

SERVING THE SOLDIERS, UNITS, AND COMMANDERS OF THE NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD'S 53RD TROOP COMMAND

Troop Scoop

FALL 2012

Sandy Slams NY, Guard Responds



> PG 4



> PG 6



> PG 8



> PG 11



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ABOUT THE 53RD TROOP SCOOP

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SUBMISSIONS

Articles and photos are welcome. Please provide articles in Microsoft Word format along with high resolution digital (jpg.) photos by e-mail to thomas.w.wheeler@us.army.mil.

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Troop Scoop

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Prevent Army Suicide
Ask ★ Care ★ Escort

Talk to your Chain of Command, Supervisor, Chaplain, or Behavioral Health Professional or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK (8255), press 1 for the Veterans Crisis Line

★ MESSAGE FROM THE 6 ★



Brig. Gen. Michael C. Swezey
53rd Troop Command
"For the Soldier"

To the Soldiers, NCO's and Officers of the 53rd Troop Command:

Once again during Super Storm Sandy you all proved why the National Guard is such a great resource for this State and Nation. This time it was the citizens of New York City, Long Island and

Westchester/Rockland that were helped.

The 102nd MP's performed heroically on the south shore of Long Island the night the storm hit. Lives were saved, and people were protected as National Guard Soldiers and Airman laid it on the line.

All units, you have done something, once again, that you should be very proud of.

We now have a new year in front of us. The Troop Command is still heavily engaged overseas in Afghanistan, Kuwait and Guantanamo Bay. Other units are looking at deployments in 2014. The cycle of train, deploy, recover continues and places heavy demands on our Soldiers, our units, and their families. Please make sure that each and every one of you keeps things in perspective and keeps your life in balance. Number one has to be your family ... take care of them – always. The Army Values include loyalty, respect, and honor. These Values apply to how you treat your

family as well as our institution of the National Guard.

I expect our leaders this year to focus on the elements of the Command Unit Status Report (CUSR) when it comes to readiness. I expect Soldiers to be physically fit, within height and weight standards, and to be qualified on their personal weapon. Easy stuff ... if you focus on it.

Again, thanks for a great 2012. We used a term in the JOC at Camp Smith to close all of our staff meetings during the Storm – "Empire ... Restore!" You certainly did that. Stay focused, be ready and I look forward to seeing you at training.

"For the Soldier"



♠ MESSAGE FROM THE 7 ♠

Greetings,

Here we are at the tail end of Fall and at the end of another action packed year.

We continue to deploy units and servicemembers overseas maintaining a high operational tempo while also welcoming many redeploying home as well as answering the call at home.

We continue to train hard and set the standard training competent officers, non-commissioned officers, and Soldiers.

As our response to Hurricane Sandy showed, all the training and long hours paid off.

Sandy was one of the most devastating and costly hurricanes in history. Servicemembers from every branch

of New York's Military Forces answered the call to assist the citizens of New York City and the surrounding areas.

Our members were highly motivated to answer the call.

Many of our members left their families and homes to work long hours, braving the elements, to assist their fellow New Yorkers.

Many of our members lost their homes during the storm but maintained their commitment to helping their neighbors.

I am proud to serve with you all. Your values are displayed daily and your fellow New Yorkers appreciate it.

Maintain that spirit and have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.



Command Sgt. Major Louis Wilson
53rd Troop Command
"For the Soldier"

Sandy Slams New York, Guard Responds



Members of the New York Army National Guard's 204th Engineer Battalion work to clear streets in Far Rockaway on Nov. 7. The Queens community was battered by Hurricane Sandy when it hit on Oct. 30. The Guard engineer Soldiers have been working to clear debris left by the storm. (Photo courtesy of 204th Engineer Battalion)

Story by Eric Durr, Joint Force Headquarters
NEW YORK -- The numbers are tremendous.

More than 4,400 Soldiers and Airmen, as well as members of the New York Guard and New York Naval Militia drove 1000 vehicles more than 400,000 miles as part of New York State's response to Hurricane Sandy's collision with New York City and Long Island on Oct. 29/30.

