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Volume 12 , Number 6

November-December 2004

## From Ground Zero to the Sunni Triangle



### Homecoming Ceremony Held for Valiant Guard Infantry Battalion at Fort Drum

FORT DRUM

By Lt. Col. Paul Fanning  
Guard Times Staff

Thousands of military family members jammed Fort Drum's Magrath Gymnasium on the day after New Year's to welcome their heroes home — more than 700 members of the New York Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry and its attached supporting units, Jan. 2.

"Task Force Hunter" had returned to the post from where they had left more than 10 months ago for Operation Iraqi Freedom, to begin out-processing from active duty. Nearly 2,000 cheering family members, relatives and friends with banners, signs, ribbons and balloons were on hand. The Sunday evening ceremony saw a record turnout of news organizations from across the state.

The Adjutant General of New York, Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Maguire, Jr. formally received the unit — the symbolic return to state control of a federally activated Guard unit and during his remarks, praised the Soldiers for their service and professionalism. He went on to praise family members and friends and the Fort Drum Garrison for the support that was rendered throughout the mobilization period. In closing, General Maguire called forward Camden Russell, age 3, who was dressed in his own desert battle dress uniform, and reunited him with his father, Spc. Alan Russell, before the cheering and delighted crowd.

Federally activated for Operation Iraqi Freedom II on Oct. 1, 2003, the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry is the first N.Y. National Guard infantry organization ordered to federal active duty for wartime service since World War II.

#### History-Making NY National Guard Unit

The 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry is one of three infantry battalions assigned to the 27th Separate Infantry Brigade (Enhanced) of the New York Army National Guard. Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 and the War on Terror was launched, these infantry units have been heavily used in either state or federal active duty for Homeland Defense inside the state of New York, including service at Ground Zero, airport security and protecting New York's nuclear power facilities.

Soldiers from the New York Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry render honors during the playing of the National Anthem. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith)

Story continued on page 2

## Homecoming, continued from cover page

In the summer of 2003, the Pentagon activated several Army National Guard enhanced brigade combat units for Operation Iraqi Freedom II and an infantry battalion from N.Y.'s 27th Brigade was called

***“The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry has proven that reserve component units can not only do the mission, but...can be among the best in the Army.”***

***—Maj. Gen. John Batiste,  
Commanding General, 1st Infantry  
Division***

up. The 2nd Battalion, 108th was identified since the 105th Infantry had already begun Army scheduled reorganization and many soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 108th Infantry were already on federal active duty protecting military air bases inside New York State. The planned conversion of the 2nd Battalion was to come after the other two units had completed their conversion, so, at the time of

the call up, its membership was intact.

The readiness levels of infantry soldiers in all three battalions and the chance to serve in a combat assignment drew many additional volunteers from the 105th Infantry and also from the 1st Battalion, 108th Infantry. As a result the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry was comprised of some of the best, most ready and highly motivated infantry Soldiers of the elite 27th Brigade and the New York Army National Guard. The 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry comes from the following communities:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company  
– Útica Armory

(Reinforced with Soldiers from the former Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 105th Infantry, Schenectady)

Company A – Leeds, Camp Smith in Cortlandt Manor

(Reformed primarily with soldiers from Companies A, B and C of the 1st Battalion, 105th Infantry from New York City, Camps Smith and Leeds)

Company B – Morrisonville (Plattsburgh), Saranac Lake, Whitehall, with former detachments in Malone and Ogdensburg (Comprised mostly of original Company B members of the 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry)

Company C – Gloversville, Glens Falls (Comprised of original Company C members from Saratoga Springs, which transferred to



Getting acquainted with dad. (Photo by Spc. Dennis Gravelle)



Family members cheer for 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry Division Soldiers at the Magrath Gymnasium, Fort Drum, during the homecoming ceremony Dec. 2. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith)

the Glens Falls armory. Some Soldiers from the New York City-based companies of the 1st Battalion, 105th Infantry were also transferred into this unit.)

Company D – Rome (Mostly original 2nd Battalion soldiers from this armory, reinforced with selected soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 108th Infantry, Syracuse and Oswego, and former members of Company D, 1st Battalion, 105th Infantry, Troy)

For the deployment, additional support elements were added to the battalion task force from other 27th Brigade units. These included:

Medics – From Company C, 427th Support Battalion, Glens Falls.

Engineer Platoon – From the 827th Engineer Company from the Connecticut St. Armory, Buffalo.

Artillery Forward Observers (known as the Fire Support Team or FIST) – From Headquarters and Service Battery 1st Battalion, 156th Field Artillery, Kingston and Rochester.

The combined task force strength for the deployment was 760 troops.

### Combat Assignment and Preparations

The battalion was activated at the same time as the North Carolina 30th Separate Mechanized Infantry Brigade (Enhanced). The light infantry structure of New York's 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry contributed to its selection by Army Forces Command as reinforcing element to the 30th Brigade.

Prior to deployment, the Army informed



Soldiers await reunion with family. (Photo by Spc. Dennis Gravelle)

the 2nd Battalion that, although it was training at the same time as the 30th Brigade and would move into the Iraqi theater along with the 30th, it would actually be operating separately from the brigade throughout most of its mission. The 30th performed most of its training at Fort Bragg, N.C., while the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry trained at Fort Drum.

The 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry linked up with the 30th Brigade for a major exercise at the Army's Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., in January 2004. Ironically, the 2nd Battalion completed a rotation at the JRTC in 2001 along with the entire N.Y. 27th Brigade. These troops returned to N.Y. just three weeks prior to the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington on Sept. 11,



Family members personalize a welcome home sign for Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry. (Photo by Spc. Dennis Gravelle)



Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Maguire, Jr., holds Camden Russell, son of Spc. Alan Russell, before reuniting them. (Photo by Spc. Dennis Gravelle)

2001.

In the wake of 9-11 service and in between state and federal missions, 27th Brigade infantry troops, including the presently assigned members of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry participated in a number of intense infantry-related exercises at home and overseas in 2002 and 2003. These included small unit exchange training programs, urban warfare exercises in Germany, England and at various other sites.

Following months of training, a send off ceremony for the battalion was held last February at Fort Drum. Eleven members of Company A took the oath of U.S. citizenship at a departure ceremony in the MaGrath Gym. Sadly one of these Soldiers, Spc. Segun Akintade, an immigrant from Nigeria, was lost on Oct. 28, 2004.

**Service in Iraq**

The 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry deployed to Iraq in February 2003 and was assigned to the U.S. Army's First Infantry Division, "the Big Red One." The various subordinate infantry companies were given separate assignments and performed a variety of other missions with Big Red One units. These included area security, patrols, raids and offensive operations.

In addition, Task Force Hunter captured numerous weapons caches, helped train new Iraqi National Guard members, provided medical, logistical and civil support to Iraqi villages, schools, mosques and families, recovered Thomas Hamill, a Mississippi truck driver who had been kidnapped last spring by insurgents, and helped recapture Samarra in September from insurgent forces during joint U.S. and Iraqi operations.

During the homecoming ceremony, the battalion adjutant read the text of a quote provided from the commanding general of the First Infantry Division, in response to a question from the Secretary of the Army



Lt. Col. Mark Warnecke, Commander, Task Force Hunter, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry. (Photo by Spc. Dennis Gravelle)

regarding the ongoing role of reserve component units. Maj. Gen. John Batiste said, "The 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry has proven that reserve component units can not only do the mission, but that they can be among the best in the Army."

**Sacrifice in the Name of Freedom**

Three members of the battalion gave the ultimate sacrifice to the nation and were Killed in Action and nearly 30 members of the battalion have been awarded the Purple Heart Medal for combat wounds: Apr. 11, Spc. Nathan P. Brown, age 21 – from South Glens Falls, assigned to Company C; Oct. 1, Sgt. Michael Angelo Uvanni, age 27 – from Rome, assigned to Headquarters Company, detailed to Company B at the time of his death; Oct. 28, Spc. Segun Frederick Akintade, age 34 – from Brooklyn, assigned to Company A. □



Left: Soldiers, family and friends at the Magrath Gymnasium. Right: A family member applauds with the arrival of 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Soldiers. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith)

## ..... GUARD NOTES .....

### Get help with Tax Problems

If you have been unable to resolve an ongoing tax problem through normal IRS channels, contact the Office of the Taxpayer Advocate Service.

The office is an independent organization within the IRS, headed by the national taxpayer advocate; the advocate's mission is to help individuals and businesses resolve problems with the IRS.

Call their toll free phone number at: 1-877-777-4778. Find their link on the IRS web site at: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). Call the N.Y. Office of the Taxpayer Advocate at: 518-427-5413. Or write Taxpayer Advocate, Leo O'Brian Fed. Bldg., Room 354, Albany, N.Y., 12207

### MGIB Monthly Contact Required

In order to receive Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits, each soldier must call 1-877-823-2378 on a touch-tone phone monthly or log on to the Veterans Affairs at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) and follow the Web Verification of Enrollment link monthly.

### Scholarship Application Period

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) congratulates the National Guard on its 369<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The MOAA Scholarship Fund is available to the children of MOAA members as well as active duty, Reserve, National Guard or retired enlisted personnel. The application period for the 2005-2006 school year began Nov. 1 and the deadline is March 1. For more information, visit their web site at: [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org) and click on Educational Aid.

### Tuition Assistance Benefits

The Army Tuition Assistance Benefit provides financial assistance to Army personnel interested in working on an undergraduate or graduate degree. This program is open to active duty Army personnel, including members of the Army National Guard and Army Reserve on active duty. Applicants must first visit an education counselor to declare an educational goal and establish an educational plan.

Applicants may enroll in up to 15 semester hours of college courses. Those selected for participation in this program receive their regular Army pay and 100 percent of tuition at the postsecondary educational institution of their choice but capped at \$4,500 per year or \$250 per semester hour, whichever is less. To see the full scholarship posting, go to <http://www.military.com/Education/ScholarShip/Profile/1,14220,0951,00.html>.

To search over 1,000 other scholarships, go to <http://www.military.com/Education/ScholarShip/newsearch?ESRC=miltrep.nl>.

### Guard Times Logo

What can you do with a 10 by two inch space? The Guard Times is looking for a new design for its cover logo. The Guard Times is a paper for troops and their families. Weigh in and help make the paper more interesting and in terms of design and style.

Submissions for a new logo are being accepted until Jun. 1. Logos can be sent as art files (drawings, sketches, etc.) that might inspire one of our talented professionals to produce a new design or as electronic, Adobe Illustrator or Adobe Photoshop files. We welcome all submissions, but final decision rests with the Guard Times senior editorial staff.

What we are looking for:

Original (uncopyrighted), simple designs that symbolize the traditional and historical role of the N.Y. National Guard with the guard's future transformation as an expeditionary force. The logo should contain the words "Guard Times" and a subhead on Guard Times' intended audience (i.e. serving the New York Army and Air National Guard, Naval Militia, New York Guard and families).

Send submissions to: Guard Times, DMNA-MNPA, 330 Old Niskayuna Road, Latham, NY 12110-2224.

## Senior Enlisted Leadership: A Joint Force Team

JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS



*From the desk of New York Air National Guard State Command Chief Master Sergeant Hardy Peirce*

**Jointness in the military is all about relationships.** As I write my first article for the Guard Times, it is only fitting that I write about the office of the two senior enlisted leaders at Joint Force Headquarters-New York National Guard.

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Van Pelt and I have a special relationship for the issues, concerns and the betterment of the enlisted force in our state. Here are a few common concerns at Joint Force Headquarters: families and family readiness, Federal and State Awards and Decoration Programs, pay entitlements, retirements and the retirement process and mental and physical wellness of our people.

A short overview of a few Joint Force focus items that your two senior enlisted leaders have in their tool boxes:

We continually hear leadership emphasize the importance of our Families because the Family is of utmost importance. We all must do our part to not only listen to concerns family members may have but ensure we work at, and address, issues to remove barriers so our military members may have total focus on their duties and responsibilities. This is why the Family Readiness Program is so important. Embrace it, support it, and if done so, make it a part of your military tool box.

Recently I was driving on the Thruway from Latham to my home in Newburgh, listening to the news on the radio. The commentator was speaking about Americans supporting the military in today's all volunteer service. "When one signs up for military service, not only does he or she become a member of the Department of Defense, but the family becomes a member of DoD," she said. Those words really caught my attention. Family and Family Readiness encompass the entire family.

I learned many years ago that we all like recognition. Some more than others, some with fanfare, others are low-keyed, some with outward emotions, others emotion is kept within. Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Van Pelt and I have spent countless hours discussing and lobbying military support associations on the importance of awards and decorations programs. As your senior enlisted leadership, we know the importance of recognition, and this will always be a part of our agenda.

If you want to see a unit's or personal morale go down the tube quickly, well, mess up their pay. I don't think I need to say much on the subject. We all understand the importance and the impact it can have. Pay entitlements has truly been a Joint Force issue for me as an Air National Guard member. I have on numerous occasions been involved with active duty Army, Air Force, Army Reserves and Army Guard pay issues.

The importance on how we treat our members in processing their retirement benefits and timely recognition is beneficial to the entire organization. Treating all retirees with proper respect can have a lasting effect on your unit. Retirees can, and will, become our best Recruiter and Retention personnel, spreading the word about the benefits of being a member of the National Guard, sharing their military experiences. If your unit doesn't have a retirement checklist in its tool box, well, one should be developed and the DoD Retirement Benefits website will assist you on what you need to do.

Proper diet and exercise with routine visits to your Health Care Provider is all part of Wellness. Army and Air Force programs may be different, but we have a common goal: wellness for all of our members. Your senior enlisted leadership in the New York National Guard is working on a program within the state to enhance Mental and Physical Wellness for all of our Guard members. More to follow about the state program 2005. □

# Families, Readiness Groups Overcome Historical Challenges

LATHAM

By Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith  
Guard Times Staff

Because she receives calls from family members missing their husbands, wives, moms and dads, Beverly Keating, a main contact for families of the Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, feels it's extremely important to have a communication bridge between the military and civilian worlds.

"They need to feel they can call me and feel comfortable with that," said Mrs. Keating, a family readiness coordinator for the New York Air National Guard. "It helps to dissolve anxieties, uncertainties and provides someone to turn to in an emergency."

New York's Soldiers and Airmen leaving and returning on deployment know the value of peace-of-mind when it comes to communication through family readiness.

"Readiness emphasizes preparing Soldiers, Airmen and their families, readiness is the key to our work," said Sgt. Maj. Charles Steele, State Family Program Director.

The sergeant major and his staff oversee 90 Army National Guard readiness groups and the Air National Guard's mandatory group per air wing. Spread out across New York, each group is as unique as its community, a daunting task: assuring each group is keeping families informed.

"We are dispersed all over the place," said the sergeant major. Unlike active duty brethren where families live around a base, there are no support facilities for families to get information. "So they have to be creative on where they get...support," finding what's available in their communities.

This may seem challenging enough, but add a war on terrorism, historical numbers of deployments and a military in transformation and the challenge shifts into overdrive. That's where the value of strong family readiness comes in.

Family Readiness Groups (FRGs) are the key components to a Soldier or Airman's successful deployment overseas and on the home-front.

New York's FRGs continue to meet the unique and historical challenges tasking today's National Guard.

There is a new mind set with long-term deployments and the danger that comes with them, said the sergeant major. He explained that getting information flowing between families and units is a challenge

for FRGs. "Information is the key," said the sergeant major. "On the whole they are doing very well."

In his Family Programs Office are stacks of pamphlets on stress management, benefits, wills, budgeting and other information families might need while a loved one is away. The office also maintains a directory to keep track of families across the state. Most importantly is the readiness group information binder. Hand made for group leaders, they are frontline reference tools for New York's scattered FRGs.

Once a year, the Latham-based family programs office holds classes for the lead volunteers across the state. An essential FRG 101, the class empowers leaders with knowledge of group dynamics and information that allows them to organize effectively.

"If they are new, we will go to train them," said Patricia Jensen, State Family Program Assistant, Latham. Mrs. Jensen explained that the goal is "...to have the group function on its own, helping the families."

"We got up and running around April," said Headquarters, 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry (Rainbow) Division FRG co-leader, Kathy Andonie, who's husband and Soldiers deployed to Iraq for a one year deployment.

"They guided us in the beginning...provided suggestions on what committees to form and what was needed to do."

Her FRG has about 278 family members on register, of that, she said, around 30 members take an active role disseminating information through meetings and fund-raisers at the Troy armory.

"We would like to see more people being active," said Mrs. Andonie. She explained that the added tasks of the group can often overload volunteers, who work regular jobs and support their families while loved ones are away. To tackle the work-load, the group split up responsibilities. "We made committees," said Mrs. Andonie.

Mrs. Andonie and co-leader Donna Antal, who's son is also deployed, said that the group is productive, they have guest speakers, fund-raisers and are sending their first care packages to the deployed Rainbow Division.

"We had a good turn out," said Mrs. Antal on building the care packages.

Back in Latham, the sergeant major said that groups often invite guest speakers from Tri Care (health care), the Red Cross and military pay specialists to help



42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry (Rainbow) Division Headquarter's Family Readiness Group co-leaders, Kathy Andonie (right) and Donna Antal (left) stack care packages for deployed Soldiers. Their group is one of over ninety readiness groups statewide. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith)

families get detailed information.

"Of course normal activities like gathering to make care packages provides an outlet to share experiences and emotions," he said.

At some meetings the families "just talk". "We just go around the room telling about ourselves and such," said Mrs. Andonie, who admitted it's one of her more favorite things to do.

"Before deployment the focus is

their information management after Soldiers or Airmen return from deployment.

"We try to encourage them to stay on," she said. "Just because the deployment is over doesn't mean FRGs are not needed." She went on to say that maintained readiness is important, Soldiers and Airmen still deploy for their two weeks training, and to keep information flowing to the families.

"When the family is happy, the Soldier is more likely to stay."

Again, "the key is communications among themselves, sharing knowledge, and the emotional support they give each other," said the sergeant major.

