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# guardtimes

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





# FROM THE LEADERSHIP

## Parting Thoughts for our Force: Individuals Matter in our Organization's Success

By the time you read this, I will no longer be your Adjutant General.

It has been an unbelievable 30 months serving with the best personnel our nation has to offer.

Whether Airman, Soldier, NY Guard volunteer, Naval Militia or civilian, each one of you should be commended for the job you do each and every day in service to our state and nation.

Although you will have a new Adjutant General – the 54th – and I will be another picture on the fourth floor hallway in Latham, I still get my chance to communicate my thoughts one last time.

I am a strong believer that commanders at any level should be in command for 3-5 years – some shorter, and very few longer. I believe the same holds true for The Adjutant General.

After nine years serving at the state headquarters, four as the Air Guard Chief of Staff, two as the Assistant Adjutant General for Air, one year as the Commander of our New York Air Guard and the last two-and-one-half as Adjutant General and Commander of the Air Guard, I have decided it is time for someone else to lead this great organization. As for my future, I will be taking a position in Washington, D.C. and I will continue my service there.

Serving as the Adjutant General and being responsible for the New York Army and Air National Guard, the Naval Militia, the New York Guard and our federal and state civilian workforce has been the capstone to my military career and I have found it incredibly rewarding.

You, the members of our Army and Air National Guard are exception-

"I would like to leave you with three final thoughts:

"Do everything with integrity at the forefront.

"Be humble – treat everyone with respect.

"And finally, be generous,"

-- Maj. Gen. Anthony German, former Adjutant General of New York

ally professional and dedicated in everything you do. Whether it is responding to a domestic operation and helping our citizens in need, or deploying to Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Europe, North or South America, you accomplished every mission I asked you to do.

I was once asked by a Soldier what my goal as The Adjutant General was. I had not previously thought about it in such a way.

After reflecting on the question for a while, I said I would love to shake every person's hand in the organization, talk to them, and learn about them.

I would also like to thank them for their many sacrifices and the sacrifices of their loved-ones. As with many goals I have set – I failed. I have not yet managed to shake all of your hands, but each of you and your families have been in my thoughts and prayers these past 30 months. It has been an honor for me to get to know so many of you, and your families. Whether it was in a classroom, in the field, or on the flightline, I have cherished each conversation.

New York is a big state and there are a lot of you, and you continue to move around as you train and deploy. So, I am sorry I have not been able to meet each one of you personally. I have been able to see and appreciate, however, the impact that each one of you has had on this great state.

Nothing we do could be done alone, and it is because of your individual work that we are able to accomplish everything that we do.

You are all truly great Americans and it has been a privilege to serve with you as your commander.

The members of our state military forces, the Naval Militia and the New York Guard, have also been impressive to watch in action. All of you Naval Militia members signed on to serve our state, even though most of you already balance a part-time-military career in the Reserves and your civilian workforce.

I appreciate the professionalism Naval Militia members have brought to their missions whether it is running a boat in New York Harbor, filling sandbags on Lake Ontario, or cooking meals at Camp Smith.

Our small force of New York Guard men and women have proven that they are there when we need them. I am grateful for the effort you put into training on your own time – and often your own dime – so you can be there for New York when needed.

Finally, I want to thank our state and federal civilians for the work you do every day that helps support our men and women in uniform as they deploy overseas or go on state active duty.

The New York National Guard and the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs are great organizations with great missions. You get to serve the people of the United States of American, the people of New York State, and the people of your hometowns.

That service is a true privilege. You do things every day that



Maj. Gen.  
Anthony German

make a difference. You should all be proud of your uniforms, your organizations, and the people you work with every day.

One of the great things about a military organization is that it goes on doing good things no matter who is at the helm.

Commanders come and go and people come and go, but the organization and its traditions remain. The New York National Guard has tremendous history and tradition ranging from the Revolutionary War through the Civil War to the World Wars, and now Iraq and Afghanistan.

I know this great organization, with great people, will keep doing great things.

I would like to leave you with three final thoughts.

Do everything with integrity at the forefront – always do what is right no matter who is or is not around.

Be humble – treat everyone with respect and remember the reason you are successful is because of all the people around you.

And finally, be generous. Be generous with your time, your talents and your accolades for others.

Thank you for who you are and I salute each and every one of you...thank you all for a job well done.

...Tony





# guardtimes

Volume 11, Number 3

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, COMMANDER IN CHIEF  
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**Spc. Joshua Yajcaji, assigned to Company B, 1-114th Infantry Regiment, takes aim while concealed at the start of infantry reclassification course 18-002's final field training exercise, which lasted 48 hours at Camp Smith Training Site, Cortlandt Manor, N.Y., Aug. 13, 2018. Photo by Cpl. Nnaemeka Onyeagwa, 369th Sustainment Brigade.**



FRONT COVER: Sgt. Robert Majewski responds to a casualty situation while squad leader Sgt. Chris Cormack inspects the line of defense while receiving contact from OPFOR in an urban training environment during Basic Leadership Course instruction at the Yavoriv Combat Training Center in Ukraine, July 11. Photo by 1st Lt. Derrick Garner, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.  
BACK COVER: Staff Sgt. Anthony Cosentino, assigned to the 107th Civil Engineer Squadron, works on pouring concrete at the West Virginia School for the Blind and Deaf during unit Innovative Readiness Training in Romney, W. Va., June 21, 2018. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Campbell, 107th Attack Wing.



# FACES of the FORCE

## Soldier uses Medical Skills to Save Boys Life

Story by Staff Sgt. Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment

TROY, N.Y. - National Guard members spend countless hours every year training for the next big mission. For Spc. Nicole McKenzie that mission wasn't overseas – it was below an overpass on her way home from her Yonkers, N.Y., armory on Aug. 3

McKenzie, a cable systems installer and maintainer – or 'cable dog' – with A Company, 101st Signal Battalion, saw a flash of red going over a guard rail on the Saw Mill River Parkway and immediately pulled her car to the side of the road.

"I saw what looked like the outline of a boy going over the side," McKenzie said. "I knew something was wrong."

Her instincts had been sharpened by nearly six years of combined Army training, which erased all doubt and hesitation at the scene.

"Thanks to my Army training, it was all automatic; everything was fluid," McKenzie said.

She ran over to the edge where she saw Police Officer Jessie Ferreira Cavallo, of the Hastings-on-

Hudson, N.Y., police department already assessing the scene.

When McKenzie saw the 12-year-old boy lying on the rocks below she shouted to Cavallo, "let's go!" They both ran to the shallow end of the overpass, climbed over a fence, and dropped 10 feet to the jagged ground below.

The boy, a resident of the Bronx, had left the Andrus Campus in the Bronx. Andrus is a private, nonprofit organization that provides services for vulnerable children, children with special needs, and children with severe emotional and behavior issues, according to news reports.

Andrus staff were speaking with the boy when he jumped from the overpass he had been standing on.

McKenzie, who spent three years on active duty with the 168th Multifunctional Medical Battalion and just completed Combat Life Savers (CLS) training with the Guard, immediately began to triage the injuries the boy sustained in the fall.


She used quick thinking to improvise a flashlight from her phone to administer a concussion test, took his vital signs, and kept talking to him so he stayed awake and alert.

Next, she shouted to a bystander above to grab the CLS bag from her trunk and throw it down.

Working in tandem with Cavallo, they used splints from her bag to secure his neck, arm and leg, and stayed with him until the medics arrived and took him to Westchester Hospital.

The Westchester County Police records department confirmed the assistance from McKenzie and the pivotal role that both the National Guard and local police played in working together to assist the young boy.

McKenzie doesn't think she's a hero and would never ask for recognition. For her, it's all about loyalty to her unit and her community.

"I wear the uniform every day because I want to help Soldiers – I want to help people," McKenzie said. "This is my family." 



Spc. Nicole McKenzie, a member of Alpha Company, 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, used her combat lifesaver skills to help save the life of a 12-year old boy who jumped from an overpass in Yonkers on August 3, 2018. Photo by Sgt. Harley Jelis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

### WWII Veteran Speaks with 105<sup>th</sup> Airmen

NEWBURGH, N.Y. -- World War II infantry veteran Alan Moskin speaks with Airmen, assigned to the 105th Airlift Wing, at Stewart Air National Guard Base, Newburgh N.Y. June 27, 2018. Moskin, was raised Jewish, and liberated a concentration camp. Photo by by Staff Sgt. Julio A. Olivencia, 105th Airlift Wing.



### Director of the Air Guard Visits NY

ROME, N.Y. -- Lt. Gen. Scott Rice, Director of the Air National Guard spent more than three hours with the Airmen from the Eastern Air Defense Sector in Rome, N.Y., on Aug. 1, 2018. Courtesy photo.







Sgt. Ilya Titov, assigned to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, negotiates the obstacle course for the Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition at Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn., July 24, 2018. Photo by Spc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.

## Runner-Up for Guard's Best Warrior

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Penn. - Sgt. Ilya Titov, the New York Army National Guard's top enlisted warrior, was the runner up in a nationwide competition to find the top Soldier in the entire Army National Guard.

Titov, a member of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, based at the Lexington Avenue Armory, was competing in the junior enlisted Soldier category in the Army National Guard's Best Warrior Competition.

He competed against five other Soldiers selected through a series of competitions held around the country. The grueling three-day event was held at Fort Indiantown Gap, near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania July 25-27.

Titov, an infantryman, joined the Army National Guard in 2013.

To make it to the Fort Indiantown Gap competition, Titov had to first be picked as the top Soldier in New York. After winning that competition he went on to win in the enlisted Soldier category in a competition of Soldiers from across the northeast.

Non-commissioned officers compete in a separate category. Titov was competing in the enlisted category because he was originally a specialist when he entered the competition.

The event tests the Soldiers' physical fitness, military knowledge, marksmanship, and command of military skills like donning a gas mask or treating a casualty.

The culmination of the event was 12-mile forced march across the historic battlefield at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The Soldiers carried a 35-pound pack and weapons through historic locations like Little Round Top, Devil's Den and Cemetery Ridge.

The winner of the National Guard enlisted Best Warrior competition, Spec. Bailey Ruff, a Soldier in the North Dakota Army National Guard, will go on to compete against winners of competitions held by the Army Reserve and the Active Army.

Along with the runners up award, Titov received a Pennsylvania National Guard Commendation Medal. **gt**

## Troops take to Skies for Reups



SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- Military Police Soldiers who reenlisted on board a flying CH-47 Chinook helicopter on July 19, 2018, pose for a group photo after the flight at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. The Soldiers are --from left front-- Specialist Michael Cerrato, Headquarters Company, 102nd Military Police Battalion; Sgt. Kirk Moon, 222nd Military Police Company; and Sgt. Brian Frail, 222nd Military Police Company. 105th Military Police Company Soldiers in the rear are, from left, Specialist Kevin Hamilton; Sgt. Justine Peterson and Sgt. Stephanie Hazelett. Photo by Staff Sgt. Jonathan Crego, 102nd Military Police Battalion.



FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- Lt. Col. Jason Lefton, left, commander of the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Regiment, reenlists Spc. Assimou Yaya in a UH 60 Blackhawk helicopter in flight during the battalion's training at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, C.A. on Aug. 14, 2018. Courtesy photo.



# Guard Soldier Earns Silver Medal in Taekwondo

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters

LATHAM, N.Y. - New York Army National Guard Spc. Nashayla Harper, an Albany resident, earned a second place award in the 2018 Taekwondo National Championship in Salt Lake City, Utah July 2-9 as part of the All Army Taekwondo Team.

