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# guardtimes

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

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# FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Over the course of the last three months we've been practicing full-spectrum National Guard operations here in New York and I am proud to say we've done it very well.

Every component and member of the New York Military Forces has met the challenges placed upon us by our state and nation as we coped with first Tropical Storm Irene, then the Binghamton flood, and then the demands of pre-deployment training and deployments.

We responded with more than 2500 men and women to our states needs when Tropical Storm Irene hit, followed closely by the massive flooding in Binghamton. Meanwhile, we moved forward on training the members of the 27th Brigade Combat Team, the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade, and other units to prepare for deployment.

A good example of this flexibility is the 174th Fighter Wing. The wing simultaneously executed its federal mission of providing air support for our troops in Afghanistan with the MQ-9, while at the same time serving as a marshaling site for Federal Emergency Management Supplies and aid and providing communications support to civilians in the village of Pratsville. And on top of all this the wing began standing up a new MQ-9 crew training program and flight program at Fort Drum.

Our response was truly a joint operation. Airmen and Soldiers, along with members of the New York Naval Militia and the New York Guard worked side-by-side to execute the mission. Rescue teams from the Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing, for example, climbed on board Army National Guard helicopters to conduct air search operations in Schoharie County.

During our response I had the opportunity to travel from the Adirondacks to New York City and then to Binghamton; talking to Guard members wherever I went. I was impressed with the professionalism and dedication to duty every one of you showed.

You did your jobs well and earned the respect of our fellow citizens. Your can-do and professional attitude was always evident, whether it was clearing a clogged stream so a roadway was preserved, or organizing civilian volunteers during Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Labor for Your Neighbor initiative.

The governor, our commander-in-chief, had nothing but good words for the men and women of the New York National Guard and our other military forces.

I also want to give Gov. Cuomo credit for moving quickly to initial a memorandum of understanding (agreement?) with the federal government which resulted in Brig. Gen. Michael Swezey being named one of four dual status commanders—able to direct both National Guard and federal troops—as Hurricane Irene threatened.

Had the aid of federal troops been required, this status would have enabled Brig. Swezey to direct the work of both our forces and federal forces in his role as commander of Joint Task Force Irene. This was the first time the dual status commander provisions of federal law have been implemented.

I also want to make a special mention of the outstanding response of the New York Guard, who found volunteers to help man evacuation shelters and augment JTF Irene headquarters, as well as the New York Naval Militia, who responded wholeheartedly to the request for volunteers.

As our domestic response wound down, we got back to training without missing a beat.

The 3rd Battalion 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion and other components of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade conducted pre-deployment training at Fort Drum in September. And at the end of the September the 27th Brigade moved 2000 troops to the National Training Center for three weeks of intensive, realistic exercises as part of its road to war in Afghanistan.

We've also mobilized and said goodbye to the Soldiers of the 14th Finance Detachment and the 727nd Law and Order Detachment and also executed another domestic operations training mission with local first responders, this time in Kingston.

As we prepare for the holiday season, many men and women of the 27th BCT will be saying goodbye to their families and leaving for pre-mobilization training before going downrange. Other members of our Guard family will be following them in the coming year.

Our state and nation needs every one of you. Keep up the good work.



**Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy**



Scan this QR code to view the video 'Good Night Irene' produced by Warrant Officer Ubon Mendie, New York Guard

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# guardtimes

Winter 2011 | Volume 4, Number 1

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, COMMANDER IN CHIEF  
Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
Eric Durr, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIR  
Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER  
Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, NYARNG, EDITOR

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



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[www.dmna.ny.gov](http://www.dmna.ny.gov)

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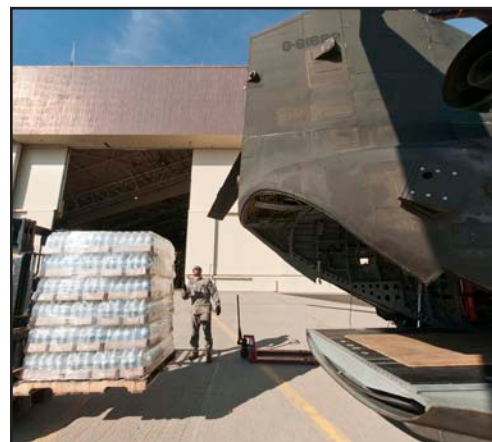
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NEWBURGH – Staff Sgt. Daniel Herley, Detachment 1, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th General Support Aviation Battalion, directs forklift operator David Whitaker, from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, while loading a pallet of bottled water into a Chinook helicopter in support of Hurricane Irene recovery operations on Aug. 31, at Stewart Air National Guard Base. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael OHalloran, 105th Airlift Wing.

ON THE COVER: New York Army National Guard Soldier Sgt. Windolyn V. Patino helps a woman from her Schoharie home, where mud and debris from Hurricane Irene floodwaters had trapped her for two days. Patino is a motor transport operator with the 719th Transportation Company.

BACK COVER: New York Army National Guard Capt. Elizabeth Ramsey, a Judge Advocate from New York City, listens to a combatives instructor during hand-to-hand combat training at Fort Drum on Aug. 8. Photo by Master Sgt. Peter K. Towse, 42nd Infantry Division.

# GUARD NOTES



## Exchange Benefits for National Guard and Reserve Members

DALLAS – More than one million, National Guard and Reserve members account for approximately 22 percent of authorized Army & Air Force Exchange Service shoppers. Since most are usually not on an installation full-time, they generally have fewer opportunities to patronize an Exchange.

In an effort to ensure that they are fully aware of how they can take advantage of their benefit, the Exchange has embarked on an aggressive outreach program

Since the program's inception in March, Exchange leadership has attended Yellow Ribbon events, Readiness Musters, Guard and Reserve conferences and a host of local meetings. As a result, Exchange civilian and military personnel have reached out to approximately 47,000 Guard and Reserve members through briefings and one-on-one interactions.

At Guard and Reserve functions, the Exchange's military outreach group communicates to service members that, wherever they may be, their earned benefit is available, both in-store or via [shopmyexchange.com](http://shopmyexchange.com).

"The Exchange's goal is to fully understand what value means to the National Guard and Reserves and to anticipate their wants and needs," said the Exchange's Senior Enlisted Advisor Chief Master Sgt. Jeffry Helm. "We're striving to create a sense of community and belonging for them by finding ways to serve them in their communities through personal engagement."

In addition to briefings and one-on-one meetings, the Exchange is also using catalogs, postcards, holiday cards and sales flyers, targeted specifically to Guard and Reserve members, to inform authorized shoppers of the multiple channels available.

"We've found that many of these Guard and Reserve members are unaware of the convenience and value of using the Exchange website," said Helm. "While they may not be stationed near a brick and mortar store, they have access to virtually anything they would find in an installation Exchange through [shopmyexchange.com](http://shopmyexchange.com). It's just a matter of making sure they are aware of that and then we're off to a great start."

## Free Tutoring For Military Families



Military families: Get help from a professional tutor anytime you need it – FREE. Tutors are online 24/7 and eligible service members in the Army, Marines, Navy, and Air Force, and their dependents, can get help with more than 16 subjects.

## Expansion of [www.tutor.com](http://www.tutor.com) Services for All Household Members of Reserve Components

Children and spouses of Army and Air National Guard members can get online and telephone tutoring assistance from [Tutor.com](http://www.tutor.com).

This program allows K-12 and adult students to connect to a live tutor online at anytime for help with homework, studying, exam preparation, college coursework and more. Guard and Reserve families accessing services at [Tutor.com](http://www.tutor.com) are matched with one of more than 2,500 carefully screened experts who include certified teachers, college professors, graduate students, select undergraduates from accredited universities and other professionals. To access the service Army and Air National Guard Soldiers and

Airmen and their families will need to create a [Tutor.com](http://www.tutor.com) Military Account.

Along with accessing the tutoring assistance via computer, applications can be downloaded to make the service accessible on iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch. For more information go to the [Tutor.com](http://www.tutor.com) homepage at: <http://www.tutor.com/military>



Scan this QR code to get connected to [Tutor.com](http://www.tutor.com)

### \*\* *GT Corrections* \*\*

1. The photograph on the cover of the Summer edition was misidentified. The Soldier is Staff Sgt. Sean Markham of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry.
2. In the photograph we used to compare a modern New York Army National Guard Soldier's gear with that of a Civil War soldier in the story "Soldiering on After 150 Years" in the Summer edition, Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Weidlich is wearing AN/PVS-7D not PVS 14 night vision goggles. He is also equipped with an ACOG AN/PVQ-31B sight not the M-68. The M-9 magazine holds 15 rounds not 20.

Guard Times regrets the errors and we thank our readers for pointing them out to us.

# International National Guardsmen and Reservists

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade  
Photos by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo, Joint Force Headquarters



Spc. Jay P. Lawrence, a public affairs photojournalist with the 42nd Infantry Division completes a "ride-along" with Pfc. Patrick Kelly (L) a Reserve Soldier with the 72nd Military Police Company from Nevada and Pvt. Benjamin Russell an active duty Soldier with the 615th Military Police stationed at Grafenwoehr Training Area resume their patrol after stopping at the Grafenwoehr post exchange to make a military police presence.

**GRAFENWOEHR, Germany - The Army slogan to "train as you fight" might describe a Soldier's level of training experience while taking advantage of overseas missions to support full spectrum operations for a major command here in Europe.**

Thousands of National Guard and Reserve Soldiers this year experienced overseas deployment training as a means to prepare for a unit deployment to a command theater operation, a security operation, a forward presence or mission support activities.

This training opportunity is known as the Overseas Deployment Training program and is administered by the Army's selected reserve program to assist both National Guard and Reserve units that are nearing or have already been notified about a Title 10 overseas deployment.

"The Overseas Deployment Training program is designed to have state-side Guard and Reserve units use their two week annual training and one additional week to test their ability to prepare, move, train with their active duty counterparts and then re-deploy back to home station successfully," said Master Sgt. Donna Dosik, the Overseas Deployment Training

operations sergeant in Grafenwoehr.

Dosik is one of five ODT managers in Germany that provide arriving units with housing, meals, transportation and coordination with each unit's military or civilian sponsor.

"Backwards planning is essential for a successful mission. Arriving Soldiers work on their METL tasks identified through their state or regional ODT managers," Dosik said. "In addition, ODT units add supplemental support to their military or civilian sponsors while conducting their METL tasks."

Once in Germany, a unit may distribute its Soldiers to as many as eight different locations in the Bavarian area based on the need and mission support of the supporting command stated Dosik.

Army Regulation 350-9 provides an ODT-selected unit commander with references and guidelines to prepare units for a successful ODT experience.

Determinations for participation are largely built around a unit's five-year training cycle and where the particular unit is in regards to its deployment time line, according to Dosik. In the past year, the ODT program has rotated such units as legal, engineer, public affairs, medical

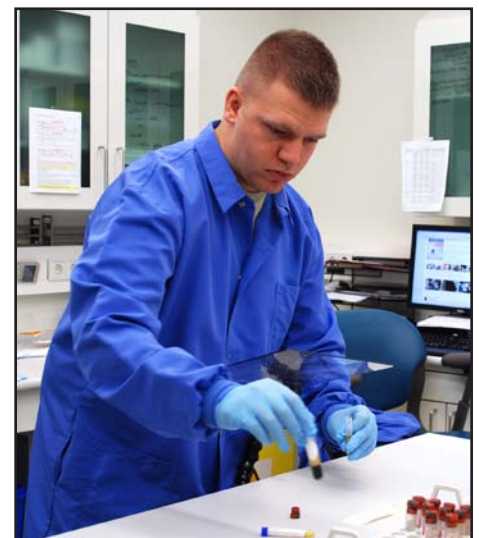
and military police.

"This is an outstanding opportunity, better than any annual training we've ever done and its even a week longer, said Spc. Michael J. Smith, a health care specialist/combat medic from the 322nd Medical Company based in Southfield, Michigan. "Our unit doesn't get a lot of opportunities to work in a clinic on a day-to-day basis where I can learn a lot of new skills as well as refining the skills I already have in a practical environment."

According to Army Regulation 350-9, battalion sized units are authorized to deploy as well as cells and detachments. During the month of August, a cell from the New York Army National Guard deployed to support the Joint Multinational Training Command's Public Affairs Office in Grafenwoehr.

Spc. Jay P. Lawrence, a photojournalist from the 42nd Infantry Division based in Troy, N.Y. had finished an ODT tour in Australia supporting Talisman Saber weeks prior to being selected for another ODT tour to Grafenwoehr.

"I'm doing my job in places I never expected to do it. I've been telling my friends and family that I get to go to Australia and Germany to do military journalism," Lawrence said. **gt**



Spc. Michael J. Smith, 322nd Medical Company, prepares blood samples for transport to an off-site testing lab. Smith's unit is participating in the Overseas Deployment Training Program.

## Inspector General Corner

# Progress: Making Strikes in All we Do

By Col. Eric Hesse, Inspector General

In the Inspector General business sometimes it is difficult to define progress. We can break down each of our four functions; Teach and Train, Assistance, Inspections and Investigation, and say that progress is more time spent on the road at units inspecting or teaching and training or progress is fewer assistance cases and fewer investigations. Regardless of how you define it, we have made progress over the past two years.

We have had fewer recurring cases or systemic issues and overall our case load has dropped by more than 100 each of the past two years. Personally, I'd like to take credit for this but I know that is not the case. I credit your units and the emphasis that has been put on improving the organization as a whole. Leaders, at all levels, continue to show genuine concern for their Soldiers and Airmen which translates to service members having confidence in their leaders.

We have a lot going on over the next year with deployments and redeployments. Our focus has to remain on ensuring Soldiers and Airmen are prepared to deploy with rear detachments and family readiness groups

prepared to support them. It is a difficult business and it requires attention to detail.

Non Commissioned Officers are the backbone of the Army and Air National Guard and leaders need to ensure they have the tools to succeed. As leaders, ensure you are mentoring all our junior leaders, both officer and NCO. There is still a lot to work on; evaluations, awards, PT and flagging actions just to mention a few but we have seen and continue to see progress.

The Inspector General's office will continue to be the eyes, ears, voice and conscience of the command and we will point out things that need to be corrected and things we know can and should be done better. We will maintain our emphasis on stressing the importance of performance in accordance with regulation, policy and the command training guidance. Starting this fall we will be inspecting unit metrics to see if what is being reported is really being executed. I continue to enjoy the opportunity to serve all the Soldiers and Airmen of the New York Army and Air National Guard, and I look forward to a very successful year for New York. **gt**

## Chaplain's Corner

# Rising to the Occasion, Deployment can be Journey of a Lifetime

By Col. (CH) Eric Olsen, State Chaplain

"Here we go again" or so it seems to many of us as either we pack up or watch our loved one get ready for another deployment. As 2012 arrives, the New York National Guard is as busy as ever with thousands either gearing up or down from missions both foreign and domestic. Sometimes, one questions if they are coming or going? The answer is yes. This is the life we have chosen.

