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Spring 2012

# guardtimes

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

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





# FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Last June a Gallup Inc. Poll asked Americans which 15 institutions they trusted most. Of those polled 78 percent responded that they trusted the United States military a great deal or quite a lot.

That's an impressive poll number. Our elected officials would cherish those kinds of favorable responses.

Only 15 percent of those polls said they trusted Congress a great deal. Even the church, or organized religious groups, only got a complete vote of confidence from 48 percent of the poll participants.

So according to our fellow Americans, the two million of us who wear a uniform on Active Duty, in the National Guard or in the Reserves, are America's most trusted.

But those high poll numbers also mean that all of us, who wear the uniform of the Army or Air Force as members of the New York National Guard, have an important responsibility as well.

The public—our friends and neighbors, and fellow citizens we don't even know—are holding us to a higher standard than any other institution in the country. They expect us to put the good of our state and nation before our own personal and financial interests. They expect us to live up to the trust they've shown.

That means living up to the obligation you undertake when you joined the Army or Air Guard.

That means not sexually harassing fellow service members for any reason or acting in any way that demeans a fellow service member. It means no hazing in any form in any of our formations. It means no use of illegal substances--at all.

It also means we meet all the routine obligations of serving: qualifying with our weapons, passing the PT test, and qualifying in our Duty Military Occupational Specialty or Air Force Specialty Code.

Most importantly it means treating each other and the public with respect both in and out of uniform. Don't use foul language in a public place. Don't drive your car or motorcycle aggressively. Treat everyone you meet with courtesy whether you are in uniform or out of uniform. That uniform means you represent the other two million Americans who serve when you are out in public.

What sets the New York National Guard, and other military forces, apart from civilian organizations is that we are an organization of standards and discipline. It is those standards and discipline, and the self-sacrifice that they entail that earn the respect of our fellow New Yorkers and fellow Americans.

For most of the 10,500 Soldiers and 6,000 Airmen meeting those standards and the self-discipline it takes is especially demanding. Most of you live outside the military structure and put on your uniform only a few days each month.

It's easier to maintain physical fitness when your unit conducts physical training for an hour each morning. It's easier to watch your weight when the dining facility has a special weight control menu and provides a salad bar.

Pushing yourself out for a morning run around the neighborhood, visiting the gym before or after work, and saying no to an extra serving of cake takes willpower. Giving up an extra weekend to attend a military school takes time away from your family and friends.

Doing these things takes knowing that you have standards to meet and you have to be disciplined to do these.

That's why we chose the theme for our most recent Leader Professional Development event as "America's Most Trusted" and kicked off the conference with a video showing all the missions our Army and Air Guard units undertake regularly.

That phrase --"America's Most Trusted"--tells



**Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy**

us that while we have a lot to be proud of as military professionals; expectations are high and the rest of the world is watching.

I know you can do it.

In the past 12 months we've deployed Army and Air Guard units to Kuwait, Afghanistan, the South Pole, Greenland, Mali, and throughout New York in response to natural disasters. We've trained hard during drills, at Annual Training, and at the deployment stations and the National Training Center. We have met the challenges placed before us.

You are America's Most Trusted. You have earned that trust, now guard it.



*UTICA – Soldiers preparing to deploy with the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team listen to Maj. Gen. Steven Wickstrom, commander of the 42nd Infantry Division prior to leaving for their mobilization station at Camp Shelby, Miss. Photo by Master Sgt. Peter Towse, 42nd Infantry Division.*







# guardtimes

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Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, COMMANDER IN CHIEF  
Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
Eric Durr, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
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*Soldiers of New York's Pre-mobilization Training and Assessment Element demonstrate the proper method for evacuating a casualty during the lifesaving measures portion of pre-mobilization training taking place at Camp Smith Training Area, Cortlandt Manor, May 6-15.*

ON THE COVER: New York Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Justin Lenz, a Bellmore native with the 369th Sustainment Brigade and Malian army Lt. Abdrahamane Kone, a native from Mopti, Mali acting as Security Operations for Malian Defense Force, have a discussion after the opening ceremony of Atlas Accord '12, Feb. 9, at Mopti Airfield. Photo by Staff Sgt. Shana R. Hutchins.  
BACK COVER: New York Air National Guard Senior Airman Tara Langella sights a .50 caliber sniper rifle at F.S. Gabreski ANG on March 14, 2012. She recently graduated from the Air Force's Combat Arms Training and Maintenance Academy and will instruct fellow Airmen in weapons handling. Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Miller, 106th Rescue Wing.





Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho meets with Congressman Joe Wilson following a hearing of the House Armed Services Committee, subcommittee on military personnel, March 21, 2012.

## Army Shifts Focus to Prevent PTSD

### Army News Service

WASHINGTON - It's not enough to simply treat post-traumatic stress disorder; the Army recognizes the importance of preventing it from happening in the first place.

During testimony before the House Armed Services Committee, subcommittee on military personnel, March 21, Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho told lawmakers the service is now focusing on more prevention.

Horoho told lawmakers the Army has Soldiers see a behavioral health specialist before deploying, for instance. And in theater, there has been an increase in behavioral health assets made available to Soldiers.

"We're using tele-behavioral health, so that instead of waiting until they redeploy back to deal with some of the stressors and the symptoms associated with deployment, they are able to do that through tele-behavioral health in some of the most remote areas in Afghanistan," Horoho said.

Stateside, she said, the Army has also ensured the availability of behavioral health specialists through telemedicine.

"We've over-hired across each of our regions

"We've [in the past] focused more on treatment, and over the last couple of years it's been more toward prevention, we have a ways to go."

-- Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho,  
Army Surgeon General

using tele-behavioral health so that we can shift that capability where the demand is," she said.

The Army is also emphasizing stress reduction and anger management, as well as looking at how Soldiers use alcohol, Horoho told legislators.

"The approach now is more towards that prevention and looking at incorporating mindfulness, yoga, acupressure, acupuncture, so that we really help with decreasing some of that stress," Horoho said. "We've [in the past] focused more on treatment, and over the last couple of years it's been more toward prevention, we have a ways to go."

## New E-commerce Offers Savings to Guardsmen

LAJOLLA, Calif. -- Military personnel have a new commercial website offering discounts just for them – GovX.com.

GovX.com, owned and operated by GovX, Inc., is an online shopping destination dedicated to providing military, law enforcement and related government personnel and their families with the opportunity to purchase premium lifestyle products, as well as on-duty tactical gear, directly from manufacturers.

Launched in October 2011, GovX added the high performance motorcycle, cycling and surfing protective gear and apparel from Alpine-stars on March 13. The website offers men's and women's apparel, jewelry, shoes, action sports and fitness equipment, accessories and more.

Registration is free for all military and government personnel and their families. The company expects to have more than 100,000 active members by summer 2012.

"The GovX team hand picks the best, most unique and most popular items from each category, and we've further vetted these products with experts in the field," said La Jolla-based Marc Van Buskirk, CEO and a founder. "Military and government personnel and their families will know they are finding high quality lifestyle and tactical products they will enjoy, while saving significant time and money by shopping on GovX.com."

The products offered on GovX.com are not closeouts or discontinued items, but everyday premium brands.

Built to thank and honor those who serve, GovX.com allocates a portion of proceeds from purchases made by its members to benefit military associations and foundations to support the families of both the armed forces and law enforcement.

"Through GovX.com, we've created a business where everyone wins," Van Buskirk added. "Military and government employees and their families enjoy significant savings on premium lifestyle products. Manufacturers create a loyal customer grateful for the savings, while distributing products to this highly desirable market."







The Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Resiliency Goals Book, previously released as an app for iPhones and iPads, is now available for Android users. The app has been downloaded nearly 20,000 times on iPhones/iPads and Androids.

## Fitness Assist on a Phone

Story by Cheryl Rodewig, Benning Bayonet and J.D. Leipold, Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Comprehensive Soldier Fitness? Yeah, there’s an app for that.

The Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Resiliency Goals Book released last June as an iPhone/iPad app has seen more than 7,000 downloads.

Then in February 2012 the same app became available to Android users and already more than 11,500 downloads have been recorded, said Sam Rhodes at the Directorate of Training and Doctrine, Fort Benning, Ga., responsible for app development, testing and revision.

The app helps users gain resiliency by setting and meeting personalized goals. It was spearheaded by the Systems Training Branch and the Signal Center of Excellence at Fort Gordon, Ga.

As a digital, interactive version of the printed CSF Resiliency Goals Book which was first released in 2010, the app allows Soldiers, civilians, veterans and family members to connect their Global Assessment Tool results to practical exercises, then e-mail the feedback to their supervisors.

The positive impact the use of goal setting could have on Soldiers after a deployment is “enormous,” added Rhodes, who was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder in 2005 after three tours in Iraq. Rhodes, a retired command sergeant major, believes firmly that resiliency is the key to counteracting the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD.

“The dynamics of goal setting we learned over the years and taught to our peers,” Rhodes said. “Goal-setting is the number one thing that our research has shown enhances an individual’s performance, whether in playing sports, planning for college or Soldiering.

“The secondary benefit of that is it takes and increases resilience, and that’s the real goal here: to take and ensure we get the most resilient warriors we can and at the same time take and increase the resiliency of our Soldiers and veterans who are challenged by some of the things they’ve seen in war,” he added.

## DFAS Warns of Scam E-mails

By Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Rojek, Defense Media Activity

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. -- Defense Finance and Accounting Service released a statement in mid-April warning of email scams targeting military members, military retirees, and civilian employees.

According to the statement, the most recent email scam indicates that individuals who are receiving disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs may be able to obtain additional funds from the Internal Revenue Service, but only if they send copies of their income tax information.

Scammers have even gone so far as to “spoof” DFAS email addresses so that the recipients would think it was actually coming from DFAS personnel. In a spoofing email, the scammer makes it appear that the message is coming from a legitimate source. This is to try to lure the reader into believing it’s genuine.

“(Scammers) manage to find a way to appear legitimate when they’re not,” said Edward Peace, the senior cyberwarfare instructor for the 39th Information Operations Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla. “In some cases, it looks like it’s from a legitimate source, but in other cases if you inspect it just a little bit deeper, just looking at where the email came from you would be tipped off right way. But most people don’t look at it; They just look at the content, it looks legitimate and they go from there.”

To fool people, Peace said, the scam artist may create a server so that the URL is close to that of a legitimate site, for example using .mic instead of .mil at the end of the Web address. People can avoid these scams by closely reading the address from which the email was sent.

Though these scam artists have found ways to spoof the DFAS email address, this does not mean that customer accounts were compromised.

“We have not had an incident that has threatened our security or the accounts of our customers,” said Steve Burghardt, a DFAS media relations officer. “We are always on the lookout. And we’re taking steps to (educate) folks.”

To that end, DFAS officials are developing pages on their website to highlight their official email policy, examples of scam emails and law enforcement agencies that can initiate an investigation.

DFAS officials are also trying to make this information readily available via myPay, Burghardt said.

“That’s our biggest concern,” he said. “As long as you keep your login credentials private and to yourself, then your account is pretty much assured a fairly decent amount of security. But if you give that away or give out that information that people can use to get new credentials ... I can always impersonate you and say, ‘I lost my login credentials, get me a new one.’” Learn more at [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil).



## Inspector General Corner

# Knowing the Rules of the Road

By Col. Eric Hesse, Inspector General

As we move into motorcycle season it is imperative we take the time to know who our riders are. Not just by their name, but personality type as well. Are they risk takers who are going to ride without their personal protective equipment (PPE) or are they the ones that follow the rules and have everything up to date? Like for most things, we really need to know our Soldiers and Airmen, but when it comes to motorcycle safety, we REALLY need to know them.

This year's riding season started early, mid March for most of us. Normally we are looking at April and May to begin the season which gives us time, as leaders, to ensure our Soldiers and Airmen know the rules of the road.

As of March 6, 2012 the Army already had 13 Class A motorcycle accidents resulting in 12 deaths. Requirements have changed in the past year to improve a rider's skill. See Army Regulation 385-10, The Army Safety Program, Chapter 11-7 for motorcycle training.

The Army Progressive Motorcycle Program is designed to consistently keep motorcycle training current and sustain or enrich rider skills.

The program consists of the following courses: Basic Rider Course (BRC), Experienced Rider Course (ERC), Military Sport Rider Course (MSRC), and Motorcycle Refresher Training, for Soldiers who have deployed for more than 180 days.

Prior to operating any motorcycle, Soldiers complete an appropriate Motorcycle Safety Foundation-based BRC course or similar state-approved curriculum for motorcycle operator's safety training.

Based on the type of motorcycle(s) owned and operated, Soldiers complete either ERC or the MSRC within 12 months of the BRC.

I am often asked about when a Soldier or Airmen is off duty. Army National Guard personnel, regardless of duty status, are required to wear PPE when operating a motorcycle – even where not required by State law. It's laid out in National Guard Regulation 385-10.

For more on motorcycle safety see the Army Safety Center website on "What a Leader Needs to Know About Motorcycle Safety" at this link: <https://safety.army.mil/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=qLUPybEaAbY%3d&tabid=2094>. **gt**

## Keep These Dates in Mind

The basic motorcycle rider course will be available at no cost for Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard as follows:

28-29 July	On the Road Again 533 College Road Selden N.Y.
9-10 June 21-22 July	Hudson Valley Community College 80 Vandeburgh Ave. Troy, N.Y.
9-10 June	Learn2Ride 2485 W. Henrietta Rd. Rochester, N.Y.
22-24 June 6-8 July	Big Apple Motorcycle School 150 Idle Hour Blvd. Oakdale, N.Y.
23-24 June	First MSP Shoppingtown Mall 3649 Erie Blvd. E Dewitt, N.Y.

Soldiers attending the course will need, as a minimum, a New York State Motorcycle Learners Permit.

Motorcycles will be provided for these courses. The following equipment will be furnished and worn by the Soldier during the course:

- A Department of Transportation approved helmet.
- Eye protection or full-face helmet.
- Full-fingered gloves.
- Long-legged trousers.
- Long-sleeved shirt or jacket.
- Over the ankle shoes or boots.
- Hi-vis reflective garment or device (PT belt is acceptable).

CONTACT: Sgt. 1st Class Chuck Austin is the point of contact to sign up for a selected course. He can be reached at (518) 786-6121 or [chuck.austin@us.army.mil](mailto:chuck.austin@us.army.mil).

**Own the Edge**  
Be Wise. Stay Alive. Wear Your PPE!

**Helmets**  
Certified by the manufacturer to meet or exceed DOT standards. Must be properly fastened under the chin.

**Eye protection**  
Face shield or impact/shatter-resistant goggles. A full face helmet with proper shield provides the best protection.

**Clothing**  
Long-sleeved shirt or jacket, long trousers, and full-fingered gloves or mittens designed for use on a motorcycle.

**Sturdy foot wear**  
Leather boots or over-the-ankle shoes must be worn.

**Personal Protective Equipment**  
A brightly colored upper outer garment during the day and retroreflective at night is required. Note: Black is the most common color for motorcycle clothing. Countermeasures should be applied to make riders more visible as pictured above. If the belt is worn, it should be worn diagonally across the shoulder to maximize visibility.

OWN THE EDGE  
Composite Risk Management

U.S. ARMY  
U.S. ARMY COMBAT RECORDS CENTER  
<https://erc.army.mil>



## Safety Corner

# Safety Guidance Before Hitting the Open Road

**H**ere in New York, we don't have the pleasure of riding our motorcycles year round. Therefore, it's important to not only prepare your motorcycle after coming out of its hibernation, but to familiarize yourself with your motorcycle and hone your abilities by practicing Motorcycle Refresher Exercises. **DEFENSIVE DRIVING TECHNIQUES**

Always be in full control of your motorcycle – be able to position your bike where you want, when you want.

Remain constantly aware of your immediate environment.

Anticipate what's going to happen on the road ahead – predict behaviors of drivers.

When your basic riding skills are second nature, you're free to concentrate on your surroundings and other important factors.

### VISIBILITY

Remember that motorists aren't looking for you.

Clearly communicate your presence and intentions.

Be conspicuous: bright clothing, light-colored helmet, reflective material.

Keep your headlight on at all times.

Use your turn signals when changing lanes.

Glance over your shoulder to check your blind spot before changing lanes.

SEEing – Search, Evaluate, Execute.

Scan 360 degrees. Keep your eyes moving.

Scan the area ahead that it will take you 12 seconds to reach.

Concentrate on cars, trucks and pedestrians.

Look for problem spots: shaded, wet or icy spots on the pavement, debris, potholes, gravel.

