

THE NEXUS



Volume IX

New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force Spring 2017



Our Mission: To provide highly skilled personnel and specialized equipment to Law Enforcement Agencies and Community Based Organizations in order to enhance their efforts to counter the drug threat.

THE COLONEL'S CORNER



Hello New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force,

I hope everyone observed Memorial Day recently and participated in your local remembrance services. I have had the opportunity to speak in different communities over the last few years and although the parades are different, the ceremonies in the local cemeteries or at the local Veteran's Memorials are very similar. It is always good to see strong community support in the large crowds and to see parents and grandparents

with young children explaining the ceremony to them. Even with the inclement weather this year, which forced most ceremonies into local schools, the community support remained strong.

The Task Force continues to grow and we currently support 75 LEAs and 95 CBOs. There are a number of jobs we are interviewing for with the application process closing in the month of June. These jobs are both Criminal Analysts and Civil Operators across the State.

We recently ran a very successful Counter Threat Finance (CTF) course for some of our Criminal Analysts. The course consisted of about 20 hours of instruction followed by a 20 hour practical exercise based on the declassified parts of a real world CTF case. The Criminal Analysts in attendance all success-

fully completed the course requirements and are now armed with CTF knowledge to provide additional assistance to their LEAs. We will conduct additional CTF courses for our Criminal Analysts in the future. Thanks to 1SG Bacon and 1LT Hagan for spearheading this initiative.

Our Aviation Liaison Officers (LNO) have conducted aviation courses around the State to better prepare LEAs to request aviation support and the requirements for that support. Let Chief Napolitano know if you work with LEAs that will required aviation support that have not attended this training.

I have said it before and I continue to be impressed with the more Task Force members that I meet and your accomplishments. Counterdrug has a very positive image around the State, on both the Army and Air sides, and every time I am around Soldiers and Airmen, and their leadership, they are asking me

about the program, what we do and how to get hired. The Job Announcement Fliers we distribute to the Army and Air have been very successful in spreading the word about our jobs. I have had numerous commanders approach me and say that when they receive the fliers they think about who in their units would be good for the job. Many of those Soldiers and Airmen are employed and not looking for a Counterdrug opportunity, but they are intrigued and we have hired some that would normally not have applied.

Summer is slowly arriving in most parts of the State. Be safe with the summer activities that we all enjoy, be it biking, motorcycle riding, boating, hiking, swimming, etc... and enjoy yourselves.

Thank you for all that you do every day and keep up the good work!

~COL Carlton Cleveland

Check us out at: <http://dmna.ny.gov/counterdrug/>

THE CSM'S "LISTEN UP!"



Greetings NY Counterdrug,

I want to share with you some perspective on where we are at today as a program. We currently have over 150 members and are looking at the possibilities of hiring more. This is the largest the program has been since I've been a member. It obviously helps

when we see an increase in our budget. However, I choose to look at it from a different perspective. Even if our budget increases, it doesn't always mean we have the ability to allocate the funding. There has to be a requirement or a request from new agencies or agencies we already support. With that said, I can tell you that over the last few years we have seen a greater increase in the number of agencies that would like our support. A great deal of credit for this goes to you all. Through your hard work and dedication you've helped create a positive reputation and image throughout the state. This doesn't happen over-

night. I do think that we've done a better job of selling our program and our capabilities, but your professionalism, training, and capabilities are also speaking volumes. I challenge you to keep looking at ways to improve, as there is always room to grow. All it takes is a few missteps and everything previously discussed is for naught. Kudos to you all and stay after it!

Just a reminder, evaluations are coming due. I ask you to be fair and honest. This is a tool to help us get better as a team, region, and as a program.

I want to welcome the new hires. For those I haven't met yet, I look forward to meeting

you in the near future.

Lastly, I want to congratulate 1SG Troccia, 1SG Bacon and SGT Amer. They have been recognized by NGB for their role in developing curriculum for CD courses and for being great instructors. Some ground breaking stuff and another fine example of the great things that are going on throughout our program.

For those of you still down range, be safe and we look forward to your return.

I wish you all the best this summer. Stay safe and keep up the great work!

~CSM Joseph Freyn

J8 Finance Guidance



J8 Contact Information

OC Newberry – (518)344-3458
 M\$G Mole\$ky – (518)344-3452
 T\$gt Blai\$ – (518)344-3437
 T\$gt Perkin\$ – (518)344-3437

DTS Hot Corner

IMPORTANT – Please let J8 know immediately if someone in your region does not have a government travel card.

Reminders:

- All DTS should be in 5 Business days prior to travel
- Soldiers / Airmen that need their Government Travel Card turned on need to call 3 days prior to travel
- Attach letters of intent or instructions to applicable travel
- Please do not call J8 if you just put your order in and it is not approved yet
- Please contact your regional admin prior to contacting J8 with any issues related to DTS

~OC

Check us out at: <http://dmna.ny.gov/counterdrug/>

CHIEF'S SHOP: Safe Words from the Safety Officer



As the summer months approach, many Soldiers / Airmen and their loved ones will take advantage of the warmer temperatures by taking

vacations and road trips, participating in water sports and enjoying other outdoor activities. Unfortunately, during this time of increased activity, safety is usually the last thing on anybody's mind. While spring and summer are a time for fun in the sun, they're some of the most deadly months, with notable increases in off-duty fatalities.

Also remember, all Counterdrug members that are motorcycle riders must be

in compliance with the Counterdrug motorcycle safety policy memo prior to riding for the season. This includes one of the following: BRC, ERC, MSRC, or MRT. These courses are scheduled through your M-Day unit and are mandatory.

If anyone has questions feel free to call or email me any-time. (518) 365-7950 or

michelle.l.hart33.mil@mail.mil

Safe riding everyone!

~CW2 Michelle Hart



CHIEF'S SHOP: Security & Support / LUH 72a Lakota



With the final quarter of FY 17 approaching, the Aviation shop is gearing up for the peak of Marijuana (MJ) season coming. Starting shortly after July 1st, we will begin aerial reconnaissance missions for MJ spotting in many counties. We will conduct as

many MJ spotting missions as we can, especially within a 50 mile radius of Albany for the month of July. Our primary months of eradication will be August and September and we'll kick off with Western Region counties of Cattaraugus and Allegheny in the first week of August. Immediately following that week, we will shift back to the NE region, County of Rensselaer for two to three days of *Erad*. Other days and weeks are still available, but August and September are filling up fast. Regions; please have your LEAs submit their request for dates as soon

as possible. Once you have a date request, forward to the J-3/Aviation section for scheduling and coordination.