Back at the Stratton Air National Guard Base, Mrs. Keating, who has managed the Family Readiness Office for three years, says that Airmen understand her role and value to their families as an open and confidential office to turn to for help and information.

"Just listening to them helps and is the most rewarding to me," she said. "It's truly crucial." □

EDITOR'S NOTE: Families are encouraged to contact their armory, air base or the State Family Programs Office for information on readiness meetings and volunteer opportunities; call toll free 1-877-715-7817.



Stephanie Duell, Family Program Assistant, takes a phone call at the N.Y. National Guard Family Program Office in Latham.

readiness, during and after the deployment the focus is support," said Mrs. Jensen. Her husband recently returned to Fort Drum from a year in Iraq as Bravo company commander, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry. As a wife of a deployed Soldier, "the group kept me informed of the unit," she said.

As a State Family Program Assistant, Mrs. Jensen makes a lot of trips around the state supporting the 90-plus FRGs. She encourages volunteers to continue



Stacks of information pamphlets on various subjects await distribution from the Family Programs Office to N.Y.'s families.

# Four N.Y. Army National Guard Soldiers Find Final Glory in Baghdad, Iraq

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

By **Sp. Erin E. Robicheaux**  
256<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Some may say Sgt. Christian Engeldrum had the most significant job following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. In the famous picture of New York City firemen hanging a United States flag on a pole rising from the rubble, Engeldrum was the burly man holding the ladder.

He was steadying the way for his colleagues of Ladder 61, Co-op City, to follow him to the gates of freedom. Four years later, Sgt. Engeldrum once again led the way, this time for three of his fellow Soldiers.

Only this time, he's holding the ladder to the gates of heaven.

In less than a week, the 256<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team said good-bye to four honorable veterans: Sgt. Christian Engeldrum, Spc. Wilfredo Urbina, Spc. David Fisher, and Staff Sgt. Henry Irizarry.

Sgt. Christian Engeldrum was loved by everyone who crossed his path. He was a loving father and devoted husband. As a firefighter, he lived for life in Co-op City. He was a key player in the recovery of New York City following the terrorist attacks and believed in the cause so deeply, that he took the fight to Iraq.

Sergeant Engeldrum was very mission-oriented and a constant positive source for his company and his platoon. No matter what challenges faced him and his troops he surged onward and refused to quit until the task was complete. He kept those around him calm and level-headed and cooled the occasional hot tempers by the mere soothing calm of his presence. Though his sense of humor has been described by some as a little stale, his friends get a good laugh when they recount that the huge man's favorite movie was "Clueless."

Sergeant Engeldrum remains immensely loved by his fellow Soldiers. Staff Sgt. Mike Brown, a close friend of 13 years, says that he and the rest of the Soldiers of Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, will have a long year ahead of them without their beloved buddy.

"The hardest part is that there's nothing that you can do," Brown said.

"We don't even know who to get angry at. Do you get angry at the insurgents? Do you get angry at the civilians because they know what's going on but won't talk because they're scared? You get mad because it doesn't feel like it's worth your buddy's life."



**Staff Sgt. Philip Engeldrum**

Age 39, Bronx  
KIA Nov. 29, 2004  
Company A,  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion,  
69<sup>th</sup> Infantry



*Sgt. Engeldrum holds a ladder at Ground Zero as a fellow Ladder 61, NYC firefighter secures the American flag over the rubble of Sept. 11. (Photo courtesy of New York Daily News)*

Specialist Urbina was one in a million to his friends of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. He was truly excited to be serving in this war as an infantryman.

To bring to light the kind of person that he was, when he learned that a close friend, Spc. Nicholas Wilson, could not be eligible for the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB) due to the fact that he was an engineer, he told him, "I will get that award for you."

Urbina had goals and wanted to make the Army a permanent occupation. He

**Spc. Wilfredo F. Urbina**

Age 29, Baldwin  
KIA Nov. 29, 2004  
Company A,  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion,  
69<sup>th</sup> Infantry



*Soldiers of the 256<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team honor four fallen Soldiers in a week's time. All of the Soldiers were New York natives. (Photos by Sgt. Thomas Benoit, 256<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team)*

wanted to be a leader and he took all tasks with the notion that every noncommissioned officer was watching him. Urbina not only wanted himself to look good, but what others thought of his team, his squad and his platoon also made a difference to him. His courageous behavior fueled his ambitions on succeeding in today's Army.

According to friends, Engeldrum and Urbina were closer than any two Soldiers in Company A's 2<sup>nd</sup> squad. Engeldrum was a person who demanded perfection. He loved to look good. Urbina loved to look good in front of Engeldrum and this only made him stronger and their relationship more cohesive. It is believed by their fellow Soldiers that Urbina devoted himself to every task partly because he wanted Sgt. "Drum" to be proud of him, and that made him a vast asset to the 1-69<sup>th</sup> team.

As a nascent D Troop, 101<sup>st</sup> Cavalry, Spc. David Fisher was born on June 12, 1983 in Albany, N.Y.. He was a very proud older brother and referred to his 11 year old sister, Andrea, as his princess. Danny, his little brother, was the spitting image of his elder sibling and looked up to him very much.

Sergeant Fisher came from a very close family to include his parents, grandparents, and his girlfriend of one year, Tara. His father was a police officer and, after returning home from the deployment to Iraq, Sergeant Fisher had plans to attend the police academy and follow in his dad's footsteps.

His best friend, Spc. Christopher Holland, has been an inseparable part of his life since the first grade, so much so that they came across the world together to defend the United States in the war on terrorism.

On Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001, both Soldiers were in school at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy. When the attacks happened just two hours away from their front doors, they went home together to watch the coverage on television. Only three weeks earlier, the best friends had discussed getting out of school to do something different. When the terrorists struck the World Trade Center, the military seemed like the perfect answer. Two months later they were officially tankers in the New York National Guard and were attending basic training at Fort Knox, Ky.

Holland recalled an incident that happened shortly after returning home.

"For one of our first drills we went down to New Jersey and they had brand new M1A2 tanks," Holland remembered. "They let us drive them and when Dave was parking it, he clipped the side of the brand new tank on the side of the brand new garage. It couldn't have happened to a more perfect person."

Holland explained that Sergeant Fisher was the kind of person who would have a friend everywhere he went. He was always the center of attention but he never intended for it to be that way. It was just the kind of personality he had. According

**Sgt. David M. Fisher**  
Age 21, Green Island  
KIA Dec. 1, 2004  
Company D,  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion,  
101<sup>st</sup> Cavalry



*Sgt. David M. Fisher's funeral service on Dec. 4. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith)*

to him, Sergeant Fisher was quiet around a big group of strangers, but if he was in a room with four or five friends he lit up the room.

Sergeant Fisher was a jokester and loved to play pranks when no one was expecting them. During the 'Y2K' New Year's Eve, he snuck out of the room as the countdown was happening, and at the stroke of midnight he turned all of the lights in the house off. Moments later, the lights in the house came back up and he walked into the living room with a big grin on his face.

Holland also recalls that his buddy was very athletic and competitive. He said Fisher was also a leader.

"Dave was the organizer of our flag football team but his passion was basketball," recalled Holland. "If he would

Continued on next page



**Staff Sgt. Henry E. Irizarry**  
Age 38, Bronx  
KIA Dec. 3, 2004  
Company A,  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion,  
69<sup>th</sup> Infantry



*Four fallen Soldiers are honored by the 256<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team in Iraq. All of the Soldiers were from the New York Army National Guard. (Photos by Sgt. Thomas Benoit, 256<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team)*

# Heartbreak in Western N.Y.

## Guard and Community Grieve Fallen Warrior

WEST SENECA

Lt. Col. Paul Fanning  
Guard Times Staff

Once again, the New York National Guard and the community have come together in sorrow to mourn the loss of a superb young warrior.

Tragic news came to the Buffalo suburb of West Seneca just before Thanksgiving when the community learned that one of its most patriotic sons and high school star athletes had become the Guard's fifth combat loss since Operation Iraqi Freedom began.

On November 20, a popular and accomplished young warrior gave his life for his comrades and for his nation during combat action near Baghdad. Spc. David L. Roustum, age 22, assigned to Bravo Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry was killed in action when his up-armored humvee was attacked by insurgent forces with rocket-propelled grenades; Roustum was killed and his three comrades were injured. He was posthumously promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

### Military Honors

Two platoons from Bravo Company were mobilized in January 2004 and deployed with the Arkansas Army National Guard's 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade. The tightly knit team of infantrymen, comprising roughly half of the company, left with pride and determination. Several members of the unit, including Sergeant Roustum, were part of the Guard's

**Sgt. David L. Roustum**  
Age 22, West Seneca  
KIA Nov. 20, 2004  
Company B,  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion  
108<sup>th</sup> Infantry



Sgt. David L. Roustum's funeral service Dec. 6. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Pettibone)

Western New York based Military Honors Detachment, which provides military honors at veterans' funerals. Prior to the War on Terror, the military honors detail normally supported World War II-generation vets who had come to the end of their natural life. Sergeant Roustum had personally participated in more than 200 such funerals. In October 2003, Sergeant Roustum helped render honors for the late Spc. Michael Williams from the 105<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company in Buffalo. He was the Guard's second death from OIF. In reflection of supreme irony, Sergeant Roustum became the recipient of the honors that he himself had been rendering.

### Quiet Professional

Sergeant Roustum joined the Guard right out of high school along with another friend, who was wounded in the same attack. He was very popular and forged friendships easily, yet according to those who knew him, was very focused and disciplined. He had a way of making his presence felt without fanfare. He was a leader. The company commander, Capt. Michael Batt praised Sergeant Roustum and referred to him as "a quiet professional, who always did the job the only way he knew how—above the standard."

According to Captain Batt, Sergeant Roustum will always be remembered as an outstanding troop, an athlete—captain of the hockey team, star quarterback for the football team and all around great American son.

"His star was on the rise in the Army and

he took great pride in his team," wrote the captain. "We will always have an empty place in our formations."

"Sergeant Roustum was one of the good guys, a good Soldier," wrote battalion Command Sgt. Maj. David Piwowarski. "He was a very young man who understood that he had made a commitment to the Army and his country and who showed that he was responsible in honoring his commitment despite the risks."

But probably the most descriptive and appropriate praise came from the state Commander-in-Chief, Governor George E. Pataki, who referred to him as "a true hero who loved his country and was not afraid to put his life on the line in the fight for freedom and fight to rid the world of terror."

### Outpouring and Tribute

Sergeant Roustum's body was flown back to Buffalo from Dover Air Force Base, Del., on Dec. 2. Members of his unit formed an honors detail to receive the flag-draped casket, including several members who were home on scheduled leave from Iraq. All actions stopped at the gate as the Roustum family and relatives received their son on the tarmac. Onlookers in the passenger terminal stood, looked on in silence through the windows, sharing in the collective grief the moment had brought.

Hundreds from the community turned out for the wake in Orchard Park, including the extended family, friends, former school and

Continued on next page

### Glory, from previous page

have played in high school, he would have probably earned a scholarship."

Sergeant Irizarry was looked to by his fellow Soldiers for his leadership, guidance, sense of humor and his ability to emit a positive light into any situation, regardless of the circumstances. He was a loving father, grandfather, and a devoted husband. Those who served with him deem him as a devoted Soldier whose willing service to his country speaks for itself.

"Izzy" will be remembered by those who knew him for his friendly smile, his calm presence, and his kind demeanor. Though he was widely known for his sense of humor, Sergeant Irizarry was a mission-oriented Soldier who was always ready and willing when duty called.

In the wake of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, he served with the Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> at Ground Zero. He further demonstrated his patriotism and allegiance to the unit by volunteering for duty with the Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> for Operation Noble Eagle at the U.S. Military Academy.

When the 1/69<sup>th</sup> was called upon in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, once again, "Izzy" was there.

He deployed in the difficult capacity as a section leader in the Scout Platoon. He was chosen for this position due to his proven competence and courage. There

was never any doubt that he was completely devoted to the success of the unit and that he would give everything he had in order to ensure the success of the Soldiers in this squad.

Lt. Col. Geoffrey Slack, commander of the 1-69, isn't surprised with the impact that the four Soldiers have made on the rest of the Fighting 69<sup>th</sup>.

"It hurts them immensely, especially since they all knew each other so well," he said. Colonel Slack also said that the brigade chaplain and a few mental health professionals have come to the aid of his Soldiers, helping them through this difficult time with their services.

The fact that the terrorist attacks happened to New Yorkers more than any other collective group of Americans is compounded by the tragedy that, to date, the deaths in the 256<sup>th</sup> BCT have all been Soldiers from New York. Slack said this fuels a fire within his Soldiers that is beyond compare.

"The mood of the battalion is much more dangerous," he said. "Their anger is channeled, and they are more focused than ever on what they do."

Three years ago the United States was shown that, in an instant, the world can be turned upside down. In early December, four Soldiers, their families, and all 3,900 members of the 256<sup>th</sup> 'Tiger' Brigade are still being shown daily that everything can change...in a New York minute. □

## Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> Soldier Pays Ultimate Sacrifice

LATHAM

By Capt. Kathy Sweeney  
Guard Times Staff

In Baghdad, Iraq, the New York Army National Guard lost a Soldier from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 258<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment out of Brooklyn.

Cpl. Joseph O. Behnke, 45 of Brooklyn, was killed Dec. 4 when the vehicle he was riding in struck a barrier and overturned.

Corporal Behnke worked for the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Manhattan as a carpenter for the last 17 years, and he owned his own business, American Way General Contracting.

Corporal Behnke's awards include the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumous), Army Good Conduct Medal (Posthumous), National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army



**Sgt. Joseph O. Behnke**  
Age 45, Brooklyn  
KIA Dec. 4, 2004  
Battery C,  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion,  
258<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery



Service Ribbon and the Weapons Qualification Badge (Expert M16A2).

Corporal Behnke is survived by his wife Miriam Behnke, his five children, Travis, Desire, Joseph, Patrick Limage and Jason Limage, and five grandchildren, Pircilla Morales, 14, Kayla Limage, seven, Patrick Limage Jr., seven, Anthony J. Torress, four, Nyah Limage, three.

A military funeral for Corporal Behnke was held Dec. 11, 2004, at St. Bernadette's Church, and he was buried at Greenwood Cemetery, both are located in Brooklyn. □

## 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division advance party Deploys

FORT DRUM

By Staff Sgt Raymond Drumsta  
42nd Infantry Division Public Affairs

The vanguard of the New York National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division and Task Force Liberty has departed for Operation Iraqi Freedom 3.

More than 500 Soldiers of the Rainbow Division's advance party left at the end of October after training at Fort Drum and at Fort Dix, N.J. They headed for staging areas in Kuwait, in order to smooth the way for Task Force Liberty, according to Brig. Gen. Tom Sullivan, 42nd Infantry Division assistant division commander for support and command and control for the advance party.

Among other things, the advance party will draw equipment, acquire dining facilities and billeting, and provide information for the main party, Sullivan said.

Task Force Liberty Soldiers will deploy throughout the remainder of the year and early 2005.

"I think the advance party smooths the way by taking the unknowns out of the deployment," Sullivan said. "In other words, we'll be over in Kuwait before the units. We'll be able to call back to the unit commanders and tell them what to expect."

"The purpose of the advance party is to get everything prepared to receive units," said Lt. Col. Mark Moser, deputy chief of plans, operations. "In this case, the advance party is setting up RSOI in Kuwait."

"RSOI" stands for Reception, Staging and Onward Integration—a process which equipment and personnel are broken out and prepared for movement into Iraq.



42nd Infantry Division advance party Soldiers depart for Iraq. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Ray Drumsta)

"The advance party represents a little bit of everybody, but a big chunk of [Division Artillery]," Moser said. "They run the RSOI."

Other section representatives will ensure section-specific needs are being met, Moser said.

"If problems come up, they coordinate with the rear elements to solve them."

One of these problem solvers is advance party member Spc. Pete Baesemann, motor sergeant for the 173rd Long Range Surveillance Detachment. He said his job is to ready his unit's vehicles "so LRSD can use them effectively."

"I expect to be very busy," Baesemann said. "I'm going to get our vehicles off the boat, maintain them, acquire the up-armored Humvees, and basically get all our ducks in a row for the rest of my unit."

That involves the infantry mentality—a commitment to "check, double check, and triple check everything," Baesemann said.

"If you don't do that with everything, something won't be there when you need it," he said.

Thanks to the advance party, task force Soldiers also will get training. Divisional units deploying to Kuwait will undergo 14 days of intense training, to include M-2 and 240 Bravo machine guns, M-16 and M-4 rifle, said Master Sgt.

Christopher Parker, sergeant of the Operations Training Section.

Parker said preparing this training for the main body involves many people and lots of coordination, a job he describes as "difficult but doable."

"It's kind of hard preparing for something until you've seen it," he said.

In addition to tracking vehicles and helping with barracks and equipment, advance party member Sgt. April Haradji, 42nd Military Police Company, said preparing her family for her deployment—especially her eight-year old son—is also part of her job.

"My son is getting older," Haradji said. "My son knows what time means. He understands months and years. He knows it's 2004, and that I won't be back until 2006. He knows that's a long time."

Haradji deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom in 2003. She bought a globe for her son, and ran a string on it from her home state of New Hampshire to Afghanistan to show him where she was located. For this deployment, she taught him to use e-mail—and moved the string.

"We just had to switch it to Iraq," she said.

Haradji said she doesn't find it difficult to leave before everyone else.

"I want to be on the advance party. I already said goodbye to my family. I don't want to go through that again. My family is supportive. My mom knows that I want to do this, and that I'll be taken care of," she said.

Baesemann also said his family supported him.

"They told me they loved me, and to go over, get the job done so I can come home."

Spc. Craig Jasco, assigned to the division tactical command post, said his family and friends sent him off with many going-away parties, reading material and a St. Michael medallion.

"They told me to be safe and keep my eyes open," Jasco said, "and to stay alert." He said he wants to stay focused and physically fit so he can perform his duties.

