2010 from Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia.

The 109th plays a critical role in supporting the National Science Foundation research across Antarctica. During the 16-week summer season, more than seven hundred airmen from the 109th and six LC-130 ski-equipped cargo planes support the U.S. military's Operation Deep Freeze mission.

These aircraft will run supplies to field camps across the continent and the South Pole station.

Based at the United States Antarctic Program base at McMurdo Station, the 109th is slated to fly about 400 missions across the continent, with more than half of those moving passengers, cargo and fuel to the South Pole. On average, the 109th moves about 12 million pounds of cargo each season.

All supplies that reach the United States

Amundsen-Scott Base at the South Pole are ferried there by the 109th. Over the past eleven years, the New York Air National Guard crews have conducted 1000 missions to the South Pole and back, moving 25 million pounds of cargo as the station was being rebuilt.

During their deployment about 120 Wing members are "on the ice" at any one time, flying and maintaining the aircraft. The wing's members work 12 hour days for six days each week and then work a half day on Sunday.

Wing members rotate through McMurdo Station. The minimum tour is three weeks at the station. The time involved in getting there means wing members are away from home for four weeks while supporting the missions. All airmen who go to the Antarctic receive specialized survival training.

The maintenance crews normally attain a 95 percent reliability status for the aircraft, allowing the flight crews to carry as much cargo as possible to remote Antarctic outposts. The wing accumulates roughly 4,000 hours of flying time

in the 16-week season, almost as much as most units fly in a year.

Operation Deep Freeze, overseen by the 13th Air Force at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, provides logistical and operational support to the U.S. Antarctic Program and the National Science Foundation.

The U.S. Air Force, Navy, Army and Coast Guard lend operational and logistical support to the National Science Foundation's research and exploration in Antarctica. This support is provided by the Joint Task Force Support Forces Antarctica, led by the 13th Air Force. JTFSEFA coordinates strategic inter-theater airlift, tactical deep field support, aeromedical evacuation support, search and rescue response, sealift, seaport access, bulk fuel supply, port cargo handling and transportation requirements.

Christchurch International Airport, New Zealand is the staging point for deployment to McMurdo Station, Antarctica, a key research and operational facility for the U.S. Antarctic Program. **gt**

All Hail the Ski-Bird

Blog Commentary by Lt. Col. Ed Vaughan, Commander, 13th Expeditionary Support Squadron, Joint Task Force - Support Forces Antarctica

McMURDO STATION, Antarctica -- The stadium is packed. Thousands of cheering fans rise to their feet. The cacophonous roar is deafening. Striped officials wait patiently at midfield. Trumpets blare announcing the arrival of the home team. Then, out of the access tunnel, the starting lineup hustles on to the field, led by the team's MVP.

No, this is not Joe Namath and the Jets. This is the mighty LC-130 Hercules, known affectionately among those who fly and maintain it, simply as... 'Ski-Bird.'

I've waited weeks for this moment. And this is not to take away from the tremendous contributions of the other team players. The C-17 is arguably the master of heavy Antarctic inter-continental airlift, with the C-5 making a cameo appearance in New Zealand at the front and back of the season. The Australian A319 and Kiwi 757 provide world class passenger and cargo lift at crunch times. KBA's Baslers and Twin Otters seem to fearlessly go anywhere at any time.

Ah, but the LC-130 is all heart...and a lot of muscle. Only the LC-130 can project such mighty feats of daring-do out to the remote corners of the world's coldest, windiest, and highest continent. And then do it all over again on the polar opposite side of the world.

Need five pallets slung together with telescope parts delivered to the South Pole? Call the Skibirds. What about some big tractor dropped off in the middle of nowhere with no time to drive there? How about drift off-loading of fuel bladders, followed by airdrop, followed by an open snow landing from the navigator's airborne radar approach. There's only one option.

Lumbering from New Zealand to Antarctica at roughly half the airspeed of its gigantic wheels-only U.S. Air Force cousin, this most

muscular of the world's ski-planes holds its own on the snow and ice. If Antarctic aviation is a full-contact team sport, then the LC-130 makes a good case to be its most valuable player at McMurdo. And the men and women who fly, maintain, and enable this science support mission live up to that challenge each and every season.

The 109th Airlift Wing, New York Air National Guard, has been maintaining and flying LC-130s in Antarctica since 1988. They've been operating ski-planes on the Arctic and Greenlandic icecaps since 1975. Since the Naval Aviation left Operation Deep Freeze in the late 1990s, no other flying organization has maintained the continuity, skilled workforce, safety record, and sheer ability to survive and operate in polar regions as have the 'Raven Gang' of the 109th.