So far for this FY, Aviation has trained 35 total LEOs from 13 different agencies spanning across all three of our regions. Most of our training occurred during our workshop tours across the state in March and April, but if you have any LEA customers who plan on using Aviation this FY and are not trained, please don't hesitate to let us know. We can make arrangements with them to get them trained as soon as possible.

Lastly, LT Devis Ceci is on board with us full time and he will be your primary contact for the rest of this FY while I am TDY at Ft. Rucker, AL from July-September.

Best regards from Aviation and Stay Safe!



~CW2 Phillip Napolitano

News Around the Regions

Operation “Bricktown”: The Initiation of S.U.R.G.E.

27 April, Syracuse, New York, NY Attorney General Eric Schneiderman addressed a room filled with law enforcement representatives, political and public officials, and the press on a recent takedown that took place the day before and earlier that morning. The takedown, named *Operation Bricktown*, was a year-long investigation that culminated in the apprehension and indictment of 52 individuals who are allegedly involved with the ‘Bricktown Gang’ and its alleged illegal activities. The operation was a resounding success resulting in a major bust that will crimp the occurrences of Central NY’s drug trafficking and violent crime activities.

The Bricktown Gang is purportedly responsible for a drug trafficking ring that transported heroin and cocaine throughout Onondaga, Oswego, Madison, Cortland, and St. Lawrence Counties; as well as supposedly culpable for a significant amount of violence, especially on the



Above: New York State Attorney General, Eric Schneiderman addresses the press concerning the takedown Operation Bicktown, in Syracuse, NY. Operation Bricktown apprehended 52 individuals on various charges as well as taking several small arms weapons, over \$3500 laundered USD, over two kilograms of cocaine, 1328 envelopes of heroin, waiting to be distributed, and over 20 grams of lose heroin off the street.

streets of Syracuse itself.

“These arrests send an unmistakable message: dealing death and violence in our communities will not be tolerated – and we will bring you to justice,” expressed AG Schneiderman. “Together with last summer’s *Operation Smackdown* – one of the biggest drug busts in Syracuse history – we’ve taken more than 120 violent drug dealers off the streets of Syracuse, making a major dent in the violent drug gangs plaguing the city. With heroin-related deaths on the rise in our communities, we are committed to partner-

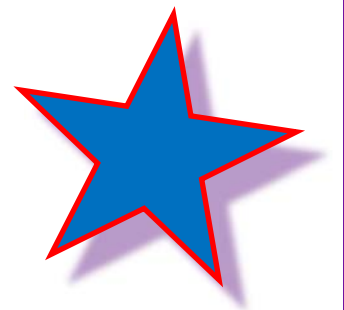
ing with local law enforcement to tackle the crisis.”

According to a report, overall deaths from chronic drug abuse and overdoses in NY has increased 71 percent between 2010 and 2015. Operation Bricktown is the first execution of AG Schneiderman’s Suburban and Upstate Response to the Growing Epidemic (‘SURGE’) initiative, a multi-pronged effort to target gangs and individuals who deal drugs and commit acts of violence in communities across New York State.

Operation Bricktown re-

sulted in the seizure of over two kilograms of cocaine, 1,128 envelopes of heroin and over 20 grams of loose heroin, four hand guns, a 12-gauge shotgun, drug paraphernalia, \$3,657 USD, and ecstasy pills and psychedelic mushrooms. Also, due directly to this operation, law enforcement was able to thwart several planned shootings.

Involved in the investigation’s partnership were the New York Attorney General’s Office, the Syracuse Police Department, the New York State Police (including its K-9 Unit), Onondaga County District Attorney’s Office, and Onondaga County Probation Department, New York State Division of Parole, the United States Marshals Service, and the New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force.



News Around the Regions

Operation "Bricktown" Continued...



LEFT: Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner remarks to the group, "Operation Bricktown has been a successful effort to get dangerous gangs off our streets. I appreciate the efforts of the men and women of all the agencies involved as well as for Attorney General Schneiderman for making this operation possible."



ABOVE: AG Schneiderman stands with New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, North East Region members (from l to r), SGT Landers, Capt Adam Rinaldi (NE Commander), SGT White and TSgt Paula Carroll for a Photo-op. The four NE members were directly connected to this case and provided an unmeasurable amount of knowledge, experience, and assistance to the investigation and the Syracuse Police Department.



RIGHT: Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman shows the gathered reporters a 9mm Lorcin handgun that when confiscated, was loaded and had its serial number obliterated. Although, through proven ballistics testing, the armament was linked to 13 incidents in Syracuse from 2015 to 2016.



BELOW: SGT Carey White and SGT Nicholas Landers stand in front of a board (they created) depicting the 52 indicted individuals, 30 of which are allegedly members of the Bricktown Gang. The indictments collectively charge the 52 persons with 170 crimes, including: operating as a major trafficker, and various counts of criminal sale and criminal possession of a controlled substance (class A and B felonies), and conspiracy to commit those crimes. In addition to the 49 individuals facing narcotics charges, two sets of individuals are also charged with conspiracy to murder rival gang members.



ABOVE and LEFT: Confiscated small arms of various sizes and calibers are displayed at the press conference covering Operation Bricktown. When seized, all the weapons were loaded and ready to fire.

