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

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FROM THE LEADERSHIP

When it comes to the issue of sexual assault and sexual harassment the policy of the New York Army and Air National Guard is clear: sexual assault and sexual harassment are not tolerated.

Soldiers and Airmen who violate our standards will be disciplined.

Sexual harassment and sexual assault undercut the discipline and readiness of our force. When Soldiers and Airman don't feel safe coming to drill or training because of the way another member of their unit acts, or talks; it undermines unit cohesion and degrades readiness.

Leaders at all levels will not tolerate this behavior.

Sexual Assault is a crime. Intentional sexual contact is characterized by use of force, physical threat, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault includes rape, non-consensual sodomy, and unwanted and inappropriate sexual contact, or attempts to commits these acts. Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender, spousal relationship, or age of victim.

Sexual harassment is a form of gender discrimination that involves unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment is especially destructive when a superior officer or NCO implies that a Soldier or Airman's job is at risk if they reject the harasser.

It's obvious why this is wrong on so many levels. As members of the National Guard we are all members of a team and team mates respect each other and treat each other with dignity and respect.

If you know sexual misconduct is occurring in your unit you must stop it and report it so the proper legal actions can be taken. Sexual assault is a crime under state law as well as the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Here's my rule of thumb: When you hear somebody saying something to another Soldier or Airman, think about whether you would want those words directed at your child, your parent, or your spouse.

And when you hear those words which you know shouldn't be said, do something about it. Leaders must make on the spot corrections. Peers must speak up to peers. Leaders are responsible for establishing a command climate where safety is promoted. Keeping sexually charged remarks, comments, and materials out of the workplace is just one way of eliminating sexual misconduct from our ranks.

You have heard me say before that we are an organization of standards and discipline. It is what sets the military apart from other organizations. This applies to our personal behavior with others and the words we use just as it does anything else we do.

In our Army National Guard units we will be spending additional time conducting Sexual Harassment/ Assault Prevention and Response Program (SHARP) training to reinforce expectations and ensure standards are understood. Each Soldier will spend 3.5 hours annually reenergizing their commitment to treating each other with respect and ensuring they can recognize assault and harassment and use intervention and prevention to stop it cold.

To help commanders and Soldiers do the right thing we are aggressively training SHARP coordinators at the Brigade and Battalion level. This 80-hour course prepares Soldiers to help other Soldiers handle incident reports in the proper way and provide advice to commanders.

There are resources available if you believe you are a victim of sexual assault, harassment, or you want to know how you can help another Soldier or Airman.

The New York National Guard Joint Force Headquarter Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (JFHQ-SARC) Ms. Adina Taluto can be reached at 518-925-5954 or 518-786-4734 or the State Equal Employment Manager (SEEM) and Alternate JFHQ-SARC CW2 Heather Langley at 518-339-7586 or 518-786-4733. The Department of Defense Safe Helpline can be contacted at 877-995-5247 any time of day or night.

Other valuable information can be found at the National Guard Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program website here: <http://www.jointservicessupport.org/SAPR/default.aspx>

Remember the New York National Guard is a team and that team is bound together by standards and discipline and respect for each other.



Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy

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As we head into the presidential election season, members of the New York Army and Air National Guard should remember that while they and their families should vote, they are prohibited from taking part in a political activity while in uniform or on duty status.

Army National Guard personnel may NOT engage in political activity while on duty. All military personnel, including National Guard and Reserve Forces, are prohibited from wearing military uniforms at political campaigns and election events. DO NOT go anywhere near a political campaign in uniform and you are doing the right thing.

For further guidance you should refer to Department of Defense Directive 1344.10 and Army Regulation 600-20 paragraph 5-3.

The political activities of civilian federal employees, in other words technicians, are covered under the Hatch Act which outlines what political activity federal employees can engage in. For more detailed activity on what you can and cannot do during the election season check out Army electronic library at this link: <http://cpol.army.mil/library/general/elections>

Also, if military duty will take you away from your regular polling place on Election Day, you should obtain an absentee ballot so you can still vote. Information on absentee ballots can be found here: <http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html>.





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Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, COMMANDER IN CHIEF
Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
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DOUBLE EAGLE, N.M. - Pilots and crew members of Detachment 1, Company B, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation practice a pinnacle landing above a mesa rise northwest of Albuquerque near Double Eagle Airport.

Detachment 1, from Rochester, is currently stationed at Fort Hood, Texas where they linked up with the 126th Battalion headquarters from Edgewood, Md. to train up for their second deployment to Afghanistan in late August in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

ON THE COVER: FORT DRUM - Two Soldiers give the pilot of a New York Blackhawk the thumbs up after they completed hooking their 105 mm howitzer to the bottom of the aircraft. The Soldiers are members of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery who were at Fort Drum for Air Assault training where they train to sling-load their howitzers to helicopters and move to a pre-determined area to barrage the enemy with surprise artillery strikes. Photo courtesy of 126th Aviation.

BACK COVER: ALBANY - Chief Warrant Officer Mark Kimes leads musicians of the 42nd Infantry Division Band percussion section perform at West Capitol Park at the New York State Capitol July 18. The Soldiers are performing at public venues across New York State as part of their annual training this summer. The 42nd Infantry Division Band is the musical ambassador for the 42nd Infantry Division, New York Army National Guard. Photo by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Forces Headquarters.

GUARD NOTES

New Website Could Help Deter Stolen Valor



WASHINGTON - The Defense Department has launched a new website that honors service members' highest acts of valor.

The site-at <http://valor.defense.gov>-is designed to raise awareness of service members' heroism and to help deter those who falsely claim military honors, officials said.

It was unveiled less than a month after the Supreme Court on June 28 struck down the Stolen Valor Act, which made it illegal to lie about awards such as the Medal of Honor.

The nation's highest court said the law violated a person's freedom of speech.

But officials said the site's primary purpose is to honor those who received the nation's highest awards for valor since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

These are the Medal of Honor, service crosses and the Silver Star.

The listing covers only awards since Sept. 11, 2001. The site currently lists only those awarded the Medal of Honor, and will expand to include the other awards, officials said.

Future plans include listing awards from earlier conflicts.

****Correction****

The item about "The Wall Street Warfighters" in our Spring issue contained an error.

The article said that the Wall Street Warfighters Foundation Program is run by Drexel Hamilton.

The Wall Street Warfighters Foundation is a non-profit organization which mentors and trains disabled veterans for careers in the financial services industry. Drexel Hamilton is a Wall Street-based broker-dealer which offers employment to disabled veterans and has hired graduates of the program.

Senate Confirms New NGB Chief, Vice Chief



Lt. Gen. Frank J. Grass

WASHINGTON - The Senate confirmed Army Lt. Gen. Frank J. Grass as the next chief of the National Guard Bureau and Air Force Maj. Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel as the bureau's vice chief during a late evening session July 26.

Grass, who also will be a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will be promoted to the rank of general. Lengyel will earn his third star.

The Senate's action followed Grass' July 19 hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"To the men and women and families of the Army and the Air National Guard... you can know that I will be your strongest advocate," Grass said during the hearing.

Asked about his role on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Grass said, "As a member of the Joint Chiefs, I [will] definitely have to bring forward the adjutants generals' and governors' thoughts, concerns, on the homeland mission. ... I also need to be able to balance that with the federal mission and deployable forces and be able to give my best military advice to the secretary of defense as well as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs."

Grass will succeed Air Force Gen. Craig R. McKinley, the National Guard's first four-star general and first to be appointed to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Retired Maj. Gen. Gus Hargett, the NGAUS president, applauded the Senate's confirmation.

"General Grass is the right leader with the right set of experiences to move the National Guard forward," said Hargett. "With nearly 43 years in the Army National Guard as an officer and an enlisted man, both full-time and part-time, he truly knows the force and its obligations. Every Guardsman nationwide will be able to look toward NGB and know one of their own is in charge."



DVA Federal Credit Union Open to Guard Veterans

New York Army and Air Guard members who are eligible for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs are eligible to bank with the DVA Federal Credit Union.

The DVA Federal Credit union has branches at local VAs and provide a full range of banking services with the needs of veterans in mind.

In New York the DVA Federal Credit Union has offices at Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany; in Brooklyn at 800 Poly place; on Fort Hamilton and in Jamaica, Queens at 179-00 Linden Blvd.



New Leadership at the Air National Guard Readiness Center



Brig. Gen. R. Scott Williams

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. - Air National Guard Readiness Center personnel welcomed a new leader Aug. 7 here, as Air Force Brig. Gen. R. Scott Williams assumed command of the ANGRC from Air Force Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, the current direc-

tor of the Air National Guard.

During the ceremony Wyatt said that Williams' integrity and leadership was why he was selected for the position. He added that he was proud of what the ANGRC has done during the last four years, and with Williams' background he is the right choice to continue to lead this world-class organization into the future.

Williams gained valuable leadership experience as the director of the South Carolina Joint Force Headquarters Joint Staff where he served as a senior advisor to the Adjutant General of South Carolina on matters of training, manning and readiness of more than 10,500 South Carolina Army and Air Guardsmen. Williams plans to leverage his experience on a national level at the ANGRC.

"My priorities will always address our mission, our people, and our future," he said. "Any decision I make will be made with these priorities in mind."

The ANGRC ensures ANG field units are properly resourced to train and equip in support of state and federal missions across the entire spectrum of military operations and provide support, sustaining ANG Airmen throughout their careers.

VA Program Offers Vets New Education Opportunities



WASHINGTON - Unemployed veterans between 35 and 60 years old have an opportunity to begin a new career in one of more than 211 high-demand

occupations by applying for enrollment in the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program launched as part of the Vow to Hire Heroes Act of 2011.

Sponsored by the Veterans Administration and the Department of Labor

Veterans Retraining Assistance Program, or VRAP, offers up to 12 months of educational assistance to veterans enrolled in a VA-approved program of education offered by a community college or technical school.

The program the vet chooses must lead to an associate's degree, a non-college degree or certificate and train the veteran in one of the labor department's list of high-demand occupations. Online courses may be approved for VRAP. Programs of study at vocational flight schools, correspondence courses, on-the-job training, apprenticeship and work-study are not approved.

Applicants to VRAP will have until March 31, 2014 to apply. After that date, the funding program ends. While enrolled in a full-time educational program, participants receive direct monetary assistance equal to the monthly full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty program.

That rate is currently capped at \$1,473 per month. Vets are responsible for paying tuition, fees and books.

Eligible VRAP applicants must be unemployed at the time of application and have other than dishonorable discharges. Additionally, they cannot be enrolled in a federal or state job training program or receiving VA compensation due to being unemployable. Veterans eligible for other VA education benefit programs such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill or Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment are not eligible for VRAP.

Army Standardizes PTSD Diagnosis, Treatment

WASHINGTON - The Army, along with the other military services and the Department of Veterans Affairs, is standardizing the diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, known as PTSD.

"No matter where Soldiers are getting care or seeking help for PTSD or any other medical issue, we want to ensure we are doing it the same way," said Lt. Col. Christopher Warner, the Army Surgeon General's psychiatric consultant and deputy commander, Clinical Services, Bassett Army Community Hospital, Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

Warner said standardization increases a Soldier's level of trust and fairness in the system. The Army medical community is now being trained on guidelines spelled out in Army Medical Command Policy Memo 12-035 (Apr. 10, 2012), Policy Guidance on the Assessment and Treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Warner said.

The memo emphasizes the urgency of the issue.

"The majority of service members with PTSD do not seek treatment, and many who do seek treatment drop out before they can benefit," the memo reads.

"There are many reasons for this, including stigma, other barriers to care, and negative perceptions of mental health care. Lack of trust in military behavioral health professionals has been identified as one important predictor of service members not utilizing services.

Therefore, it is critical that Army behavioral health professionals do everything they can to advocate for and provide care in a patient-centered manner that reassures patients that they will not be judged and that their primary concerns will be addressed."

SPORTS & FITNESS - PREPARATION AND SAFETY

The military emphasizes physical fitness and encourages Soldiers and Airmen to enjoy sports and outdoor activities. But these activities can result in off-duty accidents. We must remain watchful of the increased hazards associated with off-duty outdoor activities and remain engaged throughout this high-risk season. "

Commonly overlooked potential hazards are physical training and sports. According to Brigadier General William T. Wolf, physical training and sports are the second most hazardous activities across our army. Wolf, Director of Army Safety and Commanding General, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center, urges leaders to focus on keeping their Soldiers and Family members safe while exercising. "We encourage our Soldiers and Families to enjoy off-duty sports and physical training, but everyone needs to be a leader and take steps to avoid acts of indiscipline and rule-breaking that cause injury," Wolf explained.

The Army Pocket Physical Training Guide contains information on planning and preparation required for safe and injury-free physical activities. Recommendations include:

Safety

- Always warm up and cool down before and after physical activity.
- Although some muscle soreness is expected following physical activ-

ity, pushing yourself too hard can aggravate injuries.

- Activities should be age appropriate. There are many ways to exercise outdoors; plan ahead so everyone in your group can participate in an activity suitable for their age and fitness level.

- Stay hydrated.
- Provide water for pets coming along for the fun.

Shoes

Proper footwear plays a key role in injury prevention. Keep the following tips in mind when choosing shoes:

- Shoe selection should be tailored to your particular foot type.
- The arch of your foot will help determine the type of shoe you should purchase. High arches need cushioned shoes; stability shoes are appropriate for normal arches; and motion control shoes are the best fit for low or no arches.
- Always tie and untie shoes when putting them on and taking them off.
- Shoes should be comfortable when you try them on. If they aren't, don't buy them.
- Replace running shoes when they begin to show visible wear or after 500 miles.

- The best shoe for you may not be the most expensive. Always try on both shoes in the pair you're considering and walk around the store before purchasing to ensure proper fit.
- If possible, shop for shoes at the end of the day to accommodate foot swelling.

Clothing

Proper clothing can help prevent injuries and keep you safe by heightening your visibility to motorists and protecting against the sun's harmful rays. Remember these tips when shopping for exercise clothing:

- Select items that include reflective material if you'll be running or exercising outdoors during times of low or limited visibility.
- Items should be comfortable, light in color and fit loosely.
- Never wear rubberized or plastic suits during outdoor activities.

Environmental conditions

- Find an alternate indoor location when the weather is extremely hot.
- Avoid activities near heavily traveled streets and highways during peak traffic hours.
- Exercise early in the day or during the late evening if your area has a problem with smog.
- Use waterproof or sweat proof sunscreen when exercising.

Any sports activity can cause injury, but basketball is the leading injury producer in the Army. Although Soldiers are susceptible to a variety of injuries while playing basketball, the lower extremities — specifically the knee and ankle — are most commonly affected.

Safely participating in team sports requires warming up properly, knowing your limits, staying hydrated and clearing the play area of trip hazards.

For additional information on exercise safety, visit <https://safety.army.mil>. **gt**
Article provided by Sgt. 1st Class Chuck Austin, Safety Specialist.

