



# Wings of Liberty



A 42d Combat Aviation Brigade Quarterly Newsletter

## Message from the Commander



Since our last newsletter the majority of our time has been spent on the horrible loss of the crew of Dust Off 537. CW5 Skoda, CW4 Koch, and CW2 Prial were honored in the memorial ceremony conducted by the 642d. As I said in my remarks, they may not be with us physically, but the impact each of them make on all of us will live forever.

While tragic and heartbreaking as their loss is, we must all remain focused on the job at hand and continue to train hard. We are moving into the busy time of the year for flying, driver training, field exercises, and higher-level collective training. It is imperative we remain vigilant and conduct all training safety.

COVID update: the NYARNG has added a new immunization location to Scotia that you can take advantage of to receive your immunization. Soldiers wishing to receive the immunization can sign up through the NYARNG APP. You must be in a paid status so once you have your appointment please contact your Readiness NCO to be placed on a paid status.

In closing I want to thank you all for being flexible during the second wave of COVID. We are slowly getting back to normal and I fully expect virtual and hybrid drills to be over by April's drills. Be safe and I will see you as the CSM and I travel the state visiting your formations.  
Wings of Liberty.



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## Message from the CCWO



42nd CAB Soldiers and families:

We've said goodbye to 2020 and have begun a new adventure called 2021. It's already been another year where we need to adjust and adapt to a new normal. All soldiers must adapt to this change and as a senior Warrant Officer I've had my own share of frustrations and realizations. The facts are that after a year of being in a very different National Guard environment from what I've ever experienced we've made some gains but had some setbacks.

Technology has allowed us to adapt and continue to dialogue and train. However, we've had certain setbacks in collective training that can only be corrected when we can train as a unit. We will have Annual Training this year, even though it will be different in content from previous years. I asked that each of you, in whatever function you serve, do a good self-assessment and ensure that you are doing your duties professionally and conscientiously!

3-142 will be sending a significant slice to the National Training Center (NTC); this is a premier location for the unit to hone its warfighting mission, but also an austere and unforgiving environment.

I asked that each soldier going does their utmost to ensure a successful and safe rotation. I would also ask that each of you remember the three Warrant Officers that we lost from formation: CW5 Steve Skoda, CW4 Christian Koch, and CW2 Dan Prial. These three will be sorely missed and I asked that you keep their families in your thoughts and prayers!

CW5 Shumway, 42nd CAB CCWO





## Message from the CSM



As the Spring season comes upon us, with this new beginning, the Covid-19 pandemic has crippled collective training another year. I know everyone is eager to move forward and return back to normalcy, both on and off-duty. We certainly did not join the Guard to do virtual or hybrid training. The command group recognizes and appreciates the efforts of everything that you do to adapt to the numerous and last-minute changes to “make it happen” and continue to be productive and Soldier on. With all the challenges to training, planning becomes a moving target, and with all moving targets, we must continue to adjust fire. We hope to see the light at the end of the tunnel, sooner than later.

As we move forward, I cannot emphasize the importance of SAFETY. We all have a role in SAFETY. This pandemic not only affected our training, but also took away time from what we do best, whether you are flying, maintaining, fueling or any of the other jobs that you do to keep us mission capable. In our business, SAFETY is paramount because anything less can easily become catastrophic.

I want to address this now, so we can take a realistic approach when we do return to steady state and plan for future operations. Know and be honest with our current capabilities and how this loss of training due to COVID-19 can affect the safety of our troops. Ensure these second and third order of effects of the aftermath are addressed and recognized. We must continue to practice taking risk assessments and mitigate the risks in every training and real-world events. We need to get back as soon as we can, but we need to do it safely and not jump to high expectations prematurely.

With that said, the 42nd CAB was involved with the Covid-19 mission from the start. As the Dual Status CSM for the COVID-19 mission, I was able to see the toll of this pandemic, firsthand. The numbers you heard or saw on the news, as high as they were, cannot replicate or give you the same sense of appreciation, unless you are actually standing there and surrounded by these “numbers.” It is still concerning, after over a year, how many more untimely deaths are taken every day.