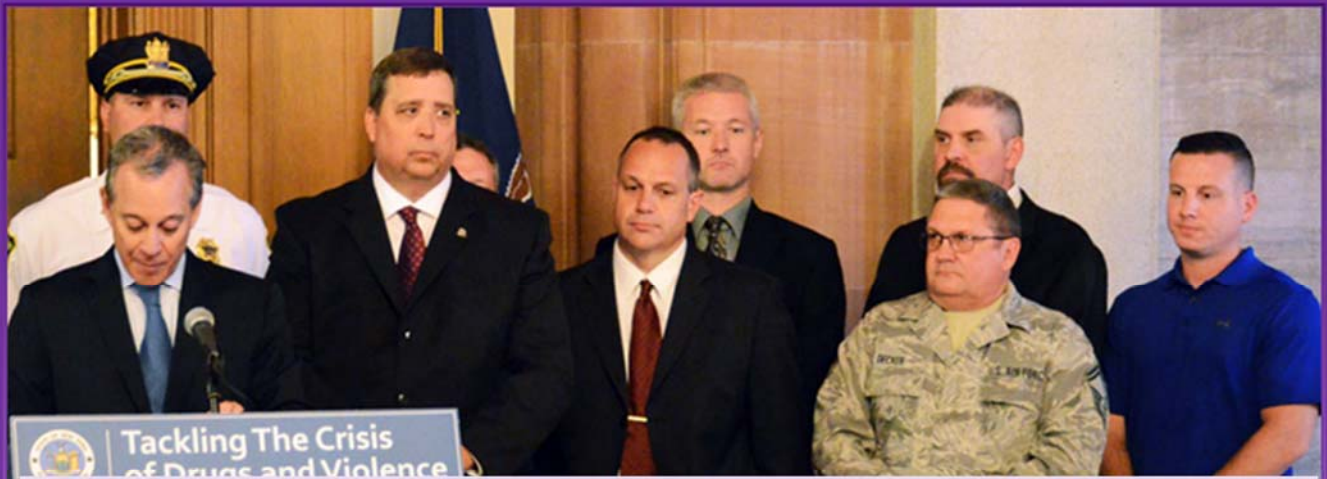


BELOW: 1,128 envelopes of heroin, 20 grams of loose heroin, two kilograms of cocaine, drug paraphernalia (including scales, packaging and cutting agents), ecstasy pills, psychedelics "shrooms" and \$,657 U.S. Dollars were on exhibit to show the magnitude of the haul.



News Around the Regions

Operation “Wrecking Ball”; Another S.U.R.G.E. Initiative



THIS IMAGE: AG Eric Scheidermann introduces individuals (including members of CDTF NE Region: SMSgt Michael Decker and in the cobalt blue polo shirt, SGT Michael Hart) from the various organizations they represent that took worked in conjunction for Operation Wrecking Ball.

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman addressed the press at the NY State Capitol Building on 22 June about a major takedown in Albany that morning. It was announced that another S.U.R.G.E. mission, *Operation Wrecking Ball*, was a successful and major takedown that will significantly disrupt the narcotic pipeline into the Capital Region.

Resulting from the sting, 19 individuals were charged with over 225 crimes, over three pounds of bulk cocaine (with a street value of \$147,000) was confiscated, and \$63,000 USD with 35 small-arms weapons were seized. Large quantities of drug paraphernalia were also apprehended.

Operation Wrecking Ball

marks the sixth bust since AG Schneiderman announced the targeted crackdown of NY’s growing (and often violent) heroin, opioid, and narcotics trafficking networks. In the past two months, Operations: Bricktown, Un-Wise, Gravy Train, Bloodsport, and Pipeline have resulted in over 260 traffickers and dealers being taken off the streets throughout New York State.

The investigation and operation were jointly executed by the AG’s Organized Crime Task Force (OCTF), New York State Police, Albany Police Department and the *New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force*.

RIGHT: The names and resulting stats of the six operations that have indicted 265 people for a number of drug and violence related crimes.



THIS IMAGE: Various firearms and drug paraphernalia confiscated during Operation Wrecking Ball. The number of weapons taken off NY State streets keeps increasing with the S.U.R.G.E. Initiative.

OCTF/SURGE Initiative		
OPERATION	DATE	NO. ARRESTED
Wrecking Ball	June 22	19
Pipeline	June 20	16
Blood Sport	June 19	41
Gravy Train	June 2	106
Unwise	May 9	31
Bricktown	April 22	52
		Total Arrested: 265

News Around the Regions

A Summer Season Safety Word

The Chief of the National Guard Bureau and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Joseph L. Lengyel issued a statement regarding the summer season and staying safe. Common sense and situational awareness are key factors in the safety of yourself and everyone around you while enjoying the warmer weather. Please read Gen. Lengyel's message below.



NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

1636 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20301-1636

JUN 19 2017

2017 PRESERVING THE FORCE SUMMER SAFETY MESSAGE

Summer is here and warmer weather brings opportunities for outdoor recreation, family vacations, and weekend adventures. Unfortunately, summer also tends to bring hazards and dangers that can tragically take precious lives from our organization. You are an important member of our National Guard and I urge you to make safe decisions and avoid unnecessary risks.

I encourage you to enjoy the summer with family and friends while simultaneously employing risk management. Use personal protective equipment (PPE) and avoid reckless behavior. Accidents increase during the summertime, as we often fail to consider the risks of our favorite activities such as sports, hiking, camping, swimming, and grilling. Be aware of heat-related injuries and how to prevent them; ensure to clear areas used for camping, cooking, or fireworks for any potential nearby or overhead combustibles. While enjoying water-related activities, do not swim alone or in unapproved areas.

Continue your vigilance on traffic safety. Be informed of weather conditions along your planned route, do not use excessive speed, limit consumption of alcohol, know the signs of fatigue, and rest when needed. If you ride a motorcycle, please complete the required training, comply with DoD Instruction 6055.04, and always wear PPE.

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Please take care of yourself and the Soldiers and Airmen around you. Let's make 2017 our safest summer yet.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lengyel".

JOSEPH L. LENGYEL
General, U.S. Air Force
Chief, National Guard Bureau

News Around the Regions

CDU Contemplates New Device

Heuresis translated from the Greek language to English is invention. Invention through discovery. A way of finding answers by accident, one invents something for a purpose only to find another purpose. When two of the engineers responsible for the design of the Mini-Z Scanner the CDU utilizes, formed their own business in Newton Massachusetts, there was no other name for newly formed company but Heuresis.

Fast forward a few years and Heuresis has developed and is now pitching a new hand-held scanner that boasts advantages over its predecessor, the Mini-Z.

The Heuresis HBI-120 Back Scatter X-Ray Imager is smaller, lighter, and stronger than its parent device. NYNG CDTF HQ hosted a Heuresis representative, Mr. Michael McCarthy on June 8th to demonstrate the new device's capabilities to several members of the HQ staff. Many questions were asked along with a demonstration and hands-on trials. The HBI-120 could see through steel, floor tiles, sheet rock, and thicker barriers than the Mini-Z all the while being held a few inches further out.