Take 5
for Sports and
Fitness Preparation

SOLDIERS LEADERS CIVILIANS FAMILIES

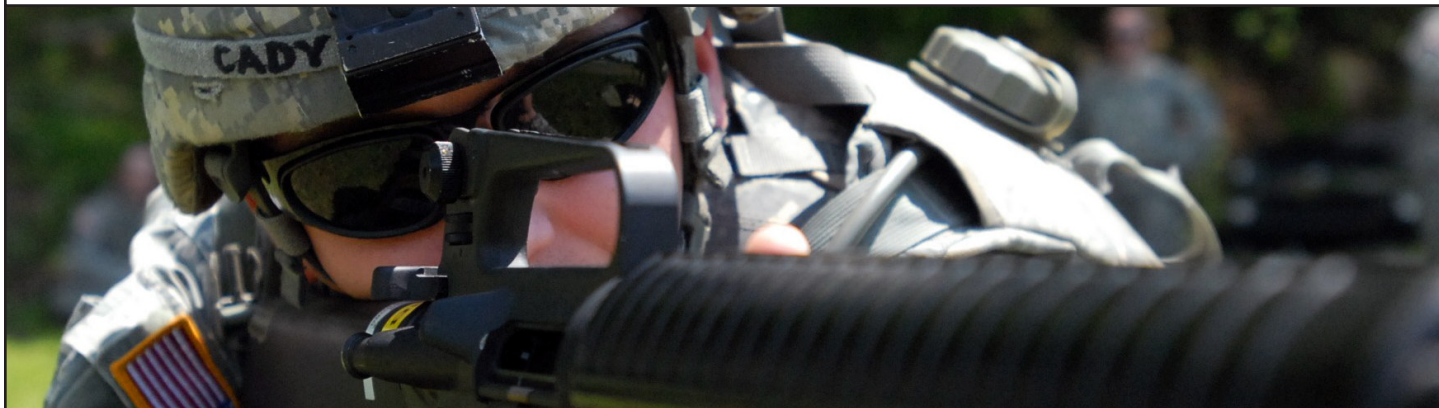
- Minimize injuries with proper planning before physical activities.
- Sports and physical training produce the most injuries.
- Proper gear and equipment play a role in injury prevention.
- Clothing should be light, loose and comfortable.
- Don't go out in extreme heat; stay indoors for activities.

Take 5 ... then take action.

ARMY STRONG
ARMY SAFETY
IS ARMY STRONG
A BAND OF BROTHERS & SISTERS

RTI Corner

In this issue of the Guard Times, the staff is launching an RTI Corner. This issue introduces the leadership at the Institute



RTI Commander and Training Battalion Commanders



Commander, Regional Training Institute

Col. Michel A. Natali was commissioned into the Military Intelligence Corps on 23 May 1987. After active duty, he joined the New York Army National Guard in December, 1996. His active duty assignments included Commander, HHC 110th MI Bn., Collection Manager-G2, 10th Mountain Division, Ft. Drum and S2-5th Bn. 8th Infantry, 8th Infantry Division, Mainz Germany. His N.Y. Army National Guard assignments included Deputy Commander, 27th Inf. Bde. Combat Team, Army Chief of Staff-G2 42nd Infantry Division.

He has deployed to South Florida in support of Hurricane Andrew response, Somalia in support of Operation Restore Hope, Haiti in support of Operation Uphold Democracy and to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He also deployed to New York City subsequent to the 9/11 attacks with the New York State Police. Col. Natali is a graduate of the Military Intelligence Basic and Advance Courses, the Signals Intelligence Course, the Command and General Staff College as well as Military Intelligence and Infantry Pre-Command Courses. He holds Bachelor of Arts in Government and is working on his Masters in Public Administration.



Commander, 1st Battalion, 206th MP

Lt. Col. Robert Giordano, from Rexford, N.Y., enlisted in the New York Army National Guard in 1983 and received his commission as a second lieutenant upon graduation from the Rochester Institute of Technology in 1989.

He has served in the military police, field artillery and public affairs career fields, including assignments as mortar platoon leader, infantry company executive officer, headquarters company executive officer, rifle company commander for Company A, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, media operations chief and deputy division public affairs officer for the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters, operations officer for the 42nd Special Troops Battalion and division plans analyst officer of the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters.

He deployed to Iraq with the 42nd Infantry Division in 2004-2005 and served as the deputy Public Affairs Officer for the 42nd Infantry Division and Task Force Liberty in North Central Iraq.

He was promoted to the rank of Lt. Col. on Nov. 20, 2011 by Col. Natali, the same day he took command of the 1st Bn., 106th Military Police Regiment.



Commander, 2nd Battalion, 106th Modular

Lt. Col. Christopher G. Ciccone is a logistics officer who was promoted to his current rank on Apr. 27, 2012. He is an Earth Science Teacher at Columbia High School.

He holds degrees in Curriculum Development and Geology from the University at Albany. His military education includes: Training Institute Pre-Command Course, Incident Awareness and Assessment, Multifunctional Logistics Officer Phase II, Multifunctional Logistics Officer Phase I, Supply and Service Officer Management Course, Military Intelligence Pre-Command Course, Command and General Staff College, DIA Warning Analysis Course, CENTCOM AOR Course, ACE Chief Course, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Security Managers Course, Military Intelligence Officers Advanced Course, COMSEC Custodian Course, Military Intelligence Officers Basic Course.

Prior to taking a command at the RTI, he has served as Army Chief of Staff and Deputy, G2, 42nd Infantry Division. He deployed with the 642nd Military Intelligence Battalion, 42nd Infantry Division.

He is a recipient of Bronze Star Medal and two Meritorious Service Medals.

Military Personnel News: the MILPO Corner

Admin Personnel

ePAM Tutorial Video Fielding. MNP-EPP recently fielded a new training video on the new ePAM application. This video is a training tool to educate human resource professionals on the new ePAM program. The video displays the multiple functions of the ePAM program as well as step-by-step instructions on requesting a vacancy fill, managing eligibility rosters, and uploading and inputting promotion packets. To access the video, go to the MNP AKO webportal, <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/553732>.

Fielding of the Flagging Actions Video. The Military Personnel Directorate has developed a comprehensive informational and instructional video on flagging actions. The video is located on the MNP-AKO Webportal, at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/553732>. The video is a technical guide and provides detailed instructions to process flagging transactions on the Standard Installation and Division Personnel Reporting System (SIDPERS). It is a reference tool for Battalion S-1 personnel. Units are reminded to manage their flagging actions with periodic reviews of Soldier records. To facilitate this process, you can review the status of flagging actions on the NYARNG G1 Strength Management Program at http://nyngportal/mnp/strength_man.html. Click the "On Board" down arrow and select "Flags and APFT". Next select your UIC to view a list of the open flags in your unit including the type and date when initiated. Pay special attention to those highlighted in red as they have been in place for over 12 months. Total numbers are also available by selecting the "CMD Report" tab.

Pay and Benefits

New Bonus Policy. On June 5, 2012 a new bonus policy launched. It completely changed the way incentives are offered and managed. There are two major changes the Personnel Community needs to be aware of regardless of whether or not they are directly involved with incentives.

First, the RPM score has been replaced with Tier Levels. Individual paragraph and lines are assigned a Tier Level (1-7) and incentives may be authorized based on Tier Level and Individual Soldier/Officer qualifications. The Tier Level Scoring system takes into account the unit's true need for a valid vacancy to be

filled using major factors such as the unit's MOS percentage fill rate, overall unit strength, percentage of Duty MOS Qualified (DMOSQ) Soldiers in the unit, state and nation in order to effectively offer incentives to assist units in achieving readiness. This means improper UMR management will have a negative effect on Bonuses that can be offered.

The second criteria for being considered an Unsatisfactory Participant (U) is changed from nine AWOLS within a 12-month period, to one "U" code on the unit's DA Form 1379 that is not corrected or changed within 90-days from the date of the "U" code. (Commander can change the "U" code up to 90 days after the drill). The Soldiers will be considered an Unsatisfactory Participant and have their bonus terminated with recoupment effective on the date of the first "U" that is not corrected. This policy also affects Chapter 1606, MGIB-SR and SLRP Unsatisfactory Participant eligibility. This rule revision is based on a recent change to AR 601-210.

DFAS Warns of E-mail Scam. E-mails are being sent which appear to be from a DFAS employee concerning disability compensation. These e-mails are from a non-governmental e-mail account, although they display a dot-mil address. The e-mail states the recipient may be able to obtain additional funds from the IRS. These e-mails are not from DFAS. DFAS will never send an unsolicited e-mail requesting your myPay login ID and password or any other personal or financial information. Never reveal your myPay login to any email, and don't click on any links or open attachments. Delete these emails immediately.

Inactive Duty Training (IDT) Performance Reporting Procedures Published. The new NGR 680-1 Personnel Assets Attendance and Accounting regulation has been signed by Gen. McKinley, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and published in May 2012. This regulation introduces a new application titled MyUnitPay. This regulation provides the unit commander, Military Personnel Management Office, and United States Property and Fiscal Office with procedural guidance to administer IDT performance accounting using MyUnitPay. Chapter 1, section 6 (1-6) describes the procedures for approved personnel to access MyUnitPay.

New AR 670-1. A new AR 670-1, Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia, has been posted on the publications web site, as of May 16, 2012. Go to www.apd.army.mil/pdf-files/r670_1.pdf to view uniform changes.

Officer Records

Joint Qualification System and Retroactive Joint Credit. The 2007 National Defense Authorization Act enables National Guard Officers who served in assignments (military and/or civilian Federal, State, and local government agency) that meet the Title 10 668 definition of Joint Matters, to apply for joint credit. Officers can apply through the Joint Qualification System (JQS) at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/jmis/JQsindex.jsp>. The JQS was created as a tool to allow officers to self-nominate their experiences for joint credit. Officers interested in receiving retroactive joint credit for a past assignment (October 1, 1986 to present) must submit their experiences no later than September 30, 2013. Following this deadline, all experiences must be submitted within one year of completing the qualifying experience. For more information, please visit our AKO website for the complete policy memorandum.

Mandatory Removal Date (MRD). New rules apply for Continuation beyond Age 60 for Officers in Sanctuary/18 Year Lock. Army National Guard officers who are credited with 18 or more years of qualifying services prior to MRD will not be separated from an active status without their consent or the approval of the Secretary of the Army. Those officers who have reached the maximum age of 60, and have been credited with 18 or more years of qualifying service, are eligible for continuation beyond their MRD to achieve a 20 year regular or non-regular retirement, up to age 62. Request for continuation beyond MRD should be submitted a minimum of seven months prior to the officer's MRD to avoid issues.

Education

DoD Memorandum of Understanding. (MOU). The DOD MOU, a Voluntary Partnership between the Department of Defense and Institutions of Higher Learning is still undergoing a process of change. Currently, the MOU is set to take effect before fall semester. The MOU will be imbedded in the Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 1322.25, Voluntary Education Programs which is currently

being finalized. Once the DODI is finalized and the MOU takes effect, Soldiers will no longer be able to utilize Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) at schools that have not signed the MOU with the DOD. To see if your school has signed the MOU visit www.dodmou.com and click on "Participating Institutions."

Executive Order 13607 Establishing Principles of Excellence for Educational Institutions Service Members, Veterans, Spouses, and Other Family Members. This Executive Order encourages Institutions of Higher Learning to commit to the Principles of Excellence. These principles ensure these educational institutions provide meaningful information to service members, veterans, spouses, and other family members about the financial cost and quality of education institutions to assist those prospective students in making choices about how to use their Federal education benefits; prevent abusive and deceptive recruiting practices that target the recipients of Federal military and veteran's educational benefits. Those that choose to adhere to these Principles of Excellence will be listed on the VA website at www.va.gov.

Healthcare

Health Net TRICARE North Mobile Website. Local urgent care and convenient care clinic, doctor and contact information can be accessed through www.hnfs.com/go/mobile. This website offers on-the-go health care information. Please post to your smart phone for use when traveling.

PDHRA Window Opens for Soldiers and DA Civilians Affected by Iraq Drawdown.

Soldiers and DA Civilians that returned between November 2011 and February 2012 are now in the window for the Post-Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA). The PDHRA is taken to reassess Soldier and DA Civilian physical and behavioral health 3-6 months after redeployment. Due to the large required number of Soldiers and DA Civilians due to take the PDHRA and demand for installation resources, leaders are reminded to plan ahead to ensure completion within the DOD directed 3-6 month period. Visit the following link for more information. <https://forums.army.mil/communitybrowser.aspx?id=1755227&lang=en-US>

Veterans and Survivor Services

Survivor Outreach Coordinator (SOS).

Daniel M. O'Brien has replaced Michael Batza as the Capital District and upstate SOS coordinator. Mike did an outstanding job in coordination with Fallen Soldier families and has worked with Dan in his transition to this important position. Dan will now be assisting families address unresolved issues or questions

that may surface months or years after the loss of a loved one. Dan works in the MNP office on the third floor of building 25, at the Watervliet Arsenal and can be reached at (518) 270-1541. Other SOS points of contact for New York are Mr. Dan Arena, Syracuse Area, (315) 438-3301 and Mr. Raul Lopez, Camp Smith/NYC Area, (914) 944-6580.

VA Facebook Reaches Milestone. The Facebook page for the Department of Veterans Affairs has amassed more than 200,000 "fans." The milestone was achieved less than three years after the creation of VA's office of online communications, which oversees all social media programs. VA has over 150 Facebook pages, most of which belong to individual VA medical centers, with a combined subscribership of more than 440,000 fans. Also, VA maintains an extensive social media presence with 70 Twit-

ter feeds, the VAnTage Point blog, a YouTube channel with over 400 videos and a Flickr page containing over 12,000 photos. To access and connect to VA's social media sites, visit VA's Social Media Directory.

Vet4Warriors Offers Peer Support Resources for Service members. The Peer Support Line provides all National Guard and Reserve Component Service members with 24/7 access to non-clinical peer counseling and support services, with web-chat capability, regardless of status. Vets4Warriors services can be accessed via the toll free number (1-855-VET-TALK) or on the web through www.vets4warriors.com.

DID YOU KNOW?
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NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD
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(www.tricare.mil/reserve/reserveselect)

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***BENEFITS OF TRS**

- Comprehensive health coverage similar to TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra (in the U.S.) or TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) Standard (overseas)
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- TRS Member-Only coverage: \$49.62 per month.
- TRS Member-and-Family coverage: \$197.65 per month.

***QUALIFYING FOR TRS**

National Guard and Reserve members may qualify to purchase TRS coverage if they are:

- A member of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve
- Not eligible for or enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program

Note: If you are eligible for or enrolled in the FEHB program, you are not eligible for TRS. Contact your employer's personnel office for coverage under the FEHB program.

***HOW TO PURCHASE TRS**

If you qualify, you may purchase TRS coverage to begin in any month throughout the year. To purchase TRS:

1. Log on to the Guard-Reserve TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) Program Web site at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/trs/index.jsp>.
2. Select "Purchase Coverage" and you will be asked to confirm whether you are eligible for the FEHB program.
3. If your FEHB status qualifies you for TRS, you will then be guided through the process of selecting a start date and electing which family members you wish to enroll.
4. Print and sign the completed TRS Request form (DD Form 2896-1), then mail the form along with the first month's premium payment to your regional contractor (See the For Information and Assistance section) by the applicable deadline. Coverage begins on the first day of the first or second month (whichever you select on the TRS Request form) depending on the postmark date of your TRS Request form.

If you lose coverage under a non-premium TRICARE health care plan and qualify for TRS, you may purchase TRS with no break in coverage. Submit your completed TRS Request form* with an enclosed premium payment postmarked no later than 60 days after the loss of the non-premium TRICARE coverage. TRS coverage begins on the day after the loss of your prior TRICARE coverage.