"We have all the equipment and all the training we need," Sullivan said. "We are going to be very successful." □

### Roustum, from previous page

teammates, teachers and coaches and members of the military of all service branches including other Guard units.

Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Jacques from the Oregon Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry traveled across the country to pay respects to the Roustum family. Jacques was on convalescent leave from Iraq for his own combat wounds as his unit had served along side the Soldiers from Buffalo.

"I remember meeting them (Sergeant Roustum's unit) at Fort Hood. They are really tight and we were impressed with them," he said.

Sergeant Jacques presented Sergeant Roustum's parents with a coin on behalf of his command, with the gratitude and appreciation of the members of Bravo Company. According to Sergeant Jacques, the brotherhood of warriors extends Army-wide and across state borders in the Guard.

Inside the funeral home were dozens of photos of Sergeant Roustum as a student, as an athlete, and as a Soldier. His old football uniform and helmet were on display. A special tribute came from 5th grade students at the Charles Upton Elementary School, Lockport.

The class had adopted the unit for the deployment. Now a series of letters written by Sergeant Roustum to his elementary school pen pals served as a window to the spirit of a gentle warrior, and in celebration of his life and example to others. A supporting letter to sergeant Roustum's parents was posted next to the memory board to explain and expand on their son's contributions to the students, including several letters, which had arrived only days before his death.

"Dave made a huge impact on the lives of our children, especially some at-risk students, who finally felt connected to a male role-model," wrote teacher Sherry Sansone, whose brother serves in the unit. "Please understand that your son established relationships with students from our school and community," she wrote. "We will never know how far his touch will reach and continue to reach throughout the years to come."

As evidenced by the turn out for this fallen warrior, on the day of the return of his body, at the wake and at the funeral with full military honors, the memory of Sergeant David L. Roustum and the relationships that he formed and that have been formed around him will long be remembered right along with him. □



Honoring our eighth President. Deputy Adjutant General, Col. David F. Sheppard, places a red, white and blue wreath on the grave site of President Martin Van Buren at a ceremony honoring his birth Dec. 5, 1782. (Photo by Master Sgt. Jeannine Mannarino)



## New York National Guard Combat Shooting Team Sweeps Regional Championship

LATHAM

By 1st Lt. Rodney Richmond  
Joint Forces Headquarters

The New York National Guard Combat Marksmanship Team competed in Vermont Aug. 21 thru 22, 2004 against the top teams in the Northeast Region for honors in both rifle and pistol at the Military Advisory Council (MAC) Region 1 Combat Marksmanship Competition.

The Vermont National Guard at Camp Ethan Allen, Vt., hosted the competition.

The Combat Rifle team was composed of 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Rodney Richmond of the Small Arms Readiness and Training Section (STARTS), Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ), Sgt. Tom Scott, of the 204<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion and Master Sgt. Warren Christman, Master Sgt. Terry Potter, Tech. Sgt. Bill Bednarowski and Tech. Sgt. Allen Lederhouse of the 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing.

The Combat Pistol Team was

composed of Master Sgt. David Smith and Spc. Douglas MacQueen of the 204<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, Sgt. 1st Class Derrick Banning of the 152nd Engineer Battalion and Sgt. Joe Dee of the SARTS JFHQ.

The New York Soldiers and Airmen placed first in both rifle and pistol team events and are the MAC 1 Region Champions. In addition to winning the team events, shooters received individual awards including, in the rifle precision match, Richmond, who took first place, and Bednarowski, who took second place.

In the excellence in competition rifle match Sergeant Bednarowski took second place, and Richmond took third place.

In the overall rifle champion, Lieutenant Richmond came in first with Bednarowski and Scott firing into second and third place respectively.

In pistol, Bannin took first place in the combat pistol match with Dee taking home second place. At the Precision pistol match, MacQueen shot for first place and Smith came in second.

Overall pistol champion was awarded in first place to Banning and Dee in second place.

Competitive marksmanship provides a unique opportunity for the New York National Guard. In addition to the chance to compete and showcase outstanding marksmanship ability, Soldiers and airmen receive invaluable training that they bring to their respective units.

The New York Combat Shooting Teams went on to compete in the 2004 Winston P. Wilson Matches held in Camp Robinson, Ark. in October representing the New York state National Guard.

Each year, shooters are encouraged to participate in the New York National Guard TAG Combat Matches held at Camp Smith.

For more information on New York's Combat Shooting Teams, contact Maj. Dana Brewer or 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Randy Ross at STARTS through the Department of Military and Naval Affairs <http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/sarts/index.htm>, or call (518) 786-4644. □

## New York's finest combat riflemen to Represent U.S.A. at International Competition

LATHAM

By 1st Lt. Rodney Richmond  
Joint Forces Headquarters

Three competitors from the New York National Guard Combat Rifle Team were recently selected to represent the nation on the All Guard Combat Marksmanship Team.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Rodney Richmond of the Small Arms Readiness and Training Section (STARTS), Joint Forces Headquarters, Tech. Sgt. Bill Bednarowski of the 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing and Sgt. Tom Scott of the 204<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion competed at the Armed Forces Skill at Arms Match held at Camp Robinson, Ark., in October. The match pits the finest military competitive combat shooting teams in the world against one another.

All three guardsmen are active members of the New York Combat Rifle Team. The team is the current All Army Champions, 2004 Military

Advisory Council Region 1, and came in second place at the 2003 Winston P. Wilson Match where, additionally, all three won the coveted Chief's 50 Award; Richmond and Bednarowski are Distinguished Marksmen, and Scott won the last two points needed at the Winston P. Wilson Matches to join the USA team.

The All Guard Team represents the U.S. in various matches around the world including England, Australia, South Africa, Canada and Germany.

The team has a reputation as a leader in the world of marksmanship. These Soldiers and airman, having distinguished themselves, provide a wealth of expertise to the New York National Guard.

For more information on New York's Combat Shooting Teams contact Maj. Dana Brewer or 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Randy Ross at STARTS on the DMNA website at: <http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/sarts/index.htm>, or (518) 786-4644. □

## Deputy Secretary Visits Deploying Task Force Liberty

FORT DRUM

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample  
American Forces Press Service

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz got a warm welcome at a town hall meeting here at this wintry northwestern New York State base Dec. 17.

The roughly 600 soldiers from units of the 42nd Infantry Division's headquarters and Task Force Liberty stood and gave a standing, rousing applause when DoD's No. 2 civilian leader entered the room. The division task force is deploying to Iraq.

Army Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, chief, National Guard Bureau and division commander Army Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto were among senior leaders joining the deputy secretary.

Wolfowitz reminded the assembly of the division's proud history — past tales that some were too young to remember and recent ones that none of them will ever forget.

He talked about how the division helped end Nazi rule in Germany during World War II by capturing enemy strongholds in Schweinfurt, Nuremberg and Munich, and liberating concentration camps.

And Wolfowitz reminded the soldiers how just three years ago the division responded



Deputy Secretary Paul Wolfowitz greets Soldiers of Task Force Liberty after his Dec. 17 town hall meeting with them at Fort Drum. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample)

to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in their own New York City backyard. Division battalions from New York armories responded immediately. And thousands of soldiers from the rest of the division's New York National Guard and the division headquarters sustained security and recovery operations

in Manhattan as part of Joint Task Force 42.

The deputy secretary singled out division soldier Army Maj. Chris Ciccone as an example of those who were among the first to respond to the World Trade Center attacks.

A high school teacher in New York City's East Greenwich area, Ciccone said he had

"seen what terrorism can do and I don't want to see that ever happen again."

"So if (this deployment) means taking on terrorism where it starts, that's what our job is," the military intelligence officer declared.

Task Force Liberty soldiers appreciated Wolfowitz's visit. "It shows concern that he's coming down to see the troops that are deploying," said Sgt. 1st Class Franklin Smith, 48, a military policeman.

Added Pvt. Nathaniel Deitch, 19, one of the task force's younger members: "That's trooping the line. You know, every good leader should do that."

Division elements, part of the third rotation of troops to Iraq, began their movement toward Iraq in October. The division will lead Task Force Liberty.

In his remarks, Wolfowitz pointed out how the U.S. military has helped liberate 50 million people from brutal tyranny and that the United States is now safer because of military action taken in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Years from now when the history of the global war of terror is written, it will be your story — the story of how courageous American soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen helped make our country safer and the world more free," he said.

The deputy secretary also issued a warning to terrorists still hiding in Iraq: "The 42nd Infantry Division is coming ... and believe me, you ain't seen nothing yet." □

## Reserve-Component Troops Urged to Keep Employers Informed

BAGRAM, AFGHANISTAN

By Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl  
American Forces Press Service

Behind nearly every deployed National Guardsman or Reservist, there is a civilian employer who is waiting for an employee to return.

**"Employers are just as concerned about the well-being of Soldiers as anyone else."**

Most civilian employers support their servicemembers. The better the relationship these deployed citizen-soldiers maintain with their employer, the better their reintegration is likely to be upon redeployment.

"Troops need to take the time to involve their employers in what they are doing," said Maj. Gen. Steve Read, U.S. Army Reserve readiness commander.

The first step in keeping employers informed is ensuring they know the initial timeframe for a deployment, when the deployment is expected to start and approximately how long it will last.

All National Guardsmen and Reservists fall under the guidelines of the Uniformed Services

Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. This act provides strict guidance for both servicemembers and employers. Some employers choose to go above and beyond what USERRA requires.

"There have been some employers who have continued health insurance during deployments, or at least until the servicemembers are able to pick up their Tricare benefits," said Master Sgt. Gregory Jacobs, Army Reserve Affairs retention noncommissioned officer for Afghanistan. These benefits help the families who are left behind, and they help the soldiers by easing the stress a deployment can induce.

To recognize those employers who go out of their way to support armed forces personnel, there are

various awards at both the state and federal level.

"In the civilian world there really are no awards," said Lt. Col. Charles Kirchen, Army Reserve Affairs officer in charge for Afghanistan. "To many employers, it is a big deal to get these awards."

It's up to the individual servicemembers to recommend their employers for awards. This can be done through the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Web site. But there are other ways to show appreciation as well.

"Soldiers can show their appreciation very easily," said Capt. James Carmichael, 221st Ordnance Company commander,

Fort Wayne, Ind. "Something as simple as having a flag flown in their honor and presenting it with a certificate."

In addition to small tokens of appreciation, servicemembers should continue to communicate with their employers throughout their deployment.

"Stay in touch with them, let them know you're all right," advised Sgt. Maj. Scott White, Reserve Affairs senior enlisted adviser for Afghanistan. "Employers are just as concerned about the well-being of their soldiers as anyone else."

It all goes back to communication, said White. "If you're up front and honest with your employer," he said, "they will be able to support you better." □

## Recruiters of the Year Awarded at the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing

SYRACUSE

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Anthony L. Bucci  
Public Affairs Officer

Two recruiters of the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing were recently awarded Flying Unit Recruiter of the Year and Rookie Recruiter of the Year respectively for the Air National Guard's Region Five.

Master Sgt. Brad Addison received the "Flying Unit Recruiter of the Year" award and Tech. Sgt. Joe Call received "Rookie Recruiter of the Year" award and will be honored in April at the Air National Guard national conference and will be presented with a gold recruiting shield.

Master Sgt. Addison has been in the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing for more than 10 years, the last five being in the recruiting office. He started his career in personnel before making the switch to recruiting in 1999. "Since the first day I saw a gold shield as a recruiter it immediately became my goal. I live my life by setting goals for myself, once I achieve one of them it's time to set new ones" said Addison.

Tech. Sgt. Call has been in the unit for more than seven years, spending the first six in the fuels department. "I was surprised when I was informed that I had won the award. It is one of those things that you shoot for and hope that maybe someday I can get it." He also said that without his wife's support his winning this award would not have been possible. "My wife is very supportive of my career, she thinks that recruiting is a great job. She is definitely very happy for me!" said Call.

There are numerous factors within the selection criteria that need to be met in order to win one of these awards. The enlistment

quota per month measured overall during the fiscal year, the ANG standard is three per month and 36 for the Fiscal Year. Master Sgt. Addison had 52 enlistments, while Tech. Sgt. Call bested him with 53 for FY 2004. However, Tech. Sgt. Call did say he owes a lot of his success to Master Sgt. Addison, "Master Sgt. Addison was instrumental in helping me to be a successful recruiter. He literally taught me the ropes; from various call back techniques to navigating through the Air Force Recruiting Information Support System" said Call.

The next factor looks at community involvement both recruiters are heavily involved in. They visited many schools in an attempt to expose area kids to the many opportunities in the ANG. They participated in Veterans Day ceremonies, while also being present at the yearly New York State fair. The selecting committee also looks at what Professional Military Education the candidate has completed. Unit and individual awards also weighed to help in the selection process.

Master Sgt. Addison and Tech. Sgt. Call are allowed to wear the distinctive gold recruiting shield, which displays their significant achievement. It is a symbol of excellence, dedication and teamwork. They are allowed to wear this gold shield for two years as a symbol of their significant achievement.

There are four categories for a recruiter to win the gold shield, they are: "Rookie Recruiter of the Year", "Flying Unit Recruiter of the Year", "Office Supervisor of the Year", and "Recruiting Retention Supervisor of the Year". The first three categories apply to each unit's recruiting section; the last category is open to each state's Recruiting Retention Supervisor. There is no overall supervisor for a particular region; therefore

the highest position is the state's supervisor. A recruiter has the opportunity to win a gold shield for each of the aforementioned categories.

They now have the opportunity to compete on the national level against all the winners from the five regions to determine who the overall winner is for their respective category. If they win on the national level they are allowed to wear the gold shield for the remainder of their recruiting career to distinguish themselves as top performers within the recruiting field. It is the first time for the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing to have two award winners from the recruiting section.

"Both are extremely capable in all aspects of recruiting and go above and beyond the required processes. Their accomplishments

in an extremely difficult recruiting environment are especially noteworthy," said Master Sgt. Richard Doctor, Recruiting Office Supervisor.

"With the recruiting challenges facing the military at the present time, the 174<sup>th</sup> is very fortunate to have Brad and Joe performing as they are. Their efforts have achieved national attention not only for themselves, but for the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing as well" said Col. Tony Basile, Wing Commander. □

WRITER'S NOTE: Region Five is made up of New York, New Jersey and the New England States, with New York State being the largest Air National Guard State. This is the first time since 1991 that New York State has won a recruiting award.



Master Sgt. Brad Addison, left, and Tech. Sgt. Joe Call, right, review enlistment information for potential members of the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing. (Photo by 1st Lt. Anthony L. Bucci, 174FW)

# Second Civil Support Team Mobilizes in Local Exercise

*Joint-force Soldiers and Airmen Neutralize WMD Lab at Abandoned Navy Warehouse*

SCOTIA

By Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith  
Guard Times Staff

It was raining when a line of government vehicles quietly rolled into a pull-off outside a depot fence line here one recent December morning.

*Instructors previously setup booby traps and mock chemical agent equipment within a damp air of decay.*



A CST team member from the 2nd Civil Support Team cordons off a decontamination station setup during the exercise.



Rain pours down on a 2nd Civil Support Team member. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith)

After minutes of silence, black-uniformed personnel stepped out with stern glances amidst sporadic radio noise and converged. They seemed in heavy discussion, and to the passerby—attentive enough to notice them—their suspect stance might have raised an eyebrow, or two.

The Weapons of Mass Destruction, 2nd Civil Support Team conducted a large-scale exercise at the Scotia Naval Depot on Dec. 1 as part of their regular readiness training.

The exercise started on the report that a break-in investigation of an abandoned warehouse uncovered possible WMD activities. An initial joint response team of 13 Soldiers and three Airmen were dispatched.

The Soldiers and Airmen are tenants at the Stratton Air National Guard Base, Scotia. "This is our full time job," said Maj. Matthew

Cooper, 2nd Civil Support Team Commander. He added that the team conducts large-scale exercises at least once a quarter. Smaller-scale exercises are conducted two to three times a week, he said.

With the steady rain, the exercise seemed a soggy puzzle awaiting a solution. Inside the warehouse was a maze of abandoned hallways connecting lightless rooms where instructors previously setup booby traps and mock chemical agent equipment within a damp air of decay. Making conditions worse, water dripped through a rain-soaked ceiling, mucking up potential evidence before landing in puddles on a broken linoleum floor.

Major Cooper explained that the team changes the location of each exercise.

"It's hard to use the same facilities over and over," said the major. "It's human nature to predetermine the outcome based on historical knowledge of a structure or area."

On a table inside a rear entrance, a spill of tan powder haphazardly formed a message for trespassers, and dirty windows allowed enough light to read "JIHAD" handwritten

in the dust.

The 2nd Civil Support Team cut the exercise into small maneuvers, and the Department of Defense reports that the Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Teams' common mission is assessing sites and advising civilian responders on what actions to take. If called upon, teams will assist requests for state and federal assets but, most importantly, the concern is saving lives and preventing human suffering and property damage.

Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Teams undergo military as well as emergency responder training; team members need to acquire approximately 600 hours of initial training aside from their regular military occupations. □

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The 2nd Civil Support Team is among the first 10 teams authorized in 1999 to achieve Department of Defense certification. To date, the DoD reports 32 Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Teams authorized nationwide.



Members of the 2nd Civil Support Team prepare to investigate an abandoned warehouse at the Scotia Naval Depot as part of a major exercise held in December. The exercise tested the team's ability to assess, advise and assist in weapons of mass destruction incidents.



## Keeping Families First

Tech. Sgt. Maralyne Fleischman and husband, Master Sgt. Louis Fleischman display Maralyne's awards as the N.Y. Air National Guard Family Readiness Member of the Year. The award recognizes those who ensure National Guard families, Airmen and Soldiers are prepared for separation during deployments. Two awards are presented each year to deserving members of NY's Air and Army National Guard. **Left to right:** Brig. Gen. Dana B. Demand, Commander 105th Airlift Wing, Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Maguire, Jr., Adjutant General, Master Sgt. Louis Fleischman, Tech. Sgt. Maralyne Fleischman, Mrs. Kathy Laramée, 105AW Family Program Coordinator, Mrs. Patty Jensen, State Family Program Office Assistant, Joe Fryer, Maralyne's Supervisor.