Be extra alert at intersections, on side streets, near driveways and in parking lots.

Be in control before and in curves.

### GATHERING VISUAL INFORMATION

Your central vision focuses on traffic, estimates distance and notices specific details on the road.

Peripheral vision helps you detect items to the sides. It is critical during emergencies for early warnings of animals or children running in front of you, or a car swerving into your lane.

Be systematic. Prioritize the hazards. Don't let your eyes focus for too long on unimportant objects.

### FOLLOWING DISTANCE

On good roads in ideal conditions, a minimum two-second space cushion between you and the vehicle in front of you gives you enough time to respond to sudden stops.

Increase the distance in rain, fog and darkness.

### LANE POSITIONING

Separate your motorcycle from other vehicles.

You will see emerging

traffic problems more quickly and clearly, and thus have more time and space to respond.

The best lane position constantly changes depending on traffic conditions.

### FACTORS THAT AFFECT YOUR CHOICE

Increasing your ability to see and be seen.

Avoiding other motorists' blind spots.

Setting up for and negotiating curves.

Avoiding surface hazards and wind blast.

Communicating your intentions.

### PROVIDING ESCAPE ROUTES

The best place to be is usually near the left portion of your lane. You are most visible and have a cushion to respond to encroachment by drivers.

The center of the lane at busy intersections can be slippery from oil drips.

Use the left part of the lane when getting ready to pass on the left.

Avoid the left track when riding in the lane to the right of a large truck, because you are less visible to the truck driver and more exposed to wind-blast.

Don't ride in another vehicle's blind spot.

Refresher exercises are available at: <https://safety.army.mil/povmotorcyclesafety/MOTORCYCLE/Training/MCRefresher/tabid/2303/Default.aspx>. **gt**



### Army National Guard Safety Information

DMNA-NY Motorcycle Safety  
<http://dmna.ny.gov/arng/safety/safety.php?id=cycle>

U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center  
<https://safety.army.mil/>

*This article and photo was provided by Sgt. 1st Class Chuck Austin, Safety Specialist.*

# Military Personnel News: the MILPO Corner

## Enlisted Records

**Web Based Enlisted Promotions.** Soldiers managing their careers will receive a new tool later this year with the fielding of a new web-based Enlisted Promotion System. The program is designed to comply with National Guard Regulation 600-200 and the New York Army National Guard Regulation 600-2. This program will allow promotion authorities to manage and make their own selections, and will be completely electronic. This change allows each Soldier to take ownership. It provides for careful oversight by personnel readiness staffs from the bottom up. It will have a zone-friendly selection interface, digital uploading of NYARNG 624-1 at company or battalion level, auto-generated advancement rosters and the manual input of Army course data. Field testing began this spring, coinciding with the E9, E8, and E7 promotion boards.

**Civilian Education.** Soldiers missing high school diplomas in their records should forward them to the Education Services Office immediately. Missing High School diplomas will delay bonus payments and GI Bill benefits. A list of Soldiers missing HS diplomas can be found at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/535774>.

**Enlisted Records Brief (ERB).** The Enlisted Records Brief (ERB) is now the source document for an enlisted Soldier's career. Manually generated DA Form 2-1's are no longer utilized. Human Resource professionals at the unit level can update the ERB for Soldiers in their unit utilizing the Director's Personnel Readiness Overview (DPRO) application at <https://minuteman.nbg.army.mil>. The ERB application can be found on the DPRO home page, on the bottom left under the Soldier Services section. Soldiers must review and validate the ERB at <https://minuteman.nbg.army.mil/Benefits>.

Should there be errors or omissions, Soldier's should contact their HR professional in their unit. Once the issue is resolved, Soldier's need to return to the site to validate the changes.

**DMNA Circular 672-1.** For a quick and easy to read reference for preparing your ribbon rack, go to the MNP-AKO Main Page by clicking below. Once on the page, go to the "MNP References" section, bottom left of the page, and click on "Awards and Decorations Re-

sources." Once in the folder, click on NYARNG Circular 672-1, the NYARNG Soldier Awards and Decorations Ribbon & Device Guide. <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/553732>. For State Awards and Decorations, showing all state awards in order of precedence, visit <http://dmna.state.ny.us/awards/awards.php>.

## Education

**Federal Tuition Assistance (TA) Deadlines.** All Federal TA applications must be submitted before a Soldier's class start date. Soldiers can apply through <https://minuteman.nbg.army.mil/benefits>. The application requires a CAC to login. Soldiers can have their CAC cards reset at any of the CAC facilities listed on this website <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home>.

**The Tillman Military Scholarship.** The Tillman Military Scholarship opened for applications on March 7, 2012. The scholarship is open to veterans or servicemembers of both pre- and post-9/11 servicemembers who wish to start, finish or further their education. Applicants may include those enrolled as a full-time student at an American institution of higher learning whose benefits have expired or do not meet their needs.

Dependents of servicemembers (children between the ages of 19 and 28 and spouses) are also eligible.

For more details on required documents to apply, required essay and more, please click here: <http://www.pattillmanfoundation.org/tillman-military-scholars/apply>.

## Transitions

**Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP).** ACAP has recently increased the availability of its services to meet increased need. Last October, ACAP opened a new call center to provide services remotely to Soldiers who are either too far from local ACAP Centers, or cannot access services because their center is not open. The ACAP Call Center provides all the tools and services previously only available at "brick and mortar" ACAP locations through a convenient toll free telephone number – 1-800-325-4715 and will soon be available 24/7.

Increased automation also makes ACAP available anytime, anywhere. Services that used to be available only at ACAP Centers, as well as general information about transition services,

can be completed through ACAP's secure portal. Effective immediately, the initial phase of ACAP services, the pre-separation briefings, and review of the DD Form 2648/-1, are now available through ACAP's secure online portal – [www.acap.army.mil](http://www.acap.army.mil) and Facebook.

**VA Activates On-Line Transition Assistance Program Briefing (TAP) for VA Benefits.** In July 2011, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) activated the on-line version of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) briefing about VA benefits. With the initiation of the on-line course, service members have a choice to complete the course in the classroom, presented by a VA benefits briefer, or on-line.

Additionally, Veterans, National Guardsmen, and Reservists also have the capability to complete the TAP briefing about VA benefits through the on-line course. The on-line course can be accessed through the eBenefits web site at [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov).

## Pay and Benefits

**DOD Beneficiaries (Former Spouses) and DEERS Entitlement.** Eligible uniformed service former spouses of a military service member may continue to receive benefits under his/her own record under certain conditions. The document attached at the following link provides info/clarification concerning eligibility criteria for Former Spouses who are seeking eligibility under the 20/20/20 or 20/20/15 rule, and hopes to answer questions and clear up some of the confusion surrounding this entitlement. <https://forums.army.mil/community>.

**Stop Loss Pay Deadline Extended.** Servicemembers and veterans whose military service was involuntarily extended under the "Stop Loss" program between the 9/11 terrorist attacks and Sept. 30, 2009 now have until Oct. 21, 2012 to apply for special retroactive pay. Eligible servicemembers or their beneficiaries may submit a claim to their respective military service to receive \$500 for each full or partial month served in a Stop Loss status.

**Deployment Extension Stabilization Pay (DESP) Training Video.** In an effort to streamline submissions and give guidance, the Military Personnel office developed a training video to assist in processing DESP Contracts for Soldiers who agree to extend their service obligation for the purposes of mobilization.



This video helps units and commanders determine DESP eligibility criteria, administrative procedures and the timeliness for submission.

The presentation is located on the MNP Web Portal. DESP is a chain of command responsibility, and this tool provides Commanders an opportunity to educate themselves and their subordinates on current National Guard Bureau and state DESP policy.

**DOD Self-Service (DS) Logon – Army Implementation Guidance.** DS Logon is a secure, self-service logon system that allows service members and other beneficiaries access to information and various websites using a single username and password. It is extremely important that Soldiers register for access to this portal. The goal is to maximize enrollments and enable registration for DS Logon by November 2013. The memorandum attached at this link provides instructions to meet that goal. Leaders are asked to register for DS Logon without delay, and encourage their Soldiers to do likewise. Go to the MNP-AKO main page for access to the memo at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/553732>.

## Healthcare

**Military Personnel Health Services.** Health Services (HS) is the branch of the Military Personnel Directorate that works with Medical Command to support the administrative processes related to medical entitlements for New York Army National Guard Soldiers. The most common support is the Line of Duty Investigation, coordinating preauthorization for health care and medical bill payment. When a medical condition prevents a Soldier from meeting military standards, they assist Soldiers through the medical board process. For deploying Soldiers, MNP-HS coordinates Early TRICARE eligibility, briefs Soldiers and dependents on TRICARE benefits and manages the Post Deployment Health Re-Assessments program.

**Dental Coverage While in Transition Assistance Management Program (TAMP).** Soldiers are now eligible for active duty dental coverage during the TAMP period following mobilization. Soldiers within 50 miles of a Dental Treatment Facility (DTF) will be treated there and Soldiers in remote areas will receive private sector dental care as a member of the remote Active Duty Dental Program (ADDP).

A remote Soldier is required to receive pre-authorization through ADDP MetLife to verify eligibility in DEERS. ADDP will approve dental care as authorized and provide specific information on using the program. Coverage for family members still requires purchase through the TRICARE Dental Program. For more information or to request authorization, contact your local DTF or ADDP at 1-866-984-2337 or <https://secure.addp-ucci.com/ddpddw/adsm/trans-assistance>.

**Tricare Programs For “Gray Area” Reserve Retirees.** Members of the Retired Reserve who are not yet age 60 can purchase TRICARE programs for both medical and dental coverage. TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR) is medical insurance similar to TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS). Retirees and their dependents will pay a monthly premium; have cost shares and a deductible. Retirees qualify if they are not eligible for, or enrolled in, the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program. TRICARE Retiree Dental program (TRDP) is a dental insurance program for Retirees and dependents administered by Delta Dental. For detailed information including rates, visit [www.tricare.mil/trr](http://www.tricare.mil/trr) or <http://www.trdp.org/>.

**Casualty Assistance Training.** Annual Casualty Notification/Casualty Assistance Officer training in Latham with the assistance of the trainers from Fort Drum, was conducted on 3 and April 3-4. Fifty-one newly trained or re-trained Soldiers attended the course. Through coordination with Mike Batza, from Survivor Outreach Services, we were able to have a special guest speaker at this year’s event. American Gold Star Mother Carrie Farley, one of the many Survivors that have been in the care of our Coordinators, is the mother of Staff Sgt. Derek Farley who was killed in Afghanistan in August 2010. Farley was able to offer detailed insight of her first hand experience from being notified to where she is today. She shared with us so that our CAOs might be better prepared for some of the unexpected events that just can’t be replicated in a generic presentation.

The training was very successful, but there was more for Farley to enjoy. Her actual CAO, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Brunner was in attendance to recertify, so they were able to spend some time together. Carrie was also treated to a grand tour of the Latham facility to include the Command Group by state Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Wicks, who concluded the day by presenting Farley with his coin.

## DOD Prorates Imminent Danger Pay

*By Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON – Service members now will receive imminent danger pay only for days they actually spend in hazardous areas, Pentagon officials announced in February.

The change, which took effect Feb. 1, was included in the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act, which President Barack Obama signed into law Dec. 31.

The act called for DOD to pay service members imminent danger pay only for the time they spend in areas that qualify for the pay. In the past, service members received \$225 per month if they spent any time that month in an area where the pay was authorized. “This is a more targeted way of handling that pay,” Kirby said.

Now, service members will receive \$7.50 a day for days spent in these areas. Personnel who travel to the designated areas for periods less than 30 days should keep track of the number of days they are in the area to verify that they are paid for the correct number of days, officials said.

Proration is based on a 30-day month, which translates into a rate of \$7.50 per day. It does not matter if the month is 28 or 31 days long, officials explained; if service members serve in affected areas for the complete month, they will receive the full rate of \$225 per month.

The Defense Department defines imminent danger pay areas as places where members are subject to the threat of physical harm or imminent danger because of civil insurrection, civil war, terrorism or wartime conditions.

Service members who come under fire, regardless of location, will receive the full monthly hostile-fire pay amount of \$225.

## Chaplain's Corner

# Appreciate Today, Live for Tomorrow

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Todd Luce, Eastern Air Defense Sector



Members of the 106th Rescue Wing Security Forces Squadron help move in furniture to an apartment bought through the Wounded Warrior Project for an Iraq War veteran living in New York City. Photo by Senior Airman Christopher S. Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.

There's a powerful strength in the human soul which serves as a reservoir and driving force for us to overcome and carry on ... it is nobody's express job to dampen that source of resiliency and hope.

An attending physician in Florida advised an elderly retiree stroke victim, "You better just get used to life in a chair." The determined gentleman refused and now, after nearly 100 weeks of rehabilitation, is poised to walk into his Sackets Harbor camp this Summer. He could have given up. It's a choice.

Ask the woman whose hours have been cut way back and can't live on what's coming in. Ask the person drowning with insurmountable debt. Ask the Soldier or Airman who has given the vitality of their youth to the defense of our Constitution and our way of life, but is told that they are no use to

anybody now.

Unfortunately, there are far too many negative voices out there and they can be overwhelming.

We need to have hopes and dreams of a preferred future to

**"We are currently engaged in a global struggle with vital interests to our homes, families, communities and nation."**

motivate and propel us forward. We must live for tomorrow, even as we fully appreciate today and

are keenly aware of the present moment.

Today is not all there is. Your present circumstances and cache of experiences are not yet what will be completed. There will be many joys and obstacles along the way. You will be very rich for that journey.

We are currently engaged in a global struggle with vital interests to our homes, families, communities and Nation. You can expect timely application of mission sets and development of new ones within our State borne out of disaster response. A survey of recent history directs us to transformation of whole organizations and equipment packages for units with storied pasts destined to write new chapters.

Search within and get a perspective of where you're headed, in uniform and out. Only you can do that for yourself, but there are many resources to help you... from finding employment or changing careers, to sorting out trauma associated with your military service, and finding direction for your life in a spiritual sense. Where are you headed? What will it take to get there? Who's going with you?

If you don't have a vision for tomorrow, you'll be slowly dying today. Enemies of your soul and spirit feed on fatalistic apathy to destroy you and your family. Don't let that happen. Don't let anybody take away your hope for a future or your will to work hard today. Our profession is about a better tomorrow.

Look ahead, press on toward a bright future for you and your family. Appreciate today, live for tomorrow! **gt**





# New York National Guard Families Stay in Focus

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo, Joint Force Headquarters-NY



Teens attending the 2012 New York National Guard Family and Volunteer Training Workshop, worked as a team on an outdoor climbing gym April 14, to complete a high ropes obstacle course at the Edge in Halfmoon.

**SARATOGA SPRINGS** - Nearly 100 volunteers learned how to help families "stay in focus" as the demands on New York National Guard families change.

With the end of military actions in Iraq in 2011 and the draw down of troops in Afghanistan, it's expected the New York National Guard will see fewer deployments," said Andrew DePalo, the director of the New York National Guard Family Programs, April 14.

"Just because there is a draw down in troops, doesn't mean we can draw down on taking care of our service members and their families," DePalo said. "The stresses of combat and reintegration affect the family as well, and we need to stay focused on providing tools to facilitate ongoing communication and resources to help families work through these issues."

The 2012 workshop highlighted the vast network of agencies; employers, veteran and volunteer service organizations, and private businesses available to support New York

military service members and their families and provided a venue to share knowledge and experience volunteers have developed over the years.

"We continually emphasize education, training and using outreach services and partnerships to leverage resources to help service members and their families," DePalo added.

In addition to the day long training, several regional workshops will be held around the state throughout the year. These sessions include information briefings and discussions on family program and readiness group roles and responsibilities, communication techniques, fund raising, event planning and identifying and using available resources.

While the adult leaders focused on volunteer efforts, more than 50 children, ages 6-18, experienced their own 'stay on focus' activities while sharing a full day of leadership, team and confidence building at The Edge -- Halfmoon, a nearby climbing gym.

The Edge offers activities to enhance the physical, mental, social and spiritual lives of children. Through physical activity, youth learn team building skills and achieve personal rewards that include acquiring self worth, competence, judgment and effective decision making and communication skills.

"This was a great opportunity for our kids to challenge themselves and become positive role models for other youth," said Keri O'Neil, a New York National Guard Child & Youth Coordinator. "They learn to work together, develop relationships and communicate with each other in an environment that encourages them to motivate and inspire each other."

