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



FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Your Service Matters and Readiness is our Job

It's an honor and a privilege to command the 42nd Infantry Division during this challenging and historic time as the division celebrated its rich and decorated history serving our New York Army National Guard and the United States Army for over 100 years.

In August 1917 the 42nd Division was formed in Garden City, Long Island with National Guard units from 26 different states. This inspired Douglas MacArthur, then the Division Chief of Staff to remark, "The division stretches like a rainbow from one end of America to the other." The Rainbow Division was born.

By the end of World War I, after fighting in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the largest battle in the history of the U.S. Army, the 42nd Division had more days in combat than any other American division.

The 42nd was reactivated again in World War II. By 1945, the 42nd had captured over 130,000 German prisoners while fighting in three major campaigns and culminated by liberating the infamous Dachau concentration camp, freeing over 30,000 victims of the Nazi Holocaust.

In 2004, the 42nd became the first National Guard Division to command and control Army forces in combat since the Korean War. Task Force Liberty commanded four combat elements; two active and two Army National Guard brigades in North Central Iraq.

At home, Soldiers of the 42nd Division responded to the 9/11 attacks in New York City. Rainbow Soldiers provided security at the World Trade Center, New York City bridges and tunnels, and the U.S. Military Academy.

The division and its subordinate brigades in New York would go on to also respond to Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Irene, Superstorm Sandy and Hurricane Maria.

Today, the 42nd is one of 18 division headquarters with combat brigades in New York, New Jersey, Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Our mission is to man, equip and train to provide mission command for unified land

operations in support of federal, state and homeland security missions.

As the Army's primary tactical

warfighting headquarters, divisions must be commanding multiple brigades in a full spectrum, decisive action environment.

For domestic operations the division must provide both a dual status command and staff structure and serve as the headquarters for the Homeland Response Force in response to a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear related emergency.

In the winter of 2020 the 42nd is scheduled to again mobilize as a complete headquarters. Selected to command U.S. Army forces across the Middle East, the division will be the senior element in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

This is a strategically important, complex mission commanding Active Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve brigades operating across the Middle East. This deployment is a great opportunity for Soldiers and officers to be part of a joint, multinational mission. The division is actively seeking volunteers in multiple MOSs to join the Rainbow Division team.

All of this is not possible without our Soldiers and their families.

I want to thank you personally for serving your state and nation, and being part of the strongest military in the world. We all have different reasons why we joined the military, but the fact is you are part of less than one percent of the U.S. population that serves in the military and that makes you a unique American.

You are part of an Army National Guard force that has been on the job since 1636.

Never forget we work for the American people and must have their trust and confidence in order to be successful. Never forget that Soldiers are the Army's most valuable resource and they deserve



Maj. Gen. Steven Ferrari, commander of the 42nd Infantry Division, pins new rank on Staff Sgt. Omar Mitchell, assigned to the division headquarters and support company, during a promotion ceremony March 23, 2019 at Fort Drum, N.Y. Photo by Sgt. Andrew Winchell, 42nd Infantry Division.



Maj. Gen. Steven Ferrari

and expect leaders of character, competence and commitment.

Being good stewards of the Army profession is our duty. Our center of gravity is an environment of absolute trust and confidence, maintained by upholding the Army ethic and having the courage to act accordingly to prevent misconduct and stop unethical behavior.

Always remember, what you say and how you act, both on and off duty, will influence your fellow Soldiers and the American people. So ensure you always make a positive impact!

Finally, a closing thought on Readiness, which is our number one priority in the New York Army National Guard.

We must embrace a culture of readiness across the force. Leaders at all levels must continuously manage their personnel, equipment and training to ensure units meet readiness objectives.

Your readiness will directly translate to mission success or failure, and failing is not an option for us.

We must continue to build and maintain a resilient force, ensuring Soldiers and families are cared for and supported. We must create an environment free from suicide, harassment of any type, sexual assault, and one in which every individual is valued and respected. We must be committed to foster and mentor a diverse workforce by valuing everyone's contributions and creating a climate of trust and confidence.

I wish you all continued success, and thank you and your families for serving and being part of our New York National Guard team.

RAINBOW! NEVER FORGET! **gt**

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guardtimes

Volume 12, Number 2

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, COMMANDER IN CHIEF
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New York Army National Guard
Soldiers assigned to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment prepare to conduct marksmanship training at Camp Santiago, Puerto Rico April 12. While in Puerto Rico the Soldiers practiced short-range marksmanship techniques. Photo by Sgt. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.



FRONT COVER: Spc. Erick Barksdale, a military policeman assigned to the 107th Military Police Company, 104th Military Police Battalion, 369th Sustainment Brigade, New York Army National Guard (NYARNG), moves under direct fire during a simulated event of the NYARNG Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site, N.Y., March 28, 2019. Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Pietrantoni, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.
BACK COVER: Soldiers of the 42nd Infantry Division conducted individual weapon qualification during March's drill on March 22, 2019 at Fort Drum N.Y. The Soldiers conducted weapons training with both the M9 and M4. Photo by Sgt. Andrew Winchell, 42nd Infantry Division.

FACES of the FORCE

Soldiers become Citizens, Following an Old Tradition

Story and photos by Capt. Jean Marie Kratzer, Guard Times Staff

ALBANY, N.Y. -- When New York National Guard Pfc. Tiffany Joseph, originally from Grenada, and Spc. Ibrahim Bakayoko, who comes from Ivory Coast, became American citizens on Feb. 15, they became just the latest in a long line of New York Army National Guard Soldiers who weren't born as Americans.

Of the almost 10,000 Soldiers in the New York Army National Guard, 960 are naturalized citizens. Another 515 are legal residents commonly known as green card holders.

New York has always been a magnet for immigrants and they've always found a home in the New York National Guard.

The famous 69th Infantry Regiment was originally filled with Irish Catholics who fought for the Union during the Civil War.

The ranks of the 369th Infantry – the African-American regiment made famous as the Harlem Hell Fighters – included members hailing from Jamaica and Trinidad and other Caribbean islands, according to enlistment cards from the 1920s and 1930s.

In 2018, New York Army National Guard Pfc. Emmanuel Mensah, an immigrant from Ghana, received the Soldiers Medal, the Army's highest award for non-battle heroism, posthumously for saving four people from a massive fire on Dec. 28, 2017.

"He fulfilled his dream, what he wanted to do," said Kwabena Mensah, the Soldier's father. "He was proud of being in the American military. He was so proud of that."

Today joining the Army National Guard can smooth the way to American citizenship for immigrants who are willing to serve, said Sgt. Maj. Jeffery Colling, the operations sergeant major for the New York Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion.

"As a civilian, it was difficult to go through the naturalization process, but joining the military made it much easier and quicker," said Joseph, a member of Company E, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation.

Joseph and Bakayoko were among 49 new Americans who took their Oath of Citizenship on Feb. 15 before Daniel Stewart, the United States Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of New York in Albany.

During the ceremony both Soldiers recited the Pledge of Allegiance, repeated the Oath of Citizenship and joined in singing the "Star Spangled Banner."

At the end of the ceremony each Soldier proudly held their certificate of citizenship.

According to the National Guard Bureau Strength Maintenance Division, lawful permanent residents who enlist in the Guard are exempt from some naturalization requirements.

To qualify, the green card holder must complete both basic and advanced individual training, serve for a year of "honorable service," have no legal or disciplinary action pending, and pass a background investigation.

The usual process for gaining U.S. citizenship requires establishing a five year continuous legal residency in the United States after you have become a permanent legal resident. Joining the military—which includes the National Guard—can shorten this period by two years.

Joseph, a Loudonville, N.Y. resident, arrived in New York at age 12 in 2010. She joined the New York Army National Guard in December 2016 as an automatic logistics specialist.

In March 2018 she went to work full time in the New York National Guard Headquarters information office.

"My mother and I came to the United States for better job and school opportunities," she said. "Then I had the opportunity to join the United States Army. My family is so proud of me."

Military service is a family tradition, Joseph said, as her grandmother served in Grenada's military for more than 30 years.

Despite the early challenges anyone faces moving to a new country, she is very proud of being an American citizen, and that it is her honor to serve the United States, Joseph said.

Bakayoko, an Albany resident, who grew up in the city of Abidjan, is truck driver in the 1427th



New York Army National Guard Spc. Ibrahim Bakayoko (left) and Pfc. Tiffany Joseph, poses with federal Magistrate Judge Daniel Stewart, at the U.S. District Court in Albany, N.Y. on February 15, 2019 after taking the oath as American citizens.

Transportation Company. A part-time Soldier, during the week he works for the Salvation Army as a truck driver and also works at a hotel as a cook.

"I am proud of myself and I love being in the National Guard. The process to get my citizenship took one year and seven months, but it's all been worth it," Bakayoko said. **gt**



Spc. Ibrahim Bakayoko, stands for his oath of citizenship at the U.S. District Court in Albany, N.Y. on February 15, 2019.

Brazilian-American Soldier Serves State Partnership

Story by Eric Durr, Guard Times Staff

NEW YORK -- When the New York National Guard signed a State Partnership Program agreement with Brazil on March 14, Staff Sgt. Norma Saderi was front and center, alongside two four-star officers and a bunch of one and two-star generals and admirals.

Saderi, a member of the 222nd Chemical Company, was born in Brazil and became an American citizen in 2014.

Her mission on March 14 was to translate from Portuguese, the language spoken in Brazil, to English and back, when needed during the signing ceremony on the U.S.S. Intrepid, a museum ship docked on the Hudson River in New York City.

Along with Major Gen. Ray Shields, the Adjutant General of New York, and Brazilian Navy Rear Admiral Guilherme da Silva Costa; General Joseph Lengyel, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Admiral Craig Faller, the commander of United States Southern Command were part of the ceremony.

Saderi's role was to translate conversations and official statements when Brazilians and Americans were speaking in their native language.

"I felt a lot of pressure," Saderi, a White Plains, N.Y. resident, said. "But I was glad at the same time, I was so proud and glad that I could do that.

"We always get nervous around higher ranking people," she added. "It was extra emotional because I had Brazilian higher ranking officers and American higher ranking officers."

Saderi also helped out ahead of time in the translation of the official documents and speeches involved with the ceremony.

While the New York National Guard hired a professional translator to redraft documents and remarks from English into Portuguese and vice-versa, Saderi's role was to read them over to make sure that they made sense to Brazilians.

Just as the English spoken in Great Britain and the English spoken in the United States are different, so is the Portuguese spoken in Portugal and the Portuguese spoken in Brazil, Saderi said.

"We understand each other but there are some words that are not used the same way, and we have a different accent," she explained.

Helping Saderi with the document translation duties was Sgt. Suzana Usami, a member of the 42nd Infantry Division's Headquarters and Support Company, who is also a Brazilian-American.

Usami couldn't be present at the ceremony, but helped in the work ahead of time, Saderi said.

Saderi grew up in a small town outside Sao Paulo, Brazil's most populous city. She attended college to earn a degree in chemical engineering and was working on her master's at the University of Sao Paulo when she decided to move to the United States to study at Manhattan College.