(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael R. O'Halloran, 105AW)

# Understanding New York, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Key to Your Benefits

ALBANY

By Joseph Collorafi, Brig. Gen. retired

N.Y. Veterans Affairs

When most people hear the term Veterans Administration or VA, they think only in terms of hospitals and medical care. In reality, the Department of Veterans Affairs is an agency with a diverse structure not unlike the Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA). Where DMNA has the Army and Air National Guard and the Naval Militia as separate subordinate organizations, the VA has the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and the National Cemetery Administration. Through these three organizations, the VA offers a wide variety of programs and services for the nation's 26 million veterans.

Health care is provided by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and is one of the most visible of all VA benefits. VHA is composed of 23 Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN). There are two health care networks in New York—the VA Healthcare Network Upstate New York (VISN 2) and the VA New York/New Jersey Veterans Healthcare Network (VISN 3). They operate 12 major medical centers in New York, plus an extended care center at St. Albans.

These facilities provide a full range of medical services, including acute medical, surgical, psychiatric and nursing home care. Specialty units at select medical centers offer cardiac catheterization, lithotripsy, clinical pharmacology, MRI, radiation therapy, women's health programs, treatment for spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder and blind rehabilitation.

The medical centers are augmented by more than 60 outpatient clinics throughout the state. These clinics offer a full array of primary care services for veterans in the communities where

they live and work, especially in rural areas. Each medical facility is affiliated with at least one major university and together they provide training for more than 8,000 medical students annually in nursing, dentistry, dietetics, audiology and speech pathology, medical technology, radiation technology, pharmacy, podiatry, psychology, physical and occupational therapy and social work.

The VA NY Harbor Health Care System, which includes the Manhattan and Brooklyn medical centers, has been recognized for having four Clinical Programs of Excellence in renal dialysis, cardiac surgery, comprehensive medical rehabilitation and HIV care.

The VA is teaming up with the Department of Defense to track the health of military personnel. The Millennium Cohort Study, one of many collaborative research projects between the VA and the Department of Defense, is the largest study of its kind ever conducted. Researchers will follow as many as 140,000 military personnel for up to 21 years to track changes in their health. The effort began in 2001 and to-date has enrolled more than 79,000 service personnel. The study will help answer questions about the health effects of military service. In

*If you are a veteran, you have earned these benefits by your dedication and service to your country. You should take advantage of these benefits and utilize your V.A. system.*

particular, the researchers will examine how deployment affects the incidence of chronic diseases and other health conditions. Findings will help guide DOD and VA policy on health care and benefits. For more information you can visit the study's website at [www.millenniumcohort.org](http://www.millenniumcohort.org).

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) administers a variety of benefit programs through 58 VA Regional Offices. Two of these are located within New York State. The Buffalo VA

Regional Office is located at 111 West Huron Street, Buffalo, NY 14202 and the New York VA Regional Office is located at 245 West Houston Street, New York, NY 10014. The benefit programs administered by VBA include; Disability Compensation and Pension, Education and Training (GI Bill), Home Loan Assistance, Insurance, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment.

Disability Compensation and Pension: Not all of the problems of military service end when people are discharged from active duty. About 2.5 million veterans receive monthly VA disability compensation for medical problems related to their service in uniform. VA pensions go to about 341,000 wartime veterans with limited means. Family members of about 533,000 veterans qualify for monthly VA payments as the survivors of disabled veterans or pension recipients. The VA's regional offices in Buffalo and New York City serve veterans and their survivors in New York who are seeking VA financial benefits. In fiscal year 2003, these regional offices processed 24,777 disability compensation claims. The total includes 6,435 veterans applying for the first time for disability compensation. During fiscal year 2003, these two VA regional offices

Vietnam era veterans, plus active duty personnel. Since the dependents program was enacted in 1956, the VA also has assisted in the education of more than 750,000 dependents of veterans whose deaths or total disabilities were service-connected.

Since the Vietnam-era, there have been approximately 2 million veterans, service members, reservists and National Guardsmen who have participated in the Veterans' Educational Assistance Program, established in 1977, and the Montgomery GI Bill, established in 1985.

In 2003, the VA helped pay for the education or training of 322,754 veterans and active-duty personnel, 88,342 reservists and National Guardsmen and 61,874 survivors.

Home Loan Assistance: From 1944, when the VA began helping veterans purchase homes under the original GI Bill, through January 2004, about 17.4 million VA home loan guarantees have been issued, with a total value of \$812 billion. The VA began fiscal year 2004 with 2.7 million active home loans reflecting amortized loans totaling \$213.2 billion.

In fiscal year 2003, the VA guaranteed 508,436 loans valued at \$65 billion. The VA's programs for specially adapted housing

veterans, active-duty members, reservists and Guardsmen, plus 3.1 million spouses and children.

In 2003, VA life insurance programs returned \$569 million in dividends to 1.5 million veterans holding VA life insurance policies, and paid an additional \$2.42 billion in death claims and other disbursements.

Vocational Rehabilitation: The VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program provides services to enable veterans with service-connected disabilities to achieve maximum independence in daily living, and, to the greatest extent feasible, to obtain and maintain employment. During fiscal years 1998 through 2003, 52,423 program participants achieved rehabilitation by obtaining and maintaining suitable employment. Additionally, during that same period, 7,658 participants achieved rehabilitation through maximum independence in daily living.

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) manages the country's network of national cemeteries with more than 2.5 million grave sites at 120 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico, as well as in 33 soldier's lots and monument sites. Most men and women who have been in the military are eligible for burial in a national cemetery, as are their

dependent children and usually their spouses. Last year, about 90,000 veterans were buried in the VA's national cemeteries. Additionally, in 2003, the VA provided nearly 345,000 headstones and markers and 254,600 Presidential Memorial Certificates to the loved

ones of deceased veterans. VA-assisted state veterans cemeteries provided more than 18,000 interments.

The VA has six national cemeteries in New York; the Calverton National Cemetery and the Long Island National Cemetery in Long Island, the Cypress Hills National Cemetery, in Brooklyn, the Woodlawn National Cemetery, in Elmira, the Gerald B. Solomov National Cemetery, in Schuylers

helped about 550 disabled veterans with grants totaling more than \$22 million last year.

Insurance: The VA operates one of the largest life insurance programs in the world. The VA directly administers six life insurance programs with 1.8 million policies in force. In addition, the VA supervises the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance programs. These programs provide \$729 billion in insurance coverage to 2.8 million

Education and Training: Since 1944, when the first GI Bill began, more than 21 million veterans, service members and family members have received \$77 billion in GI Bill benefits for education and training. The number of GI Bill recipients includes 7.8 million veterans from World War II, 2.4 million from the Korean War and 8.2 million post-Korean and

Continued on next page

# Secretary of Defense Visits New York Guardsmen in Kuwait

KUWAIT

By Capt. Monte Hibbert

116<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Capt. Robert Giordano

42<sup>nd</sup> ID Deputy Public Affairs Officer

U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld visited Iraq-bound military members December 8 at their staging camp in Kuwait, including close to 1700 soldiers from the U.S. Army's 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division.

Rumsfeld used the town-hall type meeting to address the soldiers and then directly answer soldier questions.

"First, I want to say thank you to each of you—to your families—for your superb service to our country," said Rumsfeld in his opening statement. "You are doing noble work. It's vitally important work, and your country is deeply grateful."

After pointing out the significance of December 8 as the date that the United States entered World War II more than six decades ago, Rumsfeld said that we are once again facing a global conflict.

"As it was in 1941, a new generation of Americans has been asked to come to freedom's defense," said Rumsfeld.

Rumsfeld said the reunification of Germany, the debate over free elections in Ukraine, Afghanistan's elections, and the thousands of Iraqis coming to the defense of their country are examples of freedom's recent advances worldwide.

"These pivotal moments in history would not have been possible had it not been for the determination, and the daring of America's founders. Generations of Americans who've advanced those freedoms at home and helped to nurture those freedoms abroad," he said. "Now that duty falls to you—or more correctly, and I think importantly, you have each volunteered to accept that duty, and I know you are up to the task."

While about half of those attending the event were from the 116<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team, attendees also included soldiers from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Headquarters, another National Guard brigade, and support units from the staging camp.

"America's fortunate to have some old pro's back in the field," said Rumsfeld after highlighting the proud histories of the units in attendance.

Rumsfeld reaffirmed his resolve and the resolve of the United States in the Iraqi conflict.

"You know there are those who see the violence taking place in Iraq ... and they say we can't prevail," said Rumsfeld. "I see that violence and say we must win. Think of a world, just think of a world, in which the butchers and the murderers are allowed to prevail."

Rumsfeld said that in today's global conflict the stakes are as high as when President Franklin Roosevelt spoke at the dawn of the U.S. entrance into WWII, when he vowed

to defend ourselves and defeat treachery no matter how long it takes.

"As before it falls to you and to our country to win this test of wills, and to see it through to victory," he said. "I ask you all to remember this in the difficult and the trying moments that you'll face. There is perhaps no greater calling in life than doing what you are doing—serving on freedom's front lines."

He concluded his speech by again thanking those present for their service and then opened up the floor for questions.

Questions from military members in the audience included topics such as the balance of forces in the U.S. and abroad, the plan for U.S. forces in Iraq, the availability of up-armored vehicles, non-NATO country involvement in the coalition, pay and benefits for National Guard and reserve soldiers and Department of Defense and Army policy regarding enlistment and retention.

Rumsfeld said that the U.S. has approximately 2.5 million troops it can call on at any time and compared that number with the approximately 200,000 currently in the Iraqi theater.

"You can be sure we have the capability we need," he reassured. Rumsfeld also assured the group that U.S. forces would be withdrawn from Iraq as soon as sufficient Iraqi security forces are trained, but that the timeline is contingent on security conditions on the ground.

"It's hard to predict precisely what will take place, but there's a strong belief ... that the people of Iraq will see that they have a stake in the future of that country, and that they

will then begin to assume greater and greater responsibility for the management of their country," said Rumsfeld.

A couple of soldiers asked questions about equipment, particularly about the number of up-armored humvees for the military's needs in Iraq.

"It's essentially a matter of physics. It isn't a matter of money. It isn't a matter on the part of the Army of desire. It's a matter of production and capability of doing it. As you know, you go to war with the army you have, not the army you might want or wish to have at a later time," said Rumsfeld. "Since the Iraq conflict began, the Army has been pressing ahead to produce the armor necessary at a rate that they believe ... is the rate that is all that can be accomplished at this moment."

There were questions from soldiers regarding reimbursements for travel expenses, perceived inequity in pay and benefits between reserve and active duty soldiers, and a 'stop-loss' policy currently in effect that keeps military members on active duty who might otherwise have retired or separated from the military.

"At the moment we are doing well in terms of attracting and retaining the people we need and if anything ... the data suggest that the guard and reserve forces have been advantaged relatively compared to the active force over the past four years," said Rumsfeld.

After taking the final question Secretary Rumsfeld took the time to mingle with the soldiers, shake hands and allow photos. □



Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld visits Iraq-bound military members in Kuwait. (Photo by Capt. Robert Giordano)

## Veterans, from previous page

and the Bath National Cemetery in Bath, New York.

The VA is one of the largest agencies in our federal government. As of January 31, 2004, the VA had 232,172 employees on the rolls. Among all departments and agencies of the federal government, only the

Department of Defense has a larger work force. Of the total number of VA employees, 210,432 were in the Veterans Health Administration, 12,962 in the Veterans Benefits Administration, 1,498 in the National Cemetery System, 3,193 in the Veterans Canteen Service and 425 in the Revolving Supply Fund. The rest — 3,662 employees—are in various staff offices

The VA is also a leader in hiring veterans. About 52 percent of all male employees are veterans and as of January 31, 2004, the VA had 9,786 women employees who served in the U.S. armed forces. About 57 percent of male and 28 percent of female veteran employees served during the Vietnam War. More than 7 percent of all VA employees are disabled

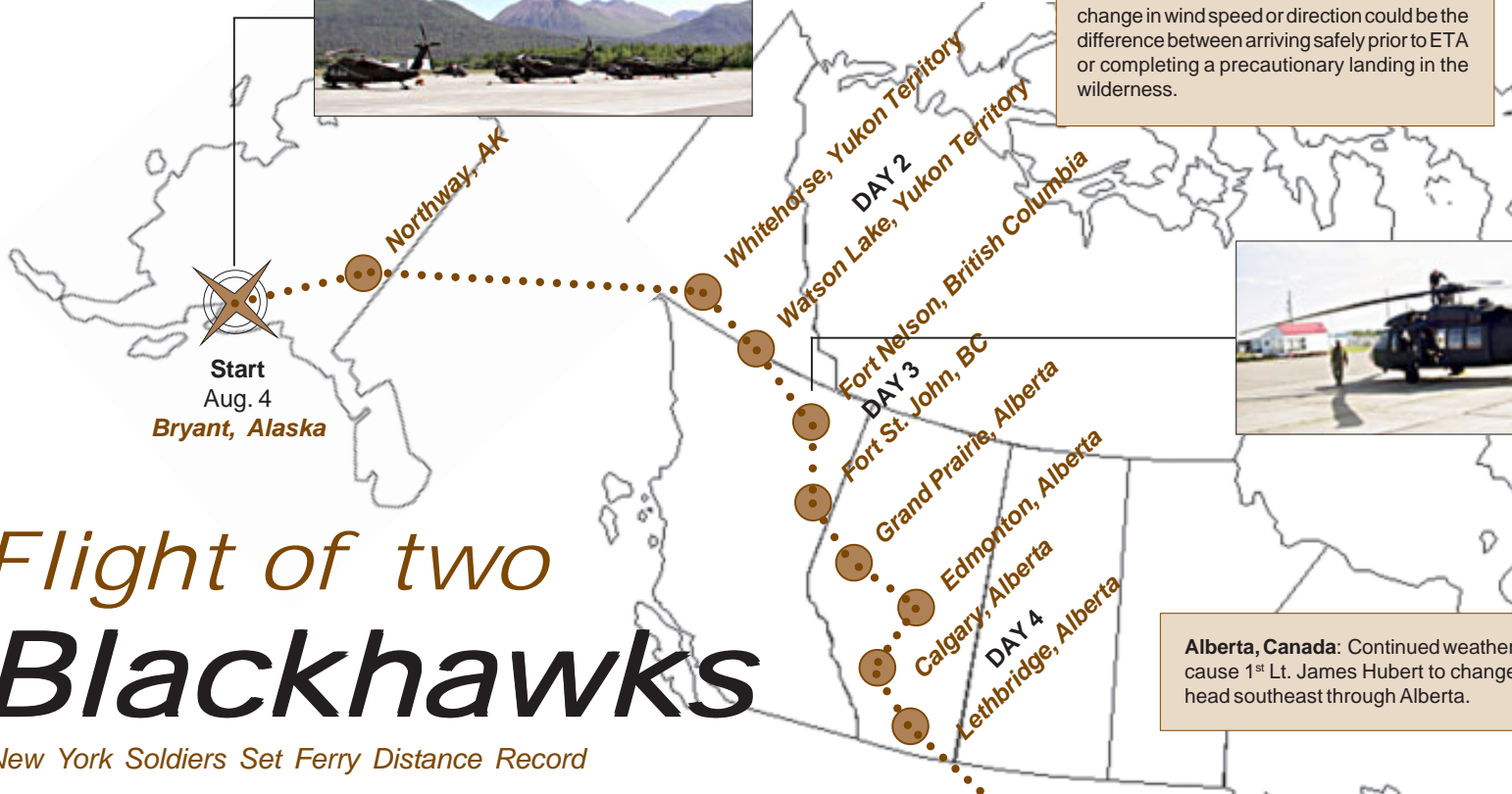
veterans and four hold the Medal of Honor.

Almost all honorably discharged veterans can qualify for one or more VA benefits but they must enroll with a VA Medical Center for medical care and submit an application for those benefits administered by VBA. You can obtain information and assistance be either visiting the VA facility

nearest you, calling the toll free number at 1-800-827-1000 or visiting the VA website at [www.va.org](http://www.va.org). The VA exists to provide the best possible services to our nation's veterans. If you are a veteran, you have earned these benefits by your dedication and service to our country. You should take advantage of these benefits and utilize your VA system. □



**Yukon Territory:** With few fuel locations, meticulous fuel calculations were made. A change in wind speed or direction could be the difference between arriving safely prior to ETA or completing a precautionary landing in the wilderness.



**Alberta, Canada:** Continued weather cause 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. James Hubert to change head southeast through Alberta.

# Flight of two Blackhawks

*New York Soldiers Set Ferry Distance Record*

By Capt. Kathy Sweeney  
Guard Times Staff

When the National Guard Bureau transferred three UH-60 Blackhawks from Bravo Company, Third Battalion 142<sup>nd</sup> Aviation, Long Island, to the N.J. Army National Guard in July for Operation Iraqi Freedom, Soldiers at the Army Aviation Support Facility Number One (AASF1), Ronkonkoma, were tasked to ferry home two newer Blackhawks from Alaska to make up for the loss.

The two Blackhawk crews consisted of 1st Lt. James Hubert, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Vince Carrabba, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Neal Humphries Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Cox, Staff Sgt. James Holloman, Staff Sgt. Sam Carreras, Sgt. Tom Teufel and Spc. Smith Bapthelus.

The crews started their 26-hour duty day on Jul. 1, leaving N.Y. to board one of three commercial flights that would take them to Anchorage, Alaska.

The four-hour time difference was the first of many adjustments made, including getting rest in Alaska's 22-hour, summer daylight. Additionally, required navigation publications had to be addressed prior to their departure, and the Alaska Air National Guard's 210<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron provided the current publications and charts required, which enabled them to embark on the long journey home.