Harper, 25, is an aviation operations specialist with the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade Headquarters. She won the silver medal in the women's light-weight class.

As a member of the Army's Taekwondo team, Harper participated with other athletes from the Army's World Class Athletes Program (WCAP). The program allows Soldier-Athletes to train and compete in their chosen sports and represent the United States at international competitions.

WCAP's head coach Master Sgt. David Bartlett said Harper performed extremely well at the national competition.

"I was proud Nashayla Harper got to the finals. She was on fire; she did very well," Bartlett said.

The team beat an Army record with six total medals in the July competition, two gold and four silver.

Harper will now go on to compete at the 2018 Taekwondo International games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in November.

A Korean martial art, Taekwondo combines elements of older Korean martial-arts traditions and other martial-arts practices.

Competitions occur during three 2-minute rounds. Since Taekwondo competitors score points by kicking and punching their opponents, it requires more skill than boxing, Harper said.

"As precise as boxers are with their hands, we have to be with our feet," Harper said in an interview



SpC. Nashayla Harper confers with her coach after a sparring session June 26, 2017, at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. Harper is part of the 2018 All-Army Taekwondo Team. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Erich B. Smith, National Guard Bureau.

with the Guard Times magazine in 2016.

Harper, who joined the Guard in 2014, said she took up Taekwondo when she was just three years old, and described the sport as a "family thing" for her.

Her mother Shaunelle Smith also competes in the sport, and her father Michael Harper racked up seven national championships, she said.

The Army team began training June 5 at Fort Carson, Colorado. Every year Soldiers apply to the All Army Taekwondo team and the qualifiers train with the WCAP Soldiers on post. The group of athletes prepared with high intensity workouts for the 2018 Taekwondo National Championship in early July and their hard work paid off, the coach said.

"I am very excited and impressed with our athletes. Looking back at my time with the team this is the best performance and medal count we have had in the history of Army Taekwondo. Last year we tied the most medal count from 1999 and this year we beat that," said All Army head coach Staff Sgt. Jonathan Fennell. **gt**



SpC. Nashayla Harper won silver in the women's light-weight class. She is a member of the All Army Taekwondo team and serves in the New York Army National Guard. Photo by Brittany Nelson, IMCOM.

## Hellfighter Ruck March

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, N.Y. -- Soldiers assigned to the 369th Sustainment Brigade ruck march at Camp Smith, part of their Fort Drum and Camp Smith, N.Y., dual site annual training Aug. 16, 2018. Photo by Cpl. Nnaemeka Onyeagwa, 369th Sustainment Brigade.







### Sand Tables during AT

LAKEHURST, N.J. -- 1st Lt. Colin Boyle, executive officer of the 107th Military Police Company, 104th Military Police Battalion, prepares a sand table during the unit's annual training at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., August 13, 2018. Photo by Sgt. Jeremy Bratt, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.



### Band Performs across state

LIDO BEACH, N.J. -- Spc. Miranda Bank, a member of the 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division Band belts out a number at Camp Anchor, a camp for special needs adults and children, run by Nassau County in Lido Beach, N.Y. on August 8, 2018, as part of the band's annual training summer concert tour. Photo by Capt. Mark Getman, NY Guard.

## A Breath of Fresh Air for MPs



FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Penn. -- Sgt. 1st Class Jose Velez, a military police Soldier with the 222nd Military Police Company exits a gas chamber during annual chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) preparedness training here, July 14, 2018. More than 350 New York Army National Guard Soldiers from military police, engineer and transportation companies used this year's three weeks of training and the improved multi-million dollar facilities at Fort Indiantown Gap to increasing readiness. Photo by Spc. Amouris Coss, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.



## Soldiers Tackle Course to Help Build Fitness

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, N.Y. - Thirty New York Army National Guard Soldiers from across the state who needed some help in order to pass the Army's new physical readiness test got it during a seven day course held at Camp Smith Training Site, August 6- 12.

Dubbed the Tactical Athlete Course, or TAC for short, the course is a pilot program that focuses on total Soldier readiness and fitness, according to Sgt. Major Joseph Fisher, the operations sergeant major for the 106th Regional Training Institute.

The 106th ran the course.

The Army Combat Readiness Test will consist of six events, designed to prepare Soldiers for combat tasks, and will replace the current three-event Army Physical Fitness Test by October of 2020.

Since ten percent of the New York Army National Guard's 10,000 Soldiers have problems with one or more of the current events, this change could present real challenges, Fisher explained.

TAC is designed to help Soldiers meet this more rigorous physical fitness requirement by focusing on nutrition education, physical training, and psychological development.

"If we're not deployable and can't do our job, then it creates a huge problem for the Army at large," Fisher said, "If 10 percent of our Soldiers are flagged, that's almost an entire battalion worth of Soldiers, so we want to take a holistic approach to fitness and nutrition."

A fitness trainer taught the course and the Soldiers got the opportunity to take the new Army Combat Readiness Test.

The current Army Physical Fitness Test consists of sit-ups, pushups and a two mile run. The new test will include the two-mile run and pushups.

But the new pushups will require a Soldier to go all the way to the ground and then raise their hands from the ground and extend them before doing another push-up. This, according to Army fitness experts better measures upper body strength.

The other four events will involve equip-



New York Army National Guard Soldiers who participated in the Tactical Athletes Course (TAC), stand together at their graduation ceremony, Aug. 12, 2018. The TAC is a seven-day course that trains Soldiers to be physically and mentally fit. Courtesy photo.

ment. These include:

- The standing power throw, which requires the Soldier to throw a ten pound ball;
  - The strength deadlift, which requires a weight set;
  - The leg truck, which requires a pull-up bar;
- And the 250-meter sprint, drag, and carry, which requires weights.

The seven-day program was successful in helping Soldiers change their behavior Fisher said.

Even after the course ended the participants were hitting their local gyms and were continuing to work together to stay motivated and had created a Facebook page to help them share, since they live across the state, he added. 🇺🇸



New York Army National Guard Soldiers taking part in the seven-day Tactical Athletes Course, designed to help them pass the new Army Combat Readiness Test, prepare to execute a test at Camp Smith on August 11, 2018. Thirty Soldiers from across the state took part in the pilot program run by the 106th Regional Training Institute. Courtesy photo.

"If we're not deployable and can't do our job, then it creates a huge problem for the Army at large."

-- Sgt. Major Joseph Fisher, operations sergeant major, 106th Regional Training Institute



# Senior Leader Retires After Four Decades of Service

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters

LATHAM, N.Y. - Brig. Gen. Patrick Center retired from military service after nearly 40 years in uniform following a ceremony held at the Joint Force Headquarters here July 31.

Center, from Charleton, N.Y., who served as Director of Joint Staff for the New York National Guard since 2016, first enlisted in 1979 before attending Officer Candidate School in 1985 and receiving a commission in June 1986.

"It really is an honor to do this for Pat," said Air National Guard Maj. Gen. Anthony German, the Adjutant General for New York during the ceremony. "He's one of the most solid people I ever met."

German presented Center with the Army Legion of Merit and the New York State Conspicuous Service Medal for his lifetime of service in the New York Army National Guard.

"I'm happy for Pat, who is able to retire today, but I'm sad for us that he's able to retire today," German said.

Center's responsibilities as Director of Joint Staff coordinated all of New York's Military Forces during domestic operations for civil authorities.

Center oversaw the work of Joint Task Force Empire Shield, the New York National Guard standing security force in New York City, two Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams, the FEMA Region II Homeland Response Force, civic outreach programs of the Citizens Preparedness Training Teams and the New York Counterdrug Task Force.

During his time as Director of the Joint Staff, New York deployed Army and Air Guard forces to Texas, Puerto Rico, Florida, and the Virgin Islands in response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria in the summer and fall of 2017.

New York Military Forces were also involved in a massive collection and distribution of donated goods for Puerto Rico and responded to Lake Ontario flooding with a massive sand bag operation, a tornado in western New York in the summer of 2017 and snowstorms in the Hudson Valley in 2018 that resulted in lost power for hundreds of thousands of people.

Center leveraged a career in logistics management to the problems and challenges of domestic operations and the deployment, equipping and operations of Guardsmen and



Maj. Gen. Anthony German awards Brig. Gen. Patrick Center with the Conspicuous Service Medal in Latham, N.Y., July 31, 2018. Center retires after nearly 40 years of service to the New York Army National Guard. Photo by Spc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.

women during state emergencies German said.

"One thing you have to understand about him is that he's a logistician through and through," German said.

Prior to his service as Director of the Joint Staff, Center served as Chief of Staff of the New York Army National Guard and was Director of Logistics when the Guard responded to storms in 2011 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012. Troops under his direction pumped half a million gallons of fuel to local government vehicles, moved critical supplies across the state, and managed a logistics support area for 2,500 troops.

Center's problem solving and leadership was critical to the success of National Guard response forces around the state, German said.

"As another hurricane season approaches, New York is ready," Center told the leadership at the ceremony.


"To all of the Soldiers and Airmen, thank you for the countless hours of hard work during state emergencies that always seem to occur on a late Friday afternoon," Center told the assembled staff. "Your work is never done. May I remind you that hurricane season is approaching?"

Center has also served as the Deputy Officer in Charge of the United States Property and Fiscal Operations Office for New York and as executive officer for the Adjutant General of New York.

"It is my honor to have served 40 years in the Guard," Center said. "In hindsight, nearly all of it was fun."

Other jobs include commander of the 369th Quartermaster Battalion, Supply and Services Branch Chief for the New York Army National Guard's Logistics Office, Commander for Headquarters Company of the 427th Support Battalion, Assistant Logistics Officer for the 42nd Infantry Division, quartermaster company commander and transportation detachment commander.

He has served as a federal technician working full-time for the National Guard throughout his career.

"In today's society, there are so few who commit to a career that spans 40 years," said New York Deputy Secretary for Public Safety Richard White after presenting Center with a governor's proclamation, "no less having the distinction of doing it right, so congratulations." 



# Soldiers and Airmen on Duty for Flood Clean-up

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

BINGHAMPTON, N.Y. - Two hundred New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were on state active duty on Wednesday, August 15, after 6.83 inches of rain fell on some parts of the Finger Lakes region on Tuesday, August 14.

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo ordered the Guard response as the state declared a disaster area in 14 counties in the Finger Lakes area and Southern Tier of New York counties where heavy rains caused streams and lakes to rise. The declaration allows the state to move assets—including Guard Soldiers and Airmen—to assist local governments.


On Tuesday 30 Airmen from the 174th Attack Wing, based at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base in Syracuse, were deployed to Ovid, N.Y. to assist local governments there in clearing debris. A priority was to clear roads and keep drainage ditches and culverts from clogging and overflowing.

The 204th Engineer Battalion in Binghamton mobilized 25 Soldiers with high-axle vehicles for immediate storm response. The Susquehanna River flows past Binghamton and the river's water level was four feet over flood stage at one point before it subsided Tuesday afternoon.

On Wednesday morning, August 15, an additional 150 Soldiers and vehicles were placed on duty in Auburn, N.Y., Binghamton, Walton, N.Y. and Horseheads, N.Y. All elements were equipped with LMTV vehicles and Humvees capable of negotiating flooded areas. The Soldiers came from additional companies of the 204th Engineer Battalion and the 102nd Military Police Battalion in Auburn.

The New York National Guard also placed an additional 50 members of the 369th Sustainment Brigade on standby at Camp Smith Training Area in the Hudson Valley near Peekskill, N.Y.