Chaplain's Corner

Nurturing the Living, Comforting the Dying and Honoring the Dead

By Chaplain (Col.) Eric Olsen, New York National Guard Chaplain



As long as the United States has fielded a force, she has turned to men and women of faith to help her Soldiers get through the hardest moments of their lives.

The U.S. Army Chaplain Corps has, as its unwavering mandate, the profound task of nurturing the living, comforting the dying, and honoring the dead.

Throughout history it has often fallen to those of faith, and holders of time honored wisdom, to define the moments that change our lives, hold the beacon of hope, share the elements of truth and bring the spirit of the divine into the moment.

In America, we come from many traditions, faiths and backgrounds. Yet, we come together as "One Nation Under God" dedicated to the dignity of every human being and with the unalienable truth that we are created as equals. It is with these beliefs firmly underpinning the chaplain's personal faith, that allows those wearing the insignia of their faith to cross the lines of denomination and practice to reach into the lives of all our Soldiers, Airmen and their families.

In the past year, Chaplains have attended births, celebrations, sickrooms and funeral homes. We have been graciously allowed into

the lives of many, to share sacred trusts here at home and abroad in the theater of conflict.

We have shared in the greatest moments, ones that make life both hard and rich. I speak for the Corps of New York to say that we have been blessed by every life, moment, challenge and person we have encountered. As we prepare for a new year and all that it will bring, your unit chaplain and those of faith in your community will be there, as they always have to make it a better year by sharing the moments in love, courage, faith and hope. Together, we will endure all things because united we stand.

A life has many moments, some good and some that are deeply challenging and or painful. Together with faith, we can meet these challenges with dignity and honor. In all we do we must remember that no difficulty is too large, no tomorrow too bleak, no challenge too daunting. We can face tomorrow because with God they are never faced alone.

For God and Country: Chaplain Olsen. **gt**

Chaplains Building Community Partners

By Col. Richard Goldenberg, Guard Times Staff

CAMP SMITH – Soldiers and families of the New York Army National Guard's 101st Enhanced Signal Battalion enjoyed a community dinner by congregation members of the Hopewell Reformed Church July 6.

The dinner, supporting the Soldiers and families preparing for mobilization in August for a deployment to Afghanistan, strengthens the ties between community faith organizations and the National Guard in a "Partners in Care" initiative. The event was arranged, in part, by Chaplain (1st Lt.) Chris Antal, the 101st Signal Battalion Chaplain.

"The Hopewell Reformed Church is in the process of becoming a Partners in Care congregation with the Army Chaplain Corps in order to formalize, sustain and develop the supportive relationship with military families," Antal said.

The "Partners in Care" initiative, begun with the Maryland Army National Guard, establishing a network of faith-based organizations and volunteers willing to provide community and religious services for Soldiers and their families.

The Delaware, Illinois and Montana Army National Guards also offer Partners in Care networks and the program is now taking hold in New York.

The program, is a partnership with the New York Army National Guard Chaplains Corp, explained Chaplain Antal. It "enables Chaplains and local faith communities to work together to better serve the religious and spiritual needs of military service members and their families."

Congregations volunteer to provide a range of Soldier and family services, including counseling, education and mentoring. Families can also receive the support of emergency food, clothing, household items, housing referrals and transportation.

Unit chaplains and commanders will remain the focal point for leading Soldiers to the appropriate congregation in their area, adding another resiliency tool for troops and their families.

"This program is designed to partner willing and trained congregations with requesting

Soldiers in a mutual relationship to meet the demands and stressors of their military commitment," Getman said.

"Most civilians are aware of the numerous deployments and have heard of the rise in suicidal behavior, increased levels of divorce and greater instances of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder," said Chaplain Candidate (1st Lt.) Mark Getman from Camp Smith.

"These difficult conditions and others have shown that there needs to be a greater community involvement in the deployment cycle of Soldiers and their families. By partnering with local congregations with Soldiers and their families, we hope to create healthy relationships that can foster success, heal brokenness, and build resilient communities," he said.

Getman also provides Chaplain services at Camp Smith at the Father Duffy Chapel and Spiritual Fitness Center, including support this summer to the US Military Academy cadets training for the Air Assault qualification course. **gt**

Inspector General Corner

Changing of the Guard

By Col. Eric Hesse, Inspector General

Time flies when you are having fun, at least that's what they say. It is true in my case however, because I have enjoyed my three years as your Command Inspector General. I'm sure many who have heard me brief or get on my soapbox on certain issues may not agree but I have always had the best intentions for those who serve in the New York Army and Air National Guard. It is an organization of standards and discipline and I believe commands do look out for their subordinates.

It wasn't my choice to leave but big Army has told me it is time to go. Where my next assignment leads me I'm not sure, but I will keep in touch with members of the organization and will speak highly of the organization as a whole. There are many who I could and should thank but I'm a simple man and will keep this simple. To those who have worked in the Inspector General's office, past and present, you are a great group of individuals who combine to make a superb team. Treat the "new guy" as well as you have treated me. It's been an enjoyable place to work and you have always gotten the mission accomplished. To both State Adjutant Gener-

als for whom I have worked. I have appreciated and enjoyed your leadership, mentorship and accessibility. You have built superb teams and continue to develop a winning organization. Your leadership has created an environment where people are willing and encouraged to grow.

Your new Command IG is Air Force Col. Daren Sears. He is the first Air Force IG in what will eventually be six States in total who transition to Air Force IG's. He has already completed the Army IG course and the Air course follows this month. It will be healthy for the organization to have a new set of eyes and ears, change is good.

Always remember standards and discipline and you can't go wrong. I look forward to seeing many motorcyclists out on the roads of New York all in the correct personal protective equipment. Also, I know when I run in to a New York National Guard Soldier in my travels they will be in the correct uniform looking like a Soldier.

As Chief Warrant Officer Robert Wold said "Y'all have been waiting for three years for this so it is time for me to sign out." **gt**

Three New York National Guardsmen Became Citizens in East Room of the White House



WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama listens as Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano administers the oath of allegiance during a military naturalization ceremony for service members in the East Room of the White House, July 4. Three New York Army National Guard Soldiers participated in the ceremony, becoming U.S. citizens. Standing third from left, front row, is Spc. Alla Victorovna Ausheva, from Company G, 427th Brigade Support Battalion. Also attending was Staff Sgt. Daniel Arcenal Geneta, born in the Philippines. Geneta joined the New York Army National Guard in 2006 and is a squad leader in the 719th Transportation Company. The third Soldier to attend was Spc. Fatima Rivera Fuentes, born in El Salvador. She serves as an aviation electronics technician in the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion. Official White House Photo by Pete Souza.

Troops Take Training to Heart

By *Guard Times Staff*

NEW YORK STATE PREPAREDNESS TRAINING CENTER, Oriskany – More than 1,000 National Guard Soldiers, Airmen and New York Guard volunteers tested their ability to respond to domestic emergencies as part of their Homeland Response Force (HRF) validation training here on May 15.

“We have a very capable and unique [Homeland Response Force],” said Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the adjutant general of New York.

The force combines Guard Soldiers and Airmen with our state forces, the New York Guard and New York Naval Militia, Murphy said.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region II HRF also includes members of the New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands National Guards as well as New Yorkers. The combined force supports civil authorities in response to Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear (CBRN) or Hazardous Material incidents that require the evacuation, decontamination and medical triage of casualties.

While undergoing the validation process, Soldiers demonstrated their abilities under the watchful eyes of observer-trainer controllers from U.S. Army North and the Joint Inter-agency Training Education Center.

What Exactly is a HRF?

The HRF provides governors with a response capability to assist first responders in saving lives and mitigate suffering in response to a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or High Explosive incident.

The 10 HRFs align with each Federal Emergency Management Agency region to allow for closer and more familiar contact with civilian responders. The National Guard forces also provide a greater responsiveness to local authorities due to their closer geographical locations.

The 42nd Infantry Division headquarters in Troy provides the command post for the HRF. The teams train to respond to local authorities within a 6-12 hour window to local authorities after a Weapons of Mass Destruction or other hazardous materials incident requiring assistance from federal military resources. The force is equipped to respond via ground transport to an incident site, but is capable of air transportation to support all the states or territories



New York Army National Guard Sgt. Albert Avery, a Brooklyn resident and member of the 222nd Chemical Company, helps Pfc. Necko Nieves, an Atlantic City, N.J. resident and a trucker with the 253rd Transportation Company, take off his protective suit during disaster response training at the New York State Preparedness Center May 16. Photo by Spc. J. P. Lawrence, 42nd Infantry Division.

responding to a CBRN event.

The core of each HRF is a CBRN capability similar to that found in the National Guard's existing CBRN Enhanced Response Force Packages, augmented with additional command and control and security capability. This allows for the force to expand as an incident may require.

At the same time, these National Guard forces are prepared to provide trained and ready troops to support overseas contingency operations as needed.

The training was conducted at the New York State Preparedness Training Center because the 723 acre space, located at the former Oneida County Airport, provides plenty of room for different training exercises to take place concurrently.

The facility, run by the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services prepares traditional and non-traditional first responders to gain the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters or terrorist-related incidents. National Guard response forces have joined first responders from across the state in training at the site. **gt**



Maj. Gen. Robert Wolf, Commander of the New York Naval Militia, is briefed on the "rubble pile" by a civilian member of the HRF Exercise Evaluation Team, about search and extraction techniques as part of the Homeland Response Force Exercise Evaluation, which took place at the State Preparedness Training Center, Oriskany on 14-20 May. Also in the photo from left are: Senior Chief Petty Officer Ron Gillespie, Petty Officer Tom Gray, Capt. Dave Tucker, and Cmdr. Tom Rielly. Photo by Master Chief Petty Officer Bob Clark.



Scan here for the HRF video via YouTube.com



Airman 1st Class Kevin Gwinn of the Long Island-based Air National Guard's 106th Security Forces Squadron checks identification at the initial check point at the New York State Readiness Training Center in Oriskany on May 15. Photo by Warrant Officer Ubon Mendie, New York Guard.

Into Schools and Communities With Drug Prevention

An Estimated 31,882 School Children Taught

By Spc. J.p. Lawrence, 42nd Infantry Division



The Soldiers and Airmen of the New York Counterdrug Task Force gathered for their annual workshop in Syracuse, N.Y., June 25-29. The Stay on Track instructors shown here brought the anti-drug abuse message to an estimated 31,882 children at dozens of schools, camps and fairs in New York.

SCOTIA - Staff Sgt. Ernesto Morales lives in a neighborhood where stories of drug abuse are rampant. "I hear of all these sad stories in the news and around my neighborhood," Morales said. "They never end well." So every day, Morales goes to work to do something about it.

Morales is one of the Soldiers and Airmen of the New York Counterdrug Task Force, a National Guard unit that partners with community groups that fight the spread of illicit drug use through community outreach and education.

Since last October, Counterdrug has provided drug prevention education to an estimated 31,882 children at dozens of schools, camps and fairs in New York.

"We recognize that changing the culture of drug use and addiction is a responsibility requiring the efforts of the entire community," said Col. Richard Sloma, commander of the Counterdrug Task Force, "We are part of that community and we want to help those who also recognize the impact of illicit drug use."

Educating children about the effects of drug use is only one way Counterdrug works within a community. They have offered rock walls, rope obstacle courses and skate parks.

In the future, they plan to work more closely with community groups to tailor drug-prevention efforts to fit each individual community. The goal is a New York community that says "no" to illicit drug abuse and drug traffickers.

"It's about being a team, and working together as a big family within your community," Morales said. "It's all about making a change and giving an extra helping hand. The military is also about helping out and that's what I signed up for."

Sgt. Steven J. Taber, another Counterdrug Soldier, said there is no better feeling than relating to students and affecting them in a tangible way.

He recalled an experience with an eighth-grader named Chris, whose father had passed away.

"Chris was starting to act up in school so I decided to have a talk with him," Taber, who also lost his father at an early age, said. "I told him my story about my father, and then I asked him what he thought his dad would say if he knew he was doing badly in school. I told him that it gets easier with time and he needs to stay on track."

Chris would later become one of Taber's best students.

"The Counterdrug program has been a life-changing experience," Spc. William J. DeTomaso said. "I am actually doing something that could change people's lives for the good."

More information about the New York National Guard can be found at www.dnma.ny.gov and the Counterdrug Task Force at www.counterdrug.com. **gt**



Sgt. Maurice Wells, helps members of the Civil Air Patrol climb the rock wall during a leadership-building exercise conducted by the New York Counterdrug Task Force at Stratton Air Force Base July 25. Photo by Spc. J.p. Lawrence, 42nd Infantry Division.

Providing Tools in the Fight Against Drug Trafficking

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

SCOTIA - A drug trafficker speeds his way up the New York Thruway. Ten pounds of marijuana are hidden in a compartment below his seat. He's nervous. He presses the gas pedal. He looks over his shoulder – flashing lights.

And now he's in trouble.

He opens his window and the policeman notices a strong scent wafting from the car. But from where? The car is held for further analysis. The police officer calls for support.

And the New York Counterdrug Task Force answers.

Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Brian Gillis, who manages the scanners and other equipment at Counterdrug, estimates his unit is called to help law enforcement find hidden drug compartments 30 to 40 times a year.

The goal is to gather evidence, to find and identify narcotics – all of the narcotics, no matter how cleverly hidden. Counterdrug offers several specialized tools to agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Department of Homeland Defense, the Albany Police Department, and others.

Counterdrug offers these tools to law enforcement agencies at no cost, Army National Guard Col. Michael J. Sloma, New York Counterdrug Coordinator, says.

“We have certain types of specialized equipment that we lend out to law enforcement agencies to help them fight drug trafficking in our communities,” Sloma says.

“This allows smaller police departments to focus their budgets on their own needs,” Sloma says, “while still having access to expensive and specialized equipment such as helicopters, night vision goggles and drug detection tools, all operated by experts with military skills and training.”

One of the tools Counterdrug offers is the Rapiscan, which can scan entire vehicles, and another is the Itemiser, which uses ion technology to identify the trace remnants of narcotics, explosives and other substances.

Depending on the circumstances, these two tools can be at a site within an hour. Once there, Counterdrug personnel provide instruction on how to use the Rapiscan and the Itemiser. Their role is to be technical advisors – it's the police who do the policework.



Members of the Counterdrug Task Force train on the Rapiscan system, which enables law enforcement agencies to search for hidden drug compartments in seized vehicles.

“We’re stewards of this equipment,” Sloma says. “We make sure it’s maintained and assessable, and we get it to where it’s needed.”

In the past, Gillis, a Greenwich, N.Y. resident, says the Rapiscan, a type of x-ray mounted on a large truck, has been used to break cases open. He recalls how once, during a double homicide investigation, investigators were unable to find the murder weapon. Then they scanned the suspect’s car: they found a hidden compartment with two guns, cell phones and cash. One of those guns was the murder weapon.

The investigators got the conviction.

The Itemiser, too, helps law enforcement take drugs off New York’s streets. The Itemiser has the size and appearance of an office printer. Gillis takes a flat swab and runs it across a \$20 bill. He inserts the swab into a slot in the machine. Within seconds, the machine makes its analysis: no trace of drugs here.