The Soldiers ferried the Blackhawks home to support the Republican National Convention—crucial air support was needed due to the loss of three Blackhawks to N.J.

Lieutenant Hubert was appointed air mission commander. He and his two crews overcame various difficulties, setting a N.Y. Army National Guard helicopter ferry flight record in the process.

Planning is paramount on any helicopter flight, and, on this record setting trip, Lieutenant Hubert said crews had to "make several course changes due to deteriorating weather." The journey was particularly challenging due to the vast wilderness overflow and

that the Blackhawks were not configured with long-range fuel tanks—their range was roughly two hours, 30 minutes including reserve time, in no-wind conditions. Fuel stops had to be meticulously planned, factoring in wind direction and speed—difficult in a wilderness without weather reporting stations. In addition, crews were required to land with 20 minutes of fuel remaining when flights operated under Visual Flight Rules (VFR) and 30 minutes of fuel remaining when flights operated under Instrument Flight Rules (IFR)—basically IFR conditions exist if the weather is less than 1000 foot ceiling and less than 3 miles visibility.

"This ferry flight encompassed VFR, IFR, Special VFR and mountain flying conditions combined with remote area operations related to our unit's wartime mission" said Chief Warrant Officer Humphries. The aviator crew chief instructors were able to take advantage of the changing scenarios to accomplish required tasks for progression training.

Readiness levels measure a Soldier's progress through various phases of Army aviation training while allowing experience and familiarity with areas of flying. A training flight is usually planned to allow pilots and crew chiefs to progress through their levels, but sometimes there is a "real-world" situation that allows both missions. This benefits crews because circumstances are not artificially controlled, which forces responses to unforeseen problems such as weather and maintenance.

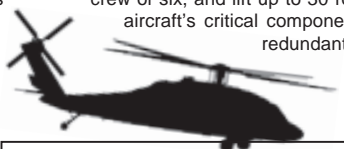
"Rigorous and demanding flying, incorporated with a real mission scenario, paid dividends..." stated Chief Warrant Officer Humphries. "This training would normally take about one year with a normal...Soldier," said Staff Sgt. Holoman.

Staff Sgt. Carreras stated "continuity of training was the key for our Soldiers. They were exposed to almost every scenario required for their advancement..."

The entire flight took five days including 29 hours flight time. Flight days were scheduled to accomplish inspections and leave room for unforeseen events such as weather or maintenance issues. □



The UH 60 Black Hawk provides air assault, general support, aeromedical evacuation, command and control and special operations support to combat and stability and support operations. As a tactical utility helicopter, it replaced the UH-1 "Huey." The versatile Black Hawk has enhanced the overall mobility of the Army, due to dramatic improvements in troop capacity and cargo lift capability, and will serve as the Army's utility helicopter in the Objective Force. On the asymmetric battlefield, it provides the commander the agility to get to the fight quicker and to mass effects throughout the battlespace across the full spectrum of conflict. An entire 11-person, fully-equipped infantry squad can be lifted in a single Black Hawk, transported faster than in predecessor systems, in most weather conditions. The Black Hawk can reposition a 105 mm Howitzer, its crew of six, and lift up to 30 rounds of ammunition in a single lift. The aircraft's critical components and systems are armored or redundant, and its airframe is designed to protect the occupants...



**Guard Facts:  
UH-60L Blackhawk**

*Manufacturer: Sikorsky (CT)*  
*Max gross weight: 22,000 lbs.*  
*Empty weight: 11,400 lbs.*  
*Max. speed: 193 kts. (222 m.p.h.)*  
*Cruise: 150 kts. (173 m.p.h.)*  
*Economy: 128 k.t.s (148 m.p.h.)*  
*Capacity: 15 troops (W/three crew)*  
*External load: 9000 lbs*



*Making the long journey, Blackhawk aircrew of the Third Battalion 142<sup>nd</sup> Aviation, Long Island in a group photo with one of two Blackhawks flown their starting point in Bryant, Alaska, from top left, Staff Sgt. Sam Carreras, 1st Lt. James Hubert, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Vince Carrabba, Spc. Smith Bapthelus, from bottom left, Sgt. Thomas Teufel, Staff Sgt. James Holloman, Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Cox, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Neal Humphries. (Courtesy photos)*



**Back in the U.S.:** Nine stops from Great Falls, Mont. to Islip, N.Y. covering over 2100 miles.



**Islip, N.Y.:** After five days and 4,020 statute miles including 29 hrs. flight time, the Soldiers land at their destination. Long and short flight days were scheduled to accomplish inspections and leave room for unforeseen events such as weather or maintenance issues. The Blackhawks were immediately put to use, supporting the 2004 Republican National Convention at NYC.

# A Christmas Patrol to Remember...or Forget

TAJI, IRAQ

By Joseph Giordono

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It was a Christmas they'll always remember. Or maybe one they'll want to forget. First, a Humvee flipped over into a canal, temporarily submerging an inverted Sgt. Drew Neason. Then on the way back from the patrol, two more Humvees slipped off the muddy trails. Later, Pvt. Anibal Lugo was forced to fire warning shots at a car that apparently wanted to ram the convoy. In between, the 3rd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment soldiers got into a firefight.

"I've been shot at more this Christmas than all the other ones combined," 2nd Lt. Stan Westmoreland said, shaking his head as the convoy returned to its base after a cold, wet Christmas Day patrol through ankle-deep mud.

The day started out like any other, save for the slow drizzle of rain that had begun early Christmas morning.

As Westmoreland gave the platoon a patrol briefing, he emphasized the possible dangers: insurgents looking for a Christmas strike, several possible roadside bombs found along well-used routes, slick roads.

The last one came into play first.

As the convoy traveled along country roads paralleling canals filled with waist-high water and reeds, the rain turned the trails to a thick, muddy slurry.

When the lead Humvee nearly slid off the road, the soldiers got out. Soon, it was teetering on the edge of the road.

The platoon attached the first Humvee to another and tried to pull it back onto the road. Instead, the side of the road caved in, flipping the Humvee into the canal.

As soldiers shouted for a medic and rushed to pull out Neason, who had been in the driver's seat, the wheels spun and smoke poured out from the upside-down vehicle.

When a soaking-wet Neason emerged from the Humvee shaken but uninjured, everyone breathed a sigh of relief. "I could feel it start to go, so I just braced myself," Neason told Sgt. William Gamble, one of the first to reach the vehicle and pull Neason out. "I could hear you yelling and I yelled back, but my head was underwater."

Once they were sure Neason was OK, the soldiers joked and laughed while an M-88 recovery vehicle came to pull the Humvee out of the canal.

As the soldiers waded into the canal to recover items from the Humvee, they shook their heads at how they were spending Christmas. By then, it was getting dark and, backtracking along the road, the soldiers headed back to base.

Before long, Lugo yelled out that the convoy was taking fire.

Red tracer rounds flew in, most passing a few feet ahead and above the vehicles. Lugo returned fire with his mounted .50-caliber machine gun. Sgt. Michael Honore popped down his window and shot back with his M-4 rifle.



Sgt. Andrew Neason is helped out of the Humvee after being briefly trapped. The Christmas Day patrols were hampered by deep mud and rain.



Spc. Anibal Lugo crouches down in the gunner's hatch of a Humvee during the Christmas Day patrol in the countryside surrounding Baghdad.

A few flares were shot into the air about 200 meters away from the convoy, and the firing continued.

Later, the soldiers speculated about who was shooting at them — whether it was insurgents or possibly a nervous Iraqi National Guard checkpoint near a main road.

"Merry [expletive] Christmas," someone muttered.

On the last stretch of road before the camp, a car sped toward the last Humvee in the column. Lugo, in the gunner's seat, flashed a light at it, warning the driver to back off. When the car kept coming, he put two warning shots into it with his .50-caliber.

Finally, the convoy rolled through the gates of Camp Cooke with 30 minutes to spare before the dining facilities stopped serving their special Christmas dinners.

As the Humvees pulled up to the weapons clearing station, where soldiers made sure no live rounds were still in their guns, Lugo broke into a set of Christmas carols from up in the gunner's hatch.

"Although it's been said, many times, many ways," Lugo sang, remarkably on key, "Merry Christmas to you." □

Warrant strength, command, control, prestige...

...what we need!

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Become a Warrant Officer

For more information regarding warrant officer opportunities, contact Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jackie O'Keefe or the Warrant Officer Branch at 518-786-4889.



# Liberty's Rear Stabilizer Links Soldiers, Families

FORT DRUM

By Spc. Christopher Connelly  
Headquarters, 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division

A stabilizer makes or keeps something steady. In a race car, it is the stabilizer that keeps the car centered and level on a race track. For the Rainbow Division and Task Force Liberty, the division's Rear Detachment helps keep the task force centered and on track as the Soldiers move quickly to accomplish their mission in Iraq.

The Rear Detachment is the link between Soldiers, their families and all the Army resources and equipment necessary to support the mission. Their role will be to assume the responsibilities of the division staff deployed forward. The Rear Detachment is a conduit for timely and accurate information and assistance to families, unit Family Readiness Groups, the state National Guard Adjutants General and



Lt. Col. Paul Hulslander, works with Capt. Mike Shipman as 1st Lt. Kuen Park G-6 looks on. (Photo by Spc. Christopher Connelly)

United States Army Reserve commanders. Equally important, the unit Rear Detachment provides oversight and coordination for Soldier training and equipment fielding for replacement operations to the task force forward in Iraq.

"This is the first time a rear detachment of this size has been put together for overseas deployment since WWII," according to Rear Detachment 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Maurice Agard. Traditionally, active duty units establish rear detachments at their installation to support the needs of deployed units. Since this is the first time in over 50 years a National Guard combat division headquarters has deployed on a large scale, it requires the establishment of a rear detachment. All this support will be provided from Ft. Drum, N.Y.

"Support to Soldiers' families during mobilization and deployment is crucial," said Col. Russell Catalano, the Rear Detachment Commander. The Rear Detachment "will do all they can to assist families in any way they can, no matter how small the issue may seem," he added.

"It's our responsibility to take care of our Soldiers and their families. This task force is one big family and we will take care of each other in all situations," said Catalano.

"We have already had a family emergency back home and we quickly became the link between the Soldier overseas and their family member, and it went very smoothly," said Agard.

"If there is a problem in the division task force or with a family member, the Rear Detachment will do their utmost to correct it," said Catalano. "In a nutshell, it's our job to do all we can to correct an issue that may exist so we can relieve the family and the Soldier of their concerns."

Since families will need additional assistance, the division task force will establish a family assistance counselor and a liaison officer at selected armories and at four mobilization stations. The Rear Detachment has responsibility for those personnel, and significant coordination and communication is anticipated between them.

"We will do all we can for the family and Soldiers, and the Rear Detachment staff understands that philosophy. Bottom line — it's not about us, but about the Soldiers and their families," said Catalano.

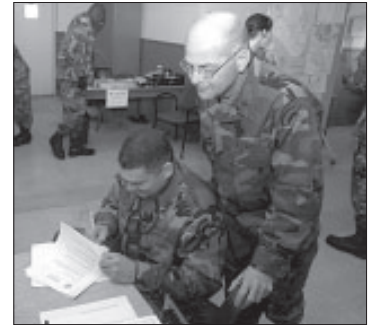
The Rear Detachment staff mirrors the Rainbow Division staff in function and form in order to perform those duties necessary to represent Task Force Liberty back in the states. It allows the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division to provide one point of contact for a wide range of needs. These include monitoring replacement personnel training and deployment to supervising the shipment of required equipment overseas into theater.

"In short, we will do A to Z," said Catalano. This will help the Soldier of Task Force Liberty stay focused on their task at hand and make the transition into theater easier.

All Rear Detachment Soldiers met all the same training, medical standards and immunizations required of all deploying task force Soldiers. The members of the Rear Detachment trained as if they themselves were being deployed.

The Rear Detachment is serious about what they have to do and understand the tremendous effort it's going to take to make the mission successful, according to Catalano.

Many Soldiers of the Rear Detachment would love to deploy forward with the Rainbow Division, according to Catalano.



Col. Russell Catalano, Rear detachment Commander oversees Capt. Richard Agostini, Secretary General Staff as he signs work orders. (Photo by Spc. Christopher Connelly)

Catalano explained to his Soldiers that their role here is important to the success of the Rainbow Division's mission. "The Army's structure is defined to support all aspects of a successful mission," Catalano said, "and there is a place and a need for every Soldier. Everyone's mission is important and no one job is more important than another," he said.

"I couldn't be happier with this group," said Catalano.

"We are a team... no, let's make that a family and it will take a great effort as a family to make it happen. We must, as a family, support and communicate, and we are working to that end," said Catalano.

"We are prepared to work countless hours, and we will do what is necessary to support the Soldiers and their families. In a short period of time this group has demonstrated their desire to do what it takes. The energy level that the officer and enlisted personnel display is high and I am proud to serve with them," said Catalano. □

## Rainbow Trains for Tikrit area

TIKRIT, IRAQ

By Spc. Ismail Turay Jr.  
Army News Service

In an effort to ensure that their upcoming transfer of authority occurs without a hitch, the 1st Infantry and 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry divisions held a day-long Relief In Place rehearsal in Tikrit Dec. 5.

The 42ID, which is an arm of the New York Army National Guard, is scheduled to take control of North

Central Iraq by the end of February for a yearlong tour of duty. The IID has been in-country since February of this year. The "Rainbow Division" is the first National Guard contingent to be in charge of an entire area of operation in the Middle East.

About 200 leaders, including both commanding generals from the divisions, filled Forward Operation Base Danger's theater for the rehearsal.

In the days leading to the dry run, each 42<sup>nd</sup> ID brigade and battalion commander shadowed his IID counterpart, and both drafted a plan. The commanders presented their plans during the rehearsal, and the generals approved them or made suggestions for improvements.

The plans presented to Maj. Gen. John Batiste of the IID and the 42<sup>nd</sup> ID's Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto included troops' rest plan,

movement from Kuwait to Iraq and the IID's withdrawal from Iraq.

Prior to the plan presentations, IID officials gave the 42ID a brief overview of the area of operations, which includes five provinces. The

**"Our reconnaissance has been constant and consistent, and I think it has been worth every effort..."**

Big Red One also briefed the Rainbow Soldiers on the various tribes in each province, their economical status, population, the supply routes and the like.

Also discussed were the capabilities of the enemy, tendencies, trends, lessons learned and the various attacks insurgents have launched against coalition

forces.

The IID Soldiers told their 42ID counterpart about challenges the Big Red One faced and lessons it learned the past year.

"(The rehearsal) is all about sharing good ideas," Batiste told the throng of Rainbow and Big Red One Soldiers. He urged the 42ID to use force against the enemy whenever necessary, but the goal should be to end the violence because the vast majority of Iraqis want peace.

The Rainbow Division headquarters mobilized in early June and came to Tikrit to do a reconnaissance, get acquainted with the area and learn from the IID, Taluto said.

In mid June, another headquarters team — mainly the division support command returned for another reconnaissance. Then in July the brigade and battalion commanders

conducted a leaders' reconnaissance.

Taluto and his staff returned in August for a third reconnaissance and continued to work closely with the IID commanders and staffs.

"Our reconnaissance has been constant and consistent, and I think it has been worth every effort," Taluto said in July. "We owe a real debt of gratitude to the 1st Infantry Division for the way it's received us. It's been wonderful and professional in every sense of the word."

Because the division was comprised of units from 26 states, MacArthur made the statement, "This division stretches across the land like a rainbow," and the 42<sup>nd</sup> ID became known as the Rainbow Division.