Guardsmen and women delivered more than 2.3 million emergency meals and hundreds of thousands of bottles of water, and passed out 150,000 blankets to New Yorkers in need, while fueling more than 24,000 government vehicles.

Army National Guard helicopters flew more than 305 hours of missions to carry key supplies, fly VIPs and conduct aerial surveillance, while the New York Air National Guard employed C-130s, C-17s and HH-60 helicopters to meet missions requirements.

"The New York Army and Air National Guard, along with our New York Guard and New York Naval Militia, stood at the ready as Hurricane Sandy began making its way to our great state," said Governor Andrew M. Cuomo. "And the moment New Yorkers needed them, the thousands of men and women of the New York National Guard left their homes and fami-

lies to help their fellow New Yorkers devastated by this deadly storm.

"Guard members were there to rescue flood victims, clear debris, and deliver food, water, and gasoline. I want to commend and thank each member of the New York National Guard for their time, extreme dedication and professionalism," Cuomo added.

But the response to Hurricane Sandy, is, above all, the story of individual National Guard Soldiers and Airmen doing every job they were asked to do and more.

As the storm rolled in on Monday, Oct. 29, eight members of the 106th Rescue Wing's 103rd Rescue Squadron launched Zodiac boats into 90 mile per hour winds to rescue people in the Long Island community of Atlantic Beach.

"The water in the roads was knee-high to waste—in some places, chest deep," Capt. Glyn Weir told Air Force Times.

On Staten Island the Soldiers and Airmen of Joint Task Force Empire Shield, who normally provide security in transportation hubs, drove their F-150 civilian pickups into rising flood waters to rescue 39 people, including a month-old baby.

At Long Beach, Staff Sgt. Joshua Flint and Spec. Jacob Jurkowski from the 206th Military

Police Company used their LMTV to rescue 36 people from rising flood waters as the storm struck. First they rescued a stranded 3-person water rescue team, then they pulled six people out of stalled vehicles. Finally, Flint and Jurkowski picked up 27 local residents stranded in basements and on rooftops as the storm raged.

The Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery helped police and firemen evacuate more than 800 people after the storm hit the Rockaway area of Brooklyn. The Soldiers worked almost non-stop for 96 hours despite being cold, wet, and tired, said Lt. Col. Mike Hoblin, the battalion commander.

"It was hard physically and mentally, but at this hard time there was no time to feel tired... Being able to work with other teams, like NYPD, FDNY, and EMT...made me feel like one whole big family came together," said Staff Sgt. Goanergis Vargas, a member of Battery B, 1-258th Field Artillery.

Soldiers from the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion, the 42nd Infantry Division, and the 27th Brigade Combat Team learned how to identify and mark downed power lines and worked with utility crews in Rockland, Westchester and Putnam counties for a week to get

the power back on.

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion 101st Cavalry, the 1st Battalion 258th Field Artillery and 1st Battalion 69th Infantry did house-to-house wellness checks, and Air National Guard Airmen were plugged into Army units to help plus up their numbers.

Members of the 102nd Military Police Battalion set up an assembly line at a Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services storage site to unbox, service, fuel and test hundreds of generators to power polling places without electricity on Election Day. Then teams delivered those generators and were on-site hours before voting began on Nov. 6 to start them up and keep them running.

There was also lots of thinking outside of the box to get the mission done.

Need to get 40 humvees from Fort Drum to New York City and Long Island where they are needed? Solution: Bus 80 Airmen from Hancock Field Air National Guard Base to the Military Area Training Equipment Site at Fort Drum and have them drive the humvees down.

Need electricity at the Lexington Avenue Armory to keep the mission going as Hurricane Sandy hits? Solution: Work with the producers of the Victoria's Secret Show, which already has equipment set up, to hook their generators up to the Armory's power system.

Need to move four HEMTT fuelers downstate from Albany so you can put non-leaded gas in city emergency vehicles but you don't have drivers? Solution: Load the vehicles into C-17s from the 105th Airlift Wing and fly them

down to New York City.