This is a story of men and women from small towns in upstate New York. Of Total Force Airmen who serve in uniform, sometimes daily, sometimes monthly, but always with pride and distinction. Of Warfighters, who like their brothers and sisters in the C-17, train, prepare, and deploy for combat when they're not here plying their snow trade.

Yet, this is a story of how this same small community in upstate New York, leveraged its unique expertise to become one of the most effective inter-agency partners in executing the National Science Foundation's polar mission.

Though it is but one part of the Joint Task Force - Support Forces Antarctica logistics team, the LC-130 holds a special place in the lineup.

*Editor's Note: Lt. Col. Ed Vaughan's first-hand experiences on OPERATION: DEEP FREEZE, the Defense Department's support of National Science Foundation research in Antarctica can be found at <http://science.dodlive.mil/dispatches-from-antarctica/#>. **gt***



The LC-130 ski-equipped cargo plane "City of Christ Church, New Zealand" arrives at the South Pole Research Station for Operation Deep Freeze this winter. Photo courtesy Lt. Col. Ed Vaughan.



New Command in 107th Air Wing

NIAGARA FALLS - In a ceremony attended by more than 1,000 military members, family and friends, Col. Jim McCready (right) assumes command of the 107th Airlift Wing Jan. 22.

New York State Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy passes the Wing's colors to the new commander as Command Chief Master Sergeant Richard King looks on.

Well suited for the new challenge, McCready previously served as the wing's vice commander, responsible for equipping and training the wing's 800 Airmen.

"I'm honored to be the next wing commander of the 107th, it's a great challenge, we have a great wing with incredibly talented individuals and I look forward to leading them into the next chapter for the wing," said McCready.



VIP Pays Visit to Guardian Angel

WESTHAMPTON BEACH - Congressman Tim Bishop poses with Staff Sgt. Kieran Carney of the 106th Rescue Wing for a photo in the Guardian Angel building during his visit to F.S. Gabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach on Jan. 22.

Carney, a Pararescueman with the 103rd Rescue Squadron was selected as Airman of the Year for the 106th Rescue Wing and is competing for Airman of the Year for New York State.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Miller, 106th Rescue Wing.



Guardsman Certifies as Survival School Instructor

FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. -- Airman 1st Class Brian Alfano (right) a member of the N.Y. Air Guard's 106th Rescue Wing and Staff Sgt. Andrew Dunn, a member of the Air Force Reserve, display the unit insignia of the 22nd Training Squadron's survival, evasion, resistance and escape course following graduation here Dec. 2. The course is tailored so Guard and Reserve SERE specialists receive training comparable to their active duty counterparts. Photo by Senior Airman Natasha E. Stannard



Guardian Angels Over Land and Sea

HAWAII - Air Force pararescuemen from 103rd Rescue Squadron, 106th Rescue Wing, New York Air National Guard, and West Coast-based Navy SEALs leap from the ramp of an Air Force C-17 transport aircraft during free-fall parachute training over Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Jan. 21. The pararescuemen and SEALs parachuted from an Air Force C-17 transport aircraft over Marine Corps Base Hawaii to fulfill specialty-based sustainment training requirements. They were joined by Marines from 4th Force Reconnaissance Company, 4th Marine Division, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Photo by Lance Cpl. Reece Lodder.

Hancock Field Personnel Support Salvation Army



SYRACUSE - Master Sgt. Timothy Andersen hands out a box of food as part of the Salvation Army's Christmas Bureau Distribution Day at the OnCenter in Syracuse on Dec 22, 2010. Hancock Field Air National Guard Base has been a long-time supporter of the Salvation Army's efforts to provide Syracuse-area residents in need with food and toys during the holidays. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ricky Best, 174th Fighter Wing.

Old War Bird Finds New Home at EADS

Story and photo by Tim Jones, Eastern Air Defense Sector

ROME -- A restored version of one the U.S. Air Force's most renowned combat planes is now on permanent display outside the Eastern Air Defense Sector.

Perched on a pedestal 15 feet above a small pond at the facility's southwest edge, the imposing 47-year-old F-4 Phantom jet demands attention.

"The elevated pedestal is a fitting place of honor for an aircraft that served its country for more than four decades," said Col. John Bartholf, EADS Commander. "The display adds to our facility's visual appeal, while reminding the public and our staff of the Air Force's proud history."

Provided to EADS by the Air Force Research Laboratory's Rome Research Site, the plane was restored, re-skinned and re-built in various places by Mohawk Valley Community College's Aviation Training Center, which is located at Griffiss International Airport. After receiving a final coat of paint and three sets of de-militarized air-to-air missiles, the plane was moved to EADS. Transported a little more than one mile across the Griffiss Business and Technology Park by truck, the seven-ton aircraft required a crane to lift it onto the pedestal.