The 42<sup>nd</sup> ID stretches across nine states, but 67 percent of its Soldiers are located in New York and New Jersey. □

**COLONEL**

SAMMARCO PETER J 53D HQ DET AR LIAISON (ARFOR)

**LIEUTENANT COLONEL**

DREISBACH GREG WILLIAM DET 1 HHC 250 SIG BN

**MAJOR**

PENALVER NOEL HHC (-) 27TH IN BDE  
 DUDZIAK DANIEL GERARD HHC(-) 1-69 INF (M)  
 SHAW ROGER EDWARD HHC (-) 1-127TH ARMOR  
 COLOMBO JOHN MADIERA HHC 42 IN DIV(-)  
 EVANS ANDRAE JAMES HHC 42 IN DIV(-)  
 ORTIZBURGOS CARMELO RAFAEL HHC 42 IN DIV(-)  
 ACEVEDO RICHARD HHC AVN BDE 42 IN DIV  
 SETTINO RICHARD WILLIAM HHC AVN BDE 42 IN DIV  
 SALDANA NARCISO ANTONIO HHC AVN BDE 42 IN DIV  
 BOUSQUET STEPHEN MATTHEW CO C (-) 342D FWD SPT BN  
 CRITELLI APRIL 2ND CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM (WMD)  
 AMROSKI PETER ANTHONY HSC 642D SUPPORT BN  
 EVANS FREDERICK JOHN AV HHC DIV AV BDE FWD 3  
 TULLY MATHEW BOUDREAU 2ND BN 106TH REG (RTB)  
 BAKER TONY JOHN HHC 27TH AREA SUPPORT GROUP

**CAPTAIN**

PARK KEUN WAN PAUL HHC 42 IN DIV(-)  
 MCNITT DAGE ERIC HHC 42 IN DIV(-)  
 GEE HENRY 37TH FINANCE DET  
 LAMORA BRYAN JAMES 827TH ENGR CO  
 KNOWLES ALEXANDER HART HHC 642D MI BATTALION

**SECOND LIEUTENANT**

CONNOLLY MICHAEL DALE CO A 3-142D AVIATION  
 BRANDLE JASON CHRISTOPHER CO B 3-142D AVIATION

**FIRST LIEUTENANT**

LANGE ROBERT HERMAN 442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
 MORATH AIMEE MARY 105TH MP CO  
 CHARLES KEVIN CO B (-) 204 ENGR BN  
 BROWN LAURA BLINDA HHD 369TH CORPS SPT BN  
 MCBEAN MARCIA ANGELA CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
 BRANLEY KENNETH RECRUITING AND RETENTION CMD  
 HAYES THOMAS NATHANIEL HHC 101ST SIGNAL BN  
 KING JOHN EDWARD 101 AR TRP TRP E CAV REAR

**CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4**

JOHNSON MICHAEL WADE CO A 3-142D AVIATION  
 HAACK WOLFGANG PETER CO B 3-142D AVIATION  
 WAGNER KENT WILLIAM DET 20 OPER SPT ALFT CMD

**CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2**

PADILLA PETER LUIS 145TH MAINTENANCE CO  
 HOFFMAN DANIEL JEREMY CO B 3-142D AVIATION

**MASTERSERGEANT**

LENNOX ANDREW R 258 FA BN 1 BTRY C 155 SP  
 COLON JOSE A HHD 206 CORPS SPT BN  
 TORRES HECTOR GILL HHD 206 CORPS SPT BN  
 [REDACTED] KERVILLE LINDA M NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ  
 [REDACTED] IP A HHC AVN BDE 42 IN DIV  
 [REDACTED] ROBERT LEE JR DET 1 HHC 1-69TH INF (M)  
 [REDACTED] JOHN MICHAEL DET 1 272D CHEMICAL CO  
 [REDACTED] 27TH MAINTENANCE CO (DS)  
 [REDACTED] C 27TH AREA SUPPORT GROUP  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED] C (-) 1-108TH INF  
 [REDACTED] 1-127TH ARMOR  
 [REDACTED] JR HHC 3RD BDE 42ND ID (M)  
 [REDACTED] C 42 IN DIV(-)  
 [REDACTED] E HHD 206 CORPS SPT BN  
 [REDACTED] DET 2 HHC 27TH IN BDE  
 [REDACTED] Y 199TH ARMY BAND (-)  
 [REDACTED] JOHN HHD ENGINEER BDE 42 ID  
 [REDACTED] THONY H & S CO 204 ENGR BN  
 [REDACTED] TH TRANSPORTATION CO  
 [REDACTED] 69TH TRANSPORTATION CO  
 [REDACTED] 1569TH TRANSPORTATION CO  
 [REDACTED] TH TRANSPORTATION CO  
 [REDACTED] TH TRANSPORTATION CO  
 [REDACTED] GE III HHC 1-105TH INF  
 [REDACTED] E NYARNG ELEMENT JOINT FORCE

CLARKE FABIO ADOLFO CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
 COVINGTON ODESSA A CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
 KENT JAMES DANE CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
 BOULERIS TODD FRANCIS CO C 3-142D AVIATION  
 HOLMES JOHN FRANCIS 42 INFANTRY DIVISION DET  
 BUTRON-SANTULLI ELISE J 14TH FINANCE DET  
 BORLAND WALTER PAUL 827TH ENGR CO  
 MCCRACKEN MARK MICHAEL DET 1 HHC 27TH IN BDE  
 HAWKER NATHAN JEFFERY HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI)  
 STORY VICTOR JEROME DET 1 HHC 107TH SUPPORT GROUP  
 STABLER RONALD PAUL HSC 642D SUPPORT BN  
 KIBLER MICHAEL ANTHONY 156 FA BN 01 HHS FWD 3  
 EISENBERG JONATHAN SCOTT 101 AR BN 01 DET 1 HHC  
 GARCIA VINCENT CO C(-) 638 SPT BN  
 GREENE JOHN JOSEPH JR 642 CS BN HSC FWD 3  
 RISLEY JEFFREY VAN JR DET 1 105 MP CO  
 PICHURA GEORGE ROBERT 206 CS HHD CSB FWD  
 BAILLARGEON RONALD CLYDE 427TH MAINT CO (DS)  
 JACKSON TIMOTHY JOHN HHC 27TH AREA SUPPORT GROUP

**STAFF SERGEANT**

KNIGHT MICHAEL RAYMOND HHC (-) 27TH IN BDE  
 DEVARY JAMES MATTHEW CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
 VANOSDEL KRISTOPHER JON CO B 1-69TH INFANTRY(M)  
 CHIARENZA MELCHIORRE LUCIUS HHC(-) 1-69 INF (M)  
 LUO QIYU HHC(-) 1-69 INF (M)  
 WALCK JASON LAWRENCE CO B 1-108TH INF  
 SMITH ALAN R HHC (-) 1-108TH INF  
 LEMANSKI JAMES HARRY CO A 1-127TH ARMOR  
 NEWMAN MARK ALLEN HHC (-) 1-127TH ARMOR  
 HIRTZEL RAYMOND JAMES HHC (-) 1-127TH ARMOR  
 HERNANDEZ ANDY E HHC 42 IN DIV(-)  
 PEARSON WILLIAM LOREN HHC 42 IN DIV(-)  
 DAVIS RANDOLPH 258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
 STOKES PAUL R 258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
 DAVIS TERRANCE ANDREW 258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
 GANG WILLIAM JOSEPH II 258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
 ROBINSON FRANK 258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
 ANDERSON CLEMENTE 258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
 RODRIGUEZ NOEL 258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
 LAIRD DERREL TIMOTHY 258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
 GONTAREK STANLEY JR 258 FA BN 1 BTRY C 155 SP  
 HEATON SCOTT JOHN 258 FA BN 1 BTRY C 155 SP  
 FIELDS DAVID MARK 258 FA BN 1 BTRY C 155 SP  
 AGOSTO CASILDO HHD 206 CORPS SPT BN  
 ODUSANYA OLA BOBATUNDE HHD 206 CORPS SPT BN  
 HALLS LEONARD L HHD 206 CORPS SPT BN  
 PERKINS CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL 145TH MAINT CO  
 BROWN JESSIE JR 145TH MAINTENANCE CO  
 TIBBLES RONALD LYNN 145TH MAINTENANCE CO

DEJESUS LEONCIO 145TH MAINTENANCE CO  
 SYMONDS JAY EDWARD CO A(-) 204 ENGR BN  
 ROBINSON RONALD CLIFFORD JR CO B (-) 204 ENGR BN  
 RAMLAKHAN STEPHEN HHD 27TH FINANCE BN  
 LEHNERTMICHAEL NYARNG ELEMENT JOINT FORCE HQ  
 COLE LAURA MARIA NYARNG ELEMENT JOINT FORCE HQ  
 SANTANA JAVIER ALOMAR ARNG JOINT FORCE HQ  
 BARKSDALE ANTHONY E 108 IN BN 02 AASLT CO C  
 NARVAEZ REYNALDO CO D 1-101ST CAVALRY  
 BAUER STEVEN MICHAEL CO D 1-101ST CAVALRY  
 SERRANO ANGEL LOUIS 108 IN BN 02 AASLT CO A  
 KLINE DARRIN JAMES CO D 1-127TH ARMOR  
 GANGARAM DANIEL CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
 GLOVER REGGIE CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
 RUIZ JOSEPH KENNETH CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
 REID JOHN MARK ANTONIO CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
 MALDONADO JOSE ANTONIO 69 IN BN 01 CO B REAR  
 SMITH DEAN DET 1 HHC 27TH IN BDE  
 ARWOOD RICHARD RAY DET 1 HHC 1-108TH INF  
 HENRY MATTHEW CHARLES DET 2 CO C 1-108TH INF  
 ADAMS JASON LEE 108 IN BN 01 AASLT D CO FWD  
 CIOCH MARK ANTHONY CO A(-) 427TH SPT BN  
 NORTON WALTER RECRUITING AND RETENTION CMD  
 HAMILL ERIN LINSEY RECRUITING AND RETENTION CMD  
 CASEY MARTIN RECRUITING AND RETENTION CMD  
 REDICK EARL RECRUITING AND RETENTION CMD  
 SOLOMON JAMES RECRUITING AND RETENTION CMD  
 MCDUGALL THEODORE E III RECRUITING AND RETENTION  
 SPARROW ANDREW RECRUITING AND RETENTION CMD  
 BLASS MICHAEL RECRUITING AND RETENTION CMD  
 JONES JOSEPH GARFIELD 108 IN BN 01 CO B FWD 2  
 QUINTANA GUILLERMO 108 IN BN 01 CO B FWD 2  
 ROLLOCK JOSEPH MANNASSEH DET 1 272D CHEMICAL CO  
 MORGIA SCOTT A DET 1 272D CHEMICAL CO  
 HERBST JONATHAN PAUL 101 AR BN 01 CO D REAR  
 BARNES ROAN TRAVOLTA CO C(-) 638 SPT BN  
 ARROYO DAVID JR HHC 642D MI BATTALION  
 TOPLIFFE DENIS MYLES HHC 642D MI BATTALION  
 MOYA LUIS A CO B 101ST SIGNAL BN  
 APPARICIO VICKEY MARIE 642 CS BN HSC REAR  
 GARCIA DAVIS FRANCIS 642 CS BN HSC FWD  
 SANCHEZ JOSEIAS NEALE 642 CS BN HSC FWD  
 HALEY LAWRENCE DANA JR 53 HQ HQ LIAISON FWD  
 LOPEZ MARIO 206 CS HHD CSB FWD  
 WILLIAMS GARRY CHARLES 222D MILITARY POLICE CO  
 BARRY TRAVIS LEE 222D MILITARY POLICE CO  
 JOPSON MELVIN JR 1427TH TRANS CO MEDIUM TRUCK  
 FOX EDWARD ANTHONY 1427TH TRANS CO MEDIUM TRUCK  
 VEGA EDWARD JR 1427TH TRANS CO MEDIUM TRUCK  
 HEMMERICK MICHAEL E 1427TH TRANS CO MEDIUM TRUCK



1st Lt. Spc. Bernadette Berrios, Wire Systems Repairer, 145th Maintenance Company, ground guides a Humvee trailer car near the Kingston Army in November. The Humvees were shipped to Fort Benning, Ga., where more of the 145th will prepare for their mobilization to CENTCOM in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for up photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petbone)





SGT KOONCE EVA JEANETTE  
SPC PACHECO ZULMA EVETTE

**42 HHC HVY DIV REAR**  
SGT HANCOCK JASON JEROME

**427TH MAINTENANCE CO (DS)**  
SFC ABBOTT DAVID RICHARD  
SSG ATEN CHARLES ARTHUR  
SGT COSENTINO CARMEN ANTHONY  
SPC DEATON ALTON TYRONE  
PFC DELOSH JOHN PAUL  
SGT JOHNSON IRA JOSEPH  
SGT O'DONNELL DALE LLOYD  
1SG STERIA KEITH W  
SSG TEWKSBURY PAUL DWIGHT  
**442D MILITARY POLICE CO**  
SGT CORTEZ HERMINIO  
SGT MORALES LOUIS A  
SGT MUNNO FRANCO  
SPC PHILLIP ANTHONY

**50 CS BN CO B DET 1 REAR**  
SPC KAINA MARA MAHEALANI

**53D HQ DET AR LIAISON (ARFOR)**  
1SG CAREY THOMAS J  
SSG HOLMES GREGORY LEON  
**642 CS BN CO B REAR**  
SPC BAXTER GORDON FREDERICK  
SPC LEEDON JAMES ELIOT

**642 CS BN HSC REAR**  
SPC QUINONES EVER S  
SPC RIVERS LISETTE BARBARA

**642 MI BN HHC REAR**  
SSG WAIT JEFFREY B

**69 IN BN 01 CO A REAR**  
PFC ZUNIGA RONALD GERARDO

**69 IN BN 01 HHC REAR**  
SPC EMBSEY WALTER JOSEPH III  
SGT MALDONADO FABIAN  
SGT REIMBEAU JUDE JITO

**719 TRANS CO (MDM TRK CGO)**  
SSG BARRIO SERGIO EDWARD  
SPC DIXON BERNARD  
SPC EDGHILL JOSEPH RANVILLE  
SSG ONEILL JOHN

**827TH ENGR CO**  
SSG BUSH WAYNE KENNETH  
SGT HAMILTON RANDY JAY  
SGT HOLZMAN STEVEN ANTHONY  
SPC KIRKWOOD DARRELL  
SGT LOPEZ LUIS

**AV HHC DIV AV BDE REAR**  
SPC FABER RALPH MATTHIAS  
SPC OYOLA JESSENIA

**CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE**  
SGT STILWELL RAYMOND E  
SGT WOODTON DAVID G

**CO A 1-127TH ARMOR**  
SGT CORELL CHARLES ROGER

**CO A 101ST SIGNAL BN**  
SSG GLOVER ROBERT HENRY JR

**CO A(-) 204 ENGR BN**  
SGT POLULECH THOMAS JOHN  
SPC WRIGHT DANIEL JAMES  
SGT CAMPBELL JONATHAN RODGER  
SPC PIATT RODNEY LEROY  
SGT RENWICK MICHAEL THOMAS  
SPC WILLIAMS ALVIN DURAN

**CO B 1-105 INF**  
SPC WONG VICTOR AUGUSTO

**CO B 1-127TH ARMOR**  
SSG MEEK DANA PATRICK

**CO B 101ST SIGNAL BN**  
SPC BOURNE APRIL MONIQUE  
SFC MORALES MELVIN

**CO B 152D ENGINEER BN**  
SPC WATERS TIMOTHY RAYMOND

**CO B 342D FWD SPT BN**  
SGT KHAN RONALD RAYMOND

**CO C (-) 1-108TH INF**  
1SG JONES HAROLD IV

**CO C (-) 204TH ENGR BN**  
SFC JONES BRAD FRANCIS  
SGT RODRIGUEZ LUIS E

**CO C (-) 342D FWD SPT BN**  
SFC DARNELL GARY L  
SGT ROWE DENNIS R

**CO C 1-127TH ARMOR**  
SFC SKOKEN DANIEL KEVIN

**CO C 1-69TH INF (M)**  
SPC FORBUSH RONALD MICHAEL JR  
PFC GUEVARA MILTON HENRY  
SSG HUBBARD SANTIAGO L  
SGT HUNT JESSE O  
SPC LEEK DANIEL P  
SPC OUTLAW KEVIN DOUGLAS  
SSG SEYMOUR ERIC MICHAEL

**CO C 101ST SIGNAL BN**  
SFC COOPER WILLIAM C  
SGT MELENDEZ WALTER RAFAEL

**CO C 3-142D AVIATION**  
SGT GARRETTO CHARLES MATTHEW

**CO C(-) 638 SPT BN**  
SPC JONES ANNA MARIE

**CO D 1-101ST CAVALRY**  
SFC BELL ARTHUR R  
PFC GALARZA JOSE RAMON

**CO D 1-105 INF**  
SPC GREENE JARED FRANCIS

**CO D 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)**  
SFC ARNZEN ROBERT JOE  
SSG PITTS RICHARD E  
SPC ROMERO EDGAR ADOLFO

**COMPANY C(-) 638 DASB FWD**  
SPC MENDEZ JAIME JR  
SPC ORTIZ HERBERT

**DET 1 107TH MILITARY POLICE CO**  
SPC GONZALEZ FERNANDO III  
PFC HENRIQUEZ STEVE  
SGT TESKE KENNETH JAMES JR

**DET 1 442 MP CO**  
SGT GRODNICK WILLIAM FRANCIS

**DET 1 CO A 204 ENGR BN**  
SPC GILMER PAUL EDWARD  
SGT HAMMER MICHAEL EUGENE  
SGT JOYCE STEVEN THOMAS

**DET 1 CO C 204TH EN BN**  
SPC THOMAS RIGOBERTO LUIS

**DET 1 COB 50TH MAIN SUPPORT BN**  
SPC WHITAKER ROBERT GEORGE ALEC

**DET 1 HHC 1-69TH INF (M)**  
SGT ALVARADO JONAS SALOMON

**DET 1 HHC 107TH SUPPORT GROUP**  
SSG NIGRO JOHN ANTHONY  
SSG SOTO JAIME LORENZO

**DET 1 HHC 27TH IN BDE**  
SGT BONIFICIO PAUL DAVID

**CPL CARLL DANIEL WESLEY**  
SSG GRIFFIN ROBERT JOHN JR

**DET 2 CO B 638 SPT BN**  
SGT HAYNES MATTHEW EDGAR

**DET 2 HHC 27TH IN BDE**  
MSG HARTER RONALD M

**DET 20 OPER SPT ALFT CMD**  
SGT HART JOSEPH M

**H & S CO 204 ENGR BN**  
SGT BABCOCK DAVID JAMES  
SGT CLOUSTON TIMOTHY JAMES

**HHB 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY**  
SGT BLUE GREGORY  
SGT COLON JOSE M  
SGT JONES RUDOLPH EDWARD JR

**HHC (-) 1-108TH INF**  
SPC CHAPMAN BARTON JAMES  
SPC HAND JAMES EARL III  
SPC LONG ROBERT DANIEL

**HHC (-) 1-127TH ARMOR**  
CSM HUTLEY WILLIAM LARUE JR  
SPC LUCAS BRIAN THOMASLYAL  
SPC PAYNE WILLIAM C  
SGT PIKAS BOHDAN JASON  
SGT SCIPIO ED ANTHONY  
SPC WIEDER JEFFREY JAMES

**HHC (-) 27TH IN BDE**  
SSG HILYER LAUSTER NANCY L  
CSM LACHANCE ALFRED R  
SGT MANLEY DWAYNE RUSSELL

**HHC 1-101ST CAVALRY**  
SGT BOONE WENDELL TODD  
SGT DEMAIO NEIL ARTHUR  
SFC MCINTYRE MICHAEL C  
SPC PATTERSON DEAIN JOSHUA  
SFC PEREZ JAMES A

**HHC 1-105TH INF**  
SPC BYRNES JASON DAVID

**HHC 101ST SIGNAL BN**  
SFC JOHNSON EASTER P  
CSM PATTERSON RONALD GREGORY

**HHC 152D ENGINEER BN**  
SPC HEARD TRACY ANN  
SPC WALDECK CRAIG ANTHONY

**HHC 3/142 AVN FWD 5**  
SSG CARRERAS SAMUEL  
SGT CAVORETTO JOHN RUSSEL  
SSG KLIMEK CHRISTOPHER KENNETH  
SGT SMITHGALL DONALD JAMES