Working in that field requires a mastery of English and studying in the United States would help her refine her language skills, Saderi explained.

She moved to New York in 2010 but decided to change her field of study. In 2013 she enlisted in the New York Army National Guard to help pay for her education.

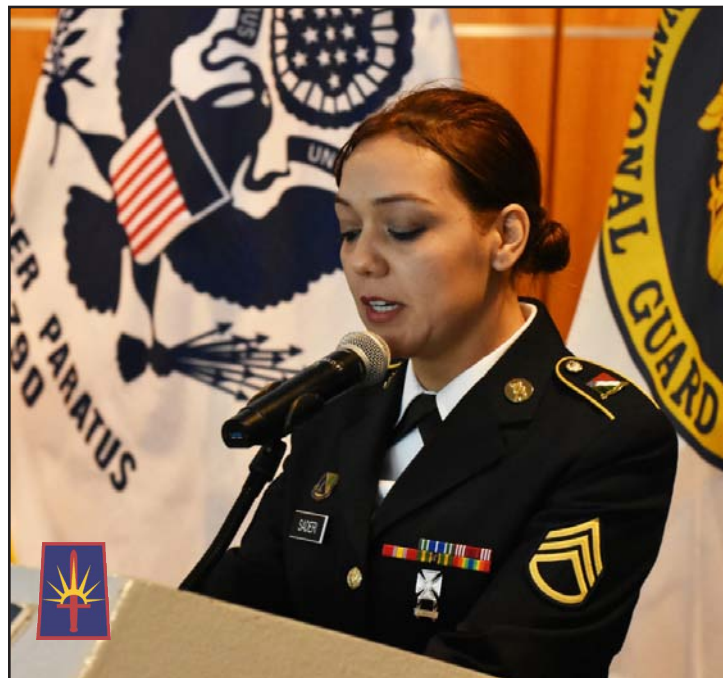
With a major in chemistry, joining the 222nd Chemical Company and serving as CBRN—Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear—specialist was a natural. She is very proud of her company and her platoon, Saderi said.

She serves in the chemical reconnaissance platoon's second squad, and Saderi said she loved learning how to operate the chemical, biological and radiological weapons sensors the vehicles are equipped with. Each squad member has to know the job every other Soldier does, which is challenging, she added.

She's hopeful that she'll move from her current surveillance job to vehicle commander soon.

"I think the chemical unit gives me an opportunity to grow as a Soldier and as an NCO, and I like that. It gives me satisfaction," Saderi said.

When she's not drilling, Saderi serves full-time in Joint Task Force Empire Shield, the New York National Guard's security augmentation force in New York City.



Staff Sergeant Norma Saderi, assigned to the 222nd Chemical Company at Fort Hamilton, translates from English to Portuguese for the state partnership signing between New York and Brazil in New York City, March 14, 2019.

She takes pride in helping to protect New York, Saderi explained. "I like all the different missions and assignments," she said.

One unexpected benefit of joining the National Guard for Saderi was being able to become an American citizen more quickly than the five years it normally takes a legal resident to transition to full citizenship.

She became a citizen after she completed Advanced Individual Training in 2014.

"It feels great. It was a proud moment. It feels good to belong to both places, although now I belong more to the United States," she said. "Now I am immersed in American culture."

With the partnership between the Brazilian Armed Forces and the New York National Guard in place, Saderi said she is excited about the prospect of participating in training exchanges.

Her goal, Saderi said, is to stay in the U.S. military for at least twenty years. She might even switch from the Army to the Air Guard, she said.

"I am looking for different opportunities. I need to have an environment in which I am learning new things," Saderi said. **gt**

Fighting 69th is a Family Tradition

Story and photos by Sgt. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters

NEW YORK, N.Y. --Family traditions, and regimental history, go hand-in-hand at the 69th Infantry Regiment for Captain Richard Reilly.

Reilly, commander of Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, honored his past family members, as he led his Soldiers from the battalion armory on Lexington Avenue through the St. Patrick's Day Parade up Fifth Avenue on March 16, 2019.

The 69th Infantry, known as the "Fighting 69th," for its combat actions in the Civil War, was first organized in 1849 from Irish immigrants in New York's Lower East Side. Strong in traditions and rich in history, many of its modern Soldiers, such as Reilly, maintain the spirit of family service with the 69th across generations.

"Every time I walk into the Lexington Armory, I think about my family members who served before me and think about how my actions stretch back in my family history before the Battle of Bull Run," Reilly said.

Reilly's family service traces back to the Civil War and his great-great-grandfather, Philip Reilly. Philip lied about his age to enlist in the 69th Infantry just one week after the Civil War began.

"On Philip's enlistment paperwork, the age is left blank," Reilly said.

"Philip Reilly enlisted with his big brother Bernard Reilly in the 69th New York State Militia on April 20, 1861," the latest Reilly to serve said. "Philip being assigned to B Company at age 12, Bernard assigned to H Company."

They both were mustered into service on May 9, 1861.

Their original enlistment was for three months, and both Sol-



Capt. Richard Reilly, Delta Company Commander, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry and great-great-grandson of Civil War veteran Philip Reilly, leads his Soldiers March 16, 2019. Reilly or the 69th Infantry's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City.

diers served at the Battle of Bull Run, Reilly said. They mustered out of federal service after their 90-day term. But both would serve again.

"The commanding officer of the 69th Militia was Colonel (Michael) Corcoran," Reilly said. "Both Philip and Bernard Reilly waited for their colonel's return from being a POW in Richmond (after his capture at Bull Run) and enlisted in his new regiment, the 170th New York, on September 20, 1862."

Many of the New York Irish of the old 69th New York Militia did the same, Reilly explained.

Philip Reilly, however, was still under age, having just turned 13. When his parents learned that he was training on Staten Island with his new regiment, they took him home, Reilly said.

"He is listed as deserted at age 13," he said.

Philip Reilly remained determined to serve and less than a year after learning of his brother's death in action at the North Anna River on May 24, 1864, Philip Reilly, now 15, reenlisted in the 69th

Infantry, again giving a false age in order to join January 27, 1865.

The Reilly family tradition of service continued in World War II, with a new generation of Soldier, this time Capt. Reilly's great-uncle James Reilly, who enlisted Oct. 1, 1940 in the New York National Guard and served with Company C of the 69th Infantry for two years.

Discharged on October 15, 1942, he returned to serve, this time outside of the regiment, receiving an officer's commission as a second lieutenant and deployed to Europe, rising to the rank of captain by the end of the war.

Captain Richard Reilly's newest generation of military service for his family began July 31, 2008.

Being a part of a unit that has been a part of his family since its creation is very important to him.

The 69th Regiment and its Irish history plays an important role in both his family and in the modern day battalion traditions, Reilly said.

Reilly even had the opportunity to visit the Irish Parliament House,



The Grand Army of the Republic Medal that belonged to Philip Reilly, a veteran of the 69th Infantry Regiment, part of the Union Irish Brigade during the American Civil War. Reilly lied about his age for his enlistment at age 12 in 1861 and served in the 69th at the First Battle of Bull Run. He mustered out of service that year, but reenlisted in 1865 at age 15, again under a false age, to continue service with the Irish Brigade. The Grand Army of the Republic introduced this medal for its veteran membership in 1869.

and see the regimental colors on display there during an 1848 Tricolor Event. The flag was presented as a gift to the Irish people from President Kennedy in 1963.

"It was really a proud moment to know Philip Reilly marched under those colors during the Grand Review in Washington, D.C.," Reilly said. "The Republic of Ireland hasn't forgotten those men who were driven from their home and came over here and adopted our nation as theirs and many like Bernard Reilly sacrificed their lives for our beliefs."

This was Reilly's final St. Patrick's day parade with the 69th Infantry Regiment. He transfers to a new unit this spring, although there may still be more Reillys to come into the regiment in the future, he said.

"The important traditions of the regiment are my family traditions," Reilly said, "they are one and the same. The regiment and my family will always be ready to defend our nation and stand up for what is right." **gt**



Hot Spots in Cold War Opens at Museum

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. -- Russell Terpening, a Vietnam War veteran, Paul O'Keefe, a Korean War veteran, and Maj. Gen. Raymond Shields, the Adjutant General, cut the ribbon at the opening of the Korean and Vietnam Wars exhibit at the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga, March 30, 2019. The new permanent exhibit, titled "Hot Spots in the Cold War," honors those who served in the Korean and Vietnam Wars between 1950 and 1975.



Counterdrug Airman Honored by GEICO

WESTHAMPTON BEACH, N.Y. – The GEICO insurance company named New York Air National Guard Technical Sergeant Carissa Siry as the National Guard's 2018 Military Service Award winner. Siry, seen above center in an undated photo, is a Civil Operations Specialist for the National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. She provides technical assistance to community-based coalitions to reduce substance abuse among youth. She supports 25 community-based coalitions and three major colleges in Suffolk and Nassau Counties on Long Island. She will receive the award during a GEICO presentation to the military services April 29, 2019 in Arlington, Va. Courtesy photo.

Guard Hosts Israeli Home Front Command to talk Disaster Response



NEW YORK -- Col. Robert Mitchell, center above, provides an overview of New York National Guard capabilities to members of the Israeli Defense Force Home Front Command February 19, 2019 at the New York City Office of Emergency Management in Brooklyn, N.Y. The Israeli delegation, with four personnel, met with National Guard and New York City first responders to discuss best practices for emergency response, community resiliency and post-emergency response authorities. Below, Israeli Defense Force Lt. Col. Ido Orlov presents a military challenge coin to New York City Fire Department Battalion Chief Tim Rice following a discussion of New York City response capabilities for weapons of mass destruction. Courtesy photos.



AROUND THE STATE



A New York Air National Guard 136th Tactical Fighter Squadron F-100, part of the 107th Tactical Fighter Group in Niagara Falls, N.Y. in an undated photo. The squadron served in Vietnam from May 1968 to April 1969. About 350 Air Guard members deployed to Vietnam with 20 F-100s Super Sabres to fly close air support missions. Courtesy photo.

Historian Recalls Air Guard History in Vietnam War

Story by Sgt. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. -- A former New York Army National Guard officer, author and historian with personal ties to the Vietnam War provided an educational lecture program to the public about the New York Air National Guard's participation in Vietnam February 23, at the New York State Military Museum.

Retired Army National Guard Major Patrick Chaisson was inspired by the wartime service of his father, an Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, to research and share the stories of what he believes is an overlooked part of the military during the war.

"I wanted to shed light on an almost forgotten aspect of the Vietnam War," Chaisson said. "I wanted to know what it was like for [my father] and those that deployed with him, served with him, and what it was like to come back."

Chaisson, whose research and published materials have covered a significant portion of New York

National Guard military history, has given this lecture about New York's Air National Guard in Vietnam at multiple locations so far this year, including Katonah, N.Y. and to Civil Air Patrol Cadets at the Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, N.Y.

The New York Air National Guard provided a wide range of support during the Vietnam War, and Chaisson pointed out the specific New York missions to provide strategic airlift and tactical fighter support to the combat forces fighting in Vietnam.