With twice as much kilo-volts of power, the HBI-120 has a stronger, more clear image, it can store around ten-thousand image scans, and is a single person operation due to

its image screen being mounted directly on the device.

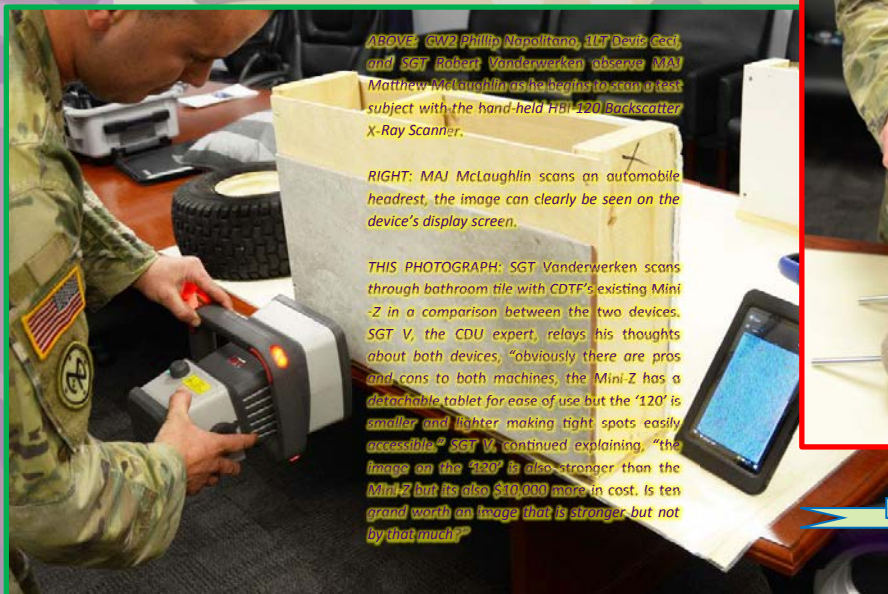
The question now, is it worth the extra cost? The Mini-Z has dropped its price from \$49,000 a unit to \$32,000. The HBI-120 is ten-thousand more dollars at \$42,000. More investigation and incentives to purchase are still ongoing.



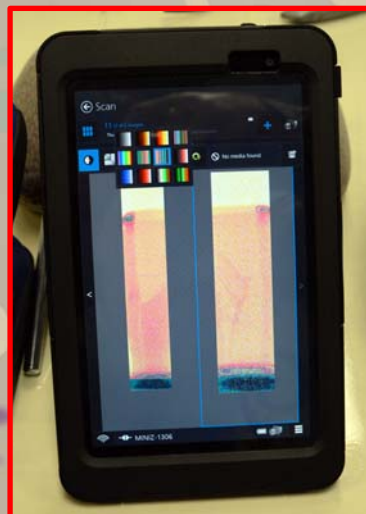
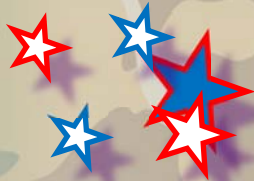
ABOVE: GWJ Phillip Napolitano, 1LT Davis Cecil, and SGT Robert Vanderwerken observe MAJ Matthew McLaughlin as he begins to scan a test subject with the hand-held HBI-120 Backscatter X-Ray Scanner.

RIGHT: MAJ McLaughlin scans an automobile headrest, the image can clearly be seen on the device's display screen.

THIS PHOTOGRAPH: SGT Vanderwerken scans through bathroom tile with CDTF's existing Mini-Z in a comparison between the two devices. SGT V, the CDU expert, relays his thoughts about both devices, "obviously there are pros and cons to both machines, the Mini-Z has a detachable tablet for ease of use but the '120' is smaller and lighter making tight spots easily accessible." SGT V continued explaining, "the image on the '120' is also stronger than the Mini-Z but its also \$10,000 more in cost. Is ten grand worth an image that is stronger but not by that much?"



RIGHT and Far RIGHT: The comparison between the two devices' images. The left image is from the Mini-Z and the right—the HBI-120. The devices were put to the test and both performed well. After scanning through a test wall, a hand gun can clearly be seen in both images. The image from the '120' is stronger due to its 120 keV generator, 50 more keV than its predecessor, the Mini-Z.



Check us out at: <http://dmna.ny.gov/counterdrug/>

News Around the Regions

Counter Treat Finance Class at Camp Smith

10 May, 2017, 1SG Robert Bacon, of the Counterdrug Task Force NYC Region, facilitated a weeklong class covering Counter Threat Finance fundamentals and techniques at Camp Smith in the Bear Mountain area of southern New York.

Made up of members from the CDTF NYC and North East Regions, apprentices were instructed on topics that introduced to them the general practices and applications to the more intricate nuances and inner workings of Counter Threat Finance. The skills acquired, enabled them to be effective in their duties assisting LEA and reporting to CDTF leadership.

Topics discussed began with the General Application but then moved onto information concerning, Sources of Illicit Finance, General Sources for Threat Finance and Illicit Network Data Sourcing. Additionally, Data Sources and Collection, Money Laundering Meth-

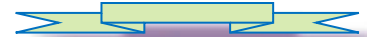


ABOVE: SGT Dean Amer listens to MSG Robert Bacon lecture while waiting for his turn to instruct the Counter Threat Finance newcomers.

ods, Typologies, Techniques and Trends, Terrorism Finance, Case Development, helpful tools for analyzation were also covered. Lastly, discussions on how to develop financial Intelligence, as well as some landmark cases illustrating how concerns were discovered and dealt with.

The information shared will prove invaluable as these candidates delve deeper into the inner-workings and issues regarding Counter Threat Finance.

ABOVE LEFT: MSG Bacon hammers home various points on the General Sources for Threat Finance and Illicit Network Data Sourcing on May 10th at Camp Smith, New York. The week long class trained several Counterdrug members on the techniques and nuances of being part of the NYNG CDTF, Counter Threat Finance team for the State.



ABOVE: SSgt Michael Mui and MSgt Conrad Cuducio read over material during the May 10th Counter Threat Finance course. TSgt Corey Wu, a member of the cadre, reviews the material that he would speak on later in the afternoon.