He runs a swab against a chair was once exposed to heroin. He inserts the swab into the machine – a positive.

Here’s how it works: the Itemiser superheats each swab. Each substance reacts in a different way to this process. The Itemiser runs the results through a database. If the reaction matches that of an illegal substance, it will inform its operators within seconds. Gillis says it has a 2% false positive rate.

Tools such as the Itemiser are available to help law enforcement gather evidence and confirm suspicions, says Gillis. “If they suspect, this is how they can confirm,” he says.

Gillis stresses that Counterdrug does not directly arrest or keep any information on individuals. Instead, Counterdrug provides tools such as the Rapiscan and Itemiser to help law enforcement focus on what they do best: apprehending the bad guys. **gt**

Partnership Visit Pays Big Logistical Dividend

By Capt. Al Phillips, Guard Times Staff



Republic of South African National Defence Force representatives from left: Col. D. Mmbi, Lt. Gen. Justice T. Nkonyane, chief of logistics, Brig. Gen. Gertrude Mngadi, director facilities, Ms. S. Mkhwanazi, director c-log, Ms. Fikile Mabilane with 137th Airlift Squadron flight crew after tour of a 105th Airlift Wing C-17 Globemaster III at Stewart Air National Guard Base, Newburgh, July 2. Both forces are also responsible for providing assistance to state and local civilian authorities during emergencies. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael OHalloran, 105th Airlift Wing.

NEW YORK - South African National Defence Force officials learned how the New York National Guard does logistics during a visit to the historic Lexington Avenue Armory here, July 3.

The visit was part of the New York National Guard State Partnership Program, providing the two military forces with opportunities to exchange best practices.

Lt. Gen. J.T. Nkonyane, the South African National Defence Force's chief of logistics, and members of his team received an informational overview of how military logistics works for the New York National Guard at the federal and state levels.

"It is our opportunity to share some of our best practices that consistently produce results and shape sustainment operations," said Lt. Col. Kaarlo Hietala, deputy director of logistics, "as well as to hear an outside opinion on things that we could expand or improve on for the future."

Representing South Africa were Nkonyane, Sithuthakile Mkhwanazi, the South African Defence Force director of asset management, and Brig. Gen. Gertrude Mngadi, the South African National Defence Force director of facilities.

The South Africans had opportunities to discuss a range of logistics issues with their counterparts, including Col. Ray Shields, the New York National Guard Director of the Joint Staff; Deputy Director of Logistics, Hietala; and Lt. Col. Andrew Stewart, construction facility manager.

"What we want to do is benchmark ourselves on logistics, process and key procedures," Mkhwanazi said.

Hietala explained how the New York National Guard supplies troops and maintains inventory and readiness of the more than 2,500 vehicles in the New York Army National Guard. He outlined how the network of maintenance facilities located across New York works to assist local units.

Stewart discussed and outlined how the Guard manages complex logistical operations through its data processing systems like the Standard Army Maintenance System-Enhanced, the Standard Army Retail Supply System and the importance of understanding the technical know-how to relate the statuses to grounds-keeping, accounting and reporting, and/or marketing. He even gave the South African logisticians a crash course in how our New York State Thruway and bridge and tunnel tolls are collected, maintained and billed: a total of \$66,000 in fiscal year 2011.

"The New York National Guard and the South African Defence Force logistics operations both rely on the critical understanding of a staging base to initiate and execute movement," Stewart said. "One commonality identified here recognizes the fundamental that our facilities are the foundation and platform for troop readiness," he added.

"Today's informational overview on logistics in the New York National Guard describes a very complex logistics system where there is a lot to learn," Nkonyane said. "However, it is such a valuable experience because we are able to see different ways of reaching mission accomplishment. This has certainly been a trip worth-while, the professionalism by the New York National Guard produces great impact."

The group also visited Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, Fort Wadsworth, Fort Hamilton, Pennsylvania Station and the World Trade Center 9/11 Memorial in New York City. **gt**

Joint Task Force Soldiers, Airmen On Army TV



FORT HAMILTON - At an early morning formation on May 17, members of Joint Task Empire Shield, Company B look on as Joint Task Force Empire Shield Commander Lt. Col. Peter Riley and Joint Forces HQ State Chaplain (Col.) Eric Olsen coined 2nd Lt. Zadell-Scafe -369th Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Sgt. 1st Class Esquilin , HHC, 369th and Staff Sgt. Quiroga, 106th Rescue Wing for their excellence and for being selected for an interview by the Center of Army Profession and Ethics (CAPE).

The film crew from CAPE filmed the coining presentation, service members on post and interviewed the services about their experience in receiving APET (Army Profession and Ethics training) while on Joint task Force Empire Shield. The three service members coined were selected from among 58 who were APET certified on Task Force Empire Shield.

Photo by 1st Lt. Mark Getman, 3rd Battalion 142nd Aviation.

Naval Militia and New York Guard Train Together



VERPLANCK - Members of the New York Guard's Search and Rescue Team board New York Naval Militia Patrol Boat 301 at the Viking Boat Yard here on Aug. 1. The New York Naval Militia patrol boat transported the team up the Hudson River to West Point in a joint operation conducted as part of Operation Trojan Horse, an interagency maritime security exercise conducted in New York City and on the Hudson River. The exercise gave the two state defense forces experience in working with each other. Photo by Eric Durr, Public Affairs.

State of the Art Helicopters Added to the Fleet

Story and photos by Guard Times Staff



The New York Army National Guard welcomed two UH-72 Light Utility Helicopters to the fleet of rotary wing aircraft operated by its Army aviation units here June 29. The new helicopters were purchased specifically to be used in domestic operations in aid of law enforcement or during state emergencies. The UH-72A Lakota is the newest helicopter to enter service with the U.S. Army. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Infantry Division.

LATHAM - The New York Army National Guard has two new state-of-the-art helicopters dedicated specifically to domestic operations missions.

The UH-72 A Lakota Light Utility Helicopter were welcomed into the aircraft fleet with a formal ceremony on Monday, July 2.

“It’s time for a transition. The OH-58 has lived a long and useful life, sometimes underpowered but a great aircraft,” said Major Gen. Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General.

“This aircraft [UH-72A] is going to bring incredible capabilities to us and we appreciate having it,” he added.

The new birds are operated by Detachment 1, Company A, 1st Battalion, 224th Aviation

Service and Support on July 2.

Murphy, Col. Mark Burke, the State Aviation Officer, Soldiers and aviators of the New York Army National Guard were on hand to introduce the two new UH-72A “Lakota” helicopters into the system in front of local media.

The brand new keys and log books for the aircraft were presented to Murphy from Jim King, Director of Business Development for National Guard and Reserve Forces.

The ‘Lakotas’ replace the two aging OH-58 ‘Kiowa’ helicopters that the 224th used in conjunction with the New York National Guard’s Counter Drug program.

The UH-72A Lakota is the newest helicopter to enter service with the U.S. Army. It



One of two OH-58 Kiowa helicopters stands on the runway at New York National Guard headquarters in Latham awaiting transport to be refurbished and redistributed. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Infantry Division.

is a variant of the Eurocopter EC-145 and is manufactured in Columbus, Miss. The Lakota performs light utility and medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) missions for the Army and Army National Guard in areas outside a combat zone.

A contract was awarded to Eastern Air Defense Sector (EADS)-North America in June 2006 for 345 of this versatile aircraft. As of July 31, 2012, 175 helicopters total, have been delivered with the Army National Guard operating and maintaining more than 80 aircraft.

“This aircraft has a home here in Albany with the New York National Guard and we surely expect to see great things from the men and women that will fly and support this aircraft.” said Col. Michael Bobeck, the former New York Army National Guard State Aviation Officer who is currently assigned to the National Guard Bureau’s fixed-wing aviation program in Washington D.C.

The UH-72A is also unique in that it is a commercial/non-developmental item aircraft that is maintained and operated in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration policies and procedures.



Chief Warrant Officer Aaron Teichner, a pilot with the 224th Avn. Security and Support talks to a local television reporter about the capabilities of the new aircraft that he will be piloting. Photo by Spc. Jay Lawrence, 42nd Infantry Division.



Jim King, Director of Business Development for National Guard and Reserve Forces hands New York State Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy the keys to two ‘Lakotas’ on July 2 that arrived on June 29 to the Latham-based Army Aviation Support Facility. Photo by Spc. Harley Jelis, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade.

The UH-72A is replacing aging UH-1 and OH-58A/C aircraft that have a high cost to maintain and operate for these missions. It allowed the Army to return 23 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to support critical wartime missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Lakota provides a significant improvement over the aircraft the Army National Guard were operating through better performance, availability and mission equipment.

Seating capacity of the Lakota is for two pilots and six passengers. Two stretchers can be installed for medical evacuation missions with a crew of four: pilot, copilot and two medics. The helicopter’s large cockpit and cabin windows provide excellent visibility through all quadrants.

The Army, working with its industry partners, designed, integrated and tested the Security & Support (S&S) Battalion Mission Equipment Package (MEP), the newest variant of the LUH for the Army and is equipped with state-of-the-art advanced technologies such as

an Electro-Optical/Infra-Red Sensor, searchlight, data display and collection systems and downlink capability. It will be used to conduct humanitarian and disaster relief efforts as well as other key missions such as border patrol and counter-drug enforcement surveillance across the U.S. and its territories. All equipment added to the UH-72A is commercially available and expedites the acquisition time.

New York’s two UH-72A aircraft were picked up from the EADS North America factory in Mississippi on June 15, at which time they were taken to Huntsville Ala. for training on the MEP which ended on June 29. **gt**



Scan here for video of the Lakota’s arriving in Latham, June 29 via Youtube.com

Afghan Police Learn Criminal Law From New Yorker

By 1st Lt. Christine Rosalin, 117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Maj. Roderick J. Cassidy, center, a member of the New York Army National Guard deployed with the Judge Advocate General office of the U.S. Army Stabilization Transition Team, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, goes over aspects of Afghan criminal law to leaders of the Afghan Uniformed Police Qalat Substation 1 as he conducts a refresher class in Afghan criminal law at the Provincial Meeting Center in Qalat City June 5. Cassidy taught a refresher course on Afghan criminal law to the Afghan police officers as a way to build greater law enforcement capacity within the Afghan Uniformed Police. Photo by 1st Lt. Dallas J. Marcus

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LAGMAN, Afghanistan - Kicking off the first class in a series of legal training, the leadership of the Afghan Uniformed Police (AUP) Qalat Substation 1 participated in a refresher class in Afghan criminal law at the Provincial Meeting Center in Qalat City June 5.

The class was run by Maj. Roderick J. Cassidy, a member of the New York Army National Guard individual augmentee, who is assigned to the Judge Advocate General office for the U.S. Army Stabilization and Transition Team, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

Cassidy provided the basic principles and fundamentals of Afghan criminal law so the AUP leadership could educate their patrolmen and provide governance for the populace of Qalat City.

“The instruction helped to continue building a more professional police force,” said Cassidy. “By training the leadership level of the AUP, they will be better able to instruct their subordinates at the checkpoint and substation level.”

During the course, Cassidy covered the pri-

mary sources of Afghan criminal law and how they interrelate,

“I have taught military, criminal and civil law in the United States and this was a unique experience.”

Maj. Roderick J. Cassidy

“I also addressed different theories behind punishment and the legal, material and mental elements of a crime,” said Cassidy, who has been practicing law for more than 22 years. “I provided specific, everyday illustrations of some of the more complex legal theories to assure everyone understood their application.”

During the class, the officers of the AUP paid strict attention to the instruction, Cassidy said, adding that teaching the Afghan police officers was a different experience.

“I have taught military, criminal and civil law in the United States and this was a unique experience.” Cassidy said, “In the U.S., students

are often anxious to express their opinions and engage in classroom discussion. In Afghanistan, students often seem interested almost exclusively in what the instructor, as the subject matter expert, has to say during class. They want to absorb as much as possible in the time allotted and can share their personal opinions with each other later.”

At the end of the class the AUP leadership responded positively to the refresher training and actively participated with responses, said Capt. Matt Yarnall, U.S. Army Security Forces Assistance Team Qalat City commander, 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division.

The AUP commented on how beneficial this refresher training was to them and how they learned a lot, said Yarnall. “They also agreed it is very important to know their laws, and they expressed how they are looking forward to more training in the near future,” he said. **gt**

Task Force Iron on the Job in Afghanistan



SHINDAND AIR BASE, Afghanistan - New York Army National Guard Lt. Col. Joseph Bieler (right) and Command Sgt. Maj. David Oliver, of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, uncase the battalion colors during the unit's transfer of authority ceremony here May 26. The 108th is working with the Afghan National Security Forces in a Security Assistance and Advisory role. Photo by 1st Lt. Jason Uhlig.



Our Guardsmen Remembered

LATHAM - New York National Guard Color Guard members present Arms at the Latham Armory, May 24 during ceremonies honoring the 31 New York National Guard Soldiers and one member of the New York Naval Militia who have died supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom since September 11, 2001. Photo by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo, Joint Force Headquarters-NY.

107th Military Police Company: Guantanamo Bay

MPs Wrap Up Mission and Return to New York

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven



In a Transfer of Authority ceremony 1st Lt. Andrew Mill (left) and 1st Sgt. Fabio Cardenas roll up the guidon in front of Soldiers of the 107th Military Police Company after completing a one-year deployment in support of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. The ceremony marked the exchange of the external security mission to the 755th MP Co., Puerto Rican Army National Guard on June 12.

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba - As the Troopers of the 107th Military Police Company concluded their joint task force mission on June 12, these New York Army National Guard members took with them pride in a job well done as the 107th completed a one-year deployment as the external security force.

The historic importance of being at Guantanamo during the tenth anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001 will always be a large feature of their deployment. Also, having the start of the military commission for the five alleged co-conspirators brought a sense of closure to some of the New Yorkers.

“Closing that circle in the whole process,” said 1st Sgt. Fabio Cardenas, who wears a New York State Police uniform when he is not the unit’s senior noncommissioned officer.

The attacks on 9/11 have kept this unit busy

for the past decade. The 107th MPs, headquartered in Utica, were one of the first Empire State Guard units to be in New York City at Ground Zero. The following year began the first of two mobilizations to Fort Drum, N.Y., then a pair of Iraq deployments before arriving at Guantanamo.

That tempo for the unit post-9/11 has led to a change in the age of the group, averaging 22 years old. This is the generation that watched the World Trade Center crumble on television in elementary or high school, like Cpl. Edward Nepton. He remembers watching the events unfold in his typing class and not having it affect him until he got home to find his mother crying.

Nepton, with several of his friends, are in the group of young service members that raised their right hand because of the events on 9/11.

“Most coming out of school wanted to go to

Iraq or Afghanistan,” noted Cardenas, who had to explain that they were on the front lines for the country. “You are dealing with the enemy every day on another level.”

Cardenas led a core of senior enlisted who have served on prior deployments and several worked in law enforcement in civilian life. This brought experience vital to train the younger Soldiers to excel in the mission’s responsibilities.

The hard work and long hours did not go unnoticed as Lt. Col. Christopher Wynder, Commander of the 525th Military Police Battalion, called them “superb performers.” The 107th served under the 525th’s umbrella of military police companies and “in order to capitalize on their unmatched work ethic” the unit was given increased responsibilities, according to Wynder.