"I believe it's our responsibility to take care of those who put their personal lives aside and go overseas to fight for our freedom, this is my way of saying thank you," said Matt Murray, from Brunswick. A Life Scout from Troop 537, Murray volunteered as a youth mentor for the event. **gt**



# THE JOINT FORCE

## National Guard Responders Train at Fort Hamilton

*FORT HAMILTON, Brooklyn - The 24th Civil Support Team conducts training here on Feb. 19, identifying agents and substances, assessing current and projected consequences.*

*Their mission is to support civil authorities at a domestic Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Enhanced high-yield explosives (CBRNE) incident site with identification and assessment of hazards, advice to civil authorities and facilitating the arrival of follow-on military forces during emergencies and incidents of weapons of mass destruction terrorism, intentional and unintentional release of CBRNE materials and natural or man-made disasters in the United States that result in, or could result in, catastrophic loss of life or property. Photo by Master Sgt. William Gandino, New York Guard.*







# CounterDrug Task Force Makes a Difference

*Guard Times Staff*

ALBANY - When 150 New York State Troopers, U.S. Marshalls and local city police officers rounded up 52 suspects in a massive multi-city drug raid in the early morning hours of Tuesday, March 27; five members of the New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force gave themselves a silent pat on the back for a job well done.

The five Army and Air National Guard members are criminal analysts assigned to the New York State Attorney General's Office, the Rensselaer County Drug Task Force, and the New York State Intelligence Center.

These Guardsmen take their military intelligence training, and put it to work helping police agencies stop the flow of drugs into New York's neighborhoods, said. Lt. Col. Richard Sloma, commander of New York's Counterdrug Task Force.

The March 27 arrests involved suspects in New York City, Albany, Troy, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, Glens Falls, Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, Wawarsing, and Kerhonksen in New York and Bennington Vermont. Five of those indicted were members of a gang known as the Original Gangsta Killers in Albany, while two others were allied with the Bloods gang.



The investigation and early morning raids were coordinated by New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's Organized Crime Task Force.

The Counterdrug Task Force team provided network analysis and intelligence product development, along with database integration support to the Attorney General's Task Force during the six-month investigation phase and assisted in the command cell during the actual operation, Sloma said.

Because of concerns that drug gangs might target the Guardsmen or their families, the names of the analysts are not normally revealed to the public, Sloma said. The law enforcement officials they work with and their fellow Guardsmen on the Task Force know the role

they played, and how they helped, he added.

The New York Counterdrug Task Force works to keep drugs from flooding communities in two ways.

The 90 member task force, composed of Army and Air National Guardsmen and women provides specialized military equipment to law enforcement, ranging from night vision goggles', to devices that can scan automobiles for concealed items, to helicopter support. Other members of the teams, like the criminal analysts, apply their military skills to domestic operations.

Finally, the task force also provides programs to schools and youth organizations that help kids build the confidence it takes to make a drug-free decision, Sloma said. **gt**

## From Training Troops to Trading Stocks

### Wall Street Warfighters Offer Training for Disabled Vets

*Guard Times Staff*

NEW YORK - The place for some Wounded Warriors is in the financial services industry, according to Wall Street Warfighters Foundation.

The not-for-profit runs a six-month training and monitoring program for veterans wounded in action in Iraq or Afghanistan. The program is run by Drexel Hamilton, a disabled veteran-owned and managed financial services company. The firm has been aggressively hiring veterans and has found that these new employees are very well

equipped to perform under a new kind of intense pressure once the opening bell rings and their battlefield smarts give them an edge in making split second decisions about multi-million dollar trades and deals.

Classes are held in Philadelphia, Chicago and New York City. The participant's expenses are covered throughout the six-month training and placement program. They are also supplied with a computer and get a monthly stipend. The end-result is that participants

pass the tests required to work in the securities industry.

To participate, applicants have to be disabled veterans who can devote six months to the full-time training program. They need to pass a background check and have a bachelors or associates degree in a business-related field.

Applicants are also selected based on personal recommendations and an essay submission.

More information can be found at <http://wallstreetwarfighters.org/index.html>. **gt**





# Troops Help Students Stay on Track



COHOES - New York Air National Guard Master Sgt. Marlene C. Frankovic, a Stay on Track instructor with the New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, speaks to a classroom of children at Cohoes Middle School here Jan. 18. Frankovic, who has worked with the Counterdrug Task Force since 1996, told students various ways to say "no" to drug dealers. The Counterdrug Task Force reached more than 8,000 middle school students (grades 6, 7 and 8) in 100 different schools in 2011 as part of its Drug Demand Reduction efforts. Photo by Spc. J.p. Lawrence, 42nd Infantry Division. To learn more about this National Guard sponsored program visit: [www.ncprs.org/sotNGP.htm](http://www.ncprs.org/sotNGP.htm).





New York Army National Guard Sgt. Leopoldo DeSilva (left) pulls security duty in Pennsylvania Station on Wednesday, May 2 with an Amtrak Police Officer. The Soldiers are members of the New York National Guard's Joint Task Force Empire Shield which provides security augmentation to law enforcement agencies at transportation hubs in the New York metro area. The team was part of a Multi-Agency Super Surge (MASS) in which police saturate key transportation nodes to deter attacks. Photo by Master Sgt. William Gandino, New York Guard

## Guard Adds Security for Anniversary of Bin Laden Death

Story by Capt. Alvin Phillips, 138th Public Affairs Detachment

**NEW YORK -** Members of the New York National Guard's full-time security force in New York City completed their 100th Multi-Agency Super Surge operation at Pennsylvania Station here on May 2, as New York City went on security alert on the anniversary of the death of Osama Bin Laden.

The New York Army and Air National Guardsmen who comprise Joint Task Force Empire Shield and augment law enforcement agencies at transportation hubs were part of the effort to dissuade any potential attackers.

The Multi-Agency Super Surge, known as a MASS, involves the New York Police Department, the Port Authority, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, New Jersey Transit and Amtrak Police, as well as the Department of Homeland Security working together to flood a potential target with alert eyes.

The goal is to detect, deter, disrupt and defeat potential terrorists operations.

"This is a significant milestone for the task force as we participate in the 100th Multi-Agency Super Surge. It is great that we can host our agency partners as we work in a unified effort to deter terrorism," said Lt. Col. Peter Riley, Joint Task Force Empire Shield Commander.

The MASS is designed to enhance, and refine multi-agency coordination in the event of a terrorist event here in New York City, Riley said.

Although there was no credible information that terrorist organizations were plotting attacks to coincide with the May 2 anniversary, al-Qa'ida affiliates remain intent on conducting attacks in the United States, Riley explained.

The primary focus of this MASS was Pennsylvania Station, Grand Central Terminal and Herald Square. Several portions of the exercise

were conducted during peak morning travel for over a million transit commuters.

"It is quite easy to be visible or vigilant on days like this with a MASS on the anniversary of bin Laden's death but our challenge is and must be the day to day visibility and vigilance," said Michael Coan, Chief of Department of the Metropolitan Transit Authority Police.

"The most interesting thing is to see how all agency partners come together and share information. Sure the 100th Anniversary is a great number but 200 and 1000 is better, so we continue to work," said Staff Sgt. Victor Valerio, one of the longest serving task force members.

"Exercises like the MASS show great collaboration of agency partners with one shared goal, to protect this city, the capital of the world," said Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Johnny Noguera.

"This is why I love my job," he added. **gt**



# The CIA Wants Soldiers and Airmen

Guard Times Staff

HYDE PARK - The CIA is looking for New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who want a new civilian job.



Photo courtesy of Culinary Institute of America

No, it's not the Central Intelligence Agency in Langley Virginia who wants to talk to Guard members, but the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY that is interested in enrolling veterans in its program.

The world-famous cooking school hired Pennsylvania Army National Guard Lieutenant Taylor Picone to serve as a military liaison in the school's admissions office, said institute spokesman Jeff Levine.

Picone's job will be to help veterans and Guard members to use their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits or other educational assistance to enroll in the school's two-year program.

Veterans bring to their CIA experience a more mature attitude, driven focus, attention to detail, and natural leadership skills that are a direct result of their

military experience," Picone said.

Currently 130 students at the school have served in the U.S. Military.

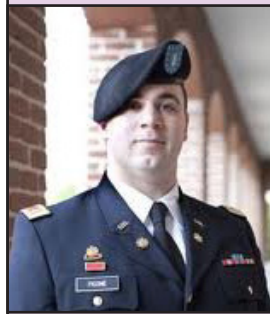
The institute has a long history of serving military members,

Levine said. When the institute was founded some of the first students were World War II service members taking advantage of the very first GI Bill.

Service members who are cooks in the Guard, Reserve or on Active Duty can reduce the number of months it takes them to earn the culinary degree because their military training will fulfill some of their basic requirements, he explained.

More information about the CIA can be found at [www.ciachef.edu/admissions/veterans](http://www.ciachef.edu/admissions/veterans). **gt**

"Veterans bring to their CIA experience a more mature attitude, driven focus, attention to detail and natural leadership skills that are a direct result of their military experience. This is great for our younger students, who naturally



look to veterans as role models..."

1st Lt. Taylor Picone, Veterans Admissions Officer, Culinary Institute of America

# Department of Labor Recognized for Support of the Guard

Guard Times Staff

SARATOGA SPRINGS - Martin Selleck, Deputy Veterans Program Administrator for the New York State Department of Labor receives the New York State Conspicuous Service Medal from Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General, during the New York Military Forces Banquet held April 13 at the Saratoga Hilton as part of the Adjutant General's Professional Weekend. Photo by Eric Durr, Division of Military and Naval Affairs.





## 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Leads Another St. Patrick's Day Parade







*Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry lead the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade up 5th Avenue on March 17. The 69th, which was born as a New York Militia regiment of Irish immigrants, has led the annual parade since the 1850s. Photo by Spc. James Roa, Joint Force Headquarters.*



# Troops Step Off for NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade

Story by Spc. J.p. Lawrence, 42nd Infantry Division

NEW YORK - Step by step and block by block, the Soldiers of the New York National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, led the St. Patrick's Day Parade up Fifth Avenue, just as they have every year since 1851.

This year's parade, dedicated to "All Veterans of All Services and Branches," brought together Soldiers old and new. They marched in the shadow of New York's skyline -- 90 blocks in all.

Spc. Brendan O'Connor, a Soldier at his first parade, marched at the front, holding the banner for the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment.

Being able to march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade was something the Sailorsburg, Pa., resident said he was especially proud about, due to his Irish heritage. "100 percent (Irish)," he said, beaming.

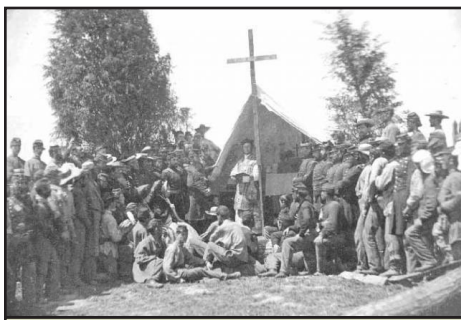
Further back in the parade marched Pfc. Liliam Sotomayer, a Soldier who previously had only been able to see the parade on television.

"It's good being able to do this," said Sotomayer, who moved to Brooklyn from Ecuador three years ago. "It's part of the culture here in New York."

For some of the more experienced Soldiers, the parade is an annual institution.

Staff Sgt. Jerieme Murrell, a motor sergeant with Company F, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, said he's lost track of how many parades he's marched in.

"It's a tradition, like a family reunion," explained Murrell, an Amityville, N.Y. resident. "Every year you go to it."



Soldiers of the 69th New York State Militia, which later became the 69th New York Infantry of the Irish Brigade, attend mass during the Civil War. The 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry carries the lineage forward of the famed "Fighting 69th" of the Irish Brigade. Photo courtesy of New York State Military Museum

"Many people don't realize exactly how much planning goes into this parade every year," said Lt. Col. James Gonyo, the battalion commander of the 1-69th. "It involves gathering together a team of approximately 100 Soldiers who begin preparation as early as the October prior."

The 100-Soldier team is responsible for arranging everything from event parking to music, which consists of a military band and a traditional bag piper, all the while staying true to the standards and traditions the 69th Infantry has upheld for years.

"The 69th has been coordinating the St. Patrick's day parade for the past 162 years," said Gonyo. "We have a reputation to maintain and, in addition, we have to honor our regiment's Irish heritage."

Though the modern regiment consists of Soldiers of all ethnic groups and religions, the 69th traditionally prefaces the parade with a Mass held at St. Patrick's Cathedral for Soldiers killed in action.

*"It's a tradition, like a family reunion,"*

*-- Staff Sgt. Jerieme Murrell, Company F, 427th Brigade Support Battalion*

The officers and senior sergeants traditionally carry Irish fighting sticks made from the Irish Blackthorne tree tucked under their arms during the parade.

"It's the little details and the little nods to the regiment's history and traditions that make the parade special to so many involved," said Gonyo.

And though the planning and preparation leading up to the parade can be very stressful at times, Soldiers know exactly what to do each year and treat the planning as they would any staff exercise, said Gonyo.

"The parade is something that can be enjoyed by everyone," said Gonyo. "If people view the event as a party, as though its creation were effortless, it means that we as a unit have succeeded."

Ed Dunn Jr., a Brooklyn resident and a Soldier with the 69th from 1965 to 1974, is one of those who see the event as a good time. Dunn marched with the Veterans Corps of the 69th in



Gen. Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, addresses the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry during the unit celebration of St. Patrick's Day in New York City March 17. Photo by Spc. James Roa, Joint Force Headquarters.

this year's parade.

The corps, comprised of former members of the 69th, aims to preserve the history of the regiment and to foster camaraderie, morale and welfare of the 69th's Soldiers and families.

"We always act with them, march with them, support them," said Dunn. "It's an honor. We're really proud to be part of the 69th."

All in a row, these Soldiers old and new walked the 90 blocks from the 69th Regiment Armory on Lexington Avenue to 86th Street and back. They marched past St. Patrick's Cathedral, where earlier in the day they listened to Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, a Bronx native and a chaplain during the Vietnam War, talk about their sacrifice.

"I am struck in awe by the Fighting 69th," O'Brien said. "The many members of the 69th here have very much kept alive the tradition of the Irish brigade in tours to Iraq and Afghanistan the past few years."

Finally, they marched back to the armory, where Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and an honorary member of the regiment, led the Soldiers in the chorus of "Garry Owen," a traditional Irish tune adopted as the regimental song by the 69th.

The regiment received its nickname as the "Fighting 69th" from Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee during the Battle of Malvern Hill in 1862 in Virginia. **gt**



# Honoring a Fallen Hero, Celebrating Fellow Soldier

*Guard Times Staff*

**NEW YORK -** In the midst of unit celebrations at the Lexington Avenue Armory on St. Patrick's Day, the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry hosted a special tribute to one of their fallen heroes, Sgt. Kenneth VonRonn, killed in action January 6th 2005 during the battalions combat tour in Iraq.

VonRonn, 20, of Bloomingburg, was a combat medic who died January 6, 2005 in Baghdad, when an improvised explosive device struck his Bradley fighting vehicle. He was assigned to the battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

VonRonn's family, including his mother, two sisters, brother-in-law, and nephews, all shared in the day's festivities that included mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, a viewing of the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and attendance at the unit's traditional ceremony with distinguished guests.

The entire day's events revolved around the unique presentation by Phil and Lisa Taylor, from The American Fallen Soldier's Project,

of a portrait of VonRonn, painted by Phil after consulting with the family. Phil and Lisa have been honoring families of the fallen across our nation with portraits for a long time and are planning to continue this work in the future with additional visits to New York, to recognize other surviving family members.

The 69th Infantry included a special presentation for the VonRonn family to coincide with their traditional St. Patrick's Day festivities.

Downstate area Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator, Raul Lopez, served as the liaison between the unit, the Taylors and the family. Lopez arranged for travel, access, seating and support for the VonRonn family from the very start of the battalion's mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, through the parade reviewing stand and the presentation ceremony at the unit armory.

Just before the traditional ceremonies concluded, Phil presented the portrait of Sgt. Kenneth Von-



Phil Taylor, right, of the American Fallen Soldiers Project, unveils the portrait of New York Army National Guard Sgt. Kenneth VonRonn with Army National Guard leaders and Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry during the unit celebration of St. Patrick's Day in New York City March 17. Below, members of the battalion render honors during the portrait unveiling. Photos by Spc. James Roa, Joint Force Headquarters.