As I often hear from good friends and neighbors, "you must be insane to do what you do." They are only partly right. I know that I, and people like me can be a little out there, but that's not a bad thing. As a committed member of the Profession of Arms, a Soldier or Airmen must be willing to step out of the safety and normalcy of the neighborhood and take real risks. Many of us answer an inner call to make a difference, loving the chance and the opportunity to serve in extreme situations. Deployment brings with it excitement, challenge and a chance to prove oneself in an arena few ever know or experience. This is a personal journey that will impact us and can transform us in a number of ways.

Here are a few things to consider so that the journey can be a positive one:

1. Know your purpose. If you are a Soldier or Airmen you have the responsibility to understand the role you have chosen and the part you play in the bigger picture. Our nation depends on us to be moral, ethical, dependable instruments for its policy. We are the strength that defends democracy, offers mercy and continually models restraint and decency. Why are you here?

If you are a family member, you too are part of this important mission. Standing behind your Service member is itself a calling and deeply challenging. It is no less difficult to be torn and worried about harm coming to your loved one than it is to go into the line of fire.

2. Know your community. All of us need to belong in the company of others. Humans are social beings and are healthiest when in a community that cares. A community can be good friends, loving family, a church congregation or membership in a fraternal organization, the point is being part of a group that shares your values and values you for who you are. Both

Service member and Families need others to socialize with because deployments are hard on everyone involved. It is for this reason we encourage membership in Family Readiness Groups. Friends who know you make life better. Who's got your back?

3. Know yourself. As you continue your journey it is important to reflect and see if it is going the way you desire. It is on us to make good decisions and know why we make them. All too often I hear and see our Soldiers and Airmen or their Families playing the victims of the military situation. We are not victims. This is the life we have chosen. Being warriors and deploying are hard, difficult, uncompromising tasks that we, you have chosen to undertake. It is not for the faint hearted or the weak.

In choosing this life, its benefits, rewards and unparalleled experience you have put yourself on a unique journey of the human spirit. You must work hard to never lose track of yourself, the calling you have accepted and the difference you make. Keep faith in yourself, those you value and the beliefs you hold dear if we are to be successful in our journey. **gt**

# Army Makes Rabies Prevention a Priority

Chanel S. Weaver, Army Public Affairs

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. - Officials at the U.S. Army Public Health Command have been working aggressively to prevent additional cases of rabies in Army personnel following the death of a Soldier on Aug. 31. The Soldier contracted the disease while deployed to Afghanistan. This death was the first documented case of rabies in the DOD since 1967.

"The death of this Soldier is very tragic, and we are taking actions to ensure something like this does not happen again," said Lt. Col. Steven Cersovsky, director of epidemiology and disease surveillance at the USAPHC.

Any Soldier, civilian or contractor who has been deployed to an area of the world where rabies is common could be at risk for developing rabies if exposed to a rabid animal," he emphasized. "It is critical that those with animal exposures, especially bites, receive immediate medical evaluation."

Individuals who meet the following criteria should report for medical evaluation as soon as possible:

Those who had a possible animal exposure that occurred after March 1, 2010. A possible

animal exposure is a bite or contact with the saliva of warm-blooded animals such as dogs, cats, bats, foxes, skunks, raccoons and jackals.

Those who had no medical evaluation or incomplete/undocumented evaluation or an incomplete series of rabies shots following an exposure incident. Individuals who are not 100 percent confident they received appropriate and documented care should be evaluated.

Although rabies is a fatal disease, it is preventable. It is also very rare in the United States, due to an active vaccination program for pets. The vast majority of rabies cases in the United States each year occur in wild animals like raccoons, skunks, bats, and foxes. In developing countries, however, the majority of human rabies cases result from rabid dog bites.

"The rabies virus infects the central nervous system, ultimately causing disease in the brain and death," said Cersovsky.

But death from rabies is not inevitable if a person receives proper medical care promptly after being bitten by a wild or stray animal.

"If medical treatment is obtained promptly following a rabies exposure, nearly all cases of rabies will be prevented," said Cersovsky.

"But the best way to prevent rabies is to avoid contact with stray and wild animals." **gt**

## Safety Corner Hunting Safety

By 1st Lt. Alicia Howard, Safety Specialist

Did you know that deer are virtually color blind? Deer lack the red-sensitive cone cells in their eyes that help them distinguish red or orange from green and brown.

This is why it makes sense to wear fluorescent orange clothing while hunting. Fluorescent orange safety clothing, also called "hunter orange" looks nothing like nature to humans and is bright enough to avoid another hunter from mistaking a person as an animal or shooting in their direction. Examine the photo at right. The two hunters are invisible to deer if they don't move. Which would you want to be if there were another hunter nearby, and a deer between you?

Soldiers are encouraged to submit their safety experiences/articles to the Safety Office for publishing. 1st Lt. Alicia Howard, Safety Specialist, Alicia.howard@us.army.mil



International Hunters Education Association



## Responsible Hunting

### Ten Commandments of Gun Handling

- Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
- Treat every firearm as though it were loaded.
- Unload firearms and open the action except when ready to shoot.
- Keep the barrel clear and choose proper ammunition for the firearm.
- Be sure of your target before pulling the trigger.
- Never point a firearm at anything you don't want to shoot.
- Never climb or jump with a loaded firearm.
- Never shoot at a flat, hard surface or water.
- Store firearms and ammunition safely.
- Avoid alcohol and drugs before and during shooting.

# Military Personnel News: the MILPO Corner

## Records Review.

All Soldiers should review their personnel records on a regular basis. With the conversion to the Officer Records Brief and Enlisted Records Brief, it is essential that all personnel review their respective brief and validate the record. Officer Record Briefs are replacing the DA Form 2-1 for Army Boards. Along with this transition, responsibility for updating ORBs will be delegated to the brigade level effective in November. Brigade Personnel Officers should request access to the Record Brief function in the G1 Portal. All officers should review and validate their ORBs to ensure the most current and accurate data. To validate the ORB, the officer must login to <https://minute-man.ngb.army.mil/benefits>, visit the "Record Brief Home Page," review the ORB and click "Certify Record Brief."

The new record brief will also contain your most recent DA Photograph for officers, so if you have not updated that recently now is the time to schedule. It is also critical that all military education documents such as diplomas, certificates and the DA 1059 are posted on IPERMS. Are you sure your most recent evaluation is posted and that all your awards are reflected on your ORB/ERB and in your IPERMS record?

How about your home of record, has that been updated? Operation Hurricane Irene is a current example of why it's important to review your records. Checks for State Active Duty were sent to the majority of Soldiers' HOR, those without updated HORs had checks returned, delaying pay. Please review your Record at <https://iperms.hrc.army.mil>. MNP will release a step-by-step guide to assist all Soldiers in the near future.

## Changes to Officer Evaluations.

In September, the Secretary of the Army approved enhancements and changes to the Officer Evaluation Reporting System, which became effective in October with implementation on Officer Evaluation Reports with a thru date on or after November 1, 2011. Changes include:

- The Senior Rater box check for company grade officers potential is reinstated.
- The Rater must comment as to whether

the rated officer has initiated or completed an Army Multi-Source Assessment and Feedback/360 (MSAF) IAW AR 350-1.

- Senior Raters will indicate the next three successive assignments appropriate for the rated officer, rather than the current practice of listing three future assignments.

Use of the DA Form 67-9-1 (Support Form) and DA Form 67-9-1a (Developmental Support Form) are optional. The requirement to conduct an initial discussion with the rated officer regarding the mission, goals, duties and objectives of their assigned duty position remains, but the method or means of documenting that and subsequent discussion is at the discretion of the rating officials.

A "Memorandum of Input" may be utilized in lieu of a short duration change of rater report when the rated officer continues to perform the same duties under the same Senior Rater. Use of the memorandum of input is at the Senior Rater's discretion.

## Army Officer Boards.

The DA Board schedule for the new fiscal year is posted on our webpage at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/553732>. Please contact Capt. Carl J. Jeremie, 518-272-6803, concerning all Officer Boards.

## Veterans Record Rumor.

There is a rumor circulating among veteran service organizations that Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs) at the National Personnel Records Center will be digitized and then destroyed. This rumor is NOT TRUE per the Human Resource Command.

## Recruitment Incentive and Retention Program (aka: State Tuition Assistance).

Soldiers who submitted their RIRP application for fall 2011 must have provided their financial aid paperwork (Student Aid Report from FAFSA and TAP Award Letter from Higher Education or Aid to Part-time Study application) to the Education Office by October 15 to be approved for fall 2011. If you have any questions call SFC Landry, 518-272-4032. To apply for FAFSA visit <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>. To apply for TAP visit Higher Educa-

tion at [www.hesc.com](http://www.hesc.com).

## Tuition Assistance at GoArmyEd.

The Army Guard completes the transition to GoArmyEd in October 2011. All Soldiers starting classes after October 1, 2011 will apply for Federal Tuition Assistance through GoArmyEd at <http://www.goarmy.com>

## Guard Incentive Management.

This fall the Army Guard will also move from IMARC to GIMS. GIMS will take over the processing of all incentives to include bonuses, student loan repayment and kickers. All Retention NCOs will request incentives through GIMS. The system will also require all Commanders to approve their Soldiers' bonus payments before they are paid. More information as it becomes available.



## Army Career Tracker (ACT).

Army Career Tracker (ACT) is LIVE for Enlisted Active, Army Reserve and Army National Guard forces. What is Army Career Tracker?

ACT is a leadership development tool that will:

- Integrate training, education, and experiential learning into one personalized and easy to use interface
- Present users with an intelligent search capability of multiple Army education and training resources
- Enable users to search TDA/TOE positions
- Provide users with a more efficient and effective way to monitor their career development
- Allow leaders to track and advise Users on their personalized leadership development

ACT is a total force solution

- Extends across Enlisted, Officers and Civilians
- Includes all components (Active, USAR and ARNG)

The ACT was officially deployed to the following Enlisted Soldiers Career Management Fields: 00, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 27, 31, 36, 37, 38, 42, 46, 51, 56, 68, 74, 79, 88, and 92



As a leadership development tool, the effectiveness of ACT will be maximized through the interactions between Soldiers and Leaders, the accuracy of the provided information and the goal setting and tracking capabilities.

Go to: [http://armypubs.army.mil/doctrine/stp\\_1.html](http://armypubs.army.mil/doctrine/stp_1.html) for additional information.

### Post 9/11 GI Bill Eligibility.

Only individuals who have deployed under Title 10 for 90 days or more, Title 32 (AGR), Active Duty, or State Active Duty in support of operations in NYC following 9/11 (Operation Noble Eagle), are eligible for the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Currently Title 32 ADOS to include Counterdrug are not considered qualifying time. We have learned that some area VA's are erroneously approving Soldiers who preformed Title 32 ADOS/ADSW for CH 33 benefits. We strongly encourage Soldiers who were erroneously approved to not utilize this benefit. We have been advised through VA Channels this discrepancy has been identified and erroneously approved Soldiers may be subject to recoupment.

### Student Loan Repayment.

We would like to remind Soldiers that SLRP anniversary payments are not automatic. Soldiers must submit documentation to the Education Office in order for anniversary payments to be processed. Soldiers need to send:

NSLDS Aid Summary Sheet

NSLDS Detail Loan Information Sheet(s)

DD Form 2475, DoD Educational Loan Repayment Program (LRP) Annual Application.

Soldiers can access the NSDLS website at <http://www.nsls.ed.gov>

### DA Photos for 2012 Fiscal Year.

All DA photos will be taken at the DMNA building in Classroom Two. To set an appointment in VIOS, step by step instructions are provided at <https://www.vios-east.army.mil>.

If you choose to go to Watervliet, you must secure a control number from Maj. Currier, MNAS, before making your appointment. The photographer (Bill Martin) WILL NOT take the photo without it. Due to an increase in "emergency" photo's during this past fiscal year, MNAS has increased available dates per month, with emergency photo's no longer possible.

#### Dates are as follows:

Dec. 13-14

May 8-9, 22-23

Jan. 10-11, 24-25

Feb. 7-8, 21-22

March 6-7, 20-21

April 10-11, 24-25

June 5-6, 19-20

July 10-11, 24-25

Aug. 7-8, 21-22

Sept. 4-5, 18-19

### Line of Duty Investigations.

Line of Duty investigations (LODI) are completed based on the duty status the Soldier is in at the time of the injury. If the Soldier is in a federal status (IE IDT, Title 32 or Title 10) LODIs are completed in the LOD Module found at [medchart.ngb.army.mil/LOD](http://medchart.ngb.army.mil/LOD). Federal LODIs are governed by AR 600-8-4 and Soldier may be entitled to compensation under AR 135-381. All follow up health care for federal LODs are requested through MNP-HS, Warrant Officer Spanton.

If the Soldier is in a State Active Duty status, the process is similar but the LODIs are not done within the LOD module and they process is governed by DMNA Reg 600-8-4 and would request benefits through the Workman's Compensation program. Point of contact for SAD LODIs and entitlements is Ms. Tina Lehning at 518-786-4715.

### Replacement Awards or Medals.

Requests for the issuance or replacement of military service medals, decorations, and awards should be directed to the specific branch of the military in which the veteran served. However, for Air Force (including Army Air Corps) and Army personnel, the National Personnel Records Center will verify the awards to which a veteran is entitled and forward the request with the verification to the appropriate service department for issuance of the medals.

The eVetRecs is preferred for requesting medals and awards. Provide as much information as possible in the comments field. Should you prefer to submit your request using a SF-180 then provide as much information as possible and send the form to the appropriate address for Army veterans:

Where to write for medals:

National Personnel Records Center

9700 Page Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63132-5100



## Orion Troops Head to NTC for Training

*HANCOCK FIELD AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, SYRACUSE--New York Army National Guard Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-108th Infantry Battalion board a plane bound for Fort Irwin, Calif. here September 30. More than 2,000 troops headed for the National Training Center as they prepare for a deployment in early 2012. See our story on pages 24. Photo by Master Sgt. Peter Towse, 42nd Infantry Division.*

# THE JOINT FORCE

## Guard Responds During Hurricane Irene



New York Army National Guard Soldiers with the 719th Transportation Company, based in Harlem, off-load charity items from a trailer to be distributed to Hurricane Irene victims in Cobleskill, Sept. 1. Photo by Sgt. Michael E. Davis, 369th Sustainment Brigade

*Guard Times Staff*

LATHAM - By Sept. 15, twenty days after the first unit had been notified to mobilize, the New York Military Forces response to Hurricane Irene had turned into the longest and largest State Active Duty mobilization since the 9/11 attacks.

Almost 4,000 members of the New York Army and Air National Guard, the New York Guard and the New York Naval Militia played some role in responding first to Hurricane Irene, then the flooding in the Catskills Hudson Valley and Adirondacks which followed, and then the flooding in the Binghamton area.

And in the middle of all that, a tornado hit Cranesville in Montgomery County on Sept. 5 and the Guard responded there as well.

At the peak there were 3,200 military forces members on duty responding to the weather emergencies at the direction of Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo. Those Soldiers, Airmen, and state defense force members employed 450 vehicles and 500 other pieces of gear ranging from chain saws to communications systems.

During the course of those 20 days, from August 26 to Sept. 15, military force members rescued 400 civilians, conducted more than 260 missions at the direction of the governor, including 50 air missions, and were active in 14 counties.