LEFT: The Counter Threat Finance staff and class. The cadre was headed up by MSG John Bacon and he was supported by (from L to R): SGT Jared Fisher, SGT Dean Amer, TSgt Corey Wu, 1LT Darren Hagan, and SFC Clayton Byford of the Maryland National Guard and a member of the Virginia Counterdrug Task Force. The apprentices consisted of: (from L to R) SGT Suzana Usami, SSgt Michael Mui, TSgt Sandro DiGeso, MSgt Conrad Cuducio, and MSgt Jason Babiarz.



Check us out at: <http://dmna.ny.gov/counterdrug/>

News Around the Regions

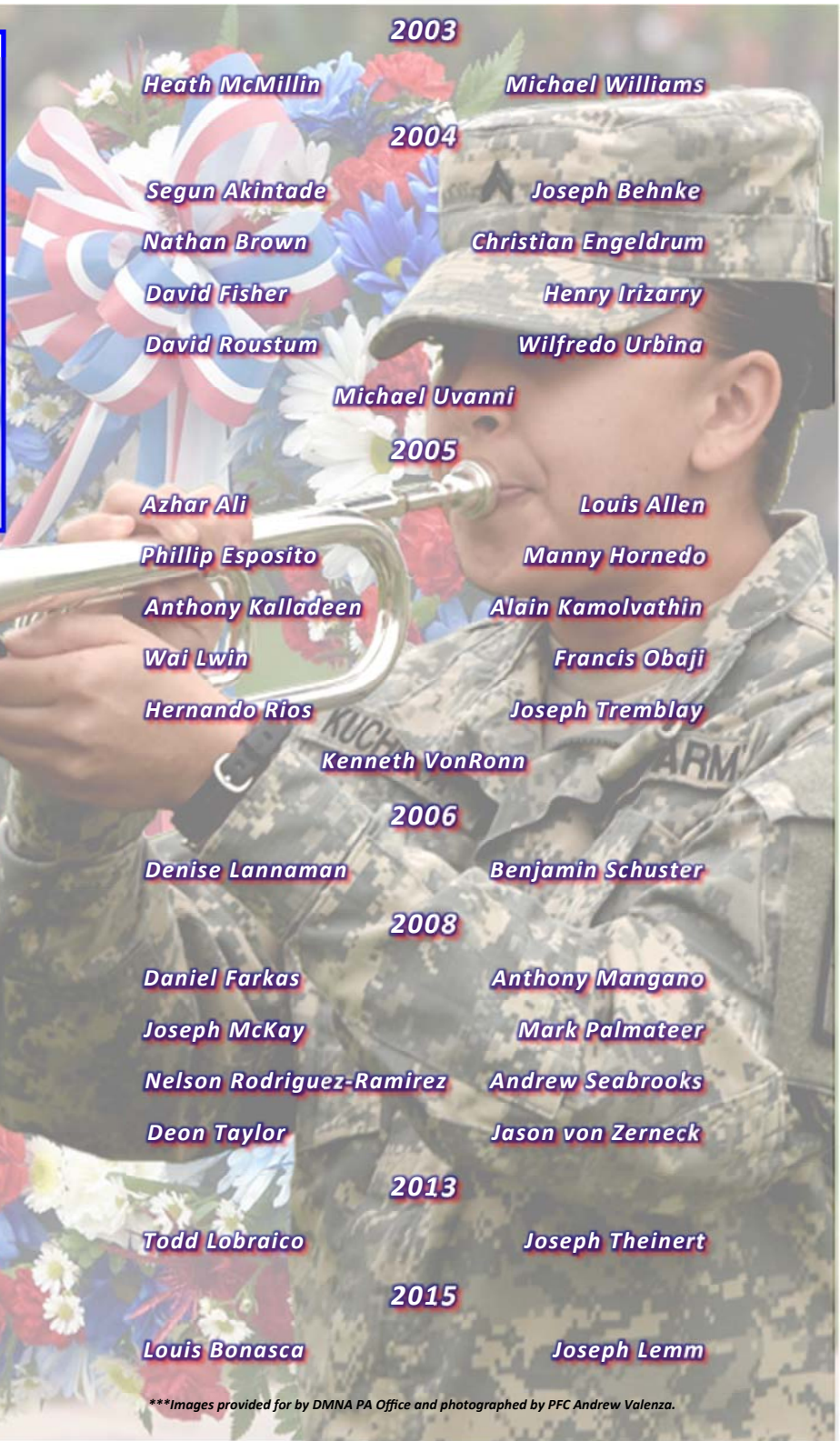
Memorial Day Remembrance at Department of Military and Naval Affairs



2017's annual Memorial Day Ceremony at DMNA in Latham was marked with words of remembrance by the Adjutant General, Major General Anthony German. The AG reflected on the importance of this holiday, not just the long weekend, barbecues, and parties that "kicks off" the Summer vacation season. "Sometimes I think we get confused, because everyone is looking forward to the long weekend and the barbecue and that's great and we should enjoy that." The AG explained, "But I ask that you take a few minutes and think about those who aren't here." Afterwards, the unofficial list of Service Members' names, who have made the ultimate sacrifice, was read. The names were of the NY National Guard members who were Killed-in-Action (KIA) since the beginning of hostilities in Iraq and Afghanistan.

ABOVE: NYNG Adjutant General, MG Anthony German reflects on the importance of this holiday at the DMNA Memorial Day Ceremony.

MAIN IMAGE: A collage of a red, white, and blue remembrance wreath and CPL Taylor Kuchera, of the 101 Signal Corps (Westchester) though attached to JFHQ, playing Taps in honor of the fellow NY Service members who have fallen.



***Images provided for by DMNA PA Office and photographed by PFC Andrew Valenza.

News Around the Regions

Active Shooter Training

On the fourth of June, Stratton ANGB was on "lock-down" around 1300 hrs during the last day of the UTA. A base wide announcement blared through the *Giant Voice* sound system alerting all on base of an active shooter incident and to execute lock-down procedures.

New York State Emergency Management Office, Schenectady County Fire and EMS Coordinator, Ellis Hospital, Glenville Police Department, Schenectady County Sheriffs, New York State Troopers, Stratton Air National Guard FD, Alplaus FD and East Glenville FD and Mohawk Ambulance were all notified and responded rapidly.