Need to accommodate up to 2,000 Soldiers in New York City? Hire a company called Deployed Resources to build a Logistics Support Area at Floyd Bennet Field with sleeping quarters, showers, DFACS and finally laundry service.

Operation Sandy marked the first time that large numbers of National Guard units from outside New York were called upon to assist in a response. Military Police, transportation and truck companies from Ohio, Delaware, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania—bringing with them more than 700 troops and 300 vehicles—responded to the disaster.

Smaller teams from Kansas and West Virginia also came to provide specialty assistance in medical care and power generation. A Georgia Army



NEW YORK, N.Y.—New York Joint Task Force Empire Shield Soldiers Specialists Christofer Cardinali and Stephanie Gomez explain heating instructions for Meals Ready to Eat to Nancy Cunningham outside her home, here, Nov. 2. Cunningham's home was severely damaged by flood waters sustained from Hurricane Sandy, causing massive mud residue, lack of electricity, and destruction. (Photo by Warrant Officer Ubon Mendie, NY Guard)



STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.—New York Army National Guardsman Sgt. Adama Ilbouda, left, and New York Air National Guard's 274th Air Support Operations Squadron Tech. Sgt. David Talyer, right, distribute fuel at the Staten Island Armory, Saturday, Nov. 3, 2012, to those affected by Hurricane Sandy. The fuel, available at no charge to those who need it, was provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and distributed at various armories throughout the New York and northern New Jersey areas. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy National Guard Bureau)

National Guard CH-47 was also pressed into service to carry vital supplies.

Operation Sandy also marked the first time that Active Duty Soldier, Sailors, Airmen and Marines responded to a state emergency under the command of a New York Army National Guard general.

Brig. Gen. Michael Swezey, the commander of Joint Task Force Sandy, was named a dual-status commander and more than 700 Active Duty troops, mostly doing engineering work as "Task Force Pump" reported to him.

Marines coming ashore from the USS Wasp to assist on missions on State Island also fell under Swezey's command. †

101st ESB Conducts Massive Commercial Airlift

Story and photos by Claudia R. Kennedy,
DoMaD Public Affairs.

FORT BLISS, Texas -- More than 450 National Guard Soldiers of the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion from New York state and New Jersey arrived at Fort Bliss Aug. 19 to conduct pre-deployment training.

The unit arrived with a large amount of specialized communications equipment such as satellites, nodes, generators, trucks and containers of accessories required for training to conduct their mission in Afghanistan. As the unit conducts their mobilization training at McGregor Range, the 101st ESB unit movement team works double-time preparing for the largest strategic commercial airlift Fort Bliss has seen in years.

Capt. David Myones, 101st ESB unit movement officer, worked hand in hand with Kevin Williams, unit movement coordinator for the Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment, as well as the Fort Bliss Unit Movement Branch, to ensure proper training, planning and execution of this gargantuan task.

Williams, who has worked in his position at Fort Bliss for seven years, said this is the largest commercial airlift DoMaD and Fort Bliss has seen since a patriot battalion deployed in 2003. In order to ensure that the unit met the short suspense between mobilization training and their latest arrival date into theater, Williams worked 10 to 14 hours a day for almost two weeks, including weekends, training and assisting the 101st with all the meticulous and



Soldiers of the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion work with the Fort Bliss Unit Movement Branch to load the 747 with shipping containers of communications equipment for deployment.

time-consuming prep work.

“On military aircraft, you can simply roll in the equipment or drive it right into the plane, chain it down, and off it goes,” said Williams.

On commercial aircraft, all the equipment must be placed on pallets and chained down before it can be loaded on the plane. Height and weight requirements are different for military aircraft. Equipment must go through a joint inspecon process where crews check fuel levels,

equipment tie-downs, hazardous materials, and vehicle weight to determine the center of balance.