Walter Constantini, the director of MVCC's Airframe and Powerplant Technology program, oversaw the plane's restoration. Constantini said 55 students from three different classes worked on the aircraft and estimated that 4,500 man-hours of work were needed for the restoration. The classes started work on the plane in October 2009, when it was transported from the Newport, N.Y radar test site to the MVCC's facility. The F-4 had been used for antennae and electronic countermeasures research at Newport since 1972.

The Eastern Air Defense Sector is headquartered at Griffiss Business and Technology Park in Rome. Staffed by active-duty New York Air National Guardsmen and a Canadian Forces detachment, the unit supports the North American Aerospace Defense Command's (NORAD) integrated warning and attack assessment missions and the U.S. Northern Command's (USNORTHCOM) homeland defense mission. EADS is responsible for air sovereignty and counter-air operations over the eastern United States and directs a variety of assets to defend one million square miles of land and sea. **gt**



Contract workers place a restored F-4 Phantom 2 Jet onto its pedestal Dec. 10 at the Eastern Air Defense Sector in Rome. Perched on a pedestal 15 feet above a small pond at the facility's southwest edge, the imposing 47-year-old F-4 Phantom jet demands attention.



New Air Guard Recruits Are the Half-Time Show

By Staff Sgt. Peter Dean, 107th Airlift Wing

BUFFALO - The New York Air National Guard's newest members were the half-time show Sunday, Nov. 27 when the Buffalo Bills took on the Pittsburgh Steelers in Ralph Wilson Stadium here.

Six new members of the 107th Airlift Wing, based at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, enlisted in the New York Air National Guard during a ceremony at mid-field prior to the game. Their enlistment was broadcast over the Jumbotron during half-time.

"This is cool! Enlisting on the Bills field," said Airman Cara Sturdivant. "I'll remember this forever, get a picture of me," she added.

Sturdivant and five other enlistees took to the field hours before fans arrived. After walking through the same tunnel players use, and forming up on the fifty yard line, Lt. Col. James Hoch a 107th pilot administered the Oath of Enlistment as family members and friends looked on.

"I'm very proud of Cara," said her father Elbert. "I think she made the right decision, the Guard is a good choice for her," he added.

"Mom, this is so cool," Airman Joshua Velez

told his mother via cell phone. "This is amazing," he added.

After the ceremony enlistees and guests were invited to stay and join the sellout crowd to cheer on their hometown team, compliments of the Buffalo Bills.

"There we are!" screamed Senior Airman Paul Boser pointing up to the Jumbotron as the pregame enlistment ceremony was broadcast for the 80,000 fans in attendance during the half time show. "Get out the banner, they're gonna pan over us," he added.

"Partnering with the Bills gives the enlistees a memory that lasts a lifetime," said Tech Sgt. Sylvia Kirchner a 107th Recruiter. "It also gives the 107th invaluable