The Air National Guard in Vietnam began flights regularly in 1966 to support Military Airlift Command operations to Japan and South Vietnam. Other Air Guard elements supported aeromedical evacuation flights across the country to free up active duty Air Force resources for similar missions in Southeast Asia between 1965 and 1969.

The Air National Guard also deployed four fighter squadrons to Vietnam after the 1968 Tet Offensive.

From May 1968 to April 1969, 350 Air Guard members of New York's 136th Tactical Fighter Squadron from Niagara Falls deployed to Vietnam with 20 F-100s Super Sabres to fly close air support missions.

The squadron, joined by New Mexico Air National Guard crews of the 188th Tactical Fighter Squadron, arrived in Vietnam at Tuy Hoa Air Base to reinforce the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing.

Known as "Rocky's Raiders" in honor of New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller, the squadron conducted interdiction strikes, conducted visual and photo reconnaissance, rescue combat air patrols, and suppressed enemy anti-aircraft artillery.

One squadron pilot, Captain Joseph L'Hullier, was killed on a

fighter support mission after ejecting from his aircraft. The plane was hit by ground fire during a high angle dive-bombing attack near Chu Lai, South Vietnam, July 25, 1968.

Another pilot, Lt. Julius Thurn survived when his F-100 was shot down, while supporting a Special Forces unit. When he parachuted from his aircraft, he could not be extracted by Air Force rescue crews due to the ongoing fight. He was saved by the Army Green Berets he was supporting who fought their way to him for pick-up.

Three others from the squadron died during training accidents prior to the squadron deployment to Vietnam.

1st Lieutenants Raymond Reader and Robert Wolf were killed in a midair collision in March 1968 and Maj. Richard Dye was killed during air-to-ground combat training in April.

The choice to tell these stories

now came as soon as he had completed enough research, Chaisson said.

His goal was to share what he learned as soon as possible, and it seemed fitting to him to be able to share it at a time when it was happening fifty years to the day that he gave his presentation.

“These men have such amazing stories that they’ve never been able to share, simply because nobody’s asked them,” Chaisson said.

Chaisson’s presentation was scheduled at the museum as part of the New York National Guard and Military History Museum’s partnership with the Department of Defense Vietnam War 50th Commemoration.

In his research, Chaisson met with veteran Airmen from the Vietnam era in an effort to share their stories.

One of the airlift stories he shared highlighted “Operation Christmas Star,” a mission that involved 78 Air National Guard planes, from thirteen different states, delivering 406 tons of donated gifts to the troops deployed in Vietnam for the holidays in 1965.

The Air Force did not have sufficient airlift to move such vast quantities of donated holiday goods, and Air National Guard elements across the country volunteered missions to bring the donated items and baked goods to Vietnam. So great was the response that even after the airlift, an additional 270 tons had to be sent by ship.

For this mission in November and December, 1965, New York deployed nine C-97 Stratofreighters from home stations in Brooklyn, Westchester, and Schenectady. The missions included flights from the 106th Air Transport Wing, with elements of the 106th Military Airlift Group, 105th Military Airlift Wing and 109th Airlift Group



New York Air National Guard 1st Lt. Harry W. Roberts, Jr. was the youngest pilot in the 136th Tactical Fighter Squadron during the unit’s deployment to Vietnam in 1968. The squadron, part of the 107th Tactical Fighter Group, served in Vietnam from May 1968 to April 1969. Courtesy photo.

flying the missions.

The crews flew 2.1 million miles supporting those missions and carried an average of 15,000 pounds of cargo on each flight.

The New York airlift crews would continue to fly a total of 222 missions in to Vietnam through 1969.

Throughout the New York Air National Guard’s time in Vietnam, Airmen received a number of combat awards for their contributions, including 25 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 30 Bronze Stars, 156 Air Medals, 325 Commendation Medals, three Purple Hearts and five Vietnamese Gallantry Crosses.

Chaisson’s presentation coincides with the Military History Museum opening of its newest exhibit for the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The new permanent exhibit highlights artifacts and narratives of a number of New York veterans of the Vietnam War. **gt**



A C-97 Stratofreighter of the Georgia Air National Guard is unloaded at Tan Son Nhut, South Vietnam in December 1965. The aircraft carried gifts for service members from the U.S. as part of Operation Christmas Star. Nine aircraft from the New York Air National Guard participated in the mission. Photograph by Master Sgt. Lee Estes.

“I wanted to shed light on an almost forgotten aspect of the Vietnam War,” Chaisson said. “I wanted to know what it was like for [my father] and those that deployed with him, served with him, and what it was like to come back.”

-- Retired Army National Guard Maj. Patrick Chaisson

THE JOINT FORCE

Guard Mobilizes 250 Soldiers and Airmen

Story by Eric Durr, Guard Times Staff and Master Sgt. Brandy Fowler, 107th Attack Wing

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- The New York National Guard placed 250 Soldiers and Airmen on duty in Western New York February 23 in advance of a wind storm that brought gusts of up to 74 miles per hour to the region on Sunday, Feb. 24 and Monday, Feb. 25.

The winds toppled trees, left 44,000 customers without electricity, forced road closures, and ripped the roof off of part of the University of Buffalo bookstore at the college's north campus on Sunday Feb. 24, according to the Buffalo News.

As the windstorm hit the National Weather Service warned of damage and driving delays caused by the high winds, as well as potential damages to structures along the Niagara River and Lake Erie as high wind drives ice on shore. The wind also caused obscured vision as bands of lake effect snow swept across the area, according to the weather service.

The activation of 250 Soldiers and Airmen to conduct debris clearance missions if needed, was part of overall state and local government preparations for the wind storm, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said.

"One thing we've learned over and over in these severe weather situations is if you wait for the storm to develop to start your actions, it's too late," Cuomo said on Sunday, Feb. 24.

"We have taken every precaution to ensure a smooth response to these dangerously high winds and have made it clear to utilities that they must work to restore power as quickly as possible. I urge all New Yorkers to remain alert during this storm system and to report any disruptions in power to their utilities immediately," the governor said.

The New York National Guard originally mobilized 100 Soldiers and Airmen—35 Soldiers from 42nd Infantry Division elements, 35 Soldiers from 53rd Troop Command units, and 30 Airmen from the 107th Attack Wing at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station—and stationed them at the Masten Avenue Armory in Buffalo on Saturday, Feb. 23 along with 25 humvees and trucks.

Forty chainsaws were provided for debris clearance teams to use. Five New York Guard state defense force members were assigned to



Spc. Kevin Dulinawka assigned to Echo Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, creates a shower of saw dust while felling a tree at Youngstown Local Training Area, Feb. 24, 2019. The Soldiers trained with chainsaws to prepare for debris clearance in advance of a wind storm that struck Western New York Feb. 24, 2019. Photo by Master Sgt. Brandy Fowler, 107th Attack Wing.

conduct chainsaw training classes.

New York Guard Staff Sgt. William Jolly said it was rewarding to be able to help by training Soldiers and Airmen on chainsaw use.

"The New York State Guard has a unique skillset, and I am happy to come out and help with training and assist people," Jolly said.

The National Weather Service called the storm "a particularly dangerous situation," with potential for lakeshore flooding and blizzard conditions based on the high winds.

On the afternoon of Feb. 23 the governor directed the allocation of an additional 150 National Guard service members who could be used to direct traffic as part of the debris clearance

Seventy-five of those Soldiers were drawn from 53rd Troop command units while Joint Task Force Empire Shield assigned 75 Soldiers and Airmen to the mission.

Joint Task Force Empire Shield is the New York National Guard's full-time security augmentation force in New York City.

In addition to the 250 Soldiers and Airmen assigned directly to the debris clearance and traffic control mission, additional personnel were on duty to provide logistics support and mission command for the mission.

To provide command for the mission, the National Guard's Joint Task Force 5 headquarters was activated at the headquarters of the 107th Attack Wing at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

Using the wing's joint operations center was a first for the region, said Army National Guard Major Jamie Lepsch, the task force operations officer normally assigned to the 153rd Troop Command Headquarters in Buffalo.

"We are implementing and conducting real-world disaster operations that we have only trained to do before today," Lepsch said Feb. 25.

"The 107th has proved to be an ideal location because we have on-base lodging, an active sustainment operation and emergency power that we've had to use a few times already. This location has allowed us to fully integrate all of

"One thing we've learned over and over in these severe weather situations is if you wait for the storm to develop to start your actions, it's too late,"

-- New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo



A collection of chainsaws line the road to aid Soldiers in training at Youngstown Local Training Area, Feb. 24, 2019. Photo by Master Sgt. Brandy Fowler, 107th Attack Wing.


our forces in one place," Lepsch explained.

Soldiers and Airmen were in place on Sunday and Monday, Feb 24-25, preparing themselves with chainsaw operator training and ready for missions, but none were assigned.

On Monday morning, Feb. 25, 75 Soldiers were re-positioned to the Thompson Road Armory in Syracuse to be available for missions in the Central New York region as the threat of high winds moved east.

By the evening of Feb. 25, with winds dying down and power restoration well underway for residents, the Soldiers and Airmen were released from duty.

The responsiveness of the Guard forces put state resources forward quickly, especially with unpredictable winter weather, the governor said during storm preparations Feb. 23.

"The National Guard, who just God bless them, they are always there when we need them," Cuomo said during a post-storm press conference. 



Pvt. Jacob Szymczak of the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, demonstrates chainsaw techniques in front of New York Guard Sgt. Jerry Silvis, assigned to the 65th Detachment, 10th Area Command at the Youngstown Training Area February 24, 2019. The chainsaw familiarization training was conducted in preparation for a forecasted winter windstorm that was expected to bring 80 mph winds to Western New York. Photo by Spc Michael Rehbaum, New York Guard.



Above, New York Army National Guard Soldiers of Echo Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion unload food in Buffalo Feb. 25 during their State Active Duty response in support of the February 2019 wind storm in Western New York. The Soldiers received familiarization training throughout the day. The Soldiers were prepared to provide debris removal and route clearance if the storm caused significant damage or downed trees. At right, Staff Sgt. William Jolly of the 21st Detachment, 10th Area Command New York Guard stands ready to train Soldiers at the Youngstown Training Area February 24. Photos by Spc. Michael Rehbaum, New York Guard.



New York, Brazil Formalize New State Partnership Program

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters

NEW YORK, N.Y. -- The New York National Guard embarked on a new State Partnership Program with the country of Brazil with the signing of a Partnership Declaration between Major General Ray Shields, the Adjutant General of New York and Brazilian Navy Rear Admiral Guilherme da Silva Costa, representing the Brazilian National Defense Force aboard the Intrepid Air, Space & Sea Museum March 14, 2019.

The partnership is part of the National Guard's State Partnership Program which pairs state National Guard's with the militaries of countries around the world in bilateral training and exchange partnerships.

"The New York National Guard is looking forward to a constructive relationship with Brazil which allows us to learn from each other," said Shields. "We are looking forward to establishing a strong bi-lateral relationship which allows us to share best practices and work and train together."

The goal of the state partnership program allows National Guard Soldiers and Airmen to learn from military members of other nations, while also sharing American military expertise with friends and allies.