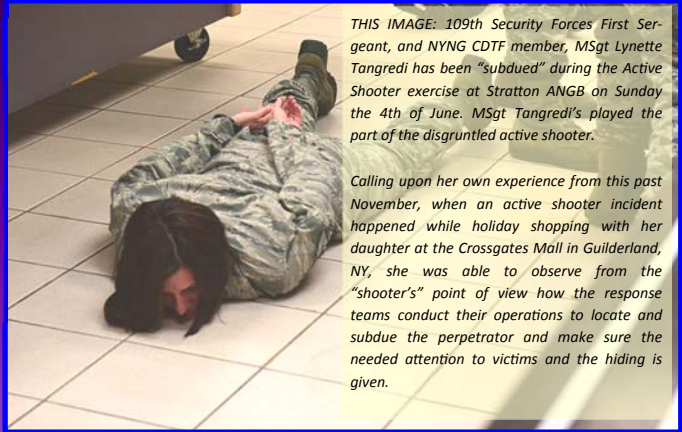
As base personnel were hunkered down, a different scenario was playing out at Stratton's dining facility. First responders with Stratton's Security Forces conducted Active Shooter procedure in order to locate and subdue the trigger person/s. As the response teams coordinated their efforts and stormed the DFAC, they found the building littered with victims and a lone, disgruntled assassin. After a short fire-fight the perpetrator had been restrained and the process of attending to dead, wounded, and hiding personnel began. Twenty minutes after the lock

-down announcement, the base was given the "all-clear".

This was just an exercise but, had it been under different circumstances, Stratton and the surrounding authorities took steps to ensure a quick and organized response to minimize the amount of fatalities.

"This exercise is designed to evaluate the ability to respond, suppress, triage and account for 109th Airlift Wing personnel," said Lt. Col. Ron Ankabrandt, 109th AW inspector general and event director. "In the unlikely event that an active shooter gains access to Stratton Air National Guard Base during the Unit Training Assembly (UTA) drill weekend, members are trained to react in accordance with personalized training provided by Security Forces. This exercise is designed to test the Wing's ability to survive an active-shooter event and the various emergency services supporting the containment, triage, transportation and medical treatment."

The department of *Homeland Security* developed a training to ensure employers have appropriate measures to react to an explosive and unpredictable occurrence



THIS IMAGE: 109th Security Forces First Sergeant, and NYNG CDTF member, MSgt Lynette Tangredi has been "subdued" during the Active Shooter exercise at Stratton ANGB on Sunday the 4th of June. MSgt Tangredi's played the part of the disgruntled active shooter.

Calling upon her own experience from this past November, when an active shooter incident happened while holiday shopping with her daughter at the Crossgates Mall in Guilderland, NY, she was able to observe from the "shooter's" point of view how the response teams conduct their operations to locate and subdue the perpetrator and make sure the needed attention to victims and the hiding is given.

and how to care for its workforce.

According to the training, the elements of an active shooter situation includes randomly selected victims, an unpredictable event which evolves quickly, and law enforcement is usually required to end the incident.

The training also reminds all that in this scenario, an individual is actively trying to kill people in a confined and populated area, typically through

the use of firearms. Be diligent in your situational and environmental awareness. Know how to escape your confines, hide yourself if you can't breakout, or fight your way out if all other options are exhausted.

For more information and / or training can be found on the DoHS web site at www.dhs.gov with a search for "Active Shooter Training".

THIS IMAGE: First responders from Stratton ANGB's surrounding towns participated in the active shooter exercise in order to keep "everyone" in the loop. The training was coordinated with several outside agencies to help ensure a solid plan was in place if an incident, however unlikely, ever arises in the future.



***Images provided for by 109th AW PA Office and photographed by MSgt Catharine Schmidt.

News Around the Regions

Deployed CDTF Members Update

All of the NYNG CDTF's deployed members are thankfully doing fine. They may be deployed to different areas of the Middle East but they're all connected in their commitment to accomplishing the tasks they're given as stand out representatives of the New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force.

TSgt Joshua Myers, of NYNG CDTF Western Region, is doing very well as the Assistant Fire Chief on the shift he works at the airfield he's assigned to. TSgt Myers is also among familiar faces, which helps when so far away from home for so long. As part of the team deployed, TSgt Myers was sent to serve with seven other of his 109th AW airmen. He had mentioned how the 109th's finance shop had also sent an individual, so there are eight familiar faces to help ease the time away.

Call volume for *in-flight emergencies (IFE)* keeps all the shifts incredibly busy. On average, each shift will experience two to four IFEs within a 24 hour period. TSgt Myers reports that many of the calls are from carrier based US Navy F18s that have to divert to his base for their IFE situations.

When he isn't busy on the line, TSgt Myers is in the books working on his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Fire Science from AMU, as well as finalizing his schooling for his CCAF De-



LEFT: The NYNG Adjunct General, Major General Anthony German and former NYNG CDTF CDC, Brigadier General Michel Natali pose with NYNG CDTF Western Region member, TSgt Josh Myers (far right ; standing) and other NYANG airmen while on a goodwill trip to the deployment region earlier this season. TSgt Myers was also coined by TAG German earlier that day for his excellence thus far on his deployment.

BELOW: BG Michel Natali stands for a photograph with his former NYNG CDTF employee, TSgt Myers while visiting NYNG soldiers and airmen earlier last month. TSgt Myers said "Things are busy yet going well over here but it was really good to see some familiar faces from home."

BELOW LEFT: TSgt Myers supervises a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) training to 48 firemen.



gree in the same major.

In a different part of the Middle East, SGT Pamela Palmer disclosed she does not have much to tell this time but she is hoping all is well with everyone here in the NYNG CDTF. SGT Palmer did however manage to pose for a picture with NYNG CDTF NYC Region members, SGT Carissa Lombardo and CPL Kyle Gbaya.

SGT Lombardo sent an email sharing some developments about herself and the newly promoted (lateral promotion) CPL Gbaya.

She relayed that Gbaya was pinned Corporal back in February and that "He's doing an awesome job on this deployment." SGT Lombardo continued to explain, "Gbaya has excelled as one of her Syria/Iraq analysts and weapons systems expert. He also spent eight weeks training Intel Analysts from the subordinate units in the AO." SGT Lombardo also mentioned how CPL Gbaya has learned so much throughout this deployment but is excited to return home, as well as rejoining the CDTF.