Ronn. In addition to the portrait, Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General, and Lopez pre-

sented the VonRonn family with an additional gift, a "Home of the Brave Quilt." **gt**

# New York Stock Exchange Welcomes 'Fighting 69th'



**NEW YORK --** New York Army National Guard Lt. Col. James Gonyo, commander of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry joins members of the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee in ringing the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange on Thursday, March 15. On St. Patrick's Day, March 17, the "Fighting 69th" again led the annual New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade, as it has done for more than 160 years. Photo by Spc. James Roa, Joint Force Headquarters.





*206th Military Police Soldiers, in small groups, donned protective gear and learned to make entry into the New York Police Department's 'shoohouse' on Mar. 21 at Rodman's Neck, N.Y. Photo by Lt. Col. Robert Giordano, 106th Regiment (RTI).*



# East Meets West: California Experts Train N.Y. MPs

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, *Guard Times Staff*



Sgt. 1st Class Paul Troccia (right), 106th Military Police Battalion, receives instructions from Pierre Ciofassa of the A3 Tactical Training Team, on how to disarm someone during a knife assault.

CAMP SMITH, Cortlandt Manor - Military Police (MP) Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 106th Regiment based at the Regional Training Institute (RTI) at Camp Smith conducted specialized training March 19-23, from A3 Tactical (Anderson and Associates), a California-based specialized tactical training company that specializes in high risk, close personal protection techniques for corporations, law enforcement and the military.

One event location that added much more realism to the MP's training exercises took place at the New York Police Department 'shoot house' in Rodman's Neck, Bronx while being evaluated by A3 Tactical.

"How many times have you heard about the importance of intense, realistic quality training?" said Lt. Col. Robert Giordano, 1st Battalion, 106th Regiment, (RTI) Commander. "It provided realistic, heart-pumping training that puts you in the space so that your muscle memory is built to react to a situation that may save your life or that of your buddies".

The major portion of the training was combative and involved close personal protection tactics and team room clearing drills lead by and evaluated by Jeff Anderson, owner and six associates of A3 Tactical.

Anderson formed his tactical training

company in 1996 after being injured in the line of duty as a Riverside, Calif. deputy sheriff. His company has trained California State and local police Special Weapons and Tactics teams and U.S. Marines based in Riverside, Calif. The trip to Camp Smith was his first training with not only a National Guard unit but with an Army unit.

"We're good at what we do. Our training is only tailored to law enforcement and the military," Anderson said. "The National Guard, the Reserves and the U.S. Army-they all need these skills. This country is sending guys to war with basic combative skills and we can help improve on those skills."

The 106th MP's absorbed more than punches, rifle butt strokes and full body take downs as a result of A3 combative instructions. The one day training event at the Rodman's Neck 'shoot house' started in the parking lot as 106th MP's learned how to evacuate injured Soldiers into vehicles and progressively led them in small teams to work through the 'shoot house' to the third floor where each team entered occupied apartments and dealt with hostile persons.

"The 106th MP's were provided the opportunity to experience "out of the box" training with Mr. Anderson and his team," said Staff Sgt. Sean Lockhart, Military Police Course Manager at

RTI. "I am looking forward to passing on these lessons learned to future MP's and students who attend any training here with the 106th MP's."

"A3 provided us with an excellent hands-on tactical experience. This team, lead by Jeff Anderson, provided us with different methods than we normally use to handle threatening situations," said Sgt. Jennifer Vogt, Operations Non-Commissioned Officer. "We started our training with combative techniques that taught us how to take down a hostile suspect as well as providing us with skills in taking a weapon from a suspect." **gt**



Jeff Anderson, owner of A3 Tactical, poses as a hostile suspect in the NYPD 'shoot house' where 106th MP's were training and being evaluated by A3 Tactical.



# Harlem Hellfighters' Support Atlas Accord 2012

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Shana R. Hutchins, 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

MOPTI, Mali - The 369th Sustainment Brigade "Harlem Hellfighters," an Army National Guard logistics unit from Harlem, N.Y., provided operational support here for Atlas Accord 2012, a bilateral humanitarian and partnership exercise sponsored by U.S. Army Africa.

The 369th worked with the Malian Defense Forces (MDF) in a partnership exercise in Sevare, Mali, to assist in training several nations on different techniques to deliver humanitarian aid.

During the opening ceremony, Col. Reginald Sanders, 369th brigade commander said the planning of this exercise was in the works for some time and both the host nation staff and the U.S. military did a great job getting everyone to the point of execution through mutual planning and organizing.

"We are here for two reasons; to exchange ideas with the Malians and help them extend their capabilities and to learn from them," said Capt. Tim Piddington, of the 369th Sustainment Brigade Headquarters. "We have Army National Guard, active and reserve units here with a lot of different skill sets. We are trying to learn from each other. The second piece is to be ambassadors to Mali from the U.S." he said.

Rockland County native and Army War-rant Officer Douglas Haydak, a 369th supply systems technician, is working at Atlas Accord 2012 as the contractor's officer representative with the Malian people.



Capt. Timothy Piddington with the 369th Sustainment Brigade, New York Army National Guard, an operations battle captain and Aly Koundou Coulibaly, task force commander and chief of operations with the Malian Defense Force, coordinate training for Atlas Accord 2012, a U.S. Army Africa-sponsored bilateral humanitarian and partnership exercise focusing on aerial resupply to remote areas.

"The exercise we are doing here assists the Mali Defense Forces in teaching them methods for providing assistance in remote areas that may be experiencing famine and may not be readily accessible by road," said Haydak.

[Soldiers] can exchange ideas about aerial delivery with them that may help the Malian people provide water, food or medical aid."

The 369th and MDF worked closely and shared many experiences in preparing for Atlas Accord.

"The experience with the Malians has been great, they have been very kind and generous, eager to interact with the U.S. and the partner nations on the ground," Haydak said. "They seem very responsive to be active with the cultural exchange."

"I have had no difficulties with this exercise and have learned that Soldiers from the 369th and Mali have different viewpoints and we are learning from

them," said MDF Security Operations Liaison Lt. Abdrahamane Kon, a native of Mopti, Mali. "We are hoping for good training from this activity," he said. U.S. Soldiers are expected to perform anywhere around the world and need to be familiar with other cultures, Kon said.

"The end state of this exercise is allowing the Malians to successfully project to all regions of their country to provide them with much needed water, food and medical supplies," Piddington said. "We can always keep in mind, despite the fact they may have less than what we do, they have high morale and I learned more about the Malians and their military," he said. **gt**

**"I learned that Soldiers from the 369th and Mali have different viewpoints and we are learning from them,"**

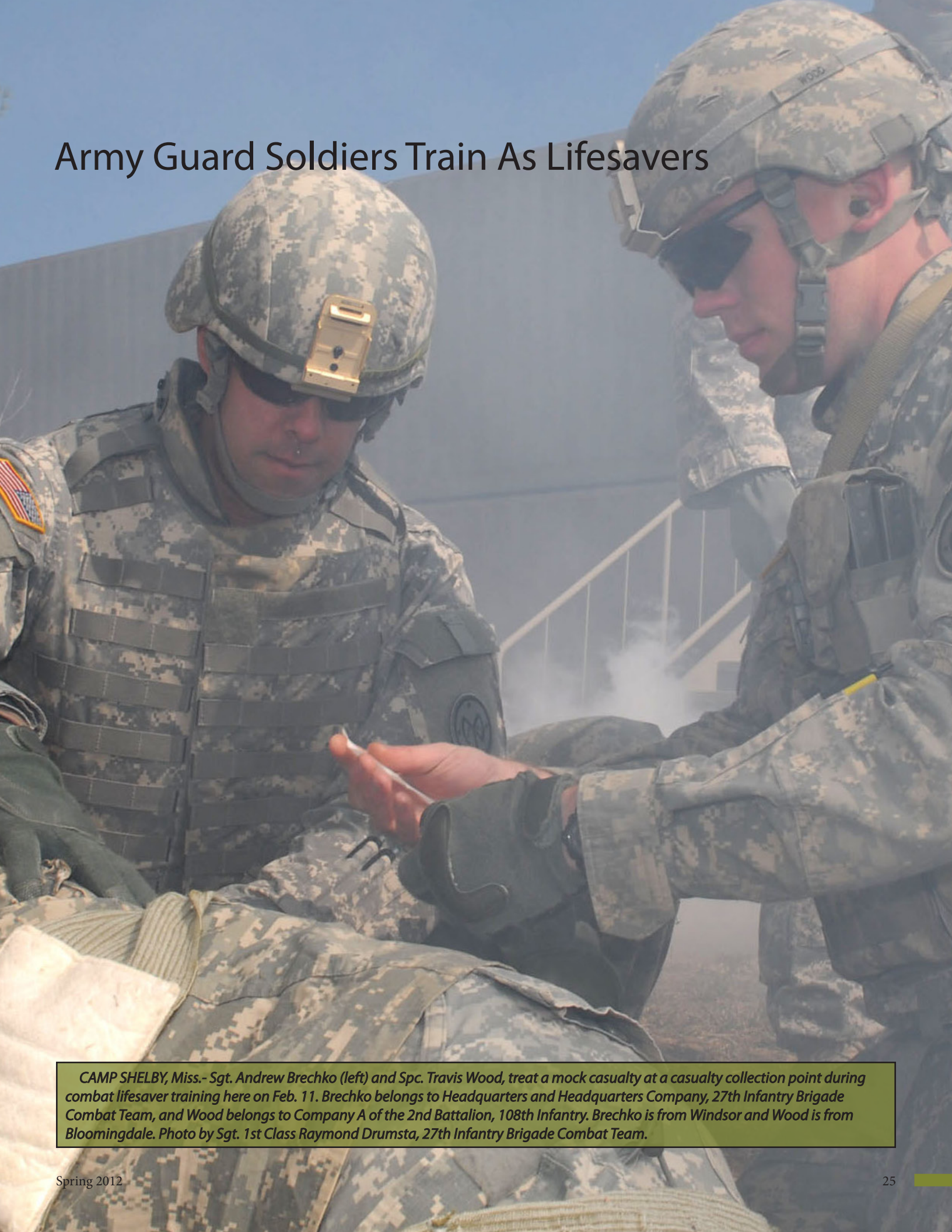
-- Lt. Abdrahamane Kon, Malian Defense Forces



Capt. Timothy Piddington (left), with the 369th Sustainment Brigade, is one of the operations battle captains for Atlas Accord 2012 and Malian Col. Aly Koundou Coulibaly, task force commander and chief of operations with the Malian Defense Force coordinate training at Mopti airfield.



## Army Guard Soldiers Train As Lifesavers



*CAMP SHELBY, Miss.- Sgt. Andrew Brechko (left) and Spc. Travis Wood, treat a mock casualty at a casualty collection point during combat lifesaver training here on Feb. 11. Brechko belongs to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and Wood belongs to Company A of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry. Brechko is from Windsor and Wood is from Bloomington. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Drumsta, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.*





# New York Selects Top Soldiers, NCOs of the Year

*Guard Times Staff*

*Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Infantry Division*

LATHAM - A Korean-American police officer with three combat tours under his belt, a community college student slated to deploy for the first time and a human resources Non-Commissioned Officer were named Best Warriors for the New York Army National Guard following a weekend event March 24-25 at state headquarters in Latham.

Junior enlisted Soldiers and sergeants from the New York Army National Guard's six major commands pitted their skills and knowledge against each other to determine the best for 2012. The Soldiers competed against each other in the areas of military knowledge and skills. All the contestants are top performers in physical fitness and marksmanship.

Staff Sgt. Sihoon Chung, a resident of Ridgefield, N. J. and a police officer in Leonia, N.J. was named traditional part-time NCO of the Year. He currently serves as an instructor in infantry skills with the 106th Regiment Regional Training Institute based at Camp Smith Training Center in Cortlandt Manor and has trained

and mentored more than 300 Soldiers.

"I'm very proud to have won the honor and to represent the 106th RTI," Chung said. "It was a very good experience and something every NCO should experience. My supervisors suggested that I enter the competition and I'm glad I decided to do it."

Sgt. David Martinsen, who lives in Troy, N.Y. was picked as the outstanding Active Guard and Reserve NCO of the Year for the New York Army National Guard.

"I wanted to participate in this because I have participated in this before when I was in the Active Army and never won the big competition," Martinsen said. "So this meant a lot for me to win it this time because I was so close to winning the higher level before. It took a lot of hard work and time to do it though. I studied every night, some more than others on all the possible topics I could be asked about."

Spc. Brian Lekhmus, a student at Dutchess County Community College and a Salt Point, N.Y. resident was selected as junior enlisted

Soldier of the Year.

"I decided to compete in this honor because it was an opportunity for me to represent my unit and the New York Army National Guard," Lekhmus said. "I take pride in the National Guard and didn't want to pass up on an opportunity to compete to represent the organization."

Martinsen and Lekhmus will go on to compete against their counterparts from other Northeastern state National Guards.

The regional event will determine whether or not they will compete against Guard sergeants and junior enlisted Soldiers from across the country. The NCO's and junior Soldiers selected there face off against the best junior enlisted Soldiers and sergeants from the Active Army and the Army Reserve. Martinsen was selected to represent the New York Army National Guard's NCO corps because he scored more competition points than Chung.

"I am amazed at the knowledge, professionalism and skills that the competitors at the



Sgt. 1st Class Armando Torres, 69th Inf. Regt. uses a mirror as part of his task to search a vehicle in a tactical environment on March 23 in Latham.



Spc. Harley Jelis, 42nd CAB, treats and evaluates a casualty as part of his warrior task testing on March 23 in Latham.



Sgt. Darryl Joseph, 369th Sust. Bde. completes a land navigation map exercise on March 23 in Latham.



New York Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition exhibit as they tackle each event," said New York State's Command Sgt. Major Frank Wicks.

"Although we can only select one winner in each category, these Soldiers are clearly the best of the best. These Soldiers and NCO's will continue to grow and excel and I am confident that

these are our future Senior Non Commissioned officers. We are fortunate to have Soldiers of this caliber in the New York Army National Guard." Wicks said. **gt**

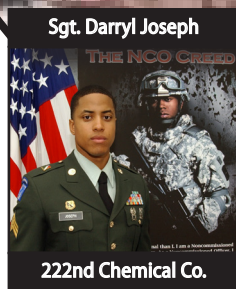
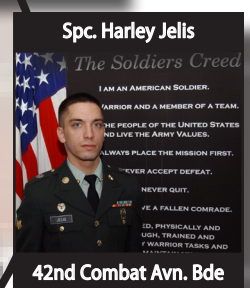
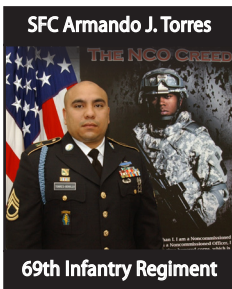
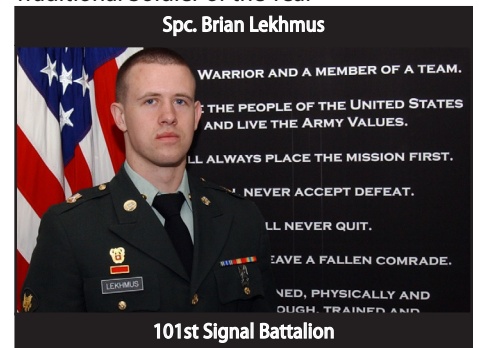
**Traditional NCO of the Year**



**Active Guard and Reserve NCO of the Year**



**Traditional Soldier of the Year**







*Sgt. Shaun Bradley from 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 142nd Aviation spent the afternoon of April 17 assisting 3rd Bn. enlisted Soldiers on their annual door gunnery training at Fort A.P. Hill, Va. The qualification consists of hitting stationary and moving targets with an M-240 machine gun mounted to the side of a UH-60 Blackhawk.*





# Aviators Qualify Soldiers on Aerial Gunnery Skills

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Infantry Division

FORT A.P. HILL, Va. - As the winter weather was starting to break, more than 100 Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Aviation Regiment, broke out their M-240 machine guns and mounted them to the sides of their UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and engaged in some door gunnery qualifications for the enlisted air crew members the week of April 16-17 here.

The door gunnery training is an annual event that the 142nd tries to conduct whenever there is a window of opportunity for crews.

“Door Gunnery is an annual requirement and also a great collective training event for the Battalion,” said Lt. Col. Mark Slusar, commander of the 142nd. “In addition to the air crews, our fuel section sets up a Hot Forward Aerial Refueling Point, our ammo section is heavily engaged, and our aviation maintenance is also involved.”

Chief Warrant Officer Michelle Roxby, a UH-60 pilot for more than five years and an Iraq veteran, said each crew member plays a vital role in gunnery.