"The men and women of the New York Army and Air National Guard, as well as the New York Guard and New York Naval Militia, played an integral part in New York's storm recovery and response," said Governor Cuomo. "From Long Island, to New York City, to the Hudson Valley, the Adirondacks and the Southern Tier, our Citizen Soldiers and Airmen accomplished every mission asked of them with great skill and determination. I am proud to be their commander-in-chief."

Every component of the Joint Force played a role during the response. Among those missions accomplished:

Army Guard engineers from the 1156th Engineer Company rescued civilians in the Catskill mountain village of Windham as the waters of the Batavia Kill flooded the main street with four feet of water on August 28.

Army National Guard Soldiers from the 1st Battalion 258th Artillery, the 1st Battalion 69th Infantry, the 369th Sustainment Brigade and New York Guard volunteers provided 1000 service members to man evacuation shelters



New Army National Guard Soldiers Pfc. Joel Hernandez (right) and Cpl. Kevin Munoz (background, center) direct cars away from the Lexington Avenue Armory here on Aug. 27 to keep the area accessible for emergency and military traffic to the armory. Both Soldiers are from the Bronx and belong to the 1st



New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the Commander-in-Chief of the New York National Guard greets Staff Sgt. Alcides Zelaya, a motor transport operator with the 719th Transportation Company, based at the Harlem Armory in New York City, during their Hurricane Irene recovery mission in Schoharie, Aug. 29. Photo by Spc. Michael E. Davis, Jr., 369th Sustainment Brigade.

in New York City on August 27 and 28, while the 206th Military Police Company moved to Manhattan and then to Long Island in response to the changing course of the storm.

The 1427th Transportation Company moved vitally needed supplies around the state,



Scan this QR code to view the video Task Force Irene Goes to Work.

*Continued on next page*



107th Airlift Wing Airman line up to board a C-130 aircraft bound for Stewart Air National Guard Base, near Newburgh for Hurricane Irene support on Saturday, Aug. 27, The Airmen staying at Camp Smith near Peekskill as part of Task Force Irene were in place to ride out the storm and immediately respond to aid civil authorities as directed in New York City. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Ray Lloyd, 107th Airlift Wing.

*Hurricane Irene, Continued from Page 11*

bringing a water pump from Buffalo to Rotterdam, for example, and provided manpower when necessary.

Soldiers from the 42nd Infantry Division helped coordinate the rescue of civilians stranded across a flooded creek with State Police helicopters on Aug. 29.

A maintenance team from the 204th Engineers responded immediately on the evening of Sept. 7 as the Susquehanna River began to overflow its banks in Binghamton and immediately rescued 83 people stranded by rising waters.

Task Force Engineer and Task Force 101—composed of the 101st Enhanced Signal Battalion and the 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry—rescued more than 300 people in the Tioga County/Broome County region.

The 204th Engineers – which included the 152nd Engineer Company, the 827th Engineer Company and the 1156th Engineer Company conducted emergency road repairs that opened communications routes while also moving relief supplies when needed. Engineer Soldiers also helped clear roads in the Adirondacks and provide water to isolated towns.

The 101st Enhanced Signal Battalion Soldiers

helped organize civilian volunteer workers during Gov. Cuomo’s Labor for Your Neighbor Initiative on Sept. 4 and 5.

The 719th Transportation Company assisted

the authorities in going door-to-door in Schoharie County to check on residents.

Army National Guard aviators flew relief supplies to an evacuation shelter in the Tioga



New York Army National Guard aviation Soldiers stage and break down pallets of food at Army Aviation Support Facility 3 on Aug. 31. The food was contributed by the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York, and the aviation Soldiers loaded it on UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and flew it to the victims of flooding which occurred in the wake of Hurricane Irene. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Drumsta, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

County town of Nichols when flood waters from the Susquehanna River cut the road network. Heavy lift CH-47 helicopters moved bulk supplies and then carried smaller loads into inaccessible areas in UH-60s.

New York Army National Guard aviators conducted reconnaissance missions and search and rescue missions in conjunction with State Police helicopters and also transported Gov. Cuomo and federal and state officials into and out of the disaster areas.

New York Air National Guard HH-60 Pavehawk search and rescue helicopters from the 106th Rescue Wing conducted search and rescue missions in Schoharie County and then performed the same mission in Binghamton. Master Sgt. Jules Roy of the 103rd Rescue Squadron used a rescue basket to hoist a 93-year old woman into a helicopter.

New York Air National Guard rescue teams climbed aboard Army Guard helicopters to work jointly in conducting search and rescue missions.

The 109th Airlift Wing provided labor to help put the Middleburg, Schoharie County School back in shape for opening day. Over a two-day period the Airmen cleaned the first floor as well as outside work and recreation areas.

A New York Air National Guard signal team from the 174th Fighter Wing employed its Joint

Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) satellite communications equipment to link Prattsville, in Greene County, with the outside world via e-mail and internet phone systems until commercial carriers could restore their lines.

Air Guardsmen from the 174th Fighter Wing at Hancock Air National Guard Base and the 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart Air National Guard Base assisted the Federal Emergency Management Agency in storing and moving relief supplies.

Air Guard members from the 107th Airlift Wing deployed to Camp Smith in the Hudson Valley where they assisted in missions ranging from supply distribution to driving police in humvees.

New York Naval Militia members, working out of Stratton Air National Guard Base, sandbagged the Schenectady Water Treatment



Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy the Adjutant General for the New York National Guard and Capt. Bryan Reed of the 204th Engineer Battalion observe recovery missions in the Town of Middleburgh, Sept. 3. Soldiers and Airmen of the New York National Guard provided disaster support in Delaware, Greene and Essex Counties following the floods of Hurricane Irene. Photo by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, 42nd Infantry Division.

plant to protect it from flooding as the Mohawk River rose.

New York Guard members provided additional staffing to assist the 53rd Troop Command headquarters run Joint Task Force Irene, provided expert instructors to teach Soldiers and Airmen how to use chain saws, staffed emergency shelters in New York City, and helped cook for troops at Camp Smith.

New York Guard Signal teams also established the MERN—Military Emergency Radio Network—to help supplement communications efforts.

For most New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen this was their first domestic response mission and they did an outstanding job serving their community, said Major General Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General.

“Whether it be traffic control, distributing supplies, security detail, or rescuing stranded residents from their homes, they did it in a very respectful, professional way,” Murphy said. “We played a key role in the state’s response.” **gt**



Soldiers of the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, New York Army National Guard, along with civilian volunteers assist residents of Ashland, near Prattsville during Governor Andrew Cuomo’s ‘Labor For Your Neighbor’ service initiative Sept. 4. (See page 15 for our ‘Labor For Your Neighbor’ story). Photo by Staff Sgt. Thomas Wheeler, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.



Scan this QR code to view the video Task Force Irene After Action Report.

# Air Guard Powers Up Disaster Communications

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Drumsta, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team



New York Air National Guard Master Sgt. Linda Walker (seated) and Tech. Sgt. Brian Matthews program radios outside the Emergency Operations Center truck in Prattsville. The Airmen belong to the 174th Fighter Wing JISCC Team .



New York Air National Guard Airmen of the 174th Fighter Wing JISCC Team install an antenna mount near the Emergency Operations Center in Prattsville to provide a communications infrastructure to first responders and flood victims in the area following the devastating floods following Hurricane Irene.

PRATTSVILLE - The Syracuse-based 174th Fighter Wing used high-tech, satellite communications to keep this flood-ravaged Catskill Mountain village in touch with the world. Using their Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) equipment, a half-dozen Airmen of 174th's Communications Flight provided phone and internet access for civilians hit hard by flooding in the wake of Hurricane Irene.

"When we first rolled in here, the cell towers and phone lines were down, so we set up next to the Emergency Operations Center in Prattsville," said JISCC Commander Lt. Col. Michael Adamitis. The EOC personnel needed internet and wi-fi to allow them to communicate with other command posts and coordinate help when and where it's needed,"

"We've also set up an internet kiosk so the local population can access the internet and make phone calls," Adamitis said. "They can talk to their families and let them know they're OK. They seem to be relieved to talk to their families."

"The airmen of the communications flight are trained to go where there are no communications and provide it," Adamitis said. "The communications infrastructure set up for the Prattsville area population is just a portion of what they can do," he stressed.

Initially, the 174th JISCC staged at Stewart Air National Guard Base near Newburgh Aug. 27 -ahead of Hurricane Irene's landfall -in order to respond to New York City, Long Island, and other areas downstate.

"When we first got here, the U.S. postman was walking down the street, delivering mail to people as she saw them," recalled Adamitis "It made me feel humble to see how these people responded to the disaster. They're doing what they can to help themselves, and it makes us feel good to help them."

New York Army National Guard communications teams are also playing a role.

"Communications is the key to everything," said Muller, of Malta. "First responders need it. With the communications we're providing, the first responders and Soldiers can get out to the field and perform rescues and deliver other emergency services. The population knows we're here for them."

Muller - a Saratoga County Sheriff's Deputy in his civilian life - appreciates the impact of cooperation and communication in times like these.

"Teamwork is everything in an emergency situation like this," he said. "Communication puts help where it's needed, and saves time and resources to better serve the public in a time of need, especially now." **gt**



New York Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Frank Rizzi from the 101st Enhanced Signal Battalion briefs volunteers before heading out for cleanup missions in Prattsville, on Sept. 4. Some 200 volunteers were supported by the New York National Guard at this one site as part of Governor Andrew Cuomo's 'Labor for your Neighbor' service initiative. Throughout Labor Day weekend troops assisted post-hurricane Irene efforts in Greene, Delaware and Essex Counties.

## Leading the 'Labor for Your Neighbor' Initiative

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters

PRATTSVILLE - Members of the New York National Guard helped organize, equip, transport and lead hundreds of volunteers across the flood-stricken communities of Prattsville, Margaretville and Keene to help victims of the heavy rains and devastating floods following Hurricane Irene.

Soldiers operated reception stations for volunteers that arrived from across the state and other parts of the country in support of Governor Andrew Cuomo's "Labor for your Neighbor" service initiative Sept. 4 and 5. National Guard Soldiers processed volunteers, equipped them with protective equipment, water and meals provided by regional Wal Mart stores and took them to specific cleanup tasks in the flood ravaged communities of Prattsville, Margaretville and Keene.

Groups of twelve volunteers were assigned to two National Guard Soldiers for missions in Greene, Delaware and Essex Counties. "Our job is help keep all these volunteers safe, give them direction and get them to where

help is needed most," said Sgt. 1st Class Frank Rizzi, from Company B, 101st Enhanced Signal Battalion.

"You will get muddy," Rizzi told a group of volunteers as they prepared for their mission of clearing "muck" from key buildings in town and assisting homeowners. More than 200 volunteers were prepared by the Guardsmen and women for their day-long tour of duty. Dozens of other volunteers showed up individually to help the town.

"This is a great thing," said New York Army National Guard Capt. Alexander Martin, from the 101st Signal overseeing the

reception station.

"Our Soldiers are excited to be here. They're engaged in this task and doing good things. That's great for morale." **gt**



Paul Constable (left) Asst. Manager of the Glenmont Walmart, assists with the distribution of supplies with Soldiers of the 101st Signal Battalion during the "Labor for your Neighbor" service initiative outside of Prattsville, N.Y.





# After Irene, Guardsmen Step Up for NY Floods

By Eric Durr, Public Affairs Director

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

BINGHAMTON - The New York National Guard reshuffled troops, vehicles and aircraft Sept. 7 and 8, and went from one disaster to another as New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo directed state resources towards Binghamton to respond to area flooding.

By the afternoon of Sept. 7, 350 Soldiers and Airmen were on duty in the Southern Tier city, equipped with 44 vehicles, including high-axle trucks that could negotiate flooded streets. Six aircraft—two Air National Guard HH-60 Pave hawk Search and Rescue helicopters, two Army National Guard UH-60 medical evacuation helicopters with hoists, a “slick” UH-60 and a CH-47 Chinook heavy lift helicopter—were on the ground at the Broome County Airport ready to assist as well.

The landfall of Hurricane Irene was downgraded to a tropical storm over New York City and Long Island on Aug. 28, which resulted in heavy rains causing flooding in mountain valley towns, led to Gov. Cuomo ordering the New York National Guard to put 2,700 Soldiers and Airmen on duty.

Then heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Lee boosted the water level in the Susquehanna River, which runs through the city of Binghamton, to more than 18 feet above normal in 24 hours. County officials ordered about 10,000 residents to evacuate in the region.

Guard resources shifted as the disaster needs of local authorities moved into Broome County. Soldiers from the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, headquartered in Niagara Falls, who had been heading towards Greene and Schoharie counties in the Hudson Valley, were rerouted to Binghamton on Wednesday, Sept. 7. The troops had been due to relieve Soldiers who had been on duty since Tropical Storm Irene hit New York on August 28.

Soldiers from the 204th Engineers Battalion, headquartered in Binghamton, who were on duty in Greene and Schoharie counties headed back to their home base to assist residents.

As flood waters rose on Sept. 7, three Light Medium Tactical Vehicles from the 204th's field maintenance shop responded to police requests and rescued 80 civilians from an inaccessible



Chief Warrant Officers Charles Rodda and Joseph McCarthy pilot a New York Army National Guard UH-60 helicopter while conducting a reconnaissance mission over the flooded area of Binghamton.

area and moved them to higher ground.

The Soldiers have been doing exceptional work, Lt. Col. James Freehart, the commander of the 204th Engineers said. Soldiers of the 101st Signal Battalion, who had been on duty in the Hudson Valley, were also moved into the

Binghamton area at the governor's direction.

The rest of the 884 Army and Air National Guard members assigned to state emergency missions remained on duty in logistical support positions or in Greene, Schoharie and Delaware counties. **gt**



Above, Spc. Kyle Monroe, a crew chief from Army Aviation Flight Facility 3, assists volunteers at the State University of New York-Binghamton loading water, boxed meals and blankets in the University parking lot before airlifting these supplies to citizens stranded in the Town of Nichols where vehicular traffic was not accessible. Opposite page, the rising waters of the Susquehanna River in Binghamton is evident from a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter as aviators moved into position to provide assistance to local residents Sept. 8.

# ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



Members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade and field service representatives labor to get the main tent of the Standardized Integrated Command Post System (SICPS) set up at Fort Drum July 13. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade.

# The Future Arrives for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Brigade

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

FORT DRUM – Nearly 200 Soldiers from the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade endured soaring summer heat here as the brigade leadership and staff set up and trained on their Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelters (DRASH) as part of the Army's Standard Integrated Command Post System (SICPS).

The summer heat was reminiscent of temperatures many Soldiers remembered from Iraq. The troops from the brigade headquarters and associated New York aviation units learned quickly to setup and deploy the command post, a new spin to the combat Soldier's past dilemma to provide commanders with communications and data in the field.

In the past, the command post was established in any available shack, canvas tent, bunker or even foxholes to set up antennae and radios.

Using the DRASH system, a modern Army brigade-sized unit command post is a quickly-erected shelter system that integrates shelter, mobility, lighting, heating, cooling and power in one package.

After arriving at Fort Drum, the aviation Soldiers unlocked conex's containing everything that they would need to set up their main tent complete with bicycle track flooring, communication equipment, generators and miles of wiring to splice it all together.

On hand to support the Soldiers were DRASH field support representatives.