"We can help achieve security cooperation through long term personal relationships, and that's what the National Guard's State Partnership Program offers," Shields said.

A foundation of success for the State Partnership Program, now active in 83 nations around the globe, is the benefit of Citizen Soldiers and Airmen engaging beyond the military to military skill engagement, said General Joseph Lengyel, Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

"One of the reasons these engagements are so successful is when we send a member of the New York National Guard to Brazil, they are not only able to help train on their specific military skillset but also share insight to the conduct of their civilian professions as well," Lengyel said. "When the other components send infantry or pilots, that's what you get. However, when we send the same you also get a doctor, or a police officer, or a mayor, or a teacher."

"I really have to tip my hat to the National

Guard," said Admiral Craig Faller, the commander of U.S. Southern Command. "The State Partnership Program is one of the most valuable resources to me in our engagements."

The military ties between New York and Brazil also works toward cooperative goals, Faller said.

"As the hemisphere's two largest democracies, our relationship has been built on an enduring promise to one another: to be steadfast, committed, and co-equal partners that work together to achieve a cooperative, prosperous, and secure hemisphere," Faller said. "It's a relationship grounded in shared values, like respect for human rights and the importance of transparency and accountability."

New York has also maintained a State Partnership Program relationship with the South African National Defense Force since 2003.

This partnership has resulted in a number of exchanges, most recently in September 2018 when two New York Air National Guard aircraft and 38 New York Soldiers and Airmen were part of the U.S. contingent at South Africa's African Aerospace and Defense Exhibition 18 at Waterkloof Air Force Base near Pretoria, South Africa.

Similar exchanges and training events will benefit New York and Brazilian service members, Faller said.

"The partnership is an opportunity to learn from one another, to exchange military skills and experiences, share defense knowledge, build the readiness of our forces, and improve our operational effectiveness, together," he said.

The cooperation between Brazil and the United States has historic precedence, Guilherme said.

"There has been a long standing partnership between the armed forces



Maj. Gen. Ray Shields (right) presents Rear Admiral Guilherme Da Silva Costa, Chief of International Affairs at the Brazil Ministry of Defense (left), with a New York state flag, aboard the Intrepid Air, Space & Sea Museum in New York, March 14, 2019. Photo by Spc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.

from both our countries," he said, "exchanging experiences and knowledge, training together, fighting together."

"With the State Partnership Program, by the exchange of experiences, both sides will be able to enlarge capacities, so as to better serve our countries, better serve our people," Guilherme said.

"The State Partnership Program is about people; Soldiers and Airmen meeting with counterparts and peers, sharing lessons, best practices and building those critical long term relationships," Shields said.

"I'm sure that all these elements, together, provide a path for the success of this partnership," Guilherme said, "Always ready, always there!"



Chief of International Affairs at the Brazil Ministry of Defense, Rear Admiral Guilherme Da Silva Costa (center right) and Maj. Gen. Raymond Shields (right), sign a state partnership agreement March 14, 2019. Photo by Spc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.

Civil Support Teams Hone Skills at College Campus

Story and photos by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

CLINTON, N.Y. --The Civil Support Team recon into the apartment of the suspect in a chemical weapon attack had been going well.

Staff Sgt. Kristin Northrup and Sgt. Joshua Sligh, wearing protective suits and masks and breathing tanked air, had found a gun taped to the door. They'd methodically gone through rooms and documented the scene with a camera while keeping the tactical operations center informed via radio.

Then Sligh went down.

Now Northrup needed help from the rest of the Guard's 2nd Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (CST) to get her teammate out, decontaminated, and into the hands of the 2nd CST's physician's assistant.

The mission shifted to casualty retrieval as Northrup and two other 2nd CST members strapped Sligh into a yellow casualty evacuation sled and began moving him down three flights of stairs.

This scenario was just one of those faced by members of the National Guard's 2nd and 24th Civil Support Teams as they wrapped up four days of training at Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y., March 21.

The four-day exercise enabled the Soldiers and Airmen-- trained to identify nuclear, biological, chemical and radiological weapons and contamination-- to train together, while also involving other CSTs and civilian agencies.

The March 18 to 21 training also involved the New Jersey National Guard's 21st CST; the New York State Police Contaminated Crime Scene Emergency Response Team; the New York State Police Bomb Disposal Unit; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the State Office of Fire Prevention and Control;

and the Hamilton College Campus Safety Emergency Response Team.

Over 100 people were involved, said Capt. Justin Kupinski, the operations officer for the 2nd CST. Having all these entities involved in the drill made the training more realistic and worthwhile, he added.

"In the real world, all these agencies would be here anyway. We need to train like we fight," Kupinski said.

"To be able to work with the first responder community helps us to prepare for any type of WMD event, added Major Lance Woodard the 2nd CST's deputy commander. "For me this is what we work for, what we strive for, which is to get the CSTs together collectively, and figure out how we can plan and work together."

The CST members spent March 18-19 going through scenarios in which information about a chemical attacker was developed detail by detail. They took a break on Wednesday to reset and conduct after action reviews, and then were back in the exercise on Thursday, March 21, Kupinski said.

This is the second year Hamilton College has welcomed the CST exercise on campus. Training at the college is excellent because it's the kind of location the CST could be called to, Kupinski said.

Hamilton College loaned its campus as a training site over spring break because it benefits the college as well, according to Frank Coots, Director of Campus Safety.

"The college's Emergency Response Team is always looking for different ways to make training relevant and challenging," he said.

Northrup, a CST member for four years who leads a two-person reconnaissance team, said she had been looking forward to the train-



Above, New York Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Kristin Northrup takes a reading as she and Sgt. Joshua Sligh prepare to enter a target room during a drill at Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y. on March 21, 2019. Members of both the 2nd and 24th Civil Support Team conducted drills March 18 to 21 at Hamilton College. Below, CST members move Sligh to a stretcher after cutting him out of his protective suit during the drill.



ing. It's larger and more challenging than others, she explained.

Of course, she admitted, she wasn't thrilled when the evaluators decided that her team mate would be a casualty.

"They always pick the biggest guys," she explained.

After wrestling Sligh down three flights of stairs, she and two other CST members cut off his protec-

tive suit to get him on a stretcher.

For Sgt. Natasia Cooper, an administrative NCO and decontamination line attendant who is new to the 2nd CST, said the week-long exercise was excellent training.

"Being able to experience the pressure, and having to maneuver through the decon and just getting through the decon and just getting hands on, has been pretty great for me," Cooper said. **gt**



Infantry Soldiers Earn Top Honors as Best Warriors

Story and photos by Sgt. Jonathan Pietrantonio, 138th Public Affairs Detachment

Spc. Joseph Ryan, an infantryman assigned to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, moves under direct fire during a simulated event of the NYARNG Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site, N.Y., March 28, 2019.

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, N.Y.— Two infantrymen with the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team earned the top enlisted and non-commissioned officer titles during the New York Army National Guard's Best Warrior Competition held at the Camp Smith Training Site and West Point, N.Y., March 27-30, 2019.

The winners were Spc. Joseph Ryan, who won the junior enlisted category, and Sgt. 1st Class Martin Cozens, who won the top NCO honors.

Ryan, from Yonkers, N.Y., is assigned as an assistant operations sergeant with the Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, and has worked in the Active Guard Reserve program since 2015.

"The Best Warrior gives you so many opportunities, just from showing up and putting your name out there," Ryan said. "I would recommend that every Soldier in the National Guard that has an interest in physical fitness or being a

better Soldier to try out."

Ryan was sponsored by last year's winner in the junior enlisted competition, Sgt. Ilya Titov, a fellow infantry Soldier from Rockaway Park, N.Y., and currently assigned as a supply sergeant in the Headquarters Company of the 69th Infantry.

"This is my opportunity to pay it forward and help the next guy succeed," Titov said. "The competition is a great opportunity to train and bring the best out of Soldiers."

Cozens, from Rochester, N.Y., is a rifle platoon sergeant assigned to Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, also part of the 27th Brigade, and works full-time in the National Guard as a criminal analyst with the New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force.

"The most challenging part of the Best Warrior was staying focused; there's a lot of events coming at you in a very quick timeline and you don't have a lot of time to adjust and recover," Cozens said. "Hopefully, I set a good example

for my Soldiers to compete in next year's competition."

Five elite Soldiers who previously won their respective unit competitions at battalion and brigade levels tested their mettle at the state competition for the title of New York's Best Warrior.

The competition is split into two categories: junior enlisted, for Soldiers in the rank of private to specialist; and NCO, covering the ranks of sergeants, staff sergeants and sergeants first class.

The evaluated tasks are specifically designed to mirror today's operating environment, explained Sgt. Maj. Matthew Gutzwiller, the operations sergeant major for the competition.

Tasks included urban warfare simulations, Soldier tasks and battle drills, assessing and evacuating an injured casualty, day/night land navigation, a three-gun stress shoot, physical fitness tests and a 12-mile ruck march.

This year's competition added a 3-gun stress

shoot to better prepare Soldiers for the next level of the competition.

This new, dynamic event included sprints, high/low crawling, and an ammo can carry while firing the M9 pistol, M4 Carbine, and an M26 Shotgun at steel targets in between the physical events.

“This event is unique, but we want to incorporate some fun into the competition,” said Command Sgt. Maj. David Piwowarski, the New York Army National Guard senior enlisted advisor.

“Yeah, we scuff them up a little bit; they high crawl, low crawl and run around with ammo cans, but they still get to shoot weapons and that’s always a win for a Soldier,” Piwowarski said.

For the third consecutive year, Soldiers also had the opportunity to compete and earn the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (GAFPB) during the competition thanks to an arrangement with the German Army Liaison Office at the United States Military Academy, West Point.

The German Proficiency Badge is one of the few approved foreign awards American service members can wear and was introduced in 1971 to recognize Soldiers for excellence in general military and physical performance.

The first phase consists of the basic fitness tests, which included an 11x10 meter sprint, chin-ups, and 1000-meter run. The second phase consists of a 100-meter swim in uniform, first aid test, a nuclear biological suit test, pistol qualification and a road march.

Depending on how they scored in each event, they were able to earn the gold, silver, or bronze award.

Lt. Col. Michael Breuer, German Army Liaison Officer at the United States Military Academy, West Point, supervised and awarded badges to the competitors.

“This year our countries are celebrating ‘Wunderbar Together’ or ‘wonderful together’ which honors the German-American friendship,” Breuer said. “This competition and the integration of the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge underlines this year’s motto and strengthens our historic bonds.”

Other competitors reflected the top Soldiers from the 53rd Troop Command.




Sgt. 1st Class Martin Cozens, an infantryman assigned to Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, calls in a nine line medical evacuation during the NYARNG Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site, N.Y., March 28, 2019.

They included:

- Sgt. Sean Gallagher, a combat engineer assigned to Headquarter & Support Company, 204th Engineer Battalion;
- Spc. Edward Logel, a military policeman assigned to the 105th Military Police Company, 102nd Military Police Battalion; and
- Spc. Erick Barksdale, a military policeman assigned to the 107th Military Police Company, 104th Military Police Battalion.

