

THE NEXUS



Volume X

New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force Summer 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,

There have been two developments recently, one at the State level and one at the Federal level, regarding the Opioid Crisis. On 28 September, 2017, Governor Cuomo held a press conference on the State's fentanyl crisis and advocated new legislation to add 11 Fentanyl analogs to the State's Controlled Substance List.

"Drug dealers and

trafficking organizations are flooding our streets with addictive, deadly drugs that devastate families and destroy lives in communities across our state, and we must take bold action to close loopholes and hold these criminals responsible," **Governor Cuomo said.** "I'm calling on the Legislature to ban these new types of fentanyl and equip law enforcement with tools to go after these dangerous dealers to stop this scourge on our communities, and help build a safer, stronger New York for all."

The entire press release can be accessed at: <http://dfs.ny.gov/about/press/pr1709281.htm>.

On 26 October, 2017, President Trump, in a speech directed to-

ward combating the Opioid Crisis, stated: we will overcome addiction in America," declaring opioid abuse a national public health emergency and announcing new steps to combat what he described as the worst drug crisis in U.S. history.

Both events have the potential to impact what we do and how we do it. The Governor's announcement builds on the \$200 Million legislation he signed in April to address the epidemic through opioid addiction prevention, treatment and recovery. The President's announcement does not provide resource initially but may through Congressional actions in the future.

The program had another first recently, as 1SG Robert Bacon travelled to Ukraine to provide Counter Threat Finance (CTF) instruction to Law

Enforcement. 1SG Bacon was requested by name from NGB to participate in this mission. As a result of his efforts, Ukrainian Law Enforcement is going to re-open several investigations due to knowledge on how illicit funds are generated and moved.

Enjoy your Veteran's Day and be safe as we head into the Holiday Season.

Thanks again for all you do, I continue to be impressed with the great members of our Task Force and the capabilities you provide our LEA and CBO partners.

Thank you,

~COL Carlton Cleveland



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

THE CSM’S “LISTEN UP!”



Greetings NY Counterdrug!

Hope everyone had a great summer.

As we start the FY, make sure your chain of command is tracking your M-Day schedule for FY18. It is imperative that any changes or additions make it up to HQ. Our HQ personnel work diligently to try and track every

penny for the FY. If you know you have a school or an additional training event that doesn't show up on your drill schedule, push it up. The sooner the better so we can project accordingly.

We just completed our first iteration with the new evaluation form. We've identified some necessary changes and along with your feedback, will be rolling out an updated version in the near future. After reviewing all of the 'evals', I'm left with the impression that members weren't as involved with the input on their appraisals as I would have hoped. Remember, this is your evaluation. If there is something you did and it's not reflected on your assessment, then have a conversation with

your rater. Lets do a better job of capturing all the good things that you are doing.

Congratulations to SSgt Carissa Sirry and SPC Dean Amer for Civil Operations and Criminal Analyst of the year respectively. There were a lot of great candidates submitted and the selection process wasn't easy. The fact that it was close and very competitive is a good thing. We wish you luck going forward at the regional level.

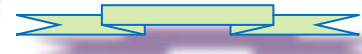
I also want to congratulate MSgt Marlene Frankovic and SSG Judith Watt on their retirements. I would also like to thank CPT Saxby, SSG Reed, SGT Borst, MSgt Caducio, MSgt Carty, and 1LT Kupinski for their contributions while with Counterdrug. Thanks goes out to all of you for all your hard work

and contributions over the years. We wish you nothing but the best in your future endeavors.

Best of luck to: LTC Murphy, SSG Sincebaugh, SGT Horner, SSG Joy, SGT Adams, as they embark on their deployment to the Ukraine. We wish you a safe deployment and a speedy return. If you need anything from us back stateside, let us know.

If you are a new hire, welcome to the team. For those I haven't met yet, I look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Stay safe and keep up the great work!



~CSM Joseph Freyn

\$\$\$ J8 Finance Guidance \$\$\$



J8 Contact Information

2LT Newberry – (518)344-3458
 T\$gt Perkin\$ – (518)344-3437
 and \$ometime\$
 \$rA Berger- (518) 344-3458

DT\$ Hot Corner

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

Reminders:

- All DT\$ 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 DT\$

~2LT Duncan Newberry

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

CHIEF'S SHOP: Safe Words from the Safety Officer



As winter approaches it is a good time to review some of your safe driving tips. The first step is to wear your seat belt – something you should be doing anyway. Also,

ensure your vehicle is prepared by doing proper preventive maintenance checks – use your user’s manual! You do not want to be stranded in the middle of winter and if you are, be prepared. Consider having an emergency safety kit especially if driving where you may not have cell service.

Here are some additional winter driving tips to help keep you safe.

- Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.
- Make sure your tread is in good condition.
- Keep your headlights and windshield clean.
- Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
- Don't pass snowplows and sanding trucks. These drivers have limited visibility, and you'll likely find the road in front of them worse than the road behind.
- Don't assume your vehicle can handle all con-

ditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel-drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.

Stay Safe this winter!

~CW2 Michelle Hart



CHIEF'S SHOP: J3



The J3 Section has seen a lot of personnel change in the last 3 or 4 months. To start, MAJ McLoughlin moved out of the J3 position to oc-

cupy the Executive Officer position while LTC Murphy is deployed to the Ukraine. I, CW2 Napolitano, moved from the Aviation Coordinator seat to the J3 position and 1LT Ceci will be taking over as the primary for Aviation duties. On the NCO side, SGM Wells retired with over 20 years of service to the NYNGCDTF. 1SG Butcher took over the J3 NCOIC position and MSG Molesky is our newest addition

to the section. Yes, last but not least, Counterdrug J3 still employs TSgt Crouse and SSgt Chester. All kidding aside, those two individuals are the section’s first line of defense and the "glue" that holds the shop together!! With that being said, TSgt Crouse is departing on 18 September for Maxwell AFB to attend the Air Force Officer Training School and the next time we see him, he should be a

2d Lt! Best wishes and Good Luck to him! In his absence, MSG Molesky will take over his duties along with SSgt Chester.

~CW2 Phillip Napolitano

CDTF Aviation



Greetings CDTF!

New York National Guard CDTF Aviation wrapped up the 4th quarter of the 2017 fiscal year by completing multiple reconnaissance and eradication missions throughout the state. Even with manning issues and limited aircraft time due to maintenance problems, CD Aviation helped eradicate nearly 1,400 plants with a net worth total of \$3,075,293.

As marijuana policy and reform continues through the United States, CDTF Aviation will adapt as necessary in order to provide more surveillance support to local, state, and federal agencies in the near future.



ABOVE: An LUH-72 Lakota aircraft hovers in place awaiting wind direction and take-off clearance from Albany International Airport Air Traffic Control in Latham, NY. This particular mission had three CDTF pilots on board to go through Erad Surveillance training. 1LT Devis Ceci can be seen sitting in the rear cabin of the helicopter.



MAIN BACKGROUND PHOTOGRAPH: An LUH-72 Lakota aircraft stands poised as she awaits her crew for a mid-summer mission. The mission on this particular morning was to take place in the surrounding counties north of Saratoga County. Many sorties will take crews into multiple NY counties after coordinating with participating law enforcement agencies.

RIGHT: An LUH-72 maintenance crew chief runs towards a "crippled bird" as the pilots assess the issue the aircraft was experiencing prior to take off. The Lakota is a relatively new aircraft and is still temperamental compared to its larger cousin, the UH-60 Blackhawk. On this day, the mission had to be scrapped due to an actuator failure.



~1LT Devis Ceci

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

News Around the Regions

*** Important Information ! ***

A press conference, news release for a law enforcement take down can be chocked full of information with mission details and statistics, who was taken into custody, and what contraband was confiscated along with its worth. Other information shared at these junkets also entail what law enforcement agencies were involved. And this is where New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force members have to pay attention to what is being said. There have been a few public relations situations where the CDTF has been mentioned in a release but under the guise of "National Guard" or "Army Guard / Army National Guard". As CDTF personnel are aware, the task force is a joint force operation with both Army and Air guardsmen in its ranks. Unfortunately, many officials and organization leaders

do not know this. There isn't a distinction between the CDTF and the National Guard. It is part of the CDTF's responsibility to ensure that LEAs, coalitions, and press officials are informed and understand that there is a clear contrast between both entities. With proper terminology, journalists can report proper news (no fake news or alternative facts here).

Another issue to be addressed is the actual message being relayed. Below, is an example of a press release that illustrates both points. Not only does the paragraph mention the "United

States" and "New York State" National Guard, the paragraph's opening sentence claims the defendants were arrested by a host of law enforcement agencies to include both aforementioned military institutions.

Press release writers must be informed that the NYNG CDTF members DO NOT arrest anyone. The task force's attributes is a 'behind-the-scenes' operation at all times. If this is taken out of context, the NYS Governor and the Department of Military and Naval Affairs could have a problem with misuse of government forces and / or funds.

The defendants were arrested by members of the Nassau County District Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the New York Police Department, the New York State Police, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, United States Marshal Service, Homeland Security Investigations, the United States National Guard, New York State National Guard, the Nassau County Police Department, the Nassau County ...

EXCERPT from a press release by the US Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration concerning the Grand Jury Indictment of 17 members of a multi-state organization that was part of a smuggling ring that trafficked from Phoenix, AZ to New York City, NY on commercial flights.