The 101st received eight commercial 747 aircraft and one military C-5 aircraft, which was required because some of their specialized equipment exceeded the height restrictions on the commercial carriers. The unit loaded all the cargo onto the planes and departed out of Biggs Army Airfield the last few weeks of September to commence their tour in Afghanistan providing critical signal support to all units in theater.

Col. Greg Dreisbach, battalion commander for the 101st ESB, presented Williams with a carved wooden plaque Sept. 27 for his contributions and assistance to their unit ensuring all their critical communications equipment got shipped properly and on time.

“Our mission is very critical,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Bien of the 101st ESB. “If these units don’t have communications, they can’t accomplish their mission. We take our mission very seriously.”

“We have so many good Soldiers that are anxious to go serve their country. We’re so proud of them,” said Dreisbach. “Morale is very high. Soldiers are trained, ready and eager to go.”

This is the first deployment in 60 years for the 101st ESB since the Korean War. Sgt. Carlos Alvarez, an all-wheel mechanic from Yonkers, is one of the first in the battalion to deploy on the first commercial strat air flight.

“It is a big honor to be a part of something so big and make a difference,” said Alvarez. ✦



The 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion unit movement team loads 747 cargo planes to a capacity of 180,000 pounds, including Humvees and generators to conduct a relief in place in Afghanistan.

Caliendo Takes Command of 501st EOD



New York Army National Guard's 501st Ordnance Battalion (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) incoming commander, Lt. Col. Andrew Caliendo poses with family after assuming command of the unit, Oct. 20. (Photo by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo)

Story by Joint Force Headquarters.

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, SCOTIA, N.Y. -- New York Army National Guard Lt. Col. Andrew Caliendo, a Pelham resident and Iraq War veteran, takes command of the 501st Ordnance Battalion, a National Guard Explosives Ordnance Disposal unit based outside Schenectady in a ceremony here on Saturday, Oct. 20.

Caliendo, a quality manager at Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford, Connecticut in civilian life, takes charge of a headquarters unit which controls three to five EOD companies when deployed.

EOD personnel played a key role in the war in Iraq and in Afghanistan as the enemy turned to improvised explosive devices as their weapon of choice.

Caliendo was commissioned a second lieutenant in the New York Army National Guard through the Empire State Military Academy Officer Candidate School (OCS) program in 1992 and assigned as a platoon leader in Company F, 42nd Aviation Brigade.

In September 1999, he was assigned as the personnel officer for the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion (ASB) in Brooklyn, NY. In July 2000, he was assigned as commander of the Headquarters and Supply Company (HSC) of the 642nd ASB in Brooklyn, NY.

As commander, he deployed to New York City with his company on Sep. 11, 2001 in response

to the 9/11 attacks. After over four years in command, he was assigned as the support operations officer (SPO) to the 642nd ASB where he mobilized and deployed to Iraq in 2004/2005. After the deployment, Caliendo was assigned as executive officer of the 642nd ASB. In July 2006, he was transferred to the 42nd ID Tactical Command Post (TAC) as the logistics operations officer, where he served until his current assignments as the 42nd ID Division Transportation Officer (DTO) and Deputy officer in charge of the 42nd ID Domestic All Hazards Response Team (DART) Coordination Cell (DCC).

Caliendo's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with three Oak Leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

Caliendo's Military and Civilian Education include the Signal Officer Basic Course, the Quartermaster Advance Course, the Army Command and General Staff College (ILE). Caliendo holds a Bachelors degree from New York Institute of Technology in Mechanical Engineering and a Masters Degree in Management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI).

Based at the Glenville Armed Forces Reserve Center the 501st EOD battalion is the higher

headquarters for the New York Army National Guard's 1108th EOD Company, also based at the Scotia Armed Forces Reserve Center, along with EOD companies in Greenville, North Carolina, Camp Edward, Massachusetts, Camp Dawson, West Virginia, and Camp Grayling, Michigan.