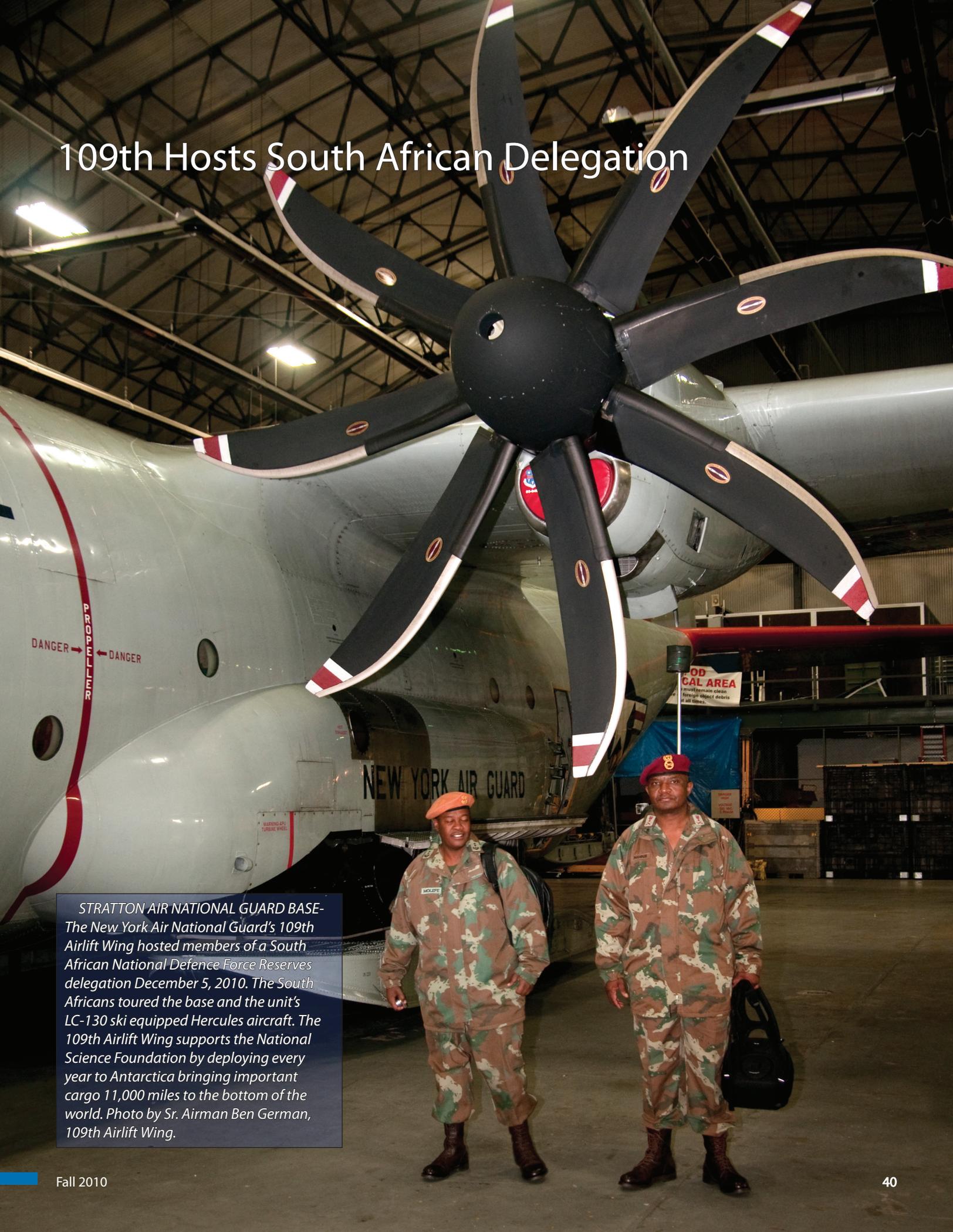
exposure and recognizes the commitment that these young men and women have made," she added.

The Super Bowl bound Steelers beat Buffalo 19-16 after an overtime field goal. **gt**



During a Buffalo Bills pre-game ceremony on Nov. 27, 2010 six new members of the 107th Airlift Wing took their oath of enlistment. The ceremony was played during halftime on the Jumbotron (photo at top) for the fans to see. Lieutenant Colonel James Hoch swears in (from left) Airmen 1st Class Daniel Tremblett, Cara Sturdivant, Keith McArthur, Christia Swanson, Joshua Velez and Joanna Vail. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Justin Huett, 107th Airlift Wing.

109th Hosts South African Delegation



STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE-
The New York Air National Guard's 109th
Airlift Wing hosted members of a South
African National Defence Force Reserves
delegation December 5, 2010. The South
Africans toured the base and the unit's
LC-130 ski equipped Hercules aircraft. The
109th Airlift Wing supports the National
Science Foundation by deploying every
year to Antarctica bringing important
cargo 11,000 miles to the bottom of the
world. Photo by Sr. Airman Ben German,
109th Airlift Wing.

Air Guard Recipient of Hometown Hero Award



LIVERPOOL -- New York Air National Guard Master Sgt. Deborah Bitely (third from left) of the 152nd Air Operations Group receives a Hometown Hero award from the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy and New York Air National Guard leadership at the Maplewood Inn in Liverpool on Jan. 9, 2011. Bitely received the award for her service to her country following the events of September 11, 2001. Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Faso.



EADS Honor Guard Puts Hockey Season on Ice

ROME--New York Air National Guardsmen and Canadian Forces members from the Eastern Air Defense Sector provide a bi-national honor guard, Nov. 3, for the home ice opener of Rome's new minor league hockey team. Photo by Tim Jones, Eastern Air Defense Sector.

New York Guard



New York Guard 2nd Lt. Patrick Megaro, in foreground, from the 14th Brigade gives legal assistance to an unidentified Airmen and family member of the 106th Rescue Wing in Riverhead, Dec. 4, 2010 during a Yellow Ribbon Pre-deployment Readiness Weekend. The New York Guard volunteers provided legal and administrative support to the Air National Guard readiness weekend. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Rosa, 14th Brigade, New York Guard.

New York Guard Supports Airmen Readiness on LI

By Warrant Officer Robert J. Sullivan, 14th Brigade, NY Guard

RIVERHEAD – Volunteers of the New York Guard provided legal and logistical support to 50 Airmen and 23 family members of the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing here Dec. 4, 2010.

The inter-service support for the Yellow Ribbon pre-deployment checks was held at the Hotel Indigo East for members of the Security Forces and Civil Engineering Squadrons from the rescue wing, based at Francis S. Gabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach.