“They realized the importance of what they do being from New York,” said 1st Lt. Andrew Miller, 107th MP Commander, talking about the unit’s sense of pride in the mission. Miller, a New Hartford, N.Y. police officer encouraged his Soldiers to continually improve the operating procedures.

“We significantly raised the bar for other companies to follow,” noted Miller.

Before the Soldiers faced the challenges of sometimes repetitive and mundane work on long shifts, the unit needed to come together as a team. This was a difficult task to accomplish in the preceding year, as the Citizen Soldiers lived in 35 different New York counties, spending drill weekends at four armories located in upstate New York down to Fort Hamilton in New York City.

“They were phenomenal, absolutely phenomenal. I couldn’t ask for a better group of Soldiers to work with,” said Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Mower.

One young Trooper said to Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Ruffin that “never in a million years” he would have thought that during the trial of the 9-11 co-conspirators he would be handling security outside the courtroom.

For Ruffin it was a “surreal moment” to be at Guantanamo Bay for the tenth anniversary of 9/11. “It has a lot of meaning to me,” added



Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Ruffin (left) lead the team of New York Army National Guard Soldiers, including Spc. Gregg Gerber, who designed and built a replica of the World Trade Center towers on a five sided base to represent the Pentagon in honor of all the 107th Military Police Company members past and present who served in the unit since Sept. 11, 2001.

Ruffin, who led the team to design and build a lasting monument to their unit's deployment.

The idea for the monument started as soon as 107th got on the island. The replica of the World Trade Center towers is set into a five-sided base, which represents the Pentagon. The towers are nine feet tall and one foot in diameter. The north tower's antenna is represented with a piece of metal rebar.

With material donations from Guantanamo Bay Naval Station contractors and help from the Navy Seabee construction team, the monument towers over the other tributes to units who have completed a Joint Task Force Guantanamo tour of duty.

A plaque dedicates the memorial to all who perished in the 9/11 attacks: a fitting honor of all the 107th MP Co. members, past and present, who served from Ground Zero to Guantanamo Bay. **gt**



Scan here to view video of the 107th End of Guantanamo Bay Tour via YouTube.com

New York Soldiers' Valor Recognized



Command Sgt. Maj. Charlie G. Chavez, 401st Army Field Support Brigade (left) and Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., 401st commander flank Spc. David P. Clark, Spc. Justin C. Ruiz and 1st Lt. Eric J. Leon following an awards ceremony Jun. 1 when Clark and Ruiz were awarded Army Commendation Medals with the "V" device and Combat Action Badges. Leon was also awarded a Combat Action Badge. , Photo by Summer Barkley

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Two Soldiers assigned as customs agents to the 401st Army Field Support Brigade were awarded Army Commendation Medals with the "V" device and Combat Action Badges in an awards ceremony at brigade headquarters Jul. 12. A third Soldier was awarded a Combat Action Badge.

The three Soldiers were involved in a complex enemy attack against Forward Operating Base Salerno in eastern Afghanistan at 1 p.m. on Jun. 1. Spc.'s David P. Clark, a White Plains native and Justin C. Ruiz, a Bronx native directly engaged insurgents while 1st Lt. Eric J. Leon, a Port Washington, N. Y. native, took action to secure the Army Materiel Command compound.

Insurgents detonated a vehicle loaded with explosives near the post and insurgents tried to gain access. A fire fight lasting about 30 minutes ensued with both Clark and Ruiz engaging the enemy.

Ruiz was driving a small utility vehicle flipped by the blast concussion. "I was out cold," he said. "When I came to, I ran to my hooch and grabbed by gear and ammunition. I ran toward the noise and helped the unit pulling security."

Clark was conducting routine operations when the explosives detonated about 50 meters away from him. After getting his body armor and ammunition, he began checking buildings for insurgents and wounded.

"I never thought I would work in my MOS [military occupation specialty]," said Ruiz, an infantryman. "My NCOs helped me get to where I needed to be to perform. My MOS helped me"

"It was not to hesitate -- take care of each other," said Clark, a medical logistician. "We relied on our training and strong battle buddies."

Leon, redistribution property assistance officer-in-charge, said he was working when he heard and felt the blast and heard the direct fire from the insurgents.

"We rounded up the civilians and put them in Maxx-Pros [mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles]," he said. "Then we positioned other vehicles so no one could get into the AMC compound."

"I'm really proud of my Soldiers," Leon said. "Some went in the other direction."

"They [Clark and Ruiz] briefed me on their ammo abatement program when I visited Salerno and two weeks later they're in full battle rattle engaging the enemy," said Col. Michel M. Russell, 401st AFSB commander, at the awards ceremony.

"This is no small feat," Russell added. "I salute you." **gt**

Signal Soldiers Prepare for Afghanistan

Story and photos by Capt. Michael Ortiz, 369th Sustainment Brigade



New York National Guard Spc. Daniel Hoysradt, of Ancram, N.Y., prepares to lob a dummy hand grenade from behind cover at Fort Drum on July 18. He is one of the many Soldiers deploying to Afghanistan with the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion.

FORT DRUM - More than 450 New York Army National Guard Signal Soldiers spent four weeks here honing their skills for a deployment to Afghanistan later this year.

After the first contingent arrived on July 13, the members of the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB) were individually issued 90 pounds of gear, learned how to survive a vehicle rollover, practiced their skills with tactical radios, negotiated obstacles, tossed practice grenades, and practiced dealing with civilians on the battlefield.

"The pre-mobilization training model that we are currently using is critical in our preparation for our deployment to Afghanistan," said Col. Greg Dreisbach, the commander of the 101st ESB. "Our soldiers are motivated and they are learning a great deal about their teams and themselves. I'm very proud of our citizen Soldiers."

"It's all about training the troops out here on the ground," said Staff Sgt. Raymond West, a Poughkeepsie resident. "It's got to be hands-on and by the numbers." Raymond is a military trainer with the 106th Regional Training Institute (RTI) who is also deploying with the 101st.

"I'm ready to get on the plane," Sgt. Krystal Tesoriero from Fishkill said as she balanced a rucksack on her back and two duffle bags in her hands.

The two-week training period has been



Pvt. 1st Class John Baez and Spc. Charles Smith, both members of Company A 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, plot their next point during land navigation conducted at Fort Drum on July 20.

crammed with events to maximize training time, said. Col. Reginald Sanders, the Commander of the 369th Sustainment Brigade. The 101st is one of the 369th's battalions; the 369th Headquarters Company is providing the support needed to keep training moving.

The Soldiers are moving through the training

cycle in three two-week shifts.

"The brigade is focused on the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion for pre-mobilization training," Sanders explained. "This training was a collaborative effort, nine months in the making, between Joint Forces Headquarters - NY and the 369th Sustainment Brigade in order to provide the 101st ESB with the best possible training experience."

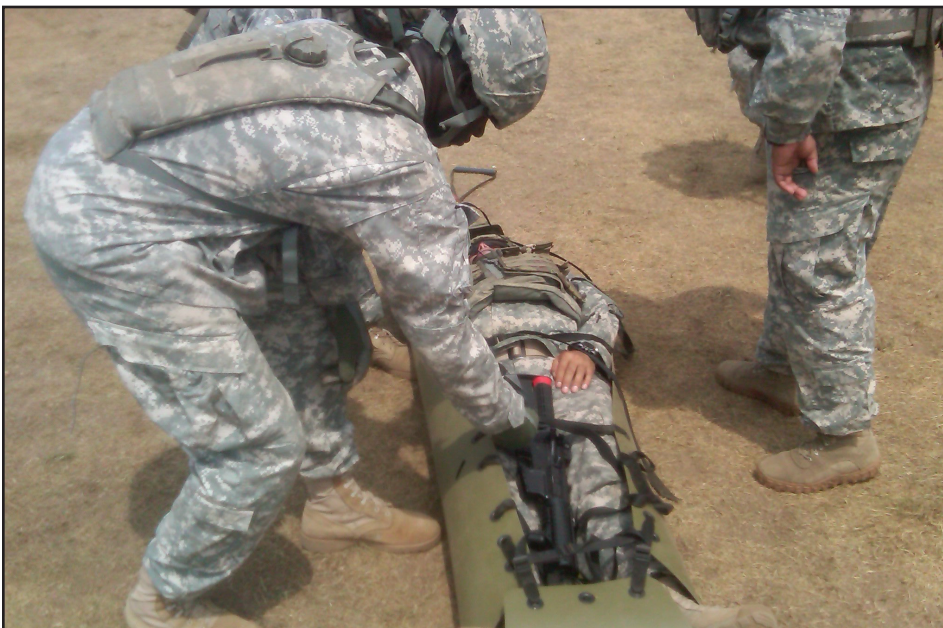
Soldiers reviewed their tactical communications skills and then moved onto the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer to practice rollover drills.

"You're not going to leave here until I feel comfortable," Sgt. 1st Class Willie Short, a Brooklyn resident and trainer with the 106th RTI told the Soldiers.

Spc. Daniel Hoysradt, of Ancram, said he enjoyed learning about hand grenades and mines, but hopes he'll never have to use them.

"We don't get to do this all the time," he said as he practiced throwing a dummy grenade into a mock bunker.

The Soldiers left for deployment Aug. 19 following a ceremony at Stewart Air National Guard Base. **gt**



Soldiers assigned to the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion learn how to transport a wounded Soldier during pre-deployment training at Fort Drum on July 22. The unit is preparing to deploy to Afghanistan later this year.

Afghan Children Greet N.Y. Soldier



SPIN BOLDAK, Afghanistan - New York Army National Guard Col. Alden Saddlemire greets Afghan children near the district center here July 23. Saddlemire, who deployed as the deputy commander of the area's Security Force Assistance Team, was in Spin Boldak for meetings with the U.S. State Department and the Afghan district governor Mohammad Hasim Agha, along with elders of the province. Courtesy photo.



GITMO Soldiers Get Home

LATHAM - State Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, welcomes Soldiers from the 107th Military Police Company back home from their year-long deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba at the Desmond Hotel in Latham during the 107th's first of three Yellow Ribbon events conducted for returning Soldiers and their families on July 21. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, Guard Times Staff.

Almost Out the Door

N.Y. Aviation Unit Gets Ready for Second Deployment



FORT HOOD, Texas - Detachment 1, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment makes some low level sweeps in the training areas around Fort Hood to complete 1st Army mandatory training in preparation for their deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

On May 24, the 126th Aviation Regiment departed Rochester, N.Y. with five UH-47 'Chinooks' and 58 Soldiers. The other half of the 126th is from Edgewood, Md. and after four days at Fort Hood, the unit melded together to form a functional flying and maintenance group.

The 126th had the opportunity to work with NATO allies, conducting air assault training with a combined Netherlands infantry training detachment. They worked with both the Dutch infantry and their attack helicopter units. This combined training resulted in four successful air assault operations, providing realistic training for operations in Afghanistan.

The 126th also spent nine days in Double Eagle, N.M. to simulate conditions in Afghanistan. The altitude, terrain and weather is a great force multiplier for preparing a Chinook for OEF, focusing on power management, limited visibility landing and pinnacle landings.

The 126th will conduct a nine month tour throughout different locations in Afghanistan. This is their second deployment to OEF. Photo courtesy of 126th Aviation.

New York Soldiers on Mission in Afghanistan



AFGHANISTAN-- Maj. Sean Flynn, the executive officer of the New York Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry and Capt. Stephen Kitchen, the Company E commander, brief members of Company E before they move out on a mission on June 5. Photo courtesy of 2nd Bn., 108th Infantry.

Mother/Daughter Team Deploying to Afghanistan

By Capt. Al Phillips, 138th Public Affairs Detachment



New York Army National Guard Specialist Alexandra Lippi (left) will deploy to Afghanistan along with her mother, Sgt. Maj. Gina Lippi when the 101st Enhanced Signal Battalion mobilizes in August. The unit is currently training at Fort Drum. Both Soldiers are deploying for the first time in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

CAMP SMITH - "Like father, like son" is the more popular expression used in the English language, but "like mother, like daughter" is the phrase Soldiers in the New York Army National Guard's 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB) will use this August.

For Spc. Alexandra Lippi, and her mother Sgt. Maj. Gina Lippi, service in the National Guard is a family thing. The two will deploy to Afghanistan this year with the Yonkers-based 101st ESB.

"I don't know exactly what 'it' is, but 'it' is in my blood," said Spc. Lippi, a newly trained signal Soldier in Alpha Company, 101st ESB said her mom inspired her to join the military when asked why she decided to enlist in the New York National Guard like her mother did more than 30 years ago.

Spc. Lippi, who was previously assigned to the New York Army National Guard's 466th Area Medical Company, is now looking forward to working with satellite communications equipment in the same unit as her mother. She's looking forward to the challenges of her new job, Lippi said, and she's also looking forward to

facing them with her mother around. It's good to know that somebody who knows her well will be deployed with her Spc. Lippi said.

For Sgt. Maj. Gina Lippi, there is no greater way to serve than to know she inspired her daughter to serve too.

The two Lippi's resemble each other and possess the same mannerisms, same hair, same laugh and will both be on their first deployment.

Sgt. Maj. Lippi joined the military over 32 years ago. A lot of things have changed since then and definitely for the better, she said.

As the Operations Sergeant Major, Sgt. Maj. Lippi is the overall non-commissioned officer in charge of Tactical Operations Center.

She is responsible for accountability and maintenance of the command post, and supervises pre-combat checks and pre-combat inspections. Additionally, she monitors and records messages and operational overlays and assists the Battle Captain in all his duties.

"The circumstances of 9/11 led to a more versatile force and soldiers are more experienced than ever before at understanding the changes

of the world," Sgt. Maj. Lippi said.

"I wish the Soldiers making up our ranks today stood in formation 30 years ago," she added.

"She is awesome, and we are friends, we talk and do lots of things together so why not serve or deploy together but it is about respect," the younger Lippi said.

"I respect her and this organization so much and do not want it to appear that just because my mother is a sergeant major I should receive special exceptions or take short cuts," she added.

[Sgt. Maj. Lippi] is stern, to the point, but always respectful and courteous. Her style and approach when dealing with Soldiers in the S3 team is productive and enlightening, never divisive," said Capt. Frank Quintano, the 101st's operations officer.

She would never show favoritism to any Soldier, daughter or not, he added.

"My primary focus is and has always been to take care of Soldiers, it's something that I have been doing for three decades and the best way to take care of soldiers is to uphold standards

Lippi's Con't.

and those standards apply to all wearing the uniform, especially my daughter," Sgt. Maj. Lippi said.

However, those standards shouldn't be a problem at all when referring to or discussing the younger Lippi.

"Spc. Lippi absolutely exemplifies what it takes to be a Soldier deploying to Afghanistan with this unit," said Company A, 101st ESB Plans and Operations Non Commissioned Officer, Sgt. 1st Class Tracyann Stewart.

She reflects great ambition, military bearing and respect for others, all great traits and potential for being a leader, plus she wants to prove herself she added.

The 101st ESB was where she began her National Guard career, and it may be the unit she will retire from, Sgt. Maj. Lippi said. "Definitely there is something special when you return to a unit that you joined and now deploy with at the end of your career, Sgt. Maj. Lippi said.

"I am deploying with the finest group of individuals I have served with, no exaggeration. My daughter is an incredible Soldier and I have had a phenomenal career, what more could I ask for," she added.