The New York Army National Guard also had two UH-60s with hoist capability standing by at the Rochester International Airport Army Aviation Support Facility.

The Finger Lakes region of New York stretches through the middle of the state and includes 11 lakes, the longest of which is 38 miles long. The region is a major tourism destination and wine industry center. 



Pfc Dakota Button, assigned to the 827th Engineer Company clears flooding mud and debris in Binghamton, N.Y., Aug. 15, 2018. Soldiers were responding to flooding throughout many areas of Binghamton assisting civilians and the Department of Transportation. Photo by Spc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.



New York Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 827th Engineer Company respond to flooding in Binghamton, N.Y., Aug. 15, 2018. Soldiers were responding to flooding throughout many areas of Binghamton assisting civilians and the Department of Transportation. Photo by Spc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.





## 106<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing Remembers Jolly 51

WESTHAMPTON BEACH, N.Y. -- Above left, A memorial plaque honors Airmen who perished in a helicopter crash in March in Iraq, is presented at the 106th Rescue Wing August 4, 2018. Four of the seven members of the HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter, call sign Jolly 51, were assigned to the 106th Rescue Wing . Photo by Daniel H. Farrell. At right, Col. Michael Bank, 106th Rescue Wing commander, Maj. Rick Montana, 308th Rescue Squadron Commander, and 106th Rescue Wing Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Michael Hewson, view the Jolly 51 memorial plaque at F.S. Grabreski Air National Guard Base. The plaque memorialized all seven members of the helicopter killed in the crash in March. Photo by Staff Sgt. Adam Juchniewicz, 106th Rescue Wing.

## Special Forces Conduct Helocast Training



BUFFALO, N.Y. -- Members of the West Virginia Army National Guard's 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) exits a CH-47 Chinook assigned to New York's Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion 126th Aviation, over Lake Erie on Sept. 5, 2018. The New York aircrew assisted the Special Forces Soldiers in helocast training. Photo by 2nd Lt. John Peralta, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation.



## 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade Soldiers Home from Ukraine

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. --A Soldier assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, returns to his family at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, Niagara Falls, N.Y., Aug. 2, 2018. Ninety-five soldiers returned after 10 months serving as part of the Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine. Photo by Master Sgt. Brandy Fowler.



# THE JOINT FORCE

## NY Chaplain meets with African Counterparts

Story and photo by Maj. Al Phillips, Joint Force Headquarters

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, GERMANY - National Guard Chaplains from states partnered with African militaries, met with their African counterparts here August 23-26 as U.S. Africa Command hosted a meeting for chaplains as part of the National Guard State Partnership Program.

The American chaplains and their counterparts exchanged ideas and best practices during the four day workshop.

"As chaplains we must be committed to the service and needs of the service members and that is why I am here," said New York National Guard State chaplain Lt. Col Scott Ehler. "Here today, New York tomorrow and South Africa later, I go where I am needed."

New York has a State Partnership Program with South Africa. The South African National Defense Force has 180 chaplains, the largest chaplain's corps on the continent.

The National Guard State Partnership Program links a unique component of the Department of Defense - a state's National Guard - with the armed forces or equivalent of a partner country in a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship.

State Partnership program states conduct joint training and conduct officer and NCO exchange visits. The chaplains meeting is part of that effort.

Chaplains from Nigeria, partnered with California; Botswana, partnered with North Carolina; , Djibouti, partnered with Kentucky;

Ghana, partnered with North Dakota; and Kenya, which is partnered with Massachusetts; attended the workshop.

The four day workshop was designed as a professional and spiritual workshop to build upon evidence-based expertise, studies of experienced chaplains and how to ultimately succeed in the role as chaplain in Africa, Ehler said.

AFRICOM hosts chaplain gatherings between American and African nation's military chaplains regularly.

Information exchange and the need for dialogue is critical to chaplains, Ehler said.

Americans may not understand how things work in Africa, the African chaplains emphasized.

"If there is an issue with a neighboring African country-the US should not go in ill-advised but should seek the advice of another African country first because we see ourselves as brothers," said Botswana Defense Force Chaplain David Taote Mapiitse.

The AFRICOM Command Chaplain emphasized the importance of an African proverb in

Working on the continent: "If you want to go fast-go alone. However, if you want to go far-go with partners"

"As a chaplain, we work with such a collegiate crowd and we do so by, with, through working together," AFRICOM Command Chaplain (Col.) Michael Klein said. "God uti-

lizes people to refine us, to smooth us out, this is what by, with, through signifies-to establish regional security, mitigate extremism

And restore confidence," he added.

U.S chaplains seek to be enablers for the African chaplains, Klein said.

The four-day meeting was worthwhile, said Col. Dr. Tobias Maluku, Chaplain Service Chief of Staff for South Africa National Defense Force we wish God's blessing going forward to the future. I want to express our gratitude for this informative event," Masuku said. **gt**



Lt. Col. Scott Ehler, the New York National Guard's state chaplain, speaks with South African National Defense Force Chaplain Col. Malcom Pillay, during a meeting of American and African chaplains conducted as part of the National Guard's State Partnership Program at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany on August 21, 2018.

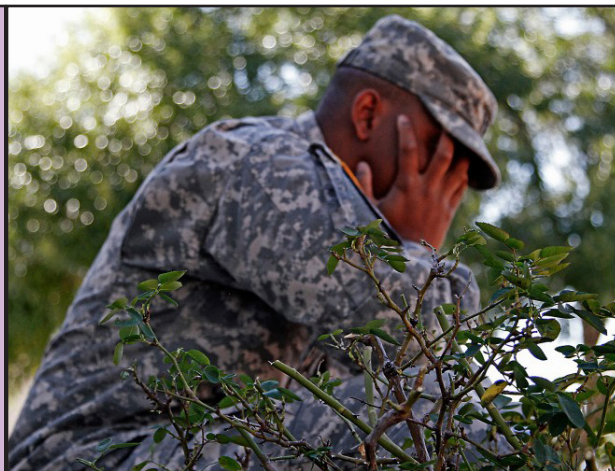
### 24/7/365 NYARNG Behavioral Health Access

The New York National Guard provides an information access line for Soldiers who may be experiencing behavioral-health related concerns. The line is continuously monitored by licensed BH professionals who work full-time with Soldiers and their families providing support, education, clinical services, and resource connection.

All too often Soldiers have questioned who to turn to for support and who can be trusted with such sensitive information.

Behavioral Health Professionals are HIPAA certified and place great value on privacy and confidentiality. They understand Army regulations, the unique challenges faced by Soldiers and their families, and military ethos and they are ready and available to provide support. If you are experiencing a behavioral health concern, please contact the NYARNG Behavioral Health Access Line at:

**1-833-NG-CARES (1-833-642-2732)**





# Civil Support Team Trains with new Landing Craft

Story and photo by Spc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters

WATERFORD, N.Y.-The New York National Guard's 2nd Civil Support Team tested their ability to deploy a biological, chemical and radiological survey team by boat to a shoreline during a joint exercise with the New York Naval Militia on Saturday, Sept. 8.

The exercise required the 2nd Civil Support Team, known as a CST, to load an all-terrain vehicle full of supplies on board the Naval Militia's new landing craft – LC-350-- in Rensselaer, N.Y. and move north up the Hudson River to Peebles Island State Park in Waterford.

Once at the park, the Civil Support Team Soldiers and Airmen drove the ATV on shore, set up an operating station and then conducted a survey sweep. When complete they packed up, loaded back on board the landing craft and returned south down the Hudson River.

The ability to deploy by boat allows the CST to reach areas that could not be reached by road due to flooding or other conditions, explained Major Lance Woodard, the 2nd CST deputy commander.

Working together we begin to understand each other's capabilities," Woodard said. "And we're continuously building that relationship."

"I think today went very well," Woodard said. "Not only for the Naval Militia but for us. This is the first time we'd been able to mobilize a strike team and vehicle on LC-350."

The 2nd CST, one of two New York weapons of mass destruction civil support teams, is based at Stratton Air National Guard Base near Schenectady, N.Y.



Sgt. First Class Thomas Myers, from the 2nd Civil Support Team, drives an ATV off of New York Naval Militia LC-350, a landing craft, at Peebles Island State Park in Waterford, N.Y., Sept. 8, 2018.

The CST trains to identify chemical, radiological, biological or nuclear agents and advises local responders on dealing with them. The 2nd CST covers upstate New York while the 24th CST based at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn focuses on New York City.

In the upstate New York region the 2nd CST is responsible for railroads and other key infrastructure that cannot easily be reached by road but can be reached by water, explained Capt. Justin Kupinski, the 2nd CST operations officer.

If there was an incident it's possible that the only way to get a team there would be to insert via water," Kupinski said. "being able to put a strike team on a landing craft and deliver them to these remote place means we can get there faster and with all of our equipment."

The drill with the Naval Militia validated the concept, Kupinski added. The ATV had to drive

through eight inches of water but it worked, he said.

The New York Naval Militia is made up of members of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard reserve who volunteer to respond to state emergencies and events on state active duty. They put the skills they learn in federal service to work for the state of New York.

The Naval Militia operates ten patrol boats which operate in New York Harbor, the Hudson River, and other state waters.

The newest boat in the fleet is LC-350: LC for "landing craft:" and 350 for its length, 35 feet. The boat allows the Naval Militia to land supplies and personnel along the Hudson River, and on Long Island. The boat can also be trailered to other locations if necessary.

While the Naval Militia had practiced loading and unloading the CST's ATV before, this was the first time the crew was landing a vehicle on an unknown beach, said

Naval Militia Commander Don McKnight, who heads the Naval Militia's Military Emergency Boat Service.

"It was kind of a mucky beach and it was a shallow approach and we had some water intake issues," McKnight said. "But that is what you train for."

The mission to Peebles Island State Park was part of an annual Naval Militia exercise known as Rapid Gunwale.

While LC-350 was negotiating the Hudson River, including passing through a lock, another Naval Militia patrol boat and a Naval Militia command post was exercising with Saratoga and Fulton County Sheriff Department Boats and a New York State Police dive team on Great Sacandaga Lake.

The 29 mile-long lake is located north of the Mohawk River. The exercise scenario was built around the hunt for a bomb attached to a bridge. **gt**



## Engineers Help in Rebuilding Puerto Rico

Story by Eric Durr, Guard Times Staff

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico- Forty-five Soldiers from the 204th Engineer Battalion spent two weeks helping Habitat for Humanity build a three-family home in Puerto Rico, July 30 to August 10.

The work was done as part of the Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training Program under which Soldiers hone military skills, while also helping local communities.

In this case, the engineer Soldiers were among a series of National Guard and Army Reserve engineer units helping to construct the housing, explained Major Dan. Colomb, the operations officer for the 204th, which is headquartered in Binghamton, N.Y.

Twenty of the Soldiers were members of the battalion's 1156th Engineer Company, which specializes in vertical construction (Carpentry, Masonry, Plumbing, and Electrical). The other Soldiers came from other companies in the battalion, Colomb said.

The building, designed to resist hurricanes, is being constructed in the Quintana neighborhood of San Juan. The New York Soldiers worked with a local contractor hired by Habitat for Humanity, ensuring that materials arrived on time and provided expert advice if needed, Colomb explained.

The 204th Engineer Soldiers were responsible for building the forms and pouring all of the walls on the first floor, both internal and external. The unit also did some work on assembling scaffolding and framing for the second floor, before turning that over to the next iteration, Colomb explained.