The 501st Ordnance Battalion deployed to Iraq in the fall of 2010, serving there for nine months. During the battalion's deployment in Iraq the unit was responsible for counter-IED operations in nine provinces of southern Iraq, a region of about 81,000-square miles. This includes the main north-south highway known to the Military as MSR (Main Supply Route) Tampa, which is the road that U.S. military supplies and Soldiers entered and left Iraq over.

The 501st traces its roots back to the New York National Guard's historic 105th Infantry Regiment, known as the "Appelknockers," because historically the Soldiers of the regiment worked in the apple orchards of the Hudson Valley as civilians. The regiment fought in World War I and World War II before converting to an EOD battalion in 2005.

The 501st also serves as the higher headquarters for the New York Army National Guard's 138th Public Affairs Detachment, 1427th Transportation Company, and 466th Area Medical Company. ✦

NY National Guard MP's Return from OEF

Story by Joint Force Headquarters

CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. -- The 42 soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 727th Military Police Detachment, which is based at the Camp Smith Training Site in Cortlandt Manor, have returned from Afghanistan to the United States, after serving there for the last 10 months.

Twenty of the soldiers arrived back in New York at airports near their hometowns this weekend after completing a week of out-processing at Fort Bliss, Texas. The other soldiers arrived back at Fort Bliss on Sunday and will begin their demobilization process.

The unit mobilized for deployment at the end of November in 2011. The soldiers' mission was to provide law enforcement support on U.S. and coalition bases in Afghanistan.

The soldiers will spend the next couple of months going through the New York Army National Guard's Yellow Ribbon reintegration program before resuming their duties as citizen-soldiers, serving on a part-time basis.

The New York Army National Guard currently has more than 2,000 soldiers deployed in Afghanistan and Kuwait. ✦



Soldiers from the 727th Military Police Detachment and their families during the unit deployment ceremony on Nov. 27, 2011. (Photo by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo)

369th Soldiers Assume Base Defense in Kuwait

Story courtesy of New York Department of Military and Naval Affairs

LATHAM, N.Y. -- Thirty-five member of the New York Army National Guard are in Kuwait to take up their duties running a Base Defense Operations Center.

The Soldiers, most of whom are assigned to the New York City – based 369th Sustainment Brigade, departed New York over the Columbus Day weekend and trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi for 45 days. The Soldiers left Camp Shelby on Veterans Day, Sunday, Nov. 11 to fly to Kuwait.

The Soldiers can expect to serve there for about 10 months before returning home.

Total federal active duty time for these Soldiers will be 365 days.

The New York National Guard currently has more than 2,000 Soldiers and Airmen deployed overseas, while more than 3,000 are involved in Hurricane Sandy response efforts. ✦



CAMP SMITH--New York Army National Guard Soldiers heading to Kuwait to man a Base Defense Operations Center pose for a photo on Monday, Oct. 8, during their farewell ceremony here. The Soldiers from the 369th Sustainment Brigade, will be responsible for security at U.S. military facilities in Kuwait. (Photo courtesy of the 369th Sustainment Brigade)

NY Celebrates National Guard 376th Birthday

Story by Eric Durr, Joint Force Headquarters LATHAM, N.Y. -- The New York National Guard's newest general officer teamed up with its oldest Soldier and one of its youngest, to salute the National Guard's 376th birthday at New York National Guard headquarters here, today.

Brig. Gen. Raymond Shields, the New York National Guard's director of joint staff, was joined by Chief Warrant Officer 5 Brian Smith, a Latham resident who enlisted in 1973, and Pvt. Shelbi Vanderbogart, of Averill Park, N.Y., who enlisted during the 2011 National Guard Birthday Ceremony, as they cut a birthday cake with ceremonial sabers.

Shields, a 30-year member of the New York Army National Guard from West Sand Lake, N.Y., was promoted to brigadier general in a ceremony just before the cake cutting.

The ceremony, which commemorates the date the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony passed a law establishing formal militia companies, has become an annual event at New York National Guard headquarters.

The annual Guard Birthday Ceremony was started under the previous Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, and Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the current adjutant general of New York, has continued the tradition.