"I am so grateful I have this opportunity so early in my career and all I have to do is apply everything I have been taught and make it second nature." Spc. Lippi, said. **gt**

Hauling Cadets to School



WEST POINT - Cadet field training Soldiers were transported from the Stewart Airport Urban Operations site back to Camp Buckner, West Point July 17 in four UH-60 Blackhawks, from Company B, 3rd Squadron, 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion, Islip N.Y. The cadets became familiarized with air assault and helicopter operations during this portion of the training. New York Army Aviation has been supporting cadet field training, as well as the United States Military Academy (USMA) sponsored Air Assault School for more than two decades. First with UH-1 Hueys and since the mid-1990s, the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. This year, New York's support for USMA cadet field training will span one month from July 8 to August 6. One hundred fifty flight hours have been programmed to support the Academy with more than 60 hours executed as of July 19. Photo by Tommy Gilligan, USMA Public Affairs

Air Crews Train With Army Reserve and Fire Fighters



MARCY - Members of the Maynard, N.Y. and Stittville, N.Y. Volunteer Fire Departments pose in front of a UH-60 Blackhawk belonging to Company F, 1st Battalion, 169th General Support Aviation Battalion (Air Ambulance) of the New York Army National Guard following medical evacuation training here on July 12. Training also included the 401st Civil Affairs Battalion, U.S. Army Reserves. Photo by Spc. Harley Jelis, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade.



DID YOU KNOW?

Chapter 33- Post 9-11 GI Bill

NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD

NATIONALGUARD.com

Chapter 33- Post 9-11 GI Bill

Eligibility Requirements

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is a new benefit that went into effect 1 August 2009. It provides educational assistance to individuals who served on title 10 active duty on or after September 11, 2001.

Eligibility

At a minimum, you must have served at least 30 days of continuous active duty service after September 10, 2001 and be discharged due to a service-connected disability, or served an aggregate of 90 days of active duty service after September 10, 2001, and receive an honorable discharge.

Entitlement

You are entitled to a percentage, as determined by your length of active duty service, of the following:

- Amount of tuition and fees charged, not to exceed the most expensive in-State undergraduate tuition at a public institution of higher education (paid to school)
- Monthly housing allowance equal to the basic allowance for housing (BAH) amount payable to a military E-5 with dependents, in same zip code as school * (paid to you) and

- Yearly books and supplies stipend of up to \$1000* per year (paid to you); and
 - A one time payment of \$500 may be payable to certain individuals relocating from highly rural areas. (paid to you)
- NOTE -Housing allowance and books and supplies stipend is not payable to individuals on active duty. Housing allowance is not payable for those pursuing training at half time or less or to individuals taking distance learning.

Individuals must serve an aggregate period of active duty after September 10, 2001, of:

Examples:

Tuition and Fees charged for full time: \$6700
Highest In-State Tuition and Fees: \$7000

Example 1: If you served for three years on active duty and separated, and you are going to school full-time, in the above example you would be eligible for \$6700 for tuition and fees, the monthly housing allowance, and \$1000 for books and supplies.

Example 2: If you aggregated 12 months of active duty service in the guard or reserves, and were going to school full-time, you would be eligible for \$4020 (60% of \$6700) for tuition and fees, \$600 (60% of \$1000) for books and supplies stipend, and 60% of the monthly housing allowance.

How many months of assistance can I receive?

Generally, you may receive up to 36 months of entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Length of Eligibility

You will be eligible for benefits for 15 years from your last period of active duty of at least 90 consecutive days. If you were released for a service-connected disability after at least 30 days of continuous service, you will also be eligible for benefits for 15 years.

What does The Post- 9/11 GI Bill cover?

You may receive benefits for training programs approved for chapter 30 that are offered by an institution of higher learning.



This includes graduate and undergraduate training, and vocational/technical training. You may also receive benefits for tutorial assistance and reimbursement of one licensing and certification test.

Can I transfer my entitlement to my dependents?

In order to transfer benefits to a spouse or dependent, you must be:

- A current member of the Armed Forces
 - Eligible for Chpt 33 Post 9-11 GI Bill
 - Served at least 6yrs in the Armed Forces
- Depending on your length of service, you may need to agree to serve an additional 4yrs in the Armed Forces.

Percentage of Maximum Benefit Payable

| | |
|---|-----|
| At least 36 months | 100 |
| At least 30 continuous days on active duty and discharged due to service-connected disability | 100 |
| At least 30 months, but less than 36 months | 90 |
| At least 24 months, but less than 30 months | 80 |
| At least 18 months, but less than 24 months | 70 |
| At least 12 months, but less than 18 months | 60 |
| At least 06 months, but less than 12 months | 50 |
| At least 90 days, but less than 06 months | 40 |





New York Army National Guard Soldiers, Spc. Derek White on the left and Pfc. Zachary Moore on the right both of B Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry drop rounds down range during a reset training event June 18-22 June at Fort Drum.

Cav Troopers Reset Themselves

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

FORT DRUM - While the Summer temperature reached a high of 95 degrees, Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, A, B and C Troops, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry spent the week of June 18-22 at Fort Drum familiarizing with various weapon systems.

It was the first time the unit was able to pull about 225 Soldiers from Niagara Falls, Geneva and Jamestown as well as some Soldiers from the Buffalo-based Company D, 427th Brigade Support Bn. for support during refocus/qualification training since standing down from an Afghanistan deployment with the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team last fall. As a result of the 27th's overseas deployment, a number of 101st Cav. Soldiers were transferred out to support it.

"The 101st used this time to refocus on the basics of Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition," said Maj. Tim Simmons, operations officer. "After the high op-tempo of preparing for a deployment with the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the subsequent draw down of troops in Iraq, the 101st was taken off the deployment roster."

According to Simmons, the 101st rallied for a week long training event with the remaining members of the unit with an eye on getting the 101st back to a routine drill schedule.

"It feels good to be back with the crew," said



Sgt. Daniel Washburn of A Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, demonstrates a feature of the M2A1 .50 Caliber machine gun that allows easier barrel changing.

Sgt. Brian Davis, a member of Troop A and gunnery NCO. "It's part of being in the Guard to get everyone together for gunnery training at Fort Drum. we have been in training classes, target acquisition classes and gunnery crew training before we get here so it helps maximize the time that we have to train."

The 101st also qualified on the new M2A1 .50 caliber machine gun, vehicle mounted .50 caliber, M4 rifles and sniper tactics as well as running mortar and .50 caliber ranges. **gt**



Spc. Kevin Vanzile (left) of A Troop holds a 120 mm mortar round while Pvt. Jeffrey Clark of B Troop arms the round by removing the safety collar so the round explodes on impact.



Pfc. Jason Martindale of Troop A watches pop-up targets down range to familiarize himself before engaging them with a .50 caliber machine gun mounted on top of a Humvee.

Getting MPs Back Into Policing

442nd Military Police Company Undergoes Three Day Law Enforcement Training

By Lt. Col. Robert Giordano and Staff Sgt. Rainer Kroll, 106th Military Police Battalion, Regional Training Institute



Staff Sgt. Jason T. Stalling, a trainer from West Point, levels a dose of pepper spray at Spc. Josh Brennan, of the 442nd MP Company on June 6 at Camp Smith. After the pepper spray dousing, each 442nd Soldier worked through self-defense using a club and a gun. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, Guard Times Staff.

CAMP SMITH - Plato the Ancient Greek Philosopher said “necessity is the mother of invention” and that philosophy is what prompted the 1-106th Military Police (MP) Battalion, Regional Training Institute (RTI) to develop perhaps the first Law Enforcement (LE) Certification Course conducted by a military Regional Training Institute.

Last March the 106th brought together MP’s from West Point, police experts from California and New York City Police support facilities for a four-day round robin skills exercise.

At the June LE certification course the 106th captured that same sense of collaborative effort and again teamed up with West Point MP’s and Criminal Investigation Division to provide a combined component training support package for the benefit of the 442nd MP Company’s LE Certification course.

Wartime focus and operational tempo of fighting has increased demand for Military Police by Combatant Commanders. MP’s set aside their traditional role of Law and Order in favor of maneuver and mobility support, area security, and internment and resettlement MP functions. The U.S. Army has recognized the depletion of this critical MP function by requiring Military Police personnel in the

ranks from Pvt. to Capt. to conduct annual law enforcement (LE) training and certification for Active Component MP’s and over the course of three years; Army Reserve and Army National Guard MPs are highly encouraged to participate in order to have trained and ready MP forces.

Seeing the need for improved LE capability the 106th created an LE certification training course designed to meet the needs of MP commanders.

During the June training, the 442nd, commanded

by Capt. Timothy Thorne was the first New York MP company to be certified in the six day course, which included instruction in conducting law enforcement patrol, criminal investiga-



Sgt. 1st Class Gregg, a military police trainer from West Point, applies a small ‘spark’ from a taser gun to a member of the 442nd MP Company to get the experience of how a taser gun feels at Camp Smith on June 7. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, Guard Times Staff.

442nd MP's Cont.



After being sprayed in the face with Oleoresin Capsicum spray, also known as pepper spray, Spc. Josh Brennan, a member of 442nd Military Police Company dowses himself with lots of cold water in order to alleviate the burning sensation of the pepper spray on June 6. Photo by Spc. Kim Hunter, 442nd Military Police Company.

investigation, collection of evidence, practical exercises in controlling access to a military installation, conduct a Preliminary Criminal Investigation as well as certification on the 12 gauge shotgun, OC (pepper) spray and TASER (electronic stun) device certification.

The course conducted by the professional MP trainers of the 106th gives MP commanders the confidence to engage their MP's in LE missions whether they are in support of civil authorizes, oversees missions or performing security and stability for combatant commanders. LE skills are interchangeable with the skills required in theater, at camps, post and stations worldwide. Since these same skills are critical to efforts by the Army leadership to provide increased monitoring and intervention in reducing Soldier indiscipline, high-risk behaviors, suicides and domestic violence, LE skills will enhance all MP formations.

The goals of this innovated LE certification course is to serve as a model for other Military Police and RTI units, provide another high caliber course in the RTI portfolio serving NY's MP units and finally to continue the collaborative effort maximizing resources between MP components within NY. Finally, the intent of LE training is to ensure senior commanders have a balanced capacity of LE Professionals trained and ready to respond to any crises. **gt**

NY Takes the Cake on Army Birthday



NEW YORK - New York Army National Guard Private Cheyanne Jose Pena, a member of 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, joins Gen. Raymond Odierno, the Chief of Staff of the Army, in cutting the Army birthday cake during a ceremony in Times Square on June 14, the 237th Birthday of the United States Army. Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York, also took part in the event. Traditionally the oldest and youngest Soldiers present cut the cake. Also taking part was Buddy Valastro (right) from the television show "Cake Boss" who made the special birthday cake. Photo by Sgt. Tedday Wade.



CAMP SMITH - More than 40 New York Army National Guard Soldiers gathered here June 14th at the Chaplain Duffy Chapel/Spiritual Fitness Center celebrating the Army's 237th Birthday with the cutting of an Army birthday cake. The cake was cut by the oldest member in attendance,, Master Sgt. David McGlynn, from the Camp Smith range control staff and the units youngest Soldier , Spc. Micah Hayre, Chaplain Assistant with the 204th Engineer Battalion. Looking on is Lt. Col. Robert Epp, the Camp Smith Installation Commander and other staff. Photo By Sgt. 1st Class Adam Jankowski, Headquarters Company.

Combative Courses Stress One-on-One Contact

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



Sgt. 1st Class Eduardo Hernandez (right) the Level Four Master Trainer, Combatives Course Manager at Camp Smith coaches Soldiers taking the combatives course on how to react to an opponent in hand-to-hand contact on June 6. Here, Soldiers test their "rolling" fight skills. The course is voluntary and provides training for attending Soldiers to return to their unit as a qualified trainer when combatives is on the training schedule. Today's Soldiers do more room clearing which may bring them into enemy contact with or without a weapon. Combatives gives them the knowledge and confidence to handle the situation. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, Guard Times Staff.

CAMP SMITH - Since 2008, Soldiers in the New York Army National Guard have been beating each other up at Camp Smith's 106th Regional Training Institute (RTI).

That was the beginning of a carefully structured course in combatives.

"My belief coming from the active component in 2006, was that the Army National Guard should be afforded the same Combatives training opportunities as their counterparts," said Sgt. 1st Class Eduardo Hernandez, Functional Course Manager. "I began my training foundation in the civilian version of the system, called Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Kali Arnis. Being in the New York Army National Guard, I found a customer base that was huge, with a 10,000 plus force throughout the state.

With support from the RTI, Hernandez was able to become fully certified as the resident Combatives Level Four-Master Trainer for the State. Currently, he has two senior instructors on his staff, Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Fischle and Staff Sgt. Abismael Gonzalez, who will be attending the Level Four-Master Trainer course in November.

According to Hernandez, modern Soldiers

spend more time clearing rooms and engaging the enemy in hand-to-hand combat than in the past, a renewed emphasis has been placed on the importance of subduing an enemy without a weapon.

"I am immensely proud of 1-106th MP Bn. Combatives Course led by Sgt. 1st Class Hernandez and his NCO's," said Lt. Col. Robert Giodano, battalion commander. "This course is demanding, both mentally and physically, the instruction is world-class and dynamic." Male or female, regardless of Military Occupational Skill, every Soldier is a Warrior! This course is open to any New York Army National Guard Soldier in the State, if they do not have any serious physical/profile limitations. There are several reasons that the combatives course is taught: to educate Soldiers on how to protect themselves against threats without using their firearms, to provide a non-lethal response to situations on the battlefield to instill the 'warrior instinct' and to provide the necessary aggression to meet the enemy unflinchingly.

There are two different courses taught at the 106th RTI Combatives Center. The first is Train the Trainer (Basic Combatives)-Skill level 1:

a 40-hour, one week course. It is tailored for developing the instructor base necessary to get basic combatives to every Soldier. Students learn to teach the techniques of basic combatives. The Army's goal is to have one skill level 1 trainer per platoon. The second is Train the Trainer (Tactical Combatives) - Skill level 2: an 80-hour, two-week course that builds on the skills introduced in the basic course. It is tailored to teach the more advanced techniques which illuminate why the basic techniques are performed as they are as well as the teaching philosophy/methodology of the program.

The Army's goal is to have one skill level 2 trainer per company. Throughout each fiscal year, we teach four Level 1 and two level 2 courses. The program is increasingly growing, my future plans is to host the first ever New York Army National Guard Combatives Tournament! Hernandez said.

Lastly, if you come....come prepared to be physically challenged, learn to close in with the enemy and defeat them, with or without weapons and most of all have fun!

For more information send e-mail to: eddie.hernandez2@us.army.mil. **gt**

Helping Resurrect the Erie Canal

204th Engineers Conduct Innovative Readiness Training As Part of Annual Training

By Eric Durr, Public Affairs Director



Soldiers from New York Army National Guard's 1156th Engineer Company and 152nd Engineer Company leveled trees and removed tons of underbrush in the ruins of the Erie Canal located in the center of the City of Cohoes on June 11 as part of a trail-clearing process. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, Guard Times Staff.

COHOES - A quarter mile of the 19th century Erie Canal here in this old textile city north of Albany is being turned into a town park and walking paths thanks to 30 members of the New York Army National Guard's 204th Engineer Battalion.