ARMY / AIR FORCE Major Historical Events: Know Your History

1 July, 1863: 170,000 soldiers clashed outside the Pennsylvania town of Gettysburg. The Battle of Gettysburg witnessed the deaths of roughly 51,000 troops over the three days the battle raged. This is also considered by many as the 'turning-point' of the American Civil War.

27 July, 1953: On this day in history, a war that ended in a 'dead-lock' and was a major contributor to the Cold War, the Korean War was put to an uneasy rest with the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement in the town of Panmunjom (the "Truce Village"). A hamlet located in the now, famous demilitarized zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas.

6 and 9 August, 1945: US Army Air Corpse (the future US Air Force) B-29 Super Fortress bombers, the 'Enola Gay' and 'Bockscar' dropped atomic bombs on both Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, respectively. The bombs dropped were in response to the ever growing opinion by US decision makers that it would save thousands of US lives by foregoing an all out mainland Japan invasion. To this day, they are the only two nuclear devices used in hostility.

19 September, 1777: British General, John Burgoyne begins his ill-fated campaign to capture Albany, NY but is stopped and defeated at Saratoga by an overwhelming, superior numbered US force. Called the 'Turning Point' of the American Revolution, this is also the campaign that saw the emergence of Benedict Arnold, whose wounded leg is now held in higher regard than the man himself and his name is synonymous with 'traitor'.

News Around the Regions

Syracuse Police Departmental Commendation for a Job Well Done

15 September, Syracuse Police Department, Police Chief, Frank L. Fowler bestowed accolades to NYNG CDTF NE Criminal Analysts CSM Joseph Freyn (NYNG CDTF Senior NCO) and SSG Edward Joy for their efforts in recent months.

In part of Chief Fowler's presentation, he highlighted the CSM's and SSG Joy's accomplishment to read (excerpted), "your efforts led to a total of 16 search warrant locations which led to the seizure of 1.5 kilos of cocaine, one kilo of heroin, 70.2 grams of hydrocodone, 377

grams of marijuana, six illegal handguns, and \$250,000 in assets.

As a result of your skill, perseverance and hard work, 22 dangerous felons were removed from the streets of Syracuse. Furthermore, intelligence gleaned from your investigations provided Syracuse CID with fresh leads that allowed them to close a number of other criminal investigations, including a homicide and also created an environment for cooperation resulting in



the testimony of four arrested persons in four separate homicide proceedings."

Congratulations to you both on a job well done!

ABOVE: SSG Edward Joy, Syracuse Police Chief, Frank L. Fowler and CSM Joseph Freyn pose for the camera after Chief Fowler presented them with a Departmental Commendation for their efforts over recent months that attributed to successful operations that took violent felons off the streets of Syracuse and surrounding areas.

I Do Solemnly Swear that I Will Support and Defend...

22 September, SMSgt Peter Latniak retook the enlisted oath for another three years after an already long and distinguished career.

SMSgt Latniak will continue as an active guard member with the 109th Logistics Readiness and Support (LRS) Squadron of the 109th AW at Stratton ANGB as well as remaining on as a full time member and NCOIC of the NYNG CDTF HQ J4 Section.

CONGRATULATIONS
SMSgt Latniak!!!



SMSgt Peter Latniak recites the "Enlisted Oath" in front of witnesses as LT Col Tammy Street, the 109th LRS Commander, administers the oath's verbiage. SMSgt Latniak, the unofficial "mayor" of Stratton ANGB has raised his hand again and has retaken the call to serve his community, unit, State, Nation, and the New York National Guard, Counterdrug Task Force... Congratulations Senior Master Sergeant!!!

News Around the Regions

CDTF CDC CNET Site Visit

14 August, Counterdrug Coordinator, COL Carlton Cleveland, paid a visit to the Community Narcotics Enforcement Team (CNET) stationed in Johnson City (Binghamton Area), NY. There, he met other CDTF leadership members, CW2 Phillip Napolitano, CPT Phillip Diaz (Western Region CO), CSM Joseph Freyn (CDTF Senior NCO) and location representatives, 1SG Paul Trocchia and SPC Thomas Skura.

From Johnson City, CNET covers the ten south central counties of the State where narcotics have taken hold and become more prevalent since the unemployment and eventual depression of the region has risen. "Ever since Sirkorsky (the helicopter design / production facility) pulled out, the populace has been struggling", explained CNET Senior Investigator (SI) Jeff Gotschall. "Elmira has two prisons that are filled to max capacity and the guns on the street are running rampant", the SI continued, "Local meth does peak and valley but we're continuously inundated by crystal meth produced in Mexico through direct cartel connections. Heroin is still a major problem though meth is on its way to becoming a bigger one."