**HHC 3RD BDE 42ND ID (M)**  
MSG BARNES NED W  
SGM CANOSA CHARLES V  
SPC KITTLE WILLIAM JAMES  
SPC LEWIS ROBERT EUGENE

**HHC 42 IN DIV(-)**  
SGT BOISROND GARY

**HHC(-) 3-142D AVIATION**  
SPC CLUM DANIELLE AMANDA

**HHD 104TH MILITARY POLICE BN**  
CSM HAEMMERLE ROBERT CHARLES  
SPC HOFFMAN MICHAEL ERIC

**HHD 27TH FINANCE BN**  
SPC ANTONATOS JERRY  
SSG METZ KENNETH F  
SFC ODEMS PAUL A  
SSG STRUNKEY CLIFFORD ERIC  
SFC WEST ZETHA A

**HHD 27TH SUPPLY & SVC BN**  
SPC ROSSIGNOL DANIEL PAUL

**HHD 342D FWD SPT BN**  
MSG LAMBERT THOMAS W  
MSG MIDDLETON ROBERT L  
HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI)  
SPC BALASINKAM SACHITHARAN

**NYARNG ELEMENT JOINT FORCE HQ**  
SFC AUGUST KAREN E  
SGT BREWER SARAH A  
SFC POWZYK JOEL B  
SPC REILLY ROBERT JOHN  
MSG SCHUMACHER PAUL L  
SFC SIGNER LARRY  
SGT STARR MATTHEW JAMES

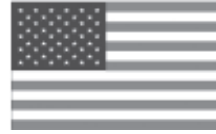
**RECRUITING AND RETENTION CMD**  
SSG DONOHUE MICHAEL THOMAS  
SSG MACKAY DUNCAN JOSEPH  
SFC PITTS JONATHAN MICHAEL  
SSG SPARROW ANDREW DONALD  
SSG VALDES ANTHONY



### Fighting Zouaves

The New York State Battle Flag Preservation Project showcases the colorful and courageous Civil War Zouaves with a battle flag exhibit at the New York State Capitol Nov. 12 entitled "Flags of the Fighting Zouaves." Open to the public, the exhibit is on the second floor of the Capitol adjacent to the Governor's Reception Room and runs until October 2005. Ten restored battle flags are on display. The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, at the Peebles Island Resource Center in Waterford, conserved each flag. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith)

# The New York State Patriot Plan 2005



*The Patriot Plan (I & II), created by Governor George E. Pataki and unanimously passed by the legislature, is a package of benefits and protections for New York State's military service members and dependents.*

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## Protections

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### **Freedom from discrimination based on military service**

Any discrimination based on military status that constitutes a violation of an individual's civil rights is now actionable under New York State (NYS) Human Rights Law. All service personnel, state and federal, are covered. POC: New York State Division of Human Rights at (718) 741-8400.

### **Prohibition against soliciting or requiring waiver of Civil Relief Act rights**

It is a misdemeanor to solicit, require, demand or otherwise request a waiver of a right provided under the State Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act ("Civil Relief Act"). POC: Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) Legal Affairs Office at (518) 786-4541.

### **Extension of State Civil Relief Act benefits to dependants**

The protections of the State Civil Relief Act have been extended to include dependants of a person in military service. These benefits include stay of court proceedings, freedom from foreclosure, restraints against eviction, reduced interest rates on loans and the tolling of the Statute of Limitations during the period of military service. All service personnel and their dependants are covered. POC: DMNA Legal Affairs Office at (518) 786-4541.

### **Life insurance not to lapse for non-payment of premiums**

Life insurance policies will not lapse for nonpayment of premiums for a period of two years following the time on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States. This applies to Reserve Component personnel called to active duty but does not encompass State Active Duty (SAD). POC: NYS Insurance Department, Legislative Affairs at (518) 473-0785 / DMNA Legal Affairs Office at (518) 786-4541.

### **Protection against enforcement of storage liens on household goods**

Prohibits the foreclosure or enforcement of any lien for storage of household goods, furniture, or personal effects of a person on active duty military service and for three months thereafter. All service personnel and their dependants are

covered. POC: DMNA State Family Readiness Program Office at (518) 786-4656 / DMNA Legal Affairs Office at (518) 786-4541.

### **Professional liability insurance protection**

Professional liability insurance for persons ordered to active duty is suspended, upon request, for the period of military service plus 30 days. This is applicable to federal and state active duty. It does not encompass Annual Training, Inactive Drill Training, or Active Guard Reserve service. POC: NYS Insurance Department, Legislative Affairs at (518) 473-0785 / DMNA Legal Affairs Office at (518) 786-4541.

### **Prohibition against foreclosure of mortgage**

Prohibits the sale, foreclosure, or seizure of property for nonpayment of mortgage during the service member's period of service, or within six months thereafter. The property must have been subject to the mortgage prior to the call to active duty. Applies to personnel on federal or SAD and their dependants. POC: DMNA Legal Affairs Office at (518) 786-4541.

### **Adverse credit reporting**

Adverse action in future financial transactions, including adverse credit reporting against an individual who has previously obtained a stay,

postponement or suspension of obligations under the Civil Relief Act, is prohibited. Applies to personnel on federal or SAD and their dependants. POC: DMNA Legal Affairs Office at (518) 786-4541/ NYS Division of Human Rights at (718) 741-8400.

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## **Education Benefits**

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### **Military Enhanced Recognition, Incentive and Tribute (“MERIT”) Scholarship Program**

MERIT Scholarship program makes scholarships available to military personnel, their spouses, children and financial dependents for military personnel who are residents of New York State and have either died, been declared missing or become permanently and severely disabled during active duty. Applies to personnel injured or disabled on federal or SAD; however, death or disability of a service member must have been incurred in a combat theater or combat zone of operations or while training in preparation for duty in a combat theater. POC: NYS Higher Education Services Corporation at (518) 474-5642 or [www.hesc.org](http://www.hesc.org) / DMNA Government and Community Affairs at (518) 786-4580.

### **Educational leave of absence to perform military duty, Refund or credit for tuition**

Students are entitled to a leave of absence from institutions of higher education during periods of military service and for one year after completion of service. During the leave of absence, a student’s educational status and financial resources are preserved and the student has the option of requesting a refund or credit of tuition and fees. Applies to federal or SAD. POC: NYS

Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC), Programs, Policy and Institutional Review at (518) 473-3986 / DMNA Government and Community Affairs at (518) 786-4580.

### **Military training and civilian professional accreditation**

Programs and training offered by the military to be recognized as equivalent training for the purpose of professional licensing. Applies to training received through both military service with the United States or military service with the state. POC: Applicable service education office / NYS Education Department, Division of Higher Education at (518) 474-6000.

### **Renewal of temporary teaching certificates**

Fees waived for the renewal of a temporary teaching certificate or license that lapsed while the applicant was deployed. Applies to personnel called to federal active duty if deployed to a combat theater or combat zone of operations. POC: NYS Education Department at (518) 474-6000 / DMNA Government and Community Affairs at (518) 786-4580.

### **Right of dependent students to continue at a public school attended prior to relocation caused by military service**

A child who is relocated due to a parent or guardian’s active military service will be allowed to attend the public school that he/she attended prior to the relocation. Applies to personnel on federal or SAD, other than for training. POC: Superintendent of local school district / DMNA Legal Affairs Office at (518) 786-4541.

### **State tuition scholarship assistance**

New York Education Law is amended to define two equally privileged classes of “Persian Gulf” veterans: (1) those who served there from 19 Aug 1990 to 10 Sept 2001; and, (2) those who served there from September 11, 2001 through the end of such hostilities; all of whom must have a discharge under other than dishonorable conditions. POC: NYS Higher Education Services Corporation at (518) 474-5642 or <http://www.hesc.org> / DMNA Government and Community Affairs at (518) 786-4580.

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## **Financial Benefits**

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### **State Active Duty pay**

New York State Military Law has been amended to raise the minimum daily pay of service members performing under Military Law, Section 6, state active duty in an emergency situation from \$100 to \$125. This provision affects mostly junior enlisted members in the grades of E-1 through E-4. POC: DMNA Budget and Finance Office at (518) 786-4513.

### **Exemption from New York State income tax, Title 10 Status**

New York State Tax Law is amended to exempt from state income taxation for federal military pay received in a Title 10, DoD designated combat zone or contingency operation. Additional information is located at <http://www.tax.state.ny.us>. POC: New York State

**Continued on next page**

**Patriot Plan, continued from previous page**

Department of Taxation and Finance, Personnel Tax Information Center at (800) 225-5829.

**Exemption from New York State income tax, State Active Duty**

New York State Tax Law is amended to exempt from state income taxation any state military pay received while serving on any "emergency" state active duty under New York State Military Law. Service members who received SAD pay in 2004 will receive the state tax benefit when they file their 2004 New York State Tax Return (Forms IT 201 or IT 203). Additional information may be obtained at <http://www.tax.state.ny.us>. POC: New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, Personnel Tax Information Center at (800) 225-5829.

**Termination of motor vehicle lease contracts**

Permits individuals who enter into a car lease prior to entering active military service to break the lease upon entry into active service. Must have entered federal or SAD, other than for training, after entering into a lease. Also applies to spouse as co-signer of lease. POC: DMNA Legal Affairs Office at (518) 786-4541.

**Maximum rate of interest**

The Patriot Law extends the six percent interest cap on debt incurred prior to entering active duty. This applies to federal active duty, other than for training. POC: DMNA Legal Affairs Office at (518) 786-4541.

**Suspension of repayment of public retirement system loans**

Permits a public retirement system, at its discretion, to suspend the obligation to repay any loan while a member is absent on state or federal active military duty. Authority expires on June 30, 2006. POC: NYS Office of the State Comptroller, Counsel's Office at (518) 474-4044/ DMNA Government and Community Affairs at (518) 786-4580.

**Supplemental military leave for state employees**

Supplemental military leave benefits have been extended through December 31, 2006, to state employees who are ordered to active military duties relating to the war on terrorism and military action in Iraq. Applies to federal and SAD. POC: State Agency Human Resource Office / NYS Department of Civil Service, Attendants and Leave Unit at (518) 457-2295.

**Extension of deadline to pay real property taxes**

Localities are permitted, at their discretion, to extend the payment period for any tax owed on real property. Eligibility is limited to a person who has been ordered to active military duty, other than for training, for a period beginning with a declaration of war by Congress or during any periods of combat designated by presidential executive order or during hazardous ("imminent danger") duty. This benefit is contingent upon the passage of a resolution by the effected municipality authorizing the extension. POC: Local property tax office / DMNA Legal Affairs Office at (518) 786-4541.

**Professional Licensing Benefits****Waiver of professional continuing education requirements and extension of professional licenses**

Any professional license, certificate, or registration that expires while the holder is engaged in active military service shall be automatically extended for the period of active service plus 12 months after the end of the service. Professional continuing education requirements are suspended for the duration of the individual's military service. Applies to federal and SAD, other than for training. POC: Appropriate licensing authority / DMNA Legal Affairs Office at (518) 786-4541.

**Extension of certification for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and other first responders**

Certifications for EMTs, advanced EMTs and certified first responders who have been ordered to federal and state active military duty, other than for training, may be extended by the Department of Health. The period of extended certification is the entire period of active duty, plus 12 months. POC: NYS Department of Health at (518) 486-9002 / DMNA Government and Community Affairs at (518) 786-4580.

**Waiver of Professional Licensing Benefit clarification**

When military service is partially within a licensing, registration or certification period, applicable continuing education requirements shall be reduced proportionately so that the individual



is not required to complete those requirements while in military service. This shall not apply to limited permits or other credentials issued for a period of two months or less and shall not extend the terms of a limited permit that expires for reasons other than the passage of time. POC: Appropriate licensing authority / DMNA Legal Affairs Office at (518) 786-4541.

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### **Miscellaneous Benefits**

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#### **Free hunting and fishing licenses**

Free hunting and fishing licenses may be issued to all active (e.g., drilling) New York resident members of the state organized militia or the reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces. POC: New York State Department of Conservation, Sporting License Help Line at (866) 472-4332 or at [www.dec.state.ny.us](http://www.dec.state.ny.us).

#### **Free Empire Passports to New York State parks**

Allows for free 2005 Empire Passport's for personnel called to federal of SAD in response to an emergency during the period September 11, 2001 to December 31, 2005. POC: NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation at (518) 474-8081 or at [www.nysparks.com/passport](http://www.nysparks.com/passport).

#### **Free access to video teleconferencing centers**

For use between deployed service members and their families. Service member must be on federal active duty. POC: DMNA Office of Administrative Support at (518) 786-6197 / NYS

Office for Technology at (518) 486-9200.

#### **Free Internet access at public libraries**

To be used for communication between deployed active duty military personnel and their families. The deployed service member must be a resident of the State of New York and must be deployed to a combat theater or combat zone of operations. POC: Local public library / NYS Department of Education at (518) 474-7196.

#### **Extension of driver's licenses and motor vehicle registrations**

Driver's licenses and motor vehicle registrations that would otherwise expire during period of active duty will be extended if the servicemember files DMV form MV-75 (military service notification [MSN]). Applies to federal or SAD relating to the war on terrorism and military action in Iraq. POC: NYS Division of Motor Vehicles at (518) 474-1352 or at [www.nysdmv.com/license.htm#military](http://www.nysdmv.com/license.htm#military).

#### **Veteran's health care information program**

An automated health care information line that provides key telephone numbers and points of contacts for healthcare issues, benefits, and resources. POC: NYS Department of Health at (518) 486-9002 / DMNA State Surgeon at (518) 786-4610.

#### **Supplemental burial allowance**

The allowance is a state allotment of not more than \$6,000 paid to the surviving spouse, domestic partner, adult children, parents, or other family member of the deceased, depending on who paid

the cost of the funeral and burial. To receive the benefit, the deceased must have been deceased on federal active duty in combat or duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger. POC: NYS Division of Veterans' Affairs at (518) 474-6784 / DMNA Casualty Affairs Officer at (518) 786-4608.

#### **Recognizing employers and businesses**

The Empire State Development Corporation administers two programs, the NY-USA Proud Employer of Distinction Award and the Patriot Support and Discount Program, aimed at recognizing employers and retailers in New York State who show special support to members of the military. For more information, go to [www.nyspatriotplan.org/](http://www.nyspatriotplan.org/).

#### **Benefit granted to dependents**

New York State Military Law is amended to state that a dependent seeking a benefit given by statute to a service member may first apply to the agency, private party, business, etc. for the statutory benefit (for example, interest rate reduction) and that the benefit shall be granted unless it can be shown that the dependent is not materially impaired (for example, economically) by the deployment of the service member (and loss of the service member's civilian compensation). The amendment makes it unnecessary for a dependent to apply for a court order first. The amendment permits applying for a court order if necessary. POC: DMNA Legal Affairs Office at (518) 786-4541.

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## News Analysis: Modular Brigades Prep for Deployment

WASHINGTON

By Steven Field  
Army News Service

The concept of modularity is approaching its first true test as units across the country undergo transformation and prepare for deployments overseas.

With four modular brigades set up under the 3rd Infantry Division training and several companies reorganizing and reflagging under the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the time is rapidly approaching when the Army will send a Unit of Execution and subordinate Brigade Combat Teams (Units of Action) into combat, testing the modular, "plug-and-play" vision inspired by

transformation.

A successful deployment would provide validation for the model that will be applied to each of the ten Army divisions by 2007.

In these upcoming deployments, two BCT (UA)s from the 3rd Infantry Division will fall under the command of the 42nd Infantry Division in north central Iraq when they deploy this winter. The rest of the division is slated to deploy with a unit from the Louisiana Army National Guard to a different part of Iraq shortly after.

In the ramp-up to these deployments, the newly reorganized BCT (UA)s have gone through rotations at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La.

"JRTC was our cap-stone exercise that culminated all the

training we did since we were activated in May 2004," said Maj. Alayne Conway, spokeswoman for the 3rd Infantry Division's 4th BCT (UA).

### FROM THE GROUND UP

The story of the 4th BCT is one that epitomizes the transformation philosophy. The unit had about 21 soldiers when it was activated, and in six months gained approximately 1,500 Soldiers, garnered new equipment and conducted three major training exercises. The Army took three different battalions from three different brigades with three different cultures and joined together as one team, said Conway.

The 4th BCT (UA) had to be built from the ground up. And about eight months after its formation, it will be deployed to Iraq with another BCT (UA) from the 3rd Infantry

and a brigade from the Louisiana Army National Guard in one of the first modular deployments.

"In six months, we did what a normal unit can expect to do in four to five years," said Conway.

The changes mandated by transformation were especially felt among artillery Soldiers, whose battalions were integrated into all units and face new infantry-like requirements and missions as the Army changes.

Soldiers of the 4th BCT (UA) coined the term "infantry" during their rotation at JRTC to describe their new functions. While they still had traditional artillery responsibilities, they also prepared to go into towns, do security sweeps, and deal directly with the people in the country that they operate in, jobs typically reserved

for other Soldiers like infantry and civil affairs.

### MODULARITY TO GROW ARMY

Adding a fourth brigade sized element to each Army division is part of the larger plan to increase the number of Army brigades from 33 to 43 by the end of fiscal year 2007.

The 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, and the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y., will transform into modular brigades this fiscal year.

The modular restructuring of the Army will help combatant commanders rapidly identify units for deployment on short notice; allow units to sustain operations with minimal or no augmentation; enhance a unit's ability to deploy; and provide greater troop readiness. □

## Guard Works to Balance State, Federal Missions

WASHINGTON

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

Unlike their active and reserve counterparts, members of the Army and Air National Guard can be called on to serve two different masters: their state governors and their commander in chief.

They serve as their state militias, available at the bidding of their governors in the event of emergencies, insurrections, attacks or acts of nature, such as last fall's multiple hurricanes in Florida. But guardsmen also play an increasingly important role in national defense, with some 100,000 of them deployed overseas where they make up 34 percent of the U.S. force.