The competition ended with a 12-mile road march at West Point, in which Soldiers carry a rucksack weighing 25 pounds along with an M4 Carbine and finished at the Fort Putnam historic site high above the Hudson River on West Point.

Cozens, at 32 and a platoon sergeant, wanted to compete as a role model for his Soldiers.

“For me to win this event would prove that I can still learn new tricks,” Cozens said during the competition. “I’m here to learn, I’m here to be a mentor and still keep up with the guys.” 



Spc. Edward Logel, a military policeman assigned to the 105th Military Police Company, 102nd Military Police Battalion, runs through smoke during the stress shoot event of the NYARNG Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site, N.Y., March 28, 2019.

Fighting 69th two great legacies' on St. Patrick's Day

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters



NEW YORK – The 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry started St. Patrick's Day with one commander and ended it with another.

Lt. Col. Don Makay marched at the head of the battalion as it led the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade up 5th Avenue. It was the 168th time the regiment led the world's biggest St. Patrick's Day parade and Makay's third time leading the parade.

Following the parade, Makay turned command of the 800 Soldiers of the battalion over to Lt. Col. Joseph Whaley, during a ceremony in the Great Hall of Cooper Union college.

Makay began the day leading the battalion's officers in a traditional Irish whiskey toast to the regiment. Then, for the last time, he led the 69th to St. Patrick's Cathedral for the traditional Mass that comes before the parade.

There, the Soldiers were recognized by New York City Cardinal Timothy Dolan for their service and the 69th' Irish heritage.

Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, the former Archbishop of Baltimore and the Military Services, who cited the example of service and sacrifice by the Citizen Soldiers during the Mass homily.

"Greater love than this, no one has, that a man lay down his life for his friends," O'Brien said. "And you are willing to lay down your lives not only on behalf of friends, but for unknown

and helpless faces halfway around the world."

The battalion then led the city parade as it first did in 1851, accompanied by the 42nd Infantry Division Band. They were followed by the Wantagh Pipes and Drum band, the Bergen County Police Pipes and Drum Band, the regimental veterans and reenactors of the regiment from both the Civil War and World War I.

Soldiers placed a sprig of boxwood on their uniform to recall Irish brigade members who placed boxwood springs in their hat bands to identify them during the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862. In a matter of minutes charging Confederate defenses at Marye's Heights, casualties reduced the unit from 1,600 Soldiers to 263.

They supposedly got the nickname "Fighting 69th" because of a remark made by Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee at Fredericksburg.

"St. Patrick's Day is our way to connect to the past service members from our unit," said Staff Sgt. Edwin Caba, the Battalion Scout Platoon Sergeant. "Knowing that we have marched in this parade for over 160 years means something special," Caba said.

Because of its Irish-American heritage, St. Patrick's Day is also the battalion "Unit Day." Soldiers were recognized for their accomplishments with awards, promotions, regimental

scholarships and the presentation of the unit Soldier and NCO of the Year, this year to Spc. Joseph Ryan and Staff Sgt. Phillip McIntire.

Joining the regiment as a special guest was retired Lt. Gen. John Mulholland, former commander of the Army's Special Operations Command, deputy commander of U.S. Special Operations Command and CIA Associate Director of Military Affairs.

"If today is about the celebration of all things related to Irish Americans and their legacy in this country, the 69th is what represents that legacy for me," Mulholland said.

"I see America in this formation, every race and creed. You represent what this country is made of," he said.

"You have two great legacies to uphold," Mulholland said, "that of the original Citizen Soldier and that of your rich Irish heritage."

"Your challenge is to raise the bar for the 69th, and that is a very high bar indeed," Mulholland said, "to make this battalion even better. There's no question, you are already doing exactly that."

The change of command from Makay to Whaley was the last event of the day.

Makay, a New York City resident, has led the battalion since St. Patrick's Day in 2016.

"Lt. Col. Makay's dedicated and selfless



service to the regiment for over three years has been truly tremendous,” said Col. Christopher Cronin, commander of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

“He has reinvigorated and continued its lineage, making a mark not only on the colors, but on the history of the unit.”

The new command for Whaley, from Rockville Centre, N.Y., is also a homecoming as he returns to the battalion where he first served with Bravo Company in 1999.

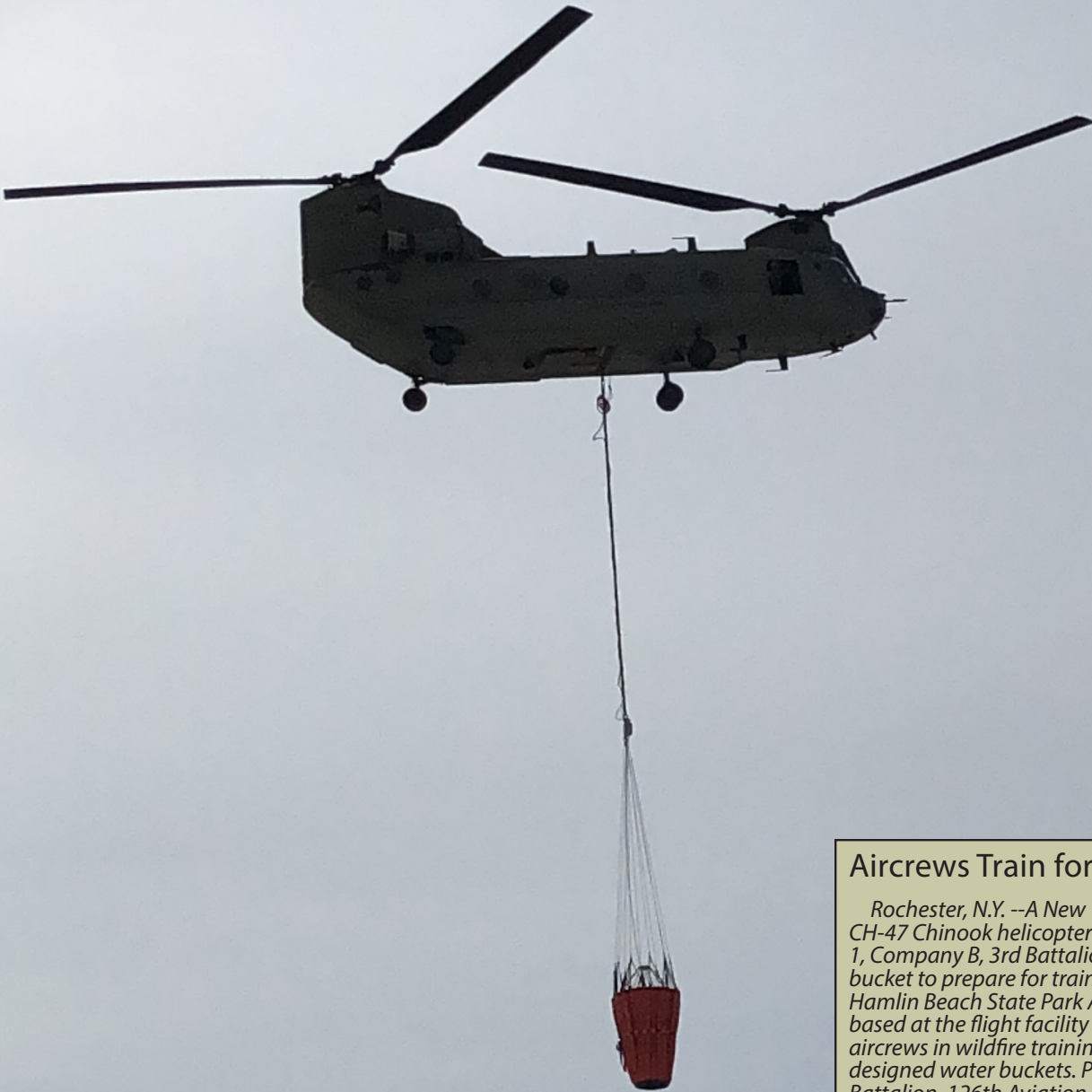
“Lt. Col. Whaley is no stranger to the ‘Fighting 69th,’” Cronin said. “He grew up in the regiment serving in various leadership positions, from platoon leader in Iraq to the executive officer of the battalion.”

“It has been a privilege to serve alongside you and add to the history of this legendary regiment,” Makay said. “It has been an exceptional experience, but I’m ready,” Makay said. “I’m exhausted!”

“It is an amazing honor to be selected to lead you,” Whaley told his Soldiers. “I’ll ask only one thing of you – to do your best every day – and I promise to do the same.” **gt**



Opposite Page, Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry depart St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City for the start line of the St. Patrick's Day parade March 16. Photo by Sgt. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Upper left, Staff Sgt. Phillip McIntire, the battalion NCO of the Year, stands with one of the Irish Wolfhounds which traditionally march with the battalion. Photo by Capt. Mark Getman, New York Guard. Above, members of the East Coast Doughboy's, historical reenactors who dress as 69th Infantry Soldiers during World War I, join the parade contingent passing St. Patrick's Cathedral. Photo by Capt. Mark Getman, New York Guard.



Aircrews Train for the Bucket Brigade

Rochester, N.Y. --A New York Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook helicopter and aircrew from Detachment 1, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation lift a water bucket to prepare for training over Lake Ontario near Hamlin Beach State Park April 2, 2019. The detachment, based at the flight facility in Rochester, trained ten aircrews in wildfire training techniques with the specially designed water buckets. Photo by 1t Lt. John Peralta, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation.



Newest Guard Battalion Welcomes Newest NCOs

Story by Sgt. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

FORT DRUM, N.Y. – Twelve Soldiers assigned to the 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion were formally welcomed into the ranks of the Non-commissioned Officer's Corp during an NCO induction ceremony held here on Apr. 6.

The new sergeants, all of whom were promoted during the last twelve months, were each sponsored by an NCO in their respective company that vouched for their character and dedication to the Army values. After the ceremony these sponsors will act as mentors to the newly inducted NCOs and provide guidance as they exercise the new duties and responsibilities of their rank.

Presiding over the ceremony was Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Czarnecki, the senior enlisted soldier of the 152nd BEB. Senior enlisted personnel from each of the battalion's six companies took part as well.

"This is an important ceremony because it brings out all the newly promoted sergeants and recognizes them among their peers and the first sergeants of the battalion," Czarnecki said. "I hope that it motivates them to be young, aggressive, assertive leaders."

During the ceremony, newly promoted sergeants: Richard Amedure, Kyle Christie, Eva Hayes, Ryan Leggins, Ryan McCrum, Robert Morgan, Anthony Morino, Devonte Morris, Dakota Nelson, Emily Penders, Okief Reid, and Clayton Stock all stood and recited the creed of the noncommissioned officer.


Each Soldier in attendance, all NCOs themselves, stood and recited the creed alongside the new sergeants reaffirming their dedication to the NCO creed and the Army values.

Each inductee was then asked to stand while their sponsor read a short biography about the Soldier. Then each new sergeant was presented with a framed copy of the NCO creed and charged to exercise the responsibilities of an NCO with steadfast commitment and zeal.

Most NCOs have a copy of this creed hanging in their office or home, explained Czarnecki.

"As you go back to your units and perform your duties, this creed should motivate you to exceed the standard, be a leader, and live the army values," he told the new sergeants.