As Soldiers in the National Guard, we are more likely to survive this virus because we fall into a category where we are more physically fit, and healthier than the average population. We get a false sense that we do not need to take precautions or a need to consider getting a vaccination. The problem is, if we do become in contact with this virus, we can still infect our families, and the rest of the population with predisposed health issues, or those with a compromised weakened immune system. In this aspect, if we don't continue to take precautions, complacency kills.

How does it affect the military? As you can see, we have not been able to train as effectively or as collectively as we should. The bottom line, we continue to support our state, as we run COVID-19 and various missions, but we also “train to fight and win our Nation's wars.” This is where we remain dormant, and we need to get back out to the field and start training. As I have stated before, we can expect to survive the course of this disease, but it does not preclude us from permanent health issues from the virus as it runs its course, and in our profession, we cannot afford to debilitate a section, or two, during those few weeks to recover.

As Soldiers in the National Guard, to help conserve the fighting strength, we are afforded the opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. We have been in this fight from the beginning. Roughly, 26% of the CAB are committed to the COVID-19 and other missions throughout the state. If you do have the opportunity to get a vaccine, and after careful consideration, you should weigh the options and recognize the benefits over the risks. If you would like to receive more information about the vaccine, you can see the link,

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

or speak to your healthcare provider. As a NYS certified vaccinator, I can also be contacted if you have any specific questions or concerns.

And before I sign off, I want to say how moved I was in memorializing our 3 fallen pilots, CW2 Dan Prial, CW4 Christian Koch, and CW5 Steven Skoda. The 42nd CAB could not have done a better tribute to show the respect and admiration for OUR fallen. Tremendous and outstanding work by all involved to make that happen! May they Rest in Peace and may we Never Forget.

<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/785407/memorial-service-honors-three-new-york-guardsmen>

Stay healthy and Stay safe!

Phoenix 7

“Wings of Liberty”

## 3-142 AHB



Another extremely busy quarter for 3-142! The Battalion has received its tenth UH-60M Blackhawk. Numerous personnel are attending schools to become trained in the M model. Maintenance and flight companies have deftly synchronized flights, training, and maintenance to continue operating the old and new models.

Demonstrating the BN optempo and complexity of missions, March drill has units conducting drill at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA; Fort Drum, and home station. As spring arrives, so do the ranges. This month crew served weapons ranges will be conducted. Personnel are preparing for the upcoming NTC rotation this summer and deployment next year.

And of course, the BN has personnel on the front lines in New York, from COVID response to the Empire Shield mission.

This month we would like to recognize a couple members of A Co for hitting safe flying milestones:

CW3 Matthias Quackenbush - 3,500 hours

CW3 Andrew Behrens - 1,000 hours

1SG Charles Garretto - 1,500 hours

SGT Shaun Bradley - 2,000 hours

UH-60M



## 3-142 AHB

3-142 AHB traveled to Camp Gruber, Oklahoma to participate in NTC 21-08.5 Rotational Support Conference and Leadership Training Program from 4-16 February 2021. 3-142 AHB staff and key players were able to attend key training seminars and classes at Camp Gruber with their IBCT counterparts. The staff was able to begin the MDMP process and enabler orientation/integration. The 45th IBCT was briefed the rotations aviation's capabilities/constraints and how it can assist the Ground Commanders intent.



## 642 ASB

642d ASB remained on duty against COVID. December MUTAs were reallocated due to winter spikes. Currently 642d has 73 Soldiers on orders for NYS COVID response force. Additionally, through January our HRF personnel with A/642 spent three weeks in D.C. providing security for the Presidential inauguration. The Battalion also suffered a terrible accident when 3 Soldiers, CW5 Skoda (B/642), CW4 Koch (1-171), and CW2 Prial (1-171) perished in a helicopter accident. During January IDT the battalion focused on safety and Co C 1-171 held a Vigil for their lost MEDEVAC pilots.



January - Soldiers of B/642 and C/642 attended MRW located at Camp Smith.

February - The Battalion received many distinguished guests, and VIPs for the Memorial Ceremony for our Soldiers lost. To include Senate representatives, CNGB, NYS leadership to include TAG and representatives from elected offices. The battalion held the rest of IDT, after the memorial, to focus on looking to the mission ahead.