The Soldiers -- assigned to the 1156th Engineer Co. from Kingston, NY and the 152nd Engineer Co. from Buffalo-- are spending half of their two week annual training cutting down trees, trimming weeds, and leveling the ground between locks number 14 and 15 of the 19th century canal bed.

They're staying at a local Hilton Hotel (instead of tents at Fort Drum), working from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., using chain saws, skid steer loaders, an armored "back hoe on steroids" called

a High Mobility Engineer Excavator (HMEE), and having a great time, said Staff Sgt. Howard Weed, the project Non-commissioned officer in charge.

"I point them in the direction of the work and they go right at it," said Weed, a 28-year military veteran from Gardner.

"It's great training and we are helping out the City of Cohoes," said Spc. Charles Adams from Fishkill, who was operating a chain saw. "It is all about giving back to the community and at the same time having a little fun," he added.

"We like it because, not only is it a helping to advance the city's agenda, it is a sound opportunity for our troops to have good training," said Cohoes Mayor John McDonald.

The Cohoes project is one of four innova-

tive readiness training (IRT) opportunities the 204th Engineers are taking advantage of during their 2012 Annual Training period, said Lt. Col. Jim Freehart, the battalion commander.

One team is working on ranges at the New York National Guard's Camp Smith Training Site in the Hudson Valley, a second team is upgrading drainage at Niagara County's Bond Lake Park on the other side of the state, while still another training mission is taking place in a quarry where the unit is running rock crushing equipment.

Army National Guard and Army Reserve units can conduct community projects when the work involves the unit's combat tasks and there are no objections to the unit doing the job instead of a contractor or municipal workers.



Sgt. Danny Edwards of the 152nd Engineer Company from Buffalo watches Soldiers as they clear fallen trees and prepare to cut another as part of the Erie Canal clean up project. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, Guard Times Staff.

At another quarry near Niagara Falls the National Guard engineers are also getting a chance to train on heavy rollers, big scrapers and graders and other road building equipment. "What we have out there is a big sandbox and we have been invited to bring all our toys into it," Freehart said.

Because engineers are tasked to work on a number of projects at once, both overseas and when responding to emergencies in New York, this kind of dispersed training is realistic and builds leadership skills at the company level, Freehart said.

The battalion spent its first week of annual training from June 1 to 9 at Fort Drum firing on the range, going through drivers training, and practicing skills like righting a rolled armored vehicle. Then, the battalion's elements convoyed to their work locations across the state to begin the second phase of the AT.

Spc. John Pember, an engineer from Brunswick, said he appreciated the opportunity to work in the community.

"It is a ton of real life experience," Pember said, a home-builder and contractor in civilian life. "A lot of us have some type of construction jobs so getting to do this is fantastic and applies the skills we have in everyday life and the train-

ing we have in the military."

"This builds a lot of teamwork," Pember added. "We are together every day on these two weeks of AT and we learn a lot about one another."

Spc. Radoslaw Mosiej, a Ryebrook resident, said he always appreciates the chance to put his engineer skills to work in the community.

"A couple of years back we did a renovating project at the Boys and Girls Club (in Binghamton, NY) which was very rewarding," he said. "I went home with my chest puffed out," the Polish immigrant said.

The 204th began working on the Cohoes project during the battalion's 2011 Annual Training. The battalion spent a week doing the initial clearing on the old canal bed-- unused since 1911-- that runs above the Mohawk River.

This year the team will continue clearing out the brush and additional work in 2013 should complete the project, Freehart said.

For Adams the combination of military skills training at Fort Drum, and working in the community is the best possible way to spend Annual Training.

"It's the best of both worlds," he said. "We are not just sitting at a post and doing the same things over and over. We are using our skills." **gt**

Engineers are "Salute" Unit of the Year



LATHAM - Leaders of the New York Army National Guard's 204th Engineer Battalion receive the Salute Magazine "Unit of the Year" award from Salute representative Johnny Underwood, during an informal event at Division of Military and Naval Affairs Headquarters. The magazine is distributed free on military bases around the country. The unit, with companies in Kingston, Horseheads, Walton, Buffalo and Binghamton, was recognized for their response to Tropical Storms Irene and Lee in 2011. Pictured are, from left: Capt. Thomas Rome, Battalion Assistant Operations Officer; Lt. Col. James Freehart, Battalion Commander; Maj. Erik Stevens, Battalion Executive Officer; and Sgt. 1st Class Christophere Hatala, Forward Support Company Readiness Sergeant.

Photo courtesy 204th Engineer Battalion.

42nd ID Band Summer Concert, Lake George



LAKE GEORGE - Members of the New York Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division Band perform for the Lake George community in the during the unit annual training July 19. The band is lead by Chief Warrant Officer Mark Klimes at the lake side pavilion in Lake George.. Photo by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters-NY

Signal Commander Promoted to Colonel



YONKERS - New York Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Michael Swezey (right), commander of 53rd Troop Command, presents the rank insignia of Colonel to Greg Dreisbach at the headquarters of the 101st Enhanced Signal Battalion here June 8. He will command the 101st during their deployment to Afghanistan later this year.

Dreisbach, from Manhattan, previously led the New York National Guard security element in New York City, Joint Task Force Empire Shield and served as the signal officer of the Army Guard's 42nd Infantry Division in Troy, N.Y.

Photo by Warrant Officer Ubon Mendie, New York Guard.

109th Airmen Return from Deployment



SCOTIA - Tech. Sgt. Brandon Guthinger, a flight engineer with the 109th Airlift Wing, based at Stratton Air National Guard Base, Scotia gets a warm welcome from his wife Misty and daughter Brianna as he returns from Afghanistan on July 16. Guthinger was among approximately 40 Airmen deployed since February. Col. Shawn Clothier, commander of the 109th Airlift Wing was also in attendance. "This airplane's been over there the entire summer. Aircrew, maintainers and support personnel are returning today and their families are here to welcome them home". They had a real successful tour over there and we look forward to having them home to get them reacquainted with their families and the 109th again". Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara, 109th Airlift Wing.

Air Support Squadron Conducts First Ever Joint Maritime Exercise

By Master Sgt. Kevin Colbert, 274th Air Support Operation Squadron



The New York Air National Guard's 274th Air Support Operations Squadron uses global positioning satellite and other communications equipment aboard a U.S. Coast Guard cutter during a training operation on Lake Ontario on June 18. The communications equipment enabled the Airmen to talk directly with the air crew of a MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft from the 174th Fighter Wing as well as view feeds directly from the aircraft in real time. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeremy M. Call, 174th Fighter Wing.

HANCOCK FIELD AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE - Tactical Air Control Party Members (TACP) and Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC) from the 274th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS) from Syracuse, New York participated in a first-of-its-kind Joint Maritime Operations exercise on 18-20 June 2012 on Lake Ontario in conjunction with members from the 152nd Air Operations Group (AOG), the 174th Fighter Wing MQ-9 Formal Training Unit (FTU), the New York Naval Militia, the U.S. Coast Guard Station Oswego, and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The exercise is believed to be the first time that an ASOS unit has conducted joint training operations with a remotely piloted aircraft in a maritime setting. The objective of the 274th was to determine the extent that their communications equipment, well-adapted to land-based interfacing, could maintain functionality over water, and define what value an ASOS could contribute to a maritime operation.

The incorporation of TACPs and JTACs into maritime operations is in keeping with the 274th's commitment to broaden its scope of contributions to joint operations.

Two scenarios were encountered over the three-day exercise. The first simulated counter-piracy operation in which JTACs controlled a MQ-9 Reaper while aboard a Coast Guard vessel. The mission was to find, fix, track the enemy boat and simulate a precision-guided munition (PGM) attack on hostile targets ashore and afloat. "We met our objectives and soundly demonstrated the advantages of having JTACs integrated into maritime operations," said Staff Sgt. Shane Cutlip, a 274th ASOS JTAC.

The second scenario involved a search-and-rescue of a downed pilot. The JTACs provided the Coast Guard crew with full-motion video of the downed pilot, transmitted from the MQ-9. "The integration of the MQ-9 and Coast Guard search and rescue crews will dramatically

reduce the time required to respond to vessels or personnel in distress on Lake Ontario," said Maj. Patrick Cox, 274th ASOS Commander. **gt**



Airmen from the 274th Air Support Operations Squadron stationed at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, Syracuse, set up communications equipment at the U.S. Coast Guard station in Oswego on June 18.

Returning Airmen Reintegrated



WEST HARRISON - Maj. Chiu, 5th Legal Detachment, 56th Brigade, New York Guard, provides free legal assistance to Senior Airman Daniel Catapano, 106th Rescue Wing, at a Yellow Ribbon Reintegration event held May 5 after the 106th returned from security operations at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael OHalloran, 105th Airlift Wing.

Airbase Firemen Come With Specialty Equipment



GHENT - Fire fighters from the 109th Airlift Wing of the New York Air National Guard, based at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia spray retardant foam on the remains of a chemical recycling facility operated by TCI of New York here which caught fire in the early morning hours of Thursday, August 2. At the request of the New York State Office of Emergency Management the Division of Military and Naval Affairs dispatch a specially equipped fire fighting truck and a command vehicle, along with three fire fighters to assist in containing the blaze. (Courtesy Photo).

Air Guard Base Hosts Vice President



STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Newburgh - Vice President Joseph Biden, keynote speaker for United States Military Academy at West Point, Class of 2012 Graduation passes a New York Air National Guard Security Force Airman after speaking to the cadets at West Point on May 26. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael O'Halloran, 105th Airflight Wing.

On Guard at 106th Rescue Wing



WESTHAMPTON BEACH - New York Air National Guard Senior Airman Tara Langella, a member of the 106th Security Forces Squadron works the front gate at F.S. Gabreski Air National Guard Station during a major thunderstorm on June 25. Photo by Senior Airman Christopher S Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.

Top Guard Airman Jumps Over Long Island



WESTHAMPTON BEACH - Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sergeant Christopher E. Muncy takes part in a tandem jump training session with Chief Master Sergeant Thomas Houghton over F.S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base. Muncy, the top enlisted Airman in the National Guard visited the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing on Friday, May 11. Photo by 106th Rescue Wing.

Team Niagara is Mission Ready

Teamwork Completes Operational Readiness

By Senior Master Sgt. Ray Lloyd, 107th Airlift Wing

NIAGARA FALLS RESERVE STATION
- Members of the 107th and 914th Airlift Wing's successfully completed their Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) and were briefed as being mission ready on July 31.

The units were inspected on deployment procedures, base and work centers setups, simulated base attacks with mortar, simulated chemical and missile attacks, first aid and just being a good airman and wingman. It's all about attitude and being a team player.

"I'm impressed on how both units worked together as a team for this ORI." Said Col. An-

drew Molnar, Team Chief Air Mobility Commands Inspector General. "You are a model to the Air Force on how an associate wing should work and there is nothing better for both than gold."

Team Niagara also was recognized with 9 exceptional performers, 15 outstanding individuals, 10 team recognitions and 10 coin recipients. Included with excellent grades and top performers were Operation Security (OPSEC), Personnel Support for Contingency Operation (PERCSO), Judge Advocate General (JAG) and the Chaplain's.

"You should be proud of your efforts." said Major General Verle Johnston, New York Air Guard Commander. "You're mission ready."

All members from the combined wing performed to the best of their ability. This teamwork in action came with outstanding results from the Air Mobility Command IG teams outbrief.

"Team Niagara did a great job, I'm proud to have served as the commander for this ORI and will go to war with you anytime." said Col Jim McCready, 107th Airlift Wing Commander. **gt**

Rescue Squadron Trains on Casualty Evac



Airmen of the 106th Rescue Wing's 103rd Rescue Squadron conduct casualty extraction training on August 1, 2012 at F.S. Gabreski Air National Guard Station. Major General Verle Johnston, commander of the New York Air National Guard, was present for the training. Photo by Senior Airman Christopher Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.

106th Airmen Awarded For Combat Operations

Story and photo courtesy of 106th Rescue Wing

WESTHAMPTON BEACH - Airmen from the 106th Rescue Wing Security Forces Squadron, New York Air National Guard, were presented the Air Force Combat Action Medal on May 1, here during an awards ceremony officiated by the 106th Rescue Wing Commander, Col. Thomas J. Owens II.

While serving in Operation Enduring Freedom Staff Sgt's. Eric Auletta, Brian Hammel, Keith Mangels and Senior Airman Joseph Pico actively participated in combat operations with the Office of Special Investigations Expeditionary Detachment at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. The decoration was presented for being involved in direct fighting where they risked their lives in an enemy engagement. During the ceremony, Maj. Celestino J. Martinez, Commander of the 106th Security Forces Squadron, commended them for their bravery and courage while engaging the insurgents and executing the mission. Major Martinez stated "all of us, your leadership, your families are proud of you and what you have accomplished so far, you have shown us that when it counts the most, you will perform; it why you are Defenders of the Force."

The Security Forces Airmen conducted combat operations for numerous missions while under constant threat of attack. They covered a large footprint of improvised explosive device laden terrain. This enabled the collection of time sensitive information and ensured the capture of high valued individuals from the battlefield. They facilitated the removal of weapons caches, multiple improvised explosive devices targeted against Coalition forces, and neutralized vehicle borne improvised explosive devices. Their actions enhanced the security of the Bagram Air Base, its personnel and over three billion dollars in war fighting assets.

The 106th SFS also executed security support, enabling the Office of Special Investigation to better safeguard ISAF personnel, including Afghan, American and coalition service members as well as other bases throughout the Regional Command.

The Air Force Combat Action Medal was established on March 15th 2007 to recognize Airmen who actively participated in combat, ground or air. An individual must have been under direct and hostile fire while operating in unsecured space, outside the defended perimeter, or physically engaging hostile forces with direct and lethal fire. **gt**



Senior Airman Joseph Pico. Photo by Senior Airmen Christopher Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.

Crew Performance is Outstanding



ROME - Alpha Crew earned the Outstanding Battle Manager Command award for its flawless performance in support of the North American Aerospace Defense Command's air defense mission and Northern Commands homeland defense mission. The crew monitored air traffic over 1 million square miles of the eastern United States and sorted more than 21,000 flights as potential tracks of interest or airspace violators. Front Row: Lt. Col. Paul Quigley (Flight Commander), Maj. Fred Janack, Master Sgt. Robert Zecca, Capt. Kelly Williams, Senior Airman Nick Tharrett, Lt. Col. Ricardo Rivera, Senior Master Sgt. Edward Rojo (Flight Supt) 2nd Row: Master Sgt. Steve Richmond, Tech. Sgt. Chris Kent, Master Sgt. Cathy Masson, Tech. Sgt. Lena Lewis, Staff Sgt. Vincent St. Onge, Staff Sgt. Robert Crosby, Capt. Jeremy Powell Back Row: Master Sgt. Gene DeHart, Staff Sgt. Josh Barrett, Maj. Tad Stolar, Lt. Greg Wallace, Capt. Bruce Derbyshire, Tech. Sgt. Larry Thornton, Capt. Chris Crumb, Tech. Sgt. Keith Barber, Staff Sgt. Dave Gambier, Staff Sgt. Rory Lawrence. Photo courtesy of Eastern Air Defense

109th Airlift Wing Staff Learns from Gettysburg

By Lt. Col. J. Lewis Hedges, 109th Airlift Wing



Officers of the 109th Airlift Wing gather around Dr. Michael Neiberg, professor of history, U.S. Army War College as he describes the Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania. The 109th conducted a staff ride on May 3 in conjunction with the Air Force's Professional Military Education Program. Photo by 1st Lt. Collette Martin, 109th Airlift Wing.