This was the first time the 152nd BEB-- a new unit created following a restructuring of the 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion--held a battalion induction ceremony.

"This is an event that we haven't done in the battalion," Czarnecki said. "Going forward we plan to hold a ceremony every year to recognize our newly promoted NCOs." 



Soldiers assigned to the 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion recite the NCO creed during a non-commissioned officers induction ceremony held at Fort Drum, N.Y. on April 6. Twelve new NCOs took part in the ceremony. Photo by Master Sgt. Fredric Trunzo, 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion.



Logistics Experts Meet

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- Master Sgt. John D'Andrea, logistics NCO for the 153rd Troop Command, speaks with logistics officers and NCOS assigned to western New York units during a logistics workshop held at the Connecticut Street Armory on March 6, 2019. Thirty-five people attended the day-long workshop during which common issues, solutions and upcoming supply challenges were discussed. Photo by Master Sgt. John D'Andrea, 153rd Troop Command.

Soldiers, Vets Honor Past Irish Troops

Story and photos by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

MENANDS, N.Y. – A dozen veterans of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry spent a snowy Sunday morning, March 10, honoring Irish-American Civil War veterans buried at two Albany, N.Y. area cemeteries.

Former members of the 69th Infantry, which began as an Irish-American militia regiment, marked the graves of Civil War Soldiers who served in the Irish Brigade and the Irish Legion at St. Agnes Catholic Cemetery and Albany Rural Cemetery with American and Irish flags.

The two historic burial grounds are next door to each other.

“As we approach St. Patrick’s Day, it is a great opportunity to thank them for their service and in paving the way for all immigrants who served,” explained Lt. Col.

Sean Flynn, the operations officer for the 42nd Infantry Division and a former commander of the 69th.

The 69th Infantry Regiment was organized in 1849 and made up of Irish immigrants.

During the Civil War the 69th was part of the Irish Brigade made up of infantry regiments recruited from the Irish community.

Since 1851 the 69th Infantry has led the New York City St. Patrick’s Day Parade, Flynn explained.

While the bulk of the Irish recruits in the 69th and the Irish Brigade came from New York City, a lot of those men came from the Albany area or came to live there after the war, Flynn explained.

“We wanted to do something for the upstate members of the 69th,” said Maj. Shawn Tabankin, the assistant operations officer of the 42nd Division and a former member of the 69th Infantry.

The 69th Soldiers marked Civil War graves at St. Agnes Cemetery with American and Irish colors.

They also took time to visit the grave of Sgt. David Fisher, a Soldier from the 1st Battalion, 101st Cavalry who was killed in a vehicle rollover accident serving with the 69th Infantry in Iraq in 2004.

At Albany Rural Cemetery the veterans again marked Irish Brigade graves in the Soldier’s Lot, a plot of land donated to the federal government in 1862 to provide gravesites for Soldiers who died in Albany military hospitals.

There are 149 Civil War Soldiers buried in the plot.

At the Soldier’s Lot the veteran’s also placed a wreath with Ireland’s colors at the foot of the Grand Army of the Republic memorial which was erected in 1873.

The 69th Infantry and the Irish Brigade were filled with immigrants seeking a better life and ready to give theirs for freedom and liberty, Flynn said.

“Today the 69th is still a regiment of immigrants, although it’s no longer the Irish,” Flynn said.

Brig. Gen. John Andonie, the Director of Joint Staff and a former commander of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry read the poem “Rouge Bouquet” to end the event.

The poem was written by 20th Century poet Joyce Kilmer to mark the first deaths of 69th Infantry Soldiers in combat during World War I in the spring of 1918. Kilmer himself was killed in action that summer while serving as a sergeant in the intelligence section.

“Rouge Bouquet” is traditionally read during memorial services for members of the 69th Infantry.

Among the Irish American Soldiers buried in the Soldier’s Lot is Pvt. Bernard Trainor.

Trainor came to New York during the Irish famine in the 1840s, Flynn said.

He enlisted in the 69th New York Volunteer Infantry in August 1862, one month before the regiment fought at Antietam, the bloodiest battle of the war. Half of the 69th Infantry was killed or wounded in that battle.

Trainor was wounded in the leg at Antietam but returned to duty.

Trainor’s good luck held out in December when the Irish Brigade attacked a well-entrenched Confederate force at Marye’s Heights at Fredericksburg, Virginia.

While the 69th suffered tremendous losses again, Trainor survived without injury.

His luck finally ran out at Gettysburg in July 1863. By that time, the 69th was a shadow of its former self, deploying with less than one hundred Soldiers.

Trainor was severely wounded and discharged as a result of his wounds. He was sent to Albany to convalesce, where he died in 1868.

Major Gavin Dermot, who currently serves in the 42nd Division,



Brig. Gen. John Andonie, Director of the Joint Staff and a former commander of the 69th Infantry, reads the poem “Rouge Bouquet,” during a memorial service to recognize Civil War veterans who served in the Irish Brigade and the 69th Infantry.

said that he was proud of his Irish heritage and history. As a second generation Irish immigrant – “My mother was fresh off the 747 from Dublin”—the history is important to him, Dermot said. **gt**



Maj. Stephen Kitchen, a 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters Soldier and 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry veteran, places an American and Irish flag on the grave of a Civil War veteran who served in the Irish Brigade at the Soldiers Lot in Albany Rural Cemetery March 10, 2019.

Digital Liaison Det Welcomes New Commander

Guard Times Staff



Col. Todd Bookless accepts the colors of the 53rd Digital Liaison Detachment from Brig. Gen. Michel Natali, commander of the 53rd Troop Command, Apr. 14, 2019. Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Pietrantonio, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

CAMP SMITH TRAINING Site, Cortlandt Manor, N.Y. -- Col. Todd Bookless, a veteran of the Iraq War, assumed command of the 53rd Digital Liaison Detachment during a change of command ceremony here April 14.

The 53rd Digital Liaison Detachment consists of officers and non-commissioned officers trained to help U.S. commanders at three-star general and four-star general command levels coordinate with coalition military forces.

The detachment traces its history back to the New York National Guard's famous 7th Regiment.

Bookless, who formerly commanded the 642nd Aviation Maintenance Battalion in Rochester, replaced Col. Patrick Macklin, a retired New York City police officer.

Bookless deployed to Iraq with the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade in 2005. In 2011-2012 he deployed to Kuwait with the 27th Infantry Brigade and in 2015-2016 he led a team from the 42nd Division to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to assist in running detention operations there. **gt**



Aviation Troops Complete Bataan Memorial March

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, N.M. -- Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation Regiment pose for a photo after completing the Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range on March 17. The team completed the grueling 26.2 mile ruck march through the New Mexico desert while carrying over 35 pounds each. They finished 24th in the Team Military Heavy Co-Ed Division. Pictured left to right Chief Warrant Officer 3 Christopher Munz (Headquarters Company), Staff Sgt. Jonathan Warshauer (Headquarters Company), Chief Warrant Officer 2 Meghan Polis (Alpha Company), 1st Lt. Richard Siracusano (Bravo Company) and Sgt. Douglas Chmura (Bravo Company). Courtesy photo.

Soldiers Earn German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge



WEST POINT, N.Y. -- Lt. Col. Michael Breuer, German Army Liaison Officer at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, awards the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge to New York Army National Guard Soldiers after they complete the 12-mile ruck portion of the Best Warrior Competition here March 30. Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Pietrantonio, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.



Soldiers assigned to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment conducts marksmanship training during an extended drill weekend at Camp Santiago, Puerto Rico April 13, 2019. While in Puerto Rico the Soldiers sharpened individual warfighting skills through short-range marksmanship. The company flew down and back aboard C-130 aircraft provided by the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing, based in Scotia, N.Y. Photo by Sgt. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

69th Infantry Heads to Puerto Rico for Training

Story and photos by Sgt. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

CAMP SANTIAGO, Puerto Rico -- More than 80 New York Army National Guard Soldiers from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment traveled to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to conduct marksmanship training Apr. 11-13.

The Soldiers, who stayed in Puerto Rico for 4 days, were flown to the island by a pair of C-130 Hercules operated by the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing from Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia.

Upon arriving in Puerto Rico, the Soldiers, who are based at the Lexington Avenue Armory in New York City, traveled to Camp Santiago and set to work honing their warfighting skills.

Camp Santiago is the primary training site for the Puerto Rico National Guard.

"We started at first light and confirmed that the whole company's rifles were zeroed," said 1st Lt. Matthew Canavan, one of the company's platoon leaders. After the zeros were confirmed, the real training began; consisting of a reflexive fire shoot and a stress shoot.

For the reflexive fire, the Soldiers were tasked with identifying and engaging targets at ranges from 5 to 25 meters while stationary and then while turning and walking

"For the reflexive fire the Soldiers use facing movements and controlled shots. Instead of taking single shots, they are shooting, moving, and communicating," Canavan explained. "We kept the squads and the fire teams organic with everyone who will be present at annual training, and we had them moving as a team."

The reflexive fire exercise, which reinforces the fundamentals of

short range marksmanship, was followed by the stress shoot, which is demanding both mentally and physically, Canavan said.

"The stress shoot involves getting a Soldier's heart rate up like it would be in combat," Canavan said. "We took each squad and had them run ¼ mile and then had them conduct push-ups, flutter kicks, and burpees so we could tire out their muscles."

Once the Soldiers were tired and fatigued the shooting began. "We took them onto the range and started giving them commands from the tower," Canavan said. "So not only are they fatigued, now they need to pay attention to commands."

During the stress shoot the Soldiers engaged a variety of targets in quick succession from the standing, kneeling, and the prone positions.

"It's designed to mimic the stress of combat," Canavan said. "It boils down to what will happen in a fight. They need to listen to the team leader."

Traveling over 1,600 miles to a different climate and working in an unfamiliar training environment weren't without its challenges and Alpha Company worked tirelessly to make sure all the moving pieces fit together.

"The training we received was new to me and something I definitely enjoyed," said Private 1st Class Lamar Warner, an infantryman assigned to Alpha Company,



Soldiers assigned to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment board a LC-130M Hercules Aircraft assigned to the 109th Airlift Wing of the New York Air National Guard in preparation to depart to Camp Santiago, Puerto Rico for a training event Apr. 11.

1-69th. "As an infantryman you are expected to operate in different locations, so it's important to train in different locations and not always going to the same place."

"Soldiers going to Fort Drum day in and day out doing the same exercises, it kills retention," Canavan said. "A second benefit is getting Soldiers used to a different type of climate."

As an Army National Guard infantry battalion, the 69th has been called up to active duty during the war on terror, and must continue to diligently train in preparation of

answering the call when needed, Canavan explained.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry have deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We don't know where our next war is going to be, and we don't know what type of climate it's going to be fought in," Canavan said. "Getting the chance to train somewhere different is extremely beneficial. Taking the soldiers into this hot and humid environment and having them conduct a stress shoot is very rigorous for them." **gt**



Photo at left and above, Soldiers assigned to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment prepare ammunition for marksmanship training at Camp Santiago, Puerto Rico on April 13, 2019. While in Puerto Rico the Soldiers honed their warfighting skills by practicing short-range marksmanship techniques.