As for SGT Lombardo herself, she reports "The deployment has had its shares of highs and lows, but I wouldn't trade it, as the learning experience has been invaluable (even the lows)." SGT Lombardo continues, "Its pretty amazing watching my soldiers and myself learn, grow, and work through challenges as a team."

The good sergeant was also given the opportunity to work as an analyst in Syria for roughly six weeks. Although she couldn't give

News Around the Regions

Deployed CDTF Members Update Continued...



THIS PHOTO: CPL Kyle Gbaya, SGT Carissa Lombardo, and SGT Pamela Palmer, fellow NYNG CDTF members (Gbaya and Lombardo from NYC Region and Palmer from HQ) reunited for a photo while on deployment to the Middle East in early Spring of this year.



ABOVE: For all his contributions as an Intel Analyst, CPL Kyle Gbaya was presented a Certificate of Achievement from CSM Jason Willet, the 1st Theater Sustainment Command CSM.

details (or she'd have to kill me), SGT Lombardo said that the involvement was an absolute eye-opening and incredible experience although she is equally excited to come home and rejoin her family and CDTF colleagues. SGT Lombardo has already booked a post-deployment vacation upon her return and will rejoin the real world sometime in September or October.



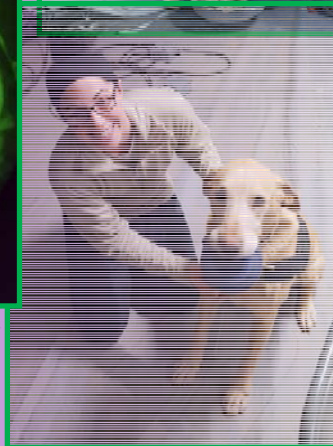
CENTER PHOTOGRAPH: The "Harlem Hell Fighters" Drill and Ceremony Team, that CPL Gbaya was a member of, participated in a D&C competition against several other teams. The Hell Fighters were so impressive that they were able to take top prize for their routine. CONGRATULATIONS HARLEM HELL FIGHTERS!!!



THIS PHOTOGRAPH: SGT Lombardo throws a Peace Sign (or Victory Sign) during night maneuvers as seen through the eyes of a pair of Night Vision Goggles.

LEFT: SGT Lombardo takes a moment to have her picture taken before a mission somewhere in Syria.

RIGHT: SGT Lombardo explained, "When you make friends with the bomb dog's handler... you get dog therapy every night, SCORE!"



ABOVE: CPL Kyle Gbaya (far right) and The Harlem Hell Fighters hold up their Drill and Ceremony "1st Place" trophy for their D&C number.

Courtesy Images on Both Pages

News Around the Regions

NYNG CDTF Supporting Local Communities and Organizations

18 May, East Henrietta (Rochester), NY, NYNG CDTF Western Region personnel, SSG Jeramy Baldwin and SrA Amanda Zaleski were available to assist the Home School Academy's (HSA) *Safety Day* event for local children. HAS is a one day a week (for 28 weeks, Pre-K through 6th grades) central point for local home schooled students with the purpose to assist parents in teaching their children the *Hard to Do in the Home Activities* as well as important social skills. Safety Day was a direct outcome to NY State's regulations on the home schooled community.



SSG Baldwin and SrA Zaleski enthusiastically provided a block of instruction on what it means to be *patriotic and short histories on the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, and customs and courtesies regarding the US Flag.*

The CDTF Team had fun questions and activities for four classes during the duration of the day. They shared with the youths what it meant to be patriotic to themselves, a flag coloring exercise using *Negative Afterimage*, and ended their presenta-



tion with a class on the proper way to *fold the Stars and Stripes.*

ABOVE LEFT: SSG Jeramy Baldwin and SrA Amanda Zaleski supervise a "flag coloring" exercise during the first class to visit them at the Home School Academy's Safety Day event.

ABOVE RIGHT: SrA Zaleski observes 4th graders attempting to properly fold "Old Glory" at the end of their allotted time of instruction.

24 May, Scotia, NY

The annual Memorial Day Parade in Scotia, NY took place with help from the NYNG CDTF.

CDTF HQ member, SSgt Sean Chester, volunteered for the after hours participation to drive a 109th AW Security Forces HMMWV in the parade's procession.

The 109th is a loyal supporter of the annual event to varying degrees of volunteers.

This year in the parade,

the National Guard was represented by three HMMWVs and roughly twenty marchers. The Airmen were in various uniforms from flight suits to ABUs as they took to the streets in honor of our fallen brethren of conflicts past and present.

This year's turnout was smaller than last year's mainly from 109th airmen deployed over seas and conducting the on-going missions to Greenland in support of the National Science foundation.

RIGHT: SSgt Sean Chester of the NYNG CDTF HQ strikes a pose just before the annual Memorial Day Parade in Scotia (across the Mohawk River from Schenectady), NY.

The festive event is held every year in honor of the men and women who have paid the ultimate price to ensure freedom reigns true in the United States.

Thank you to those who have given their lives for our benefit.



News Around the Regions

NYNG CDTF Supporting Local Communities and Organizations

15 June, Buffalo, NY– Members of the NYNG CDTF Western Region participated in the J.P. Morgan Corporate Challenge to show their support to local communities. The challenge is a three and a half mile course run through a downtown area.

The event is used as a platform for companies and organizations to promote health and fitness in the work place, foster goodwill and camaraderie among their employees, and to

show, as previously stated, their support to the community in which they serve.

Another corporate challenge is scheduled for the Western Region in Rochester, NY on July eleventh.



ABOVE: CDTF Western Region members: CW2 Richard Reed, SGT Shawn Hoerner, SPC Warren Solomon, SGT Justin Borst, SSG Scott Banks, and SSG Dennis Sincebaugh took part in the J.P. Morgan corporate Challenge in downtown Buffalo on the 15th of June. ***



5 April, Stratton ANGB, CDTF HQ Member, SSgt Sean Chester volunteered his time to give a presentation and base tour to local high school students. He explained the 109th AW's mission supporting the National Science Foundation's research on both poles. SSgt Chester also fielded general military questions the students had as well as CDTF information when asked what he did as full time employment.

LEFT: SSgt Sean Chester shows a slide depicting the South Pole Station on a recent base tour of Stratton ANGB to local teens.