All companies updated SGLI / SGLV / DD93 information. Training was conducted across all companies to include EST/VCOT/ Marksmanship instruction tables. Many members between February and March also received their COVID vaccinations.

March plans- Bulk refueling, AMRs, MASCAL collective training, DART training, Signal training with 42d CAB TF, Flight Simulator & AMS training and vehicle maintenance.



63 Soldiers from A Co. 642 and HSC 642 were activated in support of Operation Capitol Response in Washing DC. Servicemembers conducted 24-hour security operations, patrolling for more than 144 hours during the week of the 46th presidential inauguration.



ROCHESTER, N.Y.- New York Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 642d Aviation Support Battalion welcomed a new command sergeant major during a change of responsibility ceremony March 20, 2021 at the Patriot Way Armory.

Command Sgt. Maj. Debora Mallet, a veteran of the war in Afghanistan and Syracuse resident, assumed responsibility of the battalion from Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Ravert.

“Today is more about showing appreciation to Command Sergeant Major Ravert for the outstanding job that he did and for the Battalion’s success under his leadership,” Mallet said.

“To the Soldiers, NCOs, warrant officers and officers-trust in me, as I will trust in you,” Mallet said, “together we will continue to move forward and be successful as a team.”

Ravert wished good luck to Mallet as she begins her responsibility as the command sergeant major of the 642d Aviation Support Battalion. He knows that the unit will be in good hands under her leadership, Ravert said.

Staff Sgt. Mathew Kratts, praised Ravert for investing his time in training and Soldier care.

“He is an honest guy. Anytime he would address the Soldiers, he always had a story to explain how we do things and why we do things. I think that is what made him have such a presence in the Battalion,” Kratts said, “He was a well-respected command sergeant major.”

Ravert, a 20-year New York City Firefighter, will now go on to retirement from the New York Army National Guard after nearly 30 years of collective military service.

Mallet previously served with the 427th Brigade Support Battalion in Syracuse, New York as the Battalion Command Sergeant Major.

She also recently returned from a deployment in Kuwait with the 42d Infantry Division in support of Operation Spartan Shield – Task Force Spartan, as the Supply and Services Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge. Mallet responded to New York City following the 9/11 Terrorist Attacks, where she led a team tasked with securing bridges and tunnels.

In 2008, she deployed to Afghanistan as part of the Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix VII, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, services as the Support. Her awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (4th Award), Army Commendation Medal (2nd Award), Army Achievement Medal (8th Award), Army Good Conduct Medal (3rd Award), Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (7th Award), National Defense Service Medal (2nd Award), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with the Numeral 5 Device, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (3rd Award), Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 10-year Device-Bronze Hourglass and “M” Aperture, and the NATO Medal.

The 642d Aviation Support Battalion history and lineage originates from various elements of the battalions of the 142d Aviation Regiment.

The numerical designation of 642d originated on Sept. 1, 2000 with the creation of the 642d Divisional Aviation Support Battalion headquartered in Brooklyn, NY.

The battalion provided support during numerous state emergency response missions, including the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The battalion mobilized to Iraq in April of 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom alongside its parent headquarters, the 42d Aviation Brigade and 42d Infantry Division. After the battalions return, the colors moved to its new headquarters, the Patriot Way armory in Rochester, NY.

In October of 2013, the 642d Aviation Support Battalion mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and deployed all subordinate companies for the first time.





# Soldier Spotlights

CPT Stephanie Fernandez has served as the S-1 for 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation regiment since her graduation from OCS in August of 2013. Additionally, CPT Fernandez has been the Battalion's SHARP Victim Advocate since 2018. CPT Fernandez's outstanding character and dedication to her profession enabled her to be hand selected as the J1 and SHARP VA for Joint Task Force -2 Operation COVID-19 from March 2020 to June 2020, when she transitioned to being the 53rd Troop Command's Medical Readiness Officer.