A member of the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing performs maintenance on an LC-130, ski equipped aircraft at McMurdo Station, Antarctica on December 17, 2018. Photo by Tech Sgt. Gabriel Enders, 109th Airlift Wing.

109th Airlift Wing Completes 31st Season in Antarctic

Story by Master Sgt. Jaclyn Lyons, 109th Airlift Wing

SCOTIA, N.Y. — The New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing successfully wrapped up its 31st season of supporting American research in Antarctica as Airmen and aircraft returned home from McMurdo Station, Antarctica this week.

From October through February, six LC-130s and 551 Airmen provided support to Operation Deep Freeze, the U.S. military's support to Antarctic research.

The LC-130s are equipped with skies so they can land on snow and ice. They are the largest aircraft in the world with this capability and the only ones in the U.S. inventory equipped this way.

The 109th Airmen completed 154 missions within Antarctica over their five-month flying season. The wing flew around 2,100 researchers and support staff, 2.8 million pounds of cargo and more than 250,000 gallons of fuel to research stations across the continent.

This season also marked the first time all of the ski-equipped LC-130 aircraft operated with the eight-bladed NP-2000 propeller.

The NP-2000, propeller, which replaces the standard four bladed one, provides improved performance capability, better fuel efficiency, and better maintenance reliability than the older propeller system.

There are many advantages to the NP-2000, whose blades are swept back instead of straight, said Lt. Col. Steven Slosek, an LC-130 navigator.

"The new propellers provide more power at lower speeds," he explained. "This eliminates the need for assisted takeoffs on unprepared or soft snow. It also allows for just one blade to be replaced when needed instead of having to replace all the blades at once."

In the past, the 109th often had to use jet assisted take off devices – a rocket strapped on the aircraft—to take off in some instances. This stressed the airframe and decreased aircraft life.

A notable accomplishment by the unit this season was flying more missions to West Antarctic Ice Sheet Divide than ever before.


Out of the 154 missions flown this year, 55 of them were to the West Antarctic Ice Sheet. This is a challenging flight due to the length of the flight and the often poor weather conditions there, according to Major Tim Novak, who works in the wing operations office.

The additional flights were due to American researchers teaming up with British scientists to study the Thwaites Glacier, a portion of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet which appears likely to collapse into the ocean. This is a multi-year project that runs through 2021, Novak explained.

Col. Michele Kilgore, 109th Airlift Wing commander, who deployed as 13th Air Expeditionary Group Commander, Support Forces Antarctica, said the wing's Airmen did great work this season.

"I am proud of the work we do each year to support the United States Antarctic Program and the hard work put in by all of our maintenance, aircrew and support staff to make each season a success. It means a lot to be able to lead such a talented and hard-working group of men and women," Kilgore said.

Operation Deep Freeze, the military component of the U.S. Antarctic Program, is managed by the National Science Foundation.

The unit will now begin preparing for its annual mission to Greenland, which starts in April. 

Special Warfare Docs get Hands on Training

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff* and Capt. Michael O' Hagan, *106th Rescue Wing*

NEW YORK — Tactical exercises at the New York Police Department's Rodman's Neck Outdoor Range capped two weeks of training for 20 Air Force Special Warfare medical officers, many of whom supervise pararescue men, on January 18, 2019.

Donning combat gear, strapping on medical kits, and carrying M4s rifles, the doctors spent a day learning to shoot, move, communicate and treat casualties like pararescue Airmen, known as a "PJs" for short.

They maneuvered through an urban landscape used to train police officers under the watchful eyes of 103rd Rescue Squadron PJs – watching their tactics—and PJ medical directors who rated their field medical skills.

"It is absolutely difficult, especially when you go from a hospital setting to a tactical setting," said Capt. Brittany Schott. "It is very difficult to manage all the things. It gives us an insight into what our guys are doing."

The course, run by the 106th Rescue Wing, was the first Air Force Special Warfare Medical Officer training course, said Lt. Col. Stephen Rush, the wing Pararescue Medical Director.

Air Force pararescue is part of the Air Force contribution to the special operations community, and the course was about preparing its doctors for that challenge, Rush explained.

"The fact that we were able to get this course off the ground is exciting and I hope this course allows our leaders to see the benefit for any doc who deploys in direct or indirect support of (Air Force Special) Operations," Rush said.

The Air Force physicians spent one week learning about trauma, emergency medicine and mental health issues affecting operators. Civilian experts in neurosurgery, physical therapy and human performance also spoke.

The doctors received hands on training in a cadaver lab, a simulation lab, and special trauma lanes in which they were faced with 10 to 30 minute scenarios dealing with the most common injuries that PJs face, Rush said.

These included traumatic brain injury, chest trauma, abdomen injuries, amputations, shock and injuries to children, he explained.

They also trained in conducting blood transfusions, using a ventilator to keep a casualty alive, hemorrhage control and advanced

techniques for clearing airways.

The classroom work took place at Northwell Health System in Lake Success, N.Y., Stony Brook University Hospital and F.S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base in Westhampton, home to the 106th Rescue Wing.

The goal of the program was to prepare doctors to provide medical training to pararescue Airmen and Combat Rescue Officers, said Col. John Dorsh, the 24th Special Operations Wing surgeon and the Acting Air Force Pararescue Medical Director.

The connections Rush had with the medical community in the New York area helped make the training even more valuable, Dorsh said.

The 106th has trained pararescue medical officers for the past six years, Rush said.

Initially the training involved doctors sitting in on PJ medical training. But he realized that some of the medical officers didn't have the hands on experience they needed, he added

"Last year we were in the cadaver lab teaching the PJs to do chest tubes, surgical airways and other invasive procedures," Rush said, "and I asked of the eight (general medical officers), how many have any experience in these techniques and only two raised their hands. So I realized at that point that the docs need to be doing the training in addition to the PJs."

So the course was restructured so doctors spent one week learning the basic science of battlefield medicine and the second week learning to master the medical skills the PJs need.

"We're relying on them to train PJs," Rush said.

The capstone to the week was tactical training at Rodman's Neck.

Using Rodman's Neck, meant training could involve weapons and munitions, and combine close quarter combat with outdoor scenarios. The buildings, constructed to resemble a typical city neighborhood, allowed the doctors to move casualties up and down stairs, Rush said.

"As a new Special Operations medic it has really honed in on some of the medical skills that are needed to treat battlefield trauma and really helped me know how I can be more a part of the mission and really help our pararescue be the best they can to save our guys," Schott said. "Because that is what it is all about."



Air Force doctors negotiate a tactical course at the NYPD's Rodman's Neck Outdoor Range and treat a simulated casualty January 18 in the Bronx, New York.

Going through the course together ensures pararescue and special operations doctors all share the same skills, said Maj. Scott Stafford.

The tactical instruction was especially valuable, said Maj. Clayton Yeung. The doctors worked on tactics, movements, extricating patients and pulling security.

"Everything that's pertinent in what the PJs do," Stafford said.

The fact that it was snowing as the doctors went through the drills made it even more realistic, said Capt. Kubwimana Mhayamaguru.

"It really puts you in the mind frame of the operator," Mhayamaguru said. "It's been a really good course. I am really glad I am here," he said. "The medical education that we had was super." **gt**



Air Force and Air Guard physicians at their two-week Air Force Special Warfare Medical Officer training course hosted by the 106th Rescue Wing in New York City Jan. 7-18.





Photos above, opposite page and below: Airmen assigned to the 109th Airlift Wing Security Forces Squadron conduct combatant training at Stratton Air National Guard Base April 6, 2019. The Airmen trained in hand to hand combat, securing their weapon and subduing opponents. The training is a yearly requirement for the security forces and an opportunity for Airmen to learn new techniques.

Security Forces Airmen Train in Defensive Tactics

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Jaclyn Lyons, 109th Airlift Wing

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, N.Y.— Twelve Airmen assigned to the 109th Security Forces Squadron completed defensive tactics training on April 6, 2019 at the Zone 5 Law Enforcement Training Center in Schenectady, N.Y.

The training is required for all security forces members so Airmen can learn how to defend themselves and ensure their weapon is not taken if they are taken to the ground by an assailant.

The Zone 5 Training Center, a non-profit organization, provides training to over 65 state, county, city, town and village police agencies in a geographical area covering the ten counties of the Zone.

Master Sgt. Michael Peckham, a flight sergeant in the squadron, conducted the training to help Airmen build confidence and fight through any problems that may arise.

“Anytime you have a weapon you must remember that (they must) be ready at all times in any scenario to defend (the weapon), defend yourself and defend others,” Peckham said.

In his civilian career, Peckham is a police officer for the Village of Scotia and a certified instructor with the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services.

The ability to bring his civilian experience creates a more realistic training environment for the Airmen, Peckham said.

“We get twice the training that a regular police officer would get, and that’s the nice thing about being in the Guard,” Peckham explained.

In addition to the defensive tactics training, Airmen also participated in an obstacle course challenge to create some friendly competition.

Airmen had to use teamwork to complete different stages that included shooting targets, solving a puzzle, applying first aid techniques

to a mannequin and physical endurance challenges.

Staff Sgt. Alanna Guay, a security forces member, said she feels more empowered after completing the training.

“I like being in Security Forces,” Guay said. “It’s the boots on the ground.” **gt**



“We get twice the training that a regular police officer would get, and that’s the nice thing about being in the Guard,”

-- Master Sgt. Michael Peckham, 109th Security Forces Squadron

CPR Certified in Newburgh

Story and photo by Senior Airman Terrence Clyburn, 105th Airlift Wing

STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, N.Y. -- New York Guard volunteers Capt. Christopher Dunbar and Staff Sgt. Alexander Miyagi, assigned to the 244th Medical Group for the State Defense Forces, certified 15 Airmen in the 105th Airlift Wing in Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills here Feb. 9, 2019.

Airmen were taught and certified in CPR and Helmick Maneuver basics on both adults and children.

"It's a lifesaving skill," Dunbar said. "You just never know when you're going to use it."

The training is one aspect in how members of the New York Guard can provide training and support to the National Guard, Dunbar said.

"Different members of the New York Guard come to Stewart to qualify Airman almost every month, many having day jobs as doctors, physician assistants, medics, firefighters and police officers," he said.

Besides just learning CPR procedures, Airmen learned the importance of assessing

and responding in a timely manner. "If you don't start doing CPR within a minute or two chances of survival go down," Miyagi said.

"The instructors were very knowledgeable," said Tech. Sgt. Joseph Fitzsimmons, a crew chief with the 105th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron after the training.

"It's the first time I ever seen how to perform CPR on a child and baby," he said.