"It's my opportunity to see everybody at once," Murphy explained. "It's a chance to say thanks for everything people have done and when we get together like this it is a happy occasion. We recognize those who have gone above and beyond for the agency as a whole."

The cake-cutting ceremony traditionally involves the oldest Soldier present as well as the youngest. In past years cake cutters have included a World War II veteran who fought in the Pacific with the New York National Guard's 27th Division, and groups of Soldiers and Airmen who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Murphy thanked the National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, along with the state and federal civilian employees of the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs, for their daily service and dedication, as well as the extra effort they make during emergencies, like the New York National Guard response to Hurricane Sandy.

Everybody, whether they wear a uniform or not, is part of the same team, Murphy said.

"Our future is bright, whether it is doing our nation's business overseas or helping our neighbors right here at home," he said. "The National Guard stands ready when our state and nation call."

As part of the ceremony Murphy recognized



The New York Army National Guard's newest brigadier general, Brig. Gen. Raymond Shields (center) joins Chief Warrant Officer 5 Brian Smith, who enlisted in 1973, and Pvt. Shelbi Vanderbogart, who enlisted on Dec. 13, 2011 in cutting the National Guard's Birthday Cake during a ceremony held at New York National Guard headquarters on Thursday, Dec. 13 which marked the 376th anniversary of the birth of the National Guard. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Wheeler)

two civilian employees for outstanding contributions: Robert Eckels, the deputy director of administrative services for the Division of Military and Naval Affairs, and Folena Schumaker, who plays a key role in processing State Active Duty payrolls.

Murphy also administered enlistment oaths to six new members of the New York Army National Guard and one new member of the New York Air National Guard.

Mary Kavaney, assistant to New York's Deputy Secretary for Public Safety, who was representing Gov. Andrew Cuomo, thanked the Guard Soldiers and Airmen for their service in responding to Hurricane Sandy earlier this year.

Shields, who joined the New York Army National Guard in 1983, served in a variety of command positions, to include battalion commander, executive officer of the 27th Infantry Brigade in Afghanistan and chief-of-staff of the New York Army National Guard before assuming his current position.

While the National Guard as a whole traces its birth back to the decision of the General Court of Massachusetts to establish set militia regiments, in New York the Citizen Soldier tradition began in 1640 when the Dutch East Indian Company organized the Burgher Guard (Citizens Guard) to help protect their New Amsterdam Colony on Manhattan Island.

The Dutch settlers were instructed to keep a musket in their homes and assemble at the fort

when a cannon shot was fired. They were also fined for speaking ill of other members of the Burgher Guard.

When New Amsterdam and New Netherlands became New York in the 1660s, the English continued the militia tradition.

In fact, the country owes the term National Guard to New York's Citizen-Soldiers.

In 1824, the 7th Regiment of the New York Militia renamed themselves the National Guard to honor the Marquis de Lafayette, a hero of the American Revolutionary War, who was visiting the city. He had commanded a force called the "Guard de National" in the early days of the French Revolution and the 7th Regiment decided that changing their name would be a way to honor him.

The New Yorkers liked the term National Guard so much that, in 1862, the New York State Militia was renamed the New York National Guard. Other states began using the term and it was enshrined in law by the Dick Act in 1903 which provided for federal funding and regulation of the state militias and made the term National Guard universal across the United States.

Citizen-Soldiers of the militia and National Guard have fought in all of America's wars from King Philips War against Native Americans in the New England Colonies in 1675 to the struggle in Afghanistan today. ✦

Award Recognizes Civilian Employers

Story courtesy of the National Guard Bureau
ARLINGTON, Va.— Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense agency, is encouraging all Guard and Reserve members to nominate their supportive employers for the 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

The Freedom Award is the DoD's highest honor for civilian employers supporting Guard and Reserve members. The award highlights those employers going to extraordinary lengths to encourage their military employees' service and provides Guard and Reserve members a way to show their appreciation for their employers' tremendous support.