"Another problem we're experiencing is the shortage of manpower. The loss of personnel and materials to NYC, for obvious reasons, but we definitely have a major abuse problem that needs to be dealt with." Mr. Gotschall continued by adding, "We know NYC is big but we need help too. We're monitoring phone lines 18 hours a day with obsolete communication



ABOVE: SPC Thomas Skura acquaints CPT Phillip Diaz and CSM Joseph Freyn with target locations, house layouts for SWAT and briefing materials he creates for the CNET on a daily basis.

capabilities. Drug pushers are getting smarter and 'Cell Brite' can't keep up with the ever evolving phone technology."

With the afore mentioned shortfalls, however, the CNET facility is steadfast in helping the community and getting the job done. Both SI Gotschall and SI Scott Paulie were in agreeance regarding their determination and spoke highly on the support they receive from the NYNG CDTF, especially the local Criminal Analysts 1SG Paul Trocchia and SPC Thomas Skura. "Specialist Skura? We couldn't be happier with the job he's doing here. We wish we had five more like him", explained SI Paulie. "We're

also highly pleased with the support we've received from the Counterdrug Detection Unit", (CDU, ran by SGT Robert Vanderwerken and SGT Andy Long out of CDTF HQ). The CDU was able to accomplish a Mini-Z mission within three hours of being notified for Troop C of the NY State Troopers near Sidney, NY. "With service and support we've received from your organization, we're staying afloat in this situation," explained SI Paulie.

CDU, COL Cleveland, vowed to look into the communications issues the CNET is having to try to alleviate some the pressure they're feeling. The CNET also asked if it were possible if the Criminal Analysts could

expand into financial investigations as well. CPT Diaz recommended trying to bring on more people and train them from the bottom up in order to be molded to the offices they'll support. That way the CDTF is supplying highly trained free thinkers instead of robots. The CNET officials agreed and gave endless praise and gratitude at the end of the meeting.

BACKGROUND: Highlighted counties that fall within the CNET's jurisdiction. As illustrated, CNET's counties are split in half between Western's and North East's Regions.

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

News Around the Regions

Young Police Force Makes Headway in Hometown with Assistance from the NYNG CDTF



LEFT: MSgt Jessica Ramirez (far left) of NYNG CDTF NE Region looks on as Groversville Police Department's Police Chief, Marc Porter, talks about the morning's event and the fourteen individuals who were taken into custody on a variety of charges. Chief Porter praised his department, the NY State Police, angered citizens and, specifically, the NYNG CDTF on all of the efforts that attributed to the success of this endeavor.

BELOW: Members of the press ask questions of the Task Force's representatives concerning the morning's operation that saw the arrest of 14 targeted suspects and the seizure of \$725,000 USD, 26 grams of marijuana, 88 grams of cocaine and crack cocaine, one Suboxone packet, five motor vehicles, and one 'Conducted Energy Device' also known as a 'Taser'.



6 September, Groversville Police department, Police Chief, Marc Porter, held a news conference with the press highlighting on that morning's takedown which witnessed the arrests of 14 individuals.

The operation began on August 22nd as members of the Groversville P.D. in conjunction with personnel from the New York State Police and assistance from the New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, conducted detailed information gathering targeting suspects believed to be involved with possessing, selling, and transporting narcotics within the

City of Groversville, New York.

The detail was formed partially in response to community complaints regarding suspected drug activity in specific neighborhoods.

The mission resulted in a total of 14 persons being detained. The apprehension of these suspects brought about charges for a variety of offenses to include: drugs and weapons possession, vehicle and traffic offenses, criminal impersonation, obstruction of governmental administration, resisting

arrest, destruction of evidence, and an individual wanted on an outstanding warrant.

Police Chief Porter also mentioned that the success of the assignment was also attributed to civilian tips. Ordinary people who are "just fed up". Chief Porter then went on to praise MSgt Jessica Ramirez (CDTF NE) and the

NYNG CDTF for all of the provided assistance, "MSgt Ramirez was an indispensable part of this investigation and helped moved the operation along in a professional and decisive manner", said the chief. "And the Guard is completely free to our disposal!", he then exclaimed.



News Around the Regions

Sabre 4000 Train / Retrain at CDTF HQ

12 September, NYNG CDTF HQ hosted the annual Sabre 4000 training, provided for by Smiths Detection.

The instruction provided was either a refresher course or the initial training to CDTF members on proper usage and maintenance of the hand held detector for optimum results.

The capabilities the Sabre 4000 Hand-Held Trace Detector is capable of distinguishing between explosives, chemical warfare agents, toxic industrial chemicals or narcotics. The device is an integral part of the



LEFT: The Sabre representative, Mr. Robert Del Monte, goes over the features of the Sabre 4000 capabilities to the class of eight NYNG CDTF members.