“The pre-deployment function serves as the focal point for accountability of personnel, eligibility screening and pre-deployment briefings,” said Maj. Paul Salas, 106th Rescue Wing Public Affairs Officer. “It serves as the wing’s last set of eyes of all personnel.”

Members of the New York Guard’s 14th Brigade, 88th Brigade and 56th Brigade all participated in the weekend event as part of their

drill, once arranged and approved by the Joint Force Headquarters.

Legal officers, many of them private, corporate or criminal attorneys in their civilian professions participated in the readiness event to prepare and administered wills, powers of attorney, health care proxies and other legal issues that apply to deploying Airmen.

The New York Guard’s 13th Civil Affairs team was also present to support the legal mission after a brief training session on utilizing legal software. Civilian attorneys led by 1st Lt. Vincent Trimarco assisted in drafting the necessary legal documents.

Enlisted members of the 14th Brigade assisted Airmen and their families as legal witnesses and guided participants in negotiating the room to find the proper services they were seeking.

New York Guard 2nd Lt. Raymond Gal-

lagher, also from the 14th Brigade, provided financial support for the Air Guard members with an information briefing about financial issues for deployed servicemen and women and their families. Gallagher is a licensed Certified Public Accountant in his civilian career.

Technical support to ensure that computers were functioning with appropriate software and printers came from 14th Brigade members led by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Rosa, Staff Sgt. Frank Bladen and Sgt. Charles Comer.

106th Rescue Wing Commander Col. Tom Owens, II stopped in to see the progress of the event for the two Air National Guard units and thanked the State Guard for their assistance in processing his Airmen.

In total, 45 wills, 45 powers of attorneys, 40 health care proxies and 25 living wills were created for Airmen and their families. **gt**



Standing Tall for Holiday Ball

U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY, WEST POINT – Members of the New York Guard ceremonial Honor Guard prepare to open festivities at the annual New York Militia Holiday Ball at the officer's club here Dec. 4, 2010. Brig. Gen. Stephen Bucaria, the New York Guard's deputy commander, hosted John Gibb, the acting Commissioner of the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to address the group. Photo by Warrant Officer Ubon A. Mendie, New York Guard.



Staten Island Detachment Recognized for Hard Work Patrol Boat 440 Instrumental for Security and Support

Story and photos by Cmdr. Donald McKnight, New York Naval Militia.

U.S. COAST GUARD STATION-NEW YORK, Staten Island - The crew of Military Emergency Boat Service Detachment, Staten Island received the 2010 Naval Militia Josephthal Award here Dec. 15, 2010 as the unit of the Year.

Rear Admiral Louis Josephthal established the award in a bequest from his estate in 1929. Detachment Staten Island is assigned to Joint Task Force Empire Shield and supports U.S. Coast Guard Sector-New York for their many missions. The summary of action for the nomination of the award included participation in several support missions for the Coast Guard, including Foreign Vessel Boarding's, Support of United Nations General Assembly 2009, Fleet Week 2009 and two visits by President Obama

last summer.

The crew also assisted in Security Support of the Macy's Fireworks Event 2009 and Security Support for Prince Harry when he visited and Operation Small Fry where the crew, including Chief Warrant Officer Dennis McCoy, assisted Coast Guard Reservists with small recreation vessel boarding's last summer. These were just a few of the past events that led to the Staten Island crew's award.

Each member of the crew took home their share of the \$300 prize.

Awardees from the patrol boat crew include (pictured above from left) Petty Officer Ken Stefandel, Chief Petty Officer Sean Lynch, Petty Officer Kurt Schneider and Petty Officer Doug Schneider. **gt**



Petty Officer Third Class Ken Stefandel (left) assists Cummins Mercruiser engineer Kevin McFarland analysis of the starboard engine on Patrol Boat 440 Dec. 15, 2010. At top, crewmembers (from left) Petty Officer Ken Stefandel, Chief Petty Officer Sean Lynch, Petty Officer Kurt Schneider and Petty Officer Doug Schneider display their Naval Militia award.

Naval Militia on Frozen Waters



IRONDEQUOIT BAY, Rochester – New York Naval Militia Capt. David Tucker, at right, joins John Braund, left, a member of the Rochester-based U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 4-2 to inspect ice safety here Jan. 22. The group conducted ice patrols to review ice thickness for safety concerns on two bays and five ponds in the region. “This is done every day by the active duty Coast Guard,” Tucker said. “On weekends, the Auxiliary takes over.” Photo by Gerry Manfredi, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.



Building Relations

ROCHESTER - Petty Officer 1st Class Richard Stacy (yellow hard hat), New York Naval Militia works with Petty Officer 1st Class John Armstrong of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 21 build a records storage area for the Rochester Veterans Outreach Center here Jan. 8 on South Avenue. The joint project brought together members of the Seabee Veterans of America, New York Naval Militia and Naval Mobile Construction Battalion. Photo by Capt. David Tucker, New York Naval Militia.