Just over one month remains for Guard and Reserve members to nominate their employers. The nomination process does not take long to complete and family members may submit nominations on a Guardsman or Reservist's behalf. Employers of every size and industry are eligible. ESGR will accept nominations at FreedomAward.mil through January 21, 2013.

"Guard and Reserve members understand better than anyone how critical America's employers are to our national security, which is why we look to them to tell us which employers deserve this distinguished honor," said Ron Young, Executive Director, Employer Support



of the Guard and Reserve. "We call on all Guardsmen and Reservists who have received outstanding support from their employer to nominate them for the 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. There really is no better way to thank these employers for standing firmly behind our military men and women."

The 2013 recipients will be announced in early summer and honored in Washington, D.C., during a ceremony next fall. Recipients of the 2012 Freedom Award included diverse employers such as a telecommunications company, department of public safety, Midwest law firm, and small town church.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of ESGR to recognize exceptional support from the employer community.

Since then, 175 employers have been honored with the award. Established as a DoD agency 40 years ago, ESGR develops and maintains employer support for Guard and Reserve service. ESGR advocates relevant initiatives, recognizes outstanding support, increases awareness of applicable laws, and resolves conflict between service members and employers.

Paramount to ESGR's mission is encouraging employment of Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce. ✦

Reenlistment @ Ground Zero



NEW YORK— New York Army National Guard Major General Patrick Murphy, The Adjutant General of New York, enlists National Guard Soldiers and Airmen at a ceremony held at the World Trade Center Memorial on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2012. The Soldiers and Airmen are on duty in New York City in response to Hurricane Sandy. Sixteen Soldiers and Airmen from New York and 16 Soldiers from Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Ohio reenlisted during the event. (Photo by Tech Sgt. Michael O'Halloran, New York Air National Guard)



Clockwise- KANDAHAR, Afghanistan-- A color guard stands at attention during the Transition of Authority Ceremony conducted here on Monday, Oct. 15 as the New York Army National Guard's 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion took over the duties of providing communications support to American and Coalition forces in the country. This is the first time since the Korean War that the colors of the battalion have been unfurled in a combat zone. STATEN ISLAND, NY -- Pvt. Vanessa Diaz a Soldier with the 719th Transportation Company, New York Army National Guard, uses an electronic tablet to perform wellness checks, here Dec. 6, 2012. Diaz and other Soldiers of Joint Task Force Sandy are going door to door performing wellness checks and collecting data for local authorities. Since November, New York Army National Guard Soldiers have completed over 50,000 wellness checks. BRENTWOOD, N.Y. -- New York Army National Guardsmen assembled and prepared 800 generators to be used at polling locations in the areas affected by Tropical Storm Sandy. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has mobilized more than 2,800 Servicemembers of New York's volunteer military forces to help civilian authorities in recovery efforts in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Sandy. LATHAM -- New York Army National Guard Spec. Timothy Keaveny (right) assigned to the 4th Finance Detachment and Spec. Kingsley Anku from the 7th Finance Detachment join a dozen finance Soldiers inputting payroll for Soldiers who performed State Active Duty in response to Hurricane Sandy, here Nov. 20. The Soldiers are processing 4,400 individual pay records.





U.S. ARMY

I.A.M. STRONGSM

INTERVENE ★ **ACT** ★ **MOTIVATE**

Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Prevention



INTERVENE

When I recognize a threat to my fellow Soldiers, I will have the personal courage to **INTERVENE** and prevent Sexual Assault. I will condemn acts of Sexual Harassment. I will not abide obscene gestures, language or behavior. I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I will **INTERVENE**.

ACT

You are my brother, my sister, my fellow Soldier. It is my duty to stand up for you, no matter the time or place. I will take **ACTION**. I will do what's right. I will prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault. I will not tolerate sexually offensive behavior. I will **ACT**.

MOTIVATE

We are American Soldiers, **MOTIVATED** to keep our fellow Soldiers safe. It is our mission to prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault. We will denounce sexual misconduct. As Soldiers, we are all **MOTIVATED** to take action. We are strongest...together.

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