BELOW: Sabre 4000 provided the annual certification training for members of the CDTF at HQ in Scotia, NY. While the instructor looks on, MSgt Jason Babiarz (CDTF NE), SGT Brittany Ruso (CDTF Western), and SGT Trevel Patron (CDTF NYC) investigate the workings of the Sabre 4000 detection device.

For MSgt Jason Robelotto (CDTF NE, foreground), the course was a refresher due to his prior experience with the Counterdrug Detection Unit (CDU) when he was the NCOIC in the winter of 2016.

Counterdrug Detection Unit (CDU) when searching for trace amounts of substances in suspected remote areas of concealment.



CDTF Member Recognized While Deployed to Ukraine

1 September, while deployed to the Ukraine, 1SG Robert Bacon (NYNG CDTF NYC Region) has made an impact on the local authorities with his knowledge and expertise in the Counter Threat Finance arena. Illustrating 1SG Bacon's achievement is the below article reported by a Mr. Gallagher from Joint Interagency Counter Trafficking Center (JICTC), in EUCOM. The article reads as follows:

"The workshop in Ukraine was a huge success and a large part of its success was due to 1SG Robert Bacon. He is an outstanding instructor and diplomat. He was able to establish a rapport with Ukrainian Law Enforcement Officers and they shared with us their best practices for countering illicit finance. This was the

first time EUCOM had attempted an engagement with the Ministry of Interior (Moi) in the Ukraine and it went so well, this will likely become a regular event. The EUCOM DCOM, Lt. Gen. Timothy Ray, was briefed on this event and he was very appreciative of all of the agencies which sent trainers to Kiev and ensured this event was successful."

1SG Bacon facilitated a Counter-Threat Finance workshop aimed to assist Ukrainian Law Enforcement personnel to identify and counter financial threats. Ukrainian law enforcement mentioned they have reopened several investigations due to their newly found knowledge on how illicit actors generate, move, and store illicit funds.***



THIS IMAGE: 1SG Robert Bacon poses next to Ukrainian Guard billboard while deployed to the country this past September.***

News Around the Regions

Awards for Recognition on Outstanding Accomplishments

Just a few awards to report, from North East Region, both SGT Pamela Palmer and SPC Christopher Deroziere were recognized for their contributions to their Country, State, Units, and the New York National Guard counterdrug Task Force.

For her actions and support for the 2017 J1 CPE (which received the grade of 100%), SGT Palmer was awarded an Army Achievement Medal. SPC Deroziere received a Letter of Appreciation for his efforts with the Criminal Analysts Center.

Two more CDTF members were also recognized for their achievements. MSgt Lynette Tangredi (NE Region) and SrA Jennatte Berger (HQ) received their diplomas from the Community College of the Air Force in Communications and Aviation Tech-



LEFT: SGT Pamela Palmer accepts her Army Achievement Medal from North East Regional Commander, Capt Adam Rinaldi, before a regional staff meeting at NE Region's HQ in Saratoga, NY.

BELOW: SMSgt Michael Decker (NE Region NCOIC) reads the citation bestowed upon SPC Christopher Deroziere for his actions while assisting LEAs in the Saratoga area.

BOTTOM: MSgt Lynette Tangredi (far left) and SrA Jennatte Berger (far right), both members of the CDTF (NE and HQ) and the 109th AW, stand with other diploma recipients. Their diplomas from the Community College of the Air Force were presented during a ceremony over the September drill.

nologies, respectively.

Congratulations to everyone for your achievements, and keep up the good work.



News Around the Regions

Military Appreciation Day at Saratoga Race Course



26 July, members from HQ and NE NYNG CDTF participated in a 'Military Appreciation Day' event sponsored by the New York Racing Association held at the Saratoga Race Course in Saratoga, NY.

The annual event is held with free admission for active military and retired veterans in honor for all they do or have done for this country.

This year's CDTF turn out was slightly larger than last year's with nearly 35 members in attendance for some well deserved fun, laughs, and comradery.

PHOTOS ABOVE and BELOW: The nearly 35 members that showed up on a beautiful afternoon at the track. The setting was to honor veterans and active military alike but the CDTF also used the venue to introduce old members with new to make new acquaintances and put some 'names to faces'. A good time was had by all in attendance.



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

News Around the Regions

Fair Thee Well!

A send off to the regular Army and three retirements.

CPT Alexander Saxby has been searching for a position with the regular Army and was recently accepted into its ranks and ordered to report to Ft. Hood, Texas. After the short notice, CPT Saxby packed his bags and

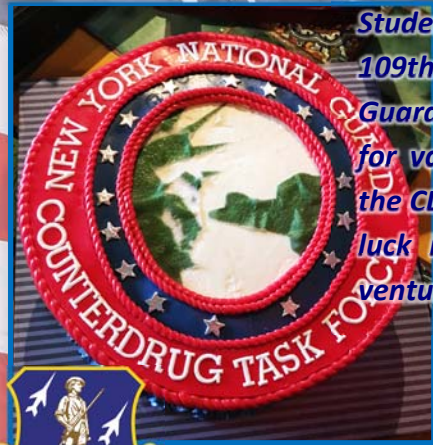
rendered his resignation from the NYNG CDTF. We wish him the best of luck.