“During door gunnery, there are a lot of moving pieces and Soldiers moving in and out of the

aircraft more than normal” Roxby explained. “This training is for the guys in the back and it’s my job to position them for the greatest chance for success.”

According to Spc. Matt Cordaro, a crew chief aboard one of the helicopters engaged in door gunnery, there is a series of classroom lessons on aiming, wind resistance from the rotor wash and vibration factors while at the same time attempting to engage the target.

Cordaro is no stranger to door gunnery training. He is a former U. S. Marine aviation specialist with two tours to Iraq and a tour to Afghanistan.

“Learn, look and listen.” Cordaro said. “The hands on experience is great but book knowledge is just as important.”

After two days of aerial gunnery, pilots and crew members took to the ground, hiding and running through the wooded areas surrounding Fort A.P. Hill in hopes of evading capture and to be airlifted out of a hostile situation.

Another part of the 142nd’s Mission Essential Task List is Personal Recovery training.

“Personal recovery training is a collective group task and the 142nd took advantage of the Fort

A.P. Hill accommodations and staff work to get the landing zones and areas prepared.” said 1st Sgt. Christopher Klimek, assigned to Company B. “Aviation is a high risk operation and there is always the possibility of aviators being detained, missing or captured.”

Klimek spent the two days of personal recovery training briefing pilots and crew members in a classroom environment before

allowing crews to engage in the training.

“Outstanding!” Staff Sgt. Michael Roeding from Company B. said “When the training is done realistically, Soldiers get a lot more out of it and that’s good for moral and retention.” **gt**



Above, Aviation Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation, evacuate one of their UH-60 Blackhawks to get into the tree line during Personal Recovery training on April 19. The training is one of their essential tasks and they took the opportunity to conduct it after completing their annual aerial door gunnery training on UH-60 Blackhawks (opposite page photo).





# Base Defense Team Deploys to Kuwait

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



New York Army National Guard Soldiers of the Base Defense Operations Cell (BDOC) pose outside the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum, Camp Shelby, Miss. The Soldiers, who left here for Kuwait on March 17, are the first 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team troops to undertake an overseas mission since the brigade deployed to Afghanistan in 2008. The BDOC's overall mission will be to oversee other Soldiers and contractors providing force protection at bases in Kuwait. Other brigade Soldiers at Camp Shelby are preparing to deploy for overseas missions as well. Photo by Maj. Robert Romano, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

**CAMP SHELBY, Miss - Charged with knowledge, enthusiasm and determination, some New York Army National Guard Soldiers have deployed to Kuwait to help safeguard American service members and civilians there.**

Soldiers of the Base Defense Operations Cell (BDOC) left here on March 17, and are the first 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team troops to undertake an overseas mission since the brigade deployed to Afghanistan in 2008. Other brigade Soldiers are here preparing to deploy for overseas missions as well.

Numbering more than three dozen Soldiers, BDOC's overall mission will be to oversee other Soldiers and contractors providing force protection at bases in Kuwait -- an important job which will also involve other tasks, including emergency management, according to Lt. Col. Robert Bready, the officer-in-charge of BDOC.

"We're not manning the gates ourselves," said Bready, of Highland,

A great many American service members,

Defense Department employees and contractors live and work at Kuwait bases, he said.

"Risk is always present, no matter where we go," Bready said. "There are a lot of Americans at risk. You never know when a terrorist organization will turn their attention to Kuwait."

Composed mostly of Soldiers from the Brigade's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, BDOC also includes troops from the brigade's 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry and 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, along with the New York Army National Guard's 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade and 69th Infantry Battalion, Bready said. The Soldiers were chosen for their battle command staff experience, he added.

"Our Soldiers are experienced and trained in operations center work," Bready said.

One of those Soldiers is Staff Sgt. Kurt Miller of Whitesboro, who described the deployment as "an old mission for a new army," because it involves force protection for civilians as well.

Miller belongs to one of the BDOC's base

defense liaison teams, which assesses bases to discover possible vulnerabilities.

"We don't just deal with ourselves, we deal with everybody," he said.

Their training here included classes and on-line courses on base defense, safety, force protection and overseeing contracts, Miller said.

Sgt. 1st Class Marye Hollenbeck, of Stillwater said she enjoyed counter-IED and base defense training.

"It was a lot different than I thought it would be," she said. The Soldiers of BDOC will bring a spectrum of skills to the mission, she added.

He wasn't looking forward to the deployment until he became a member of the base defense liaison team, said Sgt. Mike O'Rourke, of Camillus. Doing vulnerability assessments involves driving from place to place, something he enjoys, he added.

"I was a colonel's driver, so I got used to it," he said. His cavalry scout training has given him special knowledge of tactics which will be an asset to the team, he added.

O'Rourke encouraged the Soldiers' families to be supportive.

"My wife is very supportive, and it makes going overseas much easier," he said.

In addition to deploying to Afghanistan with the brigade in 2008, Miller has deployed to Iraq, and has taken part in humanitarian and peacekeeping operations in Haiti and Bosnia. He's enthusiastic about the mission as well.

"I'm with a really cool group of guys and gals, and I'm looking forward to working with them," he said. "It's time. We're ready to move."

Hollenbeck agreed.

"We've done all the training we can do, and it's time to move on and put it to use," she said.

gt

*"I'm with a really cool group of guys and gals, and I'm looking forward to working with them. It's time. We're ready to move."*

-- Sgt. Kurt Miller, Base Defense Operations Cell





## New York Stability Team On Duty in Afghanistan

*SHARABOT, Afghanistan-- New York Army National Guard Col. Alden Saddlemire (center), a member of the New York Stability Transition Team, drinks chia(tea) with local leaders here during*

*a shura held March 21. Saddlemire is flanked by the local governor and police chief and was accompanied by Army Col. Gary Johnson, commander of the 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade.*

*Saddlemire and two other members of the New York STT are assigned to work with local officials and NATO and U.S. military units to build governance and police capacity. Courtesy photo.*

## 369th Commander Speaks At Former College

*Guard Times Staff*

**NEW YORK** - New York Army National Guard Col. Reginald Sanders, commander of New York City's 369th Sustainment Brigade, spoke to students at Holyoke Community College about his career in the military and the corporate world on April 20.

Sanders, who runs the New York Military Training Area Equipment Site at Fort Drum as his full-time job, retired from the Chrysler Corporation as an executive. He served with the 42nd Infantry Division in Iraq in 2005 and is also the former commander of the 153rd Troop Command.

He graduated from Holyoke Community College in 1981 and received a Distinguished Service Award from the college in 2001.

"Everyone in this room, no matter what you do in life, will have to have these leadership attributes: honor, integrity, courage, loyalty, respect, selfless service, duty," Sanders told the students. "Be creative, be innovative, have courage, be resilient, have confidence, have vision. Aim higher than dead center; let your teachers, mentors and coaches be part of your experience; when times get tough, believe in yourself," he added. **gt**



Col. Reginald Sanders speaks with Holyoke Community College student Silverina Reyes, a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan and an Army Reservist. Photo by Chris Yurko, Holyoke Community College.



# 42nd Headquarters Battalion Integrates into the Future

By Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Infantry Division



Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion Soldiers on the advance party get one of eight Command Post of the Future tents up at a training area near Fort Drum's Division Hill on April 18. The 42nd received the new equipment in preparation for a two-event training phase throughout the month of May in order to digitally transition to an integrated division. Photo by Col. Mark Leahy, 42nd Infantry Division.

**FORT DRUM – Working through western New York spring weather typical of snow, wind, rain and even high temperatures, more than 80 Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion (HHBN) Soldiers constructed a massive eight-tent Standard Integrated Command Post System, commonly referred to as the Command Post of the Future (CPOF) on the grounds near Fort Drum's Division Hill.**

The month-long, three-phased training event

ran from April 13 until May 12 and included a portion of Soldiers from every unit within the 42nd HHBN from across New York.

The training event started in an open field and culminated in every staff section having an individual shelter infrastructure known as the Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter, complete with audio and video communication capabilities via a desktop phone and audio routing station known as the Crew Access Unit.

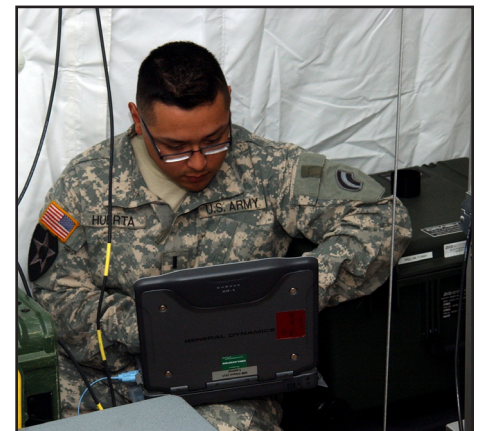


42nd Inf. Div. Soldiers spent two days unpacking and setting up lap-tops, monitors, printers and Command Post of the Future (CPOF) equipment along with miles of internet and phone lines as they prepared to conduct Phase 2 (CPOF) training. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Inf. Div.

According to Col. Mark Leahy, 42nd HHBN Senior Officer-in-Charge of the new equipment fielding, the training offered a unique opportunity to train junior enlisted Soldiers due to the level of experience that most of the senior enlisted Soldiers have had at a brigade level of the same set fielding.

“I am very impressed with the Non-Commissioned Officer leadership abilities of taking tiny slices of units and molding them into an effective team.”

Leahy also pointed out that 42nd Inf. Div. Soldiers are meeting expectations by being fully engaged in the new equipment training as well as taking part in the Homeland Response Force exercises also taking place in May.



1st Lt. Emanuel Huerta, 42nd Inf. Div. uses a laptop computer to configure switches for phone lines as the 42nd prepared to conduct Phase 2 (CPOF) training. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Inf. Div.

Leahy also went on to explain that the equipment is vital to each Soldier because it provides the training that is needed to make every Soldier proficient in their military occupational skills.

“The younger Soldiers are more technically inclined in their daily lives, both at home and at work,” he said. “As a result of that, they are bringing skills that will help the Army modernize.”

According to a military website, the CPOF system brings a radical new concept for future command environments, namely, the elimination of the fixed command post that will be replaced by battle commands on the move. **gt**



# Soldiers, Family Members See First Lady on Colbert Show

By Capt. Al Phillips, Guard Times Staff



Family members and Soldiers of the 727th Military Police Law and Order Detachment, the 369th Sustainment Brigade and 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment gather around Stephen Colbert, host of The Colbert Report after his conversation with first lady Michelle Obama, on the first anniversary promoting Joining Forces, a national initiative led by the first lady and Dr. Jill Biden that mobilizes all sectors of society to give our service members and their families the opportunities and support they have earned. The New York National Guard families and Soldiers were invited as special guests on the show. Photo courtesy of The Colbert Report.

**NEW YORK - First lady Michelle Obama joined Comedy Central's Stephen Colbert April 11 with members of the New York National Guard and families of deployed Soldiers to promote her efforts to support military families across the nation.**

The visit was part of Mrs. Obama's two-day tour celebrating the first anniversary of Joining Forces, an initiative shared with Dr. Jill Biden that recognizes, honors and supports military families. The show added their support with the invitation for New York National Guard Soldiers and family members of troops currently deployed to Afghanistan.

"This show tonight really gives me a peace of mind knowing that the first lady and the White House is supporting us and our families," said Pvt. Erik Grijalva, from Company A, 1st Bn., 69th Infantry.

Mrs. Obama also highlighted the tremendous value that servicemen and women and military families bring to the workplace. "Because this isn't just about benefiting these men and women, I mean these people are bringing in skills that actually improve the bottom line of companies," she said. "These are some of the most highly trained, highly skilled, disciplined people that we have in our society, the best this country has to offer."

Through collaborative efforts with Joining Forces, these groups have helped thousands of veterans and military families find jobs, improved educational opportunities for military children, supported our nation's wounded warriors and their caregivers, and honored our nation's fallen.

Ramona Rivera, wife of 727th Military Police Law and Order Detachment's Luis Rivera from

Poughkeepsie, who is currently serving in Afghanistan, said she is "very excited and pleased to see the first lady so committed to helping Soldiers and their Families before deployment, during deployments and after deployments."

"It really is neat to see how the White House and the Colbert Report invited New York National Guardsmen, family members of those in Afghanistan and veterans, because he is not used to being engaged with topics of support," said Richard Devine, husband of 727th Military Police Law and Order Detachment Sgt. Stephanie Devine from Saylorsburg, Pa. and a huge fan of the show. "It feels great not to be centrally located near a military base but (still) feel so connected, understood and know there are supporters out in the communities," he added. **gt**



# New York Army Guard Pilot Interviewed on Fox TV



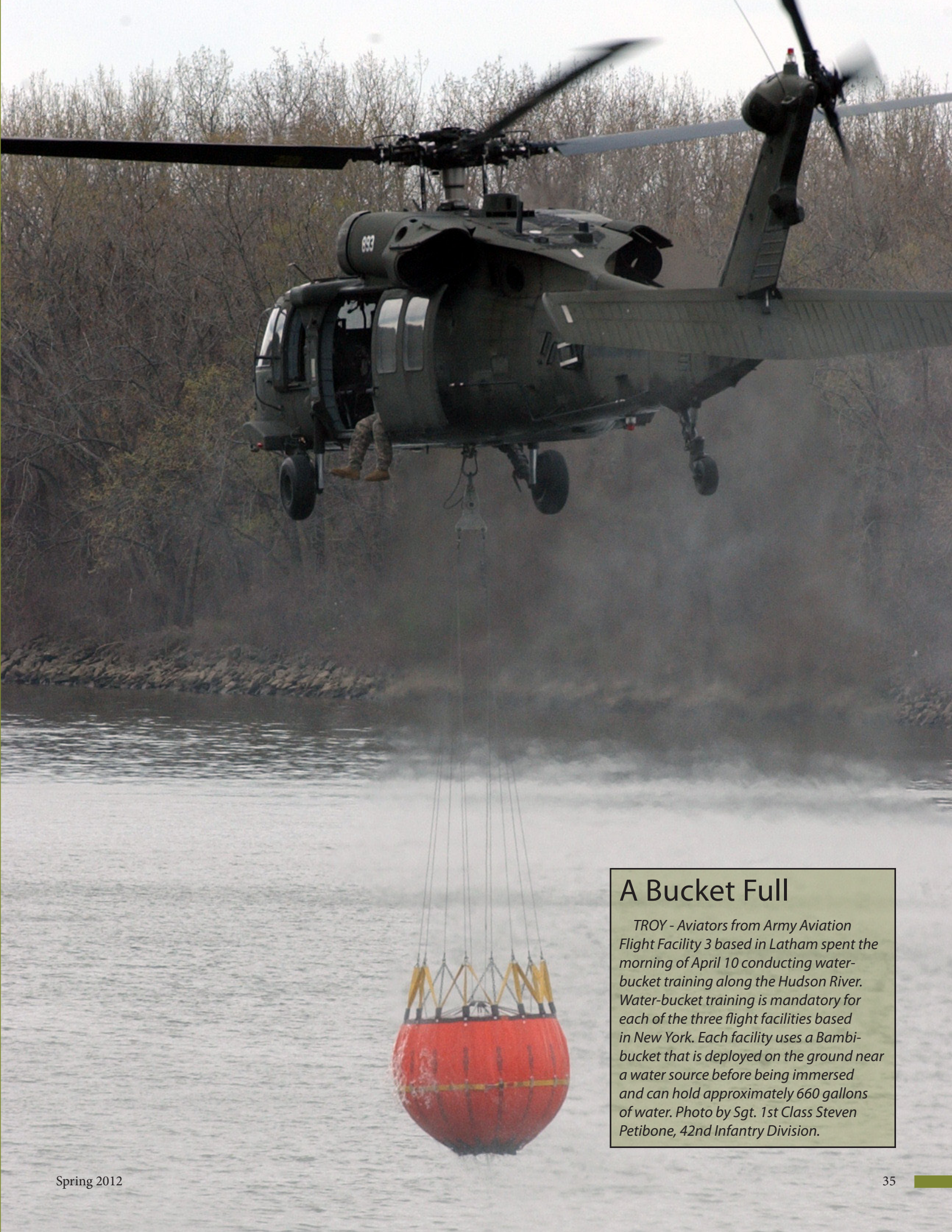
NEW YORK-- New York Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer Michelle Roxby, a helicopter pilot in Company B, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion speaks to Jenna Lee, anchor of the Fox News show "Happening Now" about jobs for veterans on Feb. 6. Roxby outlined the skills military members bring to employers and spoke about her own efforts to get a civilian job during the national news program. Photo by Capt. Alvin Phillips, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

# Aviation Brigade Headquarters Welcomes New Commander



LATHAM - 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade commander, Col. Mark Stryker, at right, presents the colors of the Aviation Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company to 1st Lt. Brandon Reynolds, from Catskill, signifying his assumption of command during the company change of command ceremony here Feb. 11. The outgoing company commander, Capt. Michael Squires, from Albany, had commanded the headquarters company for more than two years. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade.