While a portion of the 204th Soldiers worked on the site for the Habitat for Humanity project, other engineers did work for the Puerto Rico Air National Guard at Muniz Air National Guard Base and for the Puerto Rico Army National Guard at its Camp Santiago facility, Colomb said.

Overall, it was a good mission for the New York Soldiers and their leaders, Colomb said.

He broke the 45 Soldiers into two platoon sized elements and assigned each of them to a new second lieutenant, Colomb explained.

"This was a tremendously rewarding experience for 2nd Lt. Andrew Kopf, and 2nd Lt. Stephen Hoeprich to hone their leadership skills as they await their first assignment as platoon leaders," Colomb explained.



Soldiers of the 204th Engineer Battalion at work on the construction of a three-family home being built by Habitat for Humanity in San Juan, Puerto Rico on August 7, 2018. The battalion sent 45 Soldiers to Puerto Rico to assist in the construction as part of the Department of Defense Innovative Readiness Training Program. Photos by Maj. Dan Colomb, 204th Engineer Battalion.

For the Soldiers the mission was an additional chance to improve their skills, he added.

"This mission allowed our Soldiers to accomplish training for their individual readiness while also fostering relationships through the community tie-in and partnership," he said. "They were exercising their MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) skills running the full gamut of the construction engineer tasks, everything from carpentry and masonry work to plumbing."

The Soldiers got to see the end result of the project, he emphasized.

"Sometimes at annual training we dig a hole and then fill it back in, this project was rewarding in that we could see tangible results that will be handed over to fellow citizens in need" he explained.

For engineer Soldiers who do something different in civilian life, this was also a great chance to get more experience within those engineer disciplines, he added.

Deploying to Puerto Rico was not new for the New York Army National Guard.

In the wake of Hurricane Maria, which caused massive destruction on Puerto Rico, the New York National Guard deployed 300 Soldiers to help.

Soldiers from the 152nd Engineer Company, the 442nd Military Police Company and the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation Regiment were sent to the island.

The 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation, flew four UH-60 Black Hawks on relief missions.

The New York Air National Guard also flew missions bringing supplies to the island. **gt**



# MPs Train at Leavenworth Military Prison

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Derrick Rocker, 102nd Military Police Battalion

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan. -Soldiers from the 102nd Military Police Battalion spent their June 4 - 18 Annual Training at the Department of Defense's newest military prison here.

Forty-four Soldiers from the 102nd MP Battalion's Headquarters Company, which is headquartered in Auburn, spent Annual Training working with their counterparts from the 705th Military Police Battalion (Detention) at the Joint Regional Corrections Facility at Fort Leavenworth.

The Joint Regional Corrections Facility houses military members convicted of crimes who are serving a sentence of up to ten years. It is adjacent to the more famous United States Disciplinary Barracks which houses military inmates serving longer sentences.

The Soldiers assigned to the 102nd Headquarters Company are Military Police Corrections Officers, which means their role is to guard prisoners.

While at Fort Leavenworth, the 102nd MP BN Soldiers received training on riot control techniques, forced cell extractions, and defensive techniques in a corrections environment.

This was valuable training according to Capt. Katie Chen, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander.

"The Company has spent the past numerous

years executing and mastering detention operations at Fort Drum. Although corrections and detention operations are very similar in their training tasks, we weren't receiving the amount of corrections training that I felt the Company needed," Chen said.

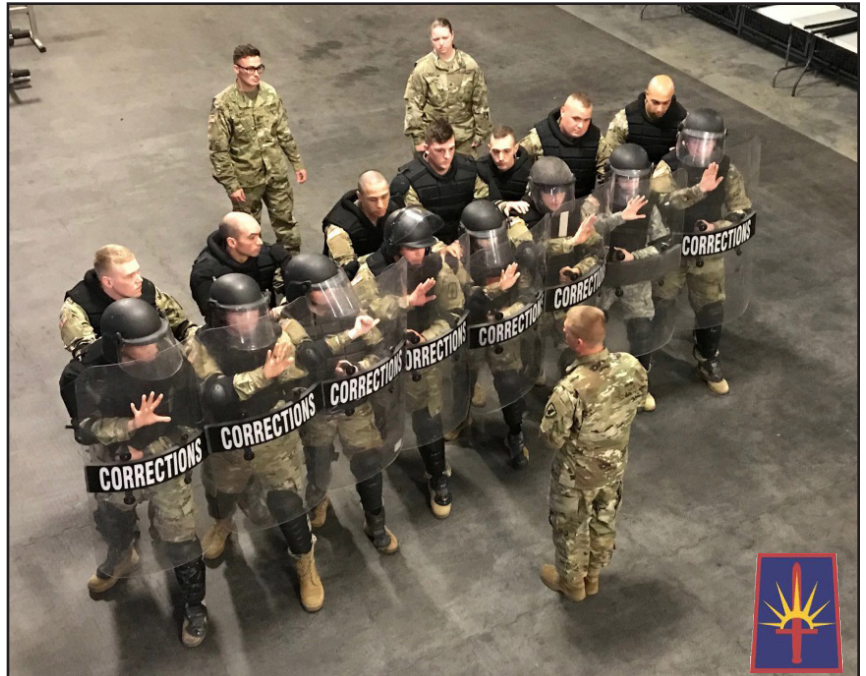
"By having our AT at Fort Leavenworth, it provided us with invaluable training that we cannot receive in New York. Our Soldiers were actually able to conduct on the job training inside a minimal/medium custody correctional facility," she added.

Along with the MP corrections officers, Soldiers with supporting military skills were able to shadow their active duty counterparts inside the JRCF.

During five days of on-the-job training the Soldiers worked with active duty Soldiers, gaining valuable experience that they could bring back home with them, Chen said.

"The Support MOS's such as our cooks, medics, engineers, admin, supply, commo, and the Chaplain Assistant, were also able to conduct on the job training," she said.

"This allowed them to have better insight on what exactly their role is inside the facility. A lot of our training at home station is MP oriented, but this training showed the support MOS's just how critical they are for our



New York Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 102nd Military Police Battalion, conduct riot control training at Fort Leavenworth, K.S., June 7, 2018. The Soldiers were conducting joint training with the 705th Military Police Battalion.

mission," Chen added.

The HHC Soldiers were kept busy with training that would benefit both their military and civilian careers.

Soldiers spent an entire day conducting medic training, which served as a re-fresher to maintain those skills. Other training included financial readiness, metabolic testing, nutrition awareness, and physical fitness.

The New York Soldiers attended a semi-professional arena football game in Kansas City, received a guided tour at the World War One museum, and toured the Fort Leavenworth national cemetery.

"The Soldiers definitely



New York Army National Guard Sgt. Danielle Dillard, a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 102nd Military Police Battalion, places a nasopharyngeal airway tube in Spec. Jacob Smith's nose during combat life saving training training at the Joint Regional Corrections Facility, Fort Leavenworth, K.S., June 9, 2018.

enjoyed the training and felt like they gained valuable knowledge and skills to bring back home and

implement in future training," Chen said. **gt**



# New York Soldiers Travel to France, Belgium for

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*



Soldiers from the 42nd Infantry Division visit the Chateau-Thierry American Monument in Suippes, France on July 26, 2018. Photo by Capt. Jean Marie Kratzer, *Guard Times Staff*.

TROY, N.Y. - Fifty members of the 42nd Infantry Division, the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the 369th Sustainment Brigade were in France in July, August and September as part of the Army-wide effort to mark the American Army's contributions to victory in World War I.

The Army had units and Soldiers participating in five major commemorative events in France leading up to the centennial of the Armistice on November 11, 2018.

Twenty-five members of the 42nd Infantry Division, headquartered in Troy, traveled to France July 23-30.

Ten members of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, headquartered in Syracuse, took part in a visit to France and Belgium August 3-9 and five Soldiers from the 369th Sustainment Brigade, from New York City, were in France from September 19-26.

All these units trace their history back to World War I. All took part in memorial events conducted by the American Battle Monuments Commission and the U.S. Army Center for Military History.

The 42nd Infantry Division was created in the summer of 1917 by bringing together National Guard units from 26 states. Col. Douglas MacArthur, the division's chief of staff, and eventually its commander, came up with the idea as a way to get Soldiers to France quickly without slighting any one region of the country.

The 42nd Division would stretch across America like a "rainbow," MacArthur said and that gave the division its nickname.

The New York component of the Rainbow division was the 69th Infantry Regiment, renamed the 165th Infantry Regiment.

The 27th Brigade traces its history back to what was originally the 6th Division made up of New York National Guard troops. The Division was renumbered and went to war serving with the British Army as the 27th Division.

The 369th Sustainment Brigade traces its roots back to the 15th New York Infantry, an

African-American regiment in a segregated Army. The 15th New York was renamed the 369th Infantry and fought as part of the French Army.

The unit became famous as the Harlem Hellfighters.

The delegation led by Major General Steven Ferrari, the current 42nd Infantry Division commander, was the lead element for the commemorations of the Second Battle of the Marne, fought in July of 1918.

Spc. Steven Snyder, a 20-year old member of the division headquarters said it was great to be on the ground where the division fought.

"It's one thing to read and listen to and learn about all the things they did 100 years ago in France, but it's another thing to go there," he said.

During their visit to France the 42nd Infantry Division Soldiers took part in:

- An Education and Unit Commemoration Day on July 25 where Soldiers visited historic Meuse-Argonne battlefield, and placed a memorial wreath at the Douglas MacArthur memorial at Landres-et-St. Georges.
- Traced the actions of the division on July 26 at the Champagne Marne battlefield, visited the Chateau-Thierry WWI American Monument, the Aisne Marne American Cemetery and the Croix Rouge Farm 42nd Division Memorial.
- And took part in a ceremony at the location of the Battle of Croix Rouge Farm, where Alabama troops fought and then at the Oise-Aisne Cemetery on July 28.



Brig. Gen. Joseph Biehler, right, stands with a World War One "Doughboy" Cpl. John Koenig and 1st Lt. Matthew Sowers at the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery in Seringes et Nesles, France on July 28, 2018. Photo by Capt. Jean Marie Kratzer, *Guard Times Staff*.



# WWI Centennial

Members of the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation, the division's veterans association, also visited the battlefields and participated in the events. Former 42nd Infantry Division commanders were part of this contingent.

While there were plenty of official events, one of the best parts was meeting people informally, said Capt. Jean Marie Kratzer, the commander of the division's Headquarters Support Company.

"One of the really cool things was meeting the French residents in the small villages who remember that the Americans were there and made a difference during the war," she said.

The ten Soldiers from the 27th Brigade, led by 27th Brigade Commander Col. Christopher Cronin, visited sites in Belgium and France where the 27th Division fought as part of the American II Corps with the British Army.

Serving alongside Australian and Canadian troops, the 27th Division played a key role in cracking the German Hindenburg defense line in September 1918.

The 27th Brigade delegation took part in commemorative ceremonies at Flanders Field American Cemetery in Waregem, Belgium where Soldiers from the 27th Division are buried. There is a memorial at the cemetery



Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Mclean, assigned to the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Support Team, prays during a ceremony at Flander's Field American Cemetery, Waregem, Belgium, August 4, 2018. Photo by Spc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.

honoring the 27th Division.

A 27th Brigade color guard also took part in a Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in the Belgium City of Ypres. The Menin Gate is a British war memorial commemorating Soldiers who died in the Ypres area where the 27th Division fought.