MSgt Marlene (Marty) Frankovic has spent the last 20 years of her life devoted to the service of her State, Country, the US Air Force, NY Air National Guard and the NYNG Counterdrug Task Force. MSgt Frankovic has hung up her beret and soft cap and has retired after a long and successful career. MSgt Frankovic enlisted in the AF February of 1992. She was Security Forces, 109th AW Student Flight Cadre, 109th AW Honor Guard and an admin for various regions in the CDTF. We wish her luck in her life's adventures.



CPT Alexander Saxby receives a minute man plaque from CDTF XO, MAJ Mothew McLaughlin and an ovation from his HQ colleagues in recognition of his time spent with the New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. CPT Saxby has accepted a commission in the US Army and will begin his new endeavor at Ft Hood, Texas.

Fare Thee Well



***Courtesy Image



***Courtesy Image

ABOVE: MSgt Marlene Frankovic, of CDTF NE Region, is presented a token of appreciation from the NE Regional Commander, Capt Adam Rinaldi, during her retirement, dinner party on 18 August. Members from both CDTF NE and HQ were in attendance to reflect on MSgt Frankovic's career, laugh with old stories and memories, and to wish her a 'fare thee well' as she parts for a new chapter to her life.

LEFT: The cake provided for MSgt Frankovic's dinner party was designed to look like the CDTF logo in recognition of her years of service to the Task Force.

News Around the Regions

Fair Thee Well!

Another twenty year service member to retire this past September was SSG Judith (Judy) Watt.

After enlisting into the Army in October of 1996, SSG Watt (then PV2) was hired on to the CDTF as NYC Region's administrator in 1997 and has been there ever since.

On the unit side, SSG Watt served with both 27th finance Battalion and the 53rd Troop Command but her heart and mind was Counterdrug. After a stellar 20 year career, SSG Watt is saying goodbye to begin a new chapter in the her book of life.

Congratulations SSG Watt!

One last good-bye to SGM Roland Wells. SGM Wells celebrated his retirement a couple of months ago at a retirement party held in his honor. The luncheon provided the chance for his CDTF colleagues to bid their farewells.

On 11 August, after 28 years of service, SGM Roland Wells, accompanied by his family, wife Amy and daughters, Brianna and Alexis, stood up in official



LEFT: SSG Judith Watt's picture board at her retirement party that was held on 22 September in Queens, NY.

RIGHT: SSG Watt poses with NYNG CDTF Alum, SMSgt (R) Doris Libby, at SSG Watt's retirement party. SSG Watt had a large gathering of friends, colleagues (past and present), and family members join in her achievement's celebration.

recognition of retirement from United States Armed Services.

SGM Wells was surrounded by loved ones and military friends and colleagues alike, as his final orders were read and heart-felt (and humorous) speeches were made.

The US Army, NY Army National Guard and the NYNG Counterdrug Task Force will truly miss this outstanding Non-commissioned Officer.

Good Luck SGM!!!

ABOVE RIGHT: CDTF CDC, COL Carlton Cleveland, poses with SGM Roland Wells after presenting him with the NYNG CDTF "Minute Man" statuette for his long and successful career in the Task Force.

There was a running joke about how SGM Wells didn't want to be presented with the trophy at his prior, farewell luncheon, so the CDC brought and presented him with it at the 'official' retirement ceremony at DMNA in Latham, NY.

RIGHT: CMSgt Shawn Peno, DMNA J3 Chief Enlisted Manager and Senior Enlisted Advisor, bestows CSM Wells with a framed print of Norman Rockwell's of a soldier feeding a young girl in symbolism for all the effort, guidance, mentoring, and leadership CSM Wells has given to soldiers and airmen under him over the years. The placard on the print reads, "Thank You for Your Years of Hard Work and Dedication to the People of the State of New York".