Aid to Civil Authority Medal for Lake Champlain Sailor Support

JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Latham – New York Naval Militia Cmdr. Don McKnight, commander of the New York State Military Emergency Boat Service, presents the New York State Aid to Civil Authority medal to Chief Petty Officer Wayne Hurlburt of Granville on Nov. 10, 2010.

Hurlburt served as mission commander for the Operation Crown Point waterborne security mission with the U.S. Coast Guard throughout August and September 2010. The Naval Militia security presence operated in support of law enforcement and the U.S. Coast Guard in the vicinity of the Crown Point bridge construction site on Lake Champlain.

The New York Naval Militia operates a fleet of nine patrol boats throughout the state’s waterways in support of homeland security missions.

Photo by Mrs. Katharine Keller, Headquarters, New York Naval Militia.



GUARD NEWS BRIEFS AND PHOTOS

Maintenance Troops are Good Samaritans

Guard Times Staff

WATERTOWN - Members of the New York Army National Guard's Maneuver Area Training Site at Fort Drum visited with two adult homes in their area during the 2010 holiday season.

Guard members provided donated gifts at the Samaritan Keep Home in Watertown and Skilled Nursing facility in Carthage, visiting with residents and distributing holiday gifts. More than \$500 worth of gifts were collected at the group's annual holiday luncheon hosted by MATES management for the National Guard staff.

The two facilities coordinated ideal gifts from MATES in advance, including a stereo system for Carthage and individual gift purchases for Watertown.

Residents were very happy with the gifts and the attention that MATES employees gave them during

these visits, said Maj. Stacey Smith, a full time MATES staff member.

"This is the sixth year the NY MATES has provided gifts to causes during the holiday season," Smith said. "The Salvation Army, along with other child-based programs, have been the recipients in the past. This year the MATES sought out the elderly who are sometimes forgotten during the holiday season," he said. **gt**

New York Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Craig Bartlett, a surface maintenance mechanic from the MATES facility, distributes gifts at the Samaritan Keep Home in Watertown Dec. 22, 2010. The Soldiers have provided holiday gifts to local organizations for the past six years. Courtesy photo.



Recruiting and Retention Battalion Awards



SARATOGA SPRINGS - Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy presents awards to the following Recruiting and Retention Command Soldiers. In the first photo, Sgt. 1st Class Althea Robinson-Haddo accepts the "Chief's 54" trophy in recognition of being named the top Recruiting and Retention NCO in the New York Army National Guard for 2010. The "Chief's 54" is only awarded to one recruiter per state per year.

2nd photo: 1st Sgt. Charles Bunyan is presented the "NCOIC of the Year" award, given to the NCO in charge of the most successful recruiting and retention team in the New York Army National Guard.

3rd photo: Sgt. 1st Class Brian Fifield was recognized for his achievement as Best Automation NCO for the Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Force. Fifield competed against 53 other automations experts to win this national recognition. Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Arthur Coon, Recruiting and Retention Command.

Olympic Gold Medalist Joins N.Y. National Guard

By Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo, Joint Force Headquarters

LATHAM - Olympic Gold Medal Winner Justin Olsen competed for his country in the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

Now New York Army National Guard Private 1st Class Justin Olsen will serve it too.

Olsen, a member of the United States Bobsled team since 2007 enlisted in the Army National Guard in a brief ceremony here Jan. 6.

"I already represent my country," Olsen said. "Now I have an opportunity to serve and represent my country at the same time."

Olsen will train as a human resource specialist for the Joint Force Headquarters after this season's World Cup ends.

Once he completes individual entry training, Olsen plans to apply for the Army World Class Athlete Program which provides outstanding Soldier-athletes with support and training to compete in national and international competitions while maintaining a military career and promoting the US Army to the world.

"I hope to be selected and as a Soldier-athlete, I hope that I can give back as much to the program as they are giving me. My plans are to continue to earn medals and make a name for my sport and the program," Olsen said.

Olsen began thinking about the National Guard when his fellow USA Bobsled teammate Mike Kohn, who was then a sergeant in the Virginia Army National Guard, told him about the Army National Guard and the Army Athlete Program.

Olsen made the World Cup team in his first season and became one of the nation's top bobsledders. He is one of two pushers on the four-man team.

Olsen helped push sled USA 1 driver Steven Holcomb to a first place finish at the 2009 National Championships and a silver medal at the inaugural World Cup in Whistler, Canada.

At the 2010 Winter Olympics, Olsen teamed with Holcomb again to win gold.