369th Sustainment Brigade Commander Col. Steve Bousquet, and four Soldiers visited

areas where the 369th Infantry fought during World War I and laid a wreath at a memorial dedicated to the 369th Infantry during a ceremony at Hartmannswillerkopf, in the Alsace area of France. **gt**



Sgt. Chance Ahlberg, assigned to the 427th Brigade Support Battalion, reads about the Newfoundland Memorial, Beaumont-Hamel, France, Aug. 6, 2018. Photo by Spc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.



A little boy from France holds an American flag at the Oise- Aisne American Cemetery in Seringes et Nesles, France for a ceremony on July 28, 2018. Photo by Capt. Jean Marie Kratzer, Guard Times Staff.



# Aircrews Assist in North Country Fire Fighting

Story by Eric Durr, Guard Times Staff and Spc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters

ALTONA, N.Y. - New York Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk aircrews from 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation, dropped more than 126,000 gallons of water on a 526 acre forest fire burning in Flat Rock State Forest on Friday July 13, Sunday July 15, and Monday, July 16.

The fire, located 10 miles south of the Canadian Border just outside New York's Adirondack Park, began on Thursday, July 12.

Over 200 personnel—New York State Forest Rangers, Department of Environmental Conservation fire crews, and local volunteer fire departments-- have been part of the response. Crews from Quebec and Vermont have also responded, according to Clinton County emergency officials.

Smoke from the fire could be seen across Lake Champlain in Vermont, according to reports.

With temperatures in the 80s over the weekend the six hours or more in the air were fatiguing for the pilots and aircrew, said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tom Brun Schmid, one of the pilots.

The biggest challenge for the aircrews was coordinating with the New York State Forest Rangers on the grounds who were directing the water drops, Brun Schmid said. Because the military radios in the UH-60 don't match the frequencies of the radios used by the Rangers, the Blackhawk crews had to speak with the ground on hand-held radios, he explained.

New York State Police helicopters were initially called in to fight the fire. The New York State Police flies civilian versions of the UH-1 Huey helicopter and can deploy firefighting buckets which can drop 220 gallons of water.

On Friday, the New York Army National Guard was asked to put two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and eight aircrew on standby to assist if necessary at Army Aviation Support Facility #3 in Latham, N.Y. just outside of Albany. The UH-60s can deploy fire-fighting buckets, known as Bambi buckets, which can hold 660 gallons of water.

Those aircraft were deployed to the Plattsburgh area to support fire crews on Friday afternoon.

The two UH-60 helicopters flew 73 drop missions on Friday and delivered 48,180 gallons of water on the fire before returning to Latham after dark.

On Saturday, July 14 crews and helicopters were on standby, but fire officials did not call for their assistance.

On Sunday, July 15 the New York Army National Guard aircrews went into action again. The two UH-60s delivered 52,800 gallons of water on the fire in 80 drop missions.

Monday morning, July 16, two UH-60 aircrews were back on standby again, but did not expect to be used. On Monday afternoon, though fire fighters called for help one more time and the aircraft flew north from Latham.

Two UH-60s dropped conducted 38 drops and delivered 25,080 gallons of water on the fire.

Each fully loaded Bambi bucket weights more than 5,400 pounds.

The helicopters used a lake two miles away from the fire site to fill the buckets, Brun Schmid said.

Each day the aircrews had to stop and refuel

three times, due to the amount of fuel used from transporting such heavy loads.

By Monday afternoon the fire was 65 percent contained.

Just in case they were needed New York Army National Guard aircrews were on standby again with two UH-60s to respond if required, on Monday, July 16.

Each spring a select number of pilots and crew chiefs train on using the Bambi buckets to pick up and dump water to prepare to fight wildfires.

The pilots need the additional practice because a helicopter has a very different feel when it is carrying 5,400 pounds of water underneath it.

According to Staff Sgt. Jimmy Rose, a crew chief, the Soldiers like doing these kinds of missions.

"Reacting to state emergencies are the best types of missions" Rose said, "You're working for the people of New York State, and when you're doing your job, that's who I prefer to do it for." **gt**



Staff Sgt. Jimmy Rose(right), assigned to 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation Division, and civilian Steven Rosen, load a Bambi bucket onto a UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter in Altona Flat Rock, N.Y., July, 13, 2018. The NYARNG responded to a forest fire that broke out in Altona, N.Y., that spread across hundreds of acres, from July 13-15.



# Helicopter Maintainers Hone Skills in Texas

Story and photo by Sgt. Mathew Kratts, 642nd Support Battalion

CHORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Some 30 Soldiers from Bravo Company, 642nd Support Battalion deployed here to the Corpus Christi Army Depot for annual training June 16-30 to prepare troops for aviation maintenance skills across nine different specialty functions.

The Soldiers, based out of Ronkonkoma, N.Y., conducted maintenance training to support their work on UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinook aircraft.

Bravo Company is the 642nd Support Battalion's aircraft maintenance company and the Soldiers received a full spectrum of maintenance tasks, explained Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Hernandez, responsible for coordinating the hands-on training at the depot.

"The training was phenomenal," Hernandez said. The experience was invaluable, he said. "We were able to do a week's worth of work in two days," Hernandez said.

He credited the success of the training to the quality of Soldiers.

"We have a lot of talented Soldiers in the unit and it was a great opportunity using the equipment available and the right tools to train on," he said.

Corpus Christi is the Army's largest facility of its type in the world for aviation maintenance. It provides an environment for the aviation Soldiers and technicians to work on complex maintenance issues otherwise unavailable at home station.

This type of hands-on training is critical for the battalion to function efficiently, said Sgt. Daniel Maher, a full-time military maintenance technician in Ronkonkoma. "I hope we can go again."

The state-of-the-art facilities allowed the Soldiers to get in-depth knowledge, gain valuable experience and utilize specialized equipment only found at this facility.

Hernandez felt the training was exactly what the National Guard needs right now.

"You can get good training at the unit, but nothing compares to working at the only facility in the world where you can actually test the blades on a helicopter."

The work at the Army depot provided opportunities for maintenance work unavailable



Spc. Andrew Lewis, a member of Bravo Company, 642nd Support Battalion, uses test equipment to repair avionics components at Corpus Christi Army Depot in Corpus Christi, Texas in June. Thirty Soldiers from Bravo Company, 642nd Support Battalion conducted their annual training at the Depot from June 16-30 to get hands on training for helicopter maintenance tasks.

**"The training was phenomenal. The experience was invaluable,"**

-- Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Hernandez, 642nd Support Battalion

anywhere else, said Staff Sgt. Vianney Patino, an aircraft electrician.

"We were able to work at a depot level maintenance which means we would strip the aircraft to bare bones," Patino said. "By learning exactly how to wire a helicopter, it cuts down on maintenance time because you know exactly where everything is routed...it was labor intensive but we were happy to do it."

"The equipment was great," said Spc. Nicholas Levine, an aircraft electrician. "It was much different so it helped us use different techniques for repairs... It definitely showed us what right looks like."

Levine is also a full time federal military technician at the flight facility in Ronkonkoma and plans to bring back some of the procedures and equipment used at the depot in order to make the unit shop cleaner and more efficient.


Each New York Soldier worked alongside a

depot counterpart to gain proficiency on their specific skill.

Some of the Soldiers received additional training that will benefit not just their military service but add commercial certifications for civilian work as well.

Both Patino and Levine received aviation industry certificates after completing a five-day soldering class during the training.

"The course taught both civilian sector and military Inter-Process Communication (IPC) standards and is good for two years," Levine said.

These IPC standards are used by electronics manufacturer's world-wide to standardize the assembly production of electronic equipment. This certification allows these Soldiers to be proficient at both military and civilian in the electronics industry. 



# Warrant Officers Celebrate 100 Years of Service

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

LATHAM, N.Y.--The New York Army National Guard marked the 100th birthday of the Army's Warrant Officer Corps with a short ceremony on Monday, July 9.

Major General Anthony German, the Adjutant General, and other leaders, along with warrant officers working in the New York National Guard headquarters, took time out of their schedule to mark the centennial of the Army Warrant Office Corps.

In today's Army, warrant officers are highly specialized technical experts in fields ranging from intelligence, to maintenance, to personnel management. They're also helicopters pilots and can command detachments and generally run the Army's fleet of ocean and water craft.

They account for about three percent of the Army's force and stand between the enlisted ranks and officer corps in the Army's rank structure.

Being a warrant officer means being a "pioneer" when it comes

to implementing new systems and new technologies said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kelly Fancher, a personnel expert in the New York Army National Guard's military personnel office.

Warrant officers are the ones charged with making sure systems work and teaching others, she said.

The New York Army National Guard currently has 237 warrant officers out of a total force of just under 10,000 Soldiers, said Command Chief Warrant Officer Jacqueline O'Keefe.

The state is authorized 305 warrant officers but there is a shortage of personnel in some of the highly technical military intelligence and signal corps slots, she said.

Warrant officers have a long history.

The Army Warrant Officer Corps traces its history back to headquarters clerks created in 1896 to help run the Army. They were initially considered civilians but eventually they were given military status.

But July 9, 1918 is the official



New York National Guard State Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jackie O'Keefe speaks during the 100th Warrant Officer Birthday ceremony on July 9. O'Keefe read a proclamation by Lt. Gen. Timothy Kadavy, the Director of the Army National Guard, about Warrant Officers during the celebration. Photo by Spc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.

birthday of the Army Warrant Officer Corps because that is the day that congress established the Army Mine Planter Service; Soldiers charged with using floating ocean mines to protect key American waterways and harbors.

The act gave the Army the authority to create 40 Warrant officers who would serve as masters, mates chief engineers and assistant engineers on the ships and boats that would be used to plant the mines.

Congress created only one warrant officer rank, but it did authorize different pay scales for masters, first mates, second mates and marine engineers.

In 1920, Congress expanded the Warrant Officer program. Warrant officers were approved for clerical, administrative, and band leading activities.

Entering the warrant officer program was a way for him to further his military career said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Joshua Rowinski.

He had been serving as a sergeant and being a warrant of-

icer looked like a great way to get ahead, he added.

Rowinski is a mobility warrant officer assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division. His specialty is knowing how to move people and equipment and making sure everything gets there on time.

In civilian life he is an engineer for the New York State Department of Transportation, but he is currently on active duty working as the logistics officer for the New York Homeland Response Force.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Michael Zanghi, the New York Army National Guard State Aviation warrant officer, said his role is to help the commissioned force do their job and mentor other aviators. "I'm a go between," he said.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Timothy Schultz, has served as an intelligence warrant officer since 1994. He became a warrant officer because of the opportunities, Shultz said.

"I like to mentor, I like to train, and I like to lead from the front," he said. **gt**

## Combat Lifesavers Qualify at Camp Smith



CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, Cortlandt Manor, N.Y. -- New York Army National Guard Soldiers conduct Combat Lifesaver training here July 20, 2018. The Soldiers qualified on their field medical skills as part of the Future Leaders Course, a program to prepare specialists and sergeants for the Basic Leader Course. Photo by Spc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.





## Senior Leaders Visit 101<sup>st</sup> Signal Troops in Kuwait

CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT -- New York National Guard senior leaders visited with deployed Soldiers of the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion July 24, 2018 following the unit's deployment overseas in May. From left to right, Command Chief Master Sgt. Amy R. Giaquinto, New York's Senior Enlisted Advisor, Brig. Gen. Michel Natali, commander of the 53rd Troop Command, Maj. Gen. Anthony German, the Adjutant General of New York, and Command Sgt. Maj. Cory Cush, senior enlisted advisor of the 53rd Troop Command. The battalion provides communications in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, providing communications support for more than a dozen operating sites in some seven countries across the Middle East.