"The 42nd CAB performed excellently and was very interested in their new, specialized equipment which included the Blue Force Tracker and a networking infrastructure to receive and deploy information," said Dan Bacon, an L3 CONUS East Digital Systems Engineer. "To approach this magnitude of training on their own would be unrealistic for Soldiers."

Starting July 10, Soldiers and contractors spent three weeks turning a two-acre sandlot into a bustling training center after erecting a main tent and conjoining a half dozen smaller tents to give it the look of an entire network.

Once this command post of the future was in place, Soldiers set about laying bicycle track flooring and weaving long strands of cable to establish internet and voice-over-internet-protocol via satellite terminals.

Active duty Army combat brigades are currently using the DRASH system in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The 42nd CAB Soldiers were pretty successful, the instructors noted, at getting the system set up quickly and getting to the task of training on specific communication equipment and

networking with all the other aviation units," said Maj. James Seagle, the brigade signals officer. "It's a challenge to get part time Soldiers to receive new equipment training and put those skills learned into practice for future operations."

*Continued on next page*



Spc. Deanna Pierson performs a functions check with Spc. David Acevedo, both members of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade, to ensure he is connected to the Internet in order to complete validation on the Advance Field Artillery Tactical Data System that coordinates land and air indirect fire systems on July 25. The training was part of the Aviation Brigade Headquarters fielding of its command post of the future.



Dan Bacon, an L3 Communications field service representative tests the 3D mapping work station belonging to the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion's command post of the future.



3-142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion Soldiers conduct a morning routine check to ensure that their Army satellite system is still locked onto a satellite..

# NY Raises 9/11 Memorial Flag Over Gitmo

## Troop Hold Tribute to 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay



GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba - Soldiers with the New York National Guard's 107th Military Police Company held a moving memorial to mark the 10th anniversary for those who lost their lives during the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The company is currently deployed to Joint Task Force Guantanamo where they fall under the 525th Military Police Battalion in support of detention operations.

Raising the state of New York's flag over JTF Guantanamo's Camp America at exactly 8:46 a.m.-the time the first plane struck the World Trade Center -107th MP Co. commander, Capt. Chris Marion said the ceremony held special significance to the Soldiers of the company.

Working with New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's office, members of the 107th acquired a flag previously flown over New York's capital in Albany. The flag, along with a proclamation from the governor was sent to the company.

Prior to raising the flag, Staff Sgt. Frederick Plimpton spoke to the group of assembled Troopers.

Plimpton was a New York State Trooper on 9/11 and remembers the moment he knew he wanted to join the New York National Guard.

"I was one of the many Troopers from around the state who responded," said Plimpton, who was working in Rochester at the time. "After about my fifth day patrolling around the area, I was approached by a staff sergeant who asked me what he and his Soldiers could do to help."

Plimpton, a former Marine, said he was immediately struck by the professionalism and discipline of the Soldiers.

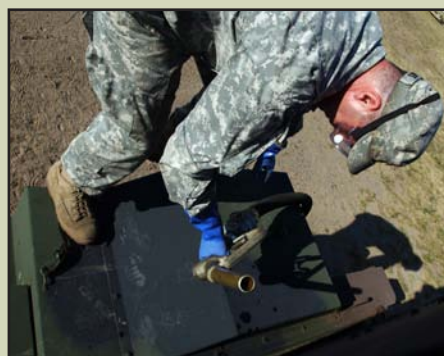
"I knew right then I wanted to join the National Guard," he said. **gt**



Pfc. Charles Clemons and Sgt. Shawn Chapple, both assigned to New York's 107th Military Police Company, raise the New York State flag Sunday morning at Camp America at 8:46 a.m. on Sept. 11, 2011 commemorating the 10th anniversary of 9/11. The flag was sent by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo. (Below) A watch shows 8:46 a.m. on the wrist of a Soldier observing the New York State flag raising ceremony, reflecting the time that Flight 11 crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Photos by U. S. Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kilho Park, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay.

**"I was approached by a staff sergeant who asked me what he and his Soldiers could do to help. I knew right then I wanted to join the National Guard,"**

*-- Staff Sgt. Frederick Plimpton, 107th Military Police Company*



Spc. Rob Loomis, a refueler from Company A, 642nd Aviation Support Battalion keeps the command post of the future functioning by topping off every generator with diesel fuel from a mobile fuel truck every six hours. The 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade fielded the command post of the future this summer. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade.

### *Aviation Command Post, Continued*

Bearing this in mind, the aviation brigade commander, Col. Mark Stryker, looks forward to more training opportunities.

"All of the Soldiers really did an excellent job in meeting or beating the exercise milestones," Stryker said. "This training will lay the foundation for our collective Command and Staff training events in the next year."

Every part of the overall DRASH came in large metal conex containers in the beginning left the Fort Drum training area all neatly collapsed, folded and accounted for loaded on trailers and towed back to each aviation units home armory using Humvees and Light Medium Tactical Vehicles to be on-hand for future training or response events. **gt**



## Deployments Loom Large for NY Guardsmen

*FORT DRUM - New York Army National Guard Soldiers of Company A, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion, prepare to enter and clear a building during the dismounted execution fight lane Sept. 16. The pre-mobilization training encompasses a number of individual and team tasks required for deployment overseas. Elements of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade and 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team are in training status's for possible deployments to the OIF or OEF theater of operations in 2012.*

*Pages 22-24 contain training story and photos for both units. Photo by Master Sgt. Peter Towse, 42nd Infantry Division.*

# Aviation Soldiers Focus on Future Deployment

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Peter Towse, 42nd Infantry Division



Company E, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion Soldiers move through smoke for concealment and over a village wall to secure a village during the dismounted execution fight lane Sept. 20. The pre-mobilization training encompasses a number of individual and team tasks required for deployment overseas. The unit is part of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade and is slated to deploy to in 2012 to support overseas contingency operations.

**FORT DRUM** - More than 400 Army National Guard Soldiers from the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade and other New York Army National Guard aviation elements completed training here in Sept. to prepare Soldiers for a potential deployment overseas in 2012.

Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation Assault Helicopter Battalion based on Long Island are joined with elements of the New York's Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation from Rochester and detachments from both the Connecticut and Maine Army National Guard for the training. The troops are conducting individual pre-mobilization training tasks required before overseas deployment.

The rotation of forces has over 400 Soldiers on the ground at Fort Drum for the pre-mobilization training, with another 200 Soldiers from across the state providing training support, instruction, logistical support and administration of the entire scenario.

"Very comprehensive and well-rounded training," said Chief Warrant Officer Tom Richmond, Black Hawk pilot with Detachment C, Company E, 3rd-142nd. "This will prepare us for theater operations."

The training, called the 15-4 (15 individual tasks and four team tasks), includes basic Soldier tasks such as land navigation, recognition and reaction to improvised explosive devices, first aid, conduct convoy operations, weapons training and specific skill-related tasks for military police, logistics, medical and other tailored forces.

"We teach basic Soldier skills to give everyone a solid foundation before they deploy," said Sgt. Adam Drobecker, a trainer with the Pre-mobilization Training Assistance Element, or PTAE. "There is always the possibility of getting into a fire fight and every Soldier needs to learn and perform to keep themselves, and their buddy, alive."

The PTAE conducts all the training and evaluates the unit conducting the training prior to the unit mobilizing.

"This training is a real good refresher," said Pfc. Juan Maldonado, an aviation operations specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion. "It is the best training, by far."

Once the classes and practice phases are complete, the citizen Soldiers take on what is commonly referred to as the fight lane.

"The fight lane is a culmination of all the tasks they have learned up to that point for one, final event," said Command Sgt. Major Anthony Mclean, the senior enlisted advisor of the PTAE. "The Soldiers move through an urban training site and interact with civilian role players, using an interpreter for negotiations with the mayor of the town. They then move as a member of a fire team, react to sniper fire and conduct combat actions. They also have to enter and clear buildings, capture and search personnel and maneuver through obstacles."

Part of the dismounted (no vehicles) fight lane is the mud pit -- a water and mud-filled area that all the troops have to trudge through while low crawling under concertina wire and taking fire from role playing enemies hidden in buildings surrounding the pit. Mud-soaked, the team members help each other through more razor wire and over the walls of the town while

communicating over the artillery simulated explosions and through the dense smoke grenades.

"There is chaos, then there is controlled chaos," Drobecker said. "The difference between the two is being able to communicate while under fire and making sure everyone is doing what they are supposed to be doing in order to successfully meet the objective."

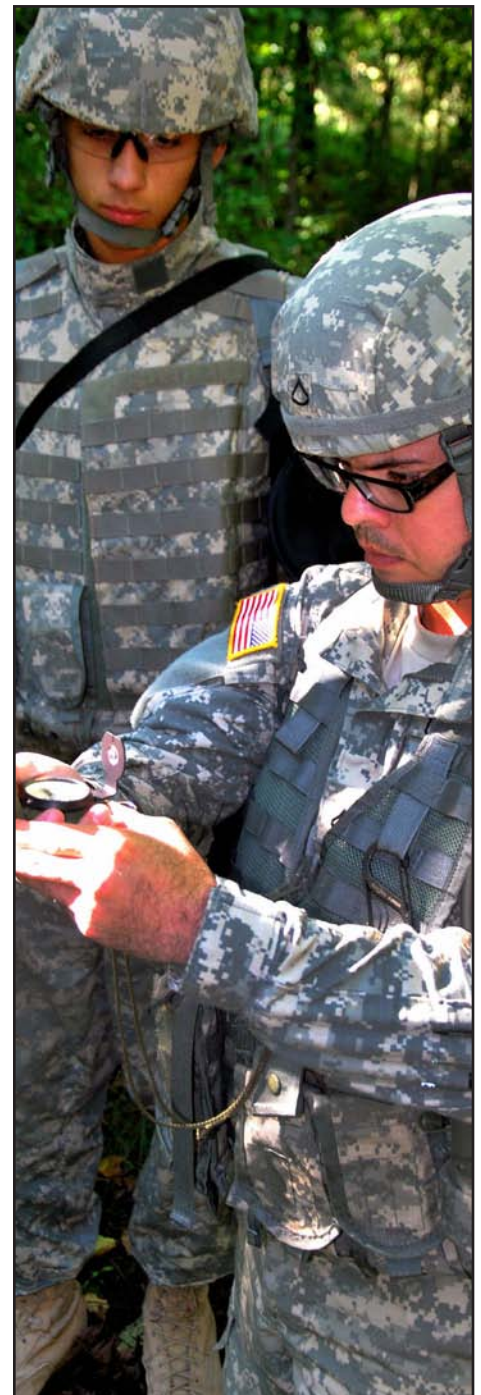
The overall effort of the pre-mobilization training began Sept. 12, and continued until Sept. 25.

"The training continues to go very well," said Lt. Col. Mark Slusar, commander of the 3rd-142nd. "The Soldiers are motivated and the training is very realistic."

"Any time Soldiers can get a basic understanding of what to expect when going overseas, is good training," said Brig. Gen. Mark Russo, the assistant Adjutant General for the Connecticut National Guard. "I have been to many training sites and this is one of the better training exercises that I have seen." **gt**



Soldiers of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion, interact with local role-playing civilians while moving through the dismounted execution fight lane Sept. 21. The pre-mobilization training encompasses a select number of individual and team tasks required for deployment overseas.



Private First Class Juan Maldonado (right) and Private First Class Anthony Serrano, aviation operations specialists with Headquarters and Headquarters company, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion, move through the land navigation course on Fort Drum Sept. 18. The pre-mobilization training encompasses a number of individual and team tasks required for deployment overseas. The unit is part of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade and is preparing for a potential mobilization and deployment in 2012.

# Orion Completes Home Station Training Phase...

By Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, Guard Times Staff and 1st Sgt. Christopher Holmes, Pre-mobilization Training Assistance Element

FORT DRUM - Just like a sequel to a movie or perhaps the movie 'Ground Hog Day' New York's Pre-mobilization Training Assistance Element at Fort Drum took the opportunity to continue pre-mobilization training in Alpha mode.

During the May-June time frame, the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team was able to push approximately 1,950 troops through the Pre-Mobilization Training 2 or PMT II process to get them certified for the 27th's approaching deployment to Afghanistan.

This was just short of the 27th command staffs' desire to have 100 percent of the brigade certified in the form of approximately 2,000 Soldiers ready to deploy. But like most human endeavors, not everyone can be in the right place at the right time so the PTAE crew rolled up their sleeves and did PMT II-Alpha for the remaining members of the 27th as well as New York's 14th Finance Detachment that is nearing a deployment date in the future.

From Aug. 9 to 20, approximately 300 more New York Soldiers were paced through the Alpha portion in preparation for deployments.

The reason for conducting a PMT II-Alpha was for brigade Soldiers who missed PMT II in May-June time frame due to being at basic training, advanced individual training or for medical reasons.

The 27th Brigade Soldiers who missed the May-June time frame, would be sure not to miss the impact of training. Alpha training was conducted by the same PTAE Observer Controllers/Trainer's, with assistance from the 42nd Special Troops Battalion on the same 15 Army Warrior Tasks and four Battle Drills handed down from Forces Command. **gt**



27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers get certified on the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer as part of their pre-deployment training. The HEAT trainer closely replicates a humvee that has rolled over, forcing Soldiers to escape individually and assist everyone in the vehicle until everyone is accounted for. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Drumsta, 27th IBCT.



Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Drumsta, a Public Affairs Non-Commissioned Officer for the 27th Inf. Bde. Combat Tm. completes the weapons qualification portion of pre-deployment training before moving on to more desert-like training at Fort Irwin, Calif. Photo by Maj. Robert Romano, 27th IBCT.



# ...and then heads Westward...

By Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Drumsta, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

FORT IRWIN, Calif. – Dust, heat and tactical marches through mountainous terrain greeted more than 2,000 New York Army National Guard Soldiers of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team at the National Training Center (NTC) here in October.

In fact, some of the troops saw the rough terrain and environment as all part of the training plan to ready them for a planned 2012 deployment to Afghanistan.

“I think it would be impossible to come out of this and not be a better Soldier,” said 2nd Lt. Patrick Tumberello, who belongs to the 1st Battery, 258th Field Artillery. Tumberello, of Manhattan, N.Y., was one of the over 2,000 brigade Soldiers who trained here.

Since their training rotation at the NTC, the Army changed the 27th Brigade mission. More than 2,000 New York Army National Guard Soldiers and 811 Soldiers from the South Carolina National Guard will now conduct a security force mission in Kuwait.

The Soldiers left Hancock Field Air National Guard Base for Fort Irwin on Sept. 30 on 13 charter flights. They returned Oct. 22 –Oct. 25, landing at Hancock Field and then busing back to their home armories.

The NTC training included simulated combat missions and stability operations under the realistic, demanding and stressful environment provided by the NTC, which mirrors the physical and cultural conditions of Afghanistan, the original mission location.

Like Afghanistan, the troops manned and lived on forward operating bases (FOBs) and smaller outposts during the exercise and conducted combat operations in NTC’s mountainous, desert terrain.

“When we train back home, we don’t train for mountains,” said Spc. Marc Dorsey, a sniper with the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, based in Utica. “There’s no substitute for actually marching mountains.”