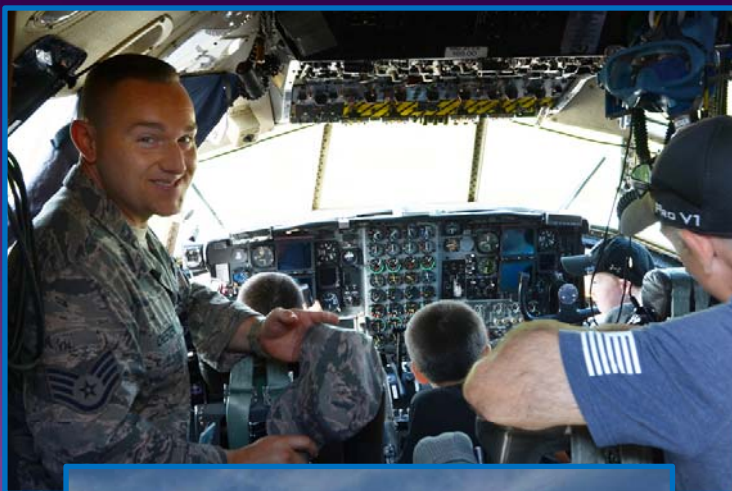
ABOVE: Brigadier General Timothy LaBarge was among the guests who attended SGM Wells' retirement ceremony. BG LaBarge had kind words of admiration for the SGM and wished him well for the future.

Amongst the accolades and seriousness of BG Labarge's sentiment towards SGM Wells, he also reminisced about the SGM's prowess on the basket ball court with humor.



News Around the Regions

CDTF Members Giving Time to the Communities



NYNG CDTF Members often go above and beyond to lend a helping hand. Sometimes expertise and professionalism will take them away from their everyday CDTF jobs.

On August 2nd, Stratton ANGB hosted the Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams' (WMD-CST or just "CST") 'Bring Your Child to Work Day' by bringing the CST Members and their children out to the flight line to look through one of the 109th AW's LC-130 Hercules cargo plane equipped with skis.

When base representatives asked for volunteer

guides, SSgt Sean Chester, of CDTF HQ J3, accepted the task. He guided the gathering out onto Stratton's flight line and proceeded to discuss the unique features of the LC-130 while showing the group the inside of one of the aircraft.

September 8th, another example of stepping up to show representation to a good cause, CDTF North East Region members, SFC John Capellini and SSG Joshua Sherman attended an event at the Lewis County Fairgrounds in Lowville, NY. The annual event, 'Lewis County Night Out', which is sponsored by the Lewis County Youth Bureau, Lewis County Sheriff's Office, Lewis County Opportunities, Inc., and Northern Regional Center for Independent Living, is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness and to strengthen connections within the community. The coalition thought that the NYNG CDTF should be invited and involved and requested representation. NE Region quickly obliged.

TOP: SSgt Sean Chester smiles for the camera while showing a CST Member and three youths the flight-deck of an LC-130 on August 2nd. The CST unit stationed at Stratton ANGB was holding their annual 'Bring Your Child to Work Day'.

ABOVE: LC-130 "90" was on display for the nine CST Members and their 13 children.

RIGHT: SSG Joshua Sherman and SFC John Capellini look on as a speaker announces awards honoring EMT personnel at the annual 'Lewis County Night Out' event held at the Lewis County fair Grounds in Lowville, NY.



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 Grace Louise (being held by her big brother Carter), daughter of Mrs. Crystal and CPT Phillip Diaz (CDTF Western Region Commander).



Grace was born on the 18th of July at 19.5 inches long and weighed six pounds 14 ounces.

Say hello to Oliver Dean, son of Mrs. Kristine and SFC John Capellini (CDTF NE Region, Civil Operations Specialist).



Oliver was born on August 8th at 2242 hrs, was 23 inches long and weighed in at nine pounds and 13 ounces.



On July 25th, Ms. Robin MacHattie and her husband SFC Joshua Stickle (CDTF NE Region Criminal Analyst) welcomed their son, Reid Joseph.

Reid weighed almost seven pounds at six pounds, 15 ounces and measured in at 20 inches long.

MSgt Jason Babiarz (NE Region, Criminal Analyst) and his wife, Sara, welcomed their second son, Lorenzo James, on the 7th of July.

Lorenzo was nearly nine pounds at birth weighing in at eight pounds, 15 ounces and was 21.5 inches long.



Welcome to the World Kids!!!

News Around the Regions

Surprise Birthday Celebration!

Friday, September 29th, TSgt Stephanie Perkins of CDTF's HQ J8 Section was surprised by CD members from both HQ and North East with balloons and a cake in celebration of her 30th birthday (which is actually the 30th of September, a Saturday this year). The CD personnel showered her with birthday wishes and sang 'Happy Birthday' as well. TSgt Perkins was very appreciative and smiled practically all day long.