## Humvee Inspections

LATHAM, N.Y. -- Staff Sgt. Christopher Boehm conducts a maintenance inspection on a unit humvee July 10, 2018. Boehm is assigned to the Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, Photo by Spc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.



## Senior Leaders Brief at Liberty Hunter

FORT DRUM, N.Y. -- Brig. Gen. Thomas F. Spencer, Assistant Division Commander, 42nd Infantry Division receives an operations briefing from Soldiers representing the variety of units participating in the Liberty Hunter training exercise at Fort Drum on Aug. 11, 2018. Photo by Cpl. Nnaemeka Onyeagwa, 369th Sustainment Brigade.



# 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command Soldiers Refine Skills at FIG

Story by Cpl. Nnaemeka Onyeagwa, 369th Sustainment Brigade

LATHAM, N.Y. - Three hundred and seventy Soldiers from 53rd Troop command military police, engineer and transportation companies used two weeks of training time and improved multi-million dollar facilities at Fort Indiantown Gap hone their skills from July 7-21.

The four units training at Fort Indiantown Gap were:

One-hundred and thirty three Soldiers from the Buffalo, N.Y. based 105th Military Police Company.

- Seventy four Soldiers from the Auburn N.Y., based 222nd Military Police Company.

- Forty four Soldiers from the Camp Smith N.Y., based 1156th Engineer Company.

- One-hundred and twenty three Soldiers from the New Windsor, N.Y., based 1569th Transportation Company.

"We train to make us better," said Sgt. First Class Joshua Nowak, the senior gunner for the 222nd Military Police Company.

Nowak, a 20-year Soldier and Buffalo, N.Y., native, said he has seen plenty of changes and improvements to the training regimens over the past two decades.

"The training this summer has clearly been better than any we have had since I came to the unit 12 years ago; it's a progression that I am proud to be part of," Nowak said.

The 1156th Engineer Company used their experience from a year-long deployment to Kuwait and Iraq to design the 2018 Annual Training plan they oversaw as evaluators, said 1st Lt. Douglas Leonard Peters the Executive Officer of 1156th Engineering Company.

Real-world experience was beneficial when running convoy lanes and using new virtual convoy

trainers known as VCATs, Peters said.

"We are here to make sure standards are adhered to and expectations are met," he said.

This year's training provided the engineers with the 1156th the opportunity to test their readiness and efficacy as a company, according to unit leaders.

While the 105th Military Police Company focused on increasing

changes within the unit in the 16 years I have been here," said Wheeler, who is a Buffalo resident. "All the new, eager Soldiers are excited to show off what they already know and learn new skills."

Every year a National Guard unit's summer training allows its Soldiers to refresh their technical skills while giving newer Soldiers a chance to apply what they learned in school to real life.

training was viewed as a challenge to not only meet but exceed the growing expectations of the Army, Kinney said.

The unit moved 26 vehicles in a convoy: a combination of 1088 and 1098 family medium tactical vehicles and Humvees from their home station of New Windsor, N.Y., he added.

The logistics of transporting vehicles and equipment forms the first part of their training and mission as a premier trucking company.

"Our second mission is to achieve an enhanced level of readiness," said Capt. Nicolas Thomas Cardiello, a native of Bronx N.Y. and an Afghanistan war veteran. "We are getting better at what we do; it feels really good to come out and practice our jobs."

"I believe most of the goals of this annual training have been achieved. It's separated into three phases: crawl, walk, and run," said Sgt. Martin Bradley, truck driver with the 1569th.

Bradley, a 12-year military combat veteran with three deployments with the Army and Marines, said, "right now we are in the walk phrase, by next training we should be at the run phrase."

The tactical lanes at Fort Indiantown Gap are very similar to the theaters of conflict that the military has involved in recent times. It's easy to see why most units line up to train here in the summer, Bradley said.

"A last minute location change located us alongside of three other New York Army Guard units," Cpt. Nicolas Thomas Cardiello. "But, the benefit of working with our brother and sister units is immeasurable. **gt**



Soldiers with the 1569th Transportation Company react to contact during annual training at Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn., July 16. More than 350 Soldiers from transportation, military police and engineer companies used the training to improve Soldier and unit readiness. Photo by Spc. Amouris Coss, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

their readiness level, they also used this time to integrate new Soldiers to the unit, according to Sgt. 1st Class Amanda Wheeler, the readiness noncommissioned officer for the company.

Thirty new Soldiers became part of the unit since the previous summer training through initial military entry and a change in military occupation. The unit had 15 Soldiers move on to new units and duty assignments, she explained.

"It's great to have seen the

"These missions are slightly different from what I am used to, but they are designed to sharpen the basic skills of a military police officer," said Sgt. Andrew Robert Kinney, a military police officer with the 105nd Engineer Company.

Kinney, a 9-year veteran of the unit and an Iraq War veteran noted that this year's training has been very realistic, and that there have been a lot of parallels with deployments.

For the 1569th Transportation Company, this year's summer



# New York Guardsmen on the Attack as WWI Ends

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, *Guard Times Staff*

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. - The days from August 8 to Nov. 11, 1918 have gone down in World War I military history as “The 100 days”.

This period was marked by a series of attacks launched by the French, British and American armies; which defeated the German Army, resulting in massed surrenders retreat; and the end of the fighting.

New York National Guard Soldiers played a key role in this fighting: breaking through the Hindenburg Line near Belgium, and taking part in the largest American battle of all time in the Meuse-Argonne region of France.

Serving under the command of General John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Force and the United States First Army, was New York City’s own “Fighting 69th” Infantry Regiment, now reflagged as the 165th Infantry.

The 165th was part of the 42nd “Rainbow” Division, comprised of National Guard Soldiers from 26 states and the District of Columbia.

The French 161st Division, part of the French 4th Army, had its own New Yorkers in its ranks: New York’s 15th Infantry Regiment, redesignated as the 369th Infantry, “Harlem’s Hellfighters.”

The all-black infantry regiment was assigned under French command to bolster the strength of French forces and avoid the complications of a segregated American army.

Guardsmen of New York’s 27th Division were part of the British Army in Belgium.

Along the Somme River in northern France, the 27th Division fought first in early September and

then four weeks later; breaking the German defensive “Hindenburg Line” on September 25-29.

The initial attack of the 53rd Brigade failed to penetrate the German defensive line. A renewed attack on September 28-29 by the 54th Brigade cracked the enemy position.

“The advance was then continued with little resistance until the remaining troops arrived at the first wire entanglements of the Hindenburg Line,” wrote Capt. J.F. Oakleaf for a 108th Infantry Regiment reunion in 1921.

“At this point they met the full resistance of a fortified position such as the world had never known,” Oakleaf wrote.

There were 65 officers and 3,721 men killed or wounded.

“The position was held against severe counter attacks and enfilading artillery and machine,” Oakleaf wrote. Australian soldiers joined the New Yorkers in overcoming the defense.

The 27th resumed the offensive on October 8 and advanced 21 miles and forced the Germans to retreat.

The fighting since September had cost the division half of its infantrymen killed or wounded by October 25 when they went into reserve.

In the rugged region around Sedan and Verdun known as the Meuse-Argonne—for a river and a wood—the men of the 69th Infantry (the 165th Infantry Regiment) and the 369th Infantry (the Harlem Hellfighters) - were among 1.2 million Americans fighting the largest American battle ever.

The Meuse-Argonne Offensive was bigger than the World War II Battle of the Bulge in which 500,000 Americans fought, or



New York Soldiers of the 27th Division celebrate the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I on Nov. 11, 1918. The division had suffered heavy casualties while attacking through the Hindenburg Line as part of the British Fourth Army. National Archive photo.

the Normandy Invasion in which 156,000 Americans participated.

There were 26,277 Americans killed and 95,786 wounded by the end of the campaign.

Twenty-seven French and American divisions—including the 42nd—were part of the attack that began on Sept. 25 and ended on Nov. 11. It was designed to cut off the entire German 2nd Army and sever the enemy railroads.

The Harlem Hellfighters attacked on Sept. 25 and fought through mid-October; advancing nine miles and outrunning the French units on their flanks.

In mid-October the 42nd Division and the 69th Infantry got into the fight.

The objective given to the 42nd Division was the German defensive stronghold at Côte de Chatillon, part of the defensive line known as the Kreimhilde Stellung.

“Give me Chatillon or a list of 5,000 casualties,” Major General Charles Summerall told Brig. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the com-

mander of the 42nd Division’s 84th Brigade. MacArthur replied that if they failed, his name would be at the top of the casualty list.

By October 16th, they reached the crest of Chatillon. With the capture of a key height by the 32nd Division on the Rainbow’s right flank, the Americans finally pierced the Kreimhilde Stellung defensive line.

In the third phase of the offensive, launched November 1, the allied attack forced German disengagement and retreat. The attack became a pursuit.

Elements of the 42nd attacked towards Sedan. The race to Sedan ultimately was set aside on November 7 when French forces liberated their city. With American forces across the Meuse River, Germany began to seek peace terms on November 8.

As New York Soldiers reorganized to continue the allied attack, word spread through the lines that fighting would end at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. The Great War was over. **gt**



# Camp Smith Infantry School Challenges Troops

Story and photo Cpl. Nnaemeka Onyeagwa, 369th Sustainment Brigade

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, N.Y. - Ten Army National Guard Soldiers from the Northeast are now qualified to wear the sky blue cord and crossed rifles of the infantry after completing a two-week reclassification course taught here.

Conducted by the New York Army National Guard's 106th Regiment Regional Training Institute, the three week class turns Soldiers with a variety of other military occupations into infantry Soldiers.

Course 18-002 began on Aug. 3, 2018 with 15 candidates and graduated 10 infantrymen on Aug. 17, 2018. Three of the graduates were New York Army National Guard members.

Starting October 2018, the 106th RTI will be one of only six locations where Soldiers can attend the reclassification and other infantry career courses.

"It takes a special person to want a chance to become an infantry Soldier, to fight for your country and loved ones at home and asking nothing in return," said staff Sgt. John Dustman, the senior course instructor at the RTI and 25-year combat veteran.

"I don't expect those who graduate this course to become experts on the infantry, but I expect after what they go through they should have it inside to always try and push through at all times," said Dustman.

The infantry is an extremely physically demanding occupation and only accepts Soldiers into its reclassification course who request the change and are exceling in their military duties like the Army physical test, marksmanship, and driver's qualifications.

Students learn to master some of the infantry's weapons systems like the Browning .50 Caliber Machine Gun and the M240 machine gun, while familiarizing themselves with other systems like the M320 grenade launcher and the M16 rifle with the M203 grenade launcher attachment.

They are also taught current scientific strategies on how to maintain a peak level of physical fitness that included safety considerations while working out, injury control, environmental considerations, and other techniques.

"There is a lot of good knowledge going around and a lot of good guys here," said Spc.



Spc. Michael A. Shriver, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, and Staff Sgt. Mickey Kostelink, assigned to the 106th Regional Training Institute prepare for a mock assault during the infantry reclassification course final field training exercise at Camp Smith Aug. 13, 2018.

**"We want heart, a willingness to learn, self-motivation, the desire and the determination to succeed,"**

*-- Staff Sgt. John Dustman, senior RTI infantry instructor*

Michael A. Shriver, a prior service Marine assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment.

Fitness is a big concern for infantry Soldiers since they train and operate with a high-level of physical activity.

"The ruck marches, loaded with at least 45 pounds of gear, and the infantry 5-mile run were the most difficult part," said Spc. Movado A. McKoy from Queens, a logistics specialist with 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment.