Dorsey, from Albany described the mountainous terrain as “insane,” calling it a three-dimensional battlefield which stressed the Soldiers physically and opened their eyes to what they’ll face in Afghanistan. They dealt

*Continued on next page*



Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Battalion board a plane in Syracuse, Sept. 30. More than 2000 New York Army National Guard troops head for the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. for pre-mobilization training as they prepare for a deployment to Afghanistan. The training area at NTC is located in the Mojave Desert, just south of Death Valley. Photo by Master Sgt. Peter Towse, 42nd Infantry Division.

## ... and Finally, Completing a Training Tour at NTC



Spc. Casey Rosiak from Scotia, assigned to Company C, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry based in Gloversville, carries a 60mm mortar tube prior to live fire at Fort Irwin, Calif. Oct. 6. The 108th is part of an upcoming deployment with the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in 2012. Photo by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo, Joint Force Headquarters.

with elevations of about 3,000 feet above sea level, he added.

“You can even feel the effects of elevation here,” Dorsey said. “We start out at 8,000 feet in Afghanistan. Your body needs to know how to process (thinner air) more efficiently. For every 300 feet of elevation, you have to add an hour of travel time.”

The dust forced them to clean their weapons twice a day, and the training also showed them how to pack more efficiently, balancing amenities against mission necessities, he explained.

“We gave up comfort for the mission,” Dorsey said.

Those missions included over watching the brigade’s tactical movement into the exercise area and its assault against a drug/IED factory and other mock insurgent positions -- manned by the National Training Center’s aggressive, experienced opposing force -- in a steep, narrow mountain pass. They were able to take out insurgent snipers who were pinning down infantry troops who were moving against these positions, Dorsey said.

Tumberello commanded a personal security detachment which teamed up with Afghan National Army role players to clear a route between two FOBs -- a six-mile stretch of dusty

desert road which included IED and ambush scenarios. The mission took about two to three hours, Tumberello recalled, and though they captured a suspected terrorist in possession of an IED, the patrol suffered mock casualties in four engagements, and they had to render aid and perform medevac procedures.

But he doesn’t consider that a loss.

“I want my Soldiers to become more efficient in all basic Soldier skills, and all other skills which will ensure their survival,” he said.

The patrol also taught them the importance of standard operating procedures, and that all Soldiers in the chain of command must know



An 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Soldier role-playing as an Afghan, provides over watch for New York Army National Guard Soldiers from Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry through a mock village battle at Fort Irwin, Calif. on Oct. 9. The training rotation provided Soldiers from the 27th some realistic scenario training before their deployment. Photo by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters.

the procedures and courses of action, Tumberello said.

“In order to execute a mission successfully, everyone has to be synchronized,” he said.

Capt. Shaun Joyce, commander of Company D, 427th Forward Support Battalion said NTC is phenomenal.

“They closely replicate combat conditions without putting you in harms way,” he said.

The company’s main mission is to provide logistical and maintenance support to other troops. In addition to contending with the heat and mountains, Joyce said, troops had learned to deal with a foreign culture, in

the form of simulated Afghan villages.

“They even have vendors who try to sell us fruit or a coke,” recalled Joyce, who is from East Amherst, N.Y.

Life on the FOBs wasn’t free of NTC’s realism, and exercise controllers would often rock the FOBs with loud bangs to mimic insurgent mor-

tar or rocket attacks, sending brigade Soldiers running for cover. Those loud bangs provide the “rush factor” to show Soldiers the various stresses of combat, said Sgt. Scott Kramer, of Company D.

“Your mission has to be accomplished faster due all these different pressures,” said Kramer, an Iraq war veteran from Buffalo.

Attacks like that led to mock mass-casualty exercises, spurring medical personnel -- like the nurses, doctors, physicians assistants and medics of Company C, 427th Brigade Support Battalion -- into action. The exercises help them better learn and streamline their roles in evaluating, treating and evacuating casualties, said unit member Spc. Brendan Knapp.

“We were rather busy,” Knapp said of the mass-casualty exercises. “It gave us a good idea of how things should run in a medical company. The treatment team had to assess a lot of different casualties and treat them appropriately.”

Knapp said he would like return to NTC.

“I think everyone here went out of their way to provide the perspective of the bigger picture, in terms of operations,” Knapp said. “This was probably the closest thing to an actual deployment without actually going.”

The training was invaluable, Dorsey stressed, and he would like to return to NTC as well.

“Without these smaller steps, you can’t take the larger steps,” he said. **gt**



## Interest still Rising on Rainbow WWII Achievements

*By Maj. Ben Tupper, 42nd Infantry Division*

OCEAN CITY, N.J. - Veterans of the 42nd Infantry Division met Oct. 12, at the Port-O-Call seaside resort for a three-day reunion to share stories of their service in World War II, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

The Rainbow Division Memorial Veterans Foundation (RDVMF) has been holding these reunions across the country since the end of World War I. The World War I veterans have died and the ranks of the World War II veterans are thinning, but the reunions continue with an influx of veterans from Afghanistan and Iraq, along with civilians interested in history.

Paul Johnson, a high school teacher from Pennsylvania attending his first reunion was excited to meet Rainbow veterans.

“I am a history teacher and in my classroom we talk a lot about World War II. I even took some of my students on a trip to the Dachau Concentration Camp,” he said.

The 42nd Infantry Division liberated the infamous death camp on April 29, 1945. He took time off from teaching so he could attend the event and get autographs from the World War II veterans.

Ceil Hall, also a first time RDVMF reunion attendee, came for a more personal reason. Her father, Capt. Alvin Weinstein, was the surgeon of the 2nd Battalion, 222nd Infantry Regiment during World War II. While she always knew that he served in that medical capacity, when her father was alive he didn't share much more beyond that. “He never told us any of the stories of what he did,” she said.

After her father's death, a series of events accidentally led her to a man who was a concentration camp survivor who her father had treated and saved. Driven by the emotion of this story, Hall began her quest for more information about her father, which led her to the RDVMF reunion.

At the reunion, she met other World War II veterans who served with her father and knew him personally. Hall, an author of two books, now knows many more stories of how her father's medical treatment saved lives throughout the war, and she hopes to compile all these stories into a book honoring her father. **gt**



## Meeting up with Deployed MPs

*GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE - New York Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Michael Swezey, commander of the 53rd Troop Command, speaks with a member of the 107th Military Police Company during a visit to Guantanamo Bay on August 21. The 107th MP Company, with headquarters in Utica, deployed to Guantanamo Bay from Fort Bliss in July to provide security at the detainment center there. Photo by Staff Sgt. Thomas Wheeler, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.*

# Hugs Greet Returning 501st Ordnance Soldiers

By Spc. Trisha Pinczes, 138th Public Affairs Detachment



Lt. Col. Robert Mitchell, commander, 501st Ordnance Battalion (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) greets family at the Glenville Armed Forces Center, Oct. 15 after returning from almost a year in support of Operation New Dawn. Photo by Spc. Jeremy Bratt, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

**GLENVILLE** - Although a relatively small unit, the 30 members of the 501st Ordnance Battalion received a massive welcome when they returned home after 10 months in Iraq Oct. 15.

As the steady hum of anticipation crept across the room, small heads slowly settled above the shoulders of parents, grandparents and friends, all trying to give children the first glimpse as Soldiers of the unit got off the bus from Joint Base McGuire-Dix, where they had been out processing.

The reception is the first thing Soldiers come home to and it has a major impact on keeping morale high for Soldiers to know they have the support of everyone, said Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York.

"This was probably the best reception I have seen yet," Murphy said, as he watched the Soldiers reunite with their families.

The battalion, which deployed to Iraq in December 2010, was responsible for overseeing the operations of three Explosive Ordnance

Disposal companies operating in nine provinces in southern Iraq, from headquarters in Basra.

"They were the battalion, so everything goes through them," said Sgt. 1st Class Frank White, the rear detachment NCO. "Supply functions, administrative duties and any missions executed they coordinated, so they were extremely busy."

For the Soldiers, leaving family home is often considered one of the hardest parts of any given deployment and when they have such extensive duties for their mission, they cannot be distracted, Soldiers said.

"Being away from my family and knowing that they could need me home is really difficult to think about," said Lt. Col. Robert Mitchell, the battalion commander. "I could see the relief on all of their faces as soon as I walked in."

Family members of the 501st Soldiers joined together throughout the deployment to form the Family Readiness Group (FRG) that would support each other as their loved ones where overseas. This FRG organized the homecom-

ing for their Soldiers as well as contacted other family members throughout the deployment to ensure that families were looked after and Soldiers would know that everything was ok back home.

"I could say every week I received e-mails from the higher Family Readiness Groups letting us know what was going on over there," Denise Church, wife of the 501st Command Sergeant Major Ken Church said. "They kept us very well informed."

Being separated from part of your family is an adjustment not easily made.

"I'm getting my life back is what I call it," Church said. "Part of my life was gone and today I'm getting that part back."

The reception Soldiers receive is important in knowing that they were not forgotten.

"It was great to see how much support we had from all of our families and even other Soldiers from our unit and chain of command as we walked in," 2nd Lieutenant Mark Singiser, a member of the 501st said. **gt**

# New York MPs Visit South African Counterparts

By Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA - Two New Army York National Guard MPs got a first-hand look at how the South African National Defense Force trains its military cops during a two-day visit the South African Military Police School in September.

The five-day trip took Lt. Col. David Gagnon, the commander of the 104th Military Police Battalion and Sgt. 1st Class Morgan Cady, the law and order NCO for the 104th, from Kingston to the South African capitol of Pretoria.

The goal of the trip, conducted as part of the New York National Guard's State Partnership Program with the South African military, was to learn about each other's military police operation and to start to build a training partnership, Gagnon said.

There are some basic differences in how the two nations use their military police, Gagnon said.

The Army's Military Police Corps is oriented on the combat support mission of route security and reconnaissance and area security operations more than the law enforcement mission, while the South African military police focus mostly on law enforcement, he said. The South African Military Police Agency deals with all crimes involving service members. They are also involved with the protection of VIPs and dignitaries, almost like the Secret Service, Gagnon explained.

The South African MP corps is also much smaller with 2,000 military police members for a 75,000- person force. The American military, in contrast, has 54,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marine in MP and law and order functions.

While each American service trains its own law enforcement and military police personnel, in South African they all train at the Pretoria Academy, Gagnon said. The advantage is that military police officers in each branch of the South African military share the same basic background which can make working together easier, he added.

He and Cady were impressed with the quality of the training, Gagnon said. They sat in on an investigative class talking about the use of autop-



Lt. Col. David Gagnon, commander of the 104th Military Police Battalion and Sgt. 1st Class Morgan Cady, the 104th MP Battalion Law and Order Non Commissioned Officer pose with South African Military Police Officers during a visit to the South African Military Police School Sept. 19-23.

sies in investigations and the next day the class observed an autopsy.

The two New Yorkers also got to spend some time playing tourist and getting a look at the country; and also learning how South Africa's pre-1994 history of white minority rule influences the police and military today, Gagnon said.

"We spent one day where we went to view the Apartheid Museum (in Johannesburg) and our escort was involved with the events of that time," Gagnon said. "He took us to all the sites where significant actions were. It gave you a different look at why they have limited the military in domestic operations." **gt**

# 53rd Troop Command to Play in Canadian Exercise

By Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, Cortlandt Manor - Six members of the 53rd Troop Command will portray the leadership of the 1st Stryker Brigade when the Canadian Army's 2nd Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group holds a computerized command post exercise Nov. 26 to Dec. 3 and Canadian Forces Base Petawa, Ontario.

The officers and NCOs will play a White Cell element during the Canadian exercise that is similar to the Army's brigade and division warfighter exercise, said Major Hank Padley, the

53rd Troop Command's Operations Officer.

These exercises test the ability of commanders and their staffs to operate in a combat environment. The battle action occurs in a computer and the staff officers and NCOs react as they would in real life.

As a White Cell element the New Yorkers will respond to radio message traffic, and generate traffic and reports according to the exercise script, Padley said.

The 53rd Troop Command learned of the opportunity to participate in the Canadian ex-

ercise during a conference on overseas deployment tours earlier this year, Padley explained.

The Canadian Forces have been focused on counter-insurgency operations in Afghanistan for much of the past ten years and this exercise is one of their first full-spectrum operations training events, he said. The 53rd Troop Command wanted to participate as a way to expose their officers and NCOs, who normally handle administrative duties, to combat and a tactical environment, while also learning how the Canadian Army works. **gt**

# 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Band Plays New York State

By Warrant Officer Ubon Mendie, New York Guard

NEW YORK - Sweat drips from Chief Warrant Officer Mark Kimes' brow as he holds his baton steadily, directing the 42nd Infantry Division Band through a rendition of "Army Strong."

Eloquently, the euphonium, trumpet and trombone sound off with command before they are politely ushered into the abyss by the woodwinds and timpani drum. The crowd quietly stares with honor in their eyes, until Kimes ushers the piece to a close, spurring applause that roars like a hero's welcome.

"What a rush and great feeling," trumpet player, Spc. Robert Contini said. "The opportunities we have had to play throughout this year's tour are phenomenal. I'm proud I serve."

Members of the 42nd Infantry Division Band completed an eight-city concert tour across the state showcasing their special skill-set of entertaining citizens near and far. During the tour, the group made stops in New York City, Chautauqua, Port Ewen, Lake George, Saratoga Springs and Patterson.

The group of 34 soldiers serves as an Army ceremonial band in the state of New York. Its mission is to support military ceremonies, parades, concerts and civic entertainment as needed in New York and abroad.

During this year's tour the band was invited to perform on some of America's greatest stages. "Lincoln Center is New York's music Mecca, said Kimes. It holds such a high caliber of notice, not only in the state, but the world. What better place could we showcase Army Strong?" asked the band commander.

Another high profile invitation was offered by the city of Chautauqua, which is world recognized for its musical culture. "It's a small city with strong roots in music," Kimes described. "The city has its own opera house where some of the world's best acts perform."

A host of material is covered during each stop as a full unit, as well as smaller sub-groups called musical performance teams, or MPTs. The entire band can form a concert band, or split into MPTs, such as a brass quintet, woodwind quintet, Latin band, jazz band and rock band giving each spectator a small taste of various genres of music.

Music performed ranged from classical pieces such as scores from the recent Harry Potter movies to big-band jazz and punk rock.

"I just love getting out into the communities," said Tuba player Sgt. Marcus Bowers. [Our tour is] a great way to connect to the people and enjoy music together while celebration our nation."

"I could listen to this all night," Air Force veteran Alvin Hirschberg



42nd Infantry Division Band commander Chief Warrant Officer Mark Kimes leads the band through a rendition of "I am Proud to Be an American," as the crowd applauds and sings along at Brooklyn's Municipal Credit Union stadium at Coney Island. Photo by Warrant Officer Ubon Mendie



The 42nd Infantry Division Band brass section is seen here during their performance at Chautauqua Amphitheater during the Chautauqua summer music festival 2011. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Becky Rapp.

proclaimed, as he cheered for the band in Coney Island. "For an hour I was able to forget all about the troubles of the world and just relax. The normal Brooklyn sounds were muffled by sweet music; I wish it didn't have to end." **gt**

## New Leadership for Scotia Civil Support Team



SCOTIA - New York Army National Guard Director of the Joint Staff Brig. Gen. Renwick Payne transfers command of the 2nd Civil Support Team to Maj. Thomas Benton, a Gansevoort resident, at the Stratton Air National Guard Base here on Sept. 13.