CPT Fernandez was recently selected for two OCONUS Title 10 tours, one as a Bilateral Affairs Officer at the US Embassy in Costa Rica responsible for coordinating the internal partnership program with the New Mexico Army National Guard, and the second as the HR Contingency Plans Specialist (US Army Europe G1) in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve in Germany. She chose the HR Contingency Plans Specialist position and is expected to depart soon for her two-year tour of duty. In her civilian life, CPT Fernandez continues to serve the citizens of her community as a Police Officer for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

SPC Shineeka Williams (HHC 3-142), an Aviation Operations Specialist (15P) formerly assigned to the S3 Section, recently graduated from the 42A course hosted at Ft. Jackson, SC. Upon completion of the two-month course she had attained the highest academic average in her class and thus was a recipient of the Distinguished Honor Graduate title. SPC Williams has returned to the unit now MOS-Qualified to serve in the S1 Section. Throughout the Army Education System roughly less than 25% of a class will earn some form of recognition at the end of a class or course. This title is a testament to a Soldier who prepared, studied and disciplined themselves to achieve this honor. HHC is proud to hear of this news and it echoes the exceptional qualities we know true of SPC Williams. Her peers, Sections Sergeants and leadership can attest to her intelligence, work ethic and professionalism.





**Quarterly promotions:**

PV2 Rodriguez, Michael, 642d ASB  
PFC Baez, Stephen, 3-142d AHB  
PFC Davidson, Angela 642d ASB  
PFC Delany, James, 642d ASB  
PFC Henry Jodian Tashonna, 642d ASB  
PFC Juarez Cruz, Armando, 642d ASB  
PFC Ward, Daniel, 642d ASB  
PFC Wells, Kalib, 642d ASB  
SPC Ashline, Connor HHC 42d CAB  
SPC Benitez, Ricky, 642d ASB  
SPC Charlot, Junior, 642d ASB  
SPC Dennis, Zachary, 642d ASB  
SPC Ferguson, Melissa, 3-142d AHB  
SPC Kilventon, Kayla, HHC 42d CAB  
SPC Khan, Mehedul, 642d ASB  
SPC Lambert, Travis, 642d ASB  
SPC Michaels, Sarah, 3-142d AHB  
SPC Nelson, Amanda, 642d ASB  
SPC Osborne, Destiny, 642d ASB  
SPC Poggoli, Dominic, HHC 42d CAB  
SPC Ramos, Jeryka, 642d ASB  
SPC Socci, Kenneth, 3-142d AHB  
SPC Resto, Luz, HHC 42d CAB  
SPC Riveraregalado, Jerry, 642d ASB  
SPC Serrette, Anslem, 642d ASB

SPC Stewart, Carter, HHC 42d CAB  
SPC Turk, Julianna, 642d ASB  
SPC Walcott, Lelia, 3-142d AHB  
SGT Austin, Ryan Jermaine, 642d ASB  
SGT Buxo, Marcus, 642d ASB  
SGT Cummings, Robert, HHC 42d CAB  
SGT Jimenez, Rafael, 3-142d AHB  
SGT McDonald, Justen, 642d ASB  
SGT Ogrady, Kevin, 3-142d AHB  
SGT OrtizMachado, Luis, 3-142d AHB  
SGT Palacios, Kevin, 3-142d AHB  
SGT Thapa, Om, 642d ASB  
SGT Thapa, Dil, 3-142d AHB  
SSG Altieri, Jason, 642d ASB  
SSG Armaslandau, William, 642d ASB  
SSG Baldera Christian, 642d ASB  
SSG Cimorelli, Michael, 642d ASB  
SSG Dacis, Marcus, 642d ASB  
SSG Fengarinas, Nicholas, 642d ASB  
SSG Gallant, Zachary, 642d ASB  
SSG Green, Christopher, 642d ASB  
SSG Keaton, Terence, 642d ASB  
SSG Maher, Daniel, 642d ASB  
SSG Mejiasepulveda, Santiago, 642d ASB  
SSG Patino, Alejandro, 642d ASB  
SSG Neptune, Michelot, 642 ASB