## A Bucket Full

*TROY - Aviators from Army Aviation Flight Facility 3 based in Latham spent the morning of April 10 conducting water-bucket training along the Hudson River. Water-bucket training is mandatory for each of the three flight facilities based in New York. Each facility uses a Bambi-bucket that is deployed on the ground near a water source before being immersed and can hold approximately 660 gallons of water. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Infantry Division.*



# DID YOU KNOW?

## Retirement Points Accounting Statement

### NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD NATIONALGUARD.com

1. Anniversary Year Ending Date (Formerly Retirement Year End)
2. Basic Active Service Date (only for Soldiers in an Active Duty Status)
3. Indicates whether a Soldier has received a 20 year letter
4. Highest grade held, providing the reduction in grade was not for disciplinary reasons
5. Begin/End Date of retirement year
6. Military Membership Status Identifiers
7. Inactive Duty Training Points – Points earned by attending drills or performing Funeral Honors, ATP RMP, AFTP, AUTA
8. MEMbership Points – Points earned by being a member of a Reserve Component. Maximum of 15 per year.
9. Points earned from Army Correspondence Course Program or miscellaneous points as verified by the Commander
10. Points earned by performing Active Duty, ADSW (with or without pay), ADT, or Annual Training
11. Verification Status – “V” indicates valid documents have been presented and are on file to verify service and points. “B” indicates that no document is on file to verify the service/points. NOTE: Points and service will not be credited in last two columns if verification status is “B.”
12. Total of the points in IDT, MEM, ACCP, and AD columns
13. Total points earned for retired pay. Prior to 23 September 1996, the maximum IDT points (IDT, MEM, and ACCP) a Soldier could earn is 60. Between 23 September 1996 and 30 October 2000 the maximum was 75. After 30 October 2000 the maximum was increased to 90. Must have 50 points minimum for a good retirement year.
14. Total years/months/days of creditable service for retired pay for each period
15. Total years, months, and days of service for retired pay

**ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CURRENT ANNUAL STATEMENT**

SFC WORTHWHILE ITS  
000-69-0000  
HHD STARC (LOSS)  
330 OLD NISKAYUNA ROAD  
LATHAM, NY 12110-3514  
8BLOS-929

Date Prepared: 2005/04/15  
1 AYE: 04/06  
2 BASD:  
Notice Of Eligibility: NO 3  
Highest Grade Held: E05 4  
Output Reason: Request

This summary is a statement of your points earned towards retirement. You should review all entries and report any discrepancies to your unit clerk. Particular attention should be given to any period of service with a verification status (VS) of "B" because points are not credited until verified.

5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Begin Date (yyyymmdd)	End Date (yyyymmdd)	MMSI	IDT	MEM	ACCP Misc Pts	AD Pts	VS	Total Career Points	Total Pts For Ret Pay	Creditable Svc For Ret Pay
1989/01/26	1990/01/25	B1	34	15	0	0	V	49	49	00/00/00
1990/01/26	1990/02/15	B1	0	1	0	0	V	1	1	00/00/00
1990/02/16	1990/04/06	B5	0	--	0	0	V	--	--	--/--/--
1990/04/07	1991/04/06	B1	46	15	0	0	V	61	60	01/00/00
1991/04/07	1992/04/06	B1	50	15	20	30	V	115	90	01/00/00
1992/04/07	1993/04/06	B1	44	15	0	15	V	74	74	01/00/00
1993/04/07	1994/03/20	B1	48	14	0	15	V	77	75	00/11/14
1994/03/21	2002/04/06	H3	0	--	0	0	V	--	--	--/--/--
2002/04/07	2003/02/12	B1	42	--	0	15	V	--	--	--/--/--
2003/02/13	2003/04/06	B2	0	15	0	53	V	125	125	01/00/00
2003/04/07	2004/01/09	B2	0	--	0	278	V	--	--	--/--/--
2004/01/10	2004/04/06	B1	4	15	0	0	V	297	297	01/00/00
2004/04/07	2005/01/28	B1	32	12	0	0	V	44	44	00/09/22
<b>Grand Totals</b>								406	843	815 06/09/06 15

**6 MILITARY MEMBERSHIP STATUS IDENTIFIERS**

- A1 - United States Army Regular Service
- D4 - USAR Control Group (Reinforcement)
- H3 - Non-Military, Civilian Break
- E5 - Delayed Entry Program (Any Component)
- D1 - USAR Troop Program Unit
- B1 - Army National Guard Unit Member
- B5 - Inactive National Guard
- B2 - Army National Guard Mobilized Service

**NON-CREDITABLE PERIODS OF SERVICE**

From Date	To Date	Reason
1990/02/16	1990/04/06	Inactive National Guard
1994/03/21	2002/04/06	Non-Military, Civilian Break

As of this date, you have accumulated 815 points and 6 years 9 months 6 days creditable service toward eligibility for retired pay. You therefore require 14 more years of creditable service to reach 20 years. The following chart displays the different retirement options available to you. These values are based upon satisfactory service at your highest pay grade held.

- Need 50 points for a qualifying year  
- Must have 20 qualifying years to retire  
- Each day of Active Duty = 1 retirement point

To calculate retired pay go to <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/reserve/soldierservices/retirement/retirementcalc.asp>

NGB FORM 23A  
28 December 2002



# Guardsmen Reports to West Point for Class of 2016

By Capt. Al Phillips, 138th Public Affairs Detachment

WEST POINT - When The United States Military Academy graduates the class of 2016, New York Army National Guard Spc. Tyler Faulkner, will be one of those lieutenants.

It's something that Faulkner, a member of the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, never thought he'd have a chance to do.

"Growing up in Mastic Beach on Long Island, in a predominantly middle class neighborhood, I didn't always hear about or meet individuals from West Point," Faulkner said. "Nothing is out of reach for anybody. West Point is perceived for the elites, not a Joe Schmo from Mastic Beach. Well, not anymore. My father was doing back flips when I gave them the news," an enthusiastic Faulkner recounted.

West Point was something that was too prestigious and out of reach for somebody like him, he said.

However, last fall, all that changed when Brig. Gen. Michael Swezey, commander of the 53rd Troop Command and West Pointer himself, decided that more New York National Guard Soldiers should become cadets.

West Point reserves 85 slots annually for Guardsmen and Reservists, but in 2011 only 15 of those slots were filled, Swezey said.

"This is a missed opportunity for us to build our bench for the future," Swezey said. "Our National Guard Soldiers have the opportunity to make excellent cadets. As enlisted members they bring experiences that will be of value to them throughout their military career as future officers. Many of our young Soldiers are combat veterans which gives them an immediate "leg-up" as cadets."

So Swezey energized his staff to find good Soldiers who would make great cadets.

That word got down to Sgt. 1st Class Mike Frye, Faulkner's platoon sergeant in the 101st Signal, who told the private that he was going to apply for West Point.

"Spc. Faulkner has displayed the ability to make things look easy and has proven to be a highly motivated Soldier. He is flexible and has the makings of a problem solver. The army will be gaining a good officer." Frye said.

Once Faulkner was convinced that he could be a West Pointer, he wasted no time in arranging his school records, Army physical fitness



Spc. Tyler Faulkner, member of the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion holds his appointment to the United States Military Academy. After passing his physical fitness test and submitting his academic records with letters of recommendation, he was admitted. Photo Courtesy of Spc. Tyler Faulkner.

test scorecards and medical records to begin the process.

"A West Point application is no walk in the park but I knew I could get it done and eventually be successful," Faulkner said. "I believed in myself that I had what it took, like my Non-Commissioned Officer, Sgt. 1st Class (Mike) Frye would say, try and get it done," he said.

The process for Faulkner took about three months after gathering all of the required documents and recommendations.

Faulkner said he plans to receive an amazing education by majoring in either foreign affairs or civil engineering. The fact that West Point is located in New York, approximately only a two hour train ride home on furlough weekend, makes going to school there more attractive, he said.

"This is a life changing event, for the better, for Tyler. Although he may not think so during the middle of Plebe Summer. I hope that after

Tyler graduates, and serves out his active duty commitment to the Army, that he considers coming back to the New York Army National Guard as one of our officers," Swezey said.

Faulkner believes his hard work in high school, experience as a Soldier in the 101st and desire to succeed has made him a well-rounded person, just the type of person the Academy wants in its ranks.

Renowned as one of the world's preeminent leader development institutions, West Point's mission is to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country.

"I am extremely glad to have found out that this opportunity exists and to see my family so proud. I know my service is still needed because the war on terror is not over. And very proud to know, I can do this and I will do this," Faulkner said. **gt**



# Sweet Delivery

## Soldier, Girl Scouts Push Cookies for Deploying National Guard Soldiers

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

CAMP SHELBY, Miss. - It wasn't enough to feed an army, but it was enough to feed the New York Army National Guard's 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Under their "Operation: Cookie" charity, the Girl Scout Council of Suffolk County delivered 3,600 boxes of cookies to brigade Soldiers preparing to deploy overseas.

Brigade Soldier Sgt. 1st Class Walter Meshenberg organized the donation with his cousin Jonathan Chekin, who works for the Suffolk County Girl Scout Council.

"Operation: Cookie" allows people to buy boxes of Girl Scout cookies to be donated to members of U.S. Armed Forces.

In addition to his other duties, Meshenberg, of Mastic Beach, N.Y., is the brigade's safety NCO. While deployed to Iraq with the 3-142 Aviation Battalion in 2009, he worked through channels to obtain some special gear for the battalion's helicopter pilots and refuelers.

He welcomed the challenge of getting cookies for the troops, Meshenberg said.

"I'm pretty good at special projects," he said, smiling.

He began planning for the donation in mid-February, Meshenberg said. He took some good-natured teasing from fellow Soldiers, who said he couldn't pull it off, he added.

The cookies, stacked nearly six feet high on three shrink-wrapped pallets, were delivered via tractor trailer on Feb. 24, a Friday. Meshenberg and some other Soldiers immediately broke them down for distribution to the units of the brigade.

"That ended up being one box per Soldier," Meshenberg said. "By Monday we delivered most of the cookies to most of the Soldiers in the brigade." Once they got over their disbelief, the Soldiers thanked him.

"The battalions were saying, this is a joke, right?" Meshenberg recalled.

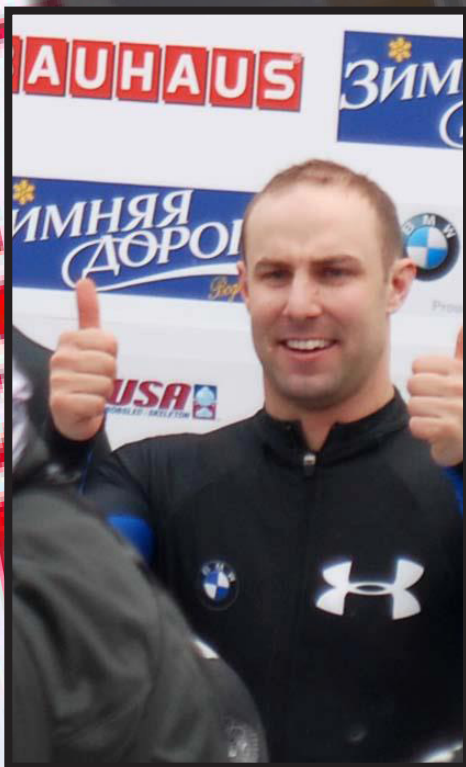
Meshenberg expressed thanks to the Girl Scouts and his cousin, calling the donation "phenomenal."

"Seeing the smiles of the Soldiers is important," Meshenberg said. "A box of cookies makes a difference." **gt**





# Guardsman and Bobsledder



*LAKE PLACID— New York Army National Guard Sgt. Nick Cunningham, a member of the United States Bobsled Team and the 1156th Engineer Company, sets off on a run during competition here February, 17-19.*

*Cunningham placed ninth in the two-man sled races out of 29 sleds and finished at the number 13 spot in the four-man sled race. Cunningham, a member of the Army National Guard for two years was on the last Winter Olympics Team and is expected to compete in the next Winter Olympics. Photo by Capt. Daniel Columb, 1156th Engineers.*



## 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Deploys Airmen to Combat

Story and photos by Senior Master Sgt. Wilie Gizara, 109th Airlift Wing.



Members from the 109th Airlift Wing, New York Air National Guard load personnel and supplies onto a C-130 Hercules aircraft on March 9, at the Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia. The 109th deployed 30 members to support Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

**STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Scotia - Thirty Airmen assigned to the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing departed Stratton Air National Guard Base March 9 for a 60-day deployment to Afghanistan.**

The Airmen and one C-130 Hercules aircraft assigned to the wing flew missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

While the 109th Airlift Wing is best known for operating LC-130 ski-equipped aircraft which supply National Science Foundation missions in Antarctica and Greenland, the wing also flies missions in support of ongoing contingency operations. 109th Airlift Wing members also regularly deploy to Air Expeditionary Wings operating in support of American and allied forces around the world.



Family and friends of the 109th Airlift Wing, New York Air National Guard say farewell to each other on March 9, at Stratton Air National Guard Base.



Christine Shapiro and her son say farewell to their family member from the 109th Airlift Wing, New York Air National Guard on March 9, at Stratton Air National Guard Base.





Thirteen members of the New York Air National Guard's 107th Airlift Wing departed Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station on February 25, for a three week intensive training event at Fort Bliss, Texas. Family members, friends and fellow Airmen gathered to bid them farewell as they boarded an aircraft to depart for their six month tour of duty. Photo by Senior Master Sgt., Ray Lloyd, 107th Airlift Wing

## 107th Security Forces Leave for Training

Story and photo by Senior Master Sgt., Ray Lloyd, 107th Airlift Wing

**NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION**  
Thirteen members of the New York Air National Guard's 107th Airlift Wing departed Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station on Feb. 25 for a six month Afghan deployment.

After leaving New York, the 107th Security Forces Squadron members spent three weeks at Fort Bliss, Texas honing their combat skills.

Family, friends and fellow Airmen gathered to bid them farewell as they boarded an aircraft to depart for their six month tour of duty.

*"This is another example of our air Guardsmen answering the "call to arms." We wish them Godspeed and look forward to welcoming them home upon their return.*

-- Col. Jim McCready, 107th Airlift Wing Commander.

Once forward deployed, the Airmen were assigned as part of a joint ground combat force protecting a key airfield in country. Their duties include securing the perimeter and entry control points, mobile and foot patrols and operating as part of the response force ensuring that air and associated ground operations originating from their area of responsibility continue unimpeded by hostile events or forces.

This veteran team is made up of eleven members that previously deployed overseas to Iraq.

All members have participated in numerous deployments stateside and overseas locations providing security for U.S. and coalition assets. Additionally, members of the team have participated in domestic operations, both for exercises and real world events, most recently in support of Hurricane Irene to assist fellow New Yorkers in their time of need.

Approximately 45 members of the 107th Airlift Wing were part of the 900 member task force the National Guard mobilized at the direction of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in

response to the hurricane.

"Whether it's a wartime contingency or a humanitarian effort, the men and women of the 107th Airlift Wing have an outstanding history of being ready and able when called upon," said Col. Jim McCready, 107th Airlift Wing Commander. This is another example of our Air Guardsmen answering the "call to arms." We wish them Godspeed and look forward to welcoming them home upon their return."

"These defenders exhibit the spirit of the New York Air National Guard in word and deed. Time and again they step up to meet the challenges without question, performing the duties without hesitation and achieving 100 percent success," said Senior Master Sergeant Mark Hajduk, Security Forces Manager.

"It is a tribute to those who have gone before them and a model for those that will follow. I commend them and their families for their service and sacrifice," he said. **gt**



# Airmen Participate in Bahrain Air Show

By Senior Airman Christopher S. Muncy, 106 Rescue Wing



VIP's tour past an F-16 during the Bahrain International Air Show on January 18. Airmen from the 106th Security Forces Squadron participated in this year's show, meeting with the King of Bahrain and providing security for the visiting U.S. aircraft. U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Paul Clementi.