Benton, who joined the New York Army National Guard in 1995 after spending eight years in the Navy as a nuclear power plant operator, replaces New York Air National Guard Maj. Rich Nunziato, as the unit's commander.

Benton is a combat veteran, deploying to Afghanistan in 2008 as a member of an Embedded Training Team, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Helmand Province, where he trained Afghan National Army soldiers.

The Civil Support Team can deploy throughout upstate New York or the northeast from that location. The 2nd CST routinely sends teams to be available during major events which could be the target of an attack like the Watkins Glen races, the U.S. Open, the opening of the United Nations General Assembly, and the World Series.

The team is one of two in New York State.

"Commanding troops is the best duty an officer can have," Benton said. "Being the commander of the 2nd CST is special to me since I helped stand up the unit during my first tour back in 1998-2002, when I came to the team as a second lieutenant."

## Medical Company Command Hand Off



QUEENSBURY - Lt. Col. David Gagnon (left), commander of the 104th Military Police Company, passes the 466th Area Medical Company unit guidon to Capt. Brian Rockwell, a Schenectady resident and combat veteran, as he takes command of the 466th Area Medical Company here Sept. 11.

Rockwell, who works as a senior environmental analyst for the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs facility engineering department, has served in the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard for 21 years. He served as an enlisted Soldier from 1990 until 2002 when he was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

He served as the executive officer of the 466th in Iraq during the company's deployment in 2006-2008.

He has served as a medic with the Army Reserve's 464th Engineer Battalion and

as a medical non-commissioned officer with the New York Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division headquarters and Company C, 342nd Forward Support Battalion.

Rockwell replaces Lt. Col. Edward C. Bonk who had led the unit since March 2009. Bonk will assume a position as a nurse in the unit.

Rockwell, who holds a Master of Science in Forensic Molecular Biology from the University at Albany, is also a graduate of the Army's Captain's Career Course.

His awards include the Iraq campaign medal, the Meritorious Unit Citation, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the New York State Medal for Merit, and the New York State Defense of Liberty Medal, with device for service in New York City following the attacks on the World Trade Center.



## Rip Up and Train



*KINGSTON - Pfc. Joshua Haller from the 827th Engineer Company works to take down the Kings Inn, an abandoned building on Broadway here, on Wednesday, Oct. 18. Twenty-five members of the 827th Engineer Company and the 1156th Engineer Company are taking down the building so that the site can be used for a joint New York National Guard/civilian first responder exercise on Nov. 5. The partially demolished motel will replicate a building hit by a terrorist attack. Photo by Capt. Daniel Colomb, 1156th Engineer Company.*



## Rainbow Reorg

*TROY - Capt. Nathaniel King, company commander and Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Volcheck of Headquarters and Services Company, 42nd Infantry Division, stand at the head of their company during the reorganization of the newly organized 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion Oct. 16 at the Glenmore Road Armory. The new battalion organization encompasses the 42nd Infantry Division headquarters company, operations company, intelligence and sustainment company, signal company and more than 730 Soldiers. The battalion welcomed the unit's newest commander, Lt. Col. Christopher Daniels during the unit change of command ceremony. Photo by Spc. J.P. Lawrence, 42nd Infantry Division.*

# New York National Guard Family Programs Offer A Range of Services



By Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Raymond Drumsta, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

and Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo, Joint Force Headquarters

JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Latham - Thanks to the New York State Family Programs Office, unit phone trees have blossomed into a full range of services for New York Guard service members and their families.

From Family Readiness Groups (FRG) to programs for children of service members, a group of committed Soldiers, Airmen, government employees, contractors and volunteers run programs designed to strengthen service members and their families or meet their needs in times of crisis.

What's more, these personnel - many of whom have undergone deployments themselves - act as a conduit for programs which ease service members back into civilian life, connect them with benefits and comfort their loved ones, if they've made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Although the Family Programs Office has been around since 1991, it grew more robust in 2008, said Family Programs Director Andrew DePalo, who retired from the New York Army National Guard in 2009. It's been a remarkable change, reflected DePalo, who deployed to Iraq with the 42nd Infantry Division in 2004.

"We had nothing like this," DePalo recalled of that deployment.

Afghanistan veteran Sgt. 1st Class Frank White, the 501st Explosive Ordnance Battalion FRG's military point-of-contact, praised the changes as well, particularly the network of subject-

matter-experts - from financial planners to mental health professionals - that Family Programs can put families in touch with. The 501st Explosive Ordnance Battalion is currently deployed to Iraq and White is the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the battalion's rear detachment.

"If they're having a problem with anything, I mean, it's literally a phone call away, or an e-mail," White said. "They can get an immediate answer or get pointed in the right direction. It's phenomenal, it really is. It wasn't like that when I deployed."

But the FRG remains the key component of support to Guard members, DePalo stressed.

"One of the best benefits you can have is the FRG," DePalo said. "The rest will fall into place once we build that solid FRG."

## Unit Level Support

The FRG is the unit-level contact for Guard members and their families, and Family Programs is striving to create an FRG in every National Guard unit in New York state, said Stephanie Duell, Senior Family Readiness Support Assistant.

"Basically, if it has a UIC (Unit Identification Code), it should have a Family Readiness Group," Duell said.

Though the FRGs have certain standards and goals, FRG volunteers have gone above and beyond in their duties already, Duell said.

When Spc. Nathan Brown of South Glens Falls was killed in combat in 2004, Julie Coon, the FRG leader of the 466th Medical Company, organized more than two dozen service member families to be at the airport when his casket arrived, Duell recounted. Using the network of support they had created, Coon and the FRG drew thousands of people to line the streets from Glens Falls to Saratoga for Brown's funeral, she added.

But not all FRG volunteers come from families, Duell said. Gordon Lattey was the landlord of a Soldier in the 206th Military Police Company. He joined the unit's FRG when it deployed, kept the families informed during

the deployment, and spearheaded the families' effort to send Christmas Trees to the unit via the "Trees for Troops" charity program, she explained.

"Gordon put out the word, and they sent boxes and boxes of decorations and trees to Soldiers overseas," Duell said. "Great FRG leaders make great things happen." Lattey was later named volunteer of the year, she added.

Deploying service members often leave a gap in homes, but Family Readiness Groups have stepped up to fill it, doing everything from taking care of snow shoveling to arranging for home repairs, White said. Volunteers quell rumors with accurate information and/or simply listen to family members and help them better understand the routines of the military, he added.

"They know they've got somebody at that unit, at that building they're familiar with, hopefully it's a person they're familiar with, that can help them out," White said. "If they're having problems of a more personal nature, we can steer them in the right direction so they don't have to make 50 phone calls."

That's where the next echelon of family support - the Family Readiness Support Assistants (FSRA), Family Assistance Specialists (FAS) and Airman & Family Readiness Program Managers (AFRPM) - come in. In addition to forming a two-way communication link between families and commanders to address issues before, during and after deployments, these personnel also work with service members and their families to identify services that meet their specific needs.

"We will hold our families' hands and our Soldiers' hands while they go through certain situations, to help them find the right resolution when possible," said Family Assistance Specialist Amy Maniscalco.

They connect families to professional counseling to cope with stresses they may suffer due to deployments, and help them find their way through the sometimes confusing tangle of legal and health care issues, she said. Using dis-



cretion, they prepare families before deployments and reach out to them every month during deployments, she added.

“I’m the wife of a service member,” Maniscalco said. “I’ve been through two deployments personally, so I do understand what we go through as family members. It certainly is a very trying time in the life of a family.”

## Support for Youth and Other Services

Under its Youth Program, the Family Programs Office brings the children of military members under its umbrella of support.

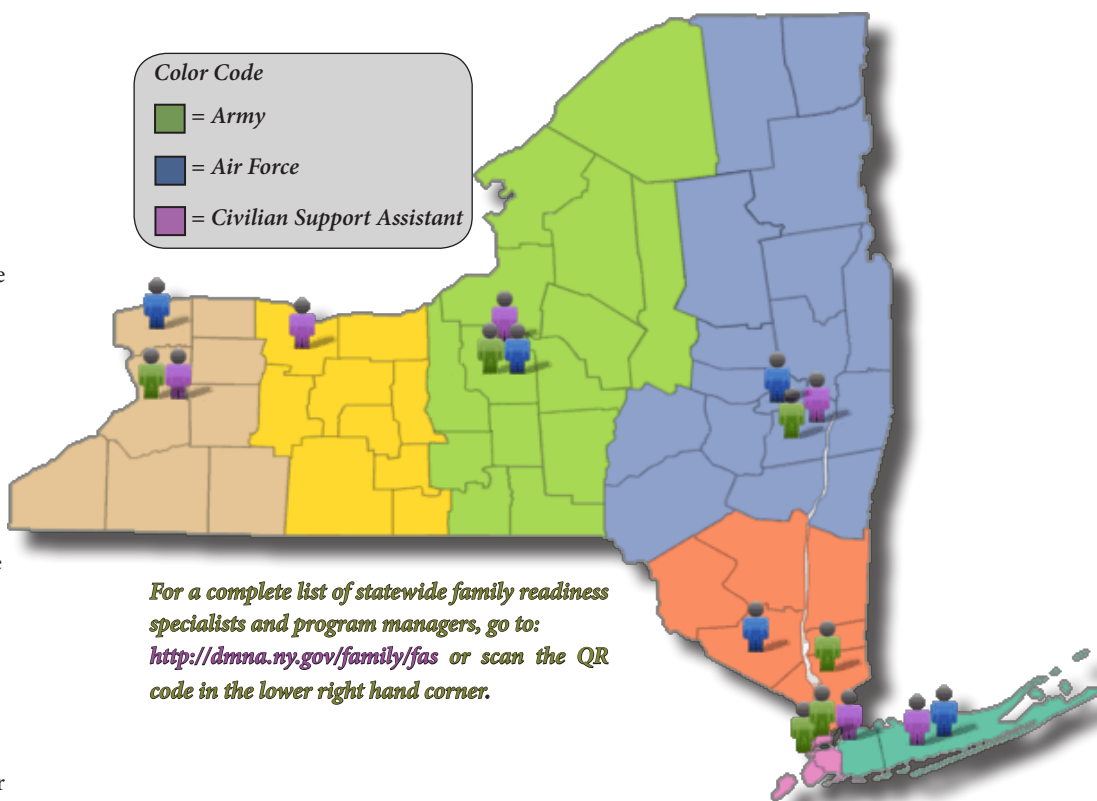
The Youth Program targets childrens’ needs with a range of services, to include safe activities, skills training and peer mentorship – the opportunity to network with the children of other military family members. This is a key part of the Youth Program, which allows children to share experiences and make friends, said Kerri O’Neil, the program’s Youth Coordinator.

“It helps because they understand that others are going through the things they’re going through,” she said. “I think seeing and understanding and looking someone in the eyes who’s going through the same thing as you are is beneficial for pre-teens as well as teens.”

Youth Program personnel offer these services during events they hold for the children before, during and after their parents or guardians deploy. New York National Guard members and their families hail from counties statewide and don’t live at or near military facilities, O’Neil said.

“This gives them the opportunity to come together in one location, about three or four times in the deployment cycle, and talk about things,” she said.

“During these events, which include activities like arts and crafts, team-building exercises,



**For a complete list of statewide family readiness specialists and program managers, go to: <http://dmna.ny.gov/family/fas> or scan the QR code in the lower right hand corner.**

first-aid training and leadership training, program staff members are continually reaching out to the children.” said Colleen Casey, Youth Coordinator.

“The whole time, we’re checking in with them and making sure they’re doing well,” said Casey. Program staff also run a pen-pal system to help connect children with children of service members from other states.

Family Program personnel also run or put military family members in contact with other programs such the Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve, Suicide Prevention, Survivor Outreach Services, Transition Assistance Advisor and Strong Bonds – which teaches families to develop communication, problem-solving, stress reduction and listening skills.

Kerri O’Neil’s mother is a New York Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major who deployed to Iraq in 2003. Her children would’ve benefited from these services had they existed then said O’Neil.

The benefits also support family members when their loved ones are training, she stressed.

### Putting it All Together

The Family Programs Office ties all these services together with its Yellow-Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP). The program

runs Yellow Ribbon events, which puts families together with representatives of the services at various locations throughout the state before and during a deployment, and twice after, DePalo said.

In addition to receiving briefings, military families attending a Yellow Ribbon event have an opportunity to speak with the representatives and gather information.

“It links family members and service members with the vast service network available to them on the local, state and federal levels,” DePalo said. “It ensures they have everything they need before, during and after deployment.”

The events also introduce military families to the Family Programs Office staff, and the volunteers who will be supporting them, he said. I can’t praise them enough, he added.

“They’re very dedicated, and they have links to the military,” he said. “They know the importance of the programs.” **gt**



Scanning this QR code will connect you to a full list of family assistants and program managers regionally throughout New York.

## Western NY Airmen Home from Afghan Mission

By Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, Guard Times Staff

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION - The first wave of approximately 40 New York Air National Guardsmen from the 107th Airlift Wing rolled up to their home station here on August 29th to the anxious crowd of family members and friends that awaited their return from Afghanistan after a 90 day rotational support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During their rotation, the 107th had operated out of Bagram Airfield being assigned to the 774th Airlift Squadron where they were working in conjunction with the

Alaskan Air National Guard to airdrop supplies across remote operating areas in Afghanistan. During that time they either assisted in or directly delivered more than 20 thousand pounds of supplies and personnel throughout the area of operation.

On his first 90 day deployment overseas, Senior Airman Joseph, a Silver Creek native, had this to say about his experiences delivering supplies to combat troops in the remote areas of Afghanistan.

“From time to time troops on the ground have to change locations and go from one base camp to another. That’s where we come in, that’s what we do.”

This Afghanistan deployment

was marked as a unit history first because this was their first deployment flying the C-130 transport airplane instead of the KC-135 ‘Stratotanker’ aircraft back in 2005 when they were the 107th Air Refueling Wing.

On hand to greet the returning airmen were Col. John Higgins, 107th Vice Commander and Command Chief Master Sergeant David Wohleben. **gt**



Col. John Higgins, 107th Vice Commander and Command Chief Master Sergeant David Wohleben welcome back their airman on Aug. 29 at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station where they greeted family and friends. Photo by Master Sgt. Stephan Kovacs, 107th Airlift Wing.





An LC-130 Hercules 'Skibird' takes off for its mission to Antarctica from Stratton Air National Guard Base in support of Operation Deep Freeze on Oct. 14. The 109th Airlift Wing will be deployed from October 2011 through March 2012. Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara, 109th Airlift Wing.

## Heading Back for 23<sup>rd</sup> Antarctic Freeze Mission

*Guard Times Staff*

**STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE - The first of seven ski-equipped LC-130 aircraft belonging to the 109th Airlift Wing departed here Oct. 14 for its ultimate destination: McMurdo Station base camp, Antarctica.**

The first LC-130 took off bound for California, the first stop of five on a 10,000-mile-long trip to McMurdo Station.