"As a world class athlete Justin has distinguished himself as the best of the best and brings to us those exact talents and desire to serve, that we look for in any of our Soldiers," said Lt. Col. Steve Rowe, commander of Recruiting and Retention Command.

"It's great having someone who has already represented his country so well," Rowe said. "We look forward to contributions he will continue to make to the nation and the Guard." **gt**



Lt. Col. Steve Rowe, commander of Recruiting and Retention Command, administers the oath of enlistment Jan. 6 to bobsledder Justin Olsen. Olsen won a Gold Medal at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, Guard Times Staff.

Wounded Warriors Ski Windham



WINDHAM - New York Air National Guard Col. Richard Smith (left) takes a break with Wounded Warrior Robert Carpenter (2nd from left) and ski instructors Dave Zimmel and Tom Ryan during the Wounded Warrior Project at Windham Mountain Jan. 7.

Smith, the Director of Staff for the New York Air National Guard and certified ski instructor for more than 30 years, volunteered to assist with the program run by the Adaptive Sports Foundation and the Wounded Warrior Program. Adaptive Sports works with wounded Soldiers to help them overcome their

injuries and participate in sports such as skiing.

Carpenter, a former Soldier who was accompanied by his wife Angella, was injured in Baghdad in 2003, suffering a traumatic brain injury and losing some mobility in his right leg. Although he now walks with a cane he learned to ski during the weekend, Smith said.

Windham Mountain has been offering special learn-to-ski programs to wounded veterans since 2005 when they helped nine amputees get on the slopes. Photo by Col. Richard Smith, New York Air National Guard.



Grave Site Memorial for Eighth President

KINDERHOOK - Brig. Gen. Anthony German, Chief of Staff of the New York Air National Guard (left) and Chaplain (Capt.) Glen Lightfoot, Army Chaplain Recruitment Officer for New York, salute President Martin Van Buren's grave during annual observances at the grave site of the eighth president on Friday December 3, 2010.

German represented President Barak Obama during the annual event. Wreaths are traditionally laid at the grave sites of past presidents on their birthdays.

Van Buren, the first president born an American citizen, was born on December 5, 1782. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, Guard Times Staff.

New York City Residents Tour Historic Armory



NEW YORK - Sgt. 1st Class Norberto Carrasquillo explains the history of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry to New York City residents taking part in the annual "Tour New York" program.

The event allows residents to visit historic buildings they would not otherwise get a chance to see; in this case the Lexington Avenue Armory where the 69th is headquartered.

Volunteers from the unit and former members who are part of the units Regimental staff and Veterans Corps served as greeters and presenters for the visitors on the armory's history collections and displays which date back to the unit's founding and service in the Civil War. Photo by Lt. Col. Paul Fanning, Joint Force Headquarters

Soldier Featured 'Citizen Soldier' at State Museum



ALBANY – A fallen New York National Guard Soldier was remembered during a ceremony at the New York State Museum's "Citizen Soldier" exhibit, November 10, 2010.

Personal items and affects which belonged to the late Sgt. David Fisher from Watervliet were carefully placed inside a glass covered display case in the Iraq and Afghanistan section of the exhibit. Fisher's mother, Vickie DiMura, and other family members were joined by Museum and Guard leaders and civilian and military friends of her late son as museum staff completed the display.

From the left, Aaron Noble and Craig Gravina from the State Museum place personal items of Fisher's in a glass case during an installation program at the museum's Citizen Soldier exhibit. Vickie DiMura, Fisher's mother watches from just behind Gravina and next to the painted portrait of her late son. Photo by Lt. Col. Paul Fanning, Joint Force Headquarters.

Joint Task Force Soldier, NCO Honored

NEW YORK-Joint Task Force Empire Shield Soldier of the Year Spc. Michael Boncales(center left), and Joint Task Force Empire Shield Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Sgt. Neftali Perez (center right), pose with their awards during the Task Force's Dining Out on Jan. 7. They are flanked by Task Force Command Sergeant Major Basilo Colon (far left), New York State Command Sergeant Major Robert Van Pelt, (left), Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, Adjutant General of New York and Task Force Commander, Lt. Col. Greg Driesbach. Photo by New York Guard Warrant Officer Ubon Mendie, New York Guard.



Adjutant General Names New Enlisted Leaders

Frank Wicks Named New State Command Sergeant Major

By Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, 42nd Infantry Division

LATHAM - Maj. Gen. Patrick A. Murphy, the New York State Adjutant General, announced Jan. 27 the selection of Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Wicks as the New York National Guard State Sergeant Major. Wicks replaces Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Van Pelt, who retires in May 2011 after more than ten years in the position.

Murphy will preside over a transfer of responsibility ceremony between the two senior noncommissioned officers at the Joint Force Headquarters in early May.

"I am honored that Major General Murphy selected me to serve as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the New York National Guard," Wicks said.