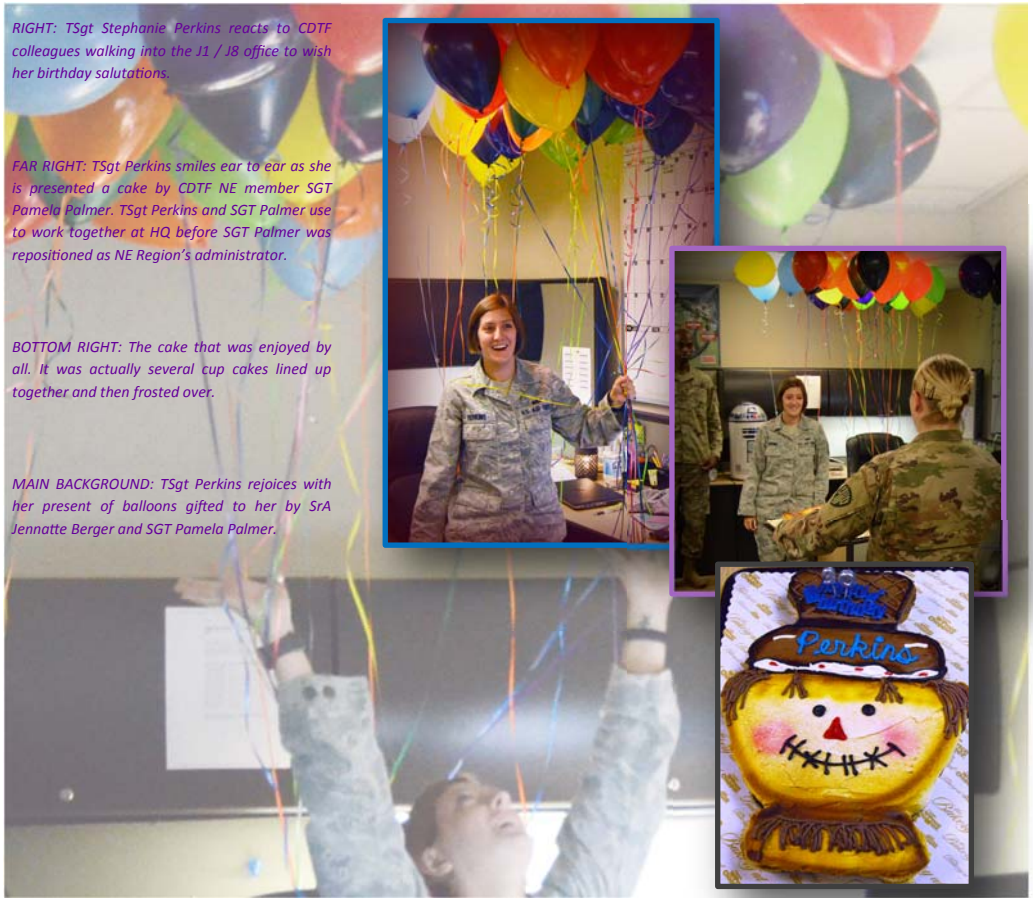
Happy Birthday Perx!!!

RIGHT: TSgt Stephanie Perkins reacts to CDTF colleagues walking into the J1 / J8 office to wish her birthday salutations.

FAR RIGHT: TSgt Perkins smiles ear to ear as she is presented a cake by CDTF NE member SGT Pamela Palmer. TSgt Perkins and SGT Palmer use to work together at HQ before SGT Palmer was repositioned as NE Region's administrator.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The cake that was enjoyed by all. It was actually several cup cakes lined up together and then frosted over.

MAIN BACKGROUND: TSgt Perkins rejoices with her present of balloons gifted to her by SrA Jennotte Berger and SGT Pamela Palmer.



Drugs Will Make You Do Stupid Things

We NYNG CDTF Members have seen and heard many crazy stories pertaining to drugs and what they can do to people. Below is a story from the North Carolina based "Charlotte Observer" that illustrates just how crazy drugs can impair a person's decision making process.

'A man allegedly attempted to elude police on by diving into the ocean and swimming away -- but unknowingly he was just several feet away from a shark while trying the brazen escape.

The 20 year old was pulled over for a traffic stop in Surf City, NC, according to WECT.

He allegedly tried to escape when officers spotted illegal contraband inside the vehicle and asked him to

exit the car. The suspect jumped into the ocean and began swimming away, leading to an hours-long standoff, officials said.

Within an hour, the escapee was reportedly 4,000 feet from the shore, and the Surf City Police Department launched a drone to track the fugitive.

"At that point, the operation became a rescue operation," police said in a statement.

But as police were trying to save him, they noticed a shark swimming near the man, drone footage showed.

Police were able to nab the jumper about three hours later, according to the Charlotte Observer.




*THIS PHOTO: The twenty year old suspect can be seen swimming away from shore as the police drone tracks his positioning. Also observed, several feet away (in the red circle), is a shark swimming along side. ****

The perpetrator was charged with resisting arrest, obstructing an officer, possession of drug parapher-

nalia, methamphetamine, and possession of marijuana.'***


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
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WESTERN REGION
Connecticut Street Armory

NORTHEAST REGION
Saratoga Military Museum

HEADQUARTERS
Stratton ANGB

LUH-72 OPERATIONS
AASF#3. Latham

NYC REGION
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