This departure marked the 23rd time that the 109th has supported the National Science Foundation in Antarctica for what is known as Operation Deep Freeze. Deep Freeze is a joint service, inter-agency activity that supports the National Science Foundation, which manages the U.S. Antarctic Program.

The airlift part of Operation

Deep Freeze operates from two primary locations with C-17s situated at Christchurch, New Zealand and LC-130 Hercules forward based at McMurdo Station, Antarctica, beginning in late October, which is the earliest time of the season that the aircraft can land on the ice cap.

The 109th will fly approximately 400 missions, or about seven per day, 12 hours a day, six days a week, to seven science and research stations on the ice.

In all, they will haul approximately 12 million pounds of fuel, cargo and people across the polar ice cap.

Airmen from the 109th receive specialized winter survival training before heading to the South Pole. **gt**



Air crew from the 109th Airlift Wing answer questions from the local media about their mission to Antarctica Oct. 14. From left are Maj. Blair Herdrick, Maj. Nate Morgan, Lt. Col. Chris Sander and Master Sgt. Mike Spiak. Airmen with the 109th Airlift Wing deploy to Antarctica each year in support of the U.S. Antarctica Program. Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara, 109th Airlift Wing.



*The Discovery Channels production team films a segment of "Mighty Planes" as an LC-130 takes off from Stratton Air National Guard Base on Aug. 8 as pilots for the 109th were conducting routine flight training. Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara, 109th Airlift Wing.*

# Day of Discovery

## 109th Skibird Makes Debut as 'Mighty Plane'

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt and Master Sgt. Willie Gizara, 109th Airlift Wing

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE - A film production crew working for the Discovery Channel recently had the chance to see the 109th Airlift Wing at its best as they joined the unit for a trip to Greenland to film scenes for an episode of an upcoming series, titled "Mighty Planes".

"As an aviation nut, I was thrilled to be able to see this unique operation first-hand," said Herrie ten Cate, director/writer. "We were given unlimited access to the aircraft, the flight crews and the maintainers."

The four-person production team with Exploration Production, Inc., out of Toronto, began their shoot at Stratton on Aug. 9, as the air crew prepared for their mission.

"We were able to spend time with the maintenance crews before leaving," ten Cate said. "I knew our very warm welcome at the base was a great indication of things to come."

The team filmed everything they could from members rolling the tires over to the plane to attaching its skis, as well as loading the plane

and flight planning. They even mounted tiny cameras inside the flight deck to capture takeoffs and landings.

"While in Greenland and in Schenectady, we were able to film jaw-dropping low angle takeoff and landing shots, cockpit POV shots, ATO bottles firing, air-to-air shots and the spectacular scenery that comes with Greenland," ten Cate said. "Flying over the icecap, over icebergs and down fjords with the mountain tops off our wings -- it just doesn't get better. The fabulous 'in-the-moment' interviews with everyone from pilots to maintainers is what will make the show. With more than 30 hours of just main camera HD footage -- it will be a challenge to leave scenes on the cutting room floor."

Not only was the production team able to get the story, they were also able to experience firsthand what it was like to be part of the 109th.

"After spending a night at NEEM, our 'ride' back to Kanger was on the taxiway with engines running and cargo loaded," ten Cate said. "We strapped ourselves into the back of

the skibird with cargo and other passengers for our first ski-way takeoff. We started the takeoff run. Sliding and bumping along the ski-way, I kept waiting for the aircraft to rotate and get airborne. More waiting, sliding and the sound of flaps changing. Finally I can feel the nose come up and a few seconds later we're airborne and on our way south to Kanger. These are the moments when I think as a documentary crew -- we've got the greatest jobs in world, able to experience things that my cubicle dwelling colleagues and friends at home can only dream of."

As exciting as the trip was for the production team, having the Discovery Channel document what the unit does each season was just as exciting for the Airmen.

"It was a real honor getting to represent the Wing working with the Discovery Channel production team," said Lt. Col. George Alston. "It didn't take long to figure out that these guys are the tops in their field. They were all exceptionally professional and clearly committed to getting the story right. They had done their homework learning about the LC-130 and the 109th's ski mission before they arrived and then they did a great job capturing just about every aspect of our mission. One night, the air crew and maintainers got to see some of the unedited footage and everybody cheered more than once. It was exhilarating getting to see the mission I've been flying for 13 years from totally new perspectives. The Discovery Channel footage is absolutely spectacular and I can't wait to see the finished product."

Some even found similarities between the crews.

"It turns out air crew and film crews have a lot in common," said Lt. Col. Samantha East. "You travel a lot, you have to be ready for anything at any time, and you spend a lot of time waiting for something to happen. These guys are top-notch professionals and it was a really great experience to work with them."

"Mighty Planes" is a new series that will premier in Canada in April 2012. The U.S. Discovery Channel will pick up the series soon after. The 109th-centric episode is scheduled to air sometime in 2012. **gt**



A production crew films 109th Maintenance Group Airmen putting skis on an LC-130, Aug. 6 to prepare for a mission to Greenland. The team filmed the 109th's Greenland mission for an upcoming Discovery Channel series titled, "Mighty Planes."

# 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing now Flying MQ-9 from Fort Drum

Local Training Flights Will Help Protect U.S. Troops on the Ground

*Guard Times Staff*



An MQ-9 assigned to the 174th Fighter Wing sits on the runway (above) before taking to the air (below) for the first time at Fort Drum's Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield. The 174th has been working with the Federal Aviation Administration to receive permission to fly and by mid-October began flying in the Fort Drum fly zone. Both photos by Staff Sgt. Ricky Best, 174th Fighter Wing.

**HANCOCK FIELD AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Syracuse - The New York Air National Guard's 174th Fighter Wing began flying MQ-9 Reaper training sorties out of Fort Drum's Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield near Watertown on Oct. 17.**

These training flights will support the new MQ-9 Formal Training Unit (FTU) which will begin operating at Hancock Field next month.

The FTU will train the next generation of Air Force active duty, Reserve, Air National Guard and foreign military MQ-9 pilots and sensor operators so they can provide real-time, persistent watch over troops on the battlefield using the MQ-9 remotely piloted aircraft.

Approval to operate these training flights was received from the Federal Aviation Administration in mid-October. The 174th will initially fly approximately three training sorties per week in the same exclusive, special-use airspace that was used for F-16 training.

In early 2010, the 174th turned in their F-16's for the unmanned Reaper drones.

The 174th Fighter Wing was formed in 1947 and has flown a variety of aircraft over the years. Since December 2009, the Wing has conducted MQ-9 flights over Afghanistan from an operations center at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base in Syracuse. Hancock Field is also home to the only formal MQ-9 maintenance training facility in the U.S. Air Force and will stand up a MQ-9 air crew training facility next month. **gt**







## 106<sup>th</sup> Airmen Hometown Bound

*MACARTHUR AIRPORT, Ronkonkoma - Thirteen New York Air National Guard Airmen assigned to the Westhampton-based 106th Rescue Wing Security Forces Squadron were greeted by more than 100 friends and family members here following their return from a six-month deployment to Afghanistan on Oct. 21. Photo by Senior Airman Christopher S. Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing*



## Offroad Training in the Hudson Valley

*STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE – 105th Security Force troops practice Tactical All Terrain Vehicle driving skills on a course set up by the Security Forces Squadron unit trainers during the unit training assembly on Sept. 17. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lee Guagenti, 105th Airlift Wing.*

# Irene Responder Helps Others, Loses Home

By Capt. Elaine Nowak, 107th Airlift Wing

NIAGARA FALLS - Tech. Sgt. Kelli Sweeney, a member of the 107th Airlift Wing Security Forces, was on her way home after working at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station on Friday, August 26. She was almost to her home in Middleburgh, nearly 300 miles away, when she got the call from the 107th saying they needed all available personnel to report.

Hurricane Irene was headed for downstate New York and anyone who could volunteer would be appreciated. She agreed to help out and stopped at her house to gather her gear. There were concerns that Middleburgh would have some flooding, so she made some minor preparations.

"I picked up anything near the floor and put it up higher. I thought maybe we'd get a few inches of flood water, so I wasn't too concerned," she said.

With that, she packed up her gear and headed back to Niagara Falls where she and 44 other members of the 107th Airlift Wing processed and boarded the unit's C-130 in the early morning hours of Saturday, August 27. They proceeded to Camp Smith near Albany, NY the base from which they would work throughout the hurricane response.

They assisted the citizens of Sloatsburg by bringing aid in the form of supplies, water and ice. They also used their Humvees to transport people through the flooded area.

Meanwhile, back at Sweeney's home, Middleburgh was hit hard by Irene, which by that time had been downgraded to a tropical storm. Flooding rains made rivers rise to record levels and knocked out power. Complicating issues, a petroleum spill leaked fuel into the water soaking homes in the foul-smelling water.

Monday morning Sweeney received a call from her landlord with some bad news. Unfortunately, her home was one of those affected by the severe flooding. It was not only flooded by the petroleum-contaminated water but it was swept off of its foundation and displaced about 40 feet from its original location.

Although it was offered, Sweeney did not rush home to attend to her own affairs. She stayed the course and continued to help in the relief efforts.

"There was not much I could do at home. I



Tech. Sgt. Kelli Sweeney is interviewed by local media before deploying as part of Task Force Irene on Saturday, August 27. After responding with her unit in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, Sweeney lost her own home due to flooding. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Ray Lloyd, 107th Airlift Wing.

may as well have been helping out," she said.


Senior Airman Michael Maio worked with her throughout the response. "She stayed positive through it all. Absolutely!" he said.

Upon returning to Niagara Falls, Master Sgt. Jason Folckemer, Master Sgt. Michael Owczarczak, and Staff Sgt. Shawn Hare drove with Sgt. Sweeney to her home to survey the damage and to see what could be saved.

Gov. Cuomo declared the Catskill region a disaster area. The Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursed Sweeney only for what they deem to be 'essential items'.

The 107th Airlift Wing family responded to Sweeney's needs. Security Forces Squadron was able to give her money to use immediately from their flight fund. In addition, they helped her by purchasing items that she needed like a microwave, dishes, and silverware.

Family Readiness Group and the Security Forces applied for two grants in her name, one federal grant and one from the National Guard and Naval Militia Relief Society of New York,



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Inc. The wing plans to provide additional assistance to alleviate her hardship. **gt**

## Guard Volunteers in Place for Irene Response

By Sgt. 1st Class Dave Konig, 56th Brigade

CAMP SMITH TRAINING AREA - The 56th Brigade played a significant role in the statewide military activation during the last week of August in response to Hurricane Irene.

The 56th's deputy commander, Lt. Col. Ray Mechmann, served as liaison officer at the Joint Operations Center (JOC) and provided command of the 56th Brigade's troops on the ground. He was assisted by Capt. Brian Kanner, who was called upon to do intelligence duties for the New York National Guard by providing maps of the flooded regions in Delaware, Schoharie, and Green counties.

Staff Sgt. John Shmotolocha and Sgt. Kevin Gilleo were also tasked with JOC duties, conveying messages from the JOC command to National Guard units deployed in the field.

The 56th Brigade Military Emergency Radio Network (MERN) team served on state active duty throughout the five day activation. Under the direction of 1st Sgt. Mark Copelletti, the team consisted of squad leader Sgt. 1st Class Dave Konig, Sgt. Jeffrey Locke, Sgt. Joseph Rannallo and Spc. Robert Tozzo. 1st Lt. Alan Burg served on the team as a replacement.

The team was tasked with a two phase mission by JOC G-6 communications officer Lt. Col. Kim Farrier. The first phase was to provide MERN capabilities for New York Naval Militia patrol boats while working with Master Gunnery Sgt. Fred Green, the command sergeant major of the New York Naval Militia. The team accomplished the mission, providing the National Guard with the capability of putting patrol boats into the field equipped with high frequency military ship-to-shore communications.

Phase Two was to supply MERN radio and Military Auxiliary Radio System communications between the JOC and the National Guard units deployed upstate. Copelletti and Tozzo set up their MARS radio station out of their vehicle to set up radio communications networks for the National Guard.

The mission was deemed a complete success by the Operation Irene command. With the hurricane downgraded to a tropical storm, not every Soldier in the brigade was activated,



Members of the New York Guard called to State Active Duty as members of Joint Task Force Irene pose with New York National Guard Brig. Gen. Michael Swezey, the task force commander. More than 130 members of the New York Guard, New York's volunteer defense force, served the state in many capacities from working in evacuation shelters to task force staff officers. Photo by Capt. John Mancini, New Jersey National Guard.



Sgt. 1st Class Dave Konig and New York Naval Militia Master Gunnery Sgt. Fred Green set up a Military Emergency Radio Network on board a New York Naval Militia patrol boat in Green's Cove near Verplanck, N.Y. Photo by Spc. Robert Tozzo.

however all stood by with their go-bags packed, ready to assist their state in the emergency.

At the brigade after action review, Mechmann expressed gratitude for the help of staff officers Maj. Susan Maros-Victoria and Capt. Louis Nock, who provided logistic and personnel support to the mission. Brigade commander Col. David Warager voiced pride in both the troops who served, and those who stood ready.



1st Sgt. Mark Copelletti, MERN Team Leader checks a MERN radio antenna erected at Camp Smith. Photo by Spec. Robert Tozzo.

"This is why we joined the New York Guard," he said. "To provide the National Guard with vital capabilities in a state emergency." **gt**



New York Guard Capt. Douglas Hedwig leads a combined band of members of the New York Guard 89th Band and New York Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division Band for a performance in Patterson, N.Y. of the first playing of the New York Guard marching song. Courtesy photo.

## Band Concert Features Work by Local Composer

*Guard Times Staff*

**PATERSON - A free concert by the New York Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division Band at the Patterson Recreation Center in Patterson on Aug. 6 featured the first performance of a new musical military march for the New York Naval Militia written by Paterson resident Capt. Douglas Hedwig.**

Hedwig is a member of the New York Guard, he is also the band leader for the New York Guard's 89th Band. The 89th Band joined the 42nd Band for the concert in Paterson where Hedwig lead the first playing of the new marching song.

This tune can be heard by going to <http://dmna.state.ny.us/nynm/naval.php>. The tune is

now the official song of the Naval Militia,

Hedwig is the Professor of Music at Brooklyn College, City University of New York, and previously served on the faculty of The Juilliard School. He was a trumpeter with The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra (NYC) from 1973 to 2000, and served as volunteer Civilian Bugler with The New York City Fire Department in the months following the events of September 11, 2001. Hedwig was awarded the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from The Juilliard School in 1986, and is the recipient of awards and honors from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, The J. William Fulbright Foundation, The U.S. Department of State, New York City Council,

and The New York City Fire Department.

In addition to the Naval Militia March, Hedwig composed the "New York Guard March" (2007), which is based on the original song "The Good Old N.Y.G.", composed by Maj. Charles Clanton, New York Guard, in 1916. **gt**



To hear the new Naval Militia Marching Song, scan this QR code or go to: <http://dmna.state.ny.us/nynm/naval.php>

## Sailors and Marines Prep for Hurricane Irene

Guard Times Staff



New York Naval Militia members assist in erecting a sandbag wall around the Schenectady sewage treatment plant to prevent flooding from the Mohawk River Monday, Aug. 28. Hurricane Irene swept through New York leaving many areas devastated by flood. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Willie Gizara, 109th Airlift Wing.