What surprised McKoy was just how effective the instructions, tactics and procedures were at this level.

"The lessons we were taught trained us on how to tactically move in densely wooded areas," said McKoy. "I want this occupation to prove to myself that I can do it."

Ten of the fifteen Soldiers who started the

course made it to the final task, a 48-hour-straight field training exercise (FTX) in the mountains and woods at Camp Smith. That task was all that stood in their way to earn the sky blue U.S. Army infantry colors and badge.

Camp Smith consists of 1,900 acres with training assets and simulators.

During the FTX, students go out as a platoon and are led by two of the course instructors.

They move tactically throughout the woods while going up against role playing enemy combatants made up of their course instructors and handpicked Soldiers.

"The 2-day FTX was designed to test all they had been training on, and what is required to enter the infantry," said Staff Sgt. Morgen P. Sealy, the course manager and an Afghanistan combat veteran.

"The best part of the course is seeing the progression in the students from day one till when we get to the field," said Sealy.

"We want heart, a willingness to learn, self-motivation, the desire and the determination to succeed," says Dustman. "My personal expectation is that after this course they keep learning the craft even more." **gt**



# Honor Guard Training Makes Better Soldiers

Story and photos by Cpl. Nnaemeka Onyeagwa, 369th Sustainment Brigade

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, Cortlandt Manor, N.Y.--Six New York Army National Guard Soldiers, out of a class of 14, completed a demanding 40-hour course in military funeral honors taught at Camp Smith Training Site near Peekskill, N.Y., August 26-31.

"The State's Level One Military Funeral Honors Academy is a physically demanding course designed to train and test Soldiers' composure, proficiency and fluidity while doing different variations of the nine unique positions of the modified funeral honors," explained Sgt. 1st Class Tomas Couvertier, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Honor Guard program.

The course is taught by members of the New York Honor Guard who have served long enough to become certified trainers and are still serving in the program.

"Performing funeral honors is not usually at the top of the list of what Soldiers have the opportunity to do, practice or train on while in the military. It's certainly not a part of the military that is glamorized," said Staff Sgt. Luis Celeste, a regional coordinator with the program and a heavy vehicle driver with the 1569th Transportation Company.

"However, these Soldiers sought out the academy for the opportunity to become a valuable part of the program that provides final military honors to service members," Celeste said.

The course aims to not only help Soldiers become more knowledgeable about military honors but also make the students better Soldiers.

"It's a challenge making sure Soldiers who are coming to this course have been afforded a good deal of training and have some experience taking part in funerals details," Couvertier said.

"Making sure the Soldiers are prepped with the right gear and are in the right physical condition is a big concern," said Couvertier, who has been in the program for more than nine years and is a graduate of this course as well.

Soldiers attending the course learn to execute military movements with M14 rifles, which were equipped for the Army in the 1960s.

They learn the proper sequence to fire a funeral salute, carry a casket and move as part of a 7-Soldier casket team, as well as learning how to move in-sync.



Above, Pfc. Michael Kerr, an infantryman assigned to the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, performs an arrangement of the flag on a casket while on a simulated hearse as part of the graveside procedure during the Military Funeral Honors Course at Camp Smith Aug. 30, 2018. Below, Kerr and other Soldiers simulate a flag dress during the casket carry sequence with guidance from course trainers at the 40-hour Level One training.



The instructors draw from events and their experiences during actual funerals to role-play and simulate possible distractions and unexpected changes during a funeral at the academy.

Soldiers who show proficiency at these positions while distracted is one of the requirements to graduate, Celeste explained.

Graduates have to be able to perform all military funeral honors except for the full military honors detail, which is reserved for level two military funeral honors graduates and above.

The New York Honor Guard performs more than 700 military funerals a month and expects to surpass 9,000 by year's end.

"It's been absolutely amazing to see my progression in the three years since being a

trainee to really perfect the level one Soldier responsibilities," said Sgt. Josh Sanzo, a trainer and distinguished honor graduate from the Feb. 2018 course. "This is something I cherish."

Any former service member who was honorably discharged is entitled to funeral honors consisting of at least two honor guard members, the playing of Taps, and the presentation of a flag during services.

"I think the program as a whole helps keep and improve on discipline and composure," said Spc. Thalia Pellot, a fire control specialist assigned to Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery. "I feel the course has perfected everything that I have done so far in the Honor Guard."

The rigorous standards of the course not only instill the precise movements required for the funeral ceremony, but also reinforce fundamental military lessons as well, she said.

"I expect graduates to continue training, improving, and keep perfecting their military funeral honors tasks and skills," Couvertier said. "I took over as NCOIC last August; we are going to try and shoot for more courses and training next year." **gt**



## New Commander of 224<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Group

Story and photos by Timothy Jones, 224th EADS

ROME, N.Y. - Col. Paul J. Quigley, a Manlius resident, formally took command of the New York Air National Guard's 224th Air Defense Group (ADG) on Friday during an assumption of command ceremony at the Eastern Air Defense Sector (EADS).

The 224th ADG is responsible for conducting EADS' mission. A North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) headquarters unit, EADS is responsible for the air defense of the eastern United States. Staffed primarily by New York Air National members, the unit includes a Canadian Forces detachment, U.S. Army and Navy liaison officers, and federal civilians.

Quigley received command before a crowd of about 100 family, friends and fellow Airmen. Brig. Gen. Timothy J. LaBarge, the Chief of Staff of the New York Air National Guard, served as the officiating officer for the ceremony.

Quigley replaces Col. John M. Balbierer, who is retiring.

A native of Kings Park, New York, Quigley graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1992. Following graduation, he attended the Air Force Undergraduate Controller School at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida. Upon completion, Quigley was assigned to the 552nd Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) Wing at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, where he served as Weapons Director, Evaluator Air Surveillance Officer, and Electronic Combat Officer for the 965th AWACS Squadron. While at the squadron, he deployed in support of four operations in Iraq and one in Haiti. Quigley completed his AWACS assignment with nearly 2,000 hours

on the E-3 B/C.

In 1998, Quigley became an instructor and flight commander at the 325th Training Squadron at Tyndall Air Force Base. Named Operations Group Instructor of the Year in 2000, Quigley trained more than 500 Air Battle Managers during his three-year tour.

He was then assigned to the 12th Airborne Command and Control Squadron (ACCS). While at the 12th ACCS, he served as Flight Commander, Training Flight Commander, and Senior Director. Selected to lead the first JSTARS sortie of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Quigley participated in 27 combat missions during OIF and Operation Enduring Freedom. He subsequently served as the 116th Air Control Wing Executive Officer and completed his JSTARS tour with more than 750 flight hours.

In April 2004, Quigley joined the New York Air National Guard. At EADS, he has served as Evaluator Mission Crew Commander, Flight Commander, Chief of Weapons and Tactics and Chief of Standardization and Evaluation.

Prior to command of the 224th ADG, Quigley served as the Commander of the 224th Air Defense Squadron Commander from August 2015 to June 2018. **gt**



Brig. Gen. Timothy J. LaBarge, left, Chief of Staff, New York Air National Guard, passes the 224th Air Defense Group guidon to Col. Paul J. Quigley, June 29 at an assumption of command ceremony held at the Eastern Air Defense Sector (EADS) in Rome, N.Y. More than 100 Airmen and family members attended the ceremony. Quigley commanded the 224th Air Defense Squadron at EADS prior to Group command.

## Bills Salute Members of 107<sup>th</sup> Attack Wing



ROCHESTER, N.Y. -- New York Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Jessica Ramos-Woodard, assigned to the 107th Attack Wing, shakes hands with Buffalo Bills wide receiver Ray-Ray McCloud III during the Bills' training camp at St. John Fisher College Aug. 5, 2018. Military members from Western New York participated in the team's Military Appreciation Day. Photo by Master Sgt. Brandy Fowler, 107th Attack Wing.



# Airmen Deploy to Assist in Oregon Wildfire

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Forces Headquarters

SYRACUSE, N.Y. - Four New York Air National Guard members of the 274th Air Support Operations Squadron deployed to Grants Pass, Oregon to assist firefighters contain a wildfire that forced the evacuation of more than 700 local citizens from their homes in southwest Oregon.

The Airmen, based at Hancock Air National Guard Base in Syracuse, N.Y., traveled to Spokane, Oregon over the past weekend for individual training with civil authorities to integrate aviation operations in wildland firefighting.

The Airmen are Joint Tactical Air Controllers, known as JTACs, and are highly skilled experts in integrating aviation capabilities for ground forces. The training provides an additional qualification for supporting civil authorities.

The four join nearly 150 other members of the Oregon National Guard called to duty to assist in wildfire suppression of the Garner Complex fires later this week by Oregon Governor Kate Brown.

The New York Airmen were requested by the Air National Guard and the National Inter-agency Fire Center over the weekend and began operations earlier this week. They will remain on site in support as wildfire containment efforts continue and remained on the mission until August 22.

Local firefighters employed the JTACs to map fire breaks and control lines to assist in the containment of the fire.

"These four JTACs bring a special skill set along with advance command and communications equipment systems that allow them to directly assist on scene commanders," said Col. Gary Charlton II, Vice Commander of the 107th Attack Wing, the higher headquarters of the 274th.

"The information they provide allows commanders to make real-time decisions to better combat the wildfires and add in the protection of life and property of those actively fighting the wildfires and those effected," he said.

The Grants Pass wildfire at Taylor Creek started July 15 from a lightning strike and is currently 39 square miles in circumference. The fire, covering some 25,000 acres, is about 30 percent contained as of August 1, according to the Pacific Northwest National Incident Management Team.

Over 1,100 firefighters and support personnel are working to contain the fire and protect structures in the affected areas.

The 274th Air Support Operations Squadron regularly deploys members of the unit as teams. The squadron is a Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) unit. The TACP team assumes



Oregon Army National Guard Pfc. Solomon Quijano, with Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, checks for hot spots during a firefighting training exercise at the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training in Salem, Ore., Aug. 28, 2017. Courtesy photo.

command and control of NATO and US strike aircraft when friendly forces are in close range of enemy forces.

The role of JTACs is to identify targets and make sure fighter aircraft neutralize the threat. The Airmen will bring these air-ground integration skills to the firefighting incident command in Oregon to help contain the wildfire at Taylor Creek. **gt**

## 105<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Salutes Fallen Airman, Staff Sgt. Lobraico



NEWBURGH, N.Y. -- Airmen assigned to the 105th Airlift Wing pay respects during a memorial service for Staff Sgt. Todd "TJ" Lobraico at Stewart Air National Guard Base, Sept. 5, 2018. Lobraico was killed during combat operations outside of Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan, Sept. 5, 2013. Photos by Staff Sgt. Julio Olivencia, 105th Airlift Wing.



# Officer Takes 'Final Flight' after 33-year Career

Story by Eric Durr, Guard Times Staff

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Scotia, N.Y.—After a 33-year career that included two years at the US embassy in South Africa, New York Air National Guard Lt. Col. Dave Panzera made his final Air Force flight on Tuesday, July 17.

“It is a whole mix of emotions,” Panzera said after touching down in LC-130 “Skier 02.” “It’s amazing that your career lasts decades and then it is over in an instant.”

The 51-year old Panzera, who has overseen the annual Civil Air Patrol Cadet encampment at Stratton Air National Guard Base since 2014, decided to spend his last time behind the controls of an LC-130 flying 27 CAP Cadets on an orientation flight.