**SAKHIR, Bahrain** - Twenty-six New York Air National Guard Security Forces members from the 106th and 107th Security Forces Squadrons provided security and support to the U.S. aircraft and crew taking part in the Bahrain International Air show on Jan. 19.

The twice-yearly show has become one of the most popular of its kind in the region, attracting over 20,000 trade visitors and 22,000 public spectators this year alone.

"This was a great partnering opportunity all around," said Maj. Celestino Martinez, Commander of the 106th SFS.

"We not only got to work with AFCENT on one of the largest air shows in the world, but we were able to work alongside our fellow brother and sister Defenders in the 107th Airlift Wing. All of the Defenders executed their mission flawlessly," Martinez said.

"It's a testament to these Air National Guard warriors that they were recognized by not only AFCENT's Security Forces, but by Col. Wakefield, the Director of Air National Guard Security Forces for outstanding professionalism. We are proud of all of them," Martinez added.

Force protection for the visiting aircraft involved 13 Security Force Squadron members

from the 106th Rescue Wing, who partnered with 13 Defenders from the 107th Security Forces Squadron during a two-week period. During this time, they maintained security over multiple Air Force and Navy aircraft, including C-17s, C-130s, SH-60 and HH-60 helicopters, F/A-18 Hornets, F-15 Eagles and a P-3 Orion.

In addition, SFS members provided escorts to dignitaries viewing the aircraft. A total of 84 aircraft took part in flying and static displays during the show, which included appearances by the Russian Knights, the Al Fursan UAE aerobatic team, and a formation flight involving a Gulf Air A330 flanked by Royal Bahraini Air Force F-5s and F-16s.

"The [VIPs] were extremely friendly. We gave them guided tours around and inside the aircraft, while they were extremely friendly towards us," said Staff Sgt. Paul Clementi, a 106 Security Forces member who took part in the event.

"There was definitely a lot of respect shown to us," he said.

At the start of the event, the King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa met and shook hands with the Security Force members. "As hard as we worked, we also enjoyed the mission," said

Tech. Sgt. Godfrey Gencarelli. "Members from both units worked seamlessly together as one."

The U.S. military has maintained a strategic partnership with Bahrain for the last 60 years due to its vital location as a hub between Asia, Africa and the European continent. **gt**



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*WHEELER SACK ARMY AIRFIELD, Fort Drum - New York Air National Guard Senior Master Sgt. Jeffery Drake (right) and Master Sgt. Patrick Piersall, members of the 174th Fighter Wing, walk alongside an MQ-9 Reaper here Feb. 14. The aircraft was being towed into the 174th Fighter Wing's new shelter at the airfield. Photo by Tech Sgt. Ricky Best, 174th Fighter Wing.*



# Airmen Lend Hands to Help Wounded Warrior

Story and photo by Senior Airman Christopher S. Muncy

NEW YORK - Security Forces Airmen from the 106th Rescue Wing traveled to New York City to provide support to the Wounded Warrior Project on April 16, 2012.

The Wounded Warrior Project alerted their volunteer network looking for help for Angelo Bencivenga. Bencivenga, a previously homeless Iraq War veteran, lost the use of his legs while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Bencivenga earned a Bronze Star, three Purple Hearts and an Iraq Campaign Medal during his time overseas. The Wounded Warrior Project found Bencivenga an apartment in the city, but there was a need for furnishings to meet Bencivenga's unique needs.

Major Celestino J. Martinez, Commander of the 106th SFS put forth the request to his "Defenders," many of whom who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Airmen took a collection of donated furniture from within their

Squadron and met the Wounded Warrior staff directly to donate the items.

"I am so proud of these Airmen," Martinez said, "who without hesitation did not fail to recognize the importance of the bonds that are forged and shared with all of our nation's warriors. They saw a wounded warrior in need and responded--a day that won't be forgotten by them and everyone else who was there, especially the warrior in need of assistance."

Representatives from the 106 SFS included Master Sergeant Dominic DeLorenzo, Master Sergeant Charles Knapp, Staff Sergeant Brian Hammel and Staff Sergeant Keith Mangels, in addition to the Wounded Warrior Project personnel who assisted with moving Bencivenga in.

The Wounded Warrior Project is a nonprofit organization whose main objective is to "honor and empower wounded warriors" of the various



Members of the 106th Rescue Wing Security Forces Squadron help move in furniture to an apartment bought through the Wounded Warrior Project for an Iraq War veteran.

military branches, and aims to raise awareness and the public's support for the needs of those service members. **gt**

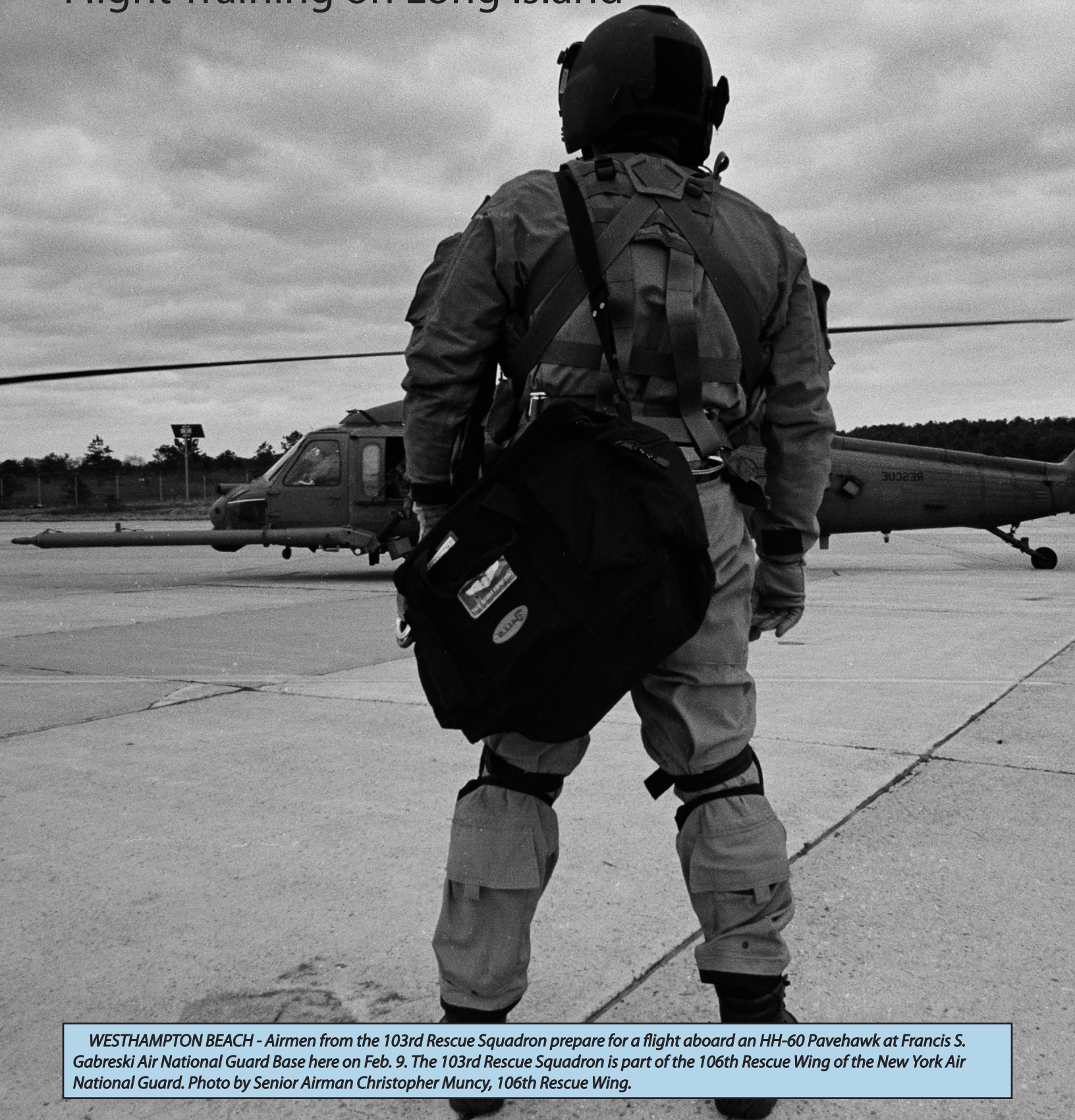
## Air Combat Command Leader Visits Hancock Field



SYRACUSE - U. S. Air Force Gen. Mike Hostage, Air Combat Command (ACC) Commander, speaks to the men and women of the 174th Fighter Wing and other New York Air National Guard units at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base in the main hanger on Feb. 9. The visit by the ACC Commander was an opportunity to meet with the unit members on a more basic level. Hostage spoke on the relevance of the MQ-9 Reaper Remotely Piloted Aircraft mission at Hancock Field. All base personnel were invited and encouraged by Hostage to ask him questions openly. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeremy M. Call, 174th Fighter Wing.



# Flight Training on Long Island



*WESTHAMPTON BEACH - Airmen from the 103rd Rescue Squadron prepare for a flight aboard an HH-60 Pavehawk at Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base here on Feb. 9. The 103rd Rescue Squadron is part of the 106th Rescue Wing of the New York Air National Guard. Photo by Senior Airman Christopher Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.*





Col. Greg A. Semmel addresses members of Hancock Field Air National Guard Base as the newly selected 174th Fighter Wing Commander on Feb. 4. Semmel served as Assistant Vice Commander and Operations Group Commander for the 174th Fighter Wing, as well as an operational test/evaluation pilot at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. and an instructor at the U.S. Air Force Fighter Weapons School, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeremy M. Call, 174th Fighter Wing.

## New Commander At Hancock Field

By Maj. Jeffrey D. Brown, 174th Fighter Wing

**HANCOCK FIELD AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Syracuse - The 174th Fighter Wing said farewell to Col. Kevin Bradley and welcomed Col. Greg A. Semmel as the new commander on March 4.**

Bradley, who spent 20 years in the wing, including four as commander, was promoted to Director of Operations in the New York Air National Guard Headquarters in Latham.

"It has been my honor to lead Hancock Field for the past four years," Bradley said during the ceremony where he turned over command of the 174th Fighter Wing to Col. Greg Semmel. "It has been an extraordinarily busy time for Hancock Field."

Semmel had been serving as the Assistant Vice Commander of the 174th Fighter Wing since March 2011. In that position he was instrumental in completing the wing's transition from flying manned F-16s to operating remotely piloted MQ-9 aircraft and training maintainers and MQ-9 pilots and sensor operators.

Among other assignments, Semmel previously served as the Operations Group Commander for the 174th Fighter Wing, as well as

an operational test/evaluation pilot at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida and an instructor at the U.S. Air Force Fighter Weapons School at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.

Semmel graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1986, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. He is a command pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours, including over 125 combat missions in various operations to include Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Southern Watch, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Noble Eagle.

His awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

During Bradley's tenure as Commander of the 174th Fighter Wing and Installation Commander of Hancock Field, he oversaw a number of significant milestones:

- Conversion of 174th Fighter Wing from F-16 Fighting Falcon to MQ-9 Reaper
- Stand-up of MQ-9 Field Training Detachment, the only MQ-9 formal maintenance

schoolhouse in the U.S. Air Force

- Stand-up of MQ-9 24/7 combat operations and the 39th Combat Air Patrol

- Stand-up of MQ-9 Formal Training Unit, which is the only MQ-9 aircrew training facility in the Air National Guard, in less than six months

- Stand-up of MQ-9 launch and recovery facility at Fort Drum

- Activation of 222nd Command and Control Squadron which supports U.S. space operations.

Despite all these achievements, Bradley acknowledged that there are challenges ahead.

"Our top priority moving forward is to obtain all necessary approvals to fly the MQ-9 off of Hancock Field in Syracuse."

Bradley said the most important job of a commander is to take care of your people and their families. "You are only as good as your people. I have been blessed to work with some of the most outstanding Airmen in the Air National Guard."

Bradley concluded by saying "I am humbled, honored and grateful to have been your commander." **gt**



# New Leadership for Eastern Air Defense Sector

Story and photo by Tim Jones, EADS

ROME - Col. Dawne L. Deskins formally became the first female commander of the Eastern Air Defense Sector (EADS) Feb. 28 during a ceremony here at the Air Force Research Laboratory.

Deskins received command before a crowd of more than 200 family, friends and fellow members of the Air and Army National Guard. The ceremony was presided over by Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III, Commander of Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) Region and 1st Air Force. Deskins took command from Col. John P. Bartholf, who is retiring.

Deskins previously served as Vice Commander for the last four years.

"I'm proud to become the leader of such an outstanding group of Airmen and civilians and it is a personal honor for

me to follow Col. Bartholf, who has been a great commander and better friend," Deskins said. "The future holds many challenges, but I am confident the men and women of EADS will continue to successfully conduct our vital around-the-clock mission of defending the eastern U.S. airspace."

Staffed by active-duty New York Air National Guardsmen and a Canadian Forces detachment, the unit supports the NORAD integrated warning and attack assessment missions and the U.S. Northern Command's homeland defense mission.

EADS is responsible for air sovereignty and counter-air operations over the eastern United States and directs a variety of assets to defend one million square miles of land and sea. **gt**



Col. Dawne L. Deskins receives the Eastern Air Defense Sector guidon from Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke, Commander, Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region Feb. 28. Photo by Maj. Joakim Hansson, Eastern Air Defense Sector.

## Airman is 106th's First Female Weapons Instructor

By Senior Airman Christopher Muncy



Senior Airman Tara Langella is a recent graduate of the Air Force CATM Program. Photo by Senior Airman Christopher Muncy.

WESTHAMPTON BEACH - New York Air National Guard Senior Airman Tara Langella, a Shoreham resident and Afghanistan veteran, is the 106th Rescue Wing's first female Combat Arms Training and Maintenance (CATM) instructor, but that's not a fact she wants emphasized.

As a March 7 graduate from the CATM Academy, her job is to teach other airmen how to properly handle, clean and fire their weapons.

Langella, an Air National Guard member since 2008, said she doesn't want to be known as the first female CATM instructor on base; she wants to be known as a competent, capable instructor who will show the men and women of the 106th how to fight and win on the battlefield.

"My mentality on this is that I just want

to do my job and go home like anybody else" Langella said. "I don't like the attention [being the first female instructor brings] just because I feel like everyone else."

The Air Force CATM program ensures that Airmen are knowledgeable in the handling and care of weapons.

Langella had to learn how to clean, fire, and clear almost every firearm in the Air Force's inventory, including the M9 pistol, the M4 and M16 rifles, as well as the M249 machine gun and M203 grenade launcher.

"Langella is the epitome of what a Security Force Airman stands for and her professionalism stands out amongst her peers," said Major Celestino J. Martinez, Commander of the 106th Security Forces Squadron. **gt**



# New York Guard



Members of the New York Guard Honor Guard prepare to fire a salute volley in honor of Pvt. William Logan Gwinn, a New York National Guard veteran of the Spanish American War and postal employee on board the RMS Titanic. Gwinn died at his post 100 years ago during the Titanic's tragic sinking April 14, 1912.

## Guard Honors Former Soldier, Titanic Hero

*Story and photo by Warrant Officer Ubon Mendie, New York Guard*

**MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY, Greenburgh**  
-- Members of the New York Guard's 88th Brigade Honor Guard memorialized a former Soldier lost a century ago aboard the RMS Titanic here April 14.

The memorial commemorated the service of a New York Guard member who perished while serving in his postal duties on the doomed ship 100 years ago.

The troops joined two descendents and a postal service representative with local officials to remember the tragedy of the Titanic and the devotion of duty of New York Guard Pvt. William Logan Gwinn.

Gwinn, 37, was a veteran of the Spanish American War with the New York National Guard's Company D, 71st U.S. Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The 71st saw action in Cuba at the Battle of San Juan Hill on July 1, 1898.

He had family in Asbury Park, N.J. and was originally assigned to postal duties in England aboard the Philadelphia. When he received word of his wife's illness, he transferred duties to the Titanic to return to the states sooner.

Gwinn was last seen on C Deck of the Titanic with fellow postal employees, attempting to secure the registered mail on board the sinking ship on April 15, 1912.

"RMS Titanic stands for Royal Mail Steamer. It was a mail boat," said John Dirzius, from the American Postal Workers Union at the ceremony.

"When the iceberg hit ... the first thing they did was to go down to the mail room, which was on the bottom deck, and they began to haul mail sacks." Three American and two British mail clerks died in the disaster, and none of their remains were recovered.