SSG Pieper, Jeffrey, 642d ASB  
SSG Pratt, Jacob, 3-142d AHB  
SSG Vignolesi, Giuseppe, HHC 42d CAB  
SFC Brugger, Timothy, 642d ASB  
SFC Buck, Ian, 3-142d AHB  
SFC Gomez, Juan, 642d ASB  
SFC Janes, Brett, 642d ASB  
SFC Patino, Vianney, 642d ASB  
SFC Rhodes, William, HHC 42d CAB  
SFC Lamorte, Robert, HHC 42d CAB  
CW2 Pronto, Brain, 3-142d AHB  
CW3 Phillips, Raymond, 642d ASB  
CW3 Preston, Gregory, 642d ASB  
CW3 Young, Stephen, 3-142d AHB  
CW4 Dengler, Brian, 642d ASB  
CPT Peralta, Jonathan, 642d ASB  
CPT Swearingen, Jamie, 642d ASB



Quarterly re-enlistments:

SPC Austin, Ryan, 642d ASB  
SPC Canicatti, Anthony, 642d ASB  
SPC Capuano, Thomas, 642d ASB  
SPC Juthenholtz, Emmanuel, 642d ASB  
SPC Kim, Jaewook, 642d ASB  
SPC Martin, Timothy, 642d ASB  
SPC McDermott, Matthew, 642d ASB  
SPC Miranda, Jovian, 642d ASB  
SPC Rathnayake, Eric, 642d ASB  
SPC Steele, Shemar, 642d ASB  
SPC Wells, Veronika, 642d ASB  
SGT Allbright, Kayleeray, 642d ASB  
SGT Altieri, Jason, 642d ASB  
SGT Bamba, Brandon, 642d ASB  
SGT Barnes, Francine, 642d ASB  
SGT Kidwell, Daniel, 642d ASB  
SGT Neptune, Michelot, 642d ASB  
SGT Pierson, Andrew, 642d ASB  
SGT Slocum, Zachary, 642d ASB  
SGT Vandermeid, Timothy, 642d ASB  
SSG Barton, James, 642 ASB  
SSG Brugger, Timothy, 642d ASB  
SSG Buck, Ian, 642d ASB  
SSG Janes, Brett, 642d ASB  
SSG Quinones, Pedro, 642d ASB  
SFC Carson, Joshua, HHC 42 CAB  
SPC Ferguson, Myles, HHC 42 CAB  
1SG Brammer, HHC 42 CAB  
SPC Smith, Bradley, HHC 42 CAB  
SGT Houck, Jeffrey, HHC 42 CAB  
SGT Pratt, Jamie, HHC 42 CAB  
SFC Rhodes, William, HHC 42 CAB  
SGT Vazquez, Jonathan, HHC 42 CAB

Do you know a Soldier or unit that you would like to nominate for the next issue's Soldier Spotlight or Unit Spotlight? If so, please email the Public Affairs Team:

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Thank you!

\*For this issue of The Wings of Liberty, Jan- March 2021

**JAN - MARCH 2021**

## 42D CAB

Quarterly Newsletter

**Commanding Officer**

Col. Michael Charnley

**Command Chief Warrant Officer**

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mark Shumway

**Command Sergeant Major**

Command Sgt. Maj. Arnold Reyes

**Public Affairs Officer**

1st Lt. Lauren Warner



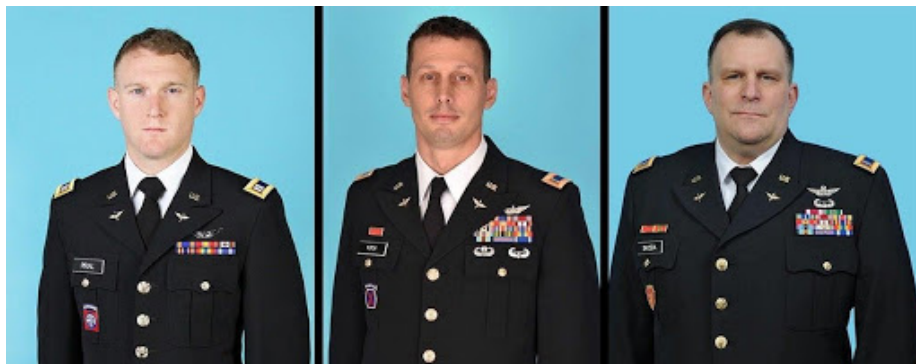
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We will continue to remember our fallen brothers- CW2 Daniel Prial, CW4 Christian Koch, CW5 Steve Skoda. Gone, but never forgotten.