The final flight is a tradition in which a retiring military pilot’s accomplishments are recognized by his peers following his or her last mission.

Panzera, at the controls of the transport, made the traditional pass over the administrative building and then landed to be greeted by family, friends and colleagues.

His wife, two daughters and two sons, sprayed him with a fire hose from a base fire truck for the traditional wet down. Then his mother Eva Panzera followed up with a spray of Champagne.

The final flight is traditionally a training flight, so this was a chance to do something with the cadet program, Panzera explained. The co-pilot is also involved with the CAP cadet program and the scheduled loadmaster, Airman 1st Class Jason Falvo, was once a CAP Cadet in the program at Stratton, Panzera said.

He was also able to have his father Joseph, a retired Air Force security policeman and CAP

member; and his son Phillip, a CAP cadet; on board with him.

“It was a real honor for those of us on the plane to fly with Dave,” said Civil Air Patrol Lt. Col. Bryan Benedict. “I’ve known him for 13 years and he is first rate.”

Panzera, a resident of Warnerville, N.Y., joined the Air Force in 1985 as an enlisted Airman. He served as a crew chief on a C-130 before he entered Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in 1989.

Panzera was enrolled in Air Force ROTC and when he graduated he commissioned as a second lieutenant and sent to flight school.

He joined the 109th Airlift wing as a traditional guardsman in 1994 and in 1995 he flew his first mission to Antarctica in support of the National Science Foundation.

During his career he’s landed at the southernmost runway in the world, at Amundsen- Scott Base at the South Pole and the northernmost runway at Canadian Forces Station Alert at Ellsmere Island above the Arctic Circle, Panzera said.

“When I looked at my orders the other day, I had a total of 2.5 calendar years of duty time on Antarctica,” Panzera said.

He figures he’s flown about 4,000 hours in the Antarctic and another 1,250 hours on Greenland missions, with almost 1,000 more spent on Department of Defense missions worldwide, Panzera said.

One of his coolest jobs was serving as the New York National Guard’s State Partnership Program representative at the United States embassy in Pretoria South Africa from 2007 to 2010, Panzera said.

He worked out of the defense attaches office and arranged partnership training between the New York National Guard and South



New York Air National Guard Lt. Col. David Panzera, pilot for the 109th Airlift Wing, walks with his son Phillip, a Civil Air Patrol Cadet, after completing his last flight in an LC-130 Hercules July 17th, 2018 at Stratton Air National Guard base, Scotia N.Y. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. William Gizara, 109th Airlift Wing.

Africa. He also worked with the militaries of Lesotho and Swaziland, the two small landlocked countries within South Africa.

He got to help South Africans attend American military schools too, Panzera said.

“It was an amazing time,” he added.

Then, at the Air Command and Staff College he was introduced to the Civil Air Patrol and its Cadet program, Panzera said.

The Civil Air Patrol, the Air Force’s official auxiliary, consists of men and women who volunteer their time to perform emergency service work, promote aerospace

education, and oversee the cadet program which produces future aerospace leaders.

“They mirror the core values of the Air Force,” Panzera said. “When I got to see the cadet program and how it dovetailed so nicely about what I knew and loved about the Air Force, I had to get involved.”

Panzera serves as director of cadet programs for the composite CAP squadron which meets at Stratton Air National Guard Base.

“I’ve had a lot of fun growing this program here at the base,” he said. **gt**



# Airmen Compete for German Proficiency Badge

Story and photo by Timothy Jones, 224th Support Squadron

ROME, N.Y. - In an effort to promote fitness and morale, the 224th Support Squadron conducted a German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge competition here August 29.

A decoration of the Bundeswehr, the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Germany, the badge is one of the few foreign awards approved for wear on U.S. uniforms.

Master Sgt. Eric Stone and Tech. Sgt. Sean Redden organized the competition, which included four Airmen from the 224th Air Defense Group, which provides the forces at the Eastern Air Defense Sector in Rome.

Three Airmen from the 109th Airlift Wing participated as well. Stone and Redden became qualified test proctors by completing a training session conducted by the German liaison officer at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Fitness, firearms proficiency and military skill components administered over three days make up the test. The first day was dedicated to the basic fitness test, composed of eleven 10-meter sprints, followed by a timed, flexed-arm hang and a 1,000 meter run.

The 10-meter sprint event is more compli-

cated than it sounds. Participants start from a prone position, laying stomach down on a mat, jump up and sprint around a cone and back to the starting point, where they must return to stomach-down position before the next sprint.

Participants were assigned scores based on their times and all three tests had to be completed within 90 minutes of the start.

Second-day events included a 100-meter swim, a first aid evaluation and a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical test while wearing chemical protective suits. The road march and pistol qualification took place on the third day.

Airmen wore their Airman Battle Uniform during the swim and had to complete the course in less than four minutes to pass. In the road march, each Airman wore ABUs and a helmet while carrying ruck sacks weighing 33 pounds. To achieve the highest score, participants had to cover 7.46 miles in less than two hours.

Two Airmen qualified for the badge. Staff Sgt. Caleb Adam of the 224th ADS achieved the highest score, qualifying at the gold level, while Tech. Sgt. Redden qualified at the bronze level.



Staff Sgt. Michael Carson of the 224th Support Squadron performs the flexed-arm hang August 29 during the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge while test proctor Master Sgt. Eric Stone keeps time. The competition was part of an EADS effort to promote fitness among Airmen.

Lt. Col. Paul Bishop, the 224th Support Squadron Commander, encouraged the proficiency badge competition as a way to promote physical fitness. Plans are underway to conduct future tests for the badge, with the hope of attracting more participants from within the

# Engineers Assist in West Virginia Community

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Campbell, 107th Attack Wing

ROMNEY, W. Va., More than 30 members of the 107th Civil Engineer Squadron based at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station took part in an Innovative Readiness Training mission at the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind, June 10-23, 2018.

The Guardsmen were the first of four rotations working on the project. The school serves children with numerous disabilities, however it faces certain accessibility issues.

"With the school being an in-residence school, the kids actually live here during the week," said Maj. Ryan Forrest, commander of the 107th Engineers.

Some of the facilities needed to be brought up to standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Forrest said.

"Even though this is a school for the deaf and blind, they have children who have multiple disabilities."

"We are putting handicap access into the

main areas," he said. "We are putting in wheelchair accessible ramps, and also putting in four bathrooms, one on each floor and in each wing, that will be fully ADA compliant."

The work was accomplished under the Innovative Readiness Training program, which brings aid to underserved communities.

"We are getting good AFSC and construction skills training," Forrest said. "We don't have these opportunities during drill weekends because of limited time, said Forrest.

This has allowed younger Airmen in the 107th to learn from the more experienced. It also gives some of them a first introduction to the trades.

"Everyone has been great, I came down without any knowledge in this area," said Airman 1st Class Brandon Freiburger, a firefighter assigned to the 107th CES. "I was curious about what they would have me do here, and I've actually had the chance to work with all the

sections within the squadron."

"It's been hard work, but it's been good," Freiburger said. "Everyone has been great to each other and working together well, and coming together to get the mission done." **gt**



107th Civil Engineer Squadron Airmen pour concrete to create a ramp at the West Virginia School for the Blind and Deaf in Romney, W. Va., June 21, 2018.



# New York Guard



## NY Guard 89<sup>th</sup> Band Performs with Rainbow Division Band

LIDO BEACH, N.Y.-- The New York Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division band was joined by seven members of the New York Guard 89th Band led by Captain Roy Coates, who served as an assistant conductor during the band's 42nd Infantry Band tour throughout the summer. Photo by Cpt. Mark Getman, New York Guard.



## Clean-up at Camp Smith for NY Guard Moving day

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, N.Y.--Soldiers from the New York Guard removed old furniture during their July and August drill at the New York Headquarters moved from their previous headquarters building 503 CSTS, which they have occupied for over 15 years and they moved to their new headquarters building located in building 84. Photo by Cpt. Mark Getman, New York Guard.



# New York Naval Militia

## Militia Christens New 35-foot Landing Craft

Story by Eric Durr, Guard Times Staff

ALBANY, N.Y.-- The New York Naval Militia's newest boat can cut through the water at 44 miles per hour and deposit a small vehicle or 27 personnel onto any shoreline necessary.

The boat "LC-350" – LC for "landing craft" and 350 for the 35-foot length of the boat—was accepted into service during a short ceremony at Albany's Jennings Landing park on the Hudson River on August 7.

LC-350 is designed to deliver three tons of emergency supplies, a vehicle, or 27 personnel to beaches or shorelines along Long Island or the Hudson River during flooding or other emergency situations.

The boat's bow is a ramp which can be dropped to allow access to the shore by people, or vehicles.

The LC-350 provides a new level of capability to New York's Military Forces, said Naval Militia Rear Admiral Timothy J. Zakriski, the commander of the Naval Militia. Naval Militia forces can now deliver cargo and people directly to a shoreline during flooding or if roadways are unusable, he said.

The boat, constructed by the William E. Munson Co. of Burlington, Washington, can also serve as a patrol vessel when necessary.

The boat was christened by New York Division of Military and Naval Affairs employee Lisa Bogardus.

Bogardus was selected because she played a key role in applying for the federal port security grant which pays for three-quarters of the boat's \$317,000 cost, according to Naval Militia Commander Don McKnight, the commander of the Military Emergency Boat Service which operates New York's ten patrol boats.

The ritual of christening a ship or boat dates back to the Greeks

and Romans when an offering was given to Poseidon, the god of the sea, in order to ensure the ship's safety, McKnight explained.

The New York Naval Militia began seeking to acquire a landing craft style vessel six years ago after Superstorm Sandy hit New York, McKnight said.

It became clear that there was a need for a boat that could be used to deliver relief supplies and personnel along New York's 127 miles of coastline and the 150 miles of Hudson River from New York City to Troy, N.Y.

On August 17 the New York Naval Militia and the 2nd Civil Support Team (CST), which is trained to identify chemical, biological and radiological threats, tested the ability of the craft to load and unload one of the 2nd CST's survey team

vehicles along the Hudson River shoreline in Rensselaer.

The Naval Militia crew and CST members worked together to figure out the best way to load and unload the ATV from the boat and tested the stability of the boat with a load on board.

The goal, according to McKnight, is to provide new capabilities for the New York Military Forces.

The New York Naval Militia will initially base the vessel in Albany and then relocate it for mission support down the Hudson River this fall near Indian Point.


The boat can also be trailered to any location in the state when needed.

An application for a federal Port Security Grant was approved in 2016 to add the Munson Boat to

the Naval Militia Emergency Boat Service.

The 35 foot vessel weighs 15,000 pounds and has a draft of 30 inches which allows it to work close to shore. The crew of three personnel can beach the boat at unimproved landing sites to load or off-load personnel, vehicles or supplies over the bow ramp to otherwise inaccessible locations.

It is powered by twin Mercury Optimax 250HP outboard engines. The landing craft can deliver up to 3 tons of equipment or supplies with a 7.5 foot wide bow door and 17 foot length of cargo area forward of the wheel house.

The LC-350 has a catamaran twin-hull design which increases stability. It also has the ability to pivot 360 degrees when needed. 



Members of the New York National Guard's 2nd Civil Support Team unload an ATV from the New York Naval Militia's new landing craft, LC-350, during a joint training exercise conducted on the Hudson River in Rensselaer, New York on August 17, 2018. The Naval Militia Sailors and CST members were testing the ability of the boat to load and unload the ATV, used by CST chemical, biological and radiological survey team members, on the shore. Photo by Spc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.