The gravestone for Gwinn was placed at Mount Hope to honor his service in a plot that honors New York veterans from the Spanish American War. **gt**



# N.Y. Guard Commander Honored



NEW YORK - New York Guard Commander Maj. Gen. Fergal Foley is awarded the Old Guard of New York City Medal for long outstanding service to the state of New York at the annual Old Guard Ball, here Jan. 28.

During his acceptance speech, Foley explained the mission of the New York Guard and added his vision for the state volunteer force, which augments and supports the New York National Guard as required with manpower and skills. In attendance were various military representatives, both retired and active.

## Search and Rescue: NYG Can Do

Story by Maj. Dave Greenwood, 10th Brigade

GUILDERLAND RANGE – Members of the 2nd Emergency Response Battalion of the 10th Brigade, conducted a five-day Search & Rescue (SAR) exercise here September 24-28, 2011.

Prior to the exercise, a Command Post was established for accepting and processing troops. Next, medical and training briefs were presented along with a refresher on land navigation, water safety, rescue procedures and basic command post operations. Additional training reinforced basic SAR skills, DEC procedures, Wide Area Search procedures and Flood Plain procedures basic rope procedures, hardware /hauling methods and Wilderness First Aid.

Members of the New York Guard focused on the essential search and rescue skill sets based on the “SAR Triangle.” The SAR triangle includes three basic and essential elements of the SAR skill set - - Search, Survival and Rescue.

At the initial training site, each SAR team prepared for a wilderness search. A Crew Boss directed the team and ensured each position on the search line. This station explained Search Assessment Markings, similar to those used during the recent flood response missions following Hur-



### Tribute for the Band Leader

CAMP SMITH - Maryland Defense Force Band Officer Maj. Jari Villanueva (right) presents a token of memorabilia to New York Guard Band Officer Maj. Douglas Hedwig.

Villanueva traveled to New York to honor Hedwig, who is retiring this year.

Hedwig was instrumental in forming the Maryland Defense Force Band, sharing knowledge from his experiences in the all volunteer New York Guard. Photo by Warrant Officer Ubon Mendie, New York Guard.

ricane Irene.

Survival skill sets included shelter building from expedient materials in any weather or season, fire building without matches and water purification. Signaling was another skill demonstrated in the survival station. Signaling is key to alerting search aircraft, ground teams or medical assets of the team's location.

The simulated rescue scenario required SAR members to stabilize the role-playing victim and the entire team evacuated the casualty to a safe location for medical evacuation. A safe landing zone was identified, and the demonstration ended with a New York State Police helicopter arriving for a simulated evacuation.

New York Guard volunteers who attend the Search and Rescue school meet all the state and national standards for their role and the team is identified by the National Association of Search and Rescue and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for missions. **gt**



# New York Naval Militia



*VERPLANCK - Chief Mike Porter of Forestport and Petty Officer Bharath Bhola of Cohoes conduct pre-operational checks on Patrol Boat 400 at the Verplanck docking area prior to a Joint Task Force Empire Shield security mission at the Indian Point Energy Center. Photo by Cmdr. Don McKnight, New York Naval Militia*



## Naval Militiamen Get Top Awards



*MASSAPEQUA PARK - Petty Officer 1st Class Bill Towart of Smithtown (photo left) receives the 2011 Colonel Gouverneur Morris Award. Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York authorized Capt. Mark Woolley, New York Naval Militia Deputy Commander for Operations to present the award to Towart. The award is presented annually to a member of the New York State Organized Militia who has distinguished him/herself through outstanding support to the New York National Guard and local community or the State of New York.*

*In March 2010, he coordinated the shipment of more than 80 pallets of food, medical supplies, clothing, and other materials from Long Island to Haiti for the Suffolk County Government Haiti Relief program. The estimated value of these contributions to the relief efforts was \$82,300. (Photo right) Capt. Mark Woolley presents the New York State Military Commendation Medal to Cmdr. Bill Kempner of Roslyn Heights. Kempner is the Joint Task Force 2 liaison officer for the Naval Militia. He was recognized for his planning and development of Exercise Bonacker, the joint training exercise between the Naval Militia and 106th Rescue Wing in August, 2011. Photos by Cmdr. Don McKnight, New York Naval Militia.*



## High-Speed Ops

*VERPLANCK - New York Naval Militia member Steelworker 1st Class Jeff Alexander, from Berne, gets things 'ship-shape' by storing the mooring line on board and securing the boat's docking fender used on Patrol Boat 400 while preparing to conduct coxswain qualifications on the Hudson River at Verplanck on April 17. Photo by Cmdr. Don McKnight, New York Naval Militia.*



# GUARD NEWS BRIEFS AND PHOTOS

## Senator Meets 106th Rescue Wing Airmen



WESTHAMPTON BEACH -Senator Kirsten Gillibrand speaks with members of the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing during a visit to Gabreski Air National Guard Base on March 2. Gillibrand and Holly Petraeus, head of the Office of Servicemember Affairs for the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau met with Airmen here for an hour to discuss military budget cutbacks and service member financial issues. Rep.Tim Bishop also participated in the visit. Photo by Senior Airman Christopher S. Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.

## Cardinal Speaks with 105th Airlift Wing Members



STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE - Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York greets guests and members of the 105th Airlift Wing military community at the conclusion of the 7th Annual Prayer Breakfast. Dolan, the Archbishop of New York, was the featured speaker at Stewart Air National Guard Base's event on March 2. Dolan had breakfast with Air National Guard, Marine Corps Reserve and civilian support personnel as well as their family members. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael O'Halloran, 105th Airlift Wing



# Guardsmen Compete at National Shooting Match

Guard Times Staff

CAMP ROBINSON, Ark. - Eight Western New York Army and Air National Guardsmen represented New York at the annual Winston P. Wilson national shooting competition in Arkansas the last week in April.

The Airmen from the 107th Airlift Wing at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station and the Soldiers from the 152nd Engineer Company, headquartered at the Connecticut Street Armory in Buffalo, were among 400 participants in the annual Skill at Arms Match held at Camp Robinson in Little Rock from April 22 to 28. Contestants came from 44 states and two U.S. territories.

"There is no finer format for evaluating professional ability with small arms than training events like this," said Air National Guard Master Sgt. Edward Stefik, the leader of the New York National Guard team.

"This event has a remarkable history and fosters a tremendous spirit of competition and camaraderie across the nation," he added.

The Western New Yorkers didn't take home any major trophies from the competition but still put in a respectable performance, Stefik said.

Stefik, from Lewiston, finished at fourth place in the Combat Frontal Assault Match and

8th in the Combat Reflexive Fire competition. Air Guard Tech Sergeant Warren Jones, from Rochester, finished in the top 10 percent of competitors in the Combat Pistol matches.

Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Brian Aldinger, from Lancaster and Army National Guard Sgt. Timothy Jacobson, from Great Valley, who were shooting in competition for the first time, finished in the top percentage for novice shooters, Stefik said.

"All the New York team members have deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq so they understand the importance of combat-oriented training like this," Stefik said. "There were 16 individual and team shooting competitions so the week-long event was both physically and mentally demanding," he added.

Other members of the team were Army National Guard Sgt. Jon Roe, Cheektowaga; Air National Guard Tech Sgt. Christopher Doherty, from Tonawanda; Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Michael Kapela, from Buffalo, and Army National Guard Staff Sgt. William Snyder, from Strikersville.

The Winston P. Wilson Championship Matches are named after the Deputy Chief of the National Guard Bureau who established the annual marksmanship competition in 1971.



Eight Army and Air National Guardsmen from Western New York competed at the annual Winston P. Wilson National shooting competition in Arkansas the last week in April. Airmen from the 107th Airlift Wing and Soldiers from the 152nd Engineer Company were among 400 participants in the annual Skill at Arms Match held at Camp Robinson in Little Rock from April 22 to 28.

The matches are designed to train and test shooters on rifles, pistols, machine guns and combined arms discipline. **gt**

# Buffalo Bills Player Participates in Freedom Salute

*BUFFALO - Buffalo Bills tight end Scott Chandler poses with New York Army National Guard Soldiers during a Freedom Salute event for the 105th Military Police Company held April 22, at the Connecticut Avenue Armory here. The Soldiers are, from left, Staff Sgt. Joseph Belmonte, a member of the 105th Military Police Company from Rochester; Sgt. Angie Mariano, a member of Company B, 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion from the Bronx; and Staff Sgt. Amanda Wheeler, a member of the 105th Military Police Company from East Aurora. The 105th Soldiers were recognized for service in Iraq in 2011. Photo courtesy of Buffalo Bills.*





# National Guard WWII Records Now Online

By Eric Durr, Public Affairs Director

SARATOGA SPRINGS - When 28,969 New York National Guard Soldiers mobilized in the Fall of 1940 as the United States prepared for war, clerks filled out six- by- four inch cards on each man. Now, thanks to a team of 15 volunteers, those records--listing names, serial number, home, and unit, and later on annotated with hand written notes on whether or not the Soldier was killed or wounded--are available on line from the New York State Military Museum.

"I'll bet you that we are the only state that has such an item on the web," said retired Army Col. John Kennedy, one of the volunteers who turned the index card information into digital data.

Kennedy, a World War II veteran himself, and the other volunteers spent a year keying the information on the cards into Microsoft Excel spreadsheets. The digital information is now available on the museum's website and can be downloaded and searched. The museum put this information on-line so it can be used by people researching their family history or the history of World War II and New York's role in it, said Jim Gandy, the assistant librarian and archivist at the museum.

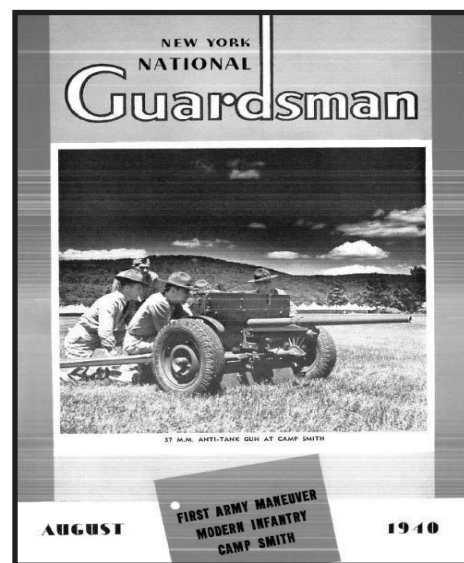
Not only can you research a specific individual but you can also research who enlisted from what town; where men in the New York National Guard were born, or how old the average age of the men was. We indexed most data points on the cards including: date, city, state and country of birth; ID number; hometown, unit; rank; as well as enlistment and separation dates", Gandy explained. The information has already helped one veteran, John A Donnelly, age 90, a Washington State resident who joined the New York National Guard's 156th Field Artillery in 1940 and was discharged in 1945.

Donnelly's family had been trying to find proof of his World War II service so the Veterans Administration would help provide medical care for him. They had reached out to the National Guard Bureau for help. When National Guard historian Major Tom Mehl learned about the database from an Associated Press newspaper story, he checked it right away. He immediately saw that Donnelly was listed on the database and within a half hour he had

a PDF copy of the veteran's data card to supply to the family. His family was extremely grateful for the help, his step-daughter Marci Nesssaid in an e-mail. "How amazing that [the museum] had just digitized their records! Is there someone we can contact to let them know how important being able to find these records can be, to the men who are entitled to the benefits befitting their service to their country?" she said.

In September 1940- a few months after France was overrun and defeated by the German Army - the United States had an Army of 269,000 men. The German Army, meanwhile, had 2.5 million. President Franklin D. Roosevelt convinced Congress to call up the 300,000 men in the National Guard for a year to double the size of the nation's Army and prepare for any German threat. On Oct. 15, 1940 the 28,969 members of the New York National Guard, including the entire 27th Division, reported to their armories to begin processing for a year of active duty. For the 90-year old Kennedy, who keyed in the data on 6,500 Soldiers, the task brought back memories of his own World War II service. A Cohoes native, he joined the Army Reserve in 1940, transferred to the New York National Guard in 1941 and went to war in Europe in 1944 with the 8th Infantry Division. He knew many of the 108 Soldiers on the list who cited Cohoes as their hometown because he had grown up with them, Kennedy said.

Kennedy, who retired from the New York Army National Guard in 1981 volunteered to help with Gandy's project because he's made the history of World War II his hobby.



Bruce Scott, an Albany resident and another volunteer who keyed in the data, got involved in the project because he wanted to do something from his home that would be useful to others. Scott, Kennedy and the other volunteers were critical, Gandy said. Without their work this kind of project would be impossible for the museum to carry out. **gt**

(Last name)	Russell, Edward W. Jr.	(Date of Birth)	6/18/15
(Other names)		(Place of Birth)	Allendale, NJ
(Home address)	250 Riverside Drive, N.Y.C.		
(Change of address)	424 E. 52nd St., NYC.		
(Enlisted in)	Co. K, 107th Infantry	(No. Yrs.)	3
(How separated from active service)	Hon. Dis.	(Date enlistment)	3/3/37
(Reenlisted in)	Co. K, 107th Infantry	(Date separation)	3/2/40
(How separated from active service)	Tr. to Co. B, 10th Inf. SO. 205, Hq. NYNG	(Date re-enl.)	3/6/40
(Reenlisted in)	25th INF. NATIONAL GUARD OF U. S.	(Date separation)	10/3/40
(How separated from active service)	DIED (of battle wounds) 21 May 45 (Pacific Area)	(Date re-enl.)	
(United States service)	Form AGO-17-E-1 4-17-37-100,000 (11-7873)	(Date separation)	

(Continue on back)



# 'Living Landmark' Recognized During Black History Month

## 'Buffalo Soldier of the Year' Given to Former National Guardsman

Story courtesy of Jerry Donnellan, Rockland County Veterans Service Agency Director

NEW CITY – Former New York Army National Guard Soldier and World War II veteran Alfred “Al” Bristol received the Buffalo Soldier Association of West Point Award here Feb. 16, surrounded by fellow veterans, Rockland County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef and New York State Senator David Carlucci.

“On behalf of all Rockland residents, thank you to Alfred Bristol for his brave and dedicated service to our country during World War II,” Vanderhoef said. “We are proud to honor him with this year’s prestigious Buffalo Soldier Award.”

Bristol, a Piermont, N.Y. resident who recently celebrated his 100th birthday, enlisted in the segregated New York Army National Guard in 1930. He belonged to the “Harlem Hellfighters,” the nickname for the 369th Infantry Regiment, based in Harlem. The unit mobilized in January 1941 in the year leading up to Pearl Harbor and reorganized as the 369th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gun Battalion. His unit was among the first to deploy to Hawaii and was sent to the Pacific during World War II. It participated in the 10th Army Division’s invasion and occupation of Okinawa, a Japanese stronghold, in 1945.

Later that year, Bristol was recalled to the U.S., completed Officer Candidate School and commissioned as a second lieutenant, a rarity for blacks at the time.

He left military service in 1946 and has been a supporter of veteran organizations ever since.

His military awards and decorations include the Army Good Conduct Medal; the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster; the National Defense Service Medal; the American Campaign Medal; the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with battle star for the Okinawa Campaign; the World War II Victory Medal and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with bronze longevity hourglass device and bronze mobilization device.

The Buffalo Soldier Award has been presented annually to an outstanding African-American veteran who resides in Rockland County since 1993. It is named after the Soldiers of the 10th Cavalry Regiment, nicknamed “Buffalo



Alfred Bristol displays his plaque and certificate as he stands with fellow veterans and New York State Senator David Carlucci. Courtesy photo.

Soldiers” after Native Americans spread the legend of the Soldiers’ uncommon valor, likening them to buffalo because they suffered wound after wound yet did not die.

A panel of previous honorees helped choose Bristol for this year’s Buffalo Soldier Award.

Buffalo Soldiers earned their fighting reputation in the Kansas Frontier and were never defeated in 23 years of service in the Indian Wars, which lasted from 1867 to 1890. The 10th Cavalry also served in the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II and Vietnam.

Bristol said he didn’t think he would ever see the day when the nation’s commander-in-chief would be an African-American. He recalled tough times for blacks when he was in the Army.

“Back in the days when I served, and I served in the South, I don’t have any happy experiences back in those days,” Bristol said. “But it got better as we moved along. I’m glad I was there to give a hand in helping it become what it is today.”

When asked what he credits his success to,

Bristol remarked that it is all about taking time to know people, to listen and to maintain a love of staying involved in the community, whether at home or in the workplace. **gt**



Lt. Alfred Bristol as a commissioned 2nd Lieutenant circa 1945. Photo courtesy of Alfred Bristol.