Check us out at: <http://dmna.ny.gov/counterdrug/>

News Around the Regions

Birth Announcements

Congratulations to the CDTF Members who have new additions to their families and hopefully, future members of the New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force!

Please welcome Remington May Fisher (below), daughter of Mrs. Lauren and SGT Jared Fisher (CDTF NYC Region).

Remi was born on the 17th of June at 0904 hrs and weighed in at seven pounds and was 20 inches long.



Say hello to Nadia Rose (below), daughter of Mrs. Olga and SrA Derek Long (CDTF NYC Region).

Nadia was born on June 10th at 1504 hrs and weighed in at seven pounds and 14 ounces.

On 7 May, Mrs. Jamie and 2LT Joshua Speziale (CDTF HQ) welcomed their fourth child, Anna Joelle.

Anna (above with her father, 2LT Speziale) was born at 0615 hrs, weighed exactly seven pounds and measured in at 19 inches long.



Another birth announcement out of the CDTF NYC Region, Ms. Bianca Barbosa and CW2 Alberto Pedroza were blessed with the arrival of their daughter, Margot Ivy Pedroza. On May 19th, Margot came into the world at 0531 hrs and weighed six pounds and three ounces. No photo was provided.

Welcome to the World Ladies!!!

News Around the Regions

Fair Thee Well!

11 May, Latham NY. Counterdrug members from both NE Region and HQ showed up to a luncheon honoring Warrant Officer Fiana Sogomonyan. Ms. Sogomonyan is hanging up her Counterdrug hat to pursue other opportunities outside the task force.

She started her Counterdrug career as an enlisted criminal analyst for the NYC Region and is ending it as a Warrant Officer and the Head Criminal Analyst for the NE Region.

CDC COL Carlton Cleveland and NE Region Commander, Capt Adam Rinaldi both spoke at the luncheon expressing their gratitude for a job well done, conveying their thoughts on losing a valued CDTF member, and wished WO Sogomonyan

the best in her future enterprises.

A couple of her future plans are to move back to the "city" from Saratoga and to travel to Georgia and Ukraine in Eastern Europe to visit family.



THIS IMAGE: Warrant Officer Fiana Sogomonyan smiles at a colleague during her farewell luncheon in Latham, NY.



Fare Well and God Speed!

LEFT: Capt Adam Rinaldi and RIGHT: CDC COL Carlton Cleveland both communicated to the gathering their gratitude, sorrow, and well wishes concerning WO Fiana Sogomonyan's departure from the NYNG CDTF.



BACKGROUND IMAGE: NG Minute Man Statuette that was presented to WO Sogomonyan at her Fare Well party.

Fare Thee Well!

20 April, Clifton Park NY. SGM Roland Wells celebrated his retirement status with members of the CDTF from all the regions at a local eatery. He was presented with food, laughter, well wishes, and a plaque to show appreciation from his colleagues. SGM Wells will be on terminal leave until his true retirement date this coming August.

LEFT: The plaque and cake presented to SGM Roland Wells at his retirement party in Clifton Park, NY.

BELOW: SGM Wells shakes hands with CDC COL Cleveland after receiving the plaque and some pleasant spoken thoughts from the CDC himself.



News Around the Regions

2017 Annual NYNG Sexual Assault Awareness Run

April 28th, Lions Park, Niskayuna- The annual Sexual Assault Awareness Month 5k Run took place on a beautiful morning. Capt Ashley Fitzgibbon, the State SARC at JFHQ, couldn't have asked for a better day to host the event. The Capt was also

grateful for the support shown by so many, including TAG, Major General Anthony German, Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Timothy Labarge, State Command Chief Master Sergeant Amy Giaquinto and four members of the Counterdrug Task Force.



LT to RB: NYNG CDTF HQ Member SSG James Peck receives an "Atta Boy" as he closes in on the finish line; out of 55+ runners, CPT Alexander Saxby was the first runner to complete the 5k; Chief of Staff Brig Gen Timothy Labarge came in a strong fourth place; SSG Sean Chester gives a wave as he passes by on his way to the finish line.



TOP: NYNG CDTF HQ Members (from l to r): SSG Kelvin Taylor, CPT Alexander Saxby, SSG James Peck, and SSG Sean Chester made up the CDTF contingency for the SAAM run.



MIDDLE: SSG Kelvin Taylor listens to his music as he runs by taking fifth place.




BOTTOM: TAG Anthony German and State ECM SGT Amy Giaquinto participated to show their support for SAAM.

LARGE PHOTO: Capt Ashley Fitzgibbon, the State SARC, stretches and gives the thumbs-up before the SAAM 5k Run.

Check us out at: <http://dmna.ny.gov/counterdrug/>


SARC Page***

Capt Ashley Fitzgibbon is the *Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for New York State*. Her office is located at the Joint Force Headquarters in Latham, NY and she can be reached at any time, day or night, rain (snow) or shine, with the phone number listed below. If you need help, do not hesitate to call. She will be your voice!




New York National Guard


Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program



JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS - NY
Sexual Assault Response Coordinator
24 / 7 Sexual Assault Helpline
518.339.7586



JFHQ SARC
 Capt Ashley FitzGibbon
 (518)786-4733 / (518)339-7586



JFHQ VAC
 Ms. Chassidy Ryals
 (518)786-4734

BDE VA Information: _____
BN VA Information: _____

UNRESTRICTED REPORTING
 Allows a service member who was sexually assaulted to report the assault and receive support, advocacy, medical treatment, and counseling...

with a law enforcement investigation and Command involvement.

RESTRICTED REPORTING
 Allows a service member who was sexually assaulted to **confidentially** report the assault and receive support, advocacy, medical treatment, and counseling...

without a law enforcement investigation or Command involvement.

EITHER WAY - FIRST TALK WITH YOUR SEXUAL ASSAULT RESONSE TEAM!

DoD Safe Helpline 877.995.5247 / safehelpline.org
24 / 7 Secure. Worldwide. Confidential

J3DO(CD) HEADQUARTERS & REGIONAL OFFICES



WESTERN REGION
Connecticut Street Armory

NORTHEAST REGION
Saratoga Military Museum

HEADQUARTERS
Stratton ANGB

LUH-72 OPERATIONS
AASF#3. Latham

NYC REGION
Lexington Armory



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