**"It means ensuring that we have the right capabilities... ..numbers in the right places."**

Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, told the American Forces Press Service balancing the demands of these dual missions takes careful coordination to ensure no state governor is left short.

Blum said governors have demonstrated overwhelmingly that they understand their National Guard members are needed to reinforce the active Army and Air Force overseas, particularly during the war on terror.

What they don't want, Blum said, is to have their states left "uncovered" because they've contributed too many troops.

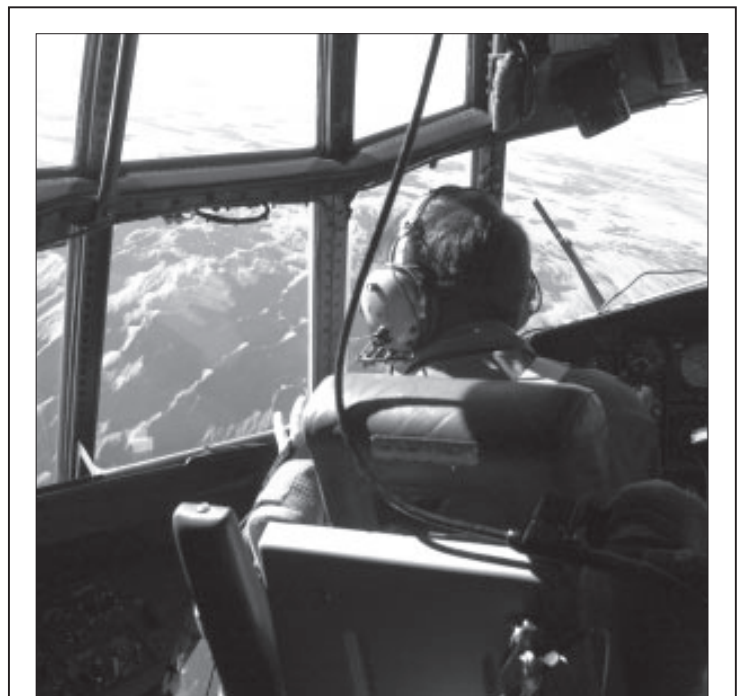
"We will make our fair contribution," Blum said the governors tell him. "But we don't want to make a disproportionate contribution that leaves our own constituents at risk."

Blum said he's made a concerted effort to strike a balance between Guard members deployed overseas, those preparing for deployment, and those available to carry out state missions, if required, since taking over as chief of the National Guard Bureau in April 2003.

"We've been pretty successful at doing this," he said. All but just two states are now "in very, very good shape," to carry out state missions, with at least 50 percent and in some cases, more than 70 percent of their Guard forces at home.

It's a delicate balancing act, Blum explained. Rather than taking "once giant slice" out of one state, it means "taking a smaller piece out of two or three states" for the federal mission.

But it's more than just a numbers game, he said. "It means ensuring that we have the right capabilities in the right numbers in the right places, distributed all around the country so



**Retracing the First Flight to the South Pole**, Maj. Mark Doll, a pilot with the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing, looks out the window of LC-130 Hercules, skier 94, on Nov. 29 over the area of Antarctica where Rear Adm. Richard E. Byrd established the Little America campsite 75 years ago (Nov. 29, 1929). The edge of the Ross Ice Shelf and the sea ice in the area where Admiral Byrd established Little America broke off and floated away years ago. Major Doll and his crew took the long way to the pole to retrace the route of the first South Pole flight by Admiral Byrd. Aircrew included Maj. Mark Doll, pilot, Capt. Mark McKeon, copilot, Maj. Vinnie Wilson, navigator, Tech. Sgt. Maurice Huard, engineer, Master Sgt. Carmelo Modesto, loadmaster and Tech. Sgt. Randy Powell, loadmaster. (Photo by Kristan Hutchison, U.S. National Science Foundation)

that each of the governors would have the essential capabilities they need," he said.

These capabilities include command and control, communications, transportation, medical, aviation, engineering and security assets, he said.

"And they (the governors) would all have to have some of that left in their state, even while they are executing the global war on terror overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan and in other places," he said. □

**LIEUTENANT COLONEL**

TROPIANO, PAUL P 105 MAINTENANCE OPS FT  
 MARK, HARRIET G 105 MEDICAL GP  
 FIFIELD, STEPHEN F 139 AIRLIFT SQ  
 SCHAFFER, PETER F 274 AIR SUPT OPNS SQ

**MAJOR**

PIAZZA, JOSEPH P 105 AIRLIFT WG  
 WITSIL, ANDREW L 136 AIR REFUELING SQ

**CAPTAIN**

GLENNON, PETER J 105 AERIAL PORT SQ  
 BENASSUTTI, LEWIS S 105 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 DALTON, PETER J 101 RESCUE SQ  
 COOPER, ELIZABETH 109 MAINTENANCE OPS FT  
 DEAN, NICHOLAS E 109 SERVICES FT  
 JOHNSON, MATTHEW B 139 AIRLIFT SQ  
 BROWN, WAYNE A 139 AIRLIFT SQ  
 BISSONNETTE, SCOTT B 138 FIGHTER SQ  
 CHARLTON, GARY R II 138 FIGHTER SQ

**FIRST LIEUTENANT**

DANNEMANN, RYAN F 137 AIRLIFT SQ  
 SABATINI, JEFFREY N 106 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 SMITH, CRAIG R 107 OPERATIONS SUPPORT  
 DONOHUE, SEAN J 139 AEROMED EVAC SQ  
 WOOD, ERIC D 139 AIRLIFT SQ  
 BUCCI, ANTHONY L 174 FIGHTER WG  
 BODONY, GARY THOMAS 174 STUDENT FT  
 GARDNER, BRADLEY J NORTHEAST AIR DEF SQ

**SECOND LIEUTENANT**

SLOAN, PAUL D 137 AIRLIFT SQ  
 WEIR, GLYN B 103 RESCUE SQ  
 DAVIN, RICHARD W JR 106 STUDENT FT  
 SALTON, RICHARD H 107 AIR REFUELING WG  
 GRIFFIN, DAVID R 109 STUDENT FT  
 BROSAN, ALISON J 109 STUDENT FT  
 GARREN, NICHOLAS J 109 STUDENT FT  
 ROGERS, JOSHUA W 109 STUDENT FT  
 WILLIAMS, KELLY J 109 STUDENT FT

**CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT**

SMITH, RANDOLPH R 106 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 DELGIACCO, MICHAEL S JR 109 OPERATIONS GP  
 FASSETT, MARK H 174 SECURITY FORCES SQ

**SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT**

MARINO, RENEE MARIE RUEL 137 AIRLIFT SQ  
 DEMING, ALVIN D 174 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ

**MASTER SERGEANT**

SIRGANT, JOHN J 105 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 HALL, MICHAEL C SR 105 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 OLSON, PAUL R 105 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 BRESCIANI, IRIS Z 105 MISSION SUPPORT GP  
 GROBEN, DARLENE M 101 RESCUE SQ  
 KRYWOLAP, WALTER V 106 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 KOYLES, DAVID W 106 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 CARRERO, VICTOR J 106 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 CULP, WILLIAM L 107 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 BRIGHT, CAROL A 107 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 DODGE, ANGELA M 107 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 107 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 139 AIRLIFT SQ  
 139 AIRLIFT SQ  
 174 MEDICAL GP

105 COMMUNICATIONS FT  
 105 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 105 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 105 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 105 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 137 AIRLIFT SQ  
 103 RESCUE SQ  
 I 106 MAINTENANCE SQ  
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 106 RESCUE WG  
 A 106 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
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 106 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 107 AIR REFUELING WG  
 107 AIR REFUELING WG  
 HY J 107 SECURITY FORCES  
 107 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 107 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 A 109 SECURITY FORCES SQ

RAY, JENNIFER E 139 AEROMED EVAC SQ  
 WESTLING, ANDREW C 139 AEROMED EVAC SQ  
 BACKUS, BRET W 139 AIRLIFT SQ  
 ROBERTS, BRIAN M NEW YORK ANG HQ  
 HENRY, DONALD F JR 174 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 GLESSING, STEPHEN P 174 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 FORSYTH, MELISSA E 174 FIGHTER WG  
 BLACK, GARY A JR 174 MEDICAL GP  
 MYSLIVECEK, DALE J DET 1 174 FIGHTER WG  
 MILLS, JOHN R NEAD SCTY FORC FT FT  
 SULLIVAN, TODD M NEAD SCTY FORC FT FT  
 GATES, ROBERT L NORTHEAST AIR DEF SQ

**STAFF SERGEANT**

SENOGLU, TOLGA S 105 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
 ROMAN, JASMIN 105 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 ALBERTSON, SCOT R 105 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 SOTO, NICHOLAS M 105 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 IBBS, BRIAN A 105 STUDENT FT  
 GIELBEDA, MICHAEL S 213 ENG INSTL SQ  
 SMITH, JEDEDIAH G 103 RESCUE SQ  
 HANSEN, KENNETH R JR 106 MEDICAL GP  
 MOITHUKSHUNG, PETULA D 106 MEDICAL GP  
 WESTCOTT, NICHOLAS A 106 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 CHOPPING, ROY E III 106 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 KLOETE, JOSEPH S 106 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 JACKSON, VENITA D 107 AIR REFUELING WG  
 MARTIN, ROBERT S 107 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 MILLER, ROBERT J 107 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 BAJER, MICHAEL A 107 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 PRZYBYL, MICHELLE L 107 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 DODGE, ROGER P 107 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 PEASE, STEPHEN J 107 SERVICES FT  
 TOY, JASON R 107 SERVICES FT  
 ZAPISEK, SCOTT J 109 AERIAL PORT FT  
 VERGA, JOSEPH 109 AERIAL PORT FT  
 OCONNOR, JOSEPH R 109 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 WASHINGTON, DARRELL D 109 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 MOORE, JASON C 109 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 KUHL, EDWIN O 109 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 GREGORY, JOHNATHAN K 109 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 ROBERT, STACIE L 174 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
 CALL, JEREMY M 174 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
 ROWE, KRISTINA E 174 FIGHTER WG  
 WOOD, CLIFTON C 174 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 TRENDOWSKI, CARRIE A 174 MAINTENANCE GP  
 TARSON, RICHARD R JR 174 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 GROSSO, ERIC P 174 SERVICES FT  
 MARTIN, DEBORAH S NORTHEAST AIR DEF SQ

**SENIOR AIRMAN**

GALIELTA, SEAN P 105 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 KHALAF, MARY F 105 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 ROSENBERY, MICHAEL J P 105 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 PESANTE, JOSEPH A 105 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 KEENO, RENAE M 105 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 HAYES, THOMAS E 105 STUDENT FT  
 GAVIRIA, MAURICIO A 106 MAINTENANCE SQ

RIVERA, DAVID A 106 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 RICCIARDI, ANTHONY V 106 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 MCPHERSON, STEPHEN A 107 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 JAKES, JILL A 107 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 KING, NICHOLAS T 107 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 DUTTON, DANIEL A 107 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 CLARK, ERIN M 107 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 CAPPELLO, MICHAEL R 107 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 VARNEY, TIFFANY L 109 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 GRAY, COREY J 139 AIRLIFT SQ  
 DEBRITO, TERAH AMBER P 152 AIR OPERATIONS GP  
 LANTZ, JAMES M 174 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
 EVANS, MATTHEW T 174 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 DRYER, MITCHELL E JR 174 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 REISDORF, COTY G 174 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 CHISAMORE, TODD D 174 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 WALDECK, HEIDI M 174 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 YOUNG, PATRICK B 174 MISSION SUPPORT FT  
 RYAN, ROY R 174 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 WATSON, CHRISTINA F NEAD SCTY FORC FT FT

**AIRMAN FIRST CLASS**

DUKES, NICOLE NMN 105 STUDENT FT  
 BONSIGNORE, JOANNA M 105 STUDENT FT  
 FELICIANO, RUBIN M 105 STUDENT FT  
 SWANSON, LISA D 105 STUDENT FT  
 VERDEUR, MARK J 105 STUDENT FT  
 FRANK, ANDREW P 105 STUDENT FT  
 WONG, WINSON Y 105 STUDENT FT  
 VAZQUEZ, SAMMY D 107 STUDENT FT  
 KELLEY, BRIAN R 107 STUDENT FT  
 BAILEY, CANDICE L 107 STUDENT FT  
 URSO, JOSEPH W 107 STUDENT FT  
 LONG, KELLY M 107 STUDENT FT  
 FOX, MICHELLE R 107 STUDENT FT  
 SHIELDS, COREY B 109 STUDENT FT  
 ROY, WILLIAM S 109 STUDENT FT  
 WATLING, ANDREW W 174 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 PETERSON, JAMES C 174 STUDENT FT  
 BULLOCK, JAMES J 174 STUDENT FT  
 SCHMITT, DANIEL P 174 STUDENT FT  
 HODSON, RYAN B 174 STUDENT FT  
 KEEGAN, TRAVIS A 174 STUDENT FT  
 MILLER, MICHAEL 174 STUDENT FT  
 KEEGAN, BRONWEN L 174 STUDENT FT

**AIRMAN**

LECOINTE, LUIGI G 105 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
 WILLIAMS, TAKEYA A 174 MISSION SUPPORT FT

**AIRMAN BASIC**

MARTIN, NICOLE M 105 STUDENT FT  
 SWEENEY, KELLI S 107 STUDENT FT  
 CRYAN, STEPHAN J II 107 STUDENT FT  
 PERSONS, NICHOLAS W 109 STUDENT FT  
 RISING, ERIC D 109 STUDENT FT

## 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award



Encouraging all National Guardsmen and Reservists to visit the ESGR website at [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil) to nominate their employers for this prestigious award that recognizes support above and beyond the USERRA Law for employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

Nominate your employer at:

[www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil)

Nominations will be accepted at the ESGR web site, [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil), until midnight Feb. 24, 2005.

# New York's Joint Forces Honor Tremendous Service, Sacrifice of Eleven National Guardsmen

LATHAM

By Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith  
Guard Times Staff

It was a mournful gathering. At the podium, New York Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Van Pelt spoke the name of each Soldier three times consecutively, a brass Navy bell clanged and a white candle was lit upon the final echo of each name. When all names were read, 11 flames were aglow-illuminating the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq.

Soldiers and civilians from the Division of Military and Naval Affairs gathered here Dec. 20 to honor the lives of 11 New York Army National Guard Soldiers who died supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom: Sgt. Heath A. McMillin; Spc. Michael L. Williams; Spc. Nathan Brown; Sgt. Michael A. Uvanni; Spc. Segun Akintade; Sgt. David L. Roustum; Staff Sgt. Philip Engeldrum; Spc. Wilfredo F. Urbina; Sgt. David M. Fisher; Staff Sgt. Henry E. Irizarry; Sgt. Joseph O. Behnke.

"There is a diversity in those names," said Maj. Gen. Thomas P. McGuire, Jr., Adjutant General. He explained that, aside from their ethnic diversities, the Soldiers hailed from diverse communities across N.Y.

In a symbolic gesture, members of the State Military Forces Honor Guard unfolded the Colors, holding it's stars and stripes in full view before refolding it into a tight triangle and sharply presenting it to the command sergeant major.

Speaking of the mission in Iraq, New York Army National Guard Chaplain, Maj. Anthony Diacetic said, "there is no one who doubts those men and women who have died in the sands of Iraq...and there is no one who doubts our prayer for them."

These are tremendous Americans, New Yorkers. And tremendous words have been said about these young men over the past three years-not just in the past week or two, said the Adjutant General. "It's a litany what they have done for us and a litany in what their families have done for us," he added. "Please recommit yourselves to that litany...it's the best way we can honor these 11 Soldiers." □



Above: New York Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Robert VanPelt receives the American Flag from members of the State Military Forces Honor Guard.



Eleven candles aglow, representing each New York Army National Guard Soldier killed in Iraq before Dec. 20, 2004 were lit at a ceremony held on the N.Y. Division of Military and Naval Affairs, Latham. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith)

## About Guard Times

The Guard Times is authorized under provisions of Army Regulation 360-1 and Air Force Regulation 190-1 and is a publication of the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs, and the New York Army and Air National Guard. Views which appear in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense.

The Guard Times has a circulation of 25,000 and is distributed free to members of the New York State Militia Force and employees of the Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

Articles, photos and letters are welcome. Please provide article submissions on a computer disk with a hard print out and a name and telephone number for a point of contact. We prefer stories saved in Microsoft Word or ASCII text. Submission deadlines are February 15, April 15, June 15, August 15, October 15 and December 15. Send your submissions to:

**Guard Times**  
**DMNA-MNPA**  
**330 Old Niskayuna Road**  
**Latham, New York 12110-2224**  
**(518) 786-4581 FAX (518) 786-4649**

or

**michael.smith@ny.ngb.army.mil**

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Maj. Gen. Thomas P. McGuire, Jr. The Adjutant General  
Kent Kisselbrack Director of Public Affairs  
Lt. Col. Paul A. Fanning, NYARNG Editor  
Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith, NYANG Assistant Editor

## Guard Times Address Changes

Changed your address recently?

Is the Guard Times still coming to an old address?

If so, it may be time to check with your unit administrator. Chances are, the old address is still listed at the unit.

Computerized shipping labels are produced for Guard Times at state headquarters from the electronic data base. This information is updated through periodic submissions from the field. The unit, SIDPERS, the Personnel Services Branch and military pay all need to have a document supplied by the soldier to change the home address.

Before writing us at the Guard Times about your address change, start with your unit. It takes about two months before the change hits the system, but, guess what! The Guard Times comes out every two months. So if you have verified the unit has the correct information and the Guard Times still came to the old address, be patient. The next issue should come to the new address.

Reminder. It is the soldier's responsibility to submit address changes in a prompt manner.

## Complimentary or Back Issues

Complimentary or back issues of the Guard Times are available. Contact us at the address above.