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD, Scotia - New York Naval Militia members were among the more than 2700 Air, Army and New York Guardsmen that were activated and mobilized throughout New York State in preparation for Hurricane Irene.

The State Active Duty call-up by New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo was not only the first in his tenure as governor, but also the largest call-up in terms of total number of military members from each of New York's military components.

Approximately 154 members of the Naval Militia rallied inside an aircraft hanger at Stratton Air National Guard Base.

The bulk of the naval volunteers immediately set about making and placing pallets full of hand-filled sandbags around the Schenectady Water Treatment plant to protect it from flooding as the nearby Mohawk River began cresting to dangerous levels.

Smaller groups of Naval Militiamen were utilized in other humanitarian and strategic assignments such as Task Force Shelter where about 20 naval personnel were present at a community college to establish and maintain living space for displaced victims of Irene.

About a dozen others were pulling staff duty at the state headquarters Joint Operation Center in Latham.

This left about 20 Naval Militiamen to take care of and retrieve their boats from waterways around New York where they are normally docked when performing patrol and training maritime security missions in support of Joint Task Force Empire Shield. One boat was re-shuffled and brought to Scotia all the way from Rochester to be on hand in the Hudson Valley, if needed.

“Our Militia members traveled from all four corners of the state and quickly contributed to the disaster relief efforts. As part of Joint Task Force Irene,” said Maj. Gen. Robert Wolf, commander, New York Naval Militia. “The Naval Militia augmented New York military forces to stem flooding, support sheltering operations and stand watches in the Joint Task Force Irene and Joint Force Headquarters-NY Joint Operations Centers.” **gt**



On Aug. 29, Naval Militia members, operating as a detachment for Task Force 109, filled and placed nearly 5000 sandbags around the Schenectady sewage treatment plant. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Willie Gizara, 109th Airlift Wing.



Sandbagging doesn't get easier with age. New York Naval Militiamen team together to fill each sandbag by hand so that another team can place them around the Schenectady sewage treatment plant. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Willie Gizara, 109th Airlift Wing.



Members of the New York Naval Militia at Stratton Air National Guard Base, Scotia during the response to Hurricane Irene. More than 154 members of the Naval Militia served on State Active Duty during the emergency. Photo by Cmdr. Don McKnight, New York Naval Militia.

# Naval Militia Patrol Responds to NYC Crash



NEW YORK - New York Naval Militia Petty Officer Ken Stefandel, a crewman on Naval Militia Patrol Boat 440, watches while efforts are made to rescue the passengers of a Bell Jet Ranger tourist helicopter which crashed in the East River moments after it took off from a nearby heliport on Oct. 4. PB 440 was on patrol that afternoon and was one of many watercraft which responded to lend assistance if necessary. PB 440 conducts regular patrols of New York City's waterways in coordination with the United States Coast Guard as part of Joint Task Force Empire Shield. Photo by New York Naval Militia Boatswains Mate Kurt Schneider.

# Learning the Finer Points of Seamanship



ROCHESTER - Petty Officer 1st Class Rick Stacy (background) from Genesee County, Petty Officer 3rd Class Adam Thomson from Chemung County and Constructionman Sam Rinaldo from Rochester conduct Military Emergency Boat Service proficiency training on the Genesee River on Aug. 2. Photo by David Tucker, New York Naval Militia.

# GUARD NEWS BRIEFS AND PHOTOS

## Air Guard Sharp Shooters Go National

By Master Sgt. Edward Stefik, 107th Airlift Wing

NIAGARA FALLS RESERVE STATION - In April, the 107th Airlift Wing marksmanship team won a 2nd consecutive New York State TAG Match at Camp Smith. This qualified them to represent New York State in the National Guards' New England Warrior Challenge at Fort Devens, Mass.

This four day pistol and rifle event included approximately 70 participants from all services. The 107th's 'Gun Fighters' placed 3rd overall. They also placed 3rd in the Team Run Down Match and 2nd in the Team Close Quarters Battle Match.

Master Sgt. Edward Stefik, an 18-year veteran who served in Iraq with the Army Reserve

prior to enlisting in the Air National Guard, received individual awards, placing 2nd in Combat Rifle Reflexive Fire and 3rd in the Close Quarters Battle.

"It's an honor to represent the New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen in such an event," Stefik said. "The New England Warrior Challenge fell on the 10th Anniversary of 9-11 and stressed to us, the importance of America's Minutemen, to always stay vigilant."

The 107th 'Gun Fighters' will represent the New York National Guard in the National Winston P. Wilson Small Arms Sustainment Match, Camp Robinson, Ark. **gt**



The 107th 'Gun Fighters' representing New York in the Winston P. Wilson Small Arms Sustainment Match, Camp Robinson, Ark. are (Left): Tech Sgt. Christopher Doherty, Master Sgt. Edward Stefik, Tech Sgt. Warren Jones and Staff Sgt. Erik Johnson. Courtesy photo.

## Vigilance During September 11th Anniversary



NEW YORK - Joint Task Force Empire Shield service members Air Force Staff Sgt. Johnny Noguera and Army Spc. Michael Sloan assigned to Company C, patrol Terminal 8 at John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens during the 10th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001 to provide a heightened security presence.

The New York National Guardsmen provided added security in combination with Transportation Security Administration authorities and Port Authority officers for the arrival and departure of the Presidential party into JFK on Sept. 11, 2011. Courtesy photo.





## President Arthur Honored

*ALBANY - The New York National Guard was on hand to commemorate the 182nd birthday of the 21st President of the United States, Chester A. Arthur on Oct. 5.*

*Brig. Gen. Anthony German and State Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Wicks render salutes while taps are played by a member of the color guard.*

*Before becoming President, Arthur was an attorney in New York City. He also served in and was instrumental in reorganizing the New York State militia. Eventually, he would be promoted to the rank of brigadier general by then, New York Governor, Edwin Morgan.*

*Arthur became president after the assassination of President James Garfield in 1881 and remained in office until 1885 and dying in New York City in 1886.*

*Arthur and his wife are buried in Rural Cemetery, Albany, N.Y. Phot by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, Guard Times Staff.*

## Scotia Air Base Hosts Pentagon Official



Daniel Ginsberg, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, meets with Tech Sgt. Colette Martin, a Registered Dietitian, and new member of the 109th Airlift Wing Wellness Center. Ginsberg learned about the wing mission in support of the National Science Foundation. Courtesy photo.

*Guard Times Staff*

**SCOTIA - The Air Force's top man on Manpower and the Reserve Affairs recently visited the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia.**

Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, the Honorable Daniel Ginsberg, was invited to see the Stratton Air National Guard Base to learn more about the unique mission and the men and women of the 109th. The secretary was given briefings on the people and mission of the 109th before accompanying the unit on a four day mission to Operation Raven Dew in Greenland, where the 109th operates in support of the National Science Foundation and the International Science Community.

During his visit the Secretary was given a tour of the wing's new Wellness Center, up and running since July 2011. Ginsberg took the opportunity to speak with the coordinators of the new program. The center gives Airman support with social, emotional, physical and spiritual needs, and the secretary was briefed on each aspect and how Airman are being helped every day at the 109th.

"We need these services for our Airman," Ginsberg said. "It's great to see that you all have taken the initiative to offer this on your own." **gt**

## Air Guardsmen Run the Air Force Race



DAYTON, Ohio - New York Air National Guard members who took part in the Air Force Marathon and Air Force Half-Marathon races held at Wright-Patterson Air Force base on Sept. 17 were (from left) Senior Master Sgt. Jerard Roper, 109th Airlift Wing, Senior Master Sgt. Donna Roper, Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ), Master Sgt. Christopher Moore, 109th Airlift Wing, Master Sgt. Linda Mies, 174th Fighter Wing and Senior Airman Brian Alexander, 109th Airlift Wing. Not pictured but participating were: Maj. Aaron Lancaster, 139th Airlift Squadron, Tech Sgt. Geoff Cerrone, 139th Airlift Squadron, Sgt. Sanning Pingitore, JFHQ and Capt. Michelle Buonome, JFHQ. Photo courtesy of Senior Master Sgt. Donna Roper.



## Best Warrior Competition

FORT BENNING, Ga. - New York Army National Guard Sgt. Shawn Chapple of the 107th Military Police Company, moves a simulated casualty downrange during the Army National Guard's Best Warrior Competition here on Aug. 6. Chapple was one of 14 Army National Guard Non-Commissioned Officer and enlisted Soldiers competing for top honors. Chapple, represented the Northeast in the competition did well, according to New York State Command Sgt. Major Frank Wicks. Photo by National Guard Bureau.



## Employers See How It Works

ROCHESTER - Rochester area employers learn about New York Army National Guard aviation units based at Army Aviation Support Facility 2 during an Employer Support to the Guard and Reserve lunch on Friday, Oct. 21. The employers got to meet with unit leaders and Soldiers, got a briefing on the unit missions and a ride in a CH-47 Chinook helicopter. Photo by 1st Lt. Benjamin J. Postle, 126th General Support Aviation Battalion.

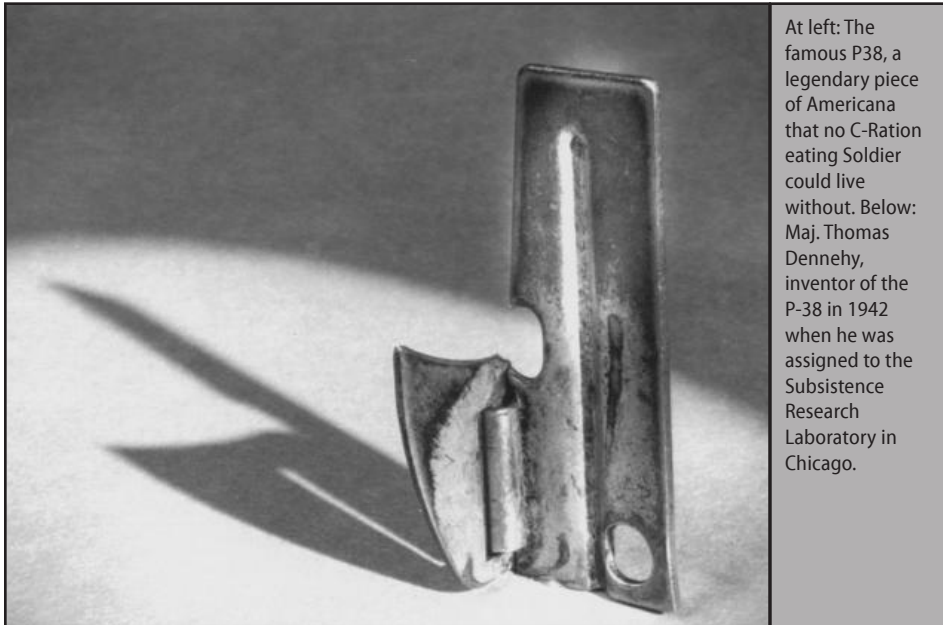


## Retiring After First Recruit

QUEENSBURY - Sgt. 1st Class Arthur Coon, the Army National Guard recruiter in the Glens Falls area since 1998 pins Sgt. 1st Class Robert Landry's rank on him during a promotion ceremony Sept. 28 as Col. Theresa VanCort, Director of Military Personnel, looks on. Landry was the first Soldier Coon enlisted when he first started. He retired in October after 32 years in the military, 13 as a recruiter. Courtesy photo.

# The Best Army Invention Ever

By Renita Foster, Fort Monmouth Public Affairs



At left: The famous P38, a legendary piece of Americana that no C-Ration eating Soldier could live without. Below: Maj. Thomas Dennehy, inventor of the P-38 in 1942 when he was assigned to the Subsistence Research Laboratory in Chicago.

FORT MONMOUTH, N.J. - It was invented in just 30 days in the summer of 1942 by Maj. Thomas Dennehy (photo below) at the Subsistence Research Laboratory in Chicago. In its more than 60-year history has it ever been known to "break, rust, need sharpening or polishing," which is why many Soldiers past and present have come to regard the P-38 C-Ration can opener as one of the best Army inventions ever.

C-Rations (tin cans filled with a variety of meats and vegetables) have been replaced with Meals Ready To Eat (MREs) but the phenomena of the P-38 continues due to the countless other uses that Soldiers found for it.

"The P-38 is one of those tools you keep and never want to get rid of," military policeman Sgt. Scott Kiraly said. "I've had my P-38 since joining the Army and kept it because I can use it as a screwdriver, knife, anything!"

Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Steve Wilson believes it's the size of the P-38 that counts.

"It's a perfect inch-and-a-half making it a great marking tool. Because it's small, it doesn't take up a lot of space and that's essential in Army life. The conveniently drilled hole in the top half means the P-38 can be put on a key ring or dog tags and go anywhere," he said.

According to Col. (Ret.) Paul Baerman, however, the most vital use of the P-38 is the very

mission it was designed for.

"When we had C-rations it was your access to food, making it a priority," he said. "Then Soldiers discovered it was an extremely simple, lightweight multi-purpose tool. I think in warfare, the simpler something is and the easier access it has, the more you're going to use it. The P-38 had all of those things going for it."

The P-38 acquired its infamous nomenclature from the 38 punctures around the C-ration can required for opening and the boast that it performed with the speed of the World War II P-38 fighter plane.

"Soldiers just took to the P-38 naturally," said World War II veteran John Bandola. A master sergeant serving in the 30th Signal Construction Battalion in North Africa, Bandola began his acquaintance with the P-38 in 1943.

"The P-38 was our means for eating 90 percent of the time, but the next thing I knew we were using it for cleaning boots, fingernails, screwdrivers, you name it. And we all carried it on our dog tags or key rings," he said.

When Pfc. Martin Kuehl stormed Omaha Beach on D-Day over half-a-century ago with the Third Army's 457th Anti-Aircraft Battalion, he not only carried several pounds of equipment but a P-38 as well.

"I used it to open cans for dinner after that 'longest day,'" said Kuehl. Six years later mil-

lions of the miniature can openers were distributed by the Army during the Korean War.

Christmas of 1969 brought a truce in Vietnam. Paul Baerman was then a wounded first lieutenant, whose only desire was to be reunited with his platoon in time for the highly coveted holiday. His wish was granted and it remains one of the most memorable times in his military career.

"One of my Soldiers received one of those tacky evergreen foil trees," he said. "It didn't come with anything so we mounted it on top of a 50-caliber machine gun on an armored vehicle and decorated it with brass shells from ammunition, C-ration cans, and of course P-38s. They were a little dull, but that hole made it a perfect hanging ornament. So whenever I see that little can opener, I think of being there with them in 70-to-80 degree weather and singing carols around a P-38 decorated Christmas tree."

It's nostalgic memories such as Baerman's that best depict the sentimental attachment many Soldiers came to feel for the P-38.

There have been other inventions that Soldiers came to cherish, such as the steel helmet that proved ideal for washing, shaving, and cooking; the faithful, trustworthy jeep, guaranteed to go anywhere in any kind of weather and the TA-50 ammunition pouch for storing those personal items Soldiers just couldn't leave behind.

Thomas Dennehy's P-38, however, remains the Army's finest creation.

As one of the "most perfectly designed tools in history," Dennehy counted on Soldier imagination to raise the P-38 to even greater heights than just opening cans. **gt**