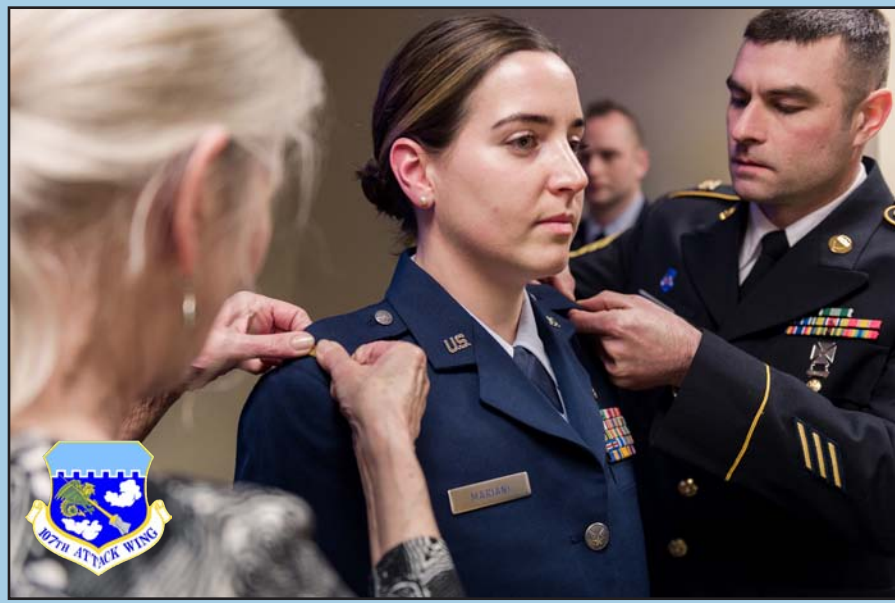
Dunbar and Miyagi have been coming to Stewart Air National Guard Base to teach CPR Classes for about a year.^{gt}



105th Airlift Wing Airmen take instruction from New York Guard members in CPR certification class in Stewart Air National Guard Base Feb. 9th, 2019. New York Guard Volunteers hold CPR certification classes at Stewart Air National Guard Base on a monthly basis.

Former Soldier Begins New Career as Air Guard Nurse

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION, N.Y. -- Newly commissioned Air National Guard 2nd Lt. Victoria Mariani, a nurse assigned to the 107th Medical Group, receives her rank pinned from her mother Elizabeth Ann Mariani and Army Sgt. 1st Class Russell Olds, Mariani's previous supervisor during her time in the Army, during a commissioning ceremony March 9, 2019. Mariani began her career in the Army and is a combat veteran. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ryan Campbell, 107th Attack Wing.



105th Medical Training

LEXINGTON, Ky. -- Community partners participated in a major medical exercise at the Blue Grass Airport with the Lexington Fire Department and Lexington Police Department with the 105th Airlift Wing on March 5, 2019. The exercise tested the area's ability to take in patients effected by national disasters with both live rife players and mannequins. Courtesy photo.

New Faces of Command

Air Guard Leadership Changes



New York Air National Guard Commander Brig. Gen. Timothy J. LaBarge, left, passes the unit guidon of the 224th Air Defense Group to Col. Paul M. Bishop, symbolizing his assumption of command. The exchange took place Feb. 14 at the Eastern Air Defense Sector in Rome. Courtesy photo.



Lt. Col. Michael Adamitis, center, receives the 174th Mission Support Group guidon from Col. Michael R. Smith, left, 174th Attack Wing Commander during a change of command ceremony held at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base in Syracuse, N.Y., April 7. Photo by Lt. Col. Michael Adamitis, 174th Attack Wing.



Lt. Col. James Miller, middle, receives the 174th Force Support Squadron's guidon from Col. John O' Connor, left, 174th Attack Wing Mission Support Group commander, during a change of command ceremony held at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base in Syracuse, N.Y., April 7. Photo by Staff Sgt. Duane Morgan, 174th Attack Wing.

Airmen Tackle Obstacles

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Scotia, N.Y. -- 109th Airlift Wing Security Forces Airmen completed an obstacle course challenge here April 6, 2019. The Airmen completed specific challenges that included shooting at targets, working together to solve a puzzle and providing medical aid to simulated patients in addition to physical fitness challenges throughout the course. Photos by Master Sgt. Jaclyn Lyons, 109th Airlift Wing.



Former 107th Commander Pins on One-Star



NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION, N.Y. -- Brig. Gen. Robert Kilgore, chief of staff of the New York Air National Guard, Latham, N.Y., looks on as his one star rank is pinned on by his wife, Col. Michelle Kilgore, commander of the 109th Airlift Wing, and his brother, retired Army Maj. Tom Kilgore, during his promotion ceremony in Niagara Falls, N.Y., March 10, 2019. Kilgore was promoted to the rank of brigadier general after commanding the 107th Attack Wing from January of 2015 to November of 2018. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ryan Campbell, 107th Attack Wing.

New York Guard

Guard Marches in St. Patrick's Day Parade

NEW YORK, N.Y. -- Approximately 40 soldiers of the New York Guard, State Defense Force 88th Area Command, marched down Fifth Ave in the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade, led by Brig. Gen. David Warager, Commander of the New York Guard. The 88th Area Command is headquartered in the Lexington Armory, home of the 69th Infantry "Irish" regiment, New York Army National Guard, who have led the New York City St. Patrick's Day parade for the past 168 years.

The New York Guard's 88th Area Command was first organized as the 1st Brigade of the New York Guard in 1917 when the NY National Guard was called into service, as the 27th Division, and sent to France when America entered World War I.

During the war, a State Guard was again created when the National Guard was federalized. The 1st Brigade, based in New York City, continued to serve after World War II, as the headquarters for the state militia force in New York City. In 1994, the 1st Brigade's designation was changed to the 88th Brigade in a salute to the Irish Brigade, one of the historic New York City Irish militia regiments that fought with distinction in the American Civil War. Photo by Sgt. Edward Shevlin, New York Guard.



Master Model Maker Shows Pride with Work

Story by Sgt. Richard Mayfield, New York Guard



A custom model of a National Guard Mobile Emergency Response Center, built by New York Guard Sgt. Joe Szczygiel. Photo by Joe Lacdan.

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, Cortlandt Manor, N.Y. -- The New York Guard is composed of people with many talents. Some are obvious while others are a bit more understated.

One Guard member whose talent recently revealed itself is Sgt. Joe Szczygiel of the 65th Detachment. Szczygiel is an award winning, master model maker whose creations are made from scratch (not from a pre-made kit) and have been featured in national publications.

His pieces of real life situations provide audiences with a glimpse into military life and activities. He recently scratch built a model of one of New York's Mobile Emergency Command Centers (MERC).

Szczygiel began building models when he was six years old and his enthusiasm for this delicate and intricate medium has never waned. His models and original works have been reproduced all over the world.

His work with militaria represents not only historically significant artifacts but pieces that represent the daily working lives of those he has worked with over the years. His extremely detailed representations show not only his dedication to his craft but the respect he has for those who give their time to serve our nation.

He served during Operation Snow Storm 2 this winter and spent his time running communications at the Joint Operation Command.

As a former National Guard member and returning NY Guard volunteer, Szczygiel said he knows that the success of any operation depends on good training, planning and proper execution, just as in models. **gt**

Guard Members Support Storm Ops Center

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION, N.Y. -- New York Guard Pfc. Samuel Maryjanowski and 1st Sgt. Andrew Raymond of the 65th Detachment, 10th Area Command, work side by side with New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen of the at the Joint Task Force 5 operations center while deployed here on state active duty during the 2019 Buffalo wind storm February 24. Also deployed to the Joint Task Force 5 operations center was Spc. David Cox. Photo by Spc. Michael Rehbaum, New York Guard.



New York Naval Militia

New Deputy Commander for Naval Militia

Guard Times Staff

LATHAM, N.Y. -- New York Naval Militia Captain Warren Smith, A Rhinebeck resident, has been named the Deputy Commander for the 2,700 member New York Naval Militia.

Smith, an architect, has been the head of the Naval Militia's Northern Command since 2015.

The New York Naval Militia is a state force which is composed of members of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Reserve, who also agree to perform state training and state duty when called upon.

The New York Naval Militia was first organized in 1891 and served as a naval version of the National Guard prior to the creation of the Navy Reserve.

Naval Militia members have responded to state weather emergencies, like Superstorm Sandy, and operate a fleet of ten patrol boats which operate on lakes Erie,

Ontario, and Champlain, the state's major lakes, the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers and New York harbor.

Smith served on active duty with the Navy from 1981 to 1985, serving on destroyers and a guided missile cruiser.

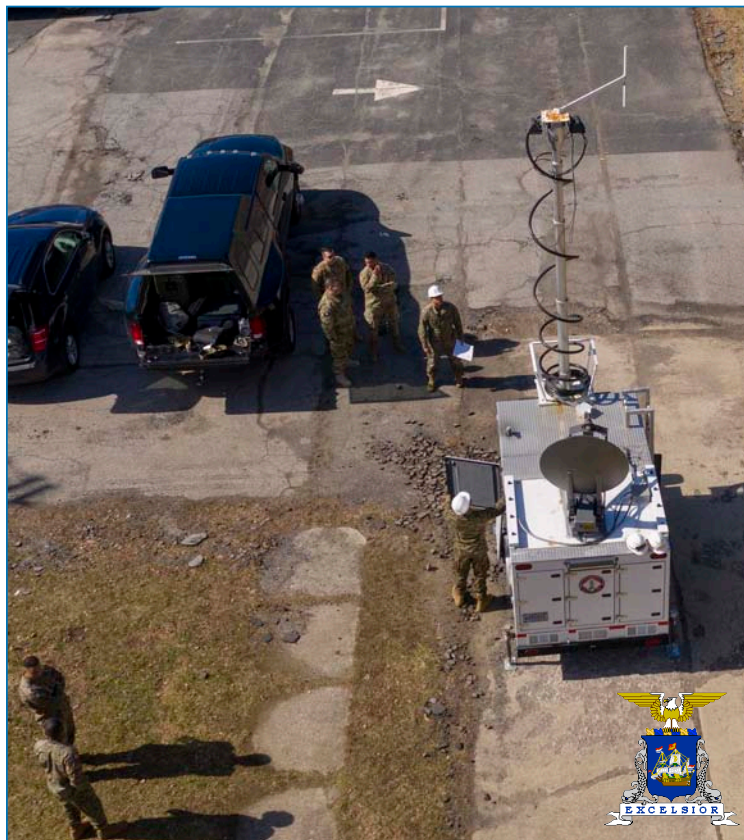
He joined the Navy Reserve in 1985 and served in a number of positions to include reserve executive officer for the USS Oliver Hazard Perry, Joint Public Affairs Operations Officer for the United States Atlantic Command, and a Joint Staff Planner.

Smith joined the New York Naval Militia in 2004. **gt**



New York Naval Militia Capt. Warren Smith

Naval Militia Marines Prep for Emergency Commo



CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, Cortlandt Manor, N.Y. – Members of the New York Naval Militia's 6th Communications Battalion, photo at left, train alongside counterparts of the New York Army National Guard to set up a New York National Guard Mobile Emergency Response Center, known as a MERC, March 24. Above, New York Naval Militia Lance Cpl. Garth Ikomi prepares the antenna mast for raising. The Naval Militia Communications Battalion is made up predominantly of Marine Corps Reservists. The training provided experience in operating emergency communications sites during state disasters. Photos by Lt. Cdr. Kenny Fellers, New York Naval Militia.