GETTYSBURG, Pa. - Be not afraid of greatness: some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them.

These words by Shakespeare describe the history of the men who fought our nation's warring of state secession. Against the matchless spring beauty of the Pennsylvania landscape, company grade officers from the 109th Airlift Wing, listened intently to Dr. Michael Neiberg, professor of history, U.S. Army War College, share the homily of greatness burdened upon the men who assembled on the rolling hills near Gettysburg in the summer of 1863. Battlefield staff rides are an uncommon classroom for those who define battlespace in aeronautical dimensions. In fact, most Airman are unfamiliar with a staff ride's place in professional development unless they are privileged

to attend an in-residence Professional Military Education program. Yet the impact of airpower's contributions to war fighting has proven to be inseparable from maneuvers on the ground, making battlefield tactics an indispensable competence. For Airman, the classic fields of military study have given way to practices of technology management. Rather than yield the honor of professional development to computer based training and social networks, the 109th Airlift Wing embraced it as fundamental proficiency for their entire military force. The plan originated from a review of stagnated repetitions that spoke generously of professional development and mentoring but harvested little practical effects. Leadership recognized that an organized plan at the wing level was needed to redress the paltry alternative available to Guardsman already subdued by virtual requirements. Hands-on, in-person, face-to-face were

the key features of the forward-thinking strategy; dedicating time and resources for sensible career growth across the wing.

The endeavor has taken members of the 109th to the halls of the Pentagon where the Honorable Daniel Ginsberg, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, discussed policy at the Secretariat level that impacts decisions made at the Unit level. The 109th also shared a morning with the Directorate Staff of the Air National Guard Readiness Center as they described their role in connecting Air Guard capabilities with Department of Defense requirements both domestically and abroad.

The Wing has plans to broaden their career development by encouraging professional writing and public speaking as well as continuing the off-base experience's. In each person there is the potential of greatness. The leaders of the 109th Airlift Wing believe that each of its members deserve the opportunity to achieve it. **gt**

Annual Ceremony Honors New York Guard of WWI

Story and photo by Sgt. Marianne De Angelis, New York Guard

SLEEPY HOLLOW - For the 93rd time, on Saturday, May 5, the New York Guard honored its members who died on duty during the First World War.

The New York Guard's 56th Regiment, the 89th Band, Soldiers and Officers from Headquarters, Camp Smith; the Veterans Corps of Artillery, citizens and Veterans gathered in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery to remember 40 men – 39 soldiers and one officer – who died during a three month period toward the end of their mission.

Thirty succumbed to the influenza Pandemic that swept the globe in 1918. The other eight perished from gunshot wounds or accidents while 'on the line'.

More than 1,200 men of the New York Guard defended the entire length...nearly 100 miles... of the Catskill aqueduct during World War I.

With threats of enemy sabotage, the vulnerability of this vital structure was grasped prior to the United States entry into the war. When the 3,000 National Guardsmen originally ordered to patrol the system were federalized and sent overseas, New York State mandated that a home force be created to take the place of the departing National Guard...the state and its citizens could not be left unprotected. On August 3, 1917, the all-volunteer New York Guard stood watch on the aqueduct.

This year, the New York Guard members were joined by the New York Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Created by the 1906 Water Supply Act, the Bureau of Water Supply Police, (BWS) as the DEP was originally known, obtained its' first police officers in 1908. A cadre of Aqueduct Police was assigned with maintaining order and guarding the camp sites of immigrant construction workers who were building the aqueduct, which was completed in 1917.

The ceremony commenced with a speech by Chief Peter Fusco of the DEP. "Water is the lifeblood of any large city and without it there would be disease, malnutrition and danger from fire. Because of the sacrifices of the men and the ultimate sacrifice forty of its' members made while serving (during WWI), the people of New York today have one of the most secure water systems in the nation". Chief Fusco added



New York Guard Color Guard Soldiers stand astride New York Department of Environmental Protection officers from Valhalla as a show of comradeship in commemorating the New York Guard's roll in protecting the Catskill Aqueduct, part of the New York City water supply system during World War I.

that, almost 100 years later, though the names and methods may have changed, threats to vital infrastructures are still the same.

Col. Glenn Marchi, retired New York National Guardsmen and now head of G-3, Headquarters, New York Guard, emphasized that the water supply was one of the most crucial concerns during WWI.

"They had been on the line for only six months, but in February, 1918, it was suggested to Colonel John B. Rose, Commander of the First Provisional Regiment, New York Guard, that he reduce the force on the Aqueduct. Colonel Rose replied, 'In this world wide struggle, New York City must maintain an impregnable position. The American Forces and those of the Allies are supplied from the Port of the City of New York. Any attempt to weaken its usefulness will cause disastrous results,' Marchi said."

The ceremony ended with a wreath-laying at the Bonticue Stone which marks the site.

The stone was hewn by a volunteer detachment of the NYG from a crag in the Shawangunk Mountains in Ulster County, New York.

Resembling a smaller monolith from Stonehenge, the Bonticou Stone was chosen as the memorial to honor the 40 New York Guardsmen who perished during their duty on the aqueduct. It also marks a grave.

Seventeen-year-old Frank De Costa, who was too young for the Army joined the New York Guard instead. On December 3, 1918, having by then reached his 18th birthday, he lost his fight against influenza.

His widowed mother was too poor to bury her only son. It was then that William Rockefeller donated a plot of land in the historic cemetery at Sleepy Hollow to the New York Guard, where they could bury their men who were without family or means. This ground is where Pvt. De Costa was laid to rest. On March 23, 1919, the Bonticou stone had been transported to the cemetery, and positioned on the spot where the young soldier was buried. His death and a mother's loss, and the deaths of all these volunteer soldiers, are a poignant reminder that even those who had very little to give, truly and selflessly gave everything they had. **gt**

Learning Rescue Techniques



CAMP SMITH - New York Guard Search and Rescue volunteers receive emergency helicopter evacuation procedures from N.Y. State Police Technical Sgt. Duwayne Tinsley during annual training on July 26. During the week-long training, troops studied various response strategies to ensure the safety of New Yorkers during a state emergency. Guard personnel can assist local first responders in locating stranded persons during disaster or when otherwise tasked. Photo by Warrant Officer Ubon Mendie, New York Guard.

Guard Officer Recognized



NEW YORK - Maj. Gen. Robert Wolfe, commander of the New York Naval Militia, presents the New York State Defense of Liberty Medal to New York Guard Maj. Michael Lonski on May 23. The award recognized the support that Lonski, a trauma psychologist, provided to members of the National Guard and New York Military Forces in the days following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center. The ceremony took place on the HMCS Iroquois. Photo courtesy Col. David Cahn, U.S. Marine Corps (retired).

Lending Expertise to Response Force



ORISKANY - New York Guard Staff Sgt. Francisco Hernandez of the 88th Brigade unravels water hoses used in the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region II Homeland Response Force decontamination line at the New York State Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany on May 16. About 50 New York Guard members trained alongside their New York Army National Guard counterparts from the 222nd Chemical Company as part of the decontamination element of the Homeland Response Force (HRF). The HRF responds to Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear incidents in support of civil authorities for FEMA Region II, including New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Photo by Warrant Officer Ubon Mendie, New York Guard.

New York Naval Militia at Fleet Week



NEW YORK - New York Naval Militia Patrol Boat PB 440 appears to lead the Parade of Tall Ships during Fleet Week ceremonies in New York City on May 23. The New York Naval Militia boat assisted the United States Coast Guard in escorting naval vessels visiting New York City. Photo by Chief Boatswain's Mate Troy Krotz, United States Coast Guard.



On Duty: Lake Champlain

ROUSES POINT - New York Naval Militia Patrol Boat 230 conducts operations in support of the United States Border Patrol on Lake Champlain on June 20. The Naval Militia assisted the Border Patrol in ensuring that boaters entering the United States from Canada check at U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The Naval Militia was on duty during weekends through August 19.

Photo by Cmdr. Don McKnight, New York Naval Militia.

Learning to Float a Boat



JONES BEACH - Boatswain's Mate Bill Towart, New York Naval Militia's Joint Operations Area-2 Military Emergency Boat Service coordinator, highlights "boat capacity" and "float plan" to 37 sailors from New York Naval Militia, Navy Operational Support Center-New York City and Navy Operational Support Center-Long Island as part of the course, "About Boating Safely", organized by the New York Naval Militia and U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Flotilla 22-04 at the Jones Beach State Park Nature Center in Long Island, on July 28. Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Antonio Ribeiro.

GUARD NEWS BRIEFS AND PHOTOS

Army's Top Installation Manager Visits New York

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo



Katherine Hammack, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installation, Energy and Environment discusses New York Army National Guard facilities energy conservation initiatives with Col. Ray Shields, New York National Guard Director of Joint Staff (Right) and Lt. Col. Andrew Stewart, New York National Guard Construction and Facilities Management Officer (Center) outside the Utica Armory during an installation visit on Thursday, August 2. She also visited the Thompson Road Armory in Syracuse.

UTICA -The Army's top installation manager got a first-hand look at the facilities where Citizen Soldiers train for war, Thursday, as she visited New York Army National Guard armories here and in Syracuse.

"Overseas we see the tremendous operational support the Guard provides to the Army. We need to ensure these Soldiers have the facilities they need to train and prepare," said Katherine Hammack, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installation, Energy and Environment.

Hammack spent the morning visiting the Utica and Syracuse armories to get a feel for energy conservation initiatives at New York's 47 armories.

She learned about planned improvements at New York's armories so that older buildings could meet the requirements of the 21st Century Army National Guard.

In Utica Col. (P) Raymond Shields, the Director of Joint Staff, showed Hammack around the armory, which was built in 1929 and 1930.

He pointed out the changes that had to be made to the building in 2007 to accommodate the Headquarters Company of the 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry which currently drills there.

The construction preserved the 1930's era look and feel of the armory without increasing the environmental footprint by creating a building inside the building. Using half of the vast 20th century drill shed floor, a modern structure encompasses administrative offices, arms vaults, supply, fitness and locker rooms.

"I'm fascinated with how New York preserved the heritage and structural integrity of the Utica armory while making better use of the space and resources," Hammack said. "Taking advantage of creative ideas like this to ensure our facilities are managed appropriately demonstrates that New York knows how to do things right."

Changes in force structure within the New York Army National Guard, such as moving a Military Police Company from upstate to New

York City, drive the changes made to existing armories, Shields said.

In Syracuse, Major General Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York, showed Hammack around a newer facility, constructed in 1992 and 1993 as the headquarters of the 27th Infantry Brigade. The brigade headquarters sits on federal property at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base.

"This was an opportunity to draw on Ms. Hammack's immense experience in energy sustainment to assist us in looking at facilities and infrastructure upgrades for the NY Army National Guard," Murphy said.

Appointed in 2008, Hammack is the primary advisor to the Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff of the Army on all Army matters related to installation policy, oversight and coordination of energy security and management. **gt**

Reunion Brings Together Soldiers from WW II, Iraq and Today

By Maj. Ben Tupper, 42nd Infantry Division



Master Sgt. Troy Haley demonstrates modern M-4 rifles to World War II veterans James "Pete" Pettus and Dee Eberhart during a visit of 42nd Infantry Division veterans to the modern day headquarters of the 42nd Infantry Divisions, July 14, 2012. The Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation held its annual reunion in Albany so that members of the present division headquarters could participate. Photo by Master Sgt. Peter K. Towse, 42nd Infantry Division.

ALBANY - Members of the 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division from World War II, the Cold War, and Iraq gathered to share stories at the 93rd Annual Reunion of the division hosted by the 42nd Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation, July 11-14, 2012.

The reunion has traditionally been attended by World War II vets and families. This year the reunion was opened to Iraq War vets this year, with a reception for 42nd Division Soldiers of that conflict.

The Task Force Liberty reception marked the first official gathering of Iraq war veterans as part of the 42nd Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation. The event allowed current Soldiers to meet Foundation members and join the Foundation themselves.

The 42nd Division was created in World War I when National Guard units from 26 states formed a division and deployed to France.

The division was given its nickname by then-Col. Douglas McArthur, who conceived of the idea. The 42nd Division, coming from a

number of state National Guard's would be "like a Rainbow" stretching across the United States from one end to another.

In World War II the division was reactivated and fought in France and Germany, liberating the concentration camp at Dachau, taking Munich, and ending the war occupying part of Austria.

The division became part of the New York National Guard in 1947 and in 2005 became the first National Guard division to serve in Iraq, taking command of two active Army brigade and two National Guard Brigades, February 14, 2005. National Guard, Army Reserve, and Army units from 28 states Puerto Rico and American Samoa came under the command of the division.

It was great to spend time with today's Soldiers and learn how much they had in common, said World War II Veteran Richard Marowitz.

"I think I see it, I see that little, I think the Rainbow itself is pulling them together, just be-

ing in this organization," Marowitz added.

"This year's reunion marks the beginning of a new generation of leadership ready to move our Foundation forward," said retired Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto, the chairman of the 42nd Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation. "This new leadership has been and will continue to be guided by those World War II-era veterans and their families."

Taluto is the former adjutant general of the New York National Guard and past commander of the 42nd Infantry Division during its deployment to Iraq in 2005. "I am proud to report that many new officers and committee chairpersons have stepped up to take responsibility and I look forward to working with them in the months and years ahead," said Taluto.

Reunion events included a visit to the New York State Military Museum and a memorial service at 42nd ID Headquarters in Troy. **gt**

Two War Veteran Pilot Honored by Aviators



ISLANDIA - Retired Chief Warrant Officer Herbert Dargue, whose 43-year military career started as a helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War, receives a Souvenir of his service--a customized flight helmet signed by unit members--from Lt. Col. Mark Slusar, the commander of the 3rd 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion during the units Dining In on June 2. The helmet commemorated his service in both the Vietnam and Iraq wars with paintings of a UH-1 "Huey" and a UH-60 Blackhawk. Maj. Gen. Steve Wickstrom, the commander of the 42nd Infantry Division looks on during the presentation. Photo by 1st Lt. Mark Getman, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation.

Picnic for Families of Deployed Soldiers



UTICA - Families and friends of the New York National Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry gather at the Utica Zoo on Sunday, June 10 for a Family Readiness Group picnic. The Soldiers are currently deployed to Afghanistan. About 150 people attended the event which was sponsored by the Family Readiness Group, the Red Cross and Friends of the Utica Army. Photo by Tanya Broutas, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Family Readiness Group.

Air Guard Commander Pins Another Star



LATHAM - New York Air National Guard Brig. Gen. (one-star) Verle Johnston, the Commander of the New York Air National Guard, is promoted to Major General by New York Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy in a ceremony at Division of Military and Naval Affairs Headquarters on June 28. Pinning Johnston is his father, Verle Johnston, Sr. (left) and his wife, Col. Ada Johnston, also a member of the 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia. He is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. and holds an Masters of Bachelors Administration from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute as well as a law degree from Albany Law School. He is a graduate of the Air Command and Staff College and the Air War College. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, Guard Times Staff.