As the state command sergeant major, Wicks will serve as the adjutant general's personal advisor for all enlisted-related issues, particularly those affecting training

and quality of life.

"The opportunity to represent the enlisted members at the state level is truly a privilege, Wicks said. "Our current Senior Enlisted Advisor, Command Sergeant Major Bob Van Pelt and his wife Debbie have set the highest standard in taking care of our Soldiers and families. While it will be challenging, I intend to do my best to continue on their record of outstanding support."

Previously, Wicks served as command sergeant major for the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and most recently the 53rd Troop Command in Valhalla.

"Wicks has 29 years of experience serving in a variety of challenging assignments in a broad spectrum of units," Murphy said.

In his career, Wicks has also served as an instructor at the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy.



Command Sgt. Major Frank Wicks in Iraq with the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry. Courtesy photo.

"Early in my career I learned that a critical leadership trait was getting out to see our Soldiers. I intend to continue my focus on supporting our members by traveling to the various New York National Guard units, regardless of their location," Wicks said.

"My wife, Beth, and I are looking forward to the opportunity

to become more involved in supporting servicemembers and their families during the state's upcoming deployments," Wicks said. "We understand firsthand the impact of extended deployments and set the highest priority on supporting the members of our force and their families." **gt**

Richard King Selected as New Air Guard Command Chief in NY

By Eric Durr, Public Affairs Director

LATHAM - A retired Niagara Falls Police Officer and Security Forces Airman of the 107th Airlift Wing in Niagara Falls becomes the ranking enlisted leader of the New York Air National Guard in February 2011.

Maj. Gen. Patrick A. Murphy, the New York State Adjutant General announced Dec. 21, 2010 that Chief Master Sgt. Richard King will replace Command Chief Master Sergeant Hardy Pierce, Jr. this winter.

King, who retired as a police officer in October 2009, after 21 years on the force, served as Command Chief Master Sergeant for the 107th. He served as the top enlisted advisor to the wing commander, and oversaw the training and promotions of the wing's enlisted Airmen. King has served in the wing since 1982.

In his new position he will serve as top enlisted advisor to Maj. Gen. James W. Kwi-

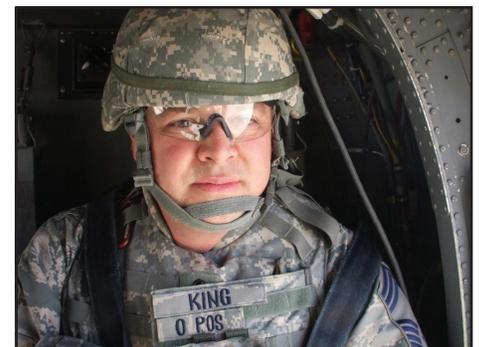
atkowski, commander of the New York Air National Guard, and look out for the welfare of about 5,500 enlisted men and women.

"I am honored that Major General Kwiatkowski and Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy have the confidence in me to be the lead advocate for our Air National Guard enlisted force," King said.

"It is an honor to be allowed to represent the great Airmen of the New York Air National Guard," he said. "I have some large shoes to fill in succeeding Command Chief Master Sgt. Hardy Pierce."

"As soon as I can, my goal is to get out to the units and visit with as many of our Airmen as I can," King said "I have always been the type of leader that needs to be out in the field as much as possible, being visible and ensuring our Airmen know that whatever their duty or

mission is, and whether they think it is relevant or not, that leadership recognizes their part," he added. **gt**



Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard King at Sather Air Base in Baghdad, Iraq. Courtesy photo.

WHO WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE ON YOUR TEAM?

* **POPPED HOT ON
DRUG TEST**

* **MADE SPECIALIST
TWICE**

* **FREQUENTLY LATE
OR HUNGOVER**

* **RECEIVED DUI**

* **RECEIVED
NUMEROUS AWARDS**

* **PROMOTED AHEAD
OF PEERS**

* **ALWAYS GETS THE
JOB DONE**

* **HIGHLY RESPECTED**

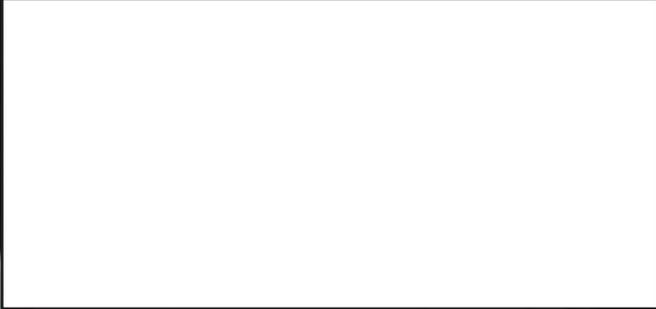


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